

**No 66 The Street, Brettenham,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/15/00362/OUT**

**HER Ref: BTT 030**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

(© John Newman BA MCIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(November 2015)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: [johnnewman2@btinternet.com](mailto:johnnewman2@btinternet.com) )

**Site details for HER**

Name: No 66 The Street, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP

Clients: Mr D Evans

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/15/00362/OUT

Development: Erection of new dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 5 November, 2015

HER ref: BTT 030

Event ref: ESF 23277

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-229078

Grid ref: TL 9664 5408

## Contents

Summary

1. Introduction & background

2. Evaluation methodology

3. Results

Table 1: Trench details

4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trenches

List of appendices

Appendix I- Selected images

Appendix II- Written scheme for evaluation

Appendix III- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Brettenham, 66 The Street (BTT 030, TL 9664 5408) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development close to the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr D Evans).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr D Evans commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single dwelling development on land in the southern part of the garden of 66 The Street, Brettenham (see Fig. 1). The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application B/15/00362/OUT, set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the area for the new dwelling. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works were undertaken.

1.2 Brettenham parish is located south-west of Stowmarket and south-east of Bury St Edmunds in south central Suffolk where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits in the central part of the county. The proposed development site (PDS) in the garden to the south-west of 66 The Street, Brettenham is located c120m south-west of the parish church with a frontage on the southern side of The Street in a landscape characterised by small villages and generally dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around the greens and tyes (formerly areas of common grazing). The village of Brettenham has a linear settlement pattern with two farms close to the parish church and a number of houses and strung out along The Street to the south-west where the PDS is located. The site is just above the 90m OD contour and at the time of the evaluation the PDS was soft ground.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location in the historic core of the village close to the parish church (HER BTT 006) and within 90m of a recent development to the north-east where features and finds of medieval date have been recorded indicating a settlement site of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> to late medieval date (HER BTT 027- see Fig. 1).

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The area of the proposed residential development was trenched to a previously agreed plan (see Fig. 2), using a small 360 machine equipped with a 900mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times with any indistinct areas being hand cleaned for better clarity.

2.2 The sides and base of the 1.80m wide trench and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds and any indistinct areas or potential features were investigated by hand. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry sunny and conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trench was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the evaluation

progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken of the trenching works.

## 3. Results

3.1 In this case the results are most easily summarised as in the table below as nothing of archaeological interest was revealed (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
Northeast-southwest	10	300	50 of mid brown clay subsoil	Stiff pale brown chalky clay with occasional silty sand pockets	No features and the only finds were occasional small fragments of later Post medieval brick
	10 (18m <sup>2</sup> )	300	50		

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As indicated in the table above no archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation with the trench being shallow at 350mm deep to the locally occurring glaciofluvial stiff pale brown chalky clay.

3.3 The only finds seen in the upcast spoil proved to be small fragments of late Post medieval brick and a scan of the adjacent weathered vegetable patch did not identify any stray finds of pre 1800 date.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is located close to the parish church and a nearby recorded area of intense medieval activity (HER BTT 027) the lack of archaeological features in the evaluation trench and lack of stray finds of any age indicate that this planned house plot area historically has been purely in agricultural use with the lack of stray finds suggesting long term pasture for animals.

4.2 Based on the evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations need to be carried out at this planned single dwelling development on land in the southern part of the garden of 66 The Street, Brettenham.

*Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. BTT 030.*

*Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological work in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.*

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to David Evans for his close cooperation and skilled machine operation)*

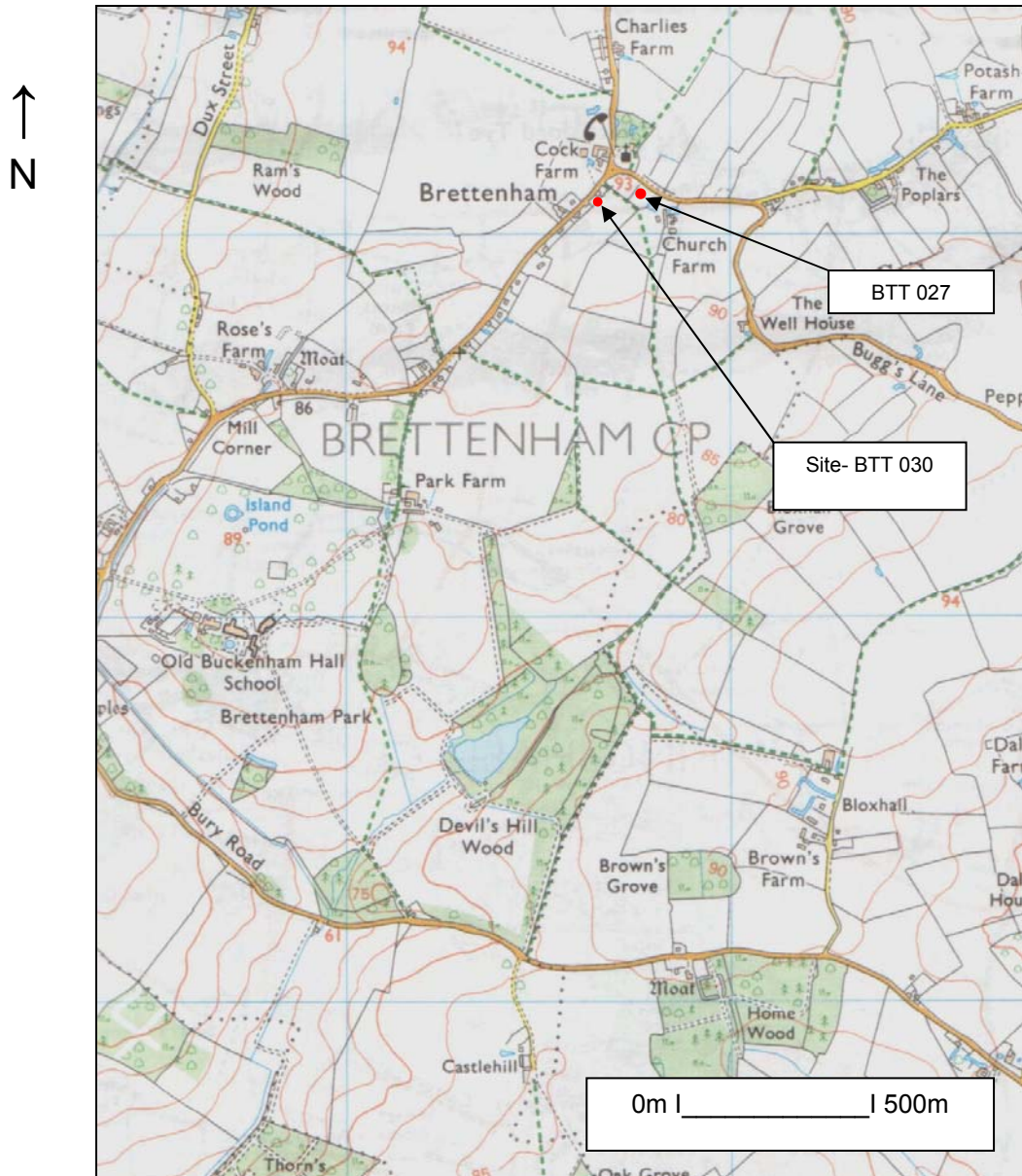


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

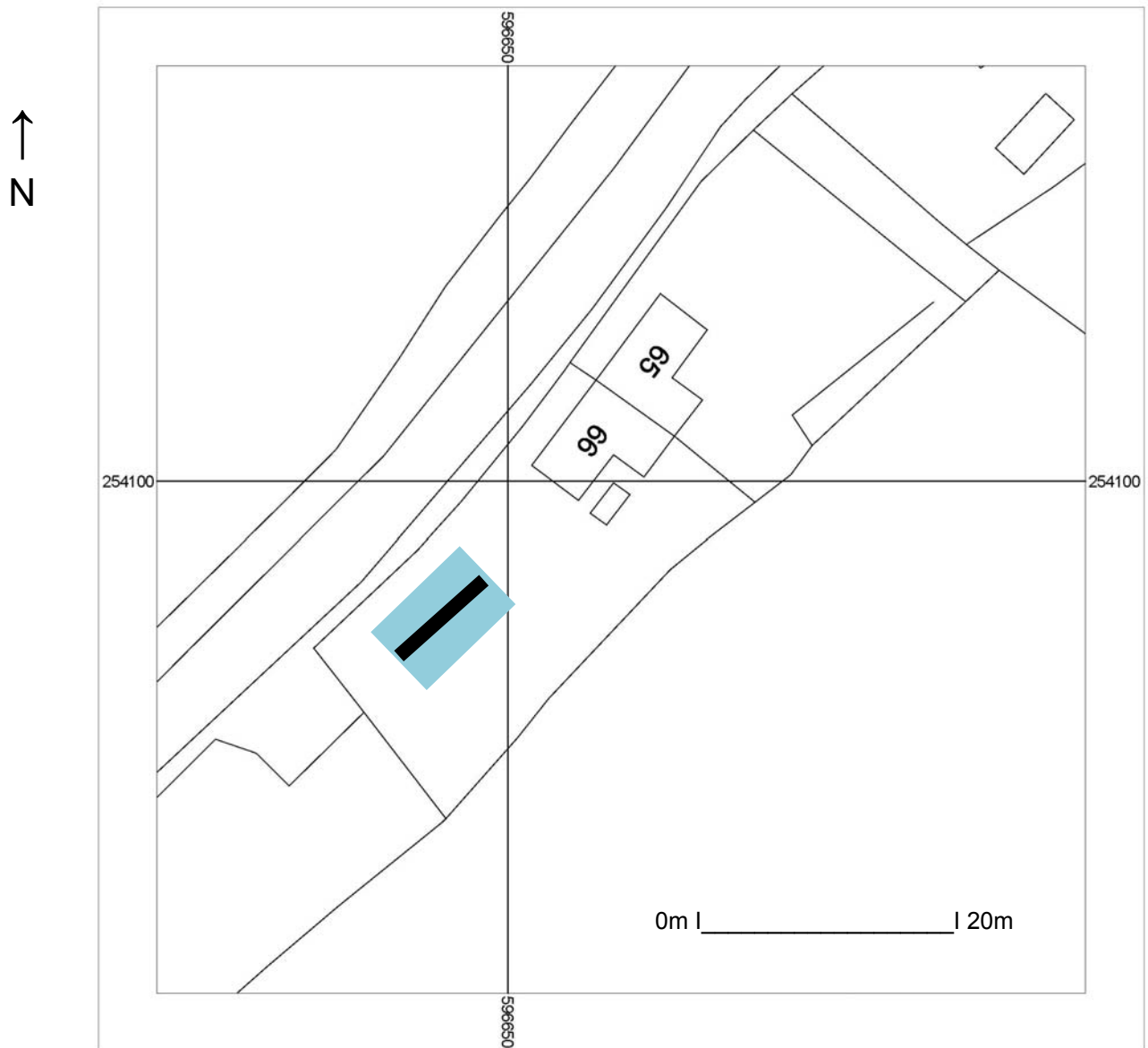


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trench (light blue- proposed footprint area)  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2015 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view from southwest



Trench from southwest





Deposit profile

**No 66 The Street, Brettenham,  
Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Evaluation**

## **Site details**

Name: No 66 The Street, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP

Client: Mr D Evans

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/15/00362/OUT

Proposed development: Erection of a single dwelling

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: SCCAS(RA)\_Trenched Archaeological Evaluation Brief\_66 The Street, Brettenham\_00362

Grid ref: TL 9664 5408

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Evaluation
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
7. Specialists

Proposed location of trial trench

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Mr D Evans has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed single dwelling development that has recently received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application B/15/00362/OUT and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the construction of a single detached dwelling at 66 The Street, Brettenham.

1.2 The evaluation will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)*, locally in *Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2012 Ver. 1.3 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Brettenham parish is located south-west of Stowmarket and south-east of Bury St Edmunds in south central Suffolk where the local soils are dominated by the heavier boulder clay or till deposits in the central part of the county. The proposed development site (PDS) in the garden to the south-west of 66 The Street, Brettenham is located c120m south-west of the parish church with a frontage on the southern side of The Street in a landscape characterised by small villages and generally dispersed settlement along the roads and lanes and around the greens and tyes (formerly areas of common grazing). The village of Brettenham has a linear settlement pattern with two farms close to the parish church and a number of houses and strung out along The Street to the south-west where the PDS is located. The site is just above the 90m OD contour and at present the PDS is soft ground.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed development is situated close to the medieval church of St Mary, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as BTT 006. Recent archaeological investigations to the north east of the application site revealed remains relating to medieval occupation (BTT 027). As a result, there is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location.'

A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

#### 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location in a historic village settlement close to the parish church and close to another site where evidence for medieval settlement activity has been recorded and therefore further evidence for medieval and earlier Post medieval period settlement and related activities in particular may exist at this site. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with an evaluation trench under controlled conditions so, if archaeological deposits are revealed they can be sampled and characterised. With this information a strategy can then be formulated for their possible preservation in situ or, failing that, the systematic recording of these deposits and the associated working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for a single residential dwelling on land currently part of the garden of 66 The Street, Brettenham.

5.2 The Brief requires 10m of 1.80m wide trenching, this will be undertaken using a 1/1.20m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. The machine will be closely supervised by an experienced archaeologist as the overburden is removed in shallow spits to the top of any archaeological deposits that are present, where hand investigation

will start, or to expose the underlying drift geology which will be further hand cleaned and examined. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. No trenches will be backfilled until the relevant officer at SCCAS has been consulted and should any modification to the trench layout be required due to any unforeseen circumstances, such as local services, then SCCAS will be contacted immediately. A metal detector search will be carried out by an experienced operator at all stages of the evaluation. The upcast spoil will also be closely examined for unstratified artefacts as evidence for past activity in rural areas in particular is often as evident via artefact scatters as by undisturbed archaeological deposits.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under overall site event and HER numbers obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record in high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.4 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before appropriate hand investigation and recording. Exposed archaeological features will be sampled at standard levels with care being taken to cause minimum disturbance to the site consistent with evaluation to a level adequate to properly form a subsequent mitigation strategy. Significant features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post holes (where fills are sampled) will have their integrity maintained (and during backfilling). Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, sampling will be at 50%-possibly rising to 100% if requested, and 1m wide sampling slots across linear features. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and the clear presumption must be to preserve such remains in situ with minimum disturbance during this evaluation stage. If this is not possible then a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording (total 100% sampling if a cremation deposit) and removal of the remains followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the evaluation works which may involve radiocarbon dating (in this case the likelihood of revealing human burial is assessed as being low).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCCAS Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCCAS Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer.

5.6 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow as detailed in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post Excavation* (English Heritage, 2011, second edition). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 20 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant SCCAS Officer (and RSA if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be systematically planned and fully costed. Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape. Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the evaluation the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

- What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for iron

working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the evaluation results and to aid the planning of any further field work- if any RC dates are required on features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost though this is a rare occurrence on small scale evaluations).

- What is the concentration of macro-remains (to inform sampling strategy in any further field work), in particular how might bulk sampling inform the interpretation of burial deposits.
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the evaluation results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the evaluation soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (should RC dating be required in the evaluation on such deposits this will be covered within the resources agreed for the first date but will take time to obtain, examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is unlikely unless particularly deep features are present).
- Deep blanket type deposits resulting from both natural and human derived actions and events can yield valuable land use and palaeoenvironmental information. In particular such deposits can form at the base of a slope, if located in the evaluation the relevant SCCAS Officer and RSA will be consulted over monolith sampling



and assessment by the relevant evaluation specialist (the composition of such deposits may give information on past land use in the area through a study of the soil matrix notwithstanding additional data if it is waterlogged)

5.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2, and particularly Appendix 3). This archive will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and following the guidelines outlined in '*Archaeological Archives in Suffolk- Guidelines for preparation and deposition*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2015). As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 3.1 & Appendix 4.1) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the aims of this WSI and section 4 above in particular. The report will give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. The report will include an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features in relation to both dated and undated features and in terms of patterning across the site.

5.9 Any interpretation of the evaluation will be clearly separated from the objective account of the evaluation and its results and the results will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Officer at an early stage in the reporting process following reporting on the day of the immediately apparent conclusions. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site evaluation in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 4 above and their significance in the context of local HER records and of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). There will be no further work on site until the evaluation results have been assessed and the SCCAS Officer has considered whether further archaeological works are required if this application receives consent. The report may give an opinion regarding the necessity for further evaluation work as appropriate. A draft pdf copy of the report will be presented to SCCAS following completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a digital version on disc. As required the site evaluation will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before site works commence followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An

HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up.

## 6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the machine operator for excavation of the trenches and examination of the up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Discussion with the client's agent has already confirmed that there is no known, or likely, ground contamination and the discovery of underground services is unlikely. No overhead services impinge on the trench locations. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination revealed during the evaluation will be passed to finds and environmental specialists.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

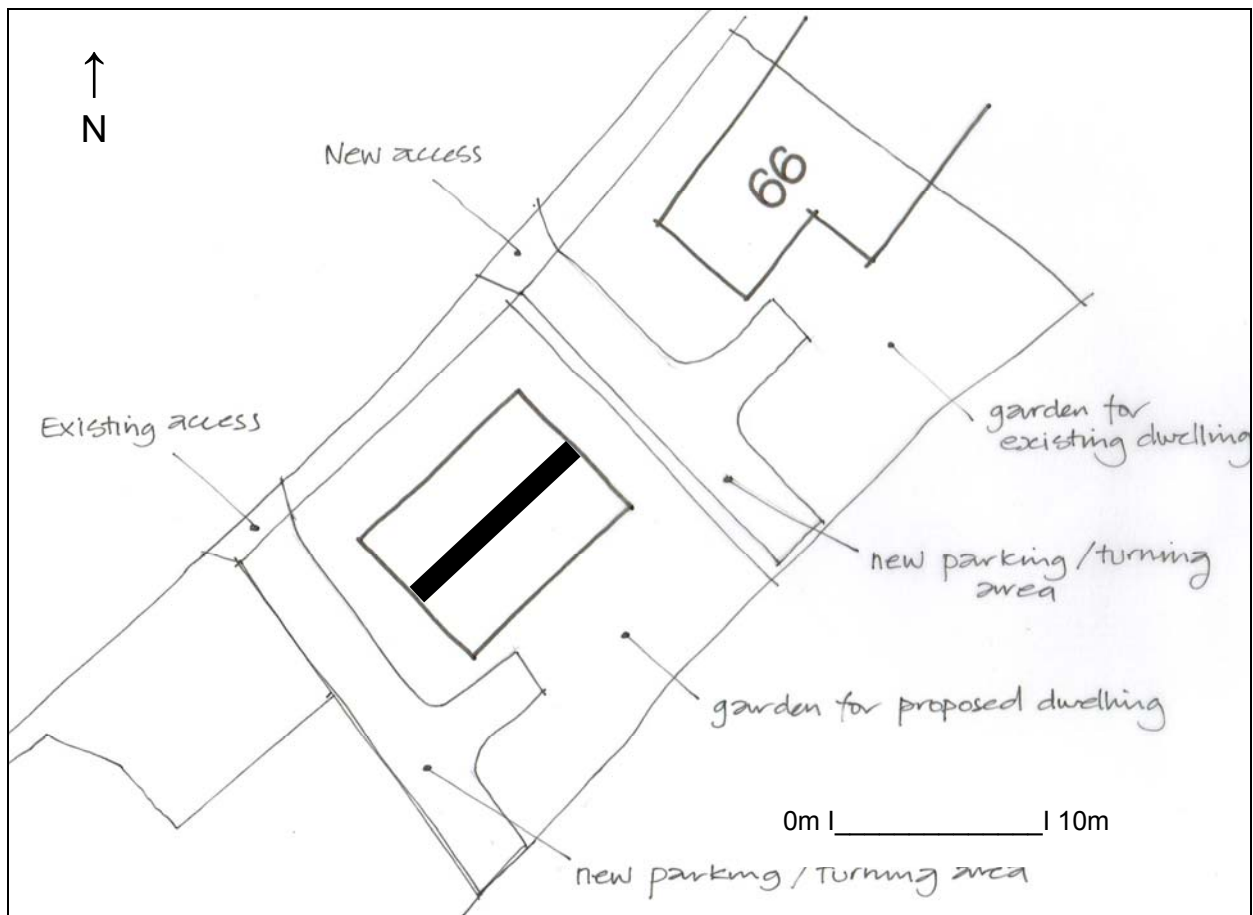
## 7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Metal detecting:	J Armes (experienced freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Soils specialist	R Macphail (UCL)

# John Newman Archaeological Services

---

Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics:	S Benfield (CAT)
Medieval coins:	M Allen (Fitzwilliam Museum)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed location of trial trench (10m x 1.80m)

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-229078**

### Project details

Project name	Land Adjacent 66 The Street, Brettenham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Brettenham, 66 The Street (BTT 030, TL 9664 5408) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development close to the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 05-11-2015 End: 05-11-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23277 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BTT 030 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/15/00362/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH BRETTEHAM LAND ADJACENT 66 THE STREET
Postcode	IP7 7QP
Study area	120 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 9664 5408 52.149447256682 0.874522636483 52 08 58 N 000 52 28 E Point

Height OD / Depth      Min: 89m Max: 90m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation      John Newman Archaeological Services  
 Project brief originator      Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
 Project design originator      John Newman  
 Project director/manager      John Newman  
 Project supervisor      John Newman  
 Type of sponsor/funding body      Landowner

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?      No  
 Digital Archive recipient      Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Digital Contents      "none"  
 Digital Media available      "Images raster / digital photography","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient      Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Paper Contents      "none"  
 Paper Media available      "Report"

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title      No 66 The Street, Brettenham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report  
 Author(s)/Editor(s)      Newman, J  
 Date      2015  
 Issuer or publisher      John Newman Archaeological Services  
 Place of issue or publication      Henley, Suffolk  
 Description      Loose bound client report and pdf  
 Entered by      John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)  
 Entered on      10 November 2015

# OASIS: