

**Part Garden, The Red House, Little London Hill,  
Debenham, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 2213/14**

**HER Ref: DBN 167**

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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

(January 2016)

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**Site details for HER**

Name: Part garden, The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham, Suffolk

Clients: Gipping Homes Ltd

Planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2213/14

Development: Erection of a new dwelling and garage

Date of fieldwork: 10 December, 2015

Event ref: ESF 23344

HER ref: DBN 167

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-233597

Grid ref: TM 1722 6364

Site area: 200m<sup>2</sup>

Recent land use: garden

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*Summary: Debenham, part garden The Red House, Little London Hill (DBN 167, TM 1722 6364) evaluation trenching for a planned single dwelling development revealed substantial deposits of subsoil at a site adjacent to the head waters of the River Deben and close to its confluence with The Gulls. This area of the village has revealed deep subsoil deposits previously and it can be concluded that on the northern side of the village an originally deep valley has been filled-in with hill wash over a long period. While no archaeological features were revealed a moderate number of medieval pottery sherds of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered as stray finds indicative of activity nearby. In addition with medieval sherds found close to the base of the subsoil it appears that the hill wash deposition episode occurred over the last 700-800 years perhaps triggered by more intense arable land use as the population peaked in the 13<sup>th</sup> to mid 14<sup>th</sup> century period (John Newman Archaeological Services for Gipping Homes Ltd).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Gipping Homes Ltd commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single dwelling development on the eastern part of the garden of The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham (see Fig. 1) that has recently been given planning consent. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief, following the granting of planning application 2213/14, set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the development area concerned. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared, and later modified in order to take account of a re-application (0264/15) that moved the footprint of the planned dwelling on the plot, by JNAS in order to gain a conditional discharge and allow the trenching to go ahead before any other ground works are undertaken.

1.2 Debenham is a small historic market town in central Suffolk to the north of Ipswich that had been established by the late Saxon period at least and flourished through the medieval period with the market being recorded from 1221. The town is focused on the area around the parish church and the main, north-south aligned, historic high street that runs parallel to the upper part of the River Deben which rises to the north-west of the town. The proposed development site is located on the north-western edge of the historic core of the settlement some 470m north-west of the parish church. The site is bounded on its northern side by Little London Hill and on its southern side by the upper part of the River Deben with Brook Street running along the southern side of the water course with the confluence of the River Deben and The Gulls being 100m to the east. At the time of the evaluation the site was soft ground with a grass cover and scattered shrubs and small trees with The Red House being a brick built structure of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

1.3 Topographically the site slopes gently down from a high point of 36.60m OD with a south-easterly aspect before the ground drops more sharply along the southern boundary of the plot to the adjacent water course. Nearby ground testing at the old bus depot to the south-east recorded glaciofluvial deposits comprising 'medium dense light grey slightly clayey gravelly fine to coarse sand' and both at the primary school (HER DBN 148, Newman, 2013) to the east and the bus depot deep deposits of overburden have been encountered.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this planned development was therefore generated by its location on the northern edge of the area defined in the County Historic Environment Record as the historic core of the small medieval town of Debenham (DBN 131).

## 2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The new house plot was trenched to an agreed plan (see Fig. 2) with 5m long trenches to the east, south and west of the planned footprint area to avoid creating soft spots that might affect the planned foundations as deep deposits of overburden were anticipated. The trenching was carried out using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 1000mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned as necessary to improve clarity. In addition a layer of medium and large flints close to the base of trench 2 was examined in one small area using a 450mm wide toothed bucket as the flat bucket could not easily penetrate it to confirm that this was a deposit of natural origin.

2.2 The sides and base of the trenches and the upcast spoil were examined visually and scanned with a metal detector for any finds as the evaluation progressed. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been good throughout the evaluation which was undertaken under dry and slightly overcast conditions. At the end of the evaluation the location of the trenches was plotted from nearby mapped features and as the works progressed a full photographic record in digital format (see Appendix I) was taken.

## 3. Results

3.1 The relevant details for the evaluation trenches is summarised in the table below (see also Figs. 2 & Appendix I):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/ natural features & finds
1	North-east/ south-west	5	400	900 of mid brown very silty sand that contained only small flints	Silty orange sand with occasional flints	Occasional small later 19 <sup>th</sup> to early/mid 20 <sup>th</sup> pottery sherds and small Post medieval brick & tile fragments in the topsoil
2	North-east/ south-west	5	350	700 as T1	As T1	Stray finds as T1, below the subsoil a 350mm thick deposit of loose medium and large angular flints extended across the trench
3	North-west/ south-east	5	400	800 as T1	As T1	Stray finds as T1 in the topsoil plus 14 stray sherds of medieval pottery and occasional oyster shells in the subsoil
		15 (27m <sup>2</sup> )	350-400	700-900		Overall trench depth was 1050mm to 1300mm (to 1400mm in T2 to base of deposit of flints)

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As outlined in table 1 above a substantial depth of top and subsoil was revealed across the site as had been anticipated. The 350mm to 400mm of topsoil contained only occasional later Post medieval stray ceramic finds and the mid brown very silty subsoil in trenches 1 and 2 did not contain any stray finds. However a number of

stray pottery sherds (0001) of medieval date were recovered from the subsoil in trench 3 and a few oyster shells were also present. It was also noted during the evaluation that the medieval pottery sherds recovered from trench 3 were scattered throughout the 800mm layer of subsoil with some being at a depth of 1100mm from the present ground surface.

3.3 While no archaeological features were revealed in the 15m of evaluation trenching as indicated in table 1 above a layer of medium and large sized flints was exposed at a depth of 1050mm in trench 2. These flints were angular and unconsolidated in a very silty sand matrix and the 450mm wide trial trench taken through this deposit in the south-eastern corner of the trench (see Appendix I) enabled a detailed investigation to take place by hand and this concluded that the deposit of flints was of natural origin.

#### 4. The Pottery

4.1 A total 14 sherds (117g) of pottery were recovered as stray finds (0001) from the subsoil deposit in trench 3 and the full report on these finds by Sue Anderson is included as Appendix III below. In summary the 14 sherds are seen as being typical for this area of north/north-east Suffolk with a mixture of sandy coarseware (1 sherd), micaceous coarseware (7 sherds) and Waveney Valley coarseware (6 sherds) and an overall 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date range with the minimum number of vessels represented being eight. While it is a small and unstratified assemblage it is seen as a useful addition to ceramic studies for the local area as very little pottery of this date has been found in Debenham to date.

#### 5. Conclusion

5.1 While the three evaluation trenches at this single dwelling development site did not reveal any archaeological features valuable topographic and past land use information for this area on the northern side of the historic core of Debenham has been recorded. As anticipated a substantial layer of subsoil was revealed confirming that the River Deben at this point close to its origin at one time ran through a valley that must have been of some depth with relatively steep sides. Containing few stones the 700mm to 900mm of silty subsoil can be interpreted as a colluvial deposit washed into the valley base as past arable use of nearby upslope areas in all probability allowed hill wash to take place. In this context it is of interest that pottery of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date was found throughout the subsoil in trench 3 as this indicates that the accumulation of this colluvial material took place largely through the high medieval period when the rural population peaked putting pressure on the land to produce more food before dropping sharply during the Black Death period of the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. This need to produce more food put ever more areas of land into arable use thereby creating the situation when excess rainfall will erode the fields and deposit hill wash in lower areas as it drains away. In addition the presence

of medieval pottery sherds in the subsoil confirms past activity of this date nearby on the northern edge of the historic core at Debenham.

5.2 From these evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological works need to be carried out for this single dwelling development at The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham as the examination of what will be deep foundation trenches is unlikely to add any significant information regarding past activity at the site.

*Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref: DBN 167.*

*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 Ben for his skilled machine work, to Esther Newman for processing the finds and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds report)*

**Ref:**

Newman, J            2013            'Sir Robert Hitcham Primary School, School Corner, Debenham- Archaeological Evaluation Report' (John Newman Archaeological Services)



Fig. 1: Site location

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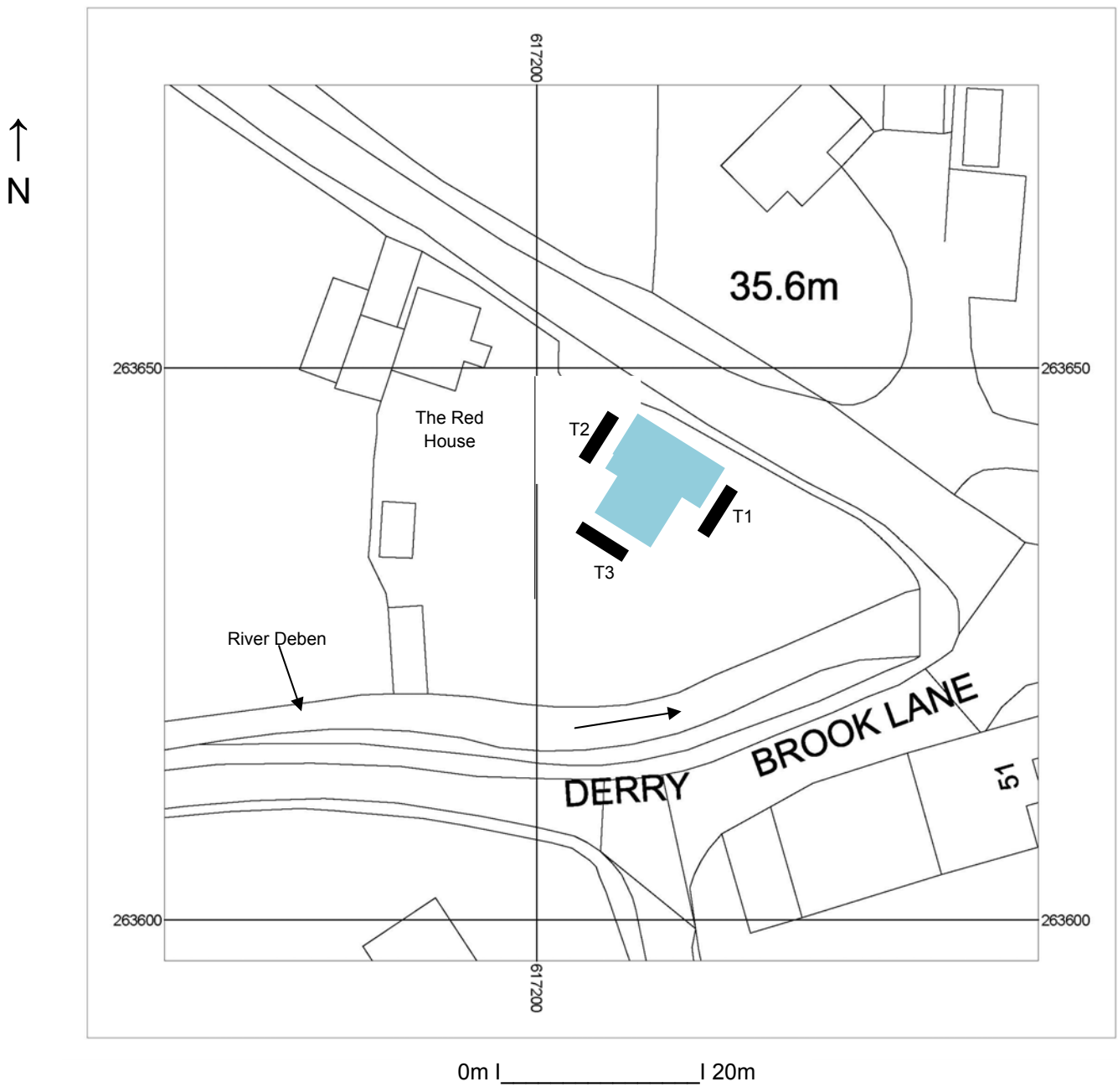


Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trenches (light blue- planned dwelling footprint)  
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## Appendix I- Images



General view from southeast



General view from northwest



Trench 1 from north



Trench 1 deposit profile



Trench 2 from south with narrow trench through flint deposit



Trench 1 deposit profile with layer of flints above orange silty sand



Trench 3 from northwest



Trench 3 deposit profile

**Part Garden, The Red House, Little London Hill,  
Debenham, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Evaluation**

## **Site details**

Name: Part garden, The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham, Suffolk

Client: Gipping Homes Ltd

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2213/14

Proposed development: Erection of new dwelling & garage

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: 2014\_12\_23 SCCAS\_ArchEval Red House Debenham 2213\_14

Grid ref: TM 1722 6362

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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 trenches

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Gipping Homes Ltd have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation for a proposed small scale residential development. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application 2213/14, that has recently been approved, and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Dr A Antrobus 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 new dwelling and garage on the eastern part of the garden of The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham.

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 Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2011 Ver. 1.1 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Debenham is a small market town in central Suffolk to the north of Ipswich that had, in all probability been established by the late Saxon period at least, and flourished through the medieval period with the market being recorded from 1221. The town is focused on the area around the parish church and the main, north-south aligned, historic high street that runs parallel to the upper part of the River Deben which rises to the north-west of the town. The proposed development site (PDS) is located on the north-western edge of the historic core of the settlement some 470m north-west of the parish church. The PDS is bounded on its northern side by Little London Hill and on its southern side by the upper part of the River Deben with Brook Street running along the southern side of the water course.

2.2 Topographically the PDS slopes gently down from a high point of 36.60m OD with a south-easterly aspect before the ground drops more sharply along the southern boundary of the plot to the adjacent water course. Nearby ground testing at the old bus depot to the south-east recorded glaciofluvial deposits comprising 'medium dense light grey slightly clayey gravelly fine to coarse sand' and both at the primary school to the east and the bus depot deep deposits of overburden have been encountered.



### 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'This site lies on the edge of the area of archaeological interest defined for the medieval small town of Debenham in the County Historic Environment Record (DBN 131), close to the main street and the River Deben.' A site evaluation by trial trenching is therefore required to:

- 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.

3.2 While Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk does not depict any structures at the PDS this map is at a small scale and the later tithe map of 1837 numbers this plot as 357 and describes it as a 'Cottage and garden,' occupied by Thomas Abbott and owned by Robert Andrews. On the latter map the eastern part of the plot does not contain any buildings.

### 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to its location close to the north-western edge of the historic core of the town where evidence for medieval and earlier Post medieval date can be anticipated in addition to being adjacent to the upper reaches of the River Deben. The aim of the evaluation is therefore to examine the specified sample of the proposed development area with evaluation trenching 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 dwelling on soft ground in the garden east of The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham.

5.2 The Brief requires 15 to 20m of 1.8m wide trench across the planned area of the overall development and a proposed trenching plan is included below with trenches adjacent to planned new build areas to avoid later foundation problems. This will be undertaken using a minimum 1m wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver. 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 up cast 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 an overall site HER number 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 of 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 evidence 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 the guidelines as detailed in *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis* (Murphy P L & Wiltshire P E J, 1994). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 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 for features containing suitable material but no easily dateable finds then this will incur an additional cost).
- 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 incur an additional cost and will take time to obtain, examination of the topographic location of the site indicates that the presence of waterlogged deposits is possible if deep features are revealed).

- 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) and later revised in *MoRPHE*. 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 '*Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2008). 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 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 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 Prior to evaluation work starting on site the client will be consulted with regard to any potential contamination at the site. 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.

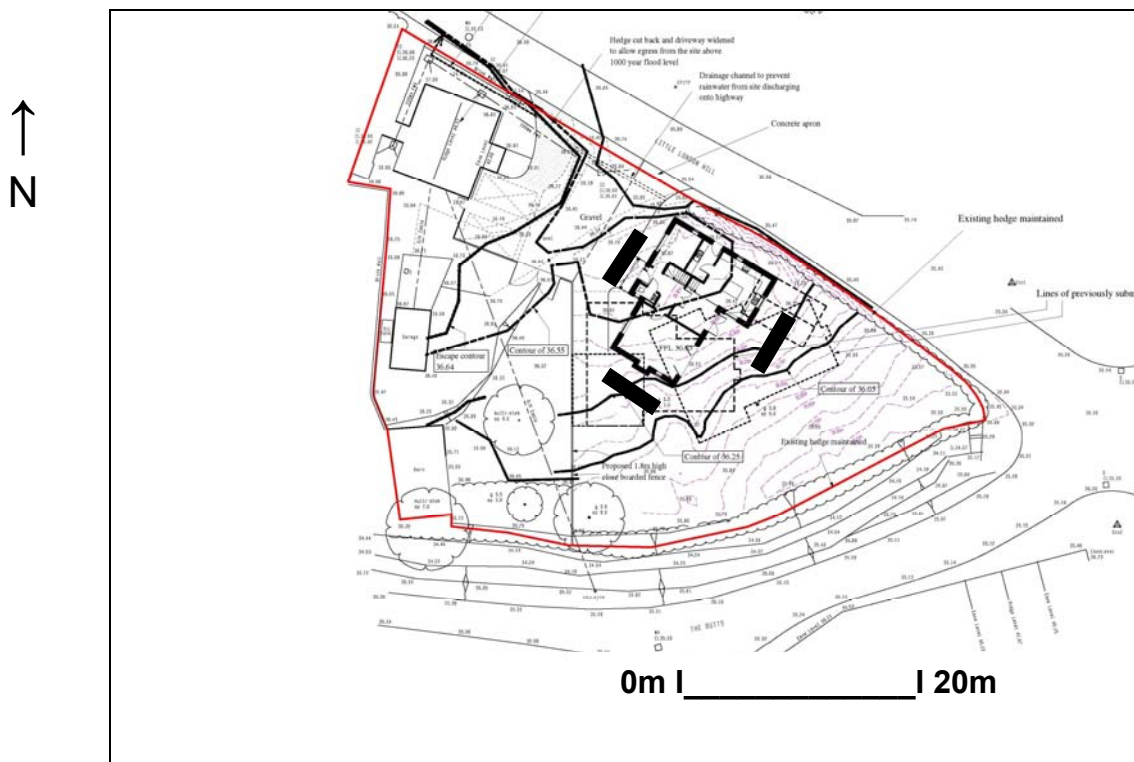
## 7. Specialists

Conservation:

Conservation Services

# John Newman Archaeological 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)
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 trenches (three x 5m each)

## Appendix III- The Pottery

### The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham (DBN 167)

Sue Anderson, January 2016.

#### Introduction

Fourteen sherds of pottery (117g) were collected as unstratified finds (0001) from the subsoil of trench 3. A summary catalogue is included as Appendix 1.

#### Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. A full quantification by count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (eve), minimum number of vessels (MNV), fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. The results were input directly into an Access database.

#### The assemblage

Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	No	Wt(g)	Eve	MNV
Medieval sandy coarsewares	MCW	1	1		1
Medieval micaceous coarsewares	MCWM	7	55	0.04	6
Waveney Valley coarsewares	WVCW	6	61	0.11	1
<b>Totals</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 1. Pottery by fabric.

The sherds represented eight vessels, all medieval coarsewares of local origin. Three main fabrics were present, a medium sandy greyware (MCW), a fine sandy micaceous greyware (MCW), and an abundant fine sandy dark greyware (WVCW). Rimsherds of two vessels were found, one a short, slightly flaring type with a rounded outer edge (MCWM) and the other a squared thickened everted type (WVCW). One MCWM body sherd was decorated with finger-tip impressions along the shoulder. The forms and fabrics suggest a 13th/14th-century date for the group.

#### Discussion

Very little medieval pottery has been recovered from Debenham, one of the largest groups being the assemblage from a moated site to the north-west of the village (Owles 1968). The sherds recovered from the present site are comparable with Owles' 'Ware B' and 'Ware C' (micaceous and non-micaceous sandy wares respectively), and the square-rimmed forms both there and here are typical of north-east Suffolk. The closest published parallel for the Waveney Valley jar rim found here is from Bungay Castle (Dunning 1936, fig. 8), dated to the late 13th century, but many similar vessels have been found on unpublished sites in this part of the county and they have a broad date range which extends into the 14th century.

#### References

Dunning, G., 1936, 'Report on pottery from the mortar layer', in Braun, H., 'Bungay Castle', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol.* 22 (3), 334–8).



MPRG, 1998, *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1.

Owles, E.J., 1968, 'A medieval moated farmstead at Debenham', *Proc. Suff. Inst. Archaeol.* 31 (2), 160-71.

### Appendix 1: Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	MNV	Spot date
0001	MCWM			2	13	1	12th-14th c.
0001	MCWM			1	3	1	12th-14th c.
0001	MCWM			1	10	1	12th-14th c.
0001	MCWM			1	15	1	12th-14th c.
0001	MCWM			1	9	1	12th-14th c.
0001	MCWM	JR	EVRO	1	5	1	13th c?
0001	MCW			1	1	1	12th-14th c.
0001	WVCW	JR	THEV	6	61	1	13th-14th c.

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### Project details

Project name	Part Garden, The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham, Suffolk-Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Debenham, part garden The Red House, Little London Hill (DBN 167, TM 1722 6364) evaluation trenching for a planned single dwelling development revealed substantial deposits of subsoil at a site adjacent to the head waters of the River Deben and close to its confluence with The Gulls. This area of the village has revealed deep subsoil deposits previously and it can be concluded that on the northern side of the village an originally deep valley has been filled-in with hill wash over a long period. While no archaeological features were revealed a moderate number of medieval pottery sherds of 12th-14th century date were recovered as stray finds indicative of activity nearby. In addition with medieval sherds found close to the base of the subsoil it appears that the hill wash deposition episode occurred over the last 700-800 years perhaps triggered by more intense arable land use as the population peaked in the 13th to mid 14th century period.
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2015 End: 10-12-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23344 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	DBN 167 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	2213/14 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition  
 Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK DEBENHAM LAND ADJACENT TO THE RED HOUSE, LITTLE LONDON HILL  
 Study area 200 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TM 1722 6364 52.227522171112 1.181013769322 52 13 39 N 001 10 51 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 35m Max: 36m

### 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 Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
 Digital Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Digital Contents "Ceramics"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk CC Archaeological Service  
 Paper Contents "Ceramics"  
 Paper Media available "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Part Garden, The Red House, Little London Hill, Debenham, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## OASIS:

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