

**No 25 Church Road, Brandon,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/16/2774/FUL**

**HER Ref: BRD 287**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(July 2017)

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

## **Site details for HER**

Name: Land at 25 Church Road, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0EN

Client: Mr J Simmons

Local planning authority: Forest Heath DC

Planning application ref: DC/16/2774/FUL

Development: Erection of two dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 12 & 13 April, 2017

Event ref: ESF 25495

HER ref: BRD 287

OASIS: johnnewm1-280994

Grid ref: TL 7790 8620

## **Contents**

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring methodology
3. Results
4. The Finds (Sue Anderson)
5. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of monitored footprint areas

List of appendices

Appendix I - Images

Appendix II- Written scheme for monitoring

Appendix III- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Brandon, land at 25 Church Road (BRD 287, TL 7790 8620) monitoring of ground works for a two new dwellings development some 25m south of the Church Road frontage at its closest point only revealed three pits of 20<sup>th</sup> century date though earlier activity in the area was indicated by a few pottery sherds of high medieval date recovered from the upcast spoil of the northern most foundation trench suggesting activity of this date close to the nearby Church Road frontage area (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr J Simmons).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr J Simmons commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/16/2774/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection of a two dwellings on land at 25 Church Road, Brandon.

1.2 Brandon is a small town, where a market was established by 1319, on the north western edge of Suffolk which historically grew on the southern side of a bridging point on the Little Ouse River which has seen extensive development in recent years. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 depicts a relatively small cluster of buildings close to the bridging point in an area of very dispersed and sparse settlement as the area to the south of the town, which is now dominated by extensive coniferous forestry plantations, comprises the very sandy and dry tracts of Breckland where pre-modern land use has largely been sheep grazing and rabbit warrening. In addition a nationally important middle Saxon site has been part excavated on Staunch Meadow on the southern side of the Little Ouse Road and to the west of the later town. Finally the parish church is located in a historically isolated location to the south-west of the historic town.

1.3 This development site at 25 Church Road is 150m east of the parish church, 500mm south of the Little Ouse River, 300m south of the major middle Saxon site at Staunch Meadow and 600m south-west of the historic town centre. At its northern edge the site is also c25m south of the nearby Church Road frontage. The site is just below the 20m OD contour, currently soft ground and in an area of sandy and well drained soils.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location towards the western edge of the area defined in the Historic Environment Record (HER) as the historic core at Brandon (HER BRD 209).

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the trench foundations, which were excavated using a mid-sized 360 machine, was carried out over two site visits. At all times conditions for site visibility were good and as the spoil was temporarily stockpiled on site it could be thoroughly examined both visually and with a metal detector. The footprint areas were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 In total some 13m of 36m of 700mm wide and 1000mm deep foundation trench were monitored over two site visits. This revealed 250mm to 350mm of topsoil over 650mm to 750mm of mid brown sandy subsoil which contained small Post medieval brick and tile fragments and a small amount of debris of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The only features revealed cutting into the underlying yellow sand with flints were three pits containing brick fragments of 20<sup>th</sup> century date; however a small number of pottery sherds (0001) of earlier date were recovered from the upcast spoil of the northern foundation trench of the northern new dwelling footprint. In addition two clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered as stray finds.

## 4. The Finds (Sue Anderson)

4.1 Six sherds of pottery weighing 68g were collected as unstratified finds (0001) from the northern foundation trench of the northern new dwelling footprint. Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series. Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric:

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
0001	BCSW	1	37	body sherd, int surface mostly lost, ext worn; possibly more chalk than typical, so may be another fen product	12th-13th c.
	BSFW	1	7	body sherd	12th-14th c.
	BMCW	1	7	body sherd	12th-14th c.
	MCWM	2	8	body sherds of 2 vessels, pale grey, v fine, Essex?	12th-14th c.
	HFW1	1	9	body sherd, spots of green glaze	M.12th-E.14th c.
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>68</b>		

Table 1. Ceramics catalogue.

Key: BCSW – Bury coarse sandy ware; BSFW – Bury sandy fine ware; BMCW – Bury medieval coarseware; MCWM – medieval micaceous coarsewares; HFW1 – Hedingham fineware.

All pottery in this small group was of high medieval date and comprised fine and medium sandy greywares typical of south-west Suffolk and north-west Essex in this period. Fragments were all body sherds. Three sherds were similar to fabrics frequently found in Bury St Edmunds, but not necessarily made there. The largest of these was in a pale buff coarse sandy fabric with calcareous inclusions, similar to Ely-type wares and Cambridgeshire wares thought to derive from Soham. The micaceous finewares are likely to derive from Essex, although they were not Hedingham wares.

4.2 Two fragments (10g) of clay tobacco pipe were recovered as unstratified finds (0001). One was a small piece of stem with a bore diameter of 1.8mm and probably of 18th/19th-century date. The other was a fragment of stem and heel, the latter a pointed oval with no maker's mark, and a bore diameter of 3.2mm, dated c.1620-80.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 While this site is located towards the south-western side of the area defined as the historic core of Brandon no archaeological features were revealed except three pits of recent date. However evidence of medieval activity in the area was indicated by the recovery of 6 sherds of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery from the upcast spoil and it is of interest to note that these all came from the foundation trench nearest to the Church Road frontage some 25m to the north suggesting that settlement evidence of this date may well exist under the existing houses along the southern side of this road.

5.2 Therefore it can be confirmed that the ground works for the construction of a two dwellings with garages on land at 25 Church Road, Brandon has not caused disturbance to any significant archaeological deposits.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to John Simmons and his team on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds work)*

Ref.

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

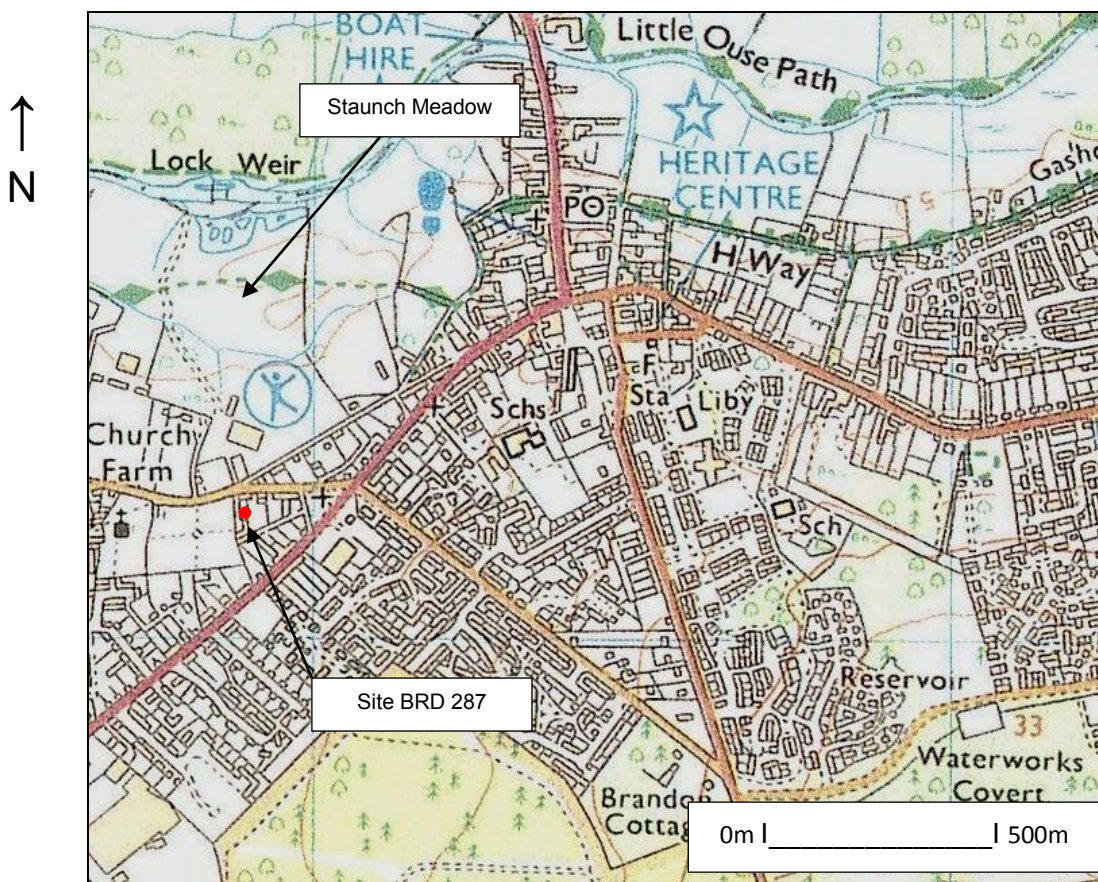


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

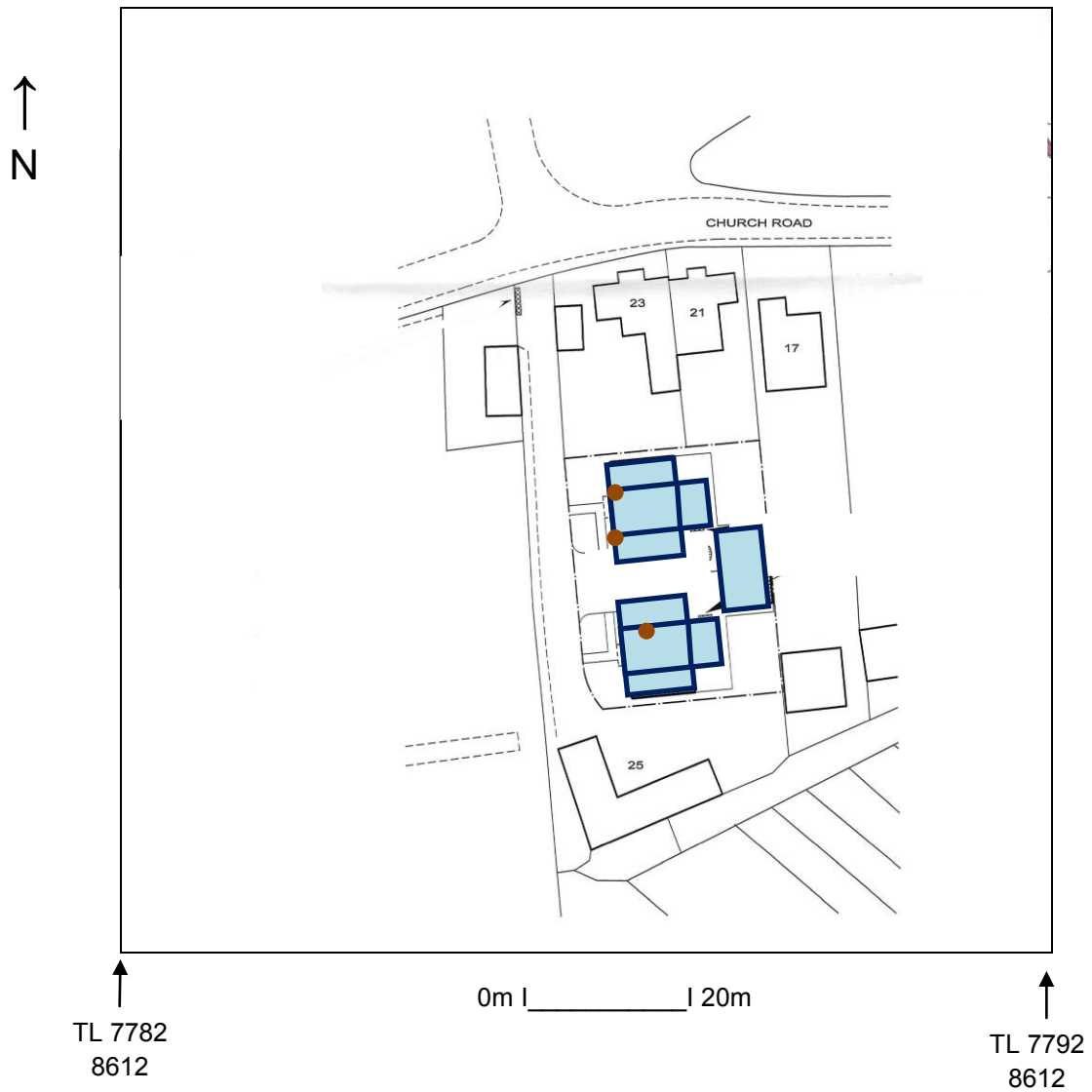


Fig. 2: Location of monitored footprint areas  
(Light blue- footprints, dark blue- trenches, brown- modern pits)  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2016 All rights reserved Licence NO 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view from east



Northern trench of northern plot from west



Northeastern corner of northern plot



Modern pit on western side of northern plot





Southern trench of southern plot from east



Northeastern corner of garage block

**No 25 Church Road, Brandon,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/16/2774/FUL**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: Land at 25 Church Road, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 0EN

Client: Mr J Simmons

Local planning authority: Forest Heath DC

Planning application ref: DC/16/2774/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of two dwellings

Brief ref: tbc

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TL 7790 8620

## **Contents**

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

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Mr J Simmons has commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/16/2774/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of two dwellings on land at 25 Church Road, Brandon.

1.2 The monitoring 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)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & reissued 2014)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Brandon is a small town, where a market was established by 1319, on the north western edge of Suffolk which historically grew on the southern side of a bridging point on the Little Ouse River which has seen extensive development in recent years. Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 depicts a relatively small cluster of buildings close to the bridging point in an area of very dispersed and sparse settlement as the area to the south of the town, which is now dominated by extensive coniferous forestry plantations, comprises the very sandy and dry tracts of Breckland where pre-modern land use has largely been sheep grazing and rabbit warrening. In addition a nationally important middle Saxon site has been part excavated on Staunch Meadow on the southern side of the Little Ouse Road and to the west of the later town. Finally the parish church is located in a historically isolated location to the south-west of the historic town.

2.2 The proposed development site (PDS) at 25 Church Road is 150m east of the church, 500m south of the Little Ouse River, 300m of Staunch Meadow and 600m south-west of the historic town centre. The PDS is just below the 20m OD contour, currently soft ground and in an area of sandy and well drained soils.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Advice to SCCAS during the planning application stage confirmed that it is located on the edge of the historic core at Brandon (HER BRD 209), the advice also confirmed that the required archaeological mitigation works should be monitoring of ground works to investigate and record any archaeological deposits followed by full reporting.

## 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site for the planned two new dwellings is located in an area with a high potential to contain archaeological deposits of Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval date. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to the depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed.

## 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations. The excavation of the trench footings and any related ground works will be observed once they are underway and then through to completion and any up cast spoil examined for finds including scanning with a metal detector. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Care will also be taken to avoid damage to the site by machinery should inclement weather conditions occur. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits. As appropriate and in relation to the results a search will be commissioned from the County HER for archaeological sites and finds within 250m of the site.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under overall site event and HER numbers supplied by Suffolk CC. 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 with the monitored footings shown. 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.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded related to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use and topography in the town. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litre if possible) will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains and this would incur additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being low.)

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological 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 SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC and any potential Treasure Act finds will be reported to the local FLO within 14 days.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number and complying with *SCCAS Archive Guidelines for Depositors 2017*. 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.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before site works start 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 & ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

## John Newman Archaeological Services

---

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

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

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

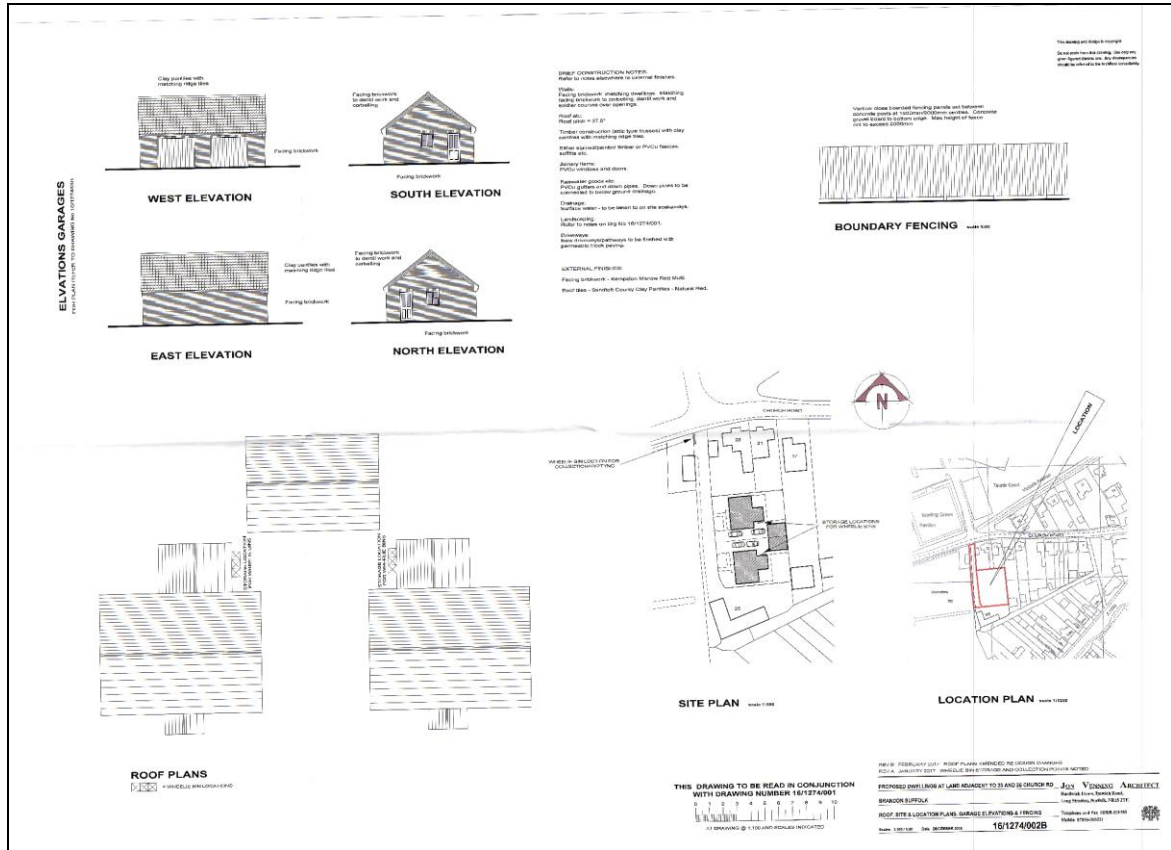
6.5 Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

# John Newman Archaeological Services





# OASIS ID: johnnewm1-280994

## Project details

Project name	Land at 25 Church Road, Brandon, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Brandon, land at 25 Church Road (BRD 287, TL 7790 8620) monitoring of ground works for a two new dwellings development some 25m south of the Church Road frontage at its closest point only revealed three pits of 20th century date though earlier activity in the area was indicated by a few pottery sherds of high medieval date recovered from the upcast spoil of the northern most foundation trench suggesting activity of this date along the nearby Church Road frontage area.
Project dates	Start: 12-04-2017 End: 13-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 25495 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BRD 287 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/16/2774/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH BRANDON LAND AT 25 CHURCH ROAD
Postcode	IP27 0EN
Study area	400 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7790 8620 52.444328323072 0.617868144329 52 26 39 N 000 37 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23m Max: 24m

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	Land at 25 Church Road, Brandon, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2017
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

11 July 2017