

**New Swimming Pool and Extension at
No 7 John Raven Court, Feering, Essex**

Planning application: 15/01086/FUL

HER Ref: FEJR 17

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(April 2017)

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Site details for HER

Name: No 7 John Raven Court, Feering, Essex

Client: Mr D Warburton

Local planning authority: Braintree DC

Planning application refs: 15/01086/FUL

Development: Erection of extension and creation of a swimming pool

LPA Archaeological advisor: Place Services, Essex CC

Date of fieldwork: 30 March, 2017

HER ref: FEJR 17

OASIS: johnnewm1-281000

Grid ref: TL 8690 1938

Size: 70m²

Previous land use: Garden

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Summary: Feering, 7 John Raven Court (FEJR 17, TL 8690 1938) Evaluation trenching covering 27% of the footprint area of a planned swimming pool confirmed the presence of a quarry pit of later Post medieval date over two thirds of the area opened with no archaeological features in the remaining third; in addition the upcast spoil did not contain any finds of interest. Finally it can be confirmed that the foundations for the small associated extension will cause little ground disturbance as the overburden proved to be 900mm deep so only the narrow footing trenches will reach this depth (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr D Warburton).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr D Warburton commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the works required under conditions for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 15/01086/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set by Ms T O'Connor of Place Services at Essex CC 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 an extension and the creation of a swimming pool at 7 John Raven Court, Feering (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location to the north of a scheduled monument of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and south of a potential Roman Road. Find spots and archaeological investigation within the surrounding area suggested that there was the potential for survival of archaeological features within the area of the proposed development. The EHER also records find spots closer to the development site of possible Saxon burials. In addition along the main road nearby a Quaker burial ground is recorded. However it may also be noted that historic mapping reveals evidence for quarrying around the area of John Raven Court.

2. Archaeological methodology

2.1 Due to the confined nature of the site where the removal of spoil would cause lengthy delays examination of the swimming pool area was changed from monitoring to the excavation of a 9m long and 1.80m wide evaluation trench along main axis of the pool. This trench covered 27% of the pool area and it was undertaken under archaeological supervision using a 900mm wide flat bucket on a small 360 machine. During the trenching any indistinct areas were cleaned manually to aid the interpretation of the exposed deposits and the upcast spoil was examined closely for archaeological finds. In addition a small test pit was hand excavated into an identified area of disturbance. Finally the location of the trench was 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 The trench revealed overburden comprising 300mm of topsoil above 600mm of mid brown sandy subsoil with no finds of pre mid-20th century seen in the upcast spoil. In the south-eastern third of the trench the local glaciofluvial deposit proved to be silty orange sand with flints and no archaeological features were revealed in this area. The north-western two thirds of the trench at a depth of 900mm revealed a deposit made up of dirty orange sand with bands of mid to dark brown re-deposited subsoil. A small 400mm by 400mm test pit was hand excavated into this material to a further depth of 500mm and it could be seen that the area of disturbance

represented by the dirty orange sand and re-deposited subsoil went to a depth of at least 1400mm and contained small fragments of Post medieval brick.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While the site for the planned swimming pool and extension is in an area of archaeological potential it has been extensively disturbed by the later Post medieval quarrying activity shown on later 19th century maps and confirmed on site by the mixed deposit of dirty orange sand and re-deposited subsoil identified over two thirds of the trench. The remaining third of the trench did not contain any archaeological features and with the evaluation covering 27% of the planned pool area it is unlikely that any significant heritage assets exist at the site with such a large proportion of the footprint having been quarried away. In addition it can be noted that the small area of the associated extension will only be disturbed to any depth by two narrow foundations trenches with the related over-site remaining in the subsoil.

4.3 From these evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological works need to be carried out for this development for an extension and swimming pool at 7 John Raven Court, Feering.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Ms T O'Conner of PLACE Services at Essex CC for background historic map information and to everyone on site for their close cooperation during the evaluation)

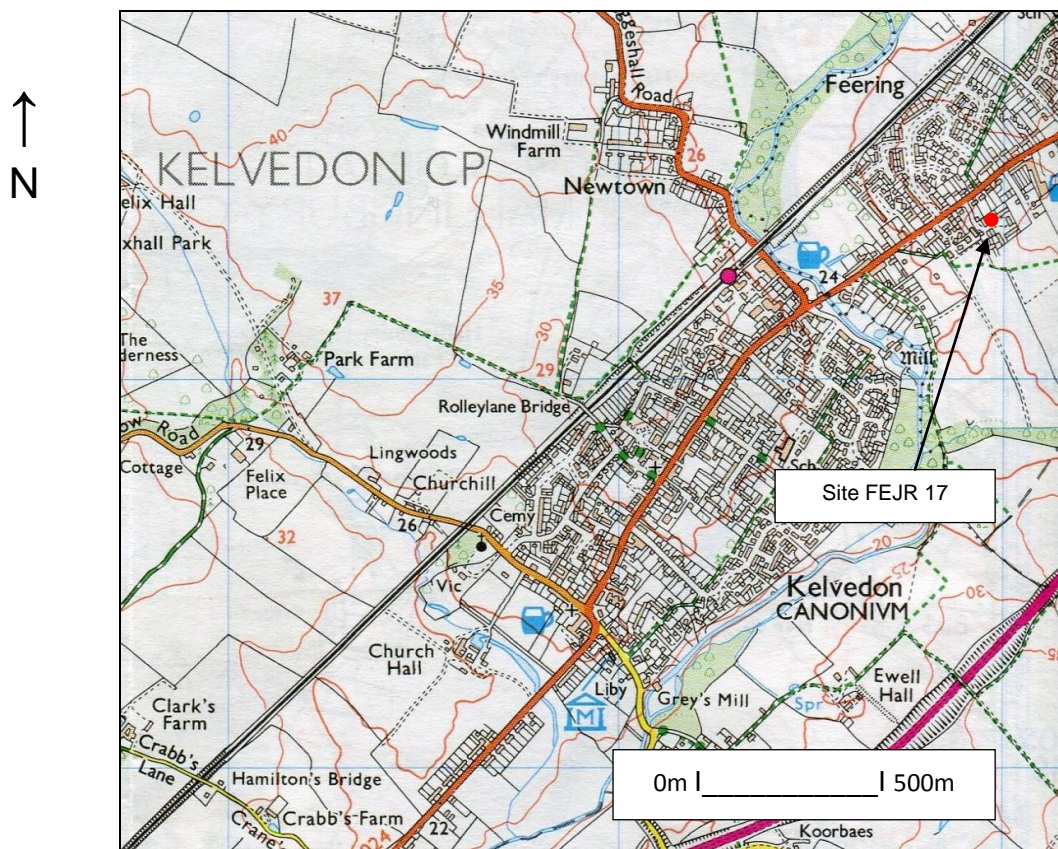


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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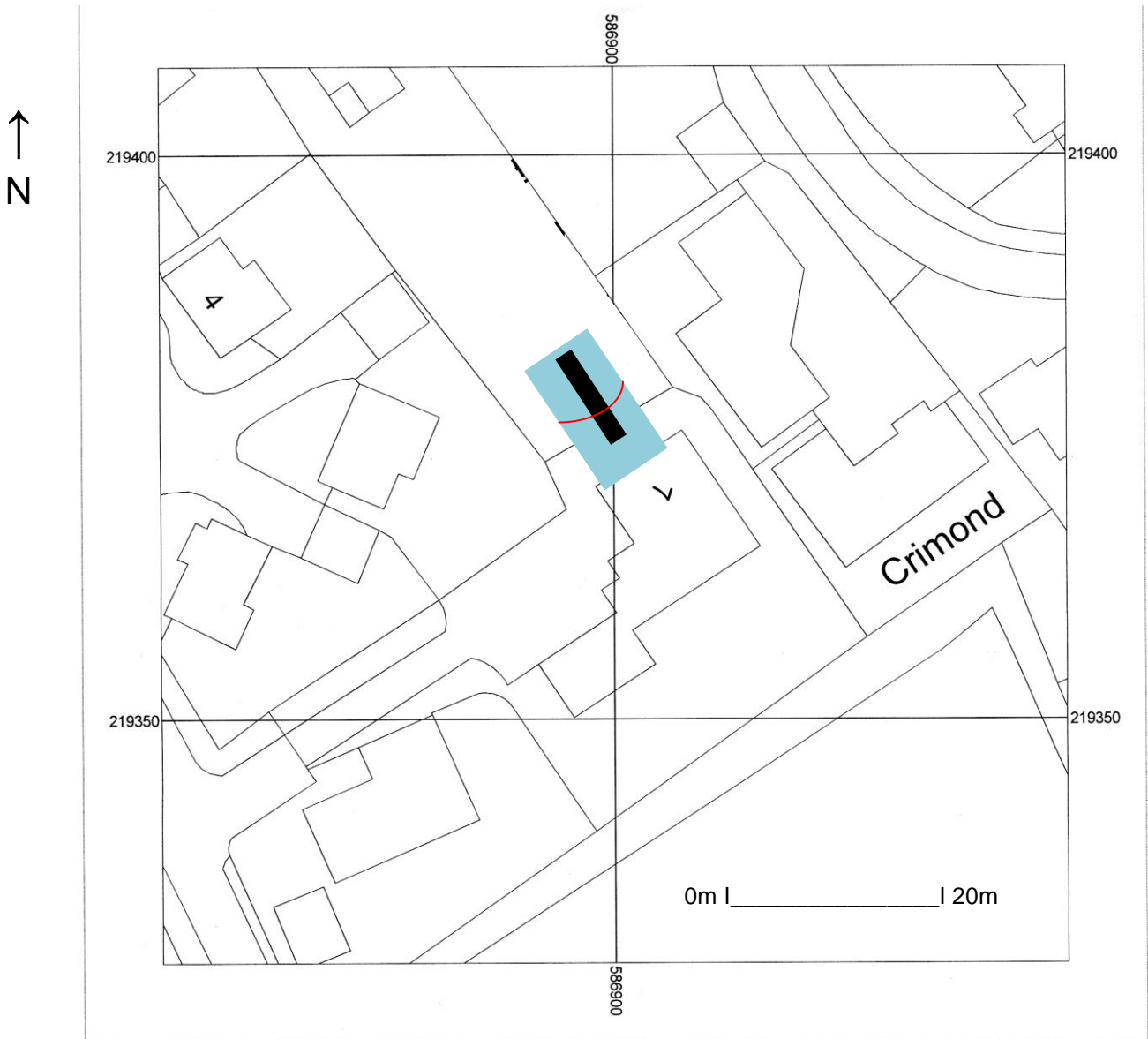


Fig. 2: Planned footprint area with evaluation trench (black)
(Red line- southern edge of quarry disturbance)
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2017
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



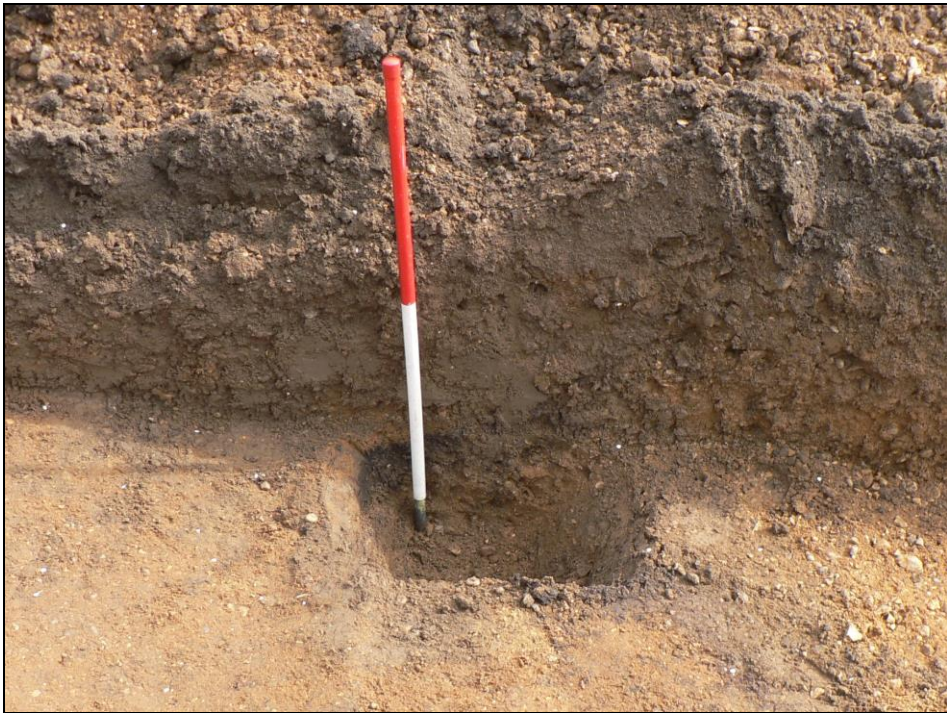
General view from northwest



Trench from northwest



Deposit profile



Deposit profile with test pit in area of trench over quarry pit

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring**

**Land to the rear of 7 John Raven Court,
Feering, Essex**

John Newman Archaeological Services

(Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details

Name: No 7 John Raven Court, Feering, Essex. CO5 9ND

Client: Mr D Warburton

Local planning authority: Braintree DC

Planning application ref: 15/01086/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of an extension and creation of a swimming pool

LPA Archaeological advisor: Historic Environment Branch, Essex CC

Proposed date for ground works: 30 March, 2017

Grid ref: TL 8690 1936

Archaeological background: The proposed development lies to the north of a scheduled monument of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery and south of a potential Roman Road. Findspots and archaeological investigation within the surrounding area suggest that there is the potential for survival of archaeological features within the area of the proposed development.

The scheduled area to the south covers the site of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, cropmarks of ring ditches north of this could also be related to the cemetery and suggest that there may be further remains beyond the scheduled areas. The EHER also records findspots closer to the development site of possible Saxon burials. Along the main road a Quaker burial ground is recorded. Historic mapping reveals the area immediately west of the site was quarried.

The proposed development site therefore has the potential to contain evidence of earlier activity of Anglo-Saxon or earlier date in addition to being close to a burial ground of Post medieval date. However as the ground disturbance for what is a small scale development will be limited to the planned swimming pool and extension areas the Historic Environment Branch at Essex CC has agreed that a suitable mitigation strategy can be the monitoring of ground works by an archaeologist followed by the preparation of a report summarising the monitoring at a level commensurate with the findings and submitted to the County HER and the OASIS database of unpublished development related reports.

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1. Aims of the Site Monitoring
2. Methodology
3. Risk Assessment
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1. Aims of the Site Monitoring

1.1 The site lies in a location with high archaeological potential by virtue of nearby recorded sites and/or finds and its general topographic location. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor(s) will allow for unimpeded access to the area of the ground works, within constraints imposed by health and safety considerations, to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is revealed.

2 Methodology

2.1 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 (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 and re-issued 2014)*.

2.2 The construction method to be used on individual sites will vary but is likely to include traditional trench foundations, ground reduction for a pad or piling with related ground beams or pad foundations with any method possibly in conjunction with ground lowering/terracing and the creation of service trenches and soakaways and ground reduction for developments such as swimming pools. Any general ground reduction will be undertaken using a flat ditching type bucket. In addition prior ground testing and demolition works may cause substantial ground disturbance. The relevant ground works on the site concerned will be monitored continuously and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds (which may include a metal detector search if relevant to the exposed archaeology). Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Archaeological Office giving advice to the LPA in each case as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start. Initial findings from the monitoring will also be reported to the relevant officer who set the brief as negative findings or clear evidence of more recent ground disturbance at the site may preclude the need for continued attendance for all ground works.

2.3 The local HER will be consulted with regard to nearby archaeological finds and sites within the area around the proposed development if required or appropriate. The area selected for this search will vary but may typically cover the area within 250m of the proposed development. The HER search area will be commensurate with the scale of the development and its location.

2.4 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by the relevant County HER. 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 related to the proposed development, and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover.

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Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and any exposed features.

2.5 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated, recorded and sampled within the constraints of the area under investigation with sections at appropriate points. 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. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litres) 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 relevant local Archaeological Office will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. Any such work will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in general the possibility of finding burials is assessed as being low although in this case should be modified to medium given nearby recorded findings). Any Treasure Act finds will be reported to the local Coroner/Portable Antiquities Officer within 14 days.

2.6 All finds will be collected and processed, save large quantities of Post medieval material which will be sampled in light of their date and significance, unless any variation is agreed with the relevant local Archaeological Office. 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 local Archaeological Archive/Museum under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the local Archaeological Office will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Office.

2.7 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the relevant HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As required the site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online grey literature archive at the Archaeology Data Service with submission of the subsequent report.

2.8 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles in *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

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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 relevant Archaeological Office within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted the required number of bound hard copies and pdf version (with the monitoring archive on the same cd) will sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client or their agent. As required the site monitoring 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 County round-up (and a vector plan in dxf format will be provided showing the area examined if required). The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, gloves and 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. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

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

3.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client's agent and 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.

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

3.5 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

3.6 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.

4. Specialists

Conservation:

Conservation Services

Faunal remains:

J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)

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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 small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-281000

Project details

Project name	No 7 John Raven Court, Feering, Essex- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Feering, 7 John Raven Court (FEJR 17, TL 8690 1938) Evaluation trenching covering 27% of the footprint area of a planned swimming pool confirmed the presence of a quarry pit of later Post medieval date over two thirds of the area opened with no archaeological features in the remaining third; in addition the upcast spoil did not contain any finds of interest. Finally it can be confirmed that the foundations for the small associated extension will cause little ground disturbance as the overburden proved to be 900mm deep so only the narrow footing trenches will reach this depth.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2017 End: 30-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	FEJR 17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	15/01086/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE FEERING No 7 JOHN RAVEN COURT
Postcode	CO5 9ND
Study area	80 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8690 1938 51.841185991091 0.713399596383 51 50 28 N

000 42 48 E Point

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	Braintree District Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree District Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	New Swimming Pool and Extension at No 7 John Raven Court, Feering, Essex- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
Description	Report in pdf format

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