

**Galaxy House, The Green,
Saxtead, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/16/1925/FUL

HER Ref: SXT 020

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(July 2017)

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Site details for HER

Name: Galaxy House, The Green, Saxtead, Suffolk, IP13 9QE

Client: Mr M Newman

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/16/1925/FUL

Development: Erection of extension and alterations

Date of fieldwork: 8 & 9 May, 2017

Event ref: ESF 25538

HER ref: SXT 020

OASIS: johnnewm1-284377

Grid ref: TM 2561 6444

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Summary: Saxtead, Galaxy House, The Green (SXT 020, TM 2561 6444) monitoring of ground works for an extension to the north of the green edge and close to the line of a Roman period road did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr M Newman).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr M Newman 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 notices for application DC/16/1925/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Mr J Rolfe of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Schemes 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 alterations at Galaxy House, The Green, Saxtead.

1.2 The parish of Saxtead is to the north-west of Framlingham in central Suffolk on part of the Till plateau of central Suffolk in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay with flint soils of the Hanslope series. Historically settlement was mainly around Saxtead Green with scattered farms and cottages along various roads and lanes and an isolated parish church c1400m north of the green. Galaxy House is located at c56m OD on the northern side, and somewhat set-back, of Saxtead Green, an open area used for the communal grazing of livestock from the medieval period (see Fig. 1).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its proximity to the green and historic core of Saxtead (HER SXT 013), in addition the site for the new development is close to the recorded line of a Roman road (HER SXT 002) that to the south-west is along the line of the A 1120 and which diverges from this current road to run on a north-easterly alignment across the parish before the A 1120 rejoins it to the north-east.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to monitor the excavation of the foundation trenches for the extension which was undertaken using a medium sized 360 machine. 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 extension area 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 12m of 600mm wide and 900mm deep foundation trenches revealed 300mm of topsoil above 300mm of mid brown clay subsoil which lay over the local occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit which as anticipated was stiff pale brown clay with chalk fragments and flints. The ground works did not reveal any archaeological features or finds even in a short foundation trench for a link from the new extension to an existing outbuilding that is to be converted for residential use that should be over the line of the Roman road (see Fig. 2).

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is close to Saxtead Green (HER SXT 013) the area of the new extension is set back by nearly 40m from the green frontage where evidence for medieval activity might be expected. In addition while being close to the line of a Roman period road (HER SXT 002) assuming this road maintains a straight alignment from the line of the A 1120 to the south-west the new extension area is just to the south of this Roman road as the Ordnance Survey indicates (see Fig. 2) and, as outlined above, the short linking trench that crosses this line did not reveal anything.

4.2 Therefore it can be confirmed that the works for the erection of a new rear extension at Galaxy House, Saxtead Green have not disturbed any archaeological deposits.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr & Mrs Newman and to everyone from Booty Builders for their close cooperation during the monitoring)



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

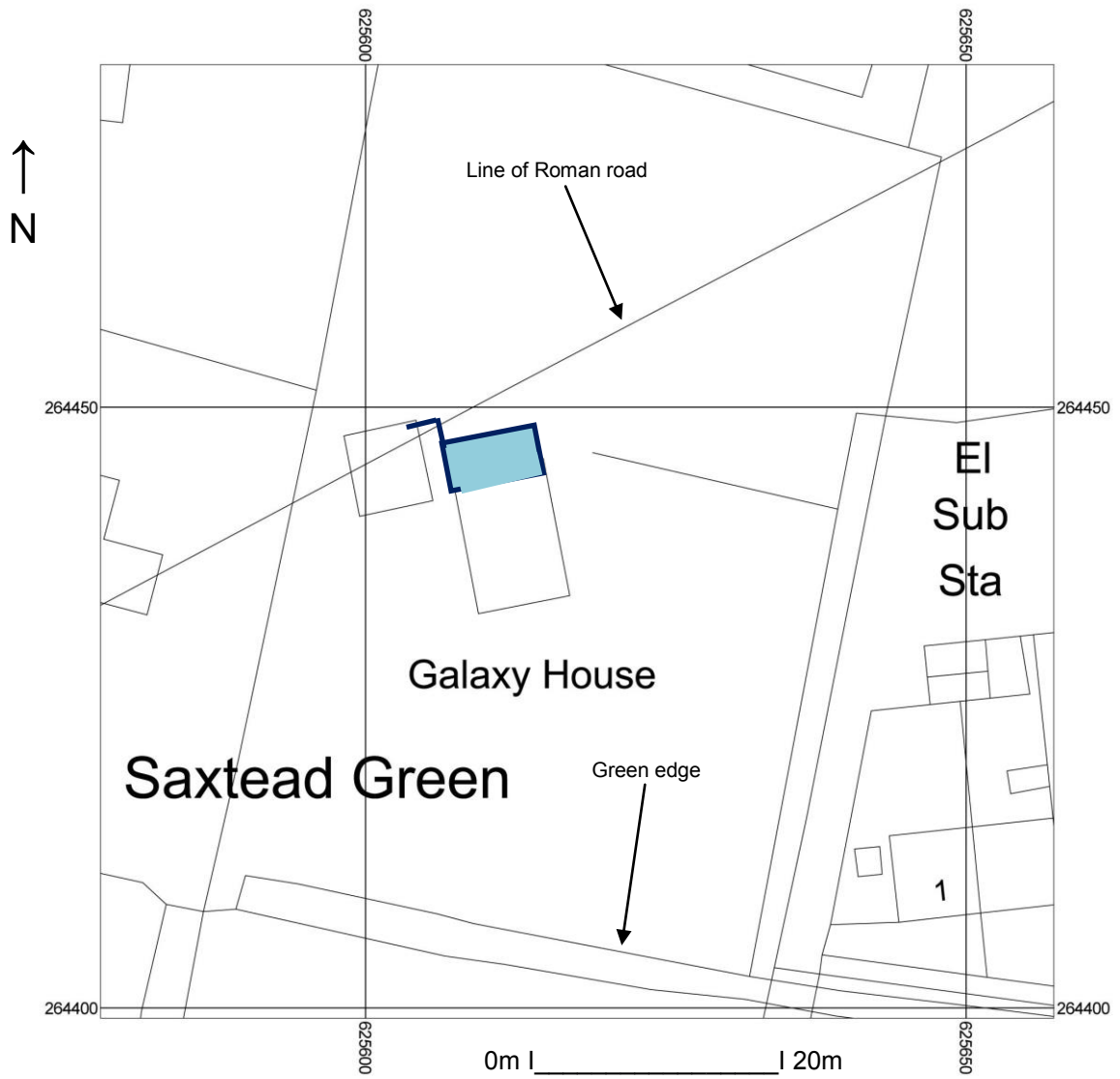
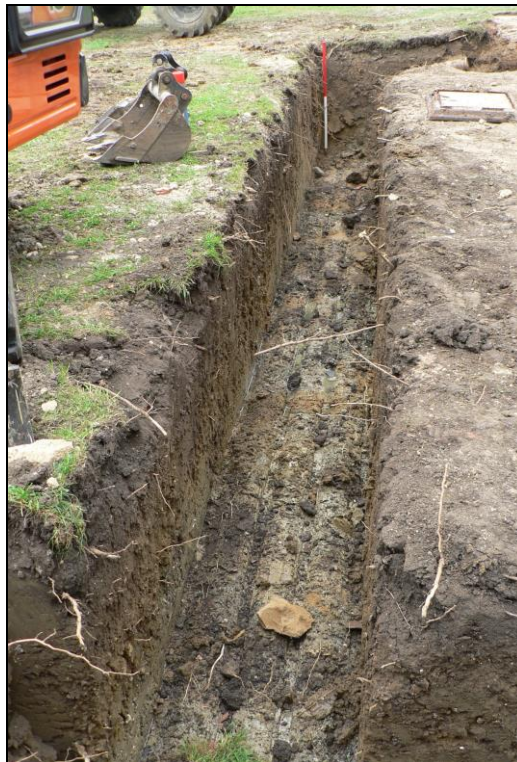


Fig. 2: Location of monitored footprint area (dark blue- trenches)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from north



Northern trench from west



Western trench from north



Eastern trench from north

**Galaxy House, The Green,
Saxtead, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/16/1925/FUL

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

Site details

Name: Galaxy House, The Green, Saxtead, Suffolk, IP13 9QE

Client: Mr M Newman

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/16/1925/FUL

Proposed development: Proposed extension and alterations

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Related HER refs: SXT 002 (Roman road) & SXT 013 (medieval settlement area)

Grid ref: TM 2560 6446

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
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1. Introduction

1.1 Mr M Newman 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/16/1925/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 Mr J Rolfe 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 an extension and alterations at Galaxy House, The Green, Saxtead.

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 The parish of Saxtead is to the north-west of Framlingham in central Suffolk on part of the Till plateau of central Suffolk in an area characterised by a gently rolling landscape on heavy clay with flint soils of the Hanslope series. Historically settlement was mainly around Saxtead Green with scattered farms and cottages along various roads and lanes and an isolated parish church c1400m north of the green. The proposed development site (PDS) at Galaxy House is located at c56m OD on the northern side, and somewhat set-back, of Saxtead Green, an open area used for the communal grazing of livestock from the medieval period.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant brief 'This site lies in an area of archaeological potential recorded on the County Historic Environment Record, within the area of the historic medieval core of Saxtead (SXT 013). The site also crosses the line of a Roman road (SXT 002). As a result, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist.'

3.2 The archaeological advice then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the planned extension site lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence of both Roman activity related to the recorded road line and later medieval and earlier Post medieval activity. 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 with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity of Roman and post-Roman date.

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. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate any possible archaeological deposits and scan the upcast spoil with a metal detector. To inform the reporting on any positive archaeological results from the monitoring a search will be commissioned from the County HER for the area within 100m of this 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 litres 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 which will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work

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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.

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 4 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. 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 for the County HER, a pdf copy will also 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.

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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)
Roman period small finds	N Crummy
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed extension

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-284377

Project details

Project name	GALAXY HOUSE, THE GREEN, SAXTEAD, SUFFOLK-ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT
Short description of the project	Saxtead, Galaxy House, The Green (SXT 020, TM 2561 6444) monitoring of ground works for an extension to the north of the green edge and close to the line of a Roman period road did not reveal any archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 08-05-2017 End: 09-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 25538 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SXT 020 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/16/1925/FUL - Planning Application No.
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL SAXTEAD GALAXY HOUSE, THE GREEN
Postcode	IP13 9QE
Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 2561 6444 52.231310346261 1.304195274778 52 13 52 N 001 18 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 53m Max: 54m
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	Galaxy House, Saxtead Green, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
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