

**Laxfield Baptist Chapel, High Street,
Laxfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: 0665/14

HER Ref: LXD 090

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(August 2017)

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Site details for HER

Name: Laxfield Baptist Chapel, High Street, Laxfield, Suffolk, IP13 8DZ

Client: The Pastor and Deacons of Laxfield Baptist Chapel

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0665/14

Development: Erection of an extension

Date of fieldwork: 5 & 6 June, 2017

Event ref: ESF 25573

HER ref: LXD 090 (also LXD 063)

LBS ref: 1032841 (Grade II)

OASIS: johnnewm1-286458

Grid ref: TM 2936 7238

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Summary: Laxfield, Baptist Chapel, High Street (LXD 090, TM 2936 7238) monitoring of ground works for an extension on the north-western corner of the chapel complex and some 36m north of the street frontage revealed a large pit of mid-20th century date with the few stray finds in the upcast spoil from the foundation trenches all being of later Post medieval date (John Newman Archaeological Services for The Pastor and Deacons of Laxfield Baptist Chapel).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects and Surveyors on behalf of their clients the Pastor and Deacons of Laxfield Baptist Chapel 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 0665/14. 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 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 at the Baptist Chapel, High Street, Laxfield.

1.2 Laxfield is a large village some 7 miles north of Framlingham and 8 miles south-west of Halesworth in central Suffolk in a landscape historically characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern partly focused within parishes on the respective churches but also scattered round the numerous greens and along roads and lanes. Historically Laxfield was a large village and local centre of some importance with a market from at least 1226. The Baptist Chapel is on flat ground at c50m OD on the northern side of the High Street frontage and c250m west of the parish church. The Chapel is a listed building of Grade II status described as having been constructed in '1810 and enlarged in 1850, of red brick with a white brick façade.' The area for the new extension is c36m north of the nearby street frontage on the north-western corner of the chapel complex (see Fig. 2) and on the side of a previous extension to the rear of the chapel of mid-20th century date.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location in the area defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER) as the historic core of the village (HER LXD 059) where evidence for activity of later Saxon to early Post medieval date might be anticipated.

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 24m of 600mm wide and 1000mm deep foundation trenches revealed 300mm of topsoil above 200mm 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 above light grey chalky clay (see Fig. 2). The ground

works revealed a large pit in the north-western corner of the extension footprint which was 2.5m to 3m across and 1000mm deep whose fill contained a large amount of mid-20th century debris including glass bottles and jars, white ware and blue and white ware pottery sherds and brick and tile fragments. Elsewhere in the trenches the only stray finds were small fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is within the area defined as the historic core of Laxfield (HER LXD 059) being on the north-western edge of this area no evidence for activity of pre-1900 date was revealed with the only feature exposed being a large pit of mid-20th century date which contained assorted domestic debris. In addition the only finds in the upcast spoil were of later Post medieval date though the site is some 36m north of the street frontage so archaeological deposits of an earlier date may exist nearby and closer to the frontage.

4.2 Therefore it can be confirmed that the works for the erection of a new extension at the Baptist Chapel, High Street, Laxfield have not disturbed any significant archaeological deposits.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone from Booty Builders for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

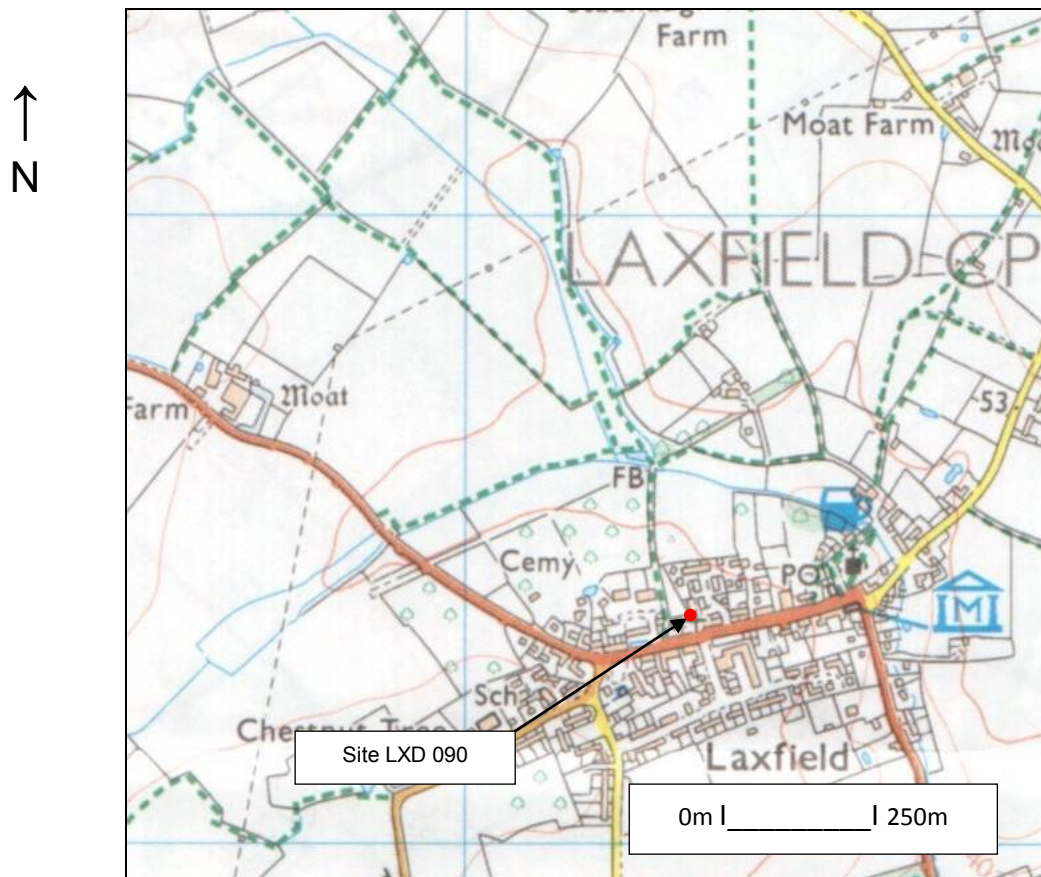


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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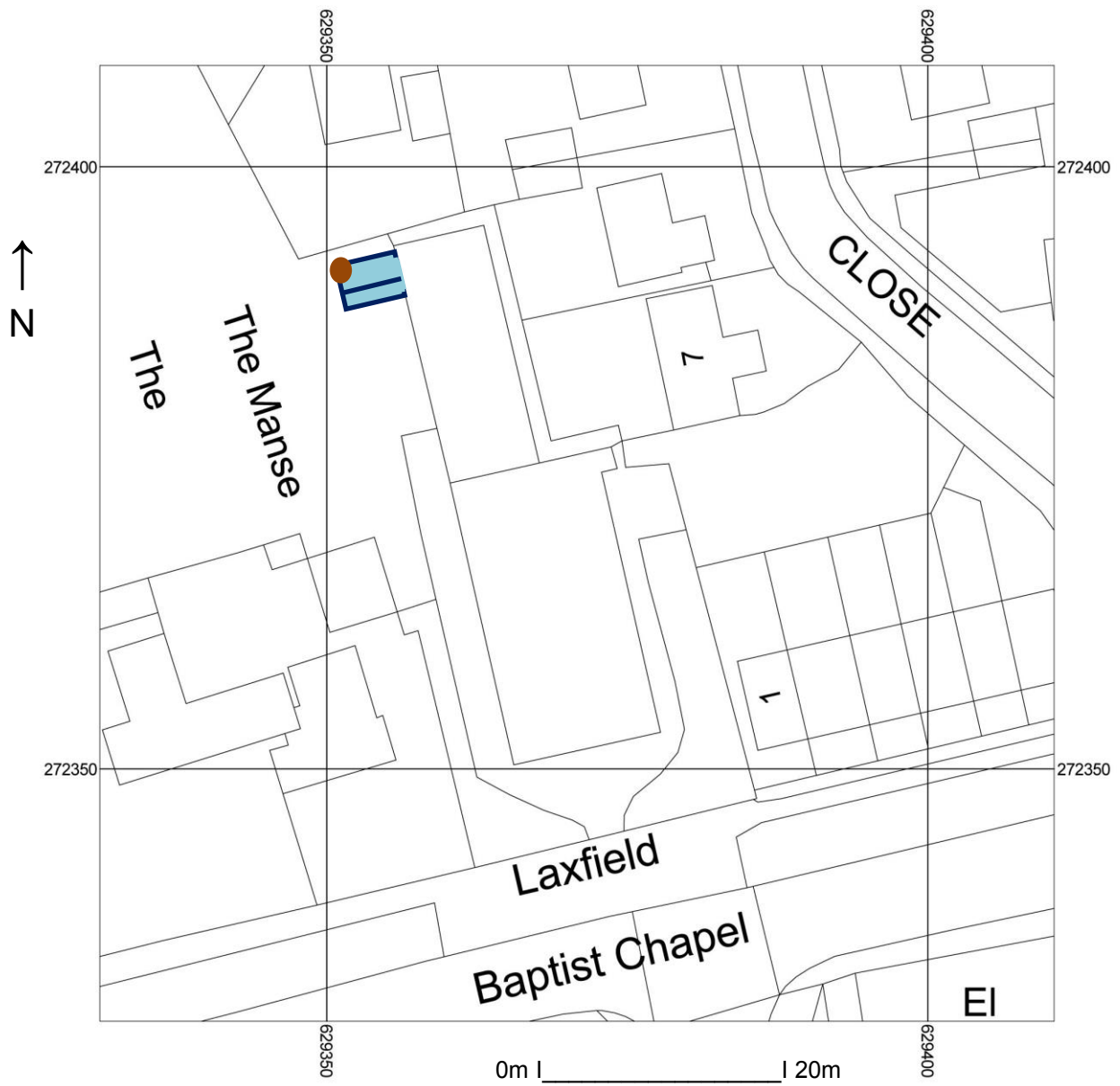


Fig. 2: Location of monitored area (Dark blue- foundation trenches, brown- mid-20th C pit)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from west



Northern trench from west



Mid-20th century pit in NW corner of trenches



Southern trench from west

**Laxfield Baptist Chapel, High Street,
Laxfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: 0665/14

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

Site details

Name: Laxfield Baptist Chapel, High Street, Laxfield, Suffolk

Client: The Pastor and Deacons of Laxfield Baptist Chapel

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0665/14

Proposed development: Erection of an extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

HER ref: LXD 063

LBS ref: 1032841 (Grade II)

Grid ref: TM 29369 72362

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
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1. Introduction

1.1 Hollins Architects and Surveyors on behalf of their client the Pastor and Deacons of Laxfield Baptist Chapel 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 0665/14. 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 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 to Laxfield Baptist Chapel, High Street, Laxfield (see below).

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 Laxfield is a large village some 7 miles north of Framlingham and 8 miles south-west of Halesworth in central Suffolk in a landscape historically characterised by a dispersed settlement pattern partly focused within parishes on the respective churches but also scattered round the numerous greens and along roads and lanes. Historically Laxfield was a local centre of some importance with a market from at least 1226. The Baptist Chapel is on flat ground at c50m OD on the northern side of the High Street frontage and c250m west of the parish church. The Chapel is a listed building of Grade II status described as having been constructed in '1810 and enlarged in 1850, of red brick with a white brick façade.' The area for the new extension is c36m north of the nearby street frontage.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this planned development was therefore generated by both its location in the historic core of the village (HER LXD 059) where evidence for activity of later Saxon to earlier Post-medieval date might be anticipated.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'The proposed large extension lies in an area of archaeological interest, within the historic core of Laxfield as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER LXD 059). This historic core is based on archaeological, architectural and map information, and represents an assessment of the area of historic occupation, from medieval and earlier times. Historic settlements change and evolve, and there is potential for archaeological remains relating to medieval settlement activity to exist on this land in a back plot behind the High Street.'

3.2 The Brief 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 new extension area lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain evidence of later Saxon to 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.

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. 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

John Newman Archaeological Services

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 to medium as the plot of land to the west behind The Manse is shown as a burial ground on the second edition OS 25 inch map of 1903).

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 3 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 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.

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.

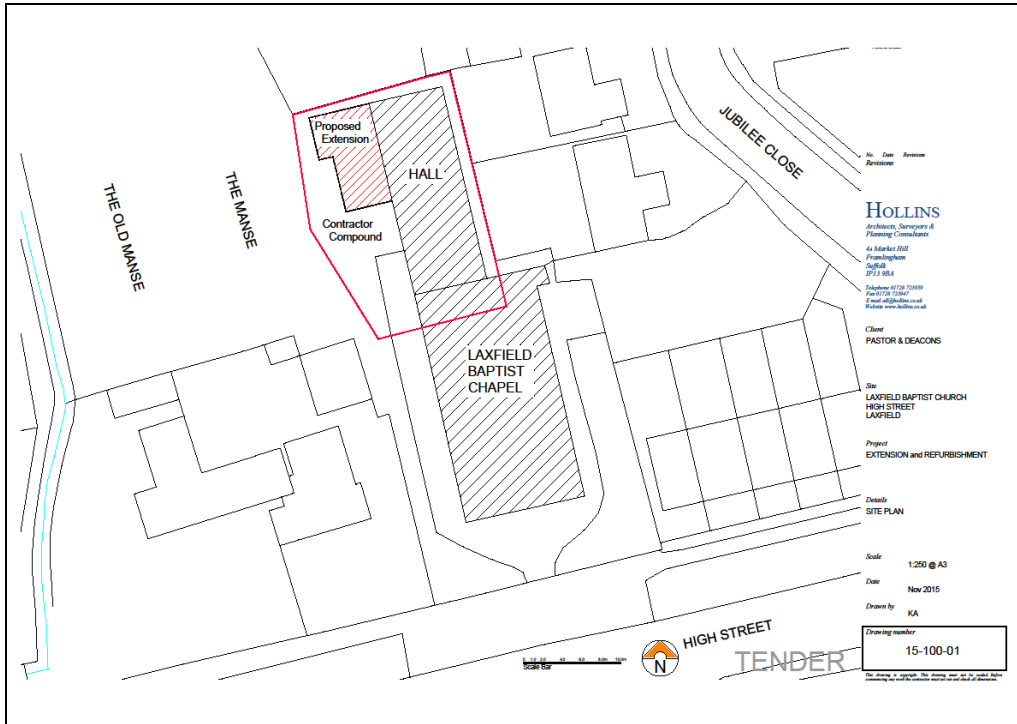
6.5 Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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.

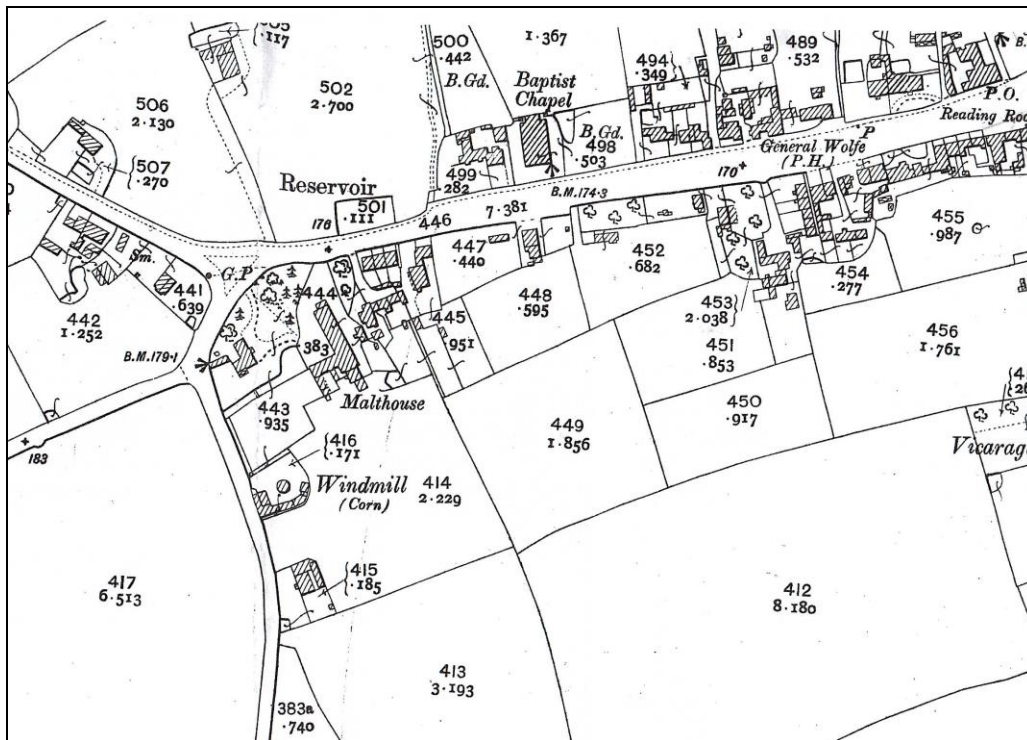
7. Specialists

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



Planned extension area



Extract from second edition 25 inch OS map of 1903

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-286458

Project details

Project name	Laxfield Baptist Chapel, High Street, Laxfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Laxfield, Baptist Chapel, High Street (LXD 090, TM 2936 7238) monitoring of ground works for an extension on the north-western corner of the chapel complex and some 36m north of the street frontage revealed a large pit of mid-20th century date but no finds of pre-1900 date.
Project dates	Start: 05-06-2017 End: 06-06-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 25573 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	LXD 090 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	1032841 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	0665/14 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK LAXFIELD LAXFIELD BAPTIST CHAPEL, HIGH STREET
Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 2936 7238 52.30101858886 1.364411150736 52 18 03 N 001 21 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49m Max: 50m

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 recipient	Discarded
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Baptist Chapel, High Street, Laxfield, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
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