

**The Retreat, Plough Hill,
Stansfield, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/16/0217/FUL

HER Ref: STF 020

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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

(November 2017)

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

Site details for HER

Name: The Retreat, Plough Hill, Stansfield, Suffolk, CO10 8LT

Clients: Mr C Sawyer

Planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: DC/16/0217/FUL

Development: Erection of one dwelling and cart lodge following demolition of existing bungalow

Date of fieldwork: 16 November, 2017

HER ref: STF 020

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-300917

Grid ref: TL 7842 5246

Site area: c200m²

Recent land use: Former dwelling and garden

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Summary: Stansfield, The Retreat, Plough Hill (STF 020, TL 7842 5246) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development close to the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features and the only stray find of any age was a single Roman period pottery sherd of 3rd-4th century AD date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr C Sawyer)

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Brown and Scarlett Ltd on behalf of their client Mr C Sawyer commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works for a single dwelling and cart lodge development at The Retreat, Plough Hill, Stansfield (see Fig. 1) that has been given planning consent under application DC/16/0217/FUL which is to go ahead following the demolition of the existing bungalow. The evaluation requirements were set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) with the aim of gaining a representative sample by trial trenching of the planned new dwelling footprint with the planned cart lodge footprint omitted from the evaluation as this area largely lies under the existing bungalow. The Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation (see Appendix II) was subsequently prepared 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 Stansfield parish is located to the south-west of Suffolk in an area characterised by dispersed settlement and a low population density with small clusters of farms and cottages near the various parish churches and scattered settlement along historic roads and lanes. At Stansfield there is a small group of dwellings near the parish church (HER STF 003) and further, linear, settlement to the south at Lower and Upper Street. The Retreat is on the eastern side of Plough Hill c50m south-east of the parish church and south of Church Cottage which is a Grade II listed building of 17th century date.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its proximity to the parish church where there is a high potential to reveal evidence of mid to late Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval settlement activity.

1.4 The British Geological Survey describes the drift deposits in this area as being chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation close to an area of clay, silt and gravel Head with the site being at 80m OD with a southerly aspect as the ground drops quite steeply towards the upper course of the River Glem some 300m to the south.

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The development area was trenched to an agreed plan (see Fig. 2) with a small modification as the shorter, north-south aligned arm of the L shaped trench had to be moved 2m to the west in order to avoid large bushes and a concrete garden feature. The trenching was carried out using a small 360 machine equipped with a 900mm flat bucket which was under archaeological supervision at all times and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned as necessary to improve clarity with the trenches being 1.80m wide.

2.2 The sides and base of 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 sunny weather 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 are summarised in the table below (see also Fig. 2 & Appendix I):

Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil depth (mm)	Subsoil depth (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological/natural features & finds
East-west	10	300 (at east end) to 200 (at west end)	300 of mid brown clay subsoil at east end to 200 at west end	Orange sandy clay with flints	No features and one small sherd of moderately abraded Roman Oxford ware pottery (wt. 12g)
North-south	5	300	300 as T1	As T1	No features or finds
	15 (27m ²)	200-300	200-300		No features and the only find of any age was a single sherd of Roman period pottery

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As outlined in table 1 above the trenches varied between a depth 400mm and 600mm with 200mm to 300mm of topsoil above 200mm to 300mm of mid brown clay subsoil. The natural glaciofluvial deposit at the site was stiff orange sandy clay with flints.

3.3 The trenching did not reveal any archaeological features.

3.4 The only stray find of any age was a moderately abraded pottery sherd (wt. 12g) of 3rd to 4th century AD Roman Oxford ware pottery. Other stray finds in the upcast spoil comprised a few small fragments of brick, tile and window glass of recent date plus two low denomination decimal coins and a few small scraps of sheet iron.

4. Conclusion

4.1 With negative results from the evaluation trenching with regard to archaeological deposits of any significance a search from the County Historic Environment Record for local sites and finds was not commissioned.

4.2 While this planned development area is close to the parish church and historic core of the village the lack of archaeological features or finds of any age, save a single Roman period pottery sherd, indicates that this planned development area has only seen low intensity use in the past as arable, pasture or perhaps orchard.

4.3 From these evaluation results it is recommended that no further archaeological works need to be carried out for this single dwelling and cart lodge development at The Retreat, Plough Hill, Stansfield.

Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref: STF 020.

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 Andy for his skilled machine operation)

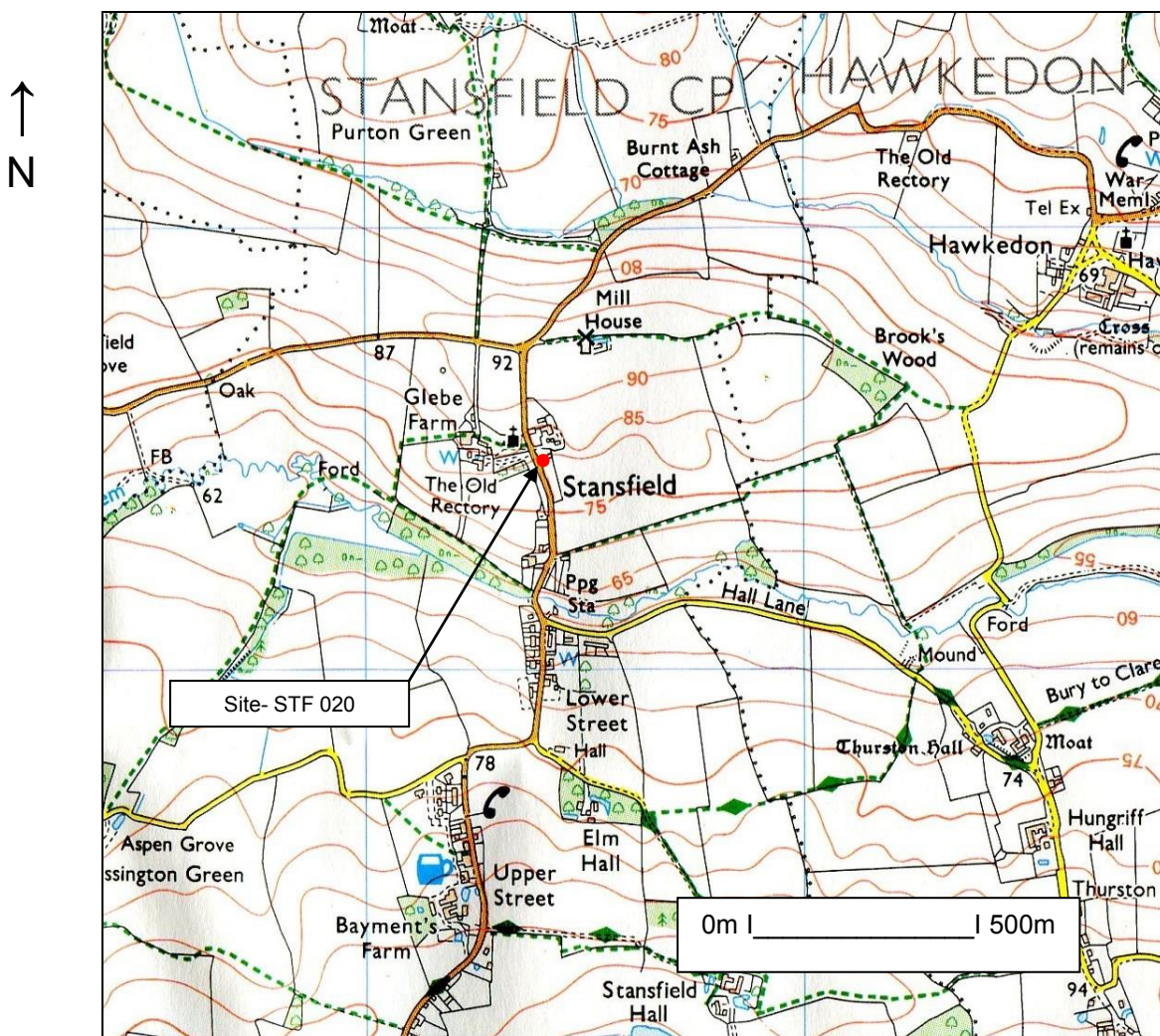


Fig. 1: Site location

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



General view from northwest



Long trench from west



Short trench from south



Trench deposit profile

**The Retreat, Plough Hill,
Stansfield, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

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

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

Site details

Name: The Retreat, Plough Hill, Stansfield, Suffolk, CO10 8LT

Client: Mr C Sawyer

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: DC/16/0217/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of one dwelling and cartlodge following demolition of existing bungalow

Proposed date for evaluation: tbc

Brief ref: 17.08.17 SCCAS (RA) Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation_DC 16 0217 FUL

Grid ref: TL 7842 5246

Area: c 160m² (footprint area)

Current site use: Former dwelling and garden

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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

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1. Introduction

1.1 Scarlett and Brown Ltd on behalf of their client Mr C Sawyer have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological site evaluation on a residential development that has received consent to go ahead. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application DC/16/0217/FUL and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation set by Mrs R Abraham of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS). The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This overall proposed development concerns the construction of a new dwelling and cartlodge following the demolition of the existing bungalow at The Retreat, Plough Hill, Stansfield.

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 2017 (Suffolk CC)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & re-issued 2014)*.

1.3 The evaluation as detailed in this document is the first phase of a programme of archaeological investigation secured by negative condition on planning consent DC/16/0217/FUL. Where the results of the evaluation indicate the presence of heritage assets further archaeological works will be required to mitigate the impact of the development on the historic environment. The SCCAS officer will identify the type and extent of works in a new brief necessary to adequately mitigate the impact of the proposed development. All further archaeological works, as recommended by SCCAS, must be undertaken in accordance with an additional WSI, submitted and approved by SCCAS and the LPA. All further archaeological investigations must be undertaken prior to commencement of development, unless specifically referenced as monitoring of groundworks in the approved WSI.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Stansfield parish is located to the south-west of Suffolk in an area characterised by dispersed settlement and a low population density with small clusters of farms and cottages near the various parish churches and scattered settlement along historic roads and lanes. At Stansfield there is a small group of dwellings near the parish church and further, linear, settlement to the south at Lower and Upper Street to the south. The Retreat is on the eastern side of Plough Hill c50m south-east of the parish church and south of Church Cottage which is a Grade II listed building of 17th century date.

2.2 The British Geological Survey describes the drift deposits as being chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation close to an area of clay, silt and gravel Head so ground conditions can be anticipated as comprising heavy ground with potentially poor local

drainage. The Retreat is close to the 80m OD contour some 280m north of the River Glem with a southerly aspect.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief 'This application lies in an area of archaeological importance recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, opposite the medieval church of All Saints (STF 003). As a result, there is high potential for encountering medieval occupation deposits at this location. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.'

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.

4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the PDS relates to the site's location close to the parish church where evidence for activity of later Saxon, medieval and earlier Post medieval date might be anticipated.

5. Methodology

5.1 The proposed development is for the construction of a single dwelling and cartlodge. To inform the results of the evaluation if archaeological deposits are revealed a search will be commissioned from the County HER for the area within 250m of the PDS and the relevant invoice number will be included in the report.

5.2 The Brief requires 15m of 1.8m wide trenching across the area of the overall development. This will be undertaken using a wide toothless ditching bucket on a suitably sized machine operated by an experienced driver with a trench plan as set out below. 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 as required. The spoil will be stored adjacent to the excavated trench with top and sub

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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 including before the trenches are opened. 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 HER number obtained from the Suffolk CC HER beforehand in combination with an event number. 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 in 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

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additional recording (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant SCCAS Officer and any finds that qualify under the Treasure Act will be reported to the local Finds Liaison Officer within 14 days.

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 *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage, 2011). 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 the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor (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 unlikely unless deep deposits 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 of *MoRPHE* (and the guidelines in the Archaeological Archives Forum: a guide to best practice 2007). 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 '*Archaeological Archives in Suffolk- Guidelines for preparation and deposition*' (SCCAS Conservation Team 2017). As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the evaluation and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation 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 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

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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.

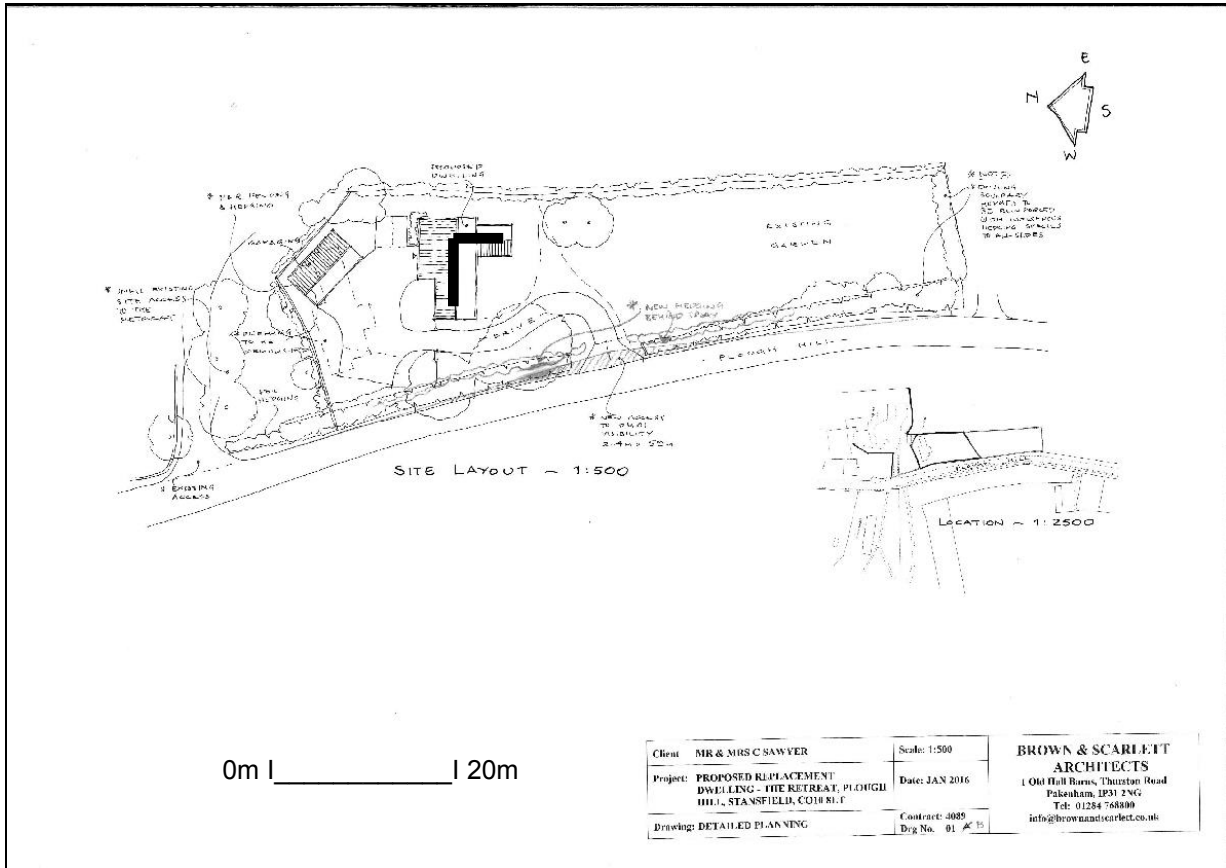
6.5 It is unlikely that any trench plus excavated feature depth will go below c1/1.3m from the present ground level. If any excavations need to go deeper measures such as stepping in the sides will be employed.

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.

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7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation 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 (length 15m)

Client	MR & MRS C SAWYER	Scale:	1:500	BROWN & SCARLETT ARCHITECTS 1 Old Hall Barns, Thurston Road Pakeham, IP30 2NG Tel: 01284 766000 info@brownandscarlett.co.uk
Project:	PROPOSED REPLACEMENT DWELLING - THE RETREAT, PLUGHILL HILL, STANSFIELD, COLESHIF	Date:	JAN 2016	
Drawing:	DETAILED PLANNING	Contract:	4089	
		Drawn By:	01 AC 15	

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-300917

Project details

Project name	The Retreat, Plough Hill, Stansfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Short description of the project	Stansfield, The Retreat, Plough Hill (STF 020, TL 7842 5246) evaluation trenching for a single dwelling development close to the parish church did not reveal any archaeological features and the only stray find of any age was a single Roman period pottery sherd of 3rd-4th century AD date.
Project dates	Start: 16-11-2017 End: 16-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	STF 020 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/16/0217/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
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 ST EDMUNDSBURY STANSFIELD THE RETREAT, PLOUGH HILL
Postcode	CO10 8LT
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7842 5246 52.141110319084 0.607642113309 52 08 28 N 000 36 27 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	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Discarded
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	The Retreat, Plough Hill, Stansfield, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
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