

**No 54 Needham Road,  
Stowmarket, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 1334/14**

**HER Ref: SKT 087**

**Archaeological Evaluation/Monitoring Report**

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

(February 2018)

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

## **Site details for HER**

Name: No 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2AN

Client: Jordan Developments Ltd

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1334/14

Development: Erection of four dwellings following demolition of existing house

Date of fieldwork: 21 November, 2017 & 21 February, 2018

HER ref: SKT 087

OASIS: johnnewm1-301208

Grid ref: TM 0536 5772

## **Contents**

### Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring/evaluation methodology
3. Results

### Table 1: Trench details

4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of evaluation trench and monitored cable trenches

### List of appendices

Appendix I - Images

Appendix II- Written scheme for monitoring

Appendix III- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Stowmarket, 54 Needham Road (SKT 087, TM 0536 5772) while specified as an evaluation at a small residential development the houses were constructed prior to any archaeological investigation. Therefore a single trench was excavated in a planned garden area and an extensive length of narrow trenching for cables was monitored later. Neither of these site interventions revealed any archaeological features or finds (John Newman Archaeological Services for Jordan Developments Ltd).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Jordan Developments Ltd 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 1334/14. This application covers the construction of four dwellings at 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket, following the demolition of the existing house. On advice from Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) a condition for an archaeological programme of works commencing with a site evaluation was included in the relevant planning decision notice. However construction works were started on site without an evaluation being carried out and therefore it was agreed with Dr H Cutler of SCCAS that this situation could be ameliorated by opening an evaluation type trench in a planned back garden area followed later by the monitoring of service trenches. To cover these archaeological works JNAS therefore produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II).

1.2 Stowmarket is a historic market town, recorded as a market as Thorney in 1086 in the Domesday Book, in the Gipping valley which forms the main communication route between Ipswich, the Orwell estuary and ports around the Harwich Haven to the south-east and Bury St Edmunds and the routes to the Midlands to the north-west. This development site at 54 Needham Road is 900m south-east of the parish church and centre of the historic town, c70m south of the Rattlesden River and some 230m south-west of its confluence with the River Gipping. Most recently the site contained a single bungalow, now demolished, within a large garden.

1.3 The British Geological Survey describes superficial deposits at the site as being outwash sands and gravels of the Lowestoft Formation with the local topography being a gentle north facing slope at 30m OD.

1.4 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location some 60m east of the find spot of a Roman period coin of late 1<sup>st</sup> to early 2<sup>nd</sup> AD century date (HER SKT 007). In addition this site is in a topographic location close to a water course that is likely to have attracted activity in the past.

## 2. Monitoring/evaluation methodology

2.1 Following a site visit with Dr Cutler of SCCAS as outlined above it was agreed that a single evaluation trench should be excavated towards the south-eastern corner off the site. This was then carried out using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with an 1800mm wide flat bucket. The trench was then examined for any potential archaeological features and any indistinct areas were further cleaned by hand. The trench was then recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken (see Appendix I). Some three months later a second site visit was made to monitor the excavation of a network of cable trenches with this work being carried out using a 360 machine equipped with a 400mm wide flat bucket. Again these trenches were recorded in relation to mapped

features and more digital images were taken. On both occasions visibility on site for features and finds is considered to have been good.

### 3. Results

3.1 In summary the results from the single evaluation trench are summarised in Table 1 below (in addition see Fig. 2 and Appendix- Images).

Orientation	Length (m)	Topsoil (mm)	Subsoil (mm)	Drift geology	Archaeological features and finds
North-south	10	250	200 mid brown sandy subsoil	Orange silty sand with flints	No features and the only stray finds were of recent date
	10 (18m <sup>2</sup> )	250	200		

Table 1: Trench details

3.2 As outlined above the evaluation trench was 450mm deep with 250mm of topsoil above 200mm of mid brown sandy subsoil over the local natural glaciofluvial deposit which is orange silty sand with flints. No features of any date were revealed in the trench with the only finds in the upcast spoil being building debris of recent date.

3.3 Following the excavation of the evaluation trench some 80m of 400mm wide and 600mm deep cable trench were excavated across the site (see Fig. 2) and monitored on a single site visit. This trench revealed a similar depth of subsoil to the evaluation at 200mm to 250mm which was below 200mm of crushed brick and concrete which had been recently put down. The only disturbance seen in the base of these trenches related to the house that had been demolished in the centre of the site and again the only finds in the upcast spoil were fragments of building debris of recent date.

### 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is close to the find spot of a Roman period coin and in a topographic setting close to a water course that would, potentially, have been attractive for past settlement activity the evaluation trench and monitored cable trenching did not reveal any archaeological features or finds. As had been advised by SCCAS during the planning application stage an archaeological evaluation was not carried out prior to development works starting. However as the later trenching that was observed on site did not reveal anything of archaeological interest and as the cable trenches in particular crossed much of the area it appears safe to conclude that this development at 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket has not disturbed deposits that might have revealed evidence of past activity.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone from Jordan Developments for their cooperation during the investigation)*



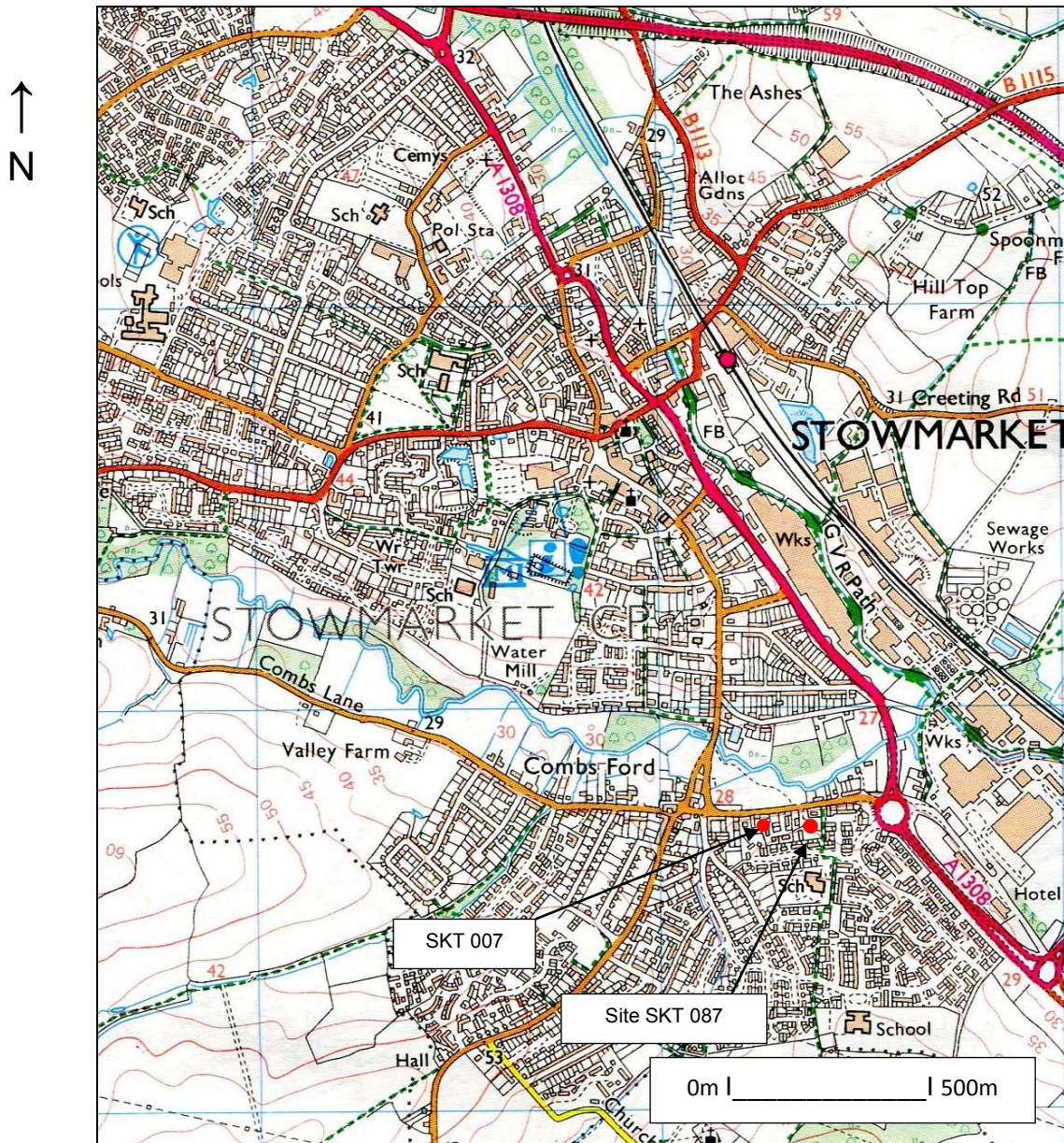


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)



Fig. 2: Location of evaluation trench and monitored cable trenches (blue, new house plots 1-4)  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2018 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)



## Appendix I- Images



General view from southeast



Evaluation trench from north



Cable trench along access road from south





Cable trench across southern part of site towards plot 3



Cable trench across eastern part of site towards plot 4

**No 54 Needham Road,  
Stowmarket, Suffolk**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological  
Evaluation & Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: No 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 2AN

Client: Jordan Developments

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 1334/14

Proposed development: Erection of four dwellings following demolition of previous house

Proposed date for evaluation: 20 November, 2017

Brief ref: tbc

Grid ref: TM 0536 5770

Area: c2000m<sup>2</sup>

Previous site use: House and garden

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
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



# John Newman Archaeological Services

---

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Jordan Developments have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the part archaeological site evaluation and part monitoring of remaining ground works on a residential development that has received consent to go ahead and which has now been largely completed. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological requirements for planning application 1334/14 and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring to be set by Dr H Cutler of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) in order to put a programme of works in place at this late stage in the development process. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This overall proposed development concerns the construction of a four dwellings on land at 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket.

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)* and the monitoring similarly 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 Stowmarket is a historic market town, recorded as a market as Thorney in 1086 in the Domesday Book, in the Gipping valley which forms the main communication route between Ipswich, the Orwell estuary and ports around the Harwich Haven to the south-east and Bury St Edmunds and the routes to the Midlands to the north-west. This development site at 54 Needham Road is 900m south-east of the parish church and centre of the historic town, c70m south of the Rattlesden River and some 230m south-west of its confluence with the River Gipping. Most recently the site contained a single bungalow, now demolished, within a large garden.

2.2 The British Geological Survey describes superficial deposits at the site as being outwash sands and gravels of the Lowestoft Formation with the local topography being a gentle north facing slope at 30m OD.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological advice to the LPA notes that evidence for Roman period activity (HER SKT 007) has been recorded some 60m to the west of this development site. In addition the site is located in an area just above a water course that would have been topographically favourable for past settlement and related activity. As a result,

# John Newman Archaeological Services

---

there is 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.

A site evaluation by trial trenching was therefore initially 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.

3.2 However development has now reached an advanced stage and following consultation with SCCAS it has been agreed that archaeological mitigation can be carried out via an evaluation trench in a planned garden area in the south-eastern part of the site plus monitoring of two boundary wall foundations and a gas pipe trench.

## 4. Aims of the Site Evaluation

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the archaeological potential of the site relates to its location close to evidence of Roman period activity in addition to its topographic setting close to a water course.

## 5. Methodology

5.1 This development is for the construction of a four dwellings on land at 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket. To inform the results of the evaluation and monitoring 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 evaluation trenching 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

## John Newman Archaeological Services

---

sub soil kept separate to allow for subsequent sequential backfilling. The trench will not 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

## John Newman Archaeological Services

---

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



## John Newman Archaeological Services

---

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 The monitoring of the remaining foundation trenches and the gas pipe trench will follow a similar methodology as outlined above within the constraints of what will be 450mm to 600mm wide trenches.

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 2015). As necessary the site digital archive will deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.8 The evaluation and monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of *MoRPHE* and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the

## John Newman Archaeological Services

---

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 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 and monitoring 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). 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 and 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 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.

# John Newman Archaeological Services

---

## 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

# John Newman Archaeological Services



Proposed location of trial trench (1 x 10m) and foundation trenches to be monitored (arrowed) and gas pipe trench (blue)



## OASIS ID: johnnewm1-301208

### Project details

Project name	No 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Stowmarket, 54 Needham Road (SKT 087, TM 0536 5772) while specified as an evaluation at a small residential development the houses were constructed prior to any archaeological investigation. Therefore a single trench was excavated in a planned garden area and an extensive length of narrow trenching for cables was monitored later. Neither of these site interventions revealed any archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 21-11-2017 End: 21-02-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	1334/14 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SKT 087 - Related HER No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK STOWMARKET No 54 NEEDHAM ROAD
Postcode	IP14 2AN
Study area	2000 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0536 5772 52.178941950068 1.004009979712 52 10 44 N 001 00 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 29m Max: 30m
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 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	No 54 Needham Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk- Archaeological Evaluation and Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2018
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	28 February 2018