

**No 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton,
Suffolk**

Planning application: B/16/00990

HER Ref: SPT 060

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(April 2018)

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Site details for HER

Name: No 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton, Suffolk, IP8 3BE

Client: Mr & Mrs R Combe

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/16/00990

Development: Erection of extension

Date of fieldwork: 3 April, 2018

HER ref: SPT 060

OASIS: johnnewm1-311482

Grid ref: TM 1280 4472

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Summary: Sproughton, 36 Gipping Way (SPT 060, TM 1280 4472) monitoring of ground works for a new extension close to the find spot of cinerary urns of Bronze Age date did not reveal any features except the edge of a large pit of mid-20th century date and the only stray finds were of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs R Combe).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs R Combe 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 B/16/00990. 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 Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection of a rear extension at 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton.

1.2 Sproughton parish is located 2.5 miles west of the historic centre of Ipswich on the western side of the River Gipping whose valley forms the major route way across Suffolk from the coast towards Bury St Edmunds and the Fens to the west. While the modern village of Sproughton is much enlarged and changed as it forms a dormitory settlement for Ipswich it was formerly a relatively small village focused on the area between the parish church and the staggered crossroads to the west where Lower Street and Burstall Lane meet High Street/Lorraine Way. The development site at 36 Gipping Way is located some 370m south of the church and c180m west of the River Gipping and the area is shown as open agricultural land on Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk. The site is just above the 5m OD contour in an area characterised by a gently undulating landscape where relatively light local soils can be anticipated as the underlying drift geology is made up of riverside gravel terraces.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by the proximity of 36 Gipping Way to the recorded find spot of cinerary urns of Bronze Age date (HER SPT 005) when works were being carried out to a field drain to the south-east in c1920 (see Fig. 1).

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the foundation trenches, which were excavated using a small 360 machine, was carried out in a single day under good weather conditions and the upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed. The foundation trenches were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I). The western foundation trench was not monitored as it was already heavily disturbed by the foundation of a conservatory that previously covered the area to the rear of the house and for a similar reason the south-eastern corner of the new extension area was not watched as it contained existing drainage pipes and manholes.

3. Results

3.1 Prior to ground works starting a previous conservatory extension had been removed and, as noted above, the western side of the new extension area was already disturbed by an existing foundation. In addition the south-eastern area of the new extension area contained existing drain pipes and manholes. Therefore only the northern and north-eastern areas of the new extension area were monitored during the excavation of 600mm wide and 1200mm deep foundation trenches (see Fig. 2). These areas of foundation trench revealed 150mm of mid brown sandy subsoil which lay over the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposit which, as anticipated, was pale brown sand with small flints. The only feature revealed in the trenching was the edge of a large pit which extended into the adjacent garden to the west and which was clearly of mid-20th century date as the fill contained brick debris, steel cable fragments and an iron horseshoe. Interestingly the landowner noted that prior to the residential development of this area in the mid-20th century it was in use as a scrap yard so further pits of recent date may well exist nearby.

3.2 No stray finds of pre 20th century date were seen in the upcast spoil.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this monitoring did not reveal any archaeological features or finds of any significance the scale of the works was small and the nearby recorded find spot of Bronze Age cinerary urns (HER SPT 005) is clear evidence for prehistoric activity on the well drained sand and gravel terraces along the sides of the lower Gipping valley in this part of Sproughton parish. Therefore continued observation and investigation during future ground works in the area would be of potential archaeological value in a landscape that has seen several thousand years of intensive use.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Richard Combe and everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

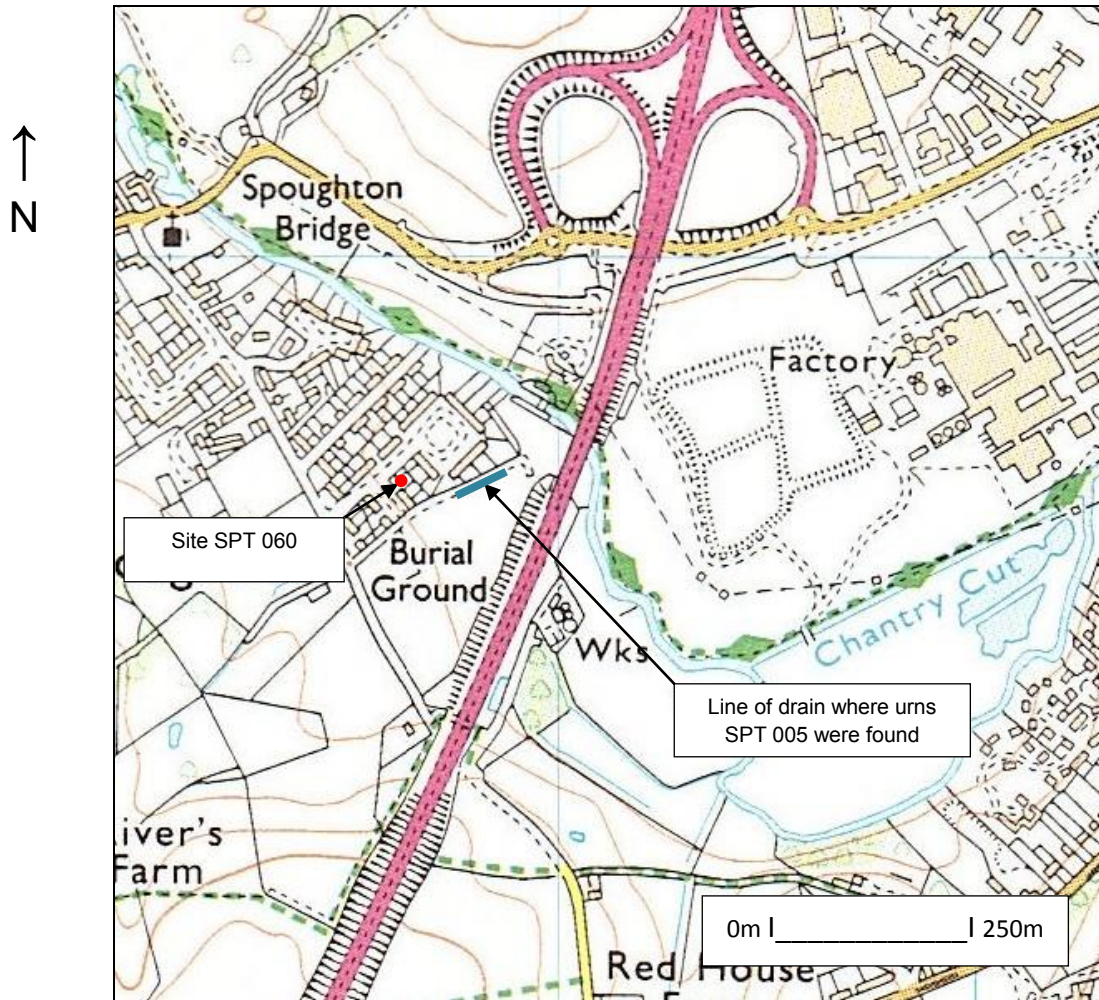


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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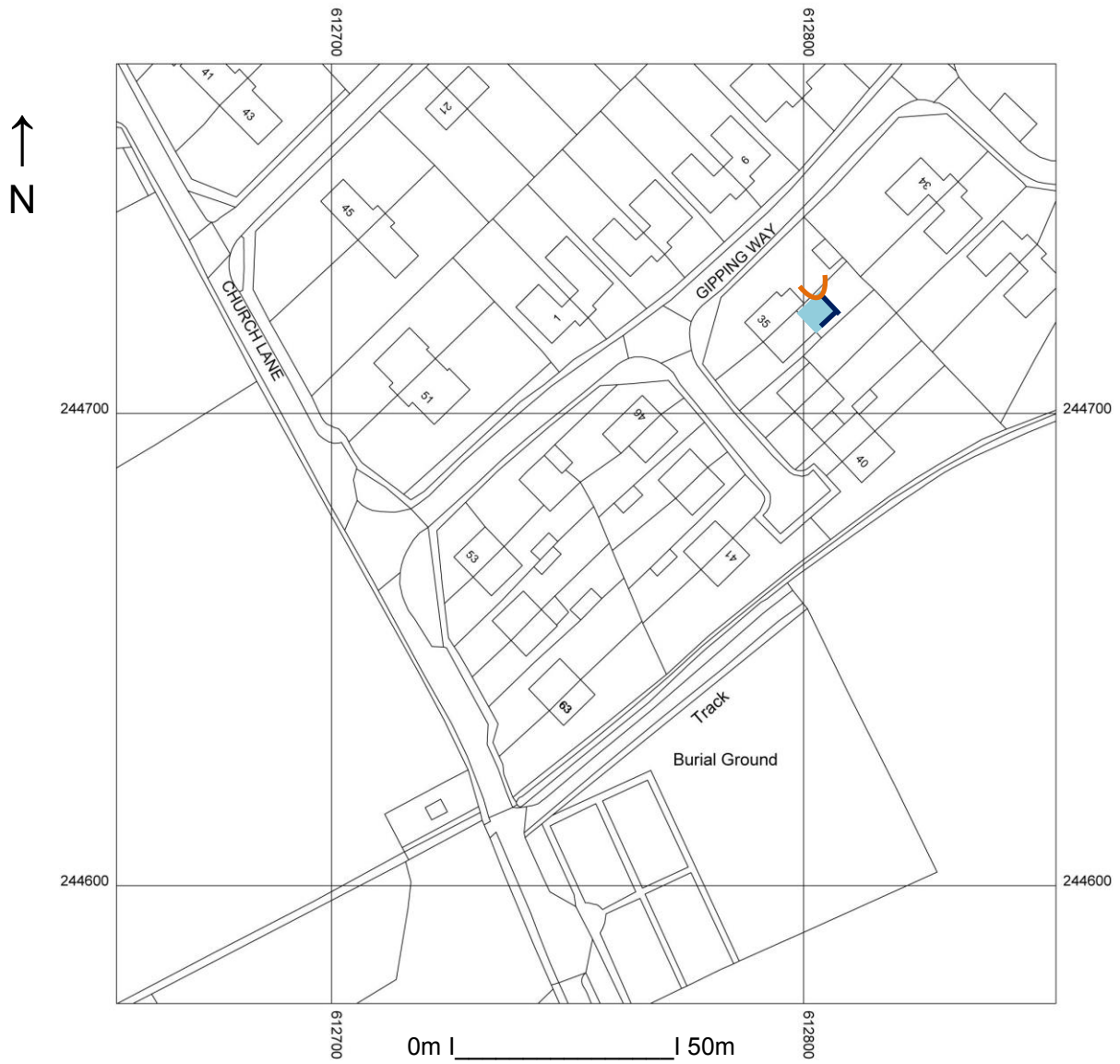


Fig. 2: Location of monitored extension foundations (dark blue- trenches, brown- edge of 20th C pit)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from northeast



Eastern trench from south



Modern pit at northern end of eastern trench



Southern trench from east

**No 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton,
Suffolk**

Planning application: B/16/00990

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

Site details

Name: No 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton, Suffolk, IP8 3BE

Client: Mr & Mrs R Combe

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/16/00990

Proposed development: Erection of extensions

Brief ref: SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring Brief_36 Gipping Way,
Sproughton_16/00990

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 1280 4472

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Planned extension works

1. Introduction

1.1 Mr & Mrs R Combe have 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 B/16/00990. 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 to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of extensions at 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton.

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 (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001, reissued 2014)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Sproughton parish is located 2.5 miles west of the historic centre of Ipswich on the western side of the River Gipping whose valley forms the major route way across Suffolk from the coast towards Bury St Edmunds and the Fens to the west. While the modern village of Sproughton is much enlarged and changed as it forms a dormitory settlement for Ipswich it was formerly a relatively small village focused on the area between the parish church and the staggered crossroads to the west where Lower Street and Burstall Lane meet High Street/Lorraine Way. The proposed development site (PDS) at 36 Gipping Way is located some 370m south of the church and c180m west of the River Gipping and the area is shown as open agricultural land on Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk. The PDS is just above the 5m OD contour in an area characterised by a gently undulating landscape where relatively light local soils can be anticipated as the underlying drift geology is made up of riverside gravel terraces.

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, in close proximity to two Bronze Age collard urns and fragments of others (SPT 005). 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 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 site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for activity of earlier prehistoric date; and in particular further Bronze Age period burial evidence in a riverine zone where other such discoveries have been made along the lower River Gipping, might be found and close monitoring of ground works can best record what may be revealed. 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 prehistoric 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 service trenches 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.

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 of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains with 100% retention of any cremation deposits for full processing and assessment.

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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 medium based on previous findings nearby though medium to low given the scale of the planned works).

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 in *MoRPHE* and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly 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

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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.

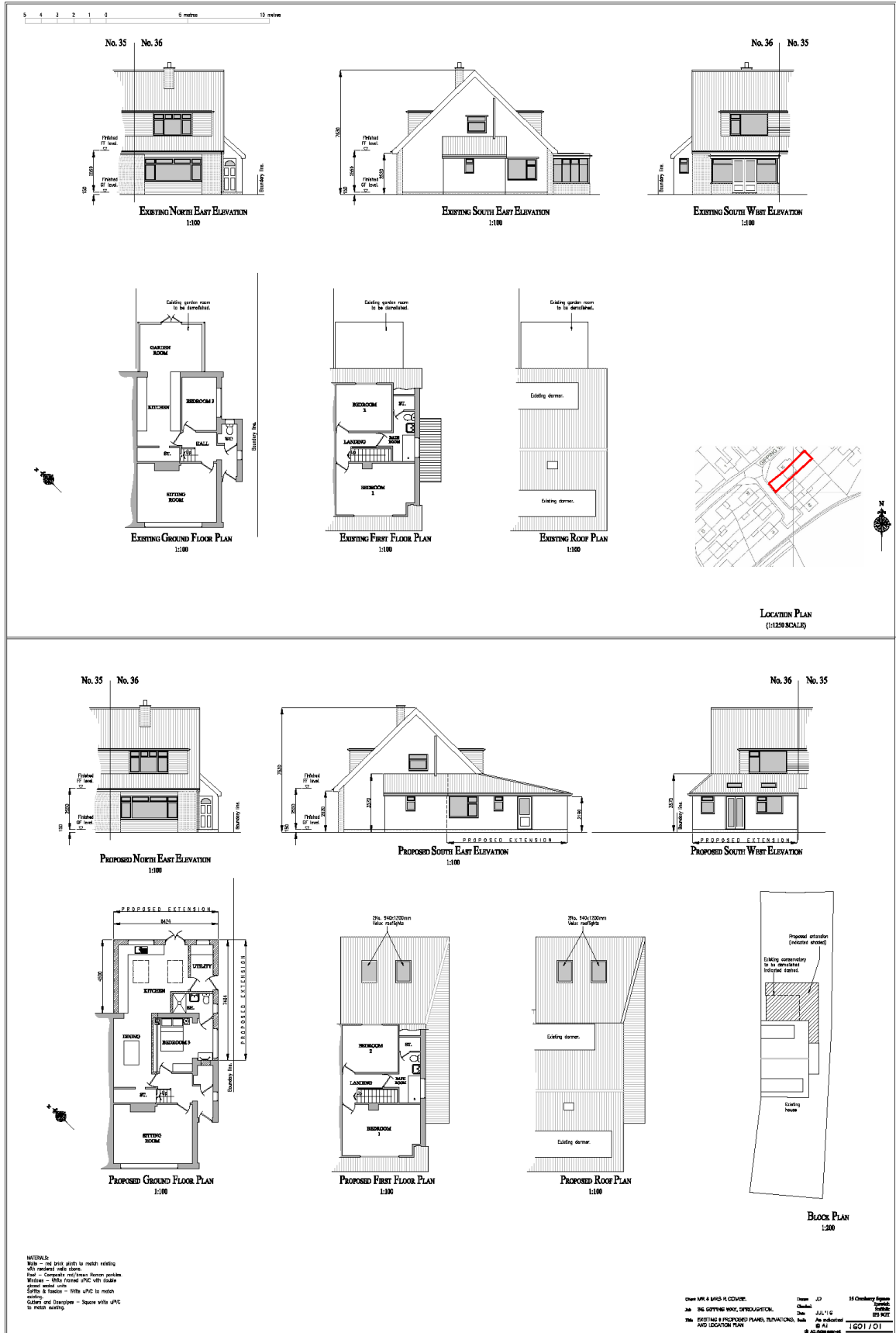
6.5 Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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

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Planned extension works

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-311482

Project details

Project name	No 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Sproughton, 36 Gipping Way (SPT 060, TM 1280 4472) monitoring of ground works for a new extension close to the find spot of cinerary urns of Bronze Age date did not reveal any features except the edge of a large pit of mid-20th century date and the only stray finds were of recent date.
Project dates	Start: 03-04-2018 End: 03-04-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SPT 060 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/16/00990 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH SPROUGHTON No 36 GIPPING WAY
Postcode	IP8 3BE
Study area	60 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1280 4472 52.059390870797 1.104544439323 52 03 33 N 001 06 16 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	John Newman

Project director/manager	John Newman
Project supervisor	John Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Discarded
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Metal"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	No 36 Gipping Way, Sproughton, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
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