

**Land between 127 & 133 High Street,  
Lakenheath, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/17/2584/FUL**

**HER Ref: LKH 410**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(June 2018)

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

## **Site details for HER**

Name: Land between 127 and 133 High Street, Lakenheath, Suffolk, IP27 9EP

Client: Mr J Simmons

Local planning authority: Forest Heath DC

Planning application ref: DC/17/2584/FUL

Development: Erection of three dwellings

Date of fieldwork: 25 April, 2018

HER ref: LKH 410

OASIS: johnnewm1-315301

Grid ref: TL 7172 8237

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*Summary: Lakenheath, land between 127 & 133 High Street (LKH 410, TL 7172 8237) monitoring of ground works for a three new dwellings in the southern part of the area defined as the historic settlement at Lakenheath revealed a fragment of a chalk clunch wall of probable Post medieval date and evidence for four shallow pits of later Post medieval date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr J Simmons).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr J Simmons commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application DC/17/2584/FUL. 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 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 three linked dwellings on land between 127 and 133 High Street, Lakenheath.

1.2 Lakenheath is a large parish on the north-western edge of Suffolk comprising extensive areas of low lying former Fen in its western part and similarly large areas of dry, sandy Breckland over its eastern half. While the medieval and earlier Post medieval village centre on the Fen edge was relatively large the settlement has grown in recent times with this development site between 127 and 133 High Street being 500m south-east of the parish church and 100m east of the cut-off channel which marks the Fen edge. On Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk the site is shown as being at the southern edge of the medieval and earlier Post-medieval settlement with Lakenheath being a large village with the grant of a market in 1201 and population levels of c150-200 in the medieval period with 37 heads of household recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 and 30 taxpayers in 1327 (Goult 1990, assuming a population multiplier of 4-5).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within the area defined in the County Historic Environment Record as the historic settlement at Lakenheath (HER LKH 254) and close to recorded evidence of Roman period activity (HER LKH 076) and activity of medieval date (HER LKH 236, see Fig. 1).

1.4 The British Geological Survey records superficial deposits in this area of sand and gravel on the Croxton series with the PDS being at 5m OD.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the foundation trenches, which were excavated using a 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).

## 3. Results

3.1 The 64m of foundation trench (see Fig. 2) were 700mm wide and 700mm to 800mm deep. The exposed deposit profile comprised 200mm to 350mm of topsoil

above 300mm to 400mm of mid brown sandy subsoil with underlying natural glaciofluvial deposit being orange sand with flints as anticipated. Only stray finds, such as 19<sup>th</sup> century whiteware pottery sherds and small brick and tile fragments, were seen in the upcast spoil.

3.3 Four areas of deeper subsoil were noted (see Fig. 2) to an additional depth of 300mm which also contained later Post medieval debris. In addition a fragmentary section of chalk clunch was recorded on the southern side of the foundations though only on the outer side of the relevant trench.

3.2 No stray finds of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century date were seen in the upcast spoil.

#### 4. Conclusion

4.1 In conclusion it can be confirmed that no deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during this monitoring at land between 127 and 133 High Street, Lakenheath. The deeper areas of subsoil noted above are interpreted as evidence for shallow pits of later Post medieval date and the small section of chalk clunch is likely to indicate the location of a wall foundation though it was only seen in one, outer, trench section. Therefore it appears likely that the foundations trenches clipped one side of a former structure at the site, which is likely to have been of Post medieval date, on the southern side of the planned new footprint area.

Goult, W

1990

A Survey of Suffolk  
Parish History (Suffolk  
CC)

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to John Simmons for his close cooperation during the monitoring)*

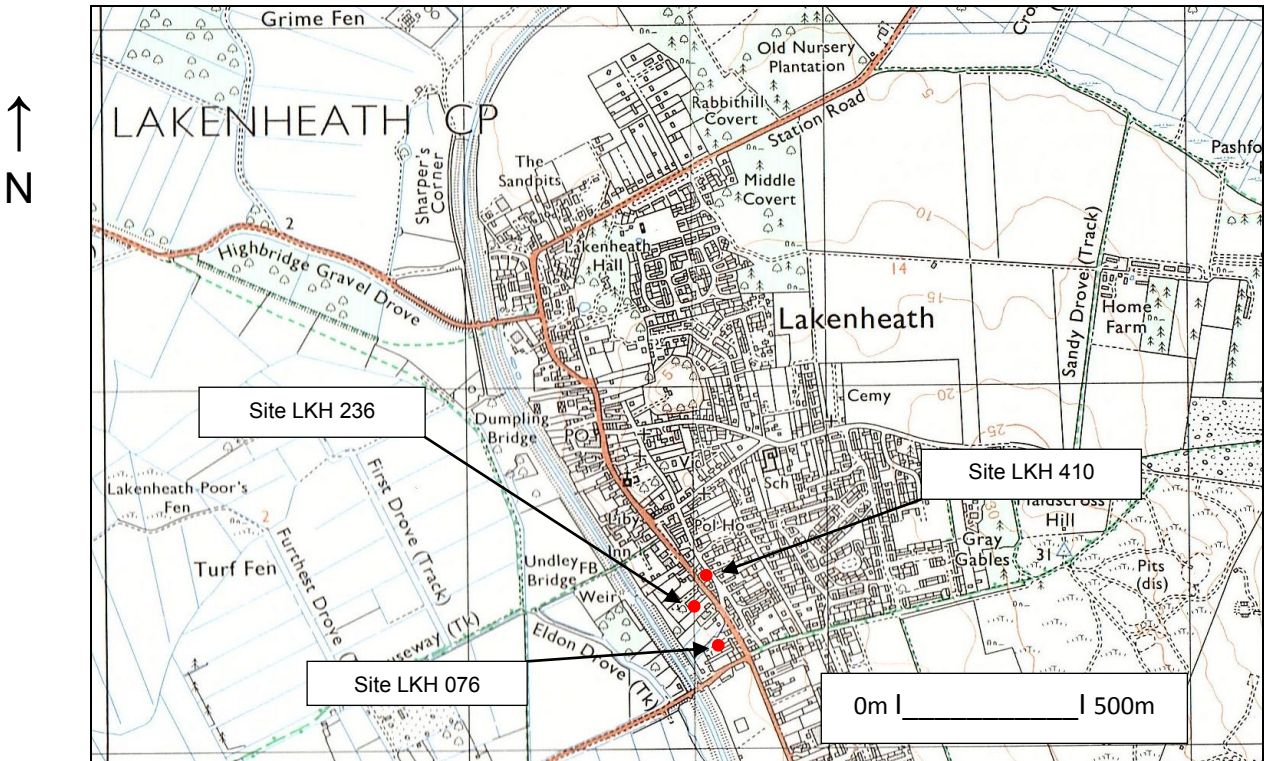


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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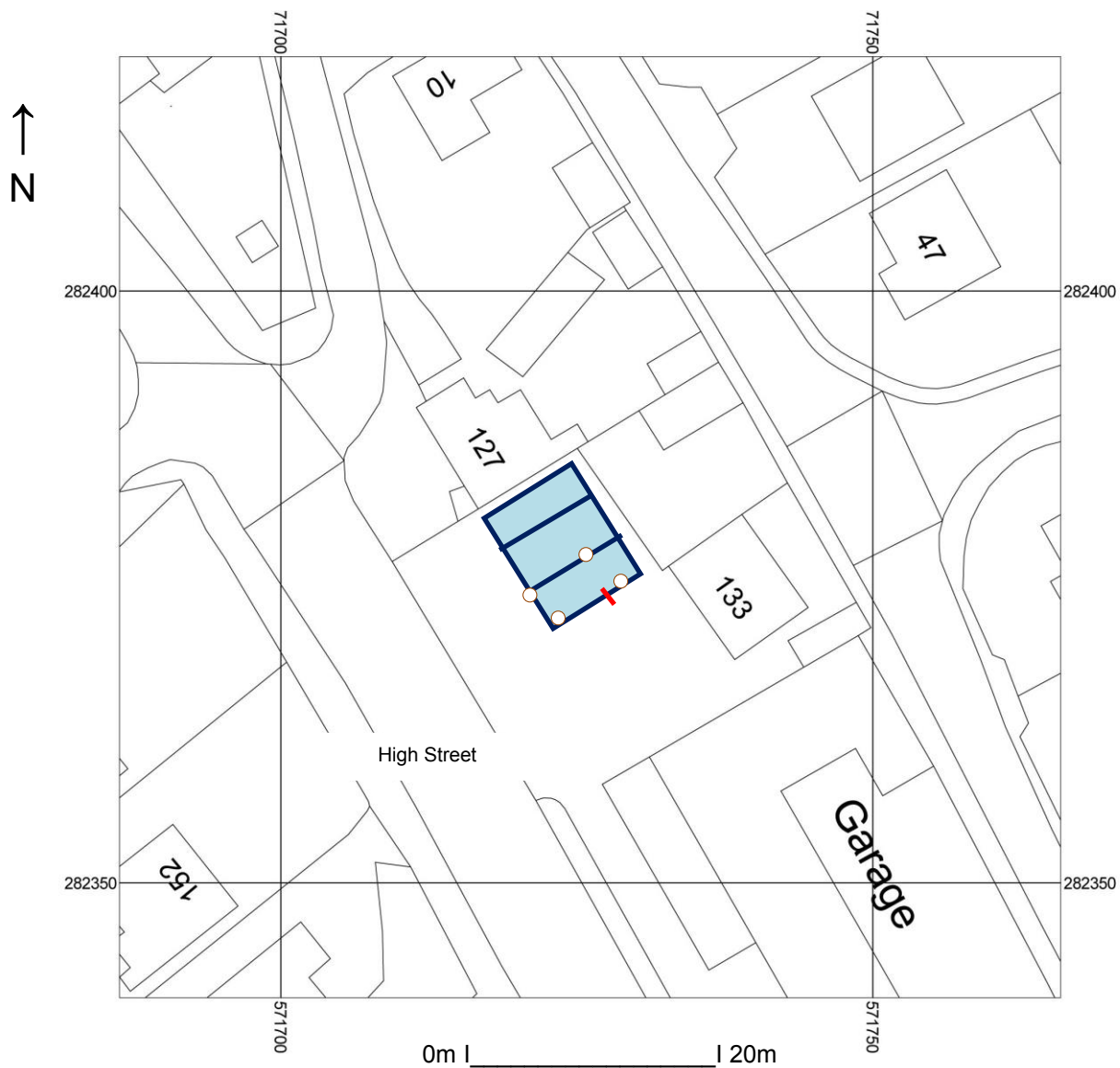


Fig. 2: Location of monitored trenches (dark blue, red- possible chalk clunch foundation, brown- late Post medieval shallow pits)

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## Appendix I- Images



General view from northeast



Possible chalk clunch wall foundation on southern side



Eastern trench from south



Northern trench from east





Western trench from south

**Land Between 127 & 133 High Street,  
Lakenheath, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/17/2584/FUL**

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

## **Site details**

Name: Land between 127 & 133 High Street, Lakenheath, Suffolk, IP27 9EP

Client: Dunroamin Developments Ltd

Local planning authority: Forest Heath DC

Planning application ref: DC/17/2584/FUL

Proposed development: erection of 3 no dwellings

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief ref: tbc

Grid ref: TL 7172 8236

Area: c250m<sup>2</sup>

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
7. Specialists

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Architectural Solutions on behalf of their client Dunroamin Developments Ltd 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 DC/17/2584/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for monitoring to be set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of 3 no dwellings at land between 127 and 133 High Street, Lakenheath.

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 Lakenheath is a large parish on the north-western edge of Suffolk comprising extensive areas of low lying former Fen in its western part and similarly large areas of dry, sandy Breckland over its eastern half. While the medieval and earlier Post medieval village centre on the Fen edge was relatively large the settlement has grown in recent times with the proposed development site (PDS) between 127 and 133 High Street being 500m south-east of the parish church and 100m east of the cut-off channel which marks the Fen edge. On Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk the PDS is shown as being at the southern edge of the medieval and earlier Post-medieval settlement with Lakenheath being a large village with the grant of a market in 1201 and population levels of c150-200 in the medieval period with 37 heads of household recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 and 30 taxpayers in 1327 (Goult 1990, assuming a population multiplier of 4-5).

2.2 The British Geological Survey records superficial deposits of sand and gravel on the Croxton series with the PDS being at 5m OD.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Advice from SCCAS notes that the PDS is within the area defined as the historic core of the village (HER LKH 254). In addition it is noted that the PDS is close to recorded evidence for Roman period activity (HER LKH 076) and medieval activity (HER LKH 236) revealed in an evaluation. The advice then confirms that the disturbance caused by the relevant ground works for this development can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation by the building contractor.

## 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential, in this case to reveal evidence of Roman and medieval to early Post medieval period activity. Site monitoring arrangements with the contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the foundation works before other works progress to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details related to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is exposed.

## 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be the excavation of foundation trenches. In addition any ground reduction works going below 300mm will be monitored, this will be carried out using a flat bucket. These ground works will be monitored during and after excavation and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office as well as notified of when the site works are scheduled to start. A search will also be commissioned from the County HER for an area within 250m of the site to inform any positive monitoring results (with the associated invoice reference included in the report).

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under the HER number 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 related to the proposed development, 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 of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and any exposed features.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording and as appropriate a metal detector search will be carried out. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trenches with sections at appropriate points with adequate being given to carry out these investigations. 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. Where appropriate 40 litre palaeoenvironmental samples 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 relevant SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. Any such work will incur an additional cost.

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in this case the possibility of finding burials is assessed as being low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 6 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 4 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 and pdf version will be sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client for submission to the relevant LPA. The site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before works on site 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 and, if appropriate, a vector plan in .dxf format will be provided showing the area examined. The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring and at its most basic level will detail the location, circumstances and characteristics of the deposits exposed and any finds that are revealed.

## 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 contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. 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 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 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

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 small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



**Planned development**



## OASIS ID: johnnewm1-315301

### Project details

Project name	Land Between 127 and 133 High Street, Lakenheath, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Lakenheath, land between 127 and 133 High Street (LKH 410, TL 7172 8237) monitoring of ground works for a three new dwellings in the southern part of the area defined as the historic settlement at Lakenheath revealed a fragment of a chalk clunch wall of probable Post medieval date and evidence for four shallow pits of later Post medieval date.
Project dates	Start: 25-04-2018 End: 25-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LKH 410 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/17/2584/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH LAKENHEATH LAND BETWEEN 127 AND 133 HIGH STREET
Postcode	IP27 9EP
Study area	300 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7172 8237 52.411910757104 0.525056778658 52 24 42 N 000 31 30 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5m Max: 6m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning

originator	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	Land between 127 and 133 High Street, Lakenheath, Suffolk-Archaeological 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
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