

**Somerville, Booseys Walk,
New Buckenham, Norfolk**

Planning application: 3PL/2020/0529/HH

HER Ref: ENF 149404

Archaeological Monitoring Report

(Continuous observation of ground works)

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

(September 2020)

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Site details for HER

Name: Somerville, Booseys Walk, New Buckenham, Norfolk, NR16 2BA

Client: Mr D Shaw

Local planning authority: Breckland DC

Planning application ref: 3PL/2020/0529/HOU

Development: Erection of front and side extensions

Date of fieldwork: 14 August, 2020

Norfolk CC ref: CNF49100_1

HER Ref: ENF 149404

NMS accession ref: NWHCM: 2020.112

Grid ref: TM 08881 90385

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-399671

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Summary: New Buckenham, Somerville, Booseys Walk (ENF 149404, TM 08881 90385) monitoring of foundation trenches for front and side extensions at a site within the historic town revealed a soakaway of 20th century date but no earlier features or finds with this area probably being within an in-filled medieval market place (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr D Shaw).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr D Shaw 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 3PL/2020/0529/HOU. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Mr S Hickling of the Historic Environment Service at Norfolk CC to satisfy this condition and JNAS produced the relevant written scheme (Appendix II) to gain the conditional discharge allowing works to start on site. This development concerns the erection of a front and side extensions at Somerville, Booseys Walk, New Buckenham (see Fig. 1). At the time of the monitoring this proposed development site was part of the garden of a house of mid-20th century date.

1.2 This development site is located on the eastern side of New Buckenham which is a planned town adjoining the castle established by William d'Aubigny in the mid-12th century to replace the castle at Old Buckenham. The town has a classic planned rectilinear grid lay out with numerous listed buildings and was also endowed with a market but it did not thrive or grow (Ayers, 1994, 72) so in effect remains a failed market but now a large village adjacent to the castle site which is a scheduled monument. It has also been noted that this site on the northern side of Booseys Walk is within the area of an in-filled market place (pers. comm. Richard Hoggett).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this small scale development was generated by its location within the core of a market town with a castle established in the 12th century and a planned town was developed soon afterwards. Therefore deposits of medieval and earlier Post medieval date could be anticipated. The NCC HER notes the following nearby sites and records:

- HER site 9200- Site of medieval market town to the east of the castle constructed from the mid-12th century with listed buildings of late medieval to earlier Post medieval date clearly delimiting a now in-filled market place to the north of Boosey's Walk and east of Queen Street (see Fig. 1) where Somervilles is located. This market place having been reduced in size in the early Post medieval period with listed buildings of this date to the north-east and north-west of Somervilles. This period coinciding with the dissolution of the monasteries and therefore weakening of the influence of Old Buckenham Priory allowing the inhabitants of New Buckenham presumably more freedom to reduce what was a very large market place. In the northern part of the former market place listed buildings are of 18th-19th century date (NHER 40598 & 40599) representing later development in the settlement. To the east of in-filled market The Rectory (NHER 40636) is described as being of 17th century date while a small investigation to the north-east (NHER 40625) revealed what is probably the line of the eastern town ditch.
- To the north-west of Somerville's an archaeological evaluation (NHER 40628) revealed extensive Post Medieval disturbance with no earlier deposits surviving whereas an investigation to the east (NHER 37648) did reveal evidence for medieval activity on what is likely to have been the eastern edge

of the market area. As with many settlements of medieval origin much of the archaeological evidence is obscured by early Post medieval listed buildings and conservation area constraints helping to preserve the settlement pattern but restricting archaeological investigations. That New Buckenham is a 12th century market foundation is reliably recorded in historical sources; however more intimate investigations are constrained by the limits noted above.

- Elsewhere in the village archaeological investigations have revealed evidence for activity of medieval date (NHER 40627 & 39460) though only as small glimpses into what was probably a thriving medieval market town before decline into what is now a large village in the Post medieval period as other centres such as Diss grew in relation to new communication routes including the arrival of the railway in the mid-19th century.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring was undertaken over one day in August, 2020 under dry and sunny conditions giving good visibility. The excavation of the foundation trenches was undertaken using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 700mm flat bucket and the upcast spoil was closely inspected. The foundation trenches were entered as they were opened to allow a closer examination and hand cleaning of indistinct areas. The footprint area was plotted in relation to the adjacent house and a number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 The 700mm wide foundation trenches for the extension footprint areas (see Fig. 2) revealed 400mm of topsoil above 500mm to 600mm of mid brown sandy subsoil making an overall depth of 900mm (side extension) to 1000mm (front extension) with the local glaciofluvial deposits of orange silty sand with flints being exposed at this point.

3.2 The only feature revealed was a large, 4200mm wide and 900mm deep, soakaway type feature in the western trench of the front extension that contained numerous fragments of 20th century brick.

3.3 The only stray finds in the upcast spoil were a few small fragments of 20th century brick and tile debris and one small clay tobacco pipe stem fragment of later Post medieval date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 In conclusion the results of this small monitoring at Somerville, Boosey's Walk, New Buckenham did not reveal any features except a soakaway of recent date. Therefore it can be concluded that no deposits of archaeological significance have been disturbed and it seems likely that this site is located in a former medieval market place with little related past ground disturbance.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Dominic Shaw for his close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring)

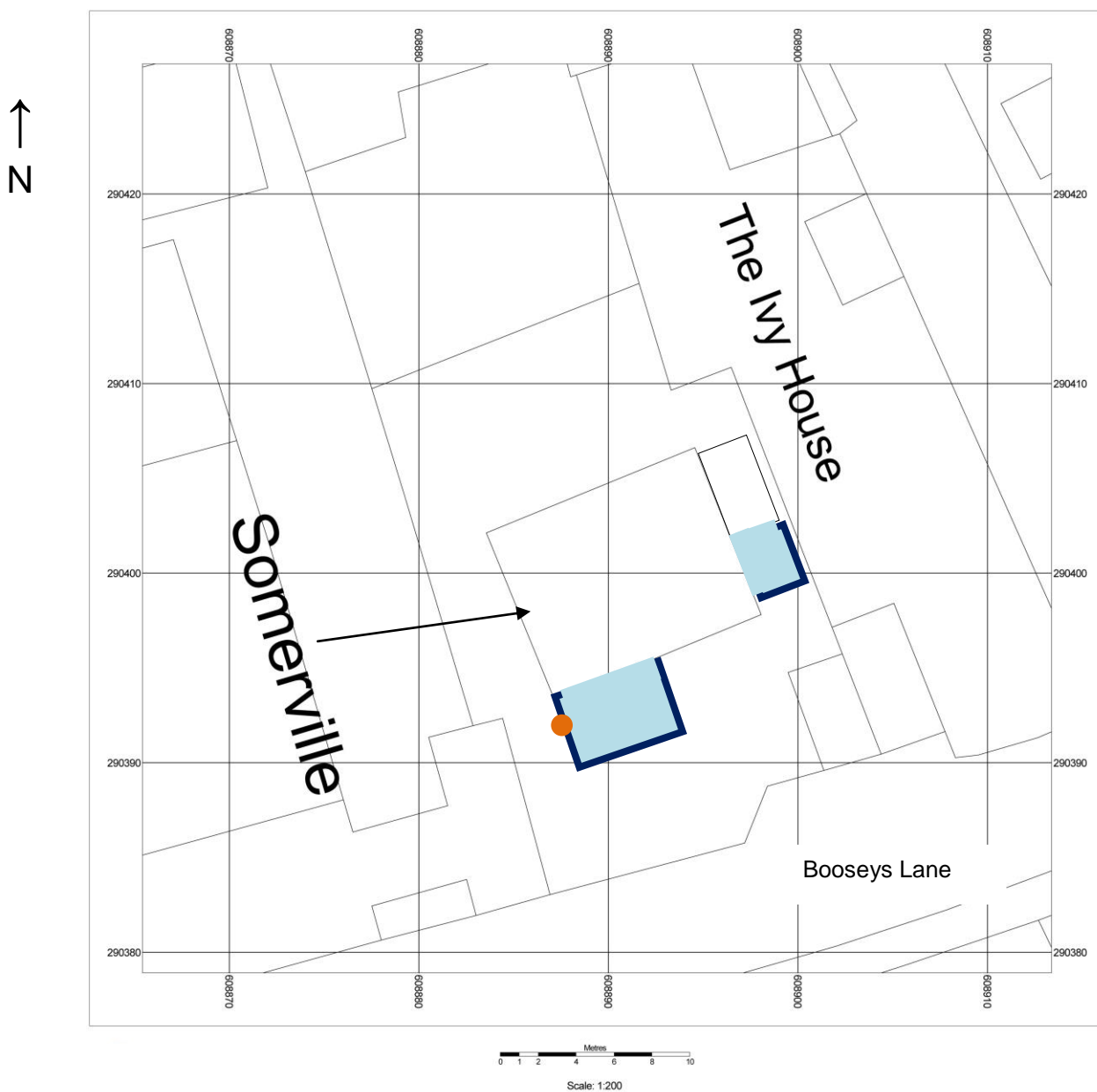


Fig. 2: Location of monitored footprint areas (dark blue- trenches, brown- soakaway pit)
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2020 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from south



Western trench of main foundation trench with soakaway pit



Southern foundation trench of main extension from east



General view of eastern extension area



Eastern foundation trench of smaller extension

**Somerville, Booseys Walk,
New Buckenham, Norfolk**

Planning application: 3PL/2020/0529/HOU

CNF Ref:49100_1

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Monitoring and Archaeological Supervision and
Control of the Works**

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

Site details

Name: Somerville, Booseys Walk,, New Buckenham, Norfolk, NR16 2AE

Clients: Mr D Shaw

Local planning authority: Breckland DC

Planning application ref: 3PL/2020/0529/HOU

Proposed development: Erection of front and side extensions

Norfolk CC ref: CNF49100_1

Norfolk HER ref: tbc

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 08881 90385

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-399671

Current land use: Garden

Area: c30m²

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Planned extension areas

1. Introduction

1.1 Anglian Design on behalf of their client MR D Shaw have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring and supervision of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application 3PL/2020/0529/HOU. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief to be set by Mr S Hickling of the Norfolk CC Historic Environment Service (NHES) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development now concerns the erection of front and side extensions at Somerville, Booseys Walk, New Buckenham.

1.2 The monitoring and recording will be in full compliance with *Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk* introduced 1st May 2018 and the *Cifa Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief 2014*, (https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/CifaAS&GWatchingbrief_2.pdf). The monitoring will also be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 This development site is located on the eastern side of New Buckenham which is a planned town adjoining the castle established by William d'Aubigny in the mid-12th century to replace the castle at Old Buckenham. The town has a classic planned rectilinear grid lay out with numerous listed buildings and was also endowed with a market but it did not thrive or grow (Ayers, 1994, 72) so in effect remains a large village adjacent to the castle site which is a scheduled monument.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Archaeological interest in this small scale development was therefore generated by its location within the area of the planned medieval town. Therefore archaeological deposits of medieval and early Post medieval date can be anticipated.

3.2 Advice to the LPA from NHES confirms this archaeological potential and also indicates that monitoring of ground works with allowance for full investigation in the area of the planned extensions would be an appropriate mitigation strategy given the small scale of the planned works.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site has the potential to reveal archaeological deposits and finds of medieval and early Post medieval date. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded

access to the extension works as they progress to allow for detailed investigation and recording work via the investigation of any exposed deposits and features plus close examination of the upcast spoil both visually with a metal detector.

5. Methodology

5.1 The grounds works for this site will involve the foundations for the erection of front and side extensions.

5.2 A search will be commissioned from the NHER for the area within 250m of the site in order to set it within its local archaeological and historic setting for the final report.

5.3 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts and finds under an overall site event number requested from the NHER beforehand. With any positive results an accession number will also be gained from the Norfolk Museum Service. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the NHER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans, if required, 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 (using a Lumix DMC-FZ5) and monochrome film (using an Olympus) will be made of the site and any exposed features.

5.4 As necessary to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits that are revealed will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the relevant terrace works. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made if possible to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use at this site plus collection of any finds that are revealed. Where appropriate 40 litre palaeoenvironmental deposit samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the NHES 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. 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 very low).

5.5 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant NHES 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 Norfolk Museums

Service. If this is not possible then the NHES Officer will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant NHES Officer. Also any finds that potentially qualify under the Treasure Act will be reported to the Treasure Team at the British Museum and copied into the Norfolk FLO.

5.6 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the guidelines in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the NHER within 4 months of work finishing on site under the relevant NHER 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.

5.7 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) and local NHER search results if required. An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the relevant NHES Officer within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a hard copy and pdf version will be sent to the NHER in addition to a pdf version for the client for submission to the relevant LPA. The site monitoring has been registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before field work starts followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An NHER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual round-up. 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 and to comply with present social spacing requirements. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather. Site work will also be undertaken following present COVID requirements with social distancing, travel alone to site, no sharing of equipment unless it is suitably disinfected and rest periods will also maintain distancing.

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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's agent 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 any potential health and safety considerations.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Townergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

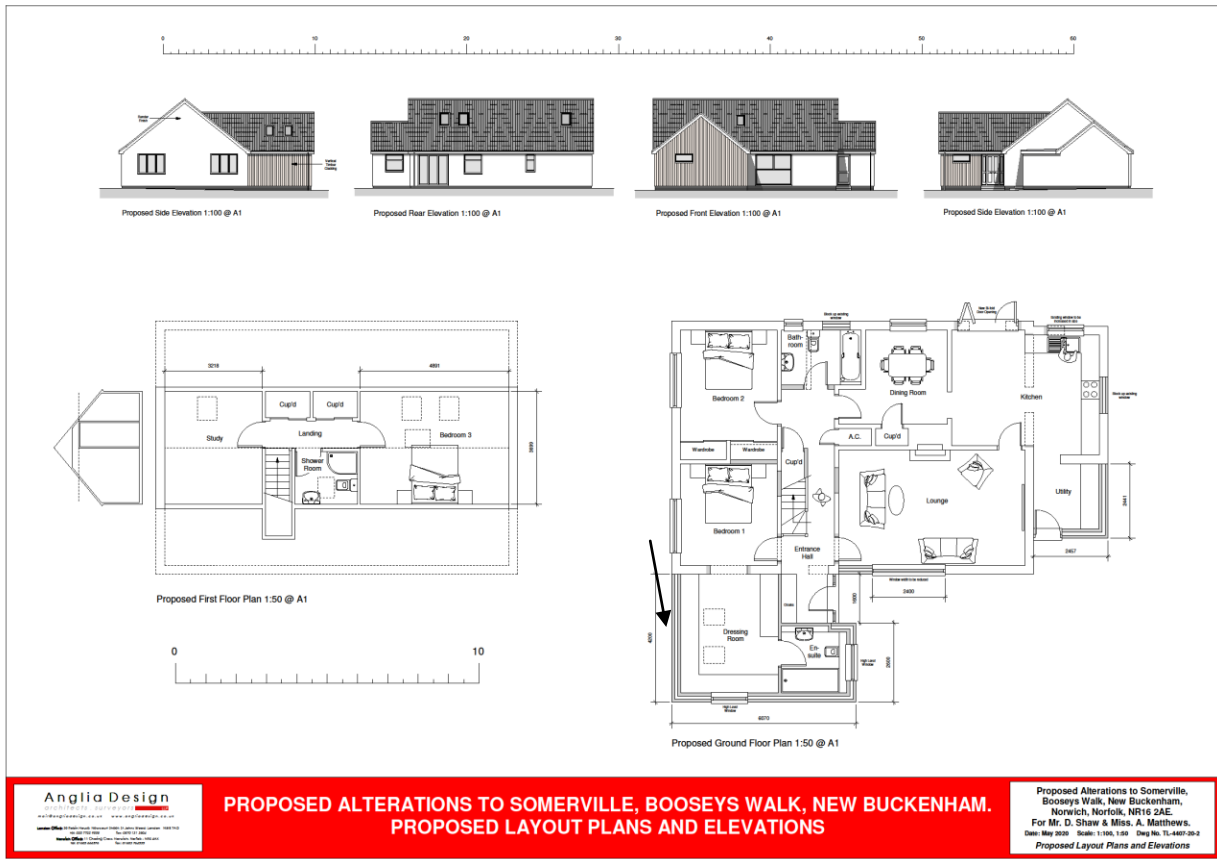
7. Specialists

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)
Metal detector search	J Armes
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

Ref:

Ayers, B 1994 'Planned towns' in An Historical Atlas of Norfolk (Norfolk Museums Service)

John Newman Archaeological Services



Proposed extension areas

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-399671

Project details

Project name	Somerville, Booseys Walk, New Buckenham, Norfolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	New Buckenham, Somerville, Booseys Walk (ENF 149404, TM 08881 90385) monitoring of foundation trenches for front and side extensions at a site within the historic town revealed a soakaway of 20th century date but no earlier features or finds with this area probably being within an in-filled medieval market place.
Project dates	Start: 14-08-2020 End: 14-08-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 149404 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	3PL/2020/0529/HOU - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	SOAKAWAY Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND NEW BUCKENHAM SOMERVILLE, BOOSEYS WALK
Postcode	NR16 2AE
Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 08881 90385 52.470888176309 1.075725836929 52 28 15 N 001 04 32 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 47m Max: 48m
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"
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Services
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Services
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
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