

**Land at 16 High Street,
Lakenheath, Suffolk**

Planning applications: DC/16/0523/FUL

HER Ref: LKH 636

Archaeological Monitoring Report

(Continuous observation of ground works)

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(April 2021)

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Site details for HER

Name: Land at 16 High Street, Lakenheath, IP27 9JS

Client: Rumsey Property Developments Ltd

Local planning authority: West Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: DC/16/0523/FUL

Development: Erection of one dwelling with detached garage

Date of fieldwork: 5 January, 2021

HER Ref: LKH 636

Grid ref: TL 7134 8299

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-411566

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Summary: Lakenheath, land at 16 High Street (LKH 636, TL 7134 8299) monitoring of groundworks for a new dwelling with garage that fronts onto Dumpling Bridge Lane recorded debris from a demolished chalk lump outbuilding which incorporated late 19th/earlier 20th bricks and a nearby pit containing early to mid-20th century whiteware and flower pot sherds and fragments of plate glass. This site within the historic core of the village did not reveal any significant features or finds of pre later 19th century date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Rumsey Property Developments Ltd).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Rumsey Property 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 DC/16/0523/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out following advice and a Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) 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 dwelling with attached garage part of the planned development on land at 16 High Street, Lakenheath (see Fig. 1).

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 the development at this site at 16 High Street being 250m north of the parish church and 120m east of the cut-off channel which marks the Fen edge. On Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk the site is shown as being towards the northern 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). The site is set back by some 12m from the High Street on its western side and fronts onto Dumpling Bridge Lane.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this site was generated by its location towards the northern edge of the area defined as the historic core of the village in the County Historic Environment Record (HER LKH 254). In addition it is close to an area where evidence for activity of prehistoric and medieval date has been recorded.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The site was visited on a single occasion as the foundation trenches were excavated using a small 360 machine equipped with a flat bucket and these trenches were entered to allow closer examination of the exposed deposits. The upcast spoil was examined visually and with a metal detector as it was deposited nearby under dry and good weather conditions and the overall project was digitally photographed as the works continued (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 In total nearly 22m of 700mm was opened around the eastern, southern and western perimeter of the new build footprint with other trenches east-west across the central part of the footprint and north-south towards the eastern half of the area (see

Fig. 2). The northern trench was not observed as this alignment was already clearly disturbed by a 19th-early 20th century boundary wall foundation.

3.2 The eastern trench revealed a deposit profile comprising 120mm of topsoil above 120mm of pea shingle which lay upon a thin layer of crushed chalk. Under the chalk the deposit was clean mid brown sandy subsoil containing two small peg tile fragments and the base of the trench at 1000mm still appeared to be in the subsoil deposit. The east central, southern and western trenches had a similar mid brown sandy subsoil deposit below a thin topsoil layer again at a depth of 1000mm with similar material at the base of each trench. The central, east-west, trench was also 1000mm deep and close to its central part chalk lump debris associated with bricks of later 19th to earlier 20th century which appeared to be derived from a demolished outbuilding (see Appendix I). On the eastern side of this rubble a pit that was 1000mm wide and nearly 1000mm deep was revealed in section and could be seen to contain whiteware and flower pot sherds, plate glass fragments and later Post medieval brick and tile fragments.

4. Conclusion

4.1 In conclusion while this development is towards the northern edge of the area defined as the historic core of the village and close to previous recorded evidence for activity of prehistoric and medieval date activity only evidence of later Post medieval date was revealed. This evidence comprised the rubble from a demolished chalk lump and brick built outbuilding, a pit with late 19th to earlier 20th century debris and a few stray ceramic finds of Post medieval date.

4.2 Therefore it can be confirmed that no features or finds of any archaeological significance have been disturbed during ground works for construction of this dwelling at 16 High Street, Lakenheath that fronts onto Dumpling Bridge Lane so is set back by a few metres from the nearby High Street frontage.

Ref:

Goult, W 1990 A Survey of Suffolk Parish History (Suffolk CC)

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone on site for their close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring).

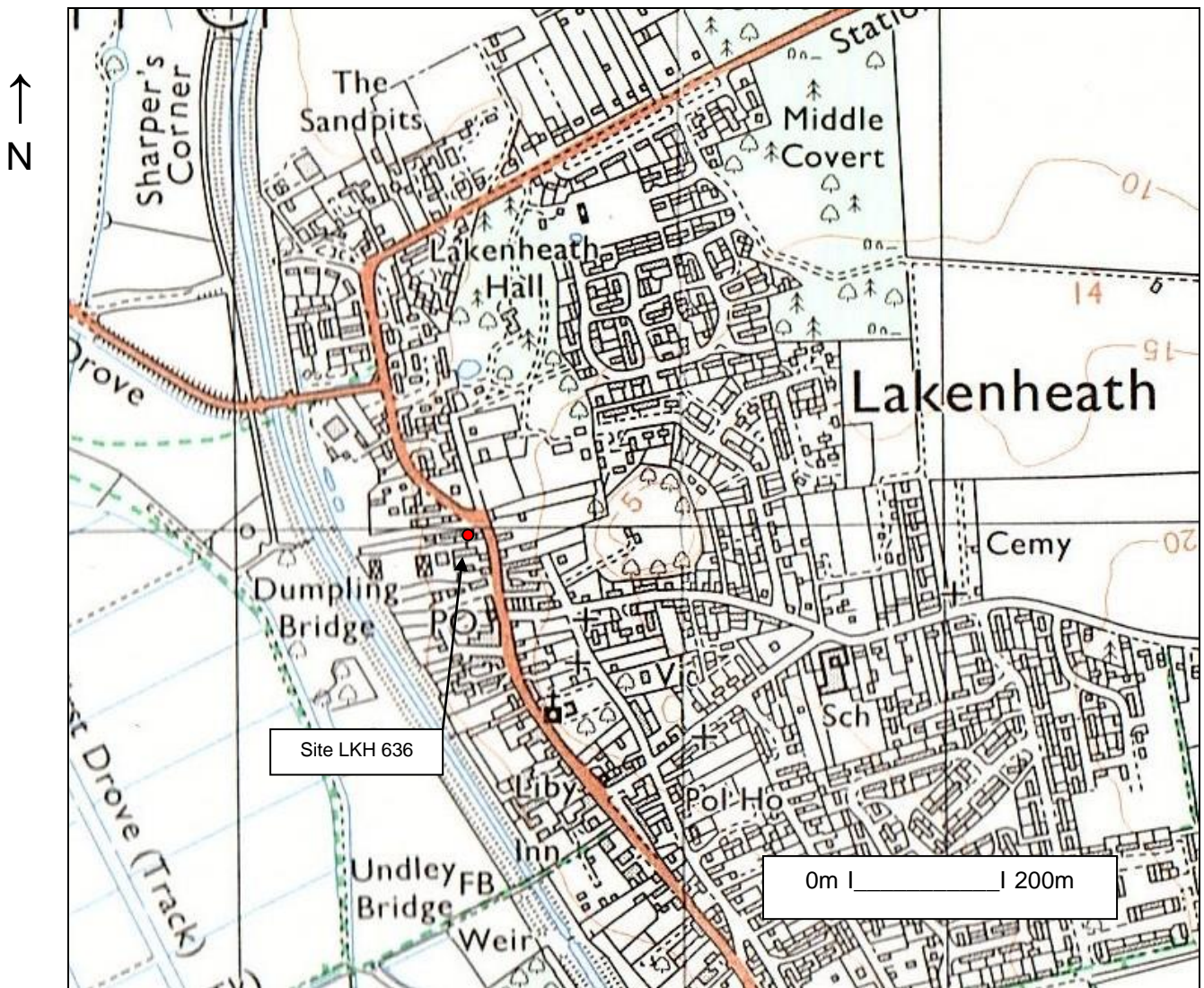


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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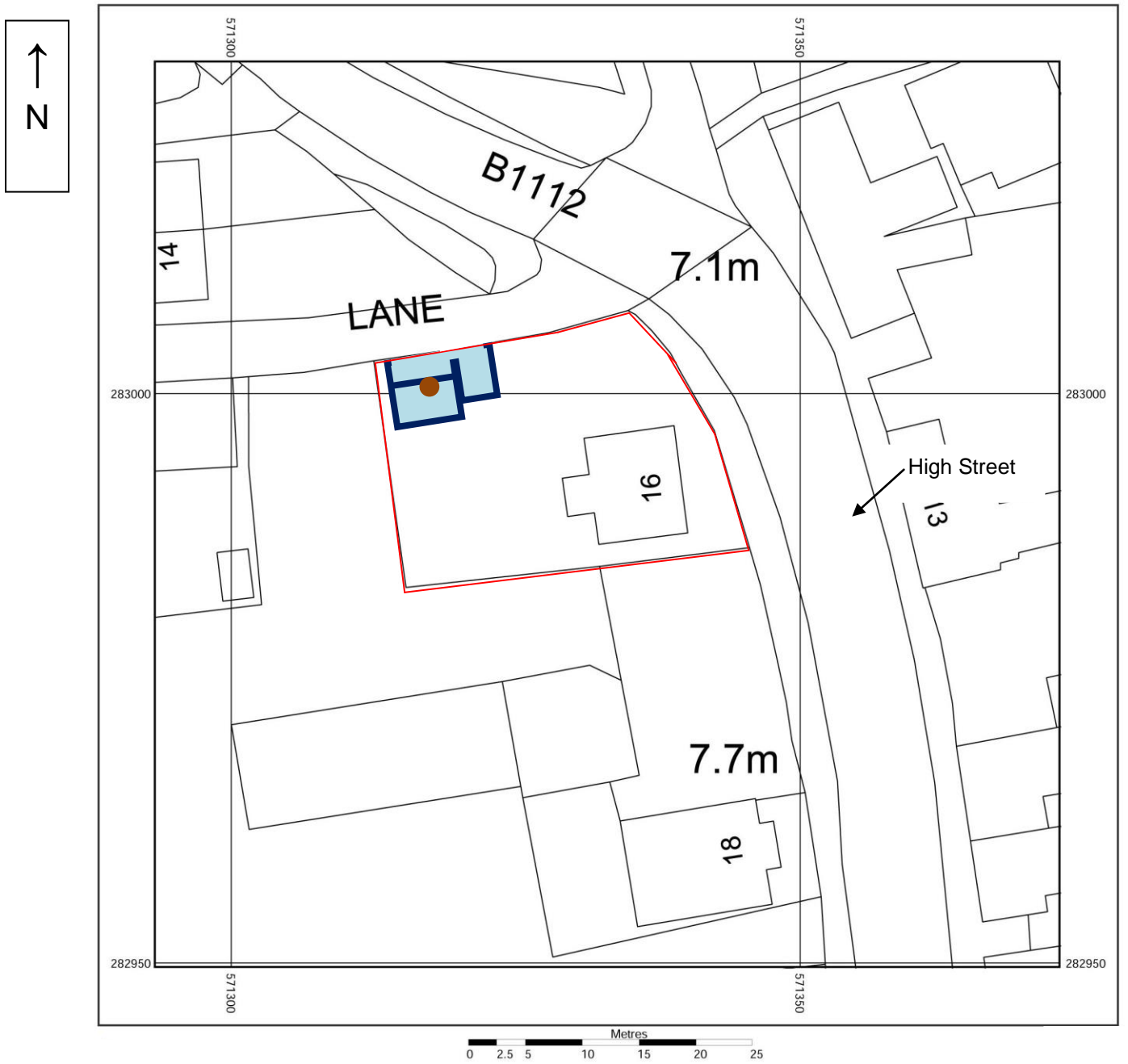


Fig. 2: Monitored footprint area

(Dark blue- foundation trenches, brown- demolition debris and late Post medieval pit area)

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Appendix I- Images



General view from northeast



General view from northwest



Eastern trench from north



Southern trench from west



Western trench from north



East-west central trench from west with chalk lump rubble



Late 19th-earlier 20th century pit and adjacent chalk debris in east-west central trench

**Land at 16 High Street,
Lakenheath, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/16/0523/FUL

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

Site details

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

Client: Mr A Rumsey

Local planning authority: Forest Heath DC

Planning application ref: DC/16/0523/FUL

Proposed development: erection of one dwelling with detached garage

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief ref: 2016_03_11_SCCAS_Archaeological MonBrief_16 High StreetLakenheath_F2013_0013

Grid ref: TL 7134 8299

Area: c200m²

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1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
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1. Introduction

1.1 Mr A Rumsey has 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/16/0523/FUL (formerly F/2013/0013). 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 one dwelling with a detached garage at 16 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) at 16 High Street being 250m north of the parish church and 120m east of the cut-off channel which marks the Fen edge. On Hodkinson's 1783 map of Suffolk the PDS is shown as towards the northern 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 Cover Sand with the PDS being at 7m 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) leading down to the bridge. In addition it is noted that the PDS is close to recorded evidence for activity of prehistoric and medieval date with the latter confirming the location within the core of the village with further evidence from historic maps showing buildings in this area. The advice then confirms that the disturbance caused by the relevant ground works for this development can be recorded by a trained archaeologist, with allowance to carry out detailed hand investigation of deposits if required, during ground works 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 prehistoric 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 with care to avoid additional disturbance during any period of inclement weather and the upcast spoil will be examined and metal detected for finds. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office as will notice 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 as previous findings in the area indicate the potential to reveal early archaeological deposits at depths of up to 1.30m. 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

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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. 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.

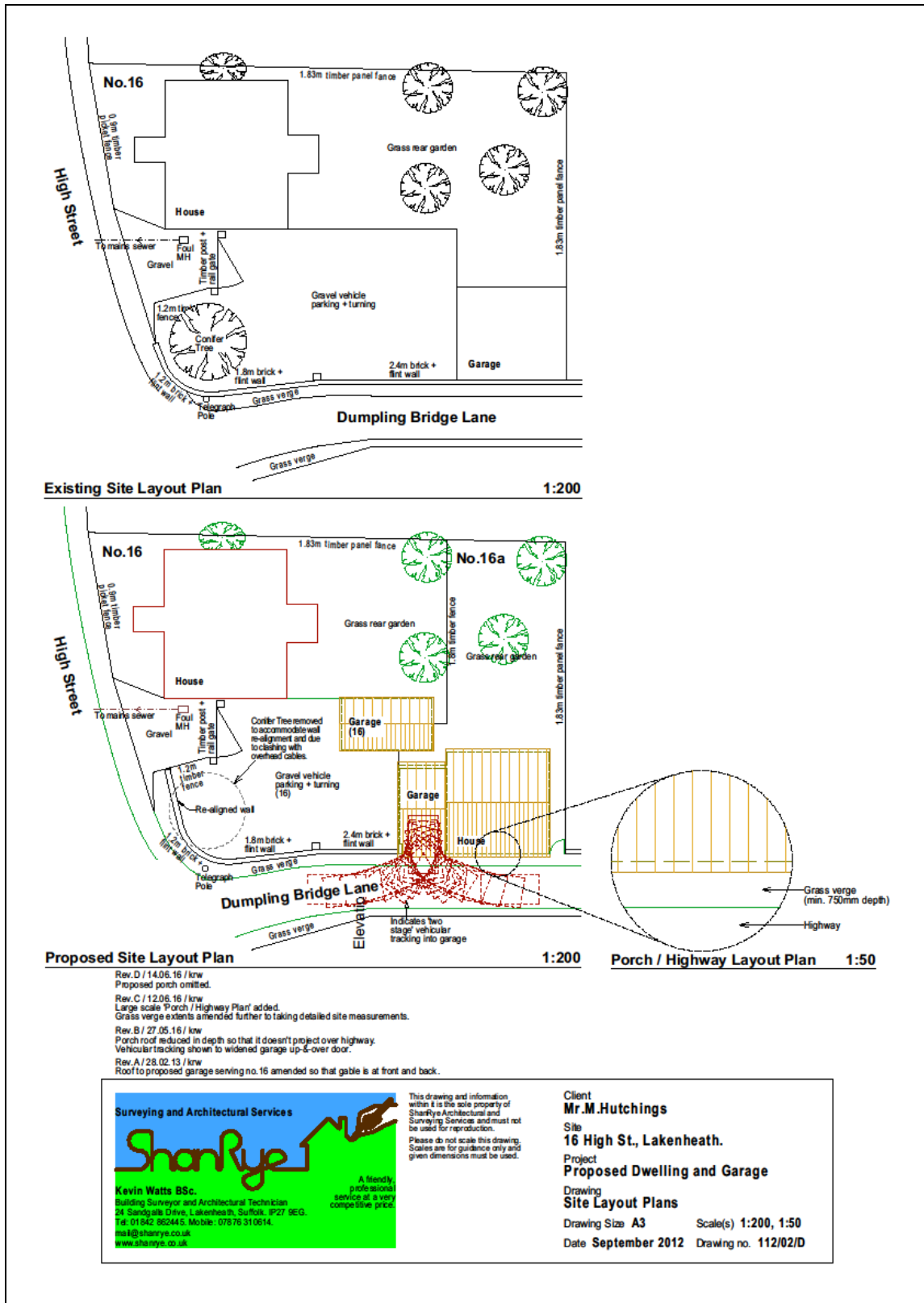
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

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	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Site as existing and planned development (north to bottom)

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-411566

Project details

Project name	No 16 High Street, Lakenheath, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Lakenheath, land at 16 High Street (LKH 636, TL 7134 8299) monitoring of groundworks for a new dwelling with garage that fronts onto Dumpling Bridge Lane recorded debris from a demolished chalk lump outbuilding which incorporated late 19th/earlier 20th bricks and a nearby pit containing early to mid-20th century whiteware and flower pot sherds and fragments of plate glass. This site within the historic core of the village did not reveal any significant features or finds of pre later 19th century date.
Project dates	Start: 05-01-2021 End: 05-01-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	LKH 636 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/16/0523/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DEMOLITION DEBRIS Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH LAKENHEATH No 16 HIGH STREET
Postcode	IP27 9JS
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7134 8299 52.41759940094 0.519792535066 52 25 03 N 000 31 11 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7m Max: 8m
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 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	No 16 High Street, Lakenheath, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2021
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