

Archaeological evaluation on land opposite Saracens Head, Sudbury Road, Newton, Suffolk, CO10 0QJ

December 2016



by Laura Pooley

figures by Ben Holloway and Alec Wade

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Sarah Carter and Jane Roberts

**commissioned by Ross Bain
on behalf of Vaughan & Blyth**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land opposite the Saracens Head public house, Sudbury Road, Newton, Suffolk in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings and associated infrastructure. The development site is located among a number of 16th-18th century listed buildings with a Roman road to the west, and a medieval church and post-medieval mill nearby. The evaluation revealed a medieval ditch (11th-12th century) aligned northeast to southwest running across the southeastern end of the site, three modern pits and a modern tree-throw.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land opposite the Saracens Head public house, Sudbury Road, Newton, Suffolk which was carried out on 13th-14th December 2016. The work was commissioned by Ross Bain, on behalf of Vaughan & Blyth, in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings with associated infrastructure, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council: Planning reference B/16/01170/OUT) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* detailing the required archaeological work written by Rachael Abraham (SCCAS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9193597:

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (sand and gravel).

Historic landscape

Newton is defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape sub-type 10.3, built up area – village (substantial groups of houses associated with a parish church). The landscape immediately around Newton is characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre 18th century enclosure – random fields), sub-type

¹ British Geological Survey – <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

² <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

³ The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

3.1/2 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from random fields/rectilinear fields) and sub-type 9.2 (post-medieval park and leisure – informal park (golf course)).

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

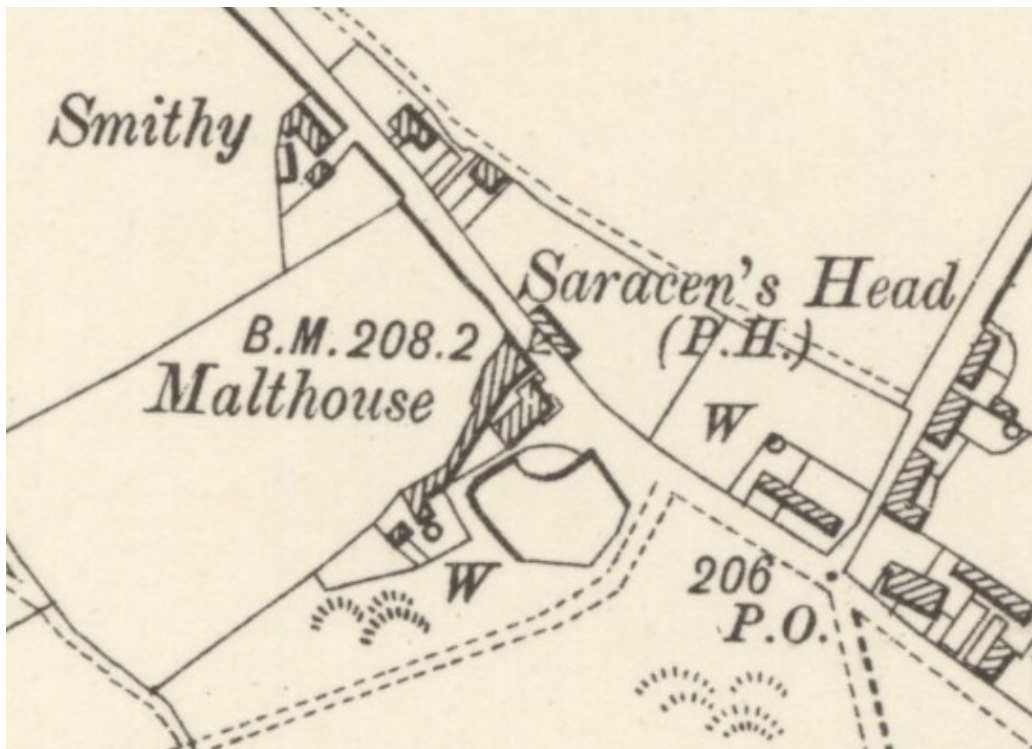
Roman: A length of Roman road (Margary 322) runs across the Newton Green Golf Course (NEN 002: 580m W).

Medieval: The medieval Church of All Saints (NEN 001) lies 600m NE.

Medieval/post-medieval: Evaluation at Whisper Woods revealed one small post-medieval ditch and a small group of unstratified medieval pottery sherds (NEN 008: 300m SE). Fieldwalking assessment in 1992 for the extension to the Newton Green Golf Course (NEN Misc: 500m W) revealed medieval and post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material, probably from manuring.

Post-medieval: The site of a possible post-medieval mill is suggested by field names 'Great Mill Field' and 'Little Mill Field' (COG Misc: 960m WSW). Historically settlement within the parish, as depicted on Hodgkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783, clustered along the northern edge of Newton Green around the parish church/Newton Hall complex and along Sudbury Road. What is now the golf course to the south of Sudbury Road was the green until at least the late 18th century. Hodgkinson's map appears to show the development site as vacant ground.

Modern: A small type 22 pillbox from WW2 (NEN 009) lies 750m SE. The 1902 OS map (Suffolk LXXX.NW) shows a building on the site lying directly on the road.



Map 1 1902 OS map showing a building on the development site

Undated: Hawk Hill (NEN 004: 900m ESE) was an oval shaped mound defined and named as 'mound' on OS 1st edition facsimile map (based on 1838 edition). Four undated linear features were also identified during monitoring work for a pipeline replacement (NEN 012: 550m N).

⁴ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Listed buildings⁵ (Fig 2)

There are 21 listed buildings within 1km of the development site. They are all Grade II listed and date from the 16th to the 18th century. Also Grade II listed are one 19th century wall and one 20th century WWI war memorial. Eight of the listed buildings are located within 180m of the site.

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits that were identified within the development site.
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, 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 costs.

5 Methodology

Five trial-trenches were laid out across the development site (avoiding overhead cables). Each trench measured 20m long by 1.8m wide (totalling 100m linear or 180m²).

All of the trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata. For full details of the methodology, refer to the attached WSI.

6 Results (Appendix 1, Figs 3-4)

Trench 1 (T1)

Trench T1 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 250-400mm thick) sealing silty-clay loam subsoil (L2, c 120-210mm thick), which sealed natural sands (L3). Modern tree-throw F1 was excavated.

Trench 2 (T2)

Trench T2 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 230-340mm thick) sealing silty-clay loam subsoil (L2, c 270-300mm thick), which sealed natural sands (L3). Modern pits F2, F3 and F5 were recorded.

Trench 3 (T3)

Trench T3 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 300-320mm thick) sealing silty-clay loam subsoil (L2, c 270-330mm thick), which sealed natural sands (L3).

Trench 4 (T4)

Trench T4 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 330-400mm thick) sealing silty-clay loam subsoil (L2, c 280-300mm thick), which sealed natural sands (L3). A bulk was left in the trench to avoid a modern service.

⁵ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Trench 5 (T5)

Trench T5 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 300-320mm thick) sealing silty-clay loam subsoil (L2, c 200-280mm thick), which sealed natural sands (L3). Ditch F4 was aligned NE/SW, was slightly V-shaped and measured 470mm wide by 180mm deep. It contained two sherds of medieval, 11th-12th century, pottery. A modern service trench was also present.



Photograph 1 T2, looking NW



Photograph 2 T5, F4, looking SW

7 Finds

All of the non-metal finds are listed by context in Table 1. Pottery fabrics refer to the Suffolk medieval pottery fabric series (unpublished) and the Essex (Colchester) post-Roman pottery fabric series (*CAR 7*). The pottery was identified by Stephen Benfield.

Context	Description	Date
T2, L2 (6)	Pottery: Two small joining neck sherds from a cooking pot with incised wavy line decoration, oxidised sandy fabric with grey core (Suffolk Fabric – early medieval ware EMW (general), <i>CAR 7</i> – Fabric 13). Dated 11th-12th century (<i>CAR 7</i> – Fabric 13 dated late 11th-12th century).	11th-12th century
T2, F2, (7)	Glass: fragment (4g) of green bottle glass	Modern
T2, F3, (8)	Pottery: three sherds (10g) of late post-medieval factory wares (Fabric 48), late 18th/19th – 20th century CBM: fragment of London stock brick (202g), floor tile (86g) and peg-tile (54g) Glass: fragment (28g) from the neck/rim of a green glass bottle Plastic: remains of a black and white plastic toothbrush Clinker: three fragments (4g) Slate: fragment (<1g)	late 18th/19th – 20th century
T5, F4, (9)	Pottery: Shell dusted body sherd, oxidised sandy fabric, light abrasion (10g) (Suffolk Fabric – early medieval shelly-ware EMSW, <i>CAR 7</i> – Fabric 13S). Dated 11th-12th century (<i>CAR 7</i> Fabric 13S dated late 11th-12th century). Rim from a cooking pot (48g), oxidised sandy fabric with dark core on thicker body area at rim neck, bead rim with slight lid seating, wheel-turned with faint ridging on body, surfaces lightly abraded. Similarities to Thetford ware-type forms (Suffolk Fabric THET) (dated 10th-11th century) but oxidised fabric. Recorded as early medieval ware (general) (Suffolk Fabric EMW). Dated 11th-12th century.	11th-12th century
T2, F5, (11)	Pottery: one sherd (4g) of of late post-medieval factory wares (Fabric 48), late 18th/19th – 20th century CBM: fragment of peg-tile (18g), 9mm thick Clay pipe: stem fragment (<1g), 2mm borehole, mid 18th century+	late 18th/19th – 20th century

Table 1 All non-metal finds by context

All five trenches were metal-detected before machining (L1) and the spoil heaps metal-detected after machining (except for T2, see below). A total of 3.2kg of ironwork was recorded, 30g of copper pipe and one aluminium drinks can (Table 2). Iron finds included fencing wire, nails, a bar and chain, and a number of unidentifiable pieces, most probably agricultural in nature. None need date to early than the late post-medieval/modern period. The only find of note was a fragment consisting of part of the sides and neck of an iron rowel spur, post-medieval (17th century +). No metal finds were present in any of the features.

Context no.	Description
T1, L1, (1) (pre-machining)	Ironwork: rectangular metal bar (70g); complete chain link with hook at one end and fixing loop on the other (125g); fragment of rowel spur (25g)
T1, (12) (spoil heap)	Ironwork: two nails (40g); four unidentified fragments (115g)
T2, L1, (2) (pre-machining)	Ironwork: two pieces of plastic coated fencing wire (10g); three small unidentified fragments (27g); one large unidentified bent piece (330g); one incomplete bar (gate railing?) (1050g)
T2 (spoil heap)	Not detected due to large quantity of fencing wire in heap

T3, L1, (3) (pre-machining)	Ironwork: two nails (5g); one length of wire (20g)
T3, (13) (spoil heap)	Copper: one fragment of copper pipe (30g) Ironwork: one large screw head (350g); three fragments of nails (75g); four unidentified fragments (135g)
T4, L1, (1) (pre-machining)	Ironwork: two pieces of plastic coated fencing wire (20g), one nail (55g) Other: aluminium drinks can (25g)
T4 (14) (spoil heap)	Ironwork: five nail fragments (95g); three unidentified fragments (117g)
T5, L1, (5) (pre-machining)	Ironwork: two fragments of wire (2g); three large unidentified (probably machinery) fragments (465g); one nail (65g)
T5, (15) (spoil heap)	Ironwork: one nail (45g); two unidentified fragments (125g)

Table 2 All metal-detected finds

8 Environmental report

by Lisa Gray, Archaeobotanist

Introduction

This sample was taken from a ditch dated 11th-12th century.

Sampling and processing methods

This sample was taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were completely processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

Results (Table 3)

The plant remains

Plant remains in this flot were dominated by uncharred root/rhizome fragments and charred wood flecks. Charred plant remains were present in low numbers. These were poorly preserved and consisted of individual grains of Emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*), bread/club/rivet (*T.aestivum/durum/turgidum*), and a possible spelt (*T.spelta*) grain. Also present in this charred assemblage were one stitchwort (*Stellaria* sp.) seed and one fragment of vetch/tare/vetchling/pea (*Lathyrus/Vicia/Pisum* sp.).

Uncharred/dried waterlogged plant remains were also present in low numbers and consisted of low numbers of seeds of plants of ruderal environments and scrub, bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*), black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*) and a fragment of common fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*).

Faunal remains

A terrestrial snail and low numbers of earthworm cocoons were found.

Inorganic remains

No inorganic remains were present.

Sample number		1
Feature feature		F4
Finds number		10
Description		Ditch
Bulk sample volume		20L
Flot volume		10ml
Charred plant remains		
Emmer wheat	<i>Triticum dicoccum</i> L. (from a one-grained spikelet)	1
Bread/club/rivet wheat	<i>Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum</i> L (grain)	1
Spelt?	<i>Triticum cf. spelta</i> L. (grain)	1
Vetch/tare/vetchling/pea	<i>Lathyrus/Vicia/Pisum</i> sp. (seed fragment)	1
Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria</i> sp. (seed)	1
Wood >4mmØ	Identifiable fragments	+
Wood <4mmØ	flecks	+++++
Uncharred plant remains		
Black nightshade	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. (seed)	1
Common fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i> L. (fruit fragment)	1
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> L. agg. (fruit)	2
Fat hen	<i>Chenopodium album</i> L. (fruit)	
Root/rhizome fragments		+++++
Faunal remains		
Terrestrial mollusca (<i>Vallonia</i> sp.)		+
Earthworm cocoon		+

Table 3 Sample contents (key: + = 1-10 items, +++++ = >250 items)

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples.

Evidence for bioturbation is present in the form of abundant uncharred root/rhizome fragments and low numbers of earthworm cocoons and terrestrial snails.

Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work

The low number of charred plant macro-remains at this site means that they are likely to be general background waste rather than indicative of original feature use. They could have moved from their original context by bioturbation and reworking.

A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (*ibid.*, 96).

It is not wise to assume that the context in which the plant macro-remain was found during excavation was the context in which it was originally deposited, especially when the preservation of the plant remain is poor, numbers are very low relative to the amount of soil sampled and there is evidence of bioturbation, truncation or backfilling. At this site evidence for bioturbation was present in the form of modern root/rhizome fragments and earthworm cocoons.

Therefore, it is not recommended that further work is carried out on the plant remains in these samples.

9 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation revealed a single medieval ditch dating from the 11th-12th century. Aligned NE/SW across the southeastern end of the development site this is probably the remains of an old field boundary ditch. Two sherds of 11th-12th pottery from this ditch, and two other residual sherds of the same date, are indicative of medieval occupation close to the site, perhaps focussed around the medieval church 600m to the NE.

The remaining four features and most of the finds were all of a modern date and were probably associated with the building seen on the 1902 OS map (see Map 1).

10 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Ross Bain and Vaughan & Blyth for commissioning and funding the project. Site work was managed by C Lister, and undertaken by B Holloway, S Carter and J Roberts. Figures are by BH and A Wade. The project was monitored by Rachael Abraham for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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SCCAS	2010	<i>Archive Guidelines</i>
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SCCAS	2015	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at land opposite Saracens Head, Sudbury Road, Newton</i>
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12 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
clinker	the stony residue from burnt coal or from a furnace
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from cAD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to cAD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to cAD 410
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1052)

SCCAS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, trench record sheet, finds record)

Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD

Sundries (attendance register, benchmark data, risk assessment).

14 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number NEN 015.

Distribution list:

Ross Bain, Vaughan & Blyth
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Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



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date: 9.1.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Description	Fill	Notes	Date
L1	Topsoil	Soft, friable, moist, medium-dark grey/brown silty-loam with 5% stone	c 240-380mm thick, seals L2	Modern
L2	Subsoil	Soft, friable, moist, light grey/brown, silty-clayey-loam 7% stone	c 100-350mm thick, sealed by L1, seals L3	Post-medieval/modern
L3	Natural	Soft, moist, light-medium yellow/orange /brown sands and gravel	sealed by L2	-
T1, F1	Tree-throw	Firm, dry, light-medium grey/brown silt with 1% stone	No finds but sealed by L1, seals L2	Modern
T2, F2	Pit	Firm, dry, dark brown silt with brick/tile and charcoal flecks, occasional stone		Modern
T2, F3	Pit	Soft, dry, dark brown silty with brick/tile and charcoal flecks, occasional stone		Modern
T5, F4	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silt		Medieval, 11-12th century
T2, F5	Pit	Firm, dry, medium-dark brown silty with brick/tile flecks and occasional stone		Modern

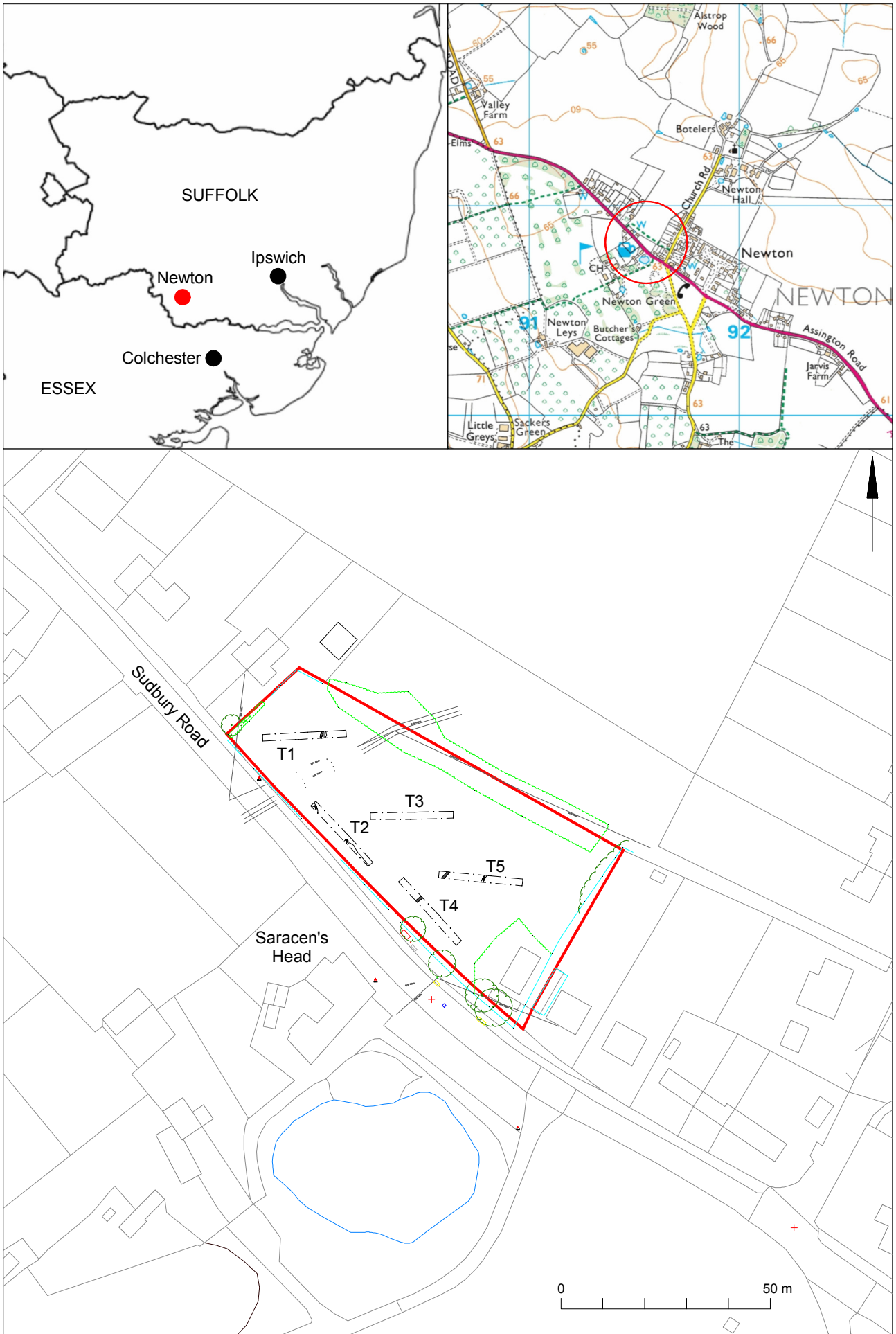


Fig 1 Site location and trenches



Fig 2 SCC HER data (in green) surrounding development site (in red), listed buildings shown as ▲

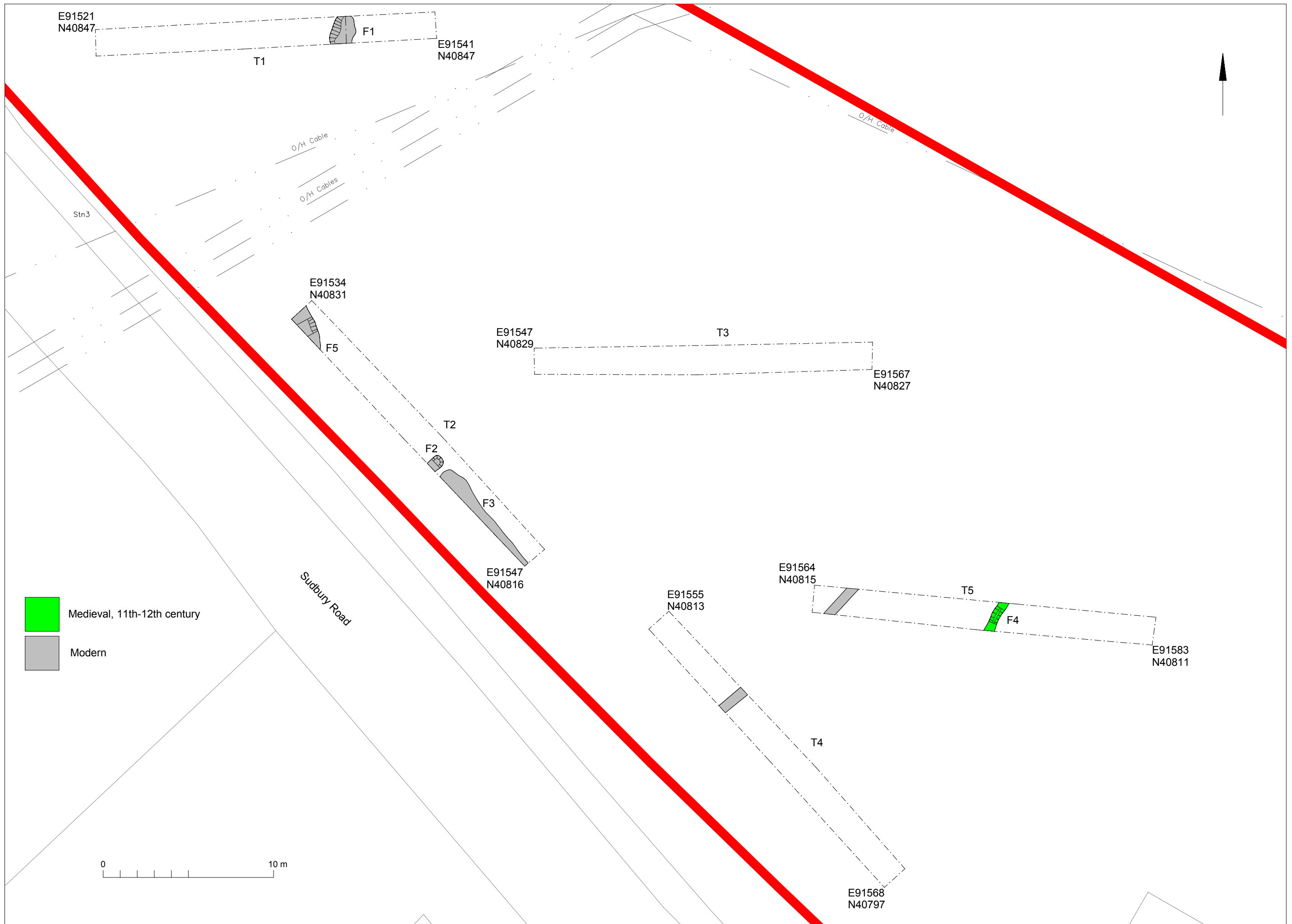


Fig 3 Results

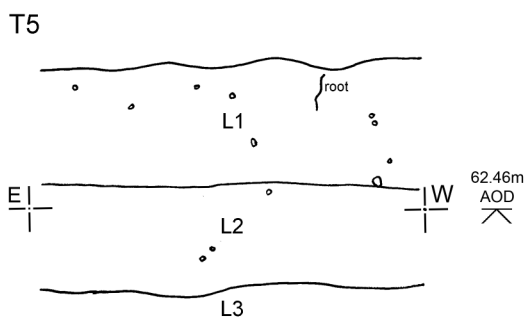
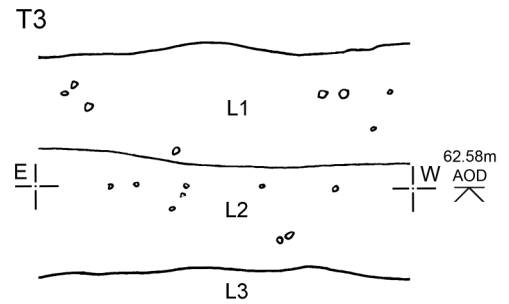
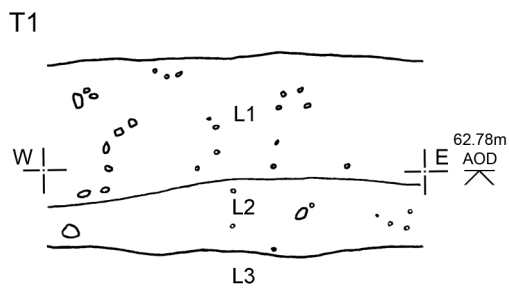
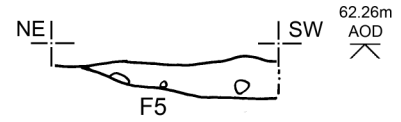
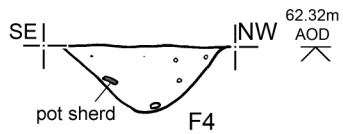
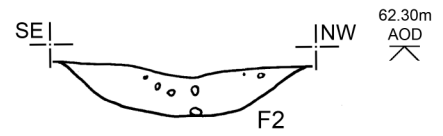
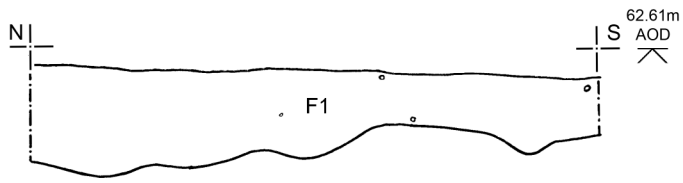


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land opposite the Saracens Head (PH), Sudbury Road, Newton, Suffolk, CO10 0QJ

NGR: TL 915 408 (centre)

Planning references: B/16/01170/OUT

Commissioned by: Ross Bain (Vaughan & Blyth)

Client: Vaughan & Blyth

Curating Museum: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk Parish number: NEN 015

Suffolk Event code: ESF24973

CAT Project code: 16/11a

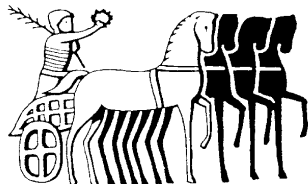
OASIS reference no.: colchest3-267298

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

SCCAS/CT Monitor: Rachael Abraham

This WSI written: 10.11.2016

revised: 16.11.2016



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Site location and description

The development site (0.36ha) is located on land opposite the Saracens Head public house, Sudbury Road, Newton, 2.5m east of Sudbury, Suffolk (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 915 408.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of eight new dwellings with associated infrastructure.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9193597:

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (sand and gravel).

Historic landscape

Newton is defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape sub-type 10.3, built up area – village (substantial groups of houses associated with a parish church). The landscape immediately around Newton is characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre 18th century enclosure – random fields), sub-type 3.1/2 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from random fields/rectilinear fields) and sub-type 9.2 (post-medieval park and leisure – informal park (golf course)).

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

Roman: A length of Roman road (Margary 322) runs across the Newton Green Golf Course (NEN 002: 580m W).

Medieval: The medieval Church of All Saints (NEN 001) lies 600m NE.

Medieval/post-medieval: Evaluation at Whisper Woods revealed one small post-medieval ditch and a small group of unstratified medieval pottery sherds (NEN 008: 300m SE). Fieldwalking assessment in 1992 for the extension to the Newton Green Golf Course (NEN Misc: 500m W) revealed medieval and post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material, probably from manuring.

Post-medieval: The site of a possible post-medieval mill is suggested by field names 'Great Mill Field' and 'Little Mill Field' (COG Misc: 960m WSW). Historically settlement within the parish, as depicted on Hodgkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783, clustered along the northern edge of Newton Green around the parish church/Newton Hall complex and along Sudbury Road. What is now the golf course to the south of Sudbury Road was the green until at least the late 18th century. Hodgkinson's map appears to show the development site as vacant ground.

Modern: A small type 22 pillbox from WW2 (NEN 009) lies 750m SE.

Undated: Hawk Hill (NEN 004: 900m ESE) was an oval shaped mound defined and named as 'mound' on OS 1st edition facsimile map (based on 1838 edition). Four undated linear features were also identified during monitoring work for a pipeline replacement (NEN 012: 550m N)

¹ British Geological Survey – <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

² <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

³ The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

⁴ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Listed buildings⁵ (Fig 2)

There are 21 listed buildings within 1km of the development site. They are all Grade II listed and date from the 16th to the 18th century. Also Grade II listed are one 19th century wall and one 20th century WWI war memorial. Eight of the listed buildings are located within 180m of the site.

Planning background

The planning application was submitted to Babergh District Council in August 2016 for the proposed work (above: *B/16/01170/OUT*). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the condition based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and in this case in section 3 of the planning permission:

" No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions."

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by SCCAS (*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land opposite Saracens Head, Sudbury Road, Newton – SCCAS, October 2016*).

Five trial-trenches will be laid out across the development site. Each trench will measure 20m long (100m linear) by 1.8m wide, totalling 180m² and covering 5% of the development site (Fig 1).

Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (eg excavation) will be made by SCCAS/CT, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation report. Any further investigation will also be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS/CT for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

Aims

As per section 4 of the brief a linear trenched evaluation is required on the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

Trial-trenching is 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 costs.

All work will take place within and contribute to the goals of the Regional research frameworks (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011).

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus two archaeologists for two days.

⁵ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2008a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by SCC Historic Environment Officer (SCCAS/CT 2016)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCC 2012) to be used alongside the Project Brief

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to SCCAS/CT one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

Prior to the commencement of the site a parish code and event number will be sought from the HER team. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to SCCAS. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Evaluation trial-trenching methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established across the site.

Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, or ovens will be sufficiently defined for recording, but will not be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to scan all trenches both before they are cut and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples (unless complex or otherwise needing specialist processing) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS/CT, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with SCCAS/CT.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and reported immediately to the Suffolk FLO (Finds Liaison Office) who will inform the coroner within 14 days, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with SCCAS and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS 2010).

Results

Notification will be given to SCCAS/CT when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by SCCAS/CT.

Final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS/CT as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.

- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA8, EAA14 & EAA24).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Appendices to include a copy of the completed OASIS summary sheet and the approved WSI

Results will be published, to at least a summary level, in the PSIAH (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History) annual round up should archaeological remains be encountered in the evaluation. An allowance will be made for this in the project costs for the report.

Final report are also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

Archive deposition

The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service as per their archive guidelines (SCCAS 2010).

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the SCCAS.

The archive will be deposited with the SCCAS within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS/CT.

Monitoring

SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given SCCAS/CT one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with SCCAS/CT prior to them being carried out.

SCCAS/CT will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of SCCAS/CT shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. A magazine (*The Colchester Archaeologist Vol 27* out now) summarises all our sites and staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works alongside the Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785.

References

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CifA | 2008a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CifA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |

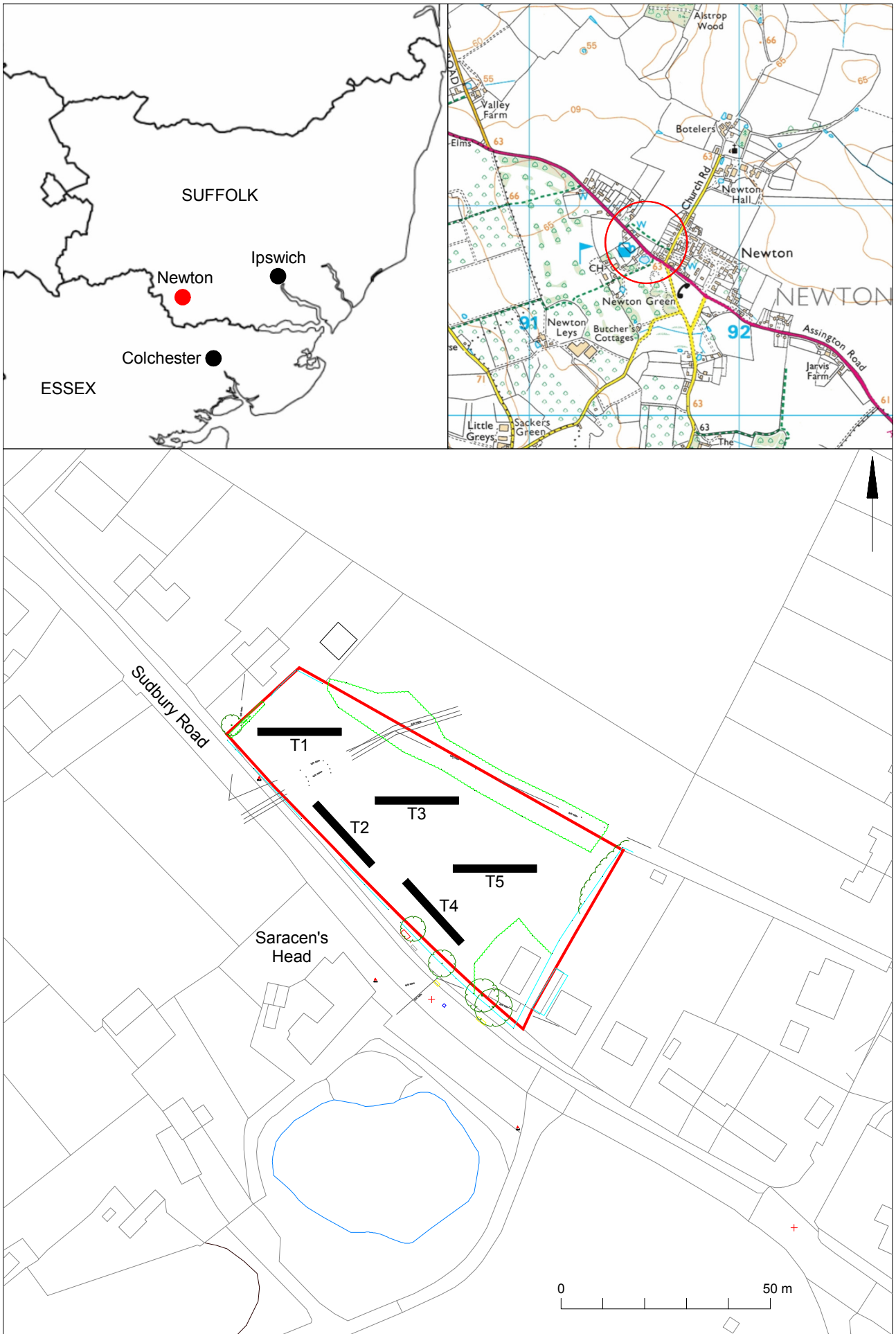
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Margary, I D	1967	<i>Roman roads in Britain</i> (2nd ed)
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
SCC	2008	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCAS	2010	<i>Archive Guidelines</i>
SCCAS	2012	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i> (version 1.3)
SCCAS/CT	2016	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land opposite Saracens Head, Sudbury road, Newton</i> . Rachael Abraham, October 2016

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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal in relation to site constraints (overhead cables).



Fig 2 SCC HER data (in green) surrounding development site (in red), listed buildings shown as ▲

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OASIS ID: colchest3-267298

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land opposite the Saracens Head, Sudbury Road, Newton, Suffolk, CO10 0QJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land opposite the Saracens Head public house, Sudbury Road, Newton, Suffolk in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings and associated infrastructure. The development site is located among a number of 16th-18th century listed buildings with a Roman road to the west, and a medieval church and post-medieval mill nearby. The evaluation revealed a medieval ditch (11th-12th century) aligned northeast to southwest running across the southeastern end of the site, three modern pits and a modern tree-throw.
Project dates	Start: 13-12-2016 End: 14-12-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/11a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/16/01170 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	NEN 015 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF24973 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PITS Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON SPUR Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential
Prompt Planning condition
Position in the planning process After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country England
Site location SUFFOLK BABERGH NEWTON land opposite Saracens Head, Sudbury Road
Postcode CO10 0QJ
Study area 0.36 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 915 408 52.031996558888 0.792022984657 52 01 55 N 000 47 31 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 62.26m Max: 62.58m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator HEM Team Officer, SCC
Project design originator Laura Pooley
Project director/manager Chris Lister
Project supervisor Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID NEN 015
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID NEN 015
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological evaluation on land opposite the Saracens Head, Sudbury Road, Newton, Suffolk, CO10 0QJ: December 2016
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

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