

**Erection of Extensions to Park Place,
Church Hill, Kersey, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/11/00702/FHA

HER Ref: KSY 027

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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(December 2011)

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Site details for HER

Name: Park Place, Church Hill, Kersey, Suffolk, IP7 6DZ

Client: Mr M Pertwee

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/11/00702/FHA

Development: Erection of side & rear extensions

Date of fieldwork: 17 & 23 November, 2011

HER Ref: KSY 027

Grid ref: TM 00099 44069

Listed Bldg: 1180359 (Grade II)

Conservation area

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-115865

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Summary: Kersey, Park Place, Church Hill (KSY 027, TM 00099 444069) monitoring of ground works for a side extension revealed evidence for a major later medieval masonry building with two substantial flint and mortar walls forming the corner of what can be interpreted as a cellar. Fortunately these walls were left in situ below the recently formed foundations. Further ground works on the site for a small rear extension and terrace retaining walls revealed little apart from evidence for later Post medieval landscaping (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr M Pertwee).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 KLH Architects on behalf of their client, Mr M Pertwee, commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application B/11/00702/FHA. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Mr K Wade of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of a side and a small rear extension to Park Place, Church Hill, Kersey (see Fig.1).

1.2 Kersey parish is located to the north west of Hadleigh in south Suffolk and the main settlement forms a relatively large village with a linear layout along the main street. The local drift geology is locally dominated by the heavy clay of the Till deposits of central Suffolk with Park Place being close to the 40m OD contour. The parish church lies at the southern end of this main street, Church Hill, which runs down to a ford across a small, east flowing, tributary of the River Brett close to the centre of the village. Park Place, a Grade II structure whose listing describes it as being 'red brick....of 18th-19th century' date, is located at 35m OD on the eastern side of Church Hill some 180m north-west and down slope from the church and c70m south-east of the ford. Kersey is a well known village due to its high number of listed buildings that give ample evidence to the period of great prosperity in south central Suffolk when this part of England played a major role in the medieval and early Post medieval cloth trade. The importance of the medieval cloth trade is evidenced particularly well as one type of broadcloth was known as 'kersey cloth,' in addition the village was known for leather working. Kersey is of particular archaeological and historical interest as it developed beyond the level of a more ordinary rural village to exhibit various urban characteristics such as the grant of a market in 1252, a fair and at least two parish gilds and was therefore performing various social and economic functions for a wider area than the parish alone. These more far reaching social and economic functions growing as Kersey prospered through the cloth, leather working and related agricultural trades before declining as the trades similarly declined in East Anglia following a peak of production and local wealth in the 14th- early 16th century period.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe ground works as they were being carried out using a small 360 machine for the side and rear extensions and retaining walls for the proposed terrace alongside the extensions (see Fig. 2) under clear and bright weather conditions. For the side extension some 20m of 500mm wide footing trench were mechanically excavated while the small rear extension only required 9m of trench while the terrace walls called for a further 20m of, in this latter case, 400mm wide trenches. During the visits it was possible to enter the complete length of the trenches and trowel clean any indistinct areas on the sides or base and clear loose debris to reveal the full extent of the flint and mortar walls exposed in the side extension trenches. Upcast spoil was stockpiled nearby on site allowing for a close examination for stray finds. Archaeological features in the trenches for the side extension were recorded in detail at an appropriate scale and then the extent of all the foundation trenches were recorded in relation to nearby mapped boundaries and,

finally, a number of digital images and monochrome film photographs were taken to record the monitoring and features exposed (see Appendix I).

2.2 As potentially significant archaeological features, namely flint and mortar walls (0004 & 0005), were revealed in the north-western corner of the footing trenches for the side extension discussions were held with the project architect and structural engineer to devise a method to preserve these walls in situ. On site with the structural engineer it was agreed that the walls could be covered with sand and the concrete fill of the footing trench reinforced with two layers of steel bars thereby achieving preservation in situ without compromising the new build.

3. Results

(See Fig. 3: Plan & section & Appendix IV- Context List)

3.1 The side extension, which will be 4m wide by 8m long, replaces an existing extension on the north-western side of Park Place and is located 4m from the frontage onto Church Hill (see Fig. 2). Footing trenches for the extension, which were 500mm wide and 1100mm deep, were mechanically excavated from the side wall of the house and initially revealed little more than 300/400mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil, which contained numerous small later Post medieval brick and tile fragments, over the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposits which proved to be an orange sand with flints. Little evidence could be seen for any foundations to the demolished extension that previously stood on almost the same footprint. However 4.80m from the wall of the house in the western footing trench it was noted that the depth of subsoil was increasing and hand investigation identified the edge of a large feature (0002) that has been interpreted as a pit which was also identified in the eastern footing trench and proved to be 1000mm deep. At the base of this large pit (0002) close to the north-western corner of the footing trenches what at first appeared to be a concrete foundation was revealed at a depth of 1000mm. However hand cleaning of this substantial feature soon identified it as a flint and mortar wall foundation (0004) and through close cooperation from the contractors on site the remainder of the corner of the footing trenches was carefully excavated to the same depth so further hand investigation could continue. This work rapidly revealed the extent of the flint and mortar foundations with one wall (0004) being on a south-west/north-east alignment at a right angle to the footing trench with the second wall foundation (0005) being on a north-west/south-east alignment and therefore being at a right angle to the northern footing trench.

3.2 The two flint and mortar wall foundations are substantial with one (0004) being 380mm wide and the other (0005) 460mm wide (see Fig. 3). In the base of the footing trenches a corner for the earlier structure represented by these foundations was identified with the north-western corner of the new extension lying directly over the south-eastern corner foundations of what must have been a substantial structure with the flint and mortar construction technique suggesting a medieval date (see Fig. 2). It was also apparent that the internal face of both wall foundations (0004 & 0005) was faced with a mortar or plaster suggesting the possible presence of a cellar formed by these walls. However as any greater depth of excavation might have compromised the corner of the new extension only some 100mm of the fill (0006) contained by the foundations was investigated to try and retrieve dateable finds. Consultation was then initiated with the project architect and engineer to discuss how these walls could be preserved in situ and agreement was reached that they could

be covered with 100mm of sand with the concrete in the footing trench above being reinforced with two levels of steel rods. Finally what had been revealed on site and the method planned to achieve preservation in situ was discussed and agreed with the relevant officer within the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service before works continued on site.

3.3 The small rear extension is located at the southern end of the back wall of the house and only entailed the excavation of 6.80m of footing trench (see Fig. 2). The trenches were 500mm wide and 1000mm deep and the exposed deposit profile revealed a substantial build up of Post medieval material with 900mm of a dark brown sandy loam containing numerous small brick or tile fragments of Post medieval date with this deposit lying directly over the locally occurring glaciofluvial orange sand with flints that forms the drift geological background to the site. As the ground naturally drops away at the rear of the house to the east and north while a small, flat, paved area is present immediately adjacent to the back wall it is apparent that the 900mm deep deposit described above was built up to form a level terrace when the rear, 19th century, part of Park Place was constructed. These trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or finds of any significance.

3.4 In addition to the ground works for the two extensions some 20m of 450mm wide and 600mm deep trenches were excavated for planned terrace retaining walls to the north/north-east of the house (see Fig. 2). These trenches in general revealed 300mm of topsoil over 200mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil with small brick and tile fragments with the depth of subsoil increasing to 500/600mm close to the location of the rear extension in the area of the 19th terracing to the rear of the house. As with the footing trenches to the rear extension no archaeological features were revealed in the terrace wall trenches and the only finds in the upcast spoil were occasional small pottery sherds of 18th century or later date and brick and tile fragments of a similar date.

4 The Finds

4.1 While the full finds report by Sue Anderson is attached as Appendix III the following summary can be given in relation to the deposits and features that were recorded. The fill (0003) of the large pit feature (0002) identified in the northern half of the side extension while containing numerous small fragments of Post medieval brick and tile contained very few pottery sherds. However two were recovered, one of late medieval or early Post medieval date while the other one was of a later, 19-20th century date. Various fragments of malting tile were also noted in the pit fill (0003) and examination of a retained sample supports a 19-20th century for this feature. As noted above in section 3.2 the deposit (0006) contained within the probable medieval cellar walls (0004 & 0005) was partially investigated and while no pottery sherds were found two fragments of Post medieval roof tile and one fragment of a worn floor tile which could be of Post medieval or earlier date were recovered.

4.2 While no medieval pottery or other artefacts were recovered from the site the flint and mortar walls (0004 & 0005) are of a type and construction method that gives a clear indication of intense later medieval activity at this site.

5. Conclusion

5.1 As outlined in section 1.2 above Kersey was an extremely prosperous later medieval and early Post medieval village which exhibited various urban type characteristics indicating how the settlement was on the cusp of being classified now as a small town during this period. Therefore it is not as surprising as it may initially appear that this monitoring has recorded the location of a substantial stone built structure. With flint and mortar walls some 0.5m metre thick and clear evidence that what survives is an infilled cellar the house and garden now containing Park Place clearly had an eminent position in later medieval Kersey. Only the wealthiest of independent landowners would have been able to afford masonry structures on this scale so it may be concluded that this plot of land contained a major building belonging to an eminent member of the community in the later medieval period. The clear conclusion also from this monitoring is that the streetscape in the village changed dramatically in the c18th century period with the demolition of a major flint and mortar building leaving only the lower part of the cellar intact at a depth of 1m below modern ground level and the subsequent construction of the oldest part of Park Place.

5.2 Fortunately through close cooperation with the project architect, engineer and contractors preservation in situ was achieved for the medieval walls that were revealed during the ground works.

(The report archive is to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER Ref. KSY 027).

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Matt Kennington of KLH Architects, the site engineer and the site staff from Horizon Construction for their close cooperation, also to Esther Newman for her finds processing work, Sue Anderson of CFA Archaeology for her specialist finds work and to Sue Holden for producing Figs. 2 & 3).

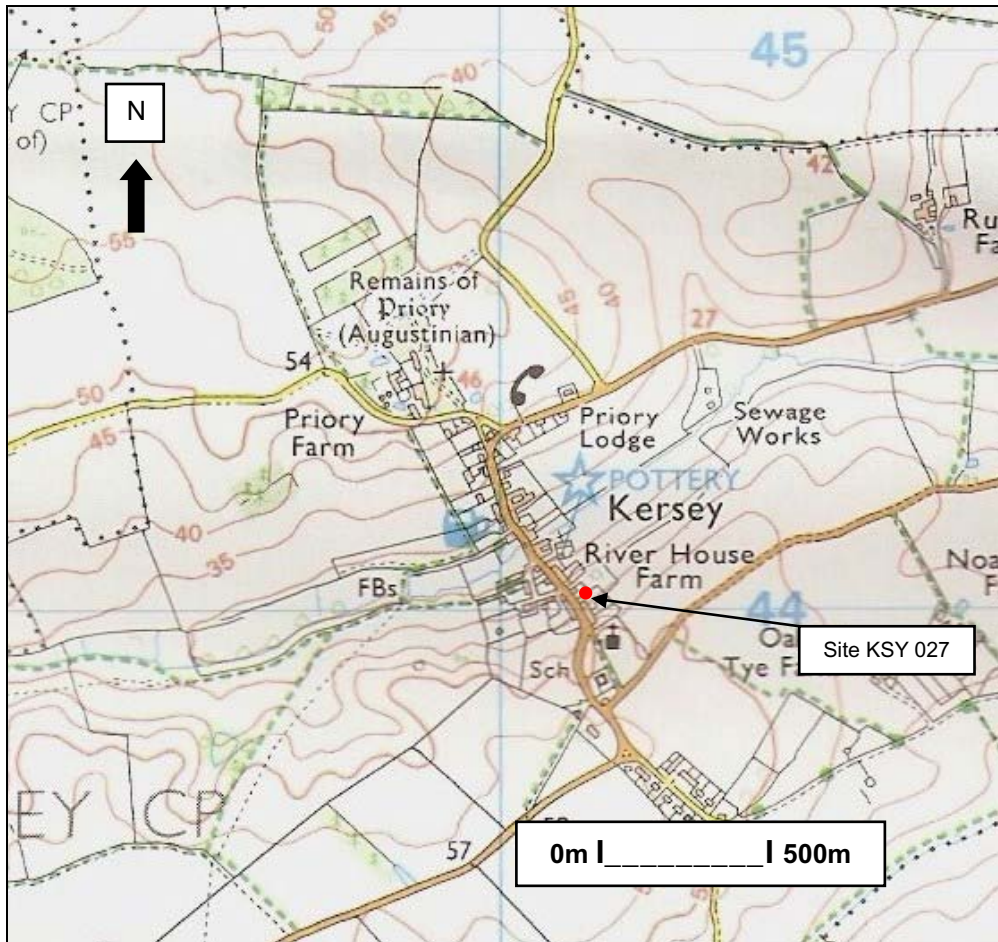


Fig.1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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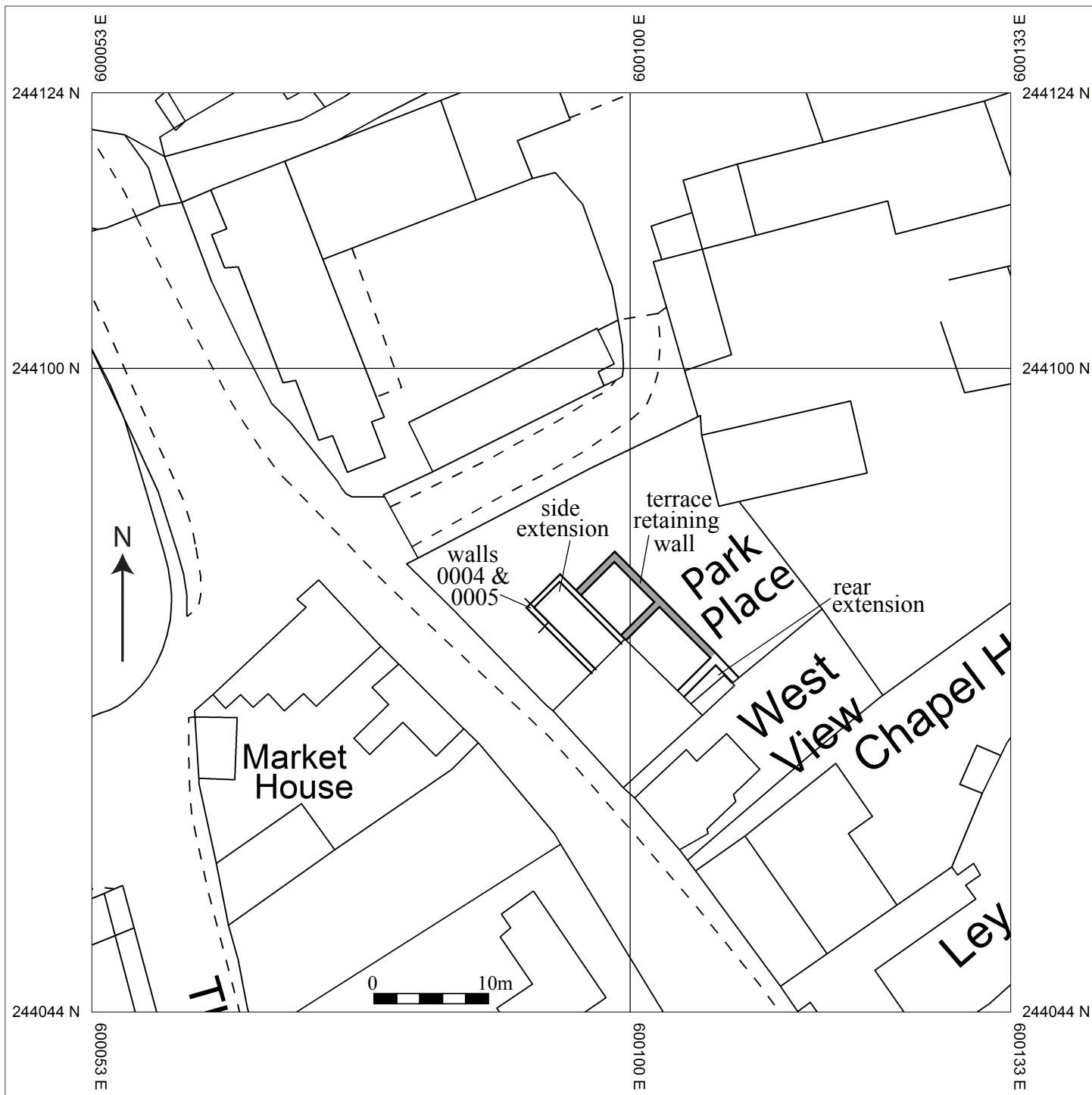


Fig. 2: Monitored foundation trenches for extensions and terrace retaining walls.
 (map extract after Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2010 All rights reserved LN 100049722)

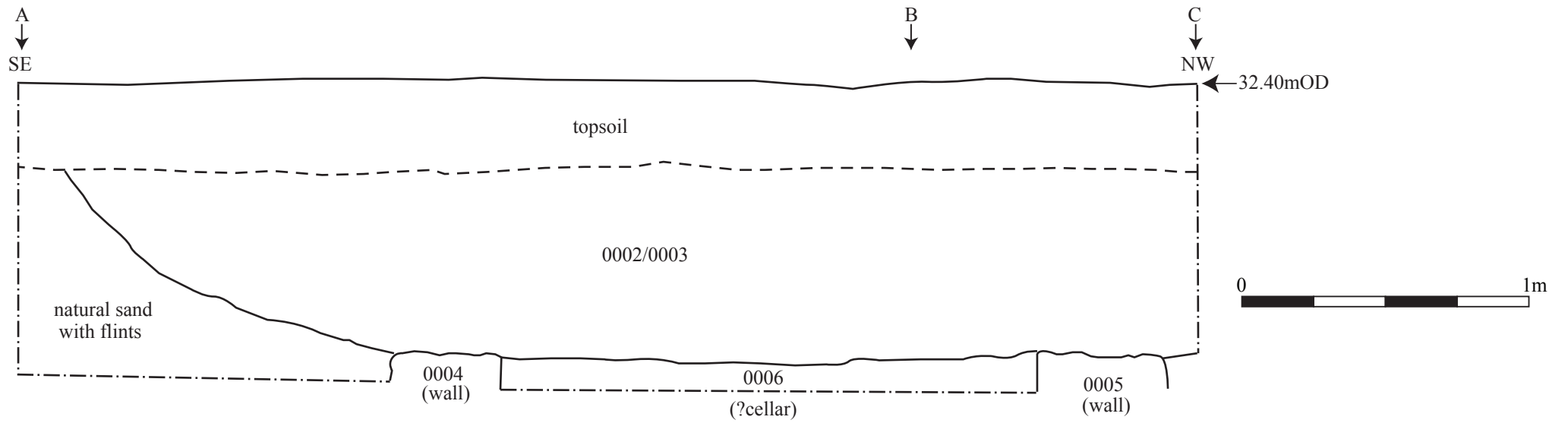
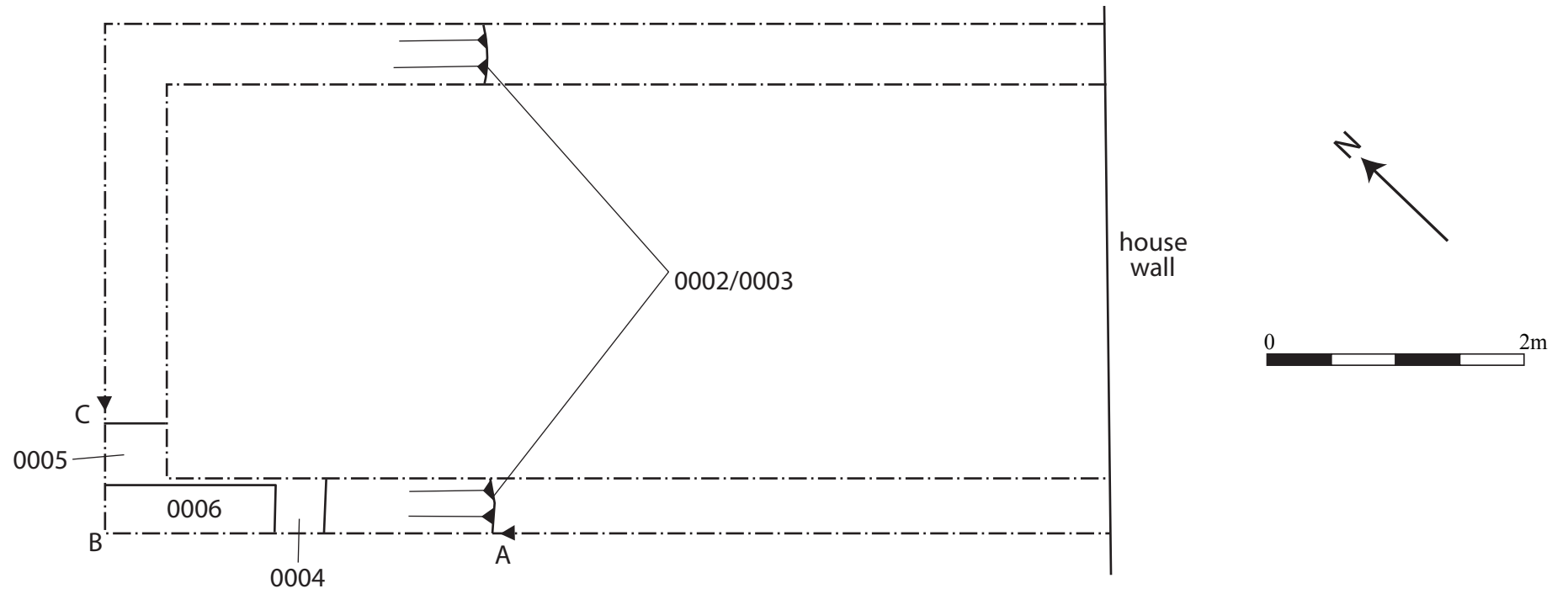


Fig. 3. Plan and section - side extension.

Appendix I- Images



Park Place from north-east



Walls in side extension from south-east



Walls 0004 & 0005 in side extension footing trench from north-west (as left in situ)



Rear extension footing trench from north-east

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

Park Place, Church Hill, Kersey

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for side and rear extensions to Park Place, Church Hill, Kersey has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (B/11/00702/FHA). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for Kersey in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

3. Arrangements for Monitoring

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1RX. Telephone: 01284 741230; Fax: 01284 741257) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must submit a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), based on the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable. The WSI must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

4. Specification

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where archaeological detail is observed, one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean and sections drawn at a minimum scale of 1:50.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be half sectioned and then fully excavated when possible and recorded in section and plan at a minimum scale of 1:50. Trench locations should be recorded on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Reporting Requirements

- 5.1 **Reporting should be commensurate with results.**
If significant archaeological features or finds are found:
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. This should include a plan showing the proposed development with all areas observed during the monitoring clearly marked.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.4 A report, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must also be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.5 A summary report should be provided, in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* (which can be included in the project report)
- 5.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software for integration into the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

When no significant features or finds are found

- 5.9 A short report should be provided including the following information:
 - Grid Ref
 - Parish
 - Address
 - Planning Application number
 - Date(s) of visit(s)
 - Methodology
 - Plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development
(a digital vector plan as in 5.8 above when possible)
 - Depth of ground disturbance in each area
 - Depth of topsoil and its profile over natural at each location of observation
 - Observations as to land use history (truncation etc)
 - Recorder and Organisation
 - Date of report

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Economy, Skills and Environment Department
9-10 The Churchyard
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 1RX

Date: 14th October 2011

Reference: Park Place

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix III- The Finds

Park Place, Church Hill, Kersey (KSY 027): the ceramic finds

Sue Anderson, CFA Archaeology, November 2011.

Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in Table 1.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003	2	29	1	405	19th-20th c.
0006			3	138	PMed
Total	2	29	4	543	

Table 1. Finds quantities.

Pottery

Two sherds of pottery were found in pit fill 0003. One abraded body sherd in a relatively coarse redware with dark grey reduced surface is a fragment of Colchester-type ware of probably late medieval or early post-medieval date. The other fragment is a base sherd of a yellow ware mixing bowl with internal white slip and is of 19th-20th-century date.

Ceramic building material

A corner fragment of a malting tile in a fine white fabric was found in pit fill 0003. It measures 37mm thick and has large air holes (22mm diameter) each with seven piercings at the upper end. The surface shows signs of wear.

Three fragments were recovered from the upper fill of the cellar (0006). One piece is an abraded corner fragment of a worn white-firing floor tile with mortar adhering to the sides and base. It is up to 20mm thick, but the amount of wear is unknown. It is likely to be a post-medieval quarry tile, although there is a possibility that it could be an early tin-glazed floor tile. The other two fragments are pieces of red-firing medium sandy plain roof tiles of probable post-medieval date.

Appendix IV

Context list- KSY 027

F- Finds

Context No	Type	Part of	S	Description	Spot date
0001	U/S	NA		Unstratified finds from spoil	
0002	Large pit	0002		Large pit covering all of northern half of side extension & just under 1m deep	
0003	Fill	0002	F	Fill of pit 0002, mid brown silty sand with numerous small 18/19 th century fragments of brick & tile	19-20 th C
0004	Wall	0004		Flint & mortar wall, 380mm wide, SW-NE alignment in SW corner of side extension, appears to have inside (western) face (with wall 0005) faced with mortar, revealed at base of pit 0002	?med
0005	Wall	0005		Flint & mortar wall, 460mm wide, NW-SE alignment in SW corner of side extension, appears to have inside (southern) face faced with mortar, revealed at base of pit 0002, left in situ with 0004 with which it forms a corner of a probable substantial cellar	?med
0006	Fill	0006		Probable cellar fill contained by walls 0004 & 0005, light grey/brown silty sand with small Pmed brick & tile fragments, left in situ with only upper 50mm disturbed, depth unknown	Pmed