

**Conservatory Extension to 42 High Street,  
Debenham, Suffolk**

**Planning application: 0900/11**

**HER Ref: DBN 135**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(March 2012)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: 42 High Street, Debenham, Suffolk, IP14 6QW

Client: Mr T Boyle & Ms N Steele

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 0900/11

Development: Erection of timber framed conservatory extension

Date of fieldwork: 23 February, 2012

HER Ref: DBN 135

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-120824

LBS Ref: 1032289 (Grade II with No 40)

Conservation area

Grid ref: TM 17402 63181

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*Summary: Debenham, 42 High Street (DBN 135, TM 17402 63181) monitoring of ground works for a small conservatory extension to the rear of the house did not reveal any features of archaeological interest with the few finds in the upcast spoil being of 18<sup>th</sup> century or later date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr T Boyle & Ms N Steele).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr T Boyle and Ms N Steele 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 0900/11. 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 small, timber framed, conservatory extension to the rear of 42 High Street, Debenham (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Debenham is a small market town in central Suffolk to the north of Ipswich that had, in all probability been established by the late Saxon period at least, and flourished through the medieval period with the market being recorded from 1221. The town is focused on the area around the parish church and the main, north-south aligned, historic high street which runs parallel to the upper part of the River Deben which rises just to the north of the town. The site at 42 High Street is located within the area of archaeological interest in Debenham being c50m south west of the parish church and some 20m from the street frontage at c40m OD (see Fig. 2). Number 42 High Street is a Grade II listed building described as 'originally one house (with No 40) now two, of 16<sup>th</sup> century date and timber framed.'

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site as the hand excavation of the footing trenches and removal of the over-site neared completion on a dry, sunny day; the upcast spoil being stockpiled nearby. The excavated footprint area was entered and the base and sides of the footing trenches, which were on the southern, western and northern sides of the extension footprint were examined and trowelled clean where required to improve visibility. The upcast spoil was then examined for stray finds. Finally the location of the extension footprint was recorded in relation to the existing house and adjacent boundary and a small number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 The total footprint for the conservatory extension covers 10.08m<sup>2</sup> (see Fig. 2) in the concrete and tiled back yard area immediately to the rear of the house with an existing manhole located at its centre. In total 7.8m of 200mm wide and 450mm deep footing trench was examined and this revealed 140mm of concrete/tile surface and make-up over 180mm of mid brown clay subsoil containing small Post medieval brick and tile fragments below which the local glaciofluvial Till deposits consisting of a stiff brownish yellow with small flints and chalk fragments. No features were visible within the narrow footing trenches and the lowering of the over-site to a depth of 280mm did not reach the base of the subsoil at the site.

3.2 The pottery sherds seen within the upcast spoil were mainly white and blue types of 19<sup>th</sup>/earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century date with occasional sherds of 18<sup>th</sup> century red earthenwares. Numerous small fragments of Post medieval brick and tile were present in the spoil and one base of an 18<sup>th</sup> century wine bottle had been recovered from the excavations.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 While the site is within the area of archaeological importance in Debenham these ground works did not reveal any deposits or finds of significance with the ground disturbance being minimal with only 7.8m of 200mm wide footing trench and the over-site reduction staying within the subsoil.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the limited nature of the monitored conservatory extension foundation has had a minimal impact on the area of archaeological importance within the town.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Tim Boyle for his close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring)*

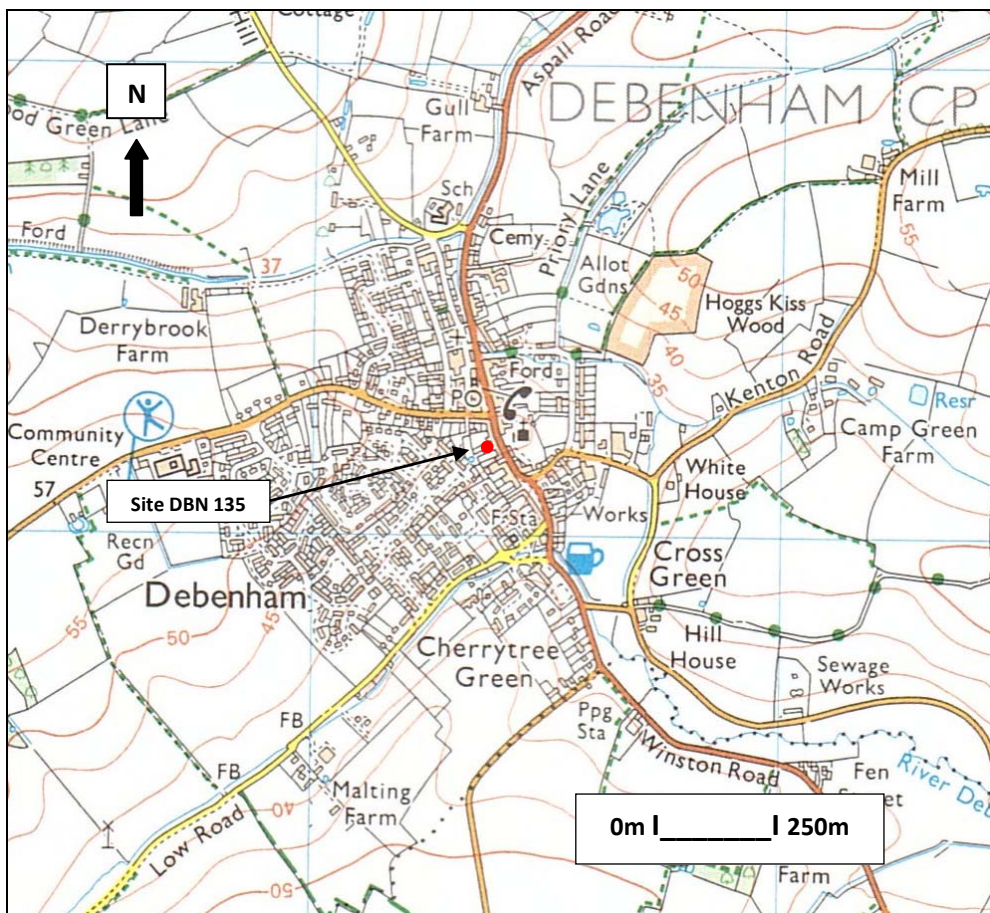


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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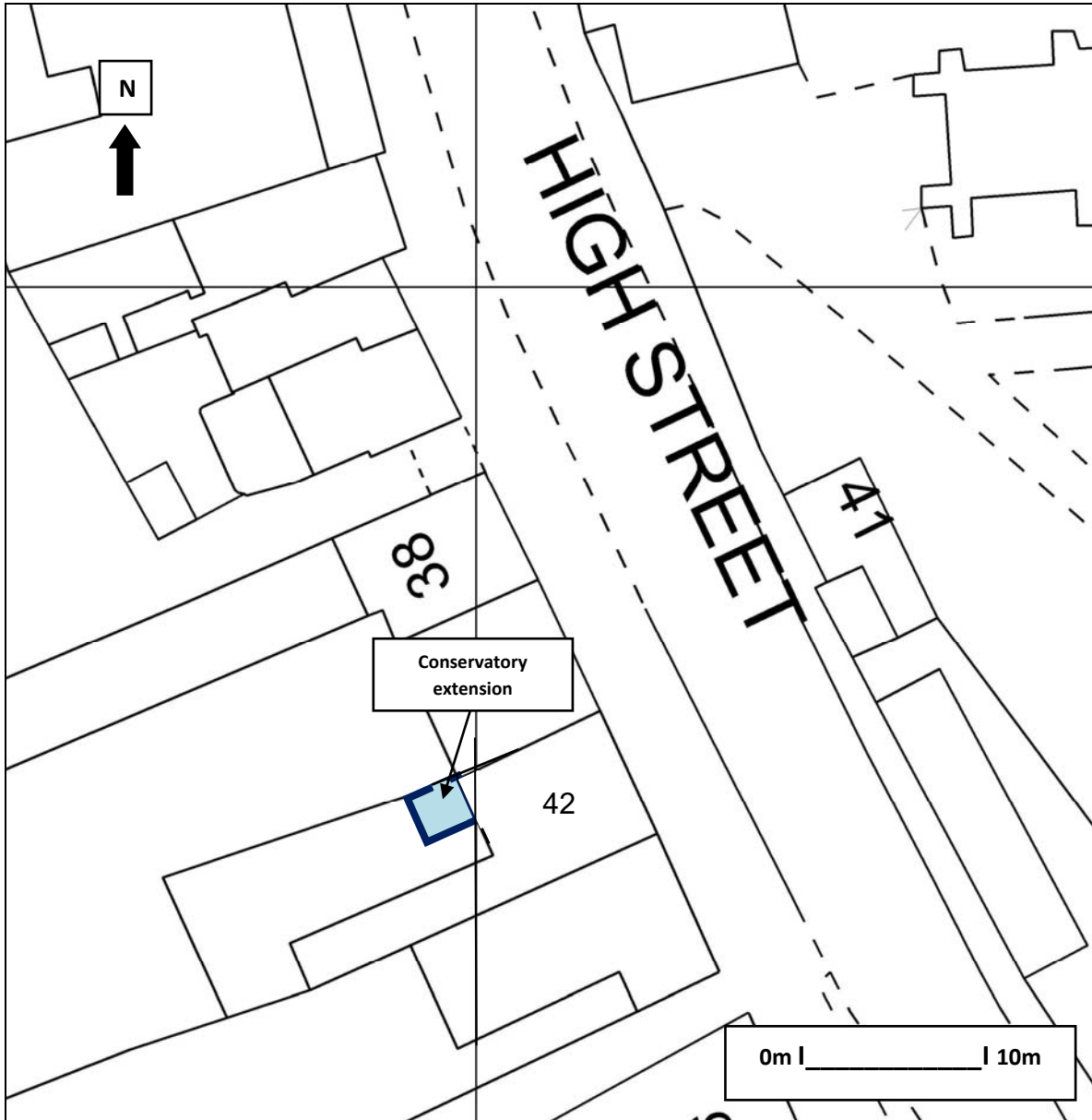


Fig. 2: Monitored footprint area (foundation trenches- dark blue)  
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## Appendix I- Images



General view from south-west



Western trench from south-east



Southern trench from north-west

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

**Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring**

**42 HIGH STREET, DEBENHAM**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission for alterations and the erection of a conservatory at 42 High Street, Debenham has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (0900/11). 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 defined for the medieval town of Debenham in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed for the conservatory, and only minor drainage works, 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 medieval occupation.
- 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 be 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.
- 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011

Reference: 42 High Street

**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.**