

**Erection of Extension & Garden Room at
21 Station Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk**

Planning applications: C/11/1793 & C/11/2829

HER Ref: WBG 085

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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Site details for HER

Name: 21 Station Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AU

Client: J A & K D Properties

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application refs: C/11/1793 (extension) & C/11/2829 (garden room)

Development: Erection of first floor rear extension & ground floor extension & garden room

Date of fieldwork: 14 & 28 February, 2012

HER Ref: WBG 085

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-121855

LBS Ref: 1030992 (Grade II with 19 & 23 Station Road)

Conservation area

Grid ref: TM 2714 4879

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Summary: Woodbridge, 21 Station Road (WBG 085, TM 2714 4879) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension to a listed building of early 18th century date and a detached garden room revealed relatively deep deposits of subsoil but little evidence of pre c1700 activity in this part of the town save three sherds of medieval coarseware pottery (John Newman Archaeological Services for J A & K D Properties).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 J A & K D Properties commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works required under the relevant conditions for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notices for applications C/11/1793 and C/11/2829 at 21 Station Road, Woodbridge. In this case the former application covered the construction of a new rear extension while the latter one covers the erection of a detached timber garden room. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Mr K Wade of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the relevant conditions (Appendix II).

1.2 Woodbridge is a small town, and formerly a small port, near the coast in south east Suffolk located close to the lowest crossing point of the River Deben. Having been granted a market in 1227 and with an uncertain, though undoubtedly significant, status as a centre from at least the Late Saxon period, Woodbridge still fulfils various local administrative and economic roles. The town is located in an area of predominantly light, glacially derived, sands and gravels generally giving rise to well drained soils with 21 Station Road being at c6m OD. Historically Woodbridge has had two main foci; the parish church and market place which are c300m to the north-west of 21 Station Road and the River Deben some 270m to the south (see Fig. 1). With numbers 19 and 23, number 21 forms a small terrace of houses on the northern side of Station Road which are listed as a group with Grade II status and described as 'early 18th century and timber framed' though all are now heavily altered internally. This part of Woodbridge falls within the area of archaeological interest defined for the town.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site, one to inspect the foundations for the garden room followed by a second visit to examine those for the rear extension. As indicated above the garden room is planned to be a light, timber built, structure and its foundations are similarly light being a series of narrow diameter bored holes around its perimeter. These were examined as they were bored using a large mechanical boring machine (see Appendix I) as was the upcast spoil. The rear extension has more substantial foundations with four large stanchion type pits which were examined as they were excavated and in this case it was possible to enter the pits and trowel clean any indistinct areas in the exposed deposit profiles. Again the upcast spoil was examined for archaeological finds. In the case of the garden room visibility of the disturbed deposits was poor due to their narrow diameter; however deposit visibility was good for the rear extension foundation pits on a dry and sunny day. In both cases the respective foundations were plotted in relation to nearby mapped features and a series of digital images were taken to record site monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 As noted in section 2.1 above the 24 bore holes forming the garden room foundations were narrow with a diameter of only 300mm. Therefore any conclusions regarding the deposits in this area of the site are reliant on the examination of the upcast spoil which indicated 300mm of topsoil over some 900mm of an apparently uniform mid brown sandy subsoil. From the base of the boreholes at a depth of

c1200mm traces of a light grey sand were pulled up and this is likely to be from the top of the locally occurring, natural glaciofluvial deposits under the garden room area at the site at the northern end of the garden of No 21 Station Road (see Fig. 2). The only finds seen in the upcast spoil were small fragments of Post medieval brick and tile.

3.2 The new rear extension to the house will replace the previous one and will be founded on four large pads (see Fig. 2). The pad holes were all mechanically excavated to a depth of 1300mm with three being 1400mm by 1400mm while the north-western one was 1300mm along its north-south sides and 1500mm along the east-west sides. All of the pad holes revealed similar, uniform, deposit profiles with an upper 500-600mm of a mid to dark brown sandy subsoil grading to a mid brown silty sand with clean yellow sand at a depth 1100mm being the undisturbed glaciofluvial deposits under the house. At various points across the top of the naturally occurring yellow sand traces of a dark brown iron pan crust was visible in the exposed deposit profiles. While the lower deposit of mid brown silty sand was clean with no evidence for any cultural material that might point to human activity in this area when it was accumulating a few small Post medieval brick and tile fragments were visible towards the top of the mid to dark brown sand above. In addition small fragments of charcoal could also be seen in this upper deposit.

3.3 During the examination of the upcast spoil from the pad holes further small fragments of Post medieval brick and peg tile and occasional clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were noted with the only older finds being three, slightly abraded, sherds of medieval coarseware pottery (weight- 30g). These coarseware sherds all have a sandy fabric with sparse to moderate mica and are examples of the locally produced Hollesley ware tradition of 13th-14th century date.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While the site is within the area of archaeological interest in Woodbridge the results from this monitoring indicate that in the vicinity of this part of Station Road activity at any level of intensity did not start until the early to mid 18th century. While the three sherds of unstratified medieval pottery may point to a low level of activity of this date somewhere nearby these finds may also have originated from closer to the historic core of the town. The general lack of cultural material in the subsoil at this site is more indicative of little more than low level agricultural activities before c1700 with manuring of arable land giving rise to a low level scatter of older material.

5.2 The relatively deep deposit of subsoil that was recorded is of interest as it may indicate some attempt to raise local ground levels in the past in the area of Station Road as being at c6m OD and close to the River Deben flooding would have been a danger until the river banks were raised. The evidence for an iron pan crust above the naturally occurring sands at the site also points to the movement of water through the deposits and the silty sand revealed in the lower part of each foundation pad hole could be seen as being in part a flood deposited layer with the town only being able to expand in this area close to the River Deben once the river banks were artificially heightened.

5.3 In conclusion it is clear that the limited nature of the monitored extension and garden room foundations has had a minimal impact on the area of archaeological importance within the town.

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

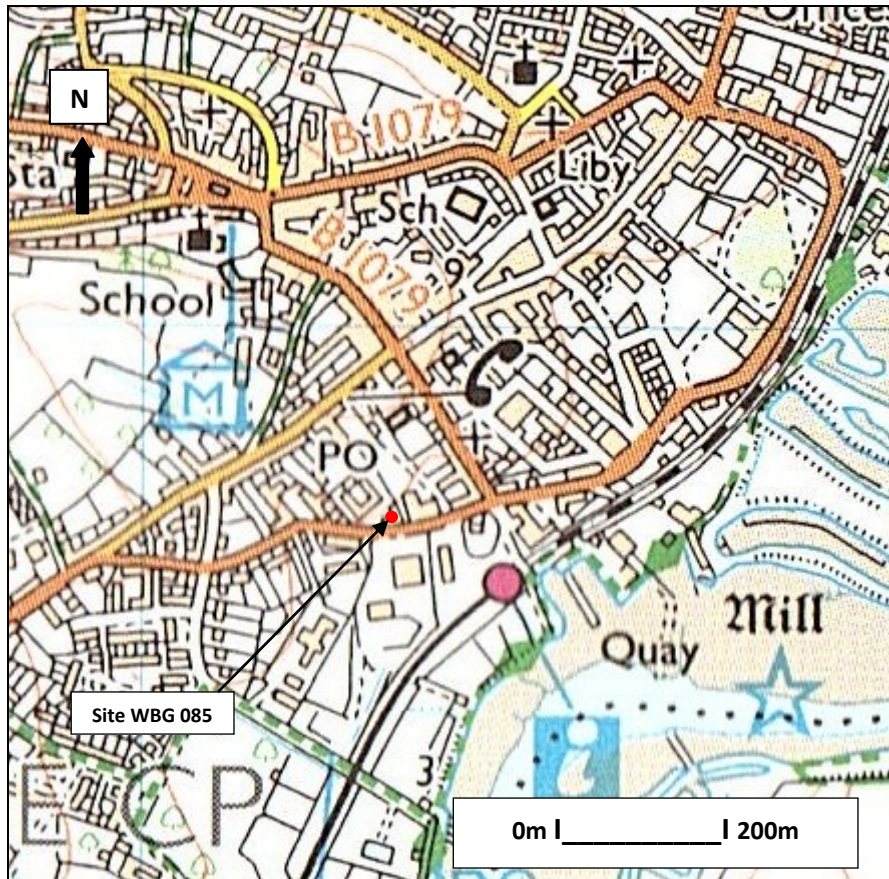


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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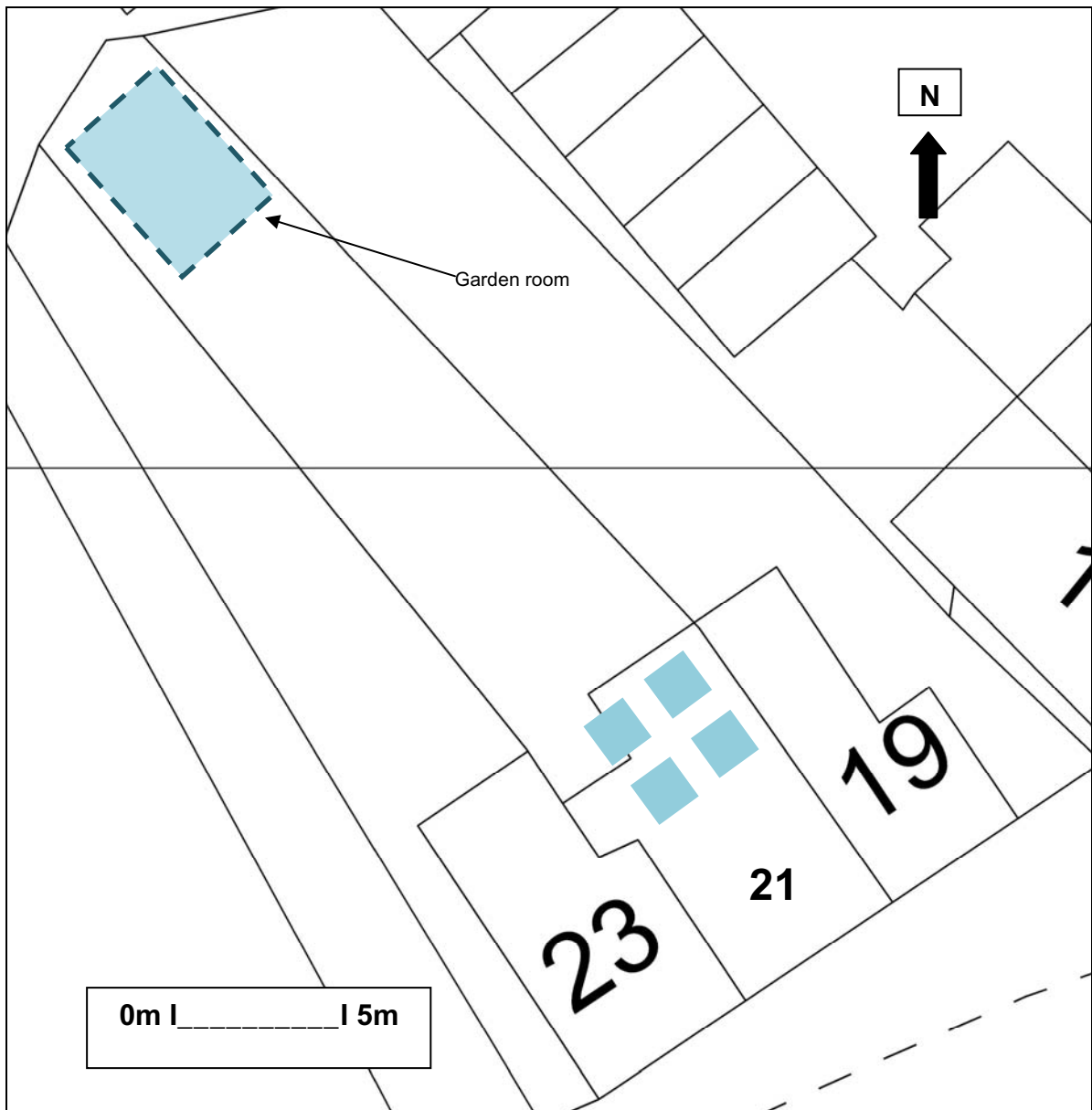


Fig. 2: Ground works monitored (four pad footings in rear of No 21 & narrow bored foundations around perimeter of garden room)

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Appendix I- Images



Pad foundations at the rear of the house from the north-west



North-western pad foundations



South-eastern pad foundation



Boring of foundations for the garden room

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

21 Station Road, Woodbridge

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to rebuild a rear extension at 21 Station Road, Woodbridge has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/11/1793). 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 the medieval town of Woodbridge in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As pad and beam 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 and/or earlier occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of pads and 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: 7th November 2011

Reference: 21 Station Road

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.