

**Extension to Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road,
Blythburgh, Suffolk**

Planning application: C/11/2420

HER Ref: BLB 080

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(May 2012)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: johnnewman2@btinternet.com)

Site details for HER

Name: Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk, IP19 9LL

Client: Mrs M Gundry

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/11/2420

Development: Erection of single storey & one & a half storey extension

Date of fieldwork: 17 April, 2012

HER Ref: BLB 080

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-126093

Conservation area

Grid ref: TM 4513 7527

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Summary: Blythburgh, Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road (BLB 080, TM 4513 7527) monitoring of ground works for a side extension recorded a few finds in the upcast spoil of 18th century or later date from deep deposits of overburden across the site indicative of relatively recent extensive ground disturbance. (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mrs M Gundry).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 John Briggs Builders on behalf of their client, Mrs M Gundry, 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 C/11/2420. 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 extension to Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road, Blythburgh (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Located on the southern side of the River Blyth towards the upper limit of its tidal range some 3.5 miles west of the modern coastline Blythburgh is now a modest sized village well known for its imposing church. Historically however Blythburgh has played a significant role with clear evidence for having been a major Middle to Late Saxon settlement with almost certain minster status. In addition a market is recorded here from at least 1324, and possibly from the mid 11th century Domesday Book period, giving medieval Blythburgh at least partial urban status as a small town and local centre. An Augustinian Priory was also established at Blythburgh in the medieval period in all likelihood recalling the Saxon minster disrupted during the period of the Viking incursions. The medieval monastic house noted above being located in the area to the north-east of the parish church. Cherry Tree Cottage, a brick built house of later 19th/early 20th century date, is located close to the historic core of the settlement being only 40m south-east of the church at c10m OD in an area of generally good drainage on sands and gravels though heavier, clayey, deposits have been revealed nearby at Pear Tree Cottage (pers. comm. John Briggs Builders).

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to monitor the excavation of the footing trenches which was undertaken using a 700mm toothed bucket on the back-arm of a wheeled machine on a wet and overcast day; the upcast spoil being stockpiled nearby before its removal from the site. The excavated footing trenches were entered as the work progressed so the base and sides could be examined and trowelled clean where required to improve visibility. The upcast spoil was also examined for stray finds as the ground works continued. Finally the location of the extension footprint was recorded in relation to the existing house and adjacent boundaries 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 side extension covers c50m² (see Fig. 2) in the garden on the southern side of Cherry Tree Cottage. In total 34m of 700mm wide and 1300mm deep footing trench was examined and this revealed 400mm of topsoil over 700mm over the eastern half and in excess of 900mm of a uniform, mid brown silty sand subsoil with occasional flints on the western half of the footprint. Where the local, naturally occurring glaciofluvial deposits at the site were revealed at a depth of 1100mm in the trenches on the eastern half of the extension area it proved to be a yellow silty sand with small and medium sized flints and scattered pockets of pale yellow clay.

3.2 The subsoil deposit contained occasional small fragments of Post medieval brick and peg tile and two sherds (30g) of brown glazed red earthenware of 18th century date.

5. Conclusion

5.1 While Cherry Tree Cottage is located close to the parish church and is therefore within the area of archaeological importance for Saxon and medieval Blythburgh the trench foundations for this extension revealed extensive evidence for later Post medieval ground disturbance. The extent of this ground disturbance with occasional finds of 18th century date across the entire extension footprint suggests use of this area for quarrying activities in the 18th to earlier 19th century period which would have removed any evidence for earlier settlement related archaeological deposits.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that this extension development has not impinged on any deposits of archaeological significance.

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

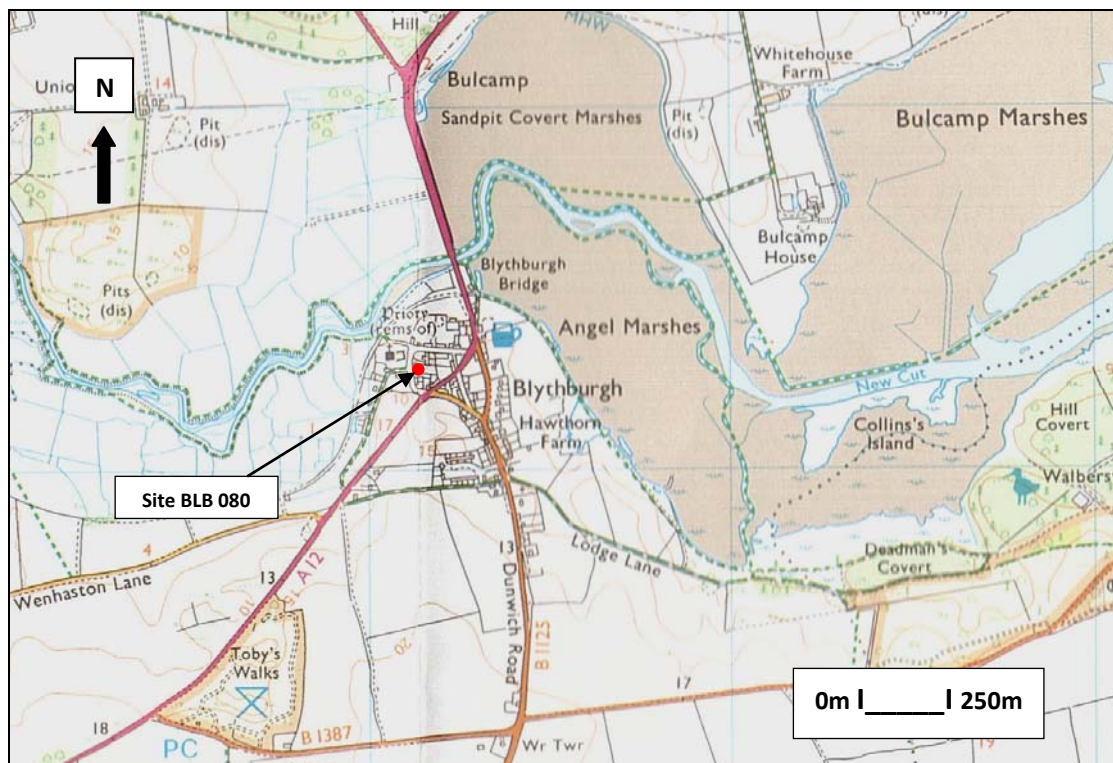


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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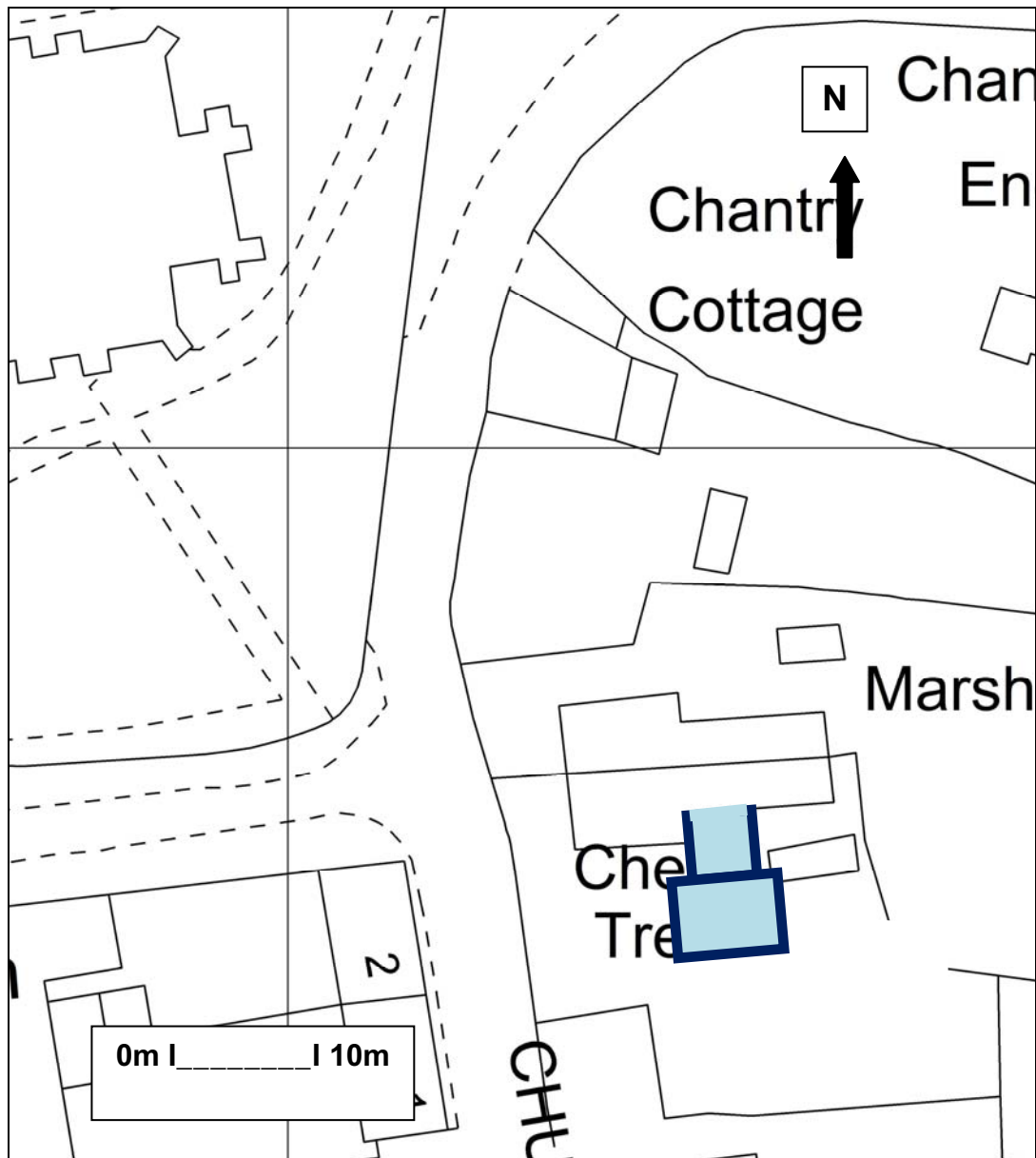


Fig. 2: Monitored footprint area (trenches in darker blue)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from south-east



Eastern footing trench from south



Western footing trench from north

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

CHERRY TREE COTTAGE, CHURCH ROAD, BLYTHBURGH

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission for an extension to Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road, Blythburgh has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/11/2420). 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 the Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement defined for Blythburgh in the County Historic Environment Record (BLB025) 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 Anglo-Saxon and 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 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 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. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.6 A digital photographic record should be made of significant features.
- 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: 29th November 2011

Reference: Cherry Tree, Blythburgh

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.

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-126093

Project details

Project name	Extension to Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Blythburgh, Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road (BLB 080, TM 4513 7527) monitoring of ground works for a side extension recorded a few finds in the upcast spoil of 18th century or later date from deep deposits of overburden across the site indicative of relatively recent extensive ground disturbance.
Project dates	Start: 17-04-2012 End: 17-04-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BLB 080 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Site status	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL BLYTHBURGH Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road
Postcode	IP19 9LL
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4513 7527 52.3200947625 1.597363065030 52 19 12 N 001 35 50 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.00m Max: 10.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	John Newman Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	John Newman
Project director/manager	John Newman
Project supervisor	John Newman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Extension to Cherry Tree Cottage, Church Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
Description	Loose bound client report
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	16 May 2012

OASIS:

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