

**Seckford House, 15 Market Hill,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/12/0473**

**HER Ref: WBG 087**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(November 2012)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Seckford House, 15 Market Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4LP

Client: Mr P Crawford-Rolt & Dr C Harrington

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/0473

Development: Erection of new front wall to street (& extension of garage to rear to form garden room)

Date of fieldwork: 27 & 29 November, 2012

HER Ref: WBG 087

LBS 1377040 Grade II

OASIS: johnnewm1-138505

Grid ref: TM 27030 49124

Conservation area

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*Summary: Woodbridge, Seckford House, 15 Market Hill (SUY 113, TM 27030 49124) monitoring of shallow foundation trenches for a new front wall to the street revealed only the foundations to a previous front wall of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and deposits of recent date which had been lain to back-fill areas of removed foundation (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr P Crawford-Rolt & Dr C Harrington).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr P Crawford-Rolt & Dr C Harrington 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/12/0473. 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. This development concerns the erection a new front wall at Seckford House, 15 Market Hill, Woodbridge (see Fig. 1) with the present garage on the eastern side of the house to be refurbished and a conservatory/garden room to be erected to the rear of the property at a later date.

1.2 Woodbridge is a small town close to the coast in south east Suffolk located close to the lowest crossing point of the River Deben. 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.

1.3 The historic core of Woodbridge around the parish church and Market Hill is located topographically on a spur of ground at c25m OD with the land dropping away to the east towards the River Deben and to small re-entrants to the north and south. Seckford House is located in the south-western corner of Market Hill at the start of Seckford Street with the parish church of St Mary's immediately behind the back garden. Market Hill is surrounded by listed buildings with Seckford House forming part of this group and described as 'early 19<sup>th</sup> century to earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century structure....built of Suffolk yellow brick.' Facing Seckford House the nearby Kings Head Inn is an earlier structure of late 15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2. Two visits were made to the site though open trench was only seen on the second occasion. The foundation trenches were entered to allow for closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles though hand cleaning was not required due to the nature of the deposits exposed and the upcast spoil was examined in a skip on site. The foundations were recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a small number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 In total 5.40m of 600mm wide foundation trench were examined in two lengths with a central gap for the new gate (see Fig. 2).

3.2 The western portion of the trench was 3.60m long and varied in depth between a maximum of 350mm and a minimum of 150mm, the latter part of this trench being so shallow because the foundation of the earlier, 19<sup>th</sup> century, red brick wall was exposed and will be re-used. The remainder of this western part of the foundations revealed 200mm of recent hoggin type back-fill below the 150mm thick concrete yard surface.

3.3 The 1.80m length of the eastern part of the foundation trench again varied in depth between a minimum of 150mm over the foundation of the previous wall and a maximum of 500mm into a similar hoggin type back-fill as seen in the western trench below the 150mm thick concrete yard surface.

3.4 As the shallow foundation trenches revealed only deposits of recent date the upcast spoil comprised only later 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> material.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site is within the area of archaeological interest in Woodbridge where evidence for later Saxon medieval activity might be anticipated the very limited extent of the foundation trenches for this new front wall did not reveal any features or finds of any significance. At what depth deposits of archaeological significance might be exposed in this part of the town remains unclear.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the limited nature of the monitored footings has had a minimal impact on the area of archaeological importance within the town.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Peter Crawford-Rolt for his close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)*

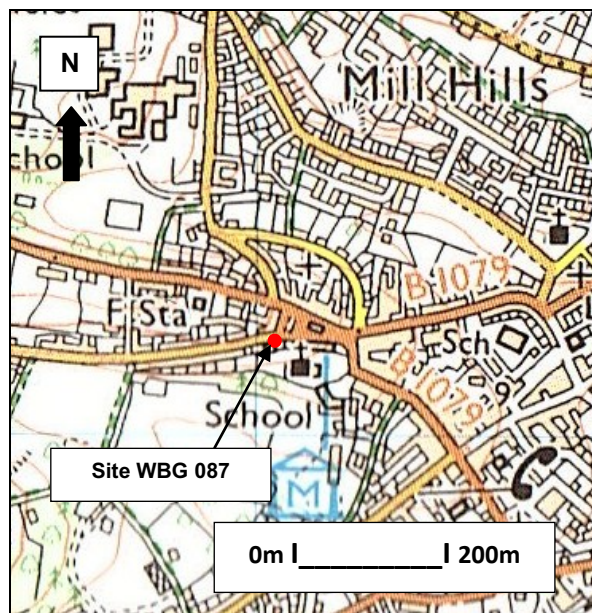


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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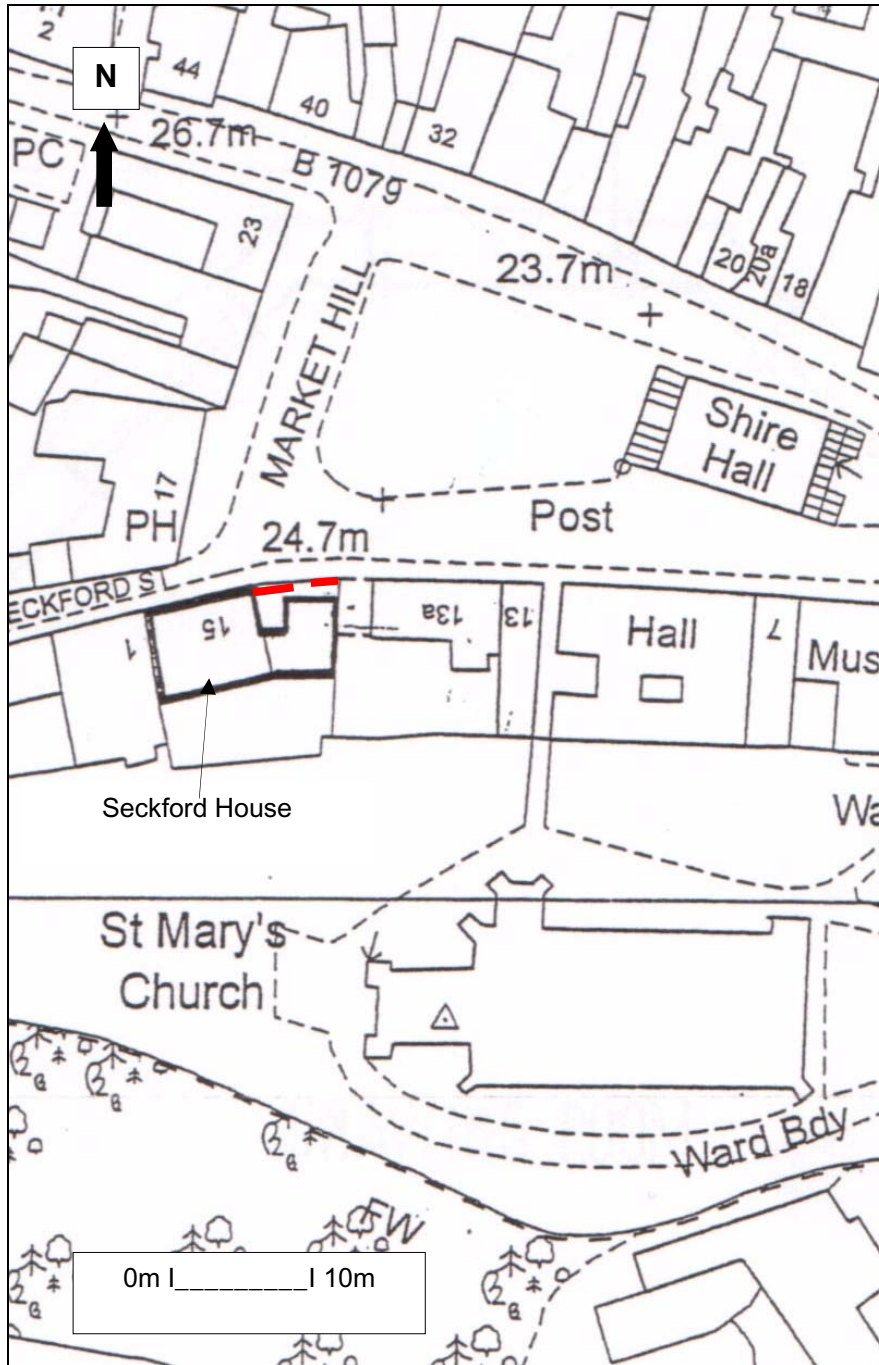


Fig. 2: Monitored foundation trenches (red)  
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## Appendix I- Images



Eastern trench from west (fully exc.)



Western trench from east (fully exc.)

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-138505**

### Project details

Project name	Seckford House, Market Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Woodbridge, Seckford House, 15 Market Hill (SUY 113, TM 27030 49124) monitoring of shallow foundation trenches for a new front wall to the street revealed only the foundations to a previous front wall of 19th century date and deposits of recent date which had been lain to back-fill areas of removed foundation.
Project dates	Start: 27-11-2012 End: 29-11-2012
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	WBG 087 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	1377040 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 6 - Land boundary
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WOODBRIDGE Seckford House, Market Hill
Postcode	IP12 4LP
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 27030 49124 52 1 52 05 35 N 001 18 52 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 23.00m Max: 24.00m

**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	Seckford House, Market Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
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