

**Erection of Extension to 44 Chapel Street,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/11/2707/FUL**

**HER Ref: WBG 089**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(January 2013)

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

## **Site details for HER**

Name: No 44 Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4NF

Client: Mr J Morton & Ms C Gould

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/11/2707/FUL

Development: Erection of rear extension (previously planned changes to ground levels now dropped from works)

Date of fieldwork: 17 & 19 December, 2012

Conservation area

HER Ref: WBG 089

OASIS: johnnewm1-141205

Grid ref: TM 2700 4928

## **Contents**

### Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring methodology
3. Results
4. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Monitored extension footprint

### List of appendices

Appendix I - Images of site

Appendix II- Written scheme for monitoring

Appendix IV- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Woodbridge, No 44 Chapel Street (WBG 089, TM 2700 4928) the curving line of Chapel Street to the north of the historic core of the town has been suggested as a road line respecting a defence line of a probable bank and associated ditch which made use of the local contours that drop away to the north; this suggestion having been partially supported by previous site observation along the northern side of the street. Monitoring of ground beam trenches for a rear extension to No 44 recorded further evidence supporting this interpretation of the street plan as the top of a peat rich deposit of unknown depth and extent was revealed at the maximum extent of the excavation at 1100mm below modern ground level. As the rear extension is located on the presumed line of a town ditch of medieval, or possibly earlier, date to the north of the street it can be inferred that this wet deposit constitutes the upper fill of this ditch (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr J Morton & Ms C Gould).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mullins Dowse Architects on behalf of their clients, Mr J Morton & Ms C Gould, 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/11/2707/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition and in response JNAS produced the relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (see Appendix II) in order that conditional discharge could be gained from the LPA and ground works commence on site. This development concerns the erection a rear extension to No 44 Chapel Street, Woodbridge (see Fig. 1) with other works relating to ground level changes to the side of the house also permitted under this application now dropped from the overall scheme.

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 with this site being at 16.90m OD to the front of the house on the northern side of Chapel Street with the ground dropping sharply to the north into a small valley and the rear of the property being at 14.30m OD.

1.3 Historically Woodbridge has had two main foci, the parish church and adjacent Market Hill which are c100m to the south of this site, and the River Deben some 600m to the south-east. The street plan in the area north of Market Hill is also of potential interest in relation to the historic development of Woodbridge as the curving line of Chapel Street initially from its eastern end to the north-west and then west to meet Angel Lane may mark an early defensive line of a bank and ditch along its northern side taking advantage of the local topography which, as noted above, drops away to the north. The overall drop from the street level at 16.90m OD over the c40m to the northern garden boundary of No 44 being close to 4m.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its location on the line of a probable town bank and ditch (see Fig. 2) with previous site observations immediately adjacent to the east at No 42 (HER WBG 054) suggesting the presence of a ditch as augured boreholes here revealed water lain deposits and peat which deepened to the north.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe the excavation of the ground beam trenches for the extension, four piles having been driven into place at an earlier date with minimal ground disturbance, as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 500mm wide toothed bucket on a bright, sunny days with site visibility good at all times. The excavated area was entered at various times to allow for closer inspection of the exposed soil profiles and hand cleaning of indistinct areas. Upcast spoil was stockpiled nearby allowing for a close inspection for stray finds. 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 The exposed deposit to the base of the ground beam trenches at 1100mm was a uniform mid brown silty sand with the greater part of the footprint area being excavated leaving only a small island in the centre. At the base of the trenches a very dark brown to black peaty sand (see Appendix I) containing a high proportion of silt and small fragments of preserved organic matter was exposed but was not disturbed.

3.2 As the ground works progressed the trenches and the upcast spoil were examined for archaeological finds but all that was seen in the disturbed subsoil were small fragments of later Post medieval brick and tile.

### 4. Conclusion

4.1 The results from this small scale monitoring were consistent with previous observation along the northern side of Chapel Street with the peaty sand seen at the base of the ground beam trenches giving further evidence for a large, clearly waterlogged, feature running on an approximate north-west to south-east line some 10m north and down slope from the road edge. While there is still no conclusive evidence that this deep feature was excavated by hand to create a defence for the early town being part of the way down the slope, rather than at the base, a natural origin appears to be unlikely for this feature.

4.2 In conclusion this small scale monitoring has recorded further valuable detail regarding the possible early defences on the northern side of Woodbridge and it would be worthwhile continuing to archaeological investigations in the area as developments proposals allow.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone on site for their close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)*



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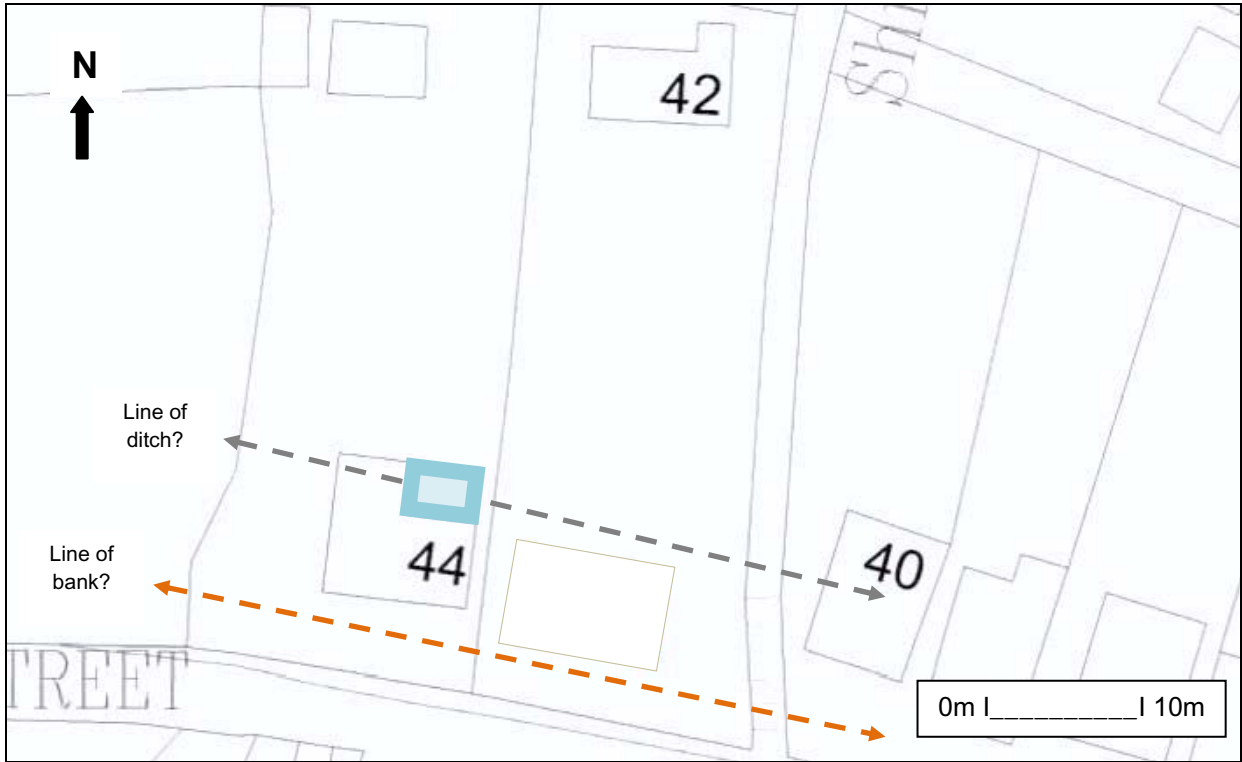


Fig. 2: Monitored extension footprint (ground beam trenches- darker blue)  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2004 All Rights Reserved Licence No 100049722)



## Appendix I- Images



Site from rear looking south (figure in yellow jacket to right standing close to street level beyond)



Excavation of ground beam trenches from west- showing top of peaty deposit at base



Fully excavated ground beam trenches from north



**Erection of Extension at 44 Chapel Street,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/11/2707/FUL**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

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

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

## **Site details**

Name: 44 Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4NF

Client: Mr J Morton & Ms C Gould

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/11/2707/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of extension & associated changes to ground levels

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012\_02\_24\_Monitoring\_44 Chapel St

Grid ref: TM 270 492

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
4. Aims of the Site Monitoring
5. Methodology
6. Risk Assessment
7. Specialists

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Mullins Dowse Architects on behalf of their clients, Mr J Morton & Ms C Gould, have 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/11/2707/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the erection of a rear extension and associated ground level changes at 44 Chapel Street, Woodbridge. The relevant specification calls for the continuous monitoring of the relevant ground works.

1.2 The monitoring will be carried out to the standards set regionally in the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (EAA Occ. Papers 14, 2003)* and nationally in *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001)*.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 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 and important 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 the proposed development site (PDS) being at c17m OD on the northern side of Chapel Street with the ground dropping sharply to the north into a small valley.

2.2 Historically Woodbridge has had two main foci, the parish church and market place which are c100m to the south of the PDS, and the River Deben some 600m to the south-east. The street plan in the area north of the market place is also of potential interest in relation to the historic development of Woodbridge as the curving line of Chapel Street initially from its eastern end to the north-west and then west to meet Angel Lane may mark an early defensive line of a bank and ditch taking advantage of the local topography and as outlined in more detail in section 3.1 below.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

### 3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief and Specification:

'Number 44 Chapel Street lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for Woodbridge in the County Historic Environment Record (WBG 070). The curving bank that the house is built into is a probable ancient earthwork or early defensive system to Woodbridge, as yet poorly characterised. Evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of 42 Chapel Street - core deposits of the bank were not reached in the trenches, but augered boreholes showed layers of water washed silts/sands and peats which grew deeper to the north, possibly indicating the presence of a large ditch (WBG 054, SCCAS report 2004/155). The proposed extension to 44 lies further to the north than these trenches: the extension has the potential to impact upon deposits associated with this latter feature. Other aspects of landscaping/ground lowering associated with the project will involve cutting into bank material, slightly further towards its core than evaluation at #42. Monitoring is intended to record any archaeological deposits/finds related to these features that are damaged or disturbed by the works. The extension is likely to be piled, so the main focus of monitoring is the cutting down of ground surfaces.'

## 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential to reveal evidence relating to the bank and ditch feature partially investigated at No 42 and continuous monitoring of ground works can best record what may be revealed. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the area as ground levels are lowered. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to the character of the bank and particularly the related ditch directly to the north in terms of:

- The type of fill
- The sequence of deposits as they reflect the building of the bank and filling of the ditch and its relation to the natural topography
- The potential to reveal dateable finds
- The potential of deposits to contain material of palaeoenvironmental potential

## 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be initially general ground lowering for the extension area and related works and piled foundations. The ground lowering works will be monitored as they progress and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds, monitoring will cease in any area where definite undisturbed ground is reached. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean areas as necessary and investigate and record any possible archaeological deposits.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by Suffolk CC. All contexts will be numbered and finds recorded by context. Conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring. Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and related to the proposed development, and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within any constraints imposed by health and safety considerations. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined – (the potential of this part of the town to contain burials is assessed as being very low).

5.4 All finds will be collected and processed unless any variation is agreed with the relevant SCC Archaeological Officer. Finds will be assessed by recognised period specialists and their interpretation will form an integral part of the overall report. Finds will be stored according to ICON guidelines with specialist advice/treatment sought for fragile ones. Every effort will be made to gain the deposit of the site finds to the SCC Archaeological Store under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the SCC Archaeological Officer will be consulted over any requirements for



additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.5 An archive of all records and finds will be prepared consistent with the principles in *Management of Archaeological projects* (MAP2) and particularly Appendix 3 and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER number. As necessary the site digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within the agreed allowance for the monitoring and reporting works.

5.6 The monitoring report will be consistent with the principles of MAP2 (particularly Appendix 4) and this report will summarise the methodology employed and relate the archaeological record directly to the level of visibility allowed by the operation of plant given the nature of the underlying natural deposits. The report will be of the relevant detail and depth to reflect the level of archaeological information gained from this monitoring and at a minimum level will meet the requirements set in the relevant Brief if results are largely negative. The report will also give an objective account of the deposits and stratigraphy recorded and finds recovered with an inventory of the latter. Any interpretation of the monitoring results will be clearly separated from the objective account of the monitoring and its results. The report will give a clear statement regarding the results of the site monitoring in relation to both the more detailed aims in section 2 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24, 1997, 2000 & 2011). An unbound draft copy of the report will be presented to the Archaeological Service at Suffolk CC within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER with a full archive on cd, a pdf copy will also be sent to the agent/client for submission to the relevant LPA. As required the site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. An HER summary sheet will be completed and a summary prepared of any positive results for inclusion in the annual PSIAH round-up. The area examined will also be submitted to the HER as a vector type dxf file for inclusion in the County Record Mapinfo base.

## 6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

6.2 Vehicles will be safely parked away from work areas and lines of access.

6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and ground test reports examined. Gloves and hand wash/wipes be available and any information on possible ground contamination will be passed to finds and environmental specialists. The potential for services in the area will be discussed with the client and their contractor.

6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 Close liaison will be maintained with the contractor on site with regard to the depth and stability of the footing trenches and any potential health and safety considerations.

6.6 JNAS holds full insurance cover for archaeological site works from the specialist provider Towergate Risk Solutions covering Public & Products Liability, details can be supplied on request.

### 7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Roman pottery & CBM	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-141205**

### Project details

Project name	No 44 Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Woodbridge, No 44 Chapel Street (WBG 089, TM 2700 4928) the curving line of Chapel Street to the north of the historic core of the town has been suggested as a road line respecting a defence line of a probable bank and associated ditch which made use of the local contours that drop away to the north; this suggestion having been partially supported by previous site observation along the northern side of the street. Monitoring of ground beam trenches for a rear extension to No 44 recorded further evidence supporting this interpretation of the street plan as the top of a peat rich deposit of unknown depth and extent was revealed at the maximum extent of the excavation at 1100mm below modern ground level. As the rear extension is located on the presumed line of a town ditch of medieval, or possibly earlier, date to the north of the street it can be inferred that this wet deposit constitutes the upper fill of this ditch.
Project dates	Start: 17-12-2012 End: 19-12-2012
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WBG 089 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	TOWN DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WOODBRIDGE 44 CHAPEL STREET
Postcode	IP14 4NF
Study area	16.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 2700 4928 52 1 52 05 40 N 001 18 51 E Point  
 Height OD / Min: 14.00m Max: 16.00m  
 Depth

### 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 No 44 Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J  
 Date 2013  
 Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services  
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