

**Erection of Extension to 2-3 Westgate Street,
Long Melford, Suffolk**

Planning application: B/12/00833/FHA

HER Ref: LMD 219

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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(March 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: Nos 2-3 Westgate Street, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9DS

Client: Mr C Nixon & Ms J Estall

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/12/00833/FHA

Development: erection of rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 13 February, 2013

Conservation area

HER Ref: LMD 219

LB Ref: 278342 (Grade II, 17th century)

OASIS: johnnewm1-144119

Grid ref: TL 86381 46540

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Summary: Long Melford, Nos 2-3 Westgate Street (LMD 219, TL 86381 46540) Monitoring of trenching works for a rear extension to a Grade II listed 17th century timber framed house revealed a brick built well and a substantial, and also the brick built, wall foundation to a large, cellared, outbuilding range running perpendicular to the street frontage with both of these structures being of 19th century date. No evidence was recorded for pre-c1800 activity within the foundation trenches. There is evidence that a maltings existed at this site in the 19th/20th century period which is likely to be the large outbuilding to the rear in addition to a wheelwrights on the street frontage (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr C Nixon & Ms J Estall).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Nick Peasland Architectural Services on behalf of his clients, Mr C Nixon & Ms J Estall, 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 B/12/00833/FHA. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr J Tipper of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service and JNAS prepared a written scheme of investigation (see Appendix II) to gain conditional discharge for ground works to commence. This development concerns the erection of a rear one and two storey extension to Nos 2-3 Westgate Street, Long Melford (see Fig. 1).

1.2 In addition to being one of the well known 'wool' towns in the southern part Suffolk which prospered in the later medieval period as local centres and markets, as evidenced by the large number of listed buildings and large church, Long Melford was also a substantial local centre in the Roman period with extensive evidence of this date having been recorded in the southern part of the settlement. The parish church is located within the smaller, northern part of the settlement c250m north-east of Nos 2-3 Westgate Street, the latter being located approximately mid-way along the street frontage (see Fig. 1) amongst houses dating from various periods on a historic route way that links Long Melford to the village of Cavendish and small market town of Clare to the west. The property in question at Nos 2-3 Westgate Street is a grade II listed building described as being 'of 17th century date, timber framed and with various alterations' which was extensively renovated in the 1980s (pers. comm. C Nixon). The house is located at c40m OD in an area of generally well drained soils lying over glaciofluvial sands and gravels with the ground dropping gently to the south over a distance of some 500m towards the small, east-west flowing, stream which divides the northern and southern parts of Long Melford.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the excavation of the extension foundation trenches to the rear of the house as this work progressed using a 700mm wide toothed bucket on a 360 mini-digger on a cold but generally dry day with good site visibility at all times. Any indistinct areas within the trenches were investigated by hand as the work progressed, with only the area of a brick built well being too deep to enter, and the upcast spoil was examined as it was stockpiled temporarily nearby before later removal from the site. Finally the trenches and exposed features were plotted in relation to nearby mapped features and a number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

3. Results

3.1 In total 24m of 700mm wide and generally 1000mm deep foundation trench were monitored along the eastern, southern and western sides of the extension footprint to the rear of the east-west aligned main axis to Nos 2-3 Westgate Street (see Fig. 2). A patio surface had previously been removed from the area so there was no topsoil present and the exposed deposit profile was made up of 150mm of mixed patio make-up over 250/300mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil. Removal of the subsoil revealed the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposits which proved to be a pale to mid brown silty sand with flints and occasional small pockets of a pale brown, stone-free, clay.

3.2 The foundation trenches in the eastern half of the extension footprint did not reveal any evidence for previous activity at the site with the standing house clearly having been constructed on shallow footings. However at approximately the mid-point along the southern side of the extension footprint, and at the point where the one and two storey components to the new build meet, a large, circular, red brick built structure was exposed (see Fig. 1 & Appendix I). This structure can easily be interpreted as a well which was c1600mm in diameter and some 3m deep and with a domed upper part indicating the original presence of a pump to raise the water. The well was constructed of soft red bricks with their dimensions of 9.25in. x 4.25in. x 2.75in. and fabric indicating a mid to late 19th century construction date and with finds in the machine excavated fill of the structure pointing to an early to mid 20th century date for the well going out of use.

3.3 Excavation of the foundation trenches over the western half of the extension footprint revealed further evidence for 19th century activity at the site as the walls to a substantial cellar were exposed dog-legging across and around the trenches (see Fig. 2). As with the well these walls were also of common red brick construction, and of a similar brick size, and were 400mm wide with the base of the cellar being at a depth of just under 1000mm suggesting a raised ground floor for the now demolished building above. Again the machine excavated fill from within the cellared area pointed to it going out of use and being filled-in during the early to mid 20th century period, presumably when the structure above was demolished.

3.4 Apart from the earlier 20th century debris seen in the fill of the well and cellar very few finds were noted during the monitoring with the upcast spoil from the undisturbed, eastern, half of the footprint containing occasional small fragments of later Post medieval peg tile and two small sherds (8g) of 18th/19th century brown glazed red earthenware.

4. Conclusion

4.1 To help interpret the structures recoded during this monitoring historic maps for the area around Nos 2-3 Westgate Street were examined and the 1st, 2nd and 3rd editions of the large scale 25 inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map for the area confirm the former presence of a large outbuilding on a north-south axis behind the western half of the house at least between the dates of 1884/6 and 1926. The relevant extract of the 2nd edition OS map is reproduced below as Fig. 3 because it also confirms the presence of a pump behind the house in 1904 and the outline of the outbuilding is in addition shown on Fig. 2 to further aid interpretation. Considering the brick size and type noted above in section 3 it seems unlikely that the well and cellared outbuilding are earlier than the mid 19th century and the debris in the respective excavated fills points to them going out of use in perhaps the mid 20th century. Local evidence points to the large outbuilding to the rear being a maltings; in addition a wheelwrights was located on the street frontage (pers. comm. John Nunn).

4.2 Apart from the well and cellar described above no other archaeological features were revealed during the ground works with the earliest evidence, albeit only consisting of two pottery sherds, of any activity that was recorded at the site being of post 1700 date. Therefore in conclusion it can be confirmed that no archaeological deposits of any significance were disturbed during the ground works for the extension.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Chris Nixon and everyone else 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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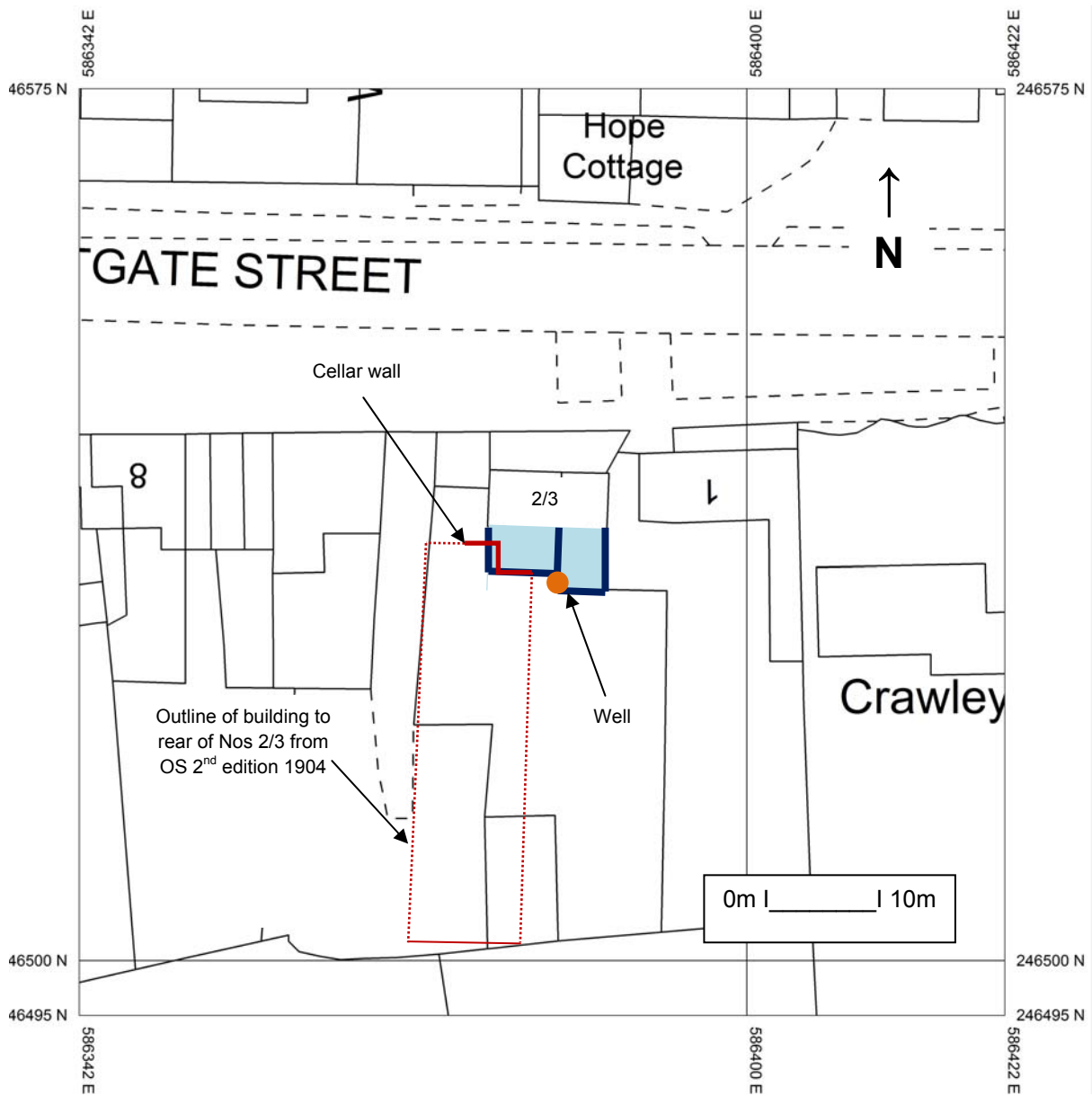


Fig. 2: Monitored extension footprint (foundation trenches- dark blue)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2013 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

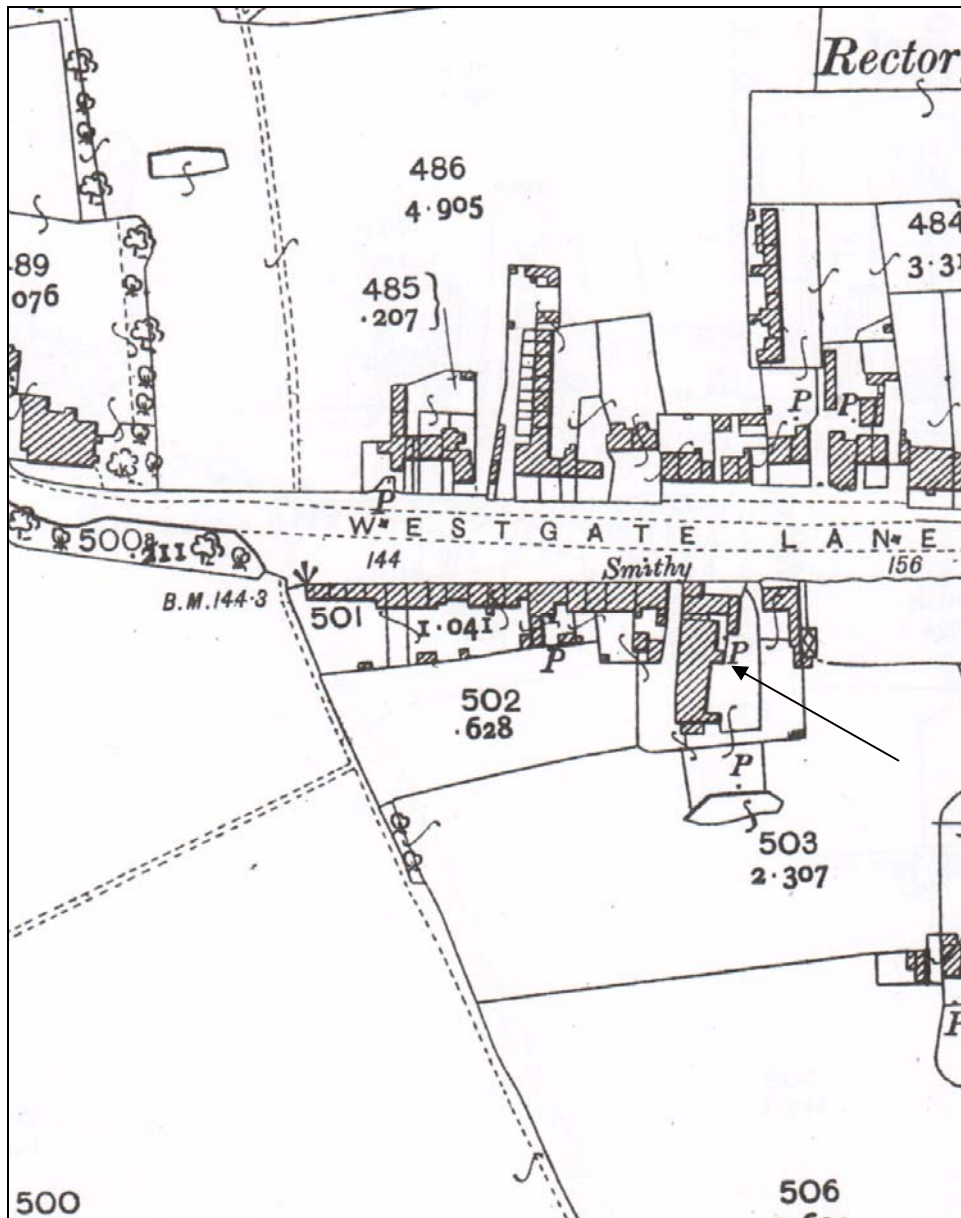


Fig. 3: Extract from 2nd ed. Ordnance Survey 25in. Map of 1904 (Suffolk RO ref. OS 72.3)
 (Outbuilding & pump arrowed, north to top)

Appendix I- Images



General view of house from rear (south)



Eastern foundation trench from south



Well from north



Cellar from east crossing southern foundation trench

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring
(Non site specific)**

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Site details

Name: 2-3 Westgate Street, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9DS

Client: Miss J Estall

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: 12/00833/FHA

Proposed development: Erection of two storey and adjoining single storey extension and associated alterations

LPA Archaeological advisor: Dr J Tipper, Conservation Team, Archaeological Service, Suffolk CC

Brief ref: 2012_09_21_SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring Brief_2-3 Westgate St Long Melford

Proposed date for ground works: 13 February, 2012

Grid ref: TL 86381 46540

Associated HER ref: LMD 187 (historic core of Long Melford medieval town)

Listed building ref: 278342 (Grade II, 17th century timber framed with alterations)

Conservation area

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2. Methodology
3. Risk Assessment
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1. Aims of the Site Monitoring

1.1 The site lies in a location with high archaeological potential by virtue of nearby recorded sites and/or finds and its general location within a historic settlement. In addition the structure is a Grade II listed building of earlier Post medieval date. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor(s) will allow for unimpeded access to the area of the ground works, within constraints imposed by health and safety considerations, to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details to the exposed overburden and depth of deposit as revealed within the ground works and evidence for the character and date of any past activity that is revealed.

2 Methodology

2.1 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)*.

2.2 The construction method to be used on individual sites will vary but include traditional trench foundations, piling with related ground beams or pad foundations any possibly in conjunction with ground lowering/terracing. In addition prior ground testing and demolition works may cause substantial ground disturbance. The relevant ground works on the site concerned will be monitored continuously or during and after excavation as the Brief specifies (in this case continuously) and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds (which may include a metal detector search if relevant to the Brief or exposed archaeology). Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Archaeological Office giving advice to the LPA in each case as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start.

2.3 The local HER will be consulted with regard to nearby archaeological finds and sites within the area around the proposed development if required or appropriate. The area selected for this search will vary but may typically cover the area within 250m of the proposed development. The HER search area will be commensurate with the scale of the development and its location.

2.4 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER number supplied by the relevant County HER. 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 any exposed features.

2.5 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 the constraints of the trench foundations with sections at appropriate points. Even if no archaeological deposits are revealed every effort will be made to gain a record of the natural occurring deposits and overburden that could help in the understanding of the general history of land use. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the relevant local Archaeological Office will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains. Any such work will incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (in general the possibility of finding burials is assessed as being low).

2.6 All finds will be collected and processed, save large quantities of Post medieval material which will be sampled in light of their date and significance, unless any variation is agreed with the relevant local Archaeological Office. 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 local Archaeological Archive/Museum under their relevant HER code and site numbering for future reference. If this is not possible then the local Archaeological Office will be consulted over any requirements for additional recording. Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Office.

2.7 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 relevant HER within 3 months of working finishing on site under the relevant HER

number. As required the site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online grey literature archive at the Archaeology Data Service with submission of the subsequent report.

2.8 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 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 relevant Archaeological Office within 3 months of the completion of the site works. Once accepted the required number of bound hard copies and pdf version (with the monitoring archive on the same cd) will sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client or their agent. 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 County round-up. The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, gloves and ear muffs if required). A safe working method will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. Suitable clothing will be available to mitigate against extremes of weather.

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

3.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client's agent 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.

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

3.5 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.

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

4. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (CFA Archaeology)
Metal detecting	tbc
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 small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-144119

Project details

Project name	Nos 2-3 Westgate Street, Long Melford, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Long Melford, Nos 2-3 Westgate Street (LMD 219, TL 86381 46540) Monitoring of trenching works for a rear extension to a Grade II listed 17th century timber framed house revealed a brick built well and a substantial, and also the brick built, wall foundation to a large cellared, outbuilding range running perpendicular to the street frontage with both of these structures being of 19th century date. No evidence was recorded for pre-c1800 activity within the foundation trenches.
Project dates	Start: 13-02-2013 End: 13-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LMD 219 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	278342 - LBS No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Monument type	CELLAR Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH LONG MELFORD 2-3 WESTGATE STREET

Postcode CO10 9DS
 Study area 50.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 86381 46540 52 0 52 05 07 N 000 43 14 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 39.00m Max: 40.00m

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)
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