

**No 291 High Street, Aldeburgh,
Suffolk**

Planning application: C/12/1708

HER Ref: ADB 198

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(April 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: No 291 High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5DG

Client: Mr C Bielby

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/1708

Development: Erection of rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 16 April, 2013

HER Ref: ADB 198

OASIS: johnnewm1-148205

Grid ref: TM 4636 5606

Conservation area

AONB

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Summary: Aldeburgh, No 291 High Street (ADB 198, TM 4636 5606) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension at a mid-terrace property set some 30m from the High Street frontage at only 1m-2m OD recorded a layer abutting the house which contained a considerable amount of 19th century brick and tile fragments plus some mid to later Victorian pottery sherds. Ground water was encountered at a point c500mm below present ground level and it is suggested that some degree of ground raising took place when the terrace of cottages was constructed in the 19th century in a low lying area previously in use as grazing marsh (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr C Bielby).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr G King on behalf of his client, Mr C Bielby, 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/12/1708. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr J Tipper 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 291 High Street, Aldeburgh (see Fig. 1).

1.2 While the earliest date for which urban status as a small town can be claimed for Aldeburgh is uncertain a market is recorded here from 1547. That the parish church was extensively rebuilt from the earlier 16th century also points to a period of particular prosperity and growth in the later medieval and earlier Post medieval for this town and port though the latter function has had to cope with a river docking area that is liable to silting-up and with a potentially difficult access from the North Sea. The parish church is located at the northern end of the historic town with the High Street forming the main focus for the original area of settlement as it runs southwards and parallel to the ever encroaching coastline towards the quay at Slaughden. No 291 High Street is located c780m south of the parish church and c650m north of the quay area in an area of the town that developed in the Post medieval period. No 291 is located on a small side lane 30m west of the main High Street frontage in a small terrace of early to mid 19th century cottages. The drift geological deposits in this area are well drained sands and gravels with the site being at 1m-2m OD and c120m from the present line of the coast to the east.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was generated by its location within the area defined as the historic core to the medieval and Post medieval town (HER ADB 176).

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the lowering by hand of the overall footprint area for the rear extension following the removal of a small concreted yard under dry and bright weather conditions giving good site visibility. Upcast spoil was taken by wheelbarrow to a nearby skip allowing for a close inspection for stray finds during this process. The footprint area was 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 footprint for the rear extension (see Fig. 2) covers some 20m² and the initial ground works following the removal of the yard surface required the lowering of the overall area to a point 600/700mm below the current ground level so drains can be laid below the planned concrete pad which will be supported by piles. A piled basis for the extension foundations having been chosen because of the low lying location of the site at 1m-2m OD and high ground water level which current works indicate is only 500mm below the present ground surface. The deposit removed by hand to attain the required depth of 600/700mm proved to be a uniform dark brown sandy

loam which contained numerous Post medieval tile and brick fragments and occasional sherds of blue and white transfer printed pottery of 19th century date. This dark brown sandy deposit continued to the base of the excavation with no indication that undisturbed glaciofluvial sands had been reached.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Monitoring of ground works for this small rear extension confirmed the potentially wet nature of this part of Aldeburgh which lies just below 2m OD; it may also be noted that significant drains run through the Aldeburgh, formerly Corporation, Marshes only 50m to the west. A brief examination of Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1783 indicates that this area to the west of the High Street was open ground at that date and was developed at some point in the mid to late 19th century as the terrace is shown on the first edition large scale Ordnance Survey map of 1880. Given the small size of the original cottages it seems likely that they were constructed for less prosperous elements of Aldeburgh's population on marginal land perhaps prone to flooding (this area was badly affected in the Great Flood of 1953 (pers. comm. Carl Allen). It also appears possible that the deposit removed across the extension footprint area may represent material deliberately laid down to raise local ground levels during the construction phase for the cottages.

5.2 In conclusion the ground works for this small extension have not disturbed any significant archaeological deposits; however some useful information relating to the overall development of the town has been recorded.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Glen King and Carl Allen for their close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)

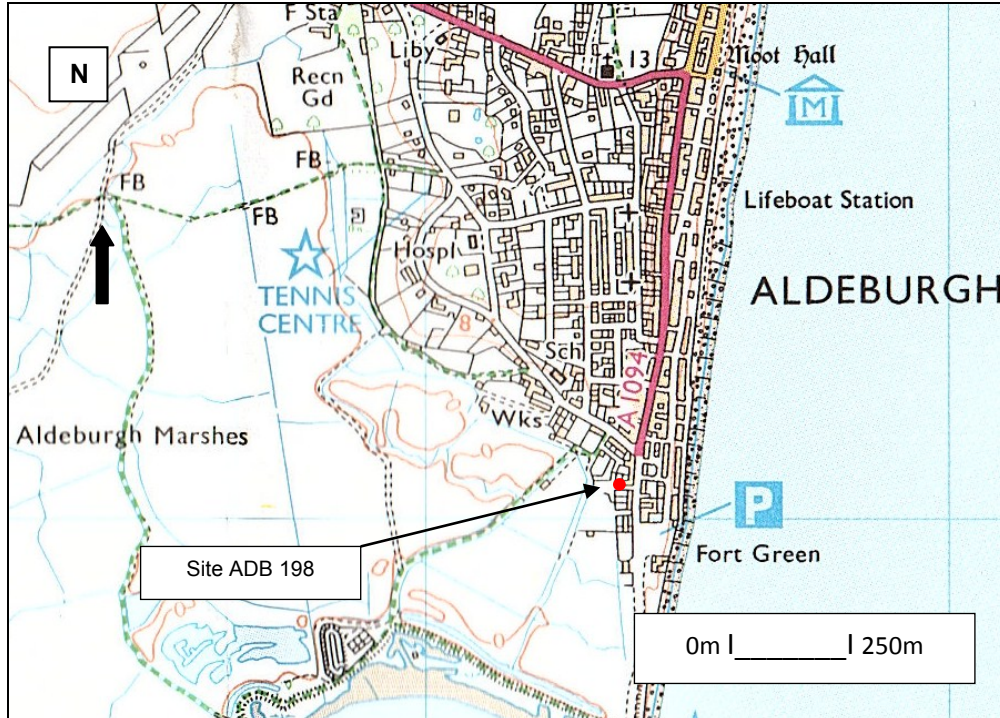


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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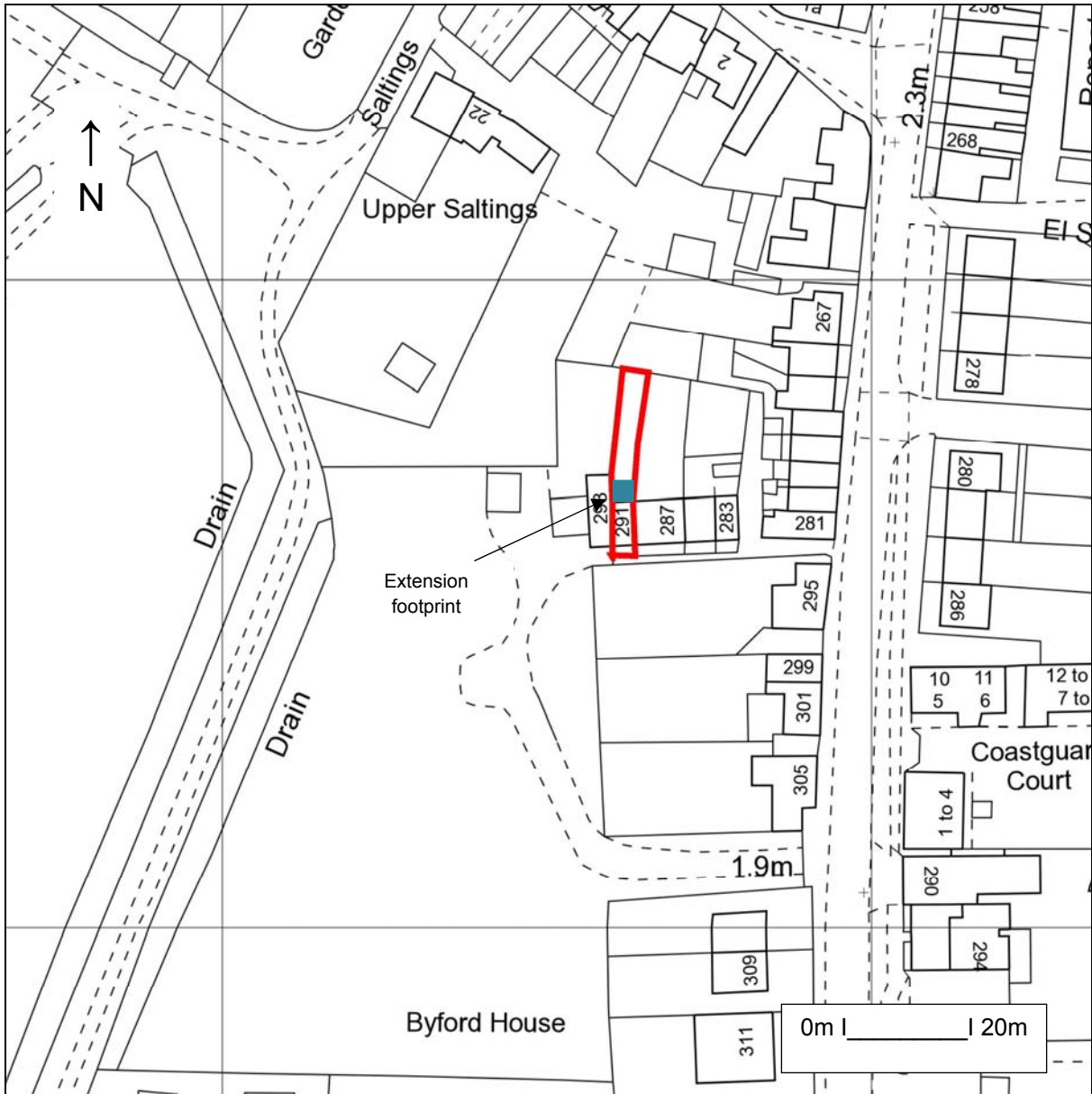


Fig. 2: Monitored extension footprint
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2012 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



General view from north



Maximum depth of excavation for drains below foundation pad

**Erection of Rear Extension to 291 High Street,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk**

Planning application: C/12/1708

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Continuous Archaeological Monitoring**

Site details

Name: No 291 High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5DG

Client: Mr C Bielby

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/12/1708

Proposed development: Erection of rear extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_10_05_SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring Brief_291
High Street, Aldeburgh

Grid ref: TM 46337 56040

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
3. Archaeological & Historical Background
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1. Introduction

1.1 Mr C Bielby has 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/12/1708. 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 J Tipper 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 to No 291 High Street, Aldeburgh.

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 While the earliest date for which urban status as a small town can be claimed for Aldeburgh is uncertain a market is recorded here from 1547. That the parish church was extensively rebuilt from the earlier 16th century also points to a period of particular prosperity and growth in the later medieval and earlier Post medieval for this town and port though the latter function has had to cope with a river docking area that is liable to silting-up and with a potentially difficult access from the North Sea. The parish church is located at the northern end of the historic town with the High Street forming the main focus for the original area of settlement as it runs southwards and parallel to the ever encroaching coastline towards the quay at Slaughden. No 291 High Street is located c780m south of the parish church and c650m north of the quay area in an area of the town that developed in the Post medieval period. No 291 is located on a small side lane 20m west of the main High Street frontage in a small terrace of houses. The drift geological deposits in this area are well drained sands and gravels with the site being at c2m OD and c120m from the present line of the coast to the east.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'This application, for an extension to 291 High Street, is located within the historic settlement core recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER Ref: ABD 176). There

is high potential for encountering medieval and early post-medieval settlement remains.'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance this potential disturbance to local heritage assets can be mitigated by their investigation and recording as ground works progress through a programme of continuous monitoring of all ground works by an archaeologist with subsequent full reporting.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential where evidence for deposits of medieval and earlier Post medieval might be found and continuous monitoring of ground works as they progress can best record what may be revealed. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden and evidence, character and date of any past activity that is revealed with the primary aim of gaining more information relating to past activity and in particular the expansion of Aldeburgh as a small town.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be strip foundations. The excavation of the strip foundations and any removal of existing foundations, service trenches, soakaways or landscaping works will be observed as they are undertaken and any up cast spoil examined for finds. Notice of ground works starting and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to hand clean sections as necessary and investigate by hand any possible archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches and related ground works.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of 'observable phenomena' (OPs) 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 sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover with the monitored footings shown. 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 the constraints of the trench foundations with sections recorded in relation to the trench sides, if possible, and with levels OD. 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 and topography at the site. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litre if possible) 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 SCC Archaeological Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence obtained before excavation, recording and removal of the remains which would incur an additional cost. The possibility of modifying the ground work design to leave any such remains in situ will also be examined (the potential of this site to contain burials is assessed as being 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 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 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 plus another for the County HER, a copy will be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project 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. Where appropriate a dxf type vector plan of the area examined will be supplied for inclusion into the County HER map base.

6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots & 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 while at the same time allowing efficient use of plant. 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 any 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 Deep holes/trenches going below c1.30m will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

John Newman Archaeological Services

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 period ceramics	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-148205

Project details

Project name	No 291 High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Aldeburgh, No 291 High Street (ADB 198, TM 4636 5606) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension at a mid-terrace property set some 30m from the High Street frontage at only 1m-2m OD recorded a layer abutting the house which contained a considerable amount of 19th century brick and tile fragments plus some mid to later Victorian pottery sherds. Ground water was encountered at a point c500mm below present ground level and it is suggested that some degree of ground raising took place when the terrace of cottages was constructed in the 19th century in a low lying area previously in use as grazing marsh.
Project dates	Start: 16-04-2013 End: 16-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ADB 198 - 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	NONE None
Significant Finds	TILE/BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL ALDEBURGH No 291 High Street
Postcode	IP15 5DG
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4636 5606 52 1 52 08 49 N 001 36 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.00m Max: 2.00m

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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