

**Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens,
Occold Suffolk**

Planning application: 2962/12

HER Ref: OCC 012

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(May 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens, Occold, Suffolk, IP23 7PD

Client: Mr & Mrs S Cook

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2962/12

Development: Erection of side extension

Date of fieldwork: 20 April, 2013

HER Ref: OCC 012

OASIS: johnnewm1-149285

Grid ref: TM 1562 7086

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Summary: Occold, Chancel House Old Rectory Gardens, (OCC 012, TM 1562 7068) monitoring of foundation trenches for a side extension did not record any evidence for past activity (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs S Cook).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs S Cook 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 2962/12. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms S Poppy 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 of a side extension to Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens, Occold (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Occold parish is located in north central Suffolk some 2 miles south-east of the small town of Eye with the main village being c1500m east of the River Dove in an area of generally flat topography just above the 50m contour. Chancel House is located immediately to the east of St Michael's Church within a small, recent, residential development that covers what were the grounds of the former rectory, a structure of mid 19th century date which was located in the northern part of the grounds, which has now been demolished but is shown on the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1904 (see Appendix III- Historic maps). That the rectory was of mid 19th century date can be concluded from an examination of the parish tithe map of 1838 which shows different layout with a building close to the road edge in the relevant plot, number 212, which clearly had been demolished when the site was remodelled for the rectory (see Appendix III). In the tithe apportionment plot 212 is listed as 'Premises,' occupied by Thomas Moore and owned by the Reverend John Ward as glebe land. To rear plot 213 is listed as pasture and plot 214 as a stackyard so it seems likely that this overall complex was a farm rented to Thomas Moore by the parish church. Chancel House is located between the building depicted on the tithe map and the eastern boundary of the adjacent churchyard. As an aside it is also interesting to note that plot 259 to the south-east of what is now Old Rectory Gardens is listed as a workhouse in 1838 under the Occold Feoffees.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its close proximity to the parish church making the general area of Chancel House of high potential to contain archaeological deposits of later Saxon and medieval date.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 A single visit was made to the site to observe the excavation of the foundations for the extension as they progressed using a medium sized 360 machine equipped with a 600mm wide toothed bucket on a bright, sunny day with site visibility good at all times. The foundation trenches were entered 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 In total nearly 30m of 600mm wide and 1000mm to 1200mm deep foundation trench were examined along the sides and across the footprint of the extension footprint (see Fig. 2) on the northern side of the house. The deposit profile exposed

in the trenches proved to be consistent across the footprint area with 300mm of topsoil over 150mm to 250mm of a mid brown clay subsoil with the locally occurring natural glaciofluvial Till deposits being a stiff light grey chalky clay with pockets of softer orange silty sand. No archaeological features were revealed in the foundation trenches and the only finds seen in the upcast spoil were occasional small fragments of modern brick and tile which can be associated with the original construction of the house.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While Chancel House, by virtue of its close proximity to the parish church, is located in an area of high archaeological potential it can only be concluded that the ground works for this new extension have had no impact on any archaeological deposits. In addition the lack of even stray finds of any antiquity in the upcast top and subsoil suggests that this area on the eastern side of the churchyard has been open ground which has seen limited use of any intensity in the past.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mr & Mrs S Cook for their close cooperation in relation to this site monitoring)

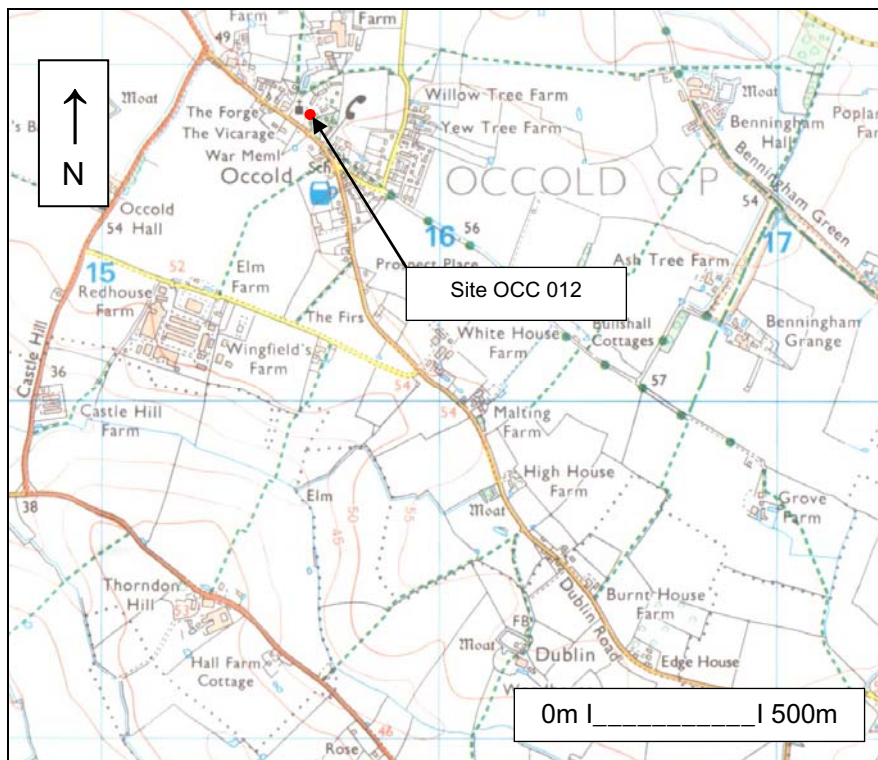


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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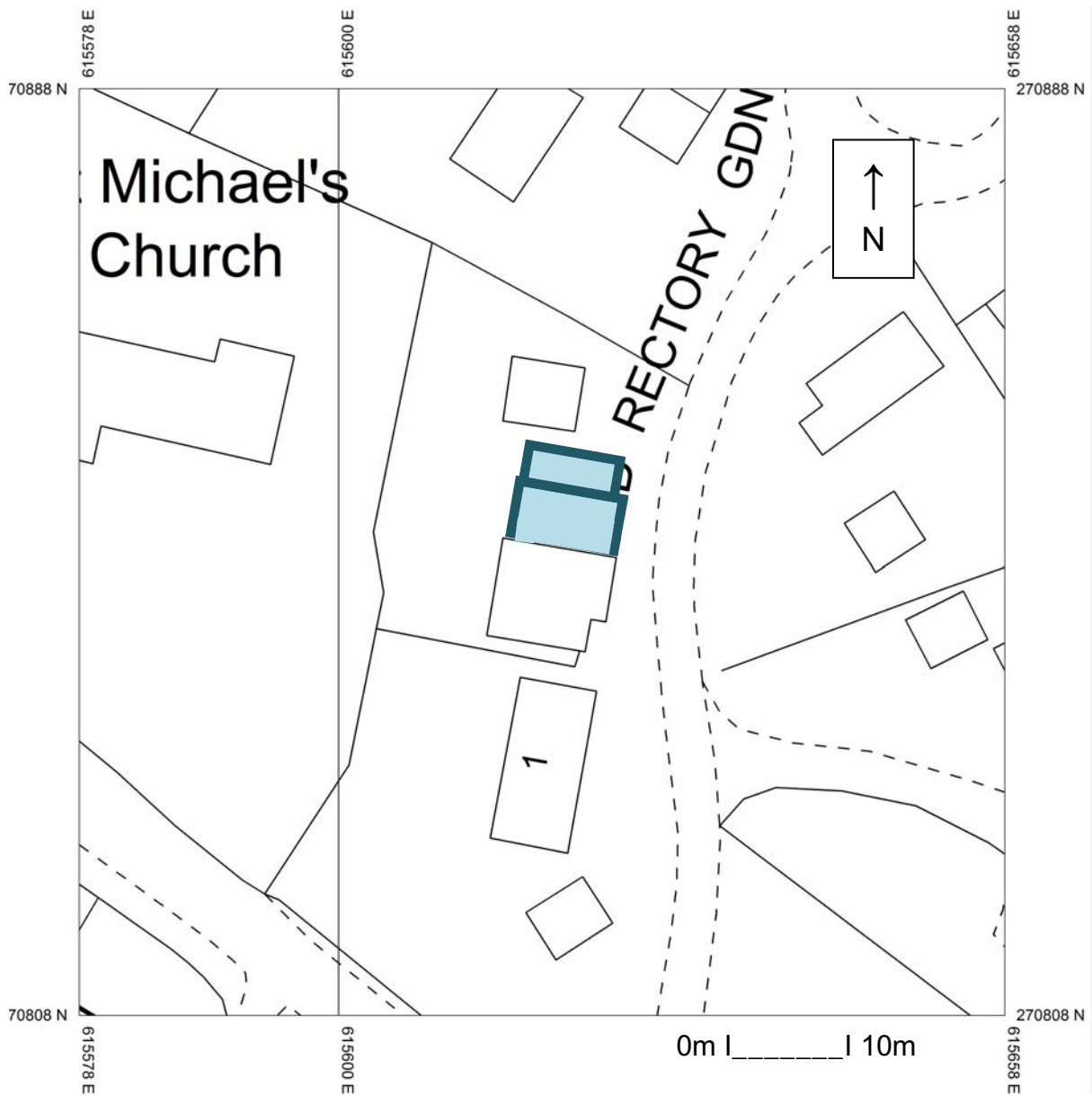


Fig. 2: Monitored extension footprint (foundations- dark blue)
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Appendix I- Images



General view from east



Central trench from east



North-western corner of foundations

**Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens,
Occold, Suffolk**

Planning application: 2962/12

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

Site details

Name: Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens, Occold, Suffolk, IP23 7PD

Client: Mr & Mrs S Cook

Local planning authority: Mid Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: 2962/12

Proposed development: Erection of extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief & Specification ref: 2012_12_10_SCCAS_Archaeological Monitoring Chancel House Occold

Grid ref: TM 1562 7086

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1. Introduction

1.1 Mr & Mrs S Cook 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 2962/12. 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 Ms S Poppy 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 an extension to Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens, Occold.

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 Occold parish is located in north central Suffolk some 2 miles south-east of the small town of Eye with the main village being c1500m east of the River Dove in an area of generally flat topography just above the 50m contour. Chancel House is located immediately to the east of St Michael's Church within a small, recent, residential development that covers what were the grounds of the former rectory, a structure of mid 19th century date which was located in the northern part of the grounds, which has now been demolished.

2.2 Away from the lower slopes of the Dove valley soils in the area are generally heavy being derived from the underlying chalky till deposits common across central Suffolk.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The above planning permission lies within an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. The proposed extension is situated adjacent to the medieval church of St Michael (HER ref OCC 005)... There is high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.'

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 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 later Saxon and medieval/early Post medieval period deposits in particular might be found as the area around the parish church forms the historic core of the village 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 in this location.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be strip foundations, the excavation of these strip foundations for the extension and any associated 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 or significant 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.

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 1:10, 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 where relevant 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 will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits are revealed, in this case the potential for such samples to inform the overall understanding of any past activity at the site will be considered. 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 (if revealed cremation burials will be lifted as 100% samples). 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 to medium as stray burials are occasionally found just outside medieval burial grounds).

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 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.

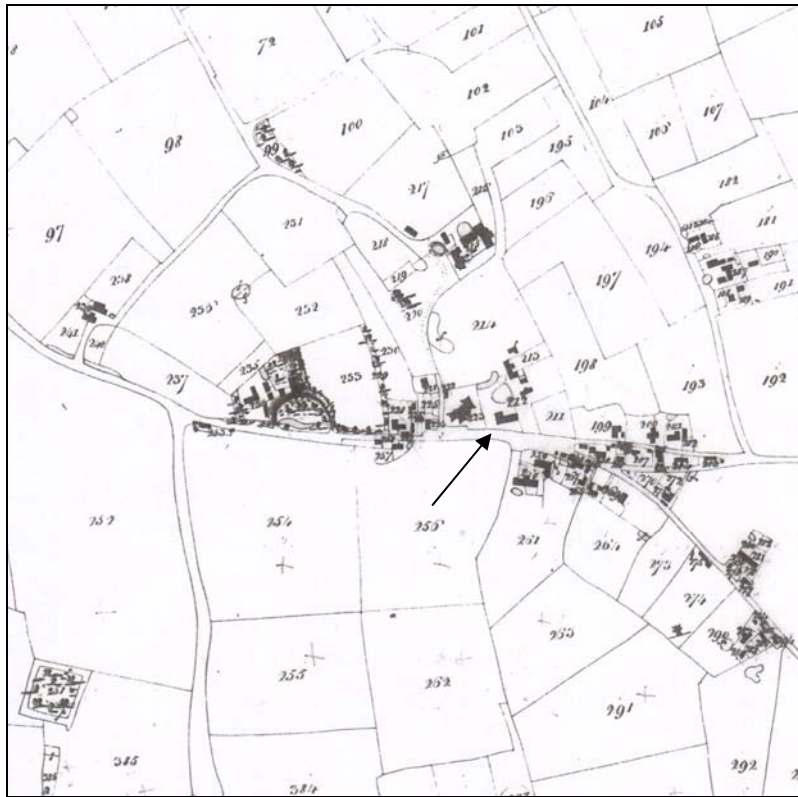
John Newman Archaeological Services

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.

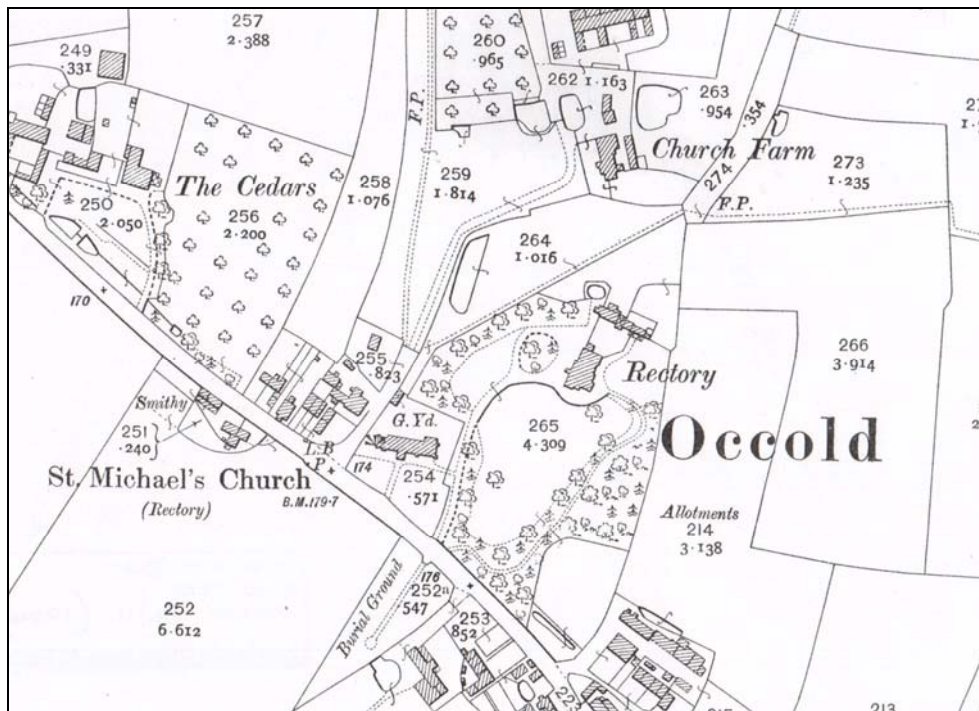
7. Specialists

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

Appendix III- Historic maps



Extract from parish tithe map of 1838 (plot 212 arrowed, north to top)
(Suffolk RO ref. P461/85)



Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 (north to top, Suffolk RO ref. sheet 36/11)

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OASIS ID: johnnewm1-149285

Project details

Project name	Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens, Occold, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Occold, Chancel House Old Rectory Gardens, (OCC 012, TM 1562 7068) monitoring of foundation trenches for a side extension did not record any evidence for past activity.
Project dates	Start: 20-04-2013 End: 20-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	OCC 012 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK OCCOLD CHANCEL END, OLD RECTORY GARDENS
Postcode	IP23 7PD
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1562 7084 52 1 52 17 34 N 001 09 43 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51.00m Max: 52.00m

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	Chancel House, Old Rectory Gardens, Occold, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
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