

# **Erection of Extensions to 14 Vermont Road, Ipswich, Suffolk**

**Planning application: IP/11/00157/FUL**

**HER Ref: IPS 647**

## **Archaeological Monitoring Report**

**(Continuous observation of ground works)**

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(August 2013)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Extensions to 14 Vermont Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 2SP

Client: Mr H Goodchild

Local planning authority: Ipswich BC

Planning application ref: IP/11/00157/FUL

Development: Erection of front & rear extensions

Date of fieldwork: 27 & 28 July, 2011 & 13 July, 2013

HER Ref: IPS 647

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-156122

Grid ref: TM 1692 4522

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*Summary: Ipswich, 14 Vermont Road (IPS 647, TM 1629 4522) monitoring of ground works for front and rear extensions revealed that extensive landscaping to create a level site for the construction of the house in the 1950s had caused extensive disturbance to the original ground surface on a site located on what had been a steep, south facing slope. Later monitoring of a soakaway pit in the rear garden revealed one pit of recent date and the only finds seen in the upcast spoil at the site were of 20<sup>th</sup> century date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr H Goodchild).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr H Goodchild 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 IP/11/00157/FUL. 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 construction of a rear and a small front extension.

1.2 The site is located on the northern side of Ipswich in an extensive area of late Victorian, Edwardian and later residential development some 500m north of the medieval defence line and outer medieval suburb around St Margaret's church (see Fig. 1). Ipswich grew as a town and port from the Middle Saxon era and into the medieval period on lower ground close to the upper reaches of the Orwell Estuary while to the north the ground rises quite sharply and 14 Vermont Road is located at c30m OD where, before recent urban expansion, extensive views across the town and estuary below would have been possible. Recent monitoring of a nearby site (HER IPS 645) some 50m to the north has confirmed that this part of suburban Ipswich is built on glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits. The house is located on the southern side of Vermont Road with the ground level dropping away from the road edge towards the house and then more dramatically behind the property and at the start it was unclear how much landscaping was undertaken when No 14 was built in the mid 1950s. Prior to the construction of 14 Vermont Road in the 1950s the area was used as allotment gardens (pers. comm. Mr H Goodchild).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this planning application was generated by its close proximity to the find spot of Anglo-Saxon pottery (HER- IPS 122, see Fig. 1) some 100m to the east of the planned development giving the general area around Vermont Road a high potential to contain further heritage assets indicative of past activity.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to the site to observe the ground works for the extensions as they were carried out using a small mini-digger, and inspect the upcast spoil and a later visit was made to observe the excavation of a soakaway and associated trench work. The foundations for the front extension were straightforward footing trenches which were 5.7m in length and these were entered in order to examine the sides and trowel clean any indistinct areas. Work to the rear of the house was more complex due to the original steep slope noted above that drops away to the south and the terracing created for the original construction of the house (see Appendix I-Images). The complete 10m<sup>2</sup> footprint of the rear extension had to be lowered to create the required foundations with footing trenches then being excavated into the exposed locally occurring natural glaciofluvial deposits which proved to be a yellow sand with flints as anticipated. As ground works progressed for the rear extension it was again possible to enter the area and examine the exposed deposit profiles more closely. The areas examined were plotted in relation to the existing house and a small number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

## 3. Results

3.1 The 5.7m of L shaped footing trench for the front extension (see Fig. 2) was 600mm wide and 800mm deep with the upper 250mm being made up of the concrete driveway and related sub-base. Below this modern surface were 300mm of brown sandy loam over 250mm of a mid brown sandy loam below which the locally, naturally occurring, yellow sand with flints was exposed in the base of the trench. The only finds were in the upper parts of the sandy loam and were brick/tile fragments of recent date. No archaeological features were revealed with the area along the wall of the house having been extensively disturbed in the 1950s during the original construction works at the site.

3.2 As noted in section 2.1 above the rear part of the house had been built up to form a level terrace for the original construction work in the 1950s. Ground works for the new rear extension therefore required the lowering of the complete 10m<sup>2</sup> sized footprint (see Fig. 2) in order to achieve stable foundations and the removal of the material that had been deposited to create a level terrace behind the house. This recently deposited material proved to be an 800mm to 1200mm thick layer made up of a dark brown sandy loam containing occasional finds of recent date which lay directly over the naturally occurring yellow sand with flints at the site indicating truncation of the original ground surface when the house was constructed. The only finds in the upcast spoil were fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century brick and tile.

3.3 The soakaway pit to the rear of the house was 1100mm square and 1800mm deep while two associated pipe trenches were 400mm wide and 500mm deep (see Fig. 2). This part of the garden has not been levelled during the construction of the house so the exposed deposit profile was the only original one seen at the site and comprised 300mm of topsoil which lay over 300mm of a mid brown sandy subsoil which in turn lay over the locally occurring natural yellow sand with flints. The only feature revealed in the soakaway was a c500mm wide and c400mm deep pit that clearly contained debris of recent date. The pipe trenches did not reveal any archaeological features and the upcast spoil from these works contained only modern finds contemporary with the house.

## 5. Conclusion

5.1 While this site is located in relatively close proximity to an area where Anglo-Saxon pottery has been found close monitoring of ground works did not record any evidence for past activity. However the monitoring results indicate that the area around 14 Vermont Road was landscaped during the construction of the house to create a level site as the ground naturally slopes down at a steep angle from north to south behind and, previously, below the house; these works truncating the original ground surface. In addition the monitored ground works were on a small scale and the possible presence of archaeological deposits in this area around the Tuddenham and Vermont Roads should not be excluded in relation to any future developments with the overall topographic location in particular overlooking the Orwell Estuary suggesting some potential.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the ground works on this site have not affected any archaeological deposits.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Henry Goodchild for his close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring).*

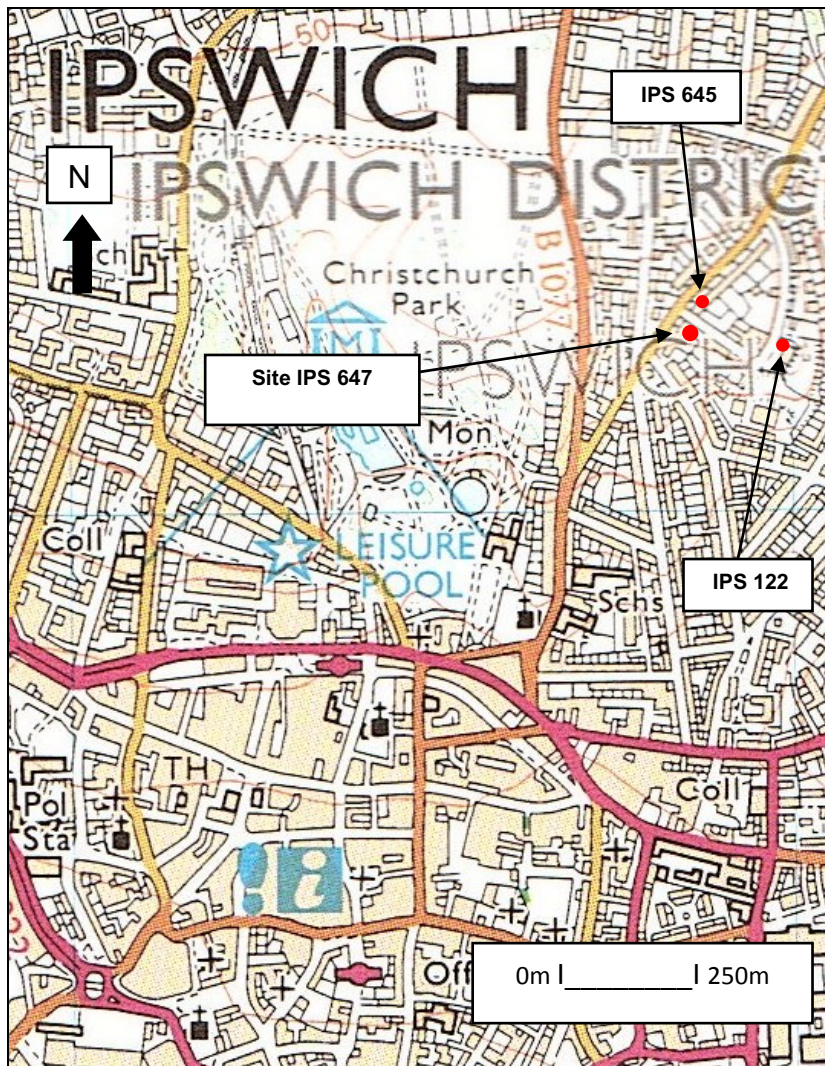


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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**Fig. 2: Monitored areas**

(Extension footprints- light blue, foundation trenches- dark blue, soakaway & pipe trenches- brown)

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## Appendix I- Images



House from rear garden



Foundation trench for front extension



Removal of material deposited at the rear of the house during the original construction works



Soakaway pit with modern pit in its southern side



**Extensions to 14 Vermont Street, Ipswich,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: IP/11/00157/FUL**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

(Continuous observation of ground works)

## **Site details**

Name: Extensions to 14 Vermont Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 2SP

Client: Mr H Goodchild

Local planning authority: Ipswich BC

Planning application ref: IP/11/00157/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of front & rear extensions

Proposed date for ground works: tbc (late July, 2011)

Brief & Specification ref: /14VermontStreet\_Ipswich2011

Grid ref: TM 169 452

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

1.1 Mr H Goodchild 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 IP/11/00157/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief and Specification 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 small front and a rear extension to 14 Vermont Street, Ipswich.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 The site is located on the northern side of Ipswich in an extensive area of late Victorian and Edwardian residential development some 500m north of the medieval defence line and outer medieval suburb around St Margaret's church. Ipswich grew as a town and port from the Middle Saxon era and into the medieval period on lower ground close to the upper reaches of the Orwell Estuary while to the north the ground rises quite sharply and the proposed development area is located at c30m OD where, before recent urban expansion, extensive views across the town and estuary below would have been possible. Recent monitoring of a nearby site has confirmed that this part of suburban Ipswich is built on glaciofluvial sand and gravel deposits. The house is located on the southern side of Vermont Street with the ground level dropping away from the road edge towards the house and then more dramatically behind the property (see attached image) and it is unclear how much landscaping was undertaken when No 14 was built in the mid 1950s. However it is clear that the area of the proposed rear extension has been built up to create a level surface and the foundations that are planned may well have to go through 1m/1.5m of modern build up before encountering the likely original ground level. In addition various foundations and services will be encountered as the ground works progress which may have already disturbed any pre-1950 deposits.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief and Specification 'This application lies in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic

Environment Record, close to the find spot of Anglo-Saxon pottery that is indicative of early occupation in the immediate vicinity (HER no. IPS 122). There is high potential for encountering further heritage assets of archaeological interest at this location. Any ground works associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets.' The specification requires archaeological site monitoring 'during and after' ground works.

3.2 Monitoring of ground works by a trained archaeologist is seen as suitable mitigation against any potential loss of information as this will allow for a record to be made of any archaeological deposits that are revealed. In this case foundations are to be traditional trench type.

#### 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential and close monitoring of ground works can best record what may be revealed. Site monitoring arrangements with the owner and relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to enable any required archaeological recording to be undertaken before any other works commence in the areas concerned. 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 built-up nature of the area around the Saxon pottery found nearby any opportunity to clarify the character and extent of this find is of archaeological value.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 As indicated above the construction method to be used on the site will be traditional strip footings working through ground built up in the 1950s in part and probably having to remove existing foundations as necessary. These ground works will be monitored during and after excavation and the upcast spoil will be examined for finds. 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 any possible archaeological deposits.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological 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 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 of high resolution digital images and monochrome film 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 appropriate hand investigation and recording. Any possible structural features, such as building slots or post holes, will be examined in section and then fully excavated and sampled within the foundation trenches, soak aways and any service trenches. Fabricated surfaces will be fully exposed, cleaned and recorded. Otherwise for discrete, contained, features, excavation, with appropriate soil sampling, will be complete within the foundation trenches and other ground works. If human burial evidence is revealed the SCCAS Officer will be informed and a Ministry of Justice licence will be obtained prior to full on site recording and removal of the remains, if preservation *in situ* is not possible, followed by examination by the relevant specialist and possibly scientific dating. If human remains do have to be recorded, removed from site and reported on then these works will add an additional cost to the archaeological works, at this site this is assessed as a very low possibility.

5.4 Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. The sampling, processing and assessment will follow the guidelines as detailed in *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis* (Murphy P L & Wiltshire P E J, 1994). In accordance with standard practice bulk samples of 40 litres (or 100% of the deposit where less) will be taken from a representative cross section of archaeological deposits of all periods (respecting defined fills within features), in consultation with the relevant SCCAS Officer (and EH Regional Scientific Advisor, or RSA, if the deposits merit more targeted advice) including deposits that cannot be immediately dated by their artefact content, so the state of preservation and full archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the deposits can be assessed and any further sampling, should further field work take place, be systematically planned and fully costed. Archaeological deposits of all types may reveal valuable data through the processing and assessment of samples with high priority features including the primary fills of pits, wells and cesspits, layers of middens, occupation surfaces and structural features as well as other discrete activity areas, contents of hearths, ovens, and other craft related or industrial structures. In addition more generalised settlement and land use features such as ditches may also yield valuable and informative data when sampling is undertaken systematically as the sum of all the

assessment results can add considerably to the interpretation of a site and its landscape. Through an integrated study of all the data recovered from the site works the results from the assessment of the samples will be reviewed in terms of:

- What is the quality and state of preservation of charred plant remains, mineralised plant and animal related remains, small vertebrates and industrial residues such as evidence for iron working (contributing to the fullest interpretation of the site results)- in this case possibly related to the operation of a Roman period kiln
- What is the concentration of macro-remains
- Can any patterning or similarities/differences be ascertained between deposits from different periods represented on site, similarly can any useful comparisons be made with undated and unphased deposits (to aid interpretation of the site results and help in the study of undated deposits which may otherwise be overlooked and which may via sampling yield material for RC dating)
- Do waterlogged deposits exist on site, if so is there potential for palaeoenvironmental data from preserved insects or pollen and do such deposits contain organic material suitable for RC dating from samples taken as advised by the relevant soil specialist (who would also coordinate the assessment for pollen and insect remains), the RSA will also be consulted in such cases in conjunction with the relevant SCCAS Officer. Incremental column samples will be taken should waterlogged deposits be revealed in close consultation with the evaluation soils specialist with 10-20 litre sample sizes which will be sub-sampled for preserved pollen, insects, diatoms, preserved parasite eggs etc. If waterlogged wood is encountered it will ideal to leave in situ, if it has to be lifted it will be packed while wet in black polythene and stored at 5C until it can be transferred to a specialist for species identification, assessment and potential for RC dating is undertaken (in this case water logged deposits is very unlikely given the sites location.)

5.5 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 (which may have an additional cost implication). Any discard policy will be discussed and agreed with the relevant Archaeological Officer at Suffolk CC.

5.6 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.

5.7 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, 1997 & 2000). 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 two bound hard copies will be provided plus another for the County HER, a copy will also be sent to the LPA, Babergh DC, via the client. 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 and a vector plan in dxf format will be produced.

## 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

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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 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 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.

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





House from rear garden

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-156122**

### Project details

Project name	Erection of Extensions to No 14 Vermont Road, Ipswich, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Ipswich, 14 Vermont Road (IPS 647, TM 1629 4522) monitoring of ground works for front and rear extensions revealed that extensive landscaping to create a level site for the construction of the house in the 1950s had caused extensive disturbance to the original ground surface on a site located on what had been a steep, south facing slope. Later monitoring of a soakaway pit in the rear garden revealed one pit of recent date and the only finds seen in the upcast spoil at the site were of 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 27-07-2011 End: 13-07-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	IPS 647 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK IPSWICH IPSWICH No 14 VERMONT ROAD
Postcode	IP4 2SP
Study area	20.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 1692 4522 52 1 52 03 44 N 001 09 53 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 27.00m Max: 30.00m

**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	Erection of Extensions to No 14 Vermont Road, Ipswich, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Henley, Suffolk
Description	Loose bound client report
Entered by	John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)
Entered on	5 August 2013

**OASIS:**