

**No 24 High Street, Ixworth,
Suffolk**

Planning application: SE/12/0897/HHLBCA

HER Ref: IXW 099

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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

(November 2013)

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Site details for HER

Name: No 24 High Street, Ixworth, Suffolk, IP31 2HH

Client: Miss A Mee

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/12/0897/HHLBCA

Development: Erection of rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 14 October, 2013

HER Ref: IXW 099

LBS Ref: 283590 (Grade II)

OASIS: johnnewm1-161179

Conservation area

Grid ref: TL 93186 70344

Contents

Summary

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

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Monitored extension area

List of appendices

Appendix I - Images

Appendix II- Written scheme for monitoring

Appendix IV- OASIS data collection form

Summary: Ixworth, No 24 High Street (IXW 099, TL 93186 70344) monitoring of ground works for a small rear extension to a listed building of early 19th century date did not reveal any features or any finds indicative of activity pre-dating the later Post medieval period (John Newman Archaeological Services for Miss A Mee).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr M Lewis on behalf of his client, Miss A Mee, 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 SE/12/0897/HHLBCA. 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 of a rear extension to No 24 High Street, Ixworth (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Ixworth lies to the north-east of Bury and is now a large village having seen extensive development since the middle of the 20th century around what was originally a settlement strung out along the High Street in what was historically a linear settlement type. This site is located on the eastern side of the High Street towards its southern end and opposite to a path leading to the nearby parish church which is set slightly back from the western side of the street. No 24 High Street is a Grade II listed building described as being an 'early 19th century timber framed cottage' located at c30m OD in an area of generally light, well drained, soils.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this small scale development was generated by its location in the historic core of Ixworth (HER IXW 068) where evidence for later Saxon and medieval activity might be anticipated. In addition Ixworth lies over the site of a Roman period settlement and pottery of this date has been found close to No 24 High Street (HER IXW 006).

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 small 360 machine equipped with a 500mm wide toothed bucket under fine weather conditions 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 inspected visually and scanned with a metal detector as the work progressed. 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 overall footprint area of the new build area was c14m² and in total 10m of 500mm wide and 1000mm foundation trench were excavated (see Fig. 2). The exposed deposit profile comprised 350mm of topsoil over 200mm of an upper mid brown sandy subsoil which lay over 200mm of a paler brown sandy lower subsoil. Below the lower subsoil the locally occurring glaciofluvial deposit below proving to be an orange sand with flints with pockets of degraded chalk fragments in places.

3.2 The foundations trenches did not reveal any archaeological features and the only finds seen in the upcast spoil were occasional small pottery sherds and brick and tile fragments of later Post medieval date.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site lies in an area of archaeological interest in the historic core of Ixworth, and close to the recorded find spot of Roman period pottery sherds, no features or finds of archaeological interest were revealed. However the ground works undertaken were on a small scale and further developments in the general area would merit archaeological input.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored footings have not impacted on any deposits of archaeological significance.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Nigel Swallow and everyone on site for their close cooperation during the monitoring)

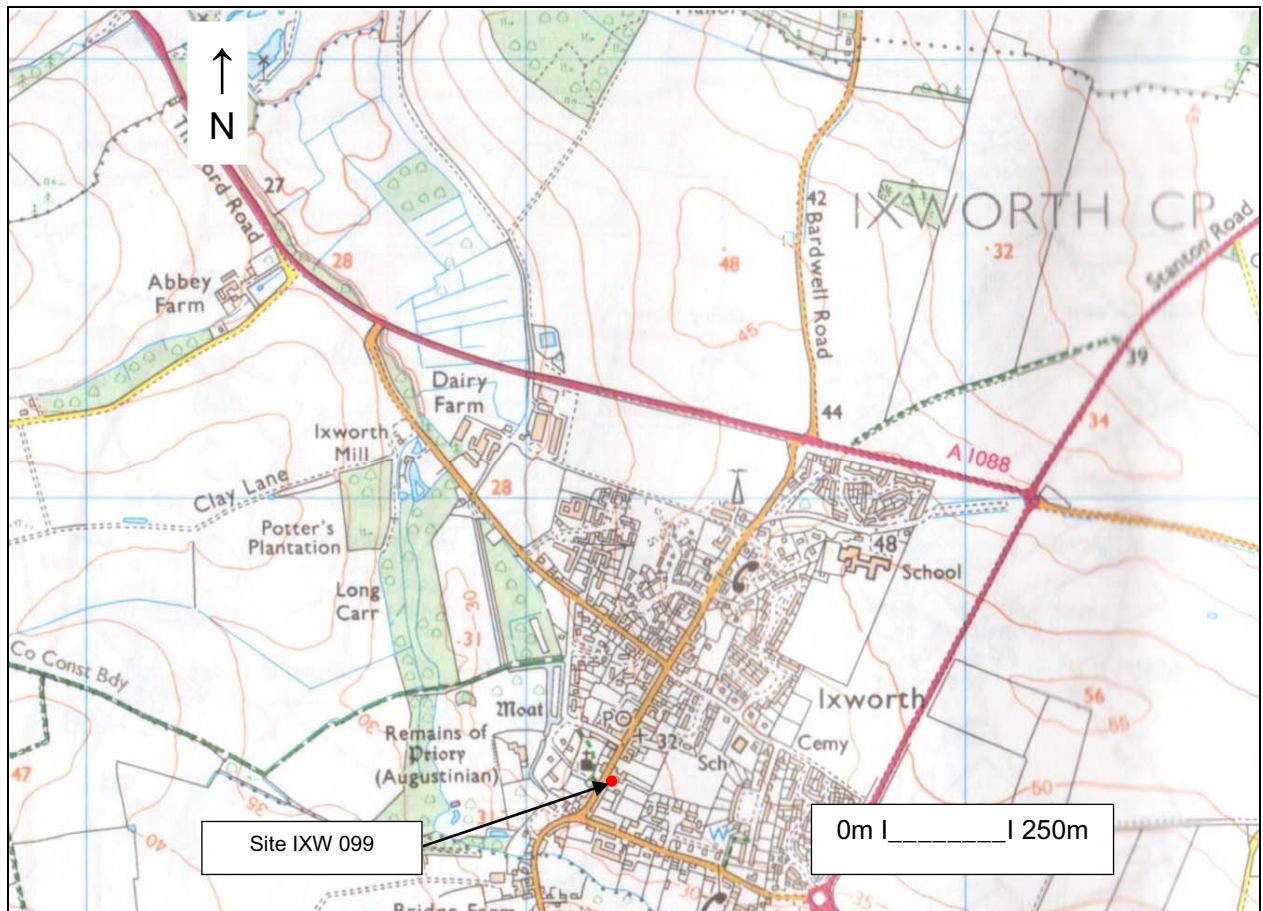


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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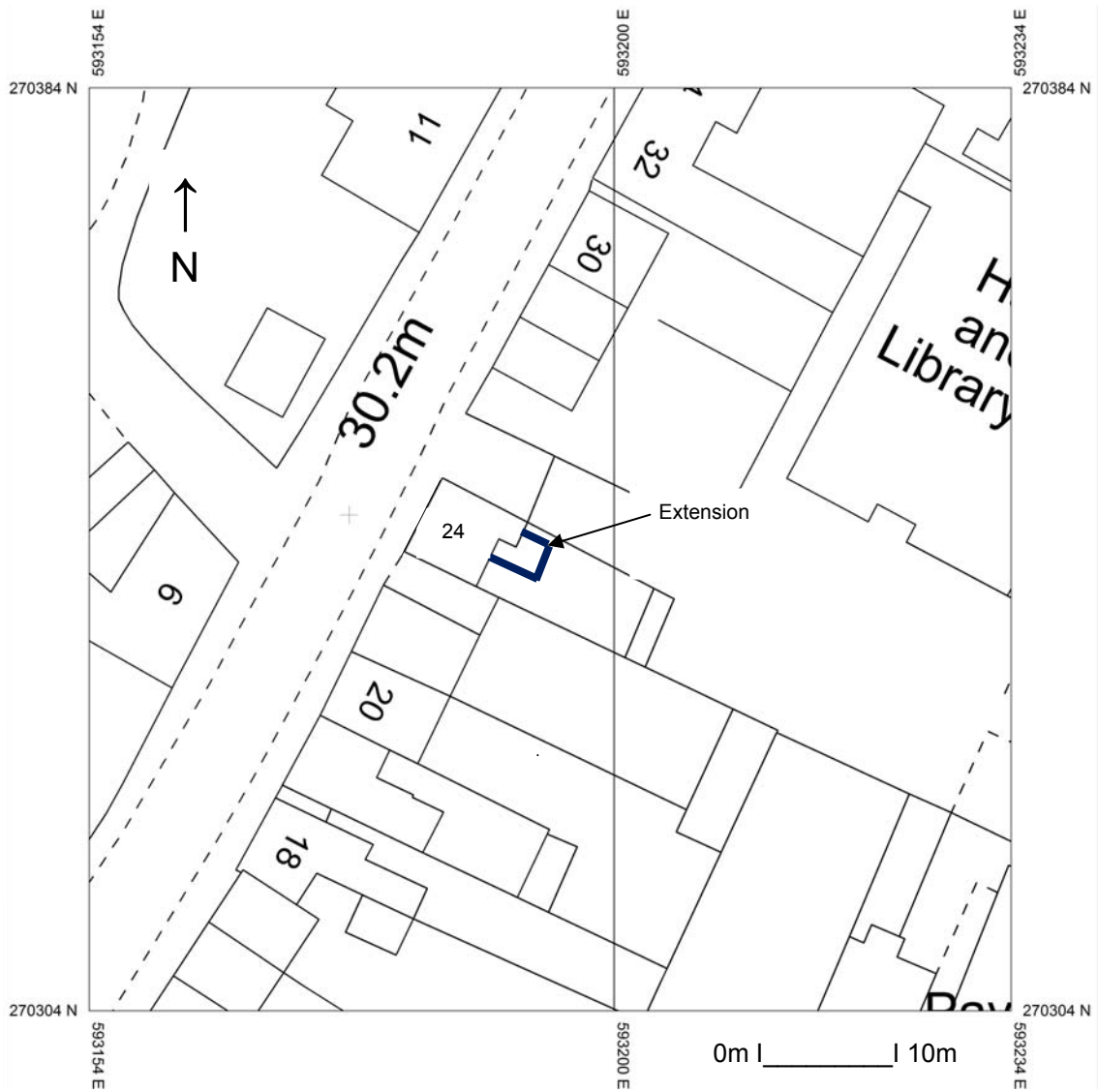


Fig. 2: Location of monitored extension (trenches- dark blue)
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Appendix I- Images



General view of the area of the rear extension



Eastern foundation trench from north



Western foundation trench from south

**Erection of Extension to 24 High Street,
Ixworth, Suffolk**

Planning application: SE/12/0897/HHLBCA

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

Site details

Name: No 24 High Street, Ixworth, Suffolk, IP31 2HH

Client: Miss A Mee

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury BC

Planning application ref: SE/12/0897/HHLBCA

Proposed development: Erection of rear extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc (early autumn)

Brief & Specification ref: 2013_02_06_SCCAS_ArchMon_24 High Street

Grid ref: TL 93186 70345

LBS 283590, Grade II

Conservation area

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 Mr M Lewis on behalf of his client, Miss A Mee, 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 SE/12/0897/HHLBCA. 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 new rear extension to No 24 High Street, Ixworth.

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 Ixworth lies to the north-east of Bury and is now a large village having seen extensive development since the middle of the 20th century around what was originally a settlement strung out along the High Street in what was historically a linear settlement type. The site is located on the eastern side of the High Street towards its southern end and opposite to a path leading to the nearby parish church which is set slightly back from the western side of the street. No 24 High Street is a Grade II listed building described as being an 'early 19th century timber framed cottage' located at c30m OD in an area of generally light, well drained, soils derived from the underlying glaciofluvial sands and gravels.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'The proposed extension is in the historic core of Ixworth (IXW 068), very close to the church and also within the area of Roman settlement. It is in the immediate vicinity of the findspot of roman pottery (IXW 006). There is potential for archaeological remains relating to early occupation to exist on the site, particularly dating to the Roman and Medieval periods'

3.2 The Brief then confirms that while this development may reveal deposits of archaeological significance and 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 Roman and medieval period deposits in particular 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 in this location within the historic core of the medieval village and in an area which has revealed extensive evidence for Roman period settlement activity.

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 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.

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 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 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 full 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

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's agent 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.

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)

John Newman Archaeological Services

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: johnnewm1-161179

Project details

Project name	No 24 High Street, Ixworth, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Ixworth, No 24 High Street (IXW 099, TL 93186 70344) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension to a listed building of early 19th century date did not reveal any features or any finds indicative of activity pre-dating the later Post medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 14-10-2013 End: 14-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	IXW 099 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	283590 - LBS No.
Any associated project reference codes	SE/12/0897 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	Conservation Area
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 ST EDMUNDSBURY IXWORTH No 24 HIGH STREET
Postcode	IP31 2HH
Study area	14.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 93186 70344 52 0 52 17 48 N 000 50 00 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 13.00m Max: 14.00m

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 "Text","Images raster / digital photography"

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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