

**No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/13/00863**

**HER Ref: SSM 033**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(September 2014)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JS

Client: Mr & Mrs D Watson

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00863

Development: Erection of extension

Date of fieldwork: 3 & 5 September, 2014

HER Ref: SSM 033

OASIS: johnnewm1-187489

Grid ref: TM 0428 3389

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*Summary: Stratford St Mary, 6 Lower Street (SSM 033, TM 0428 3389) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension revealed a brick built well and a complex of pits both of which were of mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century date and therefore broadly contemporary with the house. While the site is close to the Roman settlement known from that period as 'Ad Ansam' the only earlier stray finds from the upcast were three sherds of Roman greyware and a sherd of later medieval glazed ware (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr & Mrs D Watson).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mr & Mrs D Watson 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/13/00863. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Dr R Hoggett 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 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary (see Fig. 1) which is a house of 19<sup>th</sup> century date.

1.2 Stratford St Mary lies to the south of Ipswich and is now a large village having seen extensive development since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century around what was originally a settlement strung out along Upper and Lower Street with other, scattered cottages and farms in the parish. What was the main Roman road from London to the East Anglia cuts across the eastern part of the parish and is now largely under the modern A 12 some 90m to the east of No 6 Lower Street. This Roman road is listed as number 3c by Margary (1973) and it linked London with Colchester and Caistor-by-Norwich with the Antonine Itinerary covering this route in Inter IX where it is generally agreed that the settlement named as Ad Ansam is at Stratford St Mary ((Moore, 1988, 33).

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its location within the general area where a major Roman period settlement (HER SSM 007), which in all likelihood was centred on the crossing point of the River Stour by the Roman road noted above c250m south of No 6 Lower Street, is known to exist through the recovery of stray finds over the years though no formal investigations have been undertaken. No 6 Lower Street is also located close to various listed buildings of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century date confirming this area as part of the later historic village.

1.4 No 6 is located c100m east of the River Stour on the eastern side of Lower Street and is between the 5m and 10m OD contour lines in an area where the local glaciofluvial deposits are generally light, well drained, sands and gravels. Prior to ground works starting a previous rear extension was demolished and its concrete slab base was removed exposing subsoil to the rear of the main part of the house with the remainder of the larger new extension area previously having been part of the garden.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were 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 under fine weather conditions and site visibility was 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 closely 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 c48m<sup>2</sup> and in total 24m of 600mm wide and 900mm to 1100mm to 1300mm deep foundation trench were excavated along its northern, eastern and southern sides (see Fig. 2) with the southern trench located 800mm from the edge of the extension footprint so an existing adjacent wall would not be undermined. In addition the northern and southern foundation trenches were excavated and concreted in alternate 1500mm lengths again in order to safeguard the stability of adjacent existing walls which being of some age are of a shallower depth.

3.2 Immediately to the rear of the house the deposit profile revealed in the foundation trenches comprised 300mm of a light to mid brown sandy subsoil over the locally occurring natural orange sand with flints while over the eastern half of the new extension footprint area 350mm of topsoil lay over the subsoil layer. The only features exposed in the foundation trenches proved to be a complex of three or four 800mm deep and c1200mm wide pits of later 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date in the north-eastern corner of the foundation trenches and a brick built well with a diameter of 1400mm towards the north-western corner (see Fig. 2 & Appendix I). The pit complex produced a number of white and blue and white transfer printed pottery sherds, two stoneware bottles, glass fragments and a few animal bone fragments with butchering marks typical of a c1900 rubbish deposit while the well was constructed of common red bricks whose dimensions were 9in. x 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>in. x 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>in. (228mm x 70mm x 114mm). While no features of pre 19<sup>th</sup> century date were revealed some evidence for earlier activity in the area was provided by 3 sherds (26g) of sandy greyware of Roman date and one small sherd (6g) of green glazed sandy orange late medieval transitional ware recovered from the upcast spoil.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site lies in an area of archaeological interest close to the substantial Roman period site known as 'Ad Ansam' and within the area of the historic medieval period village the lack of archaeological features of either date suggests that it lies outside the respective areas of more intensive past use. However the small number of Roman period pottery sherds and single late medieval sherd do indicate that this site was on the periphery of both the Roman and medieval areas of settlement with more intensive activity commencing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century period as evidenced by the small complex of pits and brick built well as outlined above.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that the monitored footings at No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary have not impacted on any deposits of archaeological significance.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to David & Emma Watson and everyone from Core Construction for their close cooperation during the monitoring)*

Refs: 1973 Roman Roads in Britain (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

Margary, I D

Moore I E 1988 The Archaeology of Roman Suffolk



Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006  
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Fig. 2: Monitored extension area  
 (Foundation trenches- dark blue, 19<sup>th</sup> C well- red, 19<sup>th</sup> C pit complex- brown)  
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2014 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view from east



Foundation trench on southern side



Area of 19<sup>th</sup> century pitting in north-eastern corner of foundations



Brick built well in north-western corner from east



Well from south



**No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: B/13/00863**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JS

Clients: Mr D Watson

Local planning authority: Babergh DC

Planning application ref: B/13/00863

Proposed development: Erection of extension

Brief ref: SCCAS\_6LowerSt\_StratfordStMary\_MonSpec

Proposed date for ground works: Late August

Grid ref: TM 0430 3388

## **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 D Watson 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 B/13/00863. 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 R Hoggett of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) 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 No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Stratford St Mary lies to the south of Ipswich and is now a large village having seen extensive development since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century around what was originally a settlement strung out along Upper and Lower Street with other, scattered cottages and farms in the parish. What was the main Roman road from London to the East Anglia cuts across the eastern part of the parish and is now largely under the modern A 12 some 90m to the east of No 6 Lower Street. This Roman road is listed as number 3c by Margary (1973) and it linked London with Colchester and Caistor-by-Norwich with the Antonine Itinerary covering this route in Inter IX where it is generally agreed that the settlement named as Ad Ansam is at Stratford St Mary ((Moore, 1988, 33).

2.2 No 6 Lower Street is located c100m east of the River Stour and is between the 5m and 10m OD contour lines in an area where the local glaciofluvial deposits are generally light, well drained, sands and gravels.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant Brief: 'This application affects a small area close to an early record of probably Roman activity (recorded in the County Historic Environment Record as HER SSM 007). As a result there is high potential to encounter important archaeological deposits at this location. The proposal will cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.'

3.2 It should also be noted that No 6 Lower Street is located to various listed buildings of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup> century date confirming this area as a historic part of the village.

3.3 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, in this case to reveal evidence for Roman period and late medieval/earlier Post medieval activity, as it is located within in an area that has recorded evidence for both of these periods. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the foundation and service trenches before other works progress 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.

#### 5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be trench foundations. These ground works and any related service trenches and landscaping will be monitored during and after excavation and the upcast spoil will be examined both visually and with a metal detector for archaeological finds. Any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office as will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of 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 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.

5.3 As necessary and to define archaeological deposits exposed surfaces will be trowelled clean before recording within the constraints imposed by health and safety considerations in areas of excavation going below 1.30m. 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 SCC Archaeological Officer 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 this case given the scale of the planned works the possibility of finding 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 and pdf version will be sent to the County HER in addition to a pdf version for the client for submission to the relevant LPA. The site monitoring will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before field work starts 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. The reporting will be commensurate with the findings from the monitoring and at its most basic level will detail the location, circumstances and characteristics of the deposits exposed and any finds that are revealed.

### 6. Risk Assessment

6.1 Protective clothing will be worn on site (hard hat, high visibility vest/coat, steel-toe cap boots, 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.

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 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 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.

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

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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### 7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Palaeoenvironmental samples:	V Fryer (Freelance)
Pre-historic flint:	S Bates (Freelance)
Pre-historic pottery:	S Percival (Freelance)
Post Roman ceramics & CBM:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Roman small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

### Refs:

Margary, I D	1973	Roman Roads in Britain (3 <sup>rd</sup> edition)
Moore I E	1988	The Archaeology of Roman Suffolk

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-187489**

## Project details

Project name	No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Stratford St Mary, 6 Lower Street (SSM 033, TM 0428 3389) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension revealed a brick built well and a complex of pits both of which were of mid to late 19th century date and therefore broadly contemporary with the house. While the site is close to the Roman settlement known from that period as 'Ad Ansam' the only earlier stray finds from the upcast were two sherds of Roman greyware and a sherd of later medieval glazed ware.
Project dates	Start: 03-09-2014 End: 05-09-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SSM 033 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SSM 007 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/13/00863 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition



**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH STRATFORD ST MARY No 6 LOWER STREET
Postcode	CO7 6JS
Study area	48.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0428 3389 51.9653668547 0.973970931992 51 57 55 N 000 58 26 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.00m Max: 8.00m

**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 recipient	Landowner
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass"
Paper Media available	"Report"

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	No 6 Lower Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2014
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	12 September 2014

## OASIS:

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