

**Erection of Rear Extension at 1 Chelsea Close,  
Ipswich, Suffolk**

**Planning application: IP/12/00125/FUL**

**HER Ref: IPS 772**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(August 2015)

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: [johnnewman2@btinternet.com](mailto:johnnewman2@btinternet.com) )

## **Site details for HER**

Name: No 1 Chelsea Close (formerly 38 Highfield Road), Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 6DE

Client: Mr C Pead

Local planning authority: Ipswich BC

Planning application ref: IP/12/00125/FUL

Development: Erection of rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 23 March & 9 June, 2015

HER ref: IPS 772

Event ref: ESF 23098

OASIS: johnnewm1-220096

Grid ref: TM 1474 4646

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*Summary: Ipswich, No 1 Chelsea Close (IPS 772, TM 1474 4646) monitoring of ground works for a new rear extension in an area on the south-eastern side of the Roman period Castle Hill villa site did not reveal any features except occasional 19<sup>th</sup> century field drains and the only finds in the upcast spoil were of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr C Pead).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 The Last and Tricker Partnership on behalf of their clients Mr C Pead 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/12/00125/FUL. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief set by Ms J Plouviez then 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 new rear extension at No 1 Chelsea Close (formerly No 38 Highfield Road), Ipswich.

1.2 The site at 1 Chelsea Close, Ipswich is located on the north-western side of Ipswich in an extensive area of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development close to the 40m OD contour with an underlying drift geological background consisting of a relatively heavy sandy clay with flints of the Kesgrave series surrounded by an area of boulder clay. This part of suburban Ipswich covers the Castle Hill Roman villa, a substantial and complex archaeological site which was identified in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and partially investigated as residential development spread across its extensive layout between c1930 and 1950 and again in the late 1980s.

1.3 The main structures within the villa complex (HER IPS 015-see Fig. 1) lie to the north-west of Chelsea Close on either side of Chesterfield Drive however the proposed development does fall within the overall villa complex and is close to the area investigated in the late 1980s immediately to the north-west which revealed evidence for ancillary structures comprising an aisled building and a bath-house (HER IPS 200). Previous to this development the extension area has been in use as garden.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 An initial visit was made to the site to monitor the ground reduction required to level the extension area and this was followed by a second visit to observe the excavation of the foundation trenches. This work was undertaken using a small 360 machine which was under continuous archaeological supervision with weather conditions being dry and sunny giving good site visibility during both visits. 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 initial ground reduction works saw the removal of up to 500mm of material comprising 350mm of topsoil and 150mm of mid brown sandy subsoil with the base of the latter deposit not being reached during these works. No archaeological features were revealed and the only finds seen in the subsoil were debris of recent date.

3.2 Following this ground reduction the foundation trenches for the new extension (see Fig. 2) were excavated to a width of 700mm and 1000mm deep. The upper part of the trenches comprised the lower 200mm to 300mm of the mid brown sandy

subsoil that was in part removed in the initial soil strip with the underlying naturally occurring glaciofluvial deposit being orange silty sand with flints and occasional pockets of pale brown clay and degraded natural chalk. The only features revealed during the excavation works were two red ceramic field drains of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and no stray finds of any date were seen in the lower part of the subsoil.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this monitoring did not reveal any evidence relating to the Castle Hill villa only a small area was exposed and this site may still be within the overall complex but perhaps in a part that saw activity at a low scale of intensity in the Roman period being, for example, possibly in use as garden or orchard. However it is clear from these monitoring results that structural evidence relating to the villa complex did not extend into the garden area at No 1 Chelsea Close and continued observation of development works in the overall area will, in time, help refine our understanding of this important archaeological site.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Chris Pead and Martin Day for their close cooperation during the monitoring)*

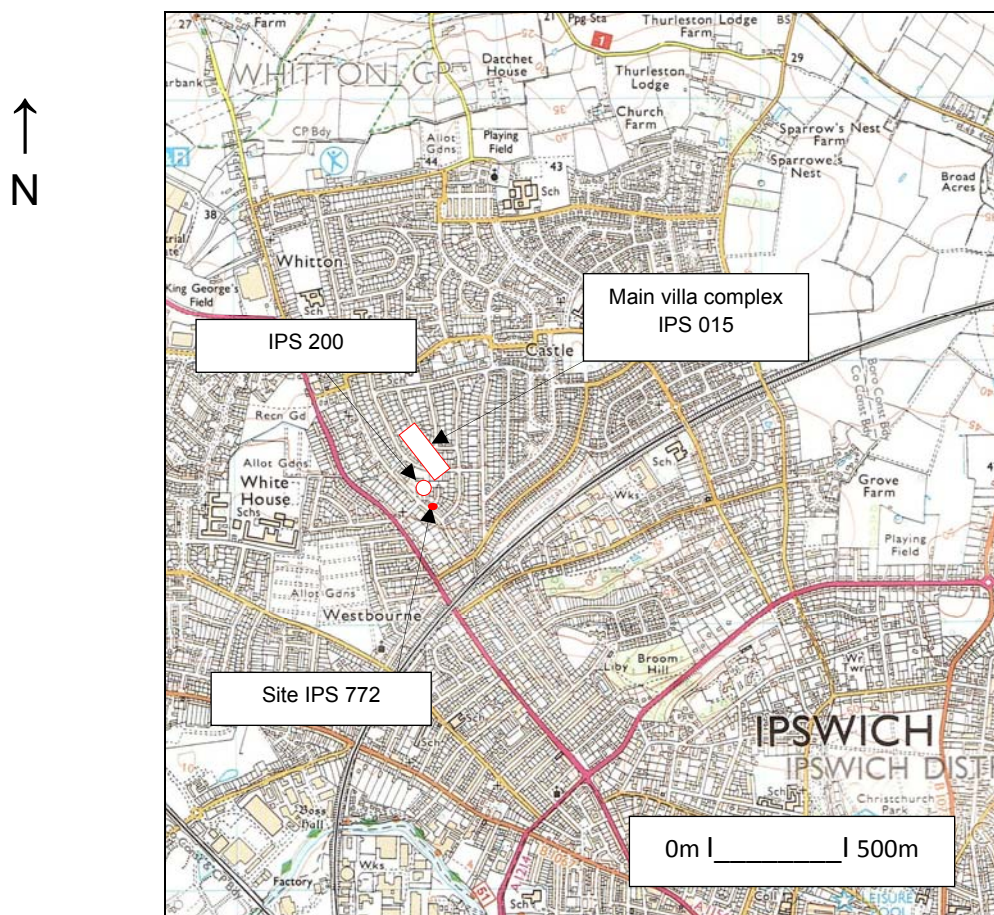
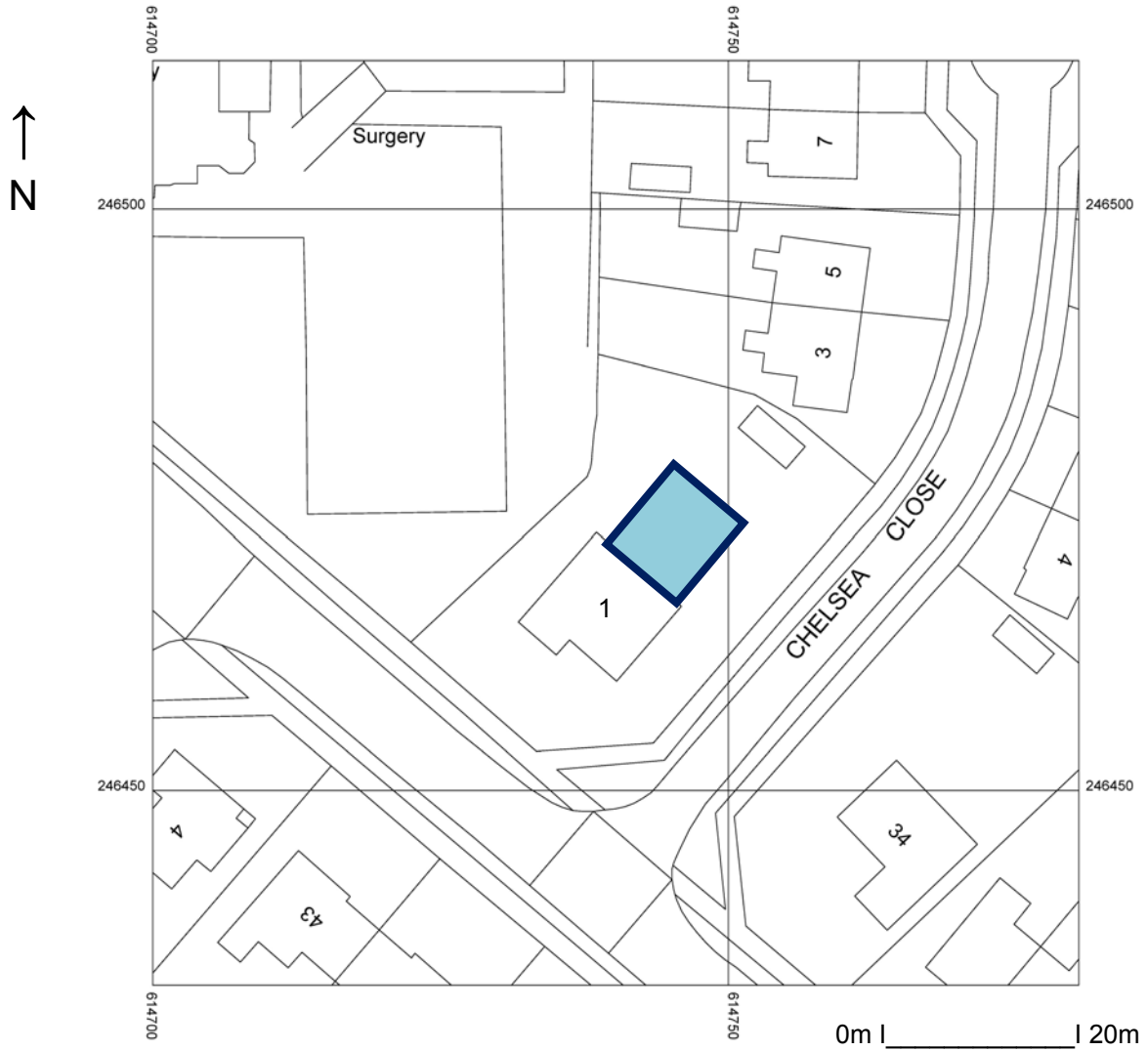


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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**Fig. 2: Monitored extension area (dark blue- trenches)**  
(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2015 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view from north during initial soil stripping



General view from south during initial soil stripping



Northern trench from east



Western trench from north



Southern trench from east



Deposit profile of western trench



Deposit profile of northern trench

**Erection of Rear Extension 1 Chelsea Close,  
Ipswich, Suffolk**

**Planning application: IP/12/00125/FUL**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

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

(Tel: 01473 832896 Email: [johnnewman2@btinternet.com](mailto:johnnewman2@btinternet.com) )



## **Site details**

Name: No 1 Chelsea Close, Ipswich, IP1 6DE

Client: Mr C Pead

Local planning authority: Ipswich DC

Planning application ref: IP/12/00125/FUL

Proposed development: Erection of rear extension

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 1473 4647

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2. Location, Topography & Geology
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## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Last and Tricker Partnership on behalf of their client, Mr C Pead, 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/12/00125/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 Ms J Plouviez 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 a rear extension to No 1 Chelsea Close, Ipswich.

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 The site at 1 Chelsea Close, Ipswich is located on the north-western side of Ipswich in an extensive area of mid 20<sup>th</sup> century residential development close to the 40m OD contour with an underlying drift geological background consisting of boulder clay with flints. This part of suburban Ipswich covers the Castle Hill Roman villa, a substantial and complex archaeological site which was identified in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and partially investigated as residential development spread across its extensive layout between c1930 and 1950 and again in the late 1980s.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 The main structures within the villa complex lie to the north-west of Chelsea Close however the proposed development does fall within the overall villa complex and is close to the area investigated in the late 1980s which revealed evidence for ancillary structures comprising an aisled building and a bath-house (HER IPS 200).

## 4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the site lies in a location with high archaeological potential to contain deposits of Roman date associated with the villa complex and monitoring of ground works by a trained archaeologist in close liaison with the owner and contractor can best record what may be revealed. Site monitoring arrangements with the

relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the area of the planned ground works. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details relating to depth of overburden as revealed within the foundation trenches 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 is planned to be traditional strip footings. 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 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 in 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. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas. 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. 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 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 sections 3 and 4 above and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (EAA Occ. Papers 3, 8 & 24 1997, 2000 & 2011) and in relation to what is already known about the Castle Hill villa site. 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 the pdf version and a bound hard copy will be provided for the County HER, a copy will also be sent to the LPA via the architect/owner. 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. The area observed will also be supplied to the County HER as a vector plan in .dxf format for incorporation into the relevant Mapinfo system.

## 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- in this case hand

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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excavation appears likely given the restricted nature of the site. 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 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 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 small finds:	N Crummy (Freelance)
Roman pottery & CBM	S Benfield (CAT)
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS

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**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-220096**

### Project details

Project name	Erection of Rear Extension to No 1 Chelsea Close, Ipswich, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Ipswich, No 1 Chelsea Close (IPS 772, TM 1474 4646) monitoring of ground works for a new rear extension in an area on the south-eastern side of the Roman period Castle Hill villa site did not reveal any features except occasional 19th century field drains and the only finds in the upcast spoil were of recent date.
Project dates	Start: 23-03-2015 End: 09-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23098 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	IPS 772 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	IP/12/00125/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
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 IPSWICH IPSWICH No 1 CHELSEA CLOSE
Postcode	IP1 6DE
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	

TM 1474 4646 52.0742601271 1.13389606333 52 04 27 N 001 08 02 E  
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 39.00m Max: 40.00m

### 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 Rear Extensio to No 1 Chelsea Close, Ipswich, Suffolk-  
Archaeological Monitoring Report

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Date 2015

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