

**Land East of Chapel Street,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/15/2895**

**HER Ref: WBG 111**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(July 2016)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: Land east of Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4NF

Client: Foundation Properties

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/2895

Development: Demolition of garages and erection of a new dwelling

Date of fieldwork: 25 & 29 February, 25 May and 13 June, 2016

Event ref: ESF 23601

HER ref: WBG 111

OASIS: johnnewm1-243817

Grid ref: TM 2718 4914

Conservation area

## **Contents**

Summary

Frontispiece- extract from Woodbridge tithe map

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

Table 1: Context list

4. The Pottery (Sue Anderson)

Table 2: Pottery by fabric

5. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Location of monitored footprint area

List of appendices

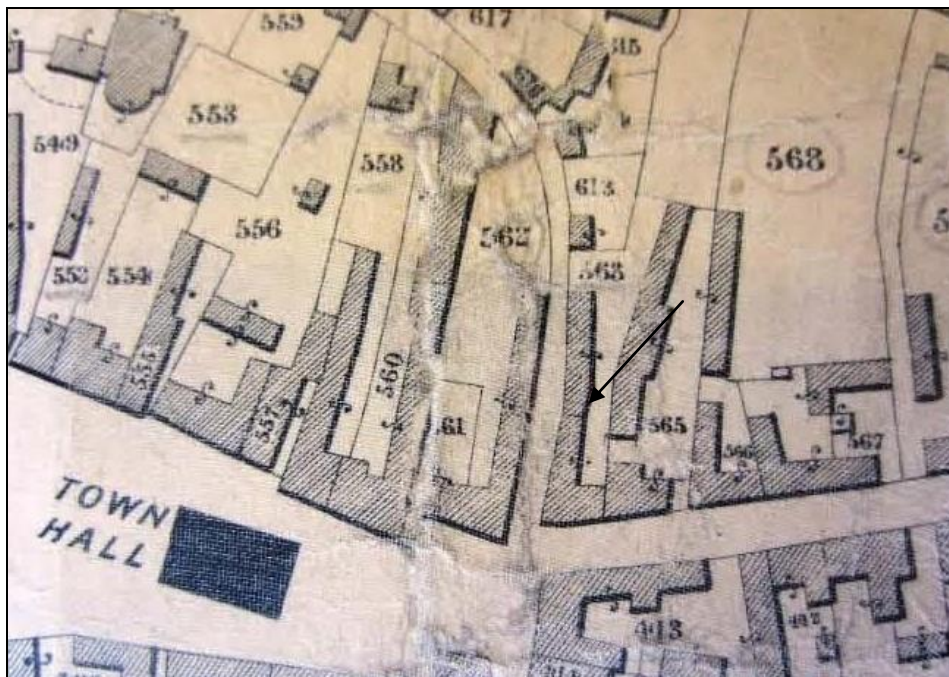
Appendix I - Images

Appendix II- Written scheme for monitoring

Appendix III- Pottery catalogue

Appendix IV- OASIS data collection form

*Summary: Woodbridge, land east of Chapel Street (WBG 111, TM 2718 4914) monitoring of ground works for the raft type foundation for a new dwelling revealed the brick foundations from a series of 19<sup>th</sup> century workshops shown on historic 19<sup>th</sup> century maps. Subsoil around and below these foundations contained a number of pottery sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date while from a lower clean subsoil deposit a small Thetford type ware sherd of Late Saxon to early medieval date and three pottery sherds of medieval to late medieval date were recovered (John Newman Archaeological Services for Foundation Properties).*



Extract from tithe map of 1841 (Suffolk RO ref. FDA297/A1/1b, site arrowed)

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Foundation Properties 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 DC/15/2895. 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 new dwelling following the demolition of a block of garages on land to the east of Chapel Street.

1.2 Woodbridge is a small town close to the coast in south east Suffolk located close to the lowest crossing point of the River Deben at Wilford Bridge. The town was granted a market in 1227 and with an uncertain, though undoubtedly significant and important status, as a centre from at least the Late Saxon period Woodbridge still fulfils various local administrative and economic roles. The town is located in an area of predominantly light, glacially derived, sands and gravels generally giving rise to well drained soils with this development site being at c18m OD on the eastern side of Chapel Street close its junction with Market Hill (see Fig. 1) with the ground dropping away to the east/north-east into a small valley.

1.3 Historically Woodbridge has had two main foci; the parish church and market place which are to the south-west of the site and the River Deben some 500m to the south-east where a port developed from the foundation of the town. The street plan in the area north of the market place is also of potential interest in relation to the historic development of Woodbridge as the curving line of Chapel Street initially from its eastern end to the north-west and then west to meet Angel Lane may mark an early defensive line of a bank and ditch taking advantage of the local topography with sites on the northern/north-eastern, downslope, side of Chapel Street revealing deep and wet deposits where ground works have been monitored (such as at HER WBG 089) though whether this represents a natural or a created feature is uncertain.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its location within the area recorded on the County Historic Environment Record (HER WBG 070) as the historic core of the later Saxon and medieval settlement at Woodbridge.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the raft foundation, which were excavated using a mid-sized 360 machine, was carried out over three site visits over a somewhat protracted period as completion had to await the removal of a telegraph pole at the site. In addition a final visit was made to examine the trench opened for the relocation of some electric cables along the eastern side of the site. At all times

conditions for site visibility were good and as the spoil was temporarily stockpiled on site it could be thoroughly examined. The foundation area was recorded in relation to nearby mapped features and a number of digital images were taken in order to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

### 3. Results

3.1 For this new extension a raft type foundation was planned beforehand and therefore the ground works comprised soil stripping across its footprint (see Fig. 2) using a wide toothless bucket. Below the garage block and associated yard area, which had been removed beforehand, the soil stripping revealed the red brick foundations from a series of workshops of 19<sup>th</sup> century date (see frontispiece) at a depth of 500mm to 800mm. The spoil removed from around these foundations contained brick and tile debris from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century demolition of the workshops in addition to also containing a number of unstratified pottery sherds (0001) which were collected (0001). The brick foundations could be seen to be cutting pits of later Post medieval date, which were dated from fragments of peg tile, brick and glass in their upper fill, but these were not investigated as they were to be left in situ below the planned raft foundation. Along the western side of the stripped area adjacent to Chapel Street an 800mm to 1000mm wide strip of undisturbed clean mid brown sandy subsoil was revealed at a depth of 800mm and below the upper subsoil which contained the later Post medieval material noted above. The lower, clean, subsoil deposit was 200mm deep and it lay above the locally occurring glaciofluvial yellow sand with small flints at the site and this subsoil level while not revealing any archaeological features did contain a few stray pottery finds (0002) in addition to a number of oyster shells.

3.2 A 800mm wide and 1000mm deep trench was also excavated along the eastern side of the site to re-locate some electricity cables and this revealed natural yellow sand at a depth of 600mm in its southern half. In the northern half of the trench further red brick 19<sup>th</sup> century workshop foundations cut into later Post medieval pits were revealed and these were left in situ below the cables and a number of pottery sherds were recovered from the upcast spoil of the trench (0003).

Context No	Type	Description
0001	U/S	Pottery finds from upcast subsoil spoil from around 19 <sup>th</sup> century workshop foundations
0002	U/S	Pottery finds from clean lower mid brown sandy subsoil below subsoil containing Post medieval finds (0001)
0003	U/S	Pottery finds from upcast spoil of cable trench

Table 1: Context list

## 4. The Pottery (Sue Anderson)

4.1 Thirteen sherds of pottery (499g) were collected from three contexts all of which are essentially unstratified though 0001 was above 0002. A summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix III.

Quantification was carried out using sherd count and weight. A full quantification by count, weight, estimated vessel equivalent (eve), minimum number of vessels (MNV), fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Local wares and common imports were identified from Jennings (1981). Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. The results were input directly into an Access database.

Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric.

Description	Fabric	Date Range	No	Wt(g)	Eve	MNV
Thetford-type ware	THET	L.9th–11th c.	1	5	1	
Medieval sandy coarsewares	MCW	12th–14th c.	1	14	1	
Hollesley ware	HOLL	13th–14th c.?	1	43	1	
Late medieval and transitional wares	LMT	L.14th–16th c.	1	13	1	6
Westerwald stoneware	GSW5	L.17th–19th c.	1	19	1	17
English stoneware: London	ESWL	L.17th–18th c.	1	168	1	100
Staffordshire-type slipware	STAFT	L.17th–18th c.	1	34	1	
Porcelain	PORC	18th c.+	1	2	1	
English stoneware: Nottingham type	ESWN	L.18th–19th c.	2	70	2	7
English stoneware	ESW	19th c.+	2	82	2	15
Yellow ware	YELW	L.18th–19th c.	1	49	1	

Table 2: Pottery by fabric

One abraded body sherd of Thetford-type ware was found in subsoil 0002. Also from this context was a large sherd of sandy medieval coarseware and a fragment of a strap handle in Hollesley ware, decorated with triangular stab marks on the vertical ridging. A rim fragment from a large green-glazed LMT lid also came from this layer.

Later pottery was recovered as unstratified finds from subsoil below the demolished workshops (0001) and from spoil at the eastern edge of the site (0003). Finds from 0001 ranged in date from the 18th to the 19th centuries and comprised a rim fragment of a Westerwald tankard or jug decorated with cobalt blue lines, a fragment of a Staffordshire-type dish with brown combed slip decoration on a white background, a small piece of hand-painted soft-paste porcelain (probably Lowestoft) and a large fragment of a stoneware preserve jar. The pottery from 0003 belonged to a similar date range and included a large fragment of a London-type stoneware brown mug or small jug, a fragment of Nottingham-type stoneware jar with rouletted decoration, a fragment of a ?Nottingham stoneware lid (burnt), a base fragment of a yellow ware dish, and a small fragment of brown-glazed stoneware.

### 5. Conclusion

5.1 While the footprint area for the new dwelling was extensively disturbed by brick foundations and pits of later Post medieval date the narrow strip of surviving earlier subsoil along the western, road frontage, part of the site produced a small but interesting group of pottery sherds (0002). With a small sherd of Thetford type ware of mid-9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century date an indication of Late Saxon activity in the historic core of Woodbridge is suggested with subsequent medieval and late medieval activity also evidenced by three more pottery sherds. As might be anticipated from a town centre site the overall pottery assemblage (0001 & 0003) is dominated by Post medieval sherds of later 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date with a mixture of types including some transported from the large potteries in the English Midlands in addition to a sherd of porcelain probably from the closer Lowestoft works and an imported Westerwald stoneware tankard or jug sherd from the Rhineland. This range of pottery types being typical for a town and port that thrived through the Post medieval period with clear links to the Midlands, coastal East Anglia and across the North Sea to the continent.

### Refs.

Jennings, S., 1981, *Eighteen Centuries of pottery from Norwich*. E. Anglian Archaeol. 13, Norwich Survey/NMS.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Melvyn Bottomley and everyone from Foundation Properties for their close cooperation during the monitoring, to Maddie Newman for processing the finds and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds work)*

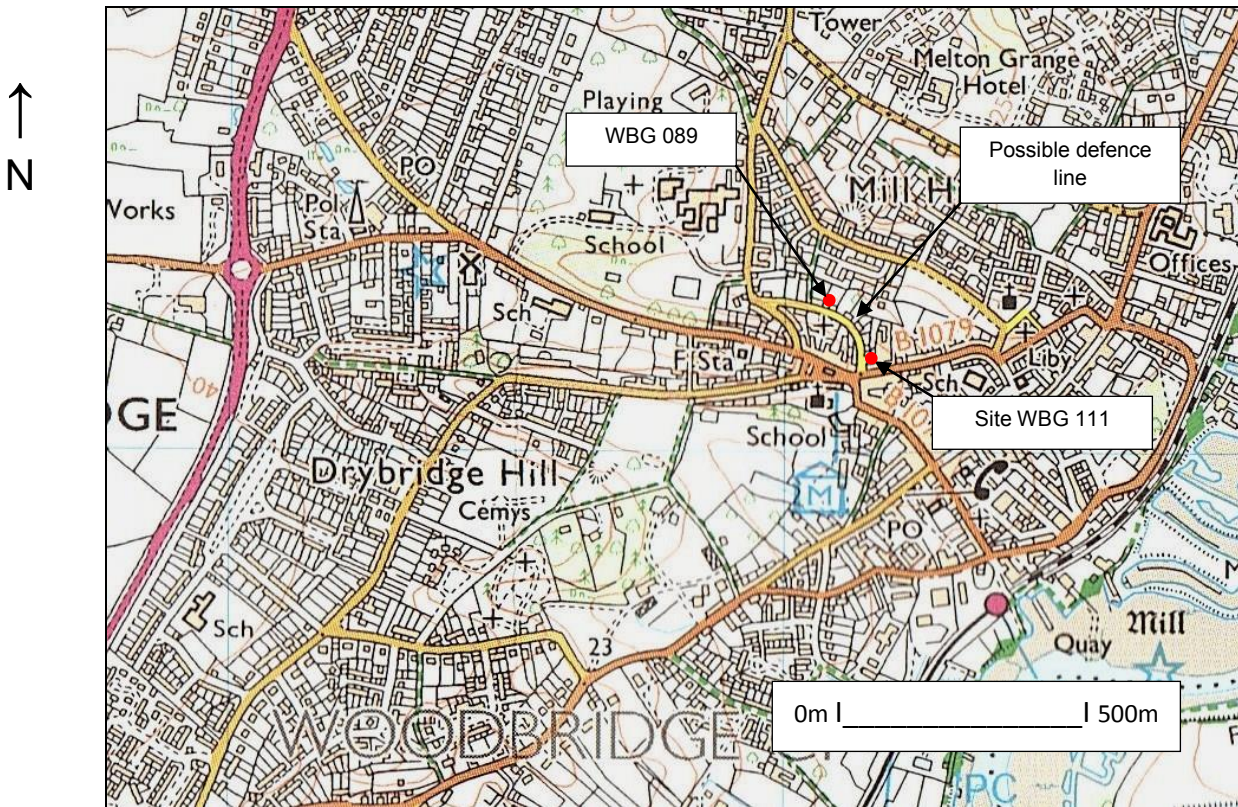


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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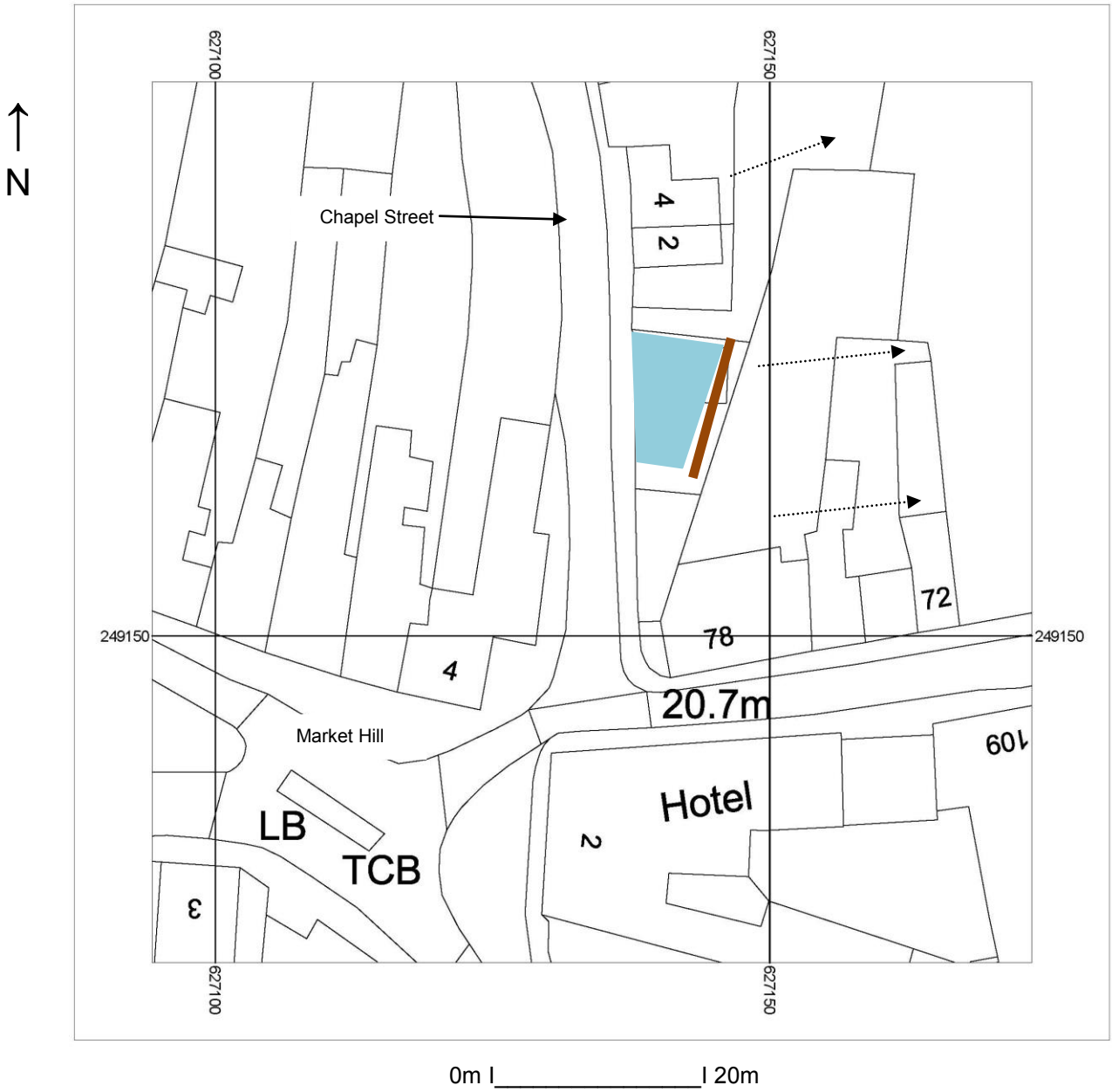


Fig. 2: Location of monitored footprint area  
 (light blue- raft area, brown- cable trench, dashed arrows- slope down)  
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## Appendix I- Images



General view from east



General view of soil stripping from west



Base of raft foundation from southeast (subsoil deposit 0002 arrowed)



Cable trench from south

**Land East of Chapel Street,  
Woodbridge, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/15/2895**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological Monitoring**

## **Site details**

Name: Land east of Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk

Clients: Foundation Properties

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/2895

Proposed development: Demolition of garages and erection of a new dwelling

Brief ref: 2015\_SCCAS\_ArchMonBrief\_east of Chapel Street Woodbridg\_Dc15-2895

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Grid ref: TM 2716 4918

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 Foundation Properties 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 DC/15/2895. 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 (SCCAS) to satisfy the condition. The WSI will also set out how potential risks will be mitigated. This proposed development concerns the demolition of some garages and the erection of a new dwelling on land east of Chapel Street close to its junction with Market Hill and New Street, Woodbridge.

## 2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 Woodbridge is a small town close to the coast in south east Suffolk located close to the lowest crossing point of the River Deben. Granted a market in 1227 and with an uncertain, though undoubtedly significant and important status, as a centre from at least the Late Saxon period Woodbridge still fulfils various local administrative and economic roles. The town is located in an area of predominantly light, glacially derived, sands and gravels generally giving rise to well drained soils with the proposed development site (PDS) being at c18m OD on the eastern side of Chapel Street close its junction with Market Hill with the ground dropping away to the east/north-east into a small valley.

2.2 Historically Woodbridge has had two main foci; the parish church and market place which are to the south-west of the PDS, and the River Deben some 500m to the south-east. The street plan in the area north of the market place is also of potential interest in relation to the historic development of Woodbridge as the curving line of Chapel Street initially from its eastern end to the north-west and then west to meet Angel Lane may mark an early defensive line of a bank and ditch taking advantage of the local topography.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant brief 'This application lies in an area of archaeological importance within the historic settlement core of Woodbridge (County Historic Environment Record WDB 070). As a result, there is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location, particularly of relating to activity in Woodbridge from the medieval period onwards. Any groundwork associated with the proposed development has the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any underlying heritage assets. Historic maps indicate that formerly there were ranges of buildings on the site.'

3.2 The Brief 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 the 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 PDS is located within the historic settlement core of Woodbridge where evidence of activity of mid/late Saxon to Post medieval date can be anticipated. In particular the curving line of Chapel Street may follow a former defensive line, as outlined in section 2.2 above, that may well have in part utilised the natural topography. Site monitoring arrangements with the relevant ground works contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the ground works as they 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 exposed 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 is likely to be trench type foundations; these will be monitored as they are excavated. 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. The necessity for an HER search for the area within 250m of the PDS to inform the reporting will be discussed with the relevant SCCAS Archaeological Officer once the results of the monitoring are known and commissioned if required.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under an overall site HER and event numbers requested from SCCAS beforehand. 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 40 litre palaeoenvironmental samples will be taken for processing and assessment by a specialist conversant with regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological deposits

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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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 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 guidelines in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 6 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 in *MoRPHE* 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) and local HER search results if required. 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.

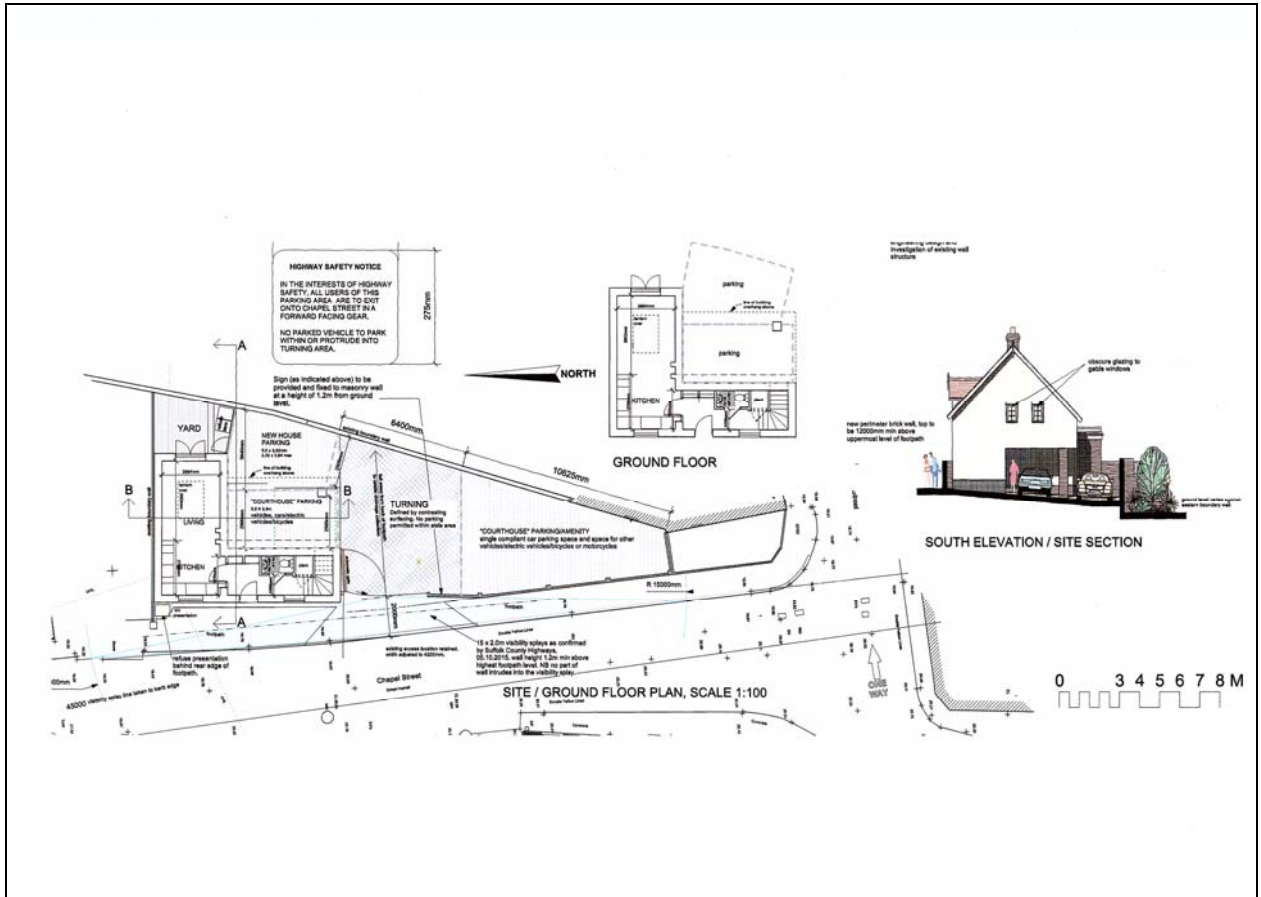
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

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 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 (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



Planned development

### Appendix III- Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	No	Wt/g	Form	Rim	Decoration	Notes	Spot date
0001	GSW5	1	19	jug/stein	upright	blue lines, cordon		18?
0001	STAFT	1	34	dish		slip brown lines on white	pale buff earthenware	18
0001	PORC	1	2			hand-painted blue scene int	soft paste, prob Lowestoft	M-L.18
0001	ESW	1	72	preserve jar	plain	groove below rim	grey	19
0002	THET	1	5					L.9-11
0002	MCW	1	14				ms greyware, black surfaces	12-14
0002	HOLL	1	43	jug		ridges and triangular stamps	wide strap handle	13-14
0002	LMT	1	13	lid	thickened			15-16
0003	ESWL	1	168	mug/jug	plain	rilled neck	prob Fulham	L.17-E.18
0003	ESW	1	10				pale fabric	19?
0003	ESWN	1	46			rouletted wavy lines		L.18-19
0003	ESWN	1	24	lid	flanged		burnt	L.18-19
0003	YELW	1	49					19?

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: johnnewm1-243817**

### Project details

Project name	Land To The East Of Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Woodbridge, land east of Chapel Street (WBG 111, TM 2718 4914) monitoring of ground works for the raft type foundation for a new dwelling revealed the brick foundations from a series of 19th century workshops shown on historic 19th century maps. Subsoil around and below these foundations contained a number of pottery sherds of 17th to 19th century date while from a lower clean subsoil deposit a small Thetford type ware sherd of Late Saxon to early medieval date and three pottery sherds of medieval to late medieval date were recovered.
Project dates	Start: 25-02-2016 End: 13-06-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF 23601 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	WBG 111 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/15/2895 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WOODBRIDGE LAND EAST OF CHAPEL STREET  
 Postcode IP12 4NF  
 Study area 200 Square metres  
 Site coordinates TM 2718 4914 52.093324620887 1.316909618187 52 05 35 N 001 19 00 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 17m Max: 18m

### 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 Developer

### Project archives

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

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Land East of Chapel Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Newman, J  
 Date 2016

Issuer or publisher John Newman Archaeological Services  
Place of issue or publication Henley, Suffolk  
Description Loose bound client report and pdf  
  
Entered by John Newman (johnnewman2@btinternet.com)  
Entered on 15 July 2016

## OASIS:

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