

**The Sergeants House, 84a High Street,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/15/1938/FUL

HER Ref: ADB 262

Archaeological Monitoring Report

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(February 2019)

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Site details for HER

Name: The Sergeants House, 84a High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5AB

Client: Mr N Parker

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/1938/FUL

Development: Erection of rear and side extensions

Date of fieldwork: 30 May, 2018

HER ref: ADB 262

OASIS: johnnewm1-318268

Conservation Area

Grid ref: TM 4648 5664

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Summary: Aldeburgh, The Sergeants House, 84a High Street (ADB 262, TM 4648 5664) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension revealed a substantial depth of subsoil which contained a few stray finds of later Post medieval date above a lower subsoil which did not contain any finds with the overall trench depth being 1100mm and the only feature seen was a large pit/soakaway of recent date (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mr N Parker).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mullins Dowse Architects on behalf of his client Mr N Parker 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/15/1938/FUL. 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 and side extensions at The Sergeants House, 84a High Street, Aldeburgh (see Fig. 1).

1.2 While the earliest date for which urban status as a small town can be claimed for Aldeburgh is uncertain a market is recorded here from 1547; in the Domesday Book of 1086 only 5 people are recorded while in 1327 there were 33 taxpayers and in 1524 115 taxpayers (Gault, 1990, all of these figures should be seen with a multiplier of 4 to 5 at least as only taxpayers/heads of households were recorded). That the parish church was extensively rebuilt from the earlier 16th century also points to a period of particular prosperity and growth in the later medieval and earlier Post medieval for this town and port though the latter function has had to cope with a river docking area that is liable to silting-up and with a potentially difficult access from the North Sea. The parish church is located at the northern end of the historic town with the High Street forming the main focus for the original area of settlement as it runs southwards and parallel to the ever encroaching coastline towards the quay at Slaughden. The Sergeants House is located c300m south-east of the parish church on the eastern side of The High Street and c1000m north of the quay area. The drift geological deposits in this area are well drained sands and gravels with the site being at c6m OD and c80m from the present line of the coast.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this development was therefore generated by its location within the area defined in the County Historic Environment Record (CHER) as the historic core of the town (CHER ADB 176). Therefore deposits of medieval and earlier Post medieval might be anticipated though due to the small scale of the relevant ground works monitoring followed by full reporting was seen as a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 The monitoring of the ground works for the foundation trenches, which were excavated using a small 360 machine, was undertaken during a single site visit under good weather conditions and the upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed. The foundation trenches were then entered and examined closely. The trenches 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

l). With largely negative results from the monitoring of the bigger rear extension the ground works for a small side extension were not monitored.

3. Results

3.1 In total some 19m of 600mm wide foundation trench were excavated (see Fig. 2 & Appendix I) to the rear of the house to a depth of 1100mm with 800mm of mid brown sandy subsoil; below a paved area that had previously removed, that contained small brick and tile fragments plus a few whiteware sherds of 19th to earlier 20th century date above a lower clean paler brown 200mm deep sandy subsoil deposit. The natural glaciofluvial at the base of the trenches being orange sand with flints as anticipated and no archaeological features were seen though a pit/soakaway of recent date was revealed in the north-eastern corner of the rear extension trenches.

4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site lies within the area defined as the historic core of Aldeburgh no archaeological features of any significance were revealed in the foundation trenches and the only finds in the upcast spoil were of later Post medieval to modern date suggesting that the area around The Sergeants House on the High Street was not in use in any form of intensive settlement activity until relatively recently.

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

Ref: Gault, W

1990

A Survey of Suffolk
Parish History (Suffolk
CC)

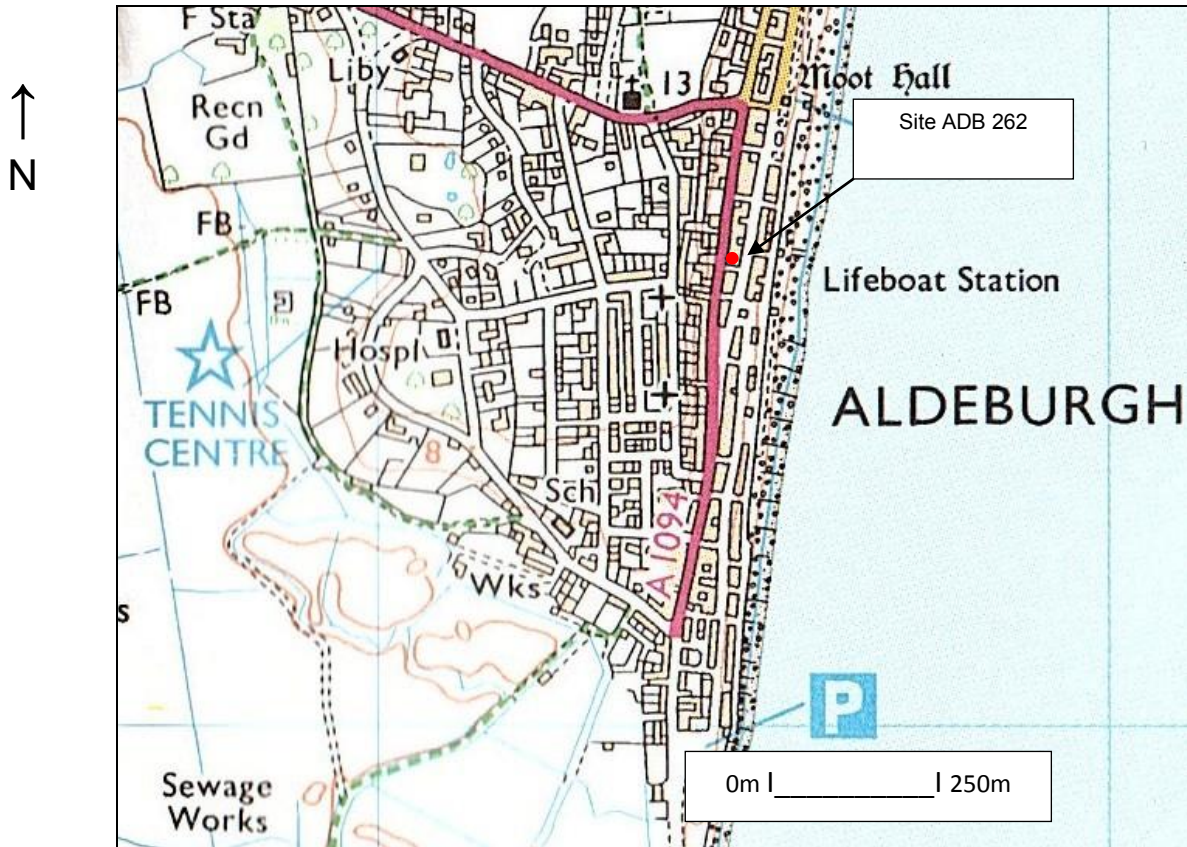


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008
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Appendix I- Images



General view from south



Southern corner of rear extension trench



Eastern trench from south with recent disturbance



Typical trench deposit profile

**The Sergeants House, High Street,
Aldeburgh, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/15/1938/FUL

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

Site details

Name: The Sergeants House, High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP15 5AB

Client: Mr P Parker

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/15/1938/FUL

Proposed development: erection of side/rear extension and alterations

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief ref: tbc

Grid ref: TM 4642 5660

Area: c50m²

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John Newman Archaeological Services

1. Introduction

1.1 Mullins Dowse Architects on behalf of their client Mr P Parker 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/15/1938/FUL. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements of the Brief for monitoring to be 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 erection of a side/rear extension at The Sergeants House, High Street, Aldeburgh.

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 (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 1994, revised 2001 & reissued 2014)*.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 While the earliest date for which urban status as a small town can be claimed for Aldeburgh is uncertain a market is recorded here from 1547; in the Domesday Book of 1086 only 5 people are recorded while in 1327 there were 33 taxpayers and in 1524 115 taxpayers (Gault, 1990, all of these figures should be seen with a multiplier of 4 to 5 at least as only taxpayers/heads of households were recorded). That the parish church was extensively rebuilt from the earlier 16th century also points to a period of particular prosperity and growth in the later medieval and earlier Post medieval for this town and port though the latter function has had to cope with a river docking area that is liable to silting-up and with a potentially difficult access from the North Sea. The parish church is located at the northern end of the historic town with the High Street forming the main focus for the original area of settlement as it runs southwards and parallel to the ever encroaching coastline towards the quay at Slaughden. The Sergeants House is located c300m south-east of the parish church on the eastern side of The High Street and c1000m north of the quay area. The drift geological deposits in this area are well drained sands and gravels with the site being at c6m OD and c80m from the present line of the coast.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Advice from SCCAS notes that this site is within the area defined in the County Historic Environment Record as the historic core of the town (HER ADB 176). As a result, there is high potential for the discovery of below-ground heritage assets of archaeological importance within this area, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or destroy any archaeological remains which exist. The advice then confirms that the disturbance caused by the relevant

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ground works for this development can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation by the building contractor.

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 activity of medieval and early Post medieval date. Site monitoring arrangements with the landowner and contractor will allow for unimpeded access to the foundation works before other works progress to allow for detailed investigation and recording work. This monitoring will aim to record all possible details related 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 exposed.

5. Methodology

5.1 The construction method to be used on the site will be the excavation of foundation trenches. In addition any ground reduction works going below 300mm will be monitored, this will be carried out using a flat bucket. 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 as well as the County HER. A search will also be commissioned from the County HER for an area within 250m of the site to inform any positive monitoring results (with the associated invoice reference included in the report). Ground works will be undertaken at a time when weather conditions allow for the full recording of exposed deposits.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of contexts under the 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 and as appropriate a metal detector search will be carried out. Archaeological deposits will be fully hand investigated and recorded within the constraints of the trenches with sections at appropriate points with adequate time being given to carry out these investigations. 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

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deposits are revealed. If human burial evidence is revealed the relevant 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 principles in *MoRPHE* and this will be deposited with the Suffolk CC HER within 4 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 *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 4 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 works on site start 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 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.

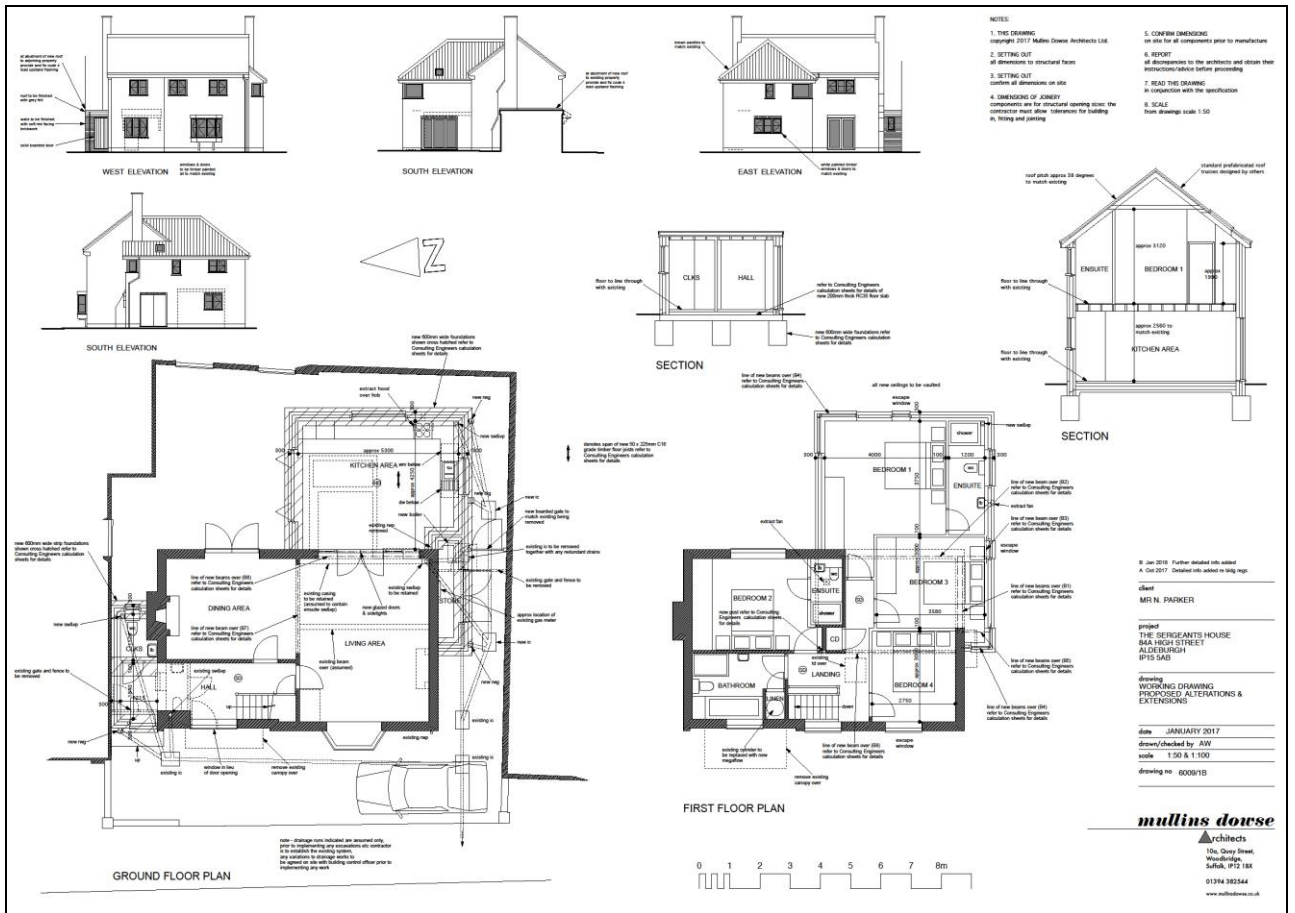
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

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 extension areas

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-318268

Project details

Project name	The Sergeants House, 84a High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Aldeburgh, The Sergeants House, 84a High Street (ADB 262, TM 4648 5664) monitoring of ground works for a rear extension revealed a substantial depth of subsoil which contained a few stray finds of later Post medieval date above a lower subsoil which did not contain any finds with the overall trench depth being 1100mm and the only feature seen was a large pit/soakaway of recent date.
Project dates	Start: 30-05-2018 End: 30-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ADB 262 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/15/1938/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL ALDEBURGH THE SERGEANTS HOUSE 84a HIGH STREET
Postcode	IP15 5A
Study area	60 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4642 5660 52.151980929507 1.60264557718 52 09 07 N 001 36 09 E Point
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	Discarded
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)
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