

**No 2 Castle Terrace, Orford,  
Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/18/0705/FUL**

**HER Ref: ORF 204**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(January 2019)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: No 2 Castle Terrace, Orford, Suffolk, IP12 2ND

Client: Ms B Fras & Mr A Martin

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/18/0705/FUL

Development: Erection of detached annexe

Date of fieldwork: 7 & 9 November, 2018

HER ref: ORF 204

OASIS: johnnewm1-332368

Conservation Area

AONB

Grid ref: TM 4206 4985

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*Summary: Orford, 2 Castle Terrace (ORF 204, TM 4206 4985) monitoring of ground works for a detached annexe building revealed a substantial depth of top and subsoil with large pits containing 20<sup>th</sup> century debris in the northern and eastern trenches. In addition a small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the upcast spoil (John Newman Archaeological Services for Ms B Fras & Mr Martin).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Hollins Architects and Surveyors on behalf of their clients Ms B Fras and Mr A Martin 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/18/0705/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 detached annexe at 2 Castle Terrace, Orford (see Fig. 1).

1.2 Orford is a small town established following the construction of a castle on the Suffolk coast by Henry II in the later 12th century to establish a royal power base in the region in part of Sudbourne parish. The town is close to where the Rivers Alde and Ore now meet behind a series of coastal drift derived banks though the topography of the coastline in the 12th century is unknown and Orford may well have had an easier access to the North Sea at that time. Soils are derived from the underlying largely sand with some gravel drift deposits giving rise to a light, well drained locality previously known for extensive areas of heath land and sheepwalk and now characterised by coniferous tree plantations and crops suited to light ground and intensive irrigation. At Orford the medieval town developed around the market place established below the castle with the parish church to the east and the major part of the settlement is laid out on a loose grid pattern to the south of the market.

1.3 No 2 Castle Terrace is located some 40m east of the Scheduled Monument area covering Orford Castle and to the south-west of the market place and is therefore well within the area defined in the County Historic Environment Record (HER ORF 121) as the medieval town. Therefore evidence for past activity of medieval and earlier Post medieval date might be anticipated at this site.

## 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 over two site visits under good weather conditions and the upcast spoil was inspected closely as the work progressed. The foundation trenches were relatively deep and partially unstable so they were recorded from above. 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 I).

## 3. Results

3.1 In total some 20m of 600mm wide foundation trench were excavated (see Fig. 2) to a depth of 1500mm. These trenches revealed a substantial depth of overburden with 400mm of topsoil above 400mm to 500mm of mid to dark brown sandy subsoil with the underlying natural glaciofluvial deposit being soft yellow sand as anticipated.

3.2 Below and within the subsoil in the northern trench a number of late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century whiteware pottery sherds plus a large number of brick and sheet glass fragments and a few glass bottle fragments, again all of recent date, were revealed. Whether this material was from a single deposit or a number of inter-cutting is uncertain due to the confined nature of the trench. Single more discrete pits containing hearth debris and brick, tile and glass debris of recent date were also noted in the eastern and southern trenches.

3.3 A small number of pottery sherds (6no-wt. 58g) of medieval, 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century AD, date were recovered from the upcast spoil and the full report on these finds by Sue Anderson is included as Appendix III below. In summary these sherds are all of coarseware types common to the county.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 While this site lies within the area defined as the historic core of Orford, close to the castle and market place, the only features revealed in the foundation trenches were rubbish type pits of recent, late 19<sup>th</sup> to early/mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, date. The recovery of a few sherds of medieval pottery from the substantial depth of top and subsoil is of interest however it can be confirmed that no significant archaeological deposits have been disturbed during the construction of this relatively small annexe at 2 Castle Terrace, Orford.

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to everyone on site from SEH French Building for their close cooperation during the monitoring and to Sue Anderson for her specialist finds work)*

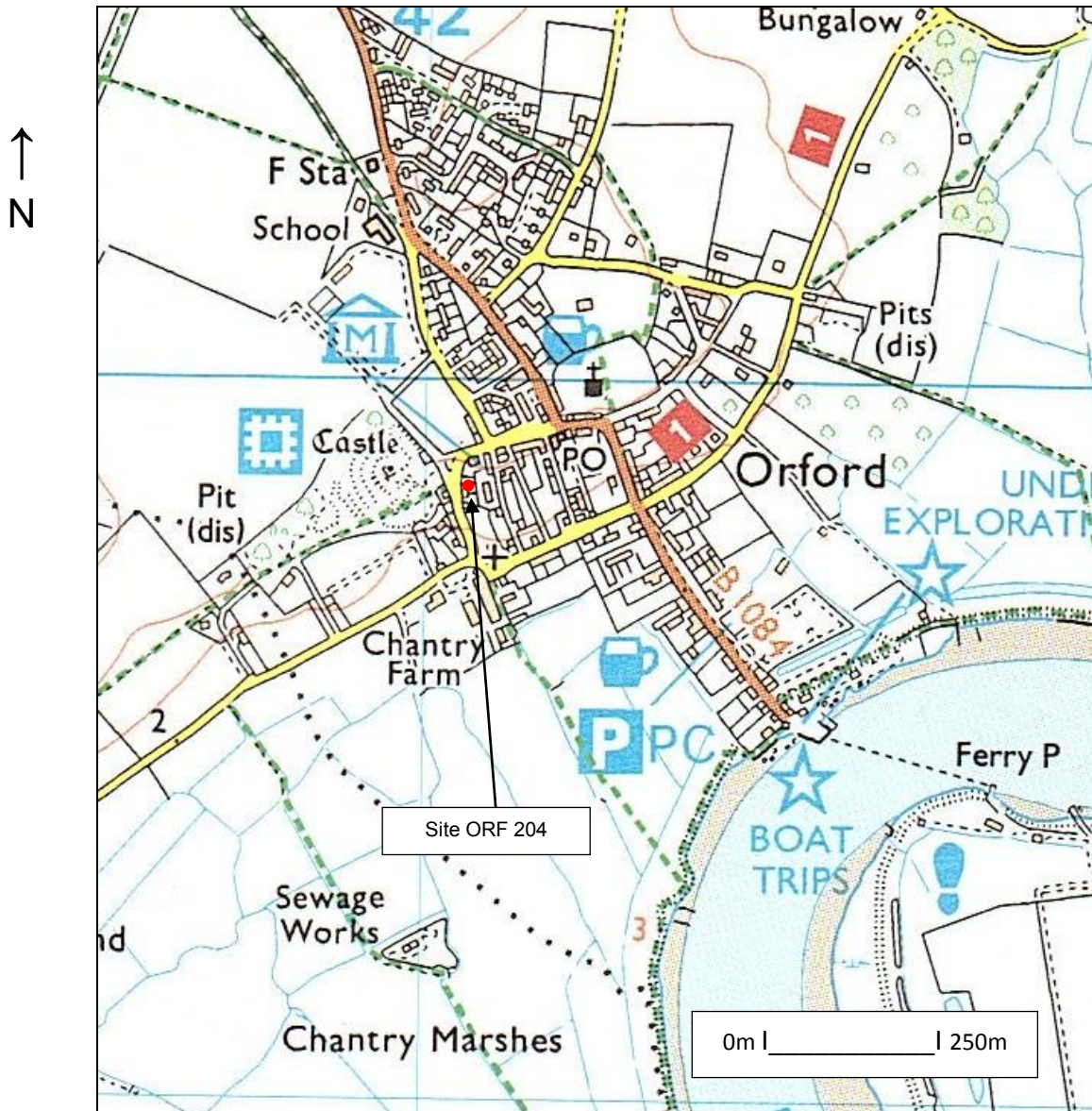
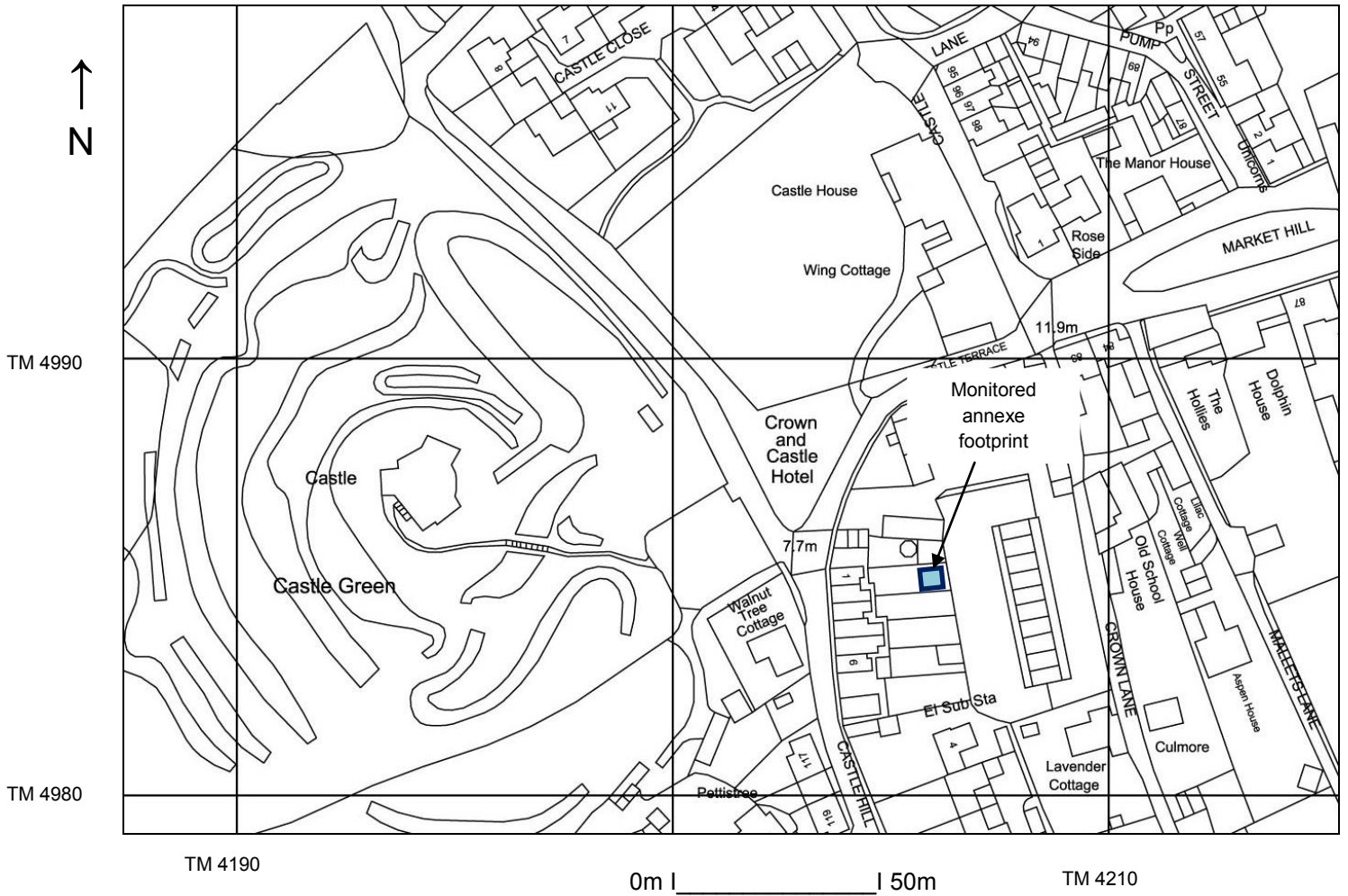


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2008  
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**Fig. 2: Location of monitored annexe**

(Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2018 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

## Appendix I- Images



General view from west



Northern trench from east



Eastern trench from south with 20<sup>th</sup> C pit



Southern trench from west



**No 2 Castle Terrace,  
Orford, Suffolk**

**Planning application: DC/18/0705/FUL**

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

## **Site details**

Name: No 2 Castle Terrace, Orford, Suffolk, IP12 2ND

Client: Ms B Fras & Mr A Martin

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: DC/18/0705/FUL

Proposed development: construction of new detached annexe

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

Brief ref: 2018\_06\_20 2 Castle Terrace DC18\_0705 Arch mon

Grid ref: TM 4204 4986

Conservation area

Area: c20m<sup>2</sup>

## **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 Hollins Architects and Surveyors on behalf of their clients Ms B Fras and Mr A Martin 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/18/0705/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 construction of a new detached annexe at 2 Castle Terrace, Orford.

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 Orford is a small town established following the construction of a castle on the Suffolk coast by Henry II in the later 12<sup>th</sup> century to establish a royal power base in the region in part of Sudbourne parish. The town is close to where the Rivers Alde and Ore now meet behind a series of coastal drift derived banks though the topography of the coastline in the 12<sup>th</sup> century is unknown and Orford may well have had an easier access to the North Sea at that time. Soils are derived from the underlying largely sand with some gravel drift deposits giving rise to a light, well drained locality previously known for extensive areas of heath land and sheepwalk and now characterised by coniferous tree plantations and crops suited to light ground and intensive irrigation. At Orford the medieval town developed around the market place established below the castle with the parish church to the east and the major part of the settlement is laid out on a loose grid pattern to the south of the market.

2.2 No 2 Castle Terrace is located some 40m east of the Scheduled Monument area covering Orford Castle and to the south-west of the market place and is therefore well within the area defined in the County Historic Environment Record (CHER) as the medieval town.

## 3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 To quote from the relevant brief 'The development area lies within the historic core of Orford (County Historic Environment Record ORF 121), in the immediate vicinity of Orford Castle. As result, there is potential for the discovery of archaeological remains within this area relating to early occupation in the town, and groundworks associated with the development have the potential to damage or

destroy any archaeological remains which exist.' The brief then confirms that a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy would be the close monitoring of ground works by an experienced archaeologist to record any deposits or finds followed by full reporting for the CHER.

## 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 which may be mechanically or hand dug. 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 will notice of when the site works are scheduled to start. 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

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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regional archaeological standards and research agendas if relevant archaeological 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.

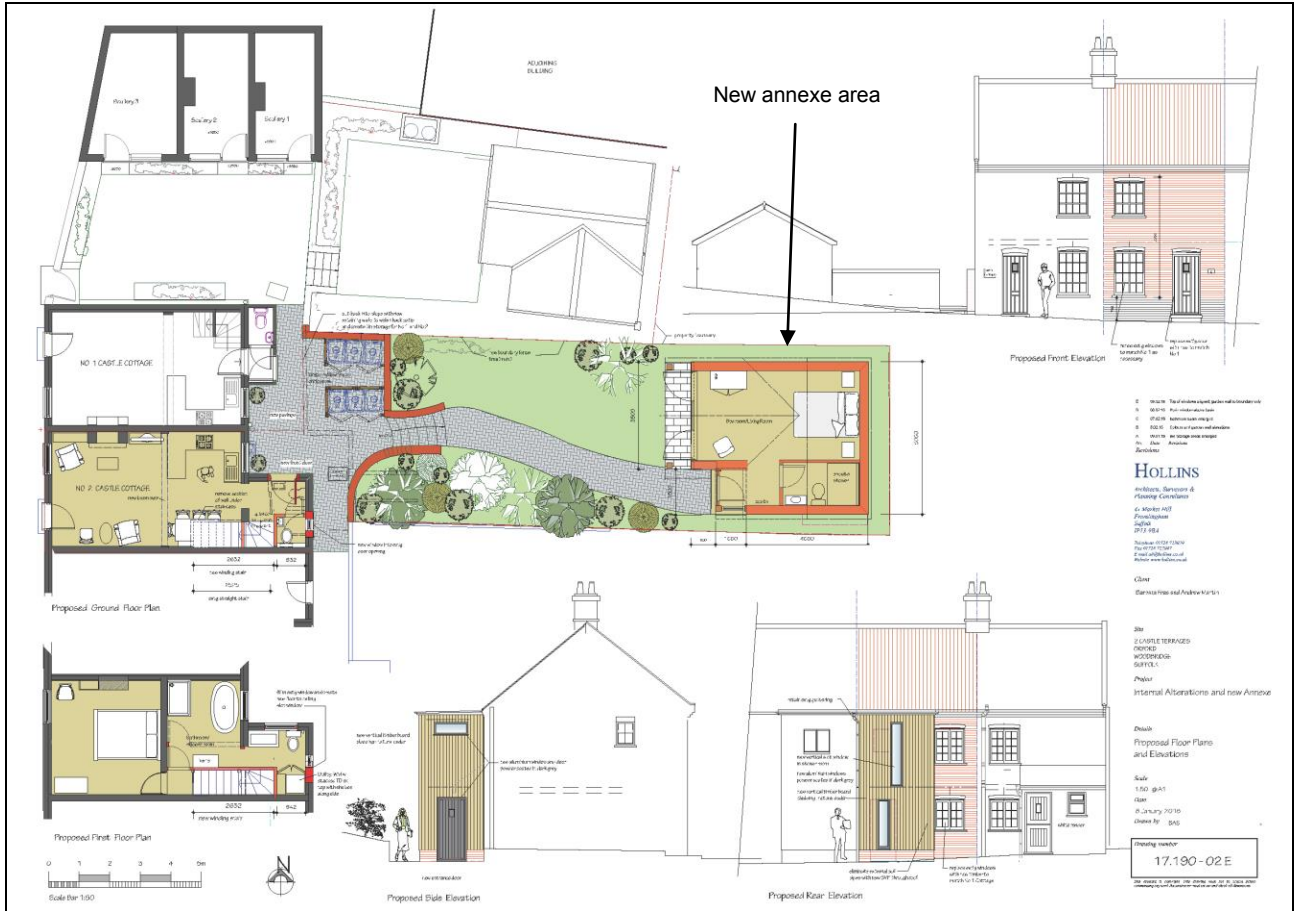
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

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 Tovergate 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 new annexe footprint

## Appendix III- The Pottery

No 2 Castle Terrace, Orford (ORF 204): pottery  
Sue Anderson, January 2019

Six sherds (58g) of medieval pottery were recovered as unstratified finds. Two sherds were Hollesley wares (HOLL; L.13th-14th c.), one was an East Suffolk coarseware (MESCW), one was in a buff fabric which appears to be a south-west Suffolk type (SWSSM), and two were unprovenanced (MCWM, MCW). The latter was the only rim fragment, an upright beaded type from a jar of probably 12th-13th-century date.

### Appendix: summary catalogue of pottery

Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Spot date
0001	HOLL	U	2	22	2			L.13th-14th c.
0001	MESCW	U	1	3	1			12th-14th c.
0001	MSESCW	U	1	21	1			12th-14th c.
0001	MCWM	U	1	2	1			12th-14th c.
0001	MCW	R	1	10	1	jar	upright beaded	12th-13th c.



## OASIS ID: johnnewm1-332368

### Project details

Project name	No 2 Castle Terrace, Orford, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Orford, 2 Castle Terrace (ORF 204, TM 4206 4985) monitoring of ground works for a detached annexe building revealed a substantial depth of top and subsoil with large pits containing 20th century debris in the northern and eastern trenches. In addition a small number of medieval pottery sherds were recovered from the upcast spoil.
Project dates	Start: 07-11-2018 End: 09-11-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ORF 204 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/18/0705/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	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL ORFORD No 2 CASTLE TERRACE
Postcode	IP12 2ND
Study area	20 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 4206 4985 52.093347029785 1.534234044707 52 05 36 N 001 32 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3m Max: 4m
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	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk CC Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Paper Media available	"Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	No 2 Castle Terrace, Orford, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
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