

**No 23 Out Risbygate Street,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/19/1935/HH

HER Ref: BSE 691

Archaeological Monitoring Report

(Continuous observation of ground works)

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(September 2020)

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Site details for HER

Name: No 23 Out Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 3RJ

Client: Ms J Carr & Mr P Middleton

Local planning authority: West Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: DC/19/1935/HH

Development: Erection of side and rear extensions

Date of fieldwork: 25 June, 27 July & 5 August, 2020

HER Ref: BSE 691

Grid ref: TL 84518 64454

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-397502

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Summary: Bury St Edmunds, 23 Out Risbygate Street (BSE 691, TL 84518 64454) monitoring of ground works including initial ground lowering and foundation trenches for side and rear extensions close to the site of St Peter's Hospital; a medieval leper hospital, and its related burial ground did not reveal cemetery evidence save two stray bone fragments suggesting that this house is just outside the hospital area on its eastern side (John Newman Archaeological Services for Ms J Carr & Mr P Middleton).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 Ms J Carr and Mr P Middleton 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/19/1935/HH for side and rear extensions; the latter being in the area of a small existing outbuilding. The monitoring requirements were set out following advice and a Brief set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service (SCCAS) to satisfy this condition and JNAS produced the relevant written scheme (Appendix II) to gain the conditional discharge allowing works to start on site following an initial examination of the side extension to a depth of 500mm to determine whether in situ burials of medieval date might be present at this site at 23 Out Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds close to the recorded site of St Peter's leper hospital (HER BSE 048, see Fig. 1). At the time of the monitoring this proposed development site was part of the side garden yard and, as noted above, an existing small outbuilding.

1.2 No 23 Out Risbygate Street is located within an area of late 19th and early 20th century development towards the western edge of Bury St Edmunds, some 750m from the edge of the historic town. It is located on the southern side of Out Risbygate Street which historically formed the main road to Newmarket to the west. The house was constructed in c1900 with brick and concrete foundations that appear to go to a depth of 400mm to 500mm from observation of initial ground works.

1.3 Archaeological interest in this small scale development was generated by its proximity to the recorded site of the medieval leper hospital of St Peter's (HER BSE 048) with burials having been recorded immediately to the west on the southern side of Out Risbygate Street. Medieval leper hospitals are typically located away from the centre of towns of this date as while it is a contagious disease infected people could live for a number of years with the medieval monastic tradition often taking on their care and welfare. The town of Bury St Edmunds only expanded into this area on Out Risbygate Street in the main in the late Post medieval period though there is recorded evidence that the former hospital site was also used during a plague epidemic in 1637; presumably as a site for isolation of those affected.

2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Initial advice from Dr Antrobus was for the lowering of the side extension to a depth of 500mm as this was the level where burials were found immediately to the west at Nos 24 and 25 Out Risbygate Street (HER BSE 218 & BSE 392). The work; along with other works for foundations, were all hand excavated making the identification of burials or any other archaeological deposits easier. The site was visited following the initial lowering of the side extension to a depth of 500mm and then the trenches for the extensions were monitored as the hand excavation progressed with full cooperation from both the clients and the two contractors on site.

The foundation trenches were entered as they were opened to allow a closer examination and hand cleaning of indistinct areas. The trenches were then plotted in relation to the adjacent house and a number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I) with the upcast spoil being closely examined.

3. Results

3.1 The initial lowering of the side extension to a depth of 500mm did not reveal any in situ burials though two stray small bones were recovered. Following this work the foundation trenches (see Fig. 2) on the northern, eastern and southern sides for the extension were, as noted above, hand excavated with a width of 400mm to a further depth of 300mm through mid-brown sandy subsoil onto solid orange sand with flints with no further finds or features revealed.

3.2 The rear extension foundation works were monitored at a slightly later date following removal of the east wall of the previous outbuilding. Again the trench was 400mm wide and 800mm deep onto clean orange sand with flints. No pre-modern finds were seen in the upcast spoil and no burials were revealed.

4. Conclusion

4.1 In conclusion while burials of probable medieval date have been recorded adjacent at Nos 24 and 25 Out Risbygate Street only stray human bones have been found to the east No 23. Therefore it seems likely that the present boundary between Nos 23 and 24 may reflect an eastern boundary to the precinct of St Peter's Hospital which is an interesting point to record in the SCCAS archaeological records. That juvenile burials were recorded just to the west of No 23 may point to an area on the edge of the burial ground for St Peter's that was in past use for younger victims of the disease which is not an uncommon burial practice in the medieval and earlier Post medieval periods. Therefore this monitoring has been a useful exercise in defining this medieval site with its burial ground.

4.2 In conclusion it is clear that this small scale extension development at No 23 Out Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds has not disturbed any significant archaeological deposits.

(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Julia Carr and Per Middleton and their contractors Peter and Robert for their close cooperation with regard to this site monitoring which potentially was in an archaeologically sensitive area where burials could have been revealed).

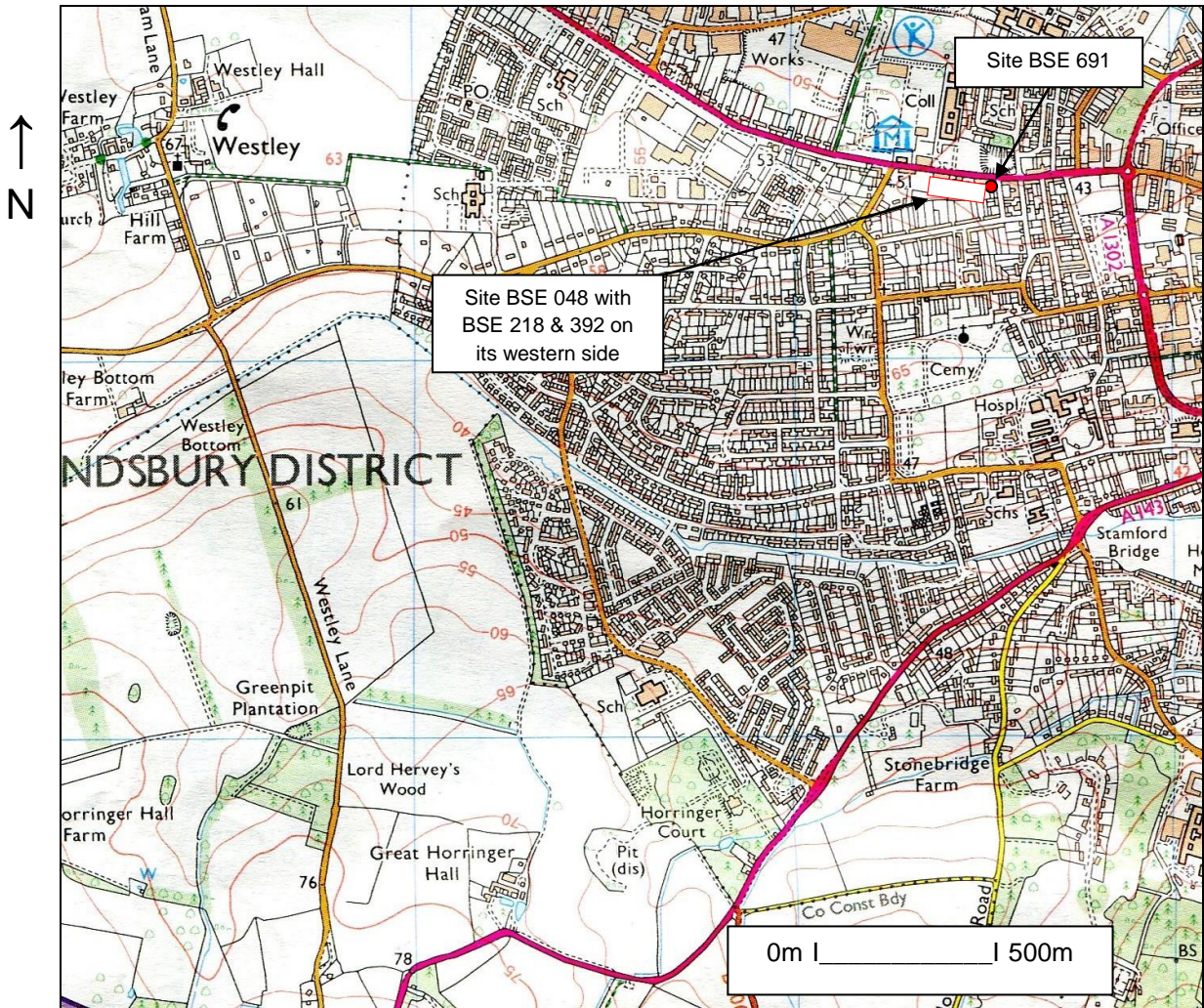


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006
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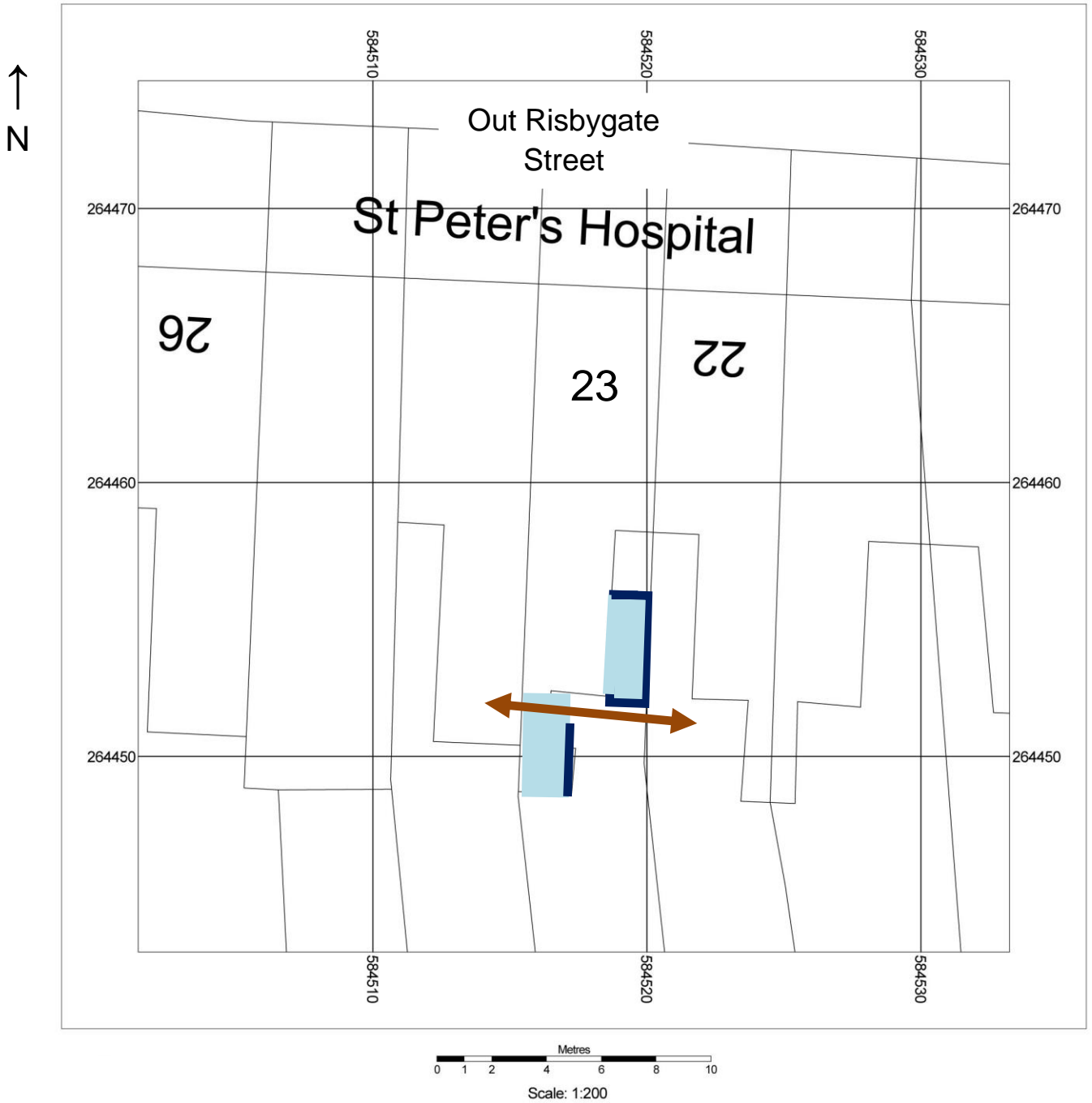


Fig. 2: Monitored extension footprint areas
 (Dark blue- monitored trenches, brown- existing drainage pipe)
 (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2020 All rights reserved Licence No 100049722)

Appendix I- Images



Initial excavation of side extension area to depth of 500mm



Excavated trenches for side extension at full depth



Deposit profile for side extension



Eastern foundation for rear extension at full depth

**No 23 Out Risbygate Street,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk**

Planning application: DC/19/1935/HH

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

Site details

Name: No 23 Out Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3RJ

Client: Ms J Carr & Mr P Middleton

Local planning authority: West Suffolk DC

Planning application ref: DC/19/1935/HH

Proposed development: Erection of rear and side extensions (following demolition of existing rear extension)

Brief ref: 2020_03_14 23 Out Risbygate Street_SCCAS brief_DC_19_1935

Proposed date for ground works: tbc

HER ref: BSE 048 (St Peter's Hospital)

OASIS ref: johnnewm1-397502

Grid ref: TL 844 644

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1. Introduction

1.1 Ms J Carr and Mr P Middleton have commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological monitoring of ground works that will be required under a condition for a programme of archaeological works for the planning decision notice issued for application DC/19/1935/HH. This written scheme of investigation (WSI) details the background to the archaeological condition and how JNAS will implement the requirements in the Brief set 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 rear and side extensions at 23 Out Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds. This will be a staged development with the side extension to be erected first followed later by the rear extension with the latter entailing the demolition of the existing rear extension.

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)* in addition to the *SCCAS Requirements for Excavation 2017*. As being in the area of a known medieval burial ground it will also follow the relevant Ministry of Justice (MofJ) requirements.

2. Location, Topography & Geology

2.1 No 23 Out Risbygate Street is located within an area of late 19th and early 20th century development towards the western edge of Bury St Edmunds, some 750m from the edge of the historic town. It is located on the southern side of Out Risbygate Street which historically formed the main road to Newmarket to the west. The house was constructed in c1900 with brick and concrete foundations that appear to go to a depth of 400mm to 500mm.

2.2 The British Geological Survey describes the PDS as being on Cover Sand at c50m OD.

3. Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Advice from SCCAS to the LPA notes that this site lies within the probable precinct of St Peter's Hospital (HER BSE 048). This was a foundation established in the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) for 'the maintenance of leprous priests,' still in use in 1551 and used in 1637 in a plague epidemic (source Suffolk Heritage Explorer). The advice also notes that burials were found adjacent at Nos 24 (5 graves) & 25 (12 graves) during previous monitoring works. However monitoring at No 18 only recovered disturbed human remains. Archaeological records also note the finding of numerous burials when the nearby private nursing home to the west was constructed

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in the 1980s. For health reasons medieval hospitals were normally well outside the towns they served.

3.2 Thus, 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 and in particular burials which legally should be removed with respect by a competent person.

3.3 The archaeological advice then confirms that while this development may reveal burials 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 for the planned extension areas. SCCAS also advised the applicants that it would be useful to lower the side extension area by 500mm under archaeological supervision as an initial operation as this was the depth that previous nearby burial discoveries were made. This work was carried out by hand on 24 June and JNAS visited the site on 25 June and no evidence could be seen for any burial evidence at this depth though three small stray probable human bones were recovered. A small number of digital photographs were taken to provide evidence that only blank subsoil was exposed. It is also noted in the brief that a reflexive site methodology can be employed on site with the possibility of hand excavating test pits particularly as the rear extension will not be available for examination until the present extension is demolished.

4. Aims of the Site Monitoring

4.1 As outlined in section 3 above the planned extension areas are close to where burials of medieval to early Post medieval date have been discovered. This monitoring will aim to record any further evidence for burials and investigate and record and lift any such material complying with MofJ requirements in addition to recording any other evidence of past activity.

5. Methodology

5.1 The erection of the planned side extension will be the initial ground works and will entail hand excavation of some 8m of 400mm-500mm foundation trench. As noted above the works for the rear extension will be carried out at a later date following the demolition of the existing extension which is likely to be on shallow, probably c400mm deep, foundations. The hand excavation work for the trenches will be under continuous archaeological monitoring. Notice of ground works starting, with a ten day notice period, and then any unexpected findings will be reported back to the relevant Suffolk CC Archaeological Office. Time will be available to investigate and record any possible archaeological deposits, and in particular burial evidence within the confines of the relevant ownership, and scan the upcast spoil with a metal detector.

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To inform the reporting on any positive archaeological results from the monitoring a search will be commissioned from the County HER for the area within 250m of this site.

5.2 Site records will be made under a continuous and unique numbering system of archaeological contexts under a HER numbers supplied by Suffolk CC 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 sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to OS map cover with the monitored areas shown. Sections will be levelled to a datum OD. A photographic record of high resolution digital images will be made of the site and exposed features (using a Lumix DMC-FZ5 camera).

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 relevant trenched ground works and associated works that may include narrower service trenches and any soakaway or sewage treatment plants with any features hand excavated. 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 and topography in the area. Where appropriate palaeoenvironmental samples (40 litres if possible) 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. 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 high). Whether trenches can be expanded to recover full burials will be assessed though to the east of the side extension area and to the west of the rear extension area trenches will be adjacent to properties under different ownership. In addition the depth of any exposed remains will be assessed in consultation with SCCAS with regard to their depth in relation to new flooring planned to be laid above them and what portion of a burial will be impacted by the foundation trench again in consultation with SCCAS.

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. It is

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proposed that any human burial remains should be deposited with SCCAS after any specialist study that might be required. Advice will also be taken from the human remains specialist, Ms S Anderson, who has studied burial evidence from this overall site in the past, regarding any exposed and then excavated remains during the monitoring stage and then through study and analysis.

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). A pdf version 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 will be provided for the County HER, a pdf copy will also be sent to the client so they can gain discharge of the relevant condition. The project will be registered on the OASIS online archaeological record before site works start followed by submission of the final draft in .pdf format. A summary prepared of any positive results will be sent for the annual PSIAH round-up. As the two extensions will be constructed at different times consultation will be held with SCCAS over whether a full report can be left until both phases of ground work have been completed.

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, including COVID related social spacing, will be agreed with the contractors on site in order to maximise access to disturbed ground and up cast spoil. Tools will also not be shared unless full cleaning has been carried out. 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 in the adjacent road.

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6.3 Before work on site starts any special requirements regarding potential site contamination will be discussed with the client and any 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.

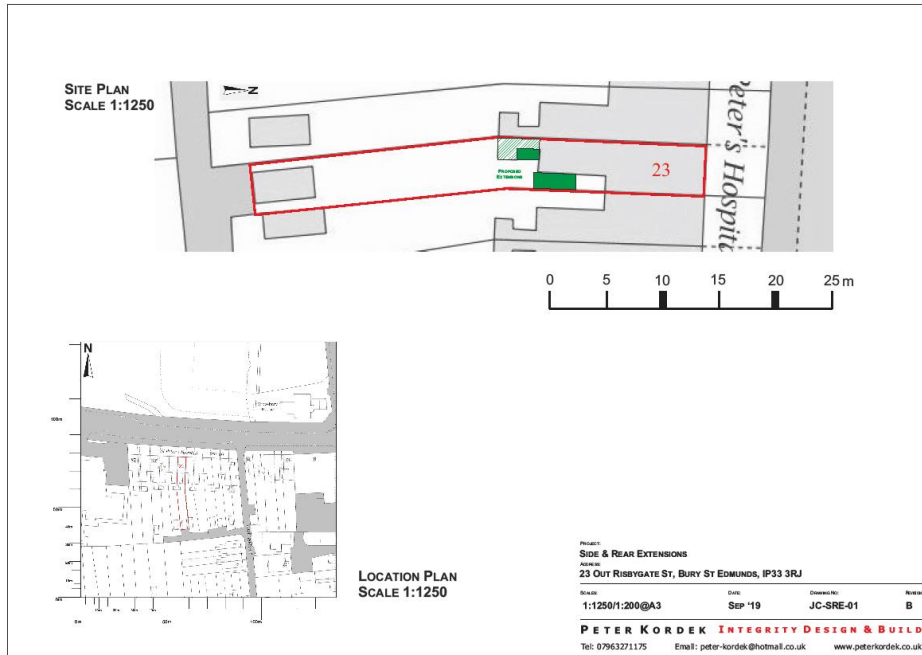
6.4 A fully charged mobile phone will be carried and a first aid kit will be taken to site.

6.5 Deep holes/trenches will only be entered if assessed to be safe and after consultation with the contractor on site, they will not be entered if no-one else is in the vicinity.

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.

7. Specialists

Conservation:	Conservation Services
Faunal remains:	J Curl (Sylvanus Archaeology)
Human remains:	S Anderson (Freelance)
Metal detector search	JNAS
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 period ceramics	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman period small finds	N Crummy
Post Roman small finds:	JNAS



Proposed new extension areas

OASIS ID: johnnewm1-397502

Project details

Project name	No 23 Out Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk- Archaeological Monitoring Report
Short description of the project	Bury St Edmunds, 23 Out Risbygate Street (BSE 691, TL 8451864454) monitoring of ground works including initial ground lowering and foundation trenches for side and rear extensions close to the site of St Peter's Hospital; a medieval leper hospital, and its related burial ground did not reveal cemetery evidence save two stray bone fragments suggesting that this house is just outside the hospital area on its eastern side.
Project dates	Start: 25-06-2020 End: 05-08-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 691 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/19/1935/HH - 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 ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS No 23 OUT RISBYGATE STREET
Postcode	IP33 3RJ
Study area	16 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 84518 64454 52.246822006683 0.703191487578 52 14 48 N 000 42 11 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49m Max: 50m
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 vector", "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	No 23 Our Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk-Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newman, J
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	John Newman Archaeological Services
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