

**65B Quay Street, Orford, Suffolk**

**Planning application: C/10/1449**

**HER Ref: ORF 126**

**Archaeological Monitoring Report**

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

(January 2011)

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## **Site details for HER**

Name: 65B Quay Street, Orford, Suffolk, IP12 2NU

Client: Mrs L Plumb

Local planning authority: Suffolk Coastal DC

Planning application ref: C/10/1449

Development: Erection of rear extension

Date of fieldwork: 23 & 25 November, 2010

HER Ref: ORF 126

Grid ref: TM 4236 4974

OASIS Ref: johnnewm1-91348

## **Contents**

Summary

1. Introduction & background
2. Monitoring methodology
3. Results
4. The Finds
5. Conclusion

Fig. 1 Site location

Fig. 2 Monitored extension foundations

Fig. 3 Trench section- annotated image

List of appendices

Appendix I - Images

Appendix II - Brief & Specification

Appendix III - The Finds (Sue Anderson)

*Summary: Orford, 65B Quay Street (ORF 126, TM 4236 4974) monitoring of ground works for a proposed rear extension did not reveal any archaeological features but did expose a large depth of made ground over basal silty sand deposits that were not bottomed indicating the likely presence of a water channel that has been gradually infilled since the medieval period. Nineteen sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil. (John Newman Archaeological Services for Mrs L Plumb).*

## 1. Introduction & background

1.1 Mrs L Plumb 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 C/10/1449. The monitoring requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Mr K Wade of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). This development concerns the erection of a rear extension for additional holiday accommodation to the rear of 65B Quay Street, 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 12<sup>th</sup> century to establish a royal power base in the region. 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. Beyond the eastern end of the market place Quay Street runs down to the present, and presumably medieval, waterfront area with the proposed development area lying on the eastern side of this street approximately midway between the church and the quay.

1.3 Numbers 64 and 65 Quay Street are set back by some 15m from Quay Street at 2-3m OD and are listed grade II and are described as being '18<sup>th</sup> century, colour washed brick front to earlier timber frame' (LBS Ref. 285128). The site for the proposed rear extension (see Fig. 2) lies a further 20m to the east of 65 Quay Street at the end of a range of more modern structures largely used as holiday accommodation and at the time of the monitoring was soft ground. Some 70-80m to the south east the line of a drain possibly marks the area of a former inlet from the sea, now largely infilled, and protected from flooding by sea walls to the east. However further evidence for a former inlet in the area is given by the recording of possible medieval salt working debris at 3-4 Quay Street (HER Ref. ORF 034) just to the north implying that probably a combination of naturally occurring silting and deliberate infilling has extended the area of drier land to the east of the street.

## 2. Monitoring methodology

2.1 Two visits were made to inspect the foundation trenches and upcast spoil with all of the ground works being undertaken by a small mini-digger equipped with a toothed, bucket. Spoil from the ground works was being retained on site and used to fill in various minor hollow areas in the grassed paddock to the east of the site. The trenches were 500mm wide and 18m long in total along the northern, eastern, southern and part of the western side of the footprint (see Fig. 2). On the first site some 4m of foundation trench had been excavated and a further 5m was observed as it was opened. Work continued intermittently over the next two days and the final 6m of trenching was observed. During both visits it was possible to enter the

trenches and trowel clean any indistinct areas and examine the base of the trench which remained in made ground. As the upcast spoil was being used to fill in hollow areas in the nearby paddock it was possible to visually scan a large proportion of this spoil for archaeological finds. Finally the extent of the foundation trenches was recorded in relation to locally mapped features and a number of digital images were taken to record the monitoring (see Appendix I).

### 3. Results

3.1 The 18m of trenched foundation were taken to a depth of 1200mm revealing, from the top (see Fig. 3), a uniform depth of 600mm of dark brown sandy topsoil (0001) across the building footprint. Below this was a 400mm deep layer of a mid brown sandy subsoil (0002) which contained a moderate number of medieval pottery sherds as described in section 4 below in addition to occasional brick or tile fragments and a few oyster shells. This subsoil in turn lay over a 200mm deep layer (0003) comprising a dark brown silty sand with very occasional pale brown sand pockets and this basal layer in the trench continued below the 1200mm depth reached as the foundations remained within made ground.

### 4 The Finds

4.1 A small group of largely medieval pottery sherds was recovered from the subsoil layer (0002) with the majority of the finds being recovered from where the spoil was being spread in the nearby paddock with only two small sherds from the exposed trench side. The full finds report by Sue Anderson is attached as Appendix III but in summary largely comprised 18 sherds of medieval coarseware of probable relatively local origin with a date range mainly in the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century period though one rim sherd could be of a slightly earlier, 12<sup>th</sup> century date. One glazed medieval sherd of uncertain provenance was also recovered and a possible local origin is suggested. The only Post medieval sherd from the subsoil layer was a small fragment of stoneware and finds of ceramic building material were sparse with just two small pieces of tile of late or Post medieval date.

### 5. Conclusion

5.1 While no archaeological features were revealed by the foundation trenches the moderately large medieval pottery group that was recovered points to probable settlement activity of this date relatively close to the site. This conclusion being slightly qualified as the depth of the deposits exposed indicate that probably both naturally occurring silting, as evidenced by the basal silty sand, and deliberate dumping has raised ground levels considerably over the last 6-700 years. The 400mm of subsoil (0002) containing a variety of medieval sherds probably resulting from later medieval infilling of a low, damp, if not wet, area east of Quay Street and the 600mm of topsoil (0001) representative of more recent ground raising operations.

5.2 In conclusion it is clear that the ground works for the proposed extension have enabled valuable topographical information to be recorded for this part of Orford and have not directly affected any archaeological deposits of especial importance. In addition a small, but archaeologically useful, group of medieval pottery has been recovered from the town.

## John Newman Archaeological Services

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*(The report archive is to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER Ref. ORF 126 with the finds to be deposited in Orford Museum by kind consent of the landowner).*

*(Acknowledgements: JNAS is grateful to Mrs L Plumb and her contractors for their close cooperation and to Sue Anderson of CFA Archaeology for her specialist finds work).*

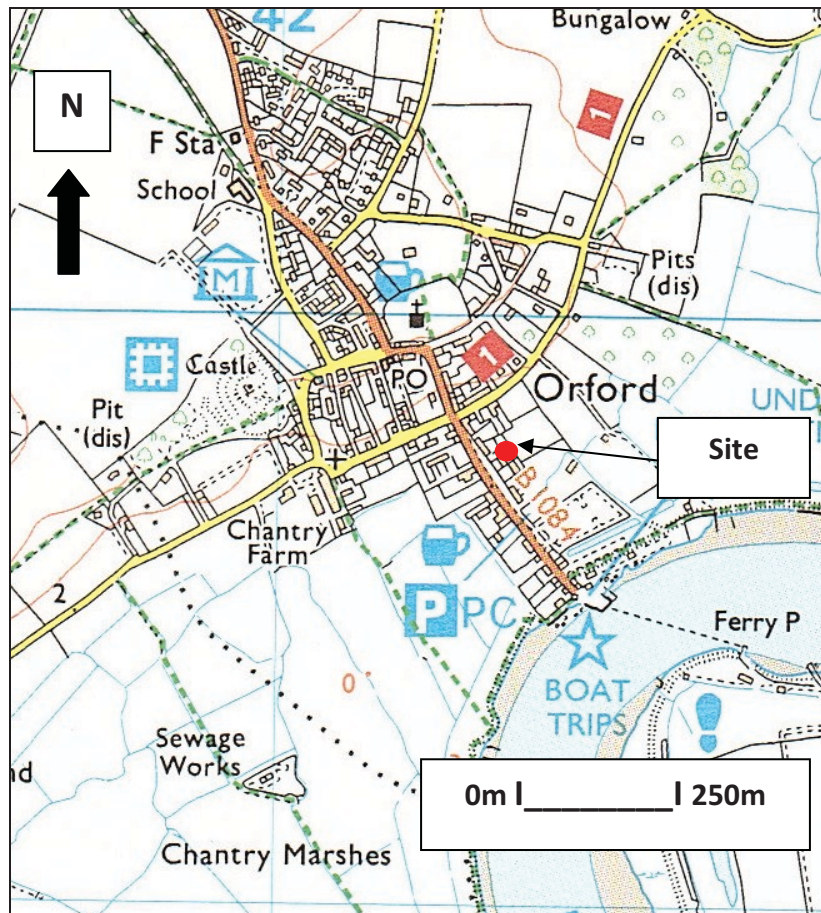


Fig. 1: Site location (Ordnance Survey 2006 © Crown copyright  
All rights reserved Licence No: 100049722)

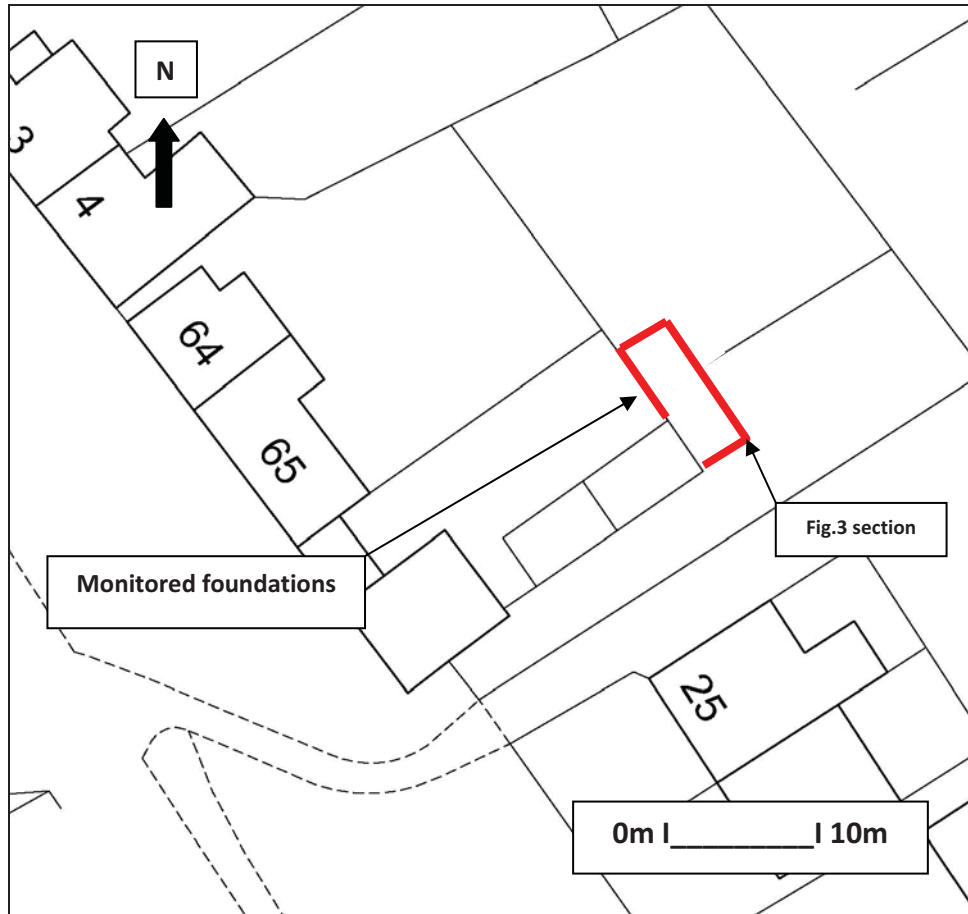


Fig. 2: Monitored extension foundations (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2011  
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0mm | \_\_\_\_\_ | 500mm

Fig. 3 Trench section- annotated image  
(trench side at SE corner of foundations, ground level 2.20m OD)



## Appendix I- Images



South east corner of foundations fully excavated



Southern foundation fully excavated from east



Eastern foundation fully excavated from south



General view from south

**SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM**

**Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring**

**65 Quay Street, Orford**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Planning permission for a rear extension to 65 Quay Street, Orford has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (C/10/1449). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence and the proposed foundation methods indicates that the area affected by new building can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The proposal lies within the area of archaeological interest defined for medieval Orford in the County Historic Environment Record and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 As strip foundations are proposed there will only be limited damage to any archaeological deposits, which can be recorded by a trained archaeologist during excavation of the trenches by the building contractor.

**2. Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which would be damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for the medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the up-cast soil, are to be observed during and after they have been excavated by the building contractor.

### **3. Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 The developer or his archaeologist will give the County Archaeologist (Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR. Telephone: 01284 352440; Fax: 01284 352443) 48 hours notice of the commencement of site works.
- 3.2 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the observing archaeologist) who must be approved by the Planning Authority's archaeological adviser (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service).
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and timetable.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered, the County Archaeologist should be immediately informed so that any amendments deemed necessary to this specification to ensure adequate provision for recording, can be made without delay. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

### **4. Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Archaeologist and the 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity should be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed should be fully excavated and planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.

- 4.5 All contexts should be numbered and finds recorded by context as far as possible.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.7 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

## 5. Reporting Requirements

- 5.1 **Reporting should be commensurate with results.**  
**If significant archaeological features or finds are found:**
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible. This should include a plan showing the proposed development with all areas observed during the monitoring clearly marked.
- 5.3 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.4 A report, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must also be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.5 A summary report should be provided, in the established format for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology* (which can be included in the project report )
- 5.6 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan showing all the areas observed should be included with the report. This must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration into the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

**When no significant features or finds are found**

- 5.9 A short report should be provided including the following information:
  - Grid Ref
  - Parish
  - Address
  - Planning Application number
  - Date(s) of visit(s)
  - Methodology
  - Plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development  
(a digital vector plan as in 5.8 above when possible)
  - Depth of ground disturbance in each area
  - Depth of topsoil and its profile over natural at each location of observation
  - Observations as to land use history (truncation etc)
  - Recorder and Organisation
  - Date of report

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Economy, Skills and Environment Department  
9-10 The Churchyard  
Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Reference: 65 Quay Street

**This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.**

**If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.**

## Appendix III – The Finds

### Quay Street, Orford (ORF126): ceramics

Sue Anderson, January 2011.

Twenty sherds of pottery and two fragments of roof tile were collected from subsoil 0002. Table 1 shows the quantification of the pottery and tile by fabric.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Wt (g)</b>
Medieval coarseware	MCW	18	192
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	1	66
English stoneware	ESW	1	7
<i>Total pottery</i>		<i>20</i>	<i>265</i>
medium sandy roof tile	ms	2	97

Table 1. Pottery and CBM quantification.

Eighteen sherds of medieval coarsewares, representing fifteen vessels, were recovered. These were in fine to medium sandy fabrics similar to those found elsewhere in the town (e.g. Castle Hill ORF 032, Anderson 2001). One body sherd appeared handmade and may be early medieval ware, although the fabric was similar to the other medieval wares. Three rimsherds were present, two from jugs and one from a jar. One jug had a plain rim with a flat top and is likely to be a relatively early form (12th c.?), whilst the other was more developed with a short everted tip and slight cordon (13th-14th c.). The latter was in a micaceous fabric similar to examples from Leiston (e.g. Anderson 2009) and was slightly abraded. The jar rim was a squared everted type typical of Suffolk and was in a pale grey fabric similar to Hollesley Ware; it is probably of 13th/14th-century date. Another jug was represented by a fragment of neck with part of a strap handle attached, again in a Hollesley-type fabric. One body sherd was decorated with an applied thumbed strip.

One body sherd was from a medieval glazed ware in a pale grey fabric with sparse coarse ferrous inclusions. It had an external lead green glaze and the inner surface was covered in limescale. It is likely to be a local product, although the exact source is unknown.

A body sherd of English stoneware with brown mottled glaze on the upper half and uncoloured glaze on the lower portion was probably from a mug or storage jar of 18th/19th-century date.

Two fragments (97g) of plain roof tile in fine and medium sandy fabrics were fully oxidised and likely to be of late or post-medieval date.

### References

Anderson, S., 2001, *Castle Hill, Orford (ORF 032): the finds*. Archive report for SCCAS.

Anderson, s., 2009, Leiston Substation 132kv Cable Route, Sizewell, Leiston (LCS 150): post-Roman pottery assessment. Archive report for SCCAS.