

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

‘Goldings’, 67 High Street, Newmarket NKT 076

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2004
(Planning app. no. F/2003/0899/FUL)



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© February 2005

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Contents

List of Figures
List of Tables
List of Contributors
Acknowledgements
Summary
SMR information

Page

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Introduction | 1 |
| 2. Methodology | 1 |
| 3. Results | 3 |
| 4. Discussion | 8 |
| 5. Conclusion | 9 |

References

Appendix 1: Brief and specification

List of Figures

1. Site location plan
2. Site in relation to plan of the palace c.1719-1745
3. Western face of wall
4. The 'Green Man'
5. Trenches plan
6. Section 0004
7. Section 0005
8. Interior of 0008 icehouse
9. Section 0006

List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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Kelly Powell Post-excavation assistant

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by W. D. Coe Ltd and was monitored by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by David Gill and Andrew Tester from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by John Newman, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The producing of site plans and sections was carried out by Kelly Powell.

Summary

Monitoring of footing trenches to the rear of 'Goldings', 67 High Street, Newmarket, identified several features associated with the 17th-18th century palace of Charles II. The foundations of a demolished wall were identified, corresponding to the position of a wall shown on an 18th century map as separating the palace garden from a courtyard. Associated chalk floor surfaces, perhaps originally part of the earlier buildings that were converted into the palace, were also located.

An exceptionally large brick-lined shaft, at 4.5m in diameter and 11m deep, was identified and is believed to be the palace ice-house. This may be the only surviving example of one built for Charles II and, if it is 17th century in date, is certainly extremely important and one of the earliest surviving examples in Britain.

The evidence suggested that all of these features were either demolished or buried during the 19th century, when it is known that the palace saw changes to its use and structure. This part of the palace was replaced by a yard and 19th century buildings, which were being destroyed by the development. Survey of these 19th century walls identified a carved limestone, tapered block, depicting the face of a 'Green Man'. Its shape suggested it was a keystone from an arch, perhaps the one shown linking courtyard to garden, and may have been deliberately rescued during that walls demolition and replaced near to its original position in the new structure.

SMR information

Planning application no. F/2003/0899/FUL
Date of fieldwork: January and June-July 2004
Grid Reference: TL 6440 6334
Funding body: W. D. Coe Ltd
Oasis reference. Suffolkc1-3055

1. Introduction

A series of visits was made to the site at 'Goldings', 67 High Street, Newmarket, in January and June-July 2004 to monitor the demolition of walls and excavation of footing trenches during the construction of an extension to the rear of the property (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Keith Wade (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The work was funded by the developer, W. D. Coe Ltd.

The site lay in the centre of Newmarket, to the rear of a property facing onto the High Street, and consisted of a small open yard and garages. It also lay within the area of the medieval town, defined in the county Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance. More specifically the site is situated within the grounds of the former Palace of Charles II, which was constructed by amalgamating existing buildings from 1670 and was used throughout the 18th century. During the 19th–20th centuries the palace fell out of royal use and the site underwent various phases of demolition and conversion.

The layout of the palace in the 18th century has, in many places, been incorporated into and survives as, the modern layout of buildings and boundaries. This can be seen by superimposing a first floor plan, c.1719-1745 (Sommers 2001), onto the current OS (Fig. 2). The development involved the demolition of walls forming part of the garages, one of which appeared to closely relate to a wall shown on the 18th century plan as separating the palace garden from an internal courtyard near the south edge of the palace. A gate or archway passed through this wall between garden and courtyard, within the area of the site.

A programme of archaeological monitoring had therefore been specified as the development was going to demolish an existing wall that possibly was a surviving part of the palace, and the groundworks had the potential to disturb other buried archaeological deposits associated with the palace.

2. Methodology

The first phase of the monitoring consisted of an examination of the existing wall running north-south across the site, prior to its demolition. This survey identified the structure and date of the wall as being relatively recent and so no detailed recording was required.

The second phase of work was the observation and recording of all footing trenches and associated works while they were open. The trenches measured approximately 0.8m in width and were up to 1.4m deep. A trench plan was recorded at a scale of 1: 50 and sections drawn at 1:20. A digital plan and inked copies of section drawings have been created.

Digital photographs were taken at various stages of the monitoring and are included in the digital archive.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (suffolkc1-3055).

The site archive is kept in the small and main stores of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. NKT 076.

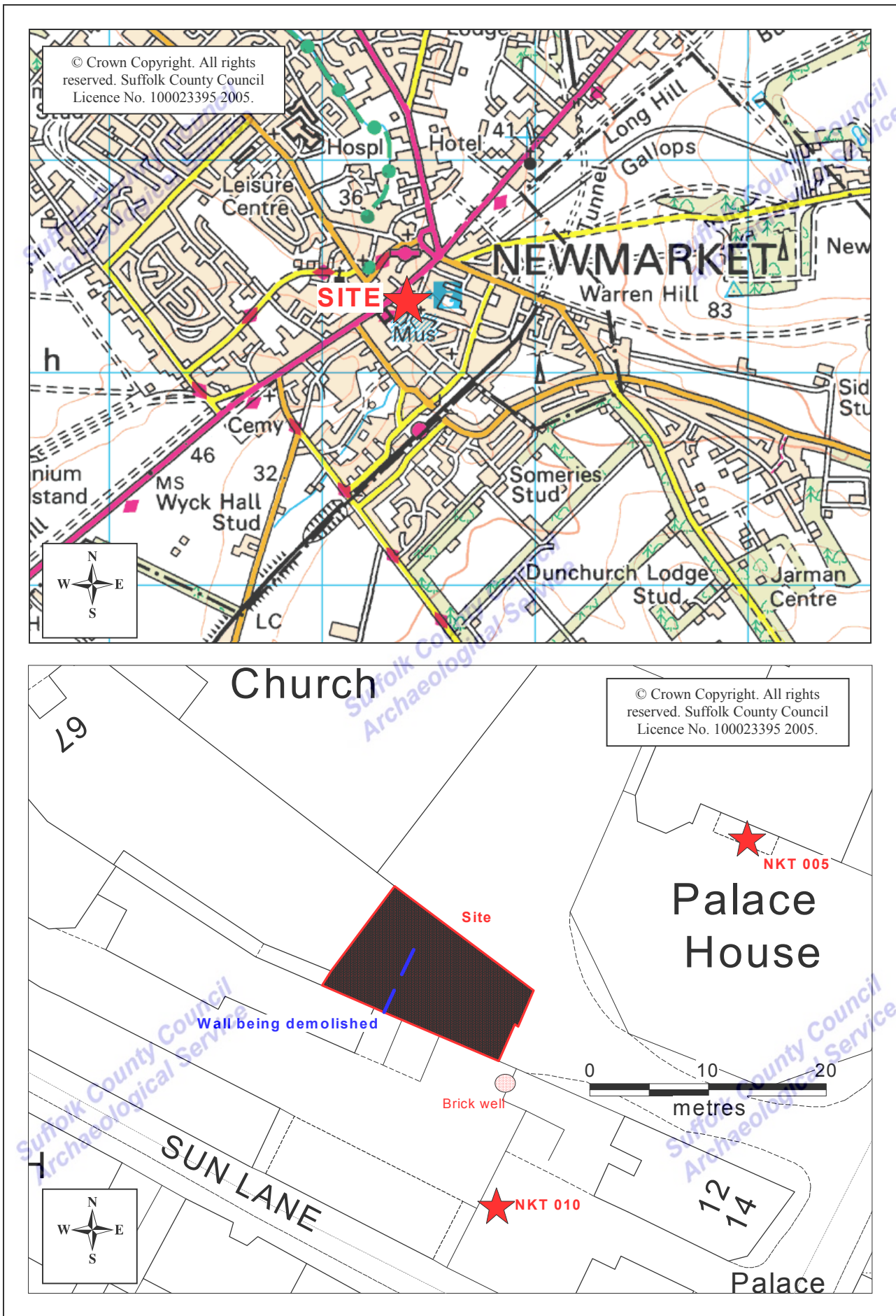


Figure 1. Site location plan

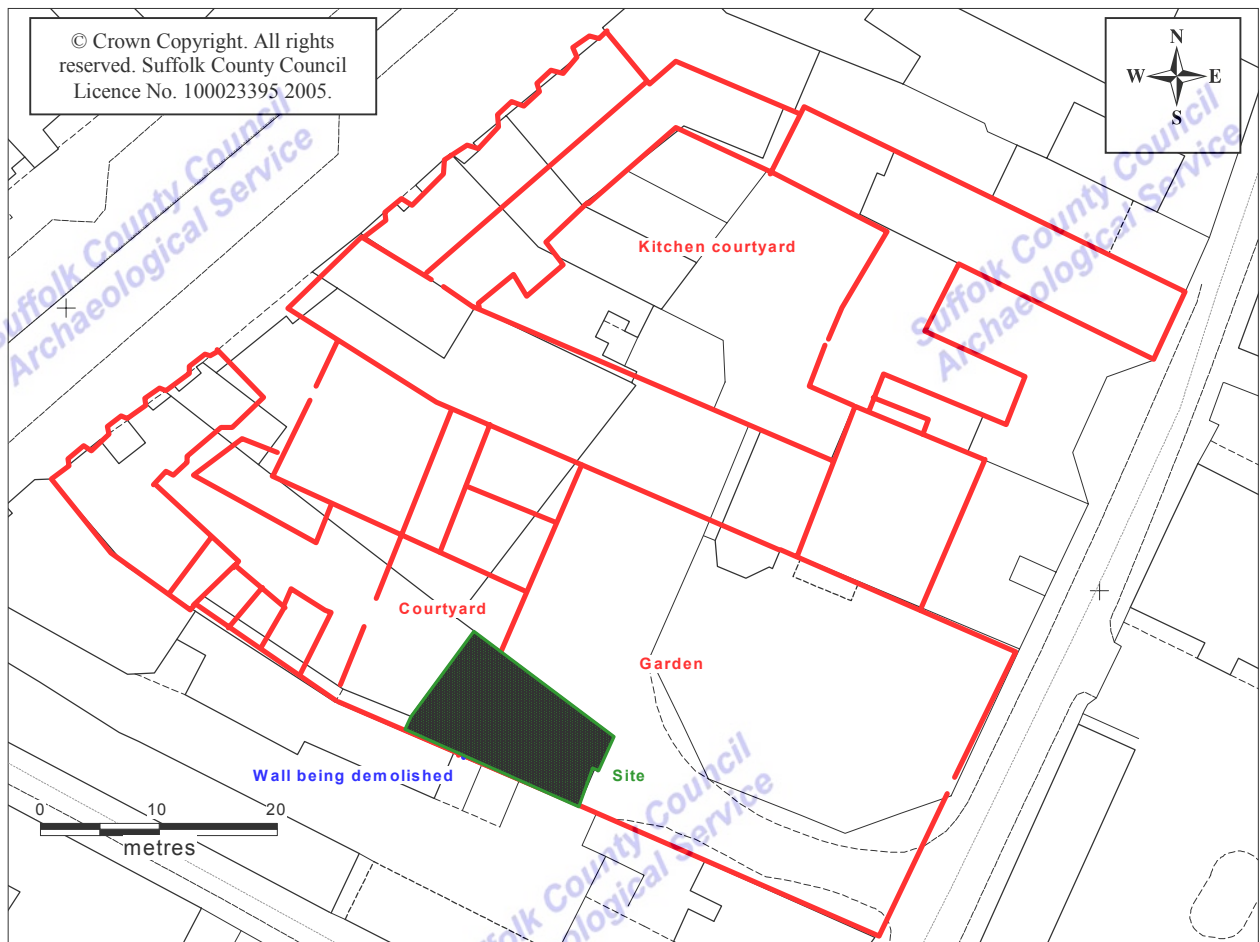


Figure 2. Site in relation to plan of the palace c.1719-1745

3. Results

Survey

The survey of the wall being demolished showed it to be of a 19th century date with two doorways through it. It was constructed of closely spaced flints, bonded with lime mortar, with 19th century bricks forming quoins. These bricks were 'whites' and measured 8¾" by 2" by 4". The top of the wall, above the two doorways consisted of three courses of red brick

Of particular interest, set into these upper three courses in the middle of the wall, was a reused block of carved, coarse limestone (Figs. 3 and 4). This wedge shaped block measured 0.27m in height and at the top it was 0.26m wide, with a slight concave edge. The sides tapered towards the base which was 0.18m wide. This shape suggests that it was originally part of an archway, possibly the central keystone.

The carving depicted a 'Green Man', a common motif seen in varying styles and periods across Western Europe. This example showed a male face with thick hair or vegetation down the sides and over the cheeks, with a bare chin. The carving was in a good condition, with the exception of the nose, which had been broken off, and the detail was fairly clear showing limited weathering.



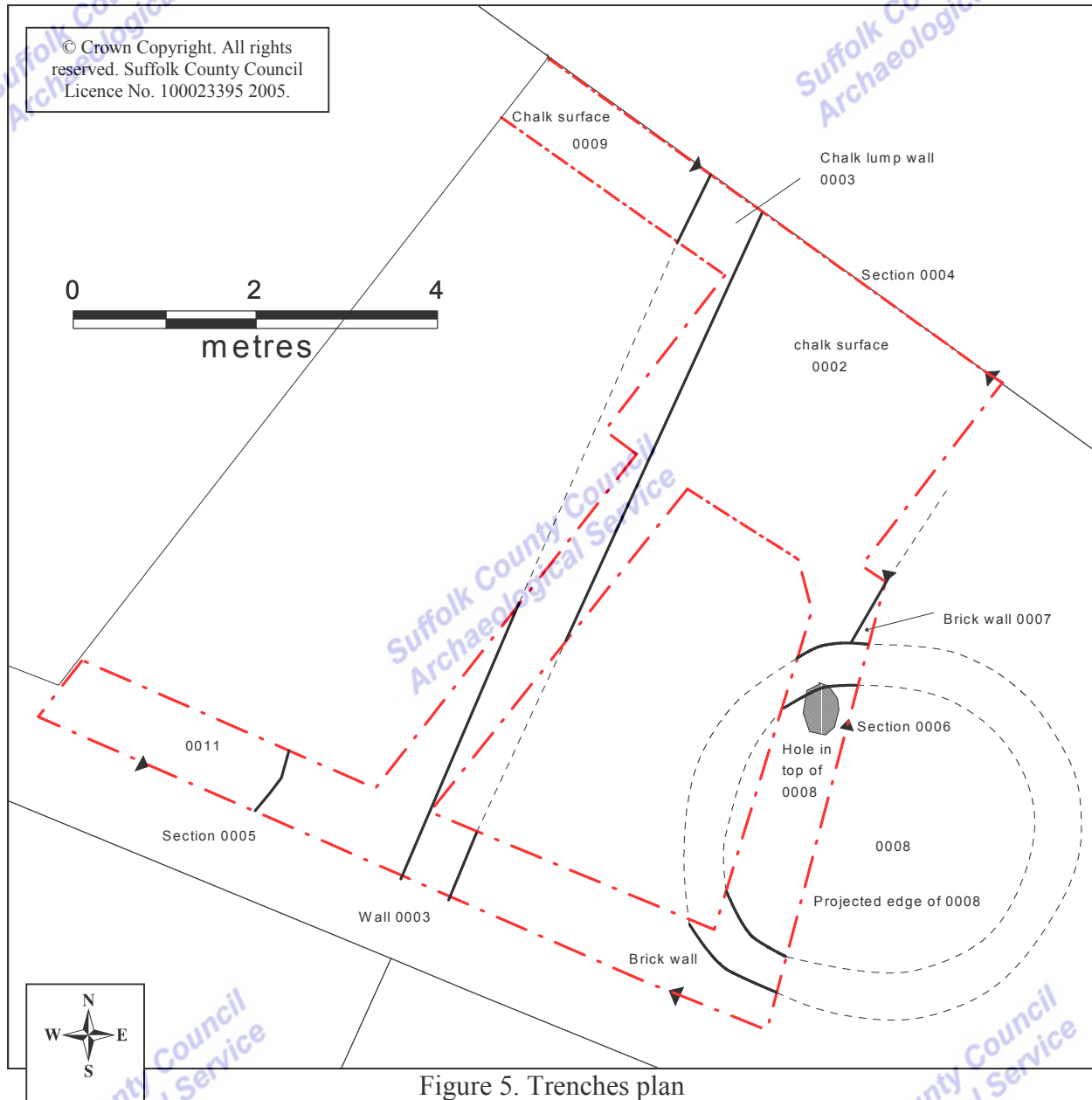
Figure 3. Western face of wall.



Figure 4. The 'Green Man'

Trench monitoring

The footing trenches, measuring c.40sqm in total area, were observed during and after excavation. This identified several features and other deposits, sealed beneath 0.4m of modern tarmac and hardcore (Fig. 5).



0002 was a series of tightly packed layers of rammed chalk, 0.4m thick in total, separated by thin lenses of gravel, sand and trampled chalk. Together they formed a clear surface, with the uppermost layer at a depth of 0.8m, sealed beneath a thick layer of brown loam with rubble, mortar and chalk debris. The base rested directly upon the natural gravel subsoil. These layers were recorded in section 0004 (Fig. 6).

To the east this surface butted directly against wall 0003. A similar chalk surface, 0009, was exposed upon the western side of the wall but appeared to be cut by a possible construction trench of the wall. To the south 0002 was cut by 0008, although it appeared to continue and was present in section 0005 as 0010 (Fig. 7). 0010 was formed of less substantial and defined lenses

of chalk, with thicker bands of silt and loam lying in between, and was cut by a large, later, pit 0011. As with 0002 and 0009, the chalk lenses of 0010 appeared to lie on either side of wall 0003. The full extent to the north and east of 0002 was undetermined.

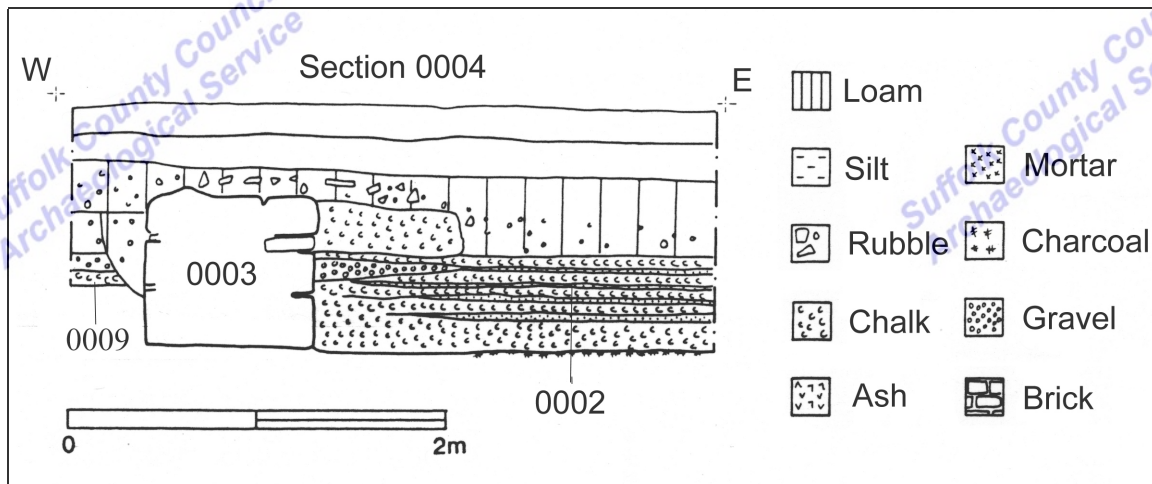


Figure 6. Section 0004

0003 was the foundations and base of a wall, built from chalk blocks, handmade red bricks of 17th century date measuring 2½” wide, and occasional pieces of re-used, dressed limestone. It was seen at several points in the trenches, aligned north - south, and measuring 0.8-0.9m in width and approximately 0.8m in height. The uppermost course generally laid directly beneath modern deposits while the base appeared to be resting upon the natural subsoils.

In section 0004 (Fig. 6) it was clearly associated with the chalk surfaces 0002 which butted against its eastern face. On the western side it appeared to have a construction trench which cut through the 0009 surface. To the south it could be seen in section 0005 (Fig. 7), again with surfaces formed by lenses of chalk, 0010, on either side

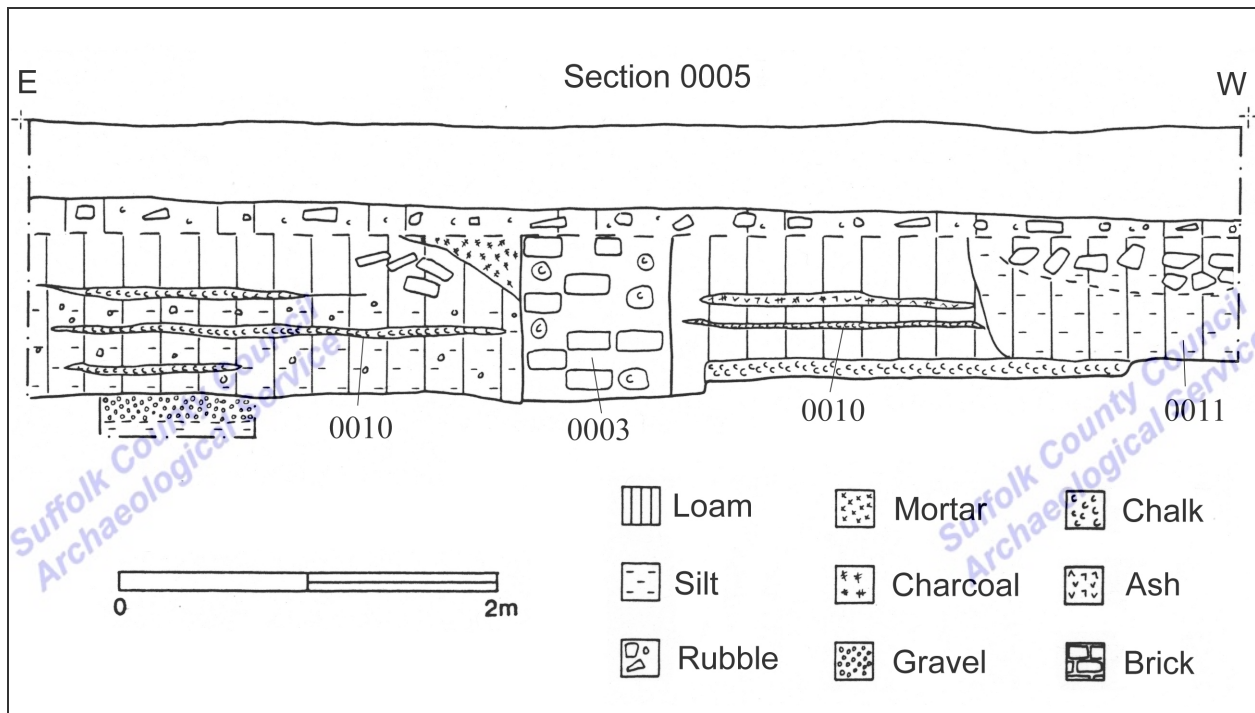


Figure 7. Section 0005

0007 was a length of red brick wall, aligned north-south, of which the western face was seen in section 0006 (Fig. 9). Approximately seven courses of brickwork survived, forming a total height of 0.7-8m. The uppermost course lay beneath 0.7m of rubble and modern deposits while the base appeared to be resting upon or cutting into the chalk surface 0002.

To the north this wall left the trench and its extent was unclear, to the south it was considerably disturbed although it appeared to butt against the brick lined well 0008.

0008 was a substantial, brick lined, circular shaft, estimated to be 4.3m in diameter which cut through the chalk surface 0002. Constructed of red brick of 17th-18th century date the shaft walls were 0.5m thick, leaving a central shaft 3.3m in diameter. The top of the feature, from the outside was unclear but appeared to be domed and survived in full, beneath 0.4m of modern deposits. During excavation of the trenches a hole was knocked through this dome allowing a very limited observation of the interior (Fig. 8). This showed it to be 10.7m deep, with approximately 8m of standing water. The interior of the dome was ribbed vaulted with brick groins. Further later brickwork appeared to be infilling original openings through the dome.



Figure 8. Interior of 0008 icehouse

0011 appeared to be a large pit, cutting through the chalk lenses 0010 in section 0005. It was filled with a homogenous grey/brown silt loam mixed with building rubble.

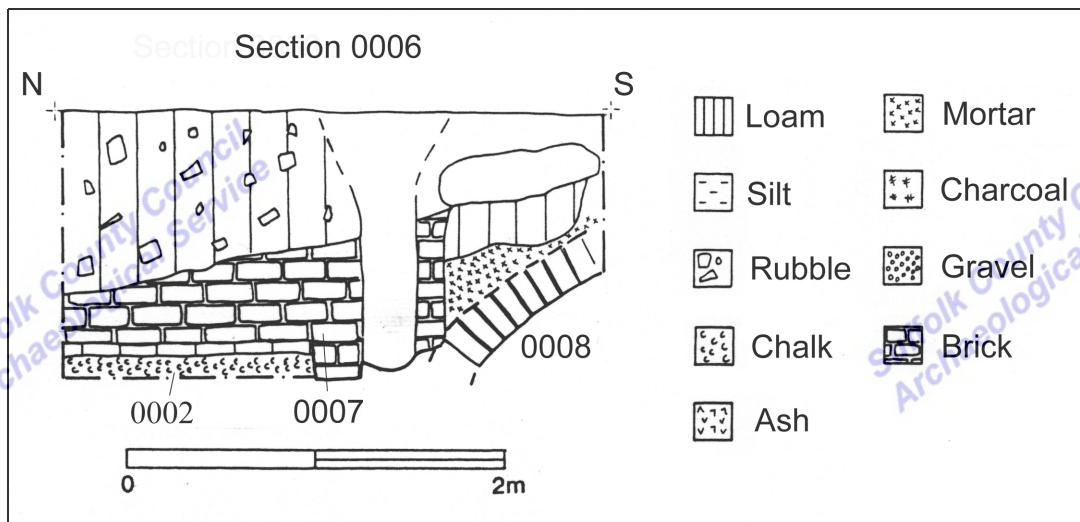


Figure 9. Section 0006

4. Discussion

The survey of the standing wall that was facing demolition showed it that it was relatively modern, probably of 19th century construction, and clearly not a part of the 17th-18th century palace. However the wall did reuse some older material in its construction, and in the case of the ‘Green Man’ carving this appears to have been deliberately positioned high up in the centre of the wall.

The carving itself is in good condition suggesting a post-medieval date as opposed to an earlier, medieval one. This would suggest that it is probably contemporary with the palace and is likely to be from a structure within it. As the modern wall was in close proximity to the location of the wall and gateway that divided the palace courtyard and garden it is possible that its construction involved the demolition of the earlier structure. The ‘Green Man’ therefore could be the keystone of an arch over that gateway within the palace wall, which was rescued and deliberately placed back near to its original position in the 19th century wall.

Monitoring of the footing trenches clearly identified a north-south aligned wall, 0003, corresponding to the one marked on the 18th century palace map. The material used in its construction also indicated that it was of a 17th-18th century date. There was no indication of the gateway marked on the plan and the date of its demolition is uncertain. However it lay beneath substantial deposits of 19th-20th century debris. A possible date for this may be, as suggested above, when the 19th century wall was constructed, as it was offset only 1m to the east and reused the ‘Green Man’ carving which may have been a part of 0003. A 19th century date for demolition would also correspond with the known changes of use and structure of the palace as a whole during this period.

The chalk surface 0002 butted against 0003, indicating that they were contemporary, although as 0003 appeared to cut 0009 it may be that the wall post-dates these surfaces which may therefore have originally been a part of the buildings that were converted into the royal palace. Other chalk surfaces have been recorded in the vicinity, during archaeological monitoring at NKH 010 immediately to the south beyond the southern boundary wall of the palace (Topham-Smith 2000), and at an evaluation, NKT 005, within the palace to the north (Caruth 1994). One interpretation of the function of the chalk surfaces located in the two evaluation trenches within the former palace gardens, 15m to the east of the site, was as possible floors pre-dating the palace. The combined evidence from the three sites now does appear to show that the chalk

surfaces are a general feature of the early post-medieval buildings along the High Street, pre-dating the palace.

An alternative interpretation for the chalk surfaces seen in the NKT 005 evaluation was for them to be surviving structural remains related to the palace gardens, such as pathways or paved areas. The position of 0002 closely corresponds to the position of the gateway between the palace courtyard and gardens and its several phases of construction or resurfacing may be because it was a heavily used surface or pathway relating to this gate. While these chalk surfaces may have originated prior to the development of the palace they may well have been incorporated into it and continued in use. 0009 and 0010 lie within the area of courtyard to the west of 0003 and may have been part of a floor surface within it or the foundations of one.

The initial interpretation for 0008, during the monitoring work, was that it was a well sited in the corner of the palace walled garden. This would have meant it was an unusually large example at over 4m in diameter suggesting that it was not simply a domestic well to the rear of a single property and so was probably associated with the palace.

However a contemporary brick lined well (Fig. 1), found 7m to the south-east, was into the palace precinct wall, and may be a more likely example of a palace well. It was a substantial feature but was considerably smaller at approximately 1.8m in diameter (Tester 2001). Other nearby wells that have been identified to the south-west at NKH 010, outside of the palace grounds (Topham-Smith 2000) were of a more usual size and construction. These were c.1.5m in diameter and lined with flint and mortar, a structure more appropriate for the more normal urban buildings along the street.

0008 in fact appears to be the palace ice-house, as opposed to a well, situated within a corner of the palace garden. Its size and structure is more appropriate to this function and is similar to other known examples. For instance a contemporary 'snow-well', built in 1666-1667 in St James's Palace, London, for the Duke of York, measured 3m wide and 8m deep (Beamon and Roaf 1990).

Possibly the earliest surviving example of an icehouse in Britain is at Stoke College, Stoke-by-Clare, Sudbury. Standing 160m from the buildings it was brick lined and is believed to pre-date 1420 when the site ceased to be used as a monastery. The entrance was blocked in the 1930's and the whole structure is now totally overgrown (Beamon and Roaf 1990).

More sophisticated ice-houses were only introduced into Britain in the 17th century when three 'snow conserves' were built by James I between 1619 and 1626. There is no further record of ice-houses being built between 1626 and 1660 when Charles II reintroduced them. During the late 17th century they became a fashion amongst the very rich, being built by Charles II and the aristocracy of his inner circle (Beamon and Roaf 1990). Therefore when Charles II built Palace House from 1670 it seems highly likely that it would have included a new ice-house.

For health and safety reasons the top of the ice-house, both interior and exterior, could not be properly recorded but at least two original openings within the dome structure were visible. The dome would have sat above ground level and these openings must have allowed access to the interior. These openings were later blocked with brickwork, presumably when the ice-house fell out of use, and certainly by the time the existing 19th century wall was constructed above it. A 19th century date for the closing of this ice-house corresponds with the probable demolition of 0003 and the known changes in use and structure of the palace.

Only a few ice-houses, probably less than a hundred, were built during the late 17th century and it is not known if any of those built for Charles II survive. Following monitoring work a larger hole was knocked through the dome so that the interior could be infilled with gravel prior to development. This means that the bulk of the structure is now preserved intact below the modern development and is probably one of the earliest known surviving examples in Britain.

The wall 0007 is of unclear size and function but may be contemporary and related to structures around the top of the ice-house.

5. Conclusions

Several features associated with the palace of Charles II were identified within the footing trenches. The foundations of a demolished wall, corresponding to that on an 18th century map was located, together with associated floor surfaces which may have originally been part of the buildings which were converted into the palace. The bricklined shaft or ice-house may be the only surviving example of one built for Charles II and, if it is 17th century in date, is certainly extremely important and one of the earliest surviving examples in Britain.

The evidence suggests that all of these features were either demolished or buried during the 19th century, when it is known that the palace saw changes to its use and structure. This part of the palace was replaced by a yard and 19th century buildings, incorporated into which was the 'Green Man' carving, possibly a decorated keystone from the gateway through the earlier demolished wall.

Finally, in view of the possible original location of the 'Green Man' and its survival in the modern wall, it was informally suggested that it could be reincorporated into the new development.

References

- Beamon, S. P., and Roaf, S., 1990, *The Ice-Houses of Britain*. Routledge, London and New York.
- Caruth, J., 1994. *Palace Mansion, Newmarket. NKT 005*. SCCAS Report.
- Sommers, M., 2001, *Palace House Mansion, Palace Street, Newmarket. NKT 005*. SCCAS Report No. 2001/34.
- Tester, A., 2001, *Junction of Palace Street and Sun Lane, NKT 005*. SCCAS Report No. 2001/18
- Topham-Smith, C., 2000, *Sun Lane, Newmarket*. SCCAS Report No. 2000/03.

Appendix 1

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring

67 HIGH STREET, NEWMARKET

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to extend 67 High Street, Newmarket, has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (F/2003/0899/FUL). 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 medieval Newmarket, defined in the County Sites and Monuments Record as an archaeological site of regional importance, and will involve significant ground disturbance.
- 1.3 The site also lies within the curtilage of the Palace of Charles II. [He purchased two houses on the High Street in 1668 and extended them to form the Palace from 1670.] A plan of the Palace, based on one drawn in the early 18th century, reproduced by Peter May in *The Changing Face of Newmarket 1600-1760*, shows a 'courtyard' with opposed entrances, at the mid points of the north and south boundary walls, on the site of the proposed development.
- 1.4 The drawings accompanying the application show a standing 'flint and brick wall with openings' on the line of the southern 'courtyard' wall. This wall is to be demolished in the proposals.
- 1.5 The new-build extension is modest in size and will use strip foundations. Any damage to archaeological deposits 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 any standing remains relating to the Palace of Charles II and any 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 Palace of Charles II and earlier medieval occupation of the site.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is demolition of existing walls and the excavation of building footing trenches. All walls to be demolished are to be examined to ascertain whether they belong to the Palace and, if so,

recorded prior to demolition. All trenches and the upcast 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 recording standing remains and 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 time-table.
- 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 Any upstanding walls relating to the Palace of Charles II should be recorded prior to demolition. This should consist of a photographic record and elevation drawings at an appropriate scale to show the evidence of its structural history.
 - 4.2 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.
 - 4.3 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.
 - 4.4 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.
 - 4.5 All archaeological features exposed should be 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 Sites and Monuments Record.
- ### 5. **Report Requirements**

- 5.1 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 Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 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 SMR 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.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must 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).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, should be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets should be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

Specification by: Keith Wade

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 26 November 2003

Reference: /Newmarket-HighSt11

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.