

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1923
issued April 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive,
Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9ER: March 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/12f
SCC parish code: LMD 365**

**Archaeological evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive,
Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9ER: March 2023**

NGR: TL 86507 45396

**Planning district.: Babergh
Planning ref.: DC/22/01150**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/11f
CAT Report 1923**

**SCC Parish code: LMD 365
SCCAS monitor: Hannah Cutler**

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fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Ziya Eksen

**commissioned by Ben Newman,
Aspire Building Contracts Ltd**

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Issued:	25/04/2023	

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. Located on the eastern edge of the historic settlement of Long Melford, the evaluation revealed two pits/tree-throws. A Mesolithic or Neolithic flint flake and pieces of Roman CBM attest to activity in these periods.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 27th March 2023 at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk. The work was commissioned by Ben Newman of Aspire Building Contracts Ltd in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling and associated amenity space.

In response to consultation with Hannah Cutler, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Advisor (SCCASA), it was advised that as the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the condition based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford* written by Hannah Cutler and detailing the required archaeological work (SCCAS 2022a), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with SCCASA (CAT 2023).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9527238.

Geology

The British Geological Survey geology viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the site bedrock geology for the site is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (chalk), with superficial deposits of Head (clay, silt and gravel. Head is poorly sorted and poorly stratified, angular rock debris and/or clayey hillwash and soil creep, mantling a hillslope and deposited by solifluction and gelifluction processes).

Historic landscape

The development site is located within an area defined as *rolling estate farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². These gently sloping valley sides and plateau fringes have loamy or silty soils which are derived from glacial outwash and till deposits. The soils in this landscape are mainly the deep, well-drained, clayey loams of the Ludford or Melford series. The valley-side location of this landscape type, with the combination of access to water and arable potential, attracted settlement from an early date.

Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape type 10.3, built-up area-village.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

² <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

³ The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2012, Suffolk County Council

The landscape immediately around the site includes:

- Landscape sub-type 1.1, pre-18th century enclosure – random fields, areas with this field pattern are thought to be some of our earliest farming landscapes.
- Landscape sub-group 5.4 meadow or managed wetland-meadow.

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

This background is focused on SHER search results within a 500m radius of the site. Long Melford is an attractive village with a long high street largely located along the eastern bank of the River Stour. Melford is derived from 'mill' and 'ford' a crossing of a tributary of the river. Within the search area:

Prehistoric

There are no prehistoric features or finds prior to the Iron Age recorded within the search area except a few lithic implements including an assemblage of Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age date, with some Mesolithic flakes found by metal-detectorists and recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme east of the site.

A Late Iron Age urned cremation was found during the excavation of a foundation trench at Chantry House, Hall Street in 1984 (LMD 047, 310m NW). Two Iron Age bowls found in conjunction with a human skeleton was also recorded opposite the Cock and Bell Inn by Basil Brown in 1939 (LMD 304, 311m NNW).

Monitoring carried out during the excavation of footings for a house and garage on land adjacent to Bramertons revealed evidence of occupation on the site from the Late Iron Age through to the 2nd century AD. Features included ditches, pits and a post-hole. Finds included pottery, animal bone and smithing debris (LMD 130, 157m SW). A Late Iron Age-Roman pit was identified during archaeological monitoring at 9 Rivish House (LMD 206, 335m SW).

An evaluation followed by excavation at Long Melford Primary School revealed small quantities of Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flint. Features included pits, ditches and a structural feature. Finds date the main occupation of the site from the Late Iron Age to 2nd century AD. Four burials were recorded on the site, one cremation and three inhumations that perhaps represent a family plot (LMD 192, 106m SW).

Roman

The centre of Long Melford has a substantial Roman settlement which is believed to have been established around the junction of two main Roman roads, the N-S Chelmsford to Pakenham road (SUF 098, 178m W) and the E-W Wixoe to Coddenham road. Other Roman roads recorded include one to the south/south-west of the site at Chapel Field (LMD 031, 745m SSW). Excavation of the road in 1970-2 showed it is 6.6m wide, 0.8m deep and flanked by 1.8m wide ditches. The cropmark of a Roman road running from the centre to the west starts c 296m west of the site (LMD 358).

A Roman villa is located approximately 438m south-west of the site on Liston Lane (LMD 017, Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 1002967). Part of the villa was initially exposed in 1958 and some subsequent salvage recording revealed a tessellated and *opus signinum* floor and wall indicating a bathing area. The remains of a flint and mortar wall, thought to be part of the villa, was recorded in 2004 (LMD 153, 488m SW).

Roman burials are recorded in locations around the edges of the main Roman occupation. At Melford there are several instances of burials around the village in areas mixed with pits, especially refuse pits. An evaluation and monitoring on land to the rear of Almacks identified the presence of well-preserved Roman features with an overlying Roman soil layer. Features included substantial refuse pits interspersed with occasional linear features. An inhumation of a

⁴ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER)

young female was identified amid the refuse pits (LMD 137, 318m W and LMD 157, 354m W). Monitoring at 14 The Limes, Old Dairy Yard, revealed a series of large mid-Roman pits with an intact 3rd century inhumation of an adult female buried with a beaker vessel (LMD 160, 195m NW). An evaluation followed by excavation by CAT at Chapel House revealed one hundred and seven well-preserved features (CAT Reports 766 & 893, LMD 232, 385m SW). Ninety-nine were of a Late Iron Age and Roman date, with three post-medieval pits and five natural features. Most of the LIA/Roman features were pits but others included post-holes, stake-holes, gullies, a small section of possible road surface and five burials (three inhumations and two cremations). In addition, the partial human remains of at least 15 other individuals were also identified. Evidence shows that site originated in the early-mid 1st century with three pits possibly representing the remains of baby/juvenile burials. In the early Roman period (mid 1st – early 2nd century) it was primarily a quarry site, with pits dug to extract the natural clays, sands, silts and gravels required for the construction of the Roman road. Located on the eastern margin of the settlement the site was subsequently used as a rubbish dump for buildings fronting onto the road (later 1st – 2nd century). By the later 2nd to 3rd century baby/juveniles and adults were buried here. Small quantities of later Roman material (later 3rd/4th century) suggest a return to rubbish dumping but the settlement was in decline by this period.

Two evaluations, followed by an excavation at the Fleetwood Caravan Site revealed a significant number of deposits including a series of pits, ditches and five inhumation burials. Several of the pits were substantial in size and thought to be quarry pits for the extraction of gravel. A substantial quantity of Roman artefacts including pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material and objects of metal and worked bone were recovered during the excavation, with a small quantity of later prehistoric and post-medieval material also found (LMD 215, 384m NW).

Individual Roman burials have also been recorded at Hall Street (LMD 025, 258m NW), the Old Country Club (LMD 027, 355m NW), Cock and Bell Lane (LMB 028, 384m NW), at Wollards Garden (LMD 029, 267m NW), and at the former Gardners Garage site, Little St Marys in 1997 (LMD 115, 232m SW).

Small evaluations and monitoring of groundworks within the search area have revealed many sites with one or two Roman pits or ditches including:

- The Meeting Field (LMD 008, 335m W).
- The western side of Hall Street and Peggs Yard (LMD 024, 342m WNW).
- 86 Hall Street (LMD 080, 276m W).
- 12 Meeting field (LMD 117, 467m WSW).
- The Dairy, Hall Street (LMD 130, 213m NW).
- The Gables (LMD 154, 270m WNW).
- New Road (LMD 165, 498m SW).
- The Maples, The Spinney (LMD 174, 351m W).
- List House (LMD 176, 391m NW).
- Land at the rear of 9 Chapelside (LMD 179, 460m SW).
- Sunnyside, 1 Spring Gardens (LMD 181, 384m NW).
- 29 Swanfield (LMD 187, 321m SW).
- Richmond House (LMD 264, 347m NW).
- A test-pit at King's Farm looking on the line of the Roman road revealed a pit containing pottery and metal-working debris (LMD 223, 298m NE).

Structural evidence includes part of a Roman mosaic rumoured to have been uncovered during construction work on land between Green Shutters and Abbots Close Cottage in the 1970s (LMD 201, 369m SW), and on land to the rear of Wrights, St Catherine's Road a late Roman E-W aligned wall and a shallow spread of dumped material was recorded.

Find spots and scatters of material primarily including Roman pottery have been recorded in multiple locations within the search area including:

- Near the Maltings, Chapel Green (LMD 006, 461m SSW).

- 21-25 St Catherines Road (LMD 019, 430m SW).
- Near the Roman villa on Liston Lane (LMD 022, 397m SW).
- Theobalds Yard, St Catherines (LMD 023, 323m WSW).
- Western side of Hall Street (LMD 027, 285m NW).
- St Mary's Street (LMD 033, 230m W).
- 62 Swanfield (LMD 035, 169m SSW).
- The Meeting Field (LMD 036, 465m W).
- An extension to the Fire Station (former Theobalds Bus Depot) (LMD 046, 350m SW).
- Yeoman's Cottage, Little St Marys (LMD 133, 235m NW).
- 15 Meeting Field (MLD 134, 469m W).
- 6 Chapel Green (LMD 135, 451m SW).
- The Hayloft, Hall Street (LMD 166, 299m NW).
- 32 Swanfield (LMD 196, 313m SSW).
- A scatter of pottery, including amphora, was identified during the construction of a housing estate around 1-17 Roman Way and Clopton Drive in the 1970s (LMD 203, 547m SSW).
- A test-pit north of Meeting Field recovered some Roman pottery (LMD 228, 426m N).
- Roman bowl found at the High Street (LMD 311, 125m NNE).
- A number of Roman coins, including two to the south of the site, and some brooches have also been found within the search area but are not shown on the plan.

Medieval

In the Domesday survey of 1086, the manor of Melford is listed as an estate of over 600 hectares. It is largely defined from historic mapping and locations of listed buildings. The concentration of medieval activity starts c 172m west of the current site (LMD 183). Medieval features recorded within the search area include a well constructed of flint, medieval pottery and tile, revealed during the excavation of foundations for an extension to The Yellow House (LMD 151, 348m SW). An undisturbed layer that contained fragments of medieval tile was recorded during monitoring at St Catherine's (LMD 182 & DSF1164, 349m SW), and a scatter of medieval pottery was recorded during monitoring at 6 Chapel Green (LMD 135, 451m SW).

Post-medieval to modern

From the late medieval to early post-medieval period there is a growth of housing appearing in the village. This is evident with buildings still surviving today as well as those visible on early historic mapping. One of the earliest survey maps of Melford was created by Israel Amyce in 1580. Three buildings are visible in the centre of Hall Street which are no longer in existence (LMD 098, 464m N). Surviving historic buildings include the Bull Hotel. The hotel was originally a 15th-century jettied hall-house which had the hall replaced in the late 1520s to become used as an inn. Much of the timber-framing is exposed and several rooms have finely carved and moulded ceilings. The Inn is Grade II* Listed (LMD 230 and DSF1164, 474m N). The Grade II Listed Posting House and Yeomans were built at the turn of the 16th century as a single house appropriate to a Tudor merchant of considerable substance. The original building was an open hall flanked by a floored and jettied parlour cross-wing to the left and a service cross-wing to the right. The interior has exposed timber-framing on the 1st-storey (LMD 231 & DSF2552, 236m NW).

A Chapel of Ease built in either 1550 or 1560 but later demolished in 1613 (LMD 006, 461m SSW).

Archaeological investigations, largely the monitoring of footings for house extensions, have revealed evidence of post-medieval ditches and pits. Sites that have revealed one or two of these features include:

- land to the rear of Wrights, St Catherine's Road (LMD 136, 319m SW),
- The Limes (LMD 158, 64m N),
- 7 Cotswold Drive (LMD 180, 401m SSW),
- The Post House (LMD 220, 228m NW),
- a post-medieval post-hole was recorded with layers of mixed Roman and post-medieval material on land to the rear of Chips 'n' Chopsticks (LMD 173, 313m WNW),

- two post-medieval wells were recorded during monitoring at The Gables (LMD 154, 270m WNW),
- and a brick well recorded at Walcot House (LMD 170, 417m NW).

Post-medieval pottery sherds and scatters have been recorded at The Hayloft, Hall Street (LMD 166, 299m NW), at Melford House (LMD 186, 441m NNW), and at Magnolia Cottage (LMD 234, 430m SW).

The site is located approximately 172m west of the former Bury St Edmunds to Long Melford railway line (SUF 074). The line opened in 1865 but closed to passengers in 1961 and freight in 1965. One the western side of the village was the Stour Valley Railway line which ran from Marks Tey, Essex, to Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (SUF 075, 569m W). The line closed in 1967 as part of the Beaching cuts.

Two late 18th- to 20th-century pits recorded at the rear of The Swan Public House and Duck Cottage, Hall Street are thought to be domestic activity related to the Grade II Listed properties (LMD 258, 450m NNW).

A 19th-century industrial hearth/kiln and pits were recorded on the border of Belmont House during monitoring of groundworks (LMD 178, 346m N).

The site of a post-medieval gas works is located c 423m NW of the site (LMD 294).

Undated

Cropmarks of a sub-square or rectangular enclosure c 90m wide is located c 485m south of the site (LMD 112). Within the enclosure is a ring-ditch c 20m in diameter (LMD 111, 475m S). The cropmark of another ring-ditch c 20m in diameter is visible within the Scheduled area of the Roman villa on Liston Lane (LMD 139, 451m SW).

An evaluation on land to the west of Red House revealed two undated features. The site had substantial post-medieval/modern disturbance and no datable evidence remained (LMD 191, 498m NNW). Undated pits and a modern well were identified during monitoring at List House (LMD 260, 424m NNW).

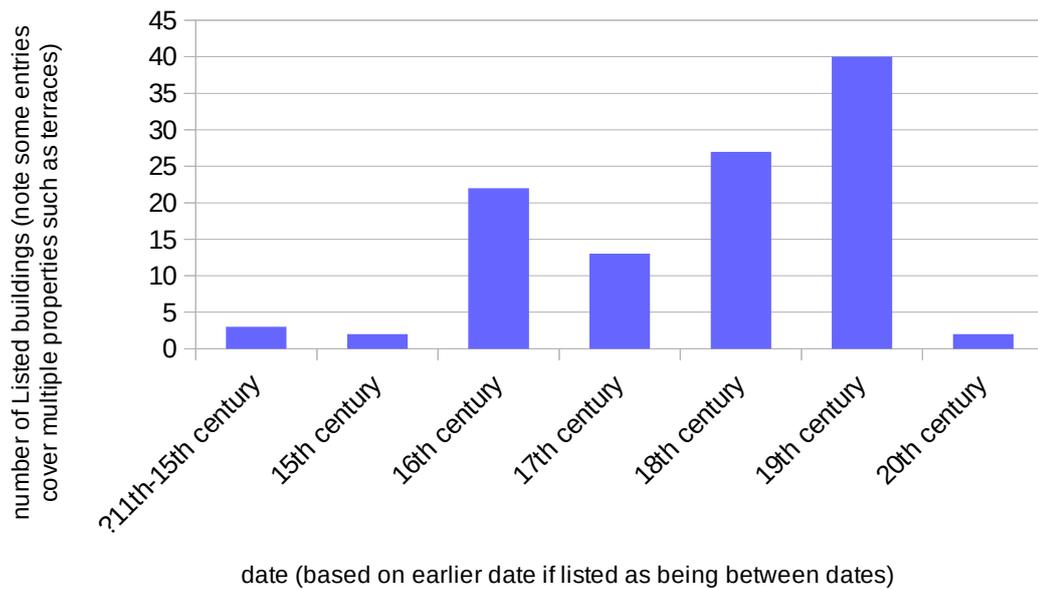
Negative

Monitoring of groundworks on land adjoining 6 Woolards Gardens revealed no features or finds (LMD 168, 268m NNW).

Listed buildings⁵

There are 109 listed buildings within the search radius (one Grade I, four Grade II* and 104 Grade II). They range in date from the 11th-20th century. Key listed buildings are described above by period.

⁵ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).



Graph 1 Number of listed buildings based on their approximate construction date.

There are several buildings which are thought to be medieval in origin but due to later alterations the original construction date is unknown. Key early buildings not already mentioned above include:

Bouchiers is a Grade II* listed timber-framed and plastered house comprising of a medieval hall with a cross-wing at the northern end. It was originally one house but now three tenements. A number of historic features survive including a fine 16th century fireplace carved with folded leaf ornamentation and a central shield (DSF2168, 263m WNW)

Old Forge Cottage is formed from the cross-wing off a medieval timber-framed and plastered hall house. Exposed timber-framing on the north side is of 14th century type and may have been part of an earlier building. The cottage is Grade II listed (DSF1779, 358m SW).

The premises occupied by Cadge and Son Builders at Little St Mary's is a medieval timber-framed and plastered Grade II* listed hall-house built on a half H plan. At the south end there is a carriage entrance with exposed timber-framing under the arch and a room above. (DSF1676, 300m SW)

The listed buildings give us a snap shot of growth and development of the village over time. A growth of housing in the 15th-16th century was largely due to the income from weaving cloth. This seems to dip a little in the 17th century until the arrival of the railway and new industries such the iron foundry and flaxworks.

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

5 Methodology

As per the WSI (appended to this report), one trial-trench were laid out across the development site. The trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist, and all archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. There was sufficient excavation to give evidence for the period, depth and nature of all archaeological deposits. Individual records of deposits were entered on pro-forma record sheets. The evaluation trenches were surveyed by GPS with sections drawn by hand at 1:10. All trenches were digitally photographed with a scale and north arrow. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata.

6 Results (Figs 3-4)

A single trial-trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 10m long and 1.8m wide, and cut through a thick layer of imported modern topsoil (L1, 0.5-0.55m thick), buried topsoil (L2, 0.2-0.25m thick) and a layer of made-ground (L3, 0.3m thick). Natural (L4) was encountered at a depth of 0.9-1m below current ground level. The only features present were pit/tree-throws F1 and F2, both sealed by L3 (see Appendix 1 for dimensions).



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking east.

7 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman

Topsoil L1 produced a sherd (6g) of modern English stoneware (fabric F45M) and one fragment (12g) of Roman imbrex. From made-ground L3 were two fragments (227g) of Roman tegulae and a fragment of oyster shell (6g). A small prehistoric flint flake was recovered from pit/tree-throw F1. The flake appears to have been detached from its parent core using a hard hammer,

possibly after the preparation of the striking platform. There is a small area of cortex on the dorsal face/platform. The edge of the flake has not been retouched, although there is some evidence of use-wear or edge-damage. Although the piece is not typologically diagnostic, the preparation of the platform prior to detaching the flake would suggest that it is most likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date.

8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford revealed two pits/tree-throws. Topsoil L1 was likely imported onto the site when the housing estate was built in the 1980s/90s, and the two fragments of Roman tegulae from L3 may suggest that this is a Roman layer, but without further work it is impossible to be certain. Pit/tree-throw F1 could be of Mesolithic or Neolithic date or the flint could be residual within a later feature. However, its presence does indicate that there was some form of human activity, likely small-scale and transient, on or close to the development site in Mesolithic or Neolithic period.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Ben Newman, Aspire Building Contracts Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and S Vasey. The project was monitored for SCCAS by Hannah Cutler.

10 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2023	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
Cotter, JP	2000	<i>CAR Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
ClfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2022
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
SCC	2012	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCAS	2022a	<i>Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford</i>
SCCAS	2022b	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation.</i> Revised Nov 2022
SCCAS	2022c	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition</i>

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'

layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds archive: One flint (modern pottery and oyster shell discarded as per SCCAS policy, Roman CBM accidentally discarded)

Digital record

CAT Report 1923
SCCAS Brief
Digital photographs
Survey data
Site data

13 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (flint) and the Archaeological Data Service (digital files).

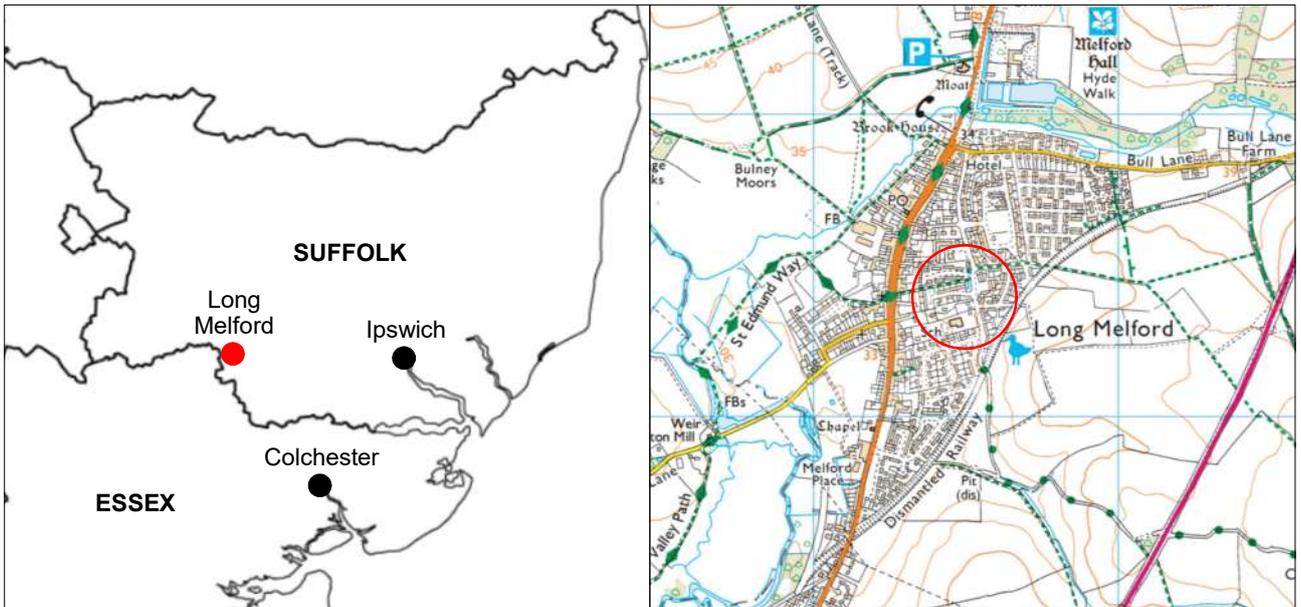
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Distribution list:

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Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench	Finds no.	Layer type	Description	Date
L1	T1	3	Topsoil	Soft to firm, dry dark brownish-black silt with small stone inclusions.	Modern
L2	T1	-	Buried topsoil	Firm, dry mid to dark yellowish-brown silt with occasional gravel and small stone inclusions.	Modern
L3	T1	2	Made-ground	Soft, dry mid brownish-orange sandy gravel.	?Roman
L4	T1	-	Natural	Soft to firm, moist mid brown silty clay	Post-glacial
F1	T1	1	Pit/tree-throw	Soft/loose, dry mid greyish-brown silty sand with gravel inclusions. 1.15m by >0.63m and 0.10m deep.	?Prehistoric
F2	T1	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, dry mid brownish-grey silty sand with gravel inclusions. 0.49m by 0.58m and 0.10m deep.	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).





Fig 2 Development site (red) in relation to archaeological data recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment records.

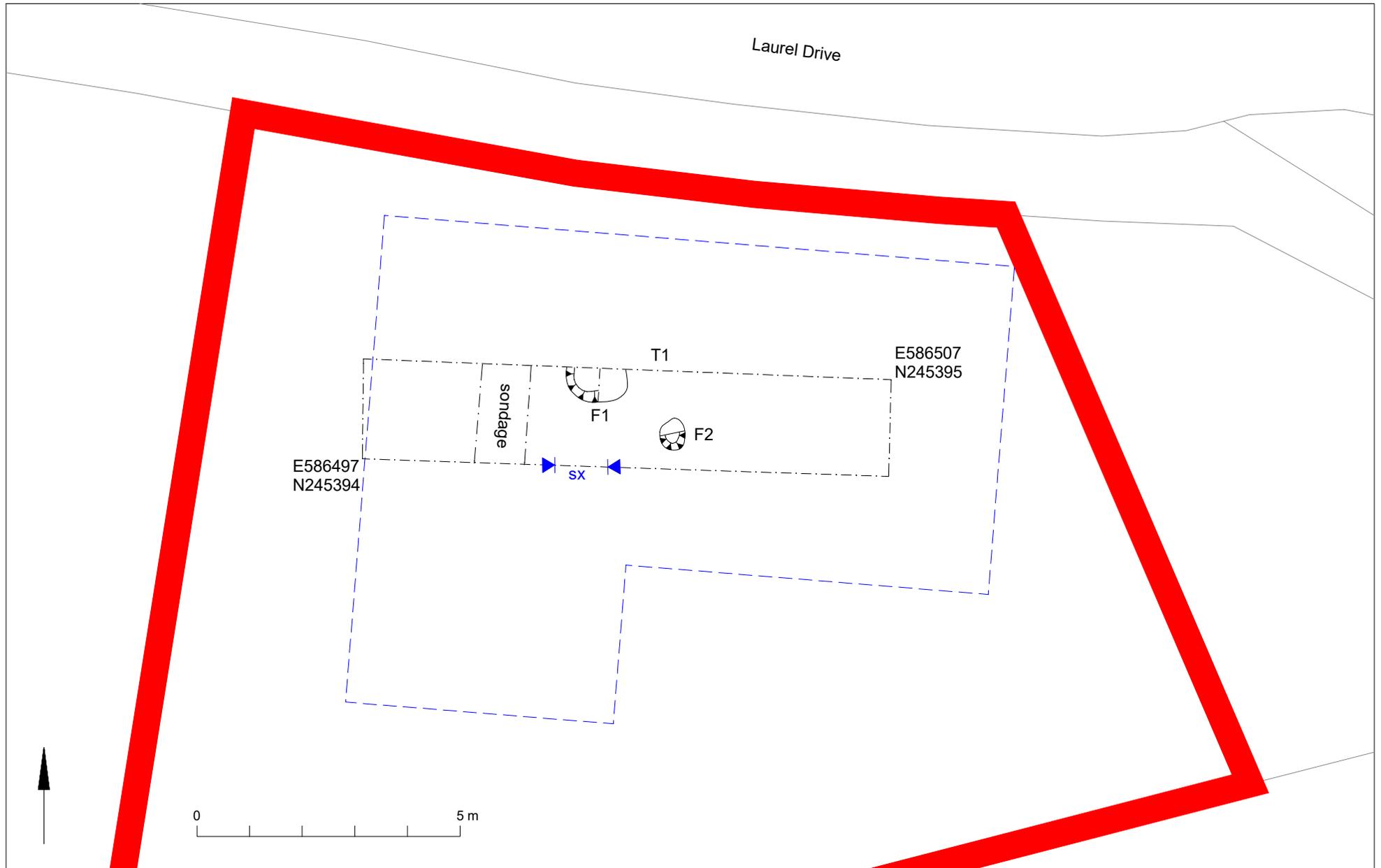


Fig 3 Results.

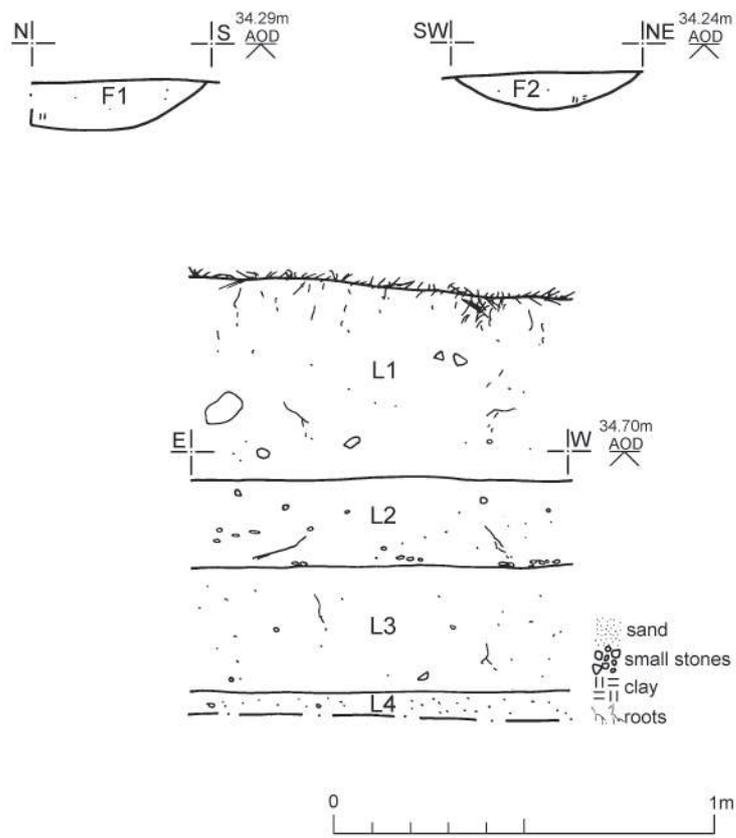


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written scheme of investigation
for an evaluation by trial-trenching at 1 Laurel Drive,
Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9ER.**

January 2023

**CAT project ref.: 2022/12f
SCC parish code: LMD 365**

**Written scheme of investigation for an evaluation by
trial-trenching at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford,
Suffolk, CO10 9ER.**

January 2023

NGR: TL 86507 45396

**Planning district.: Babergh
Planning ref.: DC/22/01150**

CAT project ref.: 2022/12f

**Curating museum: Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service
SCC Parish code: LMD 365**

**SCCAS monitor: Hannah Cutler
OASIS id: colchest3-511809**

**WSI prepared by: Emma Holloway
Figures by: Chris Lister and Emma Holloway**

**Commissioned by: Ben Newman (Aspire Building Contracts Ltd)
Client: Aspire Building Contracts Ltd**

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Issued:	19/01/2023	

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Site location and description

The site is located on the eastern side of the historic village of Long Melford at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9ER (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 86507 45396. The site comprises of a c 0.3 hectare plot currently part of the garden of the existing property which is laid to grass.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises of the construction of one single storey two-bedroom detached dwelling in the garden of the existing property.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9526276.

Geology

The British Geological Survey geology viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the site bedrock geology for the site is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (chalk), with superficial deposits of Head (clay, silt and gravel. Head is poorly sorted and poorly stratified, angular rock debris and/or clayey hillwash and soil creep, mantling a hillslope and deposited by solifluction and gelifluction processes).

Historic landscape

The development site is located within an area defined as *rolling estate farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². These gently sloping valley sides and plateau fringes have loamy or silty soils which are derived from glacial outwash and till deposits. The soils in this landscape are mainly the deep, well-drained, clayey loams of the Ludford or Melford series. The valley-side location of this landscape type, with the combination of access to water and arable potential, attracted settlement from an early date.

Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape type 10.3, built-up area-village.

The landscape immediately around the site includes:

- Landscape sub-type 1.1, pre-18th century enclosure - random fields, areas with this field pattern are thought to be some of our earliest farming landscapes.
- Landscape sub-group 5.4 meadow or managed wetland-meadow.

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

This background is focused on SHER search results within a 500m radius of the site.

Long Melford is an attractive village with a long High Street largely located along the eastern bank of the River Stour. Melford is derived from 'mill' and 'ford' a crossing of a tributary of the river.

Within the search area:

Prehistoric:

There are no prehistoric features or finds prior to the Iron Age recorded within the search area except a few lithic implements including an assemblage of late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age, with some Mesolithic flakes found by metal-detectorists and recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme east of the site.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

² <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

³ The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2012, Suffolk County Council

⁴ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER)

A late Iron Age urned cremation was found during the excavation of a foundation trench at Chantry House, Hall Street in 1984 (LMD 047, 310m NW). Two Iron Age bowls found in conjunction with a human skeleton was also recorded opposite the Cock and Bell Inn by Basil Brown in 1939 (LMD 304, 311m NNW).

Monitoring carried out during the excavation of footings for a house and garage on land adjacent to Bramertons revealed evidence of occupation on the site from the Late Iron Age through to the 2nd century AD. Features included ditches, pits and a post-hole. Finds included pottery, animal bone and smithing debris (LMD 130, 157m SW). A Late Iron Age-Roman pit was identified during archaeological monitoring at 9 Rivish House (LMD 206, 335m SW).

An evaluation followed by excavation at Long Melford Primary School revealed small quantities of Mesolithic to Early Bronze Age flint. Features included pits, ditches and a structural feature. Finds date the main occupation of the site from the Late Iron Age to 2nd century AD. Four burials were recorded on the site, one cremation and three inhumations that perhaps represent a family plot (LMD 192, 106m SW).

Roman:

The centre of Long Melford has a substantial Roman settlement which is believed to have been established around the junction of two main Roman roads, the N-S Chelmsford to Pakenham road (SUF 098, 178m W) and the E-W Wixoe to Coddenham road. Other Roman roads recorded include one to the south/south-west of the site at Chapel Field (LMD 031, 745m SSW). Excavation of the road in 1970-2 showed it is 6.6m wide, 0.8m deep and flanked by 1.8m wide ditches. The cropmark of a Roman road running from the centre to the west starts c 296m west of the site (LMD 358).

A Roman villa is located approximately 438m south-west of the site on Liston Lane (LMD 017, Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 1002967). Part of the villa was initially exposed in 1958 and some subsequent salvage recording revealed an area of tessellated and *opus signinum* floor and wall indicating a bathing area. The remains of a flint and mortar wall, thought to be part of the villa was recorded in 2004 (LMD 153, 488m SW).

Roman burials are recorded in locations around the edges of the main Roman occupation. At Melford there are several instances of burials around the village in areas mixed with pits, especially refuse pits. An evaluation and monitoring on land to the rear of Almacks identified the presence of well-preserved Roman features with an overlying Roman soil layer. Features included substantial refuse pits interspersed with occasional linear features. An inhumation of a young female was identified amid the refuse pits (LMD 137, 318m W and LMD 157, 354m W). Monitoring at 14 The Limes, Old Dairy Yard, revealed a series of large mid-Roman pits with an intact 3rd century inhumation of an adult female buried with a beaker vessel (LMD 160, 195m NW). An evaluation followed by excavation by CAT at Chapel House revealed one hundred and seven well-preserved features (CAT Reports 766 & 893, LMD 232, 385m SW). Ninety-nine were of a Late Iron Age and Roman date, with three post-medieval pits and five natural features. Most of the LIA/Roman features were pits but others included post-holes, stake-holes, gullies, a small section of possible road surface and five burials (three inhumations and two cremations). In addition, the partial human remains of at least 15 other individuals were also identified. Evidence shows that site originated in the early-mid 1st century with three pits possibly representing the remains of baby/juvenile burials. In the early Roman period (mid 1st – early 2nd century) it was primarily a quarry site, with pits dug to extract the natural clays, sands, silts and gravels required for the construction of the Roman road. Located on the eastern margin of the settlement the site was subsequently used as a rubbish dump for buildings fronting onto the road (later 1st – 2nd century). By the later 2nd to 3rd century baby/juveniles and adults were buried here. Small quantities of later Roman material (later 3rd/4th century) suggests a return to rubbish dumping but the settlement was in decline by this period.

Two evaluations, followed by an excavation at the Fleetwood Caravan Site revealed a significant number of deposits including a series of pits, ditches and five inhumation burials. Several of the pits were substantial in size and thought to be quarry pits for the extraction of

gravel. A substantial quantity of Roman artefacts including pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material and objects of metal and worked bone were recovered during the excavation, with a small quantity of later prehistoric and post-medieval material also found (LMD 215, 384m NW).

Individual Roman burials have also been recorded at Hall Street (LMD 025, 258m NW), the Old Country Club (LMD 027, 355m NW), Cock and Bell Lane (LMB 028, 384m NW), at Wollards Garden (LMD 029, 267m NW), and at the former Gardners Garage site, Little St Marys in 1997 (LMD 115, 232m SW).

Small evaluations and monitoring of groundworks within the search area have revealed many sites with one or two Roman pits or ditches including:

- The Meeting Field (LMD 008, 335m W).
- The western side of Hall Street and Peggs Yard (LMD 024, 342m WNW).
- 86 Hall Street (LMD 080, 276m W).
- 12 Meeting field (LMD 117, 467m WSW).
- The Dairy, Hall Street (LMD 130, 213m NW).
- The Gables (LMD 154, 270m WNW).
- New Road (LMD 165, 498m SW).
- The Maples, The Spinney (LMD 174, 351m W).
- List House (LMD 176, 391m NW).
- Land at the rear of 9 Chapelside (LMD 179, 460m SW).
- Sunnyside, 1 Spring Gardens (LMD 181, 384m NW).
- 29 Swanfield (LMD 187, 321m SW).
- Richmond House (LMD 264, 347m NW).
- A test-pit at King's Farm looking on the line of the Roman road revealed a pit containing pottery and metal-working debris (LMD 223, 298m NE).

Structural evidence includes part of a Roman mosaic is rumoured to have been uncovered during construction work on land between Green Shutters and Abbots Close Cottage in the 1970s (LMD 201, 369m SW), and on land to the rear of Wrights, St Catherine's Road, a late Roman E-W aligned wall and a shallow spread of dumped material was recorded.

Find spots and scatters of material primarily including Roman pottery have been recorded in multiple locations within the search area including:

- Near the Maltings, Chapel Green (LMD 006, 461m SSW).
- 21-25 St Catherines Road (LMD 019, 430m SW).
- Near the Roman villa on Liston Lane (LMD 022, 397m SW).
- Theobalds Yard, St Catherines (LMD 023, 323m WSW).
- Western side of Hall Street (LMD 027, 285m NW).
- St Mary's Street (LMD 033, 230m W).
- 62 Swanfield (LMD 035, 169m SSW).
- The Meeting Field (LMD 036, 465m W).
- An extension to the Fire Station (former Theobalds Bus Depot) (LMD 046, 350m SW).
- Yeoman's Cottage, Little St Marys (LMD 133, 235m NW).
- 15 Meeting Field (MLD 134, 469m W).
- 6 Chapel Green (LMD 135, 451m SW).
- The Hayloft, Hall Street (LMD 166, 299m NW).
- 32 Swanfield (LMD 196, 313m SSW).
- A scatter of pottery, including amphora, was identified during the construction of a housing estate around 1-17 Roman Way and Clopton Drive in the 1970s (LMD 203, 547m SSW).
- A test-pit north of Meeting Field recovered some Roman pottery (LMD 228, 426m N).
- Roman bowl found at the High Street (LMD 311, 125m NNE).
- A number of Roman coins, including two to the south of the site, and some brooches have also been found within the search area but are not shown on the plan.

Anglo-Saxon-medieval:

In the Domesday survey of 1086 the manor of Melford is listed as an estate of over 600 hectares. It is largely defined from historic mapping and locations of Listed Buildings. The concentration of medieval activity starts c 172m west of the current site (LMD 183).

Medieval features recorded within the search area include a well constructed of flint, medieval pottery and tile was revealed during the excavation of foundations for an extension to The Yellow House (LMD 151, 348m SW). An undisturbed layer that contained fragments of medieval tile was recorded during monitoring at St Catherine's (LMD 182 & DSF1164, 349m SW), and a scatter of medieval pottery was recorded during monitoring at 6 Chapel Green (LMD 135, 451m SW).

Post-medieval to modern:

From the late medieval to early post-medieval period there is a growth of housing appearing in the village. This is evident with buildings still surviving today as well as those visible on early historic mapping. One of the earliest survey maps of Melford was created by Israel Amyce in 1580. Three buildings are visible in the centre of Hall Street which are no longer in existence (LMD 098, 464m N). Surviving historic buildings include the Bull Hotel. The hotel was originally a 15th century jettied hall-house which had the hall replaced in the late 1520s to become used as an inn. Much of the timber-framing is exposed and several rooms have finely carved and moulded ceilings. The Inn is Grade II* Listed (LMD 230 and DSF1164, 474m N). The Grade II Listed Posting House and Yeomans were built at the turn of the 16th century as a single house appropriate to a Tudor Merchant of considerable substance. The original building was an open hall flanked by a floored and jettied parlour cross-wing to the left and a service cross-wing to the right. The interior has exposed timber-framing on the 1st storey (LMD 231 & DSF2552, 236m NW).

A Chapel of Ease built in either 1550 or 1560 but later demolished in 1613 (LMD 006, 461m SSW).

Archaeological investigations, largely the monitoring of footings for house extensions, have revealed evidence of post-medieval ditches and pits. Sites that have revealed one or two of these features include: land to the rear of Wrights, St Catherine's Road (LMD 136, 319m SW), The Limes (LMD 158, 64m N), 7 Cotswold Drive (LMD 180, 401m SSW), The Post House (LMD 220, 228m NW) a post-medieval post-hole was recorded and layers of mixed Roman and post-medieval material was recorded on land to the rear of Chips 'n' Chopsticks (LMD 173, 313m WNW), two post-medieval wells were recorded during monitoring at The Gables (LMD 154, 270m WNW) and a brick well recorded at Walcot House (LMD 170, 417m NW).

Post-medieval pottery sherds and scatters have been recorded at The Hayloft, Hall Street (LMD 166, 299m NW); at Melford House (LMD 186, 441m NNW), and at Magnolia Cottage (LMD 234, 430m SW).

The site is located approximately 172m west of the former Bury St Edmunds to Long Melford railway line (SUF 074). The line opened in 1865 but closed to passengers in 1961 and freight in 1965. One the western side of the village was the Stour Valley Railway line which ran from Marks Tey, Essex, to Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (SUF 075, 569m W). The line closed in 1967 as part of the Beaching cuts.

Two late 18th-20th century pits recorded at the rear of The Swan Public House and Duck Cottage, Hall Street are thought to be domestic activity related to the Grade II Listed properties (LMD 258, 450m NNW).

A 19th century industrial hearth/kiln and pits were recorded on the border of Belmont House during monitoring of groundworks (LMD 178, 346m N).

The site of a post-medieval gas works is located c 423m NW of the site (LMD 294).

Undated: Cropmarks of a sub-square or rectangular enclosure c 90m wide is located c 485m south of the site (LMD 112). Within the enclosure is a ring-ditch c 20m in diameter (LMD 111,

475m S). The cropmark of another ring-ditch c 20m in diameter is visible within the Scheduled area of the Roman villa on Liston Lane (LMD 139, 451m SW).

An evaluation on land to the west of Red House revealed two undated features. The site had substantial post-medieval/modern disturbance and no datable evidence remained (LMD 191, 498m NNW).

Undated pits and a modern well were identified during monitoring at List House (LMD 260, 424m NNW).

Negative: Monitoring of groundworks on land adjoining 6 Woolards Gardens revealed no features or finds (LMD 168, 268m NNW).

Listed buildings⁵

There are 109 listed buildings within the search radius (1 Grade I, 4 Grade II* and 104 Grade II). They range in date from the 11th-20th century. Key listed buildings are described above by period.

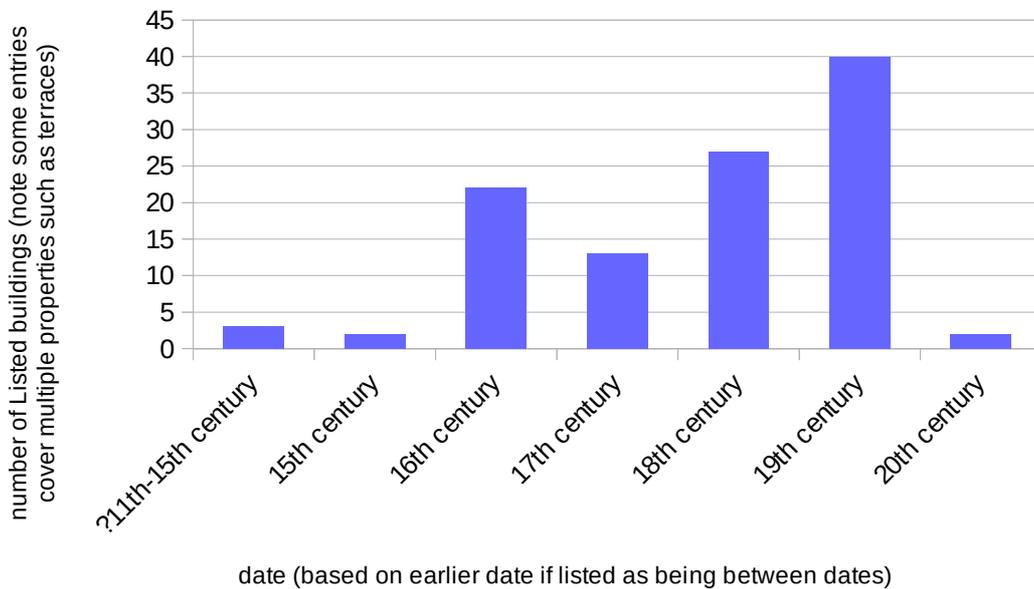


Table 1: Number of listed buildings based on their approximate construction date.

There are several buildings which are thought to be medieval in origin but due to later alterations the original construction date is unknown. Key early buildings not already mentioned above include:

Bouchiers is a Grade II* listed timber-framed and plastered house comprising of a medieval hall with a cross-wing at the northern end. It was originally one house but now three tenements. A number of historic features survive including a fine 16th century fireplace carved with folded leaf ornamentation and a central shield (DSF2168, 263m WNW)

Old Forge Cottage is formed from the cross-wing off a medieval timber-framed and plastered hall house. Exposed timber-framing on the north side is of 14th century type and may have been part of an earlier building. The cottage is Grade II listed (DSF1779, 358m SW).

The premises occupied by Cadge and Son Builders at Little St Mary's is a medieval timber-framed and plastered Grade II* listed hall-house built on a half H plan. At the south end there is a carriage entrance with exposed timber-framing under the arch and a room above. (DSF1676, 300m SW)

⁵ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

The listed buildings give us a snap shot of growth and development of the village over time. A growth of housing in the 15th-16th century was largely due to the income from weaving cloth. This seems to dip a little in the 17th century until the arrival of the railway and new industries such the iron foundary and flaxworks.

Planning background

A planning application (DC/22/01150) was submitted to Babergh District Council in July 2020 proposing the *severance of garden and erection of 1No single storey dwelling including alterations to driveway.*

In response to consultation with Hannah Cutler, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Advisor (SCCASA), it was advised that as the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the condition based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the SCCASA (*Brief for archaeological evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford – SCC 2022*).

Specifically, there will one trench measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide located to target the footprint of the proposed new dwelling.

Localised extensions to the trench may be required by the SCCASA after the site monitoring visit.

Trial-trenching is required to:

- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

All work will take place within and contribute to the goals of the Regional Research Frameworks. This includes the regional review by Medlycott (2011) and the recently revised period specific frameworks (accessible via <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

Decision on the need for any further archaeological investigation (eg excavation) will be made by the SCCASA, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the report for this evaluation.

Any further investigation will be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCASA for scrutiny and formally approved by the Local Planning Authority.

This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation ONLY; this document alone will NOT result in the discharge of the archaeological condition.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)

- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by SCC Historic Environment Advisor (SCCASA 2022)
- SCC requirements for a trenched archaeological evaluation (SCCAS 2022a)
- The project digital management plan

CAT is covered by Aviva Insurance Ltd, 006288/04/22, which includes Professional Indemnity £2,000,000, Employer's Liability £10,000,000 and Public Liability £5,000,000.

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to SCCASA ten days before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

Prior to the commencement of the site a HER parish code will be sought from the HER team. The HER parish code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

At the start of the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the SHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT Project Officer and one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/ Harvey Furniss.

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached. Machine assistance may also be required for very large/deep features and a contingency has been made within the budget if required, but all features will be hand excavated unless specifically agreed with the SCCASA.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded. **All** features will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with the SCCASA.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a minimum of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that

the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the SCCASA, will it be removed.

Trenches will first be stepped where appropriate to allow for safe excavation of deep features. After discussion with the SCCASA the use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) will be used where necessary to gain information from very deep deposits/features if depth cannot be established through hand excavation.

Any complex/unexpected deposits will be discussed with the SCCASA to agree a strategy.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

The use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) will be used where necessary to gain information from very deep deposits/features.

A metal detector will be used to scan all trenches and spoil heaps both before and during excavation. This will be carried out by trained CAT staff under the supervision of the Fieldwork Manager Adam Wightman and Project Officers Ben Holloway, Nigel Rayner and Harvey Furniss who all have more than 5 years experience of metal detecting on archaeological sites. Experienced metal detectorist Geoff Lunn will be available for advice and support throughout the project. Geoff has 4 years experience and has worked with CAT to recover finds from recent excavations at the Mercury Theatre and Essex County Hospital sites in Colchester, and who has also worked with the Colchester Archaeological Group, Suffolk Archaeology, Access Cambridge Archaeology, The Citizen Project (MOLA) and others. If considered necessary, Geoff will be employed by CAT for to assist with the metal detecting. All finds will have their location recorded via GPS or with the Total Station. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the SCCASA.

Site surveying

The evaluation trenches and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT aims to follow guidance set out in the Historic England guide for Environmental Archaeology (Historic England 2011). The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- The range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality.
- Concentrations of macro-remains.
- Differences in remains from undated and dated features.
- Variation between different feature types and areas of site.

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the licence will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the SCCASA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Following Historic England guidance (Historic England 2018) all archaeological human remains excavated during the course of the evaluation will either be analysed and reported by CAT project osteologist Megan Seehra or will be sent to external specialist Julie Curl.

Photographic record

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits and follow Historic England guidelines (2015a). A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Photographs of significant archaeological features and deposits will be taken using a Nikon D3500 DSLR camera with a 24.2 megapixel DX-format sensor.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCASA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with the SCCASA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flint: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
osteology: (human remains): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Tom Lawrence
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and reported immediately to the Suffolk FLO (Finds Liaison Office) who will inform the coroner within 14 days, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS 2022)..

Results

Notification will be given to the SCCASA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

The draft final report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by the SCCAA.

The approved final report will normally be submitted to the SCCASA as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA8, EAA14, EAA24 and <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Appendices to include a copy of the completed OASIS summary sheet and the approved WSI

Results will be published, to at least a summary level, in the PSIAH (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History) annual round up should archaeological remains be encountered during the monitoring. An allowance will be made for this in the project costs for the report.

Final reports are also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

Archive deposition

The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service as per their archive guidelines (SCCAS 2022b).

If the client does not agree to transfer ownership to SCCAS they will be required to nominate another suitable repository approved by SCCAS or provide funding for additional recording and analysis of the finds archive (such as, but not limited to, additional photography or illustration of objects). In the rare event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated, provided they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner or an approved third party, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the SCCAS.

The archive will be deposited with the SCCAS within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS. Prior to deposition the project digital management plan (attached) and CAT data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to SCCAS for integration into the HER

Monitoring

The SCCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to the SCCASA ten days in advance of its commencement and a monitoring visit will be booked with SCCASA at this time.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the SCCASA prior to them being carried out.

The SCCASA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the SCCASA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to compliment it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

Events, activities and social media

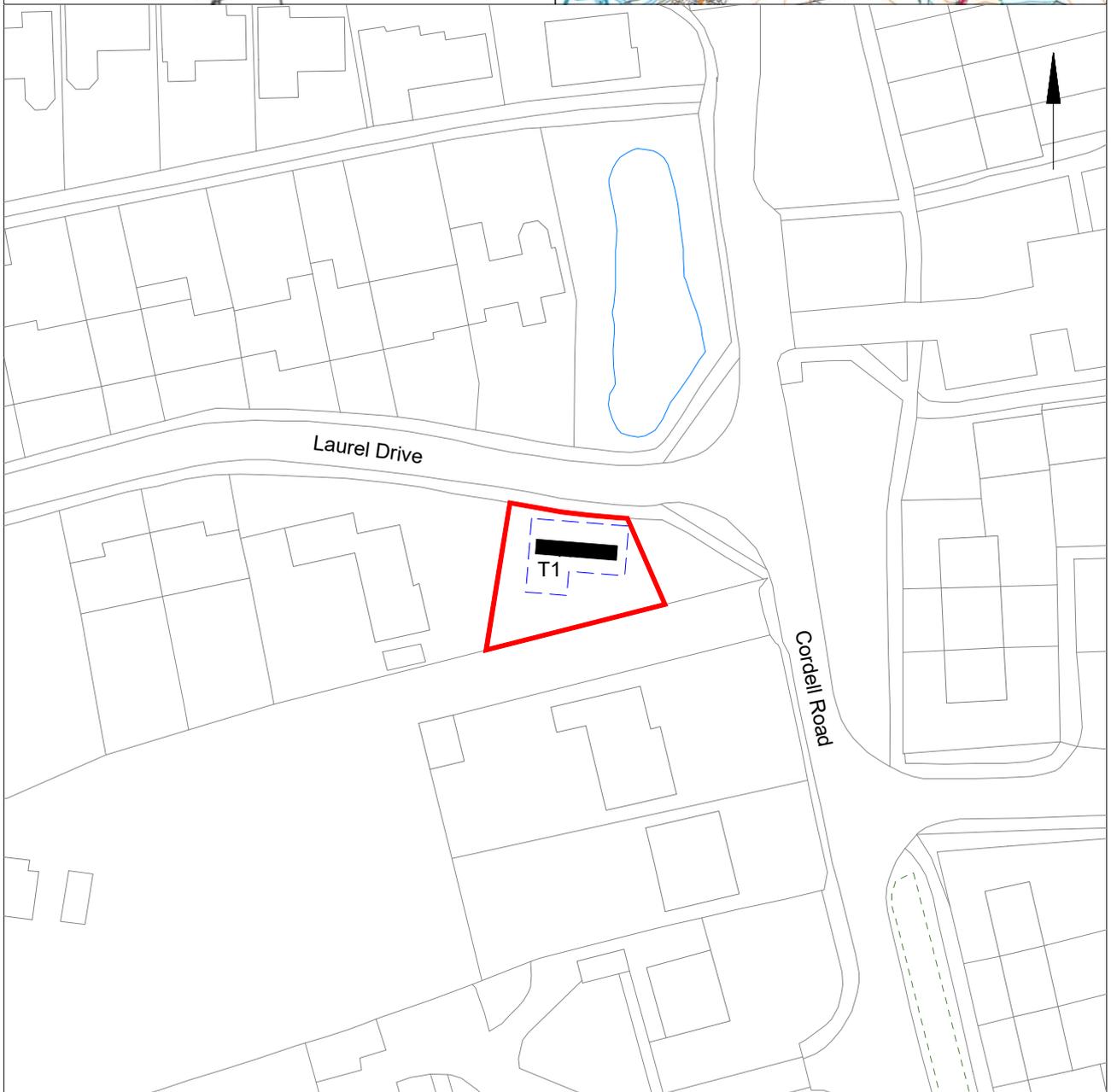
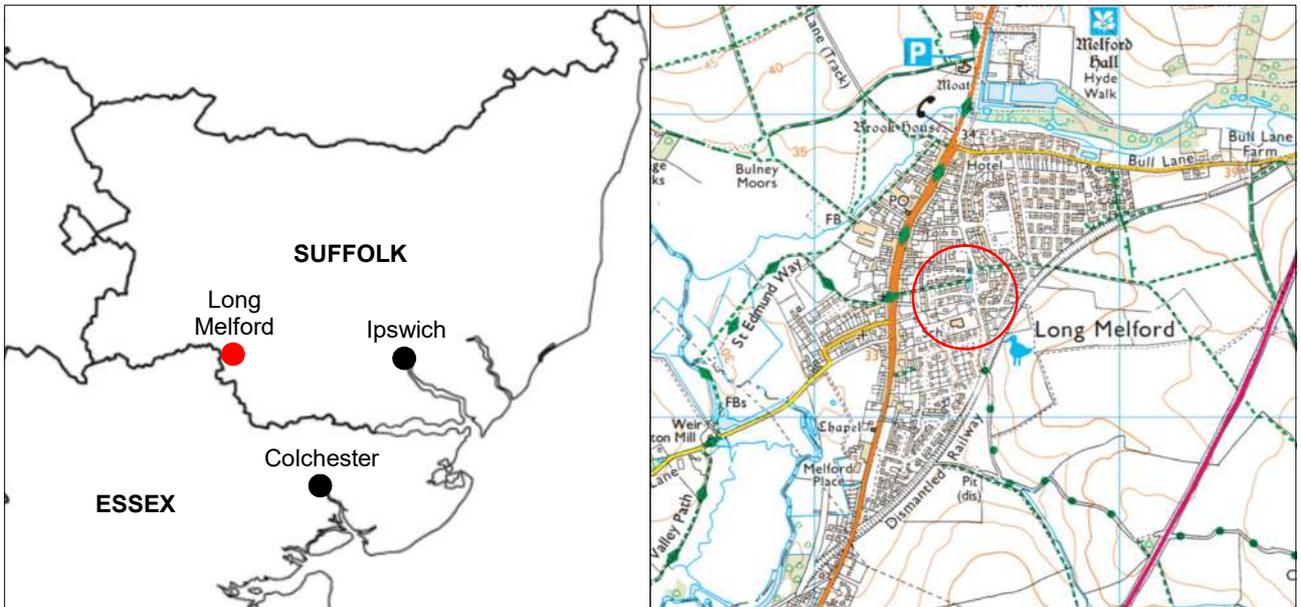
In addition, the CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, D	2011 2nd ed	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 766	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: land to the rear of Chapel House, Chapel Green, Little St Mary's, Long Melford, Suffolk, March 2014.</i> By B Holloway
CAT Report 893	2016	<i>Archaeological excavation and monitoring on land to the rear of Chapel House, Chapel Green, Little St Mary's, Long Melford, Suffolk, Co10 9HZ: February-November 2015.</i> By L Pooley
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2022
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2011	<i>A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition).</i> By G

Historic England	2015a	Campbell, L Moffett and V Straker <i>Digital image capture and file storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
SCC	2012	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCASA	2022	<i>Brief for evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford</i>
SCCAS	2022a	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation.</i> Revised Nov 2022
SCCAS	2022b	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition</i>



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).





Fig 2 Development site (red) in relation to archaeological data recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment records.

Summary for colchest3-511809

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-511809
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9ER
Sitename	1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9ER
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/12f
Planning Id	DC/22/01150
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	27-Mar-2023 - 27-Mar-2023
Location	1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9ER NGR : TL 86507 45396 LL : 52.0755090747182, 0.720095909794166 12 Fig : 586507,245396
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Babergh Parish : Long Melford
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) carried out as per the conditions of the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at 1 Laurel Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk in advance of the construction of a new residential dwelling. Located on the eastern edge of the historic settlement of Long Melford, the evaluation revealed two pits/tree-throws. A Mesolithic or Neolithic flint flake and pieces of Roman CBM attest to activity in these periods.
Keywords	Flake - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Holloway
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - LMD 365
Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service; Accession Id(s): LMD 365 Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;