

# Archaeological Excavation on land to southeast of 'The Dell', Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk, IP12 3RQ

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**on behalf of Mr & Mrs Bishop**

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CAT WSI

OASIS Summary

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological excavation was carried out on land to the southeast of The Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley in advance of the construction of a new house and associated infrastructure. Thirty-three features were excavated, including a modern pit and five modern postholes. The remaining twenty-seven features revealed a Late Iron Age/Early Roman agricultural landscape dating from the late 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD. Seven ditches represent at least three phases of a co-axial field system laid out to form separate fields or paddocks. Domestic waste found in eight pits also suggests that the site was located on the periphery of an unlocated settlement or farm. Of further interest were four pits containing burnt flint and stone, and a quantity of this material found residually in LIA/Roman features. Commonly associated with the prehistoric period these features and finds may represent an earlier phase of activity on the site.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological excavation on land to the southeast of The Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley which was carried out on 19th-22nd January 2016. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Bishop in advance of the construction of a new four-bedroom house with a studio, access road and associated utilities, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal: Planning reference DC/14/0056/FUL) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Excavation* detailing the required archaeological work written by Rachael Abraham (SCCAS 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological and landscape background (Map 1, below)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record ([archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk))<sup>1</sup>:

### Geology

The British Geological Viewer (1:625,000 scale<sup>2</sup>) shows this general geology of the site area as Glacial Sands and Gravels (the natural sand found in this evaluation confirms this). Slightly downslope from this site Crag Group Sands and Gravels are exposed.

<sup>1</sup> HER search, SCC Invoice Number 9176057

<sup>2</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

### Historic landscape

The landscape around Hollesley is defined as *Rolling Estate Sandlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>3</sup>. This landscape includes: Rolling river terraces and coastal slopes; sandy and free-draining soils with areas of heathland; late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts and straight hedges; a focus of settlement in the Estate Sandlands landscape; and complex and intimate landscape on valley sides.

Specifically, the greater part of the arable land around Hollesley, that is land on the western, northern and eastern sides, is Landscape Sub-type 2.1 - 18th-century and later enclosure of former common arable or heathland. The exception is land to the southeast of Hollesley, which is Landscape Sub-type 1.7 - pre-18th-century enclosure of former coastal marshes.

### Archaeology<sup>4</sup>

**Prehistoric:** To the north, a Neolithic axe fragment was found near Mallard Way (HLY 032: 500m to the NE), a Bronze Age burial was found near Swallows Close (HLY 003: 300m NNE), and there is a surface scatter of prehistoric flints in the fields north and west of School Lane (HLY 011: 700m E).

**Roman:** Roman-period remains are fewer in number, but surface scatters of Roman pottery are reported from the fields north and west of School Lane (HLY 010, 011, 600-700m E).

**Medieval:** The most important monument is the medieval All Saints church, 250m to the ESE (HLY 20). Other medieval remains include medieval and later pottery found in the 2000 watching brief to the rear of the Fox Inn (HLY 033 - 100m SE), and a medieval pottery scatter on site HLY 012.

**Post-medieval:** An archaeological evaluation 400m to the SW, prior to house building at Walnut Tree Farm (HLY 113) revealed only modern quarry pits and an evaluation east of Mallard Way found a post-medieval ditch and a sheep burial. The nearest archaeological activity to the current site were evaluations carried out in 2012 and 2014 by John Newman in two adjacent gardens immediately east of the current site (HLY 114, HLY 118). These revealed no archaeological features - only recent brick and tile fragments in the topsoil.

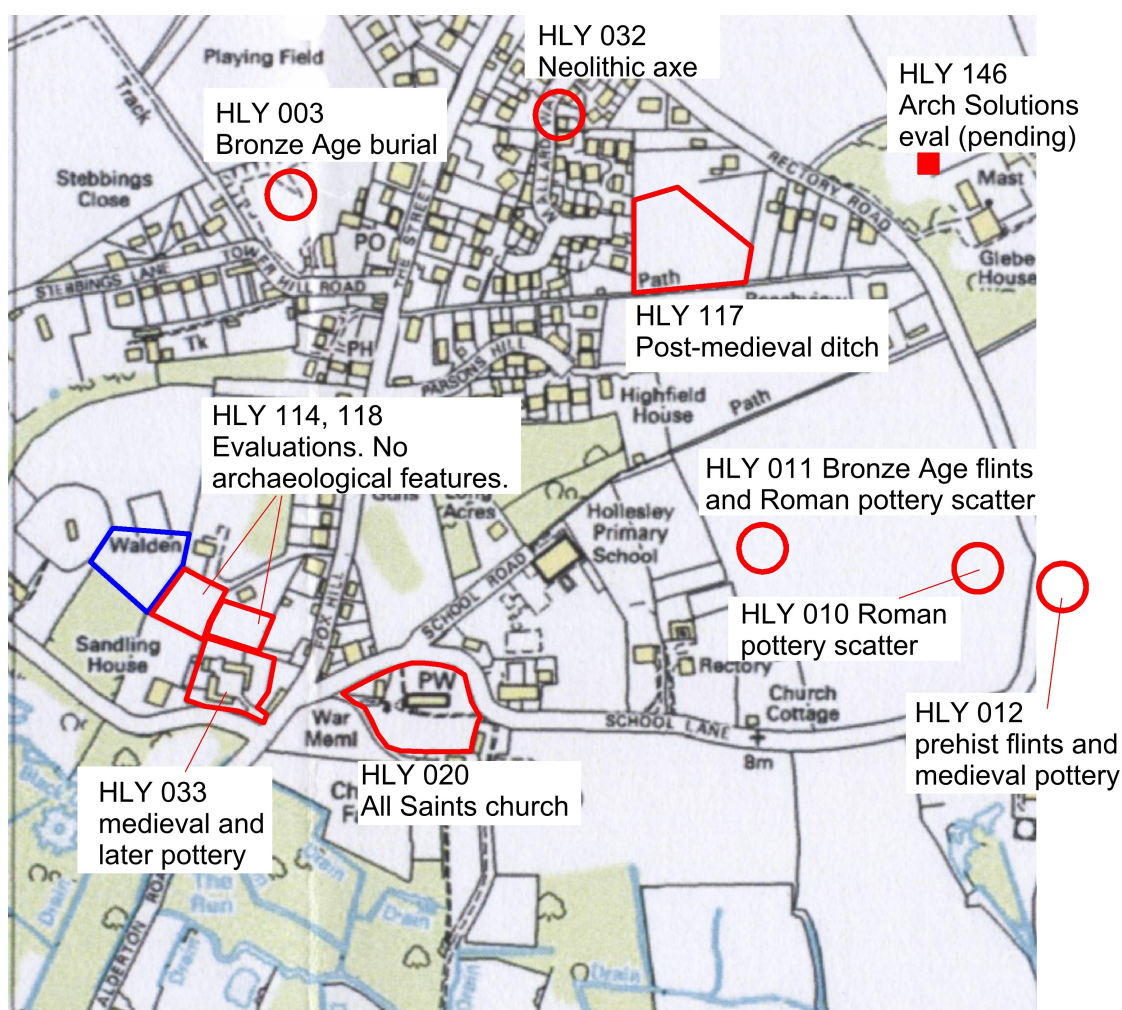
### 2015 Evaluation

An archaeological evaluation on the site in 2015 revealed two ditches and pit, all of probable Roman date (CAT Report 845, HLY 145), along with an undated pit and modern posthole. There were too few finds to indicate Roman-period settlement on this site; they may have derived from manure scatter on Roman-period fields associated with a nearby Roman settlement or farm.

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<sup>3</sup> (<http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>).

<sup>4</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).



Map 1 HER sites around the application site (blue).

## 4 Aims

The aims of the excavation were to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits that were identified within the development site.
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- preserve by record the impact of past land uses, and the presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish and record the survival of evidence for past environmental activity and conditions.

## 5 Methodology

The excavation area (covering 553m<sup>2</sup>) was positioned within the footprint of the proposed new house and associated infrastructure, it also included the area covered within the 2015 trial-trench (F1-F5). Under archaeological supervision, two layers were mechanically removed: modern ploughsoil (L1, 350mm thick) and an accumulation horizon of silty clay (L2, 200mm thick). The removal of L2 revealed the archaeological features. L2 sealed natural ground L3 (a sandy clay with occasional gravel patches).

All archaeological features were excavated and recorded according to the WSI.

A metal detector was used to check spoil heaps and excavated strata. There were no metal-detector finds.<sup>5</sup>

## 6 Results (Appendix 1, Figs 2-3)

### Late Iron Age/Early Roman

Twenty-seven archaeological features were excavated, consisting of seven ditches and twenty pits mainly dating to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period.

The earliest ditches on the site were F6 and F33. Both contained pottery dating to the Late Iron Age (late 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD). No dating evidence was recovered from ditch F1, but as it was laid out parallel to F6 the two ditches are probably contemporary. All three were shallow, U-shaped ditches of varying widths (see Table 1).

Ditches F1 and F6 were orientated NW-SE and ran parallel to each other for a distance of approximately 27m, measuring between 6.5-8m apart. A terminal was identified at the NW end of F1 and the SE end of F6. It is likely that ditch F33 would have had a terminal (removed by F31) forming an entrance with F1. The terminal end of F6 may also have formed a similar entrance with another feature outside of the excavation site. Ditch F33 curved away from F1 and was instead aligned NE-SW.

Feature no.	Recorded for a distance of	Width	Depth	Shape	Finds
F1	27m	0.5-0.88m	0.35m	Shallow, U-shaped	Heat altered stone – 2 at 28g
F6	24.5m	0.9-1m	0.22m	Shallow, U-shaped	LIA pottery (E-M1st) – 2 at 7g Heat altered stone – 7 at 137g
F33	6.5m	1-1.4m	0.26m	Shallow, U-shaped	LIA pottery (E-M1st) – 7 at 106g Heat altered stone – 1 at 12g Worked flint – 1 at 3g Animal bone – 1 at 4g

**Table 1** Form and dimensions of F1, F6 and F33, including finds summary

At a later date, ditch F33 was cut by ditches F31 and F32. Both ditches were contemporary as F32 appeared to run into the larger F31. Ditch F31 only contained residual pottery dating to the later Iron Age and no finds were recorded in F32 so this phase of activity cannot be closely dated. However, an entrance, 1.5m wide, would still have existed between F1 and F31, and it is likely that together these four ditches (F1, F6, F32 and F33) formed a field system set out on a NW-SE / NE-SW alignment. Ditch F31 was a V-shaped feature slightly deeper than the U-shaped F32 (see Table 2).

Feature no.	Recorded for a distance of	Width	Depth	Shape	Finds
F31	15m	0.8-0.97m	0.48m	Slightly deeper, V-shaped	LIA/Roman pottery (c350BC – E/M1st AD) – 1 at 5g Heat altered stone – 13 at 484g Worked flint – 1 at 13g
F32	3.5m	1.18m	0.27m	Shallow, U-shaped	-

**Table 2** Form and dimensions of F31 and F32, including finds summary

<sup>5</sup> for other details of methodology, please refer to attached WSI



**Photograph 1** Ditches F32 and F33, looking NW

Later still, ditches F3 and F27 cut through ditches F1 and F6. Dating to the Early Roman period (mid – late 1st/early 2nd century) these ditches were orientated NNE to SSW and ran parallel to each other for a distance of at least 20m, measuring approximately 2.5m apart. Ditch F3 was a V-shaped feature much wider and deep than the narrow, shallow F27 (see Table 3). It is uncertain if any of the earlier ditches were still in existence at this time, although the far southern end of F3 did appear to run into F6. The addition of these two later ditches would have at least partially changed the orientation of the earlier field system.

Feature no.	Recorded for a distance of	Width	Depth	Shape	Finds
F3	19.5m	1.2-1.4m	0.50m	V-shaped, wider and deeper than F27	Roman pottery (M-L1st/E2nd) – 3 at 14g Roman brick/tile – 2 at 165g Heat altered stone – 8 at 137g
F27	19.5m	0.4-0.7m	0.18m	Shallow, U-shaped	Roman pottery (M1st-E2nd) – 1 at 3g

**Table 3** Form and dimensions of F3 and F27, including finds summary



**Photograph 2** Ditch F1 looking E, cut by ditch F3



**Photograph 3** Ditch F1 looking W, cut by ditch F27

All but two of the 20 pits identified were located to the east of ditch F3 with a particular concentration in the north-east corner of the site. Eight were empty and could not be dated. They were possibly natural features associated with agricultural clearance (F4 (eval), F8, F13, F15, F23-F25, F30).

Four pits contained heat altered stone (F9, F18-F20) and may be associated with prehistoric (probably later Iron Age) activity. Pit F20 in particular contained a large deposit of heat altered stone and had a charcoal rich fill. Pits F18-F19 were all shallow oval features. Pit F9 was a round feature that was both smaller and deeper than the others (see Table 4).

Feature no.	Length	Width	Depth	Shape	Finds
F9	0.56m	0.56m	0.40m	Round, deep	Heat altered stone – 2 at 91g
F18	1.3m	0.78m	0.16m	Oval, shallow	Heat altered stone – 1 at 116g
F19	1.4m	0.52m	0.16m	Oval, shallow	Later prehistoric pottery – 1 at 4g Heat altered stone – 1 at 32g
F20	2.25m	0.49m	0.10m	Oval, shallow	Heat altered stone – 92 at 1877g

**Table 4** Form and dimensions of pits F9, F18-F20, including finds summary





**Photograph 4** Pit F12, looking SE



**Photograph 5** Pit F20, looking SE

Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, fired clay, shell, animal bone and heat altered stone (probably residual) were identified in the remaining eight pits (F2 (eval), F7, F10, F11, F12, F14, F16, F21). The material from these pits is domestic in nature suggesting that settlement activity was occurring somewhere nearby. All of the pits were relatively shallow round or oval features, measuring 0.15-0.37m deep (see Table 5).

Feature no.	Length	Width	Depth	Shape	Finds
F2	1.25m	0.90m	0.15m	Oval, shallow	Roman pottery (2nd century) – 1 at 11g Heat altered stone – 1 at 1g
F7	1.1m	0.77m	0.37m	Oval, slightly deeper than other pits	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 65 at 827g Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 10 at 125g
F10	0.53	0.53m	0.28m	Round, shallow	Roman pottery (M/L1st – 2nd/3rd) – 1 at 97g Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 2 at 120g Heat altered stone – 2 at 333g
F11	0.58m	0.58m	0.21m	Round, shallow	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 1 at 5g Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 6 at 189g Animal bone – 2 at 6g
F12	0.9m	0.67m	0.31m	Slightly oval, shallow	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 5 at 108g
F14	0.7m	0.54m	0.22m	Oval, shallow	Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 2 at 62g
F16	1.25m	0.63m	0.27m	Oval, shallow	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 4:397g
F21	1.77m	0.98m	0.25m	Oval, shallow	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 3 at 32g Oyster shell – 10 at 311g Heat altered stone – 1 at 89g

**Table 5** Form and dimensions of pits F2, F7, F10-F12, F14, F16 and F21, including finds summary

### Modern Activity

Six modern features were identified. Pit F17 contained mid 20th century material including glass, iron and electrical cable (not retained). It was possibly associated with a WWII anti-aircraft battery located further to the north of the site (*client pers comm*). Five modern postholes (F5 (eval), F22, F26, F28 and F29) were probably fence posts associated with the sites' recent use as a paddock.

## 7 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

### Introduction

The finds consist primarily of pottery of Late Iron Age/Early Roman date together with a significant amount of fired clay and heat altered (burnt) stone (HAS). There are also small quantities of ceramic building material (CBM), animal bone and oyster shell, with one piece of worked flint and a single cinder piece, probably coke or fuel slag. The finds were mostly recovered from the fill of pits, but also from a few linear (ditch) features. All of the find types are listed and quantified in Table 6 and are listed and described by context in Appendix 2.

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	93	1601
CBM	2	165
Fired clay	20	496
Flint	1	4
Heat altered (burnt) stone	130	336
Coke/fuel slag	1	5
Animal bone	3	10
Oyster shell	10	311

**Table 6** Types of find

### Pottery

In total there are 93 sherds of pottery with a combined weight of 1601 g. The pottery was recorded using the Suffolk pottery fabric series (unpublished). All of the fabrics and the quantity of pottery for each fabric type are listed by in Table 7. The Roman vessel forms were recorded using the Colchester, *Camulodunum* (Cam) type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*) supplemented by the Suffolk Roman pottery type series (unpublished). The pottery is listed and described by context in Appendix 2.

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g.	EVE
<b>Prehistoric</b>				
HMS	Hand-made, sand-tempered	2	14	
<b>LIA &amp; Roman</b>				
SASG	South Gaulish samian	1	26	
BSW	Black surface wares	53	554	1.49
GROG	Grog-tempered wares (Belgic)	10	141	0.52
GX	Miscellaneous sandy greywares	3	102	
RCW	Romanising coarseware	23	732	1.18
STOR	Storage jar (heavily-tempered) fabrics	1	32	
<i>LIA &amp; Rom total</i>		<i>91</i>	<i>1587</i>	<i>3.19</i>
<i>Pottery total</i>		<i>93</i>	<i>1601</i>	<i>3.19</i>

**Table 7** Pottery by fabric

Two small, abraded, sand-tempered sherds that appear to be hand-made (HMS) were recovered, one each from the ditch F31 (Sx1) (30) and from pit F7 (19). That from F7 retains part of a relatively smooth interior surface suggesting it is from an open form. While not easily closely dated they appear most typical of sand-tempered pottery common to assemblages of the later Iron Age period in East Anglia (c 350 BC-early 1st century AD).

The remainder of the pottery can be dated to the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period and Early Roman period.

There is a small quantity of grog-tempered ware (GROG) which is typical of the Late Iron Age (LIA) and current from the late 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD. Sherds in this fabric were recovered from pit F12 and ditches F6 & F33 (Sx1), the largest quantity (7 sherds) coming from the ditch F33. The only form identified is a necked jar broadly corresponding to form Cam 221/226 (F12), although the definition between the neck and the shoulder is not strong. There is also a rim that is probably from a narrow mouth jar (F33), possibly corresponding to form Cam 231/232. Grog-tempered ware is the only fabric present in ditch F33 and two sherds of this fabric (probably from the same pot) are the only pottery recovered from ditch F6.

The closely dated Roman pottery is mid-late 1st/early 2nd century date and while some greyware sherds are not closely dated other than as Roman, all of the Roman pottery could be accommodated within that date range. There is a single sherd of imported fineware from pit F12 (24), consisting of the base of South Gaulish samian (SASG) plate/dish dating to the period of the mid-late 1st century. The rest of the Roman pottery is made up of coarsewares in fabrics RCW (containing sparse grog and dark organic fragments), BSW, GX & STOR. Black surface wares (BSW) and Romanising coarsewares (RCW) account for the majority of the pottery. In terms of the types of pots present, almost all of the diagnostic sherds are from cordoned jars/deep bowls correspond to form Cam 218, current in the mid-late 1st/early 2nd century. There is also a Butt Beaker (BSW) from pit F7, corresponding to form Cam 119, which (among this assemblage) can be fairly confidently dated to the same period; although it should be noted that this beaker form remains in use though much of the Roman period at Colchester (CAR 10, 473). A mid-late 1st century date is also appropriate for a large storage jar from pit F16. This is cordoned on the shoulder with an undercut rim and is in a black-surfaced Romanising fabric (RCW). This pot could be considered to be recorded as Fabric STOR, although it is not heavily tempered. Other pottery includes the base of a greyware pot (GX) which has a significant amount of voids and drag marks from organic temper on its surfaces (F12) and which possibly represents a small-medium size storage jar, a shoulder sherd in a thick storage jar fabric (F12) and a rim from a narrow mouthed jar (RCW) from F7.

Significant parts of pots and large sherds were recovered from the fill of pits F7 (19) and F16 (26). This suggests that the pottery is likely to be contemporary with the features. The pottery from F7 includes most of the upper part of a Butt Beaker of form Cam 119 (Fig 4, pot 1), joining sherds from the shoulder and rim of two jars/deep bowls of form Cam 218 (Fig 4, pot 2 & pot 3) and part of the lower body of another pot with a shoulder carination that is almost certainly also of form Cam 218 (Fig 4, pot 4). The upper part of this pot has been broken at an even level along the base of a cordon above the carination suggesting it may have been deliberately cut down. From pit F16 there is a single large sherd from a Cam 218 jar/deep bowl (Fig 4, pot 5) and large joining rim sherds from a large jar/storage (Fig 4, pot 6).

Although small, the assemblage appears to be fairly typical of relatively low status Roman period rural sites, often continuing late Iron Age practices of jar dominated assemblages supplemented by local copies of Gallo-Belgic-type wares (Perring & Pitts 2013, 131) and with occasional Gallo-Roman pots, represented here by a sherd of imported 1st century samian. Large storage jars also appear to be relatively rare, which may also be a trait of low status rural assemblages (Perring & Pitts 2013, figs 6.11-6.13). The presence of Iron Age 'Belgic'-type grog-tempered pottery is more typical of assemblages in the south of the county in the Late Iron Age/Early Roman period than further north (Martin 1999, 81) and suggests influence or affiliation with the heartlands Catuvellaunian/Trinovantian tribal areas to the south.

Fig 4, Pot 1 F7 (19) Butt Beaker (Cam 119), almost complete upper half of body recovered as sherds (Fabric BSW)

Fig 4, Pot 2 F7 (19) Jar/deep bowl (Cam 218), approximately half of rim and shoulder to body carination surviving as joining sherds (Fabric BSW)

Fig 4, Pot 3 F7 (19) Jar/deep bowl (Cam 218-type), section of rim and shoulder surviving as joining sherds (Fabric RCW)

Fig 4, Pot 4 F7 (19) Jar/deep bowl, carinated body (probably Cam 218), approximately one third of lower wall as joining sherds, broken at an even level along the base of a cordon above the carination and possibly deliberately, neatly cut down, although the cut edge has not been smoothed (Fabric RCW)

Fig 4, Pot 5 F16 (26) Jar/deep bowl (Cam 218), single large sherd representing approximately one third of the upper part of the pot, possibly heat damaged (Fabric RCW)

Fig 4, Pot 6 F16 (26) Large storage jar, two large non-joining rim sherds with one other small shoulder sherd, cordoned shoulder, undercut rim, black surface (Fabric RCW)

### **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

There are two pieces of flat Roman brick/tile in red sandy fabrics with no other significant inclusions. Both come from the fill of ditch F3. The larger of the two pieces (149 g) comes from Sx1 (18), the other (16 g) from Sx3 (28).

### **Fired clay**

Pieces of fired clay were recovered from four pits, F7 (37), F10 (38), F11 (21) & F14 (25). Apart from F14 (where fired clay is the only find recovered from the feature) all are associated with pottery dated to the post-conquest (Roman) period. One of two pieces from F14 and a small group of pieces from F7 (several joining together) are corner pieces. They come from objects with right-angled corners indicating brick or bar-like objects with a thickness greater than 40 mm (F14) and greater than 50 mm (F7). The size possibly indicates brick-like objects rather than bars. All of these pieces are in fabrics with medium sand and rare small pieces of stone. The surfaces of the pieces and the fabric margins of one are buff, contrasting with an orange interior. The fired clay from F10 consists of two joining pieces between 1.5 mm-2 mm thick in a fine sand fabric. The piece preserves part of a rounded edge. One piece preserves part of a rounded edge. On one side (the back/exterior face) the pieces are flat and the original surface here appears to be missing as the clay is laminating and slightly uneven. The other side (the surface/interior face) has a raised area with finger wiping just below the edge thickening the clay body at that point. There are no wattle impressions and the nature of the piece suggests it could either be part of a clay vessel (possibly trough-like in shape) or more probably the upper part/edge of a clay lining rather than an independent object. The group of fired clay from F11 is rather more mixed and includes irregular pieces as well as flat pieces with parts of smoothed surfaces. One moderately thin piece (approximately 17 mm thick) is slightly curved and a rough surface on this piece could indicate that it is part of a clay lining. The fabrics are sandy, with occasional small stone, the fabric colour varying from orange-red to brownish-red. One small, abraded piece of fired clay from F7 is pink in colour and has some voids possibly left by burnt-out chopped vegetable matter. The colour and vegetable tempering suggest this piece might be salt briquetage.

*Photograph 6 F10 (38)* Two joining pieces possibly from a clay (trough-like?) vessel or possibly part of the edge of a clay lining. Slightly flattened rounded top/edge, surviving (interior) surface has raised area with finger wiping at one broken edge, on the other face the surface may be missing as the clay is laminating and slightly uneven. Brownish red, moderately fine sand fabric with few other inclusions. Maximum surviving dimensions 85 mm, 65 mm & varied thickness of 1.5-2.8 mm



**Photograph 6** Fired clay from F10 (38)

*Photograph 7 F11 (37)* Corner from a fired clay brick or bar, slightly rounded edges, buff surface, dull orange coloured, medium sand fabric with some small stones, the fabric includes a ball of brownish-red ferrous(?) clay. Maximum surviving dimensions 55 mm & 50 mm. F14 (25) Corner piece from a fired clay brick or bar, some relatively sharp edges suggest it may have been trimmed shortly after forming, buff surface, dull orange coloured, medium sand fabric with some small stones.



**Photograph 7** Fired clay from F11 (37)

### **Flint**

Three pieces of flint were recovered. Two, one from ditch F33 Sx1 and another from ditch F31 Sx1 are irregular shatter pieces with dull surfaces and sharp edges, and are of little archaeological significance. The third piece, from pit F19 (8), is a flake. The piece consists of the broken end of an irregular thick flake, with earlier flake removal scars on dorsal face and a hinge fracture at the distal end. There is some edge damage/use wear on one edge. The nature of the piece makes positive identification as a deliberately struck flake difficult and this combined with the fact that it is the only probable worked flint from the site makes dating difficult. It was recovered from a ditch that otherwise contained some LIA pottery sherds and a later prehistoric date appears most likely.

### **Heat altered (burnt) stone**

Burnt stones were recovered from a number of features. Most of these produced just a small number of pieces (between 1-6), but there was a significant concentration of burnt stone in pit F20 (92 pieces, weight 1877 g) and a small group from a section of one ditch F31 (Sx1) (30) (13 pieces 484 g). Almost all of the burnt stone is flint, with just a few pieces of sandstone/quartzite from pits F18 & F10.

The small quantities of burnt stone recovered from the fill of pits and ditches suggests a background scatter of this material, which is probably residual in these features.

Although 13 pieces were recovered from one section of ditch F31 this is not a large quantity and possibly also forms part of this pattern. A large quantity of burnt flint from pit F20 is clearly different and the heat shattered stone must have been put into the pit as a deposit and is contemporary with it. However, the burnt stone is the only bulk find material recovered from this pit and there is no associated dating evidence for this feature.

Quantities of burnt stone deposited in pits is most commonly associated with prehistoric occupation, most having probably been used to indirectly heat water and often referred to as 'pot boilers'. The quantity and absence of any other finds material associated with the deposit of burnt stone in pit F20 suggests that this stone was deliberately heated and was not incidentally exposed to heat. Had this been burnt as part of a hearth or oven then fired clay from a built structure or other associated heated debris (brick/tile, slag, ash or soil) might also have been expected to be present with it. This suggests that the deposit of burnt stone in the pit is probably most likely to be of prehistoric date.

#### **Animal bone**

There are three small pieces of animal bone recovered from two features that contained pottery of LIA and Early Roman date. Pit F11 (22) produced two pieces of mammal bone one of which can be identified as the end of a long bone from a sheep/goat. A single piece of animal bone from ditch F33 Sx1 (31) could not be closely identified other than as medium-large mammal.

#### **Oyster shell**

A small collection of complete or near complete oyster shells (7-8 whole shells represented) was recovered from pit F21 associated with sherds of Roman pottery.

#### **Miscellaneous**

A small irregular piece of hard, light porous gritty material was recovered from pit F22 (12). This appears to be a cinder, either a piece of coke or possibly fuel slag and may be likely to be of post-medieval or modern date. This was the only find from this feature.

#### **Finds discussion**

The finds could indicate a prehistoric (pre-LIA) phase of activity, although this is not clear. This revolves around the deposit of burnt flints in one pit (F20), with small quantities of burnt stones that are possibly residual in features associated with LIA and Early Roman pottery. There is one poorly-dated flint flake (F19) and two sherds of what appear to be hand-made sand-tempered pottery (F7 & F31) that are probably of Later Iron Age date (c 350 BC-early 1st century AD). The condition of these sherds sets them apart from the assemblage of LIA and Early Roman pottery from the site.

The great majority of the finds are associated with pottery dated to the LIA and Early Roman period. The Early Roman pottery in particular is represented by large sherds and broken parts of pots (F7 & F16), indicating they are contemporary with the features from which they were recovered. The fabrics and types of pot present indicate a broad date range of early or mid 1st century to late 1st or early 2nd century for the assemblage. Close dating within this range is difficult. The grog-tempered ware is almost certainly no later in date than the mid 1st century (c AD 50/60). The Roman pottery dates to after the mid 1st century, and none of the pottery need date later than the 1st century. Among the Roman pottery is a base sherd from an imported samian plate or dish (F12) that, in this rural context, might be more likely to be of Flavian date (after c AD 69) rather than earlier.

The small assemblage of fired clay from the site is interesting in that most of the pieces can be recognised as parts of only a few objects or pieces of hearth or oven structures. There are pieces from two clay bricks or bars (F7 & F14) and part of what is either the top of a straight sided thick clay vessel or possibly the edge of a clay lining

(F10). Much of the fired clay appears to represent pieces recently broken before that entered the contexts from which they were recovered and similar in that respect to the Roman pottery. One possibility, given the location close to the coast, is that this material might be connected with salt making. However, almost all of the fired clay is in sandy fabrics with few, if any organic inclusions and not generally typical of salt briquetage. The fabric and colour of one small, abraded piece (F7) suggests that it is possibly briquetage, but its size and condition contrasts with the other fired clay and indicates that it might be residual in the context from which it was recovered.

There was very little animal bone and only one animal bone was closely identifiable as sheep/goat. This might have been farmed within the wider landscape here and it can be noted that saline environments on coastal margins are considered to be beneficial for sheep both in terms of their hooves and reducing parasites (Sealey 1996, 75). It can be noted that oysters were also available to the site (F21) possibly also from a relatively local source.

The finds do not indicate any archaeologically significant activity on the site beyond the late 1st or early 2nd century.

## **8 Environmental assessment**

*by Val Fryer, Environmental Archaeologist*

### **An assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains**

#### **Introduction and method statement**

Excavations at Hollesley, undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT), recorded a small number of features of probable Roman date. Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pits and ditches recorded during both the evaluation and the main excavation and a total of eight were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by CAT and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 8. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were a major component within all eight assemblages.

#### **Results**

Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout at a low to moderate density, other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce. Pit F2 (sample 2) includes a small fragment of an onion-couch (*Arrhenatherum* sp.) type tuber and pit F7 (sample 6) contains a single possible cotyledon fragment of an indeterminate small legume (Fabaceae). However, the latter is very poorly preserved. Small pieces of charred root or stem are noted within the assemblages from ditches F1 (sample 1) and F6 (sample 7) and from pit F30 (sample 5).

Other remains are noted within the ditch assemblages but are scarce within the pit samples. It is thought most likely that the black porous and tarry residues are all derived from the high temperature combustion of organic materials including wood and possibly cereal grains.

#### **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

In summary, the assemblages are all extremely small (i.e. <0.1 litres in volume) and sparse and it is thought most likely that the few remains which are recorded are derived from a low density of scattered refuse, all of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. This paucity of material precludes the identification of any activities associated with the excavated features, but it is suggested that some

process involving very high temperatures of combustion may have been occurring within the near vicinity.

Although it was hoped that materials suitable for Radio-Carbon dating may be present within the assemblages, it is the opinion of the author that this is not the case. As plant macrofossils are so scarce, there is no guarantee that those which are recorded are contemporary with the contexts from which they were taken, especially as all features had suffered a moderate to high degree of post-depositional root disturbance.'

As none of the assemblages contain a sufficient density of material for quantification (i.e. 100+ specimens), no further work is recommended.

### Key to table

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    cf = compare

Sample No.	1	3	7	9	2	4	5	6	8
<b>Finds No.</b>	1	4	34	36	3	15	29	33	35
<b>Feature No.</b>	F1	F3	F6	F31	F2	F20	F30	F7	F16
<b>Feature type</b>	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit
<b>Plant macrofossils</b>									
Arrhenatherum sp. (tuber frag.)								x	
Fabaceae indet,					xcf				
Charcoal <2mm	x	x	xx	x	x	xx	x	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	x	x	x	x	x	xx		xx	x
Charcoal >5mm			x		x	x		x	
Charcoal >10mm			x		x			x	
Charred root/stem	x		x				x		
<b>Other remains</b>									
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x					
Black tarry material	x				x				
Burnt soil concretions			xx						
Burnt stone						x			
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	20	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	10
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
<b>% flot sorted</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Table 8** Plant microfossils and other remains

## 9 Discussion

Excavation on land to the south-east of The Dell revealed a Late Iron Age/Early Roman agricultural landscape dating from the late 1st century BC to the late 1st century/early 2nd century AD. Seven ditches represented at least three phases of a co-axial field-system that had been laid out across the landscape to form separate fields or paddocks. These were probably associated with arable or pastoral farming practices, with the narrow entrances between F1 and F33/F31 suggesting some form of stock management or control.

The three phases of field-system broadly date to:

Phase 1 Late Iron Age (late 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD)

Phase 2 Late Iron Age to Early Roman (early to mid 1st century)

Phase 3 Early Roman (mid to late 1st century/early 2nd century)



The dates of the phases show that: 1) the division of the landscape into fields/paddocks began in the LIA; 2) Phases 1-3 represent fairly continuous use of the landscape from the late 1st century BC until the late 1st/early 2nd century AD; 3) the site appears to have been largely abandoned by the late 1st/early 2nd century; 4) the field-system, and presumably land-use within the systems, evolved and changed over time as new ditched boundaries were added to further divide/sub-divide the area.

We can speculate that the site was used for arable and/or pastoral farming practices as it was located on the top of a hill with both easily cultivated and free-draining soil. A stream at the bottom of the hill may also have provided an accessible water source. It is more difficult to determine why the site was abandoned. After c 100 years of use perhaps the land had become over-worked. Or perhaps settlements patterns changed.

In addition to the field-system, small quantities of domestic waste was found in eight pits dating primarily from the mid 1st century to the late 1st/early 2nd century. This would make them broadly contemporary with Phase 3. Finds from these pits suggest that the site may have been located on the periphery of a settlement or farm whose location is currently unknown. If so, the concentration of material would indicate that this settlement/farm is to the east/north-east of this site (especially as previous archaeological work to the east/south-east did not reveal any features or finds (HLY 114, 118)). Scatters of Roman material further to the east (HLY 010, 011: 600-700m E) may also be associated with the activity identified on this site. In general the finds from the excavation are indicative of a relatively low status Roman period rural site. Further work would need to be completed in Hollesley to positively identify the existence of a farm/settlement.

Of further interest are four pits containing heat altered stone, and a quantity of this material found residually in LIA/Roman features. Heat altered stone is not closely dated but is commonly associated with prehistoric occupation, and thought to be fragmented 'pot-boilers' (heated stones used to heat liquids by dropping them into pots full of water or liquid foods). Together with a possible prehistoric flint flake and a few small sherds of later Iron Age pottery, this evidence may suggest a period of prehistoric (or pre-LIA) activity occurring on the site. This could represent isolated activity or it could be associated with flint scatters to the east (HLY 011, 012: 600-800m E).

The results from this excavation are significant as the ditches and pits represent the only known features of a later prehistoric (pre-LIA) and Late Iron Age to Early Roman date in the immediate landscape of Hollesley. A possible Romano-British 'native settlement' was identified to the west comprising a field system of linear ditches and possible enclosures (HLY 006: 800 E), but little information is available about this site. In reference to the East of England regional framework priorities (EAA 24, p84) excavation at this site has shown that Hollesley was occupied within the LIA/Early Roman period and that the immediate landscape was being divided and sub-divided by a series of field-systems into agricultural land.

## 10 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Mr & Mrs Bishop for commissioning and funding the project. Site work was managed by Ben Holloway, and undertaken by BH and R Mathieson. Figures are by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway. The project was monitored by Rachael Abraham for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

## 11 References

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

- |        |      |   |
|--------|------|---|
| CAR 10 | 1999 | <i>Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by Robin Symonds and Sue Wade, Colchester Archaeological |
|--------|------|---|

		<b>Report 10</b>
CAT	2015	Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation on land to the southeast of the Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> , ed by D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> , by Maria Medlycott
EH	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)
Martin, E	1999	'Suffolk in the Iron Age' in Davis, J., & Williamson, T., eds, <i>Land of the Icenii, The Iron Age in Northern East Anglia, Studies in East Anglian History 4</i>
Perring, D & Pitts, M	2013	<i>Alien cities, Consumption and the origins of urbanism in Roman Britain</i>
SCCAS	2010	<i>Archive Guidelines</i>
SCCAS	2012	<i>Requirements for Archaeological Excavation</i>
SCCAS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation at land southeast of The Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley</i> , by Rachael Abraham
Sealey, P	1996	'New light on the salt industry and Red Hills of prehistoric and Roman Essex', <i>EAH</i> Volume 26, 65-81
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles</i> . 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press
Thompson, I	1982	<i>Grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery of south-eastern England</i> , BAR British Series 108
Hawkes, C & Hull, M	1947	<i>Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39</i> , RRCSAL 14
Hull, M	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL 20

## 12 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period circa 2500- 700 BCE
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
later Iron Age	period from c 350 BC to early 1st century AD
Late Iron Age (LIA)	period from c 100-50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the Index of Archaeological Investigation <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
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
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 13 Contents of archive

**Finds:** ½ museum box containing all retained finds.

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 913)

SCCAS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and Layer sheets, Trench record sheet, Finds record)  
Site digital photographic log, Site photographic record on CD  
Sundries (Attendance register, Benchmark data, Risk assessment).

#### **14 Archive deposition**

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under project code HLY 145.

#### **15 Publication**

This report will be published as grey-literature online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk> and on OASIS <http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main>. A summary report will also be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.

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## Appendix 1 Context List

Context No.	Context Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Shape	Fill	Finds	Other Notes
L1	Ploughsoil	-	-	350mm	-	Dark, grey/brown sandy silt	-	Modern
L2	Accumulation horizon	-	-	200mm	-	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	-	Post Roman
L3	Natural	-	-	-	-	sandy clay with occasional gravel patches	-	Post-glacial
F1	Ditch	27m	0.5-0.88m	0.35m	Shallow, U-shaped	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Heat altered stone – 2 at 28g	LIA/Early Roman
F2	Pit	1.25m	0.90m	0.15m	Oval, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (2nd century) – 1 at 11g Heat altered stone – 1 at 1g	LIA/Early Roman
F3	Ditch	19.5m	1.2-1.4m	0.50m	V-shaped, wider and deeper than F27	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (M-L1st/E2nd) – 3 at 14g Roman brick/tile – 2 at 165g Heat altered stone – 8 at 137g	LIA/Early Roman
F4	Pit	0.68m	0.52m	0.17m	Oval	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F5	Posthole	0.41m	0.37m	0.30m	Round, deep	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with decayed wooden post (part of paddock fence-line)	-	Modern
F6	Ditch	24.5m	0.9-1m	0.22m	Shallow, U-shaped	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt	LIA pottery (E-M1st) – 2 at 7g Heat altered stone – 7 at 137g	LIA/Early Roman
F7	Pit	1.1m	0.77m	0.37m	Oval, slightly deeper than other pits	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 65 at 827g Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 10 at 125g	LIA/Early Roman
F8	Pit	1.0m	0.71m	0.19m	Oval	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F9	Pit	0.56m	0.56m	0.40m	Round, deep	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Heat altered stone – 2 at 91g	Later Prehistoric?
F10	Pit	0.53m	0.53m	0.28m	Round, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (M/L1st – 2nd/3rd) – 1 at 97g Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 2 at 120g Heat altered stone – 2 at 333g	LIA/Early Roman

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F11	Pit	0.58m	0.58m	0.21m	Round, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 1 at 5g Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 6 at 189g Animal bone – 2 at 6g	LIA/Early Roman
F12	Pit	0.90m	0.67m	0.31m	Slightly oval, deep	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 5 at 108g	LIA/Early Roman
F13	Pit	0.80m	0.70m	0.20m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F14	Pit	0.70m	0.54m	0.22m	Oval, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Fired clay (LIA/Roman) – 2 at 62g	LIA/Early Roman
F15	Pit	1.75m	1.09m	0.25m	Oval	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with fired clay inclusions	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F16	Pit	1.25m	0.63m	0.27m	Oval, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 4:397g	LIA/Early Roman
F17	Pit	5.3m	At least 4m	-	-	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt	UNEXCAVATED – contained modern 20th century material	Modern
F18	Pit	1.3m	0.78m	0.16m	Oval, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Heat altered stone – 1 at 116g	Later Prehistoric?
F19	Pit	1.4m	0.52m	0.16m	Oval, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt	Later prehistoric pottery – 1 at 4g Heat altered stone – 1 at 32g	Later Prehistoric?
F20	Pit	2.25m	0.49m	0.10m	Oval, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Heat altered stone – 92 at 1877g	Later Prehistoric?
F21	Pit	1.77m	0.98m	0.25m	Oval, shallow	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (M-L1st) – 3 at 32g Oyster shell – 10 at 311g Heat altered stone – 1 at 89g	
F22	Pit	0.70m	0.70m	0.19m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with decayed wooden post (part of paddock fence-line)	Coke/Fuel slag – 1 at 5g	Modern
F23	Small pit	0.30m	0.30m	0.09m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F24	Pit	1.6m	1.05m	0.37m	Oval	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F25	Pit	0.95m	0.88m	0.27m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F26	Posthole	0.45m	0.35m	0.14m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with decayed wooden post	-	Modern

						(part of paddock fence-line)		
F27	Ditch	19.5m	0.4-0.7m	0.18m	Shallow, U-shaped	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman pottery (M1st-E2nd) – 1 at 3g	LIA/Early Roman
F28	Posthole	0.30m	0.28m	0.28m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with decayed wooden post (part of paddock fence-line)	-	Modern
F29	Posthole	0.35m	0.35m	0.27m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with decayed wooden post (part of paddock fence-line)	-	Modern
F30	Pit	0.79m	0.72m	0.10m	Round	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt	No finds, possibly associated with agricultural clearance	undated
F31	Ditch	15m	0.8-0.97m	0.48m	Slightly deeper, V-shaped	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	LIA/Roman pottery (c350BC – E/M1st AD) – 1 at 5g Heat altered stone – 13 at 484g Worked flint – 1 at 13g	LIA/Early Roman
F32	Ditch	3.5m	1.18m	0.27m	Shallow, U-shaped	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	-	LIA/Early Roman
F33	Ditch	6.5m	1-1.4m	0.26m	Shallow, U-shaped	Mid, grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal inclusions	LIA pottery (E-M1st) – 7 at 106g Heat altered stone – 1 at 12g Worked flint – 1 at 3g Animal bone – 1 at 4g	LIA/Early Roman

## Appendix 2 Finds catalogue

NR=not retained, HAS=heat affected (burnt) stone

Ctxt type	Ctxt no.	Find no	Find type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	Suff form	no	wt/g	Eve	Ab	Period/ spot date
ditch	F001 sx1	16	HAS		(NR)	flint			2	28			
ditch	F003 sx1	18	CBM	Rom	tile/brick piece (flat), base flaked away	Red MS			1	149			Rom
ditch	F003 sx1	18	HAS		small pieces (NR)	flint			2	18			
ditch	F003 sx1	18	pot	Rom	inc base sherd (BSW/RCW)	BSW			3	14		(*)	M-L1/E2C
ditch	F003 sx2	27	HAS		(NR)	flint			6	119			
ditch	F003 sx3	28	CBM	Rom	small piece of orange coloured tile/brick, appears to be Roman	red fs			1	16			Rom
ditch	F006	17	HAS		(NR)	flint			1	37			
ditch	F006	17	pot	LIA/R	black surfaces, grog-tempered	GROG			2	7			E-M1C
ditch	F006 sx1	10	HAS		(NR)	flint			1	20			
ditch	F006 sx2	13	HAS		(NR)	flint			5	80			
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	jar rim, grey fabric	RCW			1	16	0.16		
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	narrow-mouthed jar rim, grey fabric (not same as F33(31))	RCW			1	15	0.25		
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	black surface - some grog & dark organic temper	RCW			1	50			M-L1C
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	hand made sand-tampered - prob later IA	HMS			1	9			later IA (c 350 BC-E/M 1C AD)
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	misc sherds	BSW			24	159	0.05		M1-E2C?
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	section of the body around the carination of a Cam 218-type jar/bowl, some internal abrasion, might possibly have been cut down at base of cordon above carination, but not clear	RCW	[Cam 218]	[5.1]	6	141			M-L1C
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	rim and shoulder, joining sherds, Cam 218-type, grey fabric and surface	RCW	[Cam 218]	[5.1]	6	61	0.22		M-L1C
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	rim and shoulder, joining sherds	BSW	Cam 218	5.1	3	96	0.52		M-L1C
pit	F007	19	pot	Rom	Butt Beaker, part pot, mid-upper part,	BSW	Cam 117		22	280	0.92		M-L1/E2C

Ctxt type	Ctxt no.	Find no	Find type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	Suff form	no	wt/g	Eve	Ab	Period/ spot date
					joining sherds, base missing								
pit	F007	37	F clay		abraded, small light vesicular piece, pinkish-red colour, silty fabric, poss briquetage?				1	5			LIA-Rom
pit	F007	37	F clay		right-angle corner from a fired clay object, brick/bar, well formed, flat buff surfaces with red fabric (moderated fine-medium sand with occasional small stone) several fragments	Red F-MS			9	120			LIA-Rom?
pit	F009	23	HAS		(NR)	flint			2	91			
pit	F010	20	HAS		sandstone/quartzite (NR)	S/Q			2	333			
pit	F010	20	pot	Rom	base of jar or small-medium storage jar, grey fabric, common surface voids from organic temper	GX	jar		1	97			Rom M/L1-2/3C(?)
pit	F010	38	F clay		pieces from an object, one edge and finger wiping on interior, possibly briquetage associated material	Red/brown, FS			2	120			LIA/Rom?
pit	F011	21	F clay		FC object, bar or brick-like piece?, all similar fabric (same object?) one piece with flat surface	Red M-CS			6	189			LIA/Rom
pit	F011	22	A bone		one end of long bone - sheep/goat & small - medium mammal bone				2	6			
pit	F011	22	pot	Rom	carinated sherd, possibly from a Cam 218 jar	BSW	[Cam 218]	[5.1]	1	5			M-L1C
pit	F012	24	pot	Rom	grey, sandy (poss Romanising-type fabric)	STOR			1	32			M1-L1/2C
pit	F012	24	pot	Rom	jar/beaker	RCW			2	22			M-L1C
pit	F012	24	pot	LIA/R	jar	GROG	Cam 221/266		1	28	0.17	(*)	E-M1C
pit	F012	24	pot	Rom	plate/dish base	SASG			1	26		(*)	M-L1C
pit	F014	25	F clay		corner of a fired clay slab/bar with rather regular sharp edges (fabric is too soft for brick), one other similar fragment				2	62			not closely dated - IA/Rom?
pit	F016	26	pot	Rom		RCW			1	7			M-LC
pit	F016	26	pot	Rom	large storage jar, cordoned shoulder with hooked rim, sandy fabric	RCW	[large Cam 218 Thompson C6-1]	[5.1]	2	358	0.25	(*)	M-L1C
pit	F016	26	pot	Rom	rim and body to carination, possibly scorched/burnt, sandy fabric	RCW	Cam 218	5.1	1	32	0.30		M-L1C



Ctxt type	Ctxt no.	Find no	Find type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	Suff form	no	wt/ g	Eve	Ab	Period/ spot date
pit	F018	9	HAS		sandstone/quartzite (NR)	S/Q			1	116			
pit	F019	8	flint	preh	broken end of a larger flake, thick flake, hinge fracture, earlier flake scars on dorsal face, some edge damage/use wear on one edge				1	4			later prehistoric (BA?)
pit	F019	8	HAS		(NR)	flint			1	32			
pit	F020	14	HAS		approx 60-70 pieces with 20 or so smaller shatter pieces (NR)	flint			92	187 7			
pit	F021	11	HAS		(NR)	flint			1	89			
pit	F021	11	pot	Rom	sandy red/dark grey fabric prob Romanising	GX			1	2			M-L1C?
pit	F021	11	pot	Rom		RCW			2	30		*	M-L1C
pit	F021	11	shell		oyster, mostly whole (half) shells, prob 7-8 whole represented				10	311			
pit	F022	12	cinder piece		hard, light porous, irregular grey piece, appears to be either coke or fuel slag				1	5			not closely dated - poss p-med or modern
ditch	F027 sx3	32	pot	Rom	grey with some inclusions, GX/RCW	GX			1	3			Rom (M1-E2C?)
ditch	F031 sx1	30	flint		smash piece, irregular, sharp, dull ventral and dorsal face (no clear archaeological significance) (NR)				1	13			
ditch	F031 sx1	30	HAS		burnt flints (NR)	flint			13	484			
ditch	F031 sx1	30	pot	preh (IA)	small, thick, abraded sherd, hand-made - prob M-LIA	HMS			1	5		*	later IA (c 350 BC-E/M 1C AD)
ditch	F033 sx1	31	A bone		small piece of bone, medium-large mammal, splinter from a long bone, moderate condition	bone			1	4			
ditch	F033 sx1	31	flint		smash piece, irregular, sharp, dull ventral face (no clear archaeological significance) (NR)				1	3			
ditch	F033 sx1	31	HAS		(NR)	flint			1	12			
ditch	F033 sx1	31	pot	LIA	misc sherds, inc rim from a narrow mouth jar, sherds from more than one pot	GROG			7	106	0.35		E-M1C

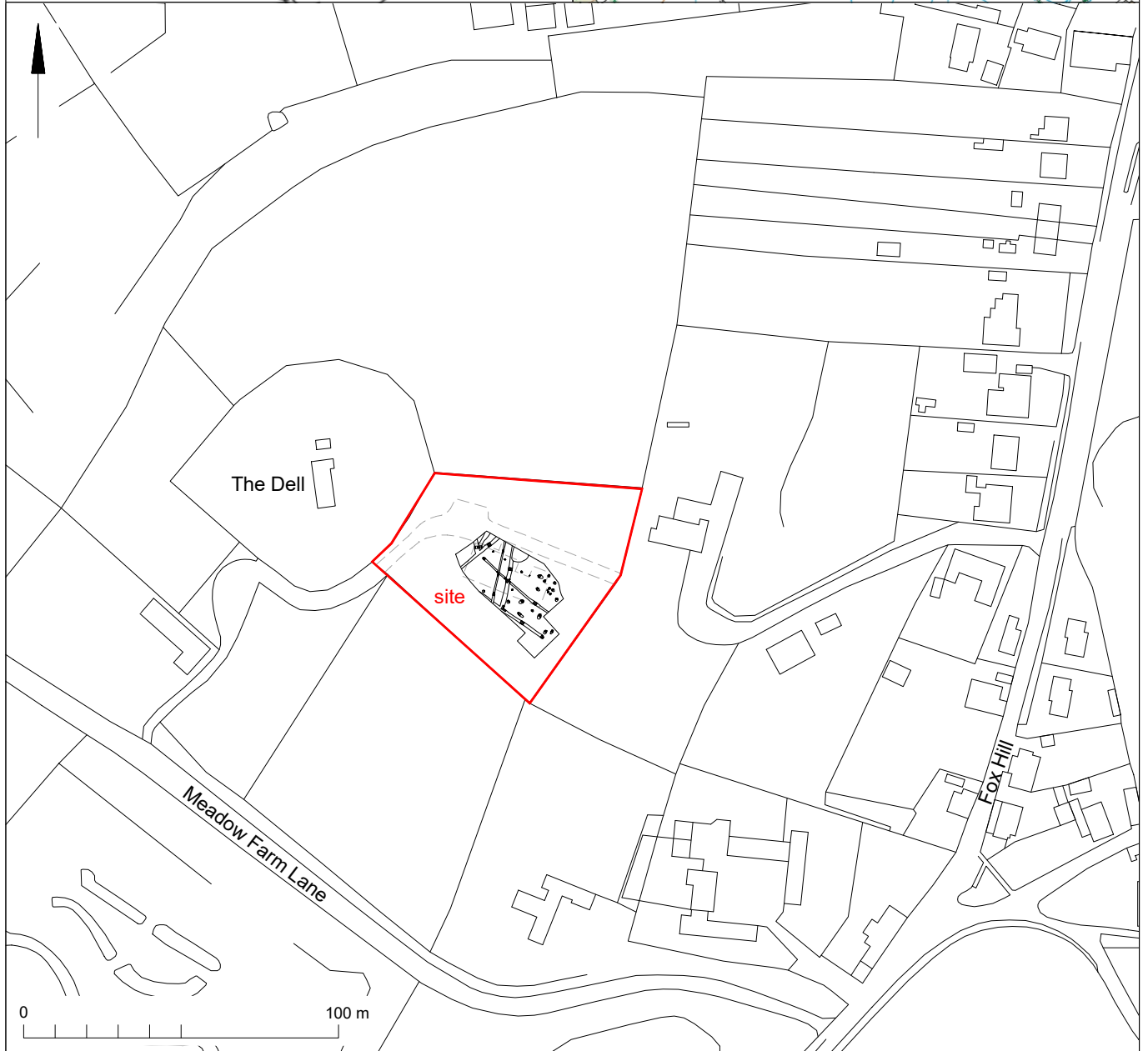
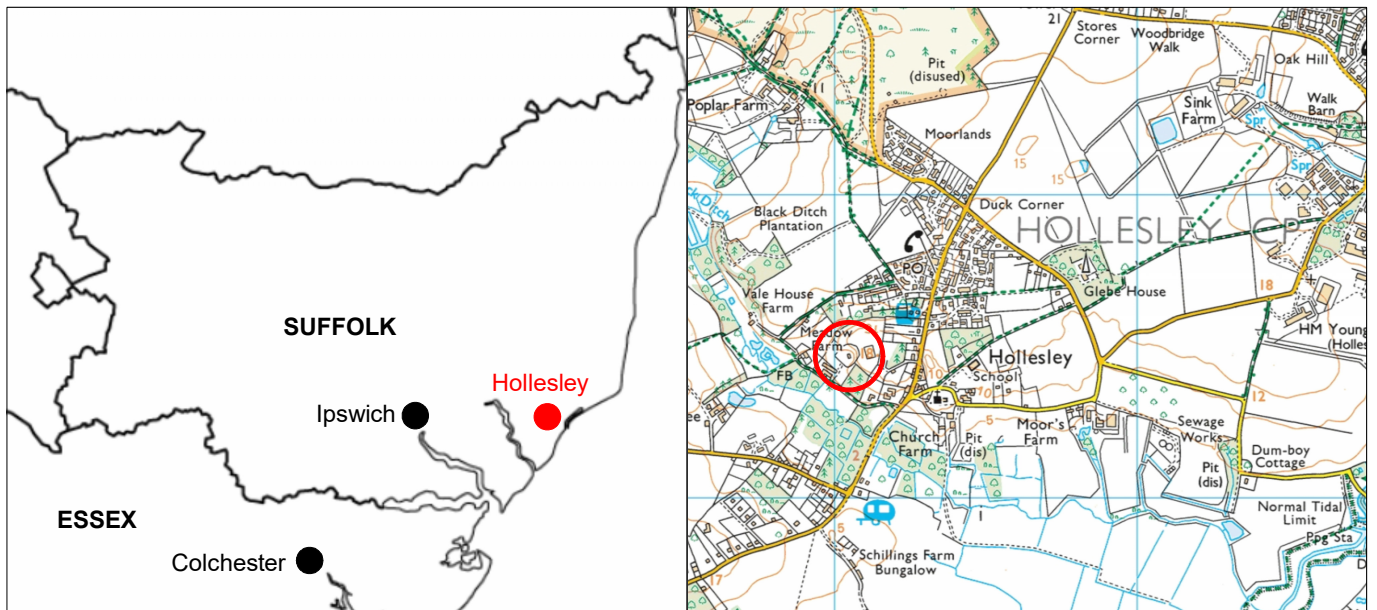


Fig 1 Site location.

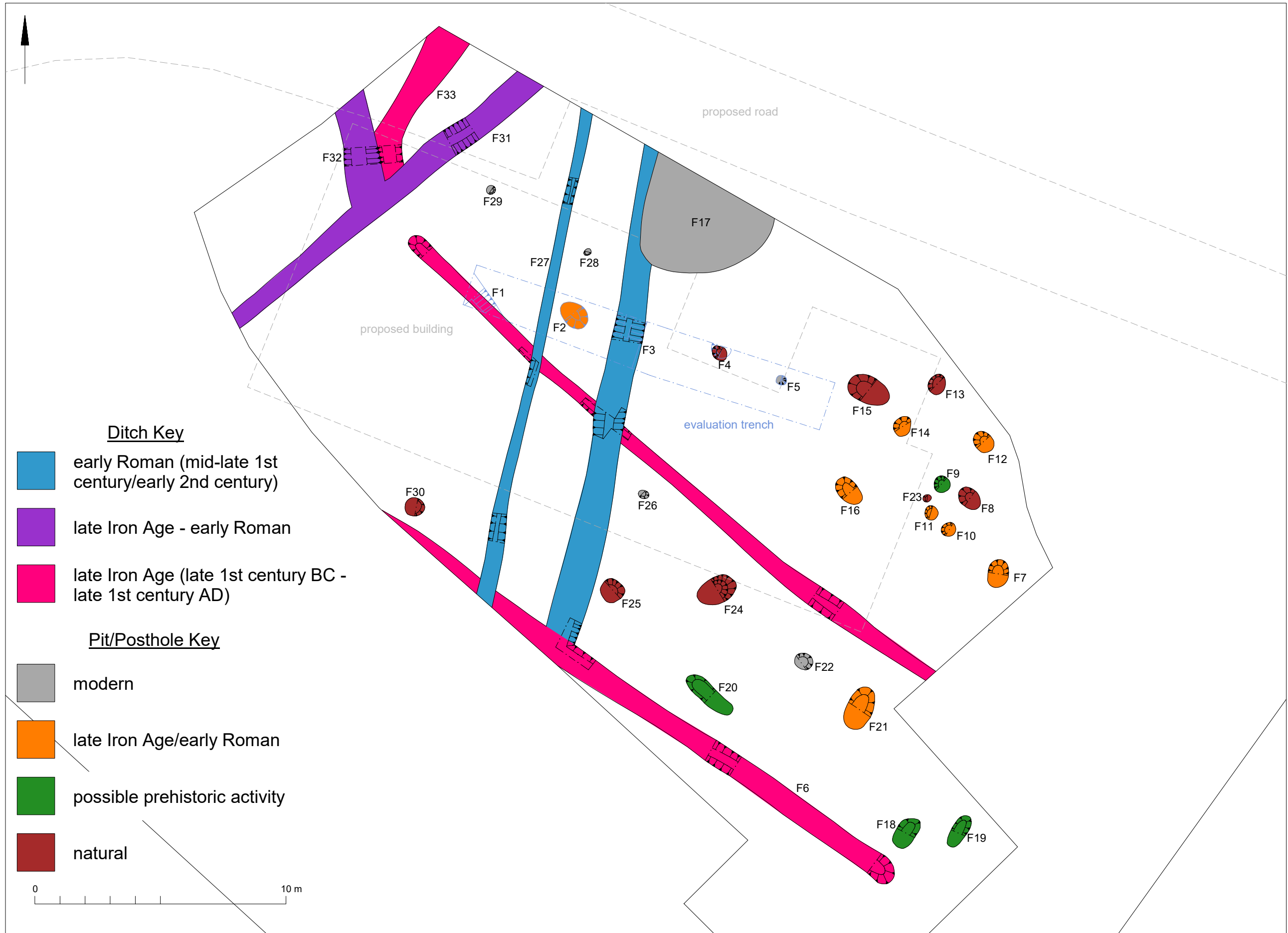


Fig 2 Excavation results with phasing.

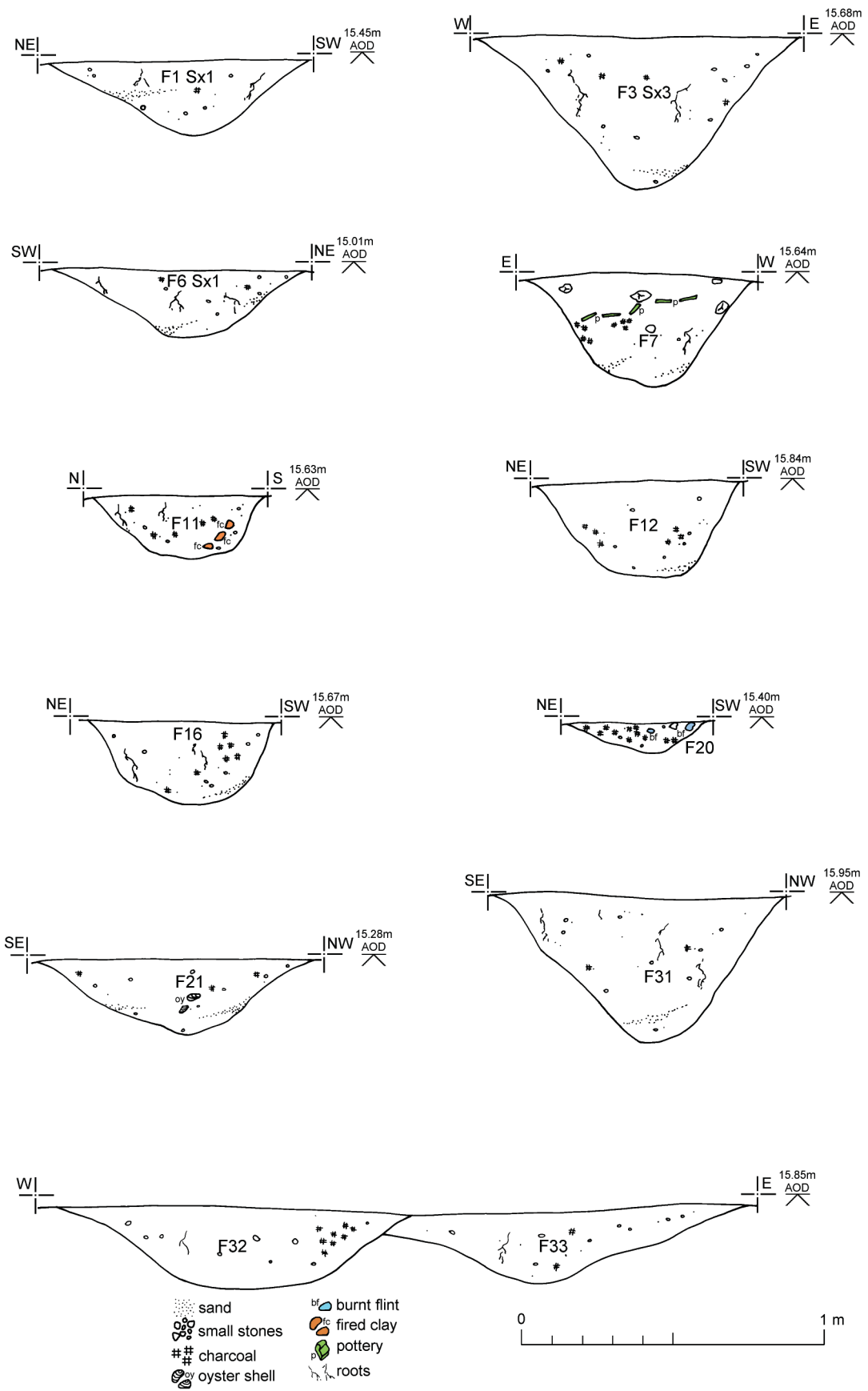


Fig 3 Sections.

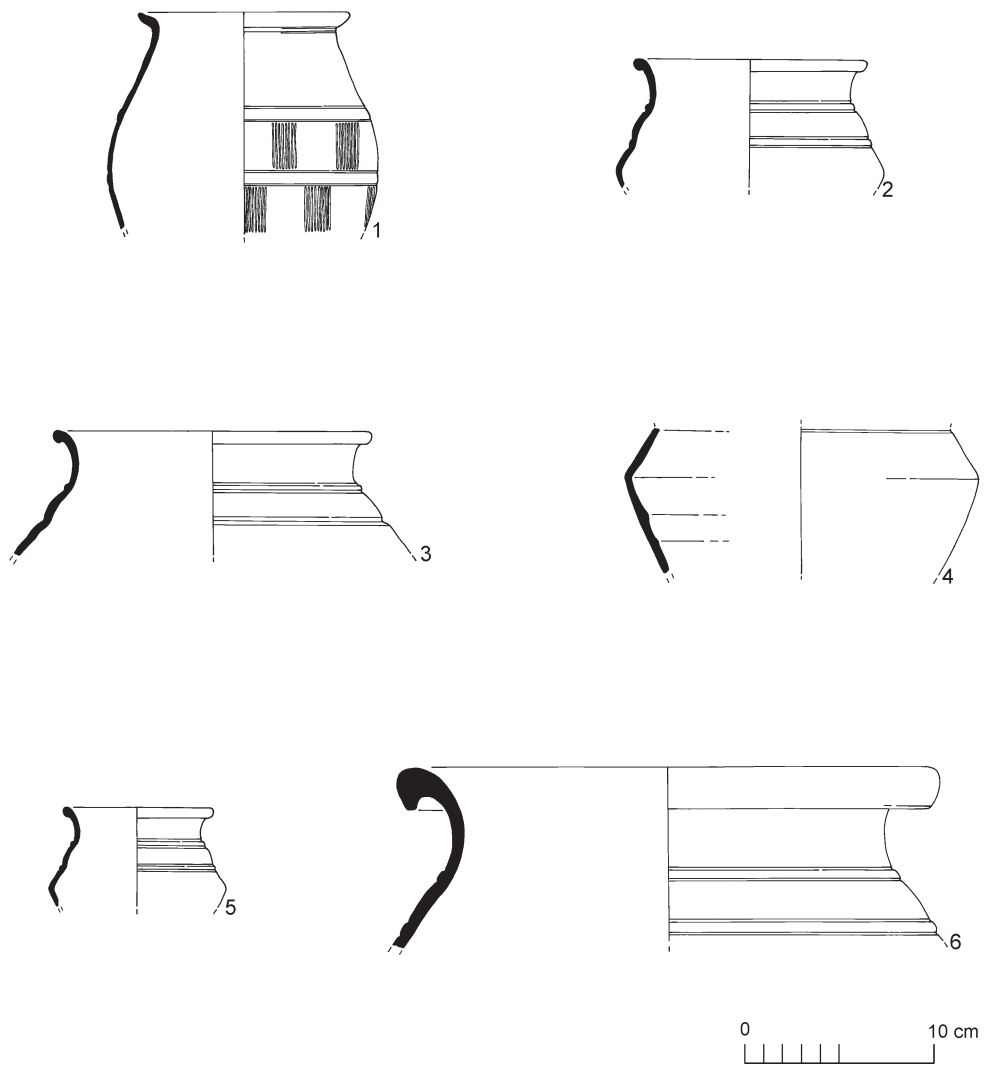


Fig 4 Pottery.

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Excavation on land to the south east of The Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk

**NGR:** TM 351 444 (centre)

**Planning references:** DC/14/0056/FUL

**Client:** Vanessa and John Bishop

**Agent:**

**Curating Museum:** Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store

**Suffolk HER number:** HLY 145

**Suffolk Event code:** ESF23365

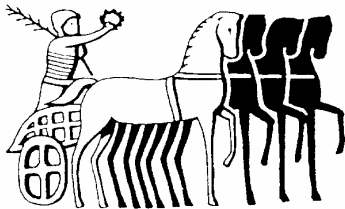
**CAT Project code:** 15/12f

**Site Manager:** Ben Holloway

**SCCAS/CT Monitor:** Rachel Abraham

**This WSI written:** 04.01.2016

**Revised:** 08.01.2016



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## Site Location and Description

The site is located on land south east of the Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk, IP12 3RQ. The site is currently a grassed field, north of Meadow Farm Lane on the south western edge of the village (Fig 1). Hollesley is approximately 5 miles south east of the market town of Woodbridge on the Bawdsey peninsula. Site centre is NGR TM 351 444(c).

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a new two-storey four-bedroom house with a studio, access road and associated utilities.

## Archaeological and landscape background (Map 1, and Fig 4, below)

The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record ([heritage.suffolk.gov.uk](http://heritage.suffolk.gov.uk)); data search requested 15th December 2015:

**Historic landscape:** The landscape around Hollesley is defined as *Rolling Estate Sandlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>1</sup>. This landscape includes: Rolling river terraces and coastal slopes; sandy and free-draining soils with areas of heathland; late enclosure with a pattern of tree belts and straight hedges; a focus of settlement in the Estate Sandlands landscape; and complex and intimate landscape on valley sides.

Specifically, the greater part of the arable land around Hollesley, that is land on the western, northern and eastern sides, is Landscape Sub-type 2.1 - 18th-century and later enclosure of former common arable or heathland. The exception is land to the south-east of Hollesley, which is Landscape Sub-type 1.7 - pre-18th-century enclosure of former coastal marshes.<sup>2</sup>

**Archaeology<sup>3</sup>:** The site lies in an area of archaeological importance, with the potential for the presence of previously-unknown archaeological remains.

### Prehistory

Evidence of prehistoric activity in this area includes a Neolithic axe fragment found near Mallard Way (HLY 032: 500m to the NE), a Bronze Age burial near Swallows Close (HLY 003: 300m NNE), and surface scatters of prehistoric flints in the fields north and west of School Lane (HLY 011, 012: 500-800m E).

### Roman

Roman-period remains are fewer in number, but there are surface scatters of Roman pottery north and west of School Lane (HLY 010, 011, 600-700m E).

### Medieval

The most important monument is the medieval All Saints church, 250m to the ESE (HLY 20). Other medieval remains include medieval and later pottery found in the 2000 watching brief rear of the Fox Inn (HLY 033 - 100m SE), and a medieval pottery scatter on site HL12.

### Post-medieval and later

An archaeological evaluation 400m to the SW, prior to house building at Walnut Tree Farm (HLY 113) revealed only modern quarry pits, and an evaluation east of Mallard Way found a post-medieval ditch and a sheep burial.

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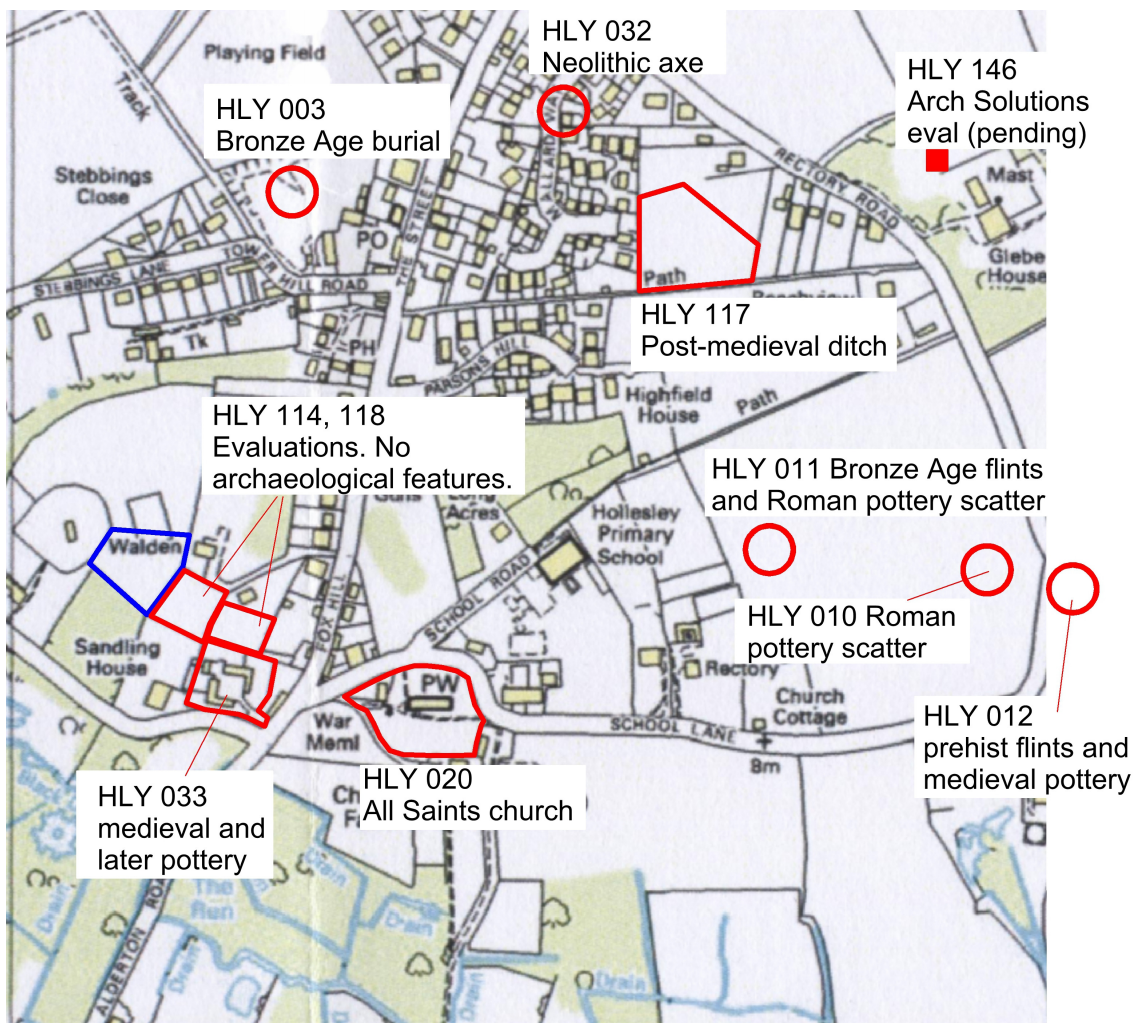
<sup>1</sup> (<http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>).

<sup>2</sup> information from SHER, 16/12/2015.

<sup>3</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk CC Historic Environment Record (SCHER) and a SHER search on 16/12/2015.

The nearest archaeological activity to the current site is the pair of evaluations carried out in 2012 and 2014 by John Newman in two adjacent gardens immediately east of the current site (HLY 114, HLY 118). These revealed no archaeological features - only recent brick and tile fragments in the topsoil. Results of an evaluation at Glebe House, Rectory Road (HLY 146 - 700m to the NE) are not yet available.

The evaluation commissioned in advance of the development (CAT Report 845) revealed five features: a modern post-hole (part of an old fence?), two undated ditches (Roman?), and two pits, one certainly of Roman date. There are too few finds to indicate Roman-period settlement on this site and they may derive from manure scatter on Roman-period fields associated with a nearby Roman settlement or farm.



**Map 1:** HER sites around the application site (blue). **Note:** a larger and more detailed version of this Map is appended to this report as Figure 2.

**Geology:** The British Geological Viewer (1:625,000 scale <sup>4</sup>) shows this general geology of the site area as Glacial Sands and Gravels (the natural sand found in this evaluation confirms this). Slightly downslope from this site Crag Group Sands and Gravels are exposed.

<sup>4</sup> <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>



## Planning Background

The planning application was submitted to Suffolk Coastal District Council in January 2014 for the proposed work (above: DC/14/0056/FUL). 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 by the Suffolk Historic Environment Officer (SCCAS/CT). This condition was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching which was undertaken in May 2015. The findings of this evaluation resulted in a requirement for further archaeological work on the site, specifically a full excavation. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and in this case in section 3 of the planning permission:

*" No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions."*

## Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological excavation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by SCCAS (*Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Land south east of The Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk* - SCCAS December 2015).

Specifically, the work comprises the controlled strip of the entire footprint of the proposed new dwelling and the surrounding area of landscaping (shown as a red hatch on Fig 1). All archaeology encountered within the strip will be fully excavated and recorded. If any unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT will be notified immediately.

Any additional groundworks, eg services and outbuildings, that are outside of the excavation area will also be monitored.

## Aims

As per section 4 of the brief, full excavation of the site (as shown hatched in red on Fig 1) is required prior to development.

The excavation is required to:

- Excavate and record any archaeological deposits that are identified within the development site
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Preserve by record the impact of past land uses, and the presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish and record the survival of evidence for past environmental activity and conditions.

## Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one Project Officer to carry out the controlled strip to be supplemented by experienced archaeologists as needed to assist with excavation and recording.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

## 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 2008a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)

- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by SCCAS Historic Environment Officer (SCCAS 2015)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for Excavation* (SCC 2012) to be used alongside the Project Brief

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 SCCAS/CT one week 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 parish code and Event number will be sought from the HER team. This 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 work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

## **Excavation 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 archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

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

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 total of 10% of the overall length. All features that are, or could be interpreted as, structural will be fully excavated. Post-holes and pits will be examined in section and then fully excavated. Fabricated surfaces within the excavation area (eg yards and floors) will be fully exposed and cleaned. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established across the site. Any variation from this process will only be made with the agreement of SCCAS/CT and confirmed in writing.

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

A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.

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.

## **Site surveying**

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 and trenches will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

## **Environmental sampling policy**

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
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

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

## **Human remains**

If human remains are encountered and 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 license will be followed. If this were the case allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains, and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and SCCAS/CT will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

## **Post-excavation assessment**

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with SCCAS/CT.

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS/CT, it will be normally be submitted within 4 weeks of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with SCCAS/CT. It will be a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and will identify the research potential in the context of

the Regional Research Framework. It will include an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

## **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

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

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, 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 appropriate museum (the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store) prior to the start of work, and confirmed to SCCAS/CT.

## **Results**

Notification will be given to SCCAS/CT 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* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by SCCAS/CT.

Final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS/CT as PDF, but a printed copy can be provided on request.

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).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

A HER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to SCCAS/CT as an appendix to the CAT site report.

Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report will be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the

Proceedings of the *Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. It will be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes places.

## Archive Deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS/CT.

## Monitoring

SCCAS/CT 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 SCCAS/CT one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with SCCAS/CT prior to them being carried out.

SCCAS/CT will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of SCCAS/CT shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## Education and Outreach

The CAT website is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. An annual magazine (*The Colchester Archaeologist Vol 27* out now) summarises all our sites and staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools. CAT also works alongside the Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures by contacting the office on [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

## References

Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA8)
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	forthcoming	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: 'The Dell', Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk: May 2015</i>
CIfA	2008a	<i>Standard and Guidance for a archaeological excavation</i>
CIfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
English Heritage	2006	<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)
SCCAS	2010	<i>Archive Guidelines</i>
SCCAS	2012	<i>Requirements for Archaeological Excavation (version 1.1)</i>

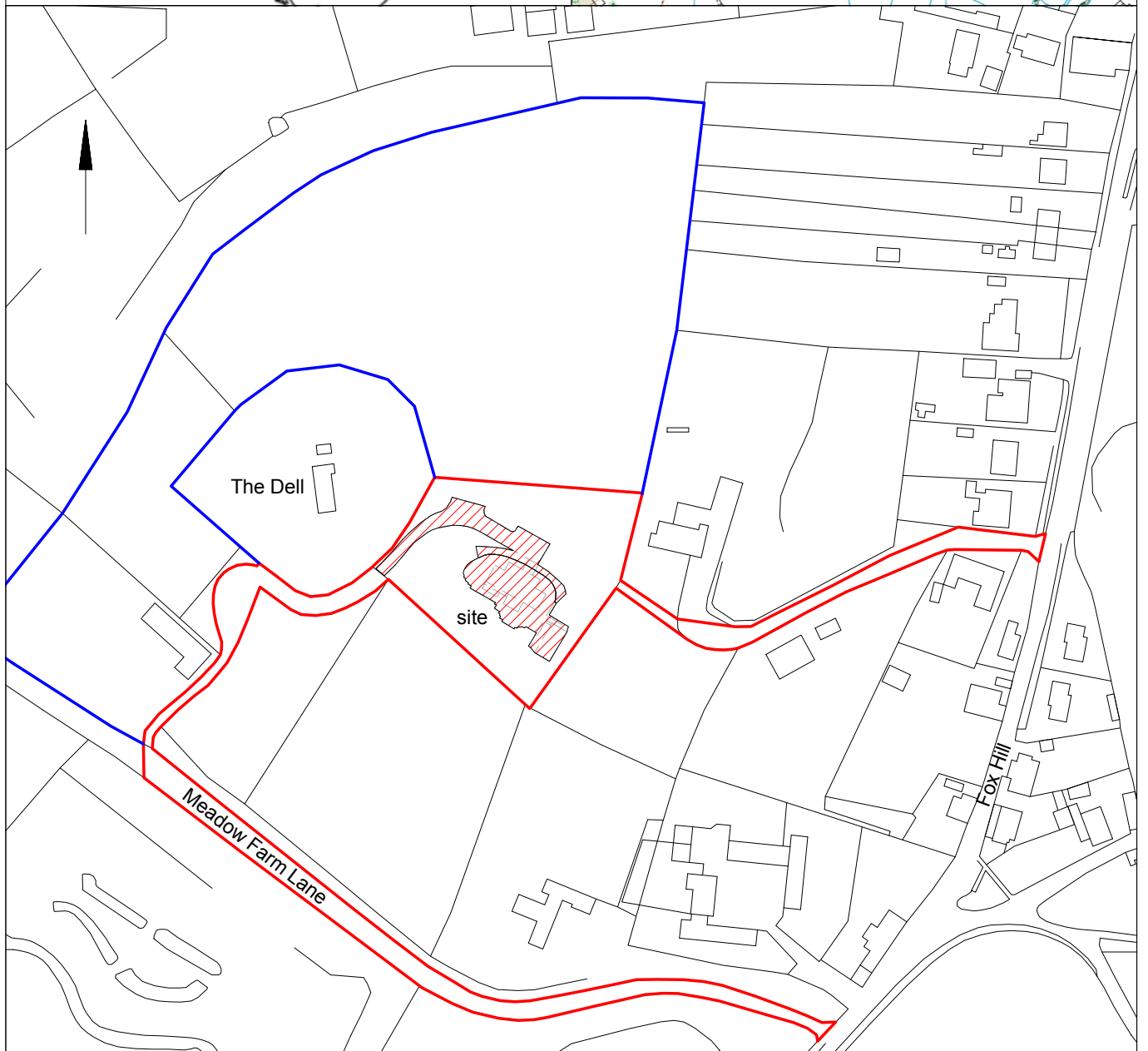
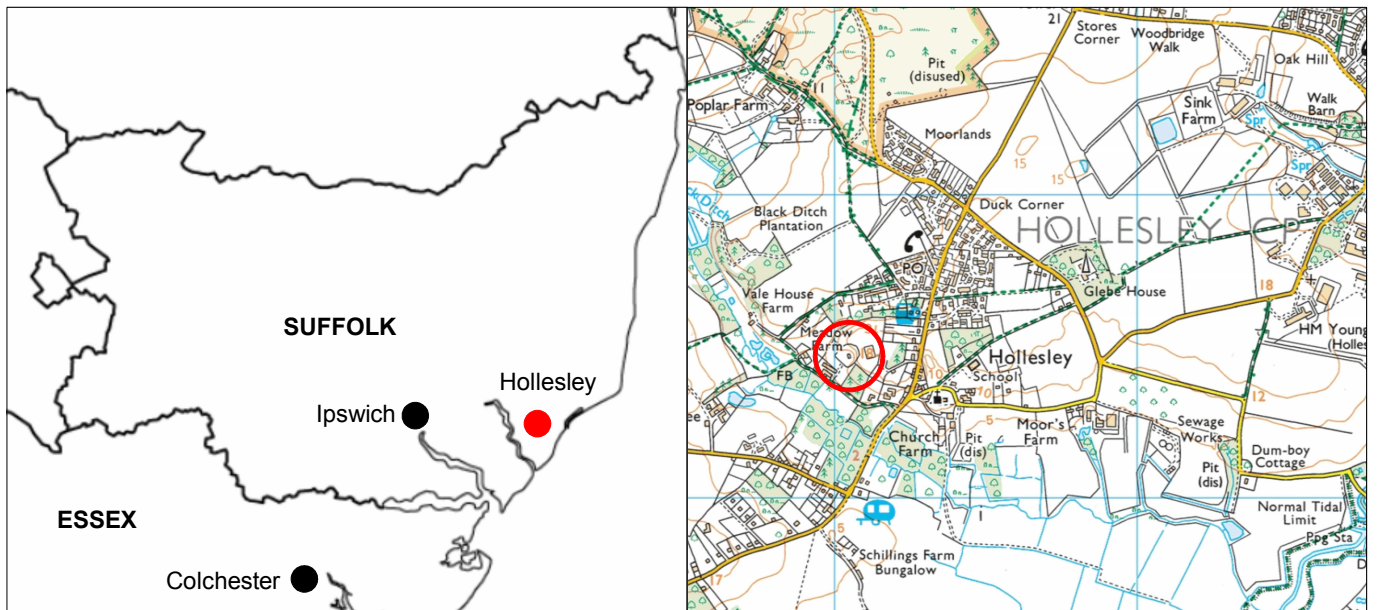
SCCAS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Land south east of the Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk. SCCAS brief by Rachel Abraham, December 2015</i>
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C Lister



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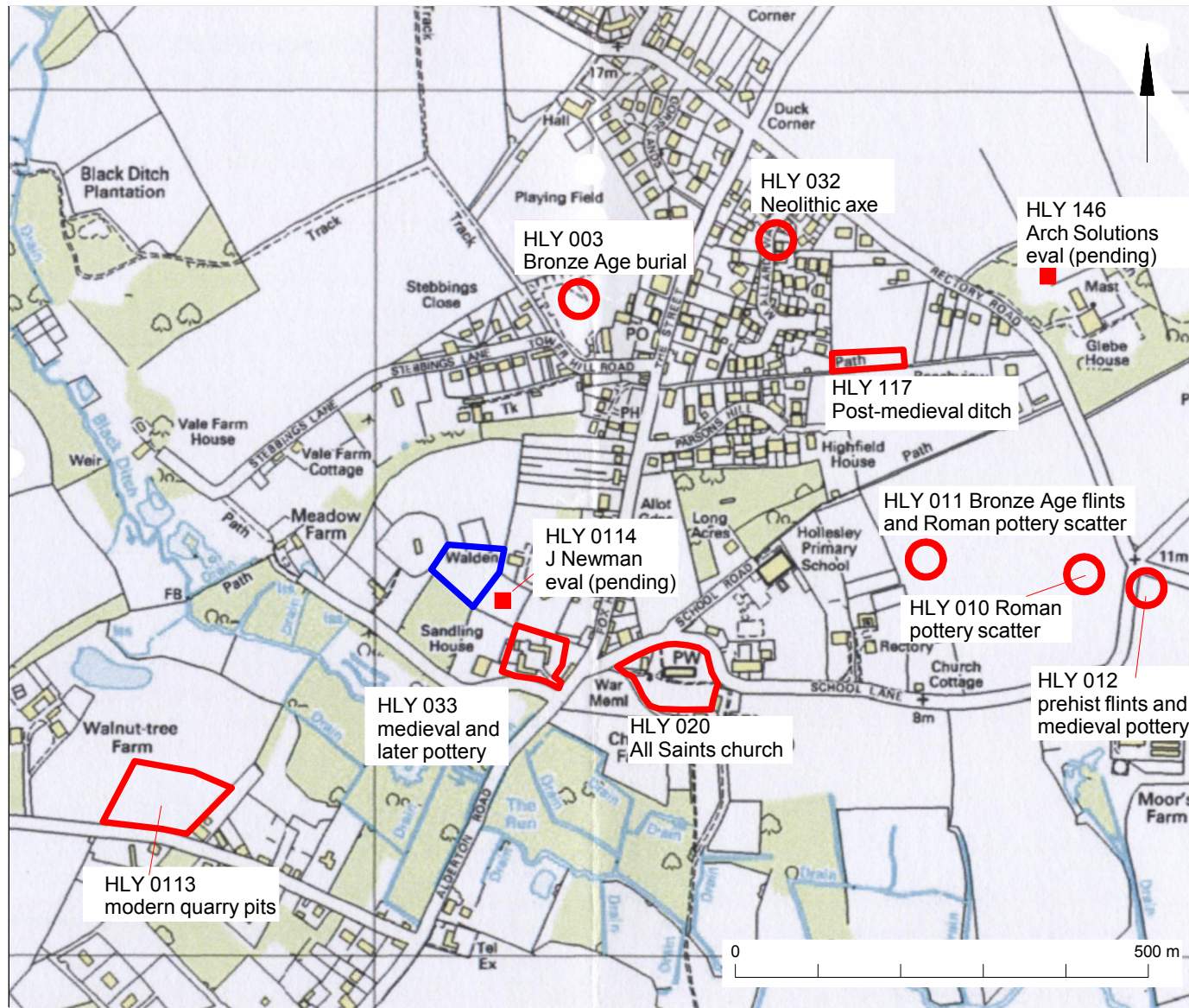
tel: 01206 501785:  
email: [cl@catuk.org](mailto:cl@catuk.org)



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Fig 1 Site location with the proposed excavation areas shown hatched in red.





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Figure 2 Current site (blue outline), showing local SHER archaeological sites and finds



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-236010**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation on land to the south-east of the Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was carried out on land to the southeast of The Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley in advance of the construction of a new house and associated infrastructure. Thirty-three features were excavated, including a modern pit and five modern postholes. The remaining twenty-seven features revealed a Late Iron Age/Early Roman agricultural landscape dating from the late 1st century BC to the late 1st century AD. Seven ditches represent at least three phases of a co-axial field system laid out to form separate fields or paddocks. Domestic waste found in eight pits also suggests that the site was located on the periphery of an unlocated settlement or farm. Of further interest were four pits containing burnt flint and stone, and a quantity of this material found residually in LIA/Roman features. Commonly associated with the prehistoric period these features and finds may represent an earlier phase of activity on the site.
Project dates	Start: 19-01-2016 End: 22-01-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/12f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/14/0056/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	HLY145 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF23365 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type	DITCHES Late Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	PITS Late Iron Age
Monument type	PITS Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Roman
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL HOLLESLEY Land South-east of the Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley
Postcode	IP12 3RQ
Study area	553 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 351 444 52.047452572172 1.429059684077 52 02 50 N 001 25 44 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15.01m Max: 15.85m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, SCC
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Bishop

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	HLY145 / ESF23365
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	HLY145 / ESF23365
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	HLY145 / ESF23365
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Excavation on land to southeast of The Dell, Meadow Farm Lane, Hollesley, Suffolk, IP12 3RQ
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 913
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose leaf
URL	<a href="http://www.cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html">http://www.cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html</a>
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	30 March 2016

# OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:Historic England) for OASIS help and advice

