

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1921  
issued April 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land south of  
'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk,  
CO10 1UX: March 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/01n  
SCC parish code: SUY222**

**Archaeological evaluation on land south of  
'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk,  
CO10 1UX: March 2023**

**NGR: TL 86480 42900 (centre)**

**Planning district: Babergh  
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**SCC Parish code: SUY222**

**SCCAS monitor: James Rolfe  
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**commissioned by Ross Bain, Vaughan & Blyth**

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the south of 'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk in advance of the construction of five new residential dwellings. The site is located within an archaeologically-sensitive area, on the edge of the historic settlement of Sudbury and south of the historic village of Long Melford. The evaluation revealed five ditches, five pits/tree-throws and a post-hole. Most of the features were undated with only two finds recovered, a piece of post-medieval peg-tile from the post-hole and an undatable fragment of iron nail from one of the pits/tree-throws.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) from 28th-29th of March 2023 at land south of 'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk. The work was commissioned by Ross Bain of Vaughn & Blyth in advance of the construction of five new residential dwellings and associated amenity space.

In response to consultation with James Rolfe, 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 land south of High Bank, Melford Road, Sudbury* written by James Rolfe and detailing the required archaeological work (SCCAS 2023). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with SCCASA in advance of the archaeological work taking place (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). SCCAS *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2022a) and *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS 2022b) were also followed.

## 3 Archaeological background

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

### Geology

The British Geological Survey geology viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is comprised of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (chalk). The north-eastern half of the site has superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (a sheet of chalky till with outwashes of sands and gravels). The south-western half has 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).

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

### **Historic landscape**

The development site is located within an area defined as ancient *rolling estate farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>. These are rolling arable landscapes of chalky clays and loams dissected, sometimes deeply, by river valleys. The dissection by river has produced a variety of soil types. The settlement pattern is largely comprised of dispersed farmsteads of medieval origin. Villages in the area are often associated with village greens.

Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup>, it is defined as Landscape type 5.1, meadow or managed wetland – meadow. An area of seasonally-wet grassland mown for hay or for grazing animals. The landscape immediately around the site includes:

- Landscape sub-type 10.2, built-up area-town.
- Landscape sub-group 3.1, post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from random fields.

### **Archaeology<sup>4</sup> (Fig 2)**

All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site, and this background is focused on SHER search results within a 1km radius of the site.

Little archaeological investigation has occurred within this area. The site is located on the edge of a slope overlooking the River Stour in between the attractive village of Long Melford to the north and Sudbury, a historic market town on the Suffolk-Essex border to the south-east.

### **Prehistoric**

On the southern edge of the search area is the location of the former Brunдон's and Jordon's Pit (BCB 002, 1142m S). The pit was opened in the 19th century to extract gravel. It was extended during the 1930s, but disused by 1947. During the extraction work in the 1930s, a local amateur archaeologist, James Reid Moir, visited the site. He identified that the site contained archaeological remains. Excavations were undertaken between 1935-7 which revealed river terrace deposits rich in animal bones, shells and lithic implements. Animal bones included species such as wolves, cave bears, rhinoceros, aurochs, bison and mammoths, which meant that it was possible to date the layer to the Palaeolithic. Worked flints from the site have included Levallois (Lower Palaeolithic) flakes and blades and a Middle Palaeolithic flat butted cordate axehead, a type thought to be used by Neanderthals. Other finds from the quarry area include Neolithic and Bronze Age leaf-shaped arrowheads, blades, cores and axeheads, but the exact location they came from within the quarry is unknown. Between 1936-1948 a collection of Late Iron Age to early Roman (pre-conquest) pottery was found approximately 0.8m from the surface. They were reported as all but one being broken and each appeared to contain human cremated remains.

A large but thin scatter of prehistoric flintwork was recorded during the a fieldwalking assessment in the area of a proposed Sudbury bypass in 1990, approximately 830m south/south-west of the site (BCB 003). This area, being close to Brunдон Pit, may suggest there is prehistoric occupation nearby.

Approximately 576m east of the site is the edge of a 90 hectare area of Chiltern Woods, which was subject to fieldwalking and geophysical survey in advance of a proposed development. A moderate quantity of prehistoric artefacts were found across the site. Roman material was observed in a north-south band across the centre (ESF21616, ESF22799).

An early prehistoric flint flake was found during an evaluation at St Bartholemew's Lane (SUY 137, 564m SE).

An Iron Age coin was found close to the site in 1953 (SUY 009, 289m NW).

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

<sup>3</sup> The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2012, Suffolk County Council

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

### **Roman**

Sudbury is not thought to have been the site of a Roman town as there was an important Roman small town to the north at Long Melford.

A number of Roman artefacts have been found in relation to a quarrying area 1km north-west of the site at Rodbridge. sherds of pottery alongside some copper-alloy objects found in the disused pit prompted a local amateur archaeologist to dig a test trench in 1951. Roman finds and some Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered. A further excavation in 1952 was visited by Basil Brown. He noted 700 sherds of pottery, animal bones, charcoal and iron objects, a glass gaming counter and prehistoric flints (LMD 030, 1043m NW).

On the northern edge of the search area is the location of a Roman villa, now a scheduled ancient monument (NHLE no. 1005969, SF226/LMD 042, 1120m N). The villa was identified by cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. Initial photographs showed a winged building with a smaller building c 180m away. Photographs from 1972 show the villa has a clear square courtyard plan. Historic ploughing has revealed dense scatters of finds in the stubble. A small part of the scheduled area was excavated in advance of the proposed Long Melford bypass. Few features were identified, mainly ditches and there was little dating evidence.

A coin of Vespasian has also been recorded within the search area (SUY 008, 407m S).

### **Anglo-Saxon**

Sudbury was urbanised by the Late Saxon period. First recorded in 799 as *Suthberie* meaning 'South-Borough', the town was minting coins in the 10th century. An excavation in an old quarry area in Rodbridge revealed what was believed at the time to be the hearth of an Anglo-Saxon hut and 25 sherds of pottery of this date (LMD 030, 4043m NW). These may actually be Roman and related to the nearby villa at Rodbridge Hall.

### **Medieval**

There are numerous records of medieval features and finds on the HER as Sudbury was a thriving town at this time. In the 12th century the town expanded beyond the defences and a market and two new defences were established.

Within the search area there is the site of a former leper hospital. St Leonard's hospital was founded in 1272 by John Colneys, or Colness, its first governor or warden. The estates of the hospital were vested in Feoffees by deed of 16 January 1445-6 and were not suppressed by Henry VIII (SUY 001, 602m S).

Approximately 640m east of the site is the location of a tiny priory to St Bartholomew, a cell of Westminster Abbey, which was returned to the Dean and Chapter after Dissolution. The original 12th-century buildings were destroyed by fire or demolished in the 13th century. The priory chapel (which still survives) is a flint and stone building, and alongside a nearby aisled barn, was built in the late 14th century. The present timber-framed house was built in the 15th century, originally as an open hall house with a cross-wing. The Chapel is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM no. 1006052, SF62/SUY 002/DSF887). An eight hectare evaluation followed by excavation by Cambridge Archaeological Unit on land adjacent to the priory identified possible priory outer precinct ditches, post-medieval ditches, post-holes, trackway and flint walls (SUY 070, 391m E). Monitoring and excavation was also undertaken within this area on the precinct boundary ditch (ESF21159, 495m E) and an evaluation in 2004 revealed a single medieval ditch, a short length of flint wall, a backfilled pond and a cobbled surface (ESF2185, 618m ESE).

A desk-based assessment was undertaken for the proposed route of the Sudbury western bypass. Fieldwalking in 1990 showed six possible areas of interest and two more were identified from aerial photographs. The DBA showed the present layout of the field system probably dates to the medieval period, and indicated that the original settlement for Brundon could lie between Brundon Hall and the church, possibly associated with pottery scatter BCB 004. The DBA

search area ends immediately opposite the current site. The bypass has still not happened so these areas have not been investigated further (ESF21182).

Medieval find spots within the search area include a small group of medieval potsherds during dredging along the River Stour in 2004 (BCB 031, 815m SSE), sherds collected during the Long Melford bypass fieldwalking survey (LMD129, 811m NNE), and pottery found during an evaluation at St Batholemew's Lane (SUY 137, 564m SE).

### **Post-medieval to modern**

To the immediate north-east of the site was the location of Highfield Mill and Highfield Mill House, both 19th century in date (SUY 031, 126m NW).

Evidence of some of the earliest buildings in the area (which may no longer exist) can be seen on early historic mapping. One of the earliest survey maps of Melford was created by Israel Amyce in 1580. This extends as far as our search area and depicts a group of seven houses clustered around the original crossroads at Rodbridge corner (LMD 114, 1061m NW).

Early mapping such as the 1st OS map have helped the Suffolk Historic Environment Team with a project to record lost and existing farmsteads in Suffolk. Farming has been a major factor in the development of Suffolk's landscape, both physically and socially throughout time. The farm buildings can help us to understand the agricultural practices and their development since the medieval period (SCCAS 2019). Listed farmsteads within the search area are recorded on 19th-century mapping (but may be much earlier in date), these include:

- Rodbridge House, which is laid out in a regular courtyard multi-yard plan, with the farmhouse being detached and away from the yard. The farmstead was originally a 14th-century open hall with a parlour cross-wing added in the 16th century (LMD 204, 1007m, NNW). The associated 17th-century barns are Grade II listed (no. 1396596, DSF16780, 996m NNW).
- Guildhall Farm, which is laid out in a loose courtyard plan with additional detached elements and the farmstead detached and set away from the yard. The farm is thought to date to the 19th century but may form part of structures visible on the earlier Amyce map (LMD 244, 1021m NW).
- St Bartholemew's Priory Farm with a 14th-century farmstead and 19th-century farmhouse. The farm is laid out in a regular courtyard full plan formed by working agricultural buildings (SUY 106, 697m E). The associated weatherboarded and timber-framed barn is Grade II listed (no. 275914, DSF888, 696m ESE).
- Brundon Hall. A 19th-century farmstead and 18th-century farmhouse laid out in a regular courtyard multi-yard plan formed by working agricultural buildings. The Hall is Grade II\* listed (SUY 211, 764m S). Monitoring during de-silting of the moat (or post-medieval cut from the river?) showed it was fairly shallow with a flat base. The base of a brick and flint wall thought to be 19th century in date was also recorded (BCB 024, 753m S).

Near Brundon Hall, associated buildings built in the 18th century include Brundon Hall Cottages, originally a range of five cottages (SF1412, 680m S), and Brundon Mill a former watermill (BCB 024/DSF3037, 753m S).

Approximately 279m south of the site is Sudbury Hall. The house is an imposing mansion built in 1840 but substantially remodelled in 1973 when it was converted into a hotel (SUY 148, 279m S).

On the western side of the search area, running approximately north-south, was the Stour Valley Railway line which ran from Marks Tey, Essex to Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire. The line closed in 1967 as part of the Beeching cuts (SUF 075, 634m W).

World War II defences follow along the course of the river, including a number of pillboxes (SUY 118, 797m SE; SUY119, 980m SSE; SUY 125, 634m S, SUY 156, 369m W, SUY 157, 268m SW and SUY 158, 888m NW).

### Undated

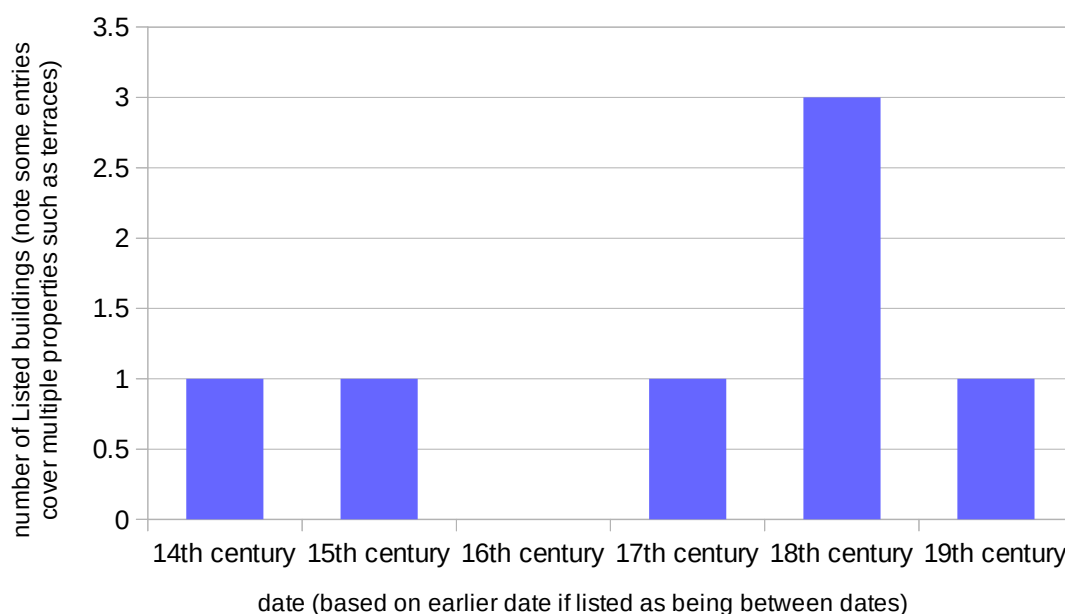
To the immediate north-east of Brundon Pit the SHER has cropmarks depicting the remains of possible field boundaries that form a rectilinear pattern. These are undated but may be associated with remains found at the pit (see prehistoric section).

### Negative

No features or finds were found during monitoring of groundworks at 134 Melford Road (ESF21157, 583m SE), adjacent to the St Leonard's Hospital site (SUY 001), or at the Rodbridge Car Centre (ESF24659, 981m NW). A small evaluation on St Bartholemew's Lane did not reveal any features and the only finds were a stray medieval pot sherd and a prehistoric flint (SUY 137, 564m SE).

### Listed buildings<sup>5</sup>

There are seven listed buildings within the search radius (three Grade II\* and four Grade II). They range in date from the 14th to the 19th century. Listed buildings are described above by period.



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

## 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.

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



## 5 Methodology

As per the WSI (appended to this report), five trial-trenches 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 3-5)

Five trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Site stratigraphy was modern topsoil (L1, 0.25-0.35m thick) sealing a buried soil layer (L3, 0.2-0.25m thick) which overlaid natural (L4, encountered at a depth of 0.50-0.55m below current ground level). All of the features were cut into L4 and sealed by L3.

### Trench 1 (22m long, 1.8m wide)

A layer of imported infill/levelling soil (L2, c 0.5m deep) was observed between L1 and L3. Undated ditch F1 was aligned north to south and was 0.84m wide and 0.2m deep with evidence of rooting on its eastern edge. Pit/tree-throw F2 was a large feature >7m long and >1.8m wide. It was 0.25m deep and produced a fragment of iron nail.

### Trench 2 (21m long, 1.8m wide)

Pit/tree-throws F3 (2.9m by >1.8m and 0.25m deep) and F4 (>1.2m by >0.95m and 0.15 deep) were both undated.

### Trench 3 (27m long, 1.8m wide)

Undated ditch F5 was aligned north-north-west by south-south-east and was 0.95m wide by 0.15m deep. The trench also included a modern service.

### Trench 4 (25m long, 1.8m wide)

Undated ditch F7 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 0.9m wide by 0.2m deep. Post-hole F6 (0.68m by 0.5m, 0.06m deep) and pits/tree-throw F8 (1.83m by >1.05m, 0.25m deep) and F9 (1.32m by >0.68m, 0.2m deep) were also excavated, with F6 producing a fragment of post-medieval peg-tile. The modern service trench from T3 also continued into T4.

### Trench 5 (25m long, 1.8m wide)

Parallel ditches F10 and F11 were aligned north-east to south-west approximately 7.8m apart. They were 0.5-0.6m wide and 0.1-0.15m deep, and neither produced any dating evidence. If F10 slightly shifts in alignment it could become ditch F7 in T4. The modern service trench from T3 and T4 also continued into T5.



**Photograph 1** Trench 1, looking west.



**Photograph 2** Trench 2, looking east.



**Photograph 3** Trench 4, looking north-east.



**Photograph 4** Trench 5, looking north-west.

## 7 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton & Laura Pooley

The evaluation produced one sherd (17g) of post-medieval peg-tile from the post-hole F6 and a fragment of iron nail (20g) from pit/tree-throw F2.

## 8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land south of 'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury revealed five ditches, five pits/tree-throws and a post-hole. Only two finds were recovered, post-medieval peg-tile from F6 and an undatable fragment of iron nail from F2. None of the ditches are on old OS maps of the site and may pre-date this historic mapping, but without any dating evidence this cannot be confirmed. All of the ditches were relatively shallow (no more than 0.2m in depth) and may have been associated with agricultural activity on the site, which would perhaps explain the sparsity of finds if the site was located away from human habitation. Given the lack of finds from many of the pits/tree-throws, it is perhaps more likely that most are tree-throws.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Ross Bain and Vaughan & Blyth 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, G Smith and G Williams. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and S Vasey. The project was monitored for SCCAS by James Rolfe.

## 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 &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| 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   |
| Gurney, D                | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).                                     |
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| 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>  |
| SCC                      | 2019  | <i>Farmsteads in the Suffolk Countryside Project.</i> G Campbell and G McSorley  |
| 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>   |
| SCCAS                    | 2023  | <i>Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at land south of High Bank, Melford Road, Sudbury</i>  |

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor

CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess 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>
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
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
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** None retained

**Digital record:**

CAT Report 1921

SCCAS Brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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 Archaeological Data Service.

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### Distribution list:

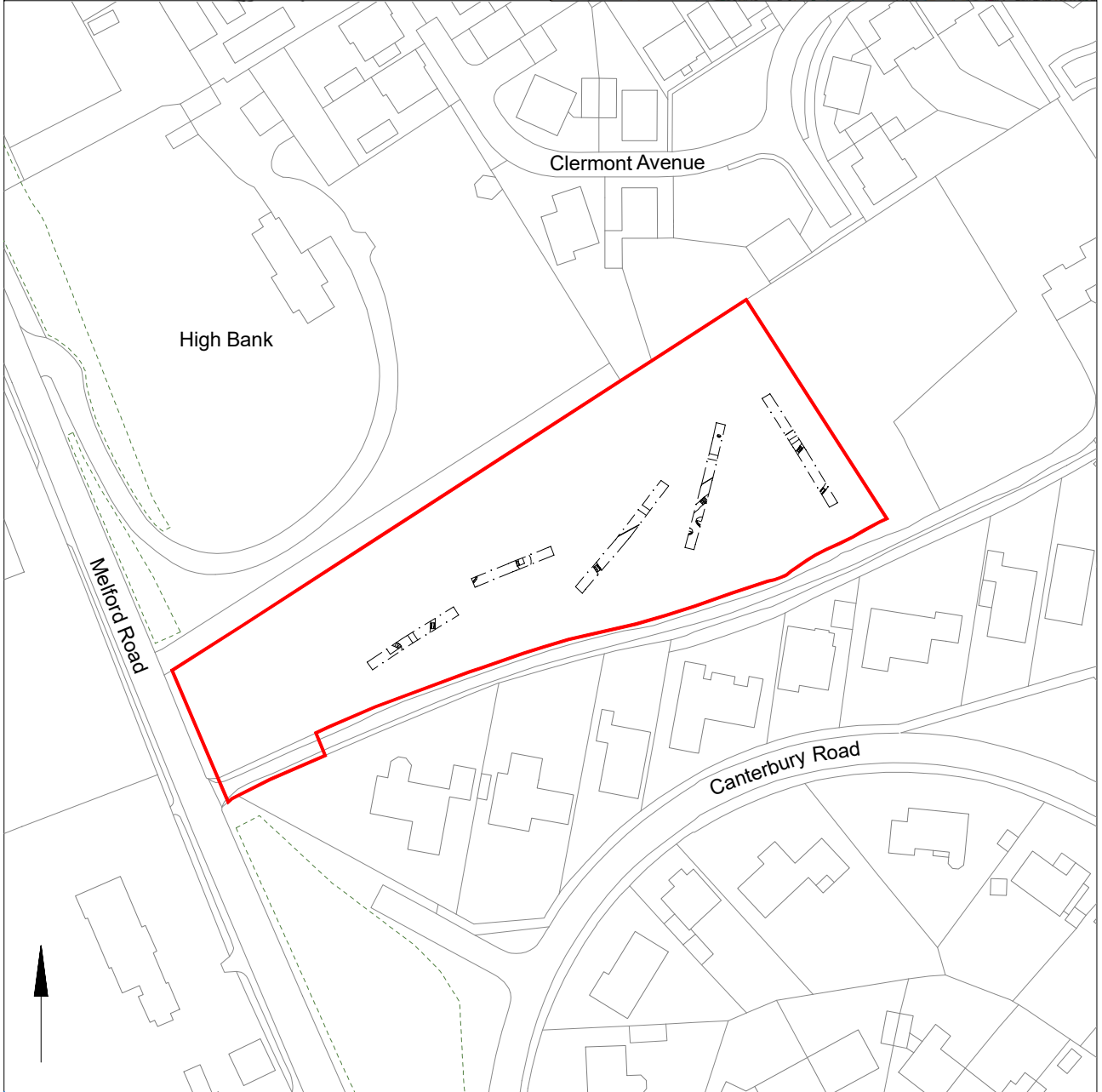
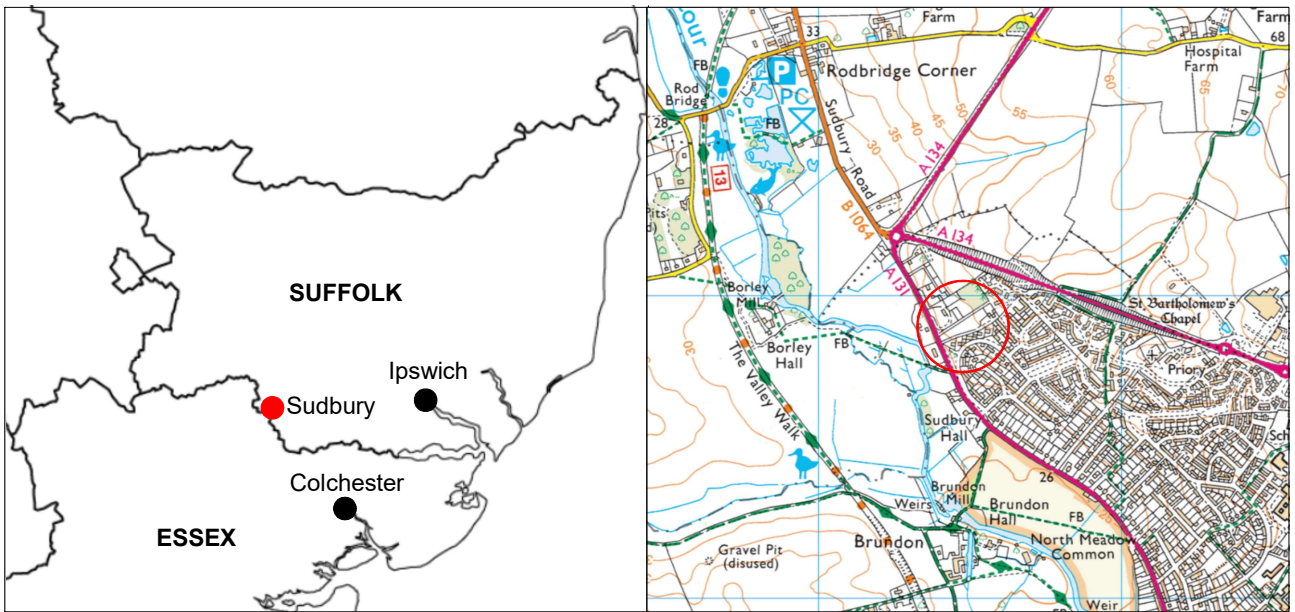
Ross Bain, Vaughan & Blyth

James Rolfe, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk Historic Environment Record

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Ploughsoil	Soft to firm, dry dark brownish-black silt with small stone inclusions.	Modern
L2	T1	-	Infill/levelling material	Firm, dry mid to dark yellowish-brown silt with occasional gravel and small stone inclusions.	Modern
L3	All	-	Buried soil	Soft to firm, moist mid brown silt	Undated
L4	All	-	Natural	Soft, dry mid brownish-orange sandy gravel.	Post-glacial
F1	1	-	Ditch	Firm, moist mid greyish-brown silt with sand inclusions. >0.84m wide, 0.2m deep.	Undated
F2	1	1	Pit/tree-throw	Firm moist mid brown-grey silty sand with gravel inclusions. >7m by >1.8m, 0.25m.	Undated
F3	2	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, dry mid brownish-grey silty sand with sand and gravel inclusions. 2.9m by >1.8m, 0.25m deep.	Undated
F4	2	-	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, dry light to mid greyish-brown sandy silt with rooting and small stone inclusions. >1.2m by >0.95m, 0.15 deep.	Undated
F5	3	-	Ditch	firm dark brownish-grey silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions and sand flecking. 0.95m wide, 0.15m deep.	Undated
F6	4	2	Post-hole	Firm, moist very dark brownish-grey sandy silt. 0.68m by 0.5m, 0.06m deep	Post-medieval or later
F7	4	-	Ditch	firm, moist mid greyish-brown silt with sand inclusions. >0.9m wide, 0.2m deep.	Undated
F8	4	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, dry mid brownish-grey silty sand with sand and gravel inclusions. 1.83m by >1.05m, 0.25m deep.	Undated
F9	4	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, dry mid brownish-grey silty sand with sand and gravel inclusions. 1.32m by >0.68m, 0.2m deep.	Undated
F10	5	-	Ditch	Firm, moist mid greyish-brown silt with sand inclusions. >0.6m wide, 0.1m deep.	Undated
F11	5	-	Ditch	Firm, moist mid greyish-brown silt with sand inclusions. >0.7m wide. 0.15m deep.	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location.





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



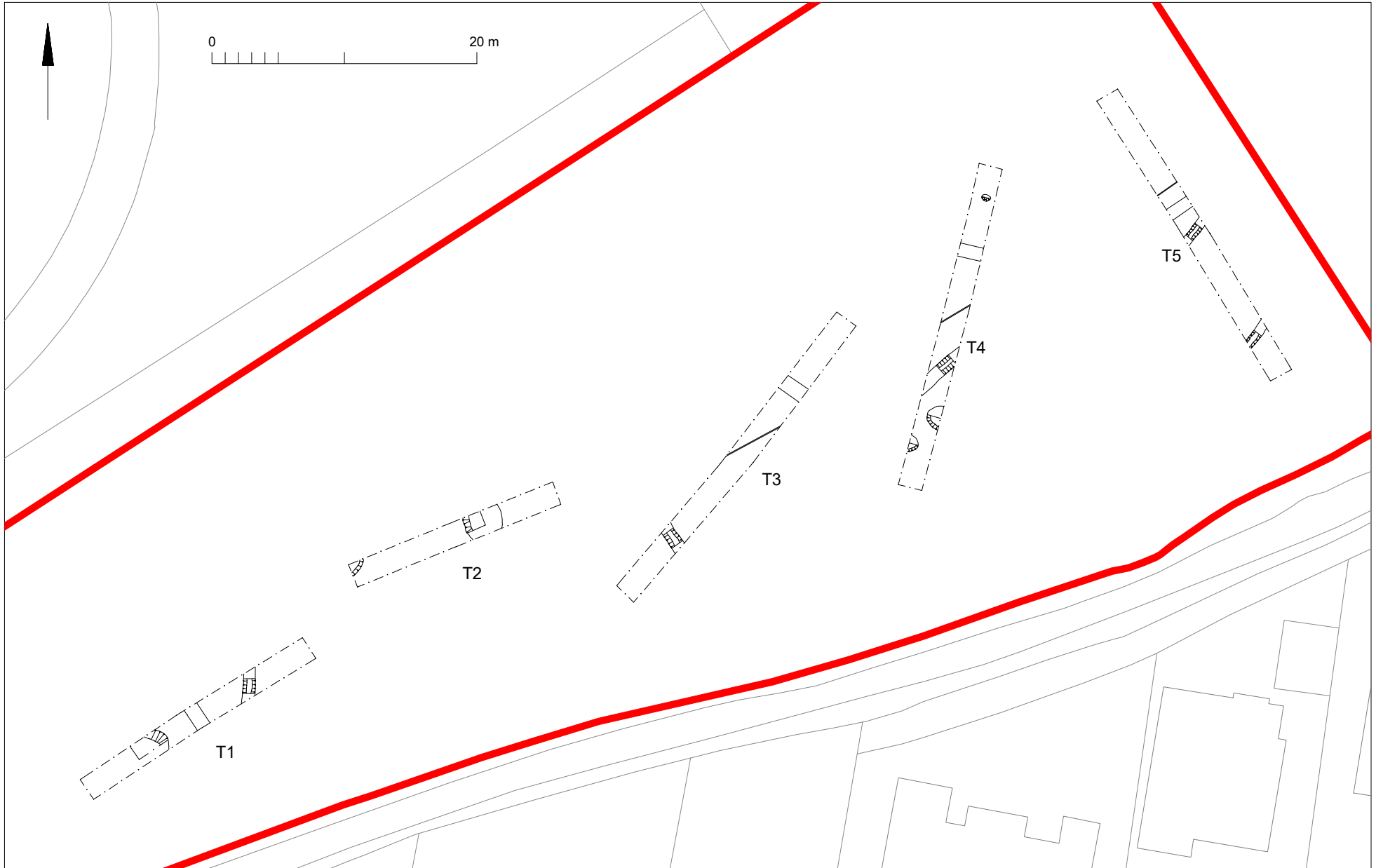


Fig 3 Results

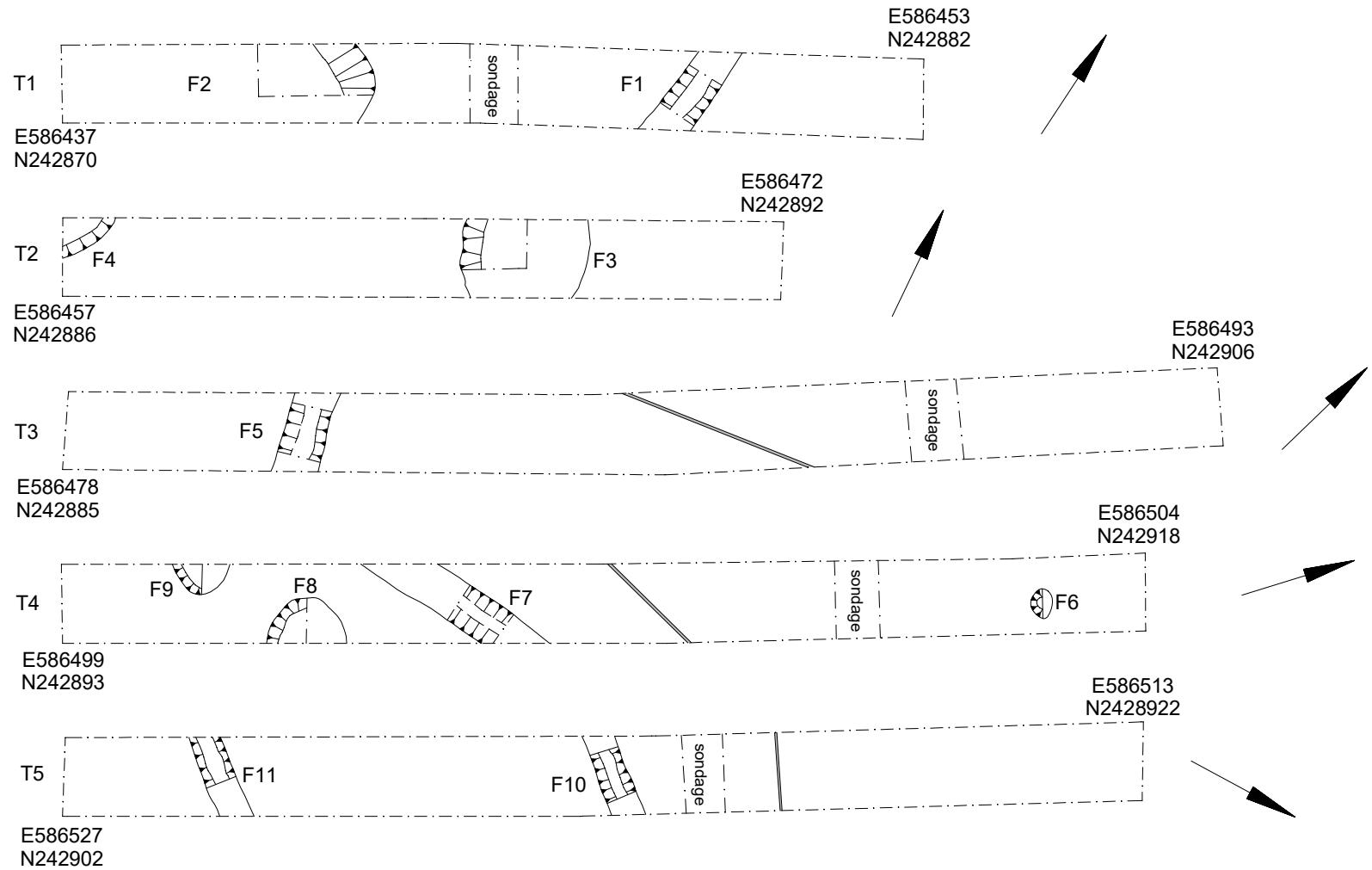


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans (modern service in grey)

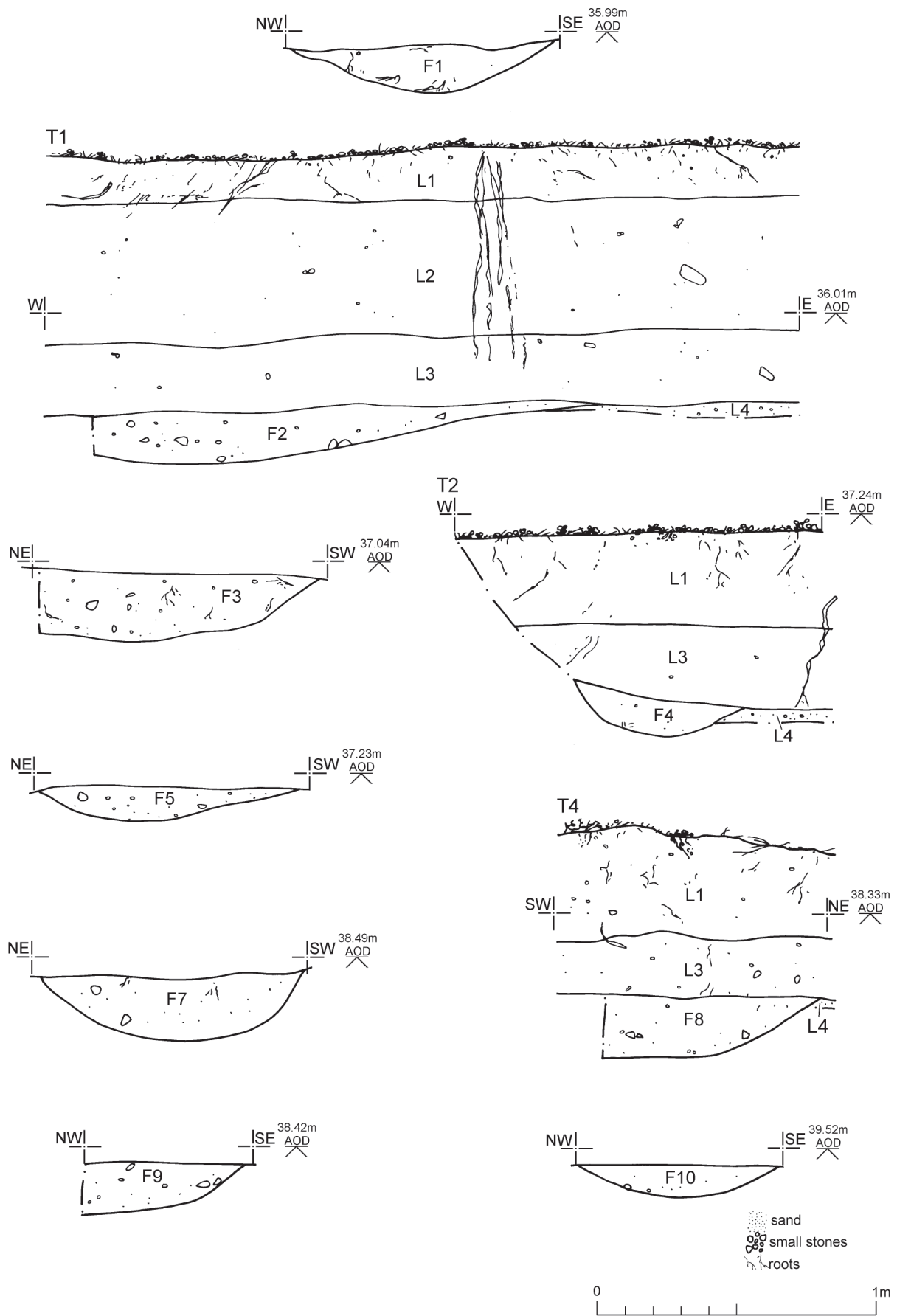


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

# **Colchester Archaeological Trust**



**Written scheme of investigation  
for an evaluation by trial-trenching on land south of  
'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk,  
CO10 1XU.**

**March 2023**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/01n  
SCC parish code: SUY 222**

**Written scheme of investigation for an evaluation by  
trial-trenching on land south of 'High Bank', Melford  
Road, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 1XU.**

**March 2023**

**NGR: TL 8648 4290**

**Planning district.: Babergh  
Planning ref.: DC/22/05570**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/01n**

**Curating museum: Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service  
SCC Parish code: SUY 222**

**SCCAS monitor: James Rolfe  
OASIS id: colchest3-512448**

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

**Commissioned by: Ross Bain (Vaughan & Blyth)  
Client: Vaughan & Blyth**

Prepared by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	07/02/2023	
Revised by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Re-issued:	17/03/2023	

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## Site location and description

The site is located on the north-eastern corner of the historic village of Sudbury, and just to the south of the historic village of Long Melford, on land to the south of 'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 8648 4290.

The site comprises of a c 0.5 hectare plot of greenfield land which is primarily comprised of rough pasture, with some areas of grass and brambles. The site is situated on a slope with the north-eastern end of the site being approximately 46m above ordnance datum. Where the south-western end of the site meets Melford Road the ground level is 32m OD.

## Proposed work

The development will comprise of the construction of four detached dwellings, garages and associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

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

### Geology

The British Geological Survey geology viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is comprised of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (chalk). The north-eastern half of the site has superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (a sheet of chalky till with outwashes of sands and gravels). The south-western half has 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 ancient *rolling estate farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>. These are rolling arable landscapes of chalky clays and loams dissected, sometimes deeply, by river valleys. The dissection by river has produced a variety of soil types. The settlement pattern is largely comprised of dispersed farmsteads of medieval origin. Villages in the area are often associated with village greens.

Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as Landscape type 5.1, meadow or managed wetland - meadow. An area of seasonally wet grassland mown for hay or for grazing animals. The landscape immediately around the site includes:

- Landscape sub-type 10.2, built-up area-town.
- Landscape sub-group 3.1, post-1950 agricultural landscape - boundary loss from random fields.

### Archaeology<sup>4</sup> (Fig 3)

(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 1km radius of the site.

Little archaeological investigation has occurred within this area. The site is located on the edge of a slope overlooking the River Stour in between the attractive village of Long Melford to the north and Sudbury, a historic market town on the Suffolk-Essex border to the south-east.

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2012, Suffolk County Council

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

Within the search area:

**Prehistoric:**

On the southern edge of the search area is the location of the former Brundon's and Jordon's Pit (BCB 002, 1142m S). The pit was opened in the 19th century to extract gravel. It was extended during the 1930s, but disused by 1947. During the extraction work in the 1930s a local amateur archaeologist, James Reid Moir, visited the site. He identified that the site contained archaeological remains. Excavations were undertaken between 1935-7 which revealed river terrace deposits rich in animal bones, shells and lithic implements. Animal bones included species such as wolves, cave bears, rhinoceros, aurochs, bison and mammoths, which meant that it was possible to date the layer to the Palaeolithic. Worked flints from the site have included Levallois (Lower Palaeolithic) flakes and blades and a Middle Palaeolithic flat butted cordate axehead, a type thought to be used by Neanderthals. Other finds from the quarry area include Neolithic and Bronze Age leaf-shaped arrowheads, blades, cores and axeheads, but the exact location they came from within the quarry is unknown. Between 1936-1948 a collection of Late Iron Age to early Roman (pre-conquest) pottery was found approximately 0.8m from the surface. They were reported as all but one being broken and each appeared to contain human cremated remains.

A large but thin scatter of prehistoric flintwork was recorded during the a fieldwalking assessment in the area of a proposed Sudbury bypass in 1990, approximately 830m south/south-west of the site (BCB 003). This area, being close to Brundon Pit, may suggest there is prehistoric occupation nearby.

Approximately 576m east of the site is the edge of a 90 hectare area of Chiltern Woods which was subject to fieldwalking and geophysical survey in advance of a proposed development. A moderate quantity of prehistoric artefacts were found across the site. Roman material was observed in a north-south band across the centre (ESF21616, ESF22799).

An early prehistoric flint flake was found during an evaluation at St Bartholemew's Lane (SUY 137, 564m SE).

An Iron Age coin was found close to the site in 1953 (SUY 009, 289m NW).

**Roman:**

Sudbury is not thought to have been the site of a Roman town as there was an important Roman small town to the north at Long Melford.

A number of Roman artefacts have been found in relation to a quarrying area 1km north-west of the site at Rodbridge. sherds of pottery alongside some copper-alloy objects found in the disused pit prompted a local amateur archaeologist to dig a test trench in 1951. Roman finds and some Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered. A further excavation in 1952 was visited by Basil Brown. He noted 700 sherds of pottery, animal bones, charcoal and iron objects, a glass gaming counter and Prehistoric flints (LMD 030, 1043m NW).

On the northern edge of the search area is the location of a Roman villa, now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM no. 1005969, SF226/LMD 042, 1120m N). The villa was identified by cropmarks shown on aerial photographs. Initial photographs showed a winged building with a smaller building c 180m away. Photographs from 1972 show the villa has a clear square courtyard plan. Historic ploughing has revealed dense scatters of finds in the stubble. A small part of the Scheduled Area was excavated in advance of the proposed Long Melford bypass. Few features were identified, mainly ditches and there was little dating evidence.

A coin to the Emperor Vespasian has been recorded within the search area (SUY 008, 407m S).

**Anglo-Saxon-medieval:**

Sudbury was urbanised by the Late Saxon period. First recorded in 799 as *Suthberie* meaning 'South-Borough', the town was minting it's own coins in the 10th century.

An excavation in an old quarry area in Rodbridge revealed what the amateur archaeologist believed was the hearth of an Anglo-Saxon hut and 25 sherds of pottery of this date (LMD 030, 4043m NW). These may actually be Roman and related to the nearby villa at Rodbridge Hall.

**Medieval:**

There are numerous records of medieval features and finds on the HER for Sudbury which support the notion that the town was thriving at this time. In the 12th century the town expanded beyond the defences and a market and two new defences were established.

Within the search area there is the site of a former leper hospital. St Leonard's hospital was founded in 1272 by John Colneys, or Colness, it's first governor or warden. The estates of the hospital were vested in Feoffees by deed of 16 January 1445-6 and were not suppressed by Henry VIII (SUY 001, 602m S).

Approximately 640m east of the site is the location of a tiny priory to St Bartholomew, a cell of Westminster Abbey, which was returned to the Dean and Chapter after Dissolution. The original 12th century buildings were destroyed by fire or demolished in the 13th century. The priory chapel (which still survives) is a flint and stone building and alongside a nearby aisled barn were built in the late 14th century. The present timber-framed house was built in the 15th century, originally as an open hall house with a cross-wing. The Chapel is protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM no. 1006052, SF62/SUY 002/DSF887). An 8 hectare evaluation followed by excavation by Cambridge Archaeological Unit on land adjacent to the priory identified possible priory outer precinct ditches, post-medieval ditches, post-holes, trackway and flint walls (SUY 070, 391m E). Monitoring and excavation was also undertaken within this area on the precinct boundary ditch (ESF21159, 495m E) and an evaluation in 2004 revealed a single medieval ditch, a short length of flint wall, a backfilled pond and a cobbled surface (ESF2185, 618m ESE).

A desk-based assessment was undertaken for the proposed route of the Sudbury western bypass. Fieldwalking in 1990 showed six possible areas of interest and two more were identified from aerial photographs. The DBA showed the present layout of the field system probably dates to the medieval period, and indicated that the original settlement for Brundon could lie between Brundon Hall and the church, possibly associated with pottery scatter BCB 004. The DBA search area ends immediately opposite the current site. The bypass has still not happened so these areas have not been investigated further (ESF21182).

Medieval find spots within the search area include a small group of medieval potsherds during dredging along the River Stour in 2004 (BCB 031, 815m SSE), sherds collected during the Long Melford bypass fieldwalking survey (LMD129, 811m NNE), and pottery found during an evaluation at St Batholemew's Lane (SUY 137, 564m SE).

**Post-medieval to modern:**

To the immediate north-east of the site was the location of Highfield Mill and Highfield millhouse, both 19th century in date (SUY 031, 126m NW).

Evidence of some of the earliest buildings in the area (which may no longer exist) can be seen on early historic mapping. One of the earliest survey maps of Melford was created by Israel Amyce in 1580. This extends as far as our search area and depicts a group of 7 houses clustered around the original crossroads at Rodbridge corner (LMD 114, 1061m NW).

Early mapping such as the 1st OS map have helped the Suffolk Historic Environment Team with a project to record lost and existing farmsteads in Suffolk. Farming has been a major factor in the development of Suffolk's landscape, both physically and socially throughout time. The farm buildings can help us to understand the agricultural practices and their development since the medieval period (SCCAS 2019). Listed farmsteads within the search area are recorded on 19th century mapping (but may be much earlier in date), these include:

- Rodbridge House, which is laid out in a regular courtyard multi-yard plan, with the farmhouse being detached and away from the yard. The farmstead was originally a 14th century open hall with a parlour cross-wing added in the 16th century (LMD 204, 1007m, NNW). The associated 17th century barns are Grade II listed (no. 1396596, DSF16780, 996m NNW).



- Guildhall Farm, which is laid out in a loose courtyard plan with additional detached elements and the farmstead detached and set away from the yard. The farm is thought to date to the 19th century but may form part of structures visible on the earlier Amyce map (LMD 244, 1021m NW).
- St Bartholemew's Priory Farm. A 14th century farmstead and 19th century farmhouse. The farm is laid out in a regular courtyard full plan formed by working agricultural buildings (SUY 106, 697m E). The associated weatherboarded and timber-framed barn is Grade II listed (no. 275914, DSF888, 696m ESE).
- Brundon Hall. A 19th century farmstead and 18th century farmhouse laid out in a regular courtyard multi-yard plan formed by working agricultural buildings. The Hall is Grade II\* listed (SUY 211, 764m S). Monitoring during de-silting of the moat (or post-medieval cut from the river?) showed it was fairly shallow with a flat base. The base of a brick and flint wall thought to be 19th century in date was also recorded (BCB 024, 753m S).

Near Brundon Hall associated buildings built in the 18th century, include Brundon Hall Cottages, originally a range of five cottages (SF1412, 680m S) and Brundon Mill a former watermill (BCB 024/DSF3037, 753m S).

Approximately 279m south of the site is Sudbury Hall. The house is an imposing mansion built in 1840 but substantially remodelled in 1973 when it was converted into a hotel (SUY 148, 279m S).

One the western side of the search area, running approximately north-south, was the Stour Valley Railway line which ran from Marks Tey, Essex, to Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire. The line closed in 1967 as part of the Beaching cuts (SUF 075, 634m W).

World War II defences follow along the course of the river, including a number of pillboxes (SUY 118, 797m SE; SUY119, 980m SSE; SUY 125, 634m S, SUY 156, 369m W, SUY 157, 268m SW and SUY 158, 888m NW).

***Undated:***

To the immediate north-east of Brundon Pit the SHER has cropmarks depicting the remains of possible field boundaries that form a rectilinear pattern. These are undated but may be associated with remains found at the pit (see Prehistoric section).

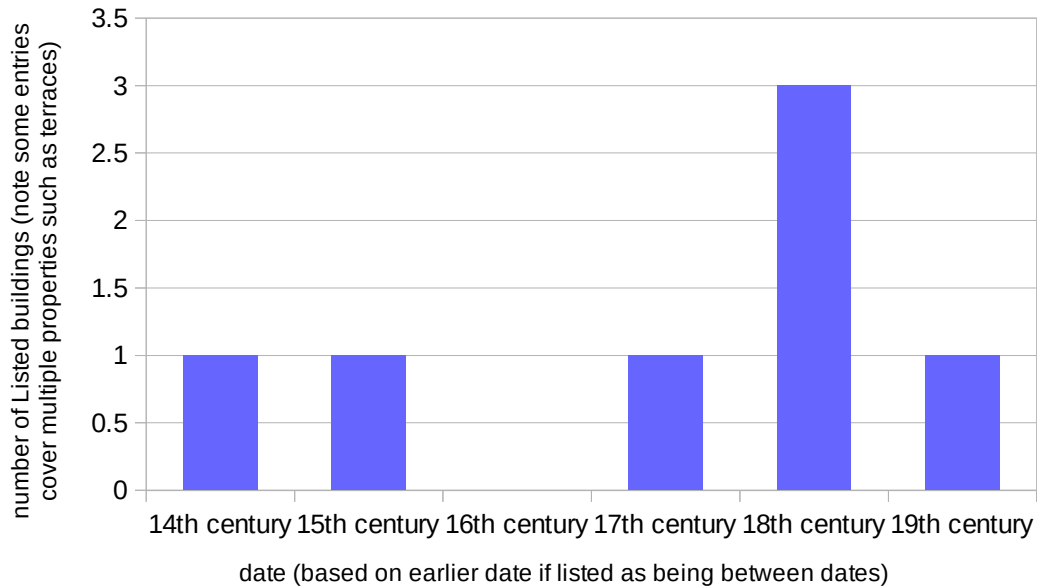
***Negative:*** No features or finds were found during monitoring of groundworks at 134 Melford Road (ESF21157, 583m SE), adjacent to the St Leonard's Hospital site (SUY 001), or at the Rodbridge Car Centre (ESF24659, 981m NW). A small evaluation on St Bartholemew's Lane did not reveal any features and the only finds was a stray medieval pot sherd and a prehistoric flint (SUY 137, 564m SE).

**Listed buildings<sup>5</sup>**

There are 7 listed buildings within the search radius (3 Grade II\* and 4 Grade II). They range in date from the 14th to the 19th century. Listed buildings are described above by period.

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



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

### Planning background

A planning application (DC/22/05570) was submitted to Babergh District Council in November 2022 for the *erection of 4no detached dwellings and associated garaging. Alterations to improve vehicular access to existing junction with the highway.*

In response to consultation with James Rolfe, 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 (Figs 1-2)

The archaeological work will consist of an evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the SCCASA (*Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at land south of High Bank, Melford Road, Sudbury– SCCAS 2022a*).

*Specifically*, there will six trenches which in total measure 120m in length by 1.8m wide, covering an area of 216m<sup>2</sup>. Trenches have been located to avoid an overhead power cable exclusion area and foliage along the boundary, but to cover as much of the footprints as possible. Individual trench lengths are as following:

- T1 22m
- T2 21m
- T3 27m
- T4 25m
- T5 25m

An additional 15m of trenching is held in reserve if localised extensions to the trenches 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 (SCCAS 2022a)
- SCC requirements for a trenched archaeological evaluation (SCCAS 2023)
- 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 three archaeologist for two days.

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 micromorphical 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 2022b).

## 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](http://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

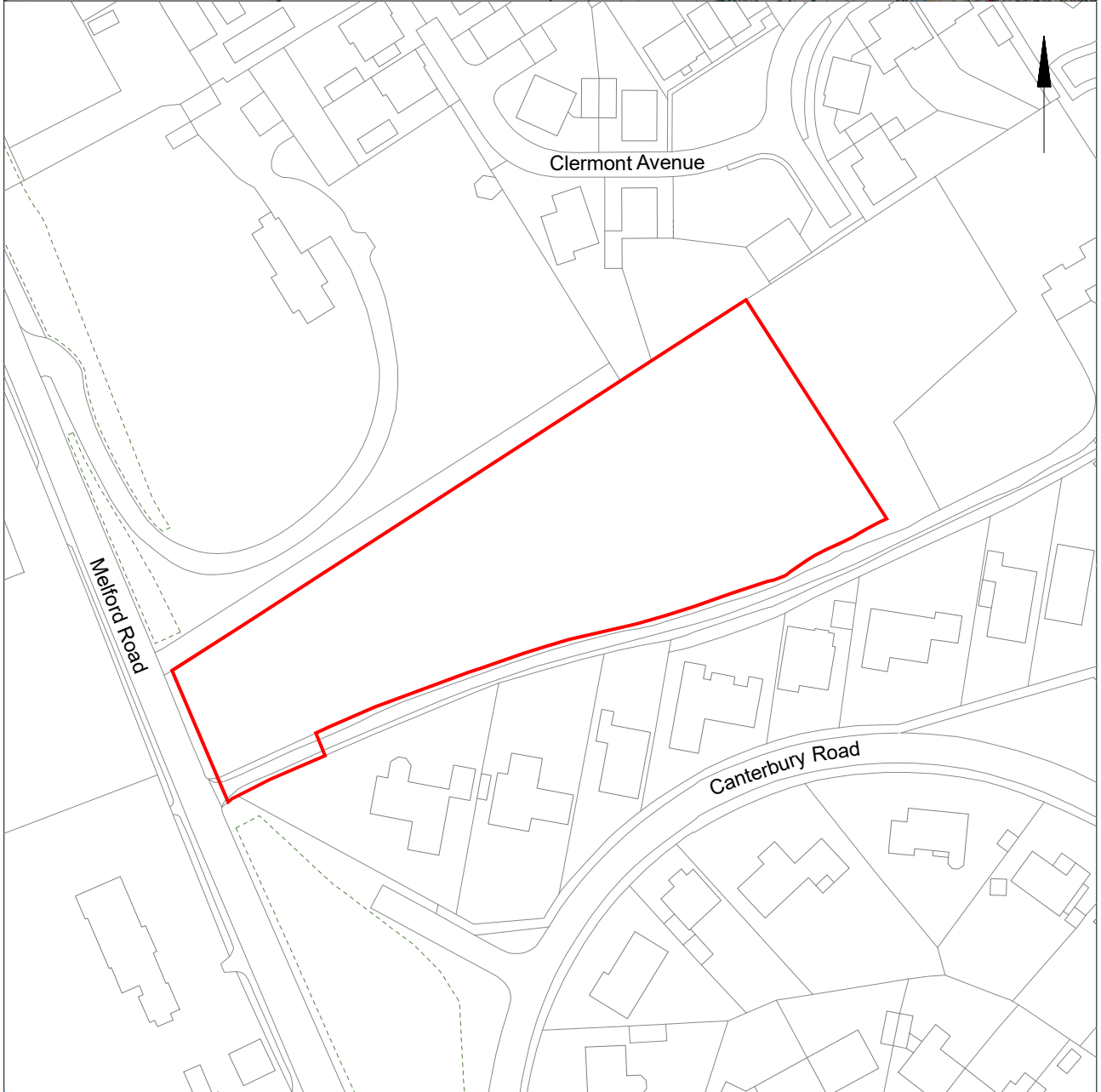
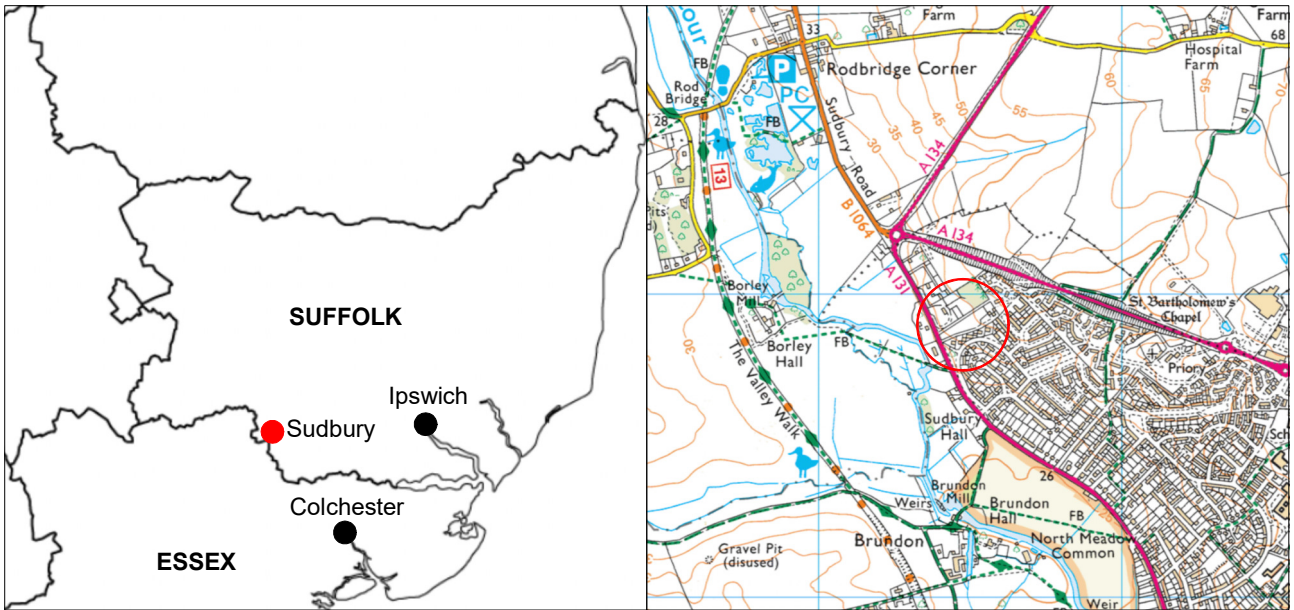


the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

## References

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
	2nd ed	
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 &amp; Safety Policy</i>
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 Campbell, L Moffett and V Straker
Historic England	2015a	<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>
SCC	2019	<i>Farmsteads in the Suffolk Countryside Project.</i> G Campbell and G McSorley
SCCAS	2022a	<i>Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at land south of High Bank, Long Melford, Sudbury</i>
SCCAS	2022b	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition</i>
SCCAS	2023	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation.</i> Revised Nov 2022



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m

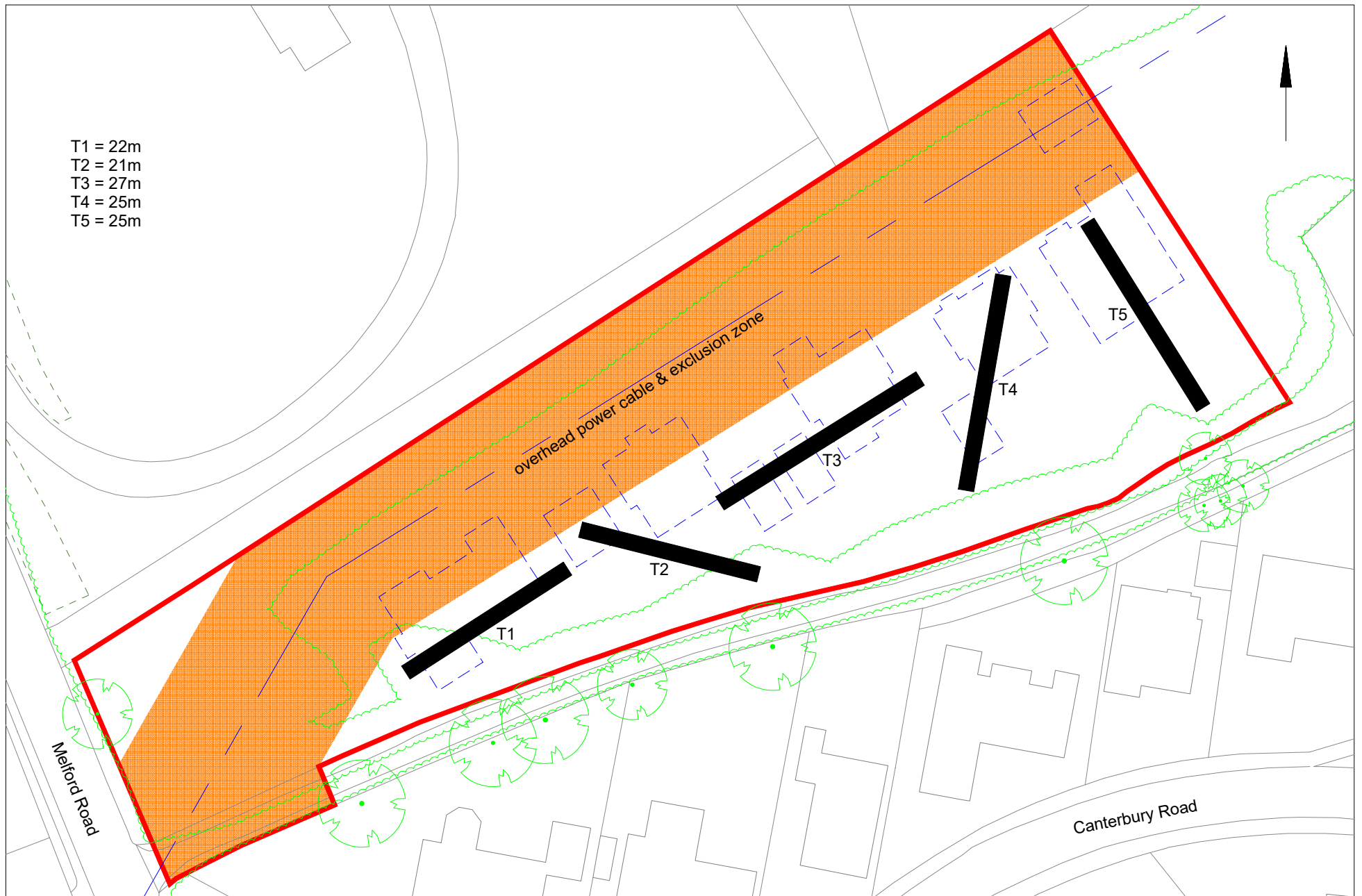


Fig 2 Trench locations in relation to the proposed development and site constraints.



Fig 3 Development site (red) in relation to archaeological data recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment records.



## Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ  
Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org or lp@catuk.org

# Digital Management Plan

## Section 1: Project Administration

Project ID / OASIS ID
CAT Project Code: 2023/01n Suffolk HER Parish Number: SUY 222 OASIS ID: colchest3-512448
Project Name
Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land south of 'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, CO10 1XU.
Project Description
Archaeological trial-trenching before the construction of four detached dwellings.
Project Funder / Grant reference
Vaughan & Blyth
Project Managers
Chris Lister (Contracts Manager), Adam Wightman (Excavation Manager), Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager)
Principal Investigator / Researcher
Project Officer (to be determined)
Data Contact Person
Laura Pooley
Date DMP created
07/02//2023
Date DMP last updated
Version
V1
Related data management policies
Data Management Policy, Colchester Archaeological Trust (in preparation) ClfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014) ADS Guides to Good Practice ( <a href="https://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main">https://guides.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/g2gp/Main</a> )

## **Section 2: Data Collection**

### What data will you collect or create?

The table below provides a summary of the data types, formats and estimated archive volume for data collected/created as part of this project. As the project progresses, more detail regarding files will be added to this DMP.

Type	Format	Estimated volume (data archive)
Text / documents	Word/Open Office document (.doc) or (.odt) PDF (.pdf) or (.pdfa)	20 objects (size <100MB) (Project brief, WSI, report, figures, context data)
Spreadsheets	Excel (.xlsx)	Specialist data tables (x1) Metadata tables (x4)
Images	Lossy graphic file (.jpg)	Archive shots <150, av size 7KB
Images	Lossless graphic file (.tiff)	Report figures (<5)
CAD	.dxf	1 object, 51KB

### How will the data be collected or created?

#### **Data standards/methods**

Standard methods of data collection will be applied throughout the project. In general, data acquisition standards are defined against ADS Guides to Good Practice.

Methods of collection are specified within the Colchester Archaeological Trust Data Management Policy (in preparation) and will meet the requirement set out in the Project Brief and relevant ClfA Standards and guidance.

Where appropriate, project contributors external to the organisation will be required to include data standards, collection methodology and metadata with individual reports and data.

#### **Data storage/file naming**

The working project archive will be stored in a project specific folder on the internal server. The internal organisation server is backed up daily to maintain an up to date security copy of the organisation wide data.

Project folders are named following established organisational procedures.

Data collected will be downloaded and raw data will be stored in the appropriate folder.

File naming conventions will follow established organisational procedures based on ADS file naming guidance.

All files included as part of this project archive will include the Site ID (-) and file descriptor (eg Brief).

#### **Quality assurance**

All site records and data collected will be reviewed during project delivery to ensure data is accurate and secure.

Data collection and management are reviewed regularly. This includes a review of internal project folders to ensure our organisational data management standards are being met.

## **Section 3: Documentation and metadata**

### What documentation and metadata will accompany the data?

The digital data collected will include standard formats which maximise opportunities for use and reuse in the future (see Section 2, above).

A Collection Level Metadata Summary is included in all standard archaeological projects and will be completed as the project is delivered. A working copy will be kept on the organisational server in the Project Folder. The Collection Level Metadata Summary brings together the overarching project details and includes a register of data types and number of objects included in the archive, along with all other archive components.

Metadata tables for each data type will be populated as the project progresses and will use the standard format for each data type as recommended by ADS, who are the intended repository for the digital data archive.

Data documentation will meet the requirement of the Project Brief, Museum Deposition Guidelines and Digital Repository Guidelines.

An archive catalogue documenting both physical and/or digital archive products will be maintained and submitted with both the Museum and/or Trusted Digital Repository.

#### **Section 4: Ethics and legal compliance**

How will you manage any ethical, copyright and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues?

CAT has a GDPR compliant Privacy Policy which underpins the management of personal data; any personal data is securely stored in password protected files and not retained on the project specific folders.

Personal data will be removed from the archaeological project archive and permission to include individual's names in any reporting is gained prior to use.

Copyright for all data collected by the project team belongs to the organisation, and formal permission to include data from external specialists and contractors is secured on the engagement of the specialist or contractor.

#### **Section 5: Data Security: Storage and Backup**

How will the data be stored, accessed and backed up during the research?

Digital data will be stored on the organisational server which is backed up daily.

Sufficient data storage space is available via the organisational server and is accessible by staff on and offsite through a secure log-in.

Off-site access to the project files on the organisation's server is provided to support back-up of raw data while fieldwork is ongoing. Where internet access for data back up is not possible, the raw data will be backed up to a separate media device (such as laptop and portable external hard drive) or downloaded onto the server at the end of each day.

Project files will be copied and shared with external specialists and contractors as necessary, the originals being kept on the organisation server and replaced with any subsequent versions.

#### **Section 6: Selection and Preservation**

Which data should be retained, shared, and/or preserved?

The DMP will be reviewed and updated if necessary as the project proceeds. Updated documentation will be included in all reporting stages.

Prior to deposition, the DMP will be updated and finalised in agreement with all project stakeholders (including the Local Planning Archaeologist, Client, Museum, ADS).

Selection will be informed by the Colchester Archaeological Trust Data Management Policy, defined against the research aims, regional and national research frameworks, specialist advice and the significance of the project

results.

The project will be published as an online technical report (accessible via CAT Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), OASIS and as part of this the archive), with full access to research data.

The project results may provide new research data which can be included in the Historic Environment Record.

The data archive will be ordered, with files named and structured in a logical manner, and accompanied by relevant documentation and metadata, as outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this DMP.

What is the long-term preservation plan for the dataset?

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service, which is a certified repository with Core Trust Seal.

The archive will be prepared for deposition by the project team and the costs for the time needed for preparation, and the cost of deposition have been included in the project budget.

Have you contacted the data repository?

As per the brief, the SCCAS has confirmed that the digital archive component should be deposited with a trusted digital repository, with a copy also being supplied to SCCAS.

ADS have not yet been contacted as the intended repository for digital data.

Have the costs of archiving been fully considered?

A costing estimate has been produced using the ADS Costing Calculator and sufficient resources to cover these costs, and to allow for the preparation of the archive, have been included in the project budget.

## Section 7: Data Sharing

How will you share the data and make it accessible?

A summary of the project has been included on the OASIS Index of Archaeological Investigation and will be updated as the project progresses.

The investigations are likely to result in a number of documents: Brief, WSI, Final Report

The final report is expected to be completed within 6 months of the completion of fieldwork.

As the project progresses reports will be attached to the project OASIS record.

A final version of the project report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record via OASIS, and any data which they request can also be provided directly.

The location(s) of the final Archaeological Archive will be added to OASIS when appropriate.

The ADS will disseminate the digital elements of the Archaeological Archive online under a creative commons licence and the dataset will receive a unique identifier (DOI).

Are any restrictions on data sharing required?

It is not expected that there will be any restrictions on data sharing.

Any data specific requirements, ethical issues or embargoes which are linked to particular data formats will be documented within the relevant metadata tables accompanying the project archive.



## Section 8: Responsibilities

### Who will be responsible for implementing the data management plan?

The Excavation Manager (Adam Wightman) and Post-excavation Manager (Laura Pooley) are responsible for implementing the DMP, and ensuring it is reviewed and revised as necessary.

Data capture, metadata production and data quality is the responsibility of the Project Team, assured by the Excavation and Post-excavation Managers.

Storage and backup of data in the field is the responsibility of the field team.

Once data is incorporated into the organisations project server, storage and backup is managed by the organisation.

Data archiving is undertaken by the project team under the guidance of the Post-excavation Manager, who is responsible for the transfer of the Archaeological Project Archive to the agreed repository.

## Summary for colchest3-512448

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-512448
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land south of High Bank, Melford Road, Sudbury, CO10 1XU
Sitename	Land south of High Bank, Melford Road, Sudbury, CO10 1XU
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2023/01n
Planning Id	DC/22/05570
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	28-Mar-2023 - 29-Mar-2023
Location	Land south of High Bank, Melford Road, Sudbury, CO10 1XU NGR : TL 86480 42900 LL : 52.0531029201339, 0.718340316272504 12 Fig : 586480,242900
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Babergh Parish : Sudbury
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the south of 'High Bank', Melford Road, Sudbury, Suffolk in advance of the construction of five new residential dwellings. The site is located within an archaeologically-sensitive area, on the edge of the historic settlement of Sudbury and south of the historic village of Long Melford. The evaluation revealed five ditches, five pits/tree-throws and a post-hole. Most of the features were undated with only two finds recovered, a piece of post-medieval peg-tile from the post-hole and an undatable fragment of iron nail from one of the pits/tree-throws.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Holloway
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - SUY 222
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;