



8 Clopton Drive Long Melford, Suffolk

Client:
Medusa Design

Date:
December 2017

LMD 268
Archaeological Monitoring Report
SACIC Report No. 2017/037
Author: Rob Brooks
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8 Clopton Drive, Long Melford LMD 268

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SACIC Report No. 2017/037

Author: Rob Brooks

Contributions By: Ioannis Smyrniaios, Ruth Beveridge,

Pieta Graves and Phillip de Jersey

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Editor: Richenda Goffin

Report Date: December 2017

HER Information

Site Code/Event Number: LMD 268/ESF25505
Site Name: 8 Clopton Drive
Report Number 2017/037
Planning Application No: B/17/00073/FHA/MAHA
Date of Fieldwork: 18/04/2017 – 14/06/2017
Grid Reference: TL 8631 4493
OASIS Reference: suffolka1-282007
Curatorial Officer: James Rolfe
Project Officer: Rob Brooks
Client/Funding Body: Medusa Design

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Rob Brooks

Date: 07/12/2017

Approved By: John Craven

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date: 07/12/2017

Signed:

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

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Summary




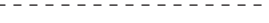







Monitoring of stripping for a garage slab foundation and its associated soakaway was undertaken to the rear of 8 Clopton's Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk. Neither area of groundworks uncovered the natural geology, recording only topsoil deposits. Finds were recovered from this material, including a gold quarter stater (5 BC – AD 10), Roman pottery and brick or tile, a single iron nail, a piece of copper alloy waste and a possible lead cloth seal.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation 
- Features 
- Break of Slope 
- Features - Conjectured 
- Natural Features 
- Sondages/Machine Strip 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Illustrated Section  S.14
- Cut Number 
- Archaeological Features 

Sections

- Limit of Excavation 
- Cut 
- Modern Cut 
- Cut - Conjectured 
- Deposit Horizon 
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured 
- Intrusion/Truncation 
- Top of Natural 
- Top Surface 
- Break in Section 
- Cut Number 
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45\text{m OD}}{\times}$

1. Introduction

A monitoring of groundworks was carried out in the back garden of 8 Clopton Drive, Long Melford, in Suffolk, at grid reference TL 8631 4493 (Fig. 1) during groundworks to build a single storey extension, rebuild and enlarge an existing porch and add two soakaways. The work was undertaken from 18th April to 14th June 2017 and was carried out under the supervision of Rob Brooks and managed by John Craven of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Monitoring was required as a condition on planning application B/17/00073/FHA/MAHA, as specified in a Brief by James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) and to the Written Scheme of Investigation by John Craven (Appendix 1). Groundworks for a front porch were not monitored.

2. Geology and topography

The British Geological Society website records of the site list the geology as superficial deposits of river terrace deposits of sand and gravel, overlying bedrock formations of Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk and Culver Chalk. Most of the surrounding area is listed as having the Seaford deposit. Immediately east of the site, the superficial geology is a mixture of Head clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2017). On site, the geology was not fully uncovered, but the very upper horizon of a layer of orange sand and flints was recorded which was believed to be the superficial geology.

The site was largely level, with the closest Ordnance Datum points recorded at 30.5m (179m to the south-west) and 32.48m (115m to the north-west), whilst heights recorded at the primary school (370m to the north-east) were recorded at c.35m, indicating a gradual slope from the north down to the south. The River Stour lies 290m to the west.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The following is adapted from Brooks 2016

The village of Long Melford is well-recorded as being an area of substantial later Iron Age settlement and as a Roman small town, with medieval occupation following Hall Street (which roughly follows the route of a Roman road, recorded as LMD 031 in the

Historic Environment Record (HER)). The road was partially excavated in an area at the southern end of the village, revealing a south-south-west to north-north-east alignment with associated ditches. The path of the road lies approximately 55m to the west of the site and was possibly traced at Chapel House, c.105m to the north of the site in 2016 (Pooley). A further Roman road possibly enters the village on an east to west alignment from the east. Since the 1960s a range of Roman archaeological evidence has been recorded in the parish, with almost all groundworks having produced features and finds of Roman provenance. The most notable site is a large structure at Liston Lane, probably a bathhouse, which is recorded on the HER as LMD 017 (Scheduled Ancient Monument SF90). This building was associated with 1st to 2nd century Roman finds and is located c.235m to the north-west of the site. Although very little archaeological work has been carried out at Liston Lane, it is known to have a tessellated floor.

In the later Iron Age, Long Melford fell within the area of tribal influence of the Trinovantes, whose range spread across Essex and south Suffolk. The Trinovantes became associated with the Catuvellauni towards the end of the later pre-Roman Iron Age, whose initial focus had been towards the west, around Hertfordshire. Both groups had links with the expanding Roman Empire, particularly with northern Gaul. These tribal cultures continued to play a role within the period of Roman rule, although Romanised and continental behaviours were forthcoming.

Although there is late Iron Age occupation around Long Melford, the origins of the Roman town are partly thought to stem from a military garrison, due to the discovery of a sword at the site of 'land adjacent to the Bramertons' (LMD 131), as well as pottery imports usually associated with the Roman army in the first century (Plouviez, J., pers. comm. 2013), as well as a silver denarius, commonly used for military pay, from Little St Mary's (LMD 115 – Boulter 1997).

Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) has extensive knowledge of the Long Melford area and, bearing in mind the results of the project, a full HER search was not considered necessary, as agreed with James Rolfe (SCCAS).

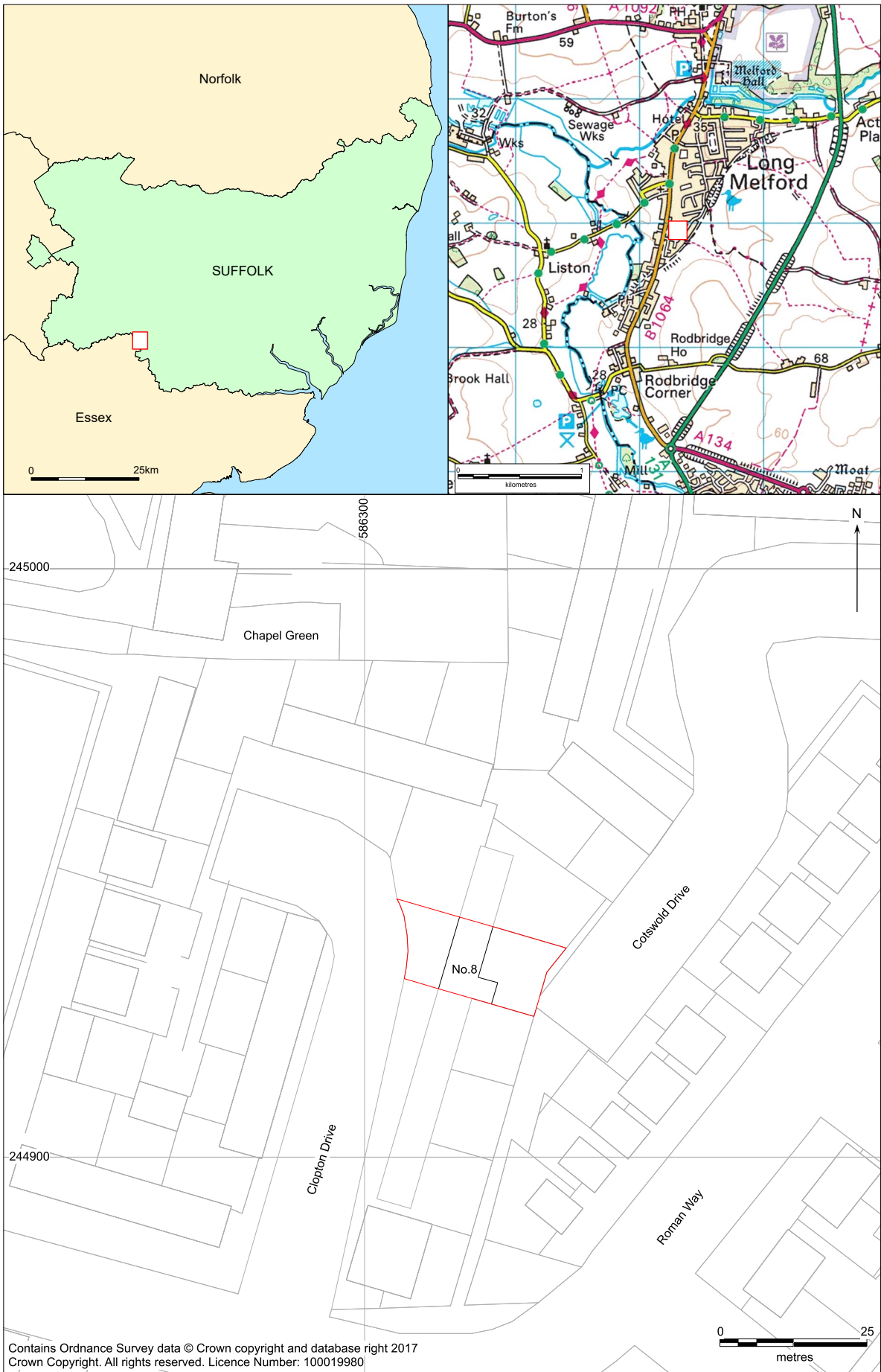
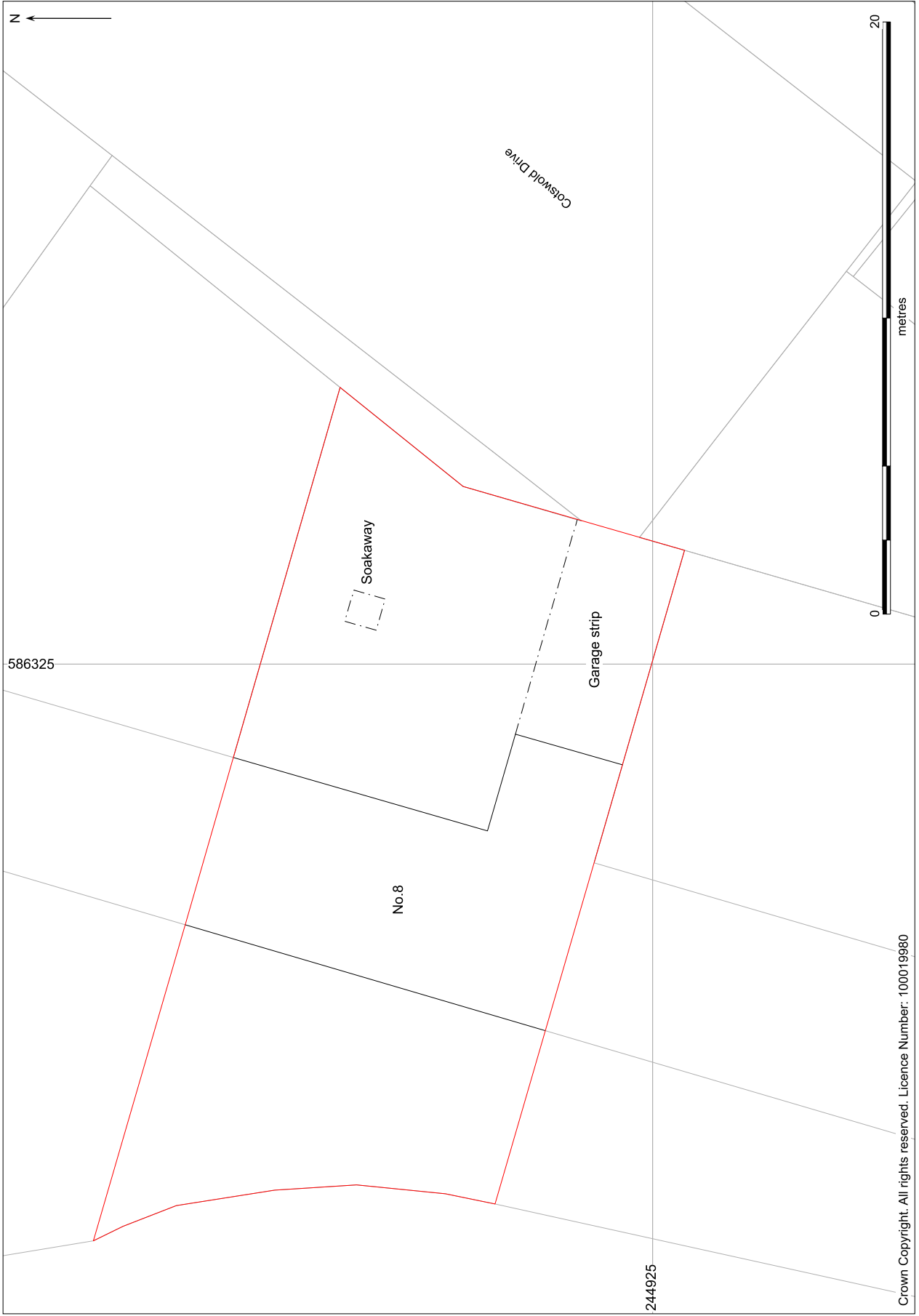


Figure 1. Site location



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Figure 2. Site plan

4. Methodology

The strip for the rear extension slab covered c.28.3m², whilst the garage soakaway was 1.21m². The works were carried out on 18th-19th April and 14th June 2017. The entire area of the garage extension was excavated for a 0.5m deep slab foundation, rather than footing trenches.

During the monitoring works, topsoil and quantities of building rubble were stripped by a mechanical excavator using a ditching bucket. The soil profiles were measured and deposits issued with four-digit context numbers. Written records were made on *pro forma* trench sheets. A digital photographic record was made. Metal detecting was undertaken across all deposits and spoil by an experienced detectorist.

Site data has been input into an MS Access database using the County HER code LMD 268. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolka1-282007 – Appendix 2) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>). The majority of the archive will be deposited with SCCAS in Bury St Edmunds following the approval of this report, but is currently held by SACIC in Needham Market. The single gold coin, having been conserved and fully recorded, is to be retained by the landowner.

5. Results

5.1 Garage strip

Stripping of the area for the extension's slab foundation removed just under 0.5m of material, consisting of topsoil 0001, which had a sporadic covering of modern gravel and hardcore (Pl. 1). In the centre of the strip a cherry tree root system was removed and despite penetrating a further 0.2m+, this did not clearly reveal any different deposits or geological levels.

During the removal of topsoil 0001 it was continuously monitored for finds, with a piece of Roman brick or tile being recovered, along with two Roman pottery sherds (7g). Detecting of the area after it had been stripped to full depth uncovered a gold quarter stater coin (SF 1001), likely to date to between 5 BC and AD 10. Other material recovered from the detecting included a single nail, a piece of folded lead sheet with an impressed 'X' within a box (SF 1003) and a piece of copper alloy casting or smelting waste (SF 1002).



Plate 1. Garage strip (facing east-south-east)

5.2 Soakaway

The soakaway measured 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.2m deep. The profile revealed topsoil 0002 to the full depth of the hole, at the base of which the upper horizon of what appeared to be undisturbed geology was recorded (Pl. 2). This consisted of loose brownish-orange sand with abundant small flints. One piece of Roman brick or tile was recovered (194g). The trench leading from the garage to the soakaway was at most 0.3m deep and subsequently did not penetrate below the topsoil and did not produce finds.



Plate 2. Soakaway profile (facing west-north-west, 1m scale)

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Ioannis Smyrnaiois

6.1 Pottery

The monitoring produced two small sherds of pottery from the unstratified topsoil, both dating to the Roman period. One small rim sherd, weighing 5g, comes from a micaceous grey ware with black surfaces (GMB), and is most likely a small bowl. The sherd is worn and its rim diameter is uncertain. Its external surface carries a deep decorative incision. The second sherd, weighing 2g, comes from the base of a micaceous grey ware with grey surfaces (GMG). The base diameter and the shape of the original vessel are unclear.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

The unstratified topsoil produced a piece of Roman brick or tile (RBT) weighing 194g. The brick is dark orange with grey core, made from a fine sandy clay with few irregular voids (fsv). The piece is 4cm thick.

6.3 Iron nails

The only metal find from the site is a broken iron nail weighing 2g. The nail is 4.5 cm long and preserves part of the shank and the head; it is highly corroded with severe concretion around the head area.

6.4 Small finds

Ruth Beveridge

Introduction and recording method

Three objects were recorded as small finds during the monitoring, one each of gold, copper alloy and lead. They have been fully recorded and catalogued on the database with the assistance of low powered magnification. A complete listing is provided as Appendix 3. The objects were found by metal detecting of the topsoil.

Condition

The overall condition of the objects is fair with few corrosion products visible. The gold coin has been cleaned and stabilised by P. Greaves (Drakon Heritage and Conservation). The conservation report will be deposited with the archive. As a single gold coin, the item is not considered as Treasure Trove.

The assemblage

Prehistoric

Information on the coin was provided by Philip de Jersey (pers. comm.)

Gold

Gold quarter stater, weight 1.35g (Pl. 3).

Obverse: wreath with plain crescents back-to-back at centre, pellet-in-ring to either side

Reverse: horse left, branch below and trefoil motif above

ABC (Cottam *et al.*, 2010) 2395; BMC (Hobbs 1996) 2442; VA (Van Arsdell 1989) 1660

A gold quarter stater almost certainly of Dubnovellaunos, although there is no inscription present on this type; it is however essentially a reduction of the stater (e.g. ABC 2392) which bears the DVBNOVILLAVN inscription. Just over thirty examples of this type are recorded by the Celtic Coin Index and Portable Antiquities Scheme database, about half of them from Essex and most of the remainder from Hertfordshire and Suffolk.

Dubnovellaunos appears to have ruled areas on both sides of the Thames around the turn of the first century BC/AD. He may have come to power in Kent around 25 BC, and expanded his territory to the north – into the territory of the Trinovantes – in the final years of the first century BC, perhaps around 5 BC, and then ruled in both areas until about AD 10. This coin belongs to his Essex issues and thus is likely to date between about 5 BC and AD 10.

SF1001, topsoil layer 0001.

Uncertain date

Copper alloy

Elongated, irregular shaped piece of molten copper alloy casting or smelting waste. The surface is pitted and slaggy in small patches.

SF1002, topsoil layer 0001.

Lead

Piece of lead sheet, originally circular and now folded tightly in half. One edge is folded back on itself further. One face is impressed with an X within a box. Possibly a disc from a cloth seal.

SF1003, topsoil layer 0001.



Plate 3. SF 1001, quarter stater, after conservation

Discussion

The three small finds are likely to have reached the site through casual loss. The coin is of interest, and whilst it does not confirm Iron Age settlement within the vicinity, it does support the extent of tribal influence of the Trinovantes within the Long Melford region.

The dates of the copper casting waste and the lead object are uncertain. If the casting waste is Roman then this would indicate an element of metalworking in the locality during that period.

7. Discussion and conclusions

Due to the groundworks not penetrating below the topsoil, no features were recorded, but the range of finds is interesting and indicates Long Melford's continued potential to uncover archaeologically significant deposits. It is thought likely that archaeological deposits relating to the late Iron Age and Roman settlement may well survive, undisturbed, below the new development.

The CBM is suggestive of a building of some significance in the area (possibly relating to the bathhouse), whilst the copper alloy shows metalworking and the pottery, general domestic occupation. Of these, the metalworking is particularly significant (if it is of Roman origin), as further evidence of such activity has previously been recorded at the primary school excavations, indicating the relative importance of Long Melford as a Roman Small Town. The gold coin is another interesting find as late Iron Age material has often been recorded in the village, yet occupation features from this period have not been identified in any great number.

8. Archive deposition

The complete site archive is currently held by SACIC at Needham Market. Upon approval of this report, the archive will be transferred to the SCCAS Bury St Edmunds, although the gold coin will be transferred to the owner in agreement with SCCAS. A copy of the digital archive will be retained by SACIC.

9. Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was carried out and directed by Rob Brooks. Project management was undertaken by John Craven, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds report was produced by Ioannis Smyrniaios and additional specialist work was carried out by Ruth Beveridge, Pieta Graves and Phillip de Jersey.

The report illustrations were created by Rob Brooks and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

10. Bibliography

Boulter, S., 1997, *Gardners Garage Site, Little St Marys, Long Melford (LMD 115), Summary of Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation*. Ipswich: unpublished Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service document.

BGS, 2017, information obtained from the *Geology of Britain Viewer*, available at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/products/digitalmaps/> and reproduced with the permission of the British Geological Survey ©NERC, all rights Reserved.

Brooks, R., 2016, *Long Melford Primary School, Long Melford, Suffolk, Archaeological Excavation and Analysis Report*, SACIC Report No. 2015/027, Needham Market: Suffolk Archaeology CIC.

Cottam, E., de Jersey, P., Rudd, C., and Sills, J., 2010, *Ancient British Coins*, Norwich.

Hobbs, R., 1996, *British Iron Age coins in the British Museum*, London.

Pooley, L., 2016, *Archaeological excavation and monitoring of land to the rear of Chapel House, Chapel Green, Little St. Mary's, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9HX*, CAT Report 893. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.

Van Arsdell, R.D., 1989, *Celtic coinage of Britain*, London.

Appendix 1. Abridged written scheme of investigation



8 Clopton Drive

Long Melford, Suffolk

Client:

Medusa Design

Date:

April 2017

LMD 268

Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment – Archaeological Monitoring

Author: Stuart Boulter

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WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Site Name: 8 Clopton Drive

GRID REF: TL 863 449

Suffolk HER No.: LMD 268

Suffolk HER Event No.: ESF25505

SACIC JOB CODE: LMDCLD001

Oasis No.: suffolka1-282007

- Suffolk Archaeology CIC (hereafter SACIC) have provided a Written Scheme of Investigation covering the archaeological monitoring and recording of the ground disturbance associated with the erection of a single-storey Garage at 8 Clopton Drive, Long Melford (Figure 1).
- The WSI has been produced at the request of Lee French of Medusa Design and adheres to the requirements of a Brief prepared by James Rolfe of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service Field Projects Team and dated 23rd March 2017.
- An allowance has been made to cover the projected cost of this work and the relevant estimate has previously been provided that will remain current for all work undertaken before the end of March 2018.

1. Background

- The site is located within the area of a substantial Roman settlement recorded on the County Historic Environment Record as LMD 172.
- Invasive groundworks associated with the construction of a single -storey garage have the potential to damage any archaeological deposits that are present on the site.

Figure 1. Location map - REMOVED

2. Project Aims

- To produce a permanent record of the site in an archive that will be deposited with Suffolk Heritage Environment Record (hereafter HER).
- The site will be recorded under a new HER site code (LMD 268). An OASIS record has been initiated and a .pdf version of the report will be uploaded on to the website for immediate release: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

3. Monitoring of Groundworks: method statement

- An experienced field archaeologist from SCACIC will be in constant attendance during all ground disturbance/excavations associated with the development. Contractors will allow time during and after their excavations for archaeological recording to be undertaken.
- Any archaeological features exposed during the work will be sectioned by hand with sampling at a normal standard for medieval and earlier deposits (i.e. 100% of structural features or graves/cremations and prehistoric/Roman features, 50% of later contained features e.g. pits, and 10-20% of linear features (where appropriate within the confines of the excavation).
- Deposits will be sampled for environmental material as appropriate (and as suggested by EAA Occ. Paper Research Agenda- Environmental Archaeology). If thought appropriate and of archaeological benefit a metal detector search of exposed surfaces and spoil will be undertaken.
- Site records will be made on SCCAS/FPT pro forma context sheets under a continuous and unique numbering system and conventions compatible with the county HER will be used throughout the monitoring.

- Site plans will be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 (all on plastic drawing film) and related to the OS map cover.
- A photographic record (high resolution digital shots) of the site (both before and after the project works) and any archaeological features will be made where appropriate.
- A Ministry of Justice licence for removal of human remains will be obtained if necessary (any such find would require work in that part of the site to stop until the human remains have been recorded/removed).

4. Report/Archive: method Statement

- Site and finds records will be entered onto Microsoft Access databases and will be archived in paper and electronic form. Site plans and sections will be digitised for report and archive purposes.
- All finds will be processed by SACIC to minimum standards laid down by the relevant finds groups (e.g. Roman Pottery Research Group) and stored in archive stable bags/boxes. Metal finds will be x-rayed if appropriate and stabilised as necessary to ICON standards. Environmental samples will be processed and assessed by a recognised regional contractor. It is anticipated that finds will be deposited in the County Store for future reference.
- A full monitoring report summarising all the findings and containing a full assessment of all finds and samples will be produced and copies submitted to the client and the county HER. The report will contain all appropriate scale plans and sections. The monitoring report will contain a recommendation for further analysis and publication of the results as appropriate and in accordance with regional research agendas and strategies (EAA Occ. Papers 3 and 8 and revised Regional Research Framework of 2008). The report will form the basis for full discharge of the relevant condition
- A full project archive will be submitted to the County Archaeological Store. SACIC will take responsibility to report any finds which might qualify under the Treasure Act 1996. The archive will be in paper and electronic form. A summary of the project findings will also be produced. The landowner will receive copies of the report with all finds fully listed.

5. On completion of the work:

- Hard copies and/or a digital version of the report will be submitted to the HER and the client within three months of completion of the works.
- The project archive will be submitted to the Suffolk HER.
- An Oasis Record (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations – <http://oasis.ac.uk/england>) will be completed and a pdf version of the report uploaded for immediate release.

6. Risk Assessment:

Work in a semi-rural location close to operating mechanical plant:

- Site staff will wear protective clothing on site at all times (hard hat, high visibility vest, steel-toe cap boots). The PO will report to the main contractor/developer at the beginning of each site visit. All staff hold CSCS cards.
- Site staff will not enter the operating range of mechanical plant.
- Vehicles will be parked in a safe location.
- A fully charged mobile phone will be on site at all times.
- Site staff will be aware of the location of the nearest A & E unit and a vehicle will be on site at all times. It is likely that the relevant PO will be a qualified First Aider.

- SACIC holds full insurance policies for field work (details on request)

Appendix 2. OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: suffolka1-282007

Project details

Project name	LMD 268 8 Clopton Drive Monitoring, Long Melford
Short description of the project	Monitoring of stripping for a garage slab foundation and its associated soakaway was undertaken to the rear of 8 Clopton's Drive, Long Melford, Suffolk. Neither area of groundworks uncovered the natural geology, recording only topsoil deposits. Finds were recovered from this material, including a gold quarter stater (5 BC - AD 10), Roman pottery and brick or tile, a single iron nail, a piece of copper alloy waste and a possible lead cloth seal.
Project dates	Start: 18-04-2017 End: 14-06-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LMD 268 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	B/17/00073/FHA/MAHA - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESF25505 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	LAYER Modern
Significant Finds	TILE OR BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	NAIL Uncertain
Significant Finds	CLOTH SEAL Uncertain
Significant Finds	CASTING OR SMELTING WASTE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH LONG MELFORD LMD 268 8 Clopton Drive Monitoring
Postcode	CO10 9LJ

Study area 200 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 863 449 52.070599472905 0.718537232325 52 04 14 N 000 43 06 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator James Rolfe
Project director/manager John Craven
Project supervisor Rob Brooks
Type of sponsor/funding body Architect on behalf of client
Name of sponsor/funding body Medusa Design

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Landowner
Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Metal"
Physical Archive notes Gold quarter stater being retained by landowner.
Digital Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Metal", "Survey", "other"
Digital Media available "Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk HER
Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Metal", "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Other bibliographic details SACIC Report No. 2017/037
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Place of issue or publication Needham Market, Ipswich
Description A4, comb bound, white card covers.

Entered by Rob Brooks (rob.brooks@suffolkarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 29 November 2017

OASIS:

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

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=302442> for this page

Appendix 3. Small finds catalogue

Small Find No	Object	No of Frags	Weight (g)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Depth (mm)	Diam. (mm)	Material	Description	Period
1001	Coin	1	1.35			1.8	12	Gold	Complete Iron Age gold quarter stater of the Trinovantes, attributed to Dubnovellaunos, c. 30BC - AD14. It is dish-shaped with finely executed detail. Obv: linear wreath with central back to back crescents; pellet in annulet either side. At one end of the wreath is the possible remains of another pellet in annulet.	Pre
1002	Waste	1	11	36	16	7		Copper alloy	Elongated, irregular shaped piece of molten copper alloy casting or smelting waste. The surface is pitted and slaggy in small patches.	
1003	?Cloth seal	1	4.5	23	17	3		Lead	Piece of lead sheet, originally circular and now folded tightly in half. One edge is folded back on itself further. One face is impressed with an X within a box. Possibly a disc from a cloth seal.	?Pmed

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