

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2012/128	Parish: Long Melford
9 Rivish Lane LMD 206	Planning Application No.: B\12\00122
	HER Event No.: LMD 206
Address: 9 Rivish Lane, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9CH	Grid Reference: TL 863 450
	Number of Site visits: 2
	Date of visits: 28–30/08/12
Introduction <p>A continuous monitoring was carried out at 9 Rivish Lane, Long Melford, during the excavation of footing and services trenches for a house extension. Two site visits were made on the 28th and 30th of August 2012. The project design was produced on behalf of Mr Brightman and the works were carried out to a brief supplied by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT). A condition was placed on these ground works as the site lies within an area of known Iron Age and Romano-British occupation.</p>	
Groundworks <p>The first stage of ground works was undertaken on the 28th of August. It consisted of the excavation of footing trenches for the proposed extension to the rear of the property. This trench was L shaped and ran north-south from the north-west corner of the original building and then turned east-west to join with the corner of an earlier extension. Its entire length was 7m with an approximate 50:50 split between the two alignments and it was 0.7m wide. It was excavated to a depth of between 1-1.1m.</p> <p>The second stage of ground works took place on the 30th of August and involved the excavation of a pipe trench so a drain could be fitted to the proposed extension and join up with existing sewers to the front of the house. The trench ran for approximately 14.5m, was 0.4m wide and reached a maximum depth of 0.88m. The trench was wider at its eastern most limits to enable access to the existing</p>	

pipe work.

Results:

The excavation revealed a possible Late Iron Age (LIA)/ Early Romano-British pit at the southern most extent of the initial foundation trenches. This was under a thick layer of topsoil 0001 and appeared to be cut through a mixed silt and natural layer 0002.

Pit 0004 was uncovered at the southern most point of the foundation trench and just to the north of the current building at 9 Rivish Lane. Only some of the feature was visible within the trench as it had been truncated during the construction of the standing building and extended beyond the foundation trench to the east and the west. In plan it was narrower to the west than the east and had a curved edge, suggesting that it was a pit rather than a ditch. The sides were steep and slightly concave and led into shallower and more concave slope. It was sealed by the topsoil and appeared to be cut through a mixed silt and natural layer 0002. One broken piece of Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British pottery was discovered within the pits orange grey brown sandy silt fill 0003. Although this is not enough evidence to confidently date this pit it is broadly consistent with much of the archaeology within the parish of Long Melford.

The site was covered in a relatively thick layer of topsoil which was a constant 0.6-0.65m thick across the majority of the site, only becoming deeper over the top of pit 0004, where it had probably been pressed in to the less compact backfill 0003. Under this was a layer of mid yellow brown sandy silt with frequent gravel, which ranged from 0.18-0.32m in thickness. The colour, nature and the fact that pit 0004 appeared to be cut through this layer suggest that it could be naturally derived.

Finds:

Three joining body sherds of wheel thrown grog-tempered pottery (GROG) were retrieved from pit fill 0003 at Long Melford. This fabric straddles the Roman conquest period and is dated from the LIA to c AD60/70. In the absence of a reliable form type, it is not possible to say which side of the conquest period they belong.

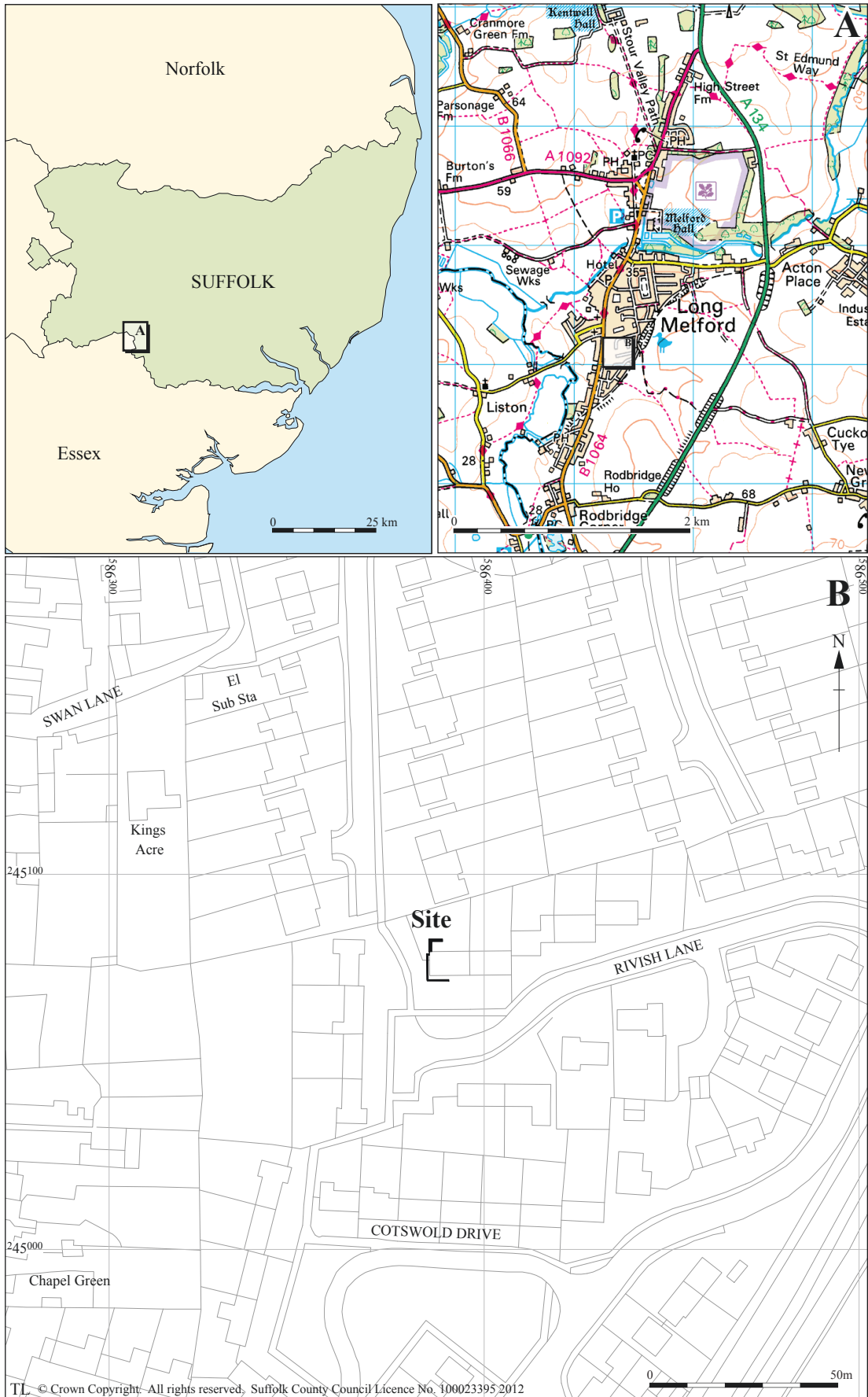


Figure 1. Location plan

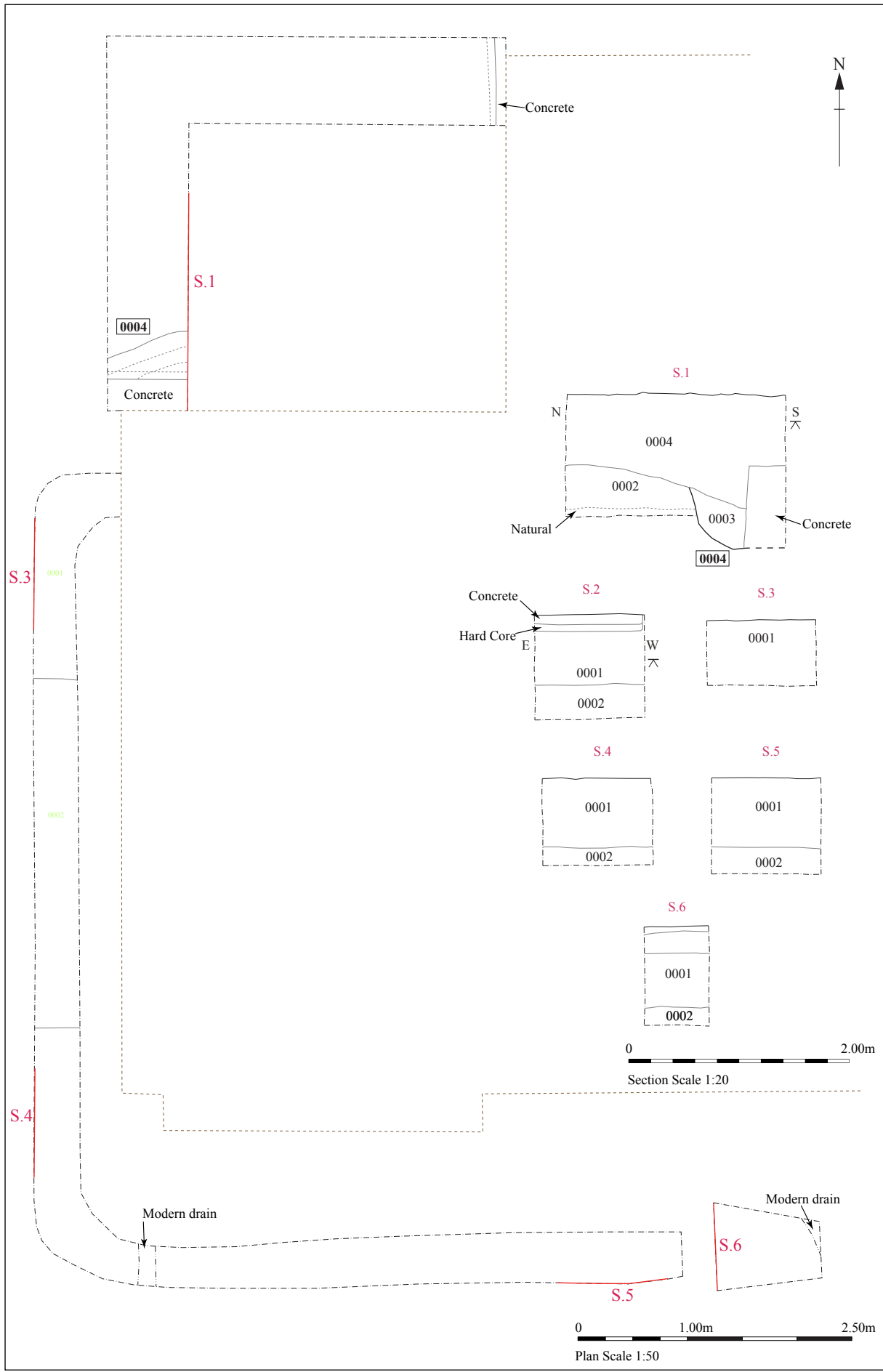


Figure 2. Site plan and sections



Plate 1. Pit 0004

Recorded by: John Sims

Date: 06/09/2012