

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2012/190	Parish: Long Melford
Cherry Tree Cottage LMD 217	Planning Application No.: B/12/00909/FHA
	HER Event No.: LMD 217
Address: Cherry Tree Cottage, Long Melford	Grid Reference: TL 8665 4658
	Number of Site visits: 1
	Date of visits: 05/12/2012
Recorded by: Andrew Tester	Date: 06/12/2012

Monitoring was carried out during the excavation of a footing trench for a kitchen and dining room extension to Cherry Tree Cottage (Fig. 2). The condition was related to the antiquity of the house which is a Grade II listed building (No. 1351820) dating from the 16th to 17th century.

On the site visit c. 10m of trenching for an internal partition was observed, which was aligned north to south. The soil profile was similar for the entire length of the trench (the trench was dug deeper into subsoil at the southern end to allow for the reinforcing of a cellar wall to the adjoining property). The section consisted of made ground to a depth of c.1, which was made up of c. 0.2m of mixed modern soil, below that was a layer of mixed soil with some redeposited yellow/green clay to 0.55m; the lower fill was a darker grey silt/clay, which was directly above clay and fine silt natural boulder clay. No finds were recovered from the site.

Discussion and conclusion

Above the natural at c.1m the soil profile showed redeposited soil indicating significant landscaping. Cherry Tree cottage is located in a hollow of c.2m from High Street. This drop follows the contour of High Street encompassing to the south Clay Pits Pond and returns past the rear of Cherry Tree Cottage (where the dip is 60m wide) . It seems likely from this

that the Cottage is located within the site of a large clay pit (Fig.1). The soil profile would be consistent with a ground surface that had been stripped to the top of natural; and soil reinstated or simply been dumped from elsewhere but laid in two broad horizons creating a level platform. Cherry Tree Cottage and the neighbouring properties were later built on the site.

Further historical research is not part of this project but it seems likely that the clay pit, which was once part of Long Melford Hall, may have provided clay for the bricks used to construct the mansion, which stands 350m to the south of the Cottage. The Hall was largely constructed during the 16th century.

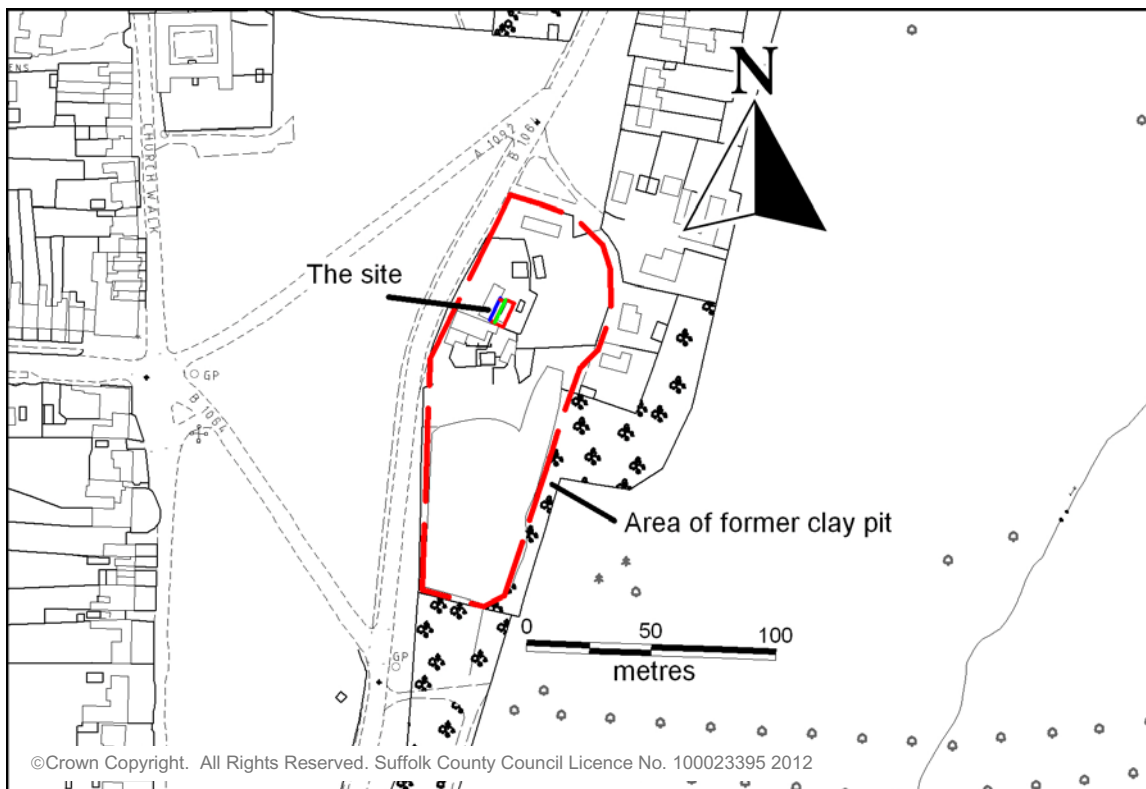


Figure 1 Site location showing clay pit

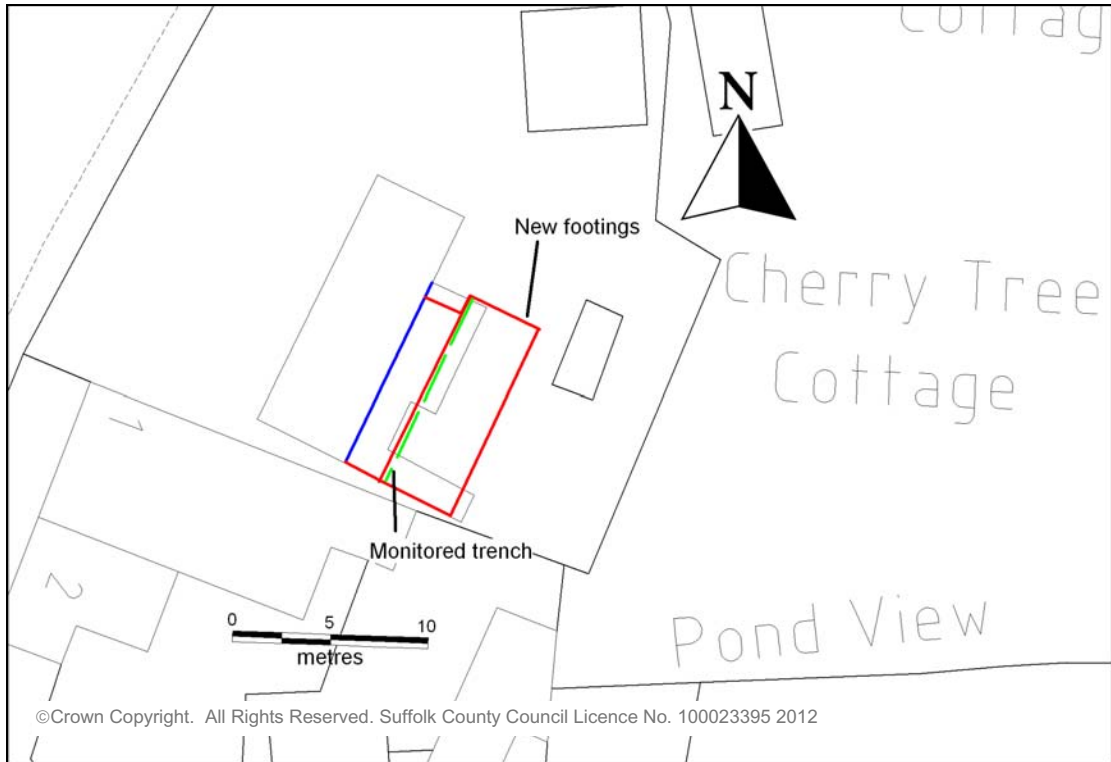


Figure 2 Site detail showing monitored trench in green.



Plate 1 Looking south down onto Cherry tree Cottage