

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

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## **The Gables, Hall Street, Long Melford LMD 154**

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING, 2004  
(Planning app. no. B/03/01673)

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## Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr & Mrs King and was monitored by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by John Duffy and Andrew Tester from the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by Andrew Tester, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and the producing of site plans and sections was carried out by Gemma Adams, and the specialist finds and report by Cathy Tester.

## Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches at The Gables, Hall Street, Long Melford located evidence of a mid 1st century to mid 3rd century phase of domestic Roman occupation consisting of two rubbish pits and associated soil layers, part of a wider pattern of Roman occupation previously identified at other sites in the vicinity. Two post-medieval wells, lying to the rear of the buildings fronting onto Hall Street, were also seen.

## SMR information

Planning application no.	B/03/01673
Date of fieldwork:	14th April and 14th July 2004
Grid Reference:	TL 8623 4543
Funding body:	Mr & Mrs King
Oasis reference.	Suffolkc1-26498

# 1. Introduction

Two visits were made to the site on 14th April and 14th July 2004. The first was to observe excavated footing trenches for alterations and extensions to the rear of the property, the second to observe the footings for a separate cartlodge. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application B/03/01673. The work was funded by the developer, Mr & Mrs King.

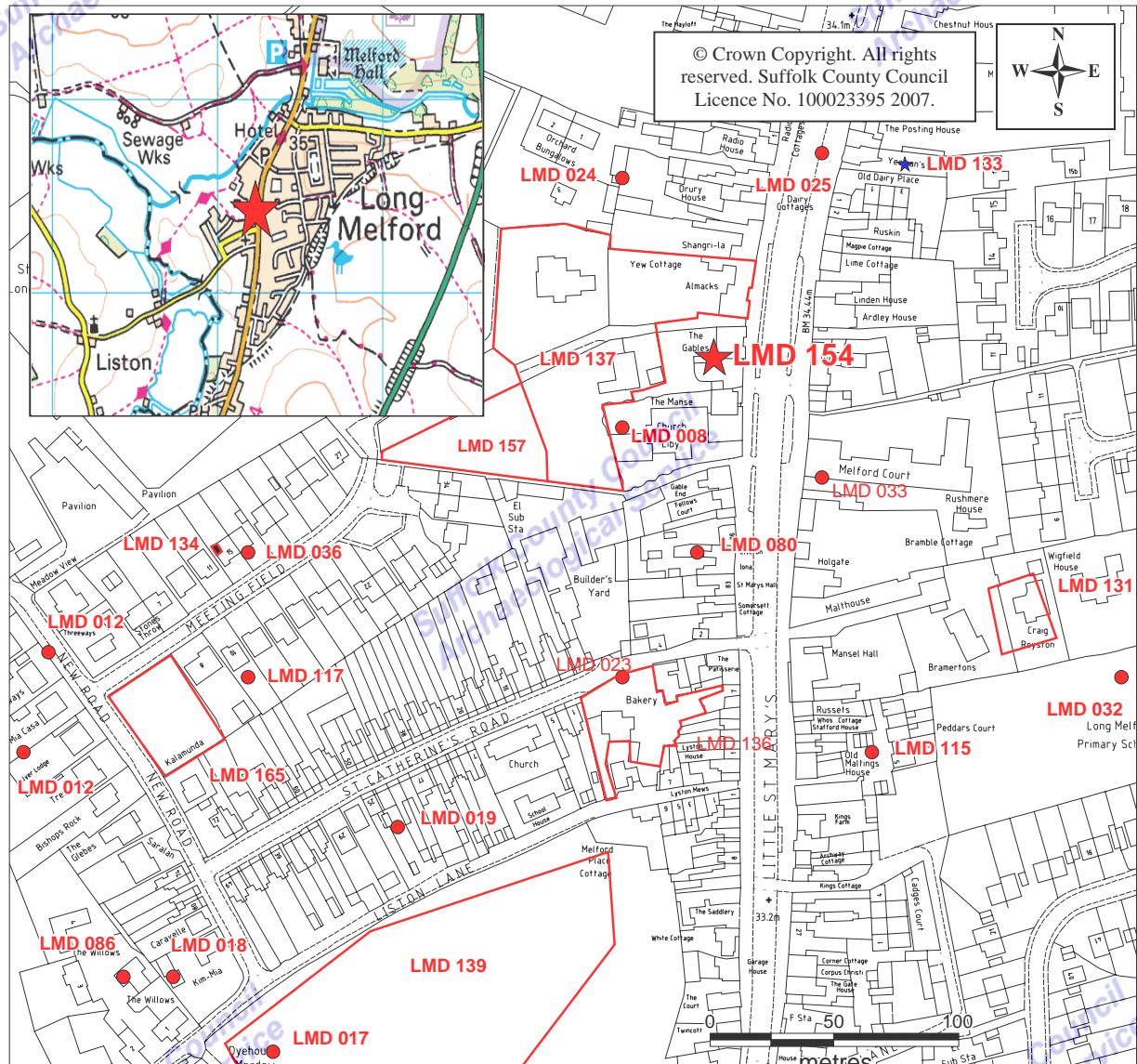


Figure 1. Site location plan

Interest in the site was based upon its location within a known area of substantial late Iron Age and Roman settlement, and just west of the medieval settlement along Hall Street. The site lies at TL 8623 4543, to the rear of the property which fronts onto Hall Street (Fig. 1). Almost all groundworks observed in the vicinity from the 1960s have produced Roman occupation deposits, with evidence such as Roman soil layers, rubbish pits, burials and structural remains (Appendix 1). A Scheduled Ancient Monument (SF90), consisting of the remains of a substantial Roman building, possibly a bathhouse, lies 300m to the southeast, and is recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record as LMD 017.

In particular a recent development, consisting of three housing plots lying immediately to the west of The Gables, was archaeologically monitored, LMD 137 and 157 (Craven in prep). The footing trenches for each plot, and various service trenches, demonstrated the presence of a thick Roman topsoil, a dense scatter of large pits and ditches containing mid first to third century material, and a single inhumation of a young woman dating to the 2nd century.

The site therefore lay within 30m of known Roman occupation and groundworks had a high potential to affect significant archaeological deposits, with the possibility of Roman structures or human burials. A programme of archaeological monitoring of the development was therefore required to record any disturbed deposits.

## 2. Methodology

Both site visits observed the trenches during and after excavation. The trench profiles were then cleaned by hand as necessary and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50. A plan of the cartlodge footings was drawn at a scale of 1:50.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Sites and Monuments code MNL 579. Bulk finds were washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data was also entered onto a database. Inked copies of section and drawings have also been made.

An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-26498) 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 site archive is kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under SMR No. LMD 154

### **3. Results**

(Figs. 2 and 3)

#### **3.1. Rear extension**

The trenching was excavated with a toothed bucket and measured c.0.6m wide and up to 1.2m deep. The natural subsoil of pea gravel/shingle and fine silt was generally seen at a depth of c.1m-1.2m. Several features were identified, of Roman and post-medieval date. A section was recorded of the southern section of trench showing pit 0002 and well 0013.

##### *3.1.1. Roman*

0002 was a probable large pit measuring c.2.5m+ wide and 0.5m deep, sealed under 0.9m of modern deposits and cutting the natural subsoil. Its fill was a dark brown/black loam with frequent crushed oyster shells and eighteen sherds of Roman pottery, together with pieces of animal bone and ceramic building material were recovered.

0003 was a second probable pit, visible from a depth of 0.9m. It was not fully excavated during machining and its dimensions are unknown. Its fill, a dark brown/black loam was similar to 0002, and twenty-six sherds of Roman pottery, together with pieces of animal bone and ceramic building material were recovered. Additional finds, 0005, were recovered during machining from above the feature.

Context 0004 was given to a collection of ten sherds of Roman and later pottery recovered during machining from one part of the trenching.

A dark loam deposit, 0006, was seen in the eastern end of the trenching. This was similar to 0002 and one sherd of Roman pottery was recovered. It appeared to be cut by a later possible well, 0014.

##### *3.1.2. Post-medieval*

Two possible post-medieval wells were identified in the southern trench, 0013 and 0014.

0013 was a shaft, c.2m in diameter and at least 1.5m deep although the base was not seen. Its cut was visible from a depth of 0.2m, cutting the post-roman deposits and then the natural subsoil.

0014 was immediately next to the existing house and was very difficult to see. Flint and mortar walling was seen at a depth of c.0.8m+ and appeared to cut deposit 0006.

#### **3.2. The Cartlodge**

(Figs. 2 and 3)

The trenching measured 0.6m wide and 1m deep and showed the natural subsoil of orange/yellow sands and gravels at a depth of c.1m. The western length of the trench was heavily disturbed to a depth of c.1.3m. No features were observed in the remaining two lengths of trench, but four trench profiles were recorded. Profiles 1 and 2, in the southern length of trench, showed 0.5m of modern deposits overlying a 0.5m thick layer, 0012, of mid/dark brown silt/sand with occasional flints. Profiles 3 and 4 showed a 0.7m thick layer, 0010, of dark brown silt/sand with

modern brick and a single Roman pottery sherd, overlying a 0.3m thick layer, 0011, of mixed mid brown silt/sand and orange sand/gravel.

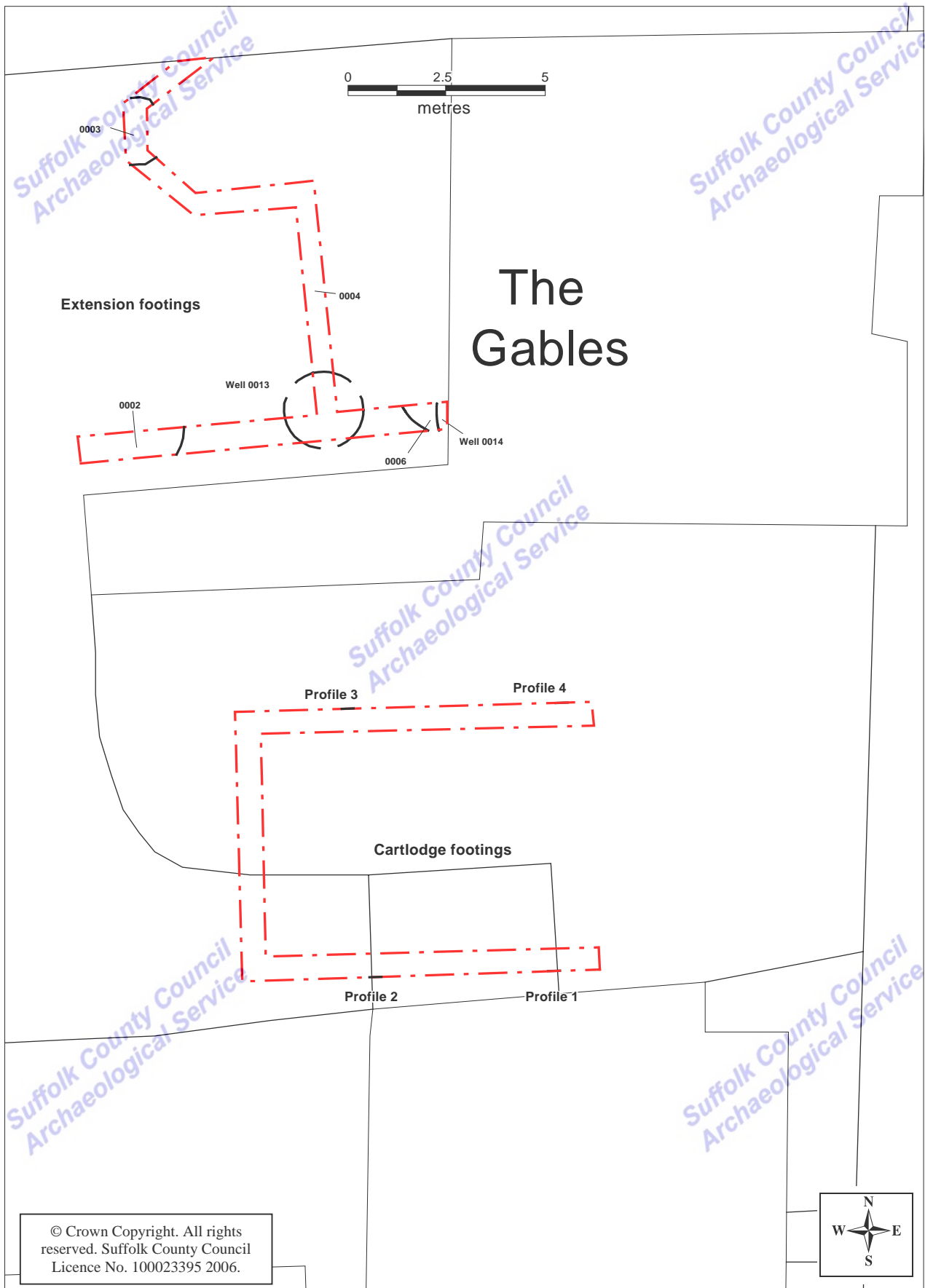


Figure 2. Site plan



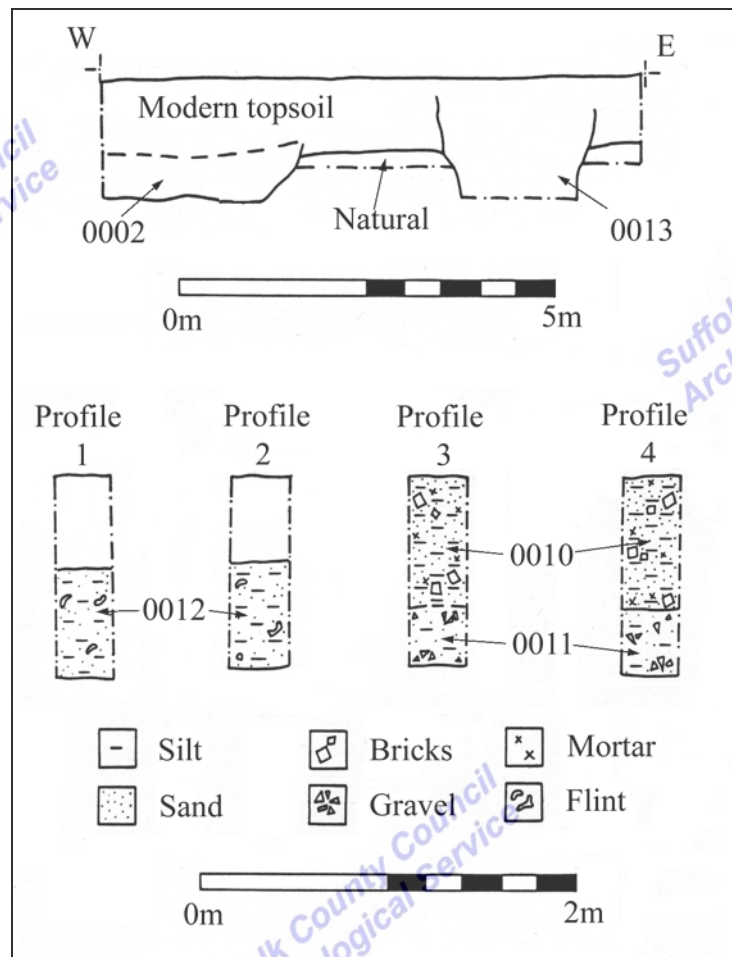


Figure 3. Sections

## 4. The Finds

Cathy Tester

### 4.1. Introduction

Finds were collected from six contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		CBM		Animal		Iron		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0002	18	149	2	263	4	30	1	9	BFl 1-6g; Stone 1-90g	MC2-MC3
0003	26	298	1	150	2	3			Oyster 3-62g	E/MC2-MC3
0004	10	64								Rom
0005	4	116								17-19th, Med
0006	1	3								Rom
0010	1	5			1	56				Rom
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>		

Table 1. Finds quantities

### 4.2. Pottery

A total of 60 sherds of Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery weighing 635g was collected from six contexts. The quantities by ceramic period and fabric are summarised in Table 2 and the full catalogue by context is in Appendix 2.

<b>Fabric name</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>% No</b>	<b>Wt/g</b>	<b>%Wt</b>	<b>Eve</b>
Black-burnished ware category 1	BB1	5	8.3	86	13.5	21
Black-surfaced wares	BSW	7	11.7	39	6.1	14
Colchester colour-coated wares	COLC	1	1.7	6	0.9	
Grey micaceous wares (black-surfaced)	GMB	2	3.3	16	2.5	
Grey micaceous wares (grey-surfaced)	GMG	14	23.3	81	12.8	
Miscellaneous sandy grey wares	GX	19	31.7	130	20.5	16
Sandy greyware mortarium	GXM	1	1.7	38	6.1	9
Miscellaneous red coarse wares	RX	1	1.7	4	0.6	
Central Gaulish samian (Lezoux)	SACG	1	1.7	18	2.8	
Storage jar fabrics	STOR	2	3.3	87	13.7	
White-slipped oxidised wares	WSO	1	1.7	2	0.3	
Miscellaneous white wares	WX	4	6.7	54	8.5	
<i>Total Roman wares</i>		58	96.7	567	89.3	51
Late medieval and transitional wares	LMT	1	1.7	12	1.9	
Post medieval slipped wares	PMSW	1	1.7	62	9.8	
<i>Total post-Roman wares</i>		2	3.3	74	11.6	9
<b>Total pottery</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60</b>

Table 2. Pottery fabric quantities

#### 4.2.1. Methodology

The pottery was quantified by count weight and Estimated Vessel Equivalent (Eve) and a x10 binocular microscope was used to identify the fabrics. Roman wares were classified using the 'Pakenham' type series (unpublished) which is standard for all SCCAS excavations and supplemented by Hawkes and Hull's (1947) *Camulodunum* typology. Post-Roman fabric codes were assigned from the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series. Each sherd family was given a separate entry in the database table and an individual spotdate when possible. SCCAS pottery recording forms were used and the records were input on an ACCESS 97 database table.

#### 4.2.2. Roman pottery

A total of 58 sherds (567g) of Roman pottery which range in date from the mid 1st to mid 3rd century, were identified. Nearly all of the Roman pottery was found in pits 0002 and 0003 and a smaller cluster (0004) was uncovered by machine further south of the pits in the extension footing trench. The remaining contexts produced single small and abraded sherds.

#### The wares

Eleven fabrics or fabric groups were identified which included imported and local or regional finewares and coarsewares and provincially-traded specialist wares.

#### Imports

Imported finewares are represented by a single Central Gaulish samian (SACG) dish sherd which is Hadrianic or Antonine.

#### Local or regional wares

A sherd from a Colchester colour-coated ware (COLC) 'hunt cup' beaker with barbotine figured decoration of a hound (LC2-MC3) was found in pit 0002.

Local and regional coarsewares make up the majority of the assemblage and consist mainly of the broad greyware fabric groups BSW, GM and GX which normally dominate Roman assemblages and include both early and later dated material.

Black-surfaced wares (BSW) include four sherds which have 'romanising' fabrics that contain much fine black grog which is a sign of their 'earliness.' They may belong to the early or mid 1st century. Other BSW forms identified are a butt beaker (type 3.13), a globular beaker (type 3.7) and a cordoned jar which are Early Roman (mid or late 1st to early 2nd century) as well as uncertain jar and dish forms which are probably mid 2nd century or later.

Micaceous wares include both the black (GMB) and grey-surfaced (GMG) variants. GMB is represented by a globular beaker (type 3.7) of Early Roman date. GMG includes a cordoned vessel which is Early Roman and two high-shouldered beakers with vertical incised line decoration (type 3.10.1) which are of mid 2nd to mid 3rd century date.

Sandy greywares (GX) are represented by a Cam 108 globular beaker which is Early Roman, uncertain jars and a dish. One jar from pit 0003 has a limescaled interior indicating that it had been used as a kettle. A greyware mortarium (GXM) with a grooved rim is of unknown but probable East Anglian origin.

Miscellaneous storage jar fabrics (STOR) are non-diagnostic and include thick sherds from two large vessels.

Provincially-traded Black-burnished ware (BB1) is represented by three separate vessels from pit 0003. A bead-rimmed straight-sided dish (type 6.18) with lattice decoration, a high-shouldered beaker (type 3.10) and an uncertain dish form all date from the mid 2nd to mid 3rd century.

The rest of the pottery is oxidised. Sherds from six flagons in miscellaneous white (WX), red (RX) and white-slipped red wares (WSO) are present.

#### 4.2.3. *Post-Roman pottery* (identified by Richenda Goffin)

Post-Roman pottery was collected from one context (0005) in the vicinity of well 0013. Single sherds of Late Medieval and Transitional ware (LMT) which is 15-16th century and Post-Medieval Slipware (PMSW) which is 17-19th century are present.

### 4.3. Ceramic building material

Three fragments of Roman CBM (413g) were found in two contexts. Two fragments of *tegula* 19mm thick in a dense hard sandy fabric with occasional chalk were found in pits 0002 and 0003. Another fragment (150g) of tile 38mm thick in an orange sandy fabric with ferric and clay pellets was also found in pit 0002.

### 4.4. Metalwork

An iron nail with a round head and square shaft and total length of 48mm was collected from pit 0002. It is not closely datable but it was found in association with Roman CBM and pottery which date the feature.

### 4.5. Miscellaneous

A small fragment of fire-cracked flint from pit 0002 is undatable.

A small fragment (90g) of Millstone Grit stone was found in pit 0002. Most likely the piece comes from a Roman quern. The surface has been altered during re-use.

## 4.6. Animal bone

A small amount (89g) of animal bone was collected from three contexts. Seven fragments include medium mammal long bone and rib from pits 0002 and 0003 and a cattle rib from 0010.

## 4.7. Shell

Three oyster shells were collected from pit 0003.

## 4.8. Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

Finds were recovered from six contexts during the monitoring and Roman pits 0002 and 0003 produced the largest amounts and widest range of find types.

The most datable find is the pottery which includes diagnostic material (particularly from pits 0002 and 0003) that ranges in date from the early or mid 1st to the mid 3rd centuries. None of the forms or fabrics which characterise the latest Roman period are present in this assemblage although this may only be due to its small size – later 3rd century pottery was found at the nearby ‘Almacks’ sites (LMD 137 157). The group is similar in composition to collections from other nearby sites (LMD 131, 134, 137, 157) and includes a range of imported and local or regional tablewares, cooking and storage vessels.

A small amount of Roman CBM was also found and a relatively small amount of animal bone collected is in good condition and probably represents the remains of food waste derived from domestic occupation in the vicinity.

Post-Roman finds are represented by medieval and post-medieval pottery from layer 0005

## 5. Discussion

The trenching for the house extension identified evidence of a phase of activity in the Roman period, consisting of two pits, 0002 and 0003, and a probable buried soil from which the finds group 0004 was recovered. The finds assemblage, of a mid 1st to mid 3rd century date, indicates domestic occupation, which has already been identified over a broader area, specifically at sites LMD 137 and LMD 157 immediately to the north and west. The trenching also showed that these Roman deposits were sealed at depth beneath later material, again similar to LMD 137 and 157. This indicates high probable levels of preservation of the natural subsoil surface and the archaeological levels.

The trenching for the cartlodge did not identify any discrete archaeological features. However the thick modern topsoil deposits overlaid mixed silt/sand layers 0011 and 0012 which are likely to be buried former soil horizons and again indicates a high potential for good preservation of any archaeological levels. The single Roman pottery sherd from the trenching was a residual deposit recovered from the later topsoil, 0010.

Later activity on the site consisted of post-medieval wells, which would have been situated, and still are, to the rear of properties fronting onto Hall Street.

## 6. Conclusion

A phase of activity in the Roman period, specifically the mid 1st to mid 3rd century, was identified on the site, consisting of two pits and material from probable occupation soils. It is clearly a continuation of the Roman occupation deposits seen at other sites in the immediate vicinity. Two possible post-medieval wells were also identified, to the rear of the buildings fronting the road.

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May 2007

## References

Hawkes, C. F. and Hull, M. R., 1947, *Camulodunum*. Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London No. 14, London.

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## Appendix 1. Nearby sites on the County SMR

Site Code	Address	Period	Summary
LMD 008	Meeting Field	Rom	Bronze brooch from trench NE of footpath through Meeting Field.
LMD 012	Mia Casa, St Catherines Gardens.	Med	Bone gaming piece, ring and dot decoration, found in garden (S1).
LMD 012		Rom	Pottery, glass (including complete vessels).
LMD 017	Roman villa at Liston Lane	Rom	Roman Villa at Liston Lane.
LMD 018	St Catherine's Road/Liston Lane	Rom	Burial - skeleton (S1)(R1).
LMD 019	21-25 St Catherines Road	Rom	Rubbish pits, mixed C1-C4 pottery.
LMD 023	Theobalds Yard, St Catherine's.	Rom	Pottery mainly C2 from pit.
LMD 024	Hall Street & Peggs Yard	Rom	Pits on W side of Hall Street & Peggs Yard.
LMD 025	Hall Street	Rom	Inhumation - E side of Hall Street.
LMD 032		Rom	Sestertius of Hadrian, AD 134-138, RIC 760, retained by J Abbott.
LMD 033	St Mary's Street	Rom	C1 sherds found on E side of St Mary's Street (S1).
LMD 036	Meeting Field	Rom	Pottery, including samian, mainly C2, fragments of glass, quern, painted wall plaster and bronze perforated disc.
LMD 038		Rom	Bronze brooch, Camulodunum Type VIII.
LMD 080	86 Hall Street	Rom	A large feature with dark sandy fill containing pottery and tile fragments visible in the foundation trench for a small extension.
LMD 086	Liston Lane	Rom	Jan 1995: Evaluation of area adjoining Rom & IA sites, LMD 018 & 076, prior to proposed development.
LMD 115	Ex Gardners Garage site, Little St Marvys	Rom	1997: Two burials were found during evaluation trenching.
LMD 117	12 Meeting Field	Rom	Observation (watching brief) of a house extension footing trench identified a Roman pit, at least 1.
LMD 131	Land adjacent to Bramertons	Rom	LIA to mid second century finds and features recorded monitoring footing trenches.
LMD 133	Yeoman's Cottage, Little St Mary's	Rom	Small number of LIA & early Roman sherds recovered from spoil from footing trenches.
LMD 134	15 Meeting Field	Rom	Monitoring of footing excavations uncovered Rom finds within a buried soil layer.
LMD 136	Land to the rear of 'Wrights', St Catherine's Road	Rom	Evaluation trenching revealed late Roman masonry wall, pits and dumped material and an early PMed ditch.
LMD 137	Land to the rear of 'Almacks'	Rom	Monitoring of two house plots uncovered Roman rubbish pits and ditches under a buried soil layer. Report in prep.
LMD 139	Liston Lane	Un	Cropmark of ring ditch circa 20m diameter, within scheduled area (see LMD 017). For larger ring ditch to SW, see LMD 140
LMD 157	Land to the rear of 'Almacks'		Monitoring of house plot uncovered Roman rubbish pits and single burial under a buried soil layer. Report in prep.
LMD 165	Land off New Road	Rom	Evaluation uncovered Roman pits. Report in prep.

## Appendix 2: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Sherd	No	Wt/	Form	Notes	Spot date
0002	BSW	b	2	13		'Romanising fabric, oxy core	ERom
	BSW	r	1	4	3.7	'Romanising fabric. (120mm,8%)	M/LC1-EC2
	COLC	b	1	6	3 bkr	Barb. hound, orange grainy fab- PKC?	LC2-MC3
	GMG	b	1	2			Rom
	GMG	b	1	24	3.10.1	Inised lines	MC2-MC3
	GMG	b	4	17	3.10.1	Burn. lines. 1 vessel	MC2-MC3
	GMG	b	1	9	jar	Cordoned vess. w # on 1 cordon. Looks over-fired	LC1-EMC2
	GX	ba	1	4		Base 1	Rom
	GX	ba	1	13		Base 2	Rom
	GX	r	1	1	2 NJar	Burnished. (80mm,10%)	Rom
	GX	ba	1	3	6 dish	dish base	C2+
	RX	b	1	4	1 flagon		Rom
	SACG	b	1	18	6 dish	Lezoux. Wall/floor junc	Had-Ant
	WX	b	1	31	1 flagon		Rom
0003	BB1	r	1	8	3.10	(160mm,7%)	E/MC2-MC3
	BB1	ba	1	11	6 dish	Dish base	MC2+
	BB1	pro	3	67	6.18	Lattice dec.. patchy light brown cast. (240mm,14%)	E/MC2-MC3
	BSW	b	1	9		Burnished lattice band cordon	ERom
	BSW	b	1	3	6 dish	Burnished lines	Rom
	BSW	r	1	6	jar	Rim 13 (180mm,6%)	Rom
	GMB	b	1	14	3.7	Band of vert incised. lines below shoulder. Fine	ERom
	GMG	b	4	18		Misc. body sherds, abr.	Rom
	GX	b	3	23		Abr.	Rom
	GX	b	1	5	3 Cam108		ERom
	GX	r	1	11	4 Jar	Rim 13 (160mm,6%)	Rom
	GX	b	4	24	jar	Limescale	Rom
	STOR	b	2	87	SJar		Rom
	WX	b	1	9	1 flagon	VRW-ish fab but chalky	Rom
	WX	b	1	3	1 flagon		Rom
0004	BSW	b	1	4	3.13	Butt beaker base. 'Romanising' fab.	ERom
	GMB	b	1	2		Fine burnished	Rom
	GMG	ba	1	4		Fine burnished	Rom
	GX	b	5	41		Misc. body sherds	Rom
	WSO	b	1	2	1 flagon		Rom
	WX	b	1	11		Flake	Rom
0005	GMG	b	1	4			Rom
	GXM	r	1	38		Grey .Grooved rim	Rom
	postrom	b	1	12		glazed	LMed
	postrom	r	1	62		glazed	17-19th c
0006	GMG	b	1	3			Rom
0010	GX	b	1	5			Rom

(Key: b = bodysherd; ba = base; r = rim; pro = profile)