

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2008/266

7 Cotswold Drive, Long Melford

LMD 180

R. Brooks
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www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology

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List of Contributors

All Suffolk C.C. Archaeological Service unless otherwise stated.

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Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Mr and Mrs Grandin and was monitored by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team). The fieldwork was carried out by Rob Brooks from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The project was managed by Joanna Caruth, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

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

Summary

Monitoring of five footing trenches revealed one early post-medieval feature, as well as post-medieval and late Iron Age/early Roman finds from the topsoil. Disturbance relating to modern building had partially truncated the soil stratigraphy in four of the trenches.

HER information

HER Code:	LMD 180
Planning application no.	B/08/00687
Date of fieldwork:	5th and 6th November, 2008
Grid Reference:	TL 8636 4501
Funding body:	Mr and Mrs Grandin
Oasis reference.	suffolkc1-51169

1. Introduction

Visits were made to the site on 5th and 6th November, 2008 to monitor footing trenches for the building of an extension at 7 Cotswold Drive, Long Melford. The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on application B/08/00687. The work was funded by the house owners, Mr and Mrs Grandin.



Figure 1. Site location

Long Melford is based around areas of Iron Age and Roman settlement (LMD 172), thought to be concentrated to the west of the existing main road, which closely follows a subsidiary of the London to Camulodunum Roman road (Smedley, 1961). The majority of groundworks observed in the area since the 1960s have produced Roman deposits, including coins (LMD 006, 034 and 046), pottery (LMD 006, 022 and 046), and brooches (LMD 006), as well as more unusual features and finds such as the Roman road (LMD 031) and a bronze hand mirror and iron knife (LMD 020) as shown on Figure 2 and in Appendix 2. A substantial Roman building, Scheduled Ancient Monument SF90, which may be a bathhouse, lies approximately 230m to the north-west and is recorded on the County Historic Environment Record as LMD 017. A Late Iron Age coin (LMD 039) and undated earthworks have also been found nearby (LMD 111 and 112). It was therefore necessary to implement a constant monitoring of the house extension groundworks to make a record of any archaeological deposits in the area and particularly to further the understanding of the Roman townscape.

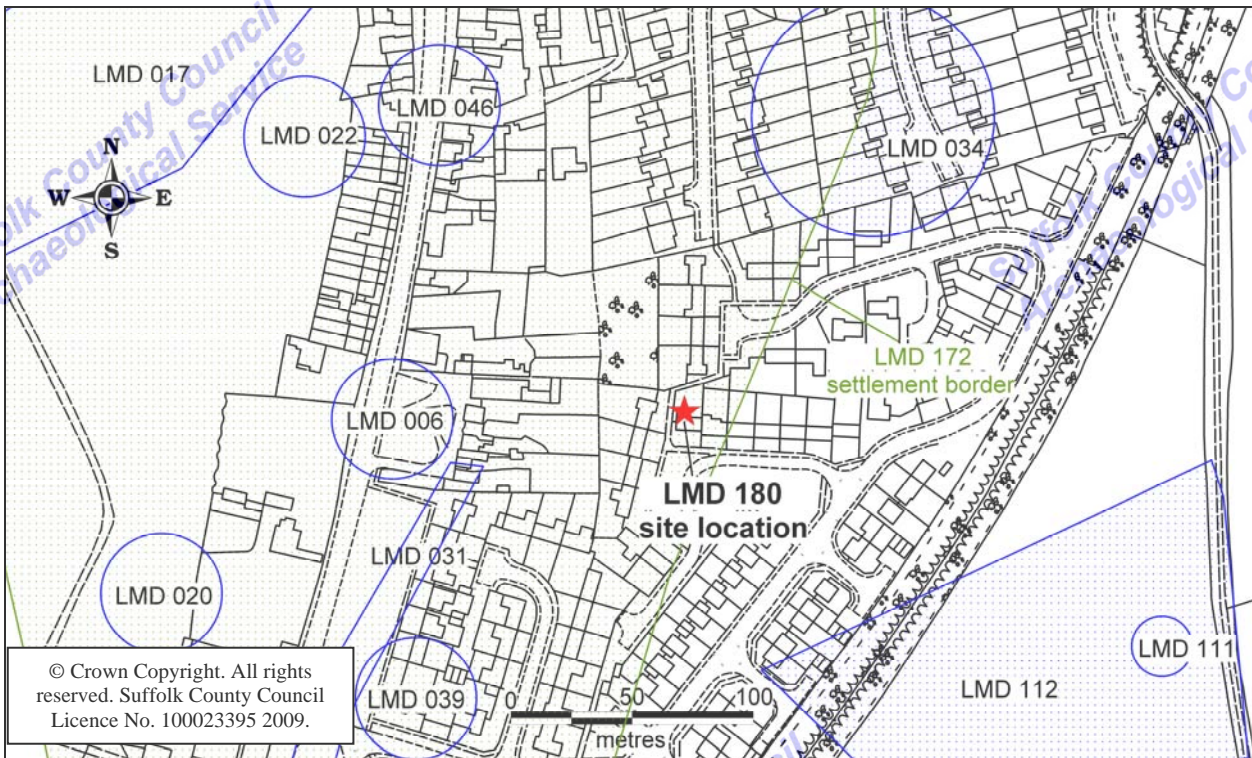


Figure 2. Listings from the Historic Environment Record in relation to LMD 180

2. Methodology

Trenches 1-3 measured 0.45m wide and were dug out using a ditching bucket, whilst Trenches 4 and 5 were hand dug by the building contractors to c.0.45m wide (Fig. 4). Feature 0004 in Trench 2 was partially excavated by hand as it became visible. Feature and trench sections were cleaned and then drawn at 1:20 scale. All 5 trenches were excavated to the natural subsoil (c.0.95m to c.1.05m deep). All the trenches were constantly watched during their excavation. The spoil from the trenches was sorted for finds and the spoil heaps were further examined for finds and metal-detected. High resolution JPEG format digital colour photos were taken of feature 0004 and of the soil profiles in Trenches 2 and 4. At the corner of Trenches 2 and 3, a soak-away drain associated with the current house had disturbed the soil stratigraphy to a depth of c.2m. Further truncation was also found in Trenches 1, 3 and 5, where footings from the former conservatory, and the adjoining property to the east, were present.

On-site records have been input into the MS Access database and recorded using the Historic Environment Record code LMD 180. Finds have been washed, marked and quantified, and the resultant data entered onto the database. Inked copies of profile and feature sections have been made. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-51169) 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 the HER code LMD 180.

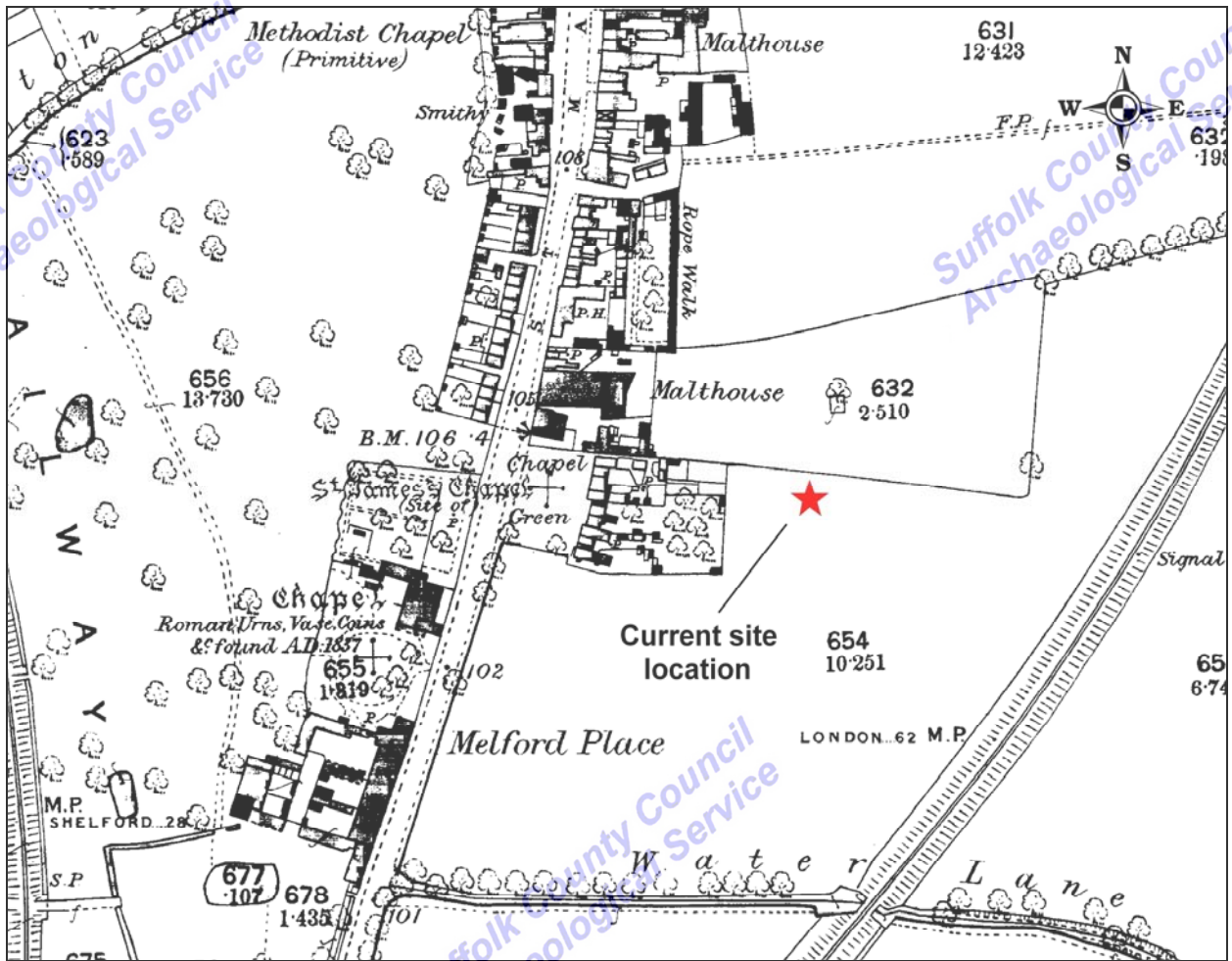


Figure 3. First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1886

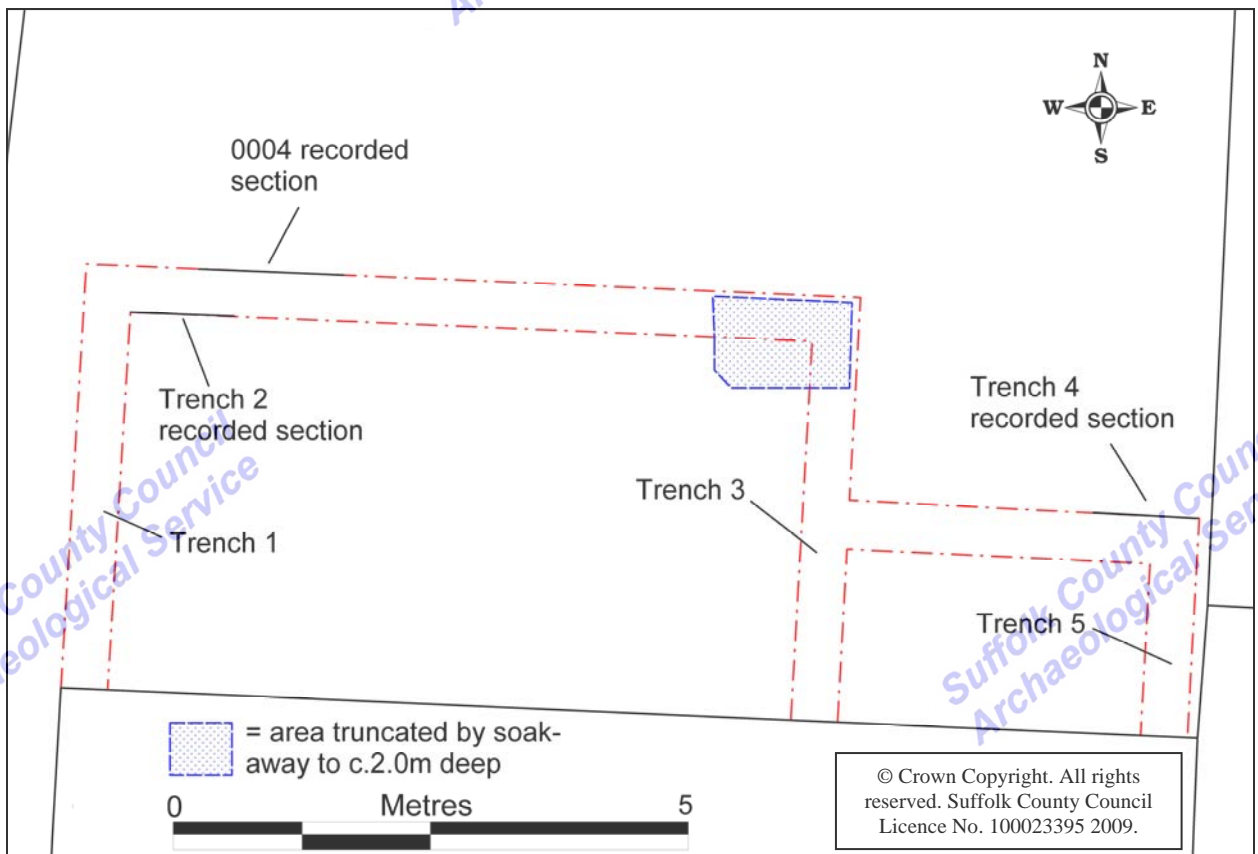


Figure 4. Trench plan

3. Results

The footing trenches were largely devoid of any archaeological features, except for 0004 in Trench 2 (Figs. 4 and 5). There was also modern disturbance in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 5 as described in Table 1. Feature 0004 was of unknown type, with only the eastern side visible, and it only appeared in the northern section. It could not be seen in plan during excavation, indicating that it only slightly cut the northern side of the trench. The eastern side of the feature sloped at approximately 45°. It appeared to be filled with mid-dark grey sandy silt, which was very similar to the topsoil. The finds from the base of the fill date the feature to the 15th to 16th century and include two pottery sherds and a fragment of sheep bone.

All of the trenches revealed topsoil 0002 that was mid-dark grey sandy silt and c.0.3-0.5m deep. It contained late Iron Age or early Roman pottery, 18th to 20th century pottery, and a square-ended iron nail and fragment of oyster shell, both of unknown date. Below 0002 was subsoil 0003, which was orangey-brown sand with frequent stones. It measured c.0.2-0.5m thick and overlaid the natural subsoil. Generally the natural subsoil consisted of orange sand with frequent stone inclusions, but occasionally patches of yellow/orange sandy clay appeared, which were particularly apparent in the soak-away drain that had cut the natural subsoil to c.2.0m deep.

Trench	Length	Description	Contexts
1	4.15m	North-south aligned, running south from the west end of Trench 2. Contained the remnants of the former conservatory footings, including concrete blocks, and a further buried brick footing running the length of the western side of the trench. The natural subsoil was an orange sand deposit, with frequent stone inclusions. Depth to natural = c.1.0-1.05m.	Layers 0002 & 0003
2	7.5m	East-west aligned, running east from the north end of Trench 1 to where it meets Trench 3. This trench was located outside of the area of the old conservatory and as a result was largely undisturbed. At the east end of the trench there was a modern soak-away drain which had truncated material to a depth of c.2.0m, including parts of Trench 3. The natural subsoil was an orange sand deposit, with occasional patches of pale yellow sand, clay and stones appearing from underneath. Depth to natural = c.0.95-1.0m.	Layers 0002 & 0003 Feature 0004 & fill 0005
3	4.15	North-south aligned, running south from the east end of Trench 2. This trench was truncated by the soak-away drain recorded in Trench 2, various water pipes and footings related to the former conservatory. The natural subsoil was an orange sand deposit, with frequent stone inclusions. Depth to natural = c.1.0m.	Layers 0002 & 0003
4	3.85	West-east aligned, running east from the east edge of Trench 3. This trench was hand dug by the building contractors. It revealed an apparently undisturbed soil profile with orange sand natural subsoil appearing at a depth of c.0.95-1.0m.	Layers 0002 & 0003
5	2.65	North-south aligned, running south from the east end of Trench 4. This trench was hand dug by the building contractors. It revealed disturbed stratigraphy due to the footings from the adjoining house. The natural subsoil was orange sand, found at a depth of c.0.95m.	Layers 0002 & 0003

Table 1. Trench descriptions

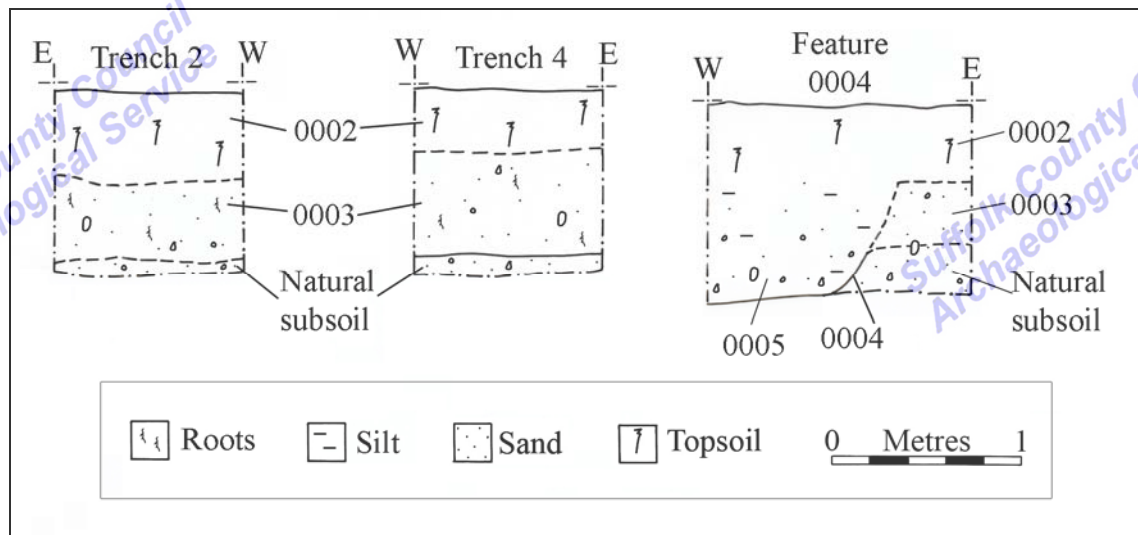


Figure 5. Feature and trench sections

3. The Finds

Cathy Tester

Introduction

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

OP	Pottery		Animal bone		Iron		Oyster		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0002	2	33			1	37	1	4	PMed, ERom 15th-16th c
0005	3	11	1	19					
Total	5	44	1	19	1	37	1	4	

Table 2. Finds quantities

Pottery

Roman

Two sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery were found. The first, a body sherd from a grog-tempered storage jar with combed arc decoration, was collected from the topsoil (0002). The second is a small black-surfaced ware (BSW) body sherd, possibly from a jar or bowl which appears to be hand-made and wheel-finished. Both sherds probably belong to the first half of the 1st century AD.

Post Roman

Two body sherds of Late Colchester-type ware (COLL), one with a splash of clear glaze, were collected from the fill of feature 0004 (0005). These wares are 15th to 16th century in date. A small Refined white earthenware (REFW) blue and white body sherd of late 18th to 20th century date came from the topsoil (0002).

Metalwork

A large iron nail of unknown date was found in the topsoil (0002).

Animal bone and shell

The distal end of a sheep humerus from an immature individual was present in fill 0005.

A fragment of oyster shell was collected from the topsoil (0002).

Discussion

Although sparse, the finds assemblage, mainly pottery, indicates activity on the site or in the vicinity during the first half of the 1st century AD and again from the early post-medieval period onwards.

5. Discussion

Monitoring of the groundworks revealed low quantities of evidence for late Iron Age/early Roman and post-medieval occupation on the site. More might have been recovered and recorded had it not been for the high levels of modern truncation in much of the trenching. The only archaeological feature was the early post-medieval pit or ditch found in Trench 2. Little could be seen of the extent of this feature in plan or section, although it may relate to the nearby east to west boundary seen on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3).

The early Ordnance Survey maps do not reveal much about the use of the site beyond being part of a post-medieval field. This evidence fits with that from the soil profiles recorded, which revealed a deep topsoil and disturbed subsoil profile (contexts 0002 and 0003, Appendix 3).

Other evidence for previous occupation of the site was made up of finds from the topsoil. These were late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, 18th to 20th century pottery, oyster shell and a sheep bone. The assemblages are too small for conclusions regarding their composition to be made, but it probably represents refuse from domestic activity in some of the phases of the site's occupation.

6. Conclusion

There was little direct indication of the past use of the site beyond the probable domestic finds from the Roman and post-medieval periods, and the early post-medieval feature of unknown type. It is probable that the area was generally used as a field in the post-medieval phase and possibly before, judging by the soil stratigraphy and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 3).

With projects of this nature it is difficult to make strong conclusions on the nature of past activity because of the limited visibility in trenches, and in this case, the levels of modern truncation. However, although no features were uncovered and the finds assemblage was small, it is very valuable in helping to confirm the extent of the Iron Age and Roman activity in the area, which in turn illustrates the nature of settlement in these phases. This demonstrates the importance and need for such archaeological recording projects, particularly within Long Melford.

References

Smedley, N, 1961, 'Roman Long Melford' in *Proc. of the Suffolk Institute Of Archaeology*, Vol. XXVIII, Part 3.

Rob Brooks
January 2009

Appendix 1 – Brief and Specification

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

7 Cotswold Drive, Long Melford

Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a general building contractor and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3. The commissioning body should also be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities, see paragraph 1.5.

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to build two extensions on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (application B/08/00687). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring of development as it occurs, coupled with provision for an archaeological record of any archaeology that is observed.
- 1.2 The development is at TL86364501, on the east side of the Stour valley at between 30 and 35m OD. It falls within the eastern margins of a broad area of late Iron Age and Roman activity (LMD 172) which is likely to include a 1st century military presence and a civilian roadside settlement or small town. Roman material is recorded from Chapel Green (LMD 006) about 85m to the west, and a road and associated features were excavated in the 1960's to the south-west (LMD 031); the projected line of the road would be about 70m west of the development. Further finds have been made to the north in the vicinity of Swanfield (LMD 035). There is thus a high probability that late Iron Age or Roman period deposits may survive in this area.
- 1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in “Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England” Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.
- 1.5 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. . The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with this office before execution.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site particularly in the 1st to 4th centuries AD.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are likely to be the excavation of building footing trenches.

In the case of footing trenches the excavation and the upcast soil, are to be observed by an archaeologist whilst they are excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for the recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor’s programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.
- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of two hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context. The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Historic Environment Record.
- 4.6 Developers should be aware of the possibility of human burials being found. If this eventuality occurs they must comply with the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857; and the archaeologist should be informed by '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage & the Church of England 2005) which includes sensible baseline standards which are likely to apply whatever the location, age or denomination of a burial.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County HER if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the

Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.
- 5.5 County Historic Environment Record sheets must be completed, as per the county manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.7 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the SMR. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

Date: 7th August 2008 Reference: 7 Cotswold Drive Spec Mon(JP).doc

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE

Shire Hall Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR 01284 352443

Appendix 2 – Listings from the Historic Environment Record

LMD 006

- Pottery, samian, brooches, coins found in 1922 (S1).
- St James' Chapel (site of).

LMD 020

- Round bronze hand mirror and iron knife (S1), Roman.
- Rough site of a large house (now Melford Place?) belonging to Mr Martyn shown on a map by Amyce drawn in 1580 (S1), Post-medieval.

LMD 022

- Pottery, mixed 1st and 2nd century, from pit (S1) (S2), Roman.

LMD 031

- Road, 32 inches thick, 21 feet 6 inches wide, flanking ditches 6 feet wide, Roman.

LMD 034

- Follis: Constantine I, AD 319, RIC 226, Roman.

LMD 039

- Bronze coin of Cunobelin, circa AD 10-40 (Mack 260A), Late Iron Age.

LMD 046

- Pottery, coins and metalwork found in circa 30cms of soil during construction work on Fire Station extension in the former forecourt of bus depot (S1), Roman.

LMD 111

- Ring ditch cropmark, circa 20m diameter, undated.

LMD 112

- Enclosure - possibly sub square or rectangular, or possibly field boundary, circa 90m wide, length unknown - SW side obscured by trackway to S and railway embankment to W, undated.

LMD 172

- Area of intensive Roman occupation in Long Melford. Defined on SMR map mainly after distribution of reported finds/sites. See individual site entries for specific details.

Appendix 3 - LMD 180 Site Context List

Context	Feature	Trench	Identifier	Type	Description
0001			Unstratified	Finds	Unstratified finds. None collected.
0002			Topsoil		Topsoil recorded from the site in all trenches. Mid-dark grey sandy-silt. Frequent stone inclusions. Above 0003. Interpretation - typical deep build-up of garden and possibly agricultural topsoil as seen elsewhere in Long Melford.
0003			Subsoil		Subsoil seen below 0002 and above the natural subsoil in all trenches. Mid brown/slightly orange sand containing frequent stones. Interpretation - appears to be like a mixture of 0002 and the natural, so is perhaps disturbed/ploughed natural with 0002 leached down into it.
0004	0004	2	Feature	Cut	Possible feature cut seen only in the northern section of Trench 2. The eastern edge was the only side that could be seen in section and sloped at approximately 40-45°. It cut the natural subsoil and appeared from the base of 0002, cutting through 0003. Section recorded and digitally photographed. Not visible in plan.
0005	0004	2	Feature	Fill	Fill of feature 0004. Very similar to the topsoil of mid-dark grey sandy-silt. However it contained more stones than 0002. Contained pottery and bone. Interpretation – redeposited topsoil.