

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Sunnyside, 1 Spring Gardens, Cock and Bell Lane, Long Melford LMD 181

### A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS FOR A CONSERVATORY

Planning Application No.: B/08/01209/FHA

NGR: TL 8627 4700

Funded by: Mr and Mrs Gunby

OASIS reference: Suffolkc1-53370

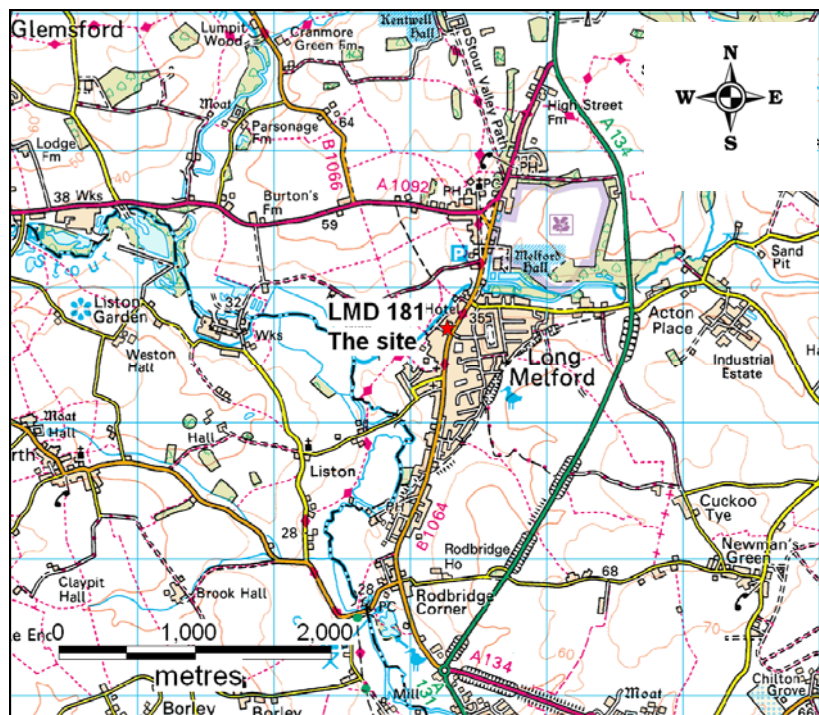
SCCAS Report no. 2008/277

## Summary

Archaeological monitoring during the groundworks for a new conservatory at Sunnyside, 1 Spring Gardens, Long Melford revealed a NW-SE aligned ditch containing Roman finds.

## Introduction and methodology

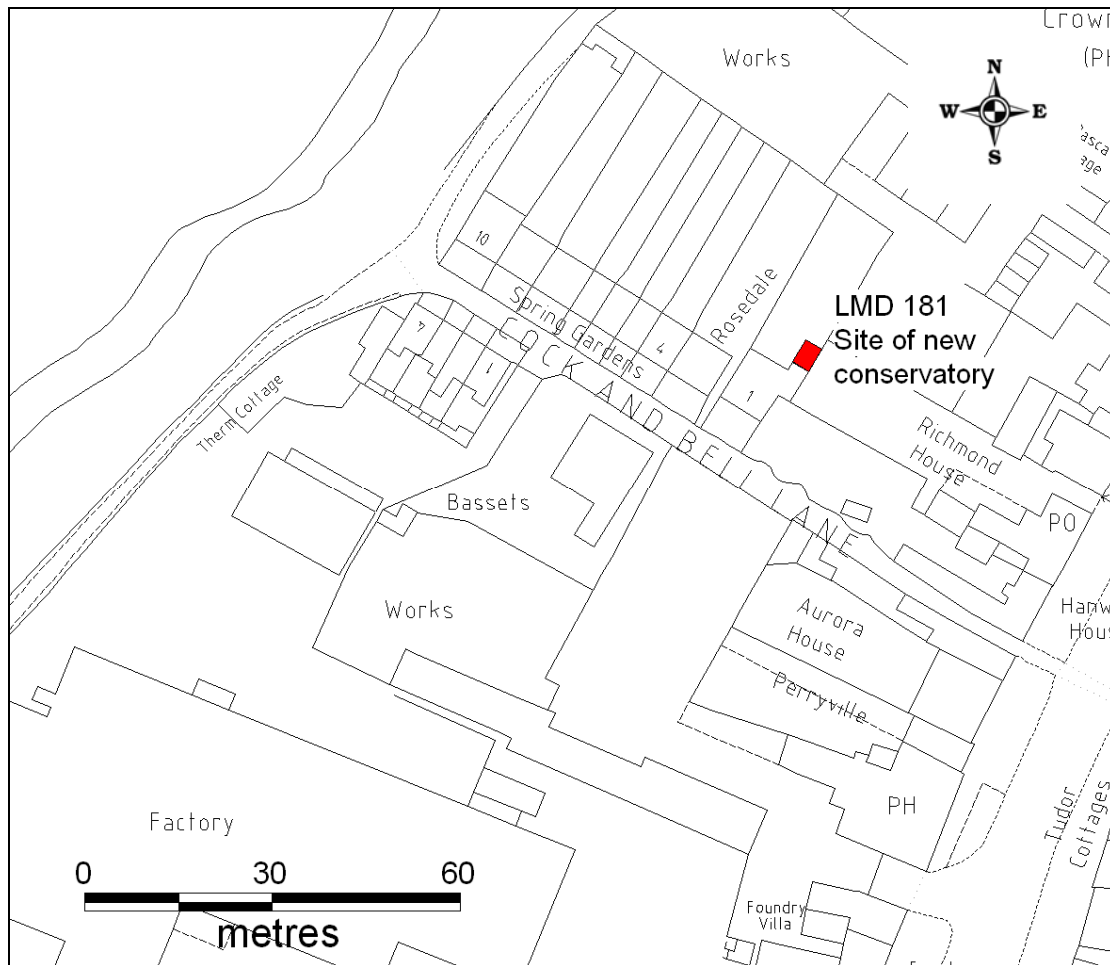
A single visit was made to watch the groundworks for a new conservatory at 1, Spring Gardens, Long Melford, as they were excavated. The site lies at TL 8627 4700 (Figs. 1 and 2), on a west facing slope just below the 35m contour, between the main road, the B1064 (Hall Street) and Chad Brook, a tributary of the River Stour, within the area of the



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Figure 1. Site location

extensive Roman settlement, and close to various sites from where Roman remains, including burials, have been previously recovered. The overburden strip, c.0.25m deep, and footings, (0.5m wide and 0.6m deep) were watched as they were excavated and an archaeological feature identified within the footing trenches hand-dug and the finds recovered. A site plan was recorded at 1:50 and sections at 1:20. High resolution digital photographs and black and white prints were taken. The site archive is recorded under the HER parish no. LMD 181 and kept in the archaeological store of SCCAS in Bury St Edmunds. A digital copy of the report is lodged with the OASIS on-line database reference no. Suffolk1- 53370.



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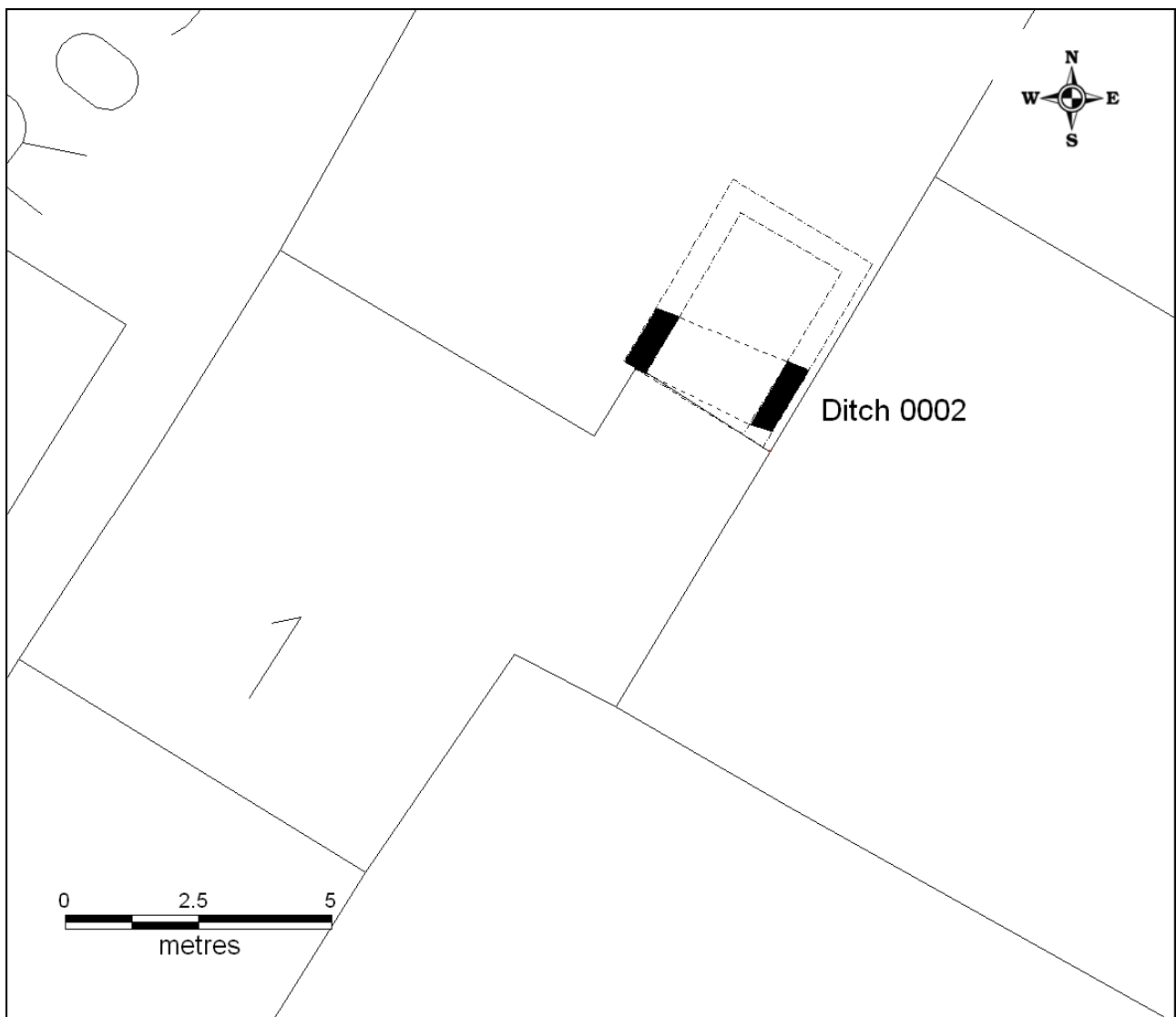
Figure 2. Detailed site location

## Results

A single NE-SW aligned ditch running at a slight angle across the north-west end of the site was identified (Fig. 3). This was 1.6m wide and 0.72m deep and the profile showed a steep slope (c.60°) on the north side and a more gentle slope (c.45°) on the south, with a concave base. The ditch had two fills, the upper, 0003, a silty grey-brown loam, indistinguishable in make-up from the overlying topsoil, 0005, from which pottery, tile and animal bone finds were recovered, and the lower an orange-brown sterile stony silt, 0004 (Fig. 4).

The rest of the soil profile over the southern half of the footings showed 0.32m of grey-brown silty topsoil, 0005, over natural subsoil of orange sandy gravel. The northern corner

of the footings showed deposits of gravel, fine shingle and yellow sand to the base of the trench. This was undated but is assumed from its appearance to be no earlier than later post-medieval. No finds were recovered other than from fill 0003, of ditch 0002.



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Figure 3. Site plan

### The Finds by Cathy Tester

Finds were collected from a single context (0003), the fill of ditch 0002, during the monitoring.

Three sherds (16g) of Roman pottery, all bodysherds, were identified. Two are from a Black-surfaced ware (BSW) jar with a burnished lattice decoration. The interior surface of both sherds has a build-up of limescale which suggests that the vessel had been used for heating water. It is not closely datable. The other sherd is from a cordoned jar or bowl in a black-surfaced grey micaceous fabric (GMB) which is probably late 1st or early 2nd century in date.

A fragment of Roman tile weighing 176g and made in a red sandy fabric with few other inclusions was found. The piece is not identifiable to a specific type but a thickness of 22mm suggests that it may be from a *tegula*.

A fragment of long bone (25g) from a large mammal such as a cow or horse was also found.

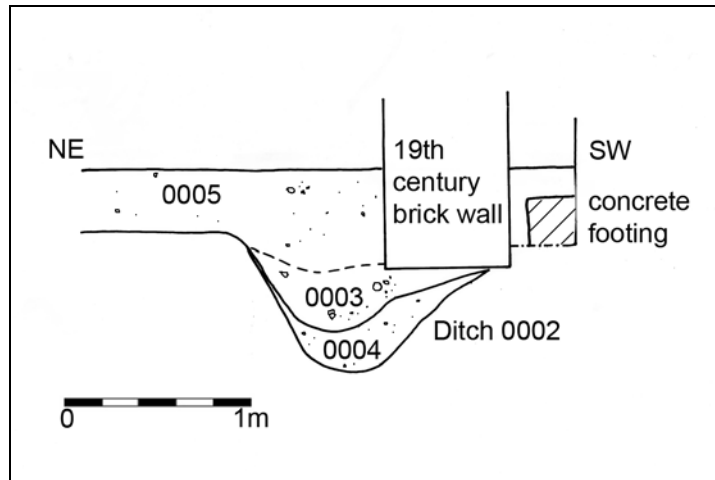


Figure 4. Ditch 0002 section

## Conclusion

This small monitoring has identified the presence of an archaeological feature dating to the Roman period, possibly 1st or 2nd century AD. The discovery of this feature in such a small development suggests the likelihood that this site lies within a broader area of Roman occupation and forms part of the known settlement. The feature was identified within 0.5m of the present ground level and shows that whilst the archaeological deposits in this area have some protective overburden, this is not substantial and these deposits are vulnerable to groundworks likely to be associated with any type of development.

Jo Caruth  
December 2008