

Archaeological evaluation on land at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6XS

March 2021



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Howard Brooks

figures by Sarah Carter, Robin Mathieson and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Sarah Carter, Robin Mathieson and Bronagh Quinn

commissioned by Jenny Ackerley, Events Under Canvas Ltd

NGR: TM 1003 3474 (centre)

Planning ref: DC/20/02886

CAT project ref.: 2021/02j

Suffolk Parish Number: EBG 112

OASIS ref: colchest3-415952



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CAT Report 1648

April 2021

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk in advance of the construction of a new farm shop, café and business/community hub. The development site is located within an area of cropmarks with isolated finds of prehistoric date predominating. The evaluation revealed small-scale activity on the development site in the prehistoric period, with one ditch and one ditch/pit containing small fragments of Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age pottery. The only other dated feature was a ditch containing a fragment of 17th- to 18th-century brick. Undated features included ditches, pits, and pits/postholes, some of which could be of natural origin.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk which was carried out on 24th and 25th March 2021. The work was commissioned by Jenna Ackerley of Events Under Canvas Ltd in advance of the construction of a new farm shop, café and business/community hub with associated car parking and bike stands, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council: Planning reference DC/20/02886) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* detailing the required archaeological work written by Matthew Baker (SCCAS 2020b), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (2015), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), as well as the SCCAS *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2020a).

3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9502411.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Red Crag Formation – sand, with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup – sand and gravel.

Historic landscape

The development site is in an area defined as *plateau farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields). The landscape immediately around the site is characterised as: sub-type 1.4 (pre-18th century enclosure – irregular co-axial fields); sub-type 2.4 (18th-century and later enclosure – former

¹ British Geological Survey – <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

² <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

³ The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

post-medieval park); sub-type 2.9 (18th century and later enclosure – former heath); sub-type 3.4 (Post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from irregular co-axial fields); sub-type 7.3 (Woodland – modern plantation on former arable); and sub-type 10.3 (built-up area – village).

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

This background is focused on results within a 750m radius of the site.

Prehistoric: Prehistoric remains are rare but include the discovery of an Early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead 615m ESE (BNT 031). Other prehistoric finds scatters with confidential find spots have also been found within the search radius.

Anglo-Saxon & Medieval: A late Saxon/Early medieval strap union and two medieval coins were discovered 285m N (EBG 018).

Post-medieval: Post-medieval farms visible on the 1st edition OS map include Park Farm (EBG 043, 325m W), Manor Farm (EBG 079, 505m N), Grange Farm (EBG 088, 750m NNW) and Woodlands Farm (EBG 089, 245m NW), along with an unnamed fieldbarn (EBG 094, 730m SW). A park and heath is visible on Hodkinson's Map of 1783 at 400m SSW (EBG 110) and 650m NW (EBG 111) respectively.

Undated: Cropmarks of possible field boundaries and trackways of probable prehistoric date are visible at Brookland Farm 545m SE (BNT 017), with groups of inter-related curvilinear ditches of unknown date 340m SSE (BNT 019). Undated ditches with stray medieval pottery and post-medieval metal finds were also recorded 715m SE (BNT 072). Cropmarks of a possible rectangular enclosure are also located 560m NNW (EBG 012).

Listed buildings⁵

There are two listed buildings within the search radius. Both are Grade II listed dating from the late 16th to 17th century.

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits that were identified within the evaluation trenches.
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the evaluation trenches, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

5 Methodology

As per the WSI (appended to this report), three trial-trenches were laid out across the footprint of the proposed new building. At the request of the SCCAS monitor, a fourth trench was also excavated within the area of the proposed car park.

The trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist, and all archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI.

⁴ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

⁵ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

There was sufficient excavation to give evidence for the period, depth and nature of all archaeological deposits. For linear features 1m wide sections were excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, were 50% excavated. There were no complex archaeological structures.

Individual records of excavated features and layers were entered on pro-forma record sheets with registers compiled of finds. The evaluation trenches and features were surveyed by GPS with sections drawn by hand at 1:10. All trenches and features were digitally photographed with a scale and north arrow. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata.

6 Results (Figs 3-5)

The trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.25-0.4m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.18-0.4m thick) onto natural sands and gravels (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.48-0.80m below current ground level). There was no evidence for any masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, with all of the features cut into natural and sealed by subsoil.

Trench 1 (T1): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Undated ditch F2 was aligned NNW/SSE and was a wide U-shaped feature c 1.7m wide by 0.3m deep. It probably continued to the north as F25 in T4.

Tree-throw F1 was also excavated.

Trench 2 (T2): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Prehistoric ditch F4 was aligned NNE/SSW and was a U-shaped feature c 1.0m wide by 0.46m deep. A probable sherd of Late Iron Age pottery came from the backfill of the ditch along with four residual sherds of Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date.

Three sherds of prehistoric pottery, of probable Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date, were also recovered from the backfill of F5. This feature could be the terminus to a ditch aligned NE/SW, but could also potentially be a pit. It is c 1.0m wide by 0.45m deep.

The only other feature to produce dating evidence was post-medieval ditch F9, from which a fragment of probable 17th- to 18th-century brick was recovered. The ditch was aligned NE/SW and was a U-shaped feature 0.95m wide by 0.25m deep.

None of the remaining features from this trench produced any finds and all are undated. Ditch F11 was aligned NW/SE and was a very shallow U-shaped feature over 0.9m wide by 0.12m deep. Undated feature F7 could be the terminus to a ditch (0.65m wide by 0.13m deep) or an elongated pit. Pits F6 (cut by F5), F8, F10, F19 and pit/posthole F18 (cuts F4) were all generally round- or oval-shaped features. Many of these undated features had sterile fills, and it is possible that some may be of natural origin. Six small round holes on the eastern edge of F4 (F12-F17, ranging from 0.05 to 0.09m in diameter and 0.03-0.1m deep) are perhaps stakeholes but probably far more likely to be the remains of tree-rooting. Natural linear F3 was also identified at the northwestern end of the trench.

Trench 3 (T3): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Three tree-throws, F22, F23 and F24, were excavated.

Trench 4 (T4): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Undated ditch F25 was aligned NNW/SSE and was a wide U-shaped feature c 1.8m wide by 0.28m deep. It probably continued to the south as F2 in T1. Recorded in the base of the ditch was pit/posthole F26, c 0.57m in diameter by 0.33m deep, and cut by the ditch was pit F27, c 0.14m deep.

Parallel to ditch F25 was shallow undated ditch F21, c 0.95m wide by 0.08m deep. Tree-throw F20 was also excavated.



Photograph 1 Trench 1,
looking northeast



Photograph 2 Trench 2,
looking southeast



Photograph 3 Prehistoric ditch F4, looking west



Photograph 4 Trench 3, looking northeast



Photograph 5 Trench 4,
looking east

7 Finds

7.1 Pottery and ceramic building material by Howard Brooks

Pottery

This is a group of eight prehistoric sherds, weighing in total 32g, from three features. The sherds are all small, undecorated and undiagnostic, so identification is based on fabric types rather than form or decoration (Table 1). For earlier sherds, Nigel Brown's (1988) classification is used, and for later sherds, that in *Colchester Archaeological Report 10* as refined by Stephen Benfield for Crummy, Benfield *et al* (2007).

Context	Finds no.	Description	Provisional date
F4	1	One sherd (7g) is a very dark grey fabric with some sand temper and rare flint inclusion, but with very prominent grey and orange grogs, up to 6mm and 3.5mm diameter respectively. Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware. Probably a Colchester GTW fabric. The other four sherds (14g) are flint-tempered, with up to 20 inclusions per cm ² , largest being 1 to 2.5mm long. While it is not impossible that these are contemporary with the grog-tempered sherd, the heavy flint temper would indicate an earlier, Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. Probably a Brown (1988) fabric C.	Late Iron Age, probably with some Bronze or Iron Age
F5	2	Three sherds (11g). Medium brown outer surfaces with grey core and inner surfaces. Heavy flint temper, up to 10 flints per cm ² , mostly up to 1mm across but several 1-2mm, and one	Prehistoric, probably Bronze Age to Early Iron Age

		4mm across. Surface decoration looks Iron Age, temper looks earlier.	
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Table 1 Pottery descriptions

It is difficult to assess this small group with no diagnostic sherds. One grog-tempered ware (GTW) sherd is certainly Late Iron Age. The others are all prehistoric, and more likely to predate the GTW sherd than to be contemporary with it. For the site contexts in general, a range of dates from Bronze Age to Late Iron Age can be suggested.

Ceramic building material

One fragment of post-medieval frogless brick, weighing 768g, came from F9 (finds no.3). Of an orange fabric it is rough to the touch with brick grogs, large flint and black sandy inclusions. Only one surface survives, and at 55mm thick (2.25 inches), it is probably too thick to be a general 'Tudor' brick (i.e., up to 2 inches thick). Probably 17th or 18th century in date.

8 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, East Bergholt revealed eight sherds of prehistoric pottery (32g) recovered from the backfill of a ditch and a ditch/pit. Ditch F4 appears to have been backfilled by the Late Iron Age, with residual sherds of either Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery suggesting earlier activity in the area. However, as all of the sherds were small and abraded there is a chance that all of the pottery is residual in a later-dated feature. Ditch/pit F5 similarly produced small sherds of Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pottery. This evidence does suggest activity on the development site in the Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age periods, although as the finds evidence is particularly sparse the site was probably located on the periphery of such activity. An HER search carried out in advance of the project did reveal PAS (Portable Antiquities Scheme) findspots of prehistoric date, particularly Bronze Age, within a 750m radius of the site.

The only other dated feature from the evaluation was a ditch backfilled with a fragment of 17th- or 18th-century brick. Undated ditches F2 (T1) and F25 (T4) are likely to be part of the same feature, with undated ditches F11 and F21, and ditch/pit F7, also present on the site. Other undated features included five pits and two pit/postholes. None of these undated features produced any finds and many had a leached and sterile fill, perhaps indicating that some could be of natural origin. A natural linear, five tree-throws and evidence of tree-rooting was also recorded.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Jenna Ackerley and Events Under Canvas Ltd for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with S Carter, R Mathison and B Quinn. Figures are by S Carter, R Mathieson and L Pooley. The project was monitored by Matthew Baker for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

10 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N	1988	'A Late Bronze Age enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex', in <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> , Volume 54, 249-302
Brown, N & Glazenbrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020

CIfA	2019	<i>Code of Conduct</i>
Crummy, P, Benfield, S, Crummy, N, Rigby, V & Shimmin, D MHCLG	2007	<i>Stanway: an élite burial site at Camulodunum</i> . Britannia Monograph 24 .
	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
SCC	2012	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCAS	2019	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition</i>
SCCAS	2020a	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i>
SCCAS	2020b	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt</i> , by Matthew Baker

11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Iron Age (Early)	Early Iron Age, period from c 600 – 400BC
Iron Age (Middle)	Middle Iron Age, period from c 400 – 100BC
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: part of one box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1648)

SCCAS evaluation brief

Original site record (trench record sheets, sections)

Site digital photographic log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1648)

SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number EBG 112. The archive will be deposited in line with SCCAS guidance (SCCAS 2019).

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Distribution list:

Jenna Ackerley, Events Under Canvas Ltd
Matthew Baker, SCCAS
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



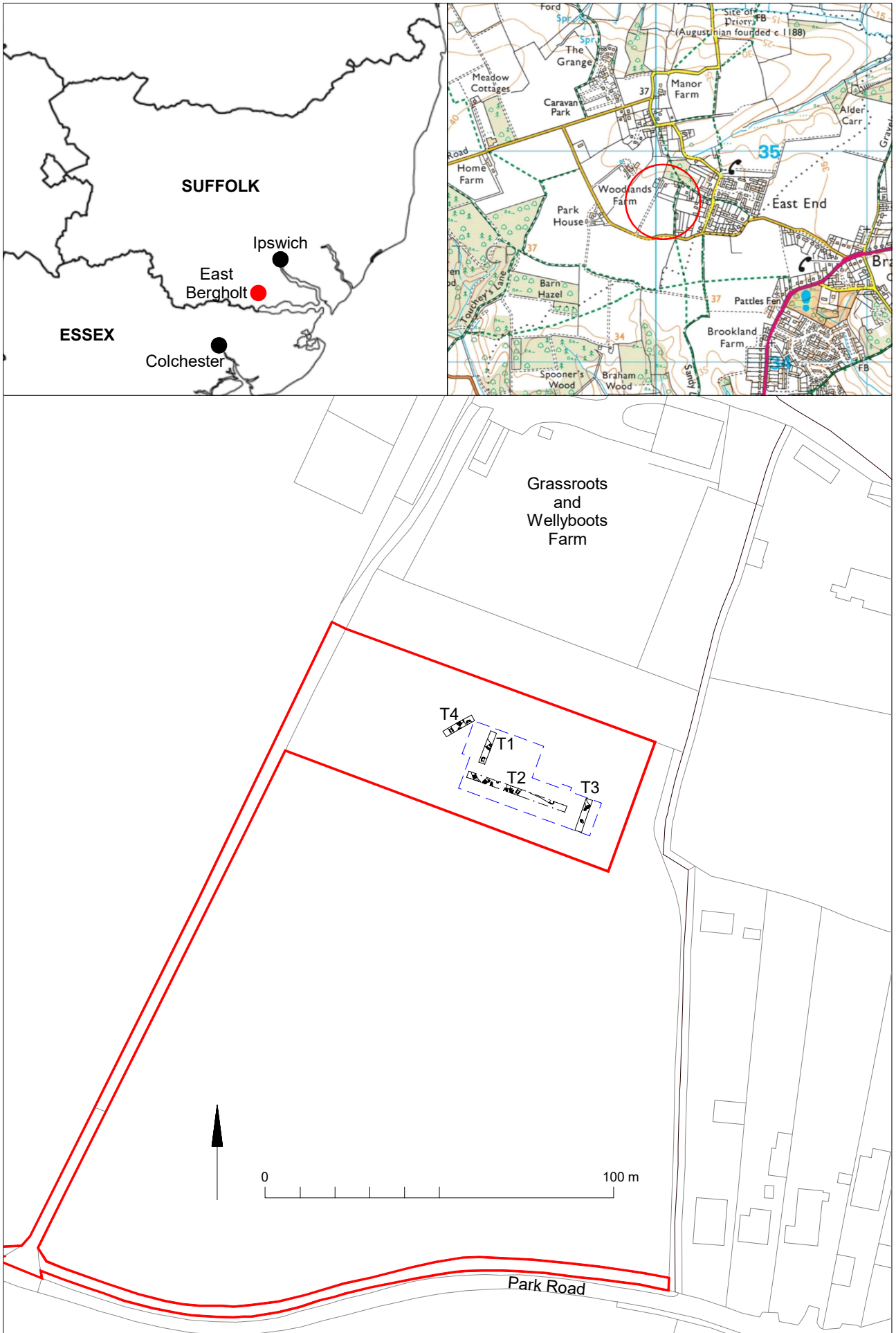
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date: 7.4.2021

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench	Finds No.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Firm moist medium grey/brown clay silt and inclusions of: gravel 2%	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Firm moist medium yellow/brown clay silt and inclusions of: gravel 2%	Undated
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm dry medium yellow/orange silty sand and inclusions of: gravel 20%	Post-glacial
F1	T1	-	Tree-throw	Soft moist light yellow/grey/brown silty sand and inclusions of: stone 7%	Undated
F2	T1	-	Ditch	Soft dry/moist medium/dark brown sandy silt	Undated
F3	T2	-	Natural linear	Soft dry medium grey sandy silt	Post-glacial
F4	T2	1	Ditch	Soft dry medium grey/brown sandy silt	Prehistoric
F5	T2	2	Ditch/pit	Soft moist medium grey/brown silty sand with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 7%	Prehistoric
F6	T2	-	Pit	Soft moist light grey silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
F7	T2	-	Ditch/pit	Soft moist light grey sandy silt	Undated
F8	T2	-	Pit	Soft moist light grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
F9	T2	3	Ditch	Soft dry medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt	Post-medieval
F10	T2	-	Pit	Firm dry light grey silty sand	Undated
F11	T2	-	Ditch	Soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 3%	Undated
F12	T2	-	Tree-rooting	Soft dry medium/dark grey sandy silt	-
F13	T2	-	Tree-rooting	Soft dry medium/dark grey sandy silt	-
F14	T2	-	Tree-rooting	Soft dry medium/dark grey sandy silt	-
F15	T2	-	Tree-rooting	Soft dry medium/dark grey sandy silt	-
F16	T2	-	Tree-rooting	Soft dry medium/dark grey sandy silt	-
F17	T2	-	Tree-rooting	Soft dry medium/dark grey sandy silt	-
F18	T2	-	Pit/posthole	Soft dry/moist light/medium grey sandy silty clay	Undated
F19	T2	-	Pit	Firm dry light/medium grey silty clay	Undated
F20	T4	-	Tree-throw	Loose/soft dry light/medium grey sandy silt	Undated
F21	T4	-	Ditch	Loose dry light/medium grey/brown sandy silt	Undated
F22	T3	-	Tree-throw	Soft moist light grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 3%	Undated
F23	T3	-	Tree-throw	Soft moist light grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 2%	Undated
F24	T3	-	Tree-throw	Soft moist light grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 2%	Undated
F25	T4	-	Ditch	Soft/friable dry medium/dark grey/black sandy silt	Undated
F26	T4	-	Pit/posthole	Loose/soft dry medium grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: gravel 10% stone 15%	Undated
F27	T4	-	Pit	Soft dry light grey sandy silt	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location, proposed development dashed blue.



Fig 2 Development site shown in relation to nearby archaeological remains.
Data from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.



Imagery ©2021 Bluesky, CNES / Airbus, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2021 Google Maps. HER Data ©2021 Suffolk Historic Environment Record

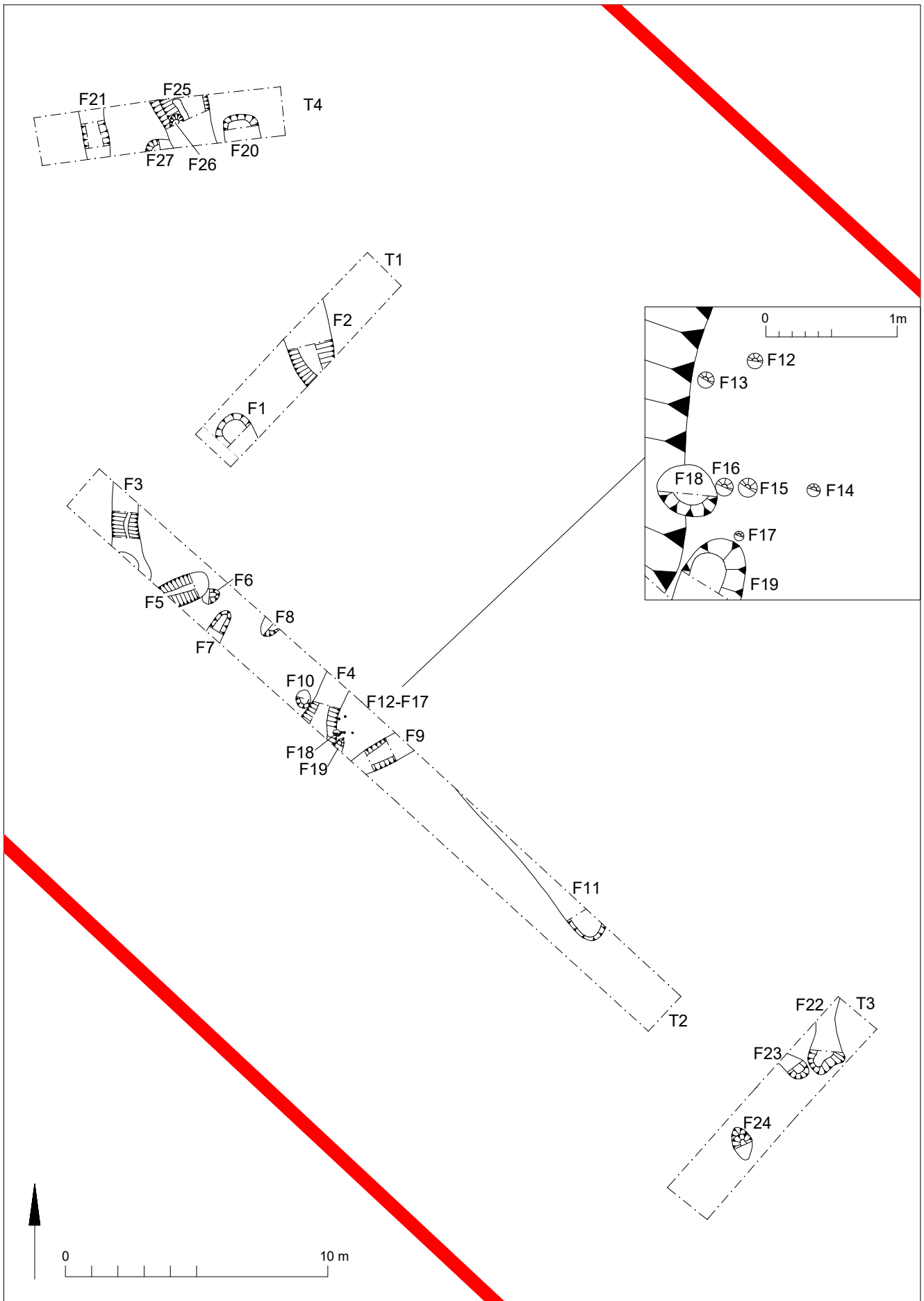


Fig 3 Results

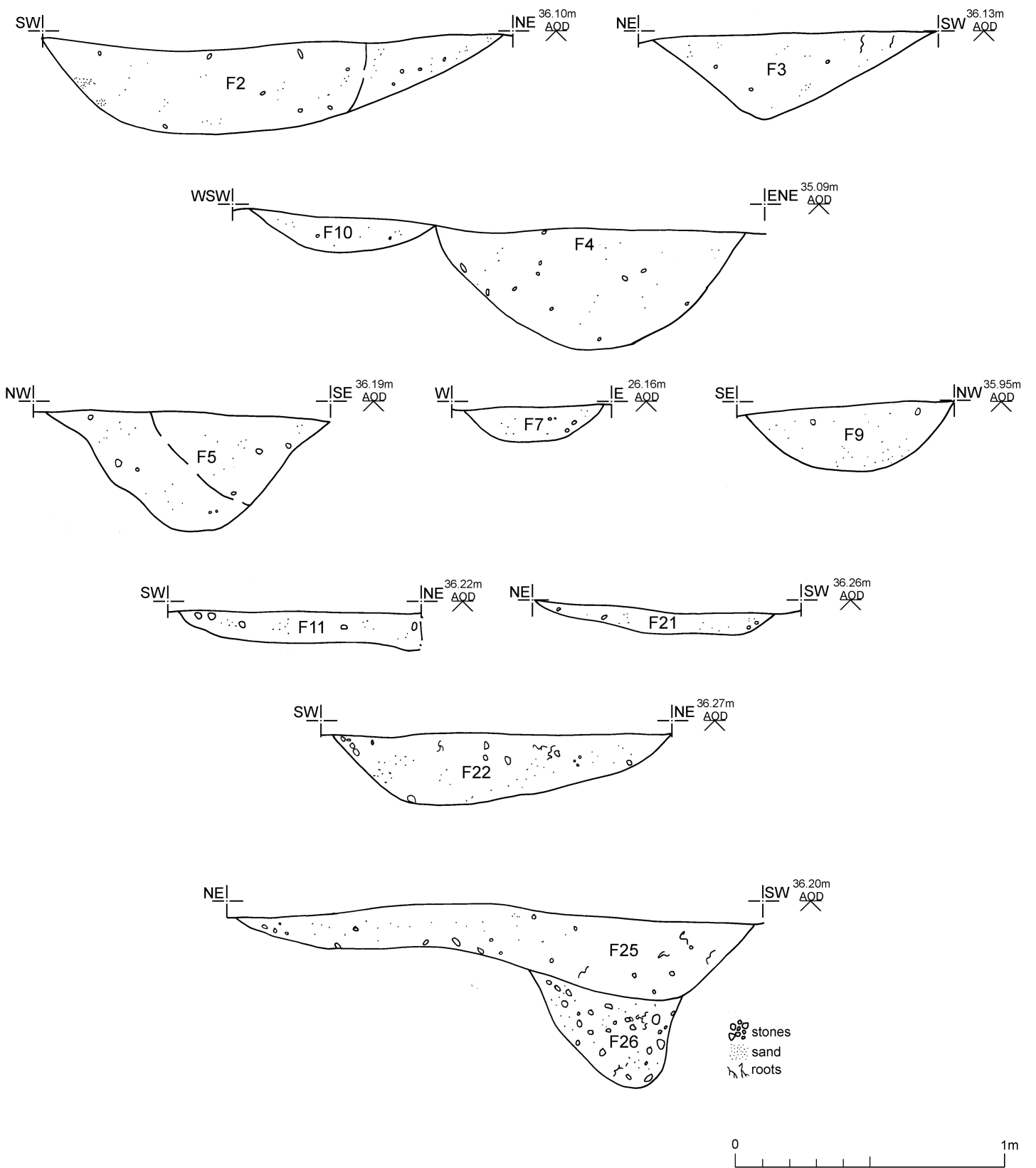


Fig 4 Feature sections.

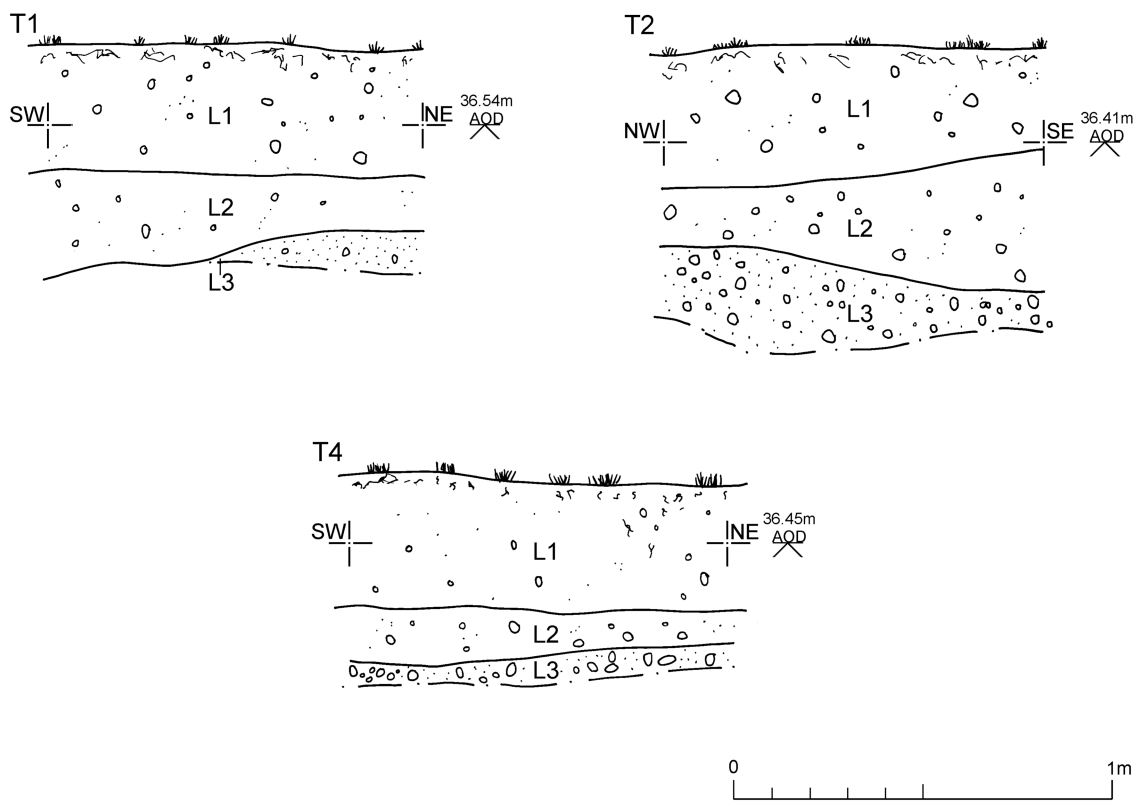


Fig 5 Representative sections.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation on land at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6XS

NGR: TM 1003 3474 (centre)

Planning references: DC/20/02886/FUL

District: Babergh District Council

Parish: East Bergholt

Commissioned by: Jenna Ackerley

Client: Events Under Canvas Ltd

Curating museum: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk parish number: EBG 112

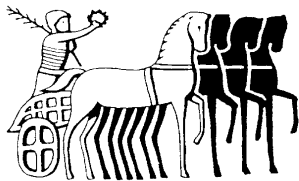
CAT project code: 2021/02j

OASIS reference no.: colchest3-415952

Site manager: Chris Lister

SCCAS Monitor: Matthew Baker

This WSI written: 5.3.2021



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Site location and description

The 0.4h development site is located on land at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk (Fig 1), and the site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 1003 3474.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of a building to provide a farm shop, cafe and business/community hub/suite with associated car parking and bike stands.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9502411.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Red Crag Formation – sand, with superficial deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup – sand and gravel.

Historic landscape

The development site is in an area defined as *plateau farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields). The landscape immediately around the site is characterised as: sub-type 1.4 (pre-18th century enclosure – irregular co-axial fields); sub-type 2.4 (18th-century and later enclosure – former post-medieval park); sub-type 2.9 (18th century and later enclosure – former heath); sub-type 3.4 (Post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from irregular co-axial fields); sub-type 7.3 (Woodland – modern plantation on former arable); and sub-type 10.3 (built-up area – village).

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

This background is focused on results within a 750m radius of the site.

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¹ British Geological Survey – <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

² <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

³ The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

⁴ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Listed buildings⁵

There are two listed buildings within the search radius. Both are Grade II listed dating from the late 16th to 17th century.

Planning background

An application was submitted to Babergh District Council (DC/20/02886/FUL) in July 2020 for the *erection of a building to provide a farm shop, cafe and business/community hub/suite (mixed Sui Generis use) with associated car parking and bike stands.*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the condition based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for trenched archaeological evaluation. Details are given in the Project Brief (*Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt*) written by SCCAS (2020b).

As per the brief, 50m of linear trenching at 1.8m wide will be excavated within the footprint of the proposed new building. This has been sub-divided into one 30m long trench and two 10m long trenches (see Fig 1).

Localised extensions to trenches may be required by the SCCAS after the site monitoring visit. This will only be used if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features present difficulties of interpretation, or to assist with the formulation of a mitigation strategy.

Trial-trenching is required to:

- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

All work will take place within and contribute to the goals of the Regional research frameworks (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011).

Decision on the need for any further archaeological investigation (eg excavation) will be made by SCCAS, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the report for this evaluation. Any further investigation will be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

This document represents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological evaluation ONLY; this document alone will NOT result in the discharge of the archaeological condition.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus two archaeologists for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

⁵ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2020), including a Risk Assessment which will be carried out before the evaluation begins.
- the Project Brief issued by SCCAS (2020b)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2020a) to be used alongside the Project Brief.

CAT is covered by Aviva Insurance Ltd, 006288/04/20, which includes Professional Indemnity £1,000,000, Employer's Liability £10,000,000 and Public Liability £5,000,000.

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to SCCAS ten days before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

Prior to the commencement of the site a HER parish code will be sought from the HER team. The HER parish code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to SCCAS. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached. Machine assistance may also be required for very large/deep features and a contingency has been made within the budget if required, but all features will be hand excavated unless specifically agreed with SCCAS.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded. **All** features will be excavated and recorded unless otherwise agreed with SCCAS.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the SCCAS, will it be removed.

Trenches will first be stepped where appropriate to allow for safe excavation of deep features. After discussion with SCCAS the use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) will be used where necessary to gain information from very deep deposits/features if depth cannot be established through hand excavation.

Any complex/unexpected deposits will be discussed with SCCAS to agree a strategy.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

The use of a hand held auger (or a power auger where appropriate) will be used where necessary to gain information from very deep deposits/features.

A metal detector will be used to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. This will be carried out by trained CAT staff under the supervision of project manager/supervisors Adam Wightman, Mark Baister or Ben Holloway who have over 5 years experience of metal detecting on archaeological sites. Experienced metal detectorist Geoff Lunn will be available for advice and support throughout the project. Geoff has 4 years experience and has worked with CAT to recover finds from recent excavations at the Mercury Theatre and Essex County Hospital sites in Colchester, and who has also worked with the Colchester Archaeological Group, Suffolk Archaeology, Access Cambridge Archaeology, The Citizen Project (MOLA) and others. If considered necessary, Geoff will be employed by CAT for to assist with the metal detecting. All finds will have their location recorded via GPS or with the Total Station. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the SCCAS.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples (unless complex or otherwise needing specialist processing) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and SCCAS will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) all archaeological human remains excavated during the course of the evaluation will either be analysed and reported by CAT project osteologist Megan Seehra or will be sent to external specialist Julie Curl.

Photographic record

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits and follow HE guidelines (HE 2015a). A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Basic site record shots will be taken using the site recording tablet at a resolution of 2592 x 1944 (5 megapixels).

Photographs of significant archaeological features and deposits will be taken using a Nikon D3500 DSLR camera with a 24.2 megapixel DX-format sensor.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with SCCAS.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

- ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Dr Matthew Loughton
- animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)
- small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
- non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
- flints: Adam Wightman
- environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
- project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

- animal and human bone: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)
- environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
- radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
- conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe, LR Conservation / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

- flint: Tom Lawrence
- prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
- Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Gwladys Monteil
- Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
- Roman glass: Hilary Cool
- small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and reported immediately to the Suffolk FLO (Finds Liaison Office) who will inform the coroner within 14 days, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with SCCAS and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS 2019b).

Results

Notification will be given to SCCAS when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

The draft final report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by SCCAS.

The approved final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA8, EAA14 & EAA24).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Appendices to include a copy of the completed OASIS summary sheet and the approved WSI

Results will be published, to at least a summary level, in the PSIAH (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History) annual round up should archaeological remains be encountered in the evaluation. An allowance will be made for this in the project costs for the report.

Final reports are also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

Archive deposition

The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service as per their archive guidelines (SCCAS 2019).

If the client does not agree to transfer ownership to SCCAS they will be required to nominate another suitable repository approved by SCCAS or provide funding for additional recording and analysis of the finds archive (such as, but not limited to, additional photography or illustration of objects). In the rare event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated, provided they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner or an approved third party, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the SCCAS.

The archive will be deposited with the SCCAS within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

Monitoring

SCCAS officers are responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Suffolk and will need to inspect site works at an appropriate time during the fieldwork and will review the progress of excavation reports and/or archive preparation.

Notification of the start of work will be given to SCCAS ten days in advance of its commencement and a monitoring visit will be booked with SCCAS at this time.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with SCCAS prior to them being carried out.

SCCAS will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of SCCAS shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

SCCAS remote monitoring requirements during the Covid-19 pandemic

Currently SCCAS are undertaking monitoring visits.

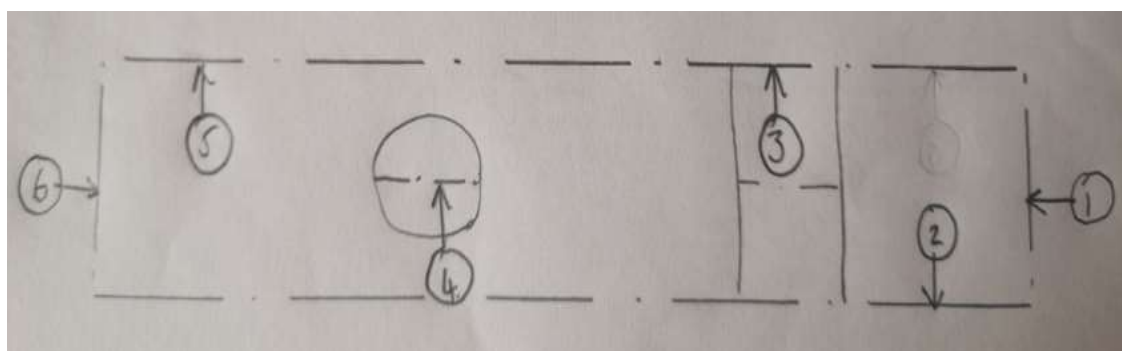
However, if government/local government advice changes due to a spike in cases/localised lockdown, *etc.* SCCAS may have to start remotely monitoring sites again.

In this case, the following remote monitoring requirements have been laid-out by SCCAS:

- All features present in the trenches, including presumed natural and geological features are to be investigated as per the WSI

In addition, the following must be sent to the SCCAS to enable them to decide if the fieldwork can be signed-off and trenches backfilled.

- GPS trench plans showing what is present in each trench – with context numbers included,
- Written text stating what finds were found (if any) in each context, with provisional date,
- Text stating which features environmental samples have been taken from,
- Photographs of 1) each trench, from each end of the trench; 2) trench sections (bulk); and 3) features (all photographs will be taken at appropriate times of day and not in bad lighting conditions and once trenches, sections, features have been cleaned)
- A diagram showing the direction each photograph was taken from, with photograph number. For example,



Provision will be made in the timetable of works for the SCCAS to review the remote monitoring documents and for any queries to be resolved.

CAT understands that if SCCAS cannot gain sufficient information remotely, they will not be able to sign off fieldwork which may lead to delays in the completion of projects.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2020	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019

Digital Curation Centre (DCC) Gurney, D	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital image capture and file storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
SCC	2012	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map</i> , version 3
SCCAS	2019	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition</i>
SCCAS	2020a	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i> .
SCCAS	2020b	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt</i> , by Matthew Baker

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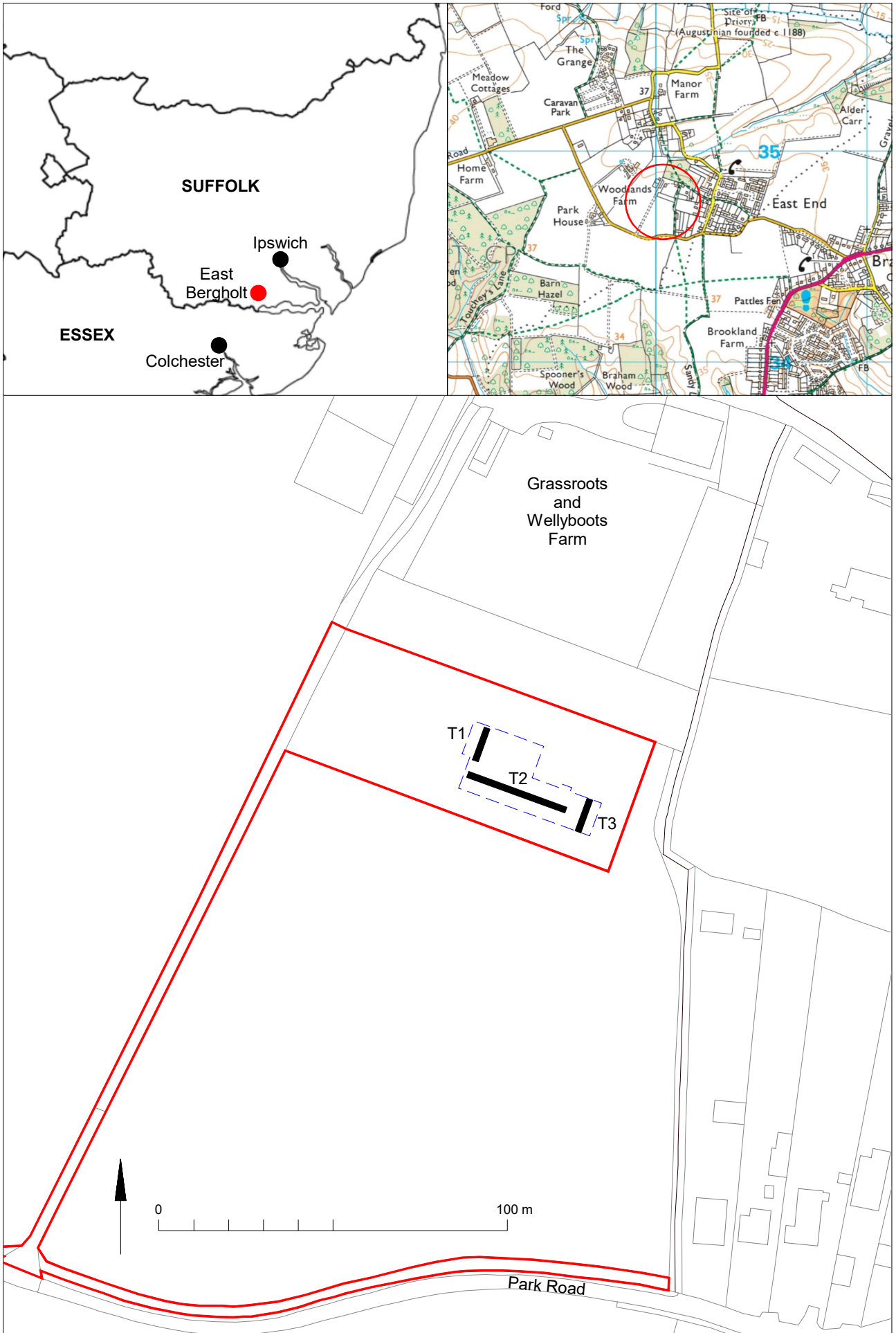


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



Fig 2 Development site shown in relation to nearby archaeological remains.
Data from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.



Imagery ©2021 Bluesky, CNES / Airbus, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2021 Google Maps. HER Data ©2021 Suffolk Historic Environment Record

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OASIS ID: colchest3-41592

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6XS
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk in advance of the construction of a new farm shop, café and business/community hub. The development site is located within an area of cropmarks with isolated finds of prehistoric date predominating. The evaluation revealed small-scale activity on the development site in the prehistoric period, with one ditch and one ditch/pit containing small fragments of Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Late Iron Age pottery. The only other dated feature was a ditch containing a fragment of 17th- to 18th-century brick. Undated features included ditches, pits, and pits/postholes, some of which could be of natural origin.
Project dates	Start: 24-03-2021 End: 25-03-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DC/20/02886/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/02j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	EBG112 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH/PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLES Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH EAST BERGHOLT Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road
Postcode	CO7 6XS
Study area	0.38 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 1003 3474 51.970845378085 1.058074169977 51 58 15 N 001 03 29 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 36m Max: 36.26m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, SCC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	EBG 112
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	EBG 112
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	EBG 112
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land at Grassroots and Wellyboots Farm, Park Road, East Bergholt, Suffolk, CO7 6XS: March 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1648
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ring-bound loose leaf
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