

Archaeological evaluation on land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk, CO10 0AH

October 2017



by Adam Tuffey

with contributions by Adam Wightman and Stephen Benfield
figures by Sarah Carter and Ben Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner and Adam Tuffey

commissioned by Mr & Mrs Hemsworth

NGR: TM 898 447

Planning ref: Pre-application

CAT project ref.: 17/09h

Suffolk Parish Number: ACT 039

Suffolk Event Code: ESF25841

OASIS ref: colchest3-295573



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CAT Report 1182
October 2017

Contents

| | | |
|----|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Summary | 1 |
| 2 | Introduction | 1 |
| 3 | Archaeological background | 1 |
| 4 | Aims | 3 |
| 5 | Methodology | 3 |
| 6 | Results | 3 |
| 7 | Finds | 4 |
| 8 | Conclusion | 4 |
| 9 | Acknowledgements | 5 |
| 10 | References | 5 |
| 11 | Abbreviations and glossary | 5 |
| 12 | Contents of archive | 6 |
| 13 | Archive deposition | 6 |

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| Appendix 1 | Context list | 7 |
|------------|--------------|---|

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Figures | after p7 |
|---------|----------|

CAT WSI

OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: general site shot

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------|---|
| Photograph 1 | T1 trench shot, looking W | 3 |
|--------------|---------------------------|---|

| | | |
|---------|----------------|---|
| Table 1 | Flints from L2 | 4 |
|---------|----------------|---|

Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue) and projected route of Roman road ACT 019 (green)

Fig 2 Development site in relation to nearby archaeological and historic sites and monuments

Fig 3 Results

Fig 4 Representative section

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk prior to the application for the construction of a single detached dwelling. Despite being located close to the projected route of a Roman road and in an area highlighted as being of archaeological interest, there were no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Rectory house, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk which was carried out on the 12th of October 2017. The project was commissioned by Mr & Mrs Hemsworth in advance of the construction of a single dwelling and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) advised that as this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, in order to establish the archaeological implications of any future planning applications, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (1 of 2)* detailing the requisite archaeological work written by James Rolfe (SCCAS 2017) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 evaluation* (CIfA 2017a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2017b).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9205005.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as 'Crag Group – Sand' with superficial deposits of both 'Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton' and 'Head – Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel'.

Historic landscape

Acton is in an area defined as *ancient rolling farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.3, built up area (village). The landscape immediately around the development site is primarily characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th-century enclosure – random fields), but slightly further afield includes sub-type 2.1 (18th-century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland); sub-type 2.9 (18th-century and later enclosure – former heath); sub-type 11.1 (industrial – current industrial landscape) and sub-type 12.2 (post-medieval military – disused military).

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

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre points of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site). Significant sites on or close to the development site are underlined.

Prehistoric: Prehistoric find-spots close to the development site include a Palaeolithic hand-axe found while fieldwalking (WFG 018, 800m SE), a Neolithic axe-like object with polished tip (WFG 001, 1.47km SSE) and an Ancient Greek coin (Ephesus, 280-258BC) from a mainly Roman site (ACT 015, 1.06km NW).

Roman: Part of a Roman road (Margary 322) runs NNW-SSE across the development site (ACT 019/WFG 015). A scatter of Roman finds was also identified 1.06km NW (ACT 015).

Medieval: The 13th century Grade I listed All Saints Church is located 790m NW of the development site (ACT 013), with Acton Hall (a modern farmhouse sited within the remains of an elliptical 12th century? moat) located 996m NW (ACT 006). Another medieval moat is located at Dyer's Green Farm (WFG 002, 1.32km E). The monument labelled WFG Misc is the approximate location of Babergh double hundred, suggested by place-name and circumstantial evidence (540m SE).

Medieval/post-medieval: A medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval quarrying were identified during evaluation trenching to the rear of Albany House (ACT 031, 600m W). Three silver medieval coins and one silver post-medieval coin was found 1.06km NW (ACT 015).

Post-medieval: A finds scatter of 81 silver coins from Elizabeth I to Charles II (1558-1685) was found in the garden of Black Cottage next to the development site (ACT 009, 120m E). Acton Place, a ?17th century house (which was demolished in 1825 except for the servants wing) and parkland is located 2.05km NW (ACT 020). It incorporates an ancient woodland (ACT 021), the cropmark of a rectangular enclosure (ACT 024) from which have been Roman finds (ACT 004 and ACT 005), an ice house (ACT 010) and a WWII hospital (ACT 030). The World War II Sudbury airfield of the 92nd Combat Wing lies 1.15km SW (ACT 029) and includes a series of vague and undated cropmarks in the same area as a square standing structure shown on the 1838 and 1905 OS maps (ACT 027, 640m S). A mill and gardens is recorded on the 1838 tithe apportionment 1.14km SE (WFG 034) and a milestone is located on the B1071 (WFG 040, 1.13km SE).

Metal-detected finds: Metal-detected finds from a site located roughly 1.5km away (ACT 034) consist of mainly Roman and Medieval artefact scatters, including an Iron Age potin and speculum mirror fragment.

Undated: Undated cropmarks and other monuments include:

- ACT 007 (1.6km WNW): Subrectangular enclosure and field boundaries (moat?), and a metal-detected bronze animal head
- ACT 016 (1.42km NW): ring-ditch or circular enclosure, ?Bronze Age
- WFG 004: Rectangular enclosure, incomplete, crosses field boundaries (1.55km SE)
- WFG 005 (1.28km SE), WFG 006 (1.25m ESE), WFG 007 (675m ESE), WFG 012 (1.48m SE): ring-ditches
- WFG 013 (1.34m SE): Rectilinear systems
- WFG 025 (1.25km E), WFG 026 (1.12km ESE): earthworks on northwest end of Dyers Green
- WFG 041 (1.59km SE): Trial-trenched revealed two undated parallel gullies, and undated ditch and a series of modern features.

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

Listed buildings⁵

A further 16 listed buildings (15 Grade II and one Grade II*) dating from the 16th/17th to the 19th century are located within a 1.5km search radius of the development site.

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits that were identified within the development site.
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, 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.

5 Methodology

A single trial-trench was excavated across the proposed footprint of the new dwelling. The trench measured 10m long by 1.8m wide.

The trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata. For full details of the methodology, refer to the attached WSI.

6 Results (Appendix 1, Figs 3-5)

The trial-trench was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.15m thick) sealing imported subsoil (L2, c 0.55m thick) which overlay original topsoil (L4, c 0.24m thick), beneath this lay natural silty-clay (L3). There were no significant archaeological remains.



Photograph 1 Trench shot - looking west

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

7 Finds

by Stephen Benfield (unless otherwise stated)

Introduction

A small number of finds, consisting of a few worked flints and two sherds of pottery, were recovered from soil layers (L1 & L2). The flints are likely to be of later prehistoric date, possibly Late Neolithic or Bronze Age. The pottery can be dated to the medieval period and is probably of c 13th-14th century date.

Flint by Adam Wightman

Three worked flints were recovered from a soil layer beneath the topsoil L2 (1). All three pieces are made on dark grey flint from secondary sources which is likely to have been sourced locally. None of the three pieces are closely-datable, but they are most likely to belong to the later prehistoric period, possibly the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age. The flints are described below and are summarised in Table 1.

1) A secondary hard hammer flake with a short length of abrupt retouch at the distal end and evidence of possible usewear/edge damage elsewhere on the piece.

2) A smoothly rounded flint cobble which has been broken through natural processes and then the broken surface has patinated. Three flakes have been removed from the cobble, one from the broken face and two from the edge. The two flake scars on the edge of the piece have been retouched with small, abrupt flakes making two retouched notches and forming a point. The piece is best described as a tool of convenience. The notches may have been used to scrape off bark/sinew etc. or the point may have been used as a small awl or piercer.

3) The third piece is possibly also a tool of convenience as the flake scar from which several removals have been taken appears to be of much greater antiquity than the subsequent edge modification. Roughly six medium-sized, abrupt removals have been taken from around the piece and then numerous smaller removals have been taken to blunt the edge and create a scraper.

| Artefact type | Cortex % | Soft/Hard hammer | Modification |
|------------------|----------|------------------|--|
| retouched flake | 45 | hard | small area of retouch at distal end |
| Retouched cobble | 90 | | two retouched notches forming a point |
| Scraper | 75 | | six mid-sized abrupt removals and small abrupt removals to blunt the edge of the piece |

Table 1 Flints from L2

Pottery

The pottery consists of two small abraded greyware sherds from subsoil L2 (2). One (4g) is from a base edge and the inner surface is a brownish grey. The other (2g) is a relatively hard, sandy body sherd. Both are almost certainly medieval and a 13th-14th century date appears most likely.

8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on the development site uncovered no significant archaeological remains. Recovered finds hint at prehistoric and medieval activity in the vicinity.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Mr & Mrs Hemsworth for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner and A Tuffey. Figures are B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored by James Rolfe 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 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 | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2017 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation and continuous archaeological recording at Plot 1 on land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk, CO10 0AH</i> |
| CIfA | 2008a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CIfA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| CIfA | 2008c | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England | 2016 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| 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 | 2008 | <i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i> |
| SCCAS/CT | 2017a | <i>Brief part 1 of 2: Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Plot 1 land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, July 2017</i> |
| SCCAS/CT | 2017b | <i>Brief part 2 of 2: Continuous Archaeological Monitoring at Plot 1 land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, July 2017</i> |
| SCCAS/CT | 2017c | <i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (version 1.3)</i> |

11 Abbreviations and glossary

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 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 |
| layer (L) | distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material |
| medieval | period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500 |
| modern | period from c AD 1800 to the present |
| natural | geological deposit undisturbed by human activity |
| NGR | National Grid Reference |
| OASIS | Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main |
| post-medieval | from c AD 1500 to c 1800 |
| residual | something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit |
| Roman | the period from AD 43 to c AD 410 |
| 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 |
| ws | written scheme of investigation |

12 Contents of archive

Finds: Three flints

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1182)

SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, trench record sheet, finds record)

Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD

Sundries (attendance register, benchmark data, risk assessment).

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 ACT 039.

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Distribution list:

Mr & Mrs Hemsworth

James Rolfe, SCCAS

Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

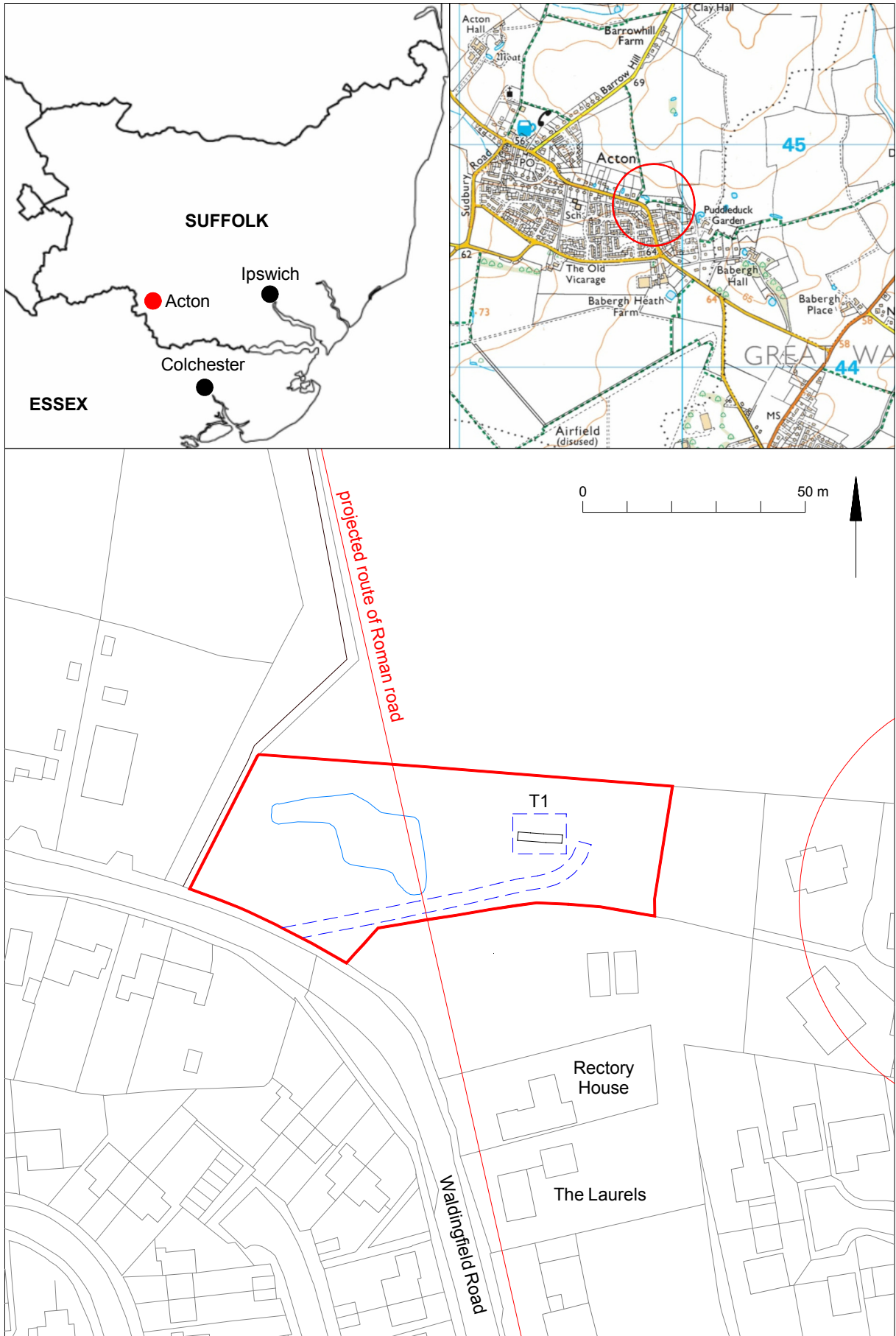
email: lp@catuk.org

checked by: Philip Crummy

date: 18.10.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

| Context Number | Finds Number | Context type | Description | Date |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|--------------|
| L1 | - | Topsoil | Friable, dry, medium brown silty clay with loam, <1% gravel, <2% stone | Modern |
| L2 | 1, 2 | Subsoil | Very firm, dry, medium yellow/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal (<1%) and CBM (<2%), <2% gravel, <2% stone | ?Modern |
| L3 | - | Natural sand | Medium yellow/grey/brown silty-clay with rare stone and gravel | Post-glacial |
| L4 | - | Buried topsoil | Friable, dark grey/brown silty-clay with <2% oyster shell flecks, <2% gravel and <2% stone | Undated |



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue) and projected route of Roman road ACT 019 (red)



Fig 2 Development site in relation to nearby archaeological and historic sites and monuments

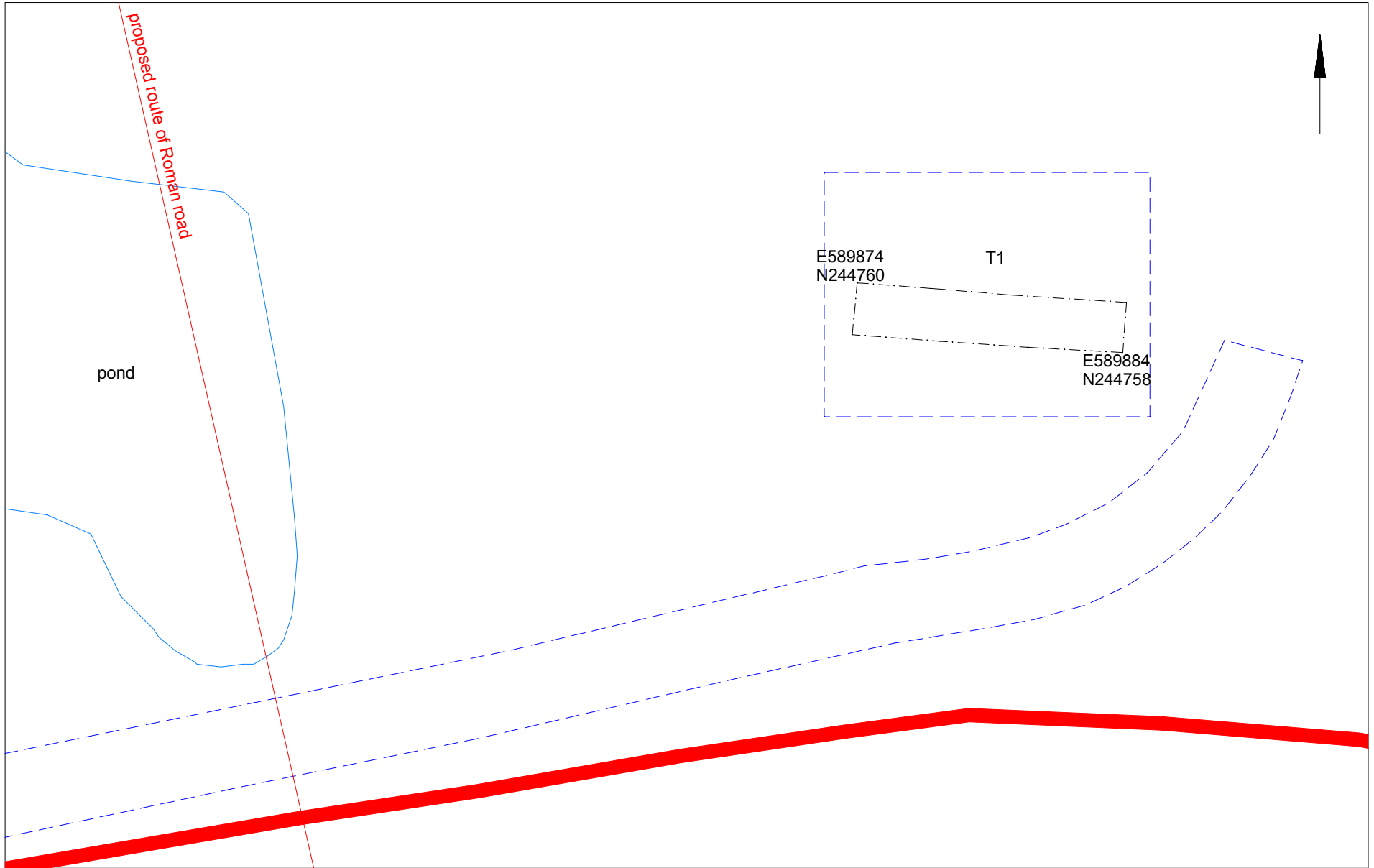
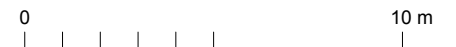
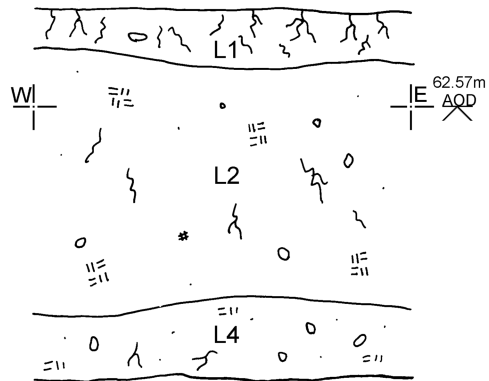


Fig 3 Results (proposed development dashed blue)

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



-  small stones
-  large stones
-  roots
-  clay
-  charcoal



Fig 4 Representative section

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation and continuous archaeological recording at Plot 1 on land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk, CO10 0AH

NGR: TM 898 447 (centre)

Planning references: pre-application

Client: Mr & Mrs Hemsworth

Curating museum: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk HER parish code: ACT 039

Suffolk event number: ESF25841

CAT project code: 17/09h (evaluation) & 17/09i (monitoring)

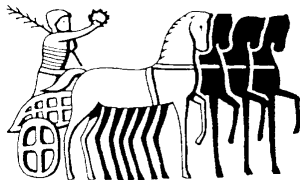
OASIS reference: colchest3-295573

Site manager: Chris Lister

SCCAS/CT monitor: James Rolfe

This WSI written: 22.9.2017

revised: 5.10.2017



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Site location and description

The development site is located at Plot 1 on land to the north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 898 447.

Proposed work

The development on Plot 1 comprises the construction of a new detached dwelling.

Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9205005.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as 'Crag Group – Sand' with superficial deposits of both 'Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton' and 'Head – Clay, Silt, Sand And Gravel'.

Historic landscape

Acton is in an area defined as *ancient rolling farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.3, built up area (village). The landscape immediately around the development site is primarily characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th-century enclosure – random fields), but slightly further afield includes sub-type 2.1 (18th-century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland); sub-type 2.9 (18th-century and later enclosure – former heath); sub-type 11.1 (industrial – current industrial landscape) and sub-type 12.2 (post-medieval military – disused military).

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre points of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site). Significant sites on or close to the development site are underlined.

Prehistoric: Prehistoric find-spots close to the development site include a Palaeolithic hand-axe found while fieldwalking (WFG 018, 800m SE), a Neolithic axe-like object with polished tip (WFG 001, 1.47km SSE) and an Ancient Greek coin (Ephesus, 280-258BC) from a mainly Roman site (ACT 015, 1.06km NW).

Roman: Part of a Roman road (Margary 322) runs NNW-SSE across the development site (ACT 019/WFG 015). A scatter of Roman finds was also identified 1.06km NW (ACT 015).

Medieval: The 13th century Grade I listed All Saints Church is located 790m NW of the development site (ACT 013), with Acton Hall (a modern farmhouse sited within the remains of an elliptical 12th century? moat) located 996m NW (ACT 006). Another medieval moat is located at Dyer's Green Farm (WFG 002, 1.32km E). The monument labelled WFG Misc is the approximate location of Babergh double hundred, suggested by place-name and circumstantial evidence (540m SE).

Medieval/post-medieval: A medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval quarrying were identified during evaluation trenching to the rear of Albany House (ACT 031, 600m W). Three silver medieval coins and one silver post-medieval coin was found 1.06km NW (ACT 015).

Post-medieval: A finds scatter of 81 silver coins from Elizabeth I to Charles II (1558-1685) was found in the garden of Black Cottage next to the development site (ACT 009, 120m E). Acton Place, a ?17th century house (which was demolished in 1825 except for the servants wing) and parkland is located 2.05km NW (ACT 020). It incorporates an ancient woodland

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).

(ACT 021), the cropmark of a rectangular enclosure (ACT 024) from which have been Roman finds (ACT 004 and ACT 005), an ice house (ACT 010) and a WWII hospital (ACT 030). The World War II Sudbury airfield of the 92nd Combat Wing lies 1.15km SW (ACT 029) and includes a series of vague and undated cropmarks in the same area as a square standing structure shown on the 1838 and 1905 OS maps (ACT 027, 640m S). A mill and gardens is recorded on the 1838 tithe apportionment 1.14km SE (WFG 034) and a milestone is located on the B1071 (WFG 040, 1.13km SE).

Metal-detected finds: Metal-detected finds from a site located roughly 1.5km away (ACT 034) consist of mainly Roman and Medieval artefact scatters, including an Iron Age potin and speculum mirror fragment.

Undated: Undated cropmarks and other monuments include:

- ACT 007 (1.6km WNW): Subrectangular enclosure and field boundaries (moat?), and a metal-detected bronze animal head
- ACT 016 (1.42km NW): ring-ditch or circular enclosure, ?Bronze Age
- WFG 004: Rectangular enclosure, incomplete, crosses field boundaries (1.55km SE)
- WFG 005 (1.28km SE), WFG 006 (1.25m ESE), WFG 007 (675m ESE), WFG 012 (1.48m SE): ring-ditches
- WFG 013 (1.34m SE): Rectilinear systems
- WFG 025 (1.25km E), WFG 026 (1.12km ESE): earthworks on northwest end of Dyers Green
- WFG 041 (1.59km SE): Trial-trenched revealed two undated parallel gullies, and undated ditch and a series of modern features.

Listed buildings⁵

A further 16 listed buildings (15 Grade II and one Grade II*) dating from the 16th/17th to the 19th century are located within a 1.5km search radius of the development site.

Planning background

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, it was recommended by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) that an archaeological evaluation take place to identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The resulting report will be submitted along with a new planning application for Plot 1.

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching and continuous archaeological monitoring. Details are given in two Project Briefs written by SCCAS/CT (2017a & 2017b):

- *Brief part 1 of 2: Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at **Plot 1** land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton*
- *Brief part 2 of 2: Continuous Archaeological Recording at **Plot 1** land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton*

Evaluation

A single trial-trench will be excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide.

As per section 4 of the brief (SCCAS/CT 2017a) a linear trenched evaluation is required on the development site to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

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

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).

Continuous archaeological monitoring

Continuous archaeological monitoring and recording will take place during all associated groundworks, including the construction of access roads/driveways, service trenches and landscaping (SCCAS/CT 2017b).

If unexpected remains are encountered during any phase of the investigation the SCCAS/CT will be notified immediately. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (eg excavation) will be made by SCCAS/CT, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation/monitoring report. Any further investigation will also be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS/CT for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

Staffing

Evaluation

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

Monitoring

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT archaeologist for the duration of the groundworks.

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 2008a, b, c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Briefs issued by SCCAS/CT (2017a & 2017b)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS/CT 2017c) to be used alongside the Project Brief.

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/CT 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 and event number 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/CT. 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.

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.

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/CT, will it be removed.

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.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. 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/CT.

Monitoring methodology

There will be continuous on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' groundworks associated with the construction of access roads/driveways to fully record any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done either by hand or with a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. Where possible, 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/CT, will it be removed.

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

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.

A metal detector will be used by the attending archaeologist to examine the site, spoil heaps, and the 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.

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.

If exceptional or significant archaeological deposits are encountered CAT will inform SCCAS/CT and these may be reviewed on site.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, 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 micromorphical 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* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. 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 CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

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.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS/CT, 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/CT.

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.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)
Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:
Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey
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/CT and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS/CT 2017d).

Results

Notification will be given to SCCAS/CT 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* (English Heritage 2006).

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

The approved final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS/CT 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/CT 2017d).

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the SCCAS/CT.

The archive will be deposited with the SCCAS/CT within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS/CT.

Monitoring

SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given SCCAS/CT one week in advance of its commencement.

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

SCCAS/CT will be notified when the fieldwork is complete. Evaluation trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the SCCAS/CT.

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

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. A magazine (*The Colchester Archaeologist Vol 28* out now) summarises all our sites and staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works alongside the 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

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| 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 | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
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| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| English Heritage | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| 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 | 2008 | <i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i> |
| SCCAS/CT | 2017a | <i>Brief part 1 of 2: Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Plot 1 land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, July 2017</i> |
| SCCAS/CT | 2017b | <i>Brief part 2 of 2: Continuous Archaeological Monitoring at Plot 1 land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, July 2017</i> |
| SCCAS/CT | 2017c | <i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (version 1.3)</i> |
| SCCAS/CT | 2017d | <i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition</i> |

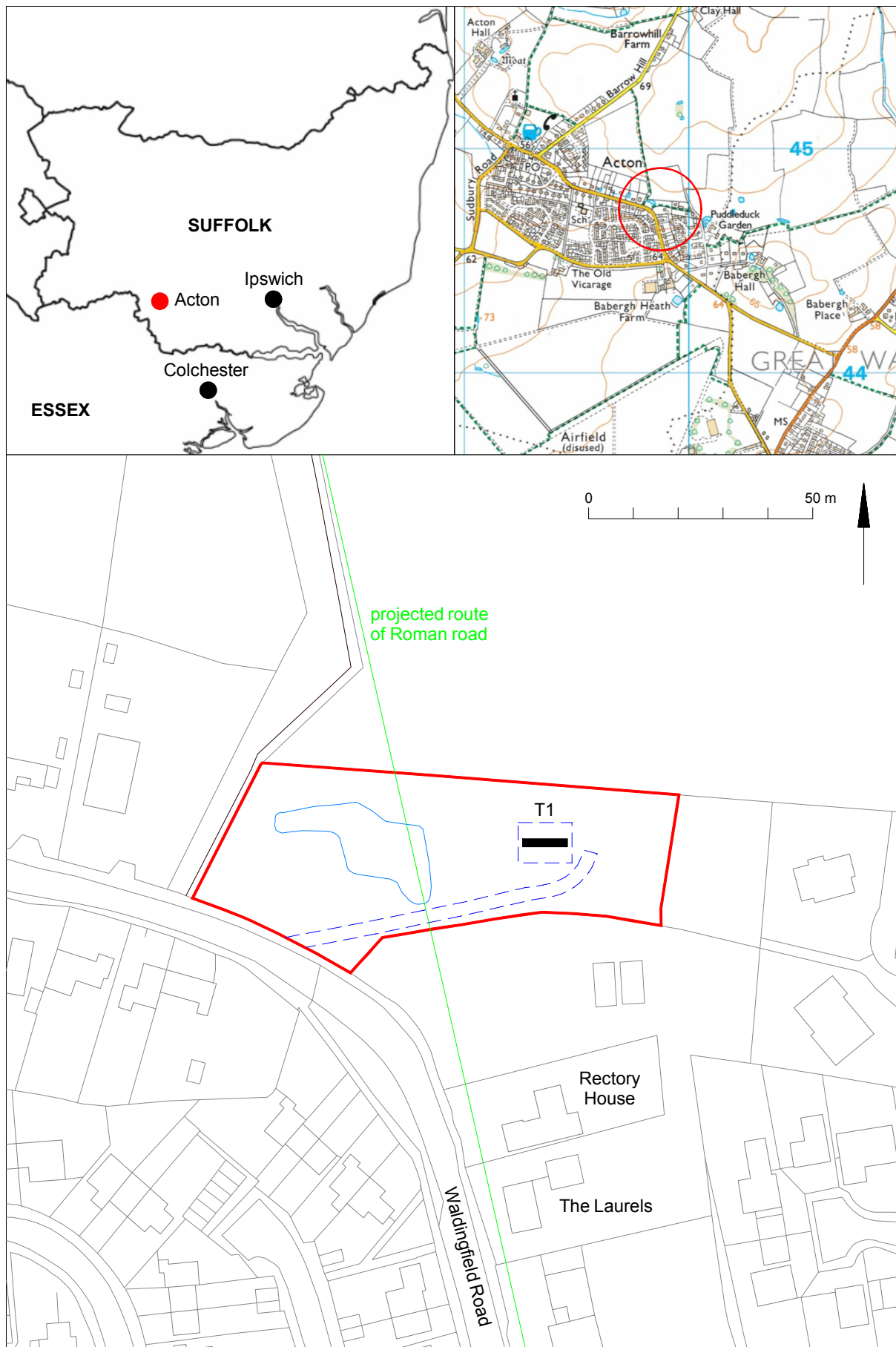
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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue) and projected route of Roman road ACT 019 (green)



Fig 2 Development site in relation to nearby archaeological and historic sites and monuments

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OASIS ID: colchest3-295573

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Archaeological evaluation and monitoring on land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk, CO10 0AH |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land to the north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk prior to the application for the construction of a single detached dwelling. Despite being located close to the projected route of a Roman road and in an area highlighted as being as of archaeological interest, there were no significant archaeological remains. |
| Project dates | Start: 12-10-2017 End: 12-10-2017 |
| Previous/future work | No / Yes |
| Any associated project reference codes | ESF25841 - HER event no. |
| Any associated project reference codes | 17/09h - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | B/17/01066/OUT - Planning Application No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | ACT 039 - Museum accession ID |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | LITHICS Late Neolithic |
| Significant Finds | LITHICS Early Bronze Age |
| Methods & techniques | ""Sample Trenches"" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter) |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | SUFFOLK BABERGH ACTON Plot 1, land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road |
| Postcode | CO10 0AH |
| Study area | 0.4 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TL 898 447 52.067609785396 0.769435021169 52 04 03 N 000 46 09 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 61.95m Max: 61.95m |

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 | Nigel Rayner |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Landowner |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Mr & Mrs Hemsworth |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service |
| Physical Archive ID | ACT 039 |
| Physical Contents | "Worked stone/lithics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service |
| Digital Archive ID | ACT 039 |
| Digital Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service |
| Paper Archive ID | ACT 039 |
| Paper Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section" |

Project bibliography 1

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
|------------------|---|

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Title | Archaeological evaluation on land north of Rectory House, Waldingfield Road, Acton, Suffolk, CO10 0AH: October 2017 |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Tuffey, A. |
| Other bibliographic details | CAT Report 1182 |
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| Description | A4 ring bound, loose-leaf |
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| Entered by | Adam Tuffey (lp@catuk.org) |
| Entered on | 18 October 2017 |

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