

# Archaeological evaluation on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk, IP6 0LY

April 2021



by **Sarah Veasey**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley  
figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Ziya Eksen

**commissioned by: Steve Norman**

**Client: Gro Living Ltd.**

NGR: TM 1143 5145

Planning ref: DC/20/05234/FUL

CAT project ref.: 2021/02c

Suffolk Parish Number: BLG 055

OASIS ref: colchest3-415309



## **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1662**

May 2021

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk in advance of the construction of four detached dwellings. The development site was located close to a number of significant cropmarks with find scatters (Roman, Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval) previously recovered nearby. Despite the sites location, only three features were present, two modern ditches and one post-medieval pit.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk which was carried out on 29th April 2021. The work was commissioned by Steven Norman on behalf of Gro Living Ltd in advance of the construction of four detached TYPO dwellings with parking, private access and landscaping, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Mid Suffolk District Council: Planning reference DC/20/05234/FUL) 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](mailto:archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)), SCC invoice number 9501696.

### Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Newhaven Chalk Formation – chalk, with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) – sand and gravel.

### Historic landscape

The development site is in an area defined as *ancient valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as Landscape sub-type 3.1, post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from random fields. The landscape immediately around the site is characterised as: sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields); sub-type 2.1 (18th century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland); sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland – meadow); sub-types 7.1 (woodland – ancient woodland) and 7.3 (woodland – modern plantation on former arable); sub-types 11.1 (industrial – current industrial landscape), 11.3 (industrial – current

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

mineral extraction) and 11.5 (industrial – water reservoir); and sub-type 14.2 (communications – railway).

#### **Archaeology<sup>4</sup>** (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 1km radius of the site.

**Prehistoric:** Worked flints of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic date have been found at Eastall's Pit (BHR 003, 700m ESE), with Palaeolithic remains (BRH 001, 700m ENE) and sherds of Iron Age pottery (BRH 005, 820m ENE) from Broomfield Pit. Prehistoric remains have also been recorded on sites 480m SSE (BLG 037) and 630m SW (BAY 056), and at Mason's Quarry (BAY 031, 930m SW). Possible ploughed out Bronze Age barrows are located 500m NNW (BAY 034) and 675m NNE (BAY 053), and isolated prehistoric finds have been recovered 490m SW (BLG 004).

**Roman:** Just over 1km to the north is the scheduled site of a large Roman town (CDD 003; NHLE 1006033) with two Roman forts (CDD 016). Part of the Colchester to Caister Roman road (Margary 3c) is located 640m NNE (BAY 014), and archaeological investigations have revealed a Roman field system 660m SW (BAY 056). Isolated Roman finds and finds scatters surround the development site: BAY 015 (740m NNE), BAY 016 (785m NNW), BAY 018 (680m N), BAY 20 (855m NW), BAY 21 (705m N), BAY 063 (400m W), BLG 003 (1km SSE), a significant scatter at BLG 004 (500m SW), BLG 008 (885m SSE), BLG 045 (445m SSE), BLG 047 (170m WSW) and BRH 005 (810m ENE).

**Anglo-Saxon:** Anglo-Saxon remains have been recorded 500 NE (BAY 036) and over 1km N (CDD 003), with finds scatters known 85m SSW (BLG 011), 500m SW (BLG 004), 700m SE (BRH 003), 860m E (BR 022) and 880m SSE (BLG 008).

**Medieval:** St Mary's Church and churchyard is located 730m SSE (BLG 005), with a possible small medieval farmstead identified 490m S (BLG 037) and other medieval contexts 940m SSE (BLG 013). Finds scatters have also been recorded 590m SSE (BLG 048), 890m SSE (BLG 008), 935m S (BLG 020) and 1km SE (BLG 006).

**Post-medieval:** Post-medieval farmsteads/farmhouses in the vicinity include White Wheat Farm (BAY 039, 815m NW), Walnut Tree Farm (BAY 078, 800m WSW), Park Farm/Hill Farm (BAY 080, 790m WNW), Tollgate Farm (BLG 051, 860m SSE) and Malting Farm (BLG 053, 180m E). A post-medieval bridge is located over the River Gipping 775m SE (BLG 014) with the Bosmere and Claydon Incorporated Workhouse and cemetery located c 1km SE (BRH 038 & BRH 054). Post-medieval field boundaries were identified during evaluation and geophysical survey 650m WSW (BAY 056). Isolated finds and finds scatters are known 175m NW (BLG 046) and 400m W (BAY 064).

**Undated:** Great Wood, an ancient woodland is located 500m S (BLG 012). Evaluation at Plum Pudding Hill revealed an undated ditch and terracing (BAY 040, 850m NNW), with ditches, a trackway and ring-ditch showing up on a geophysical survey 1km N (BAY 041). There are two undated cropmarks of ring-ditches (BAY 010, 700m NW; BAY 049, 740m N), with other undated cropmarks including a pit (BAY 010, 700m NW), parallel ditches/trackways (possibly of Roman date) (BAY 029, 550m N), field boundaries (BAY 048, 1km N; BAY 050, 440m W), field boundaries and trackways (BLG 010, 900m SSW), a curvilinear enclosure (BLG 028, 120m SSW), and pits and ditches (BLG 029, 235 NE). Undated finds scatters have been located 705m N (BAY 021) and 890m SSE (BLG 008).

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4

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



## 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) 5% of the development site was sampled. Five trenches were excavated, four of which were located within the footprints of the proposed buildings. All trenches were 12m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist, and all archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. 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 3-4)

Trenches T1, T2, T3 and T5 were cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.19m-0.31m thick), which sealed a layer of buried topsoil (L2, c 0.33-0.72m thick) onto natural sand (L3, c 0.52-1.25m below current ground level [bcgl]). T4 was cut through L1 into a layer of modern build up (L4, c 0.29-0.31m thick) then L2 onto L3. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

A sondage was excavated in T1 to confirm the identification of the natural sands. There were no archaeological remains in T1, T2 and T4.

### Trench 3 (T3)

Modern drainage ditch F1 was 0.41m wide and 0.46m deep. It was cut through L1 into L2 and produced one fragment of peg-tile.

### Trench 5 (T4)

Pit F2 was 0.65m long, 0.55m wide and 0.37m deep. A fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from the fill dating it to the post-medieval period.

Modern ditch F3 was 1.06m wide and 0.54m deep, with a U-shaped profile. F3 was aligned NE/SW and was cut through L2 and sealed by L1.

In the SE end of the trench a large dump of modern material was uncovered. It was 4.36m long and covered the width of the trench. It was not excavated.



Photograph 1 T5 trench shot – looking southwest

## 7 Finds

### 7.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*By Dr. Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered a small collection of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with nine sherds at a weight of 2,917g and 4.00 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is very high at 324g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Pottery	8	2,903	363	4.00
CBM	1	14	14	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,917</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>4.00</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

All of the pottery came from L2 and consisted of four complete modern English stoneware (F45M) jars ranging in height from 105mm to 130mm with diameters from 75mm to 95mm. One of the pots is a ribbed marmalade jar while one of the other jars was stamped 'MALING NEWCASTLE 1960' on the underside of the base. There was also two sherds with a weight of 710g from 19th-20th century flowerpots (fabric F51B). Finally, the ditch F1 produced one sherd of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with a weight of 14g. This was not retained.

### 7.2 Glass and clay pipes

*By Laura Pooley*

Five complete 19th- to 20th-century glass bottles/jars came from L2. Manufacturers included W A Willson of the Temperance Brewery, John Kilner & Sons and Cannington Shaw & Company. A fragment of post-medieval clay pipe stem also came from pit F2.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L2, T4	3	<b>Glass:</b> Complete glass bottle, pale blue/green, embossed <b>W. A. WILLSON / TEMPERANCE BREWERY. LONDON. S. E.</b> Straight-sided, circular in cross-section, with gently tapering shoulders to flared rim, 264mm high, 76mm diameter. Late 19th to 20th century.
L2, T5	4	<b>Glass:</b> Four complete glass bottles/jars, 19th-20th century. 1) Bottle, pale green, circular in cross-section, gently tapers to wide rim, embossed on the base <b>JK &amp; S L<sup>TD</sup> 44 [..]</b> (John Kilner & Sons), 160mm high, 66mm diameter. Possibly a milk bottle, 19th-20th century. 2) Bottle, pale blue/green, square in cross-section, short tapering shoulders, wide rim, embossed on the base <b>CS &amp; C<sup>o</sup> L<sup>D</sup> 1868</b> (Cannington Shaw & Company), 185mm high, 54mm wide. Late 19th-20th century. 3) Jar, colourless, circular in cross-section with sides that taper very slightly to the base, short rounded shoulders with short neck and flared rim, embossed on base <b>S.D</b> , 120mm high, 73mm diameter (max.). 19th-20th century. 4) Bottle, colourless, circular in cross-section with sides that taper very slightly to the base, short rounded shoulders with neck and flat rim, 120mm high, 31mm diameter (max). 19th-20th century.
F2, T5	2	<b>Clay tobacco pipe:</b> Stem fragment, 4.2g, post-medieval.

**Table 2** Glass and clay pipe listed by context

## 8 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of significant cropmarks and find scatters, no archaeologically significant remains or materials were encountered.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Steve Norman and Gro Living Ltd for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with Z Eksen. Figures are by C Lister and S Veasey. 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 & 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	2021	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeologic evaluation on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk, IP6 0LY</i> By Laura Pooley
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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2015	<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)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
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 Land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, by Matthew Baker</i>

## 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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** part of one box (single fragments of peg-tile and clay pipe discarded)

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1662)

SCCAS evaluation brief

Original site record (trench record sheets, sections)

Site digital photographic log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1662)

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 BLG 055. The archive will be deposited in line with SCCAS guidance (SCCAS 2019).

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**Distribution list:**

Steve Norman, Gro Living Ltd.

Matthew Baker, SCCAS

Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

*checked by:* Philip Crummy

*date:* 7th June 2021



## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench	Finds No.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Soft, friable, dry, dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L2	All	4	Buried topsoil	Soft, friable, moist, medium orange/brown sandy-silt with 5% stone	Post-medieval
L3	All	3	Natural	Soft, moist, medium orange/brown sand with 10% stone	Post-glacial
L4	T4	-	Modern build-up	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown silty-sand with 7% stone	Modern
F1	T3	1	Ditch	Friable, dry, light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 10% stone	Modern
F2	T5	2	Pit	Loose, soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Post-medieval
F3	T5	-	Ditch	Soft, friable, medium/dark grey/brown silty-sand	Modern

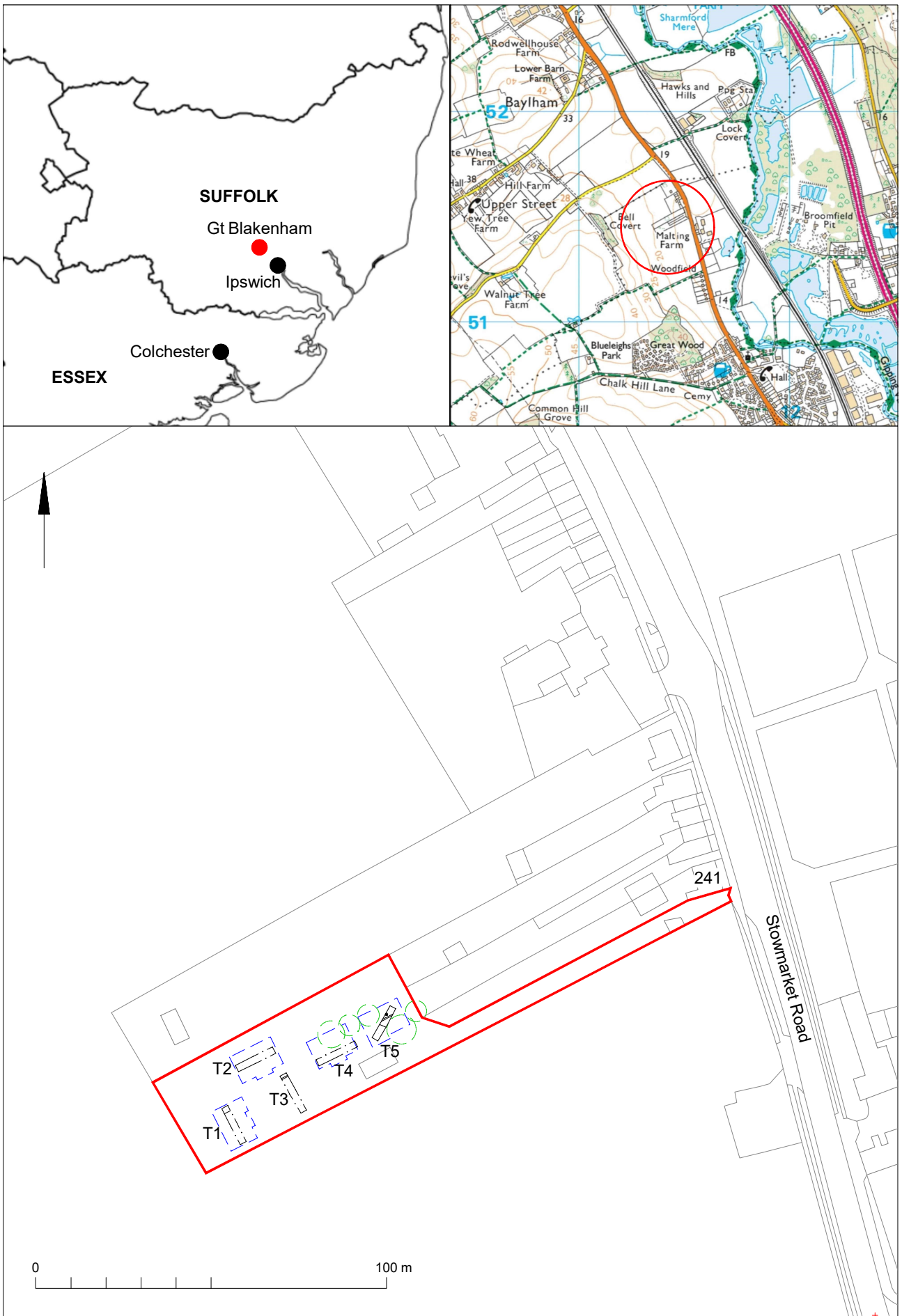
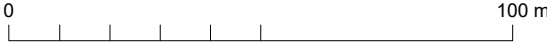


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines) and arboreal constraints.



Fig 2 Development site (red) shown in relation to archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record

Imagery ©2021 CNES/Airbus, Getmapping PLC, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, Map data © 2021 HER data © Suffolk Historic Environment Record



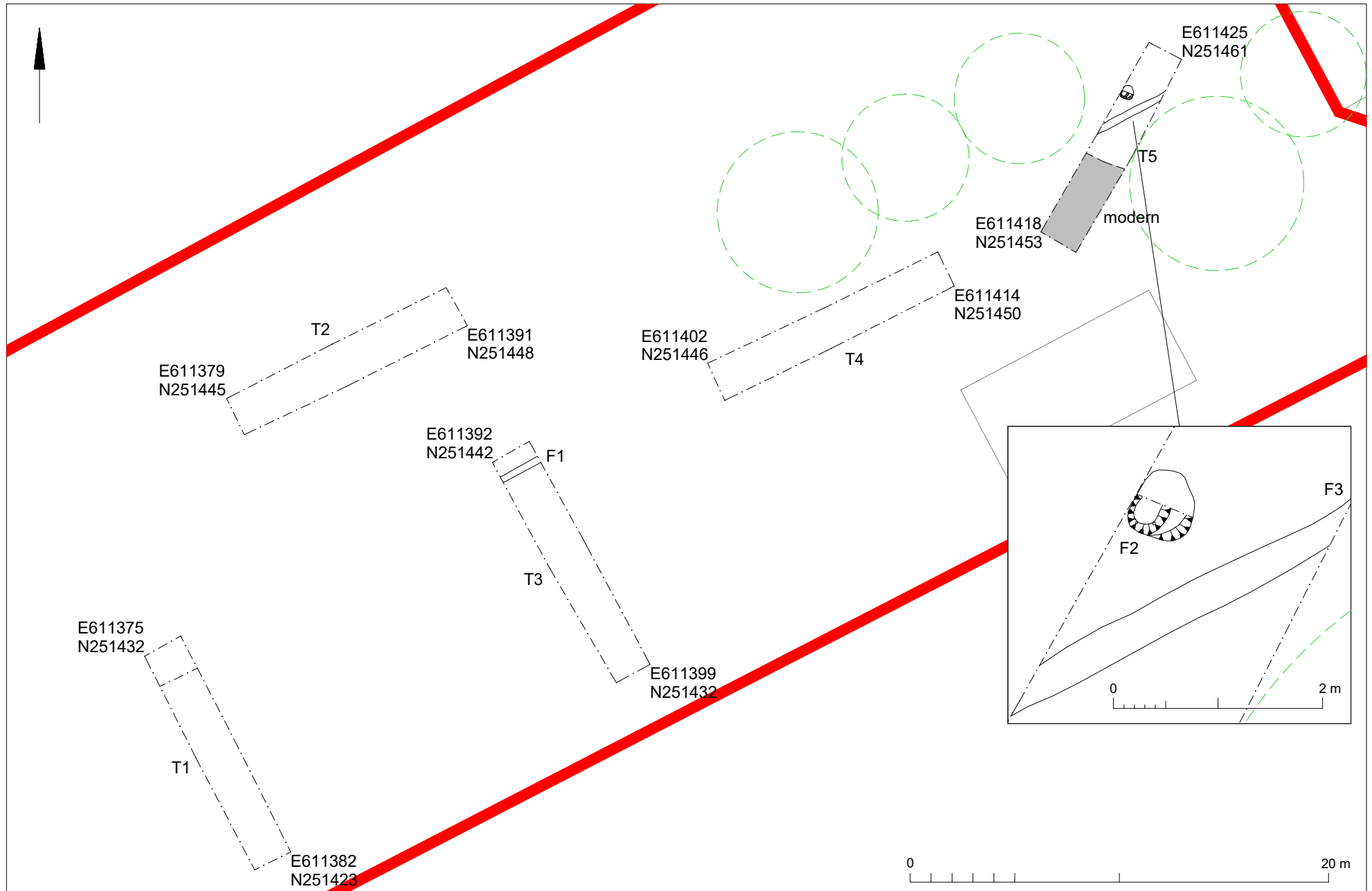


Fig 3 Trenching results.

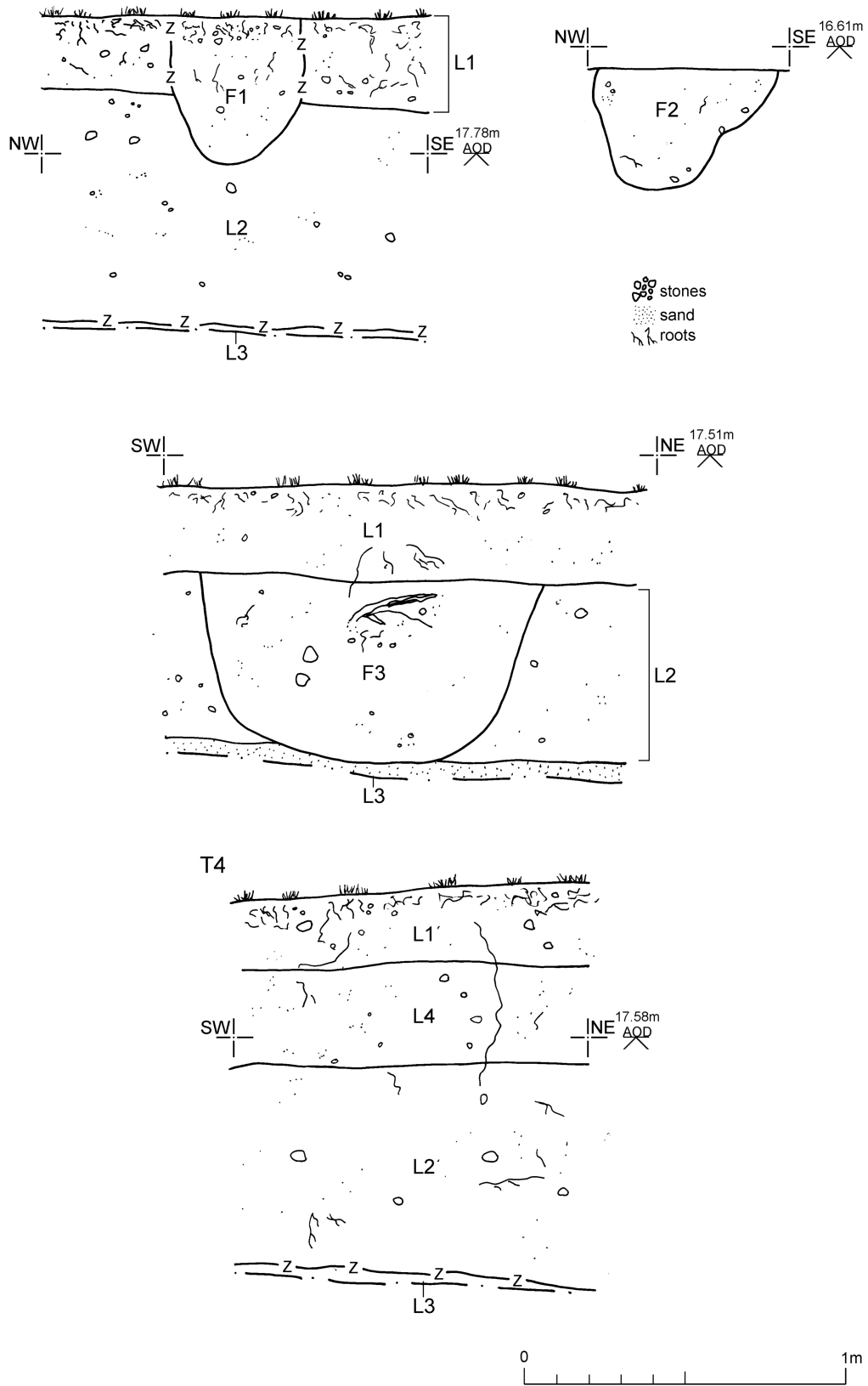


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.



# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk, IP6 0LY**

**NGR:** TM 1143 5145 (centre)

**Planning references:** DC/20/05234/FUL

**District:** Mid Suffolk District Council

**Parish:** Great Blakenham

**Commissioned by:** Steve Norman

**Client:** Gro Living Ltd

**Curating museum:** Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

**Suffolk parish number:** BLG 055

**CAT project code:** 2021/02c

**OASIS reference no.:** colchest3-415309

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**SCCAS Monitor:** Matthew Baker

**This WSI written:** 23.2.2021



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel:* 01206 501785

*email:* [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The 0.28h development site is located on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk, (Fig 1), and the site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 1143 5145.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of four detached single-storey dwellings with associated parking facilities, private access drive and landscaping.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record ([archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)), SCC invoice number 9501696.

### Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Newhaven Chalk Formation – chalk, with superficial deposits of River Terrace Deposits (undifferentiated) – sand and gravel.

### Historic landscape

The development site is in an area defined as *ancient valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as Landscape sub-type 3.1, post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from random fields. The landscape immediately around the site is characterised as: sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields); sub-type 2.1 (18th century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland); sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland – meadow); sub-types 7.1 (woodland – ancient woodland) and 7.3 (woodland – modern plantation on former arable); sub-types 11.1 (industrial – current industrial landscape), 11.3 (industrial – current mineral extraction) and 11.5 (industrial – water reservoir); and sub-type 14.2 (communications – railway).

### Archaeology<sup>4</sup> (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 1km radius of the site.

**Prehistoric:** Worked flints of Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic date have been found at Eastall's Pit (BHR 003, 700m ESE), with Palaeolithic remains (BRH 001, 700m ENE) and sherds of Iron Age pottery (BRH 005, 820m ENE) from Broomfield Pit. Prehistoric remains have also been recorded on sites 480m SSE (BLG 037) and 630m SW (BAY 056), and at Mason's Quarry (BAY 031, 930m SW). Possible ploughed out Bronze Age barrows are located 500m NNW (BAY 034) and 675m NNE (BAY 053), and isolated prehistoric finds have been recovered 490m SW (BLG 004).

**Roman:** Just over 1km to the north is the scheduled site of a large Roman town (CDD 003; NHLE 1006033) with two Roman forts (CDD 016). Part of the Colchester to Caister Roman road (Margary 3c) is located 640m NNE (BAY 014), and archaeological investigations have revealed a Roman field system 660m SW (BAY 056). Isolated Roman finds and finds scatters surround the development site: BAY 015 (740m NNE), BAY 016 (785m NNW), BAY 018 (680m N), BAY 20 (855m NW), BAY 21 (705m N), BAY 063 (400m W), BLG 003 (1km SSE), a significant scatter at BLG 004 (500m SW), BLG 008 (885m SSE), BLG 045 (445m SSE), BLG 047 (170m WSW) and BRH 005 (810m ENE).

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

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

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**Medieval:** St Mary's Church and churchyard is located 730m SSE (BLG 005), with a possible small medieval farmstead identified 490m S (BLG 037) and other medieval contexts 940m SSE (BLG 013). Finds scatters have also been recorded 590m SSE (BLG 048), 890m SSE (BLG 008), 935m S (BLG 020) and 1km SE (BLG 006).

**Post-medieval:** Post-medieval farmsteads/farmhouses in the vicinity include White Wheat Farm (BAY 039, 815m NW), Walnut Tree Farm (BAY 078, 800m WSW), Park Farm/Hill Farm (BAY 080, 790m WNW), Tollgate Farm (BLG 051, 860m SSE) and Malting Farm (BLG 053, 180m E). A post-medieval bridge is located over the River Gipping 775m SE (BLG 014) with the Bosmere and Claydon Incorporated Workhouse and cemetery located c 1km SE (BRH 038 & BRH 054). Post-medieval field boundaries were identified during evaluation and geophysical survey 650m WSW (BAY 056). Isolated finds and finds scatters are known 175m NW (BLG 046) and 400m W (BAY 064).

**Undated:** Great Wood, an ancient woodland is located 500m S (BLG 012). Evaluation at Plum Pudding Hill revealed an undated ditch and terracing (BAY 040, 850m NNW), with ditches, a trackway and ring-ditch showing up on a geophysical survey 1km N (BAY 041). There are two undated cropmarks of ring-ditches (BAY 010, 700m NW; BAY 049, 740m N), with other undated cropmarks including a pit (BAY 010, 700m NW), parallel ditches/trackways (possibly of Roman date) (BAY 029, 550m N), field boundaries (BAY 048, 1km N; BAY 050, 440m W), field boundaries and trackways (BLG 010, 900m SSW), a curvilinear enclosure (BLG 028, 120m SSW), and pits and ditches (BLG 029, 235 NE). Undated finds scatters have been located 705m N (BAY 021) and 890m SSE (BLG 008).

## Planning background

An application was submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council (DC/20/05234/FUL) in November 2020 for *the erection of four detached single-storey dwellings with associated parking facilities, private access drive and landscaping*.

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 land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham*) written by SCCAS (2021).

As per the brief, 5% of the development site will be sampled equating to 60m of linear trenching at 1.8m wide. Five 12m long trenches are proposed, four of which will be located within the footprints of the new dwellings (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 one/two archaeologists for two days.

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

## 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* (ClfA 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 (2020)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2021) 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 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* 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.

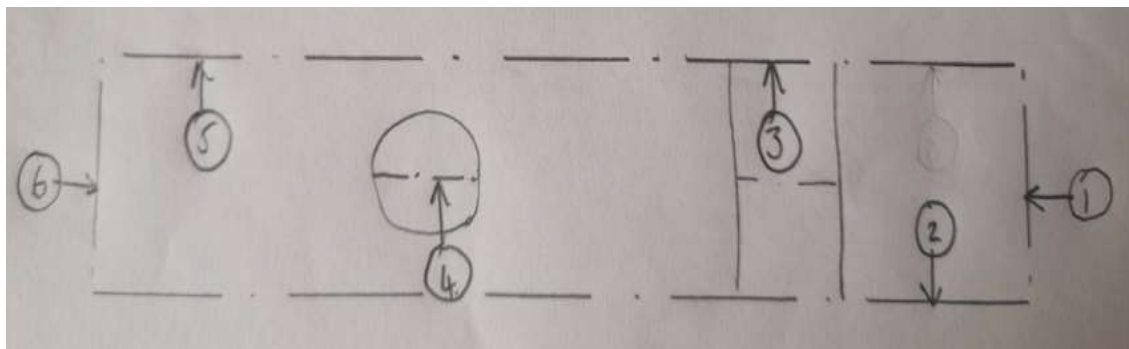
However, if government/local government advice changes due to a spike in cases/localised lockdown, *etc.* SCCAS may have to start remotely monitoring sites again.

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](http://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 &amp; 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  |
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| Gurney, D                     | 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                         | 2020  | <i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i> .   |
| SCCAS                         | 2021  | <i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham</i> , by Matthew Baker   |

L Pooley



Colchester Archaeological Trust,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785

email: [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)



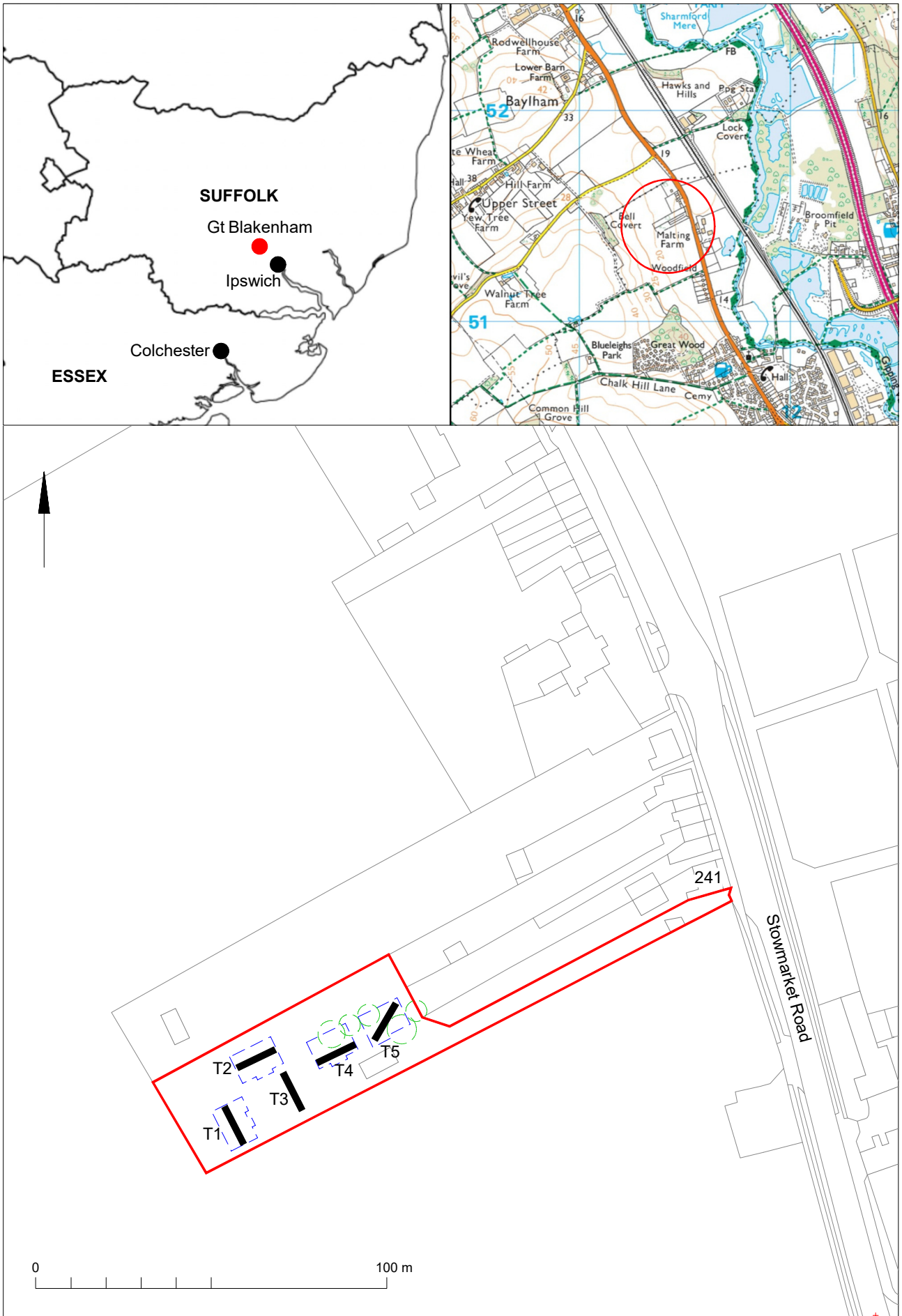
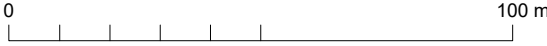


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines) and arboreal constraints.



Fig 2 Development site (red) shown in relation to archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record

Imagery ©2021 CNES/Airbus, Getmapping PLC, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, Map data © 2021 HER data © Suffolk Historic Environment Record



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-415309**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land At 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk in advance of the construction of four detached dwellings, with parking, private access drive and landscaping. Close to the development site several find scatters (Roman, Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval) have been uncovered. There is also a large amount of cropmarks nearby, including a curvilinear enclosure ditch. Despite the sites location only three features were recorded, two modern in date and one post-medieval.
Project dates	Start: 29-04-2021 End: 29-04-2021
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	2021/02c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BLG055 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/20/05234/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK MID SUFFOLK GREAT BLAKENHAM Land At 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham
Postcode	IP6 0LY
Study area	0.48 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 1143 5145 52.120343086549 1.088762494846 52 07 13 N 001 05 19 E Point

### 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 BLG055  
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
 Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service  
 Digital Archive ID BLG055  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service  
 Paper Archive ID BLG055  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological evaluation on land at 241 Stowmarket Road, Great Blakenham, Suffolk: April 2021  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Veasey, S.  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1662  
 Date 2021  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
 Description A4 loose-leaf comb-bound  
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