

Colchester Archaeological Trust



CAT Report 1892
issued January 2023

**Archaeological evaluation at the former Chambers
Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary,
Suffolk, CO8 5AB: December 2022**



CAT project ref.: 2022/09g
SCC parish code: BSM 117

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Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary,
Suffolk, CO8 5AB: December 2022**

NGR: TL 90730 34084 (centre)

Planning ref.: 22/00754/FUL

**CAT project ref.: 2022/09g
CAT Report 1892**

**SCC parish code: BSM 117
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commissioned by Will Vote (Rose Builders)

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at the former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk in advance of the construction of a new convenience store and a residential development. The site is located within the historic core of Bures St Mary, which traces its origins back to the medieval period, and near to a crossing point over the River Stour which has been in use since at least the 16th century. Excavations at the site revealed two pits and three ditches dating to the medieval or post-medieval periods, and a further pit of post-medieval date, indicating occupation here during these periods, as well as a 19th-century pit.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk, which was carried out during 12th-14th December 2022. The work was commissioned by Will Vote, on behalf of Rose Builders, and took place in advance of the construction of a new convenience store and a residential development.

The Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council: Planning reference 22/00754/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 2022b), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2022) in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS.

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), as well as the *SCCAS Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2022c).

3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9524168.

Geology

The British Geological Survey geology viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) indicates that the site bedrock geology consists of Lewes nodular chalk formation and Seaford chalk formation (chalk), with superficial deposits of river terrace deposits (sand and gravel).

Historic landscape

The development site is located in an area defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape type 10.3, built up area - village. The landscape immediately around the site includes: Landscape sub-type 5.1, meadow or managed wetland - meadow and

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

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

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

1.1, pre-18th century enclosure - random fields. Areas with this field pattern are thought to be some of our earliest farming landscapes.

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

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

This background is focused on results within a 500m radius of the site.

The site is located within the medieval centre of Bures St Mary. Bures straddles the River Stour (SUF 088), with half the village located in Essex (Bures Hamlet) and the other half in Suffolk (Bures St Mary). The site overlooks the River Stour to the west. The Stour valley is topographically favourable for evidence of early settlement activity.

Also within the search area:

Prehistoric: The only prehistoric feature recorded within the search area is a pit found during an evaluation on land south of Friends Field (BSM 061, 175m E). The pit contained a single sherd of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery.

A number of scattered flint flakes, dated from the Early Mesolithic to the Late Neolithic period have been recorded through the portable antiquities scheme on the Essex side of the river.

Roman: So far there has been no evidence of Roman settlement in Bures. Evidence of Roman activity has comprised of very sparse find spots or scatters, including two locally-made greyware pottery sherds recorded through the portable antiquities scheme.

Anglo-Saxon-medieval: Bures is referred to in the Domesday Book as 'Bura' or 'Bure'. The medieval town of Bures St Mary is defined from historic maps and locations of historic listed buildings (BSM 054). In 1270-71 a charter for a market and fair was granted to Robert Aguillon.

The site is located c 100m northeast of the church of St Mary (BSM 015). The flint and stone church is recorded in the Domesday survey in 1086, but the earliest surviving features of the structure are its early 14th-century tower and north porch.

Approximately 90m to the north of the site is The Old Bakery, a timber-framed cross-wing house. Features such as rare notched lap-joints indicate that the origins of the house can be traced to the beginning of the 14th century at least. A rare three-bay bake-house with a separate open hall was added behind the service wing in the 15th century (BSM 099).

An excavation on land to the south of Friends Field revealed five pits and some ditches (BSM 061, 175m E). Three contained small amounts of medieval pottery. A significant quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from a hillwash layer, suggesting these may be residual sherds in later features.

A few medieval objects have been found by metal-detectorists on the Essex side of the river, recorded by the portable antiquities scheme. These include several buckles, a coin of Richard III and a sherd of pottery.

Post-medieval to modern:

A bridge over the River Stour linking Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary has been depicted on historic mapping since Saxton's map of Suffolk 1575 and was evident still on Hodgkinson's 1783 map of the county. In 1881 it was replaced with a cast iron bridge (EHER 40286, 124m SW).

Accessibility to the village increased in 1705 when the Navigation Act implemented a formal navigation system along the River Stour to facilitate the transportation of goods. It grew still

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

further with the arrival of the railway in 1849. Originally part of the Stour Valley Railway, today the railway forms part of the Gainsborough Line, a branch off of the Great Eastern main line to Sudbury.

Evidence of post-medieval occupation has been recorded during archaeological investigations within the search area, including:

- Archaeological monitoring at 1 Croftside, during which post-medieval brick and tile fragments as well as two sherds of 18th-century pottery were recovered (BSM 058, 82m NNW).
- An evaluation at The Old Slaughterhouse, Cuckoo Hill, when two small pits were uncovered, one of which contained post-medieval material (ESF24964, 262m NE). The rest of the trenches were heavily disturbed by modern interventions.
- An evaluation at The Old Cheese Factory in 1995, when excavations revealed three pits. Two produced 17th-century pottery and one also contained residual 13th-14th century pottery (BSM 096, 101m SSE). Soil deposits overlay river gravels which sloped towards the river.

The Suffolk Historic Environment Team have been working on a project to record lost and existing farmsteads in Suffolk. Historically, farming has been a major factor in the development of Suffolk's landscape and society. Farm buildings can help us to understand the development of agricultural practices since the medieval period (SCCAS 2019). Farmsteads within the search area are recorded on 19th-century mapping (but are likely much earlier in date). Approximately 400m north of the site is Little Beville Farm, which is laid out in a dispersed plan (BSM 104).

Other notable historical buildings include a post-medieval gas works (EHER 40392, 370m WSW), and a collection of buildings, including a 19th-century apple store, packing shed and stable, and a 20th-century cartshed at Eves Orchard (BSM 085, 76m ESE). An evaluation at Eves Orchard identified a deep soil layer which contained medieval and post-medieval pottery and tile (BSM 062, 92m ESE).

A line of Second World War defences was located along the river edge. These included spigot mortar emplacements (EHER 20051, 254m NW; EHER 20046, 247m SW; EHER 354m SW; EHER 2050, 321m WSW), anti-tank pimples (EHER 20044, 354m SW), pillboxes (EHER 20047, 159m SW; EHER 20052, 252m NW; EHER 20042, 376m SSW) and road barriers (EHER 20048, 123m SW; EHER 20045, 342m SW; EHER 20049, 319m WSW). Only one defensive structure is recorded on the Suffolk side of the river, a pillbox disguised as a shop which was located along the northwestern corner of the site (LVH 004).

On the Essex side of the river metal-detectorists have found a number of medieval and post-medieval objects, including a scabbard, strap fittings, strap-ends, mounts and lead weights.

Undated: Cropmarks recorded by aerial photography reveal two parallel features, approximately 30 metres apart, running perpendicular to the modern field boundaries (EHER 16257, 450m NW) and an area of three undated ring-ditches on flat arable land adjacent to the river (BSM 012, 519m SSE).

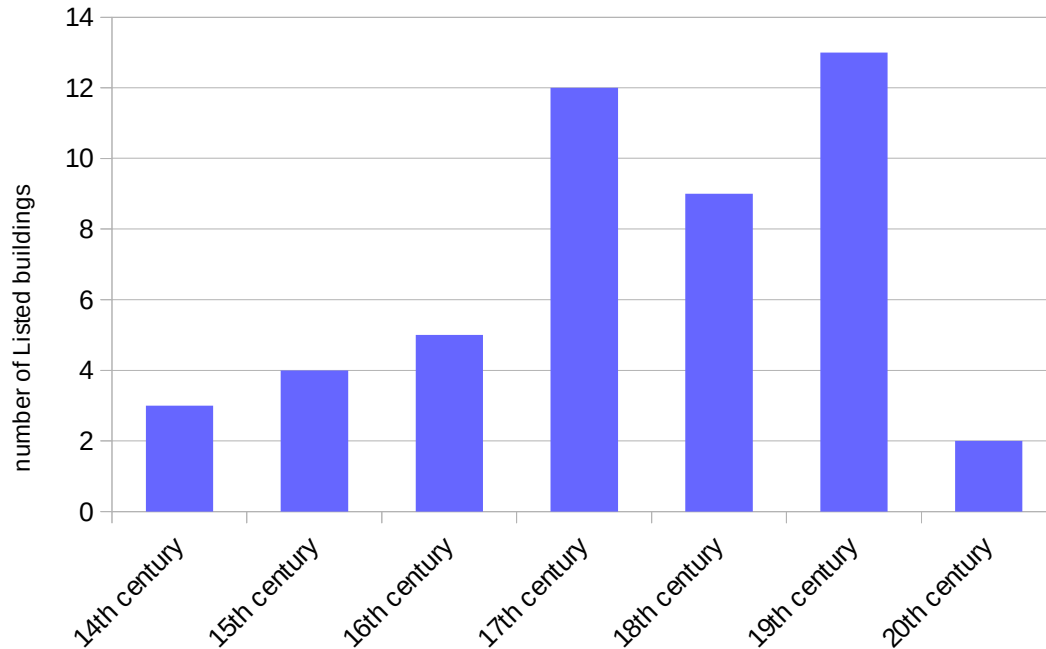
Negative: No features or finds were found during archaeological monitoring of a small extension at 11 Nayland Road (ESF21965, 153m SE) or during monitoring of an extension and a new annex to Bures Primary School (ESF19273, 210m SE; ESF21648, 232m SE).

Listed buildings⁵

There are 48 listed buildings within the 500m search radius (one Grade I, two Grade II* and 45 Grade II). They date from the 14th to 20th centuries.

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

The majority of the listed buildings are timber-framed and plastered houses. It is evident that the village expanded in the 17th century and continued to grow during the 18th and 19th centuries following improvements to river navigation and the arrival of the railway.



Graph 1 Number of listed buildings based on their approximate construction date

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were 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.

5 Methodology

As per the WSI (appended to this report), three trial-trenches were laid out across the footprint of the proposed new buildings.

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.

Individual records of deposits were entered on pro-forma record sheets. The evaluation trenches were surveyed by GPS with sections drawn by hand at 1:10. All trenches 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 2-5)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were 20m long and 1.8m wide. Trench T1 was excavated in two sections, one of which was arranged in an L-shaped, due to the presence of a caravan.

Trenches T1b, T2 and T3 were cut through modern hardstanding (L1, 0.15-0.34m thick), topsoil (L2, 0.1-0.29m thick) and a layer of buried soil (L3, 0.32-0.47m thick) onto natural (L4, encountered at a depth of 0.78-0.9m below current ground level [bcgl]). Trench T1a was cut through L1 (0.37-0.53m thick) and L3 (0.14-0.27m thick) onto L4 (encountered at a depth of 0.65-0.68m bcgl).

Trench T1a

Ditch F7 entered the southern end of the trench from the south on a NNW-SSE alignment before terminating. The feature was 0.76m wide and 0.23m deep with a U-shaped profile. It contained two fragments of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile.

Trench T1b

Pit F6 was located at the western end of the trench. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE); its exposed dimensions were 1.55m wide and 0.92m deep. It had a U-shaped profile with a flat base. The feature produced nine fragments of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile and a fragment of oyster shell, as well as an amount of animal bone.



Photograph 1 T1b trench shot – looking northeast

Trench T2

Pit F5 was situated at the northern end of the trench. The feature extended beyond the LOE; it was excavated to a width of 0.8m and depth of 0.49m but was not bottomed. A sherd of post-medieval or modern pottery, 13 fragments of peg-tile, a fragment of post-medieval clay pipe, a fragment of coal or coke and a quantity of animal bone were recovered from this feature.

Medieval or post-medieval ditch F1 passed through the centre of the trench on a NE-SW alignment. The feature was 0.56m wide and 0.15m deep with a shallow, slightly irregular U-shaped profile.

Pit F2 was located immediately to the south of F1. The feature was 0.86m wide, 1.2m long and 0.19m deep, and had an irregular profile. It yielded a fragment of 19th-century brick, a fragment of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile, and some animal bone.

Two further pits, F3 and F4, lay to the south of F2. Both features extended beyond the LOE; their exposed extents were 0.3m wide and 0.14m deep and 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep, respectively. The former feature had a U-shaped profile, the latter a slightly irregular profile. Neither contained any dating evidence.



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking north northwest

Trench T3

Pit F8 was uncovered at the eastern end of the trench. The feature extended beyond the LOE; its exposed extent was 0.95m wide and 0.27m deep. It had a steep-sided U-shaped profile. Two fragments of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile and a fragment of post-medieval or modern glass were recovered from this feature.

Postholes F9, F10 and F12 lay in the eastern half of the trench, extending in an ENE-WSW oriented line. They were 0.3-0.47m in diameter and 0.09-0.17m deep. The first feature had a shallow, irregular U-shaped profile, the second a U-shaped profile, the third a shallow U-shaped profile. None of the features produced any dating evidence.

Ditch F11 extended through the western half of the trench on a NE-SW alignment. It was 0.56m wide and 0.11m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile. It contained two fragments of peg-tile and a quantity of animal bone.

Undatable pit F14 was located in the western half of the trench. It was 0.62m wide and 0.54m deep with a U-shaped profile. The feature contained no dating evidence.

Pit F13. The feature extended beyond the LOE; its exposed dimensions were 0.7m wide and 0.4m deep. It had a steep-sided U-shaped profile. Three fragments of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile were recovered from this feature.



Photograph 3 T3 trench shot – looking northeast

7 Finds

7.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Pottery

Pit F5 produced one sherd (9g) of post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40), dating to c 1500-19th/20th century, from a small-medium bowl or tripod pipkin (EVE:0.06).

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Most of the CBM consists of sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (32 fragments at 2,209g) which was recovered from pits F2, F5, F6, F8 and F13 and ditches F7 and F11. Finally, a fragment of 19th-century brick (122g) was recovered from pit F2.

Context	Description	Type of CBM	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	Pit	19th-century brick	1	122	122
		Peg-tile	1	56	56
F5	Pit	Peg-tile	13	700	54
F6	Pit	Peg-tile	9	498	55
F7	Ditch	Peg-tile	2	264	132
F8	Pit	Peg-tile	2	140	70
F11	Ditch	Peg-tile	2	197	99
F13	Pit	Peg-tile	3	354	118
Total			33	2,331	71

Table 1 Quantities of CBM from specific features

Conclusion

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and ceramic building material. Most of the features date to the medieval or post-medieval period while pit F5 is post-medieval and pit F2 is modern

Context	Description	Post-Roman	CBM	Date Approx.
F2	Pit	-	PT BR	19th century
F5	Pit	F40 (small-medium bowl/ tripod pipkin)	PT	Post-medieval
F6	Pit	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F7	Ditch	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F8	Pit	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F11	Ditch	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F13	Pit	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval

Table 2 Approximate dates for the individual features

7.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem and coal/coke came from F5, with oyster shell recovered from F6 and a piece of glass from F8.

Context	Finds no.	Description
F5	3	Clay tobacco pipe: Stem fragment, 2.6g. Coal/coke: Fragment, 7.3g.
F6	2	Oyster shell: Fragment, 4.8g.
F8	6	Glass: Fragment, probably post-medieval/modern, possibly originally green but now covered in thick brown luminescence, 6.6g.

Table 3 Clay tobacco pipe, glass, oyster shell and coal/coke listed by context

7.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of 25 pieces of animal bone weighing a total of 0.358kg. The material was generally in fair condition with some loss of surface detail. All of the animal bone would appear to be general waste and derived from post-medieval or modern deposits, ranging from an accumulation layer (L3) to several pits (F2, F5 and F6) and a ditch (F11).

Three species were positively identified in the assemblage including sheep or goat (seven pieces, no distinction being possible between the two species due to a lack of diagnostic features), cattle (two pieces) and dog (one). Horse may have been present amongst the otherwise undiagnostic large-sized mammal bone from medieval/post-medieval quarry pit F6. This feature produced the majority of the bone recovered (17 by number of pieces) including the only complete piece, a cattle second phalanx. Cut or chop marks were noted on two pelvic fragments and, somewhat unusually, one of these appears to be a dog. The chop mark on the large-sized mammal bone (possibly equid?) is likely to be associated with the dismemberment of the carcass but the finer marks on the canid pelvis are more difficult to interpret if not associated with butchery.

Context	Find number	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F2 19th-century pit	1	1	12	Ovis/capra (sheep/goat)	(1) Proximal metatarsal fragment, dog gnawed.
F5 Post-medieval pit	3	3	10	Ovis/capra (sheep/goat)	(2) Proximal 1st phalanges (fused epiphysis). Both left and right present, probably from the same foot. (1) Right acetabulum fragment.
		2	22	Large sized mammal (cattle/horse-sized)	(1) Rib fragment (costal?). (1) Diaphysis fragment.
F6 Medieval/post-medieval pit	2	1	16	Canis familiaris (dog)	(1) Right acetabulum/pelvic fragment. Appears to have multiple fine cut marks (four?) on the neck of the pubis and one on the ischium.
		2	60	Bos (cattle)	(1) Acetabulum fragment. (1) Complete second phalanx.
		1	10	Ovis/capra (sheep/goat)	(1) Proximal left scapula fragment.
		10	200	Large sized mammal (cattle/horse sized)	(2) Diaphysis fragments. (1) Scapula fragment (cattle?). (1) Acetabulum fragment (equid?) with chop mark on arm of ischium (PS-8, Binford 1981). (6) Skull/vertebra/sacrum? Fragments. Two vertebrae fragments possibly chopped?
		1	1	Unidentified	(1) Unidentified.
		2	2	Small sized mammal (dog/cat sized)	(2) Rib fragments.
F11 Medieval/post-medieval ditch	7	1	1	Ovis/capra (sheep/goat)	(1) Tooth fragment.
L3 Accumulation layer	4	1	24	Ovis/capra (sheep/goat)	(1) Proximal tibia fragment (metaphysis not fused).
Total		25	358		

Table 4 Animal bone by context

8 Discussion

Fourteen features were uncovered during the evaluation at this site: eight pits, three ditches, two postholes and a pit or posthole. These remains were more concentrated towards the eastern and the southern parts of the site. While modest amounts of artefactual evidence were recovered, eight of these features could be dated.

While mention of the settlement in the historical record can be traced back as far as the 1086 Domesday survey, no features or material definitively dating to the medieval period was encountered during this investigation. The majority of datable finds recovered were fragments of peg-tile, which can only be broadly dated to either the medieval or post-medieval periods. The features representing this phase of activity consisted of two pits and three ditches. Two of these features also contained animal bone which was likely domestic waste, indicating occupation here during this period.

A further post-medieval pit was uncovered at the northeastern corner of the site, while another pit of post-medieval or modern date lay at its centre. As well as peg-tile, the former feature produced finds which probably represented domestic refuse, a sherd of a bowl or pipkin, a fragment of clay pipe and more animal bone; the latter contained a fragment of glass and more peg-tile. It is possible that these features belonged to the phase of activity described above, although they may represent a subsequent phase.

Excavations also revealed a 19th-century pit. Ordnance Survey mapping of the area compiled during the latter part of this century shows that both an iron foundry and a malthouse adjoined the

site during this period, although it is not clear that the feature relates to this activity or is in fact unrelated.

Three postholes were also uncovered, indicating that a posted structure once stood here, although none of these features produced any dating evidence.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Will Vote and Rose Builders for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with R Mathieson, K Davies and G Williams. Figures are by C Lister, R Mathieson and E Holloway. The project was monitored by Matthew Baker for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

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

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11 Abbreviations and glossary

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Anglo-Saxon | period from c 500 – 1066 |
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |

CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
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 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
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
WSI	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: part of one box

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1892)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

CAT Report 1892

SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs

Original site data

Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The digital archive is currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service in line with SCCAS guidance (SCCAS 2022c).

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Distribution list:

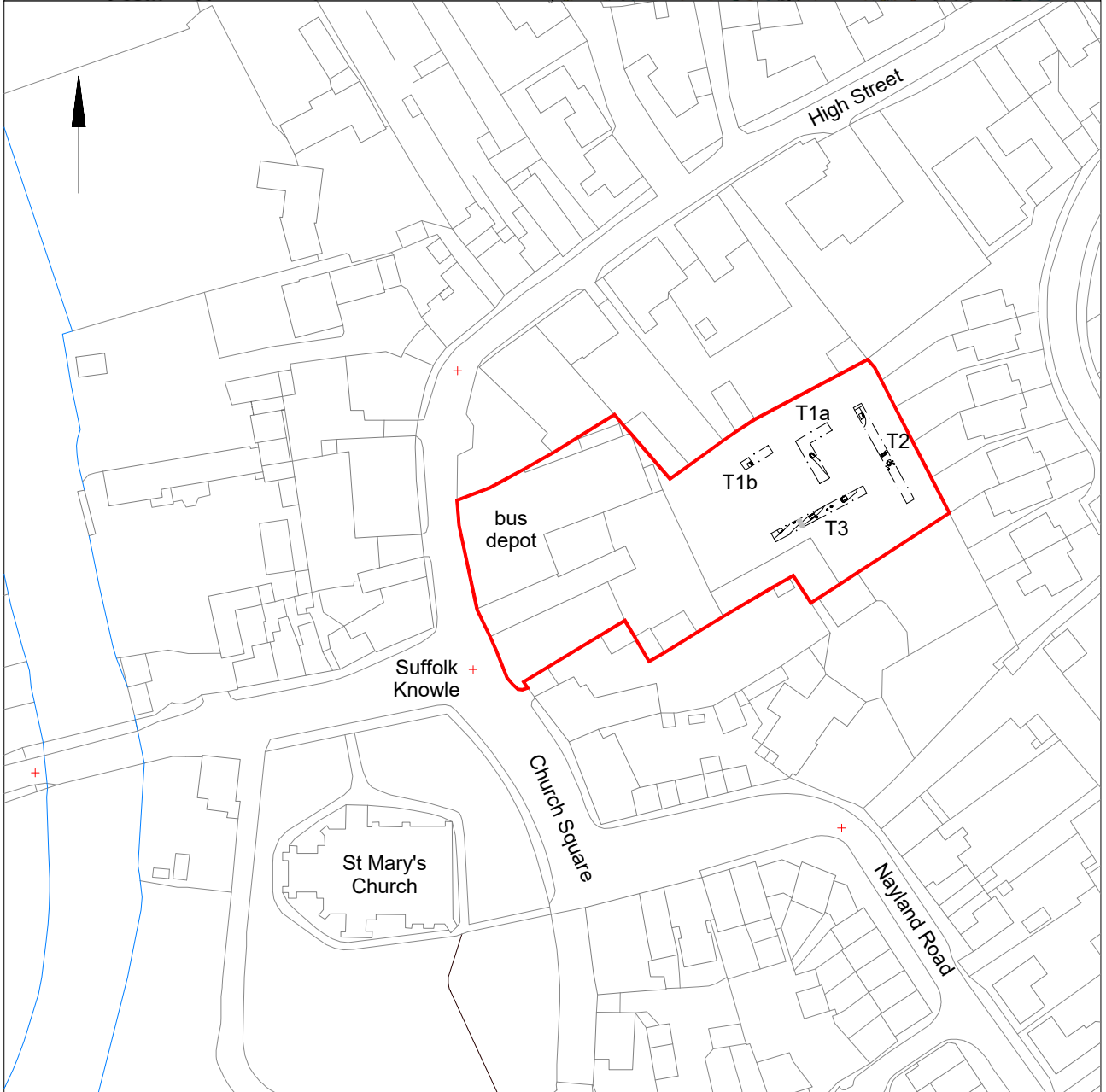
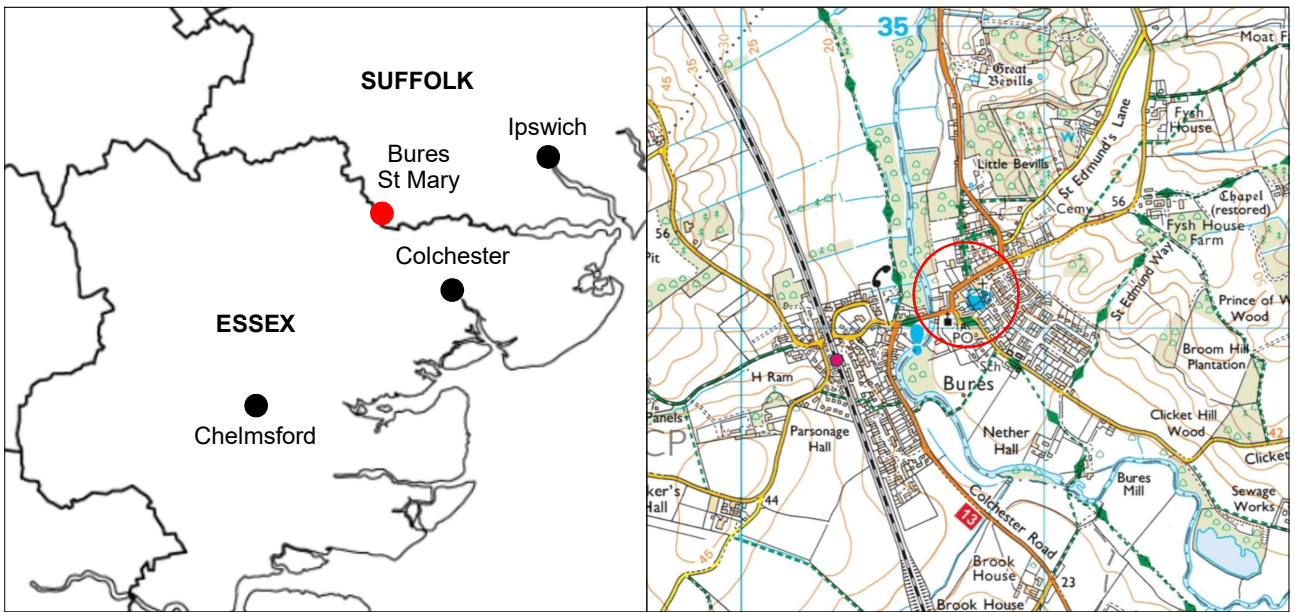
Rose Builders

Matthew Baker, SCCAS

Suffolk County Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	T1a, T1b, T2, T3	-	Hardstanding	Tarmac crush	Modern
L2	T1b, T2, T3	-	Buried soil	Firm, dry dark grey/brown loam	Modern
L3	T1a, T1b, T2, T3	4	Accumulation	Soft, dry medium grey/brown silty-sand	Undatable
L4	All	-	Natural	Firm, dry medium yellow/orange sand with 5% gravel	Post-glacial
F1	T2	-	Ditch	Soft, dry dark grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stones	Medieval/ post-medieval
F2	T2	1	Pit	Loose, moist medium/dark brown sandy-silt	19th century
F3	T2	-	Pit	Loose, moist medium brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F4	T2	-	Pit	Soft, moist dark brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F5	T2	3	Pit	Soft, moist dark grey sandy-silt with 1% stones	Post-medieval
F6	T1b	2	Pit	Loose/soft, moist medium/dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal, oyster shell and CBM flecks and 30% stones	Medieval/ post-medieval
F7	T1a	5	Ditch	Soft, moist medium orange/brown sandy-silt	Medieval/ post-medieval
F8	T3	6	Pit	Soft, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks and 1% stones	Post-medieval/ modern
F9	T3	-	Posthole	Soft, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and 1% stones	Undatable
F10	T3	-	Posthole	Soft, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stones	Undatable
F11	T3	7	Ditch	Soft, dry medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Medieval/ post-medieval
F12	T3	-	Pit/posthole	Soft, dry medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F13	T3	8	Pit	Soft, moist dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks and 1% stones	Medieval/ post-medieval
F14	T3	-	Pit	Loose/soft, moist dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks and 5% stones	Undatable



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Fig 1 Site location

0 50 m



Fig 2 Development site (red) in relation to archaeological data recorded on the Essex and Suffolk Historic Environment records.

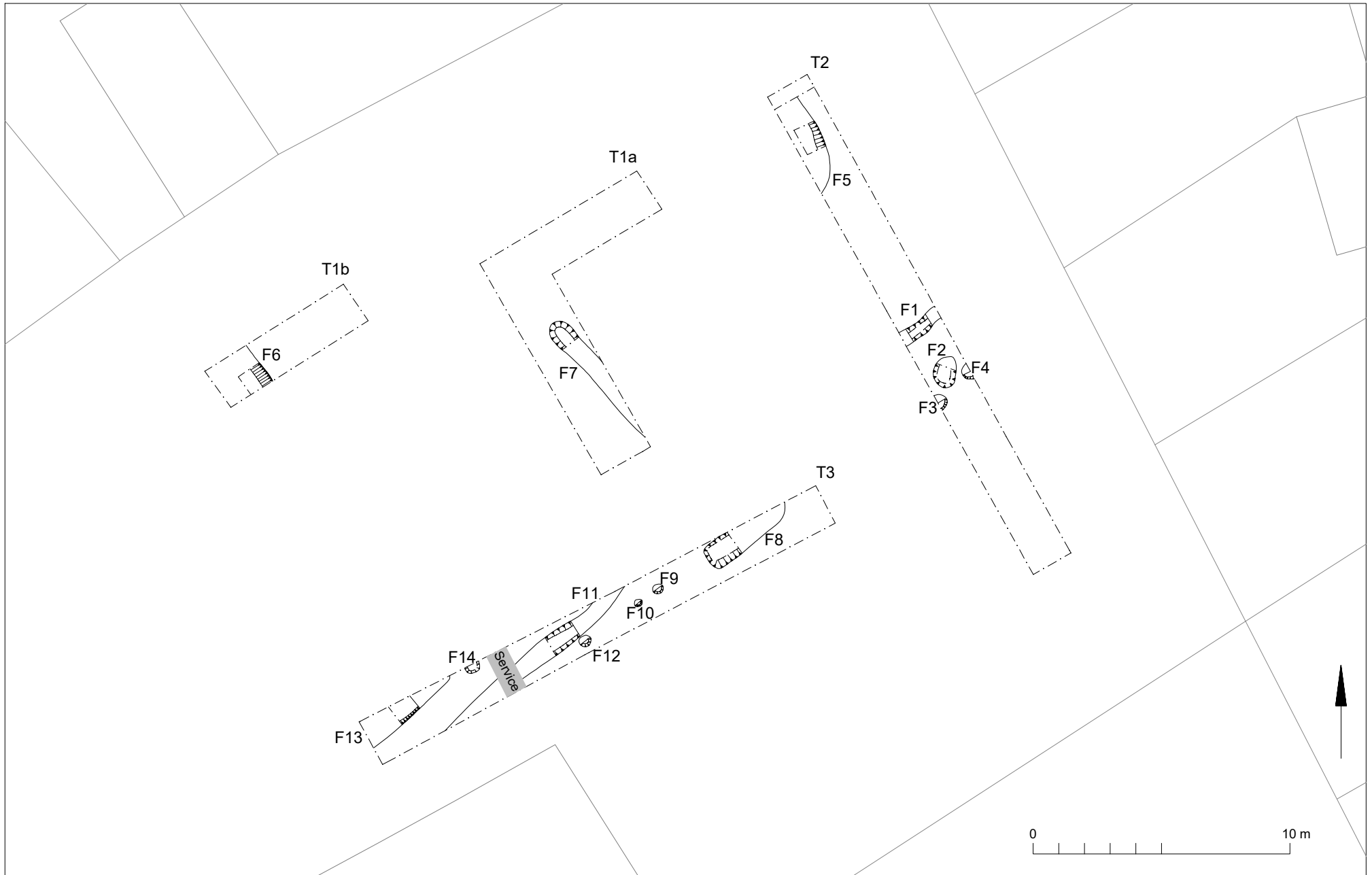


Fig 3 Results.

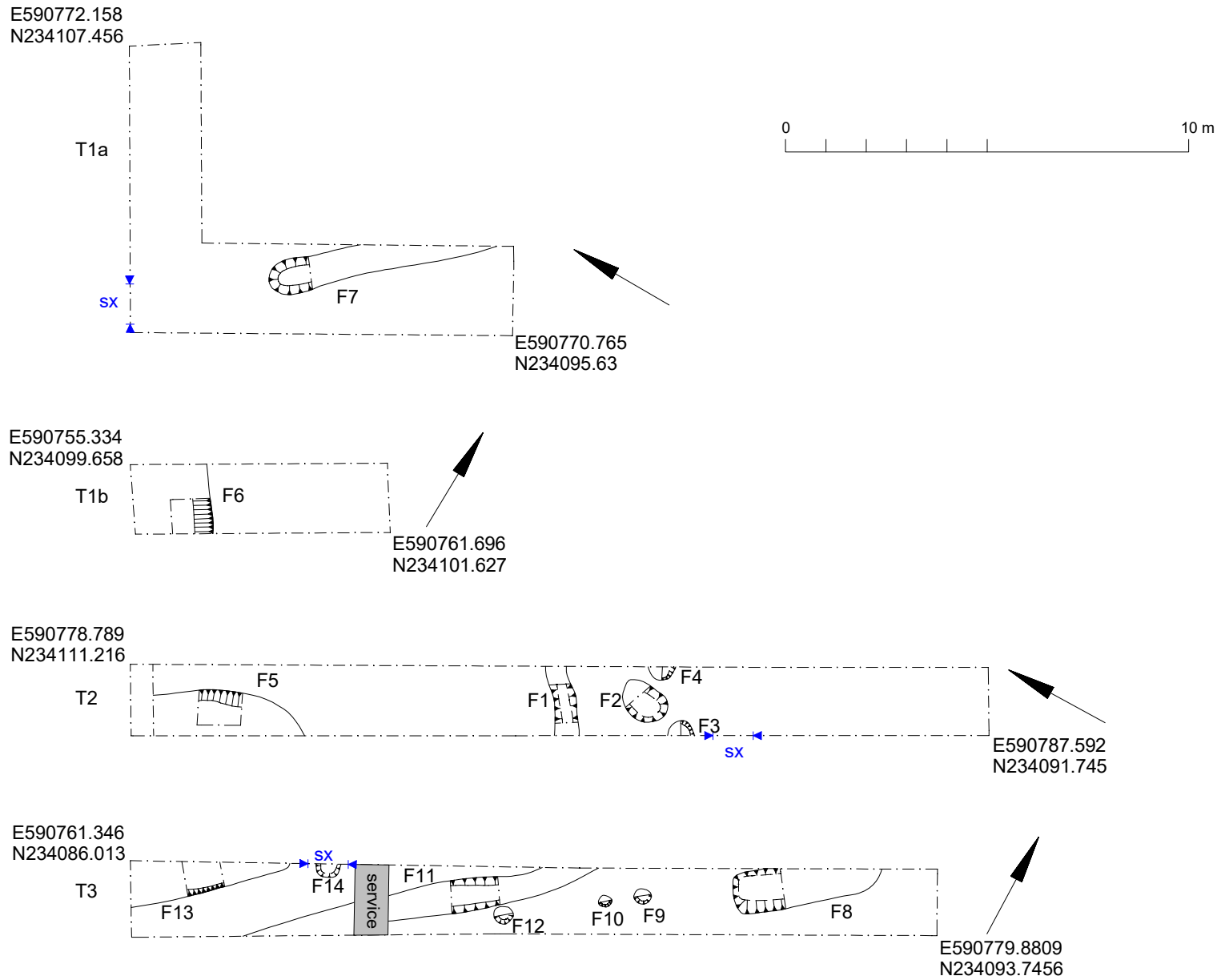


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans.

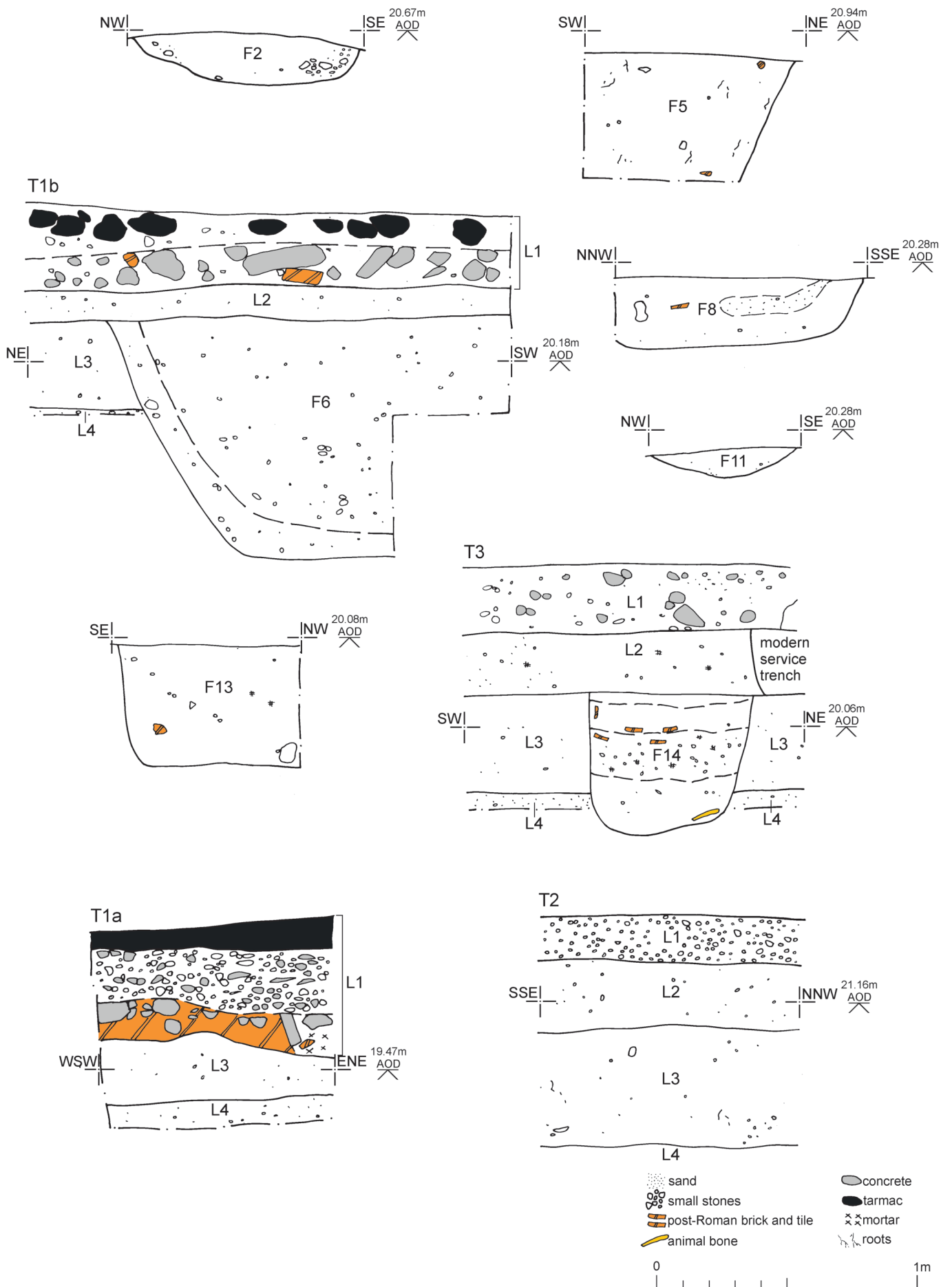


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at the former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk, CO8 5AB.

NGR: TL 90730 34084 (centre)

Planning references: 22/00754/FUL

District: Babergh District Council

Parish: Bures St Mary

Commissioned by: Will Vote (Rose Builders)

Client: Rose Builders

Curating museum: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk parish number: BSM 117

CAT project code: 2022/09g

OASIS reference number: colchest3-59698

Contracts Manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation Manager: Laura Pooley

SCCAS Monitor: Mathew Baker

This WSI written: 27/10/2022



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

tel: 01206 501785 option 1

email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The site is located to the centre of the Suffolk side of the historic town of Bures at the former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk (Figs 1-2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 90730 34084. The site covers a c 0.30 hectare plot which is located within the Bures Conservation Area.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of outbuildings and in-filling of former vehicle inspection pits, partial demolition of the former bus depot and house, followed by the construction of a local convenience store and 10 new apartments/houses with associated drainage, parking areas, hardstanding, fences, walls and other infrastructure.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9524168.

Geology

The British Geological Survey geology viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the site bedrock geology is Lewes nodular chalk formation and Seaford chalk formation (chalk), with superficial deposits of river terrace deposits (sand and gravel).

Historic landscape

The development site is located in an area defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as Landscape type 10.3, built up area - village. The landscape immediately around the site includes: Landscape sub-type 5.1, meadow or managed wetland - meadow and 1.1, pre-18th century enclosure - random fields. Areas with this field pattern are thought to be some of our earliest farming landscapes.

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

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

This background is focused on results within a 500m radius of the site.

The site is located within the medieval centre of the Suffolk side of the picturesque village of Bures St Mary. Bures straddles the River Stour (SUF 088), with half the village in Essex (Bures Hamlet) and half in Suffolk (Bures St Mary). The site overlooks the River Stour to the west. The Stour valley is topographically favourable for evidence of early settlement activity.

Also within the search area:

Prehistoric: The only prehistoric feature recorded within the search area is a pit recorded during an evaluation on land south of Friends Field (BSM 061, 175m E). The pit contained a single sherd of Early to Middle Iron Age pottery.

A number of scattered flint flakes, dated to Early Mesolithic-Late Neolithic have been recorded through the portable antiquities scheme on the Essex side of the river.

Roman: So far there has been no evidence for settlement in Bures. Roman evidence has comprised of very sparse find spots or scatters, including two locally made greyware sherds recorded through the portable antiquities scheme.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

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) and the Essex County Historic Environment Record (EHER).

Anglo-Saxon-medieval:

Bures is referred to in the Domesday Book as 'Bura' or 'Bure'. The medieval town of Bures St Mary, defined from historic maps and locations of historic listed buildings (BSM 054). In 1270/1 a charter for a market and fair was granted to Robert Aguillon but there are definitive features from this date.

The site is located c 96m northeast of the church of St Mary (BSM 015). The flint and stone church is recorded in the Domesday survey in 1086, however, the earliest surviving features today include the early 14th century tower and north porch.

Approximately 86m to the north of the site is The Old Bakery (BSM 099). The Old Bakery is a timber-framed cross-wing house. Features such as rare notched lap-joints indicate construction of the house dates to at least the beginning of the 14th century. A rare three-bay bake-house with a separate open hall was added behind the service wing in the 15th century.

An excavation on land to the south of Friends Field revealed five pits and some ditches (BSM 061, 175m E). Three contained small amounts of medieval pottery. A significant quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from a subsoil layer, interpreted as hillwash, suggesting these may be residual sherds in later features.

A few medieval objects have been found by metal-detectorists on the Essex side of the river, recorded by the portable antiquities scheme. These include several buckles, a coin of Richard III and a sherd of pottery.

Post-medieval to modern:

A bridge over the River Stour, joining Bures Hamlet and Bures St Mary, has been shown on historic mapping since Saxton's map of 1575 and is still evident in Hodskinson's survey of Suffolk in 1783. In 1881 a cast iron bridge was installed (EHER 40286, 124m SW).

Accessibility to the village increased greatly in 1705 when The Navigation Act meant a formal navigation system was constructed along the River Stour to allow transportation of goods. Then by the arrival of the railway in 1849. Originally part of the Stour Valley Railway, today the railway forms part of the Gainsborough Line, a branch off the Great Eastern main line to Sudbury.

Evidence of post-medieval occupation has been recorded during archaeological interventions within the search area, including:

- Archaeological monitoring at 1 Croftside, which recovered post-medieval brick and tile fragments alongside two sherds of 18th century pottery within a layer (BSM 058, 82m NNW).
- An evaluation at The Old Slaughterhouse, Cuckoo Hill revealed two small pits, one of which contained post-medieval material (ESF24964, 262m NE). The rest of the trenches were heavily disturbed by modern interventions.
- An evaluation at The Old Cheese Factory in 1995 revealed three pits. Two contained 17th century pottery, one of these also had residual 13th/14th century pottery (BSM 096, 101m SSE). Soil deposits overlay river gravels which sloped towards the river.

The Suffolk Historic Environment Team have been working on a project to record lost and existing farmsteads in Suffolk. Farming has been a major factor in the development of Suffolk's landscape, both physically and socially throughout time. The farm buildings can help us to understand the agricultural practices and their development since the medieval period (SCCAS 2019). Farmsteads within the search area are recorded on 19th century mapping (but may be much earlier in date). Approximately 402m north of the site is Little Beville Farm (BSM 104). The farm is laid out in a dispersed plan.

Other industrialised buildings include the post-medieval gas works (EHER 40392, 370m WSW), and a collection of buildings, including a 19th century apple store, packing shed, stable and 20th century cartshed at Eves Orchard (BSM 085, 76m ESE). An evaluation at Eves Orchard identified a deep soil layers which contained medieval and post-medieval pottery and tile (BSM 062, 92m ESE).

A line of World War II defences were located along the river edge including spigot mortar emplacements (EHER 20051, 254m NW; EHER 20046, 247m SW; EHER 354m SW; EHER 2050, 321m WSW), anti-tank pimples (EHER 20044, 354m SW), pillboxes (EHER 20047, 159m SW; EHER 20052, 252m NW; EHER 20042, 376m SSW) and road barriers (EHER 20048, 123m SW; EHER 20045, 342m SW; EHER 20049, 319m WSW). Only one example is recorded on the Suffolk side, a pillbox which was disguised as a shop which was located along the northwestern corner of the site (LVH 004).

On the Essex side of the river metal-detectorists have found a number of medieval-to-post-medieval objects. These include a scabbard, strap fittings, strap-ends, mounts and lead weights.

Undated: Cropmarks recorded by aerial photography reveal two parallel features, approximately 30 metres apart, running perpendicular to the modern field boundaries (EHER 16257, 450m NW) and an area of three undated ring-ditches on flat arable land adjacent to the river (BSM 012, 519m SSE).

Negative: No features or finds were found during archaeological monitoring of a small extension at 11 Nayland Road (ESF21965, 153m SE) and monitoring of an extension and a new annex to Bures Primary School (ESF19273, 210m SE; ESF21648, 232m SE).

Listed buildings⁵

There are 48 listed buildings within the 500m search radius (1 Grade I, 2 Grade II* and 45 Grade II). They date from the 14th-20th century.

The majority of the listed buildings are timber-framed and plastered houses. When looking at the listed buildings in Bures it is evident that there was a boost in the village growth in the 17th century which grew by the 18th-19th century after improvements to river navigation and with the arrival of the railway.

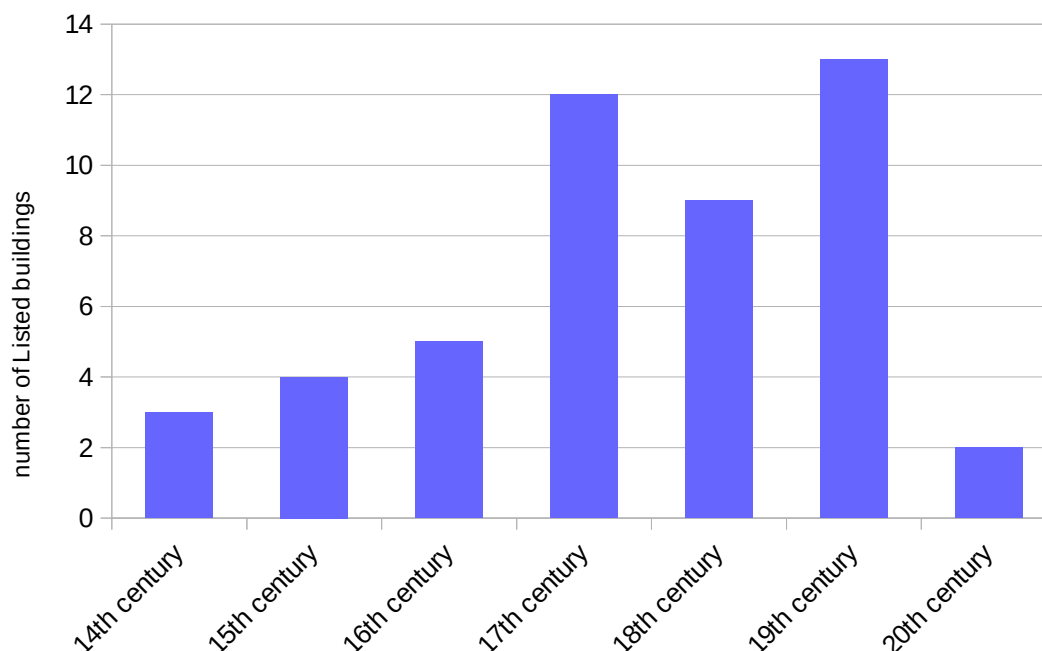


Table 1: Number of listed buildings based on their approximate construction date.

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

Project background

In response to consultation with Matthew Baker, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Advisor (SCCAS), it was advised that 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. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the condition based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work

The evaluation will involve three trenches to cover a 5% sample.

Specifically, there will be three trenches each measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide. This equates to 60m of linear trenches covering an area of 108m² located to target the proposed new housing but avoid obstacles such as services.

Localised extensions to trenches may be required by the SCCAS after the site monitoring visit.

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. This includes the regional review by Medlycott (2011) and the recently revised period specific frameworks (accessible via <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

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 CAT Supervisor and three archaeologists for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furniss/Nigel Rayner

General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003)
- Regional research and resource frameworks for the East of England (Medlycott 2011 and <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the project brief (SCCAS 2022a)
- The project digital management plan

CAT is covered by Aviva Insurance Ltd, 006288/04/22, which includes Professional Indemnity £2,000,000, 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. 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 and spoil heaps both before and during excavation. This will be carried out by trained CAT staff under the supervision of project manager/supervisors Adam Wightman, Nigel Rayner 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 groundworks 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

CAT aims to follow guidance set out in the Historic England guide for Environmental Archaeology (Historic England 2011). 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 evaluation, 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 (Historic England 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 Historic England guidelines (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.

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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter, 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 / 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 2022b).

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* (Historic England 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 and <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- 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 during the monitoring. 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 2022b).

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 the project digital management plan (attached) and CAT data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to SCCAS for integration into the HER

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.

Education and outreach

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

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785 (option 1).

References

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

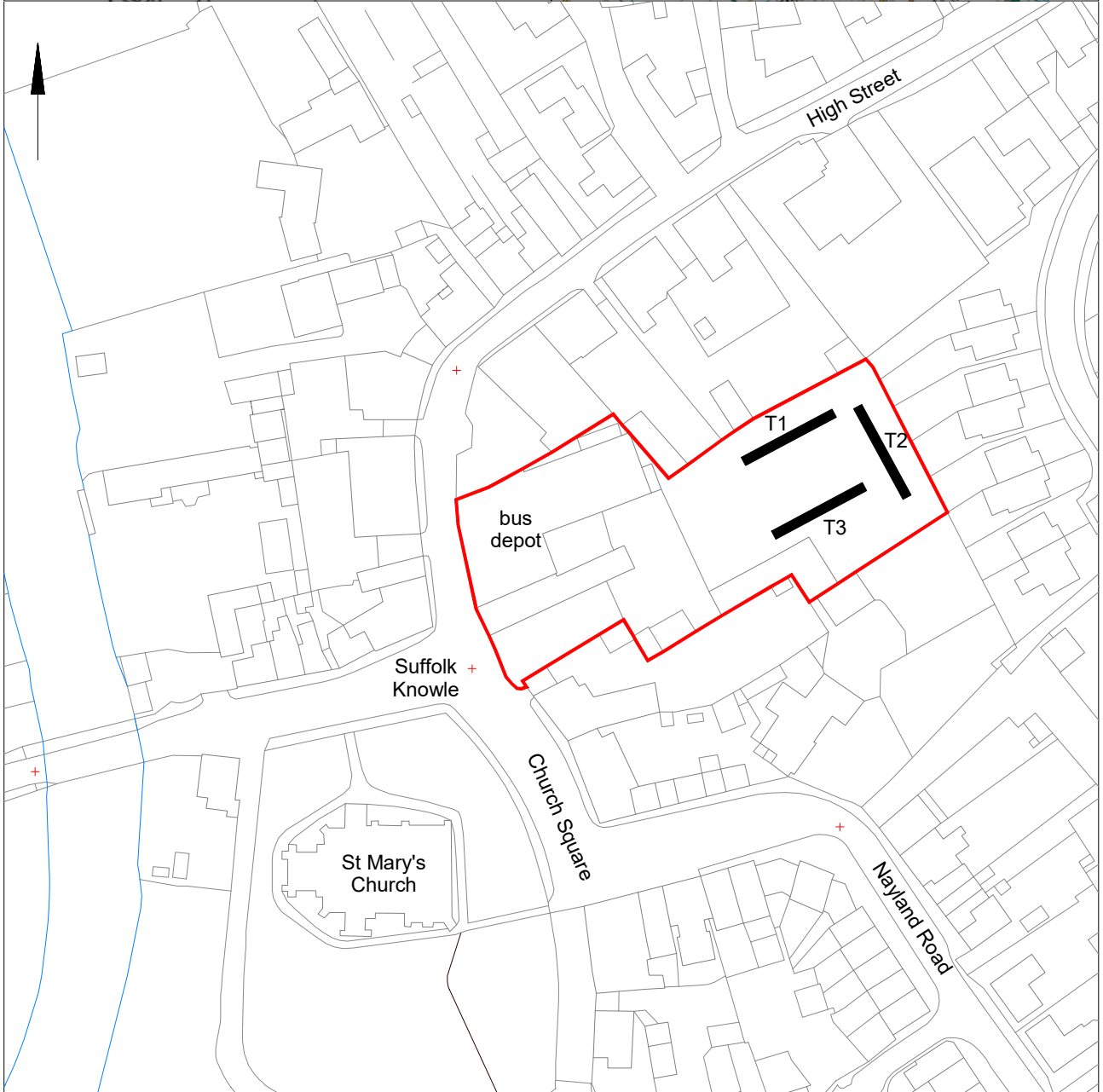
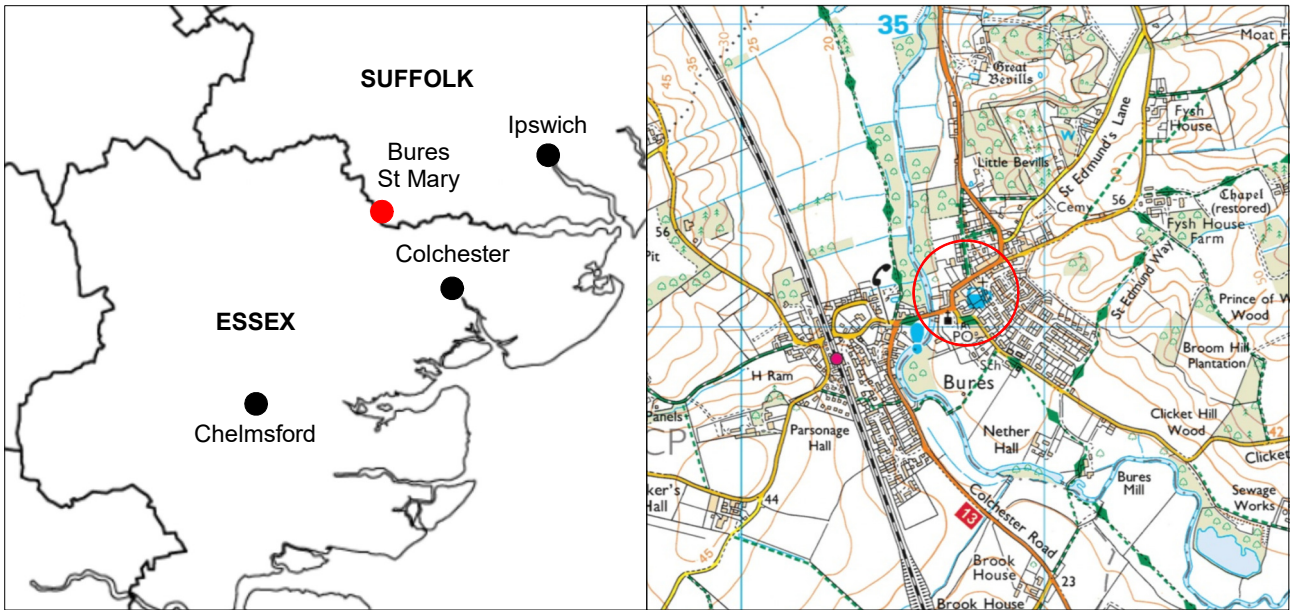
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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

0 50 m



Fig 2 Development site (red) in relation to archaeological data recorded on the Essex and Suffolk Historic Environment records.

Summary for colchest3-509698

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509698
Project Name	Trial Trench at Former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk, CO8 5AB
Sitename	Former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk, CO8 5AB
Activity type	Trial Trench
Project Identifier(s)	2022/09g
Planning Id	DC/22/00754/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	12-Dec-2022 - 14-Dec-2022
Location	Former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk, CO8 5AB NGR : TL 90722 34055 LL : 51.9722315223181, 0.77520910349019 12 Fig : 590722,234055
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Suffolk District : Babergh Parish : Bures St. Mary
Project Methodology	Evaluation was carried out as per the brief and WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at the former Chambers Bus Depot, Church Square, Bures St Mary, Suffolk in advance of the construction of a new convenience store and a residential development. The site is located within the historic core of Bures St Mary, which traces its origins back to the medieval period, and near to a crossing point over the River Stour which has been in use since at least the 16th century. Excavations at the site revealed two pits and three ditches dating to the medieval or post-medieval periods, and a further pit of post-medieval date, indicating occupation here during these periods, as well as a 19th-century pit.

Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Peg Tile - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Peg Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tobacco Pipe - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Thesaurus Clinker - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Clinker - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Oyster Shell - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
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HER	Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	E, Hicks
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - BSM117
Archives	