

# Archaeological evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JH

July 2017



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Sarah Carter and Harvey Furness

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Harvey Furness

**commissioned by Jolyon Martin**

NGR: TM 046 343 (centre)

Planning ref.: B/17/00202

CAT project ref.: 17/06b

Suffolk Parish Number: SSM 038

Suffolk Event Code: ESF25583

OASIS ref.: colchest3-286836



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

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

**CAT Report 1134**  
July 2017

## **Contents**

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

Figures after p6

CAT WSI  
OASIS summary sheet

## **List of photographs and figures**

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1 T1, looking southeast 4

- Fig 1 Site location
- Fig 2 Development site (blue) in relation to nearby archaeological remains (red)
- Fig 3 Results
- Fig 4 Feature and representative trench sections

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk in advance of the construction of an annexe. The development site is located between the undated cropmarks of what are thought to be the remains of a Neolithic cursus and two Bronze Age burial mounds. The evaluation uncovered no significant archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk which was carried out on 14th July 2017. The work was commissioned by Jolyon Martin, in advance of the construction of an annexe, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council: Planning reference B/17/00202) 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

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

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 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 9202006.

### Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group (undifferentiated) (clay, silt and sand) with superficial River Terrace Deposits, 2 (sand and gravel).

### Historic landscape

Stratford St Mary is in an area defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>, close to an area of *valley meadowlands*. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.3, built up area (village). The landscape immediately around the development 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); and sub-type 14.1 (communications – major road).

<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

## **Archaeology<sup>4</sup>** (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre points of the development site and archaeological site).

**Prehistoric:** Prehistoric finds consist of a scatter of Neolithic flint flakes and pot boilers (SSM 013, 678m NE).

**Iron Age/Roman:** Cinery urns (probably Roman) were found c 550m SW off London Road in 1877 (SSM 007) with wooden piles (possibly from a Roman bridge) identified 977m SW (SSM 008). Metal detector finds include 1st century Roman pottery and coins close to the development site.

**Roman/Medieval finds:** Roman and medieval pottery was identified during monitoring at 6 Lower Street (642m SW, SSM 033).

**Medieval:** The Medieval church of St Mary lies 580m NE of the site (SSM 14).

**Medieval/post-medieval:** Undated Stratford Bridge is located 960m SW (SSM 022).

**Post-medieval:** A watermill and watercourse off the River Stour (17th-19th century) is located 500m WSW (SSM 013). Recent archaeological work has identified a post-medieval brick-lined cess pit at Rose Bank, The Street (SSM 034, 658m SW), post-medieval quarry pits and undated features at The Old School (SSM 030, 355m N) and post-medieval quarrying at Hunts Meadow (SSM 031, 53m NE).

**Modern:** Stratford Mill (19th-20th century) is located 592m SW (SSM 024) and the 19th century Maltings 595m SW (SSM 032). An Essex Water Company pipeline is located 360m SW (SSM 017).

**Undated:** The development site is located between the undated cropmarks of what are thought to be the remains of a Neolithic cursus (SSM 003, 132m NNE) and two Bronze Age burial mounds (SSM 018, 52m SW and SSM 020, 75m SSW). Other undated cropmarks in the vicinity include:

- a possible long barrow (SSM 009, 578m E).
- ring-ditches (HGM 005, 956m NW; HGM 006, 960m NW; HGM 007, 925m NW; SSM 002, 295m E; SSM 004, 230m E; SSM 005, 225m N; SSM 010, 565m ESE; SSM 016, 240m NE; SSM 019, 560m SSW).
- rectangular/rectilinear enclosures (HGM 009, 1.1km NW; HGM 011, 1km NW; HGM 012, 986m NW; SSM 015, 944m NE).
- field boundaries (HGM 001, 1.1km NW, mostly rectilinear).
- rectilinear field system (SSM 012, 440m SSW).
- an undated ditch parallel, and close to, Billy's Lane with post-medieval peg-tile found in the spoil (SSM 026, 728m NE).
- a possible pit (SSM 035, 361m NNE).

## **Listed buildings<sup>5</sup>**

The new annexe is due to be located within the curtilage of Priest House. Priest House is a Grade II listed building, attached to Ancient House which is also listed (both properties are listed as NHLE no. 1198607). Priest House dates to c 1473, with Ancient House being constructed approximately 100 years later. The houses were separated in the 1920s and are currently in separate ownership. The majority of the land was retained with Priest House.

The properties are listed by Historic England as:

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

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

*Ancient House and Priest's House (formerly listed as Gable Cottage 22.2.55 and Priest's House) GV II Two houses. Late C15-early C16 with later alterations and renovation. Timber- framed, plain tile roofs. Red brick stack. 2 parallel ranges standing gable end to street. 2 storeys, attic to Priest's House, the latter 3 bays, Ancient House 2 bays. Priest's House slightly higher. 1st floors jettied to front. Close studding throughout. Ancient House entrance through single-storey addition at left. Restored 6-light diamond mullion window and single arched light to ground floor. 5-light mullion window above. Jowled posts, arched down braces. Swept roof. Priest's House: entrance by added porch to right return. Fine inserted windows, to ground floor 7-light mullion window with ogee-traceried heads, 3-light mullion side windows with leaf scroll carved sills. Slender attached colonnettes with capitals support jetty brackets. Moulded wall plate and vine scroll bressumer. 7-light mullion window above with ogee lights and panelled Perpendicular tracery. Panels of blind tracery below. Moulded tie beam and 2-light window to attic. Steeply-pitched swept roof. Stack rises in valley of roofs. Right return has gabled porch with apparently reused Tudor-arched entrance and traceried windows. Interior: Ancient House, deep chamfer-stopped beam with exposed joists. Fine large orange brick inglenook with moulded corbelled-out jambs and moulded cambered bressumer. Moulded brick panel above. Blocked arched doorway in partition wall with Priest's House. 1st floor open to roof. Incorporated into later partition wall central truss with chamfered jowled post, arch brace to chamfered cambered tie beam supporting chamfered crown post with run-out stop braced to collar purlin. Further brick inglenook with corbelled-out jambs and cambered bressumer with probable merchant's marks. Priest's House: moulded wall plates and central moulded beam with run-out stop and moulded joists. Blocked Tudor-arched door against partition wall with Ancient House. Further Tudor-arched doorway with cavetto jambs and carved spandrels to rear wall. Unusual fine cambered bressumer with cresting and cusped mouchette enrichment to remodelled inglenook. Wall post with pair of carved heads, one male and one female. C17 staircase with original treads and risers. Chamfered newels with paired ball finials, column balusters and moulded handrail. Crown post roof square posts with thin chamfered braces to purlin.*

At least 27 other properties within a 1km search radius of the development site have listed building status. They range in date from the 15th-19th century, but area primarily 16th-17th century.

#### **4 Aims**

The aims of the evaluation were to:

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

#### **5 Methodology**

One trial-trench was laid out across the development site (avoiding overhead cables). The trench measured 10m long by 1.6m wide (totalling 16m<sup>2</sup>).

The trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. A metal

detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata. For full details of the methodology, refer to the attached WSI.

## 6 Results (Fig 3)

Trench T1 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.28-0.38m thick, loose to soft dry dark grey/brown sandy-loam) sealing subsoil (L2, c 0.3-0.4m thick soft dry medium yellow/brown sandy-silt), which sealed natural sands (L3). A sondage measuring 0.3m wide and 0.2m deep was excavated through L3 towards the northern end of the trench to reveal underlying gravels.

No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.



**Photograph 1** T1 trench shot – looking southeast

## 7 Finds

*by Stephen Benfield*

Three pottery finds (sherds) were recovered from L1 (1). The oldest and the most archaeologically significant, is a sherd from the handle base of a medieval jug (44g) which appears typical of Colchester-type ware (CAR 7, Fabric 21A) broadly dating from the 13th to the early 16th centuries. The other two sherds are English stoneware (CAR 7, Fabric 45), one a thick body sherd broadly of 18th- to 19th-century date (34g) and the other a complete base from a preserve jar of late 19th- to early 20th-century date (260g). This latter piece has an impressed lighthouse manufacturers' mark on the base and was made for W.P. Hartley of London and Liverpool. Lightly impressed lettering around the inside of the base edge is all but illegible, but should almost certainly read WP HARTLEY, LIVERPOOL & LONDON.

## 8 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at Priest House did not reveal any significant archaeological remains.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Jolyon Martin for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with H Furness. Figures are by HF and S Carter. The project was monitored by James Rolfe for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

## 10 References

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

Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 7	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 7, by John Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JH</i>
CIfA	2008a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
SCC	2008	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCAS	2017a	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i> (version 1.3)
SCCAS	2017b	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition</i>
SCCAS/CT	2017	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, May 2017</i>

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1134)

SCCAS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

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

Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD

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

## 13 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number SSM 038.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2017

### **Distribution list:**

Jolyon Martin

James Rolfe, SCCAS

Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

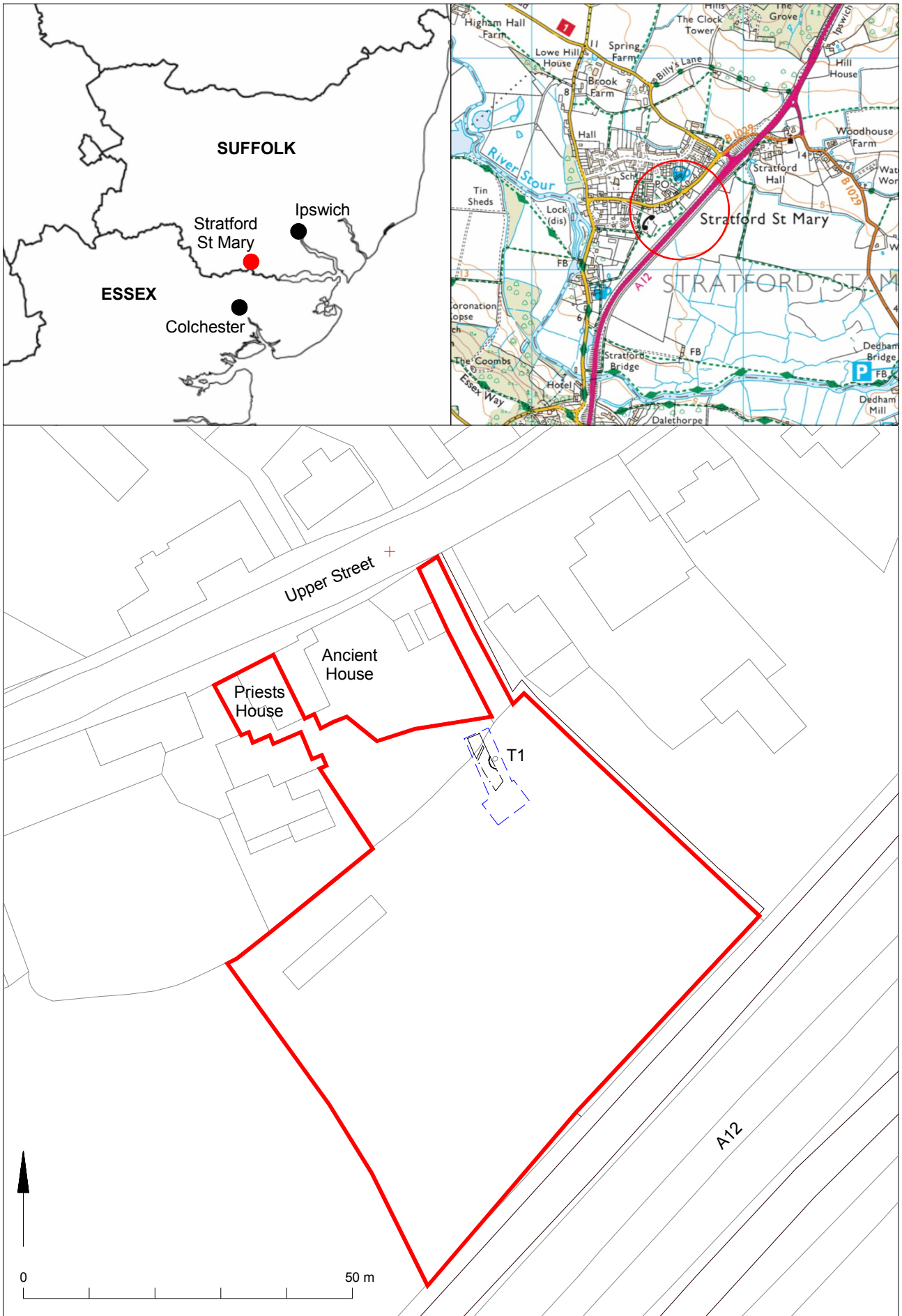
tel.: 01206 501785

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

checked by: Philip Crummy

date: 19.7.2017





© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)



Fig 2 Development site (blue) in relation to nearby archaeological remains (red)

0 50 m

Imagery ©2017 Google, Getmapping plc, map data ©2017 Google  
HER data ©2017 Suffolk County Historic Environment Record

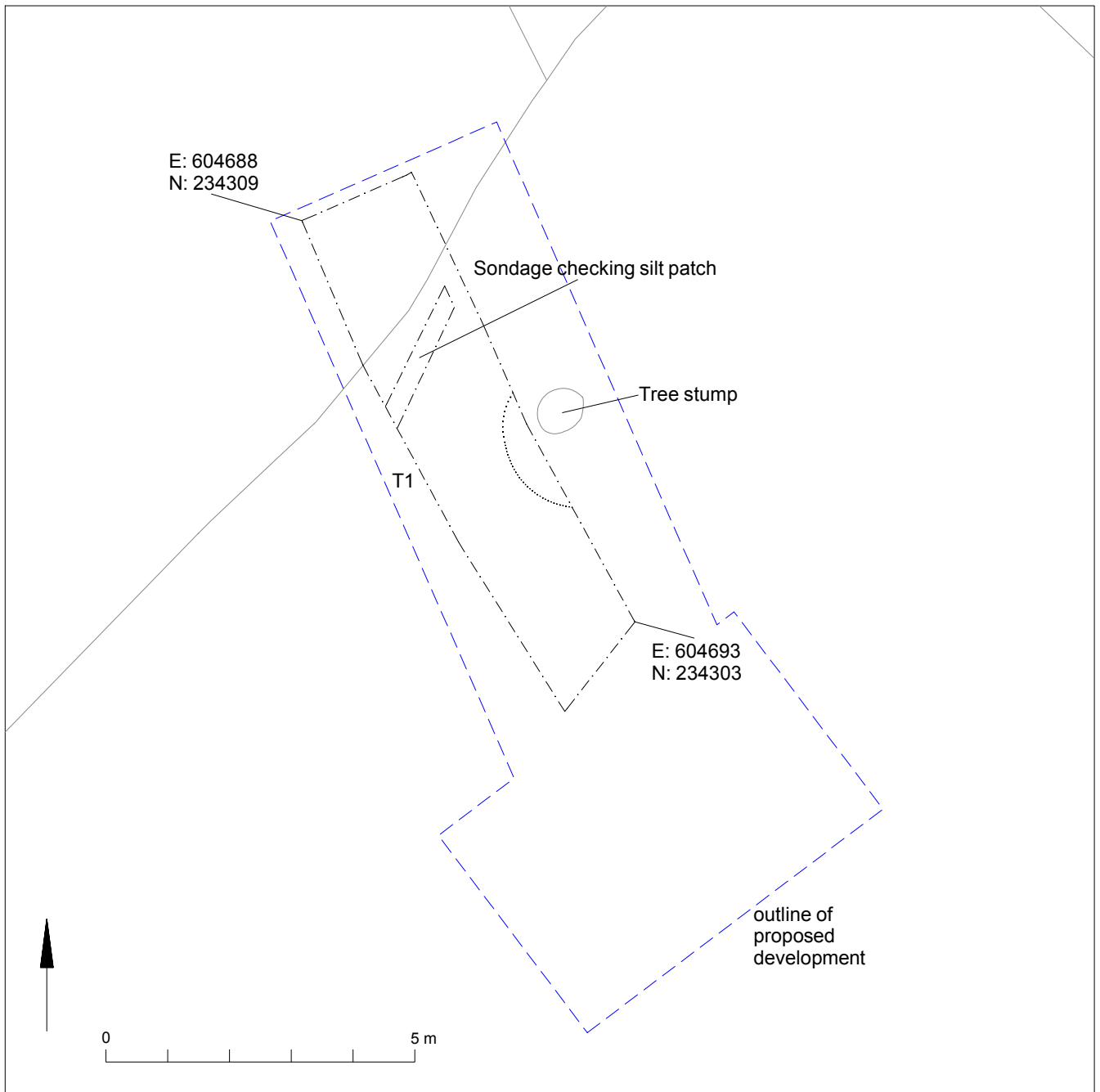
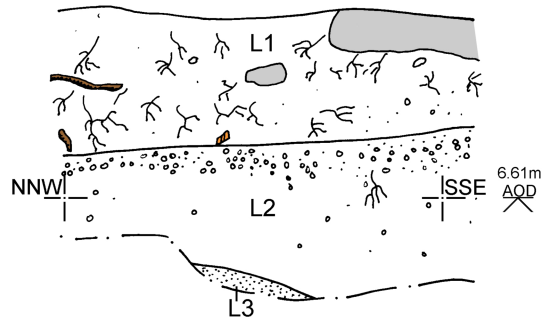


Fig 3 Detailed plan of T1 in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines)



- sand
- ⊙ small stones
- large stones
- √ roots
- √ large roots
- ▨ post-Medieval/Modern Brick
- ◐ concrete



Fig 4 Representative section

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JH

**NGR:** TM 046 343 (centre)

**Planning references:** B/17/00202

**Client:** Mr Jolyon Martin

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

**Suffolk HER parish code:** SSM 038

**Suffolk event number:** ESF25583

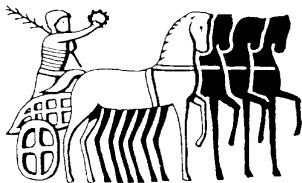
**CAT project code:** 17/06b

**OASIS reference:** colchest3-286836

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**SCCAS/CT monitor:** James Rolfe

**This WSI written:** 21.6.2017



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 development site is located on land to the rear of Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 046 343.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of an annexe in the rear garden.

## 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 9202006.

### Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site as Thanet Sand Formation and Lambeth Group (undifferentiated) (clay, silt and sand) with superficial River Terrace Deposits, 2 (sand and gravel).

### Historic landscape

Statford St Mary is in an area defined as *rolling valley farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>, close to an area of *valley meadowlands*. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.3, built up area (village). The landscape immediately around the development 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); and sub-type 14.1 (communications – major road).

### Archaeology<sup>4</sup> (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre points of the development site and archaeological site).

**Prehistoric:** Prehistoric finds consist of a scatter of Neolithic flint flakes and pot boilers (SSM 013, 678m NE).

**Iron Age/Roman:** Cinery urns (probably Roman) were found c 550m SW off London Road in 1877 (SSM 007) with wooden piles (possibly from a Roman bridge) identified 977m SW (SSM 008). Metal detector finds include 1st century Roman pottery and coins close to the development site.

**Roman/Medieval finds:** Roman and medieval pottery was identified during monitoring at 6 Lower Street (642m SW, SSM 033).

**Medieval:** The Medieval church of St Mary lies 580m NE of the site (SSM 14).

**Medieval/post-medieval:** Undated Stratford Bridge is located 960m SW (SSM 022).

**Post-medieval:** A watermill and watercourse off the River Stour (17th-19th century) is located 500m WSW (SSM 013). Recent archaeological work has identified a post-medieval brick-lined cess pit at Rose Bank, The Street (SSM 034, 658m SW), post-medieval quarry pits and undated features at The Old School (SSM 030, 355m N) and post-medieval quarrying at Hunts Meadow (SSM 031, 53m NE).

**Modern:** Stratford Mill (19th-20th century) is located 592m SW (SSM 024) and the 19th century Maltings 595m SW (SSM 032). An Essex Water Company pipeline is located 360m SW (SSM 017).

<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).

**Undated:** Undated cropmarks have been recorded surrounding the development site, with two ring-ditches in very close proximity (SSM 018 and SSM 020). These include:

- a cursus (SSM 003, 132m NNE).
- a possible long barrow (SSM 009, 578m E).
- ring-ditches (HGM 005, 956m NW; HGM 006, 960m NW; HGM 007, 925m NW; SSM 002, 295m E; SSM 004, 230m E; SSM 005, 225m N; SSM 010, 565m ESE; SSM 016, 240m NE; SSM 018, 52m SW; SSM 019, 560m SSW; SSM 020, 75m SSW).
- rectangular/rectilinear enclosures (HGM 009, 1.1km NW; HGM 011, 1km NW; HGM 012, 986m NW; SSM 015, 944m NE).
- field boundaries (HGM 001, 1.1km NW, mostly rectilinear).
- rectilinear field system (SSM 012, 440m SSW).

Monitoring 728m NE revealed an undated ditch parallel, and close to, Billy's Lane with post-medieval peg-tile found in the spoil (SSM 026). A possible pit was located 361m NNE (SSM 035).

### Listed buildings<sup>5</sup>

The new annexe is due to be located within the curtilage of Priest House. Priest House is a Grade II listed building, attached to Ancient House which is also listed (both properties are listed as NHLE no. 1198607). Priest House dates to c 1473, with Ancient House being constructed approximately 100 years later. The houses were separated in the 1920s and are currently in separate ownership. The majority of the land was retained with Priest House.

The properties are listed by Historic England as:

*Ancient House and Priest's House (formerly listed as Gable Cottage 22.2.55 and Priest's House) GV II Two houses. Late C15-early C16 with later alterations and renovation. Timber-framed, plain tile roofs. Red brick stack. 2 parallel ranges standing gable end to street. 2 storeys, attic to Priest's House, the latter 3 bays, Ancient House 2 bays. Priest's House slightly higher. 1st floors jettied to front. Close studding throughout. Ancient House entrance through single-storey addition at left. Restored 6-light diamond mullion window and single arched light to ground floor. 5-light mullion window above. Jowled posts, arched down braces. Swept roof. Priest's House: entrance by added porch to right return. Fine inserted windows, to ground floor 7-light mullion window with ogee-traceried heads, 3-light mullion side windows with leaf scroll carved sills. Slender attached colonnettes with capitals support jetty brackets. Moulded wall plate and vine scroll bressumer. 7-light mullion window above with ogee lights and panelled Perpendicular tracery. Panels of blind tracery below. Moulded tie beam and 2-light window to attic. Steeply-pitched swept roof. Stack rises in valley of roofs. Right return has gabled porch with apparently reused Tudor-arched entrance and traceried windows. Interior: Ancient House, deep chamfer-stopped beam with exposed joists. Fine large orange brick inglenook with moulded corbelled-out jambs and moulded cambered bressumer. Moulded brick panel above. Blocked arched doorway in partition wall with Priest's House. 1st floor open to roof. Incorporated into later partition wall central truss with chamfered jowled post, arch brace to chamfered cambered tie beam supporting chamfered crown post with run-out stop braced to collar purlin. Further brick inglenook with corbelled-out jambs and cambered bressumer with probable merchant's marks. Priest's House: moulded wall plates and central moulded beam with run-out stop and moulded joists. Blocked Tudor-arched door against partition wall with Ancient House. Further Tudor-arched doorway with cavetto jambs and carved spandrels to rear wall. Unusual fine cambered bressumer with cresting and cusped mouchette enrichment to remodelled inglenook. Wall post with pair of carved heads, one male and one female. C17 staircase with original treads and risers. Chamfered newels with paired ball finials, column balusters and moulded handrail. Crown post roof square posts with thin chamfered braces to purlin.*

At least 27 other properties within a 1km search radius of the development site have listed building status. They range in date from the 15th-19th century, but area primarily 16th-17th century.

### Planning background

Planning applications were submitted to Babergh District Council in February 2017 (B/17/00202) for the construction of an annexe in the rear garden of the property.

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

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* (DCLG 2012) and in this case in section 3 of the planning permission:

*" No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions."*

### **Requirement for work** (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by SCCAS (*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary – SCCAS, May 2017*).

Specifically, one trial-trench will be excavated within the footprint of the new annexe building. It will measure 10m long by 1.8m wide.

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

### **Aims**

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

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).

### **Staffing**

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

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

### **General methodology**

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2008a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)



- the Project Brief issued by SCC Historic Environment Officer (SCCAS/CT 2017)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2017a) to be used alongside the Project Brief

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

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

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

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

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

### **Evaluation trial-trenching methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

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

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

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established across the site.

Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, or ovens will be sufficiently defined for recording, but will not be removed.

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

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

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

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

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

### **Site surveying**

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

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

### **Environmental sampling policy**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

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

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

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

### **Photographic record**

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

## Post-excavation assessment

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

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

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

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

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

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter / Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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

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

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with SCCAS and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS 2017b).

## Results

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

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

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

Final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS/CT as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

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

Results will be published, to at least a summary level, in the PSIAH (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History) annual round up should archaeological remains

be encountered in the evaluation. An allowance will be made for this in the project costs for the report.

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

### **Archive deposition**

The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service as per their archive guidelines (SCCAS 2017b).

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, 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/CT.

### **Monitoring**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Education and outreach**

The CAT website ([www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk](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. A magazine (*The Colchester Archaeologist Vol 28* out now) summarises all our sites and staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works alongside the Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

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

### **References**

- |                              |       |  |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J. | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT                          | 2014  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CIfA                         | 2008a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| CIfA                         | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| DCLG                         | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>  |
| Gurney, D                    | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).  |
| English Heritage             | 2006  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>  |
| Medlycott, M                 | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)                  |
| SCC                          | 2008  | <i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>  |
| SCCAS                        | 2017a | <i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (version 1.3)</i>   |
| SCCAS                        | 2017b | <i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and</i>  |

SCCAS/CT

2017

*deposition*

*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, May 2017*

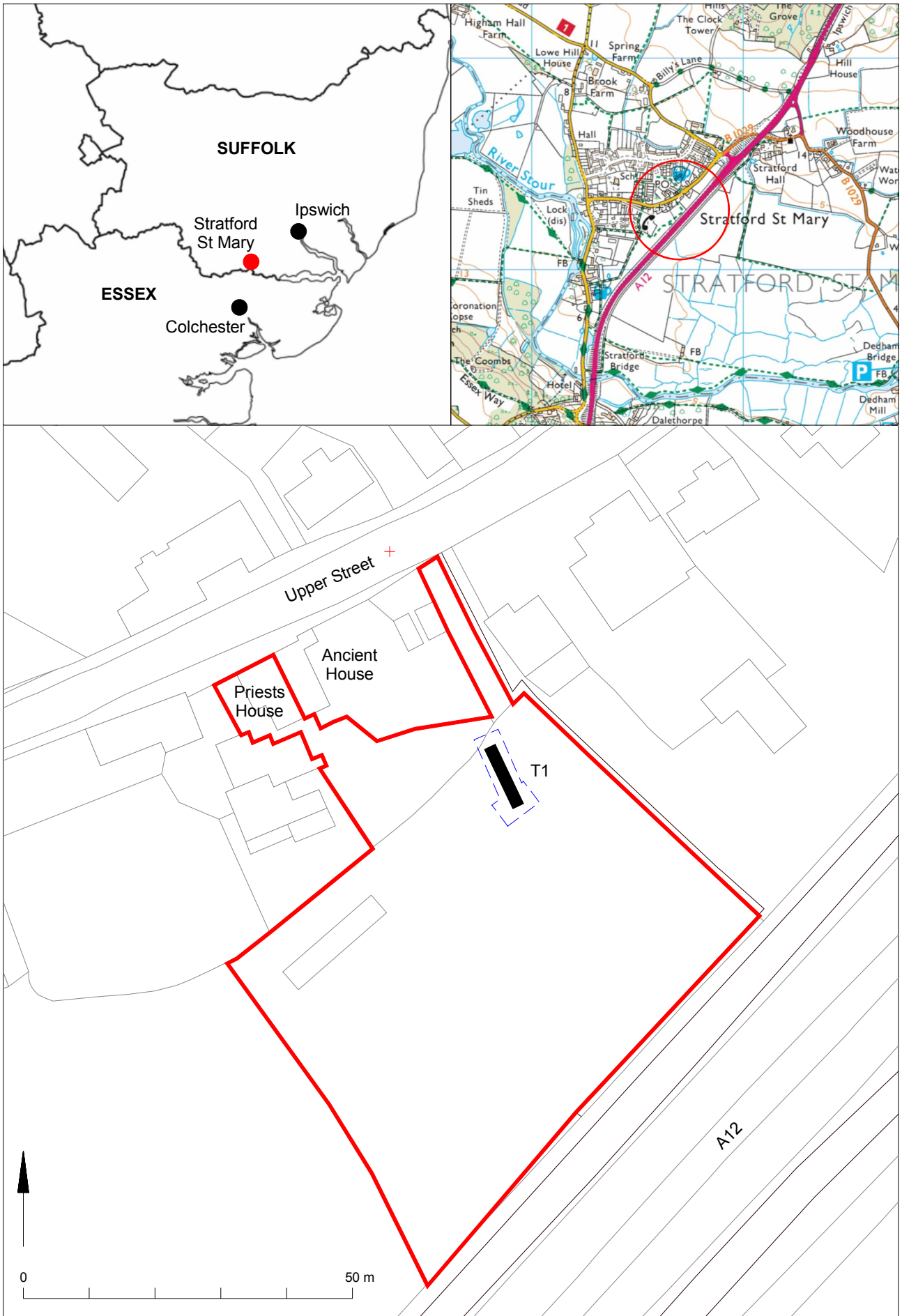
L Pooley



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

tel: 01206 501785

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



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

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



Fig 2 Development site (blue) in relation to nearby archaeological remains (red)

0 50 m

Imagery ©2017 Google, Getmapping plc, map data ©2017 Google  
HER data ©2017 Suffolk County Historic Environment Record

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

**OASIS ID: colchest3-286836**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at The Priests House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JH
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk in advance of the construction of an annexe. The development site is located between the undated cropmarks of what are thought to be the remains of a Neolithic cursus and two Bronze Age burial mounds. The evaluation uncovered no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 14-07-2017 End: 14-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/06b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	B/17/00202 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SSM 038 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ESF25583 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH STRATFORD ST MARY The Priests House, Upper Street
Postcode	CO7 6JH
Study area	0.38 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 046 343 51.968930198644 0.978867095645 51 58 08 N 000 58 43 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.48m Max: 6.53m

## Project creators

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

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	SSM 038



Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"  
Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service  
Paper Archive ID SSM 038  
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report"

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological evaluation at Priest House, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JH: July 2017  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.  
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1134  
Date 2017  
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
Place of issue or publication Colchester  
Description A-4 loose-leaf ringbound  
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>  
  
Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)  
Entered on 20 July 2017

**OASIS:** Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice  
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012  
Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=290878> for this page