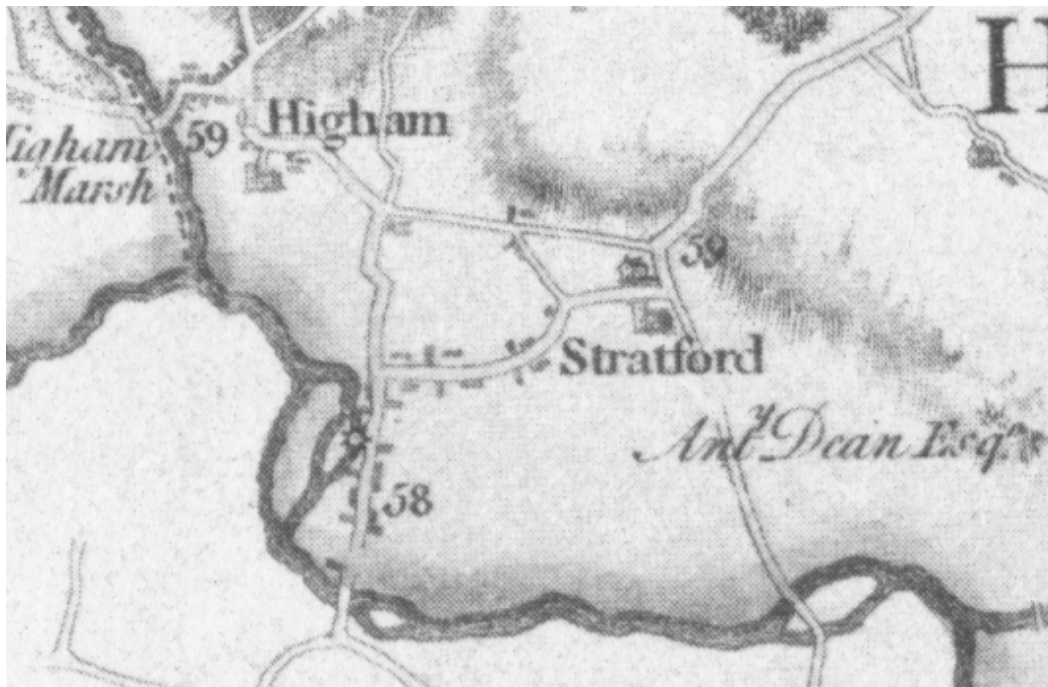


Archaeological monitoring at Courtlands, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk, CO7 6JH

January 2019



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway

commissioned by Chris Jones

NGR: TM 046 342 (centre)
Planning ref: 2016/01520/FHA
CAT project ref.: 17/11c
Suffolk Parish Number: SSM039
OASIS ref: colchest3-300128



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CAT Report 1363

January 2019

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Cover: extract from Hodgkinson's map of Suffolk, 1783

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Courtlands, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension and a two-storey 'infill' extension. The groundworks exposed a 19th-century brick soakaway and wall foundation associated with the property. Residual sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery also evidenced occupation or activity at this site during these earlier periods.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Courtlands, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk which was carried out during 7th-8th January 2019. The work was commissioned by Chris Wickens and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Mid Suffolk District Council: Planning reference 2016/01520/FHA) 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 Continuous Archaeological Recording* 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 2018).

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 watching briefs* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 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), SCC invoice number 9202006.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) 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 Assessment², close to an area of *valley meadowlands*. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.3, built up area (village). The landscape immediately around the development site is 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).

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

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

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

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

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

Prehistoric: Prehistoric finds consist of a scatter of Neolithic flint flakes and pot boilers (SSM 013, 745m NE).

Iron Age/Roman: Cinery urns (probably Roman) were found c 485m SW off London Road in 1877 (SSM 007) with wooden piles (possibly from a Roman bridge) identified 922m 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 (581m SW, SSM 033).

Medieval: The medieval church of St Mary lies 653m NE of the site (SSM 14).

Medieval/post-medieval: Undated Stratford Bridge is located 912m SW (SSM 022).

Post-medieval: A watermill and watercourse off the River Stour (17th-19th century) is located 437m WSW (SSM 023). Recent archaeological work has identified a post-medieval brick-lined cess pit at Rose Bank, The Street (SSM 034, 594m SW), post-medieval quarry pits and undated features at The Old School (SSM 030, 410m N) and post-medieval quarrying at Hunts Meadow (SSM 031, 117m NE).

Modern: Stratford Mill (19th-20th century) is located 529m SW (SSM 024) and the 19th-century Maltings 535m SW (SSM 032). An Essex Water Company pipeline is located 513m SW (SSM 017).

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, 202m NNE).
- a possible long barrow (SSM 009, 629m E).
- ring-ditches (HGM 005, 964m NW; HGM 006, 967m NW; HGM 007, 934m NW; SSM 002, 349m E; SSM 004, 283m E; SSM 005, 262m N; SSM 010, 610m ESE; SSM 016, 301m NE; SSM 018, 29m SE; SSM 019, 506m SSW; SSM 020, 48m SE).
- rectangular/rectilinear enclosures (HGM 009, 1.08km NW; HGM 011, 1km NW; HGM 012, 994m NW; SSM 015, 1km NE).
- field boundaries (HGM 001, 1.2km NW, mostly rectilinear).
- rectilinear field system (SSM 012, 369m SSW).

Monitoring 789m 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 422m NNE (SSM 035).

Listed buildings⁵

The proposed extensions are due to be located within the curtilage of Courtlands. Courtlands is a Grade II listed building (NHLE no. 1036997) and dates to the late 16th century.

The property is listed by Historic England as:

TM 0434 STRATFORD ST MARY UPPER STREET (south side) 5/41 - Courtlands GV II House. Probable late C16 range with C19 addition of 2 builds. C20 alterations and additions. Timber-framed, rendered and incised. C19 sections in painted brick, part rendered. Plain tile roof to early range, Welsh slate to rest. Red brick stack, part

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

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

rendered. White brick stacks to C19 section. 2 storeys. C16 range, 2 bays, end to road. C19 ranges to rear. C16 range: 3-light leaded casement to road front. Entrance by C20 extension to left return. Right return has canted bay with margin glazing under slate roof and triangular oriel to 1st floor. Roof hipped to road end. C19 section, right return, projects slightly, 4-panel door with radial overlight in architrave. Unequal sash with glazing bars in architrave above. External stack and 12-pane sash in architrave to right. Garden front: 4 bays, 2 bays to right being a later C19 addition. Canted bay with French windows to left. Glazed conservatory to right. Sashes with glazing bars above, those to right horned. Interior: C16 range; moulded beam with run-out stops. Exposed joists. Shutter groove of original window to wall plate. Rebuilt inglenook. Chamfered cambered beam with large arch brace. 1st floor studded walls, edge-halved scarf wall plate. Chamfered bressumer to blocked fireplace. Clasped purlin roof. Included for group value.

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 are primarily of 16th-17th century date.

4 Aim

The aim of the monitoring was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits disturbed by the groundworks.

5 Methodology

All groundworks were carried out by the contractor. They were continuously monitored and recorded for archaeological remains by a CAT archaeologist. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. For full details of the methodology, refer to the attached WSI.

6 Results (Figs 3-4)

To the rear of the property, foundation trenching for the single-storey extension totalling 19m long by 0.45m wide was excavated to a depth of 1-1.1m. A further 3.5m of foundation trenching for the infill extension was excavated to the east of the property; it was 0.45m wide and 1-1.1m deep. Both sections of trenching were cut by modern drainage runs.

The foundation trenching penetrated four layers. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.22-0.34m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt) overlay subsoil (L2, c 0.28-0.43m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt) onto natural (L3, firm, moist yellow/grey sand, encountered at a depth of 0.61-0.66m below current ground level). In the area of the trenching for the infill extension, L1 was sealed by a modern concrete yard surface (L4, c 0.06m thick).

Post-medieval (approximately 19th-century) brick soakaway F1 was uncovered during the excavation of the foundation trench for the single-storey extension. It was built with slightly-frogged bricks.

Post-medieval (approximately 19th-century) wall foundation F2 was exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches for the infill extension. It too was composed of slightly-frogged bricks and lay on an E-W alignment.



Photograph 1 Foundation trenching for the rear extension, looking northwest

7 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small quantity of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
Medieval/post-medieval	11	618	56
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	2	5,392	2,696
All	13	6,010	462

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Post-Roman Pottery

The post-Roman pottery was recorded using the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) and Cunningham (1985). There were only 11 sherds with a weight of 618g (Table 2) all of which came from layer L2 (3). There were six sherds of Colchester-type ware (Fabric F21) including two vessels: a wide-mouthed cistern with traces of white-slip painting (*CAR 7*: 130-132, fig. 85 no. 79) and a storage jar with thumb impressions along the edges of the handle and splashes of copper-flecked glaze (*CAR 7*: 134-136, fig. 858 nos. 96-97). Both of these vessels can be broadly dated to the period c 1450-1550 (*CAR 7*: 134). There were also three sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares including part of a Mason's side plate with a transfer print of a fruit basket (green), the trade mark on the back is of a type datable to c 1845 (Godden 1991, 416-417 nos. 2526-2528).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F21	Colchester-type ware	13th-14/15th century
F45C	Raeren stoneware	Mid 15th to 17th century
F45M	Modern English stoneware	19th-early 20th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-early 20th century

Table 2 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW /g	Rim	Handle	Base	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
F21	Colchester-type ware	6	526	88	2	0	1	0.17	2
F45C	Raeren stoneware	1	4	4	0	0	0	0.00	0
F45M	Modern English stoneware	1	16	16	0	0	0	0.00	0
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	3	72	24	0	0	0	0.00	0
Total		11	618	56	2	0	1	0.17	2

Table 3 Details on the post-Roman pottery

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Two bricks were recovered from F1 and F2. Both are frogged, indicating that they date from the late 18th century onwards (McComish 2015, 43). One example, from F1, is complete and measures: 235 mm long, 110 mm wide, and 65 mm high which suggests that it, at least, predates 1936 as bricks of this date (until 1969) were made to the following size: 222 mm x 106 mm x 51 mm or 66 mm. The bricks appear to be soft reds, of 19th- to 20th-century date (Ryan, 1996, 95-6).

Summary

Table 4 provides a brief dating summary for the two features with produced datable ceramic finds.

Feature	CBM	Overall date Approx.
F1	Post-medieval	19th century
F2	Post-medieval	19th century

Table 4 Approximate dates for the individual features

8 Discussion

Despite being located within an archaeologically-sensitive area the only significant archaeological remains encountered were a post-medieval (approximately 19th-century) wall foundation and soakaway associated with the property, although residual sherds of medieval and pre-19th-century post-medieval pottery recovered during excavations are indicative of inhabitation and activity at the site during these earlier periods.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Chris Jones for commissioning and funding the project. Site work was managed by C Lister, and undertaken by B Holloway. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. 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 *Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at Courtlands, 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>
Cunningham, CM	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, CM and Dury, PJ (eds.), <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750</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>
Godden, GA	1991	<i>Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks</i> . Revised edition
McComish, JM	2015	<i>A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials: An Insight Report</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)
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex: From the Roman Conquest to the Reformation</i>
SCC	2008	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCAS	2011	<i>Requirements for Continuous Archaeological Recording</i> (version 1.2)
SCCAS	2017	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition</i>
SCCAS/CT	2017	<i>Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording at Courtlands, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, September 2017</i>

11 Abbreviations and glossary

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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 to 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, 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	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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 a box

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1363)

SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, plans, sections)

Site photographic log, photographic thumbnails

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1363)

SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site photographic log, photographic thumbnails

Report graphics

Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number SSM039.

Distribution list:

Chris Jones
James Rolfe, SCCAS
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



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checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 04.01.2019

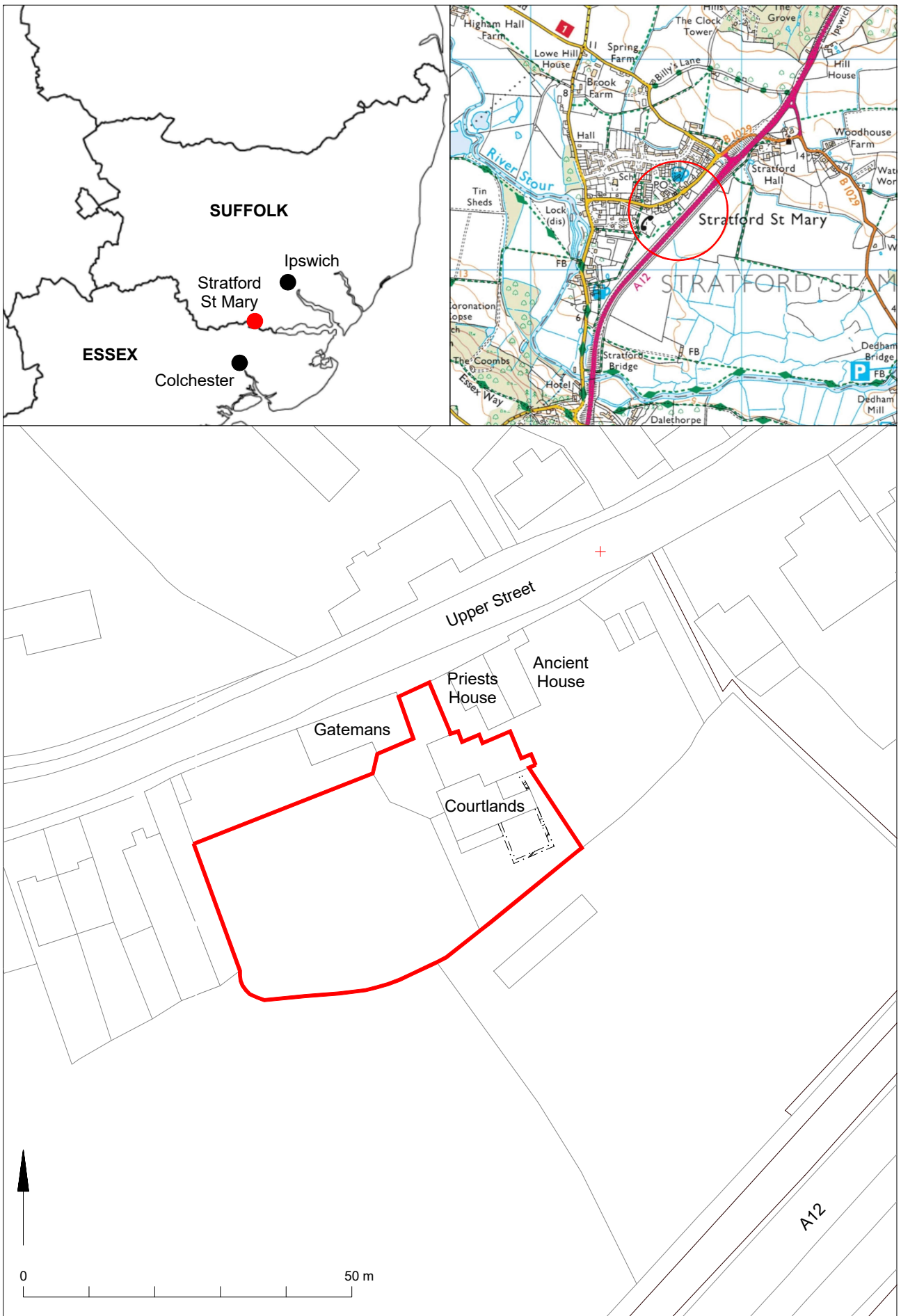


Fig 1 Site location



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

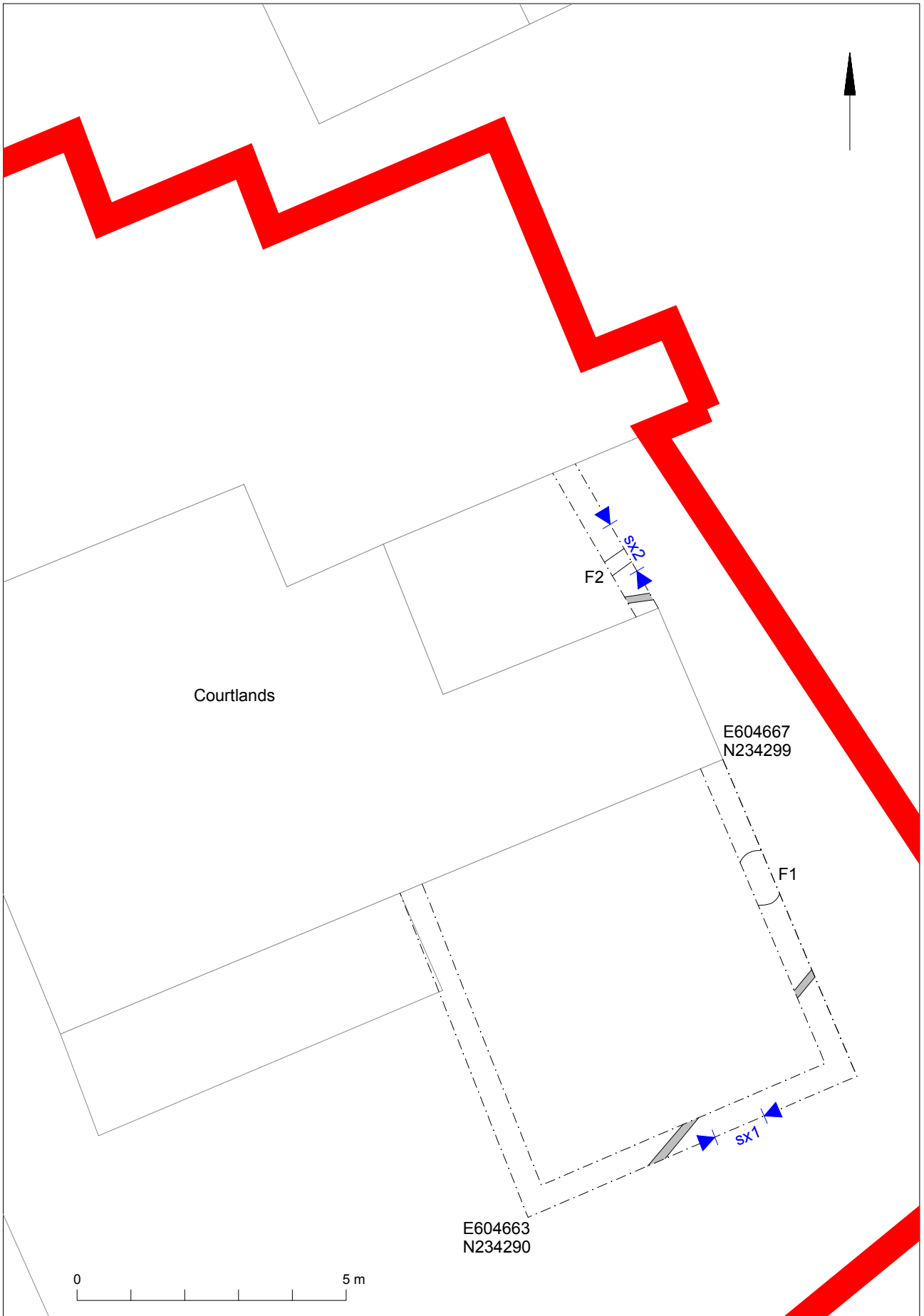


Fig 3 Monitoring results (modern services in grey)

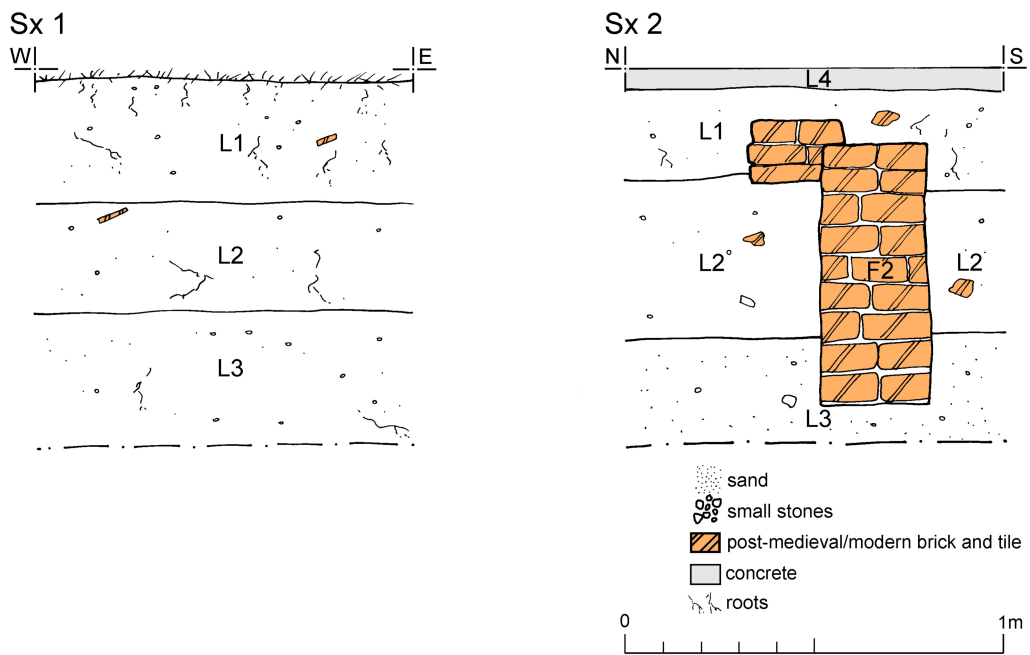


Fig 4 Representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-300128

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Courtlands, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary, CO7 6JH
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Courtlands, Upper Street, Stratford St Mary in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension and a two-storey 'infill' extension. The groundworks exposed a 19th-century brick soakaway and wall foundation associated with the property. Residual sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery also evidenced occupation or activity at this site during these earlier periods.
Project dates	Start: 07-01-2019 End: 08-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/11c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2016/01520/FHA - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SSM039 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	SOAKAWAY Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH STRATFORD ST MARY Courtlands, Upper Street
Postcode	CO7 6JH
Study area	0.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 046 342 51.968032245114 0.978807506219 51 58 04 N 000 58 43 E Point

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	SSM039
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	SSM039
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	SSM039
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

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