

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT**

---

SCCAS REPORT No. 2009/142

# **Belmont House, Long Melford. LMD 178**

**A. Tester**  
© August 2009  
[www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology](http://www.suffolkcc.gov.uk/e-and-t/archaeology)



## HER Information

---

**Planning Application No:** B/08/00486/FHA, 08/01198 and B/09/ 00066/FHA

**Date of Fieldwork:** 2008-2009 (several visits)

**Grid Reference:** TL 8642 4573

**Funding Body:** Mr A. Lyall

**Curatorial Officer:** Jess Tipper

**Project Supervisor:** Andrew Tester

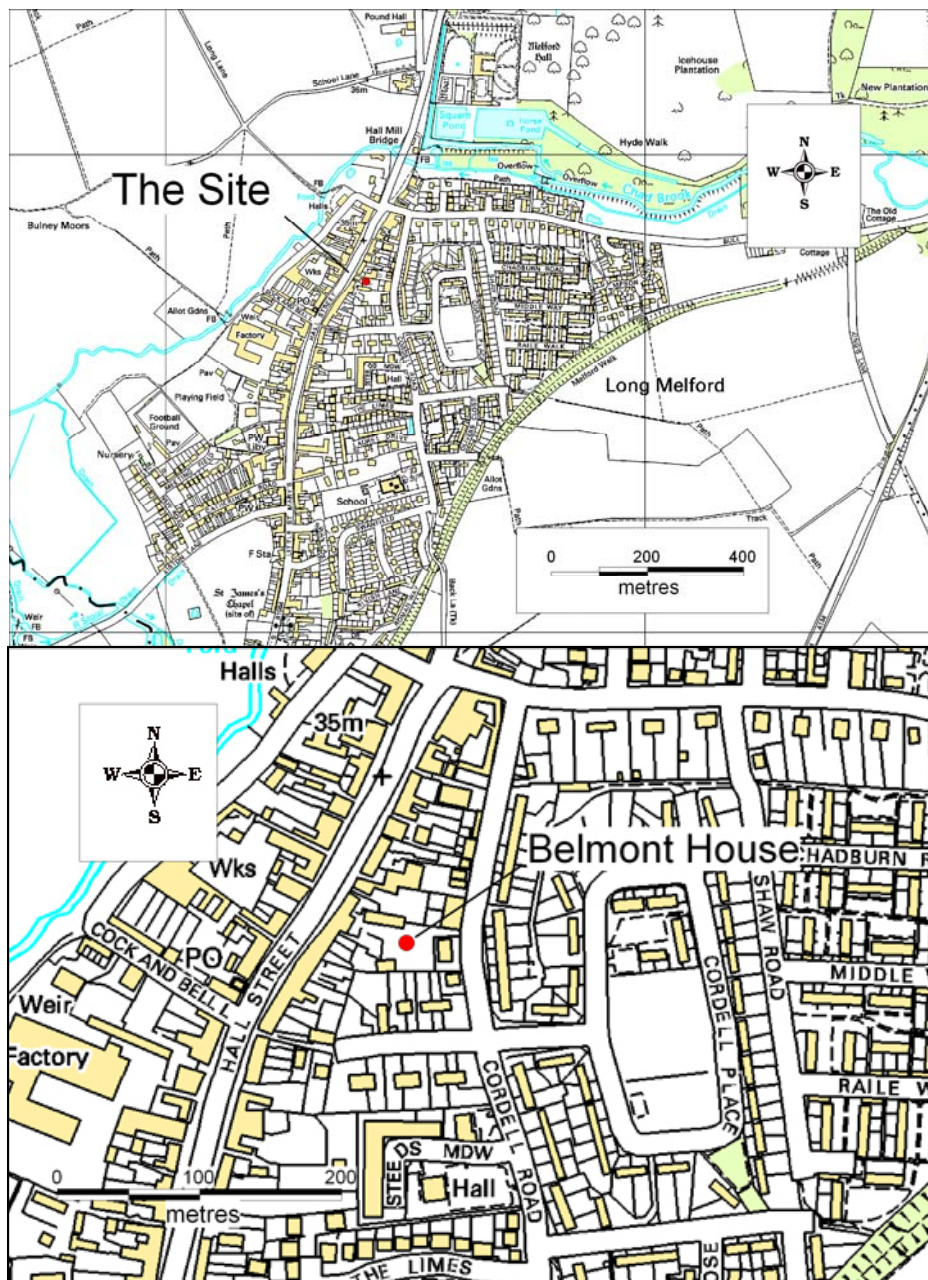
## Summary

---

Archaeological monitoring was carried out in the grounds of Belmont House, Hall Street, Long Melford. Only limited excavations penetrated below the very deep topsoil. Two pits were exposed and an industrial hearth or (?) kiln on the border of the property to the north all dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. No earlier archaeological features were exposed.

# 1. Introduction and methodology

The footings for a double garage, a small extension to Belmont House, and accompanying drainage including a soak-away, were monitored during building works over 2008 and 2009 to satisfy planning conditions on applications B/08/00486/FHA, 08/01198 and B/09/ 00066/FHA. The work was carried out according to a brief and specification supplied by Jude Plouviez, Suffolk County Council, Conservation Team. The site was visited by Andrew Tester and David Gill.



©Crown Copyright. All Rights Reserved.  
Suffolk County Council Licence No. 100023395 2009

Figure. 1 Location plan

Long Melford is an archaeologically significant area identified as an important Late Iron Age, and Roman, settlement with further activity during the medieval Period. (Plouviez 1995). The town lies along a northeast-southwest aligned road that is likely to be Roman in origin and evidence of this has been found close to the site. Previous monitorings in the vicinity have recovered evidence of Roman occupation from the 1st to the 4th centuries.

The Footings for the extension and garage were constantly monitored and the machining was carried out by a tracked excavator using a flat-bladed bucket. Due to the largely negative results measurements were taken of the site and only sample finds were collected. A digital photographic record was made of the site.

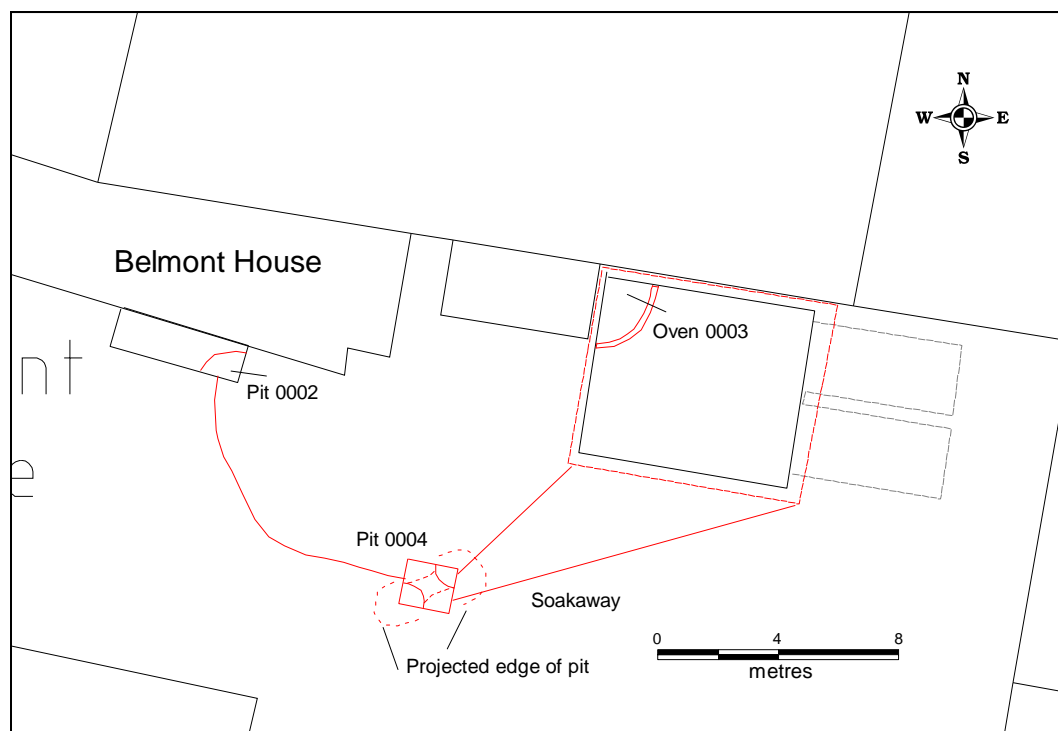


Figure 2 Plan of the fieldwork

## 2. Results

---

Details of the work are shown in Figure 2. The extension exposed a pit, 0002, which was partially excavated and produced finds that date it to the early 19th century. The soil strip of the plot for the garage removed a substantial overburden of modern

topsoil. Protruding through this layer in the north-west corner was a circular structure of 19th century bricks that was filled with ash and clinker. It did not appear on the 1880 Ordinance Survey map. It is interpreted as either an oven or a kiln.

No archaeological layers were exposed. A pit for a soak-away was excavated in the garden with drains from the extension and the garage. The soak-away pit was c. 1.5m deep and cut through a pit, 0004, that was of similar depth. Pit 0004 contained pottery, tile and glass that was dated on site to the 19th century. The drains penetrated to a maximum depth of 0.9m exposing orange gravel and coarse orange silt.

## The Finds

---

Richenda Goffin,

### Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0002	7	681	L18th-19 <sup>th</sup> C
Total	7	681	

Table 1 Finds quantities

### Pottery

Seven fragments of pottery were recovered from pit 0002. A large and abraded sherd of Staffordshire combed slipware with pie-crusting thumbing around the rim was present, dating from the middle of the 17th to the end of the 18th century. Several fragments of Glazed red earthenware were identified, including part of a handled jar which may be a chamber pot, which has the remains of a white residue, perhaps whitewash still visible in its interior. The base of a sooted Glazed red earthenware handled jar also has a similar residue. Two fragments of Blue and white transfer printed wares, both showing pastoral scenes were also found in this pitfill. Both sherds are pearlwares and probably date to the first half of the nineteenth century.

## Discussion

---

There was only limited penetration of the subsoil by the groundworks. The two 19th century pits that were exposed included normal household type waste. The kiln or oven beneath the garage was probably industrial and although probably 19th century in date, had been demolished by 1880.

## Bibliography

---

- Gurney, D., 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*. East Anglian Archaeology Series no. 14.
- Plouviez, J., 1995. 'A hole in the distribution map' in Brown, A. E. (ed.), *Roman Small Towns in Eastern England and beyond*, Oxbow Monogr. 52.