

**LAND ADJACENT TO 1 RAVENS CRESCENT
WATCH HOUSE GREEN
FELSTED
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

January 2012

Essex HER Summary Sheet

Site Name/Address: Land adjacent to 1 Ravens Crescent, Watch House Green, Felsted	
Parish: Felsted	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 6898 2104	Site Code: FLRC 11
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring	Site Director/Team: Andy Letch ECC FAU
Dates of Work: Visits during December 2011 & January 2012	Size of Area Investigated: approx. 68m ² house footprint & 79m ² driveway
Curating Museum: No finds	Funding Source: Mr Lee Clark
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos. 1356, 14086 & 18073
Final Report: N/A	Oasis No.: 116889
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out during excavation works for a new house and driveway within part of the former garden of 1 Ravens Crescent, (fig. 1). The site lies in the hamlet of Watch House Green, on the north-west side of Felsted within a large cropmark complex represented by a group of likely prehistoric enclosures, ditches and pits to the south-east (HER 1356) and other probable field boundaries to the north (HER 14086). The Green itself contains circular cropmarks, which may also have archaeological significance, or simply represent changes in the natural vegetation (HER 18073).</p> <p>Footings for the house and conservatory were excavated by mechanical excavator to depths of between 1m and 1.2m into the former lawn (plate 1). A thin (0.3m) layer of silty clay topsoil was removed onto an undisturbed clay subsoil overlying an orange/grey mottled sandy clay natural at between 0.45m and 0.65m that continued below the base of the trench. On the south side of the house plot, part of a concrete base, probably to a former garage, was exposed. There was some limited modern pipe disturbance at the north end of the plot, but otherwise the ground was undisturbed.</p> <p>Excavation for the new driveway was within the area of the former driveway and front garden (plate 2). Up to 0.3m of topsoil was removed onto a modern brown silty clay layer that contained frequent brick fragments.</p> <p>No archaeological features were present or finds retrieved in either of the two monitored areas. The house footings were the deepest and showed modern topsoil, probably contemporary with the construction of Ravens Crescent (c.1960s) over an undisturbed subsoil that may represent a former ploughsoil, since the site is believed to have been previously undeveloped. This lay on top of clean natural deposits. The exposed topsoil/brick layer within the area of the driveway represents a spread of material contemporary with the house. Some patches of subsoil layer 2 were encountered to west and east, but showed no indication of archaeological activity.</p>	

The monitoring works provided a somewhat limited opportunity to confirm the presence or absence of any archaeological remains since only the area of the new house was dug to sufficient depth to reach the archaeological horizon. Although the results were negative, the cropmark evidence suggests that there remains a possibility of prehistoric activity nearby.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None

Author of Summary: Andy Letch

Date of Summary: 9th January 2012

Contents of Archive

Index to the Archive:

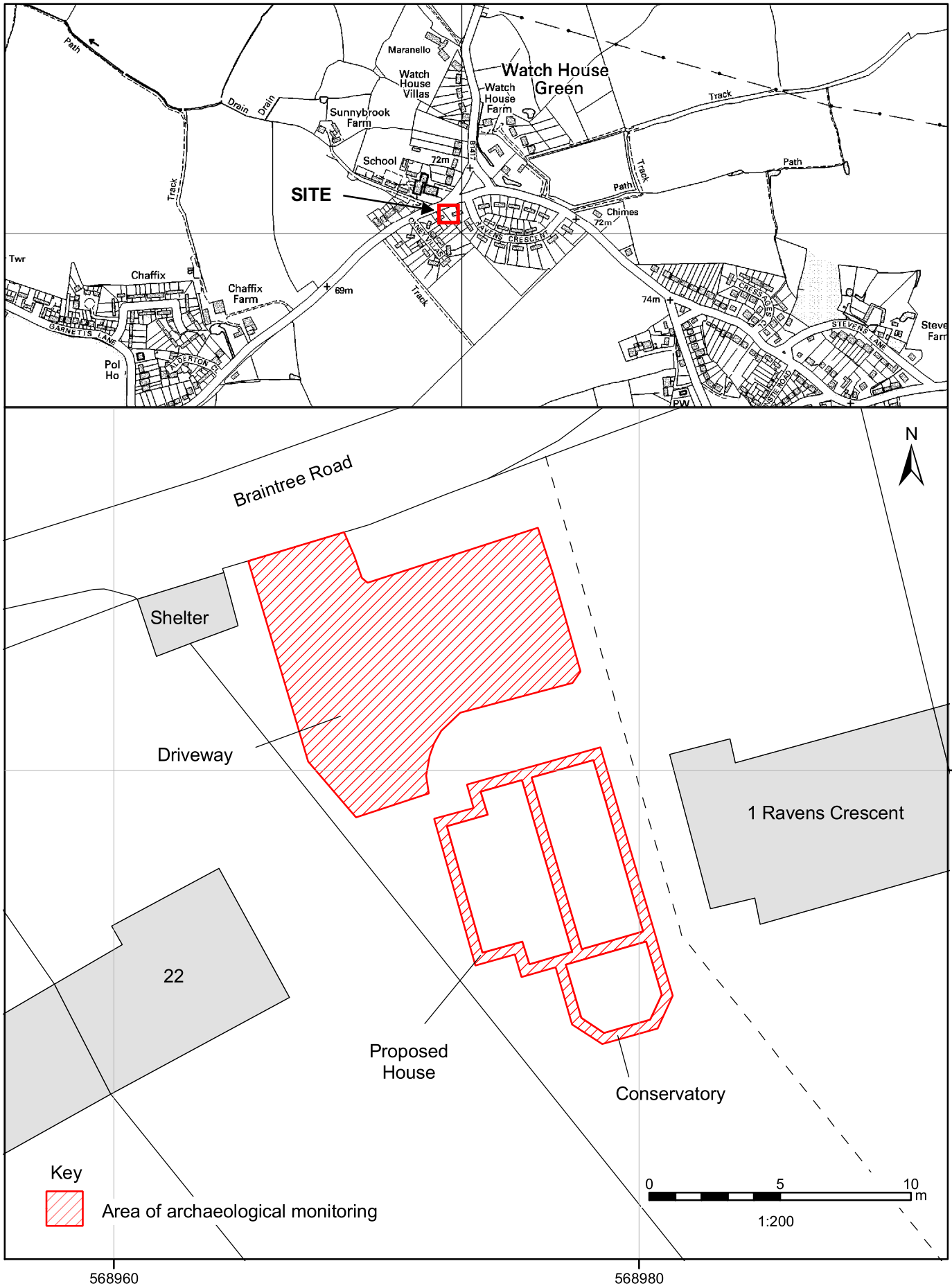
Document wallet containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 ECC HEM design brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU wsi
- 1.3 Toe copies of client/archive report (one unbound)
- 1.4 CD containing digital photographs & copy of report, pdf-formatted

2. Site Archive

- 2.1 Photographic record (2 x digital images used in report)
- 2.2 Watching brief sheet
- 2.3 Annotated architects plan
- 2.4 Architects plan



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Fig.1. Location of areas of archaeological monitoring



Plate 1 Excavation of house footings, viewed to north



Plate 2 New driveway post-excitation, viewed to south-east