

**GREAT TOMKYNS  
TOMKYNS LANE  
UPMINSTER, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**JULY 2005**



**Essex County Council**

**Field Archaeology Unit**

**GREAT TOMKYNS  
TOMKYNS LANE  
UPMINSTER, ESSEX**

*ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF*

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**GREAT TOMKYNS  
TOMKYNS LANE  
UPMINSTER, ESSEX  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Client: Cliff Fox

NGR: TQ 56674 89473

Site Code: GTK05

Date of Fieldwork: 28th June 2005

**SUMMARY**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site of a new fishpond and filtration pit in the grounds of Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane, Upminster, Essex.*

*The fishpond measured approximately 7.5m by 5m and was excavated to a depth of 1.6m. The adjacent filtration pit measured approximately 2.5m by 3m.*

*Two sherds of medieval (13th-14th century) pottery, a Victorian glass decanter stopper and pieces of a 19th-20th century decorated earthenware plate were recovered unstratified from the topsoil.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were identified.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief on the site of a new fishpond and filtration pit at Great Tomkyns, Tomkyns Lane, Upminster. The work was undertaken by members of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Mr Cliff Fox.

The watching brief was undertaken at the request of the client after consultation with the Havering Borough Council Conservation Co-ordinator. As the work was small-scale, and not subject to planning consent, a brief of works from the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) was not deemed necessary. The London Archaeological Archive Research Centre (LAARC) was informed of this project and a site code obtained.

The site archive will be deposited in the London Archaeological Archive Research Centre. A .pdf version of this report will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)**

Great Tomkyns is a listed timber framed hall house of two storeys constructed in a half H-shaped plan and built in the 15th century with later additions. South of the house is a 17th century timber framed barn with a thatched roof (RCHME 1923). The house was originally enclosed within a rectangular moated enclosure of probable medieval date, part of which survives to the north and east of the house.

Most medieval moated enclosures were constructed between the second half of the 12th century and the end of the 15th century, with the greatest number constructed in the 13th century (Wilson 1985).

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The archaeological work was undertaken to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the development and to record them.

### **4.0 METHOD**

The fishpond and filtration pit were opened under archaeological supervision, using a tracked mini-excavator, initially fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The topsoil was removed and the surface of the natural examined for archaeological features. Machine excavation then continued down to the required depth (c. 1.6m) under archaeological observation.

All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed.

### **5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Fig. 1)**

The fishpond and filtration pit were located on an area of lawn to the south of the 17th century barn. The fishpond measured approximately 7.5m by 5m and was excavated to a depth of 1.6m. The adjacent filtration pit measured approximately 2.5m by 3m and was observed to a depth of 0.6m.

The topsoil was 0.3-0.4m deep and comprised of mid brownish grey clay silt. It overlay brown clay natural with frequent root disturbance. Two sherds of medieval (13th-14th century) pottery (one sandy orange ware, one possible Mill Green ware), a glass decanter stopper (Victorian) and part of a decorated earthenware plate (19th-20th century) were recovered unstratified from the topsoil.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION**

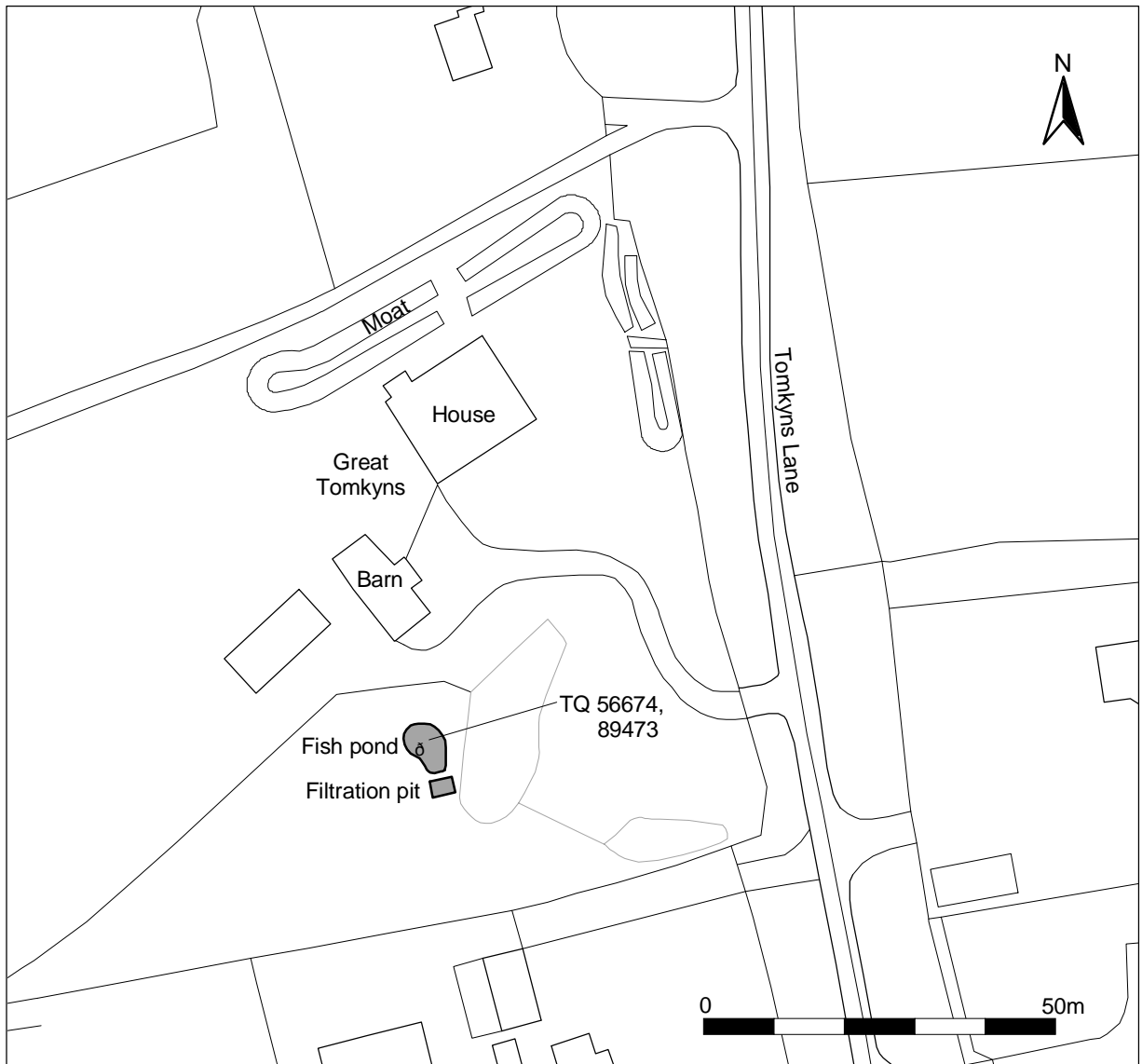
Although no archaeological features or deposits were identified, the presence of two sherds of 13th-14th century date does attest to medieval activity in the vicinity that may be contemporary with the construction and/or usage of the moated enclosure.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Geoff Yeldham of Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of Cliff Fox. The work was arranged in collaboration with the Conservation Co-ordinator of Havering Borough Council.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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| RCHME      | 1923 | <i>Historic Monuments in Essex, Vol IV</i> |
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Fig.1. Site location