

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING
AT THE PROPOSED
HADLEIGH 2012 LONDON OLYMPIC LEGACY VISITOR CENTRE
ESSEX



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

MAY 2012

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

Site name/Address: Hadleigh Country Park, Chapel Lane, Hadleigh, Essex, SS7 2PP	
Parish: Hadleigh	District: Southend
NGR: TQ 80013 86880	Site Code: CPHO 10
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring	Site Director/Group: Lukasz Miciak, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 28/03/12	Size of Area Investigated: 5 test-pits totalling approximately 6.25 sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend	Client: Essex County Council, Strategic Services
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Unknown	Related HER Nos:
Final Report: HER summary	Oasis No.: essexcou1-124718
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit monitored the excavation of geotechnical test pits at Hadleigh Country Park, Essex, undertaken to inform proposals for the construction of a new visitor centre as part of the London 2012 Olympic Mountain bike Venue legacy project.</p> <p>The proposed new visitor centre lies adjacent to the existing Country Park visitor car park, approximately 300m to the north of the remains of a World War II / Cold War heavy anti-aircraft battery, which is a Designated Asset (Scheduled Monument 23429), while the remains of a Designated Roman fort lie approximately 400m to the east (Scheduled Monument EX108).</p> <p>Part of the site lies in an area that was initially developed by the Salvation Army as a Home Farm Colony in the 19th century, including brickworks, a poultry unit and residential accommodation.</p> <p>The geotechnical ground testing involved a combination of boreholes, window samples, bearing ratio tests and the excavation of a number of pits, five of which were excavated by a machine equipped with 0.5m wide toothless bucket, and were of sufficient size and depth to allow meaningful archaeological investigation (Fig. 1). The remaining pits were either too small or too shallow to expose recognisable archaeological deposits (Fig. 2 – courtesy of Harrison Group; Plate 4 – California Bearing Ratio Test).</p> <p>Located in the northwest part of the site, test pits SA 1 and SA 2 were 2.55m by 0.5m by 2.3m deep and 2.4m by 0.5m by 2.2m deep respectively (plates 1 and 2). They revealed a sequence of deposits consisting of 0.3m - 0.4m of mid to dark greyish brown soft clayey silt topsoil overlying natural mid orange-brown and grey-blue compact clay deposits. No archaeological features were observed in the sections and the excavated soil produced only a few small fragments of tile.</p>	

In the same corner of the site, 25m to the southeast of pit SA 2, was pit PBT 1, which measured 2.4m by 3.8m by 0.4m deep. The deposit sequence here comprised a 0.4m thick layer of mid brownish-grey clay silt topsoil, containing a large amount of brick and tile fragments, overlaying natural orange-brown compact clay. Once again, no archaeological features were noted. Test pit SA 5 was located in the southwest corner of the site, measuring 2.3m by 0.5m by 2.5m deep, demonstrated that the ground had been severely disturbed here as 0.2m of grey brown soft silty clay topsoil was underlain by 2.3m of diesel-contaminated grey soft silty clay containing fragments of bricks, pieces of concrete, wood and scrap metal (plate 3). Undisturbed, compact natural clay was observed at a depth of 2.5m. In order to estimate the extent of this ground disturbance test pit SA 5 (a) was dug 3.5m to the southeast of pit SA 5. It was approximately the same size as the above noted pit and revealed an identical sequence of deposits and is assumed to represent an infilled clay pit or similar feature, no doubt associated with the former Salvation Army brickworks.

Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring of geotechnical works appears to have confirmed the presence of at least one large quarry pit on the site, presumably associated with clay extraction for brick-making at the nearby brickworks. Similar areas of ground disturbance were noted to the south of the present site, during the monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of the Olympic Mountain Bike track, suggesting that extensive quarrying of clay deposits in the area has occurred across quite a wide area. No archaeological features were observed in the remaining test pits but it is more likely to be a reflection of the very small percentage of the site that was investigated, rather than a genuine absence of remains in the area as a whole.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None

Author of Summary: Lukasz Miciak

Date of Summary: May 2012



Plate 1. Test pit SA 1



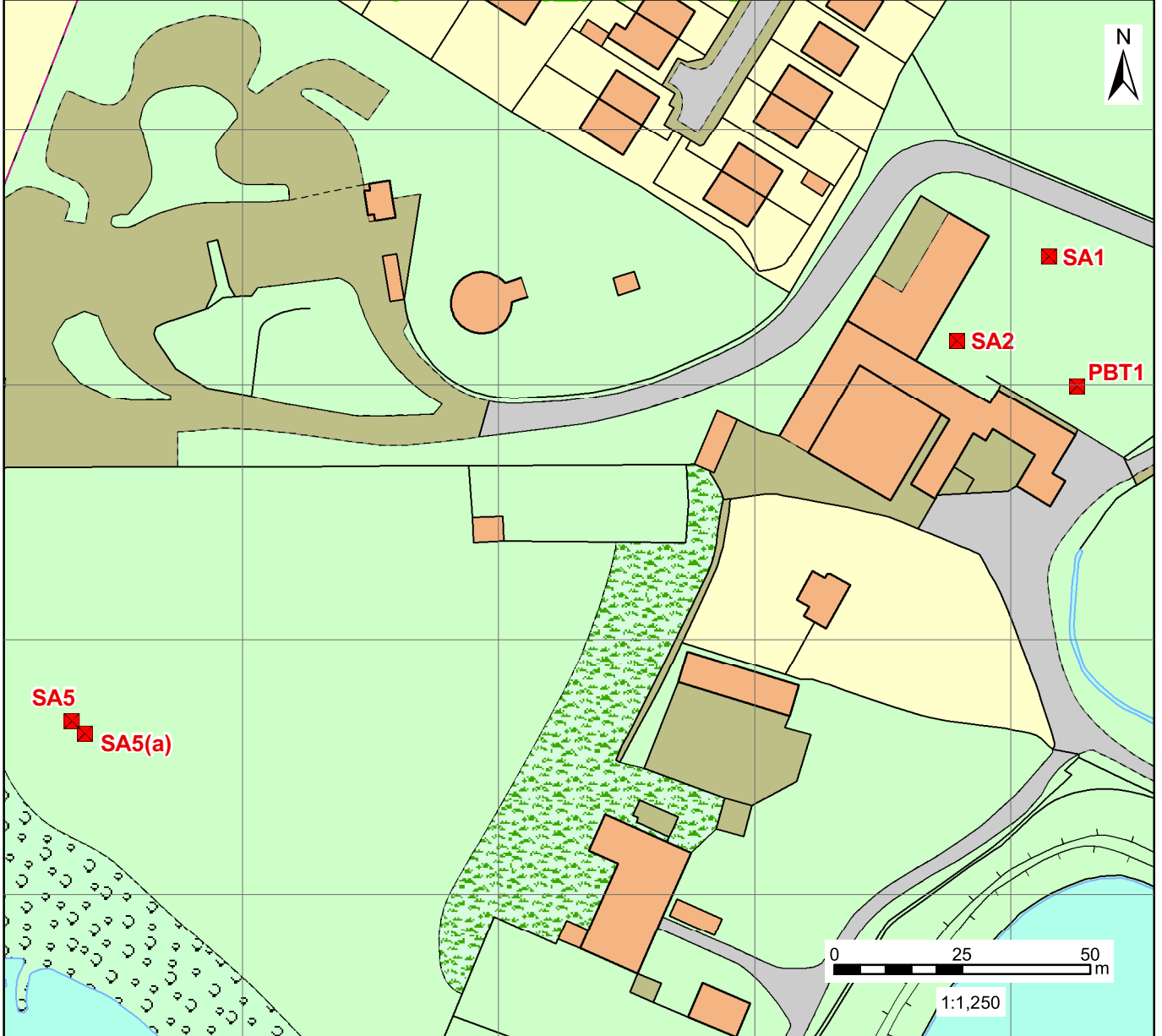
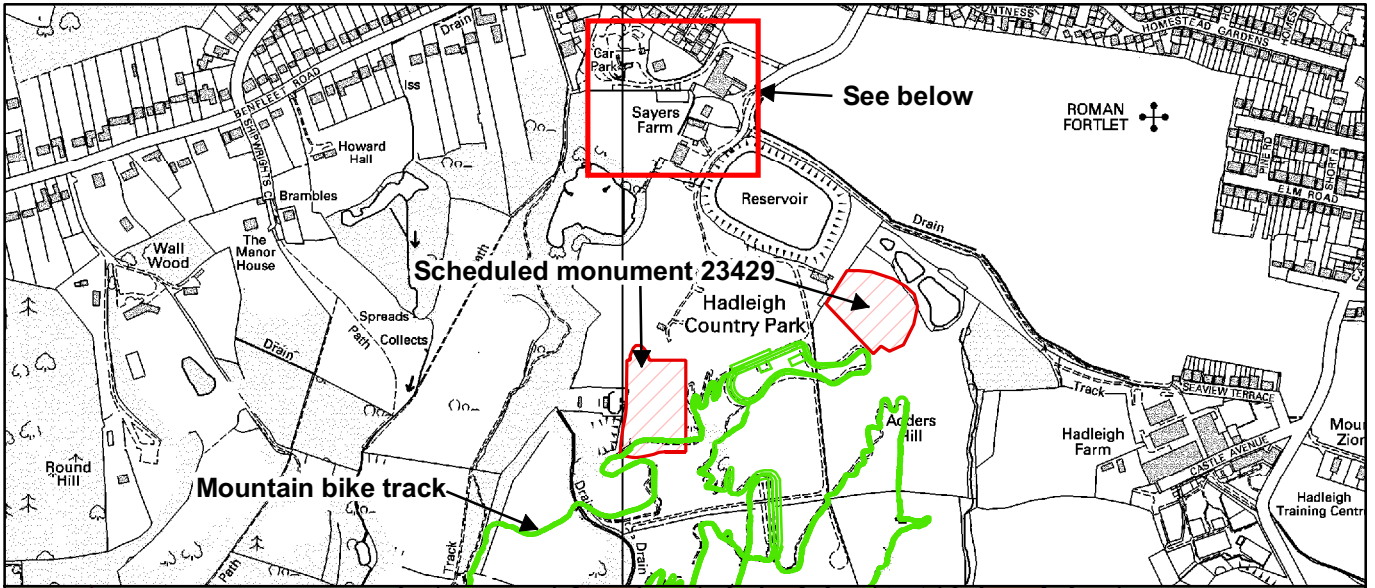
Plate 2. Test pit SA 2



Plate 3. Test pit SA 5



Plate 4. California Bearing Ratio test



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Fig.1. Location of monitored test pits



Key :

	BH1	Cable Percussive Borehole
	CBR1	California Bearing Ratio Test
	SA1	Soakaway Trial Pit
	PBT1	Plate Bearing Test
	WS1/ DPT1	Window Sample Borehole/ Dynamic Penetration Test
	WS1	Gas Monitoring Installation
	TP1	Machine Excavated Trial Pit

Client :	Morgan Sindall plc.
Project :	Hadleigh Farm Olympic Legacy Project
Job No :	GN16524
Date :	March 2012
Drawing Title :	Proposed Fieldwork Location Plan
Drawing No :	GN16524 - DR002
Scale :	1 : 1000 @ A3
Drawn by :	YN
Checked by :	JA
Eastings :	
Northings :	

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