

**5 CASTLE LANE  
CASTLE HEDINGHAM**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING  
AND RECORDING**



**Essex County Council**  
Field Archaeology Unit

**JANUARY 2007**



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Prepared By: Matthew Pocock	Signature:
Position: Project Officer	Date:
Approved By: Mark Atkinson	Signature:
Position: Unit Manager	Date:

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the  
Field Archaeology Unit,  
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ  
Tel: 01376 331470  
Fax: 01376 331428

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Essex CM1 1QH



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**5 CASTLE LANE**  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**  
**AND RECORDING**

**SUMMARY**

**Client:** BeagrieCO

**NGR:** TL 786 356

**Site Code:** CH5

**Project No:** 1588

**Date of Fieldwork:** 9th January 2006

**Oasis Accession Number:** Essexcou1-12911

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on residential development at 5 Castle Lane, Castle Hedingham, Essex, because of its location within the outer bailey of a medieval castle and nearby 16th and 17th century listed buildings. The development comprised demolition of an existing garage block on the property frontage and construction of a one/two bedroom dwelling and extension on the north-east side of the existing house.*

*No archaeological remains were identified within any part of the investigation. In particular, no remains were encountered that alluded to the expansion of the town in the late medieval period into the outer bailey. Furthermore no features or deposits survived that could be associated with any nearby listed properties.*

*Reduction of the ground level by removal of topsoil, subsoil, and overburden had previously taken place alongside 5 Castle Lane prior to the construction of several associated outbuildings on its north-east side. The foundations of these outbuildings had truncated the natural and all subsequent soil horizons. Where no previous development had taken place clean natural sand that sloped gently to the south-west, was encountered below colluvium into which any archaeological remains would likely have been cut. Above the colluvium was a dark substrate/subsoil that was sealed by an accumulation of modern garden topsoil. No finds were recovered from any stage in the depositional sequence. The evidence is consistent with cartographic sources that indicate these groundworks were carried out on land that was and has remained undeveloped until fairly recently.*

*On the properties frontage, modern garage construction, together with the insertion of a range of services has brought about significant truncation and disturbance that has meant that all earlier remains, including a possible pre-19th century structure evident on historic maps, have been removed.*



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Planning Background**

The Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out the monitoring work, on behalf of BeagrieCO, under the terms of an archaeological condition placed on planning consent (planning application: BTE/2165/05 and BTE/343/04) in accordance with Planning Policy Guideline 16 (PPG16). The condition was placed by following specialist advice from the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM), as the development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential (Medlycott 1998). The archaeological work followed a brief produced by ECC HEM (2005) and the written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2005).

### **1.2 Report and Archive**

Copies of this report will be supplied to the client, ECC HEM and the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (ECC HER). A version will be uploaded to the Online Access Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The project archive, including two copies of the report, will be deposited at Braintree Museum.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location, Geology and Topography**

The development area is located within the small medieval castle town of Castle Hedingham that is sited on the northern slope of the valley of the River Colne and to the west of the Colchester to Cambridge road route. The development lies within the outer bailey of the medieval castle and is amongst a number of 16th to 17th century listed buildings on Castle Lane (NGR TL 78613565). The site of the new build is presently occupied by a modern garage block with the surrounding ground surface sloping from north-east to south-west.

### **2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background**

The historical and archaeological background of Castle Hedingham has been collated elsewhere by M. Medlycott (1998). The more pertinent information to the Castle Lane site is summarised below.

Overall, very little archaeological investigation has been undertaken in Castle Hedingham and fewer still have produced significant results. There are no known prehistoric or Roman

remains in the vicinity but there appears to have been a major Saxon settlement on the site of the modern town at the time of the Norman Conquest. The development of the town is probably due to the presence of Hedingham Castle and the subsequent patronage by the de Vere's, Earls of Oxford, who were the lords of the manor. The first castle was probably erected shortly after 1066, and the present castle keep was added c.1125-1160, along with the majority of the town's defensive circuit. The defences were roughly semi-circular in plan, with the line of the outer bailey forming the limit of the town on one side and the town ditch on the other sides. In the centre was the church with a triangular market-place immediately to the east of it. There appears to have been two lines of town defences, although it is not known whether they are contemporary in construction.

The development site lies within the outer bailey that, by the later medieval period, the town had expanded into; implying its military and defensive functions had been surpassed.

Castle Lane itself is a construct of the medieval town. It has a number of 16th and 17th century listed buildings along it comprising numbers 2 (LBS 114529), 4 and 6 (LBS 114528) and 8 (LBS 114527) that are in close proximity to the site. Cartographic evidence indicates that the location of the modern garage block was formerly occupied by a property fronting Castle Lane that survived at least until the latter stages of the 19th century.

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 General Objectives**

Generally, the aim of the work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during groundworks.

The specific aims of the investigation were the:

- Identification of archaeological remains relating to both the initial phase of castle construction and potential later medieval occupation of the outer bailey.

#### **3.1 Research Objectives**

The research objectives for the project reflected those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

Objectives outlined in the historic town's project assessment report were also considered (Medlycott 1998, 17).

## 4.0 METHODS

The monitoring was undertaken during the initial stage of the groundworks, comprising reduction of levels and excavation of foundation trenches for the extension to the existing property (fig 1). In agreement with the HEM Officer, further monitoring of the demolition, clearance, and construction of a new dwelling was considered unnecessary due to truncation caused by the modern garage foundations, associated service runs, previous clearance of the site and reduction of ground levels.

Observation encompassed extraction of soils until natural was exposed or the required depth of the foundation trenches was reached. The work was carried out according to regional standards in field archaeology and all fieldwork methods and recording conformed to the codes of practice, and guidance issued by the IFA (1999) and adhered to ALGAO guidelines (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU recording and excavation methods were used. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the project.

Standard ECC FAU recording and excavation methods were used. All fieldwork methods and recording conformed to the codes of practice and guidance issued by the IFA (1999) and adhered to regional guidelines (Gurney 2003).

## 5.0 RESULTS

Monitoring identified no archaeological remains surviving within the areas impacted by the groundworks. Reduction of the ground level by removal of topsoil, subsoil, and overburden had previously taken place alongside 5 Castle Lane prior to the construction of associated outbuildings on its north-east side. The foundations of these outbuildings had truncated the natural and all subsequent soil horizons. In those small areas where no previous development had caused truncation, clean natural sand **4** that sloped gently to the south-west was encountered c.1.1m below the present ground surface. This was overlain by a 0.44m-thick colluvium **3** of orange/red clay silt into which any archaeological remains would likely have been cut. Above the colluvium was a dark substrate/subsoil **2** 0.5m-thick that was sealed by a c.0.20m-thick accumulation of modern garden topsoil **1**. These deposits were observed in section at the north-east edge of site (fig.1). No finds were recovered from any stage in the depositional sequence. The substrate or subsoil likely represented the build-up

of soils in the back garden of the property that may once have fronted Castle Lane, but no finds or features were encountered to help confirm or dispute this.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

No significant archaeological remains were identified during the monitoring of the construction groundworks at 5 Castle Lane. There was no evidence for prehistoric and Roman remains or the southward continuation of Saxon or Medieval occupation that either pre-dated or was contemporary with the castle. Furthermore, no evidence was encountered for Late medieval expansion into the outer bailey in which the site resides or for the survival of features and deposits associated with the early post-medieval development of Castle lane.

On the road frontage, modern garage construction, together with the insertion of a range of services, has brought about significant truncation and disturbance. It is likely that this has resulted in the removal of any archaeological remains that may have once been present within the areas monitored, specifically the presence of a pre-19th century dwelling evident on early edition ordnance surveys of the area. To the north-east of the existing house the archaeological evidence is consistent with cartographic sources and indicate that the groundworks were carried out on land that had remained undeveloped until fairly recently.

Unfortunately, the small-scale nature of the observed works does not allow confident prediction of the widespread absence or removal of archaeological remains through truncation in other areas of Castle Hedingham. The survival of significant remains elsewhere cannot be discounted.

## 8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC Field Archaeology Unit thanks Mr Richard Beagrie for his assistance and funding of the project. Mark Atkinson managed the project, Matthew Pocock carried out the fieldwork, and Andrew Lewsey produced the digital illustrations. Vanessa Clarke of the ECC HEM monitored the investigation on behalf of the local planning authority.

## 9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |                              |      |  |
|------------------------------|------|--|
| Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and Strategy.</i> E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper <b>8</b> |
| ECC HEM                      | 2006 | <i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 5 Castle Lane, Castle Hedingham</i> ECC HEM Brief  |
| ECC FAU                      | 2006 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at 5 Castle Lane, Castle Hedingham.</i> ECC FAU                      |
| Gurney, D.                   | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England,</i> East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. <b>14</b>  |
| IFA                          | 1999 | <i>Standards and Guidance for archaeological field evaluations. (Revised)</i>  |
| Medlycott, M.                | 1998 | <i>Castle Hedingham Historic Towns Assessment Report.</i> ECC Planning   |

## APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

### Context information

Context No.	Type	Description	Depth/ Thickness (m)	Date
1	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey compact clay (Modern?)	0.15 - 0.21	Undated
2	Layer	Build-up – a mid grey brown clay silt	0.51	Undated
3	Layer	Colluvium	0.44	Undated
4	Layer	Natural Sands	Unknown	Undated

## **APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

### **SITE NAME; 5 Castle Lane, Castle Hedingham**

#### **Index to the Archive**

File containing:

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Brief for the archaeological investigation
- 1.2 Written scheme of investigation

**2. Research Archive**

- 2.1 Client Report

**3. Site Archive**

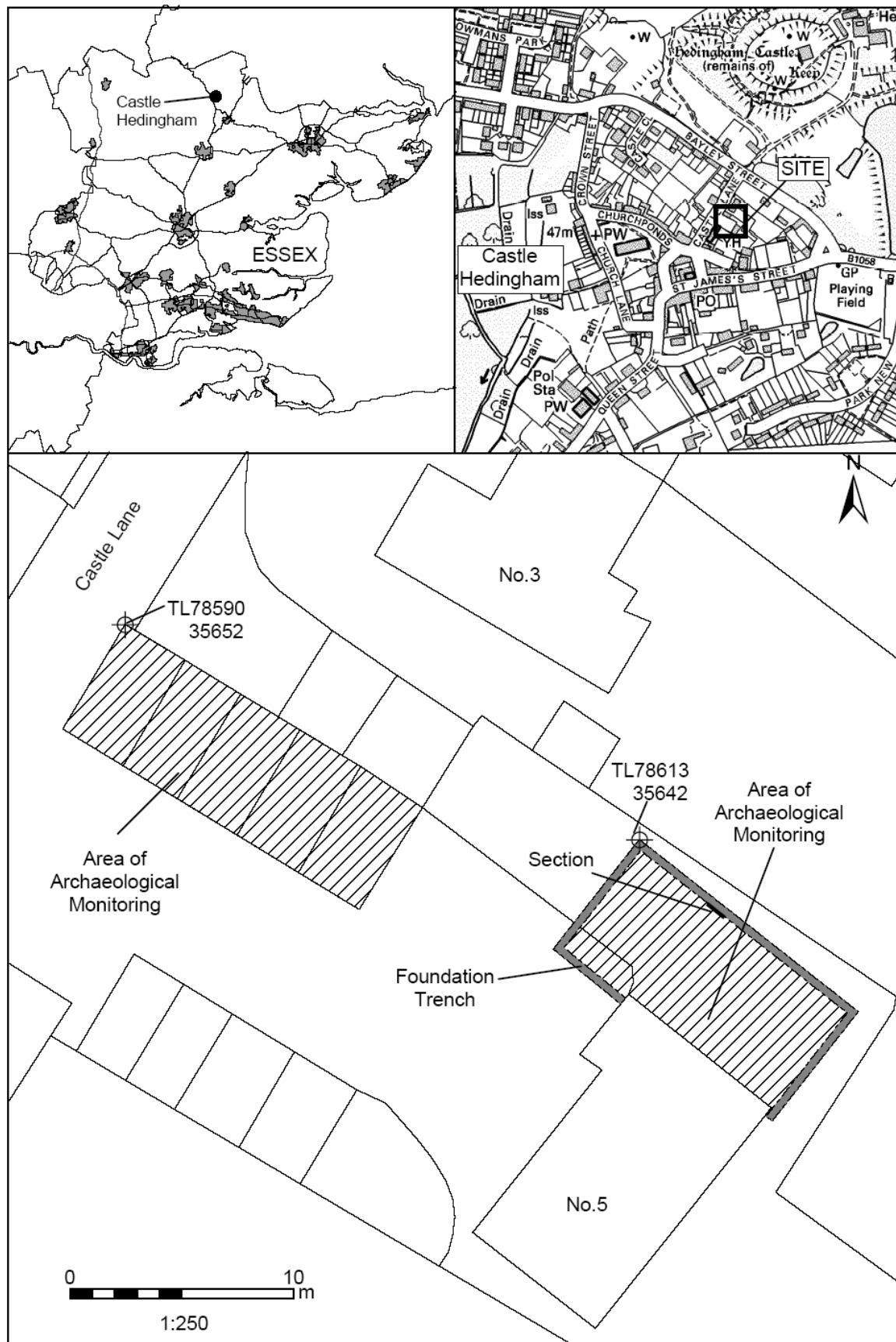
- 3.1 Original Context Records 1 to 4
- 3.2 1 Section Drawing
- 3.3 Digital Photographs and Register
- 3.4 Miscellaneous maps and plans

No finds were recovered

### APPENDIX 3: EHER SUMMARY

<b>SITE NAME/ADDRESS:</b> 5 Castle Lane, Castle Hedingham	
<b>OASIS ACCESSION NUMBER</b> essexcou1-12911	
<b>PARISH:</b> Castle Hedingham	<b>DISTRICT:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 786 356	<b>SITE CODE:</b> CH5
<b>TYPE OF WORK:</b> Monitoring and Recording	<b>SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP:</b> M.Pocock of ECC FAU
<b>DATE OF WORK:</b> 9th January 2006	<b>SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED:</b> 283 square metres
<b>FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM:</b> Braintree	<b>FUNDING SOURCE:</b> Developer (BeagrieCO)
<b>FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED.</b> No	<b>RELATED HER No.</b> n/a
<b>FINAL REPORT:</b> Yes	
<b>PERIODS REPRESENTED:</b> Modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>No archaeological remains were identified during detailed observations within the areas adjacent to number 5 Castle Lane. In particular, no remains were encountered that alluded to earlier Saxon or medieval occupation or expansion of the town in the late medieval period into the outer bailey. Furthermore no features or deposits survived that could be associated with nearby 16th and 17th century listed buildings or the contemporary/pre-19th century property that historic maps show once stood at the road frontage of the site.</p> <p>Reduction of the ground level by removal of topsoil, subsoil, and overburden had previously taken place alongside 5 Castle Lane prior to the construction of associated outbuildings on its north-east side. The foundations of these outbuildings had truncated the natural and all subsequent soil horizons. Where no previous truncation had taken place clean natural sand that sloped gently to the south-west was encountered c.1.1m below a 0.44m-thick layer of orange/red clay silt colluvium into which any remains would likely have been cut. Above the colluvium was a dark substrate/subsoil 0.5m-thick that was sealed by a c.0.20m-thick accumulation of modern garden topsoil. No finds were recovered from any stage in the depositional sequence.</p> <p>Evidence is consistent with cartographic sources that indicates the majority of the groundworks were carried out on land that has been heavily truncated by modern development or has remained undeveloped until fairly recently.</p>	
<b>PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS:</b> None	
<b>AUTHOR OF SUMMARY:</b> Matthew Pocock (ECCFAU)	<b>DATE OF SUMMARY:</b> Jan 2007





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Fig.1. Site location