

**HOWLETS  
THE STREET  
GREAT HALLINGBURY  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**SEPTEMBER 2008**

## EHER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name/Address:</b> Howlets, The Street, Great Hallingbury	
<b>Parishes:</b> Great Hallingbury	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 5240 1997	<b>Site Code:</b> n/a
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Monitoring	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> 25th July 2008	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 36 sq m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Saffron Walden	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b> EHER 4428
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH round-up	<b>Oasis No.:</b> essexcou1-47181
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Post-medieval	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Howlets, The Street, Great Hallingbury, during groundworks for an extension to the north side of the existing building. Howlets is a grade II listed building dating to the late 16th or early 17th century situated within a possible medieval moated-enclosure (HER 4428). The extension was located close to a number of large trees (cover plate), directly to the east of a 35m-long section of a large, dry, and partially infilled, ditch (Fig. 1). The main aim of the monitoring work was to check for the presence of medieval remains.</p> <p>It is likely that the existing ditch originally continued further eastwards, past the northern side of the building, to the boundary with 'The Street' and as such would pass directly beneath the location of the new extension. Although not depicted on mapping, the woodland to the north of Howlets was also bounded by a large ditch and the current owner believes that at one time this continued south along the eastern edge of the property.</p> <p>After discussion with the building contractors, three test pits (A-C) were machine-excavated to the base of the required strip level, a depth corresponding to c.0.5m below the floor level in the northern end of the existing building. The results of the test pitting are as follows:</p> <p>Test Pit A – measured 1.8m x 1m x 0.7m deep and was located within the western half of the extension footprint. Exposed in the base of the test pit was mixed grey clay silt containing 19th-20th century (frogged) bricks. No natural was visible and the ground was heavily root disturbed (Plate 1).</p>	

Test Pit B – measured 1.4m x 1m x 0.64m deep and was located close to the central part of the extension. Grey brown clay silt containing modern brick and fragments of stone (identical to those in the adjacent patio) was exposed on the southern side of the test pit and light brown clay was exposed on the northern side. In the western side of the test pit a c.45° north-south cut was visible (Plate 2)

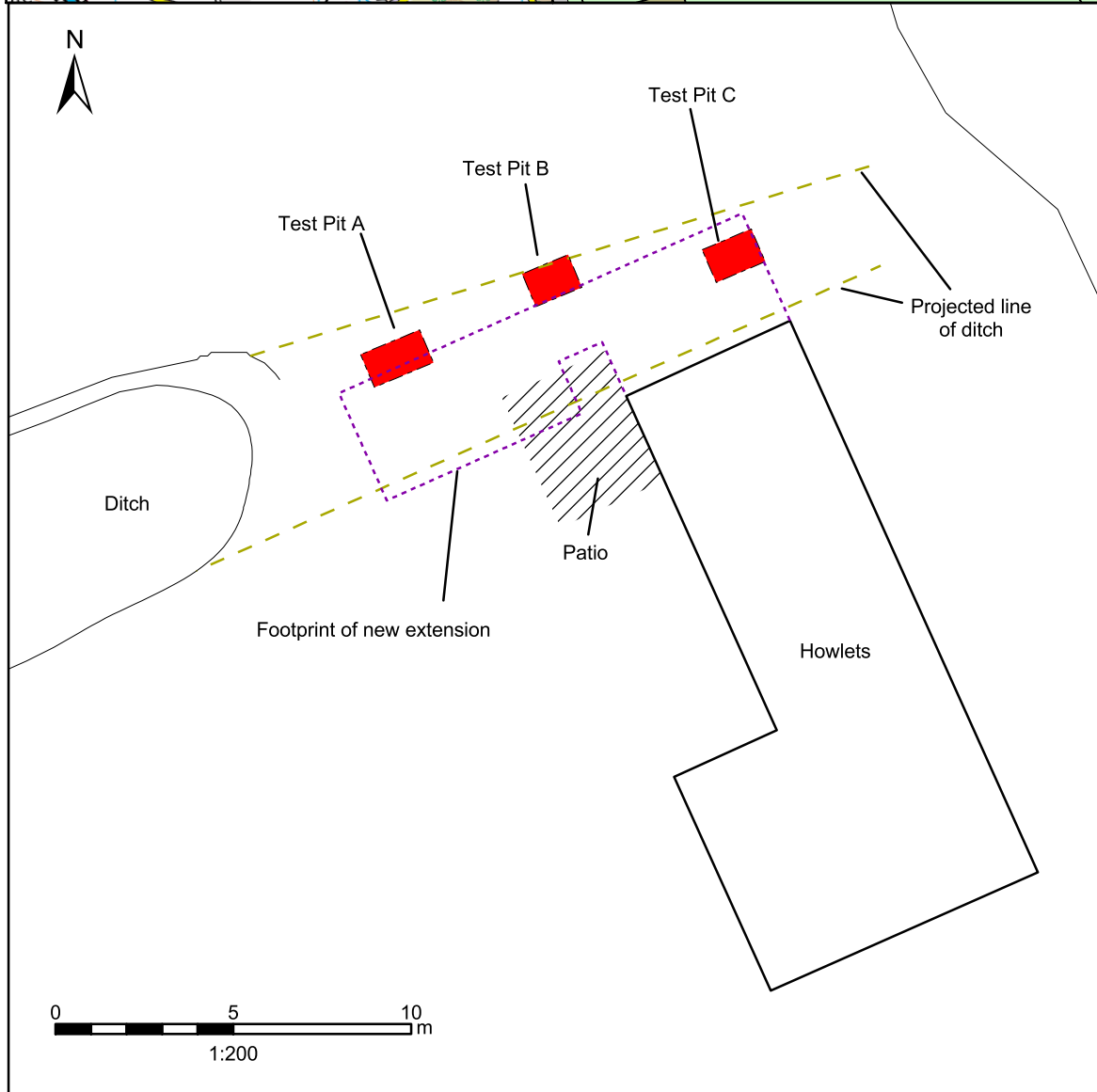
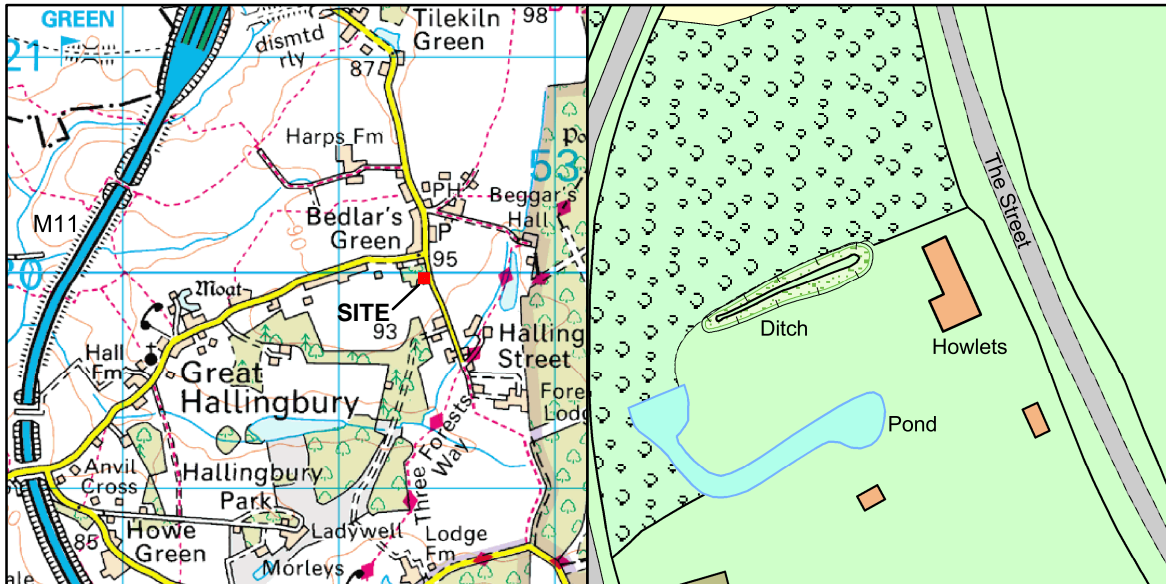
Test Pit C – measured 1.5m x 1m x 0.6m deep and was located at the eastern end of the extension. Exposed in the base of the test pit was disturbed dark grey silt with lenses of yellow sand. Visible within this deposit were sherds of blue and white pottery, fragments of brick and pieces of flower pot. The ground had also been disturbed by modern drain pipes and roots. No natural was visible (Plate 3).

The test-pitting confirmed the presence of modern deposits along the entire length of the extension footprint. These continued below the required depth of excavation and are likely to be modern backfill of the former ditch/moat. The cut observed at the western end of Test Pit B may represent the edge of the ditch, cutting natural clay. This being so, the likelihood of observing any medieval remains was slight and after consultation with ECC HEM monitoring was halted.

**Previous Summaries/Reports:** none

**Author of Summary:** T. Ennis

**Date of Summary:** September 2008



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Fig.1. Site location





Plate 1 Test Pit A looking east (1m scale)



Plate 2 Test Pit B looking west (1m scale)



Plate 3 Test Pit C looking east (1m scale)