

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF CABLE TRENCHES
TO THE EAST OF HOE MILL BARNS
WOODHAM WALTER
ESSEX**



Essex County Council

Field Archaeology Unit

July 2009

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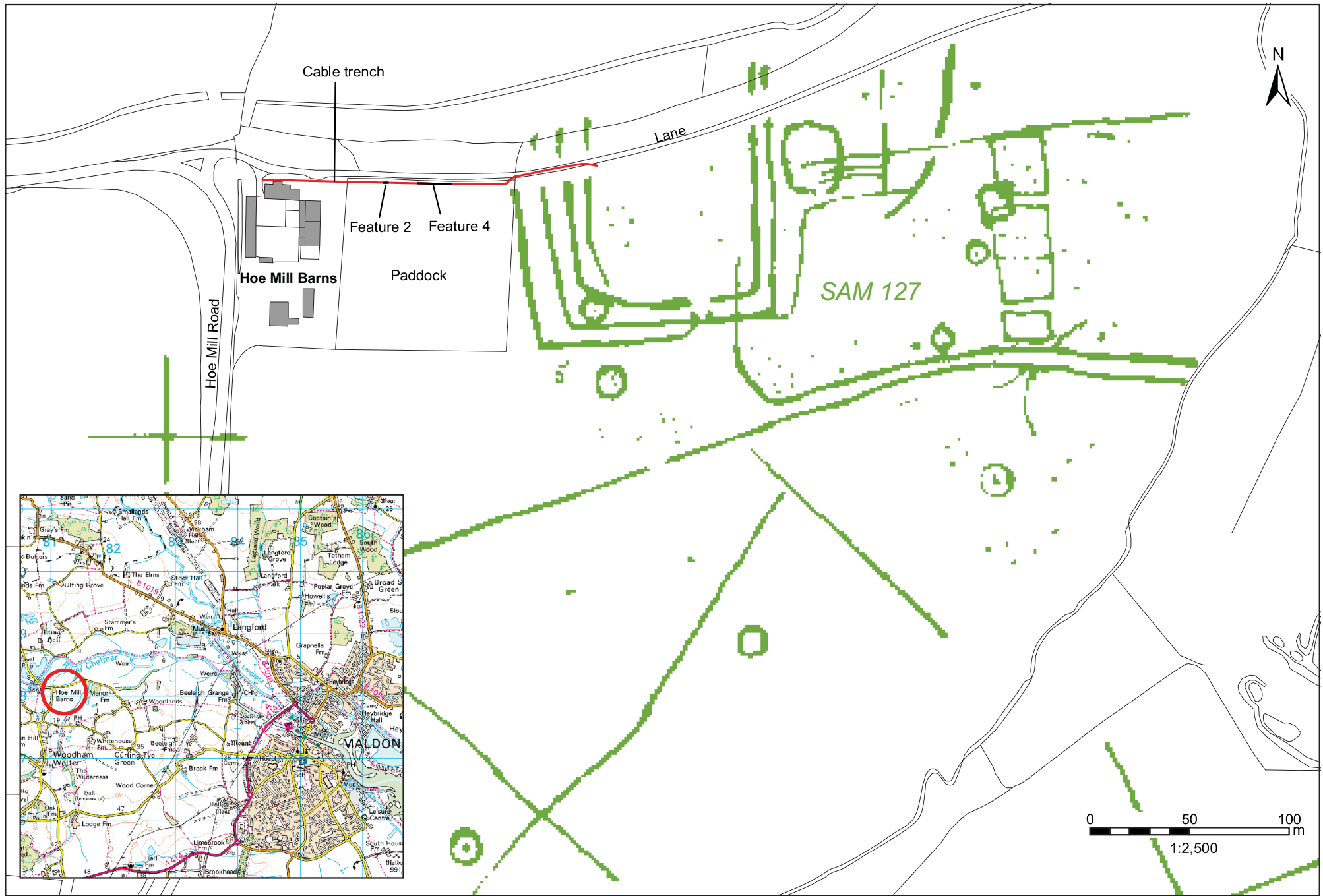
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EHER Summary Sheet

Site Name/Address: Land to the east of Hoe Mill Barns, Woodham Walter, Essex	
Parish: Woodham Walter	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 8121 8015	OASIS record No.: 1-61429
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring	Site Director/Team: Andrew Letch ECC FAU
Dates of Work: 20th May 2009	Size of Area Investigated: N/A
Curating Museum: Colchester	Funding Source: Jenny Moody Properties Ltd
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related HER Nos. SM 127
Final Report: Summary in EAH	
Periods Represented: Modern & undated	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological monitoring took place during the excavation of an 80m long trench to the east of a redundant 19th century farm known as Hoe Mill Barns. The trench was cut to lay an electricity supply to the farm, which is undergoing conversion to new office premises by the client, Jenny Moody Properties.</p>	
<p>The trench ran along the northern edge of a paddock and field located on the high ground above the barns, on the northern limit of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 127). The field contains cropmarks relating to prehistoric occupation which continue to the east (fig. 1). There are no cropmarks recorded in the paddock to the west, but it is likely that activity continued on this side. It is therefore included within the scheduled area. The land to the west of the paddock has been quarried in the past, providing the hollow in which Hoe Mill Barns is located.</p>	
<p>The work was undertaken by contractors using a mechanical excavator fitted with a narrow 0.3m wide flat-bladed bucket. The field trench (plate 1) was cut to a depth 0.6 along the roadside verge. A thin layer of ploughsoil (0.3m) was recorded over an undisturbed gravelly silt clay. The trench along the edge of the paddock (plate 2) was dug deeper, to 1.1m. Similar deposits were encountered and natural gravel recorded 0.6m below ground level. No features were found in the field trench, but an undated possibly linear feature was recorded towards the western end of the paddock (context 2), its extent unknown. Further to the east, animal bone from a single sheep/goat was found in a large pit (context 4) midway along the paddock trench. The condition of the bone showed it to be less than 50 years old, and was discarded after recording. Further details may be found in the archive. No other features were recorded or finds collected.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: <i>Excavations at Woodham Walter & an Assessment of Essex Enclosures (EAA 33 1987); Hoe Mill Barns, Woodham Walter, Essex: Historic Building Recording (ECC FAU 2008)</i>	
Author of Summary: Andrew Letch	Date of Summary: 6th July 2009



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Fig.1. Site location



Plate 1 Cable trench adjacent to field, viewed towards west



Plate 2 Cable trench adjacent to paddock, viewed towards west