

**BULLS LODGE QUARRY
FORMER BOREHAM AIRFIELD
BOREHAM
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND EXCAVATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

DECEMBER 2008

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SUMMARY

Site name/Address: Bulls Lodge Quarry (former Boreham Airfield), Boreham	
Parish: Boreham	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 73160 12052	Site Code: BOAF 05
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring and excavation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis
Date of Work: 24th November to 2nd December 2008	Size of Area Investigated: 5ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Client: Hanson Aggregates
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	Related EHER Nos.:
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (Summary and full report)	
Periods represented: Prehistoric, Medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and excavation was carried out on the latest area of topsoil strip at Bulls Lodge Quarry, Boreham (a former WWII airfield) during November/December 2008. A 5ha area was investigated to the immediate north-west of the 4.5ha area previously stripped and investigated in October (Fig. 1). This completed the 2008 strip giving an overall total of 9.5ha of investigated land.</p>	
<p><i>Prehistoric</i></p> <p>Archaeological features, mainly small pits and post-holes, were scattered widely over the stripped area. All located features were investigated apart from two situated beneath a large puddle in the north-west corner of the site. A few features were discounted as natural and others appeared to be modern. Only two of the scattered features contained pottery, one pit dated to the Late Neolithic (2500-2000 BC) and the other to the Early Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC). One possible cremation pit contained iron studs and is therefore likely to be of Iron Age date. Other pits and post-holes were almost certainly of prehistoric date but contained no dating evidence</p> <p>The Late Neolithic (Beaker) pottery was recovered from a small elongated pit (333), 1.08m long by 0.15m deep, containing mottled grey/brown silty clay and occasional flecks of charcoal. The Early Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a shallow irregular pit (307), 0.54m long by 0.21m deep, that had a line of three small stake-hole impressions in its base. The pit was filled with black clay silt and abundant charcoal. The iron studs were recovered from a possible cremation deposit within an elongated pit (329). This measured 1.22m long by 0.28m wide by 0.25m deep and also contained charcoal, baked clay fragments and burnt bone. Nearby was an undated circular hearth base (331), composed of heat-reddened stones and flint, that may be contemporary.</p> <p>Non-dated features included a small fire-pit (310) with traces of <i>in situ</i> burning and an irregular group of five small post and stake-holes (337 <i>et al</i>) may represent the scant remains of a small structure. Patches of heat-reddened clay (311 and 312) were noted that may be evidence of former fire-pits or hearths where most of the feature has been truncated away. One large pit (341), in the south of the area, containing a clay pipe fragment and a copper-alloy stud was clearly of post-medieval date.</p>	
<p><i>Medieval</i></p> <p>A previously identified medieval settlement enclosure in the north of the stripped area was evaluated to establish its character, date and preservation (Fig. 2). A sample of the boundary ditches and internal features was excavated. The recovered pottery suggests that occupation of the enclosure dates from the 12th and 13th centuries. A metal detector sweep recovered a silver</p>	

short cross penny dating to the reign of King Stephen (1135-1154) and an iron fiddle key nail from a medieval horseshoe. The settlement enclosure is of some significance and contains structural evidence in the form of slots, post-holes and hearths as well as pits for rubbish disposal. Further detailed excavation of this area will need to be carried out.

Conclusions

Further evidence of a truncated and poorly preserved prehistoric landscape has been revealed in the 2008 fieldwork. The identified medieval enclosure forms part of a farmstead that extends north of the current area and is part of an agricultural landscape. It appears to be the next farm west of the farmstead and windmill excavated in 1996 (Clarke 2003). Further excavation of the structural features and pits within the farmstead has the potential to reveal the layout of the settlement and provide insights into the life and work of the inhabitants.

Previous Summaries/Reports:-

Ennis, T. 2008 (Oct): *Bulls Lodge Quarry, Former Boreham Airfield, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring and Rapid Excavation, 2008*. EHER Summary

Germany, M. 2008 (Feb): *Bulls Lodge Quarry, Former Boreham Airfield, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation, 2007*. ECC FAU report **1822**

Ennis, T. 2007 (Sept). *Bulls Lodge Quarry, Former Boreham Airfield, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation*. EHER Summary

Germany, M. 2007: *Bulls Lodge Quarry, Former Boreham Airfield, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation, 2005 and 2006*. ECC FAU report **1704**

Archer, J. & Clarke, R. 2007: 'A Late Iron Age and early Roman enclosure at Bulls Lodge Quarry, Boreham Airfield: excavation 2003'. *Essex Archaeology and History* **36**

Clarke, R. 2003: *A medieval moated site and windmill: excavations at Boreham Airfield, Essex 1996*. E. Anglian Occ. Paper **11**

Author of Summary: Trevor Ennis

Date of Summary: December 2008

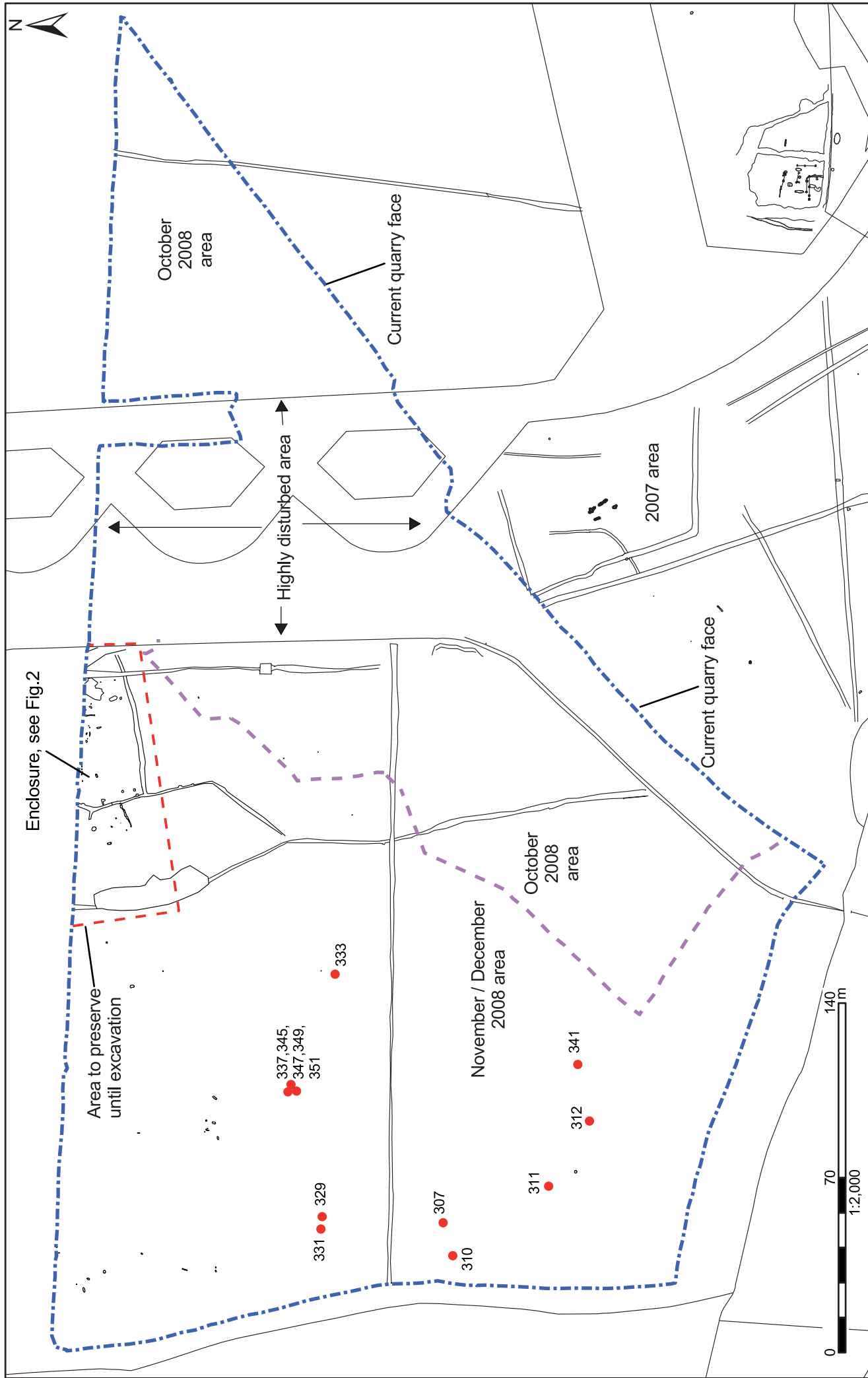


Fig.1. Site plan as at 02/12/08

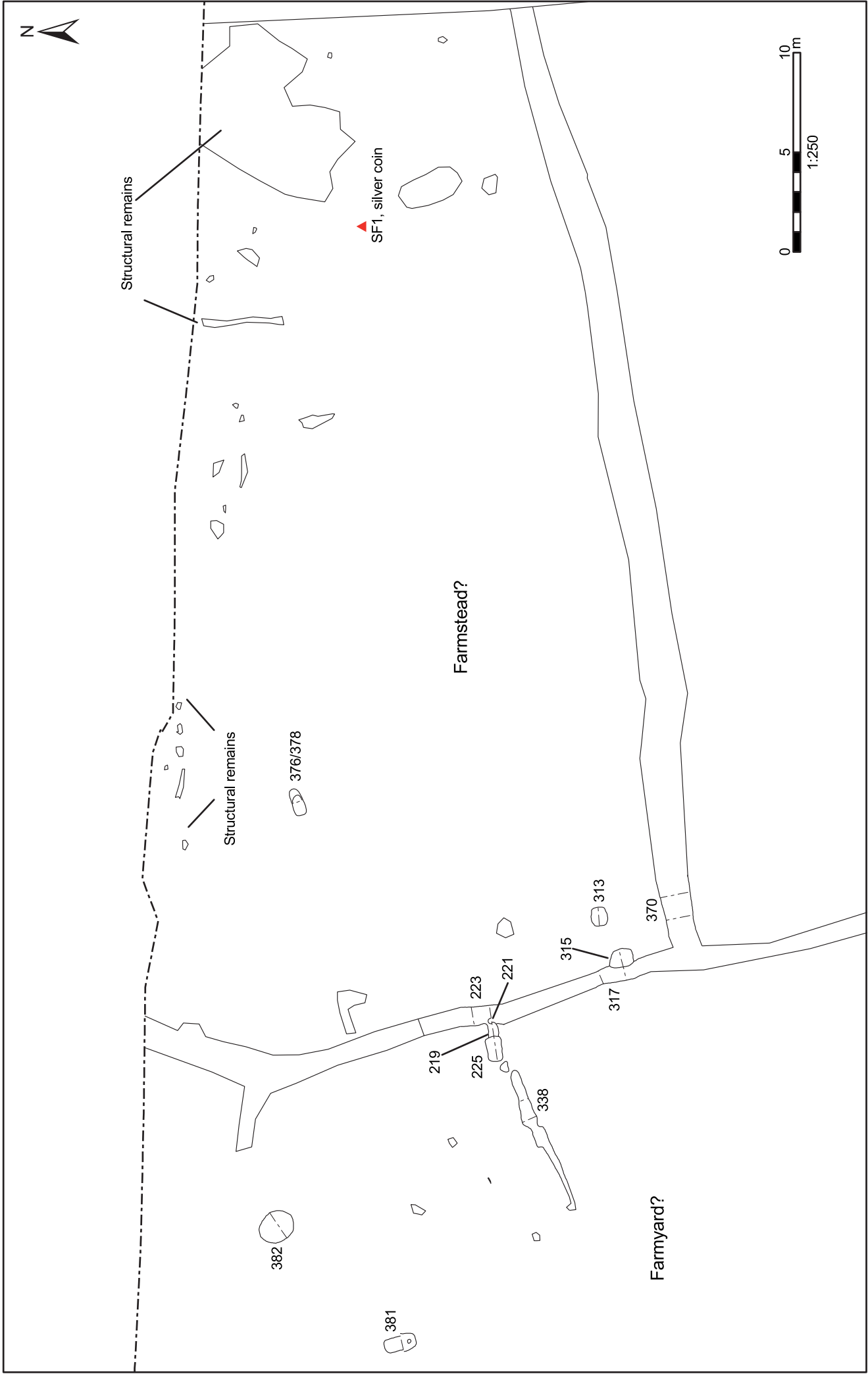


Fig.2. Medieval enclosure area as at 02/12/08