

**20 SHEERING ROAD**

**HARLOW**

**ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING SUMMARY**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**FEBRUARY 2010**

## ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

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| <b>Site name/Address:</b> 20 Sheering Road, Harlow, Essex  |  |
| <b>Parishes:</b> Harlow  | <b>District:</b> Harlow  |
| <b>NGR:</b> TL 4829 1162   | <b>Site Code:</b> HALM 09  |
| <b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Monitoring   | <b>Site Director/Group:</b> Mark Germany, ECC Field Archaeology Unit |
| <b>Dates of Work:</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2009   | <b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 58.08 sqm                          |
| <b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Harlow   | <b>Funding source:</b> Client  |
| <b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No  | <b>Related HER Nos.:</b>   |
| <b>Final Report:</b> EAH summary   | <b>Oasis No.:</b> essexcou1-72461                                    |
| <b>Periods Represented:</b> Modern   |  |
| <p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at 20 Sheering Road, Harlow, Essex, during the construction of a new swimming pool. The monitoring work was undertaken in response to a recommendation made by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) to Harlow District Council that an archaeological condition be placed on planning consent due to the location of the development within an area of archaeological significance.</p> <p><i>Swimming pool</i></p> <p>The footprint of the new swimming pool measured approximately 13.2m by 4.4m (58.08 sqm) and the foundation trenches were 0.80m wide and 1.7m in depth (plate 1). Brick paving and a concrete floor slab belonging to an outbuilding previously standing on the site was removed to reveal natural yellowish brown chalk-flecked clay with light grey mottling which became progressively stiffer and darker in colour at depth.</p> <p>Examination of two short, stub trenches linking the new pool room to the existing house revealed that this part of the house is constructed on an irregularly-coursed foundation of stone and occasional bricks set in a wide construction trench, approximately 1.5m deep, that had been backfilled up to the wall with a very mixed deposit of silty "garden" or topsoil, brick and tile fragments and occasional lumps of stone (plate 2).</p> <p>The eastern edge of the foundation trench was obscured by trench supports that had been inserted by the groundworkers to support the sides of the excavation but it did not extend into the north-south running foundation for the western side wall of the pool house. No archaeological remains were observed in either the foundation trenches or within the interior footprint of the pool house.</p> <p><i>Conclusion</i></p> <p>Although the development was situated in the historic core of Old Harlow/ Churchgate Street no remains positively pre-dating the modern period were identified, potentially as a result of the relatively small area under investigation and the fact that the area had been disturbed by a previous building that stood on the site.</p> <p>A copy of this summary will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis</a>).</p> |  |
| <b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None  |  |
| <b>Author of Summary:</b> Mark Germany   | <b>Date of Summary:</b> February 2010                                |

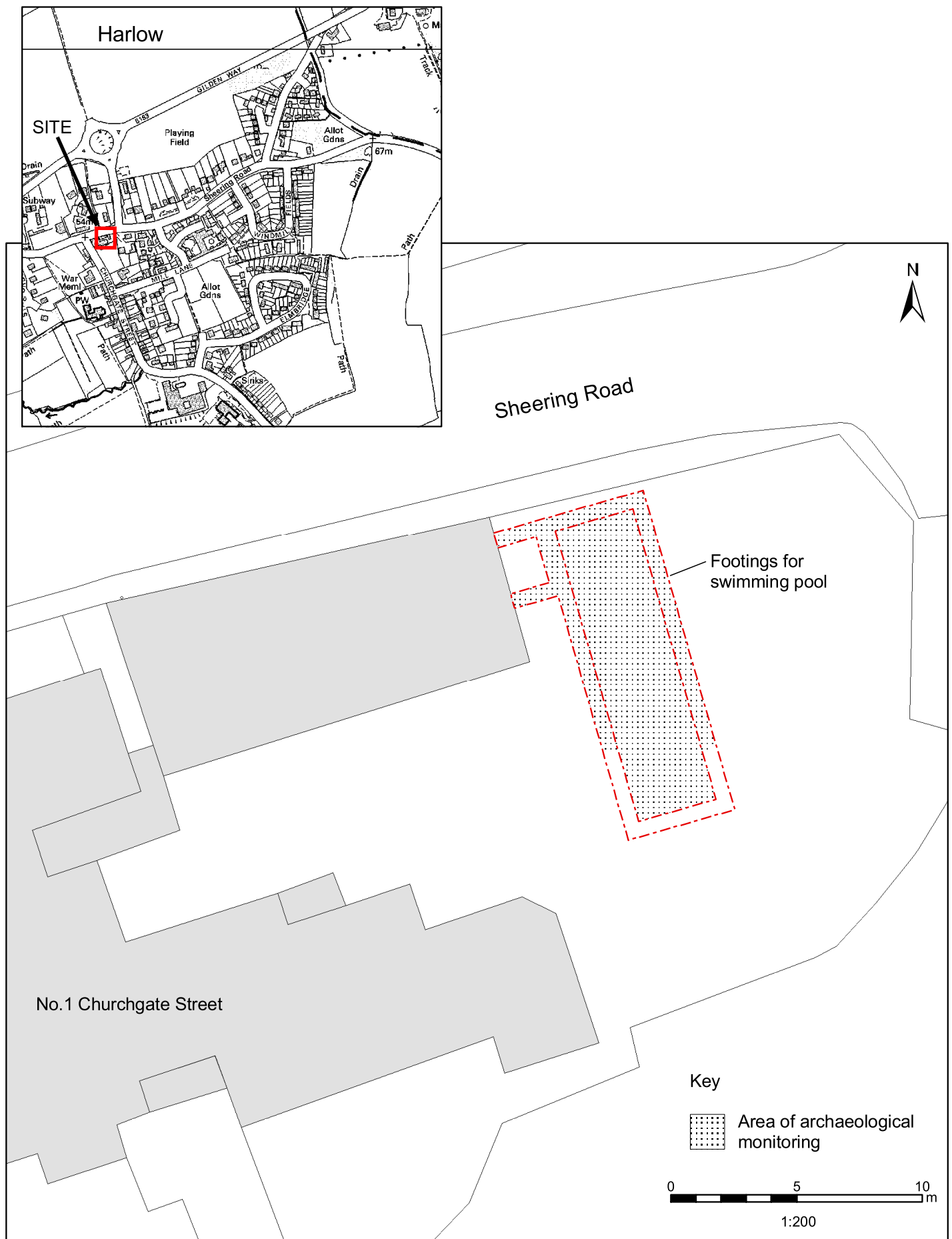




Plate 1: 20 Sheering Road Harlow - foundation trenches under excavation prior to stripping interior.



Plate 2: General view of new foundation (1.7m deep) abutting existing house.



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Fig.1. Site location