

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

**WATCHING BRIEF
SITE ATTENDANCE RECORD SHEET**

<i>Project Name: St Aylotts, Ashdon Road, Saffron Walden</i>		
<i>Project Number:2295</i>	<i>Supervisor: PS</i>	<i>Manager: PA/AS</i>

<i>Date</i>	<i>Visit made by</i>	<i>Time arrived on site</i>	<i>Time depart from site</i>	<i>Total Hrs</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>½Day /Day</i>
13/01/11	PS	08.00	15.35	7.5	<p>WB to observe topsoil strip prior to construction of new manege.</p> <p>Method:excavate to a certain level (max 0.42m) across manege area then put in finger drains (v. shallow and narrow). Cover with membrane, dump hardcore overlain by rubbery manege surface.</p> <p>Pre-ex: area v. bumpy with standing water in areas, mostly to north and west. Grass = different colour in middle to west end where dip in ground surface is apparent.</p> <p>Mr. Howlett said recent amateur metal detector survey on field to east revealed Roman coin and ploughing showed areas of patchy colours possibly representing villa site?</p> <p>SW edge cut first. Max 0.2m deep at NW end, 0.1m middle, 0.42 at SE end. NW end: 0.1m topsoil over chalk, flint and brick rubble (from barn demolition in 1950s apparently). SE end: 0.22m topsoil over 0.2m+ rubble.</p> <p>NE edge: 0.45m deep. 0.22m topsoil over brown-orange silty clay subsoil containing post-med tile and brick, horseshow pieces and animal bone. One poss ditch cut into subsoil – excavation revealed v shallow feature with fill v similar to topsoil. No finds. Filled with water immediately so visibility was very poor and therefore rather unreliable.</p> <p>Advised I would visit Friday afternoon to see how things are coming along as machining is very slow.</p> <p>Mr Howlett recommended if we need to contact we should email rather than phone from now on.</p>	1Day

14/01/11	PS	14.30	15.00	3	<p>Still only very small amount of site stripped. Chalk layer spread across nw end of site. It would appear that the whole of the site is covered in modern/late post-med made ground.</p> <p>NW sample section: 0.1m topsoil, over 0.22m loose chalk, over 0.08m subsoil.</p> <p>Contacted Richard Havis who recommended at least one more visit.</p>	
19/01/11	MG	9.40	10.20	4	<p>One third of site stripped. Topsoil overlies made-ground, consisting of layers and dumps of redeposited chalk and orange brown soil, containing CBM. Depth of strip varies from 0.2m to 0.4m. Very wet and muddy. Undisturbed natural probably not exposed. No archaeological remains found. See plan 1 and photos 8 to 14</p>	