

FOLLY FARM, GREAT DUNMOW

HN554

Report No.326

Site name and address:	Folly Farm, Great Dunmow, Essex		
County:	Essex	District:	Uttlesford
Village/town:	Great Dunmow	Parish:	Great Dunmow
Planning reference:	UTT/0898/04	NGR:	TL 617 218
Client name and address:	Desper Ltd, 10 High Street, Wanstead, London, E11 2AJ		
Nature of work:	New farm access	Present land use:	Agricultural
Size of affected area:	c.900m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.900m ²
Site Code:	GDF05	Other reference:	HN554
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Type of work:	Monitoring	Curating Museum:	Saffron Walden Museum
Start of work	01/11/2005	Finish of work	09/11/2005
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	n/a
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Narrative:

In order to meet the requirements of an archaeological condition on the planning permission for a new access road at Folly Farm, Great Dunmow, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to monitor the construction groundworks.

The site, centred on NGR TL 617 218, lies on the western approaches to Great Dunmow, on the south side of the Stortford Road and opposite a new Tesco supermarket.

The study area forms the line of a new access road skirting to the south of the farm buildings, four of which are Grade II listed, and date from the between the 15th and 18th centuries. It lies in a recognised archaeological landscape which demonstrates continuous activity from the late Iron Age through to the present day. An extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement has been excavated on the north side of Stortford Road, and both cropmarks and metal detector finds to the south of the study area indicate the presence of a further settlement site of the same period.

Three site visits were made to inspect ground reduction along the line of the new access road. The ground was reduced by approximately 0.2m, through the topsoil of firm, dark greyish brown (2.5Y 4/2), silty clay. The topsoil was not breached and no archaeology was affected by the works.

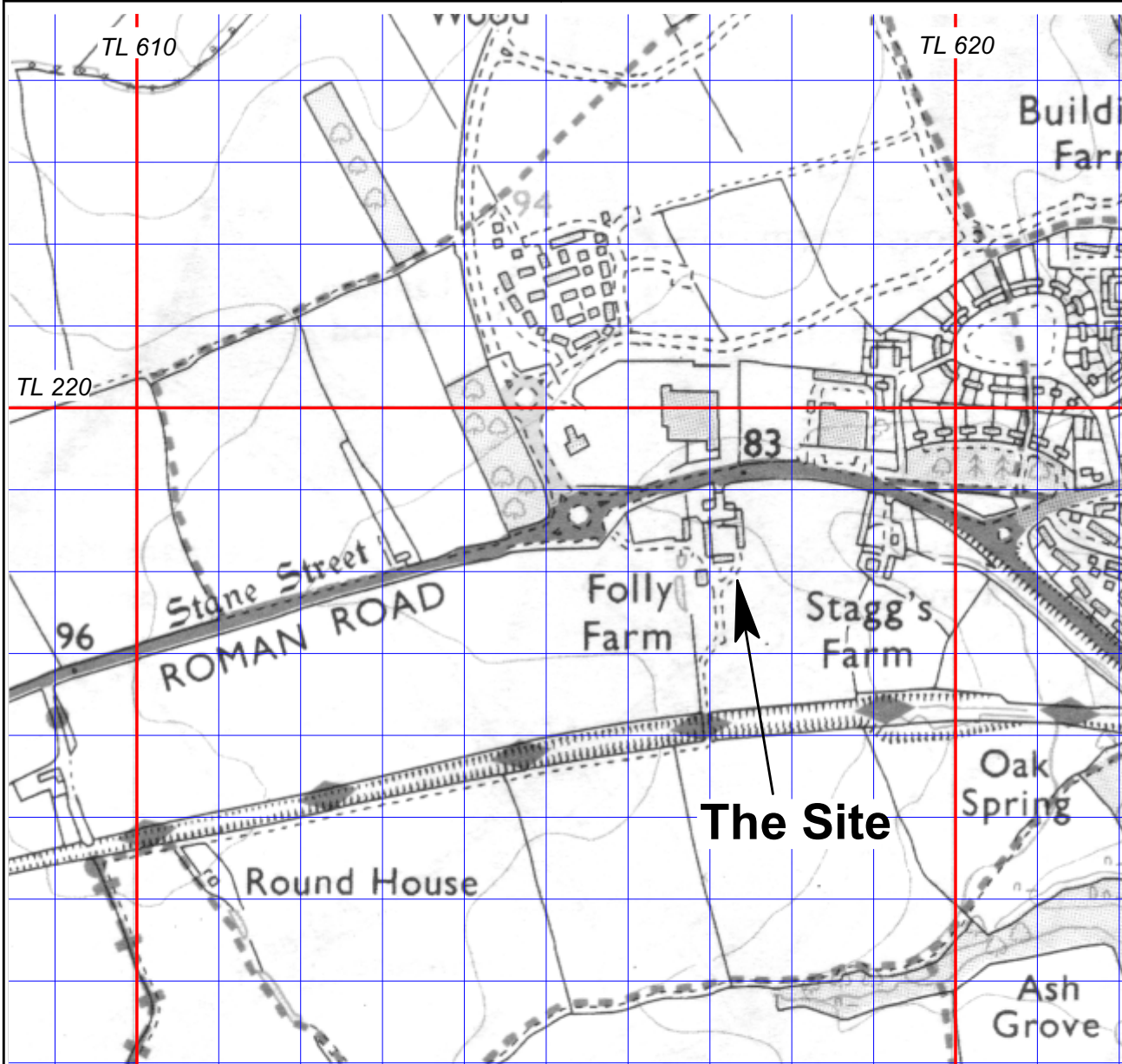
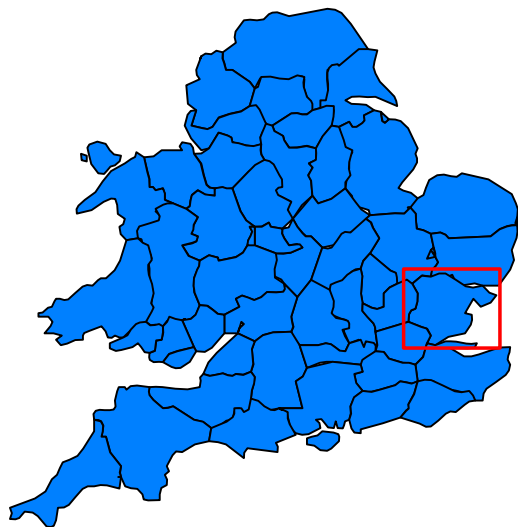
All spoil generated by the works was stockpiled on site and inspected for archaeological artefacts. Ceramic artefacts including pottery and tile of late 18th century date and later were observed but not collected. This material is not uncommon and is likely to have been brought onto the site as part of the manuring process.

In conclusion, the archaeological monitoring of the development revealed no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts. The groundworks did not breach the topsoil on the site, and thus any underlying archaeological remains were undisturbed by the development.

Illustrations:

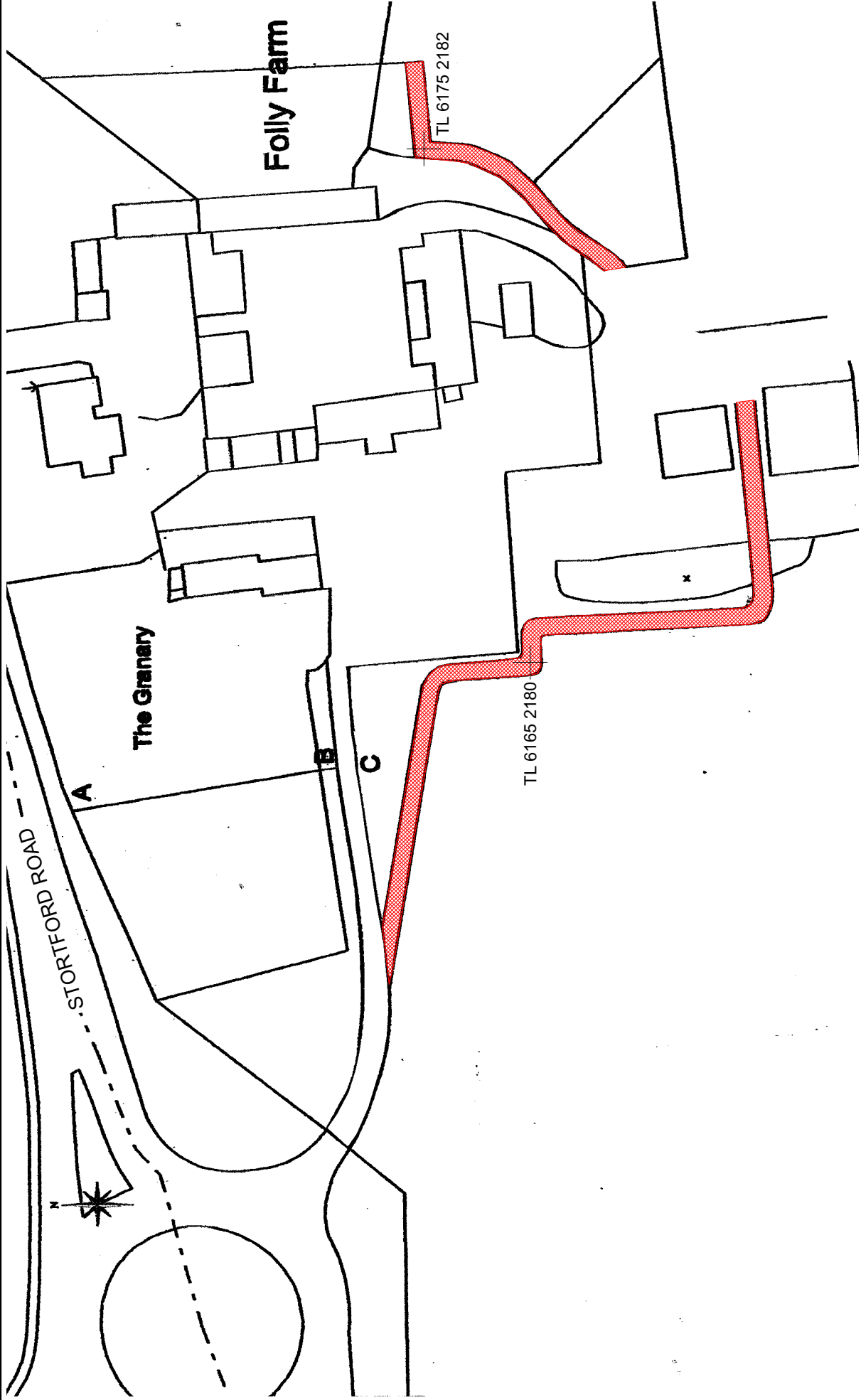
- Figure 1 Site location
Figure 2 Location of groundworks

Geoff Saunders
November 2005



Site Location

Scale 1:800



Location of Groundworks