

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at
25 Sheering Road,
Harlow, Essex**

NGR: TL 48190 11630

Planning Ref: HW/PL/12/00108

**ASE Project No: 8073
Site Code: HASR 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014103
OASIS id: 175858**



March 2014

**Archaeological Evaluation
at
25 Sheering Road,
Harlow, Essex**

NGR: TL 48190 11630

Planning Ref: HW/PL/12/00108

**ASE Project No: 8073
Site Code: HASR 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014103
OASIS ID: 175858**

By Lukasz Miciak

March 2014

**Archaeology South-East
The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex
CM7 3QD**

**Tel: 01376 331470
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at 25 Sheering Road, Harlow prior to construction of a single house.

The site is located within the medieval settlement at Churchgate Street and in a garden adjacent to Milhurst, a late 18th/early 19th century Grade II listed building, which is thought to stand on the site of an earlier structure.

One 10m long by 1.8m wide trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. No archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within the trench.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

Appendices

- Appendix 1 HER Summary Sheets
- Appendix 2 OASIS Form

Figures

- Figure 1 Site location
- Figure 2 Evaluation trench, looking northeast
- Figure 3 Evaluation trench, looking southwest

Tables

- Table 1 Site archive quantification

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a single house.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The development site is located on the north side of Sheering Road, Harlow, at NGR: TL 48190 11630, and comprises part of the garden belonging to *Milhurst* (number 25 Sheering Road, Figure 1).

1.2.2 The geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as consisting of Head deposits (clay, silt, sand and gravel) overlying the Lewes Nodular Chalk and Seaford Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer; accessed 11/03/2014).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (HW/PL/12/00108) was submitted to Harlow Council in 2012 for the construction of a single dwelling-house and associated services and parking. As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having the potential for archaeological deposits to be present ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent. This advice was in line with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and the condition states that:

No development shall take place within the area indicated until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlining the scope of the archaeological work was produced by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2014) and duly approved by the Essex County Council Place Services in their role as advisors to the Local Planning Authority. All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the the IfA *Code of Conduct* (2013), the *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation* (IfA 2013) and the ALGAO *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003)

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the evaluation works undertaken on the site on 18th March 2014 by Lukasz Miciak, who also prepared the report, with illustrations prepared by Andrew Lewsey. The fieldwork was managed by Adrian Scruby (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological background utilises the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (ECC HER).

2.1.2 The medieval and later settlement of Churchgate Street (EHER 3625) is thought to have its origins in the late 11th century, when the original Saxon settlement at Harlowbury was moved there by the landowner, Bury St Edmunds Abbey. The Chapman and Andre map of 1777 shows a property of unknown date on the current site of 25 Sheering Road. The present structure, Milhurst, is Grade II Listed (EHER 31758) and dates to the late 18th/early 19th century, presumably having replaced the building depicted on the Chapman and Andre map.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

3.1.1 One 10m long by 1.8m wide trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building, as shown on figure 1. All machine excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machine excavations was scanned for the presence of any artefacts, both visually and using a metal detector. The trench was positioned using a GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System) receiver Leica Viva.

3.1.2 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive. The archive (quantified in Table 2) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Braintree and will be submitted to Harlow Museum in due course.

3.2 Aims and Objectives

3.2.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological work were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and are herein reproduced below in full

- Determine the presence or absence of medieval or post-medieval structural remains associated with the dwelling shown on historic maps of the site.
- Determine the presence or absence of any Medieval activity/ occupation associated with the foundation and subsequent development of the Churchgate settlement.

3.2.2 In the event that significant discoveries had been made this report would have sought to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011). However, as no archaeological features or finds were uncovered the work has no potential to contribute to any of the research framework objectives.

3.3 Quantification of Archive

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	2 records (evaluation trench record

	sheet, digital photo register).
Plan and sections sheets	None
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	7 Digital
Bulk finds	none
Registered finds	none
Environmental flots/residue	none

Table 1: Site archive quantification

4 RESULTS (Figure 1-3)

- 4.1 The revealed sequence of stratigraphy comprised mid orangey brown compact silty clay natural geology [1/003] that was overlain by a 0.5m thick layer of mid greyish brown compact silty clay subsoil [1/002], which in turn was sealed by a 0.4-0.45m thick layer of dark brown soft sandy silt topsoil [1/001].
- 4.2 The eastern part of the trench was crossed by an unused modern water pipe, but was otherwise devoid of any archaeological features or finds (see Figs. 2 & 3).

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Although the site is situated in an area of some archaeological potential, no archaeological finds or features were detected in the trench. This is perhaps likely to be due to the size of the investigated area rather than a genuine absence of any remains in the wider area. However, given the size of the trench in relation to the footprint of the proposed building it would appear that the development will have very little or no impact upon the archaeological record.

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Keith Fountain for commissioning the work and Maria Medlycott of Essex County Council Historic Place Services for her advice and guidance throughout the fieldwork.

Bibliography

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| ASE | 2014 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at 25 Sheering Road, Harlow, Essex</i> |
| Brown, N. &
Glazebrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8 |
| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . HMSO |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14 |
| ECC Historic Place
Services | 2013 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation on land adjacent to 25 Sheering Road, Harlow</i> |
| IfA | 2013a | <i>Code of Conduct</i> (revised). Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| IfA | 2013b | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> (revised). Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| Medlycott, M. | 2011 | <i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24 |

Appendix 1: HER Summary Form

Site name/Address: 25 Sheering Road, Harlow, Essex	
Parish: Harlow	District: Harlow
NGR: TL 48190 11630	Site Code: HASR14
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: L. Miciak, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 18/03/2014	Size of Area Investigated: 18 sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Harlow Museum	Funding source: Landowner/developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos: n/a
Final Report: EAH roundup	OASIS No: 175858
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at 25 Sheering Road, Harlow prior to construction of a single house.</p> <p>The site is located within the medieval settlement at Churchgate Street and in a garden adjacent to Milhurst, a late 18th/early 19th century Grade II listed building, which is thought to stand on the site of an earlier structure.</p> <p>One 10m long by 1.8m wide trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. No archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within the trench.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: L. Miciak	Date of Summary: March 2014

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-175858

Project details

Project name	25 Sheering Road, Halow
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological field evaluation at 25 Sheering Road, Harlow prior to construction of a single house. The site is located within the medieval settlement at Churchgate Street and in a garden adjacent to Milhurst, a late 18th/early 19th century Grade II listed building, which is thought to stand on the site of an earlier structure. One 10m long by 1.8m wide trench was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building. No archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within the trench.
Project dates	Start: 18-03-2014 End: 18-03-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	8073 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HASR14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX HARLOW HARLOW 25 Sheering Road
Postcode	CM17 0JL
Study area	140.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 48190 11630 51.7832045808 0.148577716145 51 46 59 N 000 08 54 E

Point
Lat/Long Datum Position derived from charts

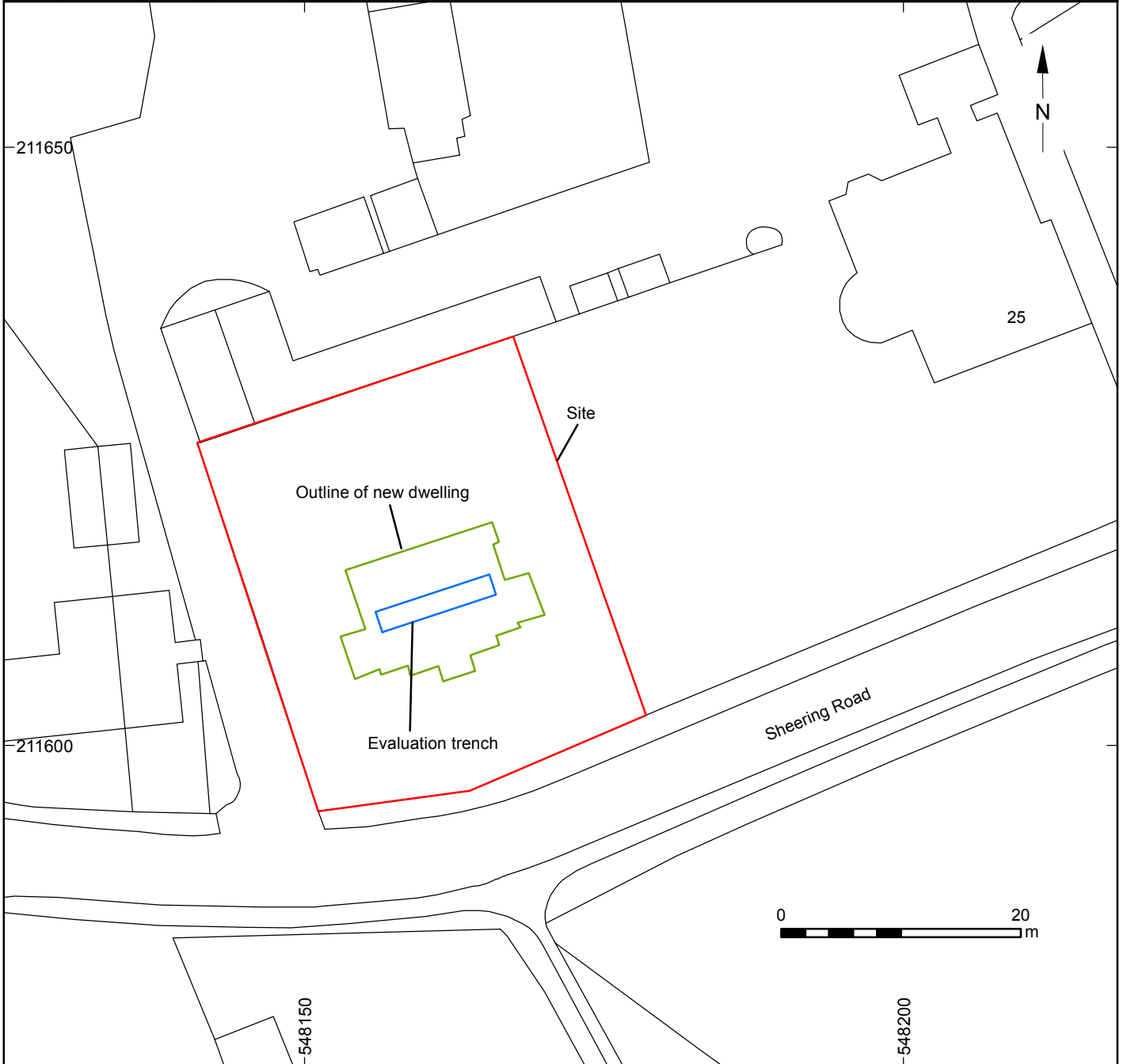
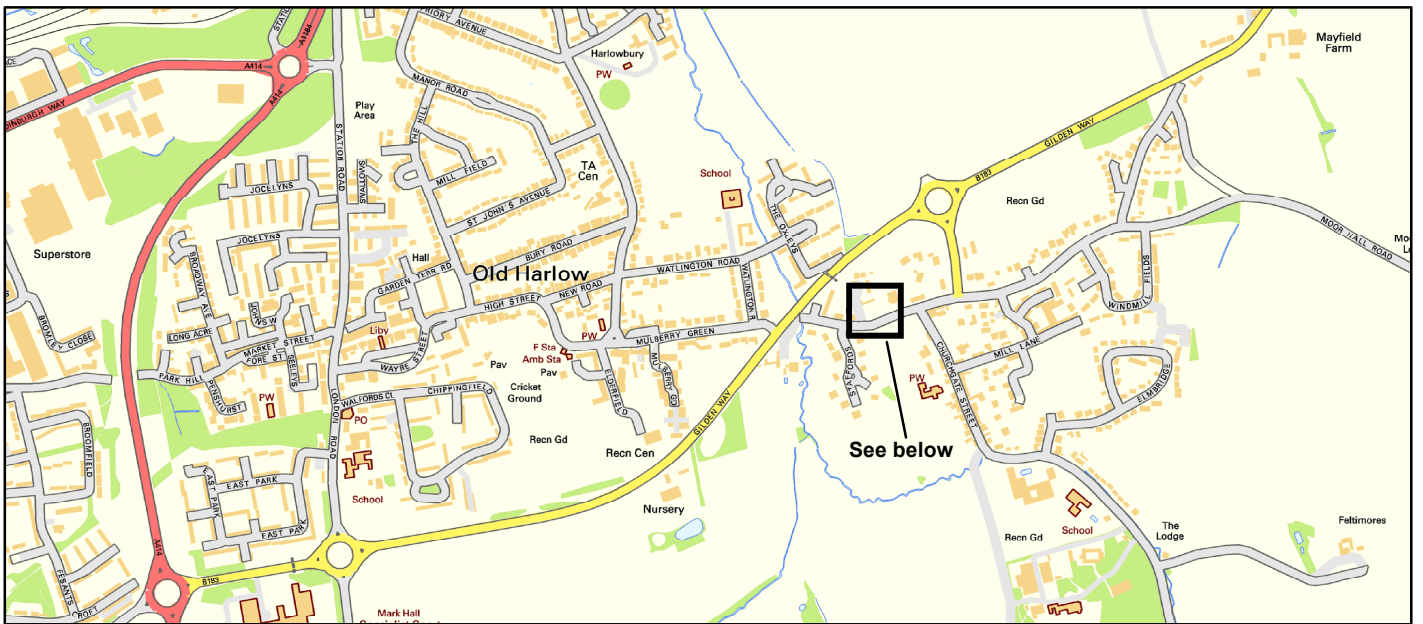
Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor Lukasz Miciak
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Harlow Museum
Digital Contents "other"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Harlow Museum
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Photograph","Plan","Report"

Entered by Lukasz Miciak (l.miciak@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 27 March 2014



© Archaeology South-East		25 Sheering Road, Old Harlow	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8073	Mar 2014	Indicative location of archaeological evaluation trench	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: APL		



Figure 2: Excavated trench, looking northeast



Figure 3: Excavated trench, looking southwest

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

