

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
New Grain Store
Hammonds Farm
Little Baddow
Essex**

Centred at NGR: TL 74970 06970

Planning Ref: 13/01736/FUL

**ASE Project No: 8245
Site Code: LBHF 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014295
OASIS id: 188604**



By Trevor Ennis

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September 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bidwells, acting for the Hammonds Farm Estates LLP, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new grain store at Hammonds Farm, Hammonds Road, Little Baddow, Essex.

Five trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed new grain storage barn. One undated pit or gully, possibly of natural origin, was excavated at the north-west end of Trench 5. No other archaeological remains were identified. Accordingly, it is judged that the development of the site will have negligible archaeological impact.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Bidwells, acting for the Hammonds Farm Estates LLP, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new grain store at Hammonds Farm, Hammonds Road, Little Baddow, Essex (Figure 1; NGR: TL 74970 06970).

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located on the west side of Hammonds Road, with the River Chelmer and the A12 Trunk Road lying to the west and the village of Little Baddow to the east. The farm is currently surrounded by arable farmland and paddocks with the development area, which lies to the immediate south of the existing farm buildings, having been under cultivation prior to the evaluation. The site is flat and lies at an Ordnance Datum of c. 20m.

1.2.2 The geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as London Clay overlain by superficial, Quaternary period, river terrace deposits. These consist mainly of sand and gravel with fine silt and sand from flooding forming floodplain alluvium (British Geological Survey © NERC 2014).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (13/01736/FUL) for the construction of an agricultural building and associated works was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in December 2013. As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) as having the potential for archaeological deposits to be present, Essex County Council (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. The archaeological recommendation was based upon guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012). The attached condition states that:

"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant 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 by the planning authority."

1.3.2 A brief was issued by ECC Place Services specifying the required archaeological work (trial-trenching and excavation) at the site in July 2014. A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014) was prepared and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of works.

1.3.2 The results of this evaluation will be used to enable an informed decision to be taken on the nature and scope of any further archaeological work that is required to mitigate the impact of the development upon the archaeological record.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 12th and 13th August 2014 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI (*ibid.*). The fieldwork was carried out by Trevor Ennis with assistance from Samara King.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held and maintained at County Hall, Chelmsford.
- 2.2 Hammonds Farm is located in part of the Chelmer Valley where numerous crop-marks have been recorded. Some of the crop-marks are related to potential prehistoric and later activity whilst others are likely to be of geological origin. Crop-marks to the south (EHER 5754 and EHER 5580) include the remains of a probable ploughed-out Bronze Age burial mound, part of a large curvilinear enclosure, possible track-ways and linear and rectilinear features that are most probably field boundaries. To the north (EHER 5748 and EHER 5750) are the remains of at least two more possible burial mounds, a large rectilinear enclosure, a track-way and further field boundaries.
- 2.3 Two Bronze Age socketed axes were found on land to the north at Phillows Farm during potato harvesting in 1974 (EHER 5554). Phillows Farm also contains the remains of a medieval moat (EHER 5585). Hammonds Farm itself is of post-medieval origin with the farmhouse dating to c.1820 (EHER 30629).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Objectives

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation will be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.
- 3.1.2 The specific objectives of the evaluation were to identify any evidence for:
- The origin, nature and date of the crop-mark features previously identified in the area and/or any evidence for other features associated with them.
- 3.1.3 In the event that significant discoveries were made, the report would seek to review the existing research objectives and identify any other appropriate research themes for any further work that is required, 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)*.
- 3.1.4 A number of regional research topics, which the site had the potential to contribute to, were identified prior to the fieldwork. The topics related to the various inter-relationships between settlements, settlement types, burials and monuments in the Bronze Age (Medlycott 2011, 20).

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.2.1 The evaluation consisted of a 10% sample of the 1860 sq. m development area which equated to 5 x 20m long x 1.8m wide trenches (Figure 1).
- 3.2.2 All trenches were opened under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation stopped at the top of the archaeological horizon or on reaching the top of the undisturbed natural geological deposit. The spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.
- 3.2.3 All trenches and archaeological features were located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid using GNSS technology.
- 3.2.4 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. All work was undertaken in accordance with the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation, and Code of Conduct (IfA 2013a & 2013b), and the ALGAO Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). ASE is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the IfA.
- 3.2.5 All deposits were recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.

3.2.6 All trenches were inspected for archaeological remains. A c. 70% sample of the one potential feature was excavated using hand tools. The feature was planned at a scale of 1:20 and the section drawn at a scale of 1:10. A digital photographic record was also created.

3.2.7 No finds were recovered and no deposits had significant potential for environmental analysis.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Chelmsford Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	17
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	9 (digital)

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Five evaluation trenches were excavated, all were 20m long by 1.8m wide. Three of the trenches (Trenches 1, 3 and 5) were aligned north-west/south-east and two (Trenches 2 and 4) were aligned north-east/south-west. One possible feature was investigated in Trench 5. No other archaeological remains were identified.

4.1.2 Feature legibility was potentially good, although no definite archaeological remains were identified. Overall truncation from past farming activities seemed minimal, with occasional plough marks restricted to the top of the plough soil.

4.2 Trench 5

4.2.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.59m below the existing field surface (Table 2). The recorded height AOD at the top of each end of the trench was 20.32m (N) and 20.43m (S). The removed overburden consisted of 0.37m of ploughsoil [5/001] and 0.19-0.22m of subsoil [5/002] above natural deposits of orange brown silty clay and gravel [5/003].

4.2.2 One potential feature [5/004], a slightly irregular pit or gully, was investigated at the north-west end of Trench 5 (Figures 1 and 2). This feature was sealed beneath the subsoil [5/002] and continued beyond the western edge of the trench. It was over 1m long, 1.12m wide and up to 0.31m deep with 40-45° sides and a base that sloped down gradually towards the west. It was filled with medium greyish brown clay silt [5/005] that was slightly darker than the surrounding natural clay. No finds were recovered and it is possible that the feature was of natural origin.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	20m	1.8m	0.37	20.32-20.43
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	20m	1.8m	0.19-0.22	19.95-20.06
5/003	Layer	Natural	20m	1.8m	-	19.76-19.84
5/004	Cut	Pit	1m+	1.12m	0.31m	19.76
5/005	Deposit	Fill of 5/005	1m+	1.12m	0.31m	19.76

Table 2: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4

4.3.1 No archaeological remains were present in Trenches 1 to 4. The removed overburden consisted of ploughsoil and subsoil that had a total average depth of around 0.55m (Table 3). The ploughsoil, recorded as contexts [1/001, 2/001, 3/001 and 4/001], consisted of dark greyish brown clay that varied in depth from 0.20m to 0.35m. Beneath the ploughsoil was a layer of medium reddish brown silty clay subsoil [1/002, 2/002, 3/002 and 4/002] that varied in depth from 0.21m to 0.33m and darkened slightly after exposure. The exposed natural deposits [1/003, 2/003, 3/003 and 4/003] in the base of the trench consisted of firm medium orange brown silty clay interspersed with patches of gravel.

Context	Type	Description	Deposit thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.20-0.28	20.29-20.33
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.23-0.27	20.01-20.13
1/003	Layer	Natural	-	19.78-19.86
2/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.25-0.29	20.25-20.39
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.22-0.27	19.96-20.13
2/003	Layer	Natural	-	19.76-19.86
3/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.25-0.34	20.30-20.37
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.23-0.33	19.96-20.12
3/003	Layer	Natural	-	19.73-19.79
4/001	Layer	Ploughsoil	0.32-0.35	20.38-20.46
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.21-0.26	20.06-20.11
4/003	Layer	Natural	-	19.80-19.90

Table 3: Archaeologically negative trenches - list of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Discussion

- 5.1.1 Although the site is located within a landscape dotted with possible remains of prehistoric and later date, none were identified within the development area. Only one undated feature was identified - at the north-west end of Trench 5. No finds were recovered from this feature and it could be of natural origin.
- 5.1.2 Many of the crop-marks in the surrounding fields are fairly widely dispersed across the landscape with blank areas in between. The absence of definite archaeological remains suggests that the development area is located within one such blank area. Indeed, none of the EHER records specifically relate to the immediate area south of the farm.
- 5.1.3 The removed overburden consisted of 0.20m to 0.37m of ploughsoil overlying 0.19m to 0.33m of subsoil. In all trenches the subsoil was inspected for archaeological remains prior to removal. As none were observed this was removed down to the underlying natural clay and gravel which formed a reasonably distinct interface at an average AOD of around 19.80. The one excavated feature did appear to be sealed by the subsoil.
- 5.1.4 Although the evaluation has successfully met the aims of the fieldwork in determining the absence of archaeological remains the lack of significant discoveries means that there is no scope to address any regional research objectives and in particular research topics relating to the Bronze Age.

5.2 Conclusions

- 5.2.1 The evaluation only identified one undated feature that may be naturally occurring rather than archaeological. Accordingly, it is judged that the development of the site will have no archaeological impact.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Bidwells for commissioning the work on behalf of Hammonds Farm Estates LLP, and Alison Bennett of ECC Place Services who monitored the work on behalf of the local planning authority. The site work was directed by Trevor Ennis with the assistance of Samara King. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report, Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

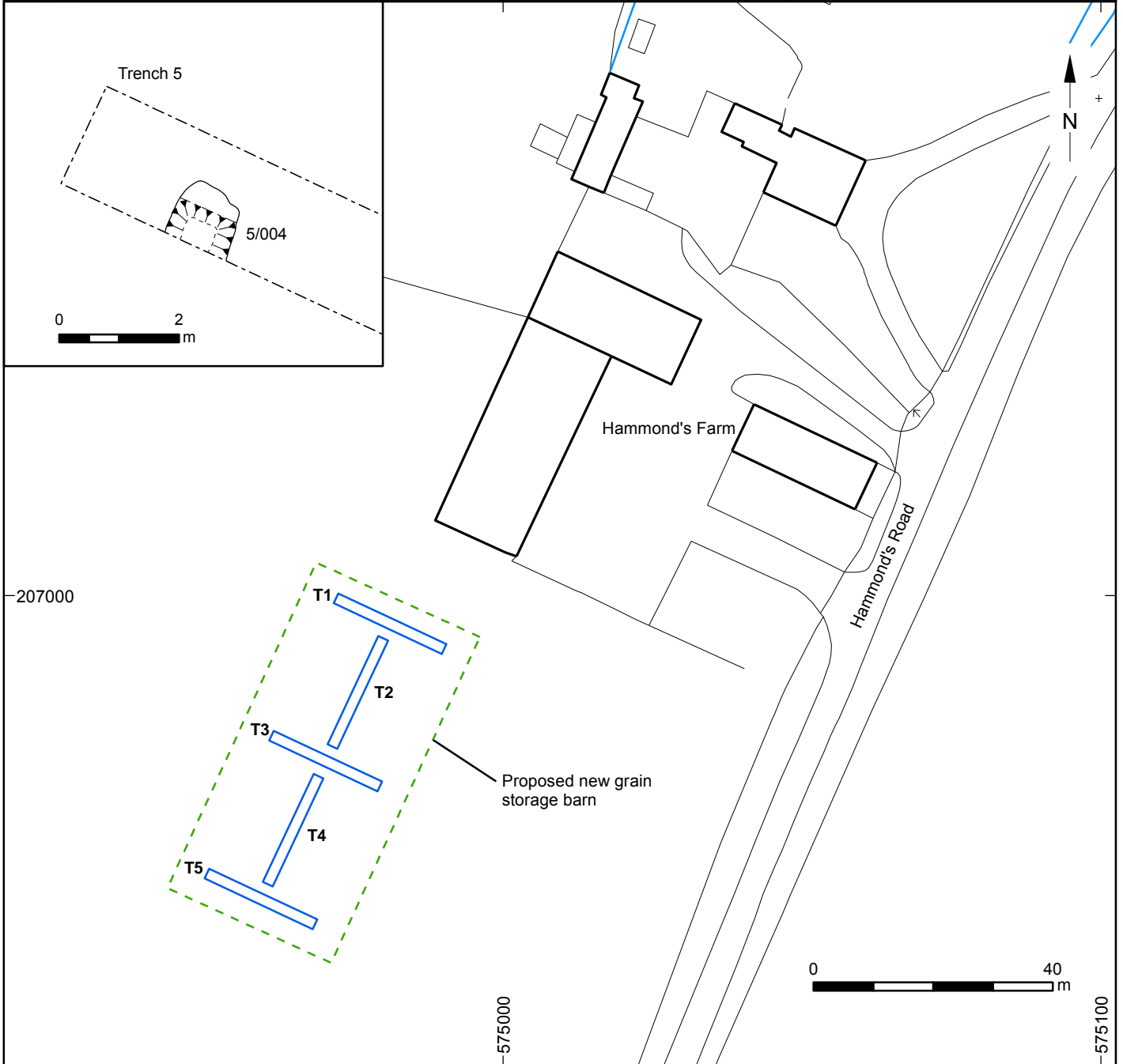
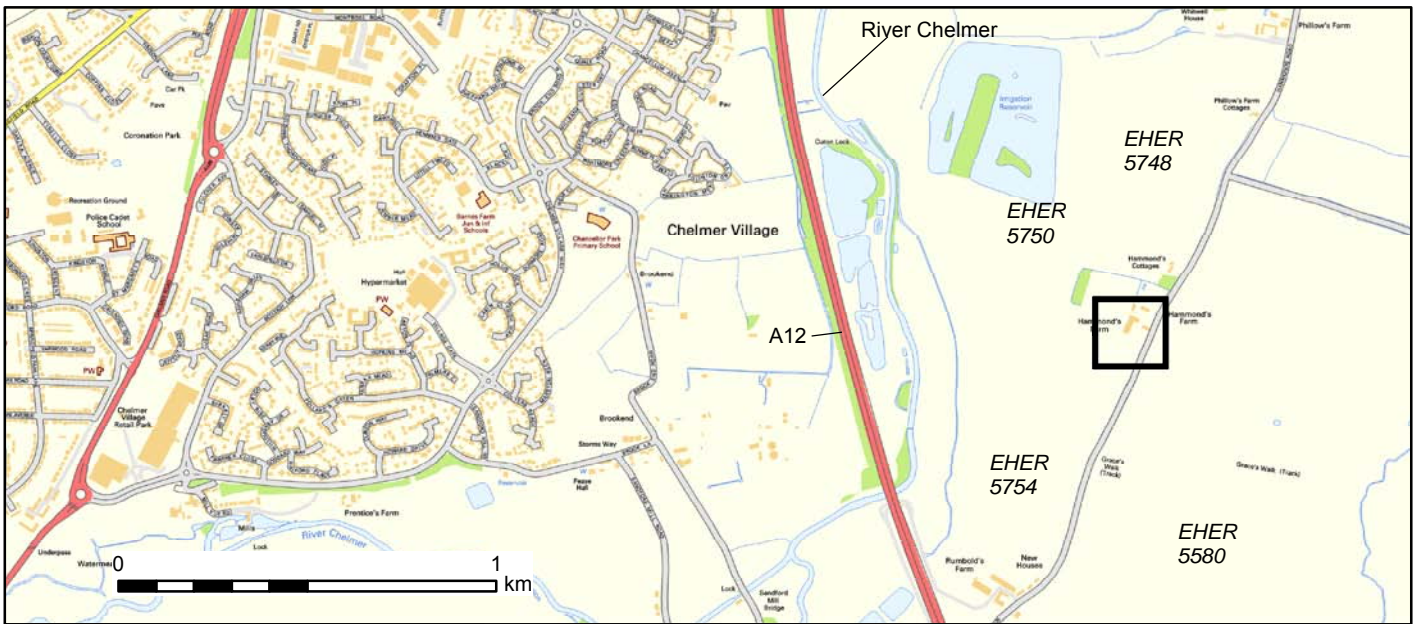
HER Summary

Site name/Address: New Grain Store, Hammonds Farm, Little Baddow, Essex	
Parish: Little Baddow	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 74970 06970	Site Code: LBHF 14
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Trevor Ennis, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 12th -13th August 2014	Size of Area Investigated: 1860 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHER Nos: 5748, 5750, 5754
Final Report: EAH annual roundup	OASIS Ref: 188604
Periods Represented: none	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bidwells, acting for the Hammonds Farm Estates LLP, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new grain store at Hammonds Farm, Hammonds Road, Little Baddow, Essex.</i></p> <p><i>Five trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed new grain storage barn. One undated pit or gully, possibly of natural origin, was excavated at the north-west end of Trench 5. No other archaeological remains were identified. Accordingly, it is judged that the development of the site will have negligible archaeological impact.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: September 2014

OASIS Form

OASIS ID 188604	
Project details	
Project name	Archaeological Evaluation: New Grain Store, Hammonds Farm, Little Baddow, Essex
Short description of the project	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bidwells, acting for the Hammonds Farm Estates LLP, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the construction of a new grain store at Hammonds Farm, Hammonds Road, Little Baddow, Essex.</p> <p>Five trenches were excavated within the footprint of a proposed new grain storage barn. One undated pit or gully, possibly of natural origin, was excavated at the north-west end of Trench 5. No other archaeological remains were identified. Accordingly, it is judged that the development of the site will have negligible archaeological impact.</p>
Project dates	Start: 12-08-2014 End: 13-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Project ref. codes	LBHF14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, 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 CHELMSFORD LITTLE BADDOW Hammonds Farm
Study area	1860.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 74970 06970 51.7335857319 0.534131392733 51 44 00 N 000 32 02 E Point
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	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	LBHF14
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	LBHF14
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: New Grain Store, Hammonds Farm, Little Baddow, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ennis, T.
Date	2014
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Entered on	3 September 2014



© Archaeology South-East		Hammond's Farm, Little Baddow	Fig. 1	
Project Ref: 8245	September 2014	Location of archaeological evaluation trenches		
Report Ref: 2014295	Drawn by: RHC			

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Trench 1 looking south-east



Trench 5 looking north-west



Trench 3 looking south-east



Pit 5/004 looking south-west

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