

## **Archaeological Evaluation**

**Old Hall, Camps Road, Bartlow, Cambridgeshire CB21 4PP**

**NGR: TL 58526 45149**

**Site Code/HER Event no: ECB 4402**

**ASE Project No: 8351**

**ASE Report No: 2015133**

**By Kate Clover**

**With illustrations by Andrew Lewsey**



**April 2015**

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**Planning Ref: S/2846/14/LB**

**ASE Project No: 8351  
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**ASE Report No: 2015133  
OASIS id: archaeol6-209646**

**By Kate Clover  
Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey**

**April 2015**

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<b>Reviewed and approved</b>	Mark Atkinson	Project Manager	M. Atkinson
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	April 2015		
<b>Revision:</b>			

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## **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Findlay to undertake a trial-trenching evaluation at their property, Old Hall, in Bartlow, Cambridgeshire. The work was carried out in March 2015 and consisted of the machine-excavation of one trial trench within the footprint of the proposed extension to the house.*

*Old Hall is a Grade II Listed 16th century building, occupying the site of a medieval manor house. It lies to the south-west of the medieval church of St Mary. The area to the south and east of the Hall contains important Roman remains, including buildings and cemeteries and the Bartlow Hills - a group of six or seven Roman burial mounds.*

*A dump layer containing re-used late medieval or 16th century bricks was recorded below topsoil which may represent remains of a probably 19th century garden path. No archaeological remains were found that could be definitely dated to earlier than the post-medieval period.*

*There was no evidence relating to a medieval precursor to Old Hall nor were any Roman finds or features encountered. The results of the evaluation indicate that no significant archaeological remains are likely to be present within the proposed extension area.*

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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 Mr and Mrs Findlay to undertake a trial-trenching evaluation on land at their property, Old Hall, in the village of Bartlow, in advance of refurbishment works and the construction of a rear extension to the house. The fieldwork was carried out on the 23rd March 2015.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 2.1.1 Old Hall (NGR TL 58526 45149) is located on the south side of the village of Bartlow, accessed off Camps Road via Bartlow Barns Road, which skirts around the property to the north and west. The property is sited within landscaped grounds/gardens, with Bartlow Park lying further to the east and the parish church of St Mary's to the north-east. The southern boundary of the plot is formed by the River Granta (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The Hall sits within a slightly raised platform at 49.7m AOD. Just to the south of the Hall the ground slopes down by 0.3m to 49.4m AOD to form a lawn area. The proposed extension is to the rear (south) of the property in an area currently covered by a gravel walkway against the wall of the house and partly within the lawn area (Figures 2 and 3, Plate 1). The trench was dug within the southern part of the footprint of the proposed extension, within the grassy slope from the Hall to the garden (see front cover).
- 2.1.3 Due to the presence of the River Granta the site lies in an area of transitional geology. The geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seafood Chalk Formation (undifferentiated), potentially overlain by Alluvium and River Terrace Deposits 1 to 2, associated with the nearby river (BGS Geology of Britain viewer – accessed 07/03/2015).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 A planning application (S/2845/14/FL) was submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council in December 2014 for: *Erection of single storey extension; removal of interior walls; construction of new partitions; repairs and replacement of windows; replacement of exterior door with window; reinstatement of windows; installation of underfloor heating; conversion of outbuilding at Old Hall, Camps Road, Bartlow, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4PP.*
- 1.3.2 As the site is of archaeological/ historic interest, the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CHET), 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 is based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy

Framework (DCLG 2012) and the condition (no. 3) that was subsequently attached to the planning consent states that:

*No development shall take place in respect of the extension, hereby approved, 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.*

*Reason - To ensure the protection of any below ground archaeology in accordance with policy CH/2 of the adopted Local Development Framework 2007.*

- 1.3.3 A Brief of Works was subsequently issued (CHET 2015) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a) and Method Statement (ASE 2015b) produced and approved by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team prior to the commencement of works.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. The report describes and interprets the results of the evaluation and assesses the potential for the survival of below-ground heritage assets on the site. The likely impact of the proposed residential development upon the heritage resource is considered.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Old Hall is a Grade II Listed Building (DCB 6659; NHLE 1127130 - formerly listed as Bartlow Hall). It is described in the Listing description as:

*Late 16th century, extended on south side 18th century. Timber-framed, plaster rendered and tiled roofs. Ridge stack rebuilt above the roof of three octagonal linked shafts. Double ended hall house. Main range of two storeys. Two hipped full dormers and two modern ground floor hung sashes. Modern porch to front door. East crosswing of two storeys. Some red brick to south yable end. Two modern windows to north front. West crosswing of two storeys and attic. Two projecting red brick chimney stacks to west wall. One to the south side has clunch quoins with two octagonal shafts. Modern fenestration in north front. There is a stair turret, gabled at the rear of the main block possibly an addition in 17th century, and other additions of 18th century forming a cellar and store, also at the rear. Interior: Main range has little 16th century timber exposed. West crosswing has ovolo moulded main beams with enrichment. Ogee moulded jambs and flat head to clunch fireplace. Mid 18th century staircase of two flights with column-on-vase balusters, clustered at the newel. Moulded rail and closed string. At first floor there is another clunch fireplace similar to that on ground floor. Posts have jowled heads in both crosswings. One in east crosswing has ogee moulding to soffit of main post in centre truss.*

- 2.1.2 The Hall lies approximately 50m to the south-west of the late 11th/ early 12th century parish church of St Mary (CHER 06068). Bartlow is not recorded in Domesday Book, the earliest reference to it dating to 1232 where it is given as *Berklawe*, meaning the mounds of the birch trees, which is taken to be a reference to the nearby Roman burial mounds now known as the Bartlow Hills (CHER 09838). The original, medieval manor house, which is recorded in 1279, possibly stood on or near the site of Old Hall.
- 2.1.3 The area to the south and east of the Hall contains important Roman remains, including buildings and cemeteries known to survive in the grounds of Bartlow Park, 250m to the east (MCB16319), and the Bartlow Hills, a group of six or seven Roman burial mounds dated to the late 1st and early 2nd century AD, which lie 250m to the south of the site (CHER 09838, Figure 1). The Bartlow Hills are scheduled monuments (SM1018974).
- 2.1.4 100m to the south-east of the site a two-trench archaeological evaluation was carried out at the walled garden of Bartlow Park (ECB 3764). This exposed five pits, two which were of Roman date and others of probable Roman date (Quinn and Stoakley 2012).
- 2.1.5 No archaeological investigation has been previously undertaken within the Old Hall property.

## **2.6 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.6.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were as follows:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving below ground heritage assets.
- To enable an informed decision to be made as to the requirement for any further work in order to satisfy the archaeological condition.

2.6.2 In the event that significant discoveries were made this report would have sought to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation took place on 23rd March 2015 and was conducted in accordance with a brief (CHET 2015), a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015a) and Method Statement (ASE 2015b). The work was carried out in accordance with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014).
- 3.1.2 One trench (Trench 1) was excavated, within the southern part of the footprint of the proposed extension (Figure 2). It was moved slightly south from the location shown in the WSI in order that the mechanical excavator could sit on level ground. A 360° tracked mechanical excavator was employed which was fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All the excavation was supervised by an experienced archaeologist. The overburden was stripped under supervision down to the top of archaeological deposits or else the natural geology and exposed deposits were cleaned using hand tools where appropriate.
- 3.1.3 The trench was recorded using ASE trench sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets. They were planned and levelled using a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS). Datum levels were taken using the DGPS sufficient to record the heights of the archaeological features, ground surface and height of natural geology
- 3.1.4 Section drawings were made at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.1.5 Finds were collected from all features and deposits and were securely bagged and labelled with the side code and context number on site. No soil samples were taken.
- 3.1.6 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made which aimed to provide an overview of the trench and the surrounding area. A representative sample of individual feature shots and sections was taken, in addition to working shots. The photographic register included shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Store in due course, subject to agreement with the legal landowner.
- 3.2.2 All necessary arrangements will be made and procedures for the acceptance of finds and archive will be followed prior to their deposition. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).
- 3.2.3 Guidelines contained in UKIC's Guidelines for the Presentation of excavation Archives for Long Term Storage and the MGC's Standards in the Museum

Care of Archaeological Collections will be followed for the preparation of the archive for museum deposition.

Number of Contexts	5
No. of paper record sheets	2
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	n/a
Photographs	15
Bulk finds	8 artefacts
Registered finds	n/a

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Depth/ Thickness m	Height of top of deposit m AOD
[1/001]	Layer	Topsoil	Full extent	Full extent	0.18-0.28	49.4 – 49.7
[1/002]	Layer	Made-ground	Full extent	Full extent	0.2-0.34	49.2 - 49.4
[1/003]	Layer	Subsoil	Full extent	Full extent	0.14-0.18	49.05m approx
[1/004]	Layer	Natural chalk	Full extent	Full extent	unknown	48.82 -48.87
[1/005]	Layer/dump	?former garden path	c.1.0	0.95	0.27	49.2

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located 2.5m from the southern wall of the Hall (Plate 1). It was 6.8 long and 1.7m wide and was aligned approximately east-west. The trench was excavated to between 0.56m and 0.66m depth on its south side and 0.69m to 0.78m depth on its north side (Plates 2 and 3), the difference in depth being due to the south-facing slope which the trench cut through.
- 4.1.2 Turf and loose dark brown-grey sandy silt topsoil [001] overlaid made-ground of mid yellow brown compact silty clay [002] containing occasional CBM fragments, frequent flint fragments and frequent chalk lumps. This made-ground layer contained two pieces of pottery of 18th-19th century date, a piece of brick of 19th/early 20th century date and two pieces of roof tile. Layer [002] is considered to be a long-lived layer representing landscaping and gardening from perhaps as early as the late 16th century, when the current Hall was built, to the 19th century or later. This layer in turn sealed a compact silty clay and chalk subsoil [003], light grey in colour with patches of orange, which did not contain any finds. Natural compact chalk [004] was encountered below the subsoil at 0.56m to 0.78m below ground level.
- 4.1.3 At the western end of the trench a mixed layer containing brick rubble [005] was observed in the north-facing section, within made-ground layer [002] (Plate 0). This deposit consisted of a mix of mid grey-brown silty clay with a lens of chalk and lenses of charcoal. CBM was present haphazardly throughout the deposit; however, there was also the suggestion of a course of bricks (unbonded) at the top, underlying the topsoil. The deposit extended to the north but not as far as the other side of the trench. Two bricks were taken as samples and were found to be hearth bricks of probably late medieval date, although an early post-medieval date is also possible. One brick had traces of mortar on its surface (see Section 5.2 and 5.3). Layer [005] may represent the partial remains of a garden path leading away from the back of the Hall using re-used hearth bricks, or alternatively it may just represent a dump of unwanted building material. The date of its deposition is unclear, however, as it had been dumped upon or cut into made-ground layer [002]. It is, on stratigraphic grounds, probably no earlier than 19th century.

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A very small assemblage comprising pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered during the evaluation. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context (Table 3). Finds were all packed and stored according to IFA guidelines (ClfA 2014). None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
1/002	2	8	3	266
1/005			3	2894
<b>Total</b>	2	8	6	3160

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

### 5.2 Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The evaluation recovered just two sherds of post-medieval pottery from the site, both coming from made-ground context [1/002]. The earliest consists of a 1g fragment of sandy glazed red earthenware of probable 18th to early 19th century date. The other sherd is fresher, and consists of an unglazed earthenware bodysherd from a 19th century flower pot.

### 5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

- 5.3.1 A small assemblage comprising six fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from two different contexts. Three brick fragments were recovered. The earliest were found in dump deposit [1/005], which contained two crude bricks, one with reduced top and one with reduced base. They may represent hearth bricks and are of probably late medieval date, although an early post-medieval date is also possible. They may therefore relate to the earliest construction of the Old Hall in the late 16th century.
- 5.3.2 The coarsest brick, measuring 107mm wide, 211+mm long and 45mm thick, is fairly regular overall but has crude surfaces, and slightly rounded and irregular arrises. The brick is in an orange-brown fabric with abundant fine quartz and rare chalk to 4mm. The second brick is in a much finer orange fabric with sparse fine quartz, calcareous swirls, rare coarse quartz and rare red iron oxides to 2mm. Surfaces are smooth and the brick is overall fairly regular with sharp arrises but crude in places, with finger impressions on the base where the brick was held when still wet. The brick retains mortar remains across the reduced top and along one stretcher. Both bricks are of probable local manufacture.
- 5.3.3 The third brick fragment, from made-ground context [1/002] is much later in date, with remains of a frog and sharp arrises. The fabric is abundant fine to medium quartz-tempered. The brick dates to the 19th to early 20th century.
- 5.3.4 The same context also contained two flat roof tile fragments, probable peg tile. One fragment is of post-medieval date and is in an over fired reddish

orange fabric with common fine to medium quartz and rare ?calcium carbonates to 1mm. The second tile is in an orange fabric with moderate fine quartz, cream streaks and rare fine black iron oxides. It is of medieval to early post-medieval date.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

6.1.1 Natural chalk [004] was encountered in the trench between 0.56m and 0.78m below ground level, i.e. at between 48.82m to 48.87m AOD. This was sealed by a chalky subsoil [003]. Post-medieval gardening, landscaping and dumping in relation to the current Old Hall building was represented by made-ground layer [002]. This layer contained a concentration of brick rubble, charcoal and chalk [005] which may be a dump of building material or alternatively could be the partial remains of a garden path to the Hall. Two of the bricks from this deposit were of late medieval or early post-medieval date and are likely to date from the first phase of the current Old Hall building, although probably re-used in a later feature. All deposits were sealed by a layer of topsoil and turf – a garden soil. No archaeological features were identified cut into the underlying natural chalk deposit.

6.1.2 Based on the results from the trial trench it seems reasonable to assume that the remainder of the area of the proposed extension contains similar deposits relating to the post-medieval occupation of the house and its gardens.

### **6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

6.2.1 The site was free of modern disturbance and there were no factors that inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds. The scarcity of pre-post-medieval archaeological remains encountered cannot therefore be attributed to modern disturbance or truncation of remains and is considered to be due to a genuine absence.

### **6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

6.3.1 Made-ground layer [002] cannot be assigned a definite date but probably represents the earliest deposit within the trench, being post-medieval in date. Within this made-ground layer was a probable 19th century or later garden path or dump of brick rubble, [005]. This contained re-used late medieval or early post-medieval bricks probably deriving from the earliest construction of the current Old Hall building.

### **6.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

6.4.1 The results of the evaluation indicate that no significant archaeological remains are present within this southern part of the extension footprint and that it is unlikely that any such remains will be impacted by the construction of the extension.

### **6.5 Consideration of research aims**

6.5.1 An absence of any significant remains precludes the evaluation from positively addressing any of the research aims as set out in the WSI, apart from to confirm that there was activity related to Old Hall present in the form of re-use of late medieval or 16th century bricks. This supports a 16th century date for the present Old Hall building.

- 6.5.2 There was no evidence relating to a medieval precursor to Old Hall nor were any Roman finds or features encountered.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Mr and Mrs Findlay for commissioning the work and the CHET monitoring archaeologist, Gemma Stewart, for her advice. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record for providing HER information.

The evaluation fieldwork was supervised by Adam Dyson. Lucasz Miciak carried out the site survey work, Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report and Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and the post-excavation process.

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British Geological Survey map viewer -  
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Heritage Gateway -  
[http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced\\_search.aspx](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/advanced_search.aspx)

## HER Summary Form

HER Event no/Site Code	ECB4402					
Identification Name and Address	Old Hall, Camps Road, Bartlow, Cambs					
County, District &/or Borough	Cambridgeshire, South Cambs.					
OS Grid Refs.	TL 58526 45149					
Geology	Chalk					
Archaeol South-East Project Number	8351					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other - Garden		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.  13/3/15	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	House owners					
Project Manager	Adrian Scruby					
Project Supervisor	Adam Dyson					
Period Summary	<del>Palaeo.</del>	<del>Meso.</del>	<del>Neo.</del>	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East carried out a trial-trenching evaluation at Old Hall, in Bartlow, Cambridgeshire in March 2015. This consisted of the machine-excavation of one trial trench within the footprint of the proposed extension located at the south-east corner of the extant house.</p> <p>Old Hall is a Grade II Listed 16th century building, occupying the site of a medieval manor house. It lies to the south-west of the medieval church of St Mary. The area to the south and east of the Hall contains important Roman remains, including buildings and cemeteries and the scheduled monument of Bartlow Hills- a group of six or seven Roman burial mounds.</p> <p>A dump layer containing re-used late medieval or 16th century bricks was recorded which may represent a garden path. No archaeological remains were found that could be definitely dated to earlier than the post-medieval period.</p> <p>There was no evidence relating to a medieval precursor to Old Hall nor were any Roman finds or features encountered. The results of the evaluation indicate that no significant archaeological remains are likely to be present within the proposed extension area.</p>						

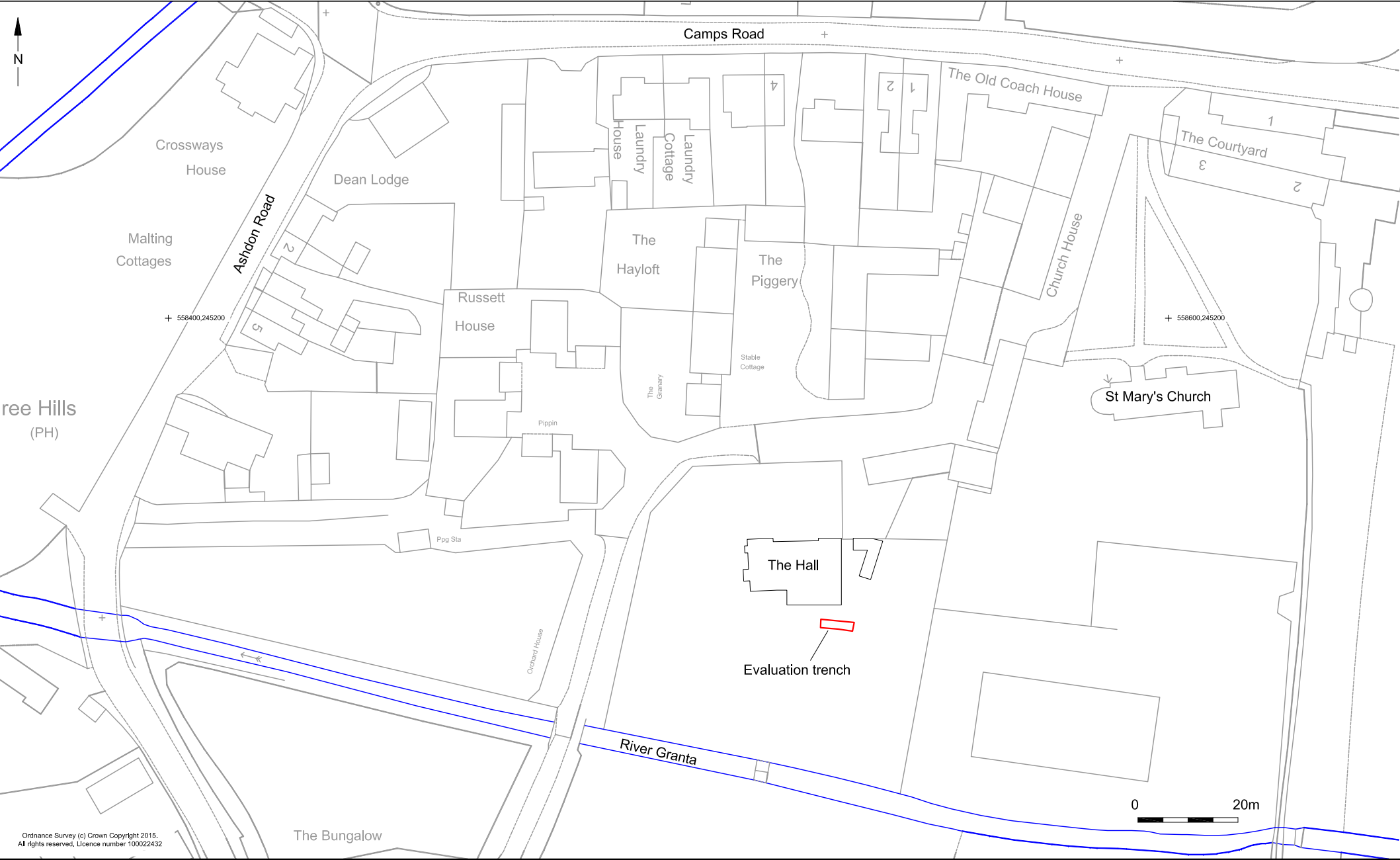
## OASIS Form

<b>OASIS ID: archaeol6-209646</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Evaluation at Old Hall, Camps Road, Bartlow, Cambs
Short description of the project	The work consisted of the machine-excavation of one trial trench within the footprint of the proposed extension. Old Hall is a Grade II Listed 16th century building, occupying the site of a medieval manor house. It lies to the south-west of the medieval church of St Mary. The area to the south and east of the Hall contains important Roman remains, including buildings and cemeteries and the Bartlow Hills- a group of six or seven Roman burial mounds. A dump layer containing re-used late medieval or 16th century bricks was recorded which may represent a garden path. No archaeological remains were found that could be definitely dated to earlier than the post-medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 23-03-2015 End: 23-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4402 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	8351 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	S/2846/14/LB - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DUMP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICKS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Building refurbishment/repairs/restoration
Development type	Extension
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	Cambridgeshire/South Cambridgeshire/Bartlow/Old Hall, Bartlow
Postcode	CB21 4PP
Study area	42.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 58526 45149 52.081515968 0.313756082614 52 04 53 N 000 18 49 E Point
Height of natural OD / Depth	Min: 48.82m Max: 48.87m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby

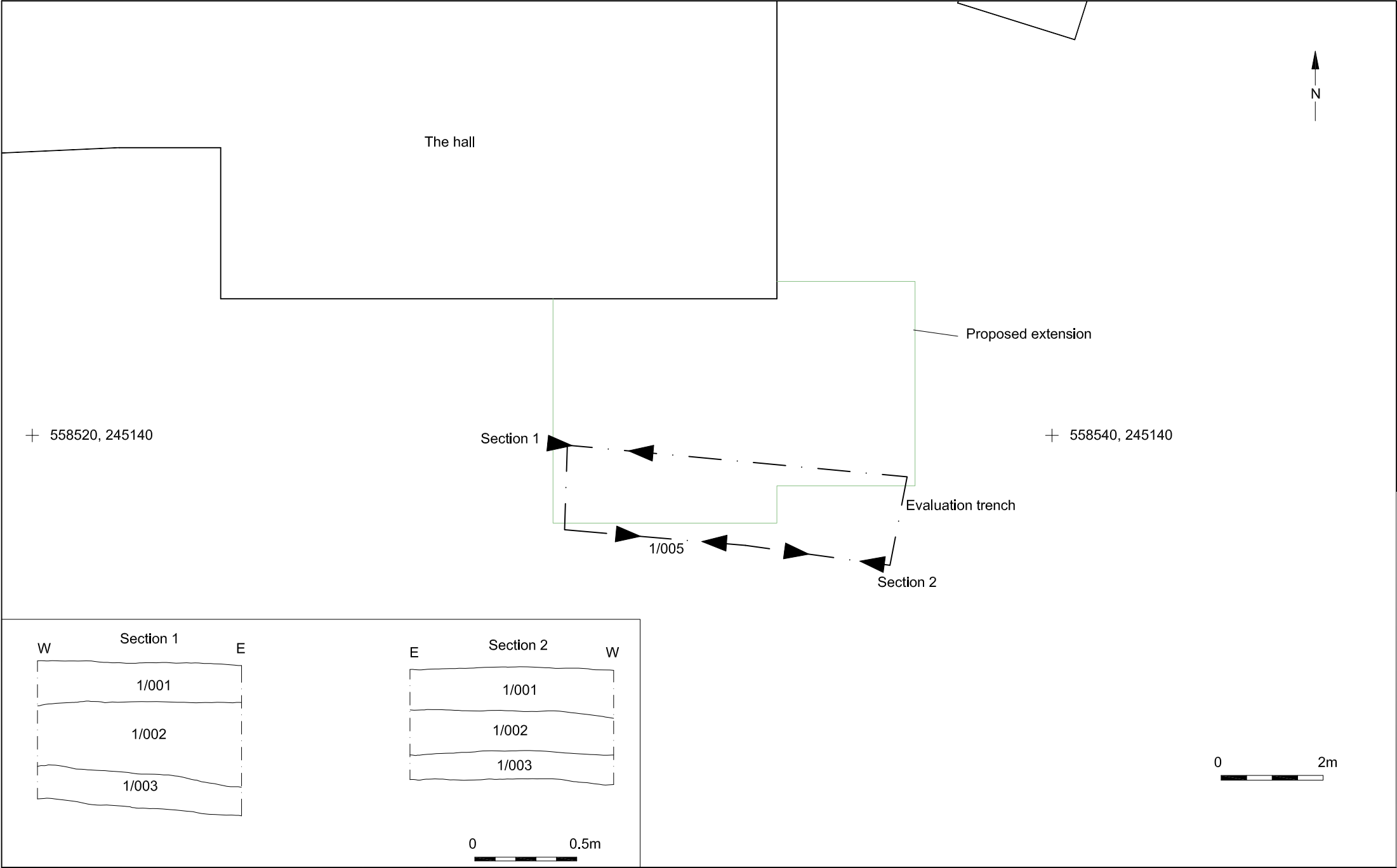
Project supervisor	Adam Dyson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owners
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private
Name of sponsor/funding body	Owners
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB4402
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB4402
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB4402
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Entered by	Kate Clover (k.clover@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	22 April 2015



© Archaeology South-East		Old Hall, Bartlow, Cambridgeshire	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8351	Mar 2015	Site location	
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© Archaeology South-East		Old Hall, Bartlow, Cambridgeshire	Fig.2
Project Ref: 8351	Apr 2015	Trench location	
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© Archaeology South-East		Old Hall, Bartlow, Cambridgeshire	Fig.3
Project Ref: 8351	Apr 2015	Trench location and sections 1 and 2	
Report No: 2015133	Drawn by: APL		



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west (1m scales)



Plate 2: Section 1, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 3: Section 2, looking south (1m scale)



Plate 4: Layer / dump deposit [1/005], looking south (1m scale)

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