

**Annexe Extensions at
The Hall,
Churchend, Great Canfield, Essex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**ASE Project No: 200139
Site Code: LCCC20**

ASE Report No: 2020125



July 2020

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Annexe Extensions at
The Hall,
Churchend, Great Canfield, Essex
CM6 1JT**

NGR: TL 59329 17933

Planning Ref: UTT/19/2630/LB, UTT/19/2636/HHF

**ASE Project No: 200139
Site Code: LCCC20**

**ASE Report No: 2020125
OASIS id: 397478**

By Samara King

Illustrations by Nathalie Gonzalez

Prepared by:	Samara King	Senior Archaeologist
Reviewed & approved by:	Mark Atkinson	Project Manager
Date of Issue:	July 2020	
Version:	1	

**Archaeology South-East
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ**

**Tel: 01376 331470
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology-south-east**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on 16 June 2020 by Archaeology South-East on the excavation of two foundation trenches for room extensions onto the annexe at The Hall, Churchend, Great Canfield. The fieldwork was commissioned by LBF Architects, on behalf of their client, Mr. Knight.

The site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Canfield Castle and associated enclosure (No. 1007821), and The Hall itself is a listed building (No. 1120783).

Observation during the excavation of the wall foundation trenches recorded a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil and concrete paving stones over modern made-ground layers onto boulder clay natural deposits.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were located in either of the trenches and the further archaeological potential for remains within the wider development area is considered to be negligible.

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
- Appendix 2: OASIS Form

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of finds and environmental samples
- Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

FIGURES

- Front Cover: View of Trench 2, looking north
- Figure 1: Site location and designated heritage assets
- Figure 2: Development design and trench locations
- Figure 3: Photographs of the trench locations and of the deposit sequences

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of UCL's Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, were commissioned by LBF Architects, on behalf of their client, Mr. Knight, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Hall, Churchend, Great Canfield, Essex.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in fulfilment of a condition attached to planning consent for two extensions to the annexe attached to The Hall.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located at the end of Churchend Road, Great Canfield, in west Essex (NGR TL 59329 17933; Figure 1). It comprises The Hall, which is a Grade II Listed Building (List No. 1120783), and its surrounding gardens that include the Scheduled Monument of Canfield Castle and associated moated enclosure (List No. 1007821). The motte and bailey of the latter are situated to the east of The Hall on low ground overlooking a bend in the River Roding.
- 1.2.2 The Hall is situated on slightly higher and relatively level ground. The two extensions to the annexe are located within lawned gardens surrounding the house.
- 1.2.3 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS) online geological mapping (1:50,000 scale), the bedrock geology across the site is mapped as London Clay that consists of a mix of clay, silt and sand. That is overlain by superficial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS 2020).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Uttlesford District Council has granted planning permission for the construction of two extensions to the annexe of The Hall (Refs. UTT/19/2630/LB, UTT/19/2636/HHF). As the site lies within a Scheduled Monument and given the heritage significance of the area, Essex County Council's Place Services (ECCPS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to Uttlesford District Council, recommended a condition be attached to the consent requiring a programme of archaeological work comprising monitoring during groundworks.
- 1.3.2 Subsequently, LBF Architects commissioned ASE to undertake the fieldwork. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by ASE (2020) for an archaeological watching brief and has been submitted to ECCPS and to Historic England prior to fieldwork for the scheduled monument consent.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 In general, the archaeological watching brief aimed to record the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered in order that they could be preserved by record.

- 1.4.2 As informed by the history of the site, the investigation also sought any evidence for buildings on the site that pre-date the extant Hall.
- 1.4.3 In reference to the regional research framework (Medlycott 2011), the site has the potential to address the topic of the origins of medieval church/hall complex sites.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken on the 16 June 2020. It describes the archaeological remains encountered in the excavated trenches, assesses their significance and considers the archaeological potential/implication for the wider site.
- 1.5.2 The fieldwork was supervised by Samara King (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and post-excavation work by Mark Atkinson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical background information is drawn from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the WSI (ASE 2020). The site itself sits within a Scheduled Monument (List No. 1007821); the locations of other listed buildings and the SM are shown on Figure 1.

2.2 Period Summaries

Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Palaeolithic remains in the Uttlesford District comprise artefacts which have typically been recorded as chance finds or residual in later contexts. These represent the remains of the early human occupation in the area. The Mesolithic period is similarly represented in the archaeological record by scatters of flint artefacts.
- 2.2.2 Neolithic occupation is better attested in the district. Whilst still typically represented by artefacts, some are *in situ*, such as the flint-knapping floors that have been identified in the vicinity of Great Dunmow.
- 2.2.3 In the early part of the Bronze Age, the district would have been wooded, but there is evidence of hunting parties utilising the landscape and there are also monumental sites such as barrows and henges. The Middle and Late Bronze Age saw an increase in clearance of woodland and agricultural exploitation. This was accompanied by an increased population evidenced by the presence of cremation burials and settlements.
- 2.2.4 Evidence for Iron Age occupation is found throughout the district, such as the hillforts at Wallingbury and Audley End, and settlements such as at Stansted.
- 2.2.5 Within 1km of the site, known prehistoric remains consist of five findspots.

Roman

- 2.2.6 Roman towns are recorded in the district, including at Leaden Roding and Great Dunmow. The rural areas around them were the sites of scattered villas and farmsteads. Known remains of this date in the area around the site are limited to three findspots. As with many churches in Essex, Roman brick is incorporated into the fabric of St. Mary's Church (EHER4300).

Medieval

- 2.2.7 Great Canfield is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) with its name recorded *Canfeldam*, perhaps derived from field of canes/reeds, relating to the Roding valley. The manor and its resources were held by the de Vere family following the conquest and remained so for centuries.

- 2.2.8 The medieval core of Great Canfield is situated in a bend of the River Roding and comprises the parish church of St Mary, the manorial hall and the castle. The Grade I Listed church of St Mary (List No. 1120855) dates to the 12th century, with later additions and alterations. To its south-west is the castle, which is likely to be of similar date with documentary references to it between 1154 and 1216. The motte, its surrounding moat, a horseshoe-shaped bailey and a causeway comprise the remaining components of the castle (SM 1007821), located to the east of the current development area.
- 2.2.9 The extant Grade II Listed Hall is of 16th- to 17th-century date with later additions and alterations (List No. 1120783), but is assumed to have earlier antecedents, perhaps in the vicinity. It is recorded as being surround by a farmstead moat and it would seem most likely that if earlier incarnations of the hall were present on site, it would be within that enclosure.

Post-medieval

- 2.2.10 Little changed within Great Canfield and the site itself during the post-medieval period. Further extensions were built onto the timber-framed and plastered manor hall during the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 2.2.11 The annexe building that is attached to the Hall was originally a stable outbuilding, which was converted to residential use in 2006. Archaeological monitoring during the construction of a conservatory building that links the annexe to the Hall identified six brick-built pads of likely post-medieval date (EHER46539). Old photos of the site show what appears to be a granary here and the pads are likely to have been its foundation (Germany 2006).

Undated

- 2.2.12 The EHER also records a range of cropmarks around the site (Fig. 1). These largely comprise cropmarks of field boundaries and occasional enclosures, reflecting the rural nature of the surrounding landscape.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigation

- 2.3.1 With the exception of the watching brief conducted in 2006 during the conservatory construction, no archaeological fieldwork has taken place on site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A site code (LCCC20) was obtained from ECCPS and was used as the unique site identifier for the entire project archive.
- 3.1.2 As stipulated by ECCPS and the WSI (ASE 2020), archaeological monitoring was performed by a qualified archaeologist throughout the programme of groundworks at The Hall. This comprised the mechanical excavation, with a 0.60m toothless ditching bucket, of two foundation trenches; one for each room extension. Trench 1 was excavated along the external wall lines of the extension on the south-west side of the annexe and measured approximately 3m x 4.35m x 3m and 0.60m wide. Trench 2 was similarly excavated along the wall lines of the extension located on the south-east side of the annexe and measured approximately 3m x 4m x 3m and 0.60m wide (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.3 The foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m or to the natural deposit horizon, whichever was reached first.
- 3.1.4 Site recording was carried out in accordance with standard ASE methodologies, which are in line with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), and in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2017).
- 3.1.5 The trenches were recorded on standard ASE trench sheets and a watching brief record was also kept. A digital photographic record of all trenches and recorded sections was compiled, which also included working shots to represent more generally the nature of the site and fieldwork.
- 3.1.6 Soil horizons and deposits were numbered using a unique sequence of context numbers in the range 2000–2011 and recorded on *pro forma* watching brief recording sheets.
- 3.1.7 No artefacts were recovered nor environmental soil samples taken from excavated contexts.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Due to an active oil supply pipe running ENE/WSW through the south-east extension site and a water drain located along the north-east edge of the same extension, some modifications were made to Trench 2. The two NNW/SSE segments were shortened to approximately 2m long and the north-east segment was also shifted approximately 0.20m to avoid the drain (see Fig. 2).

3.3 Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the Witham office of ASE. Following completion of all post-excavation work, the site archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum.
- 3.3.2 The contents of the archive have been collated in accordance with ClfA standards (2014c) and are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	8
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	16
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	1
Trench Record forms	2

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 Archaeological monitoring of the development site involved the observation of the building contractor's excavation of wall foundation trenches for the two proposed annexe extensions (Fig. 2).
- 4.1.2 The machine-cut foundation trenches were 0.60m wide and varied in depth between 0.65m and 1.0m (Fig. 3).
- 4.1.3 No archaeological features or remains were observed within the observed trenches. Late post-medieval/modern brick and tile rubble, metal and clinker were observed throughout made-ground layers, demonstrating levelling and landscaping land use.

4.2 Deposit Sequence

- 4.2.1 The deposit sequence across the site was consistent, with a thin layer of dark topsoil/turf (Trench 1) or concrete patio stones and levelling sand (Trench 2) overlying slightly varied layers of made-ground containing 19th/20th century brick and tile rubble, clinker and metal. These layers varied in thickness from 0.52m to 0.81m and directly overlay natural deposits of boulder clay. The recorded sequence in each trench is detailed in Tables 3 and 4, below. Representative photographic views are provided in Figure 3.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit thickness m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, friable silty clay with turf	Trench	Trench	0.08-0.15
1/002	Layer	Made-ground. Mid yellowish grey silty clay with occasional chalk pieces and CBM rubble, clinker and metal	Trench	Trench	0.27-0.70
1/003	Deposit	Dump. Dark blackish grey silty clay with frequent charcoal and clinker	Only present in NW	Trench	0.28
1/004	Deposit	Natural. Mid greyish yellow boulder clay	Trench	Trench	-

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit thickness m
2/001	Layer	Concrete patio	Trench	Trench	0.05
2/002	Layer	Levelling material. Light yellow sand	Trench	Trench	0.10
2/003	Layer	Made-ground. Dark blackish grey silty clay with frequent CBM rubble, clinker, chalk	Trench	Trench	0.60-0.70
2/004	Deposit	Natural. Mid greyish yellow boulder clay	Trench	Trench	-

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.2 No archaeological features or deposits of pre-modern date were identified within the observed foundation trenches. No artefacts, either *in situ* or residual, were recovered during the course of the works, nor were any deposits suitable for environmental soil sampling encountered.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 A relatively straightforward sequence of horizontal strata was observed in both monitored foundation trenches, consisting of natural boulder clay overlain by relatively recent made-ground deposits and capped by topsoil or tarmac surfaces. The top of natural deposits were encountered at between 0.60m and 0.80m below current ground level.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 The fairly substantial thickness of the made-ground layers and absence of the original topsoil/ground surface indicate that modern landscaping and levelling has been significant. This could have disturbed or removed any archaeological remains once present. However, no residual artefacts of pre-modern date were present in the excavated deposits and it is likely that no such remains were formerly present.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

- 5.3.1 The results of the fieldwork at The Hall, Great Canfield, has fulfilled the general aims of the archaeological monitoring by establishing the absence of below-ground archaeological remains within the building extension footprints.
- 5.3.2 Due to this absence, there is no potential for the two extension areas to inform on earlier development of The Hall or to contribute to wider research on the origins of the medieval church/hall complex in the East of England region.

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken on extension groundworks at The Hall, Great Canfield, has found no archaeological remains, either relating to the early development of The Hall or to preceding land use.
- 5.4.2 It is considered that the construction of these two extensions to the annexe at The Hall have had negligible impact upon the below-ground archaeological resource of this location.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE. 2020, *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation: Annexe Extension at The Hall, Church End, Great Canfield, Essex CM6 1JT*

BGS (British Geological Survey), 2020, Geology of Britain Viewer, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 24/06/2020)

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8

CIfA. 2014a, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (revised)*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA, 2014b, *Code of Conduct (revised)*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA. 2014c, *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Germany, M. 2006, *The Hall, Great Canfield, Essex. Archaeological Watching Brief*. ECC FAU Proj. Ref. 1596

Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14

Medlycott, M. 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank LBF Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of their client, Mr. Knight, and for their assistance throughout the project, and Maria Medlycott at Essex County Council Place Services for her guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was conducted by Samara King. The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and post-excavation by Mark Atkinson. Nathalie Gonzalez and Ellen Heppell produced the illustrations for the report.

Appendix 1: HER Summary

Site name / Address: <i>Annexe Extension at The Hall, Churchend, Great Canfield, Essex CM6 1JT</i>	
Parish: <i>Great Canfield</i>	District: <i>Uttlesford</i>
NGR: <i>TL 59329 17933</i>	Site Code: <i>LCCC20</i>
Type of Work: <i>Watching brief</i>	Site Director: <i>S. King, Archaeology South-East</i>
Dates of Work: <i>16 June 2020</i>	Site Area: <i>25 sq m</i>
Location of Finds / Curating Museum: <i>Braintree Museum</i>	Funding source: <i>Client</i>
Further Seasons Anticipated?: <i>No</i>	Related HER Nos:
Final Report: <i>2020125</i>	OASIS No: <i>397478</i>
Periods Represented: <i>None</i>	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried-out during the excavation of wall foundation trenches for two room extensions onto the annexe at The Hall, Churchend, Great Canfield. The site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Canfield Castle and its associated enclosure (No. 1007821) and The Hall is itself is a listed building (No. 1120783).</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring during the excavation of foundation trenches revealed a stratigraphic sequence of topsoil and concrete paving stones over modern made-ground layers onto boulder clay natural deposits.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered in either of the trenches.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries / Reports:	
<i>Germany, M. 2006, The Hall, Great Canfield, Essex. Archaeological Watching Brief. ECC FAU Proj. Ref. 1596</i>	
Author of Summary:	Date of Summary:
<i>Samara King</i>	<i>June 2020</i>

Appendix 2: OASIS Form**OASIS ID: 397478****Project details**

Project name	The Hall, Churchend, Great Canfield, Essex
Short description of the project	Archaeological watching brief was carried-out during the excavation of wall foundation trenches for two extensions to The Hall. A sequence of topsoil and concrete paving over modern made-ground layers onto boulder clay natural deposits was recorded. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 16-06-2020 End: 16-06-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	200139 - Contracting Unit No. 1120783 - LBS No. UTT/19/2630/LB - Planning Application No. UTT/19/2636/HHF - Planning Application No. 1007821 - SM No. LCCC20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM); Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

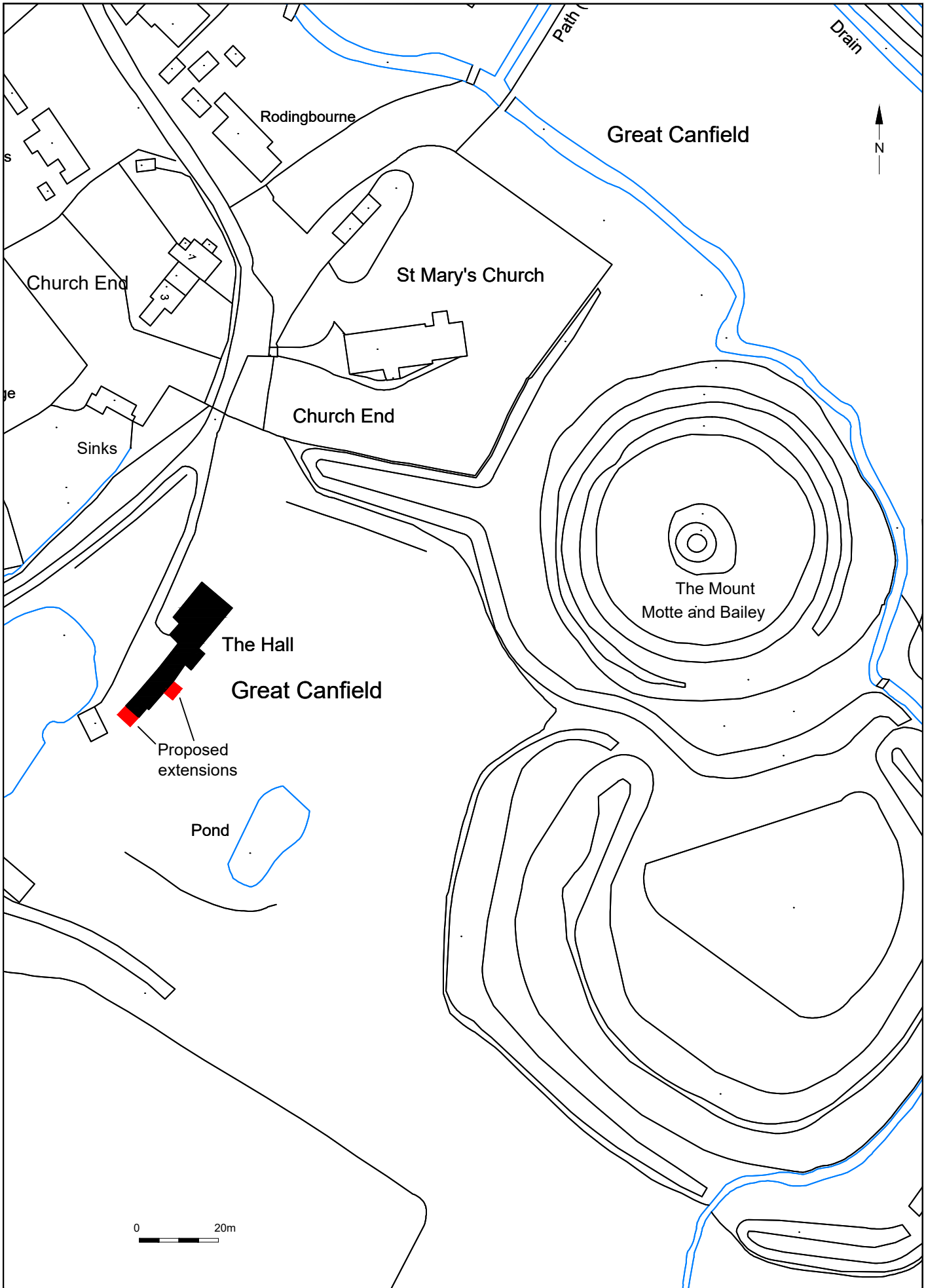
Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT CANFIELD Annexe Extension at The Hall, Churchend, Great Canfield
Postcode	CM6 1JT
Study area	25 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 59329 17933 51.8367653639 0.31284156913 51 50 12 N 000 18 46 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 74m Max: 74.4m

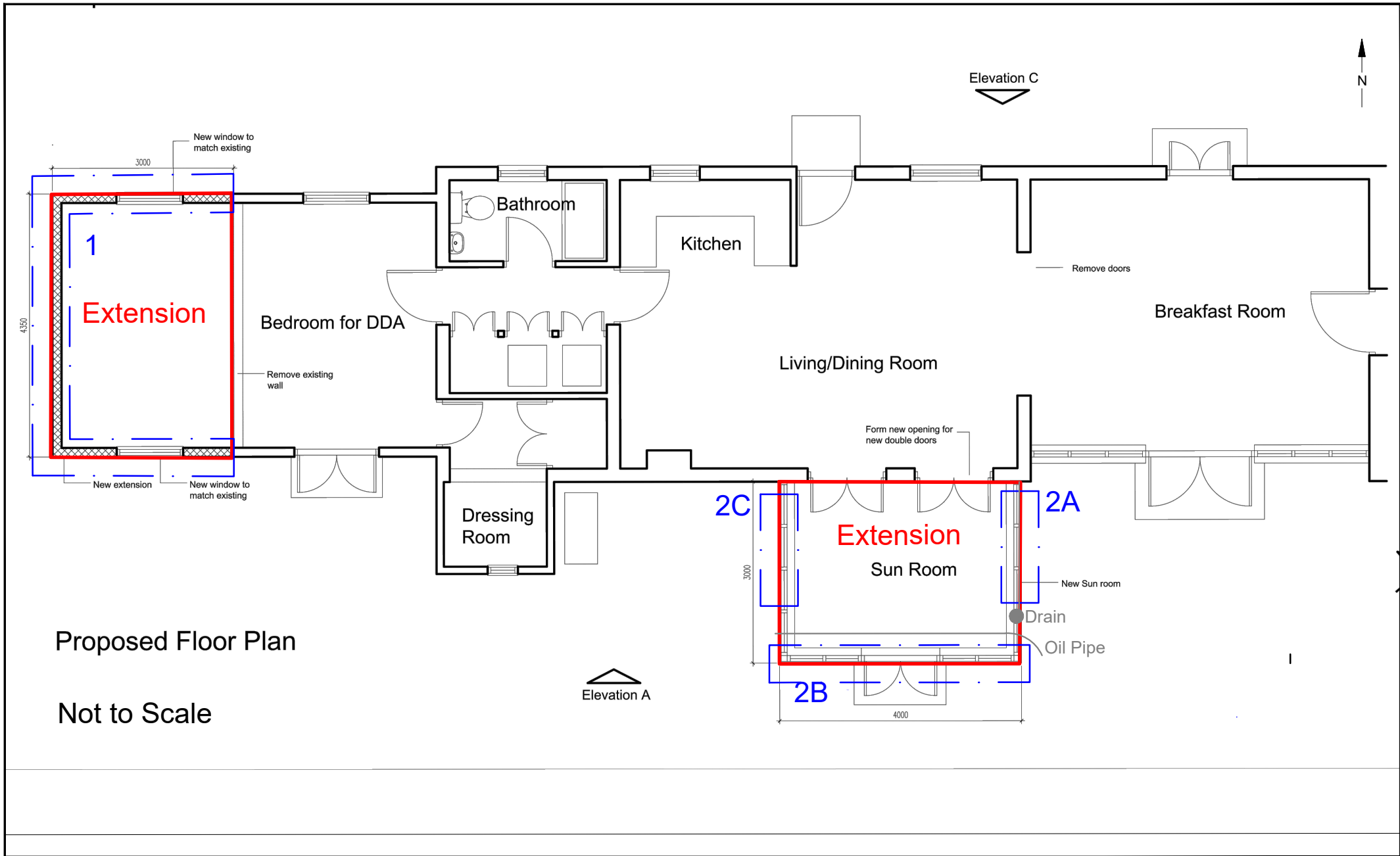
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Samara King
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architects

Name of sponsor/funding body	LBF Architects
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital/Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief: Annexe Extension at The Hall, Churchend, Great Canfield, Essex CM6 1JT
Author(s)/Editor(s)	King, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No.: 2020125
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4 blue spine report of approximately 20 pages including figures
URL	archaeologydataservice.ac.uk



© Archaeology South-East		The Hall, Great Canfield	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 200139	July 2020	Site location	
Report Ref: 2020125	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		The Hall, Great Canfield	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 200139	March 2020	Watching brief location	
Report Ref: 2020125	Drawn by: NG		



Trench 1



Trench 1 south-west edge



Trench 2



Trench 2 south-east edge

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

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
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

