

**Historic Analysis of the Remaining
Buildings at Butler's Farm,
Broomfield Road, Broomfield, Essex.**



**by
Elphin & Brenda Watkin
August 2011**

Butlers Farm ,Broomfield, Essex.



Enlarged extract from 1:25000 OS map showing location of Butler's Farm.

**ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY**

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Butler's Farm, Main Road, Broomfield, Essex. CM1 7EN	
Parish: Broomfield	District: Chelmsford Borough Council
NGR: TL 7079 1102	Site Code: BROBF11
Type of Work: Historic Analysis of buildings before redevelopment	Site Director/Team: T E Watkin
Date of Work: August 2011	Size of Area Investigated: c1850 sq. M
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/A	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHER No.s: ---
Final Report: Yes	
Periods Represented: Mid C19 to End C20	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: This report arises from Chelmsford Borough Council giving permission for redevelopment of the farmyard with a substantial amount of demolition. This can be classed as a new farm site as when the fields were sold off from the estate of Butlers in 1837 no buildings existed. The Chase down to the river Chelmer did exist and the farm with dwelling house was built within the next few years by local entrepreneur and business man, Thomas Christie. The fields were nearly all in arable cultivation before the sale and the first farm buildings reflect this with a threshing barn, stables and cart lodge. Other buildings not clear on the Tithe map were built at the north and east of the barn. These are thought to be feed and animal buildings and shelters, possibly for cattle providing manure and maybe dairy products as it was so near to the town. Within a short while and before the 1875 OS map more buildings appear suggesting a major change to animal production maybe following the steady decline in grain prices. By the turn of the century further development took place with more buildings to the south including a double sided unit possibly with calf pens to one side and an open fronted building to the north. These linked to a range projecting south from the northern build suggesting closed yards with shelter sheds. The map also shows a large area between them roofed, was it a covered yard? Not much change in the next sixty years other than inside buildings. Then a large Dutch barn and a bulk storage building fill a large area of the site. The older buildings all sink into decline through lack of use. The first build is with walls and plinths in brick and flint, the barn timber framed mainly from machined softwood. All this 1st phase have similar roof structures. Soon after a building using standard timber trusses and a little later the brick used is London stock. Very little documentary evidence survives from build to decline to fill in more detail of the changes to this farm complex.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: Short report by D Stenning. Copy with full report.	
Author of Summary: T E Watkin	Date of Summary: 31st August 2011