

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address:		STONE HALL BARN, MATCHING, ESSEX.	
Parish:	MATCHING	District:	EPPING FOREST
NGR:	TQ 5288 1235	Site Code:	MATSH06
Type of Work:	FRAME SURVEY	Site Director/Team:	ELPHIN WATKIN
Date of Work:	SEPT/OCT 2006	Size of Area Investigated:	1000 SQ. METRES
Location of Finds/Curating Museum:	N/A	Funding source:	OWNER
Further Seasons Anticipated?:	NO	Related EHER No.s:	NONE
Final Report:	YES		
Periods Represented:	C17+		
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>This survey was undertaken in a tight window during the removal of the existing wall cladding of the barn and the recovering before commencing conversion from office use to domestic.</p> <p>The barn went out of farming use many years ago and had been converted for office use. No access was available inside the barn for this survey and comments are based on the owners series of photographs.</p> <p>The barn is single aisled with midstrey and is now of four bays. The general structure suggests a time of original build towards the end of the C16 or into the early C17. The barn has a possible eighteenth century lean-to between midstrey and porch in the one bay to the south of the midstrey. To its north are attached new buildings which are the second replacements for earlier shelter sheds. From the exposed north walling visible during the survey it is suggested that the barn has lost one bay to the south. The reason being that the wall-plate has scarf joints labelled I, II, III and I is only a little way into the building from the southern end suggesting that the wall-plate was in fact about one & one third bays long which would make it similar to the other continuing lengths in that wall. The building still has an original half hipped roof at the northern end but that at the south is fully gabled and the frame infill shows as not to be original. This is another reason to suggest the shortening as well as empty mortises in the southern elevation that would be for the for the continuing frame members. Trapped within the lean-to roof slope is a small area of what was possibly the original walling of the barn. It appears to be a dauby infill with lime render onto split laths. The main midstrey door opening has seen some changes and now has later doors fitted. Its projecting gabled roof was very reminiscent of Kent styles rather than Essex, as were the aisle tie to arcade post braces or shores that in Essex are more usually from post to ground sill. The farm was severely reduced in size by the mid C19 which has restricted its working to a small mixed farm and in its later life with the addition of a small poultry unit sustaining it until the whole farm complex was converted for commercial uses.</p>			
Previous Summaries/Reports:		N/A	
Author of Summary:	Elphin Watkin	Date of Summary:	4th December 2006