

# Haslingfield Manor, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Monitoring of Topsoil Stripping and Moat Cleaning



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**Haslingfield Manor, Cambridgeshire:  
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and Simon Timberlake

Illustrations by Jane Matthews

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## **Introduction**

An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at Haslingfield Manor, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4055 5230) from 19<sup>th</sup> April to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The monitoring followed a written scheme of investigation set out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (Standring 2011) in response to a design brief issued by Cambridge Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice (Gdaniec 2011) and discussion with Mr Will Fletcher, Regional Inspector for English Heritage. The monitoring was conducted in two phases; the first phase consisted of monitoring the topsoil strip of the storage area to the west of the house (see Figure 2) for the excavated moat sediments and the second phase consisted of monitoring the actual cleaning and examination of the removed deposits of the western moat.

The topsoil strips revealed an area of disturbance that related to the demolition of the pre-existing house and contained rubble material that included bricks, tiles and domestic debris dated from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. Two pit features were uncovered that dated to the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century. Domestic debris that dated from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century was also recorded throughout the stripped area that was incorporated in a deposit that derived from the re-cutting of the moat and was used to level the interior of the site. The recent excavated moat sediments contained little artefactual evidence suggesting that the moat had been extensively cleaned, sometime prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **Topography and Geology**

The site lies at the centre of Haslingfield, 7.5km southwest of Cambridge (TL 4055 5230) and the underlying geology is of Lower Chalk overlying Gault Clay (British Geological Survey 1984). The approximate height of the site ranges from 22.00m (north) to 22.05m (south) OD.

The interior of the site of Haslingfield Manor<sup>1</sup> is characterised by the current house and out-buildings being delineated by a three sided moat (east, west and south) with a wall on the fourth side (to the north); the remainder being gardens largely laid to lawn with widely spaced trees. Access to the interior of the site is over a 17<sup>th</sup> century bridge.

The topography of the area of investigation was characterised by an area of flat lawn surrounded by a three-sided moat with interspersed mature trees. The southern part of the western moat was straight and even sided that turned at an 80° angle and became much wider and irregular in plan. The northern tip of the western arm of the moat incorporates a reed bed (see Figure 2).

## **Archaeological and Historical**

The site lies in an area of archaeological potential for medieval activity; full details of the historical and archaeological background of the immediate environs are outlined in a Desk Based Assessment (Cooper 2003) and therefore will only be summarised here.

The first recorded information we have for the site was that it was purchased by Thomas Wendy in 1541, who was Henry VIII physician. A phase of embankment within the assumed core of the village meant that in 1550, with one third of the area to

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<sup>1</sup> The site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 27107)

the north of the village enclosed and occupied by the park of Haslingfield Hall (VCH 1973). The date of the moat is not conclusively established, although it is considered likely to be contemporary with the construction of the Hall; it is possible that a moat existed prior to the Hall and was re-cut during the 16<sup>th</sup> century construction.

An archaeological evaluation by the CAU adjacent to the current house uncovered phases of occupation dating from at least 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Pottery recovered from the three trenches was dominated by fine wares suggesting a high status residence. In addition, the site of a manor at Haslingfield was mentioned in 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century documents, all of which suggests occupation on the site prior to the present house (Mackay 2003).

The irregular shape of the western arm of the moat may indicate an earlier feature such as a pond incorporated into the layout of the moat or that it could more recent re-cutting of the moat to make a large area. The results of the evaluation undertaken in 2003 suggested that the medieval horizons were sealed by re-deposited layers of marl which would be the upcast from the moat construction during the 1500s (Mackay 2003).

An assessment of the moat profile and environmental potential of sediments through coring was undertaken in 2004 and a subsequent cleaning of the moat in 2005 (Timberlake 2006). The results of this work suggested that the sediments in the western arm of the moat was the least well preserved, with up to five cycles of disturbance and re-cutting being shown with a greater amount of disturbance in the northwest corner (Boreham 2006). The cleaning of the moat in 2005 was confined to the upper sediments; these deposits were considered to be of a more recent date as highlighted by the artefacts recovered from these deposits that included a 1940s penny and more modern detritus.

Within the sites environs, there is another example of a moated site; Pates Farm 0.41km to the northwest that has the remains of an L-shaped moat (CHER 10002). In the wider landscape, there are numerous moated sites throughout Cambridgeshire with varying degrees of preservation and surviving earthworks; the majority of which also have buildings of different dates. One such example is at Hall Orchard in Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire which had occupational evidence from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (CHER 01201). Another moated site is recorded at Wimpole (CHER 01108) and at Bottisham Park (CHER 01124d) and the Manor of Hemingford Grey, which had 12<sup>th</sup> century origins (CHER 01059).

### **Original Research Aims**

The principle objective of the evaluation was to determine the presence, absence, extent and nature of archaeological activity and to assess the degree of preservation of any features and environmental remains and how this could impact upon the future development. More broadly, the evaluation aims were:

- To determine the degree of preservation and chronological range of any archaeological and environmental remains
- To identify the potential remains of the demolished house within the development area and determine the relationship with the broader archaeological landscape
- To assess the regional context of the site and to highlight any relevant research issues within a regional and national research framework

## Investigation Strategies

The topsoil was stripped with a 360° tracked excavator with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket, which removed the lawn and grass roots only (approximately between 0.02m to 0.05m), under the careful supervision of an experienced archaeologist. The unit modified version of the MoLAS recording system was used; all relevant archaeological features were planned at 1:100, and augmented by a colour digital imagery photographic record. Archaeological features were assigned a unique number (e.g. **F.100**; bolded upon introduction within the text) and each stratigraphically distinct episode (e.g. a cut, a fill) was recorded with a unique context number, (e.g. [001]). All exposed areas and moat sediments were metal detected using a Laser Rapier metal detector as agreed with English Heritage. The site was surveyed into the Ordnance Survey Grid and Ordnance Datum by means of an RTK GPS unit. All work was carried out with strict adherence to Health and Safety legislation and within the recommendations of SCAUM.

In total four features and two layers were identified during the excavation, with nine separate contexts assigned. The artefacts and accompanying documentation have been compiled into a stable, cross-referenced and indexed archive in Accordance MoRPHE Project managers Guide (English Heritage 2006). The archive is currently stored at the offices of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit under the project code HAS 11.

## Results

### *Topsoil Stripping*

The programme of topsoil stripping was undertaken on the grass lawn to the west of the current house and with a clearance of at least 2.00m from the very edge of the moat and to avoid the base of the 17<sup>th</sup> century wall previously located in the watching brief conducted in 2005. This stripped area for the storage of the excavated moat material, was determined by suitable access for machinery and the position of trees throughout the garden (see Figure 4). A bund was created using the stripped topsoil during the stripping process to contain the wet deposits.

In total, the depth of the topsoil removed was between 0.02m to 0.05m, and throughout the stripped area, artefacts were recovered that ranged in typology and date from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century (see Figure 3 for the distribution plan). Beneath the layer of thin topsoil was what appeared to be re-deposited natural with artefacts incorporated into it that ranged from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that probably corresponded with layer [051] recorded during the previous evaluation (Mackay 2003). To the east of the area, **F.1** was an area of what appeared to be demolition rubble in addition to domestic debris. A number of structural elements were also recovered, in the form of bricks of at least two categories, tiles, (both roof and floor), clunch and pieces of window lead. A representative sample of these was collected. There were also numerous fragments of pottery, glass and metalwork. These were all mixed in date and ranged from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, (see Appendices).

Two pit features, **F.2** and **F.3**, which were fairly modern in date (19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century), were also recorded (see Figure 3). A lead pipe was found with a metal detector running from the centre of the area to the southwest corner of the moat, which possibly could represent an overflow pipe of which the date is unknown.

### *Moat Cleaning*

The method used to employ the cleaning of the moat occurred in two main stages and was undertaken by a specialist contractor, Miles Waterscapes. A bund was created across the moat at the southwest corner, which allowed the water to be drained from the southern arm into the western arm. A machine then entered the drained moat and excavated the sediments by placing it within reach of an additional machine that was placed on the top of the bank. The sediments were then secondarily handled into the storage area; which was subsequently pushed to the areas not within initial reach of the second machine (see Figure 4). The same bund was used with the draining of the western part of the moat.

The excavated material was examined for artefacts and to monitor the sediment matrix. Very little artefactual material was recovered; only one glass vessel, which was a pharmaceutical bottle dated to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (see Appendix). The silts were also sterile and only contained organic remains such as twigs and leaves.

The profile of the southern part of the moat had moderately steep straight sides on the outer edge with a sharp break of slope and flat base which suggested that it had been cleaned and perhaps re-cut (see Figure 7). The inner bank appeared to be steep and more vertical, although this could not be clarified due to the nature of the excavation and for the protection of the buried wall. The western part was much wider and irregular, perhaps due to an existing pond incorporated into the moat or because it was extended afterwards. On the western side of the moat, the outer edge had gradually sloping straight sides with a gradual break of slope and flat base with the inner side continuing at a much steeper angle (see Figure 5).

During the clearing of brambles and overgrown vegetation at the northern point of the western moat, part of a collapsed wall, **F.4**, was observed at the edge of the moat that connected to the previously located 17<sup>th</sup> century wall (see Figure 3). This had several courses of brickwork and was constructed in the style of a English Garden Wall (see Figure 6). The exposed portion of wall was surveyed and recorded and it was observed that it continued northwards towards the turning point of the existing wall of the garden to the north. Beneath this collapsed wall was a 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century construction, which was seen after that area of moat was cleaned (see Figure 6). This suggests that the 17<sup>th</sup> century wall was perhaps still standing upright at the time when the later more modern feature was constructed.

### **Discussion**

The removal of topsoil for the storage area highlighted an area where the original footing of the house was located and the mixed nature of the artefact assemblage highlighted the fact that there was a lot of disturbance and mixing of contexts. The mixed nature of the assemblage was also evident in the re-deposited natural layer [003] potentially derived from the 'digging' or re-cutting of the moat, with the excavated material used to level the interior of the moated site. There was little evidence of material recovered that dated prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, indicating that occupation of an older date potentially lies deeper, as highlighted in the evaluation (Mackay 2003).

During the cleaning of the moat the only artefacts recovered from the sediments were the single glass vessel and bricks from the collapsed wall in the western moat at the northern end. It can be suggested that the western part of the moat probably incorporated an early pond or known wet area which would suggest the lack of

symmetry between the two arms of the moat. The remains of the collapsed wall suggested that the inner edge of the moat was perhaps walled and was a continuation on from the wall adjacent to the bridge at the front of the site (see Figure 7). The lack of archaeological evidence in the form of material culture or environmental remains suggest that the moat was re-cut thus removing all previous evidence of any earlier activity that could have provided an accurate date. There is little evidence of disturbance on the eastern moat and therefore the potential of recovering evidence of earlier activity is much higher, as suggested with the environmental boring sampling strategy conducted by Steve Boreham.

The site at Haslingfield Manor had been the subject of continual occupation and alteration, both in the central habitation area and that of the surrounding moat. The discovery of the collapsed wall suggests that the moat was closed off from the interior of the site, perhaps with one or two of entranceways for access and which suggests that the function of the moat was primarily for appearance.

To summarise, the cleaning of the western moat produced no domestic assemblage associated with the original house or any earlier activity and the moat has been re-cut and cleaned, thus removing all evidence. The topsoil strip for the storage area produced an assemblage pertaining to later activity on the site from the 17<sup>th</sup> century through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century with no archaeological features dated prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Statement for potential and future works**

The cleaning of the moat confirmed the hypothesis that the western arm of the moat had been the subject of re-cutting prior to the present time and any early features and artefact assemblage have long since been removed. The potential for deposits in the eastern moat will be higher due to the lack of disturbance; the upper layers of the internal area of the manor have been much disturbed with early activity much lower in the stratigraphic sequence.

### **Acknowledgements**

The project was funded by Mr Lee Hughes, monitored on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council by Kasia Gdaniec and Will Fletcher from English Heritage and managed by Robin Standing. The archaeology was monitored and interpreted by the author. The area was surveyed by Donald Horne and digitised by Jane Mathews. Illanith Pongolini sorted and catalogued the finds and Jane Matthews produced the illustrations.



## Appendices

### 1. *Specialist Reports*

#### **Glass Assessment** *Vicki Herring*

A small assemblage was recovered from a variety of contexts during the topsoil stripping and the removal of the moat sediments that provided a date range from the 18<sup>th</sup> century up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collection included fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> century Utility Bottles which are fairly common, through to more recent 20<sup>th</sup> century examples. The whole assemblage highlights the fragmentary nature and level of integration of types and associated dates of the artefacts.

##### *Moat Sediments*

[008] Late 19<sup>th</sup> century pharmaceutical bottle, two-piece mould and blue in colour, octagonal in shape with embossed Roman numerals running vertically down one side (I – VI). Vessel was 48mm wide and 2mm thick.

##### *Re-deposited Layer*

[003] <6> Approximately dated to 1750's, cylindrical utility bottle, free blown, Black Glass. Three fragments; neck of bottle with applied collar, base with partial high kick, and a body sherd. Heavily pitted. The diameter of the neck was 29mm and 40mm including the collar, and 7mm thick at the rim.

[003] <15> Two fragments of body sherd from a utility bottle, possibly from the same vessel as <6>. Fragments were 4mm in thickness

##### *Features*

F.2 [004] Two 20<sup>th</sup> century generic glass vessels; one jar and one bottle. Manufactured by Automated Bottle Machine. Postdates 1905.

##### *Spoilheap*

A fragment of base from a squat cylindrical vessel with a rounded base lick and disc pontil scar. Dated to Late 1760 to 1780.

#### **Metalwork Assessment** *Andrew Hall and Tom Maltas*

##### *Methodology*

During the excavation programme, metal detecting was employed to aid in the retrieval of small finds from the stripped area and from any exposed archaeological features. The detectors used were XP ADX100, set with limited discrimination to ensure the retrieval of iron artefacts. A proportion of the finds were recovered by hand excavation without the use of the detector and these are included within the results below.

##### *Results*

The assemblage consists of 22 artefacts: One silver, seven copper alloy, eight of lead and six of iron. The preservation of the artefacts is mixed with the iron and lead alloy finds in particularly poor condition.

##### *Silver*

<007> [003] Sf.7 A silver ferrule formed from thin gauge sheet. Pierced with a small hole, probably for attachment to a cane or similar. Stamped with a full set of hallmarks. Assayed in Birmingham in 1906 and probably made by George Stockwell (G.S). The ferrule measures 20 x 15mm and weighs 1g.

### *Copper alloy*

<012> [003] Sf.12 A copper alloy coin or token, heavily worn. Most likely an 18<sup>th</sup> century farthing due to size and material. The coin measures 22mm in diameter and weighs 5g.

<016> [004] Sf.16 A copper alloy, oval shaped shoe buckle, curved at centre, pierced centrally on the frame for a steel central bar which is missing, along with the steel pin or tines. The frame is decorated with horizontal grooves. Most likely 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, measuring 46 x 38mm and weighing 11g. The buckle was found alongside a heavily corroded lead alloy button, possibly decorated with a flower motif. The button dates to the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century and measures 19mm in diameter and weighs 5g.

<018> [003] Sf.18 Copper alloy percussion cap from a 12 gauge shotgun cartridge. The cap measures 21mm in diameter and weighs 6g.

<022> [003] Sf.22 A fragment of a cast copper alloy pellet or crotal bell. These bells were often attached to sheep or cattle and are common detector finds. The bell fragment has faint traces of decoration to the exterior underside and has a cast central rib. A 17<sup>th</sup> century date seems appropriate. Similar to an example recorded from Norwich (Margeson 1993 p.213). The complete bell would have measured 38mm in diameter. The fragment weighs 6g.

<036> [004] A copper alloy strap or webbing buckle, dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It measures 41 x 37mm and weighs 17g. This was found in association with a plain circular button of 20mm diameter, with loop intact. This is machine made and probably dates to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Weight 4g.

### *Lead*

<013> [003] Sf.13 A sheet lead disc of 45mm diameter and 2mm thickness, plain with a centrally positioned rectangular hole. It is tempting to interpret this artefact as a rondel-form hilt guard from a rondel dagger, dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and similar to published examples from London (Egan 2005; 189). However, its manufacture in lead and its small size seems inappropriate, and therefore this attribution appears weak. The disc weighs 39g.

<014> [003] Sf.14 Lead musket or pistol ball of 13mm diameter. Dating to the Post Medieval period and weighing 11g.

<017> [003] Sf.17 A fragmentary window lead came measuring 41mm in length and 9mm in diameter. The came weighs 11g.

<019> [003] Sf.19 A crudely cast lead weight, quality suggests homemade. It has a central vertical hole, probably used to attach string or line, and was most likely used on a fishing line or net. The weight is of 20mm in height and 21mm in diameter. It weighs 34g.

<020> [003] Sf.20 A triangular sheet lead off-cut measuring 34mm in height and 69mm in diameter. The off-cut weighs 126g.

<021> [003] Sf.21 A lead casting spill measuring 47mm in diameter and 32mm in height. Weight 55g.

<037> [004] A square sheet lead off-cut with a small hole in one corner. The off-cut measures 22mm in diameter and 25mm in height and weighs 17g.

<038> A rectangular sheet lead off-cut measuring 40mm in diameter and 29mm in height. The off-cut weighs 52g. Spoil heap find.

### *Iron*

<010> [002] Sf.10 A group of five iron nails measuring between 40mm and 60mm in length. Each is hand forged, with a square section shank and circular head. Undated, but most likely post medieval. The group weighs 29g.

<023> [006] Sf.23 A fragment of a rectangular iron sheet of 2mm thickness. Measuring 50 x 90mm and weighing 34g. Undated.

This is an unremarkable group of metalwork. The date range spans the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century with no exceptions. No further work or analysis is recommended.

## **An Assessment of the Post-Medieval Pottery and Clay Pipes** *Richard Newman*

### *Pottery*

A small pottery assemblage – consisting of only 17 sherds, weighing 918g – was recovered from the Haslingfield site.

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>MSW</b>
Glazed red earthenware	9	734	81.5
Staffordshire-type slipware	2	43	21.5
Frechen stoneware	1	45	45
English utilitarian stoneware	1	19	19
Lead -glazed earthenware	4	77	19.3
	<b>17</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>54</b>

Table 1: Pottery assemblage by fabric.

As Table 1 shows, the assemblage was dominated by Glazed red earthenware. This basic utilitarian fabric was first produced during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and continued to be manufactured until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The largest group of Glazed red earthenware – which comprised seven sherds, weighing 802g – was recovered from **[002]**, **F.1**. Based upon the vessel form and glaze-type of these fragments, it appears likely that this group is 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century in date. The remainder of the assemblage, however, is somewhat more recent in origin. For although the sherd of Frechen stoneware, imported from Germany, is also likely to be 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century in date, the Staffordshire-type slipware and lead-glazed earthenware sherds were produced during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and the English utilitarian stoneware is 19<sup>th</sup> century in origin.

### *Clay Tobacco Pipes*

Two clay tobacco pipe pieces, comprising one bowl and one heel fragment, were recovered during the recent investigations. In general, the presence of clay tobacco pipe fragments in a context indicates a date between late 16<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (*c.* 1580-1910). Bowls, however, can often be more closely dated via comparison to Oswald's simplified general typology (1975). In this particular instance, the bowl – which was recovered from **<011>**, **[003]** – conformed to Oswald's General Type 9, which is dated to *c.* 1680-1710. No marker's mark or other identifiable decoration was present.

## **An Assessment of Ceramic Building Materials** *Richard Newman & Jacqui Hutton*

Five fragments of ceramic building materials (CBM) were retained from the Haslingfield site. Four of these were recovered from **[002]**, **F.1**. This group included two peg tile fragments, a brick fragment and part of a glazed floor tile. The brick measured 152mm+ by 110mm by 35mm thick and comprised a mixed, pale pink coarse fabric. The floor tile measured 155mm+ by 128mm+ by 22mm thick, and comprised a coarse red earthenware fabric that retains traces of a consistent dark green glaze. Overall, these four pieces are consistent with a 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century date. The remaining CBM artefact comprised a complete brick sample taken from collapsed wall **F.4**. This measured 225mm by 105mm by 65mm thick, and comprised

a coarse red fabric with frequent grit inclusions. It is handmade and unfrogged in form and more than likely made from locally resourced materials.

In addition, two samples of hand made brick were examined which were made with Gault clay (probably locally sourced) that had evidence of extreme heat. One surface on both bricks had 'melted' facets which are caused by a high temperature of approximately 1000° C, which indicates that the bricks possibly originally formed part of a furnace (*pers. comm.* Simon Timberlake).

## ***2. Monitoring and Recording of Tree-planting Holes December 2011***

Simon Timberlake

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken of the excavation of 13 tree planting holes for and six postholes for the insertion of gates within the front and rear gardens of the house on Tuesday 14th December 2011 (Figure 8).

This followed the recent dumping and spreading of moat-clearance silt across the surface of the gardens, so any pottery or other finds recovered from these holes was likely to include recently re-deposited as well as older *in situ* material. The different horizons within the soil were thus looked at closely in order to distinguish the former from any earlier material culture debris beneath it which might relate to the construction of the present 16th-century Hall, its enclosing garden wall, or perhaps the earlier Medieval manor site, the existence of which has been proved by excavations carried out beneath the recently re-built portion of the house (Mackay 2003).

The smaller tree-planting holes were dug by hand to depths of 0.4m+, whilst the larger ones were dug by mini-digger to a depth of 0.65-0.85m. The spoil from each hole was trowel-sifted and bucket sampled for finds, whilst the soil sections were logged and the profiles sketch-drawn, and digital colour photographs taken.

### **Results**

#### *Front of House:*

##### Hole 1 (0.7 x 0.6m x 0.4m deep)

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 0-0.38m    | (104) grey-brown silt and clay with lenses of twigs and other organic matter and fragments of reddish brick dumped from recent clearance of moat |
| 0.38-0.40m | (105) buried modern topsoil with some brick and mortar fragments   |

##### Hole 2 (0.76m diam x 0.45m deep)

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 0-0.26m      | (104) light-mid grey clayey silt with occasional brick fragments   |
| 0.26 -0.39m  | (105) buried topsoil containing occasional fragments of brick waste and gravel   |
| 0.39 – 0.45m | (106) a more compact soil layer full of lumps of grey chalk or marl and much broken (perhaps modern) brick and mortar waste. This hole lay only 2.4m away the NW corner of the new part of the house, thus this could be modern construction debris. |

##### Hole 3 (0.8m diam x 0.4m deep)

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 0 – 0.22m    | (104) silt   |
| 0.22 – 0.35m | (105) buried modern topsoil                            |
| 0.35 – 0.4m  | (107) modern layer of crushed limestone rubble make-up |

##### Hole 4 (1m x 0.8m x 0.45m deep)

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 0 – 0.3m    | (104) silt   |
| 0.3 – 0.4m  | (105) buried modern topsoil with redeposited red/yellow tile                   |
| 0.4 – 0.42m | (108) thin layer of sharp sand (modern building material – construction layer) |

##### Hole 5 (1m x 0.9m x 0.37m deep)

0 – 0.22m (104) silt with finds of willow pattern china and redeposited brick  
 0.22m textile membrane  
 0.22 – 0.35m (105) buried modern topsoil  
 0.35 – 0.37m (107) building make-up layer consisting of broken up modern brick and marly clay

*Rear of House:*

Hole 6 (0.84m diam x 0.44m deep)

0 – 0.1m (101) grey-brown topsoil with occasional inclusion of brick mortar waste  
 0.1 – 0.15m (102) bluish-grey silty topsoil layer (possibly spread out moat silt)  
 0.15 – 0.44m (103) a dark grey compact buried topsoil with inclusions of coal and charcoal and small red brick fragments (19th-20th century garden soil?)

Hole 7 (0.84m diam x 0.44m deep)

0 – 0.21m (101) modern topsoil  
 0.21 – 0.44m (103) buried topsoil, but less distinct than Hole 6. Find of 19thC yellow clay tile

Hole 8 (0.95m diam x 0.4m deep)

0 – 0.1m (101) modern topsoil  
 0.1 – 0.26m (102) blue-grey compact silt with chalk + marl + coal + brick + fragment of 19thC willow-pattern china  
 0.26 – 0.4m (103) buried topsoil

Hole 9 (0.74m diam x 0.4m deep)

0 – 0.5m (101) modern topsoil  
 0.5 – 0.24m (102) redeposited silt (contains clay pipe stem, brick fragments and 19thC willow pattern china)  
 0.24m – 0.4m (103) buried topsoil

Hole 10 not dug

Machine-dug holes for large trees at rear of garden:

Hole 11 (2m x 1.4m diam x 0.8m deep)

0 – 0.2m (101) topsoil  
 0.2 – 0.35m (103) buried topsoil  
 0.35–0.36–0.4 (109) thin lens of yellow sandy-silty soil/ possible iron pan  
 0.4 – 0.7–0.78 (110) light grey-brown gritty sandy-silty soil with incl. of chalk, clay lumps and mixed old brick and mortar (perhaps old weathered silt horizon from moat clearance)  
 0.70– 0.8–0.85 (116) a hard, compact layer of whitish to blue-grey homogenous clay  
 0.8 – 0.85m (117) small exposure in base of hole of underlying buff – white grey coloured compact clay with voids and incl of red and yellow crushed tile waste and charcoal

Hole 12 (1.5m<sup>2</sup> x 0.8m deep)

0 – 0.15m (101) topsoil  
 0.15 – 0.3m (103) buried topsoil  
 0.3 – 0.35m (109) orange brown sandy gritty-silt (iron pan?)

- 0.35 – 0.73m (110) light grey gritty gravely silt with chalk and clay lumps and mixed old brick and mortar (= a mixed-up horizon with evidence of weathered silt from moat (earliest moat clearance)). Finds of brick, tile and animal bone.
- 0.73 – 0.8m (112) crushed brick debris layer (=destruction horizon)

Hole 13 (2m<sup>2</sup> x 0.9m deep)

- 0 – 0.28-0.35m (101) topsoil
- 0.28 – 0.35-0.45m (110) weathered and mixed earlier soil
- 0.35 – 0.4-0.55m (112) crushed brick debris with large lumps of brick and mortar
- 0.4 – 0.5-0.58m (113) off-white to pale yellowish loose, gritty weathered chalk layer
- 0.5 – 0.73-0.8m (114) mid-grey fine degraded silt and clay with occasional inclusions of very weathered tile or brick and a single coarseware pot sherd, which is probably Roman. This layer is more compact, but crumbly
- 0.73 – 0.9m (base) (115) mid-light grey degraded silt and clay with occasional patches of more chalky material and some rare, degraded soft brown fired clay or tile material

*Holes for gateposts within garden at front of house:*

Posthole 1 (0.3m diam x 0.6m deep (see location plan))

- 0 – 0.16m (104) recently redeposited moat silt layer
- 0.16 – 0.24m(105) buried modern topsoil
- 0.24 – 0.6m (111) earlier dark grey-black fine silty topsoil with traces of 19thC brick

NB Postholes 2-6 have pretty similar soil stratigraphies. Finds include yellow-red clay tile fragments, mortar, occasional animal bone and a single horse canine tooth in PH6

**Discussion**

The majority of the tree-planting holes were too shallow to have disturbed archaeological deposits; in the front garden these had been dug through the most recently re-deposited (2011) moat silt deposit into modern topsoil, and thus the earliest finds from these holes were 19th century, relating to domestic rubbish (ceramic etc.) scraped from the bottom of the previously cleaned moat (see this report, above). Within the rear garden the tree-planting holes near the house were similarly small. The bottoms of some of these penetrated 19th-20th-century garden soil with traces of domestic waste (animal bone food waste, brick, roof tile, coal and cinders), and there was also evidence below surface of more recently-dumped, but already weathered-out moat silt.

The slightly more interesting holes lay to the back of the rear garden, where the larger trees were to be planted, and deeper excavations had been cut to a depth of 0.8m+ into the sub-soil layers All three holes cut a thin brick and mortar spread between 0.3 – 0.8m depth and interpreted as a destruction layer relating to the knocking-down or collapse of an earlier Post-medieval brick garden wall (perhaps the same partially-collapsed 17th-century wall referred to above) and the construction of the present one, perhaps in the 19th century. Beneath this lay a horizon of white marly clay (layers 116 and 117 in Hole 11 and layer 113 in Hole 13) that might represent the upcast from moat construction in the 1500s referred to by Mackay (2003), or perhaps other excavation work relating to the house. Beneath this in Hole 13, where the more recent deposits were thinnest, and the hole deeper, were traces of the earlier archaeological

horizons (layers 114 and 115). These consisted of moderately sterile silts and clays with very the occasional eroded traces of tile and fired clay, an example perhaps of deposits accumulated over time.

The distinctly different nature of these deposits (i.e. their pre-manor origin) was confirmed by the find towards the top of layer 114 (at 0.65m depth) of a small sherd of Roman pot (C. Cessford pers.com). This was provisionally identified as a colour-coat greyware-type fabric. Sooting on the exterior of this sherd suggests the use of this pot for cooking. Scraps of very degraded tile(?) were recovered from layer 115 beneath, though their poor condition precluded examination for the purposes of identification. The Roman pot, on the other hand, was un-abraded and seemingly freshly broken, perhaps indicating the presence of a Roman settlement close by, if not beneath the manor grounds.



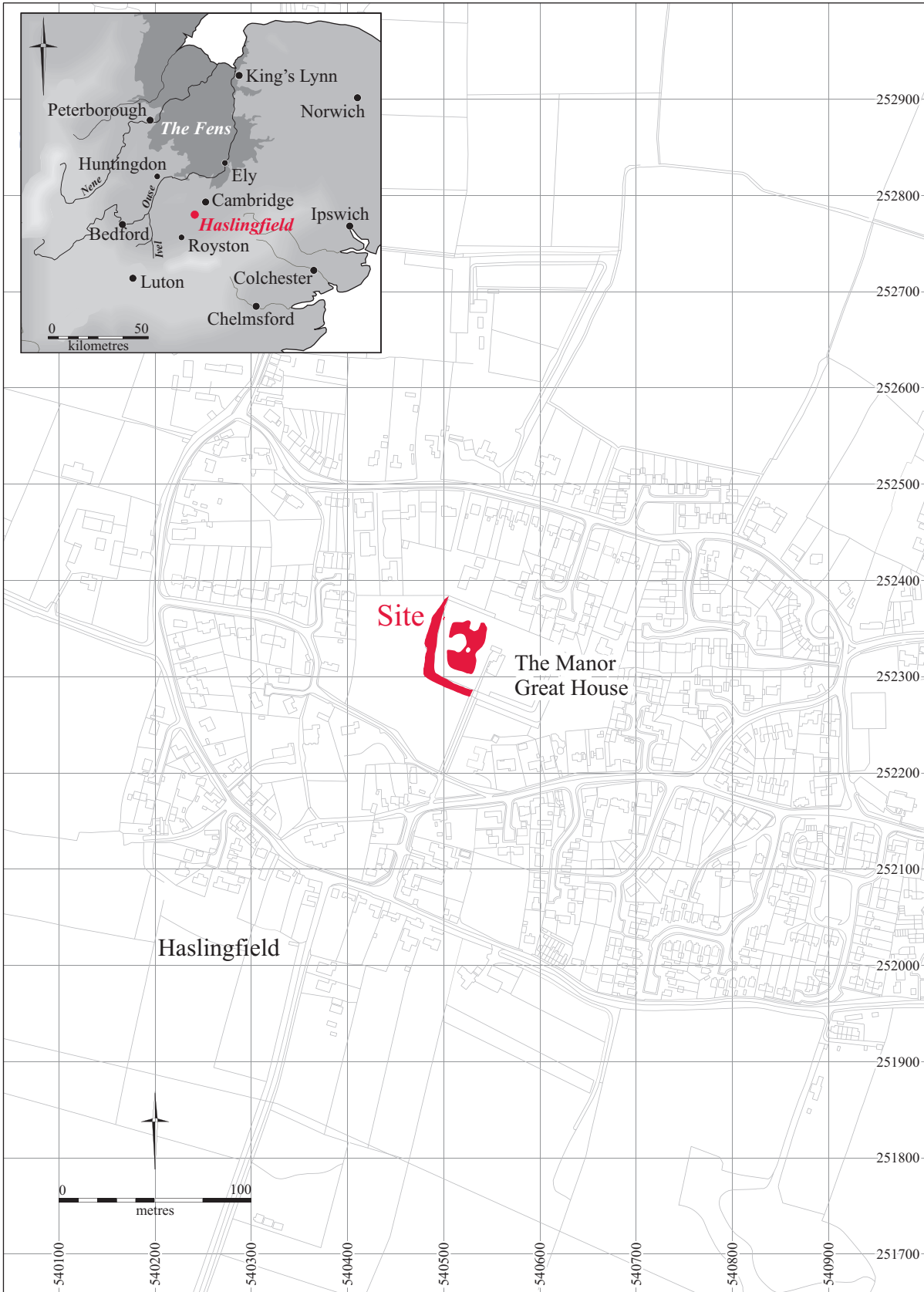


Figure 1. Location map



Figure 2. Haslingfield Manor

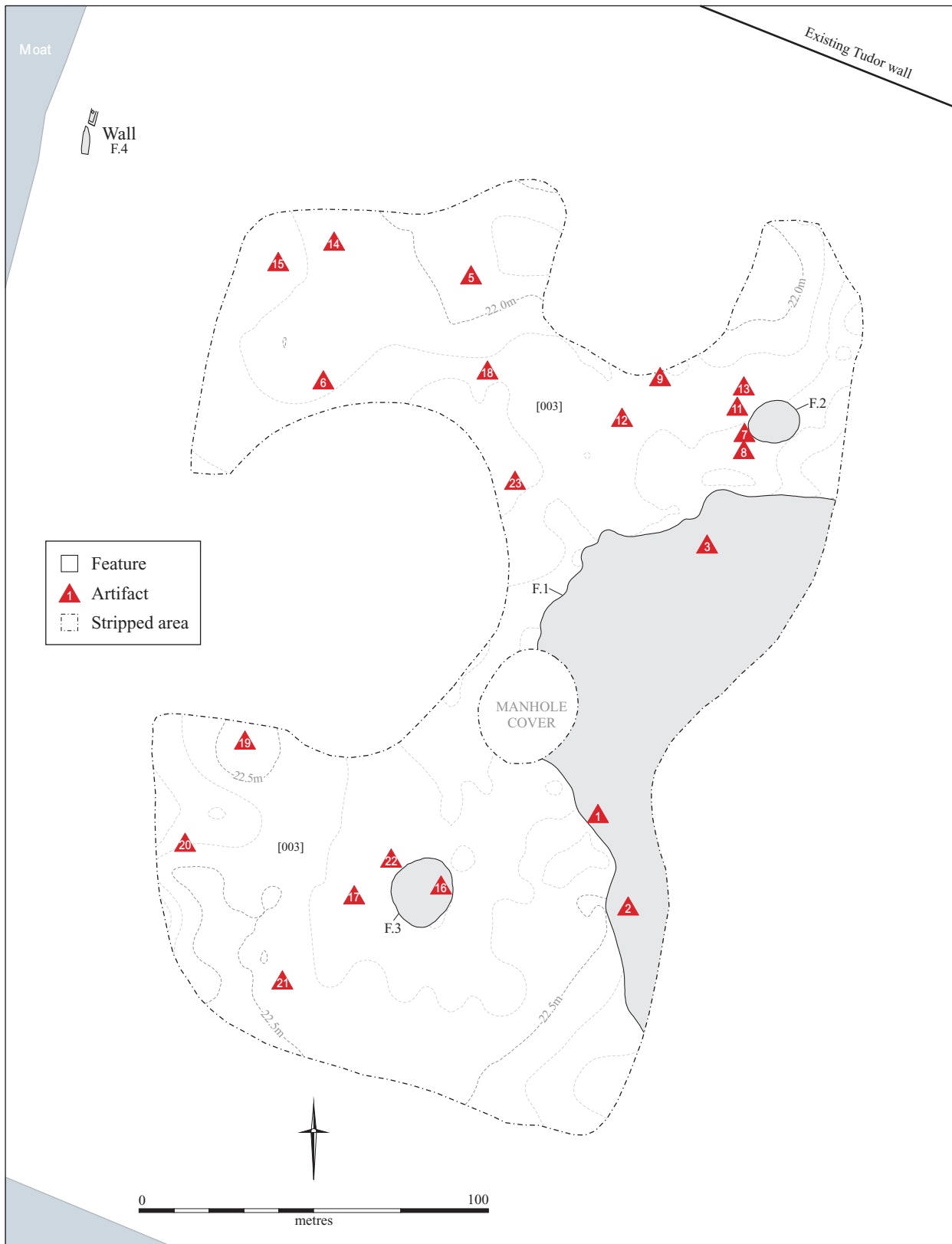


Figure 3. Plan of site



Figure 4. The demolition area F.1 and excavated moat fills



Figure 5. Eastern arm of the moat during cleaning and silt pond post-cleaning



Figure 6. The collapsed moat wall F.4



Figure 7. Wall adjacent to Bridge and southern arm of moat post-cleaning

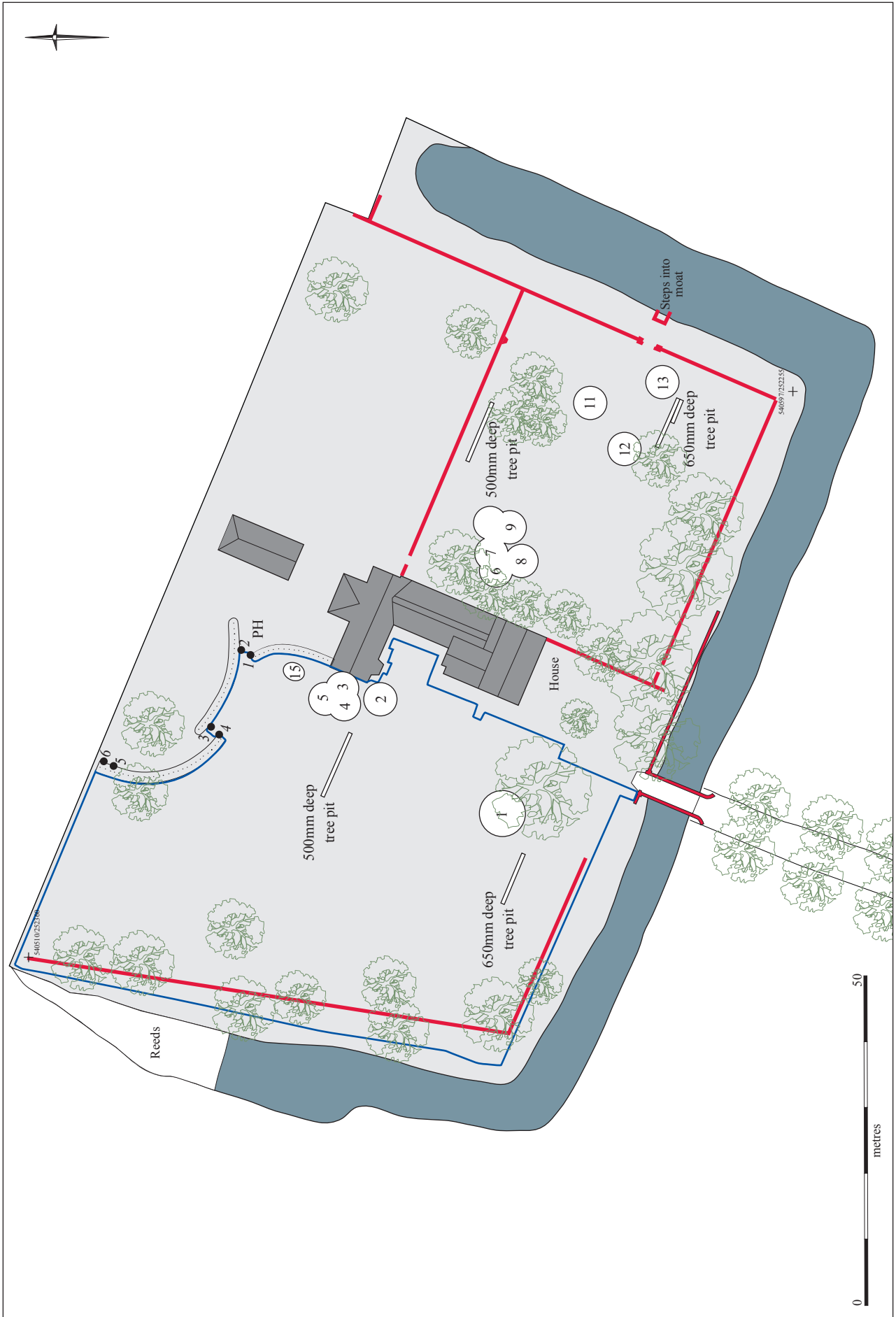


Figure 8 Tree Pit and Post Hole Locations December 2011



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**OASIS ID: cambridg3-109664**

### Project details

Project name	Haslingfield Manor, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Monitoring of Topsoil Stripping and Moat Cleaning
Short description of the project	An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken at Haslingfield Manor, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4055 5230) from 19th April to 17th May 2011. The monitoring was conducted in two phases; the first phase consisted of monitoring the topsoil strip of the storage area to the west of the house for the excavated moat sediments and the second phase consisted of monitoring the actual cleaning and examination of the removed deposits of the western moat. The topsoil strip revealed an area of disturbance that related to the demolition of the pre-existing house and contained rubble material that included bricks, tiles and domestic debris dated from the 16th to 19th century. Two pit features were uncovered that dated to the 19th-20th century. Domestic debris that dated from the 17th to 19th century was also recorded throughout the stripped area that was incorporated in a deposit that derived from the re-cutting of the moat and was used to level the interior of the site. The recent excavated moat sediments contained little artefactual evidence suggesting that the moat had been extensively cleaned, sometime prior to the 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 19-04-2011 End: 17-05-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HAS 11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 3577 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Monument type	MANOR Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICKS Post Medieval

Significant Finds	TILES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METALWORK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPES Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HASLINGFIELD Haslingfield Manor
Postcode	CB23 1JD
Study area	0.30 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 4054 5229 52.1505555556 0.05444444444440 52 09 02 N 000 03 16 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 22.00m Max: 22.50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Robin Standring
Project director/manager	Robin Standring
Project supervisor	Jacqui Hutton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Lee Hughes

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Physical Archive ID	HAS 11
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Digital Archive ID	HAS 11
Digital Contents	'Survey'

Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Spreadsheets','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
Paper Archive ID	HAS 11
Paper Contents	'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Survey'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Survey ','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Haslingfield Manor, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Monitoring of Topsoil Stripping and Moat Cleaning
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hutton, J
Date	2011
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URL	<a href="http://www.oasis.ac.uk">http://www.oasis.ac.uk</a>

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Entered on	12 September 2011

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