

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1866
November 2022**

**Archaeological evaluation at Old Builders Yard,
Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex
CM10 2QT**

October 2022



**CAT project ref.: 2022/10a
ECC code: LSBY22**

**Archaeological evaluation at Old Builders Yard,
Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex
CM10 2QT**

October 2022

NGR: TL 64954 35101

Planning ref.: UTT/22/1841/FUL

**CAT project ref.: 2022/10a
CAT Report 1866**

**ECC code: LSBY22
OASIS id: colchest3-509906**

**report prepared by
Dr Elliott Hicks**

fieldwork by Harvey Furniss with Elliott Hicks

**commissioned by Michael Williams
on behalf of MICRUS Properties Limited**

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Issued:	03/11/2022	

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within a historic green situated between the villages of Great Sampford and Little Sampford and in an area containing numerous listed buildings dating from the 17th to the 19th century. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex on 26th October 2022. The work was commissioned by Michael Williams on behalf of MICRUS Properties Limited, and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford* written by Katie Lee-Smith and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The site lies between the two villages of Great Sampford and Little Sampford, within a small, linear historic green. Historic mapping of the area shows that the plot of land proposed for development has previously contained buildings.

Chapman and André's map of Essex compiled in 1777 shows what appears to have been a single building standing roughly in the location of the development site (Map 1). By the time that the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 was drawn up, two long rectangular buildings were present on the plot (Map 2), the most southerly of which had been demolished by the time of the 1897 OS map (Map 3). By 1921, the other building had been demolished and the plot was empty, as indicated on that year's 25-inch OS Map (Map 4).

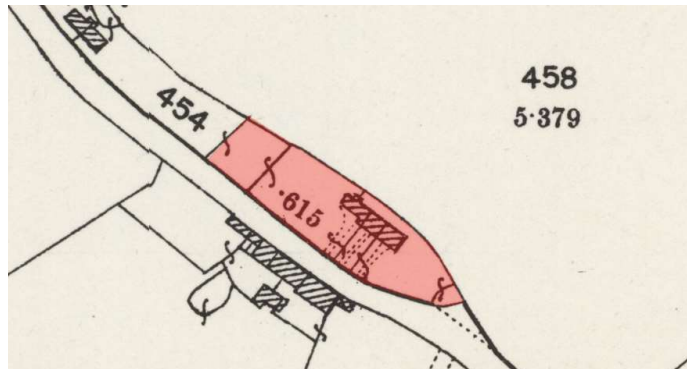


Map 1 Extract of the 1777 Chapman and André map. The approximate location of the development site highlighted in red

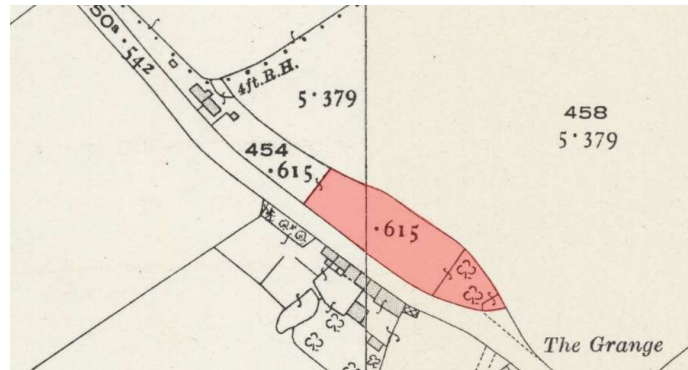
The site is also located in an area containing many listed buildings dating from the 17th to the 19th century. In the wider area there are also several known cropmarks (EHER 7430, 17202, 18997, 46591, 47974).



Map 2 Extract of the 1880 6-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red



Map 3 Extract of the 1897 25-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red



Map 4 Extract of the 1921 25-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A single T-shaped trial-trench, 21m long and 1.8m wide, was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.15-0.23m thick, loose, moist dark grey/brown/black silty-loam with frequent CBM pieces and 1% stones) and a layer of made-ground (L2, 0.38-0.48m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with CBM pieces, charcoal flecks and 1% stones) onto natural (L3, firm, moist medium yellow/brown silty-clay with 1% stones, encountered at a depth of 0.61-0.67m below current ground level).

No archaeological remains were encountered.



Photograph 1 T1a trench shot – looking northwest

6 Finds

A few sherds of modern pottery were found in made-ground L2 but were not retained.

7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological remains were encountered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Michael Williams and MICRUS Properties Limited for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by H Furniss with E Hicks. Figures were compiled by C Lister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation for Trial Trenching and excavation at Old Builders Yard, Little Sampford,</i> by K Lee-Smith
GeoEssex	2020	<i>Uttlesford District Council: Report on Local Geological Site,</i> by G Lucy & R Mercer
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England Medlycott, M	2015 2011	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from cAD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

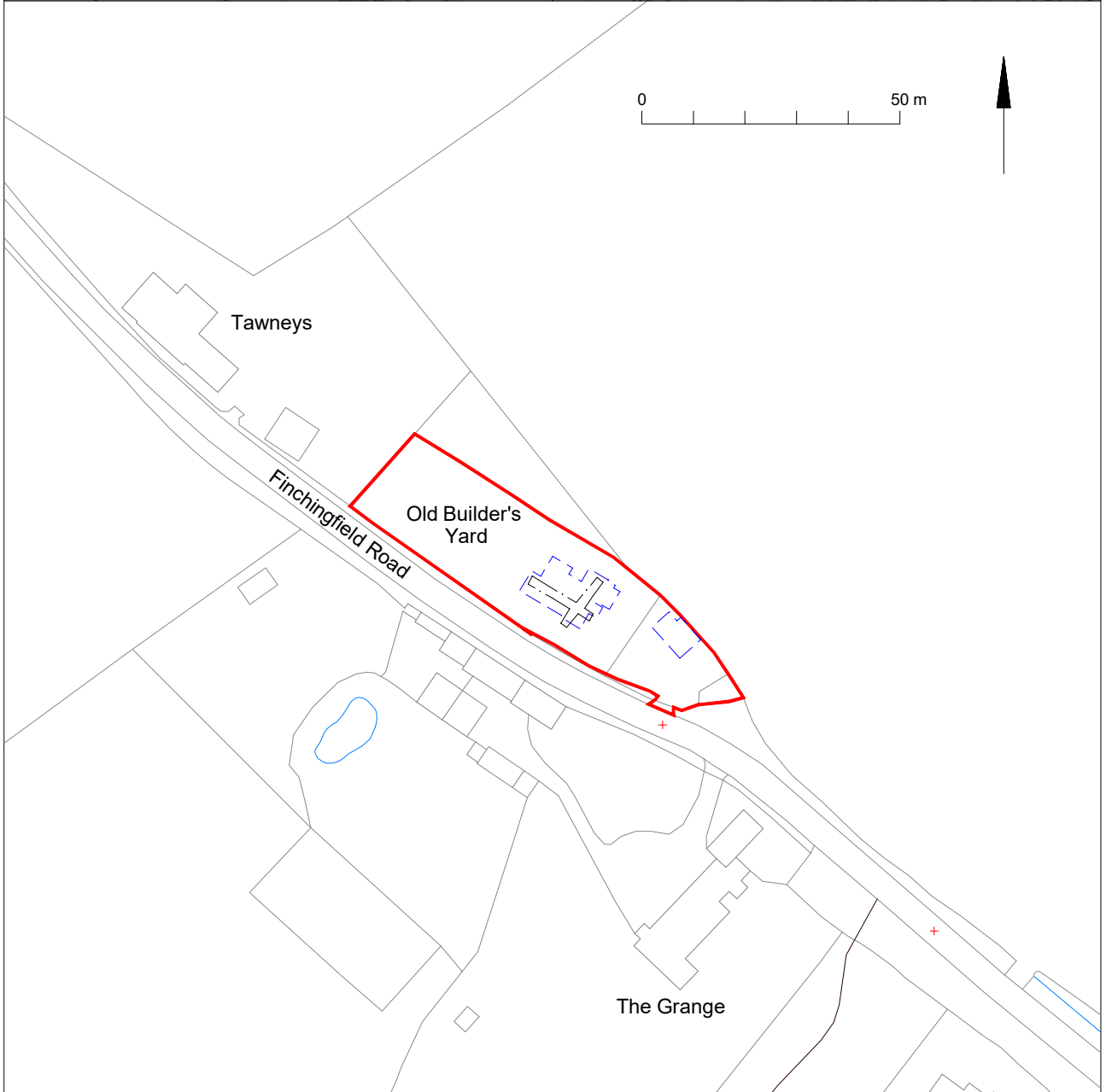
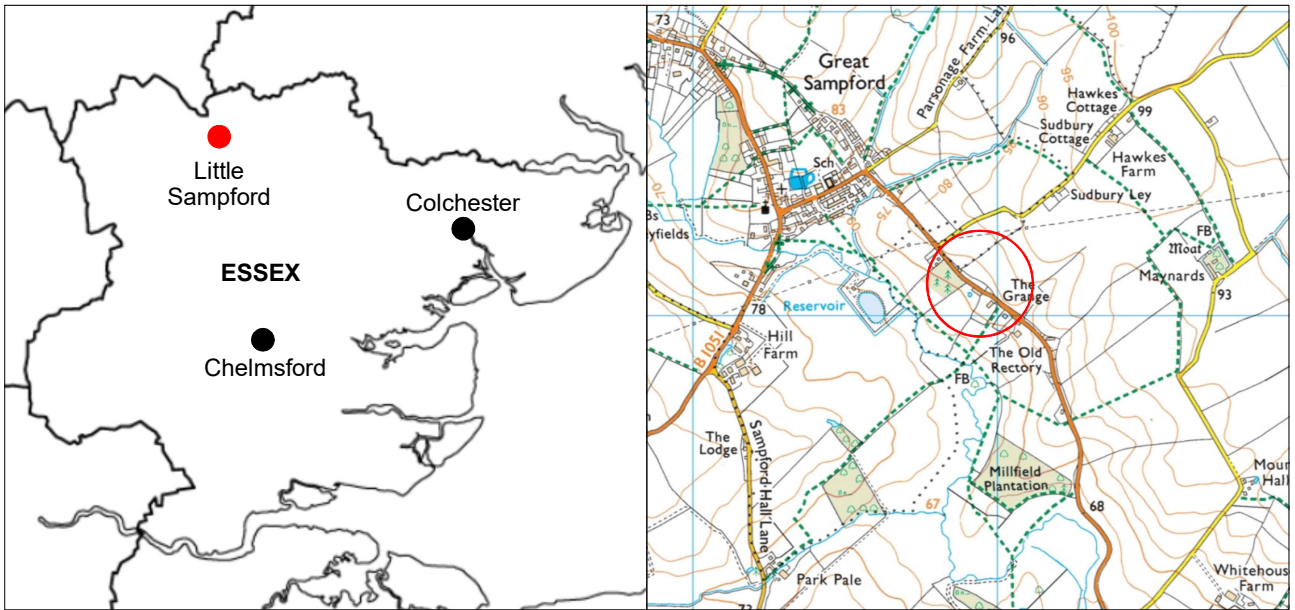
11 Archive deposition

This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, WSI, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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Distribution list:

Michael Williams
MICRUS Properties Limited
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

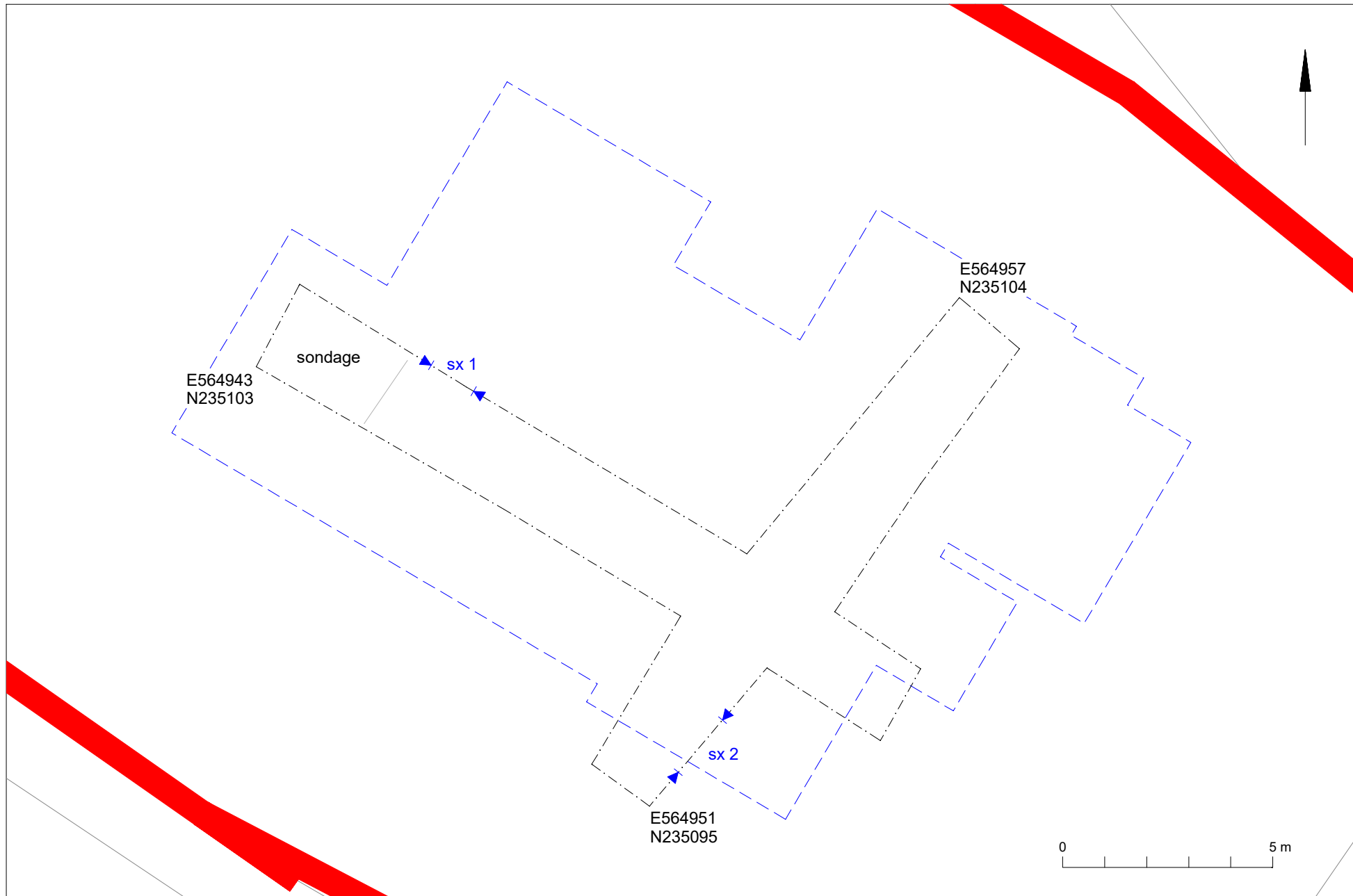


Fig 2 Results.

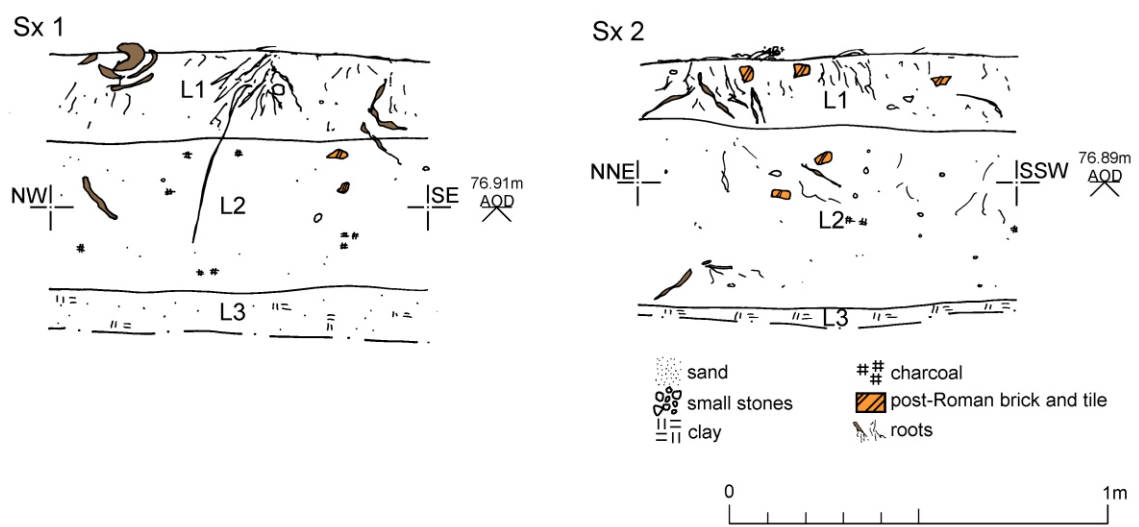


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-509906

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509906
Project Name	Evaluation at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex, CM10 2QT: October 2022
Sitename	Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/10a
Planning Id	UTT/22/1841/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	26-Oct-2022 - 26-Oct-2022
Location	Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford NGR : TL 64954 35101 LL : 51.989866805776, 0.400952859480707 12 Fig : 564954,235101
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Little Sampford
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation was carried out as per the brief and the WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within a historic green situated between the villages of Great Sampford and Little Sampford and in an area containing numerous listed buildings dating from the 17th to the 19th century. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	E, Hicks
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation At Old Builders Yard, Little Sampford



Date:
9th September 2022





Title: Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation at Old Builders Yard, Little Sampford

Contact: Tom Cannon <tom@cannonad.co.uk>

Planning Reference: UTT-22-1841-FUL

Date issued: 9/09/22

Historic Environment Advisor: Katie Lee-Smith | katie.lee-smith@essex.gov.uk |

03330 133338

Museum: Saffron Walden 01799 510333

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor should be contacted to assess whether changes are required to the brief. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1. Introduction

The Historic Environment Advisor has prepared this brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation to follow the demolition of existing buildings and in advance of the construction of one detached dwelling. The archaeological trial trenching will target the proposed footprint of the dwelling. The trial trenching will form the first stage of the archaeological work with excavation to follow if archaeological deposits are identified.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies within an area of potentially significant archaeological remains between Little and Great Sampford (TL4753524612). The development comprises the erection of a single dwelling and new access. Plans of the proposed development can be obtained from Uttlesford District Council web site under the planning application number.

3. Planning Background

A full planning application was validated by Uttlesford District Council in July 2022 (UTT/22/1841/FUL) for the demolition of existing buildings and removal of open storage, the replacement of the builders yard with 1 no. detached dwelling and the closure of existing access and construction of new access with associated parking, turning and garaging. The planning application was identified as being located within a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. Therefore, a full archaeological condition was recommended to the local Planning Authority.

The archaeological condition that was recommended is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework and states:

RECOMMENDATION: An Archaeological Programme of Trial Trenching followed by Open Area Excavation

1. No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until a programme of archaeological investigation has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.
2. No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the completion of the programme of archaeological investigation identified in the WSI defined in 1 above.
3. The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post excavation assessment (to be submitted within six months of the completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority). This will result in the completion of post excavation analysis, preparation of a full site archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report.

4. Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective archaeological contractors should obtain the HER prior to the completion of their WSI.

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within an area of known sensitive archaeological deposits. The proposed development is located within a small historic linear green between the settlements of Little Sampford and Great Sampford. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875 shows a number of buildings within the boundaries of the proposed development. These buildings are at least nineteenth century, and potentially significantly earlier in date and are no longer extant. There is therefore the potential for medieval and post-medieval deposits being impacted on by the proposed development.

5. Requirement for Work

The archaeological programme will initially comprise the excavation of a cross-shaped trial trench which spans the width and length of the proposed building. A trench plan will be provided with the WSI.

Specific areas of interest will be evidence for:

- The former buildings which occupied the site
- Any dating evidence of the earliest occupation of this site

The initial work will comprise the trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report. This will lead to further archaeological work, comprising open area excavation of those significant deposits identified. If no archaeological deposits are identified a report on the trial trenching alone will be required.

6. General Methodology

- 6.1 A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the archaeological work.
- 6.2 The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 6.3 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 6.5 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 6.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

7. Trial Trenching Methodology

- 7.1 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 7.2 Machine stripping will only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon unless agreement is obtained from the Historic Environment Advisor to deepen the trenches by this method.
- 7.3 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.
- 7.4 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 7.5 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).
- 7.6 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are anticipated, or where analysis of the remains are considered to be a necessary requirement for satisfactory evaluation of the site.
- 7.7 The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 7.8 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.

7.9 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the EAA *Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

7.10 A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed to discuss requirements for further open area excavation. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.

8. Post Excavation Assessment

8.1 An updated post excavation assessment shall be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time to the Historic Environment Advisor.

8.2 Where archaeological results do not warrant a post excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the Historic Environment Advisor to proceed straight to grey literature /publication.

9. Finds

9.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

9.2 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

9.3 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

9.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.

10. Results

10.1 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 2 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

10.2 This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the trial trenching and any further excavation.
- Location plan of excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the excavated area shall be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and result section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

10.3 An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor (in lieu of the previous HER summary sheet). This will be completed in digital form. A copy should also be e-mailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal paul.gilman@me.com

10.4 Publication of the results, at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

11. Archive Deposition

- 11.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 11.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- 11.3 The archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 months of the completion of the final publication report with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor

12. Monitoring

- 12.1 The Historic Environment Advisor will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 12.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
- 12.3 All trial trenches must be inspected by the Historic Environment Advisor prior to their backfilling.
- 12.4 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

13. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

- 13.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the CIFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide *the basis for a measurable standard* and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
- 13.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 13.3 The involvement of the Historic Environment Advisor shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* 2. Research agenda and strategy East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap.
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
- Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

Katie Lee-Smith
Historic Environment Advisor
Place Services
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex, CB10 2QT

NGR: TL 64954 35101 (centre)

District: Uttlesford

Parish: Little Sampford

Planning reference: UTT/22/1841/FUL

Commissioned by: Michael Williams

Client: MICRUS Properties Limited

Curating museum: Saffron Walden and ADS Archaeology

ECC project code: [tbc](#)

CAT project code: 2022/10a

Oasis project ID: colchest3-509906

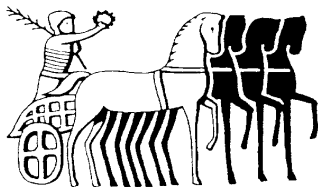
Contracts Manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation Manager: Laura Pooley

ECC monitor: Katie Lee-Smith

This WSI written: 06/10/2022



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785 (option 1)

email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 64954 35101.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of a single detached dwelling and garage.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The site lies between the two historic villages of Great Sampford and Little Sampford, within a small historic linear green. Historic mapping of the area shows that the plot of land proposed for development has previously contained buildings.

The Chapman and André map of 1777 (Map 1) shows what appears to be a single building in the rough location of the development site. By the 1880 OS Map (Map 2), two long rectangular buildings are present on the plot, the most southerly of which is demolished by the 1897 OS map (Map 3). By 1921, the other building has been demolished and the plot is empty, show by the 25-inch OS Map (Map 4).



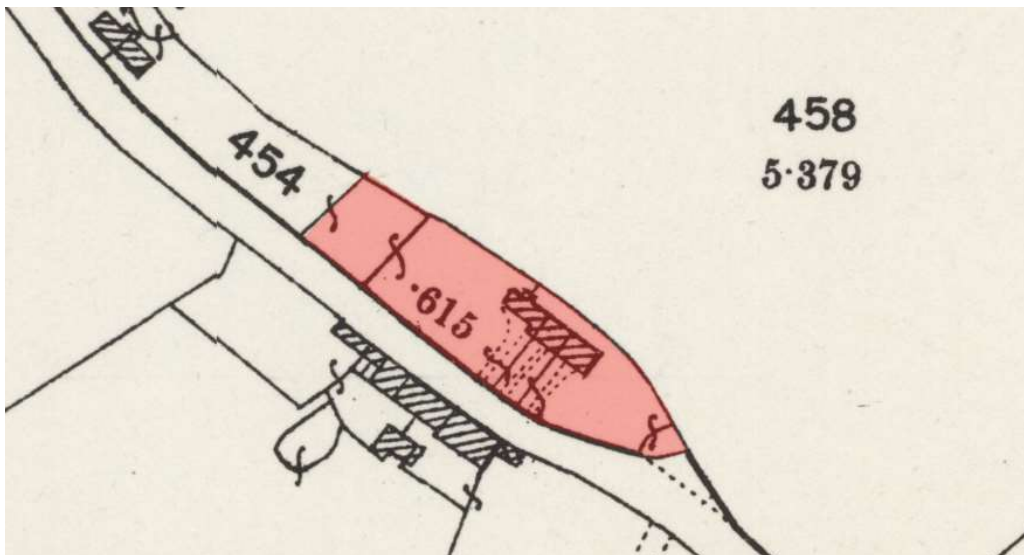
Map 1 Extract of the 1777 Chapman and André map. The approximate location of the development site highlighted in red.

The site is also located in an area with many listed buildings which date from the 17th to the 19th century. In the wider area there are also several areas of known cropmarks (EHER 7430, 17202, 18997, 46591, 47974).

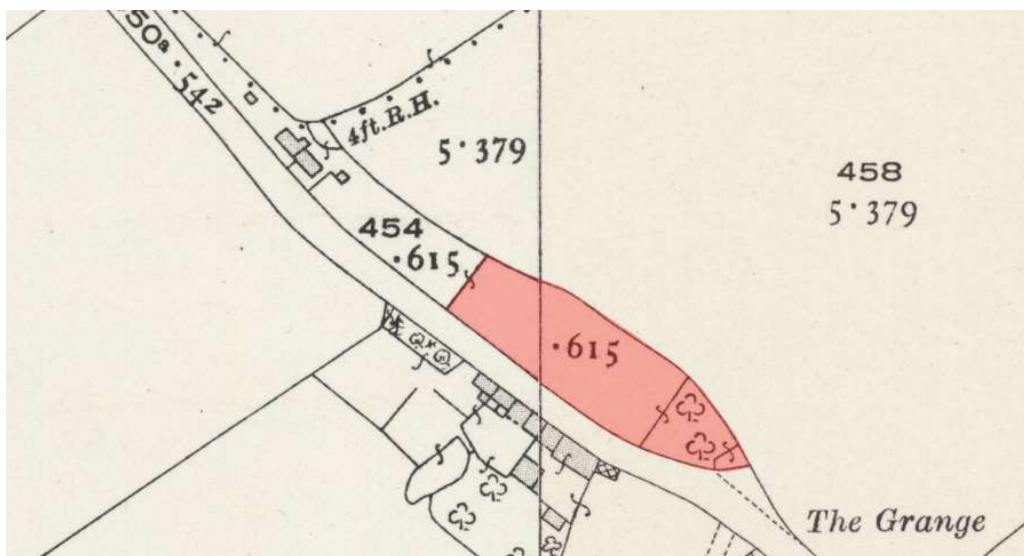
During the last ice age (the Pleistocene epoch), the sea retreated and the ancestral River Thames spread a succession of flint-rich river gravels across Essex. During the coldest period of this ice age, an ice sheet covered most of Essex. The moving ice diverted the Thames towards its present day course and deposited its a layer of boulder clay, or glacial till, on top of the gravels deposited by the river, forming the natural geology of the Uttlesford area (GeoEssex 2020).



Map 2 Extract of the 1880 6-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red.



Map 3 Extract of the 1897 25-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red.



Map 4 Extract of the 1921 25-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red.

Planning background

A planning application (UTT/22/1841/FUL) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in June 2022 proposing the *Demolition of existing buildings and removal of open storage. Replacement of the builders yard with 1 no. detached dwelling. Closure of existing access and construction of new access with associated parking, turning and garaging (alternative scheme to that approved under planning permission UTT/22/0107/FUL).*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains a phased full archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work will consist of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECCPS (*Brief for trial trenching and excavation for Trial Trenching and excavation at Old Builders Yard, Little Sampford – ECC 2022*).

The evaluation will comprise of two evaluation trenches, located within the footprint of the proposed dwelling, arranged in a X-shape. One trench will be 13m long and the other 10m, both will be 1.8m wide. This equates to a total of 23m of trenching covering an area of 41.1m².

Specific areas of interest will be looking for evidence of:

- the former buildings which occupied the site
- any dating evidence of the earliest occupation of the site

The initial work will comprise of the trial trench which will be followed by a site meeting with the ECCHEA. Further archaeological work may be required. This will be decided by the ECCHEA on completion of the trial-trenching and report.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2022)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to ECCHEA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT project officer and two archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furniss/ Nigel Rayner

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the ECCHEA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the

case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

The trench will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the ECCHEA.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or ECCHEA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the ECCHEA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/ Pip Parmenter - small groups only)
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flints: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
project osteologist (human remains): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Tom Lawrence
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to ECCHEA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

A summary (with trench plan) will be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited with Saffron Waldon Museum unless otherwise agreed in advance. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive. A summary

of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the ECCHEA at the time of their deposition.

The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

Monitoring

ECCHEA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given ECCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with ECCHEA prior to them being carried out.

ECCHEA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of ECCHEA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

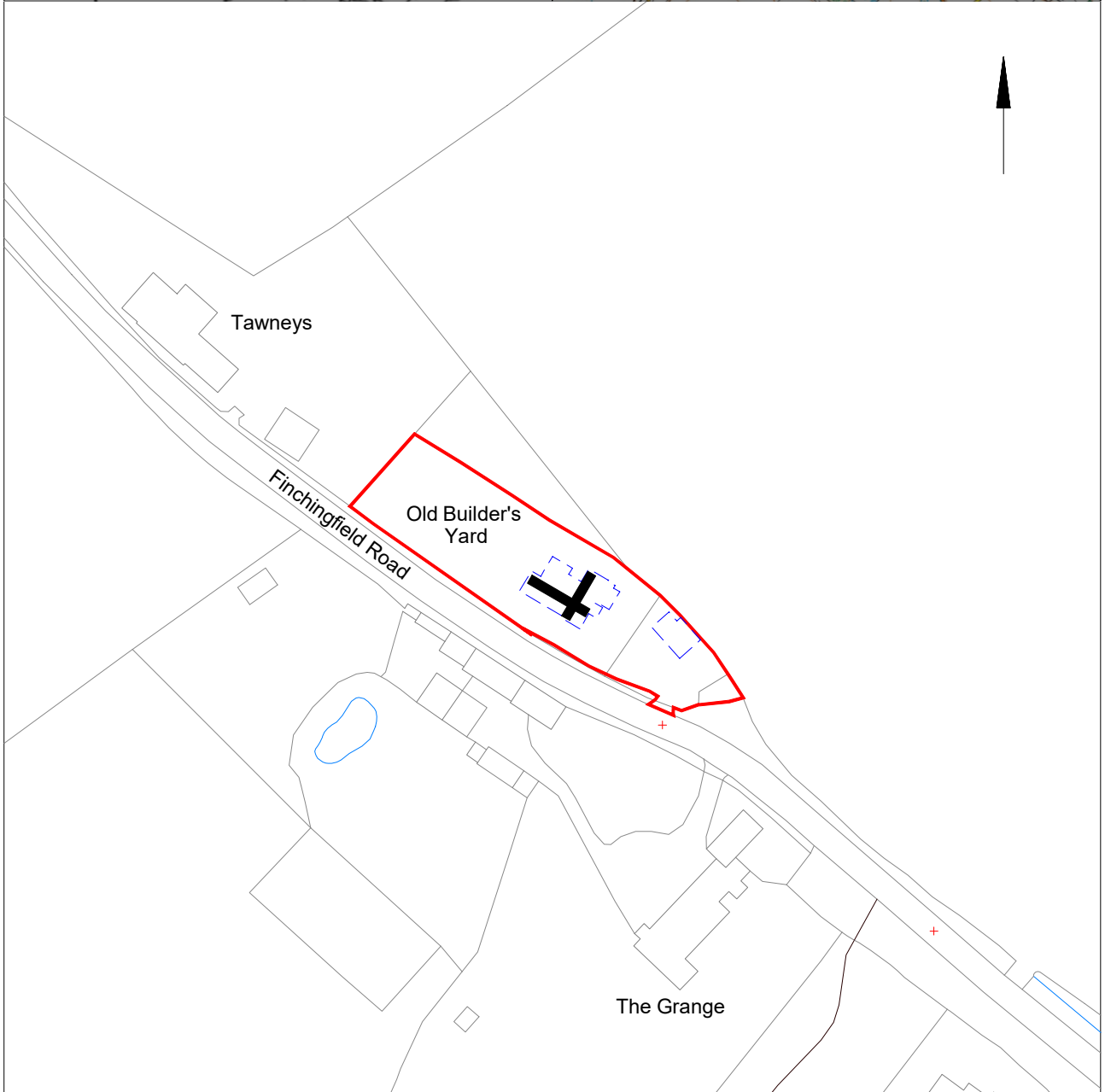
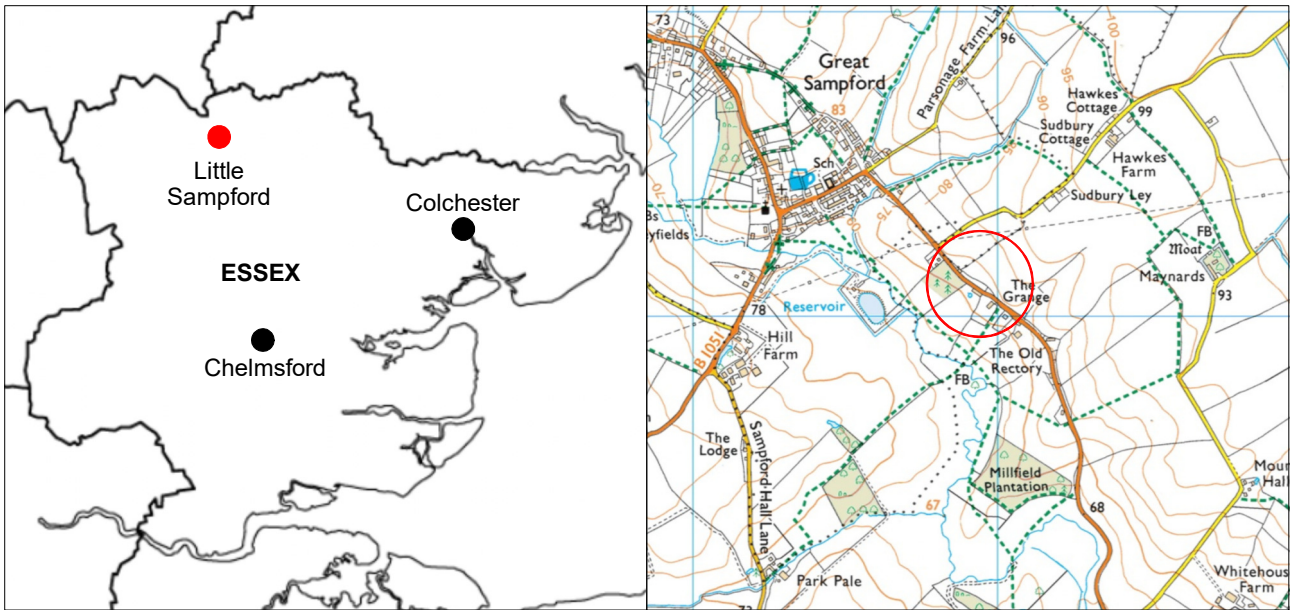
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation for Trial Trenching and excavation at Old Builders Yard, Little Sampford</i> by K Lee-Smith
GeoEssex	2020	<i>Uttlesford District Council: Report on Local Geological Site</i> by G Lucy and R Mercer
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex - Kelvedon- Historic Towns Assessment Report.</i> Essex County Council
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

Site: Lt Sampford Old Builders Yard EVAL Site code: LSBY22

Layer No.

Interpretation Topsoil

Period Modern

Location

1

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose ✓ soft friable firm hard dry moist wet ✓

Colour very light medium dark ✓ yellow orange green grey brown black ✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt ✓ clay loam clay ✓ silt sand

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 1 1

RECORDING Photo and sx @ 1:10

Plan nos

Section nos

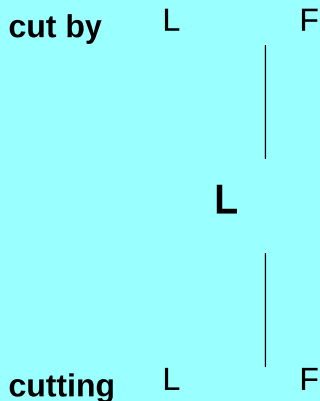
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS Ceramic building materials, glass, Fe objects

Find Nos:

NOTES Dark humic topsoil, contains ceramic building material fragments, pieces of glass, Fe objects and other modern detritus (not retained).



By ERH Date 26/10/22

Site: Lt Sampford Old Builders Yard EVAL Site code: LSBY22

Layer No.

Interpretation Accumulation layer

Period Undated

2

Location

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet
✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black
✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand
✓ ✓

Inclusions: flecks charcoal oyster daub brick tile
✓

Inclusions: pieces gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %
1 1

RECORDING Photo and sx @ 1:10

Plan nos

Section nos

pre-exc ex post-ex

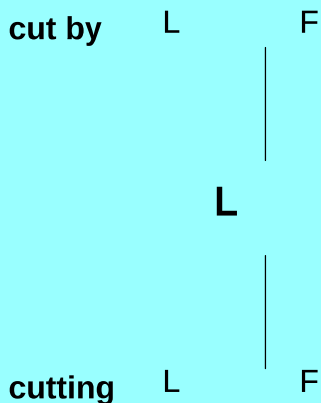
Photos taken

FINDS Pottery

Find Nos:

1

NOTES Accumulation layer overlying entirety of the site. Contains frequent ceramic building material fragments and charcoal flecks.



By ERH Date 26/10/22

Site: Lt Sampford Old Builders Yard EVAL Site code: LSBY22

Layer No.

Interpretation Natural

Period Post-glacial

3

Location

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand
✓ ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 1

RECORDING Photo and sx @ 1:10

Plan nos

Section nos

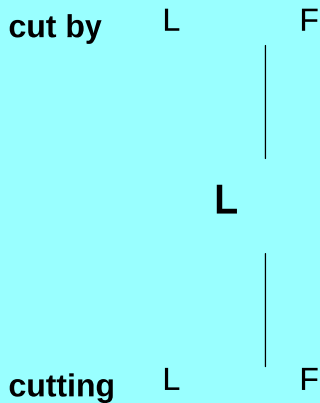
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS No finds

Find Nos:

NOTES Natural silty-clay.



By ERH Date 26/10/22

Site: Lt Sampford Old Builders Yard EVAL

Site code: LSBY22

Feature No. Layer No.

u/s

Find No.

CONTEXT

2

1

upper fill

middle fill

lower fill

?

good

poor

?

Notes

Pottery

whole

frags

✓

prehis Roman

Saxon

Med

Post-med

Mod

?

✓

CBM

R Brick

R Tile

box tile

tessera

unfrogged

frogged

Peg tile

P-R Brick

Organics

Animal bone

Human bone

shell

leather

wood

other

flint

fe nail

R glass

P-R glass

painted plaster

mortar

slate

clay pipe

burnt stone

Small Find?

Small Find No.

Small Find type

Sample?

Sample No.

Sample type



001



002
1/



003



004
2/



005



006
3/



007



008
4/

LSBY22_Old-Builders-Yard-Little-Sampford_EVAL-PhotographicLog

LSBY22_Photo_001.JPG	Trench 1a trench shot - looking northwest
LSBY22_Photo_002.JPG	Trench 1a trench shot - looking southeast
LSBY22_Photo_003.JPG	Rep sx 1 - looking northeast
LSBY22_Photo_004.JPG	Trench 1b trench shot - looking northeast
LSBY22_Photo_005.JPG	Working shot
LSBY22_Photo_006.JPG	Rep sx 2 - looking southeast
LSBY22_Photo_007.JPG	Site shot
LSBY22_Photo_008.JPG	Site shot

LS0422 ~~06LS22~~

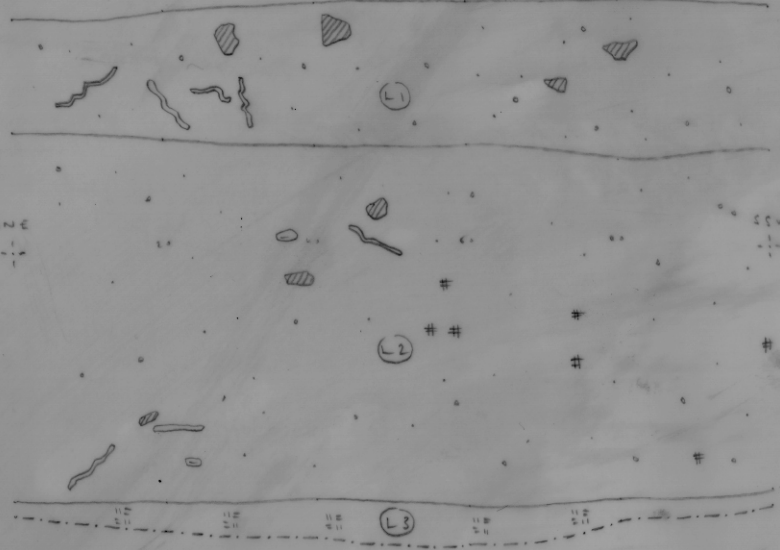
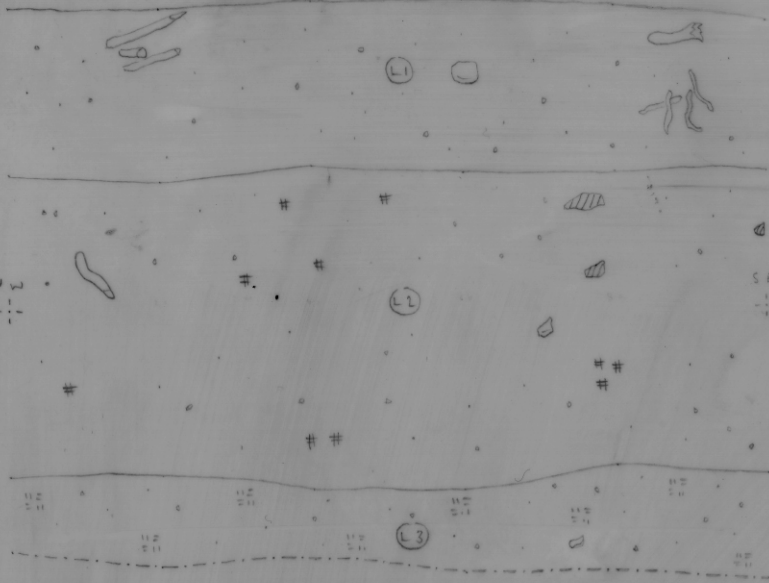
Thrup sk, 1:10, ERM, 26/10/22 SX1

SX2

Thrup sk 2, 1:10, ERM, 26/10/22

7699 ^{NW}
^

7674 ^{NNE}
^



- (L1) loose, moist dark grey/brown/black silty-loam with occ. CBM, glass & Fe oxide & 1% stones
- (L2) firm, moist med. grey/brown clayey-silt with frag. com & charcoal & 1% stones
- (L3) firm, moist med. yellow/brown silty-clay with 1% stones

4 Samples Old builders Yard Eval

Section sh # 1 of 1