

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: Gurnhams Farm, Church Road, Tendring, Essex	
Parishes: Tendring and Little Bentley	District: Tendring
NGR: this part of the site is centred on TM 1260 2375	HEM site code: TEGF 06
Type of work: Excavation and watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 5th-7th July 2006	Size of area investigated: 1,400 square metres approximately
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums (accession code 2006.89)	Funding source: Mineral Services Ltd
Further seasons anticipated? Yes, on other areas of the golf course	Related EHER nos: 3092 and 3662
Final report:	CAT summary only at this stage
Periods represented:	possibly Bronze Age to early Roman as well as post-medieval or modern
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>A planning application for a 123-acre golf course, sports facilities and club rooms (TEN/0616/89) was originally submitted in 1989. On renewal in 1997, permission was granted with the proviso that an approved scheme of archaeological works would be written into any future Section 106 agreement. The site is surrounded by cropmark complexes representing probable prehistoric and Roman activity.</i></p> <p><i>This archaeological investigation refers to one small area of the whole scheme; an area to the east of Gurnhams Farm house. This is one of the areas which is to be made into a putting green for the new golf course with two bunkers to the east and west (Figs 1-2). The areas were stripped of topsoil by a mechanical excavator, under archaeological supervision. Features were subsequently excavated by hand. 300mm of topsoil, and between 200mm and 250mm of subsoil, sealed natural sand. Three features (F1-F3) were recorded, all at between 500mm-600mm below ground-level.</i></p> <p><i>F1 was a linear feature with uneven edges, of probable natural (glacial) origin. It was sealed by topsoil and subsoil. One section dug through F1 showed it to be 500mm deep with a fill of yellow brown sand. The feature did not produce any artefacts and lacked any charcoal or tile flecks.</i></p>	

F2 was a small pit in the western bunker area with abundant charcoal pieces in its upper fill. It was sealed by topsoil and subsoil and was cut into natural sand. One small sherd of Late Iron Age or early Roman pot was found well down in the fill of the pit. The feature did not appear to be a fire pit. There were no later finds, and therefore F2 may be Late Iron Age or early Roman in date.

F3 was a ditch seen in the main putting green area and which continued into the eastern bunker area. It was sealed by topsoil and was cut through the subsoil and the natural sand. Three sections were dug out of it and it was seen to be between 300mm and 400mm deep. It was filled by a soft mid to dark greyish brown silty sand with some rare tile and charcoal flecks. In Sx 3 there was a complete but very over-fired early 19th-century brick as well as one sherd of Victorian pottery and one small sherd of prehistoric or early Roman pottery. In Sx 2 there was a modern iron farm implement on the surface plus some burnt flint, daub and peg-tile further down. Sx 1 did not contain any finds nor any tile flecks. The feature is probably a post-medieval field boundary, filled in during the 19th century.

A watching brief was carried out during soil-stripping for the 'swale' area of the golf course to the north-east and east of the putting green and bunkers. F3 was seen to continue to the east, but no further features were encountered during this soil-stripping.

A cursory examination of the field showed frequent burnt flint on the surface. The presence of burnt flint and a small amount of prehistoric/early Roman pottery from this small area of the site indicates a prehistoric 'background noise' and suggests prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Finds:

Finds no 1, F2 - 1 small body sherd of grog-tempered pottery with organic matter, possibly wheel turned. Late Iron Age or early Roman.

Finds no 2, F3, Sx 2 - several burnt flints, 1 piece of peg-tile, two small pieces of burnt sandstone or quartzite, daub.

Finds no 3, F3, Sx 3 - one small sherd of prehistoric or early Roman pottery, one sherd of late slipped kitchenware (Fabric 51a, Victorian), and one over-fired early 19th-century brick.

Previous summaries/reports: *Hill Farm, Tendring: archaeological evaluation, by E Hoppell, Essex County Council FAU report, 1997*

Author of summary: Kate Orr

Date of summary: August 2006