

Archaeological evaluation at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1SR

February 2016



by Laura Pooley
figures by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway
fieldwork by Mark Baister and Robin Mathieson
on behalf of
David Chalkley

CAT project ref.: 16/01i
ECC code: LCBL 16
NGR: TL 586 213
Planning ref.: 15/3362/HHF
Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2016.3
OASIS ref.: colchest3-239231



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CAT Report 921
March 2016

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	2
5	Finds	3
6	Discussion	3
7	Acknowledgements	3
8	References	3
9	Abbreviations and glossary	3
10	Contents of archive	4
11	Archive deposition	4

Figures after p4

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	Trench shot, looking NE	2
Photograph 2	F2, looking E	2

Table 1	All finds from site	3
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Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Evaluation results

Fig 3 Feature sections (F1-3) and representative trench section

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of a single storey building in the garden of Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield. Blatches historic farm complex is comprised of a timber-framed listed building (no.1097453) of 16th century date with other associated outbuildings. It is also located close to the Roman road of Stane Street. A modern service trench, post-medieval/modern pit and two natural features were identified and recorded.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological investigation by trial-trenching at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex which was carried out on 10th February 2016. The work was commissioned by David Chalkley in advance of the construction of a single storey building measuring 9m by 6m in the garden of the property. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis 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* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies within the Blatches historic farm complex comprising of a timber-framed listed building (no.1097453) (EHER 37952) of 16th century date with other associated outbuildings. This site is formed from a range of surviving farm buildings including the house and barns. The Chapman and André map of 1777 shows buildings on the site and there is a collection of buildings visible on the 1st edition OS mapping. A number of these structures shown on the cartographic evidence will potentially be impacted upon by the proposed development.

The site is also located immediately to the south of the Roman Road of Stane Street (EHER 1226/4697) and immediately to the north of All Saints Church and a possible deserted medieval village (EHER 4588).

Further to the north of Blatches, excavations during the construction of a water pipeline identified the remains of a possible settlement and cemetery of Iron Age date (EHER 46301).

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

A single trial-trench was excavated across the footprint of the new building using a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. The trench measured 9m long by 1.8m wide and was dug through three layers. Modern topsoil (L1, 180-240mm thick) sealed a clay-loam subsoil (L2, 140-230mm thick), which sealed natural clay (L3).



Photograph 1 Trench shot, looking NE

Four features were identified. From north to south were a modern service trench (F1, not fully excavated), post-medieval/modern pit (F2), and two natural features (F3 and F4).



Photograph 2 F2, looking E

5 Finds

Context	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
F1	1	<i>CBM post-medieval:</i> Two fragments of peg-tile, one corner (14mm thick), one with peg-hole (10mm thick, peg-hole 12mm diameter) (217g)	post-medieval
F1	2	Complete green glass bottle marked 'White Horse Whisky'	Probably 19th century
F2	3	<i>CBM post-medieval:</i> Eight fragments of peg-tile, 11-15mm thick (1036g), four pieces have mortar on their surfaces (secondary use?) and two pieces are corners with peg-holes (13mm diameter)	post-medieval

Table 1 All finds from site

6 Discussion

Despite being located within a historic farm complex and close to the Roman road of Stane Street, no significant archaeological horizons were identified on the site.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David Chalkley for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister and R Mathieson. Figures are by MB and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

8 References

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation and excavation on land at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1SR</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench and Excavation on land at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHEN	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

post-medieval from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
WSI Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 921)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2016.3

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Distribution list:

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Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Date: 01.03.2016

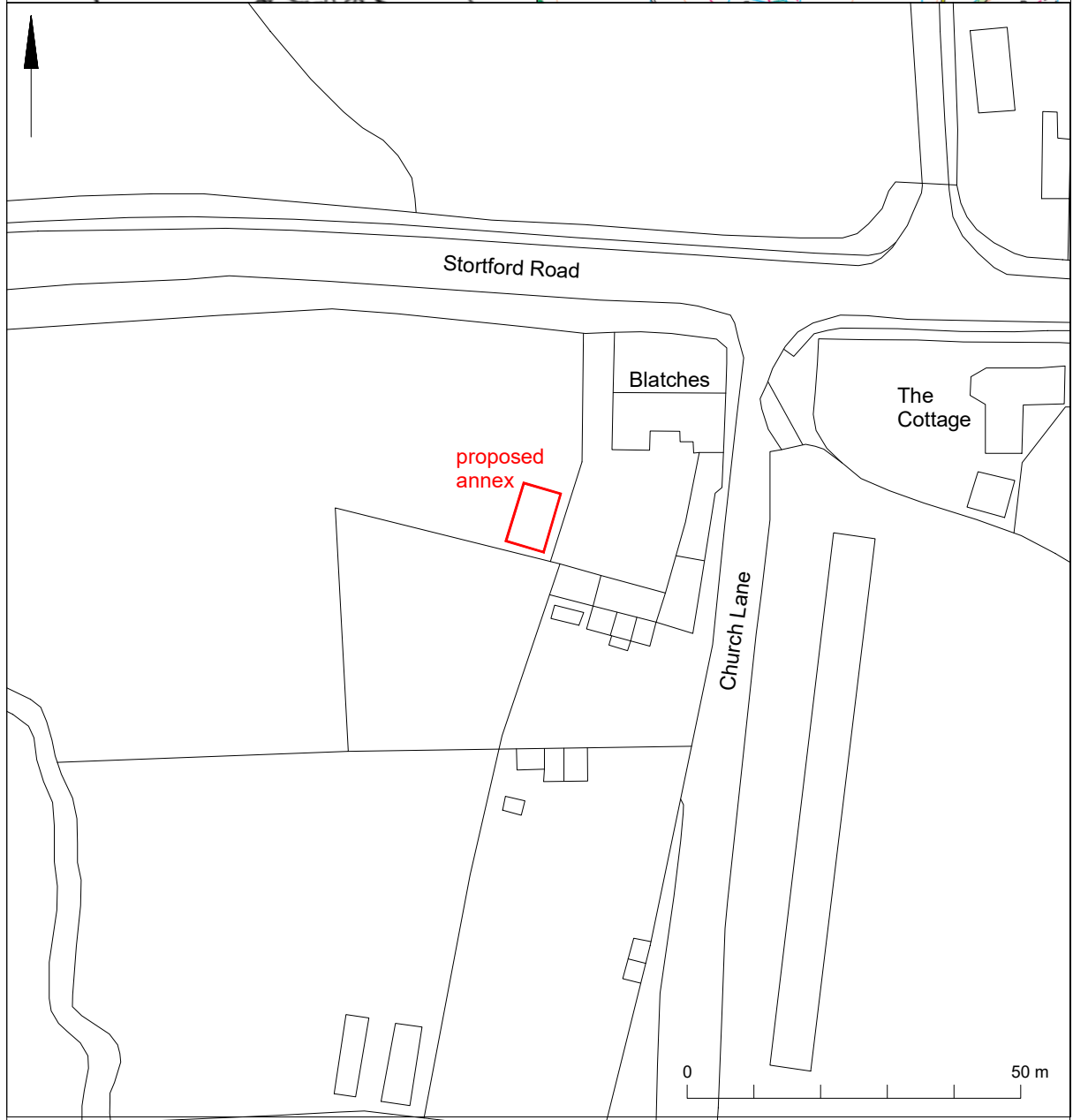
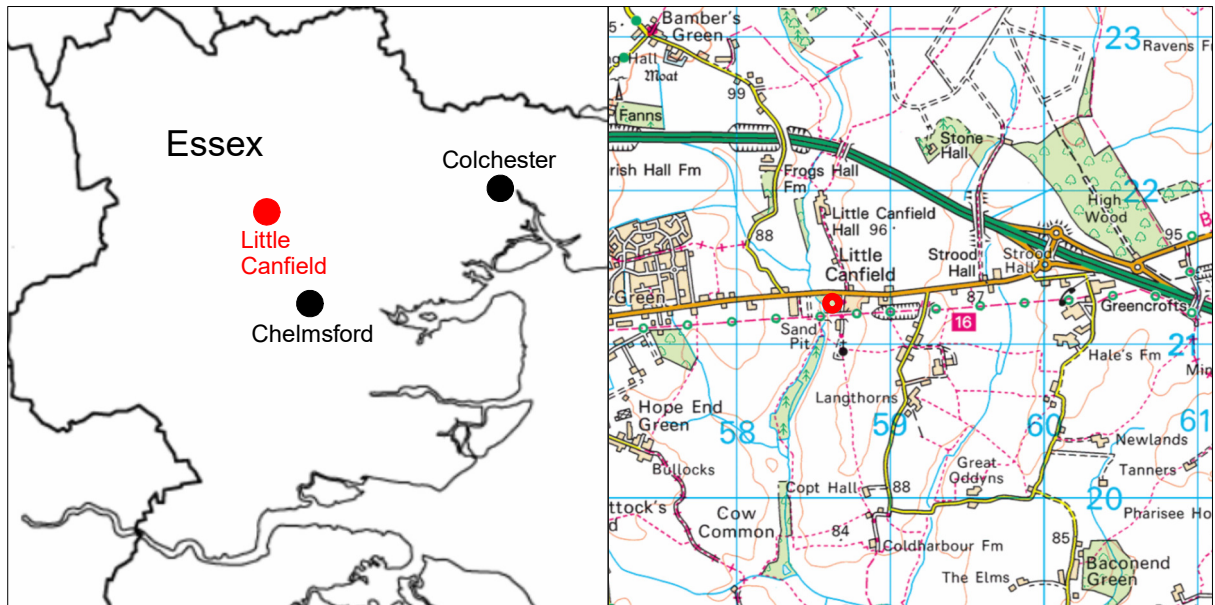


Fig 1 Site location.

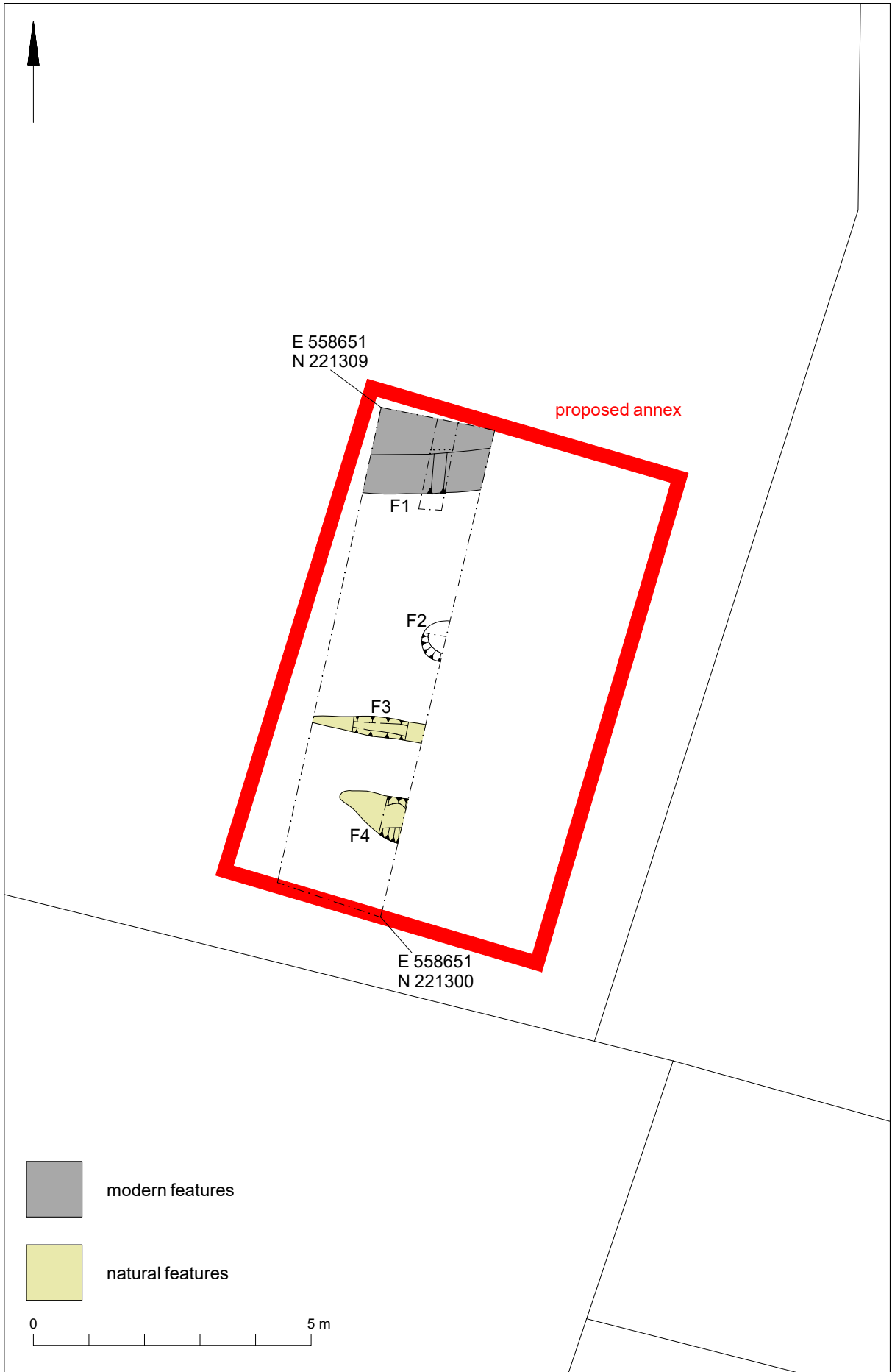


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

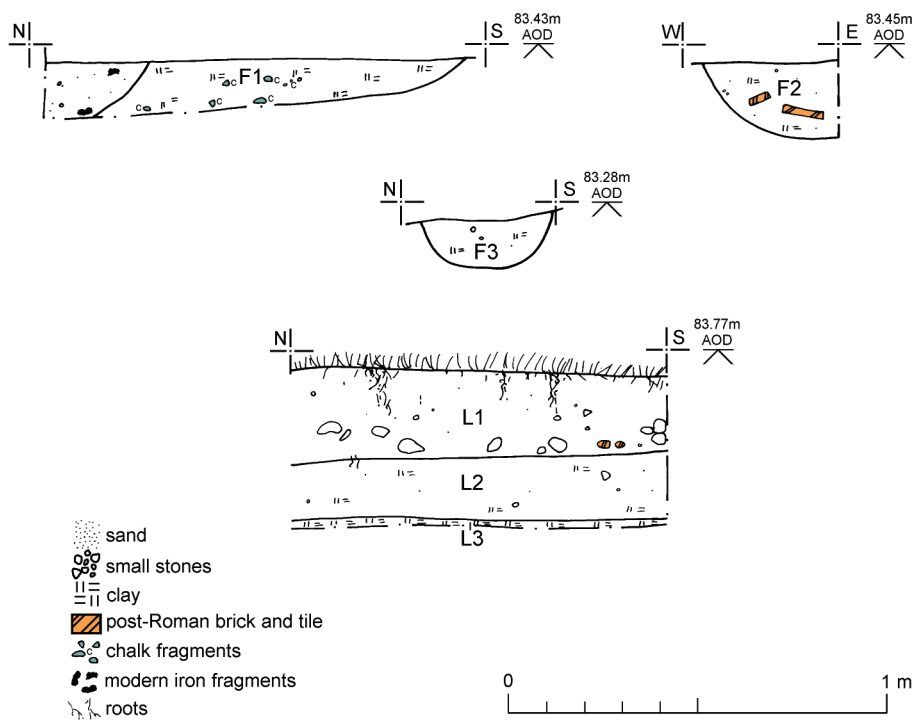


Fig 3 Feature sections (F1-3) and representative trench section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1SR	
Parish: Uttlesford	District: Little Canfield
NGR: TL 586 213	Site code: CAT project code: 16/01i ECC project code: LCBL16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-239231
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 10th February 2016	Size of area investigated: One trench - 9m long by 1.8m wide (16.2m ²)
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2016.3	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: EHER 1226/4697, 4588, 37952, 46301
Final report: CAT Report 921	
Periods represented: post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of a single storey building in the garden of Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield. Blatches historic farm complex is comprised of a timber-framed listed building (no.1097453) of 16th century date with other associated outbuildings. It is also located close to the Roman road of Stane Street. A modern service trench, post-medieval/modern pit and two natural features were identified and recorded.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: --	
Keywords: --	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: March 2016

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for
archaeological evaluation and excavation
on land at Blatches, Stortford Road,
Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1SR**

NGR: TL 586 213

Planning reference: 15/3362/HHF

Client: David Chalkley (dchalkley@jacksonlifts.com)

Curating Museum: Saffron Walden

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: TBC

ECC Project code: LCBL16

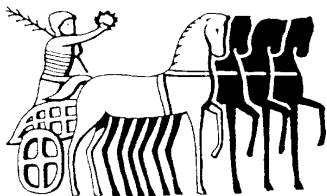
CAT Project code: 16/01i

Oasis project ID: colchest3-239231

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

ECC Monitor: Richard Havis

This WSI written: 19.01.2016



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Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies within the garden of Blatches. Site centre is National Grid Reference TL 586 213.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a single storey building measuring 9m by 6m in the garden of Blatches.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies within the Blatches historic farm complex comprising of a timber-framed listed building (no.1097453) (EHER 37952) of 16th century date with other associated outbuildings. This site is formed from a range of surviving farm buildings including the house and barns. The Chapman and André map of 1777 shows buildings on the site and there is a collection of buildings visible on the 1st edition OS mapping. A number of these structures shown on the cartographic evidence will potentially be impacted upon by the proposed development.

The site is also located immediately to the south of the Roman Road of Stane Street (EHER 1226/4697) and immediately to the north of All Saints Church and a possible deserted medieval village (EHER 4588).

Further to the north of Blatches, excavations during the construction of a water pipeline identified the remains of a possible settlement and cemetery of Iron Age date (EHER 46301).

Planning Background

Planning application 15/3362/HHF was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in November 2015. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological remains a full archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states:

"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority."

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching followed by open area excavation if deemed necessary. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECC (Brief for archaeological Trial Trench and Excavation on land at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield - ECC 2016).

Specifically, the work will comprise of a single trial-trench, measuring 9m long by 1.8m wide, running the length of the proposed building.

Specific research aims are to:

- Identify and record the survival the Blatches historic farm complex and related activity on the site
- Identify and record any other archaeological remains

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, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Officer (ECC 2015)

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 ECCHEO 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 ECCHEO 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 supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Trial-trenching and excavation methodology

Machine stripping shall be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the archaeological horizon, under the supervision and to the satisfaction of CAT archaeologist.

If required, exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand after machine stripping, and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

CAT archaeologist(s) will be present during all topsoil removal and ground reduction, which will be done with a toothless bucket.

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

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered. Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

A meeting will be held on site once trial-trenching has been completed. 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.

Site surveying

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 and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

During evaluation work 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. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove the remains from the site during the evaluation phase, 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and ECCHEO 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.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by ECCHEO, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with ECCHEO.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASiS website.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.
animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)
conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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 ECCHEO.

Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEO 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* (English Heritage 2006).

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

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- 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 and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to ECCHEO as an appendix to the CAT site report.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) 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.

Archive Deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall 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.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to ECCHEO.

Monitoring

ECCHEO 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 ECCHEO one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with ECCHEO prior to them being carried out. ECCHEO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

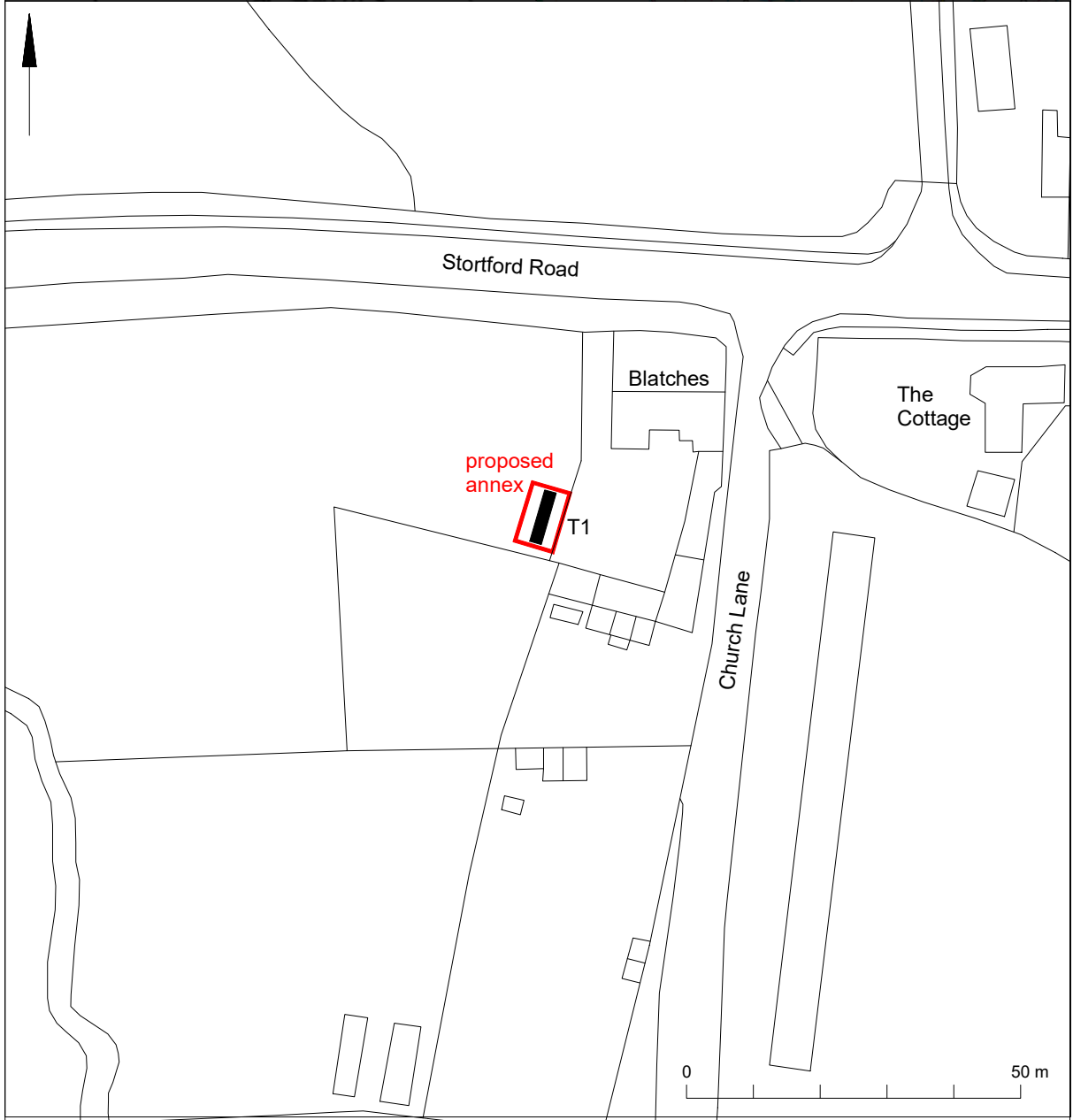
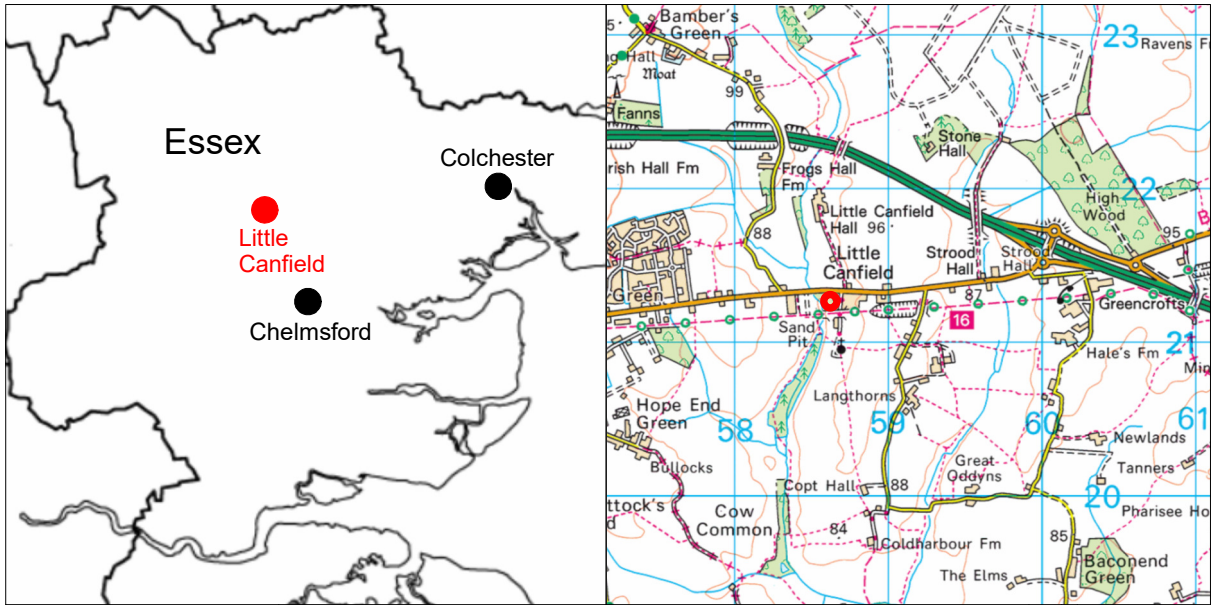
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
David Gurney	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
ECC	2016	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench and Excavation on land at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, by Richard Havis, January 2016</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

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 Fig 1 Site location with proposed extension and trench location.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-239231

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1SR
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of a single storey building in the garden of Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield. Blatches historic farm complex is comprised of a timber-framed listed building (no.1097453) of 16th century date with other associated outbuildings. It is also located close to the Roman road of Stane Street. A modern service trench, post-medieval/modern pit and two natural features were identified and recorded.
Project dates	Start: 10-02-2016 End: 10-02-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/01i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	15/3362/HHF - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2016.3 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	LCBL 16 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	SERVICES Modern
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE Post Medieval

Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEXUTTLESFORD LITTLE CANFIELD Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield
Postcode	CM6 1SR
Study area	16.2 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 586 213 51.867224871613 0.303813545735 51 52 02 N 000 18 13 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 83.32m Max: 83.33m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	David Chalkley (agent)

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2016.3
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2016.3

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation at Blatches, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1SR: February 2016

Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

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