

# Archaeological monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex, CM11 1LA

May 2019



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter  
fieldwork by Ben Holloway

**commissioned by Philip Elwood (E&M Design)  
on behalf of Vi'Elle Developments Ltd**

NGR: TQ 72945 96009 (centre)

Planning ref.: 18/01388/FUL

CAT project ref.: 19/04f

ECC code: BHBD19

Chelmsford Museum accession code: CHMER: 2019.030

OASIS ref.: colchest3-349947



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1433**

June 2019

## **Contents**

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

Figures after p5

OASIS summary sheet

## **List of photographs and figures**

Cover: site shot

Photograph 1 Reduced level, looking northeast. 3

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Monitoring results

Fig 3 Representative section

## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex during the construction of a swimming pool. In spite of being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological deposits or material were encountered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex which was carried out on 29th May 2019. The work was commissioned by Philip Elwood of E&M Design on behalf of Vi'Elle Developments Ltd during groundworks for a new swimming pool, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett 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 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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 excavation* (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 draws on the Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Blue House Farm is a timber-framed house dating to the 17th century (ECC 30829) and a Historic England Grade II Listed Building (No. 1274848). In 2016 the owner gained planning permission to demolish a part of the northern edge of the house separating the listed house from buildings at the rear. These were subsequently converted into a separate dwelling. The proposed swimming pool is to be located immediately to the west of the newer dwelling. The property is on the corner of School Road and Sudbury Road, and is surrounded by a number of historic listed buildings including Kites Cottage (ECC 30826), Allens Farm House (ECC 30827) and Sudbury Cottage (ECC 31054).

Approximately 1km south southwest of the site is the Church of St Mary Margaret. A church has stood on this site from the mid 13th century onwards. In 1871, most of the church was rebuilt re-using the original fabric of the building. The oldest part of the current church, the western redbrick tower, dates to c 1470. Archaeological deposits were excavated in 1982 during the digging of a new grave. They were interpreted as dumped deposits relating to the work in 1871. Historical records show the church was in poor condition during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The church was gutted by

fire following an arson attack in 1977 and was subsequently restored (ECC 7579-7580).

A medieval road surface lies to the immediate north of the church, and Roman pottery and medieval pottery has been recovered in this area (ECC 7612-3). To the south of the church are the remains of a 'castle' occupying a quadrangular area near the church, which is thought to be Roman in origin (ECC 7581). The 'castle' site lies adjacent to Downham Hall, where a moated site was excavated by K Marshall in 1962. Pottery dated to the 15th century was recovered from the moat area, while 10th-century pottery was recovered elsewhere on the site (ECC7548-9).

Approximately 700m south southeast of the current site was the location of the moated site of Barn Hall. The earliest reference to the hall in the historical record dates to 1232, and a record dating to 1330 notes that land associated with the hall was owned by John de Rochford. At some point a house was constructed on the site of the hall; this house was demolished in 1962. Trial excavations were undertaken by Passmore Edwards, Prittlewell Museum and Wickford Archaeological Society on the site, which revealed a prehistoric flint implement (ECC 7556), a Greek coin of Seriphos dating to c 200 BC (ECC 7558), an Iron Age urned cremation burial (ECC 7557), evidence of Roman occupation, including Roman pottery (ECC 7554) and assorted Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds (ECC 7559). WJ Rodwell claims the site forms part of a hill fort with early Iron Age to medieval occupation (ECC 7557). Excavations in 1967 recorded further Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds (ECC 7560-1), 'scatter collections' of finds (ECC 7562) and an 18th-century drain and well (ECC 7579-7580). Although the records may be limited, there is clearly artefactual evidence of multi-period occupation in this area, especially from the Iron Age to the medieval period.

A number of find spots are recorded around the village: Roman pottery and tile has been recovered to the south of the site (ECC 7618), medieval pottery and tile to the south (ECC 7619) and medieval coins to the west (ECC 52437 and ECC 50402).

#### **4 Aim**

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was 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)

On 29th May 2019, a CAT archaeologist observed the reduction of an area measuring 31.4m<sup>2</sup> to accommodate the new swimming pool. An archaeologist monitored the groundworks until they reached the natural geological horizon, some 0.3-0.4m below current ground level (bcgl). The final formation level was 1.2-1.8m bcgl.

Three layers were recorded. The northern part of the swimming pool was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.1-0.14m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay) onto natural (L2, firm, moist medium yellow/grey clay). The southern part of the swimming pool was excavated through a modern yard surface (L3, c 0.23-0.25m thick, friable gravel surface with underlying hardcore sub-base) onto L2.

A modern service run and foundation were observed, but otherwise no archaeological material or deposits were encountered.



**Photograph 1** Reduced level – looking northeast

## 6 Finds

There were no finds.

## 7 Discussion

In spite of being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Philip Elwood of E&M Design and Vi'Elle Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

## 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 <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> ) |
| CAT                      | 2018  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                      | 2019  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex, CM11 1LA</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>   |
| ECCPS                    | 2019  | <i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham.</i> By A Bennett  |
| Gurney, D                | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> ).                                     |
| Historic England (HE)    | 2015  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |

Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c AD 500 to 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1433)

Original site records (layer sheets, sections/plans)

Photographic thumbnails and log

Inked sections and illustrations

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1433)

Photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics files

## 12 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMER: 2019.030

**Distribution list:**

Philip Elwood (E&M Design)

Vi'Elle Developments Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

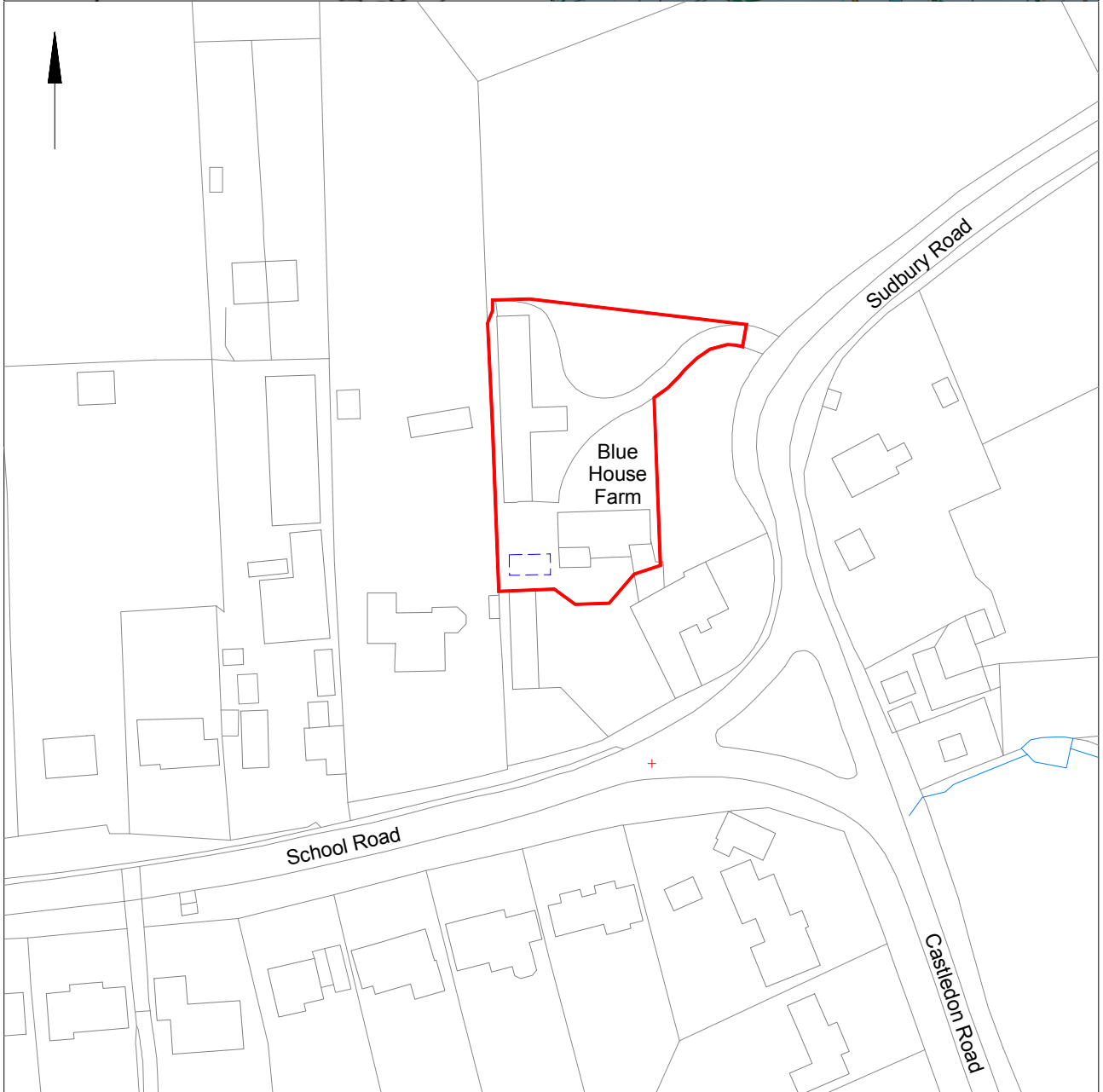
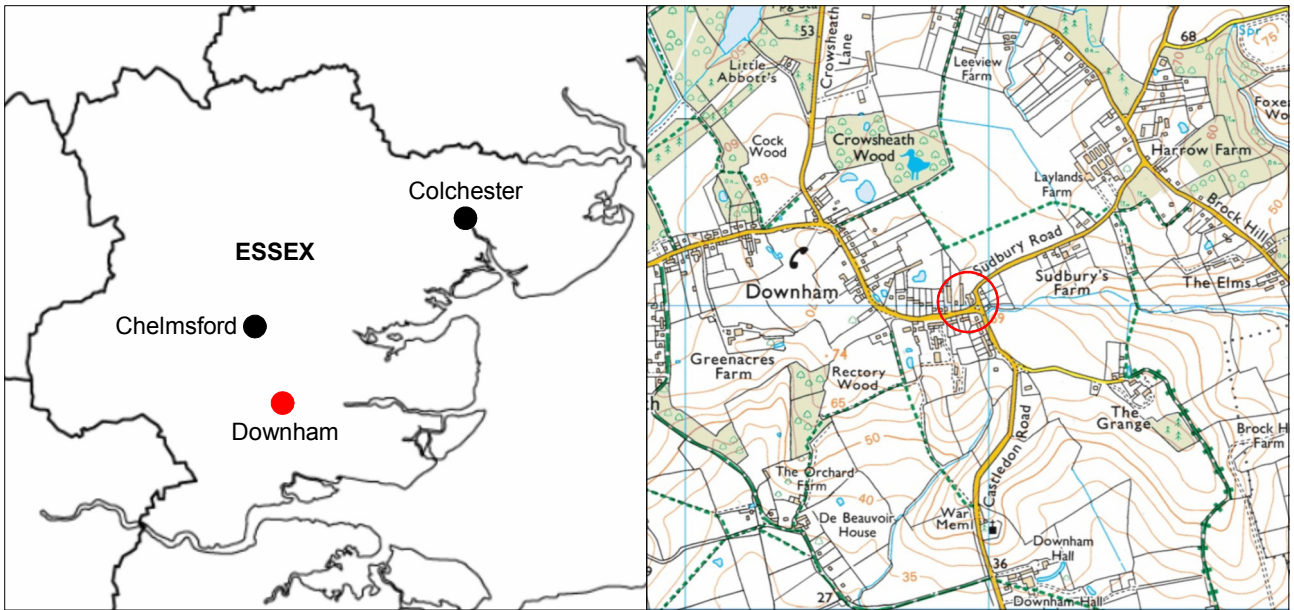
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 01206 501785

*email:* [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

*Checked by:* Philip Crummy

*Date:* 18.06.2019



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.



Fig 1 Site location.



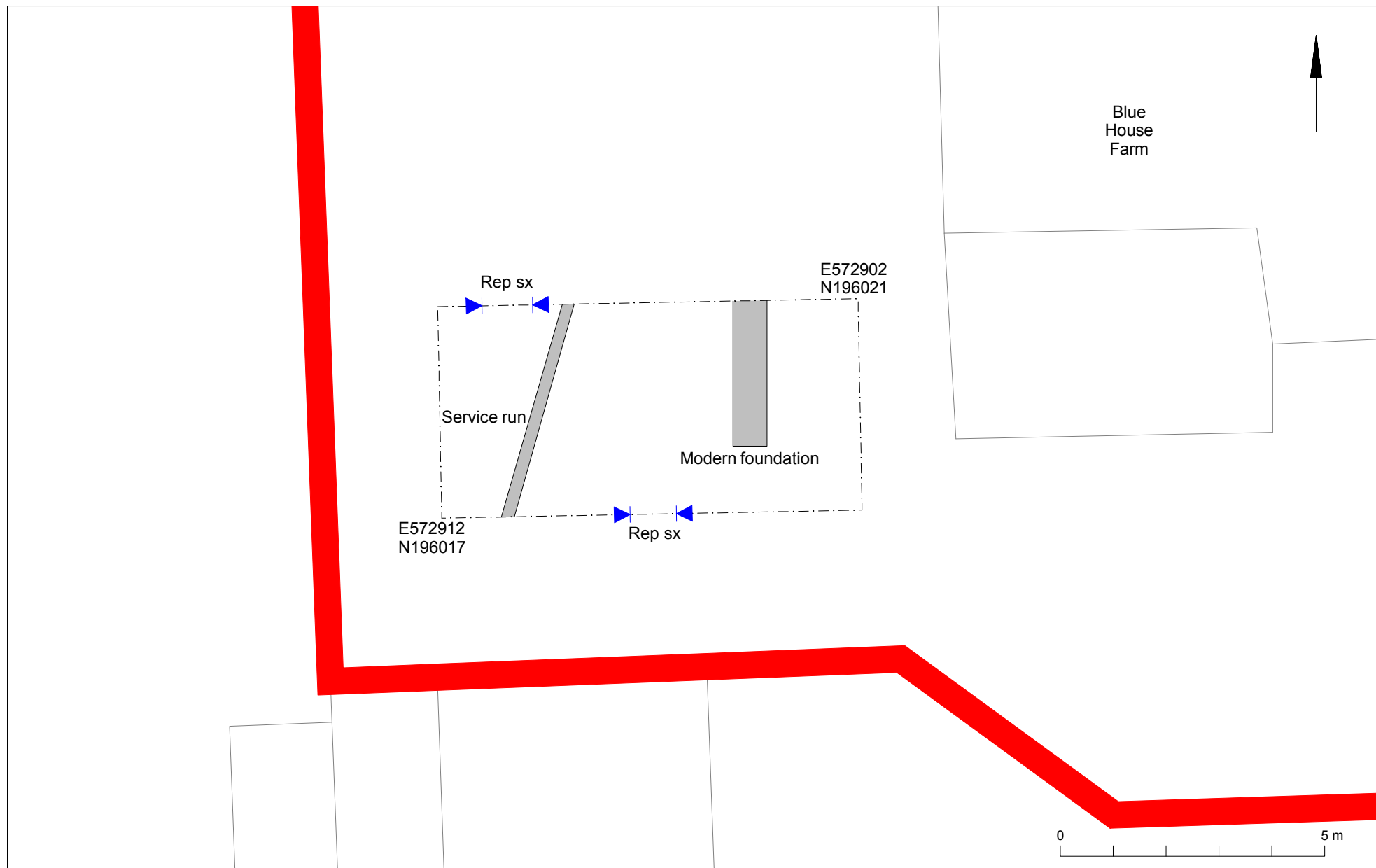


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

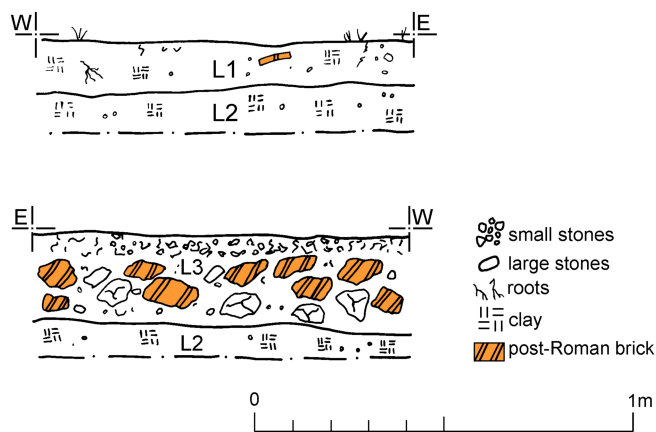


Fig 3 Representative sections.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for  
archaeological monitoring at  
Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham,  
Essex, CM11 1LA.**

**NGR:** TL 72945 96009 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 18/01388/FUL

**Commissioned by:** Philip Elwood (E&M Design)

**On behalf of:** Vi'Elle Developments Ltd

**Curating museum:** Chelmsford

**Museum accession code:** tbc

**ECC project code:** tbc

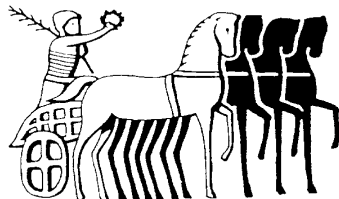
**CAT project code:** 2019/04f

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-349947

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**ECC monitor:** Alison Bennett

**This WSI written:** 26/04/2019



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

*tel:* 01206 501785

*email:* [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 750m east-northeast of the main centre of the village of Downham. Downham lies in the parish of South Hanningfield, approximately 3.22km northwest of Wickford and 5.4km northeast of Billericay at Blue House Farm, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex, CM11 1LA (Fig 1). Site is centred at National grid reference (NGR) TL 72945 96009.

## Proposed work

The planning application proposes construction of an external new swimming pool and any other associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Blue House Farm is a timber-framed house dating to the 17th-century (ECC 30829). It is a Historic England Grade II Listed Building (No. 1274848). In 2016 the owner gained planning permission to demolish a part of the northern edge of the house separating the listed house from buildings at the rear. These were subsequently converted into a separate dwelling. The proposed swimming pool is to be located immediately to the west of the newer dwelling. The property is on the corner where School Road meets Sudbury Road, surrounded by a number of historic listed buildings including Kites Cottage (ECC 30826), Allens Farm House (ECC 30827) and Sudbury Cottage (ECC 31054).

Approximately 1km south-southwest of the site is the Church of St. Mary Margaret. There was a church on the site from the mid 13th century onwards. In 1871 most the church was rebuilt re-using much of the 13th century material. The oldest part of the current church, the western redbrick tower dates to c 1470. Archaeological deposits were excavated in 1982 during the digging of a new grave. They were interpreted as a dumped deposits relating to the work in 1871. Historical records show the church was in poor condition in the 17th, 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The church was gutted by fire following an arson attack in 1977 and subsequently restored (ECC 7579-7580).

To the immediate north of the church the HER records Roman pottery and medieval pottery and a medieval road surface (ECC 7612-3)

To the immediate south of the church the HER records there are the remains of a 'castle' which occupies a quadrangular area near the church which is thought to be Roman in origin (ECC 7581). The 'castle' site is next to Downham Hall where a moated site was excavated in 1962 by K Marshall. Pottery dated to the 15th-century was recorded from the moat area. Pottery dated to the 10th-century was also retrieved from the site (ECC7548-9).

Approximately 700m south-southeast of the current site was the location of the moated site of Barn Hall. The hall is recorded as being on the site as early as 1232 and land associated with the Hall is recorded in 1330 as belonging to John de Rochford. At some point the Hall was replaced with a Tudor House which was demolished in 1962. Trial excavations were undertaken by Passmore Edwards, Prittlewell Museum and Wickford Archaeological Society on the site, which revealed a prehistoric flint implement (ECC 7556), a Greek coin of Seriphos dating to c 200 BC (ECC 7558), an Iron Age urned cremation burial (ECC 7557), evidence of Roman occupation, including Roman pottery (ECC 7554) and assorted Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds (ECC 7559). WJ Rodwell claims the site forms part of a hill fort with early IA to medieval occupation (ECC 7557). Excavations in 1967 recorded further Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds (ECC 7560-1) and 'scatter collections' of finds (ECC 7562) and an 18th-century drain and well (ECC 7579-7580). Although the records may be limited, there is clearly artefact evidence of multi-period occupation in this area, especially from Iron Age to medieval eras.

There are a number of find spots and portable antiquities find spots recorded around the village including Roman pottery and tile to the south (ECC 7618), medieval pottery and tile to the south (ECC 7619) and medieval coins to the west (ECC 52437 and ECC 50402).

### **Planning background**

An outline planning application (18/01388/FUL) was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in August 2018 proposing a *swimming pool*.

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 2019) and states:

*No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been secured and has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall then be carried out in accordance with the agreed programme.*

### **Requirement for work** (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work will consist of archaeological monitoring. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECCPS (*Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham – ECC 2019*).

Specifically, the monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

Aims are to identify:

- To record the location of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development and identify its relationship to the medieval or post-medieval farm complex.
- To record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits affected by the development.

Further area excavation may be required should significant archaeological deposits/features be identified that cannot be preserved *in situ*. This will be decided by the ECCHEA and will be carried out in accordance with a further brief and WSI.

### **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 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2019)

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 officer for the duration of the groundworks.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

## **Monitoring methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If any features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. 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 proformarecord 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.

## **Site surveying**

The site and any features will be surveyed by Total Station where possible, 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 monitoring, 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 HE guidance (HE 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.

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

- small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
- animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman
- flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

- animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
- environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
- conservation of finds: Norwich Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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

- Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)
- Roman glass: Hilary Cool
- Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

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.

### **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* (HE 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).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also 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](mailto: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.

### **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 1 month of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to ECCHEA.

## 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 <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> ) |
| CAT                      | 2018  | <i>Health &amp; 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>   |
| ECCPS                    | 2019  | <i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham.</i> By A Bennett  |
| Gurney, D                | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> ).                                     |
| Historic England (HE)    | 2015  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Historic England (HE)    | 2018  | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell   |
| Medlycott, M             | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )             |
| MHCLG                    | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.   |

E Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785  
email: [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)

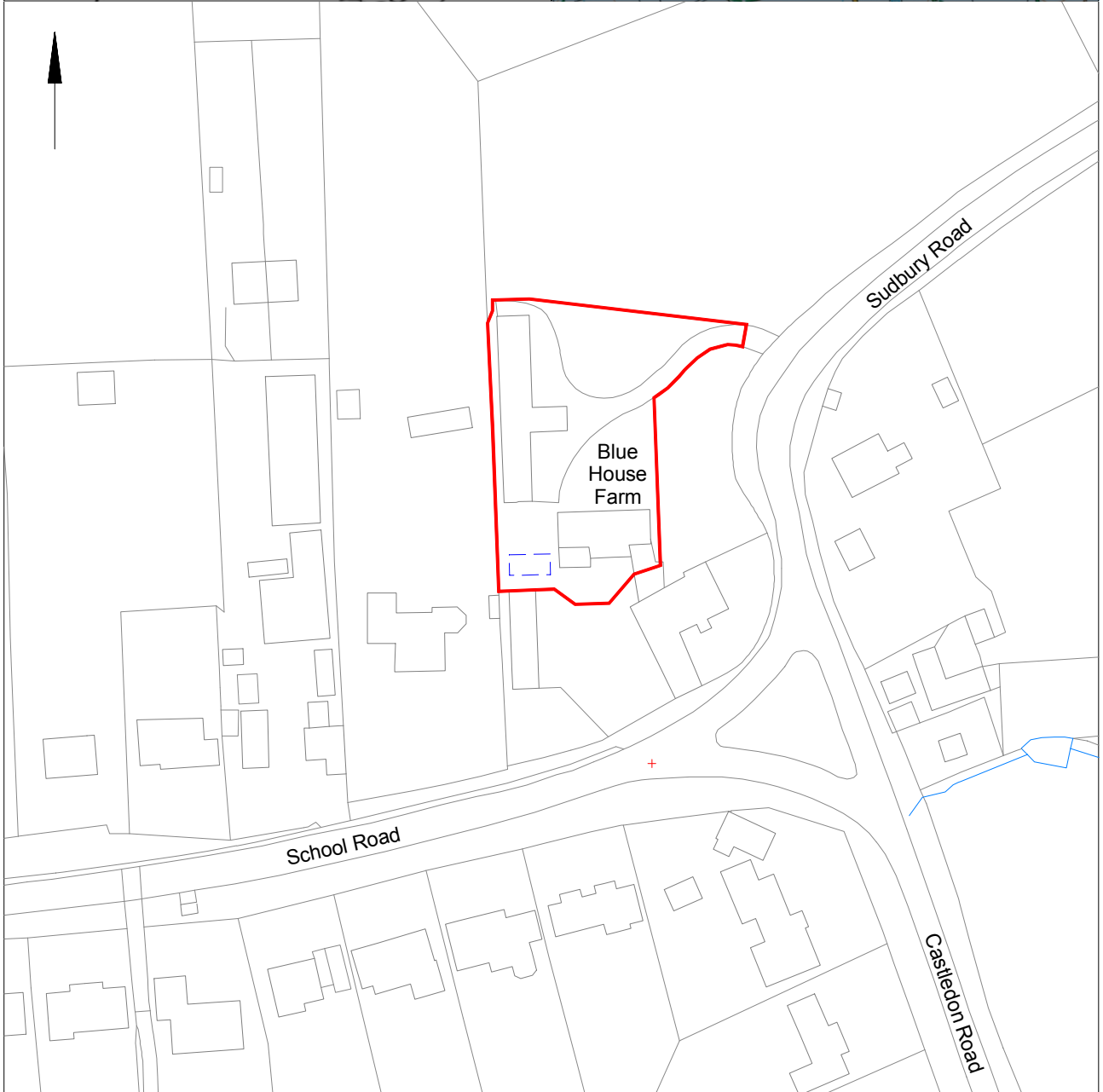
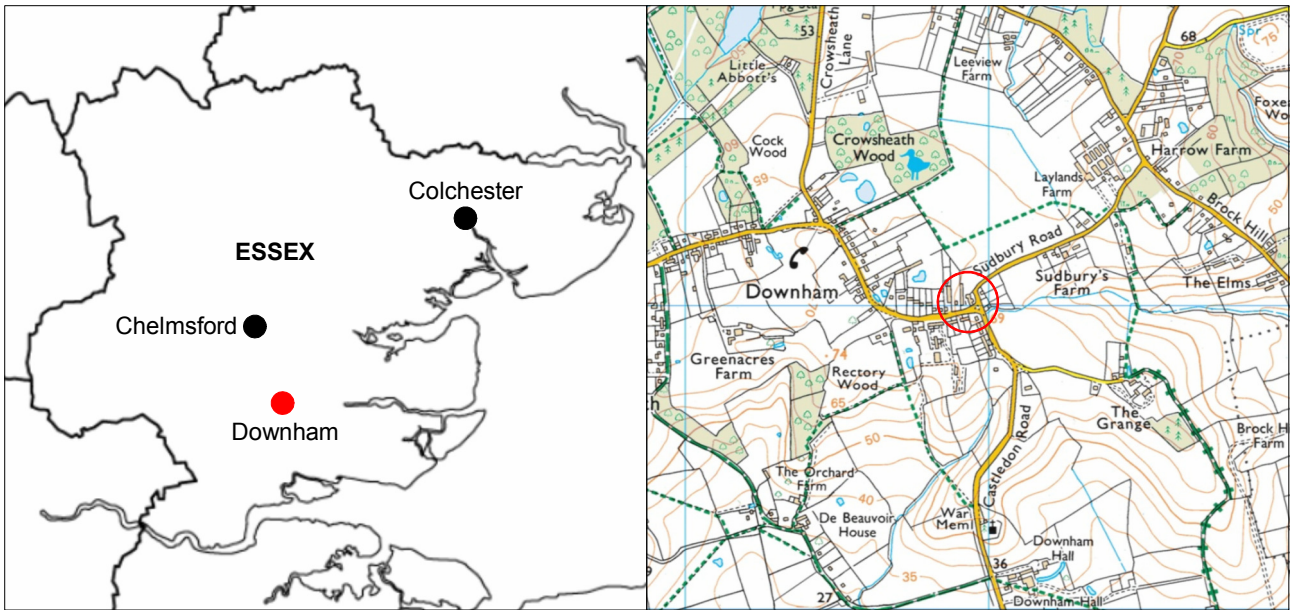


Fig 1 Site location.



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-349947**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex, CM11 1LA.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex during the construction of a swimming pool. In spite of being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological deposits or material were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 29-05-2019 End: 29-05-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/04f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	18/01388/ful - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMER: 2019.030 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	BHBD19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD SOUTH HANNINGFIELD Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex
Postcode	CM11 1LA
Study area	0.19 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 72945 96009 51.635747257267 0.499401690851 51 38 08 N 000 29 57 E Point

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Vi'Elle Developments Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMER: 2019.030
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHMER: 2019.030
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

**Project bibliography**

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex, CM11 1LA: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1433
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	21 June 2019

# OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), [email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=356859> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham



Date:  
18/03/19

Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham

**Title:** Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road,  
Downham

**Agent:** Philip Elwood (ellwood70@aol.com)

**Planning Reference:** CHL 18/01388/ful

**Date issued:** 18/03/19

**Historic Environment Advisor:** Alison Bennett | [alison.bennett@essex.gov.uk](mailto:alison.bennett@essex.gov.uk) |  
03330 136851

**Museum:** Chelmsford 01245 605700

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

*The contractor is 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 monitoring of a new swimming pool at the above site in Downham. The purpose of the monitoring is to record the presence/absence and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits/features associated with the development of the medieval and post medieval settlement complex. A building is shown on the site on the first edition Ordnance Survey maps.

## **2. Site Location and Description**

The development area is located at TL7294596009 comprising the construction of a new swimming pool. The site lies on the eastern side of the village, within the grounds of Blue House Farm. Details of the proposed development can be found on the Chelmsford planning web site.

## **3. Planning Background**

Planning application 18/01388/FUL was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in August 2018 for the creation of a swimming pool. As the site lies on the site of an earlier structure recorded on early cartographic evidence an archaeological condition was recommended. The planning authority therefore placed an archaeological condition on the planning consent. The condition is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework and states:

**"No development shall take place within the site until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation has been secured and has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall then be carried out in accordance with the agreed programme."**



#### **4. Archaeological Background**

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors are advised to obtain the EHER prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation.

- (i) No development or preliminary ground works shall take place within the site until a written scheme of investigation for the programme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.**
- (ii) No development or preliminary ground works shall take place until such time that the programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.**

#### **5. Requirement for Work**

The archaeological work will determine the presence or absence, the extent, date and character and significance of any archaeological remains that may be present and ensure their preservation by record prior to damage or destruction.

Specific aims are:

- To record the location of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development and identify its relationship to the medieval or post medieval farm complex.
- To record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits affected by the development.

A programme of archaeological monitoring will occur during the initial top soil clearance of the development. Any archaeological deposits identified will require excavation prior to any further work or machine activity in the area. A period of time to allow for investigation of any exposed archaeological deposits will need to be agreed with the developer and stipulated in the written scheme of investigation.

#### **6. General Methodology**

6.1 The archaeological work shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. An indicative timetable for the work shall be included within the WSI.

- 6.2 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003).
- 6.3 All of the latest Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 A site code shall be obtained from the Historic Environment Advisor prior to the commencement of work
- 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.

## **7. Monitoring Methodology**

- 7.1 The contractor shall agree a defined time with the developer for all excavation work involved with archaeological deposits identified during the monitoring programme and this will be stated in the WSI.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 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 will require full excavation where they are threatened by the development.
- 7.5 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the project 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.

7.6 The photographic record policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. A photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

7.7 The CIFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching briefs and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003) should be used for additional guidance in the production of the archaeological written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

## **8. Finds**

8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

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

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

8.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be stated within the written scheme of investigation.

8.5 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work.

## **9. Results**

9.1 The full report shall be submitted to the Historic Environment Advisor within a length of time (but not exceeding 2 months) from the end of the fieldwork. A digital copy as a single PDF shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor and Historic England.

9.2 This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological programme.
- Location plan of groundworks observed during the archaeological monitoring with at least two corners of each area given 10 figure grid references.

- Copies of plans and/or sections drawn at an appropriate scale of any archaeological features excavated or recorded during the course of the investigation.
- A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Specialist reports.
- An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and included in the report. 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)

9.3 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the EHER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

9.4 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 full publication in an appropriate journal.

## **10. Archive Deposition**

10.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with Chelmsford Museum, and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.

10.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

10.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 2 months of the completion of the report and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.

10.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor at the time of deposition to the museum.

## **11. Monitoring**

- 11.1 The Historic Environment Advisor and the Historic England Inspector will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 11.2 Notification of the start of the archaeological work shall be given to both the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
- 11.3 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

## **12. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation**

- 12.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA 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.
- 12.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Advisor for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 12.3 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. 8
- Gurney, D. 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
- Medlycott, M. 1999 Pleshey Historic Town Assessment Report. ECC.
- Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

Blue House Barn, Sudbury Road, Downham

**For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.**

Alison Bennett  
Place Services  
Essex County Council  
County Hall  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1QH



001



002



003



004





005



006



007



008



009



010



011



012



013

xnview\_filelisting

CHMER2019.030\_BHBD19\_Blue-House-Barn-Billericay\_WB\_PhotographicLog

Filename With Ext	annotation
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Exc of retaining wall trench - looking west
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Rep sx - looking north
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Exc of retaining wall trench - looking south
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Site shot
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Site shot
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Pool area level reduction - looking southeast
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Pool area level reduction - looking northeast
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Level reduction - looking east
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Site shot
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Reduced level
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Reduced level - looking east
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Reduced level (shows moden service run) - looking northeast
CHMER2019.030_BHBD19_Photo	Rep sx - looking south