

Archaeological evaluation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4PZ

June 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Sarah Carter and Bronagh Quinn

commissioned by Lois Heywood

NGR: TL 61316 12922 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/19/0096/FUL

CAT project code: 19/06c

ECC code: GFHE19

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM: 2019.28

OASIS ref.: colchest3-354555



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CAT Report 1439

July 2019

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OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex in advance of the construction of a new agricultural storage building. Although located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only features present were two modern pits and an undated pit.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, which was carried out on 18th June 2019. The work was commissioned by Lois Heywood in advance of the construction of a new agricultural storage building. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisors Richard Havis and Katie Lee-Smith 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 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, 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)*, *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>).

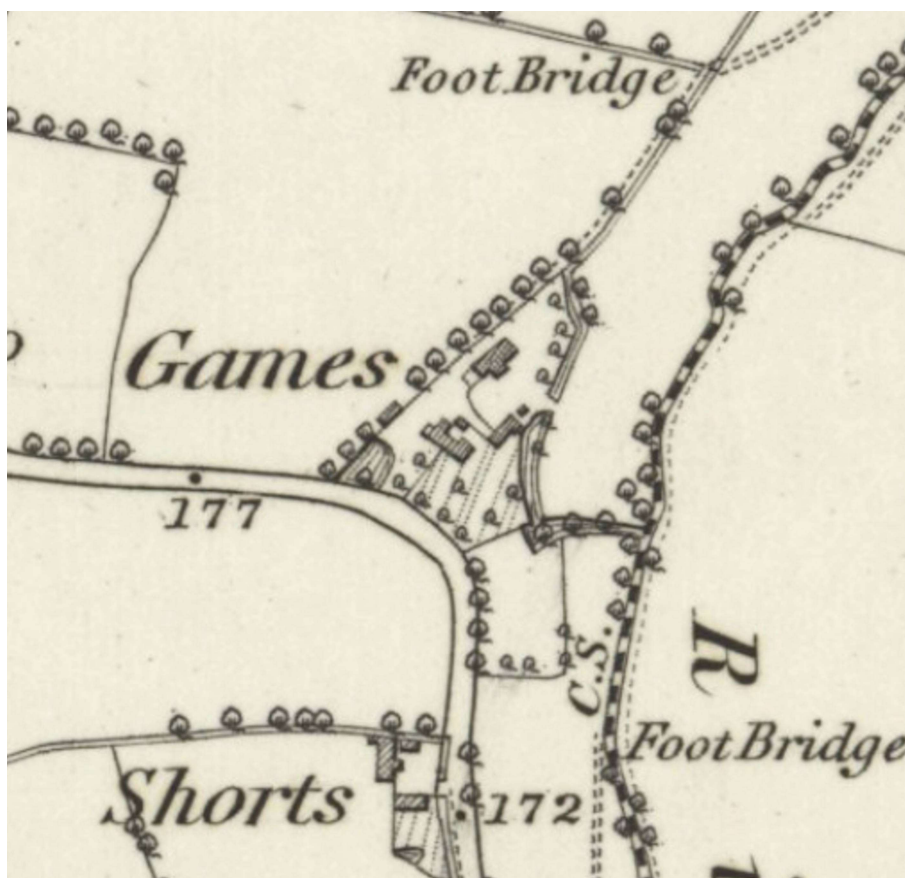
Games farmhouse is a timber-framed Historic England Listed Building (no.111252, EHER no. 38123) which dates to the mid 16th century. The farm first appears on the Chapman and André map of Essex (1777), but the first map which depicts the farm in detail, including its outbuildings and gardens, is the Ordnance Survey map issued in 1881 (see Map 1 below).

The farm sits along the western bank of the River Can. Map 1 shows that a moat divided the main farm complex from the river.

The site is surrounded by areas of cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography. Interpretations of the cropmarks suggest they show a series of former historic agricultural boundaries (EHER nos. 19177-8, 19180 and 19182-3). Many of the nearby farm complexes are of historic interest dating from the 14th century (Braids Farm, EHER no. 38119) and 16th-17th centuries (Lower House Farmhouse, EHER no. 38133; Motts Farmhouse, EHER no. 38157; The Hill farmhouse and barn, EHER nos. 38141-2; and Slyces, EHER no. 38156).

A number of Portable Antiquities find spots have been recorded close to the site. These include that of an Iron Age finger-ring (EHER no. 51908) and coins (EHER nos. 56582

and 51627); a Roman coin (EHER no. 56582); a medieval scabbard chape (EHER no. 50736), a mount (EHER no. 54097), a harness pendant (EHER no. 50735) a finger-ring (EHER no. 54972), and a post-medieval 17th-century trade token (EHER no. 50739).



Map 1 Extract of the 6-inch OS map of England and Wales (surveyed 1974-5, published 1881), showing Games Farm

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)

Two archaeological trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench 1 (T1) was 18m long and 1.8m wide, and Trench 2 (T2) was 9m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were excavated through a layer of modern made ground (L1, c 0.27-0.41m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with frequent concrete and CBM pieces), modern topsoil (L2, c 0.16-0.25m thick firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay), and subsoil (L3, c -0.27m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay) onto natural (L4, firm, moist medium yellow clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional gravel).

Trench 1 (T1): 18m long by 1.8m wide

Two pits, F1 and F2, were uncovered. Detritus such as plastic, corrugated iron and asbestos were observed on the surfaces of the pits, confirming them to be modern. They were not excavated.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking northeast

Trench 2 (T2): 9m long by 1.8m wide

Pit F3 was excavated. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation, but its exposed extent was 0.99m wide, and was dug to a depth of 0.4m whereupon excavations ceased due to waterlogging. The feature may have been natural in origin.

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance, only two modern pits and a natural feature were uncovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Lois Heywood for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter and B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis and 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	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4PZ</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 Trial Trenching and excavation on Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter. By R Havis</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
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, by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</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>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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 1439)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1439)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

Survey data

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM
2019.28.

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Distribution list:

Lois Heywood

Richard Havis and Katie Lee-Smith, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisors
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



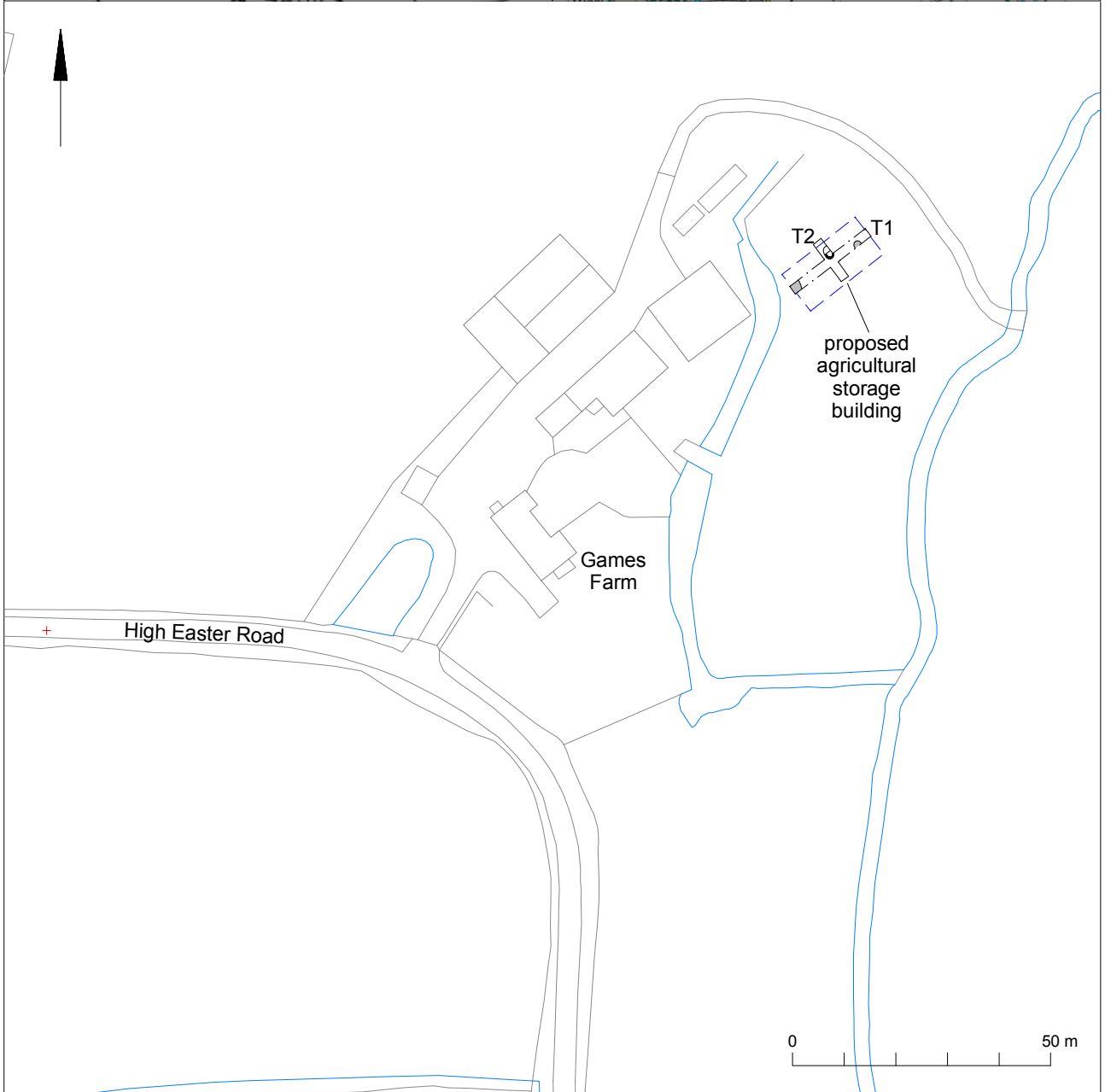
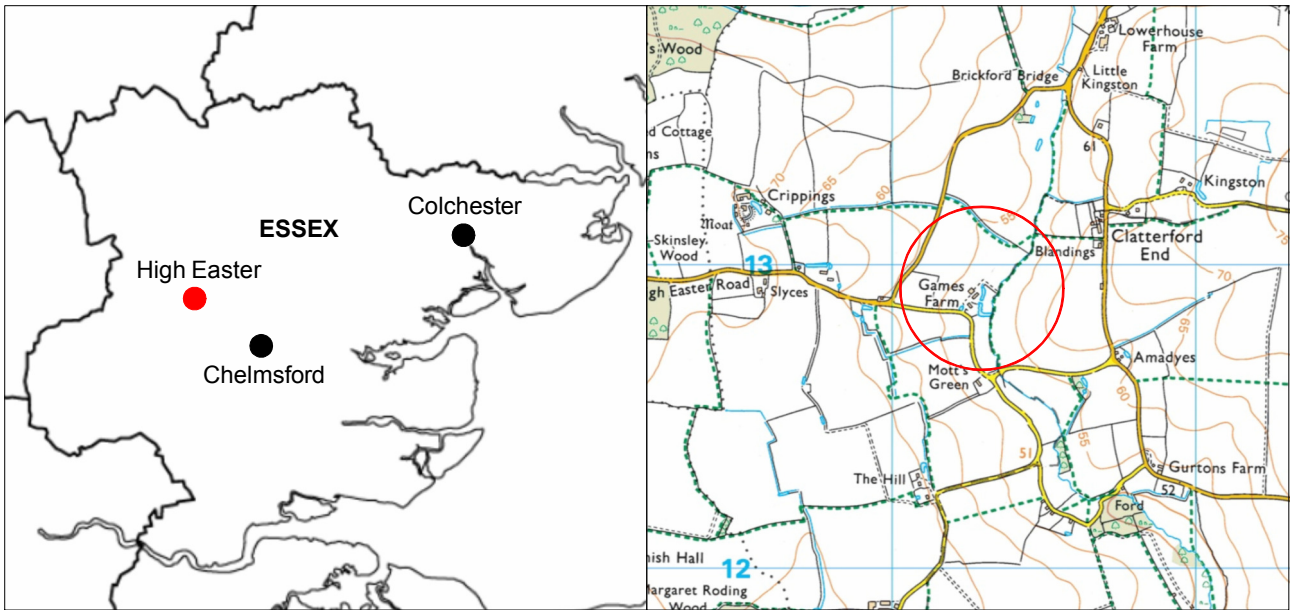
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 12.07.2019



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Fig 1 Site location

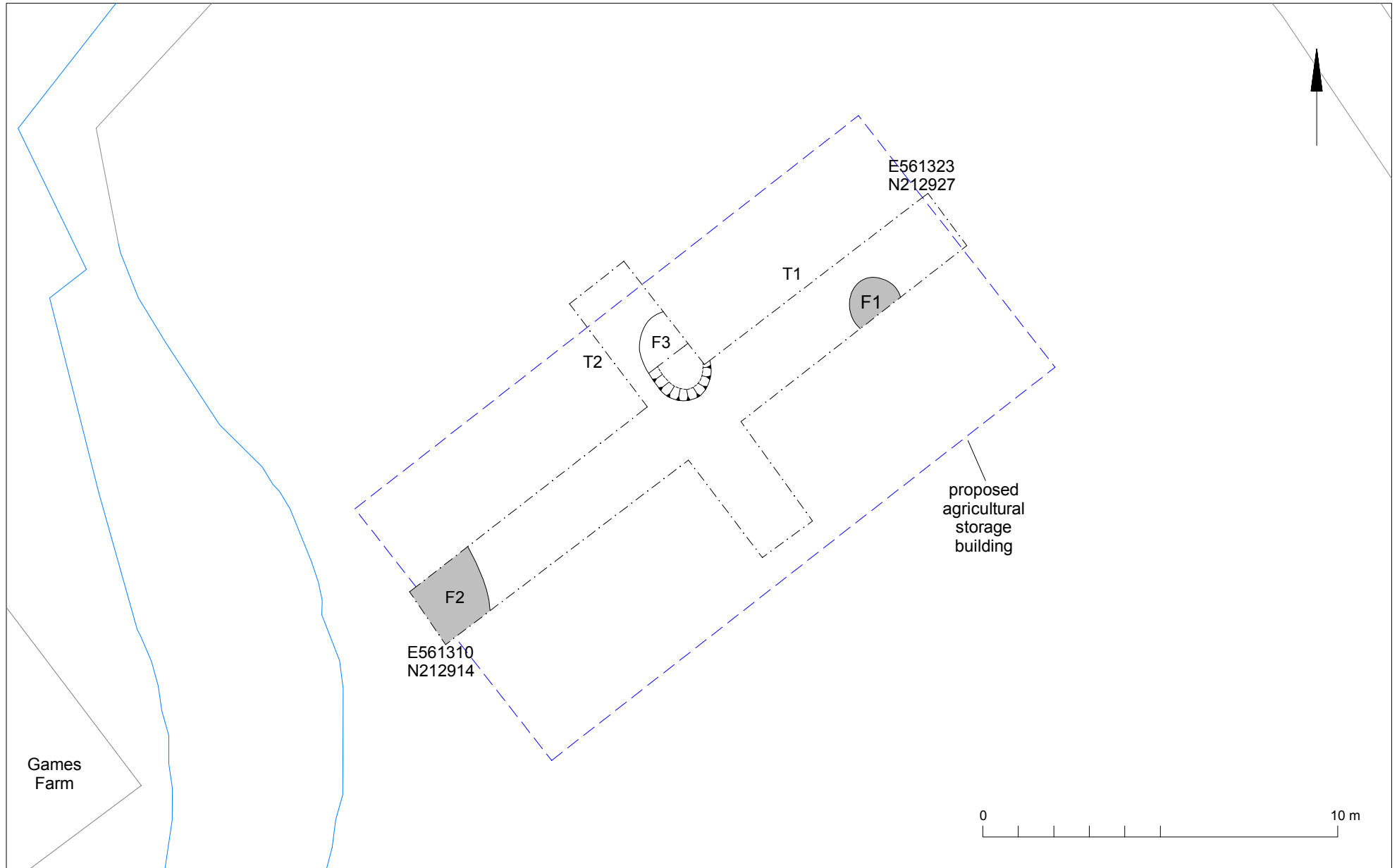


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

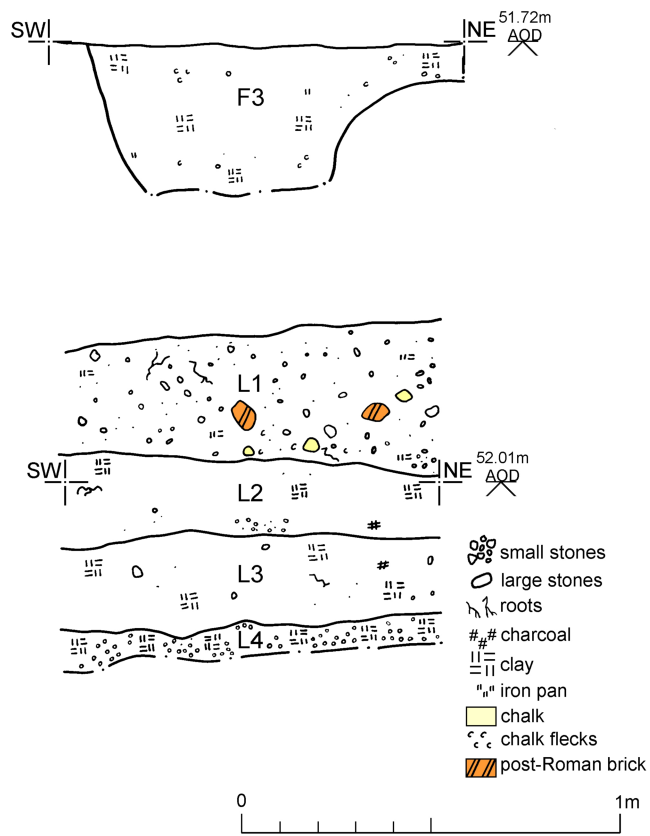


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-354555

Project details

Project name	n archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex in advance of the construction of a new agricultural storage building. Although located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only features present were two modern pits and an undated pit.
Project dates	Start: 18-06-2019 End: 18-06-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/06c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/19/0096/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2019.28 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	GFHE19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD HIGH EASTER Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex
Postcode	CM1 4PZ
Study area	162.2 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 61316 12922 51.791171928686 0.339325778165 51 47 28 N 000 20 21 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lois Heywood

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2019.28
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2019.28
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4PZ: June 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1439
Date	2019

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URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
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Entered on	15 July 2019

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Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation At Games Farm, High Easter



Date:
14 May 2019





Title: Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation on Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter

Agent: Lois Heywood lois.heywood@btinternet.com

Planning Reference: UTT/19/0096/FUL

Date issued: 14/5/19

Historic Environment Advisor: Richard Havis | richard.havis@essex.gov.uk |
03330 136849

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 in advance of the erection of an agricultural storage building. The archaeological trial trenching will target the proposed building footprint. The present listed farmhouse dates to the 16th century and there is the potential for earlier occupation. The trial trenching will form the first stage of the archaeological work with excavation to follow if archaeological deposits are identified in the trial trenching.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies within the historic farm complex of Games Farm (TL6131612922). The development comprises the erection of an agricultural storage building. 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 January 2019 for the erection of an agricultural storage building. 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:

"No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching and excavation has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

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 potentially sensitive archaeological deposits. Games Farmhouse dates to the mid -16th century and is visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1875 with extensive gardens surrounding the medieval house (EHER 38123). The map also shows the presence of a potential former moat which extends to the south and west of the proposed development. There is therefore the potential for surviving archaeological deposits and features dating back to the medieval period.

5. Requirement for Work

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

- Occupation of a medieval or post medieval date associated with Games Farm.
- Evidence of the former moat and the presence of any waterlogged remains within it

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 is 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 6 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.
 - 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 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.
- 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. 8
- 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

Richard Havis
Principal Historic Environment Advisor
Place Services
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4PZ.

NGR: TL 61316 12922 (centre)

Planning reference: UTT/19/0096/FUL

Commissioned by and on behalf of: Lois Heywood

Curating museum: Saffron Walden

Museum accession code: tbc

ECC project code: tbc

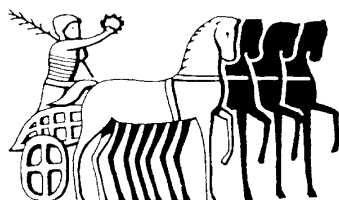
CAT project code: 2019/06c

Oasis project ID: colchest3-354555

Site manager: Chris Lister

ECC monitor: Richard Havis / Katie Lee-Smith

This WSI written: 07/06/2019



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

tel: 01206 501785

email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located to the west of Clatterford End, c 2km southwest of High Easter, at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex CM1 4PZ. The site is centred at National grid reference (NGR) TL 61316 13922.

Proposed work

The planning application proposes the erection of a new agricultural storage building and any 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>).

Games farmhouse is a timber-framed Historic England Listed Building (no.111252, EHER no. 38123) which dates to the mid-16th century. On historic mapping the farm first appears on the Chapman and André map of 1777, but the first map that shows detail of the farm, including outbuildings and gardens, is the first ordnance survey maps (see Map 1 below).



Map 1 Extract of the 6-inch OS map of England and Wales (surveyed 1974-5, published 1881), showing Games Farm.

The farm sits along the western bank of the River Can. Map 1 shows that a moat divided the main farm complex from the river.

The site is surrounded by areas of cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography. Interpretations of the cropmarks suggest they show a series of former historic agricultural boundaries (EHER no.s 19177-8, 19180 and 19182-3). Many of the nearby farm complexes

are of historic interest dating from the 14th century (Braids Farm, EHER no. 38119) and 16th-17th centuries (Lower House Farmhouse, EHER no. 38133; Motts Farmhouse, EHER no 38157; The Hill farmhouse and barn, EHER no.s 38141-2; and Slyces, EHER no 38156).

The Historic Environment record shows a number of Portable Antiquities find spots have been recorded close to the site. These include an Iron Age finger-ring (EHER no. 51908) and coins (EHER no.s 56582 and 51627); Roman coin (EHER no. 56582); medieval scabbard chape (EHER no. 50736), mount (EHER no. 54097), harness pendant (EHER no. 50735) and a finger-ring (EHER no. 54972); post-medieval 17th-century trade token (EHER no. 50739). the abundance of so many high status objects so close to the farm complex could make it likely to find evidence of particularly medieval occupation on the site.

Planning background

An outline planning application (UTT/19/0096/FUL) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in January 2019 for the *erection of agricultural storage building*.

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 or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching and excavation has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for an evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation. If archaeological deposits are identified, the trial-trenching may be followed by open area excavation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECC Place Services (*Archaeological brief for Trial Trenching and excavation on Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter – ECC 2019*).

Specifically,

A cross-shaped trench measuring 25.2m long (18m by 7.2m) and 1.8m wide, this equates to 45.36m² of trenching.

The archaeological work aims to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development, and assess the potential for further archaeological remains.

This initial trial-trenching evaluation will be followed by a summary report. If significant archaeological deposits are identified, the ECCHEA may decide that the further excavation work is required, comprising open area excavation of those deposits.

Key research aims include:

- Occupation of a medieval or post-medieval date associated with Games Farm
- Evidence of the former moat and the presence of any waterlogged remains within it

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 (ECC 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 supervisor plus two archaeologists for one day.

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

Trial-trenching and excavation 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 pro-forma 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.

Trenches 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, 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 micromorphological 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 fieldwork, 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

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

project osteologist (human remains): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Norfolk Museums Service / 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).

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>

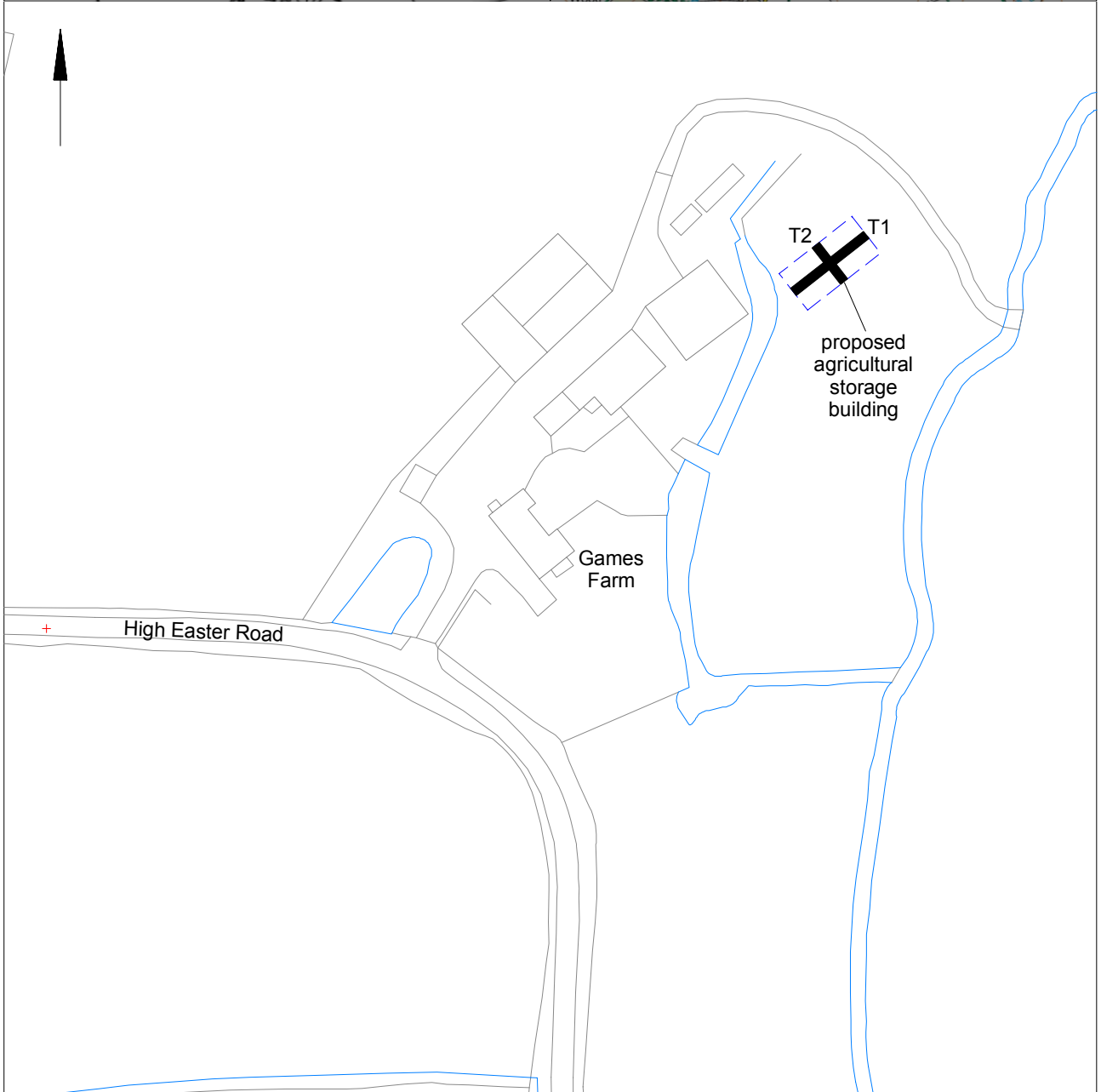
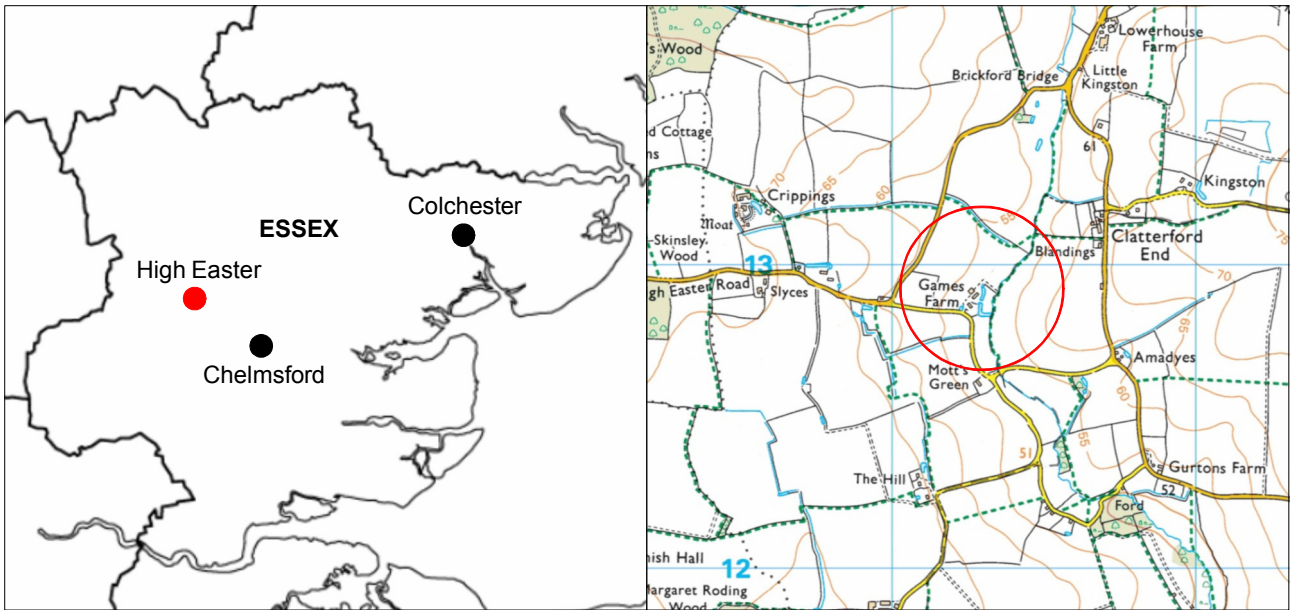
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECCPS	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and excavation on Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter.</i> By R Havis
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

0 50 m



001



002



003



004



005



006



007



008



009



010



011



012



013

xnview_filelisting

SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Games-Farm-High-Easter_EVAL_PhotographicLog

Filename With Ext	annotation
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	Site shot
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	Site shot
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	T1 rep sx - looking northwest
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	F1 - looking northeast
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	F2 - looking northwest
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	F3 sx - looking northwest
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	T1 trench shot - looking northeast
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	T1 trench shot - looking southwest
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	T2 trench shot - looking northwest
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	T2 trench shot - looking southeast
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	Working shot
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	Working shot
SAFWM2019.28_GFHE19_Photo	Site shot