

# Archaeological monitoring at Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road, Harlow, Essex, CM19 4RP

February-May 2018



by **Dr Elliott Hicks & Adam Tuffey**  
figures by Ben Holloway, Sarah Carter & Adam Tuffey

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Adam Tuffey

**Commissioned by Richard Havis, Essex County Council**

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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**  
Roman Circus House  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

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

**CAT Report 1268**  
July 2018

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OASIS Summary

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road, Harlow during the construction of a flood alleviation bund for a new flood management scheme. Although highlighted as an area with the potential for historic remains no significant archaeological remains were discovered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road, Harlow, which was carried out from 17th February to 10th May 2018. The work was commissioned by Essex County Council Place Services and conducted by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during of the construction of a bund within the area of the playing fields for a new flood alleviation scheme.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Essex County Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) should be conducted.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex and on the *Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for HAR2 Kingsmoor Flood Alleviation Scheme* (Bennett 2017)

The DBA states that the Kingsmoor Flood Alleviation Scheme is located in an area with historic environment assets in the immediate vicinity. These comprise the historic woodland and boundary bank and ditch of Parndon and Risdens Woods.

Archaeological investigations on land to the west at West Sumners produced evidence dating from the prehistoric period through to WWII (EHER 47397). A gas pipeline to the south produced Roman, medieval and post-medieval finds (EHER 9946-9948), and a 200 year old milestone was found in Milwards School playground to the north (EHER 17792).

To the east is a moated site (EHER 3725; SAM 1016799) south of Dorrington Farm and a Bronze Age gold bracelet was also found close-by (EHER 13732).

To the east and south-east are cropmarks of field boundaries and ponds (EHER 19410), an undated enclosure and medieval field boundaries (EHER 48011, 48016).

There is the possibility of further as yet unknown below-ground archaeology being present on the development site, particularly relating to medieval woodland management. Archaeological deposits are both fragile and irreplaceable and the construction of the dams and bund has the potential to impact on archaeological deposits and landscape features.

#### 4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that might be impacted by the construction of the bund.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-4)

During groundworks an area measuring approximately 619 square meters was excavated. This includes the core of the bund, which was reduced by 1.2m, and 178 square meters of drainage trenching measuring 0.6m wide which was reduced by 1-1.6m. All groundworks were carried out under archaeological supervision.

Excavation occurred through four layers. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.13-0.31m thick, friable, moist medium/dark brown silty-clay with <4% stone piece inclusions) overlaid a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.15-0.31m thick, friable medium brown silty-clay with <2% stone piece inclusions) which sealed natural (L3, firm yellow/orange/brown clay with <1% stone piece inclusions). In the southern area of the bund core, L3 was sealed by a layer of possible gravel terracing (L4, c 0.27-0.5m thick, friable/firm, dry/moist medium yellow/orange/brown silty-clay with >20% gravel piece inclusions and >60% stone piece inclusions).

No significant archaeological remains were encountered.



**Photograph 1** View of beginning of core strip, looking southwest



**Photograph 2** Working shot of core strip, looking north



**Photograph 3** Working shot service trench, looking southwest



**Photograph 4** Working shot showing main drain trench, looking southwest



**Photograph 5** Working shot showing continuation of core strip, looking north



**Photograph 6** View of penultimate core section, looking northeast



**Photograph 7** View of drainage trenching, looking southwest



**Photograph 8** Working shot of last segment of core, looking east

## **6 Finds**

No finds were recovered.

## **7 Discussion**

Although the excavation in question was both expansive, and proximal to that of already highlighted areas of archaeological interest, no such remains were discovered. The excavated levels were almost entirely homogeneous, suggesting that the area in question was devoid of any significant archaeological deposits.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks Essex County Council Places Services for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway and A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by A Tuffey and S Carter. The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Richard Havis.

## 9 References

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

Bennett, A	2017	<i>Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for HAR2 Kingsmoor Flood Alleviation Scheme</i> , ECCPS
Brown, N. and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring at Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road, Harlow</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper <b>14</b>
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Josephs, A.	2006	'Anglo-Saxon Minsters of the Thames Estuary' in <i>Thames Gateway: Recording Historic Buildings and Landscapes on the Thames Estuary</i> , RCHME
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper <b>24</b>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
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>
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1268)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log

## 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 Harlow Museum under the accession code: tbc

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**Distribution list**

Richard Havis  
ECC Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

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

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 10.7.2018

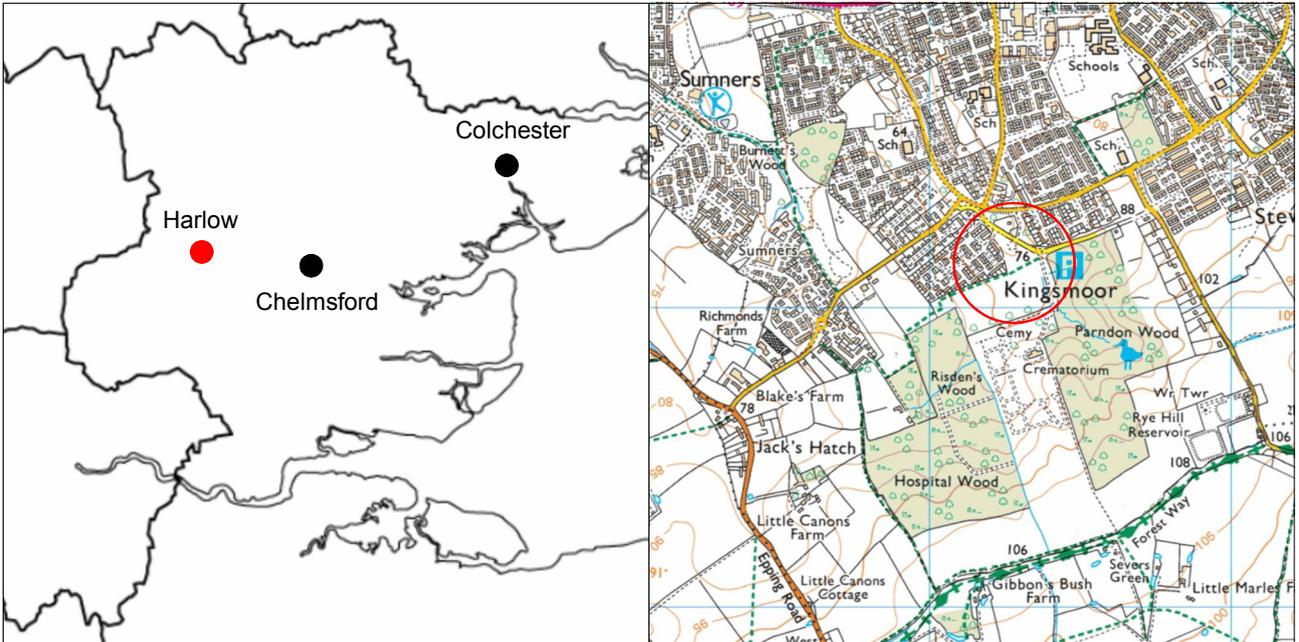


Fig 1 Site location

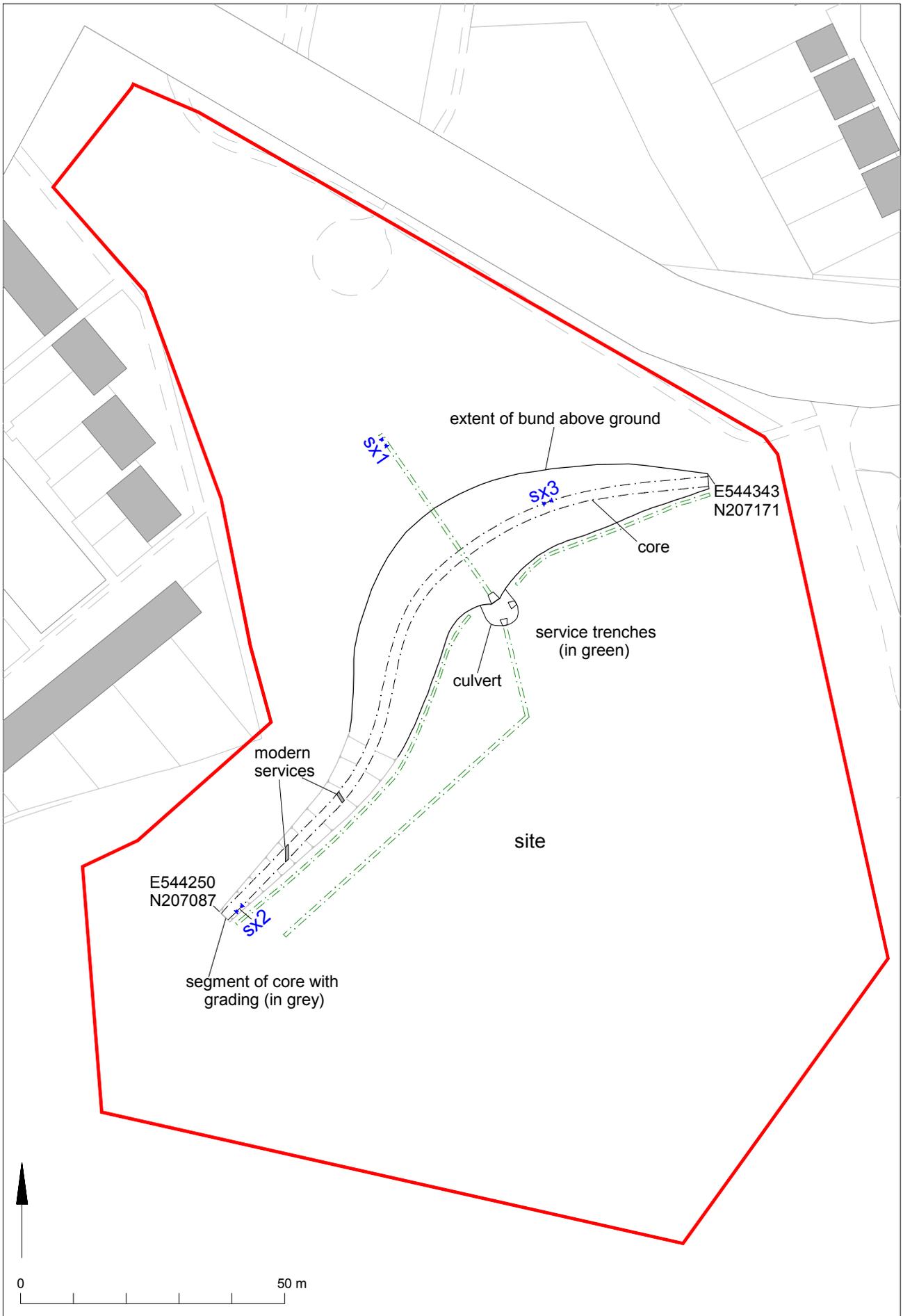


Fig 2 Results

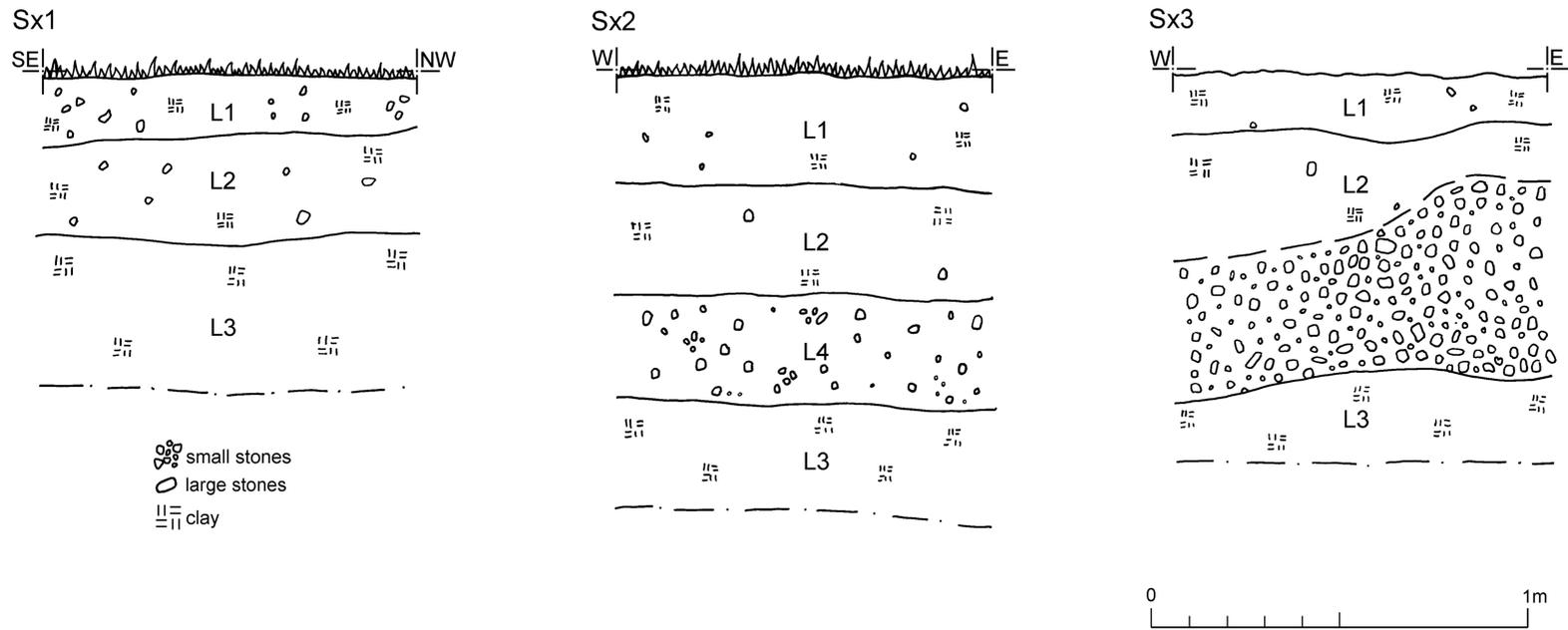


Fig 3 Representative sections

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## Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road, Harlow, CM19 4RP
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road, Harlow during the construction of a flood alleviation bund for a new flood management scheme. Although highlighted as an area with the potential for historic remains no significant archaeological remains were discovered.
Project dates	Start: 17-02-2018 End: 10-05-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/011 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HLW/FUL/17/40021 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	HWKPF18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX HARLOW HARLOW Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road
Postcode	CM19 4RP
Study area	2.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 44260 07059 51.743158928529 0.089740744937 51 44 35 N 000 05 23 E Point

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	County Council

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Digital Archive ID	HWKPF18
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Harlow Museum
Paper Archive ID	HWKPF18
Paper Contents	"other"

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

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological monitoring at Kingsmoor Playing Field, Paringdon Road, Harlow, Essex, CM19 4RP: February-May 2018

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.

Author(s)/Editor(s) Tuffey, A.

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