

# Archaeological monitoring at Greenacre Farm, Smallgains Lane, Stock, Essex, CM4 9PR

July 2018



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

with contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton  
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway

**commissioned by Darren Sprig**

NGR: TQ 6923 9759 (centre)  
Planning reference: CHL/16/01275/FUL  
CAT project ref.: 18/01h  
Chelmsford Museum accession code: CHMER 2018.002  
ECC code: SKGF18  
OASIS reference: colchest3-307264



**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 1424**  
June 2019

## Contents

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

Figures after p5

Appendix 1 OASIS Summary

## List of photographs, maps, tables and figures

Cover: extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex

Photograph 1	Site shot, looking south southeast	2
Map 1	6-inch OS map; surveyed 1873-4, published 1881	2
Table 1	Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery	3
Table 2	Feature dating summary	3
Fig 1	Site location	
Fig 2	Monitoring results	
Fig 3	Representative section	

## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Greenacre Farm, Smallgains Lane, Stock during groundworks for the conversion of a barn and ancillary buildings to a swimming pool. Although no archaeological features were encountered, the recovery of a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery and CBM suggests that the origins of the supposedly Victorian farmstead lie further back in time than previously thought, or may evidence an earlier phase of activity at the site.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Greenacre Farm, Smallgains Lane, Stock, which was carried out on 19th July 2018. The work was commissioned by Darren Sprigg prior to the construction of a swimming pool and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation, Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) 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* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for building recording and archaeological at Greenacre Farm, Stock* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2017), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCHEA (CAT 2018).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The barn is a traditional Essex barn within a Victorian Farm complex and has the potential to preserve historic fabric, features and fittings, elucidating the history and use of the building. Although the complex is probably Victorian, the photographs provided with the planning application (Bell 2016) suggest earlier timbers may potentially have been used in its construction.



**Map 1** 6-inch OS map (ESSEX LX), surveyed 1873-4, published 1881

#### 4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was carried out to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on the site.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

On 19th July 2018, a CAT archaeologist observed the reduction of an area measuring 60m<sup>2</sup> by 0.65m below current ground level (bcgl) to accommodate the new swimming pool.

Three layers were recorded. A 19th- or 20th-century barn floor (L1, comprised of a bitumen hard top c 0.03-0.05m thick and underlying hoggin sub-base c 0.25m thick) overlay a post-medieval accumulation layer (L2, c 0.09-0.11m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks) which sealed natural (L3, firm, moist medium yellow/grey clay, encountered at a depth of c 0.4m bcgl).



**Photograph 1** Site shot – looking south southeast

No archaeological features were encountered.

## 6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The excavation produced a small quantity of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) (Table 1). All of this material came from accumulation layer L2 (1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
Post-Roman pottery	7	230	33
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	5	295	59
<b>All</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>44</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

### Post-Roman pottery

There were seven sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40) pottery with a weight of 230g. These sherds are in the fine central Essex-type fabric dating from c 1500 to 1650 and included the lower handle from a cistern, which was used for the production and storage of beer (CAR 7 2000, 192, 202-203, fig. 139, nos. 81-83). This handle is slip decorated with a white/pale cream curve or spiral. Cisterns in post-medieval red earthenware are relatively rare and predate the 18th century (*ibid*, 203).

### Post-Roman CBM

Five sherds of peg-tile with a weight of 295g were also recovered from accumulation layer L2 (1). Peg-tile was in common usage from the mid 13th century until the 16th century AD (McComish 2015, 33). For Essex it has been argued that peg-tile appeared slightly later from the 14th century onwards (Ryan and Andrews 1993).

### Summary

The pottery and CMB indicate a date during c 1500-1700 AD for accumulation layer L2.

Context	Context type	Pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
L2	Accumulation layer	c 1500-1650	Medieval / post-medieval	1500-1700

**Table 2** Feature dating summary

## 7 Conclusion

In spite of being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered. A small assemblage of pottery and CBM dating to the period 1500-1700 recovered from accumulation layer L2 does, however, suggest that the supposedly 19th-century farm complex may be older than previously thought, or, alternatively, indicates an earlier phase of activity at the site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Darren Sprigg for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway. Figures were prepared by C Lister, Ben Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Alison Bennett.

## 9 References

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

Bell, S	2016	<i>Planning Statement. Site: Barn and outbuildings at Greenacre Farm, Smallgains Lane, Stock CM4 9PR</i>
Brown, N & 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 (EAA 8)
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological monitoring</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for Historic Building Recording and archaeological monitoring at Greenacre Farm, Stock</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 Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
McComish, JM	2015	<i>A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials: An Insight Report</i>
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)
Ryan, P and Andrew, D	1993	'A brick and tile typology for Cressing Temple', in Andrews, D (ed.), <i>Cressing Temple, a Templar and Hospitaller manor in Essex</i> , 93-103

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1424)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

**Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1424)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMER: 2018.002.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2019

### Distribution list

Darren Sprigg

Alison Bennett, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

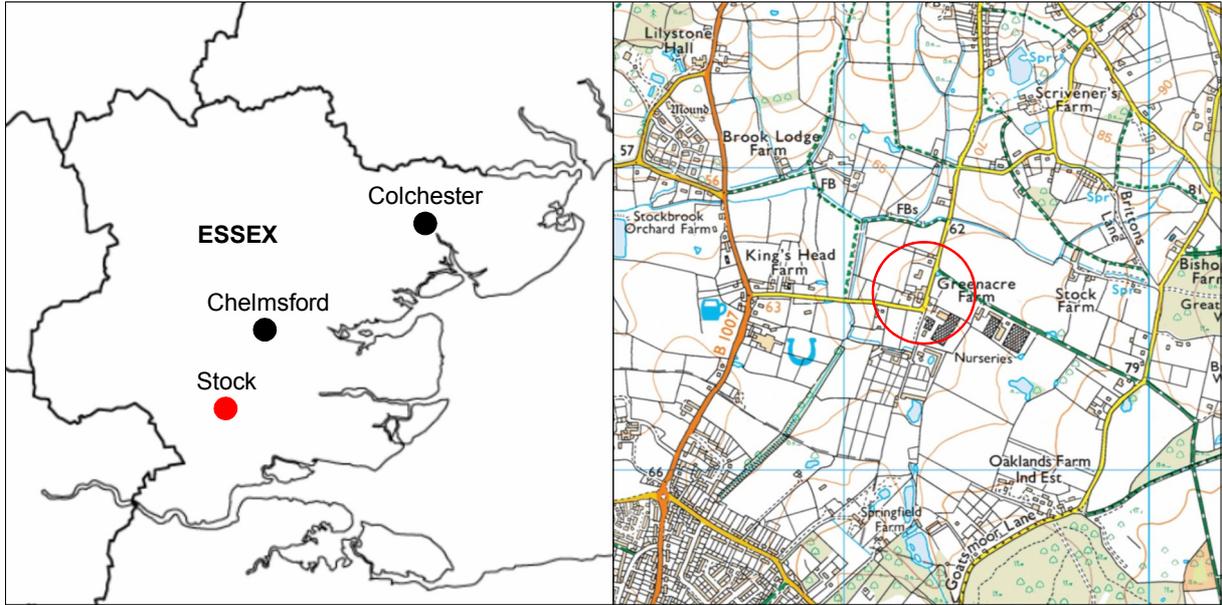
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

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

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 09.07.2019



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

Fig 1 Site location.



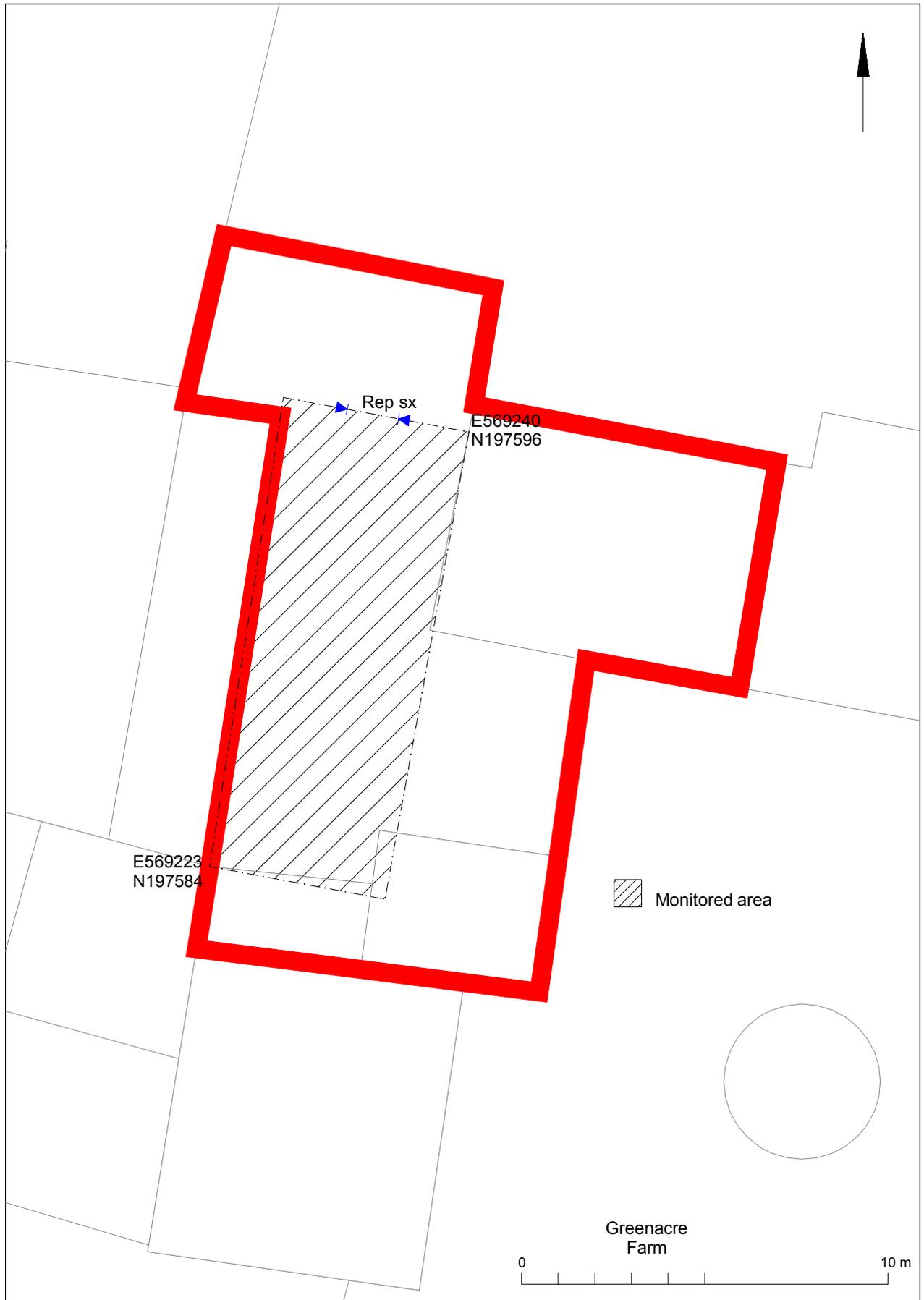


Fig 2 Monitoring results

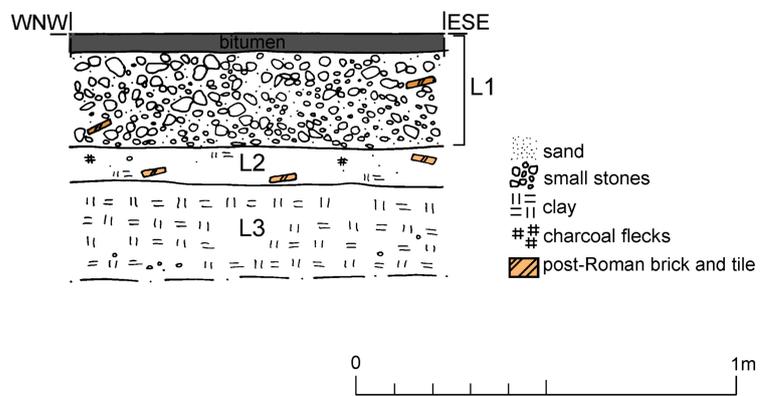


Fig 3 Representative section.

# 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: colchest3-307264**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Greenacre Farm, Smallgains Lane, Stock, Essex, CM4 9PR: July 2018
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Greenacre Farm, Smallgains Lane, Stock during groundworks for the conversion of a barn and ancillary buildings to a swimming pool. Although no archaeological features were encountered, the recovery of a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery and CBM suggests that the origins of the supposedly Victorian farmstead lie further back in time than previously thought, or may evidence an earlier phase of activity at the site.
Project dates	Start: 19-07-2019 End: 19-07-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/01h - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHL/17/1275/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMER: 2018.002 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	SKGF18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country England

Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD STOCK Greenacre Farm, Smallgains Lane
Postcode	CM4 9PR
Study area	0.01 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 6923 9759 51.651084938451 0.446530505883 51 39 03 N 000 26 47 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	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMER: 2018.002
Digital Media available	"Text", "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHMER: 2018.002
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Greenacre farm, Smallgains Lane, Stock, Essex, CM4 9PR: July 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1424
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ringbound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>

Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)  
Entered on 9 July 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=358609> for this page

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