

Archaeological monitoring on land opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge Road, Ashingdon, SS4 3LW

November 2021



by Megan Seehra

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley
figures by Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Megan Seehra

commissioned by Gemma Pullin of Smart Planning

NGR: TQ 86100 94488 (centre)

Planning ref.: 18/00878/FUL

CAT project ref.: 2021/09I

ECC code: AGRFH21

OASIS ref.: colchest3-431444



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CAT Report 1749

November 2021

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at land opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge Road, Ashingdon, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a stable and associated buildings. The site is adjacent to the medieval and post-medieval settlement area of Ashingdon. An area totalling 357 square metres was stripped to 0.1-0.2m below current ground level through 20th-century layers. As the groundworks were so shallow no archaeological remains were impacted.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge, Ashingdon which was carried out on the 22nd November 2021. The work was commissioned by Gemma Pullin of Smart Planning, in advance of the construction of a stable, feed store and tack room building.

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 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Examination of the Historic Environment Record has identified that the site is immediately adjacent to the medieval and post-medieval settlement area defined for Ashingdon (EHER 19959). In addition, some 400m to the north of the site is a 14th- to 15th-century parsonage (EHER 13545); post-medieval pottery was also found here (EHER 13546). There are signs of a salt-making site of Roman origin c 200m north-east of this site, evidenced by Red Hills (EHER 13481).

The village of Ashingdon appears in the Domesday Book in the early medieval period, comprising of just two dwellings. Chapman and André's 1777 map shows Ashingdon expanded to six households, and includes the aforementioned parsonage (EHER 13545). Ashingdon is speculated to be the location of the 1016 Battle of Assandun, as an Anglo-Saxon coin of Cnut the Great (EHER 13611) was found at the Church of St Andrew, Church Lane, half a mile south of this development site.

It is possible that the site may contain remains of the medieval or post-medieval periods, in particular hinterland industrial activity related to the settlement of Ashingdon.

4 Aims

The aims of the project were to excavate and record all surviving archaeological remains within the development site, to identify their relationship to the medieval and later settlement development, and to record the stratigraphic sequence of deposits affected by the development.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

An area totalling 357 square metres was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.1-0.2m under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was stripped through turfed topsoil (L1, c 0.05-0.07m thick, friable medium to dark grey/brown loamy-sand) into a leached make-up layer (L2, friable light to medium yellow/grey/brown clayey-silty-sand). No archaeological remains were exposed.



Photograph 1 North side of strip (excavated down to 0.15-0.20m), looking west.



Photograph 2 North side of strip, looking east.



Photograph 3 South side of strip (excavated down to 0.10-0.20m), looking east.



Photograph 4 General shot of south side of strip, looking roughly east.

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Seven fragments (938g) of 20th-century ceramic building material was recovered from L1 and L2. This material included tile and a frogged brick stamped FLET[TONS] which was made at Peterborough. None of this material was retained.

6.2 Iron buckle

by Laura Pooley

A small iron buckle frame came from topsoil L1 (finds no. 1). It is D-shaped, 34.1mm long, 20.0mm wide, 4.8mm thick and 4.9g. Buckles of this type could date from the middle of the medieval period onwards, but is perhaps more likely to be of post-medieval/modern date.

7 Conclusion

Groundworks on land opposite Rectory Farm House, Ashingdon did not go deep enough to impact any archaeological remains with both L1 and L2 dating to the 20th century.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Gemma Pullin of Smart Planning, and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by M Seehra. Figures are by S Veasey. 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>

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|---------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N & Glazenbrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological monitoring on land opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge Road, Ashingdon, SS4 3LW</i> |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i> . Updated Oct 2020 |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020 |
| CifA | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019 |
| ECCPS | 2021 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Land Opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge Road, Ashingdon</i> , by Alison Bennett |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England | 2016 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24) |
| MHCLG | 2019 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |

10 Abbreviations and glossary

| | |
|--------|---|
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| CifA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| ECC | Essex County Council |
| ECCHEA | Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| ECCPS | Essex County Council Place Services |
| EHES | 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 |
| 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 |
| wsis | written scheme of investigation |

11 Contents of archive

Finds: Buckle only

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1749)
ECCPS brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Original site record (plan and section)
Site digital photos and log
Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1749)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Site data
Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 Southend Museum under code AGRFH21 and with the Archaeological Data Service.

Distribution list:

The homeowner
Gemma Pullin, Smart Planning
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



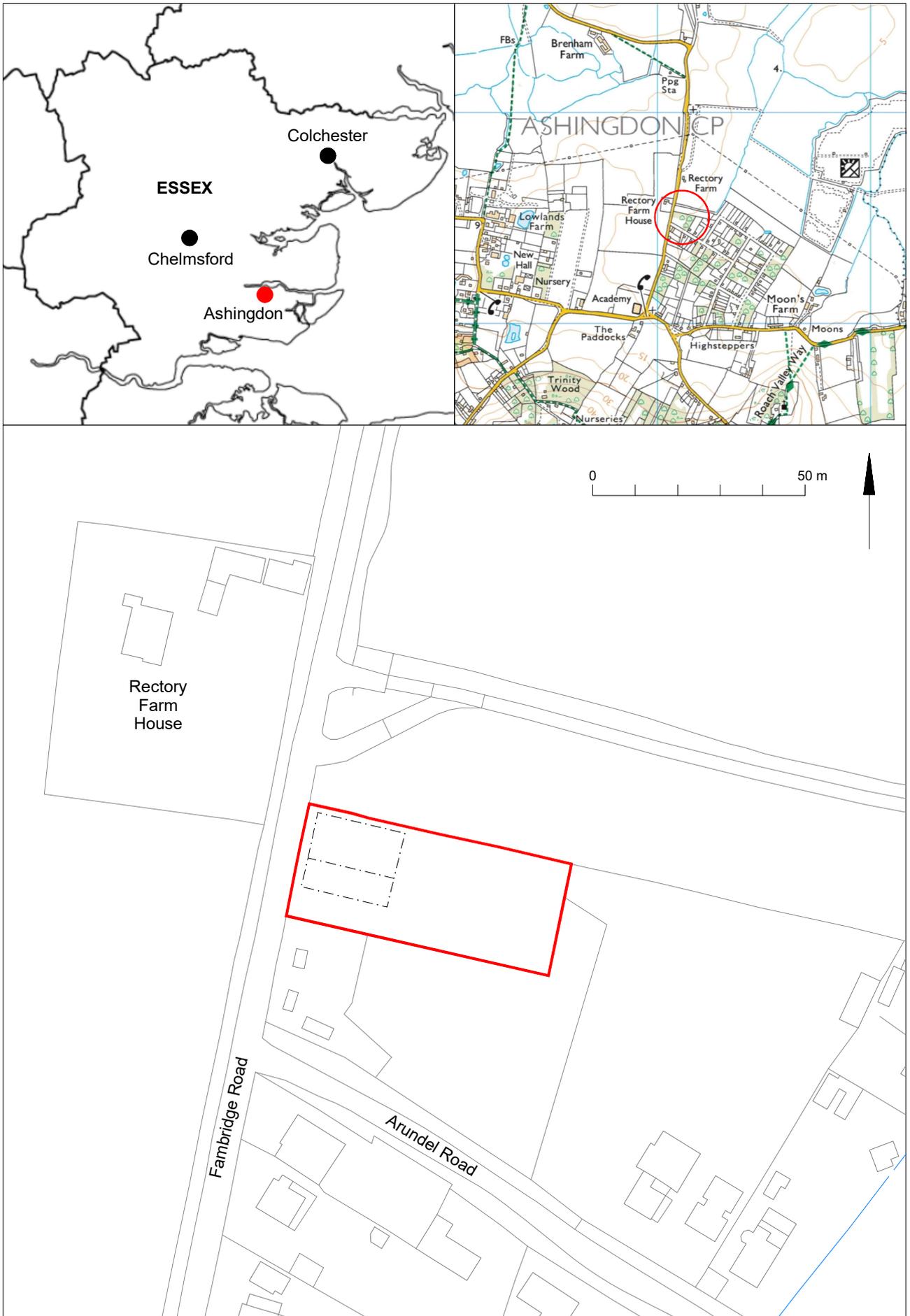
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 2/12/2021



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Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Results.

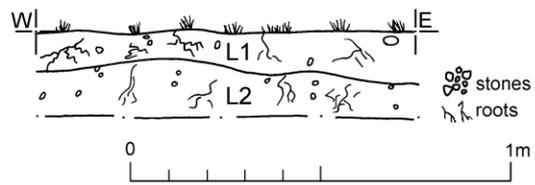


Fig 3 Representative section.

Summary for colchest3-431444

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| OASIS ID (UID) | colchest3-431444 |
| Project Name | Archaeological monitoring on land opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge Road, Ashingdon, SS4 3LW: November 2021 |
| Activity type | WATCHING BRIEF |
| Project Identifier(s) | 2021/09I |
| Planning Id | 18/00878/FUL |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning: Post determination |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project Dates | 22-Nov-2021 - 22-Nov-2021 |
| Location | Land Opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge Road NGR : TQ 86100 94488 LL : 51.6184443812403, 0.686786855084343 12 Fig : 586100,194488 |
| Administrative Areas | Country : England County : Essex District : Rochford Parish : Ashingdon |
| Project Methodology | Monitoring and recording of all archaeological remains impacted by the developer-led groundworks. |
| Project Results | Archaeological monitoring was carried out at land opposite Rectory Farm House, Fambridge Road, Ashingdon, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a stable and associated buildings. The site is adjacent to the village of Ashingdon, which has medieval origins. Groundworks were shallow however, and as such archaeological remains were not impacted. |
| Keywords | |
| HER | Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD |
| HER Identifiers | AGRFH21 |

| | |
|----------|---|
| Archives | Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive Physical Archive - to be deposited with Southend-on-Sea Museums Service Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Southend-on-Sea Museums Service |
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