Bushett Farm
Great Bardfield
Essex

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Client: Bidwells
OA East Report No: 1910
OASIS No: oxfordar3-244812
NGR: TL 67288 28355

June 2016
Bushett Farm, Great Bardfield, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 14th and 18th of March 2016 Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation on the site of a former manor house at Bushett Farm, Great Bardfield in Essex. Foundations relating to 16th, 18th and 20th century phases of the building were recorded along with evidence of a medieval ditch, post hole and various occupation layers.
1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work
1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the former site of the manor house at Bushett Farm, Great Bardfield in Essex (TL 67288 28355, Fig 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Essex County Council (ECC) supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by ECC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology
1.2.1 The following text is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Drummond-Murray 2016).

1.2.2 The site lies on diamicton of the Lowestoft formation overlying sand.

1.2.3 Remains of the former manor house at Bushett Farm is situated within a complex of farm buildings (Fig 1) that date from the 18th to the 20th century. The oldest of these buildings is an 18th century Dutch or Essex barn which is located to the west of the former manor house. This building is subject to a separate historic building survey.

1.2.4 Immediately west of the former manor house is an historic track way that would have run past the garden of the manor house beyond which is agricultural farm land. Pasture fields also lay to the south. Until recently the site of the manor house lay underneath the floor of a modern barn.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background
1.3.1 The following is taken from the RCHM volume for North West Essex (1916) when the farmhouse was still extant:

1.3.2 Bushett Farm, house, about 1½ m. S. of the church, was built late in the 15th century on an L-shaped plan, with the wings extending towards the N.W. and S.W. In the middle of the N.W. wing was the Hall, in which an upper floor and a chimney-stack were inserted in the 16th century. Late in the 17th century a wing was added at the N.W. end of the S.W. side. At each end of the N.E. front is a projecting gable, supported by two shaped brackets. In the 17th-century wing is an old moulded window-frame. Inside the building, on the ground floor in the E. room, is a moulded ceiling-beam supported on chamfered wall-posts. In the roof of the original Hall is a king-post truss.

1.3.3 The following is a summary of the History of the site taken from the Heritage Statement by Beacon Planning (2012).

1.3.4 The farm was acquired by Guy's Hospital in the early 18th century and underwent substantial alteration, including the construction of the listed barn that still stands. The farm appears on the parish map of 1755, the Tithe map of 1835 (fig 3) and the O/S map
of 1843. Cartographic evidence also shows that the plan of the farmhouse and outlying buildings did not change much between 1887 (Fig 4) and 1954 (Fig 5). The only real addition was the large modern era barn added to the north-west (Fig 5).

1.3.5 The farm continued to appear on the O/S maps up until 1954 and alterations over this period can be noted. The farmhouse was demolished after 1955. (The former owners of the property suggested that the exact year of demolition was 1960).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Bidwells, who commissioned the work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and directed by the author, with the assistance of Jack Eason and Tam Webster. Teresa O'Connor of Essex County Council visited the site and monitored the work. Site survey was carried out by Dave Brown and Gareth Rees. I would also like to thank Rob Hayward who skilfully machine-excavated the trenches.
2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims
2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology
2.2.1 A total of four targeted trenches totalling 90sqm were excavated, although some had to be moved slightly from their intended position.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a rubber tracked, 3 ton, 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica 1200 GPS, with Smartnet.

2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East’s pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from a variety of archaeological features, to assess the preservation and potential of any environmental remains.

2.2.7 As well as standard photographic practises photogrammetry was undertaken in Trenches 1, 2, 3 & 4 after excavation and cleaning. This method, along with advanced geomatics, played an integral role in the evaluation, enabling detailed recording of in-situ features and wall foundations.

2.2.8 The photographs were taking using a high quality Nikon D90 Digital SLR site survey was carried out using Leica 1200 DGPS systems using correctional data from Leica SMARTNET and an on-site base station.

2.2.9 The trenches were located over what had been interpreted as the location of the manor House. After excavation, each trench edge and the outline of physical remains were planned using DGPS and levels recorded. In post-excavation, the QGIS was used to make a digital 3D reconstruction of the trenches. Photographs of the foundations were processed using Agisoft Photoscan Pro software. This has enabled the accurate reconstruction of many elements of the trenches.

2.2.10 Site conditions were generally good, with bright sunshine for much of the time, although there were cloudy days and occasional rain showers. The area of the manor house had been covered in a concrete base for a barn and this meant that the ground conditions were extremely dry and hard. The small machine struggled at times to cut through the upper layers of clay.
3 RESULTS

Introduction
3.1.1 The results are presented below by trench. A total of four trenches (Fig. 2) were
targeted on specific areas of the foundations of Bushett Farm.

- Trench 1 was located in an area thought to be the northern wing of the farm.
- Trench 2 was located in an area that would give a front and rear extent to the
building.
- Trench 3 was located in an area likely to find exterior walls to the rear of the
building and internal features.
- Trench 4 was located in an area to the south of the building that was considered
to be an external yard.

3.1.2 Other features were noted on the surface but outside the trench areas. These are
discussed after the trench descriptions.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)
3.1.3 Trench 1 measured 10.2m and had a maximum width of 2.2m. It was located at the
northern end of the evaluation area and was orientated south-west to north-east. A
small section of a foundation wall (101) was recorded at the north-west end of the
trench. Two courses of 18th century bricks were recorded on a north-west to south-east
alignment. These were laid end to end with the bed of the brick uppermost. Although
only a small remnant of the front foundation remained it aligned with the southern return
of the front wall of the building (Plate 2).

3.1.4 Another small section of wall 104 (Plate 4) was seen at the western end of Trench 1.
This was of a similar construction and date. It had at sometime been covered by
cobbles and gravel forming a yard surface for the cattle pens situated to the rear of the
building. When compared to historic plans the position of this section of wall
corresponds with the rear wall of the building. This area was subsequently extended
slightly towards the north-west, where a continuation and turn of the wall (145) was
noted.

3.1.5 Two further walls (102 & 103) relating to a 19th or 20th century phase of internal
alteration were recorded in Trench 1. These were at right angles to each other and,
according to a former owner, formed a scullery that was constructed for farm workers
who occupied the northern end of the building. The walls were constructed of brick laid
within a concrete foundation. A similarly constructed wall was seen in the northern end
of Trench 2 (Plate 5).

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)
3.1.6 Trench 2 measured 13.8m by 1.2m and was orientated north-east to south-west. It was
situated in an attempt to locate the southern and northern wings of the building.

3.1.7 A flint wall (113) was noted at the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 8). This
probably related to an early phase of the building and to one of the wings. Adjacent to
this was the base of a chimney stack (Plate 7) that had been added at sometime during
the 18th or 19th century. This feature truncated an earlier wall (107) that may have
been constructed as a garden or perimeter wall (Plate 9).
3.1.8 Two surfaces were also recorded at the southern end of Trench 2. A hard packed clay (123) was overlain by a thicker clay (122), the latter is thought to be the surface used for bedding a brick internal floor.

3.1.9 Evidence of an external yard or garden area was also revealed centrally in Trench 2 where an area of silty brown clay differed from the areas of compacted grey clay that had been deposited and compacted within internal areas of the building (Plate 8).

3.1.10 A small circular feature (112) containing ceramic building material that had been subjected to heat was recorded toward the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 6). This feature may be the remnant of a hearth.

_Trench 3 (Fig. 2)_

3.1.11 Trench 3 measured 12.5m by 1.2m and extended in a north-easterly direction from Trench 2. It was excavated in order to try and locate both the front and back walls. Although neither were found, evidence of a levelling layer (133) external to the building and laid down in the 18th or 19th century was recorded at the north-east end of the trench. This layer contained pottery dating from between the 17th and 18th centuries.

3.1.12 An area of flint (117) located in a possible cut was also located within Trench 3. These were located within a shallow depression or cut. Medieval pottery and oyster shell were also evident in the area of the feature.

_Trench 4 (Fig. 2)_

3.1.13 Trench 4 was located to the south of the building in an area that would have been external. The trench measured 7.4m by 1.2m and was orientated south-west to north-east. A large ditch or pit (144) was recorded at the south-west end of the trench (Plate 11). This was partially excavated and contained animal bone and pottery dating to the late 13th to the mid 16th century. This feature was sealed by a chalky layer of silty clay material (139).

_Other Features located outside the trench area (Fig. 3)_

3.1.14 A number of features were visible on or just below the surface. A post hole 115 was noted adjacent to an early phase of flint wall (Plate 10) at the southern end of the building. No datable material was found within its fill but it is assumed to be related to an earlier timber phase of the building. The probable corner of the house (110) was seen close to the rubble heap, this turned north and aligned with the brick feature (101) seen on Fig 2.

3.1.15 A well survives that can be seen on historic maps of the site. This would have been sited in a garden or yard located between the two wings that extended from the rear of the building. The well retains water, is circular and constructed from red brick. The well head is of modern concrete with a cast concrete cover. A depth of 6.8m was recorded.

_Modern Features_

3.1.16 Modern features seen within the evaluation area all relate to the barns that were erected on the site. These consisted of foundations made from cast concrete blocks that were aligned south-east to north-west and truncated the probable front foundation of the manor house (Fig. 2).
3.2 Finds Summary

Pottery

3.2.1 The pottery spans the 13th to 19th/20th centuries, but the bulk of the pottery spans the 14th to 15th centuries with the addition of the late 18th century group from layer 133. All the pottery appears to be local, extremely local in the case of the Hedingham products, and there are no overseas or traded wares amongst the medieval and late medieval assemblage. However, by the 18th century the local pottery industries were very much in decline and only the post-medieval red earthenware and black-glazed ware sherds in layer 133 are of local origin, the remaining material being manufactured in the Midlands and the north. With such a small assemblage it is difficult to comment on function, save to say the assemblage is domestic. The hemispherical bowls/tea bowls/saucers found in layer 133 are associated with tea drinking a very popular pastime in the later 18th century, and although no longer the preserve of the rich, these vessels indicate a household of middling status as does the good quality colour-glaze creamware vessel or figurine.

Ceramic building material

3.2.2 Ceramic building material recovered from the evaluation consists mainly of demolition material, most of which is closely datable. A brick taken from the foundation at the front of the building is thought to be of 16th century date, a sample brick removed from a rear wall foundation is of 18th century date. Documentary sources indicate that Guy's Hospital carried out alterations to the property in the mid 18th century and it is possible that the brick at the rear of the building dates from that period.

3.2.3 Other building material recovered consists mainly of fragments of roof tile: one fragment is a peg tile of probable post-medieval date.

Environmental Summary

3.2.4 A total of three samples were taken from this initial phase of work and have shown that there is some potential for the recovery of preserved plant remains, in particular those of staple foods such as cereals and legumes.

3.2.5 Shellfish consumption was a staple part of the diet during the medieval period, and the 0.8kg assemblage from Bushett Farm is indicative of this. A moderately large assemblage of shell was found dumped in feature 117.

4 Discussion

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation work at Bushett Farm show at least four phases of construction and alteration existing on or just below the surface. The post hole, (115) and flint foundations of walls 106, 109 and 113 probably relate to a medieval phase of construction with later brick additions 107, 110 and 145 being added in the post-medieval periods. During the 18th or 19th century a brick chimney stack (108) was added to the southern end of the building. The 20th century alterations consisted of internal divisions, notably at the northern end of the farm when the building was subdivided into two homes. At this time scullery walls 102 and 103 were added.

4.1.2 Documentary evidence suggests that the earliest building occupying the site was likely to have been a 14th century “Hall House” or aisled building. Although no definite evidence was seen for this phase, for instance beam slot or post construction, this may
well still exist beneath the later occupation layers.

**Hall Houses**

4.1.3 In simple terms a “hall” is is a large room (sometimes aisled) enclosed by walls and roof.

4.1.4 In Saxon England these simple one room buildings which usually had a single hearth located centrally that provided a place to cook and somewhere to keep warm. These were often the residence of the local lord. Over time these simple structures developed into a building with more than one room giving some privacy to the more important residents or guests.

4.1.5 By about 1400 and with the change of settlement patterns in lowland Britain people were dismissing the idea of building temporary shelters and instead were constructing permanent homes. These were often built of timber or stone with wattle and daub or clay in-fills, depending on what type of materials were readily accessible. These buildings were sturdy enough to stand the test of time and many survived for over five hundred years.

4.1.6 Almost all of the hall houses built, if surviving at all, have been radically altered and only survive within the fabric of the later alterations. The central heath was one of the first things to be abandoned and an open fireplace and chimney were added often in the early modern period. With this addition an open roof space was no longer needed and this led to the construction of upper floors.

4.1.7 The infilling between the timbers of the hall would have been replaced several times. The timbers themselves are structurally the strongest part of the building and would tend to survive. At some point the outer walls would have been replaced with solid brick or stone and in the case at Bushett Farm this seems to have been done at sometime in the 17\textsuperscript{th} century.

4.1.8 A building such as Bushett Farm would have bee extended or altered to follow fashion and or needs and as late as the 20\textsuperscript{th} century underwent another radical alteration when the building was altered to supply accommodation to two families of farm workers.

4.1.9 These new inhabitants stayed at the farm until the addition of new of social housing in the village. The property was then vacated and left uninhabited and a decision was made in the late 1950’s to demolish the building.

4.1.10 The seemingly careful demolition of the building suggests that the materials that were recovered were recycled and can probably be seen within the fabric of other buildings in the locality.
# Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

## Trench Area 1

### General Description

Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the evaluation area and was orientated south-west to north-east. It contained walls relating to early phases of the manor house and 19th or 20th century alterations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
<th>Depth (m)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Finds</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>Possible front wall of the manor house</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td></td>
<td>Concrete and brick internal partition</td>
<td></td>
<td>20th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Concrete and brick internal partition</td>
<td></td>
<td>20th Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>Possible rear wall of the manor house</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>18th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>Flint wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Brick corner of building</td>
<td>Brick</td>
<td>16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Trench Area 2

### General Description

Trench 2 was orientated north-east to south-west and sited centrally on the supposed plan of the manor house. The trench contained walls, a possible hearth and internal and external surfaces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context No.</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Width (m)</th>
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<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Heated material, possibly a hearth</td>
<td>CBM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>Possible hearth</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Flint wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Post hole</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>mid 12th to mid 14th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Post Hole</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Layer within sondage</td>
<td>CBM, pottery</td>
<td>15th to 16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>context no</td>
<td>type</td>
<td>Width (m)</td>
<td>Depth (m)</td>
<td>comment</td>
<td>finds</td>
<td>date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shallow cut containing dumped material</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dump of medieval material</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Late 14th to mid 16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dump of medieval material</td>
<td>CBM</td>
<td>Post Medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>Dump of material containing oyster shell</td>
<td>CBM, pottery</td>
<td>Late 14th to mid 16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>Layer of redeposited natural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Modern concrete block wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td></td>
<td>Foundation for block wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Modern drain</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Drainage channel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Modern pit fill</td>
<td>CBM, pottery</td>
<td>19th to 20th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Modern pit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>1.60</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Levelling layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>Levelling layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Levelling layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>Dumped layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Spread</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Broken ceramic tile layer</td>
<td>CBM, pottery, glass and pipe stem</td>
<td>Late 18th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>2.20</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Silt soil layer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>Dump</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Modern dump</td>
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<tr>
<td>context no</td>
<td>type</td>
<td>Width (m)</td>
<td>Depth (m)</td>
<td>comment</td>
<td>finds</td>
<td>date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
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<td>-----------</td>
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<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Layer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Subsoil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>Fill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pit or ditch fill</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>15th to 16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Cut</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cut of pit or ditch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B. CERAMICS

By Helen Walker

B.1.1 A small assemblage totalling 98 sherds weighing 754g was excavated, with an average sherd size of 8g. The pottery spans the 13th to 19/20th centuries, although most belongs to the 14th to 15th centuries, with the addition of a small late 18th century group. All the pottery appears domestic in nature. Products of the nearby Hedingham kilns are very much in evidence.

B.1.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group’s (MPRG) Guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms (MPRG 1998) and Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics (MPRG 2001) act as a standard. The pottery recording follows Cunningham’s typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16; expanded by Cotter 2000 and Drury et al. 1993). Some of Cunningham’s vessel form and rim form codes are quoted in this report. All percentages are by weight.

B.1.3 The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Sampling Bias

B.1.4 The open area excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery.

The Assemblage

Table 1 shows the total sherd count and weight of all fabrics, shown in approximate chronological order.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fabric Name</th>
<th>No. Sherds</th>
<th>Weight (g)</th>
<th>% by weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medieval coarseware</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedingham coarseware</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedingham sandy orange ware</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy orange ware</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tudor red earthenware</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-medieval red earthenware</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-glazed ware</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffordshire-type slipware</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabric Name</td>
<td>No. Sherds</td>
<td>Weight (g)</td>
<td>% by weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creamware</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearlware</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowerpot</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>98</strong></td>
<td><strong>754</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pottery fabrics present in the assemblage**

**Pottery by Ceramic Period**

B.1.5 The medieval assemblage, spanning the late 12th to 14th centuries accounts for 33.5% of the total. The pottery consists mainly of Hedingham coarseware with a smaller amount of medieval coarseware (see Table 1). Also belonging to the medieval period is a single vessel fragment in Hedingham sandy orange ware (no Hedingham fine ware is present in the assemblage). Hedingham coarseware is typically grey-firing often with oxidised margins. It has a fine micaceous matrix tempered with grey, straw-coloured and whitish sands, the latter often protruding through the surface, sometimes with the addition of sparse rust-coloured iron oxide inclusions. Of the sherds classified as medieval coarseware, most could be Hedingham products but are not typical enough to be confidently identified as such. Hedingham sandy orange ware has an oxidised micaceous fabric similar to the fine ware but with the addition of a sand tempering and has only recently been recognised at Hedingham ware production sites, and has been dated on stylistic grounds to the mid/late 13th to 14th centuries (Walker 2012, 23-5,33). The preponderance of Hedingham products is not unexpected as Great Bardfield is very close to the Hedingham ware production centres which are centred in and around the settlements of Sible Hedingham and Halstead. The nearest production site to Great Bardfield is at Shalford Road (Walker 2012, 21-3), actually in the parish of Great Bardfield and about 3.5km to the north-east of Bushett Farm, although most of the production sites lie somewhat further east.

B.1.6 The late medieval/transitional period spanning the late 14th to mid-16th centuries accounts for 53% of the total assemblage. The most frequent find is sandy orange ware, a general category of sand-tempered oxidised wares manufactured at several sites in the county. This ware spans the 13th to 16th centuries, but all examples, apart from one or two undiagnostic sherds, are of late medieval type, usually with a sparse or absent glaze, unless the glaze is internal. Sometimes sherds have reduced surfaces and most sherds are undecorated apart from a couple of sherds showing simple slip-painted decoration as is typical of this period. Also belonging to this period, but far less common are sherds of Tudor red earthenware, which has a fine, smooth fabric and as the name suggests, Tudor red earthenware spans the later 15th to 16th centuries.

B.1.7 The post-medieval and later assemblage comprises 13.5% of the total. Glazed post-medieval red earthenware and black-glazed ware are present, both represented by single
vessels, and although these wares were current from the late 16th century, they appear in a group of pottery datable to the late 18th century. The remaining pottery comprises very small amounts of Staffordshire-type slipware most frequent during the earlier 18th century, Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware dating primarily from the 1720s to 1770s, creamware dating from the 1740s to 1820s, and pearlware dating from c.1779 to c.1830. In addition, there is a single sherd from a modern flowerpot.

**Vessel forms**

B.1.8 To avoid duplication vessel forms are discussed under ‘The assemblage in relation to archaeological features’.

**The Assemblage In Relation to Archaeological Features**

B.1.9 Surface 123 in trench 2, flint area 117 (containing contexts 116, 118, 120) in trench 3, and pit 144 in trench 4, all contained a similar range of pottery comprising Hedingham coarseware (with the addition of medieval coarseware in pit 144), late medieval sandy orange ware and Tudor red earthenware. Looking first at the medieval pottery, there is one sherd of Hedingham coarseware from surface 123, which is decorated with incised bands and therefore likely to date to the 13th century as later coarsewares tend to be plain. Otherwise all the coarsewares are of late 13th to 14th century types and comprise single examples of cooking-pot fragments with a blocked, neckless rim (type H3) and a flanged rim (type E5), both datable to the late 13th to 14th centuries. There is also a jug rim fragment in Hedingham coarseware showing a squared beaded rim and rilled neck. Its surfaces are grey but the cores are orange and this appears to be a late version of the fabric when the medieval coarsewares merge with sandy orange ware, sometime in the 14th century. Found in deposit 118, is the lower handle attachment of a jug in Hedingham sandy orange ware showing a ribbed handle and a partial mottled-green glaze. This is the only example of this ware to be found on site. As ribbed handles occur on Hedingham fineware pear-shaped jugs of the later 13th to mid-14th century (cf. Cotter 2000, fig.51.24), this jug is likely to be of the same date.

B.1.10 The late medieval sandy orange wares make up the largest component of these assemblages. However, the sherds are rather fragmented and only one vessel form was identified, a hollowed everted rim most likely from a jar showing a patch of glaze on the rim and a patch of glaze externally. An area of fire-blackening shows the vessel was most likely used for cooking. This vessel probably dates to the 15th century, although other examples of late medieval sandy orange ware span the late 14th to mid-16th centuries. Sherds of Tudor red earthenware were found in all three deposits/features and all sherds but one are from finely potted standing cups showing an all over honey coloured glaze and are of Cunninghams’s form E3, datable to the 15th century (cf. Cunningham 1985, fig.9.59). It is possible that all sherds are from the same vessel, although none joins. The remaining sherd of Tudor red earthenware (from pit 144) comprises a flat base with upright sides from a small crudely-made but glazed vessel showing a handle attachment scar just above the base. The standing cup and the jar rim provide a most likely date of 15th century for these contexts, with earlier pottery, most likely dating to the 14th century also present. The homogeneity of the assemblages from surface 123, flint area 117 and pit 144 suggests that they were all deposited during the same episode.

B.1.11 Layer 133 in trench 3 produced a post-medieval assemblage (apart from a single sherd of residual medieval coarseware) with finds including a bowl fragment with a collared rim in
post-medieval red earthenware, part of a rounded jug in black-glazed ware and a sherd from a press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type slipware. The remaining pottery comprises fine table wares, including the rim of a hemispherical bowl or saucer in Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, and the rim of a second hemispherical bowl or tea-bowl in pearlware showing blue-painted decoration. The most unusual find is a hollow pedestal base in colour-glazed creamware showing green and cream colours over an incised pattern that consists of short, curved upright lines perhaps intended to depict grass or foliage. The base may be from a figurine. Most of the finewares would have been current during the late 18th century, although the presence of pearlware precludes a date before c.1779.

B.1.12 The only pottery found outside the trench area was a single sherd of Hedingham coarseware extracted from sampling of post-hole 115. A sherd of probable 19th to 20th century flowerpot was recovered from modern pit 127.

Discussion

B.1.13 The pottery spans the 13th to 19th/20th centuries, but the bulk of the pottery spans the 14th to 15th centuries with the addition of the late 18th century group from layer 133. All the pottery appears to be local, extremely local in the case of the Hedingham products, and there are no overseas or traded wares amongst the medieval and late medieval assemblage. However, by the 18th century the local pottery industries were very much in decline and only the post-medieval red earthenware and black-glazed ware sherds in layer 133 are of local origin, the remaining material being manufactured in the Midlands and the north. With such a small assemblage it is difficult to comment on function, save to say the assemblage is domestic. The hemispherical bowls/tea bowls/saucers found in layer 133 are associated with tea drinking a very popular pastime in the later 18th century, and although no longer the preserve of the rich, these vessels indicate a household of middling status as does the good quality colour-glaze creamware vessel or figurine. No further work is required on this assemblage and a publication report could be based on this assessment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Fabric</th>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Sherd Count</th>
<th>Sherd Weight</th>
<th>Context Date Range</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Hedingham coarseware</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>mid-12th to mid-14th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Sandy orange ware</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15th to 16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandy orange ware</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tudor red earthenware</td>
<td>cup: E3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Hedingham coarseware</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>late 14th to mid-16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hedingham sandy orange ware</td>
<td>jug</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>94 + earlier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandy orange ware</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Hedingham coarseware</td>
<td>cooking-pot: E5 rim</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>late 14th to mid-16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hedingham coarseware</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30 + earlier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandy orange ware</td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>103</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Hedingham coarseware</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15th to mid-16th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sandy orange ware</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16 + earlier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tudor red earthenware</td>
<td>cup: E3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Flowerpot fabric</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19th to 20th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Medieval coarseware</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Latest is late 18th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>bowl</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black-glazed ware</td>
<td>jug</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staffs-type slipware</td>
<td>dish: press-moulded</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staffs-type white salt-glazed stoneware</td>
<td>bowl: hemispherical</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creamware</td>
<td>base: hollow pedestal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from medieval/post-medieval features within the excavated areas at Bushett Farm, Great Bradfield, Essex in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (up to 16 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors’ own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants.

Results

C.1.3 Preservation is by carbonisation and charcoal and charred grain are present in small quantities in each sample. Two squashed oats (Avena sp.) and a wheat (Triticum sp.) grain were identified in surface 123, a single wheat grain in post hole 115 and two small peas (Pisum/Lathyrus sp.) and an abraded grain in spread 118. Pottery sherds, animal bone and marine shell were recovered from the residues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample No.</th>
<th>Context No.</th>
<th>Cut No.</th>
<th>Feature Type</th>
<th>Volume processed (L)</th>
<th>Cereals</th>
<th>Legumes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>123</td>
<td></td>
<td>Surface</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>Post hole</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>118</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spread</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Environmental samples from GBBF16

Discussion

C.1.4 The three samples taken during the evaluation of this site have shown that there is the potential for the recovery of preserved plant remains, in particular those of staple foods such as cereals and legumes. The findings are typical for the contexts sampled in that only sparse charred remains could be expected to survive.
APPENDIX D. SHELLFISH

By Alexandra Scard

D.1.1 A total of 0.807kg of marine shell was recovered from four medieval/post-medieval contexts during excavations at Bushett Farm, Gt Bardfield, Essex. This shell was quantified and examined in order to assess the diversity and quantity of the ecofacts, as well as their potential to provide useful data as part of archaeological investigation. The assemblage is the result of shell collected by hand on site, as well as recovered during the processing of environmental samples. Observations of the assemblage's size, condition and any man-made or taphonomic damage have been made.

Introduction and methods

D.1.2 A total of 0.807kg of marine shell was recovered from four medieval/post-medieval contexts during excavations at Bushett Farm, Gt Bardfield, Essex. This shell was quantified and examined in order to assess the diversity and quantity of the ecofacts, as well as their potential to provide useful data as part of archaeological investigation. The assemblage is the result of shell collected by hand on site, as well as recovered during the processing of environmental samples. Observations of the assemblage's size, condition and any man-made or taphonomic damage have been made.

Results

D.1.3 Tables of quantification for the two species recovered can be seen below. The majority of the assemblage is oyster (Ostrea edulis) shell averaging 5.1cm in size, recovered from an ashy layer, 123, beneath a deliberately compacted clay, 122. Preservation is generally fair, with just one valve reflecting damage from excavation. 'Shucking', the process of prising the oyster open, is evident throughout the assemblage with 'u-shaped' cut marks along the ventral margins of some specimens, as well as one valve, from deposit 120 having a profound hole, fitting with knife damage from shucking. Some of the assemblage also contains evidence of polychaete worm infestation (PWI).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Cut number</th>
<th>Feature type</th>
<th>Weight (kg)</th>
<th>Left valve (kg and quantity)</th>
<th>Right valve (kg and quantity)</th>
<th>MNI</th>
<th>Average Size (cm)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Deposit/dumped material in depression</td>
<td>0.147</td>
<td>0.098/9</td>
<td>0.049/11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Shuck marks present as well as exterior damage to a left valve (during excavation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>Deposit/dumped material in depression</td>
<td>0.545</td>
<td>0.353/46</td>
<td>0.192/39</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>Hole in left valve: square interior plan, but more rough exterior view, 1.3cm x 1.3cm in size. Likely to have been caused by a knife during shucking. Potential shuck marks present throughout as well boring (Cliona celata sponge) in a right valve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut number</td>
<td>Feature type</td>
<td>Weight (kg)</td>
<td>Total um-</td>
<td>MNI</td>
<td>Average (cm)</td>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Comments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Ash layer</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Quantified mussel shell

**Discussion**

D.1.4 Shellfish consumption is renowned during the Medieval period, and the assemblage from Bushett Farm is indicative of this. The deposition of shell within certain features implies that the ecofacts were discarded in convenient depressions already present on site, as opposed to within purpose-built pits or middens. It is also possible that much of the shell is found in features as unintentional inclusions within backfills.

**APPENDIX E. BIBLIOGRAPHY**


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Zohary, H 2012 Domestication of Plants in the Old World – The origin and
spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley. 3rd edition. Oxford University Press
## APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

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<th>oxfordar3-244812</th>
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<td>Project Dates (fieldwork)</td>
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<td>Previous Work (by OA East)</td>
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### Project Reference Codes

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<td>Planning App. No.</td>
<td>13/00012/FUL</td>
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<td>HER No.</td>
<td>Related HER/OASIS No.</td>
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### Type of Project/Techniques Used

<table>
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<th>Prompt</th>
<th>Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Development Type</td>
<td>Rural Residential</td>
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### Please select all techniques used:

- Aerial Photography - interpretation
- Aerial Photography - new
- Annotated Sketch
- Augering
- Dendrochronological Survey
- Documentary Search
- Environmental Sampling
- Fieldwalking
- Geophysical Survey
- Grab-Sampling
- Gravity-Core
- Laser Scanning
- Measured Survey
- Metal Detectors
- Photogrammetric Survey
- Photographic Survey
- Phosphate Survey
- Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
- Sample Trenches
- Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
- Rectified Photography
- Targeted Trenches
- Test Pits
- Topographic Survey
- Vibro-core
- Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the **NMR Monument Type Thesaurus** and significant finds using the **MDA Object type Thesaurus** together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monument Type</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<td>Foundations</td>
<td>Post Medieval 1540 to 1901</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Medieval 1066 to 1540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>Post Medieval 1540 to 1901</td>
<td>Pottery</td>
<td>Post Medieval 1540 to 1901</td>
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### Project Location

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Essex</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Braintree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish</td>
<td>GT Bardfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>HER</td>
<td>Essex HER</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Area</td>
<td>90sqm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Address (including postcode if possible)</td>
<td>Bushett Farm Oxen End Great Bardfield Braintree</td>
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### Project Originators

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Report Number 1910
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>OA EAST</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Brief Originator</td>
<td>Teresa O'Connor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Design Originator</td>
<td>James Drummond-Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Manager</td>
<td>James Drummond-Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor</td>
<td>James Fairbair</td>
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**Project Archives**

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<th>Paper Archive</th>
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**Archive Contents/Media**

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**Digital Media**

- Database
- GIS
- Geophysics
- Images
- Illustrations
- Moving Image
- Spreadsheets
- Survey
- Text
- Virtual Reality

**Paper Media**

- Aerial Photos
- Context Sheet
- Correspondence
- Diary
- Drawing
- Manuscript
- Map
- Matrices
- Microfilm
- Misc.
- Research/Notes
- Photos
- Plans
- Report
- Sections
- Survey

**Notes:**
Figure 1: Site location and area of investigation
Figure 2: Plan of trenches and rectified photograph
Figure 3: 1835 Tithe map and 1941 sales particulars (Essex County Record Office).
Figure 4: 1887 OS map.

Figure 5: 1954 OS map.
Figure 6: Selected sections
Plate 1: Evaluation area and farm buildings viewed from the north-east

Plate 2: Foundation 101 viewed from the north-east
Plate 3: Return of wall 110 viewed from the north-west

Plate 4: Continuation of the rear wall of the building viewed from the north-east
Plate 5: Internal walls 102 and 103 viewed from the west

Plate 6: Hearth 112 viewed from the west
Plate 7: Later chimney 108 base, viewed from the north-west

Plate 8: Flint wall 113 and surfaces 122 and 123 viewed from the west
Plate 9: The southern wall 108 of the building viewed from the west

Plate 10: Post hole 115 viewed from the north-west
Plate 11: Pit/ditch 144 viewed from the south-east