

Archaeological Trial Trenching at Lea lane  
Farm, Lea Lane, Great Braxted, Essex CM8  
3EW

NGR: TL8388814990  
Site Code LLF15

**Touchstone  
Archaeology**

Report on behalf of Smart Planning Ltd  
Date of report 11/11/2015

**TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY**  
The Ridings, White Elm Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4LR  
Tel: 07976 275180  
zoe@touchstonearchaeology.com www.touchstonearchaeology.co.uk

# Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.0 SUMMARY.....	4
3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	5
4.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	5
5.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
8.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	6
9.0 METHODOLOGY.....	6
10.0 RESULTS.....	7
12.0 FINDS.....	7
13.0 DISCUSSION.....	7
14.0 CONCLUSION.....	7
15.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	8
REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX 1 - ECC HER Summary Form.....	9

## List of Plates:

- Plate 1. Aerial Photograph of site (Google 2006)
- Plate 2. Trench 1 (Southwest)
- Plate 3. Trench 1 (Northeast)
- Plate 4. Trench 2 (Southeast)
- Plate 5. Trench 2 (Northwest)
- Plate 6. Point at which both trenches cross each other
- Plate 7. Gravel deposit

## List of Figures:

- Figure 1. Location Map 15/2846/M001 Smart Planning
- Figure 2. Location Plan 15/2846/M002 Rev.A Smart Planning
- Figure 3. Proposed Site Plan with trenches plotted 15/2846/P201 Rev.B Smart Planning

## Conditions of Release

All rights including translation reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission from TOUCHSTONE Archaeology.

# Archaeological Trial trenching of Lea Lane farm, Lea Lane, Great Braxted, Essex CM8 3EW

Site Code LLF15

Date of report: 11/11/2015



**Plate 1. Aerial view of site (Yellow pin) showing the site prior to development.**

**(Google Earth 9/9/2006: Eye altitude 1.28km).**

## 1.0 Introduction

On 5<sup>th</sup> November, Touchstone Archaeology carried out Archaeological Trial trenching on an area designated for the erection of agricultural buildings at Lea Lane farm, Lea Lane, Great Braxted, Essex CM8 3EW. (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

## 2.0 Summary

1.2. The Planning Application Number for the development is FUL/MAL/15/00852.

1.3. The works were carried out on behalf of the owner and instructions received from Smart Planning Ltd.

1.4. The Archaeological Trial trenching was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence relating to crop marks located within 250m to the north.

1.5. The weather was overcast and dry, rain began at the point of completion of the trial trenching.

1.6. The site was a pasture field that was at one time a ploughed field that comprised part of the farm, bounded to the north by a fence and Lea Lane Road, to the east by open fields and field boundaries, to the west by the existing farm buildings and to the south by further pasture land.

1.7. The archaeologist walked the ploughed field to assess the surface for evidence of archaeological deposits but none were found.

1.8. Archaeological trial trenching was carried out across the length and width of the proposed development area with a bladed bucket measuring 1.5m to a depth of natural clay at 30cm. (Plates 1-4).

The archaeological work was undertaken in one phase.

Phase 1: 2no trial trenches.

Trench 1: Northwest – Southeast – L50m x W.1.5m x D.0.30m

Trench 2: Southwest - Northeast – L60m x W.1.5m x D.0.30m

1.9. Stratigraphy:

### Trenches 1

0 – 30cm depth – Topsoil

30cm depth – Clay (orange brown sticky clay clean with stone and flint inclusions)

## **Trench 2**

0 – 30cm depth – Topsoil

30cm depth – Clay (orange brown sticky clay clean with stone and flint inclusions)

70cm from the southwest end of the trench a gravel area was uncovered, although based on aerial photography and discussion with the farmer this was connected to previous works in that area.

1.10. Although the archaeological potential was medium to high the Archaeological trial trenching revealed no buried archaeological features or deposits.

## **2.0 Planning Background**

Planning application FUL/MAL/15/00852 was submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA). Essex County Council Heritage and Conservation (ECCHC), on behalf of the LPA requested that Archaeological trial Trenching be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered prior to the development work. The following condition was attached to the planning consent:

### **L1 Archaeological Assessment**

*No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning authority and will inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.*

### **L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme**

*No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work.*

## **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Zoe Schofield TOUCHSTONE Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

## **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the trial trenching was to observe, excavate and record archaeological remains revealed by the trenching works, to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area and ensure suitable specialist observation close to a potential archaeological site.

4.2. The trial trenching comprised of one trench the full length of the PDA and one trench the full width of the PDA in a cross shaped fashion. (Plates 1-5).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor was made available to Touchstone Archaeology before the on-site trial trenching took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features and deposits during the Trial trenching and recording exercise.

## **5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background**

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Bedrock geology of London Clay Formation. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was silty clay & sand topped by dark brown humic topsoil.

5.2. The application site consisted of an area adjacent to the Lea Lane Road, east of the River Blackwater and close to the villages of Rivenhall, Little Braxted and Great Braxted. The site itself is generally level at a height of about 19m aOD.

5.3. The site lies within an area dominated by agriculture, surrounded by fields and ancient hedgerows and tree copses and the landscape is rich in cropmarks.

There are no records in the Essex HER within 100m of the PDA.

Within 250m of the PDA is the site of Elm Springs, Great Braxted (SMR9138/TL838150/TL81NW), crop marks of a sub\ rectangular enclosure measuring 70m x 69m and linear features.

Further afield and within 500m of the PDA and North of Colemans Farm (8297) aerial photography from 1976 shows two parallel lines (possible track way), linear features and two parallel, curving lines (possibly part of an enclosure or concentric ring ditch).

South of Colemans Farm (8395) is a findspot of Roman pottery.

The possible site of a Saxon cemetery (8396) was uncovered during gravel extraction in 1974. Spearheads, swords, a bronze ferrule, a shield boss, pottery and one human long bone, dating to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Church of St Nicholas, Little Braxted (8183) dates to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century but iron objects

thought to be Saxon and Roman brick and pottery have been found to the north of the hall.

Little Braxted Hall (38921), is a Grade II Listed Building dating to between AD1397 and AD1419 with adjacent Kitchen/Dovecote.

Little Braxted Mill, Mill House and attached bridge (38918) is an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Grade II Listed building with a medieval core.

Within 1km of the PDA at Lee Lane an aerial photograph shows a ring ditch with linear features.

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Trial trenching was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by ECC and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of trial trenching, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Trial trenching was carried out in one phase according to the needs of the land owner on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360-degree machine equipped with a toothless bucket (1.5m) necessary to excavate the 2no trenches (Plates 1-4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological Trial trenching was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology agreed with the Archaeological Officer ECC.

## **7.0 Results**

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed in the subsoil encountered across the site. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the topsoil (Fig.5).

## **8.0 Finds**

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Trial trenching phase.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. Unfortunately there were no archaeological features or finds relating to the nearby cropmarks.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Trial trenching has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the ECC Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

## **11.0 Acknowledgments**

Touchstone Archaeology would like to thank Smart Planning Ltd for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Zoe Schofield.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zoe Schofield'.

**Zoe Schofield**

## **References**

HER data (ECC 2015)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Trial trenching

ECC Archaeological Trial trenching (2015)



**Appendix 1**  
**Essex County Council HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** Lea Lane Farm, Lea Lane, Great Braxted, Essex CM8 3EW

**Touchstone Archaeology Site Code:** LLF15

**Site Address:** As above

**Summary:**

On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 121sqm Trial Trenching was carried out on an area of 0.42 Ha designated for the construction of new farm buildings. The trial trenching was applied across the full length (60m) and full width (50m) of the area to natural clay at a depth of 30cm with a 1.5m bucket but revealed no archaeological deposits or features.

**District/Unitary:** Maldon

**Period(s):** None

**NGR (centre of site to ten figures)** 83888 14990

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Trial trenching

**Date of recording:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Unit undertaking recording:** Touchstone Archaeology

**Geology:** Underlying geology is London Clay Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Schofield Z. (2015) Archaeological Trial trenching at Lea Lane Farm, Lea Lane, Great Braxted, Essex CM8 3EW

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

See above

**Location of archive/finds:** Touchstone Archaeology. The Ridings, White Elm Road, Danbury Essex CM3 4LR

**Contact at Unit:** Zoe Schofield

**Date:** 11/11/2015

## Plates

### Plate 2. Trench 1 (facing Southwest)



**Plate 3. Trench 1 (facing Northeast)**



**Plate 4. Trench 2 (facing Southeast)**



**Plate 5. Trench 2 (facing Northwest)**



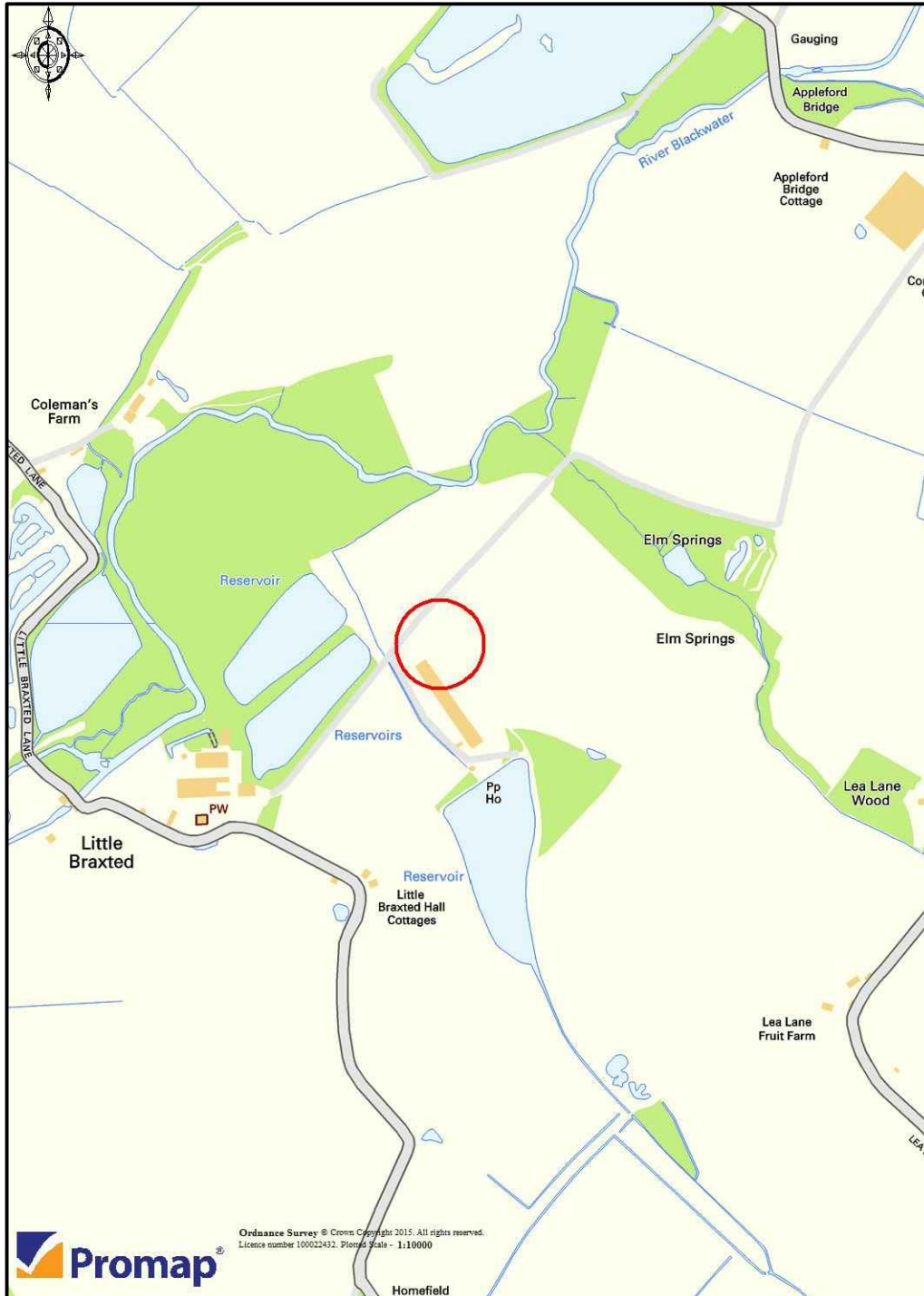
**Plate 6. Point at which both trenches cross each other**



**Plate 7. Gravel deposit**



Client Name : <b>Mr K Speakman</b>			Smart Planning Ltd Old School House Rettendon Turnpike Battlesbridge Essex SS11 7QL +44(0) 870 013 6996 contact@smartplanning.co.uk www.smartplanning.co.uk	
Project Title : <b>Lea Lane Farm, Great Braxted, CM8 3EW</b>				
Drawing Name : <b>Location Map</b>				
Scale : <b>1:10000 @ A4</b>	Checked : <b>HW</b>	Status : <b>Preliminary</b>	Rev : <b>1</b>	
Date : <b>14 Jul 2015</b>	Plot Date : <b>31 Jul 15 12:25</b>	Dwg No : <b>15.2846/M001</b>		

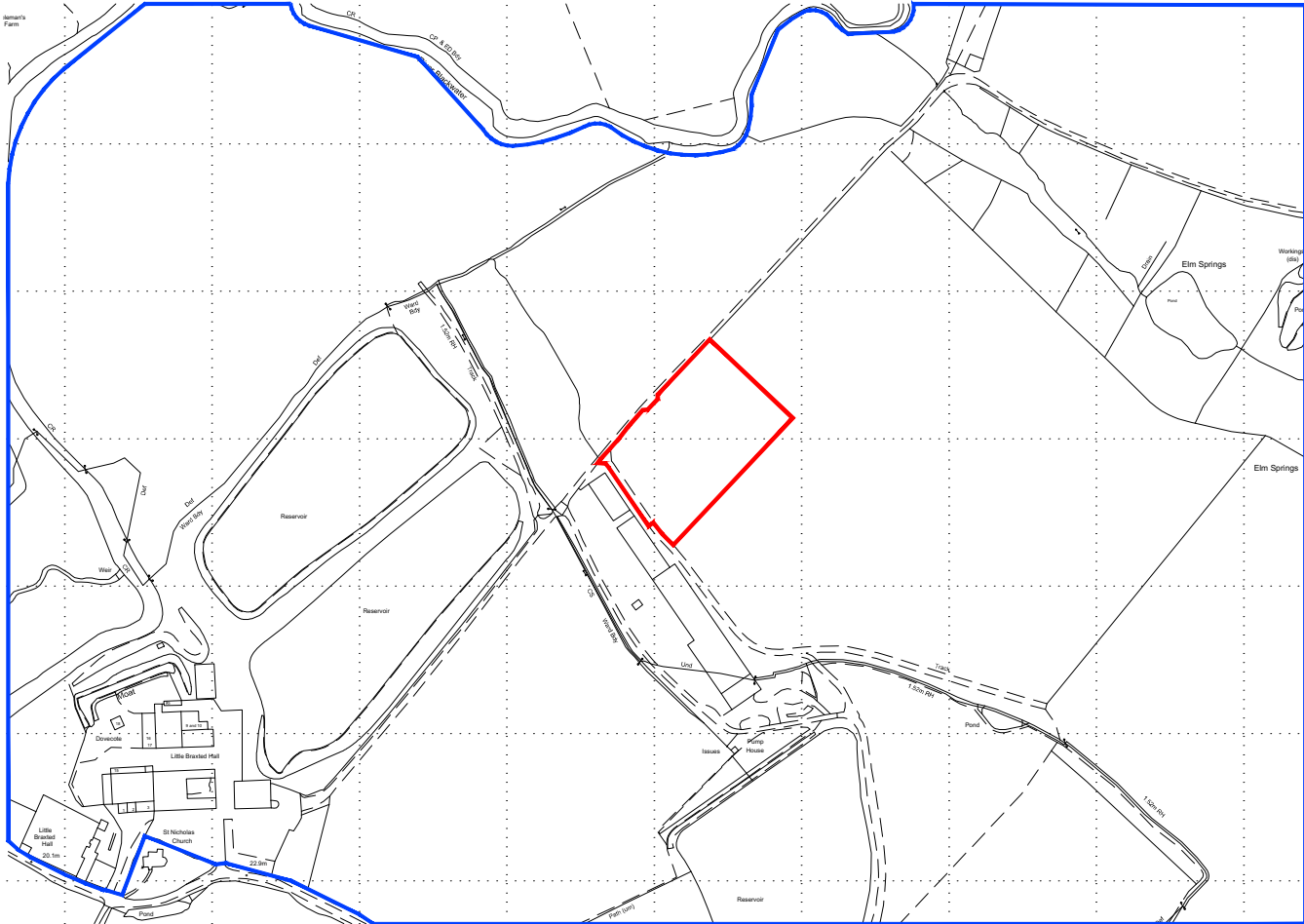


**smartplanning**   
Chartered Town Planners and Landscape Architects  
Local Service - Nationwide

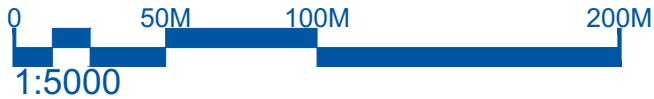
No.	Date	Amendment	Initials

© THIS DRAWING IS THE COPYRIGHT OF SMARTPLANNING. This document must not be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission of Smartplanning Ltd. Registered in England No. 04369649. OS Licence Number 100042413

Client Name : <b>Mr K Speakman</b>			Smart Planning Ltd Old School House Rettendon Turnpike Battlesbridge Essex SS11 7QL +44(0) 870 013 6996 contact@smartplanning.co.uk www.smartplanning.co.uk	
Project Title : <b>Lea Lane Farm, Great Braxted, CM8 3EW</b>				
Drawing Name : <b>Location Plan</b>				
Scale : <b>1:5000@ A4</b>	Checked : <b>HW</b>	Status : <b>Preliminary</b>	Rev : <b>A</b>	
Date : <b>14 Jul 2015</b>	Plot Date : <b>31 Jul 15 12:25</b>	Dwg No : <b>15.2846/M002</b>		



Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432



This plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.

**smartplanning**   
Chartered Town Planners and Landscape Architects  
Local Service - Nationwide

<b>A</b>	28.07.15	Add Site Boundaries	KS
<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Initials</b>

© THIS DRAWING IS THE COPYRIGHT OF SMARTPLANNING. This document must not be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission of Smartplanning Ltd. Registered in England No. 04369649. OS Licence Number 100042413

Client Name : Mr K Speakman

Project Title : Lea Lane Farm, Great Braxted, CM8 3EW

Drawing Name : Proposed Site Plan

Scale : 1:1250@A3

Date : 14 Jul 2015

Checked : HW

Plot Date : 31 Jul 15 12:25

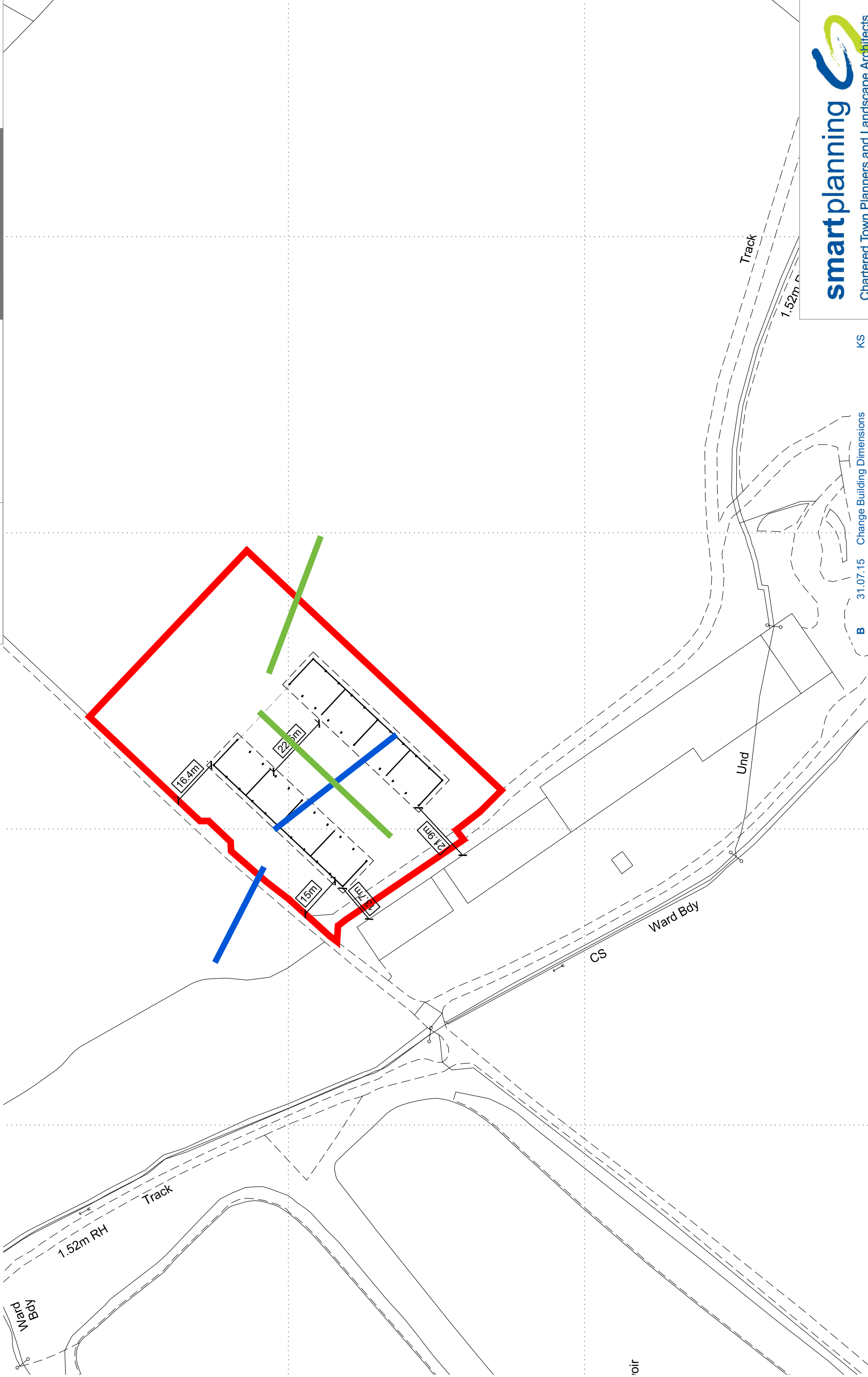
Status : Preliminary

Dwg No : 15.2846/P201

Rev :

B

Smart Planning Ltd  
Old School House  
Rettendon Turnpike  
Battlesbridge  
Essex  
SS11 7QL  
+44(0) 870 013 6996  
contact@smartplanning.co.uk  
www.smartplanning.co.uk



This plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.



No.	Date	Amendment	Initials
B	31.07.15	Change Building Dimensions	KS
A	28.07.15	Change Building Orientation	KS

© THIS DRAWING IS THE COPYRIGHT OF SMARTPLANNING. This document must not be reproduced in whole or in part without prior permission of Smartplanning Ltd. Registered in England No. 04369649. OS Licence Number 100042413



<b>Site Name/Address:</b> Lea lane, Great Braxted, Essex CM8 3EW	
<b>Parish:</b> Little Braxted	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL8388814990	<b>Site Code:</b> LLF15
<b>Type of Work:</b> Trial Trenching	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Zoe Schofield Touchstone Archaeology
<b>Date of Work:</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 0.42 Ha, 165 sqm Trial Trenching
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> N/a	<b>Funding source:</b> Land Owner
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHCR No's:</b> 9138
<b>Final Report:</b> LLF15	<b>OASIS number:</b> zoeschof1-228714
<b>Periods Represented:</b> None	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>On 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015, 121sqm Trial Trenching was carried out on an area of 0.42 Ha designated for the construction of new farm buildings. The trial trenching was applied across the full length (60m) and full width (50m) of the area to natural clay at a depth of 30cm with a 1.5m bucket but revealed no archaeological deposits or features. See Drawing Below.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> ZOE SCHOFIELD	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> November 2015

# 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: zoeschof1-228714**

## Project details

Project name	Lea Lane Farm, Lea Lane, Great Braxted, Essex CM8 3EW
Short description of the project	Trial Trenching at Lean Lane Farm, Great Braxted CM8 3EW in advance of construction of farm buildings.
Project dates	Start: 05-11-2015 End: 05-11-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LLF15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	FUL/MAL/15/00852 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	1603758 - NMR No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON GREAT BRAXTED Lea Lane Farm, Lea Lane
Postcode	CM8 3EW
Study area	0.42 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 83888 14990 51.802758322594 0.667391771828 51 48 09 N 000 40 02 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19m Max: 19m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Zoe Schofield
Project director/manager	Zoe Schofield
Project supervisor	Zoe Schofield
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Zoe Schofield
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Digital Archive notes	Photographs
Paper Archive recipient	Essex HER
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Plan","Report"
Paper Archive notes	Report, summary and plan of trenches

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	LLF15 - Lea Lane Farm, Great Braxted, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Zoe Schofield
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Zoe Schofield
Place of issue or publication	Website: <a href="http://www.touchstonearchaeology.com">www.touchstonearchaeology.com</a>
Description	Written report with photographs and site plan
URL	<a href="http://www.touchstonearchaeology.com">www.touchstonearchaeology.com</a>

Entered by	Mark Barratt ( <a href="mailto:oasis@historicengland.org.uk">oasis@historicengland.org.uk</a> )
Entered on	20 May 2016

# 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> for this page

