Touchstone Archaeology



Archaeological Monitoring of groundworks at:

The Old School House Rectory Road West Tilbury Essex RM18 8UD

TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY
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SITE: THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, RECTORY ROAD, WEST TILBURY, ESSEX RM18 8UD

NGR: TQ 65942 78024
Site Code: OSH15
Planning Application Number: THU/0915/14
Oasis Record: zoeschof1-214196
Brief: 14_0915_OldSch_WestTilbury_MonitoringBrief
WSI: WSI_OSH_Tilbury_2015
Final Report: FR_OSH_Tilbury_2015

INTRODUCTION

Touchstone Archaeology was commissioned by Jackie Shepherd-Ashby and Lee Donaldson, the owners of the site, to discharge the planning conditions set out by Thurrock Council. The work was carried out on 16th June 2015 in accordance with the requirements of the Brief (14_0915_OldSch_WestTilbury_MonitoringBrief) issued by Richard Havis (Senior Historic Environment Advisor) and the methodology of the WSI (WSI_OSH_Tilbury_2015) provided by Zoe Schofield of Touchstone Archaeology.

SUMMARY

Touchstone Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site of The Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury Essex on 16^{th} June 2015. A planning application (THU/0915/14) submitted to Thurrock Council for the demolition of a small extension and the erection of a new larger extension and double garage, was approved with the condition for archaeological monitoring to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological features or deposits, particularly in connection with the crop marks that are visible on the land adjoining the property to the North East.

Despite the archaeological potential for the area no archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the monitoring process. Immediately below the modern tarmacadam car park surface was a clean layer of silty soil that met and joined with the natural geology of Thanet sand, common within that area (fig.1). The Thanet sand base was met before the overall depth of the foundations were achieved.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND TOPOGRAPHY

NGR: TQ 65942 78024

N: 51° 28' 36.6198 E: 0° 23' 17.3004

X: 565942 Y: 178024

Longitude: 0.388139 Latitude: 51.476839

Elevation: 24.02m

The site is located in East Tilbury (TQ 65942 78024) at an approximate elevation of 24.02 AOD, centrally located within a green belt village 2 miles East of Chadwell St Mary and approximately 3 miles North East of Tilbury (fig.2). The Old School House dates to 1876. It is a detached brick built construction with double height windows to each side and a double pitched slate roof joining centrally at a valley gutter, set within grounds of tarmacadam surface of approximately 41.0m x 25.0m, a total area of approximately 1025.0 Sqm.

Thurrock council granted permission for the existing northeast extensions of 19.32 Sqm and outbuildings of 120.56 Sqm to be removed and replaced with a new extension, an area of 55.64 Sqm, to the northeast of the existing building and a garage of 35.0 Sqm to the Northwest. Underground tanks (septic and overflow) are located within the area and immediately to the north of the new extension (fig.3).

The proposed development is located to the south of an area of extensive crop marks (EHER 1796) that include enclosures, ring- ditches, road/track-way and pit-like marks that may represent a settlement

Although at present unexcavated and undated, the features are likely to be of prehistoric and Roman date. Several of the linear features run in a north-south direction, directly toward the development site and these features may continue within the development area.

Geology:

Borehole TQ 67 NE/ TQ 660 780:

Mould 1ft Gravel 3ft Loamy Sand 7ft Brownish Grey (Thanet?) Sand 50ft

Superficial

Boyn Hill Gravel Member/Thames Valley formations Sand and gravel; comprising the various river terrace deposits of the Thames.

Bedrock

Lambeth Group – Clay, silt, sand Lambeth Group – Sand, silt, clay A complex of vertically and laterally varying gravels, sands, silts and clays.

(Ref: British Geological Society - www.bgs.ac.uk)

PLANNING BACKGROUND & NATURE OF DEVELOPMENT

Planning permission has been granted to demolish existing single storey rear extensions and outbuildings and convert and extend the former schoolhouse into a 4-bedroom dwelling including a new single storey flat roof extension and detached garage - Thurrock Council THU/0915/14

The planning authority placed the following conditions on the planning consent:

No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The schoolhouse opened in 1876 and had the space to teach around 66 children from reception until they left school. The Victorian building was extended in 1894 after a large gipsy camp arrived on West Tilbury Common, and by 1930 there were 118 children on the school roll. It closed its doors on Friday, July 22 1960 and older pupils were sent to Torrells School in Grays, while primary aged pupils were sent to schools in Chadwell St Mary.

EHER Record:

There are no EHER Records for the site and the building is not listed, however there are several records that relate to sites in relatively close proximity to this site:

1751 - 10no. 4th century Roman coins

1753 - Enclosures, ring ditches and other crop marks

1754 - Crop marks centred on above NGR

1755 - Rectilinear features, pits, ring ditches etc.

1762 - Roman tesserae

1786 - Paleolithic hand-axe, Acheulian, found in Gun Hill gravel pit, 1968

1787 - Worked flints found in residual contexts in excavation of crop mark complex (see 1790 for general context)

1788 - Worked flints found in residual contexts in excavation of crop mark complex (see 1790) or general context)

1789 - Excavations of crop mark complex 1969-1970 (see 1790 for general context)

1790 – 1795 - Crop mark complex discovered in the late 1950s

1796 - Undated crop mark features to the east of Turnpike Lane

1797 - Early Iron Age pottery from the south side of Gun Hill gravel pit, West Tilbury

1819 - At least 3 ring ditches, rectilinear enclosure and adjacent linear features.

18615 – Fragment of a Roman lamp with lion relief. Site not plotted, exact location unknown

Monument Class: Crop mark

Monument Types: Grubenhaus, road, track-way, ditch, circular enclosure, rectangular enclosure, linear

feature, pit, ring ditch SMR Number: Mo– 1786

Location: East of Turnpike Road, East Tilbury (South of development site)

County: Essex

District: Thurrock, Essex

District Type: District Authority Parish: Tilbury/Chadwell

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to determine:

- I. Whether any significant archaeological features, particularly relating to the crop marks to the south of the site, survived within the development area. Particular issues to be addressed are:
 - ❖ Is there any surviving evidence of the track-way that appears in the field to the Northeast of the site and continues on to the development site?
 - ❖ *Is there evidence of prehistoric activity or occupation?*
 - ❖ *Is there evidence of Late Iron Age/Romano-British activity or occupation?*
 - ❖ *Is there evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity or occupation?*
 - ❖ *Is there evidence of medieval or post-medieval activity or occupation?*
 - Is there evidence of the history of the Old School House?
- II. To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site and to assess how the evidence relates to the crop marks in the adjoining field and the history, surviving structures and previous findings of the surrounding area?
- III. To gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of the site

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IV. To establish the extent to which previous development and/or other processes have affected deposits

V. To establish the likely impact on deposits from the proposed development and enable an informed decision to be made regarding mitigatory measures in advance of/and or during the development and the future treatment of the archaeological remains.

METHODOLOGY

Zoe Schofield attended site on 16th June 2015 for the commencement of the groundworks. A suitable procedure that would satisfy Health & Safety, good construction practices and archaeological requirements during the excavation of the development area, was agreed between the archaeologist and the construction team. The areas were mechanically excavated in accordance with this procedure with a bladed/toothless bucket and under constant supervision of the archaeologist

Area 1 - Proposed garage - Area 46.05 Sqm (6.14 m x 7.50 m)

The tarmac surface was removed and the subsoil excavated to a smooth horizon at a depth of 0.15 m in accordance with the requirements for the construction of the floor. The surface was hand cleaned to reveal any features in plan.

The foundation trenches were then excavated to a depth of 1.00 m (as stipulated by Building Control) as follows:

T1: North-South (West side) 7.50 m L x 0.45 m W x 1.00 m D

T2: East-West 6.14 m L x 0.45 m W x 1.00 m D

T3: North-South (East side) 7.50 m L x 0.45 m W x 1.00 m D

Both the sections and the surface were hand cleaned to reveal any archaeological features or deposits in plan or in the stratigraphy.

Area 2 - Proposed extension - Area 71.23 Sqm (5.45 m x 13.07 m)

Following demolition of the existing extension any areas of tarmacadam surface were removed and the subsoil was excavated to a smooth horizon and a depth of 0.23 m in accordance with the requirements for the construction of the floor. The surface was hand cleaned to reveal any features in plan.

The foundation trenches were then excavated to a depth of 1.00 m (as stipulated by Building Control) as follows:

T1: North-South (East side) 5.45 m x 0.45 m 1.00 m

T2: East-West 13.07 m x 0.45 m x 1.00 m

Both the sections and the surface were hand cleaned to reveal any archaeological features or deposits in plan or in the stratigraphy. The foundation trench to the North South (West side) was not excavated under supervision of the archaeologist because of the presence of modern drainage and septic tanks that were revealed during the East-West excavation and that were at a depth that was below natural.

A single context system was used to record any deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are recorded (100). The cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes; these are used in the report (in **bold**). Each Number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches. (i.e. Trench 1, **100**+, Trench 2, **200**+ etc.)

MONITORING

No curatorial monitoring was carried out during the course of the monitoring process.

RESULTS

A common stratigraphic sequence was recognized across the site comprising of a sub-base/topsoil (101) (201) (301), overlying subsoil (102) (202) (302), beneath which the natural geology comprised of Thanet sand (103) (203) (303). The sub-base/topsoil consisted of friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm). A clean horizon gave way to subsoil comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm) overlying a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.

Mechanical excavation ceased at a depth of 1.0 m below sub-base/topsoil and a careful examination and investigation for truncating features was carried out. The depth of the overlying layer varied, with the depth of the natural geology being located c.0.50 – 0.90m below the existing ground level. Appendix 2 provides a stratigraphic sequence for both trenches.

Area 1

A surface area of 46.05 Sqm, with a continuous foundation trench of 21.14 Lm to the North, East and West sides.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this area.

Area 2

A surface area of 71.23 Sqm, with a continuous foundation trench of 18.52 Lm to the North and East sides. The West side was disturbed to a depth of natural by previous modern construction.

No archaeological features or deposits were present in this area.

FINDS

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the monitoring process.

DISCUSSION

The monitoring of the groundworks and close examination of the areas of new development of the Old School House did not encounter any archaeological features or deposits. The natural geology was present and intact throughout the site and the overlying silt layer was clean of any archaeological finds, features or deposits. There is a visible linear crop mark in the field to the North of the site that appears to be in direct alignment with the area that was excavated, however, no evidence of this feature was uncovered during the monitoring process.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological monitoring was successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Brief and the WSI and the results suggest that the development of the site will have little or no impact upon the local archaeological resource.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Touchstone Archaeology would like to thank Jackie Shepherd-Ashby & Lee Donaldson for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Richard Havis (Senior Historic Environment Adviser - Essex County Council) for his advice and assistance. Craig Schofield assisted with the archaeological fieldwork. Zoe Schofield carried out the archaeological monitoring and edited and collated the report.

Zoe Schofield June 2015

REFERENCES

Brown, N and Glazebrook J.	2000	Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8
Gurney, D.	2003	Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
Medlycott, M.	2011	Research and Archaeology revisited. A revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24
IFA	1999	Standards and Guidance for Field Archaeological Evaluations
Drury, PJ and Rodwell, WJ	1973	Excavation report: Excavations at Gun Hill, West Tilbury Vol 5, pp48-50, 68, 70-71
Palmer, Rog and Bacilieri, Cinzia	2004	East Tilbury Thames Gateway, Area Centred TQ6779, Essex
Walker, John	1584	The Survey of West Tilbury Ao1581 ultimo die augusti
Jones, MU	1980	CORRESPONDENCE: Crop marks in Thurrock
Bingley, R	1980	SMR
Unknown	1960	SMR form
Thurrock Museum	Unknown	Thurrock Museum Register
Unknown	Unknown	Map: SMR 2 maps dated
CUCAP	1970	Aerial Photo: BBY86
Unknown	1970	Aerial Photo: BBT2, 3
Catton, JPJ	1970	Aerial Photo: MEC-JC13
Unknown	<i>1972</i>	Aerial Photo: TQ6678-4-150
Unknown	1972	Aerial Photo: BJD10
Unknown	1973	Aerial Photo: BNB82
Saunders, Helen	2008	Aerial Photo: CP/08/10/06-08
Saunders, Helen	2009	EX/09/02/021-022

SITE ARCHIVE

Correspondence: E-Mail

Photographs: Digital photographs: Touchstone Event OSH15

Maps: Digital OS

Drawings:

Site Survey - May 2014 - A1 - 1:100 - DWG NO: 1401/P02 - Nick Harrison - Architect

Datum used - Ordnance Survey OSGM 02 TM GPS

Bench Marks Used - OSBM 02 TM GPS

 $1 \times A3$ plan drawing of proposed new development annotated with trench plans (Architect Nick Harrison)

Finds: None

Context Register:

Context Register: 1 Drawings Register: 1 Photographic Register: 1

Levels Sheets: 0

Environmental Samples Register: 0

Context Sheets: 2

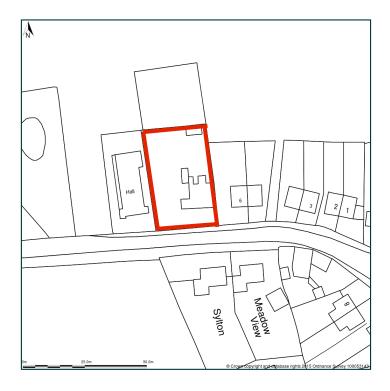
FIG. 1 AREA 1 TRENCH 1 NE-SW BASE -SAND (103)



FIG.2 LOCATION OF SITE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WITHIN WEST TILBURY, ESSEX NGR: TQ 65942 78024



OSH 15 - The Old School House, Rectory Road, Tilbury, RM18 8UD



Site Plan shows area bounded by: 565874.2893,177944.2893 566015.7107,178085.7107 (at a scale of 1:1250) The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

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Fig.3 Location of areas of groundwork requiring monitoring within proposed development site

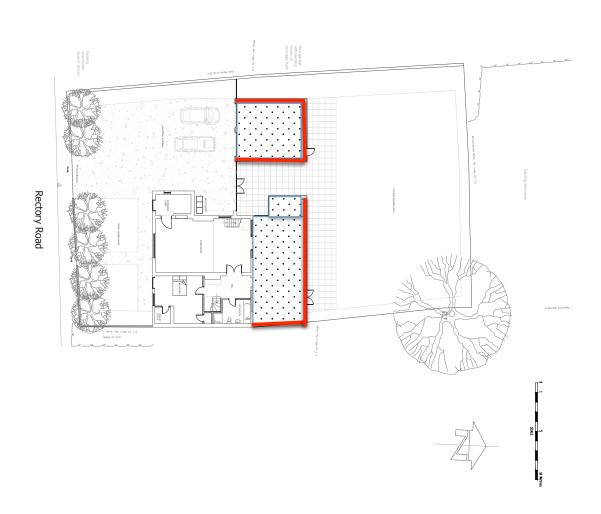
KEY

 ${\it MECHANICALLY~CLEANED~SURFACE~TO~PROPOSED~FLOOR~AREA}$



MECHANICALLY EXCAVATED FOUNDATION TRENCHES





REV. NO.			REVISION			DATE
ROECT:	PROPOSE THE OLD	SCHC BCC BCC BCC BCC BCC BCC BCC BCC BCC	PROPOSED CONVERSION TO SINGLE DWELLING AT THE OLD SCHOOL, RECTORY ROAD, WEST	NGLE,	DWELLING WEST	ΑŢ
	THE OLD	SCHC	THE OLD SCHOOL, RECTORY ROAD, WEST TILBURY	ζOAD,	WEST	
RAWING:	PROPOSED SITE PLAN	D SIT	E PLAN			
MTE:	MAY 2014			DRAWN BY:	NH	
DRIG. DWG. SIZE	size A1	SCALE	SCALE 1:100	DWG. NO:	рмс. ю: 1401/P07	REV:
N. HARREON BSO(Ho BUILDING SURVEYOR	SULDING SURVEYOR			EMAIL: TEL:	nh66@sky.com 07739797537	

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APPENDIX 1. SUMMARY SHEET

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address:				
The Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury, Essex RM18 8UD				
Parish: Tilbury/Chadwell	District: Thurrock, Essex			
NGR: TQ 65942 78024	Site Code: OSH15			
Type of Work: Monitoring	Site Director/Group: Zoe Schofield			
Date of Work: 16 th June 2015	Size of Area Investigated: 90.64 Sqm			
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/A	Funding source: Owner			
Further Seasons Anticipated: No	Related HER Nos: 1753/1754/1755			

Final Report: Schofield, Z (2015) Site of Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury,

Essex: Archaeological Monitoring

Periods Represented: N/A

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Touchstone Archaeology carried out archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site of The Old School House, Rectory Road, West Tilbury Essex on 16th June 2015. A planning application (THU/0915/14) submitted to Thurrock Council for the demolition of a small extension and the erection of a new larger extension and double garage, was approved with the condition for archaeological monitoring to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological features or deposits, particularly in connection with the crop marks that are visible on the land adjoining the property to the North East.

Despite the archaeological potential for the area no archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the monitoring process. Immediately below the modern tarmacadam car park surface was a clean layer of silty soil that met and joined with the natural geology of Thanet sand, common within that area. The Thanet sand base was met before the overall depth of the foundations were achieved.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Zoe Schofield	Date of Summary: 19 th June 2015

		Context No.	Stratigraphic Extents	Description			
		(101)	0.00 - 0.10m	Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)			
	Trench 1	(102)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm). Electric cable 1.0m from North end of trench at 0.50m.			
		(103)	0.50/0.80m+	Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.			
		(201)	0.00 - 0.10m	Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)			
Area 1	Trench 2	(202)	Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly so				
		(203)	0.50/0.80m+	Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.			
		(301)	0.00 - 0.10m	Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)			
	Trench 3	(302)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm). Electric cable1m from North end of trench at 0.57m.			
		(303)	0.50/0.80m+	(20mm). Electric cable1m from North end of trench at 0.57m. Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.			
		(101)	0.00 - 0.10m	Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm). Evidence of disturbance from construction of existing property at South end of trench.			
	Trench 1	(102) 0.10 - 0.50/0.80		Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm)			
a 2		(103)	0.50/0.80m+	Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.			
Area		(201)	0.00 - 0.10m	Sub-base/Topsoil - A friable dark brown silt with moderate inclusions of small gravel stones (10mm)			
	Trench 2	(202)	0.10 - 0.50/0.80	Subsoil - comprising mid orange brown slightly sandy silt with occasional to moderate inclusions of small pebble type stones (20mm). Modern drainage encountered 7.3m from east of trench at 1.3m continuing through and truncating natural sand.			
		(203)	0.50/0.80m+	Sand - a natural undulating base of soft orange sand with occasional to moderate, small to medium (50mm – 100mm) flint inclusions.			

APPENDIX 3 PLANS & SECTIONS

Area 1	Trench 1		<u> Area 1</u>	Trench 2
	Plan			Plan
SW	Sand (103)	NE	SW	Sand (203) NE
	Section			Section
24.55 OD	2	4.59 OD	24.30 OD	24.39 OD
SW	Subsoil (101) Silt (102) Sand (103)	NE	SW	Subsoil (201) NE Silt (202) Sand (203)
Area 1	Trench 3			
	Plan			
NW	Sand (303)	SE		
	Section			
24.59 OD NW	Subsoil (301) Silt (302) Sand (303)	4.39 OD SE		
Area 2	Trench 1		Area 2	Trench 2
	Plan			Plan
SW	Sand (103)	NE	SE	Sand (203) NW
	Section			Section
24.45 OD	24	4.22 OD	24.22 OD	24.39 OD
SW	Subsoil (101) Silt (102) Sand (103)	NE	SE	Subsoil (201) NW Silt (202) Sand (203)

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 Trial Trenching at Lean Lane Farm, Great Braxted CM8 3EW in advance of

project construction of farm buildings.

Project dates Start: 05-11-2015 End: 05-11-2015

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project LLF15 - Sitecode

reference codes

Any associated project

FUL/MAL/15/00852 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project

reference codes

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

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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: www.touchstonearchaeology.com

Description Written report with photographs and site plan

URL www.touchstonearchaeology.com

Entered by Mark Barratt (oasis@historicengland.org.uk)

Entered on 20 May 2016

OASIS:

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