

**Archaeological monitoring
at 'Clintons', Bury Green,
Little Hadham, Hertfordshire
April 2008**

**report prepared by
Ben Holloway**

**on behalf of
Charles Britton Equestrian Construction**

CAT project ref.: 08/3b
NGR: TL 7963 3222 (c)



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HER summary sheet

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1 Summary

Observations were made during archaeological monitoring during groundworks at 'Clintons', Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, during the topsoil- and subsoil-strip for the construction of an outdoor riding arena. No significant archaeological contexts were observed, but post-medieval plough scarring and field drains were noted. No finds were recovered, although peg-tile and post-medieval brick fragments were observed in the initial topsoil-strip; this material was not retained.

2 Introduction

This is the archive report on archaeological monitoring carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the site of an outdoor riding arena at 'Clintons', Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, site centre at NGR TL 7963 3222 (Fig 1), on behalf of Charles Britton Equestrian Construction. The monitoring was carried out between the 16th and 17th April 2008. An area measuring 60m x 20m was stripped to form the basis of the outdoor riding arena. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification agreed with the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HEU) officer.

This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 2001a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001b). Other sources used are *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background

The development site lies within the medieval and later settlement of Bury Green. The first record of Bury Green, or 'Burey Greene' as it was formerly known, is of 14th-century date, although the history of the area can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon period. The site itself is part of the medieval manorial site of Clintons (Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record or HER no 2823) and the later post-medieval farmhouse and associated farm buildings (HER nos 12190-12192, 12202). A number of these buildings are of listed status (grade II).

4 Aim

The aim of the monitoring work was to establish and record the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits affected by groundworks associated with the construction of the outdoor riding arena.

5 Results

An area measuring 60 x 20m was monitored during the initial topsoil- and subsequent subsoil-strip. The stripping was done using a 360 degree mechanical excavator. First the topsoil (L1) was removed and the material was used to create a bund on the eastern edge of the site. Then the subsoil (L2) was removed from the northern half of the site to expose geological material (L3). The excavated subsoil was used to grade and build up the southern half of the site, creating a horizontal formation level. No archaeological features were observed during the monitoring.

Post-medieval plough scars and field drains were observed in the northern half of the site.

6 Finds

No significant archaeological finds were recovered during the monitoring of the 'Clintons' site. Fragments of post-medieval brick, peg-tile and coal (flecks), and a modern horse-shoe, were observed in the plough scars. None of these materials were retained.

7 Discussion

No significant archaeological features were identified during the monitoring work at the 'Clintons' site. The only activity identified was datable to the post-medieval/modern periods and consisted of shallow plough scars and field drains which crossed the stripped area. These would appear to relate to agricultural activities, ie deep ploughing and soil preparation. Conversations with the site owners and their contractors, in addition to observations of the surrounding area, indicate that the site has been under pasture for some time and had been used for arable farming prior to that. This conclusion is supported by the results of the monitoring work which shows evidence of activities that are consistent with ploughing.

8 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Charles Britton Equestrian Construction for commissioning and funding the work. The project was monitored by Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit officer. The monitoring was undertaken by Ben Holloway.

9 References

- | | | |
|--------|-------|--|
| EAA 3 | 1997 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 3 , ed by J Glazebrook |
| EAA 8 | 2000 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 8 , ed by N Brown & J Glazebrook |
| EAA 14 | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , by D Gurney |
| IFA | 2001a | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> |
| IFA | 2001b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| MAP 2 | 1991 | <i>Management of archaeological projects</i> , second edition (English Heritage) |

10 Glossary

feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor
HER	Historic Environment Record
HEU	Historic Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c 1850 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	after c 1500 to c 1850

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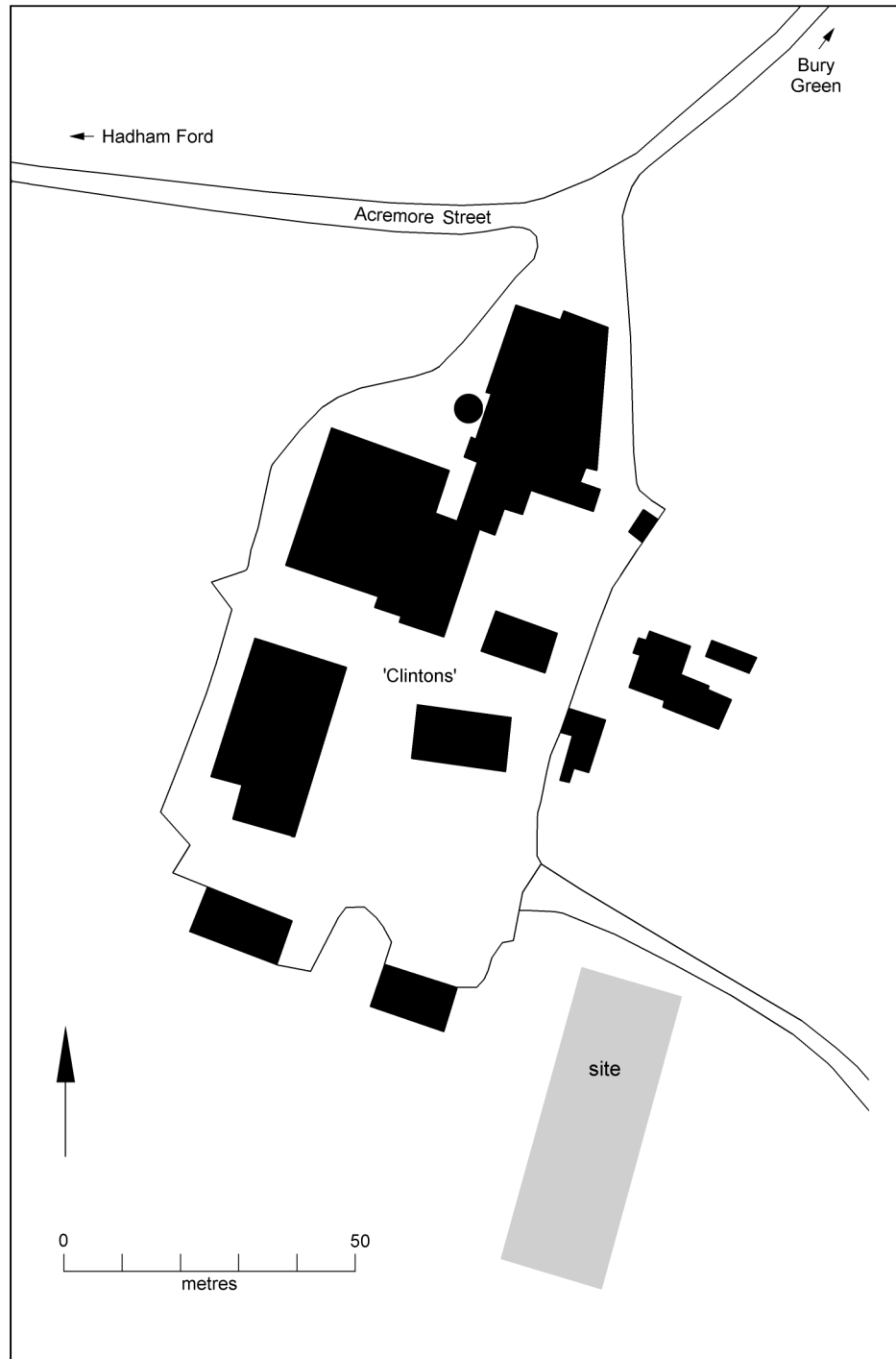


Fig 1 Site location.

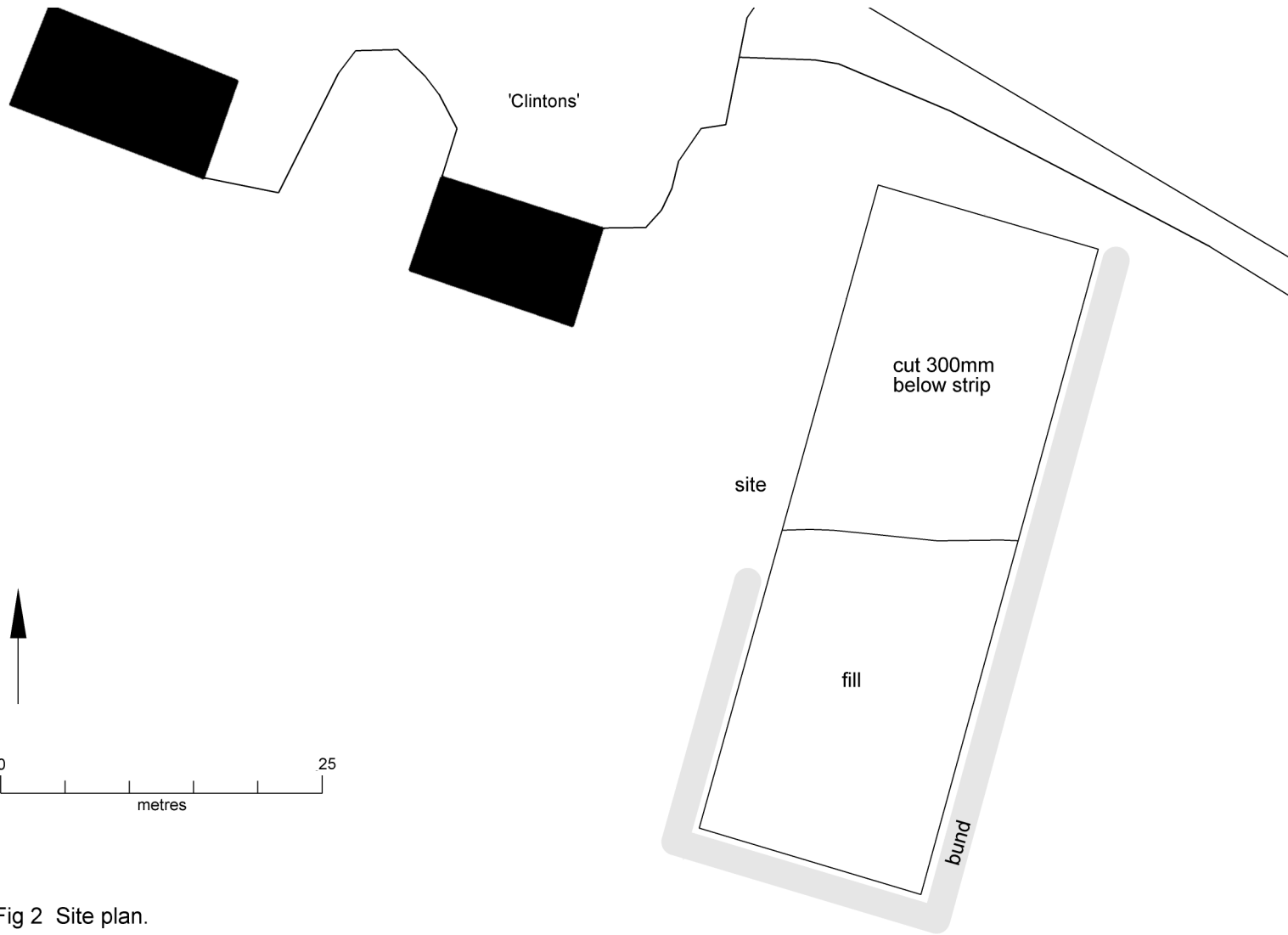
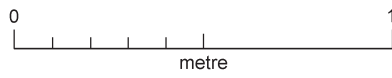
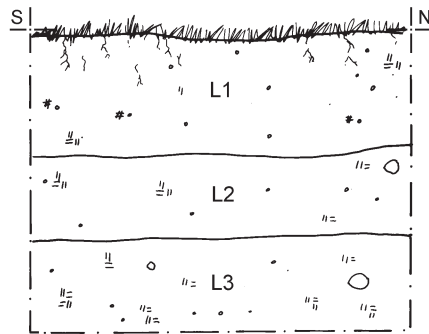


Fig 2 Site plan.



- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- ≡≡≡ clay
- ### charcoal

Fig 3 Section.

**Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record/
Hertfordshire Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: 'Clintons', Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire	
Parish: Little Hadham	District: East Hertfordshire
NGR: TL 7963 3222 (c)	Site code: CAT project code 08/3b
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: April 2008	Size of area investigated: 1,200m sq area strip
Location of finds/curating museum: N/A	Funding source: Contractor
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related HER nos: HER nos 12190-12192, 12202
Final report: CAT Report 468	
Periods represented: None	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Observations were made during archaeological monitoring during groundworks at 'Clintons', Bury Green, Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, during the topsoil- and subsoil-strip for the construction of an outdoor riding arena. No significant archaeological contexts were observed, but post-medieval plough scarring and field drains were noted. No finds were recovered, although peg-tile and post-medieval brick fragments were observed in the initial topsoil-strip..</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Keywords: -	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: April 2008