

**An archaeological evaluation  
and an historic building survey  
at 'Imbirds', Souther Cross Road,  
Good Easter, Chelmsford, Essex  
May and July 2008**

**evaluation report prepared by  
Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks;  
historic building survey by Leigh Alston**

**on behalf of  
Mr Tim Glass**

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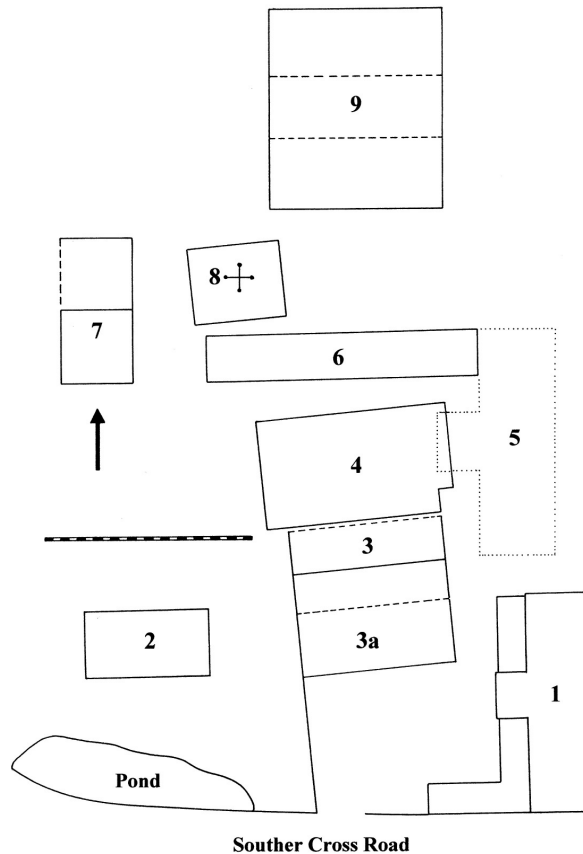
## Part A: Historic building survey

by Leigh Alston

*This report provides a written and photographic survey at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of an unlisted barn and associated farm buildings centred at TL 6269 1214. It is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for partial demolition and conversion (application CHL/01731/07/FUL) and has been prepared to a brief designed by the Historic Environment Management (HEM) team of Essex County Council (Teresa O'Connor, April 2008).*

### 1 Introduction

This report is accompanied by a CD which contains a full photographic record (Appendix 3) in the form of 8.2 megapixel digital images. These are listed and separately described in Appendix 1 in the report, which also includes selected photographs of key features (Appendix 2). The site was surveyed on 19th July 2008 when the accompanying photographs were taken (wherever practical, a white metre rod with centimetre subdivisions was included for scale purposes). Each of the buildings discussed is identified by a unique number (1-9) as shown on the block plan of the site (Fig 1 below).



**Fig 1 Block plan of farm buildings showing historic elements numbered as follows (25 m scale):**

1. Barn. Late 18th- or early 19th-century, timber-framed, part rendered and part weatherboarded, with contemporary porch and later lean-to shelters to western façade. Some re-used timber, including a 12th- or 13th-century storey post with passing-brace trenches. An early 20th-century shelter shed adjoins the south-western corner.
2. Imbirds Cottages. Rendered cottages. Ostensibly 19th century. Not inspected but included for site context.

3. Open-sided shelter sheds. Mid 19th century, with axial brick partition and late 20th-century lean-to addition to south (3a). Originally cattle shelters but converted into pig sheds in 20th century.
  4. Pig shed. Late 20th-century block-work.
  5. Site of second timber-framed barn demolished c 1960s and probably the medieval or Tudor barn depicted on the Walker map of 1623.
  6. Pig shed. Mid 19th-century brick, built as a stable or cattle shed.
  7. Cart lodge. Mid 19th century, formerly open-sided to west but much altered in the 20th century and now used as garaging
  8. Pig shed. Mid 20th century, on or near the probable site of a medieval or Tudor house depicted on the Walker map of 1623 and labelled 'site of Imbers' on 19th-century Ordnance Surveys
  9. Complex of 20th-century pig or calf stalls.
- The site of the original house is marked by a cross.

## 2 Summary

Imbirds lies in the centre of Good Easter, separated from the 13th-century church of St Andrew to the south and Falconer's Hall to the west only by Souther Cross Road. The site was formerly known as Imbers, and can be equated with a prebend of that name established in 1148 and belonging to a canon of St Martin le Grand (ie a property which provided an income for a priest residing in London). Three other prebendal properties were created at the same time, including 'Fawkeners'. A timber-framed house of typical late medieval appearance, with two jettied cross-wings flanking a central hall, was depicted by Samuel Walker on his map of Good Easter in 1623. The building is shown facing south towards a yard flanked on the east by a barn, but the house was demolished before the tithe map of 1839 and the barn had fallen down by c 1960 when the farm was converted into a pig-breeding unit. Neither map shows any trace of a moat at Imbers, in contrast to Falconer's Hall. The Ordnance Survey of 1875 marks the supposed site of the house with a cross, and accords with the map of 1623, but is probably mistaken in its identification of a pond and a ditched orchard as fragments of a medieval moat. The likely site of the demolished house lies immediately to the east of a 19th-century former cart lodge at the western entrance to the yard, and is now occupied by a 20th-century pig shed.

While the site is ancient, the surviving buildings are relatively modern. The six-bay thatched and timber-framed barn at the southern edge of Imbirds dates only from the late 18th or early 19th century, combining bolted knee-braces with arch-braces, and the remaining structures are of the mid 19th century and later. The barn is a good and relatively well-preserved example of its type, which retains a west-facing porch and fragments of original external render, but is not of sufficient age or rarity to merit listing. It contains much re-used timber, including a single storey post from an aisled barn with passing braces of the 12th or 13th century (reflecting the rare grade I-listed example at Falconer's Hall – which is strangely absent from the tithe map and may have been moved from within the moat when the house was rebuilt in the mid 19th century). The remains of a pair of mid 19th-century cattle shelters lie between two 20th-century pig sheds to the north-west of the barn, and a long stable or cattle shed of similar date survives further to the north – albeit much altered by its conversion into another pig shed. Unlike the site, these various buildings are not of particular historic significance.

## 3 Documentary and cartographic survey

The site of Imbirds lies in the centre of Good Easter and is bounded on the east and north by arable fields and on the south and west by Souther Cross Road (with road access from both directions). The 13th-century church of St Andrew adjoins the same road immediately to the south, and the house and barns of Falconer's Hall lie immediately to the west. Falconer's Hall is ostensibly a brick house of the mid 19th

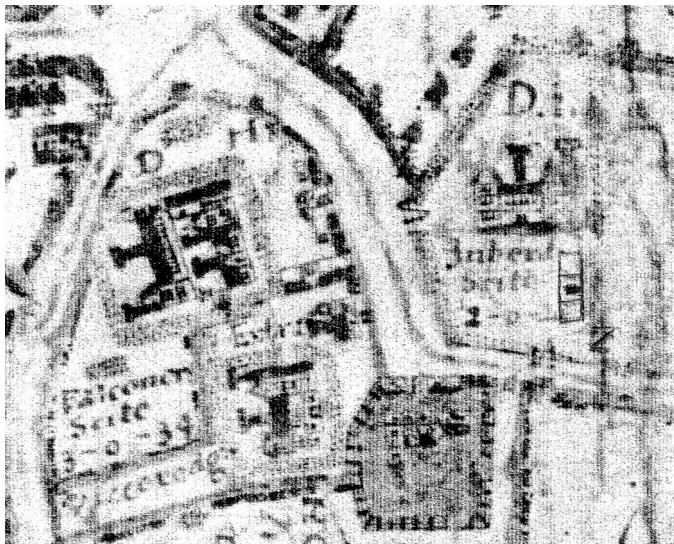


century, but its roadside aisled barn, which lies opposite Imbirds' western entrance, contains the remains of an important 12th- or 13th- century timber-framed structure with moulded capitals and passing-brace trenches. Falconer's Hall barn is listed at grade I as 'barn on roadside at Faulkner's Hall' (sic).

Imbirds Yard contains a timber-framed barn of the late 18th- or early 19th-century which adjoins the southern entrance to the site, and a number of 19th- and 20th-century agricultural buildings, most of which relate to its recent function as a pig-breeding unit. The only house on the site is a pair of apparently 19th-century cottages in its south-western corner, but these are in separate occupation and lie outside the scope of this survey.

Imbirds is well documented as a site of ancient occupation. The manor of Good Easter belonged at Domesday to the collegiate church of St Martin le Grand in the City of London, having been granted shortly after the conquest by Count Eustace of Boulogne. The manor was then known only as 'Estre' but in later years was supposedly termed 'God's Estre' to distinguish it from neighbouring High Easter.

The *Victoria County History of Essex (VCH 2)* notes that St Martin's established a number of prebends in 1148, ie it divided some of its estates into smaller properties that were assigned to individual canons to provide a perpetual income for them and their successors. A prebend was, in effect, a life-pension derived from a particular property, and a prebendary was the canon (priest) who received it. Four prebends were formed at Good Easter, known afterwards as Imbers, Fawkeners, Paslowes and Bowers or Burghs – presumably the names of early incumbents. The canons normally resided in lodgings adjacent to St Martin le Grand, and were permitted to be absent on business four times a year if each absence lasted no more than 15 days, but they could appoint paid clerks as substitutes if they wished. Prebendal properties were often regarded only as sources of income and never visited by their owners, but could also operate as residences if desired. Many canons were wealthy individuals with many prebends and other sources of income, and the quality of prebendal houses might vary considerably. Whatever its size or quality, a house of some form is likely to have existed at Imbers – now corrupted to Imbirds – at least since 1148.

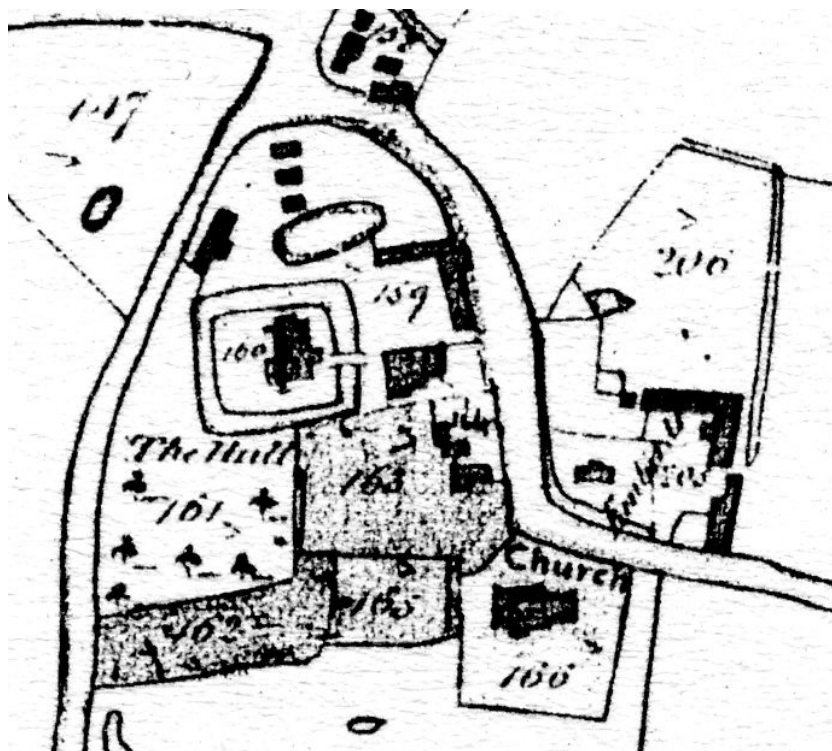


**Fig 2 Good Easter as shown on the Walker map of 1623 (ERO T/M 26), showing a south-facing house of late medieval appearance with two jettied cross-wings marked 'Inberd scite' to right, set behind a yard flanked by a barn but without a moat.**

The church of St Martin le Grand was appropriated in 1503 to St Peter's Westminster (ie Westminster Abbey) to endow a chapel founded by Henry VII, and its various prebends were surrendered by their holders. Morant's *History and*

*antiquities of Essex* (1755) notes that Sir Richard Riche of Great Leighs acquired them at the Reformation in 1542. His descendants sold to Sir Henry Mildmay in 1620, whose descendants sold in turn 'some years ago' (in 1755) to James Bonnell Esq.

The 1623 Walker map of Good Easter (Fig 2) shows a timber-framed house of typical late-medieval appearance, with twin jettied cross-wings flanking a central hall, marked 'Inberd scite' (ie site of Inberds). The house faces south and is separated from the road by a large yard or base court defined by the road bend on the west and a barn on the east. The barn lies at right-angles to the road but does not adjoin it. There is no indication of a moat, in contrast to 'Falconer scite' to the west of the road, which appears to be a very substantial house built around a central courtyard within a complete moat and approached through a base court which includes at least one barn to the east. The 'viceredge' seems to lie within a smaller moat, and 'Burroe scite' (presumably Bowers) is also shown. The field adjoining 'Inbird scite' on the east is marked 'Saffron Fielde'.



**Fig 3 Good Easter as shown on the parish tithe map of 1839 (ERO/DCT 122), showing 'Embirds' to right. The moat at Falconer's Hall is clear, but there is no evidence of anything resembling a moat at Embirds. The present two cottages are shown (or a small house on the same~ site) along with two barns and a probable stable range (nos 1, 5 & 6 in Fig 1).**

The tithe map of 1839 (Fig 3) appears to show the barn but not the house depicted in 1623, suggesting that the former had been demolished and replaced by a new house on the site of the present pair of cottages (no 2 in Fig 1). A long, narrow building extends to the west from the northern end of the barn, and can probably be equated with the surviving brick range (6), and the surviving barn (1) adjoins the road to the south. The accompanying apportionment refers to the site (marked 205 in Fig 3) as 'Embirds House and Homestall' (ie farmyard), in the ownership of Sophia Jane Maria Beale Bonnell and in the tenancy of Elizabeth Rust. The land to the north (206) is described as an orchard, which probably explains the width of the

ditch which divides it from 'Saffron Field' to the east; additional protection was often necessary to exclude animals and children from orchard sites. The same ownership and occupation is given for Falconer's Hall, suggesting that both Embirds and Falconers operated together as a single and exceptionally large farm of approximately 500 acres. Elizabeth Rust presumably resided at Falconer's Hall, the larger of the two houses, although the moated site (160 in Fig 3) is described as 'Falconer Gate House and garden', suggesting that only the front gatehouse range survived from the courtyard house of 1623. The yard to the east is described as 'farm yard and buildings', but the grade I-listed roadside barn which now contains an early medieval timber frame seems not to be shown. It is possible that the medieval structure may have been moved to its present site after 1839, perhaps from within the moat when the house there was rebuilt in the mid 19th century and the moat filled.

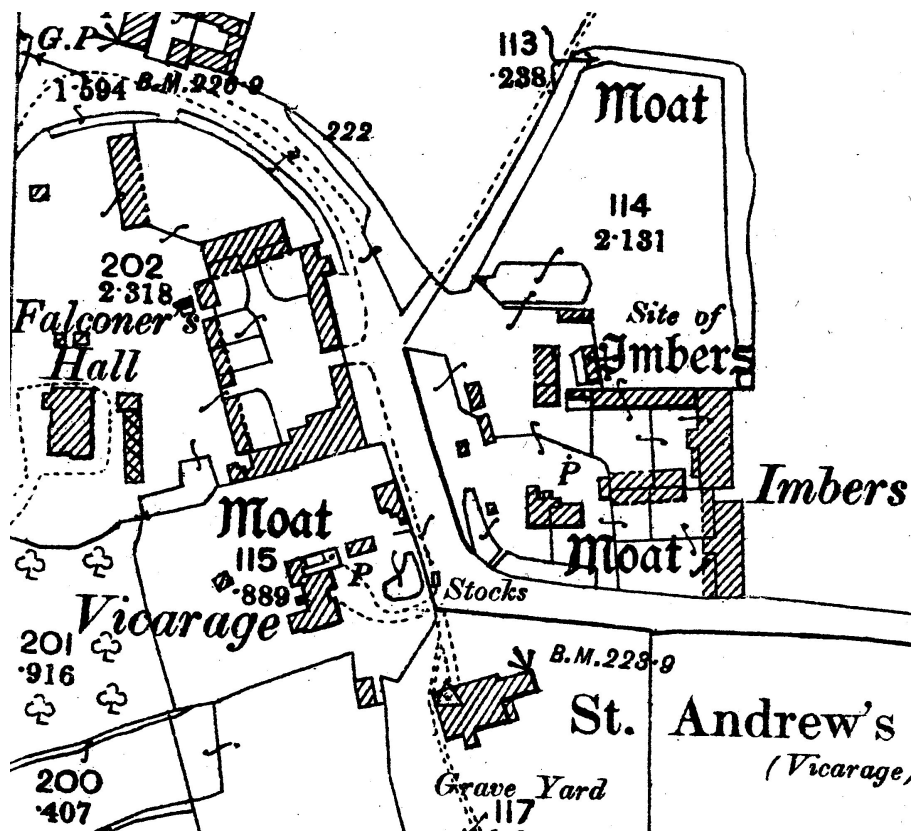


Fig 4 The Second Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey of 1896, indicating the presumed site of the medieval house with a cross. Open-sided structures are indicated by broken lines.

The Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1896 (Fig 4) shows a similar layout to that of 1839, and marks the presumed site of the medieval house at 'Imbirds' with a cross. This site accords with the map of 1623 but it is unclear what other information may have been available, either physical or reputed, to pin-point it. Ancient sites are not always marked accurately on the Ordnance Surveys. An almost identical layout is shown on the First Edition of 1875 (consulted online but not available in the Essex Record Office). The pond to the south-west and the linear ditch to the north-east are both marked as moats, perhaps (given the lack of any moat-like features on earlier maps) because of the site's well-known history, which might have created the expectation of a moat, than because of any physical evidence. The open-sided shelter shed (3) had appeared since 1839, as had the cart lodge opposite the

western entrance (7), but the shelter shed against the road to the south is not shown. All but the south-eastern corner of the moat at Falconer's Hall had been filled since 1839, the house rebuilt, and the eastern range of outbuildings against the road had taken on their present outline. By 1920 (Fig 6) a new shed had been built on the position of the Imbers cross on Figures 4-5 (probably the surviving shed marked 8 in Fig 1) and the southern shelter shed had also appeared. The various enclosed yards were almost certainly designed for cattle.

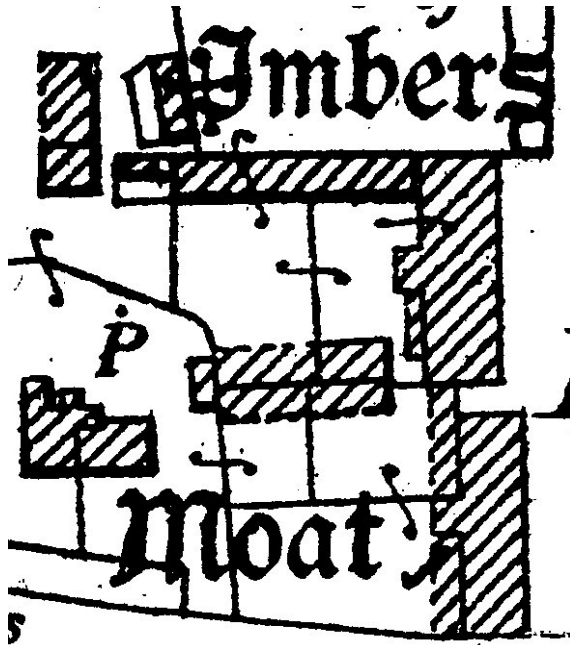


Fig 5 Detail of Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1896.

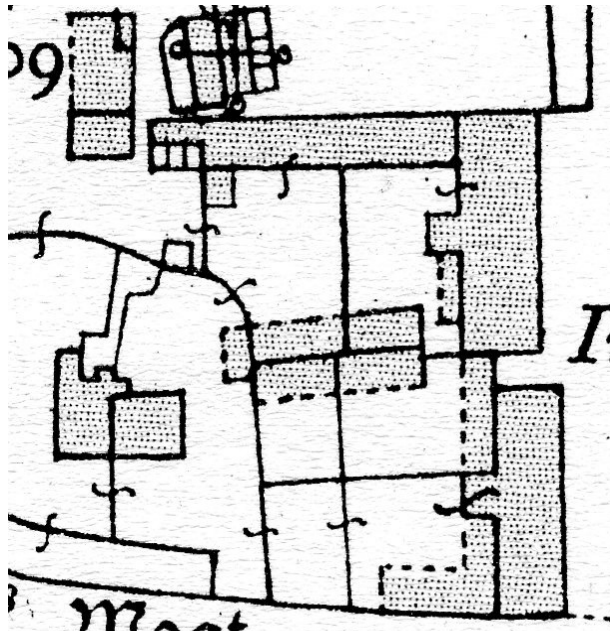


Fig 6 Detail of the Third (New) Edition Ordnance Survey of 1920.

#### 4 Descriptive survey

The timber-framed barn numbered 1 in Figure 1 is analysed in detail below, but the remaining buildings on the site, which have been much altered and are not of historic significance, are discussed as a group. The barn numbered 5 in Figure 1 was probably an early structure but is understood to have been demolished in the mid-20th century (information from present owner).

##### Building 1. Timber-framed barn (late 18th-early 19th century)

###### Structure and date

The barn at Imbirds Yard is a timber-framed and thatched structure of six equal bays which extends to 25 m in length and 19 m in overall width (82 feet by 19). Each bay is approximately 4 m (13 feet) in length, and the walls rise 4 m from the present ground-level to the roof-plates. The barn is aligned on a north-south axis, with its southern gable adjoining Souther Cross Road, and an original gabled porch projects by 3.4 m (11 feet) to the west from the third bay from its northern gable. The walls contain primary braces which interrupt the common studs and are pegged and tenoned to the mid-rail and storey posts. The original ground sills are either lacking or hidden within shuttered concrete. The storey posts are linked by pegged and tenoned arch-braces to the horizontal tie-beams, except at the two trusses which flank the midstreys where bolted knee-braces were used instead. The roof-plates contain face-halved-and-bladed scarf joints and the rafters rest on clasped-purlins with nailed collars. At approximately 50 degrees, the roof pitch is surprisingly shallow for thatch, and may have been designed for tile. The scantling and species of timber is variable, with many of the larger individual components showing signs of re-use, particularly in the northern half of the barn.

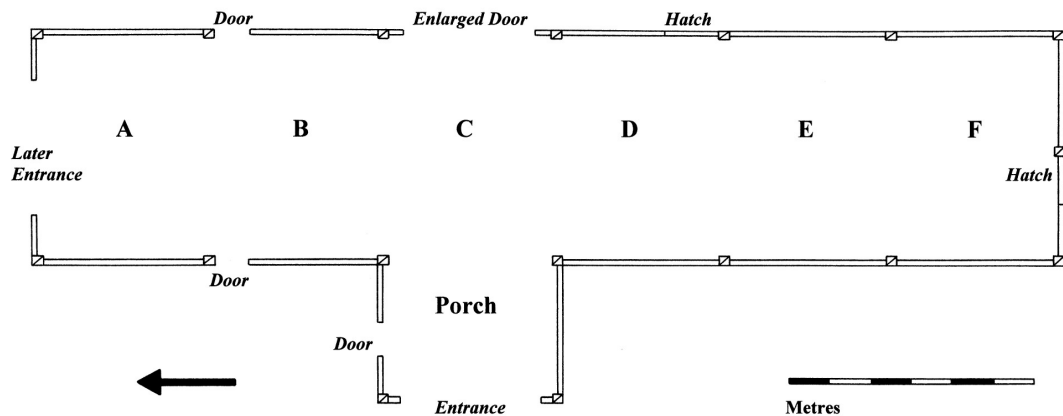


Fig 7 The barn (1). Ground-plan indicating individual bays alphabetically for ease of reference in the text.

Several storey posts contain empty arch-brace mortises near their feet, suggesting that they were inverted in the 17th-century or earlier structure from which they were salvaged. The post in the western wall between bays A and B, as marked in Figure 7, contains more than one series of redundant mortises and has been re-used on more than one occasion; it is the only example in the barn to contain a passing-brace trench and was first cut in the 12th or 13th century as the arcade post of an aisled building (it is now upside-down, with arcade-brace and tie-beam brace mortises angled towards the ground). Similar passing-brace trenches are found in the nearby grade I-listed roadside barn at Falconer's Hall, but this example lacks carved decoration. The gables and eastern elevation are now clad in 20th-century mortar, overlying earlier weatherboarding, but the western elevation retains its original external cladding of clay-daubed laths above the mid-rail with tarred weatherboarding beneath. Layers of whitewash have been preserved on the roughcast render by the western lean-to sheds. The timber framing is consistent with

a date in the late 18th century or early 19th century, and reflects the transition of that period between arch-braces and bolted knees; it is typical of the many East Anglian barns built in response to the high price of grain during the Napoleonic Wars. The building is relatively intact, and remains a good example of its kind, but has undergone some alteration and is not of sufficient age or rarity to merit listing in its own right.

### **Layout and alterations**

The barn was entered by its western porch, but as usual was designed with only a small doorway in its opposite, eastern elevation to create sufficient through-draught for threshing and winnowing. The mid-rail of the eastern bay was later removed to create a cart thoroughfare with a full-height door, but this was filled with concrete blocks in the 20th century. The northern elevation of the porch preserves an original side door to allow access without opening the main barn doors in the porch. A pair of small opposing doors was inserted into bay B during the 19th century to create a thoroughfare, both features interrupting earlier wall braces. A number of loading hatches above the mid-rails also appear to be secondary insertions, although the example in the western elevation of bay A was blocked by a mid 19th-century lean-to and may be original. Precise analysis in this respect is hampered by the re-use of material. The southern bays of the barn (D-F) were rendered and whitewashed internally to the height of a missing ceiling just beneath the roof-plates in the 20th century and were probably used as an animal-feed store. The ground sills and plinths of the same bays have also been renewed to a higher level. Open-sided lean-to shelter sheds extend along the western elevation of the barn, flanking the porch. These are shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1896 without the southern extension of the early 20th century which now returns alongside the road (added before the Ordnance Survey of 1920). A 19th-century wagon and tumbrel were parked here at the time of inspection, but these sheds were probably designed as cattle shelters. Like most local farms, Imbirds appears to have been converted from arable to mixed animal husbandry in the mid 19th century (responding to the collapse in grain prices after the Repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846), and various yard divisions are shown on the Ordnance Surveys. The northern lean-to extended to the demolished second barn (5), but does not appear on the tithe map of 1839 and obstructs an earlier loading hatch in the western elevation. With the exception of the changes outlined above, and the insertion of a wide entrance in the northern gable, the barn's structure is chiefly intact, with all but one tie-beam brace *in situ*.

### **Buildings 2-9: various buildings (mid 19th-late 20th century)**

Imbirds Yard was converted into a pig-breeding unit during the mid 20th century, and the farm buildings which pre-dated this period were extensively altered accordingly. Imbirds Cottages (2) were not inspected as part of this survey but may represent the house shown on the site in 1839 (Fig 2), albeit much refurbished. Building 3 was not present at that time, but appears on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1875 and probably dates from the introduction of cattle to the farm in the 1850s or 1860s. It consists of a pair of open-sided shelter sheds divided by an axial brick partition and would have served separate yards to both north and south. It retains its original pantiled roof but was heavily altered in the late 20th century by the addition of a lean-to pig shed to the south (3a) and a large free-standing pig shed to the north (4). The latter consists of concrete blocks and was probably built when the medieval or Tudor barn (5) was demolished in the 1960s, as the two overlap as shown in Figure 1. Building 6 is a long red-brick shed with three south-facing doors and a pantile roof, but was gutted internally when it too became a pig shed. It was probably designed as a cow shed, or possibly a stable. A building of similar proportions is shown in 1839, but the present shed may represent a slightly later replacement on the same site. Building 7 was erected between 1839 and 1875 and formed an open-sided cart lodge at the western entrance to the site, with an enclosed shed to the south, but has also been much altered and was in separate occupation at the time of inspection. Building 8 consists of a series of pig sheds, built in piecemeal fashion but possibly containing part of the smaller structure shown

on the same site in Figure 3. This building now overlies the original site of Imbirds as indicated on the 19th-century Ordnance Surveys, but the medieval house probably extended onto the open area between buildings 6 and 9 to the east and faced a courtyard flanked by the demolished barn in the standard late medieval arrangement. Building 9 in Figure 1 is formed by a series of mid and late 20th-century block-work pig sheds that may have been used formerly as cattle stalls. These various buildings are not of historic significance.

## **Part B: Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching**

*by Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway*

### **5 Summary**

*During an evaluation by three trenches on a possible moated site, ten fragments of worked stone were recovered; these almost certainly derive from the nearby church of St Andrew. No other medieval material was revealed during the evaluation.*

### **6 Introduction (Fig 1)**

This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation undertaken at Imbirds Yard, Souther Cross Road, Good Easter, Chelmsford, Essex in May 2008. The archaeological work was carried out on behalf of Mr Tim Glass, and was done according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with the Essex County Council Historic Environment (HEM) team. Project methodology was set out in detail in the WSI, and need not be repeated here.

### **7 Archaeological background**

A house and other buildings at Imbirds are shown on the Walker map of 1623 (Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) nos 950-951). It is Leigh Alston's view (p 2) that the barn shown on the Walker map was demolished in the 1960s. Other buildings on the site are more recent, dating from the 18th century onwards.

A pond on the Souther Cross Road frontage and a ditched orchard at the northern end of the site have been interpreted as the surviving fragments of a moated enclosure, now mostly filled in, as shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (Fig 4).

### **8 Aim**

The aim of the evaluation was to record the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological features or deposits, particularly in relation to the potential medieval moat and any associated buildings.

### **9 Results (Figs 1-3)**

#### **General**

The area chosen for the evaluation was an area of hardstanding formerly used as the yard of a piggery which was within the footprint of the proposed stable block.

Three evaluation trenches (total length 9m) were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator, through four layers: L1, a 100-150mm-thick yard surface consisting of weathered and broken up concrete lumps; L2, a 100-150mm-thick, loosely-compacted hardcore base for L1; L3, a very thin silty clay containing minor charcoal flecking (probably a remnant topsoil L3); and L4, a layer of slightly leached-out silt (possibly a cover loam). L4 sealed natural grey-brown boulder clay with chalk flecks and occasional flint nodules (L5).

**Trench 1: summary** (Figs 1-2, 4)

T1 was located in the centre of the evaluation area and was excavated through L1, L2, L3, L4, and into L5. No archaeological features or finds were observed in T1.

**Trench 2: summary** (Figs 1-2, 4)

T2 was located at the northern edge of the evaluation area and was excavated through L1, L2, L3, L4, and into L5. There were no archaeological features or finds in T2.

A sondage was excavated into natural L5 in the centre of T2, where L5 was seen to continue to a depth of 1m below ground level, where excavation was halted at the level of the water table.

**Trench 3: summary** (Figs 1, 3-4)

T3 was located at the eastern edge of the evaluation area. After removal of L1 and L2, two Victorian rubbish-pits (F1, F2) were exposed, cutting into L5.

The hardcore base L2 contained a deposit of worked limestone. Conversation with the present owner indicates that St Andrew's Church opposite the farm was badly damaged by fire and subsequently 'restored' by the Victorians. It may be that the limestone removed from the church during this restoration was subsequently used as rubble in the piggery yard.

**Trench 3 – archaeological features and dating.**

Feature no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F1	Pit	Fragments of peg-tile and post-medieval glass (not kept)	Victorian
F2	Pit	Fragments of peg-tile and post-medieval glass (not kept)	Victorian

**10 The worked stone** (Fig 3)

*by H Brooks*

The only finds from the evaluation were ten worked stone fragments (limestone), weighing a total of 22.5kg. A fire in 1885 cause severe damage to the nearby church of St Andrew, and the west end was rebuilt in 1886 (Listed Buildings online: reference number 112554: accessed 29/09/08). This was undoubtedly the occasion when this stone became available, and was incorporated into the foundation of the piggery yard, either at that time or afterwards.

Given the location of the fire and the rebuilding, it is most likely that these are fragments of the former window or door opening at the west end of the church. A church plan dating from 1877-78 ([churchplansonline.org](http://churchplansonline.org): reference 08155) shows that there was no door in the west end. These fragments must, therefore, be from the window opening at the west end of the south aisle or in the north wall of the nave.

**11 Discussion**

The Walker map of 1623 shows a house and a barn on this site, neither of which survives to this day. The evaluation trenches were located approximately 25m to the north-west of the site of the demolished house, and they revealed two rubbish-pits which may well be contemporary with the house. On the other hand, they may post-date its demolition and be associated with later use of the site.

This evaluation provided no evidence of any pre 19th-century activity, although the site is clearly older than that; the documentary sources indicate a 12th-century origin for a structure of some sort here (p 3, above), but not necessarily the house standing in 1623.

The moat is visible on the 1839 tithe map, but whether it is older than that is not clear.



The worked stone recovered from under the piggery yard almost certainly derives from the west end of the nearby church of St Andrew which was rebuilt in 1886.

## 12 Archive deposition

The finds, paper and digital archive are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMER 2008.090.

## 13 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Mr Tim Glass, the owner of the site, for commissioning and funding the work. Site work was carried out by B Holloway assisted by N Rayner; digital survey was by C Lister. Architectural stone was photographed and drawn by E Spurgeon. The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor of the Essex County Council HEM team.

## 14 References

<i>English Heritage</i>	2006	<i>Understanding historic buildings: a guide to good practice</i>
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[churchplansonline.org](http://churchplansonline.org): reference 08155, consulted 29.09.08

[bonline.english-heritage.org.uk](http://bonline.english-heritage.org.uk), consulted 29.09.08

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*date:* 03.10.08

*Adams x c:/reports08/imbirds yard/report491.doc*

## Appendix 1: index to full photographic record

### Description of photographs on CD

#### *Photo no.*

- 1 General view of site from north, showing western entrance to left and Falconer's Hall barn to right.
- 2 Entrance to site from west, showing cart lodge (7) in rear.
- 3 External elevation of cart lodge and shed at western entrance from north-west.
- 4 Western entrance to site from south, showing former cart lodge (7) to right.
- 5 Interior of former cart lodge from north-west, showing 19th-century roof structure.
- 6 General view of site from west showing 20th-century cattle pens (9) to left and pig shed (8) to right.
- 7 Exterior of pig shed (8) from north, showing gable of cart lodge (7) to right.
- 8 Exterior of 20th-century cattle pens (9) from south-west.
- 9 Interior of central avenue of 20th-century piggery (9) from west.
- 10 Exterior of southern range of piggery (9) from south-west.
- 11 Probable site of medieval house from west, showing cattle pens (9) to left and pig shed (8) to right.
- 12 Probable site of medieval house from north, showing pig shed (6) in rear.
- 13 Exterior of pig shed (6) from south-west, showing doors relating to original function as stable.
- 14 Interior of pig shed (6) from west, showing remains of pig beds.
- 15 Exterior of 20th-century animal shed (4) from west.
- 16 Eastern gables of sheds (3) and (4), left to right, from north-east.
- 17 Interior of 20th-century shed (4) from east, showing animal pens.
- 18 Interior of former shelter shed (3) from north-west showing axial wall to right.
- 19 Detail of roof structure of shelter shed (3) from north-west.
- 20 Interior of shelter shed (3) from south-east, showing axial wall to right.
- 21 Interior of 20th-century pig shed (3a) from east with shelter shed (3) to right.
- 22 Exterior of pig shed (3a) from southern yard, showing roof of shelter shed (3) in rear.
- 23 Site of probable medieval barn (5) from south, showing sheds 3, 4 and 6 to left.
- 24 Exterior of existing house (2) from Souther Cross Road to south-east.
- 25 General view of barn (1) from north, showing eastern gable of shelter shed (3) to right.
- 26 General view of barn from Souther Cross Road to south-west.
- 27 General view of entrance to barnyard from south.
- 28 General view of barn from south.
- 29 General view of barn from south-east.
- 30 Barn (1). Exterior from south-east, showing hatch in southern gable.
- 31 Eastern external elevation from north-east, showing blocked hatch and barn door to left.
- 32 Exterior from north-east, showing site of probable medieval barn (5) to right.
- 33 Northern external gable from north-west, showing secondary gable entrance.
- 34 Exterior from north-west, showing lean-to in northern angle of porch.
- 35 Interior of northern lean-to from north, showing side-door of porch.
- 36 Interior of northern lean-to, showing door to bay B and roughcast external daub.
- 37 Interior of northern lean-to, showing blocked hatch in bay A.
- 38 Detail of original external daub of bay A from northern lean-to.
- 39 Exterior of porch from south-west, showing northern lean-to to left.
- 40 Western external elevation of barn, showing shelter shed to right.
- 41 Exterior of shelter shed from north, showing western elevation of barn to left.
- 42 Interior of southern shelter shed from, west showing 19th-century wagon.
- 43 Interior of southern lean-to from north, showing 19th-century tumbrel.

- 44 External roughcast daub above tarred boarding in southern lean-to.
- 45 General internal view of barn (1) from north.
- 46 General internal view of barn (1) from south.
- 47 Detail of main clasped-purlin roof structure from north.
- 48 Interior of northern gable, showing secondary entrance.
- 49 Interior of bays A and B from south-west, showing blocked secondary door and hatch in bay B.
- 50 Interior of bay C, showing blocked secondary entrance interrupting original mid-rail.
- 51 Interior of bays D, E and F from north-west.
- 52 Interior of southern gable, showing blocked hatches in gable and upper storey.
- 53 Interior of porch, showing boarded southern wall to left.
- 54 Interior of porch, showing door to lean-to in northern side wall.
- 55 Southern wall of porch, showing western entrance to right.
- 56 Northern wall of porch, showing door to lean-to.
- 57 Detail of face-halved scarf joint in roof-plate above porch.
- 58 Interior of bays B and A from south-east, showing door and hatch.
- 59 Detail of passing brace trench in re-used western post between bays B and A.
- 60 Detail of western door in bay B, showing arcade-plate brace mortises in foot of re-used post.
- 61 Interior of bay A from east, showing mortises in re-used post to left.
- 62 Interior of bay B from west, showing blocked door and hatch with re-used posts.

## Appendix 2: selected photographs



A2.1 General view of site from north, showing western entrance to left and Falconer's Hall barn to right.



A2.2 General view of site from Souther Cross Road to south-west, showing barn (1) left.





A2.3 Probable site of medieval house from north, showing pig shed (6) in rear.



A2.4 Barn (1). Exterior from south-east, showing hatch in southern gable.





A2.5 Western external elevation of barn (1), showing yard in foreground with shelter shed to right and lean-to sheds flanking porch.



A2.6 General internal view of barn (1) from north.





A2.7 Barn (1). Interior of bays B and A (left to right) from south-east, showing door and blocked hatch with re-used central storey post.



A2.8 Detail of passing brace trench in re-used storey post between bays B and A (left to right).





A2.9 Barn (1). Interior of northern lean-to from north, showing side-door of porch and original external cladding of roughcast daub above weatherboarding.



A2.10 Barn (1). Detail of face-halved-and-bladed (right) scarf joint in roof-plate above porch.

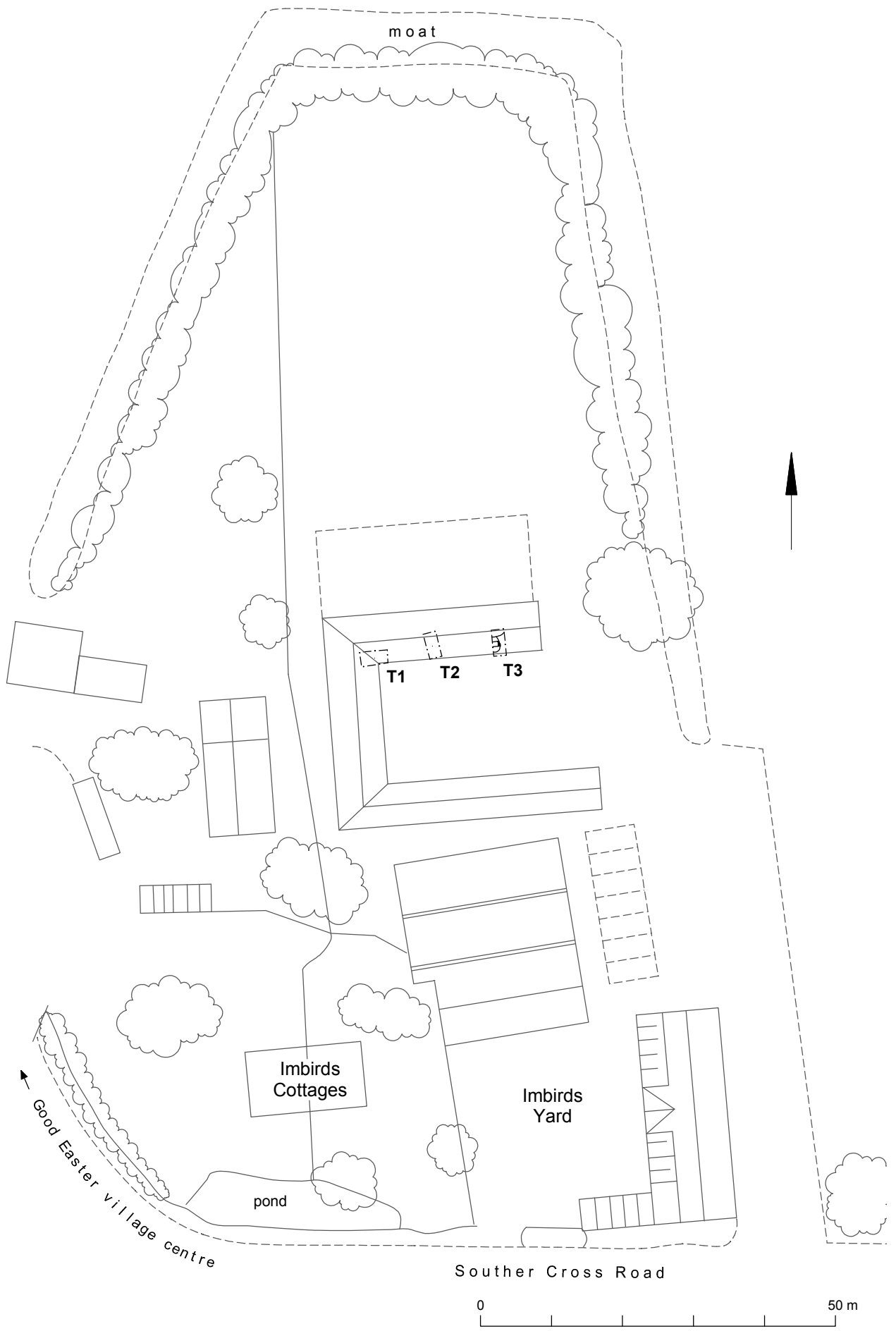
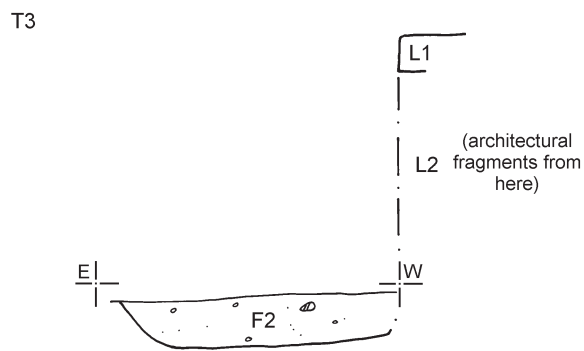
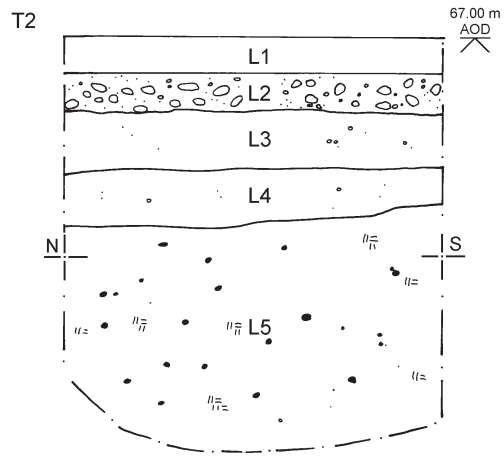







Fig 8 Location of trenches.

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-  sand
-  small stones
-  clay
-  post-Roman brick and tile
-  chalk lumps

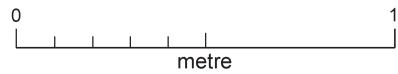


Fig 9 T2 and T3: sections.





Fig 10 Worked stone, nos 1-2.



Fig 11 Worked stone, nos 3-5.





Fig 12 Worked stone, nos 6-7.

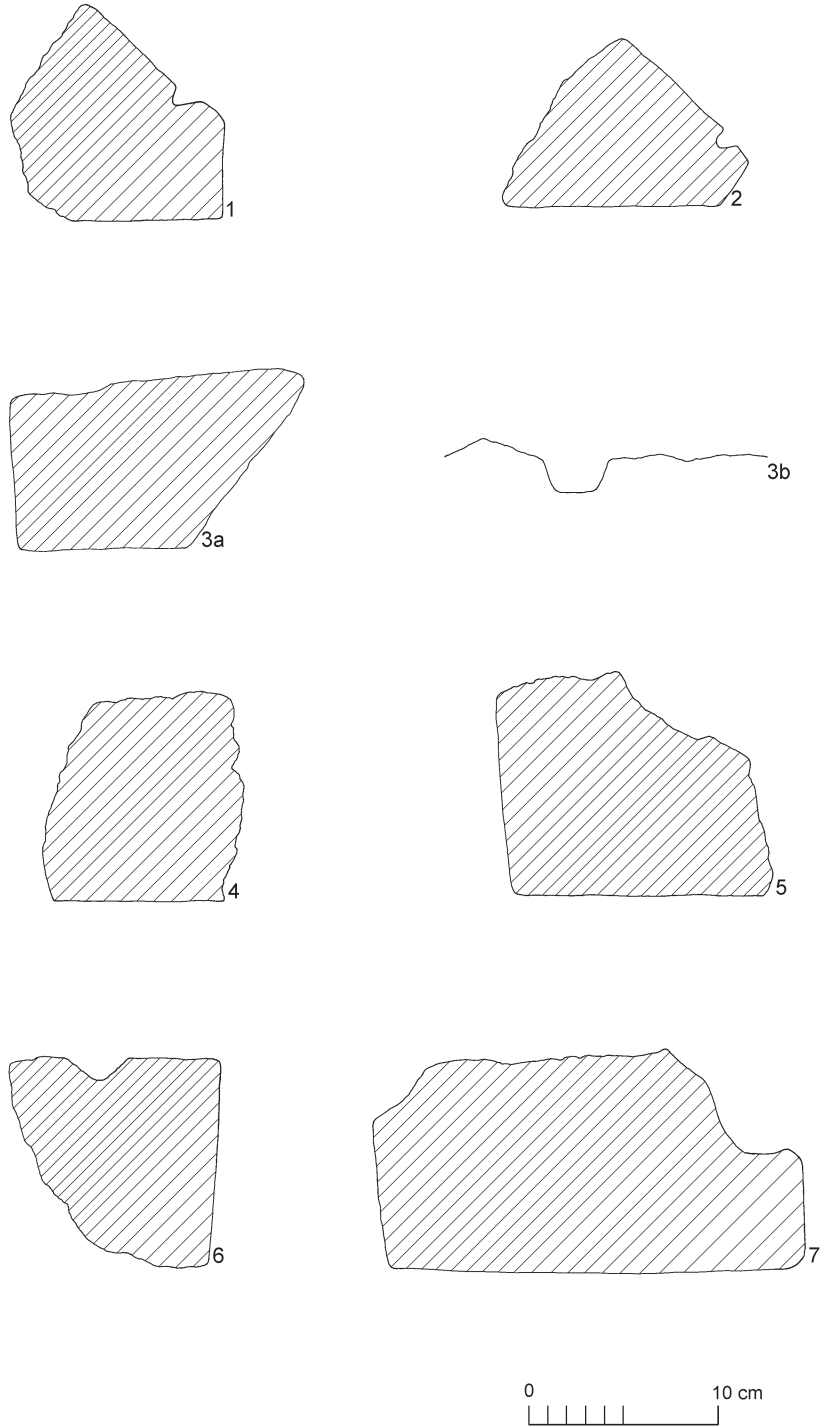


Fig 13 Worked stone: profile and sections.

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

**Summary sheet**

<b>Site address:</b> Imbirds, Souther Cross Road, Good Easter, Chelmsford, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Good Easter	<b>District:</b> Chelmsford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 6269 1214 (c)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code - 08/5a HEM code - GOOIY 08 Chelmsford Museum accession - CHMRE 2008.090
<b>Type of work:</b> Historic building survey and trial-trenching evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> May and July 2008	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 9m of trenches
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Chelmsford Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER nos:</b> 950-951
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 491 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Building survey: 12th-13th, 18th-20th centuries Evaluation: 19th century, with residual medieval architectural fragments	
<p><b>Summary of historic building survey and fieldwork results:</b>  <i>The historic building survey describes a late 18th- or early 19th-century barn with re-used 12th- to 13th-century timber elements, and a group of 19th- to 20th-century farm buildings.</i>  <i>An evaluation by three trenches uncovered two 19th-century rubbish-pits which may be contemporary with the last few decades of the life of a house which stood here in 1623 but had been demolished prior to 1839. Ten medieval architectural fragments found in a residual context under the piggery yard almost certainly derive from the nearby church of St Andrew. Documentary sources indicate a 12th-century origin for this site, but the date of the moat (now mostly filled in) is not known. Apart from the architectural fragments, no material contemporary with or pre-dating the 1623 house was revealed during this evaluation.</i></p>	