

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

CAT Report 527

Summary sheet

Address: Heath Place, Hornsby Lane, Orsett, Grays, Essex	
Parish: Orsett	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ 6465 8039 (c)	Site codes: CAT project – 09/8a Museum accession - (pending) ECC – THHP09
Type of work: Archaeological monitoring and excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 17th August 2009	Size of area investigated: 14m x 6.2m
Location of finds/curating museum: Thurrock Museum	Funding source: Landowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 5158, 5159, 5162, 5163, 5164, 5165, 5235
Final report:	CAT Report 527
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeological monitoring was conducted on land at Heath Place, located between Chadwell St Mary and Orsett, near Grays in south Essex, by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 17th August 2009. Invasive groundworks on the site consisted of the removal of an unlisted building directly adjacent to a listed brick-built building (store) which is to be retained and modified. The demolished building is to be replaced with a single-storey residential annexe built on top of the existing footprint on newly-constructed foundations. The development site is within the curtilage of Heath Place, a late 18th-century listed house constructed of brick and timber framing. The fieldwork was carried out as required in a brief issued by the Essex County Council HEM team and in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT.</i></p> <p><i>The strip foundations of the existing building were constructed of concrete and were roughly 600mm wide and 600mm to 1m deep. Eight concrete pads were incorporated into the foundations, one in each corner and two along each of the longer sides. These pads were approximately 1m square and up to 1.2m below ground-level. The substantial foundations of the previous building meant that the depth of the trench only had to be increased slightly and no increase in width was required for the new</i></p>	

foundations. Following the removal of the concrete, the trenches were cleaned out using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket, and the sides and bases of the trenches were cleaned by hand and examined. Modern topsoil (100mm deep) was observable only in the southern edge of the southern trench, as elsewhere it had been replaced by concrete or tarmac underlaid by plastic sheeting and hoggin (grouped as L1). Underlying L1 was a medium-brown silty-clay subsoil layer (around 200mm thick), which was homogeneous and contained no inclusions (L2). L2 had been reduced in places, and in the eastern section it was obscured by services connecting the main building to a nearby pond. The underlying geology, which varied between gravel, clay and sand, was located between 500mm and 600mm below modern ground-level, which roughly corresponded with the minimum depth of the existing foundation trench. Examination of the trench edges suggested that no archaeological deposits had been destroyed or disturbed during the excavation of the foundation trench.

One feature was observed in the base of the foundation trench in the south-western corner; this was a large modern feature, presumably a pit, with a dark brown clayey-silt fill. The ?pit was only partially excavated because it was modern, as indicated by the presence of finds such as modern china fragments and modern building materials. A large quantity of disarticulated animal bone, mainly horse (including teeth, pelvis, radius and pelvis) and some cow (scapula and humerus) was also found in the pit. All finds recovered from the foundation trench and the cleaning of the trench edges are modern and have not been retained. The excavation of a short service trench (300mm long) in the south-west corner of the foundation was also monitored, but nothing of archaeological significance was found.

The substantial concrete foundations of the previous building would have removed, in most places, any potential archaeological deposits within the foundation trenches. The large modern ?pit, which had not been completely removed, was substantial in depth and located in the shallowest foundation trench. The cleaning of the edges of the foundation trenches revealed no evidence of significant archaeological material or deposits, including anything which might be associated with the nearby Neolithic causeway enclosure (EHER nos 5158, 5162-5165), the cropmark complex (EHER no 5235) or later occupation of the landscape, or Heath Place itself. Any archaeological deposits within the footprint of the building which were not disturbed by the construction of the original building should remain undisturbed, as the floor-level within the building is to be raised rather than lowered.

The project was monitored by Richard Havis of the ECC HEM team.

Previous summaries/reports: None

Plan: Figure 1

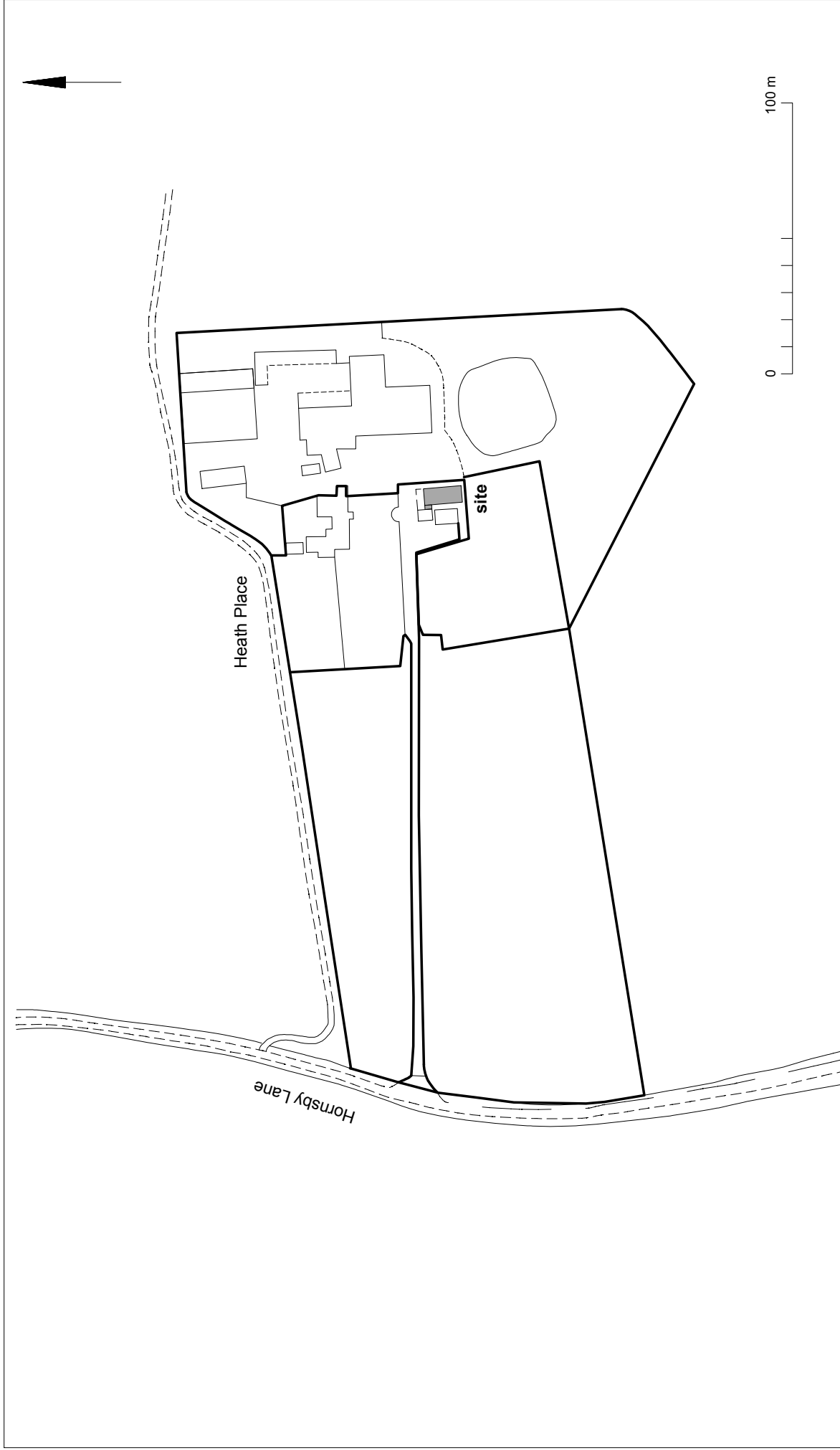
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Author of summary:
Adam Wightman

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Distribution list:
the landowner
Thurrock Museum
EHER



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Fig 1 Site location.