

Archaeological attendance and recording (watching brief) at St Ann's Farm, Southminster Road, Asheldham, Essex

March 2015



report prepared by Ben Holloway

on behalf of Mr Rik Pond

CAT project ref.: 15/2a
ECCPC code: AMSA15
NGR: TM 9690 0124 (centre)
Colchester and Ipswich Museum
accession code: 2015.20



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Circular Road North,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436273304

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 818
March 2015

Essex Historic Environment Record : Summary sheet
Archaeological watching brief at St Ann's Farm,
Southminster Road, Asheldham, Essex

Address: St Ann's Farm, Southminster Road, Asheldham, Essex	
Parish: Asheldham	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 9690 0124 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code – 15/2a ECCPS project code – AMSA15
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 11th March 2015	Size of area investigated: 5x7m footprint
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich: accession 2015.20	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 12127-30, 12051-60, 16003
Final report: CAT Report 818	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The site is on the western side of Asheldham village on the Dengie Peninsula. Dengie is characterised by small isolated farms scattered throughout open fields, the result of reclamation of the Dengie and Tillingham marshes in the 19th century.</p> <p>The site is in an area of known archaeological potential. It is in the midst of a number of known archaeological sites, including the scheduled Asheldham Camp (Iron Age fort: EHER 12051-60: Scheduled Monument 1014142). There is also evidence for multi-period activity in and around the Camp. This includes a possible Neolithic settlement, and Bronze Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon finds. To the north of the site and over the Southminster Road are the cropmarks of a probable ring-ditch (burial mound) and various linear features, probably field boundaries (EHER 16003). To the immediate east and south-east, prehistoric and Roman finds have been recovered from the riding stables and Oaklands Farm (EHER 12127-30)</p> <p>A watching brief was carried out in March 2015 (on behalf of Mr Rik Pond, and in accordance with a brief prepared by ECC (Medlycott 2015) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (CAT 2015)) during the excavation of a slab foundation for a new tractor and agricultural equipment store (footprint: 7m x 5m). The foundation was excavated to a maximum formation depth of 400mm though a thin modern topsoil (L1) and loosely-compacted building rubble (L2). In the north end of the foundation where the formation reached its maximum depth of 400mm, 'natural' sand with patches of boulder clay was observed (L3). There were no significant archaeological features or finds. The large quantity of roofing slate, brick and tile fragments and concrete revealed by the excavation was dumped debris from a roofing business operated by the previous owner (Mr Pond, pers comm). This lack of archaeological material found in this project does not detract from the fact that St Ann's is in an archaeologically rich and ancient landscape of prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman field boundaries.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: --	
ECC monitor: Maria Medlycott	
Keywords: modern	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: March 2015

Acknowledgments

Colchester Archaeological Trust thanks Mr Rik Pond for commissioning the project. The site work was managed and carried out by Ben Holloway. The project was monitored by Maria Medlycott on behalf of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|-----------|------|--|
| CAT | 2015 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Recording and Monitoring at St Ann's Farm, Southminster Rd, Asheldham, Essex</i> |
| Medlycott | 2015 | <i>Brief for archaeological recording and monitoring, St Ann's Farm, Southminster Rd, Asheldham.</i> Essex County Council brief. |

Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	after the Romans: circa AD 430 - 1066
Bronze Age	period circa 2500 - 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period circa 700 BC - AD 43.
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
Neolithic	the first farmers: circa 4500 - 2500 BC
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century

Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code 2015.20.

Contents of archive

Finds archive: none

Paper archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

- This report
- ECC brief
- CAT WSI
- Digital photographic record
- Site photographic record on CD
- Sundry papers (risk assessment, site notes, attendance register).

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2015

Distribution list

Mr Rik Pond

Maria Medlycott, Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team officer
EHER



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House

Circular Road North,

Colchester,

Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436 273304

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

checked by: Howard Brooks

date: 16/03/15