Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: land adjacent to Hillingdon House, Purdis Farm Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk

October 2015

report prepared by Ben Holloway
with contributions by Howard Brooks, Emma Holloway and Chris Lister

on behalf of Hills Residential

Planning ref: C/12/2532
CAT project ref.: 12/10d
SCHER: PFM 024
SCCAS code: ESF23247
NGR: TM 210427 (centre)
OASIS ref: colchest3-225104
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Fig 3 Site plan, T3 and T4
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1 Summary
The site lies in area of archaeological interest defined by previous discoveries of Anglo-Saxon and medieval material.

Four evaluation trenches on the positions of a proposed dwelling, garage, swimming pool and tennis court revealed only a modern post-hole (part of an old paddock fence-line) and a modern clinker-filled land drain. These are of no archaeological importance.

No archaeological strata or features were exposed which are worthy of preservation in situ, and no further archaeological work has been requested by SCCAS.

The depth and nature of the soils sealing the archaeological features is consistent with soil generated by normal agricultural activities. There were no masking colluvial deposits.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)
This is the archive report on an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation on land east of Hillingdon House, Purdis Farm Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk. The work was carried out on behalf of Hills Residential by Colchester Archaeological Trust on October 2nd 2015 (site centre - TM 210 427).

Proposed development is the construction of a new dwelling, garage, swimming pool, tennis court and associated access on rough grassland recently used as paddocks).

Suffolk Coastal was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that this proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012), which states:

"No development shall take place within the [site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions."

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief and Specification detailing the required archaeological evaluation (Jess Tipper - SCCAS 2012), and a CAT WSI agreed with SCCAS. Following a conversation between CAT and SCCAS, the WSI was amended to include trenching of the proposed pool and tennis court (CAT 2015).

In addition to the Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage’s Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (EH 2006), and with Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2014a) and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background
The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (heritage.Suffolk.gov.uk) and the brief:

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest defined in the Historic Environment Record. There is evidence of nearby prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon occupation (HER no. PFM 017), and an extensive late Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement to the south (PFM 008). An undated enclosure is recorded to the north (PFM 014).

Because the site is situated in an area which is topographically favourable for early settlement, there is a high potential for early occupation on this location.
4 Aims
The aims of the evaluation were to:
• Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ.
• Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the site, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
• Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
• Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
• Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, timetables and orders of cost.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)
This section gives a summary of the trenching, with context and finds dating information.

The four evaluation trenches (T1-4) were 1.8m wide. T1-3 were 10m long (T1-2 in the footprint of the proposed new dwelling and garage, T3 in the swimming pool), and T4 was 15m long (tennis court). The trenches were cut through topsoil L1 (250mm thick), and an accumulation of silty sand, L2 (200mm thick). L2 sealed natural geology (sand with occasional gravel patches: L3). Plant root disturbance was apparent in all trenches.

Trench 1: Summary
T1, in footprint of the new garage, revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Plate 1: T1 view east (1m scale)
Trench 2: Summary
T2, in the footprint of the proposed new dwelling, revealed a modern post-hole with a wooden post, probably the remains of a recent paddock fence.

Plate 2: T2 view east. Modern post-hole with wooden post is centre

Trench 3: Summary
T3, on the site of the proposed swimming pool, revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Plate 3: T3 view south (T4 beyond)
Trench 4: Summary
T4, in the footprint of the proposed tennis court, revealed no significant archaeological features or finds - there was only a clinker-filled land-drain whose alignment corresponds with an existing shed (piggery?) and a spread of rubble. This indicates that other small buildings may have been removed here.

Plate 4: T4 view north (1m scale)

6 Finds
There were no finds

7 Conclusions (Fig 2)
Despite the proximity of significant Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds, as recorded on SCHER, there were no archaeological finds or features here. There were no masking deposits of colluvium.

8 Acknowledgements
CAT is grateful to Hills Residential for commissioning and funding the project. Site work was managed by B Holloway, and undertaken by BH and Emma Holloway. The project was monitored by Kate Batt for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services. Plans and illustrations by EH and Chris Lister.
9 References

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

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<td>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</td>
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<td>2014b</td>
<td>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</td>
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<td>National Planning Policy Framework (Dept for Communities and Local Government)</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney</td>
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<td>English Heritage</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</td>
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<td>Medlycott, M</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 24 (EAA 24)</td>
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<td>SCCAS</td>
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<td>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation v1.3</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation: land at Hillingdon House, Purdis Farm, by Jess Tipper, as amended following conversation with Kate Batt</td>
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10 Abbreviations and glossary

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<td>Anglo-Saxon</td>
<td>period from c AD 410 to Norman conquest of AD 1066</td>
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<td>above Ordnance Datum</td>
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<td>CAT</td>
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<td>CIfA</td>
<td>Institute for Archaeologists</td>
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<td>context</td>
<td>specific location of finds on an archaeological site</td>
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<td>feature (F)</td>
<td>an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'</td>
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<tr>
<td>layer (L)</td>
<td>distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil</td>
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<td>medieval</td>
<td>period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII</td>
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<tr>
<td>modern</td>
<td>period from c AD 1800 to the present</td>
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<tr>
<td>natural</td>
<td>geological deposit undisturbed by human activity</td>
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<td>post-medieval</td>
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<td>residual</td>
<td>something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit</td>
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<tr>
<td>section</td>
<td>(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s</td>
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<td>WSI</td>
<td>Written Scheme of Investigation</td>
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11 Contents of archive

Finds: none

Paper and digital record
One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 869)
SCCAS Evaluation Brief and Specification. CAT WSI
Original site record (Context sheets, Trench record sheet
Site digital photographic log. Site photographic record on CD
Attendance register. Benchmark data. Risk assessment

12 Archive deposition
The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with
SCCAS under project code PFM 024.

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Distribution list:
Hills Residential
Kate Batt, SCCAS
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ
tel.: 01206 501785
e-mail: archaeologists@catuk.org

checked by: H Brooks
date: 22.10.15
Fig 1  Site location.
Fig 2  Site plan, T1 and T2.
Fig 3  Site plan, T3 and T4.

proposed swimming pool

proposed tennis court

e621060.3
N242956.4

E621059.7
N242941.4

E621054.7
N242943.4

E621055.2
N242913.3

0 10 m
Fig 4  T1-4: representative trench sections.
Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Hillingdon House, Purdis Farm, Ipswich, Suffolk

NGR: TM 210 427 (centre)

Planning reference: C/12/2532

Client: Hills Residential

Agent:

Curating Museum: Suffolk HER

SCCAS code: ESF 23247
SCHER: PFM 024
CAT Project code: 12/10d

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

SCCAS/CT Monitor: Rachael Abraham / Kate Batt

This WSI written: 03.09.2015
Revised: 25.09.2015
Site Location and Description
The site is located in the parish of Purdis Farm which is situated between Ipswich, Foxhall, Nacton and Rushmere St Andrew in Suffolk. The development area lies to the east of Hillingdon House off of Purdis Farm Lane (Fig 1) (Site centre TM 210 427).

Proposed work
Construction of a new dwelling, garage and associated access on land which is currently covered by rough grass and other vegetation.

Archaeological Background
The following archaeological background draws on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (heritage.Suffolk.gov.uk) and the brief:

The site lies in an area of archaeological interest defined in the Historic Environment Record. Evidence for prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon occupation has been identified nearby (HER no. PFM 017) and an extensive late Anglo-Saxon and medieval settlement has been identified to the south (PFM 008). An undated enclosure is recorded to the north (PFM 014).

The site is also situated in an area which is topographically favourable for early settlement. As a result there is high potential for encountering early occupation deposits at this location.

Planning Background
Planning reference: C/12/2532.

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has been advised that any planning consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological investigation work taking place before development takes place in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA.

This is in line with guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012):

"No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions."

Requirement for Work
The required archaeological work is for a archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by SCCAS (Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to Hillingdon House, Purdis Farm, SCC October 2012).

Specifically, the work will comprise four linear trial trenches to be excavated in the areas of the new development. Three 10.00m long x 1.80m wide trenches will be
located across the proposed dwelling, garage and pool and one 15.00m long x 1.80m wide trench will be located in the area of the tennis court (Fig 2).

Should significant or unusual archaeological deposits be revealed further evaluation or open area excavation could be required. Any further work would be the subject of an additional brief issued by SCCAS.

**Aims**

As per section 3 of the brief a linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

The Trial Trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

**Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one Project Officer with an experienced archaeologist to assist with excavation and recording.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

**General Methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIffA 20148a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by SCC Historic Environment Officer (SCC 2012)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCC 2011) to be used alongside the Project Brief

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to SCCAS/CT one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

Prior to the commencement of the site a parish code and Event number will be sought from the HER team. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed
on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

**Evaluation trenching methodology**
Specifically, the work will comprise four linear trial trenches to be excavated in the areas of the new development. Three 10.00m long x 1.80m wide trenches will be located across the proposed dwelling, garage and pool and one 15.00m long x 1.80m wide trench will be located in the area of the tennis court (Fig 2).

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached. Details are given in a Project Brief. Once the strip is complete a meeting will be held on site with SCCAS/CT to discuss what further work is needed.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established across the site.

Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, or ovens will be sufficiently defined for recording, but will not be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard “record” shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

**Site surveying**
Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

**Environmental sampling policy**
The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:
- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged ‘organic’ features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF and/or the English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking monolith samples.

**Human remains**
Policy depends on the age of the burial. If it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and SCCAS/CT will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains will be left in-situ unless their removal is unavoidable for some particular reason. If this were the case allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains, and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

**Photographic record**
Will include both general and feature-specific photographs and photographs of all trenches, including those archaeologically blank. A scale and north arrow will be included. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

**Post-excavation assessment**
If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS/CT, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with SCCAS/CT.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASiS website.
Finds

Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014a).

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

- animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman
- flints: Adam Wightman
- or to outside specialists:
  - small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.
  - animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)
  - environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)
  - conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

- Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black
- Roman glass: Hilary Cool
- Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey
- Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to SCCAS/CT.

Results

Notification will be given to SCCAS/CT when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2006), and SCC Archive Guidelines (2008).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by SCCAS/CT.

Final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS/CT as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA 14 & EAA 24).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

A HER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to SCCAS/CT as an appendix to the CAT site report.
Results will be published, to at least a summary level in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files will also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo.

**Archive Deposition**
If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with County HER within six months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS/CT. It will then become publicly accessible.

**Monitoring**
SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given SCCAS/CT one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with SCCAS/CT prior to them being carried out.

SCCAS/CT will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of SCCAS/CT shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

**References**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>2014</td>
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Fig 1 Site location.
Fig 2 revised trench plan to encompass pool (10m trench) and tennis court (15m trench)
**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: colchest3-225104**

**Project details**

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<td>The site lies in area of archaeological interest defined by previous discoveries of Anglo-Saxon and medieval material. Four evaluation trenches on the position of a proposed dwelling, garage, swimming pool and tennis court revealed only a modern post-hole (part of an old paddock fence-line) and a modern clinker-filled land drain. These are of no archaeological importance. No archaeological strata or features were exposed which are worthy of preservation in situ, and no further archaeological work has been requested by SCCAS. The depth and nature of the soils sealing the archaeological features is consistent with soil generated by normal agricultural activities. There were no masking colluvial deposits.</td>
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<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Land use</td>
<td>Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument type</td>
<td>POSTHOLE Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument type</td>
<td>LAND DRAIN None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Significant Finds</td>
<td>N/A None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methods &amp; techniques</td>
<td>&quot;Sample Trenches&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Development type: Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt: Planning condition
Position in the planning process: After full determination (e.g. As a condition)

Project location
Country: England
Site location: SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL PURDIS FARM Land adjacent to Hillingdon House, Purdis Farm Lane, Ipswich
Postcode: IP3 8UE
Study area: 0.9 hectares
Site coordinates: TM 210 427 52.038028750232 1.222667485701 52 02 16 N 001 13 21 E Point
Height OD / Depth: Min: 11.53m Max: 12.1m

Project creators
Name of Organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator: HEM Team Officer, SCC
Project design originator: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project director/manager: Chris Lister
Project supervisor: Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body: Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body: Hills Residential

Project archives
Physical Archive Exists?: No
Digital Archive recipient: Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID: PFM 024
Digital Media available: "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient: Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID: PFM 024
Paper Media: "Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous"
Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title
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