

Historic building recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, CM8 2JS

May 2017



report prepared by Chris Lister

on behalf of Mr and Mrs Shannon

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Aims	2
4	Building recording methodology	2
5	Historical background	3
6	Descriptive record	12
	External description	12
	Internal description	
	Cross-wing	18
	Extension A	23
	Extension B	26
	The farrier's shop	28
	Lean-to	32
7	Discussion	34
8	Acknowledgements	35
9	References	36
10	Abbreviations and glossary	36
11	Archive deposition	37
12	Contents of archive	37

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Full list of digital photographic record
(images on accompanying CD)

Figures

after p 41

Copy of WSI

OASIS Data Collection Form

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location.
- Fig 2 Block plan with phasing.
- Fig 3 Floor plan of The Forge.

1 Summary

A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust upon a smithy at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex in May 2017. The Forge is part of a Grade II listed building (NHLE no. 1306501; EHER 28895) which dates from the 14th century and has 15th-century cross-wings. Extensions to the smithy were constructed in the 17th-century. Additional components include a mid 19th-century farrier's shop and a lean-to dating from the late 19th century/early 20th century.

There has been a smithy on the premises since at least 1603, if not earlier, and the building, along with its fixtures and fittings, is a rare surviving example of a trade that was integral to life in nearly every village and town in pre-industrial Britain. The continued operation of The Forge at Chipping Hill, well after the advent of mechanisation in the late 19th century, also shows how rural communities often maintained traditional methods alongside the new.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on the historic building recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, undertaken in response to an application for its conversion to residential use. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Shannon and carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in May 2017. The Forge is part of a Grade II listed building (NHLE no. 1306501; EHER 28895) which dates from the 14th century and has 15th-century cross-wings. 17th-century extensions to the south cross-wing house a smithy and there is a farrier's shop in the former yard dating from the mid 19th-century. A late 19th-century/early 20th-century lean-to is attached to the farrier's shop. A documented smithy operated from these premises from at least 1603 until 2013. The building is centred at NGR TL 81782 15281 (Fig 1).

A planning application was submitted to Braintree District Council in October 2014 (planning ref. 14/01327/FUL) proposing the conversion of The Forge into an extension of the attached residential property. Given the listed status of the building and its local historic significance, it was recommended that a historic building record be undertaken prior to the conversion. This recommendation is in line with the guidance given in Paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

In response to this condition a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT 2017) and agreed with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2008), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14). In addition, the guidelines contained in

English Heritage: Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice (2006) and *RCHME: Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition* were followed.

3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the building prior to conversion. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (English Heritage, 2006).

In particular the record considered:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structures.
- Function and internal layout.
- Fixtures and fittings, including a more detailed photographic record of the surviving workshop features including tools and equipment with descriptions.
- Context of the site within its immediate contemporary landscape.

4 Building recording methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A brief documentary and cartographic survey of the evidence pertaining to the building and its history.
- A large-scale block plan of the site based on pre-existing architects' drawings.
- Scaled current floor plans, based on existing architects' drawings, using the English Heritage (2006) drawing conventions. The floor plan depicts positions of doors, framing including studs and rafters, windows, internal partitions, stairs, bay divisions/truss positions and the positions of surviving technology, fixtures and fittings plus later additions and evidence of phasing.
- A detailed description of the building. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction including brickwork, joinery, fenestration, spatial configuration, phasing, re-used timbers, carpentry marks/graffiti and any evidence of original fixtures and fittings.
- A discussion of the history and development of the building, including its design, date, form and function and any significant modifications/reuse.
- A full photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features (external and internal). Selected examples of the photographic record are clearly tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text. The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 1).

5 Historical background (Historic Photographs 1-9, Illustration 1, Maps 1-4)

A significant amount of historical information exists pertaining to The Forge and 18 Chipping Hill. The Forge lies within the historic centre of the former village of Chipping Hill, which was absorbed into the expanding town of Witham after the First World War. Chipping Hill originated as a Saxon settlement, the name 'Chipping' deriving from the Saxon word for market. The adjacent village of Witham became a royal manor and centre of trade following the Norman Conquest. In 1147, King Stephen bestowed this manor upon the Knights Templar. The Order founded a market named 'New Land' (later Newland Street) in 1210, which forms the centre of modern Witham. As Newland Street increased in importance, it took over the name 'Witham' and the older Saxon settlement became known as 'Chipping Hill'. From this point the fortunes of the older settlement declined as compared with those of its neighbour. The relative eclipse of Chipping Hill meant that whilst many buildings in Witham were renovated in characteristic Georgian architectural style during the 18th century, those in Chipping Hill, including The Forge, retained their medieval features (Henderson and Palombi, undated; Taylor, 1993).

The Forge evolved from a medieval hall house which was built in 1375 (Fig 2 and below).



A cross-wing was added to the north end around 1425 and one was built at the south end around 1500. This second cross-wing was a jettied two-storey building. Chimneys were added in the 16th and 17th centuries, permitting the construction of an upper floor in

the central open hall. An extension for a smithy was built upon the southern cross-wing during the 17th century, although this trade appears to have been carried on at this site for some decades previously. Extensive research by Janet Gyford (1996) shows that the first known occupant of the blacksmiths' at Chipping Hill was one William Adcock, who bought the building in 1603, and was referred to as a blacksmith in manorial records in 1598-9. When Adcock died in 1617, he left his *'shoppe with all my iron and Coles'* to his son John, referring to a workshop which was situated in the downstairs room of the cross-wing. In 1669, the lord of Chipping Manor granted William Adcock's granddaughter and her husband a piece of land adjoining the house and gave permission to construct a forge upon it, which was built by 1672. A further grant of four perches of land *'added to the garden and yard'* was made in 1687.

[The dates cited above are based primarily on the text of the list entry and the research undertaken by Janet Gyford.]

Many of the occupants of The Forge can be identified. One former blacksmith, John Greene, was accused of counterfeiting coins in 1697/98. A will of 1786 records John Fuller as the blacksmith and from 1882-1956 The Forge was owned by the Quy family. After Frank Jasper Quy retired in 1956 his assistant Henry Dorking took over the running of the smithy. One of the last blacksmiths to operate The Forge was Melvin Baker, who ran the smithy from 1971 until his death in 2009. In an interview with the Witham and Braintree Times in 2008 Mr Baker told the newspaper that a smithy had been present on the site since 1270, although the source for this is not cited.

The Forge is shown on the 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex (Map 1). This depicts a north-west to south-east aligned building in the location of the 14th-century hall house, but does not show the cross-wings. Chapman and André, however, employed stylised representations of buildings with roughly-defined dimensions rather than accurate plan forms, which accounts for their failure to record the precise layout of the building.



Map 1 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex (sheet 13).

The first map that accurately represents the plan form of The Forge is the 1838 Tithe map for Witham (Map 2). The Tithe Award lists Parcel 33 as tenements and a blacksmiths shop, owned by Abraham Barnard and occupied by Miriam Richardson and two others. The map clearly shows the 14th-century hall house with the 15th-century cross-wings, the irregular-shaped smithy constructed in 1672 and two structures built on the garden and yard.



Map 2 1838 Tithe map for Witham (ERO D CT 405).

A drawing of Chipping Hill, made by the local vicar's wife, Mrs Clarissa Bramston in about 1840, has The Forge as its focus (Illustration 1). Drawn looking north-west, The Forge is partially obscured by the toll-house and gate at the bottom of Church Street but enough detail can be discerned to see that the farrier's shop has not yet been built.



Illustration 1 1840 drawing of Chipping Hill by Mrs Clarissa Bramston (Gyford, 1999).

The 1874 6-inch edition Ordnance Survey map shows little change to the plan form shown by the Tithe map (Map 3). One slight difference is that the two structures shown in the yard on the Tithe map are now depicted as a continuous building joined to the main range which must represent the farrier's shop. The 1895 edition shows no change to the plan form.



Map 3 1874 6-inch Ordnance Survey (Essex Sheet XXXV).

A further 6-inch Ordnance Survey map produced in 1919 (Map 4) shows an additional structure built against the north side of the farrier's shop. This represents the single-storey lean-to storage shed.



Map 4 1919 6-inch Ordnance Survey map (Essex Sheet nXLV).

Whether it is because of the age of the building, its local significance, or its picturesque setting, The Forge has been the subject of many photographs, often used as postcards at

the time. Probably due to the advent of film in 1884 and the spread of (relatively) inexpensive and uncomplicated cameras, the earliest photographic images of The Forge date to c 1900. Historic Photographs 1 and 2 show the south-east elevation of the building looking much as it appears in the 21st century. The figures standing in front of the workshop in Historic Photograph 1 are likely to be the blacksmith of the time, Whitley Daniel Quay, and his family.



Historic Photograph 1 The Forge, Chipping Hill, c 1900 (<https://www.the-saleroom.com>).



Historic Photograph 2 The Forge, Chipping Hill, c 1900 (Palombi, 2009).

Historic Photograph 3 shows the same view from c 1910. Whilst showing exactly the same building configuration as the earlier photograph, the improved clarity of this photograph shows that the roof of the upper storey extension to the left of the farrier's shop is clad in

slate, presumably a replacement for the original peg-tile. This replacement may date from the mid-19th century as slates became an affordable roof covering with the arrival of the railway in Witham in 1843.



Historic Photograph 3 The Forge, Chipping Hill, c 1910 (Marriage, 1995).

Historic Photograph 4 shows the same scene taken shortly after the First World War. The figure in shirtsleeves standing in the doorway to the farrier's shop is probably Frank Quy.



Historic Photograph 4 The Forge, Chipping Hill, shortly after the First World War (<http://pubshistory.com/EssexPubs/Witham/whorse.shtml>)

One of the most interesting things about The Forge and the building it is a part of is how it has somehow remained relatively unaltered over time. Historic Photograph 5, taken in 1950, depicts the south-west elevation of the building.



Historic Photograph 5 The Forge, Chipping Hill 1950

(https://www.francisfrith.com/uk/witham/witham-the-old-forge-chipping-hill-c1950_w119004).

This photograph depicts the 14th-century hall house flanked by the 15th-century cross-wings. The Forge occupies the weatherboard-clad ground floor of the right-hand cross-wing, along with the 17th-century extensions to the right. With the exception that the render has been redone and the road surface has improved this could be a black and white photograph from the 21st century.

Other photographs from c 1950 illustrate not only how the building remained unaltered over the centuries but also how life in a small, rural village in Essex was slow to change. Historic Photographs 6 and 7, taken by the photographer John Tarlton c 1950, were used as examples of 'old England' at the time. Although staged for the camera (horses were usually shod inside the farrier's shop and the two little girls were borrowed from the school across the road) both photographs show that in the middle of the 20th century the blacksmith's trade was still very much in demand in Witham. Although it is probably fair to say that the bulk of the shoeing work in 1950 was concerned with riding horses rather than working horses, the author can confirm through his own family history that small farms in Essex were still using horse power well into the late 1950's.

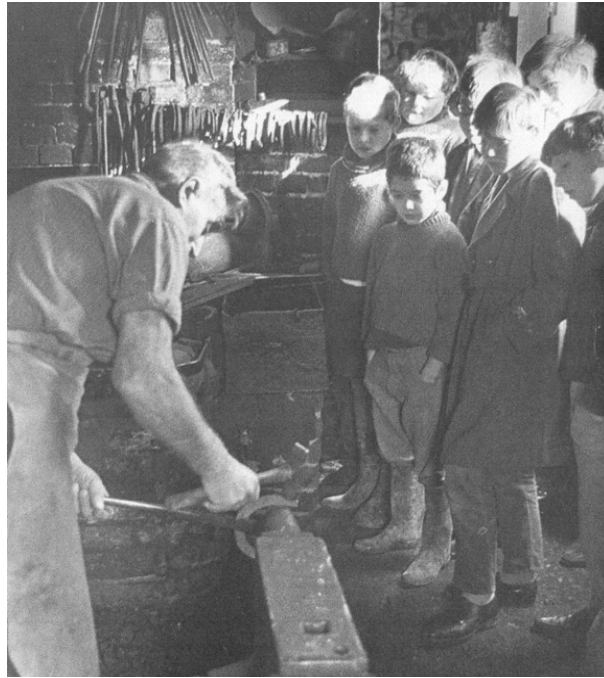


Historic Photograph 6 Frank Quy supervising Henry Dorking shoeing a farm horse outside the farrier's shop c 1950 (Marriage, 1995).



Historic Photograph 7 Frank Quy and Henry Dorking outside the farrier's shop c 1950 (Gyford, 1999)

The children's fascination with the art of the smith displayed in Photographs 6 and 7 is mirrored in a later photograph of Henry Dorking at work with an audience of young boys (Historic Photograph 8).



Historic Photograph 8 Henry Dorking at work c 1960 (Gyford, 1999)

This resistance to change is again shown by a postcard from c 1965 (Historic Photograph 9). Although presented in a neat and tidy fashion, the building is identical to what is depicted in the earlier photographs.



Historic Photograph 9 The Forge, Chipping Hill, c 1965
(https://www.francisfrith.com/witham/witham-the-forge-and-church-c1965_w119041).

The Forge and 18 Chipping Hill were purchased by Essex County Council in 1970 and much needed repairs carried out at a cost of £45,000.

6 Descriptive record (Figs 1-3)

The Forge (with the attached farrier's shop) occupies the ground floor and yard of 18 Chipping Hill, which is itself part of a larger medieval building (Photograph 1, Fig 2). The medieval building comprises 18a Chipping Hill, 18 Chipping Hill and The Forge (Fig 1). The structure was originally built as a hall house in 1375, with a cross-wing added to the north end around 1425 and a second cross-wing constructed at the south end in around 1500. A two-storey extension was constructed against the south side of the 1500 cross-wing in the 17th century, probably 1669-72, and a further extension from around 1687 made the ground floor larger than the upper floor at the south end (Photograph 2). Also in 1687 additional land was added to the garden and yard. A farrier's shop (Photograph 3) was constructed on the yard in the 19th century (1840-74) and a brick lean-to was added to this, either at the end of the 19th-century or at the start of the 20th century (1895-1919). 18a Chipping Hill occupies the 1425 cross-wing and a small part of the 1375 hall house, with 18 Chipping Hill occupying the remainder of the hall house and the upper floors of the 1500 cross-wing and the 17th-century extensions. The Forge itself occupies the ground floors of the 1500 cross-wing and the 17th-century extensions and also the 19th/20th-century structures in the yard (farrier's shop and lean-to).

Only The Forge is the subject of this Historic Building Record and the survey was restricted to those elements that comprise the smithy. For the purposes of the following descriptive record, the photographic index and the accompanying plans, these elements have been designated:

- Cross-wing (for the 1500 cross-wing)
- Extension A (for the 1669-72 extension)
- Extension B (for the 1687 extension)
- Farrier's shop (for the 1840-74 farrier's shop)
- Lean-to (for the 1895-1919 brick lean-to)

Later additions or alterations are discussed within the text where they interact with the specific dated elements.

External description (Fig 3)

Photographs 1-3 show that the 14th to 17th-century structures are roofed with peg-tile, whilst the farrier's shop is roofed with pan-tile. Not visible in these photographs is the lean-to, which is roofed with slate. As the roof of part of extension B was roofed with slate in the historic photographs, this suggests the entire roof was re-laid when ECC renovated the building in 1970. The majority of the structure is covered with white-painted render over lath and plaster but, as with the roof, this must date to the 1970 renovations as earlier

photographs show the walls to have simple panels of textured decoration. The jetty above The Forge is supported on the original brackets (Photograph 4). The walls of The Forge itself are not rendered. The external walls of The Forge comprise the south-west wall of the cross-wing and the angled sections of extension B (Photographs 2 and 3). These are bitumen-coated, horizontal weatherboard with large window openings in each section. Although all but one of these windows now hold frames of multiple lights these would have originally been glassless openings covered with timber shutters. All of the shutters have survived. Two of the shutters to extension B are simple, side-hung shutters, that swing outward from the wall to cover the window opening (Photograph 5), whilst the remaining set are internally-hung and cover a glassless opening (Photograph 6). However, the window opening to the cross-wing has top- and bottom-hung shutters (Photograph 7). The reason for this is that the lower shutter would have been lifted into a horizontal position to use as a counter with the top-hung shutter swinging out to provide an awning to shelter goods being displayed for sale.



Photograph 1 South-west elevation of the medieval building with the 1425 cross-wing to the left (18a Chipping Hill), the 1375 hall house in the centre (mainly 18 Chipping Hill) and the 1500 cross-wing to the right (18 Chipping Hill to the upper floor, The Forge to the ground floor). The 17th-century extensions are to the right of the 1500 cross-wing - view north-east.



Photograph 2 South facing elevations of The Forge with extension A projecting from the cross-wing and the single-storey components of extension B wrapped around its base - view north.



Photograph 3 South-east facing elevations of The Forge with extension A projecting from the cross-wing and the single-storey components of extension B wrapped around its base. The farrier's shop is to the right of the main range - view north-west.



Photograph 4 Original bracket supporting the jetty of the cross-wing above The Forge - view south-east.



Photograph 5 One of the two window openings in extension B with a side-hung shutter - view north.



Photograph 6 The glassless window opening in extension B with internal side-hung shutters. The farrier's shop is to the right - view north-west.



Photograph 7 The window opening in the cross-wing with top- and bottom-hung shutters that would have formed a counter from which the blacksmith sold items made at the smithy - view north-east.

The farrier's shop is a single-storey structure with a gabled roof built up against the main range (Photograph 3). It has a set of full-height doors on both elevations and there are window openings below the eaves in the south-east wall (Photograph 8). These are glassless and have internal, top-hung timber shutters. The structure is made of red brick with dimensions of 210mm x 100mm x 60mm laid in English bond. The wall is curved at the south-east corner and the farrier's shop is irregular in plan (Fig 2). The reasons for these oddities become clear when the north-east wall is viewed (Photograph 9). Changes in the brickwork of this wall indicate that the gable of the farrier's shop was constructed upon an existing wall, either the boundary wall to the yard and garden or on part of the free-standing structure shown on the 1838 Tithe map. The lean-to is built up against the farrier's shop and the mono-pitch roof of this is reflected in the slope of the modern boundary wall.



Photograph 8 Window openings below the eaves of the farrier's shop with internal top-hung shutters. These openings have been inserted into an earlier wall, either the boundary wall to the yard and garden or part of the free-standing structure shown on the 1838 Tithe map - view north-west.



Photograph 9 North-east wall of the farrier's shop and the lean-to. Changes in the brickwork clearly indicate that the gable is constructed upon an earlier wall, either the boundary wall to the old yard and garden or part of the free-standing structure shown on the 1838 Tithe map - view west.

Internal description

Cross-wing (Fig 3)

The cross-wing is a sub-rectangular room, approximately 4.2m wide x 5.5m deep, constructed from oak timbers and divided into two bays (Photograph 10). The rear bay contains one of the two forges present in the smithy (Photograph 11). Part of the rear bay has been partitioned off by inserted stud walls to create a small office. Where exposed the corner posts and intermediate posts were seen to have dimensions of 140mm x 200mm, with the exception of the intermediate post on the south-east side. This post has approximate dimensions of 180mm x 180mm and has a jowled head (Photograph 12). The bridging beam between the front and rear bays is 270mm x 270mm and has chamfered edges with stepped stops (Photographs 11 and 13). There are nine joists for the upper floor in the front bay and eight to the rear bay. These are joggled to either side of the bridging beam and are approximately 100mm wide x 120mm high. The joists sit on the wall plates of the cross-wing. The front wall of the cross-wing sits on a shallow brick plinth, two courses high, laid in English bond. The frame above this comprises a sill beam 120mm wide x 100mm high with a chamfered edge and studs of 140mm wide x 10mm with gaps of 240-270mm. These are single-pegged to the wall plate, which is 150mm wide x 200mm high. A lightly curved internal brace, approximately 160mm wide rises from the corner post to the wall plate (Photograph 14). Exposed mortices in the wall plate show that the window opening is a later insertion and suggests that the counter shutters on the exterior of this

window opening were installed in the 17th century, probably when extension A was built. The doorway in this wall is an original opening, although the stable door it contains is a more recent replacement.

The studs of the south-east frame to the front bay have been completely removed. However, as only two widely-spaced mortices are present in the wall plate, this may be an indication that the framing once held windows (Photograph 15). The missing studs were single-pegged to the wall plate, which has dimensions of 260mm high by 140mm wide. The framing of the north-west wall of the front bay to the cross-wing is concealed behind short sections of horizontal planking (Photograph 10). The floor in the cross-wing (and indeed throughout The Forge) is of patched concrete, although originally dirt floors or rammed clay floors would have been present.

The rear bay of the cross-wing has had all of the studs removed. The wall plates, each 140mm wide x 180mm high have exposed mortices with centres approximately 500mm apart. These have single peg holes. Part of the rear frame has been underbuilt in brick. What would have been the external corner post of the rear bay to the cross-wing has been replaced with a cast iron column. The north-west framing has been obscured by the modern office.

The forge which is located within the cross-wing is constructed from unfrogged red brick with dimensions of 220mm x 105mm x 65mm bonded with lime mortar (Photograph 16). The insertion of the forge chimney stack has partially removed one of the joists.



Photograph 10 North-west wall of the front bay to the cross-wing with the original doorway to the left and the inserted stud wall to the right. The studs of the wall frame are concealed behind the plank covering - view north-west.



Photograph 11 Rear bay of the cross-wing with one of the two forges and the inserted stud walls behind. The bridging beam has chamfered edges and stepped stops - view north.



Photograph 12 Intermediate post with jowled head carrying the bridging beam between the front and rear bays of the cross-wing - view south.



Photograph 13 Detail of the bridging beam between the front and rear bays of the cross-wing, showing the chamfered edges and stepped stops - view east.



Photograph 14 Internal brace and studs to the front frame of the cross-wing - view south-west.



Photograph 15 South-east wall plate to the front bay of the cross-wing with two widely-spaced mortices, perhaps indicating windows were once located here. The 17th-century extensions are behind the wall plate, with extension A's wall plate tied into the wall plate of the cross-wing - view south-east.



Photograph 16 Forge in cross-wing - view north-east.

Extension A (Fig 3)

Extension A is built up against the south-east side of the cross-wing and measures 4.6m long x 3.3m wide (Photograph 17). As with the cross-wing, all of the studs have been removed but, unlike the cross-wing, all of the corner posts have also been removed, leaving the upper floor supported on two cast iron columns set directly into the concrete floor (Photograph 18) and two modern posts below the rear wall plate.

The south-west wall plate is 160mm high x 140mm wide and is attached to the side of the cross-wing by a nailed U-shaped iron strap. This has been reinforced with an L-shaped iron strap with square-headed bolts (Photograph 15). There are two visible mortices with single peg-holes but most of the underside of this wall plate is obscured by the iron strapping. However, the spacing of these suggests there were four studs in total. The south-east wall plate measures 180mm x 180mm and is supported on two cast iron columns, both corner posts having been completely removed. Only one mortice was observed, 800mm from the north-east end of the wall plate. It is possible that further mortices are concealed above the column heads but even if this is the case then this would have resulted in incredibly widely spaced studs. It is perhaps more likely that the extension was open-sided to the south-east with shutters or doors attached to the few studs present. The north-east wall plate also measures 180mm x 180mm and, like the south-east wall plate, has few observable mortices (Photograph 19). Only two were noted, one in front of the forge chimney stack and one above a pair of inserted posts to the left of the stack. This may indicate that the rear was also originally open-sided.

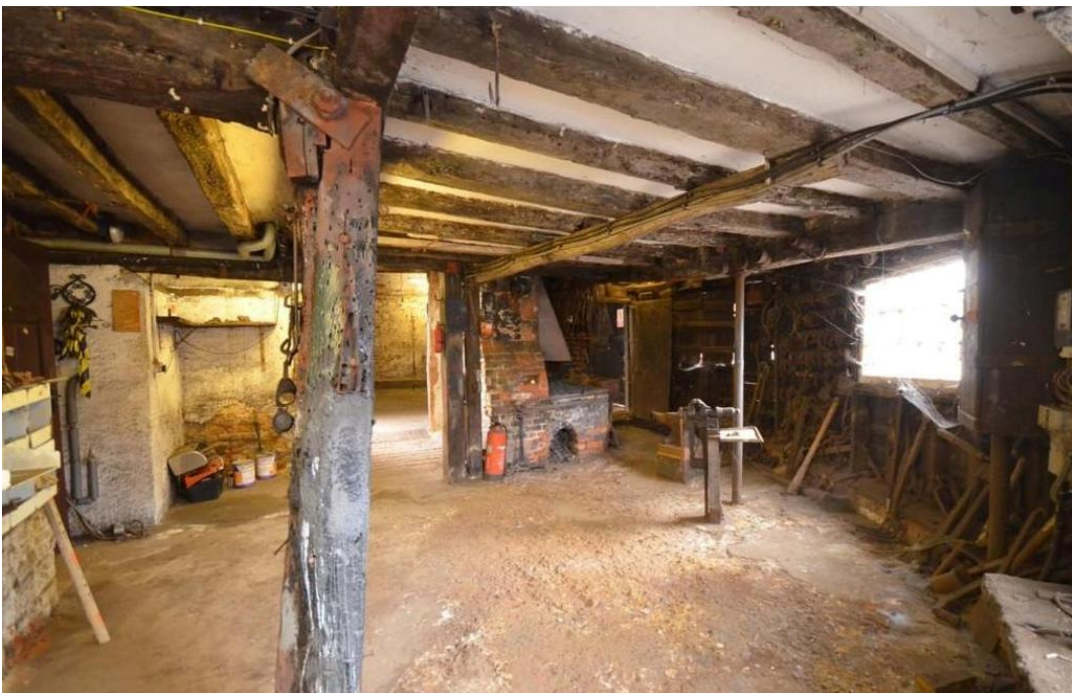
One of the inserted posts below the north-east wall plate supports a re-used beam extending south-west from the rear wall plate, attached to the undersides of the joists, but not connected to the opposite wall plate (Photographs 17-19). This may be an attempt to offset the risk of racking caused by the removal of the corner posts.

The removal of the south-west corner post to extension A has resulted in the upper floor projecting out above the ground floor. The removal of the north-east corner post and the construction of extension B has resulted in the preservation of some of the original render to extension A. Photograph 20 shows the original render of simple panels with textured decoration preserved beneath the roof of extension B, whilst Photograph 21 shows how the corner post has been sawn off exposing the joints with the adjoining wall plates.

Eight joists of differing dimensions are aligned perpendicular to the joists of the cross-wing (Photograph 18). These are all re-used oak timbers and have been morticed into the wall plate of the cross-wing but sit on top of the wall plate of the extension.



Photograph 17 Extension A built against the south-east wall of the cross-wing - view west.



Photograph 18 Extension A with the cross-wing to the left of the post and extension B to the right of the two iron columns supporting the wall plate of extension A - view east. (Copyright Fenn Wright)



Photograph 19 Extension A with forge located in extension B behind. The wall plates of extension A are supported on iron columns and the replacement timber posts to the left of the forge chimney stack. The corner post of the timber frame has been removed to allow the forge to be worked - view north-east.



Photograph 20 The north-east corner of extension A viewed from extension B where the corner post of the timber frame has been removed to allow the forge to be worked. The original render of simple panels with textured decoration to extension A has been hidden and preserved by extension B - view west.



Photograph 21 The north-east corner of extension A viewed from extension B where the corner post of the timber frame has been sawn off, exposing the joints with the adjoining wall plates.

Extension B (Fig 3)

The removal of the corner posts to extension A was undertaken to facilitate the construction of extension B and to allow a second forge to be worked. Extension B is essentially a wrap around structure surrounding extension A, truncating it partially and up to 1.8m deep at its widest. For the most part, it is a single-storey extension except to the south-east and north-east where it becomes a two-storey structure housing the forge and the forge chimney stack (Photographs 17-20).

The walls forming the southern part of extension B are timber frames on brick plinths and comprise three sections. The first section (truncating the south-west wall of extension A) has an inserted window and most of the remaining timbers are obscured by modern fittings, as are the plinth and the sill beam. The plinth to the next section is two courses high and the studs of the framing are 100mm wide x 80mm deep (Photograph 22). This section also has a window opening, although this appears to be an original opening. For the final section the brick plinth increases to 3 courses and the framing becomes two storeys high, comprising a 100mm x 100mm post, then four studs and a corner post 170mm wide x 120mm deep. Internally-hung timber shutters are held on two of the studs and these appear to be an original feature (Photograph 23). The framing supports weatherboard to the top of the shutters and then the wall covering becomes lath and plaster.

Extension B then doglegs back behind extension A where the second forge is located (Photograph 24). The forge is essentially freestanding and the rear wall of extension B is partly built on the brickwork of an earlier yard wall, with wide-section weatherboard above

this to the eaves of the roof (Photograph 25). A large-section straight brace rises from the top of the brickwork to the corner of extension A. An ogee-curved brace performs the same function at the north-east corner of the cross-wing. A doorway at the south-east end of this wall provides access to the farrier's shop but would originally have opened onto the yard (Photograph 23).

The forge in extension B is constructed from red brick with dimensions of 220mm x 105mm x 65mm laid in a lime mortar. The iron fireback has a manufacturer's name embossed on it but it is only possible to discern 'Chelmsford' and not the actual manufacturer.

The ironwork of the hinges and latches to the door and the shutters is very simple in design (Photographs 26 and 27) and it is extremely likely that these pieces were made at The Forge.



Photograph 22 The first and second sections of the exterior wall to extension B with extension A to the right - view south-west (Copyright John D Wood).



Photograph 23 The third section of the exterior wall to extension B showing the original timber shutters to the right and the door to the farrier's shop - view east.



Photograph 24 Extension B behind extension A, housing the second forge with a doorway to the right originally providing access to the yard but now to the farrier's shop. The brickwork behind the forge appears to be a remnant of a yard wall - view north-east.



Photograph 25 Extension B behind the second forge with the wide-section weatherboard on top of the earlier yard wall and the straight brace rising to the corner of extension A - view north.



Photograph 26 Detail of simple strap hinge to door in extension B, likely to have been forged on the premises.



Photograph 27 Detail of simple latch to door in extension B, likely to have been forged on the premises.

The farrier's shop (Fig 3)

The farrier's shop is accessed from the smithy via either the door in extension B or through an opening in the rear wall on the other side of the forge (Photograph 28). The concrete floor of the farrier's shop is 300mm higher than the floor of the smithy and the irregular-shaped structure is 7m x 5m at its widest points (Photograph 29). Full height double doors are located in each of the long sides directly opposite each other, replacements for the originals. Each entrance has granite setts embedded into the concrete to prevent wear from horses' hooves.

The farrier's shop incorporates an earlier yard wall into the south-east and north-east walls, with the gable built onto this and the north-west wall being constructed specifically for the building. A pair of top-hung, inward opening shutters are located below the eaves next to the roadside doors (Photograph 30). The north-west wall has a doorway inserted into the brickwork which provides access to a single-storey lean-to (Photograph 31).

The roof is formed from machine-cut timbers and has closely-spaced rafters with collars and a longitudinal scissor brace.

At least three tether rings survive attached to the north-west wall (Photograph 32). These would have been used to secure the horses whilst they were being shod. A coal bunker is located in the south-east corner.



Photograph 28 Entrances to the farrier's shop from the smithy showing the weatherboard on the exterior of the smithy partly carried on the earlier yard wall - view south-west.



Photograph 29 Interior of the farrier's shop viewed from the smithy showing the gable constructed upon the earlier yard wall - view east. (Copyright Fenn Wright)



Photograph 30 Original top-hung shutters in the south-east wall of the farrier's shop - view south-east.



Photograph 31 Doorway inserted into the north-west wall of the farrier's shop providing access to the brick lean-to - view north.



Photograph 32 Detail of original tether ring attached to north-west wall of the farrier's shop - view north-west.

Lean-to (Fig 3)

The brick lean-to has a slate clad mono-pitch roof of machine-cut timbers. The floor is of concrete and there is a pair of timber doors at the south-west end opening onto the modern yard and garden.



Photograph 32 Slate-roofed lean-to on the north-west side of the farrier's shop - view south-west.

7 Discussion

The Forge is part of a structure that is incredibly rich in history. Leaving aside the fact that the trade of blacksmithing has been carried out on the premises for over four hundred years (possibly for over 700), the building itself has surviving architectural details from each phase of its existence and many of these have survived with minimal alteration. Although The Forge itself is the part of the structure that has been subjected to the most change, these alterations were implemented to evolve and expand the processes being carried out within the building. If the reading of the historical sources is correct, then the ground floor of the 1500 cross-wing was converted to a forge either at the end of 16th century or very shortly after 1603. This is when the window opening with the top and bottom shutters was inserted into the frame of the cross-wing. This expansion continued in 1669-72 with the construction of extension A which appears to have been designed and built to operate as an open-sided structure with shutters or multiple doorways. A comparison for this would be the forge in Earls Colne which was photographed in 1900 by Charles Tyler and appears to have had similar openings to its frontage (see below). The expansion associated with extension B, which appears to have been carried out to allow a second forge to be worked, and the construction of the farrier's shed indicate that The Forge was a lucrative business with a large demand from the predominantly rural and agricultural area surrounding it.



The Forge, High Street, Earls Colne 1900 by Charles Tyler showing possibly the same type of open-fronted premises with large shutters as it is assumed that extension A had. (<http://www.echm.org/page14.html>)

The success and longevity of the Forge may also be linked to the proximity of the inn next door (the White Horse) and its location at the confluence of four roads, one of which was a toll road. Passing trade from travellers and coaches might have provided additional revenue that other rural smiths may not have had access to.

The four centuries of continuous blacksmithing at Chipping Hill can be ascribed to several factors. The location, as suggested above, is obviously a prime factor, passing trade and the large surrounding farming community providing the bulk of the forge's work. The development of Witham at the expense of Chipping Hill may also be a reason why the forge was able to continuously operate, particularly in the late 19th and 20th centuries. With the advent of first steam and then petrol-driven mechanization, many blacksmiths converted their businesses into garages, which there is no evidence for at The Forge. It may be the case that other forges in nearby Witham converted to meet this new need allowing The Forge to retain its equine trade unchallenged.

The fact that so many of the smithy fixtures and fittings have survived is also remarkable. This suggests that subsequent owners of the building may have felt a need to maintain the historical integrity of The Forge. Certainly the modern office with its faux timber studding inserted behind the forge in the cross-wing supports this theory. Although a cynic might be tempted to ascribe this to an unwillingness to spend money on the premises, it is perhaps not unfair to suggest that craftsmen pursuing a trade over two thousand years old may have felt an affinity with the age of the building they were practising their craft in. The fact that the methods involved with blacksmithing have also changed little is probably another contributory factor to the relatively unchanged nature of the building. The anvil and the large number of tools that line the walls of the smithy represent a collection that may be almost unique in their survival today and it can only be hoped that there may be a place for some of these in the future of The Forge.

The Forge represents a fantastic chapter in the both the social and architectural history of Chipping Hill and Essex in general. What started out as a residence but evolved into a smithy for over four hundred years is soon to come full circle when the current owners convert The Forge back into a residence. Whilst the loss of the village smithy ends a way of rural life this is softened by the fact that the building, instead of standing derelict and allowed to fall into decay, will soon be given a new lease of life.

8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Mr and Mrs Shannon for commissioning and funding the building recording.

Plans are adapted from a 1977 survey undertaken by Alan Willis, Essex County Architect and direct observations made by the author.

The building recording was carried out by Chris Lister, with additional research by Elliott Hicks and Laura Pooley.

The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor, Essex County Council Place Services.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at

<http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for historic building recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, CM8 2JS</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CIFA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIFA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Dept of Communities and Local Government.</i>
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for historic building recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham</i>
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<http://www.echm.org/page14.html>
<http://www.fennwright.co.uk/development/development-sites-for-sale/the-forge-18-chipping-hill-witham-cm8-2js/>
<http://www.forgeandfarrier.co.uk/userfiles/files/The%20Forge%2018%20Chipping%20Hill%20Witham.pdf>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

carpenters' marks	symbols scratched, incised or chiselled into timber to assist in assembly
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIFA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists_
collar	horizontal member in a roof spanning between a pair of inclined members such as principal or common rafters
EH ER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
ERO	Essex Records Office
HE	Historic Environment
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1500 (secular) or 1540 (religious matters)
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
NHLE	National Heritage List for England

post	in wall frames vertical members which rise the full height of the frame, being either main posts at the bay divisions or intermediate posts within the bay
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century
purlin	longitudinal roof timbers, intermediate between wall-plate and ridge, carried by roof trusses and giving support to rafters
sill beam	the beam at the foot of a timber-framed wall from which rise the all the studs (and usually the posts)
stud	vertical timber between the posts of a frame
wall plate	a timber running horizontally along the top of a wall to receive the ends of common rafters
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum under accession code (requested).

12 Contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of ECC Place Services Brief
- 1.2 Copy of WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 Copies of existing plans and elevations

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photographic record.
- 2.2 Digital photographic contact sheet.
- 2.3 Attendance register
- 2.4 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Client report
-

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Distribution list

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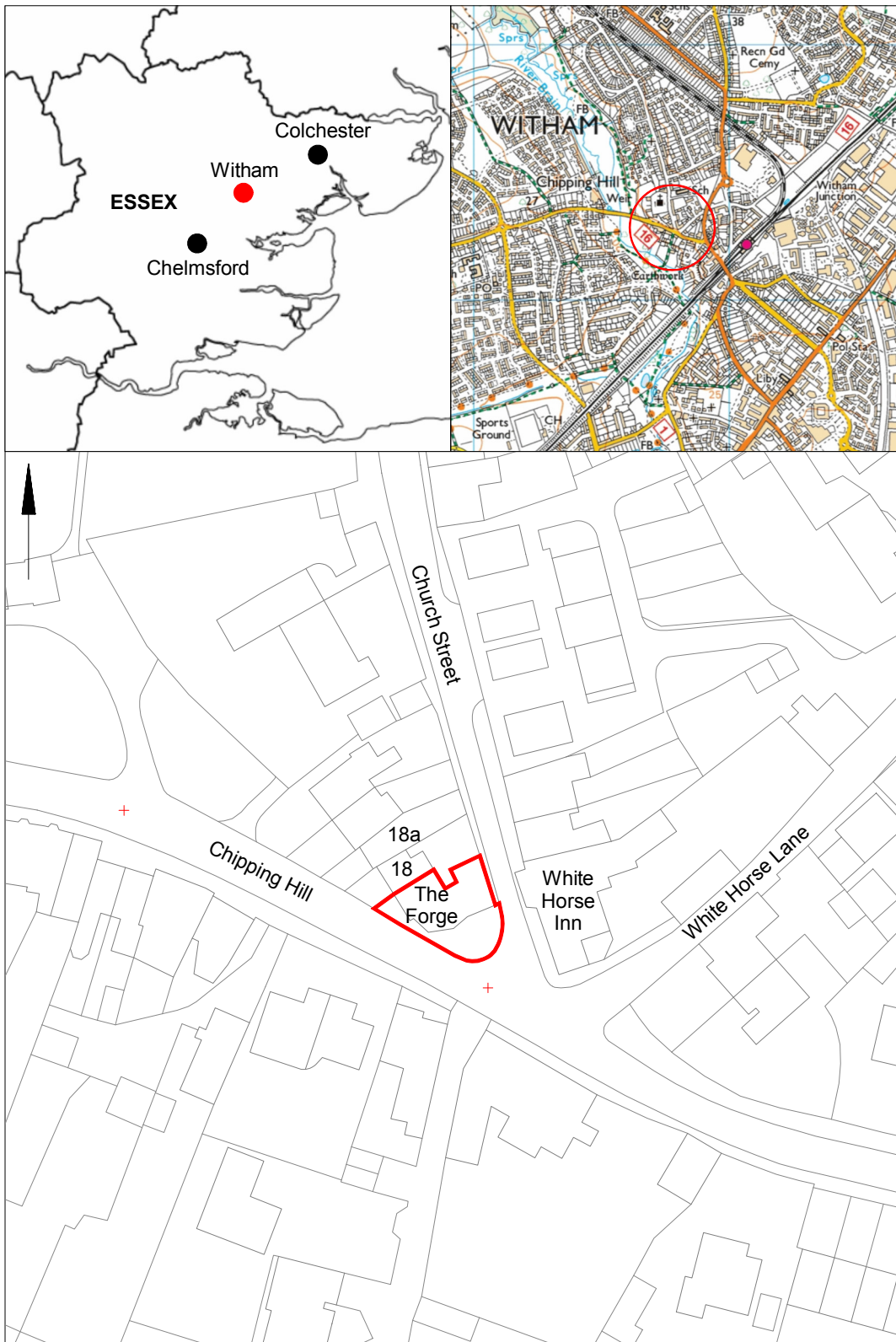
Appendix 1

Full list of digital photographic record (images on accompanying CD)

- 001.jpg North-west wall of the front bay to the cross-wing with the original doorway to the left and the inserted stud wall to the right. The studs of the wall frame are concealed behind the plank covering - view north-west.
- 002.jpg Entrance to the cross-wing with replacement stable door in original doorway - view south-west.
- 003.jpg Detail of wall plate above the entrance to the cross-wing showing how the joists sit on the wall plate and project outwards to form the jetty - view south-west.
- 004.jpg Detail of the studding below the window in the south-west wall of the cross-wing clearly showing the window to be a later insertion - view south-west.
- 005.jpg Internal brace and studs to the front frame of the cross-wing - view south-west.
- 006.jpg Internal brace and studs to the front frame of the cross-wing - view south-west.
- 007.jpg Front bay of the cross-wing - view north-west.
- 008.jpg Forge located in the rear bay of the cross-wing - view north.
- 009.jpg Rear bay of the cross-wing with one of the two forges and the inserted stud walls behind. The bridging beam has chamfered edges and stepped stops - view north.
- 010.jpg Rear bay of the cross-wing with one of the two forges and the inserted stud walls behind. The bridging beam has chamfered edges and stepped stops - view north.
- 011.jpg South-east wall plate to the front bay of the cross-wing. Only two widely-spaced mortices are present, perhaps indicating windows were once located here. The 17th-century extensions are behind the wall plate, with the front wall plate of extension A tied into the wall plate of the cross-wing - view south-east.
- 012.jpg South-west corner post to the cross-wing - view south.
- 013.jpg South-west wall plate of the cross-wing showing the joists projecting outwards to form the jetty - view east.
- 014.jpg Intermediate post with jowled head carrying the bridging beam between the front and rear bays of the cross-wing - view south
- 015.jpg Detail of the jowled head of the intermediate post carrying the bridging beam between the front and rear bays of the cross-wing - view south
- 016.jpg Foot of the intermediate post to the cross-wing standing on a rectangular timber pad.
- 017.jpg Forge in cross-wing - view north-east.
- 018.jpg Detail of the forge bed in the cross-wing - view north-east.
- 019.jpg Detail of the raking out hole of the forge in the cross-wing.
- 020.jpg Detail of the bridging beam between the front and rear bays of the cross-wing, showing the chamfered edges and stepped stops - view east.
- 021.jpg Detail of the opposite end of the bridging beam between the front and rear bays of the cross-wing, showing the chamfered edges and stepped stops - view north.
- 022.jpg Cast iron column replacing the rear corner post of the cross-wing - view north.
- 023.jpg Extension A built against the south-east wall of the cross-wing - view west.
- 024.jpg Extension A with extension B to the rear - view south-east.
- 025.jpg Extension A with the cross-wing to the left and extension B to the right of the iron column supporting the wall plate of extension A - view east.
- 026.jpg Ceiling joists of extension A with the re-used timber attached to the underside - view south-east.
- 027.jpg Jury-rigged support with a cast iron column and timber block replacing the rear corner post of the cross-wing - view north-east.
- 028.jpg Modern posts inserted beneath the north-east wall plate of extension A - view east.
- 029.jpg Modern posts inserted beneath the north-east wall plate of extension A - view north-east.
- 030.jpg Extension A built against the south-east wall of the cross-wing - view west.
- 031.jpg The north-east corner of extension A viewed from extension B where the corner post of the timber frame has been removed to allow the forge to be worked. The original render of simple panels with textured decoration to extension A has been hidden and preserved by extension B - view west
- 032.jpg Chimney stack to the forge located in extension B to the rear of extension A - view north-west.
- 033.jpg The north-east corner of extension A viewed from extension B where the corner post of the timber frame has been sawn off, exposing the joints with the adjoining wall plates.
- 034.jpg Detail of the head of one of the two cast iron columns supporting the south-east wall plate of extension B.
- 035.jpg Detail of the head of the second of the two cast iron columns supporting the south-east wall plate of extension B.
- 036.jpg Work bench in extension B, age uncertain - view south-west.
- 037.jpg Anvil located in extension A.
- 038.jpg Extension A with forge located in extension B behind. The wall plates of extension A are supported on iron columns and the replacement timber posts to the left of the forge

- chimney stack. The corner post of the timber frame has been removed to allow the forge to be worked - view north-east.
- 039.jpg Extension B behind extension A, housing the second forge with a doorway to the right originally providing access to the yard but now to the farrier's shop. The brickwork behind the forge appears to be a remnant of a yard wall - view north-east.
- 040.jpg Detail of the forge in extension B - view north.
- 041.jpg Detail of the forge in extension B - view north.
- 042.jpg Infill brick work between the former yard wall that the rear wall of extension B is built on and the doorway to the farrier's shop - view north-east.
- 043.jpg Electrically-powered bellows added to the forge located in extension B - view south.
- 044.jpg Brick removed from north-west side of the chimney stack to the forge located in extension B, to create a recess to hold matches for lighting the forge - view south-east.
- 045.jpg Fireback to the forge bed in extension B.
- 046.jpg The roof above extension B, where the extension changes from a single-storey structure to a two-storey structure - view south-west.
- 047.jpg The roof above extension B, where the extension changes from a single-storey structure to a two-storey structure - view south-west.
- 048.jpg The first and second sections of the exterior wall to extension B with extension A to the right - view south-west.
- 049.jpg The third section of the exterior wall to extension B showing the original timber shutters to the right and the door to the farrier's shop - view east.
- 050.jpg Timber shutters covering the glassless window opening in extension B - view south-east.
- 051.jpg Detail of simple strap hinge to door in extension B, likely to have been forged on the premises.
- 052.jpg Detail of simple strap hinge to door in extension B, likely to have been forged on the premises.
- 053.jpg Detail of simple latch to door in extension B, likely to have been forged on the premises.
- 054.jpg Roof timbers above the north-east corner of extension B.
- 055.jpg Extension B behind the second forge with the wide-section weatherboard on top of the earlier yard wall and the straight brace rising to the corner of extension A - view north.
- 056.jpg Straight brace joining the rear wall of extension B to the corner of extension A, showing the surviving textured render on extension A.
- 057.jpg The head of the straight brace joining the rear wall of extension B to the corner of extension A.
- 058.jpg Ogee brace joining the rear wall of extension B to the cross-wing.
- 059.jpg Interior of the farrier's shop viewed from the smithy showing the gable constructed upon the earlier yard wall - view east.
- 060.jpg Roof timbers of the farrier's shop, machine cut closely-spaced rafters and collars with a longitudinal scissor brace - view north-east.
- 061.jpg Full height replacement doors in the south-east wall of the farrier's shop - view south-east.
- 062.jpg South-east wall of the farrier's shop - view east.
- 063.jpg Original top-hung shutters in the south-east wall of the farrier's shop - view south-east.
- 064.jpg Doorway inserted into the north-west wall of the farrier's shop providing access to the brick lean-to - view north.
- 065.jpg Full height replacement doors in the north-west wall of the farrier's shop - view north-west.
- 066.jpg Granite setts inserted into the thresholds of the doorways to the farrier's shop to prevent wear from horses' hooves.
- 067.jpg Brick coal bunker in the south-east corner of the farrier's shop - view north-east
- 068.jpg Entrances to the farrier's shop from the smithy showing the weatherboard on the exterior of the smithy partly carried on the earlier yard wall - view south-west.
- 069.jpg Weatherboard on the exterior of extension B, constructed on a remnant of an earlier yard wall - view south-west.
- 070.jpg Detail of original tether ring attached to north-west wall of the farrier's shop - view north-west.
- 071.jpg Garden doors to the farrier's shop with the lean-to on the left - view south-east.
- 072.jpg Slate-roofed lean-to on the north-west side of the farrier's shop - view south-west.
- 073.jpg North-west wall of the lean-to - view south-east.
- 074.jpg Slate roof of the lean-to projecting from beneath the pan-tile roof of the farrier's shop - view south-east.
- 075.jpg Rear of The Forge showing the gable of the cross-wing with extension A to the left of the gable and the two-storey extension B partially in front of it. The two chimneys indicate the positions of the two forges. The farrier's shop and the lean-to are to the left - view south-west.
- 076.jpg The Forge viewed from the garden of 18 Chipping Hill - view south-west.
- 077.jpg South-west elevation of the medieval building with the 1425 cross-wing to the left (18a Chipping Hill), the 1375 hall house in the centre (mainly 18 Chipping Hill) and the 1500

- cross-wing to the right (18 Chipping Hill to the upper floor, The Forge to the ground floor). The 17th-century extensions are to the right of the 1500 cross-wing - view north-east.
- 078.jpg South-west elevation of the cross-wing with the hall house to the left and extensions A and B to the right - view north-east.
- 079.jpg South facing elevations of The Forge with extension A projecting from the cross-wing and the single-storey components of extension B wrapped around its base - view north.
- 080.jpg South facing elevations of The Forge - view north.
- 081.jpg South-east facing elevations of The Forge with extension A projecting from the cross-wing and the single-storey components of extension B wrapped around its base. The farrier's shop is to the right of the main range - view north-west.
- 082.jpg South-east facing elevations of The Forge - view north-west.
- 083.jpg Detail of the top-hung timber shutter above the inserted window of the cross-wing - view north.
- 084.jpg Detail of the lower timber shutter to the inserted window of the cross-wing. This would have formed a counter from which the blacksmith would have displayed and sold his wares - view north.
- 085.jpg The south-west elevation of the cross-wing - view north.
- 086.jpg The window opening in the cross-wing with top- and bottom-hung shutters that would have formed a counter from which the blacksmith sold items made at the smithy - view north-east.
- 087.jpg Original bracket supporting the jetty of the cross-wing above The Forge - view south-east.
- 088.jpg Detail of the timber shutter to section A of extension B - view north-east.
- 089.jpg One of the two window openings in extension B with the side-hung shutter - view north.
- 090.jpg The glassless window opening in extension B with internal side-hung shutters. The farrier's shop is to the right - view north-west.
- 091.jpg Window openings below the eaves of the farrier's shop with internal top-hung shutters. These openings have been inserted into an earlier wall, either the boundary wall to the yard and garden or part of the free-standing structure shown on the 1838 Tithe map - view north-west.
- 092.jpg The farrier's shop showing the brickwork of the earlier yard wall and the later gable constructed upon it - view north-west.
- 093.jpg North-east wall of the farrier's shop showing the differences between the brickwork of the gable and the yard wall upon which the gable was constructed - view north-west.
- 094.jpg North-east wall of the farrier's shop and the lean-to. Changes in the brickwork clearly indicate that the gable is constructed upon an earlier wall, either the boundary wall to the old yard and garden or part of the free-standing structure shown on the 1838 Tithe map - view west.



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Fig 1 Site location.

0 50 m



Fig 2 Block plan with phasing.

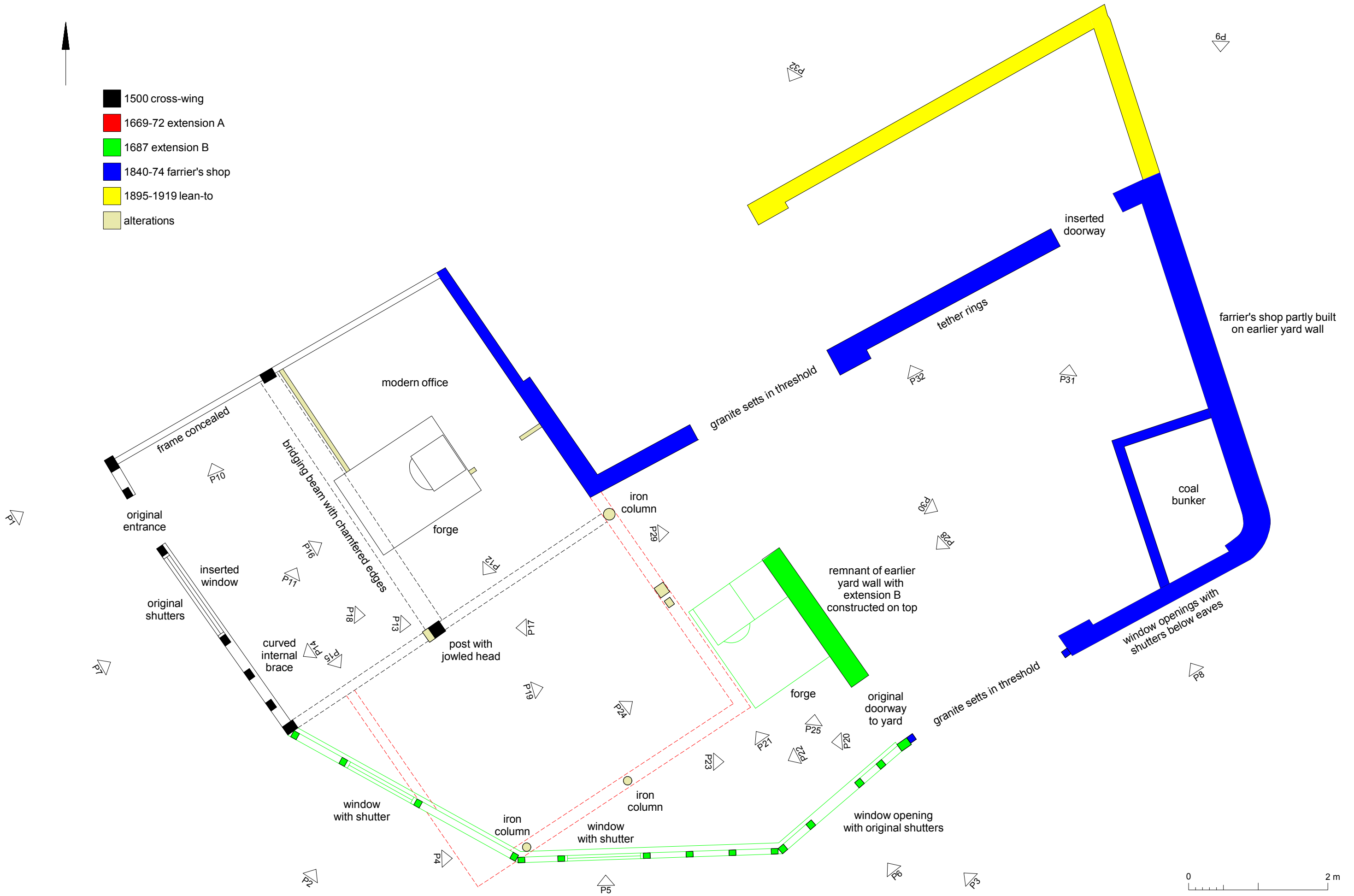


Fig 3 Floor plan of The Forge. The numbered arrows indicate the location and orientation of photographs included in this report.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for historic building recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, CM8 2JS

NGR: TL 81782 15281 (centre)

Planning reference: 14/01327/FUL

Client: Mr Kenneth Richard Shannon

Curating Museum: Braintree Museum

Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

ECC project code: [tbc](#)

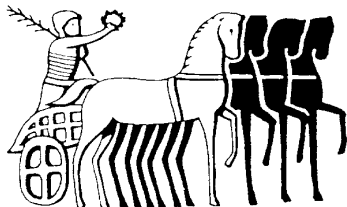
CAT project code: 17/02k

OASIS project id: colchest3-277745

Site manager: Chris Lister

ECC monitor: Teresa O'Connor

This WSI written: 28.2.2017



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST
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Site location and description

The Forge is located at 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex at the junction with Church Street (Fig 1). It is part of a Grade II listed building known as 18 and Smithy Chipping Hill which dates from the 15th century and was a commercial premises until recently. The site is centred on NGR TL 81782 15281.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the conversion of The Forge into an extension of the attached residential dwelling.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

The Forge is part of a Grade II listed building known as 18 and Smithy Chipping Hill (NHLE no. 1306501; EHER 28895). The attached house dates from the 15th century or earlier and may be medieval in origin, the forge/smithy is of probable 17th century date. The forge retains many internal features associated with its use as a smithy. The forge fires and other fixtures and fittings are still present and from recent photographs it appears that the smithy was still a functional workshop which makes it a very rare example of a working historic industrial building. Industrial buildings such as this face a high rate of loss through conversion and a record should be made as part of the local area's industrial heritage.

The listed building entry states:

A C15 5 timber-framed and plastered house with a C17 smithy at the corner of Chipping Hill and Church Street. It is still used as a smithy. The house has cross wings at the north-west and south-east ends. The upper storey is jettied at the south-west end and on the south-east crosswing. It is now cement rendered. The south end is weatherboarded and a weatherboarded wing extends at the rear. 2 storeys. 3 window range on the south-west front, casements with glazing bars. 1 window has old leaded lights. 1 window range at the south-east front, double-hung sash with glazing bars. Roofs tiled, with a C17 central brick chimney stack with 2 diagonally set shafts.

Planning background

A planning application (14/01327/FUL) was submitted to Braintree District Council in October 2014 for the conversion of The Forge into an extension of the attached residential dwelling. Due to the historic importance of the forge, the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) recommended that a historic building recording be undertaken as a condition on the planning application in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Recommendation: Full condition – building recording

"No demolition/conversion or preliminary groundwork's of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programmed of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority".

In response to this recommendation, Colchester Archaeological Trust was asked to prepare this written scheme of investigation (WSI) for submission to Essex County Council Place Services.

Requirement for work

The archaeological work will comprise a RCHME Level 3 record of the forge.

Specifically the records will consider:

- Plan form of the site.

- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure.
- Function and internal layout.
- Fixtures and fittings – this should include a more detailed photographic record of the surviving workshop features including tools and equipment with descriptions.
- Context of the site within its immediate contemporary landscape.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT building recorder for one day.

General methodology

The relevant document of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014)*, *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014)*. Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA **14** and EAA **24**, and MoRPHE.

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

All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard health and safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 2014).

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

At the start of work (immediately before work 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.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Building recording methodology

A Historic England Level 3 survey of the building will be undertaken prior to conversion.

A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the present building will be made. Sources consulted will include:

- Essex Historic Environment Record.
- Essex Records Office.
- The site owner/developer.

A large-scale block plan will be made of the site using existing architects' drawings or the current OS 1:2500 map extract. The position of the building will be shown and any adjacent buildings will be given a unique number noting date of construction and function (where known).

Based on existing architect's plans and using the RCHME (1996) conventions, floor plans and elevations at a scale of 1:100 will be made of the building. Doors, windows, internal divisions, truss positions, together with any surviving fixtures/fittings must be shown together with any evidence of phasing.

The building (exterior and the interior) will be viewed, described in detail and photographed. The description will seek to address materials, dimensions, method of construction, joinery, fenestration, spatial configuration, phasing, any evidence of original fixtures/fittings.

A full photographic record will be made comprising colour digital photographs and black and white print. This record will include both general shots and details of external and internal features (ie structural detail, joinery, fixtures and fittings joinery/carpenters'/timber marks etc). A photographic scale will be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record will be accompanied by a photographic register detailing (as a minimum) location and direction of shot.

The completed plans will be clearly annotated to show the location and orientation of photographs taken as part of the survey.

Fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text will be reproduced as colour laser copies.

The guidelines contained in *English Heritage: Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice (2006)* will be adhered to. In addition, RCHME: *Descriptive Specification 3rd Edition*, ClfA's *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (2014)* and the appropriate sections of the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (East Anglian Archaeology occasional paper 14, 2003)* and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England (EAA 24, 2011)* and *Management of research projects in the historic environment (MoRPHE)* will be used for additional guidance in the design of the project specification, the contents of the report, and for the general execution of the project.

Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEA when the recording has been completed.

A copy of the report, detailing the building recording, will be submitted to ECCHEA within two months of the completion of the fieldwork. Upon approval a .pdf version will be submitted to the EHER.

The building recording report will include:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
- A resume of the history and development of the building and a brief discussion on the design, date, form and function of the building and any significant modifications/reuse.
- Annotated drawings including a location map, an overall plan showing all buildings and copies of all plans and sections. Where appropriate, the plan drawings will be tied into the OS Grid.
- Where appropriate, the discussion and conclusions should be made with reference to the objectives outlined in Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott (2011)
- Labelled re-productions of a representative sample of the photographs
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form. A copy will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal, paul.gilman@me.com

Publication of the results at least to summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken 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.

Archive deposition

A copy of the full archive comprising drawings, photographs, negatives and the film register, copies of any correspondence and the full report will be submitted to the curating museum within twelve months of completing the fieldwork.

The archive will be prepared in accord with the curating museum's guidelines.

A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to the ECCHEA at the time of deposition at the museum.

Monitoring

The ECCHEA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, reporting, and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to the ECCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with the ECCHEA before they are carried out.

The involvement of the ECCHEA will be acknowledged in any report or publication arising from this project.

References

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J (ed) | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8)</i> |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health and Safety Policy</i> |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i> |
| ECCPS | 2017 | <i>Brief for Historic Building Recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham</i> |
| English Heritage | 2006
(revised 2009) | <i>MoRPHE: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> |
| English Heritage | 2006 | <i>Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice</i> |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i> |
| Medlycott, M. | 2011 | <i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i> |

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Fig 1 Site location.



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OASIS ID: colchest3-277745

Project details

Project name	Historic Building Recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, CM8 2JS
Short description of the project	A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust upon a smithy at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex in May 2017. The Forge is part of a Grade II listed building (NHLE no. 1306501; EHER 28895) which dates from the 14th century and has 15th-century cross-wings. Extensions to the smithy were constructed in the 17th-century. Additional components include a mid 19th-century farrier's shop and a lean-to dating from the late 19th century/early 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 12-05-2017 End: 12-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/02k - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	BLACKSMITHS WORKSHOP Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE WITHAM The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill
Postcode	CM8 2JS
Study area	185 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 81782 15281 51.806063601814 0.637030829933 51 48 21 N 000 38 13 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs Shannon

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	requested
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	requested
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Historic building recording at The Forge, 18 Chipping Hill, Witham, Essex, CM8 2JS: May 2017

Author(s)/Editor(s) Lister, C.

Other bibliographic details

Date 2017

Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust

Place of issue or publication Colchester

Description Comb-bound A4 report

URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Chris Lister (cl@catuk.org)

Entered on 15 August 2017

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