

# Archaeological evaluation at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire, SG12 7QQ

January 2018



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Sarah Carter

**commissioned by Hester Dalton, Sworders  
on behalf of Nicholas Buxton**

NGR: TL 38340 14298 (centre)

Planning ref.: 3/17/1946/FUL

CAT project ref.: 17/11h

OASIS ref.: colchest3-300248



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1218**  
January 2018

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CAT WSI

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire in advance of the part demolition of the existing barn and the erection of a new grain store for agricultural holding. The site is located near to a 15th-century manor house, and to a planned farm constructed in the 19th century which has antecedents dating back to the 14th century. Despite being located in an area of archaeological interest, no significant archaeological remains were uncovered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire which was carried out on 16th January 2018. The work was commissioned by Hester Dalton of Swords on behalf of Mr Nicholas Buxton in advance of the part demolition of the existing barn and the erection of a new grain store for agricultural holding, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning (HCCERP), Historic Environment Advisor Simon Wood advised 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). This was to take the form of archaeological monitoring of all groundworks.

In response to this condition a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (CAT, 2017) and agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 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 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 Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway.

The proposed development is located close to the manor house and farm at Watersplace Farm to the east of Ware. The former is a Grade II listed late medieval (15th century) timber-framed manor house (HER 13015) associated with Sir Henry Bouchier (d.1492). The latter is a 19th-century planned farm (HER 13386) which had a medieval precursor, presumably linked to the manor house.

The 1845 Tithe Map shows the farm in its earlier irregular layout, with farm buildings clustered around a roughly rectangular yard, prior to the replacement by the planned farm. The origins of a farm at this location may even precede the 15th-century manor house, as place name evidence suggests that it was the home of William atte Watre, documented in 1331 and 1354 (Gover, Mawer and Stenton 1938).

#### 4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Watersplace Farm to ascertain the extent of any existing archaeological deposits which exist at the site, and to determine whether further investigations are necessary.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-4)

One trial trench was excavated within the development site. It measured 13m in length and 1.8m in width. It was excavated through post-medieval/modern topsoil (L1, 0.29-0.34m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay) on to naturally-deposited soils (L2, firm, moist medium orange/black clay, encountered at a depth of 0.29-0.34m bcgl). A sondage was excavated to ensure that the natural had been reached.

No significant archaeological remains were uncovered.



Photograph 1 Trench shot – looking south-west

#### 6 Finds

A single fragment of peg-tile was retrieved from L1, but was not retained.

#### 7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological interest, no significant archaeological remains were uncovered.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Hester Dalton of Swords and Mr Nicholas Buxton for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Hertfordshire County Council by Simon Wood.

## 9 References

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

Brown, D H	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . Second Edition. Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF)
Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire, SG12 7QQ</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CifA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gover, J E B, Mawer, A and Stenton, F M	1938	<i>The Place – Names of Hertfordshire</i> (English Place-Name Society, Volume XV)
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hertfordshire Museums	2017	<i>Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards: A countywide standard for the creation, compilation, and transfer of archaeological archives in Hertfordshire.</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
HCCERP	Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1218)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

## 12 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 Ware Museum under accession code: 17/11h.

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### **Distribution list:**

Hester Dalton, Sworders

Mr Nicholas Buxton

Simon Wood, Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning

Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

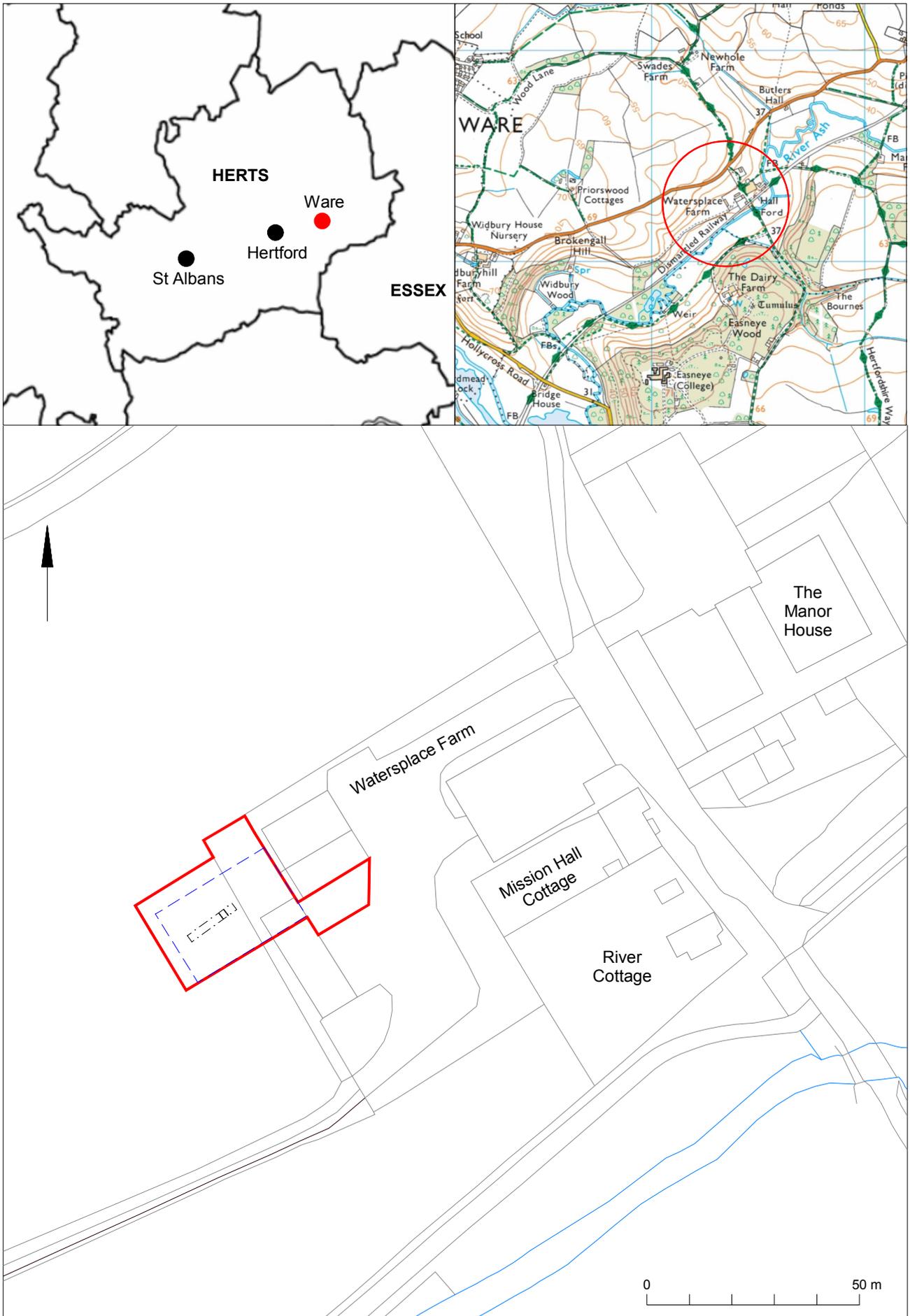
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 25.01.2018



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue).

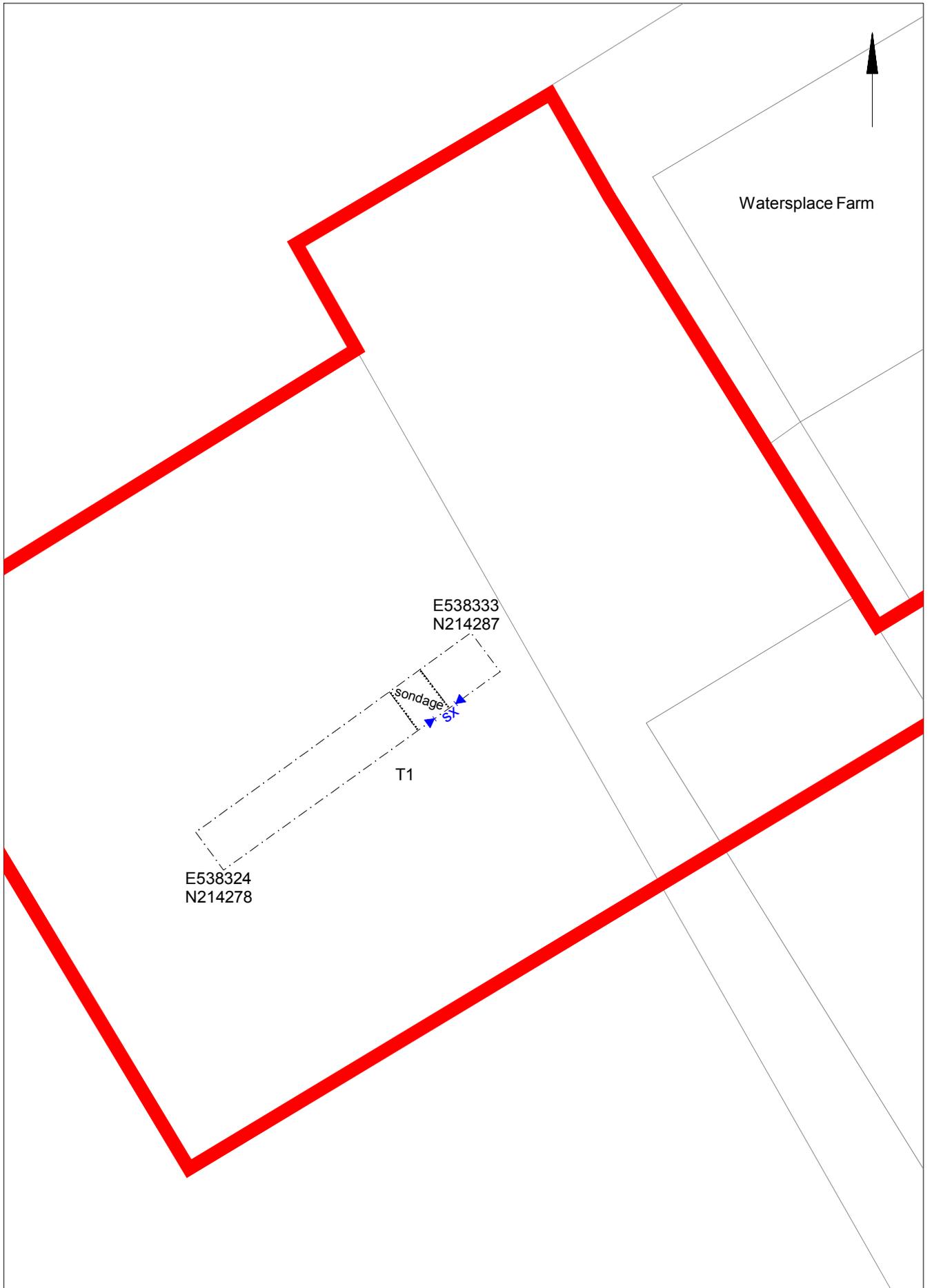


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

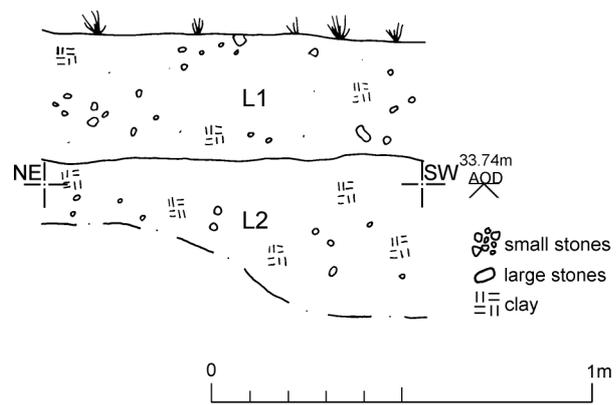


Fig 3 Representative section.

## APPENDIX

### HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Watersplace Farm, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire, SG12 7QQ		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Wareside	Parish: Wareside	
Planning application reference: 3/17/1946/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Developer		
Nature of application: Part demolition of existing barn and the erection of a new grain store for agricultural holding		
Present land use: Field		
Size of application area: 0.1ha	Size of area investigated: 23.4m <sup>2</sup>	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 38340 14298 (centre)		
Site code (if applicable): CAT project code 17/11h		
Site director/organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)		
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation		
Date of work: January 2018	Start: 16th January 2018	Finish: 16th January 2018
Location of finds & site archive/curating museum: Ware Museum		
Related HER Nos: HER 13015, 13386	Periods represented: none	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: n/a		
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire in advance of the part demolition of the existing barn and the erection of a new grain store for agricultural holding. The site is located near to a 15th-century manor house, and to a planned farm constructed in the 19th century which has antecedents dating back to the 14th century. Despite being located in an area of archaeological interest, no significant archaeological remains were uncovered.		
Author of summary: Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: 18.1.2018	

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-300948**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire, SG12 7QQ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire in advance of the part demolition of the existing barn and the erection of a new grain store for agricultural holding. The site is located near to a 15th-century manor house, and to a planned farm constructed in the 19th century which has antecedents dating back to the 14th century. Despite being located in an area of archaeological interest, no significant archaeological remains were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 16-01-2018 End: 16-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/11h - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE WARESIDE Watersplace Farmhouse
Postcode	SG12 7QQ
Study area	0.09 Hectares
Site coordinates	

TL 38340 14298 51.809709134159 0.006926730956 51 48 34 N 000 00 24 E  
Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 33.79m Max: 33.82m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	none
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Ware Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Ware Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Watersplace Farmhouse, Watersplace, Wareside, Hertfordshire, SG12 7QQ
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1218
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ringbound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/</a>
Entered by	Elliott Hicks (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	30 January 2018

# OASIS:

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