

**Historic building recording
of a gateway at
Gatehouse Farm,
Thorrington,
Essex, CO7 8JL**

October 2020



**report prepared by
Mark Baister**

**commissioned by
Tim Snow Architects
on behalf of
Mrs Scott**

CAT project ref.: 2020/10f
NGR: TM 08207 19182 (c)
Planning reference: 20/00303/LBC
ECC code: TNGF20
OASIS project id: colchest3-407226



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

tel.: 01206 501785
email: mb@catuk.org

CAT Report 1613
November 2020

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Aims	2
4	Methodology	2
5	Historical background	3
6	Building recording descriptive record	4
7	Discussion	7
8	Acknowledgements	7
9	References	7
10	Abbreviations and glossary	8
11	Archive deposition	8
12	Contents of archive	8

Appendix 1: Full digital photographic record (images on accompanying CD)	9
---	---

Figures after p10

OASIS Data Collection Form

List of maps

Map 1 1777 Chapman and André map, showing detail of site. Approximate location of gateway marked.	pg 3
---	---------

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location.
- Fig 2 Detail of site, showing gateway and garden wall.
- Fig 3 Elevations of gateway, with phasing.

List of photographs reproduced in text

Photograph 1	South-east elevation of the gateway, showing buttresses. Photograph taken facing north-west.	pg 4
Photograph 2	North-west elevation of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-east.	4
Photograph 3	South-west elevation of gateway. Damage to brickwork visible. Photograph taken facing north-east.	5
Photograph 4	North-east elevation of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-west.	5
Photograph 5	Garden of farmhouse, showing gateway in context. Photograph taken facing north.	5
Photograph 6	Detail of section of wall immediately to south of gateway, showing 16th-century brickwork in front of later, thicker, brickwork. Also visible is significant damage in top right of frame. Photograph taken facing north-west.	6
Photograph 7	Detail of north-eastern elevation of gateway, showing join with garden wall and varied brickwork. Photograph taken facing west.	6
Photograph 8	View from road, showing gateway with farmhouse behind. Photograph taken facing east.	6

1 Summary

A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust on a gateway at Gatehouse Farm, Thorrington, Essex in October 2020.

The gateway is constructed of red bricks, laid in an irregular English-bond, and dates from the early 16th century. Despite several phases of repair, including the addition of two buttresses on its south-eastern elevation, the fabric of the gateway has significantly deteriorated and now requires considerable restoration.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report of a historic building recording carried out on a gateway at Gatehouse Farm, Thorrington in advance of its restoration and repair. The recording work was commissioned by Tim Snow Architects on behalf of Mrs Scott and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in October 2020. The site is located on the east side of Brightlingsea Road, approximately 1.2km to the south of the village of Thorrington, at NGR TM 08207 19182 (Fig 1).

A planning application (planning ref. 20/00303/LBC) was submitted to Tendring District Council in February 2020 detailing the proposed restoration and repair of the gateway.

In response to this application, the Historic Environment Team at Place Services recommended to the council that a Historic England Level 1 building recording be made of the gateway prior to its restoration (ECC 2020). This recommendation was given based on the gateway's Grade II listing, as highlighted by the EHER. The recommendation was based on the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2019).

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2014b), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (Historic England 2015), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24). In addition, the guidelines contained in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016) were followed.

3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the outbuilding prior to any restoration works being undertaken. The building recording was carried out to Level 1 (Historic England 2016) which is defined as:

“Level 1 is essentially a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building’s location, age and type. This is the simplest record, and it will not normally be an end in itself, but will be contributory to a wider study. Typically it will be undertaken when the objective is to gather basic information about a large number of buildings – for statistical sampling, for area assessments to identify buildings for planning purposes, and whenever resources are limited and much ground has to be covered in a short time. It may also serve to identify buildings requiring more detailed attention at a later date.”

In particular the record considered the:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure.
- Original function and layout.
- Original and later fixtures and fittings.
- Significance of the site in its immediate local context.

4 Methodology

The following are included in this report:

- A documentary, cartographic and pictorial survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the site.
- A large-scale block plan of the site.
- Annotated and phased elevations of the gateway at a scale of 1:50.
- A description of the gateway. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction and phasing.
- A photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and individual features. 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 (Fig 1)

The following historical background draws on cartographic sources, the Essex Records Office (ERO) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

The structure detailed in this report is a gateway leading into Gatehouse Farm, on the east side of Brightlingsea Road in Thorrington (Fig 1).

The gateway is a Grade II listed structure (NHLE no. 1235264), and its listing entry is reproduced below:

“Gateway. Early C16. Red brick, stone jambs. The 4 centred archway of 2 chamfered orders, moulded crow stepped coping. A moulded brick band follows under the coping. RCHM 2.”

The remainder of the buildings on Gatehouse Farm are 19th century or later in date (the farmhouse bears the date 1883, and most of the other farm buildings appear to be of a similar age), so this gateway is all that remains of earlier occupation on the site.

The gateway is too small to appear on any cartographic sources, but the earliest map showing the farm (the 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex; Map 1) names the site as “Points”. All subsequent records and maps refer to the site as Gatehouse Farm.



Map 1 1777 Chapman and André map, showing detail of site. Approximate location of gateway marked.

6 Building recording descriptive record (Figs 2-3)



Photograph 1 South-east elevation of the gateway, showing buttresses. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Photograph 2 North-west elevation of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-east.

The gateway is located at the very western edge of the site, and forms part of the garden wall that encircles the late 19th-century farmhouse (Fig 2, Photograph 5). It is located directly adjacent to Brightlingsea Road, without any intervening pavement, and it is this extreme proximity to a busy road that has contributed to much of the gateway's current structural issues.

The gateway measures approximately 3.4m high and 2.4m wide, with a thickness of 0.6m (excluding later buttresses). It is constructed of red brick laid in an irregular English-bond, with measurements of 220-225mm x 100-105mm x 45-50mm. The brickwork on the south-east elevation of the gateway has a mortar facing, but whether this indicates some attempt at rendering, repair, or that the gateway originally extended further to the south-east, is uncertain (Photograph 1). At the top of the gateway are two moulded brick bands, and the arch of the gateway itself is formed of worked stone blocks (Photographs 1-2). In many places these blocks are heavily worn, and the mortar holding them in place has decayed significantly.

In addition, much of the brickwork of the gateway (and the surrounding wall) projects significantly from its mortar bonding and is very clearly in need of substantial repointing (Photograph 2). In some areas it is clear that bricks have begun to fall from the structure (Photograph 3).

The gateway itself is not currently in use, and a fixed fence with stonework beneath are both modern additions to the structure.

The gateway leans noticeably to the south-east, and to counteract this two brick buttresses have been added to it on this elevation. These buttresses are constructed of red brick, but the bricks are considerably thicker and more regular in size than those making up the gateway proper, measuring 225mm x 100mm

x 60mm (Photographs 3-4). These are clearly more recent and are probably a 19th- or 20th-century addition.



Photograph 3 South-west elevation of gateway. Damage to brickwork visible. Photograph taken facing north-east.



Photograph 4 North-east elevation of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-west.



Photograph 5 Garden of farmhouse, showing gateway in context. Photograph taken facing north.

Although most of the gateway is bound in lime mortar, there are some sections of clearly more modern repairs which utilise cement mortar (Photographs 1-4).

Although the garden wall is not part of the listing entry, sections of it appear to be constructed of the same brickwork as the gateway (Photographs 5-6). Most notably, the wall to the north of the gate seems to be keyed into the gateway's brickwork, and so could conceivably be of a similar date (Photograph 2). It should be noted, however, that the gateway has clearly undergone significant restoration work in the past (as

evidenced by the buttresses and cement mortar detailed above), making such conclusions difficult to prove categorically.



Photograph 6 Detail of section of wall immediately to south of gateway, showing 16th-century brickwork in front of later, thicker, brickwork. Also visible is significant damage in top right of frame. Photograph taken facing north-west.



Photograph 7 Detail of north-eastern elevation of gateway, showing join with garden wall and varied brickwork. Photograph taken facing west.



Photograph 8 View from road, showing gateway with farmhouse behind. Photograph taken facing east.

7 Discussion

The brickwork of the gateway is narrow and irregular, both of which are hallmarks of early brick-making. Bricks of 47mm-57mm thickness are common from the 15th century until the mid-17th century (Brunskill 1990, 37), and the slightly narrower range of the ones in the gateway (45mm-50mm) would seem to confirm the early 16-century date postulated by the listing entry.

That parts of the brickwork of the adjoining garden wall are made of similar-sized bricks, and are keyed into the gateway, could indicate that the wall is of a similar age. The presence of these bricks, however, could just as easily be put down to re-use, either from an earlier wall or from a since demolished 16th-century brick building on the site. That they are keyed into the gateway on the north-west elevation (Fig 3) could simply be the result of a phase of repair and partial rebuilding.

One small note is that the name of the farm presumably was inspired by the gateway standing on its western side. Discussion with the current owners suggested that the site may have been the location of a monastery, but no evidence of this could be found in either documentary or cartographic sources.

The extent and type of 16th-century occupation on the site, from which only the gateway survives, is unclear. Certainly the gateway is relatively ornate, so the site must have been comparatively high-status. As it stands, then, the gateway is a bit of an historical anomaly. Without further investigation, which is unfortunately outside the remit of this report, its origin will remain uncertain.

8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Tim Snow Architects for commissioning and Mrs Scott funding the historic building recording.

The recording was carried out by Mark Baister.

Figures are by Mark Baister, adapted from architects plans by Tim Snow Architects.

The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor for Essex County Council.

The text was reviewed by Philip Crummy, director of CAT.

9 References

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

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

Brunskill, R.W.	1990	<i>Brick Building In Britain (1st ed)</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIfA	2014b (updated 2019)	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
DCLG	2019	<i>National planning policy framework</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 14 by Gurney, D.
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers 24 by Medlycott, M
ECC	2020	<i>Built Heritage Advice Letter RE; Gatehouse Farm, Brightlingsea Road, Thorrington, Colchester, Essex, CO7 8JL</i> by H Martin
Historic England	2015	<i>MoRPHE: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
ERO	Essex Records Office
English-bond	a brickwork bond created from alternate courses of headers and stretchers
HE	Historic Environment
header	a brick laid at right-angles to the face of the wall, i.e. widthways
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
stretcher	a brick laid parallel to the face of the wall, i.e. lengthways

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. The digital archive will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under EHER code TNGF20.

12 Contents of archive

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1613)
Original site record (plans and notes)
Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The HEA brief and CAT WSI
The report (CAT Report 1613)
Digital plans
Site digital photos and log

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2020

Distribution list

Tim Snow, Tim Snow Architects
Teresa O'Connor, ECCHEA
EHHER



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: mb@catuk.org

checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 04/11/2020

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

TNGF20_PhotoGraph_001.JPG South-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_002.JPG South-east side of gateway, showing detail of moulded bricks at apex.
Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_003.JPG South-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_004.JPG South-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_005.JPG South-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_006.JPG Detail of buttress joining with south-east side of gateway. Photograph
taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_007.JPG Detail of buttress joining with south-east side of gateway. Photograph
taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_008.JPG Detail of stone blocks forming gate on south-east side of gateway.
Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_009.JPG Detail of buttress joining with south-east side of gateway. Photograph
taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_010.JPG Detail of buttress joining with south-east side of gateway. Photograph
taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_011.JPG South-west side of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_012.JPG South-west side of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_013.JPG Detail of damage on south-west side of gateway. Photograph taken
facing north-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_014.JPG South-west side of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_015.JPG North-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_016.JPG North-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_017.JPG North-west side of gateway with farmhouse behind. Photograph taken
facing east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_018.JPG North-west side of gateway with farmhouse behind. Photograph taken
facing south-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_019.JPG North-west side of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_020.JPG North-west side of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_021.JPG North-west side of gateway with farmhouse. Photograph taken facing
south.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_022.JPG North-west and north-east sides of gateway. Photograph taken facing
south.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_023.JPG North-west and north-east sides of gateway. Photograph taken facing
south.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_024.JPG North-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_025.JPG South-west sides of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_026.JPG South-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_027.JPG South-east side of gateway. Photograph taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_028.JPG South-west side of gateway showing projecting ?original wall.
Photograph taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_029.JPG North-east side of gateway showing join with garden wall. Photograph
taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_030.JPG North-east side of gateway showing join with garden wall. Photograph
taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_031.JPG Detail of brick moulding at apex of south-east side of gateway.
Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_032.JPG Wall to south-west of gateway showing projecting ?original section.
Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_033.JPG Wall to south-west of gateway showing projecting ?original section.
Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_034.JPG Wall to south-west of gateway showing projecting ?original section.
Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_035.JPG Wall to north-east of gateway. Photograph taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_036.JPG Wall to north-east of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_037.JPG Wall to north-east of gateway. Photograph taken facing north-west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_038.JPG Wall to north-east of gateway. Photograph taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_039.JPG North-east side of gateway showing modern brick additions.
Photograph taken facing west.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_040.JPG South-west side of gateway showing damage to fabric. Photograph
taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_041.JPG South-west side of gateway showing damage to fabric. Photograph
taken facing north.

TNGF20_PhotoGraph_042.JPG South-west side of gateway showing damage to fabric. Photograph taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_043.JPG Site shot showing gateway in context of garden. Photograph taken facing north.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_044.JPG North-west side of gateway. Photograph taken facing south-east.
TNGF20_PhotoGraph_045.JPG North-west side of gateway with farmhouse behind. Photograph taken facing east.

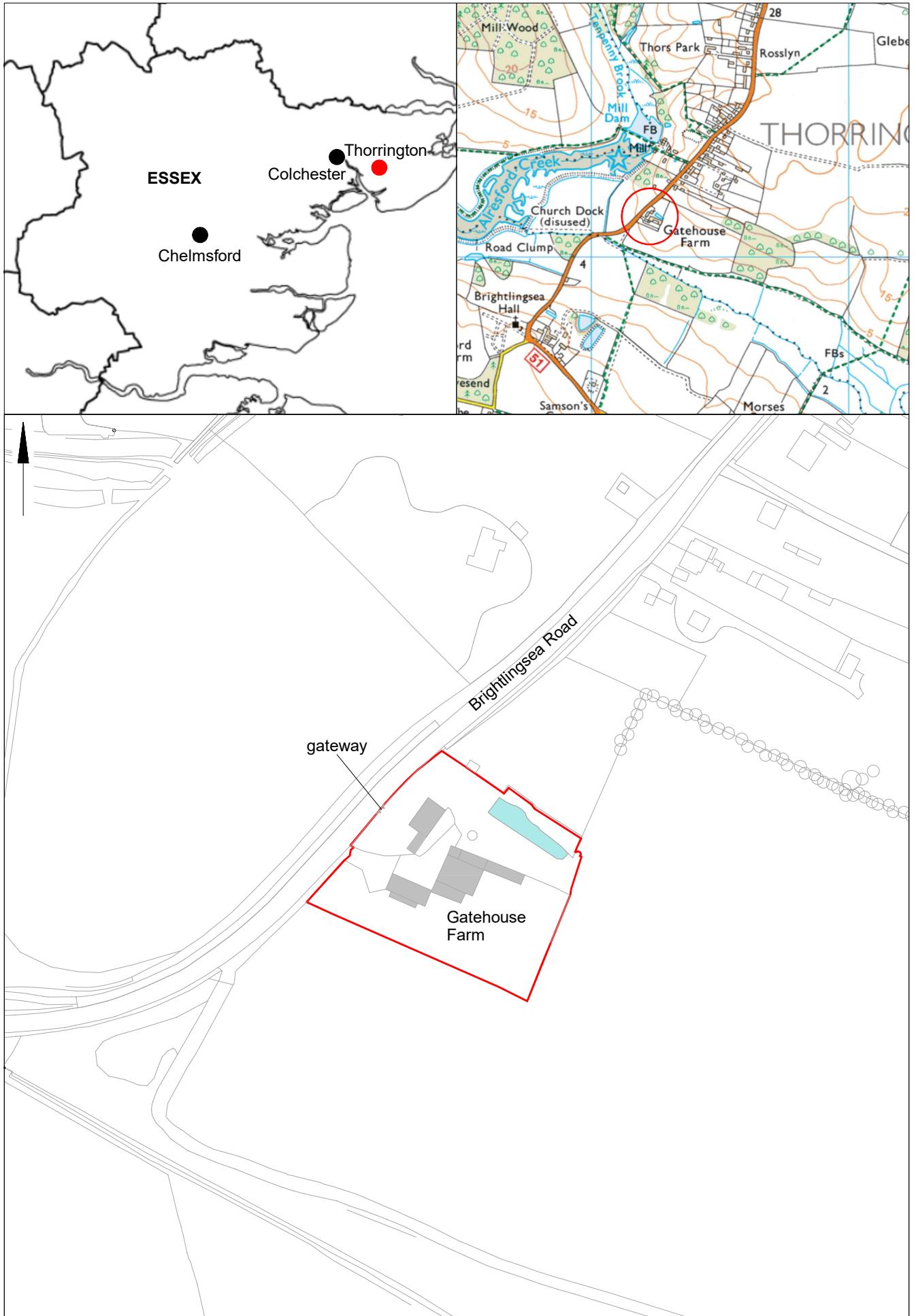
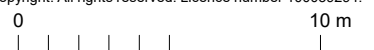


Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Detail of site, showing gateway and garden wall.

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.



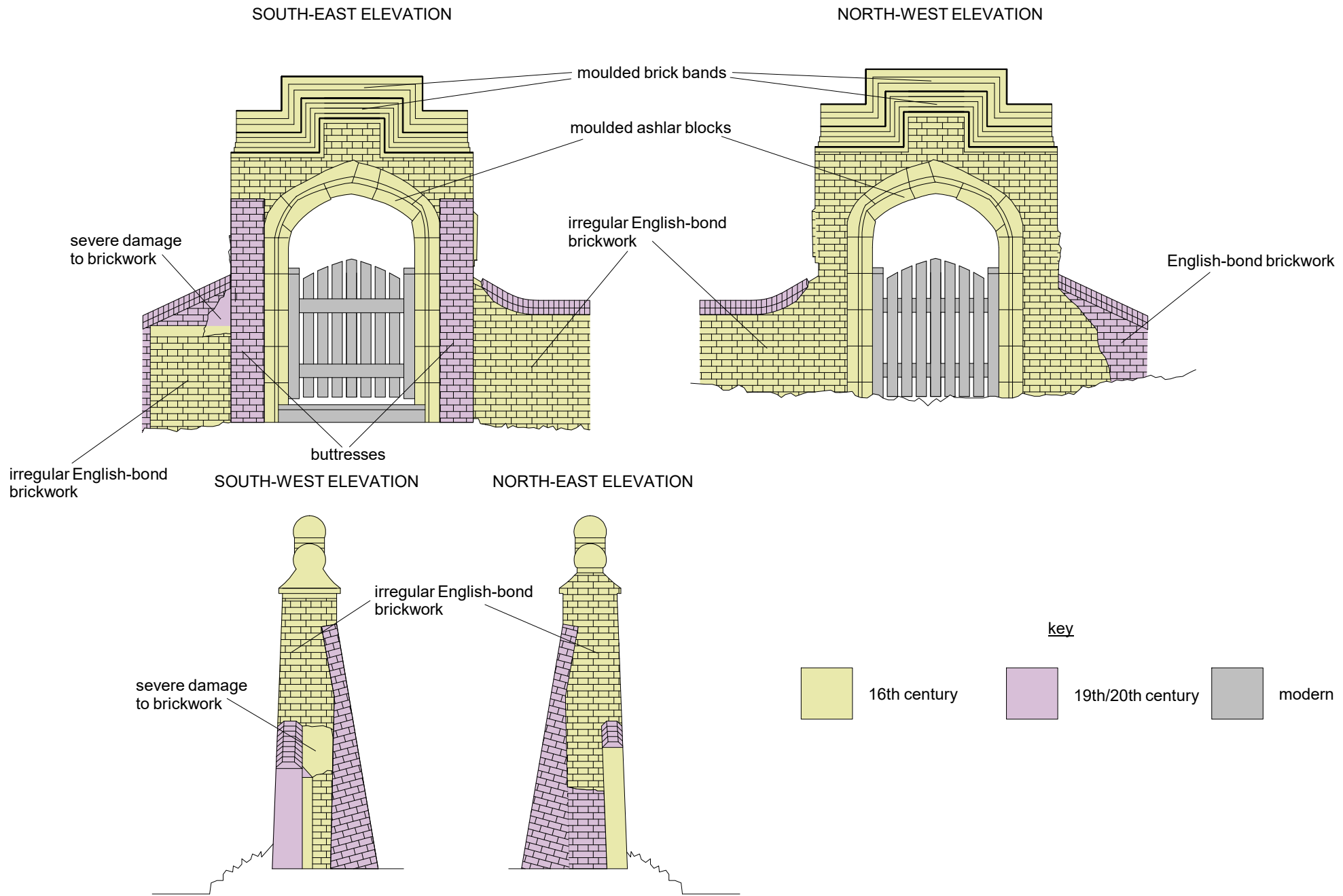


Fig 3 Elevations of gateway, with phasing.

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: colchest3-407226

Project details

Project name	Historic building recording of a gateway at Gatehouse Farm, Thorrington, Essex, CO7 8JL
Short description of the project	A programme of historic building recording was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust on a gateway at Gatehouse Farm, Thorrington, Essex in October 2020. The gateway is constructed of red bricks, laid in an irregular English-bond, and dates from the early 16th century. Despite several phases of repair, including the addition of two buttresses on its south-eastern elevation, the fabric of the gateway has significantly deteriorated and now requires considerable restoration.
Project dates	Start: 16-10-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/10f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TNGF20 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	20/00303/LBC - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	GATEWAY Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Annotated Sketch", "Measured Survey", "Photographic Survey"
Prompt	Listed Building Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING THORRINGTON Gatehouse Farm
Postcode	CO7 8JL
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 08207 19182 51.831835886822 1.022173528313 51 49 54 N 001 01 19 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	TNGF20
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	TNGF20
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Historic building recording of a gateway at Gatehouse Farm, Thorrington, Essex, CO7 8JL October 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baister, M
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1613
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 bound report with clear plastic front and black cardboard opaque back.
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/summaries/CAT-1613.html
Entered by	Mark Baister (mb@catuk.org)
Entered on	3 November 2020

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice
 © ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
 Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)