

Bushett Farm Great Bardfield Essex



Archaeological Evaluation Report



June 2016

Client: Bidwells

OA East Report No: 1910
OASIS No: oxfordar3-244812
NGR: TL 67288 28355

Bushett Farm, Great Bardfield, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation

By James Fairbairn

Contributions by

Helen Walker, Lexi Scard, BA, PCIFA and Rachel Fosberry (HNC (Cert Ed) AEA)

Editor: Rachel Clarke BA MCIfA

Illustrator: Severine Bezie BA MA

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Checked by: James Drummond-Murray
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Oxford Archaeology East,

15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridge,
CB23 8SQ

t: 01223 850500
f: 01223 850599
e: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oeast>

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Summary

Between the 14th and 18th of March 2016 Oxford Archaeology carried out an evaluation on the site of a former manor house at Bushett Farm, Great Bardfield in Essex. Foundations relating to 16th, 18th and 20th century phases of the building were recorded along with evidence of a medieval ditch, post hole and various occupation layers.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the former site of the manor house at Bushett Farm, Great Bardfield in Essex (TL 67288 28355, Fig 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Essex County Council (ECC) supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by ECC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology

- 1.2.1 The following text is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Drummond-Murray 2016).
- 1.2.2 The site lies on diamicton of the Lowestoft formation overlying sand.
- 1.2.3 Remains of the former manor house at Bushett Farm is situated within a complex of farm building (Fig 1) that date from the 18th to the 20th century. The oldest of these buildings is an 18th century Dutch or Essex barn which is located to the west of the former manor house. This building is subject to a separate historic building survey.
- 1.2.4 Immediately west of the former manor house is an historic track way that would have run past the garden of the manor house beyond which is agricultural farm land. Pasture fields also lay to the south. Until recently the site of the manor house lay underneath the floor of a modern barn.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is taken from the RCHM volume for North West Essex (1916) when the farmhouse was still extant:
- 1.3.2 *Bushett Farm*, house, about 1¾ m. S. of the church, was built late in the 15th century on an L-shaped plan, with the wings extending towards the N.W. and S.W. In the middle of the N.W. wing was the Hall, in which an upper floor and a chimney-stack were inserted in the 16th century. Late in the 17th century a wing was added at the N.W. end of the S.W. side. At each end of the N.E. front is a projecting gable, supported by two shaped brackets. In the 17th-century wing is an old moulded window-frame. Inside the building, on the ground floor in the E. room, is a moulded ceiling-beam supported on chamfered wall-posts. In the roof of the original Hall is a king-post truss.
- 1.3.3 The following is a summary of the History of the site taken from the Heritage Statement by Beacon Planning (2012).
- 1.3.4 The farm was acquired by Guy's Hospital in the early 18th century and underwent substantial alteration, including the construction of the listed barn that still stands. The farm appears on the parish map of 1755, the Tithe map of 1835 (fig 3) and the O/S map

of 1843. Cartographic evidence also shows that the plan of the farmhouse and outlying buildings did not change much between 1887 (Fig 4) and 1954 (Fig 5). The only real addition was the large modern era barn added to the north-west (Fig 5).

- 1.3.5 The farm continued to appear on the O/S maps up until 1954 and alterations over this period can be noted. The farmhouse was demolished after 1955. (The former owners of the property suggested that the exact year of demolition was 1960).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Bidwells, who commissioned the work. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray and directed by the author, with the assistance of Jack Eason and Tam Webster. Teresa O'Connor of Essex County Council visited the site and monitored the work. Site survey was carried out by Dave Brown and Gareth Rees. I would also like to thank Rob Hayward who skilfully machine-excavated the trenches.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of four targeted trenches totalling 90sqm were excavated, although some had to be moved slightly from their intended position.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a rubber tracked, 3 ton, 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica 1200 GPS, with Smartnet.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from a variety of archaeological features, to assess the preservation and potential of any environmental remains.
- 2.2.7 As well as standard photographic practises photogrammetry was undertaken in Trenches 1, 2, 3 & 4 after excavation and cleaning. This method, along with advanced geomatics, played an integral role in the evaluation, enabling detailed recording of *in-situ* features and wall foundations.
- 2.2.8 The photographs were taking using a high quality Nikon D90 Digital SLR site survey was carried out using Leica 1200 DGPS systems using correctional data from Leica SMARTNET and an on-site base station.
- 2.2.9 The trenches were located over what had been interpreted as the location of the manor House. After excavation, each trench edge and the outline of physical remains were planned using DGPS and levels recorded. In post-excavation, the QGIS was used to make a digital 3D reconstruction of the trenches. Photographs of the foundations were processed using AgiSoft Photoscan Pro software. This has enabled the accurate reconstruction of many elements of the trenches.
- 2.2.10 Site conditions were generally good, with bright sunshine for much of the time, although there were cloudy days and occasional rain showers. The area of the manor house had been covered in a concrete base for a barn and this meant that the ground conditions were extremely dry and hard. The small machine struggled at times to cut through the upper layers of clay.

3 RESULTS

Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented below by trench. A total of four trenches (Fig. 2) were targeted on specific areas of the foundations of Bushett Farm.

- Trench **1** was located in an area thought to be the northern wing of the farm.
- Trench **2** was located in an area that would give a front and rear extent to the building.
- Trench **3** was located in an area likely to find exterior walls to the rear of the building and internal features.
- Trench **4** was located in an area to the south of the building that was considered to be an external yard.

3.1.2 Other features were noted on the surface but outside the trench areas. These are discussed after the trench descriptions.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

3.1.3 Trench 1 measured 10.2m and had a maximum width of 2.2m. It was located at the northern end of the evaluation area and was orientated south-west to north-east. A small section of a foundation wall (**101**) was recorded at the north-west end of the trench. Two courses of 18th century bricks were recorded on a north-west to south-east alignment. These were laid end to end with the bed of the brick uppermost. Although only a small remnant of the front foundation remained it aligned with the southern return of the front wall of the building (Plate 2).

3.1.4 Another small section of wall **104** (Plate 4) was seen at the western end of Trench 1. This was of a similar construction and date. It had at sometime been covered by cobbles and gravel forming a yard surface for the cattle pens situated to the rear of the building. When compared to historic plans the position of this section of wall corresponds with the rear wall of the building. This area was subsequently extended slightly towards the north-west, where a continuation and turn of the wall (**145**) was noted.

3.1.5 Two further walls (**102 & 103**) relating to a 19th or 20th century phase of internal alteration were recorded in Trench 1. These were at right angles to each other and, according to a former owner, formed a scullery that was constructed for farm workers who occupied the northern end of the building. The walls were constructed of brick laid within a concrete foundation. A similarly constructed wall was seen in the northern end of Trench 2 (Plate 5).

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

3.1.6 Trench 2 measured 13.8m by 1.2m and was orientated north-east to south-west. It was situated in an attempt to locate the southern and northern wings of the building.

3.1.7 A flint wall (**113**) was noted at the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 8). This probably related to an early phase of the building and to one of the wings. Adjacent to this was the base of a chimney stack (Plate 7) that had been added at sometime during the 18th or 19th century. This feature truncated an earlier wall (**107**) that may have been constructed as a garden or perimeter wall (Plate 9).

- 3.1.8 Two surfaces were also recorded at the southern end of Trench 2. A hard packed clay (123) was overlain by a thicker clay (122), the latter is thought to be the surface used for bedding a brick internal floor.
- 3.1.9 Evidence of an external yard or garden area was also revealed centrally in Trench 2 where an area of silty brown clay differed from the areas of compacted grey clay that had been deposited and compacted within internal areas of the building (Plate 8).
- 3.1.10 A small circular feature (**112**) containing ceramic building material that had been subjected to heat was recorded toward the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 6). This feature may be the remnant of a hearth.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.11 Trench 3 measured 12.5m by 1.2m and extended in a north-easterly direction from Trench 2. It was excavated in order to try and locate both the front and back walls. Although neither were found, evidence of a levelling layer (133) external to the building and laid down in the 18th or 19th century was recorded at the north-east end of the trench. This layer contained pottery dating from between the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 3.1.12 An area of flint (**117**) located in a possible cut was also located within Trench 3. These were located within a shallow depression or cut. Medieval pottery and oyster shell were also evident in the area of the feature.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.13 Trench 4 was located to the south of the building in an area that would have been external. The trench measured 7.4m by 1.2m and was orientated south-west to north-east. A large ditch or pit (**144**) was recorded at the south-west end of the trench (Plate 11). This was partially excavated and contained animal bone and pottery dating to the late 13th to the mid 16th century. This feature was sealed by a chalky layer of silty clay material (139).

Other Features located outside the trench area (Fig. 3)

- 3.1.14 A number of features were visible on or just below the surface. A post hole **115** was noted adjacent to an early phase of flint wall (Plate 10) at the southern end of the building. No datable material was found within its fill but it is assumed to be related to an earlier timber phase of the building. The probable corner of the house (**110**) was seen close to the rubble heap, this turned north and aligned with the brick feature (**101**) seen on Fig 2.
- 3.1.15 A well survives that can be seen on historic maps of the site. This would have been sited in a garden or yard located between the two wings that extended from the rear of the building. The well retains water, is circular and constructed from red brick. The well head is of modern concrete with a cast concrete cover. A depth of 6.8m was recorded.

Modern Features

- 3.1.16 Modern features seen within the evaluation area all relate to the barns that were erected on the site. These consisted of foundations made from cast concrete blocks that were aligned south-east to north-west and truncated the probable front foundation of the manor house (Fig. 2).

3.2 Finds Summary

Pottery

- 3.2.1 The pottery spans the 13th to 19th/20th centuries, but the bulk of the pottery spans the 14th to 15th centuries with the addition of the late 18th century group from layer 133. All the pottery appears to be local, extremely local in the case of the Hedingham products, and there are no overseas or traded wares amongst the medieval and late medieval assemblage. However, by the 18th century the local pottery industries were very much in decline and only the post-medieval red earthenware and black-glazed ware sherds in layer 133 are of local origin, the remaining material being manufactured in the Midlands and the north. With such a small assemblage it is difficult to comment on function, save to say the assemblage is domestic. The hemispherical bowls/tea bowls/saucers found in layer 133 are associated with tea drinking a very popular pastime in the later 18th century, and although no longer the preserve of the rich, these vessels indicate a household of middling status as does the good quality colour-glaze creamware vessel or figurine

Ceramic building material

- 3.2.2 Ceramic building material recovered from the evaluation consists mainly of demolition material, most of which is closely datable. A brick taken from the foundation at the front of the building is thought to be of 16th century date, a sample brick removed from a rear wall foundation is of 18th century date. Documentary sources indicate that Guy's Hospital carried out alterations to the property in the mid 18th century and it is possible that the brick at the rear of the building dates from that period.
- 3.2.3 Other building material recovered consists mainly of fragments of roof tile: one fragment is a peg tile of probable post-medieval date.

Environmental Summary

- 3.2.4 A total of three samples were taken from this initial phase of work and have shown that there is some potential for the recovery of preserved plant remains, in particular those of staple foods such as cereals and legumes.
- 3.2.5 Shellfish consumption was a staple part of the diet during the medieval period, and the 0.8kg assemblage from Bushett Farm is indicative of this. A moderately large assemblage of shell was found dumped in feature 117.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation work at Bushett Farm show at least four phases of construction and alteration existing on or just below the surface. The post hole, (**115**) and flint foundations of walls **106**, **109** and **113** probably relate to a medieval phase of construction with later brick additions **107**, **110** and **145** being added in the post-medieval periods. During the 18th or 19th century a brick chimney stack (**108**) was added to the southern end of the building. The 20th century alterations consisted of internal divisions, notably at the northern end of the farm when the building was subdivided into two homes. At this time scullery walls **102** and **103** were added.
- 4.1.2 Documentary evidence suggests that the earliest building occupying the site was likely to have been a 14th century "Hall House" or aisled building. Although no definite evidence was seen for this phase, for instance beam slot or post construction, this may

well still exist beneath the later occupation layers.

Hall Houses

- 4.1.3 In simple terms a “hall” is a large room (sometimes aisled) enclosed by walls and roof.
- 4.1.4 In Saxon England these simple one room buildings which usually had a single hearth located centrally that provided a place to cook and somewhere to keep warm. These were often the residence of the local lord. Over time these simple structures developed into a building with more than one room giving some privacy to the more important residents or guests.
- 4.1.5 By about 1400 and with the change of settlement patterns in lowland Britain people were dismissing the idea of building temporary shelters and instead were constructing permanent homes. These were often built of timber or stone with wattle and daub or clay in-fills, depending on what type of materials were readily accessible. These buildings were sturdy enough to stand the test of time and many survived for over five hundred years.
- 4.1.6 Almost all of the hall houses built, if surviving at all, have been radically altered and only survive within the fabric of the later alterations. The central hearth was one of the first things to be abandoned and an open fireplace and chimney were added often in the early modern period. With this addition an open roof space was no longer needed and this led to the construction of upper floors.
- 4.1.7 The infilling between the timbers of the hall would have been replaced several times. The timbers themselves are structurally the strongest part of the building and would tend to survive. At some point the outer walls would have been replaced with solid brick or stone and in the case at Bushett Farm this seems to have been done at sometime in the 17th century.
- 4.1.8 A building such as Bushett Farm would have been extended or altered to follow fashion and or needs and as late as the 20th century underwent another radical alteration when the building was altered to supply accommodation to two families of farm workers.
- 4.1.9 These new inhabitants stayed at the farm until the addition of new of social housing in the village. The property was then vacated and left uninhabited and a decision was made in the late 1950's to demolish the building.
- 4.1.10 The seemingly careful demolition of the building suggests that the materials that were recovered were recycled and can probably be seen within the fabric of other buildings in the locality.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench Area 1						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the evaluation area and was orientated south-west to north-east. It contained walls relating to early phases of the manor house and 19 th or 20 th century alterations.					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	10.2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
101	Wall	0.24	0.13	Possible front wall of the manor house		
102	Wall	0.44		Concrete and brick internal partition		20 th century
103	Wall			Concrete and brick internal partition		20 th Century
104	Wall	0.66	0.08	Possible rear wall of the manor house		
108	Foundation	0.33	0.2		Brick	18 th C
109	Wall	0.30	0.3	Flint wall		
110	Wall	1.20		Brick corner of building	Brick	16 th C
145	Wall			Construction		
Trench Area 2						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench 2 was orientated north-east to south-west and sited centrally on the supposed plan of the manor house. The trench contained walls a possible hearth and internal and external surfaces					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	1.2
					Length (m)	13.8
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
105	Wall			Construction	-	-
106	Wall			Construction	-	-
107	Wall			Construction	-	-
111	Fill	0.54	0.05	Heated material, possibly a hearth	CBM	
112	Cut	0.54	0.05	Possible Hearth		
113	Wall	0.20	0.2	Flint wall		
114	Fill	0.40	0.2	Post hole	Pottery	mid 12 th to mid 14 th C
115	Cut	0.40	0.2	Post Hole		
116	Fill	0.50	0.2	Layer within sondage	CBM, pottery	15 th to 16 th C

122	Layer	0.80	0.3	Layer of compacted clay		
123	Layer	0.80	0.1	Ashen layer	Fired clay, pottery	15 th to mid 15 th C

Trench Area 3							
General description				Orientation		NE-SW	
Trench 3 extended in a north-easterly direction from Trench 2. It was situated to locate both front and rear walls of the manor house. It contained a medieval dumped material and 19 th century levelling layers.				Avg. depth (m)			
				Width (m)		1.2	
				Length (m)		12.5	
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
117	Cut			Shallow cut containing dumped material	-	-	
118	Fill			Dump of medieval material	Pottery	Late 14 th to mid 16 th C	
119	Fill			Dump of medieval material	CBM	Post Medieval-	
120	Fill	0.86	0.07	Dump of material containing oyster shell	CBM, pottery	Late 14 th to mid 16 th C	
121	Layer		0.08	Layer of redeposited natural			
124	Wall	0.30	0.1	Modern concrete block wall			
125	Foundation	0.65		Foundation for block wall			
126	Modern drain	0.30		Drainage channel			
127	Fill	0.68	0.2	Modern pit fill	CBM, pottery	19 th to 20 th C	
128	Pit	0.68	0.2	Modern pit			
129	Layer	1.60	0.2	Levelling layer			
130	Layer	3.80	0.32	Levelling layer			
131	Layer	3.10	0.2	Levelling layer			
132	Layer	1	0.12	Dumped layer			
133	Spread	2.60	0.1	Broken ceramic tile layer	CBM, pottery, glass and pipe stem	Late 18 th C	
134	Layer	2.20	0.2	Silt soil layer			
135	Dump	1.40	0.2	Modern dump			

136	Dump			Modern dump		
137	Layer			Chalk layer		
138	Layer			Make up layer		
139	Layer			Chalk spread		
140	Layer			Rubble/soil spread		

Trench Area 4						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench 4 was located to the south of the building in an area that would have been external. The trench was orientated south-west to north-east and contained a pit or ditch and a yard surface.					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	1.2m
					Length (m)	7.4m
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
141	Layer			Subsoil		
142	Wall			Construction		
142	Fill			Pit or ditch fill		
143	Fill			Pit or ditch fill	Pottery	15 th to 16 th C
144	Cut			Cut of pit or ditch		
145	Wall			Construction		

APPENDIX B. CERAMICS

By Helen walker

- B.1.1 A small assemblage totalling 98 sherds weighing 754g was excavated, with an average sherd size of 8g. The pottery spans the 13th to 19/20th centuries, although most belongs to the 14th to 15th centuries, with the addition of a small late 18th century group. All the pottery appears domestic in nature. Products of the nearby Hedingham kilns are very much in evidence.
- B.1.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group's (MPRG) *Guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG 2001) act as a standard. The pottery recording follows Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16; expanded by Cotter 2000 and Drury et al. 1993). Some of Cunningham's vessel form and rim form codes are quoted in this report. All percentages are by weight.
- B.1.3 The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Sampling Bias

- B.1.4 The open area excavation was carried out by hand and selection made through standard sampling strategies on a feature by feature basis. There are not expected to be any inherent biases. Where bulk samples have been processed for environmental remains, there has also been some recovery of pottery.

The Assemblage

Table 1 shows the total sherd count and weight of all fabrics, shown in approximate chronological order.

Fabric Name	No. Sherds	Weight (g)	% by weight
Medieval coarseware	4	33	4
Hedingham coarseware	24	126	17
Hedingham sandy orange ware	5	94	12.5
Sandy orange ware	44	345	46
Tudor red earthenware	5	53	7
Post-medieval red earthenware	6	55	7.5
Black-glazed ware	2	8	1
Staffordshire-type slipware	1	24	3

Fabric Name	No. Sherds	Weight (g)	% by weight
Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware	4	8	1
Creamware	1	4	0.5
Pearlware	1	2	0.25
Flowerpot	1	2	0.25
Total	98	754	100

Pottery fabrics present in the assemblage

Pottery by Ceramic Period

- B.1.5 The medieval assemblage, spanning the late 12th to 14th centuries accounts for 33.5% of the total. The pottery consists mainly of Hedingham coarseware with a smaller amount of medieval coarseware (see Table 1). Also belonging to the medieval period is a single vessel fragment in Hedingham sandy orange ware (no Hedingham fineware is present in the assemblage). Hedingham coarseware ware is typically grey-firing often with oxidised margins. It has a fine micaceous matrix tempered with grey, straw-coloured and whitish sands, the latter often protruding through the surface, sometimes with the addition of sparse rust-coloured iron oxide inclusions. Of the sherds classified as medieval coarseware, most could be Hedingham products but are not typical enough to be confidently identified as such. Hedingham sandy orange ware has an oxidised micaceous fabric similar to the fineware but with the addition of a sand tempering and has only recently been recognised at Hedingham ware production sites, and has been dated on stylistic grounds to the mid/ late 13th to 14th centuries (Walker 2012, 23-5,33). The preponderance of Hedingham products is not unexpected as Great Bardfield is very close to the Hedingham ware production centres which are centred in and around the settlements of Sible Hedingham and Halstead. The nearest production site to Great Bardfield is at Shalford Road (Walker 2012, 21-3), actually in the parish of Great Bardfield and about 3.5km to the north-east of Bushett Farm, although most of the production sites lie somewhat further east.
- B.1.6 The late medieval/transitional period spanning the late 14th to mid-16th centuries accounts for 53% of the total assemblage. The most frequent find is sandy orange ware, a general category of sand-tempered oxidised wares manufactured at several sites in the county. This ware spans the 13th to 16th centuries, but all examples, apart from one or two undiagnostic sherds, are of late medieval type, usually with a sparse or absent glaze, unless the glaze is internal. Sometimes sherds have reduced surfaces and most sherds are undecorated apart from a couple of sherds showing simple slip-painted decoration as is typical of this period. Also belonging to this period, but far less common are sherds of Tudor red earthenware, which has a fine, smooth fabric and as the name suggests, Tudor red earthenware spans the later 15th to 16th centuries.
- B.1.7 The post-medieval and later assemblage comprises 13.5% of the total. Glazed post-medieval red earthenware and black-glazed ware are present, both represented by single

vessels, and although these wares were current from the late 16th century, they appear in a group of pottery datable to the late 18th century. The remaining pottery comprises very small amounts of Staffordshire-type slipware most frequent during the earlier 18th century, Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware dating primarily from the 1720s to 1770s, creamware dating from the 1740s to 1820s, and pearlware dating from c.1779 to c.1830. In addition, there is a single sherd from a modern flowerpot.

Vessel forms

- B.1.8 To avoid duplication vessel forms are discussed under 'The assemblage in relation to archaeological features'.

The Assemblage In Relation to Archaeological Features

- B.1.9 Surface 123 in trench 2, flint area 117 (containing contexts 116, 118, 120) in trench 3, and pit 144 in trench 4, all contained a similar range of pottery comprising Hedingham coarseware (with the addition of medieval coarseware in pit 144), late medieval sandy orange ware and Tudor red earthenware. Looking first at the medieval pottery, there is one sherd of Hedingham coarseware from surface 123, which is decorated with incised bands and therefore likely to date to the 13th century as later coarsewares tend to be plain. Otherwise all the coarsewares are of late 13th to 14th century types and comprise single examples of cooking-pot fragments with a blocked, neckless rim (type H3) and a flanged rim (type E5), both datable to the late 13th to 14th centuries. There is also a jug rim fragment in Hedingham coarseware showing a squared beaded rim and rilled neck. Its surfaces are grey but the cores are orange and this appears to be a late version of the fabric when the medieval coarsewares merge with sandy orange ware, sometime in the 14th century. Found in deposit 118, is the lower handle attachment of a jug in Hedingham sandy orange ware showing a ribbed handle and a partial mottled-green glaze. This is the only example of this ware to be found on site. As ribbed handles occur on Hedingham fineware pear-shaped jugs of the later 13th to mid-14th century (cf. Cotter 2000, fig.51.24), this jug is likely to be of the same date.
- B.1.10 The late medieval sandy orange wares make up the largest component of these assemblages. However, the sherds are rather fragmented and only one vessel form was identified, a hollowed everted rim most likely from a jar showing a patch of glaze on the rim and a patch of glaze externally. An area of fire-blackening shows the vessel was most likely used for cooking. This vessel probably dates to the 15th century, although other examples of late medieval sandy orange ware span the late 14th to mid-16th centuries. Sherds of Tudor red earthenware were found in all three deposits/features and all sherds but one are from finely potted standing cups showing an all over honey coloured glaze and are of Cunningham's form E3, datable to the 15th century (cf. Cunningham 1985, fig.9.59). It is possible that all sherds are from the same vessel, although none joins. The remaining sherd of Tudor red earthenware (from pit 144) comprises a flat base with upright sides from a small crudely-made but glazed vessel showing a handle attachment scar just above the base. The standing cup and the jar rim provide a most likely date of 15th century for these contexts, with earlier pottery, most likely dating to the 14th century also present. The homogeneity of the assemblages from surface 123, flint area 117 and pit 144 suggests that they were all deposited during the same episode.
- B.1.11 Layer 133 in trench 3 produced a post-medieval assemblage (apart from a single sherd of residual medieval coarseware) with finds including a bowl fragment with a collared rim in

post-medieval red earthenware, part of a rounded jug in black-glazed ware and a sherd from a press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type slipware. The remaining pottery comprises fine table wares, including the rim of a hemispherical bowl or saucer in Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, and the rim of a second hemispherical bowl or tea-bowl in pearlware showing blue-painted decoration. The most unusual find is a hollow pedestal base in colour-glazed creamware showing green and cream colours over an incised pattern that consists of short, curved upright lines perhaps intended to depict grass or foliage. The base may be from a figurine. Most of the finewares would have been current during the late 18th century, although the presence of pearlware precludes a date before c.1779.

- B.1.12 The only pottery found outside the trench area was a single sherd of Hedingham coarseware extracted from sampling of post-hole 115. A sherd of probable 19th to 20th century flowerpot was recovered from modern pit 127.

Discussion

- B.1.13 The pottery spans the 13th to 19th/20th centuries, but the bulk of the pottery spans the 14th to 15th centuries with the addition of the late 18th century group from layer 133. All the pottery appears to be local, extremely local in the case of the Hedingham products, and there are no overseas or traded wares amongst the medieval and late medieval assemblage. However, by the 18th century the local pottery industries were very much in decline and only the post-medieval red earthenware and black-glazed ware sherds in layer 133 are of local origin, the remaining material being manufactured in the Midlands and the north. With such a small assemblage it is difficult to comment on function, save to say the assemblage is domestic. The hemispherical bowls/tea bowls/saucers found in layer 133 are associated with tea drinking a very popular pastime in the later 18th century, and although no longer the preserve of the rich, these vessels indicate a household of middling status as does the good quality colour-glaze creamware vessel or figurine. No further work is required on this assemblage and a publication report could be based on this assessment.

Context	Fabric	Form	Sherd Count	Sherd Weight	Context Date Range
114	Hedingham coarseware		1	1	mid-12th to mid-14th C
116	Sandy orange ware		1	12	15th to 16th C
	Sandy orange ware		2	12	
	Tudor red earthenware	cup: E3	1	10	
118	Hedingham coarseware		4	38	late 14th to mid-16th C + earlier
	Hedingham sandy orange ware	jug	5	94	
	Sandy orange ware		6	71	
120	Hedingham coarseware	cooking-pot: E5 rim	3	18	late 14th to mid-16th C + earlier
	Hedingham coarseware		7	30	
	Sandy orange ware		21	103	
123	Hedingham coarseware		1	3	15th to mid-16th C + earlier
	Sandy orange ware		1	16	
	Tudor red earthenware	cup: E3	2	4	
127	Flowerpot fabric		1	2	19th to 20th C
133	Medieval coarseware		1	14	Latest is late 18 th C
	Post-medieval red earthenware	bowl	6	55	
	Black-glazed ware	jug	2	8	
	Staffs-type slipware	dish: press-moulded	1	24	
	Staffs-type white salt-glazed stoneware	bowl: hemispherical	4	8	
	Creamware	base: hollow pedestal	1	4	

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from medieval/post-medieval features within the excavated areas at Bushett Farm, Great Bradfield, Essex in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The total volume (up to 16 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants.

Results

- C.1.3 Preservation is by carbonisation and charcoal and charred grain are present in small quantities in each sample. Two squashed oats (*Avena* sp.) and a wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain were identified in surface 123, a single wheat grain in post hole 115 and two small peas (*Pisum/Lathyrus* sp.) and an abraded grain in spread 118. Pottery sherds, animal bone and marine shell were recovered from the residues.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Cereals	Legumes
1	123		Surface	13	4	0
2	114	115	Post hole	13	1	2
3	118		Spread	16	1	0

Table 1: Environmental samples from GBBF16

Discussion

- C.1.4 The three samples taken during the evaluation of this site have shown that there is the potential for the recovery of preserved plant remains, in particular those of staple foods such as cereals and legumes. The findings are typical for the contexts sampled in that only sparse charred remains could be expected to survive.

APPENDIX D. SHELLFISH

By Alexandra Scard

D.1.1 A total of 0.807kg of marine shell was recovered from four medieval/post-medieval contexts during excavations at Bushett Farm, Gt Bardfield, Essex. This shell was quantified and examined in order to assess the diversity and quantity of the ecofacts, as well as their potential to provide useful data as part of archaeological investigation. The assemblage is the result of shell collected by hand on site, as well as recovered during the processing of environmental samples. Observations of the assemblage's size, condition and any man-made or taphonomic damage have been made.

Introduction and methods

D.1.2 A total of 0.807kg of marine shell was recovered from four medieval/post-medieval contexts during excavations at Bushett Farm, Gt Bardfield, Essex. This shell was quantified and examined in order to assess the diversity and quantity of the ecofacts, as well as their potential to provide useful data as part of archaeological investigation. The assemblage is the result of shell collected by hand on site, as well as recovered during the processing of environmental samples. Observations of the assemblage's size, condition and any man-made or taphonomic damage have been made.

Results

D.1.3 Tables of quantification for the two species recovered can be seen below. The majority of the assemblage is oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell averaging 5.1cm in size, recovered from an ashy layer, 123, beneath a deliberately compacted clay, 122. Preservation is generally fair, with just one valve reflecting damage from excavation. 'Shucking', the process of prising the oyster open, is evident throughout the assemblage with 'u-shaped' cut marks along the ventral margins of some specimens, as well as one valve, from deposit **120** having a profound hole, fitting with knife damage from shucking. Some of the assemblage also contains evidence of polychaete worm infestation (PWI).

Context	Cut number	Feature type	Weight (kg)	Left valve (kg and quantity)	Right valve (kg and quantity)	MNI	Average Size (cm)	Comments
118	117	Deposit/compacted material in depression	0.147	0.098/9	0.049/11	11	5.2	Shuck marks present as well as exterior damage to a left valve (during excavation).
120	117	Deposit/compacted material in depression	0.545	0.353/46	0.192/39	46	5.3	Hole in left valve: square interior plan, but more rough exterior view, 1.3cm x 1.3cm in size. Likely to have been caused by a knife during shucking. Potential shuck marks present throughout as well as boring (<i>Cliona celata</i> sponge) in a right valve.

123	-	Ash layer	0.054	0.029/4	0.025/2	4	5.2	Combined total shell including from sample <1>. A left and right valve (not matcing) attached on their exterior faces (weighed as left valve). Shuck marks present.
143	144	Pit/ditch	0.06	0.032/3	0.028/5	5	4.8	Shuck marks present.

Table 2. Quantified oyster shell

Context	Cut number	Feature type	Weight (kg)	Total um-bones	MNI	Average Size (cm)	Comments
123	-	Ash layer	0.001	1	1	3	Combined total shell including small fragments from sample <1>.

Table 3. Quantified mussel shell

Discussion

D.1.4 Shellfish consumption is renowned during the Medieval period, and the assemblage from Bushett Farm is indicative of this. The deposition of shell within certain features implies that the ecofacts were discarded in convenient depressions already present on site, as opposed to within purpose-built pits or middens. It is also possible that much of the shell is found in features as unintentional inclusions within backfills.

APPENDIX E. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-244812		
Project Name	Bushett Farm, Gt Bardfield		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	14-04-2016	Finish	18-04-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	GBBF16	Planning App. No.	13/00012/FUL
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Foundations	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Pit	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	None		Select period...

Project Location

County	Essex	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Braintree	Bushett Farm Oxen End Great Bardfield Braintree
Parish	GT Bardfield	
HER	Essex HER	
Study Area	90sqm	National Grid Reference
		TL 67288 28355

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Teresa O'Connor
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

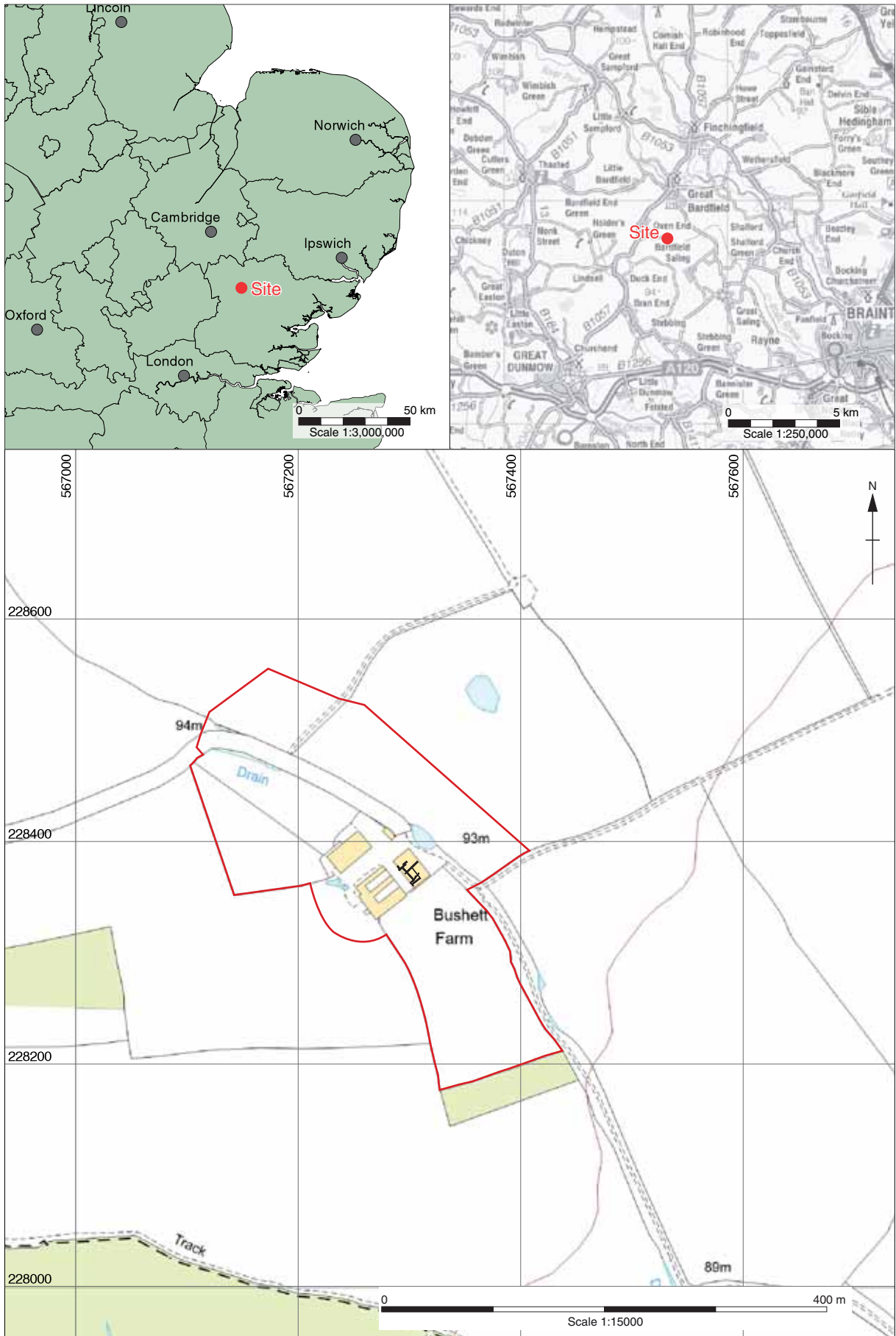
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Braintree Museum	OA East	Braintree Museum
GBBF16	XEXBUF16	GBBF16

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location and area of investigation



Figure 2: Plan of trenches and rectified photograph



LOT 11
 The Useful Arable Holding
 known as
Bushett and Fann's Farms
 Great Bardfield
 comprising
a good Farmhouse, Two Ranges of Farmbuildings, Two Cottages
 and approximately
330 acres 1 rood 2 poles
 consisting of about 286 Acres of Arable and 44 Acres of Pasture
FANN'S FARMHOUSE
 built in lath and plaster with slate roof, contains
ON THE GROUND FLOOR: Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Scullery, Coal Store and Elbow
 Closet.
ON THE FIRST FLOOR: Four Bed Rooms, Bath Room and W.C.
 Lawn, Orchard and Kitchen Garden.
The Farmbuildings
 at Fann's consist of a timber and slate Cart Shed. The remaining buildings here are in process
 of demolition.
 At Bushett's are a large Barn in lath and plaster and thatch, and brick and timber Buildings
 containing Stock and Feeding Stacks, Two Stack Yards, Mool Store, etc.
 Bushett's Farm is licensed under the Arable Fields Act.
Two Cottages
 The original Bushett's Farmhouse has been converted to form two useful Cottages. Let on
 Service Tenancies.
Tenancies
 Fann's Farmhouse with about 2.436 acres (Old Nos. 238 Pt. and 239) is let to Mr. J. A. Williams
 on agreement for 9 years from June 24th, 1898, with the option of a further 9 years, at a rental
 of £41 per annum, Tenant paying Rates and doing internal repairs.
 17

Figure 3: 1835 Tithe map and 1941 sales particulars (Essex County Record Office).

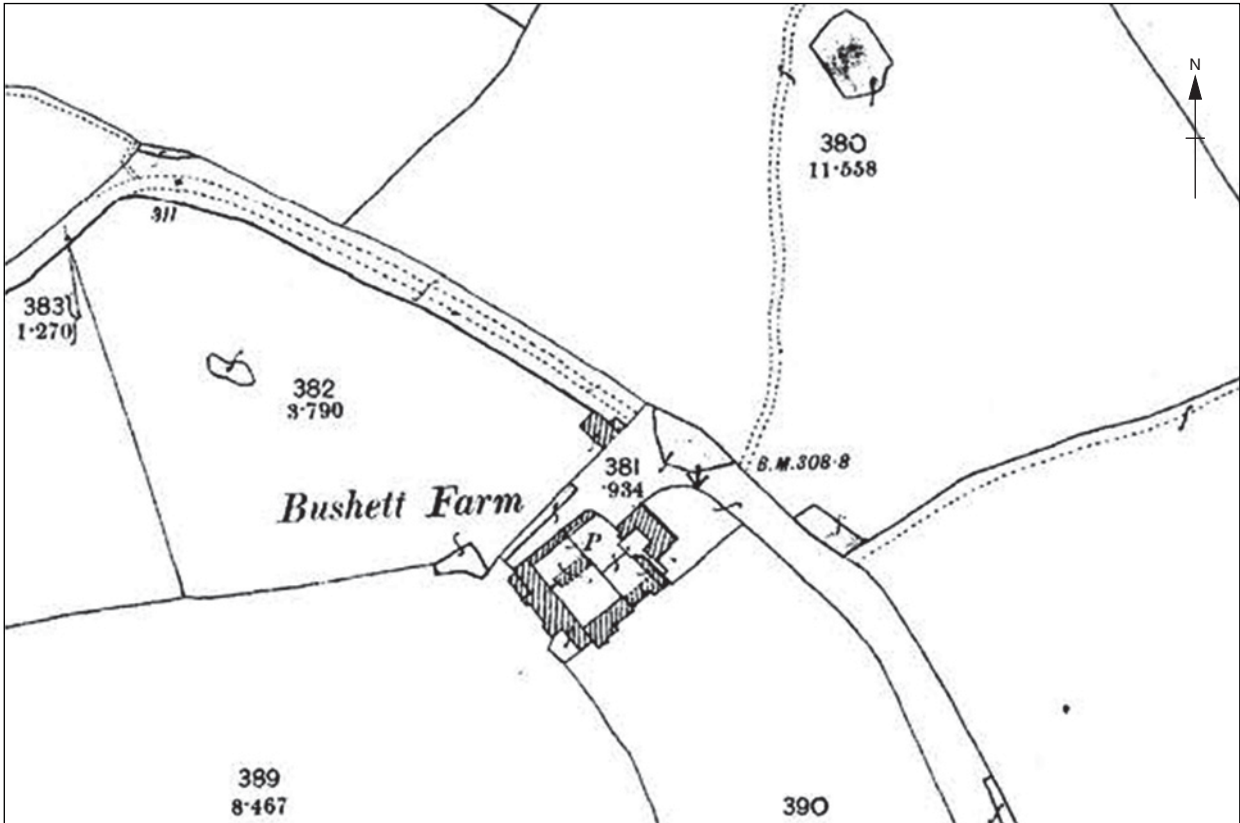


Figure 4: 1887 OS map.

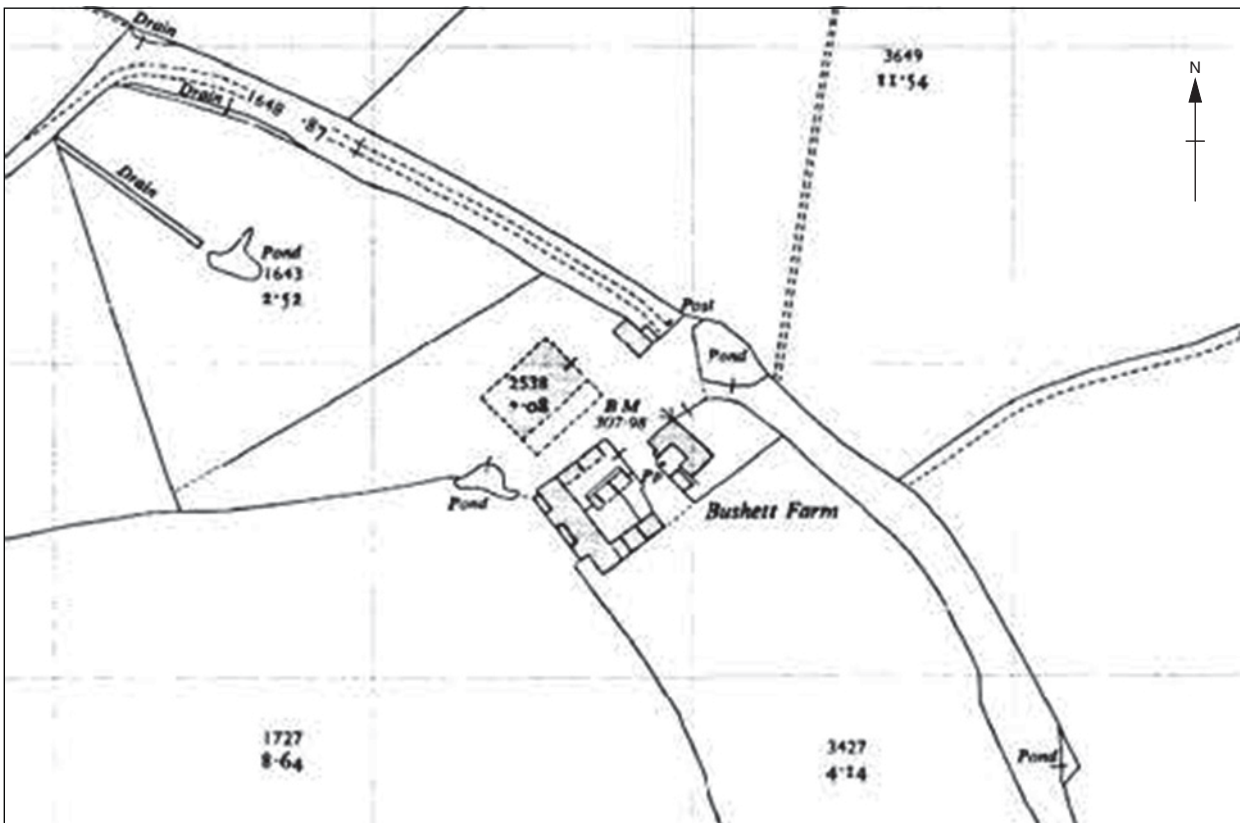


Figure 5: 1954 OS map.

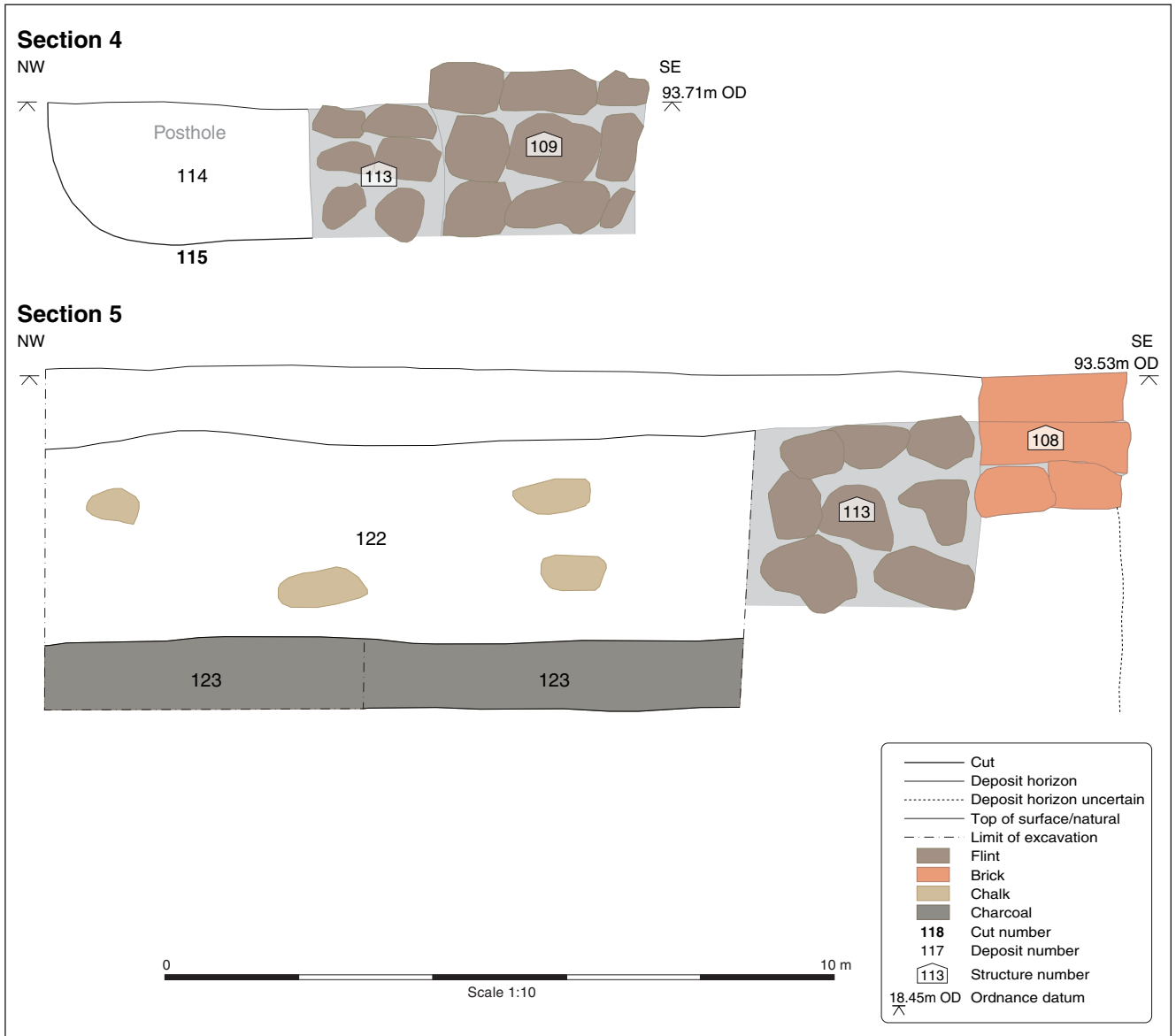


Figure 6: Selected sections



Plate 1: Evaluation area and farm buildings viewed from the north-east



Plate 2: Foundation 101 viewed from the north-east



Plate 3: Return of wall 110 viewed from the north-west



Plate 4: Continuation of the rear wall of the building viewed from the north-east



Plate 5: Internal walls **102** and **103** viewed from the west



Plate 6: Hearth **112** viewed from the west



Plate 7: Later chimney **108** base, viewed from the north-west



Plate 8: Flint wall **113** and surfaces **122** and **123** viewed from the west



Plate 9: The southern wall **108** of the building viewed from the west



Plate 10: Post hole **115** viewed from the north-west



Plate 11: Pit/ditch **144** viewed from the south-east



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



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