Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

oxfordarchaeology east east east

April 2014

Client: Royal Haskoning for Environment Agency

OA East Report No: 1451
OASIS No: oxfordar3-171164
NGR: centred on TL 6794 4118

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex

Watching Brief

Site Code: STBFA13

Date of Works: March to October 2013

Report No: 1451

Excavator: Graeme Clarke BSc & Jonathan House BA

Report Contributors: Chris Faine MA MSc AIfA & Carole Fletcher BA AIfA

Illustrator: David Brown BA

Client: Royal Haskoning DHV for Environment Agency

Report Date: February 2014

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary

Between March and October 2013, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief (to discharge a planning condition) during works along the Bumpstead Brook associated with the Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme (centred on TL 6794 4118). The monitoring was carried out during channel-widening work and related installation of bridge foundations and gabions from a point where Bumpstead Brook is fed by Helions Brook to the ford at Church Street, towards the historic core of the village. The archaeological desk study carried out previously by Oxford Archaeology suggested that there would be a higher chance or degree of survival of archaeological remains in this section of the scheme.

The main archaeological deposit of interest recorded was a midden layer associated with a 16th century and later tanyard, from which a quantity of cattle horncores and other bone fragments was recovered. More recent evidence included a re-used split timber that had been laid on top of the recent river silts, probably to create a temporary fording point.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken between March and October 2013 during works associated with the Flood Alleviation Scheme at Steeple Bumpstead, Essex. The works targeted an area from the confluence of Bumpstead Brook and Helions Brook to the ford at Church Street, within the historic village core (Fig. 1; TL 67363/40895 (SW) to TL 67818/41112 (NE). Flooding at the confluence of the two streams is the reason for the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

1.1.2 This archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Maria Medlycott of Essex County County Council Historic Environment Team (ECC; Planning Application BTE/00962/11), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Drummond-Murray 2012). In order to discharge the planning condition, the Brief required monitoring of below-ground excavations associated with the Flood Alleviation Scheme at Steeple Bumpstead, with special emphasis being placed on the area of a 16th century Tanyard and the Church Street ford across Bumpstead Brook. The Brief required that the results of the monitoring and recording be presented in the form of a full report including the aims and methods used, detailed results, discussion/conclusion and specialist contributions, supplemented by a location plan and other illustrations, and a completed Historic Environment Record Summary.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains along the route of the Flood Alleviation Scheme, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012).

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 and Topography

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the scheme comprises superficial (drift) River Terrace Deposits of (undifferentiated) Sand and Gravel. These mainly comprise sand and gravel detrital material in channels, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium on either side.

1.2.2 The Bedrock geology is described as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation (Undifferentiated) - Chalk. (British Geological Survey; Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50000; http://www.bgs.ac.uk/ discoveringGeology/ geology Of Britain/ viewer.html).

1.2.3 Steeple Bumpstead is a small parish in Braintree District, situated *c*.5km south of Haverhill. The site lies at the south-western edge of the village and within a designated Conservation Area between Churchfield Drive and Church Lane. The site, which lies at *c*.63m OD, is bounded to the north by Water Lane and to the south by residential properties.

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 This section utilises the background sections of previous reports including the Conservation Area Assessment (Adam 2011); and the archaeological and geo-archaeological assessment (Allen and Allen 2011), supplemented by information from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

Prehistoric and Roman

1.3.2 No prehistoric remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the site.

1.3.3 In 1949 extensive Roman foundations were observed beneath the lawn of a house called Broadgates (Monument No. 377028), immediately north of the Church of St Mary and *c.* 200m east of the current site. The location of these remains, less than 50m to the south-east of the ford, suggests that the crossing may have been utilised from an early period.

Saxon and medieval

1.3.4 Steeple Bumpstead was listed as '*Bumesteda*' in the Domesday book (AD1086); a Saxon term for 'place of reeds' (Reaney 1969). The present parish church of St Mary, 200m to the east of the site, dates from the 11th century and later (NMR 377026; EHERs 1620 & 1621).

1.3.5 The medieval core of the village is centred around Church Street, Chapel Street and the Bumpstead Brook. Numerous buildings in the vicinity of the site are listed in the HER and largely date from the post-medieval period. The 'Old Tanyard', a Grade II listed building, which lies immediately to the south of Bumpstead Brook and the ford with Church Street, is described as having its origins in the 16th century or earlier (NHLE 1122272). The building was extended in the 17th to 19th centuries. The name of this house may indicate its previous use or association as an industrial site for the tanning of animal hide.

Previous archaeological investigations

1.3.6 The National Monuments Record (NMR) Excavation Index details previous archaeological works undertaken in the parish. These include monitoring of works at the church of St Mary which revealed a post-medieval family burial vault (NMR 1143873). Other archaeological monitoring of works around the village, for example adjacent to the Red Lion public house (200m to the east of the site) and next to the Bumpstead Brook and the ford with Church Street immediately to the north of the site, did not encounter any archaeology. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered during a watching brief at Lions Meadow, approximately 300m to the north-east of the site (EHER 18591).

1.3.7 Analysis of historic maps indicate a similar land use to that of today, with property boundaries and back plots extending to/from the Brook along its course towards the confluence with Helions Brook. Generally the ford is shown as an open waterway on the earlier maps, but by 1921 the entire width of the junction between Church Street and Water Lane was covered; a situation that persists to the modern day.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1.1 The Brief (Medlycott 2012) required archaeological monitoring and recording of the full length of the scheme (channel-widening, bridge foundations and gabions) with particular emphasis on the area of the 16th century Tanyard and the Church Street ford across the Bumpstead Brook (Fig. 1).

The archaeological monitoring aimed to record the following:

a) location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains or deposits;
b) location, extent, date and character of any surviving palaeoenvironmental remains.

2.1.2 The archaeological monitoring was targeted on the following elements of the Flood Alleviation Scheme that were specified within the Brief (Medlycott 2012) and Approved Specification/WSI (Drummond-Murray 2012, 2) (Fig. 1):

- Widening of the Helions Brook (180m west of its junction with the Bumpstead Brook)
- Widening of the Bumpstead Brook (400m south-west of the Church Street ford)
- Replacement of the Lilly Bridge culvert off Water Lane
- Replacement of the Queen Edith Drive bridge and two footbridges off Water Lane
- Replacement of the footbridge to the Tanyard with an access bridge off Water Lane
- Replacement of the Church Street ford (NW retaining wall, SE gabions, footbridge)
- Channel repair and widening (85m north-east of the Church Street ford)

2.1.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets and, where possible, digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.1.4 Site conditions were generally good, being somewhat wet underfoot along the line of the Bumpstead Brook. These wet conditions hampered access to the deep excavations associated with bridge replacement works in particular. The excavation of Tanyard Bridge exposed a midden layer (context 4) in section, which contained faunal remains (horn cores *etc*) and other artefacts. Due to health and safety concerns the section could not be drawn or artefacts retrieved directly from it. The height of the upper horizons of each context layer were instead surveyed and finds retrieved from the mechanical excavator's bucket (see Section 4.4.3).

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features/deposits identified and finds recovered are given in this section. Locations of each of the Flood Alleviation Scheme elements and monitoring works are given in Figure 1, and photographs illustrating the various monitored elements and occasional finds recovered from them are included as Plates 1-10.

3.1.2 The following areas are detailed below:

a) Channel repair, widening and footbridge replacement 85m north-east of the Church Street ford (Crescent Bridge);
b) Replacement of the Church Street ford (north-west retaining wall, south-east gabions, footbridge);
c) Replacement of the footbridge to the Tanyard with an access bridge off Water Lane;
d) Replacement of the Private Access footbridge off Water Lane;
e) Replacement of Churchfield footbridge off Water Lane;
f) Replacement of the Water Lane culvert;
g) Replacement of the Lilly Bridge culvert off Water Lane;
h) Widening of the Bumpstead Brook (400m south-west of the Church Street Ford);
i) Widening of the Helions Brook (180m west of its junction with the Bumpstead Brook).

3.2 Crescent Bridge

3.2.1 Piling works were observed on the 7th March and 26th April 2013 (Plate 1). The works comprised excavation by auger of a series of boreholes 0.45m in diameter on either

side of the Bumpstead Brook. The boreholes identified the below ground deposits to consist of natural chalk (context 6) at approximately 10m below ground level (bgl), overlain by orange and yellow brown gravels (context 5) to approximately 7m bgl. These deposits were overlain by uncompacted dark grey and brown sandy silt with some chalk and flint gravel (context 2 – each different archaeological deposit receives a context number) to just below the surface, where recent made ground (1) was encountered.

3.2.2 A visit was also conducted at this location in advance of the replacement of Crescent Bridge on the 3rd May 2013 when the foundations were excavated. This confirmed the ground conditions encountered in the previous visit. The modern made ground (context 1) was found to be 0.8m thick.

3.2.3 No surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits that might have contained macro-botanical remains, or lacustrine (lake) deposits, were observed and no finds were recovered.

3.3 Church Street Ford

3.3.1 Piling works were observed on the 26th April 2013 (Plate 2). The works involved the excavation by auger of a series of boreholes 0.45m in diameter down to the dpth of the natural chalk on either side of the Bumpstead Brook. The deposit sequence was found to be the same as that encountered at Crescent Bridge, described in section 4.2.1 above.

3.3.2 Further excavations were observed along the line of the brook at the ford on the 20th June 2013. Yellowish brown sands and gravels (context 5) were observed below a dark grey sandy silt (context 2).

3.3.3 No surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits that might have contained macro-botanical remains, or lacustrine (lake) deposits, were observed and no finds were recovered.

3.4 Tanyard Bridge

3.4.1 A large excavation was observed on the 5th June 2013 on the east side of Bumpstead Brook at the Old Tanyard (Plates 3 and 4). This was undertaken in advance of replacement bridge building works, affecting an area measuring 12m x 5m. The deposit sequence was found to comprise orange and yellow brown gravels (context 5) to a height of 59.28m OD, overlain by uncompacted grey sandy silt with some flint gravel (context 2). The upper silt also contained occasional 18th to 19th century bricks and tile fragments (Plate 9; not retained) extending up to a height of 60.53m OD. This was overlain by recent made ground (context 1) to a height of 60.95m OD, capped by concrete to the present surface, at a height of 61.2m OD.

3.4.2 A large split wooden tree trunk (not illustrated) was found at a depth of 60.53m OD in the uppermost part of the grey silt. It was 3m long and 0.6m wide and lay level in the grey silt (context 2) with its flat side uppermost. Its long axis lay on a north-west to south-east orientation, in the northern end of the excavation, so that it lay across the path of the brook. Three smaller timbers were also recovered, also not retained, from the silt adjacent to the split trunk (Plate 10). These elements appear to have been relatively recent as they were found within the uppermost river silt close to the interface with the overlying (modern) made ground. No evidence was found that these were associated with the tanning deposits, which were located at a *c.*0.8m deeper level (see below) and it is likely that the trunk had been used as an informal ford across the brook (see Discussion).

3.4.3 The excavation was extended 4m to the north-east along the southern bank of the Bumpstead Brook on the 3rd and 4th July 2013. Yellow brown silty sandy gravel

(context 5) was observed at the base of the excavations. Overlying this deposit, from a height of 59.87m OD, was a 1m-thick layer comprising very dark grey silty sandy gravel (context 4). This deposit was notable for the quantity of horncores, other animal bone fragments (see 4.11 below) and post-medieval tile fragments; the latter not retained. Part of a 19th century leather boot was also recovered. The deposit thinned to the north-west towards the line of the Bumpstead Brook. Overlying this, from a height of 60.87m OD, was a 1.4m-thick layer of made ground (context 1) consisting of light brown silt with some gravel.

3.4.4 No surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits that might have contained macro-botanical remains, or lacustrine (lake) deposits, were observed.

3.5 Private Access Footbridge

3.5.1 Excavations associated with these works were observed on the 19th, 20th and 26th June 2013 (Plate 5). On the north side of the brook the base of the deposit sequence observed comprised orange brown gravels (context 5) up to a height of 60.70m OD. Overlying this was a 1.6m-thick dark silt layer (context 2) to a height of 62.3m OD. Made ground (context 1), 1.3m thick, was observed on the south side of the bank of the brook. A former revetment was observed on the southern bank consisting of wooden piles driven into the underlying gravels.

3.5.2 No surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits that might have contained macro-botanical remains, or lacustrine (lake) deposits, were observed and no finds were recovered.

3.6 Churchfield Footbridge

3.6.1 Excavations associated with these works were observed on 5th July 2013 (Plate 6). Clean gravels (context 5) were recorded. No surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits that might have contained macro-botanical remains, or lacustrine (lake) deposits, were observed and no finds were recovered.

3.7 Water Lane Culvert

3.7.1 Excavations associated with these works were observed on 9th October 2013 (Plate 7). Clean gravels (context 5) were recorded. No surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits that might have contained macro-botanical remains, or lacustrine (lake) deposits, were observed and no finds were recovered.

3.8 Lilly Bridge Culvert

3.8.1 Excavations associated with these works were observed on 2nd August 2013. Large wood fragments were observed, probably in relation to a modern fence line associated with the footpath crossing. Clean gravels (context 5) were recorded. No surviving palaeoenvironmental deposits that might have contained macro-botanical remains, or lacustrine (lake) deposits, were observed and no finds were recovered.

3.9 Bumpstead Brook Widening

3.9.1 Works to widen the brook were observed on the stretch between Crescent Bridge and Church Street Ford on 3rd May 2013 (Plate 4). Additional fragments of cow horn and bone were recovered from the dark grey sandy silt (context 2). Further widening works were observed on the southern bank between Church Street Ford and the private access footbridge on 4th July 2013 and to the south of the Water Lane culvert on 5th July 2013. Only dark grey river silts (context 2) and recent made ground (context 1) extending along the banks were observed.

3.10 Helions Brook Widening

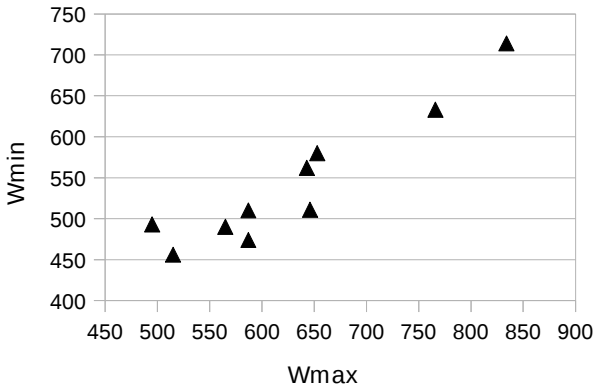
3.10.1 Excavations associated with these works were observed on 9th October 2013 (Plate 8). Clean yellow brown sandy gravels (context 5) were recorded.

3.11 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

3.11.1 Twenty fragments of animal bone were recovered from the watching brief, with 18 fragments being identifiable to species. Identifiable bone was recovered from two contexts, consisting almost entirely of long and medium horned cattle horncores. Aside from horncores, context 2 also contained cattle and horse metatarsi from animals standing 1.64m and 1.47m at the shoulder respectively. A cattle mandible from an animal aged 1 ½ to 2 ½ years of age was also recovered from this context. Fifteen horncores were recovered from contexts 2 and 4 (10 being intact). Two of these are classed as 'long horned' animals with the remainder being 'medium horned' (Armitage 1976). Morphological analysis of measurable horncores suggests the majority (5) of the medium-horned animals were females, with four bulls or steers also being present. Chart 1 shows the sizes of the horncores as a group and also suggests a predominantly female sample, with the two long horned (morphologically male) animals being clearly separate at the top end of the range. Few butchery marks were present while the large numbers of horncores suggests the assemblage represents tanner's or tawyer's waste.

Chart 1: Size of cattle horncores (mm)



3.12 Leather

By Carole Fletcher

3.12.1 An incomplete composite leather sole and heel from a hobnailed boot in poor condition was recovered from context 4. The sole has broken across the tread and appears to have been previously repaired with an additional piece of leather (half sole) added to the forepart. The heel is stacked, being built up of six pieces of leather or lifts with the top piece (which rests on the ground) having a 'horseshoe plate' or insert called an iron heel nailed to it. An iron toe piece is also often attached to the sole but the loss of the forepart of the sole means this is not present. The sole is made up of five layers, the sixth being an insole. The pattern of nails on the sole is a double line of nails following the shape of the sole and in-filled with three straight lines of larger-headed hobnails

running from the waist end of the tread towards the toe. The construction of the sole and heel suggests a 19th century date for the boot.

3.13 Palaeoenvironmental Remains

The Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme works did not encounter any surviving palaeoenvironmental remains. Geological drift deposits in the form of river terrace gravels were identified across the extent of the flood alleviation scheme. These deposits are part of the Pleistocene (Ice Age) drift-filled channel identified in the geology assessment of the site (Allen and Allen 2011; Medlycott 2012).

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Deposit Sequence

4.1.1 The natural deposits encountered across the monitoring area comprised chalk bedrock (6, at *c*.10m bgl), overlain by natural river terrace gravels (5). These gravels (5) are considered to be part of the Pleistocene (Ice Age) drift-filled channel identified in the geology assessment of the site (Allen and Allen 2011; Medlycott 2012). However, no lacustrine (lake) deposits were identified. Overlying the river terrace gravels in the area close to the Tanyard Bridge and House was a 'midden' or dumped deposit of dark grey sandy silt (4) containing tanning waste in the form of horn cores and other animal bones (see below). Contexts 3 and 2 represent recent river silts associated with the current canalised course of the Bumpstead Brook, above which was modern made ground that extended along the banks of the brook.

4.1.2 The split tree trunk and associated fragments of timber, brick and tile (Plates 9 and 10) in the recent river silts are considered to be part of an *ad-hoc* footbridge/ford across the Bumpstead brook, of later post-medieval to modern date, and do not appear to have been associated with the tannery.

4.2 Tannery

4.2.1 Context 4, containing frequent cattle horncores in addition to other bone fragments (and part of a 19th century leather boot), was observed during the Tanyard Bridge excavation (see Section 4.4 above) and is probably a midden or dump (see Section 4.11 above). This material, which was buried beneath modern made ground, was found approximately 35m north-east of the 'Old Tanyard' building. According to the current owner of the adjacent property (no.19 Church Street), this deposit extends southwards as similar remains have been unearthed whilst digging in the garden of this property.

4.2.2 The 'Old Tanyard' is described as having its origins in the 16th century or earlier (NHLE 1122272). The presence of this quantity of cattle horncores and bone confirms its previous use as a tannery. When the tanner acquired the hides of animals from the butcher the horns and lower leg bones were still attached (Blair and Ramsey 2001). Analysis of the faunal assemblage from this deposit indicates that these animal parts were removed and discarded here. The deposit thinned out and extended towards the edge of the Bumpstead Brook, and is probably the source of the further horn cores recovered from the recent river silts (context 2), presumably where the midden has eroded into the brook. Tanneries were often sited adjacent to the local stream as the hides were initially washed to rid them of blood, dung and salt (Blair and Ramsey 2001).

4.2.3 The Tanyard Bridge excavation has revealed a significant archaeological deposit associated with the Old Tanyard which has provided a useful sample of faunal remains

relating to the use of this tannery site in the post-medieval period. This deposit is known to extend beneath the adjacent property to the east of the Tanyard (no.19 Church Street) and indicates further deposits of this nature are likely to be present in the vicinity.

5 Acknowledgements

5.1.1 The author would like to thank Royal HaskoningDHV and the Environment Agency who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks should also be extended to Andy Wargent of Jackson Civil Engineering for being so accommodating to the archaeologists on site. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray; on-site monitoring and recording was undertaken by the authors along with Michael 'Tam' Webster.

5.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Maria Medlycott from Essex County Council. Theresa O'Connor of Essex County Council monitored the watching brief.

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APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-171164		
Project Name	Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme Watching Brief		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	07-03-2013	Finish	07-10-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STBFA13	Planning App. No.	BTE/00962/11
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt: Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5

Please select all techniques used:

☒ Field Observation (periodic visits)	☐ Part Excavation	☐ Salvage Record
☐ Full Excavation (100%)	☐ Part Survey	☐ Systematic Field Walking
☐ Full Survey	☒ Recorded Observation	☐ Systematic Metal Detector Survey
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	☐ Test Pit Survey
☐ Open-Area Excavation	☐ Salvage Excavation	☒ Watching Brief

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
midden deposit	Post Medieval 1540 to 190	animal remains	Post Medieval 1540 to 190
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Essex	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Braintree	Steeple Bumpstead Essex CB9	
Parish	Steeple Bumpstead		
HER	Essex		
Study Area	0.6km	National Grid Reference	TL 6794 4118

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Maria Medlycott (Essex County Council)
Project Design Originator	James Drummond-Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Braintree Museum	Oxford Archaeology East	Braintree Museum
TBA	XEXSUM12	TBA

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☐	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☒	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☒	☒
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☒	☒
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☐ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☐ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☐ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☐ Plans
	☒ Report
	☐ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

APPENDIX B. EHER FORM

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/
ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme	
Parish: Steeple Bumpstead	***District:*** Braintree
NGR: TL 67363/40895 (SW) to TL 67818/41112 (NE)	***Site Code:*** **STBFA13**
Type of Work: Monitoring	***Site Director/Group:*** G Clarke/OA East
Date of Work: **March to October 2013**	***Size of Area Investigated:***
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: ***Braintree***	***Funding source:*** **Environment Agency**
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	***Related HER Nos***
Final Report: **Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme, Steeple Bumpstead, Essex Watching Brief OA East Report 1451**	
Periods Represented: post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: *Between March and October 2013, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief during works along the Bumpstead Brook associated with the Steeple Bumpstead Flood Alleviation Scheme (centred on TL 6794 4118). The monitoring was carried out during channel-widening work and related installation of bridge foundations and gabions from a point where Bumpstead Brook is fed by Helions Brook to the ford at Church Street, towards the historic core of the village. The archaeological desk study carried out previously by Oxford Archaeology suggested that there would be a higher chance or degree of survival of archaeological remains in this section of the scheme.* *The main archaeological deposit of interest recorded was a midden layer associated with a 16th century and later tanyard, from which a quantity of cattle horncores and other bone fragments was recovered. More recent evidence included a re-used split timber that had been laid on top of the recent river silts, probably to create a temporary fording point.*	
Previous Summaries/Reports: *Adam, J., 2011. Steeple Bumpstead Conservation Area Assessment, Issue no. 1,* Oxford Archaeology South, *dated 3/5/11 (unpublished).* *Allen, P. and Allen, P., 2011. Steeple Bumpstead Flood Risk Management Scheme – Environmental Statement: Appendix O, An Archaeological and Geo-Archaeological Assessment,* Environment Agency.	
Author of Summary: G Clarke	***Date of Summary:*** Feb 2014

Figure 1: Site location map and location of the Flood Alleviation Scheme Works

Plate 1: Crescent Bridge excavations

Plate 2: Excavations at Church Street Ford

Plate 3: Tanyard Bridge excavations (with old tanyard in background)

Plate 4: Bumpstead Brook widening adjacent to the Old Tanyard

Plate 5: Excavations at the private access footbridge

Plate 6: Churchfield footbridge excavations

Plate 7: Water Lane culvert excavations

Plate 8: Helions Brook widening excavations

Plate 9: 18th to 19th Century bricks and tile fragments associated with recent split-trunk 'ford'

Plate 10: Three smaller timbers found adjacent to the recent split-trunk 'ford'

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