

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

CAT Report 489

Summary sheet

Address: Grey Goose Farm Cottage, Orsett, Essex	
Parish: Orsett	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ 6254 8077	Accession code: CAT project code - 08/8a Thurrock Museum (awaiting code) ECC site code - THGG 08
Type of work: Monitoring and excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 2nd September 2008	Size of area investigated: 3.6 x 6.5 x 4.1 x 2.5 m footings (500mm wide)
Location of finds/curating museum: Thurrock Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 5237-5242
Final report:	CAT Report 489
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>The excavation of footings for an extension on the western side of Grey Goose Farm Cottage in Orsett, Essex, was monitored by a CAT archaeologist on the 2nd September 2008. The fieldwork was carried out as required in a brief issued by Essex County Council on 22.07.08 and in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT. The site is near to a Scheduled Ancient Monument but English Heritage indicated that scheduled monument consent was not required for the groundworks.</i></p> <p><i>The topsoil and subsoil were stripped using a 500mm-wide toothless bucket. No archaeological deposits or remains were observed in the layers. The medium brown silt topsoil was roughly 65mm thick and contained infrequent fragments of modern building material. Beneath the topsoil was a medium brown silt subsoil roughly 250mm in thickness that contained no observable artefactual evidence. The natural geology of the site was a light cream/brown sandy clay with areas of dense gravel. The natural was reached roughly 300mm below the modern ground-level and thoroughly cleaned by hand.</i></p>	

<p><i>The only feature cut into the natural was a small post-hole (F1) which contained frequent medium stones and one modern pot fragment. A glazed modern drainpipe was also observed in the north-west/south-east footing trench on a north-south alignment (F2). No evidence of the extensive cropmark complex to the north of the site (at TQ 6254 8077) was uncovered.</i></p> <p><i>Once the trenches had been recorded, excavation of the footings then continued into the natural geology to the depth required by the developers.</i></p>	
<p>Previous summaries/reports: None</p>	
<p>Keywords: -</p>	<p>Significance: neg</p>
<p>Author of summary: Adam Wightman</p>	<p>Date of summary: October 2008</p>

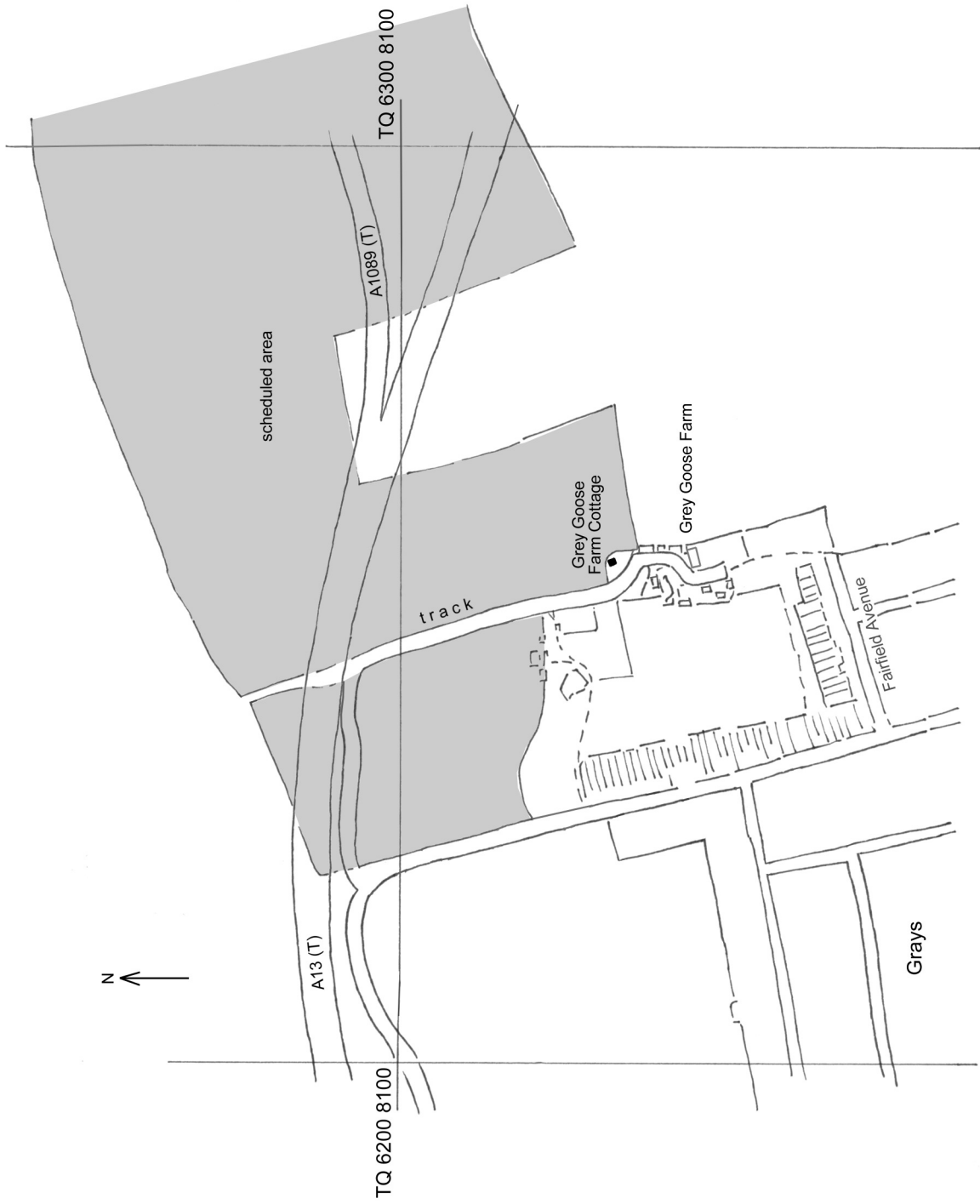


Fig 1 Location plan.

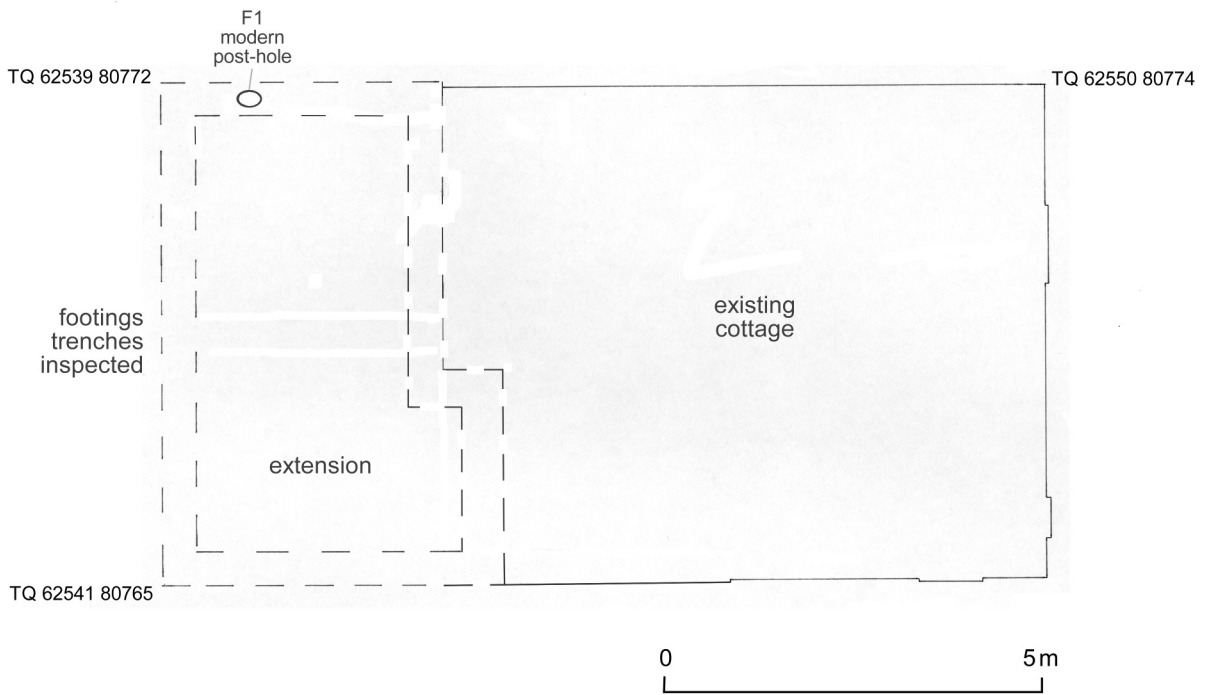
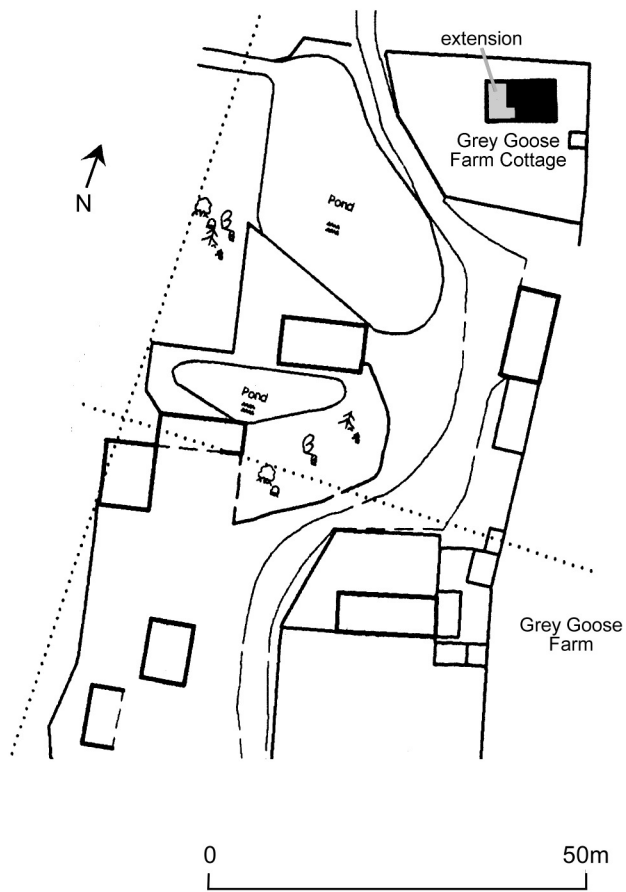
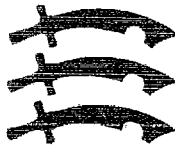


Fig 2a Site location within Grey Goose Farm (above).
 Fig 2b Detail of footings trenches inspected (below).

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
EXCAVATION ON LAND AT
GREY GOOSE FARM COTTAGES, ORSETT**

July 2008



Essex County Council

Site: Land at Grey Goose Farm Cottages, Stifford Clays, Orsett

Planning app. no.: 08/00205/FUL

Agent: Mr R. Bromage (01375 374415 grays@hb-architects.com)

HEM Officer: Richard Havis

Museum: Thurrock

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Management (HEM) Team of the Historic Environment Branch of Essex County Council should be contacted to assess whether changes are required. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

The contractor is advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

1. Introduction

The HEM Team of the Historic Environment Branch of Essex County Council has prepared this brief for archaeological monitoring with open area excavation if archaeological deposits are identified on the extension. The site lies immediately to the south of an extensive scheduled cropmark complex. The development comprises the construction of an extension to the existing house. The development has the potential of disturbing or destroying important archaeological deposits.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies to the south of the A13 immediately adjacent to a Scheduled Monument comprising an extensive cropmark landscape at TQ 62548077. The development comprises a 3.6 x 6.5 metre extension to the side of the present Grey Goose Farm Cottage. The developers propose to strip the top soil from the development area of the extension.

3. Planning Background

A planning application (08/00205/FUL) was submitted to Thurrock Council in May 2008 for the construction of an extension to Grey Goose Farm cottages. The HEM Team advised Thurrock Council that a full archaeological condition should be attached to any planning consent. The

advice followed the guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning. The archaeological condition states:

"No development, or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

4. Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective archaeological contractors can visit the HER prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation (To make an appointment contact Ms A. Bennett, 01245 437637).

The development area lies within an extensive cropmark complex (HER 5238-5242) comprising multi- period occupation. A range of enclosures are visible on the cropmarks showing the whole landscape was extensively occupied probably from the prehistoric period onwards. Excavation in the area has shown prehistoric, Roman and Saxon occupation.

5. Requirement for Work

The archaeological work should aim to fully record all of the archaeological deposits threatened by the proposed development. It is recommended that a period of time between the monitoring and the excavation of features is agreed with the developer and stipulated in the written scheme of investigation.

Specific research aims include:

- Location of archaeological deposits related to the cropmark complex

6. General Methodology

6.1 A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the monitoring. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the HEM Team one week in advance of commencement of work.

- 6.2 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.3 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 6.4 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 6.5 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

7. Monitoring Methodology

- 7.1 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 7.2 Machine stripping will only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon or to the depth required by the developers, whichever is hit first.
- 7.3 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.
- 7.4 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

- 7.5 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).
- 7.6 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Human remains will need to be lifted if threatened by the development.
- 7.7 The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 7.8 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- 7.9 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching briefs, and excavations* and the EAA *Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

8. Finds

- 8.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 8.2 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 8.3 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

8.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Thurrock, 01375 390000) prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the HEM Team.

9. Results

9.1 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 3 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the HER. (A full digital copy of the report will be supplied to the HER).

9.2 This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the monitoring and excavation.
- Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the areas or trenches shall be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Where appropriate the discussion should be completed in consultation with the Eastern Counties' Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)
- All specialist reports
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

9.3 An HER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks (copy attached with brief) and supplied to the HEM Team officer. This will be completed in digital form (copy can be emailed). This shall include a plan showing the position of the excavation.

9.4 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

9.5 Publication of the results, at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.

10. Archive Deposition

10.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Thurrock, 01375 390000), and confirmed in writing to the HEM Team.

10.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

10.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 2 months of the completion of the report and confirmed with the HEM Team.

10.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEM Team at the time of deposition to the museum.

11. Monitoring

11.1 The HEM Team of Essex County Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

11.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the HEM Team one week in advance of its commencement.

11.3 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the HEM Team prior to them being carried out.

12. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

- 12.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide *the basis for a measurable standard* and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
- 12.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a written scheme of investigation to the HEM Team of Essex County Council for validation **before** any work is undertaken on site. This validation is undertaken on behalf of the Planning Authority.
- 12.3 The involvement of the HEM Team shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

- Brown, N. and 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2.*
Glazebrook, J. *Research agenda and strategy* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian.
Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

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**Written Scheme of Investigation
for archaeological monitoring and excavation
at Grey Goose Farm Cottages, Orsett, Essex**

August 2008

Planning reference: 08/00205/FUL



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email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Gurney D. 2003 *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 (**EEA14**)

IFA 2001a *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.*
IFA 2001b *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation.*
IFA 2001c. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

Toller, H, "Orsett, Grey Goose Farm", p 103 in 'Excavations in Essex, 1976', ed CR Couchman, *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Volume **9**, 1977, p 95 – 106

Howard Brooks 15/08/08
revised 18/08/08

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APPENDIX: TEAM STRUCTURE

List of team members

Site supervision and Recording

Ben Holloway, Adam Wightman

Assistants

TBC

Finds consultants

Stephen Benfield (CAT): LIA/Roman pottery
Joanna Bird (Guildford): samian ware
Ernest Black (Colchester): Roman brick/tile
Francesca Boghi (NAU) Human bone
Nina Crummy (Colchester): small finds
Julie Curl (NAU): animal bone
Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): environmental
Hazel Martingell (Braintree) : lithics
Helen Walker (ECC): Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Graphics

M McDonald, E Spurgeon

Report writing

Adam Wightman, Ben Holloway

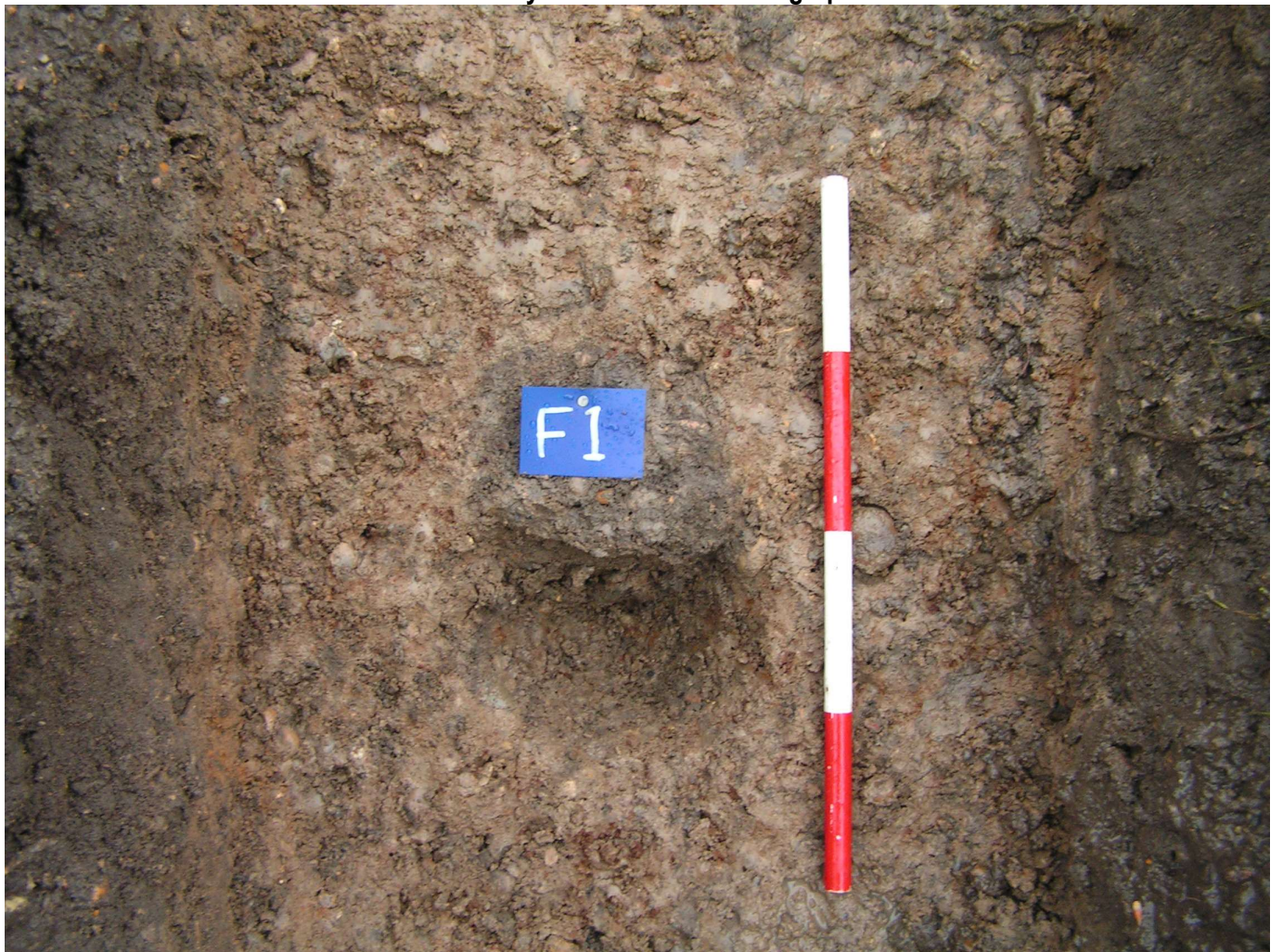
Site name: <u>Grey Goose Farm WB08</u>		Site code:	
Interpretation: <u>Topsoil</u>		Layer No. <u>L1</u>	
Period: <u>Modern/post med</u>			
Location /grid ref: <u>Across whole area of foundation trench</u>			
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)			
Consistence:	very <u>(loose)</u> soft friable firm hard	<u>(dry)</u> moist wet	
Colour:	very light <u>(medium)</u> dark yellow orange green grey <u>(brown)</u> black		
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR 7.5YR 10YR		
Soil type:	sand <u>(silt)</u> clay loam clay silt sand		
Inclusions: flecks	charcoal oyster daub brick tile		
Inclusions: pieces	gravel %, <u>(stone 2 %)</u> , tile/brick %, pot %, %		
Recording			
Plan nos.			
sx/profile nos.			
Photos taken	pre-ex	ex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	post-ex
Finds <u>X</u>			
Bag nos.			
Small find nos.			
Sample nos.			
Notes: (can be continued overleaf) <u>thin topsoil layer</u> <u>(trenches on average 300-350mm deep)</u>			
Matrix		Location and detail sketch	
Completed by: <u>ONW</u> Date: <u>02/09/08</u>		tick here if continued overleaf <input type="checkbox"/>	

Site name: Grey Goose Farm WB08		Site code:	
Interpretation: Subsoil		Layer No. L2	
Period: —			
Location / grid ref: Across whole area of foundation trench			
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)			
Consistence:	very <u>loose</u> soft friable firm hard <u>dry</u> moist wet		
Colour:	very <u>light medium</u> dark yellow orange green grey <u>brown</u> black		
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR 7.5YR 10YR		
Soil type:	sand <u>silt</u> clay loam clay silt sand		
Inclusions: flecks	charcoal oyster daub brick tile		
Inclusions: pieces	gravel %, <u>stone 2</u> %, tile/brick %, pot %, %		
Recording			
Plan nos.	✓		
sx/profile nos.			
Photos taken	pre-ex	ex ✓	post-ex
Finds			
Bag nos.	X		
Small find nos.			
Sample nos.			
Notes: (can be continued overleaf) artificially clean subsoil layer			
Matrix		Location and detail sketch	
<pre> graph TD L1[L1] --- L2[L2] L2 --- L3[L3] L2 --- C1[] L2 --- C2[] L2 --- C3[] L2 --- C4[] </pre> <p>(this context)</p>		<p>270-190mm (250mm)</p>	
Completed by: ANW	Date: 02/09/08	tick here if continued overleaf <input type="checkbox"/>	

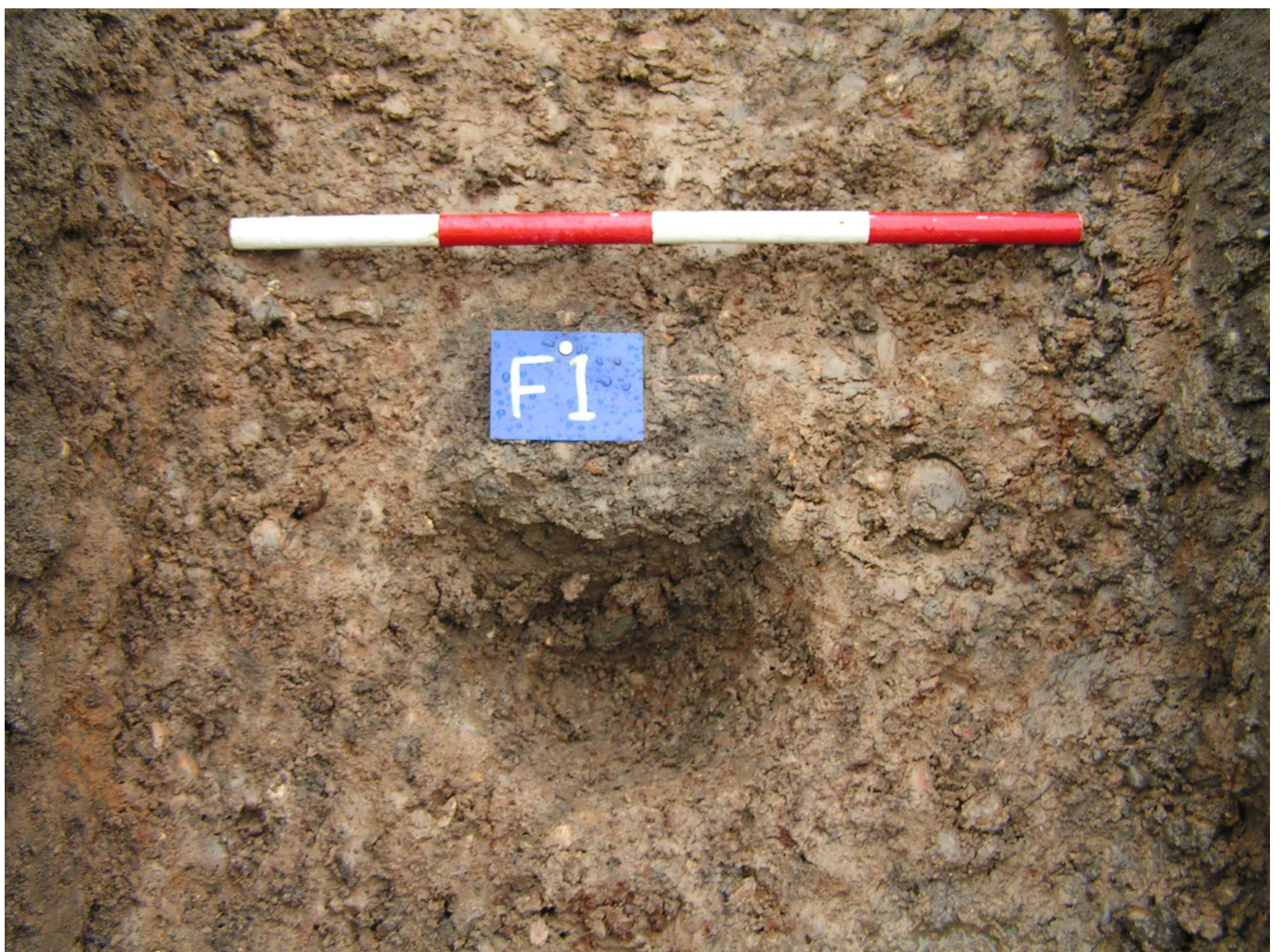
Site name: <u>Grey Goose Farm W308</u>		Site code:		
Interpretation: <u>Natural geology</u>			Layer No. <u>L3</u>	
Period: <u>Geological</u>				
Location / grid ref: <u>Beneath subsoil - whole site</u>				
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)				
Consistence:	very loose	<u>soft</u>	friable firm hard dry moist wet	
Colour:	<u>very light</u>	medium dark	yellow orange green grey <u>brown</u> ^{creamy} black	
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR	7.5YR	10YR	
Soil type:	<u>sand</u>	silt	<u>clay</u> loam clay silt sand	
Inclusions: flecks	charcoal	oyster	daub brick tile	
Inclusions: pieces	<u>gravel 40%</u>	stone	% , tile/brick % , pot % , %	
Recording				
Plan nos.				
sx/profile nos.				
Photos taken				pre-ex
Finds				
Bag nos.				
Small find nos.				
Sample nos.				
Notes: (can be continued overleaf) <u>light clayey sand natural with gravel patches. One large tree root noted in natural</u>				
Matrix		Location and detail sketch		
Completed by: <u>ANW</u>	Date: <u>02/09/08</u>	tick here if continued overleaf <input type="checkbox"/>		

Site name: <i>Grey Goose Farm WB 08</i>		Site code:	
Interpretation <i>Post hole</i>			Feature No. <i>F1</i>
Period <i>Modern</i>			
Location / grid ref <i>in foundation trench (see below)</i>			
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)			
Consistence:	very loose	<u>soft</u>	friable firm hard dry <u>moist</u> wet
Colour:	very light	<u>medium</u>	dark yellow orange green <u>grey brown</u> black
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR	7.5YR	10YR
Soil type:	sand	silt	<u>clayey</u> loam clay <u>silt</u> sand
Inclusions: flecks	charcoal	oyster	daub brick ✓ tile
Inclusions: pieces	gravel	%, <u>stone 7%</u>	tile/brick %, pot %, %
Recording			
Plan nos.	<i>location in trench measured.</i>		
sx/profile nos.	✓		
Photos taken	pre-ex	ex ✓	post-ex
Finds	<i>1 piece of glazed modern pot</i>		
Bag nos.			
Small find nos.			
Sample nos.			
Notes: (can be continued overleaf) <i>small oval/rectangular shaped post hole containing medium sized stones and 1 piece of modern pot</i>			
Matrix		Location and detail sketch	
<p>Matrix diagram showing feature F1 in context with levels L2, L3 and surrounding areas.</p>		<p>Location and detail sketch showing a plan view of the post hole with levels L2, L3, and L4, and a detail sketch of the hole with a pot fragment.</p>	
Completed by: <i>ANW</i>	Date: <i>02/09/09</i>	tick here if continued overleaf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Site name: <i>Grey Goose Farm WB 08</i>		Site code:	
Interpretation <i>Drain</i>		Feature No. <i>F2</i>	
Period <i>Modern</i>			
Location /grid ref <i>in NW-SE foundation trench</i>			
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)			
Consistence:	very loose	soft	friable firm hard dry moist wet
Colour:	very light	medium	dark yellow orange green grey brown black
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR	7.5YR	10YR
Soil type:	sand	silt	clay loam clay silt sand
Inclusions:flecks	charcoal	oyster	daub brick tile
Inclusions:pieces	gravel	%, stone	%, tile/brick %, pot %, %
Recording			
Plan nos.	<i>location in trench measured</i>		
sx/profile nos.			
Photos taken	pre-ex	ex	post-ex <i>not excavated</i>
Finds <i>glazed drainage pipe (not kept)</i>			
Bag nos.			
Small find nos.			
Sample nos.			
Notes: (can be continued overleaf) <i>105mm in width</i>			
Matrix		Location and detail sketch	
<pre> graph TD L1[L1] --- F2[F2] L2[L2] --- F2 L3[L3] --- F2 Box[] --- F2 F2 --- Context["(this context)"] </pre>		<i>see F1 location sketch</i> <i>GPS: 05625577</i> <i>0180760</i> <i>22m = (roughly - fluctuates madly)</i> <i>Location of reading see F1 picture</i>	
Completed by: <i>ANW</i>	Date: <i>02/09/08</i>	tick here if continued overleaf <input type="checkbox"/>	



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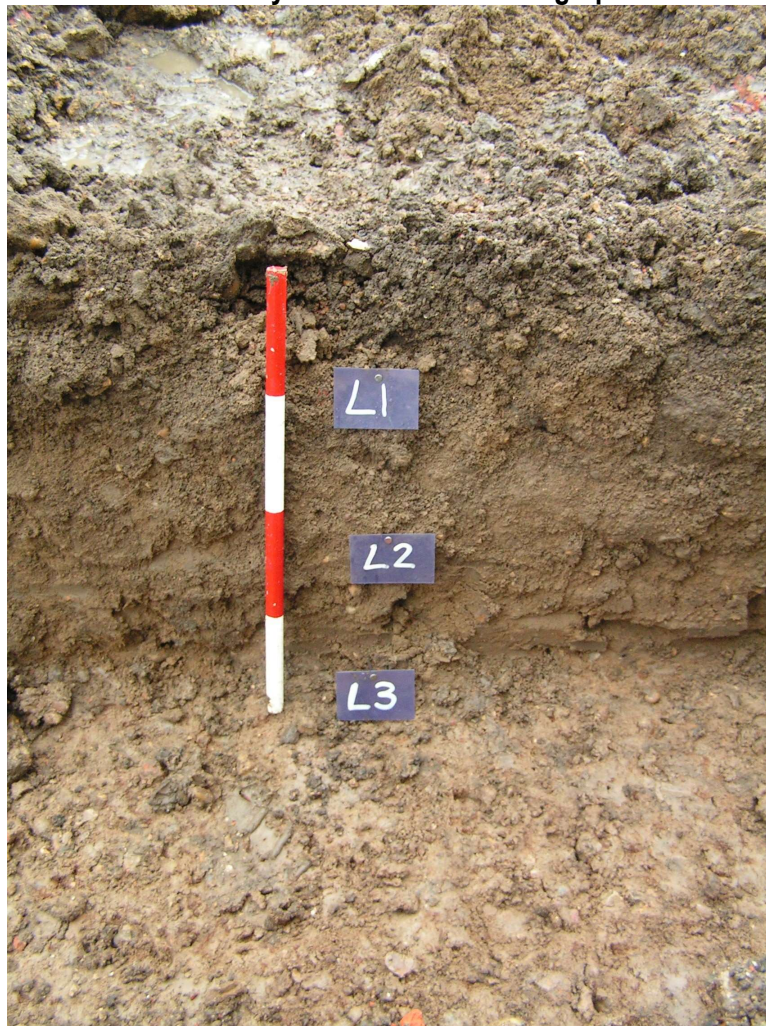
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17



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19



20



Photographic log for Orsett Grey Goose Fm WB

Filename	Description
THGG08_PhotoGraph_01.jpg	Plan shot of F1 facing west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_02.jpg	Plan shot of F1 facing west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_03.jpg	F1 in foundation trench facing west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_04.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing south
THGG08_PhotoGraph_05.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_06.jpg	Foundation trench shot facing south-east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_07.jpg	House with extension foundations facing east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_08.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing south
THGG08_PhotoGraph_09.jpg	Foundation trench shot facing south-west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_10.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing north-east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_11.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing north-east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_12.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing north
THGG08_PhotoGraph_13.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing north-east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_14.jpg	Cleaned up foundation trench facing north-west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_15.jpg	Foundation trench with footing facing south-west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_16.jpg	Shot of natural geology facing south-west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_17.jpg	Representative section facing south-west
THGG08_PhotoGraph_18.jpg	Plan shot of F2 facing east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_19.jpg	Plan shot of F3 facing east
THGG08_PhotoGraph_20.jpg	House with extension footings facing north
THGG08_PhotoGraph_21.jpg	House with extension footings facing north