

Archaeological monitoring at Badliss Hall, Ardleigh, Essex.

November 2014



Report prepared by
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with a finds report by Stephen Benfield

Commissioned by Oliver Hearsey

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NGR: TM 606708 229807



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Introduction

This is the archive report on the archaeological monitoring carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Oliver Hearsey at Badliss Hall, Ardleigh, Essex (NGR TM 606708 229807). The site is located to the east of Ardleigh village centre off Home Farm Lane (Fig 1).

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for an extension on the north side of the existing property (application 14/00200/FUL). The aim of the monitoring was to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks.

Badliss Hall is a Grade II listed building which originated in the 16th century or earlier. Investigations on other late-medieval and post-medieval sites in Essex have shown the potential for the remains of earlier settlements that precede standing buildings. Therefore, it is possible that archaeological deposits originating from any such settlement may have survived within the footprint of the proposed extension.

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2008b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006) and in the documents *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24) was also followed.

Results

The archaeological monitoring took place over a period of six days and consisted of four site visits. The excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 600mm-wide toothless bucket.

Over three quarters of the trenching for the new foundations was excavated through a modern driveway. The hardstanding (L1) was up to 350mm in thickness and consisted of layers of hoggins, stone, brick rubble, tarmac and loose gravel (Fig 3). In the westernmost foundation trench, the modern driveway directly overlaid the natural clay (L2) (Fig 3). Elsewhere, L1 overlaid a layer of dark soil (L3) which contained frequent brick and tile pieces and pottery sherds (Plate 1 & Fig 3). The easternmost foundation trench was located in a grassed area to the east of the driveway (Fig 2). Beneath the turf, a medium grey topsoil (L4) overlaid the natural clay. The lower half of L4 was lighter in colour than the upper half (Fig 3), although small fragments of post-medieval/modern brick and peg-tile were observed throughout. Three narrow trenches had been cut into the natural clay, all of which contained modern services (Fig 2).



Plate 1 L1, L2 and L3 in the easternmost foundation trench, facing east.

Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

A small quantity of bulk finds consisting of pottery, worked flint, clay pipe and animal bone was recovered from two layers (L3 & L4). Apart from a worked flint flake of probable Bronze Age date, the finds can be dated to the post-medieval period (16th-17th century) and predominantly to the modern period (late 18th-19th/20th century). A single metal object, probably a tap fitting, was also recovered. The quantities of finds are listed by type in Table 1.

Table 1 Type and quantities of finds

Finds type	no	wt (g)
Pottery	15	1036
Clay pipe	1	6
Flint	1	9
Animal bone	2	49
Metal object	1	28

The pottery was recorded using the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1985, CAR 7). The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 2 below. All of the finds are listed with a spot date in Table 3.

Table 2 Pottery fabrics

Fabric	Fabric description	Period
45D	Frechen stoneware	p-med
45M	Modern English stoneware	mod
48D	Staffordshire type white earthenwares	mod

Table 3 Finds by context

ctxt	find no	find type	fabric	no	wt/g	form/ description	spot date
L3	2	flint		1	9	flake, cortex across most of dorsal face, retouched notch with retouch extending along both lateral edges	?Bronze Age
L3	1	pottery	45M	4	176	sherds from two straight walled preserve jars	L18-19/20C
L3	1	pottery	45M	2	94	body sherds from unidentified vessel types	L18-19/20C
L3	1	pottery	45M	2	459	two complete small jars, one probably an ink pot	L18-19/20C
L3	1	pottery	45D	1	27	rim from a jug, probably of <i>Bartmann</i> type, handle scar, present (CAR 7, 284-87)	M-L17C
L3	1	pottery	48D	6	280	sherds from several pots including transfer printed & possibly hand painted bowl	L18-19/20C
L3	1	animal bone		2	49	bird bone & medium mammal	Not dated
L3	1	metal object		1	28	metal cap, fluted for grip, tinned surface, possibly from a tap	L19-20/20C
L4	3	clay pipe		1	6	back of bowl, foot & part of stem, blurred armorial/ heraldic decoration including probable harp (bottom left) and part of scroll legend as border HONI.SO [L18-19C

The earliest dated find is a prehistoric flint flake recovered from L3(2). It is a secondary hard-hammer flake with retouch on both lateral edges. It can be dated to the later prehistoric period (Neolithic-Bronze Age) and is probably of Bronze Age date.

The remaining closely dated finds consist of pottery sherds and a metal fitting from L3(1) and a clay pipe from L4(3). Overall, the date range of these finds spans the post-medieval and modern periods, although almost all are of modern (late 18th-19th/20th century) date. The metal fitting is probably from a tap. This is probably the most closely dated of the finds associated with this layer and dates to after the late 19th century.

One stoneware pottery rim sherd is probably from an imported post-medieval jug of *Bartmann* (sometimes referred to as Bellamine) type from Frechen in Germany (Fabric 45D). The rim style indicates it is of mid-late 17th-century date.

All of the other pottery sherds are modern factory wares, consisting of English stoneware (Fabric 45MD) and late post-medieval factory wares, probably Staffordshire type white earthenwares (Fabric 48D). The stonewares include two complete small jars, one of which is probably an ink bottle.

The clay pipe from L4(3) retains part of the back of the bowl which is decorated with an armorial/heraldic design. It has a harp and a border scroll of which part of the motto 'Honi soit qui mal y pense' survives. The pipe probably dates to the period of the late 18th-19th century.

A small quantity of animal bone, presumed to be of post-medieval/modern date, was also recovered from L3(1).

Discussion

A large prehistoric cropmark complex is located to the south-east of Badliss Hall (Brown 1999). No prehistoric features were identified during the monitoring, but a retouched flint flake recovered during the work indicates that prehistoric activity is likely to continue into this area.

The new extension is attached to the northern side of the kitchen wing on the north-eastern corner of Badliss Hall. The kitchen wing was rebuilt in the 1960's and it is probable that the surrounding driveway was constructed at the same time. The layer of make-up beneath the hardstanding and the adjacent topsoil both appear to date to the late 18th-19th/20th century based on the finds dating evidence. However, the quantity of 18th/19th century finds and the presence of 17th-century pottery sherds suggests that these layers pre-date the 1960's rebuild.

References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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| EAA 14 | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney |
| EAA 24 | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 24 , ed by M Medlycott |
| ClfA | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> |
| ClfA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| MoRPHE | 2006 | <i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage) |

Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Risk assessment
- 1.2 Copy of the brief issued by ECC
- 1.3 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Attendance register
- 2.2 Site digital photographic record
- 2.3 Context sheets (L1-L4)
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.6 1 x section drawing sheet

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report
- 3.2 Finds report

Not in wallet

- 1 small bag

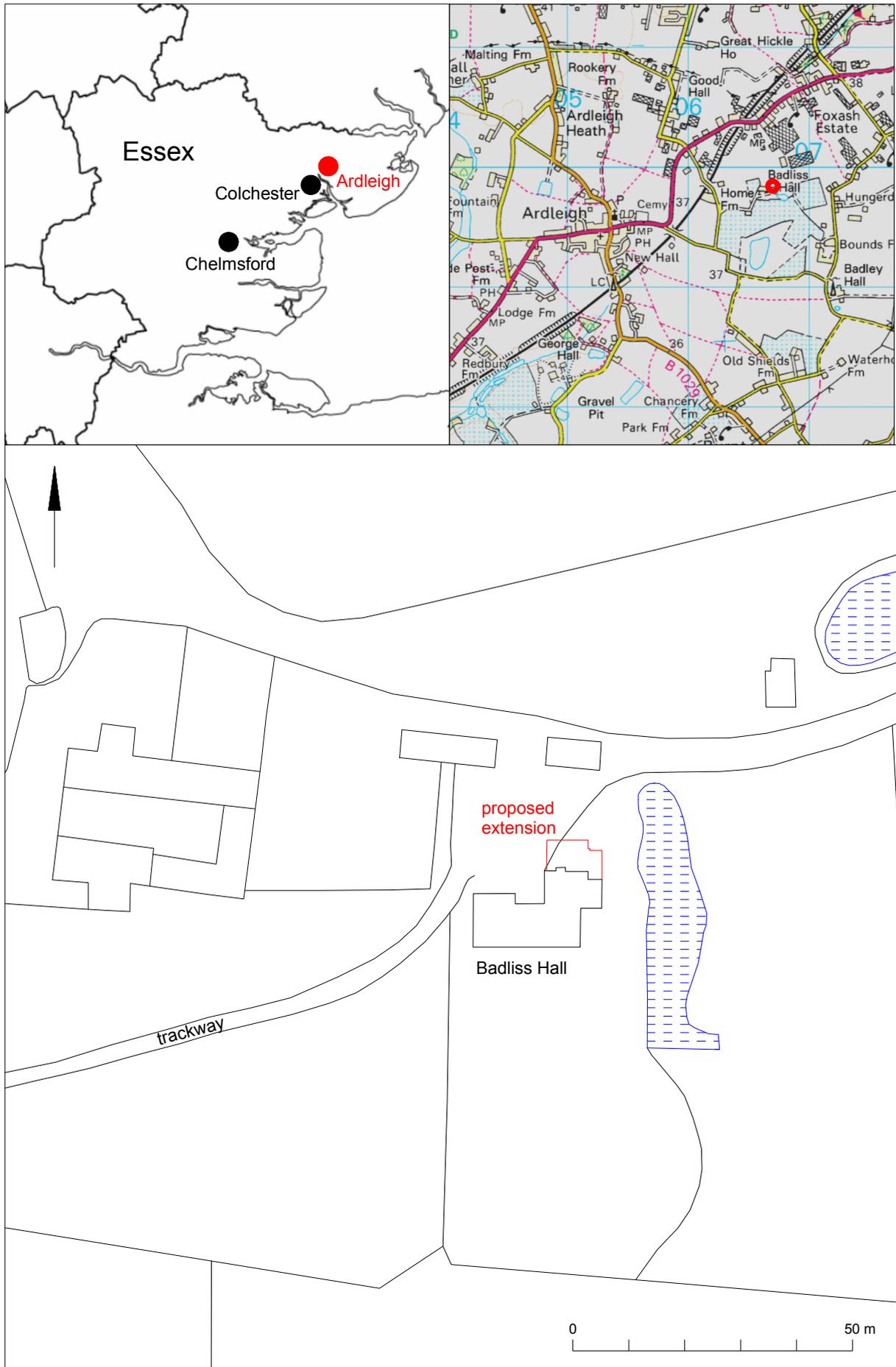


Fig 1 Site location.

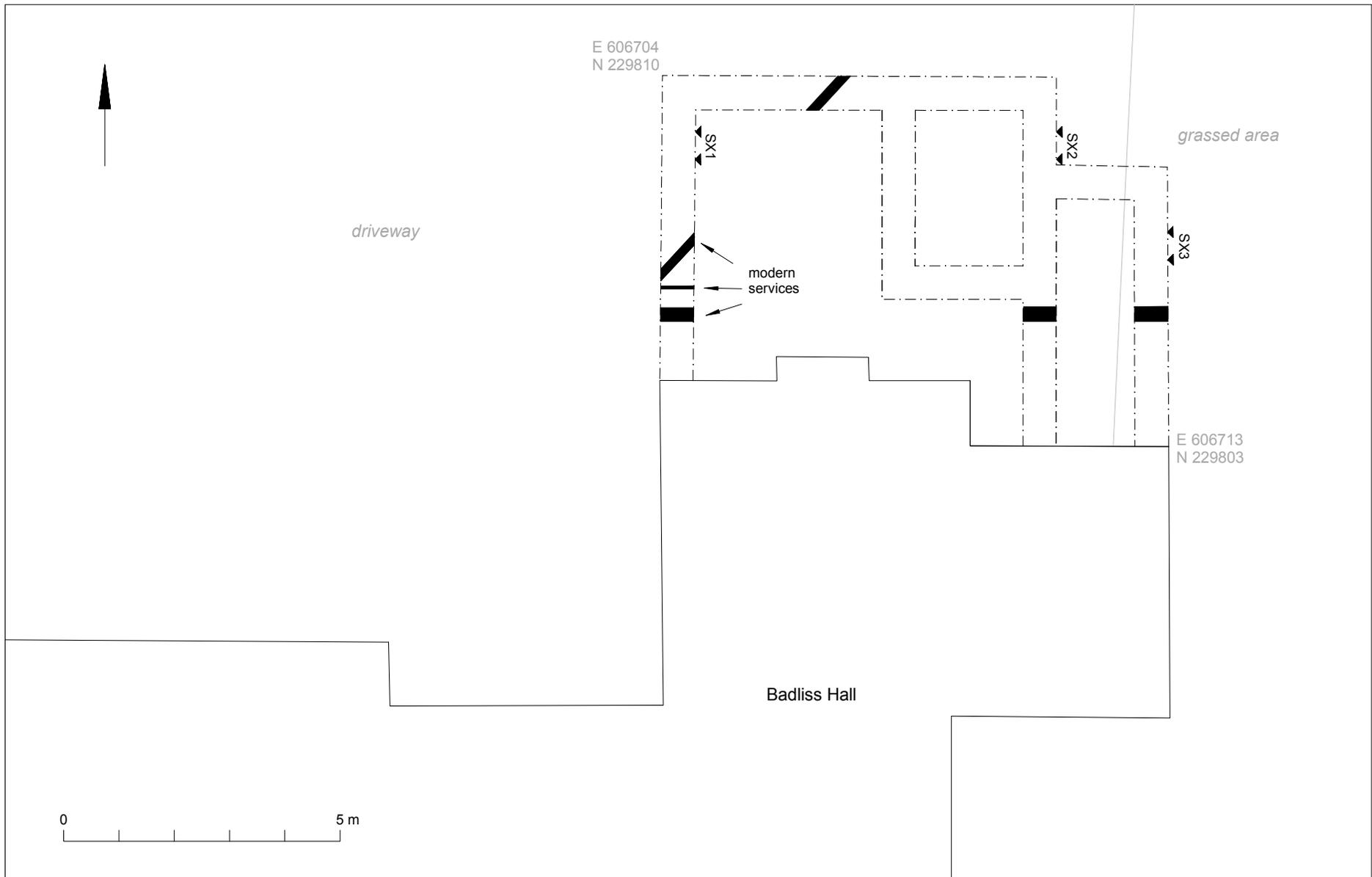


Fig 2 Results.

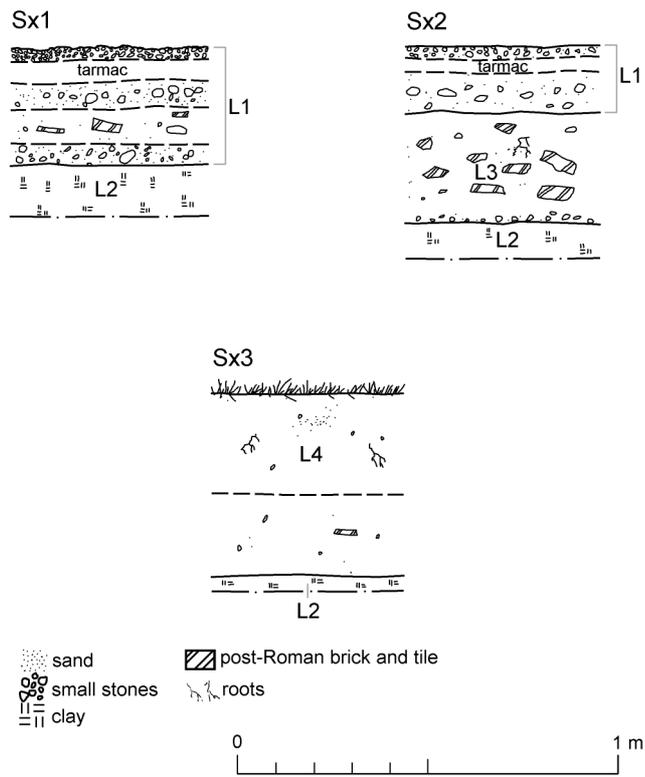


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Badliss Hall, Ardleigh, Essex	
Parish: Ardleigh	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 606708 229807	Site codes: CAT Project - 14/09h Museum accession - COLEM 2014.116
Type of work: Archaeological watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 13th-19th November 2014	Size of area investigated: 52 sq m
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related UAD/ EHER nos:
Final report: CAT Report 806	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The Colchester Archaeological Trust monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a single-storey extension on the north side of Badliss Hall in Ardleigh, Essex.</i></p> <p><i>The trenches were excavated through deposits dated to the 18th/19th and 20th centuries based on the finds dating evidence. A single prehistoric flint flake and 17th-century pottery sherds were also recovered from these contexts.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or structural remains from earlier building phases were identified during the archaeological monitoring.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Adam Wightman	Date of summary: January 2015