

# Archaeological monitoring and recording at Abbey Farm, Abbey Lane, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RD

March 2016



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figures by Mark Baister

fieldwork by Stephen Benfield

**on behalf of  
UK Power Networks**

NGR: TL 855 222 (centre)  
CAT project ref.: 16/02j  
Braintree Museum accession code: [requested](#)  
Oasis project ID: colchest3-247044



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**CAT Report 933**  
March 2016

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Fig 1 Site location

## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) was carried out during the replacement of an electricity pole at Abbey Farm, Abbey Lane, Coggeshall, Essex. The electricity pole was located within the Scheduled Monument of Coggeshall Abbey (NHLE no. 1018865, EHER 8650), founded in 1140. As the replacement electricity pole was placed directly into the hole created during the removal of the original pole, no new ground was disturbed and no significant archaeological horizons identified.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) carried out at Abbey Farm, Abbey Lane, Coggeshall, Essex which was carried out on 18th March 2016. The work was commissioned by UK Power Networks in advance of the replacement of a electricity pole located within the Scheduled Monument of Coggeshall Abbey (NHLE no. 1018865). The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows that the site of the replacement electricity pole is located within the Scheduled Monument of Coggeshall Abbey (NHLE no. 1018865, EHER 8650). The Abbey was founded in 1140 for monks of the order of Savigny by King Stephen and Queen Maud. It became Cistercian in 1147. The abbey church and the majority of the conventual buildings survive only as foundations and buried remains, although portions of the eastern arm of the claustral range (which originally formed a square around an open garth to the south of the church) still stand, retained within and alongside Abbey Farm: a post-Dissolution country house and modern farm.

## 4 Results

The old electricity pole was pulled out with minimal ground disturbance and the replacement pole slotted into the existing hole. The hole was c 300mm in diameter and 2m deep. A dark silt was visible in the hole but no significant archaeological horizons were identified.



**Photograph 1** Before existing electricity pole removed.



**Photograph 2** Hole created after removal of existing electricity pole.



**Photograph 3** Replacement electricity pole placed into the hole created by the removal of the original pole.

## 5 Finds

No archaeological finds were recorded.

## 6 Discussion

As the new electricity pole was placed directly into the hole created during the removal of the original pole, no new ground was disturbed and no significant archaeological horizons identified.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks UK Power Network for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Benfield. Figures are by M Baister. The project was monitored for Historic England by Sarah Poppy.

## 8 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14. Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 933)

Original site record (notes, plans)

Site digital photos, Architectural plans, Attendance register

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

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### Distribution list:

UK Power Networks  
Sarah Poppy, Historic England  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Date: 31/03/2016

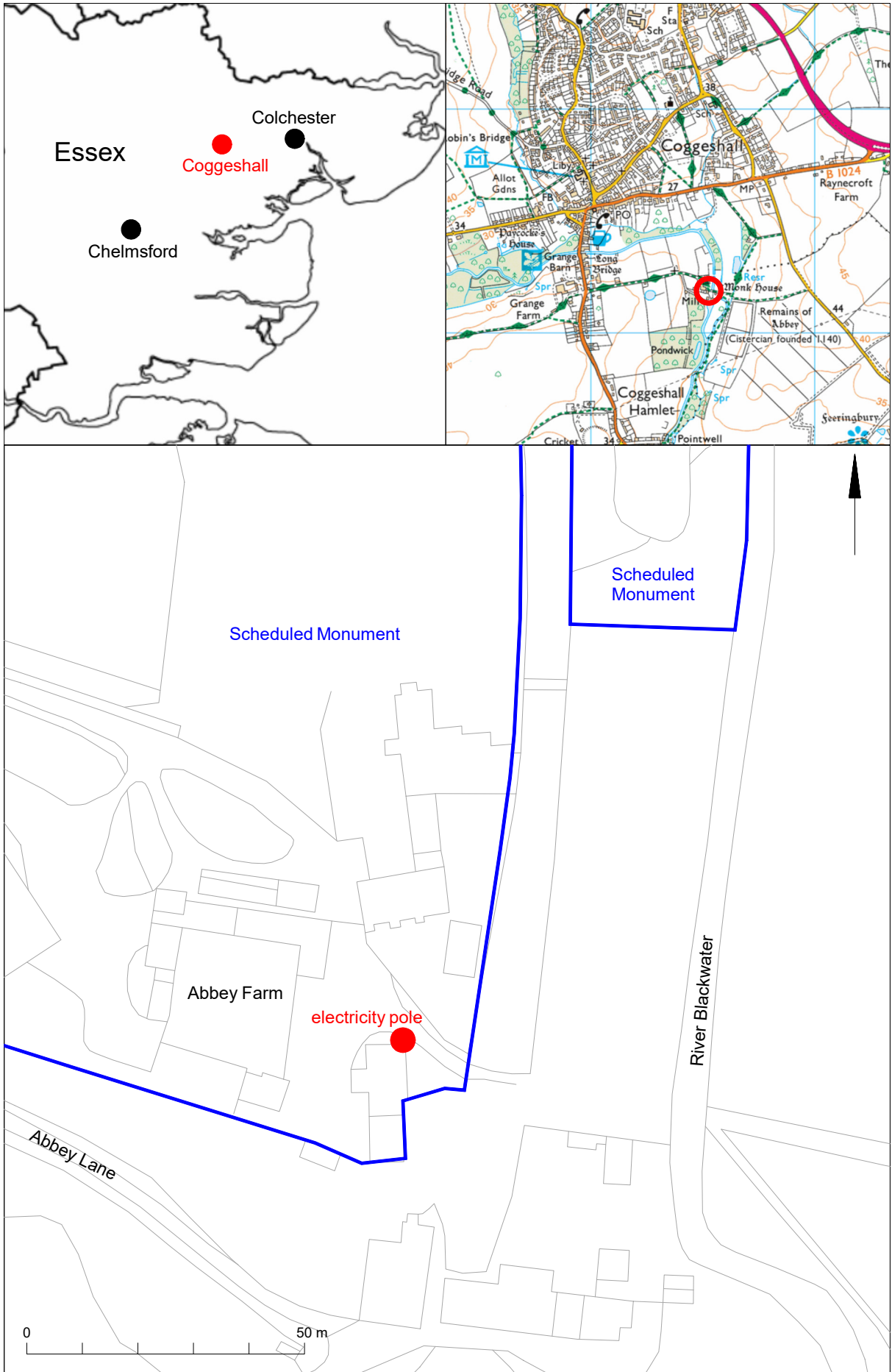


Fig 1 Site location.

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# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Abbey Farm, Abbey Lane, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1RD	
<b>Parish:</b> Coggeshall	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 855 222 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code: 16/02j OASIS project ID: colchest3-235394
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 18th March 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> One hole 600mm in diameter by 2m deep
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Braintree Museum accession code: requested	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER number:</b> EHER 8650
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 933	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording (a watching brief) was carried out during the replacement of an electricity pole at Abbey Farm, Abbey Lane, Coggeshall, Essex. The electricity pole was located within the Scheduled Monument of Coggeshall Abbey (NHLE no. 1018865, EHER 8650), founded in 1140. As the replacement electricity pole was placed directly into the hole created during the removal of the original pole, no new ground was disturbed and no significant archaeological horizons identified.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> --	
<b>Keywords:</b> --	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2016