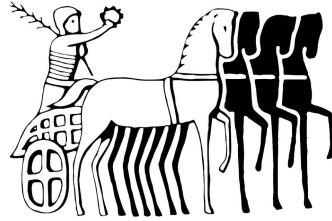


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2091  
issued September-November 2024**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at  
Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex,  
CM9 8TP: September 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/06e  
CHER code: ECC4878**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at  
Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex,  
CM9 8TP: September 2024**

**NGR: TL 96145 12904 (centre)**

**Planning district: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 232177**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/06e  
CAT Report 2091**

**CHER code: ECC4878  
OASIS id: colchest3-526701**

**Report prepared by Dr Elliott Hicks**

**Fieldwork by Ziya Eksen**

**Commissioned by Michelle Abel, RSPB**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Dr Elliott Hicks	Junior Project Officer
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Laura Pooley	Post-Excavation Manager
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Howard Brooks	Senior Associate
<b>Issued:</b>	17/10/2024	

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 01206 501785

*email:* [services@catuk.org](mailto:services@catuk.org)

*web:* [www.catuk.org](http://www.catuk.org)

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Fig 2 Results

## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex during the creation of new wetland scrapes and other amendments to the reserve. Despite being located within a historic grazing marsh and close to a number of Red Hills (salt-production sites), no archaeological remains were encountered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex which was carried out 19th September to 29th November 2024. The work was commissioned by Michelle Abel of RSPB and was carried out during the creation of new wetland scrapes and other amendments to the reserve.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by Matthew Williams (RSPB 2024) in response to the consultation and agreed with CCCAA.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant CAT health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024).

## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers, which are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The Old Hall Marshes are of national significance as a rare example of an intact historic grazing marsh located between Salcott Creek and Tollesbury Fleet, to the south-east of Salcott village. Coastal grazing marshes are a major heritage asset, part of the special landscape character of many parts of the English coast. Essex County Council, often working in partnership with English Heritage, has arranged detailed surveys of those reserves to enhance the approach to their management (Gascoyne & Medlycott 2014).

Reclamation of the Old Hall Marsh area (marsh 41) is thought to have been underway in a piecemeal fashion by the late 16th century, but the process accelerated over the following decades and reached its full extent by the mid-18th century. The sea walls have undergone a number of alterations. The marsh has large fleets, waterfilled creeks, relict salt marsh surface and raised causeways that cross the marsh. There are nine or more mounds, which are perhaps the remnants of red hills, midden sites, two surviving duck decoy ponds, one of which is scheduled, and remains of barns, a decoy house and a house. The marsh is also crossed by counter walls, which appear as raised earthworks. The borrow dykes are crossed by causeways in places (ECC48467).

Buried land surfaces have been recorded on several grazing-marsh sites, these generally are recorded as a result of erosion of the marsh edge and as a consequence are most visible in the inter-tidal zone, but occasionally have also been recorded during excavations. The buried land surfaces range in date from the Neolithic to the Roman period.

Approximately 426 red hills have been recorded around the Essex coast, and this number is increasing as a consequence of aerial survey and excavation. Red hills are sites where salt was extracted by evaporation from sea water, using clay pans over hearths. They are conspicuous sites, either because of their associated red earth deposits or because they form slight mounds in flat landscapes. The earliest excavated examples appear to date to the Middle Bronze Age (Germany 2004, 192-5), but the majority have their origins in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods. Some were re-used during the medieval period (for an overview, see Fawn *et al* 1990). At the Stanford Wharf Nature Reserve, Oxford Archaeology undertook a large-scale archaeological investigation in advance of the development of a new deep-sea London Gateway container port. An area of approximately 30 hectares was investigated with large areas extensively excavated (HER 47049). Although the artefactual evidence recovered was limited, two large Romano-British salt-production sites with associated buildings were uncovered (Biddulph *et al* 2012). Key evidence included channels dug to catch salt water, briquetage trays and supports, evaporation hearths and traces of red hills.

CAT carried out a watching brief in 2003 to the south of the current site for the excavation of a 100m ditch as part of water control system enhancements. No features or finds of archaeological significance were recorded during the works. It was noted that the ground appeared to be undisturbed except for the previous removal of the topsoil (CAT Report 249). Archaeology South East (ASE) undertook monitoring work in 2015 during enhancement work, but no archaeological remains that pre-dated marsh improvement were identified. Post-medieval and modern drainage, particularly in the form of ceramic and gravel filled underdrainage, was present across the site. It was noted, however, that the area was thought to have been subject to levelling in the 1960s (ECC16192; ASE Report 8438).

Previous monitoring of groundworks at this site in carried out by CAT in 2019, 2021 and 2022 did not reveal any previously unknown red hills, nor did they expose any other archaeological features, although a single, very small sherd of Roman pottery and a fragment of medieval or post-medieval brick were recovered (CAT Reports 1475, 1725 & 1838).

#### **4 Aims**

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### **5 Results** (Fig 2)

A CAT archaeologist monitored the reduction of an area measuring 1521.1m<sup>2</sup> by approximately 0.1-0.2m below current ground level (bcgl) and, within this area, a further area measuring 827.8m<sup>2</sup> by some 0.2-0.4m bcgl.

Ten further areas totalling some 1892.6m<sup>2</sup> were reduced by up to 0.05m bcgl.

Ground reduction occurred through topsoil (L1, c 0.1-0.2m thick, loose, dry medium brown silt) into natural (L2, very hard, dry medium grey/brown/blue clay).

No archaeological features or material were encountered.



**Photograph 1** Stripped area, looking east south-east



**Photograph 2** Stripped area, looking south-west

## **6 Finds**

There were no archaeological finds.

## **7 Conclusion**

Despite being located within a historic grazing marsh and close to a number of red hills, no archaeological remains were encountered.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the Michelle Abel of RSPB for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, and the fieldwork was carried out by Z Eksen. Figures are by E Hicks. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 9 References

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

- |  |       |   |
|--|-------|---|
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| Biddulph, E,<br>Foreman, S,<br>Stafford, E,<br>Stansbie, D &<br>Nicholson, R | 2012  | <i>London Gateway: Iron Age and Roman salt making in the Thames Estuary. Excavation at Stanford Wharf Nature Reserve</i> . Oxford Archaeology Monograph <b>18</b>                                 |
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| CAT  | 2024  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i> . Colchester Archaeological Trust   |
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| CAT Report 1475  | 2019  | <i>Archaeological monitoring at Old Hall Marshes, Old Hall Lane, Tollesbury, Essex, CM9 8TP: September 2019</i> , by E Hicks  |
| CAT Report 1725  | 2021  | <i>Archaeological monitoring at Old Hall Marshes, Old Hall Lane, Tollesbury, Essex, CM9 8TP: August-September 2021</i> , by M Seehra  |
| CAT Report 1838  | 2022  | <i>Archaeological monitoring (Phase 3) at Old Hall Marshes, Old Hall Lane, Tollesbury, Essex, CM9 8TP: August 2022</i> , by A Ronn & S Veasey   |
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| ClfA   | 2020b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020 |
| ClfA   | 2022  | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022  |
| ClfA   | 2023a | <i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists   |
| ClfA   | 2023b | <i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists   |
| Fawn, AJ, Evans,<br>K, McMaster, I &<br>Davies, GMR                          | 1990  | <i>The red hills of Essex: salt-making in antiquity</i> . Colchester Archaeological Group   |
| Gascoyne, A &<br>Medlycott, M  | 2014  | <i>Essex historic grazing marsh project</i> . ECC   |
| Germany, M   | 2004  | 'Middle Iron Age red hill at Tollesbury Creek, Tollesbury, Essex', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> <b>35</b> , 192-195   |
| Gurney, D  | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )   |
| Historic England   | 2015  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Medlycott, M   | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )                                    |

MHCLG	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
RSPB	2024	<i>Old Hall Marshes Salcott Field: Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Archive deposition

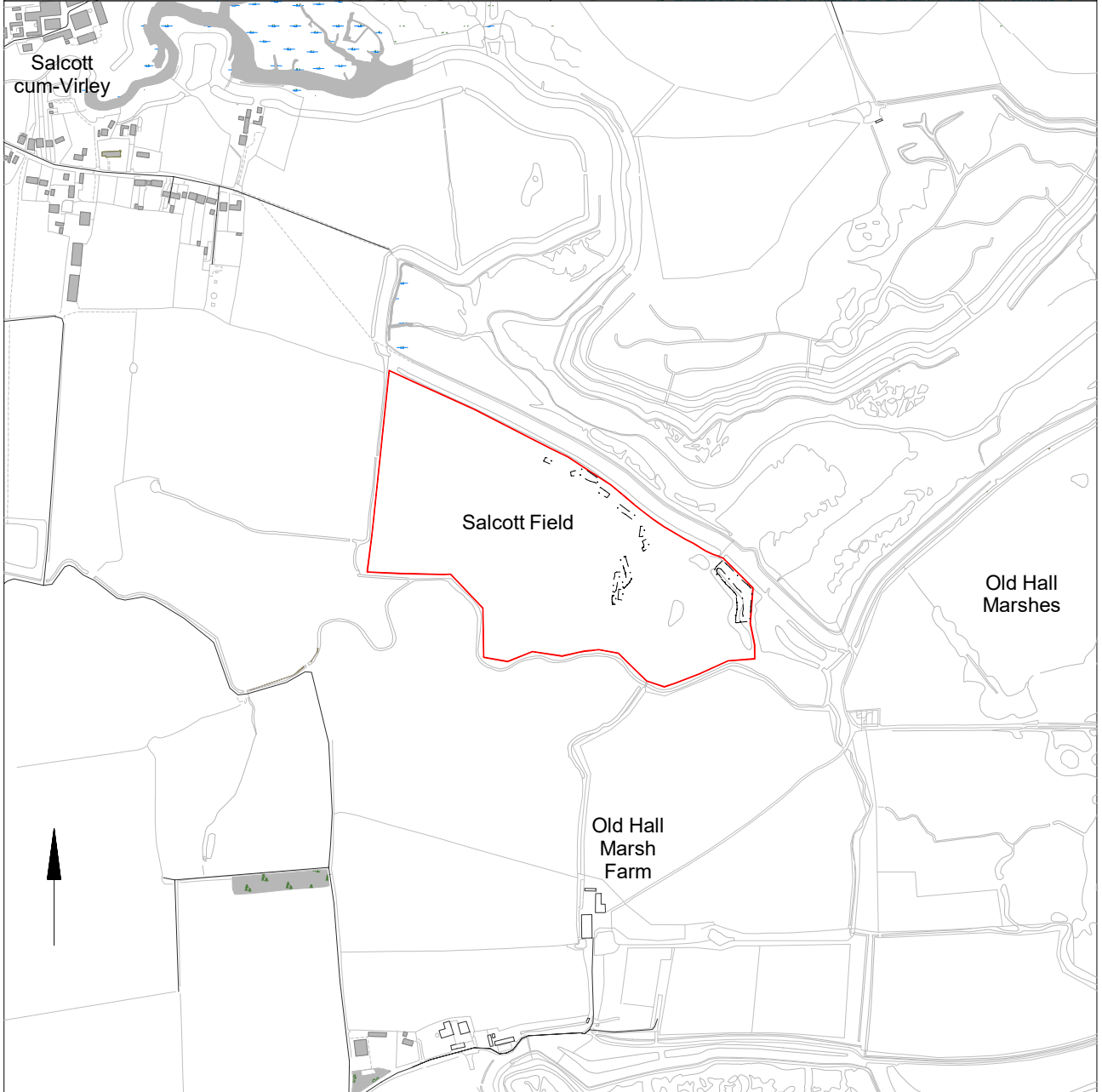
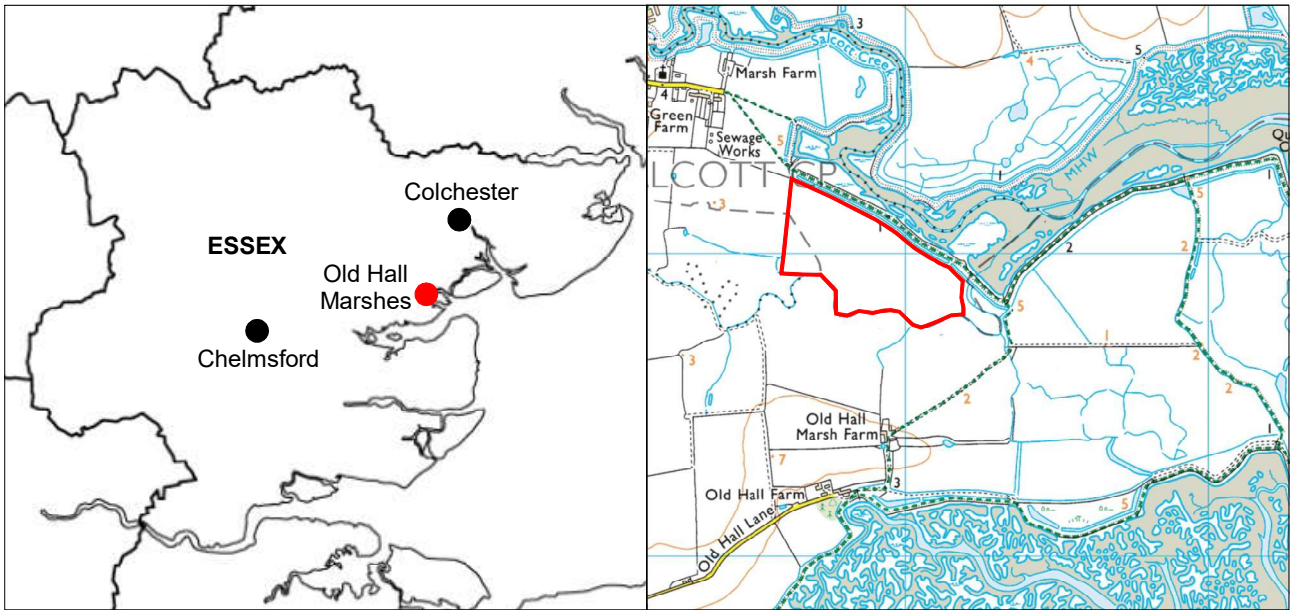
**Digital record:** This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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### Distribution list:

Michelle Abel, RSPB  
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council  
Colchester Historic Environment Record

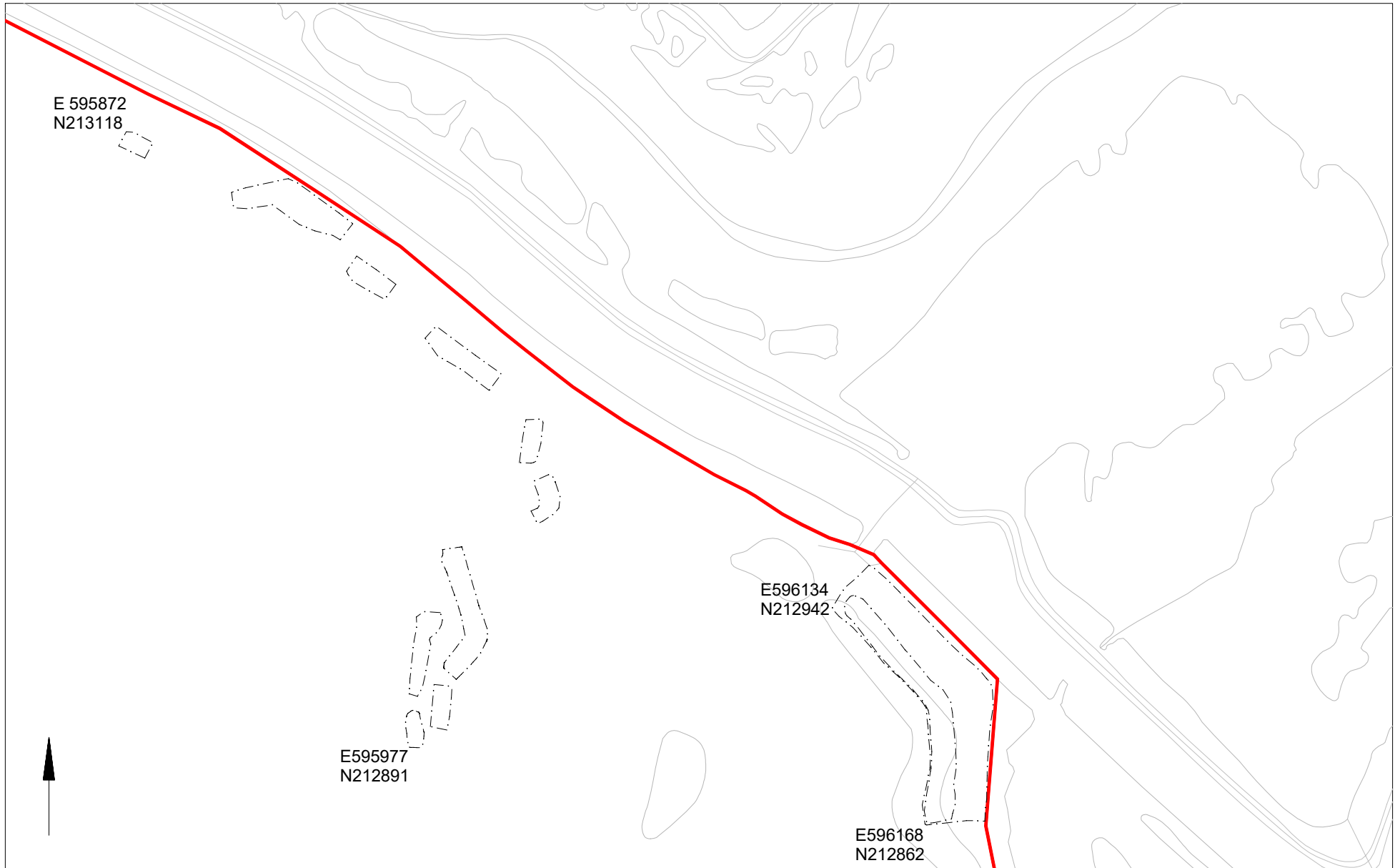




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Fig 1 Site location.





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Fig 2 Results.



# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex, CM9 8TP	
<b>Parish:</b> Salcott	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 96145 12904 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2024/06e CHER ref.: ECC4878 OASIS ref.: colchest3-526701
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 19th September-29th November 2024	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.54 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeology Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> RSPB
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 2091	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex during the creation of new wetland scrapes and other amendments to the reserve. Despite being located within a historic grazing marsh and close to a number of Red Hills (salt-production sites), no archaeological remains were encountered.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> n/a	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> 06/12/2024

# Old Hall Marshes Salcott Field

## Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief



Project	Salcott Field restoration project
Application number	232177
Site address	RSPB Old Hall Marshes, Maldon, CM9 8TP
Site NGR	595916, 213004
Site Landranger	TL95911300
Site area	17.50 ha.
Local Planning Authority	Colchester City Council
Document Author(s)	Matthew Williams MCifA
Document date	June 24

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document has been prepared by Matthew Williams MCIfA, RSPB Reserves Archaeologist, in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the permission for planning application number 232177. It sets out the detailed method to be employed for archaeological monitoring of ground works (watching brief), reporting and archiving.

The objective of the work is to monitor groundworks in order to identify, investigate and record any surviving archaeological deposits and artefacts affected by the proposed development.

A copy of the final version of this document will be available on Site.

## 2. BACKGROUND

### Planning

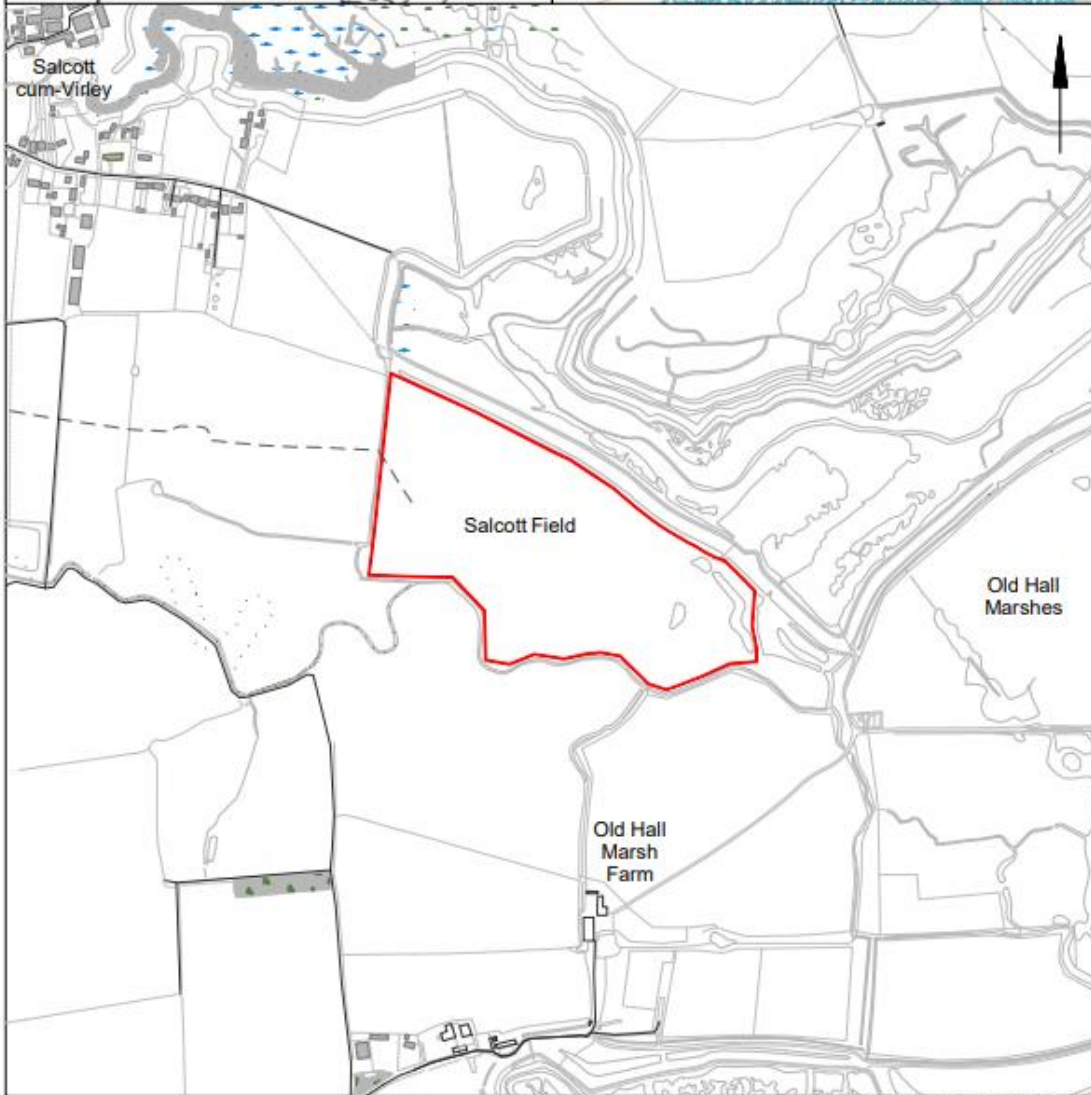
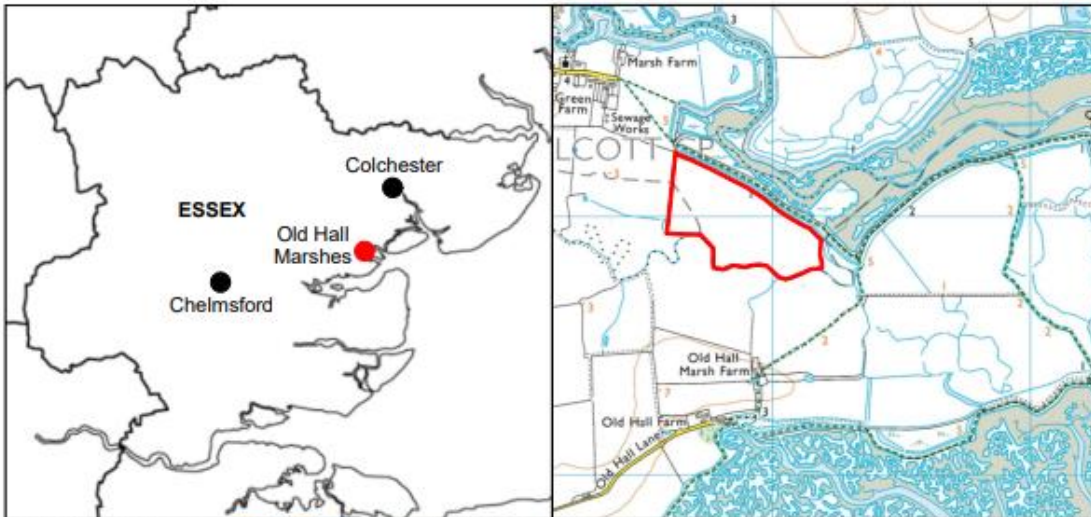
The Planning Authority is Colchester City Council, who take archaeological planning advice from the Colchester Archaeology Advice and HER Service (CAHS).

The following condition is attached to the planning permission:

*No works shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation that has been submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:*

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.*
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment.*
- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.*
- d. Provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- e. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.*
- f. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works. The site investigation shall thereafter be completed prior to development, or in such other phased arrangement, as agreed, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied or brought into use until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.*

*Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance Colchester Local Plan 2017-2033 policy DM16 and the Colchester Borough Adopted Guidance titled Managing Archaeology in Development (2015).*



## Geology

The British Geological Survey records the bedrock geology as London Clay formation, consisting of clay, silt and sand. The overlying (superficial) deposits are Tidal Flat Deposits (clay and silt) (BGS 2024).

## Landscape and topography

The following description is summarised from the Desk Based Assessment (CAT 2023). The Site is in the western part of the RSPB Old Hall Marshes, immediately to the south of Salcott Creek and associated saltings. It is approximately 0.5km to the south-east of Salcott village, 3km to the east of Tolleshunt D'Arcy and 2.5km to the north of Tollesbury. It covers the majority of a large irregular field of reclaimed marshland. To the south is a small creek which separates the Site from farmland which is also reclaimed marshland. The field tapers to the east towards the main part of RSPB Old Hall Marshes. The northern boundary is demarcated by raised seawall, past which is Salcott Creek. The western boundary of the site is defined by a hedge, past which is farmland. The Site is between 0m AOD and 5m AOD.

## Archaeology and History

The following information is summarised from the Desk Based Assessment (CAT 2023).

There are several 'red hills' in the area including three within the west part of the Site. Red mounds are low hills of debris from salt production comprising pottery, briquetage, ash and kiln waste. They probably date to the late Iron Age, Roman and Medieval periods.

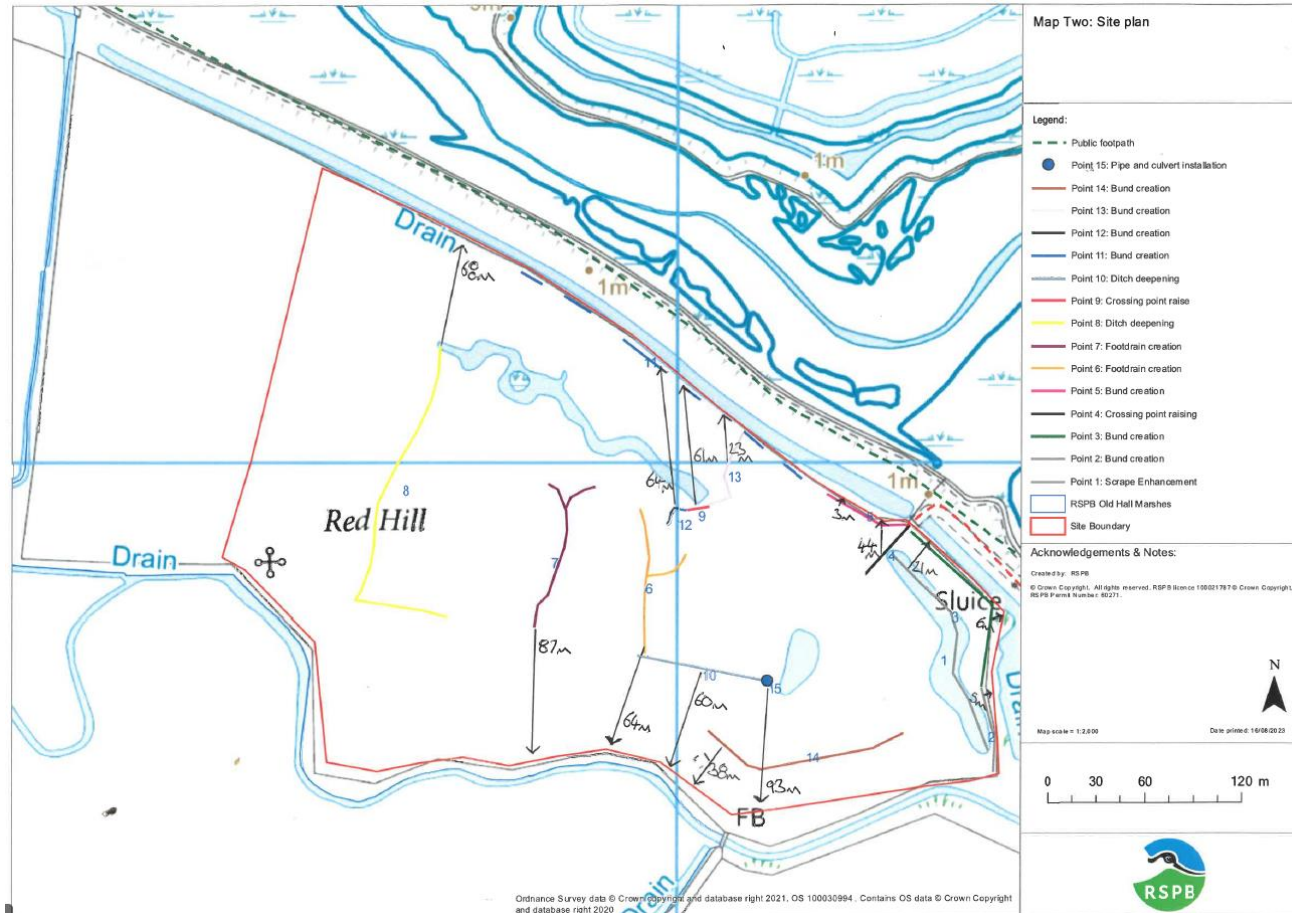
During the Medieval period the marsh was grazed. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was largely drained by the landowner, Sir Thomas Gardiner, and this continued into the 17<sup>th</sup> century; several banks across the site represent these episodes of reclamation. The Andre and Chapman map of 1777 shows the entire Old Hall peninsula enclosed by a sea wall. Later Ordnance Survey maps show the Site as a large, arable field.

## 3. Aims and Objectives

- To record and determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of archaeological remains, specifically any evidence relating to:
  - Late Iron Age/Roman/Medieval Red Hills
  - Medieval/Post Medieval reclamation
- To assess the significance of any archaeological remains and place them within their local, regional and national significance
- To integrate the results into research frameworks e.g. East of England Research Agenda:
  - **LIA-Rom 06:** *How can we increase our understanding of the Iron Age and Roman environment?*
  - **P-Med 14:** *How can we characterise the post-medieval historic landscape and the factors which affected it?*

## 4. Methodology

All work will be carried out in accordance with the Cifa Code of Conduct (Cifa 2022) and the Cifa Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording (2023). A plan of proposed groundworks is below:





## Excavation archaeological monitoring

The following excavation works will be archaeologically monitored (numbers relate to proposals plan on previous page):

- new footdrains (6, 7)
- pipe and culvert (15)
- scrape enhancement (1)
- ditch deepening/reprofiling (8, 10)

Wherever practicable all groundworks across the site will be undertaken by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Should significant archaeological features be encountered, appropriate time must be allowed for recording. Any deviation from this will be agreed with CAAHS.

In the event encountering of deposits that may be nationally important, a site meeting will be arranged between the RSPB and the CAAHS to determine the appropriate mitigation.

## Hand excavation

Examination and cleaning of archaeological deposits will be carried out by hand using appropriate hand tools. Spoil will be placed at a safe distance from the side of the trench. Spoil storage and backfilling will be managed by the groundworks contractor.

Hand excavation will be confined to the necessary construction excavation impact areas. Archaeological features beyond the impact areas (e.g. visible in trench section) will be left *in situ*.

## Recording

A Site location plan will be prepared at a suitable scale e.g. 1:250, showing the investigation locations.

Archaeological features and deposits will be recorded in plan and section at a suitable scale, usually 1:20. A minimum of one section will be drawn of each feature. All plans and sections will be related to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum using spot heights.

The written recording system used will follow the single context recording method, e.g. the Museum of London Archaeological Site Manual (Spence 1994). Deposits will be recorded on pro-forma context sheets. Sample registers, finds registers, access catalogues, and photo registers will also be used where appropriate.

A photographic record will be made using a 12MP digital SLR camera or similar. Objects and excavated features will be photographed with appropriate graded scales. Deep features will include vertical scales. The photographic record will also include shots to illustrate the site works. Archive imagery will follow current best practice using high quality non-proprietary DNG, TIFF or RAW data files (not JPEGs).

## Finds and artefacts

Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts. All artefactual and ecofactual material recovered during the watching brief should be retained for assessment and will be treated in accordance with Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CifA 2020). All identified finds, artefacts, industrial and faunal remains will

be collected and retained. Certain classes of building material and modern artefacts may be discarded after recording.

All finds will be washed and processed to CIFA standards and will be subject to assessment and storage according to CIFA standards (CIFA 20). Bulk finds will be bagged in clear plastic bags marked with a Site Code/Accession number and Context Number. Packaging of all organic finds and metalwork will follow the UKIC/Rescue guidelines, 'First Aid for Finds' (Leigh 1998).

### Environmental and scientific dating samples

Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements, provision will be made for the following samples:

- Bulk samples of 30-60 litres, or 100% of the context, for processing using a floatation tank for the recovery of charred plant remains from the 'flot' and artefacts such as small bones, mineralised plant remains, charcoal and hammer scale from the residues.
- Samples of 1-5 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of waterlogged plant remains. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- Samples of 5-15 litres from waterlogged deposits for analysis of insect remains and other macroscopic artefacts. These may be taken as sub-samples from bulk samples.
- Samples of 2 litres for mollusc analysis, with associated continuous column samples.
- Monolith samples for soil micromorphology which may be sub-sampled for diatom, spore or pollen analysis.

Bulk samples will be processed as soon as possible. Residues will be treated as part of the finds assemblage.

On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken by a specialist in accordance with Historic England's guidance in Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods (2011).

### Human remains

If human remains are encountered, they will be covered and the District Coroner informed.

Excavation and removal will only be undertaken if necessary and with the appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice. Any consents or licenses required will be obtained on behalf of the client by the archaeological contractor.

### Treasure

Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure be encountered, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, they will be removed to a safe place as soon as practically possible and reported to the local coroner according to the Treasure Act 1996 (2nd Revision). Where artefacts cannot be removed on the same day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds.

### Reporting

Upon completion of the fieldwork an illustrated report will be prepared. The report will collate the written, graphic, visible and recorded information.

The report will include:

- a non technical summary (abstract);
- introductory statements and background;
- a methodology of the works undertaken including any variation from this WSI;
- a description of the project's results;
- conclusions giving an interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs;
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location
- summary tables of contexts, finds and samples;
- specialist assessment reports where undertaken;
- an evaluation of the methodology employed and the results obtained (i.e. a confidence rating) and
- references and bibliography.

The report will be produced within four weeks of completion of the fieldwork (dependent upon the provision of specialist reports, e.g. bulk sample assessment). A draft report will be submitted to the RSPB for comment prior to its formal submission to CAAHS.

The contractor shall retain copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides licence to the client in all matters directly relating to the project. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority. Any information deposited in the Historic Environment Record can be freely copied without reference to the originator for research or planning purpose.

### Publication

If the results are considered worthy of publication, a programme of analysis and publication will be agreed with the RSPB and CAAHS.

### Archive

On completion of reporting, the RSPB will be asked to sign a Deed of Transfer transferring the finds to the recipient museum. The recipient museum is the Museum Resource Centre, 40 Heckworth Close, Colchester, CO4 9TB. The archive will be deposited within six months of completion of the report. The acceptance of the archive by the museum will be in accordance with the museum's accession/collection policies.

The integrity of the Site archive will be maintained. All finds and records will be properly curated and be available for public consultation. Appropriate guidance is set out in 'Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in compilation, creation, compilation, transfer, transfer and curation.' (Brown 2011).

The project will be given an OASIS reference number. The digital archive comprising written records, plans and photographs will be deposited on the OASIS website. An electronic copy of the report will be submitted to the Essex Historic Environment Record and will be uploaded to OASIS and the Archaeology Data Service.

The contractor will notify CAAHS on deposition of the digital archive, and deposition of the artefact archive with the Museum Resource Centre.

## Monitoring

The RSPB will give two weeks' notice to CAAHS, unless a shorter period is agreed, of commencement of the fieldwork to enable monitoring of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.

## Health and safety

The contractor will prepare a Risk Assessment prior to starting work. This will be available on site at all times during the work. Any staff or visitors must be aware of the contents of the Risk Assessment and sign it.

Site staff will wear suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). As a minimum this will be hard hat, safety boots and hi-vis vest.

No staff will enter unsupported excavations of over 1m depth.

Staff must make sure the machine driver is aware of their presence when approaching the machine and monitoring the excavations.

## Staffing and timetable

The author of this WSI and project consultant is Matthew Williams MCIfA (5712), RSPB Reserves Archaeologist (England and Wales).

The archaeological contractor has not yet been appointed. All work will be carried out under the control of a specified Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA), or by a specified person of equivalent standing and expertise.

Works are currently programmed to complete by November 2024.

## References

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- Brown, D H, 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised)
- British Geological Survey (BGS), <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> (accessed 17/06/2024).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023 *Code of Conduct*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020 *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief*
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020 *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- Colchester Archaeological Trust (2023) *An archaeological desk based assessment for Salcott Field, Old Hall Marshes, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Maldon, CM9 8TP*. Unpublished client report.
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- Leigh, D, 1998. *First Aid for Finds: Practical Guide for Archaeologists* in D. Watkinson & V. Neal, eds. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works, Archaeology Section. Available at: <http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=37hvQgAACAAJ>.
- McKinley, J.I. 2013, 'Cremation: Excavation, Analysis, and Interpretation of Material from Cremation-Related Contexts' in S. Tarlow and L. Nilsson Stutz (eds.) *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Death and Burial*, Oxford University Press 147-17
- RSPB (2024) *Old Hall Marshes Environmental Statement*. Unpublished planning report.
- Spence, C. (ed)., 1994. *Archaeological Site Manual*. London: Museum of London Archaeological Service. Available at: <http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/056B4AFD-AB5F-45AF-9097-5A53FFDC1F94/0/MoLASManual94.pdf>.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-526701

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-526701
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex, CM9 8TP: September 2024
Sitename	Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex
Sitecode	ECC4878
Project Identifier(s)	2024/06e
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	232177
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	19-Sep-2024 - 29-Nov-2024
Location	Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex NGR : TL 95820 12951 LL : 51.780947, 0.837364 12 Fig : 595820,212951
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Salcott
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks as specified in the WSI.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Old Hall Marshes, Salcott Field, Salcott, Essex during the creation of new wetland scrapes and other amendments to the RSPB reserve. Despite being located within a historic grazing marsh and close to a number of Red Hills (salt-production sites), no archaeological remains were encountered.
Keywords	
Funder	Other national authority RSPB
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4878
Archives	