

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

CAT Report 550

Address: Granta House, High Street, Littlebury, Essex	
Parish: Littlebury	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 561 394	Site code: CAT project code – 10/4g ECC site code – LITGH10
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 10th-11th May 2010	Size of area investigated: 42m ²
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession code – 2010.27	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: -
Final report: CAT Report 550	
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Granta House itself originally dates from the 16th century, although it was extensively rebuilt in the early part of the 19th century. The development lies immediately opposite the Holy Trinity Church at Littlebury (EHER 18558-9). It is a flint and stone church of Saxo-Norman origin with 12th -15th century alterations. This would have formed the focal point for the village, and it seemed probable that evidence of medieval settlement would be identified in the grounds of Granta House. The site also lies on the edge of the area of the predicted Anglo-Saxon enclosure around the settlement of Littlebury.</p> <p>Following a Brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Management team (<i>Granta House, High Street, Littlebury</i>. August 2009) a watching brief was commissioned by Mrs Camilla Lethbridge. The watching brief, was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust, on the area reduction and foundation trenches associated with a new garden room on the south elevation of Granta House. The reduction and foundation trenches revealed no archaeological features or finds, but the brick foundations of an old Victorian conservatory were identified. They were substantial. A double thickness of brickwork incorporating a brick vent and cast iron pipe-work running from the (now backfilled) boiler room. The conservatory had been demolished in the 1950s (<i>pers comm</i>) leaving a small walled terrace and water feature (these along with the floor level of the conservatory had been removed prior to the ground reduction). The lack of archaeological material may be due to the small scale of the project, or to truncation caused by the development of Granta House and its gardens which were extensively modified and landscaped particularly in the mid 18th century, and in particular by the construction of the mid-late Victorian conservatory which the new garden room is seeking to replace (continuing the tradition of modification that has been ongoing since the house was first built in the 16th century).</p>	

Previous summaries/reports: None	
Keywords: -	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: May 2010

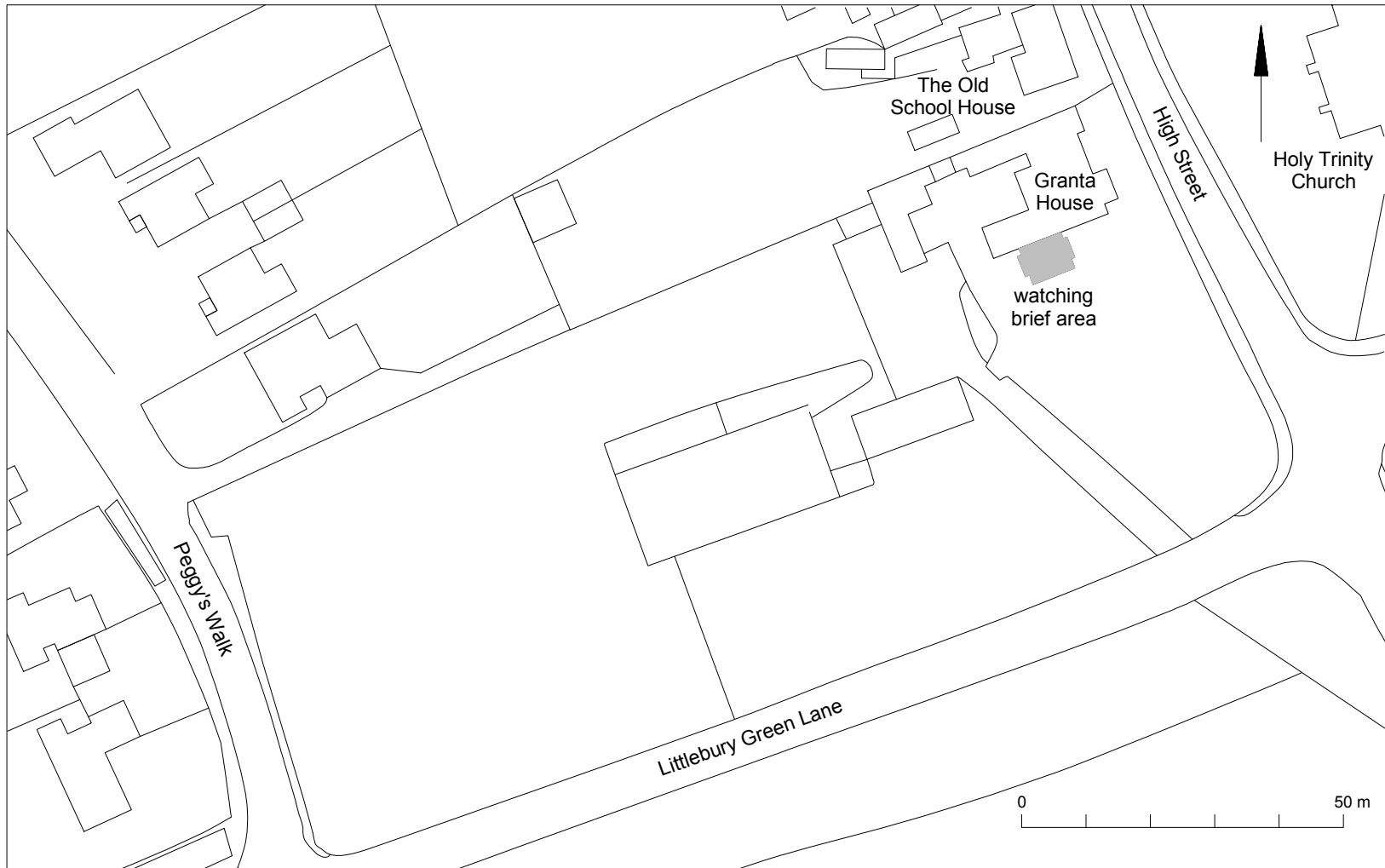


Fig 1 Watching brief location.