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Architectural Historian

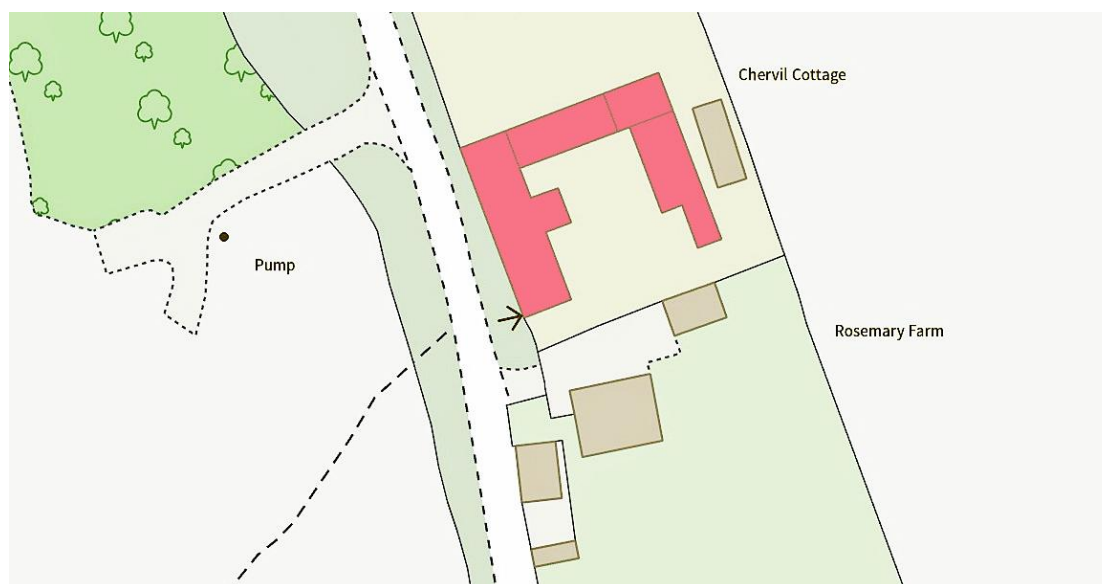
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## **Written Scheme of Investigation**

### **Barn at Rosemary Farm, Rushley Green, Castle Hedingham, Essex**

Planning Application BDC 19/00486/FUL (residential conversion of an unlisted timber-framed and weatherboarded barn and attached sheds at TL 79165 36062, as highlighted in red on the site plan below).



**Site plan of Rosemary Farm showing the buildings to be recorded**

This WSI describes a programme of historic building recording intended to fulfil a condition of the planning decision notice relating to the above application. **It has been prepared in conjunction with a brief issued on 23 March 2022 by Teresa O'Connor, Historic Environment Adviser at Place Services.**

The HBR will form a level 2 record as detailed in Historic England's 'Understanding Historic Buildings' (2016).

It will include:

- a large-scale plan of the site identifying all relevant historic structures with a number and a map regression that includes the parish tithe map and any earlier estate surveys that can be traced.

- a survey of the site's documented history with reference to a variety of sources such as record offices, the county Historic Environment Record, and Historic England's online archives. The property owner will also be consulted for local information.
- measured ground plans and elevations to HE conventions at a minimum scale of 1:100.
- a systematic photographic survey of 21 megapixel JPEG images taken on a Canon 5D camera accompanied by a numbered schedule with a detailed description of each.
- a description and analysis of each structure detailing its origin, development and purpose with an assessment of its historic significance. This will be illustrated by photographs drawn from the photographic survey.
- a non-technical summary suitable for publication

The fieldwork will be undertaken by me in person (see biographical details below), following the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists and in conjunction with current Health and Safety guidelines.

**The site was inspected on 13<sup>th</sup> April prior to the preparation of this WSI and it is considered that an adequate record of the building can be made prior to the commencement of conversion work, without the need for subsequent monitoring.** The present cladding of the structure does not conceal features of historic significance. The building was identified as a largely intact mid-19<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed and weatherboarded five-bay threshing barn that incorporates an historically significant early-17<sup>th</sup> century structure in two bays that was probably built as a stable. This two-bay structure may have been moved from elsewhere. The adjoining mid-19<sup>th</sup> century sheds include a pair of brick pig sties, a converted former stable or cow shed and a formerly open-sided shelter-shed. **The fieldwork was accordingly completed during the same site visit and the final report is due to be issued by the beginning of June 2022.**

The final report will be submitted to the HE Adviser within two months of completion, and a copy of the summary sent to the editor of Essex Archaeology and History. Following approval by the LPA it will be uploaded to the OASIS website with the accompanying record of digital photographs archived with the Archaeological Data Service and the LPA duly informed.

*Leigh Alston is a building archaeologist and architectural historian who for 20 years lectured on the understanding and recording of timber-framed structures in the Departments of Archaeology and Continuing Education at Cambridge University. He worked as the in-house building archaeologist for Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service for 10 years and subsequently for its successor, Suffolk Archaeology CIC. He continues to undertake commissions on a freelance basis for a wide variety of private clients including the National Trust and numerous Local Authorities. Leigh co-founded the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group in 1993, serving as Chairman for 13 years, and has featured in several television programmes including 'Grand Designs' and David Dimbleby's 'How We Built Britain'. Based on the Suffolk/Essex border he is a former council member of both the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History and the Essex Society for Archaeology and History. Publications include 'Late Medieval Workshops in East Anglia' in 'The Vernacular Workshop' edited by Paul Barnwell & Malcolm Airs (CBA and English Heritage, 2004) and the National Trust guidebook to Lavenham Guildhall.*

**Leigh Alston, 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022**