

**An archaeological evaluation at
28 The Hythe, Maldon, Essex
November 2009**

**report prepared by
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on behalf of Mr Stephen Reed

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NGR TL 85690 06830
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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	1
5	Results	2
6	Finds	3
7	Discussion	4
8	Acknowledgements	4
9	References	4
10	Abbreviations and glossary	5
11	Archive deposition	5

Figures after p 6

EHER summary sheet

Figures

- 1 Site plan
- 2 T1-T3: plan
- 3 Sections

1 Summary

The site is on The Hythe, which was a focus for settlement and development in Anglo-Saxon and medieval Maldon. An evaluation undertaken prior to the redevelopment of the site for new housing uncovered a post-medieval ditch, and modern pits.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation carried out on behalf of clients by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 28 The Hythe, Maldon, Essex, in November 2009.
- 2.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, on the Hythe at Maldon, about 33m from the current water's edge. It consists of 512m² of open ground, made up of hard-standing and a mixture of topsoil and rubble associated with the demolition and removal of no 28. The site slopes upwards from front to rear.
- 2.3 Site centre is at NGR TL 85690 06830.
- 2.4 Following submission of a planning application to Maldon District Council in 2009 for the construction of two new houses (planning application no MAL/09/00428), Essex County Council's Historic Environment (HEM) team issued a brief entitled *Archaeological fieldwork at 28 The Hythe, Maldon* (HEM 2009). Following *Planning Policy Guidance note 16* (DoE 1990), this recommended an evaluation, the results of which would inform a decision on whether more archaeological work was required before development.
- 2.5 The evaluation, by three trial-trenches (T1-T3), was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CAT (CAT 2009) in response to the HEM team brief (HEM 2009), and agreed with the HEM team.
- 2.6 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was consistent with standards and practices contained in CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE) and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held by Essex County Council, and on Medlycott 1999.

The site lies in an area of very significant archaeological potential within the town where surviving deposits of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date have been previously demonstrated (EHER no 7717). The historic town assessment report highlights the Hythe area as a focus for settlement and development throughout the history of the town (Medlycott 1999) and excavations to the northeast of the proposed development on the Croxley Works Site, Church Street have recovered features dating from the Saxon period onwards (Ennis 2009).

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by the redevelopment of the site. Specific attention was to be paid to the potential for the archaeological remains mentioned in section 3 above.

5 Results

Three evaluation trenches at a total length of 28m were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator.

An archaeological summary of each evaluation trench with a tabulation of context and finds-dating information follows below.

T1: summary

T1 was located on the eastern edge of the site. It was excavated through the modern topsoil remnant (L1), a levelling horizon (L2), and an accumulation layer (L3) into natural geological clay and gravels (L4). The trench contained two modern features, ie pits F1 and F2. F1 was 20th century in date; finds included modern glass and pottery as well as a length of armoured cable. F2 was also likely to date to the 20th century; its fill contained modern pottery and coal fragments.

L2, a clean clay horizon 200-300mm thick was only present in this trench. It sealed both F1 and F2, and was securely dated by four mid-19th century clay-pipe bowls. It appears to have been imported to level the eastern edge of the site, presumably prior to construction and landscaping relating to the former property.

T1 – archaeological contexts and finds.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F1	pit	pottery, brick, peg-tile, glass	modern
F2	pit	pottery, peg-tile, coal	modern

T2: summary

T2 was located on the northern edge of the site. It was cut through topsoil (L1) accumulation material (L3), and into natural sands and gravel (L4).

T2 was relocated to avoid a mains drainage run. It contained a modern pit (F3) and the surviving stub of a brick foundation (F4). Both features are, as in T1, likely to date to the 20th century, and appear to be associated with the house which recently occupied the site. Pit F3 contained modern brick fragments and was partially sealed by F4, indicating that it may have been either a cut for the construction of wall F4, or a robber cut connected with its removal. F4 appeared to be the remains of an internal wall (the main external foundation survived *in situ* to the north of the trench).

T2 – archaeological contexts and finds.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F3	Pit	modern glass, coal, brick, peg-tile (not retained)	modern
F4	stub of brick footing	-	modern

T3: summary

T3 was located on the western edge of the site. It was cut through topsoil material (L1) accumulation material (L3), and into natural sands and gravel (L4).

T3 contained three features, ie a modern pit F5, modern post-hole F6 and a post-medieval ditch F7. The central area of the trench had been disturbed by a modern service run. Both the pit and post-hole contained modern material (glass, coal, peg-tile, brick) indicating a 19th-/20th-century date for deposition. The linear feature was aligned NW/SE and was cut by a modern service trench, which had a lighter fill with charcoal flecking. Finds included peg-tile, indicating a post-medieval date.

T3 – archaeological contexts and finds.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F5	pit	brick, animal bone, glass (not retained)	modern
F6	post-hole	peg-tile	modern
F7	ditch	peg-tile, animal bone	post-medieval

6 Finds

by H Brooks

Introduction

This is a catalogue of all the finds from the evaluation, listed by context. Pottery fabric descriptions are after CAR 7. Clay-tobacco pipe descriptions are after CAR 5. Comments on feature dating are given after each context.

F1

Finds no 2

1 base of highly-glazed modern pot in fabric 40 post-medieval red earthenware (PMRE), possibly a teapot, 136g. 20th century.

1 split neck of ginger-beer bottle in Fabric 45m modern stoneware, 55g. 19th-20th century.

1 complete emerald green glass lemonade bottle with screw thread inside neck. Embossed on front: R WHITE & S LD. 524g. 20th century.

F1 date: 20th century

F2

Finds no 4

1 base fragment from a hexagonal clear glass bottle, 27g. Probably 19th century.

1 fragment of glazed wall tile in Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), 13g. 19th-20th century.

F2 date: 19th-20th century

F6

Finds number 1

1 peg-tile fragment, 14g.

F6 date: post-medieval or later

F7

Finds number 3

2 fragments of long bone, quadriped, 46g.

1 peg-tile fragment with circular peg hole, 281g.

1 fragment of fine-grained limestone. No surviving surfaces. Presumably derived from the demolition of a building on or near this spot. 189g.

F7 date: post-medieval or later

L2

Finds no 5

Group of four clay tobacco pipe bowl and stem fragments. These have vertical narrow feet, and so are probably CAR 5 Type 13 (dating to the mid-19th century).

1) RC stamp on foot. 17.7g.

2) CS stamp on foot, 10.7g.

3) ?S stamp on foot, 9.4g

4) Fluted bowl, CS stamp on foot, 9.0g

L2 date: mid-19th century

7 Discussion

This evaluation has revealed evidence of substantial modern disturbance to the surface of the site. In particular, the majority of the topsoil appears to have been removed, leaving only a remnant topsoil mixed with modern demolition material (L1). This activity appears to be recent, and is probably the result of demolition and site clearance.

The archaeological features intercepted by the trenches were either post-medieval or modern in date, and there was no evidence of the buildings shown along the Hythe frontage by cartographic sources.

Post-medieval

Evidence of post-medieval activity is limited to a single ditch (F7) on the western edge of the site. It had been truncated by modern service runs and building foundations. It may represent a former property boundary, but its alignment does not match the existing site boundaries.

Modern

The majority of features were of modern date and, for the most part, appear to be associated with either the garden or the house which formerly occupied the site. The features consist of structural foundations or pits for the disposal of domestic material. Modern disturbance is also apparent in the form of service runs, both live and defunct, which cross the site.

8 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Mr Stephen Reed for commissioning and funding the work.

Site work was by B Holloway. Digital survey by C Lister. Figures by Emma Spurgeon.

The project was monitored for the ECC HEM team by Maria Medlycott.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except DBAs (desk-based assessments) are available online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk> in .pdf format.

CAR 5	1988	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by Nina Crummy
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT	2009	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial-trenching at 28 The Hythe, Maldon, Essex, October 2009</i>
CIMS	2008	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i> , CBC
DoE	1990	<i>Planning Policy Guidance 16: archaeology and planning</i> , Department of the Environment
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney
ECC	2009	<i>Archaeological fieldwork at 28 The Hythe, Maldon</i> , October 2009
HEM	2009	Archaeological; fieldwork at 28 The Hythe, Maldon. October 2009, by Maria Medlycott
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i>

Medlycott, M	1999	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials Maldon: historic town assessment report</i> , Essex County Council Planning Department, Archaeology Section
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> , English Heritage
Ennis, T	2009	<i>Former Croxley Works site, Church Street, Maldon: archaeological evaluation and excavation</i> , Field Archaeology Unit Report 1763, January 2009

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	the period from the 5th century to AD 1066
AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HEM	Historic Environment Management team
medieval	after AD 1066 and up to c 1530
modern	the 19th-21st centuries
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	after c 1530 and up to c 1800

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLIM 2009.70.

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Fig 1 Site plan.



Fig 2 T1-3: plan.

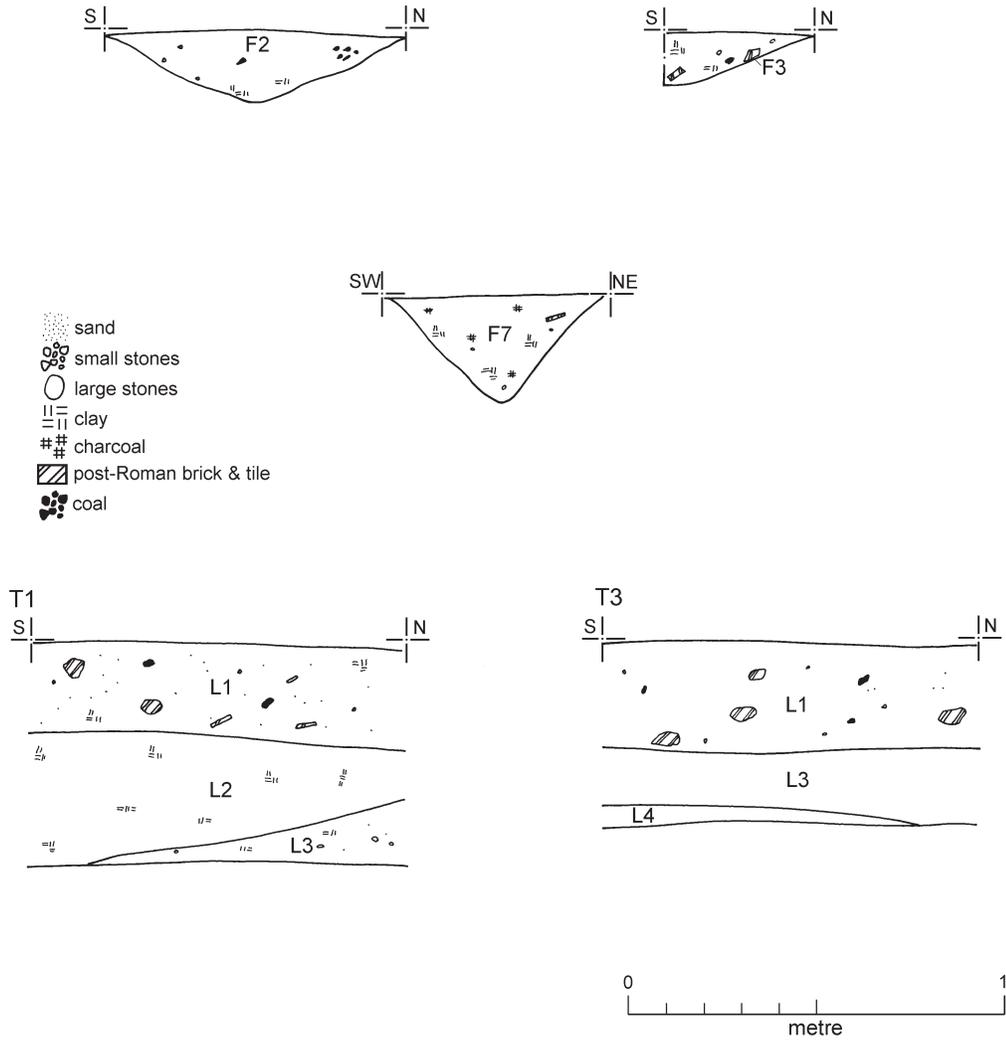


Fig 3 Sections: F1-3 and T1, T3 representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: 28 The Hythe, Maldon, Essex	
Parish: Maldon	District: Maldon
NGR: NGR TL 85690 06830	Site codes: CAT: 09/10b HEM: MD 44
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: November 2009	Size of area investigated: 512m2
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums accession 2009.70	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER no: 7717
Final report: CAT Report 533 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: The site is on The Hythe, which was a focus for settlement and development in Anglo-Saxon and medieval Maldon. An evaluation undertaken prior to the redevelopment of the site for new housing uncovered a post-medieval ditch, and modern pits.	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: post-medieval ditch, modern pits	Significance: *
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: February 2010