

**An archaeological watching brief at
Little Canfield Hall, Little Canfield
Dunmow, Essex.
October 2014**



report prepared by Stephen Benfield

commissioned by Foxley Builders Ltd

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Summary

The watching brief by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) encompassed monitoring of machine excavated footing trenches and observation of the exposed topsoil surface of a building plot and surfaces of spoil heaps.

Although a small number of features were recorded in the footing trenches, no features of archaeological significance were located. Apart from small quantities of finds of post-medieval-modern date associated with the features, only a very small quantity of finds of significant archaeological interest were recovered, all of which were unstratified surface finds or came from existing contractors spoil.

A few worked flints, recovered from the north of the site, can be closely dated to the period of the Early Neolithic and Neolithic-Early Bronze Age. As it stands, the small quantity of flint would indicate only limited activity during this period.

Medieval (late 12th-13th century) activity is represented by sherds from a cooking pot. This vessels appears to be associated with activity at the site, although a significant quantity of medieval pottery of similar date was found among recently imported soil on a different area of the site.

Several features were noted in the footing trenches. The extant remains of the lower part of a substantial wood post (probably a post-medieval gate post) were located in one trench. Another at the rear of the Hall building exposed a large post-medieval pit and modern structures consisting of an unmortared brick channel and what appeared to be the south edge of an associated unmortared brick box or brick lined square pit.

Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological watching brief carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Little Canfield Hall, Little Canfield (Dunmow), Essex (NGR TL 5853 2192). The archaeological work follows from a brief issued by Historic Environment Officer Richard Havis on behalf of Essex County Council (HE 2014) and the following Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) drawn up by CAT (CAT 2014). The work was carried out in October 2014 on behalf of Foxley Builders Ltd (site developers).

The work primarily involved the monitoring of machine digging of trenches for footings relating to two extensions to the rear of the Hall itself, and for a new property boundary wall relating to converted, former maltings, buildings ('The Maltings') located immediately west of the Hall (Fig 1). Any works relating to the reduction of ground within the footprint of the new 'Cartlodge' building was also to be observed.

Archaeological background

The proposed development lies within the historic farm and moat complex at Little Canfield Hall (HER 4592).

Little Canfield Hall is a moated manor site and the moat is particularly substantial compared to many others recorded within Essex and surrounds both the house (Hall) and all of the early farm buildings. As many of the moats in this area of Uttlesford have their origins in the 12th and 13th century, it is probable that this site also has its origins at that date.

The site comprises a range of surviving farm buildings including a Grade II listed house of 16th-century date (HER 4592), a large Essex barn, listed Grade II and dated to the 14th century (HER 37962) and a number of later barns and outbuildings.

Archaeology (Figs 1-3, Plates 1-9)

Introduction

The archaeological work (Fig 1) consisted of the monitoring of machine excavated trenches, surface observation of a small area previously stripped of the upper topsoil and observation of spoil from groundworks.

The machine excavated trenches related to footings for two extensions to the rear of the Hall building and a new boundary wall:

- *Hall Extension 1 (Hall northwest) located at the northwest corner of the building*
- *Hall Extension 2 (Hall northeast) located at the northeast corner of the building*

Also the machine digging of a footing trench for a new property boundary wall relating to converted (maltings) buildings located immediately west of the Hall building:

- *New boundary wall ('The Maltings')*

All this work was carried out under archaeological supervision using a mini digger equipped with a narrow (0.5m) toothless bucket. The footings were excavated to approximately 1.0m in depth.

The archaeological observation related to the footprint of the new 'Cart Lodge' (garage) building together with a topsoil heap (temporary spoil heap) of soil removed from this area (Fig 1, A) and a heap of topsoil spoil (temporary spoil heap) scraped up from the area west of 'The Maltings' (Fig 1, B). A spread of soil located between the buildings ('The Tithe Barn' & 'The Stables') on the southwest of the complex was also observed, although later discovered to be soil imported onto the site (Fig 1, C).

Summary of soil deposits and natural deposits

In general the surface deposits consisted of a thin, patchy layer of modern demolition rubble covering a dark sandy clay-loam modern topsoil (L1) up to 300mm thick. There was variation in the subsoil encountered, with clayed sand (probably mostly if not entirely of natural origin) located immediately below the dark topsoil in one of the footing trenches of Hall Extension 2, but mostly a mixed grey clayed-silt was encountered (L2). This is also probably essentially a natural deposit but with areas of disturbance incorporating pieces of ceramic building material. This deposit was commonly about 100-200mm thick. This overlay natural (L3) variously sand (encountered primarily in the Hall extension footing trenches) and silty-sand of sandy gravels (located along the base of the New boundary wall footing trench).

Machine excavated trenches:

Hall Extension 1 (Hall northwest) (Fig 1 & Fig 2)

The extension consisted of a series of short connecting lengths of footing trenches (four in number) excavated at 0.5m wide and together totalling approximately 10.25m in length (Fig 2). The trenches were excavated to approximately 1.0m in depth (Plate 1).



Plate 1 Hall Extension 1 General view of partly completed footing trenches (view southeast)

Due to extensive disturbance from post-medieval and modern features in the central area of the footings a sequence of deposits onto natural was only able to be recorded at the east end and at the south end of the trenching adjacent to the building:

- at the east end of the footings a thin layer of modern demolition covering a dark topsoil (L1) (together approximately 100 mm thick) sealed grey brown silty-clay (L2) containing some fragments of CBM (which appeared to be of post-medieval date) overlying natural sand (L3) at about 0.7m below the surface.
- at the south end of the footings a thin layer of modern demolition covering a dark topsoil (L1) (together approximately 200mm thick) sealed grey brown silty-clay (L2) containing some fragments of CBM (which appeared to be of post-medieval date) overlying natural gravelly sand (L3) at about 600mm below the surface.

Of the few features revealed (below) none were considered to be of significant archaeological interest and no significant finds were recovered.

In the north footing trench a short length of channel or drain made of unmortared bricks (F1) was encountered at 800mm down from the present surface (Plate 2). The channel consisted of two lines of bricks forming the edges with bricks laid flat and resting on them covering the void between. The channel itself was filled with a clean, grey clayed-silt. It is not known if there was a brick base to the channel as (if present) this would have lain below the base of the footing trench.

A line of unmortared bricks, laid end to end, was located west of F1 running along the base of the footing trench. This did not seem to be a continuation of F1 but instead suggested a different, but related structure with the drain/channel (F1) lying at the corner of it. It appears that the line of bricks had probably formed part of the south wall of a larger structure that had extended to the north of the footing trench and from which most of the bricks had previously been removed (robbed). Although no clear corners of the feature remained and only one side was located, it appears most likely that the structure had been a brick box or square/rectangular brick lined pit.



Plate 2 F1 Brick channel and remains of brick structure (view northeast)

Bricks from the drain and wall were mostly unfroged and of probable 18th-early 19th-century date (Table 3, finds nos. 1 & 2). However, one of the bricks (integral to the wall of the brick box or brick lined pit) was found to be froged and probably dates to the 19th or early 20th century. This suggests that most of the bricks were reused from an earlier structure and the feature itself is of 19th-century or early 20th-century date.

Extensive disturbance above the bricks and in the side of the footing trench here probably results from the robbing and backfilling of the box structure. The fill consisted of grey clayed silt with some fragments of CBM, but no close dating material was recovered from it.

On the east side of the footings a large pit (F2) was observed in section (Plate 3) the fill of which extended below the base of the footing trench located at approximately 1.0m below the present surface (Fig 2). The upper and mid part of the pit contained a visibly homogeneous fill of dark, grey-brown clay loam with common, fragments of red CBM and some flint stones. The lower fill (close to the base of the trench) appeared to have a faintly greenish hue suggesting the presence of some cess material. The only closely datable find from the pit fill was a single sherd of post-medieval red earthen ware (3) broadly dated to the mid/late 16th-18th century. Small pieces of peg-tile and pieces of brick of probable post-medieval date were also recovered (3).



Plate 3 Pit F2 cut by footing (view northeast)

The relationship of the pit to the brick channel (F1) was not clear. It was thought that the brick channel might have been removed by the cutting of the pit which would indicate a late 19th-20th-century date for

the feature. But on close inspection the relationship could not be ascertained, although it appeared that this might not be the case. Overall the finds associated with the pit indicate a post-medieval date, probably in the 18th century or later.

Hall Extension 2 (Hall northeast) (Fig 1 & Plate 4)

The footing trench (0.5m wide) consisted of two, joining short lengths (5m & 3m) set at right angles to each other (Fig 1).



Plate 4 Hall Extension 2 general view of location (view southwest)

The deposits at the east end of the footings consisted of a dark topsoil (L1) (300mm depth) overlying natural consisting of sand with some clay content (L3). At the west a layer of topsoil and bolder clay mix (L2) (300mm thick) underlay the topsoil giving way to natural sand with clay at 600 mm below the present surface (Plate 5).

No significant archaeological features or finds were found to be present although the disturbed nature of L2 suggests undated former activity close to the east wall of the Hall at this point.



Plate 5 Hall Extension 2 view of open north footing trench (view west)

New boundary wall footing ('The Maltings') (Fig 3)

This footing (0.5m wide) was excavated for a distance of approximately 19.5m on a north-south alignment along the west side of the vehicle access track separating the Hall from 'The Maltings' (Plate 6).



Plate 6 New boundary wall footing trench (view south)

For much of the length of the trench the land surface here sloped down from east-west so that the east side of the trench was between approximately 1.25 -0.9m deep while the west side was between approximately 0.9-0.8m deep over the same length.

the deposits consisted of a thin layer of recent demolition overlying approximately 200-300mm of dark, loamy topsoil (L1). Below this was a mottled/mixed sandy clay (L2), approximately 0.5m thick, which for the most part is probably undisturbed natural. At the north end of the footing this overlay natural, faintly greenish-grey gravelly sands (L3) appearing approximately 0.8m depth from the surface. At about 6.0m from the north end of the footing trench the natural gravelly sands changed colour, becoming orange-brown.

While a few features were revealed (below) no features or finds considered to be of significant archaeological interest were found to be present.

Close to the south end of the trench (in the west side) the preserved remains of the lower part of a large, squared, wooden post (F3) were revealed (Fig 3) extending below the base of the trench (Plate 7).



Plate 7 Post F3 showing location of post (by ranging pole) in the New boundary wall footing trench (view northwest)

The surviving wood was encountered at 0.7m, but the dark fill of the upper (rotted) void extended up to the base of the topsoil (Plate 8). The surviving wood was wet, lying in slightly wet gravel, and was a greenish pale-oak colour. The exposed face was 270mm broad indicating (if square) a substantial post. There is no evidence relating to the age of the timber post. Its position at the side of the access between the Hall and the former maltings buildings ('The Maltings') suggests it is the remains of a gate post of post-medieval date, while the squared, neatly cut (smooth) face could also suggest a probable post-medieval date. Although wood can be preserved almost indefinitely in waterlogged deposits and the preservation of the post is clearly associated with the wet conditions pervading in the gravel here, the gravel is not waterlogged; although clearly the base of the trench is approaching the water table at this point. While not closely dated the position of the nature and position of the position do not suggest that the post is of great age (ie medieval) and a post-medieval date appears likely.



Plate 8 Post F3 showing surviving wooden post and post-pipe (view southwest)

Toward the south end of the footing a small patch of soft red brick and white lime mortar (Plate 9) was exposed in the upper part of the side of the trench just below the topsoil (Fig 3). Although only a small visible area was exposed the observed brick suggested a 19th-20th-century date. While the extent of this feature is not known, its appearance did not suggest a substantial feature such as a wall foundation and it may be the corner of a disused drain, mortared packing for a post, or simply a lump of rubble in a depression or void associated with the vehicle access track here.



Plate 9 Brick and mortar feature F4 (beside ranging pole) in side of New boundary wall footing trench (view northeast)

From about the middle of the trench a modern metal service pipe crossed the line of the footing at an angle from northwest-southeast (Fig 3), exiting just to the south of the small patch of brick and mortar (above).

Observation of stripped areas and spoil heaps:

The Cart Lodge (Fig 1)

The site of the new 'Cart Lodge' building lay to the north of the Hall (Fig 1). An area (approximately 20m x 20m) had been previously stripped of turf and the upper part of the topsoil to between approximately 100-200mm in depth. The exposed surface was carefully observed and several finds were recovered (Table 3, Find no. 4).

The most significant of the finds were three prehistoric flints. One is a snapped blade, possibly a serrated blade, with retouch along both edges. This can be confidently dated to the Early Neolithic (c 4000-3000 BC). Another is also a blade and can be dated as Neolithic (c 4000-2000 BC). The third is a snapped flake with some surface patination and although not closely dated a Neolithic date may be likely.

The other finds consisted of small pottery sherds of post-medieval and modern date and are of limited archaeological significance.

The surface of the heaped spoil (temporary spoil heap) removed from the area of the cart lodge was also examined for finds (Fig 1, A). This produced a single prehistoric flint flake which is not closely dated, but might be Neolithic and small ceramic pieces which can be identified as from a modern pipe (Table 3, find no. 5).

Northwest (temporary) spoil heap (Fig 1, B)

A large heap of spoil, primarily topsoil, was located to the northwest of the building complex beyond the west end of the former maltings buildings ('The Maltings') (Fig 1, B). This was reported as having originated from the general area along the northwest side of the building complex west and southwest of 'The Maltings'.

The only finds of significance from this soil were a small number of pottery sherds of medieval date which were found close together and are probably all from one pot (Table 3, find no. 6). The pottery consisted of five sherds (86g), some joining together, from a medieval cooking pot with a necked, squared rim which can be dated to the period of the late 12th-13th century. It is presumed that this pottery can be associated with the early history of the medieval moated manor here – although pottery of similar date was found among soil imported onto the site (see below).

Imported soil (Fig 1, C)

A broad, linear band of soil spread over existing topsoil was located next to two buildings on the south east area of the site (Fig 1, C). This lay between 'The Tithe Barn' & 'The Stables' and extended in a strip further to the west along the south side of a small east-west drainage ditch. The soil appeared noticeably sandy in relation to the other soils seen on the site.

A significant quantity of medieval pottery, including large sherds from rims and bases, was collected from the surface of this soil (Table 3, find no. 7). In total there were forty-six sherds (988g) from a minimum of seven pots. The pottery broadly dates to the late 12th-13/14th century.

It was later confirmed by the developers that this soil had been imported onto the site from elsewhere, although its exact origin location was not known to them.

Finds

Introduction

Bulk finds consisting of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and flints were recovered from two features (F1 & F2) and as unstratified (US) finds from surface collection (area of the Cart Lodge), spoil heaps and from soil imported onto the site. The finds are of

prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and modern date. The total quantities of finds are listed by type in Table 1. Only pottery which can be associated with the site, as opposed to pottery from imported soil (see below) is shown in Table 1.

Finds type	no	wt (g)
Pottery (from site contexts)	8	156
Ceramic building material (CBM)	8	304
Ceramic (service pipe)	2	17
Flints	4	20

Table 1. Type and quantities of finds

Bulk finds

The pottery was recorded using the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1985, *CAR 7*). The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 2 below. All of the finds are listed with a spot date in Table 3.

Fabric	Fabric description	Period
13	Early medieval sandy wares	med
20	Medieval sandy greywares (general)	med
21	Sandy orange ware	med
40	Post-medieval red earthenware	p.med
51B	Flowerpot	p.med-mod

Table 2 Pottery fabrics

Ctxt	Feature/area	Find no	find type	no	wt/g	abr	Form/description	Period	spot date
F001	Brick drain	1	CBM	1	2667		Complete brick, red, no frog, sharp arises, 215 x 100 x 60mm	mod	18-E19C
F001	Brick box?	2	CBM	1	2643		Complete brick, red, no frog, sharp arises, angular creases 210 x 100 x 55mm	mod	18-E19C
F001	Brick box?	2	CBM	1	[241 4]		Half (170 max surviving length) of red, frogged brick, mortar across break, 110 x 65mm	mod	19-20C
F002	pit	3	pottery	1	16		Fabric 40 Bowl rim, red, moderately fine/smooth fabric, glaze on rim and on internal wall – Standard fabric (<i>CAR 7</i> 192)	Lmed-p.med	M/L16-18C
F002	pit	3	CBM	1	89		peg-tile	Med or later	Med-p.ed/mod
F002	pit	3	CBM	4	215	*	Brick frags	L med-p.med	L med-p.med
Surface finds	Cart Lodge	4	pottery	1	4		Fabric 51B Flower pot	p.med-mod	Mod?
Surface finds	Cart Lodge	4	pottery	1	50	(*)	Fabric 40 Base of large vessel, green internal glaze	p.med-mod	18-19C?
Surface finds	Cart Lodge	4	flint	1	3		Snapped blade, poss serrated blade, platform prep. parallel flake scars on dorsal face, retouched on both sides	preh	E Neo
Surface finds	Cart Lodge	4	flint	1	4		Snapped blade, parallel flake scars on dorsal face, retouched on one	preh	Neo

Ctxt	Feature/ area	Find no	find type	no	wt/g	abr	Form/ description	Period	spot date
							edge		
Surface finds	Cart Lodge	4	flint	1	10		Snapped flake, some patination on dorsal face poss. usewear or edge damage (reworked piece?)	preh	Neo(?)
Spoil heap A	From Cart Lodge	5	flint	1	3		Small irregular, thin flake, snapped?	preh	Neo(?)
Spoil heap A	From Cart Lodge	5	cerami c	2	17		Flaked surface pieces from a ceramic object probably from a service pipe	Mod?	19-20C
Spoil heap B	Area west of buildings	6	pottery	5	86	(*)	Fabric 20 Joining, squared, rim sherds (2) and body sherds, prob all part of same cooking pot	med	L12-13C
Soil imported onto site	South of buildings	7	pottery	46	988		Fabric 13, Fabric 20, Fabric 21 Medieval pottery sherds, rims (5), body sherds (1 with thumb strip), 1 with incised wavy line), base sherds, many med-large size with fresh breaks (1 with spots of splash glaze) present.	med	L11/12- 13C

Table 3 Finds by context

Discussion

Prehistoric

The earliest dated finds are a few unstratified flints. These come from the exposed lower topsoil on the cleared the surface for the new 'Cart Lodge' building (4) and from topsoil spoil removed from the footprint of the 'Cart Lodge' (5). One (4) is a blade with platform preparation and parallel flaking scars on the dorsal face. This can be dated as Early Neolithic and is possibly part of a serrated blade. There is another blade or blade-like flake (4) which is of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. A snapped flake (4) is slightly patinated on one face and may be an early flint (possibly Mesolithic/Neolithic) which has later been reworked. One other flint flake (5) is not closely dated.

Medieval

Medieval pottery was recovered from two separate contexts: a spoil heap composed of site topsoil and a sandy soil reported to have been brought onto the site.

Pottery from topsoil associated with the site:

A few sherds of medieval pottery (6) were recovered from spoil reported to have been taken from the area immediately to the west of the north range of building (see plan). The sherds, which include part of the rim, are possibly all from one vessel, a cooking pot. The fabric is a sandy coarseware (Fabric 20) described above and the rim shape (necked with a thickened flat-top) suggests a late 12th-early/13th-century, or more probably 13th-century date. Presuming these sherds can be firmly associated with the site (see below) then they provide evidence of activity here in the late 12th-13th century, possibly associated with the moated manor.

Medieval pottery fabric from the site topsoil (6)

Hard sandy fabric, producing a pimply coarse feel, with moderate-common fine mica; surfaces are slightly abraded, but the outer surface retains a dark red-brown to grey-brown colour over an orange-brown fabric with a grey core.

Pottery from soil imported onto the site:

A significant quantity of medieval pottery (7) was recovered from the surface of a sandy soil imported onto the site which had been spread between two of the buildings on the southwest part of the development site (see plan). In total there are forty-six sherds weighing 988g. More of this pottery clearly remains within the imported soil deposit. This is unfortunate as the pottery is broadly contemporary with the dating proposed for the medieval moated manor here (12th-13th century) and could, if found later, be erroneously attributed to the site. Among the pottery recovered are rims from five different vessels, all cooking pots, and probably at least seven different pots are represented overall. The pottery includes a range of fabrics (described below). One coarse, oxidised sandy sherd has a wavy line decoration and might possibly be of 11th-12th-century date (although a slightly later date is probably to be preferred), while the other pottery can be broadly dated as Late 12th-13/14th century. One sherd is decorated with an applied thumbed strip and a base in a fine sandy fabric has some spots/splashes of glaze internally and externally.

Medieval pottery fabrics from the imported soil spread (7)

The sherds are in several visually different fabrics all of which contain some fine mica. These broadly encompass:

- Coarse, sandy fabric with orange surfaces and grey core
- Fabric visually similar to that of those recovered from the site topsoil (above)
- Hard sandy fabric with red-brown core and grey to grey-brown surfaces
- Hard sandy medium to light grey fabric
- fine sandy fabric with orange-brown surfaces and grey core with small splashes of glaze on the external and internal surfaces.

The only noticeable clear difference between the pottery from the spoil and pottery from the imported soil is that the surfaces of the pottery from the site spoil appear slightly abraded.

Post-medieval and modern

Finds of post-medieval and modern date were recovered as surface finds, finds from spoil and from features in newly dug foundation trenches.

Brick samples (1) & (2) were recovered from a brick structure (F1) located in the north foundation at the northwest corner of the main house. The dimensions and nature of two complete bricks indicates they are of 18th-early 19th-century date. However, a frogged brick found with them in the same structure probably dates to the 19th-20th century so that the earlier dated bricks appear to have been reused. The later dated brick itself may also have been reused from an earlier structure.

A pit (F2), just to the east of the brick structure, produced a pottery rim dated to the period of the mid 16th-18th century, together with fragments of peg-tile and post-medieval brick.

Sherds of post-medieval or modern pottery (Fabric 40 & Fabric 51B) were also recovered from the exposed lower part of the topsoil on the area of the cart lodge (4). Also, pieces (pottery flakes) identified as

from a modern ceramic service pipe were recovered from the heap of topsoil spoil taken from the area of the cart lodge (5).

Interpretation

Prehistoric

Evidence for activity in the Neolithic was recovered in the form of a few worked flints. The most closely datable of these is probably Early Neolithic, with another two dated broadly to the Neolithic and Neolithic-Early Bronze Age. All of these flints were associated with the footprint of the new 'Cart Lodge' (garage) building, north of the existing complex of buildings. That no other worked flint was recovered suggests that the Neolithic occupation was probably not extensive or intensive on the site.

Medieval

Although the archaeologically monitored trenching and archaeological observation was limited in relation to the whole of the moated manor site, firm evidence relating to medieval occupation on the site, in the form of features or in the form of finds that can be firmly associated with that period here, proved elusive. The absence of cut features such as pits might indicate the areas examined in the contractors footing trenches formerly fell either within buildings which have otherwise left no trace, or within open areas of yards or working areas where little or no disturbance in the form of pit digging and rubbish disposal was carried out

Only a few sherds from a medieval (late 12th-13th century) cooking pot were recovered as unstratified finds from the surface of a topsoil spoil heap reported by the developers as coming from the area immediately northwest of the extant building complex.

While this pottery appears to be associated with the site, some doubt is raised by the recovery of a significant quantity of medieval pottery from a spread of soil, reported by the developers as imported onto the site, which was located within the south-western area of the extant building complex. The pottery from the imported soil consists primarily of sherds from cooking pots of 12th-13th-century date. The sherds are in several visually different fabrics, one of which appears similar to that of the cooking pot sherds recovered from the site topsoil heap. However, it is noted that the surface of the pottery from the site topsoil spoil appears more abraded and as the find spot is relatively remote from the spread of imported soil it appears probably most likely that this pottery can be associated with the site.

Post-medieval to modern

A few features of post-medieval or modern date were located in machine excavated trenches for footings. These were concentrated in one footing, located at the northwest corner of the Hall (Hall Extension 1) and otherwise almost no features were encountered.

Although not closely dated, the extant base of a substantial wood post (located in one of the footing trenches for a new boundary wall) is probably of post-medieval date. The post is interpreted as probably the remains of a gate post relating to the access track between the Hall and the maltings buildings to its west. It appears the survival of the wood post had probably been aided by the damp gravel at the base of the trench at this point, possibly approaching to the local water table. As such, while not of significant archaeological interest of itself, this could point to the possibility that timber from earlier periods might possibly be preserved in deeper features.

The only concentration of features was in the footing at the northwest corner of the Hall (Hall Extension 1). The main features here were a large post-medieval pit, which may have incorporated some cess material in the lower fill, and the remains of two brick built features. One of the brick features was channel or drain made from

unmortared bricks. The other, which appeared to be associated with it, appeared to be the remains of the south side of an unmortared brick box, or a square, brick lined pit of probable 19th-early 20th-century date. Around these features the sections revealed in the side of the footing trenches indicated post-medieval/modern disturbance at the level of the subsoil, with visible incorporation of ceramic building material fragments and rare pieces of modern (factory made) pottery. In places this appeared to extend in shallow depressions into the top of the natural. This disturbance is possibly associated with the 19th-20th-century activity represented by the brick features.

Acknowledgements

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Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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Appendix 1: contents of archaeological archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by the ECC HE team
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Site digital photographic record
- 2.2 Attendance register
- 2.3 Context sheets (L1-L4, F1)
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Trench locations plan and trench edge section drawings

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Finds report
- 3.2 Monitoring (client) report

Not in wallet

The finds (2 small bags)

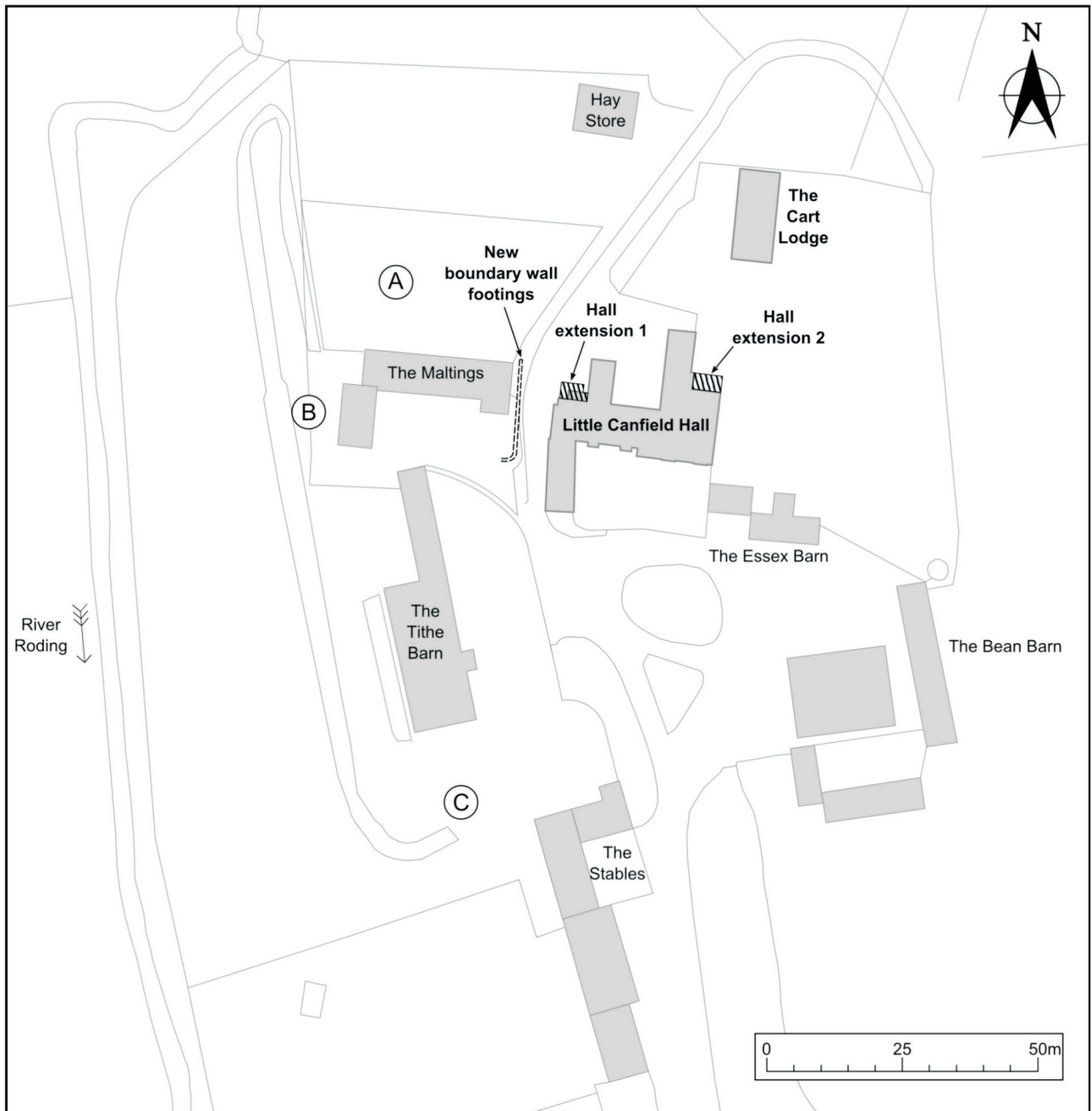
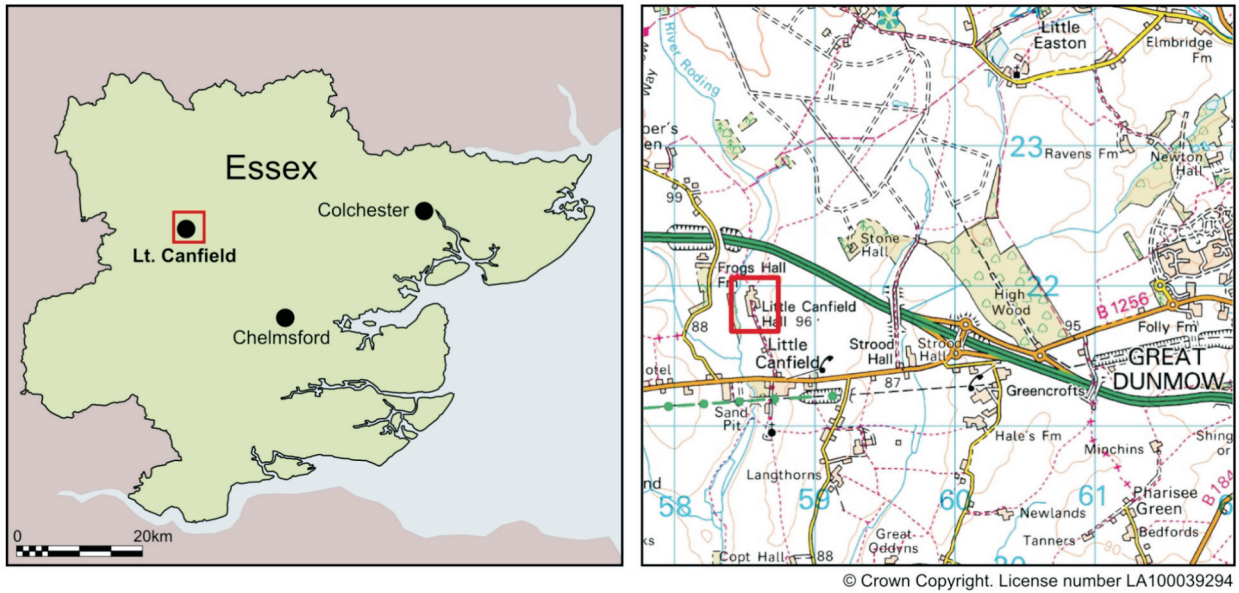


Fig 1 Site location and general plan.

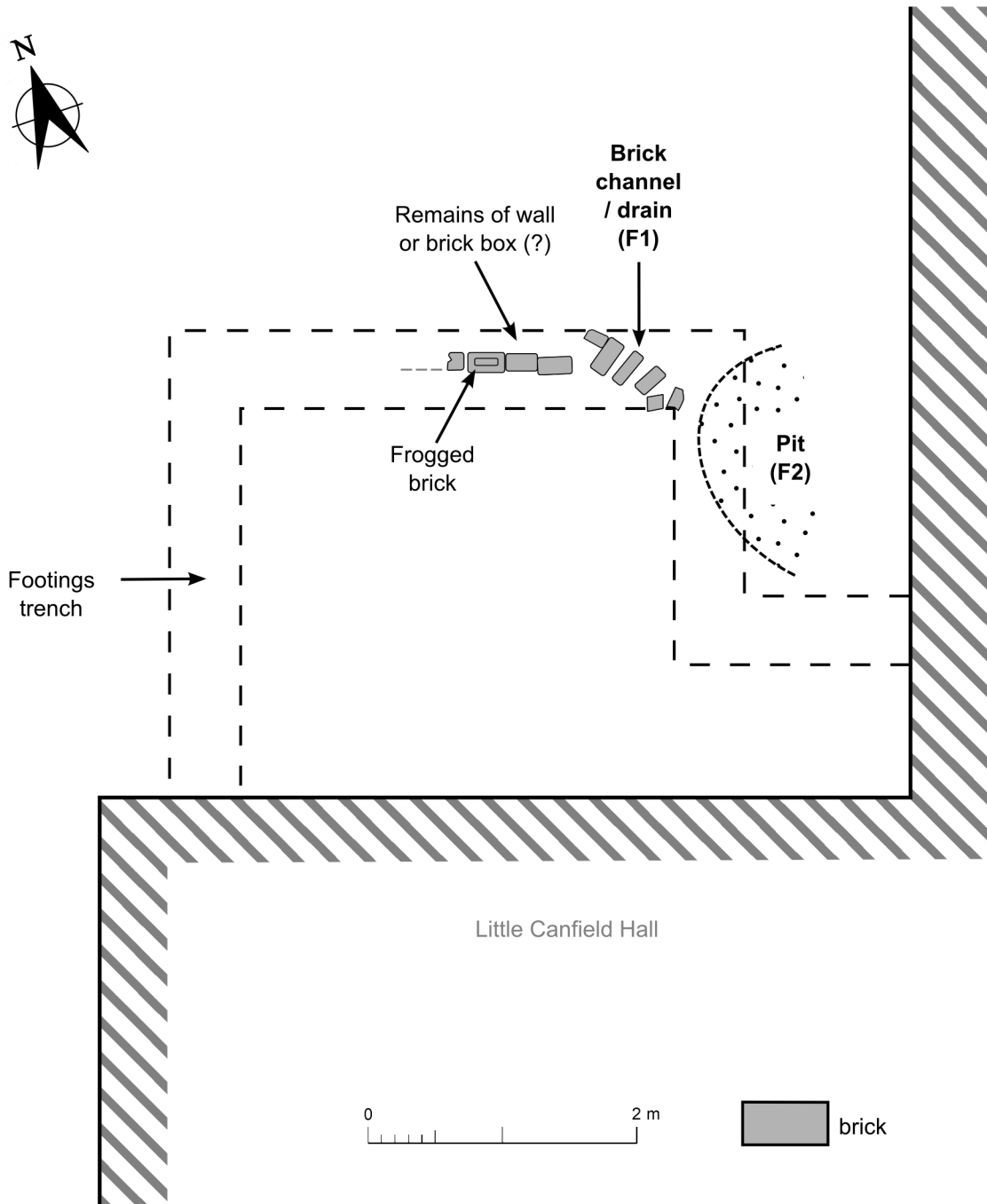


Fig 2 Hall extension 1- trench plan

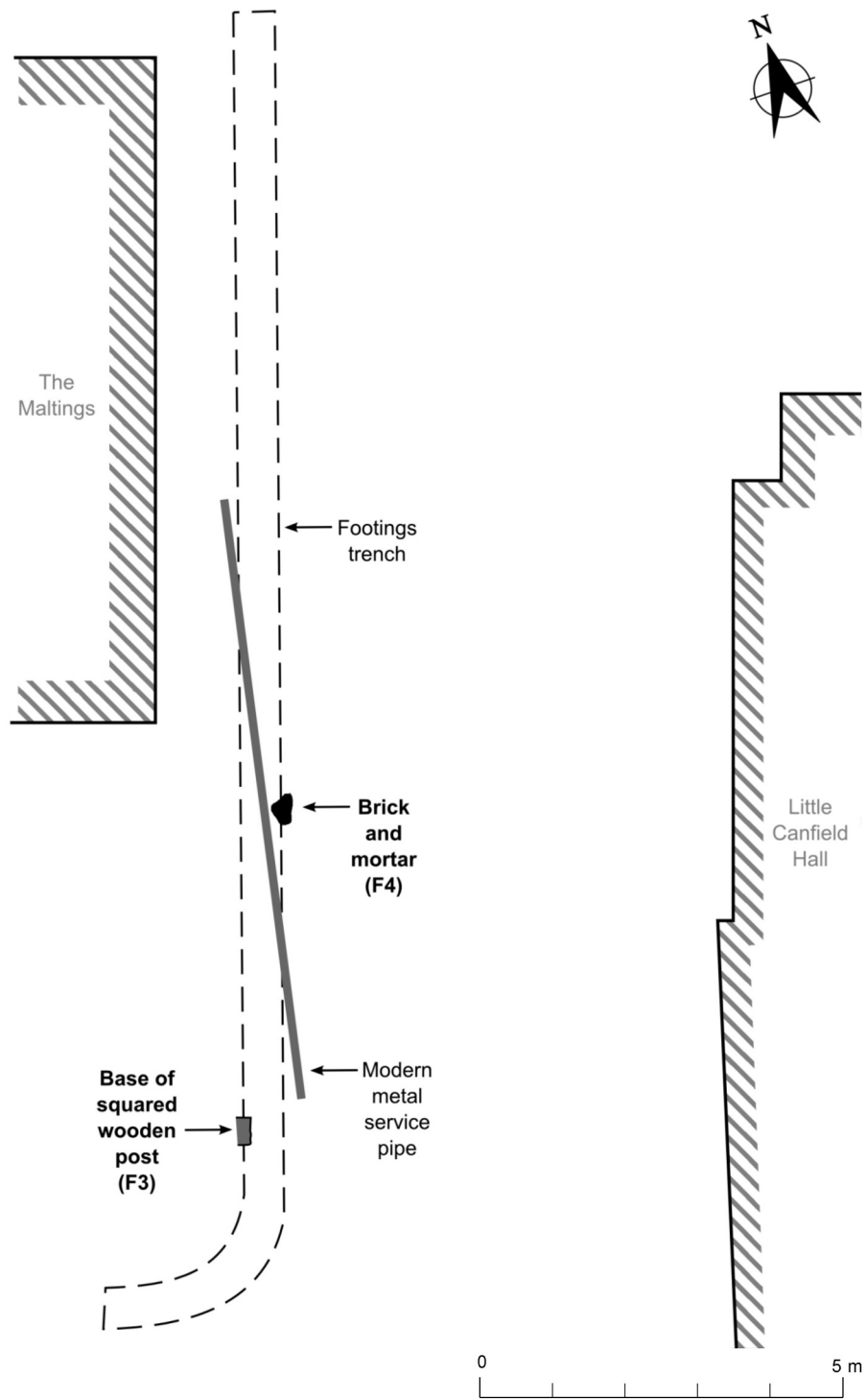


Fig 3 New boundary wall- trench plan.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: <i>Little Canfield Hall, Little Canfield, Dunmow, Essex</i>	
Parish: <i>Little Canfield</i>	District: <i>Uttlesford</i>
NGR: TL 5853 2192	Site codes: CAT project code – 14/10d HEM code – LCCH14
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 2014	Size of area investigated: 3 footing trenches (total length 25 m)
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession – requested	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: EHER 4592, EHER 37962
Final report: CAT Report 798	
Periods represented: <i>prehistoric (Neolithic), medieval, post-medieval/modern</i>	
<p>Summary:</p> <p><i>The watching brief by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) encompassed monitoring of machine excavated footing trenches and observation of the exposed topsoil surface of a building plot and surfaces of spoil heaps.</i></p> <p><i>Although a small number of features were recorded in the footing trenches, no features of archaeological significance were located. Apart from small quantities of finds of post-medieval-modern date associated with the features, only a very small quantity of finds of significant archaeological interest were recovered, all of which were unstratified surface finds or came from existing contractors spoil.</i></p> <p><i>A few worked flints, recovered from the north of the site, can be closely dated to the period of the Early Neolithic and Neolithic-Early Bronze Age. As it stands, the small quantity of flint would indicate only limited activity during this period.</i></p> <p><i>Medieval (late 12th-13th century) activity is represented by sherds from a cooking pot. This vessels appears to be associated with activity at the site, although a significant quantity of medieval pottery of similar date was found among recently imported soil on a different area of the site.</i></p> <p><i>Several features were noted in the footing trenches. The extant remains of the lower part of a substantial wood post (probably a post-medieval gate post) were located in one trench. Another at the rear of the Hall building exposed a large post-medieval pit and modern structures consisting of an unmortared brick channel and what appeared to be the south edge of an associated unmortared</i></p>	

<i>brick box or brick lined square pit.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: <i>none</i>	
Keywords: <i>Neolithic, flint, medieval, pottery</i>	Significance: <i>low-moderate</i>
Author of summary: Stephen Benfield	Date of summary: January 2014

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