

Archaeological strip, map and record at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, Hertfordshire

September - November 2015



Report prepared by Mark Baister

on behalf of Mr Matthew Upson

CAT project ref: 15/08k
NGR: TL 4158 2160 (centre)
OASIS ref: colchest3-222954
Planning reference: 3/15/0966/FUL



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ
Tel: 01206 501785

E-mail: archaeologists@catuk.org

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1 Summary

An archaeological strip, map and record was carried out during construction of a tennis court at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, Hertfordshire. During the strip, which was undertaken to a set formation level, no archaeological features were uncovered and only modern layers were impacted. These layers contained debris stemming from the demolition of the previous building on the site and the recent construction of 'Hazelwood'.

Nothing of archaeological interest was discovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report describes an archaeological strip, map and record carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 24th September and 10th November 2015 at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, Hertfordshire. The site is centred at NGR TL 4158 2160 (see Fig 1).

The development comprised the construction of an all weather tennis court, 35m long by 17m wide. All ground level reduction for the court itself, which was carried out to a formation level, was observed by CAT, and the upcast from fence-post holes surrounding the court was also examined.

Mr. Mark Jarman commissioned CAT to carry out the specified archaeological work on behalf of Mr Matthew Upton. The monitoring was carried in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CAT (CAT 2015) and approved by Historic Environment Advisor Alison Tinniswood. Post-excavation work was carried in November 2015. In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was carried out in accordance with standard policies and procedures as outlined in CAT 2012, IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, MoRPHE, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER) held by Hertfordshire County Council, accessed via the Heritage Gateway website.

Advice from the Historic Environment Advisor to Hertfordshire County Council shows that the proposed development lies in Area of Archaeological Significance No. 104.

This includes the earthworks of a substantial bank and ditch, probably a Late Iron Age linear dyke, in Caley Wood (Historic Environment Record 122), and numerous archaeological sites and finds that indicate Roman settlement and industrial activity, including several tile and pottery kilns (HER 1398, 6829, 11444). The eastern boundary of the property is approximately 25m from the known line of a Roman road that led from the Roman town at Braughing to the kiln complex, and possibly continued southwards to the Roman settlement at Harlow. In 2009, a programme of archaeological fieldwalking was carried out over the entire field bounding the property on its eastern side, and over fields to the south, by the Braughing Archaeology Group (Bromley Hall and Caley Wood, Fieldwork 2009). The survey recovered substantial quantities of Roman pottery, including imported pottery, building materials and also evidence for a possible Roman cemetery. It has also been reported that concentrations of Roman pottery have been noted in the footings of a construction project in Wellpond Green.

4 Aim

The archaeological monitoring was intended to preserve by record the character, extent, date and significance of any archaeological remains and deposits that may have been impacted by the construction of the tennis court.

5 Results (Fig 2)

All ground reduction during the construction of the tennis court was carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. During the strip, four layers were encountered:

Context	Description	Finds	Date
L1	dark black/brown clayey silt topsoil, 80mm thick. contained fragments of brick and slate. seals L2.	modern brick, slate (not retained)	modern
L2	medium brown clayey silt, 200mm thick. contained similar finds to L1 – brick and slate, as well as a modern (Victorian?) bottle. sealed by L1, seals L3.	modern brick, slate, bottle (not retained)	modern
L3	light yellow/grey redeposited clay, with patches of green/black staining (from diesel?). 160-200mm thick. seals natural L4. modern material throughout, including frogged bricks, slate and concrete. a rim fragment of a post-medieval (late 17th – early 18th century) earthenware bowl was pressed into the surface of this layer.	modern brick, concrete, slate (not retained), post-medieval pottery	modern
L4	hard light yellow/orange clay. in situ natural.	-	post-glacial

No archaeological features were observed.

The strip was carried out in two phases. First the topsoil (L1) was removed over the entire site, then the remaining layers were excavated down to the required formation level of the tennis court.



Photograph I Section shot showing L2, L3 and L4. Taken facing south-east.

The examination of the upcast material from the fence-posts yielded nothing except for more fragments of modern brick and slate (**Photograph II**).



Photograph II Side of tennis court after fence-posts erected. Upcast visible by each post. Shot taken facing west.

6 Discussion

The presence of redeposited clay containing modern building debris and possible diesel contamination (L3) suggests that the site has been heavily landscaped in its recent history. It seems likely that at the conclusion of this landscaping L2 and L1 were deposited.

The debris encountered during the development probably originates from a previous building on the site, likely the one shown on the 1951 OS map (**Map I**). The demolition of this building and the subsequent construction of the modern dwelling, 'Hazelwood', are likely the reason for the large amount of modern material encountered during this investigation.

The lowest formation level for the tennis court is within L3, and as a result only modern layers were impacted during this development. The natural horizon (L4) was only exposed in a small section of the site at the archaeologists request as a sondage, in order to confirm the site stratigraphy. No archaeological features were observed cut into the natural (**Photograph III**).

Overall, nothing of archaeological interest was discovered.



Map I 1951 OS map. Previous building on site highlighted in red.



Photograph III Site shot taken facing south. Small section of exposed natural clay (L4) visible in centre frame.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr Mark Jarman for commissioning the work on behalf of Mr Matthew Upson. The project was managed by C Lister and fieldwork carried out by M Baister. The project was monitored by Hertfordshire County Council Historical Environment Advisor Alison Tinniswood.

8 References

CAT	2012	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological strip, map and record at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Weelpond Green, Ware, Herts</i> by Chris Lister
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Department of Communities and Local Government
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, by David Gurney (editor)
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the east of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE)
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera).
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	an accumulation or deposition of archaeological material
modern	the period from AD 1800 to present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
post-medieval	the period from AD 1500 to AD 1800

10 Contents of archive

Finds archive

No finds retained after report completed.

Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:

- this report
- original site record (context and finds sheets)
- section drawings
- digital photo log
- attendance record
- sundry papers
- digital photos on disc

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Hertford Museum (an accession code has been requested).

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Distribution list:

Mr Matthew Upson
Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor
Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, Hertfordshire County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House
Circular Road North,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 13/11/15

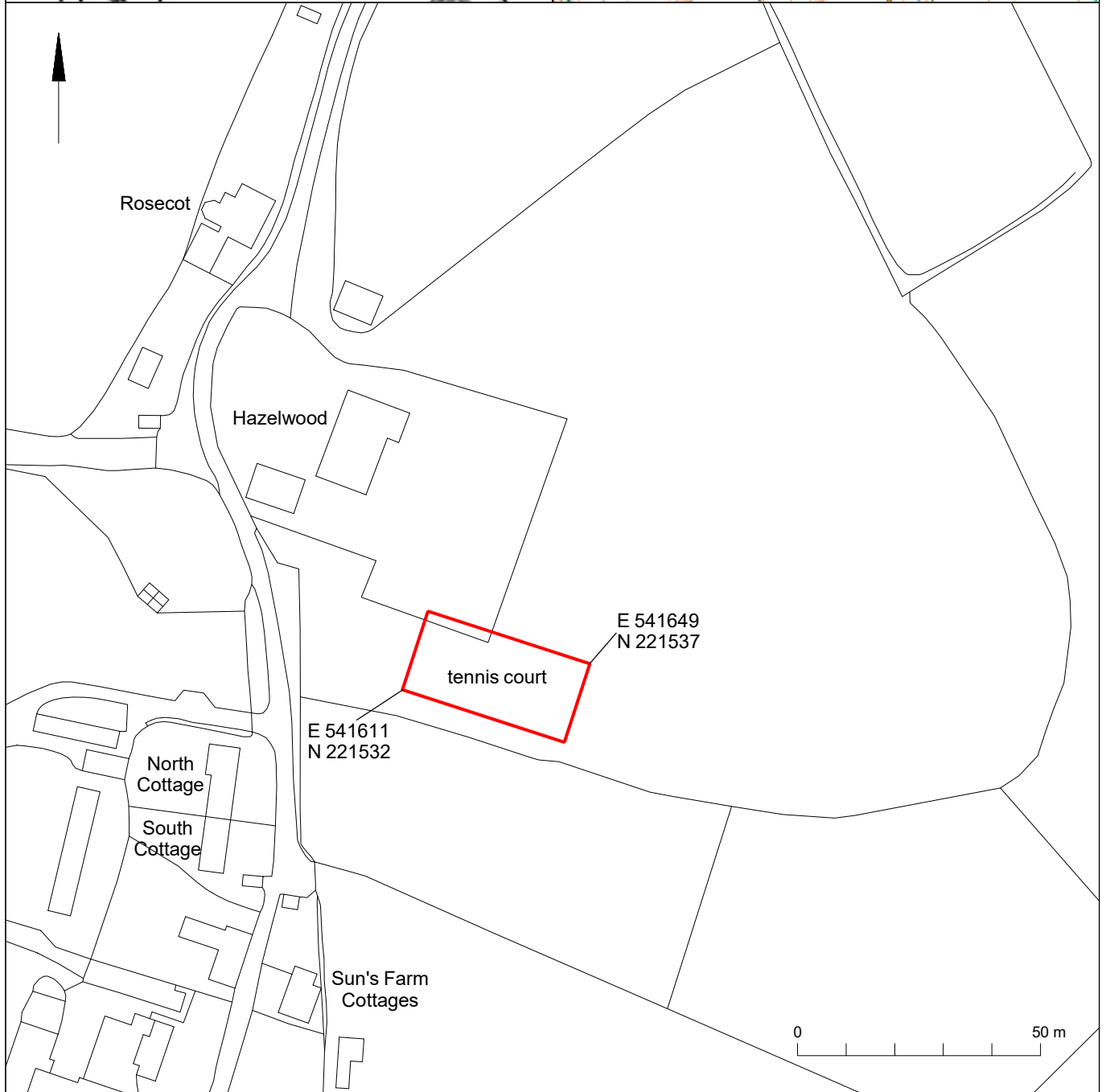
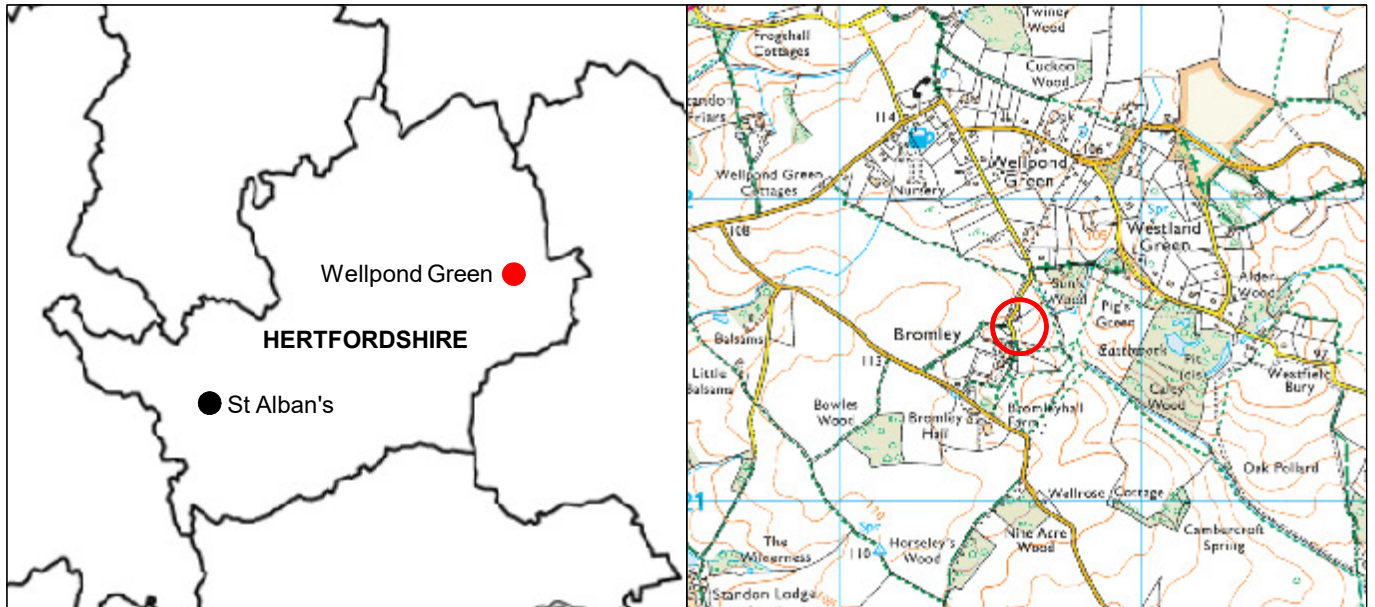


Fig 1 Site location with OS grid coordinates.

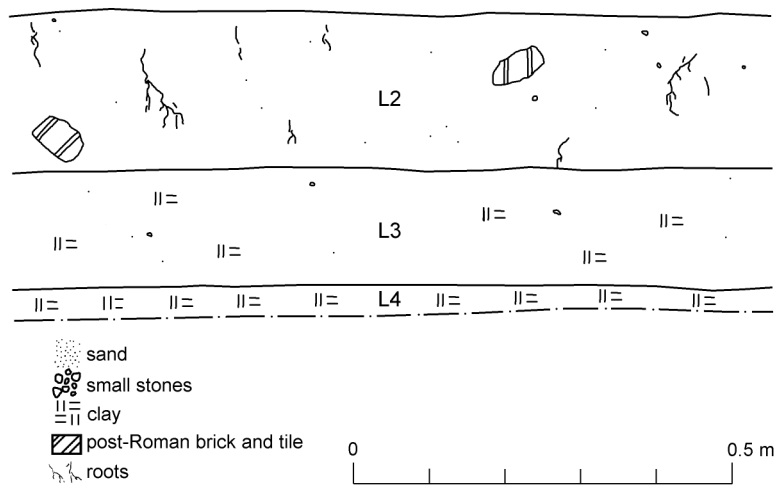


Fig 2 Representative section.

APPENDIX

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, Hertfordshire, SG11 1NW		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Herts
Village/Town: Wellpond Green		Parish: Ware
Planning application reference: 3/15/0966/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference: KAT/15/0966-1		
Funding source: Developer		
Nature of application: Construction of a tennis court		
Present land use: Garden		
Size of application area: 595 square metres		Size of area investigated: 595 square metres
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 4158 2160 (centre)		
Site code (if applicable):		
Site director/Organization: Colchester Archaeological Trust		
Type of work: Archaeological strip, map and record		
Date of work: September-November 2015	Start: September 24th	Finish: November 10th
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Hertford Museum		
Related HER Nos: 122, 1398, 6829, 11444		Periods represented: modern
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -		
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological strip, map and record was carried out during construction of a tennis court at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, Hertfordshire. During the strip, which was undertaken to a set formation level, no archaeological features were uncovered and only modern layers were impacted. These layers contained debris stemming from the demolition of the previous building on the site and the recent construction of 'Hazelwood'.</i> <i>Nothing of archaeological interest was discovered.</i>		
Author of summary: Mark Baister		Date of summary: 12/11/2015

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OASIS ID: colchest3-222954

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Hertfordshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological strip, map and record was carried out during construction of a tennis court at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, Hertfordshire. During the strip, which was undertaken to a set formation level, no archaeological features were uncovered and only modern layers were impacted. These layers contained debris stemming from the demolition of the previous building on the site and the recent construction of 'Hazelwood'. Nothing of archaeological interest was discovered.
Project dates	Start: 24-09-2015 End: 10-11-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/08k - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	3/15/0966/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NON ANTIQUITY None
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE WARE Hazelwood, Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green
Postcode	SG11 1NW
Study area	595 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 4158 2160 51.87451298388 0.056887290909 51 52 28 N 000 03 24 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Matthew Upson

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Hertford Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological strip, map and record at 'Hazelwood', Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, Hertfordshire
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