

**Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching
on land adjacent to Martins Green,
Pelham Road, Berden, Essex, CM23 1AE**

November 2015



by Ben Holloway and Laura Pooley
with contributions by Stephen Benfield

**commissioned by
Ian Abrams Architects Ltd
on behalf of
Mr and Mrs Pulfer**

CAT project ref.: 15/10i
ECC code: BEMG15
NGR: TL 46784 29856
Planning ref.: UTT/15/2342/FUL
Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2015.62
OASIS ref.: colchest3-228425



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CAT Report 896
December 2015

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of a new house and cart lodge on land adjacent to Martins Green, Pelham Road, Berden. Two archaeological features were recorded, a modern pit and an undated/natural feature. The remains of an historic pond, present on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, was also identified, but a modern plastic liner in its base indicated modern reconditioning of the pond and no archaeological horizons or waterlogged deposits were observed. Despite being located close to a 16th-century grade II listed house known as Martins Green no significant archaeological features or finds were identified.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological investigation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Martins Green, Pelham Road, Berden, Essex which was carried out on 19th November 2015. The work was commissioned by Ian Abrams Architects Ltd on behalf of Mr and Mrs Pulfer in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and cart lodge. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). The site is currently an area of open ground, formerly containing mature trees which have been felled to make way for the development and is located at NGR TL 4678 2985 (centre).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies on the site of buildings shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. Martins Green is recorded as a 16th-century grade II listed house (EHER 35484) lying to the east of the site. Cartographic evidence from the first edition Ordnance Survey maps shows that a large part of the proposed house overlies a former pond. A range of buildings that were out of use by the late 19th century is shown on the OS map on the eastern side of the plot. It is possible that these structures had a similar date to the listed building. Below ground remains of these structures have the potential to be impacted by the proposed scheme.

4 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-3)

Under archaeological supervision two trial-trenches were dug through the footprints of the new dwelling and cart lodge using a mechanical excavator.

Three layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, 300mm thick) sealed an accumulation deposit (L2, 240-360mm thick) which in turn sealed a natural boulder clay that contained occasional gravel patches (L3).

Trench 1: 6m long by 1.8m wide

T1 was located within the footprint of the cart lodge. A single undated pit, F1, was identified that could possibly be natural in origin.

Trench 2: 14m long by 1.8m wide

T2 was located within the footprint of the new dwelling. A single pit, F2, was identified containing modern brick, glass and pottery. The trench also intercepted the north edge of the pond shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map. The pond, F3, which had been backfilled was augered to a depth of 400mm. A modern synthetic pond liner was identified at a depth of 150mm, beneath which was 250mm of clay which sealed natural (L3). No water logged deposits were encountered.

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of finds of post-medieval and modern date was recovered from two contexts, L2 (T1) and F2 (T2). The finds consist of modern pottery, pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) of post-medieval period or probable post-medieval date, together with a single piece of post-medieval glass, a single fragment of coal and an iron nail. The finds are listed and described by context in Table 1. The pottery fabrics refer to the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1982 & CAR 7).

Context	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
L2	1	<i>CBM post-medieval:</i> piece from the edge of a thick, plain tile or floor brick in a fine sand, orange-red fabric (30mm thick, max surviving length 90mm), smooth faces, light creasing on edge	post-medieval
F2	2	<i>Pottery modern (L18/19-20C):</i> Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D) flanged bowl rim (15g); Flower pot sherd (Fabric 51B) 2 sherds (15g) <i>CBM (medieval)-post-medieval:</i> corner piece from a brick in a sandy brownish-red fabric (thickness 60mm) (159g) (dated probably L16-17C or later); small piece of peg-tile with mortar over breaks (26g) <i>Glass late post-medieval-modern:</i> small piece of blue-green vessel (bottle/jar) glass with surface iridescence and flaking (6g) <i>Coal ((medieval)-post-medieval/modern):</i> small piece (3g) <i>Iron nail:</i> corroded, length 45mm (10g)	19-20C (modern) pottery with other post-medieval/modern finds

Table 1 All finds from site

6 Discussion

No significant archaeological features or finds were identified on the site. Despite locating the pond shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, it was clear from the presence of the synthetic liner that this had been reconditioned sometime during the mid-late 20th century and that any archaeological features or waterlogged deposits that may have been associated with the historic pond have previously been removed. No evidence for the structures on the eastern side of the plot, indicated on the first edition Ordnance Survey, was observed. It is possible that landscaping of the plot during the 20th century has removed any trace of their foundations.

7 Acknowledgements

The Trust thanks Ian Abrams Architects Ltd and Mr and Mrs Pulfer for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and E Sanford. Illustrations are by E Holloway and CL. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

8 References

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land adjacent to Martins Green, Pelham Road, Berden, Essex, CM23 1AE</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept 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 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation on land adjacent to Martins Green, Pelham Road, Berden, Essex, CM23 1AE</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHF	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: not retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 896)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2015.62

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Distribution list:

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Mr and Mrs Pulfer

Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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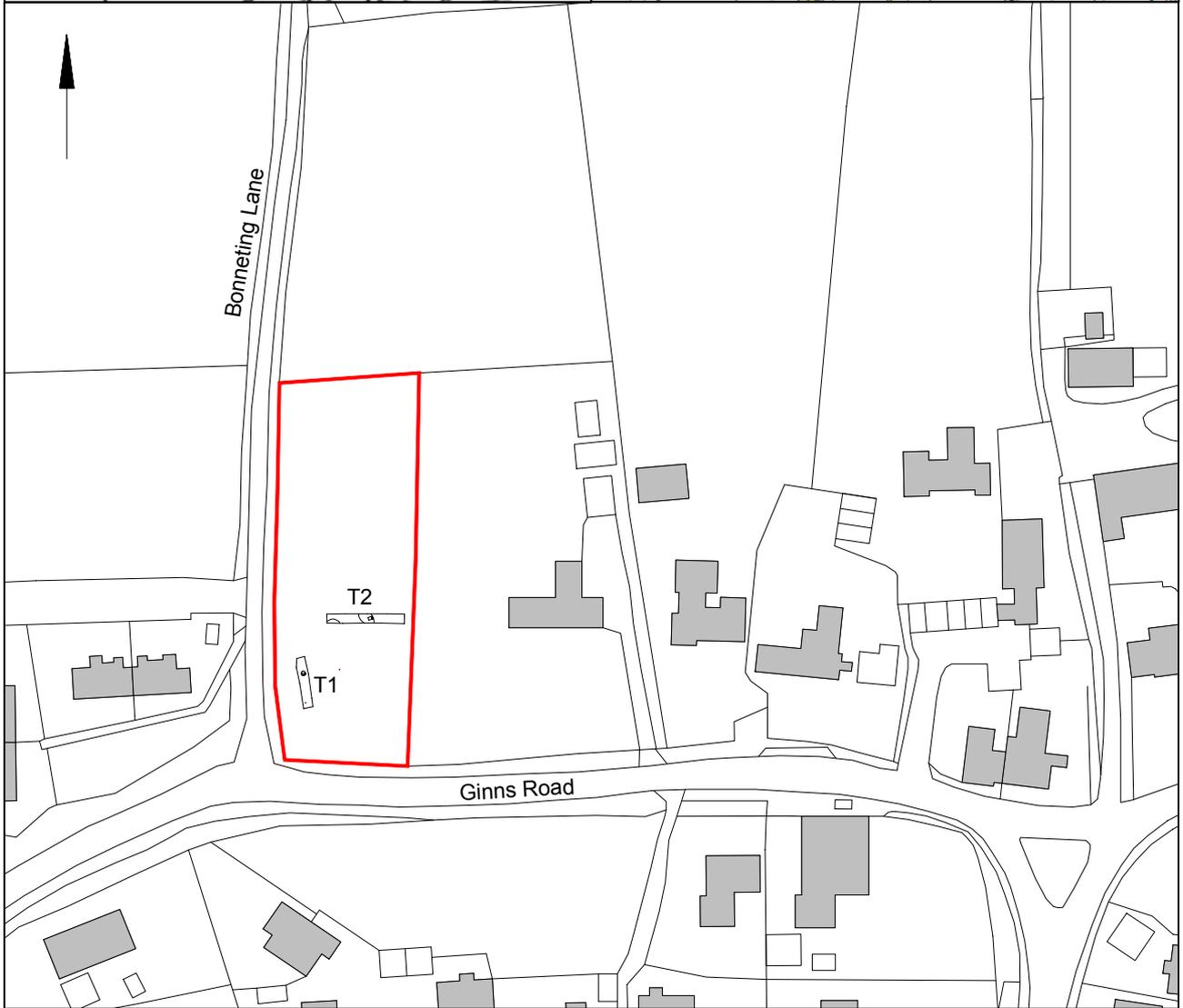
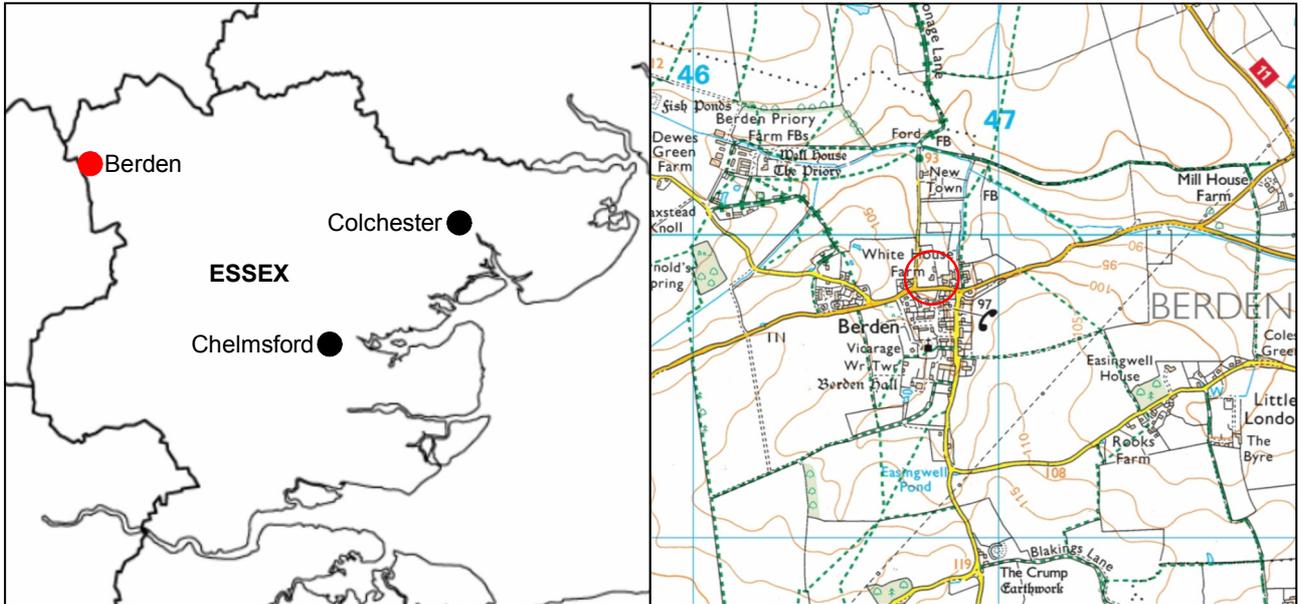
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Fig 1 Site location.



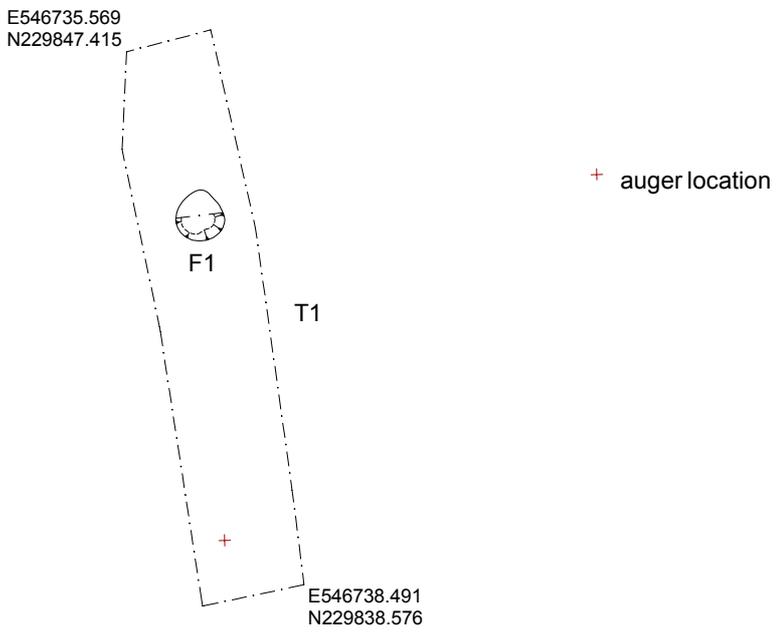
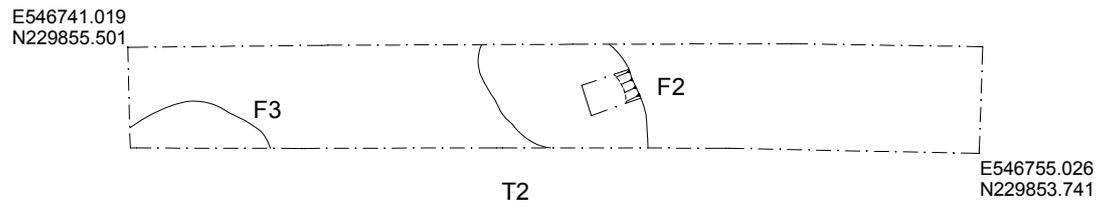


Fig 2 Trench results.

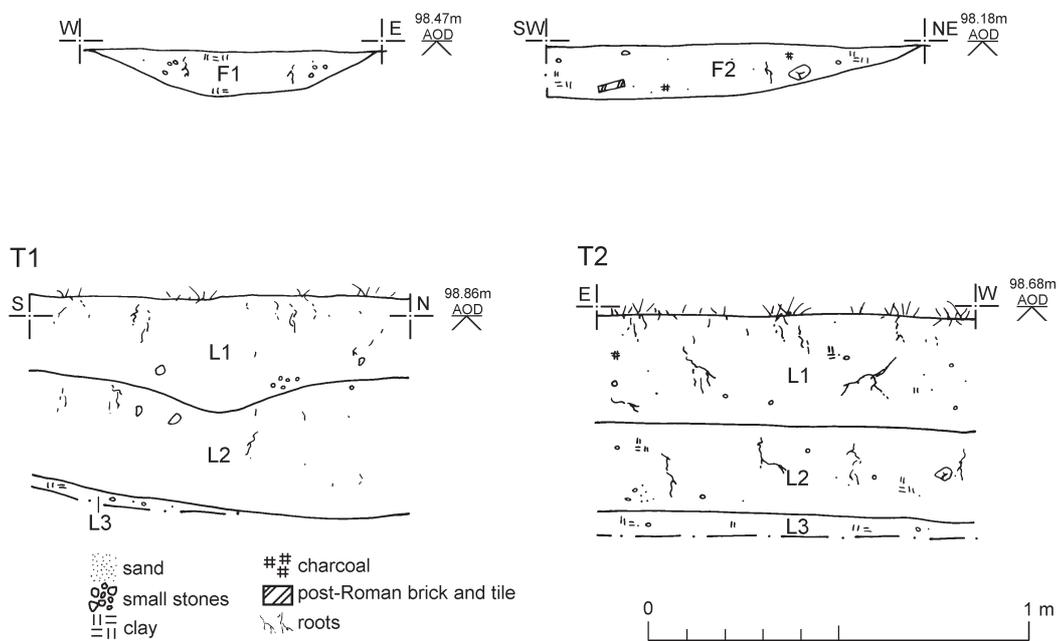


Fig 3 Feature sections (F1-2) and representative trench sections (T1-2).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Martins Green, Pelham Road, Berden, Essex, CM23 1AE	
Parish: Uttlesford	District: Berden
NGR: TL 46784 29856	Site code: CAT project code – 15/10i ECC project code – BEMG15 OASIS project ID - colchest3-228425
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 19th November 2015	Size of area investigated: Two trenches - 20m long by 1.8m wide (36m ²)
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2015.62	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: EHER 35484
Final report: CAT Report 896	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of a new house and cart lodge on land adjacent to Martins Green, Pelham Road, Berden. Two archaeological features were recorded, a modern pit and an undated/natural feature. The remains of an historic pond, present on the first edition Ordnance Survey map, was also identified, but a modern plastic liner in its base indicated modern reconditioning of the pond and no archaeological horizons or waterlogged deposits were observed. Despite being located close to a 16th-century grade II listed house known as Martins Green no significant archaeological features or finds were identified.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: --	
Keywords: --	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: December 2015