Archaeological evaluation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 6NN
January 2018

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with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway
fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Adam Tuffey

on behalf of Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden

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CAT Report 1216
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out in the garden of Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. An 18th- to early 19th-century brick floor was revealed, with a Victorian halfpenny showing that it had been covered in linoleum after 1900. The first edition OS map of 1874-5 shows a rectangular building in this location which is still present on OS maps in the 1940s.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the garden of Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex which was carried out on 11th January 2018. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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 the Archaeological brief for trial trenching and excavation, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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 (CIfA 2014a) and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The EHER and cartographic evidence shows that the proposed development site lies in a highly sensitive area. The proposed new dwelling and landscaped grounds lie within an area formerly occupied by properties as identified on Chapman and André's map of 1777 (Map 1) and the first edition Ordnance Survey maps of the 1870s (Map 2). In particular, the remains of a rectangular building located on the 1874-5 OS map may be located in the evaluation trench (see Map 2). Any surviving below-ground remains associated with these properties may be impacted upon by the proposed development.

The historic settlement of Bush End was located on the very edge of Hatfield Forest, with the river acting as the boundary between the settlement of Bush End and the forest. The hamlet was in existence from at least the medieval period and may have had earlier origins. The presence of the group of properties identified on the early maps suggests that this may form the core of the historic settlement.

Historic England states that:

_The existing house known as Wildwood incorporates an original timber-framed element at ground floor level which probably dates from the 17th century. It was one of several single-storey timber-framed cottages with_
thatched roofs that formed the hamlet of Bush End. Substantial alterations were carried out to Wildwood in the 19th and 20th centuries; most recently in 1973 which have entirely changed the character of the building.

Map 1 Chapman and André’s map of 1777 (site shown by blue arrow)

Map 2 First edition, 6-inch, OS map (ESSEX XXXIII), surveyed 1874-5, published 1881 (site and rectangular building shown by blue arrow).
4 Aims
The aims of the evaluation were to identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposits, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. Specific research aims were to 1) identify occupation of a medieval or post-medieval date associated with the development of Bush End, and 2) identify the date of the buildings and their function.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)
One trial-trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It measured 38m long by 1.8m wide and extended from the edge of the existing swimming pool to the end of the proposed house footprint. Two short sections of the trench were not excavated due to the presence of a service pipe and a tree stump.

Four layers were recorded. Modern imported topsoil (L1, c. 0.13-0.17m thick) sealed a layer of modern levelling (L2, c. 0.3m thick), probably associated with the 1970s redevelopment of the site. Beneath L2 was a thick layer of buried post-medieval/modern topsoil (L3, c. 0.37m thick) sealing natural clay (c. 0.83m below current ground level).

Post-medieval brick floor F1 was uncovered and recorded. It measured 3.2m along the trench and was made from large unfrogged bricks of c. 18th- to early 19th-century date, set out in a running bond pattern. Fragments of degraded linoleum flooring were found adhering to the brick floor, and a Victorian halfpenny of 1900 was recovered underneath one of these pieces of lino.

Photograph 1 Brick floor F1, looking N
6  Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Two bulk finds were recovered. One is a piece of medieval pottery from L3, dated as c 14th to 15th century, and the other a modern brick from F1, of 18th- to early 19th-century date.

Medieval pot sherd, L3 (3): The top (upper-part of handle and rim section just above it) from a medieval jug. The handle is plain and oval in section. This pot is in a sandy-orange coloured fabric, which has a grey core where the fabric thickens, and can be described as Fabric 21, medieval sandy orange wares (see Cunningham 1985). There are traces of an abraded, moderately thickly applied, white (cream) slip on the handle top and across the rim top extending into the upper neck interior. The fabric lacks the prominent white quartz sand inclusions of Colchester-type ware (CAR 7, 108) and the fine mica typical of Hedingham oxidised ware (while not common, white slip coating/painting is occasional found on Hedingham ware jugs (Walker 2012, 44)). The sandy fabric appears consistent with that described for medieval Harlow products (Walker 2004, Fabric 21D) but there is no mica, the faint micaceous effect being produced by refraction in clear quartz sand. The sherd is not easily dated, but the nature of the pot and the applied slip suggests a late medieval date, c 14th to 15th century.

Modern brick, F1 (2): Complete modern red brick. The brick, which is not frogged, is 230mm long by 110mm wide and 60mm thick, with a weight of 2934g (just under 6.5 pounds). The orange-red sandy fabric contains occasional/common small flint stones. There are patches of yellow-buff sandy lime based mortar on some surfaces. The dimensions and nature of the brick are appropriate for bricks of c 18th- to early 19th-century date (Ryan 1996).

A Victorian halfpenny of 1900 was also found between brick floor F1 and the linoleum floor that covered it. It measured 25mm diameter and 5.4g. The obverse (bust of Victoria) is completely obscured, the reverse is worn but part of Britannia and the date (1900) is still visible.

7  Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation uncovered a brick floor datable by its bricks to the 18th- or early 19th-century. It is likely that this is part of the rectangular building seen on the 1874-5 OS map (see Map 2 and Fig 2). At some point after 1900, we know that linoleum was laid over the brick floor and the building is still present on OS maps until at least the 1940s.

8  Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Tuffey. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

9  References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at http://cat.essex.ac.uk


CAR 7 2000  Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85, by J Cotter

CAT 2014  Health & Safety Policy

CAT 2017  Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 6NN

CIfA 2014a  Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation
10 Abbreviations and glossary
CAT Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC Essex County Council
ECHEA Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS Essex County Council Place Services
EHER 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 (layer) of material
medieval period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR National Grid Reference
OASIS Online AccessS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
residual something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
section (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive
Finds: none retained
Paper and digital record
One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1216)
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

12 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: 2018.4.
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Distribution list:
Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council
### Appendix 1 Context list

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context number</th>
<th>Finds number</th>
<th>Context type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>Brick floor</td>
<td>Unbonded brick floor with unfroged bricks 23cm x 11cm x 6cm.</td>
<td>18th to early 19th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Imported topsoil</td>
<td>Soft, medium grey/brown silty-clay with &lt;5% gravel and &lt;5% stone piece inclusions</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Levelling</td>
<td>Friable, dry, medium grey/brown clayey-silt with &lt;4% charcoal, &lt;10% brick and &lt;10% tile fleck inclusions and &gt;10% stone and 10% tile/brick piece inclusions</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Buried topsoil and levelling</td>
<td>Friable dark brown clayey-silt with &lt;10% charcoal, &lt;4% brick and &lt;4% tile fleck inclusions and &lt;5% gravel and &lt;5% stone piece inclusions</td>
<td>Post-medieval / modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Firm, dry/moist grey/brown clayey-silt with &lt;4% stone piece inclusions</td>
<td>Post-glacial</td>
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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).
Fig 2  Results

location of the rectangular building as plotted on the 1874-5 OS map

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Fig 3 Representative section.
OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: colchest3-302506

Project details

Project name: Archaeological evaluation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 6NN

Short description of the project: An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out in the garden of Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. An 18th- to early 19th-century brick floor was revealed, with a Victorian halfpenny showing that it had been covered in tinfoil after 1900. The first edition OS map of 1874-5 shows a rectangular building in this location which is still present on OS maps in the 1940s.

Project dates: Start: 11-01-2018 End: 11-01-2018

Previous/future work: No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes: 17/11n - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes: UTT/17/0546/FUL - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference codes: HCO8817 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference codes: SAFWM: 2018-4 - Museum accession ID

Type of project: Field evaluation

Site status: None

Current Land use: Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type: BRICK FLOOR Post Medieval

Significant Finds: BRICK Post Medieval

Significant Finds: COIN Post Medieval

Methods & techniques: "Sample Trenches"

Development type: Rural residential

Prompt: Planning condition

Position in the planning process: After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country: England

Site location: ESSEX UTTLESFORD HATFIELD BROAD OAK Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Bush End

Postcode: CM22 6NN

Study area: 0.91 Hectares

Site coordinates: TL 55008 19885 51.85552382772 0.251045386542 51 51 19 N 000 15 03 E Point

Height GO / Depth: Min: 76.48m Max: 76.48m

Project creators

Name of Organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator: HEM Team Officer, ECC

Project design originator: Laura Pooley

Project director/manager: Chris Lister

Project supervisor: Ben Holland

Type of sponsor/funding body: Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?: No

Digital Archive recipient: Saffron Walden Museum

Digital Archive ID: requested

Digital Contents: "Stratigraphic","Survey"
**Project bibliography 1**

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Entered on: 12 February 2018