Archaeological evaluation of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2) on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6NG

February 2019

by Laura Pooley
with contributions from M Loughton
figures by B Holloway and S Carter
fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Robin Mathieson and James Keeble

commissioned Richard Havis, ECC on behalf of Essex County Council

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Planning ref.: 19/00062/ESS & CC/MAL/01/19
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CAT Report 1389
March 2019
Contents
1 Summary 1
2 Introduction 1
3 Archaeological background 1
4 Aim 2
5 Results 2
6 Finds 3
7 Conclusion 4
8 Acknowledgements 4
9 References 5
10 Abbreviations and glossary 5
11 Contents of archive 6
12 Archive deposition 6
Appendix 1 Context list 7
Figures after p7
OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs, tables and figures
Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1 Trench T1, looking south southeast 2
Photograph 2 Trench T2, looking east northeast 3
Table 1 Ceramic and pottery finds from all contexts 3
Map 1 1st edition 6-inch OS map of 1881 4

Fig 1 Site location
Fig 2 Results
Fig 3 Feature and representative sections
1 Summary
An archaeological evaluation (L-shaped trench) was carried out on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex as part of Maldon’s proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2). Located on the southwestern edge of the post-medieval Brickhouse Farm and close to Iron Age and Roman remains, evaluation revealed a modern pit, post-medieval drainage ditch and a spread of clayey-silt containing pebbles, gravel and peg-tile which could be a trackway associated with Brickhouse Farm but is perhaps more likely to represent the clearance of the drainage ditch.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)
This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex, which was carried out between 11-15th February 2019. The work was commissioned by Richard Havis of Essex County Council (ECC) on behalf of the ECC as part of Maldon’s proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2). The work was carried out 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 (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching at Maldon Central Flood Alleviation Scheme*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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. EHER numbers below relate to site SMR numbers accessible to view online at http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies within an area of known archaeological remains. To the east and west of the proposal area, Iron Age remains have been excavated indicating a Late Iron Age farming settlement (EHER 48853 (see below for more information) and 9040). The site also lies in close proximity to the Roman road which entered Maldon from the southeast and a Roman field boundary exists immediately southwest (EHER 7824 and 14776). Cartographic evidence, the earliest being a survey of Brickhouse Farm from 1721 indicated that the farm, later named Brick House, existed partly within the site’s boundaries. It is still extant on the 1938 4thy edition Ordnance Survey map but was subsequently demolished. The development area is therefore likely to contain evidence of multi-period occupation, particularly of Iron Age and post-medieval remains.
To the east of the site Archaeology South East completed an evaluation of 43 trenches across a c 4.8 hectare site. This was followed by an excavation. The site was located on land between Park Drive and Mundon Road in 2015 (EHER No. 48853, ASE report 8316). The evaluation revealed Roman and possibly earlier features as well as a scatter of largely-undated features to the east that included field boundary ditches, a drainage gully, pits and postholes. The excavation was targeted along the frontage of Mundon Road. A low density of below-ground archaeological remains was encountered. Very few features intercut each other and their artefactual content was sparse, which made their dating and phasing difficult. Prehistoric activity, spanning the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age, was represented by three probable pits and a stake hole, as well as by flint-tempered pottery and worked flint residual in later features.

Essex County Council Field archaeology unit carried out an evaluation in 2009 on land to the northeast at the Colchester Institute, Mundon Road (EHER 4718, FAU report 2036), in advance of the submission of a planning application for the construction of a vocational training centre. Seven trenches were excavated across the c 1.4 hectare site. A ditch of probable 19th- or 20th-century date was identified along with a similarly-dated brick and flint hardcore deposit perhaps used to firm up a boggy area or part of an area of hard standing.

4 Aim
Archaeological evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)
An L-shaped trial-trench covering 135m² was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist through modern topsoil (L1) onto natural clay (L2).

Trench 1 (T1) (45m long by 1.8m wide): The only features present were a modern drainage trench and pit.
**Trench 2 (T2) (30m long by 1.8m wide):** A post-medieval pit (F1) and drainage ditch (F3) were excavated along with a loose spread of pebbles, gravel and some peg-tile mixed into a sandy-clay (F2).

![Photograph 2 Trench T2, looking east northeast](image)

### 6 Finds

**Ceramic and pottery finds**  
*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered five sherds of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material with a weight of 2,892g. This material came from F1 and F2.

**F1 (2):** One complete unfrogsed brick (2,802g) with dimensions of 220 x 105 x 65 mm. The dimensions of this brick broadly corresponds to ‘red bricks’ of the 18th- to early 19th-century (210-230 x 110 x 65 mm) in Ryan's Essex brick typology (1996, 95).

**F2 (1):** Three sherds of peg-tile (67g) date from the mid 13th/14th century (McComish 2015, 33) and one base sherd (23g) of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) dates from AD 1500 until the 19th/20th century (*CAR* 7, 189-193).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Post-Roman pottery</th>
<th>CBM</th>
<th>Finds spot date (approx.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Post-medieval</td>
<td>18th to early 19th century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>F40</td>
<td>Peg-tile</td>
<td>15th-19th century</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1** Ceramic and pottery finds from all contexts
Other finds
by Laura Pooley

Three fragments of post-medieval/modern agricultural ironwork (398g) were found in F2 (1).

7 Conclusion
The only archaeological features found during the evaluation were a modern pit, post-medieval drainage ditch and a spread of clayey-silt containing gravel, pebbles and peg-tile. The drainage ditch appears on the 1st edition OS map of 1881 (Map 1) where it is associated with a pond located further to the north (beyond the edge of the evaluation trench) within the grounds of Brickhouse Farm. The spread of gravel, pebbles and peg-tile is parallel to the drainage ditch and may be part of a trackway associated with the farm complex with a possible wheel-rut on the eastern side of the feature. However, given the proximity of this spread to the drainage ditch, it is perhaps more likely to represent the excavated remains from a phase of ditch clearance. There was no trace of the parallel boundary wall shown on the OS map but trench T2 may have been slightly too far south to encounter this.

Map 1 1st edition 6-inch OS map of 1881
(drainage ditch indicated by the blue arrow)

8 Acknowledgements
CAT thanks Richard Havis and Essex County Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson and J Keeble. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Richard Havis.
References

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

ASE Report 8316 2015 Archaeological evaluation and excavation land between Park Drive and Mundon Road, Maldon, Essex, by K Clover

Bennett, A 2017 Archaeological desk-based assessment of MAL2 Maldon Central Flood Alleviation Scheme. ECC Place Services


CAT 2018 Health & Safety Policy

CAT 2019 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an evaluation by trial-trenching of Maldon’s proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2) on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6NG.

CIfA 2014a Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation

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

ECCPS 2019 Brief for archaeological trial-trenching at Maldon Central Flood Alleviation Scheme

FAU Report 2036 2009 Colchester Institute site, Mundon Road, Maldon, Essex – Archaeological Evaluation, by T Ennis


Historic England 2016 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)


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

ECCHEA 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

post-medieval period from c 1500 to c 1800

modern period from c AD 1800 to the present

natural geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

NGR National Grid Reference

OASIS Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main

residual something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit

Roman the period from AD 43 to c AD 410

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 record
One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1389)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Original site record (trench sheets, feature and find sheets, section drawings)
Digital photographic thumbnails and log
Digital record
The report (CAT Report 1379)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Graphic files
Digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Survey data

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 Colchester Museum under accession code
COLEM:2019.5.

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Distribution list:
Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

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date: 01206 501785
email: ip@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 11.2.2019
### Appendix 1  Context list

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<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Finds nos.</th>
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<th>Soil description</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Pit</td>
<td>Soft, wet, medium grey clayey-silt</td>
<td>Post-medieval, 18th-early 19th century</td>
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<tr>
<td>F2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Spread</td>
<td>Medium to light grey sandy-clay with loosely packed pebbles and gravel and fragments of peg-tile</td>
<td>Post-medieval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Drainage ditch</td>
<td>Firm, moist to wet, medium to dark grey/brown clayey-silt</td>
<td>Post-medieval</td>
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<tr>
<td>L1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Topsoil</td>
<td>Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay</td>
<td>Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>Firm, wet, yellow grey clay</td>
<td>Post-glacial</td>
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Fig 1  Site location
Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.
**OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England**

**List of Projects ·| Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out**

**Printable version**

**OASIS ID: colchest3-340613**

**Project details**

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<td>Short description of the project</td>
<td>An archaeological evaluation (L-shaped trench) was carried out on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Putton Close, Maldon, Essex as part of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2). Located on the southwestern edge of the post-medieval Brickhouse Farm and close to Iron Age and Roman remains, evaluation revealed a modern pit, post-medieval drainage ditch and a spread of clayey-silt containing pebbles, gravel and peat which could be a trackway associated with Brickhouse Farm but is perhaps more likely to represent the clearance of the drainage ditch.</td>
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<td>POTTERY Post Medieval</td>
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<td>Methods &amp; techniques</td>
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**Project location**

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<td>Study area</td>
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**Project creators**

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<td>Name of Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project brief originator</td>
<td>HEM Team Officer, ECC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project design originator</td>
<td>Emma Holloway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project director/manager</td>
<td>Chris Lister</td>
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<td>Project supervisor</td>
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<td>Type of sponsor/funding body</td>
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Project archives
Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2019.5
Digital Media available “Images raster / digital photography”, “Survey”, “Text”
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2019.5
Paper Contents “other”

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