Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PJ.

May 2019

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fieldwork by Mark Baister with Adam Tuffey and Bronagh Quinn

commissioned by Darren Callow on behalf of DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd

NGR: TL 56541 24767 (centre)
Planning ref.: UTT/18/2551/FUL
CAT project ref.: 19/05i
EHER project code: TBRL19
OASIS ref.: colchest3-351210

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CAT Report 1417
June 2019
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex in advance of the construction of four semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks. No archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, which was carried out on 22nd May 2019. The work was commissioned by Darren Callow on behalf of DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd in advance of the construction of four semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks and 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 an Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Takeley, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2019), 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.

Molehill green is an historic hamlet. Of particular note are archaeological deposits found to the southwest at the site at Stansted airport. The airport has seen a number of phases of archaeological work as it has evolved and expanded. This primarily began in 1985 once Stansted become classed as a London airport. Between 1985 and 1991, a major fieldwalking programme followed by small to large-scale excavation work took place (EAA 107,1-2). Of particular note in relation to our site is fieldwalking project Area X, located in the northeast corner of Stansted, along the edge of Molehill Green. Map 1 below shows the distribution of pottery collected on the site.

Three small excavation areas were located to target areas with high concentrations of medieval pottery recorded during the fieldwalking. Closest to our site is MGS Area A, a 20 by 25m excavation area that revealed a small ‘D’-shaped enclosure, defined by a series of rectilinear and curvilinear gullies. The gullies were quite shallow (ranging from 0.1-0.3m in depth) and hard to interpret (EAA, 107, 2, 375-6; EHER no 6719)). MGS Area B was initially a 20 by 15m area, but was later extended. The site was dominated by three linear gullies, two of which lay parallel. It was suggested that these may be the remains of a building with the gullies forming the foundation trenches of the structure. Other key features included two areas of burnt stones, interpreted as being the sites of
hearths (EAA, 107, 2, 376; EHER no 6720). MGS Area C had evidence of a broader range of occupation, as identified by a series of linear gullies, pits and post-holes dating to the 12th-13th centuries, a series of linear gullies dating to the 14th-15th centuries and a backfilled moat dating to the 16th century. Although artefacts recovered from the moat date to the 16th century, this dates when it went out of use. The moat is thought to be 13th century in origin (EAA 107, 2, 379; EHER no 6721).

Map 1 EAA 107, 2, fig 235 showing the current site (in red) in relation to Stansted fieldwalking Area X and Waltham Hall

A trench excavated in 1979 by the Essex Field Archaeology Unit on land on the southern side of School Road found an area of burnt clay slabs, thought to be possibly part of a brick kiln, and two raised platforms formed by ditches parallel to the site boundary (EAH 11, 70; EHER no 4711). These were interpreted as toft sites, abandoned in the 19th century when the hamlet may have downsized or moved sideways. However, an evaluation by CAT on land south of School Road in 2019 found no evidence of archaeology (CAT Report 1379).

Approximately 800m to the south of the site is the location of Waltham Hall (EHER no 4561). The hall is a 17th-century or earlier moated timber-framed house with
associated outbuildings (EHER no 37421). The site is a scheduled ancient monument (NHLE no. 1002161). Excavations on the western side of the road as part of the Stansted Airport development have identified medieval remains of 12th- to 13th-century date. Further deposits were identified during the Stansted G2 evaluation work around the development site. CAT carried out an evaluation on land to the immediate northeast of the hall area but did not find any archaeology (EHER no 48919, CAT Report 1040).

A recent evaluation on land at Croft End revealed a shallow pit containing Bronze Age pottery in the upper fill. Consequently the trench was extended to reveal the full extent of the feature (CAT Report 1405).

Also of note within the hamlet is the Three Horseshoes Public House, an English Heritage Grade II listed 15th-century timber-framed building incorporated into a 17th-century house (EHER no 37458) and Yew Tree Cottage an English Heritage Grade II listed 18th-century timber-framed house (EHER no 37463).

4 Aim
The aim was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)
Three trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1 was 13m long and 1.8m wide, T2 was 11m long and 1.8m wide and T3 was 10m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2-0.42m, hard, dry dark grey/brown silty-clay with chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks and 5% stones) and subsoil (L2, c 0.22-0.49m thick, hard, dry medium orange/brown silty-clay with 4% stones) onto natural (L3, hard, dry light/medium orange/brown clay, encountered at a depth of 0.54-0.72m below current ground level). A sondage was excavated in T1 to confirm that the natural had been reached.

Modern services were present in trench T2, but otherwise no archaeological features were encountered.
6 **Finds**

*by Laura Pooley*

Found in L1 (finds no. 1) was a copper-alloy button of probable 18th-19th century date. The button is circular, flat and appears to be plain, although any decoration would be obscured by dirt and corrosion. The back of the button has been squashed flat but appears to be a simple loop soldered onto the flat reverse. 33mm diameter, 2mm thick, 6.6g.

7 **Conclusion**

In spite of being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant remains were encountered.

8 **Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks Darren Callow and DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with B Quinn and A Tuffey. Figures are by C Lister, A Tuffey and S Carter. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Richard Havis.

9 **References**

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


CAT 2018 *Health & Safety Policy*

CAT Report 1040 2016 *Archaeological evaluation on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF: November 2016, by L Pooley*

CAT Report 1379 2019 *Archaeological evaluation on land south of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex – February 2019, by E Holloway*

CAT Report 1405 forthcoming *Archaeological evaluation and excavation on land at Croft End, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex: April 2019, by E Hicks*

CIfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation*

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

EAA 107, 1 2004 *Excavations at Stansted Airport, 1986-91 Volume 1: Prehistoric and Romano-British, by R Havis and H Brooks*

EAA 107, 2 2004 *Excavations at Stansted Airport, 1986-91 Volume 2: Saxon, medieval and post-medieval; Discussion, by R Havis and H Brooks*

EAH Vol 11 1979 *Essex Archaeology and History Volume II. Section 29 p70, by C Crouchman*

ECCPS 2019 *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Takeley, by R Havis*


Historic England 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*

Historic England 2018 *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project, by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell*

10 Abbreviations and glossary

**Anglo-Saxon** period from c 500 – 1066

**Bronze Age** period from c 2500 – 700 BC

**CAT** Colchester Archaeological Trust

**CBM** ceramic building material, ie brick/tile

**CIfA** Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

**context** specific location of finds on an archaeological site

**ECC** Essex County Council

**ECBEA** 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)

**prehistoric** pre-Roman

**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:** n/a

**Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1417)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photos and log

Site section drawings

Inked section drawings

**Digital record**

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds log)

The report (CAT Report 1417)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos 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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2019.24.

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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).
Fig 2  Evaluation results (proposed development shown in blue).
Fig 3  Representative sections.
Project details

**Project name**
Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land at The bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM2

**Short description of the project**
An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex in advance of the construction of four semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks. No archaeological remains were encountered.

**Project dates**

**Previous/future work**
No / Not known

**Any associated project reference codes**
2019/05i - Contracting Unit No.

**Any associated project reference codes**
SAFWM: 2019.24 - Museum accession ID

**Any associated project reference codes**
TBSL19 - HER event no.

**Any associated project reference codes**
colchest3-351210 - OASIS form ID

**Type of project**
Field evaluation

**Site status**
None

**Current Land use**
Residential 1 - General Residential

**Current Land use**
Other 5 - Garden

**Significant Finds**
COIN Post Medieval

**Methods & techniques**
"Targeted Trenches"

**Development type**
Rural residential

**Prompt**
National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

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

**Project location**

**Country**
England
Site location: ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY land at The bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex
Postcode: CM22 6PJ
Study area: 0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates: TL 56541 24767 51.898958500933 0.275503319246 51 53 56 N 000 16 31 E Point
Height OD / Depth: Min: 104.7m Max: 104.99m

Project creators
Name of Organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator: HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator: Emma Holloway
Project director/manager: Chris Lister
Project supervisor: Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body: Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body: DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd

Project archives
Physical Archive: Exists?
Digital Archive recipient: Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID: SAFWM: 2019.24
Digital Media available: "Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient: Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID: SAFWM: 2019.24
Paper Media available: "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography
1
Publication type: Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title: Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PJ: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s): Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details: CAT Report 1417
Date: 2019
Issuer or publisher: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication: Colchester
Description: A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL: http://cat.essex.ac.uk