

Archaeological monitoring and excavation at Lundishes, Blackmore, Essex

May 2010



report prepared by
Adam Wightman and Howard Brooks
on behalf of **Sophie Cassidy**

CAT project ref.: 10/4c
HEM project code: BLAL 10
Planning reference: (BRW/665/2007).
Chelmsford Museums accession code: CHMRE 2010. 056
NGR: TL 60328 01902



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1 Summary

The site is on the Green, Blackmore, in the centre of the historic village. The material identified by this monitoring project has a bearing on the origins of Blackmore, which was originally located at Fingrith Hall, and moved south to its present focus in the second half of the 12th century.

The standing building at Lundishes is of 15th-century date (with later alterations), but the presence here of thirteenth-century pottery and features indicates that the site is older than the building. The excavated features were presumably associated with a building on this site (possibly an earlier phase of Lundishes which is no longer apparent in the standing fabric), and are supportive of the 12th-century origin of Blackmore.

Post-medieval features include a ditch which probably defined two edges of the plot associated with Lundishes.

A single piece of Roman tile is among the finds. It may have been brought here in manure scatter from the Roman buildings (presumably a farm) located 450m to the south-west.



Plate 1: general view of site looking SW

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on the archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Sophie Cassidy at Lundishes, The Green, Blackmore, Essex, between the 5th and 11th of May 2010.
- 2.2 The proposed development lies in the centre of the medieval village of Blackmore (TL 60328 01902).
- 2.3 Proposed work comprises the demolition of an existing extension and sun room and their replacement by a single, larger, extension on the western side of the 15th-century house and shop.

3 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application for the construction of an extension was submitted to Brentwood District in July 2007 (BRW/665/2007).
- 3.2 Given the proximity of the site to known archaeological remains, the following condition was attached to the planning permission on the recommendation of the Historic Environment Management Team of ECC, based on the advice given in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990):

Recommendation: Full condition

No development or preliminary groundwork's of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority'.

Further Recommendations:

It is recommended that the archaeological work takes the form of a full strip of the proposed development area following demolition of the existing extension and sun- room, and excavation of any archaeological features revealed.

- 3.3 A brief describing the required archaeological work was prepared by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEM) of Essex County Council (HEM 2007).
- 3.4 Following the HEM Brief, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) setting out details of how the archaeological monitoring and excavation would be carried out was prepared by CAT and agreed with HEM. All fieldwork and post-excavation work was carried out according to the WSI.
- 3.5 Apart from the WSI (above) all work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (IfA 2008b), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008c), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE) and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

4 Archaeological background

- 4.1 This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the Historic Villages Assessment (Medlycott 2002).
- 4.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) shows that the proposed development lies within the Historic Village of Blackmore (Medlycott 2002; EHER 19009), which is a classic example of medieval shifting settlement patterns and an Essex village centred on a green. The original settlement is recorded in the Domesday Book as comprising 14 households at Fingrith Hall, some 2km to the north of the present village core (EHER 19008 - 9). It was probably in the 12th century that the village moved from Fingrith Hall to its present site. The new village was located around a large central green, which was encroached upon by buildings by the fourteenth century. Lundishes was one of those buildings. To date, little archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken at Blackmore, but it is probable that below-ground remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval occupation of the village do survive. The Historic Town Assessment suggests that the proposed development site lies within the medieval and post-medieval built area of the village. Therefore it is likely that medieval and post-medieval occupation deposits survive and will be disturbed or destroyed by the proposed development.

5 Aim

The aim of the monitoring and excavation was to locate, identify and assess the quality of any surviving archaeological remains. This information would then enable an informed decision to be taken on the preservation or otherwise of any deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation.

6 Results (Figs 2-3, plates 1-4)

The area of the extension, formerly a summer house, was stripped of modern overburden (L1 concrete, L2-3 modern and post-medieval deposits). The excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored, and several archaeological features were recorded in section. Later, a 15mm scrape-over was carried out to clean the site. This exposed in plan five archaeological features (Fig 2: F1-F5).



Plate 2: section of south edge of site showing L2-L4

F1 had the darkest fill and the latest-looking finds. This lay partially beneath the modern southern property boundary, but did not reach the western property boundary. F2 was an 'L-shaped' ditch with lots of finds and inclusions, and appeared to be an earlier property boundary ditch located 2m to the north of the current boundary. F3 was a thin, dark stain running across the site. It contained a post-medieval pot sherd but otherwise had the appearance of decomposed wood - perhaps an old fence line.

F4 was a large shallow pit with numerous finds. Initially thought to be a pit complex, the later scrape showed it was a single feature. F5 was a small pit between F2 and F4, and was cut by both features.

The site was cleaned, photographed, F2-5 were sectioned and then drawn/surveyed. The later observation of the digging of the outer footings line did not record any other features, but allowed photographs to be taken of F1 and F2 in particular.



Plate 3: section of ditch F2 (view W). Red and white scale is 1m long.



Plate 4: section of F4 (view NW)

7 Finds

7.1 Medieval and later pottery

by Howard Brooks

Introduction

This is the report on a small group of medieval and post-medieval pottery (57 sherds, 466g). The finds will ultimately be deposited at Chelmsford Museum (CHMRE 2010.056).

Description of pottery

Fabrics present are as follows (after *CAR 7*): Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware); Fabric 35 (Mill Green Ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware - PMRE).

Catalogue

F1

Finds number 1

Fabric 40 PMRE, 6 sherds, 59g

Group date: post-medieval

L3

Finds number 2

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware body sherd, 4g

Fabric 40 PMRE, 3 sherds, 23g

Finds number 3

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware body sherd, 3g

Fabric 40 PMRE, 1 sherds, 7g

Finds number 4

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware body sherd, painted strip and dots, slight clear glaze, 10g

Fabric 40 PMRE, 1 sherd, 45g

Group date: post-medieval

F2

Finds number 5

Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 3 sherds, 14g

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware, 11 body sherds, two with green glaze over white slip, 1 rim, 54g

Fabric 40 PMRE, 1 sherd, 10g

Finds number 6

Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 4 sherds, 10g

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware, 6 body sherds, 5 with green glaze over white slip (possibly same pot as 5), 27g

Finds number 7

Fabric 40 PMRE, 3 sherds, 36g

Finds number 9

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware, 1 body sherd with white slip, one rim, 47g

Group date: post-medieval

F3

Finds number 8

Fabric 40 PMRE, 1 sherd, 1g

Group date: post-medieval

F4

Finds number 10

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware, 11 body sherds, mainly with green glaze over white slip (some burnt?), (possibly same pot as 5), 89g
Group date: 13th century

F5

Finds number 12

Fabric 20 medieval sandy grey ware, 3 sherds, 20g
Fabric 35 Mill Green ware, 1 body sherd with green glaze over white slip, 1 rim, 7g
Group date: 13th century

unstratified

Finds number 13

Fabric 35 Mill Green ware, body sherd with partial green glaze over white slip (burnt?), 10g

Comment

This is a small group (57 sherds, 466g). However, there are a number of points of interest. There are a number of sherds of Mill Green ware (whose date probably centres on the 13th century), and a number of PMRE sherds, but no later fabrics (such as modern ironstone). The medieval pottery fits well with the idea that the village (originally at Fingrith Hall) was established on its present site in the 12th century (EHER 19009). The medieval features and pottery would confirm this date, although the earliest standing building in Blackmore is 14th century (EHER 19009). The later PMRE demonstrates continuing (presumably domestic) activity on the site in the 17th-18th century.

7.2 Other finds

by Howard Brooks

Introduction

This is the report on the shell, iron and ceramic building materials (CBM).

F1

Finds number 1

1 Roman tile (tegula fragment?), 31g
1 heavily corroded iron nail, square head, 25g

L3

Finds number 4

1 heavily corroded iron nail with large head (for nailing structural timber?), 51g

F2

Finds number 5

1 lump of iron slag, 110g

F4

Finds number 10

1 oyster shell, 8g
1 rib bone fragment, probably ovis, 5g

u/s

Finds number 13

1 tile fragment with hole, 12g. Not peg-tile – looks like perforated floor tile from a maltings??

8 Discussion

The material identified by this monitoring project is of some interest, and has a bearing on the origins of Blackmore. The village of Blackmore, originally centred on Fingrith Hall to the north, moved south to the site of the newly-founded Priory in the twelfth century (EHER 19009). Two of the features recorded here (F4-F5) contained fragments of Mill Green pottery of the 13th century. These features were probably associated with a contemporary structure on The Green frontage (ie, the predecessor of Lundishes, which is described on Listed Buildings Online [ref 373353] as being 'Early C15, altered in C17 and late C18').

Admittedly the 13th-century pottery is a little later than the foundation date of (the current) Blackmore, but it still predates the standing structure at Lundishes and thus supports the fact that Blackmore is older than any of the standing buildings in Blackmore in general, and Lundishes in particular.

The later features are perhaps of less interest, except for F2 which may have been a right-angled ditch defining two edges of the plot associated with Lundishes.

A single piece of Roman tile is among the finds. A context for this tile may be given by the discovery of Roman pottery and building materials in 1975 on two fields on the west side of Blackmore (EHER 850: 450m to the south-west of this site). There must clearly be a substantial Roman-period structure there. The tile fragment may have been brought to what is now Lundishes as manure scatter.

9 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE 2010.056.

10 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Sophie Cassidy for commissioning and funding the required archaeological work.

The fieldwork was conducted by Adam Wightman and Howard Brooks. Digital survey by C Lister and AW. Figures by CL. The project was monitored by Adam Garwood on behalf of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.

11 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: <i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-1985</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2010	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring and excavation at Lundishes, The Green, Blackmore, Essex</i> . April 2010.
DoE	1990	<i>Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney
HEM	2007	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring and excavation at Lundishes, the Green, Blackmore</i> . September 2007 (Maria Medlycott)
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i>
IfA	2008c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Medlycott	2002	<i>Blackmore: Historic Village Assessment</i> . ECC HEM
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage)

12 Glossary

context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by the ECC
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HEM	Historic Environment Management Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to the late 18th century
Roman	the period from AD 43 to AD 410, approximately
unstratified	not found in a context

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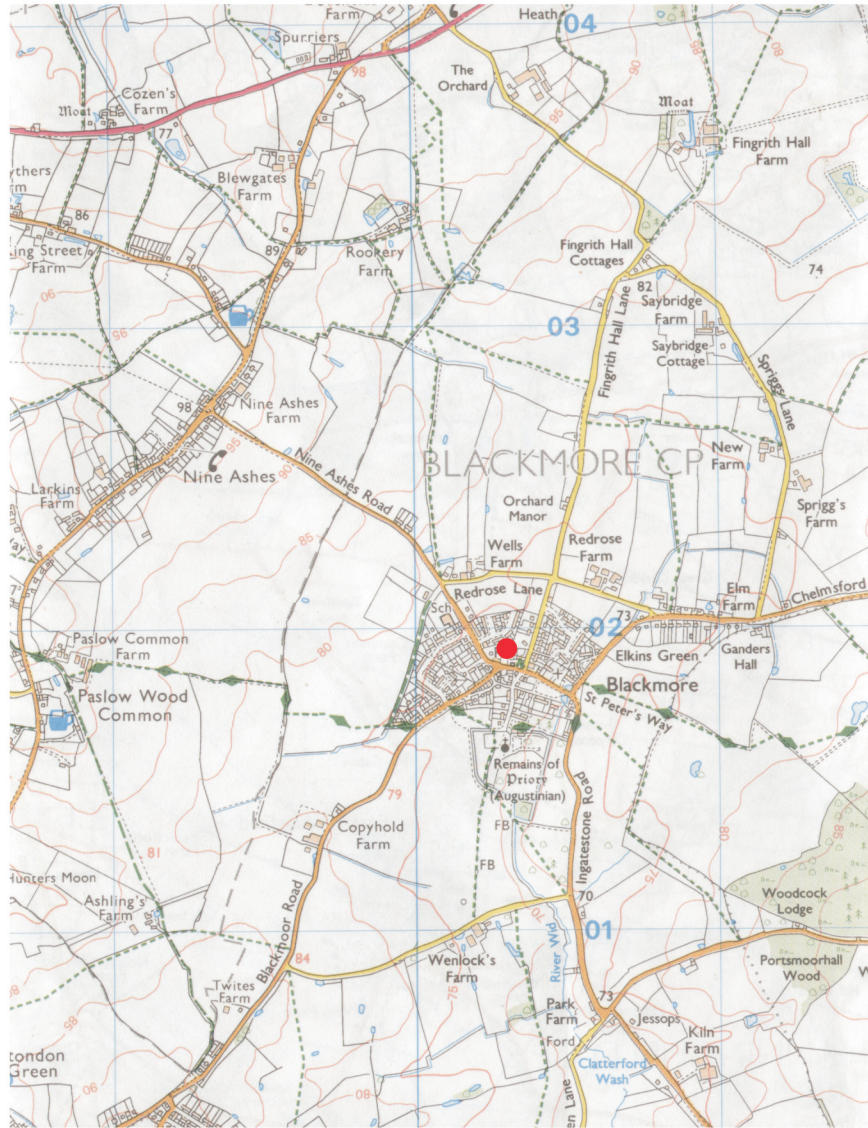


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Fig 1 Site location, shown as red dot.

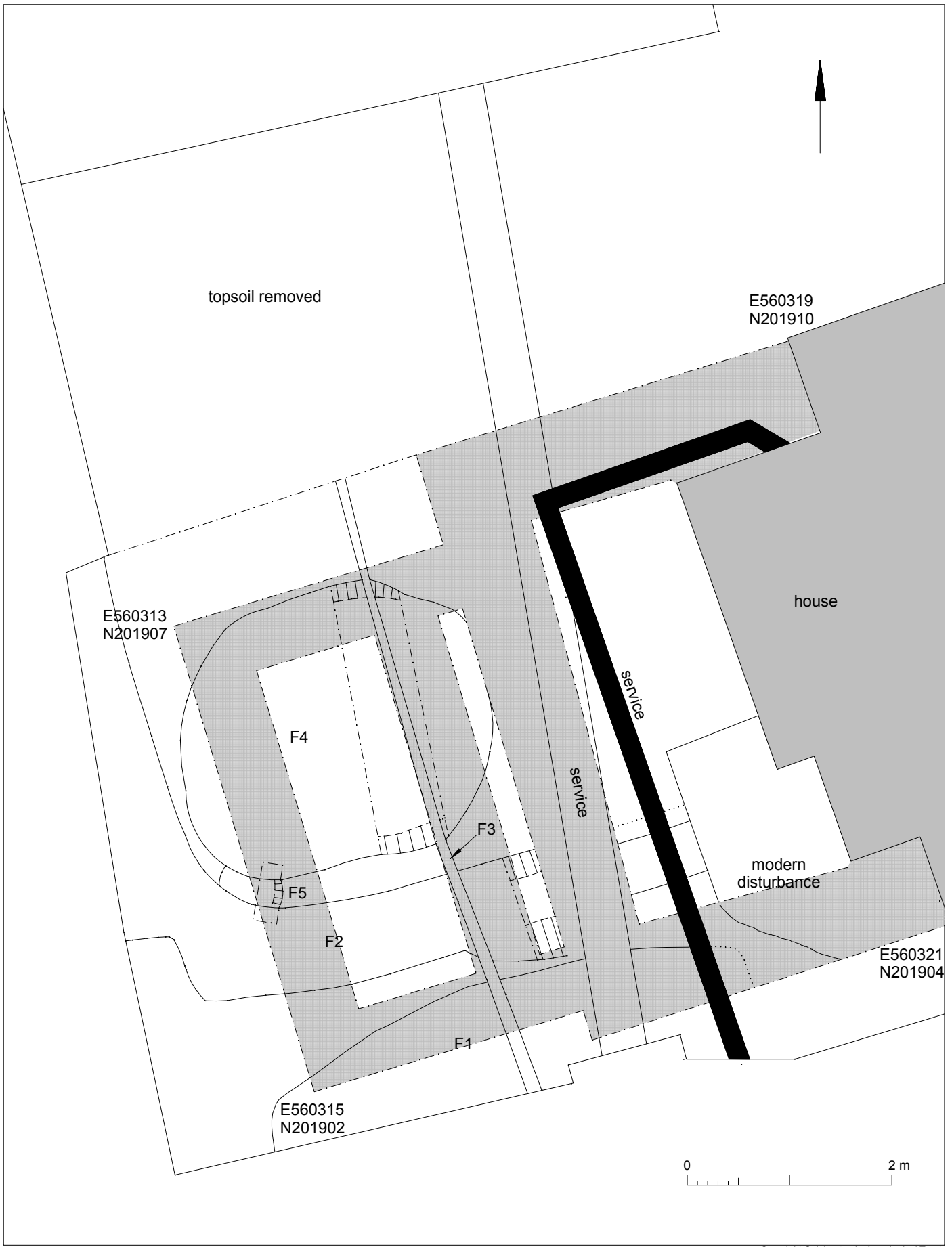


Fig 2 Results of watching brief.

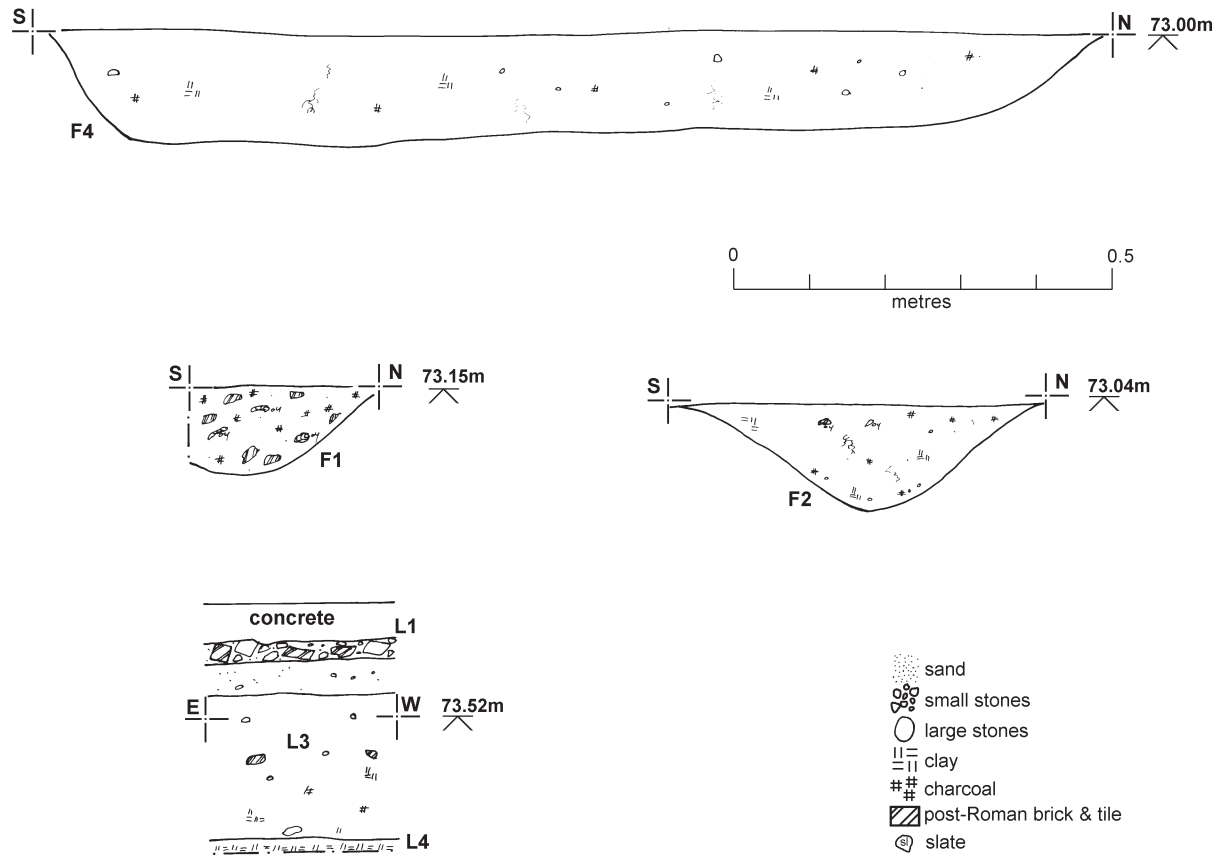


Fig 3 Sections

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: Lundishes, The Green, Blackmore, Essex.	
Parish: Blackmore	District: Brentwood
NGR: TL 60328 01902	Site code: CAT project – 10/4c HEM project code: BLAL 10
Type of work: Monitoring and excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May 2010	Size of area investigated: Monitoring over area approx 5m x 5m square.
Curating museum: Chelmsford Museum accession: CHMRE 2010. 056	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER nos: 850, 19008 - 9
Final report: CAT Report 553 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: medieval and post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The site is on the Green, Blackmore, in the centre of the historic village. The material identified by this monitoring project has a bearing on the origins of Blackmore, which was originally located at Fingrith Hall, and moved south to its present focus in the second half of the 12th century.</i></p> <p><i>The standing building at Lundishes is of 15th-century date (with later alterations), but the presence here of thirteenth-century pottery and features indicates that the site is older than the building. The excavated features were presumably associated with a building on this site (possibly an earlier phase of Lundishes which is no longer apparent in the standing fabric), and are supportive of the 12th-century origin of Blackmore.</i></p> <p><i>Post-medieval features include a ditch which probably defined two edges of the plot associated with Lundishes.</i></p> <p><i>A single piece of Roman tile is among the finds. It may have been brought here in manure scatter from the Roman buildings (presumably a farm) located 450m to the south-west.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: - medieval features	Significance: **
Author of summary: H Brooks	Date of summary: June 2010