

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

CAT Report 556

Address: 122 Norsey Road, Billericay, Essex	
Parish: Billericay	District: Basildon
NGR: TL 5710 3852	Site code: CAT project code – 09/12c ECC site code – pending
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: June-October 2010	Size of area investigated: 96m (linear)
Location of curating museum: Southend Museum accession code – pending	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: SAM 29428, EHER 5307
Final report: CAT Report 556	
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The proposed development lies within the former extent of Norsey Wood, a medieval deerpark of national importance (Scheduled Ancient Monument 29428). In addition to the medieval and post-medieval woodland, there is considerable evidence for prehistoric settlement within the wood (EHER 5307). The place-name evidence suggests that the woodland may have been enclosed prior to 1066. The current woodland bank dates to some time between 1291 and 1323.</p> <p>The scheduled monument includes the perimeter earthworks and interior of Norsey Wood, an area of mixed and coppice woodland located immediately to the east of Billericay. The Wood contains one of the most remarkable collections of archaeological features to be found anywhere in the region. These include occupation areas and burial sites dating from prehistoric and Roman periods, earthworks relating to continuous management of the woodland from the medieval period onwards, and physical remains related to the military use of the Wood in comparatively modern times.</p> <p>Until the 1930s the Wood was almost completely enclosed by perimeter earthworks, perpetuating a boundary unchanged since the Wood was first mapped in 1593. The construction of the houses along Norsey Road resulted in the wood bank being levelled and the ditch filled in. It was possible that multi-period deposits would survive in the grounds of 122 Norsey Road.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out between June and October 2010. Excavation of the basement started before the first visit by an employee of the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Consequently only the lower part of the excavation for the basement could be monitored and, by this stage, the work was well into the geological coarse sands and gravels. Three further visits to the site were made to observe the excavation of ground</p>	

beams and a soakway to the north-west of the basement. The soakaway was excavated through the topsoil into the natural sand. The topsoil had already been removed from the area of the ground beams prior to their excavation. No archaeological features were observed.

Previous summaries/reports: None

Keywords: -

Significance: neg

Author of summary:
Ben Holloway

Date of summary:
October 2010

Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing;

1 Introduction

- 3.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by ECC HEM.
- 3.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 3.3 Site location map

2 Site Archive

- 3.1 Digital photo record
- 3.2 Attendance register
- 3.3 Site photographic record on cd

3 Research Archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report

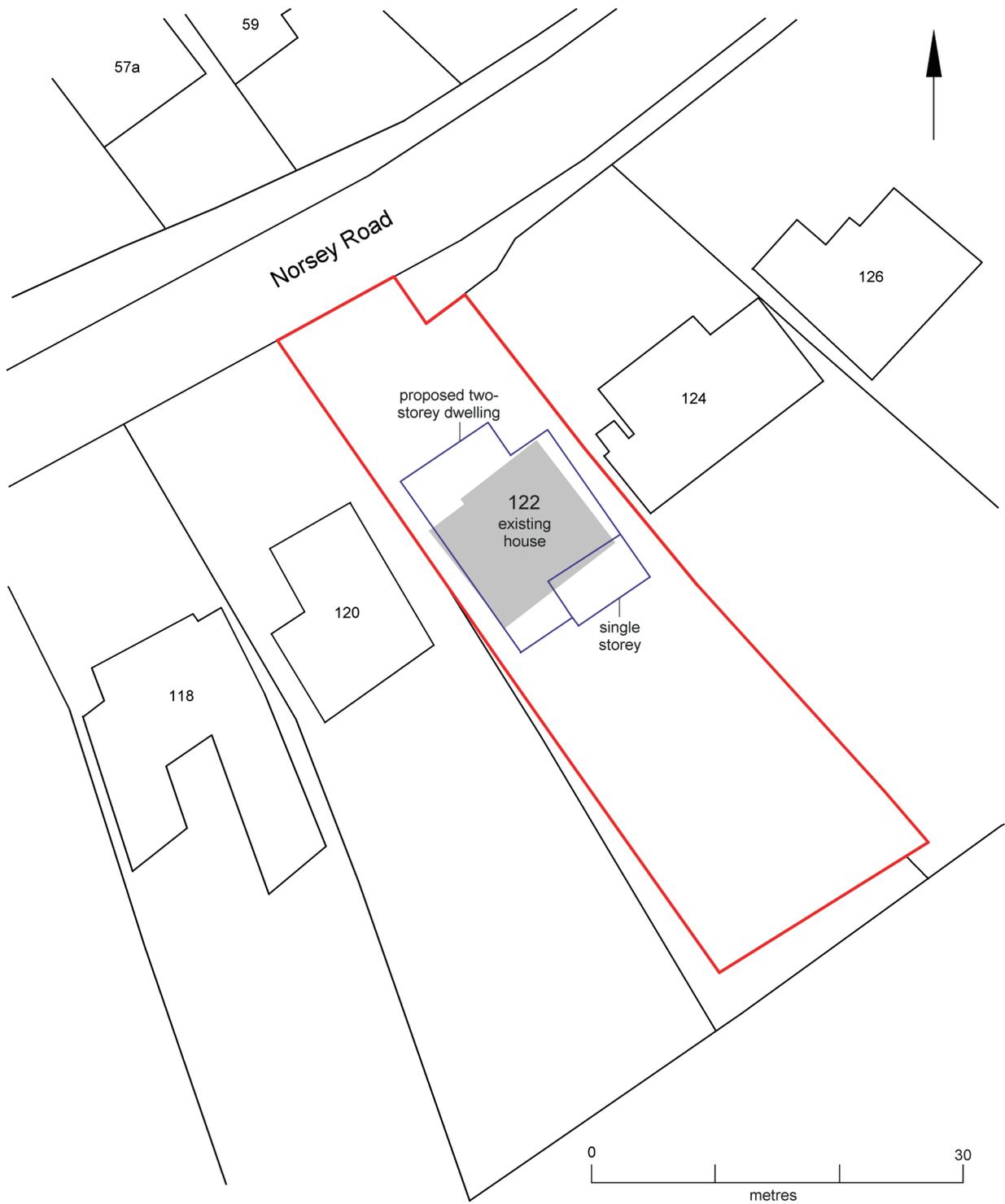


Fig 1 Site location plan.