

Archaeological Trial Trenching Evaluation on land at 28 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, South Weald, Brentwood, Essex

September 2013



report prepared by
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commissioned by
Mr M. Pereira

Planning references: 13/00665/FUL
CAT project ref.: 13/09f
HET code: BWCG13
NGR: TL 56725 95774



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CAT Report 726
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EHER summary sheet

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1 Summary

The site is located in the garden of 28 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood.

In advance of the demolition of an existing farmhouse and erection of a new farmhouse, an evaluation by two trenches (total length 16m) was undertaken. Two shallow features were uncovered, one of post-medieval date and one undated. Nothing else of archaeological interest was discovered.

2 Introduction, archaeology and planning background (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at 28 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, South Weald, Brentwood, Essex. The proposed development was the demolition of an existing farmhouse and the erection of a larger one. The evaluation trenches were positioned over the intended footprint of the new building (site centre TL 56725 95774).

The proposed dwelling is located within an area currently occupied by a farmhouse and outbuildings of unknown age. Some farm buildings are depicted on the first edition OS map but are no longer extant. To the north of the property lies a listed 19th century gatehouse (HER 27310) which is thought to have been a bakehouse.

The Chapman & Andre' map of 1777 shows the area as being occupied by a number of buildings, suggesting a settlement on the edge of what was a large green known as Cox Green. This type of settlement around greens is typical of medieval settlements and consequently the site has potential for evidence of occupation or activity from the medieval period or later. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the archaeological impact the proposed development would have on this evidence, if any.

Brentwood Borough Council consulted Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team in June 2013 in relation to planning application 13/00665/FUL. The Historic Environment Team made the following recommendation:

Recommendation: Full Condition

"No development, conversion or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

Historic Environment Officer (HEO) Teresa O'Connor wrote a brief detailing the required archaeological work (O'Connor 2013), and Mr M. Pereira commissioned CAT to carry out the specified evaluation. The evaluation was carried out the 20th of September 2013 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CAT in response to the HEO's brief and agreed with the HEO (CAT 2013). Post-excavation work was carried out in September 2013. In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was carried out in accordance with standard policies and procedures as outlined in CAT 2012, IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, MoRPHE, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

3 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record and establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any remains and deposits likely to be disturbed by the proposed works.

4 Evaluation results (Figs 2-3)

To fulfil the requirements of the brief, two evaluation trenches (total length 16m) in a t-shape were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. Three layers and two archaeological features were encountered:

Trenches 1 and 2 – contexts and dating

context no	type	dated finds	date
F1	linear	peg tile, fe nail, glass	post-medieval/modern
F2	post-hole	-	?
L1	topsoil	-	modern
L2	buried topsoil	worked flint, peg tile fragments	post-medieval
L3	natural	-	geological

The trenches were cut through two layers, one of modern topsoil (L1) and one of earlier post-medieval buried topsoil (L2), before coming down onto natural clay (L3) at a depth of 400-450mm. Two features were uncovered cut into the natural clay; a post-medieval/modern linear (F1) and an undated posthole (F2).

Both of these features were very shallow (the linear at 140mm deep and the posthole at 60mm) and were sealed by L2.



Plate 1 Site stratigraphy, showing F1. Facing south.

5 Conclusion

Very little of archaeological interest was discovered on the site, both features uncovered had finds of either a very recent date (F1), or no finds at all (F2). The one find of interest is a residual prehistoric dark grey worked flint uncovered from L2. The flint is a secondary hard hammer flake with useware on the ventral face and plunge fracture.

The stratigraphy suggests that the modern topsoil of L1 was brought onto the site to build up the ground level, sealing as it does the earlier topsoil of L2. Despite this, the relatively shallow depth at which the natural appears, along with the lack of archaeologically interesting features, implies that the site has been very sparsely impacted by any earlier occupation.

6 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr M. Pereira for commissioning the work. The project was managed and fieldwork carried out by M Baister and A Wightman. The project was monitored by ECC Historical Environment Officer Teresa O'Connor.

7 References

CAT	2012	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT	2013	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching on Land at 28 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood, Essex, September 2013</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Department of Communities and Local Government
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, by David Gurney (editor)
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the east of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott
ECC	2008	<i>Tendring District Historic Environment Characterisation Project</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE)
HEM	2013	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching on land at 28 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, South Weald, Brentwood September 2013</i> Essex County Council Brief, by Teresa O'Connor
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

8 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera).
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HET	Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	an accumulation or deposition of archaeological material
medieval	the period from AD 1066 to AD 1500
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
post-medieval	the period from AD 1500 to AD 1800

9 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum (an accession code has been requested).

10 Contents of archive

Finds archive

One finds bag containing a worked flint (all other finds discarded after report completed)

Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:

- this report
- original site record (context and finds sheets)
- section drawings
- digital photo log
- attendance record
- sundry papers
- digital photos on disc

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Distribution list:

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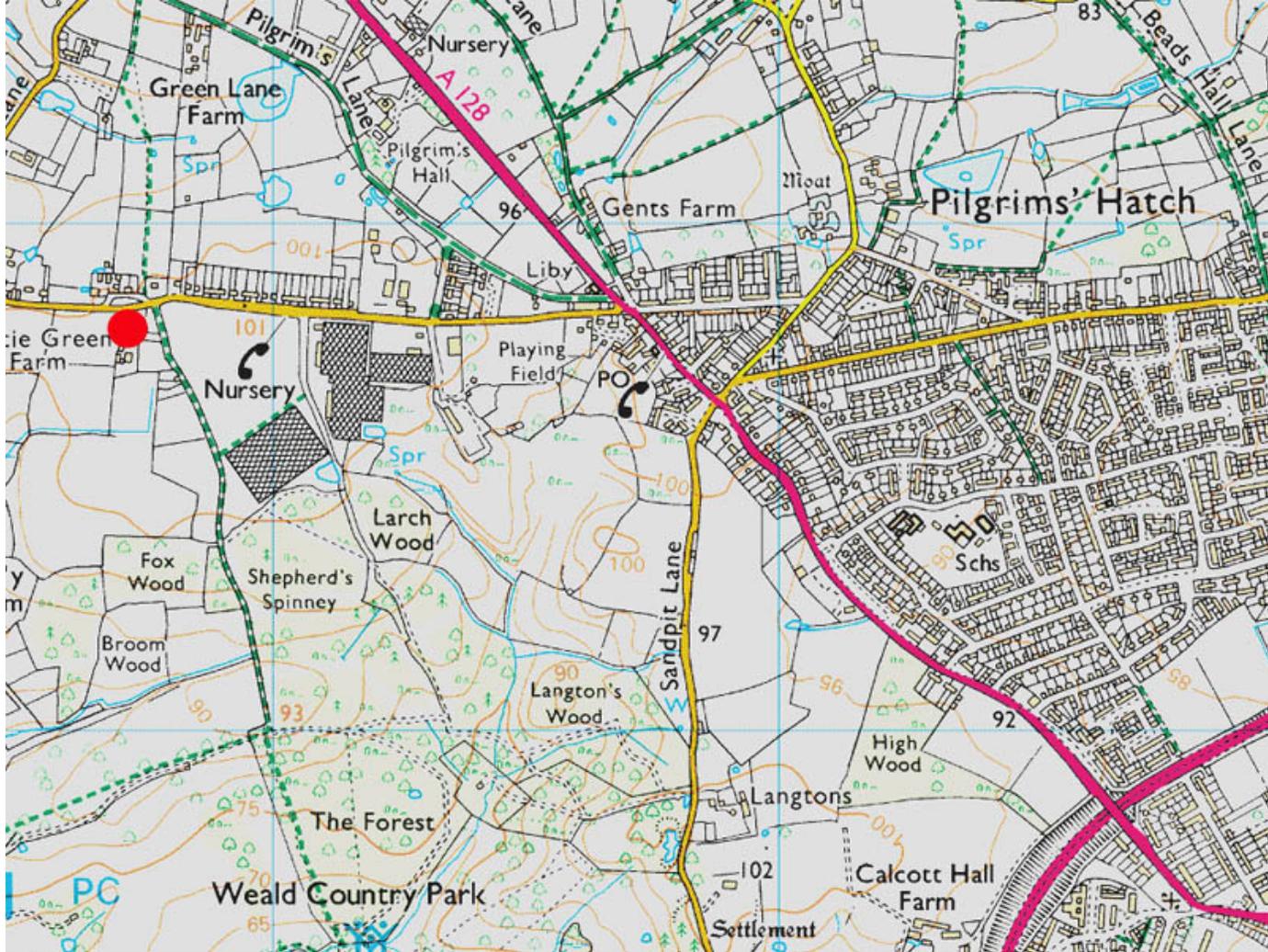
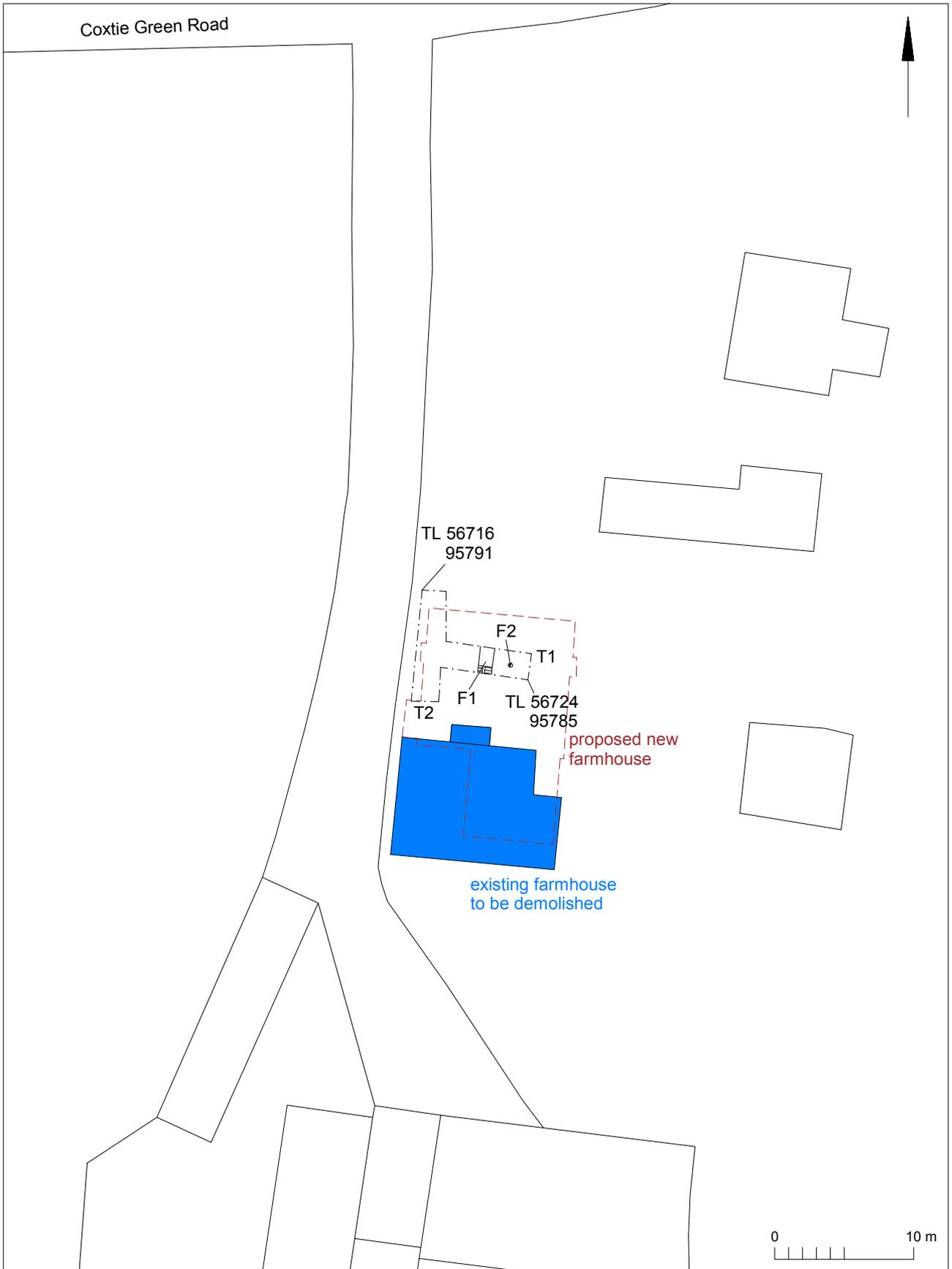


Fig 1 Site location (shown by red dot).



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Fig 2 Evaluation results, with OS grid references.

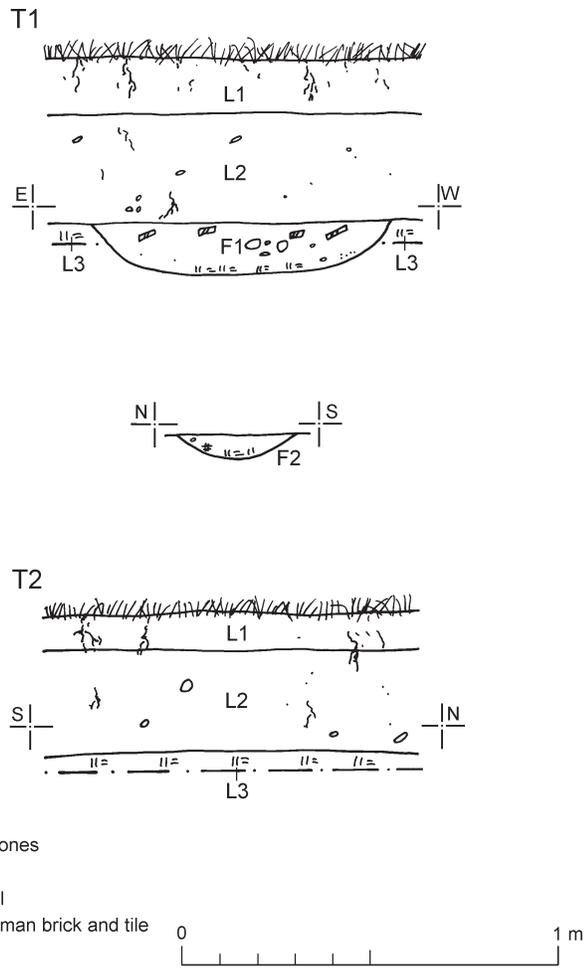


Fig 3 F1-2: Sections. T1-2: Representative sections.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Address 28 Coxtie Green Road, Pilgrims Hatch, South Weald, Brentwood	
Parish: Brentwood	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 56725 95774	Site code: CAT project code – 13/09f HET Code – BWCG13
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 20th of September 2013	Size of area investigated: 16m of trenching
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford Museum accession code : [requested]	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: -
Final report: CAT Report 726	
Periods represented: post-medieval/modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>In advance of the demolition of an existing farmhouse and erection of a new farmhouse, an evaluation by two trenches (total length 16m) was undertaken. Two shallow features were uncovered, one of post-medieval date and one undated. Nothing else of archaeological interest was discovered.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
ECC Monitor: Teresa O'Connor	
Keywords: --	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Mark Baister	Date of summary: September 2013