

**LAND ADJACENT TO 1 THE
STREET, TOPPESFIELD, ESSEX**

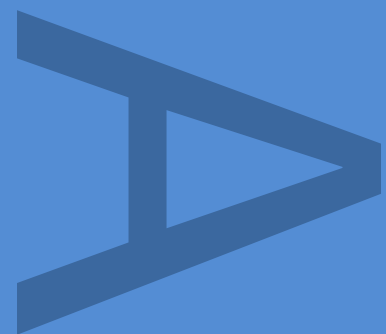
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

PCA REPORT NO: R11539

SITE CODES: TPTS13

OCTOBER 2013



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND ADJACENT TO 1 THE STREET, TOPPESFIELD, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Local Planning Authority: Braintree District Council

Planning Reference: 13/00268/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: NGR TL 7387 3740

Site Code: TPTS13

Report No. R11539

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October 2013

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Abstract

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 1 The Street, Toppesfield, Essex, carried out on 15th October 2013. A single 'T'-shaped trench was machine excavated with the intention of dating a barn shown on a 19th-century map. This was achieved by demonstrating that the barn's base consisted of 19th-century brickwork resting on undisturbed geological deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document reports the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land adjacent to 1 The Street, Toppesfield, Essex, CO9 4DJ (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 7387 3740; Figure 1). This work was carried out on the 15th of October 2013.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Mr George Young in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling (Planning Reference: 13/00268/FUL). The site is located in the centre of the village, to the south-east of the village pump. The site was occupied by a garden and parking area to the rear of 1 the street, which was formerly a public house.
- 1.3 The development lies in an area of significant archaeological potential in the core of the medieval and early post-medieval village, and within the village Conservation Area. A barn of unknown date was shown within the development area on 19th-century maps. The Essex County Council Historic Environment Officer therefore advised the local planning authority (Braintree District Council) that a full archaeological planning condition was required.
- 1.4 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation within the development area was prepared by Katie Anderson of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (August 2013), in response to a planning condition recommended by Teresa O'Connor of the Historic Environment Management Team (HEMT) of Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch.
- 1.5 The work reported upon here was designed to contribute to an understanding of the character, condition, date and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area, and to provide a comprehensive appraisal of the significance of any remains within a local, regional and national context as appropriate. This has been achieved through the recording of two evaluation trenches located within the development area, which demonstrate that the barn that formally occupied the site was constructed in the 19th century and that no further archaeological remains exist within the development area.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 Toppesfield is located on top of a small hill in the rolling clay landscape of north Essex. The site is located in the centre of the village, on the south-east side of the junction of Church Lane, Park Lane, The Street and Stambourne Road, which all lead downhill away from the village core. At the intersection of these routes is the old village pump; St Margaret's parish church is located 50m to the east. The site lies on a high point at an elevation of c. 86m above Ordnance Datum (henceforth OD); and the land falls away to the south and east.
- 2.2 The underlying bedrock of the site is Lewes Nodular Chalk, overlain by drift deposits of the Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton), an extensive sheet of chalky till with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays, characterised by its high chalk and flint content (British Geological Survey 2013).
- 2.3 The natural geological horizon within the trenches (102) was heavy boulder clay with high chalk incisions.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the HEMT Brief for archaeological investigation (O'Connor 2013):

The development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, within the historic core of the village. Many of the buildings in the village date to the 17th century and the settlement must have existed in this location since at least the 14th century, by which time the Church of St Margaret had been built. No. 1 The Street, in the grounds of which the site is located, was formerly a public house. A (demolished) barn associated with the pub was located within the site and is shown on 19th-century maps. Prior to the fieldwork reported here the age and function of this building were unknown.

3.2 The following background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER):

3.2.1 The development site is located close to several known sites of archaeological and historic interest. These include listed buildings, such as 59 The Causeway, a 17th-/18th-century house (EHER 6947; EH Listed Building 1165315), and Berewick Hall (EHER 6802; EH Listed Building 1122992). St Margaret's Church, 50m to the east, is believed to predate the 14th century.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 A 'T'-shaped series of trenches measuring c. 7.5m along the east to west axis, henceforth referred to as Trench 1, and 9m along the north to south axis, henceforth referred to as Trench 2 were excavated in order to investigate the footprint of the former barn and the area east of the barn, towards the parish church (Figure 2). The original design was for the trench to consist of two 10m long components but this was not possible due to the constraints of the development area. A possible live water pipe and modern well constrained the eastern side of Trench 1 reducing the trench to 7.5m (See Plate 3), while Trench 2 was constrained to 9m due to the size of the development area (See Plate 2).
- 4.2 The trenching was carried out under archaeological supervision using a mechanical 'Mini' Digger with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Made ground and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.3 A complete excavation plan and heights above ordnance datum (m OD) was prepared using a Leica 1200 Global Positioning System (GPS) rover unit with real time kinematic differential correction, giving three dimensional accuracy of 20mm or less.
- 4.4 All aspects of the excavation were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct and the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (2008), and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003; East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14). *Reference was also made, where appropriate, to Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment and 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3 (Glazebrook 1997) and 8 (Brown and Glazebrook 2000)), and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England* (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott 2011)). Field excavation and recording techniques are detailed within the *PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual* (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

- 4.5 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a context numbers and recorded on individual pre-printed forms. Archaeological events recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), whilst events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.6 When features and deposits were discovered, they were excavated and recorded according to the considered best practice detailed above. This included 10% of any linear features such as ditches being excavated and all discrete features being excavated up to 50%. Where appropriate, discrete features would be 100% excavated when considered necessary to do so for research purposes. Likewise linear features were further excavated for finds retrieval following recording. All Features were recorded in section as individual section drawings and in plan as part of the main GPS plan detailed above.
- 4.7 Metal detecting was carried out during the excavation of the trenches and archaeological features and spoil were scanned for metal objects
- 4.8 High resolution digital photographs were taken throughout the fieldwork (See Plates 1-4), and were used to keep a record of the evaluation.
- 4.9 The records for all the excavated deposits were completed and checked for internal consistency. Written and drawn records have been completed on archival quality paper and are fully indexed.
- 4.10 All records have been entered into a computerised relational database (Microsoft Access). This will allow integration of the contextual, artefactual and environmental data with the site base plan through 'Computer Aided Design' (AutoCad).
- 4.11 Text sections for all features analysed have been written and detailed in the results section below (Section 5).

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The main result of this evaluation was finding the exact location of the barn, which correlated with the ordnance survey location, and identifying its age as no earlier than 19th century, indicated by the date of the bricks of the barn walls. The western end of Trench 1 went through the lower courses of the north to south aligned eastern wall of the barn. The barn has been identified as being 19th century and machine stripping to the natural geological horizon below the footprint of the barn revealed no earlier (for example Medieval) precursor to it.
- 5.2 Within Trenches 1 and 2 there were three features. These were excavated, in the manner detailed in section 4, but not formally recorded due to the modern date of the deposits within them.
- 5.2.1 Trench 1 contained a small pit and a linear ditch on a north to south alignment. Both features contained similar 20th-century pottery and 19th to 20th-century brick and glass.
- 5.2.2 Trench 2 contained a large sub-ovoid pit which contained 20th-century pottery and brick.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The barn identified on ordnance survey maps was located within the western end of Trench 1 and the age of the barn confirmed as being 19th century without an earlier precursor located underneath its foundations. The other features located within Trenches 1 and 2 were all dated as modern.
- 6.2 It is therefore very likely that the appropriate Development Control Officer at Essex County Council recommend that no further archaeological work within the development area will be required, and that consequently the archaeological condition on the planning application will be considered discharged. This will require confirmation by Theresa O'Connor of Essex County Council.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PCA would like to thank Mr George Young for commissioning to work and Theresa O'Connor for monitoring the evaluation. The Author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project, Nathalie Barrett for survey processing and Josephine Brown of the PCA CAD Department for preparing the figures.

8 REFERENCES

Anderson, K. 2013 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trenching on land adjacent to 1 the street, Toppesfield, Essex.*

Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8

Glazebrook, J. (ed.) 1997 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. Resource Assessment.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 3

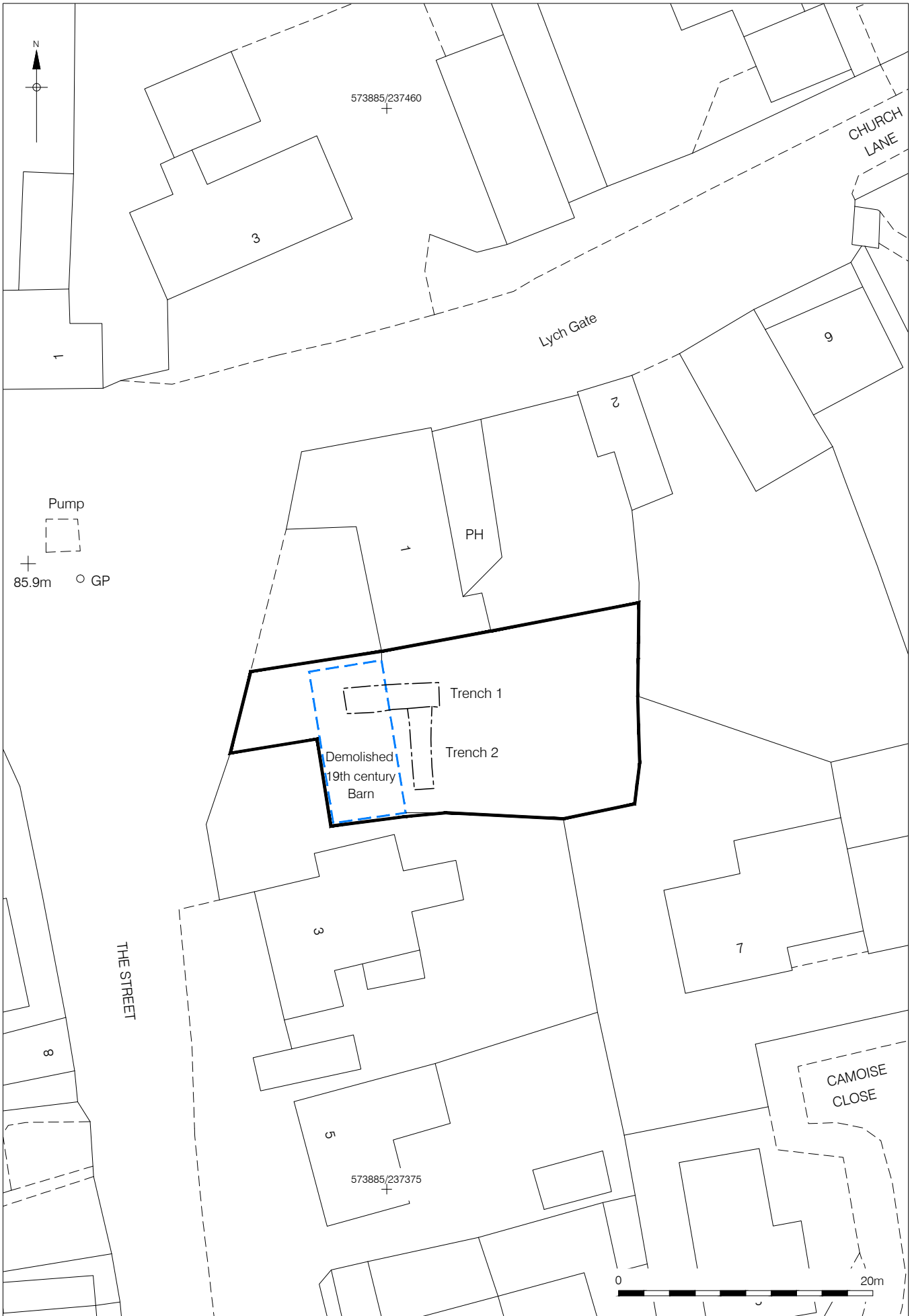
Medlycott, M (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 24

O'Connor, T. 2013 *Brief for Trial Trenching on land adjacent to 1 the street, Toppesfield.*



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 18/10/13 JS

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:25,000 at A4



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No.	Cut	Type	Description	Finds?
(100)	-	Made ground	Mixed deposit of topsoil and demolition material	N
(101)	-	Subsoil	Mid-grey silt clay subsoil	N
(102)	-	Natural Geology	Mid-yellow Boulder Clay with high chalk inclusions	N

APPENDIX 2: PLATES

Plate 1: East facing view of Trench 1



Plate 2: South facing view of Trench 2



Plate 3: Modern Well



Plate 4: Example of modern feature within Trench 2



APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-161669

Project details

Project name	Evaluation at 1 The Street Toppesfield Essex
Short description of the project	Two trench Evaluation in advance of a single house construction identifying 19th century Barn foundations as well as 2 modern pits and a modern ditch. Ground heavily disturbed by modern activity.
Project dates	Start: 15-10-2013 End: 15-10-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	TPTS13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	13/00268/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE TOPPESFIELD 1 The Street, Toppesfield, Essex, CO9 4DJ
Postcode	CO9 4DJ
Study area	33.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7387 3740 52 0 52 00 26 N 000 32 00 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 85.00m Max: 87.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
----------------------	--------------------------------

Project brief originator	Essex County Council
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Matthew Lees
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr George Young

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree District Museum
Digital Archive ID	TPTS13
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree District Museum
Paper Archive ID	TPTS13
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land Adjacent to 1 The Street, Toppesfield, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Lees, M
Other bibliographic details	PCA Report
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Stapleford
Description	24 page A4 bound report with 4 digital plates and 2 figures.

Entered by	Matthew Lees (MLEes@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	16 October 2013

APPENDIX 4: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Land Adjacent to 1 Street, Toppesfield, Essex	
Parish: Toppesfield	District: Braintree District Council
NGR: TL 7387 3740	Site Code: TPTS13
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: PCA Central
Date of Work: 15/10/13	Size of Area Investigated: 33SqM
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding source: Private Enterprise
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHCR No.s: None
Final Report: 'An Archaeological Evaluation of Land adjacent to 1 The Street, Toppesfield, Essex'	
Periods Represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 1 The Street, Toppesfield, Essex, carried out on 15th October 2013 comprised a single 'T'-shaped trench machine excavated with the intention of dating a barn shown on a 19th-century map. This was achieved by demonstrating that the barn's base consisted of 19th-century brickwork resting on undisturbed geological deposits.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Matthew Lees	Date of Summary: October 2013

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