

**Archaeological Evaluation at
Hunters Lodge
Chalk Street
Rettendon
Essex**

Commissioned by:
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Great Heath
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Site References:

Grid reference: TQ 75621 97573

Planning No.: CHL 20/01394/FUL

Oasis No.: 505712

Site code: REHL 22

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried by trial trenching; the work was carried out in response to a request by Mark Baiser of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Team.

A total of four linear trenches, totalling 28 metres by 1.80m were excavated to cover the development area, specifically the driveway and the footprint of the new dwelling.

Trenches 1 and 2 revealed evidence of some brick structure that had been demolished; trench 2 contained a single brick course for 1.5 metres containing red bricks which were frogged and were late 19th century in date. No other structure could be seen.

The brick course and considerable brick waste is believed to represent the site of a possible kiln but insufficient evidence for this meant that it could not be proved conclusively.

No further evidence from previous occupation of the site was found within the evaluation trenches.

No finds were made during the metal detector survey of the trench surface or the up cast spoil.

1. Site Location and Description

NGR: TQ 75621 97573



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Figure 1. Rettendon and site Location

11.1 Site Location

The site lies on Chalk Street a remnant of a possible Roman Road running north to south, and is located 7 miles south east of Chelmsford Essex.

1.2 Site Geology

The geology of the development site comprises ``London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt And Sand. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Local environment previously dominated by deep seas`` (www.bgs.ac.uk/home.html).

2. Planning Background

The development comprises the demolition of the existing stables and structures and the construction of a new dwelling and associated work including parking. A planning application was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in September 2020. As the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, a full archaeological condition was recommended to ensure that appropriate archaeological recording is undertaken. This advice is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. The recommendation that was made is:

RECOMMENDATION: Full condition

(i) No development or preliminary ground works shall take place within the site until a written scheme of investigation for the programme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

(ii) No development or preliminary ground works shall take place until such time that the programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

Reason: The site may be of archaeological interest.

The application conforms to the ``NPPF``, The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and was first published on 27 March 2012 and updated in July 2021. This sets out the government's planning policies for England .

3. Results

3.1 Fieldwork

Four linear trenches, totalling 28m by 1.8m were excavated to cover the development, specifically the driveway and the footprint of the new dwelling.

The trenches were drawn to a scale of 1:50; sample sections of the trench were drawn to a scale of 1:10.

A metal detector survey was carried out at all stages of the project, but no finds were made except modern material.

A digital image archive was produced and will form part of the site record to be curated at the Braintree Museum.

Site plans and sections were digitized to archive standard, reduced versions of which are included in this report.

The evaluation was carried out using standard practices in archaeology to ClfA standards.

The work also considered the Eastern Counties Frameworks Standards as laid down in : Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeology. Occ. Paper. 24.

3.2 The Evaluation Trenches

Trench 1: this trench was located closest to the road where the new access was to be made, it measured 7m long by 1.80m wide with an average depth of 0.70m. The deposits were, (1000) a hardcore, modern drive surface; (1001) a layer of a brownish-black re-deposited sand and clay with common cbm including a large quantity of brick waste, mainly to its lower extent. No other finds were present in the trench.

Trench 2: this trench was located on the western end of the new dwelling footprint, it measured 7m long by 1.80m wide with an average depth of 0.95m. The deposit revealed in Tr 2 was (1002), a made-up, re-deposited clay with heavily crushed brick material with considerable quantities of larger brick fragments forming a demolition layer from a previous building. A truncated, single bonded red brick course [1004] (with frogged bricks) was present; its surviving length measuring 1.50m. A clay drain pipe ran the length of the trench, terminating close to a soak-away pit. No other finds were present in the trench.

Trench 3: this trench, 7m long by 1.80m wide was capped with a made-up layer of cbm, representing a shallower spread (1005) than seen in trenches 1 and 2. The depth to the natural was only 0.35m, 0.20m of which contained the layer (1002) mentioned above in Tr.2. The shallower depth of the evaluation trench at this location may be the result of truncated land surfaces.

Trench 4; this trench, 7m long by 1.80m wide was filled with a spread or layer (1006) of yellowish-brown made-up clay and cbm; depth 0.30m, this deposit had much less density of brick within it. The natural sandy clay was exposed to a depth of 0.18m; no finds were present.

3.3 Contexts

Contexts	Type	Interpretation	Depth	Comments
1000	Layer	Modern drive surface	0.22m	n/a
1001	Layer	Made-up, re-deposited clay	0.45m	Demolition layer
1002	Layer	Made -up, re-deposited material	0.95m	Demolition layer
1003	layer	natural	0.22m	Exposed depth
1004	Brick course	Re-deposited material	1.50m length by 0.20m width	foundation
1005	Layer	Re-deposited material	0.22m depth	Demolition layer
1006	Layer	Re-deposited material	0.32m depth	Demolition material

3.4 Plans

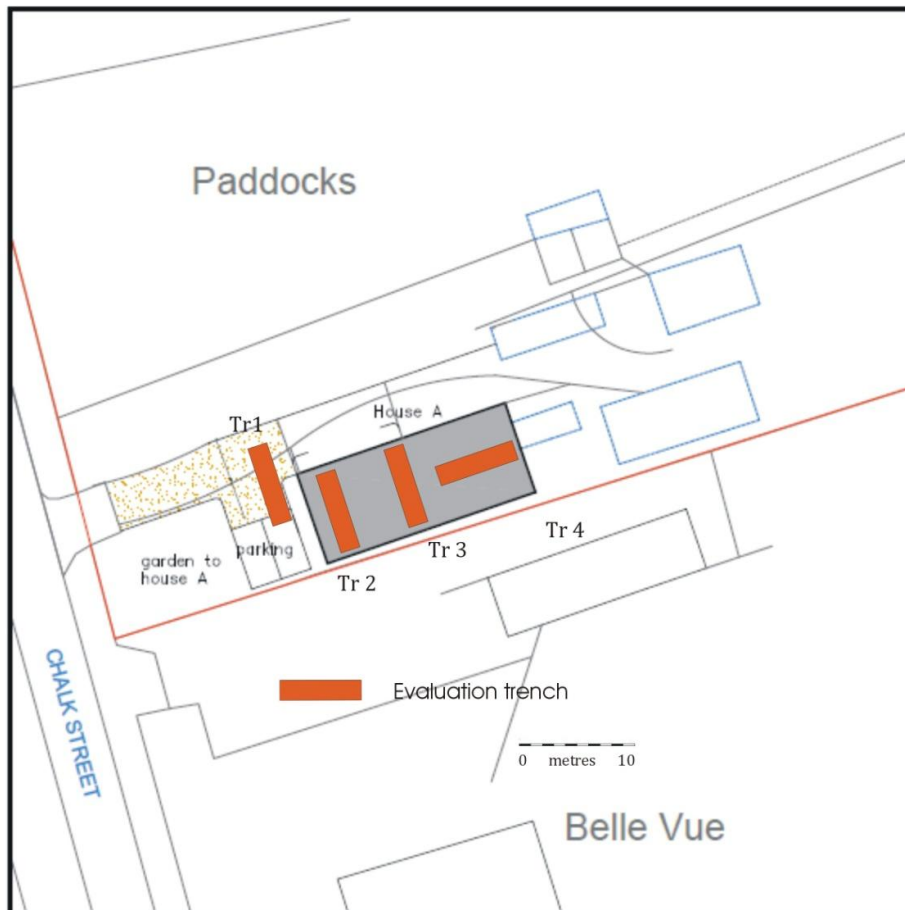


Figure 2. Post-excitation plan

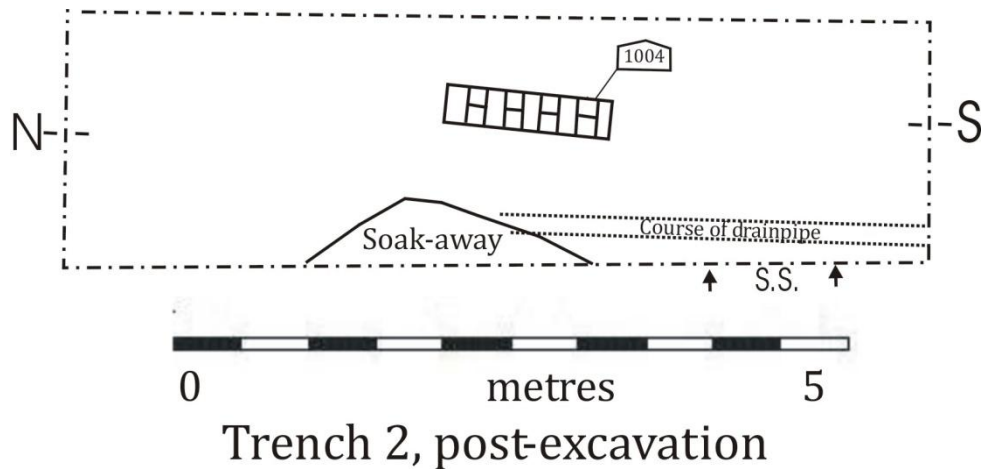


Figure 3. Post-excitation plan of Trench 2 at 1:50

3.4 Sections

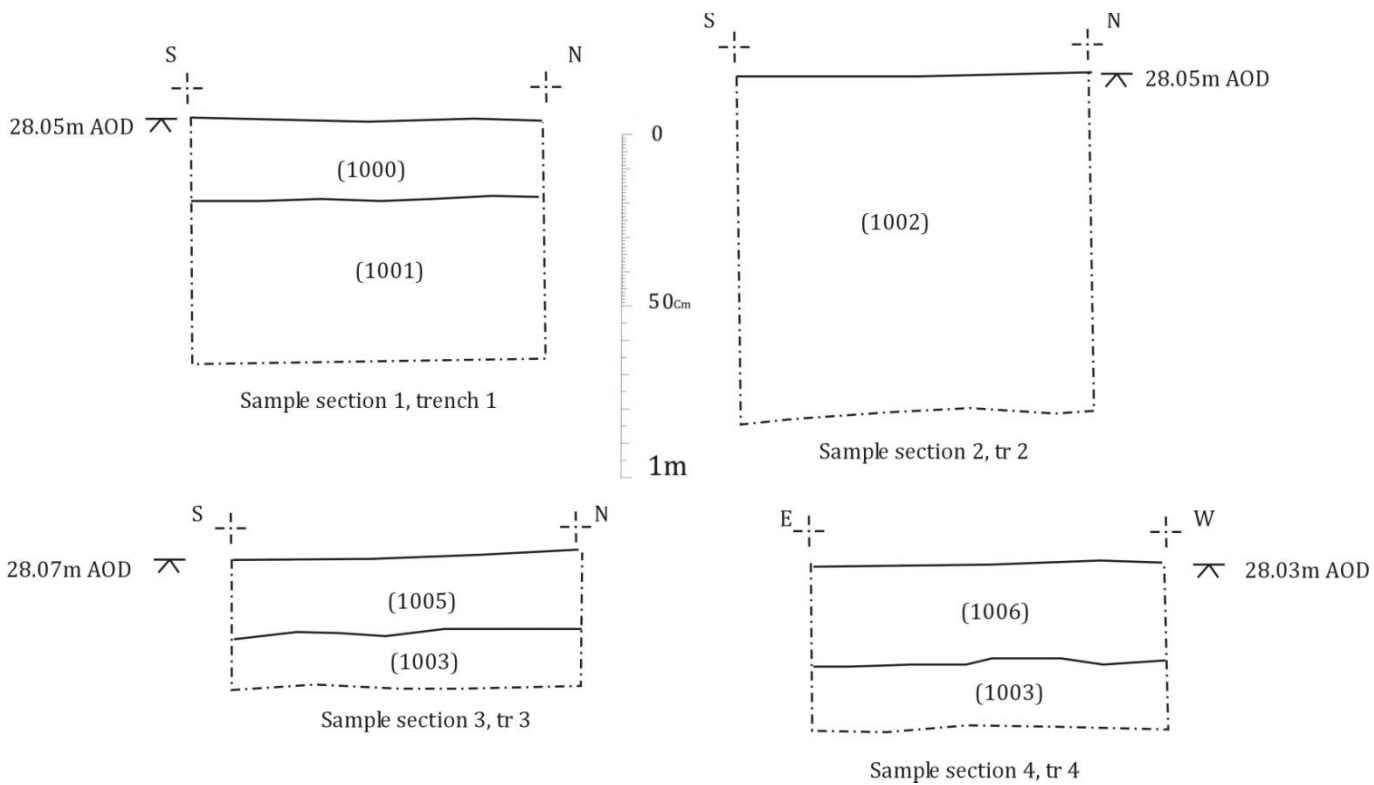


Figure 4. Sample sections

4. Interpretation and Conclusion

This evaluation was designed to locate any past occupation evidence along Chalk Street, including the brick works, seen on the old ordnance survey maps of the late 19th century. Evidence in the form of a demolition spread was located in all four trenches, particularly trenches 1 and 2. Large quantities of brick waste, some larger fragments and mostly crushed, forming a deep layer of cbm in trench 2. A heavily truncated, single layer of a bonded brick course was recorded in trench 2 at a depth of 0.95m. The depth of the brick course is indicative of a possible kiln at this location. The bricks were of a red fabric with no inclusions and shallow frogged, dating the bricks to the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The identifiable bricks in the demolition layer were of a mixed date, from the late 19th century to the mid 20th century, including some modern fletton bricks from Peterborough. No other evidence was seen in the trench for a kiln structure, if indeed this was a kiln, it was totally demolished sometime in the mid 20th century, according to the latest bricks in the assemblage.

This evaluation was therefore successful in locating the possible brick works and in particular a possible kiln site, that was thought to exist here. The remains were no more than demolition layers with only a single bonded brick course surviving. As a result, no substantial archaeology will be compromised by the development.

5 . Archive Deposition

The report will be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS V) as stated in the brief for this project by the ECC HEMT. A digital copy will be sent to the Essex County Council Historic Environment Team and a site archive (digital) will be prepared for depositing at the Chelmsford City Museum

6. Acknowledgements

The client ,John Fenn, for funding the work

Richard Bonshor, Architect who commissioned this work.

Mark Baiser of the Essex CC, HEMT produced the brief for this project

Bibliography

DCLG, DCMS and English Heritage, 2010. PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Practice Guide.

English Heritage, 1991. Management of Archaeological Projects.

Medlycott, M., (ed.) 2011, Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for The East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

National Planning Policy Framework. (*NPPF*, revised, July 2021)

Appendix I Digital Images



Plate 1. Mid-excavation of trench 4 site; note brick in demolition layer

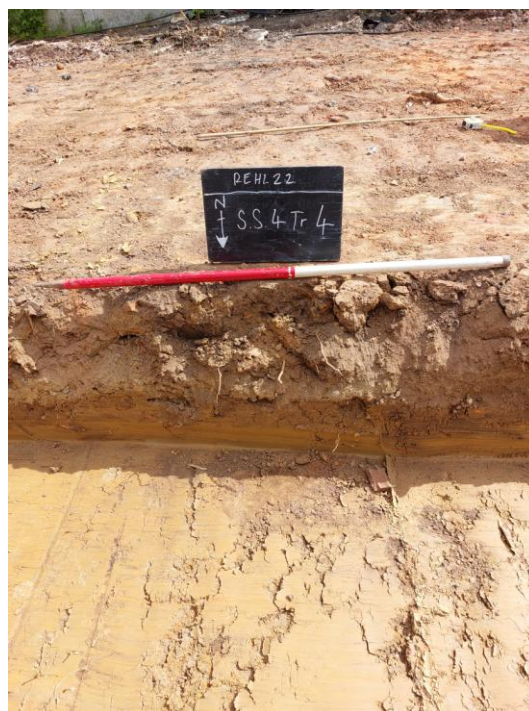


Plate 2. Trench 4 sample section



Plate 3. Trench 4, post-excavation



Plate 4. Trench 3 sample section



Plate 5. Trench 3, post-excavation



Plate 6. Bonded brick course [1004] in trench 2



Plate 7. Trench 2, sample section, showing deepest extent of (1002) layer of demolition



Plate 8. Trench 2, post-excitation; note soak-away pit to the left of the trench floor



Plate 9. Trench 1 sample section; showing demolition layer with burnt material (1001)



Plate 10. Trench 1, post-excavation; natural clay layer with brick waste staining



Plate 11. Working shot, looking towards trenches 1 and 2 with 3 in the foreground



