

**Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Essex  
3 Paycock Road Harlow Essex**

Grid reference: TL43450861  
Planning Application: HW/PL/14/00068  
Oasis No. 262403

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## **Non-technical summary**

This report is of the findings for an archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching in advance of the construction of one detached dwelling. The project has been carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Maria Medlycott of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Team, dated the 1st of September 2016.

A single trench was excavated to cover the footprint of the new development.

The site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits.

In spite of the high potential for archaeological evidence at this location the evaluation by trial trenching only located one undated post hole and a 19th century waste pit.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The planning application (HW/PL/14/00068) was submitted to Harlow District Council for the construction of a new dwelling. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits being present, a full archaeological condition was recommended, in this a case an evaluation by trial trenching was requested. The full condition that was recommended was based on the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) 2012.

1.2 A written scheme of investigation was presented to the Historic Environment Team by Archaeoserv and accepted as part of the archaeological process. The results of the evaluation were communicated to Maria Medlycott (HEMT). The overall findings of this project are presented here as part of the ECC brief requirement.

## 2. Site Location

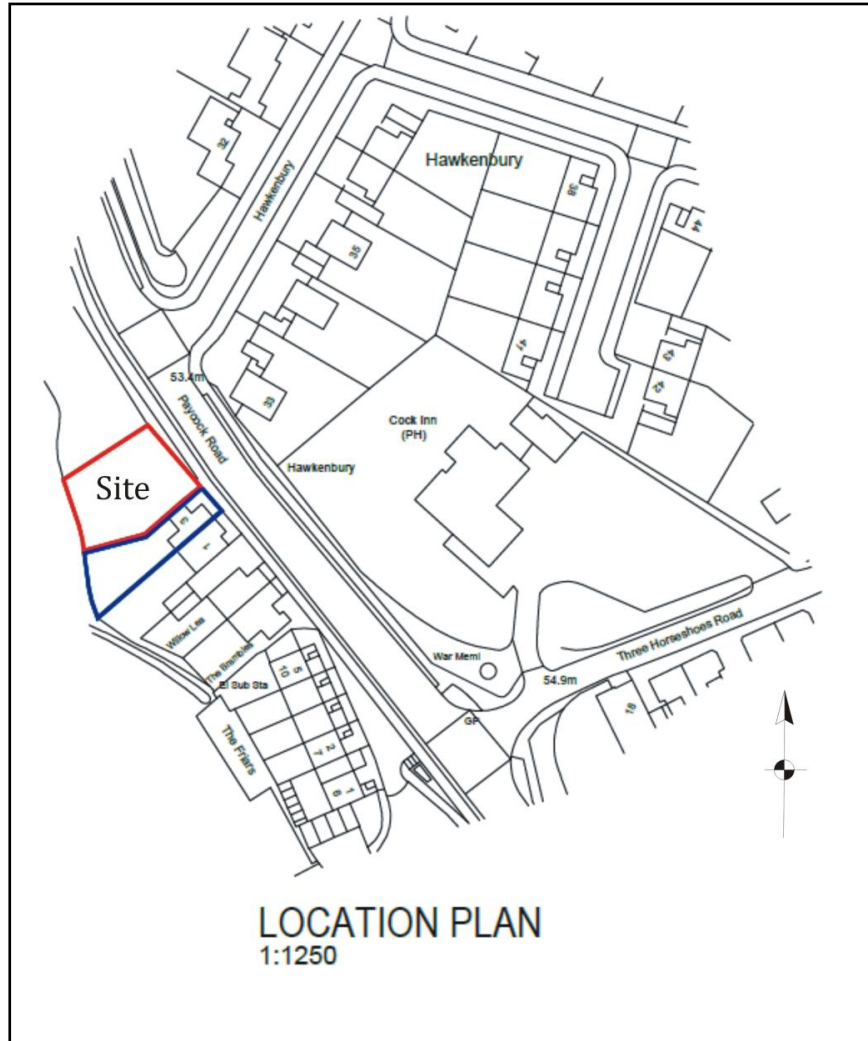
NGR: TL43450861



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**Figure 1. Harlow and Site Location**

2.1 The development site is on land at 3 Paycock Road in the district of Great Parndon (TL 4345 0861), in the south-western area of the modern new town of Harlow.



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**Figure 2. Block plan showing site in Paycock Road - across the road from the site The Cock Inn sits at the southern extremity of the site of Parndon Green**

2.2 The geology for the site is London Clay (BGS: 240).

### 3. Planning Background

3.1 The planning application (HW/PL/14/00068) was submitted to Harlow Council for the construction of a single dwelling. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits being present a full archaeological condition was recommended. The full condition that was recommended (condition 9) was based on the National Planning Policy Framework and stated: *'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.*

*REASON: To allow proper investigation and recording of the site which is of archaeological and/or significant historical interest. (Harlow Council Decision Notice 2016)*

3.2 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief will be sought in standards for '*Field Archaeology in the East of England*,' (East Anglian Occasional papers 14, 2003). In addition, this brief has been compiled respecting the following standards: Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, and Medlycott, M (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24

The archaeological investigation will be carried out based upon the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by *the National Planning and Policy Framework* (NPPF, DCLD 2012) .

## **4. Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **4.1 Archaeological Background**

The brief for this project states: '*The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors are advised to obtain the EHER data prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation.*

*Examination of the historic cartographic data has established that the site formed part of the enclosed medieval green, which was sub-divided into house-plots, forming the small hamlet of Cock Green (formerly Parndon Green). It is depicted on the 1875 OS map as a separate plot of land, and it is not clear on the earlier 1777 Chapman and André map whether it was built up or open land. It is possible therefore that archaeological deposits and features relating to medieval or early post-medieval settlement of the site may survive within the proposed development area. '* (ECC Brief, M Medlycott)

### **4.2 Historical Background**

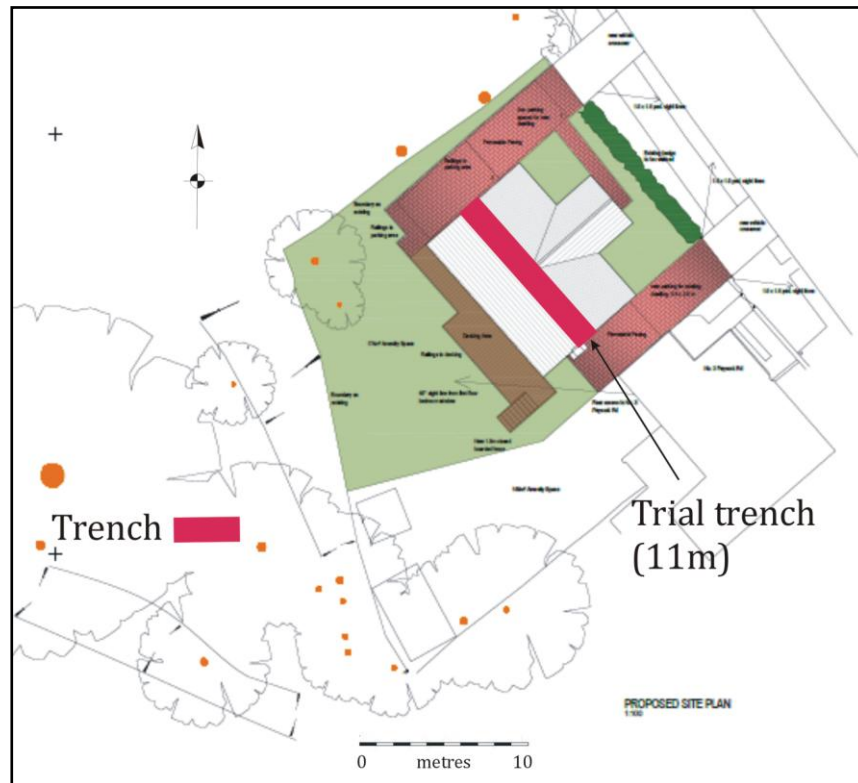
Cock Green once known as Parndon Green was once a small hamlet of Great Parndon. It lies at some 3 km distance south-west from the village of Harlow, now known as Old Harlow; along with many other hamlets and villages it was absorbed into the new town of Harlow.



## 5. Results of the Trial Trenching

5.1 A single evaluation trench was opened across the footprint of the new dwelling.

5.2 The deposit model was: the topsoil (1000) was at 0.50m depth over a subsoil (1001) with a depth of 0.30m; the natural (1002) an orangey-brown silty clay was revealed at 0.87m depth.



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**Figure 3. Trench plan**

5.3 Trench 1 revealed one post hole [1004] with a fill (1003); 0.13m depth by 0.30m width, with no finds and therefore not datable. A further feature was a 19th century waste pit containing Victorian glazed ware sherds. No further features or finds were made within the evaluation trench.

## 6. Interpretation and Conclusion

6.1 Other than the post hole and 19th century finds, no further evidence was seen for earlier activity on this site.

6.2 Due to the low result of this evaluation it is considered that no significant archaeology will be compromised by the proposed development.

## **7. Health, Safety and Environment**

7.1 A risk assessment strategy covering all activities was carried out during the lifetime of the project.

7.2 All work was carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation.

7.3 Every care was taken to minimise the environmental impact.

## **8. Archive preparation and deposition**

The archive/report will be presented to the Harlow Museum, to the standards as laid out in their specification/brief.

## **9. Resources**

The evaluation was undertaken by Dennis Payne BA ACIfA using standard archaeological field techniques.

## **10. Copyright**

Copyright will remain that of the author. License will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

## **11. Acknowledgements**

Thanks are extended to Daniel Chipchase of Detail Group Ltd who funded the project and who appointed Archaeoserv to this task.

To Maria Medlycott (Essex CC Historic Environment Advisor to the project).

## **Bibliography**

**British Geological Survey. 1990**

**Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.), 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 - Research Agenda and Strategy* (East Anglian Archaeology)**

**Glazebrook, J. (ed.), 1997 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource Assessment* (East Anglian Archaeology occasional papers 3)**

**Gurney, 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England***

**Medlycott, M., 2011 Medlycott, M (ed.) 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24**

## Appendix I: Summary Report

<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b>	
<b>ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY</b> <b>SUMMARY SHEET</b>	
<b>Site name/Address:</b> Archaeological Evaluation on land at 3 Paycock road Great Parndon Harlow Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Harlow	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 806 910	<b>Site Code:</b> PRH16
<b>Type of Work:</b> EVALUATION	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Dennis Payne ARCHAEOSERV
<b>Date of Work:</b> 24/11/16	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 200 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> NO	<b>Related HER No.s:</b> N/A
<b>Final Report:</b> COMPLETED ATTACHED	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> 19th century- 20th century	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p>A single evaluation trench measuring a total of 10m by 1.80m was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling. The trench revealed no finds except for an undated post hole and a pit containing 19th century pottery. No evidence for earlier occupation was located in the trench.</p>	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> D Payne	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 02/12/16

## Appendix II: Digital Images



*Plate 1. Pre-excitation of site*



*Plate 2. Post hole [1004]*





*Plate 3. Post-excavation view of trench, looking south-east  
(Nineteenth century rubbish pit in foreground)*



*Plate 4. Post-excavation view of trench , looking north-west  
(post hole in foreground)*





*Plate 5. Trench sample section*



*Plate 6. Nineteenth century rubbish pit with glazed Victorian ware*



