

The Friends Meeting House, Southend Road, Billericay. Essex CM12 9QQ.
Watching brief on a trial trench in advance of development.
Recorded 29 01 2013. BAS/11/01197. Summary Report.



2006 Google earth. Location of the Friends Meeting House.



2006 Google earth. Outline of the development site.

Location

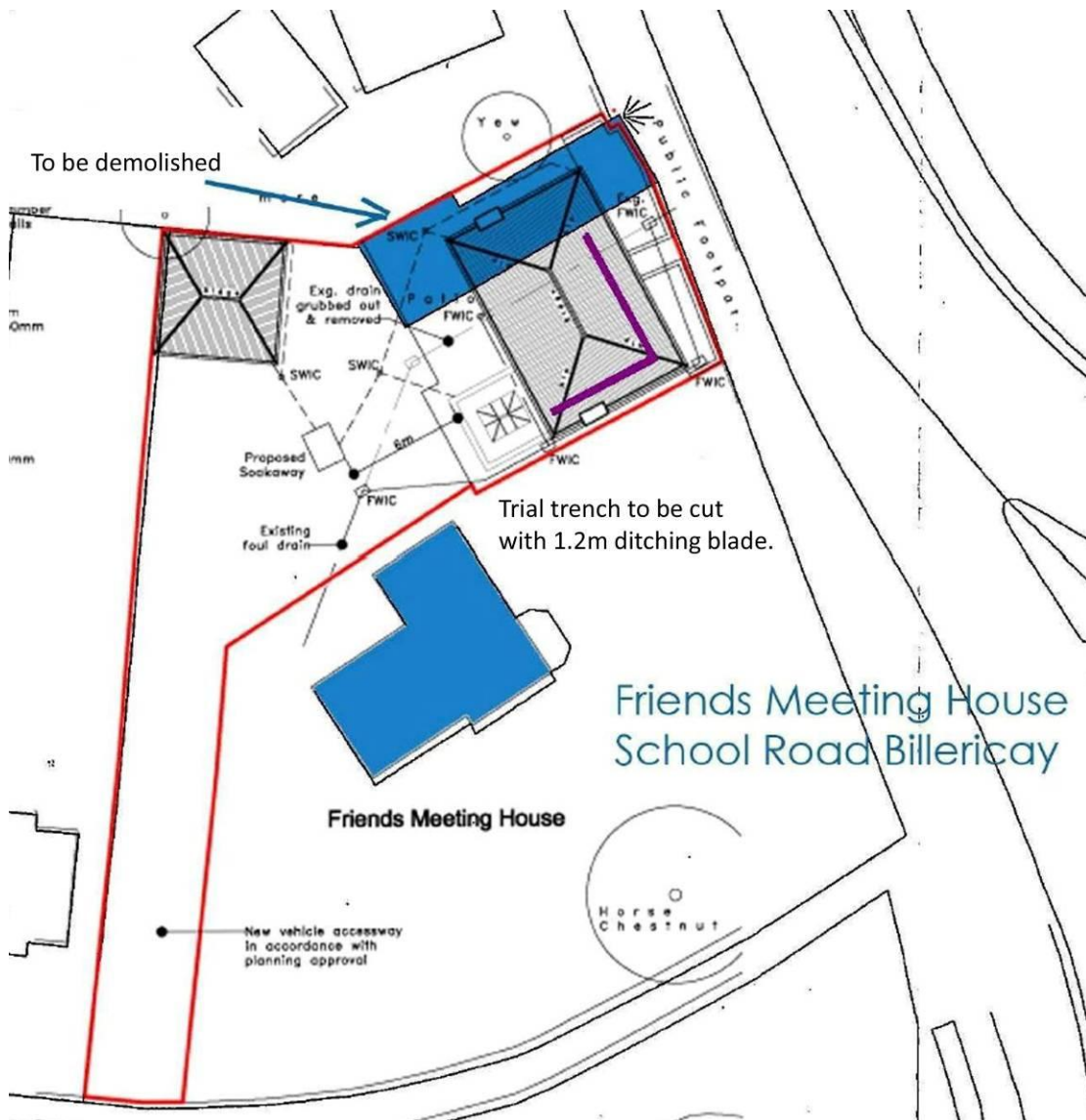
The site containing the Friends Meeting House is situated west of Southend Road on the corner of School Road in Billericay. (TQ 6758393993). Historic mapping shows the building was formerly the garden to a house known as South Villa associated with Lockyers Hall.

Planning Background

A planning application (BAS/11/01197) for the development of the site as outlined above was submitted to Basildon District Council. Given the archaeological potential of the site a condition requiring archaeological work was placed on the planning application.

Archaeological and Historical Background

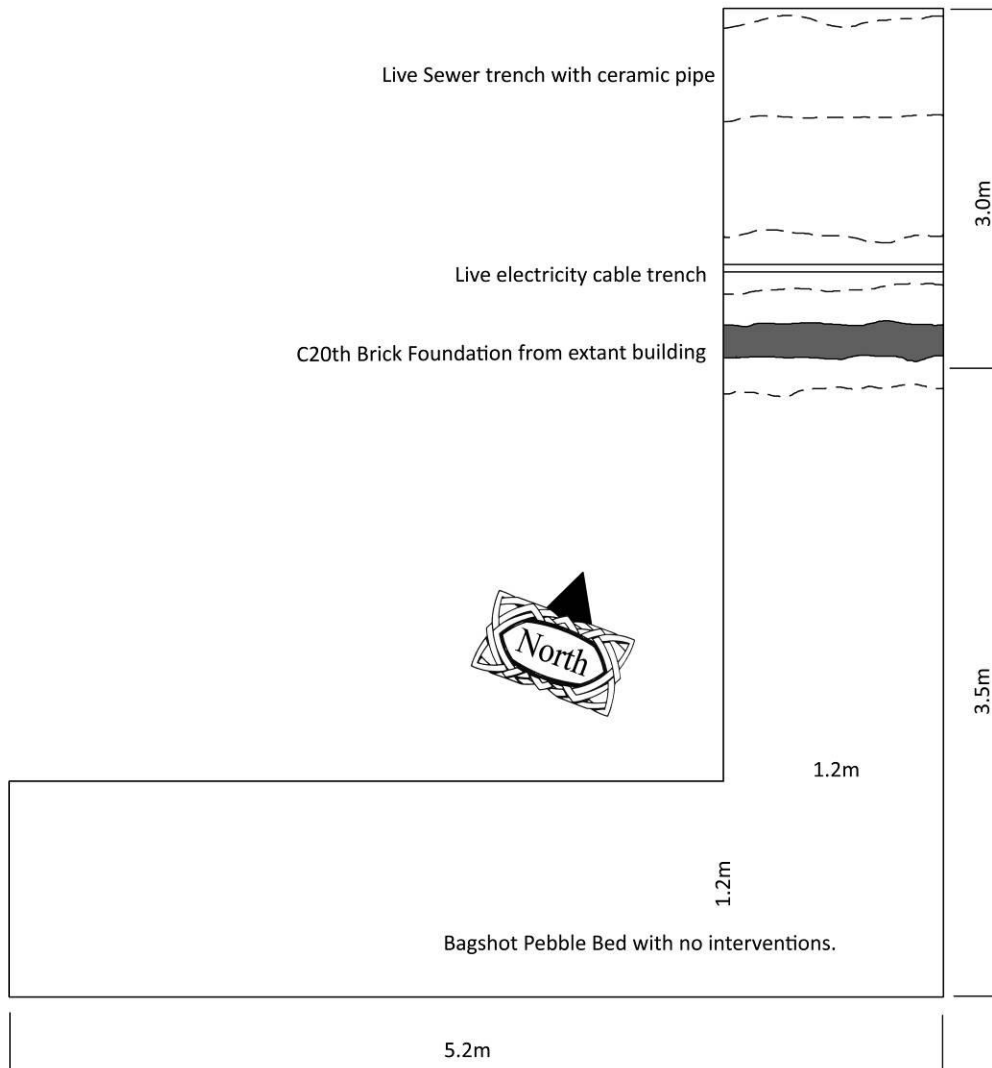
The HER notes that 'The proposed development lies on the edge of the Roman settlement of Billericay (HER 5392-7 and 5404-6). Recent assessment work on the excavations in Billericay over the last 30 years has shown the potential extension of the Roman settlement to the north of School Road. A number of ditches and other features identified to the south of School Road are running northwards potentially into the proposed development area'.



The position of the 1.2m wide trial trench.

Scope of this Report.

This summary outlines the form of the trial excavation undertaken to determine whether there were any archaeological features likely to be uncovered during the development. The local geology comprises the Bagshot Pebble Beds and this lies directly under the topsoil. Any features are cut into this layer. **NO ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES WERE RECORDED.**



Dimensioned site excavation plan. Maximum depth 550mm.



The finished excavation looking NW. Scale is 3m long.



Typical section. 250mm of modern topsoil. A 250 -300mm deep spit was cut into the subsoil.

The site was excavated with a Kubota midi digger with a 1.2m ditching bucket. The service trenches were not excavated as the electricity cable was live.



The southern arm of the excavation. Modern footing, live cable trench and sewer trench.

Conclusions.

There were no interventions in the local natural geology. Historic mapping (see Appendix 1) shows that previously the site had been a field and then a garden. No prehistoric or Roman features or finds were discovered.

Acknowledgements.

I am indebted to the site agent Mr Ian Wallaker for engaging me to record the site. Thanks are also due to Sue Tyler of the Essex County Council Heritage Team for monitoring the project.

Bibliography.

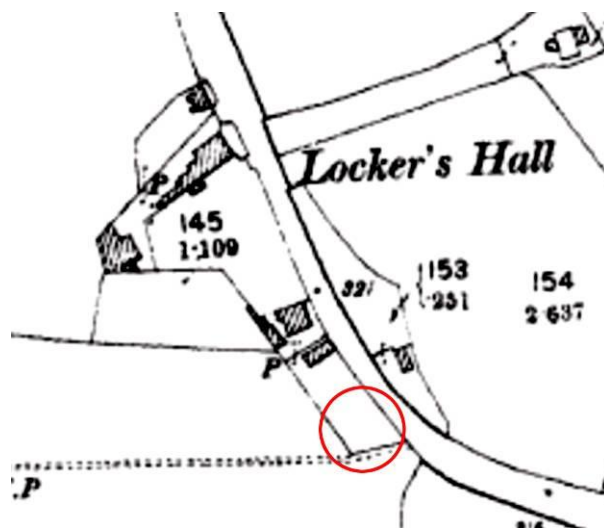
Ingle C and Saunders H. National Mapping Project – Management Report for Essex. 2003.

Lucy G. An Introduction to the Geology and Fossils of Essex. 2003.

Appendix 1. Topographical Survey from Maps.



1874 Ordnance Survey



1896 Ordnance Survey



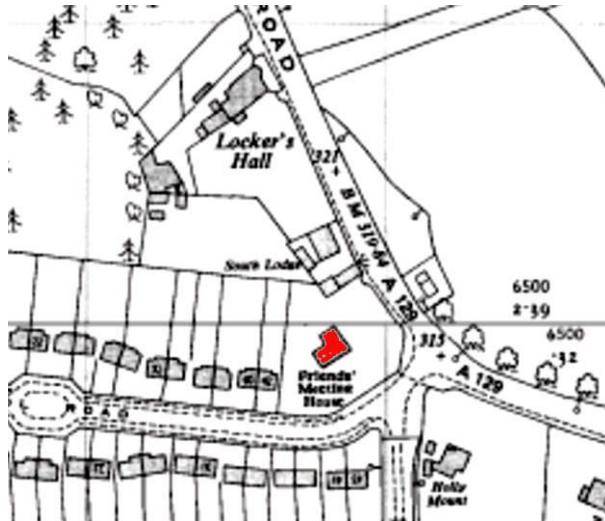
1922 Ordnance Survey.



Barry Hillman-Crouch
Design & Recording Services



1955 Ordnance Survey.



1960 Ordnance Survey.



1967-73 Ordnance Survey.



**ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD
ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
SUMMARY SHEET**

Site name/Address: The Friends Meeting House, Southend Road, Billericay. Essex CM12 9QQ.	
Parish: Stock	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TQ 6758393993.	Site Code: BL21
Type of Work: Watching Brief	Site Director/Team: Barry Hillman-Crouch
Date of Work: 29 01 2013	Size of Area Investigated: 5x5m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/A	Funding source: Owner
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHER Nos:
Final Report: The Friends Meeting House, Southend Road, Billericay. Essex CM12 9QQ. Watching brief on a trial trench in advance of development. Recorded 29 01 2013 Barry J Hillman-Crouch MStPA DipFA BSc HND.	
Periods Represented: C20th	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: An L-shaped excavation with 5m arms 1.2m wide and 500mm deep revealed no archaeological features cut into the Bagshot Pebble Beds. The site was formerly open fields and then the garden to a C19th house. In the LC20th an outbuilding was erected to serve the Friends Meeting House, itself a MC20th building.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Barry J Hillman-Crouch MStPA DipFA BSc HND.	Date of Summary: 22 02 2013.