

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in advance
of a planning application for land at Main Road,
Broomfield, Essex

NGR: TL 70548 10128 & TL 70553 09878

Site Code: MRB17

Text

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Touchstone Archaeology

The Ridings, White Elm Road, Danbury, Essex CM3 4LR

T: 07976 275180

www.touchstonearchaeology.com

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Advance of a planning application at Main Road, Broomfield, Essex.

NGR: TL 70548 10128 & TL 70553 09878

1. SUMMARY

1.1 *Touchstone Archaeology has been commissioned by Text to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment on land at Main Road, Broomfield, Essex.*

1.2 *In September 2011 an application (11/01409/FUL) was submitted for the construction of 223 dwellings including 79 affordable dwellings, an outline application for a new primary school and the provision of public open space and associated infrastructure works. The ECC Historic Environment Branch noted that the Desk Based Assessment supplied with the application suggested a potential for multi-period archaeological deposits and drew particular attention to the presence of a Saxon burial within c.300m. An in depth evaluation from Planning Listed Buildings & Conservation confirmed that local Listed Buildings and buildings of local value beyond the boundary of the site would not be impacted upon due to the intervening buildings and landscape. However there were some concerns regarding Broomfield Place, Broomfield School and Parsonage Farm. Parsonage farm, a traditional farmstead, described as an exceptionally complete group of listed buildings was considered safe from adverse impact due to the distance from the development and the intervening soft landscaping which allowed for the retention of its rural setting. The retention and re-use of the Edwardian Broomfield school building was welcomed, although there was some concern that the proposed internal layout was not sympathetic to the past significance of the internal spaces and it was suggested that hard landscaping and parking should be designed to minimize the visual impact on School Lane. Broomfield Place, an early C19th Italianate villa, was considered most at risk. The impacts to the west, northwest and north had been reduced by an existing wall, planting and open spaces but the design of the development was considered harmful to the south due to its layout, density and design and six proposals were detailed.*

1.3 *The proposed development area (PDA) is located in the south east of England and the centre of the county of Essex in the south of the village and residential suburb of Broomfield. The PDA falls within the Historic Environment Character Area 13: The Upper Chelmer Valley. The City of Chelmsford, c.2.5km south, was designated a Historic Town in the 1980's and the Historic centre of Broomfield c.100m south is within a conservation area, however the PDA falls outside of these peripheries.*

Plot 1 is a long rectangular plot of c.1.9 acres, the site of Broomfield Primary School, set on the north side of School Lane. To the north at a distance of c.260m is the church of St Mary with St Leonard. Irregular shaped open fields with hedge boundaries meet the PDA north and northwest. A small development of high density housing is set around Julian Close, Williams Road and Willow Close to the northeast and medium density detached and semi-detached properties on long rectangular plots flank School Lane and New Road to the east. To the west similar houses continue to flank School Lane and irregular sized plots of medium density housing surround Copland Close (TL70548 10128).

Plot 2 is an irregular shaped plot totaling c.8.8 hectares, found on the south side of School Lane immediately opposite Plot 1. It is made up of the school playing field to the north, a car park and area of scrubland to the south and a large open field to the west. School Lane and a small high-density housing estate set around St Mary's Mead, Clark Way and Parsonage Close bound it to the north. To the east is the former Broomfield Place and Main Road. To the south are allotment gardens and open fields and to the west is scrubland and Parsonage Green (TL 70553 09878) (Fig.1-2).

1.4 *This Desk Based Assessment has examined the wide variety of archaeological data held by EHER and other sources (section 10.2). Based on this data the potential for archaeological sites either on or in the near vicinity of the proposed development can be summarized as:*

- *Prehistoric: **Moderate***
- *Iron Age: **Low***
- *Romano-British: **Moderate***
- *Anglo-Saxon: **Moderate***
- *Medieval: **Moderate***
- *Post-medieval: **High***
- *Modern: **High***

*The Desk Based Assessment concludes that the site has a **Moderate** potential for archaeological discoveries (Fig.49).*

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The PDA is centered between National Grid References: TL 70548 10128 & TL 70553 09878

The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within a c.1km vicinity of the Proposed Development Area.

2.2 Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated into the assessment.

2.3 This report is a desk-based appraisal from known cartographic, photographic and Archaeological sources and is a research led statement on the archaeological potential of the proposed development.

2.4 It may be that intrusive investigations, such as a Geophysical Survey and/or an Archaeological Evaluation, with machine cut trial trenching, may be requested by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as a Planning Condition.

3. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 Geology

3.1.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on the southern edge of a plateau of bedrock Geology of London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand), sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period in a local environment previously dominated by deep seas. These rocks were formed in deep seas from infrequent slurries of shallow water sediments, which were then redeposited as graded beds.

3.1.2 Superficial Deposits are Head (clay, silt, sand and gravel); formed up to 3 million years ago in the quaternary period in a local environment previously dominated by subaerial slopes. These rocks were formed from the material accumulated by down slope movements including landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash.

3.2 Topography

3.2.1 The PDA is situated in the Upper Chelmer Valley, a narrow valley of arable, pasture and parkland, c.900m west of the River Chelmer that runs c.65 km through Essex from Debden to Maldon; Broads Green and Little Waltham are 2 km north, the City of Chelmsford 2.5km south, Chignall St James 2.8km west and Boreham 5km east. Parsonage Green is 300m to the west.

Plot 1 to the north, the site of Broomfield Primary School, sits at an average height of 45m AOD (TL 70548 10128). Plot 2 is made up of the school playing field and a group of fields and open spaces, the average height of which is 46m AOD to the north, 41m to the south, 42m to the east and 43m to the west providing a level space (TL 70553 09878) (Fig.2-3).

3.3 Archaeology and Stratigraphy

3.3.1 The report has accessed various sources of information to identify any known heritage assets, which may be located within the vicinity of the Proposed Development Area. Archaeological investigations, both recent and historic have been studied and the information from these investigations has been incorporated into the assessment.

4. RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

4.1 The Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project suggests a potential for archaeology in the remaining open areas of Broomfield and the core of the village around the church and hall, particularly for further Saxon burials. Significant but unexcavated and undated cropmarks suggesting a trackway and enclosures survive on the valley terraces.

There have been several intrusive archaeological evaluations within a c.1km radius of the PDA, producing some prehistoric flint but particularly the Saxon Burial found in 1888, c.800m distant. The line of the Roman Road runs within c.100m of the east boundary and the parish church c.300m is constructed with recycled Roman brick and tile suggesting a Roman building nearby (Fig.47 & Fig.49).

4.2 0-100m Radius:

An evaluation of six trenches at Parsonage Farm, School Lane, (46838), c.100m west, produced a negative result.

4.3 100-200m Radius:

No record of archaeological evaluations.

4.4 200-250m Radius:

An evaluation of fifteen trenches at Rose Lawn Farm, (18938), 450m southeast, produced C19th\20th garden features.

A watching brief (5551) carried out at Broomfield Borrow pit c.800m SE, uncovered three oval pits containing early Saxon pottery, a brazier, bone and metal work debris.

In 1888, A Saxon burial (5546) was discovered, c.800m SE of the PDA. Workmen extracting gravel found a sword, spear and a knife at a depth of 6-7ft. An excavation was carried out in 1894. Part of the grave had been destroyed but it appeared to be dome shaped, approx. 8ft long with extensions at each corner. There walls showed evidence of burning and the excavators deduced that it may have been an example of a half burnt burial. There were several high status grave goods within the burial including a cauldron, drinking vessel, sword, spear, shield, vessel, lamp and bucket.

4.5 Established stratigraphy

There has been no established stratigraphy near to the PDA.

5. PLANNING BACKGROUND

5.1 The Proposed Development

The proposed development area is c.9.5 hectares and will comprise of a planning application for a residential and school development, associated roads and landscaping set around public open spaces.

5.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) Policy 12

The NPPF (2012) paragraphs 126 – 141 is the relevant policy for the historic environment, particularly paragraphs 126 and 128:

5.2.1 Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Paragraph 126. Local planning authorities should set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance. In developing this strategy, local planning authorities should take into account:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

5.2.2 Paragraph 128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significant.

As a minimum, the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation (NPPF 2012).

5.3 Planning Policy Guidance

Planning Policy Guidance that help to preserve the built and archaeological heritage are:

- PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPG16 Archaeology and Planning

5.4 Statutory Protection

Both above and below ground archaeological remains that are considered Nationally can be identified and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Any works affecting a scheduled Monument should be preceded by an application to the Secretary of State for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). Geophysical investigation or the use of a metal detector requires advance permission from Historic England.

The legal requirements on control of development and alterations affecting buildings, including those which are listed or in conservation areas (which are protected by law), is set out in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

5.5 Local and Regional Policies

5.5.1 Chelmsford City Council: Core Strategy and Development Control Policies; Focused Review Sustainability Appraisal Report and HRA Screening. Final Report 21st February 2013 (AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Limited). Policy DC17 seeks to protect the character and appearance of Conservation areas and Policy DC18 the character and setting of listed buildings. Chelmsford City Council is currently working on a new Local Plan, which will be adopted in 2018.

5.5.2 The North Chelmsford Area Action Plan sets out the Council's preferred approach to future growth to the north of Chelmsford.

5.5.3 Broomfield Parish Plan has been produced in order to deliver the views of the local people on issues including the Historic Environment.

5.5.4 Essex Replacement Structure plan (2001) sets out strategic planning guidance for Essex regarding development that will have a materially adverse impact on the historic and archaeological environment.

5.6 This Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment has been prepared in accordance with the guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Good Practice Advice notes 1, 2 and 3, which now supersede the PPS 5 Practice Guide, which has been withdrawn by the Government. The Good Practice Advice notes emphasizes the need for assessments of the significance of any heritage assets, which are likely to be changed, so the assessment can inform the decision process.

Significance is defined in the NPPF Guidance in the Glossary as “the value of the heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic, or historical. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset’s physical presence, but also its setting”. The setting of the heritage asset is also clarified in the Glossary as “the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve”.

This Desk-Based Assessment therefore forms the initial stage of the archaeological investigation and is intended to inform and assist in decisions regarding archaeological mitigation for the proposed development and associated planning applications.

6. PROJECT CONSTRAINTS

No project constraints were encountered during the data collection for this assessment.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The Desk-Based Assessment was commissioned by **Text** in order to supplement a planning application for the proposed development to the site of Broomfield Primary School, School Lane, Broomfield and land at Main Road, Broomfield, Essex to establish the potential for archaeological features and deposits (TL 70548 10128 & TL 70553 09878).

7.2 Desktop Study – Institute for Archaeologists (revised 2011)

This desktop study has been produced in line with archaeological standards, as defined by the Institute for Archaeologists (2014). A desktop, or desk-based assessment, is defined as being:

“a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely heritage assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate”. (CiFA 2014)

8. METHODOLOGY

8.1 Desk-Based Assessment

8.1.1 Archaeological Databases

The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) provides an accurate insight into catalogued sites and finds within both the proposed development area (PDA) and the surrounding

environs of Broomfield. The Archaeology Data Service Online Catalogue (ADS) was also used. The search was carried out within a 1km radius of the proposed development site and relevant HER data is included in the report. The Portable Antiquities Scheme Database (PAS) was also searched as an additional source as the information contained within is not always transferred to the local HER.

8.1.2 Historical Documents

Historical documents, such as charters, registers, wills and deeds etc., were considered not relevant to this specific study.

8.1.3 Cartographic and Pictorial Documents

A cartographic and pictorial document search was undertaken during this assessment. Research was carried out using resources offered by Essex County Council, the Internet and Ordnance Survey Historical mapping (Figs. 4-46).

8.1.4 Aerial Photographs

The study of the collection of aerial photographs held by Google Earth was undertaken (Plates 1-4).

8.1.5 Geotechnical Information

To date, no known geotechnical investigations have been carried out at the site.

8.1.6 Secondary and statutory resources

Secondary and statutory sources, such as regional and periodic archaeological Studies are considered appropriate to this type of study and have been included within this assessment where necessary.

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

9.1 Table of Historical Periods

Paleolithic	c. 500,000 BC – c.10,000 BC
Mesolithic	c.10,000 BC – c. 4,300 BC
Neolithic	c. 4,300 BC – c. 2,300 BC
Bronze Age	c. 2,300 BC – c. 600 BC
Iron Age	c. 600 BC – c. AD 43
Romano-British	AD 43 – c. AD 410
Anglo-Saxon	AD 410 – AD 1066
Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1485
Post-medieval	AD 1485 – AD 1900
Modern	AD 1901 – present day

Table 1 Classification of Archaeological Periods

9.2 This section of the assessment will focus on the archaeological and historical development of this area, placing it within a local context. Each period classification will provide a brief introduction to the wider landscape (1km radius centered on each site of the PDA), followed by a full record of archaeological sites, monuments and records within the site's immediate vicinity. Time scales for archaeological periods represented in the report are listed on page 14 in **Table 1**.

9.3 Introduction

The Archaeological record within the assessment area is diverse and should comprise possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain through to the modern period. The geographic and topographic location of Broomfield is within a landscape that has been the focus of trade, travel, settlement, industry and communication since the Palaeolithic.

9.4 History of the Locality

9.4.1 The name Broomfield or *Broomfelda* is a place name that means ‘fields of Broom’. It derives from the old English *Brom* relating to the ‘Broom’ plant and *feld* meaning ‘open fields’. Broom is similar to gorse, a member of the pea family with bright yellow flowers and the scent of vanilla, common on heaths, open woodlands and hedgerows.

9.4.2 During the Prehistoric period, occupation was focused around the Springfield area, c.4km southeast, where a Neolithic enclosure and Cursus and a Late Bronze Age defended settlement have been discovered. Flints and tools recovered from both the Mesolithic and Neolithic period suggest that activity extended to Broomfield but the first clear evidence of settlement is in the late Bronze Age; A site containing a single round house enclosed by a shallow ditch was discovered, c.400m north, during excavations in advance of a housing development near Broomfield Hospital and a cinerary urn was found c.1km southeast near Vellacotts.

9.4.3 There is scant evidence of Iron Age occupation with in the area, with the exception of small finds of pottery, however, Little Waltham, c.2km north, was the site of an extensive middle Iron Age settlement.

9.4.4 In AD43 the Roman army probably marched through Chelmsford on its way to Colchester or *Camulodunum*; however, the Romans did not occupy the town until 60AD, when they established a strategically placed fort on the road from Colchester to London

(A12) at modern Moulsham Street. The civilian town of *Caesaromagus* later replaced the military fort. A defensive ditch surrounded the town; in some parts a triple ditch and earth rampart and excavations have uncovered the remains of a *Mansio* (a government building providing accommodation for officials) and an associated bathhouse. Settlement continued beyond the defensive town, probably along the road from Chelmsford to Braintree. A

Roman Villa is noted at Broomfield village in Dragons Foot Field close to the Parish church, which is partly constructed from locally re-cycled Roman brick and tile.

9.4.5 Broomfield (*Brom Feld*) was probably named by one of the Saxons that settled the lands previously belonging to the Roman villa. Another Saxon named *Paecc* settled one mile south in the area known as Patching Hall (*Paecc's Hall*) and another on the other side of the river at the place known as Belstead Hall (*Bel Stede* – Beacon Place). In 1888, while extracting gravel to the east of the Main Road workmen uncovered the burial of what may have been one of the Kings of the East Saxons. The find prompted a partial excavation and later, C H Reid carried out a more complex excavation. Finds of weapons, gold ornaments, glassware, cup and buckets were recovered and are now held by the British Museum. The site is contemporary and comparable with Sutton Hoo and Prittlewell, Southend.

9.4.6 Broomfield parish was a hundred of Chelmsford and was recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as *Brumfelda*. It was made up of four Manors - Broomfield Hall, Patching Hall, Wood Hall and Belsteads, remnants of the Saxon settlements. A mill is recorded on the river. The Parish church dates to the 11th century and is possibly built on the site of a wooden Saxon church. It was originally dedicated to St Leonard and was owned by the Priory of the Holy Trinity of London. It is constructed from lumps of boulder clay, pudding stone, flints and recycled roman brick and tile. The roof is tiled and the spire oak-shingled. The original church consisted of a nave and chancel; the west round tower with conical roof that extends to an octagonal spire was added in the 12th century and is one of six surviving in Essex. The church can probably be attributed to the de Mandeville family and certainly the tower was constructed by Walter de Mandeville, brother of Geoffrey, first Earl of Essex, in response to the stone castles being built by local Barons. The chancel was enlarged in the 15th century and by 1504 it was rededicated to St Mary the Virgin. During the dissolution it passed to Lord Rich of Leez, who used the tithes to pay for a school at Felsted. In 1689 a report on the church noted that the floor needed repairs, the walls were cracked, the glass broken and rubbish littered the churchyard. Philip Morant, the famous Essex historian was vicar here from 1734 to 1738. A full restoration began in 1870 and the north chapel, north

vestry, north aisle and south porch were built. The church suffered bomb damage in the Second World War.

9.4.7 During the Saxon period flooding had caused the Roman crossing over the River Can to be impassable so that the London to Colchester route was diverted through Writtle. The reduction in traffic resulted in the nearby town of Chelmsford becoming a minor settlement until the early 12th century when the Bishops of London built a new bridge over the River Chelmer and the road was restored, attracting traffic and stimulating growth. In 1199 Chelmsford was granted a Royal Charter for a market and it flourished becoming not only the geographical centre of Essex but also the political and judicial centre for the county. These changes would have had a marked impact on the fortunes of Broomfield only 2.5km to the north.

Medieval life in the village of Broomfield was centred on the church green and by 1300 the landscape was one of dispersed settlement in the form of farmsteads, moated sites, churches and common lands. The plague hit Chelmsford in 1348-49 and the county suffered with economic and social unrest aggravated further by poor harvests, and wars causing many of the more remote settlements to be abandoned.

9.4.8 The Post medieval period was a time of recovery and many houses were built in the surrounding area. The village had five greens, Parsonage Green having a pond, parsonage and tithe barn and Angel green was centred on the 15th century Angel Inn and public house. The plague came to Chelmsford in 1603 and again in 1666. The irregular field pattern is suggestive of pre 18th century field boundaries. In the 18th and 19th century the village developed along the main road in a ribbon pattern. In 1086 the population is recorded as c.150 and it remained small. By the 16th century it was 3-400, by 1801 it was 467 and by 1891 it was 900.

9.4.9 Following WWI the village suffered such loss that it was known as the 'village of widows'. The population totaled 104 and 56 men lost their lives and are commemorated on a brass plaque in the parish church.

The World War II General Head Quarters Defence Line ran through is still found in the west of Broomfield in the form of anti-aircraft battery and pill boxes. Butlers, a timber-framed house, built in the 18th century by Reverend T White, was requisitioned in the war for a women's land army hostel housing 36 girls.

Broomfield Hospital was opened in 1940 as a hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis. The hospital was built with south facing 'butterfly wings' to catch the sun and the patients were wheeled out on to the balconies. In 1948 it became part of the NHS.

A focused history of the development site is examined in the next section.

9.5 Regression 1869 – 1992

9.5.1 Historic maps

9.5.1.1 A Survey of the Parsonage in Broomfield, Essex for the Hon. Edward Finch by Joseph Dawson shows the western half of the PDA to be under the ownership of The Parsonage and detailed as (G) *The Park*. J. Hanbury Esq. owns the southeastern part and the northeastern part is Mr. Perkington's Land. The Parsonage is shown as a substantial property with a Great and Little kitchen garden (A & C), pleasure grounds (B), an orchard and a Park (G). Two of the northern fields that almost bound the PDA are named Great and Little Brick Clamps (H & I) suggesting Brick making within the vicinity. The Gravel pits are to the east of the road and there are two springs noted close by.

An extract (XII) from the Chapman and Andres map of 1769 shows the main Broomfield Road running from Chelmsford to Great Waltham with Broomfield set at an equal distance between the two. The village of Broomfield is set around the church green and Broomfield Hall, to the north. The area of the PDA is one of dispersed settlement and few roads. At the entrance corner to School Lane is a small cluster of dwellings and further along the lane is Parsonage; Broomfield Place is located on the main road.

Patching Hall is located to the south, the Priors to the west at Scots Green and Stacey and Scravels, northwest towards Broomfield Hall.

9.5.2 The Ordnance Survey Maps

9.5.2.1 OS County Series 1:2500 1874 - 75

The PDA is made up of open fields 145, 292, 293 (pond), 294, 295 and 299 and is set between Parsonage Farm and Parsonage Green (276) with its pond, small cluster of dwellings and British School for boys and girls to the west and Broomfield Place and the Limes and to the east. East of Broomfield Road are the Brooklands estate, the Angel Inn, a cluster of smallholdings and several gravel pits. The village nucleus is c.250m to the north, centred on the Church Green and is made up of the Parish Church, the vicarage, Broomfield Place, the two National schools for boys and girls and the Kings Arms public House. To the north is a small row of cottages known as Selina's Cottage and Catherine's Place, a cluster of houses surrounded by orchards and cultivated land named Clubs Row and a smithy. A trackway follows the line of the north boundary of the PDA field 145 and part of the west orchards and gardens of Broomfield Place fall within the PDA (Fig.4,12,23,35).

9.5.2.2 OS County Series 1896 1:2500

The PDA is part of field 312 (7.191), 120 (2.779), 103 (8.327), 104 (5.236) and 87 (5.622). A series of greenhouses and a small building have been constructed within field 120 of the PDA. New Road has been constructed to the east boundary with several terraced dwellings to the south side of the road. A spring is located to the east of Broomfield Road, southeast of the PDA (Fig.5,13,24,36).

9.5.2.3 OS County Series 1921 1:2500

A school has been constructed on field 312 (1.99) of the PDA and terraced housing continues to the west of the school with allotment gardens to the north. Allotment gardens also meet the southeast boundary of the PDA and a natural spring is just east of the site boundary.

The Broomfield Road is recorded as the Roman Road and has been developed to both sides. To the west of the village, the fair Haven Almshouses have been built to the south of School Lane adjacent to Parsonage Green 123(0.382). The boy's school in the main village has become the church hall and a cricket ground has been established to the east. (Fig.6,14,25,37).

9.5.2.4 OS National Grid 1951 1:2500

A new building with small outbuilding has appeared within the PDA opposite the school. The buildings to field 120 of the PDA have disappeared and the field has become a playing field for the school. The allotment gardens west of the new school (PDA) have been developed into housing, electricity poles have been installed along the northwest boundary of the PDA and an electrical substation has been installed to the northeast boundary. Goulton Road has been created and the area around Parsonage Green has been developed into housing with Allotment gardens. In the main village the girl's school has become a horticultural nursery and there has been significant housing development opposite the Kings Arms pub, to the south of New Road, along the newly created Mill lane to the east of the Broomfield Road and to the southwest of the village. The ribbon development along Broomfield Road has increased to the east of the road, the Saxon burial is marked in fields southeast of Roselawn farm, surrounded by gravel pits (Fig.7,15,26,30,31,38,43).

9.5.2.5 OS National Grid 1957 1:2500

The building within the PDA has been removed, a telephone exchange has been installed on the northwest boundary of the PDA and additional buildings have sprung up on land west of Goultons Road (Fig.8,16,27,32,39).

9.5.2.6 OS National Grid 1:2500 1965-1970

All areas of open land to the east and northeast of the PDA and to the north east of Broomfield Road and north of Mill Road have been infilled with new housing (Fig.9,17,40)

9.5.2.7 OS National Grid 1970-74 1:2500

Spains Lodge has been constructed to the east boundary of the PDA. A new residential estate has been built off of Goultons Road around the newly created Longshots Close and there has been further development around the newly formed Berwick avenue and Heathfield Road to the north of the PDA. A football ground has been established to the east of Broomfield Road (Fig. 9,18,28,33,44).

9.5.2.8 OS National Grid 1978-81 1:2500

A new development has been created to the north of the PDA near to the church and a new house 'Bridgemarsh' has been created on the Brooklands estate (Fig.10,19).

9.5.2.9 OS National Grid 1983-85 1:2500

Longshot close development has been extended west (Fig.10,20).

9.5.2.10 OS National Grid 1982-89 1:2500

Broomfield Place has become the County Education Centre (Fig.10,20,29,41,45).

9.5.2.11 OS National Grid 1992 1:2500

The houses to the south side of School Lane on the northwest boundary of the PDA have been replaced by a new housing development (Fig.10,21).

9.5.2.12 OS National Grid 1989-1993 1:2500

A scout hut has been installed adjacent to the telephone exchange and to the west boundary of the PDA (Fig.10,11,21,22,34,42,46).

9.6 Aerial photographs

9.6.1 1945

The image from 1945 is grainy but the school plot has been developed and there is some housing to both the east and west boundaries. The almshouses can be seen to the northwest boundary and Broomfield Place can be seen between the trees on the east boundary (Plate 1).

9.6.2 2000- present date

There has been significant development around School Lane encroaching on the north boundary of the PDA, allotment gardens are visible to the southeast boundary and Broomfield Place can be seen to the east. Some of the fields are cultivated and some area grass (Plate 2-4).

9.6.3 Aerial photographs do not provide enough information to make an accurate summary of what was on the site prior to 1960, therefore we refer to cartographic and historic evidence.

9.7 Scheduled Monuments; Listed Buildings; Historic Parks & Gardens and Conservation Areas

9.7.1 There are no Listed Buildings, no monuments and no find spots recorded within the confines of the proposed development area (PDA). Ten Listed Buildings, eight monuments, five find spots and one building is recorded within a c.1km vicinity of the PDA; Four Listed buildings share intervisibility with the PDA (Fig.49).

9.8 Setting of Listed Buildings

9.8.1 One of the tasks of the site visit was aimed to identify any designated heritage assets within the wider context of the PDA in accordance with The Setting of Heritage Assets

– English Heritage Guidance (English Heritage 2011). This guidance states that “setting embraces all of the surroundings (land, sea, structures, features and skyline) from which the heritage asset can be experienced or that can be experienced from or with the asset” (The Setting of Heritage Assets, English Heritage 2011).

9.8.2 Broomfield Place (30284) is an early C19th, Grade II listed building, directly on the east boundary of the PDA, with shared intervisibility with the proposed development. It is a gault brick house of five bays in symmetrical Italianate style with Doric portico entrance and stucco detailing built. It began its life as a large detached house for the professional class, forming part of the ribbon development along the Broomfield Road; in later years it was used as the County Council Offices. The main approach to the house is via the Broomfield Road facing east.

9.8.3 Parsonage farm (46838) is a farm complex, c.100m west of the PDA, made up of an early C19th, Grade II listed brick and stucco farmhouse (30291), a Grade II listed weather boarded barn (30292) of seven bays and two projecting gabled entrance bays, dating to c.1670 and two C18th, Grade II listed red brick outbuildings (30293) set between the farmhouse and the barn. It was part of the sporadic development beyond the village nucleus at Church Green and was owned by Richard Lord Riche who used it to fund the chancel of the parish church and the school and almshouses at Felstead; in the 1920’s was purchased by the Marriage family. The main viewpoints are from School Lane and Parsonage Green.

9.8.4 The late C18th to early C19th, Grade II listed cottages in School Lane, nos.2, 2A and 4 (30294,30295) share some visibility with the development but are partly screened by the grounds of Broomfield Place.

10. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

10.1 Walkover Survey

10.1.1 The walkover survey is for the purpose of:

1. Identifying any historic landscape features not shown on maps
2. Conducting a rapid survey for archaeological features
3. Making a note of any surface scatters of archaeological material
4. Constraints or areas of disturbance that may affect archaeological investigation

10.1.2 The walkover survey is not intended as a detailed survey but the rapid identification of archaeological features and any evidence for buried archaeology in the form of surface scatters of lithic or pottery artifacts.

10.1.3 The project was postponed, therefore, the walkover survey was not carried out.

10.2 Essex Historic Environment Record

See Fig.47 & Fig.49

10.2.1 Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age

The Palaeolithic represents the earliest phases of human activity in the British Isles, up to the end of the last Ice Age and the proximity to the river would have provided an attractive prospect for occupation. The Essex HER has one record from this period within the assessment area. To the east side of Broomfield, c.800m south east of the PDA, a lower Palaeolithic to early Bronze Age flint (5547) was found during the excavation of a Saxon burial.

The Mesolithic period reflects a society of hunter-gatherers active after the last Ice Age. The Essex HER has **no** records specifically from this period within the assessment area.

The Neolithic period was the beginning of a sedentary lifestyle based on agriculture and animal husbandry. The Essex HER has one record dating to this period within the assessment area. At Broomfield Borrow pit, c.800m south east of the PDA, a possible Mesolithic flint (5549) was recovered.

The Bronze Age was a period of large migrations from the continent and more complex social developments on a domestic, industrial and ceremonial level. The Essex HER has one records dating to this period within the assessment area. At Broomfield Borrow Pit, c.800m south east of the PDA, poor quality flint work was recovered including two scrapers, a possible arrowhead and a retouched blade (5550).

The potential, therefore, for finding remains that date prior to the Iron Age within the confines of the proposed development is considered **moderate**.

10.2.2 Iron Age

The Iron Age is, by definition a period of established rural farming communities with extensive field systems and large 'urban' centres (the Iron Age 'Tribal capital' or civitas of the Cantiaci). The Essex HER has no records of archaeological evidence within the assessment area. Therefore, the potential for finding remains that date to this period within the confines of the development site is considered **low**.

10.2.3 Romano-British

The Romano-British period is the term given to the Romanised culture of Britain under the rule of the Roman Empire, following the Claudian invasion in AD 43, Britain then formed part of the Roman Empire for nearly 400 years. The line of the Roman Road is within c.50m of the northeast boundary of the PDA and there are two Essex HER records from this period. In 1823 Roman pottery (5552) was found in a gravel pit near the Blacksmith's shop, c.500m south east of the PDA and to the east side of Broomfield a Roman tile fragment (5548) was found during an excavation of a Saxon burial, c.800m south east of the PDA.

Therefore, the potential for finding archaeological features or deposits from this period is considered **moderate**.

10.2.4 Anglo-Saxon

The area around Broomfield was known to have been settled by the Saxons. There are two Essex HER records from this period. A Saxon burial (5546) comparable to that of Sutton Hoo and Prittlewell and thought to be a Saxon King was uncovered in 1888, c.800m south east of the PDA. At Broomfield Borrow pit, a watching brief uncovered three oval pits (5551) containing early Saxon pottery, a brazier, bone and metal work debris, c.800m south east of the PDA. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential for finding remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period in the PDA is considered **moderate**.

10.2.5 Medieval

The medieval period saw development around several greens in the village and is represented by the surviving Listed Buildings of this period. There are three records from this period in the Essex HER. The Angel Inn is a C15th timber-framed hall house (30281/5558), c.100m east. 252 & 252A Main Road (The Well House) (30282) is a C16th timber-framed house, c.400m north. Glovers is a C15th rendered timber-framed house (39394) with C17th alterations, c.150m northwest. The potential for finding archaeological remains from the medieval period is considered as **moderate**.

10.2.6 Post Medieval

The post-medieval period saw ribbon development along the Main Broomfield Road. There are eleven records held at the Essex HER. An archaeological evaluation at Rose Lawn farm (18938/19011) produced C19th/20th garden features, c.450m southeast. Broomfield Place (30284) is a C19th brick built house on the northeast boundary of the PDA. Parsonage Farm House is a late C18th to early C19th brick farmhouse (46838/30291), with a timber barn (30292) and brick outbuildings to the west (30293), c.100m west of the PDA. No's 2 & 2A (Vine Cottage), School Lane is a C19th brick house (30294) and 4 School Lane is a timber-framed house (30295), c.75m north west of the PDA. Brooklands (31033) is a C19th brick house, c.250m east of the PDA.

The Angel Inn, c.100m east, was altered in the post medieval period (5559) and a House named Broomfield (5560), c. 300m south east of the PDA has now been demolished. The post medieval period is heavily represented with farms and buildings, therefore, the potential for finding remains dating to this period is considered as **high**.

10.2.7 Modern

The modern period saw the area undergo suburban development when some of the Listed Buildings previously described were altered. There are no Essex HER records dating to this period, but continued occupation of the area suggests that the potential for finding remains dating to this period is considered as **high**.

10.2.8 Farmsteads

There are no farmsteads recorded in the assessment area.

10.2.9 Undated Records

There is one undated record within the assessment area. To the west of Broomfield cropmarks suggest a trackway and enclosures (6149), c.1km northwest of the PDA.

10.3 Summary of Potential

10.3.1 The PDA lies c.900 m west of the River Chelmer, within an area that has historically remained open fields that, until the late 19th century, were pastureland. In recent times some of the PDA has been converted to arable farming.

10.3.2 The Broomfield enclosure, a Bronze age settlement site, lies 1km to the north (Atkinson 1995) and a group of cropmarks suggesting trackways and enclosures are c.1km northwest of the site. Archaeological evidence from this period and within the assessment area has been focused c.800m east towards the River.

10.3.3 There is little evidence of the Iron Age, possibly because settlement was focused at Little Waltham during this period.

10.3.4 The line of the Roman Road runs within metres of the east boundary and a Roman Villa is thought to have been located in a field north of the PDA from which the salvaged material was used to build the Parish church. The Roman town of *Caesaromagus* (Chelmsford) lies 2km south and major villas have been recorded at Chignall and Great Oxney Green. Archaeological evidence of pottery has been found c.800m to the east of the assessment area.

10.3.5 There were several Saxon farmsteads within the Broomfield (*Brumfelda*) area and in 1888 an important Saxon burial with a large number of high status grave goods was discovered c.800m to the east (Read 1894). Further Saxon remains have been found within the same area as the burial.

10.3.6 Broomfield (*Brumfelda*) is mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1066. The church of St Leonard was constructed in the C11th, partly from recycled Roman material found nearby, on what was possibly the site of a Saxon church (Powell 1963). In 1504 it was rededicated to St Mary the Virgin.

10.3.7 In the medieval period the Church and the Church Green, c.260m north, became the focus of occupation. This period is represented, within the assessment area, almost entirely by surviving buildings.

10.3.7 In the Post-Medieval period the village saw ribbon development along the main Broomfield Road and further clusters of occupation around Parsonage Green, c.100m west and Angel Green, c.100m east. Several large new houses were constructed as the professional and wealthy classes moved out of the town of Chelmsford. The school was constructed on the north field of the PDA and Broomfield Place was built on the east boundary.

During this period small buildings and greenhouses were constructed within the curtilage of the PDA and the remains may still survive beneath the ground.

10.3.8 The modern period has seen substantial development to the north and south of the PDA and continued expansion along the main Broomfield Road, although these changes have not encroached on the boundary.

10.3.7 The desk-based assessment has considered the archaeological potential of the site. Archaeological investigations in the vicinity, map research, the historical environment record results and recent archaeological investigations have shown that the PDA may contain archaeological sites and these can be summarised as:

- Prehistoric: **Moderate**
- Iron Age: **Low**
- Roman: **Moderate**
- Anglo-Saxon: **Moderate**
- Medieval: **Moderate**
- Post-Medieval and Modern: **High**

11. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

11.1 Introduction

Cartographic Regression, Topographical Analysis, and Historic Research have provided evidence for the historic use of the site. By collating this information, we have assessed the impact on previous archaeological remains through the following method of categorisation:

- **Total Impact** - Where the area has undergone a destructive process to a depth that would in all probability have destroyed any archaeological remains e.g. construction, mining, quarrying, archaeological evaluations etc.

- **High Impact** – Where the ground level has been reduced to below natural geographical levels that would leave archaeological remains partly in situ either in plan or section e.g. the construction of roads, railways, buildings, strip foundations etc.
- **Medium Impact** – Where there has been low level or random disturbance of the ground that would result in the survival of archaeological remains in areas undisturbed e.g. the installation of services, pad-stone or piled foundations, temporary structures etc.
- **Low Impact** – Where the ground has been penetrated to a very low level e.g. farming, landscaping, slab foundation etc.

11.2 Historic Impacts

11.2.1 Cartographic regression (8.5), Topographic analysis (3.2) and Historical research (8.4) indicate that the site has largely been the subject of open ground until the post medieval period when the north field was developed into a school. Two small buildings, probably temporary structures, were constructed on the field opposite the school and in the southeast playing field and glasshouses and orchard encroached on the boundary with Broomfield Place in the early 20th Century, however they are no longer in situ. Therefore, previous impacts to archaeological remains from construction are considered to be **high** in the area of the school and **low** elsewhere.

11.2.2 Agriculture became gradually more intense over time and by the modern era it was mechanised. Although the farming process rarely penetrates below the upper layers of the ground, plough truncation can have a significant impact on preserved shallow deposits. The site has remained open fields that have been cultivated and damage to archaeological remains from the agricultural process is therefore, considered to be **low to moderate**.

11.3 Summary of Impacts Both Historic and Proposed

11.3.1 The PDA appears to have been open fields until the post medieval period when the northern field was developed into a school. A small building opposite the school to the south of School Lane and another in the southeast playing field are no longer in situ. Some of the orchard and glasshouse construction from Broomfield Place may have encroached on the boundary but has now been removed.

11.3.2 Any impacts would largely have been connected to the construction of the C19th school which may have destroyed any archaeology prior to the post medieval period in this area. The small buildings in the fields and the glasshouses would probably have been temporary structures with little foundation and had low impact on the archaeology. Natural geology remains unconfirmed, therefore, it is probable that the site that has suffered high impact in the area of the school and low impact elsewhere. No geotechnical investigation has as yet taken place.

12. MITIGATION

The purpose of this archaeological desk-based assessment was to provide an assessment of the contextual archaeological record in order to determine the potential survival of archaeological deposits that may be impacted upon during any proposed construction works.

The assessment has generally shown that the area to be developed is within an area of **moderate** archaeological potential and the periods that have the highest potential for survival are Post-Medieval and Modern. Archaeological investigations within the village are too distant from the PDA to establish the depth of natural geology.

13. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

13.1 Archive

Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, two copies of this desk-based assessment will be submitted to Essex County Council within 6 months of completion.

13.2 Reliability/Limitations of Sources

The sources that were used in this assessment were, in general, of high quality. The majority of the information provided herewith has been gained from either published texts or archaeological 'grey' literature held at EHER, and therefore considered as being reliable.

13.3 Copyright

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Zoe Schofield

Touchstone Archaeology

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