

Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at Long  
Meadow, Mill Green, Fryerning CM4 0PT



# Touchstone Archaeology

February 2019

**TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY**

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Archaeological evaluation by Trial trenching at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road,  
Fryerning, Essex CM4 0PT

NGR: TL 6426 0185 (centre)

Planning Reference: 16/00322/FUL

EHER Site Code:

Touchstone Archaeology Project ref.: LMMG18

Curating Museum: Chelmsford Museum

Museum Accession code: 2018.033

Oasis ID: zoeschof1-328672

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<b>Approved by</b>	Helen Saunders	Historic Environment Advisor ECC
<b>Date</b>	February 2019	
<b>Version</b>	V.1	

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## Table of Contents

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1.1 SITE BACKGROUND</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.2 GEOLOGY &amp; LOCATION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.3 SCOPE OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>1.4 PLANNING BACKGROUND</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.2 METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3.3 SITE ARCHIVE</b>	<b>10</b>
TABLE 1. SITE ARCHIVE	11
<b>4.0 RESULTS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4.1 CONTEXT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4.2 NATURAL GEOLOGY</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>4.3 CONTEXT RECORD</b>	<b>12</b>
TABLE 2: LIST OF RECORDED CONTEXTS	12
<b>5.0 FINDS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>6.0 DISCUSSION</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>13</b>

## Figures

Fig.1 Site location maps 1:250,000	13
Fig.2 Site Location map 1:25,000	13
Fig.3 Site location plan 1:1250	14
Fig.4 Trench Plan and sections	15

## Plates

Plate 1. Aerial Image	16
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Plate 2. Trench 1 facing northwest	17
Appendix 1 HER Report	18
Appendix 2 Summary Sheet	20
Appendix 3 Oasis Sheet	21

Archaeological evaluation at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning, Essex CM4  
OPT

**Summary**

*Touchstone Archaeology was commissioned by Smart Planning Ltd to undertake archaeological trial trenching at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning, Essex CM4 OPT, to discharge a planning condition relating to the demolition of the existing bungalow and the construction of a replacement two storey dwelling with basement and garage. The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken on the 25th of January 2019.*

*The trial trenching consisted of a single trench and produced a negative result.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

Touchstone Archaeology was commissioned by Smart Planning to undertake archaeological trial trenching in order to discharge a planning condition at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning, Essex CM4 OPT. The development comprised of the demolition of the existing bungalow and the construction of a replacement two storey dwelling with basement and garage (16/00322/FUL).

### **1.2 Geology & Location**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey the bedrock geology is recorded as Claygate Member (Clay, silt and sand) with no superficial deposits recorded (*BGS*). No boreholes are recorded within the immediate vicinity. The site is situated at an average height of 97m above Ordnance Datum.

1.2.2 The PDA is located in the county of Essex, within the Borough of Brentwood and the civil parish of Ingatestone and Fryerning and the hamlet of Mill Green. It is situated c.1km north of the village of Fryerning and 1.3km northwest of Ingatestone, mid way between the city of Chelmsford and the town of Brentwood. The PDA is a large sub rectangular plot of 1.2 hectares and is bounded to the north by fields and to the south and east by Box Wood (Fig.1-3, Plate 1).

### **1.3 Scope of the report**

This report provides an account of the archaeological trial trenching.

### **1.4 Planning background**

1.4.1 Planning consent was granted by Brentwood Borough Council (BBC) for the

Archaeological evaluation at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning, Essex CM4  
OPT

demolition of the existing bungalow and the construction of a replacement two storey dwelling with basement and garage (Planning Ref: 16/00322/FUL) with an archaeological condition in place (10).

1.4.2 The archaeology condition states:

*No development, including preliminary ground works, shall take place until:*

- 1. A scheme for the archaeological investigation of the site, including a timetable for that investigation, has been submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority,*
- 2. The results of the investigation has been submitted to the local planning authority and, if necessitated by the findings of the investigation, those results shall be accompanied by a programme of excavation, recording and where necessary the protection and preservation of remains of archaeological or historical significant, and*
3. The local planning authority has approved that programme. The development shall only take place in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To enable archaeological records to be made if necessary on a site that lies within an area of known archaeological interest. This issue is fundamental to the development permitted and the application as submitted provide sufficient information to demonstrate that the proposal would not be unacceptable harmful to the archaeological interest of the site. In the absence of this condition It would have been necessary to refuse planning permission.

1.4.3 Zoe Schofield consulted with Helen Saunders, Historic Environment Advisor at Essex County Council (ECC) regarding the requirements of the archaeological work which resulted in a Brief (*Saunders H., 2018*).

1.4.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the trial trenching was submitted to and approved by the ECC Historic Environment Advisor in advance of the development (*Schofield, Z., 2018*).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 A search of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (ECC HER) centred on the site, identified a number of entries within a 500m radius. These are listed in Appendix 1 and briefly summarised below. The site does not lie within or in proximity to statutory designated areas.

2.1.1 Fryerning (EHER19219-MEX1032753) is a historic settlement found on high ground above the southwest side of the valley of Wid. The church is to the south of the village and to the north, the ground rises over the Bagshot Beds to the hamlet of Mill Green, an area of poorer soil and woodland which stretches north to Highwood and west to Blackmore.

2.1.2 The hamlet of Mill Green to the north, was originally within the parish of Ingatestone and is so named because of a mill that was sited there from the C16th. Evidence of a Roman villa (EHER 660-MEX2543) in the form of roof tile, tesserae, brick and pottery, has been found in a field c.300m east of the PDA and the ruins of this building probably provided the Roman building material for the construction of the church. In the Medieval period, it was the site of a major pottery industry (C14th) and records relating to evidence of a kiln surround the PDA (EHER765-MEX2943, 766-MEX2951, 752-MEX2893, 812-MEX3092, 842-MEX3144 & 843-MEX3148, 846-MEX3156, 866-MEX3214). By the post-medieval period it was a dispersed settlement set around a sub-triangular area of common land (EHER17500-MEX1033126) that was used as an army training ground in both world wars. In the Chapman and Andres map of 1799 the PDA is located in an area of open land to the eastern edge of the common and a brick kiln is sited just to the north.



2.1.4 The Essex HER records are largely found to the north of the PDA in and around Stonemore Wood (Appendix I).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks in accordance with current archaeological standards and to assess past impacts on the site. The information collated was to enable the ECC Historic Environment Advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work.

3.1.2 Specific research aims were to identify any evidence of settlement activity associated with the Roman villa (EHER 660-MEX2543), the medieval settlement of Mill Green and Fryerning, the identification of the pottery kiln or associated features thought to be within the area and post medieval or earlier deposits.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

3.2.1 All archaeological works were carried out in accordance with the Brief issued by Place Services (*Saunders, H., 2018*), the WSI prepared by Touchstone Archaeology (*Schofield, Z., 2018*) and the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*CIfA 2014*).

3.2.2 The current dwelling remained in situ throughout the archaeological evaluation.

3.2.4 The fieldwork took place over one day, 25th of January 2019. David Britchfield MCIfA acted as the senior archaeologist on site. Plant and welfare were supplied by Touchstone archaeology.

Archaeological evaluation at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning, Essex CM4  
OPT

3.2.5 A single trench was mechanically excavated with a bladed bucket under archaeological supervision, 27m x 1.0m (NW-SE)

3.2.6 The trench and archaeological features were accurately located and planned and tied in to the position of the existing building (Fig.4).

3.2.7 All deposits were recorded in a site diary and using Touchstone Archaeology standard recording sheets.

3.2.8 Section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn where necessary on plastic drafting film at a scale of 1:10 and later digitised (Fig. 4).

3.2.9 A full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.

3.2.10 The fieldwork was monitored by Helen Saunders of ECC Place Service, however, due to the results a site visit was deemed unnecessary.

### **3.3 Site archive**

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Touchstone Archaeology and will be delivered to the Chelmsford Museum in due course. The contents of the archive include:

Type	No.
WSI	1
Site Diary/Day book	1
Context Register	1
Photographic Register	1
Photographs	20
Drawings	2
Summary sheet	1
Final Report	1

**Table 1. Site Archive**

## **4.0 RESULTS**

The post-excavation assessment and the preparation of this report have been carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Management of Research projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE, 2015).

### **4.1 Context description**

#### **4.1.1 ( 1**

Trench 1 (NW-SE) was located to the northeast of the existing building and measured 27m x 1.0m. The trench was excavated to a depth of approximately c.0.5m and exposed a stratigraphic sequence which comprised of a top soil of mid dark grey sandy silt with frequent rooting and occasional small rounded stones (001), a sub soil of mid brown sandy silt with moderate rounded stones and occasional rooting (002) and a natural geology of compact light orange brown sandy silt with frequent gravel (003). No significant archaeological finds or features were present (Fig.4, Plate 2).

#### 4.2 Natural geology

The lowest deposit identified was a compact light orange brown sandy silt with frequent gravel (003) at 0.25m below ground level.

#### 4.3 Context record

No archaeological features or artefacts were encountered during the trial trenching but a total of three contexts were recorded.

Context No.	Type	Interpretive Category	Depth
001	Layer	Top soil - mid dark grey sandy silt with frequent rooting and occasional small rounded stones (001)	0.0m -0.20m
002	Layer	Sub soil - mid brown sandy silt with moderate rounded stones and occasional rooting (002)	0.10m – 0.30m
003	Layer	Natural - compact light orange brown sand silt with frequent gravel (003)	0.25m +

**Table 2: List of recorded contexts**

## **5.0 FINDS**

No finds were recovered during the evaluation.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

The evaluation comprised of a single trench that encountered top soil and sub soil overlaying the natural geology at a depth of 0.25m. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded.

The aims and objectives of the evaluation were fulfilled.

## **7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Touchstone Archaeology would like to thank Smart Planning Ltd for commissioning the work and Helen Saunders (ECC HEA) for her guidance throughout the project. David Britchfield (MCIfA) carried out the fieldwork, the drawing were digitised by Digitise This and Zoe Schofield authored the report.

## **8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

*CIfA 2014 - Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading*

*CIfA 2014 – Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; Reading*

*EHER, received 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

*Historic England 2015 - Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*

*Saunders, H., 2018, Brief for trial trenching and excavation, Place Services*

Archaeological evaluation at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning, Essex CM4  
OPT

*Schofield Z., 2018, Written Scheme of Investigation LMMG18*

**Online Resources:**

*British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer accessed 17th September 2018*

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

*OS Maps provided by Groundsure 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

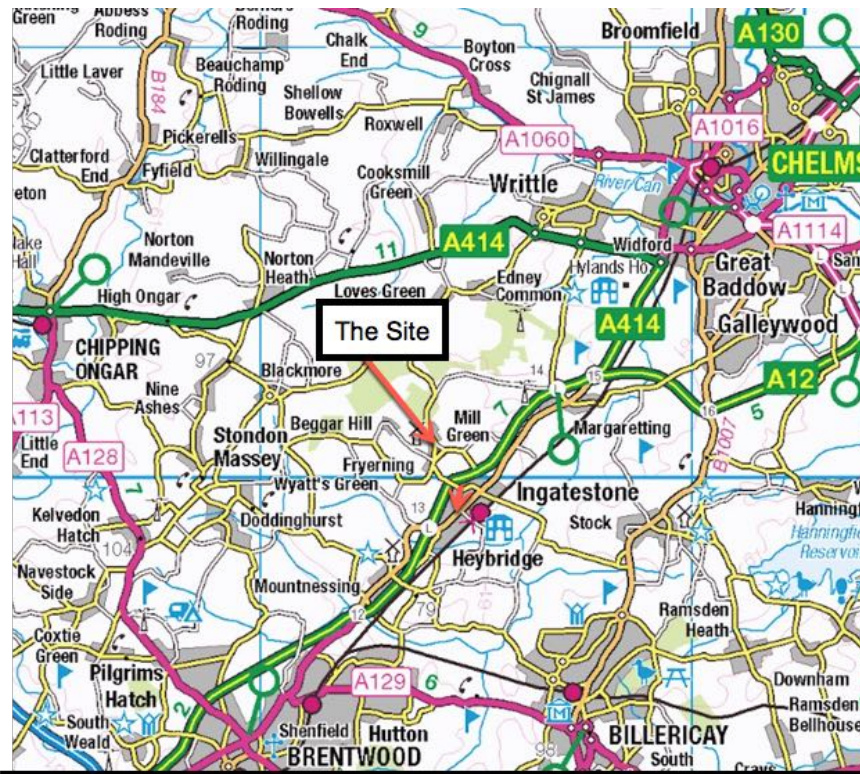


Fig.1 & 2: Site Location Map 1:250,000 & 1:25,000





Scale: 1:2500 | Area: 4Ha | Grid Reference: 564223,201835 | Paper Size: A4

**Fig.3: Site Location Plan 1:1250**





Plate 1: Aerial Image

Plate 2: Trench one facing Northwest



## Appendix I

<b>EHER NO</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Description</b>
660-MEX2543	Monument	c. 450m NE	Roman	Mill green, Roman villa, finds of Roman tile in a field, suggests the presence of a Roman villa.
727-MEX2814	Find spot	c. 150m NE	Medieval	Medieval pottery, found in 1879 in a field near the south end of Mill Green Common.
749-MEX2881	Monument	c. 250m N	Undated	Moore's Ditch, ditch with a bank on either side, length 650yds, known as Grimm's Ditch, a linear earthwork 13m wide by 2m deep with side banks 1m high.
752-MEX2893	Monument	c. 400m NE	Medieval	Pottery kiln, found at west edge of Box Wood in 1879 (Saffron Walden Museum)
753-MEX2897	Monument	c. 300m NE	Medieval	Pottery kiln, found on Mill Green Common in 1879 (Saffron Walden Museum)
764-MEX2940	Monument	c. 550m W	Roman	Maple Tree Lane, Roman Road, Chelmsford to Colchester.
765-MEX2943	Monument	c. 600m NE	Medieval	Pottery kiln, in ploughed field north of Potter Row
766-MEX2951	Find spot	c. 600m NE	Post medieval	Medieval kiln, with post Medieval wares
812-MEX3092	Find spot	c. 250m E	Medieval	Potters Row, Medieval pottery
842-MEX3144	Monument	c. 250m NE	Medieval	Pottery kiln, found in hedge bank, 10yds from the eastern edge of Mill Green in 1879, excavated in 1914 by FW Reader
843-MEX3148	Monument	c. 350m NE	Medieval	Pottery kiln, described in 1914 on the eastern margin of the common
845-MEX3155	Monument	c. 500m NW	Medieval	Writtle Forest, one of four royal forests of Essex
846-MEX3156	Monument	c. 600m NE	Medieval	Medieval brick and tile kiln, shown on 1600 Walker map in ERO
866-MEX3214	Monument	c. 350 NW	Post medieval	Roof tile kiln, found in 1908 and 1937 in the woods, excavated in 1980 by the Ingatestone and Fryerning Archaeological Society

17015-MEX43336	Monument	c. 150m N	Post medieval	Quarry, on Mill Green Common, for clay gravel and sand
17016-MEX43342	Monument	c. 300m N	Post medieval	Writtle Forest, quarrying at little Stoneymore copse
17017-MEX43345	Monument	c. 200m NW	Post medieval	Writtle Forest, quarrying at Woodside Cottages
17040-MEX43352	Monument	c. 800m NW	Post medieval	Writtle Forest, wood banks
17045-MEX43360	Monument	c. 600m N	Undated	Hollow Way, north of Ingatestone Road
26607-MEX10019	Listed building	c. 350 NE	Medieval	Potter Row farm house, late 14 <sup>th</sup> to early 15 <sup>th</sup> Century timber framed house
26608-MEX10019	Listed building	c. 400m NE	Medieval	Richards Cottage, early 15 <sup>th</sup> century timber framed house
16263-MEX10321	Find spot	c. 300m NE	Bronze age	Bronze age socketed axe, found by metal detecting
19219-MEX10327	Monument	c. 650m SW	Medieval	Fryerning historic settlement
17500-MEX10331	Monument	c. 200m N	Modern	Mill Green Common, military training site during WW1 and WW2, large cache of hand grenades were found in 1978
50247-MEX10416	Find spot	c. 550m N	Medieval	A Portable Antiquities Scheme find spot, medieval jug, probably 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> century

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning Essex CM3 0PT	
<b>Parish:</b> Ingatestone & Fryerning	<b>District:</b> Brentwood
<b>NGR:</b> TL 6426 0185	<b>Site Code:</b> LMMG18
<b>Type of Work:</b> Trial Trenching	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> Zoe Schofield/Touchstone Archaeology
<b>Date of Work:</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 27 sqm
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Brentwood	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHCR No's:</b>
<b>Final Report:</b> Archaeological evaluation at Long Meadow, Mill Green Road, Fryerning Essex CM3 0PT	<b>OASIS number:</b> zoeschof1 - 328672
<b>Periods Represented:</b> N/a	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>  An archaeological evaluation comprising of a single trench of 27m x 1m was excavated to the north east of the existing dwelling. No archaeological features or deposits were recorded. Natural geology was encountered at 0.25 - 0.35m depth.	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b>  None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> ZOE SCHOFIELD	<b>Date of Summary:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2019

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**OASIS ID: zoeschof1-328672**

### Project details

Project name	Long Meadow, Mill Green, Fryerning CM4 0PT
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Long Meadow, Mill Green, Fryerning CM4 0PT
Project dates	Start: 25-01-2019 End: 25-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	LMMG18 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2018.033 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	16/00322/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches","Visual Inspection"
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 BRENTWOOD INGATESTONE AND FRYERNING Long Meadow
Postcode	CM4 0PT
Study area	27 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6426 0185 51.690837829543 0.376750905036 51 41 27 N 000 22 36 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 96.5m Max: 96.8m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	TOUCHSTONE ARCHAEOLOGY
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Zoe Schofield
Project director/manager	Zoe Schofield
Project supervisor	David Britchfield MCIfA
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	2018.33
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive Exists?	No

## Project bibliography 1

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Entered on	6 February 2019

# OASIS:

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