

**PARSONAGE HOUSE
WILLINGALE ROAD
FYFIELD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

APRIL 2013

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

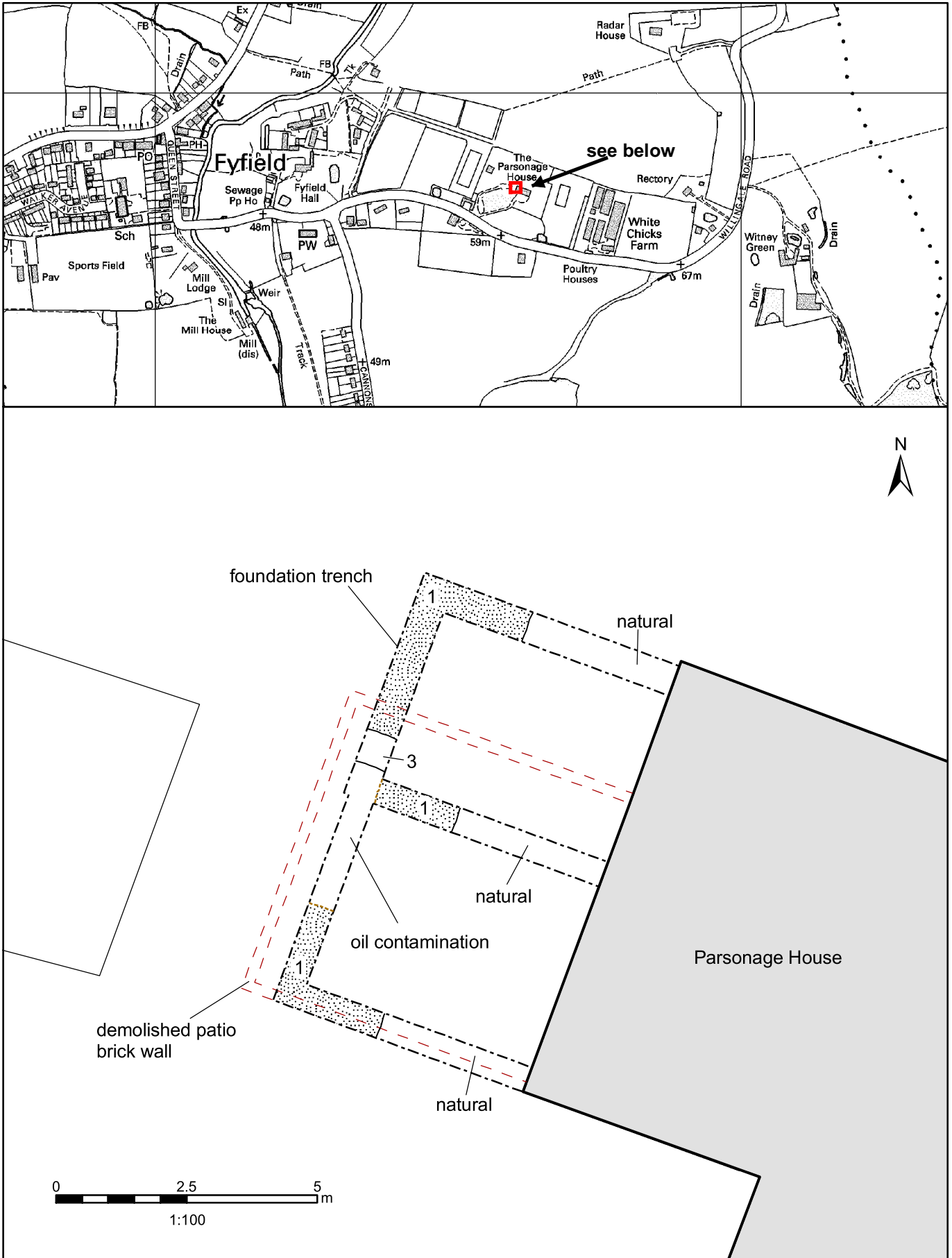
Site name/Address: Parsonage House, Willingale Road, Fyfield, Essex	
Parish: Fyfield	District: Epping
NGR: TL 5762 0683	Site Code: FYPH 13
Type of Work: Archaeological monitoring and recording	Site Director/Group: Lukasz Miciak, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 26-27/03/2013	Size of Area Investigated: 12.51 sqm
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Epping Forest Museum	Client: Bakers of Danbury Ltd.
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos: 4188-9
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No.: 146629
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>The excavation of foundation trenches for the construction of an extension to Parsonage House was archaeologically monitored. This monitoring was undertaken as a condition placed on planning consent by Epping Forest District Council (EPF/0231/12) on the advice of the ECC Historic Environment team (ECC HE).</p> <p>Parsonage House, formerly known as The Rectory, is a grade II listed building (LB No: 118378). The timber-framed and plastered building is judged to be 15th or early 16th century in origin, with 17th, 18th and 19th alterations (EHER 4188-9). The house is also reputed to sit within the remains of a moated enclosure, presumably of medieval date, and may therefore be the replacement of an earlier house. The full extents of this enclosure are not apparent.</p> <p>The extension to the west of the house, is located in an area previously occupied by a patio. The foundation trenches measured 22.5m long in total by 0.5-0.6m wide and their depth ranged between 0.9m and 1.7m. An undisturbed sequence of stratigraphy was observed only in part of the northeast trench and comprised 0.25m of dark brown soft clayey silt topsoil overlying 0.2m of mid brown soft clay subsoil, which in turn was underlain by a natural deposit of light yellowish brown hard silty clay with flecks of chalk, that sloped slightly towards the west. The natural ground sequence exposed in section in the trenches that cut through the patio suggests that the area had previously been reduced down to the natural deposit prior to raising the ground by placing 0.65m (on average) of soil mixed with stones and rubble within a square enclosed by a thin brick wall. A 0.6m-wide wall (3) of brick and concrete was discovered in the middle of the west trench, at a depth of 0.7m (plate 1). It didn't have any substantial foundation and survived to a truncated height/depth of 0.5m, which indicates that the wall was demolished before the construction of the patio. The trenches in the eastern part of the extension revealed a mid brownish grey soft clayey silt backfill (1), that contained numerous fragments of brick and tile, a few pieces of post-medieval/modern pottery and animal bone (plate 2). No cut for a containing feature was discernible in the trench sections and it is possible that the deposit was used to cover the oil spillage, observed immediately to the south of wall 3. It is possible that wall 3 was a support for an oil tank formerly sited here.</p> <p>The results of the archaeological monitoring suggest that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact upon the archaeological record.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Lukasz Miciak	Date of Summary: April 2012



Plate 1. Wall 3, looking NW (2m scale)



Plate 2. Backfill 1, looking southwest (2m scale)



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological monitoring