

**Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at
Tudor Cottage, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex**

NGR: TM 00360 06920

**ASE Project No: E8014
Site Code: BRTC 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013209
OASIS ID: 158667**



October 2013

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by

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October 2013

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Abstract

During September 2013 Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a proposed development at Tudor Cottage, High Street, Bradwell-on Sea. The development comprises refurbishment, renovation and an extension to the extant cottage, and the construction of a new workshop/garage.

Despite the proposed groundworks having been judged to have the potential to impact on remains dating from the medieval period onwards, no significant archaeological remains were identified during the monitoring.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Mr and Mrs Danny Wood (the property owners) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a proposed development at Tudor Cottage, High Street, Bradwell-on Sea. The development comprises refurbishment, renovation and an extension to the extant cottage, and the construction of a new workshop/garage.

1.2 Location and Geology

1.2.1 The proposed development is located on the west side of the High Street, towards the northern edge of Bradwell-on-Sea village, at NGR TM 00360 06920 (Figure 1). The plot is bounded by residential development to either side and paddocks/ pasture to the rear.

1.2.2 The geology of the route consists of Head deposits, a glacial till comprised of clay, silt, sand and gravel, underlain by the London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application for the development of the site comprising *Restoration, Refurbishment, And Extension To Existing Grade II Listed Cottage With Associated Replacement Outbuilding*, was submitted to Maldon District Council in February 2013 (MAL/0167/13).

1.3.2 The development site was judged to be located in an area of archaeological potential by the ECC Place Service's Historic Environment team (ECC HE), advisors to Maldon District planners. Their recommendation for archaeological work to be undertaken was based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

- 1.3.3 The following conditions were duly placed on the planning consent for the development:

L1 Archaeological Assessment

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning authority and will inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.

L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work.

- 1.3.4 The ECC HE team subsequently issued a brief of works which specified the minimum requirements and standards for the archaeological monitoring work (ECC Place Services 2013).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The initial aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains and, if present, sufficiently excavate them to enable their preservation by record. Particular attention was paid to any evidence for:

- The date at which settlement became established along the present line of the High Street;
- Periods of settlement expansion and contraction, particularly with regard to the crises and population collapse of the 14th century and subsequent recovery.

- 14.2 All significant discoveries were to be investigated and assessed in relation to relevant research questions presented in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Adam Dyson (Archaeologist) on the 2nd and 3rd of September 2013.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological background utilises the ECC HE team design brief for the archaeological investigation (ECC Place Services 2013) and the Historic Environment Record.
- 2.1.2 The village of Bradwell-on-Sea seems to have had its origins in the 13th century (EHER 45955). Historic development is largely alongside the High Street and generally comprises buildings of 16th-18th century date. The proposed development is sited on the northern edge of the historic settlement. Adjacent buildings include New Hall to the south, which is 16th century or earlier.
- 2.1.3 Tudor Cottage is itself a Grade 2-listed timber-framed and weatherboarded cottage of 17th-18th century date (LB no.119231). Historic maps, from the 1st edition OS onwards, depict a single building within its plot, but give no detail regarding land use.
- 2.1.4 No archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken on the site or within its near proximity. No findspots of significant artefacts are recorded in the vicinity either.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 All excavations were carried out using a tracked 360° excavator. Archaeological monitoring commenced during the final stages of demolition of a modern lean-to extension to the rear of the cottage. Thereafter, ground reduction over the footprint of the proposed extension and the excavation of foundation trenches for both the extension and the new workshop/garage were under constant monitoring by an archaeologist.

3.1.2 As no archaeological remains were encountered during the monitored foundations groundworks, and given that the proposed excavations for service trenches were both minimal and in close proximity to the foundation trenches, it was judged unnecessary to monitor the excavation of service trenches.

3.1.3 Watching brief record sheets were completed, and additional written, drawn and photographic records made as appropriate. All significant artefacts were recovered. No soil samples were collected for environmental analysis.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive generated by this work is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the Colchester & Ipswich Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Number of Contexts | 2 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 file |
| Plan and sections sheets | 0 |
| Bulk Samples | 0 |
| Photographs (digital) | 11 |
| Bulk finds | 0 |
| Registered finds | 0 |
| Environmental flots/residue | 0 |

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Cottage extension groundworks

4.1.1 The general preparation of the building extension site necessitated the machine removal of topsoil over an area of c.8m x 6m (Figure 2). Approximately 0.3-0.4m of garden soil was removed. This excavation did not penetrate below the modern topsoil/made-ground layer and so exposed no archaeological remains.

4.1.2 The foundation trenches for the proposed rear extension to the cottage measured 0.5m wide and 0.8m deep, as measured from reduced ground level (Figure 3). The remaining topsoil removed was 0.05-0.2m thick, below which the natural geological deposit was revealed over the entire length of the footings. No archaeological remains were identified, either in plan or in the trench sections, to cut into the natural deposit.

4.1.3 No significant artefacts were collected from any of the extension groundworks.

4.2 Workshop/garage groundworks

4.2.1 The foundation trenches for the proposed new workshop/garage measured 0.5m wide and c.1m deep. Topsoil was found to be c.0.3m thick and to overlie the natural archaeological deposit (Figure 4). No archaeological features were present.

4.2.1 No significant archaeological artefacts were collected from the workshop/garage groundworks.

4.3 Recorded contexts

4.3.1 Table 2, below, describes the contexts recorded during all of the monitored works:

| Context | Type | Description | Deposit Thickness |
|----------------|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| 001 | Layer | Topsoil – Dark grey brown, loose, sandy silt with moderately frequent finds of modern CBM, concrete, and pottery (no finds retained). | 0.2-0.45m |
| 002 | Natural | Natural geology – Light yellow orange, moderately compact, silty sand and gravel | 0.9m + |

Table 2: Context descriptions

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Despite the proposed groundworks having the potential to impact on remains dating from the medieval period onwards, no significant archaeological remains were identified within the extension and workshop/garage footprints.
- 5.2 It is possible that archaeological remains associated with the occupation of the house, or indeed predating its construction, exist elsewhere within the wider extents of the property. However, the absence of pre-modern artefacts in the topsoil at the two monitored locations suggests that is unlikely, or else that such remains are of low density and probably non-occupational in nature.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Mr and Mrs D. Wood for commissioning the archaeological work and for their assistance throughout the project, and also Maria Medlycott of the Essex County Council Place Services Historic Environment team. The monitoring attendance was undertaken by Adam Dyson of Archaeology South-East. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report, Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldwork and Mark Atkinson project managed the post-excavation process.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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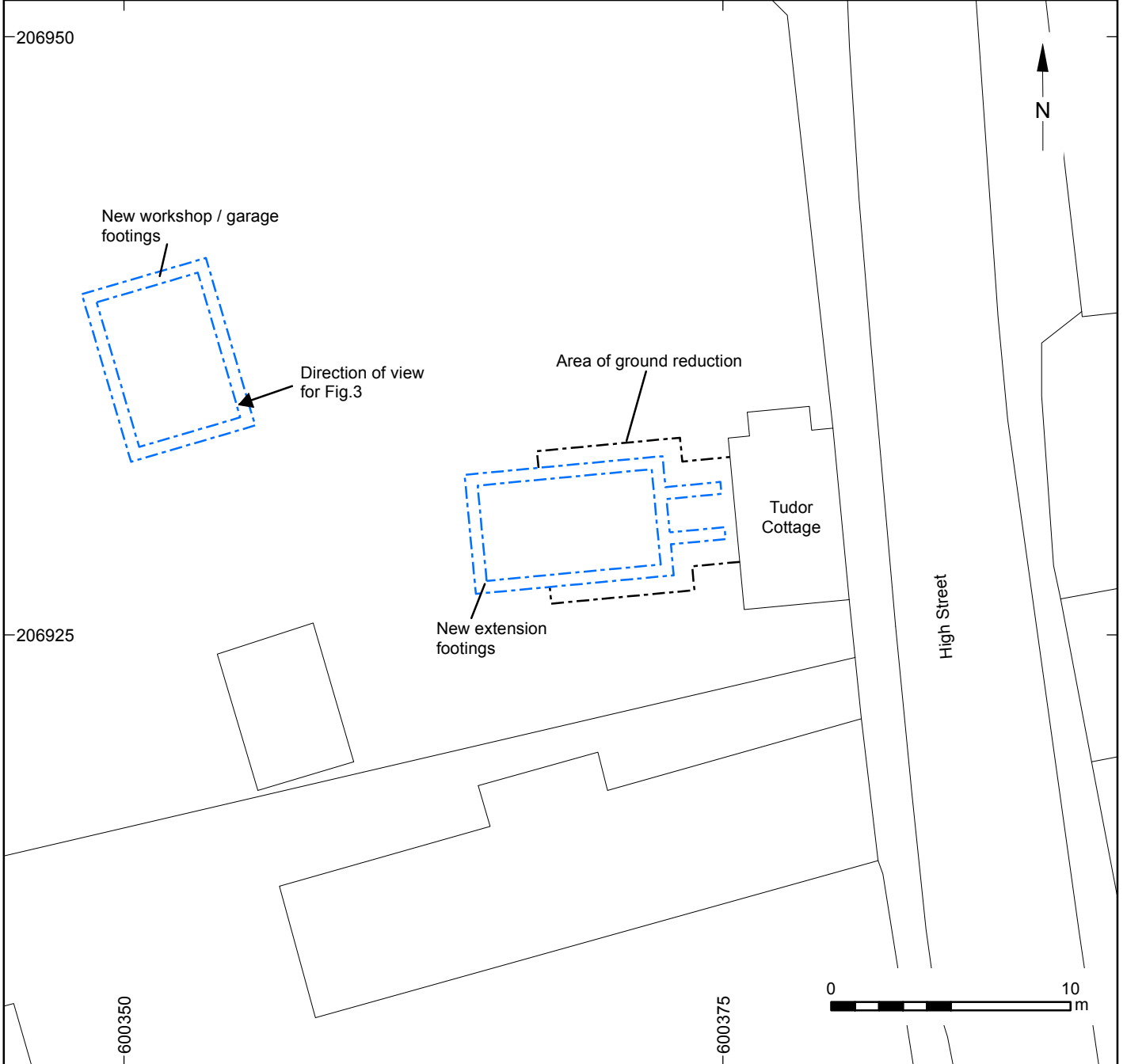
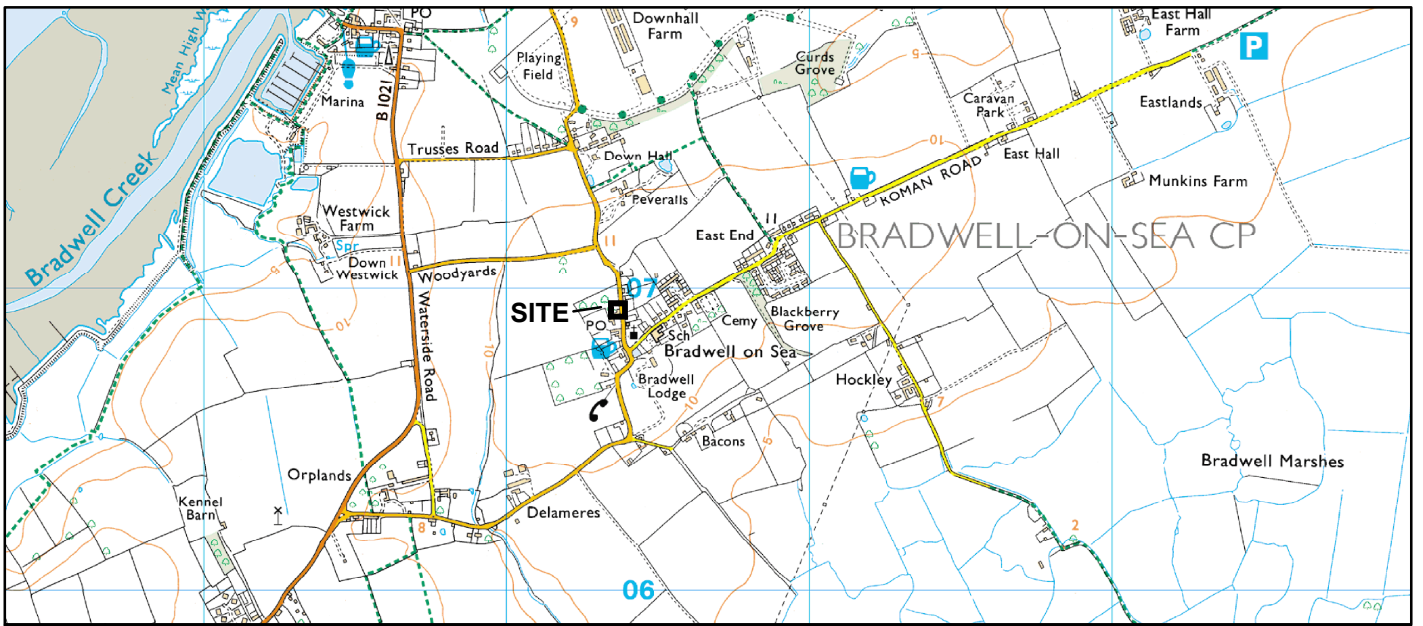
Appendix 1: EHER Summary Form

| | |
|--|---|
| Site name/Address: Tudor Cottage, 22 High Street, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex | |
| Parish: Bradwell-on-Sea | District: Maldon |
| NGR: TM 00360 06920 | Site Code: BRTC13 |
| Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording | Site Director/Group: A. Dyson, (Archaeology South-East) |
| Date of Work: 2-3 September 2013 | Size of Area Investigated: c.120sq m |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester Museum | Funding source: client |
| Further Seasons Anticipated?: No | Related HER Nos: EHER 45955 |
| Final Report: None | OASIS No: 158667 |
| Periods Represented: post-medieval, modern | |
| SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: | |
| <p><i>During September 2013 Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a proposed development at Tudor Cottage, High Street, Bradwell-on Sea. The development comprises refurbishment, renovation and an extension to the extant cottage, and the construction of a new workshop/garage.</i></p> <p><i>Despite the proposed groundworks having the potential to impact on remains dating from the medieval period onwards, no significant archaeological remains were identified during the monitoring.</i></p> | |
| Previous Summaries/Reports: | |
| None | |
| Author of Summary: A. Dyson | Date of Summary: October 2013 |

Appendix 2: OASIS Summary Form

| | |
|--|--|
| OASIS ID: archaeol6-158667 | |
| Project details | |
| Project name | Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Tudor Cottage, High Street, Bradwell-on-Sea |
| Short description of the project | During September 2013 Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a proposed development at Tudor Cottage, High Street, Bradwell-on Sea. The development comprises refurbishment, renovation and an extension to the extant cottage, and the construction of a new workshop/garage. Despite the proposed groundworks having the potential to impact on remains dating from the medieval period onwards, no significant archaeological remains were identified during the monitoring. |
| Project dates | Start: 02-09-2013 End: 03-09-2013 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | BRTC 13 – Sitecode E8014 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| Monument type | None |
| Significant Finds | None |
| Investigation type | "Watching Brief" |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |
| Project location | |
| Country | England |
| Site location | Tudor Cottage, 20 High Street, Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex |
| Postcode | CM0 7QL |
| Study area | 120.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TM 00360 06920 51 0 51 43 28 N 000 54 04 E Point |
| Project creators | |
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South-East |
| Project brief originator | Essex County Council Place Services |
| Project design originator | Archaeology South-East |
| Project director/manager | Adrian Scruby |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Project supervisor | Adam Dyson |
| Project archives | |
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Digital Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Paper Contents | "Stratigraphic" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report" |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Tudor cottage, High St., Bradwell on Sea | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 8014 | Aug 2013 | Location of areas of archaeological monitoring | |
| Report Ref: 2013209 | Drawn by: APL | | |



Fig. 2: Ground reduction for cottage extension, looking southwest



Fig. 3: Cottage extension foundation trenches, looking east (1m & 2m scale).



Fig. 4: Workshop/garage foundation trench, SE corner, looking west (1m scale)

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