

**Archaeological Evaluation  
The Old Booster Station, Ostend  
Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex**

**NGR: TQ 93454 97570**

**ASE Project No: E8081  
Site Code: BSBC 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013340  
OASIS ID: 166925**



**December 2013**



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**December 2013**

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**Abstract**

*In December 2013, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation at The Old Booster Station on Maldon Road, Ostend, Burnham-on-Crouch, in advance of residential development.*

*The evaluation revealed extensive modern disturbance on the site, intruding below the top of the natural geology and likely to extend further to the west, beneath the booster station building. If present, any archaeological remains in this area would have been removed by the disturbance. The peripheral areas of the site are better preserved and may retain some archaeological potential; however, archaeological remains were not revealed during the evaluation.*

*Given the extent and depth of modern truncation and its likely extent beyond the trench, together with the absence of any archaeological remains in the undisturbed areas, the proposed development is unlikely to have an adverse impact upon the archaeological record.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 In December 2013, Archaeology South- East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation at The Old Booster Station on Maldon Road, Ostend, Burnham-on-Crouch, in advance of a proposed residential development.

### **1.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The 276sqm development area comprises a redundant booster station (pumping station) located on the south side of Maldon Road, in the hamlet of Ostend, to the west of Burnham-on-Crouch (NGR: TQ 93454 97570 - Figure 1).

1.2.2 The site is situated on level ground, at roughly 30m AOD, and at the time of the evaluation was occupied by the redundant pumping station building, with the remainder of the plot laid entirely to concrete. The plot is bounded to the north by Maldon Road and to the east, south and west by the gardens of neighbouring properties.

1.2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS) online viewer application indicates that the geology of the site comprises superficial deposits of sand and gravel of the Lowestoft Formation overlying sand of the Crag Formation (British Geological Survey © NERC 2013).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 A planning application (13/00006/FUL) was submitted to Maldon District Council in January 2011 for the demolition of the existing building and the erection of a single dwelling with a associated car parking and groundworks. As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a potential for archaeological deposits to be present, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent.

1.3.2 The following archaeological conditions, in line with guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012), were duly placed on the planning consent:

- *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.*

- *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.*

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE (dated December 2013) and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of works.

1.3.4 The results of the evaluation will be used to inform decisions as to the need for, and extent of, any further archaeological work that may be required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any archaeological remains that are present, where a design solution cannot be implemented to ensure their preservation in-situ.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation would also be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

1.4.2 To help achieve this aim, specifically identified objectives were:

- to determine the presence or absence of medieval or post-medieval structural remains associated with the dwellings shown on historic maps.
- to determine the presence or absence of Saxon or earlier occupation evidence.

1.4.3 In the event that significant discoveries were made the subsequent report would have sought to identify appropriate research objectives for any further work, with reference to those laid out 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). However, as no features of archaeological interest were noted the results of the evaluation do not have any potential to contribute to regional research objectives.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation of an area of land prior to its development. It also assesses the archaeological potential of the site. The fieldwork was carried out by Adam Dyson (Archaeologist) on 16th December 2013, and was managed by Adrian Scruby.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) shows that the development

site lies in an area of some archaeological interest. Late 19th century mapping indicates the presence of a pair of small semi-detached dwellings on an adjacent plot of land to the immediate north-west of the site, in an area which now constitutes the verge beside Maldon Road (1883 OS 1:2500). The date of construction for these buildings is not known. They do not appear to be depicted on the 1777 Chapman and André map, therefore suggesting a likely 19th century date, although a medieval or early post-medieval origin remains a possibility, with associated occupation evidence perhaps spreading into the development area.

- 2.2 Cartographic evidence shows that the current plot of land is first depicted on a survey published in 1922, although a small square building in the south-east corner is shown rather than the extant building; the latter being first depicted on a 1973 Ordnance Survey.
- 2.3 *Little John's Farmhouse*, an 18th century timber framed Listed building lies 200m east of the site (EHER 38776). The site of a possible deserted medieval village lies approximately 500m to the south-west (EHER 11295).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of a single trench measuring 8m long by 1.8m wide, located across the footprint of the proposed dwelling (Figure. 1). In addition to the evaluation trench, a low level photographic record was made of the booster station building.
- 3.1.2 Standard ASE methodologies were employed during the fieldwork. All stratigraphy was photographed and recorded using ASE pro-forma context record sheets. Finds were identified by context number to a specific deposit. Work was carried out in accordance with the IfA (Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct, by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2008, 2010) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

#### 3.2 The site archive

The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Colchester Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	7
No. of files/paper record	1
No. of plan and sections sheets	0
Photographs	12 (digital)
Bulk finds	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The trench was located to the east of the booster station building and was oriented north-east to south-west. It measured 8m in length and 1.8 m in width (Figure 1). The majority of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.9m, with a 1.5m long sondage dug to a depth of 1.2m at the far south-west end.

4.1.2 Substantial modern truncation was revealed along the entire length of the trench. Natural geology comprising mid-light brownish orange silty clay was revealed along the south-east edge at a depth of 0.9m. Along the trench's north-west edge, a modern cut, [1/005], was revealed, and where this feature spread across the entire trench width a sondage was dug to a depth of 1.2m. This sondage did not reach the base of the cut and its backfill deposit (Figures 2 and 3). No archaeological remains were revealed in the trench.

### 4.2 Recorded contexts

4.2.1 The following table lists the recorded contexts:

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Period
1/001	Layer	<b>Concrete hardstanding</b>	0.12 – 0.15 thick	Modern
1/002	Layer	<b>Bedding layer</b> (SE side only): lean mix concrete (light yellow sand and gravel).	0.25 – 0.4 thick	Modern
1/003	Layer	<b>Made ground/rubble hardcore:</b> Dark brown grey, loose silty clay with frequent CBM rubble.	0.15 – 0.5 thick	Modern
1/004	Layer	<b>Subsoil</b> (SE side only): Mid yellow brown, compact clay silt.	0.1 – 0.2 thick	Unknown
1/005	Cut	<b>Modern cut:</b> Steep sided at SW end, unexcavated elsewhere.	8+ x 1.8+ x 1.2+	Modern
1/006	Fill	<b>Fill of [1/005]:</b> Mixed deposit largely comprising mid to dark blue grey, compact silty clay	8+ x 1.8+ x 0.55+	Modern
1/007	Layer	<b>Natural geology:</b> Mid-light brownish orange, compact silty clay	-	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts (CBM = Ceramic Building Material)

#### 4.2.2 [1/003]

Made ground / rubble hardcore layer [1/003] was present immediately beneath the concrete hardstanding along the north-west side of the trench where it was up to 0.5m thick. Along the south-east side of the trench it was only c.0.2m thick and was present beneath [1/002], a bedding layer of lean mix concrete (concrete with a low cement content). The rubble layer was probably truncated and replaced with the lean mix concrete during an easterly extension to the area of hardstanding.

#### 4.2.3 [1/005]

Modern cut [1/005] was present along the entire north-west side of the trench and was revealed to be cutting through subsoil layer [1/004]. It contained fill [1/006] which was a mixed deposit largely comprising mid-dark blue grey, compact silty clay. [1/006] contained post-medieval and modern demolition rubble including 19th – 20th century pottery, ceramic building material, concrete fragments, wood and a clay pipe stem. Also recovered was a handle from a glazed red earthenware vessel which can be broadly dated as 16th – 19th century; although it remains a residual find within a 20th century context. The finds were not retained for any further analysis. The feature is likely to represent site clearance and preparation activities associated with the 20th century booster station development.

### **4.3 The Building**

4.3.1 A photographic record of the extant booster station was also undertaken (Figure 4). This comprised photographs of both the exterior and interior of the building. The interior appears much altered since its use as a booster station, with the addition of a WC in the north-east corner and the installation of a sink being surviving elements of its refit. Given its mid-20th century date, the booster station building is of little archaeological interest.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Discussion**

5.1.1 The trial-trench evaluation revealed the presence of extensive modern disturbance on the site. This activity intrudes below the top of the natural geology and is likely to extend further to the west beneath the booster station building. If ever present, archaeological remains in this area would have been removed by the modern disturbance.

5.1.2 Along the south-east edge of the trench the natural geology was revealed beneath a thin layer of subsoil. This area appears relatively undisturbed, suggesting that the peripheral areas of the site have experienced less modern disturbance and may retain some archaeological potential. However, archaeological remains were not revealed within the evaluation trench.

### **5.2 Conclusions**

5.2.1 The evaluation revealed deep and extensive modern truncation which is likely to extend beyond the trench. This, together with the absence of revealed archaeological remains, suggests that the proposed development is unlikely to have an adverse impact upon the archaeological record.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank the land owner, Mr Brian Saffill, for commissioning the work, and Maria Medlycott (ECC Place Services monitoring officer) for her guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Adam Dyson. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report. Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldworks and Mark Atkinson project managed the post-excavation process.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**Appendix 1: HER Summary Form**

<b>Site name/Address:</b> <i>The Old Booster Station, Ostend, Burnham-on-Crouch</i>	
<b>Parish:</b> <i>Burnham-on-Crouch</i>	<b>District:</b> <i>Maldon</i>
<b>NGR:</b> <i>TQ 93454 97570</i>	<b>Site Code:</b> <i>BSBC 13</i>
<b>Type of Work:</b> <i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> <i>A. Dyson, (Archaeology South-East)</i>
<b>Date of Work:</b> <i>16 December 2013</i>	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> <i>276 sq m</i>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> <i>Colchester Museum</i>	<b>Funding source:</b> <i>Land owner</i>
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> <i>No</i>	<b>Related HER Nos:</b>
<b>Final Report:</b> <i>None</i>	<b>OASIS No:</b> <i>166925</i>
<b>Periods Represented:</b> <i>Modern</i>	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>In December 2013, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation at The Old Booster Station on Maldon Road, Ostend, Burnham-on-Crouch, in advance of residential development.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed extensive modern disturbance on the site, intruding below the top of the natural geology and likely to extend further to the west, beneath the booster station building. If present, any archaeological remains in this area would have been removed by the disturbance. The peripheral areas of the site are better preserved and may retain some archaeological potential; however, archaeological remains were not revealed during the evaluation.</i></p> <p><i>Given the extent and depth of modern truncation and its likely extent beyond the trench, together with the absence of any archaeological remains in the undisturbed areas, the proposed development is unlikely to have an adverse impact upon the archaeological record.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b>	
<i>None</i>	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> <i>A. Dyson</i>	<b>Date of Summary:</b> <i>December 2013</i>

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-166925**

### Project details

Project name	The old booster station, Ostend
Short description of the project	<p>The evaluation comprised a single trial-trench excavated to the east of the booster station building, together with a photographic record made of the building prior to its demolition. The trench revealed the presence of extensive modern disturbance on the site. This activity intrudes below the top of the natural geology and is likely to extend further to the west beneath the booster station building. If ever present, archaeological remains in this area would have been removed by the modern disturbance. The peripheral areas of the site are better preserved and may retain some archaeological potential. However, archaeological remains were not revealed during the evaluation.</p> <p>Given the extent and depth of modern truncation revealed, and its likely extent beyond the trench, together with the absence of revealed archaeological remains, the proposed development is unlikely to have an adverse impact upon the heritage resource of the site.</p>
Project dates	Start: 16-12-2013 End: 16-12-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BSBC 13 – Sitecode E8081 – Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	WATER PUMPING STATION Modern
Significant Finds	NONE
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON BURNHAM ON CROUCH The Old Booster Station, Ostend
Study area	276.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 93454 97570 51 0 51 38 35 N 000 47 46 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	ASE
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", "Notebook - Excavation",' Research', ' General Notes', "Report"

### Project bibliography

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation, The Old Booster Station, Ostend Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dyson, A.
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 2013340
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Braintree
Description	Evaluation report in PDF format containing 1 site plan and 3 photographs

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Entered on	18 December 2013



Fig. 1: Post-excavation view of the trench, looking north-east



Fig. 2: Sondage at the south-west end of the trench, looking north-west



Fig. 3: Booster Station building, looking west

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