

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Land adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway,
Great Easton, Essex**

Archaeological Evaluation

NGR TL 60780 25540



**ASE Project No: 8357
ASE Report No: 2015093**

April 2015

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at Land adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway,
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NGR: TL 60780 25540

Planning Ref: UTT/13/2919/ful

**ASE Project No: 8357
Site Code: GEAPF15**

**ASE Report No: 2015093
OASIS id: archaeol6- 207416**

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With contributions by
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by AH General Building Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway, Great Easton, Essex. The site is currently occupied by a garage in an area of lawn and hardstanding. The site is proposed for development comprising the demolition of the extant building and the construction of a single dwelling with associated parking and new vehicular access.

One trial trench was excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The natural geology, a mid-brown sand, was identified at 0.65m below the present ground surface level.

As no significant archaeological remains appear to be present on site it is judged that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the heritage resource of the area.

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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) was commissioned by AH General Building Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway, Great Easton, Essex. The site is proposed for development comprising the demolition of the extant building and the construction of a single dwelling.

1.1.2 Great Easton lies 11.5km north-east of Bishops Stortford and 3.5km north-west of Great Dunmow. The proposed development is within the historic core of the village, at NGR TL 60780 25540, 50m to the north of the church of St John and St Jiles (Figure 1). The plot is currently a domestic garden to an existing house known as Pound Field, and is partially occupied by a garage, which is to be demolished.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The bedrock geology of the site comprises London Clay overlain by superficial deposits of the Kesgrave Catchment sub-group sand and gravel (BGS Geology of Britain Viewer – accessed 18/3/2015). The site lies at between 83m and 84m AOD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (UTT/13/2919/ful) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in October 2013 for Land Adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway, Great Easton, Dunmow, Essex, comprising demolition of the existing garage and shed and erection of 1 No. dwelling with associated parking and new vehicle access to Pound Field. All matters are reserved except for access. As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Essex Historic Environment Record as having potential for archaeological deposits to be present ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a full archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent.

1.3.2 The archaeological condition that was recommended was based upon guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states that:

No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.

1.3.3 The results of the archaeological evaluation will inform decisions regarding the need for and extent of any further archaeological works that may be required in order to mitigate the impact of the development upon the

archaeological record. In the event that archaeological mitigation is necessary these recommendations will define the scope of the required archaeological work.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological trial trenching which comprised the excavation of one trench on 25/03/2015 (Figure 2). It followed the methodology laid out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015), based on the requirements of Richard Havis at ECC Place Services in his capacity as archaeological advisor to Uttlesford District Council.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), held at County Hall.

2.1.2 The site lies in the historic core of the village of Great Easton, which is mentioned in Domesday Book. It is 50m north of the Grade II* Listed parish church of St John and St Giles, which is of 12th/ 13th date with later additions and restorations (EHER 37527, NHLE 1112198). Immediately to the east of the church is Great Easton castle, a mid-12th century “Anarchy” period motte (EHER 1178 – Scheduled Monument 31221), while to the south of the motte is a small manorial complex of 12th to 15th century date that was partially excavated in the 1960’s. Further to the east, Bronze-Age, Iron Age and Roman remains have been uncovered at the former G.S Brown Garage site, while the parish church includes Roman tile in its walls, suggesting the presence of a nearby Roman building that was quarried for building materials.

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 As stated in the WSI (ASE 2015) 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 and quality. Should archaeological remains have been found, an assessment of their significance would have been made against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

2.2.2 Specific research aims for the initial trenching were to:

- Improve understanding of settlement and landuse in the Great Easton area from prehistory to the present day, with particular emphasis on the medieval period.
- To provide evidence for the extent of the medieval settlement and any periods of expansion and contraction, and differing forms of landuse and exploitation in the immediate hinterland of the village
- With regard to Medlycott (2011), the origins and development and dynamics of different rural settlement types are highlighted as a subject for further research

2.2.3 In the event that significant discoveries had been made the report would seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with 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). As no archaeological features were uncovered the site has no potential to contribute to any regional research objectives.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A single trench measuring 10m by 1.54m was excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling, to the east of the existing garage, in the location as per the WSI (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.92m below the present surface level using a 5-tonne tracked excavator equipped with a standard toothless ditching bucket.

3.3 Archive

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

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	10
Bulk finds	2 artefacts
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	turf/topsoil	Turf over dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate rounded stones up to 50mm in size. Occasional tile and occasional charcoal fragments	>10	>1.54	0.26-0.38
1/002	subsoil	Mid grey brown silty sand with moderate rounded stones up to 30mm in size	>10	>1.54	0.30-0.37
1/003	natural	Mid orangey brown sand	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The trench was excavated in the footprint of the proposed new dwelling in what is currently a flat area of lawn. It was excavated to a depth of 0.92m in the north-eastern end rising to a depth of 0.63m at the south-western end. Topsoil comprised a dark grey brown sandy silt [1/001] which contained very occasional peg-tile (not kept), occasional charcoal fragments and one piece of Roman tegula found at the interface with the subsoil. Two George V pennies were also found within this topsoil layer, near the ground surface (not kept). There was no clear distinction between topsoil and the underlying subsoil [1/002], the two grading into each other. Subsoil was mid grey brown silty sand [1/002] containing one piece of Late Iron Age or early Roman pottery near the base of the layer. The underlying natural subsoil [1/003] was a mid-orange brown sand with occasional stones. No archaeological deposits or features were present within the trench.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage comprising pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered during the evaluation (Tables 3-4). Finds were all washed and dried. They were quantified by count and weight and subsequently bagged by material and context. Finds have been packaged and stored following IFA guidelines (2008). None of the artefacts require further conservation.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)
1/001			1	150
1/002	1	28		
Total	1	28	1	150

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

Finds	Quantity
Bulk finds boxes (450mm x 240mm x 220mm)	0.10

Table 4: Finds archive quantification

5.2 The Late Iron Age/early Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.2.1 A large unabraded bodysherd, weighing 28g, was recovered from context [1/002]. The sherd is in a sandy micaceous black surfaced ware possibly of Hadham origin. The carinated body profile is suggestive of a bowl form similar to Cam. 212-214. In Colchester, bowls of this type were considered largely pre-conquest, although the fabric of this example may suggest an early post-conquest date.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Elke Raemen

- 5.3.1 An abraded Roman *tegula* fragment was found in [1/001]. The piece has a reduced core and is in an orange fabric with sparse fine quartz, common calcium carbonates and burnt out ?chalk to 2mm, rare red iron oxides to 1mm and rare coarse quartz to 1mm. The flange itself is missing but the piece retains a finger wipe mark which would have run alongside the flange.

5.4 Summary

- 5.4.1 The assemblage comprises only two finds, both of Roman date. Whereas the pottery sherd is unabraded, the *tegula* fragment is unstratified and abraded. The latter is recommended for discard.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 The evaluation did not identify any features. The stratigraphic sequence was typical of a garden site, comprising a gradual build up topsoil and subsoil immediately overlying the natural geology.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.2 The evaluation established that natural deposits are present at a depth of 0.65m in Trench 1. Little disturbance was noted in the trench. There was also no evidence of truncation of deposits.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

6.3.1 The main purpose of the research aims and objectives was primarily to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and features on the site. No such material was discovered within the trench, and the lack of survival was demonstrably not due to excessive modern truncation.

6.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

6.4.1 As no significant archaeological remains appear to be present on site it is judged that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the heritage resource of the area.

6.5 Consideration of research aims

6.5.1 The research aims were not able to be addressed due to lack of evidence.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EHER Summary Form

Site name/Address Land adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway, Great Easton, Essex	
Parish: Great Easton	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 60780 25540	Site Code: GEAPF15
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Kate Clover, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 25th March 2015	Size of Area Investigated: 117 Square metres
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding source: Landowner/developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: unknown	Related HER Nos: EHER 37527 and 1178
Final Report: EAH roundup	OASIS No: archaeol6- 207416
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: Archaeology South-East was commissioned by AH General Building Ltd to conduct an archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway, Great Easton, Essex. The site is currently occupied by a garage in an area of lawn and hardstanding. The site is proposed for development comprising the demolition of the extant building and the construction of a single dwelling with associated parking and new vehicular access.</p> <p>One trial trench was excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The natural geology, a mid brown sand, was identified at 0.65m below the present ground surface level.</p> <p>As no significant archaeological remains appear to be present on site it is judged that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the heritage resource of the area.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: K.Clover	Date of Summary: April 2015

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeo16-207416

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land adjacent to Pound Field, The Endway, Great Easton, Essex
Short description of the project	The site is currently occupied by a garage in an area of lawn and hardstanding. The site is proposed for development comprising the demolition of the extant building and the construction of a single dwelling with associated parking and new vehicular access. One trial trench was excavated within the footprint of the new dwelling. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The natural geology, a mid brown sand, was identified at 0.65m below the present ground surface level.
Project dates	Start: 25-03-2015 End: 25-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GEAPF15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	8357 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/13/2919/ful - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age/Early Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT EASTON
Postcode	CM6 2HD
Study area	117.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 6078 2554 51.9046927546 0.337428080603 51 54 16 N 000 20 14 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	Kate Clover
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	AH General Building Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Archive ID	GEAPF15
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	GEAPF15
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	GEAPF15
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

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© Archaeology South-East		Land adjacent to Pound Field, Great Easton	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8357	Mar 2015	Site location	
Report No: 2015093	Drawn by: APL		



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© Archaeology South-East		Land adjacent to Pound Field, Great Easton	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 8357	Mar 2015	Location of evaluation trench	
Report No: 2015093	Drawn by: APL		

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