

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Pell House, High Road, Fobbing,
Thurrock, Essex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Felicity Howell

Site Code: THFB11

(TQ 7178 8394)

**Pell House, High Road,
Fobbing, Thurrock, Essex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For AMD Property Ltd

by FelicityHowell

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodeTHFB11

May 2011

Summary

Site name: Pell House, High Road, Fobbing, Thurrock, Essex

Grid reference: TQ 7178 8394

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 11th May 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Felicity Howell

Site code: THFB11

Area of site: 0.6ha

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Thurrock Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 31.05.11 Steve Preston ✓ 20.05.11

Pell House, High Road, Fobbing, Thurrock, Essex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Felicity Howell

Report 11/44

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Pell House, High Road, Fobbing, Thurrock, Essex (TQ 7178 8394) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by J Semple of Dovetail Architects Ltd, Dovetail House, 60 Station Road, Upminster, Essex RM14 2TJ, on behalf of AMD Property Ltd, 21 Lodge Lane, Grays, Essex, RM17 5RY.

Planning consent (10-50154-TTGLBC and 10-50152-TTHFUL) has been gained from Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation Council for the refurbishment, conversion and extension of Pell House. The development involves converting the Grade II listed building into six flats and a house as well as incorporating a new car parking area on the site. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief on any invasive groundworks that are to accompany the conversion programme. This is in accordance with, the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990) (which has since been superseded by the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010)) and the Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Havis, Senior Historic Environment Officer for Essex. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell on 11th May 2011 and the site code is THFB11. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Thurrock Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the village of Fobbing, south of Basildon and east of Corringham. Located to the north of the Thames, the area of interest is on a steep spur rising from the estuary, west of Fobbing Marshes (Fig. 1) at c.20m above Ordnance Datum. The site is an irregular parcel of land to the east side of High Road and adjacent to the Church of St Michael (Fig. 2). The land currently comprises gardens of Pell House, lawns with large shrubs and trees, in particular, yew. The site is mapped as being located on head deposits (BGS1976) and a clayey sand subsoil above brickearth was observed during the investigation.

Archaeological background

The site is located with the lower Thames Valley, which is rich in both prehistoric and later archaeology (Williams and Brown 1999). The settlement of Fobbing itself is recorded in Domesday Book and has late Saxon origins (Williams and Martin 2002, 988). The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Richard Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (2010). In summary the brief outlines that the site's archaeological potential stems from its location close to the historic (medieval and post-medieval) core of the village. In the medieval period Fobbing developed by exploiting its location for marshland grazing, fishing and trading opportunities. The settlement is thought to have grown around St Michael's church which has its origins in the 11th century. Pell House contains 17th century and possibly earlier elements and was formerly known as The Rectory, serving as such for the church. It is primarily the site's close proximity to St Michael's church that warranted an archaeological watching brief.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks of the development. This involved the monitoring and examination of a foundation trench for a new bay window (Fig. 3). Spoil heaps were monitored to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological significance and a metal detector was used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from excavations. Observation of the back boundary wall trench was deemed unnecessary as previous development had destroyed any archaeological deposits that may have previously existed in that location. The reuse of existing service runs and car parking areas ensured little or no newly invasive groundworks with regards to the rest of the development.

Results

A foundation trench for a new bay window, on the south-east elevation of the existing building, was excavated using a mini-digger fitted with a toothed bucket. The trench was stripped to its full extent at 3.30m long and 1m wide to a depth of up to 1.20m (Fig. 3, Pl. 1). The north-west section of the trench had been destroyed by an existing footing for a previous extension to the south-east of Pell House (Pl. 2). The stratigraphy of the south-east section revealed 0.12m of topsoil above 0.20m of mid grey brown clayey sand subsoil into natural brickearth geology (Fig. 4). This section had been partially disturbed by a drainage pipe running approximately east to west through the trench. As a result the trench revealed only modern disturbance and no archaeological finds or deposits were observed.

Conclusion

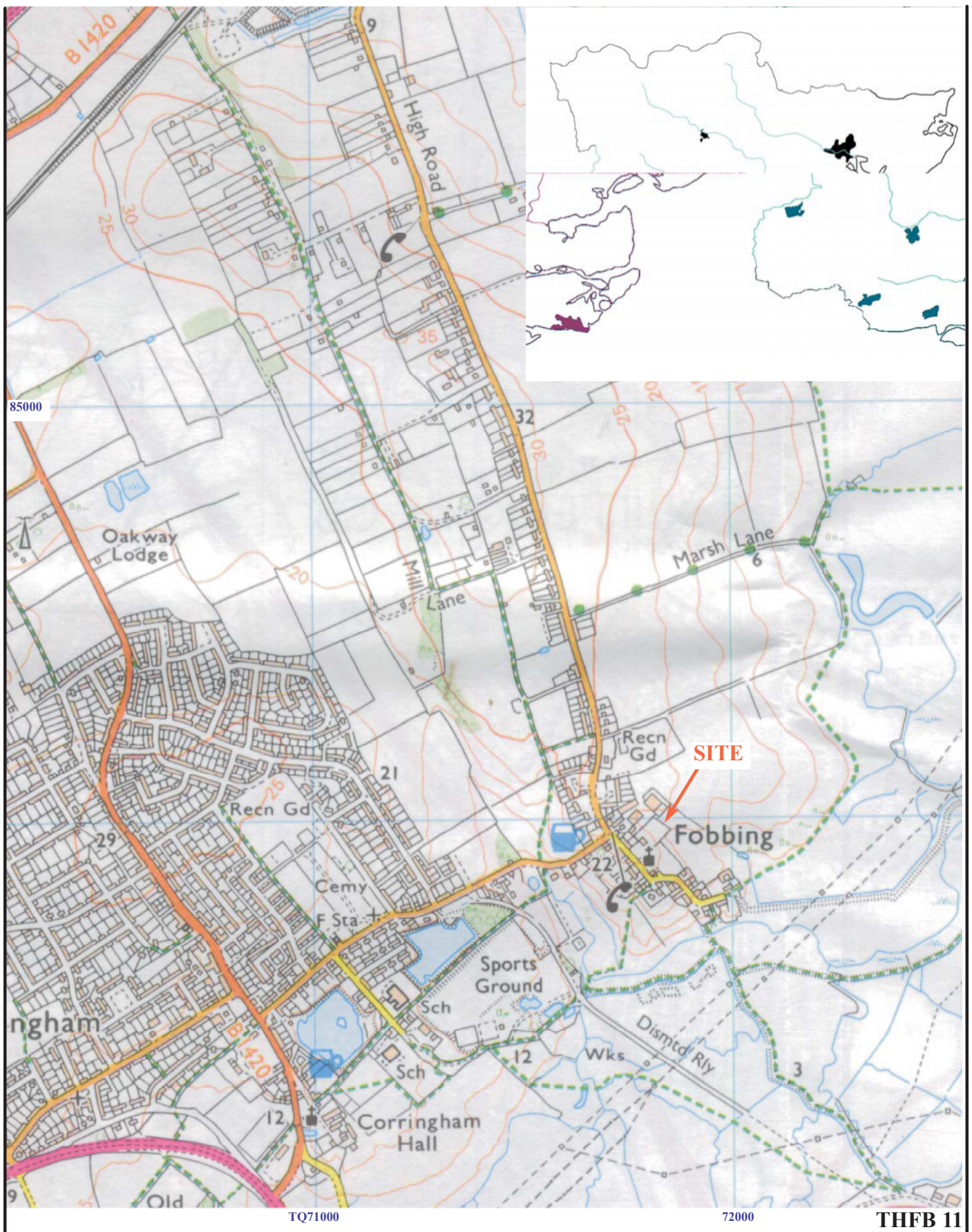
Despite the archaeological potential of this location no finds or features of archaeological interest were noted in the foundation trench observed.

References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000 series, Sheet 258, solid and drift Edition, Keyworth
- Havis, R, 2010, 'Archaeological Monitoring and Excavation at Pell House, Fobbing', Chelmsford
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London
- Williams, J and Brown, N (eds), 1999, *An Archaeological Research Framework for the Greater Thames Estuary*, Chelmsford

**ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD/ ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY
SUMMARY SHEET**

Site Name/Address: Pell House, High Road, Fobbing, Thurrock, Essex	
Parish: Fobbing	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ 7178 8394	Site Code: THFB11
Type of Work: Archaeological Watching Brief	Site Director/Group: Steve Ford Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd
Date of Work: 11th May 2011	Size of Area Investigated: c.0.6ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: N/A	Funding Source: AMD Property Ltd
Further work anticipated? No	Related EHCR Nos:
Final Report: Howell, F, 2011, 'Pell House, High Road, Fobbing, Thurrock, Essex; an archaeological watching brief' TVAS rep 11/44, Reading	
Periods represented: N/A	
Summary of Fieldwork Results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were uncovered.	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Felicity Howell	Date of Summary: 13th May 2010



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Figure 1. Location of site within Fobbing and Essex.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off High Road.

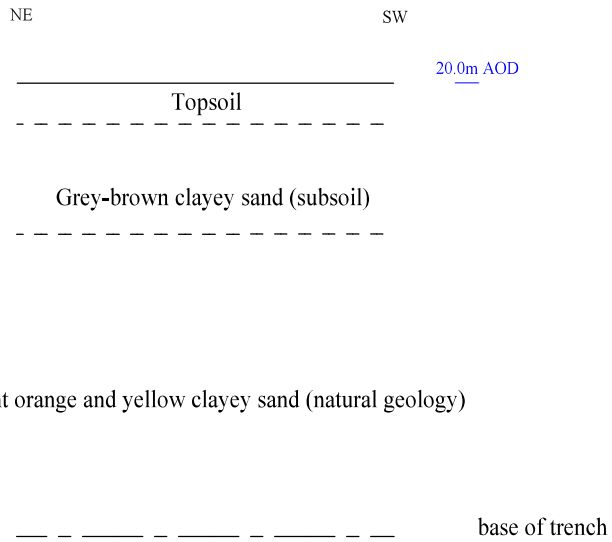
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Figure 3. Detailed location of trench observed.
Scale 1:250



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Figure 4. Representative section





Plate 1. Footing trench looking south-west. Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. Trench section, looking north-west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m

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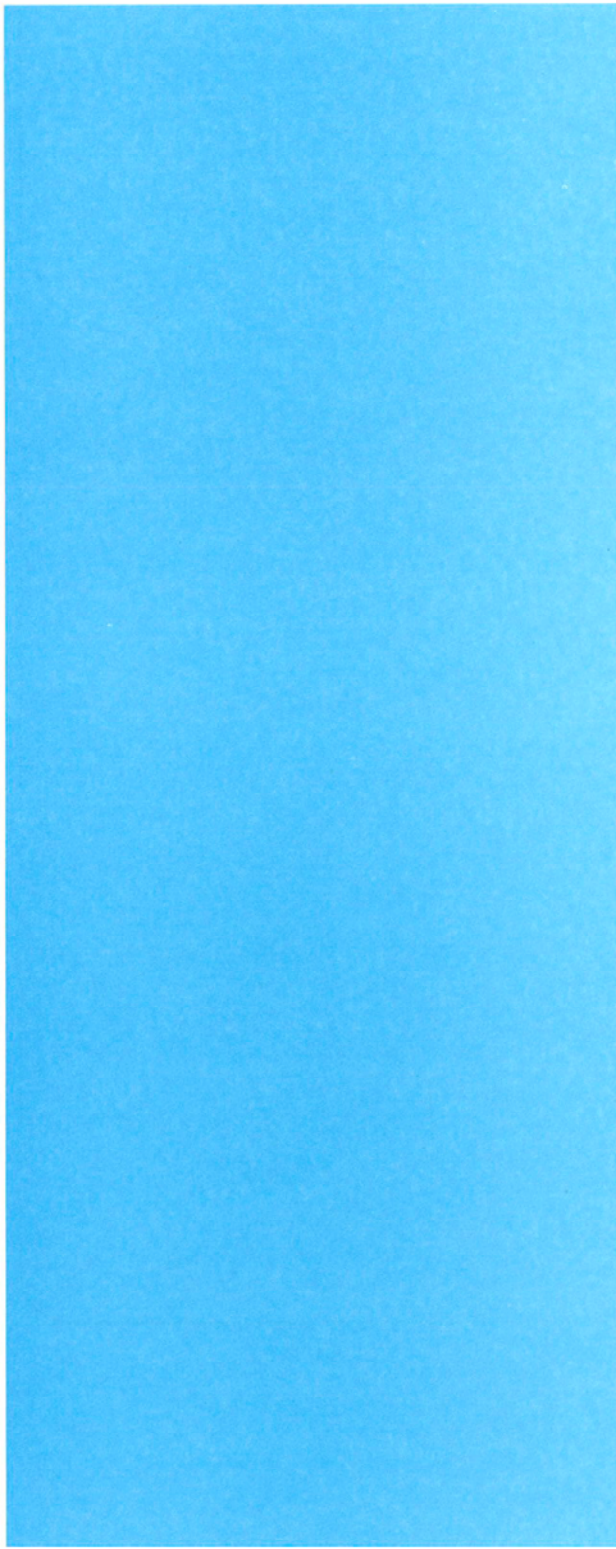
Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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