

**ARCHERS FIELD
LAINDON
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

BELLWAY HOMES LTD

CA PROJECT: 3119
CA REPORT: 10127

AUGUST 2010

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prepared by	Jamie Wright, Project Officer
date	30 July 2010
checked by	Cliff Bateman, Project Manager
date	4 August 2010
approved by	Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
signed	5 August 2010 
date	
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Archers Field, Laindon, Essex
Location:	Laindon, Essex
NGR:	TQ 6755 8988
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	19 – 23 July 2010
Planning Reference:	09/00652/FUL
Location of Archive:	To be retained by Cotswold Archaeology until a suitable depository becomes available
Site Code:	RPL10

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2010 at the request of Bellway Homes. Seventeen trenches were excavated at Archers Field, Laindon, Essex.

No archaeological features, deposits nor artefacts were present. Evidence that the site had been landscaped prior to its previous use as a playing field was observed throughout the western extent of the development area.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2010 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Bellway Homes Ltd at Archers Fields (formerly Radford Park), Laindon, Essex (centred on NGR: TQ 6755 8988; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with planning consent granted for the development of 132 dwellings with associated access road, car parking, open space and strategic landscaping.
- 1.2 An application (ref: 09/00652/FUL) has been approved by Basildon District Council for the development, with a condition attached, condition 8, requiring a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken prior to development or preliminary groundworks. The evaluation was carried out in accordance a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2010) and approved by Richard Havis, Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (ECCHEMT). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The site lies in the northwest of Laindon, and is bounded on the south and west by existing residential properties, and to the north and east light industrial units (Fig. 2). It is c. 10km north of the Thames estuary and the land gradually slopes down to this river, with gentle undulations, few locally higher than 50m AOD. The site lies at approximately 40m AOD, with the ground sloping down to the east. Within the development area a 0.75m high terrace ran north to south across the middle of the development area.
- 1.4 The development area is approximately 3.9ha in area and comprises a single field. It was last used as a school playing field, but has remained unused for the last c. 10 years.
- 1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as London Clay of the Eocene phase of the Tertiary period. Apart from the extreme western portion most of the

solid geology is mapped as being overlain by Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel, which are Quaternary in date (<http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer-google/googleviewer.html> accessed 26.07.10). This is in broad agreement with the evaluation which encountered clay overlain by small gravel and fine sandy clay or silty clay. However, during the evaluation no gravels or fine sand/silt clays were present to the west of the terraced step in the site, and it is believed that these deposits had been disturbed during landscaping.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site has previously been compiled in which the known and potential archaeological interest in the site has been detailed (CA 2009). It is not intended to fully reprise the findings of that report here, rather the DBA should be read in conjunction with the current document.
- 1.7 No prehistoric, Roman or medieval finds or features are currently recorded within the site. Two potential archaeological sites, comprising an annular cropmark and the line of a putative Roman road, have been identified within 500m of the development site. There may be some limited potential for currently unrecorded archaeological remains within the site (ibid.).
- 1.8 The development area is first depicted in detail on the Laindon Tithe Map of 1839 where it is recorded as a single field called 9 Acres (CA 2009; Fig. 3; field name detailed in the accompanying Tithe Apportionment Register). No major changes are depicted within the site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876 or the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1924. Linear marks, the spacing and straightness of which suggest they are modern drainage works, are visible within the site on 1951 aerial photographs (ibid.).

Archaeological objectives

- 1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context could be made. This would clarify whether any remains were of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively would

form the basis of mitigation measures that could seek to limit damage to significant remains.

Methodology

- 1.10 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 17 trenches, each 50m in length, in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). This represents a 4% sample of the development area as agreed between representatives of CA and ECCHEMT. Contingency arrangements for the excavation of an additional four trenches (up to a further 1%) were not implemented.
- 1.11 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.12 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) but no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. CA will retain the site archive and artefact collection until a suitable depository becomes available, when they will be deposited, subject to agreement with the legal landowner. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified within any of the excavated trenches.
- 2.2 The site comprised a single field within which evidence of earlier landscaping was observed. A north south terrace, central to the field, divided the site into two halves. Along its western side the field could be seen to be lower than the surrounding hedges, and the fields beyond, by approximately c. 0.75m.
- 2.3 The soil profiles encountered during the trenching reflected the areas of former landscaping within the field, with c. 0.5m of re-deposited natural clay recorded in all trenches in the west of the field. No re-deposited material was encountered in the east.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.4 No finds other than modern were recovered from excavated trenches or spoil heaps. The field was under grass so no artefacts could be seen on the ground surface.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the evaluation. It is suggested that the western half of the site had been disturbed by landscaping prior to use as a playing field and that this disturbance was sufficient to truncate any archaeological deposits that may have been present. In the eastern half of the field any truncation was slight or non-existent. Nevertheless, no archaeological deposits were encountered.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Wright, assisted by Luke Brannlund and Jon Pick. The report was written by Jamie Wright. The illustrations were prepared by

Pete Moore. The archive has been compiled, and prepared for deposition, by Jamie Wright.
The project was managed for CA by Cliff Bateman

5. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 *Land at Radford Park, Laindon, Essex: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, CA typescript report No. **09120**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 *Archers Field, Laindon, Essex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.15	Modern
102	Layer	Pale yellowish brown clay. Subsoil			0.15-0.6	
103	Layer	Natural clay			>0.6	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
201	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.2	
202	Layer	Subsoil			0.2-0.6	
203	Layer	Natural clay with pale yellow fine sand lenses			>0.6	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
301	Layer	Redeposited natural			0.25-0.85	
302	Layer	Natural			>0.85	

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.34	Modern
401	Layer	Redeposited natural.			0.34-0.97	
402	Layer	Natural clay			>0.97	

Trench 5

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
501	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.2	
502	Layer	Redeposited natural			0.2-0.6	
503	Layer	Natural clay			>0.6	

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
601	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.3	
601	Layer	Redeposited natural. A plastic plate was present in the edge of the trench at the base of this layer.			0.3-0.65	
602	Layer	Natural			>0.65	

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
701	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
701	Layer	Redeposited natural			0.25-0.7	
702	Layer	Natural.			>0.7	

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.2	Modern
801	Layer	Redeposited natural.			0.2-0.9	
802	Layer	Natural clay			>0.9	

Trench 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.38	
901	Layer	Redeposited natural, cracked and loose.			0.38-0.9	
902	Layer	Natural clay			>0.9	

Trench 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1001	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.2	
1002	Layer	Natural clay for 0.4m thickness overlying strong reddish brown sand and fine gravel.			>0.2	
Brick features, some supporting tubes, possible goal posts were present.						

Trench 11

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1101	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.3	
1102	Layer	Natural clay with iron/manganese concretions and in places abundant river rounded flint <30mm.			>0.3	

Trench 12

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1201	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.24	
1202	Layer	Natural clay with common rounded flint and occasional gravel.			>0.24	

Trench 13

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1301	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
1301	Layer	Natural clay with some river rounded flints.			>0.25 0.7	

Trench 14

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1401	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.3	Modern
1402	Layer	Natural			>0.3	Modern

Trench 15

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1501	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.13	
1502	Layer	Pale yellowish brown silty clay. Excavated as a possible feature but shown to be natural.			0.13-0.32	
1503	Layer	Greyish brown silty clay with common iron/manganese concretions. Beneath 1502 and also natural.			0.32-0.45	
1504	Layer	Pale yellowish brown clay with some concentrations of river rounded gravel. Natural.			>0.45	

Trench 16

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1601	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.18	Modern
1602	Layer	Natural clay with some flint and gravel patches near the surface.			>0.18	

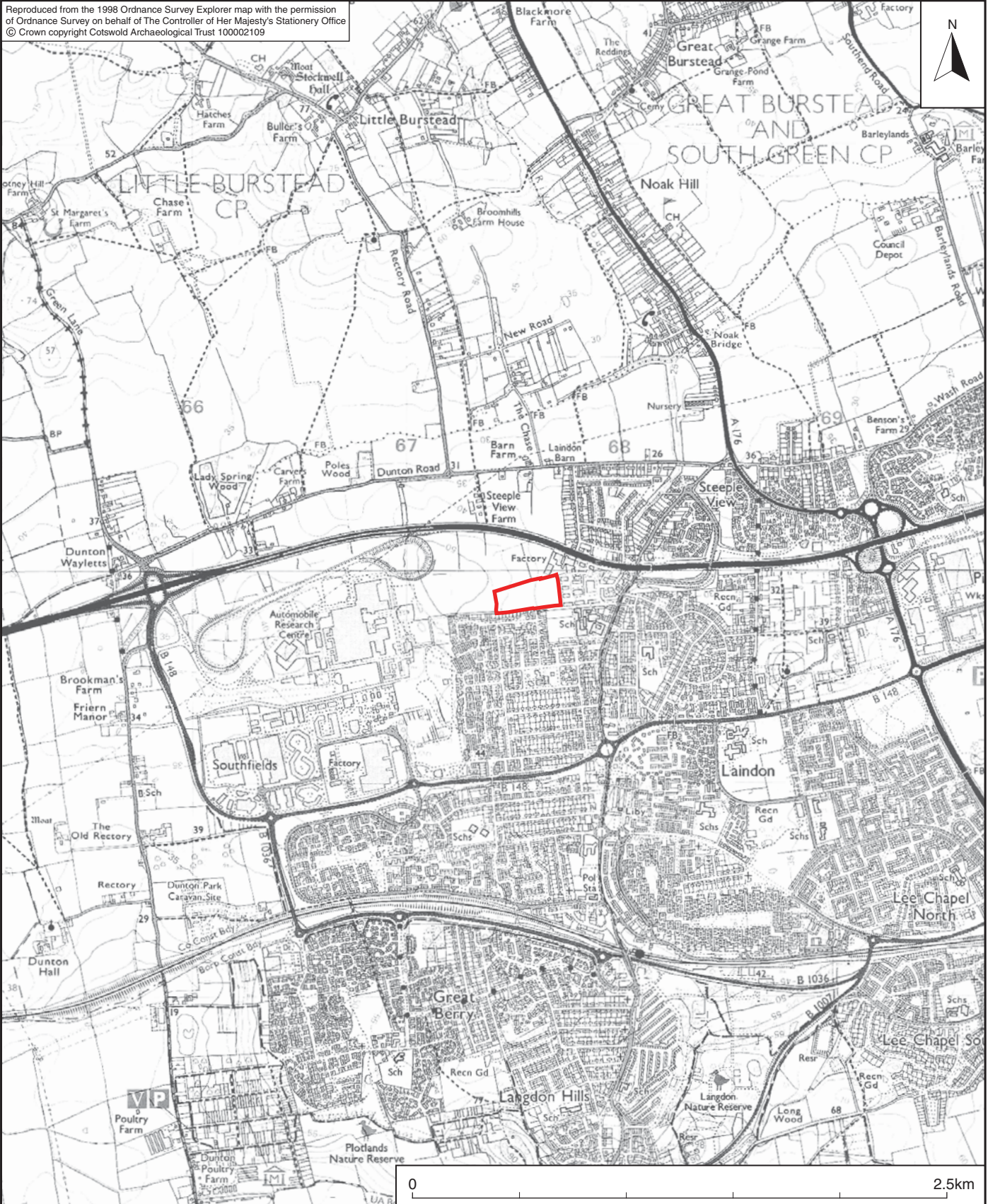
Trench 17


No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1700	Layer	Topsoil			0-0.24	
1701	Layer	Pale yellowish brown silty clay with much fine gravel. Natural			0.24-0.7	
1702	Layer	Yellowish brown stone free clay. Natural.			>0.7	

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Name	Archers Field, Laindon, Essex
Short description (250 words maximum)	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in July 2010 at the request of Bellway Homes. Seventeen trenches were excavated at Archers Field, Laindon, Essex. No archaeological features, deposits nor artefacts were present. Evidence that the site had been landscaped prior to previous use as a playing field was observed throughout the western extent of the development area.
Project dates	19 - 23 July 2010
Project type	Field evaluation.
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Desk Based Assessment - CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2009 <i>Land at Radford Park, Laindon, Essex: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment</i> , CA typescript report No. 09120
Future work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Archers Field, Cromer Road, Laindon, Essex
Study area (M ² /ha)	3.9ha
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TQ 6755 8988
PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Brief originator	None
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology
Project Manager	Cliff Bateman
Project Supervisor	Jamie Wright
MONUMENT TYPE	
None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	
None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	
Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content
Awaiting suitable recipient. Archive temporarily held at CA, Kemble	
Physical	Two films black and white negatives and contact prints
Paper	Eighteen Trench Record sheets, four Photographic Registers
Digital	Survey data and digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY	
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2010 <i>Archers Field, Laindon, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 10127	

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE Archers Field, Laindon Essex			
FIGURE TITLE Site location plan			
DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:25,000@A4	3119	1



▭ site
▭ evaluation trench




COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE
 Archers Field, Laindon, Essex

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan

DRAWN BY	SCALE	PROJECT NO.	FIGURE NO.
PJM	1:12500@A3	3119	2