

**An archaeological evaluation
by trial-trenching on land adjacent to All Saints
Church, Shalford Road, Rayne, Essex
September 2011**



**report prepared by
Adam Wightman**

**on behalf of
Rayne Parish Council**

CAT project ref.: 11/9f
NGR: TL 573350 222923
ECC project code: RAAS11
Braintree Museum accession code: PENDING



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EHER summary sheet

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1 Summary

An evaluation by two trial-trenches has revealed an absence of archaeologically significant features or remains on the site of a proposed graveyard extension to the east of the churchyard at All Saints Church, Rayne, Essex.

Peg-tile fragments present in the ploughsoil were the only find potentially associated with the medieval/post-medieval manorial complex located to the north-west.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Rayne Parish Council on land adjacent to All Saints Church, Shalford Road, Rayne, Essex (Fig 1).
- 2.3 A pre-planning application (BTE/PAM/60146/11) for the construction of a graveyard extension to the rear of All Saints Church and churchyard (TL 73350 22923) was submitted to Braintree District Council in 2011.
- 2.4 Given the proximity of the evaluation site to a moated church-and-hall complex (EHER 6515-9 and 18266-7) with its origins in the medieval period, the Historic Environment Management (HEM) team of Essex County Council advised that an archaeological evaluation be completed.
- 2.5 A brief detailing the required archaeological work was written by the HEM officer Maria Medlycott (HEM 2011). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT in response to the HEM team brief and agreed with the HEM team (CAT 2011).
- 2.6 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 1999, updated 2008). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). Other sources used are *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential for medieval and post-medieval remains. Rayne Hall and All Saints Church comprise a moated church-and-hall complex (EHER 6515-9 and 18266-7). Such complexes usually have their origins in the early medieval period. Rayne Hall was re-modelled in the late medieval period and the church was largely rebuilt in the 19th century. Rayne is first mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon will of AD 995, and it is possible that this early settlement was concentrated around the church and hall.

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits prior to a full planning application being submitted. This information would then enable an informed decision to be taken on the preservation or otherwise of any deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation.

5 Results (Figs 1-2, Plates 1-3)

Two trenches were excavated through cultivated soil using a tracked excavator under archaeological supervision (Plates 1-2). T1 was excavated lengthways along the site (50m long) and T2 was excavated across the width of the site (10m long) (Fig 2). The trenches were the width of a single machine bucket.



Plate 1: Trench 1, view north-west. Plate 2: Trench 2, view south-west.

The ploughsoil was a dark grey/brown clayey-silt 300mm-340mm thick with rare flint gravel (L1; Fig 3). A small quantity of finds was recovered from the ploughsoil L1. This consists of medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), a later prehistoric worked flint, animal bone and two pieces of post-medieval/modern agricultural metalwork (Table 1). The soil had been cultivated down to the natural orange/brown clay with flint gravel (L2) beneath. Plough scars in the natural clay containing compacted ploughsoil provided further evidence that deep ploughing had occurred on the site. The ploughsoil was of an even depth throughout T1 but undulations in the natural clay had resulted in deeper areas of ploughsoil in T2 (Plate 2). When investigated, these were found to be shallow and contained finds such as clinker and peg-tile fragments which were frequently occurring in the ploughsoil. It is possible that these undulations in the natural were the result of modern agricultural scarring. No archaeological features were identified in either trench.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Table 1; Spot dated list of finds by context

trench	ctxt (F/L) no.	finds no	finds
T1	L1	1	CBM post-Roman: peg-tile 5@283 g, more than one tile, red/orange sandy fabric, most 12 mm thick, one 11 mm thick (dated medieval - post-medieval/modern) Animal bone large mammal tooth, cow molar Other Penannular iron ring (45 g), diameter 65 mm, gap between ends 5 mm, metal forming ring 5 mm diameter and slightly flattened in cross-section, ends tapering, slightly corroded, appears to be hand forged (dated post-medieval-modern)
T1	L1	2	Cu alloy Small fragment of Cu alloy plate with rivet holes, probably agricultural 1@ 4g (dated modern)
T2	L1	3	CBM undated, 1@25 g, flake from a brick or tile in fine (silty) orange fabric, slightly abraded; post-Roman: peg-tile 1@60 g, red sandy fabric, 12 mm thick (dated medieval - post-medieval/modern) Worked flint Flake, 1@15g, hard hammer struck, prepared striking platform, cortex on base of flake, previous flake removal scars on dorsal face, retouch on one edge and retouch/use wear or damage on the other edge which is slightly concave, dark flint, no patination (dated Neolithic-Early Bronze Age)

All finds with the exception of the worked flint have been discarded.

7 Conclusion

The absence of archaeological features in the two evaluation trenches indicates that there is little or nothing of archaeological significance on the evaluation site.

The medieval/post-medieval CBM fragments in the ploughsoil could be from the demolition of ancillary buildings which is documented to have occurred at the Rayne Hall complex c.50m to the north-west. The worked flint suggests some activity in the vicinity during the later prehistoric period.

8 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum (accession code pending).

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Rayne Parish Council, for commissioning and funding this project. Site work was undertaken by Adam Wightman & Chris Lister. The project was monitored by Maria Medlycott of the ECC HEM team for Essex County Council.

10 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

CAT	1999, revised 2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT	2011	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and potential excavation on land adjacent to All Saints Church, Shalford Road, Rayne, Essex, by A Wightman</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney</i>
HEM	2011	<i>Archaeological investigation: Land adjacent to All Saints Church, Shalford Road, Rayne, by M Medlycott</i>
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

11 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
Context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
Feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HEM	Historic Environment Management
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD 1200 and continued to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century
prehistoric	pre-Roman

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date: 26-10-2011

12 Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by the ECC HEM team
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 A4 sketch plan of proposed graveyard extension provided by the client
- 1.5 EHER and OS benchmark information

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photographic record
- 2.2 Context sheets (L1-L2)
- 2.3 Attendance register
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.6 1 A4 sheet with three representative section drawings

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report



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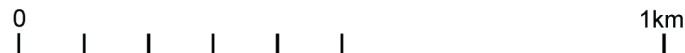


Fig 1 Site location, marked by a red dot.

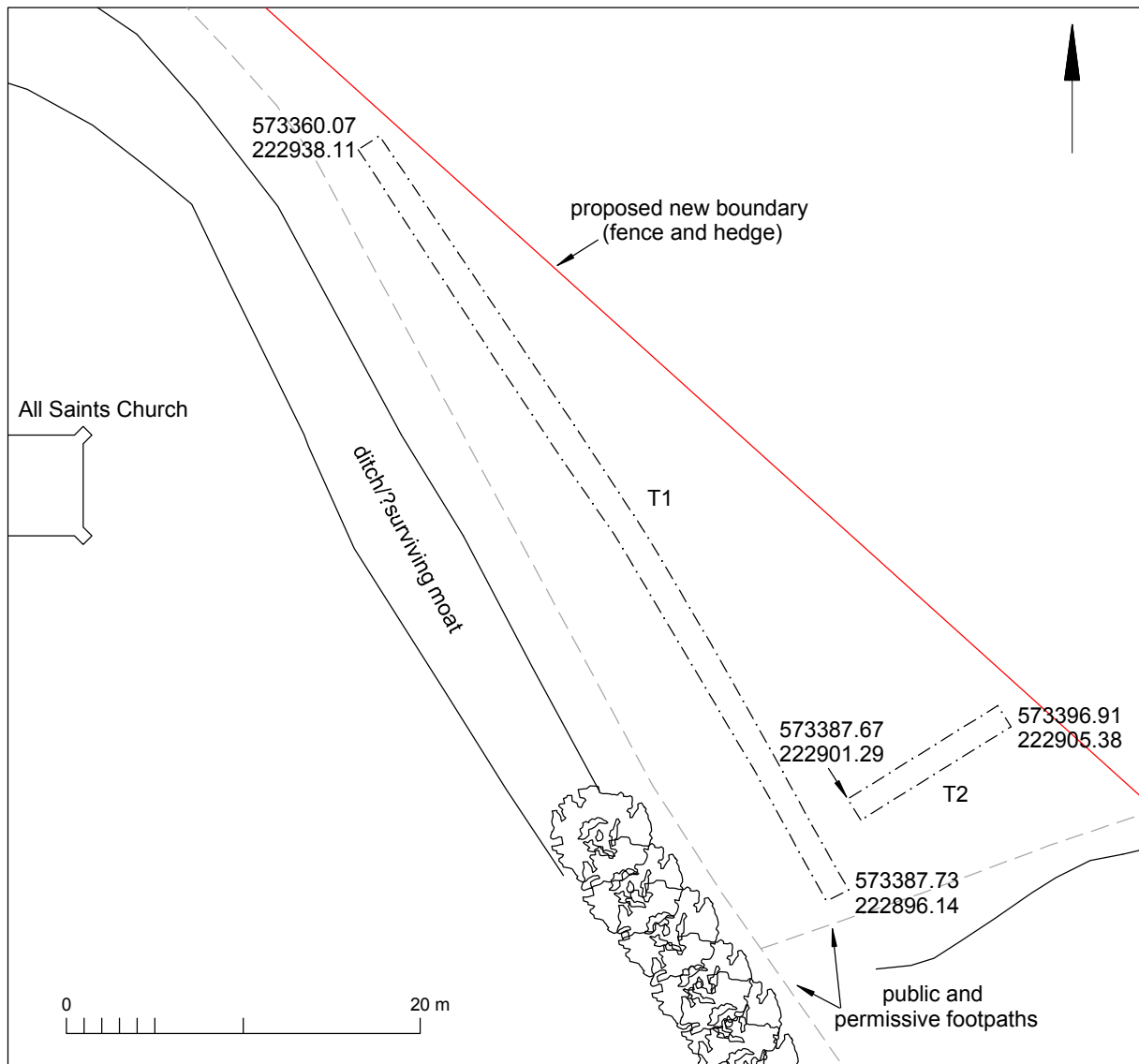


Fig 2 Site plan.

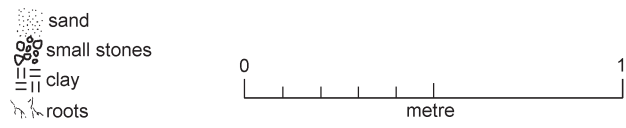
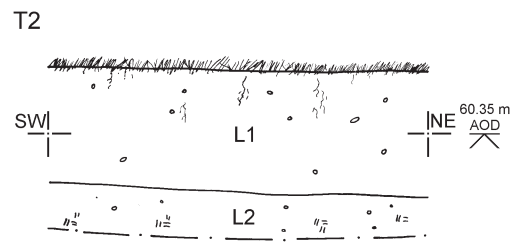
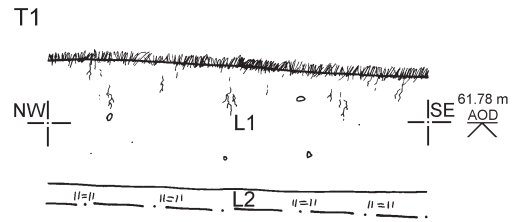


Fig 3 T1-2: representative sections.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Address: Land adjacent to All Saints Church, Rayne, Essex	
Parish: Rayne	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 73350 22923	Site codes: CAT project – 11/9f ECC – RAAS11 Museum accession – Pending
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: October 10th 2011	Size of area investigated: c.1100m ²
Location of curating museum: Braintree Museum	Funding source: Rayne parish Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 6515-9 and 18266-7
Final report:	CAT Report 617
Periods represented:	<i>medieval/post-medieval</i>
Summary: <i>An evaluation by two trial-trenches has revealed an absence of archaeologically significant features or remains on the site of a proposed graveyard extension to the east of the churchyard at All Saints Church, Rayne, Essex. Peg-tile fragments present in the ploughsoil were the only find potentially associated with the medieval/post-medieval manorial complex located to the north-west.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: <i>medieval/post-medieval</i>	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Adam Wightman	Date of summary: October 2011