

Archaeological Watching Brief at the south car park, South Weald Country Park, South Weald, Brentwood, Essex

September 2015



by Pip Parmenter, Ben Holloway and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Ben Holloway

on behalf of Mr Adrian Gascoyne,
Essex County Council Place Services

NRG: TQ 5732 9404 (centre)

CAT project ref.: 15/09b

ECC project code: SOWCP15

Chelmsford Museum Accession Code: CHMRE 2016.066

OASIS reference no.: colchest3-223080



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CAT Report 928

March 2016

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1 Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Weald Country Park, South Weald during the removal of existing car park and access road surfaces followed by ground reduction. Both surfaces sealed natural boulder clay and, despite being located within a registered park of special historic interest (NHLE no. 1000747) and close to a Late Iron Age univallate hillfort (NHLE no. 1013833), no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

2 Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief at the south carpark, Weald Country Park, South Weald, which was carried out 9th-11th September 2015. The work was commissioned by Adrian Gascoyne, Archaeological Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services, in advance of the removal of existing car park and access road surfaces followed by ground reduction, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Adrian Gascoyne advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this work, there should be a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

Weald Country Park is located to the west of Brentwood. At nearly 500 acres it is the largest of the Essex County Council Country Parks and is a grade II registered park of special historic interest (NHLE no. 1000747). Parkland has been established there for more than 700 years; the lakes, the tree-lined avenues, and large parkland trees the result of 18th century landscaping.

To the northeast of the development site and located partially inside the park (along the western boundary) is a univallate hillfort (NHLE no. 1013833) of Late Iron Age date. Two trial trenches excavated in 1990 revealed that the buried ditch is up to 1.4m deep and 3.4m wide, with pottery sherds dated to the 1st century BC/1st century AD (Medleycott, 1995). The medieval/post-medieval historic settlement of South Weald is also located close by (EHER 19297).

4 Results

The site was continually monitored while the building contractors were removing the car park and access road surfaces, and during subsequent ground reduction. Both surfaces were found to seal natural geological boulder clay and no significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 Stripping of road surface revealing natural



Photograph 2 Extent of ground reduction

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were observed.

6 Discussion

The surfaces of both the car park and access road were found to seal natural geological boulder clay. No significant archaeological horizons were encountered during the removal of these surfaces.

7 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Mr Adrian Gascoyne for commissioning the work. The project was managed and carried out by B Holloway. The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Adrian Gascoyne.

8 References

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

ClfA	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)
Medlycott, M et al	<i>South Weald camp - probable late Iron Age hill-fort; excavations 1990</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 928)

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code: CHMRE 2016.066.

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Distribution list

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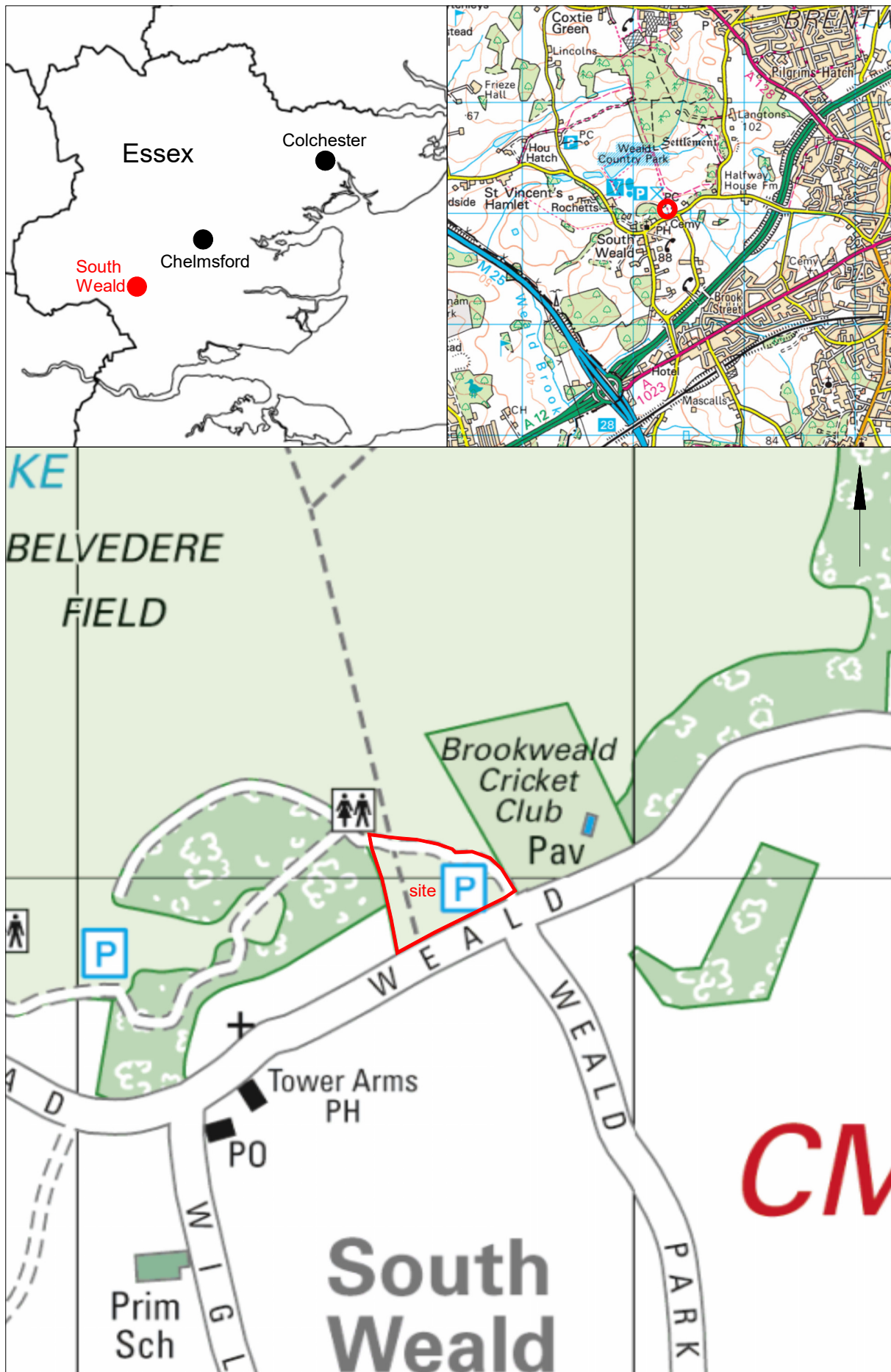


Fig 1 Site location.

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Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: south car park, South Weald Country Park, Weald Road, South Weald, Essex	
Parish: Brentwood	District: Brentwood
NGR: TQ 5732 9404	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/09b ECC project code: SOWCP15 OASIS ref: colchest3-223080
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 9th-11th September 2015	Size of area investigated:
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford museum accession code: CHMRE 2016.066	Funding source: Essex County Council
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 928	
Periods represented: -	
SS	Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Weald Country Park, South Weald during the removal of existing car park and access road surfaces followed by ground reduction. Both surfaces sealed natural boulder clay and, despite being located within a registered park of special historic interest (NHLE no. 1000747) and close to a Late Iron Age univallate hillfort (NHLE no. 1013833), no significant archaeological horizons were identified.</i>
Previous summaries/reports: None	
ECC monitor: Adrian Gascoyne	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: March 2016