

Archaeological evaluation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 6NN

January 2018



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on behalf of Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out in the garden of Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. An 18th- to early 19th-century brick floor was revealed, with a Victorian halfpenny showing that it had been covered in linoleum after 1900. The first edition OS map of 1874-5 shows a rectangular building in this location which is still present on OS maps in the 1940s.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching in the garden of Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex which was carried out on 11th January 2018. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Archaeological brief for trial trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, 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 field evaluation* (CifA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CifA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

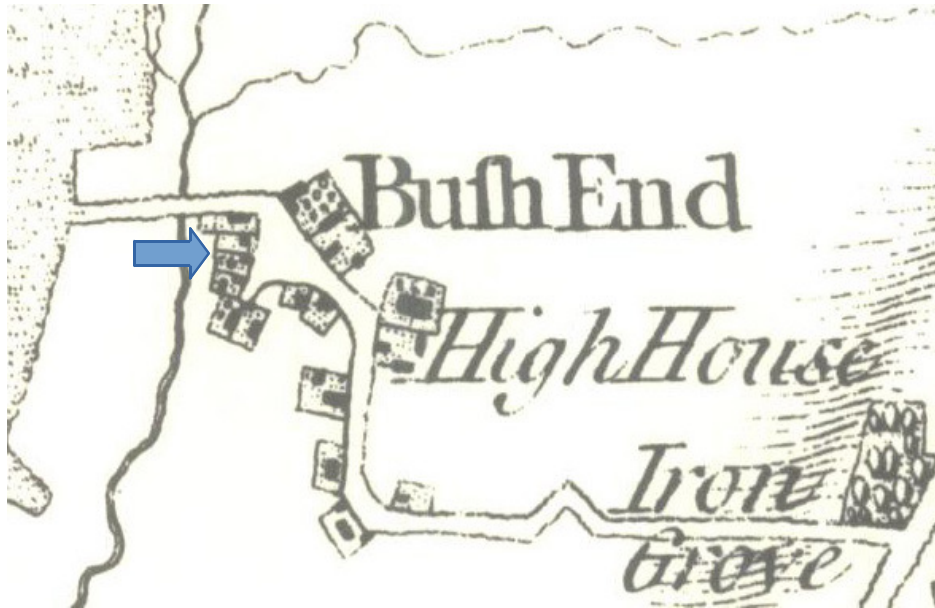
The EHER and cartographic evidence shows that the proposed development site lies in a highly sensitive area. The proposed new dwelling and landscaped grounds lie within an area formerly occupied by properties as identified on Chapman and André's map of 1777 (Map 1) and the first edition Ordnance Survey maps of the 1870s (Map 2). In particular, the remains of a rectangular building located on the 1874-5 OS map may be located in the evaluation trench (see Map 2). Any surviving below-ground remains associated with these properties may be impacted upon by the proposed development.

The historic settlement of Bush End was located on the very edge of Hatfield Forest, with the river acting as the boundary between the settlement of Bush End and the forest. The hamlet was in existence from at least the medieval period and may have had earlier origins. The presence of the group of properties identified on the early maps suggests that this may form the core of the historic settlement.

Historic England states that:

The existing house known as Wildwood incorporates an original timber-framed element at ground floor level which probably dates from the 17th century. It was one of several single-storey timber-framed cottages with

thatched roofs that formed the hamlet of Bush End. Substantial alterations were carried out to Wildwood in the 19th and 20th centuries; most recently in 1973 which have entirely changed the character of the building.



Map 1 Chapman and André's map of 1777 (site shown by blue arrow)



Map 2 First edition, 6-inch, OS map (ESSEX XXXIII), surveyed 1874-5, published 1881 (site and rectangular building shown by blue arrow).

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposits, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. Specific research aims were to 1) identify occupation of a medieval or post-medieval date associated with the development of Bush End, and 2) identify the date of the buildings and their function.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It measured 38m long by 1.8m wide and extended from the edge of the existing swimming pool to the end of the proposed house footprint. Two short sections of the trench were not excavated due to the presence of a service pipe and a tree stump.

Four layers were recorded. Modern imported topsoil (L1, c 0.13-0.17m thick) sealed a layer of modern levelling (L2, c 0.3m thick), probably associated with the 1970s redevelopment of the site. Beneath L2 was a thick layer of buried post-medieval/modern topsoil (L3, c 0.37m thick) sealing natural clay (c 0.83m below current ground level).

Post-medieval brick floor F1 was uncovered and recorded. It measured 3.2m along the trench and was made from large unfrosted bricks of c 18th- to early 19th-century date, set out in a running bond pattern. Fragments of degraded linoleum flooring were found adhering to the brick floor, and a Victorian halfpenny of 1900 was recovered underneath one of these pieces of lino.



Photograph 1 Brick floor F1, looking N

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Two bulk finds were recovered. One is a piece of medieval pottery from L3, dated as c 14th to 15th century, and the other a modern brick from F1, of 18th- to early 19th-century date.

Medieval pot sherd, L3 (3): The top (upper-part of handle and rim section just above it) from a medieval jug. The handle is plain and oval in section. This pot is in a sandy-orange coloured fabric, which has a grey core where the fabric thickens, and can be described as Fabric 21, medieval sandy orange wares (see Cunningham 1985). There are traces of an abraded, moderately thickly applied, white (cream) slip on the handle top and across the rim top extending into the upper neck interior. The fabric lacks the prominent white quartz sand inclusions of Colchester-type ware (CAR 7, 108) and the fine mica typical of Hedingham oxidised ware (while not common, white slip coating/painting is occasional found on Hedingham ware jugs (Walker 2012, 44)). The sandy fabric appears consistent with that described for medieval Harlow products (Walker 2004, Fabric 21D) but there is no mica, the faint micaceous effect being produced by refraction in clear quartz sand. The sherd is not easily dated, but the nature of the pot and the applied slip suggests a late medieval date, c 14th to 15th century.

Modern brick, F1 (2): Complete modern red brick. The brick, which is not frogged, is 230mm long by 110mm wide and 60mm thick, with a weight of 2934g (just under 6.5 pounds). The orange-red sandy fabric contains occasional/common small flint stones. There are patches of yellow-buff sandy lime based mortar on some surfaces. The dimensions and nature of the brick are appropriate for bricks of c 18th- to early 19th-century date (Ryan 1996).

A Victorian halfpenny of 1900 was also found between brick floor F1 and the linoleum floor that covered it. It measured 25mm diameter and 5.4g. The obverse (bust of Victoria) is completely obscured, the reverse is worn but part of Britannia and the date (1900) is still visible.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation uncovered a brick floor datable by its bricks to the 18th- or early 19th-century. It is likely that this is part of the rectangular building seen on the 1874-5 OS map (see Map 2 and Fig 2). At some point after 1900, we know that linoleum was laid over the brick floor and the building is still present on OS maps until at least the 1940s.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Tuffey. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

9 References

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

Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 6NN</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>

ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Cunningham, C	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C & Drury, P, <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report 54
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Archaeological brief for trial trenching and excavation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broak Oak</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011a	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex</i> , Appendix 1 Typology and system for describing bricks, 91-96
Walker, H	2004	'Medieval pottery' in Havis, R & Brooks, H, <i>Excavations at Stanstead Airport, 1986-91, Volume 2: Saxon, medieval and post-medieval</i> . East Anglian Archaeology 107 (EAA 107)
Walker, H	2012	<i>Heddingham ware, a medieval pottery industry in North Essex; its production and distribution</i> . East Anglian Archaeology 148 (EAA 148)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1216)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

12 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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2018.4.

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Distribution list:

Mr and Mrs J and F Brittenden
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

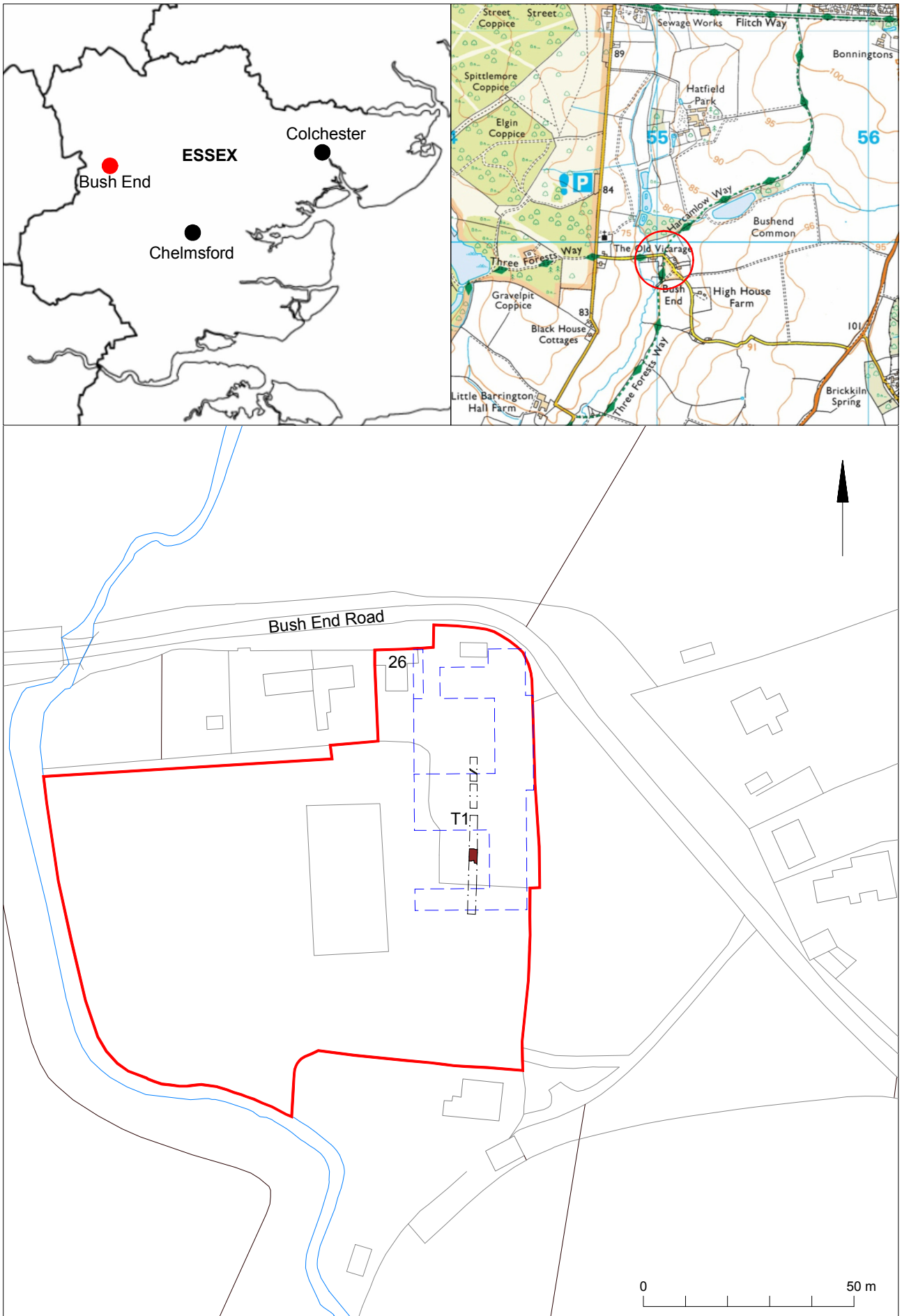
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 1.2.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Finds number	Context type	Description	Date
F1	1, 2	Brick floor	Unbonded brick floor with unfrogged bricks 23cm x 11cm x 6cm.	18th to early 19th century
L1	-	Imported topsoil	Soft, medium grey/brown silty-clay with <5% gravel and <5% stone piece inclusions	Modern
L2	-	Levelling	Friable, dry, medium grey/brown clayey-silt with <4% charcoal, <10% brick and <10% tile fleck inclusions and >10% stone and 10% tile/brick piece inclusions	Modern
L3	3	Buried topsoil and levelling	Friable dark brown clayey-silt with >10% charcoal, <4% brick and <4% tile fleck inclusions and <5% gravel and <5% stone piece inclusions	Post-medieval / modern
L4	-	Natural	Firm, dry/moist grey/brown clayey-silt with <4% stone piece inclusions	Post-glacial



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

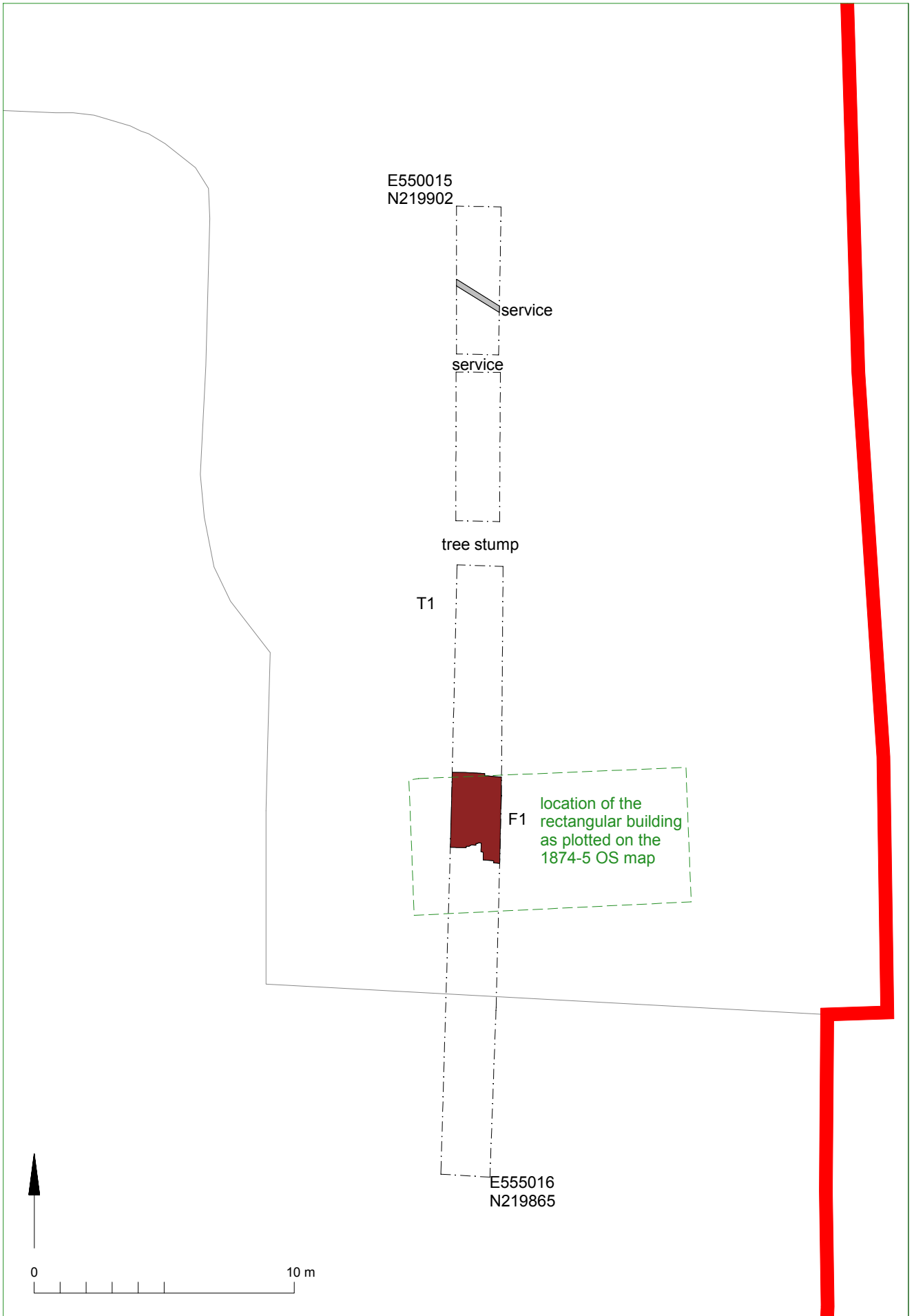


Fig 2 Results

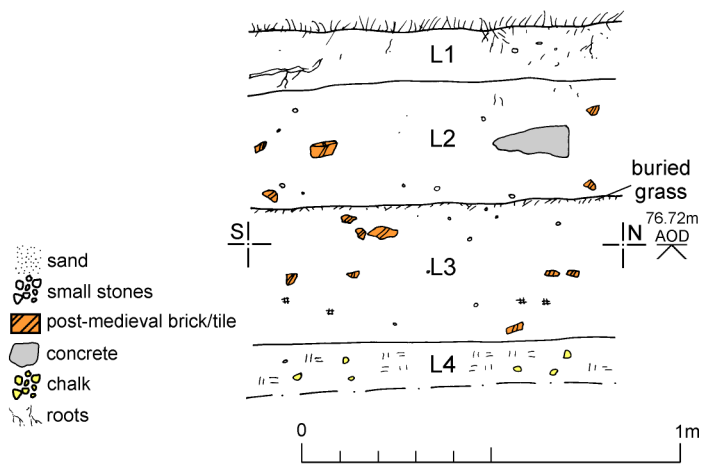


Fig 3 Representative section.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-302506

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 6NN
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out in the garden of Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak in advance of the construction of a replacement dwelling. An 18th- to early 19th-century brick floor was revealed, with a Victorian halfpenny showing that it had been covered in linoleum after 1900. The first edition OS map of 1874-5 shows a rectangular building in this location which is still present on OS maps in the 1940s.
Project dates	Start: 11-01-2018 End: 11-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/11m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/17/0546/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	HGOBE17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2018.4 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	BRICK FLOOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD HATFIELD BROAD OAK Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Bush End
Postcode	CM22 6NN
Study area	0.91 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 55008 19885 51.85552382772 0.251045386542 51 51 19 N 000 15 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 76.48m Max: 76.48m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	requested
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"; "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	requested
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"; "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"; "Miscellaneous Material"; "Photograph"; "Plan"; "Report"; "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Wildwood, 26 Bush End Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 6NN: January 2018
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