

Appendix 1: Archaeological Background and Research Aims and Design (Murray 2019).

Archaeological Background

1.1 The site lies to the south of Quicksie Hill on the eastern side of Wendens Road in Arkesden. It comprises a sub-rectangular field extending overall to some 1.4ha. It is proposed to erect 3 new detached dwellings with associated access on the site. A condition of planning appeal approval requires a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, close by to the north of the medieval parish church of St Mary (EHER 3573) with its associated shrunken medieval village (EHER 3939), which formed the historic core of the medieval settlement. In addition, the remains of a probable motte and bailey castle, identified by cropmarks on aerial photographs, lies to the immediate east of the proposed development site at Plash Wood (EHER 18361).

Research Aims and Design

1.3 Research issues for the region are suggested in Glazebrook (1997), Brown & Glazebrook (2000), Medlycott & Brown (2008) and Medlycott (2011). Site specific aims are to identify any evidence of the medieval/post-medieval settlement core of Arkesden (and any evidence of the nearby probable motte and bailey castle and church/hall complex).

1.4 Wade (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 23-26) identifies research topics for the rural landscape in the Saxon and medieval periods. These include examination of population during this period (distribution and density, as well as physical structure), settlement (characterisation of form and function, creation and testing of settlement diversity models), specialisation and surplus agricultural production, assessment of craft production, detailed study of changes in land use and the impact of colonists (such as Saxons, Danes and Normans) as well as the impact of the major institutions such as the Church.

1.5 Medlycott (2011, 57) states that the study of the Anglo-Saxon period still requires further cooperation between historians and archaeologists. Important research issues for this period comprise: the Roman/Anglo-Saxon transitional period; settlement distribution, which suffers from problems associated with the identification of Saxon settlement sites; population modelling and demographics, which has the potential to be advanced by modern scientific methods; differences within the region in terms of settlement type and economic practice and subjects related to this such as links with the continent, trading practices and cultural influences; rural landscapes and settlements, including detailed study of the changes and developments in such settlements over time and the influence of Saxon landscape organisation and settlements on these issues in the medieval period; towns and their relationships with their hinterland; infrastructure, including river management, the identification of ports and harbours and the role of existing infrastructure in shaping the Saxon period landscape; the economy, based on palaeoenvironmental studies; ritual and religion; the effect of the Danish occupation; and artefact studies (Medlycott 2011, 57-59).

1.6 The issues identified by Ayers (in Brown & Glazebrook, 2000) and Wade (in Brown & Glazebrook, 2000) remain valid research subjects (Medlycott 2011, 70) for the medieval period. The study of landscapes is dominated by issues such as water management and land reclamation for large parts of the region, the economic development of the landscape and the region's potential to reveal information regarding field systems, enclosures, roads and trackways. Linked to the study of the landscape are research issues such as the built environment and infrastructure; the main

communication routes through the region need to be identified and synthesis needs to be carried out regarding the significance, economic and social importance of historic buildings in the region (Medlycott 2011, 70-71). Also considered to be important research subjects for the medieval period are rural settlements, towns, industry and the production and processing of food and demographic studies (Medlycott 2011, 70-71).

1.7 The specific aim of the trial trenching is to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The project will aim in particular to identify:

- Any occupation evidence associated with the medieval settlement and evidence of the development/growth of the settlement;
- Any evidence relating to earlier occupation of the site;
- Any evidence of occupation relating to nearby cropmark sites (EHER 3939 and EHER 18361).

Appendix 2: Summary of the Trial-Trench Evaluation Results (Short and Bingham 2019)

2.1 The earliest artefacts recovered during the evaluation were residual flakes of struck flint in a heavily patinated (weathered) condition, but indicative of the blade-based technology of the early Neolithic.

2.2 Each trench contained at least one archaeological feature and the number of features increased from the north to the southern sector of the site: Trench 1 (1); Trench 2 (5); Trench 3 (9); Trench 4 (15) and Trench 5 (14). An equal number of discrettes (pits and post holes) were present compared to linears (ditches and gullies). The ditches do not correspond to any boundaries on historic cartographic sources but are generally either broadly parallel or perpendicular to Wenden Road (NW/SE or NE/SW). The latter may be an extension of a medieval road or trackway leading to, and beyond, the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, thus the ditches may represent a system of planned enclosures relating to agriculture or settlement. The dated features were consistently medieval (11th – 12th, late 11th – early 13th; and mid 12th – early 13th century), and were present in Trenches 3, 4 and 5. The features generally contained 1 – 5 sherds but a larger assemblage (21 sherds) was contained with Ditch F1069 (Trench 3).

2.3 The medieval pottery is dominated by St Neots ware including jars and hammerhead bowls. The ware is associated with small quantities of local coarse ware, and notably in Ditch F1069 sherds from a white ware jug with a yellow-green glaze, potentially a French import or regionally-traded vessel. The pottery supports the presence of substantial occupation and consumption in the close vicinity. The medieval deposits also include modest groups of butchered animal bone, predominantly cattle, but also notably goat and potentially hunted wild boar. Small quantities of daub, shell and iron nails are present, and a background scatter of carbonised crops associated with a medieval rural economy. This deposition is likely associated with, if not part of, a deserted medieval village (HER 3939) that was situated to the north-east of Church of St. Mary the Virgin (HER 3947). It appears to have extended towards the site, though early cartographic sources suggest it did not remain extant and had become fields by the mid 16th century (Balijkas 2018).

Appendix 3: Project and Reporting Stages Specified within the WSI (Murray 2020).

3.1 As required by ECC the programme of work will include the following stages:

- Site strip under close archaeological supervision
- Mapping of revealed archaeological features
- Review with ECC
- Mitigation by a programme of archaeological excavation and recording

- Assessment
- Post-excavation and publication, as appropriate to the results of the project

3.2 All of the above stages and operations will be carried out in accordance with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015).

3.1 This specification includes provision for the post-excavation assessment, analysis and final publication of the project results, to the requirements and timescales set out by the ECC HEA, and to be agreed with the ECC HEA following the results of the excavation and assessment. An interim report will be prepared immediately on conclusion of the site works, followed by a Post-Excavation Assessment (PXA). This will follow the guidelines and format outlined in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), and the *Draft Post-Excavation Assessments: Notes on a New Guidance Document* (East Anglian Archaeology 2012).

3.2 The PXA will present a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological significance and value of the results and identify the research potential, using the *East Anglian Archaeological Research Frameworks*. It will present an Updated Project Design with a timetable for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

3.3 Provision for full publication of the project results will be made in the appropriate county journal or the relevant national period-specific journal, depending on the results of the project.

Appendix 4: Summary of the Excavation Findings (Lloyd-Smith 2021).

4.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP was commissioned by the client, Freshwater Estates Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation at land south of Quicksie Hill, Wenden Road, Arkesden, Essex centred at National Grid Reference TL 48300 34740. The excavation was required as a condition of planning consent. The work was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation produced in response to a brief prepared by Richard Havis acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Essex County Council.

4.2 The archaeological work was undertaken between the 26th October and the 9th December 2021, and revealed three phases of finds and activity: prehistoric, Romano-British, and early medieval (10th-12th century). Two undated unurned cremations probably date to the prehistoric period, and a small assemblage of residual struck flint likely represents small scale, episodic occupation/utilisation of the area at times during this period. Three features containing solely struck flint are interpreted as probably prehistoric tree throws which incorporated surface scatter material. A small assemblage of residual Roman pottery and tegula tile likely derived from occupation close to the site, but no features could confidently be assigned to this period. The remaining features are interpreted as early medieval (late 10th to the latter half of the 12th century), the majority of which could be assigned to one of four sub-phases each spanning approximately half a century.

4.3 Phase 3.1 (later 10th century) comprised a domestic enclosure with a rectangular building and an out-building; to the south lay a sub-divided enclosure interpreted as a paddock/holding pens for livestock.

4.4 In Phase 3.2 (early 11th century) the existing building was replaced with a structure of similar size and design, though its larger post-settings suggest a more 'substantial' building which possibly was enlarged to the southeast during its lifetime. The earlier Phase 3.1 outbuilding appears to have continued in use into Phase 3.2, before being replaced with a separate post-trench likely representing the foundation for some sort of structure/support for processing agricultural/animal produce (e.g. for

a hayrick). The land surrounding the Phase 3.2 building was divided into sub-square enclosures separated by possible trackways.

4.5 Phase 3.3 (later 11th century) witnessed the dismantling of elements of the Phase 3.2 building and post-trench structure, followed by the recutting and enlargement of the main enclosure ditches, and opening-up the area into a series of larger rectangular parcels of land. The footprint of the Phase 3.2 building was also cut through by two short ditches, possibly to create strip fields; there is no evidence for occupation at or near the site during Phase 3.3. The large Phase 3.3 enclosure ditches align with cropmarks surrounding the significant early medieval 'motte and baily' ringwork of Plash Wood located c.200m to the east, suggesting largescale re-modelling of the landscape in the later 11th century.

4.6 In Phase 3.4 (early-later 12th century) a series of large pits were dug along the western edge of the site and infilled with domestic waste derived from relatively high-status consumption including numerous bird species. Found also in these waste pits was a worked bone 'buzzbone' and motif-engraved bone. The waste pits appear to have been associated with 12th century occupation just to the west of the excavated area, fronting Wenden Road. After the 12th century, no later archaeological material was found nor stratigraphically later features, and the site appears to have remained pasture/agricultural land until the present.

Appendix 5: Correspondence from the Archaeological Curator following Review of the RAR (Anonymous 2021).

5.1 Dear [REDACTED],

5.2 Many thanks to all those who contributed to this site and report. It is truly a fascinating site and the report has given some real insight into the phasing as well as its position within the landscape. I also thought it was fantastic that many of the questions raised by the excavation were brought together, reasoned and answered from the wide range of evidence from the finds and samples.

5.3 I have a few very small amendments. Firstly, it would be super to have zoomed in phased plan figures, one for each of the post holed buildings (only two extra figures in total). This is just for ease when reading as it is useful when looking at the potential doorways etc in the discussion to have the numbers on phased plan (coloured). Secondly on Figure 15 the EHER number should be 18361 not 13861 and on page 55 Phase 2.2 is referenced when I think it should probably be 3.2.

5.4 Otherwise reads very well and no other comments. Would like to say however in regards to your email that this site is particularly rare for this area of Essex and has contributed significantly to the understanding of archaeology in this area. It would therefore be expected that a full article in Essex Arch and Hist would be undertaken.

5.5 All the best and please let me know if there are any issues,

5.6 [REDACTED], BA MA MCIfA, Historic Environment Consultant