

You are here: [Home](#) > [Gateway Results](#) > [Essex HER Results](#) > Essex HER Result

< Back to Essex HER Results
<< Back to Gateway results
Refine your search
Start new search
Help and FAQs
Cookies

Essex HER



Name: West Horndon - Old Thorndon Hall, 'Pigeon Mound'
SMR Number: 1854
Type of record: Monument
Grid Reference: TQ 622 897
Map Sheet: TQ68NW
Parish: HERONGATE AND INGRAVE, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX

Summary

Pigeon Mound, mound, 200yds west of Old Hall site, c100ft in diameter, 12ft high.

Full description

'Pigeon Mound', mound, 200yds west of Old Hall site, c100ft in diameter, 12ft high. <1> In good condition in 1953, purpose unknown. <2> <3> 'On the basis of the Walker map, Pigeon Mound would seem to be a post-1598 feature of landscape gardening'. <4> <5> <6>

A contour survey undertaken by ECC; FAG in April 1995 in a defined area of Thorndon Country Park included the site of the earthen mound known as Pigeon Mound. <7>

Following the survey a programme of trial trenching was undertaken. A sub-surface structure had been identified on the summit of Pigeon Mound by a resistivity survey, carried out in 1994 by Peter Cott. Three trenches were investigated; all three contained the structural remains of an octagonal brick building, 6.5m from wall to wall. This is interpreted as being either an ornate dovecote or a garden feature, constructed in the early 17th century and subsequently renovated in the early 18th century and demolished sometime after 1763. <8> A resistivity survey undertaken in 1994 showed that there was probably a square structure in the centre on top of the mound, with no significant other features. <9> The Pigeon Mound is associated with the landscaping scheme of the 8th Lord Petre carried out between 1733 and his premature death in 1742. It is an isolated element of the abandoned formal pleasure gardens surrounding Old Thorndon Hall. The Mound appears to have been situated on the central axis of the geometrically arranged Elizabethan orchard.<10> However, an illustration of 1669 shows the existence of the Pigeon Mound with dovecote so it was not constructed from the rubble of West Horndon Church.<11> overgrown with scrub and undergrowth. The preservation of the mound would be improved by clearance of scrub growth and the encouragement of a covering of permanent grass enabling the mound to be returned to its original purpose as a prospect mound. This should only be undertaken with appropriate monitoring and managing of access and any subsequent increased erosion. Depending how visitor use increases, it may be necessary to find a way of controlling access and/or erosion by protecting the mound or encouraging particular routes across the mound along which erosion prevention measures can be formed. Any such scheme should be discussed with the archaeology section to ensure that the feature is to suffer no damage. <12>

The site lies to the south of the present limit of Thorndon south county park and was until recently in an area of arable cultivation. Now that the extent of the site has been clearly defined by field walking it is important that the nature and archaeological potential of the site should be evaluated. In the mean time it should be taken out of arable cultivation and the area allowed to form permanent grassland. This will create ideal conditions for the preservation of any surviving archaeological remains.<13>

<1> RCHME, 1923, *An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex - Volume 4, Vol 4, p167* (DESC TEXT). SEX356.

<2> Ordnance Survey, unknown, *OS cards, TQ68NW01, 1953* (RECORD SHEET/FORM). SEX52658.

<3> unknown, 1960 Onwards, *SMR form unknown* (DESC TEXT). SEX4.

<4> Buckley, DG in Couchman, CR, 1976, *Work Undertaken by Essex County Council Archaeology Section, 1974-76, Vol 8, pp181-182* (DESC TEXT). SEX4142.

- <5> Walker, J, 1598, *Old Thorndon Hall* (Map). SEX6708.
- <6> Buckley, DG, 1975, *Old Thorndon Hall* (MENTION). SEX6709.
- <7> Garwood, Adam, 1995, *The Pigeon Mount, Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood, Essex* (EXCAV REPORT). SEX58640.
- <8> Peet, I, 1995, *The Pigeon Mount, Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood, Essex, Archaeological Evaluation* (DESC TEXT). SEX58641.
- <9> Cott, Peter J, 1994, *The Pigeon Mount, Thorndon Country Park: A resistivity survey, 1994* (DESC TEXT). SEX54123.
- <10> Collis, C, 1994, *Pigeon Mount, 1994* (DESC TEXT). SEX54124.
- <11> Rigby, R, 1994, *Old Thorndon Pastures, 1994* (DESC TEXT). SEX54125.
- <12> Austin, Louise, 1994, *County Parks Archaeological Survey - Thorndon Park* (DESC TEXT). SEX61273.
- <13> Austin, Louise, 1994, *County Parks Archaeological Survey - Thorndon Park* (DESC TEXT). SEX61273.
- <14> Peet, I, 1995, *Old Thorndon Pastures, Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood, Essex* (DESC TEXT). SEX58638.
- <15> Saunders, Helen, 2004, *CP/04/01/01-01/05, 5 overall* (AP). SEX65426.

Monument Types

- LANDSCAPE PARK (Post Medieval - 1540 AD to 1900 AD)

Associated Events

- Cott, P J (Ref: ?)
- FIELD SURVEY by Buckley, DG, 1975 (Ref: ?)

Protected Status

- Conservation Area: Thorndon Park
- Historic Environment Character Area: Thames Gateway 113

Sources and further reading

- <1> DESC TEXT: RCHME. 1923. An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex - Volume 4. Vol 4, p167.
- <2> RECORD SHEET/FORM: Ordnance Survey. unknown. OS cards. TQ68NW01, 1953.
- <3> DESC TEXT: unknown. 1960 Onwards. SMR form unknown.
- <4> DESC TEXT: Buckley, DG in Couchman, CR. 1976. Work Undertaken by Essex County Council Archaeology Section, 1974-76. Vol 8, pp181-182.
- <5> Map: Walker, J. 1598. Old Thorndon Hall.
- <6> MENTION: Buckley, DG. 1975. Old Thorndon Hall.
- <7> EXCAV REPORT: Garwood, Adam. 1995. The Pigeon Mount, Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood, Essex.
- <8> DESC TEXT: Peet, I. 1995. The Pigeon Mount, Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood, Essex, Archaeological Evaluation.
- <9> DESC TEXT: Cott, Peter J. 1994. The Pigeon Mount, Thorndon Country Park: A resistivity survey. 1994.
- <10> DESC TEXT: Collis, C. 1994. Pigeon Mount. 1994.
- <11> DESC TEXT: Rigby, R. 1994. Old Thorndon Pastures. 1994.
- <12> DESC TEXT: Austin, Louise. 1994. County Parks Archaeological Survey - Thorndon Park.
- <13> DESC TEXT: Austin, Louise. 1994. County Parks Archaeological Survey - Thorndon Park.
- <14> DESC TEXT: Peet, I. 1995. Old Thorndon Pastures, Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood, Essex.
- <15> AP: Saunders, Helen. 2004. CP/04/01/01-01/05. 5 overall.

Related records

- [1853](#) Part of: East of site of St Nicholas's Church, West Horndon (Find Spot)
- [1850](#) Part of: Old Thorndon Hall, West Horndon (Monument)
- [1851](#) Part of: Site of St Nicholas's Church, West Horndon (Monument)
- [1852](#) Part of: Site of St Nicholas's Church, West Horndon (Monument)

Images



West Horndon - Old Thorndon Hall © Essex County Council



No image description available © Essex County Council



No image description available © Essex County Council

Search results generated by the HBSMR Gateway from [exeGesIS SDM Ltd.](#)

[Contact Resource Provider](#)

