

AN INFORMAL FIELDWALK AT MARYGOLDS, MARKS HALL ESTATE, COGGESHALL, 2014

LOCATION

Field immediately to the west of Marygolds Cottages, Marks Hall Estate, Coggeshall at TL843248. See Fig. 1.

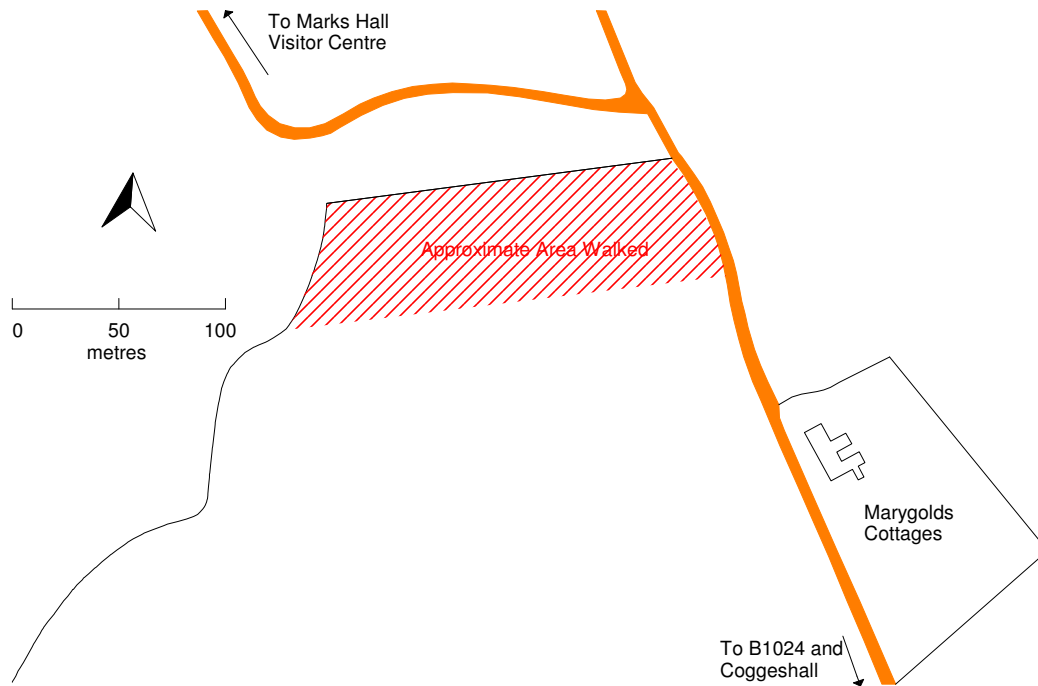


Fig. 1 Area of field walked, in relation to Marygolds Cottages and Marks Hall Estate Road.

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

Metal detected coin finds had indicated possible Roman activity within the field (Note 1.), and from casual inspection high quantities of CBM towards the north of the field suggested the possibility of a building.

The purpose of the field walk was to collect material for examination to see whether it suggested the possibility of a Roman building.

METHOD & FINDS

The area was walked in rows west to east at approximately 2m intervals. No grid was laid out, and the position of materials found recorded by row only, with Row A to the north. All man made material within reach was collected. Results are summarised in Table A below.

Most of the CBM recovered proved to be modern brick and tile, with a few pieces of identifiable Roman tile. About 14 pot sherds were recovered. Of these, most were post medieval, probably from manuring, but at least one piece was Roman. Other finds were of little import.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The quantities of modern brick and tile recovered suggest that if there ever was a building in the area walked it is likely to have been relatively modern, although it is not shown on any early maps so far seen.
2. The small quantities of Roman pot and CBM tend to support the coin finds and suggest that there probably was Roman activity not too far away. Unfortunately we are no nearer being able to pinpoint where.

Table A: Finds Summary

Box	Flint	Burnt flint	Prehist Pot	Roman Pot	Saxon Pot	Med. Pot	Pmed. Pot	Modern Pot	Roman Brick/Tile	Peg Tile	Pmed/Mod Brick	Glass	Other
A										450gm			
B										100gm			1 slate
C										1500gm			1 tusk
D	1?			1			1			1800kg			2 unidentified pot
E										2000gm			
F						1	1		150gm	1125gm		3	1 metal; 1 worked stone
G							2			2000gm			
H							1?		120gm (imbrex)	1450gm			1 worked stone
I							1			3250gm			
J										2350gm	4		
K							1	1		1775gm			1 Tooth
L							1			1600gm			
M										775gm		1	
N										500gm			
P							1			2000gm			
Q									250gm	2200gm			

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Francis Nicholls for drawing attention to the potential of the area, and to all those who took part in the walk, and got very wet in the process. Also to Howard Brooks of Colchester Archaeological Trust for confirming identity of some of the finds.

NOTES

1. Two Roman coins were metal detected in the field. One, from within the area actually walked, was a silver denarius of the Roman Republic, dating to c. 156BC (PAS ID: ESS-660BA7).