

**Archaeological Evaluation on Land to the rear of 26-30 High Street  
Kelvedon Essex**

Grid reference: TL 8603 1850  
Planning Application No. 15/01593/FUL  
Oasis No.: 269539

**Prepared for:**  
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## **Non-technical summary**

This report is of the findings for an archaeological evaluation by way of trial trenching in advance of the construction of one detached dwellings with a detached garage. The project has been carried out in response to an archaeological brief written by Teresa O'Connor of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Team, dated the 825th of October 2016.

Two trenches were excavated to cover the footprints of the new development.

The site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits.

In spite of the high potential for archaeological evidence at this location the evaluation by trial trenching only located 19th century occupation evidence.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The planning application (15/00641/FUL) was submitted to Braintree District Council for the construction of a new dwelling with a detached garage . As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits being present a full archaeological condition was recommended, in this a case an evaluation by trial trenching was requested. The full condition that was recommended was based on the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

1.2 A written scheme of investigation was presented to the Historic Environment Team by Archaeoserv and accepted as part of the archaeological process. The results of the evaluation were communicated to Teresa O'Connor (HEMT). The overall findings of this project are presented here as part of the ECC brief requirement.

## 2. Site Location

NGR: TL 8603 1850



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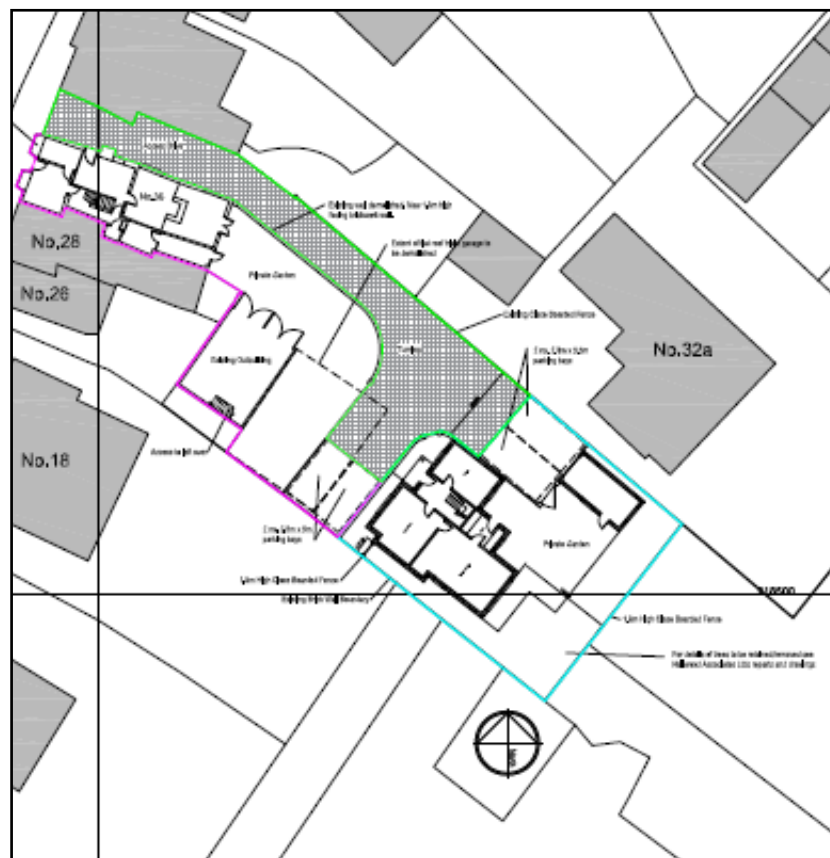
**Figure 1. Kelvedon and Site Location**

### 3. Planning Background

The planning application was submitted to Braintree District Council for the erection of a new dwelling and single detached garage. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having potential for archaeological deposits being present a full archaeological condition was recommended to the Local Authority. The full archaeological condition that was recommended by the Historic Environment Team is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework, which states:

*"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority." (NPPF)*

The archaeological investigation will be carried out based upon the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2012) which replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5, DCLG 2010).



**Figure 2. Block plan of site**

## **4. Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **4.1 Archaeological Background**

The Essex Historic Environment (HER) Record shows that the proposed development will affect a site of archaeological interest. The site is of considerable archaeological potential lying on the High Street frontage in Kelvedon. Kelvedon was situated on the main London to Colchester Roman Road and developed as a Roman and then a Medieval town (EHCR 8287, 9133). The proposed development site lies within the historic settlement of Kelvedon (Medlycott, 1998) adjacent to the postulated mid-1st century AD Roman fort and southwest of the Roman town (EHER 18762) . and within the extent of the later settlement strung out along the High Street (EHER 18770). Previous excavations in the immediate vicinity of the site have revealed possible Roman features and finds of prehistoric pottery as well as evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity on the adjacent plot. More recent investigations within the area have also revealed potential prehistoric activity as well as Saxon remains. Evidence for settlement is likely to be disturbed or destroyed by the proposed development.

### **4.2 Historical Background**

Small-scale excavations and finds from the early prehistoric to Medieval period around the High Street are suggestive of settlement either under or adjacent to the proposed development area. The development area may be the Saxon/Medieval focus of settlement, some 500m south-east of the 12<sup>th</sup> century parish Church. The Roman settlement at Kelvedon was concentrated in the High Street area; however finds close to the Church indicate the possible location of a Roman cemetery. The site is close to the postulated Roman fort and also the Roman town of *Canonium*. The site is also close to the high Street where ribbon development has grown since medieval times, further activity in the form of back yard, craft and industrial activity may be located in this vicinity.

## **5. Archaeological Evaluation**

### **5.1 Methodology**

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> was initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

5.2 This project was carried out in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP 2). All work was undertaken to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) standards.

5.3 The fieldwork was undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA.

5.4 The Post excavation work will be carried out in part by Archaeoserv along with the appropriate specialists that may be appointed for this project.



5.5 A photographic record was compiled, comprising an overview of the site prior to work starting, as well as after completion of the work using high resolution digital images of at least ten million pixel resolution, and is included with any excavated features, sections and other relevant details that aid the site interpretation.

## **6. Results of the Trial Trenching**

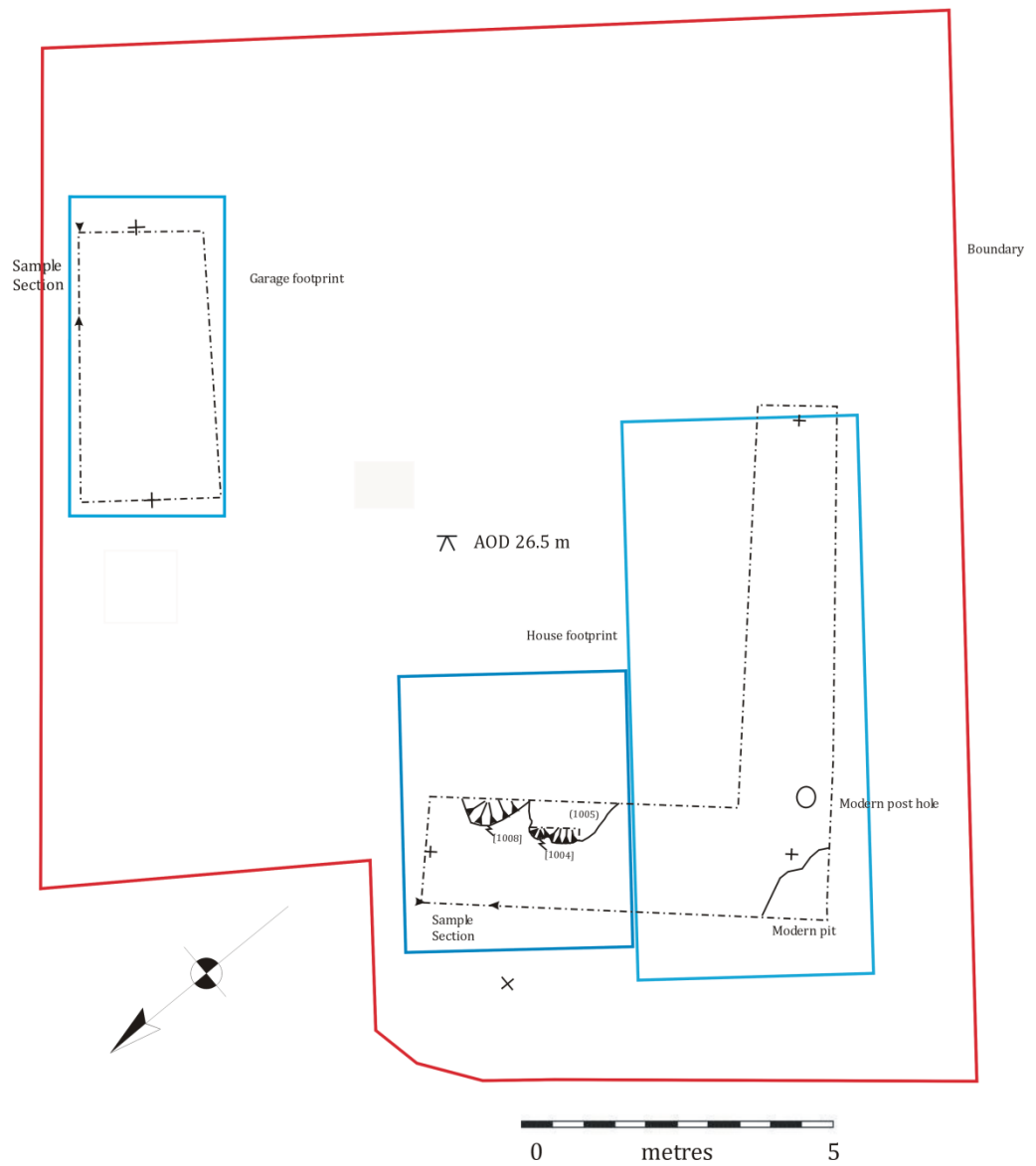
6.1 Two evaluation trenches were opened, one across the new dwelling (Tr 2 ) in an L-shaped arrangement as per the trench plan (in the WSI) and one linear trench (Tr-1) across the garage footprint. Upon opening the trenches, it was apparent that a layer of demolition material (1005) was consistent across the site.

6.2 The topsoil (1000) was at 0.20m depth over a demolition spread (1006) of 0.20m depth over a subsoil (1001) of 0.45m depth. The natural (1002) an orangey-brown silty sand was revealed at 0.85m depth.

6.3 Trench 1 revealed no features.

6.4 Trench 2 revealed five features, all of an early 19th century date, attested by the finds of late post-medieval brick and tile, glazed ceramic sherds and clay pipe fragments.

6.5 The contexts were an unrecorded post hole (modern); a post hole [1004] containing a fill (1003); a pit [1008] containing fill (1007), this had the majority of the 19th century finds; a further modern pit filled with building debris (not recorded); a spread (1005) of silt overlying the post hole and pit which were in juxtaposition.



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**Figure 4. Post-excavation plan of trenches 1 & 2**

## **8. Interpretation and Conclusion**

8.1 The five features encountered were all closely dated to the early 19th century and represent the main activity on the site. The subsoil layer was therefore a relatively modern over-burden above which a considerable amount of demolition was carried out possibly in the 19th- early 20th centuries.

8.2 Demolition work on the site coupled with the evidence of a structure by way of the post holes suggest that a building of late post-medieval date stood on the site and was demolished sometime in the early 19th century, subsequent demolition activity in the form of a layer (1006) shows further demolition work had been carried out at a later date.

8.3 Other than the early 19th century finds, no further evidence was seen for earlier activity on this site.

8.4 As a result of this evaluation it is deemed that no archaeology will be compromised by the proposed development of the site.

## **9. Health, Safety and Environment**

9.1 A risk assessment strategy covering all activities was carried out during the lifetime of the project.

9.2 All work was carried out in accordance with current health and safety legislation.

9.3 Every care was taken to minimise the environmental impact.

## **10. Ownership of Finds, Storage and Curation of Archive**

All artefactual material recovered will be held in long term storage by the Braintree Museum archive, and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to the museum to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all such artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to the Treasure Act (1996), separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated.

## **11. Archive preparation and deposition**

The archive/report will be presented to the Braintree Museum, to the standards as laid out in their specification/brief.

## **12. Resources**

The evaluation was undertaken by Dennis Payne BA (Hons) ACIfA using standard archaeological field techniques.

## **13. Copyright**

Copyright will remain that of the author. License will be given to the client to present any reports, copyright of the author, to the planning authority in good faith of satisfactory settlement of account.

## **14. Acknowledgements**

Thanks are extended to Kevin Pegrum who funded the project and who appointed Archaeoserv to this task.

To Teresa O'Connor (Essex CC Historic Environment Advisor to the project).

## **Bibliography**

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**Morris, J., (ed.) 1986 The Domesday Book of 1086, Phillimore**

## Appendix I: Summary Report

### *Previous Summaries/Reports:*

### ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET

**Site name/Address:** Archaeological Evaluation on Land to the rear of 26-30 High Street  
Kelvedon Essex

**Parish:** Kelvedon

**District:** Braintree

**NGR:** TQ 806 910

**Site Code:**  
KHS16

**Type of Work:** EVALUATION

**Site Director/Group:** Dennis Payne  
ARCHAEOSERV

**Date of Work:** 15/11/16

**Size of Area Investigated:** 200 m<sup>2</sup>

**Location of Finds/Curating Museum:**  
Braintree

**Funding source:**  
Client

**Further Seasons Anticipated?:** NO

**Related HER No.s:** N/A

**Final Report:** COMPLETED ATTACHED

**Periods Represented:**  
19th century- 20th century

#### **SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:**

Two evaluation trenches measuring a total of 18m by 1.80m were excavated across the site. Tr 1 revealed no finds from the garage footprint; Tr 2 over the dwelling footprint revealed early 19th century activity by way of post holes and a pit with early 19th century finds. No earlier evidence for occupation was located in either of the trenches.

**Author of Summary:** D Payne

**Date of Summary:** 23/11/16

## Appendix II: Digital Images



*Plate 1. Pre-excavation view of site, looking south-east*





*Plate 2. Post-excavation view of trench 2 north-east-south-west limb*





*Plate 3. Trench 2, post excavation, north-west-south-east limb*



*Plate 4. Trench 1. post excavation, looking south-east*





*Plate 5. Trench 1, Sample section*

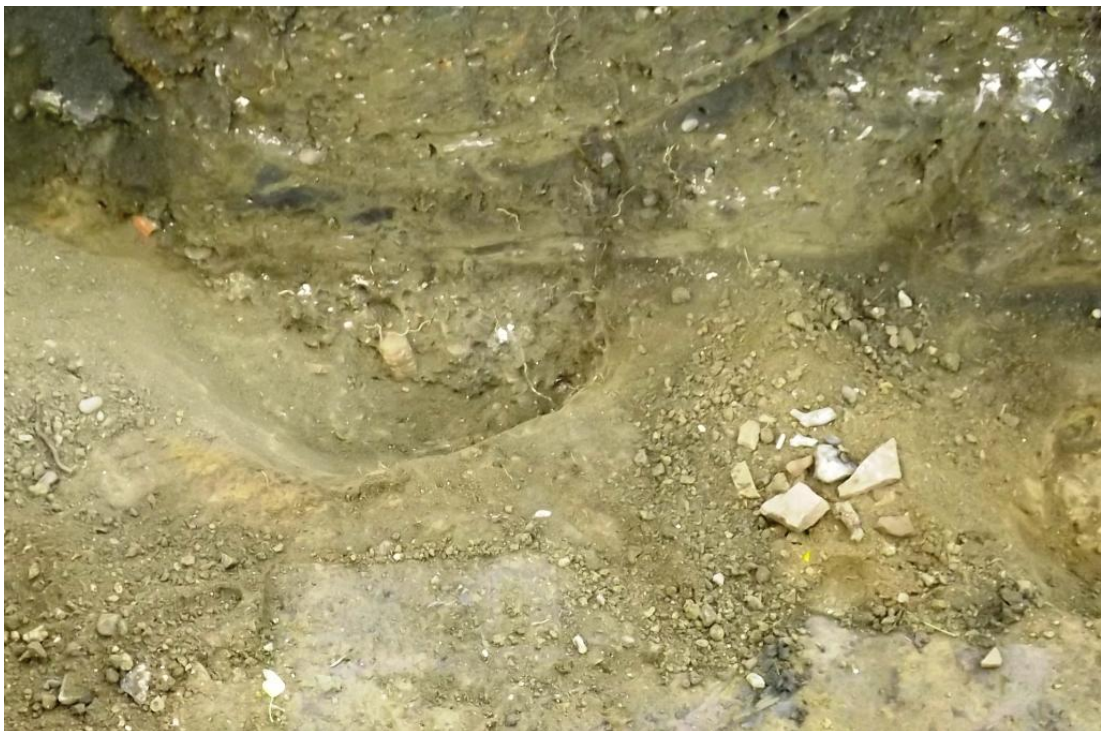


*Plate 6. Trench 2 sample section*





*Plate 7. Post hole [1004]*



*Plate 8. Pit [1008] with 19th c. finds in Tr 2*



*Plate 9. The finds from pit [1008]*



