

**LAND NORTH OF MARKET SQUARE,
WEST STREET,
AND WEST OF NORTH STREET,
ROCHFORD, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY
TRIAL TRENCHING**



Essex County Council

Field Archaeology Unit

August 2005

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	ECC HER

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SUMMARY

Client: Barratt Eastern Counties

NGR: TQ8765 9045

Planning Application No: ROC/0947/03

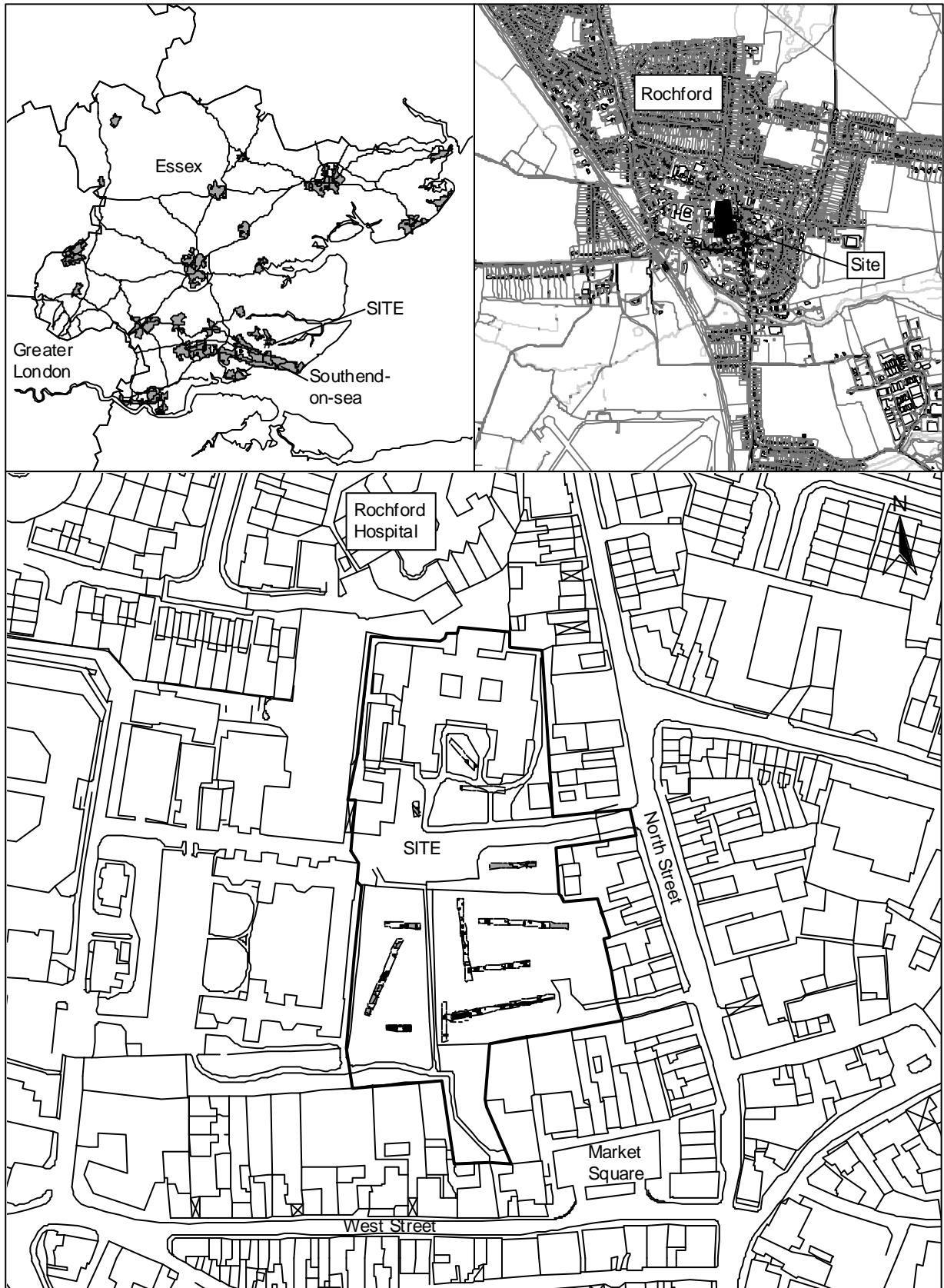
Site Code: RF16

Project No: 1461

Date of Fieldwork: 5/5/05 – 6/5/05 & 7/7/05 – 18/7/05

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in an area of proposed development on land north of Market Square, and bounded by West Street, North Street, and the former Rochford Hospital. The specific aim of the work was to determine if Roman remains extend to the south of the former hospital; to establish evidence for medieval occupation to the north of the Market Place; and to examine the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

No Roman remains were encountered within the twelve evaluation trenches. Most significantly, a medieval probable quarry pit, and associated levelling layers over it, was identified in the south of the development area. A small amount of residual medieval pottery was also recovered from features and deposits of later date. No other significant archaeological features were identified pre-dating the post-medieval period. It is apparent that the northern half of the site had been truncated by modern activity associated with the construction of Rochford Hospital. The southern part did not appear to have been truncated, and is likely to have been used for cultivation rather than occupation in the medieval and later periods. The incidence of generally late post-medieval intrusive remains such as tree boles, rubbish pits, quarries, animal burials and probable cultivation trenches are interpreted as constituting activities within the rear garden plots of houses on the North and West Street frontages, and are typical of such towns. It is concluded that the proposed development will have a minimal adverse impact on the archaeological resource of this area of Rochford.



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Fig.1. Site location

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project History

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in the centre of Rochford, north of the Market Square. The fieldwork aimed to determine the presence, nature, date and survival of archaeological remains in the proposed development area.
- 1.1.2 A planning application (ROC/0947/03) for the mixed redevelopment of the site was submitted by Barratt Eastern Counties PLC to Rochford District Council. The evaluation was initiated in response to a Condition of the Planning Agreement; which requires a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken in advance of site clearance and construction.
- 1.1.3 Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit carried out the evaluation on behalf of Barratt Eastern Counties PLC. The project was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by ECC HEM (Havis 2005).
- 1.1.4 The proposed development will consist of three separate buildings: a supermarket, library, shops and flats, plus access road and associated services. Many of these buildings will include basemented car parking.
- 1.1.5 Following completion of the project, the site archive will be deposited with Southend Museum.

1.2 Abbreviations used in the report

ECC FAU = Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit

ECC HEM = Essex County Council Historic Environment Management

NGR = National Grid Reference

OS = Ordnance Survey

OD = Ordnance Datum

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography (Fig. 1)

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area is located in the centre of Rochford, north of Market Square, covering an area of approximately 1.2 hectares (TQ8765 9045).

2.1.2 A range of redundant and derelict hospital buildings occupy the northern area of the site and the southern area is currently divided up into grassed fields, currently used as grazing land.

2.1.3 The site lies on the western side of a ridge line. There is a gradual fall from east to west, although there is also evidence of ground reduction and levelling across the northern area of the site.

2.2 Geology

2.2.1 The natural geology of the site is sands and gravels, with patches of clay to the north.

2.3 History and Archaeology

2.3.1 The following archaeological background is based on a desk-based assessment for the site produced by Archaeological Solutions (Roberts 2003) and *The Origins of Rochford* (ECC 1995). There has been no known previous archaeological work in the development area itself. However, evidence of Roman activity in the immediate area was recorded during the construction of Rochford Hospital, which borders the north and western sides of the development area (ECC 1995). Large quantities of pottery and tile were uncovered, perhaps suggesting the presence of one or more buildings during the Roman period. Further to the southeast, close to the river Roach, Roman cremation and domestic debris, comprising pottery and building material, have been recorded (EHER 9620, 9686, 9773, 13552, 9599, 9621).

2.3.2 The development area also lies to the northwest of the crossroads which originally provided the focus for medieval settlement in Rochford. The in-filled medieval market place lies close to the southern side of the development site, which suggests potential for finding structural remains and deposits associated with the market and occupation around its edges.

3 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 General Aims

3.1.1 The main aim of the investigation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains threatened by the proposed development.

3.2 Specific Objectives

3.2.1 Specific research aims were to:

- Determine if Roman period remains extend southwards of the former hospital
- Establish evidence for medieval occupation to the north of the Market Place
- Examine the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource

3.3 Requirements

3.3.1 The requirement of the Brief was for a programme of archaeological trial trenching which was to consist of a 2% sample of the northern area currently occupied by derelict hospital buildings, and a 5% sample of the southern grassed area. Any archaeological features and deposits exposed in the trenches were to be rapidly investigated and recorded. Following this, a site meeting between the client, HEM and FAU was to be held to assess the results and define any requirements for extra work.

4 METHOD

4.1 Machining

4.1.1 The trial trenches were positioned according to the WSI wherever possible. A number of the trenches had to be relocated due to access restriction and an additional one excavated at the request of ECC HEM. The final trench locations are shown on Figure 1.

4.1.2 A mechanical excavator with a flat-bladed bucket was used to excavate the twelve evaluation trenches, under archaeological supervision. A total area of 451sq m was stripped of topsoil and overburden onto the archaeological horizon and evaluated as part of the investigation (c. 4% of the development area).

4.2 Excavation and Recording

4.2.1 Standard ECC FAU methodologies were employed to excavate and record the trenches and the remains within them. All stratigraphy was recorded using the FAU's context recording system. Planning and surveying was tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.2.2 The site was surveyed by GPS technology.

4.2.3 All surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to ensure that any features present were visible. Archaeological features and deposits were excavated using hand tools. A sample of natural features was excavated in order to prove that they were not man-made.

4.2.4 Those features which could be clearly discerned to be modern from their surface finds content were not further investigated. A sample of finds was retained from features that proved to be modern after excavation.

4.2.5 No environmental samples were taken due to the absence of well-stratified, datable deposits with potential for significant ecofact presence or survival.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The results of the evaluation are described below, by broad site area. The site can be divided into three areas (Northern, South-western and South-eastern) in terms of modern disturbance and truncation levels and the nature/survival of archaeological deposits encountered. The trench locations are shown in Fig. 2.

5.1.2 Only one localised area of significant archaeological remains was identified: at the southern end of Trench 9 and north end of Trench 12, in the south-eastern area of the proposed development.

5.1.3 The remaining trenches contained cut features and deposits of only later post-medieval and modern date (i.e. post-1800), which were subject to minimal excavation – only to confirm date and nature.

5.1.4 Further trench and context details, including excavated dimensions and brief soil descriptions, are presented in Appendices 1 and 2.

5.2 Northern Area

5.2.1 The northern area comprises land that was formerly part of Rochford Hospital. The proposed trench locations had to be altered, due to access restrictions imposed by standing buildings and the presence of substantial layers of concrete hard-standing.

5.2.2 A total of four trenches (97sq m) were excavated, mainly in the southern half of this area (Trenches 1-4). All the trenches revealed that this part of the development area had suffered considerable truncation and disturbance, presumably associated with the construction of the Hospital and its access road. The height of the retaining walls along the south edge of the hospital access road indicate ground reduction by as much as 1.0m has occurred across this northern part of the site.

5.3 Trench 1

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 displayed a high level of disturbance. A large pit (14) was identified against the southern trench edge. Excavation revealed that the very mixed fill included modern china, and indicated that the feature is likely to be modern disturbance associated with the construction of the hospital.
- 5.3.2 Another modern pit (1) was located at the eastern end of the trench. This cut a further pit or ditch (3) that contained a mix of modern, post-medieval and late medieval pottery. The earlier pottery is likely to be residual, and it is likely that pit 3 represents a refuse pit that was dug prior to the construction of the hospital.

5.4 Trench 2

- 5.4.1 Trench 2 contained over 1m of disturbed and re-deposited material, along with evidence of ground reduction. No archaeological deposits were encountered and it is likely that any such significant remains would have been wholly truncated, if ever present.

5.5 Trench 3

- 5.5.1 Trench 3 was less than 0.5m deep and displayed less evidence of systematic ground reduction. However, it was heavily disturbed by modern features. The western end of the trench contained large pit, in excess of 1.2m deep, which contained 20th-century glass.
- 5.5.2 The eastern end revealed possible traces of robbed-out brick wall foundations in cut 85. Its backfilled interior contained a mixture of modern and residual post-medieval pottery, and was overlain by a minor gully or ditch 83.

5.6 Trench 4

- 5.6.1 Trench 4 was excavated to a depth of c. 0.5m before a gas pipe was encountered. The trench revealed no archaeological features other than a modern wall and 20th century rubble. Consequently, no further excavation or recording was undertaken in this trench.

5.7 South-western Area (Fig.3)

- 5.7.1 The south-western area represents an enclosed area of land formerly used by the hospital as grassed open space. The presence of animal burrows and a tree in the middle of the area dictated the re-arrangement of the proposed trenching plan. An additional 10m-long trench (Trench 10) was added to allow for the reduction of the sample in the northern area.

5.7.2 A total of three trenches (99sq m) were excavated across the area (Trenches 5, 6 and 10). All the trenches revealed that this part of the development area had been subject to a high frequency of post-medieval and modern activity, much of it presumably prior to its incorporation into the hospital grounds. However, this part of the site had clearly not been subject to systematic modern ground reduction, as was the case to its north and west.

5.8 Trench 5

5.8.1 Trench 5 contained a large cut thought to be associated with a modern sewerage pipe that runs north-south across this area and was also observed in Trench 10.

5.8.2 Relatively large pit 24, at the western end of the trench, contained modern flowerpot and post-medieval tile and clay-pipe stems. A similar-sized pit (26) that was cut by the pipe trench contained a single sterile fill. This is likely to be a backfilled sand/gravel quarry-pit.

5.8.3 Post-medieval tile fragments were recovered from a single post-hole (28) at the eastern end of the trench. A sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from a small gully (30) that ran alongside the pipe trench; however this was accompanied by a sherd of modern flower pot and glass, and is therefore likely to be residual.

5.9 Trench 6

5.9.1 Trench 6 contained a large number of modern features. A large pit at the northern end of the trench yielded modern transfer-decorated china, coal and window glass and was therefore only partially excavated. Hand-cleaning of three similar pits at the southern end revealed the presence of comparable modern material including slate, lead pipe, iron wire and a concentration of ash.

5.9.2 Slightly earlier post-medieval material was recovered from a smaller pit (40) at the northern end and an east-west ditch at the southern end (42). The pit is likely to be late 18th century at the earliest, whilst the ditch may possibly date to the 16th century. However, the small quantity of datable material recovered, and its relatively abraded condition, suggests that this material could equally be residual in both features.

5.10 Trench 10

5.10.1 Trench 10 also contained the sewer trench identified in trench 5. The western end of the trench was occupied by a large, vertically-sided pit (10), which began just below the turf-line and was clearly of recent origin. This modern pit cut the edge of another large feature (8), which ran along the northern edge of the trench and could have been part of a gully or

another large pit. It yielded fragments of modern/late post-medieval pot, tile and clay pipe. Similar material was recovered from a semi-circular pit or post-hole (12) at the eastern end of the trench.

5.10.2 Two undated features were also present: a small post-hole (19), possibly associated with pit 12; and a larger sterile pit (22) cut by the sewer trench (6), perhaps another quarry feature. There was nothing to suggest any activity earlier than the post-medieval period within trench 10.

5.11 South-eastern Area (Fig. 4)

5.11.1 The south-eastern part of the site represents an enclosed area of grassed waste ground. Four trenches were initially excavated (Trenches 7-9 and 11), and a fifth (Trench 12) was later excavated in the south-western corner, at the request of ECC HEM, in order to determine the extent of a potential medieval deposit. A total of 255sq m was evaluated.

5.11.2 All the trenches revealed that this part of the development area had been subject to a high frequency of post-medieval and modern activity, of which a sample of such features were dug. Like the south-western area, the ground level of this part of the site had not been significantly reduced in modern times and was of a similar height to that in the adjacent rear gardens of properties along North and West Streets.

5.12 Trench 7

5.12.1 Trench 7 contained at least twelve features. Two areas of disturbance were not excavated; these both contained fragments of concrete pipe and were clearly modern. Other features of modern appearance had diagnostic finds recovered from their surface.

5.12.2 Pit 45 was a large modern feature at the northern end of the trench that was only partially excavated. It was cut from just below the turf line and yielded quantities of 19th- and 20th-century finds. A small sub-square post-hole (33) contained a machine-made frogged brick and must also have been of 20th-century in origin.

5.12.3 A sub-rectangular pit (36) was excavated against the western baulk of the trench. A clay pipe-bowl and pottery recovered from its surface fill (51) suggested an early 18th century origin. However, excavation revealed the inclusion of modern glass and coal within the pit. The pottery and clay pipe were therefore residual.

5.12.4 An elongated oval pit (31), at the junction of Trenches 7 and 11, yielded a small quantity of early post-medieval pottery. Other finds from this feature, including animal bone and oyster shell, indicate that it is likely to have been a 17th-18th century refuse pit.

5.12.5 Three similarly-sized sub-rectangular pits were identified within the trench; excavation of one of these (43) yielded small amounts of post-medieval pottery, brick and animal bone. The irregular profile of the excavated pit suggested that they might have been created by the removal of small trees: perhaps during the clearance of a former garden or orchard.

5.13 Trench 8

5.13.1 Trench 8 was heavily disturbed at its eastern end: a large pit was machined out to a depth of 1m at which point it still contained modern refuse and building debris. Modern brickwork (including breeze-blocks) visible in the trench section indicated that this area had been part of a basement or brick-lined pit. Ten metres to the west, another modern pit was filled with broken window glass, perhaps further suggesting the demolition of modern structures nearby. A third pit of obviously modern origin was located at the western end of the trench; this, also, was not excavated.

5.13.2 A small north-south ditch (60) crossed the trench, immediately to the west of the modern disturbance at the eastern end of the trench. It contained a mix of modern and late post-medieval pottery, suggesting a recent origin. It is likely that this slightly irregular ditch defined a late post-medieval plot division.

5.13.3 Two parallel and inter-cutting ditches (54 and 56) were recorded at the western end of the trench. The western-most and earlier of the two, ditch (54), contained late post-medieval finds. Gravel up-cast in the top of ditch 54 suggests that it was back-filled when ditch 56 was dug. Both are likely to be plot division boundaries, similar to ditch 60; one a direct replacement of the other.

5.13.4 Two small cut features were identified within the trench, but are unlikely to be related. Post-hole 78 contained one sherd of post-medieval pottery along with tile and animal bone, whilst small pit 58 included a wide selection of late post-medieval and modern finds including glass, copper wire and flowerpot.

5.14 Trench 11

5.14.1 Two irregular pits (72 and 74) were identified at the eastern end of the trench. These contained a mix of topsoil and disturbed natural and are likely to represent disturbance

created by the removal of tree boles. Pit 66 was a small irregular pit that was probably created by further such root disturbance. No finds were recovered from the features, but the high organic content of fills would suggest a relatively modern origin.

5.14.2 A square-cut pit (62) at the western end of the trench was excavated but did not yield any dating evidence. Although regular in plan, its fill was only 0.15m deep and very similar to topsoil in composition. It is likely that this feature represents the base of something like a cultivation bed.

5.14.3 Pit 64 represented the modern burial of a small dog. The fill contained fragments of glass, brick, china and slate that indicated a 20th-century origin. The burial was not fully excavated.

5.14.4 A small ditch or elongated pit (68) was identified against the southern baulk of the trench. Its fill was sterile other than one piece of modern/late post-medieval roof tile. The orientation of the feature and slightly irregular nature suggests that it is likely to have been created by root disturbance, rather than being the terminus of a man-made ditch.

5.14.5 A well-defined ditch (70) was identified toward the eastern end of the trench. The fill was sterile and the feature could not be dated. It is likely to have marked a plot boundary, similar to those in trench 8. Alternatively, it could be another fragment of cultivation bedding trench, as neither its northward or southward continuation was identified in Trenches 8 and 9.

5.15 Trench 9

5.15.1 Two ditches at the eastern end of the trench proved to be modern in date: excavation of narrow steep-sided north-south ditch (94) produced modern transfer decorated pottery; and that of a larger ditch (96), at the very end of the trench, produced similarly dated material. Bricks seen in the trench section above ditch 94 suggested that this may have been a robbed-out modern wall foundation, though could equally have been a service trench capped with rubble. Ditch 96 is more likely to have been open for some time and may have been a former plot boundary.

5.15.2 The trench also contained a number of animal burials; both pig and dog. The good condition of the bone in some of these indicated a relatively recent date. The majority were not further investigated, although burial pit 92 was partially excavated as a sample. This revealed that at least three articulated pig skeletons of immature age had been buried in

association with lumps of chalk. Modern glass and china was recovered from the fill. It is likely that this constitutes the disposal of diseased animals and the pit was not excavated further, or finds retained, on the grounds of health and safety.

- 5.15.3 A small post-hole or tree bole (90) that contained post-medieval material was identified at the western end of the trench. Clearer evidence of root disturbance was recorded in the form of pit 76; a sterile shallow 'scoop' that is likely to have been created by the removal of a tree bole. No finds were recovered, but it was cut by modern ditch 88 that yielded residual post-medieval pottery and a modern electricity cable.
- 5.15.4 The western end of trench 9 was machine-excavated to a depth of 0.8m, following a downward slope in the natural subsoil. Relatively thick layers of modern build-up were exposed in the trench section (Fig.5) and it is likely that this corner of the south-western development area had been gradually built up. At a height of 8.45m OD an oyster shell-rich layer (59) was identified that appeared to cover a deeper depression of possible late medieval date. Layer 59 produced two sherds of 14th-15th century pottery, whilst deposit 82 below yielded one sherd of un-diagnostic medieval cooking pot, along with tile, oyster shell and animal bone fragments.

5.16 Trench 12

- 5.16.1 After discussion with ECC HEM it was agreed to open an additional trench at the western end of trench 9 to ascertain the extent of deposits 59 and 82. Trench 12 was therefore excavated perpendicular to trench 9, to a depth of c. 0.8m.
- 5.16.2 Both oyster shell layer 82 and underlying deposit 59 were observed to extend into the middle part of this trench, again beneath a significant depth of post-medieval to modern build-up deposits. The oyster shell layer (82) was identified as an ephemeral spread, though underlying deposit 59 could be discerned as a distinct fill of the west end of a shallow cut. No finds were recovered from it in this trench. It is likely that this late medieval deposit fills a large, but relatively shallow pit or depression that occupies the lowest corner of this area. An elongated shape in plan, possibly constituting a quarry pit 10m long by 5m wide, is postulated. Layer 59 probably represents domestic refuse that was deposited as a levelling layer over the partially-filled depression. The raising of ground level to that of the surrounding area clearly continued through the post-medieval period.

6 FINDS by Joyce Compton

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 Finds were recovered from a total of thirty-nine contexts, comprising a range of mainly post-medieval and modern items. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details can be found in Appendix 3. Very little of the late post-medieval or modern material was retained, and it should be noted that the finds recorded below represent only a sample of the vast amount of modern material present in the features and deposits exposed at Roche Close. Most of the finds comprise pottery and brick and tile. Small amounts of glass, clay pipes, ironwork, animal bone and shell were recovered and a length of modern copper wire came from the fill of pit 58. Only nine contexts contained material, mainly pottery, earlier in date than 18th century. A list of the retained material, by context, is contained in the archive. The finds are described by category below, along with a short report on the retained pottery.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 Thirty-two contexts produced pottery, amounting to 158 sherds, weighing 3136g. A wide range of 19th and 20th century pottery types was recorded, including modern stoneware, white earthenware, many pieces with blue transfer-printed decoration, flowerpots and utilitarian kitchen wares. Several sherds of 18th century pottery were also found, including white Staffordshire stoneware (fill of pits 36 and 40) and a very small sherd of tin-glazed earthenware with blue striped decoration (fill of ditch 54). At least eight contexts contained sherds of post-medieval red earthenware of broad 17th to 19th century date. Just fourteen sherds, weighing 188g, of earlier pottery were retained, and only two of these can be dated to the medieval period, see 6.9 below.

6.3 Brick and tile

6.3.1 In total, ninety-two pieces of brick and tile, weighing 3800g, were retrieved and recorded. Small brick fragments were recovered from twelve contexts, including a London 'stock' brick from the fill of pit 64. Roof tile fragments were more numerous, recorded in twenty-nine contexts, although few fragments retained any diagnostic features. A fragment of modern pantile came from Trench 3, and white bathroom tile fragments, one glazed pink and one grey, were found during cleaning in Trench 7. All of the brick and tile has been discarded.

6.4 Glass

6.4.1 A representative sample of glass items, from a total of fifteen contexts, was collected. Twenty-one sherds, weighing 186g, were recorded and both bottle and window glass was present. Most of the bottle glass was derived from either medicine or mineral water bottles, and a 'marble' from the neck of a Codd's bottle was found in pit 45. In addition, there were several sherds from dark green beer bottles. The window glass mainly comprised small colourless chips and slivers. All the glass is relatively modern and none has been retained.

6.5 Clay Pipes

6.5.1 Fourteen clay pipe fragments, mainly stems, were recovered from eleven contexts. A complete bowl with a flat heel, probably an Oswald (1977) Type 7 or 8, was residual in the fill of pit 36. Oswald has provided a date range of 1660 to 1710 for these types. A second clay pipe heel was found in fill 52 of ditch 42 and a stem fragment with the remains of a spur, came from the fill of gully 8. Only the complete bowl has been retained.

6.6 Ironwork

6.6.1 Four iron nails were recorded, along with a flat curved object, probably the blade from a tool, and a hinge or bracket fragment. All were associated with post-medieval or modern finds and all have been discarded.

6.7 Animal bone and Shell

6.7.1 Animal bone fragments were recovered from nine contexts and oyster shells from eight. Forty-one pieces of animal bone, weighing 226g, were recorded. The bone was generally fragmentary, except for the ulna from a domestic chicken found in the fill of late post-medieval/modern pit 45. Foot bones from a dog, the remains of a pet burial, were recovered from the fill of pit 64. Twenty-seven oyster shells, including a number of complete valves, were recorded. The largest number (sixteen) came from late medieval deposit 82, and these are all small examples. None of the animal bone or shell has been retained.

6.8 Other finds

6.8.1 These comprise single slate fragments from three contexts, and coal from the fill of pit 36. All are relatively modern and have been discarded.

6.9 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

- 6.9.1 A very small amount of pottery, fifteen sherds, weighing 303g of medieval and post-medieval pottery was retained. Nearly all is residual in modern contexts. The only pottery that could be current is a Mill Green coarse ware H3 cooking pot rim from deposit 82, datable to the late 13th to 14th centuries, and sherds of late medieval Mill Green-type ware in underlying deposit 59 dating to the 14th to 16th centuries.
- 6.9.2 The following pottery is all residual and summarised without reference to the stratigraphy. The earliest pottery is a sherd of early medieval ware probably dating to the 12th to 13th centuries. A number of sherds belong to the late-medieval period and finds include a fragment of Surrey white ware jug rim with an internal glaze. The different types of Surrey white ware are difficult to distinguish from one another, but this is probably an example of Coarse Border Ware dating to the late 14th to mid 15th centuries. These later types of Surrey white ware are uncommon in Essex, but do occur on sites close to the Thames as they have a riverine distribution (e.g. at Great Garlands Farm, near Coryton, Walker forthcoming). There are also further sherds of Mill Green-type ware and early type PMRE datable to the late 15th/16th century. The Mill Green-type ware and the Mill Green coarse ware cooking pot rim may have been manufactured at a production site at Rayleigh, only about 7kms to the west of Rochford (Walker 1990, 97, fig.3.62).
- 6.9.3 Dating to the later 16th to 17th centuries are two sherds of Surrey-Hampshire white ware. There is also a sherd from a Staffordshire-type slipware press-moulded dish, these first became popular during the later 17th century, reaching their peak of popularity during the early 18th century. Also belonging to this period is a PMRE large flared bowl dating from the 17th century, and an unusual PMRE footring base perhaps dating to the 18th century.
- 6.9.4 Although residual, these few sherds of pottery indicate there was some activity in the vicinity during the medieval and post-medieval periods.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No significant archaeological deposits were present within the northern half of the site. It is clear that the northern area has been subjected to considerable truncation and disturbance associated with the construction of Rochford Hospital.

- 7.2 The southern half of the site (south-western and south-eastern areas), although not significantly truncated in modern times, displayed a high density of disturbance from post-medieval and modern activity. The small quantity of residual earlier artefacts present in these later features and deposits indicates that it is unlikely that significant quantities of earlier, primarily medieval, remains were removed by this activity.
- 7.3 The activities represented by the investigated archaeological remains appear to be typical of back garden / yard activities associated with occupation along road frontages during the late Medieval and post-medieval periods. These are discussed below.
- 7.4 A number of cut features have been tentatively interpreted as likely quarry pits for the extraction of sand and gravel. The earliest is represented by the depression filled by the only *in situ* medieval deposits and artefacts encountered during the evaluation. Most are very small-scale and probably relate to the extraction of material for individual episodes of construction and repair of structures and or surfaces. This sporadic quarrying appears to have continued through much of the post-medieval period.
- 7.5 The other principal activity represented is associated with the use and clearance of the garden plots themselves. The presence of pits interpreted as tree boles and root-disturbance hollows suggests the various plots, as defined by ditched (and presumably fenced or hedged) boundaries, contained significant quantities of trees. Although the majority of these pits are not accurately dated, a later post-medieval clearance date is postulated. Some of the excavated trench-like features may in fact be the remains of cultivation beds, representing gardening and horticultural activities undertaken in the rear plots of the buildings along the North and West Street frontages. The likely existence of this activity is supported by the first edition Ordnance Survey map of Rochford (1880) which depicts the southern part of the development area as garden or orchard.
- 7.6 While the occurrence of scattered small rubbish pits is typical of small-scale domestic disposal and infill in the back yards of post-medieval towns, the presence of animal burials is equally common – particularly of pets such as dogs. However, the discovery of the pit containing the probably diseased pig carcasses may suggest that some of the rear plots were as much small-holdings as gardens, complete with livestock.
- 7.7 It is not possible to reconstruct the extents and pattern of rear plots from the fragmentary remains of ditches, gullies and post-holes found by the evaluation. Few significantly predate the 19th century and old mapping suggests little change has occurred in land allotment

since at least the later 18th century. It therefore difficult to study the location and significance of the various extraction, disposal and gardening activities in relation to earlier land units and the road frontage properties. It is however clear that, in the modern period, the incursion of services, buildings, truncation, disturbance and *ad hoc* disposal has obscured and removed earlier remains and coherent patterns of preceding land-use.

8 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

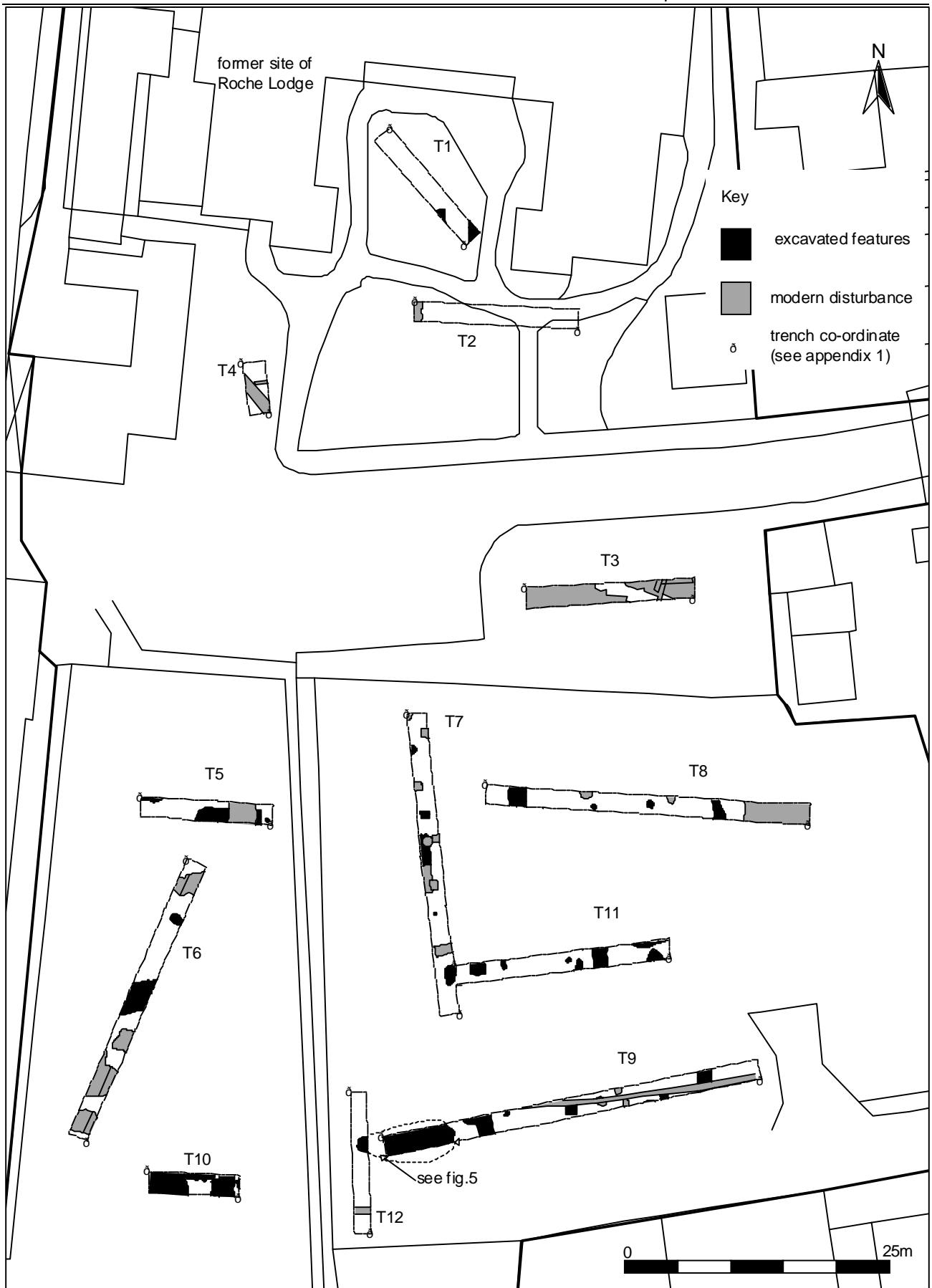
- 8.1 The results of this evaluation suggest that the areas around the trenches are not likely to contain significant and coherent archaeological features and deposits. The proposed buildings and associated ground works are likely to have a negligible impact on the archaeological resource of the area.
- 7.2 The evaluation has established that Roman period, or earlier, remains do not survive to the south of the former hospital and probably never extended into this area. The absence of residual artefacts in the later features investigated substantiates this.
- 7.4 The evaluation has not revealed any significant evidence for medieval occupation to the north of the Market Place other than the later medieval infill and levelling deposits in a posited quarry pit near the southern limit of the site. The small amount of medieval pottery that was residual in later features does, however, indirectly hint at some kind of other low-level activity/presence in this general vicinity.
- 7.5 The investigation has established that the later post-medieval use of the land to the rear of the road frontage properties has been more intensive, but still largely restricted to typically back plot activities such as sand and gravel extraction, garden cultivation, domestic rubbish disposal and perhaps small-scale animal husbandry. As such, the evaluation has shed interesting, though limited, light on the medieval and post-medieval past of the town of Rochford. Overall the collected data and artefacts are of relatively low significance to research and understanding of Rochford's development and no further work is envisaged in relation to this site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Fig.2. Trench locations

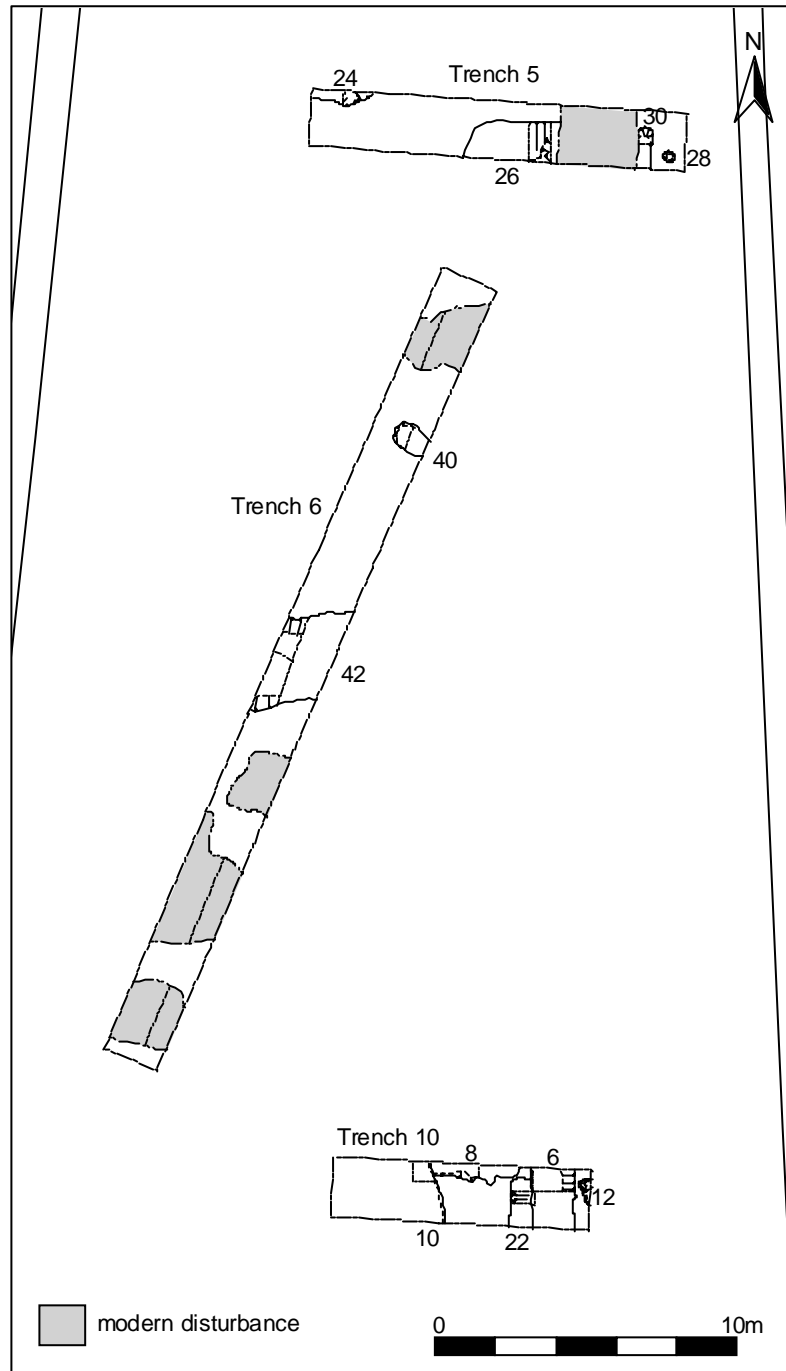


Fig.3. South-western area trenches

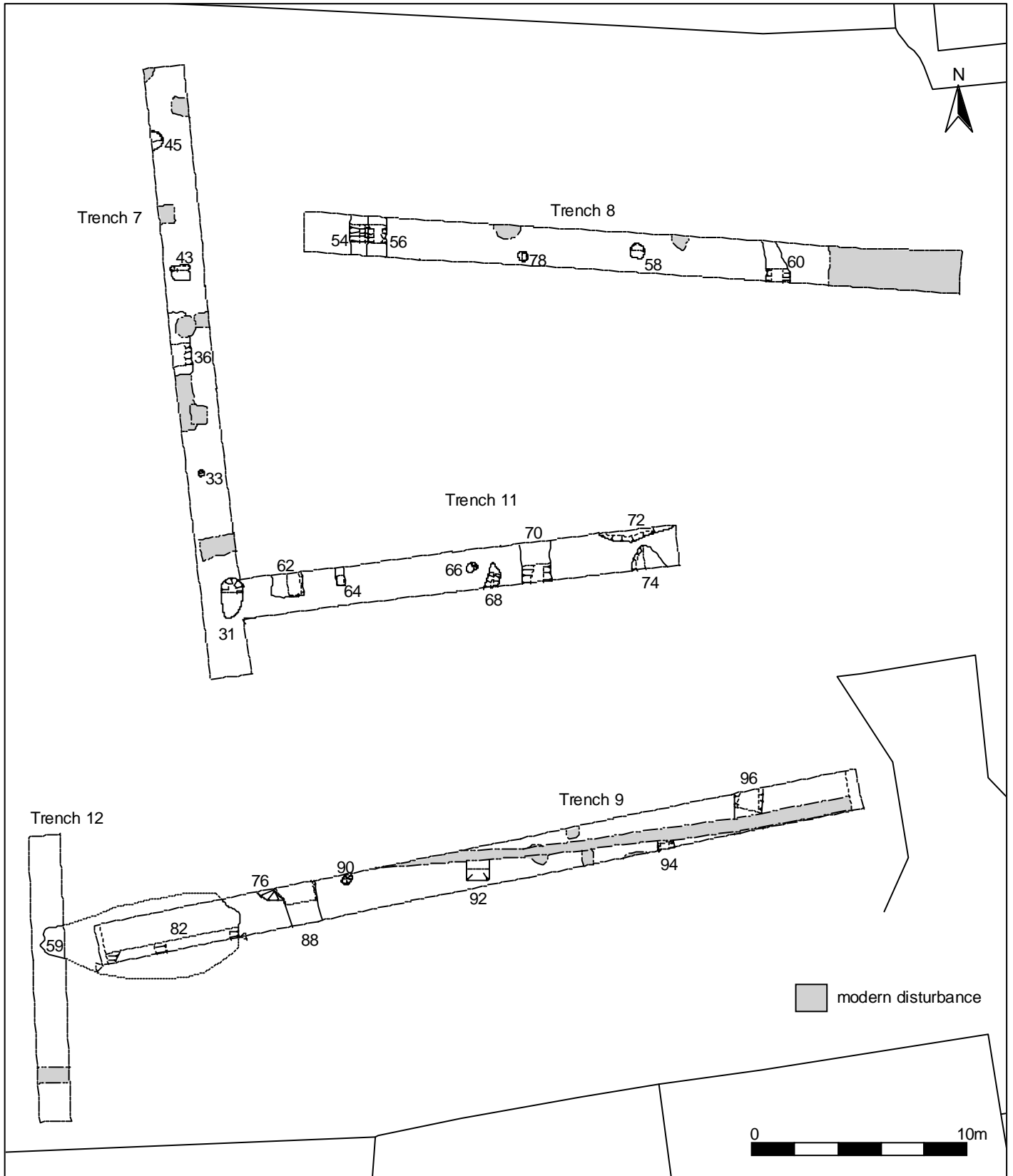


Fig.4. South-eastern area trenches

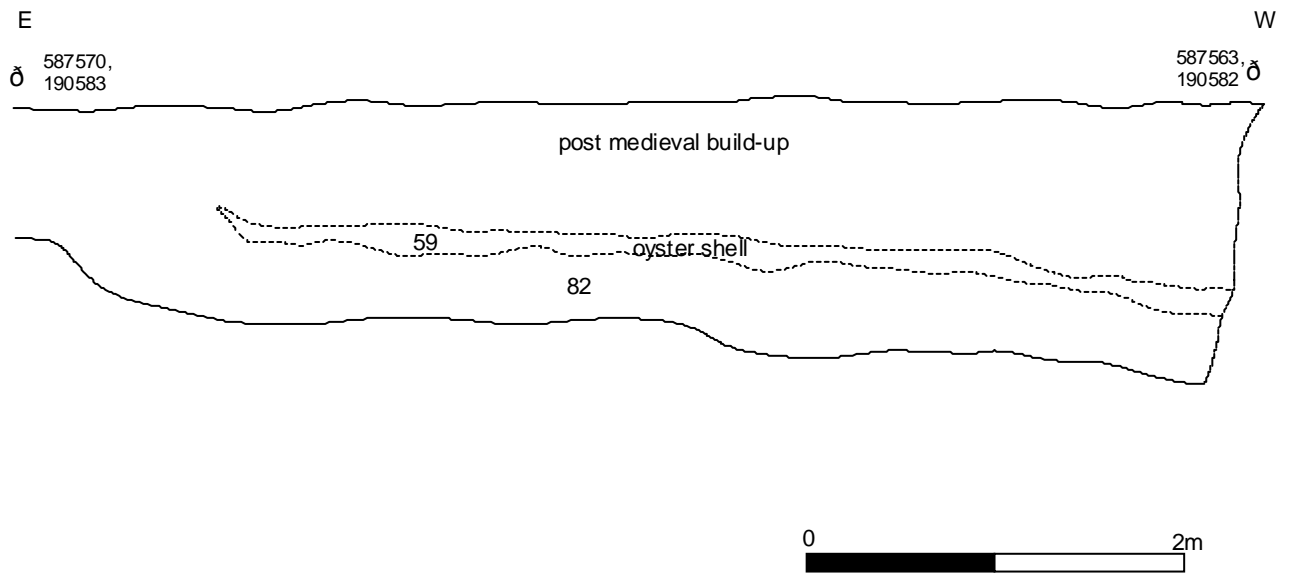


Fig.5. Section of west end of Trench 9

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

Trench No	Co-Ordinate 1	Co-Ordinate 2	Length	Width	Area
1	587564, 190679	587571, 190668	12.5 m	2 m	25 m ²
2	587566, 190662	587581, 190660	15 m	2 m	30 m ²
3	587577, 190635	587592, 190634	16 m	2 m	32 m ²
4	587550, 190656	587552, 190652	5 m	2 m	10 m ²
5	587540, 190616	587553, 190613	12.5 m	2 m	25 m ²
6	587545, 190610	587535, 190583	28.5 m	2 m	57 m ²
7	587565, 190623	587570, 190595	28 m	2 m	56 m ²
8	587573, 190617	587603, 190613	30 m	2 m	60 m ²
9	587563, 190583	587599, 190589	36 m	2 m	72 m ²
10	587541, 190580	587549, 190578	8.5 m	2 m	17 m ²
11	587570, 190600	587590, 190600	20.5 m	2 m	41 m ²
12	587560, 190588	587562, 190574	13 m	2 m	26 m ²

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Date
1	Pit	1	Sub-rectangular pit, 0.40m deep, steep-sided, flattish base	Modern
2	Fill of 1	1	Dark brownish grey, silty sandy clay, 0.40 thick	Modern
3	Cut	1	Uncertain shape, steep sided, 0.30m deep	Modern
4	Fill of 3	1	Mid grey, silty clay sand, 0.30 thick	Modern
5	Fill of 6	10	Dark greyish brown, sandy silt. 0.60m thick	Modern
6	Pipe trench	10	2.00+ x 1.45 x 0.60m, north-south axis, steep-sided	Modern
7	Fill of 8	10	Dark grey sandy silt 0.20m thick	Post-Med/modern
8	Gully/pit?	10	2.90 x 0.50 x 0.20m. Partially exposed	Modern
9	Fill of 10	10	Brownish-grey, clay silt, 0.5m thick	Modern
10	Pit	10	3.20 x 2.00 x 0.50m, near vertical sided	Modern
11	Fill of 12	10	Dark, brown grey, sandy silt.0.30m deep	Undated
12	Post-hole	10	0.55 x 0.30 x 0.30m, semi-circular post-hole/pit	Undated
13	Layer	10	Dark grey layer, topsoil	Modern
14	Pit	1	1.70+ x 0.50 x 0.45m, triangular as seen, axis n-s	Post-medieval
15	Fill of 14	1	Dark greenish brown, clayey silt. 0.30m thick	Modern
16	Fill of 14	1	Mid brown-grey, silty sand, 0.20m thick	Modern
17	Layer	1	2.40 x 0.50 x 0.15m, grey brown, clay and silty sand, over fills of pit 14	Modern
18	Fill of 19	10	Brownish grey, sandy silt, 0.24m thick	Undated
19	Post hole	10	0.42 x 0.28 x 0.24m, elongated, steep-sided	Undated
20	Fill of 22	10	Yellow grey brown, sandy silt, 0.32m thick	Post-medieval
21	Fill of 22	10	Dark brownish grey, sandy silt, 0.12m thick	Post-medieval
22	Pit	10	1.62 x 0.70 x 0.44m, steep-sided to gradual slope at base	Post-medieval
23	Fill of 24	5	Dark grey, sandy silt, 0.37m thick	Modern
24	Pit	5	Irregular shape 2.00 x 0.46 x 0.37m	Modern
25	Fill of 26	5	Orange-yellow grey, sandy silt, 0.70m thick	Undated
26	Pit?	5	Sub-circular, 3.00 x 1.35 x 0.70m, E-W axis	Undated
27	Fill of 28	5	Dark grey, sandy silt, 0.11m thick	Post-medieval
28	Post-hole	5	Circular, 0.35 x 0.11m deep, well-defined	Post-medieval
29	Fill of 30	5	Dark grey, sandy silt, 0.17m thick	Modern
30	Gully?	5	N-S orientated, 1.35 x 0.43 x 0.17m, steep-sided	Modern
31	Pit	7	Oval, 2.00 x 1.00 x 0.25m	Post-medieval
32	Fill of 31	7	Greyish brown, clayey silt. 0.25m thick	Post-medieval
33	Post-hole	7	Sub-square, 0.30 x 0.28 x 0.16m, N-S axis, vertical-sided	Modern
34	Fill of 33	7	Greyish brown, silt, 0.16m thick	Modern
35	Surface finds	7	0.90 x 0.85 x ?.dark grey, silt, well-defined	Modern
36	Pit	7	Sub-rectangular, 5.50 x 1.00 x 0.50m, vertical sides	Modern
37	Fill of 36	7	Clayey silt, 0.50 thick	Modern
38	Cleaning	7	Context for finds from cleaning trench 7	Modern
39	Fill of 40	6	Brownish grey, 0.43m deep	Post-medieval
40	Pit	6	Oval, 1.12 x 0.86 x 0.43, E-W axis, steep-sided	Post-medieval
41	Fill of 42	6	Sandy silt, brownish grey, 0.40m thick	Post-medieval
42	Ditch	6	E-W orientated 2.00 x 3.20 x 0.66m	Post-medieval
43	Pit	7	Sub rectangular, 0.87 x 0.77 x 0.33	Post-medieval
44	Fill of 43	7	Greyish brown, clayey silt, 0.33 thick	Post-medieval
45	Pit	7	Circular, 1.35 x 0.60m, vertical sides	Modern
46	Fill of 45	7	Dark grey, 0.60m deep	Modern
47	Spread	7	0.80 x 0.30m, brownish grey spread with finds	Modern
48	Spread	7	Brownish grey, 0.70 x 0.20m. Finds recovered	Modern
49	Natural	7	Yellowish, brown silty sand	-
50	Topsoil	7	Greyish brown, clayey silt	Modern

51	Deposit	7	Context number for finds	Post-medieval
52	Fill of 42	6	Lower fill grey/orangey brown, sandy silt, 0.55m thick	Post-medieval
53	Fill of 54	8	Entire fill, brownish grey, clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Post-medieval
54	Ditch	8	1.85 x 0.80 x 0.35m, N-S alignment	Post-medieval
55	Fill of 56	8	Single fill, brownish grey, clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Post-medieval
56	Ditch	8	N-S linear, steeply sloped sides, 1.85 x 0.80 x 0.35m	Post-medieval
57	Fill of 58	8	Dark brownish grey, silt, 0.20 thick	Modern
58	Pit	8	Circular, 0.70 x 0.20 deep, vertical sides	Modern
59	Layer	9, 12	Brownish grey, clayey silt, 5.40 x 1.85 x 0.25m	Medieval
60	Ditch	8	N-S alignment, 1.85 x 1.10 x 0.20m	Post-med/modern
61	Fill of 60	8	Brownish grey silt single fill. 0.20m thick	Post-med/modern
62	Pit	11	Square shape, 1.50 x 1.10 x 0.15m, steep-sided	Undated
63	Fill of 62	11	Dark grey/brown, sandy silt, single fill, 0.15m thick	Undated
64	Pit	11	Sub rectangular, 0.85 x 0.38 x 0.20m, vertical sides	Modern
65	Fill of 64	11	Single fill, mid grey brown, animal burial, 0.20m thick	Modern
66	Pit	11	Sub-round, 0.60 x 0.40 x 0.12m	Undated
67	Fill of 66	11	Single fill, greyish brown clayey silt, 0.12m thick	Undated
68	Pit?	11	Irregular, 1.20 x 0.80 x 0.14m, poss tree root disturbance	Post-med/modern
69	Fill of 68	11	Brownish grey sandy silt, 0.14m thick	Post-med/modern
70	Ditch	11	N-S linear, 1.90 x 1.30 x 0.35m	Undated
71	Fill of 70	11	Single fill, brownish grey sandy silt. 0.35m thick	Undated
72	Tree bole	11	Irregular, 3.1 x 0.60 x 0.20m	Undated
73	Fill of 72	11	Grey and orange brown, sandy silt, 0.20m thick	Undated
74	Tree bole	11	Oval, 1.60 x 1.00 x 0.12m	Undated
75	Fill of 74	11	Single fill, Grey/yellowish brown, sandy silt, 0.12m thick	Undated
76	Tree bole	9	Circular, 1.00 x 0.60 x 0.40m, concave base	Undated
77	Fill of 76	11	Single fill, dark brown/ grey, silty clay, 0.40m thick	Undated
78	Post-hole	8	Sub circular, 0.42 x 0.20	Post-medieval
79	Fill of 78	8	Single fill, brownish grey, silt, 0.20m thick	Post-medieval
80	Topsoil	8	Entire trench, gravel patches, 0.50m thick	Modern
81	Natural	8	Yellow-red brown, sand gravel	-
82	Fill	9, 12	Below spread 59, mid brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	medieval
83	Ditch	3	NE-SW linear, 0.40 x 0.20 x 0.28m, over cut 85	Modern
84	Fill of 83	3	Single fill, dark grey brown sandy silt, 0.28 thick	Modern
85	Foundn pit	3	Covers 3.00m of east end of trench	Modern
86	Fill of 85	3	Top fill for levelling. 0.30m thick	Modern
87	Fill of 85	3	Lower fill, grey brown, sandy silt, 0.24m thick	Modern
88	Ditch	9	N-S linear, 1.90 x 1.50 x 0.50m, cable trench	Modern
89	Fill of 88	9	Dark greyish brown, upper backfill, 0.40m thick	Modern
90	Tree bole	9	Sub-circular, 0.50 x 0.40 x 0.30m	Post-medieval
91	Fill of 90	9	Single fill, dark brownish grey silty sand, 0.30m thick	Post-medieval
92	Pit	9	Rectangular, 1.00 x 1.40 x 0.10m	Modern
93	Fill of 92	9	Single fill, brownish grey, sandy silt, 0.10m thick	Modern
94	Ditch	9	N-S linear, 0.50 x 0.75 x 0.40m, steep-sided	Modern
95	Fill of 94	9	Single fill, dark greyish brown, topsoil backfill, 0.40m thick	Modern
96	Ditch	9	NNE-SSW linear, steep-sided, 1.90 x 1.30 x 0.40m	Modern
97	Fill of 96	9	Single fill, mixed brown / yellow, sandy silt, 0.40m thick	Modern

APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	1	2	74	Glass; mineral water bottle base and body sherds (Discarded)	Modern
		1	32	Roof tile with remains of peg hole (Discarded)	Post med.
		65	2175	Pottery; sherds of modern stoneware and white earthenware, including embossed tankard fragments, and plates and dishes with blue transfer-printing; cream-slipped kitchen basin sherds (All Discarded)	Modern
4	3	1	18	Iron nail (Discarded)	-
		1	6	Oyster shell, one valve (Discarded)	-
		3	76	Pottery; rim sherd, modern flowerpot (Discarded)	Modern
				Dish rim sherd, with combed slip decoration Rim sherd, green-glazed whiteware	Post med. Late medieval
5	6	1	8	Glass; blue-green (?medicine) bottle body sherd (Discarded)	Modern
		1	8	Clay pipe stem (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	32	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		3	570	Brick fragments (Discarded)	Modern/post med.
		5	72	Pottery; rim and body sherds, white earthenware, one with blue transfer-printing (Discarded)	Modern
7	8	1	4	Oyster shell, one valve (Discarded)	-
		2	4	Clay pipe stems, one with part of spur (Discarded)	Post med.
		3	134	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	24	Pottery; body sherd, creamware; body sherd PMRE with internal brown speckly glaze (Discarded)	Modern/post med.
9	10	1	2	Clay pipe stem (Discarded)	Post med.
		4	8	Pottery; body sherds, white earthenware, three with blue and mauve transfer-printing (Discarded)	Modern
11	12	2	14	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		3	8	Pottery; body sherds, flowerpot and white earthenware (Discarded) Body sherd, green-glazed both sides	Modern Post med.
15	14	1	2	Clay pipe stem (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	22	Brick fragment (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	2	Pottery; cup rim sherd, white earthenware (Discarded)	Modern
20	22	1	1	Oyster shell fragment (Discarded)	-
		4	48	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
21	22	1	2	Clay pipe stem (Discarded)	Post med.
23	24	2	6	Clay pipe stems (Discarded)	Post med.
		7	92	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		3	12	Pottery; rim and body sherds, flowerpot (Discarded)	Modern
27	28	2	22	Roof tile fragment and spall (Discarded)	Post med.
29	30	1	2	Glass; green bottle body sherd (Discarded)	Modern
		3	50	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	14	Pottery; flowerpot body sherds (Discarded)	Modern
		1	8	Pottery; base sherd	Medieval

32	31	19	78	Animal bone; skull fragments, large mammal; metacarpus, distal end, sheep/goat; fragments (All Discarded)	-
		5	28	Oyster shell; two valves and fragments (Discarded)	-
		3	40	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	34	Pottery; body sherds, early-type PMRE	Early post med
35	Surface finds	1	34	Glass; pale blue medicine bottle base sherd (Discarded)	Modern
		5	270	Brick fragments (Discarded)	Modern
37	36	3	34	Animal bone; cattle phalanx; sheep/goat astragalus; rib fragment (All Discarded)	-
		3	2	Coal fragments (Discarded)	-
		1	1	Glass; colourless chip (Discarded)	Modern
		18	330	Brick and tile fragments (Discarded)	Modern/post med.
		9	48	Pottery; flowerpot rim and body sherds; dish rim and body sherds PMRE; plate rim and body sherds, creamware; body sherd, white Staffs stoneware (All Discarded)	Modern/post med.
38	Cleaning	1	90	Iron ?tool fragment, flat and curved (Discarded)	-
		1	1	Glass; colourless chip (Discarded)	Modern
		3	274	Roof tile fragments, inc. corner (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	4	White ceramic bathroom tile fragments, one glazed pink, one grey (Discarded)	Modern
39	40	1	1	Glass; green bottle body sherd (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	1	Clay pipe stem (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	136	Brick fragment, no surfaces (Discarded)	Post med.
		3	104	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		5	94	Pottery; modern kitchen basin rim and body sherds; rim and base sherds, internal brown glaze PMRE; bowl rim sherd, white Staffs stoneware (All Discarded)	18th C+
41	42	1	10	Glass; green bottle body sherd (Discarded)	Post med.
		10	216	Brick and roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	1	Pottery; body sherd, creamware (Discarded)	Post med.
44	43	1	8	Animal bone; astragalus, sheep/goat (Discarded)	-
		4	26	Brick and tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	14	Pottery; rim sherd PMRE, very battered and abraded (Discarded)	Post med.
46	45	2	38	Iron drop-handle fragment and nail (Discarded)	-
		1	2	Animal bone; ulna, domestic chicken (Discarded)	-
		1	40	Slate fragment (Discarded)	-
		5	24	Glass; stopper from a Codd's bottle; colourless window glass; pale green mineral water bottle body sherds, one melted (All Discarded)	Modern/post med.
		2	38	Brick and tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		7	52	Pottery; white earthenware dish footring sherd and plate rim with pink transfer-printing; flowerpot body sherds; body sherd, modern stoneware (Discarded)	Modern/post med.
47	Spread	2	6	Glass; green bottle body sherds (Discarded)	Modern
		1	50	Pottery; yellow-glazed kitchen basin rim (Discarded)	Modern
48	Spread	1	2	Glass; colourless flat sliver (Discarded)	Modern
51	Finds	2	16	Clay pipe bowl (Oswald Type 7 or 8); stem fragment	1660-1710

		2 1	44 18	(this Discarded) Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; press-moulded dish with piecrust rim and combed slip decoration	Post med. Post med.
52	42	1 7 11	14 308 32	Clay pipe stem with flat heel (Discarded) Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; small body sherds, creamware and white earthenware, three with blue transfer-printing, one hand-painted; bone china saucer rim with pink-painted border (All Discarded) Body sherds, Mill Green-type ware and early PMRE	Post med. Post med. Modern Early post med
53	54	1 1 1	1 32 1	Glass; window sherd (Discarded) Roof tile fragment (Discarded) Pottery; body sherd, tin-glazed earthenware with blue striped decoration (Discarded)	Post med. Post med. Post med.
57	58	1 1 1 1 1 3 2	8 12 16 4 1 82 10	Copper alloy wire (Discarded) Iron nail (Discarded) Oyster shell, one valve (Discarded) Glass; colourless body sherd (Discarded) Clay pipe stem (Discarded) Brick and tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; flowerpot body sherds (Discarded)	Modern - - Modern Post med. Post med. Modern
59	Deposit	2	18	Pottery; body sherds, Mill Green-type ware	14th-16th C
61	60	1 1 2	10 208 14	Iron nail (Discarded) Brick fragment (Discarded) Pottery; body sherds, one PMRE with laminated internal brown glaze, one yellow-glazed kitchen basin ware (Discarded)	- Post med. Modern/post med.
65	64	12 1 1 1 2 1	24 10 2 156 40 1	Animal bone; metacarpus, calcaneus x 3, phalanges x 3, caudal vertebrae x 3, all dog (Discarded) Slate fragment (Discarded) Glass; bottle body sherd, pale blue (Discarded) Brick fragment, London 'stock' (Discarded) Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; chip, white earthenware (Discarded)	- - Modern Modern Post med. Modern
69	68	1	132	Roof tile fragment, overfired (Discarded)	Modern/post med.
79	78	1 2 1	46 38 4	Animal bone; astragalus, cattle, chopped in half (Discarded) Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; body sherd PMRE (Discarded)	- Post med. Post med.
82	Deposit	2 16 3 1	16 68 58 18	Animal bone; metapodial/long bone fragment, medium-sized mammal; mandible fragment with incisor, pig (Discarded) Oyster shell; twelve valves, small examples; fragments (All Discarded) Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; rim sherd, cooking pot	- - Post med. Medieval
84	83	2 2	124 8	Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; body sheds, one white earthenware (from Mocha tankard), one Staffs slipware (Discarded)	Post med. Modern/post med.
86	85	1 7	158 268	Iron door/gate hinge/bracket fragment (Discarded) Roof tile, one with peg hole, and pantile fragments (Discarded)	Modern Modern/post med.

		3	24	Pottery; body sherds, white earthenware with blue transfer-printing, one burnt; shoulder sherd, modern stoneware ink bottle (All Discarded)	Modern
87	85	3 2	56 14	Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; footing sherd PMRE; body sherd, green glaze both sides	Post med. Post med.
89	88	1 1 5 2	16 62 670 166	Animal bone; cattle phalanx (Discarded) Oyster shell, one valve (Discarded) Roof tile fragments, one with corner and peg hole (Discarded) Pottery; rim and body sherds PMRE (Discarded)	- - Post med. Post med.
91	90	2 1	86 4	Roof tile fragments (Discarded) Pottery; rim sherd, small vessel, PMRE, brown internal glaze (Discarded)	Post med. Post med.
95	94	1 1 1 1	2 16 40 2	Animal bone; sliver, long bone (Discarded) Glass; mineral water bottle body sherd (Discarded) Roof tile fragment (Discarded) Pottery; plate body sherd, white earthenware, blue transfer-printed (Discarded)	- Post med. Post med. Modern
97	96	1 1 1 1 10	6 54 4 60 110	Oyster shell, one valve (Discarded) Slate fragment (Discarded) Clay pipe stem (Discarded) Brick fragment (Discarded) Pottery; tankard rim sherds, Mocha ware; joining plate rim and body sherds, white earthenware with blue 'feather' edging; cup rim and plate body sherds, white earthenware with blue transfer-printing (All Discarded)	- - Post med. Post med. Modern

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for Evaluation
- 1.2 Specification for Evaluation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Evaluation Report

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Trench Sheets 1 to 11
- 3.2 Context sheets 1-97
- 3.3 Registers (photographic, levels, sections, plans)
- 3.4 Site plans
- 3.5 Section drawings (1 sheet)
- 3.6 1 sets of 35mm colour slides and B&W Prints
- 3.7 Miscellaneous maps and plans

1 Box of Finds

APPENDIX 5: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Roche Close, Land to the West of North Street, Rochford, Essex	
Parish: Rochford	District: Rochford
NGR: TQ8765 9045	Site Code: RF16
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: B. Barker ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 7th July to 18th July 2005	Size of Area Investigated: 451m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend	Funding source: Barratt Eastern Counties
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related EHER Nos:
Final Report: EAH Summary	
Periods Represented: Medieval, Post-medieval, Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p><i>ECC FAU carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in an area of proposed development on land north of Market Square, and bounded by West Street, North Street, and the former Rochford Hospital. The specific aim of the work was to determine if Roman remains extended to the south of the former hospital; to establish evidence for medieval occupation to the north of the Market Place; and to examine the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.</i></p> <p><i>The twelve evaluation trenches identified an isolated medieval dump layer, over a probable late medieval quarry pit, in the south of the development area. A small amount of residual medieval pottery was also recovered from later features. The northern part of the site had been severely truncated by modern activity associated with the construction of Rochford Hospital. The southern half did not appear to have been truncated. This contained 17th, but predominantly 18th-19th, century post-medieval remains relating to sand/gravel quarrying, tree clearance, rubbish disposal, animal carcass burial and possible cultivation trenches. This activity was likely associated with the use of the rear gardens of the building plots fronting onto North and West Streets. Modern disturbance across this southern area of site was noted to be pronounced.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: B. Barker	Date of Summary: 15 August 2005