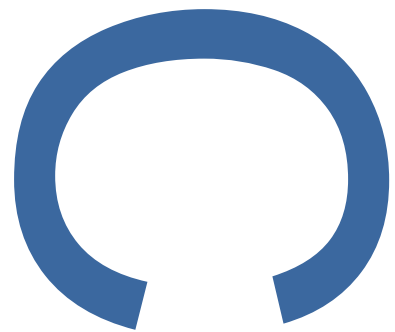


**LAND AT THE FORMER THREE  
SUNS NURSERY WYCKE HILL,  
MALDON, ESSEX**



**A PROGRAM OF  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

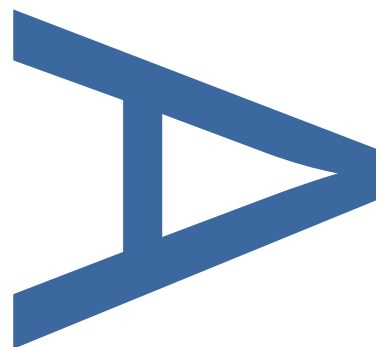


**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**PCA REPORT NO: 13058**

**SITE CODE: MDTS15**

**OCTOBER 2017**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

## **Land at the former Three Suns Nursery Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex: a Program of Archaeological Evaluation**

**Local Planning Authority:** Maldon District Council

**Planning Reference:** TBC

**Central National Grid Reference:** TL 583937 205499

**Site Code:** MDT515

**Report No.** R13058

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## ABSTRACT

*This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) on Land at the former Three Suns Nursery, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.*

*Between 22nd and 25th June 2015, a total of seven 50m and five 25m trial trenches were excavated and recorded. An additional three trenches (totaling 100m) on the southern extent of the site could not initially be investigated during this phase as access was not possible across the brook, though these were subsequently excavated on the 8th May 2017 and found to be negative of archaeological remains.*

*The investigations revealed three ditches and a small pit which did not contain any dating evidence. The ditches were north-south and northeast-southwest orientated and are possibly drainage ditches leading to Lime Brook at the southern boundary of the site. One of the ditches containing a very dark fill corresponds with a field boundary clearly present on the 1838 Tithe Map.*

*A large post-medieval quarry pit was encountered spanning two trenches in the northern part of the site and an unusual, narrow drainage ditch lined entirely with horse bones, also thought to be post-medieval, was recorded in the southern part of the site.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) were commissioned by CgMs consulting to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the proposed development on Land at the former Three Suns Nursery, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 83896 05496) from the 22nd to the 25th June 2015 and the 8th May 2017 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman and Matthew Lees of PCA (Hinman and Lees 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Essex County Council Place Services Historic Environment Advisor.
- 1.3 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.4 A total of seven 50m and five 25m trial trenches were excavated and recorded (Figure 2) in the first phase of work.
- 1.5 An additional three trenches (totalling 100m) which were located on the southern extent of the site could not be excavated during the initial phase of investigation as access was not possible across the brook. These trenches were subsequently investigated in a later stage of works, on 8th May 2017, once access had been arranged by the client (Figure 2).
- 1.6 This report describes the results of both phases of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Essex County Council Archaeology Store.

## **2 GEOLOGY, LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **2.1 Geology**

- 2.1.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of London Clay Formation made up of clay, silt and sand. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period.
- 2.1.2 The northern part of the site has superficial Glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel.
- 2.1.3 The Desk-Based Assessment undertaken for the site (Fletcher 2012) records the overlying soils are slowly permeable seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils. These soils are suited to seasonally wet pastures and woodlands and commonly covered with grassland and arable.

### **2.2 Location and Topography**

- 2.2.1 The current land use is partially residential on the western part of the site with open fields or garden space covering the rest of the proposed development area.
- 2.2.2 The proposed development area comprises an irregularly-shaped area located on the south side of the A414 / Wycke Hill / Spital Road. The site measures approximately 2.4 hectares which is roughly triangular shaped with an additional rectangular parcel of land at the southern limit. The site is bound by the A414 / Wycke Hill / Spital Road from which the site is accessed along the north-west side and Limebrook Way is on the north-east side which creates the limits of the modern urban expansion of Maldon. A disused railway is positioned to the east of the site on a north to south orientation and the course of Lime Brook is located to the south, beyond which are open fields.
- 2.2.3 The site lies at around 15m Over Datum (OD) and is relatively flat. The site lies at the base of a shallow valley with the ground rising to the north and the south, falling away to the east towards the coast.

### **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 General**

A detailed historic background for the site can be found in the Desk-Based Assessment (Fletcher 2012). The archaeological background below has been taken from the DBA and is based on a search of the Essex Historic Environment Record around a 1km radius of the site.

##### Prehistoric

- 3.1.1 There are no records relating to Prehistoric finds or activity within the 1km radius search of the site.

##### Late Iron Age and Roman

- 3.1.2 A Late Iron Age settlement site was recorded during trial trenching prior to the construction of the Southern Relief Road/Safeway Supermarket in the late 1980s (SMR9040), approximately 650m to the east of the site. Features recorded included pits, ditches, postholes and a roundhouse. These investigations recorded more significant Roman settlement remains including a field system, cremations and enclosures dated by building material, high status pottery, coins and cremation vessels (SMR9041).
- 3.1.3 There is a site of a possible villa at Maldon Hall approximately 700m north-west of the site (SMR7777), although little physical evidence for this survives. A gold stater of the Bellovaci was found near Maldon Hall in the 19th century (SMR7780).
- 3.1.4 The course of a reputed Roman Road (SMR7940) runs on a north-east to south-west orientation, less than 500m from the site to the north-west (at its closest point). There has been no recorded archaeological investigation of this road within 1km of the site. Closer investigation of an orange “soilmark” thought to be the Roman Road showed it to be a wider strip caused by a large amount of sand or brickearth mixed with loam at this point (SMR7941). There were a number of modern looking pipes scattered in the sandy patch – no pottery was found.
- 3.1.5 Approximately 600m to the north-west of the site, an archaeological

evaluation was carried out in 1991 prior to residential development (SMR14780). Only one ditch was recorded, dated by pottery to the 1st-3rd Century BC. An unstratified coin of similar date was also found.

3.1.6 An archaeological excavation at Maldon Hall Farm approximately 1.2km to the north west of the site was carried out in advance of a borrow pit for the Maldon Bypass (SMR14778). This investigation recorded a small enclosed cemetery dating to the second half of the 1st century BC.

3.1.7 Significant amounts of Roman building material including brick and tile have been recorded within the extant ruins of St Giles Hospital (Listed 12th century chapel) located 950m to the north-east of the site (SMR7712), suggesting there may have been a Roman building here previously. Excavations in the late 1950s recovered several sherds of Roman pottery.

#### Medieval

3.1.8 There is a known medieval moat at Maldon Hall, 700m north-west of the site (SMR7778) which survives as an earthwork. The rectangular water-filled moat has a retaining bank and archaeological investigations prior to the construction of a conservatory in 1986 recovered several sherds of medieval pottery.

3.1.9 An archaeological investigation prior to residential development 600m to the north-west of the site (SMR14781) recorded a pit and ditch dated by pottery to the medieval period.

3.1.10 The site of the Grade I Listed St Giles Hospital almost 1km to the north-east of the site includes a 12th-13th century leper hospital and chapel (SMR7713). The site underwent later phases of repair in the 16th and 17th century to convert to use as a barn (SMR7714).

3.1.11 Findspots include a coin found during the excavations of the late Iron Age cemetery at Maldon Hall (SMR14779).

#### Post-medieval

3.1.12 There are a number of Grade II listed buildings within 1km of the site.



- 3.1.13 These include the 16th century Maldon Hall located 700m to the north-west (SMR38490), its associated barn (SMR38491) and a 19th century vase located within the grounds (SMR38492). Other buildings include the 17th century timber-framed Maldon Wycke and attached walled gardens approximately 700m to the north (SMR38493) and its associated granary and cart lodge (SMR38494).
- 3.1.14 There is also a record of “Bacons”, an 18th century timber-framed cottage located 1km to the south-west and a 18th/19th century brew-house on the same site (SMR39057). The 16th century Brookhead Farmstead is the closest listed building to the site, positioned 550m to the south-west (SMR39075).
- 3.1.15 The site of Maldon Hall (SMR7779) located 700m to the north-west of the site comprises a 19th century house and garden, an estate map of the site from 1786 shows the moat.
- 3.1.16 A study was undertaken by James Kemble in 1996 plotting the position of former boundary posts from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. Although most of these are no longer present, each is still ascribed a SMR number and position. There are several of these within a 1km radius of the site.

#### Modern

- 3.1.17 There are a number of records relating to World War II defences and occurrences resulting from a survey carried out by Fred Nash in 1999. Approximately 800m to the north-east of the site, at Spitals Road was the site of a Road Barrier (now destroyed) (SMR20279) and approximately 1km to the north, also on Spital Road was the site of an ammunition shelter (SMR21272), (now destroyed) which supported the road barrier.
- 3.1.18 Approximately 700m to the south-west was the site of a floodlight which was erected as a defence against German bombers (SMR20296) and the location of possible World War II bomb craters appearing as earthworks on RAF aerial photographs in 1946 and as cropmarks in 1950 are located south of Brook Farm (SMR8881), 1km to the northwest of the site.

Undated

- 3.1.19 Cropmarks south of Brook Farm, 1km to the north-west of the site, have been interpreted as a possible small rectangular enclosure, sub-divided into two equal parts (SMR7989) and the cropmark of a possible ring ditch has been recorded north of Hazeleigh Hall (SMR8025), 800m to the south of the site. West of Maldon Hall Farm (600m to the north-west of the site), cropmarks have been noted of a linear feature (SMR8026).

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Excavation and Sampling**

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 15 trial trenches, distributed across the site but avoiding standing buildings and internal boundaries (i.e. hedgelines and fences). Due to access issues across the brook, this was reduced to 12 trenches (Figure 2) during the 215 phase of work. The requirement for the additional three trenches on the south side of the brook to be investigated at a later stage (M. Medlycott pers comm) was resolved in May 2017.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 14-ton wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.

4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

### **4.2 Recording Methodology**

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the

locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

- 4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are described from west to east or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

### 5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate n/a	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 37m	Level of Natural (m OD): 14.57-14.59		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.2	0.22	
Subsoil	(101)	0.4	0.2	
Natural	(102)	0.6+	0.42+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 1 was located close to the northern corner of the development area. The trench was shortened to avoid a large heap of manure.				
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.				

### 5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained a single ditch [109] and a small pit [114]. The ditch measured 0.42m in width and 0.05m in depth, aligning north-south. The ditch appeared highly truncated, but was visibly straight in plan. It had a single fill of light yellowish brown, silty clay (110), which contained no finds. A small shallow pit was partially seen on the north-western edge of the trench. The pit [114] appeared circular in plan measuring 0.17m in width and 0.06m in depth. The pit contained a single fill, a dark greyish brown, silty clay (115), the deposit contained no finds

<b>TRENCH 2</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate N/A</b>	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 48m	Level of Natural (m OD): 14.01-14.35		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>		
		<b>SW End</b>	<b>NE End</b>	
Topsoil	(100)	0.27	0.22	
Subsoil	(101)	0.19	0.16	
Natural	(102)	0.46+	0.38+	
<b>Summary</b>				
<p>Trench 2 was located close to the northern edge of the development area.</p> <p>The trench contained a single ditch, and a single pit.</p> <p>The trench location deviated from the original plan to ensure the full length could be excavated.</p>				

## 5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 A large quarry pit [106] was located at the south-western end of the trench; the feature was also present in the north-western end of Trench 4 in both trenches the pit cut from the base of the topsoil. The full dimensions of the feature were not exposed within the trenches; however the feature measured at least 15m across. The pit was excavated by machine to a depth of 1.5m; the base of the feature contained a dark deposit with surviving organic material, suggesting the presence of waterlogged conditions at that depth. Finds of post medieval date were seen throughout the depth of the pit, although in small quantities.

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate 1</b>	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 13.42-13.62		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>		
		<b>SW End</b>	<b>NE End</b>	
Topsoil	(100)	0.35	0.4	
Subsoil	(101)	-	0.2	
Natural	(102)	-	0.6+	
<b>Summary</b>				
<p>Trench 3 was located in the northern half of the development area.</p> <p>The trench contained a large quarry pit; the same feature was also present within Trench 4.</p>				

## 5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Quarry Pit [106] was located in the north-western end of the trench, as described above.

TRENCH 4	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 26m	Level of Natural (m OD): 13.06-13.16	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		SE End	NW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.4	0.32
Subsoil	(101)	0.3	-
Natural	(102)	0.7+	1.5+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 4 was located on the eastern boundary of the development area.			
The trench contained a large quarry pit; the same feature was also present within Trench 3.			

## 5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

TRENCH 5	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 27m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.32-12.65	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		W End	E End
Topsoil	(100)	0.27	0.22
Subsoil	(101)	0.35	0.32
Natural	(102)	0.62+	0.54+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 5 was located close to the eastern edge of the development area.			
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

## 5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 The trench was located within a paddock which had been dedicated to horse training; the topsoil had been partially removed, and replaced with recycled fabric to form a riding surface. No archaeologically significant features or

deposits were present within the trench.

<b>TRENCH 6</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate N/A</b>	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 13.1m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.80-13.21		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>		
		<b>SW End</b>	<b>NE End</b>	
Modern Deposit (Riding Surface)	(113)	0.24	0.23	
Topsoil	(100)	0.14	0.18	
Subsoil	(101)	0.32	0.33	
Natural	(102)	0.7+	0.74+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 6 was located centrally within the development area.				
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.				

## 5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

<b>TRENCH 7</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>		<b>Plate N/A</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 38m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.82-13.51		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>		
		<b>SE End</b>	<b>NW End</b>	
Modern Deposit (Riding Surface)	(113)	0.22	-	
Topsoil	(100)	0.12	0.3	
Subsoil	(101)	0.24	0.11	
Natural	(102)	0.58+	0.41+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 7 was located centrally within the development area.				
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.				

## 5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.



<b>TRENCH 8</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plate N/A</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 12.63-13.17	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>SE End</b>	<b>NW End</b>
Modern Deposit (Riding Surface)	(113)	0.21	0.19
Topsoil	(100)	0.07	0.05
Subsoil	(101)	0.15	0.15
Natural	(102)	0.43+	0.39+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 8 was located centrally within the development area.			
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

## 5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 The trench contained a single ditch [104] and a narrow drainage channel filled with horse bones.

5.10.2 Ditch [104] was straight in plan aligning north-south, measuring 0.85m in width and 0.13m in depth. It had a single fill of very dark brownish grey, silty clay (103), which contained no finds.

5.10.3 Drain [108] was recorded close to the centre of the trench which was widened to investigate the feature. The drain survived within the subsoil and was made visible by the large concentration of horse bone it. As well as broken up bone, long bones were placed end to end within the drain. Although undated, the drain is considered to be post medieval or modern in date, and subsequently the horse bones were not retained.

<b>TRENCH 9</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plates 2, 3 and 4</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 13.12-13.75	
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>SE End</b>	<b>NW End</b>
Topsoil	(100)	0.35	0.32
Subsoil	(101)	0.25	0.29
Natural	(102)	0.6+	0.61+
<b>Summary</b>			

Trench 2 was located centrally within the development area close to the southern boundary  
 The trench contained a single ditch and a land drain filled with horse bone.  
 The trench was moved to ensure the full length could be excavated.

## 5.11 Trench 10

5.11.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

TRENCH 10	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 13.09-13.80	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		SE End	NW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32	0.33
Subsoil	(101)	0.39	0.4
Natural	(102)	0.71+	0.73+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 10 was located close to the western corner of the development area. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

## 5.12 Trench 11

5.12.1 The trench contained a single ditch [111]. The ditch was linear in plan measuring 0.46m in width and 0.07m in depth, aligning north-south. The ditch appeared highly truncated. It had a single fill of light yellowish brown, silty clay (112), which contained no finds.

TRENCH 11	Figure 2	Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 48m	Level of Natural (m OD): 14.42-14.82	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		SW End	NE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.3	0.26
Subsoil	(101)	0.23	0.24
Natural	(102)	0.53+	0.52+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 11 was located close to the north-western edge of the development area.			

The trench contained a single ditch.

### 5.13 Trench 12

5.13.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

TRENCH 12	Figure 2		Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 27m	Level of Natural (m OD): 13.21-13.38		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.37	0.35	
Subsoil	(101)	0.35	0.32	
Natural	(102)	0.72+	0.67+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 12 was located close to the eastern edge of the development area.				
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.				

### 5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

TRENCH 13	Figure 2		Plate N/A	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50m			
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.14m	0.24m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.22m	0.20m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.42m+	0.44m+	
<b>Summary</b>				
Trench 1 was located in the south of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.				

### 5.15 Trench 14

5.15.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

<b>TRENCH 2</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plate N/A</b>	
Trench Alignment: W-E	Length: 25m		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>
Topsoil	(100)	0.15m	0.20m
Subsoil	(101)	0.18m	0.17m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.33m+	0.37m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 2 was located in the south of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

## 5.16 Trench 15

5.16.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

<b>TRENCH 3</b>	<b>Figure 2</b>	<b>Plate N/A</b>	
Trench Alignment: NW/SE	Length: 25m		
<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Average Depth (m)</b>	
		<b>W End</b>	<b>E End</b>
Topsoil	(100)	0.22m	0.33m
Subsoil	(101)	0.10m	0.10m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.37-0.60m+	0.43-0.57m+
<b>Summary</b>			
Trench 3 was located in the south of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.			

## **6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1.1 Two shallow ditches in Trenches 2 and 11 may represent the truncated remains of a prior field system or drainage ditches leading water towards Lime Brook to the south. The small, shallow pit in Trench 2 was very isolated and contained no artefacts or ecofacts and is unlikely to represent any significant activity nearby. A number of characteristics of these features would suggest an early date, however no finds were recovered.
- 6.1.2 The ditch recorded in Trench 9 contained a very dark fill and corresponds with a field boundary present on the 1838 Tithe Map. Based on this, this ditch is likely to be post-medieval in date.
- 6.1.3 The large pit which was encountered in both Trenches 3 and 4 contained several fragments of glass and pottery and rusted fragments of iron. The size of this feature would indicate a quarry pit, excavated for the extraction of the sand and gravels present in this part of the site, for use in construction or maintenance of the nearby roads.
- 6.1.4 The horse-bone lined drain was an unusual feature and although no dating material was found it was considered on site to be post-medieval in date. Interestingly, its northwest-southeast alignment differs from the other ditches and modern land drains used to control water towards the brook. A comparable site of contemporary date was excavated by Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) in Kent in 2003 (Watson 2009). Also interpreted as a land drain, that feature was backfilled with a mass or horizontally laid cattle horncores. The butchery marks on these horncores led to the suggestion that these were the discards from a nearby horners workshop.
- 6.1.5 Clay pipe land drains were present in all of the trenches, the land drains frequently aligned north-south and the alignment is likely to be related to the course of Lime Brook. The brook follows an east-west course to the south of the excavated trenches.

## **7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and Danbury Plant Hire for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Consultant at Essex County Councils Place Services for her advice and for monitoring both phases of work. The author would also like to thank the project team from both phases: Jon House (supervisor during Phase 1), Clare Jackson (supervisor during Phase 2), Stephen Porter and Tom Learmonth and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures. The project was managed by Taleyna Fletcher (Phase 1) and Mark Hinman (Phase 2).

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### **8.1 Printed Sources**

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Watson, B. 2009. Archaeological investigations at the Puma Power Plant, Ash, Kent, Kent Archaeological Society. (Published by MoLA)

### **8.2 Websites Consulted**

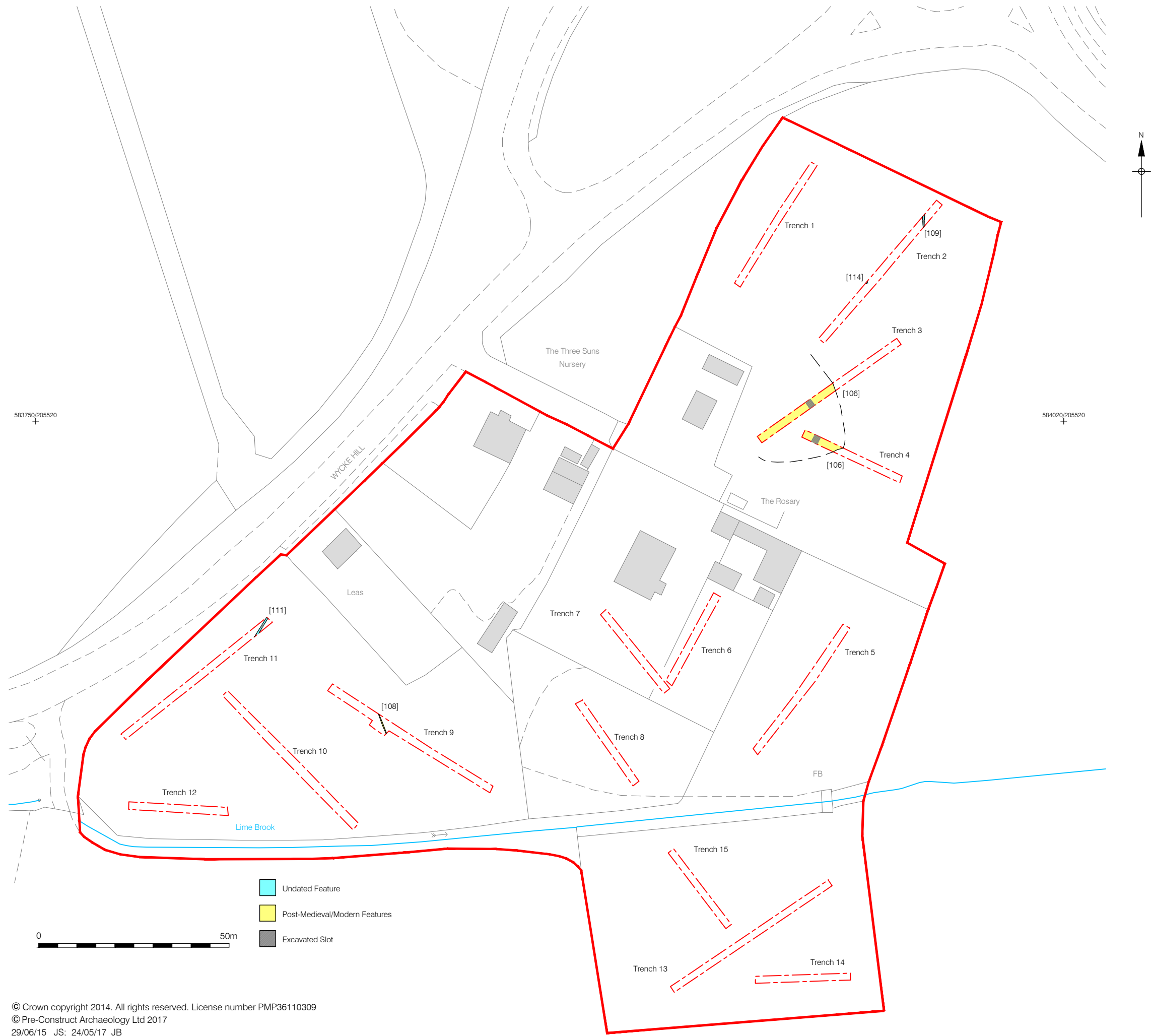
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>. Date accessed  
01/07/15



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 29/06/15 JS

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4





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 29/06/15 JS; 24/05/17 JB

Figure 2  
 Trench Location  
 1:1,000 at A3

**9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES**



Plate 1: Modern quarry pit [106] in southwest end of Trench 3



Plate 2: Undated Ditch [104], Trench 9





Plate 3: Post-medieval (?) drain [108] filled with horse bones, Trench 9



Plate 4: Detail of drain [108] filled with horse bones, Trench 9

## 10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	1-15
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	1-15
102	-		Natural		1-15
103	104	Fill	Ditch	Fill of [104]	9
104	-	Cut	Ditch	Drainage ditch	9
105	106	Fill	Pit	Fill of 106	3 and 4
106	-	Cut	Pit	Quarry Pit	3 and 4
107	108	Fill	Ditch	Fill of 108	9
108	-	Cut	Ditch	Drainage Ditch	9
109	-	Cut	Ditch	Drainage Ditch	2
110	109	Fill	Ditch	Fill of 109	2
111	-	Cut	Ditch	Drainage Ditch	11
112	111	Fill	Ditch	Fill of 111	11
113	-	Layer	-	Modern riding surface	6 and 8
114	-	Cut	Pit	Small Pit	2
115	114	Fill	Pit	Fill of 114	2

**11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM**  
**OASIS ID: PRECONST1-216989**

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Project details

Project name Land at Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex

Short description A total of seven 50m and five 25m trial trenches were excavated and recorded. Three trenches were excavated 8th May 2017 once access had been gained.

Project dates Start: 22-06-2015 End: 26-06-2015 and 8th May

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes oxfordar3-129232 - OASIS form ID

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type DITCH Post Medieval

Monument type DRAIN Post Medieval

Monument type QUARRY PIT Post Medieval

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Significant Finds HORSE BONE Medieval

Significant Finds GLASS Post Medieval

Methods & "Sample Trenches" techniques

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the Not known / Not recorded  
planning process

---

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX MALDON MALDON Former Three Suns Nursery,  
Maldon

Postcode CM9 6SH

Study area 2.40 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 583937 205499 51.86054427 0.300475468047 51 51 37 N  
000 18 01 E Point

Height OD / Min: 12.63m Max: 14.82m  
Depth

---

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Organisation

Project brief Essex County Council  
originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher  
director/manager

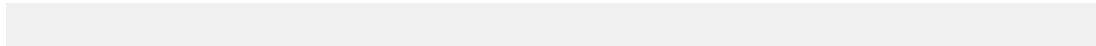
Project Jonathan House  
supervisor

Type of Developer  
sponsor/funding  
body

---

Entered by Taleyna Fletcher (tfletcher@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 7 July 2015 and added to May 2017







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