

**LAND AT 76-78 HIGH STREET,  
BILLERICAY, ESSEX CM12 9BS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION AND EXCAVATION**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
BASILDON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

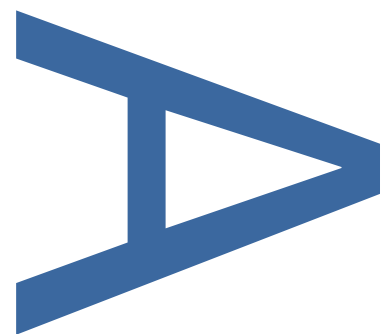
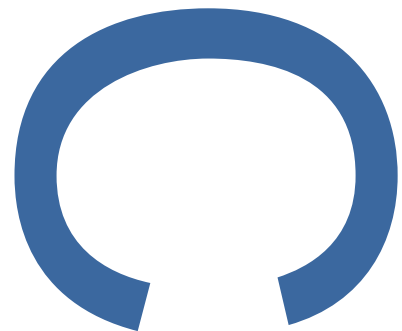
**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBERS:  
N/A**

**PCA REPORT NO: R13722**

**SITE CODE: BL26**

**JUNE 2019**

**REVISED SEPTEMBER 2019**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

LAND AT 76-78 HIGH STREET, BILLERICAY,  
ESSEX, CM12 9BS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND  
EXCAVATION

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K6081
Report Number	R13722

	Name	Date
Text Prepared by:	Alexander G Pullen	June 2019
Graphics Prepared by:	Diana Valk	June 2019
Graphics Checked by:	Mark Roughley	June 2019
Project Manager Sign-off:	Zbigniew Pozorski	June 2019

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
1	September 2019	Zbigniew Pozorski	Peter Moore

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
96 Endwell Road  
London  
SE4 2PD

---

**Land at 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9BS: Archaeological  
Evaluation and Excavation**

**Local Planning Authority:** Basildon District Council

**Central National Grid Reference:** TL 67444 94571

**Site Code:** BL26

**Planning Reference:** N/A

**Report No.** R13722

**Written and researched by:** A G Pullen  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

**Project Manager:** Zbigniew Pozorski

**Commissioning Client:** Orion Heritage

**Contractor:** Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
Unit 54  
Brockley Cross Business Centre  
Rectory Farm  
Brewery Road  
Pampisford  
Cambridgeshire  
CB22 3EN

**Tel:** 020 7538 8950 / 020 7732 3925

**E-mail:** [zpozorski@pre-construct.com](mailto:zpozorski@pre-construct.com)

**Website:** [www.pre-construct.com](http://www.pre-construct.com)

**©Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd  
June 2019, revised September 2019**

*The material contained herein is and remains the sole property of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd and is not for publication to third parties without prior consent. Whilst every effort has been made to provide detailed and accurate information, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies herein contained.*

## CONTENTS

CONTENTS .....	2
ABSTRACT.....	3
1 INTRODUCTION .....	4
2 PLANNING BACKGROUND .....	6
3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY .....	7
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND .....	8
5 METHODOLOGY.....	9
6 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE .....	11
7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS .....	13
8 DISCUSSION .....	15
9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	16
10 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	17
APPENDIX 1: PLATES .....	22
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX .....	25
APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT .....	27
APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT .....	30
APPENDIX 5: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT.....	33
APPENDIX 6: OASIS FORM.....	35
FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION .....	18
FIGURE 2: DETAILED SITE LOCATION .....	19
FIGURE 3: PLAN OF FEATURES .....	20
FIGURE 4: SECTIONS .....	21
PLATE 1: VIEW WEST OF THE SITE .....	22
PLATE 2: VIEW NORTH, PIT [205].....	23
PLATE 3: VIEW NORTHEAST OF EXTRACTION PIT [207] .....	23
PLATE 4: VIEW WEST OF 18TH/19TH CENTURY WALLS (208) AND (209) .....	24

## **ABSTRACT**

*This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9BS (centered on OS NGR TL 67444 94571) between April and June 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by Orion Heritage in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new building at the rear of the application site. The aim of the work was to preserve by record any archaeological remains which would be damaged or destroyed by the new development.*

*The evaluation, which comprised a single 10m long trench, revealed a number of post-medieval postholes. Subsequent excavation exposed an additional posthole, two late 18th/19th century walls and some probable extraction pits which contained domestic waste and post-medieval CBM. This report describes the archaeological remains recorded during the fieldwork and their significance.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation and excavation were undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) in April and June 2019, respectively.
- 1.2 The site is located to the rear of 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9BS (centred on OS NGR TL 67444 94571).
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by Orion Heritage. The work was undertaken in line with National Planning Policy Framework 2018, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.
- 1.4 A strategy for the evaluation of the application site, followed by mitigation of any remains of interest has been agreed with Teresa O'Connor, the Essex County Council Archaeological Officer. As the result, a relevant Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared (Orion Heritage 2018).
- 1.5 Planning permission has been granted in March 2019 for the reconfiguration and extension of existing building on the site for retail and residential purposes (Basildon Borough Council Ref. 18/01486/FULL).
- 1.6 The results of the evaluation prompted further consultations with Teresa O'Connor of ECC who requested a mitigation work in form excavation of the area surrounding the evaluation trench.
- 1.7 The aim of the archaeological works was to 'preserve by record' any archaeological remains present in those areas of the site which would be affected by groundworks associated with the new development.
- 1.8 This report describes the results of the evaluation and excavation, places the site and the identified remains in their local landscape and archaeological context, and assesses their significance against relevant regional research agendas. All work relating to this excavation was carried out in accordance with the WSI (Bedford 2018), Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct (ClfA 2014a) and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (ClfA 2014b).

- 1.9 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide (HE 2015). The site archive will be deposited with Chelmsford Museum on completion of the project.

## **2 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

2.1 During the discussions between Orion Heritage and Essex County Council (ECC) ahead of the decision on planning application for the site it was agreed that the application site is located within an area of archaeological potential, as it is located within the projected extent of the medieval settlement in Billericay, as set out in the Historic Towns Assessment Report for Billericay (ECC 1999). A strategy for the evaluation of the proposed development site, followed by mitigation of any remains of interest was subsequently agreed.

2.2 Planning permission has been granted for the reconfiguration and extension of existing building at 76-78 High Street to provide a retail unit (Class A1 use) at ground floor with 4 residential units above and construction of new 3 storey building to rear comprising 3 residential units, with associated works, parking and landscaping (amended scheme) (Basildon Borough Council Ref. 18/01486/FULL).

2.3 The planning decision issued on 13 March 2019 contains three archaeological conditions which read as follows:

8. Following demolition no preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching has been secured and undertaken in accordance with the WSI and Method Statement.

9. Following demolition no preliminary groundworks can commence on those areas of the development site containing archaeological deposits, until the satisfactory completion of archaeological fieldwork, as detailed in a mitigation strategy, which has been signed off by the local planning authority.

10. Following completion of the archaeological fieldwork, the applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post-excavation assessment (within six months of the completion date, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the planning authority), which will result in the completion of post-excavation analysis, preparation of a full site archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report.



### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 Billericay is located within the London Basin which comprises the London clay of Eocene age, overlain by gravel at the point where the ridge is crossed by the London to Rochford Road and the Chelmsford to the Thames Road (British Geological Survey).
- 3.2 Billericay High Street is located at c. 95 m above Ordnance Datum. The top of the natural gravel on site was recorded at 95.8m AOD. There is a fall of around 30m to both the east and west of the High Street within a short distance.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Billericay is a town of archaeological and historic importance, comprising a small Roman town and a medieval and post-medieval market town. The post-medieval town expanded in the form of a ribbon development along the existing medieval street structure (English Heritage 1999).
- 4.2 The following information is taken from the WSI (Bedford 2018). The application site has not been subject to previous archaeological investigations. However, the application site falls within the historic core of Billericay, which was assessed as part of the Historic Towns in Essex Project in a Historic Town Assessment Report (ECC 1999). The Assessment Report collated known archaeological interventions and provided projected extents of Roman settlement at Billericay.
- 4.3 The WSI (Bedford 2018) suggests that the application site has been subject to redevelopment in the post-medieval period, which is likely to have truncated the remains of any medieval buildings along the High Street frontage. The rear of the application site is an area of car parking which was deemed to have potential for remnants of medieval and post-medieval backyard activity (Bedford 2018).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

### **5.1 General**

5.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised a 10 m long, 1.8m wide trial trench. The excavation comprised a rectangular area 10m long and 6m wide overlying the evaluated area (Fig.2). The excavation area was originally designed to cover c. 70m<sup>2</sup> but was reduced by 10m<sup>2</sup> in order to avoid disturbing live electric services and drains.

### **5.2 Excavation Methodology**

5.2.1 Ground reduction during the evaluation and excavation was carried out using 5 tonne and 3 tonne rubber tracked excavators. The overburden of low archaeological value was removed to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.

5.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

### **5.3 Recording and Finds Recovery**

5.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Geomax GPS rover unit.

5.3.2 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]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). Multiple sections excavated across a single feature were later grouped together by unique 'group numbers' e.g.

Ditch 1. Additionally, features of contemporary date and representing the same type of activity or land-use were assigned to interpretative groups e.g. 'Refuse Pits', 'Quarry Pits'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated during the evaluation and excavation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

5.3.3 Metal-detecting was carried out throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

5.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

## **5.4 Sampling Strategy**

5.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

## **5.5 Environmental Sampling**

5.5.1 No environmental samples were taken during this archaeological work.

## 6 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

### 6.1 Paper Archive

Type	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Context register sheets	1	1	2
Context sheets	16	11	27
Plan registers	0	0	0
Plans at 1:50	1	1	1
Plans at 1:20	0	0	0
Plans at 1:10	0	0	0
Plans at 1:5	0	0	0
Section register sheets	1	1	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	2	4	6
Trench record sheets	1	0	1
Photo register sheets	1	1	2
Small finds register sheets	0	0	0
Environmental register sheets	0	0	0

### 6.2 Digital Archive

Type	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Digital photos	8	37	45
GPS survey files	1	2	3
Digital plans	1	1	2
GIS project	0	0	0
Access database	1	1	2

### 6.3 Physical Archive

Type	Evaluation	Excavation	Total
Struck flint	0	0	0
Burnt flint	0	0	0
Pottery	2	30	32
Ceramic building material (CBM)	36	14	50
Glass	0	0	0
Worked stone	0	0	0
Small Finds	0	0	0
Slag	0	0	0
Animal bone	5	4	9
Shell	0	0	0

Environmental bulk samples	0	0	0
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	0	0	0
Monolith samples	0	0	0
Other samples (specify)	0	0	0
Black and white films	0	0	0
Colour slides	0	0	0

## **7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

### **7.1 Overview**

7.1.1 The results of the evaluation and excavation are considered here together. Archaeological work identified postholes, pits and walls dating from the post-medieval period (Fig. 3). Pottery and peg tiles dating from the 17th to 18th centuries were recovered during the evaluation from pits and postholes. During the excavation the remains of two walls were identified which are thought to date from the late 18th to early 19th century. During the excavation two large pits, probably extraction pits were also dated to the early 19th century. As well as early 19th century material, an admixture of 17th and 18th century pottery was recovered from pit [207]. Later 19th century pit [13] was also found.

### **7.2 Post-medieval postholes [5], [7], [9], [11], [15] & [203]**

7.2.1 Five postholes were identified during the evaluation phase of this work with a sixth being identified during the subsequent excavation. The postholes varied in sizes (see Appendix 1 for dimensions) and each contained single fill. CBM fragments dated to the 17th to 18th century were recovered from the fills (Appendix 4). In addition, [15] contained pottery dated to the late 16th century (Appendix 3). The postholes were roughly distributed in an arc shape with an exception of [15]. They were relatively evenly spaced though did not form part of any recognisable structure. Feature [3], partly revealed during the evaluation and then recorded as a posthole, appeared during the excavation to have been a part of the tree disturbance [201].

### **7.3 Early 19th century pits [205] & [207]**

7.3.1 Two irregular shaped pits were recorded during the excavation. The full extent of these features was not seen. The pits were subsequently deliberately backfilled with an admixture of domestic rubbish (including animal bone) and CBM. Pit [205] was 1.27m+ long and 0.6m+ wide and its eastern side was stepped. The pit was 0.51m deep and contained two fills. The lower fill (210) produced post-medieval red earthenware pottery dated to between c. 1580–1900. The pit also contained a small quantity of animal bone (Appendix 5).

7.3.2 Pit [207] was 8m+ long, 1.62m+ wide and 0.54m deep within its southern part but became only 0.12m deep in the north-eastern part of the excavation area. The southern side of the pit was stepped. The pit contained two fills. The upper fill (206) was composed of a silty redeposited natural material. This was underlain by a dark brownish grey fill (16)/(211) containing late early 19th century pottery and 18th - 19th century CBM. The pit also contained fragmentary animal bone.

#### **7.4 18th/19th century walls (208) & (209)**

7.4.1 The remnants of two walls (208) and (209) were recorded at the edges of the excavation area. The walls were perpendicular to each other and of a similar character. Although they may have originally formed part of the same structure this seems unlikely as the depth of the bricks is consistently different in each structure. The walls were constructed of unfrogged 18th/early 19th century red bricks. Bricks in Wall (208) were c. 232mm long x 114mm wide x 66mm deep. Bricks in Wall (209) were slightly smaller at 230mm long x 111mm wide x 56mm deep. The walls were irregularly bonded and formed generally from alternating courses of headers and stretchers. The bonding material was a light brown sandy lime mortar.

7.4.2 Wall (208) was a 1.6m long and oriented north to south. It was 0.28m wide and 0.4m high.

7.4.3 Wall (209) was a 3.25m length of wall that was 0.24m wide. Only the lowest course of bricks survived. This wall was comprised of two east-west sections linked by a shorter north-south section.

7.4.4 There were no footings or foundations associated with either walls [208] and [209]. Walls [208] and [209] were truncated by the existing modern walls and lay directly beneath and against the modern crush concrete and brick makeup for the modern reinforced concrete surface (1).

#### **7.5 19th century pit [13]**

7.5.1 The rectangular pit was discovered during the evaluation. It had nearly vertical sides and its base was not established. It cut through [207] and contained one fill (12) which produced mid 18th - 19th century CBM.



## **8 DISCUSSION**

- 8.1 Archaeological work identified postholes, pits and walls dating from the later post-medieval period. There was no direct or indirect evidence for Roman or medieval archaeological activity.
- 8.2 The wall fragments (208) and (209) do not align with any specific building shown on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps. These structures would appear to represent mid 18th to early 19th century structures built at the rear of properties fronting the high street.
- 8.3 Pits [205] and [207] may represent sand and gravel extraction pits associated with the early 19th century redevelopment of the site (possibly evinced by walls (208) and (209)). The CBM content of these features suggest they are probably related to an episode of site redevelopment; the peg tiles possibly deriving from the demolition of an earlier building. These features were backfilled (presumably to level the ground) with material from varying sources. The 17th and 18th century pottery found within these early 19th century pits is residual and may have derived from various backplot sources nearby (midden layers, rubbish pits etc).
- 8.4 The function and relative contemporaneity of the postholes found on the site is unclear. These features probably represent a variety of post-medieval backyard features (e.g. posts for drying washing or possibly garden features).
- 8.5 Considered as a whole the site is of local interest only and can make little contribution to the broader understanding of the later post-medieval period in Billericay and the region (Andrews 2019; Medleycott 2011). The current project results are not significant enough to warrant a stand-alone publication.

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank William Bedford of Orion Heritage for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Essex County Council Place Services for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority. The project was managed for PCA by Zbigniew Pozorski. The excavation was supervised by A G Pullen. The author would like to thank Gareth Morgan and Guy Seddon for their hard work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Ray Murphy of PCA's CAD Department.

## **10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### **10.1 Printed Sources**

Bedford, 2018. Land at 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9BS. Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. Orion Heritage Ltd. PN1956.

English Heritage 1999. Historic Towns in Essex. Billericay. Historic Towns Assessment Report.

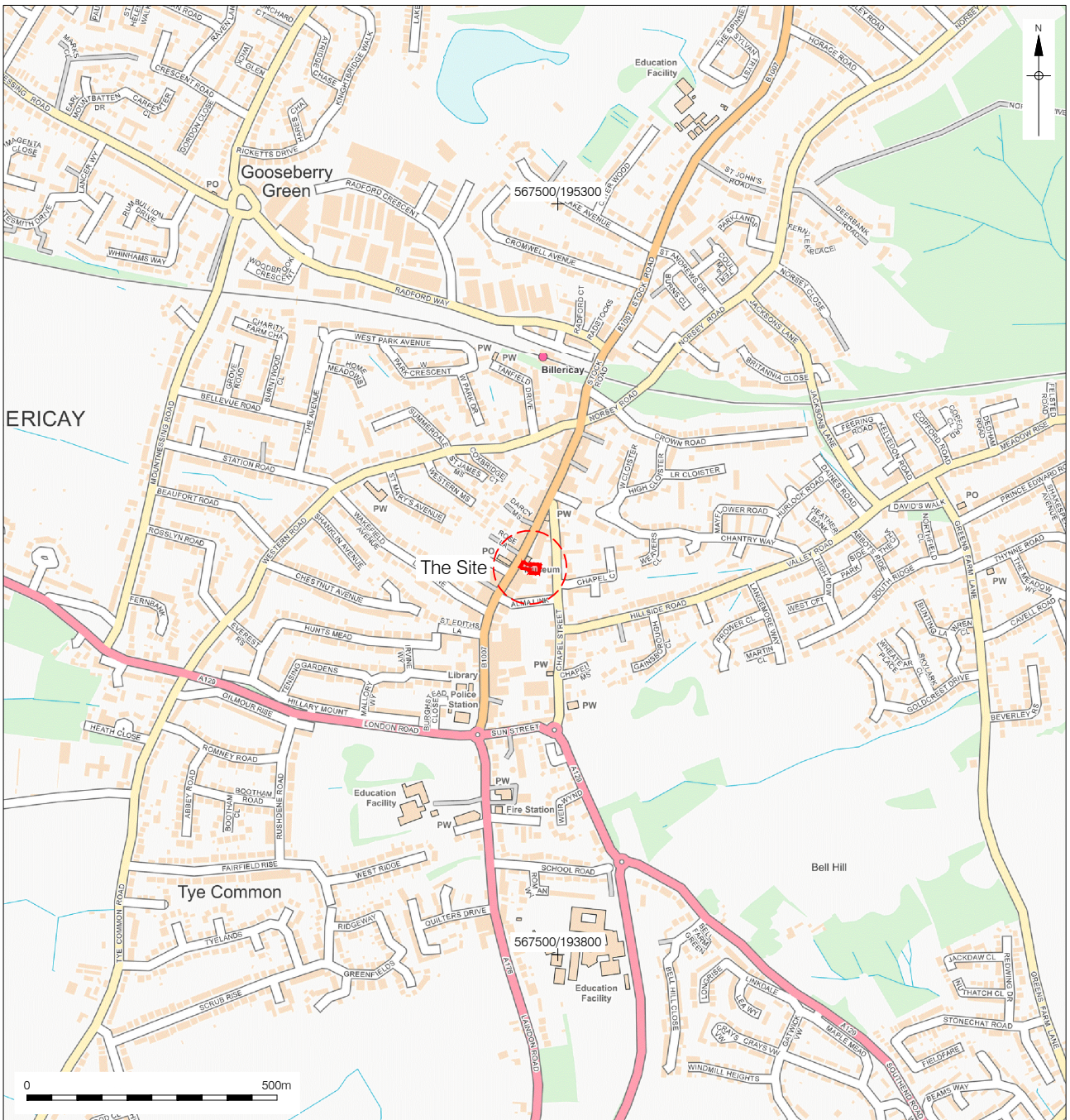
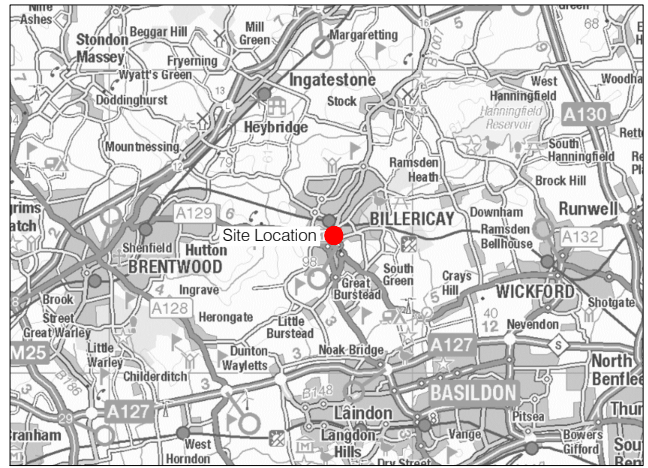
Medlycott, M. (ed.) 2011 Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 24 (ALGAO East of England).

Ryan, P. 1996. Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation. Chelmsford.

### **10.2 Websites**

Andrews, D. 2019. Research Framework Review: Post-medieval. Accessed 11/06/2019.<http://eaareports.org.uk/algao-east/regional-research-framework-review/>

British Geological Survey 2019 Geology of Britain Viewer <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?location=IP9%203DG>. Accessed 10/06/19







0 20m

© Crown copyright 2019. All rights reserved. License number PMP361 10309

© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2019

30/04/19 MR

Figure 2  
Detailed Site Location  
1:400 at A4

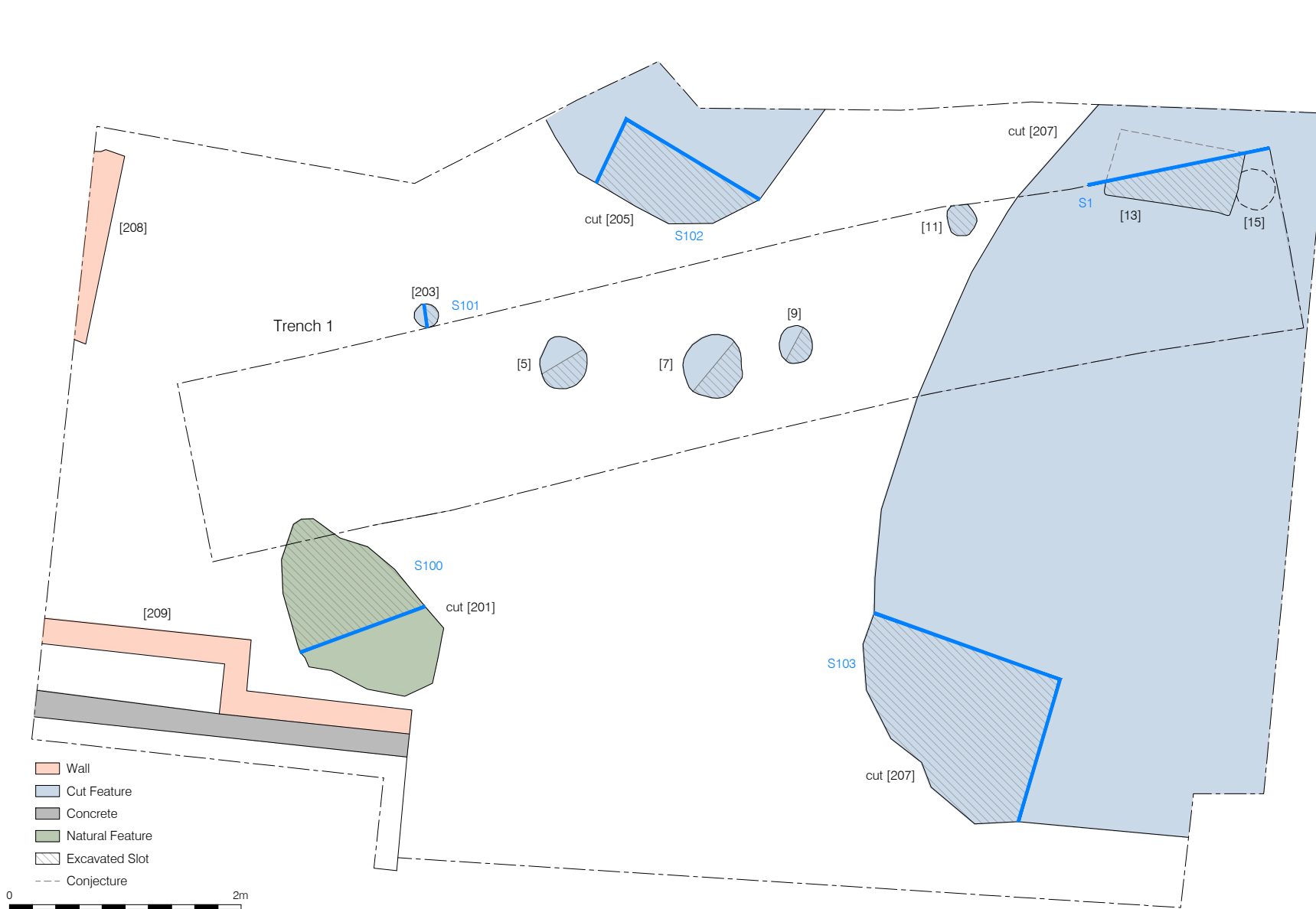
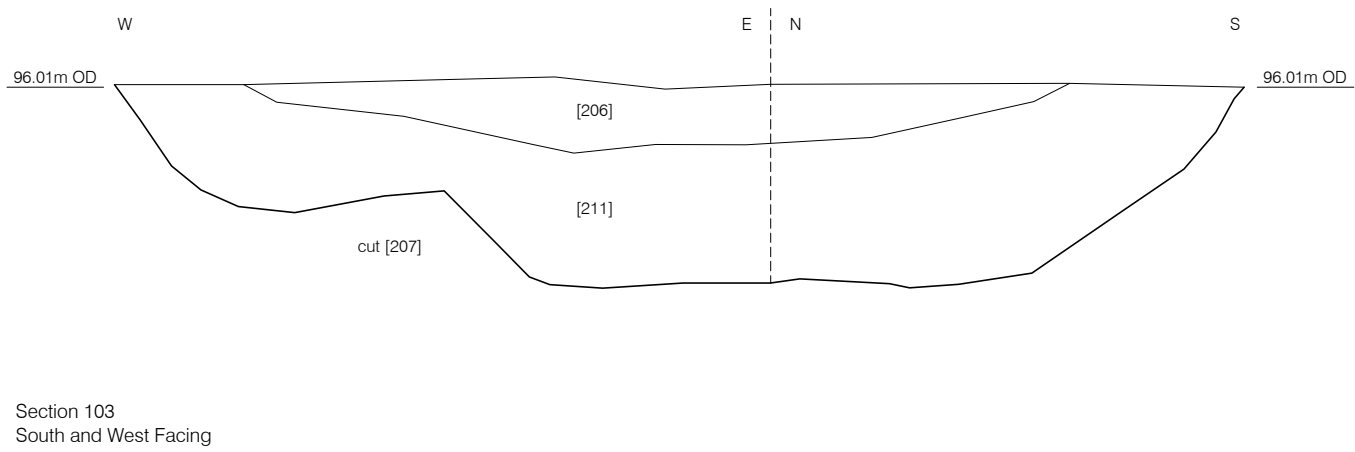
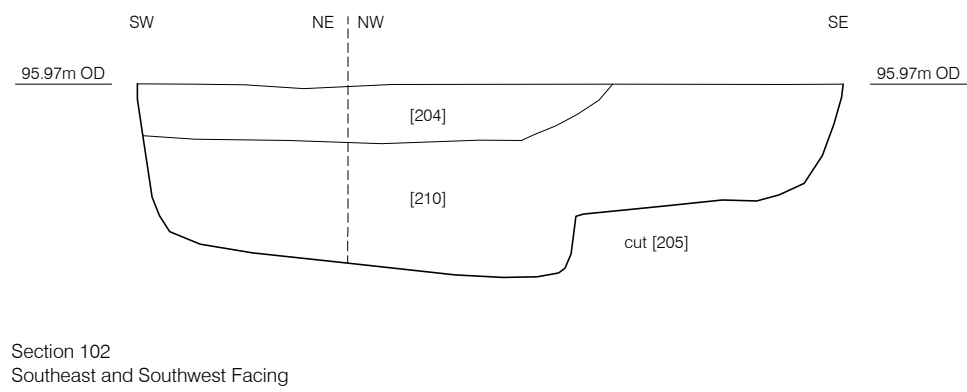
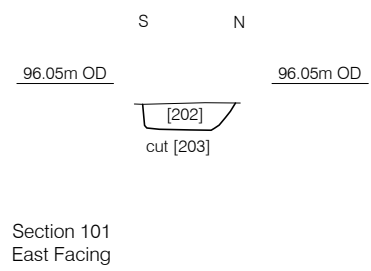
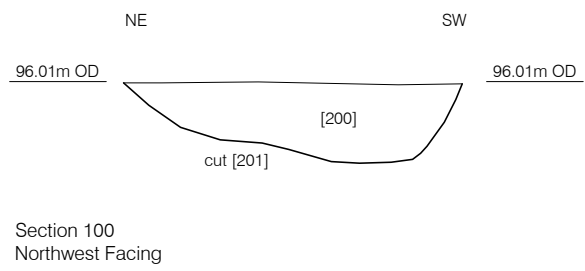
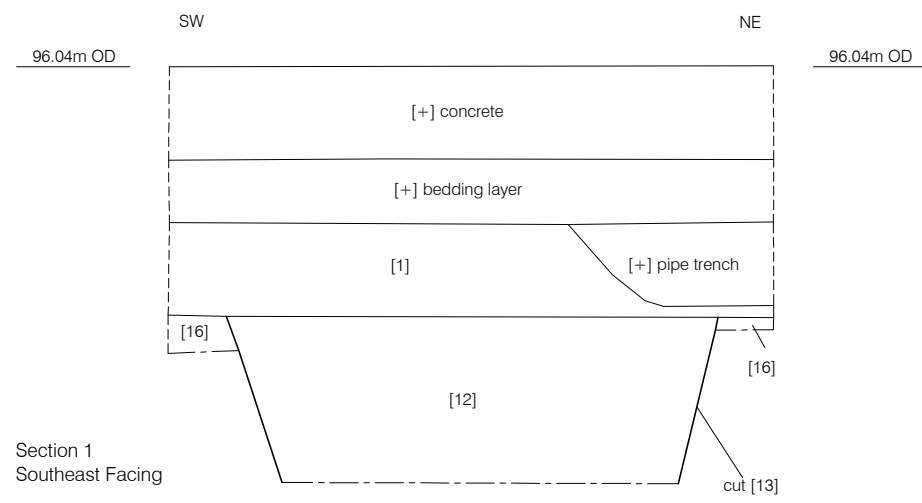


Figure 3  
Plan of Features  
1:50 at A4



## APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: View south-west of the evaluation trench



Plate 2: View west of the site (excavation)





Plate 3: View north, pit [205]



Plate 4: View northeast of extraction pit [207]



Plate 5: View west of 18th/19th century walls (208) and (209)

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context No	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Period Name
1	1	1	Layer	Made Ground			0.25	Overburden	modern
2	3	1	Fill					Same as (200)	
3	3	1	Cut					Same as [201]	
4	5	1	Fill	Posthole	0.47	0.42	0.32	Fill of posthole [5]	post-medieval
5	5	1	Cut	Posthole	0.47	0.42	0.32	Cut of posthole [5]	post-medieval
6	7	1	Fill	Posthole	0.56	0.49	0.33	Fill of posthole [7]	post-medieval
7	7	1	Cut	Posthole	0.56	0.49	0.33	Cut of posthole [7]	post-medieval
8	9	1	Fill	Posthole	0.32	0.31	0.26	Fill of posthole [9]	post-medieval
9	9	1	Cut	Posthole	0.32	0.31	0.26	Cut of posthole [9]	post-medieval
10	11	1	Fill	Posthole	0.30	0.30	0.28	Fill of posthole [11]	post-medieval
11	11	1	Cut	Posthole	0.30	0.30	0.28	Cut of posthole [11]	post-medieval
12	13	1	Fill	Pit	1.14	0.59	0.45+	Fill of pit [13]	post-medieval
13	13	1	Cut	Pit	1.14	0.59	0.45+	Cut of pit [13]	post-medieval
14	15	1	Fill	Posthole	0.33	0.30	0.23	Fill of posthole [15]	post-medieval
15	15	1	Cut	Posthole	0.33	0.30	0.23	Cut of posthole [15]	post-medieval
16	207	1	Fill	Pit	2.5	1.80	0.10	Same as (2011)	post-medieval
200	201		Fill	Treethrow	1	0.84	0.2	friable mid-greyish brown sandy-silt	
201	201		Cut	Treethrow	1	0.84	0.2	irregular moderately steep sides	
202	203		Fill	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.08	friable dark greyish-brown silt	post-medieval
203	203		Cut	Posthole	0.2	0.2	0.08	circular, vertical sides, flat base	post-medieval
204	205		Fill	Pit	0.68	0.56	0.16	compact, orange-brown sandy-gravel	post-medieval
205	205		Cut	Pit	1.27	0.6	0.51	sub-circular, irregular sides and base	post-medieval
206	207		Fill	Pit	5	0.7	0.17	firm, light brownish yellow gravelly clay	post-medieval

207	207		Cut	Pit	8	1.62	0.54	irregular shape, moderate sides, irregular base	post-medieval
208	208		Masonry	Wall	1.6	0.2	0.4	18th/19th century east-west wall	post-medieval
209	209		Masonry	Wall	3.25	0.24	0.06	18th/19th century north-south wall	post-medieval
210	205		Fill	Pit	1.27	0.6	0.51	friable dark greyish brown sandy-silt	post-medieval
211	207		Fill	Pit	8	1.62	0.54	friable dark greyish brown sandy-silt	post-medieval



## APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett

### Introduction

A small assemblage of pottery (32 sherds/23 estimated number of vessels (ENV)/2.846kg) dating to the post-medieval period was recovered by hand from the archaeological work and found as small groups in three contexts. Only two sherds were deemed to be residual and the pottery is generally in a good, but fragmentary condition, although four vessels have a complete profile. Therefore, the assemblage was more likely to have been deposited under secondary conditions.

### Methodology

The classification of the fabrics follows that of the Essex post-Roman pottery codes and are according to Cunningham (1985) and Cotter (2000) and the data was entered into a database format and was quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight.

### The Assemblage

The range of pottery types are shown in Table 1. The wares come from either an Essex, London, the Surrey-Hampshire borders or a general British source, Staffordshire being the most likely (Cotter 2000).

Pottery type (Essex code)	Date range	Forms	SC	ENV	Wt
Creamware (48C)	1740–1830	Chamber pot, plates: dinner, octagonal, tea	13	4	518
London stoneware (45)	1670–1926	Jug: bellied type	1	1	697
Metropolitan slipware (40a)	1630–1700	Closed form. ?jug	1	1	15
Pearlware (48P) (all transfer-printed)	1550–1840	Plate: dinner, teacup	3	3	36
Post-medieval red earthenwares (40)	1550–1900	Bowl: shallow flared, bowl or dish, bung-hole jar (late 16th-century), jug, dish: rounded, unidentified	10	10	1085
Surrey-Hampshire border	1550–1900	Medium rounded jar	1	1	52

Pottery type (Essex code)	Date range	Forms	SC	ENV	Wt
(redware) (42)					
Late slipped kitchenware (51A)	1775–1900	B owl or dish (internal white-slipped and clear-glazed with brown mottling in a lobed pattern)	1	1	125
English tin-glazed ware (46A)	1570–1846	Rounded bowl (18th century) ointment pot (plain blue late type)	2	2	92
Anglo-Netherlands tin-glazed ware (46A/C)	1570–1700	Charger with early to mid-17th century geometrical design)	1	1	241

Table 1. Pottery types quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight (Wt) and the forms that occur in the wares.

### Contextual Analysis

Table 2 shows the distribution of the pottery for each context the ceramics occur in, the feature the context filled, the quantification by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight in grams, the earliest and latest date for the latest pottery type present, the pottery types and the forms represented in those wares and a considered spot date for the deposition of the finds.

Context	Fill of	SC	ENV	Wt	Context ED	Context LD	Fabrics (forms)	Spot date
(14)	Posthole [15]	2	2	177	1550	1900	40 (bung hole jar, unidentified)	Late 16th century
(210)	Fill of Pit [205]	2	2	42	1550	1900	40 (jug, brown glazed: unidentified, unglazed)	1580–1700
(211)	Fill of Pit [207]	29	20	2642	1770	1840	40 (shallow flared bowl, bowl or dish, rounded dish jug, unidentified), 40A (?jug), 42 (medium rounded jar), 45 (bellied jug), 46A (rounded bowl, ointment pot), 46A/C (charger), 48C (chamber pot, plates: dinner, octagonal, tea), 48P (dinner plate, teacup), 51A (bowl or	Early 19th century

Context	Fill of	SC	ENV	Wt	Context ED	Context LD	Fabrics (forms)	Spot date
							dish)	

Table 2: Pottery by context. SC: sherd count, ENV: estimated number of vessels, Wt: weight in grams

#### Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

The pottery is of little significance as it occurs in a small quantity without much meaning. The pottery has only the potential to date the contexts it was found in. There are no recommendations for further work on the material.

#### References

Cotter, J. P., 2000. Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971 – 85, Colchester Archaeological Report, 7. English Heritage and Colchester Archaeological Trust.

Cunningham, C. M., 1985. 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C. M., and Drury, P. J., Post-Medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford'. Chelmsford Archaeological Trust, Report 5, Council for British Archaeology, 54, 1–16.

## **APPENDIX 4: CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL ASSESSMENT**

By Amparo Valcarcel

### Introduction

A medium quantity of building material (50 examples, 9.79 kg) collected from an evaluation and excavation at land at 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex (BL26), was reviewed in order to provide a list of spot dates and to identify the form and fabric of building material. This assemblage is characterised by groups of post-medieval peg tiles and bricks. The material was recovered mainly from fills of post-holes, pits and treethrows.

### Methodology

The application of a 1kg masons hammer and sharp chisel to each example ensured that a small fresh fabric surface was exposed. The fabric was examined at x20 magnification using a long arm stereomicroscope or hand lens (Gowland x10).

The first decision was made to compare the fabrics from this group with the PCA Reference Collection held in Brockley. This four-digit fabric collection is in accordance of the Museum of London classification. This proved to have limitations as some of the fabrics are clearly local using the underlying boulder clay which is not present in London. The absence of a reference collection made it necessary to consult documents (Ryan 1999). Fabrics unique to Billericay were prefixed with BL, thus BL ...1. All the ceramic building material in a fragmentary condition, with only a one brick complete.

### Post-medieval (1450-1900)

#### Roofing tiles (35 fragments, 4.93 kg)

Peg tiles are the most common form found in the site. The fragments are made of a local hard fabric, well fired fine texture with few visible inclusions (BL1). Peg tiles have a coarse grade moulding sand suggesting perhaps that they were post-medieval peg tiles. With no existing reference collection of peg tile fabrics from Billericay, one cannot pinpoint more accurate dates for manufacture, but in keeping a 1700-1900 date seems



probable.

Bricks (14 fragments, 4.82 kg)

BL2: sandy fabric, abundant quartz, frequently with silty and red inclusions usually occasional throughout the sandy clay matrix, (2 examples, 491 g)

BL3: sandy fabric with frequent rounded clay pellets, occasional silty bands and red iron pellets (11 examples, 3.26 kg)

BL3: notably hard brick of uniform texture without obvious inclusions in the fabric, imitation Dutch brick 3036, with some glassy inclusions (1 example, 1.06 kg)

Post-medieval bricks form a larger component of the ceramic building material assemblage. Three fabrics are represented all of which were found to be made from local clays, although the vast majority are made of the same very fine red sandy fabric (BL3). The latest brick was made of fabric BL3 (AD 1750-1900) a very well fired and dense fabric, with sharp arises indicating machine manufacture, imitating paver Dutch fabric 3036. The rest of the bricks are poorly made and are very shallow.

#### Distribution

Context	Cu	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
4	5	BL1	Post-medieval peg tiles	4	1450	1900	1450	1900	1700-1900	No mortar
6	7	BL3	Post-medieval bricks	3	1400	1900	1450	1900	1700-1900	No mortar
8	9	BL3	Post-medieval brick	1	1450	1900	1450	1900	1450-1900	No mortar
10	11	BL3	Post-medieval bricks	3	1450	1900	1450	1900	1700-1900	No mortar
12	13	BL1; BL3; BL4; 3101PM	Post-medieval bricks and peg tiles; soft lime mortar	15	1450	1900	1450	1900	1750-1900	1750-1900

Context	Context	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material		Latest dated material		Spot date	Spot date with mortar
					1450	1900	1450	1900		
14	15	BL1; BL4	Post-medieval brick and peg tiles	10	1450	1900	1450	1900	1700-1900	No mortar
200	201	BL1	Post-medieval bricks	2	1450	1900	1450	1900	1700-1900	No mortar
210	205	BL1	Post-medieval peg tiles,	2	1450	1900	1450	1900	1700-1900	No mortar
211	207	BL1; BL3	Post-medieval bricks and peg tiles	11	1450	1900	1450	1900	1700-1900	No mortar

## Recommendations

The building materials assemblage from BL26 merely reinforces post-medieval activity at this site, from the roofing tile and brick. It seems probable, given the poor condition of the building material assemblage that much of it was reclaimed from redeposited episodes elsewhere. In summary, this is a very abraded assemblage, representing different phases of redeposition at the area through the years. The roof tiles and bricks provide evidence for the presence of a post-medieval building/s. No further work is recommended

## Bibliography

- Pullen, et al. (2014): Land at 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9BS: Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation, Unpublished PCA report
- Ryan, P (1999): Brick in Essex, The clayworking craftsmen and Gazetteer of sites, Pat Ryan publ.

## APPENDIX 5: ANIMAL BONE ASSESSMENT

By Karen Deighton

### Introduction

A small quantity of animal bone was collected by hand during excavation from four post Medieval contexts.

### Method

Material was analysed using standard zooarchaeological methods (see references)

### Bone condition

Fragmentation was heavy with 50% of bone 25% or less than 25% complete. Surface condition was reasonable with erosion at a low level. Chopping was noted on 50% of bone. Canid gnawing was observed on one bone only.

### The taxa present

Table1: Taxa by context (fragment count)

Context/cut	Feature	Spot date	Cattle	Cattle Size	Sheep	Sheep /goat	Sheep size	Pig	Total
10/11	Posthole	1580-1700	1						1
12/13	Pit							1	1
14/15	Posthole	LC16th		1		2			3
211/207	Pit		3	1	2	2	1		9
Total			4	2	2	4	1	1	14

The assemblage consisted entirely of common domesticated food taxa. Aging data was limited to evidence of the level of epiphyseal fusion and indicated a mixture of juveniles and adults, although with such a small assemblage this is an unreliable indicator of dietary preference or site economy. The relatively large proportion (i.e. 4 out of 14 elements) of cattle and sheep horncores present could indicate some craft or industrial activity however, the amount is too small to define the exact nature of this

activity.

## Recommendations

The potential and significance of this assemblage is severely limited by its small size, therefore

no further work is recommended.

## References

Binford, L. 1981 *Bones ancient man and modern myths*. New York: Academy Press

Brothwell, D. and Higgs, E. *Science in Archaeology* Thames and Hudson

Silver, I. 1969 The ageing of domestic animals in D. Brothwell and E. Higgs (eds)

Schmid, E 1972 *Atlas of animal bones* London: Elsevier press

Silver, I. 1969 The ageing of domestic animals in D. Brothwell and E. Higgs (eds)

Von den Driesch, A. 1976 *A Guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites* Harvard: University press

## APPENDIX 6: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-355088

---

### Project details

Project name	76 and 78 High Street Billericay
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9BS (centred on OS NGR TL 67444 94571) between April and June 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by Orion Heritage in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new building at the rear of the application site. The evaluation, which comprised a single 10m long trench revealed a number of post-medieval postholes. Subsequent excavation exposed an additional posthole, two late 18th/19th century walls and some probable extraction pits which contained domestic waste and post-medieval CBM.
Project dates	Start: 01-04-2019 End: 07-06-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BL26 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

---

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BASILDON BILLERICAY 76-78 High Street Billericay
Postcode	CM129BS
Study area	60 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 67444 94571 52.522838355542 0.468371254885 52 31 22 N 000 28 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 95.1m Max: 95.8m

---

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA
Project brief originator	Essex County Council
Project design originator	Orion Heritage Ltd
Project director/manager	Zbigniew Pozorski
Project supervisor	Alexander Pullen
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

---

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"  
available

---

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at 76-78 High Street, Billericay, Essex CM12 9BS:  
Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

Author(s)/Editor(s) A G Pullen

Date 2019

Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology

Place of issue or  
publication Brockley

Description A4 Grey Literature Report

---

Entered by Alexander Pullen (agpullen@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 12 June 2019

# PCA

## **PCA CAMBRIDGE**

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM  
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN

t: 01223 845 522

e: [cambridge@pre-construct.com](mailto:cambridge@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA DURHAM**

THE ROPE WORKS, BROADWOOD VIEW  
CHESTER-LE-STREET  
DURHAM DH3 3AF

t: 0191 377 1111

e: [durham@pre-construct.com](mailto:durham@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA LONDON**

UNIT 54, BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE  
96 ENDWELL ROAD, BROCKLEY  
LONDON SE4 2PD

t: 020 7732 3925

e: [london@pre-construct.com](mailto:london@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA NEWARK**

OFFICE 8, ROEWOOD COURTYARD  
WINKBURN, NEWARK  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG22 8PG

t: 01636 370 410

e: [newark@pre-construct.com](mailto:newark@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA NORWICH**

QUARRY WORKS, DEREHAM ROAD  
HONINGHAM  
NORWICH NR9 5AP

T: 01603 863 108

e: [norwich@pre-construct.com](mailto:norwich@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA WARWICK**

UNIT 9, THE MILL, MILL LANE  
LITTLE SHREWLEY, WARWICK  
WARWICKSHIRE CV35 7HN

t: 01926 485 490

e: [warwick@pre-construct.com](mailto:warwick@pre-construct.com)

## **PCA WINCHESTER**

5 RED DEER COURT, ELM ROAD  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO22 5LX

t: 01962 849 549

e: [winchester@pre-construct.com](mailto:winchester@pre-construct.com)

