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83 HIGH STREET, GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex: An Archaeological Investigation*		
Project description *In August-October 2006, Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation on land at 83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 6300 2165). The site lies in the south-eastern part of Great Dunmow, within the historic core of the medieval town. The site is situated at the junction of two Roman roads, on the corner of Braintree Road and the High Street.* *Three trial trenches and a small open area excavation, centred on Trench 2, revealed five pits, three postholes, one ditch, a pottery kiln with a surviving flue, and one feature of unknown function. Dating evidence indicated that three phases of activity were present on the site: Romano-British, medieval and modern. Phase 1 features dated to the 2nd-4th century AD and comprised the pottery kiln, perhaps representing an industrial site located on the periphery of the Roman small town. Two pits and a ditch were assigned to Phase 2 and dated to the 12th-14th century. These probably represent back land features associated with roadside occupation, as the medieval market town developed along the High Street. Two pits were of modern date, and a pit and three postholes were undated.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*23rd- 30th August 2006; 4th-10th October 2006*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*N*
P. number	*2254*	Site code	~~BM~~ *20* ? G-DZO
Type of project	*An archaeological evaluation and excavation*		
Site status			
Current land use	*House and garden*		
Planned development	*Residential development*		
Main features (+dates)	*2nd- 4th century Roman kiln, 12th - 14th century medieval pits and ditch*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Assemblages of Romano-British and medieval pottery; clay kiln lining with impressions of wooden branches*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Essex*	*Uttlesford*	*Great Dunmow*
HER/ SMR for area	*EHCR*		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	*c. 1500m²*		
NGR	*TL 6300 2165*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c. 70m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Andy Ginns, Phil Weston*		
Funded by	*Matthew Homes*		
Full title	*83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex: an archaeological investigation*		
Authors	*Andy Ginns, Phil Weston, Tom Woolhouse, Tamlin Barton*		
Report no.	*2099*		
Date (of report)	*February 2007*		

83 HIGH STREET, GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY

Between August and October 2006, Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation on land at 83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 6300 2165). The site lies in the south-eastern part of Great Dunmow, within the historic core of the medieval town. The site is situated at the junction of two Roman roads, on the corner of Braintree Road and the High Street.

Three trial trenches and a small open area excavation, centred on Trench 2, revealed five pits, three postholes, one ditch, a pottery kiln with a surviving flue, and one feature of unknown function. Dating evidence indicated three phases of activity: Romano-British, medieval and modern. Phase 1 features dated to the 2nd-4th century AD and comprised the pottery kiln, possibly representing an industrial site located on the periphery of the Roman small town. Two pits and a ditch are assigned to Phase 2 and date to the 12th-14th century. These probably represent back land features associated with roadside occupation, as the medieval market town developed along the High Street. Two pits were of modern date and a pit and three postholes are undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between August and October 2006, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation on land at 83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 6300 2165; Figs. 1 & 2). The project was commissioned by Matthew Homes Limited prior to the construction of residential dwellings (planning application UTT/0884/02).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (dated 06/06/05), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by AS (dated 23/06/05). A subsequent Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological excavation was prepared by AS (15/09/06). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* and *Excavation* (all revised 2001). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify areas of previous ground disturbance on the site. The excavation aimed to further define the features recorded during the evaluation, paying particular regard to:

- Any surviving medieval or later foundations/structural remains
- Any deposits relating to the economy of the medieval and post-medieval settlement
- Any remains of earlier periods, particularly any Romano-British activity associated with the course of Stane Street.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The town of Great Dunmow is situated in north-west Essex, *c.* 15km to the east of Bishop's Stortford. The site is located in the south-eastern part of Great Dunmow, within the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval town (Figs. 1 & 2). It is bounded to the west by the High Street and to the south by Braintree Road. The site is roughly rectangular in plan, with a curved south-western corner at the junction of the High Street and Braintree Road. The site measures some 48m in length by 32m in width, comprising an area of *c.* 1500m².

2.2 The site lies at a height of *c.* 70m AOD and is situated on a slight south-east facing slope, falling by approximately 0.75m from the High Street frontage in the west to the eastern edge of the site. The local geology comprises a London Clay Formation with localised flint gravel capping. The soils of the area are of the Ludford Association, described as deep, well-drained, fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, with a slight risk of water erosion. There are localised flint and gravel patches (SSEW 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric

3.1.1 Evidence for occupation around Great Dunmow from at least the early Bronze Age (*c.* 2100 – 1700 BC) is attested by struck flints recovered during excavations in the early 1970s (Wickenden 1988). These investigations also produced an abraded assemblage of late Bronze Age - early Iron Age (*c.* 1300 – 400 BC) pottery, probably indicating that farmers of the period were using waste from occupation areas as manure to improve soil quality (*ibid.*). A middle Iron Age settlement site was excavated in 1993 at Buildings Farm, in the west of the town (Lavender 1997).

3.2 Romano-British

3.2.1 Previous archaeological investigations have established the presence of a Roman 'small town' at Great Dunmow. The town is likely to have developed along the line of Stane Street, the main road from Colchester to Braughing and St Albans, at the junction with the Chelmsford to Great Chesterford road. Stane Street is thought to roughly correspond to the route of the A120, except where a bypass diverts the modern road around Great Dunmow. The exact line of the road through the town has yet to be established (Wickenden 1996, viii).

3.2.2 A military presence during the early part of the Roman period is suggested by the excavated remains of a small fort with earthen defences established after the Boudiccan revolt of AD 60-61 (Wickenden 1988, 83, 89 & 92). Dunmow was probably laid out formally during the late 1st - early 2nd century AD like other towns in the *Civitas*, such as Chelmsford and Heybridge (Wickenden 1988, 89). Evidence of extensive Roman occupation, and several possible unmetalled, planned minor roads running parallel to Stane Street, were recorded during excavations at the Redbond Lodge/Chequers Lane site, *c.* 500m to the north-west of 83 High Street.

3.2.3 An enclosed group of inhumations and cremations were also identified during the excavations at Chequers Lane, possibly representing a family group, dating to the late 1st - late 2nd centuries. A possible shrine or temple of the 4th century was also recorded (Essex Heritage Conservation Record (EHCR) Nos. 13864 - 9). Such small, urban family cremation groups seem to have been permitted on the edges of settlements and are frequently encountered in the backlands of tenurial plots around the fringes of many small towns in Essex, such as Braintree (Drury 1976, 126) and Kelvedon (Wickenden 1988, 89).

3.2.4 Excavations by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (now Archaeological Solutions) at Dunmow Junior School revealed at least four intact Roman cremations, and possibly a fifth disturbed one. The site revealed evidence of two phases of Roman activity: the first datable to the late 1st - later 2nd century AD; the second phase represented by artefacts dated to the mid 2nd - 3rd century AD; the cremations belonged to this second phase. The site, located on the northern side of Stane Street, confirmed the western limits of the planned Roman town (O'Brien 2003). Earlier archaeological excavations at the school produced coins and large quantities of Roman pottery dating from the 1st - 3rd centuries AD, some of which may represent a cremation burial (Couchman 1976, 160; Wickenden 1988, 82). Previous construction work revealed a fired clay structure, possibly a kiln, in addition to fragments of iron slag and ore, which may indicate an industrial area (Wickenden 1988, 82).

3.2.5 A cremation cemetery has also been excavated at Hasler's Lane, to the south-east of the previously supposed extent of the Roman town (Hickling 2002, 2003). The cemetery was shown to be early in date, as the excavation revealed over 100 burials of mid 1st - early 2nd century date. Further Roman cemetery sites are suspected at Station Yard, on the south-eastern periphery of Roman Great Dunmow, on an area of land at Church End to the north of the town and on the Highfields housing estate, to the south of Stane Street. Skeletons reported to the north-east of the town at Merks Hill Farm might indicate the site of a late or post-Roman inhumation cemetery (Wickenden 1988, 89).

3.2.6 Evidence for Romano-British occupation has also been recorded outside the Roman town. The excavations at Buildings Farm identified field systems and associated structures in proximity to a middle Iron Age site (Lavender 1997).

3.3 Anglo-Saxon and medieval

3.3.1 Activity in the town declined during the 4th and 5th centuries. There is evidence for some early Saxon occupation, and during part of the middle Saxon period there seems to have been occupation over a considerable portion of the Roman town to the north of Stane Street. Pottery recovered from Chequers Lane, 36 New Street and the 'Market Garden site', excavated in 1972, confirms this (Wickenden 1988, 92), as does a possible middle Saxon *grübenhaus* excavated at Chequers Lane (Wickenden 1988, 45-50). In the post-Roman period much of the area of the Roman town probably reverted to agricultural use. The line of Stane Street also fell into disuse and the road followed a more circuitous route to the north, possibly following the line of the current High Street. It may be that the road was diverted around the Roman town defences, which would have still been evident in the middle Saxon period. The National Monuments Record suggests that the focus of Saxon settlement may have been closer to Church End.

3.3.2 Place name evidence reflects occupation in the Great Dunmow area at the time of the Norman Conquest. The name Garnetts, of a farm in the area, derives from the family name of Robert Gernon, an important baron holding 45 manors in Essex at the time of the Domesday survey (Hunter 1999, 81). The early medieval settlement lay to the north-east of the Roman town at Church End. Settlement probably shifted to the present High Street and Market Place in the 12th/13th centuries, a process which was facilitated by the grant of a market charter in 1227.

3.3.3 An evaluation carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group at the rear of the Saracen's Head Hotel on High Street revealed a post-built structure and pits of medieval and post-medieval date (National Monuments Record 1340830). Medieval features have also been identified at Nos. 20, 22 and 24 High Street (NMR 878910). Ribbon development occurred along New Street and North Street in the post-medieval period (Boyer 2001, 3).

3.4 Post-medieval

3.4.1 The proximity of Great Dunmow to London led to the town's expansion during the post-medieval period. Great Dunmow developed as a staging post on the route to the capital and a flourishing local industry based on cloth manufacture and tanning developed during the 16th and 17th centuries. Buildings from this period of wealth and growth account for much of the historic townscape still extant today (Medlycott 1999).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Four trial trenches were excavated on the site, in locations approved by ECC HEM. The original trench layout, which represented a standard 10% sample as required in the brief, was modified in agreement with ECC HEM to avoid an area of possible contamination at the southern boundary of the site identified during a previous geotechnical investigation. The trenches were located to provide maximum coverage of the proposed area of development (Fig. 2). Trench 1 measured 1.60m x 22.50m; Trench 2 1.60m x 21m; Trench 3 1.60m x 12m and Trench 4 1.60m x 19.50m.

4.2 Following the identification of a Roman pottery kiln in Trench 2, this trench was expanded into a small open area excavation on advice from ECC HEM, in order to excavate the feature fully. This larger open area measured 11.5 x 6.75m. Trench 4 was also widened in two places in order to achieve a full section across a ditch feature and also to confirm its alignment (Figs. 2-4).

4.3 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a 180° wheeled JCB excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 2 – 5)

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Sample section: North end, West facing section *0.00 = 71.64m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000. Topsoil. Friable dark grey/brown slightly clayey silt.
0.33 – 0.67m	L1001. Subsoil. Firm mid to dark grey/brown clayey silt.
0.67m+	L1002. Natural gravel.

Sample section: South end, West facing section *0.00 = 71.73m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.06m	L1033. Vegetal mulch formed since abandonment of site.
0.06 – 0.14m	L1028. Concrete hardstanding.
0.14 – 0.23m	L1029. Levelling layer. Crushed red brick hardcore.
0.23 – 0.65m	L1000. Topsoil. As above.
0.65m+	L1002. Natural gravel.

Description: Trench 1 was excavated on an approximate north to south alignment along the western boundary of the proposed development area, adjacent to the High Street (Figs. 2 & 3). It contained no archaeological features. A modern brick-built wall with an associated construction cut was noted in the western section of the trench. The cellar of No. 83 High Street was identified, backfilled with building rubble, and a probable modern square posthole was also identified.

5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Sample section: North end, West facing section *0.00 = 71.20m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.20m	L1032. Concrete hardstanding.
0.20 – 0.45m	L1000. Topsoil. As above.
0.45 – 0.76m	L1001. Subsoil. As above.
0.76m+	L1002. Natural gravel.

Sample section: South end, East facing section *0.00 = 71.35m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000. Topsoil. As above.
0.50 – 0.90m	L1001. Subsoil. As above.
0.90m+	L1002. Natural gravel.

Description: Trench 2 was excavated on a north to south alignment through the middle of the proposed development area (Figs. 2 & 3). The trial trench revealed the remains of a probable pottery kiln, and in response a larger area measuring 11.5 x 6.75m was stripped around the feature. Ten archaeological features were identified in the extended Trench 2: Pits F1005, F1009, F1011 and F1021, Kiln F1007, Flue F1047, irregular feature F1024 and Postholes F1036, F1041 and F1043.

5.2.1 Phase 1: Romano-British (2nd-4th centuries AD) (Fig. 5)

5.2.1.1 F1007 comprised the sub-oval bowl or oven pit of a small pottery kiln measuring 2.70m x 1.90m x 0.50m deep (Fig. 3; Plates 2, 7, 8 & 9). The long axis of the kiln was aligned approximately east to west. The kiln bowl exhibited a variable profile, with a near-vertical western side, and a more moderately-sloping side to the east, where the flue is likely to have originally entered the kiln (F1047; see below). The base of the kiln was flat.

5.2.1.2 Kiln F1007 contained five fills, described in Table 1 (below) from basal to uppermost. A remnant of *in situ* yellowish-orange baked clay kiln lining (L1046) survived in the south-western quadrant of F1007. This lay above L1039, a shallow clayey silt layer 0.02 - 0.07m deep. The presence of this silt layer below the kiln lining might indicate that some natural infilling from rain and surface run-off had occurred in the interval between the oven pit for the kiln being dug and the construction of the kiln lining. Alternatively, it could indicate that the kiln was periodically cleaned out and relined, with L1046 representing one of these episodes of relining. The overlying layers (L1008 and L1038=L1045) represented the deliberate backfilling of the kiln bowl after the disuse of the kiln. They contained large quantities of redeposited baked/fired clay kiln lining (L1037) deriving from the destruction of the above-ground superstructure, as well as finds of pottery and domestic-type rubbish including a quernstone.

Context	Description	Finds*
L1039	Basal fill. Pale grey, soft slightly clayey silty sand.	2nd-4th century pottery (1; 73g)
L1046	*In situ* kiln lining in south-west quadrant of F1007.	Kiln lining (67; 2331g)
L1008	Black, fairly compact sandy clay with abundant charcoal content. Contained redeposited kiln lining (L1037).	2nd-4th century pottery (52; 824g); kiln lining (75; 2479g); quernstone (1; 371g)
L1037	Redeposited fragments of yellowish-orange baked clay kiln lining within fills L1008 and L1038.	Kiln lining (23,893g), burnt wood (53g)
L1038 = L1045	Mid to dark grey/brown compact flint gravel in a clayey silt matrix.	2nd-4th century pottery (11; 352g), kiln lining (3; 176g)

Table 1: Fills of Phase 1 Kiln F1007
*Figures given in brackets follow the order: no. of fragments/sherds; weight

5.2.1.3 The majority of the pottery found in association with F1007 comprised undiagnostic Sandy Grey Ware sherds, indicating a broad 2nd – 4th century date (Peachey, this report). A single sherd in this fabric was recovered from Basal Fill L1039, which is thought to have been deposited either prior to the initial construction of the kiln, or during an episode of repair and relining. Backfill Layer L1008, which represents the demolition of the kiln, again yielded 2nd – 4th century pottery, but also contained a single Colchester white ware mortaria sherd dateable to the 1st quarter of the 2nd century (Peachey, this report). This sherd might allow the destruction of the kiln to be more precisely dated, but could equally be residual. The kiln could therefore have been in use at any time between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD.

5.2.1.4 F1047 was linear in plan, extending north-west to south-east from the bowl of the kiln (Fig. 3), and measuring 2.00m+ long x 0.50m wide x 0.15m deep. It exhibited moderately steep sides and a flat base and contained a single fill, L1048. Fill L1048 was very like fill L1008 in the kiln bowl, consisting of dark grey/black sandy clay with abundant (70%) charcoal and common fragments of redeposited kiln lining. Four sherds (98g) of Romano-British pottery (2nd-4th century) were also recovered. The precise stratigraphic relationship between F1047 and F1007 could not be determined; F1047 did not appear to cut the kiln bowl. Nevertheless, based on its physical proximity to the kiln, very similar backfill, and likely functional association, F1047 is interpreted as the kiln's flue.

5.2.2 Phase 2: medieval (12th-14th centuries AD) (Fig. 5)

5.2.2.1 Feature F1024 extended beyond the northern end of Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Plate 5). Its visible dimensions were 2.20m+ x 1.90m+ x 0.71m deep. The one excavated side was irregularly stepped and broke into a flat, irregular base. Feature F1024 contained three fills: L1025, L1026 and L1027. The basal fill, L1025, was a wet, loose flint gravel in a black, probably organic, matrix from which no finds were recovered. The middle fill, L1026, was approximately 75% flint gravel in a friable, mid grey/brown silty sand matrix. A single sherd (18g) of residual Romano-British pottery was recovered from L1026. The upper fill, L1027, was a soft, mid grey/brown slightly clayey silt from which six sherds (63g) of 12th - 14th century medieval pottery and 206g of CBM were recovered. It is unclear whether F1024 represents a ditch, or the edge of a large rubbish or cess pit. Its middle fill (L1026) seemed to represent deliberate backfilling, while the upper fill, L1027, probably formed through natural silting. The small assemblage of medieval sherds in L1027 suggests a 12th - 14th century date.

5.2.2.2 F1009 was a large pit (Plates 3 & 10; Fig. 3) with dimensions of 3.40m x 2.40m x 0.56m deep. It exhibited moderately-sloping irregular sides and an irregular concave base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L1044, comprised a dark black/grey plastic clayey sand with frequent sub-rounded

gravel clasts (<100mm); it contained no finds. This was sealed by L1010, a compact, very dark grey/brown slightly clayey silt. Finds recovered from L1010 consisted of 38 sherds (646g) of 12th - 14th century medieval pottery, in good condition, 76g of abraded Romano-British pottery, 463g of kiln lining, 51g of animal bone and a residual flint core (47g). Pit F1009 was cut by posthole F1043 (Fig. 3).

5.2.2.3 Pit F1005 was sub-circular in plan, with dimensions of 2.00m x 1.73m x 0.50m deep. It exhibited moderately-sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 3; Plate 1). It contained a single fill (L1006), described as approximately 70% flint gravel in a fairly compact mid grey/blue clayey sand matrix. Layer L1006 contained 143 sherds (2465g) of 12th - 14th century medieval pottery (Thompson, this report), as well as 146g of animal bone, 102g of kiln lining, 1065g of CBM, a fragment of a quernstone, 28 pieces of slag (1492g), and a possible rubbing stone (1822g).

5.2.3 Phase 3: modern (19th-20th centuries) (Fig. 5)

5.2.3.1 F1021 was a sub-square pit (1.35 x 1.23 x 0.25m deep; Figs. 3 & 4) which exhibited steep sides and a flat base. Pit F1021 contained two fills, L1022 and L1023. Lower fill L1022 was approximately 60% flint gravel in a very compact mid to dark orange clay that produced no finds. The upper fill, L1023, was a friable mid to dark grey/brown slightly clayey silt, which produced 134g of CBM and 355g of concrete and is therefore modern. The base of a timber post survived in the north-east corner of F1021 (Fig. 3). The feature is interpreted as a backfilled foundation cut associated with an unidentified modern structure.

5.2.3.2 F1011 was a sub-square pit (1.25 x 0.65+ x 0.39m deep; Figs. 3 & 4) cutting Subsoil L1001. Pit F1011 exhibited near-vertical sides and a flat base. It contained two fills, L1012 and L1017. The lower fill, L1012, was a firm mid grey/brown slightly clayey silt from which 68g of residual Romano-British pottery and 18g of CBM were recovered. The upper fill, L1017, was approximately 75% flint gravel in a compact orange/brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from L1017. The stratigraphic position of Pit F1011, cutting Subsoil L1001 rather than the natural gravel drift, suggests a relatively recent date. It was very similar in form and fills to Pit F1021 and is thought to be a foundation cut associated with the same unidentified modern structure.

5.2.4 Undated (Fig. 5)

5.2.4.1 F1043 was a pit/posthole (0.70 x 0.60 x 0.18m deep; Plate 12; Fig. 4) that exhibited moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base. F1043 contained a single fill, L1042, a dark greyish/brown friable flint gravel in a clayey sand matrix, which produced seven sherds (133g) of abraded Romano-British pottery. The finds recovered from this feature suggest a Roman date; however, the abraded nature of the pottery sherds suggests that this was residual material in a medieval or later feature. The stratigraphic relationship of F1043, cutting 12th-14th century Pit F1009, confirms that this feature is of medieval or later date, but further precision is not possible.

5.2.4.2 F1041 was a pit/posthole (0.90 x 0.75 x 0.25m deep; Fig. 4) that exhibited moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base. It contained a single fill, L1040, a mid greyish/brown friable flint gravel in a clayey sand matrix, which produced no finds.

5.2.4.3 F1036 (Fig. 4) was likely a posthole that owed its irregular shape in plan to bioturbation. Its maximum dimensions were 0.70 x 0.62 x 0.18m deep and it exhibited moderately-sloping sides and a slightly concave base. F1036 contained a single fill, L1035. This was a mid greyish/brown friable flint gravel in a clayey sand matrix, which produced no finds.

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

Sample section: West end, South facing section *0.00 = 71.65m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.56m	L1000. Topsoil. As above.
0.56 – 0.75m	L1020. Disturbed subsoil. As L1001, but with CBM fragments.
0.75m +	L1002. Natural gravel.

Sample section: East end, South facing section *0.00 = 71.48m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000. Topsoil. As above.
0.26 – 0.85m	L1001. Subsoil. As above.
0.85m +	L1002. Natural gravel.

Description: Trench 3 was excavated on an approximate east to west alignment in the southern half of the proposed development area. It contained no archaeological features. A modern drain was identified running on a north-west to south-east alignment across the eastern end of the trench.

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

Sample section: North end, West facing section *0.00 = 71.00m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.27m	L1034. Modern brick wall.
0.27 – 0.51m	L1030. Foundation layer. Light yellow/brown, sandy clay gravel.
0.51 – 1.01m	L1031. Buried topsoil. As L1000, above.
1.01m+	L1002. Natural gravels.

Sample section: South end, West facing section *0.00 = 71.10m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.15m	L1030. Foundation layer. Light yellow/brown, sandy clay gravel.
0.15 – 0.66m	L1031. Buried topsoil. As L1000, above.
0.66m+	L1002. Natural gravels.

Description: Trench 4 was excavated on a north to south alignment along the eastern boundary of the proposed development area. The trial trench revealed the edge of a ditch, so two mechanically-excavated slots were dug at right-angles to the trench in order to enable the excavation of a complete section of the feature and also to confirm its alignment. Trench 4 contained two archaeological features, Ditch F1015 and Pit F1018. A modern brick wall was identified in the eastern section of the trench (Plate 6), as was a probable cellar backfilled with building rubble and window glass.

5.4.1 Phase 2: medieval (12th-14th centuries AD) (Fig. 5)

5.4.1.1 Ditch F1015 (5.70m+ x 1.22m x 0.19m deep; Plates 4 & 11; Fig. 4) was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, roughly parallel with the High Street. It exhibited moderately steep sides and an undulating base. Ditch F1015 contained a single fill (L1016), a compact dark grey/brown silty clay from which six sherds (38g) of 11th-14th century medieval pottery and a sheep/goat mandible (67g) were recovered.

5.4.2 Undated (Fig. 5)

5.4.2.1 F1018 was a circular pit (1.00 x 0.90 x 0.17m deep) located towards the northern end of Trench 4. Pit F1018 exhibited moderately sloping sides and a concave base. The pit contained a single fill, L1019, a friable dark grey/brown silty sand with no finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 With the exception of two areas of concrete hardstanding, one in the south and one in the north of the site, the stratigraphic sequence was uniform across the site. Topsoil L1000 was a friable dark grey/brown slightly clayey silt with occasional flint gravel and fragments of CBM. It varied in thickness from 0.25m - 0.55m across the site.

7.2 Topsoil L1000 sealed Subsoil L1001, a firm mid to dark grey/brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel. It varied from 0.40m - 0.55m in thickness across the site, varying with the natural topography. At the base of the stratigraphic sequence lay L1002, the natural flint gravel glaciofluvial drift, capping the London Clay Formations.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary of the archaeology

8.1.1 Four trial trenches were opened during the archaeological evaluation at High Street, Great Dunmow. Following the identification of archaeological remains, Trenches 2 and 4 were extended on advice from ECC HEM in order to investigate the features more fully. Five pits, three postholes, one ditch, a probable pottery kiln with an *in situ* flue, and a feature of unknown function were identified. Ditch F1015 and Pit F1018 were located in Trench 4, in the east of the proposed development area, while the remaining features were located in Trench 2 in the approximate centre of the site.

8.1.2 Three phases of activity were identified: 2nd-4th centuries AD (Phase 1), 12th-14th centuries AD (Phase 2) and 19th-20th centuries (Phase 3). Undated features were also identified, which could not be assigned to a specific phase of activity. The evaluation recorded modern disturbance across the site, likely associated with the buildings that previously occupied the site, and which were demolished in advance of the programme of archaeological works.

8.1.3 Phase 1 features were restricted to Trench 2 and consisted of the remains of a pottery kiln, F1007, and its *in situ* flue, F1047. An alternative interpretation of Kiln F1007 as an oven or corn dryer is discussed below and will be an important issue for post-excavation research to attempt to fully resolve. The presence of a kiln or drying oven might indicate that the site was in an industrial area of the Roman town.

8.1.4 Phase 2 features consisted of Pits F1009 and F1005, located in the southern portion of Trench 2, and north-north-west to south-south-east aligned Ditch F1015, identified at the southern end of

Trench 4. These features are interpreted as small-scale evidence of medieval roadside development along the High Street.

8.1.5 Modern features were also recorded during the evaluation, and consisted of a cellar and posthole in Trench 1, Pits F1011 and F1021 in Trench 2, a service trench in Trench 3 and a cellar in Trench 4. These features were associated with the structures which previously occupied the site. It is likely that other Romano-British and medieval features on the site have been destroyed by this modern activity.

8.2 Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

8.2.1 The known history and archaeology of the area immediately around the site suggested a high potential for remains dating to the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods. This potential was fulfilled during the archaeological evaluation.

Phase 1: Romano-British (2nd-4th centuries AD)

8.2.2 Features of this phase were dated to the 2nd to 4th century, the middle and later Romano-British period. As discussed above in Section 3.2, a Roman 'small town' developed at the junction of Stane Street and the Chelmsford to Great Chesterford Road.

8.2.3 F1007 comprised the backfilled bowl or oven pit of a small pottery kiln; F1047 was a linear flue extending south-east from F1007 (Fig. 3). The kiln and flue were 100% excavated and revealed a sequence of fills. The kiln appeared to have been fired at least once. It may have been cleaned out and relined, perhaps periodically, as an area of surviving *in situ* lining (L1046) overlaid a basal layer of silting (L1039).

8.2.4 The kiln was sunken, with a below-ground oven pit cut into the natural gravel. The *in situ* lining present in the south-west quadrant of F1007 suggests that the base of the kiln was lined with clay to refract the heat. The flue, F1047, was also partially tunnelled through the natural subsoil, but was only *c.* 0.15m deep, and presumably originally rose above ground level. There was no evidence of a raised oven floor. Although it is possible that this was entirely destroyed when the kiln was demolished and backfilled, it seems more likely that the kiln was single-chambered (see Swan 1984, 30 fig. II.ii).

8.2.5 As with the majority of excavated kilns, only the subsurface parts survived, and the appearance of the above-ground portion of the kiln is conjectural. The impressions of irregularly-spaced wooden branches (15-35mm thick) on the fragments of redeposited kiln lining suggest that there may have been a clay superstructure up to 120mm thick (Peachey, this report) erected over the oven pit, supported by a wattle frame. Other Roman kilns have yielded similar impressions of burnt-out withies used as reinforcing material, occasionally in the kiln lining as seems to have been the case at the present site (for example, Mucking; Jones & Rodwell 1973, 17), but more often on the underside of a raised oven floor and its supports, or around the flue arch (Swan 1984, 32). It is unclear whether this kiln had a full, permanent domed superstructure which left only a narrow vent for loading (Swan 1984, 30 fig. II.ii), or an open-topped superstructure supplemented by temporary materials such as turf (Swan 1984, 30 fig. II.iv & v). The fragments of kiln lining were coarsely-tempered, with inclusions of chaff/grass, sparse quartzite and flint (Peachey, this report). This would have helped to bind the clay together and stop excessive shrinking and cracking of the structure during firing.

8.2.6 Although F1007 was interpreted as a kiln during excavation, and this is thought to be the most likely interpretation of its function, an alternative use as a corn dryer or oven should also be

considered. Environmental samples from the feature contained fairly large quantities of charred oat, barley and spelt grains, suggesting that it could have been used for the parching/drying of grain, or for cooking (Fryer, this report). Glumed wheats, including spelt, require parching to facilitate removal of the chaff, and archaeological evidence indicates that grains frequently became scorched or charred during this process. Cereals were also frequently accidentally burnt during culinary preparation (Fryer, this report). However, it is tentatively suggested that the fragments of clay lining recovered from F1007 conflict with this alternative interpretation. They showed signs of having been fired by the heat inside the kiln (Peachey, this report). It seems unlikely that cereal drying or cooking processes would have required temperatures high enough to produce this effect. The use of cereal processing waste as kiln fuel has also been noted at a number of sites in East Anglia and elsewhere (van der Veen 1999, 211-24; Fryer 1997a & 1997b). The charred cereal grains in F1007 may therefore represent burnt fuel used during pottery firing. Further post-excavation analysis will compare Kiln F1007 with kilns and ovens from other Roman sites in Essex, with the aim of enhancing understanding of its function.

8.2.7 At the end of its period of production, the kiln appears to have been demolished and deliberately backfilled. Backfill Layers L1008 and L1038=L1045 contained large assemblages of abraded and undiagnostic pottery of broad 2nd - 4th century date, in addition to large quantities of redeposited kiln lining (L1037; 23kg+) deriving from the demolition of the above-ground wattle and clay superstructure. These backfill layers also yielded domestic-type rubbish including a quernstone and a small amount of animal bone. A single diagnostic mortaria sherd from L1008, dating to the first quarter of the 2nd century (Peachey, Appendix 5), might provide a firmer indication of when the kiln was demolished and backfilled. However, this sherd could easily be residual and the kiln may have continued in use as late as the 4th century AD.

8.2.8 The presence of Kiln F1007 suggests that the site may have lain within a peripheral industrial area to the south-east of the Roman town. It probably produced local coarse wares on a small scale. Finds characteristic of household-type rubbish, including animal bone and a quernstone, were recovered from the backfill layers in F1007. These might indicate a shift from industrial to residential land use following the disuse of the kiln, but the evidence is too slight and the dating evidence too broad to draw firm conclusions.

Phase 2: medieval (12th-14th centuries AD)

8.2.9 The medieval archaeology on site was dated to the 11th - 14th centuries. As discussed above (Section 3.3.2), the market charter of 1227 was the catalyst for the expansion of the medieval town into the High Street area.

8.2.10 Modern building activity had truncated the High Street frontage of the proposed development site. However, evidence of medieval settlement activity was represented at the rear of the site by Ditch F1015 in Trench 4. This feature ran parallel to the High Street and almost certainly represents the rear boundary of the medieval burgage plot which would have extended back from the High Street. The very shallow depth of the boundary ditch (*c.* 0.19m) suggests truncation from post-medieval land use on the site; however, the precise cause of this probable truncation is unknown. The undiagnostic pottery recovered from F1015 does not permit the laying out of the burgage plots along this part of the High Street to be precisely dated.

8.2.11 Further evidence of medieval occupation was identified in the form of domestic rubbish Pits F1005 and F1009 in Trench 2. Such pits are typical of the backland areas of medieval burgage plots, which would probably have been used for small-scale craft activities, cess pits and the disposal of domestic refuse. Medieval pits indicative of domestic occupation have also been found at Nos. 20, 22 and 24 High Street (NMR 878910), and at the Saracen's Head Hotel (NMR 1340830).

8.3 Preservation of the archaeology

8.3.1 Where they survived, Roman and medieval features were generally fairly well-preserved. A notable exception to this was Phase 2 Ditch F1015 in Trench 4, which was very shallow. If the suggested interpretation of this ditch as the rear boundary of a medieval burgage plot is correct, it would presumably have once been a more prominent feature. It is likely that other Roman and medieval features had been entirely destroyed by modern activity, particularly the cellars identified in Trenches 1 and 4.

8.4 Finds and environmental evidence

8.4.1 The finds recovered during the evaluation comprise pottery, animal bone, fired/baked clay, building materials and a single residual flint core, the latter of late Bronze Age date. The majority of the finds were recovered from sealed contexts.

8.4.2 The Phase 1 pottery kiln (F1007) yielded 68 sherds (1347g) of pottery and 404 fragments of kiln lining weighing 26,224g. The Romano-British pottery was largely limited to locally-produced sandy grey wares and storage jar fabrics typical in the region (Peachey, Appendix 5). It is tentatively suggested that some of this pottery might derive from wasters fired, or used as spacers, in Kiln F1007 and other kilns which may have originally existed in the vicinity. The kiln may therefore have been used to produce fairly low-status pottery intended for local distribution and sale.

8.4.3 Residual Romano-British building material, principally tegula roof tile, was recovered from medieval Pit F1005 and modern sub-square Pit F1011. Although recovered from later contexts, this material might indicate the former presence of relatively well-built Romano-British buildings in the vicinity. However, the quantity of CBM was too small to indicate this with certainty.

8.4.4 The sherds of medieval pot recovered from the site are in good condition, suggesting that they were recovered from primary contexts (Thompson, this report). It thus seems likely that there was occupation on or very close to the site in the medieval period, with the pottery representing discarded domestic refuse. The bulk of the medieval fabrics are similar to Fabric 20 from Rivenhall, approximately 25km south-east of Great Dunmow (Drury *et al.* 1993). Medieval occupation on or near the site is further supported by the presence of animal bone in Phase 2 Pit F1005 and Ditch F1015 and by fragments of flat roof tile, which may have come from medieval buildings in the area.

8.4.5 Bulk samples were taken from feature fills across the site and three were submitted for analysis (Fryer, Appendix 5). The fills of medieval Pits F1005 and F1009 contained very little environmental material, but Kiln F1007 yielded a fairly large assemblage of burnt cereal grains, particularly wheat. This may indicate that F1007 was used for parching/drying grain, or for cooking, rather than as a kiln (Fryer, this report). Alternatively, cereal processing waste may have been used as fuel for kiln firing. Post-excavation research will further investigate these possibilities.

8.6 Research potential

8.6.1 Although only the subsurface parts of Kiln F1007 survived (the oven pit and base of the flue), the wattle impressions on many of the kiln lining fragments also provide some information about the above-ground superstructure which would originally have been present. Further post-excavation analysis and comparison with other excavated Roman kilns in Essex and elsewhere in the region (e.g. Carter 1998, West 1989, Bates & Lyons 2003) may help to clarify details of this kiln's construction and use. It should also be possible to produce a tentative reconstruction drawing. Post-excavation

research will also aim to further investigate the alternative interpretation of the kiln as a corn dryer or oven.

8.6.2 The presence of Kiln F1007 suggests that a small-scale pottery production site existed in this area of Great Dunmow in the 2nd – 4th centuries AD. The 83 High Street site may thus help to enhance our understanding of the development and spatial organisation of industrial activity in the Roman town. Other industrial areas, with possible evidence of pottery production and iron smelting, have been found to the north of Stane Street (Wickenden 1988, 32). Several issues connected with the development and 'decline' of Roman small towns have been highlighted as regional research priorities e.g. what later Roman industries are evident in towns (Going & Plouviez 2000, 21). However, the small size of the site, and the absence of clear dating evidence for the use of Kiln F1007, limits its potential with regard to these wider questions.

8.6.3 There is potential for increasing existing understanding of the development of the medieval town at Great Dunmow in the 12th to 14th century, and for better understanding the nature of the settlement activity on the High Street. The medieval rubbish pits have the potential to elucidate trading patterns, if imported pottery wares can be identified. Furthermore, the animal remains may shed light on 12th - 14th century medieval dietary habits.

9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

9.1 The archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum within the next six months, and will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No. 2.* The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1 ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: *83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex*	
Parish: *Great Dunmow*	District: *Uttlesford*
NGR: *TL 6300 2165*	Site Code: *DM 20*
Type of Work: *Archaeological Evaluation/Excavation*	Site Director/Team: *Phil Weston*
Date of Work: *August – October 2006*	Size of Area Investigated: *1500m²*
Location of finds/Curating Museum: *AS offices, pending deposition with Saffron Walden Museum*	Funding Source: *Matthew Homes Limited*
Further seasons anticipated: *No*	Related HER Nos:
Final Report: *Ginns, A., Weston, P., Woolhouse, T. & Barton, T. 2007 83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex: an archaeological investigation. Archaeological Solutions unpublished report no. 2099*	
Periods Represented: *2nd– 4th century Roman; 12th–14th century medieval; modern*	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: *In August-October 2006, Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation on land at 83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex (NGR TL 6300 2165). The site lies in the south-eastern part of Great Dunmow, within the historic core of the medieval town. The site is situated at the junction of two Roman roads, on the corner of Braintree Road and the High Street.* *Three trial trenches and a small open area excavation, centred on Trench 2, revealed five pits, three postholes, one ditch, a pottery kiln with a surviving flue, and one feature of unknown function. Dating evidence indicated that three phases of activity were present on the site: Romano-British, medieval and modern. Phase 1 features dated to the 2nd-4th century AD and comprised the pottery kiln, perhaps representing an industrial site located on the periphery of the Roman small town. Two pits and a ditch were assigned to Phase 2 and dated to the 12th-14th century. These probably represent back land features associated with roadside occupation, as the medieval market town developed along the High Street. Two pits were of modern date and a pit and three postholes were undated.*	
Previous Summaries/Reports: *None*	
Author of Summary: Woolhouse, T	Date of Summary: *February 2007*

APPENDIX 2 DOCUMENTARY ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details			
County:	Essex	**Museum:**	Saffron Walden
Site Code:	DM 20	**AS Project Number:**	2254
Site Name:	83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex		
NGR:	TL 6300 2165	**Accession Number:**	
Site Type:	Development	**Date of Work:**	August 2006
Planning Ref:	UTT/0884/02	**SMR No:**	
Related Work:		-	
Brief Description of Documentary Archive:		1 A4 file and 2 sheets of permatrace	
Brief Finds Description (Quantity and Date):		Roman pottery; 12th - 14th century pottery; animal bone	
Ownership Form Returned:		**Archive Deposited:**	

Introduction			
Brief/s		**Specification/s**	
Date	**Present**	**Date**	**Present**
06/06/05	Present	23/06/05	Present

A: Reports		
Report Type	**Report No**	**Present**

B: Primary Site Records			
Total No. of Files:		1 A4 file in total	
Total No. of Site Drawing Sheets:		2 permatrace sheets in total	
Location of A4 Files (Tick)		**Finds Room:**	**Corridor:**
Material	**Present**	**Details**	
Site Notes	Present	All site notes included on context sheets	
Context Register	Present	1 double sided sheet present	
Context Sheets	Present	34 contexts sheets present	
Levels Sheets	Present	1 single sided sheet present	
Site Drawings			
Plan/Section Register	Present	1 double sided sheet present	
Plan/Section Sheets	Present	2 sheets of permatrace present	
Other Site Drawings	Present	Sketch sections and plans included with context sheets	
Digital Plans			
Plans			
Data			

C: Finds Data	
Small Finds Register	None
Finds Concordance	Present
Finds Box List	
X-Rays	
Conservation Photo Plates	
Conservation Lab Sheets	
Other Finds Information (Give Details)	

Specialist Finds Reports

Material	Report Type	Report Present	Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)
Pottery	Interim	Present	
Ceramic Building Material	Interim	Present	
Animal Bone	Interim	Present	
The flint	Interim	Present	

D: Site Photographs				
Photographic Register Present		Present	**Digital Photo Register Present**	None
Black and White 35mm				
Film No	Negative Nos.	Shot Nos.	Contact Sheet Present	Negatives Present
1880	1 – 35	1 – 17		
Colour Slides				
Film No	Negative Nos.	Shot Nos.	Present	
1938	1 – 35	1 – 17		
Digital Photos				
Shot Nos.	Files Present		Hard Copies Present	
1 – 34	Present			

E: Environmental Data			
Sample Register Present:	Present	Sample Sheets Present:	4 sheets
Processing Register Present:	1 sheet present	Sieving Sheets Present:	Not Present
Sample Concordance Present:	Not Present		

Specialist Environmental Reports

Material	Report Type	Report Present	Specialist Archive Material (Give Details)

APPENDIX 3 CONCORDANCE OF FEATURES

Feature	Context	Feature type	Spot date
	L1000	Topsoil	-
	L1001	Subsoil	-
	L1002	Natural gravel	-
F1003		Drainage pipe trench	Modern
	L1004	Fill of drainage pipe trench F1003	Modern
F1005		Pit located in Trench 2	12th – 14th century
	L1006	Fill of Pit F1005	12th – 14th century
F1007		Kiln located in Trench 2	Roman
	L1008	Middle fill of Kiln F1007	Roman
F1009		Pit located in Trench 2	12th – 14th century
	L1010	Upper fill of Pit F1009	12th – 14th century
F1011		Pit located in Trench 2	Modern
	L1012	Lower fill of Pit F1011	
F1013		Cut for drainage pipe. Trench 2	Modern
	L1014	Fill of drainage pipe cut F1013	Modern
F1015		Ditch located in Trench 4	11th – 14th century
	L1016	Fill of Ditch F1015	11th – 14th century
	L1017	Upper Fill of Pit F1011	Modern
F1018		Circular pit located in Trench 4	Undated
	L1019	Fill of Pit F1018	Undated
	L1020	Disturbed subsoil; same as L1001, but with CBM inclusions	-
F1021		Pit located in Trench 2	Modern
	L1022	Lower Fill of Pit F1021	
	L1023	Upper Fill of Pit F1021	
F1024		Irregular feature located in Trench 2	12th – 14th century
	L1025	Basal fill of Feature F1024	
	L1026	Middle fill of Feature F1024	Roman
	L1027	Upper fill of Feature F1024	12th – 14th century
	L1028	Concrete hard-standing	Modern
	L1029	Crushed red brick hardcore	Modern
	L1030	Light yellow/brown sandy clay gravel foundation layer	Modern
	L1031	Buried soil; same as Topsoil L1000	-
	L1032	Concrete hard-standing	Modern
	L1033	Vegetal mulch	Modern
	L1034	Brick wall	Modern
	L1035	Fill of Posthole F1036. Trench 2	Undated
F1036		Cut of posthole. Trench 2	Undated
	L1037	Fired/baked clay kiln (F1007) lining	Roman
	L1038	Upper fill of Kiln F1007	Roman
	L1039	Basal fill of Kiln F1007	Roman
	L1040	Fill of Pit F1041	Undated
F1041		Cut of pit. Trench 2	Undated
	L1042	Fill of Pit F1043. Trench 2	Undated
F1043		Cut of pit. Trench 2	Medieval?
	L1044	Basal Fill of Pit F1009. Trench 2	-

	L1045	Upper Fill of Kiln F1007. Trench 2	Roman
	L1046	Patch of *in situ* kiln lining in F1007. Trench 2	Roman
F1047		Cut of kiln flue. Trench 2	Roman
	L1048	Fill of kiln flue cut. Trench 2	Roman

Table 2: Concordance of features

APPENDIX 4 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1005	1006	2	Pit Fill	12th-14th	(145), 2520g	1065	146	Kiln Lining (10), 102g Tufa ?Quern Fragment (1), 160g Slag (28), 1492g ?Rubbing Stone (1), 1822g
1007	1008	2	Kiln Backfill	Early-Middle 2nd Century	(52), 824g		71	Kiln Lining (75), 2479g Quern (1), 371g
	1038			2nd-4th Century	(11), 352g			Kiln Lining (3), 176g
	1039			2nd-4th Century	(1), 73g			
	1046		In-situ Kiln Lining: Sample 6					Kiln Lining (67), 2331g
	1037		In-situ Kiln Lining					Kiln Lining, 23893g Burnt Wood, 53g
1009	1010	2	Pit Fill	12^{th}-14^{th} century	(49), 881g		51	Kiln Lining (15), 463g Flint (1), 47g
1011	1012	2	Pit Fill	Roman	(2), 68g	18		
1015	1016	4	Ditch Fill	11th-14th	(7), 43g		67	Daub (3), 16g
1021	1023	2	Pit Fill			134		?Kiln Lining (1), 355g
1024	1026	2	Fill of Feature	Roman	(1), 18g			
	1027			12th-14th	(6), 63g	206		
1043	1042	2	Posthole Fill	2nd-4th Century	(7), 133g			
1047	1048		Fill of Kiln Flue	2nd-4th Century	(4), 98g			

Table 3: Concordance of finds

APPENDIX 5 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The struck flint
By Phil Weston

Struck flint

Context L1010: Multi platform flake core. Negative flake scars visible. Mid to dark brown, opaque. 25 – 30% of cortex remains. 47g.

Discussion

The flint is of fair quality. The remaining cortex displays signs of water rolling, suggesting that the raw material originated from river gravels.

The core has been struck from many unprepared platforms and at least 12 negative flake scars up to 30mm in length are visible. The struck flakes would have been small, broad and with irregular sides. This indicates that the core may be of a later prehistoric date, perhaps later Bronze Age. Given its context, the piece must be considered residual.

The Romano-British pottery
By Andrew Peachey

The excavations produced a total of 111 sherds (1530g) of abraded Romano-British pottery from seven features. Fabrics were examined and defined at x20 magnification, recorded by sherd count and weight and cross-referenced with the Chelmsford type series (Going 1987).

Fabric descriptions

TRI SA	Trier samian ware (Tomber & Dore 1998, 41)
LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Going 1987, 3: Fabric 2)
COL WH	Colchester white ware (Going 1987, 7: Fabric 27)
GRS	Sandy Grey Ware (Going 1987, 9: Fabric 47)
BSW	Black-surfaced/Romanising grey ware (Going 1987, 9: Fabric 45)
BB2	Black-burnished ware 2 (Going 1987, 8: Fabric 41)
STOR	Storage Jar Fabric (Going 1987, 9: Fabric 44)

The most significant stratified group of Romano-British pottery in this assemblage is present in Kiln F1007 and Flue F1047 (L1008, L1038, L1039 & L1048) and totals 68 sherds (1347g). This group is dominated by GRS fabrics, but also includes COL WH & STOR fabrics. The GRS fabric group includes well-preserved rim sherds from several jars, including Chelmsford types G4.2 and G9, as well as at least eight everted bead rims from G23/24 type jars and two plain rim dishes of B2/B4 type (Going 1987). The single sherd of COL WH in L1008 is from a Chelmsford D1.5/1 mortaria that, with the GRS vessels, concurs with a date within the first quarter of the 2nd century AD. Further sparse stratified Romano-British sherds were present in Pits F1011 L1012 & F1043 L1042, as well as Irregular Feature F1024 L1026. The Romano-British sherds in modern Pit F1011 are of particular note as they include a GRS bead and flange rim dish of Chelmsford type B6 (Going 1987) that dates to the mid 3rd-4th centuries AD.

Romano-British sherds were also present as residual material in medieval Pit F1009 L1010 (31 sherds; 76g) and medieval Ditch F1015 L1016 (1 sherd; 7g). The group in Pit F1009 includes GRS, BB2, TRI SA, LNV CC & STOR. The LNV CC sherd is derived from a Chelmsford H32.1 indented beaker with scale decoration, and the TRI SA from a samian form 31 bowl, suggesting a date in the first half of the 3rd century AD. Several small fragments of bead rims from miscellaneous GRS jar and dish forms are also present.

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The medieval pottery
By Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 193 medieval sherds weighing 3.211kg. The assemblage is largely in relatively good condition and likely to be in primary deposits. All the sherds are sandy coarsewares, the majority being cooking pots which can be construed as kitchen wares, some sherds having sooting on the external surfaces. There is cross-matching between sherds from the evaluation and excavation, for example, a large greyware jar with a 30cm rim diameter and vertical thumbed clay strip decoration. This was present with a heavy squared rim unlikely to be earlier than the 13th century.

The bulk of the fabrics are of similar description to Fabric 20 from Rivenhall, located approximately 25km to the south-east of Great Dunmow. Fabric 20 is generally grey, but can have brown surfaces containing varying degrees of sand and occasionally crushed shell or flint, giving surfaces a pimply feel. These vessels were derived from various sources and are dated to the 12th to 14th centuries (Drury *et al.* 1993, 81). In particular, some of the grey fabrics, including one with thumb decorated applied strip from F1024 L1027, are similar to Hedingham coarseware. Some of the forms also match examples from Mile End, dated to the late 12th-13th centuries (Drury & Petchey 1975, 47).

Bibliography

Drury, P.J. *et al.* 1993 'The later Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery' in Rodwell, W. and Rodwell, K. (eds.) *Rivenhall: Investigations of a Roman Villa, Church and Village, 1950-77*. CBA Research Report 80

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Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
1005	1006	143x2465g	12th-14th	Fabrics are as L1010, with several shell and very coarse flint-tempered sherds also present. There is cross-matching between sherds from the evaluation and excavation, including a large greyware jar with 30cm rim diameter and vertical thumbed clay strip decoration. Also present are everted jar rims, a heavy squared bowl rim, a flanged rim and a sherd with wavy line incised decoration
1007	1008		Roman	
1009	1010	38x 646g	12th-14th	Mixture of coarse sandy micaceous, ranging from grey to mottled grey and beige and red-brown. One sherd particularly coarse. Contains everted jar rims including flanged and one collared and one slightly bevelled collared jar rim
1011	1012		Roman	
1015	1016	6x38g	11th-14th	
1024	1026		Roman	
	1027	6x62g	12th-14th	F1a – 1x thumb decorated applied horizontal strip.

Table 4: Medieval pottery catalogue

The ceramic building materials
By Andrew Peachey

The excavations produced a total of eight fragments (1083g) of abraded Romano-British CBM, 16 fragments (340g) of highly-fragmented medieval CBM and 414 fragments (27,606g) of kiln lining.

The Romano-British CBM is almost entirely composed of fragments of tegula roof tile from Pit F1005 L1006 (7 fragments; 1065g). A single small fragment (18g) is also present in Pit F1011 L1012. The fabric of the Romano-British CBM has oxidised surfaces and margins (2.5YR 5/6) with either a slightly lighter or reduced core, and inclusions of common fine quartz and iron-rich grains (<0.2mm), sparse coarse quartz (<2mm) and sparse/occasional flint (<7mm).

The medieval CBM is present in Pits F1021 L1023 (9 fragments, 134g) and F1024 L1027 (7 fragments, 206g) and is entirely composed of 14mm thick flat roof tile. The fabric of the medieval CBM is oxidised throughout (2.5YR 5/8), with inclusions of abundant well-sorted coarse sand (0.2-0.8mm) and occasional flint fragments (<5mm).

The bulk of the kiln lining (404 fragments; 26,224g) was recovered from within Kiln F1007, while sparse fragments were also present in medieval Pits F1005 and F1009. Where fragments are sufficiently complete, the kiln lining has oxidised interior surfaces/margins that fade to reduced and partially-fired the further they are away from the kiln chamber. Fragments range up to 120mm thick, and exhibit inconsistently-spaced branch impressions (15-35mm in diameter) where the clay was packed onto a wooden frame. The kiln lining consists of poorly mixed clay with inclusions of common chaff/grass (burnt voids, 3-15mm), sparse quartzite and flint (5-25mm).

The animal bone
By Carina Phillips

A total of 24 fragments of animal bone were recovered during the investigations at 83 High Street, Great Dunmow. The animal bone is of moderate condition, although some fragments exhibit concretion caused by an anaerobic waterlogged environment. The animal bone came from Roman and medieval contexts. However it was not feasible to analyse the animal bone by date due to the small size of the assemblage.

Nine fragments (37.5% of the assemblage) are identifiable to species. Six of these are sheep/goat bones and three are cattle. These are the two most common domestic species to be represented in archaeological assemblages. A cattle mandible and a sheep/goat mandible provide ageing evidence; they are aged 8-18 months and 6-8 years, respectively (Grant 1982; Hambleton 1999). Butchery evidence is present on three bone fragments: a sheep/goat radius and tibia are both smashed (probably for marrow utilisation) and a cattle scapula exhibits small knife cuts indicative of filleting. The small size of the assemblage restricts further analysis of the animal bone.

	NISP
Sheep/goat	6
Cattle	3
Unidentifiable bird	1
Large sized	7
Small sized	1
Unidentifiable	6
Total	*24*

Table 5: The animal bone (NISP=Number of Identified Specimens/fragments)

Bibliography

Hambleton, E. 1999 *Animal Husbandry Regimes in Iron Age Britain.* BAR British Series 282, Oxford

Grant, A. 1982 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates' in Wilson, W., Grigson, C. and Payne, S. (eds.) *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones From Archaeological Sites.* BAR British Series 109, Oxford, 91-108

The charred plant macrofossils and other remains
By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

Bulk environmental samples were taken from across the excavated area. Three were submitted for assessment, with the aim of investigating the state of preservation and content of the plant macrofossil assemblages.

The samples were bulk floated by Archaeological Solutions, and the flots were collected in a 500 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16, and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below on Table 6. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants,

including fibrous roots and seeds, were common within the medieval assemblages, but absent from the Roman samples.

Results

The sample from Kiln F1007 contained an extremely high density of charcoal/charred wood fragments, some of which were in excess of 5mm in size. A large number of the fragments appeared somewhat abraded, possibly as a result of post-depositional disturbance. Moderately well-preserved oat (Avena sp.), barley (Hordeum sp.) and wheat (Triticum sp.) grains were also present within the assemblage, with wheat being particularly abundant. Although chaff was not present, most of the wheat grains were of an elongated 'drop-form' shape typical of spelt (T. spelta). Cereal sprouts and a germinated wheat grain were also recorded, although at an insufficient density to indicate that the feature had been used for malting.

Charred remains were very scarce within both of the medieval assemblages. Pit F1005 (Sample 1) contained only a few charcoal/charred wood flecks, while Pit F1009 (Sample 3) contained charcoal/charred wood, an indeterminate cereal grain fragment and a single buttercup (Ranunculus sp.) seed.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the evidence from oven pit F1007 possibly indicates that this feature was used either for the parching/drying of grain, or for cooking. Glumed wheats, including spelt, require parching to facilitate removal of the chaff, and archaeological evidence indicates that grains frequently became scorched or charred during this process. Cereals were also frequently accidentally burnt during culinary preparation.

The medieval assemblages contain insufficient material for accurate interpretation.

If further excavations are planned for this area of Great Dunmow, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil assemblages of approximately 20-30 litres in volume are taken from all features of proven Roman date. Sampling of any additional medieval features may prove problematic, largely because of the high degree of root disturbance within the contexts. However, a limited number of samples may be taken at the discretion of the excavator, especially from features which are close to any known areas of domestic/industrial/agricultural activity.

Reference

Stace, C. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles.* Second edition. Cambridge University Press

Sample No.	**2**	**1**	**3**
Context No.	**1008**	**1006**	**1010**
Feature No.	**1007**	**1005**	**1009**
Feature type	**O.pit**	**Pit**	**Pit**
Date (century AD)	**2nd-4th**	**12-14th**	**12-14th**
Cereals			
Avena sp. (grains)	xcf		
Hordeum sp. (grains)	xcf		
Triticum sp. (grains)	xxx		
(sprouted grain)	x		
Cereal indet. (grains)	xxx		x
(detached sprouts)	x		
Herbs			
Ranunculus sp.			x
R. acris/repens/bulbosus	*x*		
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	x	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xx		x
Charcoal >5mm	x		
Other materials			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		
Black tarry material		x	x
Bone	xxb		
Burnt/fired clay	xxx		
Burnt stone	x		
Vitrified material	x		
Sample volume (litres)	**15**	**15**	**20**
Volume of flot (litres)	**1.0**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**<12.5%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 6: Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from 83 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex

Key to table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx – 10 – 50 specimens xxx = 50 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare O.pit = oven pit b = burnt

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP 1
Trench 2, Pit F1005, view west

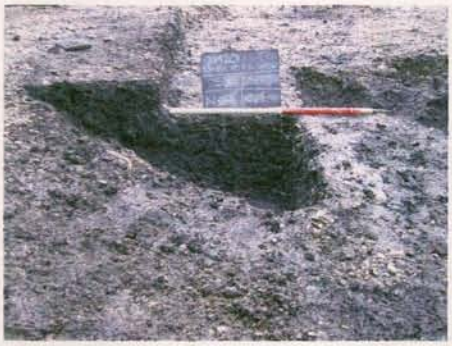
DP 2
Trench 2, Kiln F1007, view north-east

DP 3
Trench 2, Pit F1009, view south

DP 4
Trench 4, Ditch F1015, view north

DP 5
Trench 2, Irregular Feature F1024, view south-west

DP 6
Trench 4, Sample Section, view east



DP 7
Trench 2, F1007, view east.

DP 8
Trench 2, F1007, view east.

DP 9
Trench 2, F1007, view east.

DP 10
Trench 2, F1009, view north-west.

DP 11
Trench 4, F1015, view north.

DP 12
Trench 2, F1043, view south.

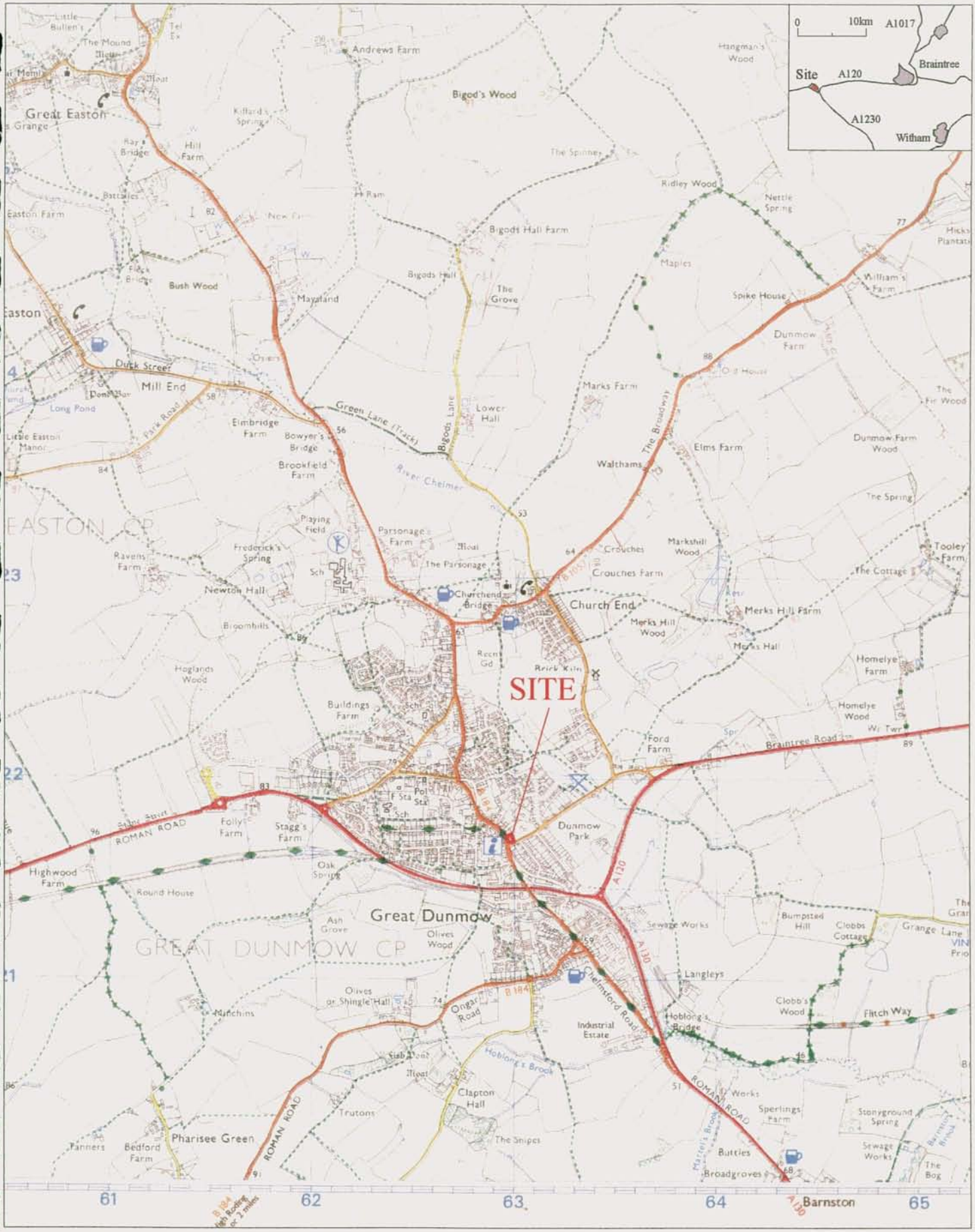


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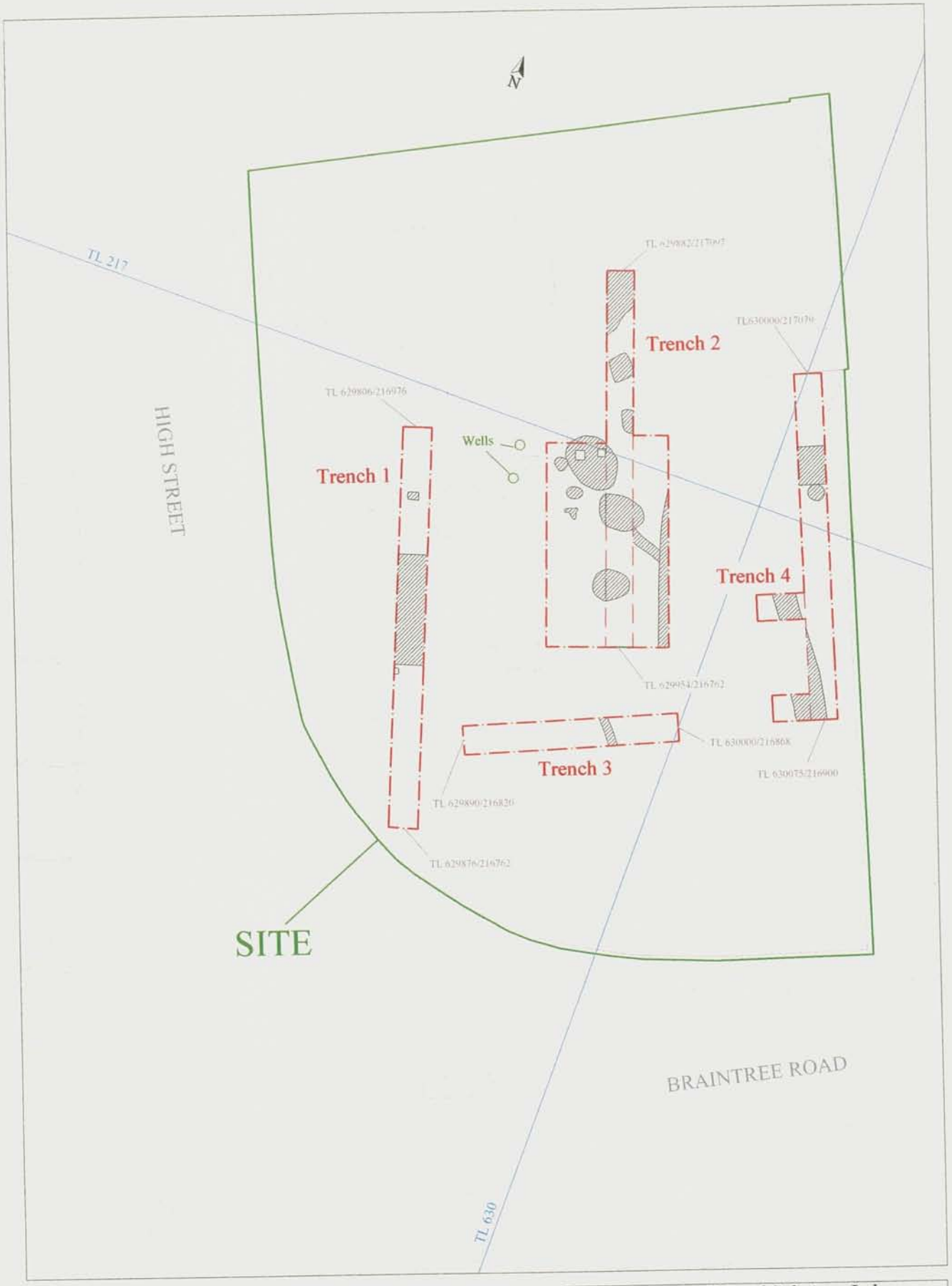
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000



0 1:300 10m

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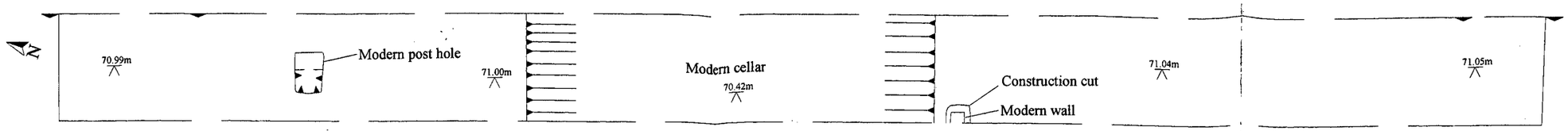
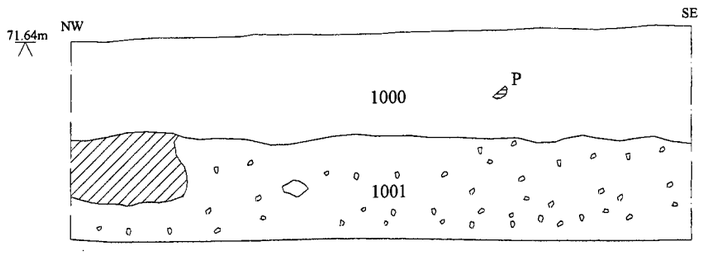
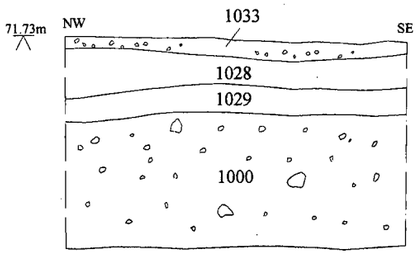
Fig. 2 Trench location plan

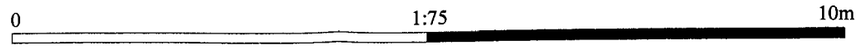
Scale 1:300

Trench 1









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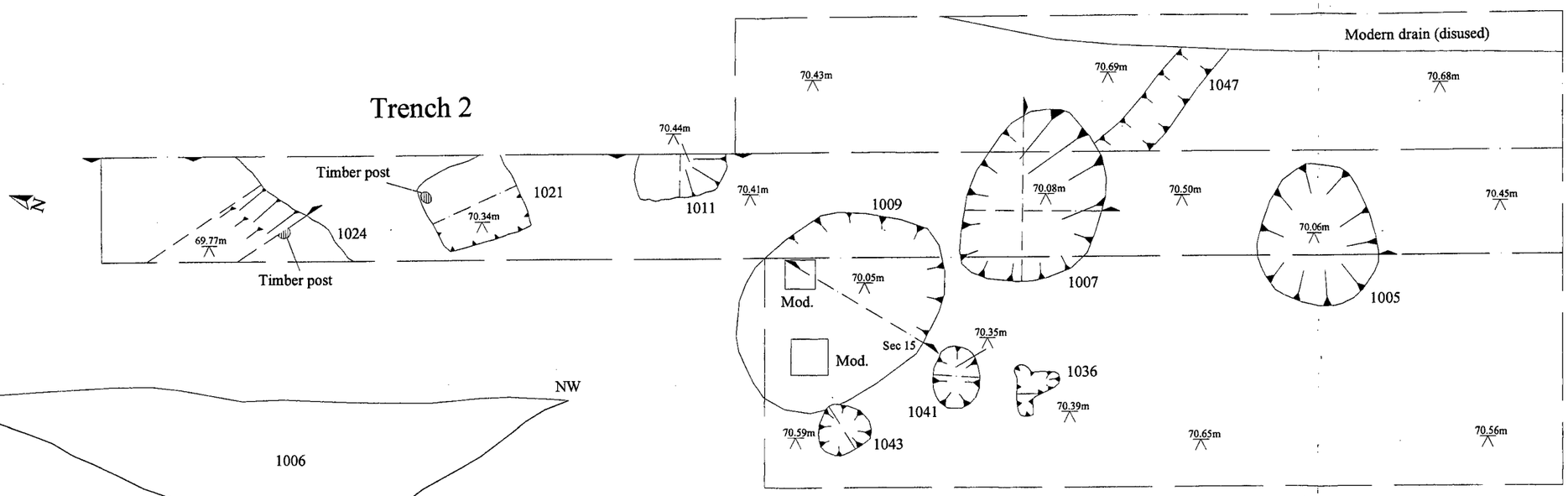

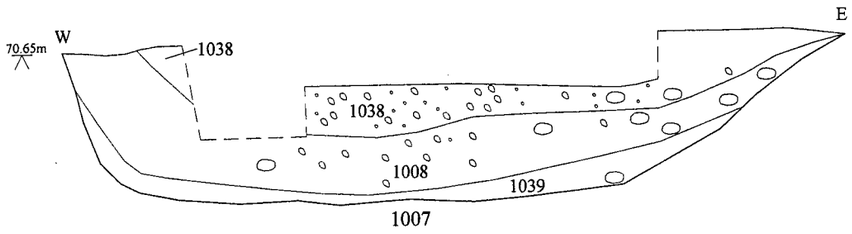

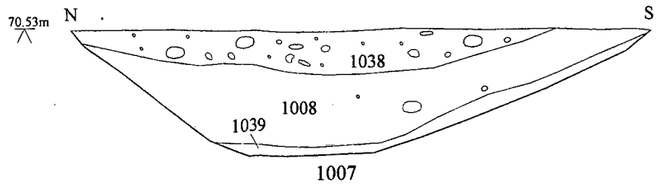

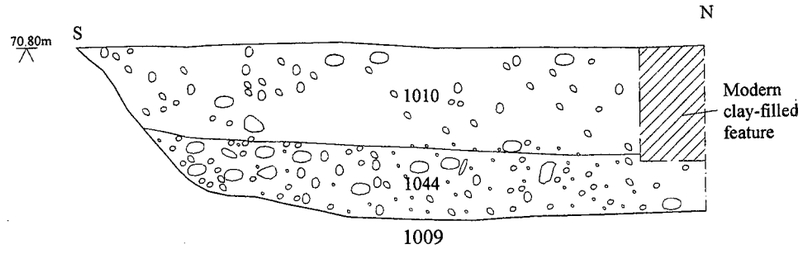

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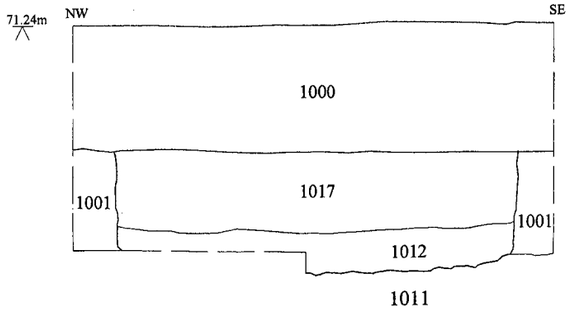
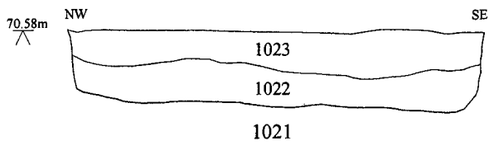
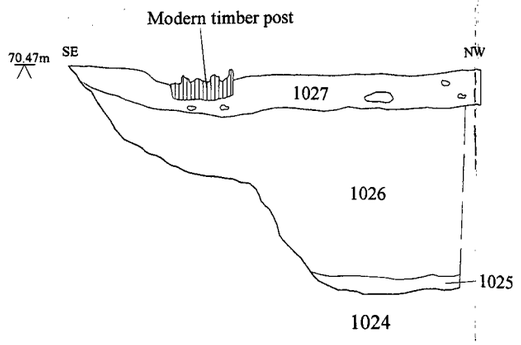
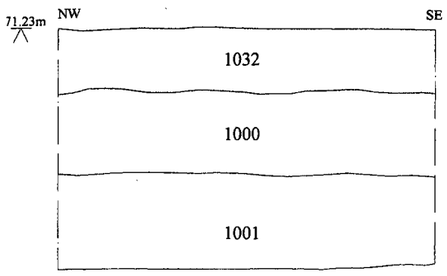
Fig. 3 Plans and Sections

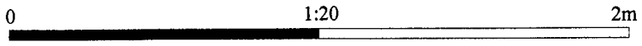
Scale Plans 1:75, sections 1:20

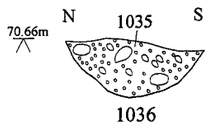


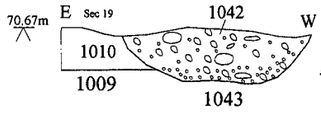


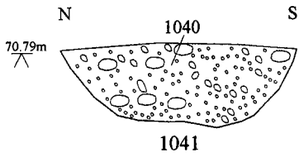




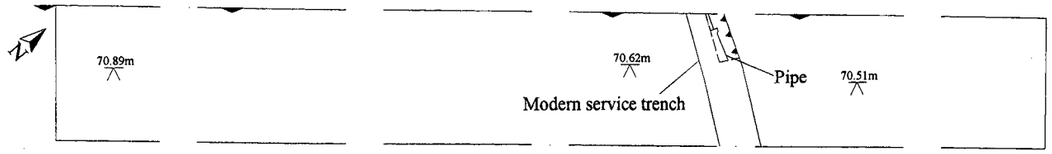


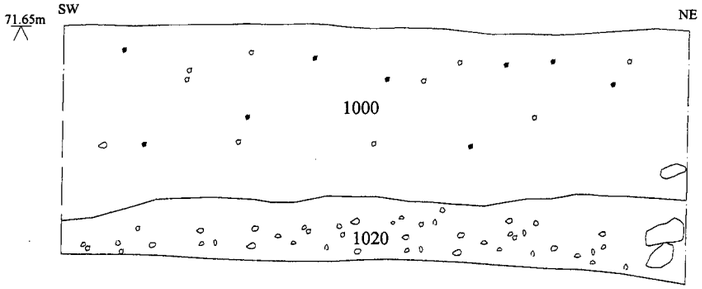


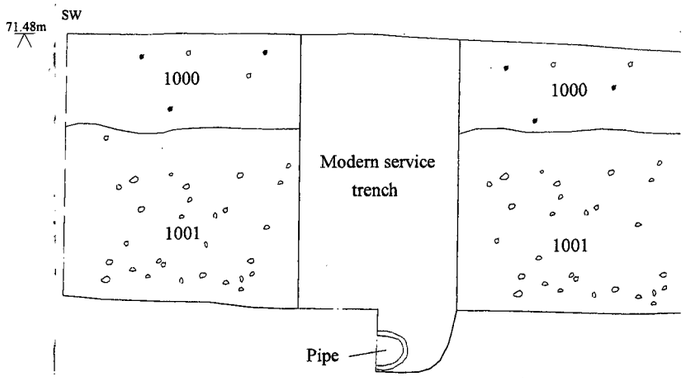




Trench 3







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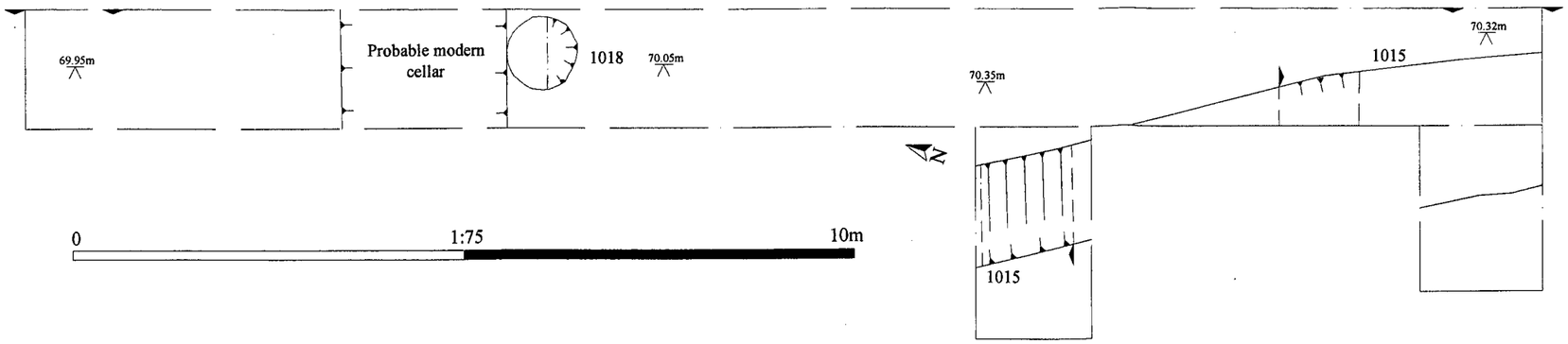

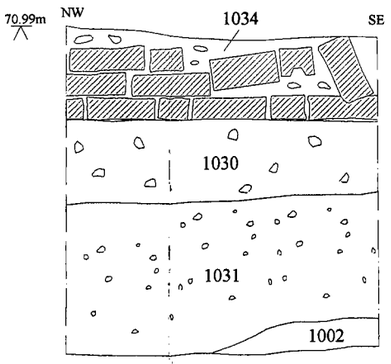

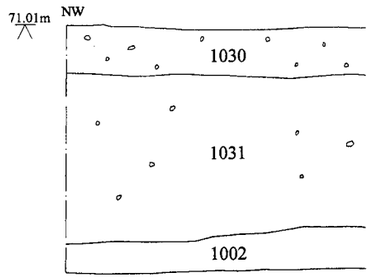

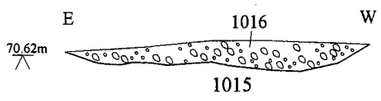

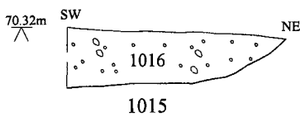

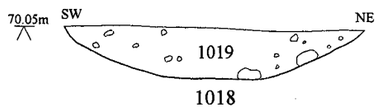

Brick
Wood
Coal

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Fig. 4 Plans and Sections

Scale Plans 1:75, sections 1:20

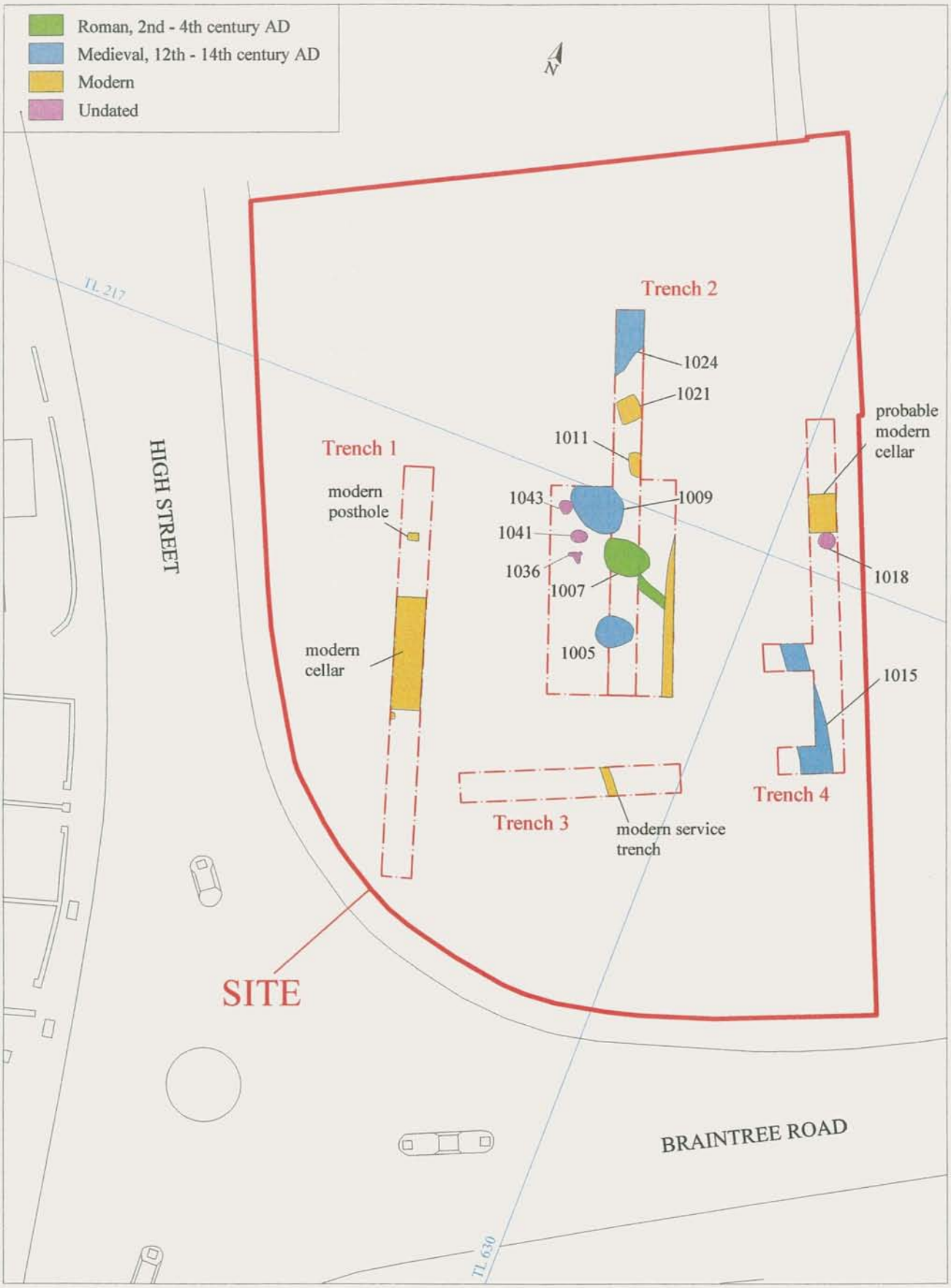

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Fig. 5 Phase plan

Scale 1:300