

**76 HEMNALL STREET, EPPING, ESSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**TQ 4572 0176**

**OCTOBER 2006**

**National Grid Reference:** TQ 4572 0176

**Site Code:** EP6

**On behalf of:** Rivertree Developments  
Brook View  
Town Farm  
Hatfield Broad Oak  
Hertfordshire, CM22 7LF

**Prepared by:** Andy Leonard

**Evaluation by:** Dan Eddisford  
Chris Clarke

**Illustrations by:** Jon Moller

**Project Manager:** Ron Humphrey

**Timing:** Evaluation Fieldwork: 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006  
Post-excavation and report production: September 2006

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at 76 Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex, on behalf of Rivertree Developments. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains.*

*The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches measuring 12.5m x 3.6m. Natural London Clay was identified at between 107.33mOD and 107.37mOD. In Trench 1 the natural clay was cut by a 19<sup>th</sup> century feature which was in turn sealed by a deposit of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground. The London Clay in Trench 2 was sealed by a layer of redeposited natural clay, followed by a layer of 19<sup>th</sup> century made ground. Trench 2 was sealed by a 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete ground slab.*

*No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in either of the trenches.*

## **2 SITE LOCATION**

- 2.1 The site is located at 76 Hemnall Street, Epping Essex. The proposed development is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR): TQ 4572 0176 (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site is roughly square in shape and is bounded by Hemnall Street to the southeast, by Half Moon Lane to the northeast, and by residential buildings to the northwest and southwest. The area covered by the development covers a total area of approximately 1,050m<sup>2</sup>.

## **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 3.1 The underlying geology is the Lower Eocene London Clay.

## **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The local planning authority is Epping Forest District Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Essex County Council's (E.C.C.) Historic Environment Management.
- 4.2 The development of the site involves the demolition of 76 Hemnall Street and adjacent works (formerly B & G Automotives), an extension of the Vet's Centre, and the construction of 10 flats. A planning application (Application No.: EPF/0771/06) was submitted to develop the site.
- 4.3 As a requirement before planning consent is granted, a programme of archaeological works was required, in the form of evaluation trenching. Accordingly, Rivertree Developments commissioned AOC Archaeology to undertake the fieldwork.
- 4.4 This document reports on the results of the archaeological evaluation, undertaken to identify any archaeological remains that might be threatened by the proposed development.

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The following information is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2006), which was approved by E.C.C. Historic Environment Management.
- 5.2 Very little archaeological fieldwork has been undertaken within Epping. However, the proposed development lies within the core area of the post-medieval settlement at Epping and immediately to the southwest of the postulated extent of the medieval town, approximately 60m southwest of the former medieval market place.

- 5.3 In the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century the canons of Waltham Abbey established the town in order to capitalise on the trade passing along the route from London to Cambridge. There are suggestions that there was earlier occupation in the area. However, the canons obtained a charter to clear timber for use in the construction of stalls and houses in 1253.
- 5.4 In the early post-medieval period the town developed slowly but by the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries it was expanding rapidly as a noted supplier of agricultural produce for the London market and as a staging post for coaches.
- 5.5 An archaeological evaluation carried out to the northwest of the High Street revealed medieval and post-medieval rubbish pits close to the street frontage. These pits contained 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century Harlow Ware pottery, confirming that the town lay along the Lea Valley trade route.

## **6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 6.1 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. This applies to remains of all periods, and includes evidence of past environments.
- 6.2 The specific objectives of the Evaluation were to:
- Establish the nature of occupation including the identification of medieval or post-medieval foundations or other contemporary remains.
  - Establish the timespan of occupation.
  - Establish the extent of occupation.
  - Assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the archaeological features and deposits.
- 6.3 The evaluation should enable the HEM Team Officer to make an informed decision on the status of the condition on the planning permission, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- 6.4 The final aim is to make available to interested parties the results of the investigation subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

## **7 METHODOLOGY**

- 7.1 The evaluation consisted of two machine-excavated trenches. Before excavation the entire site was visually inspected and all trenches were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) to check for live services. Trench 1 measured 12.5m x 3.6m. A sondage was machine excavated at its southwest end, measuring 6.3m x 1.5m. Trench 2 also measured 12.5m x 3.6m. The presence of modern drainage pipes prevented excavation to the natural London Clay in the majority of the trench. Two sondages were machine excavated to the natural clay in the southwest and northeast corners (Figure 4).
- 7.2 All overburden was to be removed down to the top of the first recognizable archaeological horizon or the natural deposit in the event that no archaeological horizons were present, using a JCB with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. In the event, site constraints reduced the size of both trenches and the presence of modern pipes prevented reaching either stipulated horizon in Trench 2, except in two small sondages.
- 7.3 All machining was carried out under direct control of an experienced archaeologist. The site and spoil heaps were scanned visually and with a metal detector for finds.

- 7.4 On completion of machine excavation, all faces of trenches that required examination or recording were cleaned using appropriate hand tools.
- 7.5 All excavation was undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appeared to be demonstrably worthy of preservation *in situ*.
- 7.6 After recording, the trenches were backfilled with excavated material.
- 7.7 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was set up on site (Figure 2), transferred from a Bench Mark on the corner of 35 High Street. This TBM had a value of 107.95mOD.
- 7.8 The evaluation work was undertaken in two days by Dan Eddisford, Project Supervisor, under the overall project management of Ron Humphrey, Project Manager.

## 8 RESULTS

### 8.1 Table of results

#### Trench 1 (Figure 3).

Height of deposit (mOD)	Context No. and Description
108.27-107.77	(1/001). Firmly compacted mixed concrete, tarmac and gravel in a silty sand matrix. Modern made ground.
107.77-106.47	(1/002). Moderately compacted mid green/brown silty clay. Fill of cut [1/003].
107.77-106.47	[1/003]. Late 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century cut feature.
107.77-107.37	(1/004). Firmly compacted yellow/brown mottled clay. Redeposited natural clay.
107.37-106.77+	(1/005). Firmly compacted yellow/brown clay with flint and chalk inclusions. Natural London Clay.

- 8.2 The earliest deposit identified in Trench 1 was the natural London Clay (1/005), exposed in the southwest sondage. Towards the top of this deposit, it became increasingly mottled and was given a separate context number (1/004), although it appeared to have been deposited as part of the same process. It was cut by a late 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century feature [1/003], filled with a green/brown silty clay (1/002) with frequent building material inclusions. This was sealed by a layer of 20<sup>th</sup> century made ground (1/001).
- 8.3 No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in Trench 1.



**Trench 2** (Figure 4).

<b>Height of deposit (mOD)</b>	<b>Context No. and Description</b>
108.20-107.93	(2/001). 20 <sup>th</sup> century concrete ground slab.
107.93-107.73	(2/002). Loosely compacted dark grey silty clay. Frequent ceramic building material, glass and sub-round stone inclusions. Late 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century made ground.
107.73-107.33	(2/003). Firmly compacted dark greyish brown clay. Frequent sub-round stone and occasional building material inclusions. Redeposited natural clay.
107.33-106.98+	(2/004). Firmly compacted mid grey/brown clay. Natural London Clay.

8.4 The natural London clay (2/004) was only observed in the sondage excavated at the southwest end of the trench. It was sealed at a level of 107.33mOD by a redeposited natural clay layer (2/003). This was overlain by a late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century layer of made ground (2/002) below a 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete ground slab (2/001).

8.5 No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in Trench 2.

## 9 FINDS

9.1 Finds were retrieved from deposits (2/002) and (2/003). These were all spot-dated to the late post-medieval period (see below). No samples were taken from either of the trenches.

### Table of finds

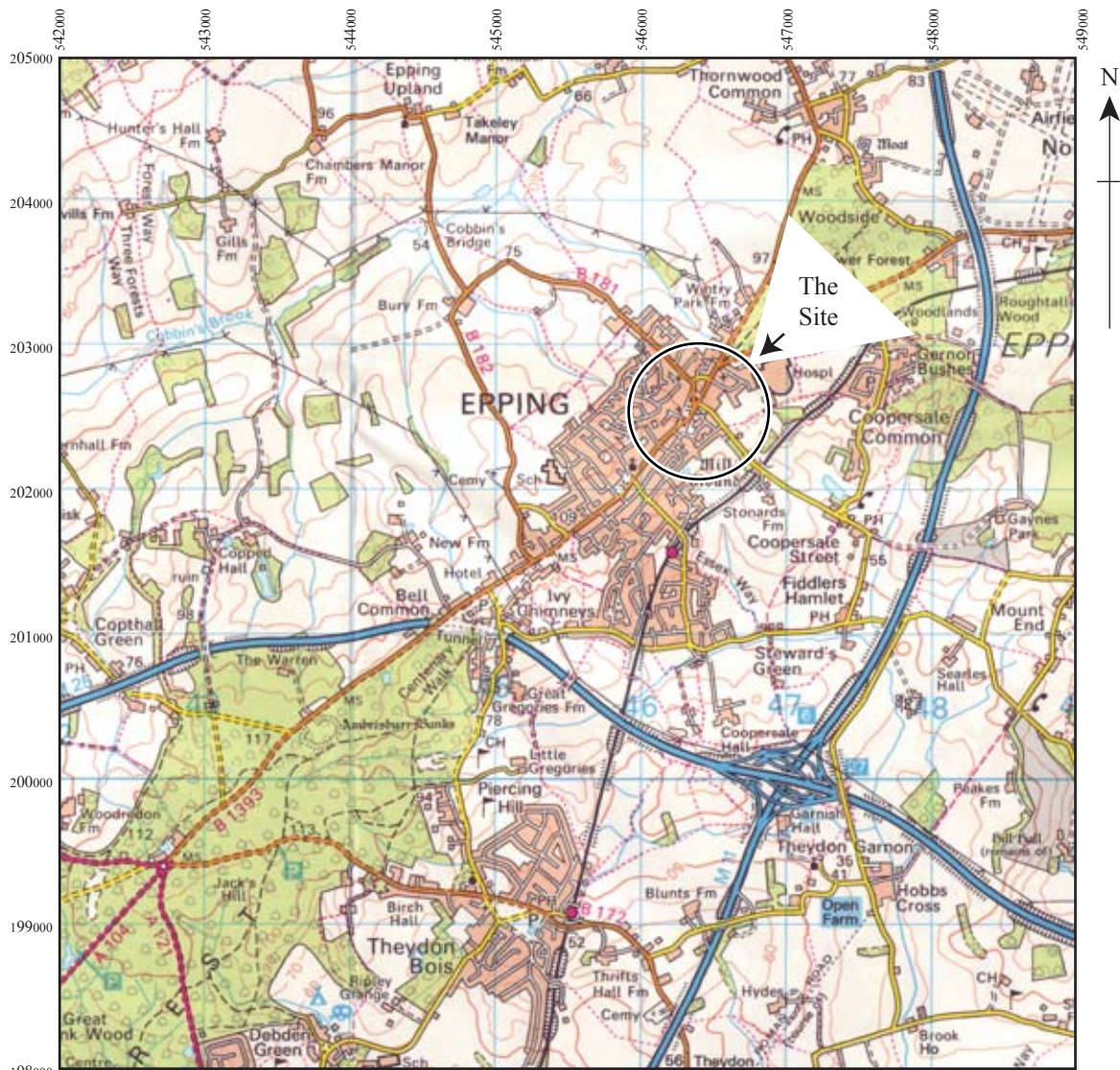
<b>Context No</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Date</b>
2/002	2	Stoneware	Pottery	19th century
2/002	1	Glass	Bottle	18th-19th century
2/002	1	Glass	Window	18th-19th century
2/002	2	Ceramic	Brick	17th-18th century
2/002	1	Ceramic	Tile	Post-medieval
2/003	3	Ceramic	Tile	Post-medieval
2/003	1	Redware	Pottery	17th-19th century

## **10 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 No evidence for archaeological activity pre-dating the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was identified on the site.
- 10.2 It appears that the site is located beyond the historic settlement, or else later activity has totally removed archaeological evidence of earlier settlement.
- 10.3 The evaluation met its primary objective: to establish the presence/absence of any archaeological remains. It is therefore recommended that no further archaeological fieldwork is required to satisfy the archaeological planning condition on this site subject to the agreement of Essex County Council and the Historic Environment Branch.
- 10.4 Publication of the results will be through the ADS OASIS form (Appendix B) with a short summary submitted to Essex Archaeology and History Journal.

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

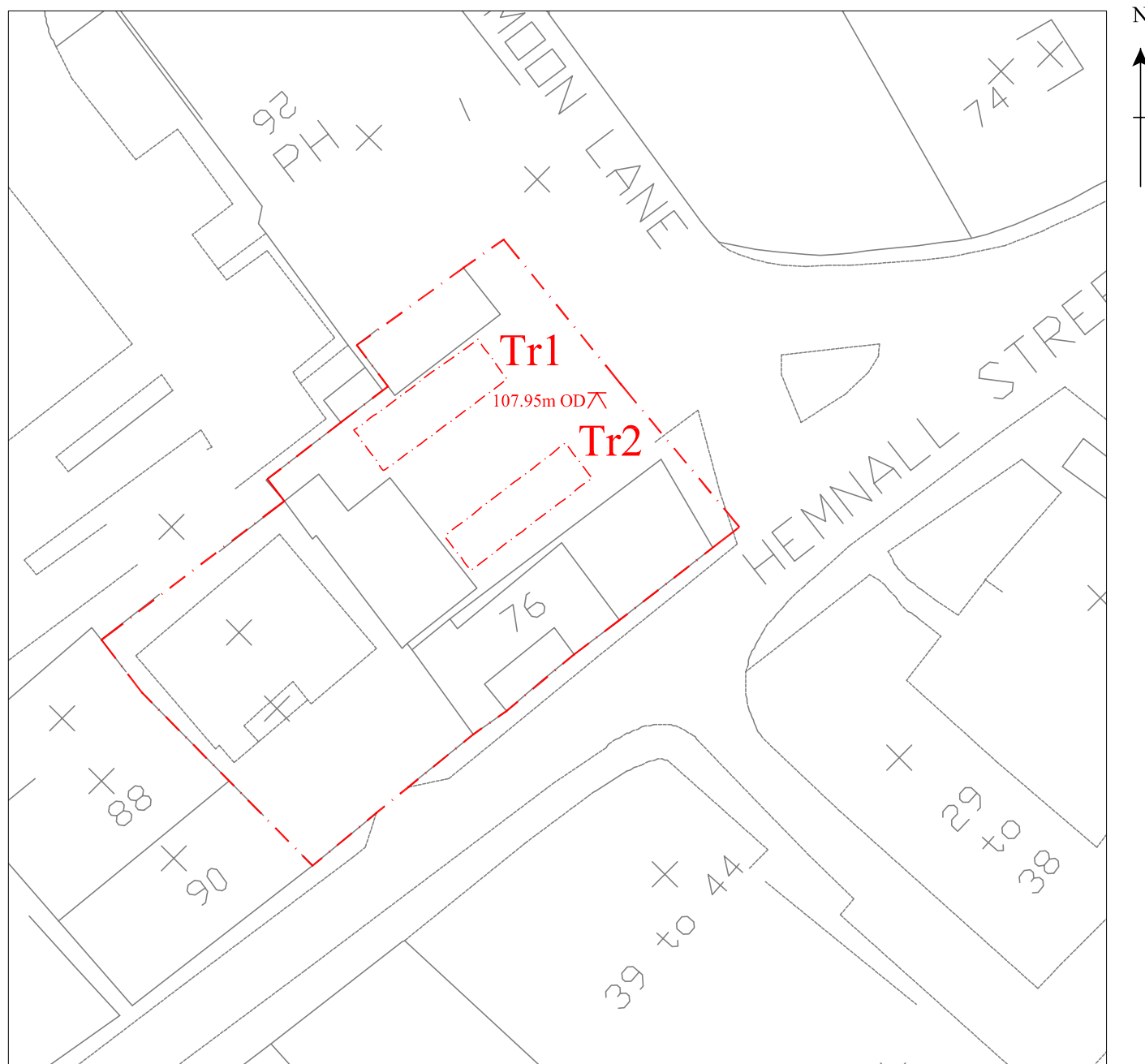
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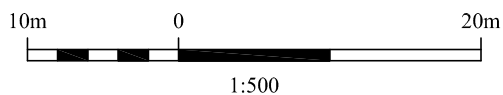
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**Figure 1:** Site Location

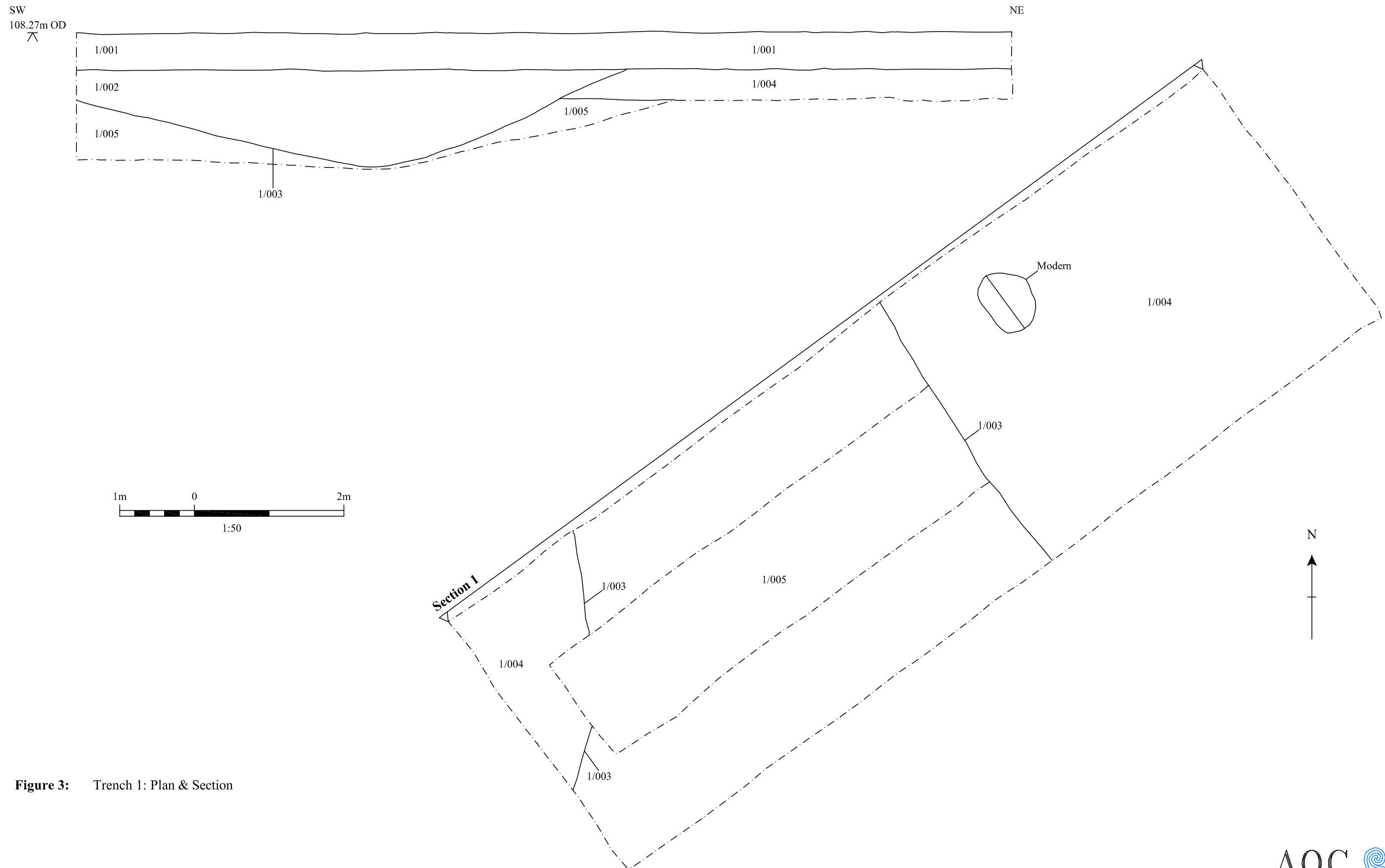


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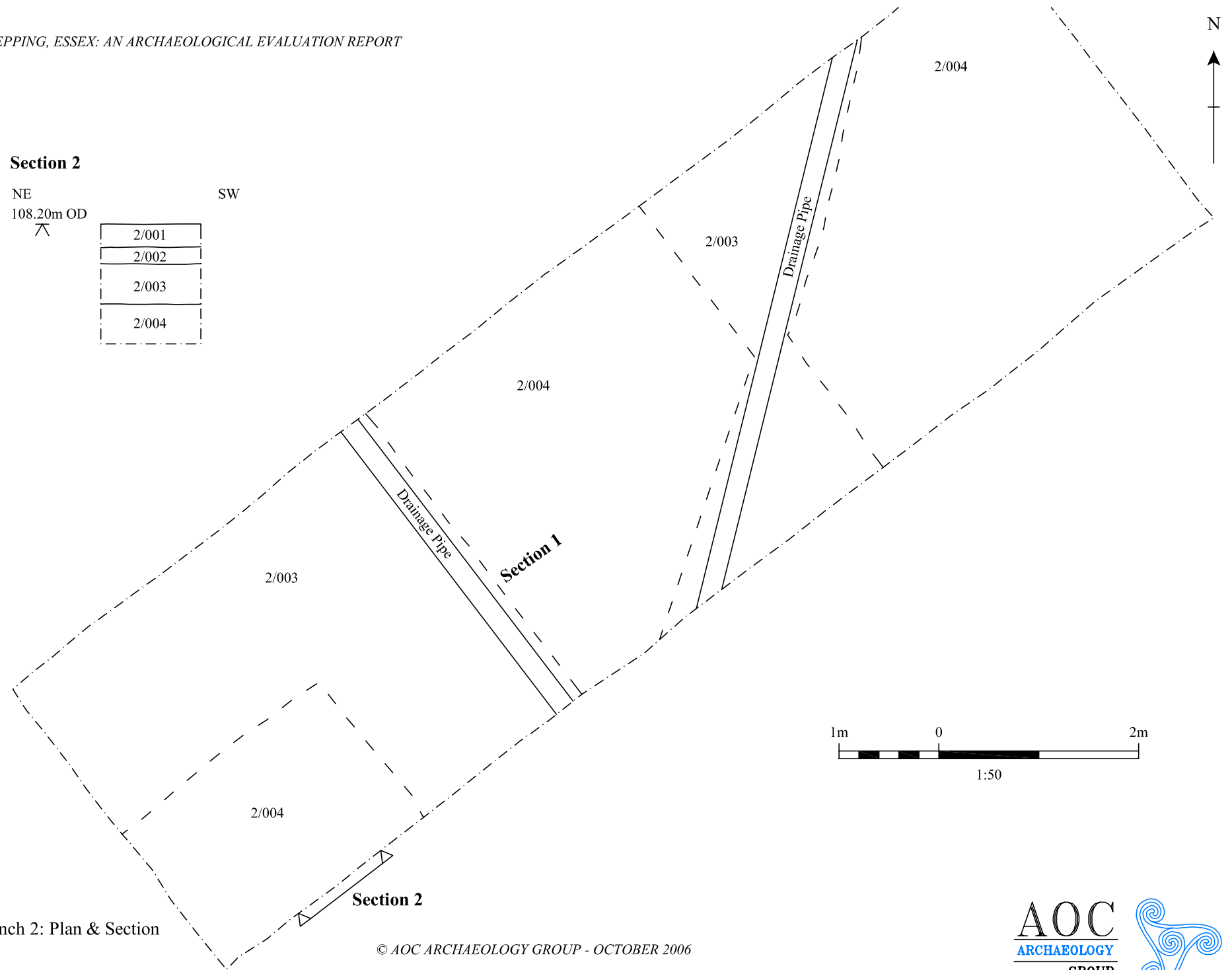


**Figure 2:** Detailed Site Location / Trench Location Plan

**Section 1**



**Figure 3:** Trench 1: Plan & Section



**Figure 4:** Trench 2: Plan & Section

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT REGISTER**

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Context Description</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
1/001	20th century made ground	12.50m	3.60m	0.50m
1/002	Fill of [1/003]	8.00m	3.60m	1.30m
1/003	Late 19th/20th century cut	8.00m	3.60m	1.30m
1/004	Redeposited natural London Clay	12.50m	3.60m	0.40m
1/005	Natural London Clay	6.30m	1.50m	0.80m+
2/001	20th century concrete ground slab	12.50m	3.60m	0.27m
2/002	Late 19th/early 20th century made ground	12.50m	3.60m	0.20m
2/003	Redeposited natural London Clay	12.50m	3.60m	0.40m
2/004	Natural London Clay	12.50m	3.60m	0.40m+



## APPENDIX B: OASIS FORM

### 1.1.1 Printable version

1.2 OASIS ID: aocarcha1-18754

#### Project details

Project name 76 Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on 19th and 20th September 2006 at 76 Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex, on behalf of Rivertree Developments. The aim of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the proposed development on any surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised the machine excavation of two trenches measuring 12.5m x 3.6m. Natural London Clay was identified at between 107.33mOD and 107.37mOD. In Trench 1 the natural clay was cut by a 19th century feature which was in turn sealed by a deposit of 20th century made ground. The London Clay in Trench 2 was sealed by a layer of redeposited natural clay, followed by a layer of 19th century made ground. Trench 2 was sealed by a 20th century concrete ground slab. No significant archaeological remains or residual finds were identified in either of the trenches.

Project dates Start: 19-09-2006 End: 20-09-2006

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes EP6 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes EPF/0771/06 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

use

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Development type Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX EPPING FOREST EPPING 76 Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex

Postcode CM16 4LQ

Study area 1050.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 4572 0176 50.7964732375 0.06793986683790 50 47 47 N 000 04 04 E Point

Height OD Min: 107.33m Max: 107.37m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology Group

Project brief originator Essex County Council - Historic Environment Branch

Project design originator Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch

Project director/manager	Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor	Dan Eddisford
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Rivertree Developments

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Epping Museum
Digital Archive ID	EP6
Digital Contents	'Survey','Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Spreadsheets','Survey','Text'
Digital Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC Archaeology until ready for deposition with receiving museum.
Paper Archive recipient	Epping Museum
Paper Archive ID	EP6
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Manuscript', 'Map', 'Matrices', 'Microfilm', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey', 'Unpublished Text'
Paper Archive notes	Archive to be retained at AOC Archaeology until ready for deposition with receiving museum.

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	76 Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Leonard, A.
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	AOC Archaeology Group
Place of issue or publication	AOC Archaeology Group
Description	A4 Bound Document

### Project bibliography 2

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Trial Trenching At 76 Hemnall Street, Epping
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Clarke, V.
Date	2006
Issuer or publisher	Essex County Council - Historic Environment Branch

Place of issue or publication Essex County Council - Historic Environment Branch

Description A4 loose document

### Project bibliography 3

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 76 Hemnall Street, Epping, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Leonard, A.

Date 2006

Issuer or publisher AOC Archaeology

Place of issue or publication AOC Archaeology

Description A4 bound document

Entered by Andy Leonard (andyleonard@aocarchaeology.co.uk)

Entered on 2 October 2006

## 2 OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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