

The Former Railex Site, Lawford, Essex: An Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation Report

Planning Ref: 10/01357/FUL

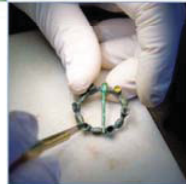
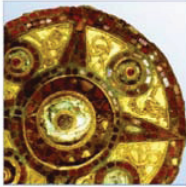
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ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

The Former Railex Site, Lawford, Essex;

An Archaeological Evaluation Report

On Behalf of:	Tesco Stores Ltd
National Grid Reference (NGR):	TM 1003 3203
AOC Project No:	30924
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted at the Former Railex Site, Lawford, Essex by AOC Archaeology Group on behalf of Tesco Stores Ltd, between 19th and 21st January 2011. The evaluation consisted of 21 test pits measuring 1.00m x 1.00m.

Natural gravels were observed across the site at a height between 1.76m and -1.08m OD. These deposits were overlain by a second sandy natural deposit. Both of these deposits may be fluvial or colluvial in origin. Alluvial clays were present in most of the Test Pits, these were overlain by up to 2.00m of modern made ground.

The Test Pits show that the land was marshy until being reclaimed from the Stour Estuary in the 20th century. Most of the topsoil from site has apparently been stripped before the land was raised by the dumping of modern made ground.

1. Introduction

1.1 Site Location

- 1.1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological test pit evaluation carried out on the former Railex Site, Lawford, Essex (Figure 1). The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 21 1.00m x 1.00m test pits (Figure 2).
- 1.1.2 The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 1003 3203 and is irregular in shape with an area of 1.7 hectares. The site is bounded by Station Road to the south, the curved Riverside Avenue in the east and north, and a small path in the west. At the time of writing the site was occupied by a redundant industrial estate, which included a large warehouse and a number of lightweight structures functioning as depots and sheds constructed during the 1970's/80's.

1.2 Development Proposal and Planning Background

- 1.2.1 The local planning authority is Tendring District Council (TDC). Archaeological advice to the council has been provided by Adrian Gascoyne of the Essex Historic Environment Management Team (HEM). The site does not contain any currently designated Scheduled Monuments, Sites and Areas of High Archaeological Potential or Conservation Areas. However, the site is adjacent to Manningtree and Mistley Conservation Area, which lies to the south-east of the site boundary.
- 1.2.2 The development proposal comprises the construction of a new retail store and associated car parking and landscaping.
- 1.2.3 The archaeological works have been undertaken in support of the planning application (Planning Ref 10/01357/FUL) proposed development. In the first instance, a Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was carried out (AOC 2010). Following the submission of the DBA, the HEM recommended to the Tendring District Council that an archaeological evaluation be carried out prior to the determination of the planning application; this is in line with the principles outlined in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPS 5). The HEM produced a brief, which outlined the scope of the required archaeological works (ECC 2011). This brief stated the requirement for an archaeological test pit evaluation to be carried out across the site in order to supplement previous geotechnical results and assess archaeological potential.
- 1.2.4 The excavation of archaeological test pits was to investigate the potential for preserved land surfaces, including palaeoenvironmental deposits and features associated with the exploitation of the estuary.
- 1.2.5 The next stage in the planning process was the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the methodology that would be carried out for the archaeological evaluation and including some background history of the site (AOC 2011). This was written to a methodology agreed with Adrian Gascoigne of Essex CC HEM (included here as Appendix C) and approved by him in an email sent on 17th January prior to commencing on site.
- 1.2.6 This report documents the findings from the second stage of the investigation, the archaeological test pit evaluation.

1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 244) indicates that the bedrock geology of the site is of London Clay formed by marine deposits, comprising clay, silt and sand, during the Eocene period, c. 55 million years ago.
- 1.3.2 No superficial geological deposits are recorded within the boundaries of the site itself. Alluvium and River Terrace Deposits associated with the River Stour are recorded to the north, north-west and east. Given the location of the site in close proximity to the current foreshore of the Stour estuary, it is, however, possible that such deposits could extend into the site boundary, depending on the level of previous impact.
- 1.3.3 The Tendring District Historic Environment Characterisation Project (HECP) mapping shows the site to be within Area 3: Manningtree and Mistley. This area comprises the southern bank of the Stour Estuary, where the ground level drops from approximately 30m AOD to sea level. Outside the urban areas the landscape is characterised by arable farmland (Tendring District Council & Essex County Council 2008).

2. Archaeological And Historical Background

2.1 The Prehistoric Period

- 2.1.1 Prehistoric finds from around Manningtree and in the wider area suggest early occupation. Traces of Palaeolithic (c.500,000 – 10,000 BP) camp sites have been found near Clacton and along the nearby river valleys. During the Neolithic period (c.4000 – 2000 BC), settlement was predominantly along the coast of the Tendring Hundred, where the soil was fertile and where forest cover was less intensive (Edwards 2000, p. 17).
- 2.1.2 A prehistoric barrow may have been situated within the boundaries of Lawford town about 1 km south-west of the site, as suggested by a field named 'Barrow Field'. Additionally, a number of prehistoric flint implements have been recovered from the study area, including a polished black flint axe and Neolithic implements from the general area in addition to flint scrapers and a flint axe found near Gainsborough Drive, c.400m south-west of the site.
- 2.1.3 Excavations of a gas pipeline at Cox's Pit in 1975 revealed a pit containing charcoal and heated flint, approximately 900m to the south-west of the site. Although no dateable finds were retrieved, the pit was thought to be of Neolithic date, as pits with burnt fills are often noted on Neolithic sites.
- 2.1.4 A late Neolithic to Bronze Age round barrow containing a burial is situated near Gainsborough Drive, where a number of spot finds dating to the prehistoric period were made. A flat cremation cemetery containing Middle Bronze Age funerary urns has also been recorded in the vicinity, although the exact grid reference is not recorded on the EHER.
- 2.15 Cropmarks recorded c.1km to the south of the site have been interpreted as prehistoric features, comprising two sub-rectangular enclosures, a ring ditch, field system, hut circle and trackway. The Historic Environment Characterisation Project suggests that such cropmarks have a potential to yield prehistoric and palaeoenvironmental remains (Tendring District Council & Essex County Council 2008).
- 2.1.6 Although no archaeological sites or finds have yet been recorded from the inter-tidal zone, the Historic Environment Characterisation Project indicates that there is a potential for the survival of

prehistoric land surfaces below the level of the river silts, which themselves may contain palaeoenvironmental data (Tendring District Council & Essex County Council 2008).

2.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 2.2.1 There are many remains of Roman occupation in Essex, especially in the north of the county, where Roman buildings have been discovered in 15 parishes. However, there is a paucity of such evidence within the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 2.2.2 Three major Roman roads ran through Essex. One of these roads ran from Colchester towards the north via Manningtree. The line of this Roman Road was partially revealed by aerial photography and partially by existing road alignments in two locations in the vicinity of the site and is assumed to run through Manningtree to the south-east of the site, branching off to the north-west at some point.
- 2.2.3 A pit dated to the late 3rd / 4th century was recorded along with small quantities of Roman material at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stour Street, c. 350m to the south-east of the site.

2.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and Medieval Periods (AD 1066 – AD 1536)

- 2.2.4 The Domesday Survey of 1086 contains a reference to the manor of '*Sciddinghou*', which was situated to the south-east of the town and covered 7 hides, including some parts of present day Manningtree (EHER 2010). Some early-medieval finds have been recorded at the Old Slaughterhouse in Stour Street, c. 350m to the south-east of the site.
- 2.2.5 A market was granted to the manor of '*Sciddinghou*' in 1238 and the first reference to the town of Manningtree is in 1248 (Tendring District Council & Essex County Council 2008). The town was set up as a new port and is thought to have been deliberately planned around the market on the High Street and its quay (Tendring District Council & Essex County Council 2008). Monuments recorded for the medieval and post-medieval periods include town defences, a chapel, a market, quay, public buildings, malting and tannery buildings..
- 2.2.6 The market was situated c. 400m to the south-east of the site at the junction of High Street and South Street. The fifteenth century buildings are located close to this area, and at least two public-buildings (one possibly the market toll-house) face on to it. There are two small islands of buildings infilling part of the market space. The current buildings date to the eighteenth century and it is possible that the infilling took place at that date (EHER).
- 2.2.7 One example of a surviving medieval house outside the historic core of the town is Dale Hall, located c.700m to the south-west of the site.
- 2.2.8 There are documentary references for a Guild Chapel of the Holy Trinity Guild in Manningtree. This building is an alternative contender for the chapel which was demolished in the beginning of the seventeenth century and recorded by Morant in 1768. It has been suggested by Mrs Jacques of Manningtree Local History Society that this chapel was situated under what is now the Methodist Chapel (EHER). There is a post-medieval reference in the deeds that this land was presented to the Methodists, at which point it already had the ruins of an old chapel on it and was known as Chapel Yard. The Guild Chapel may originally have been closed during the 16th century reformation (EHER).
- 2.2.9 Alternatively the Guild Chapel may have been on the site of the medieval St Michael and All Angels Chapel, which was demolished in 1970. However, when excavating trial trenches, c. 300m south-east of the site, no signs of a medieval chapel were discovered.

- 2.2.10 Burials were observed during ground works at Maltings Wharf, North Street, just over 100m south-east of the site. An adult, a child and at least one other were discovered, which were buried in old saltings and, although undated are probably Late Medieval or post-medieval in date (EHER).
- 2.2.11 There is evidence for a medieval or post-medieval wharf, which was originally situated further back from the current shore line along the Stour estuary. Large timbers were witnessed during the inspection of a sewerage scheme; these are thought to have formed part of a revetment on the north side of the junction of Station Road/ North Street, just over 100m to the south-east of the site. The area immediately to the north of South Street formed the town dock in the post-medieval period and is likely to have also been the location of the medieval dock, as it was located at the point where Manningtree Channel comes closest to the shore. It is therefore suggested that North Street and Quay Street mark the original line of the Quay, which has since been buried beneath post-medieval make-up (EHER).
- 2.2.12 Although no archaeological sites or finds have yet been recorded from the inter-tidal zone, the Historic Environment Characterisation Project indicates that there is a potential for the survival of water-logged deposits including timber/wooden structures such as former quays, within the estuary deposits (Tending District Council & Essex County Council 2008).

2.3 The Post-Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern Period (AD 1900 to the present)

- 2.3.1 Manningtree flourished as a river port and agricultural centre and had its golden age of prosperity from the 17th century, when the Stour was made navigable, through to the coming of the railway in the mid 19th century (Edwards 2000, 52).
- 2.3.2 The Chapel of St Michael and All Angels was moved to the High Street (c. 300m south-east of the site) in the 17th century, the chancel and other additions were built in 1839. Excavations have confirmed the 17th century date and uncovered numerous post-medieval graves and the foundations of a brick-built house, adjoining the church. Rescue excavation in the Vicarage garden on the opposite side of the road to the chapel revealed a number of late post-medieval burials. This land had been granted to the people of Manningtree for a curate's residence and graveyard by Richard Edwards in 1633 (EHER).
- 2.3.3 St Michael's cemetery is situated 500m to the south-east of the application site, in the area of a present school playground, into the walls of which a number of the gravestones have been preserved .
- 2.3.4 The post-medieval period in Manningtree is represented by a number of EHER entries of buildings and remains of buildings. Entries include the site of Brickfield in Station Road c. 150m south-west of the site, the Salvation Army Hall, located 250m to the south-east of the application site and a milestone surviving as a stump on the north side of the B1352, c.1.25km south-west of the site.
- 2.3.5 Noteworthy is the site of Mistley Hall, about 1km south of the site. Mistley Hall was built in 1703 by Richard Rigby Senior and became increasingly elaborate. The estate was sold off in 1844 and the hall demolished. Very little of the hall remains above ground except the sunken fence of a ha-ha shown on a scale plan. Part of the stable block still stands and riding stables occupy the demesne farm building, together with a 18th century brick stable block at Old Hall and an 18th century garden wall to south and east of Old Hall (EHER).

- 2.3.6 The main road to Mistley formerly ran barely 200m from the 18th century Hall, c.850m from the proposed development site. Between 1778 and 1784, the road line was changed to that of the present road, to the west of the park.
- 2.3.7 The Lawford Works and Tannery was one of the earlier Essex iron foundries with three complexes producing leather and iron goods on the west side of the town. The ironworks were located just to the south-east of the site boundary, the leatherworks was to the north of the site but the tannery fell within the site boundaries, as shown on historic mapping. The iron and leatherworks contained a number of features associated with this industry, including several brick-built buildings and a steam engine house. A substantial manager's house overlooked the works and the iron gates by the driveway were probably manufactured within the foundry. The house survives, but the site of the ironworks has been destroyed and is now occupied by flats for the elderly (EHER). Although the main site of the factory lies on Colchester Road about 250m south-east of the development site, outbuildings associated with the manufactory fell within the boundaries of the application site. These have now been demolished.
- 2.3.8 The Gas Works at Oxford Road, c. 450m south-east of the site, were formed in 1839 and an iron apparatus for the gas works was supplied by W.C.Holmes & Co. of Huddersfield between 1860 and 1870, however by 1999 the site had been covered by a new housing estate.
- 2.3.9 A number of excavations of service trenches in Manningtree recorded features dating to the post-medieval period; this has included dump layers, road make-up, masonry and timber remains, as well as marsh clay.
- 2.3.10 Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company was originally operating from a site in Mistley (TM 121 317), but in 1905 the company moved from Mistley to a new waterworks on a site on Mill Hill in Lawford, approximately 350m south of the application site. Further expansion took place during the 1920s and 1930s. It is now an extensive site with a number of structures reflecting the various stages of development, including a modern but sympathetic office block. At the entrance stands a red brick, tile roofed single-storey building with terracotta plaques moulded with the initials THWW Co and the date 1908 (EHER).
- 2.3.11 There are a total of 92 individual Listed Buildings within the 1km study, of which 91 are Grade II listed and one is Grade I listed. They range from the post-medieval to modern period in date, and are mainly concentrated around the High Street and the old town centre of Manningtree to the east of the site. None of these buildings are in close proximity of the site.
- 2.3.12 Early 20th century historic mapping suggests that the site has been reclaimed; the site is in close proximity to 'Marsh Row' and the high water mark of ordinary tides.

2.4 Previous Geotechnical Site Investigations

- 2.4.1 Geotechnical site investigations were undertaken at the site by Delta Simons and Geotechnics Ltd. in March 2010 (Delta Simons 2010).
- 2.4.2 These works comprised drilling eight boreholes (BH1-BH8) to a maximum depth of 15.0m bgl and excavation of 16 window sample probeholes (WS1 to WS16) to a maximum depth of 3.0m bgl (Figure 2). All the geotechnical data is available for this current investigation. The results of the borehole investigations are summarised in Table 3, below.
- 2.4.3 Made Ground was encountered across the site from ground level to a depth varying between 0.4m in BH407 to 1.5m in BH408.

2.4.4 Alluvium, comprising grey clay / sandy silty clay / gravelly clay was encountered in the north of the site in BH401 between 1.40 and 4m bgl; in BH402 between 1.20m and 3.60m bgl and in BH404 between 0.90m and 6m bgl. Alluvium was also recorded in the centre of the site in BH405 between 0.5m and 1.60m bgl; in BH406 between 0.4m and 1.60m bgl and in BH407 between 0.4m and 1.65m bgl. Alluvial deposits were also encountered in the south-east of the site in BH408 between 1.5m and 4m bgl; in BH409 between 1.10m to 2m bgl and in BH410 between 1.05m and 3m bgl.

2.4.5 Gravel / sandy gravel deposits were encountered below the alluvial deposits in the north and central areas of the site from between 1.6m and 4.0m bgl to the end of the boreholes (3.0m-6.0m bgl). Boreholes in the south-east of the site did not penetrate below the level of the alluvium (Delta Simons 2010).

Table 1: Summary of Borehole Logs (Delta Simons 2010)

Deposit	Depth of deposits in boreholes (m bgl)									
	North				Central			South-East		
	BH401	BH402	BH403	BH404	BH405	BH406	BH407	BH408	BH409	BH410
Made Ground	0.0m-0.9m	0.0m-1.2m	0.0m-0.8m	0.0m-0.9m	0.0m-0.5m	0.0m-0.4m	0.0m-0.4m	0.0m-1.5m	0.0m-1.1m	0.0m-1.05m
Clay	0.9m-1.4m	-	0.8m-2.7m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alluvium	1.4m-4.0m	1.2m-3.6m	-	0.9m-6.0m END	0.5m-1.6m	0.4m-1.6m	0.4m-1.65m	1.5m-4.0m END	1.1m-2.0m END	1.05m-3.0m END
Gravel	4.0m-6.0m END	3.6m-6.0m END	2.7m-6.0m END	-	1.6m-4.00m END	1.6m-3.0m END	1.65m-3.0m END	-	-	-

3. Strategy

3.1 Aims of the Investigation

3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were defined as being:

- To establish the presence/absence of potential palaeo-archaeological remains within the site.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- To complete a correlated deposit model of the site.
- To enable Adrian Gascoyne, of the Historic Environment Management Team, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

3.1.2 The specific aims of the investigation were to:

- Determine the presence of remains relating to the tannery.
- Determine the presence of any palaeoenvironmental remains.

3.1.3 The final aim was to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions, through ADS OASIS website.

3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 Site procedures were defined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011). The archaeological evaluation conformed with current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines (IfA 2008).

3.2.2 A total of 20 test pits were excavated on site; Test Pit 4 was not excavated due to its proximity to a live power cable; all pits measured 1.00m x 1.00m (Figure 2).

3.2.3 Prior to commencing work a unique site code (LAWFR11) was obtained from the monitor and a museum accession number (COLEM:2011.4) was obtained from Colchester Museum, prior to the start of works on site.

3.2.4 A temporary bench mark was located on site at a height of 2.84mOD. This was transferred from a spot height located on the adjacent road valued at 2.93mOD.

3.2.5 The evaluation was undertaken by a team comprising of Project Supervisor Ian Hogg and Geoarchaeological Specialist Rob Batchelor, under the overall direction of Melissa Melikian, Operations Director. The works were monitored by Adrian Gascoyne of the Historic Environment Management Team, on behalf of Tendring District Council.

4. Results of Archaeological Test Pit Evaluation

The homogenous nature of the deposits revealed in the Test Pits makes it easier to describe them in groups rather than individually.

4.1 Test Pits 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 10

Context No's	Thickness	Depth Below Ground Level	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description
800	0.70m	0.00m	3.12m	Concrete Surface
200, 300, 700, 1000	0.20m	0.00m	3.07m – 1.99m	Topsoil
301	1.20m	0.20m	2.08m	Made Ground
100, 201, 302, 701, 801, 1001	0.50m – 1.60m	0.00m - 1.40m	2.87m - 1.63m	Made Ground
101, 702	0.20m – 0.40m	0.50m - 1.80m	1.26m - 1.12m	Buried Topsoil
102, 202, 303, 703, 802, 1002	0.50m – 1.80m	0.90m -2.00m	1.12m – 0.58m	Alluvial Clay
103, 203, 304, 704,1003	NFE	2.50m - 3.40m	0.08m – -1.08m	Natural Gravels

- 4.1.1 Natural firm grey gravel was observed in Test Pits 1, 2, 3 and 7 at heights between 0.08m and -1.08m OD (103), (203), (304), (704), (1003); the natural gravel was not observed in TP8 due to the water levels within the trench. In all cases the gravel was overlain by a deposit of firm bluish grey sandy clay alluvium (102), (202), (303), (703), (802) (1002) between 0.50m and 1.80m thick. This deposit was probably related to the marshy conditions, which existed on site until the last century.
- 4.1.2 In Test Pits 1 and 7 the alluvium was overlain by a dark greyish black sandy silt between 0.20m and 0.40m thick (101) (702), this probably represents a buried topsoil. The buried topsoil in TP's 1 and 7, and the alluvium in TP's 2, 3 and 8 was sealed by a deposit of very loose, mid grey sandy made ground, with frequent inclusions of CBM, concrete and modern metal (100), (201), (302), (701), (801) (1001); this deposit varied in thickness between 0.50m and 1.60m and probably represents a deliberate effort to raise the ground level in the 20th century. In TP 3 this layer was overlain by a second made ground deposit (301), a mid brownish orange sandy gravel 1.20m thick.
- 4.1.3 The made ground was overlain by 0.70m of grey concrete in TP8 (800), and a dark blackish grey sandy silt topsoil deposit in TP's 2, 3 and 7; this deposit was 0.20m thick (200), (300), (700) (1000).

4.2 Test Pits 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 19, 20, 21.

Context No's	Thickness	Depth Below Ground Level	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description
500, 1700	0.20m	0.00m	2.81m – 2.94m	Concrete Surface
600, 1100, 1300, 1400, 1500	0.20m	0.00m	1.94m – 2.96m	Topsoil
1600, 2000	0.20m – 0.30m	0.00m	2.76m	Made Ground
501, 601, 1101, 1301, 1401, 1501, 1601, 1701, 1900, 2001, 2100	0.90m – 1.40m	0.00m - 0.30m	1.74m – 2.76m	Made Ground
502, 602, 1302, 1402, 1502, 1602, 1702, 1901 2002, 2101	0.10m – 1.40m	1.10m – 1.40m	0.84m – 1.71m	Alluvial Clay
503, 603, 1402, 1503, 1603, 1703, 1902, 2003, 2102	0.20m – 1.80m	1.20m – 2.80m	-0.06m - 1.01m	Natural Sands
604, 1102, 1303, 1404, 1604, 1704, 1903, 2004, 2103	NFE	1.20m – 3.40m	-0.14m – 1.76m	Natural Gravels

- 4.2.1 Natural firm orangey grey gravel was observed in Test Pits 6, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 17 at heights varying between 1.76m and -0.14m OD (604), (1102), (1303), (1404), (1604), (1704), (1903), (2004), and (2103). This deposit was overlain by natural orangey grey gravelly sand (503), (603), (1403), (1503), (1603) (1703), (1902), (2003), and (2102) this deposit varied in thickness between

0.30m and 1.80m. This deposit is probably a sandy seam within the gravel natural seen across the site.

- 4.2.2 The natural sands were sealed in most cases by an alluvial deposit of mid bluish grey sandy clay (502), (602), (1302), (1402), (1502), (1602), (1702), (1901), (2002), (2101); this deposit was between 0.10m and 1.40m thick depending on the height of the ground and the degree of modern truncation, which had occurred. No alluvial deposit was seen in TP 11, probably due to this test pit being furthest away from the estuary and on relatively high land.
- 4.2.3 As in the first group of test pits, the alluvium was sealed by a modern made ground deposit of loose gravelly sand with frequent CBM and metal inclusions (501), (601), (1101), (1301), (1401), (1501), (1601), (1701), (1900), (2001), (2100); this deposit was between 0.90m and 1.20m thick. The made ground was overlain by dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil 0.20m thick (600), (1100), (1300), (1400), (1500) in the centre and south of the site. In the west of site parts of the north of site the made ground was sealed by either pale grey concrete (500), (1700) or hard orange gravel made ground (1600), (2000), both of these deposits were between 0.20m and 0.30m thick.

4.3 Test Pits 9, 12, and 18

Context No's	Thickness	Depth Below Ground Level	Height of Deposit (mOD)	Description
900, 1800	0.20m – 0.70m	0.00m	2.94m – 3.21m	Concrete Surface
1200	0.20m	0.00m	2.88m	Topsoil
901	0.90m	0.70m	2.51m	Buried Soil
1201, 1801	0.60m - 0.90m	0.20m	2.68m - 2.74m	Made Ground
902, 1203	0.90m - 1.30m	0.80m – 1.60m	1.61m - 2.08m	Alluvial Clay
1802	0.50m	1.10m	1.64m	Natural Sands
903, 1204, 1803	NFE	1.60m – 2.50m	0.71m - 1.14m	Natural Gravels

- 4.3.1 Test Pits 9, 12 and 18 showed rather different stratigraphy from the others and therefore have been given a separate section. Natural grey gravels (903), (1204), and (1803) were observed in all three Test Pits at a heights between 0.71m and 1.14m OD. In Test Pit 18 the gravels were overlain by a grey gravelly sand deposit of natural (1802) 0.50m thick.
- 4.3.2 In Test Pits 9 and 12, the gravel was sealed by bluish grey alluvial clay (902), (1203) between 0.90m and 1.30m thick. In TP 9, the alluvial clay was overlain by a 0.90m thick deposit of buried topsoil (901); dark brown sandy silt, this context was unlike the other topsoil deposits seen on site, this is probably connected to its relatively high position above sea level. The buried soil was overlain by a heavily reinforced layer of concrete 0.70m thick (900).

- 4.3.3 In Test Pit 18, the natural sandy gravels (1802) were sealed by 0.70m of loose modern made ground similar to that seen across much of the site (1801). The made ground was sealed by 0.20m of reinforced concrete (1800).
- 4.3.4 The alluvial clay visible in TP12 directly overlain by a red brick wall foundation [1202], this foundation sat directly upon the clay and was constructed from frogged red brick measuring 230 x 115 x 75mm, it was bonded with cement mortar in header pattern, was aligned northwest-southeast and measured 1.00m x 0.23m x 0.60m. This foundation was probably related to the previous buildings on site built in the 1950's and 1960's.
- 4.3.5 The wall foundation was abutted by made ground deposit (1201) a mid brown sandy silt with occasional CBM inclusions, this deposit was 0.60m thick. This deposit was overlain by 0.20m of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil (1200).

5 Finds

- 5.1 No finds were retained from the fieldwork, the only artefacts observed were of 20th century date and came from the made ground deposits across site. No environmental samples were taken.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 The evaluation successfully established the absence of archaeological remains within the trenches. The only feature noted was a wall of 20th century date relating to the previous buildings, which occupied the Station Road frontage of the site (OS 1978). The site had been reclaimed during the 20th century and the ground level raised between 0.50m and 2.00m across the area.
- 6.2 Soil horizons were only preserved beneath the made ground in the southeastern corner of the site, TP's 1, 7 and 9. These deposits appear to have been predominantly topsoil built up in marshy conditions. Much of the rest of the site seems to have been horizontally truncated prior to the raising of ground levels.
- 6.3 The made ground lay over a sequence of alluvial or marsh deposits comprising of clays with sands, which overlay gravels. The gravels were higher towards the east of the site. The sequence probably represents Holocene alluvium within the floodplain of the River Stour. There was a general lack of any organic remains or dateable material recovered from within this sequence.
- 6.4 Based on the absence of any archaeological remains or any notable organic or dateable deposits within the evaluation trenches it is surmised from this established deposit model, that similar conditions of truncation over clean alluvial deposition may extend over the rest of the site. Therefore, no further archaeological work is recommended due to the lack of archaeological remains on site. However, the final decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological mitigation on the site rests with the LPA under the advisement of the Essex County Council Heritage Environment Team.

7 Publication

- 7.1 Publication will be via the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (Appendix D).

8. Archive Deposition

- 8.1 On completion of the project, the archive, consisting of paper records, drawings and digital photographs will be deposited with the Colchester Museum Service.

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Figure 1: Site Location

FORMER RAILEX SITE, LAWFORD, ESSEX: FORMER RAILEX SITE, LAWFORD, ESSEX: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT EVALUATION REPORT



Based on the Plan Provided by Accord Architecture

Figure 2: Previous Mitigation Works and Test Pit Location Plan

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FORMER RAILEX SITE, LAWFORD, ESSEX: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST PIT EVALUATION REPORT

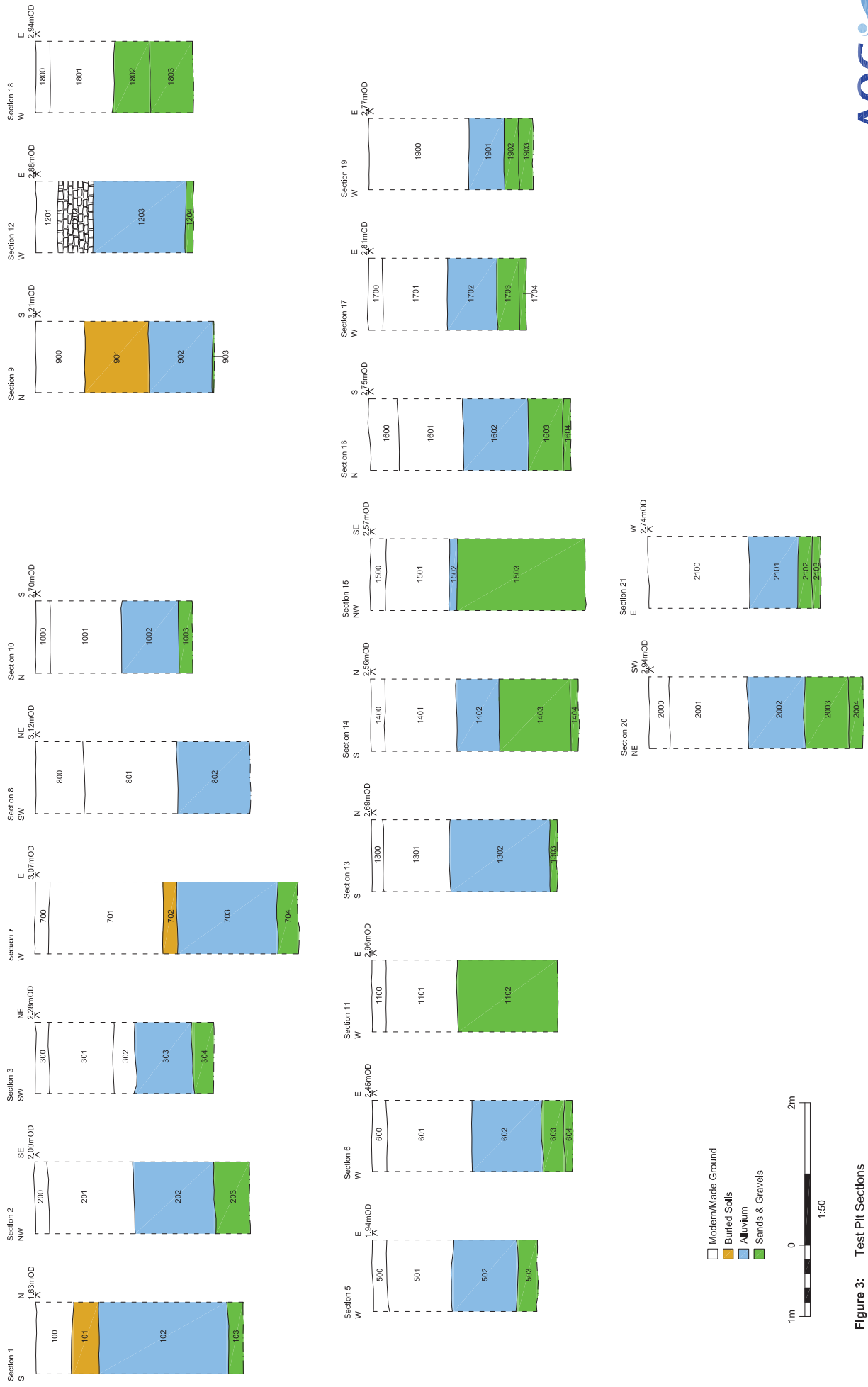
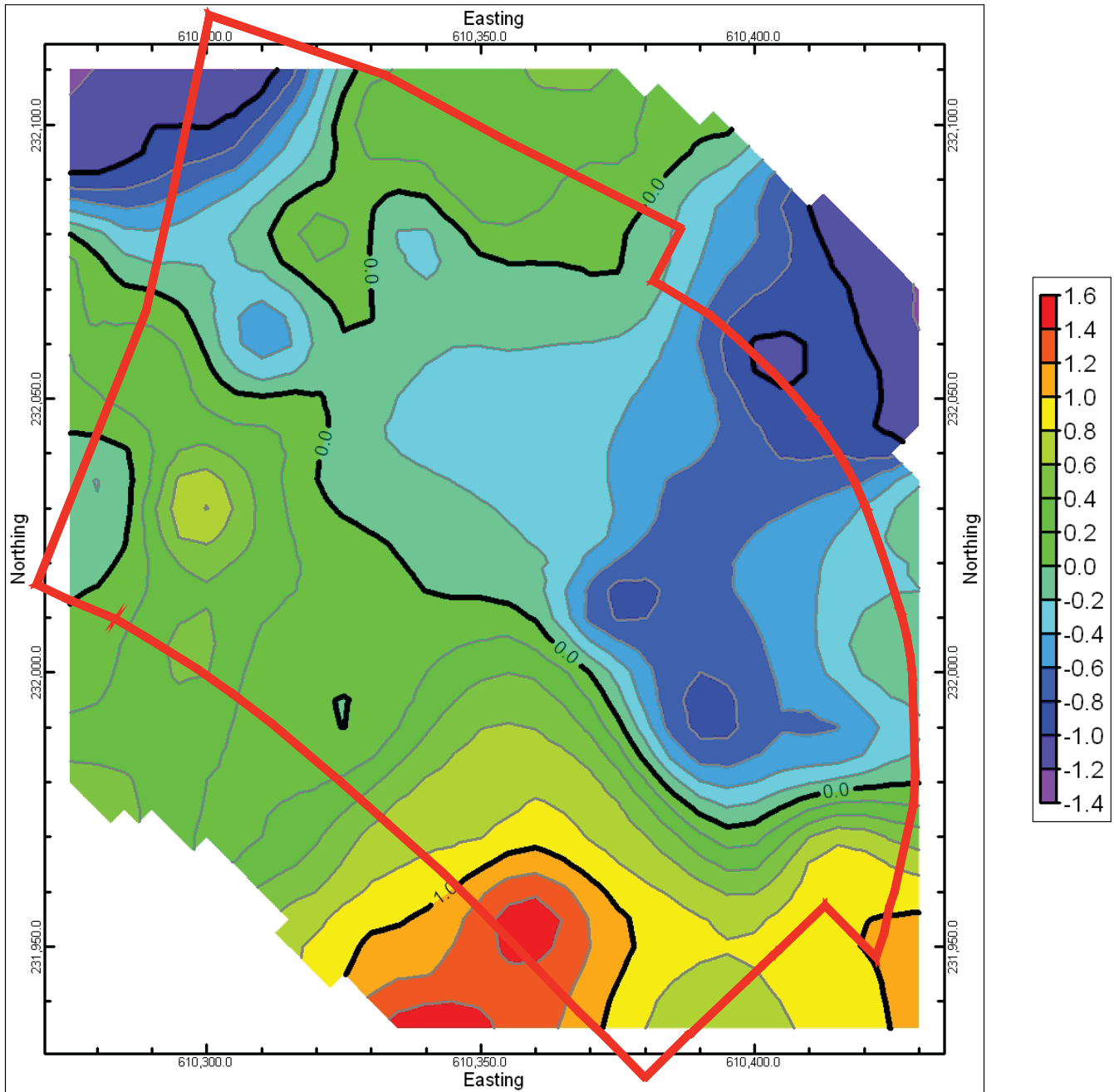


Figure 3: Test Pit Sections



Based on a Plan Produced by QUEST

Figure 4: Surface of Sand and Gravel

Appendices

Appendix A - Context Register

Context	Description	Length	Width	Thickness
100	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.50m
101	Buried Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.40m
102	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	1.80m
103	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
200	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
201	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.20m
202	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	1.10m
203	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
300	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
301	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.20m
302	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.30m
303	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.50m
304	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
500	Concrete	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
501	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
502	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
503	Natural sands	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
600	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
601	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.20m
602	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	1.00m
603	Natural sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.30m
604	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
700	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
701	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.60m
702	Buried Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
703	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	1.40m
704	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
800	Concrete	1.00m	1.00m	0.70m
801	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.30m
802	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
900	Concrete	1.00m	1.00m	0.70m
901	Buried Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
902	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
903	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1000	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1001	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.00m
1002	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.80m
1003	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1100	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1101	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.20m
1102	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1200	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1201	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.60m
1202	Wall Foundation	1.00m	0.20m	0.60m
1203	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	1.30m
1204	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1300	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.15m
1301	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.95m
1302	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	1.40m

1303	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1400	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1401	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.00m
1402	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.60m
1403	Natural Sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
1404	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1500	Topsoil	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1501	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
1502	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.10m
1503	Natural sands	1.00m	1.00m	1.80m
1504	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1600	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.40m
1601	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
1602	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
1603	Natural sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.50m
1604	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1700	Concrete	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1701	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
1702	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.70m
1703	Natural sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.30m
1704	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1800	Concrete	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1801	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.90m
1802	Natural Sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.50m
1803	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
1900	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.40m
1901	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.50m
1902	Natural Sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
1903	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
2000	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	0.30m
2001	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.10m
2002	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.80m
2003	Natural Sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.60m
2004	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE
2100	Made Ground	1.00m	1.00m	1.40m
2101	Alluvium	1.00m	1.00m	0.70m
2102	Natural Sands	1.00m	1.00m	0.20m
2103	Natural Gravel	1.00m	1.00m	NFE

Appendix B – Specialist Reports

GEOARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD INVESTIGATION: THE FORMER RAILWAY SITE, LAWFORD, ESSEX

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the findings arising out of the geoarchaeological field investigation undertaken by Quaternary Scientific (University of Reading) at the Former Railway Site, Lawford, Essex (National Grid Reference: TM 1003 3203) in connection with investigations being undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group (Figure 2). Previous geotechnical investigations at the site identified a sequence of Made Ground and Alluvium of variable thickness overlying sands and gravels (Delta Simons, 2010; Edwards, 2011). The fieldwork was undertaken to produce a deposit model of the sub-surface stratigraphy, and to identify any sediments of geoarchaeological potential for further investigation.

THE SITE

Manningtree is situated at the head of the Stour Estuary on its south side and the site boundary is less than 0.1km from the waterfront which in this area is formed by an embanked sea wall. The ground level within the site is between ca. 1.5m and ca. 3.0m OD, but these levels are the result of ground-raising and Made Ground is present across the entire site. The base of the Made Ground is recorded in boreholes and test pits between -1.24m and 1.50m OD but it is clear from the geotechnical logs that this contact was often difficult to recognise, with reference in several logs to 'possible made ground'. The median value from the geotechnical records is 1.1m OD. In the test pits monitored by Quest the base of the made ground was recorded between 0.6m and 2.56m OD with a median value of 1.50m OD. All but one of the higher values (>1.5m OD) lies near the south-western boundary of the site, probably indicating that the natural ground surface slopes downward broadly from SW to NE, i.e. towards the estuary of the Stour. Geotechnical investigations show that the site is underlain by fine-grained, mainly sandy deposits resting on sand and gravel. The bedrock is the London Clay.

METHODS

Field investigations

Twenty-one machine-dug 1x1m test-pits were put down across the site at predetermined locations (Figure 2; Table 1). Each test-pit extended in depth down to the contact with the sand and gravel, or where this was not possible, until the machine reached its maximum achievable depth (ca. 3m). The stratigraphy within the test-pit was described by a combination of observation/measuring of transitions within the test-pit and detailed observation of the sediments excavated on the sides of the test-pits.

The sediments were recorded using standard procedures for recording unconsolidated sediment and peat, noting the physical properties (colour), composition (gravel, sand, clay, silt and organic matter), peat humification and inclusions (e.g. artefacts) (Troels-Smith, 1955). The procedure involved: (1) recording the physical properties, most notably colour using a Munsell Soil Colour Chart, but occasionally dryness; (2) recording the composition, including moss peat (*Turfa bryophytica*; Tb), wood peat (*Turfa lignosa*; Tl), herbaceous peat (*Turfa herbacea*; Th), completely disintegrated organic matter (*Substantia humosa*; Sh), gravel (*Grana glareosa*; Gg), fine sand (*Grana arenosa*; Ga), silt (*Argilla granosa*; Ag) and clay (*Argilla steatoides*); (3) recording the degree of peat humification, and (4) recording the boundary changes e.g. sharp or diffuse. The results of the field-based descriptions are provided in Tables 2 to 22.

Table 1: Details of the ge archaeological test-pits at the Former Railway Site, Lawford, Essex

Test-pit number	Easting	Northing	Depth at surface (m OD)
1	610392.267	231990.81	1.63
2	610408.74	231995.33	2.00
3	610421.68	232001.84	2.28
4	610412.335	232031.26	1.81
5	610390.75	232052.4	1.94
6	610374.59	232071.51	2.46
7	610415.11	231966.16	3.07
8	610400.16	231949.29	3.12
9	610388.08	231936.63	3.21
10	610371.59	231972.84	2.70
11	610358.48	231956.47	2.96
12	610342.72	231971.28	2.88
13	610324.96	232012.41	2.69
14	610342.86	232050.19	2.56
15	610352.95	232078.02	2.56
16	610348.52	232088.07	2.75
17	610299.85	232003.57	2.81
18	610297.57	232030.97	2.94
19	610328.36	232101.38	2.77
20	610325.06	232063.99	2.94
21	610289.78	232054.25	2.74

Deposit modelling

The deposit modelling process was broken down into various stages. Firstly a review of all 55 new and previous ge archaeological and geotechnical data was carried out. Following a detailed and systematic review of the sedimentary logs, 12 records were immediately rejected because the recorded sedimentary sequences did not extend beyond the Made Ground

- (1) Discrepancies within the Easting and Northing co-ordinates
- (2) Inconceivable/missing elevations for the main stratigraphic units

This initial process resulted in 43 records that were reviewed for deposit modelling. Sedimentary units from the boreholes and test pits were then classified into two groupings: (1) Made Ground and Alluvium and (2) Sand and gravel. The classified data for these groups were then input into a database with the RockWorks 2006 geological utilities software. Models of surface height (using a nearest neighbour routine) were generated for the surface of the sand and gravel (Figure 4). Because the ge archaeological and geotechnical records are not uniformly distributed over the area of investigation, the reliability of the model generated using RockWorks is variable. In general, reliability improves from outlying areas where the models are largely supported by scattered archival records towards the core area of commissioned boreholes. Because of the 'smoothing' effect of the modelling

procedure, the modelled levels of stratigraphic contacts may differ slightly from the levels recorded in the borehole and trial pit logs.

In addition, the reliability of the model is affected by the quality of the stratigraphic records which in turn are affected by the nature of the sediments and/or their post-depositional disturbance during previous stages of development on the site. In particular, it is important to recognise that various sets of records are represented all put down at different times, by different companies and recorded using different descriptive terms, and subject to differing technical constraints in terms of recorded detail including the exact levels of the stratigraphic boundaries.

RESULTS OF THE SEDIMENTARY DESCRIPTIONS

The results of the sedimentary descriptions of test-pits 1 to 21 are displayed in Tables 2 to 22.

Table 2: Results of the test-pit 1 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	0.50	1.63	1.13	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
0.50	0.90	1.13	0.73	3	10YR 4/1; Ag2, Sh1, Ga1, Dh/Th+; Dark grey organic-rich sandy silt with plant inclusions; sharp contact into:
0.90	2.70	0.73	-1.07	2	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1 to Ag3, As1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty clay becoming coarser with depth to sandy silt with occasional gravel; unknown contact into:
2.70		-1.07		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 3: Results of the test-pit 2 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.40	2.00	0.60	3	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.40	2.50	0.60	-0.50	2	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1 to Ag3, As1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty clay becoming coarser with depth to sandy silt with occasional gravel; unknown contact into:
2.50		-0.50		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 4: Results of the test-pit 3 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.00	2.28	1.28	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:

1.00	2.00	1.28	0.28	3	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1; Bluish grey silty clay; diffuse contact into:
2.00	2.20	0.28	0.08	2	Gley 2 6/1; As2, Ag1, Ga1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty sandy clay with gravel; unknown contact into:
2.20		0.08		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 5: Results of the test-pit 4 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Services hit - test-pit abandoned

Table 6: Results of the test-pit 5 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.10	1.93	1.83	3	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.10	2.30	1.83	-0.37	2	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1 to Ag3, As1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty clay becoming coarser with depth to sandy silt with occasional gravel; unknown contact into:
2.30		-0.37		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

NB Trench very wet and constantly collapsing - Depths and characteristics difficult to record

Table 7: Results of the test-pit 6 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.40	2.46	1.06	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.40	2.40	1.06	0.06	3	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1 to Ag3, As1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty clay becoming coarser with depth to sandy silt with occasional gravel; unknown contact into:
2.40	2.80	0.06	-0.34	2	10YR 5/3; Ga2, Gg2; Brown sandy gravel; unknown contact into:
2.80		-0.34		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 8: Results of the test-pit 7 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.80	3.07	1.27	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.80	2.00	1.27	1.07	3	10YR 4/1; As2, Ag1, Sh1; Dark grey organic-rich silty clay; sharp contact into:
2.00	3.40	1.07	-0.33	2	10YR 5/3; Ga2, Gg2; Brown sandy gravel; unknown contact into:
3.40	3.60	-0.33		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 9: Results of the test-pit 8 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	2.00	3.12	1.12	2	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
2.00	3.00	1.12	0.12	1	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1 to Ag3, As1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty clay becoming coarser with depth to sandy silt with occasional gravel; unknown contact into:
3.00					Trench abandoned due to waterlogging and collapse

Table 10: Results of the test-pit 9 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	0.65	3.21	2.56	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
0.65	1.60	2.56	1.61	3	Soil
1.60	2.50	1.61	0.71	2	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1 Ga+, Gg+; Blue grey silty clay with sand and gravel inclusions; unknown contact into:
2.50		0.71		1	10YR 5/4; Gg2, Ga2; Yellowish brown sandy gravel.

Table 11: Results of the test-pit 10 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.20	2.70	1.50	3	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.20	2.00	1.50	0.70	2	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1 to Ag3, As1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty clay becoming coarser with depth to sandy silt with occasional gravel; unknown contact into:
2.00		0.70		1	10YR 5/4; Gg2, Ga2; Yellowish brown sandy gravel.

Table 12: Results of the test-pit 11 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.20	2.96	1.76	2	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.20	2.50	1.76	0.46	1	10YR 5/4; Gg2, Ga2; Yellowish brown sandy gravel.

Table 13: Results of the test-pit 12 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	0.80	2.87	2.07	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:

0.80	1.50	2.07	1.37	3	Gley 2 6/1; As4; Very stiff bluish grey clay; diffuse contact into:
1.50	2.10	1.37	0.77	2	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ga1, Gg+, Ag+; Bluish grey clay with brown sand, also includes some traces of silt and gravel; unknown contact into:
2.10		0.77		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 14: Results of the test-pit 13 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.10	2.69	1.59	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.10	1.80	1.59	0.89	3	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1, Ga+; Bluish grey silty clay with some sand; diffuse contact into:
1.80	2.50	0.89	0.19	2	10YR 5/1; Ga4, Ag+, Gg+; Grey sand with some silt and gravel. Also includes some small pockets of brown organic sand; diffuse contact into:
2.50		0.19		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 15: Results of the test-pit 14 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.20	2.56	1.36	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.20	1.70	1.36	0.86	3	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1, Gg+; Bluish grey silty clay with occasional small gravel. Also includes some dark blue/black mottling towards the surface of the unit; diffuse contact into:
1.70	2.80	0.86	-0.24	2	10YR 5/6; Ga3, Gg1 (with some variation in ratio); Yellowish brown gravelly sand. The unit becomes increasingly gravelly with depth; unknown contact into:
2.80		-0.24		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 16: Results of the test-pit 15 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.10	2.56	1.46	3	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.10	1.20	1.46	1.36	2	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1; Bluish grey silty clay; diffuse contact into:
1.20	3.00	1.36	-0.44	1	Gley 2 6/1; Ga3, Gg1; Greenish grey gravelly sand. Becomes increasingly gravelly with depth. Base of unit not recorded due to trench depth.

Table 17: Results of the test-pit 16 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.30	2.75	1.45	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.30	2.20	1.45	0.55	3	10YR 5/1 to Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ga1; Stiff grey clay becoming bluish grey sandy clay from ca. 1.50m BGS; unknown contact into:
2.20	2.80	0.55	-0.05	2	10YR 5/4; Ga2, Gg2; Yellowish brown sandy gravel; unknown contact into:
2.80		-0.05		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg2, Ga2; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 18: Results of the test-pit 17 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.10	2.81	1.71	5	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.10	1.80	1.71	1.01	4	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1, Ga+; Bluish grey silty clay with some sand; diffuse contact into:
1.80	1.80	1.01	1.01	3	Possible organic-rich horizon
1.80	2.20	1.01	0.61	2	Gley 2 6/1; Ga4, Gg1; Bluish grey sand with occasional gravel.
2.20		0.61		1	10YR 6/2; Ga2, Gg2; Greyish brown sandy gravel.

Table 19: Results of the test-pit 18 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.10	2.94	1.84	3	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.10	1.60	1.84	1.24	2	10YR 5/2; Ag2, As1, Ga1, Gg+; Greyish brown sandy clayey silt with some small gravel clasts; diffuse contact into:
1.60	2.20	1.24		1	10YR 5/4; Gg2, Ga1, Ag1; Yellowish brown silty sandy gravel.

Table 20: Results of the test-pit 19 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.40	2.77	1.37	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.40	1.90	1.37	0.87	3	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1, Ga+; Bluish grey silty sandy clay; diffuse contact into:
1.90	2.10	0.87	0.67	2	Gley 2 6/1; Ga3, Gg1; Bluish grey sand with gravel; unknown contact into:
2.10		0.67		1	10YR 6/2; Ga2, Gg2; Greyish brown sandy gravel.

NB Trench very wet and constantly collapsing - Depths and characteristics difficult to record

Table 21: Results of the test-pit 20 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.40	2.94	1.54	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.40	2.20	1.54	0.74	3	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1; Bluish grey silty clay; diffuse contact into:
2.20	2.80	0.74	0.14	2	Gley 2 6/1; Ga3, Gg1; Bluish grey sand with gravel; unknown contact into:
2.80		0.14		1	Gley 2 6/1; Gg3, Ga1; Bluish grey sandy gravel.

Table 22: Results of the test-pit 21 lithostratigraphic descriptions

Depth (m BGS)		Depth (m OD)		Unit number	Description
From	To	From	To		
0.00	1.40	2.74	1.34	4	Made Ground; sharp contact into:
1.40	2.10	1.34	0.64	3	Gley 2 6/1; As3, Ag1, Ga+; Bluish grey silty clay becoming increasingly sandy with depth; unknown contact into:
2.10	2.30	0.64	0.44	2	Gley 2 6/1; Ga3, Gg1; Bluish grey sand with gravel; unknown contact into:
2.30		0.44		1	10YR 4/1; Ga3, Gg1; Bluish grey gravelly sand.

NB Trench very wet and constantly collapsing - Depths and characteristics difficult to record

INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE SUB-SURFACE STRATIGRAPHY

This account is based on an examination of sediment logs from two sets of geotechnical boreholes, (a total of 18 boreholes), 16 geotechnical window samples and 21 geoarchaeological test-pits. The most consistent feature of the recorded sediment sequences is that most of them (43 of 55) terminated downward in sand and gravel. The recording of the sediments overlying the sand and gravel is less consistent and suggests that the exact nature of the sediments was difficult to determine in the field. In 26 of the records, mainly those derived from the test-pits or from Boreholes BH401-410, one or two fine-grained sediment units are recorded beneath the Made Ground and overlying the sand and gravel. Occasional clasts of gravel are recorded in 20 of these fine grained sequences, most commonly in the lower part of the sequence. In the records derived from the Window Samples, in 7 of the sediment sequences, fine-grained sediments with occasional gravel are described as 'possible made ground'; and in Boreholes BH1-BH8, the sediment overlying the sand and gravel is described in all the boreholes as Made Ground. Thus the basis for the interpretation of the sediments underlying this site is less than ideal.

The geoarchaeological test pits monitored by Quest are considered to provide the most reliable record of the sediments overlying the sand and gravel; from this record it can be seen that in the majority of the test pits the sediment sequence beneath the Made Ground passed down through silty clay into a sandier deposit, either silty sand, sandy silt or sandy clay which in most cases contained small

amounts of gravel. There were no widely recognisable beds or discontinuities within these fine grained sediments and almost no visible organic material, either plant remains or Mollusca.

The only contact within the overall sediment sequence that can be widely recognised (43 points) and mapped with reasonable confidence is the top of the gravel. Figure 4 is a reconstruction of the gravel surface and it shows that in general the surface is slightly higher towards the SW boundary of the site and that there are two deeper embayments apparently opening towards the NE in the direction of the Stour Estuary.

Thus, a three part sediment sequence is recognisable across the whole site, comprising sand and gravel at the base, succeeded by gravelly and sandy silts and clays which are overlain by silty clays. It seems most likely that these sediments are mainly if not entirely river deposits. Their age is however indeterminate. The sand and gravel might be of Late Devensian age, but in this estuarine situation on the east coast of England, gravel of that age is likely to be preserved well below present sea level. Alternatively therefore, the gravel may be part of an older terrace of the River Stour which has been dissected and has suffered erosion along its riverward edge. The slightly gravelly clayey, silty and sandy deposits that overlie the sand and gravel appear to reflect some reworking of the underlying material. It is not possible to decide whether this reworking is entirely fluvial or whether some of the material may be of colluvial origin. There are no indications of when reworking might have occurred. The silty clays that form the uppermost part of the sediment sequence are probably Holocene floodplain deposits of the River Stour.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the absence of suitable organic remains or dateable material, there is no reason to recommend any further geoarchaeological or palaeoenvironmental work at this site.

REFERENCES

- Delta Simons (2010) *Unpublished borehole logs and borehole location plans*. (Project No. 06-3055.04).
- Edwards, C. (2011) *The Former Railway Site, Lawford, Essex: A written scheme of investigation for an archaeological test-pit evaluation*. AOC Archaeology Group, unpublished report.

Appendix C Essex CC Brief for the Work

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF
THE FORMER RAILEX SITE, LAWFORD, ESSEX**

January 2011



Essex County Council

Site: Former Railex Site, Lawford

Applicant: Tesco

Agent: Melissa Melikian

HEM Officer: Adrian Gascoyne (01245 437293)

Museum: Colchester and Ipswich (01206 729163)

This historic environment brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Management (HEM) Team of the Historic Environment Branch of Essex County Council should be contacted to assess whether changes are required to bring the brief up to date. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period from the date on this brief.

*The contractor is advised to visit the site before completing their **written scheme of investigation** as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.*

Introduction

The HEM Team of the Historic Environment Branch of Essex County Council has prepared this brief for archaeological investigation at the above site. The brief sets out the requirements to fulfil the archaeological conditions on the planning application (10/01357/FUL) for the construction of a new Tesco store. The works will follow a staged approach which will commence with trial pitting and the use of existing geotechnical information to develop a deposit model for the area to be affected by development. Further work (trenching/excavation) will be required following the completion of the evaluation and associated report.

Site Location and Description

The proposed development occupies land to the north of Station Road and is centred on NGR: TM 103 320. The site is bounded by Station Road to the south, Riverside Avenue to the east and north and a small path to the west. At present it is occupied by a redundant industrial estate and includes a large warehouse and a number of lightweight structures functioning as depots and sheds constructed during the 1970's/1980's.

Planning Background

Planning application 10/01357/FUL was submitted to Tendring District Council in November 2010 for demolition of existing buildings and erection of Class A1 retail foodstore with associated access, car parking, servicing and landscaping. On the basis that the proposed development site lies within a potentially sensitive archaeological area of high significance, a recommendation was made by HEM to the LPA for an archaeological evaluation prior to the determination of the planning application, in line with advice given in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPS 5):

Recommendation: Archaeological Evaluation

‘The applicant should be required to conduct a field evaluation to establish the nature and complexity of the surviving archaeological deposits. This should be undertaken prior to a planning decision being made. This evaluation would enable due consideration to be given to the archaeological implications and would lead to proposals for preservation in situ and/or the need for further investigation’.

Further Recommendations:

A professional team of archaeologists should undertake the archaeological work. This will comprise archaeological trial trenching of up to 5% of the development site to determine the survival of archaeological remains.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective archaeological contractors can visit the HER prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation (To make an appointment contact Ms A. Bennett, 01245 437637).

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within the historic town of Manningtree (EHER 3229; *Manningtree Historic Town Assessment*, Medlycott, 1999) and will impact on any surviving remains of the 19th century Lawford Works (EHER 15290). There is also the potential for the development to damage earlier archaeological deposits within the former estuarine environment. A Desk-based assessment was carried out by AOC Archaeology Group

in November 2010 (Smith, 2010) which recognised that there is a potential that previously unrecorded archaeological remains may be discovered including those relating to the tannery of the former Lawford Works and that there is a high potential for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental data from alluvial deposits.

Requirement for Work

The work will follow a staged approach as follows:

Stage 1 – Collation and assessment of existing results from all available geotechnical investigation works.

Stage 2 – Test pitting evaluation

Stage 3 – Compilation and correlation of existing geotechnical data and results of test pitting evaluation leading to the development of a deposit model/predictive model

Should further investigation be needed this will be outlined in a separate brief.

The initial work (Stage 1) will comprise the assessment of all existing borehole survey / geotechnical data for the site and its immediate environs. The archaeological test pitting work (Stage 2) should aim to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains and palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of the proposed development. This will involve the excavation of test-pits distributed across the site, their location informed by the assessment of existing borehole survey/geotechnical data (stage 1), and avoiding existing obstructions, to provide as complete coverage as possible. Each test pit should be roughly 1m x 1m to allow the site stratigraphy to be recorded down to natural and any archaeological horizons/features investigated.

Stage 3 - The results of Stage 1 and 2 will need to be correlated and integrated to inform the development of a deposit model/predictive model. This should be presented as a report with recommendations for any further work.

Specifically, Stages 1 to 3 should aim to:

- allow stratigraphic modelling of the estuarine topography and sedimentary history of the development site;
- provide an assessment of the potential for the presence and preservation of palaeoenvironmental deposits and;
- to determine the potential for the presence of archaeological remains and;
- inform of potential suitable locations for further trial trenching or test pitting within the area of reclamation.

General Methodology

A professional team of archaeologists shall undertake the evaluation. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the HEM Team one week in advance of commencement of work.

The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.

Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

Assessment of Geotechnical Information

A professional palaeoenvironmental/geoarchaeological specialist shall undertake the assessment of existing geotechnical information, correlation of existing geotechnical data with the results of the test pitting evaluation and subsequent development of a deposit model/predictive model. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. CV's may be requested for senior staff.

Test Pitting Methodology

A professional palaeoenvironmental/geoarchaeological specialist shall undertake the test pitting investigation. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. CV's may be requested for senior staff.

Machine stripping, where possible shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available from the HEM.

Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Burials will require 100% excavation

Masonry walls shall be carefully cleaned and planned. Where possible these will be left in situ. If these have to be removed then detailed drawings both in plan and section will be required.

Section drawings shall be completed on all trenches identifying the depth of the archaeological deposits and the depth of the natural sub-soil.

The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.

Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the project written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The photographic record policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. A photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

The IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003) should be used for additional guidance in the production of the archaeological written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

Finds

All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who will be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

The requirements for conservation and storage shall be stated within the written scheme of investigation.

Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work.

Results

The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 12 weeks) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the HER. (A full digital copy as a single pdf of the report will be supplied to HEM).

This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the survey.
- Assessment of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental potential of the site
- Location plan of excavated test pits and locations of previous geotechnical investigations in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of excavated areas shall be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.

- A copy of borehole diagrams and lithological descriptions of sedimentary sequences from the geotechnical investigations, including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Interpretation of geotechnical and test pitting information including a sedimentary history and deposit model/predictive model for the development site.
- Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context where appropriate, and must include non-technical summaries. The objective presentation of data must be clearly separated from interpretation. Recommendations for further investigations must be clearly separated from the results and interpretation, and will be incorporated into the project brief for future archaeological work.
- The findings of the fieldwork should be discussed in consultation with the Research Agenda and Strategy for the Eastern Region (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An HER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks (copy attached with brief) and supplied to the HEM Team officer. This will be completed in digital form (pdf copy can be emailed). This shall include a plan showing the position of the trenches.

All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

*Publication of the results, at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in Essex Archaeology and History) shall be **undertaken in the year***

following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.

Monitoring

The HEM Team of Essex County Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work shall be given to the HEM Team one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the HEM Team prior to them being carried out.

Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide the basis for a measurable standard and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.

Archaeological contractors shall forward a written scheme of investigation to the HEM Team of Essex County Council for validation before any work is undertaken on site. This validation is undertaken on behalf of the Planning Authority.

The WSI shall contain a plan showing the proposed borehole locations.

The involvement of the HEM Team shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

- Smith, C 2010 *Site at Station Road Manningtree: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment AOC Archaeology Group*
- Brown, N. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern and Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8
- Glazebrook, J.
- Medlycott, M 1999 *Manningtree Historic Town Assessment*
- Williams and 1999 *An Archaeological Research Framework for the Greater Brown Thames Estuary*

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

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ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address:	
Parish:	District:
NGR:	Site Code:
Type of Work:	Site Director/Group:
Date of Work:	Size of Area Investigated:
Location of Finds/Curating Museum:	Funding source:
Further Seasons Anticipated?:	Related HER No.s:
Final Report:	
Periods Represented:	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	

<i>Previous Summaries/Reports:</i>	
<i>Author of Summary:</i>	<i>Date of Summary:</i>

Appendix D - OASIS Form

Printable version

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-91239

Project details

Project name Former Railex Site, Lawford, Essex

Short description of the project Natural gravels were observed across the site. These deposits were overlain by a second sandy natural deposit Both of these deposits may be fluvial or colluvial in origin. Alluvial clays were present in most of the Test Pits, these were overlain by up to 2.00m of modern made ground. The Test Pits show that the land marshy until being reclaimed from the Stour Estuary in the 20th century, with much of the topsoil from site being stripped before the land was raised by the dumping of modern made ground.

Project dates Start: 19-01-2011 End: 21-01-2011

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference COLEM:2011.4 - Museum accession ID codes

Any associated project reference 30924 - Contracting Unit No. codes

Any associated project reference LAWFR11 - Sitecode codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type WALL FOUNDATION Modern

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Test Pits'

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, 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 TENDRING MANNINGTREE Former Railex Site, Station Road, Lawford

Postcode CO11

Study area 1.70 Hectares

Site coordinates TW 103 320 50.1499881948 0.944089718014 50 08 59 N 000 56 38 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: -1.08m Max: 1.76m

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project originator brief Essex County Council - Historic Environment Branch

Project originator design AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Meklissa Melikian

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of
sponsor/funding Developer
body

Name of
sponsor/funding Tesco Stores Ltd
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Colchester Museum
recipient

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Digital Media 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
available

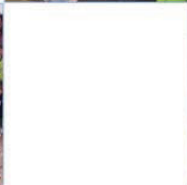
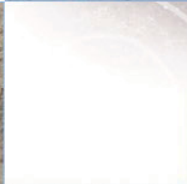
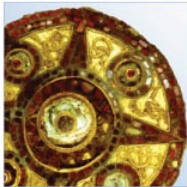
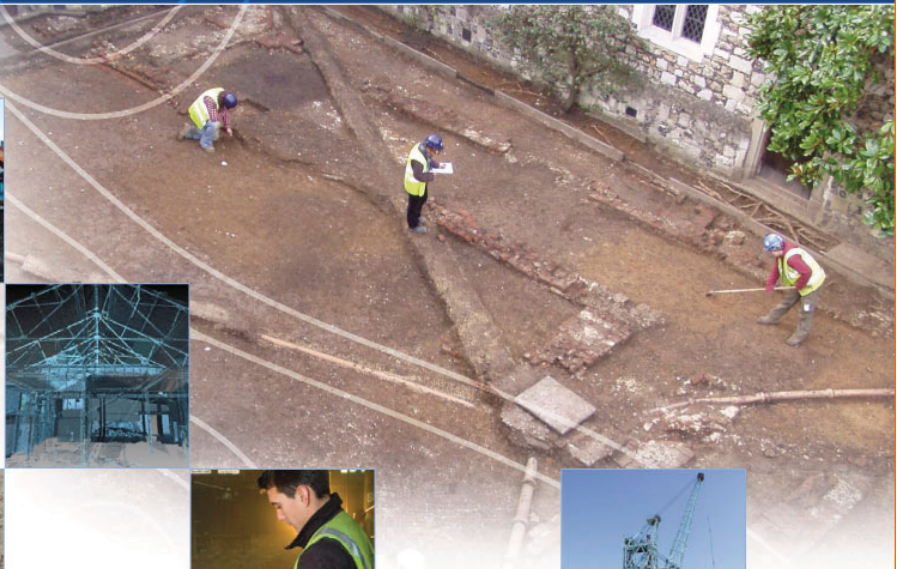
Paper Archive Colchester Museum
recipient

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

Paper Media 'Context sheet','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'
available

Entered by Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 28 January 2011



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