



160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**160 PRIORY CRESCENT,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Report reference: 76261.03



May 2011

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| SITE CODE | 76261 | ACCESSION CODE | | CLIENT CODE | |
| PLANNING APPLICATION REF. | | NGR | | 587815 187590 | |

| VERSION | STATUS* | PREPARED BY | APPROVED BY | APPROVER'S SIGNATURE | DATE | FILE |
|---------|---------|-------------|-------------|---|---------|---|
| 01 | I | JS | SF |  | 4/05/11 | X:\PROJECTS\76261\REPORT\76261_EVAL_V01.DOC |
| 02 | E | SF | NDT |  | 5/05/11 | \\PROJECTSERVER\WESSEX\PROJECTS\76261\REPORT EVAL_V02.DOC |
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I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX****Archaeological Evaluation Report****Contents**

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**160 PRIORY CRESCENT,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX****Archaeological Evaluation Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Lok'nStore to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in advance of development on land at 160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex (**Figure 1**), centred on National Grid Reference 587815 187590 (hereafter, 'the Site').

The Site lies within an area of known high archaeological activity which includes the Romano-British and Saxon cemeteries, located immediately to the south of the Site and the Cluniac Priory of St Mary which was founded in the early 12th century on lands to the south-west of the Site.

A total of three machine-dug trial trenches (numbered 1-3) were excavated during the course of the evaluation. Across the Site, the undisturbed soil sequence was sealed beneath up to 1.55m of modern made ground. The presence of an undisturbed buried land surface, represented by a thin turfline, below the made ground deposits enabled the reconstruction of the former topography of the Site. The location of the buried turfline layer, recorded between 11.91m aOD and 13.27m aOD indicates that formerly the Site was situated on a moderate, north and north-west facing slope.

Within Trenches 2 and 3, a sequence of deposits derived in a wet, anaerobic environment were recorded and indicate that the lower lying area of the Site was previously situated within marshland. The presence of medieval pottery and tile suggests that the marshland was occasionally used for the disposal of domestic rubbish. Due to the vicinity of the medieval St Mary's Priory and the date of the deposited material, it is possible that the waste derived from activities associated with the Priory.

Residual Roman tile and charred remains of spelt wheat, probably of Romano-British date, were recovered from Trench 3 and are likely to have been associated with a settlement nearby. However, no features of Romano-British date other than burials have been recorded in the vicinity of the Site to date.

In Trench 1, three south-east to north-west aligned palaeochannels were recorded and dated to the medieval period. These former water channels would have drained water from the higher ground to the south, where the Romano-British and Saxon cemeteries were located, towards the marshland to the east of the Prittle Brook.

Although the Desk-based Assessment indicated a potential for the presence of Romano-British or Saxon burials within the Site, the evaluation has demonstrated that due to the location of the Site in antiquity (within a low lying marshland), the area was excluded from the funerary activities, which favoured the dry ridge to the south.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Lok'nStore and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Rhys Warren-Thomas in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Ken Crowe of Southend Borough Council for his assistance during the fieldwork.

The fieldwork was directed by Chris Ellis with the assistance of Dan Jackson. This report was compiled by Julia Sulikowska and the figures were prepared by Rob Goller. The finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and the environmental samples were processed by Nicki Mulhall and assessed by Chris Stevens. The geoarchaeological advice was provided by Dave Norcott. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

**160 PRIORY CRESCENT,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX****Archaeological Evaluation Report****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Lok'nStore (the Client) to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in advance of development on land at 160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex (hereafter, 'the Site'), centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 587815 187590 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (WA 2010) has been completed which confirmed the Site was positioned within an area of high archaeological potential relating to a Romano-British and Saxon cemetery, located immediately to the south.
- 1.1.3 Planning permission is being sought from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council for a new Lok'nStore building with associated car parking, landscaping and new highways access. The Southend Archaeological Advisor therefore advised that an archaeological evaluation was required to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the Site.
- 1.1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WA 2011) was prepared and approved by the Southend Archaeological Advisor in advance of the fieldwork and set out the methodologies and standards employed by Wessex Archaeology during the evaluation.
- 1.1.5 The fieldwork was carried out between 13th and 14th April 2011.

1.2 The Site, location and geology

- 1.2.1 The Site lies approximately 1.8km to the north of Southend-on-Sea town centre, within the modern suburb of Prittlewell. The Site occupies a triangular plot of land measuring approximately 0.6ha. It is bounded to the east by a railway line, to the south by Priory Crescent, to the west by the Prittle Brook and to the north by an electricity substation (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The north of the Site is currently occupied by a single storey building, formerly used as a motor dealership, with associated car parking to the south. The landform within the Site is generally flat; however, minor slopes were recorded in the south of the Site.
- 1.2.3 The Site lies at approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology of the Site comprises Pleistocene River Terrace Brickearth, overlying Eocene London Clay (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 258/259).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (WA 2010) described in detail the archaeological and historical background of the Site and the results are summarised below.

1.3.2 The recorded historic environment resource within a 500m Study Area around the Site was considered in order to provide a context for the discussion and interpretation of the known and potential resource within the Site.

Designated Sites

1.3.3 The site of Prittlewell Priory, a Scheduled Monument (No. 418906), is situated within the Study Area, c. 120m to the south of the Site. The surviving Priory buildings, which include the refectory and the prior's chamber, are a Grade I Listed Building.

1.3.4 The Study Area lies approximately 230m to the north of the Prittlewell Conservation Area, which comprises the centre of the former medieval village of Prittlewell.

Archaeological Background

1.3.5 The evidence of early prehistoric activity within the Study Area is suggested by a number of flint and stone tools, found as residual material in later archaeological deposits. There are no Palaeolithic or Mesolithic finds within the Study Area. Neolithic activity within the Site and the Study Area is suggested by the presence of flint and stone axes, which were found during construction works in the late 19th century and in the 1930s.

1.3.6 Bronze Age activity in the Study Area is represented by chance finds of worked flint, found in later archaeological deposits, a perforated stone axe-hammer found in excavations in 1927 and two bronze palstaves, found in a railway cutting in 1887.

1.3.7 The only evidence of Iron Age activity within the Study Area are chance finds of pottery, recovered from excavations in 1952 and in 1927.

1.3.8 The main focus of Romano-British activity within the Study Area is on a cemetery, located to the east of the Prittlewell Priory and to the south of the Site. The cemetery was discovered in 1923, during the excavations for the construction of Priory Crescent, and Romano-British burials were also recorded within a Saxon cemetery (see below). A number of inhumation burials were found, including one in a lead coffin, with iron nails, suggesting a wooden case. Cremation burials were also recorded.

1.3.9 The Saxon activity within the Study Area is mainly represented by a rich Early Saxon cemetery, dated to 6th and 7th century, which is located immediately to the south of the Site. The full extent of the cemetery is not currently known. The cemetery was first found during the road and railway construction in 1923 and 1930 where almost thirty inhumation burials were recorded. In 2003, Museum of London Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed widening of Priory Crescent. Three probable Saxon graves were recorded and a very rich

chambered burial, the 'Prittlewell Prince', was found at the south end of the excavation area, c. 150m to the south of the Site. This is a highly important discovery of an undisturbed burial chamber. The rectangular chamber, which measured approximately 4m² and was 1.5m deep, originally had timber lined walls and a timber roof and would have originally been covered by a large mound, estimated to have been 10m in diameter.

- 1.3.10 Prittlewell is mentioned in the Domesday Book (1086) as *Pritteuella*, which can be translated as 'babbling stream' (Mills 1991). St Mary's Priory was founded by Robert, son of Swein, in the early 12th century and was located on the western side of the Prittle Brook, approximately 500m to the north of the centre of Prittlewell.
- 1.3.11 The earliest cartographic depiction of the Site reviewed is that of an Ordnance Survey map of 1874, where the Site was located within farmland to the north of the Priory. The 1898 Ordnance Survey map shows the newly constructed north-south aligned railway line. No change is visible on the Site and in its immediate vicinity until the late 1930s (Ordnance Survey Map 1938,), when the Wireless Factory was built on land to the west of the Site and one of the buildings was located within the Site, in the approximate position of the existing building.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 General aims

- 2.1.1 The aims of the field evaluation were to:
- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development.
 - Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the Site.
 - Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
 - Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.

3 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The evaluation was conducted in compliance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WA 2011) and standards set out in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

3.2 Fieldwork

- 3.2.1 A total of three machine-dug trial trenches (numbered 1-3) were excavated in the course of the evaluation, in areas of proposed construction ground disturbance (**Figure 1, Figure 3, Plates 1, 3 and 5**).

- 3.2.2 Trench 1, located to the south of the Site, measured 22.5m x 3.1m x 2.78m deep and was stepped to allow hand cleaning of the section and the base of the trench. Trenches 2 and 3, situated in the centre of the Site, measured 10m x 2.2m x 1.6m deep. Two test pits, excavated in order to further investigate the depositional sequence, were located to the north of Trench 2 and to the east of Trench 3. The test pits measured approximately 1m x 1.5m and were excavated to a depth of 2.35 (Trench 2) and 2.48m (Trench 3).
- 3.2.3 Before excavation commenced the Client provided information held regarding the presence of any below/above ground services. The Site was walked over and inspected to visually identify, where possible, the location of above and below ground services.
- 3.2.4 All evaluation trench locations were scanned before and during excavation with a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) in order to verify the absence of any live underground services. No live services were identified within the footprint of the machine excavated trenches.
- 3.2.5 All trenches were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where present, a hydraulic breaker was used to remove concrete. Subsequent modern overburden and underlying deposits were removed in discrete level spits of approximately 0.1m, down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or natural geology, whichever was encountered first. Spoil was stored adjacent to the trench, at a safe distance from the trench edge.
- 3.2.6 At the completion of the work, all trenches were backfilled with the excavated material in the order that they were removed.
- 3.3 Recording**
- 3.3.1 The trenches and all archaeological deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro-forma* recording sheets. Representative sections of the trenches were recorded at a scale of 1:10, with the exception of the section of Trench 1, which was mapped using a Global Navigation Satellite System. All archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 and all principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 3.3.2 A full photographic record, comprising monochrome prints, colour transparencies and digital photography was maintained throughout fieldwork. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the trenches and the Site as a whole, including working shots.
- 3.3.3 The Site was surveyed using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Site drawings were annotated with co-ordinates and spot heights as appropriate.
- 3.3.4 The archive and all artefacts were subsequently transported to the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury where they were processed and assessed for this report. The excavated material and archive including plans, photographs and written records are currently held at the Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code 76261.

3.4 Health and Safety

- 3.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation and regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 3.4.2 Prior to the commencement of the fieldwork a site-specific Risk Assessment was produced. All site staff involved in the works signed and complied with this document.

4 EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information derived from the field evaluation. Detailed descriptions of the trial trenches along with the excavated sequences and features can be found in **Appendix 1: Trench Tables**. A plan showing the location of the trial trenches is provided on **Figure 1**.

4.2 Stratigraphic sequence and geology

- 4.2.1 In all three trenches, modern overburden layers, comprising a concrete slab overlying mixed rubble and clay made ground deposits, were recorded up to a depth of 1.55m below the ground surface (**Figure 3, Plates 2, 4 and 6**).
- 4.2.2 The made ground deposits overlay a thin dark horizon (layers **102, 202, and 304**), which is thought to represent a buried turfline. This deposit was characterised by dark greyish brown silty clay and was between 0.05m and 0.15m deep.
- 4.2.3 The presence of this deposit indicates that prior to the dumping of made ground layers, no levelling/landscaping took place on the Site and the overburden was deposited immediately on top of the former land surface. This layer was situated between 13.27m aOD in Trench 1 and 11.91m aOD in Trench 3, confirming that, prior to modern landscaping, the Site was located on a moderate north-west facing slope, to the east of the Prittle Brook and to the north of the ridge within which the Romano-British and Saxon cemeteries were located.
- 4.2.4 In Trenches 2 and 3, the former turfline overlay a number of deposits derived in a wet, likely anaerobic environment, suggesting boggy or marshy conditions (**Figure 3, Plates 4 and 6**). Layers **203, 204 and 305** were characterised by mid to dark bluish grey gleyed sandy or silty clay and contained pottery and ceramic building material of medieval date. Evidence for Romano-British activity was also recorded in layer **305** in the form of residual Roman tile and charred remnants of spelt wheat. The presence of large quantities of medieval pottery, especially in layer **204**, is indicative of episodic waste disposal into the marshland located to the north of the Prittlewell Priory.
- 4.2.5 The earliest deposit observed in Trench 2, layer **205**, comprised bright bluish grey fine silty sand and is considered to be an alluvial layer deposited in

marshy, anaerobic conditions. In Trench 3, layer **305** overlay a light orangey brown silty clay alluvium **306**.

- 4.2.6 In Trench 1, layer **103** was recorded beneath the former turfline **102** (**Figure 3, Plate 2**). This light yellowish brown silty sand deposit was up to 1.05m deep and sealed three palaeochannels (see section **4.3** below). This layer likely represents the former subsoil which, as a result of ploughing, filled in the hollows left by the former water channels.
- 4.2.7 The natural geology was only exposed in Trench 1 and comprised bright orangey brown fine sand with rare small chert gravel inclusions.

4.3 Palaeochannels

- 4.3.1 In Trench 3, three former water channels, **109, 111** and **112**, were recorded to be overlain by layer **103** (**Figure 2, Figure 3, Plate 2**). All three features were characterised by shallow, concave sides and a concave base and were north-west to south-east aligned.
- 4.3.2 Palaeochannel **109** was the northernmost and likely the latest in the succession of the features, although it was not possible to establish a relationship between **109** and **111**, located immediately to the south. Feature **109** was approximately 8m wide and over 1.4m deep and it was filled with five alluvial deposits, derived as a result of water action of varied energy. Datable material was only recovered from fill **105** and included pottery of medieval date and oyster shell.
- 4.3.3 Palaeochannels **111** and **112** were narrower (up to 5m wide) and shallower (c. 0.60m deep) and both were filled with a single alluvial deposit (layers **110** and **113**, respectively), however, no datable material was retrieved. Feature **112** was cut by **111** and is therefore considered to be the earliest in the sequence of north-west to south-east aligned palaeochannels.
- 4.3.4 These former water channels are thought to have been extant in the medieval period and were subsequently filled with waterborne material. They drained water from higher ground to the south, where the Romano-British and Saxon cemeteries were located, towards the marshy area surrounding the Prittle Brook, located to the north and north-west of Trench 1.

5 FINDS

- 5.1.1 A very small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation, nearly all ceramic, deriving from contexts in three trenches. The quantification of finds by context is given in **Table 1**.
- 5.1.2 Datable material (pottery, ceramic building material) is almost entirely of medieval date. The pottery wares present – early medieval shelly, sandy/shelly and sandy wares, later medieval greywares and orange sandy wares, including glazed and decorated sherds – can all be paralleled within the local and regional ceramic sequence for Essex, and indicate a date range from the 11th/12th century to the 13th/14th century.

5.1.3 The ceramic building material includes one fragment of Romano-British tile (residual in context **305**). The other two fragments are from medieval roof tiles.

5.1.4 The fired clay (featureless fragments) and burnt (unworked) flint are of uncertain date and origin.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grams)

| Context | Burnt Flint | CBM | Fired Clay | Pottery |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 105 | | | 1/118 | 1/11 |
| 204 | | 1/105 | 1/20 | 27/361 |
| 305 | 1/18 | 2/95 | | 1/21 |
| TOTAL | 1/18 | 3/200 | 2/138 | 29/393 |

6 PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Introduction

Bulk samples taken

6.1.1 Bulk samples were taken from layer **105** (sample 6) within palaeochannel **109**, deposit **204** (sample 2) and **305** (sample 4), both from a possible former marshy land surface. For the purposes of this evaluation report a single sample was processed. The sample taken from a possible gleyed layer **305**, was processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoals.

Monolith samples

6.1.2 Three monolith samples, samples 1, 3 and 5, were taken from Trenches **2**, **3** and **1**, respectively.

6.1.3 Whilst the location of the buried turfline and soil would be of significance if sealed by deposits of some antiquity, given they are positioned immediately beneath the modern overburden, it indicates that they represent a relatively modern land surface, which was not removed prior to the dumping of the made ground deposits.

6.1.4 Although the buried land surface may contain artefacts of varying dates, the associated palaeoenvironmental evidence will no longer be present. Microfossils - such as pollen, primarily – will have been extensively reworked by earthworm and other animal and plant activity, and macrofossils are unlikely to have survived. Therefore, no further work is recommended.

6.2 Charred Plant Remains and Wood charcoal

6.2.1 Sample 4 from context **305** was processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5mm mesh, the residue fractionated into 5.6mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains is recorded in **Table 2**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997).

Table 2: Assessment of the charred plant remains and charcoal

| Samples | | | | Flot | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|---|--------------------|-------|--------------|
| Feature | Context | Sam ple | Vol. Ltrs | Flot (ml) | % roots | Charred Plant Remains | | | | Charcoal >4/2mm | Other | Anal ysis |
| | | | | | | Grain | Chaff | Other | Comments | | | |
| TR3 Layer | 305 | 4 | 10 | 10 | none | B | A** | B | Grain fragments. Possible free-threshing wheat x2. 11-12 spelt glumes, 100+x glume bases. 1-2x coleoptiles Vivianite. Avena x3 + 1x wild floret base. Rumex sp. | 2/2ml | - | - |

Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Charcoal volumes are given in ml for material greater than 4mm and 2mm. sab/f = small animal/fish bones, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = freshwater molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon

- 6.2.2 The flot, although small, had large numbers of charred glume bases of hulled wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/spelta*). The vast majority were not well enough preserved for identification, but occasionally they were very well preserved and were clearly of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*). Other remains included a few acrospires or the germinated coleoptiles of cereals, often seen with sprouted or malted grain. There were also a few degraded grains of possibly free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* type). There were relatively few weed seeds and these included some grains of oats (*Avena* sp.), along with a floret base of oats, clearly identifiable as from wild oats. Wood charcoal was generally quite sparse in the sample.
- 6.2.3 The sample also contained quite large numbers of small crystals of vivianite, an iron phosphate, blue mineral associated with rotting organics in anaerobic environments. The material in archaeological deposits is often associated with cess or dung, although no other mineralised remains were recovered, which are often commonplace where cess is present, however, such material may not have survived.
- 6.2.4 Spelt wheat comes to Britain in the Middle Bronze Age, but is largely replaced by the Saxon to medieval period by free-threshing wheat. This would tend to suggest that such material is associated with late prehistoric to Romano-British activity. Within this part of south-east England emmer is often still prevalent until Roman times when spelt becomes dominant, and although only two germinated sprouts were recovered these too are more common within Romano-British deposits than they are in Iron Age or Bronze Age samples.
- 6.2.5 Remains of glume bases come from the dehusking of hulled wheats, and constitute the waste that is often discarded onto the fire. In turn they are often fragile and hence usually recovered from quite close to where the burning takes place or such material is deposited. That these activities are usually associated with domestic and/or small scale industrial (e.g. brewing) activities would very strongly suggest Roman settlement within the vicinity of the Site.
- 6.2.6 The presence of vivianite would be consistent with a marshy or wet environment, and possibly even midden material. Given that the deposit contained medieval pottery, it is possible that the vivianite is not contemporary with the charred material or indeed with the pottery but relates

to the final sealing of the deposit. Certainly the deposit would appear relatively mixed and not necessarily of a single date.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The results of the archaeological field evaluation show an undisturbed soil sequence buried beneath up to 1.5m of modern made ground. The made ground is likely to have been associated with the construction of the Wireless Factory in the 1930s. The diversion of the Prittle Brook into a culvert at that time limited the likelihood of flooding in the vicinity. However, in order to utilise the formerly marshy land, thick made ground layers were dumped on the Site, creating two level terraces, rising in height from north to south.
- 7.1.2 The undisturbed soil sequence overlain by made ground layers allows the reconstruction of the former topography of the Site. In all three trenches, a buried land surface, represented by a thin turfline, was recorded. The location of the layer between 11.91m aOD and 13.27m aOD indicates that formerly the Site was situated on a moderate, north and north-west facing slope.
- 7.1.3 In Trenches 2 and 3, a sequence of deposits derived in a wet, anaerobic environment was recorded, indicating that the lower lying area of the Site was previously situated within marshland. The presence of relatively large quantities of medieval pottery and tile, suggests that the boggy meadows in the vicinity of Prittle Brook were occasionally used in the medieval period for the disposal of domestic rubbish. Due to the vicinity of the Site to the medieval Cluniac St Mary's Priory, located c.100m to the south of the Site, and the date of the deposited material, it is more than likely that the waste derived from activities associated with the Priory and the Site could have fallen within lands managed by the monks.
- 7.1.4 Residual Roman tile and charred remains of spelt wheat, probably of Romano-British date, were recovered from Trench 3 and are likely to have been associated with nearby settlement activity. Although no settlement features of Romano-British date are recorded in the vicinity of the Site, the presence of a large amount of ceramic building material within the Romano-British cemetery, located immediately to the south of the Site, indicates the presence of a contemporary building in the vicinity.
- 7.1.5 In Trench 1, three south-east to north-west aligned palaeochannels were recorded and tentatively dated to the medieval period. These former water channels would have drained water from the higher ground to the south, where the Romano-British and Saxon cemeteries were located, towards the marshy area surrounding the Prittle Brook, located to the north and north-west of the Site.
- 7.1.6 Although the Desk-based Assessment indicated a high potential for the presence of Romano-British or Saxon burials within the Site, the evaluation has demonstrated that due to the location of the Site in antiquity (within a low lying marshland surrounding the Prittle Brook), the Site was excluded from the funerary activities, which favoured the dry ridge to the south.

Recommendations

- 7.1.7 The results of the investigation show that there is further potential for the presence of palaeoenvironmental evidence. These deposits, however, are at present sealed by up to 1.5m of made ground.
- 7.1.8 Although the current plans propose some landscaping and ground reduction to the east and south of the existing building, the depths of excavation required are unlikely to disturb the palaeoenvironmental deposits identified within the trenches.
- 7.1.9 The results from the evaluation show that the buried land surface is at its highest topographically at the eastern end of the Site where the proposed formation levels are likely to be in the region of 13.65m aOD, providing a buffer of approximately 0.38m between the proposed groundworks and the archaeological horizon. The proposed formation levels will therefore not extend into the recorded buried land surface.
- 7.1.10 The need for and scope for any further archaeological work within the Site, which might include archaeological monitoring of excavations undertaken beneath the level of the modern made ground, should be established through consultation with the Planning Archaeologist for Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

8 ARCHIVE

- 8.1.1 The project archive is currently stored at Wessex Archaeology's office in Salisbury under the project code 76261. In due course, the complete project archive will be deposited with the Southend Museum.
- 8.1.2 The complete site archive, which will comprise paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared in accordance with Appendix 3 of the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and following the standards outlined in nationally recommended guidelines (UKIC 1990, SMA 1995).
- 8.1.3 The archive comprises the following:
- An A4 file of paper records
 - A cardboard box of artefacts
- 8.1.4 Details of the Site will be submitted online to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) database.

9 REFERENCES

- Geological Survey of Great Britain (England and Wales) 1976: Solid and Drift. Sheet 258/259: Southend and Foulness. 1:50,000
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- Wessex Archaeology 2010: *160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, Ref: 72620.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2011: *160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex Written Scheme of Investigation: Method Statement for an Archaeological Evaluation*, Ref 72621.01

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH TABLES

| Trench 1 | Length: 22.50m | Width: 3.10m | Max Depth: 2.78m |
|----------------|--|----------------------|------------------|
| NGR (N corner) | Easting: 587840.357 | Northing: 187552.278 | 14.35m aOD |
| Context | Description | | Depth (m) |
| 100 | Modern concrete slab | | 0 – 0.22 |
| 101 | Modern made ground – concrete and brick rubble in a light yellow fine sand matrix | | 0.22 – 1.08 |
| 102 | Possible buried land surface – dark greyish brown sandy clay | | 1.08 – 1.16 |
| 103 | Deposit sealing palaeochannels 109 and 111 . Light yellowish brown silty sand with rare gravel. | | 1.16 – 2.21 |
| 104 | Light orange brown clay – fill of 109 , alluvial deposit | | 2.21 – 2.60 |
| 105 | Light greyish brown silty sand – basal alluvial fill of 109 . Contained pottery, fired clay and oyster shell | | 2.50 – 2.78 |
| 106 | Mid yellowish brown sand with rare chert gravel. Alluvial fill of 109 | | 2.30 – 2.45 |
| 107 | Light yellowish brown sand with chert gravel – natural gravel redeposited through high energy action at the base of 109 | | 2.45 – 2.71 |
| 108 | Light orangey brown sand – possibly natural sand cut by palaeochannel 109 . | | 1.30 – 2.78+ |
| 109 | Palaeochannel – shallow and relatively wide linear feature aligned NNW-SSE with shallow concaved sides and a concave base. Located to the north of a ridge containing RB and Saxon burials | | 1.30 – 2.78+ |
| 110 | Light yellowish brown silty clay with chert inclusions – fill of palaeochannel 111 | | 2.20 – 2.44 |
| 111 | NW-SE aligned palaeochannel with concave base and shallow sides. Truncates fill 113 of 112 . | | 1.60 – 2.44 |
| 112 | NW-SE aligned linear palaeochannel with shallow, concave sides, visible at S end of trench. | | 1.60 – 2.20+ |
| 113 | Light orangey brown sand – single fill of palaeochannel 112 | | 1.60 – 2.20+ |
| 114 | Light yellowish brown sand – alluvial deposit filling in palaeochannel 109 , sealed by 107 | | |

| Trench 2 | Length: 10m | Width: 2.0m | Max Depth: 2.35m |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|------------------|
| NGR (NE corner) | Easting: 587833.928 | Northing: 187578.826 | 13.378m aOD |
| Context | Description | | Depth (m) |
| 200 | Modern concrete slab | | 0 – 0.35 |
| 201 | Modern made ground – mottled light grey and orange clay with lenses of gravel. Abundant modern CBM | | 0.35 – 1.25 |
| 202 | Dark grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks. Possible buried soil, same as 102 and 304 | | 1.25 – 1.4 |
| 203 | Alluvial layer – dark grey sandy silty clay Contained pottery | | 1.4 + |
| 204 | Alluvial layer – light grey sandy silty clay Contained pottery | | 1.4 – 1.75 |
| 205 | Alluvial layer – light blue gleyed silty sand | | 1.75 – 2.35 |

| Trench 3 | Length: 9.50m | Width: 2.20m | Max Depth: 2.48m |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|------------------|
| NGR (NW corner) | Easting: 587809.320 | Northing: 187564.201 | 13.391m aOD |
| Context | Description | | Depth (m) |
| 300 | Modern concrete slab | | 0 – 0.23 |
| 301 | Modern brick rubble hard core | | 0.23 – 0.48 |
| 302 | Modern disturbance/made ground – light yellow clay with brick and concrete incl. | | 0.48 – 1.15 |
| 303 | Made ground – redeposited gravel, contained modern CBM and concrete | | 1.15 – 1.55 |

| | | |
|-----|--|-------------|
| 304 | Dark greyish brown silty clay – possible buried soil | 1.55 – 1.60 |
| 305 | Light bluish grey (gleyed) silty clay, contained pottery and peg tile – layer deposited in waterlogged/marshy conditions | 1.60 – 2.22 |
| 306 | Light orangey brown silty clay – alluvial deposit | 2.22 – 2.48 |

APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

OASIS ID: wessexar1-100338

Project details

Project name 160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea

Short description of the project Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Lok'nStore to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in advance of development on land at 160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex (Figure 1), centred on National Grid Reference 587815 187590 . A total of three machine-dug trial trenches (numbered 1-3) were excavated during the course of the evaluation. Across the Site, the undisturbed soil sequence was sealed beneath up to 1.55m of modern made ground. The presence of an undisturbed buried land surface, represented by a thin turfline, below the made ground deposits enabled the reconstruction of the former topography of the Site. The location of the buried turfline layer, recorded between 11.91m aOD and 13.27m aOD indicates that formerly the Site was situated on a moderate, north and north-west facing slope. Within Trenches 2 and 3, a sequence of deposits derived in a wet, anaerobic environment were recorded and indicate that the lower lying area of the Site was previously situated within marshland. The presence of medieval pottery and tile suggests that the marshland was occasionally used for the disposal of domestic rubbish. In Trench 1, three south-east to north-west aligned palaeochannels were recorded and dated to the medieval period. These former water channels would have drained water from the higher ground to the south, where the Romano-British and Saxon cemeteries were located, towards the marshland to the east of the Prittle Brook.

Project dates Start: 01-03-2011 End: 13-04-2011

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 76261 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Methods techniques | & 'Sample Trenches' |
| Development type | Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.) |
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS |
| Position in the planning process | Pre-application |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | ESSEX SOUTHEND ON SEA SOUTHEND ON SEA 160 Priory Crescent |
| Postcode | SS2 6QN |
| Study area | 0.60 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | 587815 187590 587815 00 00 N 187590 00 00 E Point |

Project creators

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name Organisation | of Wessex Archaeology |
| Project originator | brief Unitary Authority Archaeologist |
| Project originator | design Wessex Archaeology |

Project director/manager Sue Farr

Project supervisor Chris Ellis

Type of Developer sponsor/funding body

Name of Lokn'Store sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive Southend Central Museum recipient

Physical Contents 'Ceramics'

Digital Archive Southend Central Museum recipient

Digital Contents 'Ceramics','Environmental','Stratigraphic'

Digital available Media 'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Images vector','Survey','Text'

Paper Archive Southend Central Museum recipient

Paper Contents 'Environmental','Stratigraphic','Survey','Ceramics'

Paper available Media 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title 160 Priory Crescent, Southend-on-Sea, Essex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Sulikowska, J

Other bibliographic 76261
details

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher Wessex Archaeology Salisbury

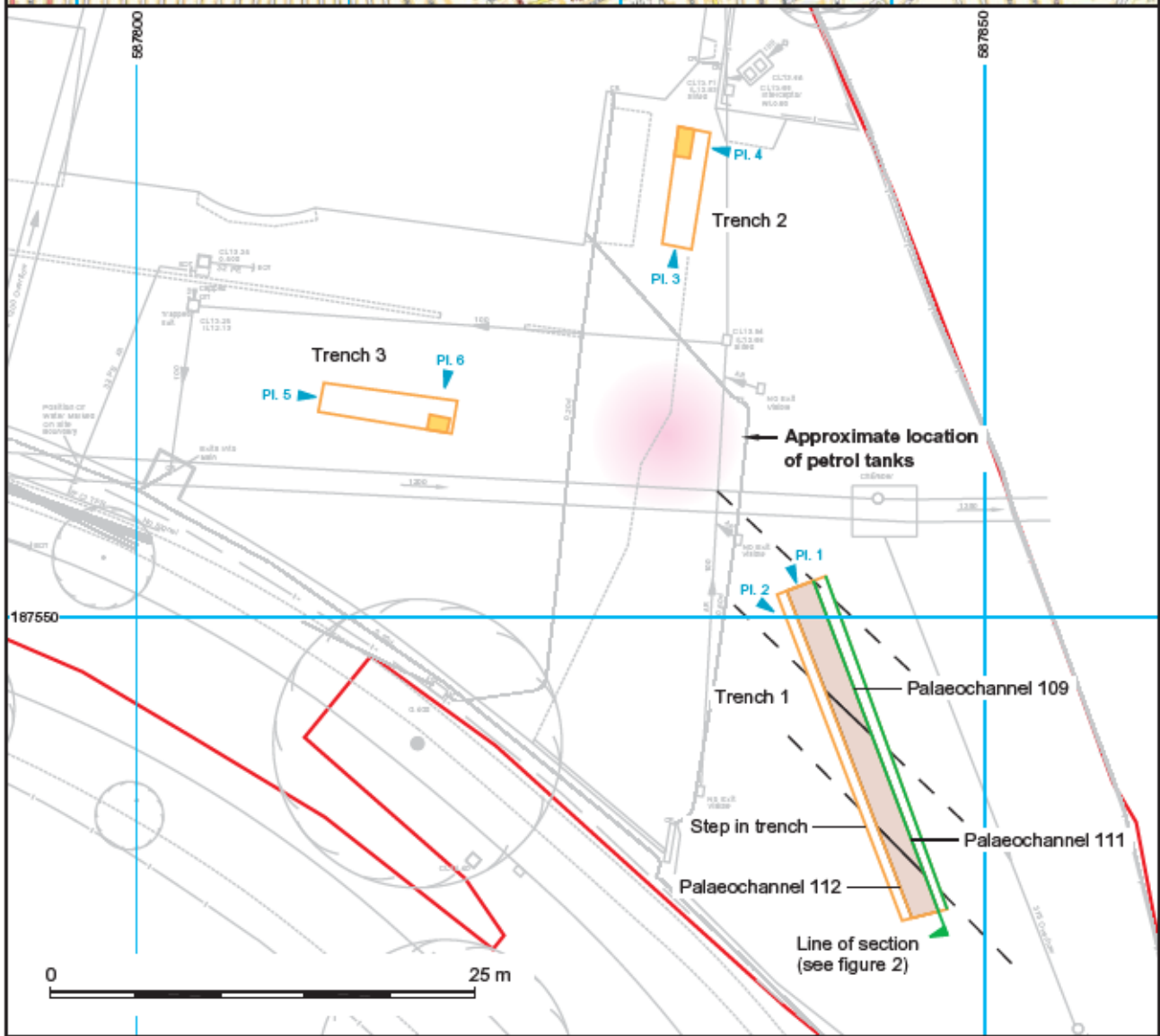
Place of issue or Salisbury
publication

Description Grey literature client report

URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>

Entered by Sue Farr (s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk)

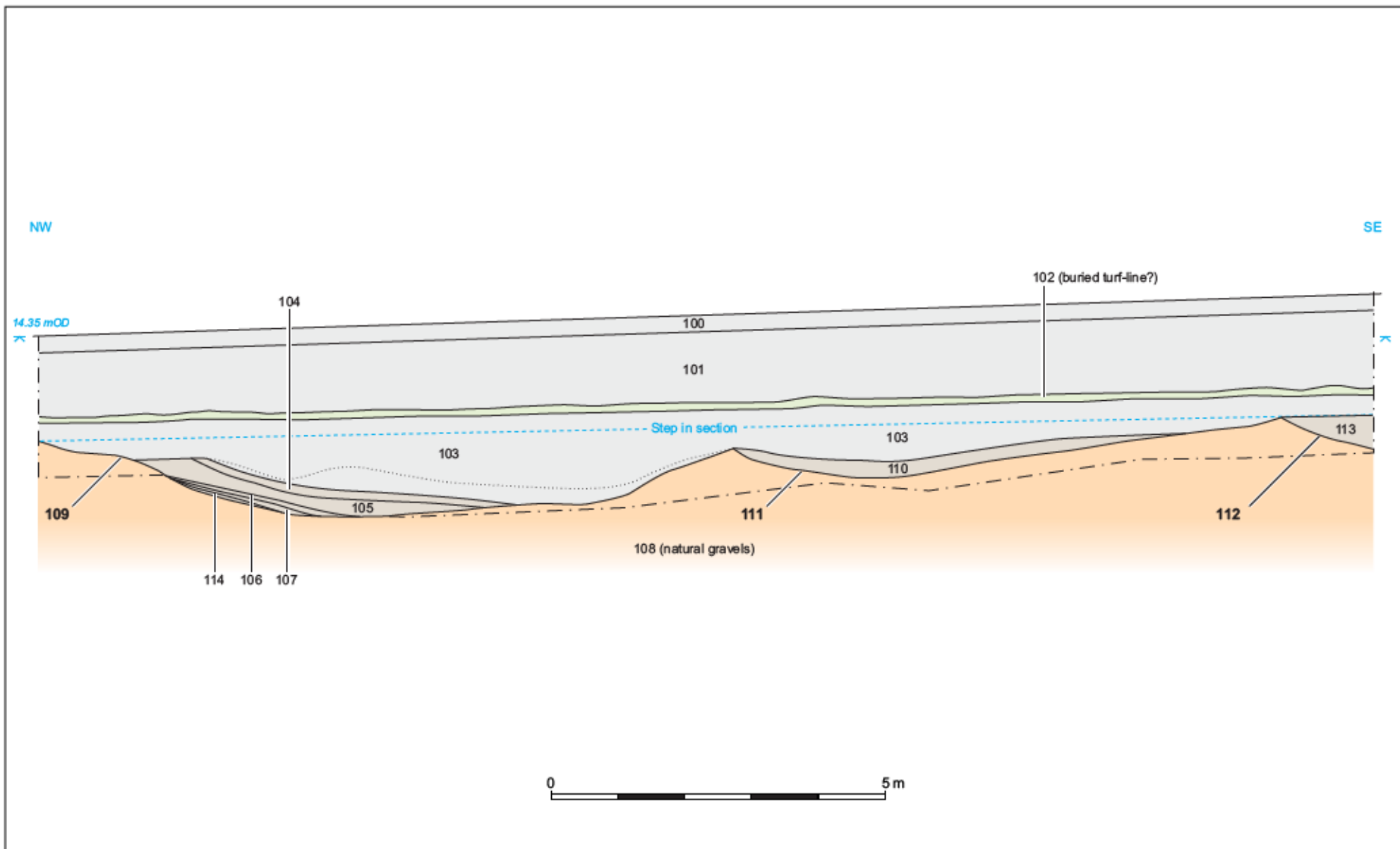
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▭ The Site Trench base Test pit ▶ Direction of photograph  | Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2010 Digital survey supplied by client This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction. | | | |
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Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



| | | | |
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South-west facing section of Trench 1

Figure 2



Plate 1: General shot of Trench 1, viewed from the north-east



Plate 2: Oblique shot of south-west facing section of Trench 1, viewed from the north-west



Plate 3: General shot of Trench 2, viewed from the south




Plate 4: East facing section of test pit in Trench 2, viewed from the east



Plate 5: General shot of Trench 3, viewed from the west



Plate 6: North facing section of test pit in Trench 3, viewed from the north

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