LINGMERE VICARAGE LANE CHIGWELL ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING





JULY 2012

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VICARAGE LANE

CHIGWELL

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

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LINGMERE

VICARAGE LANE

CHIGWELL

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING

Client: Higgins Homes

NGR: TQ 44350 93790

Site Code: CHGL 12

Planning Ref: EPF/1732/11

Oasis No: 123805

Dates of Fieldwork: 19th to 21st March 2012

SUMMARY

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land at Lingmere, Vicarage Lane, Chigwell in advance of residential development. Two evaluation trenches, totalling 42m in length, were excavated across the c. 3000 sq m site. The site was formerly that of a vicarage that was demolished prior to the construction of the present house (Lingmere) in the early 1970s.

Although the site is recorded as a medieval moated enclosure (EHER 4039) no remains of medieval date were identified in the evaluation trenches, nor was there any evidence to confirm the existence of a complete moated circuit. However, the recovery of eleven sherds of medieval pottery from unstratified and residual contexts does at least attest to activity in the vicinity in the medieval period.

Excavated features included gullies, linear features, pits and post-holes; most were of post-medieval or modern date with only two features, ditch 11 and gully 15, containing no dating evidence. The earliest feature was a small gully in Trench 1 which contained pottery dating to the 16th century or later. The gully was cut by a large pit that contained a variety of 18th century finds including a considerable amount of broken bottle glass and roof tile. One bottle had contained imported Spa mineral water and was firmly dated to the period 1724-43.

In Trench 2 was a large pit or pond that extended beyond the trench edge to the south-east and contained abraded brick of probable late 17th to early 18th century date. The remaining post-medieval features were not closely dated but their stratigraphic relationships and the presence of materials such as coal, slate and building debris suggested a 19th or 20th century date.

A modern back-filled trench at the west end of Trench 1 aligned almost exactly with the outline of the former vicarage and was either a service trench associated with this building or possibly the remains of a back-filled robber trench along the line of its southern footings. A small brick structure at the south-west end of Trench 2 contained 20th-century finds and appeared to be part of a series of post WW2 buildings depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping running south from the vicarage towards a now in-filled ornamental lake.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out on land at Lingmere, Vicarage Lane, Chigwell, in advance of residential development. The archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Higgins Homes.

A planning application (EPF/1732/11) for residential development was submitted to Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) in September 2011. In view of the archaeological potential of the site the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to EFDC, recommended that a full archaeological condition be placed on any grant of planning consent. This recommendation, based upon guidance given in PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment, required that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken in advance of the development.

The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a trench location plan approved by ECC HEM and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by the ECC FAU (2012).

Copies of this report will be supplied to Higgins Homes, ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Epping Forest Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)

The site (NGR – TQ 44350 93790) lies on the north side of Chigwell, to the south-east of the A113 High Road and some 200m east of St Mary's Church. Chigwell School lies to the immediate north of the plot, on the opposite side of Vicarage Road whilst to the west the site is bounded by an open field and to the south by properties in and bordering Lingmere Close. The development area, fringed by mature trees, currently forms part of the domestic garden to the existing house, Lingmere, which will be demolished as part of the development. To the north of the house is a drive and tarmac parking area and to the immediate south a brick terrace with the remainder of the garden largely laid to lawn and containing a large central border of dense Rhododendron bushes.

The site occupies gently sloping ground and there is a *c*. 3m drop (approximately 60m to 57m OD) from the northernmost to the southernmost extremities of the property. The geology of the site comprises London Clay overlain by glacial tills of the Lowestoft Formation, with the Woodford Gravel Formation outcropping to the southwest.

2.2 Archaeology and History (Fig. 1)

This archaeological and historical background is based on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held by Essex County Council at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development coincides with the site of the former Vicarage and the platform of a possible medieval moated enclosure (EHER 4039). However, the EHER entry is somewhat contradictory as the moat at Chigwell Vicarage is recorded as complete but irregular, although the entry states that no evidence of the moat was observed during a site visit in 1974 nor does there appear to be any firm cartographic evidence for a complete moated circuit. A large L-shaped ornamental lake presumed to be the south-west angle of the moat (Fig. 1) is depicted on 19th and early 20th century editions of Ordnance Survey mapping and a slightly narrower L-shaped feature is shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map of Essex. The lake was in-filled in the late 1960s/early '70s when the vicarage was demolished and the present house (Lingmere) was constructed. A vicarage and rectory are known to have existed in the village of Chigwell since at least 1250 AD and it is possible that the moat may be associated with the site of the medieval vicarage.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The aim of the archaeological trial trenching was to determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains within the development area.

3.2 Objectives

In the event that significant discoveries were made the report would seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *Research* and *Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). As no remains of major significance were encountered the results of the project are unlikely to contribute to any of the research objectives.

4.0 METHOD (Fig. 1)

Two evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a flat-bladed bucket. Trench 1 measured 17m long by 1.6m wide and was orientated east/west and Trench 2 measured 25m long by 1.6m wide and was orientated north-east/south-west. Trench 1 was initially planned to be located in the tarmac drive to the north of the house but was moved to the south on safety grounds, and after consultation with the monitoring officer, to avoid a live electricity cable of undetermined exact position.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned and hand excavated. ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2010; 2008) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS

Trench depths ranged from 0.60m to 0.84m. The overburden consisted of 0.20-0.30m of dark brownish grey clay silt topsoil overlying mixed deposits of dark grey and brown silt and re-deposited yellowy brown clay containing a variety of modern building materials (brick, tile, mortar, etc.).

The underlying natural strata comprised of brownish grey gravel with patches of orange and grey sandy silt. Pure sand was noted at the east end of Trench 1. The centre of Trench 2 was located beneath a former clump of Rhododendrons and consequently was quite heavily root disturbed. Dense rooting from an adjacent felled tree was also encountered at the south west end of the trench.

No archaeological remains of medieval date were identified. Archaeological features were present in both trenches and where dated, ranged from post-medieval to modern. Detailed context information is presented in Appendix 1.

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 1)

In the eastern half of Trench 1 was a large irregular pit (17) some 3.3m long and in excess of 0.30m deep (Fig. 3, Section 1) which extended beyond the trench to north and south. The fill (16) was very mixed and consisted of dark grey/brown clay silt, orange clay and greenish orange sand containing a variety of finds broadly dating to the 18th century. The finds included a large quantity of broken peg tile and bottle glass, a sample of which was retained,

as well as 17th to 18th century pottery, clay pipe and fragments of unfrogged brick. The north-west corner of the pit was cut by a square post-hole containing the decaying remains of a timber post of relatively modern date. To the east of pit 17 was the rounded end of a shallow, north-west/south-east aligned gully (19) (Fig. 3, Section 2) filled with mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt (18). A fragment of abraded brick and three sherds of post-medieval red earthenware of 16th century or later date were recovered from this fill.

In the western half of Trench 1 was a well-defined, steep-sided pit (13) 0.82m long and 0.38m deep (Fig. 3, Section 3) whose fill (12) contained lumps of lime plaster, iron nails and peg tile and appeared to be of relatively modern (19th/20th century) date. Also investigated in this half of the trench were two north-west/south-east aligned linear features (11 and 15) that both failed to provide any dating evidence. The larger of these two features, possible ditch 11, was 1.6m wide by 0.41m deep (Fig. 3, Section 4; Plate 2) and was filled with dark brownish grey clay silt (10) that to the north-west was truncated by a modern straight-sided trench. Gully 15 was shallower at 0.28m deep and generally more irregular both in plan and profile. Its fill was of semi-natural appearance, though did appear to contain a few very small fragments of peg tile (not retained). Neither linear feature continued into Trench 2.

5.2 Trench **2** (Figs 2 and 3; Plate 3)

At the north-east end of Trench 2 was a small, shallow gully (1) (Fig. 3, Section 6) aligned roughly north/south. It was filled with dark brown silty clay and contained a few sherds of mainly 17th to 18th century pottery, abraded roof tile as well as several small pieces of coal that might suggest a 19th century or later date for this feature.

In the centre of Trench 2 was an ill-defined area of mixed greenish grey silty sand (20) some 5.5m in length that was truncated by later pits. The southern half of this deposit was investigated with the aid of the machine bucket and found to be the fill of a large feature (21), perhaps a pit or pond, that continued to the south-east of the trench and was over 0.70m deep (Fig. 3, Section 5; Plate 4), *c.* 1.5m below ground level. With depth the greenish grey fill became darker and more clayey (24). Fragments of abraded post-medieval brick and tile, recovered from both upper and lower fills, were all retained as context 20.

The top of the feature was cut by two later features (pits 5 and 7) that continued to north and south of the trench. Pit 5 was 3m long by 0.32m deep (Fig. 3, Section 7) and was filled with dark greyish brown silty clay (6). The dimensions of pit 7 were similar although this had a lighter greyish brown fill (8). Finds included abraded brick, tile and slate and both features are likely to be of 19th or 20th century date.

To the north-east of the pit was a well-defined rectangular post-hole (3) with steep sides and a flat base. The only finds recovered from its fill were a few fragments of peg tile indicating a probable post-medieval date for this feature.

At the south-west end of the trench was an L-shaped brick structure (22), 1.88m long by 1.5m+ wide, constructed from whole and half bricks bonded with a buff lime mortar (Plate 3 in foreground). The structure was at least 6 courses deep and was constructed from unfrogged bricks dating to the later 18th or 19th century, though probably re-used. The south west side of the structure was heavily infested with thick roots but there did appear to be a genuine gap in the brick wall on this side and a below-surface void. Finds from the ashy fill (23) within the structure comprised modern glazed pottery, glass and several flower pot rims. The function of the brick structure is uncertain though the flower pot rims clearly imply a horticultural connection. A number of undetermined structures are shown in this area of the property on post World War 2 Ordnance Survey maps implying that the structure was not constructed until the latter half of the twentieth century. To the north-east of structure 22 was a semi-circular cut containing a decomposing timber plank of recent (?late 20th century) date.

6.0 FINDS

Finds were recovered from eleven contexts. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

6.1 The medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A total of thirty-one sherds of pottery, weighing 1435g was excavated from five contexts and has been catalogued, in Appendix 3, according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16).

The earliest pottery came from unstratified finds context 9, comprising sherds in a dull red sandy fabric, perhaps from a cooking-pot or jar, that has been identified as medieval Harlow ware, most likely dating to the mid 13th to 14th centuries. With the exception of an abraded, residual sherd of sandy orange ware in gully 1 (Trench 2), the remaining pottery is post-medieval or modern.

Closely datable pottery in gully 1 (fill 2) comprises a sherd from a possible Martincamp flask, a type of long-necked globular flask, imported from northern France. It is probably a type III flask datable to the 17th century (Hurst *et al.*1986, 103-4). Also present in the gully were two sherds of Westerwald stoneware, possibly from a chamber pot, which was imported in great quantities from Rhineland Germany from the mid 17th to well into the 18th century. It can be readily identified by the use of cobalt-blue decoration and pale grey background.

A relatively large amount of pottery, over 500g, came from the fill (16) of pit 17 (Trench 1) where finds comprise the remains of three post-medieval red earthenware vessels, two storage jars and one flared bowl or dish. All can be identified as Harlow-type and two can be paralleled at one of the production sites at Potter Street, Harlow, dating to the decade of the 1660s (Davey and Walker 2009). A pad (thickened) base from a jar in finds context 9 and a body sherd in gully 1 may also be Harlow-type post-medieval red earthenware. Also present in pit 17 is a sherd of plain tin-glazed earthenware from a footring base, which is more likely to be 18th century. Finds of clay pipe and glassware in this context also attest to an 18th century date, so it is probable that the post-medieval red earthenware vessels are a long-lived type or were old when discarded.

The adjacent gully 19 (fill 18) also produced sherds of post-medieval red earthenware, this time with a thin glaze and slightly sandy fabric, which could be as early as 16th century, although a later date cannot be precluded.

The fill (23) within brick structure 22 (Trench 2) produced flowerpot fragments and china dating to the 19th to early 20th centuries.

The pottery assemblage shows activity at this site from the mid 13th/14th centuries to the 19th/20th century. The presence of medieval and post-medieval Harlow products is interesting but not unexpected as Harlow is only 17km to the north and connected by an old road that runs via Epping.

6.2 Brick and tile

Two whole bricks measuring 63 mm by 110 mm by 227 mm and weighing a total of 5352g were recovered from structure 23 (Trench 2). According to Ryan's Essex Brick Typology the bricks are likely to date to the later 18th or 19th century (Ryan 1996, 94-96). Fragments of abraded brick, amounting to 13 pieces, weighing 5392g were recovered from a further five contexts. One fragment from pit 17 (Trench 1) may possibly date to the late 16th to early 17th century and a second fragment to the late 17th or early 18th century. A fragment

probably dating to the late 17th or early 18th century was also recovered from the fill of pit 21 (Trench 2).

Six fragments of post-medieval roof tile and one fragment of floor tile weighing a total of 2300g were recovered from the fill of pit 17. Nineteen fragments, 1141g, of more abraded roof tile, including two examples with peg holes, were recovered from a further 6 contexts.

6.3 Glass

Nine sample pieces of bottle glass were recovered from pit 17 in Trench 1. The glass included bases with diameters of 10.5cm, 11.5 cm and 13cm with the larger examples likely to be from onion-type bottles of 17th/18th century date. Several necks were also retained with string rims of the style current in the 18th century. One neck with a glass seal could be firmly dated to the period 1724-43 and was from a bottle of imported Spa mineral water. The seal depicts the coat of arms of Georges-Louis de Berghes, Prince-Bishop of the Principality of Liege surrounded with the name of the source 'POUTHON IN SPA' (Van den Bossche 2001, 186-187).

6.4 Clay pipe

A single clay pipe bowl from Pit 17 has the initials '?R' and 'B' on opposing sides of the heel. The style of bowl most closely resembles an Oswald Type 12 dated *c.* 1730-1780 (Oswald 1975).

6.5 Other finds

Two corroded iron nails and two large lumps of lime plaster, one with lath impressions, were recovered from Pit 13 (Trench 1). One small fragment of slate was recovered from Pit 7 (Trench 2).

7.0 DISCUSSION

7.1 Medieval

No archaeological remains of medieval date were identified, although the recovery of ten unstratified sherds of medieval Harlow ware pottery and a residual sherd of medieval sandy orange ware pottery does attest to activity of this date in the vicinity. There was no firm evidence within the trenches to suggest that the site had been fully enclosed within a moat. If a complete moat did exist it is unlikely to have followed the entire northern boundary of the existing property as this would lead to a significant difference in water level given the 3m drop in ground level between the northern and southern extremities of the property.

However, It is feasable that the moat did not continue this far north and returned somewhere under the existing house thus reducing the drop to a perhaps more manageable 1.5-2m.

7.2 Post-medieval

Most of the excavated features were broadly of post-medieval date with only two linear features (11 and 15) being completely undated. The earliest dated post-medieval feature was gully 19 in Trench 1 which contained 16th century or later pottery and appeared to be cut by the large 18th century pit (17). This pit contained a variety of finds including a large quantity of broken roof tile and broken bottle glass, of which only a small proportion was retained for analysis. The majority of the glass consisted of broken body sherds which were not inherently dateable and were not recovered on grounds of safety. The finds, which also included earlier brick and pottery that may have been old when discarded, were presumably buried as part of the clearance of a general rubbish deposit from the former vicarage or perhaps were from the demolition of an earlier structure, such as an outbuilding, on the site. The presence of at least one imported bottle of Spa mineral water implies a degree of wealth amongst the occupants of the house at this time.

One brick fragment of probable late 17th to early 18th century date was recovered from a large pit or pond (21) in Trench 2 that extended south-east of the trench. The possibility that this was really part of a back-filled moat was considered but the position, shape and alignment of this feature made this unlikely. The remaining post-medieval features (1, 3, 5, 7 and 13) were not closely dated but their stratigraphic relationships and the presence of materials such as coal, slate and building debris suggests a 19th or 20th century date for these features.

7.3 Modern

The straight-sided, north-east/south-west aligned, trench located at the western end of Trench 1 aligned almost exactly with the outline of the former vicarage (Fig. 1) and while it is possible that this is a modern service trench or, given minor differences in past and present mapping, it could be the remains of a back-filled robber trench along the line of the southern footings. The brick structure at the southwest end of Trench 2 appears to be part of a series of buildings depicted on post World War 2 Ordnance Survey mapping running south from the vicarage towards the ornamental lake. Twentieth century finds from within the structure support this dating as does the presence of a near-by timber plank.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Although the development is believed to be located within the site of a medieval moated enclosure no evidence was found to confirm this. The recovery of a number of unstratified/residual sherds of medieval pottery does attest to medieval activity in the vicinity but the size and nature of this activity remains undetermined. The majority of the excavated archaeological features date to the post-medieval period and are no doubt contemporary with the former vicarage which had been demolished by the early 1970s. The date of construction of the vicarage is unknown but the recovery of both 17th and 18th century finds suggests that there was a building on the site by at least the end of the 17th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Туре	Description	Period
1	Gully	N/S aligned, 2.3m+ x 0.45m x 0.13m deep	19th/20th century
2	Fill of 1	Dark brown silty clay, charcoal flecks and coal	19th/20th century
3	Post-hole	Rectangular, 0.50m x 0.38m x 0.17m deep	19th/20th century
4	Fill of 3	Dark greyish brown silty clay, common pebbles	19th/20th century
5	Pit	3m x 0.70m+ x 0.32m deep	19th/20th century
6	Fill of 5	Dark greyish brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks	19th/20th century
7	Pit	3.05m x 0.50m+ x 0.33m+ deep	19th/20th century
8	Fill of 7	Light greyish brown sandy clay	19th/20th century
9	Finds	Unstratified finds from Trench 2	Medieval/post- med
10	Fill of 11	Dark brownish grey clay silt	Undated
11	Ditch	NW/SE aligned, 2m+ x 1.6m x 0.41m deep	Undated
12	Fill of 13	Dark greyish brown clay silt, frequent lumps & flecks of mortar	19th/20th century
13	Pit	Sub-circular, 0.82m x 0.76m x 0.38m deep	19th/20th century
14	Fill of 15	Mid brownish grey and orange clay silt	Undated
15	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 2m+ x 1.05m x 0.28m deep	Undated
16	Fill of 17	Mixed dark grey clay silt, orange clay and greenish orange sand	18th century
17	Pit	Irregular, 3.3m x 1.6m+ x 0.30m + deep	18th century
18	Fill of 19	Mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt	16th-18th century
19	Gully	NW/SE aligned, 1.4m+ x 0.66m x 0.13m deep	16th-18th century
20	Fill of 21	Mixed greenish grey silty sand and dark grey silty clay	17th/18th century
21	Pit	Irregular, c. 5.5m x 1.6m+ x 0.70m+ deep	17th/18th century
22	Structure	Unfrogged bricks, lime mortar, 1.88m x 1.5m+ x 6 courses+	20th century
23	Fill within 22	Dark grey ashy silt, mortar lumps & flecks	20th century
24	Fill of 21	Dark grey silty clay	17th/18th century

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
2	1	2	36	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
		5	39	Pottery; body sherds Post med.	
4	3	1	4	Roof tile fragment	Post med.
6	5	4	390	Roof tile fragments, two with peg holes	Post med.
		6	2010	Brick fragments	Post med.
8	7	1	4	Slate	-
		5	163	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
9	Finds	11	503	Pottery; base and body sherds	Post med.
12	13	2	38	Iron nails	-
		2	496	Lime plaster	-
		1	16	Brick fragment	Post med.
		2	170	Roof tile fragments Post med.	
16	17	1	14	Clay pipe bowl	Post med.
		9	1535	Bottle glass, necks and bases Post med	
		3	2149	Brick fragments Post med	
		6	1481	Roof tile fragments, 13 mm thick Post me	
		1	819	Floor tile fragment, 30 mm thick	Post med.
		5	522	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Post med.
18	19	1	316	Brick fragment	Post med.
		3	44	Pottery; body sherds	Post med.
20	21	2	901	Brick fragments	Post med.
		5	378	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
22		2	5352	Bricks (63 mm x 110 mm x 227 mm)	Post med.
23	22	2	31	Pottery; base and body sherds	Modern
		5	296	Flower pot, rims and body sherd	Post med.

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
2	1	1	7	Sandy orange ware: unglazed, abraded, interior red wash, thick grey core, medieval or late medieval	13 th to 16 th C
		1	7	Martincamp flask?: highly fired, thin-walled body sherd in orange fabric with pronounced throwing lines, possibly of Martincamp type III	17 th C
		1	10	Post-medieval red earthenware: thick-walled sherd with internal glaze	17 th C or later
		2	15	Westerwald stoneware, body sherds most likely from a chamber pot showing the remains of a medallion and a cobalt blue colouring	mid 17 th to later 18 th C
9	Finds	10	207		
		1	296	Post-medieval red earthenware: pad base from jar, all over glaze, Harlow-type	17 th C or later
16	17	1	11	English tin-glazed earthenware: fragment of footring base from a jar or chamber pot, plain very pale bluegrey tin glaze	18 th C
		4	511	Post-medieval red earthenware: Harlow-type; comprising fragment from flared dish or bowl with everted rolled rim and shallow groove around the inside of the rim, internally glazed (cf. Davey and Walker 2009, fig.69.386); fragment from large all over-glazed storage jar with collared rim and groove around inside edge of rim (cf. Davey and Walker 2009, fig.73.421); fragment of smaller storage jar with double beaded rim and all over glaze, not paralleled by published material at Harlow production sites, but appears to be of Harlow type	1660s or later
18	19	3	44		
23	22	5	296	Flowerpot: large fragments of modern flowerpot with beaded rims, two or more vessels represented	19 th to 20 th C
		1	10	Modern white earthenware: sherd with all over lustrous dark brown glaze	19 th to 20 th C
		1	21	Porcelain: fragment of large ?cup showing sprigged floral decoration in lilac clay, scalloped rim and carination above base suggest it dates to around the 1820s, but the fact that it is relief moulded suggests a Victorian or later date, as sprigged lilac motifs continued into the 1920s	mid 19 th to early 20 th C
		31	1435		

APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Site Name: Lingmere, Vicarage Lane, Chigwell, Essex

Site Code: CHGL 12

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 24)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 1 x blue Section Sheet
- 3.6 2 Trench Record Sheets
- 3.7 Trench location plan
- 3.8 Photographic Register
- 3.9 Site Photographic Record (1 set of colour prints, colour contact prints + 1 digital images on CD)
- 3.10 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

2 large plan sheets

Finds

The retained finds occupy half a box.

APPENDIX 5: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Lingmere, Vicarage Lane, Chigwell, Essex				
Parishes: Chigwell	District: Epping Forest			
NGR: TQ 44350 93790	Site Code: CHGL 12			
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit			
Dates of Work: 19th to 21st March 2012	Size of Area Investigated: c. 3000 sq.m.			
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Epping Forest District Museum	Funding source: Client			
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: 4039			
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No.: 123805			

Periods Represented: Post-Medieval, Modern

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

Archaeological trial trenching was carried out on land at Lingmere, Vicarage Lane, Chigwell in advance of residential development. Two evaluation trenches, totalling 42m in length, were excavated across the c. 3000 sq m site. The site was formerly that of a vicarage that was demolished prior to the construction of the present house (Lingmere) in the early 1970s.

Although the site is recorded as a medieval moated enclosure (EHER 4039) no remains of medieval date were identified in the evaluation trenches, nor was there any evidence to confirm the existence of a complete moated circuit. However, the recovery of eleven sherds of medieval pottery from unstratified and residual contexts does at least attest to activity in the vicinity in the medieval period.

Excavated features included gullies, linear features, pits and post-holes; most were of post-medieval or modern date with only two features, ditch 11 and gully 15, containing no dating evidence. The earliest feature was a small gully in Trench 1 which contained pottery dating to the 16th century or later. The gully was cut by a large pit that contained a variety of 18th century finds including a considerable amount of broken bottle glass and roof tile. One bottle had contained imported Spa mineral water and was firmly dated to the period 1724-43.

In Trench 2 was a large pit or pond that extended beyond the trench edge to the south-east and contained abraded brick of probable late 17th to early 18th century date. The remaining post-medieval features were not closely dated but their stratigraphic relationships and the presence of materials such as coal, slate and building debris suggested a 19th or 20th century date for these features.

A modern back-filled trench at the west end of Trench 1 aligned almost exactly with the outline of the former vicarage and was either a service trench associated with this building or possibly the remains of a back-filled robber trench along the line of its southern footings. A small brick structure at the south-west end of Trench 2 contained 20th-century finds and appeared to be part of a series of post WW2 buildings depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping running south from the vicarage towards the site of a former ornamental lake.

Previous Summaries/Reports: none		
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: July 2012	

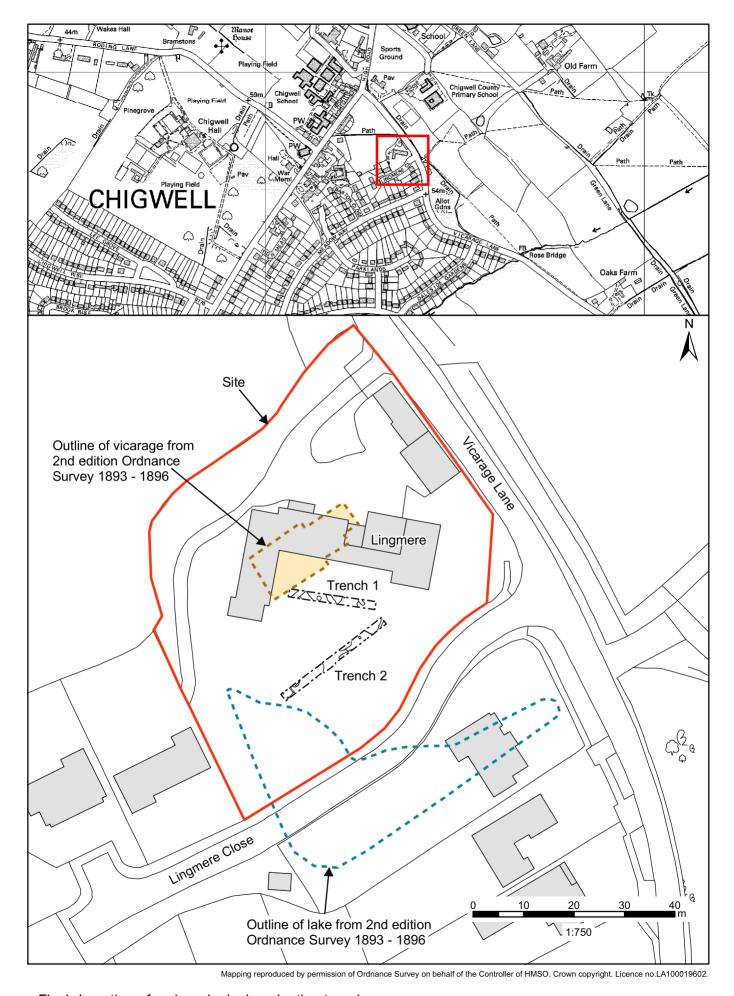


Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches

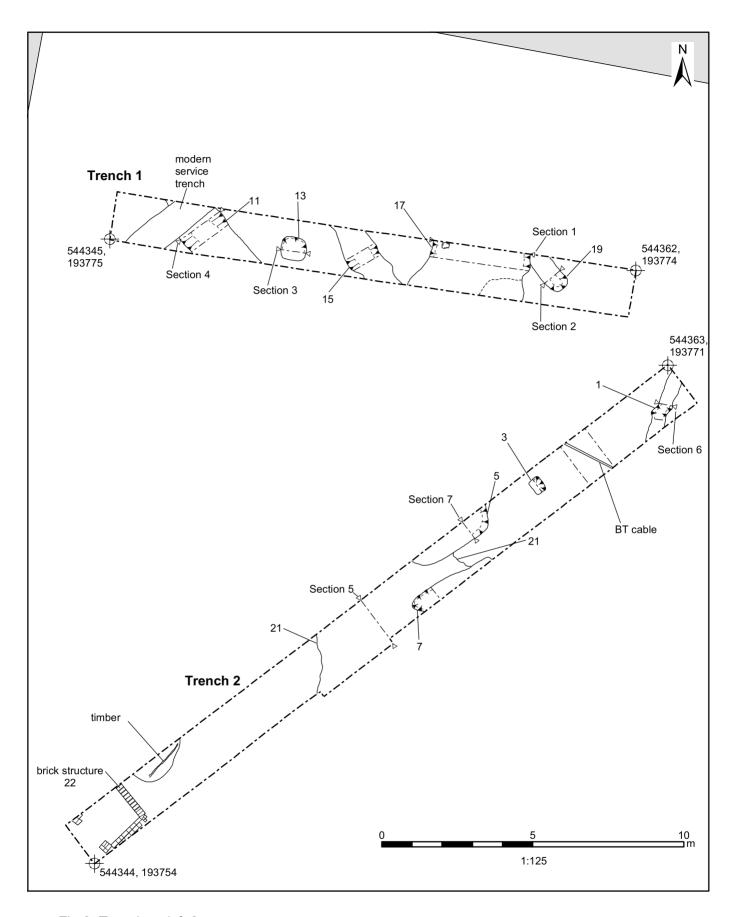


Fig.2. Trenches 1 & 2



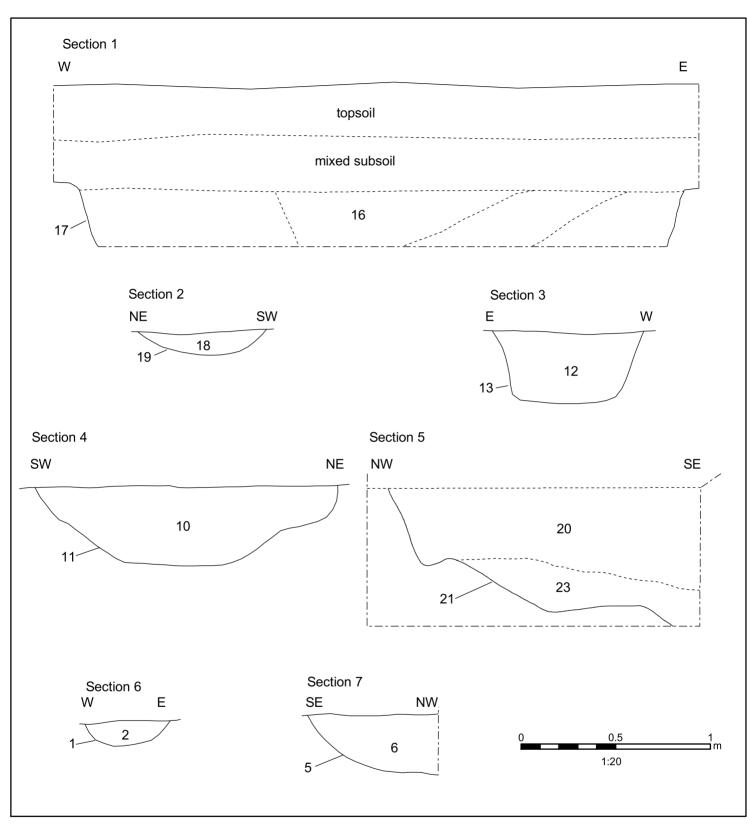


Fig.3. Sections 1 - 7





Plate 1. Trench 1 (1m scale)



Plate 2. Ditch 11 (1m scale)



Plate 3. Trench 2 (1m scale)



Plate 4. Pit 21 (1m scale)