

**LAND OFF TYLERS CLOSE  
WEST OF GREENWAYS  
BUNTINGFORD  
HERTS**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**AUGUST 2012**



# LAND OFF TYLERS CLOSE

## BUNTINGFORD

### HERTS

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Prepared By: Lukasz Miciak	Signature:
Position: Project Supervisor	Date:
Approved By: Adrian Scruby	Signature:
Position: Project Manager	Date:

Document Ref.:	2534 Rep
Report Issue Date:	August 2012
Circulation:	CgMs Consulting
	HCC HEU
	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

**Field Archaeology Unit,**  
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ.  
fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk  
Tel: 01376 331470  
Fax: 01376 331428

© **Field Archaeology Unit**, Essex County Council, c/o County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

# CONTENTS

	Page No.
<b>SUMMARY</b>	1
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	2
<b>2.0 BACKGROUND</b>	2
<b>3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</b>	3
<b>4.0 METHOD</b>	4
<b>5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS</b>	4
<b>6.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESMENT OF RESULTS</b>	5
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	7
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	7
<b>APPENDICES</b>	
APPENDIX 1 Context Data	
APPENDIX 2 Content of Archive	
APPENDIX 3 HER Summary	
<b>FIGURES</b>	
Fig. 1 Site location	
Fig. 2	
<b>PLATES</b>	
Plate 1. Area 1, looking south-east	
Plate 2. Pit 50	
Plate 3. Pit 52	
Plate 4. Area 2, looking east	
Plate 5. Area 2 & 3, looking east	
Plate 6. Ditch 62	

**LAND OFF TYLERS CLOSE**

**BUNTINGFORD**

**HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Client: CgMs Consulting

NGR: TL3557 2964

Site Code: 2534

Oasis No: 131967

Dates of Fieldwork: 05/04/12 – 06/07/12

**SUMMARY**

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land off Tylers Close, Buntingford, between April and July 2011, during the course of residential development. The work followed on from an earlier archaeological evaluation that uncovered a scattering of possible medieval and later features, primarily of agricultural origin, in the central and south-eastern part of the site.*

*The monitored areas (1 – 4) were located in those parts of the site where the evaluation trenches had uncovered archaeological remains likely to be impacted upon by the development. Subsequently, the area at the front of the site (Area 1), nearest to Tylers Close, was raised up for construction purposes, negating the need for monitoring here, while Area 4 was shown to be very badly disturbed/ compacted as a result of previous activities on the site and no meaningful results were obtained.*

*Two small pits and a pond were discovered in area 2, while area 3 contained three parallel, east-west aligned and evenly spaced small ditches that, along with a series of similar ditches noted in evaluation trench 5 to the south, appeared to form part of a small field/ cultivation plot. All features apart from the pond, which contained modern finds, were undated.*

*No firm evidence for any Roman or Prehistoric activity was noted and from the results of the evaluation and subsequent monitoring it is suggested that the site lay on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval town and all of the features encountered were associated with the agricultural/ horticultural use of the land over time.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording carried out during residential development on land at Tylers Close, Buntingford, comprising the construction of 50 residential units and associated infrastructure. The archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of CgMs Consulting for Leach Homes.

The archaeological monitoring was requested by the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC CHEU), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, East Herts Council, following the discovery of medieval and later features in the central and south-eastern part of the site during an earlier trench-based evaluation undertaken in advance of the development (ECC FAU 2011). Following discussions between CgMs Consulting and the HCC CHEU it was agreed to monitor groundworks in four areas of the site where construction works were likely to expose/ impact upon archaeological remains.

The investigation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by ECC FAU on behalf of CgMs Consulting (2012).

Copies of this report will be supplied to CgMs Consulting, HCC CHEU and the Hertfordshire 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 Hertford Museum.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)**

Tylers Close is located on the western outskirts of Buntingford, Hertfordshire. The development site (NGR: TL3557 2964) is bounded to the east and south by the Greenways residential estate, while the A10 Buntingford bypass is located to the west, with a plot of roadside trees and sports pitches associated with Freeman College to the north.

The development area is situated on an east facing slope that drops from around 115m AOD in the north-west down to around 110 in the south-east. The underlying geology consists of Till (chalky, sandy, stoney clay) overlying Chalk with courses of flint.

## **2.2 Archaeology and History (Fig. 1)**

The following archaeological background utilises a desk-based assessment previously produced for the site by CgMs Consulting (2009) and the results of the trench-based evaluation (ECC FAU 2011).

Most archaeological remains around Buntingford have been found along Ermine Street (the old London Road) and there is little known evidence for early settlement in the vicinity of the development area. A basalt Neolithic Axe, a Bronze Age barbed arrowhead and an Iron Age coin were found within 1 km radius of the site (HER) and Late Iron Age to Early Roman pottery was discovered in two features during work on the Buntingford Bypass. The above mentioned site and an evaluation on Baldock Road, 100m to the west of the site, also revealed undated pits and ditches which are most likely prehistoric in origin (CgMs, 2009). There is no evidence of Roman activity in the town itself although the wider area was populated at this period. Two possible Deserted Medieval Villages are thought to be located to the east and north of Buntingford, at Layston and Corneybury respectively.

The town, which lies on the River Rib, developed in the post-medieval period around the Old London Road (Roman Ermine Street), now the High Street, which runs through the centre of Buntingford and used to be main route between London and Cambridge. Historic cartographic evidence indicates that the site has been used for agricultural purposes since at least the mid 19th century and little changed on or around it up till the second half of 20th century when the Greenways residential estate was built. In late June and early July 2011 fifteen evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m long by 1.6m wide, were excavated across the 1.76ha site (ECC FAU 2011).

No archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman or Saxon date were identified, although two probably residual sherds of Roman pottery and a certainly residual Roman roof tile were recovered from later features.

Medieval features included a ditch in Trench 14, at the south-east end of the site, and a gully in Trench 4, in the central area, both of which were dated to the 13th to 14th centuries, while a series of parallel gullies to the south-west, in Trench 9, were most likely of agricultural or horticultural origin and produced post-medieval artefacts. Large numbers of features were discovered in trench 5; however, the majority of them were either poorly or completely undated.

### **3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Aims**

The general aim of the archaeological work was to identify and record any remains that were likely to be damaged or disturbed by groundworks associated with the development, in order to ensure their preservation by record. The specific aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify any further evidence of the nature and date of the occupation identified in the earlier evaluation trenches.

#### **3.2 Research Objectives**

In the event that significant archaeological remains were encountered this report would have aimed to place the results in context with the research objectives laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties*, 2. *research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and the more-recent *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2012). As so few features of significance were identified the project has little potential to contribute to any of the research agendas.

### **4.0 METHOD**

Monitoring was originally proposed for four areas, 1 – 4 (see Fig. 1); however, for construction purposes the ground level in area 1 was built-up prior to piling, negating the need for monitoring and leaving any potential archaeological features that may have been present preserved in situ.

Exposed archaeological features were cleaned and hand excavated. The spoil heaps were scanned for unstratified artefacts. Standard 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**

Further context information may be found in appendix 1.



### **Area 1**

For construction purposes the ground level within area 1 was raised prior to piling the foundations, negating the need for monitoring and leaving any features that may have been present preserved in-situ.

### **Area 2 (Plate 1)**

Two small pits and a pond were exposed in a 14m by 10m area that was positioned over the northeast end of evaluation trench 7. Measuring 1.62m by 0.96m by 0.12m deep, oval pit 50 was located in the southeast corner of the area (plate 2). It had gently sloping sides, a flat base and was filled with a dark yellowish brown soft sandy clay fill (51), that did not contain any finds. Approximately 5m to the northwest of pit 50 was an elongated, irregular pit (52), which measured 1.14m by 0.74m by 0.38m deep (plate 3). It had steep, irregular sides, a concave base and again produced no artefacts from its single mid yellow-brown soft sandy clay fill (53). The northeast edge of a modern pond or a quarry pit, previously investigated in trench 7, was uncovered in the southeast part of area 2. The exposed part of it measured 3m by 7m.

### **Area 3 (Plates 4 - 6)**

Divided by 10m of unreduced topsoil, rectangular area 3 measured 7.5m by 15.5m and 6.5m by 16m respectively. Three parallel, shallow ditches, running east – west across both areas and extending beyond their limits were identified and excavated. Located in the north parts of area 3, ditch 54/60 had fairly steep sides, a flat base and measured 0.73-0.8m wide by 0.17-0.26m deep. There were no finds in the single fill, a dark yellowish brown hard clay with occasional flecks of chalk (55/61). Measuring 0.65-0.78m wide by 0.17-0.21m deep ditch 56/62 was located 4.5m to the south of the previous feature (plate 6). It had moderately steep sides, a slightly concave base and again contained a single undated fill, comprising a dark yellow-brown hard clay with occasional flecks of chalk (57/63). The southernmost of the exposed ditches (58/64) was situated 4.25m further south and measured 0.75-0.83m wide by 0.21-0.23m deep. It had moderately steep sides, a concave base and once again contained a single fill, a dark brown hard sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk fill (59/65), that did not produce any finds.

### **Area 4 (Plate 7)**

Area 4 was the last of the four areas to be stripped as it was covered by a large mound of topsoil and construction works were progressed across the remainder of the site, prior to its removal. Monitoring of topsoil stripping revealed that the surface of the underlying boulder clay was heavily compacted, with evidence for wheel-rutting, impacted topsoil and other

material, meaning that no useful results could be obtained across much of this part of the site. The high level of disturbance is likely to arise from the previous use of the site as a storage area for spoil/ topsoil during the construction of the adjacent Greenways development, part of which was removed during the 2011 evaluation to allow the cutting of trench 4 (anecdotal evidence noted in the evaluation report suggests that some parts of the site had been previously stripped of topsoil and later reinstated). It is likely that further evidence for the horticultural/ agricultural ditches noted in Area 3 and evaluation trench 5 previously survived in this area.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESMENT OF RESULTS**

The pond exposed in area 1 is presumably the same feature that was uncovered and investigated in trial trench 7, while the undated pits 50 and 52 are either of natural origin (e.g. root boles) or, more-likely, associated with the agricultural activity taking place elsewhere on the site, evidence for which was also found during the earlier evaluation phase.

The three linear features running across area 3 had the same east - west alignment and similar widths and depths to the ditches discovered in trail trench 5 and would appear to form a small horticultural / agricultural plot. The full extent of the plot is not known, however ditches 54 – 64 were not encountered in the adjacent trial trenches 2, 3 and 5, which suggest they do not continue far beyond area 3. It is possible that the linear features 30 and 34, noted in evaluation trench 4, form the western and southern boundaries to the plot, although this again remains unproven.

No firm evidence for any Roman or Prehistoric activity was noted, despite the discovery of a few pieces of presumably residual Roman pottery and tile in the evaluation and from the results of this earlier work and the subsequent monitoring it is suggested that the site lay on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval town and all of the features encountered were associated with the agricultural/ horticultural use of the land over time.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ECC FAU would like to thank CgMs Consulting and Leach Homes for commissioning the work. The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Trevor Ennis and Lukasz Miciak of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. The report was prepared by Lukasz Miciak with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Alison Tinniswood of HCC CHEU.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |                          |      |   |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| Brown N. & Glazebrook J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper <b>8</b> |
| DoE                      | 1990 | <i>Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning</i> . HMSO   |
| CgMs.                    | 2012 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording on Land at Tylers Close, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.</i>           |
| CgMs.                    | 2009 | <i>Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for Land at Tylers Close, Buntingford, Hertfordshire</i>  |
| ECC FAU                  | 2011 | <i>Land off Tylers Close, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation</i> . ECC FAU Report No. 2394                                     |
| Gurney D.                | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper <b>14</b>   |
| IfA                      | 2010 | <i>Code of Conduct (revised)</i> . Institute for Archaeologists   |
| IfA                      | 2008 | <i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (revised)</i> . Institute for Archaeologists   |
| Medlycott, M.            | 2012 | <i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper <b>24</b>                |

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEX DATA

Ctxt No.	Area	Type	Description	Date
50	2	Pit	Oval with gently sloping sides and flat base, 1.62m x 0.96m x 0.12m deep	-
51	2	Fill	Dark yellowish brown soft sandy clay	-
52	2	Pit	Elongated with steep irregular sides and concave base, 1.14m x 0.74m x 0.38m deep	-
53	2	Fill	Mid brown-yellow soft sandy clay	-
54	3	Ditch	Linear with moderately steep sides and a flat base, 0.73m wide x 0.17 deep	-
55	3	Fill	Dark yellowish brown hard sandy clay with occasional flecks of chalk	-
56	3	Ditch	Linear with moderately steep sides and a flat base, 0.78m wide x 0.17m deep	-
57	3	Fill	Dark brown-yellow hard sandy clay with moderate chalk inclusions	-
58	3	Ditch	Linear with moderately steep sides and concave base, 0.75m wide x 0.21m deep	-
59	3	Fill	Dark brown hard sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks	-
60=54	3	Ditch	Linear with steep sides and a flat base, 0.73m wide by 0.26m deep	-
61=55	3	Fill	Dark yellowish brown hard sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks	-
62=56	3	Ditch	Linear with moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base, 0.65m wide x 0.21m deep	-
63=57	3	Fill	Dark yellowish brown hard sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks	-
64=58	3	Ditch	Linear with gently sloping sides and a concave base, 0.83m wide x 0.23m deep	-
65=59	3	Fill	Dark yellow-brown hard sandy clay with occasional chalk flecks	-

## **APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

**Site Name: Land off Tylers Close, Buntingford, Herts**  
**Site Code: 2534**

### **Index to Archive:**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

#### **2. Research Archive**

2.1 Client Report

#### **3. Site Archive**

3.1 Context Record Register

3.2 Context Records (x16)

3.3 Plan Register

3.4 Section Register

3.5 Trench location plan

3.6 Photographic Register

3.7 Site Photographic Record (x colour prints from digital images)

#### **Not in File**

2 large plan/section sheets

## APPENDIX 3

### HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

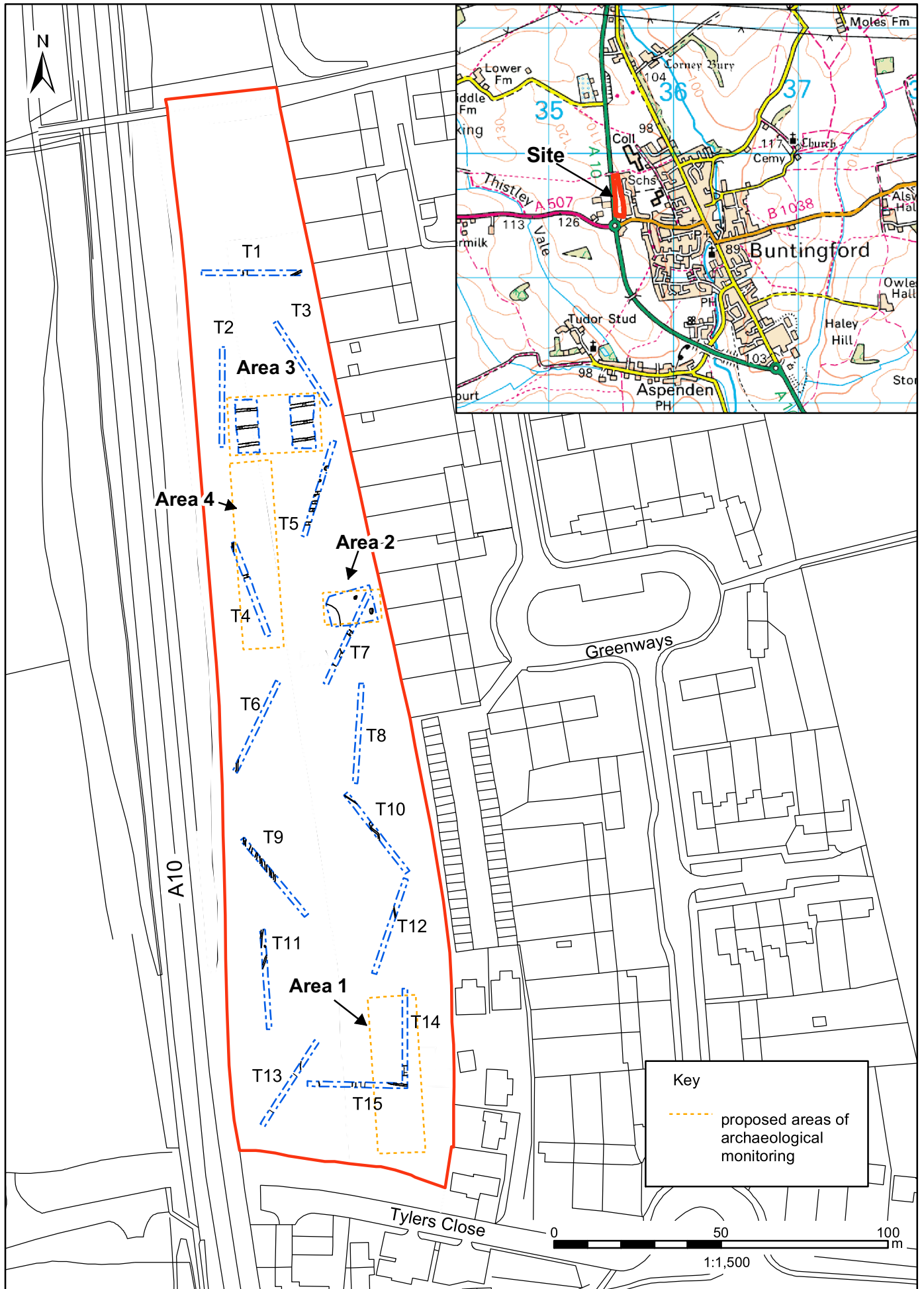
<b>Site name and address:</b> Land off Tylers Close, West of Greenways, Buntingford, Hertfordshire		
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> East Herts	
<b>Village/Town:</b> Buntingford	<b>Parish:</b> Buntingford	
<b>Planning application reference:</b> 3/08/0840/OP, 3/11/1033/RP		
<b>HER Enquiry reference:</b> N/A		
<b>Funding source:</b> Developer		
<b>Nature of application:</b> Residential development		
<b>Present land use:</b> Agricultural		
<b>Size of application area:</b> 1.76ha	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 360.5 sqm	
<b>NGR (to 8 figures minimum):</b> TL 35570 29640		
<b>Site code (if applicable):</b> 2534		
<b>Site director/Organization:</b> T. Ennis/ L Miciak, ECC Field Archaeology Unit		
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
<b>Date of work:</b>	<b>Start:</b> 5/04/12	<b>Finish:</b> 06/07/12
<b>Location of finds &amp; site archive/Curating museum:</b> Hertford		
<b>Related HER Nos:</b> N/A	<b>Periods represented:</b> Post-Medieval, Modern	
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> CgMs. 2009. <i>Archaeological Desk Based Assesment for Land at Tylers Close, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. Land off Tylers Close, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Evaluation.</i> ECC FAU 2011, Report No 2394		
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <p><i>A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land off Tylers Close, Buntingford, between April and July 2101, during the course of residential development. The work followed on from an earlier archaeological evaluation that uncovered a scattering of medieval and later features, primarily of agricultural origin, in the central and south-eastern part of the site (ECC FAU 2011).</i></p> <p><i>The monitored areas (1 – 4) were located in those parts of the site where the evaluation trenches had uncovered archaeological remains that would be impacted upon by the development. Subsequently, the area at the front of the site (Area 1), nearest to Tylers Close, was raised up for construction purposes and monitoring was not required here, while Area 4 was shown to be very badly disturbed/ compacted as a result of previous activities on the site and no meaningful results were obtained here.</i></p> <p><i>Two small pits and a pond were discovered in area 2, while area 3 contained three parallel, east-west aligned and evenly spaced small ditches that, along with a series of</i></p>		

*similar ditches noted in evaluation trench 5 to the south, appeared to form part of a small field/ cultivation plot. All features apart from the pond, which contained modern finds, were undated.*

*No firm evidence for any Roman or Prehistoric activity was noted and from the results of the evaluation and subsequent monitoring it is suggested that the site lay on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval town and all of the features encountered were associated with the agricultural/ horticultural use of the land over time.*

**Author of summary:** L Miciak

**Date of summary:** August 2012



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. Crown Copyright. Licence number LA100019602.

Fig.1. Location of monitored areas and previous evaluation trenches



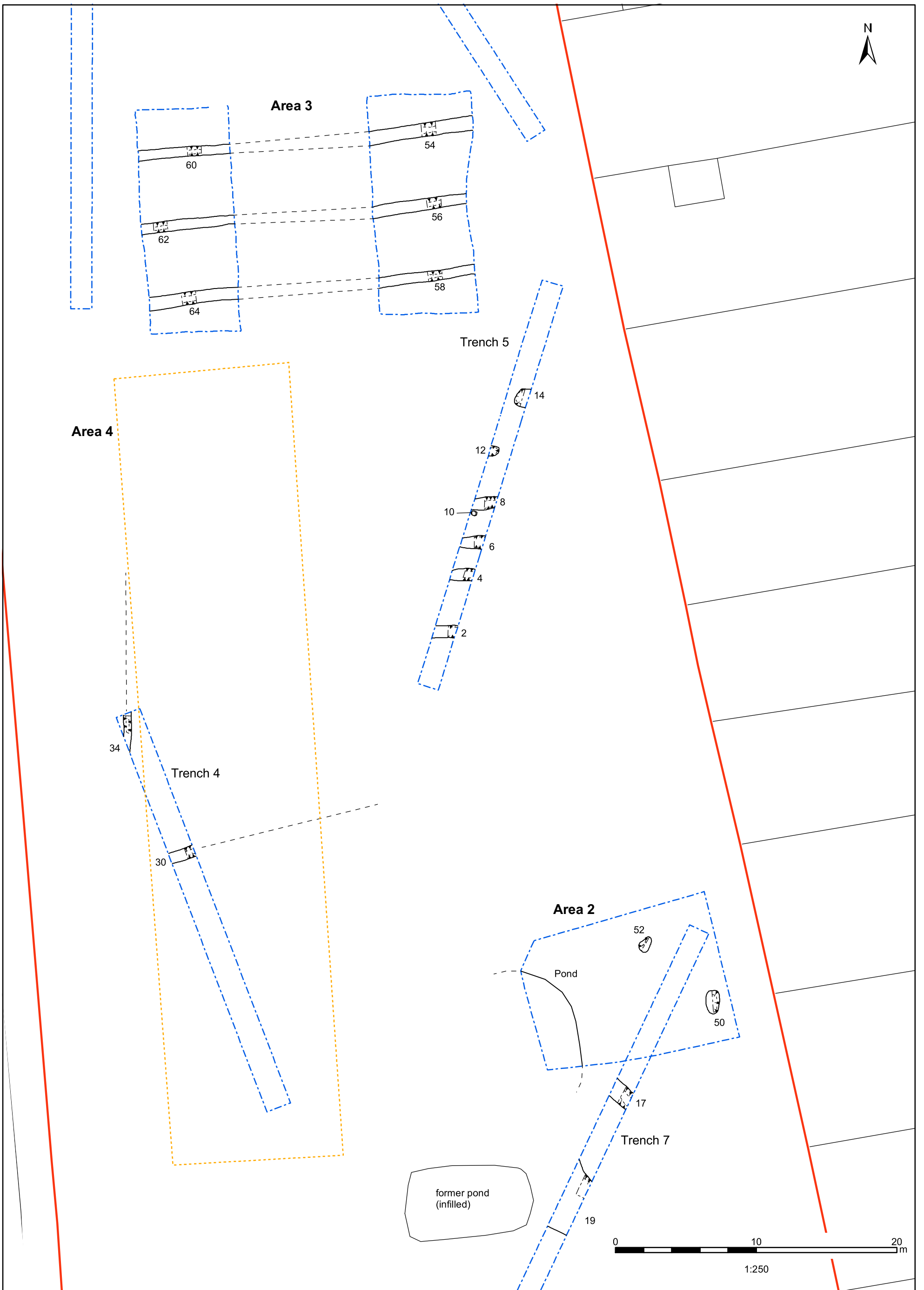


Fig.2. Areas 1 - 3



Plate 1. Area 2, looking south-east



Plate 2. Pit 50



Plate 3. Pit 52



Plate 4. Area 3, looking east



Plate 5. Area 3, western block, looking east



Plate 6. Ditch 62

