

**COURTAULD ROAD  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY  
LAND NORTH OF A127  
NEVENDON  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
ADDENDUM**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**June 2006**

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LAND NORTH OF A127  
NEVENDON**

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ADDENDUM**

Prepared By: Andrew Robertson	Signature:
Position: Project Officer	Date:
Approved By: Mark Atkinson	Signature:
Position: Unit Manager	Date:

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Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the  
**Field Archaeology Unit,**  
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ  
Tel: 01376 331470  
Fax: 01376 331428

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**COURTAULD ROAD**  
**INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY**  
**LAND NORTH OF A127, NEVENDON, ESSEX**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ADDENDUM**

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**SUMMARY**

*Additional archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site of a proposed flood washland on land to the north of the A127 at Nevendon, near Basildon, in order to further elucidate the results of a trenching evaluation carried out in November and December 2005 (Robertson 2006).*

*Four test pits measuring 1m x 1m were excavated by hand through topsoil to investigate the incidence of Mesolithic artefacts in the topsoil. A small trench extension, measuring 10m x 25m, was stripped over the remains of a suspected Mesolithic working floor first identified, in trench 47, during the trenching evaluation.*

*The hand-dug test pits revealed significant incidence of worked Mesolithic flints in the topsoil, as well as burnt flint and prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery. All the pottery recovered was abraded and the prehistoric pottery was consistent in date with that recovered from features during the trial trenching evaluation. The remaining pottery is general background material that has been moved around the landscape by ploughing and other human action.*

*The trench extension confirmed the existence of at least one Mesolithic deposit and revealed four Stake-holes sealed by it. These results confirm the findings of the previous evaluation, in that tangible Mesolithic remains survive within the site which is potentially of high importance. The distribution of the Mesolithic flints further suggests that the identifiable Mesolithic activity is confined to the south-central and south-western parts of the site.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report contains the results of an additional archaeological evaluation which was carried out on the site of a proposed flood washland on land to the north of the A127 at Nevendon, near Basildon, in order to further elucidate the results of a trenching evaluation carried out in November and December. The evaluation consisted of four hand-dug test pits and a small machine-stripped excavation area over a possible buried Mesolithic soil layer.

This report is an addendum to the main trial trenching report (Robertson 2006) and should be read in conjunction with it. The standards and guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers for the East of England (Gurney 2003) were maintained and adhered to throughout the project.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

The background to the overall project is outlined in the preceding trial trenching report (Robertson 2006). This second phase of evaluation was undertaken by ECC FAU at the request of Atkins Heritage to clarify the results of the earlier work.

## **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The additional evaluation work was undertaken to ascertain the incidence and nature of Mesolithic flints in the topsoil and to establish the extent and nature of the possible Mesolithic layer identified in evaluation trench 47. The results will contribute to the environmental impact assessment for the overall scheme.

## **4. METHOD**

Four 1m x 1m test pits, Test Pits 1-4, were hand dug, through topsoil, in the location which had been previously identified as having the greatest concentration of Mesolithic flints (Robertson 2006; fig.6). In addition to the test pits a small area to the south of Trench 47, Test Pit 5, was machine-stripped of topsoil to further examine the potential Mesolithic soil layer. Six 1m x 1m test pits (A-F), were hand dug through this soil layer to undisturbed geology.

The four hand-dug Test Pits, 1 to 4, were excavated from immediately below the turf and taken down into the underlying natural geological deposit in 10cm spits, to check whether features or deposits were present at the base of the topsoil. Each 1m square was divided into quadrants. One of the quadrants from each 10cm spit was 100% bulk soil sampled for finds retrieval. This acted as a control for the other three quarters from which the finds were all hand-collected. Each quadrant was individually numbered and the finds retrieved were bagged and labelled within the separate quadrants and 10cm spits to facilitate a basic level of distribution analysis.

In addition, an area measuring 10 x 25m was stripped of topsoil to the immediate south of evaluation trench 47 to further examine the possible Mesolithic soil layer (context 74). A wheeled mechanical excavator was used to remove the topsoil, under close archaeological supervision, down onto layer 74. Its exposed surface was then hand-cleaned. A 5m grid was established over the stripped area and each 5m square was further divided into a 1m grid, with the central 1m square in each 5m being excavated (Fig.2). A total of six 1m squares were then consequently hand-excavated in spits down to natural. All collected artefacts were 3-dimensionally recorded and cut features were half-sectioned. Standard ECC FAU methodologies were employed with regard to excavation and recording as outlined in the trial trenching report.

## **5. TEST PIT RESULTS**

The average depth of the topsoil across the site was 0.30m and no subsoil deposits were identified in any of the test pits. The geological deposits were seen to mainly be orange brown clay silt, with patches of pale brown silty sand scattered across the investigated area. A number of mole drains ran across the investigation areas but were only recorded where they impinged upon archaeological features or deposits, mostly in the extension to Trench 47.

All the trench numbers mentioned below correspond to the first phase of investigation for which further details can be found in the trial trenching report (Robertson 2006). Further information on each test pit is presented in Appendix 1 and individual features, including dimensions, are listed in Appendix 2. Detailed finds information is listed in Appendices 3 and 4. All pertinent plans (Figs 1 and 2) are situated after the main text of the addendum report.

### **5.1 Test Pit 1**

Positioned between trenches 23 and 28 (Fig.1), this test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. The topsoil was a 0.3m-thick deposit of mid brown sandy loam overlying the undisturbed geological deposit of pale orangey brown clay. The topsoil was removed in three spits. Of the 13 worked flints recovered from this TP, three were diagnostically Mesolithic. Accompanying the worked flints were 22 burnt flints. The greatest amount of artefacts were collected from the top two spits, 0-0.1m and 0.1-0.2m, with the artefacts becoming less frequent at greater depths. Only two flints were collected from the natural geological deposits and it is highly likely that these were intrusive due to plough disturbance. The hand-sorted quadrants contained a similar amount of material to that in the quadrants that were bulk soil sieved, indicating that the hand collection of the artefacts was thorough, due to the relative lack of natural stone and pebbles in the topsoil and natural.

Spit	Deposit	Worked flints	Burnt flint	Unworked Flint/stone	Pottery sherds	Other
0.00-0.10m	Topsoil	5	3	11	1 Medieval	1 coal frag
0.10-0.20m	Topsoil	5	9	11	2 Roman (join)	
0.20-0.30m	Topsoil	2	9	2		
0.30-0.40m	Natural	1	1	0		
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

*Table 1. Test pit 1: summary of collected artefacts*

## 5.2 Test Pit 2

Located to the immediate north of trench 40 (Fig.1), Test Pit 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.38m. The topsoil was a 0.28m-thick deposit of dark brown clay loam overlying an orange silty clay natural deposit. This test pit was not in the same position as indicated on the WSI due to a mapping error and therefore does not test the incidence of worked flints in an apparently blank area, as was originally intended to be the case. Twenty-four worked flints, 6 of which were diagnostically Mesolithic, and 22 pieces of burnt flint were recovered from this test pit. However, there was a much greater incidence of pottery and other material from this test pit. This is probably an incidental scatter as the material is similar in date and nature to that recovered from the other test pits. However, the topsoil in this test pit was markedly different to the other three which may suggest this area of the site have been subject to soil improvement, which may have introduced some of the more modern types of finds into the area. The greatest amount of artefacts were collected from the 0.1–0.2m spit. Although a relatively high amount of artefacts, compared to the other test pits, was collected from the natural geological deposits, this may be a result of plough disturbance. It is interesting to note that the quantities recovered from the hand-sorted quadrants broadly match that from the bulk soil sieved quadrants, which indicates again that manual collection was as effective as bulk soil sampling.

Spit	Deposit	Worked flints	Burnt flint	Unworked Flint/stone	Pottery sherds	Other
0.00-0.10m	Topsoil	2	5	0	8 Medieval (2 join)	1 bone frag 2 tile frag
0.10-0.20m	Topsoil	13	12	26	3 Roman 5 Medieval 1 undated	5 slag frags 2 tile/brick frags 1 bone frag 1 Iron frag
0.20-0.28m	Topsoil	3	1	3	1 Roman 7 Medieval	
0.28-0.38m	Natural	6	4	2	1 Medieval	4 bone frags
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>

*Table 2. Test pit 2: summary of collected artefacts*

### 5.3 Test Pit 3

Situated between trenches 45 and 37 (Fig.1), Test Pit 3 was excavated to a depth of 0.39m. The topsoil was a 0.28m-thick mid brown clay loam and the natural geology was bright orange clay. Sixteen worked flints, only one of which is diagnostically Mesolithic, and 89 pieces of burnt flint were collected from this test pit. The amount of worked flints recovered is comparable to that in Test Pits 1 and 2, but the amount of burnt flint collected was over four times than that in the other test pits. The increase in the amount of burnt flint may perhaps be explained by the proximity of this test pit to the Early Iron Age features and deposits identified during the earlier stage of work (Robertson 2006). As with all the other hand-dug test pits the greatest incidence of artefacts comes from the top two spits 0-0.1m and 0.1-0.2m, with no finds recovered from the natural geological deposit. The amount and variety of artefacts collected from the hand sorted quadrants was similar to that in the bulk soil sieved quadrants.

Spit	Deposit	Worked flints	Burnt flint	Unworked Flint/stone	Pottery sherds	Other
0.00-0.10m	Topsoil	10	46	21	1 Medieval	3 slag/coke 1 coal
0.10-0.20m	Topsoil	11	26	23	1 Saxon? 2 Medieval	1 tile frag
0.20-0.29m	Topsoil	5	17	5	3 Medieval	2 brick frags 1 Fe nail 1 burnt clay
0.29-0.39m	Natural	0	0	0		
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>

*Table 3. Test pit 3: summary of collected artefacts*

### 5.4 Test Pit 4

Positioned immediately to the north of trench 49 (Fig.1), this test pit was excavated to a depth of 0.41m. The topsoil was a 0.3m-thick mid brown clay loam and the undisturbed natural geology below was orange silty clay. The quantity of artefacts collected from this test pit was the lowest of all of the hand dug pits. Although there was an amount of selective hand-collection of the artefacts, the bulk soil samples indicate that there was a general decline in the amount of artefacts present in the topsoil in this test pit and, by inference, in this general area of the site. The small amount of artefacts collected, however, still indicates that the highest concentration was in the 0.1-0.2m spit.

Spit	Deposit	Worked flints	Burnt flint	Unworked Flint/stone	Pottery Sherds	Other
0.00-0.10m	Topsoil	0	4	1		
0.10-0.20m	Topsoil	2	8	0		
0.20-0.30m	Topsoil	2	0	0		
0.30-0.41m	Natural	0	0	0		
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 4. Test pit 4: summary of collected artefacts

## 5.5 Extension to Trench 47 (Plate 1)

This area was a southward extension of evaluation trench 47 (Figs 1 and 2). It was 10m wide and 25m long and was excavated to a depth of 0.32m. Layer 200, a further part of layer 74 that was identified during the earlier evaluation, was observed to extend over most of the stripped area and to continue beyond, to both north and south. The edges were very diffuse but it seemed to measure approximately 15m east-west and ran north–south across the whole of the stripped area. It was a light brown orange silty clay, only subtly darker and slightly more friable than the underlying natural deposit in this vicinity. A significant amount of plough scaring was observed running across the surface of this deposit, but was found to be relatively shallow, leaving the majority of the layer intact. A variety of artefacts were collected from the surface of layer 200 during its cleaning. Most pertinent to its tentative identification as an *in situ* Mesolithic deposit is an assemblage of twenty worked flints, which include some fine blades and a number of cores, along with thirty burnt flint pieces. Nineteen small and generally abraded pottery sherds were also collected that range from prehistoric to medieval in date. These are likely to be intrusive in this layer, along with fragments of slag, coal and clinker – almost certainly a product of the plough disturbance of its upper horizon.

Six 1m square test pits (Grid squares A to F) were hand-excavated through layer 200. These are described below. It should be noted that none of the cut features identified within the test pits were visible at the surface of layer 200. Although all were sealed by the layer, they also seem to be cut through the lower part of it. Feature dimensions are given in Appendix 2 and a list of artefacts retrieved from each grid square is presented in Appendix 3 (Extension to Trench 47).

### **Grid Square A** (Plate 2)

Layer 200 was established to be 0.15m deep within this test pit. Thirteen worked flints and eight burnt flints were retrieved, along with two unworked flints and two very small intrusive sherds of prehistoric pottery. Two small stake-holes, 203 and 205, were identified toward the base of the

deposit they measured 0.15m and 0.1m in diameter respectively and were 0.08m deep. Both were filled with a mid grey silty clay and neither contained any finds.

### ***Grid Square B***

Layer 200 was 0.19m deep within Test pit B. Twelve worked flints and eleven burnt flints were collected. Three prehistoric pottery sherds and a fragment of baked clay are presumed to be intrusive. Running north-south through the test pit was narrow gully 209, which was probably the base of a modern mole drain.

### ***Grid Square C***

Layer 200 was 0.15m deep within this test pit. Nine worked flints and 24 burnt flints were collected, along with three unworked pieces. Stake-hole 207 was identified along its western edge. It was 0.11m deep and was filled with a light grey silty clay which contained no finds.

### ***Grid Square D***

Layer 200 was 0.08m deep within Test Pit D. Two worked flints, four burnt flints and two unworked pieces were retrieved from it. No cut features were present in this test pit.

### ***Grid Square E***

Layer 200 was found to be 0.17m deep within this test pit. Seven worked flints, seven burnt flints and one unworked piece were collected, along with three very small fragments of intrusive prehistoric pottery. Sub-circular Stake-hole 201 was identified to occur toward the base of the deposit it measured 0.24m x 0.2m and was 0.09m deep. It was filled by a mid grey silty clay which contained one unworked flint flake.

### ***Grid Square F***

Layer 200 was 0.12m deep within this test pit. Two worked flints, two burnt flints and two unworked pieces were retrieved from it. No cut features were identified in this test pit.

## **6. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL** by Joyce Compton

Small groups of finds were recovered from four principal test pits (TP1-4) and six further test pits (Grid squares A-F) which were located within the extension to Trench 47. Finds were also retrieved from bulk soil samples collected for 100% finds recovery from designated quadrants in each test pit. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by test pit quadrant and spit depth. Quantifications have been tabulated in test pit order; full details can be found in Appendix 3. The majority of the assemblage comprises flints and burnt flints. These have been listed (Appendix 4) and described by Hazel Martingell; see section 6.7 below. The small amounts of pottery and other finds are described by category below.

The finds assemblage should be added to that from the previous trial trenching evaluation (Robertson 2006), although quantities of finds other than flints are small. All of the finds should be retained except for the modern and undiagnostic material. Slag and coal fragments have already been discarded following recording.

### **6.1 Pottery**

Pottery of all periods, amounting to 63 sherds weighing 189g, was recorded. All of the pottery is fragmentary and abraded, as might be expected from finds in topsoil contexts. The prehistoric pottery has been recorded by Nick Lavender and the medieval by Helen Walker. Full details for both can be found in the archive.

The largest pottery component is medieval (29 sherds, weighing 101g), spanning the 10th to 14th centuries. A range of medieval fabrics is represented, with shell-tempered ware forming the largest proportion at 48% by weight. The only rim sherds noted are in shell-tempered ware, a North Shoebury type flange-rimmed bowl, from spit 0-10cm in the NW quadrant of Test Pit 2. Medieval coarse ware and Mill Green ware were also recorded. A single sherd of Tudor red earthenware, dated late 15th to 16th century, was recovered from spit 20-28cm in the NW quadrant of Test Pit 2.

Two small sherds of organic-tempered pottery (weight 4g) were recovered from spit 10-20cm in the NE quadrant of Test Pit 3. These have been identified by Sue Tyler as likely to be Early Saxon. Eight sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing a total of 38g, were recorded in Test Pits 1, 2 and 5. Apart from a small rim sherd from Layer 200 in the Trench 47 extension, all of the pottery comprises body sherds in coarse fabrics. None of the pottery can be closely dated within the Late Iron Age and Roman periods.

Prehistoric pottery (24 sherds, weighing 44g) was recovered from six locations in the extension to Trench 47, with the most (16 sherds, 32g) recorded in Layer 200. The pottery comprises small body sherds in Fabric D, indicating an Early Iron Age date for the assemblage. This is consistent with the prehistoric pottery found during the previous evaluation work. A single sherd (2g) was retrieved from soil sample 4 in the SE quadrant of Test Pit 2. This has been tentatively classified as Fabric M and may also be Early Iron Age.

## **6.2 Brick and tile**

Fragments of brick and tile, weighing a total of 240g, were retrieved from Test Pits 2 and 3, with the majority (196g) in Test Pit 2. Most pieces comprise flat post-medieval roof tile fragments and spall. Some pieces have no surfaces and could be baked clay. A large fragment of brick came from spit 0-10cm in the NW quadrant of Test Pit 2. The clay is poorly mixed, with buff streaks, and there are no surviving surfaces. The piece is thus difficult to date, but is probably post-medieval. Two pieces of post-medieval brick from Test Pit 3 have traces of white mortar adhering to the remaining surfaces.

## **6.3 Baked clay**

A single small fragment of baked clay was found in Test Pit 3, and a second was recorded in grid square B of Test Pit 5. Neither piece has any distinguishing features.

## **6.4 Ironwork**

A small and unidentifiable fragment of iron came from Test Pit 2, and a modern iron bradnail from Test Pit 3.

## **6.5 Animal bone**

Small fragments of animal bone, weighing a total of 3g, were recovered from three locations in Test Pit 2. The fragments are in poor condition and are small in size, thus species identification is not feasible.

## **6.6 Slag**

Small fragments of iron slag (total weight 18g) were recorded in Test Pit 2 and in Layer 200 of Test Pit 5. Those from the Trench 47 extension (10g) have been discarded, along with the accompanying coal and clinker.

## **6.7 Worked and Burnt Flint by Hazel Martingell**

A total of 129 worked flints and 228 pieces of burnt flint were retrieved from the test pits (Table 5). Some natural unmodified pieces of flint have also been kept as samples of the raw material. From Test Pit 1, the most northerly pit, came thirteen worked flints, including a notched flake and a piercer on a flake. Test Pit 2 yielded twenty-four worked flints, including a retouched flake. Twenty-seven worked flints, including a microburin, a scraper on a flake, a burin and three retouched pieces, were collected from Test Pit 3. Only three worked flints came from Test Pit 4 and one of these appears to be a 'homemade' gun-flint.

The remaining sixty-five worked flints came from within the extended area of Trench 47. Of these, twenty came from Layer 200 and these include six blades, one of which is 92mm in length and notched at the distal end, three blade cores and one flake core. From Grid square A came twelve flints, including two blades and a microburin. Eleven flints were recovered from Grid square B, including seven blades and a core. The remaining Grid squares (C to F) contained a total of twenty-two flints consisting of waste, chippings, flakes and fragments, with one edge retouched flake from Grid square E.

Burnt flints were recovered from all of the test pits and contexts (Table 5), in particular Test Pit 3, which produced 40% of the total, by count. It may be significant that quantities of burnt flints are associated with the Mesolithic worked flints. It should be noted that several worked flints, especially from the extension to Trench 47, also appear to have been burnt.

<b>Test Pit</b>	<b>Irregular waste</b>	<b>Cores</b>	<b>Chippings</b>	<b>Flakes</b>	<b>Blades</b>	<b>Micro burins</b>	<b>Retouched</b>	<b>Broken/ frags</b>	<b>Burnt natural</b>
TP1	3	1	2	1	3		2	1	22
TP2	2	1	2	8	7		1	3	22
TP3	4		5	6	1	1	5	4	89
TP4				1			2		12
Ctx 200	1	4	1	4	5		5		30
GS A	2		1	2	2	1	2	2	8
GS B		1		3	7				8
GS C	3		3					2	24
GS D								2	4
GS E			1	5			1	1	7
GS F			1	1					2
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>228</b>

*Table 5. Summary of collected flint*

The site is situated in an area of clay with very few gravel pebbles, within the wider context of the Bagshot Beds, an area of sands and gravels in south Essex. The combined assemblages from the trial trench and test pit evaluations include a number of Mesolithic artefacts, blade cores (six) and blades (fifty-seven). Many of the blades are punch-struck with little or no platform, a Mesolithic feature. There are also two microburins, the distinctive waste from making microliths. The remaining retouched pieces, if not Mesolithic, are likely to be early Neolithic in date; for example, the scraper from Test Pit 3. The main concentrations were distributed within the topsoil, to a depth of 200mm. A decreasing number of flints and burnt flints were found to a depth of 400mm (Table 6).

Spit	TP1		TP2		TP3		TP4	
	WF	BF	WF	BF	WF	BF	WF	BF
0-10cm	5	3	2	5	10	46		4
10-20cm	5	9	13	12	11	26	2	8
20-30cm	2	9	3	1	5	17	1	
30-40cm	1	1	6	4				

*Table 6. Test Pits 1-4: worked and burnt flint quantities by spit*

Mesolithic sites are not common in Essex. One of the potential activities taking place here could have been the knapping of flint to produce artefacts such as microliths. So far, no microliths have been found, but further excavation could reveal the full extent of the working floor and, perhaps, turn up diagnostic artefacts such as tranchet axes and microliths. The only other known Mesolithic sites in south Essex are Hamborough Hill to the north-west, Badger Hall, South Benfleet (Crowe 1992) to the south-west and Dawes Heath, Thundersley (Jacobi 1996) to the south-east.

## 7. DISCUSSION

This additional phase of evaluation has further elucidated the widespread presence of Mesolithic flint artefacts across the south-central part of the site. It has also provided clarification as to the incidence and nature of artefacts specifically within the topsoil and regarding the extent and nature of layer 74, the possible *in situ* Mesolithic deposit first identified during the trial trenching, in Trench 47.

### **Mesolithic artefacts in the topsoil**

Mesolithic worked flints were not detected in the topsoil during the preceding trial trench evaluation, primarily because they were not looked for and because the mechanical removal of overburden deposits did not facilitate it. However, the manual excavation of topsoil deposits within Test Pits 1-4, aided by the scarcity of coarse components in the soil matrix, was successful in identifying the presence and collecting a range of artefact types that would otherwise have been overlooked.

Along with a range of later Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval artefacts that, in the absence of identified deposits and cut features of such date, can be reasonably assumed to represent a background scatter, the test pits have established the presence of high quantities of worked flints within the topsoil at these locations. The diagnostic pieces have been judged to be of predominantly Mesolithic date and it may be reasonably postulated that a similar type and density of worked and burnt flint artefacts occur across the south-central area of the site.

Although there is an apparent trend for artefacts of all types and dates, including flints, to occur in the upper portion of the topsoil, there does not appear to be a more meaningful pattern of distribution either within individual test pits or between them.

No archaeological features or *in situ* deposits were encountered within the test pits 1 - 4. The incidence of later prehistoric pottery sherds most probably derives from early Iron Age remains known to be present in the vicinities of the test pits, as established by the trial trenching.

### **Mesolithic layer 74/200**

Putative Mesolithic layer 74 was further investigated as layer 200 within the extended area to the south of Trench 47 and its existence as a tangible deposit confirmed, albeit as only a shallow and very subtly different soil from that of the underlying natural deposit. Although its full extents have not been established, it is clear that the deposit is substantially larger than previously thought. Plough scarring across its surface indicates that this is the surviving remnant of what once was

probably an even more extensive deposit. The large quantity and noticeable un-weathered condition of worked flints collected, many of them of diagnostic Mesolithic manufacture, would appear to confirm that layer 74/200 is indeed an *in situ* deposit of this date.

The discovery of four stake-holes, apparently within/below this deposit, is of importance – particularly given that only a small proportion of the overall extent of the layer was investigated. It is likely that these constitute the partial remains of one or more post-built structures that occupied this location and that further such remains may be present elsewhere within/below as yet unexcavated parts of layer 74/200 and perhaps beyond. It is posited that the layer perhaps represents the surviving base of an ancient soil horizon that was occupied by a contemporary Mesolithic settlement, the occupation of which has resulted in the deposition of flint artefacts at this location. Although no definite working floor and few microliths have been identified, the flint assemblage is not inconsistent with that of an occupation site. It is judged that the high incidence of snapped blades may be the product of microlith manufacture and mounting at this location, distinctive of the late Mesolithic (H. Martingell pers. com.).

Judging from the widespread incidence of Mesolithic flints, together with burnt flints which are suspected to be closely associated, the settlement site, or at least the depositional activity in and around it, would appear to have once been extensive. However, it is likely that the remains of much of this has since been lost to the plough leaving only the most durable of artefacts as residual and unstratified material in the modern topsoil.

## **8. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS**

Considered together with the results of the previous stage of trial trenching evaluation, those of the additional test pit work present an enhanced insight into the nature, extent and significance of the prehistoric remains on this site. A total of 207 worked flints, 63 of them of diagnostic Mesolithic manufacture, have been retrieved from the site. The retrieval of *burnt* worked Mesolithic flints from this site would suggest that at least some of the burnt unworked flints are therefore contemporaneous. However, a later (e.g. early Iron Age) date cannot be discounted for some of the inherently undiagnostic unworked burnt flint. Together, the worked and burnt flints define an area of distribution that occupies the south-central part of the site.

The importance of this, relatively modest, quantity and range of Mesolithic flints in the topsoil is difficult to determine due to the lack of comparative data. However, given the existence of an *in situ* Mesolithic deposit that contains a similar range of worked and burnt flints, this incidence

should be considered important. It is tentatively posited that this topsoil flint distribution constitutes the disturbed and reworked remnants of an occupation site and/or the extents of activity around it.

Even more important and tangible, however, is the presence and survival of a Mesolithic deposit in association with apparent structural remains. The rarity and importance of such remains has already been discussed during the assessment of the trial trenching results (Robertson 2006, 20-21) and this additional evaluation has served to emphasise the high importance of layer 74/200 and its stake-holes. Given the wider spread of unstratified Mesolithic flintwork in the vicinity of Trench 47, it is possible that other such remains occur elsewhere across the southern part of the site. Any such surviving remains are likely to be fragmentary and ephemeral and will require careful and systematic investigation in order to maximise information retrieval from this important site.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was commissioned by Atkins Heritage on behalf of Essex County Council Waste and Recycling. Thanks are due to Mr R. Sutton of Atkins Heritage for his assistance throughout the project. The project was conducted by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit. The fieldwork was carried out by the author with the assistance of C. Down, A. Turner and A. Blowers. All finds were processed by Phil McMichael and analysed by Joyce Compton, Nick Lavender and Hazel Martingell. The bulk soil samples were processed by D. Smith. Digitising of plans and digital illustration was undertaken by Andy Lewsey. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson of ECC FAU. P. Connell of ECC HEM monitored the fieldwork on behalf of the local planning authority.

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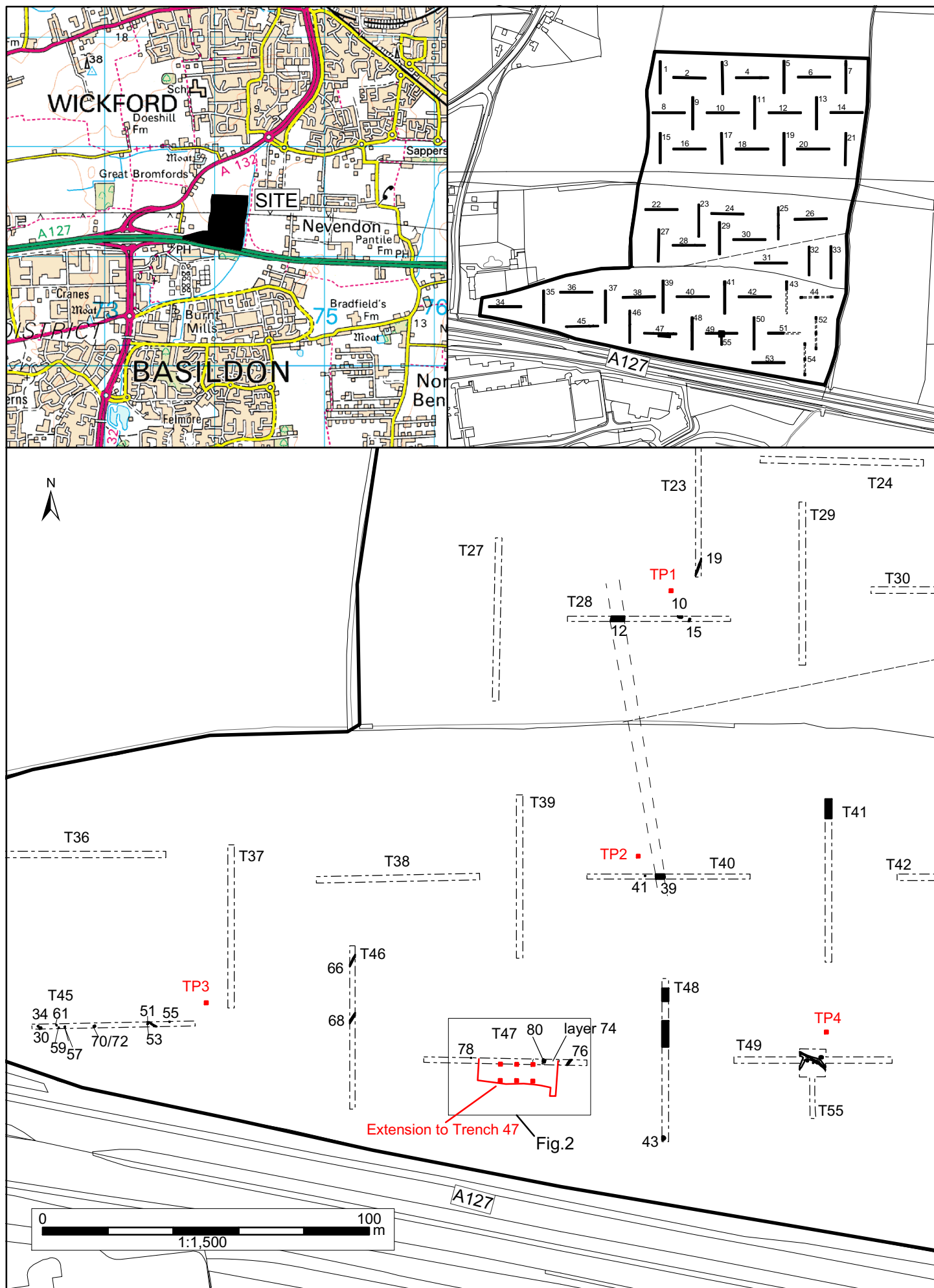


Fig.1. Location of Test Pits and extension to Trench 47

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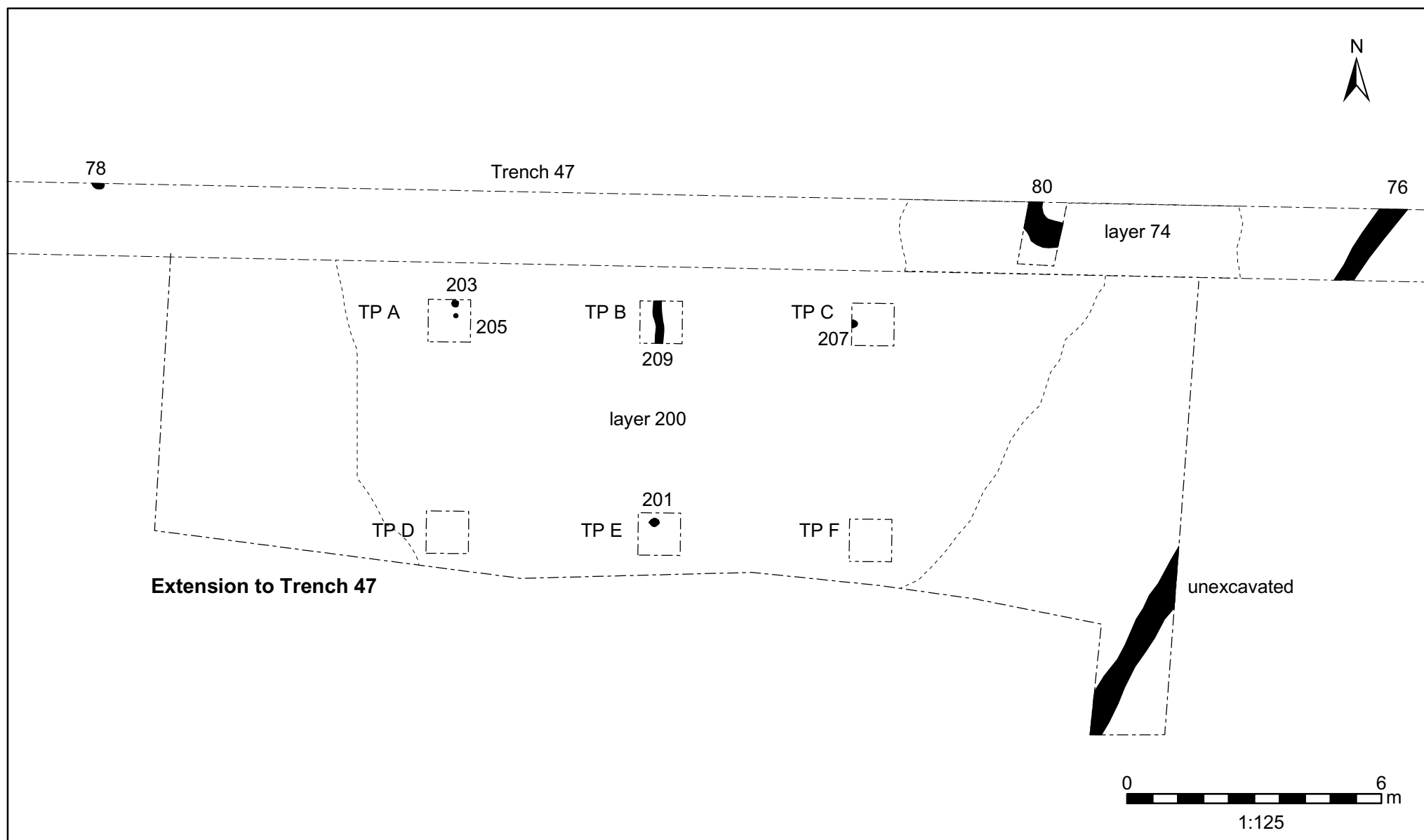


Fig.2. Trench 47 and extended excavation area

## Plates



Plate 1 – Area shot of extension to trench 47



Plate 2 – Post-holes in grid square A

## APPENDIX 1: TEST PIT SUMMARY

All dimensions are given in metres

Test Pit	Length	Width	Depth	Sample Nos	Features
1	1	1	0.4	1, 2, 7, 8	
2	1	1	0.38	3, 4, 6, 9	
3	1	1	0.39	5, 10, 14, 15	
4	1	1	0.41	11, 12, 13	
Ext Tr 47	25	10	0.32		
GS A	1	1	0.15		Yes
GS B	1	1	0.19		Yes
GS C	1	1	0.15		Yes
GS D	1	1	0.08		
GS E	1	1	0.17		Yes
GS F	1	1	0.12		

## APPENDIX 2: FEATURE LIST

All dimensions are given in metres.

Context	Type	Filled by	Length	Breadth	Depth	Location	Date
200	Layer		c.16	>10	0.08 – 0.19	Ext Tr 47	Mesolithic
201	Stake-hole	202	0.24	0.2	0.09	GS E	Mesolithic
202	Fill		0.24	0.2	0.09	GS E	Mesolithic
203	Stake-hole	204	0.15	0.15	0.08	GS A	Mesolithic
204	Fill		0.15	0.15	0.08	GS A	Mesolithic
205	Stake-hole	206	0.1	0.1	0.07	GS A	Mesolithic
206	Fill		0.1	0.1	0.07	GS A	Mesolithic
207	Stake-hole	208	0.14	0.17	0.11	GS C	Mesolithic
208	Fill		0.14	0.17	0.11	GS C	Mesolithic
209	Gully	210	1	0.16	0.04	GS B	Undated
210	Fill		1	0.16	0.04	GS B	Undated

## APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

All weights are given in grams

### Test Pit 1

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
NE	0-10cm	4	6	Worked flint Three natural flints (small piece of coal discarded)	- -
NW	0-10cm	2	6	Worked flint from sample 1 Burnt flint from sample 1	- -
		1	2	Pottery; body sherd from sample 1	Medieval
SE	0-10cm	8	12	Two worked flints Six natural flints	- -
SW	0-10cm	5	24	Worked flint Two natural flints Two burnt flints	- - -
NE	10-20cm	8	16	Two worked flints from sample 2 Six burnt flints from sample 2	- -
NW	10-20cm	3	10	Three natural flints	-
SE	10-20cm	11	58	Three worked flints Five natural flints, inc pebble Three burnt flints	- - -
		2	6	Pottery; joining body sherds, sandy grey ware	Roman
SW	10-20cm	3	12	Three natural flints	-
NE	20-30cm	4	8	Flint fragment Three burnt flints	- -
NW	20-30cm	3	6	Two natural flints Burnt flint	- -
SW	20-30cm	6	22	Worked flint Five burnt flints	- -
NE	30-40cm	1	8	Worked flint	-
NW	30-40cm	1	<1	Burnt flint	-

### Test Pit 2

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
NE	0-10cm	3	6	Worked flint from sample 3 Two burnt flints from sample 3	- -
		1	1	Animal bone fragment from sample 3	-
		1	26	Tile fragment from sample 3	Post med.
		4	4	Pottery; body sherds from sample 3	Medieval
NW	0-10cm	1	116	Brick/tile fragment, poorly mixed clay, no surfaces	Undated
		2	28	Pottery; joining rim sherds	Medieval
SE	0-10cm	4	42	Worked flint Three burnt flints	- -
		2	20	Pottery; body sherds, one glazed	Medieval
NE	10-20cm	10	44	Five worked flints Five natural flints	- -
		2	4	Slag	-
		2	22	Brick/baked clay	Post med.

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
NW	10-20cm	30	132	Five worked flints Fifteen natural flints, inc pebble Ten burnt flints	- - -
		1	1	Clinker (discarded)	-
		2	6	Tile/baked clay	-
		2	10	Pottery; body sherds	Roman
SE	10-20cm	2	6	Burnt flints from sample 4	-
		1	<1	Animal bone fragment from sample 4	-
		1	1	Tile spall from sample 4	Post med.
		1	2	Pottery; body sherd from sample 4	Medieval
		1	2	Pottery; body sherd from sample 4	Prehistoric
SW	10-20cm	9	36	Three worked flints Six natural flints	- -
		1	4	Small piece of iron	-
		2	4	Slag	-
		2	25	Tile fragment, abraded, and spall	Post med.
		4	10	Pottery; body sherds, various	Medieval
		1	6	Pottery; base sherd, grog-tempered ware, abraded	Roman
NW	20-28cm	5	16	Two worked flints Two natural flints Burnt flint	- - -
		3	14	Pottery; body sherds	Medieval
		1	4	Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware	Roman
SW	20-28cm	2	1	Worked flint from sample 6 Natural flint from sample 6	- -
		4	4	Pottery; body sherds from sample 6	Medieval
NW	28-38cm	4	2	Two worked flints from sample 9 Two burnt flints from sample 9	- -
SE	28-38cm	8	26	Four worked flints Two natural flints Two burnt flints	- - -
		4	1	Animal bone fragments	-
		1	8	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval

### Test Pit 3

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
NE	0-10cm	24	102	Two worked flints Eleven natural flints Ten burnt flints	- - -
		2	6	Clinker and a tiny piece of slag (both discarded)	-
NW	0-10cm	4	22	Burnt flints from sample 5	-
		1	<1	Coal fragment from sample 5 (discarded)	-
		1	1	Pottery; body sherd from sample 5	Medieval
SE	0-10cm	25	118	Three worked flints Seven natural flints Fifteen burnt flints	- - -
		1	1	Coke fragment (discarded)	-
SW	0-10cm	25	126	Five worked flints Three natural flints Seventeen burnt flints, inc half a pebble	- - -
NE	10-20cm	7	30	Worked flint from sample 10 Two natural flints from sample 10 Four burnt flints from sample 10	- - -
		1	12	Tile fragment, abraded, from sample 10	Post med.

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		1 1	1 4	Pottery; tiny body sherd from sample 10 Pottery; body sherd from sample 10	Medieval ?Saxon
NW	10-20cm	25	44	Five worked flints Fifteen natural flints Five burnt flints	- - -
SE	10-20cm	18	98	Four worked flints Four natural flints Ten burnt flints, inc half a pebble	- - -
SW	10-20cm	10	64	Worked flint Two natural flints Seven burnt flints	- - -
		1 1	18 1	Tile fragment Pottery; body sherd	Post med. Medieval
NE	20-29cm	3	14	Natural flint Two burnt flints	- -
		1	8	Brick fragment with mortar adhering	Post med.
NW	20-29cm	6	10	Worked flint Two natural flints Three burnt flints	- - -
SE	20-29cm	15	66	Three worked flints from sample 14 Twelve burnt flints from sample 14	- -
		1 3	4 2	Iron bradnail from sample 14 Pottery; body sherds, one glazed, from sample 14	Modern Medieval
SW	20-29cm	3	4	Worked flint Two natural flints	-
		1 1	4 6	Baked clay Brick fragment with mortar adhering	- Post med.

#### Test Pit 4

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
SW	0-10cm	4	6	Burnt flints from sample 11	-
		1	22	Stone with band of quartz, from sample 11	-
NE	10-20cm	4	14	Two worked flints Two burnt flints	-
NW	10-20cm	6	12	Burnt flints from sample 12	-
NE	20-30cm	2	4	Worked flints from sample 13	-

#### Extension to Tr 47

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
200	Layer	30	258	Twenty worked flints, inc blades and cores Ten natural flints	- -
		30	362	Burnt flints	-
		5	30	Slag, coal and clinker (All discarded)	-
		1	4	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
		2	12	Pottery; rim sherd, black-surfaced ware, abraded, and body sherd, sandy grey ware	Roman
		16	32	Pottery; body sherds	Prehistoric
202	201	1	2	Natural flint	-
GS A	-	13	40	Worked flints	-
		2	12	Natural flints	-

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		8 2	49 3	Burnt flints Pottery; body sherds, Find numbers 4 and 21	- Prehistoric
GS B	-	12 11 1 3	51 89 4 5	Worked flints Burnt flints Baked clay, Find number 22 Pottery; body sherds, Find numbers 12, 16 and 19	- - - Prehistoric
GS C	-	9 3 24	84 10 160	Worked flints Natural flints Burnt flints	- - -
GS D	-	2 2 4	2 9 38	Worked flints Natural flints Burnt flints	- - -
GS E	-	8 1 7 3	23 6 120 4	Worked flints Natural flint, Find number 2 Burnt flints Pottery; body sherds, Find number 10	- - - Prehistoric
GS F	-	2 2 2	3 7 8	Worked flints Natural flints Burnt flints	- - -

## APPENDIX 4: FLINT CATALOGUE

### Test Pit 1

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
NE	0-10cm	4	6	Three natural flints Flake, small, trimming, tertiary, brown-stained	
NW	0-10cm Sample 1	2	6	Burnt natural flint Notched flake, secondary	
SE	0-10cm	8	12	Six natural flints Blade fragment, tertiary, stained brick-brown Chipping, trimming	M
SW	0-10cm	5	24	Two natural flints Two burnt natural Retouched flake/piercer, secondary, notched on distal end of flake	M
NE	10-20cm Sample 2	8	16	Six burnt natural Blade, tertiary, 27mm, red-brown and grey flint Chipping, secondary	
NW	10-20cm	3	10	Natural flints	
SE	10-20cm	11	58	Five natural flints Three burnt natural Three waste pieces	
SW	10-20cm	3	12	Natural flints	
NE	20-30cm	4	8	Three burnt natural Fragment, small	
NW	20-30cm	3	6	Two natural flints Burnt natural	
SW	20-30cm	6	22	Five burnt natural Bladelet fragment, primary, centre section	M
NE	30-40cm	1	8	Core fragment	
NW	30-40cm	1	<1	Burnt natural	

### Test Pit 2

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
NE	0-10cm Sample 3	3	6	Two burnt natural Blade butt, tertiary, yellow ochre colour	M
SE	0-10cm	4	42	Three burnt natural Core fragment, brown cortex	
NE	10-20cm	10	44	Five natural flints Flake, primary, distal end Flake fragment, secondary, distal end Flake fragment, tertiary, distal end, area of burn Retouched converging flake; flake is side trim removal from core Fragment, secondary	
NW	10-20cm	30	132	Pebble with fossil hole Fourteen natural flints Ten burnt natural	

				Waste piece, secondary Chipping Flake, secondary Flake, butt part, secondary Fragment, tertiary, waste	
SE	10-20cm Sample 4	2	6	Burnt natural	
SW	10-20cm	9	36	Six natural flints Two flakes, waste (one secondary, one tertiary, small) Fragment, irregular, tertiary	
NW	20-28cm	5	16	Two natural flints Burnt natural Blade, tertiary, central section, fine Blade, tertiary, central section	M M
SW	20-28cm Sample 6	2	1	Natural flint Chipping, tertiary, fine	
NW	28-38cm Sample 9	4	2	Blade, secondary, 30mm Blade butt, tertiary Two burnt natural	M M
SE	28-38cm	8	26	Two natural flints Two burnt natural Bladelet, tertiary, 24mm Blade, irregular, tertiary, 32mm Flake, converging, primary Waste piece, tertiary	M M

### Test Pit 3

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
NE	0-10cm	24	102	Eleven natural flints Ten burnt natural Burin on a flake, primary, irregular Retouched split pebble, pointed	
NW	0-10cm Sample 5	4	22	Burnt natural	
SE	0-10cm	25	118	Seven natural flints Fifteen burnt natural Flake, converging, secondary Retouched fragment Flake, secondary, trimming, small, good	
SW	0-10cm	25	126	Burnt pebble Sixteen burnt natural Three natural flints Flake, secondary, slight patination Four waste pieces	
NE	10-20cm Sample 10	7	30	Two natural flints Four burnt natural Retouched fragment, tertiary (?microburin)	
NW	10-20cm	25	44	Fifteen natural flints Five burnt natural Four chippings (three tertiary, one secondary) Bladelet tip, secondary	M
SE	10-20cm	18	98	Burnt split pebble, red Four natural flints Nine burnt natural	

				Two fragments, secondary Flakelet, trimming, secondary Retouched pot-lid piece?	
SW	10-20cm	10	64	Two natural flints Seven burnt natural Flake, secondary, patinated	
NE	20-29cm	3	14	Natural flint Two burnt natural	
NW	20-29cm	6	10	Two natural flints, one patinated Three burnt natural Chipping, tertiary	
SE	20-29cm Sample 14	15	66	Scraper on end of flake, secondary Fragment, secondary Flake, secondary Twelve burnt natural	
SW	20-29cm	3	4	Two natural flints Fragment, waste	

#### Test Pit 4

Quadrant	Spit depth	Count	Weight	Description	Date
SW	0-10cm Sample 11	4	6	Burnt natural	
NE	10-20cm	4	14	'Homemade' gunflint-shaped piece, tertiary Flake, small, secondary, good Two burnt natural	
NW	10-20cm Sample 12	6	12	Burnt natural	
NE	20-30cm Sample 13	2	4	Notched flake, tertiary	

#### Extension to Tr 47

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
200	Layer	60	620	Thirty burnt natural Ten natural flints Core, blade, two opposing platforms Core, blade, single platform, cortex on half Core, two periods of working, first blade then flake removals, two opposing platforms Core fragment Waste piece, tertiary, rough Four flakes, waste (three secondary, one tertiary) Chipping, tertiary Notched blade, tertiary, 92mm, complete, notch at distal end, very good Four blade fragments, tertiary, good Edge-retouched blade-flake, tertiary, complete retouch along left edge Blade, butt part, burnt Retouched flake, secondary, retouch along left edge Notched ?flake, secondary Retouched flake, secondary	M M M      M  M  M
202	201	1	2	Natural flint	

### Extension to Tr 47: Grid square A

Find No.	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	1	<1	Chipping, tertiary	
2	1	4	Natural flint	
3	1	2	Bifacial fragment, tertiary, ?burnt	
5	1	8	Waste block, tertiary	
6	1	4	Flake, converging, cortex platform	
7	1	6	Burnt natural	
8	1	6	Burnt natural	
9	1	8	Natural pot-lid	
10	1	2	Fragment	
11	1	18	Burnt natural	
12	1	8	Burnt natural	
13	1	2	Burnt natural	
14	1	2	Burnt natural	
15	1	6	Burnt natural	
16	1	1	Burnt natural	
17	1	2	Retouched small pebble?	
18	1	8	Waste block	
19	1	4	Blade, secondary, complete, 35mm	M
20	1	1	Bladelet, proximal part, tertiary, burnt, 22mm, very fine	M
22	1	1	Fragment, burnt	
23	1	4	Notched blade, tertiary, 50mm, notch at distal end	
24	1	2	Micro burin, removing curved distal end, tertiary	M
25	1	2	Flake, tertiary, fine	

### Extension to Tr 47: Grid square B

Find No.	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	1	16	Core, blade, two opposing platforms	M
2	1	4	Burnt natural	
3	1	12	Burnt natural	
4	1	4	Flake, tertiary, thinning flake	
5	1	<1	Blade, pointed distal end, small, tertiary, orange-brown	M
6	1	6	Burnt natural	
7	1	20	Burnt natural	
8	1	8	Burnt natural	
9	1	2	Blade fragment, tertiary, burnt	M
10	1	1	Blade, butt part, tertiary	M
11	1	4	Burnt natural	
13	1	1	Blade, centre section, secondary	M
14	1	6	Burnt natural	
15	1	12	Flake, secondary, expanding distal edge	
17	1	12	Burnt natural	
18	1	4	Blade, butt part, punch struck, tertiary	M
20	1	2	Blade, irregular, tertiary	
21	1	4	Blade, distal part, secondary	M
23	1	1	Burnt natural	
24	1	4	Burnt natural	
25	1	12	Burnt natural	
26	1	1	Bladelet, tertiary, punch struck, burnt	M
27	1	4	Flake from blade core, tertiary	

**Extension to Tr 47: Grid square C**

Find No.	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	1	8	Burnt natural	
2	1	2	Retouched ?split small pebble	
3	1	2	Burnt natural	
4	1	2	Burnt natural	
5	1	8	Burnt natural	
6	1	2	Burnt natural	
7	1	2	Burnt natural	
8	1	26	Stone, burnt	
9	1	2	Burnt natural	
10	1	56	Burnt natural	
11	1	2	Natural flint	
12	1	1	Fragment, secondary	
13	1	<1	Chipping, tertiary	
14	1	2	Burnt natural	
15	1	14	Waste block, secondary	
16	1	4	Burnt natural	
17	1	8	Burnt natural	
18	1	2	Waste fragment, burnt	
19	1	2	Burnt natural	
20	1	1	Burnt natural	
21	1	2	Chipping, primary	
22	1	2	Natural flint	
23	1	2	Burnt natural	
24	1	2	Burnt natural	
25	1	6	Burnt natural	
26	1	2	Burnt natural	
27	1	1	Burnt natural	
28	1	4	Burnt natural	
29	1	4	Burnt natural	
30	1	8	Burnt natural	
31	1	6	Natural flint	
32	1	4	Burnt natural	
33	1	1	Chipping, tertiary	
34	1	64	Waste block, pointed, tertiary	
35	1	2	Burnt natural	
36	1	1	Fragment of distal end of flake, tertiary	

**Extension to Tr 47: Grid square D**

Find No.	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	1	12	Burnt natural	
2	1	1	Fragment, secondary, burnt	
3	1	10	Burnt natural	
4	1	1	Fragment, burnt	
5	1	8	Natural flint	
6	1	12	Burnt natural	
7	1	1	Natural flint	
8	1	4	Burnt natural	

**Extension to Tr 47: Grid square E**

Find No.	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	1	4	Flake, tertiary, ?axe thinning, light ochre colour	
2	1	1	Chipping, tertiary	
2	1	6	Natural flint	
3	1	6	Burnt natural	
4	1	6	Burnt natural	
5	1	2	Retouched flake, tertiary, retouch along right ventral edge	

Find No.	Count	Weight	Description	Date
6	1	2	Burnt natural	
7	1	2	Burnt natural	
8	1	4	Burnt natural	
9	1	8	Flake, tertiary, cortex platform, core tablet?	
11	1	2	Flake, broken, converging, tertiary	
12	1	10	Burnt natural	
13	1	2	Flake, tertiary, ?notch spall	
14	1	2	Flake, tertiary, ?notch spall	
15	1	90	Burnt natural cobble	
16	1	2	Fragment, tertiary	

#### Extension to Tr 47: Grid square F

Find No.	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	1	4	Burnt natural	
2	1	4	Burnt natural	
3	1	1	Chipping, tertiary, burnt	
4	1	1	Natural flint	
5	1	6	Natural flint	
6	1	2	Flake, tertiary, small	

## **APPENDIX 5: ARCHIVE INDEX**

**SITE NAME: BACR 05**

### **Index to the Archive**

File containing:

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Brief for Evaluation
- 1.2 Specification for Evaluation

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

- 2.1 Evaluation Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

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

- 3.1 1 x Context Record Register
- 3.2 Original Context Records 200 to 210
- 3.3 4 x Trench Sheets
- 3.4 1 x Plans Register
- 3.5 1 x Sections Register
- 3.6 15 x Sample Sheets
- 3.7 1 x Levels Register
- 3.10 2 x Photographic Register
- 3.11 Site Photographic Record

#### **Not in Files:**

Site Drawings – 2 A1-size Permatrace plan sheets  
5 A5-size Permatrace plan sheets  
1 box of finds

## APPENDIX 6: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> Courtauld Road Integrated Waste Management Facility, Land North of A127, Nevendon	
<b>Parish:</b> Nevendon	<b>District:</b> Basildon
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 74089 91330	<b>Site Code:</b> BACR 05
<b>Type of Work:</b> Evaluation by Test Pit	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> A Robertson ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Date of Work:</b> 27th March until 31st March 2006	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> Development area c.18ha Test Pits and stripped area: = 254 <sup>2</sup> m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Southend Museum	<b>Funding Source:</b> Essex County Council Waste and Recycling
<b>Further Work Anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHER Nos:</b> 7064; 9016; 7684; 7527; 7652; 7504; 7545
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH Summary	
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Mesolithic	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>Additional archaeological evaluation was carried out on the site of a proposed flood washland on land to the north of the A127 at Nevendon, near Basildon, in order to further elucidate the results of a trenching evaluation carried out in November and December 2005.</p> <p>Four test pits were excavated. Four measuring 1m x 1m were excavated by hand through topsoil to investigate the incidence of Mesolithic artefacts in the topsoil. A further area, measuring 10m x 25m, was excavated over the remains of a suspected Mesolithic working floor first identified during the trenching evaluation.</p> <p>The hand-dug test pits revealed an increased incidence of worked Mesolithic flints in the topsoil, as well as burnt flint and prehistoric and medieval pottery. All the pottery recovered was abraded but was consistent in date to that recovered from features during the trial trenching evaluation.</p> <p>The stripped area confirmed the existence of at least one Mesolithic deposit and revealed four Stake-holes sealed by it. These results confirm the findings of the previous evaluation, in that tangible Mesolithic remains survive within the site which is potentially of national importance. The distribution of the Mesolithic flints further suggests that the identifiable Mesolithic activity is confined to the south-central and south-western parts of the site.</p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> Robertson, A. 2006 <i>Courtauld Road, Integrated waste management facility land north of A127, Nevendon, Essex. Archaeological evaluation by Trial trenching.</i> ECC FAU Client Report 1563	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> A. Robertson (ECC FAU)	<b>Date of Summary:</b> April 2006