

**74 EAST STREET
COGGESHALL
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

SEPTEMBER 2006

**74 EAST STREET
COGGESHALL
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**

Prepared By: Matthew Pocock Position: Project Officer	Signature: Date:
Checked by: Patrick Allen Position: Project Manager	Signature: Date:
Approved By: Mark Atkinson Position: Unit Manager	Signature: Date:

Document Ref:	1516rep.doc
Report Issue Date:	27 September 2006
Circulation:	St Giles Property Developments Ltd
	ECC Historic Environment Management
	Essex Historic Environment Record
	Archive (x 2)

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
Tel: 01376 331470
Fax: 01376 331428

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

CONTENTS

	Page
Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	3
2.0 Background	3
3.0 Aims and Objectives	5
4.0 Methods	5
5.0 Results	6
6.0 Finds and Environmental Material	9
7.0 Conclusions	13
8.0 Assessment of Results	14
Acknowledgements	15
Bibliography	16

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Fieldwork Data	17
Appendix 2: Finds Data	18
Appendix 3: Contents of Archive	22
Appendix 4: EHER Summary	23

FIGURES

1. Location Plan (1:500)	24
2. Trenches 5 and 6 (1:100)	25
3. Sections (1:20)	25
4. Map of 1639, with the site outline overlaid	26

**74 EAST STREET
COGGESHALL, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**

SUMMARY

Client: St Giles Property Developments Ltd

NGR: TL 854 226

Planning Application No: BTE/2581/04

Site Code: CG16

Project No: 1516

Date of Fieldwork: 24-27 July 2006

Oasis Accession Number: essexcou1-16947

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on behalf St Giles Property Developments Ltd under a planning condition prior to a residential development at 74 East Street, Coggeshall. The site was thought to have archaeological potential as it lies on the main Roman and medieval road running through Coggeshall (the old A120), near an area of Roman settlement and on the eastern fringe of the medieval town.

The evaluation trenches showed that the survival of archaeological features and deposits across the development area was generally poor, but that significant archaeological remains survived in a localised area alongside East Street, on the eastern side of the stream that crosses the site. The earliest remains were medieval, dating to the 12th to 13th centuries, and consisted of a ditch running parallel to the street, and two pits. The site must have been quite damp in the medieval period as flood silts were recorded to the east of the stream, and a pond probably infilled in the 15th to 16th centuries was recorded in the south-east of the site. Analysis of plant remains in soil samples taken from these features confirms the generally damp conditions, and that the pond was filled with water at least seasonally. Small amounts of hearth debris and charred cereal in the medieval features provide evidence of occupation nearby.

The medieval features at the street frontage were truncated by ground clearance and levelling dated to the later 14th to 16th centuries, related to the construction of a house on

East Street depicted on Samuel Parsons' map of 1639, located immediately to the west of the modern No. 74. Although no physical evidence of this house was found, a brick-lined well constructed in the 16th to early 17th centuries, and infilled in the 17th century or later, would have been contemporary with it. The well and the general area of the house were sealed by a layer of post-medieval brick and tile debris. Cartographic evidence suggests that the house had been demolished by the 19th century, in contrast to the 16th/17th-century house at No. 72 immediately to the west, which still survives. An area of rough yard surfacing at the site's southern limit is dated to the late 16th to 17th centuries, but also contained a range of residual late medieval artefacts.

Although the evaluation established that medieval remains survive alongside East Street, they were not well preserved and it is considered that groundworks for the construction of the new houses are unlikely to result in extensive disturbance of significant archaeological deposits. The late medieval and post-medieval levelling and other features, notably the brick-lined well, tie in closely with the evidence on the 1639 map for a house on East Street in the approximate position of No. 74, but again the post-medieval remains were not well preserved. It is considered that the evaluation trenching has provided sufficient mitigation of the disturbance of archaeological remains by the housing development.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

The Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of St Giles Property Developments Ltd in relation to a planning application (BTE/2581/04) for construction of six new houses, garages and an access road on land adjacent to 74 East Street, Coggeshall, Essex. The site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area at the eastern edge of the medieval town, and an archaeological evaluation was required by Braintree District Council in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (PPG16), following specialist advice from the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM).

The archaeological evaluation was carried out according to a brief produced by ECC HEM (2006) and the written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2006).

1.2 Report and Archive

Copies of this report will be supplied to St Giles Property Developments Ltd, ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). A version will be uploaded to the Online Access Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The project archive, including two copies of the report, will be deposited at Braintree museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

The development site covers c. 0.3ha and is situated on the south side of East Street on the line of the old A120, to the west of No. 74 (now demolished) and to the rear of Nos 68, 70 and 72 (Fig. 1; TL 8549 2262). The site has previously been cleared of buildings and an unknown depth of topsoil. Recently the site has become overgrown with weeds and shrubs, and spoil heaps had been left in its centre and north-east corner. Modern ground level is at around 25m OD over the rear of the site, rising to 26m OD at the East Street frontage.

The River Blackwater and its floodplain lie immediately to the south of the site, and a small stream crosses its eastern end, flowing southwards towards the river. The drift geology comprises Boulder Clay, although deposits of brickearth, gravels and alluvium are present close to the river.

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises information held in the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), English Heritage's Listed Building Online Archive Record (<http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>), on historic maps, and in published reports.

East Street follows the line of Stane Street, the former Roman road from Colchester to Bishop's Stortford and Braughing. Excavations on the eastern edge of the town have revealed part of a Roman farm or villa complex, containing at least one stone and one timber building set within a grid of paddocks and fields (Clarke 1988; Isserlin 1995).

In the Late Saxon and early medieval periods Coggeshall was probably centred on the parish church of St Peter-ad-Vincula, on the higher ground above the valley floor 400m north of the site (Medlycott 1998). As the medieval period progressed, the focus of settlement moved down-slope to the area around the market place, just north of Stane Street. The remains of Coggeshall Abbey founded in c. 1142 (EHER 8650), lie on the opposite side of the river, 300m south of the development area.

Archaeological investigation in advance of housing development at Parklands to the north of the development area found medieval and post-medieval pits and post-holes, and indirect evidence of Roman settlement in the form of residual finds (EHER 8730, 8370).

Nos 68 and 72 East Street (EHER 25129, 25128), located between the street and the western arm of the development area, are both grade-two listed buildings. No. 72 East Street (LBN 116150) is a mid-16th/17th-century two-storey timber-framed house with three bays, which was altered in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was formerly known as the Star Inn and, in 1737, the Swan and Star. Coggeshall trade directories dating back to 1823 make no mention of the public house so it is likely that by this time it had become residential. No. 68 East Street (LBN 116149) is an 18th/early 19th-century two-storey timber-framed house, again with several later extensions and alterations.

Cartographic evidence predating the Ordnance Survey comprises two maps, both of which indicate that the site area was formerly tithe land of the Abbey. The earliest, drawn by Samuel Parsons in 1639, is entitled *The Plott of certaine lands belonging to the Abbye of Coggeshall in the Countie of Essex being in the possessions of Robert Offrey Esq* (Fig. 4). Most striking is the accuracy with which the roads, boundaries and landmarks on the 1639 map match the modern Ordnance Survey. Assuming this accuracy also extends to the position of roadside properties then it appears that in 1639 several houses stood along the East Street frontage of the development area. The map shows a house immediately to the

west of the modern No. 74, parallel to the street with a south wing at its east end. Houses are also shown in the positions of Nos 68, 70 and 72, as well as a ditch which separated the area of the houses from the water meadows beside the river. In a subsequent historic map of 1853 (not illustrated) the site area was known as *Popes Leez or Horse Pasture*. By 1853 the house shown on the 1639 map adjacent to the modern No. 74 no longer existed, although houses are shown in the positions of Nos 68-72.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

Generally, the aim of the work was to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area and interpret them in association with the previously excavated evidence of the Roman, medieval and post-medieval town.

3.2 Objectives

The research objectives for the project were undertaken with reference to those outlined in the regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). Specific research objectives were to:

- Investigate any evidence for Roman road-side development or further evidence of the Roman villa/farm complex
- Investigate medieval and post-medieval road-side development to understand the extent and development of the town in these periods.

4.0 METHODS

The investigation comprised excavation of six trenches varying between 10m and 25m long by 1.8m wide, representing a 10% sample of the development area as required in the archaeological brief (Fig.1). Trenches 1, 2 and 3 were located on the western side of the north-south stream that divided the site, and trenches 4, 5 and 6 to the east. As far as possible the trench layout targeted the footprint of the proposed houses and provided systematic coverage of the site. Of two proposed trenches at the street frontage, one L-shaped the other T-shaped, only the latter was excavated (Fig. 1, trenches 5 and 6). The area to the west of the stream, adjacent to the site entrance, was occupied by areas of concrete slab, and contained stock-pilings of concrete, brick rubble and demolition debris of the previous buildings, and consequently this area could not be investigated.

All fieldwork methods and recording conformed to the codes of practice and guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) and adhered to regional guidelines (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU recording and excavation methods were used.

Topsoil, subsoil and other overburden was stripped using a JCB fitted with a toothless bucket, under the supervision of an archaeologist. All surfaces were sufficiently cleaned to ensure that any features present were visible and spoil heaps were examined for archaeological material. Archaeological features and deposits were excavated using hand tools and finds were collected and bagged by context. The trench locations were surveyed through measurement to site boundaries recorded on Ordnance Survey, and levels were taken relative to Ordnance Datum. Features and deposits were recorded using proforma site recording sheets. Plans and sections were drawn at 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. A full photographic record was maintained throughout the investigation.

Bulk soil samples were taken for assessment of environmental remains from the following contexts: the disturbed natural deposit 24 in the base of trench 6; the fills of medieval ditch 20 and pit 22; and the earliest recorded fill of late medieval pond 1.

5.0 RESULTS

The following description of fieldwork results is supplemented by further information on the excavated features and deposits in Appendix 1.

The excavation of the evaluation trenches (Fig. 1) exposed the surface of the natural brown/yellow silty clay at between 23.9 and 24.3m OD over most of the site, rising to 24.7-25.1m OD in the area of trenches 5 and 6 in the north-east, nearest East Street. In trenches 1-4 the natural clay and features overlying it or cut into it were covered by a yellow-brown clay-silt subsoil 0.20-0.35m deep, and a brown-grey sandy silt topsoil 0.20-0.30m deep, making an overburden varying between 0.40m and 0.65m across the site. The subsoil may in part have formed through natural reworking of the underlying deposits, but it contained varying concentrations of post-medieval and modern building debris and in many areas probably represents recent levelling of the site. The sequence in trenches 5 and 6 near the East Street frontage was more complex, with the topsoil and subsoil overlying a sequence of levelling and demolition layers up to 0.9m thick overall, as well as features sealed at depth. There has clearly been a greater build-up of ground levels at the street frontage, reflected in the higher modern ground level at that location.

5.1 Trenches 1-3 (Fig. 1)

The only feature of archaeological significance in trenches 1-3 was a compacted surface (5) recorded in the western half of trench 3 and very patchily in trench 2. The surface overlay natural and was sealed by the subsoil, and was a mid-yellow/brown sandy clay-silt with patches of gravel, 35mm thick. This surface incorporated a wide range of building debris and domestic rubbish, including pottery, roof-tile, animal bone, a worked bone knife-handle, iron nails and a horseshoe, bottle glass, and window glass and lead comes. This material dates from the late medieval period and the 16th to 17th centuries (a sherd of 19th-century flowerpot is considered to be intrusive). The wide date-range suggests an element of residuality in the finds, although it is likely that the surface represents a yard area where material was continually being deposited over a long period to make it good.

In trench 1 a modern ceramic land drain and a modern post-hole containing blue-on-white glazed pottery cut the natural, and other modern drains were recorded in trench 3.

5.2 Trench 4 (Fig. 1)

The western part of a pond (1) was recorded in trench 4, cut into the natural and sealed by the subsoil. The pond was not bottomed but was at least 1m deep, and although its full extent could not be established it must have been at least 10m wide. A slot was excavated by machine through the fills of the pond to the water table, and a bulk soil sample was taken for assessment of possible environmental evidence. The lowest fill recorded was a dark brown/black silty clay containing fragments of waterlogged timber, charred wood and decomposed organic matter (6), consistent with a deposit formed by standing water. This was confirmed by material recovered from the soil sample, in particular common sedge nutlets, suggesting the pond was water-filled at least seasonally (see 6.9 Environmental Material, sample 1). The pond's upper fills were successive dark brown and brown/yellow silty clays (2, 3 and 4). The lower fill 6 contained two sherds of medieval pottery, while the date of the pond's infilling is suggested by a few sherds of pottery dating to the 15th to 16th centuries, and post-medieval roof-tile, in its upper fills.

5.3 Trench 5 (Figs 2-3)

Trench 5 was set back 3m from East Street and ran parallel to it, constituting one arm of a T-shaped trench whose other arm was formed by trench 6. Excavation exposed the natural clay-silt 1.4m below the modern ground surface. At the western end of the trench the natural surface sloped gradually down to the west and was filled with a 0.3m-thick deposit of grey clay-silt (9), representing a flood deposit from the stream that runs 5m further west. Sealing this was a 0.3m-thick layer of disturbed natural clay-silt (12) containing a sherd of pottery dating to the later 14th to 16th centuries. This was sealed in its turn by a grey-brown silt-clay

levelling layer (11) up to 0.75m thick, which contained small amounts of pottery dating to the 14th to 16th centuries and medieval or post-medieval roof-tile. Levelling 11 was overlain by topsoil, from which was cut a modern foundation trench (7), 0.8m wide and 1.7m deep.

5.4 Trench 6 (Figs 2-3)

Trench 6 was excavated at right angles to trench 5, and extended for up to 15m back from the East Street frontage. The natural clay-silt was again exposed at a depth of 1.4m below modern ground level. Overlying the natural was a thin layer of grey-mottled dark yellowish brown silt-sand (24), broadly equivalent to layer 12 in trench 5, representing disturbed natural, probably a result of flooding. This deposit contained a small amount of medieval pottery dating to between the 12th and 16th centuries.

At the northern end of trench 6 a shallow ditch (20), 1.2m wide and 0.26m deep, cut the disturbed natural. The ditch ran parallel to the East Street frontage, but was set back 5m from it. It cut a shallow pit (18) to its north and a second shallow pit (22) was cut into its southern edge. As seen in section (Fig. 3) these features appear to have been truncated. Both ditch 20 and pit 22 contained a few sherds of medieval pottery dating to the 12th to 13th centuries. Bulk soils samples were taken from disturbed natural layer 24, and the fills of ditch 20 and pit 22 for environmental assessment (see 6.9 Environmental Material, samples 2-4).

These early features were sealed by a 0.6m-thick levelling layer (11), the same as the made ground recorded in trench 5. Towards the southern limit of the trench a brick-lined well cut levelling 11. The well would have been circular, 0.8m in diameter (only its western half lay in the trench), and was recorded to a depth of 0.8m (the full depth and primary fills of the well were not exposed). It was constructed of unmortared red-orange unfroged bricks dated to the 16th to early 17th centuries, within a wider construction cut (14) packed with yellow-grey silty clay with brick fragments (15) (Fig. 3). The well was infilled with brick and tile rubble (17) which contained a sherd of pottery dated to the late 16th/17th century, or possibly later. The infilled well was sealed by deposits of clay containing brick and tile rubble (25, 26, 27 and 28). The upper part of levelling layer 11 was also recorded as containing brick and tile fragments (25) and the demolition debris overlying the well appears to have extended across the whole of trench 6. This was sealed by subsoil and topsoil.

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL

by Joyce Compton

6.1 Introduction

Small groups of finds were recovered from fourteen contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details can be found in Appendix 2. The assemblage is dominated by pottery and roof-tile fragments. The finds are described by category below.

6.2 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A total of 128 sherds weighing 1.5kg was excavated from ten contexts. The earliest pottery comes from pit 22, comprising a sherd of early medieval ware and two sherds of shell-and-sand-tempered ware decorated with rows of incised wavy lines, datable to the 12th or early 13th centuries. Ditch 20 produced pottery of a similar date, comprising sherds of early medieval ware borderline with medieval coarse ware, one decorated with a thumb applied strip. Pottery dating to the 13th to 14th centuries was found (with later material) in layer 11, comprising two examples of slip-decorated and glazed medieval sandy orange ware and a medieval coarse ware cooking pot fragment with an unusual flat-topped rim. Very small amounts of early medieval ware and medieval coarse ware also occur residually in surface 5, subsoil 12 and 24, and in the pond 1. At least one sherd of medieval coarse ware may be a Heddingham product.

A late medieval sandy orange ware beaded jar rim, from subsoil 12, provides a later 14th-to-16th-century date for this layer. Much late sandy orange ware occurs, but most comes from layers also containing post-medieval pottery. Featured sandy orange ware comprises the bunghole from a cistern, a second jar rim, and the shoulder of a jug showing a thin external glaze and decorated with horizontal grooves. A couple of unglazed buff ware sherds are probably also of late medieval date. Tudor red earthenware is also very much in evidence, and a thick-walled sherd from a large jug or cistern provides a later 15th-to-16th-century date for the infill of pond 1. The post-medieval period is represented by sherds of post-medieval red earthenware, with 17th-century Frechen stoneware and Metropolitan slipware sherds in surface 5.

6.3 Brick and tile

Sample bricks were collected from the lining of well 16; these were orange-red in colour, unfrogged, and measured 235 x 100 x 55mm. In addition, part of a medieval Coggeshall “great” brick was recovered from modern foundation trench 7, and quantities of roof tile, weighing 2370g, were recorded in six contexts. The brick and tile has been examined by Pat Ryan, who has provided a Tudor or early 17th-century date for the sample bricks, and a late 12th/early 13th-century date for the Coggeshall brick fragment.

The roof tiles are too fragmentary for close dating, but are more likely to be late medieval or post-medieval, rather than earlier. None of the tile appears to be later post-medieval or modern, however.

6.4 Glass

Three sherds of glass were recovered from surface 5. Two are decayed window quarries and could be medieval or late medieval. The third is dark-green with surface weathering and derives from a post-medieval bottle.

6.5 Metalwork

Surface 5 produced a complete iron horseshoe, unfortunately not closely datable, and nine iron nails. A small piece of lead window came was also recovered. This may be associated with the window glass (above) and thus could be medieval or late medieval, but window comes such as this were used into the post-medieval period.

6.6 Worked bone

Part of a bone plate from the handle of a scale-tang knife, as Margeson (1993, fig.95, no.841) also came from surface 5. The handle has one iron rivet *in situ*, and the remains of a second. This type of knife handle was probably introduced during the 14th century (Cowgill *et al.* 1987, 26; Margeson 1993, 128), but was more popular during the late medieval period. Similar bone scales for handles were produced by the Thaxted cutlery industry during the 15th and 16th centuries (Andrews 1989, 118).

6.7 Animal bone

Small amounts of animal bone, weighing a total of 665g, were recovered from eight contexts, although four of these represent small bones and fragments retrieved from the soil samples. Animals present were identified, where possible, using Schmid (1972) although most of the assemblage comprises unidentifiable fragments. The major food animals, cattle, sheep/goat

and pig, were all recorded. Sawn and chopped bones were also noted, indicating that most of the assemblage represents discarded food waste.

6.8 Shell

Five contexts, all fills of pond 1 except for surface 5, produced oyster shell, amounting to twelve valves weighing 88g. Layer 5 also contained a single mussel shell (2g). All of the oyster shells mainly comprise small examples and come from late medieval or post-medieval contexts.

6.9 Environmental material by Val Fryer

Bulk soil samples were taken from four contexts for the purposes of environmental analysis. Full details can be found in Appendix 2. All samples were processed by wet-sieving with flotation using a 0.5mm mesh and collecting the flotation fraction (flot) on a 0.5mm sieve. The residues were then dried and separated into coarse and fine fractions using 2mm and 4mm sieves. The material in the coarse fraction (>4mm) was sorted by eye and artefacts and environmental material extracted and bagged separately. The fine fractions were saved but not sorted. The flots were also dried and bagged by context. Retrieved artefacts and charcoal were recorded by count and weight, where possible, and these details added to the quantification table in Appendix 2.

The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 2. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). Both charred and waterlogged/de-watered plant remains were recorded. Cereal grains, seeds of common weeds and wetland plants and tree/shrub macrofossils are present at a low to moderate density in all four samples. Preservation is reasonably good, although a proportion of the grains are puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded, with wheat being predominant. Chaff is exceedingly rare, comprising two bread wheat (*T. aestivum/compactum*) type rachis nodes within sample 1 (fill 6 of pond 1). Indeterminate large pulse (Fabaceae) seeds are present in samples 1 and 2 (fill 21 of ditch 20). Weed seeds are rare, with most being preserved in a waterlogged/de-watered state. Most are of common cereal crop contaminants, although ruderal weeds, most particularly stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), are also present. Sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlets are common within the sample from the pond, possibly indicating that this feature was at least seasonally water-filled. Tree/shrub macrofossils are also present within the pond sample, but as most are charred,

they are probably present as dietary refuse. Charcoal fragments are present throughout, along with pieces of waterlogged/de-watered root/stem. Other plant remains and material types are rare.

Much of the charred material recorded would appear to be derived from a low density of hearth waste including some food remains, the latter possibly being accidentally spilled during culinary preparation. Cereals would appear to have been of importance, although wild fruits including hazel (*Corylus avellana*) and sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) are also present. Although the charred material within the pond feature may have been deliberately dumped as a means of disposal, the remaining assemblages are very small and are almost certainly derived from small quantities of scattered or wind-blown burnt refuse, which were accidentally incorporated within the features' fills. Well-preserved charred plant macrofossil assemblages are present within the archaeological deposits, although most would appear to survive within secondary contexts.

6.10 Waterlogged timber

Fill 6 of pond 1 produced three fragments of waterlogged timber. These represent the pointed base of a post, all possibly parts of the same item. Tool marks are evident on all of the pieces. The fill has been dated to the late medieval period by pottery recovered from the soil sample.

6.11 Finds Discussion

Most of the finds groups are small, and are medieval or late medieval/early post-medieval in date. Most of the medieval finds appear to be residual, however, except for those from, perhaps, disturbed natural layer 12/24, and the fills of pond 1, ditch 20 and pit 22. Most of the pottery is ordinary in character, and there are surprisingly few rim sherds. The average sherd weight is low, at 11.9g, and that for the pottery from surface 5 is even lower at 6.7g. The fragmentation suggests that much of the pottery is not in its original place of deposition. Surface 5 produced a range and variety of finds, including a quarter of the pottery assemblage, indicating an accumulation of material over time with probable dumping of rubbish from elsewhere. The window glass, for instance, may have derived from renovation of a nearby building, probably one of Coggeshall's churches. The fragment of Coggeshall brick in foundation trench 7 may well have derived from Coggeshall Abbey itself. The measurements of the sample bricks indicate a Tudor or early 17th-century date for the construction of the well.

6.12 Potential for Further Work

Further work on any of the material will not be required, since finds quantities are relatively small. In addition, individual aspects of the assemblage are interesting with respect to the overall development of Coggeshall, rather than to the site itself.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation trenches identified a small group of medieval features in trench 6 at the East Street frontage, in the north-east of the development area, comprising a ditch parallel to the street and two small pits, dated to the 12th to 13th centuries. Unfortunately, these features were truncated by later ground clearance and levelling of the frontage area. The only other medieval feature on the site is a pond in trench 4 in the south-east, whose backfill is tentatively dated to the 15th to 16th centuries. The site appears to have been quite damp in the medieval period, as flood silts relating to the stream that crosses the eastern part of the site were recorded in trench 5, and a disturbed natural layer in trenches 5 and 6 was most likely formed by flooding.

Assessment of plant remains in soil samples recovered from medieval deposits confirms the site's generally damp habitat, which is hardly surprising given its location immediately above the floodplain of the River Blackwater. Low levels of hearth debris, charred cereal and other food remains recovered from the samples also suggests occupation at some point along the East Street frontage in the medieval period. As the environmental material came from secondary contexts, however, it provides only a general indication of medieval conditions and diet in the area.

A major levelling-up in trenches 5 and 6 at the street frontage is dated to between the later 14th and 16th centuries. This levelling was only seen near the street and would have been related to the construction of a house depicted on Samuel Parsons' map of 1639 in a location immediately to the west of the modern No. 74 (Fig. 4). No physical evidence of this house was found, although a brick-lined well to the rear of the frontage area would have been contemporary with it. The construction of the well is dated by its bricks to the 16th to early 17th centuries, and its rubble fill contained pottery dated to the late 16th to 17th centuries or later. A thick layer of post-medieval building debris that sealed the well and extended across the whole area of trenches 5 and 6 was probably related to the demolition of the house. Cartographic evidence shows that the house had been demolished by the mid-19th century and the site area had been given over to pasture.

The only other archaeological evidence is a roughly gravelled yard surface in trench 3 in the extreme south of the site. This is dated to the later 16th to 17th centuries, although it also contained residual late medieval pottery and other artefacts, including a bone knife-handle. This surface may have been long-lived through material continually being deposited over a long period of time to make it good. Whatever its interpretation, the residual finds reflect a general level of late medieval activity alongside East Street.

The 1639 map (Fig. 4) shows that the predecessor of No. 74 East Street was the last house on the south side of the main road, at the eastern limit of Coggeshall, with fields beyond. There was a gap at the street frontage between the house and No. 72 to the west, which was also represented on the 1639 map and survives to the modern day. This gap between houses was still apparent in the modern layout before demolition, with No. 74 located to the east of the site, and the main site frontage occupied by outbuildings and the site entrance.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The archaeological trial-trenching evaluation identified medieval and post-medieval remains at the eastern limit of Coggeshall, dating to between the 12th/13th and 16th/17th centuries, but no evidence was found of the Roman settlement previously excavated in the area to the north-west of the site. The most significant archaeological deposits were located in the north-east of the site, alongside the East Street frontage, but the archaeological potential of the remainder of the site was limited.

The medieval ditch and pits at the street frontage and the related environmental evidence indicate occupation dating to the 12th to 13th centuries along the main road (East Street) some distance from the medieval town centre. The site area would have been a marginal location in the medieval period, especially given the evidence for flooding. Archaeological and cartographic evidence suggest that the ground level was raised along the East Street frontage between the late 14th and 16th centuries, and that by 1639 a house stood immediately to the west of the modern No. 74, although the only physical evidence of it was a spread of demolition debris and a brick-lined well to its rear. However, the location of this house, and the surviving 16th/17th-century house at No. 72 to the west, confirm that ribbon development extended along the main road this far east of the town centre in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Although the archaeological evidence is of some topographical significance, the preservation of archaeological deposits within the development area was generally poor. The medieval features were present only at the street frontage, and these were truncated by the

subsequent levelling there. Late medieval and post-medieval remains survived mainly as deep features such as the pond and the well, and more superficial remains appear to have been disturbed, with the exception of the yard surface at the southern limit of the site. Understanding of the post-medieval development of the site is largely dependent on relating the archaeological evidence to the 1639 map, rather than on well-preserved stratigraphy. The environmental assessment established the potential for survival of plant macrofossils in this part of Coggeshall, especially in damp or waterlogged conditions, but most of the material was wind-blown or deposited in secondary contexts. While this information gives a general indication of environmental conditions and diet in the medieval period, it is not necessarily site-specific.

Overall, the trial-trenching evaluation has established the archaeological character of the site, and it is considered that further archaeological investigation would not add significantly to understanding of it. The foundations for the new houses are unlikely to cause significant disturbance to archaeological deposits, either because they are not present or have already been disturbed. Even at the East Street frontage, where there are sealed medieval deposits, these were not extensive and had been truncated in antiquity, and the house foundations are unlikely to have more than a slight adverse impact on them.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit thanks St Giles Property Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the archaeological evaluation. Dave Smith and Adrian Turner carried out the fieldwork under the supervision of Matthew Pocock. The finds were processed by Phil McMichael, and the finds and environmental report was prepared by Joyce Compton, with Helen Walker, Val Fryer and Pat Ryan. The main report was written by Matthew Pocock, with the digital illustrations produced by Andrew Lewsey, and editing by Patrick Allen. The project was initially managed by Mark Atkinson and latterly by Patrick Allen. Vanessa Clarke of the ECC HEM monitored the investigation on behalf of the local planning authority. Particular thanks are also due to Shirley Ratcliffe, volunteer curator at Coggeshall Museum.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Andrews, D. 1989 'A late medieval cutlery manufacturing site at Weaverhead Lane, Thaxted', *Essex Archaeol. Hist.* **20**, 110-19
- Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8
- Beaumont, G.F. 1890 *A History of Coggeshall*
- Clarke, C.P. 1988 'Roman Coggeshall: excavations 1984-85', *Essex Archaeol. Hist.* **19**, 47-90
- Cowgill, J., de Neergaard, M. and Griffiths N. 1987 *Knives and Scabbards: Medieval Finds from Excavations in London: 1* (London)
- ECC FAU 2006 *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial-trenching and potential excavation, 74 East Street, Coggeshall, Essex*. ECC FAU, July 2006
- ECC HEM 2006 *Archaeological trial-trenching and potential excavation at 74 East Street, Coggeshall*. ECC HEM, June 2005
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper **14**
- IFA 1999 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (revised), Institute of Field Archaeologists
- Isserlin, R.M.J. 1995 'Roman Coggeshall II: excavations at 'The Lawns', 1989-93', *Essex Archaeol. Hist.* **26**, 82-104
- Margeson, S. 1993 *Norwich Households*, E. Anglian Archaeol. **58**
- Medlycott, M. 1998 *Coggeshall: Historic Towns Project Assessment Report*. Essex County Council Planning, Archaeology Section
- Schmid, E. 1972 *Atlas of Animal Bones: For Prehistorians, Archaeologists and Quaternary Geologists* (Amsterdam, London, New York)
- Stace, C. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition (Cambridge University Press)

APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

Context No.	Trench	Description	Thickness/ Depth (m)	Date
1	Tr. 4	Pond, large sub-circular (full extent unknown)	1.0	Late med/ 16th C
2	Tr. 4	Upper fill of pond 1 – mid to dark brown silt	0.4	15th/16th C
3	Tr. 4	Fill of pond 1 – dark brown silty clay	0.37	Late medieval?
4	Tr. 4	Fill of pond 1 – dull, yellow/brown silty clay	0.46	Late medieval?
5	Tr. 3	Surface – compacted gravel/occupation debris	< 0.04	Late medieval- 16th/17th C
6	Tr. 4	Lower fill of pond 1 – dark blue black clay	0.67	Late medieval?
7	Tr. 5	Modern foundation trench	1.7	Modern
8	Tr. 5	Fill of found. trench 7 – series of modern in-fills	1.7	Modern
9	Tr. 5	Natural alluvial silts	0.3	Medieval?
10	Tr. 5	Topsoil – mid grey/brown silty clay	0.3	Modern
11	Tr. 5	Build-up- mid to light grey silty clay	0.8	Late 14th-16th C
12	Tr. 5	Disturbed natural - mid brown/yellow/grey clay	0.3	Late 14th-16th C
13	Tr. 6	Natural – yellow/brown clay	n/a	
14	Tr. 6	Well 16 construction cut	>1.7	16th/early 17th C
15	Tr. 6	Fill of cut 14 – yellow grey silty clay	>0.72	16th/early 17th C
16	Tr. 6	Well,brick lining, unmortared	>1.7	16th/early 17th C
17	Tr. 6	Fill of well 16 – brown/grey rubble backfill	>0.9	Late 16th/17th C or later
18	Tr. 6	Pit, sub-circular, shallow	0.12	Early medieval?
19	Tr. 6	Fill of pit 18 – greenish brown silty sand	0.12	Early medieval?
20	Tr. 6	Ditch aligned E-W, shallow	0.26	12th/13th C
21	Tr. 6	Fill of ditch 20 – dark yellowish brown silty sand	0.26	12th/13th C
22	Tr. 6	Pit, sub-circular, shallow	0.26	12th/13th C
23	Tr. 6	Fill of pit 22 – greenish brown silty sand	0.26	12th/13th C
24	Tr. 6	Disturbed or redeposited natural	0.2 - 0.3	Late medieval?
25	Tr. 6	Fill of demolition cut 29 – yellow grey clay silt	>0.6	Post-medieval
26	Tr. 6	Fill of well cut 14 – yellow clay	0.38	16th/early 17th C
27	Tr. 6	Fill of well cut 14 – yellow clay	0.19	16th/early 17th C
28	Tr. 6	Fill of demolition cut 29 – mid brown/grey clay silt	0.42	Post-medieval
29	Tr. 6	Demolition/filling of the well	>1.3	Post-medieval

APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

All Finds

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
2	Pond 1	2	220	Animal bone; humerus, incomplete proximal condyle, large mammal; tibia, proximal end, medium-sized mammal	-
		1	18	Shell; oyster, one valve	-
		7	784	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
		3	152	Pottery; body sherds	Early post-med
3	Pond 1	1	1	Animal bone fragment	-
		1	4	Shell; oyster, one valve, small example	-
		1	14	Coal fragment (discarded)	-
		1	94	Roof tile fragment	Med/post med.
4	Pond 1	1	12	Shell; oyster, one valve, small example	-
5	Surface	1	142	Iron horseshoe	-
		9	48	Iron nails	-
		1	4	Lead window comes fragment	Med/post med.
		46	382	Animal bone; molars, cattle and sheep/goat; incisors, pig; phalange and hoof, cattle; calcaneus, sheep/goat; long bone shaft, large mammal, sawn at both ends; vertebra, rib and other fragments	-
		8	44	Shell; oyster, six valves and fragment; mussel, one valve	-
		1	8	Natural stone, ?shelly shale	-
		3	12	Glass; dark green bottle body sherd; decayed window glass	Med/post med.
		1	4	Worked bone 'scale' from knife handle, with iron rivet <i>in situ</i>	Late medieval
		21	834	Roof tile fragments	Med/post med.
		57	382	Pottery; rim and body sherds, some glazed	Med/post med.
6	Pond 1	9	-	Animal bone; tiny fragments from sample 1	-
		2	12	Shell; oyster, two valves, small examples, from sample 1	-
		-	4	Charcoal, seeds and nutshells from sample 1	-
		2	6	Pottery; body sherds from sample 1	Medieval
8	Found. 7	3	160	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole	Med/post med.
		1	1515	Brick fragment, "Coggeshall Great brick", width 150mm, depth 50mm	Late 12th/ early 13th C
10	Topsoil	1	6	Pottery; body sherd, white earthenware	Modern
		1	42	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval
11	Layer	4	342	Roof tile fragments	Med/post med.
		45	672	Pottery; rim, base, handle and body sherds	Late medieval
12	Subsoil	2	56	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Medieval
16	Well 16	2	5320	Sample bricks, 235 x 110 x 55mm	16th/early 17th C
17	Well 16	4	62	Animal bone; rib fragments, large mammal; tibia shaft, medium-sized mammal; hoof, cattle	-
		1	166	Roof tile fragment	Med/post med.
		1	10	Pottery; body sherd	Post med.

Context	Feature	Count	Wt (g)	Description	Date
21	Ditch 20	7 - 1 1 5	- 1 1 50 57	Animal bone; fragments from sample 2 Charcoal and seeds from sample 2 Baked clay fragment from sample 2 Brick fragment Pottery; body sherds, inc 1/1g from sample 2	- - - ?Roman Medieval
23	Pit 22	2 - 3	- 1 114	Animal bone, from sample 3 Charcoal and seeds from sample 3 Pottery; body sherds	- - Medieval
24	Layer	4 - 8	- 1 20	Animal bone; fragments and single fish vertebra from sample 4 Charcoal and seeds from sample 4 Pottery; body sherd and crumb, inc 6/16g body sherds and crumbs from sample 4, one crumb is prehistoric	- - Medieval

Medieval and Later Pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	Pond 1	3	152	Tudor red earthenware includes sherd from large jug or cistern	15th/16th C
5	Surface	3	22	Early medieval ware	10th to 13th C
		3	10	Medieval coarse ware	12th to 14th C
		11	63	Sandy orange ware, late medieval, abraded, two with thin external glaze and one flanged rim fragment	14th to 16th C
		26	197	Tudor red earthenware, some abraded sherds, one internally glazed base	15th/16th C
		7	46	Post-medieval red earthenware, mainly glazed, some abraded sherds, includes everted rim with external rilling	from later 16th/17th C
		2	11	Metropolitan slipware	17th to early 18th C
		3	16	Frechen or earlier type of German stoneware, jug rim and body sherds	17th C?
		1	8	Flowerpot stamped ".EY, probably SANKEY	19th to 20th C
		1	9	Unidentifiable	-
6	Pond 1	2	6	Medieval coarse ware body sherds from soil sample <1>	12th to 14th C
10	Topsoil	1	42	Sandy orange ware shoulder of jug, horizontal grooves and thin external glaze, late medieval	later 14th to 16th C
		1	6	Modern white earthenware	19th to 20th C
11	Layer	9	60	Medieval coarse ware includes cooking pot with unusual thickened flat-topped rim	13th to 14th C
		2	23	Buff ware ?late medieval	14th to 16th C
		2	33	Medieval sandy orange ware comprising slip-painted and glazed sherd, possibly Colchester-type ware and lower handle attachment from jug with traces of slip and decomposed glaze	13th to 14th C
		5	214	Sandy orange ware joining sherds from large internally glazed sagging base, late medieval	14th to 16th C
		25	298	Sandy orange ware including, bunghole	14th to 16th C

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
				from cistern, burnt and abraded, B2 jar rim and misc. sherds late medieval or undiagnostic	
		1	6	Tudor red earthenware from neck of vessel, partial glaze both inside and out, external fire-blackening	15th/16th C
		1	38	Post-medieval red earthenware storage jar rim	16th to 19th C
12	Subsoil	1	39	Sandy orange ware late medieval beaded jar rim, reduced surfaces	later 14th to 16th C
		1	17	Medieval coarse ware relatively fine, buff fabric could be Hedingham coarse ware	12th to 14th C
17	Well 16	1	10	Post-medieval red earthenware, hollow ware sherd with all over glaze	late 16th/17th C or later
21	Ditch 20	4	56	Early medieval ware base and body sherds, borderline medieval coarse ware, one sherd decorated with thumbbed applied strips	12th to 13th C
		1	1	Unidentifiable from soil sample <2>	-
23	Pit 22	2	101	Shell-and-sand-tempered ware rows of incised wavy lines (not done with a comb)	12th to early 13th C
		1	13	Early medieval ware base sherd	10th to 13th C
24	Subsoil	4	2	Medieval coarse ware crumbs from soil sample <4>	12th to 14th C
		2	14	Sandy orange ware, one is probably late medieval from soil sample <4>	14th to 16th C
		2	4	Unidentifiable	-
		128	1517		

Bulk Sample Data

Sample	Context	Feature	Bulk weight	Bone	Human bone	Charcoal	Seeds/ Grain	Molluscs
1	6	Pond 1	26kg	X		X	X	
2	21	Ditch 20	14kg	X		X	X	
3	23	Pit 22	13kg	X		X	X	
4	24	Layer, Tr.6	41kg	X		X	X	

X denotes presence

Plant Macrofossils and Other Material

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
Context No.	6	21	23	24
Feature No.	1	20	22	-
Feature Type	Pond	Ditch	Pit	Layer
Cereals and other food plants				
<i>Avena</i>	Xcf			
Large fabaceae indet.	X	X		
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	X			X
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	XX	X	X	X
<i>T. aestivum/compactum</i> type (rachis node)	X			
Cereal indet. (grains)	XX	X	X	
(basal rachis nodes)	X			
Herbs				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.	X			
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.				XW
Chenopodiaceae indet.		XW		
<i>Conium maculatum</i> L.	XW			
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>		XW		
<i>Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus</i> sp.	XcfW			
<i>Rumex</i> sp.			XW	
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.	XW	XW	XW	XW
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	X			
Wetland plants				
<i>Carex</i> sp.	XXW	XW		XW
<i>Sparganium erectum</i> L.	XW			
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	X	X		
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> L.	X			
<i>Rosa</i> sp. (fruit)	X			
<i>Rubus</i> sect. <i>Glandulosus</i> Wimmer & Grab	XW	XW		XW
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L.	XW	XW	XW	
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	XX	XX	XX	XX
Charcoal >2mm	XX	XX	X	
Charred root-stem		X		X
Waterlogged/de-watered root/stem	XX	XX	XX	
Indet. Culm nodes	X			
Indet. twigs	X			
Indet. seeds	X			
Other materials				
Black porous 'cokey' material	X	X	X	
Small coal frag.				X
Sample volume (litres)	20	10	10	30
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% of flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%

X 1-10 specimens

XX 10-50 specimens

XXX 50+ specimens

W = waterlogged or de-watered

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME; 74 EAST STREET, COGGESHALL, ESSEX

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for the archaeological investigation
- 1.2 Written scheme of investigation

2. Research Archive

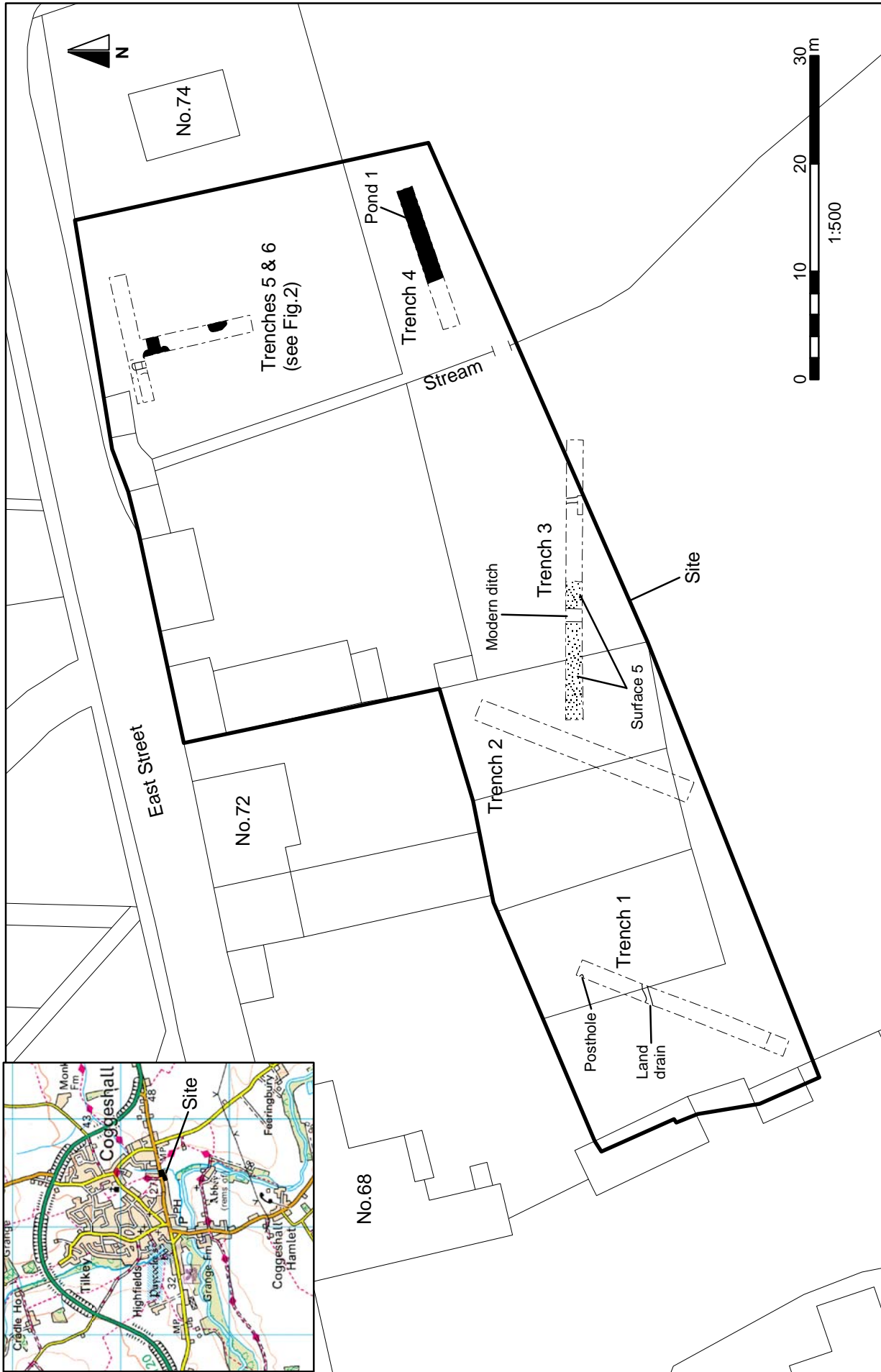
- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Analytical Reports
 - 2.2.1 Finds Report
- 2.3 Catalogues
 - 2.3.1 Context Finds Record
 - 2.3.2 Finds Catalogue

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Index
- 3.2 Context Record Sheets
- 3.3 Photographic Register
- 3.4 CD (Digital photos and archive data)
- 3.5 Miscellaneous maps, plans and sketch sections

APPENDIX 4: EHER SUMMARY

SITE NAME/ADDRESS:	74 East Street, Coggeshall, Essex		
CONTRACTING UNIT PROJECT NUMBER	1516		
OASIS ACCESSION NUMBER	essexcou1-16947		
PARISH: Coggeshall	DISTRICT:	Braintree	
NGR: TL 854 226	SITE CODE:	CG16	
TYPE OF WORK: Evaluation (Trial Trenching)	SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP:	M.Pocock of ECC FAU	
DATE OF WORK: 24th to 27th July 2006	SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED:	0.3ha	
FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM: Braintree	FUNDING SOURCE:	St Giles Property Developments Ltd	
FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED. No	RELATED HER NOS.	25128-25129	
FINAL REPORT:	EAH summary		
PERIODS REPRESENTED:	Medieval, Post-medieval		
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:			
<p>An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out prior to a residential development at 74 East Street, Coggeshall. The development site is located at the eastern edge of medieval and post-medieval Coggeshall, on a major Roman road (Stane Street) and close to a previously excavated Roman settlement.</p> <p>The survival of the archaeological features and deposits was generally poor but the evaluation identified a medieval ditch and two pits near the East Street frontage, dating to the 12th-13th centuries. Evidence for nearby occupation came from hearth material and charred cereals and other food remains found in samples taken from the ditch and one of the pits. There was evidence suggesting flooding during the medieval period, and a pond probably infilled in the 15th-16th centuries was recorded in the south-east of the site. Plant remains in a sample taken from the earliest recorded fill of the pond confirmed that it would have been filled with water at least seasonally, while plant remains in samples from all the medieval features suggest a generally damp environment.</p> <p>The medieval features at the East Street frontage were truncated by a ground clearance and a levelling-up of the ground surface dated to the late 14th to 16th centuries. This was almost certainly related to a house depicted on Samuel Parsons' map of 1639, but which does not appear on a later map of 1853, when the site area was shown as pasture. The only physical evidence of the house is a spread of demolition rubble and, to the rear of the frontage area, a brick-lined well constructed in the 16th or early 17th century and infilled in the late 16th to 17th centuries. A rough yard surface at the southern limit of the site is also dated to the late 16th to 17th centuries, although it also contained residual late medieval pottery and other artefacts, most notably a bone knife-handle. No other archaeological features or deposits survived on any other part of the site.</p> <p>The evaluation indicates limited survival of medieval features at the East Street frontage. It is considered that the groundworks for the new housing development are unlikely to cause significant disturbance of archaeological remains, with very little impact on any surviving medieval features and deposits.</p>			
PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS:	None		
AUTHOR OF SUMMARY:	Matthew Pocock (ECCFAU)	DATE OF SUMMARY:	September 2006



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.1. Location plan

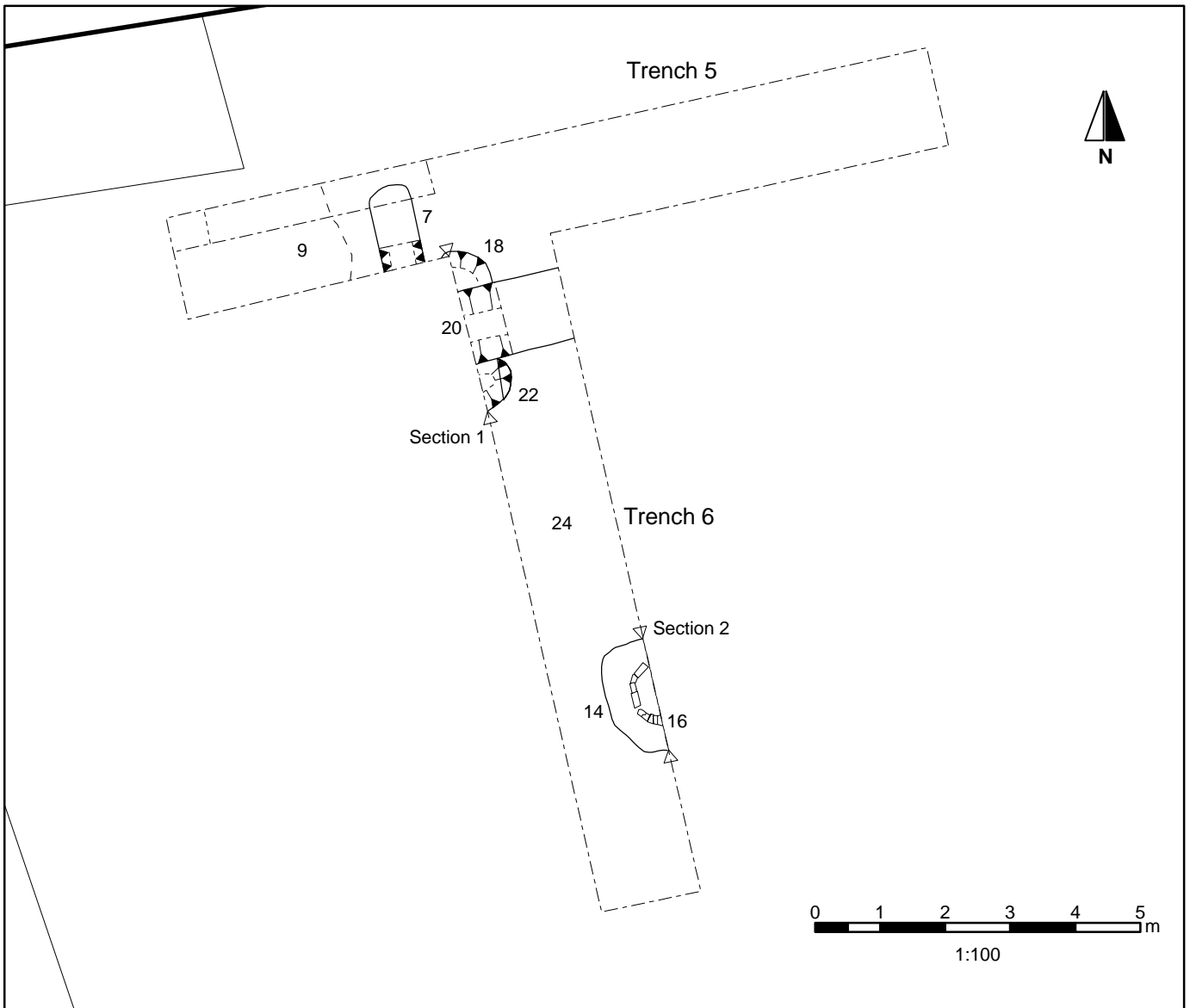


Fig.2. Trenches 5 and 6

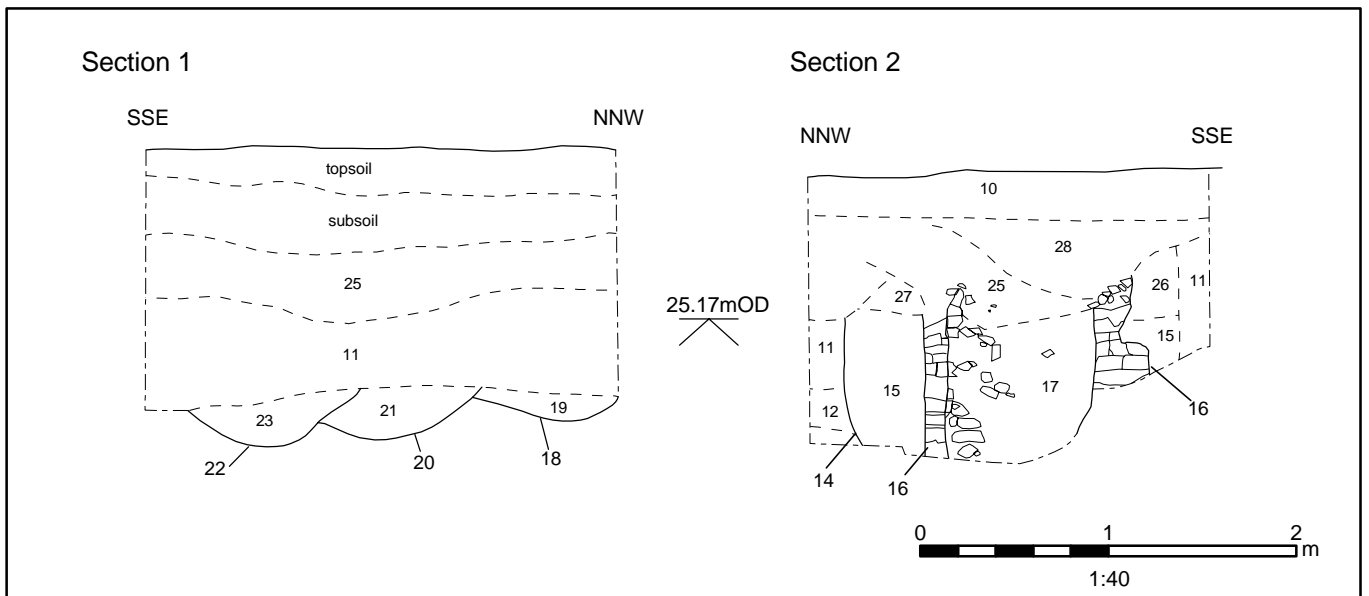


Fig.3. Sections

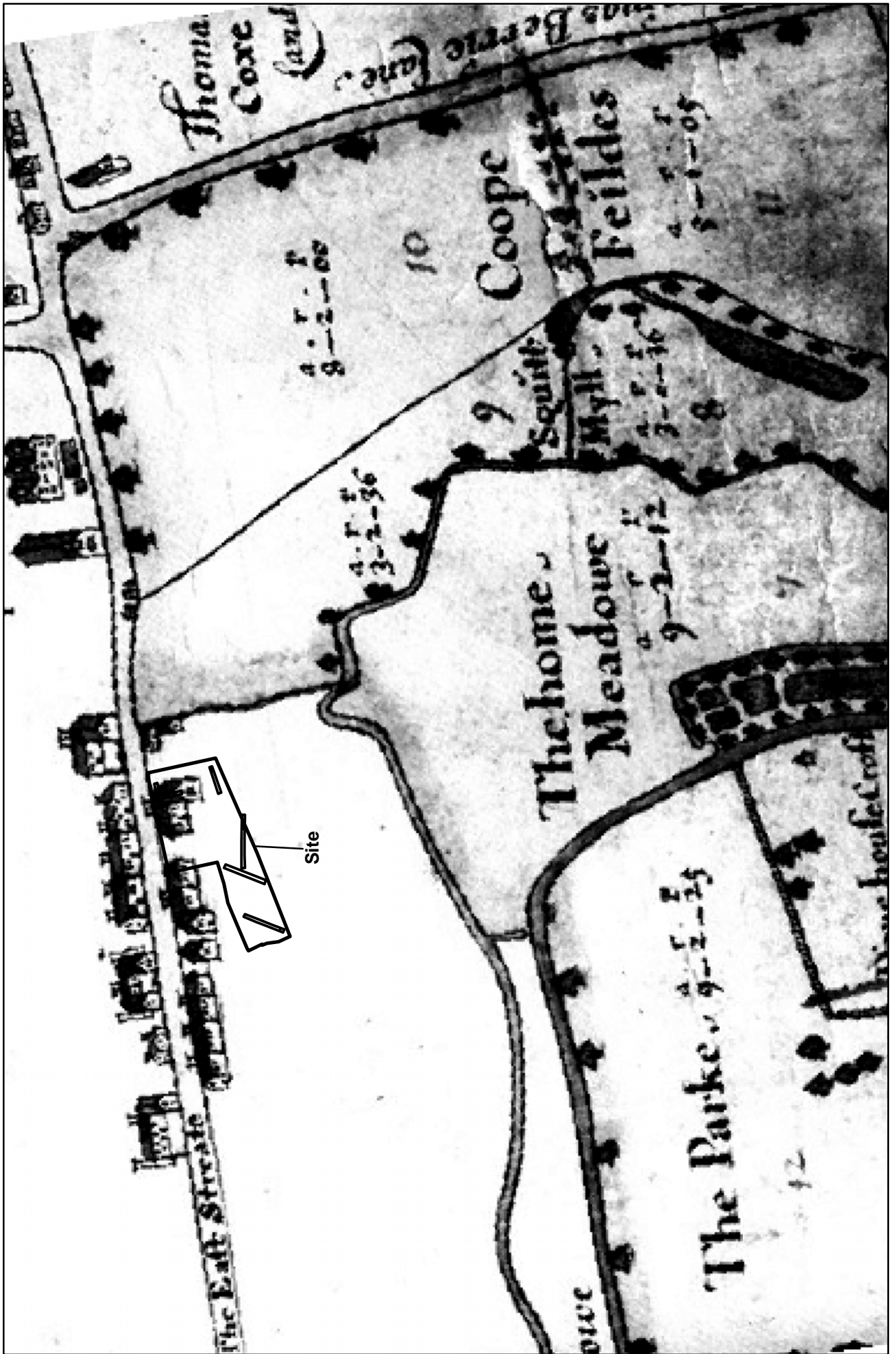


Fig.4. The 1639 map with the site overlaid