

**ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES
PARK ROAD
COLCHESTER
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

JANUARY 2007

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ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES

PARK ROAD, COLCHESTER

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING

Client: ECC Asset Management

NGR: TL 982 248

Site Code: CCPR06

Oasis No.: essexcou1-21223

Dates of Fieldwork: 4th December to 11th December 2006

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the grounds of the Essex County Council Offices in Park Road, Colchester, during December 2006. Eight evaluation trenches were excavated across a 2.1 ha area of which 0.95ha was currently accessible. The site is located within the Late Iron Age earthwork enclosure of Camulodunum and approximately 1km south-west of the Roman walled town, probably within its western suburbs. There are numerous Late Iron Age and Roman find-spots in the vicinity.

Two Roman cremation burials were found in the south of the property. One burial, dated to the later 2nd century, was well-preserved and comprised a large jar covered by an upturned dish. The second burial was probably contemporary and comprised the lower half of a grey-ware jar that had been truncated in antiquity. Two large east-west aligned ditches and a smaller north-west/south-east aligned ditch may also date to the Roman period.

Two post-medieval or later ditches correspond with a field boundary depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1876). Other linear features and a raised area in the north-east of the property can probably be attributed to landscaping and garden activities associated with the construction of Altnacealgach House in the late 19th century. The house, itself, is a good example of a large upper middle class late Victorian residence, set within its own grounds.

It is highly likely that further Roman remains, including additional cremation burials, are present elsewhere within the site. The understanding of frequency, density and significance of such remains is only partially informed by the results of this limited evaluation.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in the grounds of the Essex County Council offices in Park Road, Colchester, Essex. The fieldwork was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of ECC Asset Management, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by the ECC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM 2006) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2006). The fieldwork was undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site in advance of any formal planning application for redevelopment and was monitored by ECC HEM.

The site covers an area of approximately 2.1ha of which just under half (0.95 ha) comprises grassed areas suitable for trenching at this time.

The site archive will be deposited in Colchester Museum. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>).

2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

2.1 Topography and Geology

Park Road is located to the south of Lexden Road on the western side of Colchester. The grounds of the ECC offices cover an area of approximately 2.1ha and border the south side of Park Road (TL 982 248). The grounds contain three main office blocks, numerous outbuildings, two large tarmac car parks and access roads. These are surrounded by areas of lawn, rough grass and woodland. Ornamental trees and shrubs bordering the lawn in the south-east of the grounds indicate this area was once part of the formal garden.

The site is fairly flat with an Ordnance Datum of between 36m and 37m. The underlying geology consists of glacial sands and gravels of the Kesgrave and Lowestoft Formations overlying London Clay.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

This background makes use of the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held and maintained at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The site is located within the major Late Iron Age defended enclosure of *Camulodunum*, approximately 500m east of the Lexden Tumulus burial mound (EHER 12535) and an adjacent contemporary cremation cemetery (EHER 11712) around St. Clare Road.

After the Roman conquest an extensive cemetery, containing both inhumation and cremation burials, developed to the west of Roman town (EHER 11852). The site is located c.200m west of the main extent of this burial ground, although the recovery of a Roman amphora to the immediate south-west of the site (EHER 11881) and a bronze figurine to the north-east (EHER 11979) indicate peripheral burials may be found in the vicinity.

A short length of curving ditch of possible military origin, dated to the mid-1st century AD, was excavated to the west of the site during trenching by M. R. Hull in 1939 (EHER 11882). The postulated line of this ditch may just clip the north-east corner of the site before running beneath the cottages at 20/22 Park Road. Further trenches apparently located within the north of the site and to the south-west failed to reveal any archaeological remains other than a few sherds of 2nd century pottery (Hull 1958, 271-272).

The area of the site is shown as lying within parts of three adjacent fields on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1876). The boundaries of the site were formalised in the late 19th century when Altnacealgach House was constructed as the home for Thomas Osborne, a retired local brewer. In the 20th century Altnacealgach House and its grounds came into the ownership of Essex County Council and formed the basis of its regional offices in Park Road.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

The aim of the work was to record the location, extent, date, character, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains within the site area.

3.2 Research objectives

The research objectives for the project were undertaken with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

The specific objective of the investigation was to record any evidence of Late Iron Age and Roman activity.

4.0 METHOD

Eight archaeological trial trenches (1-8) were opened under archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were designed to provide a representative 4% sample of the land currently available for evaluation and were set-out according to a location plan approved by ECC HEM. Trenches 2, 6, 7 and 8 were 30m long, Trench 3 was 33m, Trench 4 was 34m and Trench 5 was 26m long. Variations in trench length were due to the presence of a number of underground service trenches and power cables. All trenches were 1.8m wide. Trench 1 was an additional trench, 7.8m long, in excess of the 4% requirement, deliberately targeted to investigate a raised area visible in the north-east of the site.

Areas of archaeological potential were cleaned and hand-excavated. All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

The topsoil across most of the evaluation area consisted of dark grey, sandy clay silt between 0.3m to 0.6m deep. In most trenches this sealed light to mid greyish brown sandy clay which varied in depth from 0.2m to 0.4m and overlay natural deposits of reddish brown sand and gravel. Irregular patches of light buff and greyish brown clay silt within the gravel also appeared to be entirely of natural origin.

Archaeological remains chiefly dating to the Late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval/modern periods were identified. There was also a small number of residual Roman finds in later features and unstratified material of mainly modern date was recovered from the machined topsoil. A few excavated features were found to be of natural origin.

The results of the fieldwork are described below, with trench location data presented in Appendix 1 and more detailed context information in Appendix 2. The results are presented in trench order. Context numbers are given in brackets.

Trenches 5 and 6 were thoroughly examined for archaeological remains. None were identified and consequently these trenches are not discussed further.

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was positioned to examine a raised area at the edge of the field that was some 0.4m higher than the surrounding surface. A series of three layers were revealed in the side of the trench beneath 0.2m of topsoil. At the base of the sequence was a deposit of light brown sandy silt (5) that contained numerous fragments of medieval/post-medieval roof tile and a few sherds of residual medieval and Roman pottery. This deposit infilled and overlay a slight depression in the natural gravel some 4m wide and up to 0.2m deep. Deposit 5 was sealed by a 0.58m thick deposit of dark brown sandy silt (7) and, in turn, by a 0.32m thick layer of mid brown sandy silt (6); both contained fragments of post-medieval brick and tile. Although layer 5 at the base of the sequence could conceivably be of medieval origin it is more probably of post-medieval or later date along with deposits 7 and 6 above.

5.2 Trench 2

Four possible archaeological features (16, 25, 31 and 55) were investigated in Trench 2. All were filled with mid greyish brown clay silt similar in colour to that of a number of clearly natural clay silt patches within the trench. No finds were recovered. Two, irregularly shaped, elongated, pit-like features (16 and 31) appeared to be of natural origin. To the west, a shallow circular depression (55) probably represented the position of a silt-filled hollow rather than the truncated base of a post-hole. Toward the centre of the trench a feature that may be the possible rounded terminal of a north-east/south-west aligned boundary ditch (25) was more convincing, although its continuation was not identified in Trench 3.

5.3 Trench 3

Three east-west aligned ditches were excavated in Trench 3. In the north of the trench parallel ditches 17 and 28 were located only three metres apart. Ditch 17 contained modern pottery and ditch 28 (Fig. 4, Section 4) contained post-medieval roof-tile. Both broadly correspond with the position of a field boundary depicted on the 1st edition (c.1876) Ordnance Survey map. It is possible that one was a later replacement for another or that the ditches ran either side of a hedge line. Ditch 17 truncated an underlying 'pit' (19) of probable geological origin.

In the south of the trench was a large ditch (34) over 2.6m wide and 1.3m deep (Fig. 4, Section 2) that produced an iron nail and one sherd of Roman pottery that may tentatively date this boundary feature to the Roman period. A shallow cut (50) on the south side of the ditch may represent a later re-cut. Further south, 'pit' 57, contained no dating evidence and was filled with fine light grey/buff silt that suggested it was probably of natural origin. This pit was partly obscured by a modern trench containing at least two power cables.

5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was crossed by series of shallow, north-south aligned, parallel linear features (37, 39, 41, 44, 47 and 49). All were similarly sized, between 0.3 and 0.4m wide and 0.1m or less deep. A variety of 19th and 20th century finds were recovered indicating that they were all of comparatively recent date. A power cable had been inserted along the edge of gully 41 and a second power cable crossed the western end of the trench. One south-east/north-west aligned boundary ditch (42) was excavated. This did not contain any dating evidence but does appear to align with possible Roman ditch 13, over 100m distant, in Trench 8.

5.5 Trench 7

Two Roman cremation burials (2 and 10) were excavated in Trench 7. Both had been cut into the subsoil and were sealed by approximately 0.35m of topsoil. Burial 2 consisted of cremated human bone contained within a large jar that was covered by an upturned dish (cover photo). Burial 10 had been truncated in antiquity and comprised the lower half of a large jar containing cremated human bone and a mid-brown clayey silt (12) fill that had probably accumulated post-deposition. Both burials appeared to have been made in circular close-fitting pits, 0.45m- and 0.39m-wide respectively. Subsequent cleaning of the subsoil (23) produced further sherds of unstratified Roman pottery and a variety of post-medieval finds intrusive from the topsoil.

In the centre of Trench 7 was a small, shallow, boundary ditch (21), on a north-west/south-east alignment and filled by mid brown clay silt (22). No finds were recovered.

5.6 Trench 8

Two probable Roman boundary ditches (13 and 32) were excavated in the northern half of Trench 8. Ditch 13 was 0.88m wide by 0.37m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3), aligned north-west/south-east and may possibly have been a continuation of ditch 42 in Trench 4. Its fill (14) contained two sherds of Roman pottery dating to the middle of the 1st century AD. Adjacent ditch 32 was larger, 2.8m wide by 0.65m deep (Fig. 4, Section 1), and aligned east-west. The fill (33) contained four sherds of pottery from a Roman storage vessel.

An irregular area of disturbance (26) in the gravel to the south of the ditches appeared to have resulted from natural tree-root activity.

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by Joyce Compton

6.1 Introduction

Finds were recovered from nineteen contexts, across five of the excavated trenches. In addition, two contexts represent unstratified material resulting from metal-detector sweeps of the spoil heaps. The group of finds collected from all spoil heaps is numbered 52 and the group from the Trench 6 spoil heap is numbered 53. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details can be found in Appendix 3.

The assemblage has two distinct components, Roman and modern (*i.e.* late 19th and 20th century). The bulk of the modern finds came from Trenches 3 and 4, with additional material recovered from the spoil heaps. Features in Trench 4 contained wholly modern material, including slate and pantile, apart from a single small sherd of Roman grey ware pottery. Layers in Trench 1 produced small amounts of medieval and post-medieval finds, and a further single small sherd of Roman grey ware. Most of the Roman finds were confined to Trenches 3 and 7, with a single feature (ditch 13) in Trench 8 also producing Roman pottery. The finds are described by category below, except for those of recent date.

6.2 Pottery

Pottery of all dates, amounting to 102 sherds, weight 5397g, was recovered from a total of fifteen contexts. Most of the pottery (83 sherds, weight 5175g) is Roman in date and is described more fully below. Fifteen sherds (180g) are modern and these have been discarded following recording; descriptions are provided in Appendix 3. The remaining four sherds were examined by Helen Walker and are also described below.

Roman pottery

Eleven contexts produced pottery of Roman date, although that from nine of these could not be more closely dated. Most of the pottery represents vessels from two cremation burials in Trench 7; only 25 sherds, weighing 404g, came from other contexts, mainly comprising body sherds in coarse fabrics. The exceptions are a small section of flagon handle, residual in the fill of ditch 17 (Trench 3), and a second, three-ribbed flagon handle, unfortunately unstratified. Joining rim sherds from the fill of ditch 13 (Trench 8) are from a high-shouldered G3-type jar (Going 1987, fig.7), a characteristically mid 1st century AD form.

The cremation vessels from burial 2, both in fine grey ware and largely intact, comprise a large narrow-necked jar and a flanged dish (Going 1987, fig.1, type B4) which had been used as a cover for the jar. The vessel itself was half-filled with large pieces of cremated human bone (see below). The jar has burnished-line decoration around the girth and a reserve zone

with vertical incised line decoration on the shoulder. This is a form *Cam 232*, described by Hull (1963, 183) as belonging to the second half of the 1st century AD, but appearing in graves up to about AD180. The B4 dish is dated by Going to the mid 2nd-mid 3rd centuries (1987, 14), but, with the jar, provides a date of c. AD150-180 for the burial.

Burial 10 had been truncated in antiquity and only the lower half of the container survives. This is also a large grey ware jar, unfortunately not closely datable within the Roman period.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker

Four sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were examined, full details of which are provided in Appendix 4. Layer 5 (Trench 1) produced a medieval coarse ware base showing a thumbled applied strip around the basal angle, perhaps from a jug, datable to the 13th to 14th centuries. An unfeatured sherd of Colchester-type ware in this context spans the 13th to 16th century. Unstratified finds from Trench 7 comprise two 18th century sherds; a Chinese porcelain footring base probably from a tea-bowl and an English tin-glazed earthenware recessed base from a hollow-ware covered by a pinky-white glaze of eggshell thickness.

6.3 Metalwork

The retained metalwork comprises post-medieval copper alloy items and undatable ironwork in the form of nails. A copper alloy dressmakers' pin came from the fill of modern gully 37 (Trench 4). In addition, a thimble and a decorated button were found using a metal-detector. The method of manufacture indicates that the thimble is likely to be 17th or 18th century, and the button slightly later. An iron nail was found in possible Roman ditch 34 (Trench 3) and a T-shaped piece of iron was recovered from layer 5 (Trench 1). The latter is also likely to be a nail (or nails) of more recent date, despite the superficial likeness to a Roman fibula brooch.

A lead musket ball, average diameter 20mm, nominal weight 1oz, was metal-detected from the spoil heaps. Civil War-period musket balls have a calibre of 12 to the lb but those used in 17th-century carbines are less standardized with a range which includes 16 to the lb. However, the standard calibre for 19th-century muskets is 16 to the lb and so the musket ball from the evaluation is probably a 19th century type.

6.4 Brick and tile

Just over 3kg of brick and tile, from eleven contexts, was recorded. Nearly all of this (84%) is post-medieval or modern, and a representative sample only has been retained. Two Roman

brick fragments (334g) were recovered from the fill of ditch 28 (Trench 3), but are probably residual in this context. The remainder of the Roman tile (178g) was unstratified in Trench 7.

6.5 Cremated human bone

Fragments of cremated human bone, with a total weight of 1540g, were recovered from both Trench 7 burials. The cremated bone (1010g) from burial 2 is friable and was carefully removed from the cremation vessel without the necessity for wet-sieving. There are numerous large and readily-identifiable pieces, many of which have been poorly burnt to a patchy dark blue, rather than the creamy-white resulting from an efficient cremation process. Indeed, one section of long bone is only partly calcined. Since the cremation urn was intact until discovery, and the contents had been protected by an inverted dish, all of the originally-deposited cremated bone will probably be present. No artefacts were observed.

The truncated cremation urn from burial 10 was emptied by hand and the human bone fragments were separated from the fill by wet-sieving over a 500 micron mesh. The dried bone (weight 530g) was separated into coarse and fine fractions using 4mm and 2mm sieves. Bone fragments were extracted by hand from the coarse fraction and comprise mainly creamy-white fragments. A small number of fragments are blue-grey. There are fewer recognisable elements than for burial 2, but sections from long bones, some quite large, are present. There are many small fragments in the unsorted fine fraction, which has been separately bagged. The residue from the coarse fraction was discarded. No artefacts were noted apart from a chip of glass which may be intrusive.

6.6 Other finds categories

Few other finds categories were noted. Animal bone was noted in two post-medieval contexts in Trenches 1 and 3, respectively. A post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stem was found in the fill of ditch 17 (Trench 3) and a second stem was found unstratified in Trench 7. A post-medieval wine bottle body sherd was found in the fill of gully 37 (Trench 4). As noted above, a chip of green glass was retrieved from amongst the cremated bone in the fill of cremation urn 9. This has not been affected by heat, but is too small to ascertain whether it derives from a Roman or a post-medieval vessel. On balance, since the cremation burial had been truncated, it is more likely to be post-medieval and therefore intrusive.

6.7 Comments on the assemblage

Very little in the assemblage requires further work, apart from the cremation vessels and the cremated human bone. The latter is sufficiently well-preserved for a range of demographic information to be obtained for the individuals concerned. Since more burials are likely to be

encountered during any development work, it would be appropriate for further study to take place once this has been established. The Roman pottery other than that in the burials is too small an assemblage for meaningful comment to be made. Other finds are also in small quantities or are too recent for further work to be worthwhile. All of the modern material, and the undatable finds recovered during the metal-detector sweep, have been discarded following recording. Further discard of post-medieval finds could take place at the archiving stage. All of the Roman finds should be retained.

7.0 DISCUSSION

A variety of archaeological remains have been recorded across the evaluation area. These were present in all trenches, except 5 and 6, and range in date from the Roman period to the 20th century. No Late Iron Age remains were identified but it is possible some of the undated features, such as ditches 21 and 25, date to this period. The comparative low density of features, given the abundance of Iron Age and Roman remains in the surrounding area, accords with the negative results from Hull's trenching in the north and to the south-west of the site in 1939 (1958, 271-272).

The excavated Roman remains probably cover several phases of activity and date from the mid 1st century (ditch 13) through to the later 2nd (burial 2). Of significance is the fact that the two burials are clearly cut through the subsoil whereas Roman ditches 13 and 32 and undated ditches, 21, 25 and 42 appear to be sealed beneath it. Although it is possible that the ditches were cut through the subsoil but not recognisable at that level, it may be a true observation perhaps indicating a change of land use (farm land to cemetery) in the 100 year plus period between the mid 1st and mid/late 2nd century.

The two largest ditches (32 and 34) were both orientated east-west and may be boundaries running on a parallel alignment with the Roman road to London, believed to run roughly beneath modern-day Lexden Road to the north of the site. Similarly, it is possible that the north-west/south-east orientated ditches (13 and 21) could be aligned at right angles to a Roman road running diagonally to the south-east of the site towards the Roman town.

As with the other discoveries in the area (e.g. EHER 11881), it is probable that the two Roman burials are outliers to the Roman cemetery (EHER 11652) on the western side of the town. It is highly probable that further burials lie beneath the lawn in the south of the site, particularly in the vicinity of Trench 7.

With the exception of the 19th- century field boundary crossing Trench 3, the majority of the post-medieval/modern features are probably contemporary with or post-date the construction of Altnacealgach House at the end of the 19th century. It is likely that the raised area around Trench 1 resulted from landscaping of the grounds. The linear features in Trench 4 are located to the rear of the Victorian property, away from the formal part of the garden, and may represent cultivation trenches within an area of the kitchen garden. Study of documentary sources relating to the house and its outbuildings, itself worthy of recording prior to re-development, might address this.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Of the remains identified by this evaluation only those dating to the Roman period or earlier are of particular archaeological significance. Although the encountered remains are not particularly dense or complex, they appear to evidence the changing nature of land use on the western periphery of the Roman town. It is highly likely that further cremation burials are present elsewhere within the south part of the site and at least a scatter of other remains across the site as a whole. It remains possible, though undemonstrated, that highly significant Late Iron Age or Roman remains may be present in areas of the site beyond the confines of the evaluation trenches excavated to date.

The lack of archaeological remains in Trenches 5 and 6 may indicate their lower incidence/survival in the west and south-west of the area. However, the low trenching sample cannot be taken as a wholly reliable indicator of this. Also, the discovery of a probable Roman burial to the south-west of the site in the 19th century (EHER 11881) does indicate that, at least, further sporadic remains may exist elsewhere in the vicinity.

Given the relatively low density of evaluation trenches and their confinement to the edges of the site as a whole, the results of this work can only be used to give a preliminary indication of overall archaeological content / potential / implication. While remains may well appear to be of relatively modest density and complexity, factors such as truncation and disturbance by 19th and 20th century land use are not yet adequately understood. Although Victorian garden landscaping seems to have had a relatively low impact, the construction of the house, outbuildings, offices and associated roads and car park are likely to have disturbed or wholly removed some archaeological remains.

Lastly, it is noted that Altnacealgach House, itself, is a good example of a late Victorian residence. Despite conversion to offices, the exterior of the main house, the majority of its outbuildings and parts of its landscaped gardens remain largely unaltered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Peter Smith for commissioning the fieldwork on behalf of Essex County Council Asset Management. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Trevor Ennis with the assistance of Tony Blowers, Chris Down, John Hewitt, and Adrian Turner of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Historical ordnance information was supplied by David Maynard. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson of ECC FAU and monitored by Pat Connell of ECC HEM.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

Trench	Measurements	Co-ordinates
1	7.8m x 1.8m x 0.98m deep, orientated E/W	E – 598158.1/224764.7 W – 598164.5/224760.8
2	30m x 1.8m x 0.8m deep, orientation E/W	E – 598140.3/224779.7 W – 598169.8/224774.6
3	33m x 1.8m x 0.6m deep, orientation N/S	N – 598135.4/224778.9 S – 598126.9/224747
4	34m x 1.8m x 0.8m deep, orientation E/W	E – 598051.6/224796 W – 598085.2/224791.5
5	26m x 1.8m x 0.6m deep, orientation N/S	N – 598034.2/224759.9 S – 598028.7/224734.2
6	30m x 1.8m x 0.8m deep, orientation N/S	N – 598049.3/224706.4 S – 598045.6/224676.6
7	30m x 1.8m x 0.7m deep, orientation E/W	E – 598080.6/224673.8 W – 598110.5/224675.1
8	30m x 1.8m x 0.85m deep, orientation N/S	N – 598126.9/224710.2 S – 598123.3/224680.4

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres.

Context	Location	Type	Description	Period
1	Trench 7	Cremation vessel	In pit 2	Roman
2	Trench 7	Cremation pit	Circular, 0.45m diameter x 0.25m deep	Roman
3	Trench 7	Fill of 2	Mid brown clayey silt	Roman
4	Trench 7	Fill of 1	Cremated bone	Roman
5	Trench 1	Layer	Light brown silty sand, 0.4m thick	Post-medieval
6	Trench 1	Layer	Mid brown silty sand, 0.32m thick	Post-medieval
7	Trench 1	Layer	Dark brown silty sand, 0.58m thick	Post-medieval
8	Trench 1	Natural	Orange-red silty sand and gravel	Natural
9	Trench 7	Cremation vessel	In pit 10	Roman
10	Trench 7	Cremation pit	Circular?, 0.39m diameter x 0.2m deep	Roman
11	Trench 7	Fill of 10	Mid brown clayey silt	Roman
12	Trench 7	Fill of 9	Mid brown clayey silt	Roman
13	Trench 8	Ditch	2m+ x 0.88m x 0.37m deep	Roman
14	Trench 8	Fill of 13	Light brown-yellow sandy silt	Roman
15	Trench 2	Fill of 16	Mid greyish brown sandy clay silt	Natural?
16	Trench 2	Ditch/Nat	2.6m+ x 1.18m x 0.4m deep	Natural?
17	Trench 3	Ditch	1.8m+ x 1m x 0.37m deep	Modern
18	Trench 3	Fill of 17	Dark grey brown silty sand	Modern
19	Trench 3	Pit	1.4m+ x 0.5m x 0.84m deep	Natural?
20	Trench 3	Fill of 19	Mid grey brown sandy silt	Natural?
21	Trench 7	Ditch	1.8m+ x 0.65m x 0.17m deep	Undated
22	Trench 7	Fill of 21	Mid brown clayey silt and sand	Undated
23	Trench 7	Finds	From subsoil trowel-over	Roman + later
24	Trench 2	Fill of 25	Mid greyish brown clay silt	Undated
25	Trench 2	Ditch	Possible terminal, 2m+ x 0.86m x 0.3m deep	Undated
26	Trench 8	Natural	Tree bowl/root activity	Natural
27	Trench 8	Fill of 26	Light brown yellow silty sand	Natural
28	Trench 3	Ditch	1.8m+ x 0.8m x 0.24m deep	Post-medieval
29	Trench 3	Fill of 28	Dark-mid grey sandy silt	Post-medieval
30	Trench 2	Fill of 31	Mid greyish brown sandy clay silt	Natural?
31	Trench 2	Pit/Nat	1.8m+ x 1.3m x 0.4m deep	Natural?
32	Trench 8	Ditch	1.8m+ x 2.8m x 0.65m deep	Roman
33	Trench 8	Fill of 32	Greyish pale brown silty sand	Roman
34	Trench 3	Ditch	1.8m+ x 2.6m x 1.3m deep	Roman?
35	Trench 3	Fill of 34	Light brown silty sand	Roman?
36	Trench 4	Fill of 37	Dark grey clay silt	Modern
37	Trench 4	Gully	1.8m+ x 0.33m x 0.06m deep	Modern
38	Trench 4	Fill of 39	Dark grey clay silt	Modern
39	Trench 4	Gully	1.8m+ x 0.32m x 0.08m deep	Modern
40	Trench 4	Fill of 41	Dark grey clay silt	Modern
41	Trench 4	Gully	1.8m+ x 0.44m x 0.08m deep	Modern
42	Trench 4	Ditch	1.8m+ x 1.3m x 0.28m deep	Undated

Context	Location	Type	Description	Period
43	Trench 4	Fill of 42	Mid brown clayey silt	Undated
44	Trench 4	Fill of 45	Dark grey clay silt	Modern
45	Trench 4	Gully	1.8m+ x 0.39m wide, not excavated	Modern
46	Trench 4	Fill of 47	Mid-dark grey clay silt	Modern
47	Trench 4	Gully	1.8m+ x 0.37m x 0.08m deep	Modern
48	Trench 4	Fill of 49	Dark grey clay silt	Modern
49	Trench 4	Gully	1.8m+ x 0.35m x 0.10m deep	Modern
50	Trench 3	Ditch	Re-cut, 1.8m+ x 2.1m x 0.58m deep	Roman?
51	Trench 3	Fill of 51	Mid brown silty sand	Roman?
52	All	Finds	U/S finds from spoil heaps	Modern
53	Trench 6	Finds	U/S finds from Trench 6 spoil heap	Modern
54	Trench 2	Fill of 55	Mid greyish brown clay silt	Natural?
55	Trench 2	Post-hole/Nat	Circular, 0.4m x 0.12m deep	Natural?
56	Trench 3	Fill of 57	Buff to light grey clay silt (fine)	Natural?
57	Trench 3	Pit/Nat	1.5m+ x 1.3m x 0.32m deep	Natural?

APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Vessel	2	3305	Pottery; two reconstructed vessels, decorated <i>Cam</i> 232 jar and B4 dish, both fine grey ware	AD150-180
4	1	-	1010	Cremated human bone	-
5	Layer	1 7 1 25 2 1	4 72 2 615 30 4	Iron object, T-shaped, ?fibula Animal bone; humerus, distal end, cattle; pig incisor; fragments Unworked flint Brick and tile fragments Pottery; base and body sherds Pottery; body sherd, fine grey ware	- - - Med/post med. Medieval Roman
6	Layer	1 1	6 6	Brick fragment Tile fragment (very thin but not pot)	Post med. Post med.
7	Layer	2	40	Tile fragments, one roof, one ?floor	Post med.
9	Vessel	56	1466	Pottery; jar base and joining wall sherds, sandy grey ware, inc 16/6g body sherds and chips, mostly jar sherds, from sample 1	Roman
12	9	1 -	<1 530	Glass; green chip from sample 1 (not melted) Cremated human bone from sample 1	Undated -
14	13	2	30	Pottery; joining rim sherds, black-surfaced ware	Mid 1st C
18	17	1 2 1 1 6 4 6 1	78 100 2 695 1220 136 86 6	Iron hinge/bracket fragment (Discarded) Glass; colourless bottle body sherd; large green stopper, embossed "The Yorkshire Glass Bottle Co Ltd, Castleford" (Both discarded) Clay pipe stem Mortar/cement block, with one flat surface and coal and slag inclusions (Discarded) Brick fragments, inc one with part of a frog, most are abraded (All discarded except for frogged, 800g) Roof tile fragments Pottery; base and body sherds, modern stoneware ink bottle; white earthenware and flower pot (All discarded) Pottery; handle sherd, red ware	Modern Modern Post med. Modern Modern Modern Modern Roman
23	Finds	1 14 8 2 13	6 274 178 12 92	Clay pipe stem Brick and tile fragments Tile fragments Pottery; base sherds, one porcelain, one TGE Pottery; body sherds, grog-tempered ware, grey and red wares	Post med Post med. Roman Post med. Roman
29	28	1 2 2 1	4 70 334 120	Animal bone; long bone shaft, medium-sized mammal, poor surface condition Roof tile fragments Brick fragments Pottery; rim sherd, storage jar	- Post med. Roman Roman
33	32	4	108	Pottery; base sherds, storage jar, all same vessel	Roman
35	34	1 1	10 24	Iron nail Pottery; body sherd, red ware	- Roman
36	37	1	-	Copper alloy dressmakers' pin	Post med.

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		1 4	2 36	Slate fragment (Discarded) Brick and tile fragments, abraded	- Post med.
38	39	1 1 2 1	6 2 46 4	Glass; bottle body sherd, decayed Slate fragment (Discarded) Brick and pantile fragments (brick abraded) Pottery; body sherd, grey ware	Post med. - Post med/ modern Roman
40	41	1 3	48 54	Pantile edge fragment (Discarded) Roof tile fragments	Modern Post med.
44	45	1	6	Pottery; body sherd, white earthenware	Modern
46	47	2 2	46 22	Brick/drainpipe fragments Pottery; rim sherd, kitchen earthenware; plate body sherd, white earthenware (This discarded, 6g)	Modern Modern
48	49	2 1	16 18	Pottery; white earthenware plate base and body sherds, one with blue decoration, one with purple (Both discarded) Roof tile fragment, abraded	Modern Post med.
52	u/s	5 1 8 4	448 100 312 50	Iron objects, inc half a horseshoe, a pulley wheel and nails (All discarded) White metal; pierced window latch (Discarded) Lead objects and dribbles, inc musket ball and piece of flashing (All discarded) Pottery; rim and body sherds, white earthenware, base sherd, flower pot (All discarded)	Modern Modern Undated/ modern Modern
53	u/s	3 1 2 1	12 4 70 16	Copper alloy objects, inc thimble, decorated button and slice of copper piping (piping discarded, 6g) Iron nail (Discarded) Lead dribbles (Discarded) Pottery; three-ribbed flagon handle, red ware	Post med/ modern - - Roman

APPENDIX 4: RETAINED MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
5	Layer	1	26	Medieval coarse ware base with thumbled applied strip around basal angle	13th to 14th C
		1	4	Colchester-type ware, unglazed reduced external surface	13th to 16th C
23	Finds	1	4	English tin-glazed earthenware recessed base from hollow ware	18th C
		1	8	Chinese porcelain footring base from ?tea-bowl	18th C
		4	42		

APPENDIX 5: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: ECC Offices, Park Road, Colchester

SITE CODE: CCPR06

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 ECC HEM Brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU WSI

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 8 Trench Sheets
- 3.2 Context Record Register
- 3.3 Context Records (1 to 57)
- 3.4 Plan Register
- 3.5 Section Register
- 3.6 3 A4 plan sheets
- 3.7 Levels Register
- 3.8 1 Trench location plan
- 3.9 Photographic Registers
- 3.10 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on disk)
- 3.11 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

2 large section drawings and 3 large plans

Finds

The finds occupy 2 boxes

APPENDIX 6: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: ECC Offices, Park Road, Colchester	
Parishes:	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 982 248	Site Code: CCPR06
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 4th to 11th December 2006	Size of Area Investigated: c.0.95ha
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester	Funding source: ECC Asset Management
Further Seasons Anticipated?: Yes	Related HER Nos.: 11881, 11882, 11979
Final Report: EAH round-up	
Periods Represented: Roman, post-medieval, modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out at the Essex County Council Offices in Park Road, Colchester during December 2006. Eight evaluation trenches were excavated across a 2.1 ha area of which 0.95ha was currently accessible.</p>	
<p><u>Roman</u></p> <p>Two cremation burials were excavated in the south of the property. One burial, dated to the later 2nd century, was well-preserved and comprised of a large jar covered by an upturned dish. The second burial was probably contemporary and comprised the lower half of a large jar truncated in antiquity. It is likely that further burials may exist in the vicinity. Two large east-west aligned ditches and a smaller north-west/south-east aligned ditch may also date to the Roman period.</p>	
<p><u>Post-medieval and Modern</u></p> <p>Two post-medieval or later ditches corresponded with a field boundary depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Other linear features and a raised area in the north-east of the property could be attributed to landscaping and garden activities during/after the construction of Altnacealgach House in the late 19th century.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: January 2007

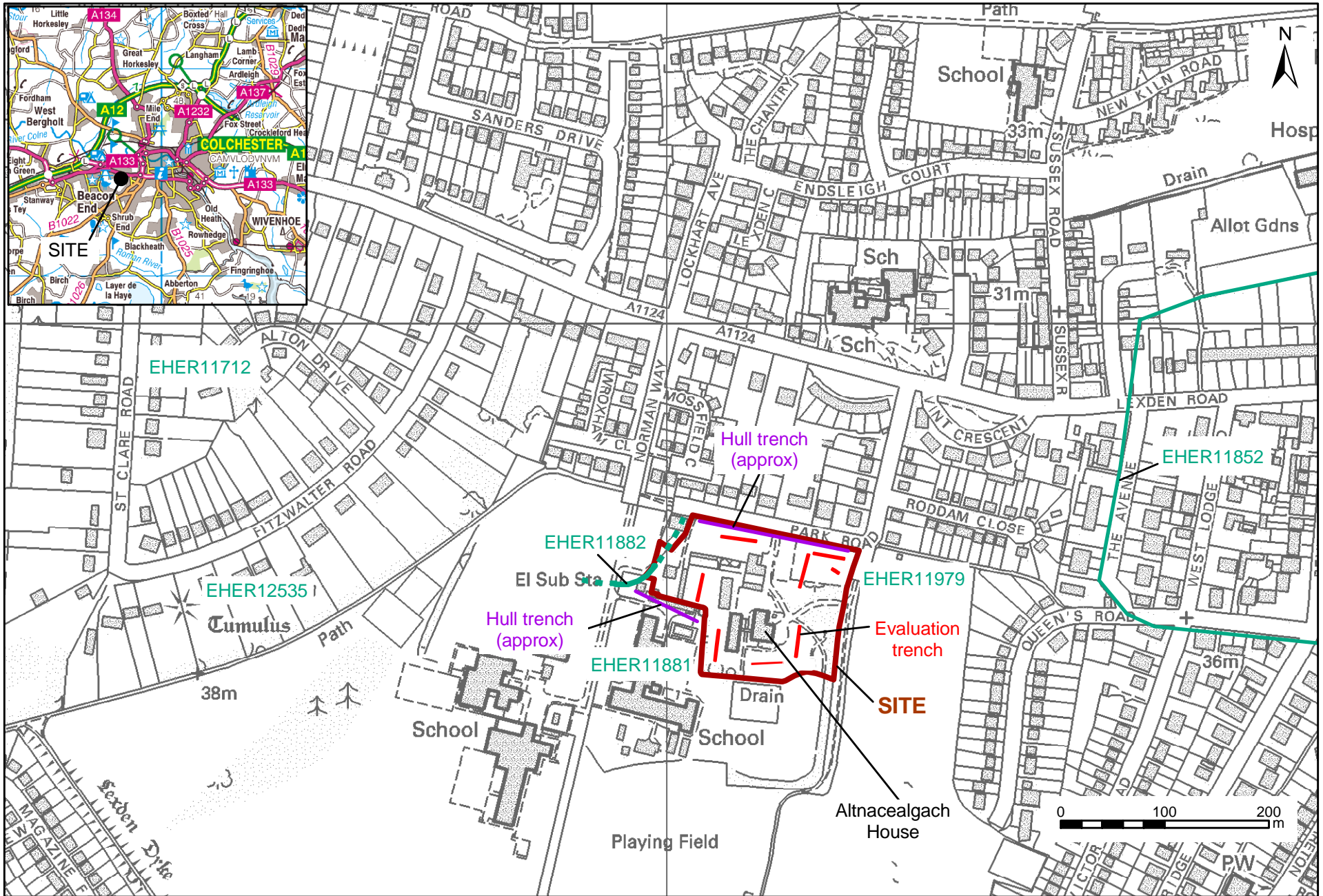


Fig.1. Location plan with EHER references

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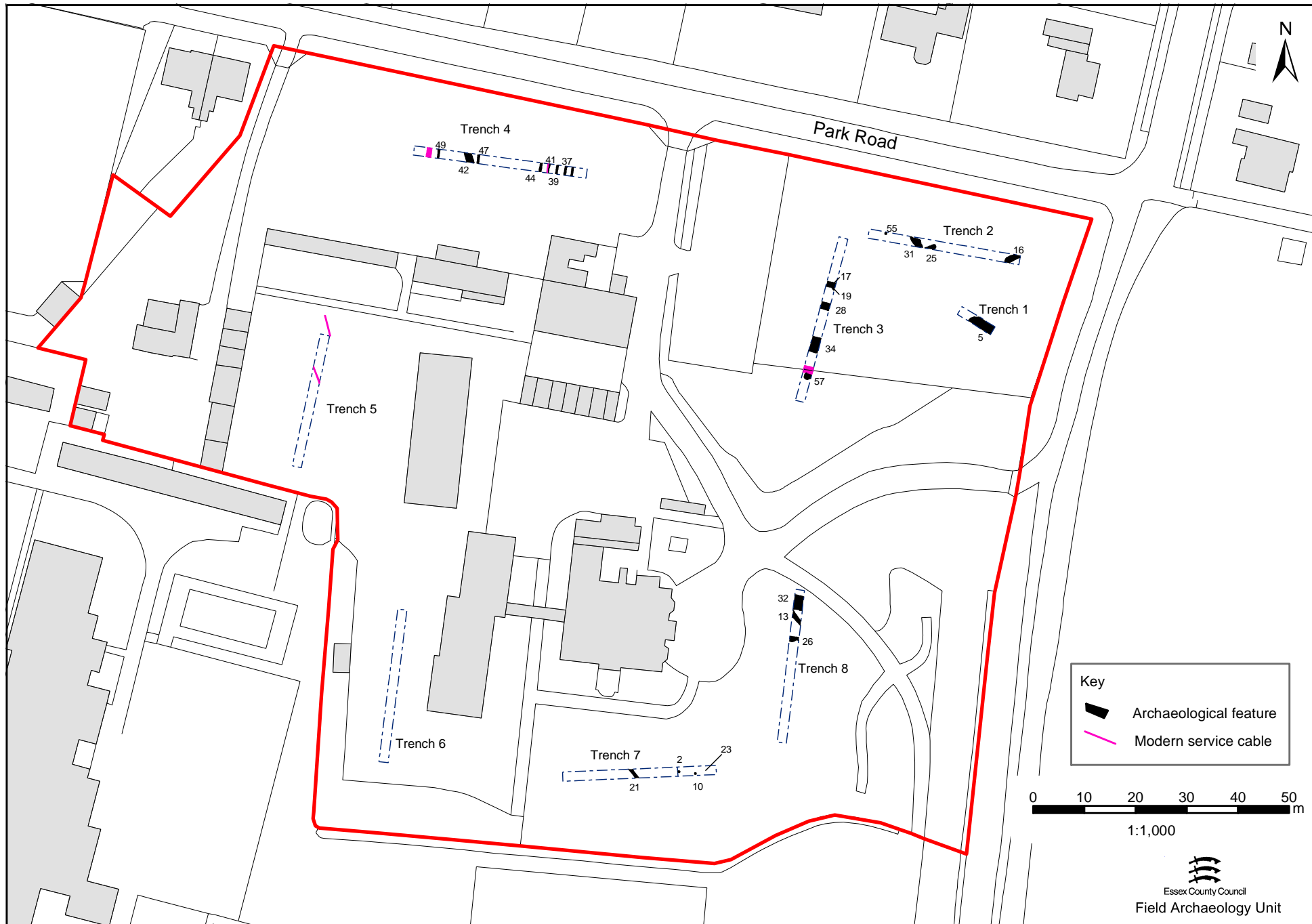
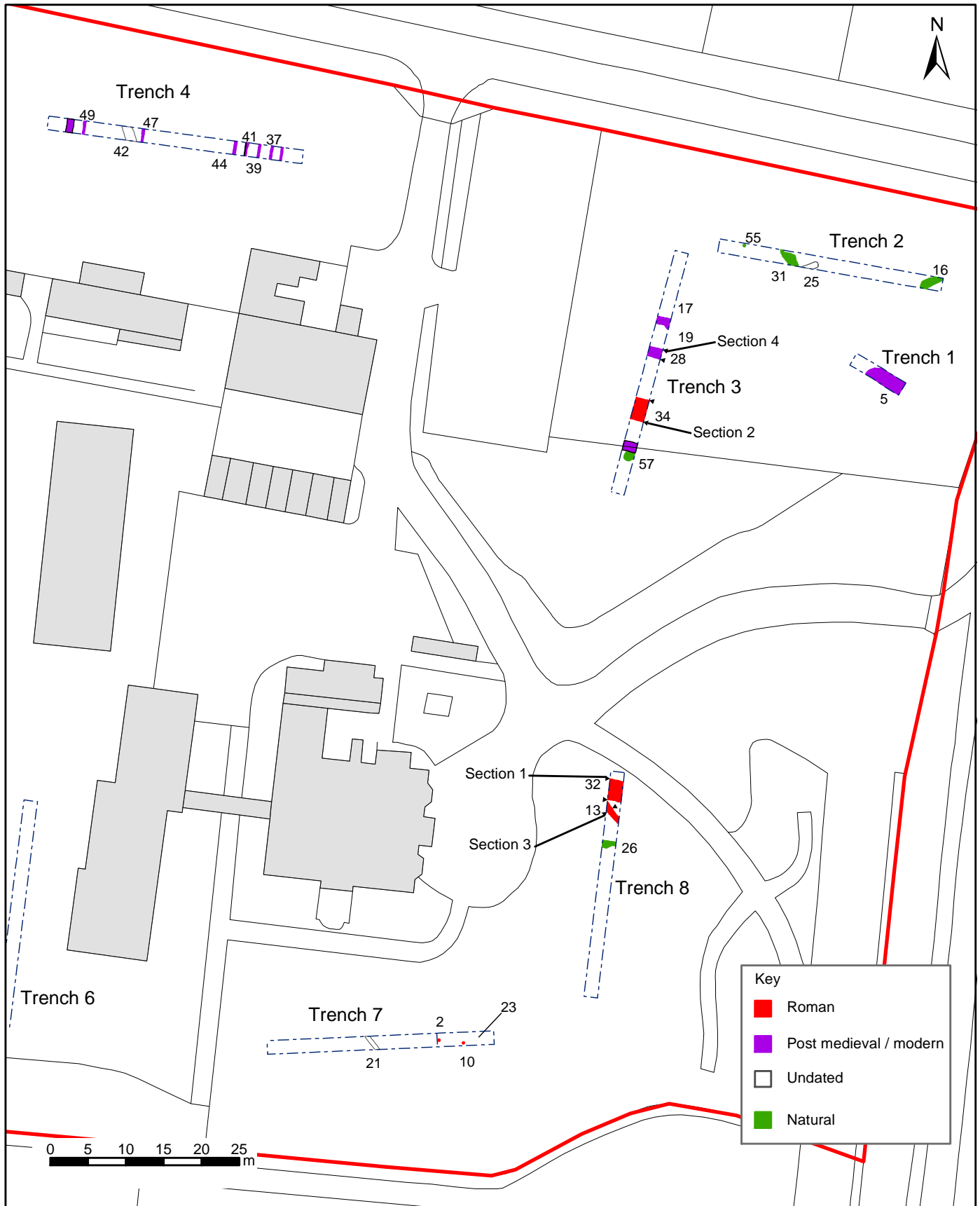


Fig.2. Trench location plan



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Fig.3. Phased site plan

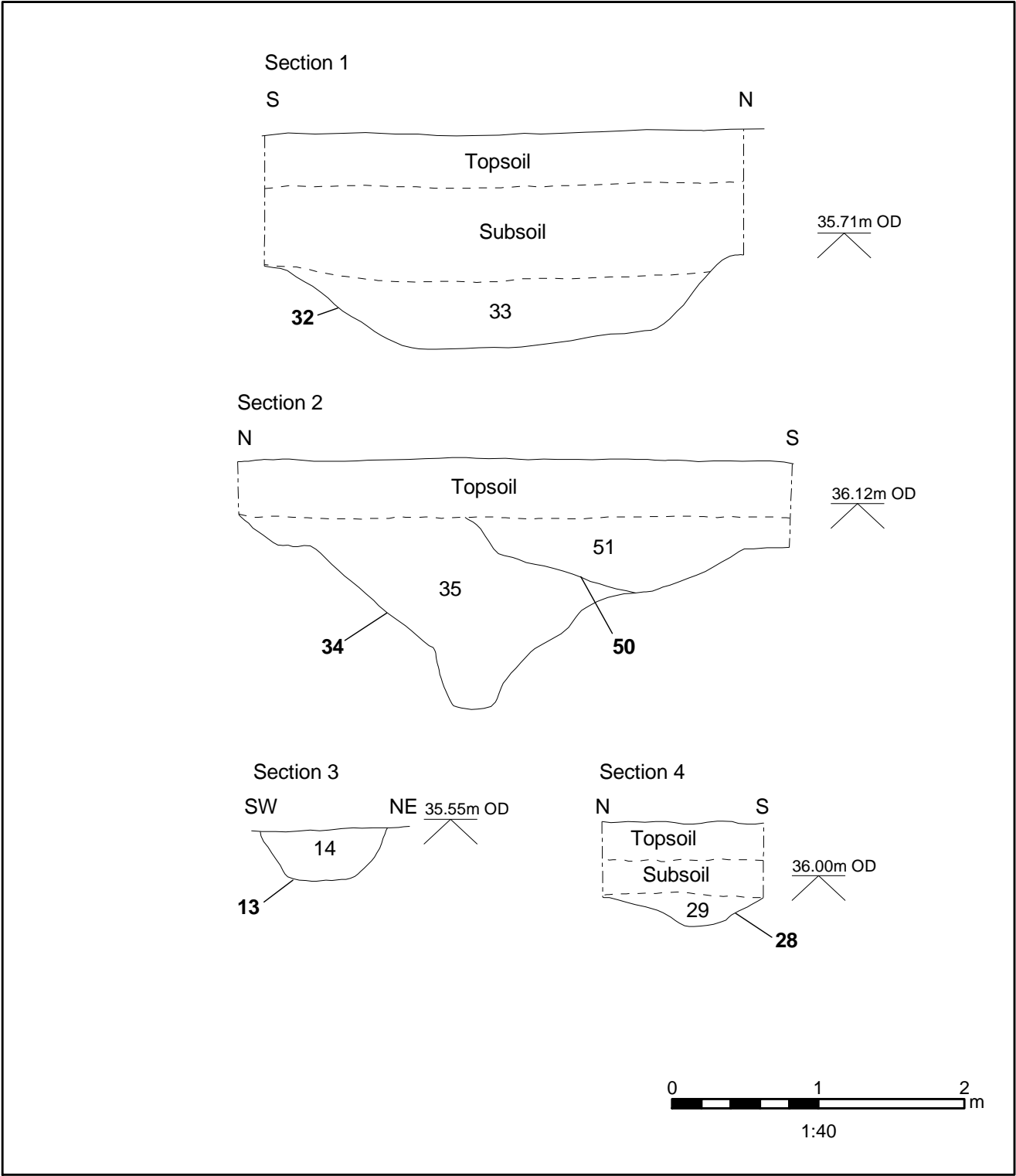


Fig.4. Sections