

**37 – 61 HIGH STREET
GREAT DUNMOW
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

April 2007

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Document Ref:	1752rep.doc
Report Issue Date:	April 2007
Circulation:	CgMs Consulting
	ECC Historic Environment Management
	Essex Historic Environment Record
	Archive (x 2)

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GREAT DUNMOW, ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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SUMMARY

Client: CgMs Consulting

NGR: TL 628 218

Planning Application No: UTT/1185/02/FUL **Site Code:** GD21

Project No: 1752

Date of Fieldwork: February 2007

Oasis Accession Number: essexcou1-23756

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on land to the rear of 37-61 High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, in advance of redevelopment. Although the site lies within the historic core of the town, in an area of high archaeological significance, the evaluation demonstrated that the survival of archaeological features and deposits across the development area was generally poor, but that archaeological remains survived in a localised pockets behind existing High Street properties.

The earliest remains were medieval, dating to the 13th to 14th centuries and consisted of a probable well and small pit. Later remains included post-medieval and modern pits and small isolated post-holes. To the rear of The Boars Head public house (No.37), several post-holes and a possible beam slot contained post-medieval material within their fills but may have belonged to an earlier structure which had been dismantled. The importation of soil onto the site in the Early Modern/ Modern period, along with the construction of a raised concrete loading bay or building platform, has resulted in the raising of ground levels across the area of investigation by up to 1.3m which, coupled with the localised and poor levels of survival noted, suggests that the development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the archaeological record.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

In February 2007, the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of CgMs Consulting, in relation to planning application UTT/1185/02/FUL. The development site lies in an archaeologically sensitive area on the southeastern edge of the medieval town core and an archaeological evaluation was required by Uttlesford 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). Due to the piecemeal nature in which various elements of the site have become available for evaluation, work has by necessity been undertaken in several phases, with a previous piece of work relating to the development site as a whole carried out by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit in 2003 (Reegan 2003).

This current programme of work was carried out in accordance with a brief produced by ECC HEM (2006) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by ECC FAU (2007). The site code is GD21 and in order to avoid unnecessary duplication or confusion with the previous phase of investigation, context numbers were started at 100.

1.2 Report and Archive

Copies of this report will be supplied to CgMs Consulting, 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 Saffron Walden Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

Great Dunmow is situated in north-west Essex, midway between Braintree and Bishops Stortford. The site lies within the historic town core (TL 628 218) and slopes down from west to east, towards the River Chelmer, from approximately 72m AOD to 65m AOD. The underlying geology consists of boulder clay in the western, higher, part of the site, giving way to glacial sands and gravels to the east (Reegan 2003).

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

The following archaeological information is derived from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), the Historic Town Assessment for Great Dunmow (Medlycott 1998) and the report on the previous phase of evaluation works (Reegan 2003).

The site lies within the historic core of Great Dunmow, immediately to the east and rear of properties fronting onto the High Street. Settlement is known in the area from the Bronze Age onwards and in the Roman period a small town was established to the north west of the junction of Stane Street and a road connecting Chelmsford to Cambridge. Previous archaeological investigations to the west of the High Street demonstrate activity from the post-conquest period through to the 4th century (Medlycott 1998; Wickenden 1988, Robertson *in press*) although the initial phase of evaluation works at 37 – 61 High Street did not reveal any features of Roman date, suggesting that the development sites lies outside the Roman settlement (Reegan 2003; Wickenden 1988, 92)

Evidence for Saxon occupation within the area of the Roman town is slight and the focus of early medieval settlement appears to have been at Church End, to the north of the medieval and later town. The establishment of a market, granted a charter in 1227, indicates a shift in the settlement focus from Church End to the High Street area. Previous evaluation works in the development area produced a range of rubbish and small quarry pits, post-holes, possible boundary ditches and levelling layers (Reegan 2003) typical of the “backyard” location that elements of the site occupy in relation to the High Street frontage. Similar deposits were encountered to the north-west of the site, at the rear of the Saracens Head hotel (Germany 1999; Letch 2006).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to record the character, location, date and significance of any surviving archaeological remains within the area under investigation and to relate and compare this evidence with the results of the previous phases of evaluation work on the site.

3.1 Objectives

The research objectives accord with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). The principle objective was to record any archaeological evidence that

will contribute to a further understanding of the development and function of the medieval and post-medieval town, with reference to Ayers (2000) and Medlycott (1998).

4.0 METHODS

The archaeological investigation initially comprised the excavation of two trenches totalling 240 sqm (fig. 1), targeted to investigate areas of the development previously unavailable for evaluation. Following the identification of medieval features at the western end of trench 2, an additional area (a further 60 sqm) was opened in order to enable the character and extent of the remains to be more fully determined.

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 pro forma 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 fill sequence in medieval pit/well 113, Trench 2.

5.0 RESULTS

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

5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 (80sqm – figures 2 & 4) was located toward the north-west edge of the site, alongside a north-east/south-west fence line that separates an existing public car park from the proposed development (fig. 1). The presence of a live drain running down the middle of the trench meant that the trench was effectively split in two, with the drain left in situ as a

balk between the two halves. The archaeological sequence was characterised by post-medieval and modern features, which were encountered solely on the north-west side of the trench, although a single sherd of residual Roman and medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of post-hole (121).

Undisturbed natural geology in the form of a grey-mottled yellow sand (139), which sloped gently from south-west to north-east, was encountered at between c. 68 and 69m OD. This was overlain by a clay-silt subsoil (142/ 102) into which all the surviving medieval/ post-medieval features had been dug. In the centre of the trench, two post-holes (119, 121) produced finds including clay pipe, roof tile, glass, and iron nails (in addition to the single sherd of residual Roman pottery noted above). To the south-west, two large rectangular steep-sided and flat bottomed modern pits (127, 137) were recorded, which produced small amounts of residual medieval and post-medieval pottery alongside 19th and 20th century wares. The south-west corner of the trench contained a number of intercutting and largely undated features, including pits (129), (131) and (133 – not drawn) and possible post-hole (135), all of which had been heavily truncated by a large modern pit (104/106 – see Fig 4, Sect. 2.02). Layer (142) and the medieval and post-medieval features that cut it were in turn sealed or truncated by a series of dumps, levelling deposits and large modern scoops/ cut features (143, 140 & 174), all capped by a heavily disturbed/ reworked topsoil (101).

The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (1893 – 1896) shows that the trench sits within one of a series of small rectangular plots of land that has been subdivided from a larger area to the south (fig. 6), although the date at which these boundaries were laid out is unknown and the archaeological remains provide no further information about what that area was used for beyond general back-yard activity.

5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was c.220 sqm in area in total and consisted of an original 40m long by 4m wide trench, with two extensions at its western end; one measuring 10m x 4m on the north (extension 2a) and one measuring 5m x 4m on the south side (extension 3 - see Fig. 1).

Undisturbed natural in this part of the site consisted of a slightly sandy boulder clay (103) which sloped from c. 70m OD in the south-west to c. 68m OD in the north-east. Overlying natural was a grey-brown clayey subsoil (102), up to 0.64m thick, which had been extensively truncated in places by modern intrusions, including a large tree throw/ root bole, which occupied a substantial part of the north-eastern part of the trench (Fig. 1).

The archaeological sequence in Trench 2 was characterised by the basal remains of a series of medieval and post-medieval features, a number of which may have been elements of a structure standing to the rear of a property fronting onto the High Street. The earliest features on the site were a large pit or well (113/173) and a further pit (146) which can be securely dated to the 13th or early 14th century by the finds recovered from their fills (see plate 1).

Pit/well (113/173) was excavated to a depth of c. 1.4m where what may have been natural gravely clays were encountered. However, as a result of the depth and groundwater ingress, further resolution and excavation was not possible. It appears that an original steep-sided feature (113) had been re-cut (173), with only two undated and partially truncated fills (170, 171) remaining (Fig 4, section 3.01). Thirty seven sherds of pottery were recovered from the sequence of fills within the re-cut (173), with the majority dating to the 12th and 14th centuries, in addition to a number of undiagnostic coarse-ware sherds. Pit (146), which again produced pottery of 12th – 14th century date, was c. 1m in diameter, steep-sided with a narrow, flat base and located to the north of (113/173). It was truncated by a c. 3.7m long beam slot or gully (144/ 156), the fill (145) of which produced a range of ceramics, including Metropolitan Slipware, Surrey-Hampshire Border Wares and Black-glazed wares of 16th to 17th century date, along with animal bone, clay pipe fragments and roof tile. Immediately to the east of the southern terminal of 144/ 156 was a large rectangular pit (115), which produced sherds of Post-medieval red earthenware and Frechen stoneware, suggesting a late 16th or 17th century date. To the west of 144/ 156, a large sub-circular pit (160) produced a varied ceramic assemblage, ranging in date from the 16th through to the 19th / early 20th century, suggesting a comparatively recent origin for the feature.

Beam slot 144/156 also truncated an undated rectangular pit (158), the terminal end of a short ditch segment (123/154) and an irregular, possibly natural, feature (148). In turn, ditch (123) cut the eastern tip of an elongated robbed-out post-hole (108), which could originally have been medieval in date, and the basal remains of a pit (152). Denoting the limit of these features were several undated stake-holes, (165), (163), (117) and (150). The stake holes and the beam slot may constitute the remains of a small backyard structure built on top of the earlier, medieval, features. Alternatively, they could relate to a medieval structure that was removed/ dismantled during the post-medieval period, with cultural material of that date becoming incorporated in the features as they were backfilled. Cutting subsoil layer 102, and also truncating the medieval/ post-medieval features cut into it, was a large modern feature (125) filled with a rubble-rich garden soil (126), which was in turn overlain by a brick/

hardcore base for a concrete loading bay or building platform. To the northeast of the concrete platform, the site was sealed by a heavily disturbed / reworked topsoil (101).

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL

by Joyce Compton

Finds, mainly of post-medieval or modern date, were recovered from eighteen contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. A range of finds was recorded, of which the main categories comprise brick/tile fragments and pottery (each found in fourteen contexts). A single sherd of residual Roman pottery was recovered from the fill of post-hole 121 (Trench 1). This is an abraded samian body sherd, with only spots of its slip still evident. The remainder of the pottery assemblage is post-Roman, however, and this forms the subject of a separate report below. The remaining finds are described by category following the pottery report.

Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A small assemblage of medieval and later pottery, 105 sherds weighing 1.3kg was excavated from fourteen contexts.

Medieval pottery

Almost 50% of the pottery (by sherd count) came from well 113 and all three fills (114, 169, 172) produced medieval pottery of a similar date, although no cross-fits between fills were noted. A relatively large number of fine wares/glazed wares are present, comprising examples of Hedingham ware, medieval Harlow ware, sandy orange ware and one unfeatured sherd of Mill Green ware. Two Hedingham ware sherds are decorated; one showing red slip-painting under a clear glaze and the other showing one straight and one curving applied strip under a mottled green glaze. The latter is paralleled by a larger fragment excavated at St Osyth from a feature dated c.1250 or later (Walker forthcoming, no.15). The largest fragments in the well are from a medieval Harlow ware jug with a collared rim and decorated with vertical slip stripes under a pitted lead glaze. Sherds from a second medieval Harlow ware jug show the remnants of a slip-painted lattice design. Jugs are relatively unusual in this ware; cooking pots are far more common. Mill Green ware and medieval Harlow ware have a probable date range of mid 13th to 14th centuries. The sandy orange ware sherds could be of this date range, and the paralleled Hedingham ware sherd also appears to date from the mid 13th century or later. A number of medieval coarse ware sherds also are present, although none are diagnostic. Three are smooth and relatively sand free, and may be products of the Hedingham ware industry.

Four sherds of medieval coarse ware were excavated from post-hole 146, so this may also be a medieval feature, perhaps contemporary with the well. A single sherd of Hedingham ware was also excavated from post-hole 108. It shows vertical combing under a mottled green glaze, imitating Mill Green ware and dates from the mid 13th to 14th centuries. It could therefore also be contemporary with the pottery in the well; however, as post-medieval brick and tile were also found in this feature it is likely to be residual.

Post-medieval pottery

Approximately 23% of the assemblage by sherd count is post-medieval. Oblong pit 115 contained a sherd of Cologne/Frechen stoneware that may be 16th century, although sherds of internally glazed post-medieval red earthenware in this feature suggest deposition later in the post-medieval period. Finds from gully/beam slot 144/156 include fragments of Metropolitan slipware flanged dishes and black-glazed ware drinking vessel that would have been current from c.1625 to the end of the 17th century. Also in this feature is a fragment of another type of drinking vessel in ?Surrey-Hampshire red ware, dating to the earlier 16th century. In addition to these finds, sherds of Surrey-Hampshire white ware and further examples of black-glazed ware and Frechen stoneware are residual in modern features. The only definite 18th century material is the rim, of a ?hemispherical footring bowl in Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware, manufactured between the 1720s and the end of the 18th century.

Modern pottery

Approximately 27% of the pottery assemblage (by sherd count) was Modern. Pottery dating to the 19th - 20th centuries was excavated from pits 106, 127, 137 and 160, although all these features also produced earlier, residual material. All, apart from 106 produced fragments of flowerpot, including one stamped 'SAN..' for Sankey flowerpots, made in Bulwell in Nottingham from 1855 until the 1980s. Pit 106 produced fragments from English stoneware handled bottles/jars and part of a hunting jug, which has a lead glaze and relief moulded decoration, not applied separately. This, and an example of modern white earthenware showing sponged decoration (dating from the 1830s to the 20th century), would indicate the pottery is of low status.

Discussion

The most important feature is the well, which most likely dates from the second half of the 13th century or possibly the first half of the 14th. The presence of Hedingham ware, medieval Harlow ware and Mill Green ware show Dunmow had access to pottery from various sources. The finds of medieval Harlow ware are interesting as less is known about this industry, although it is known to occur in west Essex and was a common find at some of the Stansted Airport sites just to the west of Dunmow. The preponderance of fine wares over coarse wares suggests most of the pottery is from living rather than service areas. The post-medieval pottery suggests activity here during the early 16th to 18th centuries, especially during the later 16th to 17th centuries.

Brick and tile

Twenty-nine brick fragments, weight 2481g, were recorded in eight contexts. Most comprise small featureless and abraded fragments, which cannot be closely dated. Two pieces which may be Roman came from the fills of pit 108 and beam-slot 144 (both Trench 2). Where they could be measured, bricks have depths ranging from 50 to 55mm, indicating probable 17th or 18th century dates. None of the fragments appeared to be modern except for that in the fill of post-hole 119 (Trench 1) which has a depth of 37mm and is in a fine yellow-buff fabric. This piece could be an item of garden furniture, such as a plinth for a planter.

Quantities of roof tiles were recovered from fourteen contexts. The tiles are fragmentary (113 pieces, weighing 4062g) and many are in a red sandy fabric. Roof tiles are difficult to date with certainty, since the materials and methods used in their manufacture remained unchanged from the medieval period until relatively recent times. Also, the fragmentary nature of the tile masks any diagnostic features. Only one fragment, from fill 114 of well 113 (Trench 2), might be considered to be of medieval date. The piece is in grey-buff fabric with buff surfaces and has a depth of 17mm. The remainder of the tile assemblage cannot be closely dated, but has been tentatively assigned to the post-medieval period.

Glass

Five contexts produced glass fragments, mostly comprising relatively modern bottle sherds. Sherds from three different, clearly-modern, bottle types were recovered from the fill of pit 104 (Trench 1). A large number of bottle sherds, some decayed, were found in the fill of pit 160 (Trench 2). Several of these are of recent date, but the decayed sherds are more likely to belong to the earlier post-medieval period. Two small sherds of colourless vessel glass came from the fill of post-hole 119 (Trench 1). Both have surface iridescence and may be as early as 17th or 18th century. Window glass was recorded in two contexts. A single clear fragment from the fill of pit 137 (Trench 1) is probably modern, but the piece from the fill of

beam-slot 144 (Trench 2) is decayed and most probably dates to the early post-medieval period. This would be consistent with the date of the pottery from the feature (16th to 18th centuries).

Metalwork

A small number of iron nail shafts and fragments were recovered from four contexts.

Clay pipes

Post-medieval clay tobacco pipe stems came from a total of six contexts, mostly as single examples.

Baked clay

The soil samples taken from fills 114 and 169 of well 113 (Trench 2) each produced small fragments of baked clay, weighing a total of 10g.

Animal bone

A small amount of animal bone was recovered, 41 pieces, weighing 269g, from eight contexts and mostly comprising unidentifiable fragments. Fragments of a horse scapula came from the fill of post-medieval pit 115 (Trench 2). The soil samples taken from two fills of well 113 contained frog bones, while a pig molar was recorded in fill 114.

Shell

Three contexts produced shell (10 pieces, weighing 88g), all oyster except for a single whelk in the fill of pit 108 (Trench 2).

Coal/clinker/burnt stone

Four contexts, all of post-medieval or modern date, produced pieces of coal and burnt material deriving from coal.

Environmental material

Bulk soil samples were taken from two fills (114 and 169) of well 113 for the purposes of environmental analysis. Both 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 4mm and 2mm 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 were recorded by

count and weight, where possible, and these details added to the quantification table in Appendix 2. Few finds were extracted, but the flots contained seeds and other environmental remains. The flots were submitted to Val Fryer, who reports:

Individual charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were present in both assemblages along with fragments of further indeterminate cereals. A small piece of probable hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was noted within sample 1 (fill 114). Charcoal fragments were present within both samples, with those from sample 1 being noticeably rounded and abraded. Other remains were particularly scarce (see Plant Macrofossils and other material – Appendix 2). Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997).

In summary, both environmental assemblages are extremely small (considerably less than 0.1 litres in volume) and very limited in composition. The material within is almost certainly derived from very small quantities of either scattered or windblown refuse of unknown origin, which were accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. It is unclear why the material with sample 1 is so severely abraded, although it is perhaps most likely that the remains were subjected to prolonged exposure and weathering prior to incorporation within the pit fill.

Comments on the assemblage

Most of the features which contained finds produced a range of material which is either post-medieval or modern. Sufficient quantities of finds belong to the earlier post-medieval period to indicate that occupation and rubbish disposal has taken place in the vicinity over several centuries. Just two features, well 113 and pit 146, are firmly dated to the medieval period. Only 43% by weight of the recorded pottery is medieval and, of this, almost 90% by weight was recovered from fills of the well. It is interesting that very little residual Roman material was recorded, considering the proximity of the Roman town.

Potential for further work

Nothing in the assemblage requires further work. All of the finds should be retained, except for the modern material. Some of the glass has already been discarded on health and safety grounds. All of the smaller pieces of brick and tile have been discarded following recording, along with the coal, coke and clinker.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation appears to confirm that the line of the High Street marks the northern and eastern boundary of the Roman town, and also lends further credence to Wickenden's suggestion that the High Street kinks around the line of the Roman town defences, which

may have still been visible as earthworks when the road was established (Wickenden 1988, 92). The trenches identified a small group of medieval, post-medieval, and modern features typical of the kind of “backyard” activity expected given the location of the site, to the rear of the High Street. Of particular interest are the fragmentary remains of a possible post-medieval or earlier structure and a pit/ well and a further pit, both of medieval origin. Unfortunately, the site as a whole has been subject to a variety of processes which have resulted in a considerable degree of re-working and truncation of any archaeological remains that may have been present, with only the basal remains of the more-substantial features surviving in the majority of cases.

Care must be taken in extrapolating too heavily on the basis of the relatively small number of features exposed; however, it appears that occupation on the site was established by the 13th century and possibly as early as the 12th. This would accord well with the granting of a market charter in 1227, which is taken to indicate a shift in the settlement focus from Church End to the High Street area. The artefactual evidence is also interesting, in that it demonstrates that pottery was reaching Great Dunmow during this period from a variety of production centres. There is no direct evidence for settlement during the late 14th and 15th centuries, although this may be simply a result of the small area investigated, with the pottery evidence suggesting a marked rise in activity/ consumption in the 16th and 17th centuries. As is to be expected given the location, subsequent activity takes the form of a sequence of early modern and modern dumping, pitting and other landscaping activities associated with the premises along the street frontage and their subsequent business use (e.g. 19th/ 20th century pits, modern drains and services, the concrete platform, etc).

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The most significant archaeological deposits survive mainly as deeper features, located to the rear of existing properties on the High Street. More superficial deposits appear to have been lost across much of the site and the archaeological potential of the site as a whole appears limited, with frequently truncated archaeological remains surviving only in isolated pockets. More specifically, due to the relatively small area exposed and the patchy nature of the surviving remains, the evaluation was unable to provide a detailed account of the site’s development in relation to activity alongside and to the rear of the High Street, or to any outlying remains that were encountered during the previous phase of works, beyond noting that the activities/ features revealed are broadly comparable with the features/ activity revealed in trenches 6 and 7 of the CAU evaluation (Reegan 2003).

The environmental assessment has established the potential for the survival of plant macrofossils in this part of Great Dunmow, especially in damp or waterlogged conditions. However, on this occasion the results were not particularly informative, doing little other than broadly supporting the site interpretation of back-yard plots, with domestic rubbish and waste weathering in the open, prior to becoming incorporated in the pit/ well fills that were examined.

The foundations for the new houses are unlikely to cause significant disturbance to the archaeological record, either because archaeological deposits are not present, having already been disturbed/ removed, or because they have been investigated and characterised as part of this exercise. Even where sealed medieval deposits are present, the evaluation suggests that they are not extensive and a variable degree of truncation has already occurred.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC Field Archaeology Unit thanks CgMs Consulting for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Tony Blowers, John Hewitt, 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 and Val Fryer. The main report text was written by Matthew Pocock with digital illustrations produced by Andrew Lewsey and editing by Adrian Scruby. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and Richard Havis of ECC HEM monitored the investigation on behalf of the local planning authority.

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APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

N.B. Contexts began at **100** to continue from/ avoid conflicts with previous investigations

Key: N.A. – not applicable (e.g. natural); UD – undated (stratigraphically suggested dates in brackets where possible); Med. – medieval; P-Med – post-medieval; Mod. – modern.

No.	Type	Location	Descrip.	Date	
101	Layer	All areas	Topsoil	Consistent across the site – dark and organic, heavily rooted	Mod.
102	Layer	2, 2a & 3	Subsoil	A pale firm clay silt, grey/green hue	N.A
103	Layer	2, 2a & 3	Natural	Boulder clay	N.A
104	Cut	1	Pit	A large modern feature that may represent the robbing/clearing of previous activity on site	Mod.
105	Fill	1		Single fill of 104	Mod.
106	Cut	1		Same as 104	Mod.
107	Fill	1		Same as 105	Mod.
108	Cut	2	Post-hole	Large rectangular, evidence the post was robbed out, (alternative interpretation, irregular pit)	UD – Med/ P-Med?
109	Fill	2		Single remaining fill within 108	UD – Med/ P-Med?
110				Unused	
111	Cut	2	Post-hole	Small and circular, 0.12m-deep	UD.
112	Fill	2		Single remaining fill of 111	UD.
113	Cut	2a	Well/pit	c.2.4m-diameter, excavated to a depth of 1.4m	Med.
114	Fill	2		Second fill of 173	Med.
115	Cut	2	Pit	A large rectangular pit with straight sides and a flat base	P-Med
116	Fill	2		Single remaining fill within 115	P-Med
117	Cut	2	Stake-hole	Small 0.34m-wide and 0.14m-deep	UD.
118	Fill	2		Single remaining fill of 117	UD.
119	Cut	1	Post-hole	0.45m-wide and 0.31m-deep	P-Med
120	Fill	1		Single remaining fill of 119	P-Med
121	Cut	1	Post-hole	0.46m-wide and 0.16m-deep	P-Med
122	Fill	1		Single remaining fill of 121	P-Med
123	Cut	2		Elongated pit/ ditch - 0.35m-deep	UD – Med/ P-Med?
124	Fill	2		Single remaining fill of 123	UD – Med/ P-Med?
125	Cut	2		Modern - machine (?) clearance of area to the rear of the high street properties. Undertaken prior to construction of the concrete loading area.	Mod.
126	Fill	2		Represents the build-up and dump of modern building debris, aggregate etc within 125	Mod.
127	Cut	1	Pit	Rectangular and of some depth. Not fully excavated due to conditions on site.	Mod.
128	Fill	1		Single homogenous fill of 127	Mod.
129	Cut	1		Linear (?) - not fully characterised as most disappeared under the edge of the site	UD – Med/ P-Med?
130	Fill	1		Single remaining fill of 129	UD – Med/ P-Med?
131	Cut	1		Linear (?) - not fully characterised as most disappeared under the edge of the site	UD – Med/ P-Med?
132	Fill	1		Single remaining fill of 131	UD – Med/ P-Med?
133	Cut	1	Post-hole	Or Linear (?) - not fully characterised as most disappeared under the edge of the site	UD – Med/ P-Med?
134	Fill	1		Single remaining fill of 133	UD – Med/ P-Med?

No.	Type	Location	Descrip.	Date
135	Cut	1	Post-hole Circular, 0.29m-wide	UD – Med/ P-Med?
136	Fill	1	Single remaining fill of 135	UD – Med/ P-Med?
137	Cut	1	Pit Rectangular, flat base, straight sided - evidence of animal disturbance	Mod.
138	Fill	1	Single remaining fill of 137	Mod.
139	Layer	1	Natural sand in Trench 1	N.A.
140	Cut	1	(?) robbing out or activity associated with previous clearance of the site.	Mod.
141	Cut	1	Geotechnical test pit	Mod.
142	Layer	1	Subsoil - in Trench 1	N.A.
143	Layer	1	Re-deposited natural seen in section	Mod.
144	Cut	3	Gully/beam -slot Steep sided and flat based	P-Med.
145	Fill	3	Single homogenous fill of 144	P-Med.
146	Cut	3	Post-hole Circular, 0.87m-wide and 0.28m-deep	Med.
147	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 146	Med.
148	Cut	3	Pit Sub-circular	UD – Med/ P-Med?
149	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 148	UD – Med/ P-Med?
150	Cut	3	Post/stake-hole	UD – Med/ P-Med?
151	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 150	UD – Med/ P-Med?
152	Cut	3	Pit Basal remains, 0.11m-deep	UD – Med/ P-Med?
153	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 152	UD – Med/ P-Med?
154	Cut	3	Pit Elongated, basal remains, 0.15m-deep.	UD – Med/ P-Med?
155	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 154	UD – Med/ P-Med?
156	Cut	3	Gully/beam -slot Steep sided and flat based	P-Med.
157	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 156	P-Med.
158	Cut	3	(?) - broadly rectangular but side and base are irregular, heavy truncation	UD – Med/ P-Med?
159	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 158	UD – Med/ P-Med?
160	Cut	3	Pit Modern	Mod.
161	Fill	3	First fill of 160	Mod.
162	Fill	3	Second fill of 160	Mod.
163	Cut	3	Stake-hole Circular, 0.34m-wide and 0.37m-deep	UD – Med/ P-Med?
164	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 164	UD – Med/ P-Med?
165	Cut	3	Stake-hole Sub-circular, 0.31m-wide and 0.12m-deep	UD – Med/ P-Med?
166	Fill	3	Single remaining fill of 165	UD – Med/ P-Med?
167	Cut	2a	Pit Rectangular, unexcavated	UD.
168	Fill	2a	Single fill of pit 167	UD.
169	Fill	2a	Lowest fill observed within 173 (not 114)	Med.
170	Fill	2a	A fill of 113	Med.
171	Fill	2a	A fill of 113	Med.
172	Fill	2a	Top fill of 173	Med.
173	Cut	2a	Re-cut of 113	Med.

No.	Type	Location	Descrip.	Date
174	Fill	1	Fill of 140	Mod.

APPENDIX 2: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

All Finds

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
105 =107	104 =106	3	64	Glass; clear square bottle base; blue-green medicine bottle body sherds; dark green bottle body sherd (All discarded)	Modern
		1	68	Roof tile fragment, sandy fabric	Post med.
		14	376	Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds	Modern
107	106	1	40	Pottery; base sherd	Post med.
109	108	4	26	Shell; oyster, two valves and fragment, whelk	-
		3	38	Brick fragments, one may be Roman	Post med.
		8	226	Roof tile fragments, sandy fabric, one overfired	Post med
		1	4	Pottery; body sherd, green external glaze	Medieval
114	173	3	4	Iron nail fragments from soil sample 1	-
		6	4	Animal bone; pig molar, frog bones and fragments, all from sample 1	-
		4	32	Shell; oyster, two valves and fragments	-
		13	8	Baked clay fragments from sample 1	-
		2	204	Roof tile, one in buff sandy fabric, depth 17mm	Med/post med
		37	412	Pottery; body sherds, some with splashes of glaze, inc 11/26g from sample 1	Medieval
116	115	8	228	Animal bone; horse scapula (all same bone)	-
		2	30	Shell; oyster, two valves	-
		32	1210	Roof tile fragments, six with peg holes (190g smaller pieces discarded)	Post med.
		5	38	Pottery; body sherds	Post med.
120	119	1	2	Iron nail shaft	-
		3	36	Burnt stone (clinker – Discarded)	-
		2	2	Vessel glass; body sherds, colourless with surface iridescence	Post med.
		1	4	Clay pipe stem	Post med.
		7	44	Roof tile fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	565	Brick fragment, yellow-buff clay, depth 37mm, ?garden item	Post med.
122	121	2	16	Iron nails, encrusted	-
		1	1	Coal fragment (Discarded)	-
		1	2	Clay pipe stem, burnt with slag attached	Post med.
		5	88	Roof tile fragments (32g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		1	1	Pottery; body sherd	Post med.
		1	16	Pottery; body sherd, samian	Roman
128	127	10	284	Roof tile fragments, two with peg holes, one square-cut	Post med.
		2	14	Pottery; body sherds	Med/modern
132	131	1	10	Roof tile fragment	Post med.
138	137	1	1	Iron sliver, ?nail	-
		8	14	Coal and coke fragments (Discarded)	-
		1	6	Animal bone; humerus, ?pig, unfused	-
		1	2	Glass; ?window (clear flat sherd)	Modern
		2	6	Clay pipe stems	Post med.
		4	302	Brick fragments, one abraded, depth 55mm (64g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		10	510	Roof tile fragments (86g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		4	34	Pottery; stoneware bottle rim; modern body sherds and flower-pot rim	Post med/ Modern
145	144	1	2	Animal bone; long bone sliver	-

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		2	2	Window glass, decayed	Early post med.
		5	228	Brick fragments (22g small pieces discarded), one piece may be Roman (depth 40mm)	Post med.
		12	430	Roof tile fragments, two with peg holes (114g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
		4	80	Pottery; rim and body sherds, all glazed	Post med.
147	146	4	54	Pottery; base and body sherds	Medieval
155	154	1	4	Animal bone; rib fragment, proximal end	-
		1	4	Clay pipe stem	Post med.
		4	44	Brick fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		10	378	Roof tile fragments, two with peg holes (62g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
157	156	1	2	Clay pipe stem	Post med.
		2	234	Brick fragments, depth of retained piece = 50mm (178g)	Post med.
		4	188	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
		4	88	Pottery; rim and body sherds, all glazed	Post med.
161	160	15	214	Bottle glass, base and body sherds, some decayed	Post med.
		2	30	Brick fragments (Discarded)	Post med.
		3	92	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
		10	72	Pottery; rim and body sherds, some glazed, some flower-pots	Post med/ modern
168	167	3	18	Animal bone; scapula and rib fragments	-
		1	6	Clay pipe stem	Post med.
		1	12	Burnt stone (clinker – Discarded)	-
		8	1040	Brick fragments, depth of retained piece = 55mm, width = 110mm (640g)	Post med.
		8	330	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole, one overfired (56g small pieces discarded)	Post med.
169	173	20	1	Animal bone; frog bones and fragments from soil sample 2	-
		11	2	Baked clay fragments from sample 2	-
		14	50	Pottery; body sherds and crumbs, inc 9/12g from sample 2	Medieval
172	173	1	6	Animal bone; long bone shaft, medium-sized mammal	-
		6	22	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Medieval

Medieval and Later Pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
105 =107	104 =106	2	42	Black-glazed ware, all over glaze, probably from a jar form	17th to 18th C
		11	329	English stoneware, comprises fragments from lead glazed hunting jug, moulding not applied separately and fragments from handled storage jars/bottles	19th to 20th C
		1	2	modern white earthenware from plate or saucer showing green sponged decoration around rim	mid 19th to 20th C
107	106	1	40	Frechen stoneware jug base with banded moulding, salt-glazed but not tiger ware	later 16th to 17th C
109	108	1	4	Hedingham ware green glaze and vertical combed decoration, copying Mill Green ware	later 13th to mid 14th C
114	173	2	9	Hedingham fine ware from soil sample <1>, one showing red slip-painting under a clear glaze and one showing straight and curving applied strips under a mottled green-glaze	13th C
		12	271	Medieval Harlow ware comprising jug with collared rim decorated with slip-painted bands on neck and slip-painted stripes on body, pitted plain glaze, plus sherds from a second jug showing slip-painted lattice decoration and plain glaze, total includes a further 5 sh/9g from soil sample <1>	mid 13th to 14th C
		1	5	Mill Green ware with partial plain lead glaze	mid 13th to 14th C
		4	27	Sandy orange ware includes sherd family showing cream slip-coating and a partial mottled green-glaze	13th to 14th C
		15	83	Medieval coarse ware misc. sherds (including 4sh/7g from soil sample <1>)	12th to 14th C
		3	16	Hedingham coarse ware – fine version	12th to 14th C
		116	115	4	31
1	8	Cologne/Frechen stoneware		?16th C	
122	121	1	1	Post-medieval red earthenware	16th to 19th C
128	127	1	14	Medieval coarse ware	12th to 14th C
		1	1	Flowerpot	19th to 20th C
138	137	1	23	Frechen stoneware cordoned rim of bellarmine jug showing remains of face mask, narrow neck indicates 17th C date	17th C
		1	4	Flowerpot	19th to 20th C
		1	5	English stoneware, thin salt glaze	18th to 20th C
		1	1	Modern white earthenware	19th to 20th C
145	144	1	67	Metropolitan slipware flanged dish, rim-pattern 1.1	c.1625 to end of 17th C
		1	2	Black-glazed ware rim of drinking jug or cup	late 16th to 17th C
		1	6	Post-medieval red earthenware rim of drinking jug or cup	16th to 17th C
		1	2	Surrey-Hampshire border red ware sherd from drinking jug or cup	early 16th C
147	146	4	54	Medieval coarse ware misc sherds including base sherd	12th to 14th C
157	156	4	88	Metropolitan slipware remains of two flanged dishes, one showing wall pattern No.29 and external fire-blackening	c.1625 to end of 17th C

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
161	160	3	15	Surrey-Hampshire white ware sherds with all over green glaze	later 16th to end of 17th C
		1	21	Black-glazed ware sherd with internal black glaze, perhaps from a jar form	17th to 18th C
		1	7	Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware rim perhaps from a hemispherical bowl	1720s to end of 18th C
		5	29	Flowerpot, misc. fragments, one stamped 'SAN..' for SANKEY, another stamped 'CII'	19th to 20th C
169	173	4	1	Hedingham fine ware from soil sample <2> showing traces of clear glaze	13th C
		6	40	Medieval coarse ware including 2sh/4g from soil sample <2>	12th to 14th C
		2	8	Sandy orange ware unglazed, medieval or late-medieval including 1sh +crumbs/6g from soil sample <2>	13th to 16th C
172	173	3	8	Sandy orange ware glazed sherds including thumbled base from a jug	13th to 14th C
		3	13	Medieval coarse ware misc. sherds including flat-topped rim	13th to 14th C

Plant Macrofossils and Other Material

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	114	169
Plant macrofossils		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x	x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	xcf	
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x
Charred root/stem	x	
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material		x
Black tarry material	x	
Fish bone	x	
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x	xpmc
Vitrified material	x	
Sample volume (litres)		
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 50 specimens xxx = 50 – 100 specimens

pmc = possible modern contaminant

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME; 37- 61 HIGH STREET, GREAT DUNMOW, 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
 - 2.2.2 Environmental Report
- 2.3 Catalogues
 - 2.3.1 Context Finds Record
 - 2.3.2 Finds Catalogue
 - 2.3.3 Environmental Sample Records
 - 2.3.4 Environmental Sample Register

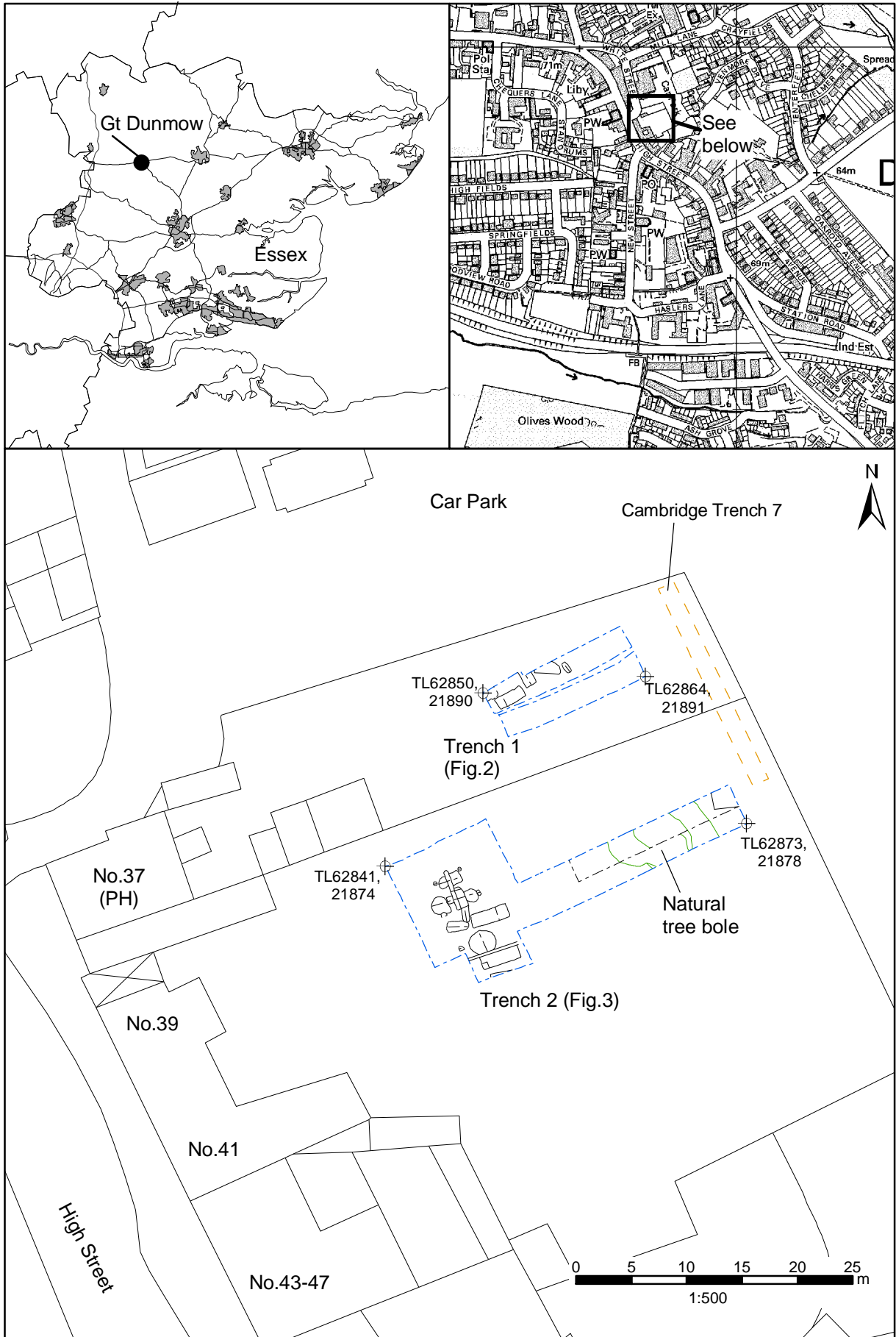
3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Index
- 3.2 Context Record Sheets 100-173
- 3.3 Photographic Register (inc. 33 B+W prints & negatives)
- 3.4 CD (Digital photos and archive data)
- 3.5 Miscellaneous maps, plans and sketch sections

N.B. The finds occupy one box.

APPENDIX 4: EHER SUMMARY

SITE NAME/ADDRESS: 31-61 High Street, Great Dunmow	
CONTRACTING UNIT PROJECT NUMBER 1752	
OASIS ACCESSION NUMBER essexcou1-23756	
PARISH: Great Dunmow	DISTRICT: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 628 218	SITE CODE: GD21
TYPE OF WORK: Evaluation (Trial Trenching)	SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP: M.Pocock of ECC FAU
DATE OF WORK: February 2007	SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED: 280 sqm
FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM: Saffron Walden	FUNDING SOURCE: Developer
FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED. No	RELATED HER Nos.
FINAL REPORT: EAH summary	
PERIODS REPRESENTED: Medieval, Post-medieval, Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken by ECC Field Archaeology Unit on land to the rear of 37-61 High Street, Great Dunmow, prior to redevelopment of the site.</p> <p>The evaluation demonstrated that the survival of archaeological features and deposits across the development area was generally poor, but that archaeological remains survived in a localised area behind existing High Street properties. No evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity was noted, despite the close proximity to the Roman town, to the west. The earliest remains were medieval, dating from the 12th/ 13th to 14th centuries and consisted of a probable well and small pit located alongside the site boundary with the Boars Head public house. Analysis of plant remains in soil samples taken from the well produced charred wheat, hazel nut shell fragments and charcoal, all of which was abraded and weathered, suggesting that it had been subject to prolonged exposure before becoming incorporated in the feature fills</p> <p>Later remains include a number of post-medieval and modern pits and small isolated post-holes. To the rear of the Boars Head several post-holes and a possible beam slot produced post-medieval material from their fills but may have belonged to an earlier structure that had been dismantled. The importation of material onto the site in the Early Modern/ Modern period, along with the construction of a concrete loading bay or building platform, has resulted in the raising of ground levels across the area of investigation by up to 1.3m. Coupled with the high levels of truncation/ disturbance affecting the medieval and early post-medieval remains, this suggests that the development is unlikely to have a significant impact upon the archaeological record.</p>	
PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS: Reegan, R. 2003 <i>Great Dunmow, Essex: evaluation to the rear of 37 – 61 High Street</i> . Cambridge Archaeological Unit	
AUTHOR OF SUMMARY: Matthew Pocock (ECCFAU)	DATE OF SUMMARY: April 2007



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Fig.1. Location plan

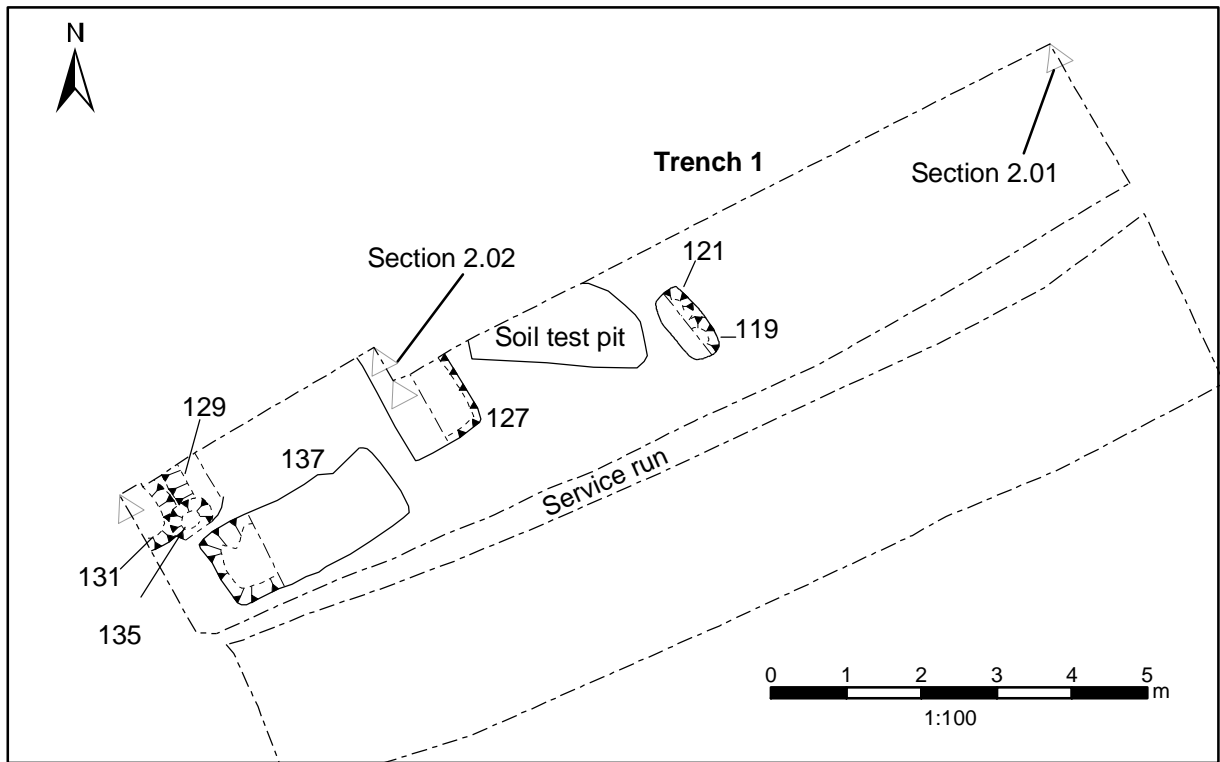


Fig.2. Trench 1

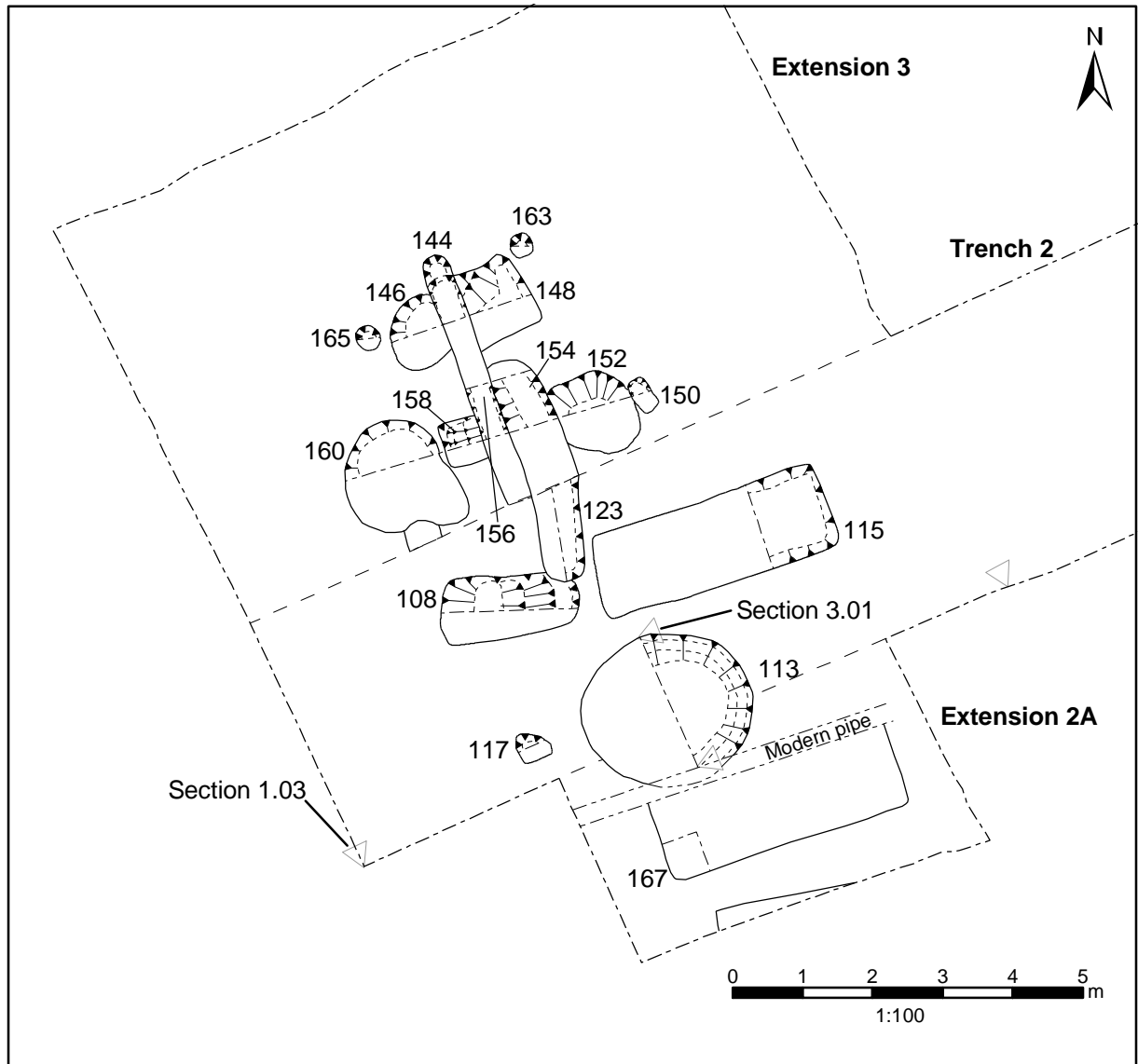


Fig.3. Trench 2

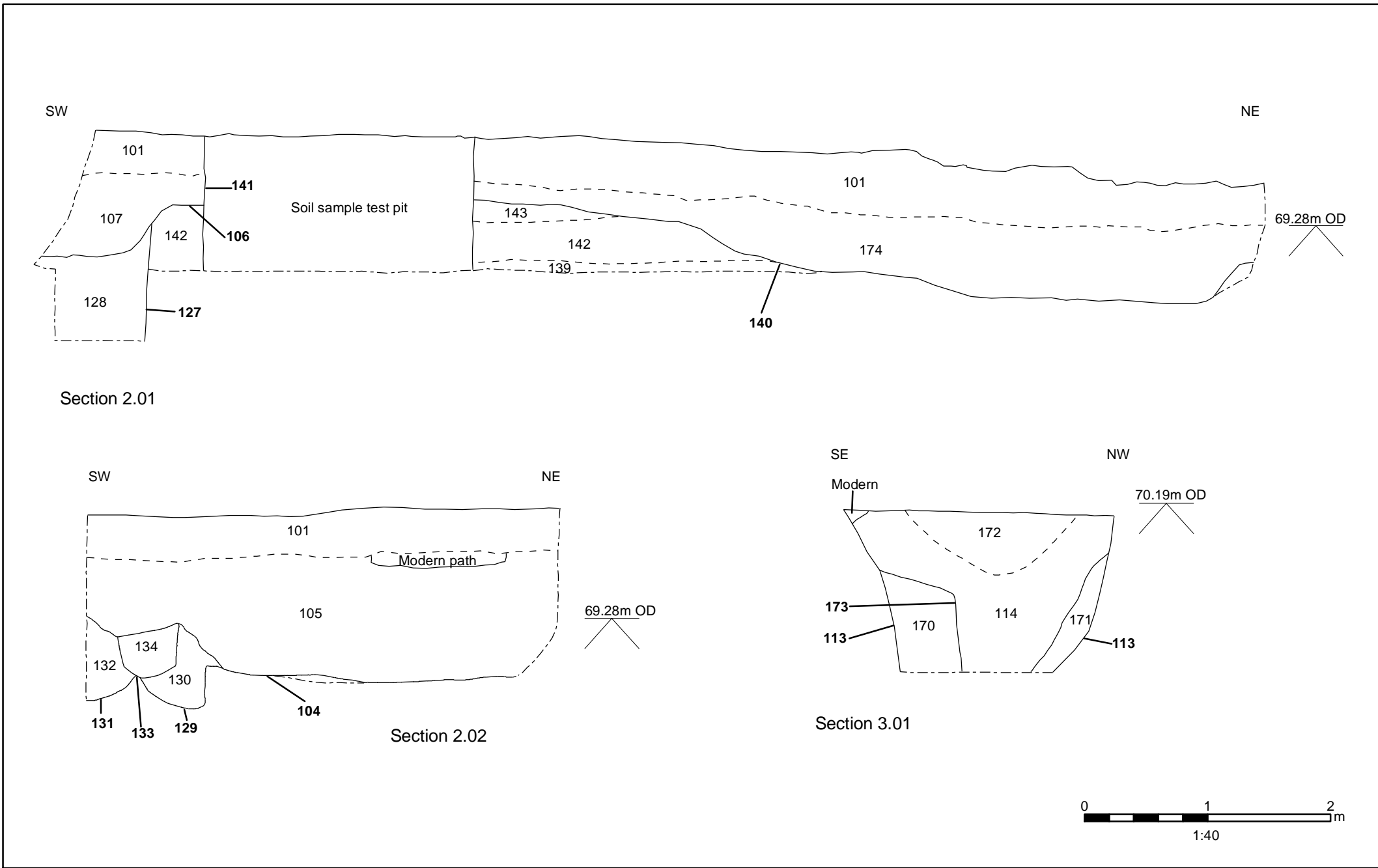


Fig.4. Sections

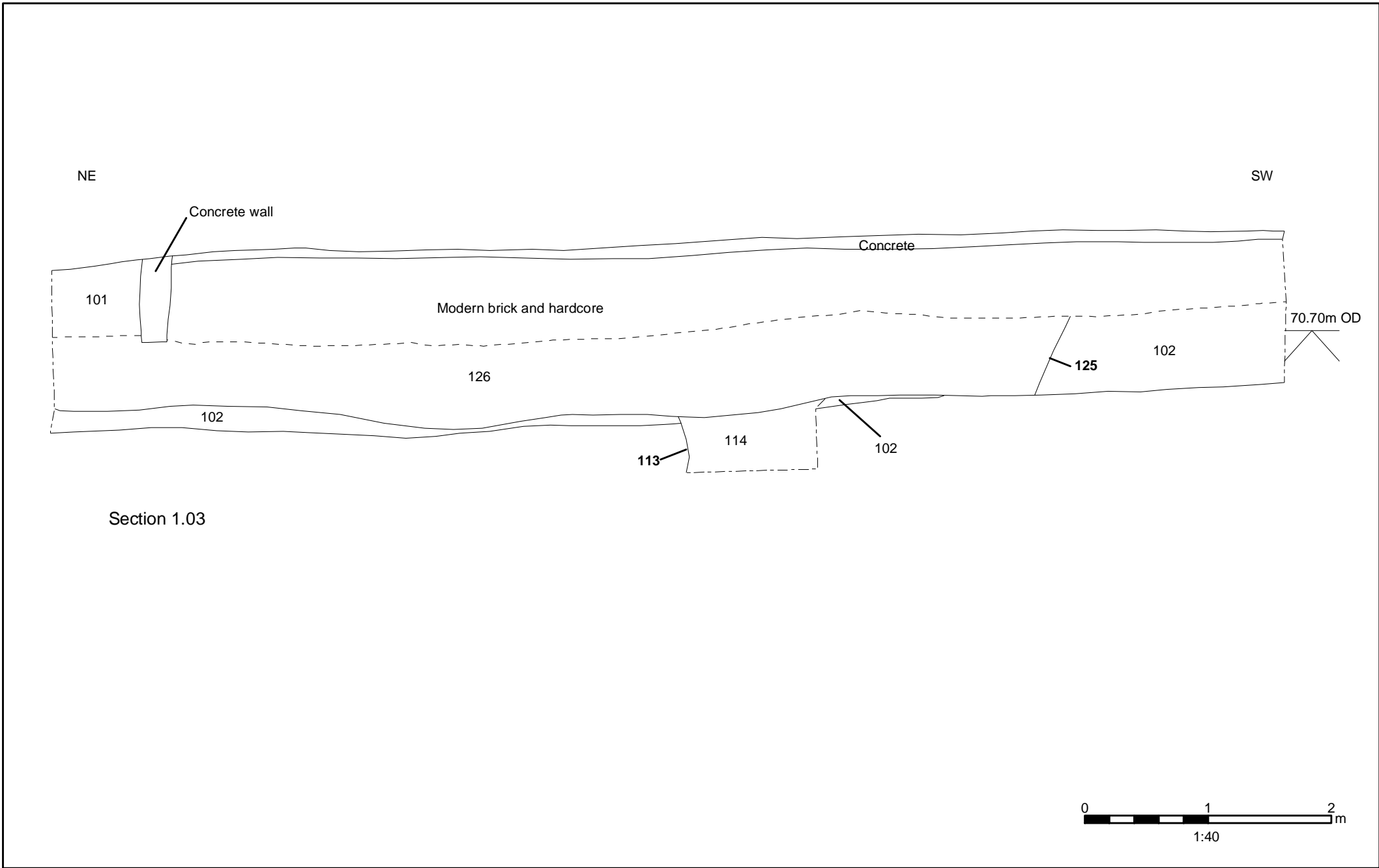


Fig.5. Sections

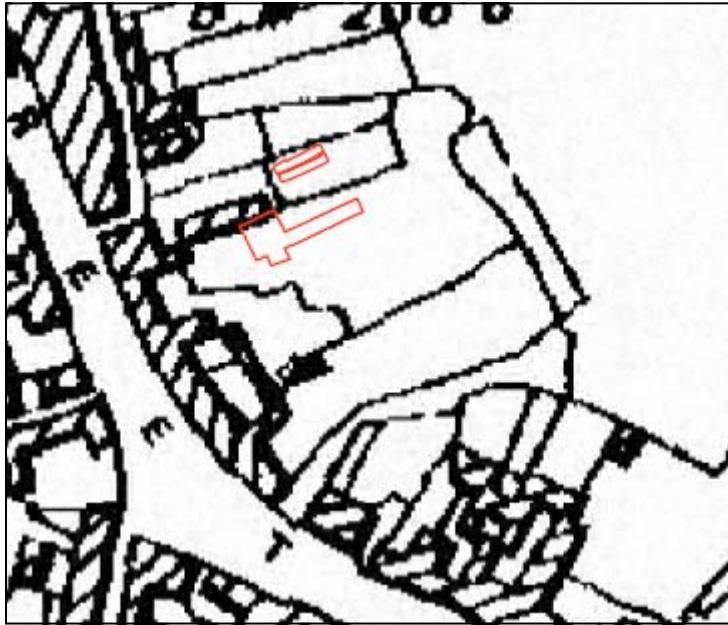


Fig. 6. 2nd Edition OS Map (1893-1896) – Trenches highlighted

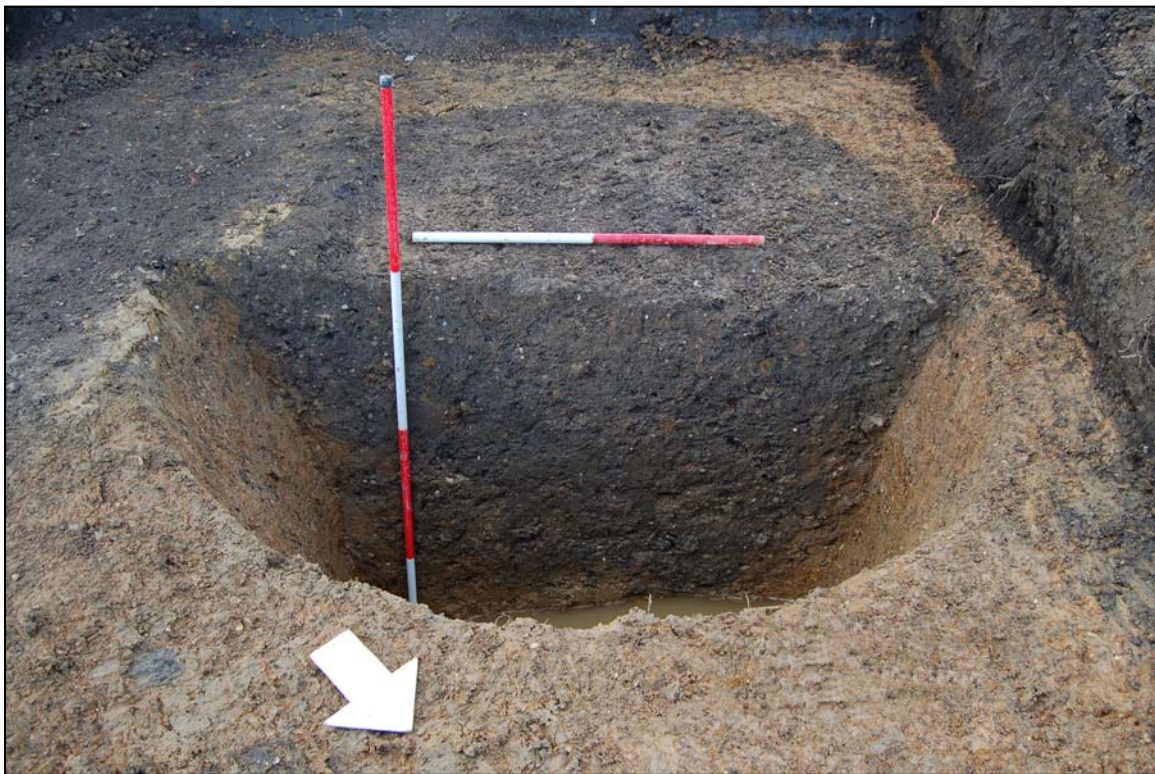


Plate. 1. Well/Pit 113/173, Trench 2.