

10 GEORGE STREET

HARWICH

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL-TRENCHING



Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

March 2007

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

| | |
|--|---|
| Site name/Address: 10 George Street, Harwich | |
| Parish: Harwich | District: Tendring |
| NGR: TL 16020 32478 | Site Code: HW 10 |
| Type of Work: Trial-trenching evaluation | Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit |
| Date of Work: 12/3/07 | Size of Area Investigated: One trench, totalling 20m ² |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester | Client: Phelan Construction Ltd |
| Further Seasons Anticipated?: | Related EHR Nos.: |
| Final Report: <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> (Summary) | |
| Periods represented: Post-medieval Modern | |
| SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: | |
| <p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition on planning consent prior to construction of a new house at 10 George Street, Harwich (Fig. 1). The evaluation consisted of excavation by machine of a single trial trench measuring 10m by 2m within the footprint of the house, to a depth of 1.5m, below which a trial-pit measuring 0.5m² was excavated by hand to a depth of 2.1m. The objectives of the trial-trenching were to locate the line of the medieval earthwork town defences and, more generally, to record the survival and character of any deposits related to possible medieval or post-medieval development west of George Street. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the archaeological brief issued by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team, who monitored the work, and a written scheme of investigation prepared by the Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit.</p> <p>The trenching revealed five layers, but no archaeological deposits earlier than the 19th or 20th century. The top two layers (1 and 2) were excavated by machine and the bottom three layers (3 to 5) by a hand-dug trial-pit in the base of the trench.</p> <p>Layer 5 at the bottom of the sequence (<1.00m to 1.29m OD) comprised light brownish yellow gritty sand and was probably an undisturbed natural deposit. Layer 4 above it (1.29m to 1.48m OD) consisted of brownish yellow silt-sand, was similar to layer 5, and was probably a layer of disturbed natural. Layer 3 was an occupation horizon (1.48m to 1.86m OD) and consisted of very dark greyish brown friable sand clay, containing 19th to 20th-century brick, tile, glass and</p> | |

pottery, and a sherd of clearly residual late 17th- or earlier 18th-century pottery. Layer 2 which sealed it (1.86m to 2.86m OD) comprised a thick deposit of brownish-orange sand clay and gravel, containing a small fragment of brick, and representing a deliberate raising of the ground. Layer 1 at the top of the sequence (2.86m to 3.26m OD) was the existing occupation horizon and was similar to layer 3.

The results of the trial-trenching suggest that the development site has undergone a considerable amount of landscaping in the last 150 years that has apparently removed or severely truncated any pre-existing archaeological remains. The earliest surviving occupation horizon (layer 3) contains 19th/20th-century finds, suggesting a ground surface 1.5m below the level of George Street. Historic maps show the area to the west of George Street as coastal marshland until well into the 19th century. Excavations in 1990-1 on the line of the Dovercourt Bypass only 150m west of the site recorded a gun battery built in 1810-11 on the existing shore line (Godbold 1994). The excavations confirmed that the land surface was raised and the area reclaimed with the construction of the railway station on the waterfront in 1854, although there may also have been more recent phases of groundworks as the railway layout, harbour facilities and adjacent residential areas were expanded.

Previous Summaries/Reports: - Godbold, S. 1994: A Napoleonic coastal gun battery; excavations at Bathside Bay, Harwich 1990-91, *Essex Archaeol. Hist.* **25**, 193-218

Author of Summary: Mark Germany

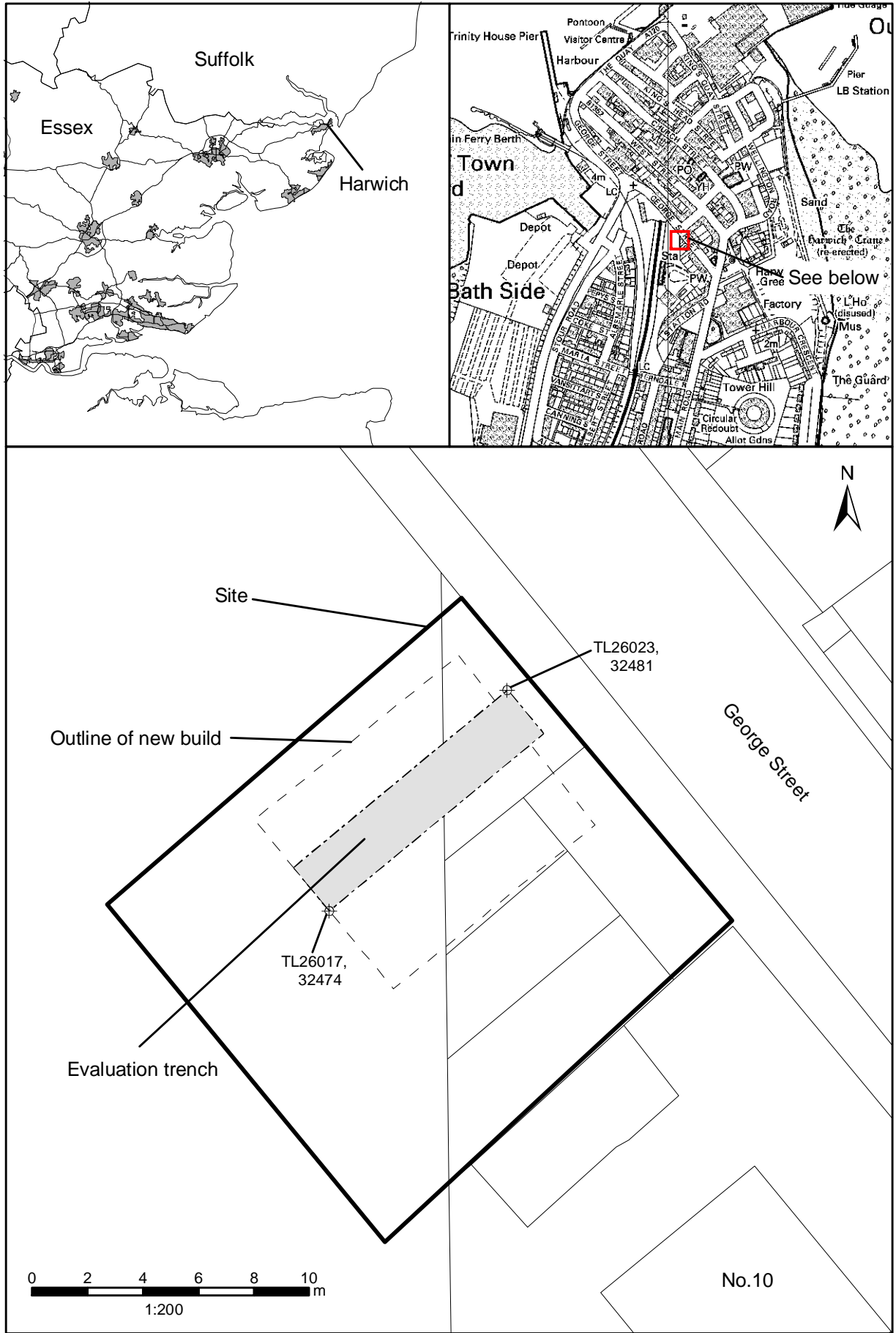
Date of Summary: March 2007

Finds note by Joyce Compton and Helen Walker

Finds were recovered from a single context (layer 3). The material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, and the pottery has been described by type. Full quantification details and the pottery descriptions are noted in the table below. None of the finds has been retained, due to their relatively recent date

Finds data

| Context | Feature | Count | Weight | Description | Date |
|---------|---------|-------|--------|---|---------------------------|
| 3 | Layer | 1 | 20 | Bottle glass, dark green base sherd | Modern |
| | | 1 | 6 | Clay pipe stem, 10mm diameter | Post-medieval |
| | | 22 | 234 | Pottery, listed by type below; | |
| | | 1 | 7 | Staffordshire-type slipware dish/plate rim with piecrust edge | 1670s – earlier 18th C |
| | | 13 | 157 | Slipped kitchen earthenware, sherd family | 19th - early 20th C |
| | | 1 | 8 | Modern stoneware | 19th-20th C |
| | | 2 | 8 | Yellow ware including sherd with applied white slip decoration | late 18th-20th C |
| | | 3 | 45 | Ironstone horizontal flanged rim ?from chamber pot showing pale blue transfer-printed floral decoration around flange | 1820s to 20th C |
| | | 2 | 9 | Ironstone, undecorated | early 19th-20th C |



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Fig.1. Trench location