

**THE OLD VICARAGE
CHURCH STREET
KELVEDON
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
EXCAVATION**



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

JUNE 2007

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Kelvedon, Essex, CO5 9AL	
Oasis Reference: Essexcou1- 26818	
Parish: Braintree	District: Kelvedon
NGR: TL 8559 1848	Site Code: KL22
Type of Work: Strip map and assess	Site Director/Group: M.Pocock (ECC FAU)
Date of Work: 07/05/2007	Size of Area Investigated:
Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding Source: Mr & Mrs Smith
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related EHER Nos: See below
Final Report: EAH summary only	
Periods Represented: Prehistoric, modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Essex CC Field Archaeology Unit undertook an archaeological investigation prior to construction of a swimming pool in the grounds of The Old Vicarage, Kelvedon, to the south-western side of the present Grade II listed building which dates to the 18th century (LBS No.116460). A condition for archaeological recording was placed on planning consent (BTE/1195/04) because the site lies within a potentially sensitive archaeological area. Roman coins and urns are thought to have been found in the field to the south-east of the vicarage (EHER 8149-50) and evidence for Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval settlement exists nearby (EHER 8141-4, 18002-3). The vicarage is probably of medieval origin, as it is adjacent to the 12th-century church of St Mary the Virgin, and is 250m to the north-west of Red House and Church Hall Farm, the site of a medieval manor (EHER 25398, 30054).</p> <p>The investigation consisted of an area measuring 6.1m by 12.0m, in which topsoil and other overburden was removed by machine down to the surface archaeological features cut into the natural subsoil. Initially, the archaeological features that were exposed were planned, and following consultation with Vanessa Clarke of the ECC HEM, they were then excavated to establish their date and character.</p> <p>Generally, ground surface heights were around 26mOD but varied widely across the site because of previous landscaping and terracing. The archaeological remains were located at a depth of between 0.70 and 0.94m below the ground surface and consisted of two broadly N/S ditches (03/07, 19), three pits (05, 13, 15), a NNE/SSW gully (09) and a post-hole (11) that was situated at the end of 09 (Fig. 1). The archaeological features were cut into the natural sandy, gravely silts of</p>	

the River Blackwater floodplain and overlain by a thick deposit of made/disturbed ground that was probably derived through previous landscaping. All features and deposits were sealed by a 0.25m thick layer of garden topsoil.

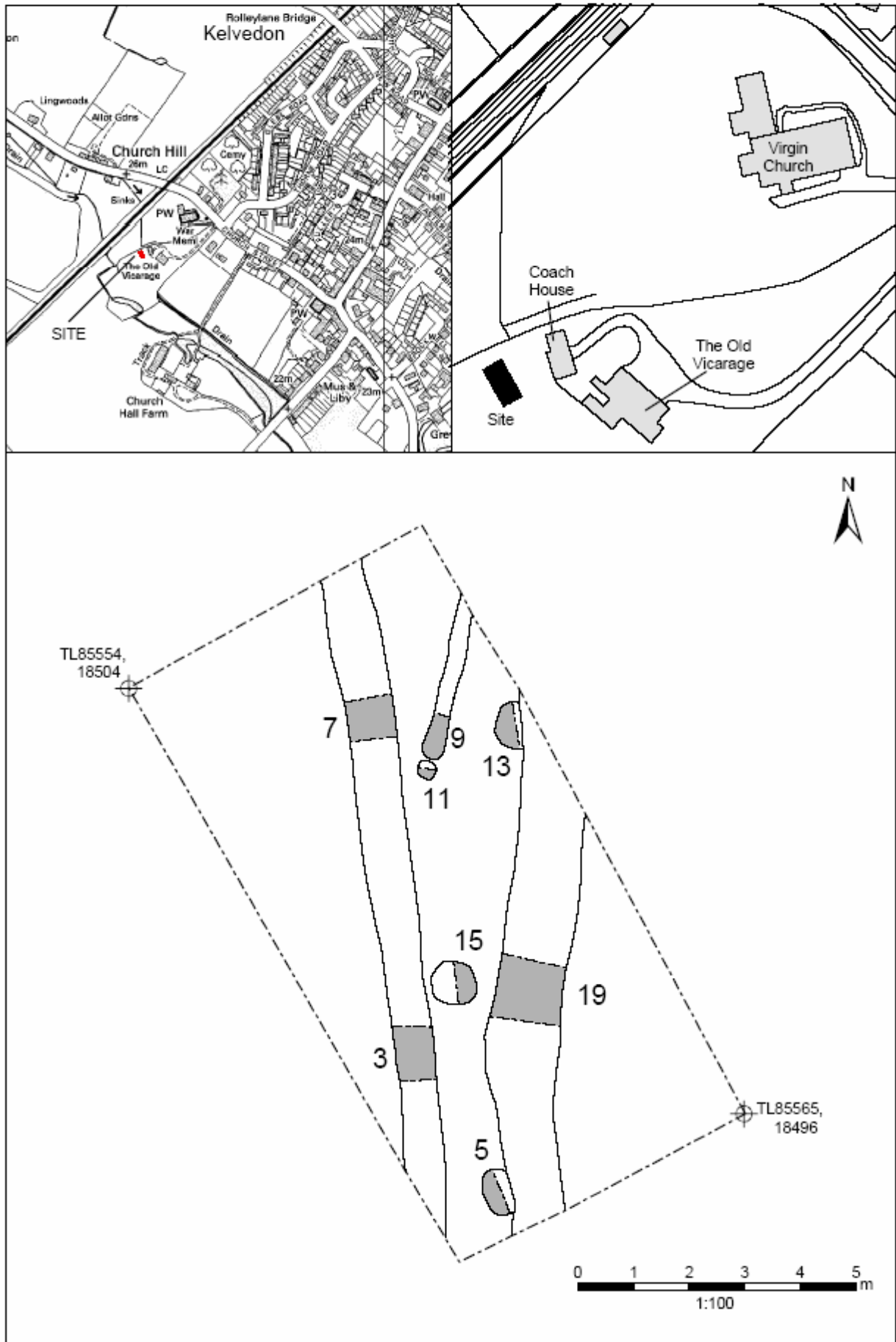
Gully 09 and ditch 03/07 both contained prehistoric pottery, with the pottery from ditch segment 03 dating to the Middle Iron Age, probably the 1st century BC, and this evidence suggests the possibility of further Iron Age activity in the surrounding area. Ditch 19 remained undated but was probably the backfilled continuation of an existing boundary ditch to the rear of the church and graveyard to the north of the site. This had been replaced in garden of the vicarage by a culvert built in the Victorian period that drained to the stream to the south. The pits or possible post holes that lined the ditch could have represented a fence line associated with that boundary. No finds were recovered from the made/disturbed ground or topsoil that could be associated with more recent development of the site. Furthermore, no Roman, Saxon or medieval features or finds were encountered.

The investigation has characterised and dated the archaeological remains that have been destroyed by the excavation of the swimming pool and provided an indication of the type and date of features that could be found nearby. The survival of archaeological features and deposits was reasonably good, and further archaeological remains may be preserved in areas of the garden that have not previously been disturbed by landscaping.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None

Author of Summary: Matthew Pocock (ECC FAU)

Date of Summary: 08/05/07



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Fig.1. Location plan

Finds report, by Joyce Compton

Small groups of finds were recovered from six contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantifications are provided in the table below.

The finds mainly comprise animal bone, amounting to 30 pieces, weighing 356g, recovered from five contexts and probably representing disposal of food waste. Pottery was found in two contexts (fill 4 of ditch 3 and fill 10 of gully 9). Amounts are small, but the shell-tempered sherds in fill 10 are from a plain vessel with a flat-topped rim which is likely to date to the Middle Iron Age, perhaps more precisely to the 1st century BC. The small sherds in fill 4 are also likely to be Middle Iron Age. Unfortunately, the baked clay in fill 20 of ditch 19 is not closely datable.

All of the finds appear to form an homogenous collection, perhaps deposited within a relatively short time frame, and as such, all should be retained.

The finds occupy less than a box.

Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
4	3	13 1 5	92 2 14	Animal bone; fragments Flint ?blade fragment Pottery; ?base and body sherds	- - Prehistoric
6	5	1	62	Animal bone; long bone shaft, large mammal, with cut marks	-
10	9	3 2	88 22	Animal bone; ?pelvis fragments, large mammal Pottery; joining rim sherds, plain rimmed ?bowl, shell-tempered ware	- Prehistoric
14	13	2	60	Animal bone; metapodial shaft, deer; rib fragment	-
16	15	11	54	Animal bone; metapodial and radius shafts, ?sheep/goat; rib fragment, large mammal; fragments	-
20	19	1	30	Baked clay fragment, hard-fired	-