

**LAND ADJACENT TO THE BAYS
THE STREET
HIGH ONGAR
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

MAY 2007

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Land adjacent to The Bays, The Street, High Ongar	
Parishes: High Ongar	District: Epping Forest
NGR: TL 56662 03782	Site Code: HOTB07
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 26th April 2007	Size of Area Investigated: c.20 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Epping	Funding source: Mr B. Scanlan
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: 45476
Final Report: EAH round-up	
Periods Represented: Post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to The Bays, The Street, High Ongar (Fig. 1) in advance of a housing development comprising the construction of a single house. The evaluation was undertaken as part a condition placed on planning consent (EPF/1628/06), on the advice of the ECC Historic Environment Management team.</p> <p>The development area was located close to the site of former almshouses given by the local rector to accommodate the old and deserving of the parish in 1607 and demolished in 1937 (EHHER 45476). Its position close to the main road from Chelmsford to Harlow (The Street) suggested it might contain evidence of medieval road-side occupation. The eastern part of the development area was occupied by a commercial building, which was demolished prior to the commencement of the archaeological fieldwork.</p> <p>Two 6m x 1.3m trenches were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision within the footprint of the proposed new building.</p> <p><u>Trench 1</u></p> <p>Trench 1 was orientated east/west. The dark grey clay-silt topsoil (0.35m deep max) was removed directly onto natural deposits of buff clay silt and brown clay. No archaeological features were present. A number of sub-angular flints observed on the interface between topsoil and natural at the east end of the trench appeared to be of natural origin.</p> <p><u>Trench 2 (Fig. 2)</u></p> <p>Trench 2 was orientated north/south. The dark grey clay-silt topsoil (0.26m deep max) sealed a modern drain-pipe in the centre of the trench and the top of a 19th/20th century brick culvert at the north end of the trench, believed to be associated with the previously demolished commercial building. Modern pottery (6) was recovered from an area of infilled culvert. Exposed natural comprised brown clay and yellow chalky clay at depth.</p> <p>In the centre and south of Trench 2 was a large cut feature (3), over of 3.2m long and 1m deep. This contained two fills (1 and 2) and produced a range of 18th-century material. Underlying feature 3, and presumably truncated by it, was a small east-west aligned gully (5). The exact function of feature 3 is hard to determine within the limited confines of the evaluation trench. It appears to be too broad for a roadside ditch but could possibly be an earlier 'hollow-way' version of The Street. The lower fill (2) was compact and gravelly and</p>	

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would fit with this interpretation.	
A summary of the finds is included as Appendix 1 and context data as Appendix 2	
A copy of this summary (OASIS No.: essexcou1-27061) will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis).	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: May 2007

APPENDIX 1

Finds Summary by Joyce Compton

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

A range of finds was recovered, most of which came from fills 1 and 2 of a large feature, 3, in Trench 2. All of the datable material is consistently 18th century in date, except for the modern pottery which came from the backfill (6) of a broken 19th-20th century brick culvert. The assemblage is characteristic of domestic rubbish disposal, along with a small quantity of building debris.

None of the finds has been retained, due to their relatively recent nature.

Finds data

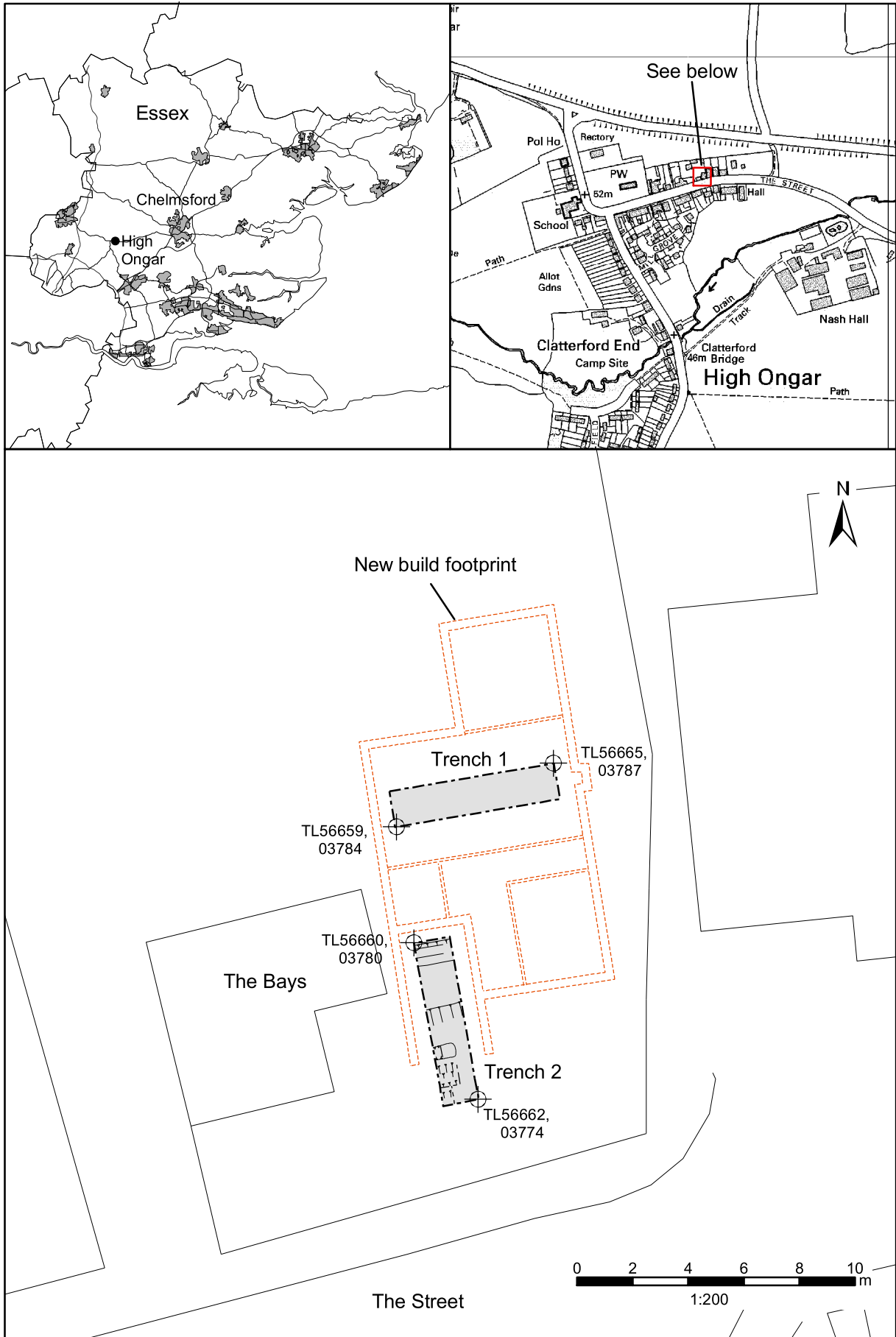
<i>Context</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	3	2	32	Bottle glass; dark green base sherds	Post med.
		1	262	Plaster moulding fragment	-
		3	1735	Brick fragments, width 100mm, depths 50-60mm	
		2	166	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
		3	56	Pottery; plate rim sherd, white Staffordshire stoneware, basket-weave pattern; footring sherd, porcelain; rim sherd PMRE	Mid 18th C
2	3	2	16	Lead window comes	Post med.
		15	336	Animal bone; cattle mandible and molars, cattle humerus, proximal end; cattle metapodial, distal end; fragments, inc rib and vertebrae, large mammal	-
		1	18	Shell; oyster, one valve	-
		1	2	Glass; phial neck, blue-green	18th C
		1	1	Window glass fragment	Post med.
		2	1390	Brick fragments; width 100mm, depth 55-60mm; flooring brick, knife-cut edge, depth 38mm	
		2	72	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
		3	56	Pottery; joining lower wall sherds PMRE	17th-19th C
4	5	4	316	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
6	Drain	3	20	Pottery; body sherds, white earthenware, two with blue transfer-printing, one with pink	19th-20th C

APPENDIX 2

Context Data

All dimensions given in metres.

Context	Area	Type	Description	Period
1	Trench 2	Fill of 1	Dark grey clay silt, 0.82m deep	Post-medieval
2	Trench 2	Fill of 1	Dark grey/brown silty gravel, 0.4m+ deep	Post-medieval
3	Trench 2	Cut	Large feature, 3.2m+ x 1.3m+ x 1m+ deep	Post-medieval
4	Trench 2	Fill of 5	Grey silt, 0.16m deep	Post-medieval
5	Trench 2	Gully	0.75m+ x 0.42m x 0.16m deep	Post-medieval
6	Trench 2	Finds	Pottery from modern infill of broken brick culvert	Modern



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Fig.1. Location plan

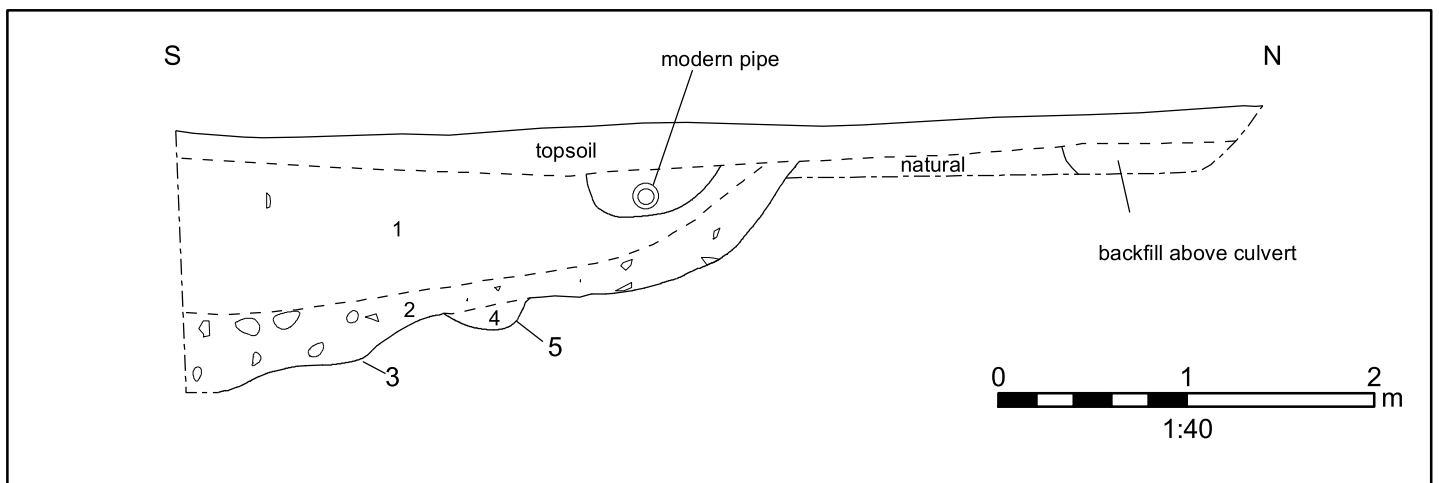
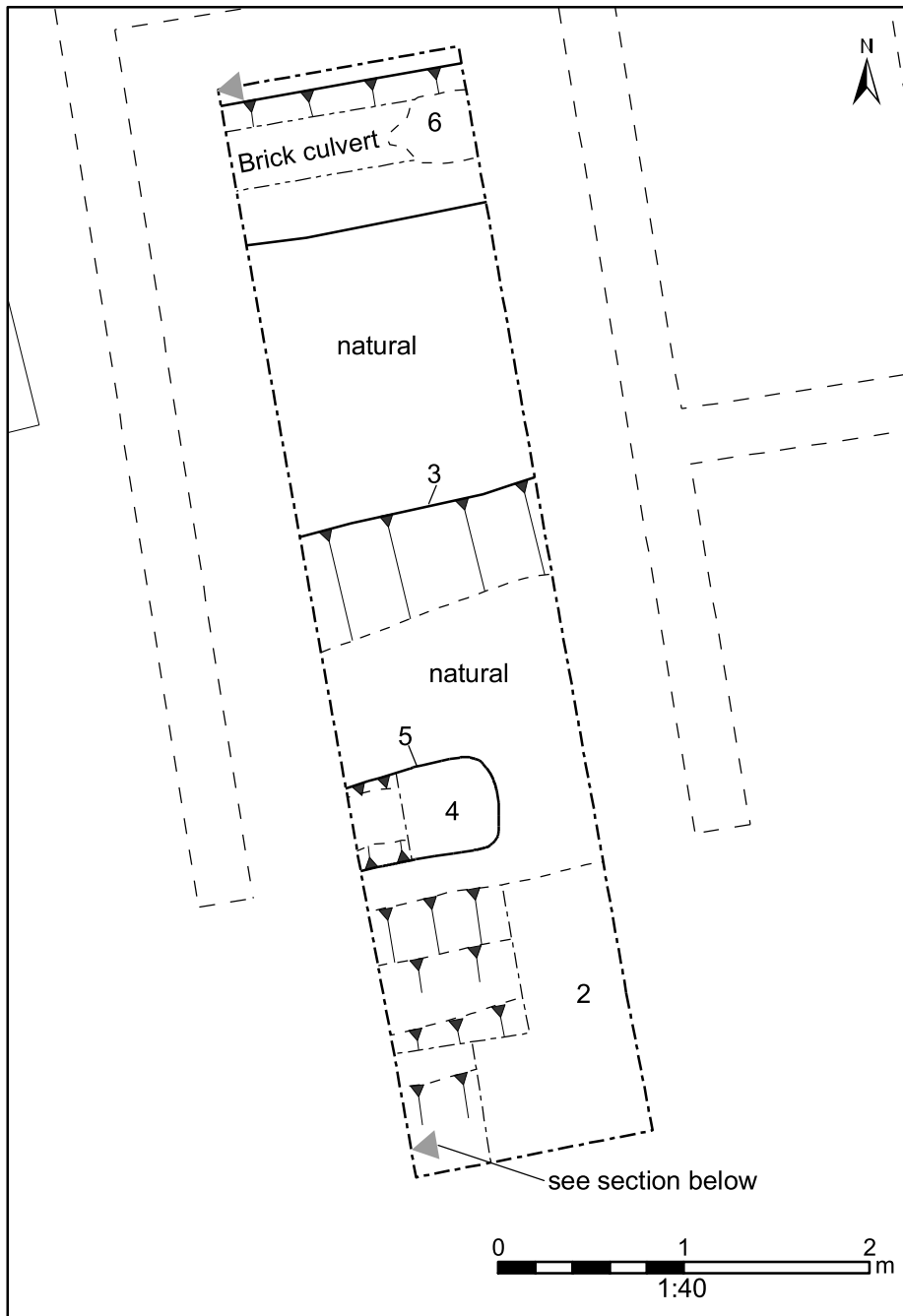


Fig.2. Trench 2; plan and section