

**LAND NORTH OF WRIGHTS FARMHOUSE
LOWER GREEN LANE
BLACKMORE END
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

JULY 2007

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report.

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Cover Photo: The site looking SE towards Wrights Farmhouse

LAND NORTH OF WRIGHTS FARMHOUSE

LOWER GREEN LANE

BLACKMORE END

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING

Client: M. McLoughlin

NGR: TL 73920, 31330

Site Code: WFWF07

Oasis No.: essexcou1-28364

Dates of Fieldwork: 9th to 12th May 2007

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the north of Wrights Farmhouse, Lower Green Lane, Blackmore End. Four trenches were excavated across a possible medieval house platform. Although only limited excavation was undertaken, the nature of the earthwork is now better understood.

One deposit of probable Roman date was excavated. The recovery of a quantity of unstratified Late Iron Age to Roman pottery indicates the likely presence of further archaeological remains of this date in the vicinity.

It is clear from the pottery evidence that the house platform earthwork is likely to date to the late medieval period. A ditch demarcating the western side of the platform contained 13th-16th century pottery and further unstratified pottery of this date was recovered from upon the platform itself. No building remains were identified, but it is likely that these sherds of late medieval pottery accumulated during use of the platform. The lack of later pottery suggests that the platform had gone out of use by the end of the 16th century.

The remains of 19th century outbuildings, associated with Wrights Farmhouse and depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, were also identified in the south of the field.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in the field north of Wrights Farmhouse, Lower Green Lane, Blackmore End. The evaluation was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) and volunteers from the Brain Valley Archaeology Society at the request of the owner, Mr M. McLoughlin.

The project was undertaken to ascertain the date and significance of a number of earthworks in the western half of the field and to see if there was any link between Roman finds found in the vicinity by the late Mrs Bungay.

The owner wishes to retain some of finds. The remainder of the archive including the paper record will be deposited in Braintree Museum under the site code WFWF07. 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

2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)

The small village of Blackmore End is located in open countryside, some 6km north-west of Braintree. Wrights Farmhouse is situated to the north of the village on the east side of Lower Green Lane. The trenches were located to examine a rectangular raised plateau (55m by 38m) in a gently sloping meadow to the north of the farmhouse.

The underlying superficial geology comprises mixed glacial deposits (clay, gravel, sand and silt) of the Lowestoft Formation (BGS Lexicon; www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon_intro.html).

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background (Figs 1 and 2)

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at County Hall, Chelmsford.

The site is located approximately 270m east of the projected line of a Roman road linking Braintree with West Wickham in Cambridgeshire (EHER 7352). Cropmark field boundary ditches are recorded in fields to the east (EHER 19035) and west (EHER 19036) of Lower Green Lane. Wrights Farmhouse itself is a Grade II* listed 14th century hall house with 16th and 20th century alterations. Outbuildings in the field to the north of the farmhouse are shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

3.0 METHOD

Four evaluation trenches, totalling 62m in length by 1.6m wide, were excavated under archaeological supervision, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned and sampled by hand-excavation. Work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) standards and guidance 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.

4.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 and 3)

A number of archaeological features and deposits were identified and are described in trench order below. Additional context information is presented in Appendix 1.

The topsoil across the evaluation area consisted of dark grey-brown sandy silt approximately 0.29m-0.35m deep.

4.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was 16m long, orientated north-east/south-west and was located across the western edge of the platform. Natural brown clay and gravel was exposed at the south-west end of the trench. Similar deposits were recorded in a sondage at the north-east end of the trench underlying yellow clay silt subsoil (Fig. 3, Section 2).

A large ditch (11), aligned north-west/south-east, was excavated in the western half of the trench (Fig. 3, Section 1) at the foot of the platform slope. The ditch was not fully excavated, but was in excess of 0.68m deep. The majority of the ditch was filled with mid-dark grey brown clay silt (10 and 28) that contained a variety of late medieval pottery. As much of the pottery dated to the 16th century it is likely that the ditch went out of use and began to infill from this time. Two sherds of 17th century (or later) pottery may not have been deposited until the ditch was substantially infilled.

On the eastern side of the ditch, mixed grey brown silty clay (27) sealed a thin deposit of charcoal and silt (26) that contained four sherds of Roman pottery. It was initially thought that deposit 26 was located within the ditch. However, it is more probable that this was

actually part of an *in situ* Roman deposit cut by the edge of the medieval ditch. Further grey brown clay was noted below the charcoal deposit.

In the eastern half of the trench, a layer of grey brown clay silt (14 and 15) was removed, exposing yellow clay silt and gravel. Cutting the yellow clay silt was a possible post-hole or small pit (30). No dating evidence was recovered its fill (29) which was not discernable from the overlying layer.

4.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was 17m long, orientated north-west/south-east and was located just east of the centre of the platform. Two 0.6m-wide slots were excavated along the western side of the base of the trench through a deposit of mid brownish grey clay silt (16). Revealed at the base of the slots was light yellow brown clay silt subsoil similar to that encountered in Trench 1. Cutting this deposit was a small oval pit (22) filled by mid brownish grey clay silt, small fragments of burnt bone and charcoal (21). No dating evidence was recovered. These remains were sealed by the layer of mid brownish grey clay silt (16) which contained pieces of roof tile and late medieval pottery dating from the 14th to the 16th century. At the top of the sequence in Trench 2, layer 16 appeared to be cut by a poorly-defined north-east/south-west aligned ditch (18) (Fig. 3, Section 5). This contained further pieces of roof tile and a fragment of 18th or early 19th century brick. The presence of a second poorly-defined feature (unnumbered), possibly a pit, with a fill indistinguishable from layer 16, was indicated by a shallow (0.02m deep) depression at the north end of the trench.

4.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was 18m long, orientated north-west/south-east and located across the southern edge of the platform. Natural deposits of orange sand and gravel were exposed at the south end of the trench directly below shallow topsoil. These were truncated by a shallow ditch-like feature (6) at the foot of the platform slope, 2.7m wide by 0.24m deep, filled with an extremely compact grey gravelly silt (5). Contained within this fill were a variety of finds (pottery, clay pipe, bottle glass, iron nails etc) many of which could be dated to the 19th century and later. To the north, on the lower edge of the platform, was a well-defined gully or slot (20) on a similar north-east/south-west alignment to the ditch (Fig. 3, Section 4). The fill (19) of the slot contained fragments of brick dating to the 18th or early 19th century. Exposed below later deposits on the slope on the north side of the gully/slot were a series of three overlapping deposits. At the base of this sequence was a layer of flints and brown clay partly sealed by a deposit of finer gravel and silty clay. To the north, this finer gravel appeared to be overlain by brown clay which may have been redeposited. These deposits

had been revealed by the removal of a layer of mid-dark grey brown gravelly silt (7) from the top of the slope and a darker version containing larger flints (12) at the bottom of the slope. Both deposits contained 19th century or later material.

At the top of the slope was a linear, north-east/south-west aligned, band of cream coloured fragments of mortar (23). To the immediate north of this band was a slightly mounded deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt (24) containing common fragments of post-medieval roof tile that appeared to fill the cut of a second (unexcavated) gully or slot (25) on an identical alignment to the one further down the trench. The last five metres of the trench, on the top of the plateau, comprised mid-dark grey brown clay silt (13) overlying yellow clay silt. Abraded medieval pottery was recovered from layer 13 along with post-medieval tile fragments. In addition, two accumulations of Late Iron Age pottery sherds (8 and 9) were recovered from within deposit 13. Both contexts were from the same broken and incomplete pottery vessel, the smaller sherds (9) the result of modern plough damage. No evidence for an underlying Late Iron Age feature was found.

Several north-east/south-west aligned, grey-silt filled, plough marks were noted, cutting deposits within this trench. These were clearly visible in the sand at the south of the trench and in layer 7 on the slope, both places where the overlying topsoil was shallow.

4.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was 11m long, orientated north-east/south-west and located across the south-west corner of the platform. The trench was recorded in plan only. In the lowest part of the trench was a c.3m-wide deposit of grey brown clay silt most probably filling the southern continuation of ditch 11 from Trench 1. Brown clay and gravel was exposed on either side of the ditch, overlain by grey brown clay silt at the top of the slope.

5.0 FINDS, by Joyce Compton

Finds were recovered from sixteen contexts; all of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full details can be found in Appendix 2. Most of the finds date to the post-medieval and modern periods. The medieval and later pottery forms the subject of a separate report; the other datable finds, including the Late Iron Age and Roman pottery are described by category below.

5.1 Bricks

Brick fragments from four contexts (5, 12, 17 and 19) were examined, since two contained no pottery. The fragments were small, and full measurements could not be made, but all appear to be from regular-sided bricks. The fragment from the fill of ditch 18 is overfired and the subsequent warping masks the original dimensions. All of the fragments are, however, likely to have derived from 18th or early 19th century bricks (following the typology in Ryan 1996, 94-6). The buff fragment in ditch 6 (Trench 3) may derive from a more modern wall coping.

5.2 Glass and clay tobacco pipes

Single pieces of post-medieval bottle glass came from the fill of ditch 6 and layer 7. Ditch 6 and layer 12 each produced a stem fragment from clay tobacco pipes, also post-medieval.

5.3 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Trenches 1 and 3 produced 110 sherds of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, weighing 645g. The pottery comprises base and body sherds, mostly abraded, which cannot be closely dated. The majority of this pottery came from finds contexts 8 and 9 (Trench 3) which produced 102 coarse grog-tempered ware sherds, probably from the same Late Iron Age or early Roman storage jar. The remaining contexts all contained disparate sherds of broad Roman date. Contexts 1 (Trench 1), 10 (Trench 1) and 23 (Trench 3) also contained medieval or later pottery and the Roman pottery is thus residual in these contexts.

5.4 Medieval and later pottery, by Helen Walker

A small amount of mainly late medieval pottery, 173 sherds, weighing 1.6kg was excavated from eleven contexts. Full details can be found in Appendix 3. Much of the pottery is abraded, fragmented and discoloured making identification difficult; these factors also indicate that the pottery may have been re-deposited.

Pottery dating to the medieval period comprises fragments from medieval coarse ware cooking pot rims, those occurring in contexts 11 and 14 are 13th to 14th century types, while a thickened everted rim (in context 16) could be as early as c.1200. Also dating to the 13th to 14th century is a sherd of Mill Green ware, and a sherd of sandy orange ware showing the remnants of polychrome decoration, datable to c.1300. All this medieval pottery is residual in later contexts.

Most of the assemblage comprises sherds of late medieval sandy orange ware spanning the 14th to 16th centuries. Vessel forms comprise fragments from jugs, larger jugs or cisterns,

?bowls with a thin internal glaze, and jars. One of the more complete examples is part of an unglazed tripod base (from context 28, the lower fill of ditch 11) either from a cauldron or a pipkin (both cooking vessels). These are fairly long-lived forms, first appearing in the late 13th/14th centuries and continuing into the post-medieval period. This example, however, is similar to those produced at a 16th century kiln site at Mill Street, Harlow (although an earlier date cannot be precluded).

Other late medieval material comprises a couple of sherds showing a honey-coloured glaze which may be late Hedingham ware, and a sherd ?from a drinking vessel that may also be late Hedingham ware or an example of Surrey red ware. There is also a smooth grey sherd with an orange core whose appearance is consistent with that of material from a possible late medieval production site at nearby Lower Green Farm.

A single sherd of Raeren stoneware is present (from context 10, the upper fill of ditch 11). It is probably from a drinking jug, these were imported in great numbers from Rhineland Germany during the first half of the 16th century, thus making it contemporary with much of the late medieval sandy orange ware.

There are also a small number of sherds of post-medieval red earthenware, the successor to late medieval sandy orange ware, dating from the 16th/17th century onwards. The most interesting of these is the flanged rim from a small dish showing slipped decoration in the style of Harlow Metropolitan slipware. However, the fabric is too coarse for Harlow (and related production sites) and may be a more local copy.

Ditch 6, layer 23, and gully slot 25 all contained modern, 19th to 20th century pottery, comprising slipped kitchen earthen ware, yellow ware showing mocha decoration and modern white earthenware decorated with either transfer-printing or sponged decoration.

Little can be said about status or function of the site; the late medieval assemblage appears to be entirely domestic comprising mainly kitchen wares. There is nothing to suggest high status.

6.0 DISCUSSION

The raised rectangular plateau evident within the field is believed to be the remains of a medieval house platform with associated earthworks to the west and south. The platform is aligned north-east/south-west and measures 55m by 38m. The platform is best defined in the region of Trench 3 where the land is over 1.2m higher than the land to the south. To the west, the platform is far less defined with only a c.0.3m rise to the top of the slope. To the north, it was not established whether the platform ceased at the field boundary or continued beyond. No medieval building remains were identified. However, pottery recovered from the top of the platform, in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, may have accumulated through its use and the date range of this pottery (broadly 13th to the 16th century) may reflect the duration of its occupation. The 16th century pottery evidence from the infilled ditch demarcating the western side of the platform would also tend to confirm this as it shows when the platform went out of use.

Examples of excavated medieval house platforms are rare in Essex. Excavations have tended to favour larger moated enclosures, for example Southchurch Hall in Southend (Brown 2006) or rural medieval buildings under threat from development as excavated at Duckend Farm, Stansted Airport (Havis and Brooks 2004). The latter was set within a ditched enclosure but there was no evidence of a raised platform. In the Midlands, in areas where the underlying geology is clay, raised house platforms are a common phenomenon. The platforms are often surrounded by large ditches and may have been raised-up slowly over time by accumulated spoil regularly cleaned from out of the ditches and hollow-ways (Beresford and Hurst, 1989, 117-121). It is possible that something of this nature has occurred at Blackmore End, with material from the ditch and hollow to the south deposited upon the platform. The brown clay lying to the east of the ditch in Trench 1 and sealing the Roman layer may have accumulated in this way; as possibly may have the brown clay overlying finer gravel on the slope in Trench 3. The sondage dug down through the platform construction deposits at the east end of Trench 1 suggested that there had been little build-up in the centre. Here, grey brown clay silt (14/15) directly overlay yellow clay silt subsoil (Fig. 3, Section 2). Similar deposits were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3. The gravel beneath the yellow subsoil appeared to be a natural deposit of glacial origin.

No direct evidence for the platform or a house upon it is recorded on the 1840 Tithe Map (D/CT 393B), confirming that all traces had disappeared by this time. However, the map does show the boundary to the rear of Wrights Farmhouse continuing on a north-west/south-east alignment across the field to the north in a position that corresponds with the eastern

side of the platform (Fig. 1). Interestingly, the accompanying Tithe Award (D/CT 393A) records the name of the field containing the platform as 'pightle' which can mean a small enclosure or croft according to the Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary (1972 edition).

The majority of the 19th century and later finds were recovered from trench 3. This trench was located in an area of former outbuildings, associated with Wrights Farmhouse, depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1876). Gully/slot 20 and 25 appear to mark either side of one of these outbuildings and may be the remains of trenches dug to hold horizontal timber beams. Linear mortar deposit 23 may have accumulated at the base of the northern wall of this structure. The ditch-like feature at the foot of the slope contained comparatively modern finds and was of a completely different character to the medieval ditch excavated in trench 1. It is possible that this feature, with its compact fill, was more of a track or infilled hollow-way running between the adjacent 19th century outbuildings.

The presence of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery, most of it residual in later contexts, indicates that there are likely to be archaeological remains of this date in the vicinity. Context 26 (Trench 1) may possibly be part of an *in situ* Roman deposit clipped by the edge of a later ditch. The sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman storage jar recovered from Trench 3 actually only equate to about one quarter of the original vessel. As no corresponding feature was found below them, it is probable that the surviving sherds have moved there from their original place of deposition. The two groups of recovered pottery (contexts 8 and 9) appeared to have been separated by a west to east plough strike. Prior to this separation the entire remains may have been dragged by the plough several metres in an easterly direction across the field.

7.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Although only limited excavation was undertaken within the evaluation trenches, the nature of the earthwork within the field to the north of Wrights Farmhouse is now better understood. A plan of the earthwork has been produced and the results of the fieldwork will be deposited with the Essex Historic Environment Record held at County Hall, Chelmsford.

It is clear from the pottery evidence that the platform is likely to date to the late medieval period. Although no evidence for a building occupying the platform was found, it is likely that the remains of a modest country house once stood here. The remains of post-medieval outbuildings, in use in the 19th century, are present in the south of the field. The recovery of 645g of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery indicates the presence of earlier archaeological

remains of this date within the field. It is therefore possible that this field, or its near vicinity, was the source of the Roman finds found by the late Mrs Bungay.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr M. McLoughlin for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. The fieldwork was undertaken by members of the Brain Valley Archaeological Society under the supervision of Trevor Ennis of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Finds processing was also undertaken by the Brain Valley Archaeological Society. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson of ECC FAU.

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Documents in the Essex Record Office

D/CT 393A	Wethersfield Tithe Award
D/CT 393B	Wethersfield Tithe Map

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres.

Context	Area	Type	Description	Period
1	Tr. 1	Layer	Topsoil/cleaning	-
2	Tr. 2	Layer	Topsoil/cleaning	-
3	Tr. 3	Layer	Topsoil/cleaning	-
4	Tr. 4	Layer	Topsoil/cleaning	-
5	Tr. 3	Fill of 6	Grey gravely sandy silt	19th century+
6	Tr. 3	Ditch	1.6m+ x 2.7m x 0.24m deep	19th century+
7	Tr. 3	Layer	Mid-dark grey brown gravely silt, 0.08m deep	19th century+
8	Tr. 3	Finds	Pot context	LIA/ER
9	Tr. 3	Finds	Pot context	LIA/ER
10	Tr. 1	Fill of 11	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt, 0.68m+ deep	Late medieval
11	Tr. 1	Ditch	1.6m+ x 3.8m wide x 0.68m+, NW/SE orientated	Late medieval
12	Tr. 3	Layer	Dark grey brown clay silt, common flints, 0.08 m thick	18th-19th century
13	Tr. 3	Layer	Mid-dark grey brown clay silt, 0.14m thick	Post-medieval
14	Tr. 1	Layer	Grey brown clay silt, 0.15m thick, equals 15	Post-medieval
15	Tr. 1	Layer	Grey brown clay silt, 0.15 m thick, equals 14	Post-medieval
16	Tr. 2	Layer	Mid brownish grey clay silt, 0.17 m thick	Post-medieval
17	Tr. 2	Fill of 18	Mid brownish grey clay silt	18th-19th century
18	Tr. 2	Ditch?	0.6m+ x 0.7m+ x 0.17m deep	18th-19th century
19	Tr. 3	Fill of 20	Dark grey brown to orange sandy silt	18th-19th century
20	Tr. 3	Gully/slot	1.6m+ x 0.72m x 0.23m deep, NE/SW orientated	18th-19th century
21	Tr. 2	Fill of 22	Mid brownish grey clay silt, burnt bone and charcoal	?
22	Tr. 2	Pit	Oval pit, 0.43m x 0.28m x 0.08m	?
23	Tr. 3	Layer	Linear band of cream mortar fragments, 0.08m thick	19th-20th century
24	Tr. 3	Fill of 25	Dark grey brown sandy silt, common tile pieces	19th century
25	Tr. 3	Gully/slot	1.6m+ x c.0.7m wide, NE/SW orientated	19th century
26	Tr. 1	Layer	Dark grey-black charcoally silt, 0.01m thick	Roman
27	Tr. 1	Layer	Mixed grey brown silty clay, 0.18m thick	Late medieval?
28	Tr. 1	Fill of 11	Same as 10 - finds from lower ½ of ditch	Late medieval
29	Tr. 1	Fill of 30	Grey brown clay silt, 0.11m deep	Late medieval?
30	Tr. 1	Post-hole	0.38m+ x 0.36m x 0.11m deep	Late medieval?

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Topsoil	17	206	Brick and roof tile fragments Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds Pottery; body sherds, sandy grey ware and black-surfaced ware, abraded	Post med. Med/post med. Roman
		45	315		
		2	10		
5	6	5	30	Iron nails	-
		1	66	Bottle glass; rim/neck from a dark green wine bottle, applied double lip	19th C
		1	2	Clay pipe stem	Post med.
		1	266	Brick fragment, buff clay, depth 35mm	Post med.
		3	44	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
		12	116	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Med/modern
7	Layer	2	12	Iron nails	-
		1	4	Bottle glass; angled body sherd from a blue-green medicine bottle	Modern
		28	1235	Roof tile fragments, four with peg holes, one square	Post med.
		10	103	Pottery; rim, base, handle and body sherds	Post med/ modern
8	Finds	24	402	Pottery; base and lower wall sherds, grog-tempered storage jar, larger sherds all join	LIA
9	Finds	78	210	Pottery; body sherds and crumbs, from same grog-tempered storage jar as above	LIA
10	11	18	625	Brick and roof tile fragments Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware, abraded	Post med. Med/post med. Roman
		36	278		
		1	4		
12	Layer	1	2	Clay pipe stem	18th/early 19th C Post med.
		3	745	Brick fragments, join, abraded, depth 60-65mm	
		6	965	Roof tile fragments, one with square peg hole, two large pieces join, providing a length of 280mm	
13	Layer	8	32	Brick and tile fragments	Post med. Late medieval
		9	16	Pottery; body sherds	
14	Layer	4	46	Tile fragments, one in brown fabric	EPM/post med. Med/post med.
		4	27	Pottery; rim and body sherds	
16	Layer	3	10	Iron nails	- Post med. Late medieval
		28	610	Brick and roof tile fragments	
		43	374	Pottery; rim and body sherds	
17	18	1	525	Brick fragment, overfired, warped and distorted, width 110mm, depth 55-70mm	18th/early 19th C Medieval
		5	15	Pottery; body sherds	
19	20	1	6	Iron nail	- 18th/early 19th C
		8	554	Brick fragments, width of largest 110mm; roof tile fragment	
23	Layer	14	118	Mortar fragments	- Post med Modern Roman
		22	470	Brick and roof tile fragments, some with mortar	
		2	6	Pottery; rim and body sherds	
		1	1	Pottery; body sherd, sandy grey ware	
24	25	48	1425	Brick and roof tile fragments, some with mortar Pottery; body sherds	Med/post med.
		5	37		

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
26	11	4	18	Pottery; base and body sherds, black-surfaced ware, ?all same vessel	Roman
28	11	2	120	Brick fragment, abraded; roof tile fragment with peg hole	Post med.
		2	305	Pottery; base and tripod foot sherds, same vessel	Medieval

APPENDIX 3: MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	topsoil	2	10	Medieval coarse ware, very abraded sherds	12th to 14th C
		2	8	Hedingham ware with plain lead glaze, later type, abraded	?14th C
		5	51	Medieval sandy orange ware including a squared beaded jar rim and a slip-painted sherds showing a pitted splash glaze, abraded	13th to 14th C
		34	241	Late medieval sandy orange ware, featured sherds comprising a slip-painted jug rim, a second rim from a large jug or cistern, two jug handles, one with a central groove and one with a raised central ridge and internally glazed sherds, perhaps from large bowls, abraded	14th to 16th C
		1	2	Smooth grey ware with orange core, consistent with pottery ?from production site at Lower Green Farm	14th to 16th C
		1	3	Post-medieval red earthenware sherd, from neck of ?jug, all over glaze	16th/17th C or later
5	6	2	7	Sandy orange ware, unglazed, abraded, medieval or late medieval	13th to 16th C
		5	19	Yellow ware, sherds from bowl with mocha decoration	mid to late 19th C
		1	79	Slipped kitchen earthenware, thickened base ?from jar	19th to early 20th C
		4	11	Modern white earthenware including cup rim showing sponged decoration and rim showing transfer-printed willow pattern	1830s to 20th C
7	layer	3	19	Sandy orange ware including B2 jug rim, abraded, unglazed	?14th C
		1	18	Post-medieval red earthenware, internally glazed	17th to 19th C
		1	28	Slipped kitchen earthenware showing remains of lug handle	19th to early 20th C
		5	38	Modern white earthenware including fragments showing transfer-printed willow pattern	early 19th to 20th C
10	11	1	2	Medieval coarse ware, rim flange fragment, abraded	13th to 14th C
		1	4	Raeren stoneware	late 15th to mid 16th C
		1	12	Sandy orange ware, unfeatured, abraded	13th to 16th C
		30	233	Late medieval sandy orange ware, abraded, diagnostic sherds comprising a flat base, sherds with a thin internal glaze, perhaps from a bowl, a grooved handle from a large jug or cistern, an unglazed, slip-painted sherd	14th to 16th C
		1	4	A fine red ware sherd with an external honey coloured glaze perhaps from a drinking vessel, could be a Surrey red ware product or an example of late Hedingham ware, abraded	15th to 16th C

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		2	23	Post-medieval red earthenware, abraded, comprising a glazed jar rim and a thin-walled vessel with an all over glaze and showing part of a handle attachment	jar rim is 17th to 19th C
13	layer	9	16	Late medieval sandy orange ware, small very abraded unfeatured sherds	14th to 16th C
14	layer	1	6	Medieval coarse ware, fragment of flanged rim, abraded	13th to 14th C
		2	14	Late medieval sandy orange ware, abraded	14th to 16th C
		1	7	Metropolitan-type slipware flanged dish rim showing slip polka dot, too coarse for Harlow, a semi-waster as rim shows glaze adhesion scar	?17th C
16	layer	7	25	Medieval coarse ware, abraded, includes a thickened, everted cooking pot rim	late 12th to 14th C
		36	349	Late medieval sandy orange ware, abraded, featured sherds comprise, a flat glazed baluster-shaped base from either a jug or possibly a bottle, the lower handle attachment from a jug, internally glazed sherds perhaps from bowls, a jar rim, and a slip-painted sherd with reduced surfaces	14th to 16th C
17	18	1	2	Mill Green ware slip-coated, abraded	mid 13th to 14th C
		4	13	Sandy orange ware, abraded, unfeatured, medieval or late medieval	13th to 16th C
23	layer	2	6	Modern white earthenware including flanged rim with transfer-printed willow pattern	early 19th to 20th C
24	25	1	3	Medieval sandy orange ware, slip-coated and showing the remnants of a clear glaze and red slip, ?polychrome decoration, ?Mill Green copy	c.1300
		3	31	Late medieval sandy orange ware	14th to 16th C
		1	3	Yellow ware showing raised banding	mid to late 19th C
28	11	2	305	Sandy orange ware tripod base from pipkin or cauldron, unglazed, abraded	14th to 16th C
		173	1592		

APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: Land north of Wrights Farmhouse, Lower Green Lane, Blackmore End, Essex
SITE CODE: WFWF07

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction/Research Archive

- 1.1 Client Report
- 1.2 Finds Reports

2. Site Archive

- 2.1 Context Record Register
- 2.2 Context Records (1 – 30)
- 2.3 Plan Register
- 2.4 Section Register
- 2.5 Levels Register
- 2.6 Trench location plan
- 2.7 Photographic Register
- 2.8 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on disk)
- 2.9 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

2 large plan/section drawings

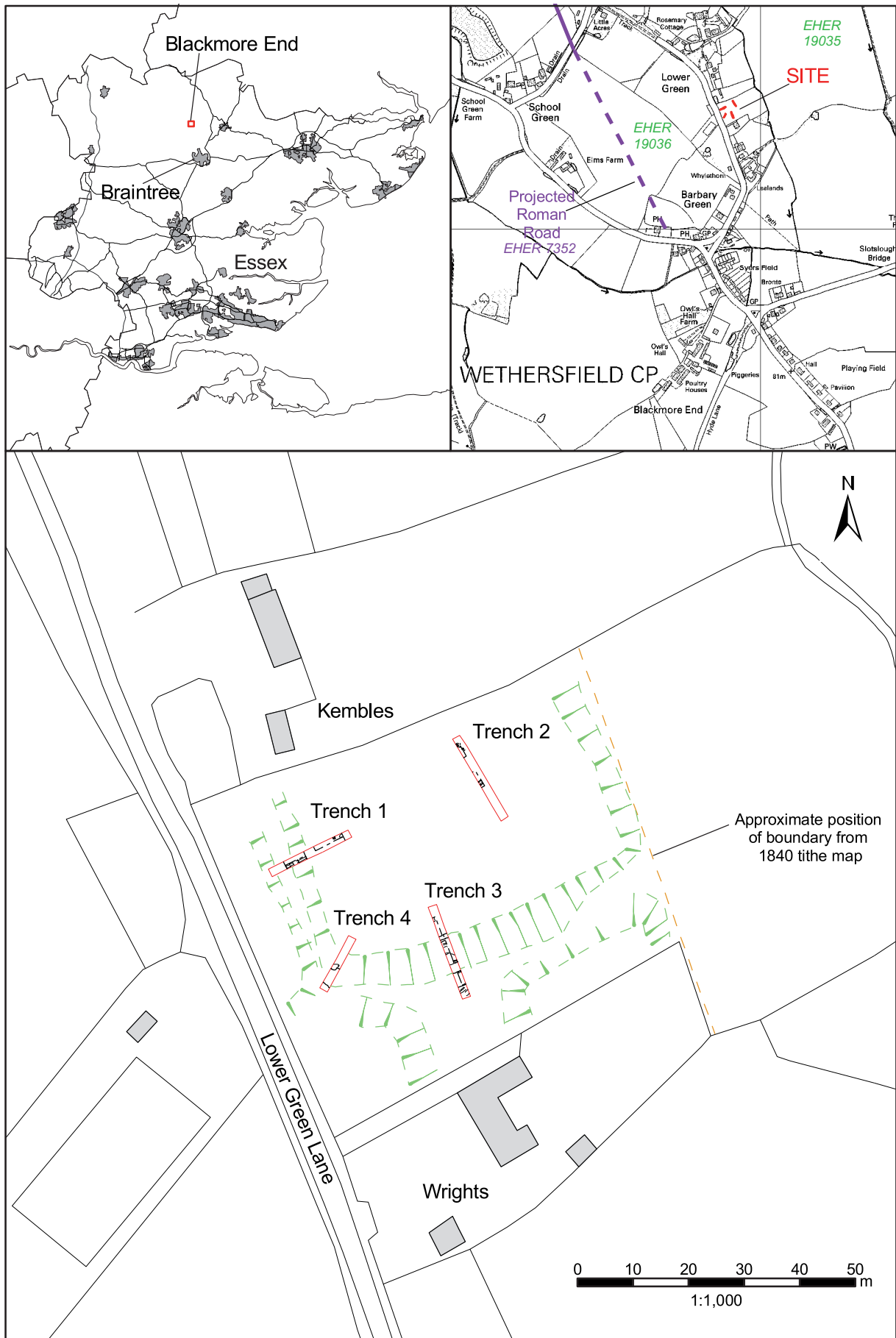
Finds

The finds occupy one box – to remain with landowner?

APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Land north of Wrights Farmhouse, Lower Green Lane, Blackmore End	
Parishes: Wethersfield	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 73920, 31330	Site Code: WFWF07
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 9th to 12th May 2007	Size of Area Investigated: 99 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding source: Mr M. McLoughlin
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.:
Final Report: EAH round-up	
Periods Represented: Late Iron Age/Early Roman, late medieval, post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the north of Wrights Farmhouse, Lower Green Lane, Blackmore End. Four trenches were excavated across a possible medieval house platform.</p> <p>One deposit of probable Roman date was excavated. The recovery of 645g of unstratified Late Iron Age to Roman pottery indicates the likely presence of further archaeological remains of this date in the vicinity.</p> <p>It is clear from the pottery evidence that the house platform is likely to date to the late medieval period. A ditch demarcating the western side of the platform contained 13th-16th century pottery and further unstratified pottery of this date was recovered from upon the platform itself. No building remains were identified, but it is likely that these sherds of late medieval pottery accumulated during use of the platform. The lack of later pottery suggests that the platform had gone out of use by the end of the 16th century.</p> <p>The remains of 19th century outbuildings, associated with Wrights Farmhouse and depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map, were identified along the south edge of the platform and extending into the south of the field.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: July 2007



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Fig.1. Location plan



Fig.2. Recorded features

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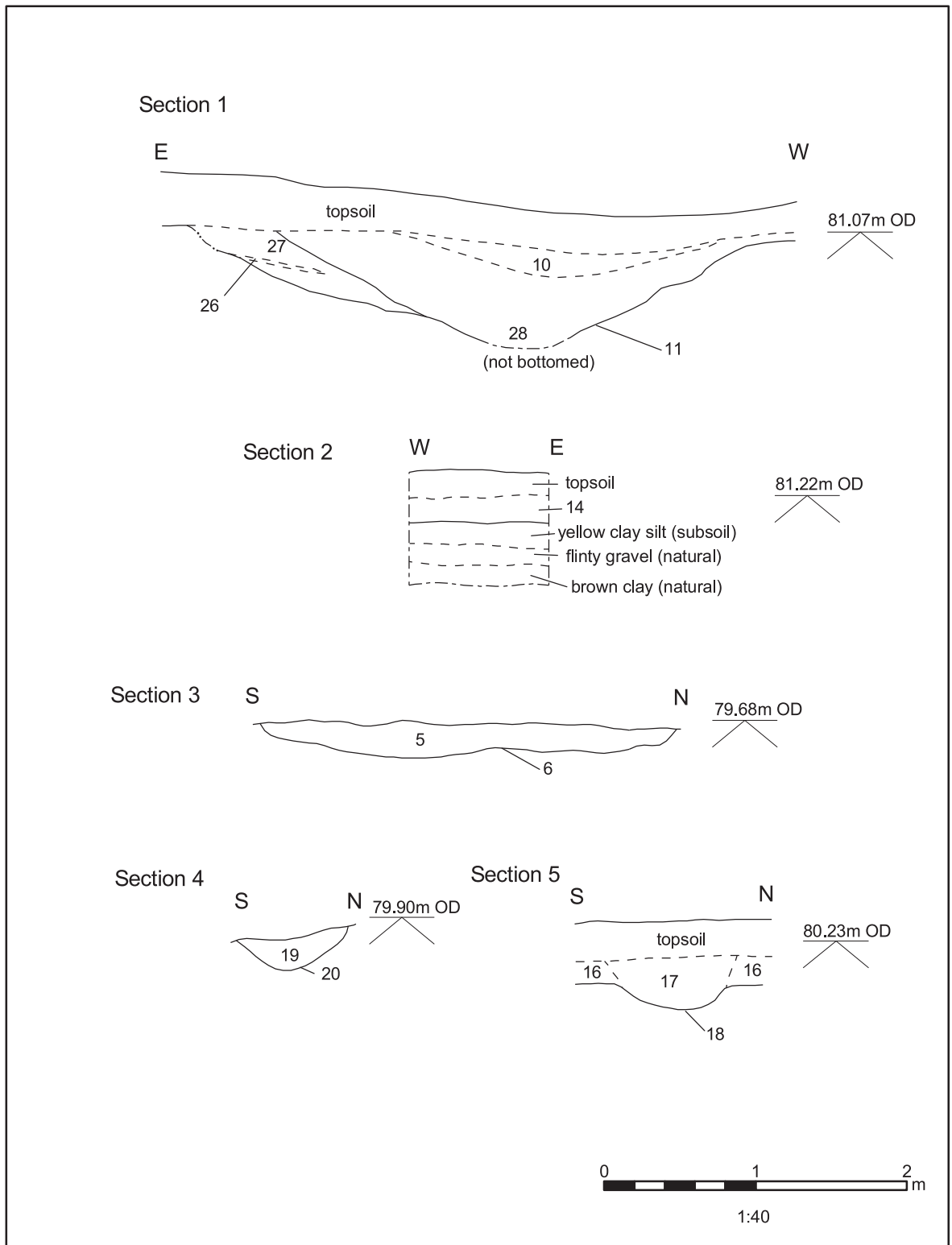


Fig.3. Sections