

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AT GREAT BRADFORDS
INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOLS, MARLBOROUGH ROAD**

BRAINTREE, ESSEX



Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

September 2007

EHER Summary Sheet: Trial trenching at Great Bradfords Infant & Junior Schools
FAU Project No.: 1810

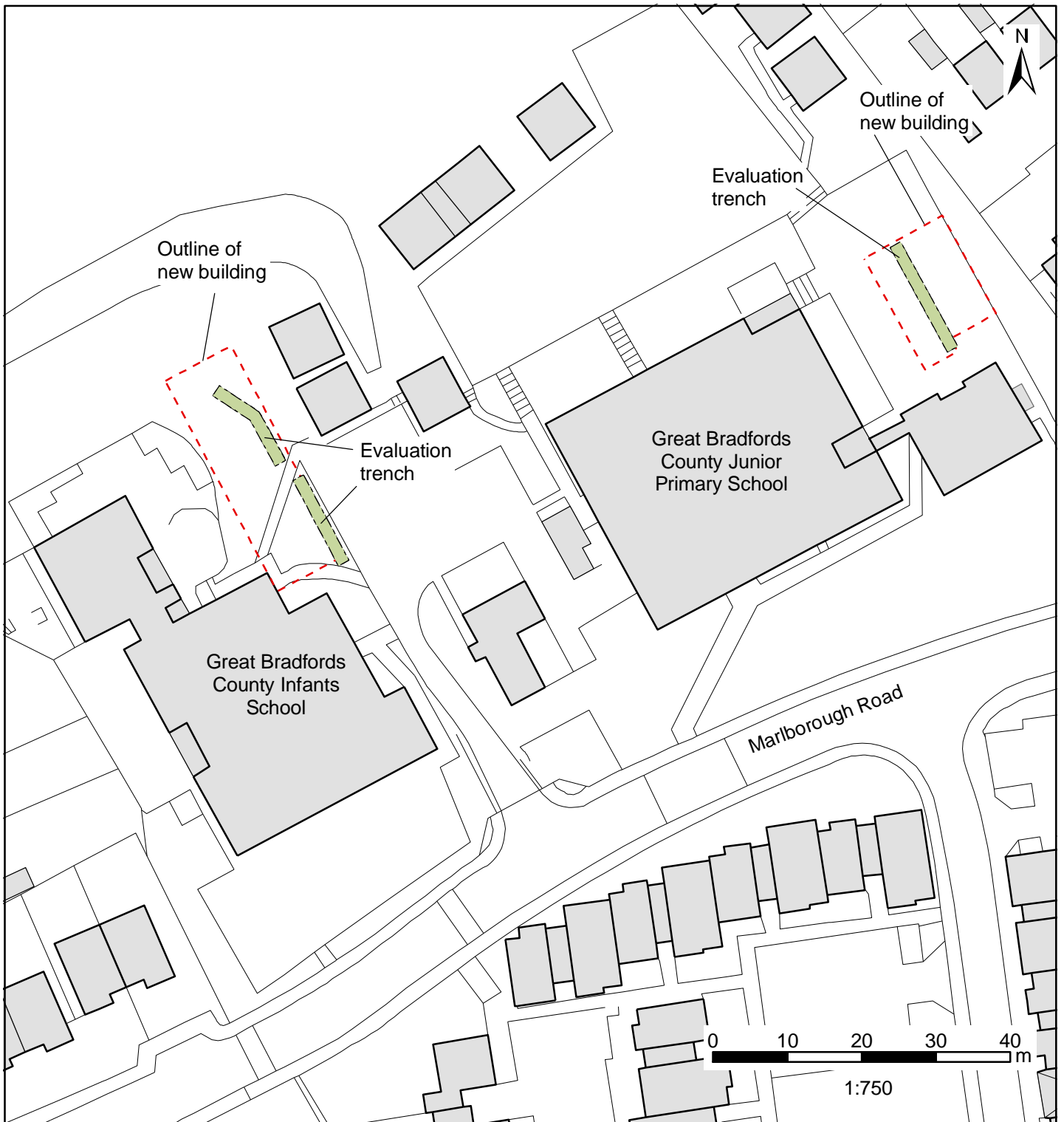
Site Name/Address: Great Bradfords Infant & Junior Schools, Marlborough Road, Braintree	
Parish: Braintree	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 7671 2385	Site Code: BRBS 07
Type of Work: Archaeological evaluation	Site Director/Group: A. Letch, ECC FAU
Date of Work: 21st-23rd August 2007	Size of Area Investigated: N/A
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree Museum	Funding Source: ECC Learning Services
Further Work Anticipated? None	Related EHER Nos.: 6479, 6482, 6511 & 17286
Final Report: N/A	
Periods Represented: Late 20th-century (post-1971)	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p><i>Two trial trenches were excavated within the areas of two new classrooms at Great Bradfords Infants and Junior Schools (fig.1). The school is located on the southern side of the Brain river valley where remains of a putative Roman villa estate have been found.</i></p> <p><i>Trench 1 was positioned along the north-east side of the Infants School, in grassed grounds sloping away to the south (fig.1). The trench (measuring 1.6 x 25m) was dug in two parts to maintain the routes of existing pathways. The southern part of the trench was cut between two paths while the northern part trench was canted to the south-east to follow the natural slope and avoid obvious areas of made ground. Excavation revealed thickening layers of modern material 0.3 m deep at the south end and over 1m at the north. These had been banked up against the natural slope during landscaping works for the school, c.1971, in the formation of level areas for car parks, classrooms and play areas. Natural hard red sand was only encountered in the southern part of the trench. A possible in-filled pond, containing modern debris was identified toward its north end. No archaeological deposits or features were discovered, although two residual fragments of Roman brick and a sherd of probably Roman pottery were collected. Most of the finds retrieved were modern. These have been discarded and the Roman artefacts deposited with the Infants School.</i></p> <p><i>The second trench (measuring 1.6 x 17m) was excavated to the north-east of the Junior School across a tarmac playground area (fig.1), close to the block where features from a previous</i></p>	

evaluation in 1996 found disturbed Roman post-holes and pits (Germany 1996). However, it was established that any such features would have been removed during ground reduction and levelling works for the playground, as the tarmac lay immediately over dense orange sand and flinty natural gravel at a depth of c.0.1m. Again, no archaeological deposits or features were encountered and there were no finds.

Previous Summaries/Reports: n.a.

Author of Summary: A. Letch (ECC FAU)

Date of Summary: 5th September 2007



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.1. Location plan

1810: Great Bradfords School, Braintree (BRBS07)

Finds report by Joyce Compton (23/08/07)

Small groups of finds were recovered from four contexts. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in the table below.

Almost all of the finds are modern, comprising aluminium, electrical wire and brick and tile fragments. The snack packet in Layer 2 indicates a date later than 1970 (since decimalisation of the coinage occurred on 15th February 1971).

Two Roman brick fragments were found residually in Layer 2 and a sherd of undiagnostic Roman pottery, also residual, was found in Layer 5. One piece of tile and the pottery sherd were unabraded, however, suggesting that they had probably not moved far from their original point of deposition.

The Roman finds have been returned to the school, but the remainder has been discarded due to the recent nature of the material.

Finds data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	Layer	1	20	Aluminium strip	Modern
		4	10	Electrical wire with nail attached	Modern
		1	-	Plasticized paper; Golden Wonder 'Wotsits', price 5p	Modern
		28	820	Brick and tile fragments, inc pieces of sewer pipe	Modern
		2	1005	Brick fragments, depth 45mm, one very abraded	Roman
3	Layer	15	442	Brick and tile fragments	Modern
4	Layer	1	4	Rubber tubing, black	Modern
		1	745	Brick fragment, stamped 'PHORPES' along the frog	Modern
		1	18	Roof tile fragment	Modern
5	Layer	7	200	Brick and tile fragments	Modern
		1	8	Pottery; body sherd, red ware	Roman