

**THE JUNCTION OF CHEQUERS LANE AND STORTFORD
ROAD
AND LAND TO THE REAR OF THE CHEQUERS
GREAT DUNMOW
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit
March 2008**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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CONTENTS

	<i>Page No.</i>
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 Planning Background	
2.0 BACKGROUND	2
2.1 Location and topography	
2.2 Geology	
2.3 History and archaeology	
3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
4.0 METHOD	4
5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS	5
5.1 Trench 1	
5.2 Trench 2	
5.3 Trench 3	
5.4 Trench 4	
5.5 Trench 5	
6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL	8
6.1 Roman Pottery	
6.2 Medieval and later pottery	
6.3 Brick and Tile	
6.4 Metalwork	
6.5 Glass	
6.6 Clay tobacco pipes	
6.7 Animal bone	
6.8 Shell	
6.9 Other finds	
6.10 Environmental material	
6.11 General Finds Discussion	
7.0 CONCLUSIONS	12
Acknowledgements	13
BIBLIOGRAPHY	14
APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA	19
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA	20
APPENDIX 3: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA	21
APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX	25
APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY SHEET	26
FIGURES	
Figure 1 – Site Location Plan	15
Figure 2 – Trench Locations	16
Figure 3 – Trenches 1 and 2	17
Figure 4 – Sections	18

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SUMMARY

Client: St Giles and Framar Developments Ltd.

Planning applications: UTT/1850/07/FUL and UTT/1805/07/FUL

FAU Project No.: 1872

NGR: TL 6259 2199 (Centred)

Site Code: GD 22

Date of Fieldwork: 4th to 8th February 2008

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ECC FAU, on behalf of St Giles and Framar Developments Ltd, on the proposed site of two residential and commercial developments, at the junction of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road, and on land to the rear of the Chequers Inn, Great Dunmow. The developments sit in an area of high archaeological potential, either within or immediately outside the suggested extent of a Roman small town and to the east of the medieval market place. Excavations in 1927, immediately to the south of the site, at Chequers Lane, uncovered range of prehistoric to medieval remains, including a small 2nd century cremation cemetery and 4th century shrine.

Five 10m long trenches were opened, by mechanical excavator, two along the road frontage of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road and three to the rear of the Chequers Inn. The trenches to the rear of the Chequers Inn contained no significant archaeological remains and their stratigraphic make up suggests that this area has been landscaped in the past, effectively removing any features once present.

The trenches along the road frontage revealed features predominantly dating to the 17th century or later, although one 14th century pit and a single 2nd/3rd century pit were also identified and it is likely that later activity has removed the majority of any Roman and medieval remains in the frontage area. Overall, little evidence for Roman, Saxon or Medieval activity survived in either part or the site and the development is unlikely to have any significantly impact upon the archaeological record.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Planning Background

Two planning applications were made by St Giles and Framar Developments Ltd for the construction of shops with residential flats above at the junction of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road, Great Dunmow (UTT/1850/07/FUL) and two residential dwelling with associated parking on land to the rear of the Chequers Inn, Great Dunmow (UTT/1805/07/FUL). The Historic Environment Management (HEM) team of Essex County Council placed an archaeological condition, in line with guidance contained in PPG 16 (DoE 1990), on the applications requiring an initial evaluation be carried out in the building footprints and car parking areas. Following this Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (FAU) was commissioned to undertake the programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. This report presents the results of the evaluation on both application areas.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography (Fig 1)

The site comprises a rectangular plot covering approximately 450²m at the corner of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road, and a larger rectangular plot, covering c. 900²m, to the rear of the Chequers Inn (TL 6259 2199 centred). Both areas are currently utilised as car parking for the Chequers Inn. Although the smaller, northern plot is open to the road frontage, in general both areas are surrounded by residential properties.

2.2 Geology

Both development sites were covered by modern carpark surfaces. That to the front, at the junction between Chequers Lane and Stortford Road, was covered in low grade tarmac below which were layers of hardcore and levelling material to a depth of c.0.2m. The land to the rear of the Chequers Inn was covered with loose gravel and type 1 hardcore, which sealed various levelling layers and degraded tarmac, to a depths of between 0.2m in the southern trench and 0.4m in the northern. All the trenches showed varying depth of topsoil directly below the carpark makeup. The undisturbed natural geology consisted of an orange sandy gravel with pale yellow sandy patches. The drift geology of the area consists of Boulder Clay.

2.3 History and archaeology

The medieval and later town of Great Dunmow partially overlies an earlier roman town, situated at the point where Stane Street, the Roman road from Colchester to St Albans, is joined above the crossing of the River Chelmer by two other routes from London and Chelmsford. It is thought that the Roman town covered an area of approximately 10 –12 hectares (Havis 2008), most of which now lies under the present town.

The proposed development is located in an area of considerable archaeological potential within the postulated extents of the Roman 'small town' (Medlycott 1998). Although no systematic archaeological investigation appears to have been undertaken of the site itself, the discovery of Roman artefacts during construction of the surrounding properties suggests that activity extends into the immediate vicinity (Wickenden 1988).

An area excavation was carried out immediately to the south of the current site, in 1970-72. This work revealed a stratified sequence of remains spanning the prehistoric to Saxon periods and in particular a range of Roman remains that included a mid-Roman cremation cemetery and a late-Roman shrine (Wickenden 1988; EHCR 13864-13869). An area of market garden to the south of the proposed development was investigated by trial trenching in 1972, producing features from the Early Iron Age through to Mid-Saxon, while a small number of features were identified to the south-west of the proposed development, at St Mary's Primary School, High Stile. Here, a 2nd century cremation cemetery suggests a location outside the limits of the settlement at this time (O'Brien 2007).

Excavations by ECC Field Archaeology Unit in the grounds of Redbond Lodge, in 2004, further suggest that during the 1st century AD this area lay just outside the built-up settlement and was most likely utilised as agricultural land. Based on analysis of the archaeological finds in relation to the features uncovered, the 2nd century saw increased activity, although again not directly settlement-related and it is not until the 3rd and 4th centuries that settlement activity can be tentatively identified in this area (Robertson 2007).

Stane Street, the Roman road from Colchester to St Albans, is thought to run to the south of the site, roughly under High Fields Road. No archaeological investigations were undertaken prior to or during the construction of this road and the surrounding housing estate; however, there is anecdotal evidence for substantial Roman remains being uncovered.

Evidence for Saxon occupation within the area of the Roman town is slight and the focus of early medieval settlement appears to have been at Church End, to the north of the medieval and later town.

The establishment of a market, granted a charter in 1227, indicated a shift in the settlement focus from Church End to the High Street area. The development site lies to the west of the medieval market place and it is unclear how far settlement extended in this area during the medieval period, although standing buildings to the immediate north and east do suggest that the adjacent areas were built up by the 16th/17th century.

Cartographic sources show that the plot alongside Stortford Road frontage has been empty since at least the third quarter of the 19th century, suggesting that this part of the site at least may not have been heavily disturbed by later development.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The general aim of the project was to ‘... determine, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality ...’ of any archaeological remains present (Havis 2008). More specific aims include:

- Identification of any surviving evidence relating to the Roman and medieval town and the nature of that occupation.
- Defining the longevity of the settlement
- Examining the economy of the Roman and medieval settlement including industrial, domestic and commercial production
- Studying samples from any surviving organic deposits
- Examining all elements of burial and ritual activity
- Investigating the evidence for Late Iron Age to Roman and Roman to Saxon transition periods, if present

4.0 METHOD

Modern overburden was removed, under archaeological supervision, using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological features and deposits were then excavated by hand using standard ECC FAU procedures, with plans being drawn at 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Finds were collected for dating and characterisation purposes. Sections of all features were recorded following standard ECC FAU methodologies. A photographic record, consisting of monochrome prints and digital images, was maintained on selected individual features as well as more general trench shots. Levels were taken on the present ground and exposed surfaces of each trench and the position of each trench was located using GPS.

IFA standards and by-laws and ALGAO’s Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003) were adhered to during the fieldwork, which was monitored by Mr R Havis of ECC HEM on behalf of Uttlesford District Council.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 and 3)

The evaluation consisted of five 10m trenches. Trenches 1 and 2 were situated along the street frontage at the corner of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road. The remaining three trenches were located on the land to the rear of the Chequers Inn. All trenches were 1.4m wide and were hand cleaned prior to investigation. Trenches 3, 4 and 5 were all moved slightly to the west from their positions identified in the WSI, due to space and access restrictions on the rear car park.

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench 1 was orientated north-south along the Chequers Lane frontage. It was machine excavated to a depth of 0.62m. Of the four features uncovered three were post-medieval in date (feature [4]; pit [21]/[37] and gully [23]) and one was Roman (pit [1]).

The post-medieval features in this trench all date to the mid-18th century or later. Pit [21]/[37] was the latest of the features and cut gully [23]. The fill of [21]/[37] contained a high concentration of ash and clinker as well as partially burnt coal. The pottery recovered from it was mostly 19th to 20th century in date although the base of a ceramic 17th-century candlestick was also recovered. It is likely that this pit was dug expressly for the purpose of the disposal of fire waste and general rubbish from the surrounding properties. Gully [23] lay in the approximate centre of the trench and was orientated east-west. It was approximately 0.29m deep and 1m wide. It is possible that this feature is the remains of an east-west boundary ditch, although this remains somewhat speculative. Feature [4] was situated at the southern end of the trench. This feature extended out of the trench to the east and west, and was seen to be in excess of 5m wide. The classification of this feature is uncertain as it was not bottomed, although it was excavated to a depth of 1.3m and the fills within it were essentially re-deposited topsoil. It is possible that it is the top of a well, although a large pit, of unknown use, cannot be ruled out.

The single Roman pit [1] lay towards the northern end and extended westwards out of the trench. Both the fills (2 and 3) contained 2nd/3rd century pottery. A single sherd of intrusive early Medieval pottery was also recovered. The pit does not appear to have been truncated to any great extent and was 1.25m wide and 0.34m deep. Although some residual Roman finds were recovered from later features, this pit was the only Roman feature positively identified by the evaluation.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was aligned east-west along the Stortford Road frontage and was machined to the top of the natural geology, at a depth of 0.4m. Of the six features identified in this trench, five of them were of post-medieval or modern date and the sixth medieval.

The most recent of the features uncovered was post-hole [39] and drain 33 which were either 19th or 20th century in origin. Post-hole [39] extended northwards out of the trench at its western end. It was approximately 0.35m deep and 0.7m wide. The only other clearly modern feature was a ceramic drain 33 which lay immediately below the carpark make up and directly on top of an 18th century ditch [30]. The drain was slightly curvilinear in plan and orientated northwest-southeast. Sections of the drain were sent to P Ryan for analysis and are discussed in the relevant section below.

Two 18th century features were also uncovered, post-hole [28] and ditch [30]. Post-hole [28] was located at the western end of the trench and was square in plan. It was 0.43m deep and extended out of the trench to the north and west. Ditch [30] was directly below drain 33, although they do not follow the same alignment. The ditch was not bottomed due to waterlogging but was excavated to a depth of 0.55m. It was approximately 1.7m wide and seems to run north-south. It is possible that this ditch is part of a property boundary, but this remains speculative at this stage.

A vaulted brick drain 20, contained within a construction trench [13], ran north-south across the trench. The vaulting consisted of mortared brick and appeared intact and so, apart from recording the feature, no further intrusive work was undertaken as it was unclear whether it was still in use. Dating evidence from the construction trench suggests a 17th/18th century date for this feature. One further ditch [34] was identified, although it was heavily truncated by posthole [39], ditch [30] and drain 33. The small section seen suggests that it was a relatively shallow ditch, running approximately north-south and possibly parallel with ditch [30], while the finds recovered suggest that it is late 16th century in date. It is possible that this ditch was a precursor to [30].

The earliest and only positively dated medieval feature was pit [14], which had been heavily truncated by drain trench [13]. The pottery recovered from this feature was generally 14th century in date, although some residual Roman sherds were also recovered. As with the Roman feature in Trench 1 it is likely that this feature is a remnant of medieval activity along the road frontage, the rest having been removed by later activity.

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig 2)

Located immediately to the rear of the Chequers Inn, Trench 3 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a depth of 0.27m. Only one potential archaeological feature was identified and investigated within this trench, although two modern features were also recorded.

A single post-hole [26] lay in the approximate centre of the trench, the single fill of which contained a quantity of post-medieval peg tile. It is likely that this feature is of relatively modern origin given the level from which it is cut, immediately below the carpark layers. The two other features identified were a modern cable trench, running approximately east-west through the middle of the trench, and a large feature containing modern debris which extended northwards out of the trench, towards the Chequers Inn.

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig 2)

Trench 4 also lay to the rear of the Chequers Inn. Measuring 10m long by 1.4m wide it was orientated northeast-southwest and excavated to a depth of 0.53m. Three archaeological features were identified in the centre of the trench, as well as a modern drain running north-south across the southwestern end of the trench.

Two undated postholes [6] and [10] were truncated by a small gully [8], which ran north – south and was very shallow at only 0.12m deep. The small size of this feature suggests that may have been a plough scar. However, it contained a significant quantity of animal bone, including horn cores, which suggests that it may originally have been a much larger feature that has been truncated by later activity. No conclusive dating evidence was recovered from this feature.

5.5 Trench 5 (Fig 2)

Situated against the south-western boundary of the site Trench 5 was orientated north-south and was excavated to a depth of 0.69m onto bright orange sandy natural. No archaeological remains were identified within this trench.

6.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by J Compton

Finds were recovered from a total of nineteen contexts, across four of the excavated trenches. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 3. The largest assemblage component is brick and tile, amounting to a total weight of slightly more than 36kg, and found in fifteen contexts. Fourteen contexts produced just over 3kg of pottery, mostly of post-medieval and modern date. This pottery forms the subject of a separate report, see below. The remaining finds are described by category following this report.

6.1 Roman pottery

A small amount of Roman pottery, 20 sherds, weight 176g, was recorded. Most of the pottery (84% by weight) came from the fills of a single pit [1] in Trench 1, providing a mid 2nd to early 3rd century date for the feature. Small and abraded coarse ware sherds from fills (15), (19) and (24) are residual in later features.

6.2 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

The majority of pottery recovered from the site was post-medieval in date although some medieval material was also identified. A total of 138 sherds weighing 3kg was excavated from twelve contexts, all within Trenches 1 and 2. Full quantification and categorisation details can be found in Appendix 3.

All the pottery from Trench 1 is post-medieval or modern apart from a possible sherd of Early Medieval Ware intrusive in fill (2) of pit [1]. In general the forms present are relatively common and indicate a domestic use. Fill (5) of pit [4] produced a small quantity of late 18th century fine wares, including fragments of agate ware, and creamware, and a single sherd of pearlware, a type of pottery first introduced in 1779. Fill (22) of the 19th/20th century pit [21] also produced a number of intrinsically-interesting pieces along with more general earthenware vessels, including part of an earthenware candlestick coated with cream slip beneath a yellow glaze, of a type that would not normally date beyond the early 17th century. What is unusual is that this piece, while obviously residual, is remarkably unabraded suggesting that it may have been an heirloom/ curated prior to deposition. Also from this context is an example of a vessel in dry-bodied stoneware, decorated with sprigged flowers. This is an unusual and high quality vessel which may be contemporary with the late 18th-century fine wares in pit [4] and may indicate a middle-class status.

The features in Trench 2 produced a wider date range of pottery than Trench 1, although the majority is still post-medieval and indicative of domestic usage. A single medieval feature, pit [14], contained fragments of late medieval sandy orange ware, spanning the 14th to 16th centuries, as

well as a single sherd of 13th to 14th century Hedingham ware. Further sherds of medieval coarse ware were residual in fill (16) of drain trench [13], as well as 17th century pottery. This is unsurprising as drain trench [13] cut through pit [14]. Both ditch [34] and post-hole [28] contained fragments of a post-medieval red earthenware drinking vessel dating to the 16th century. However, post-hole [28] also contained quantities of 18th century pottery suggesting that the 16th century pottery is residual in this feature. The upper fill (31) of ditch [30] produced a relatively large amount of 18th century pottery including black-glazed ware, Metropolitan slipware, another sherd of Staffordshire-type slipware and a sherd of Westerwald stoneware, which was imported in quantity. Pottery dating to the 19th /20th centuries was recovered from post-hole [39]

6.3 Brick and tile

Large quantities of brick and tile were recovered, along with a section of moulded ceramic culvert. In total, 260 fragments, weighing more than 36kg, were recorded in sixteen contexts. Approximately half of the total weight, however, is accounted for by the culvert section (33). This was constructed from square-sectioned, one-foot lengths of pipe, with a circular aperture of 6" diameter. Part of the culvert section was submitted to Pat Ryan for comment, as follows: The moulding of the section is regular, with standard dimensions, and the culvert is made from inclusion-free clay, suggesting a late 19th or early 20th-century date. The culvert was designed to carry relatively large volumes of water towards a central collection point, and its position perpendicular to the frontage of Stortford Road suggests that it connected with the storm drains running alongside the main road.

Ninety-six brick fragments, weighing just over 13kg, were recorded, almost all in soft red, sandy fabric, with pebble and angular flint inclusions. There are no complete, or even semi-complete, bricks and few of the fragments are substantial enough to provide measurements. The measurable depths ranged from 45-60mm, with three contexts (the fills of ditch [34] and pits [28] and [39], all Trench 2) containing standard bricks of 65mm depth. Following the typology in Ryan (1996, 94-6), it seems likely that most of the brick assemblage belongs to the 17th and early 18th centuries. The exceptions are the standard bricks, with that from the fill of pit [39] dating to the late 19th/20th centuries.

Roof tile fragments (150 pieces, weighing 6kg) were found in thirteen contexts. The assemblage comprises small pieces with few distinguishing features. Roof tiles are not closely datable but most of these are likely to be 17th and early 18th century, as for the bricks with which they were found. An obviously-modern piece with a 'knib' on one edge came from the fill of pit [39]. A single piece of floor tile, with knife-trimmed edges and a worn upper surface, came from fill (12) of pit [4]. Its depth of 25mm indicates a post-medieval date.

6.4 Metalwork

Items of metalwork were recovered from eight contexts. All comprise iron nails except for two pieces found in the fill of pit [21] (Trench 1). These are both probably modern, consisting of a section of iron strip, possibly part of a knife blade, and one half from a copper-alloy hinged purse frame.

6.5 Glass

Six contexts produced glass fragments, mainly bottle glass, amounting to 16 sherds, weighing 504g. A sherd of thin window glass was recovered from the fill of pit [4] (Trench 1), and a second thin sherd from the fill of ditch [30] (Trench 2). Both are from small quarry-type panes which would have been held in place by leaded comes. The piece from pit [4] is marked along one edge where the comes gripped the glass. The sherd from ditch [30] is colourless but that from pit [4] is dark green and may have come from a patterned window.

The bottle glass mainly comprises dark green body sherds from wine bottles, none of which is closely dated within the post-medieval period. Two sherds are weathered, which shows that the glass surface is beginning to disintegrate and the base sherd from the fill of gully [23] (Trench 1) is heavily weathered. This is likely to be the earliest piece, since the degree of weathering implies burial for a lengthier time than the remainder of the assemblage. The bottle rim sherd from the fill of ditch [30] has an applied string-lip and can be more closely dated to the second half of the 18th century. Three modern pale blue body sherds, from a medicine bottle or similar, were recovered from the fill of pit [39] (Trench 2).

6.6 Clay Tobacco Pipes

Only two contexts contained clay pipe fragments. Stem fragments were found in the fills of pit [4] (Trench 1) and ditch [30] (Trench 2). Pit [4] also contained part of a bowl with the maker's initials S and C moulded on either side of the spur. The bowl is incomplete but is probably an Oswald (1975) Type 23 tobacco pipe of late 18th century date.

6.7 Animal bone

Twelve contexts produced animal bone fragments, amounting to 100 pieces, weighing 908g. The assemblage was scanned for completeness and condition, and skeletal elements were identified where possible using Schmid (1972). The animal bone is fragmentary, but in good surface condition. The fragmentary nature of the bone prevented full identifications but cattle, sheep/goat and pig were recorded, along with single examples of horse, bird and small mammal. Bones from sheep/goat were the most numerous, identified in eight contexts. The fill of gully [8] (Trench 4)

contained skull fragments and horn cores, probably all sheep/goat. Many of the bones in other contexts were from immature animals. Bones with butchery marks were noted in only three contexts; these are bones from larger animals, however, and it is likely that the fragmentation of the rest of the assemblage has masked any such marks elsewhere. Most of the assemblage is derived from food animals, although it should be noted that there is a large proportion of head bones. The assemblage is probably too small for firm conclusions to be drawn.

6.8 Shell

Shell was recovered from six contexts, and entirely comprises oyster shell except for a single cockle valve in the fill of ditch [34]. All of the oyster shells are small examples, as would be expected in a largely post-medieval assemblage.

6.9 Other Finds

Other finds are few. Clinker and coal fragments were found in the fills of pits [4] and [21] (both Trench 1). A modern ashy waste conglomerate, which included paint, was also recovered from the fill of pit 4. Flat stone fragments, possibly tile fragments, were found in the fill of pit [21] (Trench 1). A small piece of baked clay came from ditch [34] and mortar fragments came from the fill of modern pit [39] (both Trench 2).

6.10 Environmental material

No environmental samples were collected, as the likelihood of surviving organic remains was low in all the excavated features.

6.11 General Finds Discussion

A range of finds was recorded, the largest proportion of which is post-medieval and likely to be domestic. The brick and tile assemblage is fragmentary and abraded and appears to represent hard-core. Many of the features which contain brick fragments probably date to the 19th century. A small amount of Roman and medieval material was recorded, although most is residual in later features. The sole Roman feature also contained a sherd of medieval pottery and two small pieces of post-medieval brick, presumably intrusive. Nearly all of the finds came from Trenches 1 and 2, with the more modern material in Trench 2, alongside the frontage of Stortford Road. The culvert fragments will be submitted for addition to the Essex brick collection.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The results of the evaluation are somewhat fragmentary; however, it is clear that the extensive and important Roman and Saxon remains seen immediately to the south of the site either did not extend this far north or have subsequently been removed by later activity.

The trenches to the rear of The Chequers Inn contained no archaeologically significant features and although it is conceivable that this area has not been subject to intrusive human activity in the past, this seems unlikely given the proximity of known Roman, Saxon, medieval and later remains. It is worth noting that below the modern carpark layers very little in the way stray finds were noted, which is unusual in a town with Dunmow's history, added to which, the geology was subtly different in these trenches, as the gravel seen along the frontage was not present and the clean natural geology consisted of almost pure, bright orange sand. It is therefore the opinion of the author that the area to the rear of the Chequers Inn has been landscaped and levelled, possibly during the construction of the surrounding buildings, and all but the most ephemeral traces of archaeology removed.

The trenches along the road frontage lie in an area that cartographic evidence shows has escaped modern development, having been open for a considerable time (Ordnance survey 1st edition 1861 – 76 through to 4th edition 1936 – 47) and this may account for the better survival of archaeological remains within these trenches. The vast majority of the features identified were post-medieval in date and can be classified as either back garden features or associated with roadside drainage. This is partially supported by the post-medieval pottery which is generally domestic in nature, suggesting that this area was used for the disposal of domestic waste. Of interest is large feature [4] which due to its size may be the top of a well, although it may also be a large rubbish or cess pit.

Positively identified Roman remains consisted of a single pit [1] dating to the 2nd/3rd centuries, although some residual pottery was recovered from later features, suggesting that other features have been removed by subsequent activity. The same can also be said for medieval pit [14], although the occurrence of residual medieval pottery is not as wide spread as Roman.

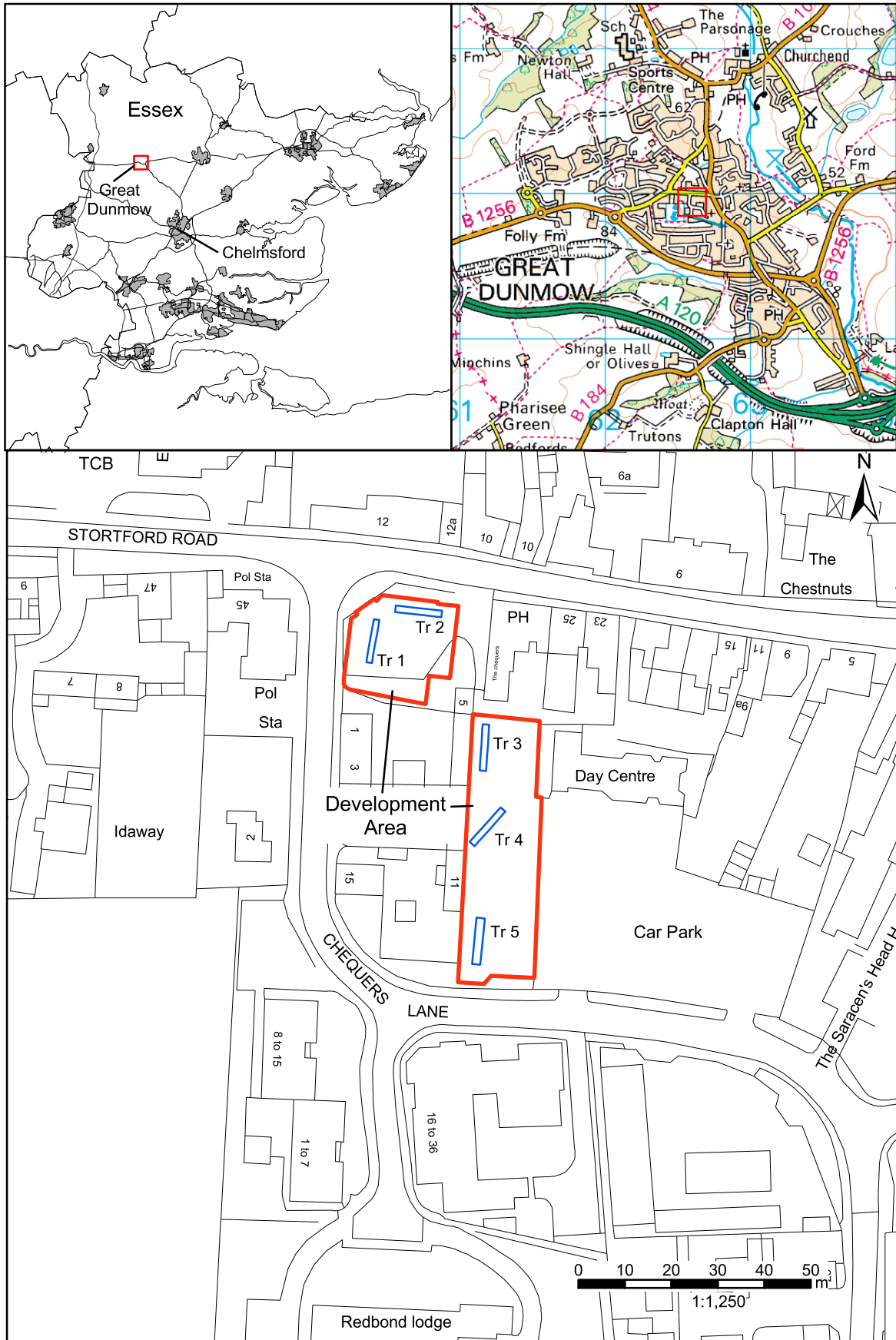
Overall it is likely that little coherent information regarding Roman, Saxon or medieval activity in Dunmow survives in either of the investigation areas, and the development should not have a significant impact upon the archaeological record. Accordingly, further work will not be required.

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned and funded by St Giles and Framar Developments Ltd and special thanks are due to Mr Martin Perugini for his assistance throughout the project. The monitoring officer was Mr R Havis of ECC HEM on behalf of Uttlesford District Council. Mr A Scruby managed the project and the author carried out the excavation with the assistance of R Brazil, A Turner, V Williams and M Wood. Finds were processed by P McMichael. The finds were assessed by J Compton and H Walker and the illustrations were done by the author and A Lewsey.

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Fig.1. Site location

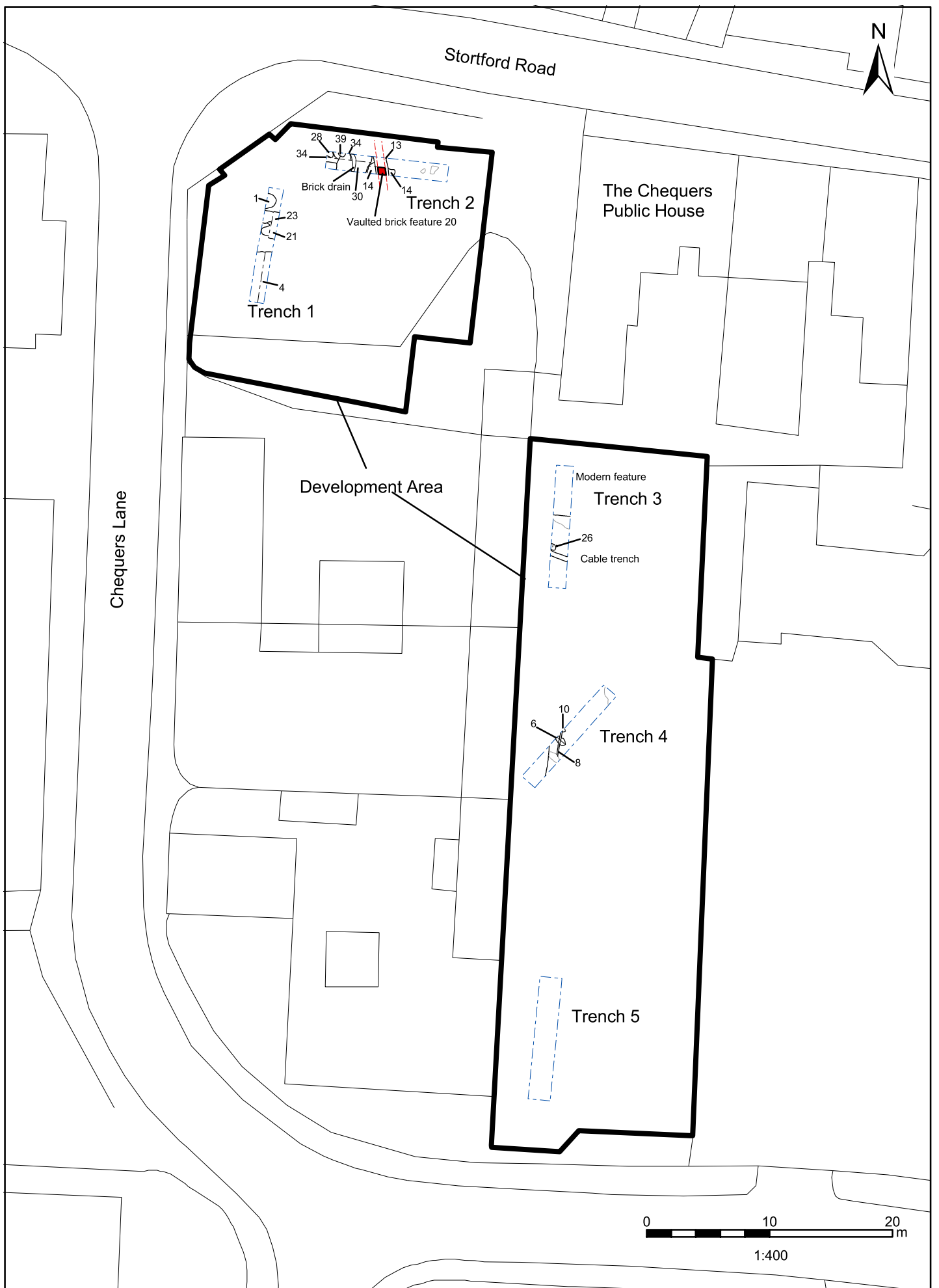


Fig.2.Trench locations

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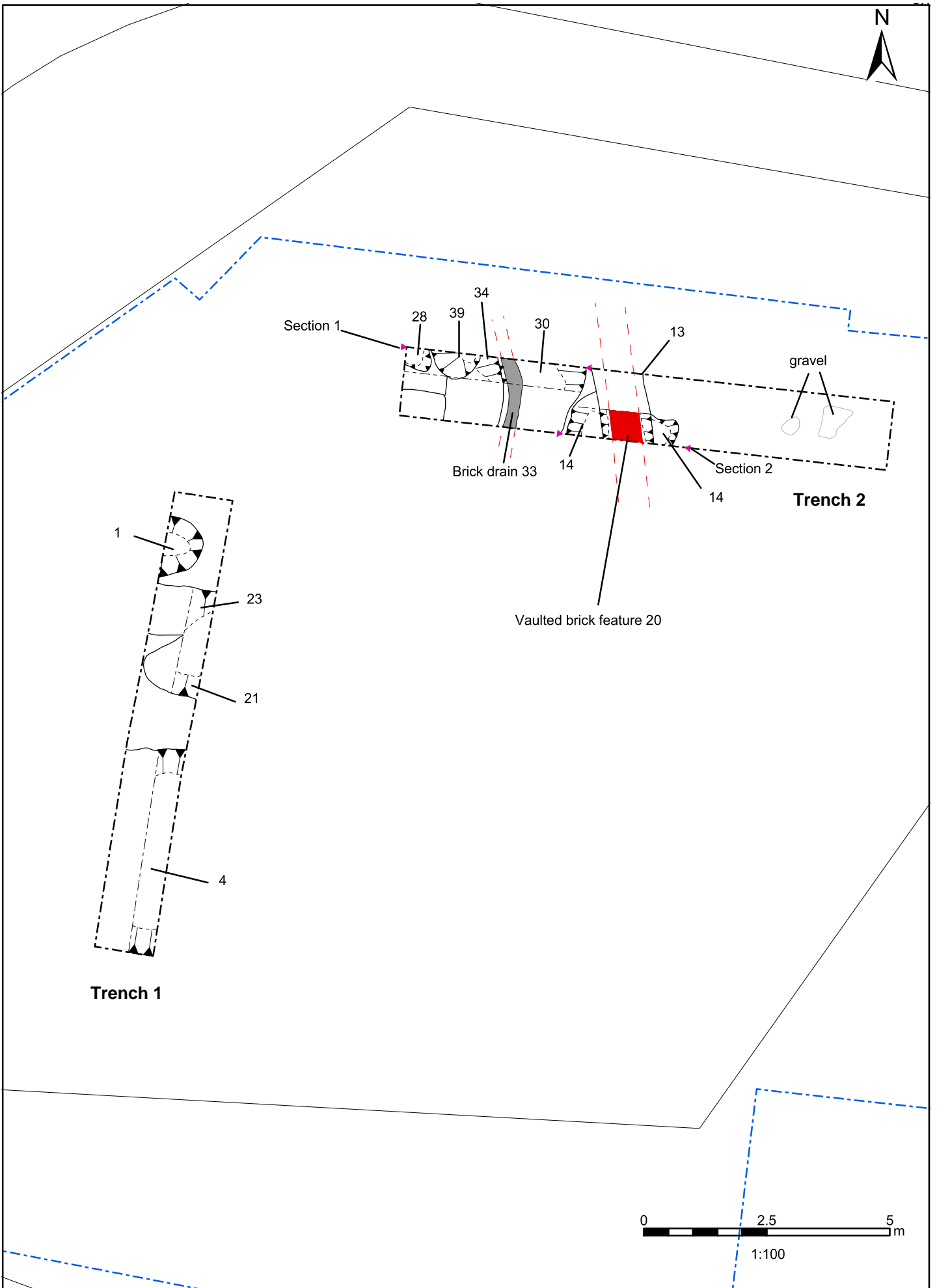


Fig.3. Trenches 1 and 2

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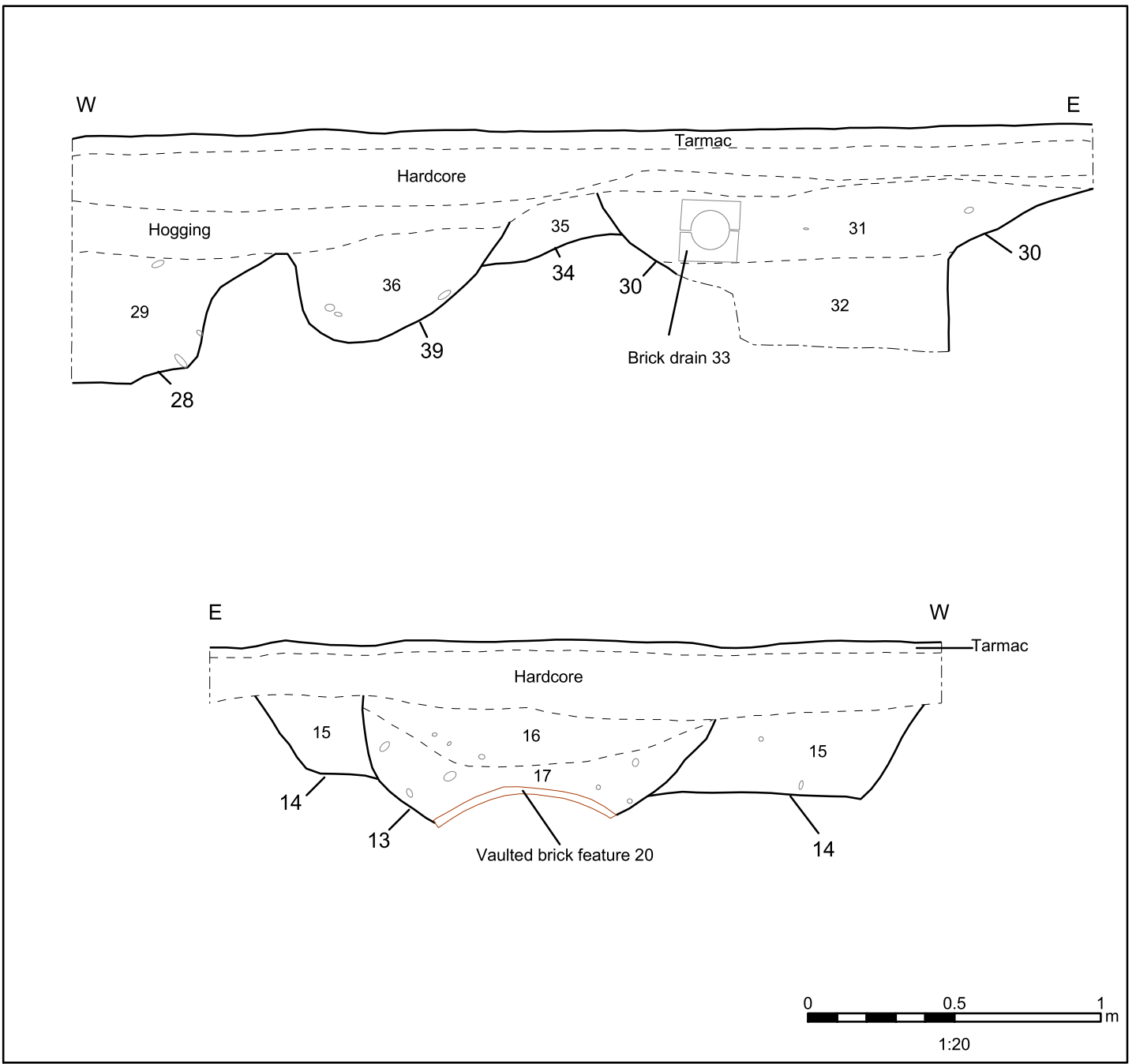


Fig.4. Sections

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA

Trench No	Contexts present	Co-ordinates (NW and SE corners)	Orientation
1	Pit [1] – Fills (2);(3) Pit [4] – Fills (5);(12);(19);(25) Pit [21] – Fill (22) Pit [37] – Fill (38) Gully [23] – Fill (24)	NW = TL 62580 22003 SE = TL 62580 21993	North - South
2	Drain trench [13] – Fills (16);(17) ; (18) Drain 20 Pit [14] – Fill (15) Pit [28] – Fill (29) Ditch [30] – Fill (31);(32) Drain 33 Ditch [34] – Fill (35) Post-hole [39] – Fill (36)	NW = TL 62585 22006 SE = TL 62594 22003	East - west
3	Post-hole [26] – Fill (27)	NW = TL 62603 21980 SE = TL 62604 21970	North - South
4	Post-hole [6] – Fill (7) Gully [8] – Fill (9) Post-hole [10] – Fill (11)	NW = TL 62607 21962 SE = TL 62601 21954	NE - SW
5	None	NW = TL 62602. 21938 SE = TL 62603 21928	North - South

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA

Feature No	Type	Filled by	Fill of	Trench	Notes	Date
1	Pit	02,03		1		2nd/3rd C
2	Fill		1	1		
3	Fill		1	1		
4	Pit	05,12,19,25		1		Mid 18th C
5	Fill		4	1		
6	Ph	7		4		No date
7	Fill		6	4		
8	Gully	9		4		No date
9	Fill		8	4		
10	Ph	11		4		No date
11	Fill		10	4		
12	Fill		4	1		
13	Drain Tr	16,17		2	Contains Drain 20	17th/18th C
14	Pit	15		2		14th C
15	Fill		14	2		
16	Fill		13	2		
17	Fill		13	2		
19	Fill		4	1		
20	Drain			2	Within [13] – vaulted brick structure	
21	Pit	22		1	Equals [37]	19th/20th C
22	Fill		21	1		
23	Gully	24		1		Mid 18th C
24	Fill		23	1		
25	Fill		4	1		
26	Ph	27		3		Post-med
27	Fill		26	3		
28	Ph	29		2		18th C
29	Fill		28	2		
30	Ditch	31,32		2		18th C
31	Fill		30	2		
32	Fill		30	2		
33	Drain			2		19th/20th C
34	Ditch	35		2		Late 16th C
35	Fill		34	2		
36	Fill		39	2		
37	Pit	38		1	Equals [21]	19th/20th C
38	Fill		37	1		
39	Ph	36		2		19th/20th C

APPENDIX 3: FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

Finds data

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	1	2	20	Brick fragments, abraded	Post med. ?Medieval Roman
		1	16	Pottery; body sherd	
		6	34	Pottery; rim and body sherds	
3	1	10	114	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Roman
5	4	1	26	Iron nail	-
		6	76	Animal bone; acetabulum fragment, large mammal; metatarsus, proximal end, sheep/goat; fragments, inc mandible	-
		15	146	Shell; oyster, nine valves and fragments	-
		1	12	Clinker (Discarded)	-
		3	172	Conglomerate, inc paint residue (Discarded)	Modern
		1	2	Glass; dark green window sherd (mark from comes along one edge – Discarded)	Post med.
		2	70	Glass; green bottle body sherds, one weathered (Discarded)	Post med.
		3	8	Clay pipe bowl fragment and stems, spur is marked S and C	Post med.
		14	1140	Brick fragments, depth 57mm (11/315g Discarded)	Post med.
		42	1415	Roof tile fragments, four with peg holes, one square (37/970g Discarded)	Post med.
10	74	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Post med/ Modern		
9	8	21	70	Animal bone; skull fragments and horn cores, ?sheep/goat	-
12	4	1	18	Animal bone; long bone shaft, chopped	-
		4	186	Brick fragments, one burnt or overfired (3/80g Discarded)	Post med.
		1	116	Floor tile fragment, depth 25mm	Post med.
		6	216	Roof tile fragments (4/134g Discarded)	Post med.
15	14	4	50	Animal bone; mandible fragment with molars, sheep/goat; fragments	-
		4	248	Brick fragments (3/140g Discarded)	Post med.
		5	166	Roof tile fragments, one with nail attached (3/24g Discarded)	Post med.
		11	74	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Med/post med.
		1	2	Pottery; body sherd	Roman
16	13	5	30	Pottery; body sherds	Med/post med.
17	13	1	6	Iron nail shaft	-
		2	4	Shell; oyster fragments	-
		7	530	Brick fragments (5/132g Discarded)	Post med.
		6	436	Roof tile fragments (5/174g Discarded)	Post med.
		4	26	Pottery; body sherds	Med/post med.
19	4	4	24	Animal bone; metatarsus, proximal end, sheep/goat; fragments, inc rib	-
		3	62	Shell; oyster, two valves and fragment	-
		1	4	Burnt flint (popped out of the surface of one of the bricks)	-
		2	268	Glass; joining green cylindrical base sherds with kick-up (Discarded)	Post med.
		28	4185	Brick fragments, widths 110-115mm, depths 52-57mm (24/1285g Discarded)	Post med.
		34	1200	Roof tile fragments, two with peg holes (31/860g Discarded)	Post med.
		4	60	Pottery; rim and body sherds	Post med.
		1	4	Pottery; mortarium body sherd	Roman
		22	21	1	16

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		1	12	Copper alloy ?purse frame section	Post med.
		4	48	Animal bone; rib section, sawn, large mammal; calcaneus, sheep/goat; tibia, distal end, bird; scapula, small mammal (cat, dog or rabbit?)	-
		1	14	Coal (Discarded)	-
		1	12	Cinder (Discarded)	-
		3	178	Stone ?tile fragments, depth 18-20mm	-
		2	46	Glass; mineral water bottle base sherd; dark green bottle body sherd (Discarded)	Post med.
		6	232	Brick fragments (5/52g Discarded)	Post med.
		4	142	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole (2/34g Discarded)	Post med.
		44	1995	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, inc pedestal base	Post med/ Modern
24	23	5	52	Shell; oyster, four valves and fragment	-
		1	48	Glass; bottle base sherd, heavily weathered	Post med.
		7	268	Brick fragments, depth 45mm (6/48g Discarded)	Post med.
		8	98	Roof tile fragments (7/66g Discarded)	Post med.
		9	200	Pottery; rim, body and handle sherds	Post med/ Modern
		2	22	Pottery; body sherds	Roman
27	26	6	160	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole (4/68g Discarded)	Post med.
29	28	2	26	Iron nails	-
		5	48	Animal bone; mandible fragment with incisor, sheep/goat; fragments	-
		1	110	Brick fragment, depth 65mm	Post med.
		7	358	Roof tile fragments, one with square peg hole (4/160g Discarded)	Post med.
		7	42	Pottery; body sherds	Post med.
31	30	7	112	Iron nails	-
		5	98	Animal bone; radius, distal end, horse; fragments, inc ribs	-
		7	76	Shell; oyster, seven valves	-
		4	56	Glass; bottle rim with applied string-lip, green with all-over weathering; green body sherds, one weathered (these Discarded, 18g)	18th C
		1	2	Glass; colourless window fragment (Discarded)	Post med.
		2	2	Clay pipe stems	Post med.
		3	640	Brick fragments, depth 60mm (2/154g Discarded)	Post med.
		8	322	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole (5/206g Discarded)	Post med.
		17	214	Pottery; handle, base and body sherds	Med/post med.
32	30	2	44	Iron nails	-
		1	18	Animal bone; humerus, distal end, sheep/goat	-
		6	2205	Brick fragments, depths 45-53mm; two joining frags are >200mm long (3/555g Discarded)	Post med.
		7	486	Roof tile fragments (4/174g Discarded)	Post med.
		2	10	Pottery; body sherds	Post med.
33	Drain	1	8	Animal bone; vertebra fragment, large mammal, unfused	-
		13	16970	Ceramic culvert sections and fragments - section length 1ft, cross-section 8" square, circular aperture 6" dia	Modern
35	34	2	12	Iron nails	-
		47	306	Animal bone; mandible fragment with molar and incisors, pig; cattle phalanges; three molars and metatarsus, proximal end, sheep/goat; fragments, inc vertebra, skull, long bone and rib	-
		6	42	Shell; oyster, five valves; cockle	-
		1	18	Baked clay	-

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		7	2240	Brick fragments, depth 65mm (4/570g Discarded)	Post med.
		8	454	Roof tile fragments, one with peg hole (5/220g Discarded)	Post med.
		13	120	Pottery; base and body sherds	Post med.
36	39	1	18	Iron nail	-
		1	144	Animal bone; cattle radius, proximal end, chopped	-
		3	12	Glass; pale blue bottle body sherds (Discarded)	Modern
		4	176	Mortar fragments	-
		5	1090	Brick fragments, depth 65mm (4/424g Discarded)	Modern
		9	560	Roof tile fragments, inc 'knib' and one with triangular peg hole (5/266g Discarded)	Post med.
		11	68	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Post med/ Modern
38	37	2	8	Brick fragments	Post med.

Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	1	1	16	Early Medieval Ware: fabric consistent with this ware, but surfaces have been burnt or have undergone post-depositional changes making identification tentative	10th to 13th C
5	4	5	46	Post-medieval red earthenware glazed sherds including beaded rim	later 16th to 19th C
		1	2	Agate ware, everted rim from hollow ware in brown, dark brown, and ochre colours	mid 18th C
		1	16	Nottingham/Derbyshire stoneware flat base ?from bowl	18th to 20th C
		2	7	Creamware, plain sherds	mid 18th to early 19th C
		1	3	Pearlware rim from ?hemispherical bowl showing blue-painted Chinese-style border	c.1800
15	14	7	45	Medieval coarse ware, misc. sherds	residual 12th to 14th C pot
		4	28	Sandy orange ware, late medieval types including sherds with sparse internal glaze	14th to 16th C
16	13	1	4	Hedingham ware sherd with mottled green glaze	residual ?later 13th-14th C pot
		4	26	Sandy orange ware, late-medieval types including slip-painted unglazed sherd, and sherd with sparse internal glaze	residual 14th to 16th C pot
17	13	1	6	Sandy orange ware, slip-painted and glazed sherd	residual 13th to 14th C pot
		1	5	Post-medieval red earthenware, unglazed	16th to 19th C
		2	15	Black-glazed ware externally glazed sherds, perhaps from a jug	17th to early 18th C
19	4	4	55	Post-medieval red earthenware, glazed sherds including flanged rim ?from dish	?17th C
22	21	1	213	Post-medieval slip-coated red ware, base of upright candlestick, slip-coated under a yellow glaze	?early 17th C (?curated)
		4	463	Post-medieval red earthenware, from large flared bowl with all over glaze	late 16th to 19th C
		6	597	Late kitchen earthenware, sherds from large bowl with pouring lip, an everted jar rim and a thick-walled base ?from a jar, all with an internal slip-coating	19th to early 20th C
		18	264	Flowerpot, remains of several pots	19th to 20th C
		1	4	Yellow ware, sherd from hollow ware	late 18th to 20th C
		1	49	Modern stoneware, flat base from cylindrical vessel, salt-glazed	19th to early 20th C
		12	372	Modern white earthenware, fragments from oval or rectangular serving dish, flanged rims from plates, and a hollow ware - all plain, plus an everted rim	c.1820s or later

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
2	1	1	16	Early Medieval Ware: fabric consistent with this ware, but surfaces have been burnt or have undergone post-depositional changes making identification tentative	10th to 13th C
				and body sherd showing blue transfer-printed landscape with floral border	
		1	22	Dry-bodied stoneware bowl rim, crenellated, with row of sprigged flowers both inside and out	c.1800
24	23	6	168	Post-medieval red earthenware, sherds with all over glaze including joining sherds and a sherd with a horizontal handle, perhaps from a storage jar	17th to 19th C
		1	27	Staffordshire-type slipware, pie-crust rim from press-moulded dish, showing combed decoration	later 17th to mid 18th C
		2	5	Creamware, sherds from ?plates, plain	mid 18th to early 19th C
29	28	1	8	Sandy orange ware, unglazed, late-medieval	residual 14th to 16th C pottery
		4	22	Post-medieval red earthenware, glazed sherds including small fragment of drinking vessel with orange glaze, similar in context 35	16th to 19th C
		1	2	Black-glazed ware	17th to early 18th C
		1	8	Staffordshire-type slipware showing combed slip decoration	later 17th to mid 18th C
31	30	1	5	Medieval coarse ware sagging base sherd	residual 12th to 14th C pot
		2	6	Tudor red earthenware	residual late 15th/16th C pot
		9	153	Post-medieval red earthenware, misc. glazed sherds including pad base from jar, and handle	later 16th to 19th C
		2	15	Black-glazed ware, body sherd with all over glaze and jug handle (Harlow shape)	17th to early 18th C
		1	27	Metropolitan slipware, from ?dish, burnt	c.1625- earlier 18th C
		1	8	Staffordshire-type slipware fragment from dish showing combed slip	later 17th to mid 18th C
		1	2	Westerwald stoneware showing remains of incised decoration infilled with cobalt-blue	mid 17th to later 18th C
32	30	2	10	Post-medieval red earthenware internally glazed body sherds	later 16th to 19th C
35	34	5	21	Sandy orange ware, misc. late med sherds	14th to 16th C
		4	77	Tudor red earthenware, including slip-painted sherds and base with chalk flecks in fabric	late 15th/16th C
		4	24	Post-medieval red earthenware, glazed sherds including small fragment of drinking vessel, rilled with orange glaze	later 16th to 19th C
36	39	1	3	Sandy orange ware, unglazed late-medieval type	residual 14th to 16th C pot
		5	47	Post-medieval red earthenware, glazed and unglazed sherds including undercut pad base perhaps from a jar	16th to 19th C
		1	4	Yellow ware sherd with upright rim and white slip-banding	late 18th to 20th C
		4	13	Modern white earthenware including sherds with willow pattern transfer-print	19th to 20th C
		138	2913		

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX

**SITE NAME: Junction of Stortford Road and Chequers Lane
and Land to Rear of The Chequers Inn, Great Dunmow (GD22)**

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief for Evaluation
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation for Evaluation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 2 Context Record Registers
- 3.2 Original Context Records 01 to 39 (Ctx 18 void)
- 3.3 1 Plans Register
- 3.4 1 Sections Register
- 3.5 1 Levels Register
- 3.6 2 Photographic Register
- 3.7 Site Photographic Record
- 3.8 2 Permatrace Plan sheets
- 3.9 2 Permatrace Section sheets

4. Not in Files:

- 4.1 3 boxes of Finds

APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: The Junction of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road and Land to the rear of the Chequers Inn, Great Dunmow	
Parish: Great Dunmow	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 6259 2199 (Centred)	Site Code: GD 22
Type of Work: Evaluation	Site Director/Group: Andrew Robertson ECC FAU
Date of Work: 4th to 8th February 2008	Size of Area Investigated: Approximately 90m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Saffron Walden Museum	Funding Source: St Giles and Framar Developments Ltd.
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related EHER Nos: EHER 13864-13869
Final Report: EAA Summary?	
Periods Represented: Roman/ Medieval/ Post-medieval/ Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by ECC FAU, on behalf of St Giles and Framar Developments Ltd, on the proposed site of two residential and commercial developments, at the junction of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road, and on land to the rear of the Chequers Inn, Great Dunmow. The developments sit in an area of high archaeological potential, either within or immediately outside the suggested extent of a Roman small town and to the east of the medieval market place. Excavations in 1927, immediately to the south of the site, at Chequers Lane, uncovered range of prehistoric to medieval remains, including a small 2nd century cremation cemetery and 4th century shrine. Five 10m long trenches were opened, by mechanical excavator, two along the road frontage of Chequers Lane and Stortford Road and three to the rear of the Chequers Inn. The trenches to the rear of the Chequers Inn contained no significant archaeological remains and their stratigraphic make up suggests that this area has been landscaped in the past, effectively removing any features once present. The trenches along the road frontage revealed features predominantly dating to the 17th century or later, although one 14th century pit and a single 2nd/3rd century pit were also identified and it is likely that later activity has removed the majority of any Roman and medieval remains in the frontage area. Overall, little evidence for Roman, Saxon or Medieval activity survived in either part or the site and the development is unlikely to have any significantly impact upon the archaeological record.	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Andrew Robertson	Date of Summary: September 2004