

**211 NEW LONDON ROAD
CHELMSFORD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL-TRENCHING EVALUATION



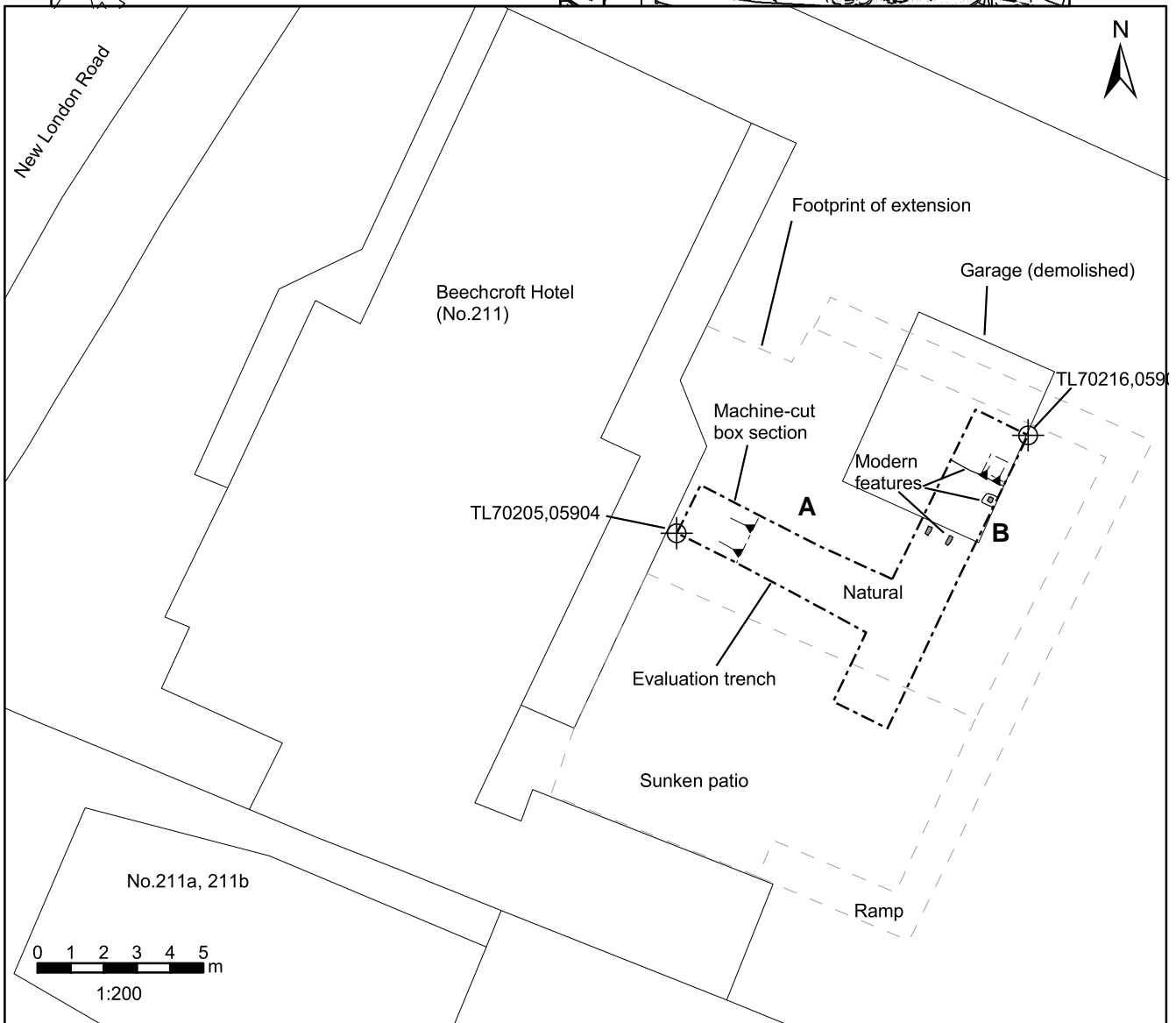
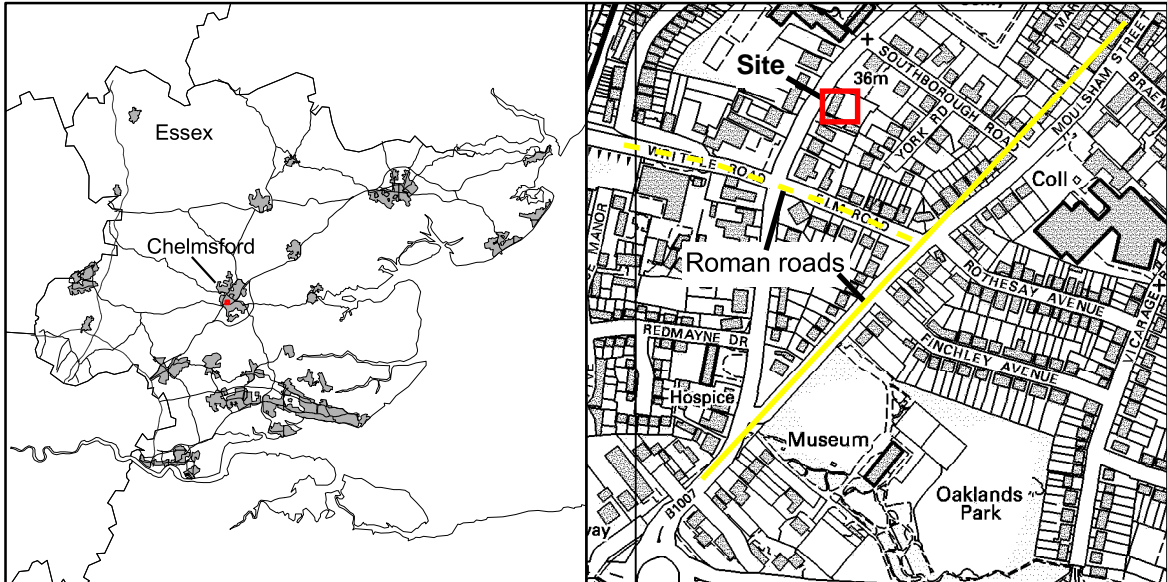
Essex County Council

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

July 2008

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

Site name/Address: 211 New London Road, Chelmsford	
Parish: Chelmsford	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 70205 05904	Site Code: CF 57
Type of Work: Trial-trenching evaluation	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 23/6/08	Size of Area Investigated: Two trenches, totalling 26m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford Museum	Client: Marden Homes Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: 5928, 5929 and 17537
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History (summary)	
Periods represented: Roman and Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation consisting of two trial-trenches (Fig. 1, A and B; Plates 1 and 2) preceded the conversion of the Beechcroft Hotel into a residential care home. The trial-trenching took place to the immediate rear of the hotel across an existing patio and the former site of a small garage, within the intended area for a new extension comprising a basement and a sunken garden. The archaeological work was commissioned by Marden Homes Ltd and was carried out under the terms of a condition placed on planning consent by the local planning authority. The trenches were stripped under archaeological supervision by a tracked mini excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.</p> <p>The site was located about 500m south-west of the former Roman town of Caesaromagus, to the south of Chelmsford's modern town centre. Roman burials in cremation urns have been found in the area of Oaklands Park and near the junction of Moulsham Street and Writtle Road to the south-east. Moulsham Street is known to have been a Roman road and Writtle Road is conjectured to have been one (EHER 5928, 5929, 17537).</p> <p>The surface geology of the site consisted of brownish-orange brickearth beneath subsoil (0.2m thick) and topsoil (0.15m thick). Both the subsoil and the topsoil contained modern artefacts and may have been previously stripped. The patio rested on a bedding layer of grey sand directly on top of the subsoil.</p> <p>The trial-trenching found three modern post-holes and a modern cut-feature within the eastern end of trench B. It discovered no Roman burials or other features, deposits or finds or any other archaeological remains predating the 19th and 20th centuries. The modern features were probably part of the former small garage.</p> <p>The absence of Roman material possibly indicates that the aforementioned Roman cremation cemeteries were closely confined to the immediate area of Moulsham Street and its junction with Writtle Road.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:- None	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: July 2008



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Fig.1. Site location (Roman roads highlighted in yellow)



Plate 1: trenches A and B



Plate 2: trenches A and B