LAND TO THE REAR OF 305 RAYNE ROAD

BRAINTREE

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

BY TRIAL TRENCHING

Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit

November 2008

LAND TO THE REAR OF 305 RAYNE ROAD BRAINTREE ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING

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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. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

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LAND TO THE REAR OF 305 RAYNE ROAD BRAINTREE ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Client: Kaizen Construction Limited
NGR: TL 7447 2291 (Centre)
Site Code: BTRR08
Project No: 1940
Date of Fieldwork: August 2008
Oasis Accession Number: Essexcou1-48398

SUMMARY

A trench-based evaluation was undertaken by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit, on behalf of Kaizen Construction Ltd, on land to the rear of 305 Rayne Road, Braintree, in order to confirm the presence or absence, date, character and significance of any archaeological remains present. The site is situated in close proximity to known Roman rural settlement remains, while finds of Palaeolithic implements and Pleistocene faunal remains were potentially made in nearby gravel quarries.

The evaluation established the presence of both prehistoric and late(?) post-medieval remains, but did not identify any Pleistocene / potential Palaeolithic deposits or Roman activity. Beneath a thick layer of modern debris in the southern part of the site was evidence for successive layers of hill wash built up against the steeply sloping edge of a natural gravel terrace overlooking the River Brain. Within this, presumably residual but certainly not well-travelled, Neolithic worked and burnt flint and pottery were discovered 2.4m below the current ground surface, in the lower levels of the sequence. At the front of the property a large, probably late 19th century, roadside quarry pit was discovered, while the remaining areas investigated contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Generally, the evidence suggested that considerable parts of the site have been affected in the past by episodes of quarrying and/ or dumping and levelling, particularly in the case of the latter at the rear of the site. However, the prehistoric remains uncovered occurred at such depth below the existing ground surface that they do not appear to have been affected by past episodes of quarrying and are also unlikely to be impacted upon in a significant way by the current development proposals.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Planning Background

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in advance of the construction of seven residential properties and a new access road on land to the rear of 305 Rayne Road, Braintree (planning application 07/01715/FUL). This work was undertaken on behalf of Kaizen Construction Limited in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by the ECC FAU (ECC FAU 2008), in response to a Brief prepared by ECC Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM 2008).

1.2. Report and Archive

Copies of this report will be supplied to Kaizen Construction Limited, ECC Historic Environment Management and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). A version will be uploaded to the Online Access Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis). The project archive, including two copies of the report, will be deposited at Braintree Museum.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Topography and Geology

The site covers an area approximately 5250msq, situated to the north-west of Braintree (TL 7447 2291). Access is from the road frontage between no's 305 and 313 Rayne Road and the main development is located between the rear gardens of the existing roadside properties and the Broomhill Industrial Estate, to the south.

The land lies at a height of between 60-65m OD and has a gentle southwest slope down to the valley of the River Brain. The geology of the site consists of Head deposits overlying Kesgrave sands and gravels.

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

Documentary and cartographic sources suggest that the development area lies in a sensitive archaeological and geo-archaeological location, situated on/ in close proximity to the sands and gravels of the Kesgrave Formation. Finds of Palaeolithic implements and Pleistocene faunal remains, including elephant and horse, have been recovered from gravel pits in the

Braintree area, most likely from the Kesgrave formation, although there is some confusion as to the precise location of their discovery (EHER 6318). The development site is located on the edge of a former gravel pit, operated by Braintree & Bocking Urban District Council and worked in the late 1930s – mid 40s in order to provide material for repairing the roads. Reference is made to the discovery of an elephant tusk and tooth in 1947, although no reliable source is available for this and it appears that the material was actually discovered about a kilometre to the east, in the 1890s. Nevertheless, the potential exits for the discovery of further Palaeolithic material within the sands and gravels in the development area.

In addition to the above, the site lies alongside an important Roman road, Stane Street (HER 1226), and it is possible that evidence for the road, roadside ditches or other features and finds associated with roadside activities survive within the plot. To the south east of the site, finds of Roman date suggesting the presence of a rural settlement have been recovered.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The initial aim of the archaeological work was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving remains.

Specific research objectives were to:

i. Assess the depth, extent, and survival of any Pleistocene / potential Palaeolithic deposits.
ii. Determine the presence of any Roman roadside settlement remains.
iii. To assess the faunal, eco-factual and environmental potential of any geo-archaeological features and deposits.

The research objectives for the project were in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000).*

4. METHODS

The evaluation investigated three areas that would be impacted by the footprint of the planned development (fig. 1). However, general site conditions, obstructions, and the depth of the trenches in some instances meant that changes to the three agreed trench positions were required. All changes were made with the approval of the HEM monitoring officer.

All fieldwork methods and recording conformed to the codes of practice and guidance issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999) and adhered to regional guidelines (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU recording and excavation methods were used throughout.

4.1. Trial Trenching

In total, four trenches were opened;

i. Trench 1 was positioned at the road frontage and broadly ran north-south over house plot 1. It was shortened by c.9m from its original 20m length because of space restrictions.
ii. Trench 2, which was originally 30m long and aligned north-west/south-east to span house plots 2 and 3, was split into 2(a) and 2(b) (10.20m and 9.30m long respectively with a gap between them of 4.3m). This was necessary because Trench 2B was over depth at 2.9m.
iii. Trench 3 was aligned broadly east-west and ran between house plots 5 and 7. It was re-orientated and shortened to avoid an existing structure.

The trenches were positioned using a Trimble Geo-XT GPS receiver to an accuracy of ± 500mm. These areas were rapidly scanned with a metal detector and CAT scanned for live services in advance of excavation.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation was undertaken in spits until the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits were encountered, or a maximum safe working depth was reached. All arisings were stored to the side of the trench so that they could be re-instated during backfilling. Spoil heaps were visually examined for archaeological material and orange netlon fencing was erected around each trench.

4.2. Test Pits

In each trench, a test pit was machine excavated to a safe and reasonable depth in order gain additional information on the sequence and characteristics of the underlying geology and to ascertain the presence/ absence of faunal, eco-factual, and environmental remains, particularly of the Pleistocene and Palaeolithic periods. The material from the test pits was stored separately for later bulk sampling, sorting, and on-site hand sieving.

4.3. Recording

A representative section was drawn at either 1:10 or 1:50 of each trench, showing the level of archaeological survival and natural strata. Context recording paid particular attention to sedimentalogical characteristics and levels were taken of sections and trenches relative to Ordnance Datum. The depth of Trench 2(b) meant that the recording was carried out at the edge of the trench and soil descriptions taken from machined arisings.

In general, indexed registers of context records, drawings, samples, and photographs were compiled on site and deposits were recorded using ECCFAU pro forma site recording sheets. Colour transparency and monochrome negative photographs were taken at a minimum format of 35mm. In addition to records of archaeological features, a number of general site photographs were also taken to give an overview of the site.

4.4. Artefact Recovery and Environmental Sampling

All non-modern artefacts were collected and bagged by context, stored, and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines. 100 litre samples were hand sieved on site from context (22) Trench 3, (23) Trench 2(b), and the Kesgrave gravels from test pits in Trench 2(a) and 3.

In addition, two bulk samples were taken from context (22) and (23) to establish the potential for survival of environmental remains from suspected prehistoric deposits. These samples were taken from appropriately cleaned surfaces, were collected with clean tools and placed in clean containers, and stored appropriately prior to and following processing.

5. RESULTS

The evaluation did not encounter any archaeological features or deposits that related to Roman roadside settlement and utilisation of the area. However, in Trench 1 the remains of more recent quarrying was discovered and in Trench 2(b) a sequence of sealed land surfaces/ episodes of hillwash survived, the deepest of which was dated to the early prehistoric period. Trenches 2(a) and 3 are not described in the report because no archaeological remains were encountered. Details of these trenches can be found in the site archive.

The sequence and characteristic of the underlying natural strata was recorded in each of the trenches with the exception Trench 1 and 2(b) where the depth and nature of the remains

meant the natural geology was either not encountered or sufficiently exposed. The sorting, visual inspection and hand sieving of the gravels from test pits in Trenches 2(a) and 3 produced no faunal, eco-factual, or artefactual remains. Consequently, and because the British Geological Society has previously carried out a full and extensive description of the Kesgrave gravels in the area (BGS 1986), the full sequence of geological deposits are not described in this report but for future information and specialist use, the sample sections and an outline of their characteristics are included in Figure 2 and in Appendix 1 respectively.

Garden topsoil was present across much of the site, excluding the existing access road and various areas of hard standing. At the front of the property the topsoil was 0.10m thick and in the back garden c.0.30m. No subsoil survived/ was present in either of these areas, while it appears that the eastern part of the site (Trench 3) had suffered the greatest level of truncation in order to create a parking zone for the taxis that once operated from these premises. At least 0.40m of topsoil/ underlying natural had been removed and replaced with a 0.15m layer of compacted gravel, fragments of tarmac and concrete.

5.1. Trench 1

Trench 1 was located at the front of the property and set back from the road by c.11m (fig. 1). It sat on an artificially elevated and level part of the site some 0.93m higher than the roadside pavement. Unexpectedly, excavation of the trench was halted at a depth of just over 1.20m without reaching the natural strata. Instead, a sequence of homogenous levelling layers/ dumps (3), (4), and (5) that either comprised thick layers of grey clay-silt with gravel inclusions or thinner bands of well sorted orange sandy gravels were encountered below 0.10m of topsoil (1). These layers are likely to represent either the backfilling of a large quarry pit (2) or the deliberate raising up of the area to create level terraces for the construction of the existing houses along the Rayne Road frontage, but due to restrictions on space and the proximately of the road, pavement, and existing structures, trench extensions could not be made to distinguish the exact nature of the deposits. No finds were recovered so the feature/ layers remain undated. Perhaps because of the large-scale earth movements that had taken place, no evidence of a roadside ditch or occupation of any date was discovered.

5.2. Trench 2(b)

Trench 2(b) describes one part of the split trench located towards the south-west corner of the site, over house plot 3.

Natural Kesgrave gravels were discovered 2m below the current ground surface in a small 2 by 1.8m area at the northern end of the trench. These appeared to slope steeply to the south descending 0.40m every 1m and so were likely to have represented a small part of the gravel terrace overlooking the river Brain (Fig. 2 – section 3). Overlying this was pale brown silty clay (23) that seemed to have followed this natural slope to the southern end of the trench. However, mechanical excavation ceased at a depth of 2.9m at this southern end without encountering the sloping gravel terrace, 0.50m into (23) (Fig. 2),. Hand sieving of arisings from this deposit found early prehistoric remains that included, burnt flint, a sherd of Neolithic pottery and similarly dated group of flint flakes, blades and three cores.

Overlying, (23) was an undated layer (24) of similar character but which contained frequent rounded and sub rounded gravels. It too was hand sieved but found to contain no artefacts. Above this was layer (25), which was a pale grey silty clay sand that contained well-mixed and distributed charcoal flecks, gravels, and small chalk fragments. A uniformly 0.10m-thick layer of topsoil-like material (26) sealed (25) and above this was a 1m (north) to 1.75m (south) thick build-up of mixed modern material that included white glazed ceramic, iron pipe, fragments of tarmac, brick and concrete.

6. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by Joyce Compton

Finds were recovered from a single context in Trench 2(b), and a flint flake was recovered from sieving gravels in Trench 2(a). All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. The finds are described by category below.

6.1. The Assemblage

6.1.1. Pottery

A single body sherd (weight 16g) of abraded pottery was recovered from layer 23 (Trench 2b). The sherd has been examined by N.J. Lavender, as follows; this is grog-tempered, probably Grooved ware and thus Neolithic, but the identification is somewhat uncertain due to the high degree of abrasion.

6.1.2. Worked and burnt flints by Tony Blowers

Layer 23 (Trench 2b) produced twenty worked flints and fifteen burnt pieces, and one worked flint came from the sieved gravel in Trench 2(a).

Eight blades, eight flakes and three cores of Neolithic date and a Mesolithic axe thinning flake were recovered. Seven pieces are of a similar, average quality, brown river gravel material suggesting they may be from a local source. The remaining patinated flintwork is of better quality and is likely to be from the glacial deposits of the Lowestoft Formation. Two of the patinated blades are retouched and notched, and a third has been worked into a small drill or piercer. All of the worked flints were located toward the southern end of the excavation area towards the base of a gravel terrace overlooking the River Brain. They appear to be residual within a buried colluvial soil horizon which suggests activity on the higher ground to the north. A single abraded micro-burin of Mesolithic date was recovered from the gravels in Trench 2(b). The amount of wear and the lack of any other artefacts from the deposit suggest it is residual.

Layer 23 produced a total of fifteen burnt flints which were recovered by hand-sieving. Although not datable in itself, some of this material is likely to be contemporary with the worked flint and the pottery retrieved from the same area. The presence of burnt flint suggests a more settled use of the landscape implying its use in hearths or use as a cooking medium.

6.1.3. *Unworked stone*

A single piece of glacial erratic was recovered from layer 23.

6.2. Comments on the assemblage

A small quantity of prehistoric material was recovered; this should be retained apart from the unworked stone and the burnt flint.

6.3. Environmental material

Two bulk soil samples (<1>, layer 22, Trench 3; <2>, layer 23, Trench 2B) were collected for the purpose of environmental analysis. These were processed by wet-sieving with flotation using a 0.5mm mesh and collecting the flotation fraction (flot) on a 0.5mm sieve. The residues were then dried and separated into coarse and fine fractions using 4mm and 2mm sieves. The material in the coarse fraction (>4mm) was sorted by eye, and artefacts and environmental material extracted and bagged separately. The flots were dried and bagged by context, but no fine fractions were retained. Retrieved artefacts, although these are few, were recorded by count and weight, where possible, and these details added to the quantification table in Appendix 02. Flot was collected for <1> only; no charcoal was evident. The flot was examined by Val Fryer, as follow; the dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16. Modern fibrous roots are present but otherwise all

plant remains are charred. The assemblage is extremely small (considerably less than 0.1 litres in volume) and is almost entirely composed of small (mostly <2mm) charcoal fragments. Two minute pieces of coal are also present, but it is assumed that these are intrusive within the context. It would appear most likely that the material within the assemblage is derived from a low density of scattered or wind-blown hearth/midden waste, much of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the deposit.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Unfortunately, the site as a whole has produced very few features and little in the way of datable material. There is no evidence for settlement or other roadside activities in the Roman or medieval periods, while visual inspection, sorting, and hand sieving of the Kesgrave gravels from test pits dug in Trenches 2(a) and 3 produced no faunal, eco-factual or artefactual remains of Pleistocene or Palaeolithic date.

However, the trial trenching did identify a large area of disturbance (2) at the front of the site that potentially relates to pre-20th century quarrying to a depth of over 1.2m against the roadside, although there is no cartographcal record of this taking place. Additionally, at the rear of the development, a sequence of undisturbed soil layers (23), (24), (25), and (26) survived at depth, which had built-up against the steeply sloping edge of the natural gravel terrace, preserved below a 1 - 1.75m thick levelling layer of modern debris. Numerous flint artefacts and a single sherd of Neolithic pottery were recovered from the deepest of these soil layers (23), reached at a depth of 2.4m below the existing ground level. This suggests that contemporary activity was taking place nearby, on the top of the terrace. The soils are therefore most likely derived from the gradual erosion of the hillside (hill-wash) and collectively represent sequential land surfaces/ episode of deposition, most likely beginning with the clearance/ opening up of the area in the Neolithic period, as represented by context (23).

8. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

Overall, the archaeological potential of the site as a whole appears limited. Though there is some residual evidence for early prehistoric activity in the area it is likely that this actually took place higher up on the terrace side/ top. The lack of faunal, eco-factual and environmental remains of the Pleistocene and Palaeolithic periods recovered from the sampling is unsurprising given the general residual and unfocused nature of these remains and the limited scope of trial trenching as a method of investigation; however, the broad potential of the Kesgrave formation to contain deposits of this type must still be acknowledged.

Some confusion has arisen in the past regarding the antiquarian discovery of Pleistocene faunal remains, including an elephants tusk and tooth, and Palaeolithic flint tools in Hunnable's Gravel Pit (EHER 6318), which appears to have been mistakenly confused with the Braintree and Bocking Urban District pit. From a re-examination of the evidence, it seems safer to assume that the pit from which the artefacts were recovered lies further to the east, either between Clare Road and the railway, where finds of Roman pottery were made in the early 1920's in Hunnables Pit (EHER 6306), or in one of the numerous gravel pits shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition in the Skits Hill area. As the original report of the discovery was made in 1890/ 91 (EHER 6318), the latter option would seem the most likely.

The general topography suggests that an area of high ground overlooking the River Brain was utilised for the construction of Stane Street, during the Roman period, but the investigation discovered no signs of any roadside ditch or settlement. However, this may have been because of the extent of the roadside disturbance uncovered and the position of the trench, approximately 11m back from the current road edge.

Evidence from elsewhere along Rayne Road suggest that the area was essentially rural in nature during the Roman period and this use continued in the medieval and post-medieval periods, up until the construction of the houses along the street frontage and the construction of the industrial estate following the cessation of quarrying in the late 1940'. It is only more recently, most probably during and after the construction of the industrial estate and the use of the site as a taxi depot, that parts of the development area have undergone quite extensive disturbance and/ or truncation through landscaping, consisting of either the reduction of ground levels or the importation of material, resulting in a significant build-up of ground levels in some parts of the site, most likely to lessen the severity of the natural slope.

It is clear from the evaluation that the development will have little impact upon the archaeological resource as not only is the potential of the site relatively low, with archaeological remains consisting primarily of re-deposited artefacts within deeply buried colluvial layers, but these remains occur at such depth (2.4m below existing ground level) that they are unlikely to be affected by any but the deepest of construction works, principally the piling of foundations. Due to the limited nature of the results obtained, the evaluation has little scope to add to any of the regional research framework objectives, beyond broadly highlighting the potential for the presence of further redeposited prehistoric material along the base of the Brain terrace and presumably, by association, in-situ material/ features along the terrace edge/ top.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC Field Archaeology Unit would like to thank Kaizen Construction Limited for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Tony Blowers and Dave Smith carried out the fieldwork under the supervision of Matthew Pocock. The finds were processed by Phil McMichael, and the finds report was prepared by Joyce Compton with Tony Blowers. The main report text was written by Matthew Pocock with digital illustrations produced by Andrew Lewsey and editing by Adrian Scruby. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored by Teresa O'Connor of ECC HEM on behalf of the local planning authority.

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ECC HEM	2008	*Phase 1 Archaeological trail trenching at the rear of 305 Rayne Road, Braintree*
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IFA	1999	*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.* Institute of Field Archaeologists

APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

Context Number	Type	Description	Location	Depth (m)	Samples
1	Layer	Existing Topsoil	TR1	0.1	
2	Cut (?)	Possible quarry pit/s that extend beyond the limit of the trench towards the front of the property. Contains sequential layers of homogenous grey silty clays and bands of redeposited gravels and sands. Trench was excavated to a depth of 1.2m and unlikely to have reached the undisturbed natural strata.	TR1	1.10m+	
3	Layer/Fill	Mid to dark grey sandy clay backfill containing frequent rounded and sub-rounded gravels.	TR1	0.55	
4	Layer/Fill	Orange sandy material that contains well sorted and mixed gravel between 0.01 and 0.03m in size.	TR1	0.18	
5	Layer/Fill	Mid to dark grey silty clay contain occasional rounded and sub rounded gravels that are well distributed throughout.	TR1	0.45	
6	Layer	Yellow sand with rounded and sub rounded flint gravels. One large piece 0.13m long. Others range between 0.003 and 0.03m. Randomly distributed, unsorted.	TR3	0.03	
7	Layer	Red sand	TR3	0.02	
8	Layer	Yellow sand with fine rounded well sorted grits.	TR3	0.04	
9	Layer	Red sand with fine grits and rounded gravels up to 0.02m in size. Randomly distributed/angled.	TR3	0.05	
10	Layer	Yellow sand with frequent grits and gravels. One large flint about 0.13m in size. Remaining gravels are between 0.003 and 0.05m in size. Bedded on longest side.	TR3	0.11	
11	Layer	Dirty yellow brown sand and grits occasional pebble up to 0.08m in size.	TR3	0.06	
12	Layer	Red Sand	TR3	0.03	
13	Layer	Pocket of rounded grits (average size 0.005m, well sorted, within a yellow sand	TR3	0.05	
14	Layer	Yellow sand with grits and gravels between 0.003 and 0.01m in size. All lay on their longest edge (E/W)	TR3	0.15	
15	Layer	Red Sand	TR3	0.03	
16	Layer	A pocket of dirty yellow natural sands	TR3	0.13	
17	Layer	Red Sand	TR3	0.04	
18	Layer	Grey sand with rounded gravels yup to 0.03m in size. Bedded on their longest edge.	TR3	0.04	
19	Layer	Dirty grey brown silty sand with mixed rounded and sub rounded gravels evenly distributed at irregular angles. Sizes range between 0.003 and 0.02m,	TR3	0.14	
20	Layer	Mixed seems of yellow and red brown silty sands with occasional gravel the largest of which was 0.04m in size with the majority between 0.005 and 0.01m.	TR3	0.31	
21	Layer	Existing Topsoil	TR3	0.31	
22	Layer	Pale brown sandy silt with a small clay component. Rare rounded and sub rounded grits and gravels the largest of were c.0.05m.	TR3	0.35	<1>
23	Layer	Pale brown silty/sand/clay with occasional grits and flecks of charcoal throughout.	TR2(b)	0.5 +	<2>
24	Layer	Pale brown silty clay containing frequent gravels, both rounded and sub rounded between 0.01 and 0.07m in size and well distributed throughout the deposit.	TR2(b)	0.7	
25	Layer	A pale grey clay silt sand that looks to contain charcoal and chalk flecks together with rounded and sub rounded gravels.	TR2(b)	0.3	
26	Layer	Original/sealed topsoil comprising a mid to dark grey silty clay and while not closely inspected looks to	TR2(b)	0.1	

		contain charcoal, gravels and small fragments of chalk.			
27	Layer	A loose build-up/levelling layer comprising mixed rubble, sand, silt and containing modern material such as white glazed pottery, iron pipe, iron, fragments of tarmac, Bricks, concrete, plastic and a pair of tights.	TR2(b)	1.75	
28	Layer	Mixed brownish yellow, sandy gravel. Frequent small rounded and sub rounded stones and pea grit.	TR2(a)	0.2	
29	Layer	Reddish brown coarse sandy gravel lenses on almost stone free compacted reddish brown sand.	TR2(a)	0.25	
30	Layer	Mixed yellow, reddish brown compacted sand with rare small pebbles.	TR2(a)	0.12	
31	Layer	Pale yellow sandy gravel, frequent small stones, rare medium (compacted)	TR2(a)	0.17	
32	Layer	Reddish brown sandy gravel, common pea-grit, occasional small pebbles (compacted)	TR2(a)	0.09	
33	Layer	Reddish brown compacted gravel	TR2(a)	0.1	
34	Layer	Mixed reddish brown to yellowish brown sandy gravel (compacted)	TR2(a)	0.36	
35	Layer	Reddish brown compacted gravel	TR2(a)	0.06	
36	Layer	Yellowish brown compacted sand, occasional small stones and coarse grit.	TR2(a)	0.12	
37	Layer	Pale yellow compacted sand, occasional small rounded, sub-rounded stones, pea-grit.	TR2(a)	0.05	
38	Layer	Reddish brown, pale yellowish brown mottles compacted sand, occasional pea-grit.	TR2(a)	0.1	
39	Layer	Reddish brown - greyish brown mixed sandy gravel. Occasional small, rare medium rounded and sub-rounded stones.	TR2(a)	0.3	
40	Layer	Greyish brown disturbed top-soil. Occasional medium, small rounded, sub rounded stones. Occasional brick rubble. Occasional tarmac.	TR2(a)	0.47	

APPENDIX 2: FINDS

All Finds

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
u/s		1	2	Flint flake	-
22	Layer	1 1	1 -	Burnt flint from sample 1 Glass chip from sample 1	- Post med.
23	Layer	21 15 1 1	344 298 138 16	Flint lumps and flakes Burnt flints Unworked stone Pottery; body sherd, abraded	- - - ?Neolithic

APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME; LAND TO THE REAR OF 305 RAYNE ROAD, BRAINTREE, ESSEX

Project Number: ***1940***

Oasis Record Number: ***Essexcou1-48398***

Index to the Archive

File containing:

1. Introduction

1.1 Brief for the archaeological Trial-Trenching
1.2 Written scheme of investigation for Excavation

2. Research Archive

2.1 Client Report (plus x1 bound copies at the rear of the file)
2.2 Analytical Reports
- 2.2.1 Finds Report
- 2.2.2 Worked Flint Report
- 2.2.3 Environmental Report

2.3 Catalogues
- 2.3.1 Finds Data
- 2.3.2 Worked Flint Catalogue

3. Site Archive

3.1 Context Index (1 to 40)
3.2 Context Record Sheets 1, 2, 23 to 27
3.3 X4 Trench Sheets (including remaining context record information)
3.4 X2 Sample Record Sheets
3.5 Registers
- 3.5.1 X2 Section Registers
- 3.5.2 Environmental Sample Register (1)
- 3.5.3 Levels Register (1)
- 3.5.4 Black and white Prints and Negatives (A5 envelope)

4. Miscellaneous

General hand written notes
Various maps
Risk Assessment

Not in the file:

X2 A3 Section Sheets

The finds occupy less than one box.

APPENDIX 4: EHER SUMMARY

SITE NAME/ADDRESS:	Land to the rear of 305 Rayne Road, Braintree, Essex		
CONTRACTING UNIT PROJECT NUMBER	1940		
OASIS ACCESSION NUMBER	essexcou1- 48398		
PARISH:	Braintree	**DISTRICT:**	Braintree
NGR:	TL 7447 2291	**SITE CODE:**	BTRR08
TYPE OF WORK:	Trial Trenching	**SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP:**	M.Pocock of ECC FAU
DATE OF WORK:	September 2008	**SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED:**	5250 sqm
FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM:	Braintree	**FUNDING SOURCE:**	Developer
FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED.	No	**RELATED HER NOS.**	6318
FINAL REPORT:	Yes		
PERIODS REPRESENTED:	Neolithic and undated (likely post-medieval)		

SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:

A trench-based evaluation was undertaken by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit, on behalf of Kaizen Construction Ltd, on land to the rear of 305 Rayne Road, Braintree, in order to confirm the presence or absence, date, character and significance of any archaeological remains present. The site is situated in close proximity to known Roman rural settlement remains, while finds of Palaeolithic implements and Pleistocene were potentially made in nearby gravel quarries.

The evaluation established/confirmed the presence of both prehistoric and late(?) post-medieval remains, but did not identify any Pleistocene / potential Palaeolithic deposits or Roman activity. Beneath a thick layer of modern debris in the southern part of the site was evidence for successive layers of hill wash built up against the steeply sloping edge of a natural gravel terrace overlooking the River Brain. Within this, presumably residual but certainly not well-travelled, Neolithic worked and burnt flint and pottery were discovered 2.4m below the current ground surface, in the lower levels of the sequence. At the front of the property a large, probably late 19th century, roadside quarry pit was discovered, while the remaining areas investigated contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Generally, the evidence suggested that considerable parts of the site have been affected in the past by episodes of quarrying and/ or dumping and levelling, particularly in the case of the latter at the rear of the site. However, the prehistoric remains uncovered occurred at such depth below the existing ground surface that they do not appear to have been affected by past episodes of quarrying and are also unlikely to be impacted upon in a significant way by the current development proposals.

PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS:	None		
AUTHOR OF SUMMARY:	Matthew Pocock (ECCFAU)	**DATE OF SUMMARY:**	November 2008

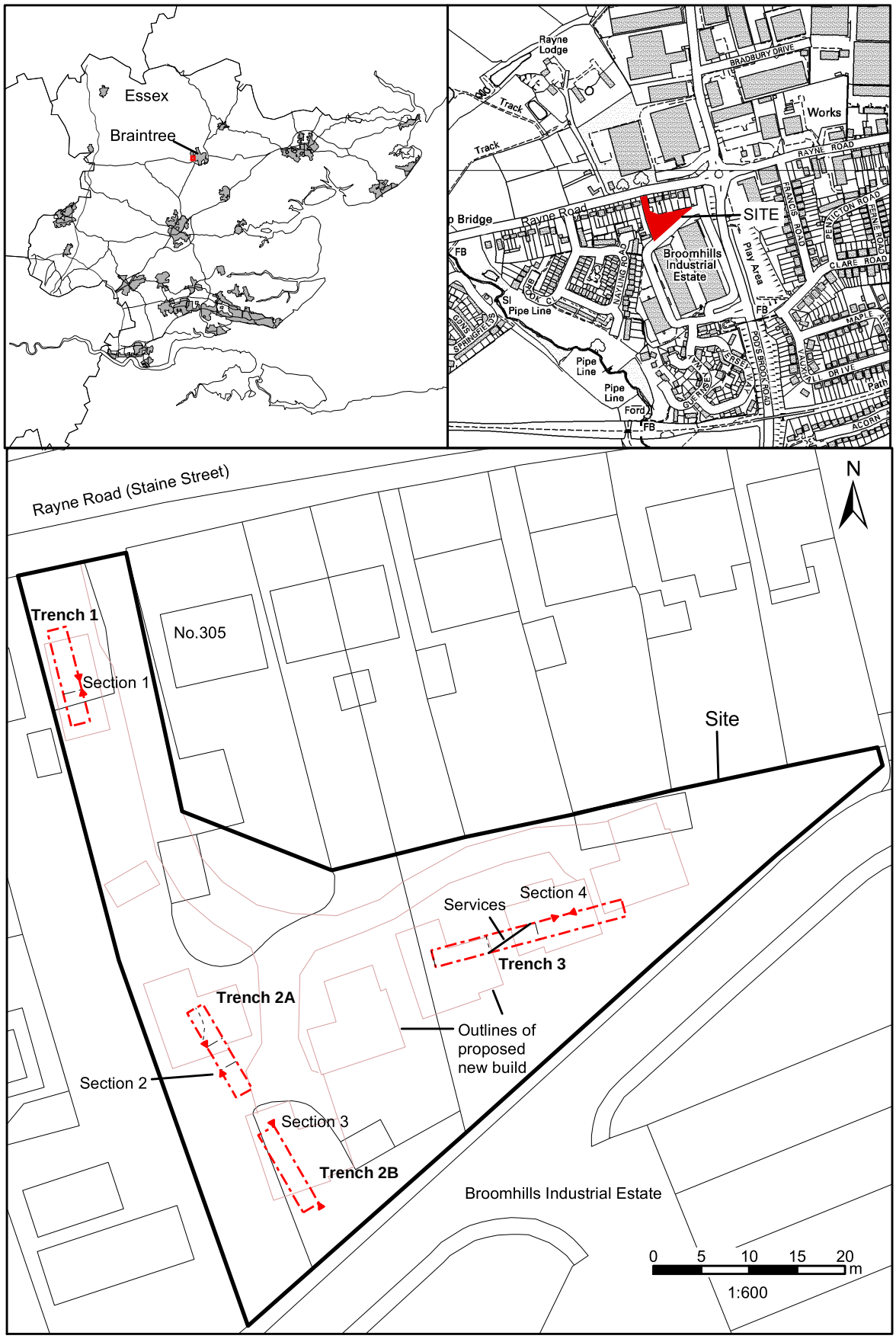

Fig.1. Site location

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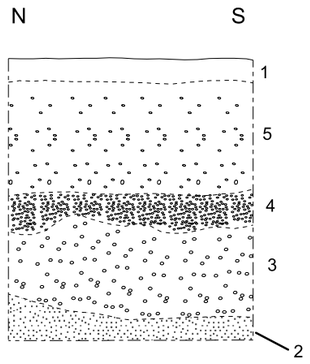
Section 1



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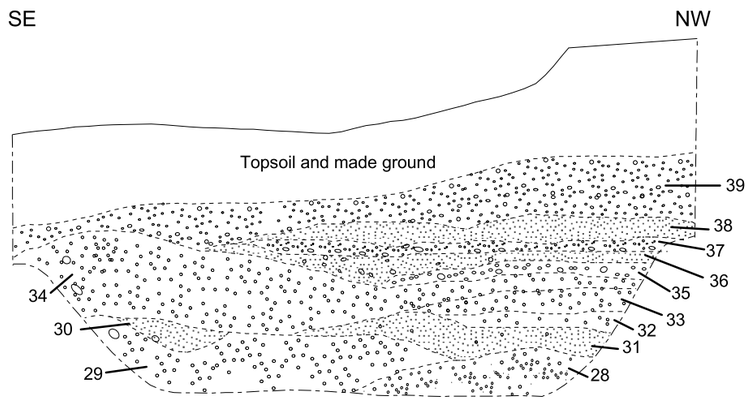

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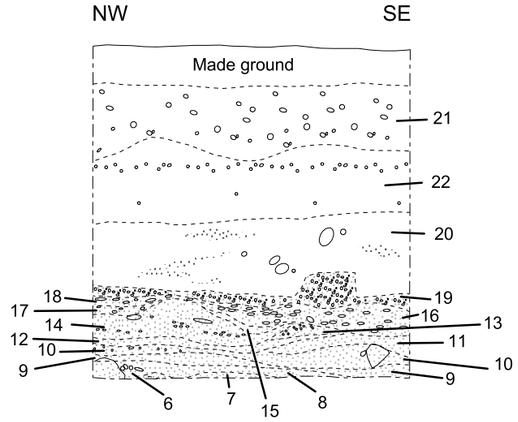

Section 3

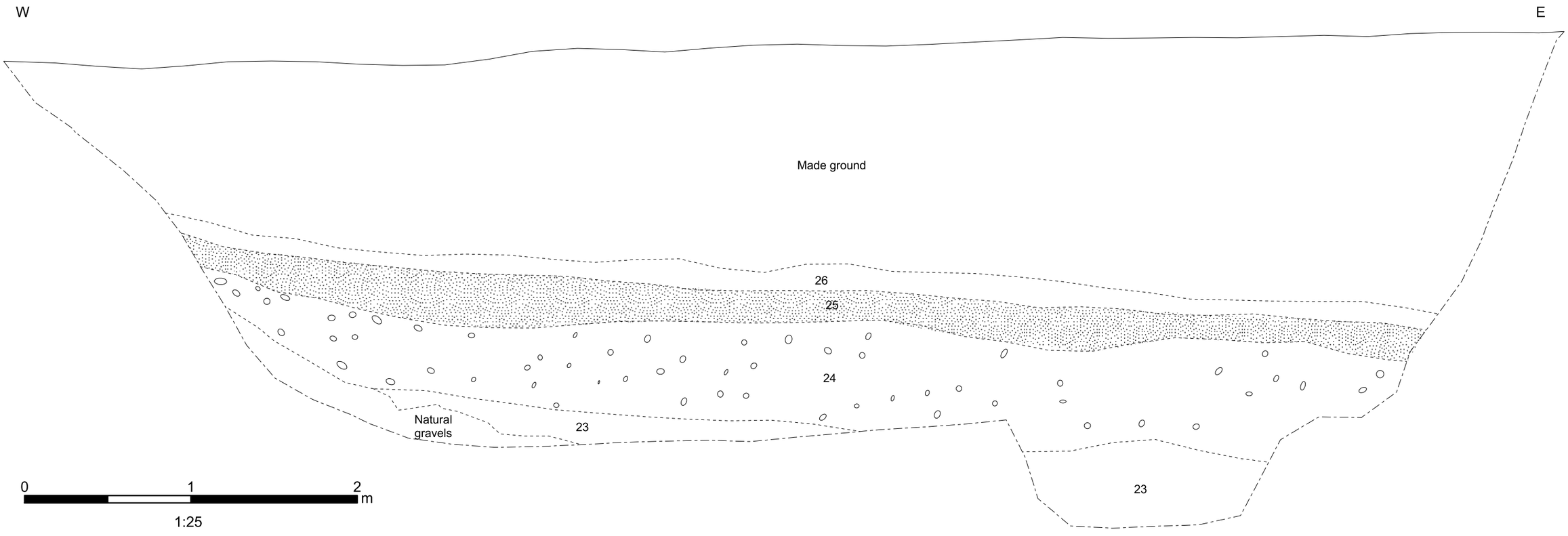

Fig.2. Sections

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