

**PROGRESS HOUSE
CASTLE LANE
HADLEIGH
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

JANUARY 2005



**Essex County Council
Planning**

Field Archaeology Unit

PROGRESS HOUSE
CASTLE LANE, HADLEIGH
ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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**PROGRESS HOUSE,
CASTLE LANE,
HADLEIGH, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Client: N.D. Ryan Builders

NGR: TQ 8105 8695

Site Code: CPPH04

Date of Fieldwork: 24 to 26 November 2004

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on land proposed for residential development at Progress House, Castle Lane, Hadleigh. The evaluation consisted of two T-shaped machine-excavated trenches located within the footprints of former buildings.

Trench 1 was located in the north of the site in an area of intense modern disturbance. Detailed investigation after machine stripping was abandoned after consultation with the monitoring officer.

Trench 2 was located in the comparatively less disturbed southern half of the site. One pit containing a single sherd of 10th to 13th century pottery was excavated. This was sealed by a localised stratified medieval layer containing oyster shells and six sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery. The topsoil and subsoil deposits in Trench 2 contained mixed household rubbish dating from the medieval to modern periods and may represent former garden soils situated at the rear of a property. The single medieval pit probably represents an earlier medieval episode of rubbish disposal.

1.0 INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

This report describes the results of an archaeological evaluation on land proposed for residential development in Castle Lane, Hadleigh. The work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of N. D Ryan Builders, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by Pat Connell of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team, who monitored the work. The site archive will be deposited at Southend Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND (Fig. 1)

2.1 Topography and Geology

The proposed residential development at Progress House was located close to the centre of Hadleigh, approximately 75m south of St James's Church. The development area was bounded by Castle Lane to the east and Endway to the west and was situated to the rear of properties (130-136) fronting the High Street. The site was formerly occupied by two modern buildings which had been demolished immediately prior to the evaluation. The underlying geology consists of mixed drift deposits of sand, gravel and clay.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following archaeological background uses the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

Evidence of prehistoric (HER 9799), Iron Age (HER 7208, 9610, 9670) and Roman (HER 9536, 9718) settlement has all been found in the Hadleigh area. The village of Hadleigh is believed to date back to the Saxon period, although it is not mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The development area lies immediately south of the 12th century church of St. James the Less (HER 9736-7). Excavations in the immediate vicinity in 1968 located a Saxon child burial and evidence for medieval occupation including a large group of 13th/14th century pottery. Hadleigh Castle (HER 9531), located to the south of the development area, dates to the early 13th century.

Hadleigh remained a small village throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. It began to expand from the end of the 19th century onwards after the arrival of the Salvation Army 'Home Farm' colony in 1891.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to locate, identify and record any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

The objective was to determine the level of survival of archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site, particularly in relation to the medieval occupation and development of Hadleigh.

4.0 METHOD (Fig 2)

Two T-shaped evaluation trenches were opened under archaeological supervision, using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The position of the trenches was limited by a live electricity cable running east-west across the centre of the site and truncation and demolition activity in the east.

Areas of archaeological potential were cleaned and excavated by hand. All work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) by-laws and guidelines. Standard ECC FAU excavation and recording methodologies were employed.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench location data and context information is presented as Appendix 1.

5.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench 1 was located within the footprint of the former building in the north of the development area. This part of the site was heavily disturbed by modern pitting, foundations and service trenches. The overburden was extremely mixed and included numerous items such as frogged bricks, concrete, plastic and modern animal bone. Light brown natural gravel was partly visible in the east-west arm of the trench, and in the north-south arm of the trench, where it was stained dark grey. Due to the high level of disturbance and lack of obvious archaeological remains this trench was abandoned after consultation with the monitoring officer.

5.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3)

Trench 2 was located within the footprint of the former building in the south of the development area. This half of the site was clearly less disturbed than the north. Trench 2 was initially machine excavated to the top of the layer 3, as this was a definite archaeological horizon. It was decided, in consultation with the monitoring officer, to remove this deposit by hand to recover dating evidence and to check for possible sealed archaeological features below. It was agreed that if any archaeological features were revealed the trench would be widened out appropriately.

The modern overburden comprised dark grey topsoil (1) above brown subsoil (2). At the base of the brown subsoil, in the north-south arm of the trench, was a distinct deposit flecked with numerous oyster shells (3). This layer (3) contained medieval and post-medieval pottery, roof tile and animal bone, and represented a less disturbed subsoil that sealed the top of the natural gravel deposits (4). In the east-west arm of the trench a modern pit (6) truncated a similarly oyster flecked, though more gravely layer, 7. This deposit sealed the top of a shallow pit (9). Layer 7 contained medieval (13th to 14th century) pottery and baked clay, and survived mainly where it had slumped into the top of the underlying pit (9).

At the request of the ECC HEM monitoring officer, an additional 3m by 3.5m square was opened to expose the full extent of pit 9 and check for any adjacent features. Pit 9 was shallow, at only 0.16m deep, and may have been truncated in antiquity. Its fill (8) contained one sherd of medieval (10th to 13th century) pottery and was flecked with occasional charcoal towards its base.

6.0 FINDS by Joyce Compton

6.1 Summary

Finds were recovered from six contexts in Trench 2. These have been counted and weighed, in grams, by context. Details are provided in Appendix 2. The majority of the finds are post-medieval and modern, comprising modern pottery and brick and tile fragments. Coal and clinker were also noted in layers 1 and 2. Medieval pottery was recovered from five contexts, however, and this forms the subject of a separate report, see below. No post-medieval or modern finds came from layer 7 or pit 9. The finds are described by category below.

6.2 Medieval Pottery by Helen Walker

A small amount of pottery, thirty-four sherds, weighing 690g was excavated (Appendix 3). The earliest pottery came from the fill of pit 9 (fill 8), comprising a sherd of shell-tempered ware. This fabric first occurs in the 10th century, but on sites near the Thames shelly wares are very common and continue well into the 13th century. Above this feature, layer 7 also produced medieval pottery, comprising fragments from medieval coarse ware jugs and an internally glazed coarse ware sherd that may be Mill Green coarse ware. These finds date layer 7 to the 13th to 14th centuries.

Small amounts of medieval pottery occurred elsewhere, but are residual in modern contexts. These finds include sherds of Mill Green ware (coarse and fine wares) a common find in south Essex dating from the mid 13th to mid 14th centuries. This ware continues on into the late medieval period as Mill Green-type ware, which has a harder fabric and tends to be more sparsely glazed and decorated. With unglazed sherds it is not always obvious which is medieval and what is late medieval. Of interest is a sherd that has a Mill Green-like matrix but with sparse inclusions of crushed shell. This ware may be restricted to south Essex and has also been found at a recent excavation at Shotgate Farm near Rayleigh (Walker, unpublished). Also belonging to the medieval period is a single sherd of Kingston-type ware, a sandy white ware made in Surrey. This ware is found all over the county, but as it was traded along the Thames is common on sites bordering the river. It is also notable that Kingston-type ware vessel forms other than jugs, such as jars as dishes, appear to be more common on sites bordering the Thames.

Much of the pottery comprises early type post-medieval red earthenware dating to the late 15th to 16th centuries. Unlike later post-medieval red earthenware it tends to be unglazed and sometimes decorated with slip-painting. Finds include a probable jar rim. Later medieval post-medieval red earthenware with an internal or all over glaze is present and datable sherds include the rim of a probable 17th century type pipkin (a type of small cooking pot with a straight handle and sometimes tripod feet). Contemporary with this is a single sherd of Surrey-Hampshire white ware (the post-medieval successor to Kingston-type ware). Unfortunately the post-medieval material is residual in modern contexts, but does show there was activity during this period.

6.3 Brick and tile

Thirty-seven pieces of post-medieval and modern roof tile, weighing 2722g, were found in three contexts. A representative sample has been retained. Two post-medieval brick fragments, weighing 260g, came from layer 2, one of which, although abraded, bears an incised zigzag line

with alternating round-sectioned holes on one face. The holes are crudely spaced and pierce the brick to a depth of 30mm. The adjacent plain surface appears to be worn perhaps through use. The brick may have formed part of a decorative edging, although, since it is very abraded, it may have derived from an early building in the vicinity.

6.4 Animal bone

Two contexts, layers 2 and 3, produced animal bone amounting to 21 fragments, weighing 300g. The bone is fragmentary but in good condition. Animals identified comprise cattle, pig and dog, and a bird bone was found in layer 3, probably from a domestic fowl. The assemblage is too small for further comment, although all except the single dog bone are representative of food waste.

6.5 Shell

Oyster shell, 37 fragments, weighing 334g, was found in two contexts, the majority coming from layer 7. A minimum of twelve individuals is represented and these undoubtedly constitute food waste. Two joining fragments from a large bivalve came from fill 5 of pit 6. Since this is a modern context, the fragments may have derived from an ornamental shell rather than a consumable shellfish.

6.6 Other finds

Glass was found in fill 5 of pit 6, comprising a thick base sherd in clear glass, probably from a modern milk bottle, and a convex disc mounted in a corroded iron collar. This was probably from a lamp or a torch or similar. Iron nails came from layers 2 and 3. Single fragments of baked clay came from layers 2 and 7; the piece from the latter has grass impressions on one surface.

No further work is required on any of the material. The coal, clinker, glass, white earthenware and the baked clay from layer 2 has all been discarded. All but a representative sample of roof tile has also been discarded. The remainder of the finds should be retained, although further discard could take place at the archiving stage.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND ASSESSMENT

There was a clear distinction on site between the disturbed northern half and the comparatively less disturbed southern half and this probably reflects differences in the types of structure that formerly occupied these two areas. Both former buildings, however, had substantial concrete foundations that along with modern pitting account for much of the disturbance on site.

The topsoil and subsoil in Trench 2 contained mixed household rubbish dating from the medieval to modern periods and may both represent former garden soils situated at the rear of a property. This was probably also true for the underlying oyster flecked layer 3 that contained medieval and post-medieval pottery. Layer 7 may have been an undisturbed stratified medieval deposit, between the base of these subsoil deposits and the top of the natural gravel, that was localised and mainly preserved in the hollow above pit 9. This pit probably represents a medieval episode of rubbish disposal.

The range of pottery from the site suggests that there was medieval activity in or near the development area from at least the 13th century onwards, though this is likely to have been of a garden/backyard nature.

While positive results are limited, the survival of any stratified deposits earlier than the post-medieval period is of significance. Those at the Progress House site indicate that there is potential for archaeological remains, at least of medieval date, within probable former plots fronting onto the High Street – if late post-medieval/modern development has not had too severe an impact.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The archaeological excavation was undertaken by T. Ennis and J. Archer of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit on behalf of N.D. Ryan Builders. The excavation was monitored by P. Connell of the ECC Historic Environment Management Team.

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- Connell P. 2004 *Brief for an Archaeological Investigation at Castle Lane, Hadleigh.*
ECC Internal Publication
- Cunningham, C. M, 1985 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C. M. and Drury, P. J., *Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford*, Chelmsford Archaeol. Trust Rep. 5, Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res. Rep. **54**, 1-16

APPENDIX 1

TRENCH DATA AND CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

TRENCH DATA

Trench	Description	Co-ordinates
1	12.5m (E/W) x 8.5m (N/S) x 2m wide, 0.9m deep, orientated N/S & E/W Topsoil – Mottled dark grey brown clay silt (disturbed) Natural – Dark grey brown to orange gravel	PP1 – 581008/186944 PP2 – 581021/186945 PP3 – 581019/186937
2	10m (E/W) x 9.5m (N/S) x 2m deep, 0.9m deep, orientated N/S & E/W, plus a 3m x 3.5m extension Topsoil – dark grey brown clay silt Subsoil – Mid yellow to grey brown clay silt Natural – grey brown to orange gravel	PP4 – 581005/186928 PP5 – 581016/186933 PP6 – 581015/186923

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Type	Trench	Description	Date of Context
1	Layer	2	Topsoil – Dark grey brown silt, 0.35m thick.	Modern
2	Layer	2	Mid yellow to grey brown clay silt, 0.20m thick.	Modern
3	Layer	2	Mid yellow to grey brown clay silt, 0.18m thick.	Post-medieval
4	Layer	2	Natural gravel – grey brown to orange.	
5	Fill of 6	2	Dark grey clay silt (modern)	Modern
6	Pit	2	Irregular pit, orientated NW/SE, .4m x 1.3m x 0.5m deep.	Modern
7	Layer	2	Light grey brown clay silt, 0.10m thick.	Post-medieval
8	Fill of 9	2	Greenish grey clay silt.	Medieval
9	Pit	2	Oval pit, orientated N/S, 1.5m+ x 1.55m x 0.16m deep	Medieval
10	Foundation	2	Foundation cut, orientated E/W, 1m+ x 2m+ x 0.20m+ deep	Modern
11	Fill of 10	2	Mid grey to black clay silt (modern)	Modern

APPENDIX 2

Finds Data

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date of Finds
1	Layer	- 6	6 66	Clinker (Discarded) Pottery; rim sherd, glazed, and body sherds	- Med/post med.
2	Layer	1 - 8 1 2 25 1	6 26 132 18 260 1410 16	Iron nail Coal fragment (Discarded) Animal bone; pig mandible fragment; scapula, glenoid cavity, cattle; rib fragments Baked clay (Discarded) Brick fragments, one with zigzag line and piercings Roof tile fragments, two with peg holes (20/1085g discarded) Pottery; body sherd	- - - - Post med. Post med. Medieval
3	Layer	1 13 5 11 19	2 168 122 962 308	Iron bradnail Animal bone; pelvis and rib fragments, large mammal; cattle molar; radius, proximal end, large dog; bird coracoid; fragments Oyster shell, five valves (Discarded) Roof tile fragments, one with one peg hole, one with two (5/242g discarded) Pottery; rim, body and handle sherds	- - - Post med. Med/post med.
5	6	1 2 1 1 5	52 10 4 350 124	Convex glass disc set in iron mount (?from lamp) Shell, two joining fragments, large and thick-walled, some sort of bivalve (Discarded) Glass; milk bottle base sherd, clear (Discarded) Roof tile corner fragment, with peg hole Pottery; rim sherd PMRE; plate body sherds, white earthenware (these discarded)	Modern - Modern Post med. Modern
7	Layer	1 32 6	50 212 194	Baked clay with grass-impressed surface Oyster shell, eighteen valves (14/26g discarded) Pottery; handle and body sherds, one glazed	- - Medieval
8	9	1	10	Pottery; body sherd	Medieval

APPENDIX 3

Pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date of Pottery
1	Layer	3	30	Medieval coarse ware	12th to 14th C
		1	4	Unglazed Mill Green ware	mid 13th to mid 14th C
		1	4	Fine shell-tempered ware with a Mill Green-like matrix (Fabric 20s)	?13th C
		1	28	Post-medieval red earthenware hollowed everted jar rim with internal glaze	16th/17th C
2	Layer	1	16	Mill Green ware thumbled jug base	mid 13th to mid 14th C
3	Layer	5	126	Mill Green ware including slip-coated jug handle, plain jug handle, and shoulder of jug with debased Rouen-style decoration	mid 13th to mid 14th C
		1	9	Mill Green coarse ware internally glazed base from cooking pot, mid 13th to mid 14th C	mid 13th to mid 14th C
		1	3	Sherd Kingston-type ware, internal glaze, externally fire-blackened, ?from jar form	14th C
		8	137	Early type post-medieval red earthenware including slip-painted sherd	late 15th to 16th C
		2	30	Post-medieval red earthenware comprising a jug rim with an all over glaze and an internally glazed hollowed everted rim perhaps from a pipkin	17th C
		1	2	Surrey-Hampshire white ware	late 16th to 17th C
		1	1	Modern white earthenware	Modern
5	6	1	96	Early type post-medieval red earthenware everted jar rim probably Cunningham's type C4E (Cunningham 1985, fig.4. 22-23)	16th C
		4	28	Plate body sherds, white earthenware (Discarded)	Modern
7	Layer	5	176	Medieval coarse ware including the remains of two jugs	13th to 14th C
		1	18	Internally glazed ?Mill Green coarse ware	mid 13th to mid 14th C
8	9	1	10	Shell-tempered ware	10th to 13th C
		34	690	(Discarded pottery not included)	

APPENDIX 4

CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

One arch lever file containing:

1. Introduction

1.1 Copy of the Brief for the Excavation

2. Research Archive

2.1 Monitoring Report (Client Report)

2.2 Finds Report

3. Site Archive

3.1 Context Record Register

3.2 Original Context Records (1 to 11)

3.3 Plan Register

3.4 Section Register

3.5 4 A4 plan sheets,

3.6 2 A4 section sheets

3.7 Trench location plan

3.8 Photographic Register

3.9 Site Photographic Record (1 Set of Colour Slides and Colour prints)

Not in File

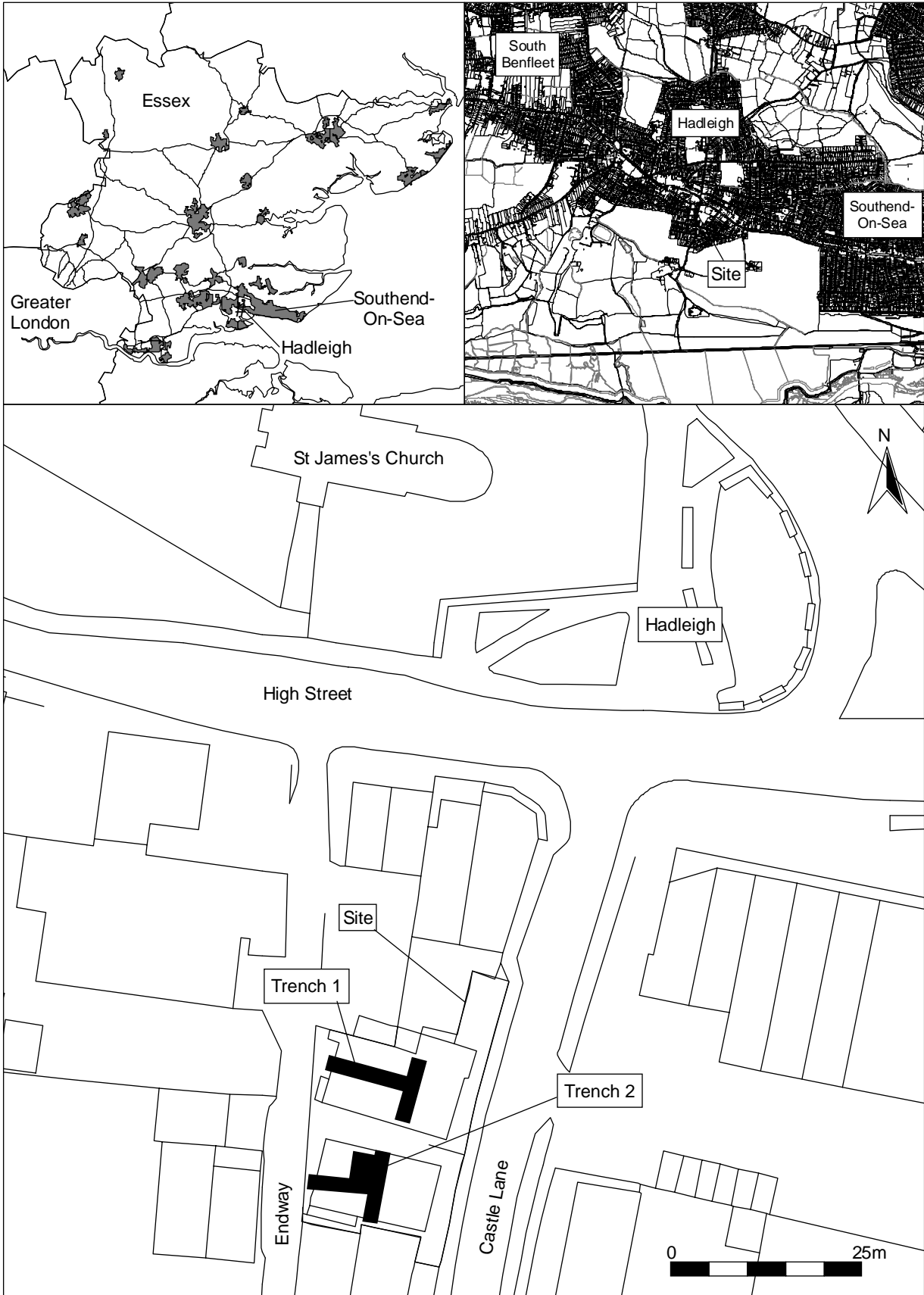
Finds

The finds occupy less than one box.

APPENDIX 5

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Progress House, Castle Lane, Hadleigh	
Parish: Hadleigh	District: Castle Point
NGR: TQ 8105 8695	Site Code: CPPH04
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 24 to 26 November 2004	Size of Area Investigated: 84m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend	Funding source: N.D. Ryan Builders
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: 9736, 9737
Final Report:	
Periods Represented: Medieval/Post medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the ECC Field Archaeology Unit on land proposed for residential development. Two T-shaped machine-excavated trenches were opened located within the footprints of former buildings in the north and south of the development area.</p> <p>Trench 1 was located in the northern half of the development area and was very disturbed by modern pitting, old service pipes and foundation trenches. No archaeological remains were identified.</p> <p>Trench 2, located in the south, was comparatively less disturbed. One pit containing a single sherd of 10th to 13th century pottery was excavated. This was sealed by a localised stratified medieval deposit containing oyster shells and six sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery. The topsoil and subsoil deposits in Trench 2 contained mixed household rubbish (pottery, animal bone, oyster shells etc.) dating from the medieval to modern periods and may represent former garden soils situated at the rear of a property. The single medieval pit probably represents an earlier medieval episode of rubbish disposal.</p> <p>The range of pottery from the site suggests that there was medieval activity in or near the development area from at least the 13th century onwards, though this is likely to have been of a garden/backyard nature and probably associated with medieval/post-medieval properties fronting the High Street.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: -	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: January 2005



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Fig.1. Site Location

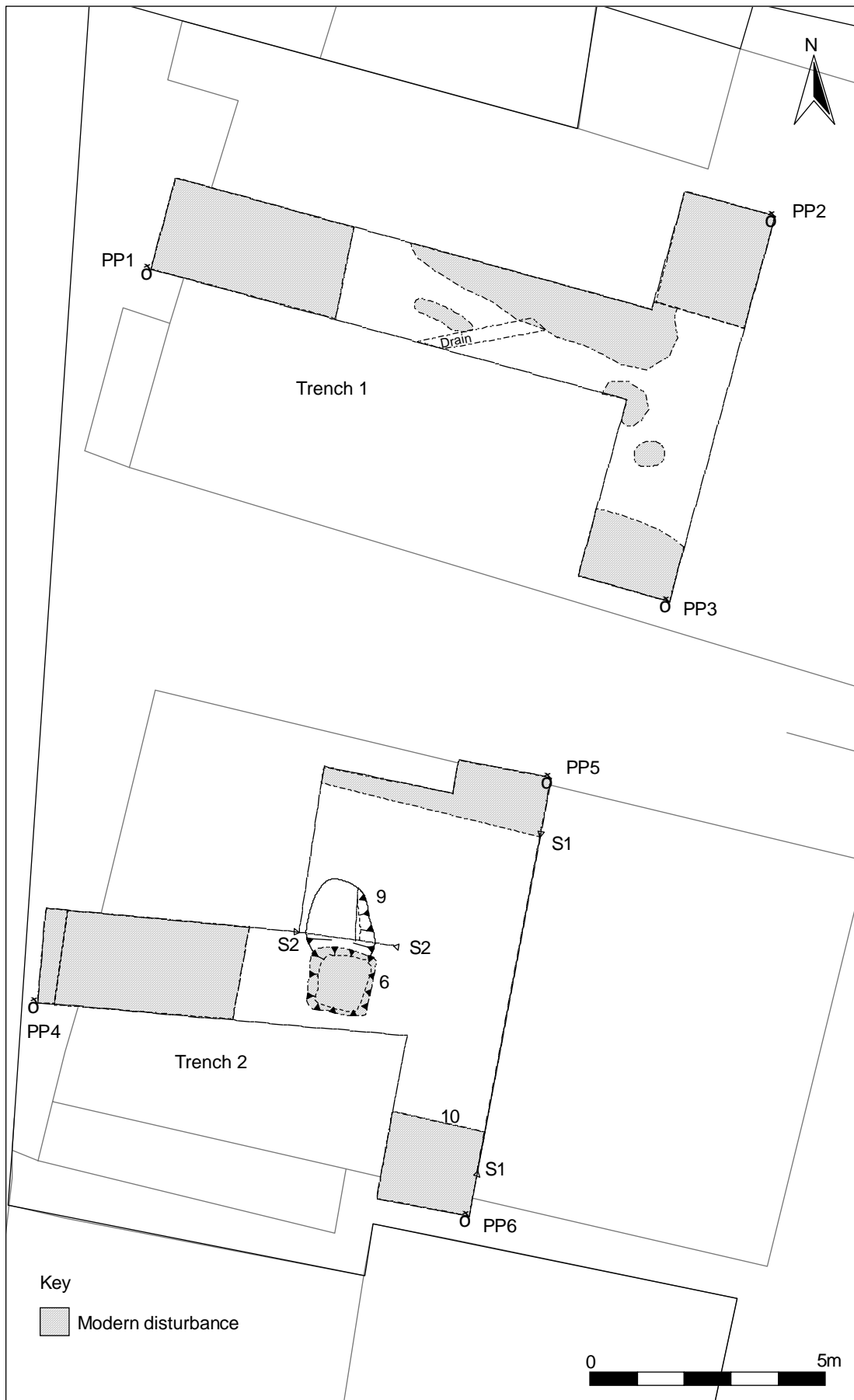


Fig.2. Trenches 1 & 2

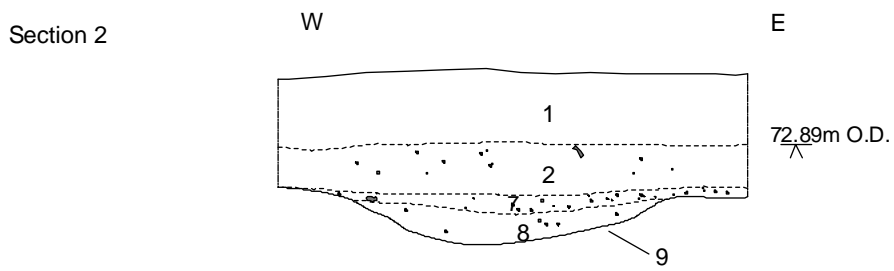
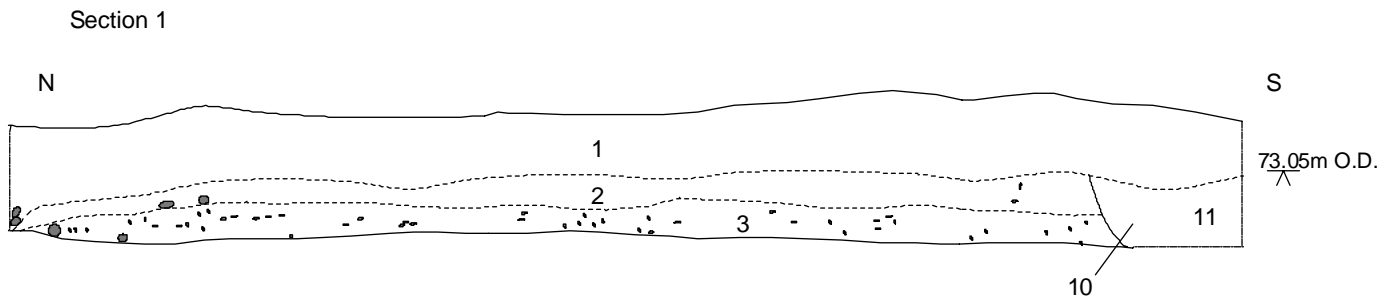


Fig.3. Trench 2, Sections 1 & 2