

**SOUTH EAST ESSEX COLLEGE  
THURROCK LEARNING CAMPUS  
KINGS WALK  
GRAYS  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**



**Essex County Council**  
Field Archaeology Unit

**November 2008**



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION**

**Client:** GVA Grimley Ltd  
**NGR:** TQ 614 775 (Centre)  
**Site Code:** THHS08  
**Project No:** 1964  
**Date of Fieldwork:** August 2008  
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**SUMMARY**

The archaeological excavation undertaken at Kings Walk, Grays, Essex by the ECC field Archaeology Unit encountered remains that included brick-walls, brick-wells, services, pits, ditches and gullies associated with properties that would once have existed along the street frontage in the medieval, post-medieval, and modern periods. However, it failed to identify further medieval or post-medieval structural remains along the old street frontage or further parts of the buildings first discovered during the previous trial trenching. Primarily, this was because the post war redevelopment of Kings Walk had efficiently cleared the area of all previous above ground remains and all but the deepest features that represented any previous phase of activity. The extent of that truncation reached c.7m OD and certainly exceeded the depth of the pre 1970's, 97-107 High Street building foundations, which did not survive.

Overall, modern features dominated the site. Along the old High Street frontage, the modern walls and services of recent 1970's buildings were discovered, while the eastern half of the site contained services, wells, pits, ditches, a post-hole, and other unexcavated but obviously modern disturbance. Post-medieval activity was implied by the presence of 17th - 18th century pottery in two of the pits that were discovered. Medieval remains included a large pit located in the north-east corner of the site and an uncharacterised feature located beneath a modern concrete drain. Both were poorly dated by small quantities of mid-14th to 15th century pottery, but do appear to suggest that the former High Street/ Kings Walk Area was a focus for activity in the medieval period.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Planning Background**

Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation (ECC FAU 2008) by trial trenching in May 2008, prior to the construction of a new temporary college facility at Kings Walk, Grays, Essex. Its purpose was to inform on the best position from two alternative locations to the north or south of the site for the new build. The northern site was ultimately chosen for the development and in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by the ECC FAU the site was opened for excavation. This work was carried out on behalf of GVA Grimley Ltd for Thurrock Council and monitored by Richard Havis of Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team (ECC HEM).

### **1.2. Report and Archive**

Copies of this report will be supplied to GVA Grimley Ltd, Thurrock Council, Essex CC Historic Environment Management Team (ECC HEM) 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 Thurrock Museum.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Location, Topography and Geology**

The proposed development site, covering approximately 900 sqm, is situated about half way between High Street and Argent Street, in the centre of Grays (NGR TQ 61429 77592), about 200m north of Grays Wharf and the River Thames. It consists of a small area of open space, overlooked by buildings, and surrounded by street lights and pedestrian footpaths. A broad pedestrian right of way along the west side of the development site was formerly part of Grays' High Street. The area shows some signs of having been stripped and landscaped in the recent past and is partially surrounded by an earth bund.

The land lies at a height of between 6 and 8m OD and slopes gently to the south down to the valley of the River Thames. The geology of the site consists of pale brownish-yellow friable silt clay and occasional large irregular-shaped pockets of orange brown silt clay with few natural inclusions.

## **2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background**

Both the Chapman and André map (1777) and the first four editions of the Ordnance Survey (1861 to 1947) record that the development area was formerly occupied by buildings and properties fronting on to the High Street as it then was (Essex Historic Environment Record 46479).

The High Street (HER 46479) originally extended north from the River Thames to join the road from Purfleet to West Tilbury, now known as Orsett Road and was the focal point of the town during the medieval period (Fig. 1). Cartographic evidence demonstrates that as late as 1777 the town extended no further north than the Church of St Peter and St Paul (HER 35270).

In 1086 Grays was a small rural manor with a recorded population of 28. The population continued to grow slowly and by 1670, 38 houses existed in the parish, presumably with the majority of them still sandwiched between the Thames and the parish church. The church dates from the c.13th century but was re-built in 1846. The 19th century witnessed a steady rise in population matched by a growth in development of the town and by 1900, Grays extended eastwards to Little Thurrock.

The Old High Street was cleared by the 1980s and with it went houses, shops, and public houses, some dating back to the 17th century and earlier. Kings Walk was built to replace the old High Street and designed to resemble the old High Street buildings. It proved unsuccessful and in the early 1990's it too was demolished leaving the open space seen today. Consequently, until recently the site would have had buildings lining the frontage and a paved area or hard-standing to the rear for parking and/or access (Plate. 4).

Trench A of the May 2008 evaluation (Fig. 3) showed that the remains of commercial and domestic buildings that formerly stood along the eastern side of the High Street survived in part of the northern site. The remains lay beneath 0.3m of building rubble and re-deposited topsoil and appeared reasonably well-preserved as seen within the trench. The survival of compacted surfaces for floors implied that although the buildings had been levelled they had not been completely grubbed out or seriously truncated. Analysis of the results has led to the identification of five former buildings, which accords with the general picture presented by the first four editions of the Ordnance Survey and shows that the south end of High Street was formerly densely occupied with houses and shops. One of the buildings exposed in the northern plot appeared to be 17th or 18th century in date. The other structures identified do not appear to pre-date the 19th century (Germany 2008).

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the excavation was to record those archaeological remains threatened by the development prior to their destruction; specifically, to record their location, extent, date, character, condition, significance, and quality. Following stripping of the site, a full plan was to be produced, identifying where possible the main area/ elements of occupation. Areas containing cellars would require no further work.

The specific research objectives of the excavation were to:

- i. Record the post medieval and medieval deposits, including wall foundations, relating to the development of the historic settlement.
- ii. Identify the level of disturbance caused by redevelopment of the area last century.
- iii. To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of the 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 excavation investigated an area only 300 sqm in size (Fig. 2) within the footprint of the proposed new building, a reduction of 600 sqm from the original proposals, because parts of the site had been heavily disturbed (see section 4.1).

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.

#### 4.1. Machining

The excavation area was set-out using a Trimble Geo-XT GPS receiver to an accuracy of  $\pm$  500mm and swept with a CAT scanner for live services in advance of excavation.

Machining was undertaken using a tracked 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. All arisings were stored separately so that they could be re-

instated as required. Spoil heaps were visually examined and scanned with a metal detector for archaeological artefacts.

Machining began beside the line of the old High Street but it was immediately realised that the c.1970's road side development had impacted to a depth that exceeded the level at which earlier roadside remains were likely to have survived. Machining progressed to other parts of the site pending a HEM site visit but modern disturbances continued to be encountered. Upon visiting, and based on the extent of this modern disturbance, the HEM monitoring officer aborted any further machining as no significant archaeological remains were deemed to have survived. The area currently opened was planned and a sample of the features that were present were characterised by hand excavation.

#### **4.2. Hand Excavation**

The archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand and then planned and recorded. The majority of the features encountered were not excavated since they comprised recent disturbance, existing services and/or they were clearly of modern date. Those that were not immediately identifiable as '*modern*' were sample excavated and this comprised excavating 50% of discrete features, such as pits and 10% of linear features like ditches or gullies.

All standing structures or surfaces were left in situ except where their removal was key to accessing any earlier remains sealed beneath them.

#### **4.3. Recording**

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. Digital 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.

An overall site plan was generated using a combination of hand planning that related to a site grid and survey points taken using the Trimble Geo-XT GPS receiver. The results were tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

A representative section was drawn at 1:10 of each excavated feature and levels were taken across the site and of sections relative to Ordnance Datum.

#### **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. Where particularly large quantities of 19th-century and later finds were present, a sample of the finds assemblage was normally collected, sufficient to date and characterise the feature.

No environmental samples were taken from the deposits encountered on site.

### **5. RESULTS**

The excavation encountered natural geology at c.7m OD, below 0.35m of overburden (72) that comprised a mixture of topsoil and re-deposited natural with dumps of black ash and modern objects such as glass, concrete, slate, brick, plastic and wood. This probably represented the levelling of the site after demolition of the c.1970's buildings and hard-standing/ paved areas to the rear. Overlying this was 0.20m of topsoil (71) in which similar artefacts were observed but were not recovered. All archaeological features and deposits were encountered at a level below the overburden and cutting into natural. Based on the interaction between the overburden and the natural geology, it was likely that the site had been reduced in level before.

The western half of the site contained little more than modern brick structures, modern concrete drains, uncharacterised modern disturbances, and a service trench with an associated brick-built man-hole that the machining uncovered (Plate. 1). Adjacent to the street front, the brick structures closely matched the wall lines of the 1970's buildings and in one case a wider brick wall, which may have belonged to one of the earlier buildings previously standing alongside the road (Fig. 3). Further to the east, modern remains (Plate 2 and 3), representing activity to the rear of the frontage properties survived but none of the expected walls or footings of the larger earlier buildings were seen, suggesting that the site had been efficiently cleared of all earlier above and below ground remains during 1970's redevelopment.

Features/ areas of disturbance that were clearly modern remained unexcavated (Fig. 2) but a number of others were selected for investigation in order to confirm their origin and date. These included wells/structures (50/52) and (76/77), pit (61), post-hole (54) and gullies/ditches (65) and (67). With the exception of pit 61, which was predominately filled with broken glass, these were either filled by a dark topsoil-like material or re-deposited natural. All were dated to the 19th/ 20th centuries by recovery of varying quantities of finds including pottery, clay

pipe, glass, metalwork and in some instances tile. Additionally, fill (78) of well (76) contained cement fragments, perspex, and slate.

However, traces of earlier activity were discovered amongst these later remains. These include pit (58), filled by (59) & (60), and pit (79) which contained a single fill, (80). Pit (58) produced 17th to late 18th century pottery alongside other domestic waste including animal bone, clay pipe, glass, brick fragments and tile, with the recovery of a London “stock” type brick fragment from (59) suggesting an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date for deposition. Pit (79) produced sherds of post-medieval red earthenware and a blue-painted sherd of English tin-glazed earthenware and is probably 18th century in date.

Of particular interest was the survival of two probable mid-14th to 15th century features on the north-east edge of the site that pre-dated anything else encountered during the archaeological trial trenching or the excavation. This included oval pit (73), measuring at least 1.95m wide, and 0.73m deep, which contained fills (74) and (75), and uncharacterised feature (56) which was filled by (57) and truncated by a modern concrete drain. Fills (74) and (75) contained domestic debris such as animal bone, oyster shell, and pottery (see section 6). A small shard of glass was recovered from the upper fill (75) but is likely to have been intrusive, as probably was a fragment of roof tile in fill (57), given its truncation by the modern service trench. The survival of these features suggest that medieval settlement occurred in this part of Grays but that the greater part of any evidence for this has been removed by the recent clearance and subsequent re-development.

## 6. FINDS

Small groups of finds were recovered from fifteen contexts. Almost all of the excavated material is post-medieval and modern. 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 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A total of 165 sherds, weighing 2.6kg, was excavated from twelve contexts. Most of the material is modern, dating to the 19th/20th centuries, but a small amount of medieval and 18th century pottery is also present.

Pottery most likely dating to the mid 14th century was found in pit 73. The most interesting find is a coarse Border ware green glazed handle (from fill 74) from a large rounded jug or cistern. It shows a central thumbed applied strip, flanked by skewer marks and is thumbed at the edges. Paralleled by Pearce and Vince (1988, fig. 112. 442), it is dated to the mid 14th to 15th centuries. A medieval coarse ware flanged bowl rim from the same context indicates a most likely date of mid to late 14th century date for this fill. Coarse Border ware is part of the Surrey white ware industry, and a second Surrey white ware sherd was found in fill 75 of the same pit. It is not possible to assign this sherd to a particular Surrey industry, but it comprises an unglazed flanged rim from a small dish and most likely dates to the mid 14th century. An unglazed sherd of Mill Green-type ware, also from fill 75, may be of this date. Gully 56 also produced a single sherd of unglazed Mill Green-type ware but the presence of a fragment of later roof tile may indicate a post-medieval date for this feature. A further sherd of Surrey, probably Cheam, white ware was residual in post-medieval pit 58. Surrey white ware products are found all over the county, although coarse Border ware is the least common type. However, it is usually glazed jugs for the table that are found. Kitchen wares, such as the small dish from pit 73, are largely confined to sites along the Thames (and on the river Lea as they are also found at Waltham Abbey) and they may have been sold directly from boats rather than distributed through local market towns.

Pit 58 contained pottery dating to the 17th to 18th centuries, mainly post-medieval red earthenware, Metropolitan slipware and English tin-glazed earthenware. However, the latest material (from fill 60) comprises the rim of a small creamware teapot, with bi-chrome glaze,

and a sherd of slip-cast, white-salt glazed stoneware both dating to the mid to later 18th century. These are high quality pieces that indicate a middle-class household. Pit 79, which produced further sherds of post-medieval red earthenware and a blue-painted sherd of English tin-glazed earthenware, may also date to the 18th century.

The remaining features contained modern pottery. The pottery from well 50 may date to the first half of the 19th century and of interest are fragments from a lustreware cup and saucer, showing a grapevine motif, datable to around 1820. Also from this context is a plain tin-glazed earthenware pedestal dish or salt which is probably 18th century. Post-hole 54 and pit 61 produced transfer-printed china in colours other than blue, which were not introduced until the mid 19th century. These features are likely to be Victorian or early 20th century. All other features produced pottery that could be 19th or early 20th century.

#### 6.1.2 Brick and tile

Sample bricks were collected from structures 52 and 77, which are probably both wells. These are London 'stock' type bricks with shallow frogs, commonly of 19th and 20th century date. London 'stock' brick fragments were also recovered from the fills of pit 58 and slot 63. Indeterminate, abraded brick fragments were also found in pit 79. Two pieces from 19th-century flooring bricks were retrieved from fill 60 of pit 58. Roof tile fragments, amounting to 67 pieces, weighing 3456g, came from five contexts. The fills of pit 58 produced 85% of the total by weight, and 19th-century pantile fragments were noted in both fills. Much of the brick and tile assemblage was coated with mortar to varying degrees.

#### 6.1.3 Glass

A substantial glass assemblage, 61 pieces, weighing 4813g, was collected from a total of nine contexts. Almost all of the glass comprises green beer or wine bottle sherds of post-medieval and modern date, found in nearly every context. Sherds of modern colourless window glass were found in the fills of well 50 and pit 61. A large part of the bottle glass consists of featureless body sherds, but a Kilner-type bottle rim, perhaps used for bottling fruit, was recovered from the fill of modern pit 61 and a number of wine bottle necks came from the fills of pit 58. It is notable that more than 90% of the total glass by weight was contained in these two pit fills and at least eight individual bottles are represented. These have applied string lips and carry no mould lines. This type of bottle was common until around 1820, when two- and three-piece moulds were invented to increase production. This concurs with the pottery evidence, since pit 58 contained very little pottery dated later than 18th century. A tiny, flat

dark brown sherd was found in medieval pit 73. This is undoubtedly modern but is probably intrusive in the feature.

#### 6.1.4 Clay tobacco pipes

Seven contexts produced clay pipe fragments, mainly stems, amounting to 21 pieces, weighing 71g. Bowl fragments were found in both fills of pit 58 and a complete bowl was recovered from the fill of modern well 50. This bears moulded Fox and Grapes decoration which was common in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The dating of the remainder of the assemblage is less precise, but none of the pieces is likely to be earlier post-medieval. The stem fragments in well 76 are stained brown and a second stem in well 50 is encrusted.

#### 6.1.5 Metalwork

Iron objects and nails were recorded in four contexts and a copper alloy washer was found in the fill of modern pit 61. The objects, all probably modern, comprise indeterminate flat fragments and the remains of a lever, or similar.

#### 6.1.6 Animal bone

A small quantity of animal bone, 224 pieces, weighing 3170g, was recorded in eight contexts. Almost all of the assemblage, however, was recovered from the fills of post-medieval pit 58. Much of the remainder of the bone came from modern features, or is too small and/or fragmentary for comment.

The bone from pit 58 was scanned for condition and completeness, and the animal types present and the skeletal elements were identified using Schmid (1972). The bone is fragmented but in good condition overall. Cattle and sheep/goat formed the major identifiable components, along with dog, perhaps from a single animal representing the remains of a disturbed pet burial. Also present are heavily-worn teeth, skull fragments and a single mandible from a horse. The complete absence of pig is noteworthy. There is no evidence for butchery, but most of the animal remains probably represent food waste. The presence of horse and dog bones is more difficult to explain, however, although it is unlikely that the deposit comprises primary rubbish.

#### 6.1.7 Shell

Small amounts of oyster shell (11 pieces, weighing 158g) were recovered from three contexts; half of the total by weight came from post-medieval pit 58. Those from medieval pit 73 are

stained brown, but the reason for this is unclear. Clay pipe stems from nearby modern structure 77 are also stained brown and the staining could thus have relatively recent origins. The fill of post-medieval pit 79 produced a small number of cockle and mussel fragments.

#### 6.1.8 Other finds

These are few; a bone button was recovered from modern well 50 and modern structure 77 produced fragments of slate, painted cement and Perspex.

### **6.2 Comments on the Assemblage**

A varied assemblage of mainly post-medieval and modern finds was recovered. This concurs with the finds from the evaluation (Germany 2008), none of which was retained. Features which are entirely modern comprise wells 50 and 76, pit 61, post-hole 54 and gullies 65 and 67. Post-medieval pit 58 contained 19th-century material in its top fill, but is essentially an 18th-century feature. Indications of earlier, perhaps medieval, activity are provided by gully 56 and pit 73, although dating evidence for both is slim. Since much of the assemblage is of relatively recent date, only a representative sample of the finds has been retained. The table in Appendix 2 indicates those that have been discarded. Further discard of undated and minor categories, such as the clay pipe stems, could take place at the archiving stage, but the selected datable material should all be retained.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Ultimately, excavation failed to identify any medieval or post-medieval structural remains along the old street frontage or further parts of the buildings discovered during the evaluation in Trench A (Fig. 3). Nevertheless, towards the eastern edge of the site, beyond the limit of recent street front redevelopment, and amongst modern wells, pits, services runs and other uncharacterised disturbance, a small number of features that dated to the medieval and early post-medieval periods survived.

Medieval remains included a large pit (73) located in the north-east corner of the site and an uncharacterised feature, possibly a gully, (56) that was heavily truncated by a modern concrete drain and discovered below an undated build-up/spread of soil (81). Both were dated by only small quantities of mid-14th to 15th century pottery; however, this does appear relatively secure and broadly supports the suggestion that the former High Street/ Kings Walk area was the focus of medieval settlement.

Post-medieval activity is implied by the presence of 17th - 18th century pottery in a large irregular pit (58) situated on the eastern edge of the site and 18th century pottery in a smaller, oval pit (79) found at the centre of the site beside well (76). This accords well with the building remains uncovered during the evaluation in Trench A and documentary/ cartographic sources that suggest a period of expansion and growth beginning in the late 17th/ early 18th century.

Along the old High Street frontage, the modern walls and services of the 1970's buildings were discovered and associated modern features dominated the eastern half of the site. It is suggested that this redevelopment cleared the area of all previous above ground remains and all but the deepest features relating to any previous phases of activity.

## 8. ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The investigation demonstrated that many of the remains encountered during the excavation represented 'back-yard' activity associated with properties that would once have existed along the street frontage in the medieval, post-medieval, and modern periods. Unfortunately, because of an efficient clearance of the site to make way for the 1970's redevelopment of Kings Walk, all previous above ground structures and all but the deepest and largest of below ground archaeological remains have been removed. The extent of that truncation is broadly unknown but it certainly exceeded the depth of any earlier building foundations (c.7m OD) which for the greater part now no longer survive (Fig. 3).

Because the Kings Walk area has clearly been subject to such large-scale clearance in the post-war period it is possible that any future archaeological investigation in the vicinity are equally unlikely to encounter the more subtle and well-preserved archaeological remains needed to reconstruct the development of the town from its original medieval origins. However, the results are nevertheless of some interest, in that they do broadly support the assertion that the High Street area was the focus for settlement in the medieval period and underwent a period of expansion/ growth in the late 17th/ 18th century. Unfortunately, the remains encountered are insufficient to furthering our understanding of themes identified in the regional research framework. However, archaeological investigation may be more successful to the north, beyond the limit of the continually re-developed street frontage, or in areas that have not been subject to such extensive clearance.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ECC Field Archaeology Unit thanks GVA Grimley Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork on behalf of Thurrock Council. Tony Blowers, Dave Smith, Adrian Turner, and John Hewitt carried out the fieldwork under the supervision of Mark Germany and Trevor Ennis. Phil McMichael processed the finds, and Joyce Compton with Helen Walker prepared the finds report. 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 Richard Havis of ECC HEM monitored the investigation on behalf of the local planning authority.

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## APPENDIX 1: FIELDWORK DATA

Context	Type	Description	Date
50	Cut	Construction cut for brick structure (52).	Modern
51	Deposit	Mid to dark brown silty sand with common rounded stones and abundant fragments of brick, tile, clay pipe and pottery.	
52	Structure	Brick-built structure. 9 courses survive within a lime mortar.	Post medieval
53	Deposit	Layer of heated brick debris.	
54	Cut	Square post-hole with a u-shaped profile.	Modern
55	Deposit	Modern demolition backfill of post-hole (54).	
56	Cut	Un-characterised feature glimpsed beneath layer (53) and truncated by a modern drain.	Mid-14th to 15th century
57	Deposit	Mid to dark orange brown sandy silt with common rounded and rare sub-rounded/ angular stones.	
58	Cut	Large elongated pit.	Post medieval
59	Deposit	Medium brown silt, a backfill event containing brick tile and glass.	Post-med
60	Deposit	Light brown silt within pit (58).	
61	Cut	Large oval but shallow pit.	Modern
62	Deposit	Fill of (61). Mainly comprises broken glass, brick, flint, mortar and bone.	
63	Cut	Linear, slightly irregular E/W gully heavily truncated by a geotechnical pit.	Post medieval
64	Deposit	Fill of (63). Greyish brown silt, sand, clay with occasional gravel and flecks of chalky boulder clay.	
65	Cut	A partially excavated E/W linear with vertical sides.	Modern
66	Deposit	Dark brown sandy silt, modern backfill of (65)	
67	Cut	E/W linear, uncharacterised	Modern
68	Deposit	Fill of (67). Compacted pale yellow sandy chalk with occasional flint fragments.	
69	Deposit	Fill of (65). A firm yellow mid brown sandy silt.	
70	Deposit	Fill of (65). A loose orangey mid brown sandy gravel with common rounded stones.	
71	Deposit	Redeposited topsoil above overburden (72).	
72	Deposit	Modern overburden.	
73	Cut	Oval pit.	Mid-14th to 15th century
74	Deposit	Compacted orangey brown silty sand with common stones, rare charcoal flecks and occasional chalk flecks.	
75	Deposit	Cemented greyish brown lay silt sand with frequent stones and rare charcoal flecks.	

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
76	Cut	Construction cut for brick structure (77).	Modern
77	Structure	A single course wide circular brick structure.	
78	Deposit	Backfill within brick structure (77).	
79	Cut	Small oval pit	Post medieval
80	Deposit	Fill of (79). Mixed backfill with occasional; sub-rounded stones.	
81	Deposit	Layer of pale grey silt in the south-west corner of the site.	

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS

### All Finds

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
51	50	12	78	Iron; flat fragments (Discarded)	Modern
		1	<1	Animal bone; bird skull fragment	-
		1	24	Shell; oyster fragment (Discarded)	-
		1	1	Worked bone button, five thread-holes	Modern
		4	50	Glass; green base and body sherds, eight-sided bottle; green bottle body sherd, surface iridescence (All Discarded)	Modern
		1	2	Glass; colourless window sherd (Discarded)	Modern
		6	32	Clay pipes; bowl and stem with Fox and Grapes motif and initials B and P on either side of the spur; stems, one with spur, one encrusted	Post med.
		47	905	Pottery; rim, base and body sherds (37/685g modern sherds Discarded)	Post med/ modern
52	Structure	3	1930	Sample brick; three joining fragments, shallow frog, mortar on all surfaces, 220 x 100 x 60mm (Discarded)	Post med.
55	54	1	2	Animal bone; metapodial fragment, sheep/goat	-
		2	44	Glass; green bottle base sherd; colourless bottle body sherd; both with surface iridescence (Both Discarded)	Post med.
		2	1	Clay pipe stems	Post med.
7	24	Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds (Discarded)	Modern		
57	56	10	98	Animal bone; sacral vertebra, ?human, unfused; metapodial fragment, sheep/goat; scapula, glenoid cavity, cattle; fragments	-
		1	24	Roof tile fragment (Discarded)	Post med.
		1	12	Pottery; body sherd	Late medieval
59	58	85	535	Animal bone; metacarpus and phalanx, cattle; maxilla and mandible fragments with molars, horn core, loose molars, sheep/goat; ulna hinge, caudal vertebra, metacarpus, mandible, dog; rib fragments, large and medium-sized mammals; fragments, inc skull	-
		23	2890	Glass; green cylindrical wine bottle rim, base and body sherds, surface iridescence, no mould lines, at least five bottles represented (Rim retained, 34g)	Post med.
		5	10	Clay pipes; bowl fragment and stems	Post med.
		2	2440	Bricks; two part-bricks, London 'stock', 100 x 60mm, abraded (Discarded)	Post med.
		11	990	Roof tile fragments, inc pantile, some mortared (All Discarded)	Post med.
16	318	Pottery; rim and body sherds (9/220g PMRE Discarded)	Post med.		
60	58	3	36	Iron nails	-
		120	2415	Animal bone; mandibles with molars, horse and cattle; mandible fragments with molars, dog; loose molars, heavily worn, and skull fragments, horse; scapulae, glenoid cavities, horn core and humerus, unfused, sheep/goat; vertebra, unfused, medium-sized mammal; tibia, distal end, and metacarpus, proximal end, cattle; acetabulum, large mammal; ribs and phalanges, small mammal; fragments	-
		5	86	Shell; oyster, three valves and fragments	-
		16	1625	Glass; green cylindrical wine bottle rim, base and	Post med.

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		5 15 2 43 32	24 940 1395 1940 478	body sherds, surface iridescence, no mould lines, at least three bottles represented (Rims retained, 3/114g) Clay pipes; incomplete bowl with heel; stems Brick fragments, abraded, mostly London 'stock' (Discarded) Flooring bricks, 120 x 37mm Roof tile fragments, inc pantile, three with peg holes, some are mortared (All Discarded) Pottery; rim, base and body sherds and handle (19/380g PMRE Discarded)	Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med.
62	61	1 7 3 1 35	2 160 16 112 420	Copper alloy washer, dia. 9mm Glass; greenish Kilner-type jar rim sherd, embossed with H A...; joining green wine bottle rim sherds; colourless small bottle base; greenish bottle body sherds (All Discarded) Glass; colourless window sherds (Discarded) Roof tile fragment (Discarded) Pottery; rim, base and body sherds (33/292g modern sherds Discarded)	Modern Modern Modern Post med. Post med/modern
64	63	2 1 1	16 1 1255	Glass; green bottle body sherds (Discarded) Clay pipe stem Brick; part-brick London 'stock', overfired, 100 x 65mm (Discarded)	Post med. Post med. Post med.
66	65	1	10	Pottery; rim sherd (Discarded)	Modern
68	67	1 1 5	30 8 44	Iron object; lever/handle (Discarded) Glass; colourless flat ?bottle base sherd (Discarded) Pottery; rim and body sherds (Discarded)	Modern Modern Modern
74	73	2 5 2	76 48 64	Animal bone; humerus, distal end, large mammal, ?unfused; fragment Shell; oyster, five valves, stained brown Pottery; rim and handle sherds	- - Medieval
75	73	2 1 2	24 1 10	Animal bone; long bone fragments, large mammal Glass; tiny flat sherd, dark brown Pottery; rim and body sherds	- ?Modern Medieval
77	Structure	1	1980	Sample brick; London 'stock', upper and lower surfaces mortared, overfired to purple colour, 215 x 100 x 60mm (Discarded)	Post med.
78	77	2 1 1 1 1 8	38 24 94 8 2 144	Iron nails Slate fragment (Discarded) Cement/render fragment with patchy cream and pink paint on flat surface (Discarded) Perspex fragment, 45mm square (Discarded) Clay pipe stems, stained brown Pottery; rim, base and body sherds (All Discarded)	- - Modern Modern Post med. Post med/modern
80	79	3 3 1 1 3 11 9	20 4 1 1 234 390 154	Animal bone; acetabulum, small mammal, ?rabbit; fragments, the largest is abraded Shell; cockle and mussel fragments Glass; green bottle body sherd, surface iridescence (Discarded) Clay pipe stem Brick fragments, abraded (Discarded) Roof tile fragments, inc pantile (Discarded) Pottery; rim, handle and body sherds (8/153g PMRE discarded)	- - Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med.

## Pottery

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
51	50	9	294	Glazed Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, fragments from (?storage) jars	17th to 19th C
		1	37	Late kitchen earthenware	19th to early 20th C
		1	68	Modern stoneware, base of cylindrical bottle	19th to early 20th C
		1	83	English tin-glazed earthenware pedestal dish or salt, virtually complete, undecorated	18th C
		1	7	Pearlware; sherd from hollow ware with green foliage decoration	c.1800
		1	3	Bone china everted rim ?from a cup, undecorated	from late 18th C
		2	34	Yellow ware including bowl rim with mocha decoration	mid to late 19th C
		9	135	Lustre ware, large fragments from cup and saucer showing grape vine design	c.1820
		22	237	Modern white earthenware, some plain, but most show willow pattern transfer-print with one example of a floral transfer-printed, forms comprise , flanged rims from plates of dishes, the remains of pedestal base dishes and one or two hollow wares	from 1820s onwards
55	54	2	8	Stoneware, salt-glazed probably English	18th to 19th C
		1	2	Bone china with sprigged decoration	19th to early 20th C
		4	15	Modern white earthenware including sherds with green and red transfer-printing	mid 19th C onwards
57	56	1	12	Mill Green-type ware, unglazed	14th/16th C
59	58	9	220	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, glazed sherds including fragments from storage jars	17th to 19th C
		1	26	Metropolitan slipware, sherd from hollow ware	c.1625- early 18th C
		5	41	English tin-glazed earthenware including rim of albarello with blue-painted bands, ?plate fragment also with blue-painted band	17th to 18th C
		1	29	English salt glazed stoneware, sherd from cylindrical tavern mug	18th C
60	58	1	1	Surrey white ware probably Cheam, mottled green external glaze, thin internal clear glaze	14th C
		19	381	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware, glazed, fragments from storage jars including horizontal handles and a hooked rim	17th to 19th C
		1	24	Metropolitan slipware from body of flanged dish, thick-walled, single dot of slip,	c.1625 to early 18th C
		2	18	Surrey-Hampshire white ware, flat base sherd and body sherd, both with an all over green glaze	later 16th to end of 17th centuries
		3	18	English tin-glazed earthenware including footring ring base with blue-painted bands and sherd from ?plate with blue-painted band, same vessel in context 59	17th to 18th C
		1	11	English stoneware body sherd	late 17th to 18th C
		1	3	Nottingham/Derby stoneware showing rouletted decoration	18th to 20th C
		2	8	White salt-glazed stoneware, flat base and fluted sherd, probably slip-cast	1840s to end of 18th C
		2	11	Creamware, rim of teapot with moulded decoration and bi-chrome green and yellow glaze	from c.1750
62	61	2	128	Metropolitan slipware, joining sherds from	c.1625-early

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
				flanged dish, thick-walled, simple pattern	18th C
		5	136	Flowerpot, base sherds, not necessarily modern	18th to 20th C
		2	24	English stoneware	18th to 20th C
		16	76	Bone china including sherds from fluted ?cup with gold banding, fragments from plain ?cup(s) and fragment with mauve sprigged decoration	19th to early 20th C
		8	32	Modern white earthenware, all transfer-printed, including willow pattern and dendritic patterns, one sherd has a grey transfer print	mid 19th C to 20th C
		2	22	Buff earthenware fabric with internal slip-coating - ?from mixing bowl	19th to 20th C
66	65	1	10	Slipped kitchen earthenware flanged rim from ?bowl	19th to early 20th C
68	67	1	32	Modern stoneware	19th to early 20th C
		1	4	Buff earthenware fabric with internal slip-coating - ?from mixing bowl	19th to 20th C
		3	8	Modern white earthenware, transfer-printed in blue but not willow pattern	1820s to 20th C
74	73	1	55	Coarse Border Ware, green glazed handle from a large rounded jug or cistern, showing central thumbed applied strip, flanked by skewer marks and thumbed at the edges (cf. Pearce and Vince 1988, fig, 112. 442)	mid 14th to 15th C
		1	8	Medieval coarse ware, flanged rim from ?bowl	13th to 14th C
75	73	1	5	Surrey white ware, unglazed flanged rim from small dish	?mid 14th C
		1	5	Mill Green-type ware, unglazed	14th to 16th C
78	77	2	40	Post-medieval red earthenware, glazed base and body sherds	17th to 19th C
		6	104	Modern white earthenware, undecorated thick-walled sherds including marmalade jar rim	19th to 20th C
80	79	1	1	English tin-glazed earthenware, blue-painted body sherd	?18th C
		8	153	Post-medieval red earthenware, glazed, including fragments from handled jar and large bowl with lid-seated rim	17th to 19th C

## APPENDIX 3: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

### SITE NAME; SOUTH EAST ESSEX COLLEGE, HIGH STREET, GRAYS (THHS08)

#### *Project Numbers 1923 (Trial Trenching) and 1964 (Open Excavation)*

#### Index to the Archive

File containing:

#### **1. Introduction**

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

#### **2. Research Archive (Trial Trenching)**

- 2.1 Client Report (plus x1 bound copies at the rear of the file)
- 2.2 Analytical Reports
  - 2.2.1 Finds Report
- 2.3 Catalogues
  - 2.3.1 Context Finds Record
  - 2.3.2 Finds Catalogue

#### **3. Research Archive (Excavation)**

- 3.1 Client Report (plus x2 bound copies at the rear of the file)
- 3.2 Analytical Reports
  - 3.2.1 Finds Report
- 3.3 Catalogues
  - 3.3.1 Context Finds Record
  - 3.3.2 Finds Catalogue

#### **4. Site Archive (Trial Trenching)**

- 4.1 Context Index
- 4.2 Context Record Sheets 1 - 47
- 4.3 Registers
  - 4.3.1 Plan Registers (1)
  - 4.3.2 Digital Photo Register (1)
  - 4.3.3 Black and white Prints and Negatives (A5 envelope)

#### **5. Site Archive (Excavation)**

- 5.1 Context Index
- 5.2 Context Record Sheets 50 - 81
- 5.3 Registers
  - 5.3.1 Plan Registers (1)
  - 5.3.2 Section Registers (2)
  - 5.3.3 Digital Photo Register (1)
  - 5.3.4 B/W Photo Register (1)
  - 5.3.5 Level Register (3 + digital copy)

## 6. Miscellaneous

Various historic maps, figures, and reproduced photos  
General info sheet  
CD (Digital photos and archive data)

### Not in the file:

X2 Irregular sized plan sheet	}	Trial-Trenching
X1 A1 plan sheet		
X1 A1 Plan Sheet	}	Excavation
X1 A3 Section sheet		
X2 A1 Plan sheets		

The finds occupy less than one box.

## APPENDIX 4: EHER SUMMARY

<b>SITE NAME/ADDRESS:</b>	South East Essex College, Grays, Essex		
<b>CONTRACTING UNIT PROJECT NUMBER</b>	1964		
<b>OASIS ACCESSION NUMBER</b>	essexcou1- 50564		
<b>PARISH:</b> Thurrock	<b>DISTRICT:</b>	Thurrock	
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 614 775 (Centre)	<b>SITE CODE:</b>	THHS08	
<b>TYPE OF WORK:</b> Excavation	<b>SITE DIRECTOR/GROUP:</b>	M.Pocock of ECC FAU	
<b>DATE OF WORK:</b> November 2008	<b>SIZE OF AREA INVESTIGATED:</b>	300 sqm	
<b>FINDS/CURATING MUSEUM:</b> Thurrock	<b>FUNDING SOURCE:</b>	Developer	
<b>FURTHER WORK ANTICIPATED.</b> No	<b>RELATED HER NOS.</b>	n/a	
<b>FINAL REPORT:</b>	Yes		
<b>PERIODS REPRESENTED:</b>	Medieval, Post-medieval and Modern		
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>			
<p>The archaeological excavation undertaken at Kings Walk, Grays, Essex by the ECC field Archaeology Unit encountered remains that included brick-walls, brick-wells, services, pits, ditches and gullies associated with properties that would once have existed along the street frontage in the medieval, post-medieval, and modern periods. However, it failed to identify further medieval or post-medieval structural remains along the old street frontage or further parts of the buildings first discovered during the previous trial trenching. Primarily, this was because the post war redevelopment of Kings Walk efficiently cleared the area of all previous above ground remains and all but the deepest features that represented any previous phase of activity. The extent of that truncation reached c.7m OD and certainly exceeded the depth of the pre 1970's, 97-107 High Street building foundations, which did not survive.</p> <p>Overall, modern features dominated the site. Along the old High Street frontage, the modern walls and services of recent 1970's buildings were discovered, while the eastern half of the site contained services, wells, pits, ditches, a post-hole, and other unexcavated but obviously modern disturbance. Post-medieval activity was implied by the presence of 17th - 18th century pottery in two of the pits that were discovered. Medieval remains included a large pit located in the north-east corner of the site and an uncharacterised feature located beneath a modern concrete drain. Both were poorly dated by small quantities of mid-14th to 15th century pottery, but do appear to suggest that the former High Street/ Kings Walk Area was a focus for activity in the medieval period.</p> <p>Because the Kings Walk area has clearly been subject to large scale clearance in the 1970's it would appear that any future archaeological investigation, is equally unlikely to encounter the more subtle and well-preserved archaeological remains needed to reconstruct the development of the town from its original medieval origins. However, the results are nevertheless of some interest, in that they do broadly support the assertion that the High Street area was the focus for settlement in the medieval period and underwent a period of expansion/ growth in the late 17th/ 18 century. Unfortunately, the remains encountered are insufficient to furthering our understanding of themes identified in the regional research framework. However, archaeological investigation may be more successful to the north and beyond the limit of the continually re-developed street frontage, or in areas that have not been subject to such extensive clearance.</p>			
<b>PREVIOUS SUMMARIES/REPORTS:</b>	Kings Walk, Grays, Essex Archaeological Trial Trenching. ECCFAU Project Number 1923 (Germany 2008)		
<b>AUTHOR OF SUMMARY:</b>	Matthew Pocock (ECCFAU)	<b>DATE OF SUMMARY:</b>	November 2008



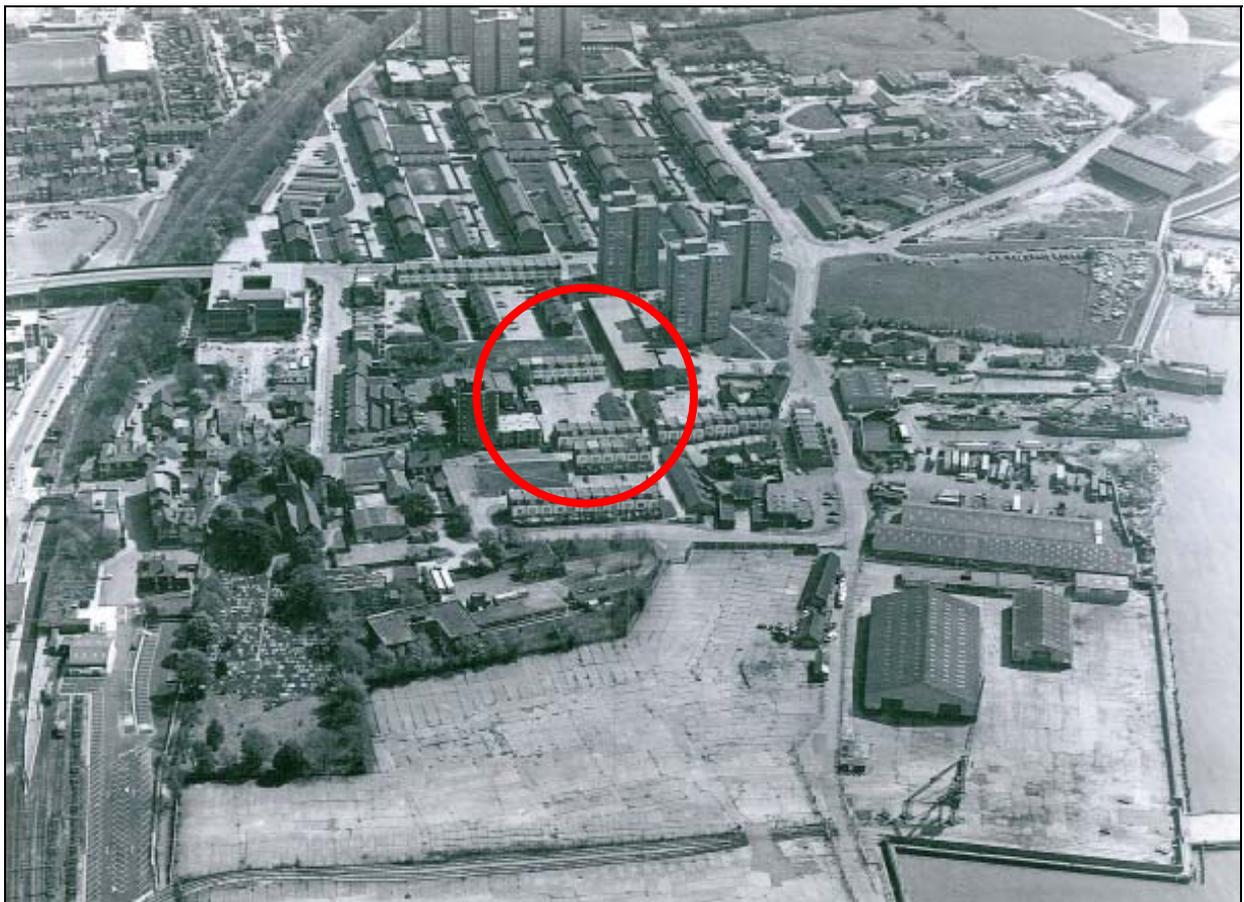
**Plate 1.** Excavation beside the old High Street frontage



**Plate 2.** Eastern limit of the site



**Plate 3.** Central part of the site



**Plate 4.** (◀ North) Aerial photo of Kings Walk prior to demolition (site highlighted)