

**RED HOUSE
COLCHESTER ROAD
HALSTEAD
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
BY TRIAL TRENCHING**



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

MAY 2007

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING

Client: P. Neal

NGR: TL 81600 30714

Site Code: HS3

Oasis No.: essexcou1-26361

Dates of Fieldwork: 21st-22nd March 2007

SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the garden of Red House, Colchester Road, Halstead. Two trenches were excavated to the north of the building, within the footprint of a proposed new access road and car parking.

No features relating to the Saxon or medieval origins of Halstead were identified although the presence of a few sherds of 14th-16th century pottery does attest to late medieval/early post-medieval activity in the area.

A series of post-medieval pits dating to the 17th and early 18th centuries were excavated. These predate the construction of Red House (1773-1786) and are likely to be back-yard rubbish pits associated with a row of cottages formerly standing along the north-western side of the site. An 18th century brick wall in Trench 1 may also be connected with the cottages, or perhaps form part of one of several outbuildings associated with wool storage/processing, known to have stood on the site in 1786. A brick drain may be contemporary with this structure. The latest feature excavated was a beam-slot indicating the probable position of a 19th or 20th century timber garden shed.

With the exception of the 18th century brick wall, no archaeological remains of significance were recorded to a depth of c.0.8m below the top of the existing ground surface in Trench 1 and c.0.5m below the top of the existing ground surface in Trench 2.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Red House, Colchester Road, Halstead, in advance of housing redevelopment. The evaluation was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU), on behalf of P. Neal, in accordance with an archaeological brief prepared by the ECC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM 2007) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by ECC FAU (2007).

The proposed development comprises the demolition, conversion and extension of elements of the existing Grade II Listed house to form six new flats, with a new access road to the highway and formation of car parking to the rear. The evaluation targeted the footprint of the access road and the area of car parking, to establish the depth of any surviving archaeological remains.

The fieldwork was undertaken as part of an archaeological condition placed on the planning consent (planning application ref: BTE/258/06 and BTE/LB/2588/06), at the request of Braintree District Council and ECC HEM.

The archive will be deposited in Braintree Museum under the site code HS3. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)

The small market town of Halstead is located upon the sloping sides of the Colne valley, some 7km (4.5m) north-east of Braintree and 14.5km (9m) west of Colchester. The underlying superficial geology comprises sand and gravel of the Kesgrave Formation (BGS Lexicon; www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon_intro.html).

Red House is situated on Colchester Road, opposite the northern side of Saint Andrews Churchyard, in the centre of Halstead, Essex (TL 81600 30714). The house is flanked by Broom Hill to the west, Manfield to the east and lies to the south of the car park for Queens Hall. The evaluation trenches were located to the rear of the property, in a flat area of lawn terraced into the valley side.

2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at County Hall, Chelmsford and the Historic Town Assessment Report for Halstead (Medlycott 1999).

The development is situated in an area of significant archaeological potential, within the historical core of the medieval and post-medieval market town of Halstead (EHER 9429). The medieval church of Saint Andrew's (EHER 9431-2) lies 50m to the south-west of the development area. To the north-east is the probable site of an early medieval market on Chipping Hill, referenced in a document dated 1327 (Eddy and Petchey, 1983). The market later moved to the top of the High Street and the area was infilled in the medieval and early post-medieval periods (EHER 18684). The Historic Town Assessment for Halstead (Medlycott 1999) suggests that the development area was probably occupied by housing in the medieval period. An estate map in the Essex Record Office shows a row of cottages along the north-western side of the site in c.1625 (ERO D/DVz 282).

Red House is a cellared Grade II listed 18th century house (EHER 26118). The house, which replaced the earlier row of cottages, was built somewhere between 1773 and 1786 by Edward Barron a farmer and wool merchant. Edward Barron sold the newly constructed house in 1786 and the sale included a wool warehouse, a shed and a weighing house abutting Scrambler's Lane (now Broom Hill). In 1868 the house was bought by a builder, Harcourt Runnacles, who built a brick wall across the back of the property and used the rear part as a builder's yard and workshop. This wall was removed in 1893 and the land converted to garden. Between 1936 and 1965 Red House was used as offices for Halstead District Council and was a Registry Office up to 1972 (Potts 2003, 65-66).

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

The aim of the evaluation was to identify and record the location, extent, depth, date, character and significance of any surviving archaeological remains within the proposed development site.

Specific attention was to be paid to:

- Evidence for the Saxon origins of the town
- The presence and nature of medieval and post-medieval deposits

- Medieval and post-medieval pottery evidence in relation to dating, socio-economic factors and trade and distribution networks
- Role of the cloth trade in post-medieval Halstead.

3.2 Research objectives

The research objectives for the project were undertaken with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). Highlighted research themes within this document of relevance to the project include urban development and the study of medieval and post-medieval trade and industry (Brown *et al.* 2000, 45-46).

4.0 METHOD

Two evaluation trenches, both 10m long by 1.6m wide, were excavated under archaeological supervision, using a JCB fitted with a flat-bladed bucket.

Potential archaeological features were cleaned and hand-excavated; finds were collected. Work was carried out in accordance with IFA (Institute of Field Archaeologists) standards and guidance and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout.

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs 2 and 3)

A number of archaeological features and deposits were identified and are described in trench order below. Additional context information is presented in Appendix 1.

The topsoil across the evaluation area consisted of dark grey-brown sandy silt approximately 0.3m-0.35m deep. In Trench 1 the topsoil was removed to reveal a brick wall (2) and a deposit of orange gravel (7), initially thought to be natural. In Trench 2, most of the archaeological features appeared to be sealed beneath a layer of grey-brown silty clay (29), up to 0.28m thick.

5.1 Trench 1

The earliest feature in Trench 1 was a north-east/south-west aligned brick wall (2) built directly upon brownish-orange gravel (10). The wall was 0.37m wide and survived to a height of seven courses (0.52m). It was constructed from unfrogged reddish-orange bricks (measuring 230 x 110 x 65mm) bonded with a light cream mortar with rare, small, flint inclusions. To the west of the wall was a thick deposit of mid to dark brown sandy silt (9) containing a variety of finds including clay pipes (dated 1680-1710), bottle glass, brick fragments and 17th-18th century pottery. There was no indication of a construction cut for the wall implying that layer 9 probably post-dated its building.

To the east of the wall were two linear deposits, one of orange gravel (7) and the other of mid to dark brown silty clay (8), which were investigated by means of a machine-cut section (Fig. 3, Section 1). Layer 8 contained fragments of brick and mortar, was 0.5m thick and appeared to overlie a deposit of partially exposed light grey clay (not excavated). Layer 8 was cut by a linear feature (12) that contained a mixed clay fill (13) and was sealed by the orange gravel (7). Feature 12 was probably the cut for a brick-lined drain, constructed from unfrogged bricks, that was revealed at the base of the excavated section. However, the cut was wider than the drain and appeared to continue beyond the southern edge of the trench and it may therefore be a separate feature that post-dates the drain. The latest feature in Trench 1 was a shallow flat-bottomed cut (31) of probable recent origin.

5.2 Trench 2

A series of pits dating to the 17th/18th century were excavated in Trench 2. All were cut through natural clay and appeared to be sealed by layer 29. Although no firm dating evidence was recovered from layer 29, its stratigraphic position suggested a possible late 18th or 19th century date. The earliest pit (23), located close to the southern edge of the trench, was c.3.5m long and contained pottery dating to the late 16th/17th century. Pit 19, close to the northern side of the trench, contained 17th century or later pottery but was only partially exposed. Three other pits (15, 21 and 24) all contained pottery dating to the early to middle of the 18th century. Only two features, a shallow pit (17) and post-hole (27), contained no dating evidence, but are likely to be of a contemporary 17th/18th century date.

At the east end of the trench, part of overlying layer 29 was left *in-situ* and was recorded as equivalent layers 5 and 11 (Fig.3, Section 2). Pit 24 was sealed by layer 5 and post-hole 27 by layer 11. These layers were cut by a flat-bottomed beam slot (4) forming the base of a sub-rectangular structure some 3m wide and probably aligned north-east/south-west. The fill

(3) contained 19th-20th century material and was at the top of the excavated sequence in Trench 2.

6.0 FINDS, by Joyce Compton

Finds, of mainly post-medieval date, were recovered from fourteen contexts. All of the material has been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in Appendix 2. A range of finds was recorded, of which the main categories comprise brick/tile fragments and pottery (each found in ten contexts). The pottery forms the subject of a separate report below. The remaining finds are described by category following the pottery report.

6.1 Medieval and later pottery by Helen Walker

A total of ninety-seven sherds weighing 2.2kg was excavated from ten contexts. Full pottery details can be found in Appendix 3. The earliest pottery comprises two sherds of undiagnostic sandy orange ware, dating from the 14th to 16th centuries, and one sherd of sandy orange ware with a thin internal glaze, characteristic of the 15th/16th century; all are residual in later contexts. Otherwise, virtually all the assemblage belongs to 17th to 18th centuries, and as is common in this period, glazed post-medieval red earthenware is the most abundant type of pottery.

The earliest feature is possibly pit 23 (Trench 2), whose fill (22) contained a dish fragment with wavy-line combing around the flange, datable to the late 16th to 17th centuries, and the remains of bead-rim jars, all in post-medieval red earthenware. One of the jar fragments is a semi-waster (or second) as it is over-fired, with adhesions on the rim where the glaze has stuck to another vessel in the kiln. Also from this feature is a sherd of tin-glazed earthenware showing a turquoise glaze and blue-painted line. It is too fragmented to identify but may be an import. All the pottery from this feature could date to the later 16th to 17th centuries, although a later date cannot be precluded.

Pit 24 (Trench 2) produced some interesting finds (from fill 6) including the medallion from a Frechen stoneware jug, showing the heraldic motif of a lion-rampant enclosed in a shield. This is comparable to one found on a jug from Norwich, which is datable to the 17th century (Jennings 1981, fig.49.817). Also of note are the base and sides of an internally-glazed post-medieval red earthenware jar, showing a post-firing hole about 5cm above the base, the sort of position where a spigot might be inserted, suggesting the vessel was used as a cistern for storing liquids. As there are deposits of limescale on the inside, it may have

contained only water. Other finds in this context include a pad or thickened base, perhaps from a jar in black-glazed ware, and a Metropolitan slipware flanged dish rim. Although all this pottery could have been current from the mid 17th century, the latest pottery is a fragment of tin-glazed earthenware plate showing a simple design painted in an iron-red colour, which may belong to the early to mid-18th century.

A further sherd of 18th century tin-glazed earthenware plate was excavated from layer 9 (Trench 1), with other dating evidence from this layer comprising a sherd from a Westerwald chamber pot. The sherd was too fragmented to determine the type of chamber pot, but importation of these vessels (from Rhineland Germany) did not become common until the early 18th century. A clay tobacco pipe in this context is datable to 1680-1710 and would suggest an early 18th century date for deposition.

Fill 14 of pit 15 (Trench 2) produced the largest assemblage, with a total of 895g of pottery, although most of this total is accounted for by a semi-complete, one-handled jar in post-medieval red earthenware. Other finds comprise the rim of a second, similar jar and further sherds of black-glazed ware and a Metropolitan slipware dish. The latter is of interest because the underside is fire-blackened, suggesting it was used for cooking, in spite of the fact that it is decorated. Similarly fire-blackened Metropolitan slipware dishes were found in a clearance deposit from an inn at Castle Hedingham (Walker 2002, 296). The most recent sherd is, a Staffordshire-type slipware upright rim, probably from a necked cup, and most likely dating to the early 18th century.

Datable pottery in pit 21 (Trench 2) comprises further examples of Staffordshire-type slipware, including hollow ware sherds (possibly also from a cup) and a fragment of press-moulded dish with typical piecrust edge. The latest pottery is the rim of a white salt-glazed stoneware teapot, showing rows of pearl-beading, datable to the mid 18th century.

Equivalent layers 5 and 11 (Trench 2) produced fragments of a jug or jugs in post-medieval red earthenware and broadly dating to the 17th to 19th centuries. The latest sherds from fill 3 of beam-slot 4, which cut layers 5 and 11, comprise modern flowerpots dating to the 19th to 20th centuries. The only other feature to produce pottery was pit 19 (Trench 2), containing sherds of post-medieval red earthenware and a black-glazed ware sherd from a drinking vessel, which could be 17th century or later.

To conclude, most of the features and layers could be roughly contemporary, perhaps deposited from the early to mid 18th centuries. Looking at the assemblage as a whole, there

is a variety of vessel types; plates in tin-glazed earthenware; dishes, including decorated examples, in Metropolitan and Staffordshire-type slipwares and plain red earthenware; jugs in post-medieval red earthenware and Frechen stoneware; drinking vessels in black-glazed ware and Staffordshire-type slipware; a jar modified perhaps for the insertion of a spigot, and a teapot in white salt-glazed stoneware. Fragments of jars, often with thickened bases and beaded rims, in post-medieval red earthenware and black-glazed ware are common. These include a semi-complete, one-handled jar, a vessel form often used as a chamber-pot (although they did serve other functions). In addition, there is a fragment of definite chamber pot in Westerwald stoneware. The assemblage would therefore appear to comprise mainly table wares, drinking wares and sanitary wares, although as mentioned above, one of the Metropolitan slipware dishes may have been used for cooking. All appear to be household items. The presence of some rather cheap and cheerful tin-glazed earthenware may indicate fairly modest status. However, the fine ware teapot could indicate higher status, as tea was not drunk by the lower social classes until the end of the 18th century. The pottery may have been associated with the row of cottages present in c.1625.

6.2 Brick and tile

Bricks, and fragments of bricks, were recorded in nine contexts. A sample brick was recovered from wall 2 in Trench 1. This is regular-sided and heavily mortared on upper and lower surfaces and on one end. Following Ryan (1996, 94-6), its measurements suggest an 18th to early 19th century date. All of the brick fragments appear to be post-medieval. Only two contexts, fill 6 (Trench 2) and layer 9 (Trench 1), produced fragments which could be measured. These are more likely to be from 17th or 18th century bricks.

Eight contexts produced roof tile fragments, some of which had square-cut peg holes. All of the fragments (thirty-four, weight 3620g) are likely to be post-medieval, although there are no closely datable features.

6.3 Clay pipes

Stem fragments from a number of clay tobacco pipes were noted in six contexts. Layer 9 (Trench 1) produced the sole datable bowl, which is an Oswald (1977) Type 8 pipe bowl, dated 1680-1710. The rim has a small split, formed during firing, to one side of the bowl.

6.4 Metalwork

The metalwork comprises single iron nails from four contexts and post-medieval copper alloy dressmakers' pins from three contexts. The pin from layer 8 (Trench 1) has a large globular head, which may indicate a 17th to 18th century date for this example.

6.5 Glass

A small sherd of post-medieval window glass came from layer 5 in Trench 2. Sherds of dark green bottle glass were found in three contexts. None is closely datable within the post-medieval period.

6.6 Animal bone

Five contexts produced animal bone, amounting to fourteen pieces, weighing 582g. The remains of domesticated animals (cattle, pig and sheep/goat) were noted, but quantities are too small for meaningful comment.

6.7 Shell

Oyster shell was recovered from three contexts, all in Trench 2, amounting to five pieces weighing 42g.

6.8 Environmental

No deposits with good environmental potential were encountered, consequently no samples were collected.

6.9 Comments on the assemblage

The finds are consistently late 17th and 18th century in date, with one or two pieces of more recent material, especially in the fill of beam-slot 4. No other obviously modern finds are present, and there were few items of earlier date. All assemblages are indicative of rubbish disposal at the rear of the properties, and could be contemporary with the cottages which previously occupied the site, and perhaps the present house.

6.10 Potential for further work

Nothing in the assemblage requires further work. All of the finds should be retained in the short term, although discard of some categories could take place at the archiving stage. Some of the glass has already been discarded on health and safety grounds. All of the smaller pieces of brick and tile, and the limestone fragments, have been discarded following recording.

7.0 DISCUSSION

No evidence relating to the Saxon origins of Halstead was found. Similarly, no medieval features were identified, although the presence of a few sherds of 14th-16th century pottery does attest to late medieval activity in the area, which may tentatively equate to in-filling around the former Chipping Hill market-place in the late medieval and early post-medieval periods (EHER 18684).

The earliest excavated features are a series of post-medieval pits dating to the 17th and first half of the 18th centuries. These all predate the construction of Red House (1773-1786) and are likely to be back-yard rubbish pits associated with the former row of cottages along the north-western side of the site, fronting Broom Hill. These cottages were known to be in existence in c.1625 and were demolished prior to the construction of Red House in the late 18th century. The pottery is fairly typical of the post-medieval period and suggests that the inhabitants of the cottages were of modest or average wealth.

The brick wall in Trench 1 was constructed from bricks dating from the 18th to early 19th century. This wall may be associated with the cottages, rather than a demolished part of Red House, and as such may be early-18th century in date. This is supported by the evidence from layer 9, which contained early 18th century material, and appears to have built-up against the wall. Alternatively, if the material in layer 9 was deemed residual or the construction cut was on the unexcavated side of the wall, it is feasible that the wall could have been the back of one of the late-18th century wool-related structures sold in 1786 (Potts 2003, 65). The brick drain at the base of the machine sondage in Trench 1 ran at right-angles to this wall and may be contemporary. Other than this tentative connection, no specific links with the post-medieval cloth trade were identified.

It is possible that layer 8 in Trench 1 is a buried post-medieval garden soil deposit whereas layer 29 (and its equivalents 5 and 11) in Trench 2 probably resulted from an episode of deliberate levelling in the later 18th or 19th century. The structure (4) in Trench 2 is most likely the remains of a 19th or 20th century timber garden shed, placed close to the property boundary. It may be no coincidence that sherds of flower pot were recovered from its backfill.

The evaluation was undertaken to establish the depth of any archaeological remains within the proposed access road and car park. In Trench 1, with the exception of the 18th century wall, no archaeological remains of significance were encountered. A machine-cut section

implied that the majority of the trench comprised either backfill or a thick soil deposit to a depth of some 0.8m below the existing ground surface. In Trench 2, the 17th and 18th century pits were sealed beneath a mixed levelling layer (29/5/11) to a depth of c. 0.5m below the existing ground surface.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

The Historic Towns Assessment Report noted that only a few small archaeological interventions have been made in Halstead (Medlycott 1999, 12). In this, Halstead is not unusual, as levels of excavation and recording throughout most of the small towns in East Anglia in the latter decades of the 20th century has been minimal (Ayers 2000, 27). This evaluation has therefore given a rare glimpse into Halstead's past.

Although no Saxon or medieval features were identified, the evaluation has revealed the presence of numerous post-medieval rubbish pits, probably belonging to former house plots, and has provided firm archaeological evidence for development in this area of Halstead previously known only from historical and pictorial sources. If further remains exist under the backfilling/levelling soils, they are likely to survive at a great enough depth not to be impacted by car park construction.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres.

Context	Area	Type	Description	Period
1	TR 1	Layer	Topsoil, dark brown sandy silt, 0.35m thick (max)	Modern
2	TR 1	Brick wall	1.58m x 0.37m x 0.52m (7 courses high), N/S aligned	Post-med
3	TR 2	Fill of 4	Dark grey clay silt	Post-med
4	TR 2	Beam slot	3.1m + 0.6m x 0.5m x 0.06m deep	Post-med
5	TR 2	Layer	Mixed brown/grey silty clay, 0.13m thick	Post-med
6	TR 2	Fill of 24	Dark grey silty clay	Post-med
7	TR 1	Fill of 12	Orange gravel, 0.22m thick	Post-med
8	TR 1	Layer	Mid –dark brown silty clay, 0.5m thick	Post-med
9	TR 1	Layer	Mid to dark brown, sandy silt, 0.72m thick	Post-med
10	TR 1	Layer	Brown/orange sandy silty gravel	?Natural
11	TR 2	Layer	Mixed grey/brown silty clay, 0.06m thick	Post-med
12	TR 1	Drain cut	0.72m+ wide x 0.6m+ deep, E/W aligned	Post-med
13	TR 1	Fill of 12	Mid brown/yellow silty clay, 0.44m thick	Post-med
14	TR 2	Fill of 15	Dark grey clay silt	Post-med
15	TR 2	Pit	Sub-rectangular, 1.8m+ x 0.7m+ x 0.5m deep	Post-med
16	TR 2	Fill of 17	Dark grey silty clay	Post-med
17	TR 2	Pit	Sub-rectangular, 0.7m x 0.56m+ x 0.05m deep	Post-med
18	TR 2	Fill of 19	Dark grey silty clay	Post-med
19	TR 2	Pit	Sub-circular, 1.58m x 0.24m+ x 0.2m deep	Post-med
20	TR 2	Fill of 21	Mixed grey brown clay silt	Post-med
21	TR 2	Pit	Sub-rectangular, 1m+ x 0.9m+ x 0.46m+ deep	Post-med
22	TR 2	Fill of 23	Dark grey brown silty clay	Post-med
23	TR 2	Pit	?Sub-rectangular, c.3.5m x 0.68m+ x 0.3m+ deep	Post-med
24	TR 2	Pit	1m+ x 0.5m+ x 0.4m+	Post-med
25	TR 2	Fill of 24	Mixed brown clay, 0.3m thick	Post-med
26	TR 2	Fill of 27	Light brownish grey silty clay	Post-med
27	TR 2	Post-hole	0.34m+ x 0.3m+ x 0.17m deep	Post-med
28	TR 2	Layer	Topsoil, dark grey brown sandy clay silt, 0.3m thick	Modern
29	TR 2	Layer	Grey brown silty clay (below topsoil), 0.28m thick	Post-med
30	TR 1	Fill of 31	Light greyish brown sandy silt	Modern
31	TR 1	Pit	2.25m x 1.4m x 0.15m deep	Modern

APPENDIX 2: FINDS DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Layer	1	26	Pottery; rim sherd	Post med.
2	Wall	1	3580	Brick, heavily mortared in places, 230 x 110 x 65mm (Discarded)	Post med.
3	4	1 2 1 11	- 34 40 156	Copper alloy dressmakers pin shaft Brick fragments, no surfaces (Discarded) Roof tile fragment Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med.
5	Layer	1 2 2 1 1 1 3 3	8 26 10 1 4 252 110 58	Iron nail Animal bone; rib fragments, large mammal Shell; oyster, one valve and fragment Window glass, decayed Clay pipe stem Brick corner Roof tile fragments (one discarded 18g) Pottery; handle and body sherds	- - - Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med.
6	24	1 3 2 1 1 3 7 11	20 154 26 12 4 1605 1195 322	Iron nail, heavily corroded Animal bone; cattle metacarpal, proximal end; rib fragment, large mammal; pelvic acetabulum, ?pig Shell; oyster, two valves Bottle glass, decayed body sherd Clay pipe stem Brick fragments, poorly mixed clay, width 105mm, depths 50-60mm Roof tile fragments, one with one peg hole, two with two (square-cut) (2/104g discarded) Pottery; rim, base and body sherds	- - - Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med.
8	Layer	1	-	Copper alloy dressmakers pin with large globular head	Post med.
9	Layer	1 2 1 7 2 3 8	4 12 12 44 1955 990 142	Iron nail Animal bone; rib fragment; metapodial, proximal end, sheep/goat unfused Bottle glass; neck sherd, dark green, surface weathering (discarded) Clay pipes; bowl with small rim-split (Oswald Type 8), and stems Bricks; large fragment, width 120mm, depth 55mm; fragment in buff clay, depth 50mm Roof tile fragments, one with two peg holes, heavily mortared on upper surface (1/52g discarded) Pottery; rim, base, body and handle sherds	- - Post med. 1680-1710 Post med. Post med. Post med.
10	Layer	3	346	Natural limestone fragments (Discarded)	-
11	Layer	1 1 1	- 22 28	Copper alloy dressmakers pin Iron nail, heavily corroded Pottery; lower wall sherd	Post med. - Post med.
14	15	5 2 4 5	250 6 725 216	Animal bone; cattle metacarpal; cattle molar, heavily worn; skull fragments, large mammal; scapula, sheep/goat Bottle glass; body sherds, dark green, surface weathering (Discarded) Brick fragments, abraded (2/160g discarded) Roof tile fragments, one with reduced core (only this retained 72g)	- Post med. Post med. Post med.

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
		21	898	Pottery; rim, base, body and handle sherds, mostly same vessel	Post med.
16	17	2	44	Roof tile fragments	Post med.
18	19	1 1 3	1 16 30	Clay pipe stem Brick fragment (Discarded) Pottery; body sherds	Post med. Post med. Post med.
20	21	2 1 1 1 6 9 12	140 6 28 2 472 865 194	Animal bone; femur condyle, cattle; vertebra fragment, large mammal, chopped in two planes Shell; oyster, one valve Mortar fragment Clay pipe stem Brick fragments, three in poorly-mixed buff fabric (2/266g discarded) Roof tile fragments (6/670g discarded) Pottery; rim, base, body and handle sherds	- - - Post med. Post med. Post med. Post med.
22	23	1 1 4 26	8 38 160 318	Clay pipe stem Brick fragment (Discarded) Roof tile fragments (2/60g discarded) Pottery; rim, base and body sherds, mostly same vessel	Post med. Post med. Post med. Med/post med.

APPENDIX 3: POTTERY DATA

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
1	Layer	1	26	Post-medieval red earthenware flared dish with thickened rim	?17th C
3	4	1	9	Sandy orange ware, late medieval type with thin internal glaze	15th/16th C
		2	23	Post-medieval red earthenware misc. glazed sherds	late 16th to 19th C
		3	37	Black-glazed ware including a lower handle attachment from a jug or jar	17th C or later
		5	85	Flowerpot	19th to 20th C
5	Layer	3	58	Post-medieval red earthenware glazed sherds including rod handle, most likely from a jug	late 16th to 19th C
6	24	1	34	Black-glazed ware pad base ?from a jar, abraded on underside of the base	17th to earlier 18th C
		5	213	Post-medieval red earthenware comprising base and sides of internally glazed jar showing post-firing hole 9mm across, 50mm above base, internally abraded with patches of limescale, plus misc. glazed sherds	late 16th to 19th C
		1	23	Metropolitan slipware flanged dish rim with enclosed trident	mid 17th C or later
		2	35	Frechen stoneware medallion showing lion rampant enclosed in a shield (cf. Jennings 81, fig.49.817), freckled salt glaze	17th C
		2	15	English tin-glazed earthenware, one sherd showing blue-painted decoration, the second is from a plate showing simple iron-red painted toadstool shape	?c.1730-40
9	Layer	4	106	Post-medieval red earthenware comprising misc. base sherds from jars and horizontal handle from small jar or bowl	17th C or later
		2	28	Westerwald stoneware base sherd from chamber pot	early to mid 18th C
		1	3	English tin-glazed earthenware flanged rim of plate decorated with bands of grey-green, lemon-yellow and pale grey-blue	18th C
		1	4	Modern white earthenware	intrusive 19th to 20th C
11	Layer	1	28	Post-medieval red earthenware thickened base from jug or jar, internally abraded	17th C or later
14	15	17	774	Post-medieval red earthenware including glazed strap handle, joining sherds from semi-complete one-handed jar/chamber pot with internal glaze and thickened rim, only scar of handle attachment remains, hollowed everted from second jar, internally glazed	17th C
		1	4	Black-glazed ware everted cup or mug rim	17th C or later
		2	114	Metropolitan slipware flanged dish, wavy-line around rim, wall pattern not discernable, internally abraded and scratch-marked, externally fire-blackened under rim and base	later 17th to 18th C
		1	3	Staffordshire-type slipware upright rim probably from necked cup	most likely early 18th C
18	19	2	23	Post-medieval red earthenware misc. glazed sherds	late 16th to 19th C
		1	6	Black-glazed ware sherd from drinking vessel	17th C or later
20	21	8	149	Post-medieval red earthenware misc. sherds including very abraded base and second base with possible post-firing hole in centre and flanged dish rim	late 16th to 19th C
		3	28	Staffordshire-type slipware base and handle from hollow ware(s) perhaps another cup and the rim of press-moulded dish, red fabric, without the usual	?early 18th C

Context	Feature	Count	Weight	Description	Date
				combed slip decoration	
		1	15	Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware rim of teapot decorated with rows of pearl beading and incised lines	c.1740-50
22	23	2	13	Sandy orange ware, unfeatured	14th to 16th C
		1	6	Tin-glazed earthenware thick-walled sherd from a flatware, orange-buff fabric turquoise glaze with blue-painted line, probably an import	?16th to 17th C
		4	61	Post-medieval red earthenware including beaded rim of one-handled jar and fragment of dish with wavy-line combing around flange	late 16th to 17th centuries
		19	251	Post-medieval red earthenware joining sherds from internally glazed jar with beaded rim, semi-waster as it is over-fired with adhesions on rim where it has stuck to another vessel in the kiln	late 16th to 17th centuries
		97	2174		

APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

SITE NAME: Red House, Colchester Road, Halstead

SITE CODE: HS3

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 ECC HEM Brief
- 1.2 ECC FAU WSI

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 – 31)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 Levels Register
- 3.6 Trench location plan
- 3.7 Photographic Register
- 3.8 Site Photographic Record (1 set of Black & White prints, 1 Set of digital images on disk)
- 3.9 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Not in File

2 large plan/section drawings

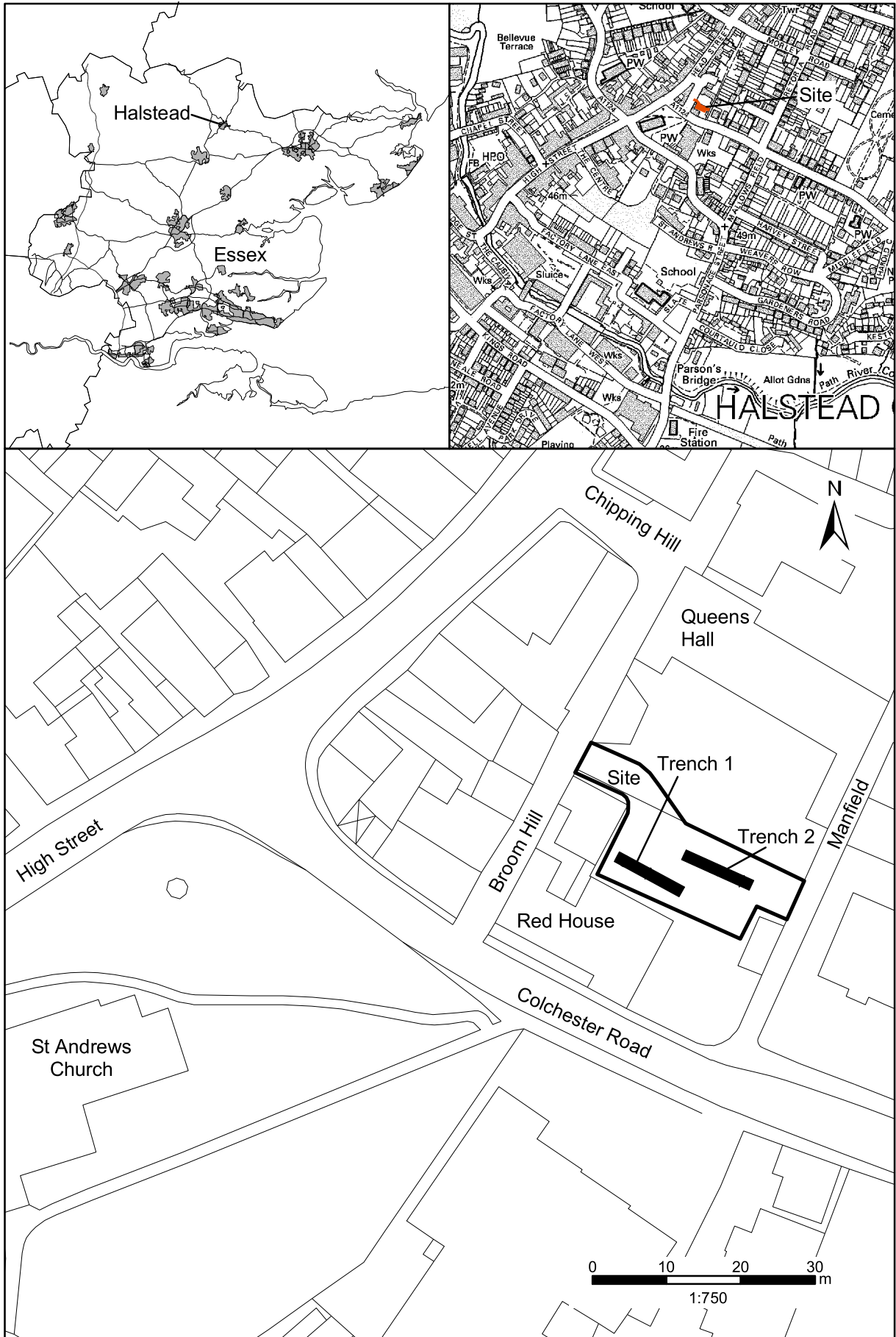
Finds

The finds occupy one box.

APPENDIX 5: EHER SUMMARY SHEET

EHER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: Red House, Colchester Road, Halstead	
Parishes: Halstead	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 81600 30714.	Site Code: HS3
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 21st-22nd March 2007	Size of Area Investigated: 32 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding source: P. Neal
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: 26118
Final Report: EAH round-up	
Periods Represented: Post-medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out in the garden of Red House, Colchester Road, Halstead. Two trenches were excavated to the north of the building, in an area of a proposed new access road and car park.</p> <p>No features relating to the Saxon or medieval origins of Halstead were identified, although the presence of a few sherds of 14th-16th century pottery does attest to late medieval activity in the area.</p> <p>A series of post-medieval pits dating to the 17th and early 18th centuries were excavated. These predate the construction of Red House (1773-1786) and are likely to be back-yard rubbish pits associated with a row of cottages formerly standing along the north-western side of the site. An 18th century brick wall in Trench 1 may also be connected with the cottages or perhaps form part of one of a number of outbuildings, associated with wool storage/processing, known to be on the site in 1786. A brick drain may be contemporary with this structure.</p> <p>The latest feature was a beam-slot indicating the probable position of a 19th or 20th century timber garden shed.</p> <p>With the exception of the 18th century brick wall, no archaeological remains of significance were recorded to a depth of c.0.8m below the top of the existing ground surface in Trench 1 and c.0.5m below the top of the existing ground surface in Trench 2.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: May 2007



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Fig.1. Location plan

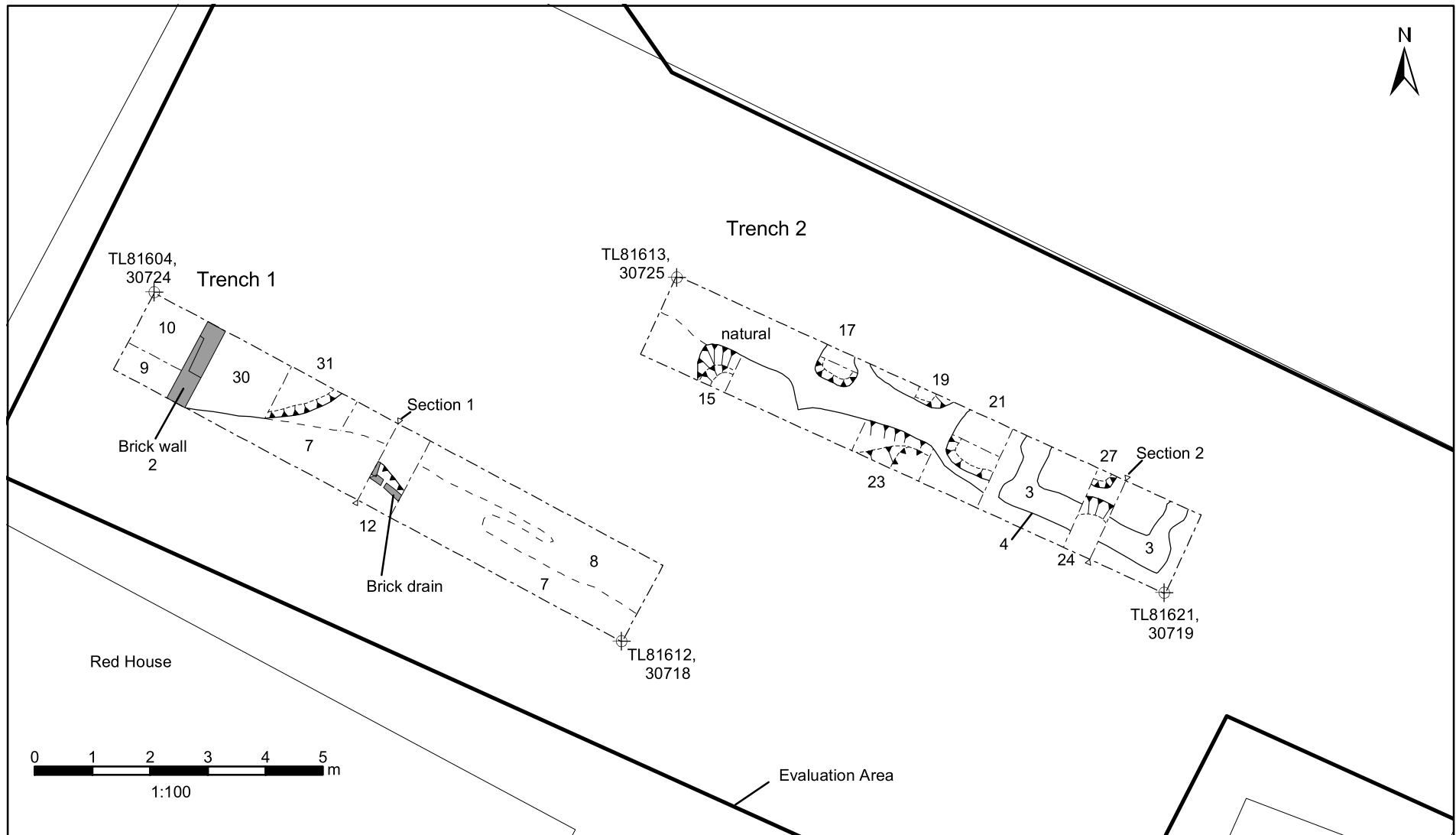


Fig.2. Trench plan

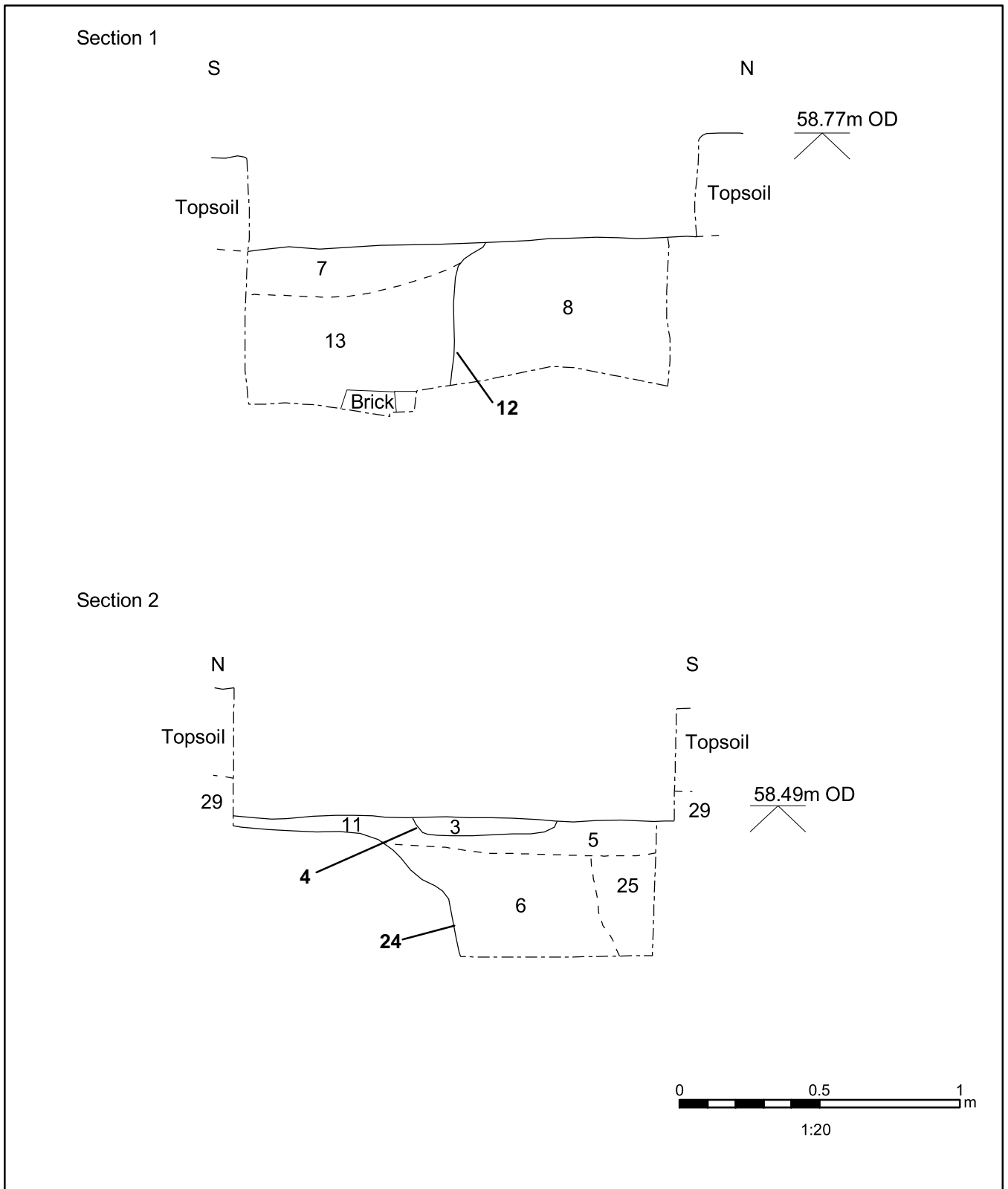


Fig.3. Sections