

**24A BRADFORD STREET
BRAINTREE
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING



Essex County Council

**Field Archaeology Unit
September 2009**

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY

Site name/Address: 24a Bradford Street, Braintree, Essex	
Parish: Bocking and Braintree	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 7608 2389 Trench 1 NW TL 76096 23889 SE TL 76101 23887 Trench 2 NW 76083 23889 SE 76085 23887	Site Code: BTBS09
Type of Work: Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching	Site Director/Group: Phillippa Sparrow, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit
Date of Work: 08/09/09	Size of Area Investigated: Two trenches totalling a length of 7.7m x 1.7m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree	Client: Mr. N. Harvey
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: No. 24 Bradford Street, Listed building no. 113675
Final Report: Summary in Essex Archaeology and History	OASIS Ref: essexcou1-64079
Periods represented: Post-medieval	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>An archaeological trial trenching evaluation, comprising two trenches, was conducted prior to the construction of a new residential dwelling and the extension of the front of the existing property at 24a Bradford Street, Braintree, Essex (Fig. 1). The archaeological work was recommended and monitored by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team and was conducted in accordance with an archaeological condition placed upon planning consent. The trenches were located within the footprints of the planned extension, in the front garden of the existing house, and the new property, immediately to the east of number 24a</p> <p>The objective of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains, including any finds or features associated with Bradford Street, the origins of which are Roman, and activity associated with the late medieval and post-medieval cloth industry at Bocking.</p> <p>The trenches were stripped of topsoil and subsoil by a tracked mini-excavator with a broad toothless bucket. Trench 1 contained topsoil (deposit 1) which provided finds dating to the late 18th to early 19th centuries. An east to west orientated land drain was cut through the topsoil. Two intercutting, north to south orientated, post-medieval rectangular refuse pits (Fig. 1, features 4 and 6) were situated in the eastern end of Trench 1, sealed by the subsoil (deposit 2). The upper fill of pit 4 (deposit 5) contained animal bone, ceramic tile, window glass and pottery, all of which dated to the late 18th century. The upper fill of pit 6 (deposit 7) contained animal bone, a clay pipe stem fragment and pottery sherds also dated to the late 18th century.</p> <p>Trench 2 contained a slightly irregular square pit (Fig. 1, feature 8), also sealed by the subsoil. The only fill of pit 8 (deposit 9) contained clay pipe stem fragments and small pottery sherds dating from the late 18th to the early 19th centuries.</p> <p>No evidence was found of the postulated Roman road or of late medieval/early post-medieval activity related to the cloth industry. Two late 18th-century intercutting pits and one late 18th to early 19th-century pit were identified. These are probably contemporary with the earliest phase</p>	

of the existing house.

Finds report by Joyce Compton

Small groups of finds were recovered from a total of four contexts, across two trenches. All of the finds have been recorded by count and weight, in grams, by context. Full quantification details can be found in the table below. A range of finds was recovered, mainly of post-medieval date, with Trench 1 producing the majority.

Pottery and clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were found in both trenches. The pottery is the most closely-datable component and is reported on separately below. Pit 4 in Trench 1 produced a small piece of post-medieval roof tile and three sherds of blue-green window glass. The glass has surface weathering and the largest piece has an irregular fire-rounded edge. These details indicate a probable date in the 18th century, which concurs with the date of the associated pottery. Pit 8 (Trench 2) contained a small piece of floor tile which has the remains of yellow slip and glaze on one edge. This is more likely to date to the 17th century but an 18th century date cannot be ruled out.

Pottery by Helen Walker

A total of eleven sherds, weighing 49g, was excavated from four contexts. Creamware sherds from plates/dishes were excavated from all contexts. Creamware was manufactured from the mid-18th century, but these, almost white, sherds are more likely to be late 18th to early 19th century, as earlier creamware is a more yellowy colour. Pit 6 (fill 7) also produced a Nottingham stoneware bowl rim showing rouletted decoration and dating to the third quarter of the 18th century (*cf.* Hildyard 1985, no. 239), thus indicating a late 18th century date for this feature.

The only other pottery comprises sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (in pits 6 and 8), manufactured from the 16th to 19th centuries and unfortunately not more closely datable. However, the rim from a small thin-walled table ware vessel in post-medieval red earthenware suggests a date not later than 18th century, as in the later period only utilitarian kitchen wares were made in this ware. All the pottery could have been current in the late 18th century, although it is possible that some of the post-medieval red earthenware is earlier.

Other finds

Undatable finds comprise an unidentifiable iron object from the topsoil in Trench 1, and a small quantity of animal bone, recorded in three Trench 1 contexts. The bones consist of long bone terminals and sections of rib and pelvis. All probably derive from sheep/goat and are likely to be the remains of domestic food consumption.

Previous Summaries/Reports:-

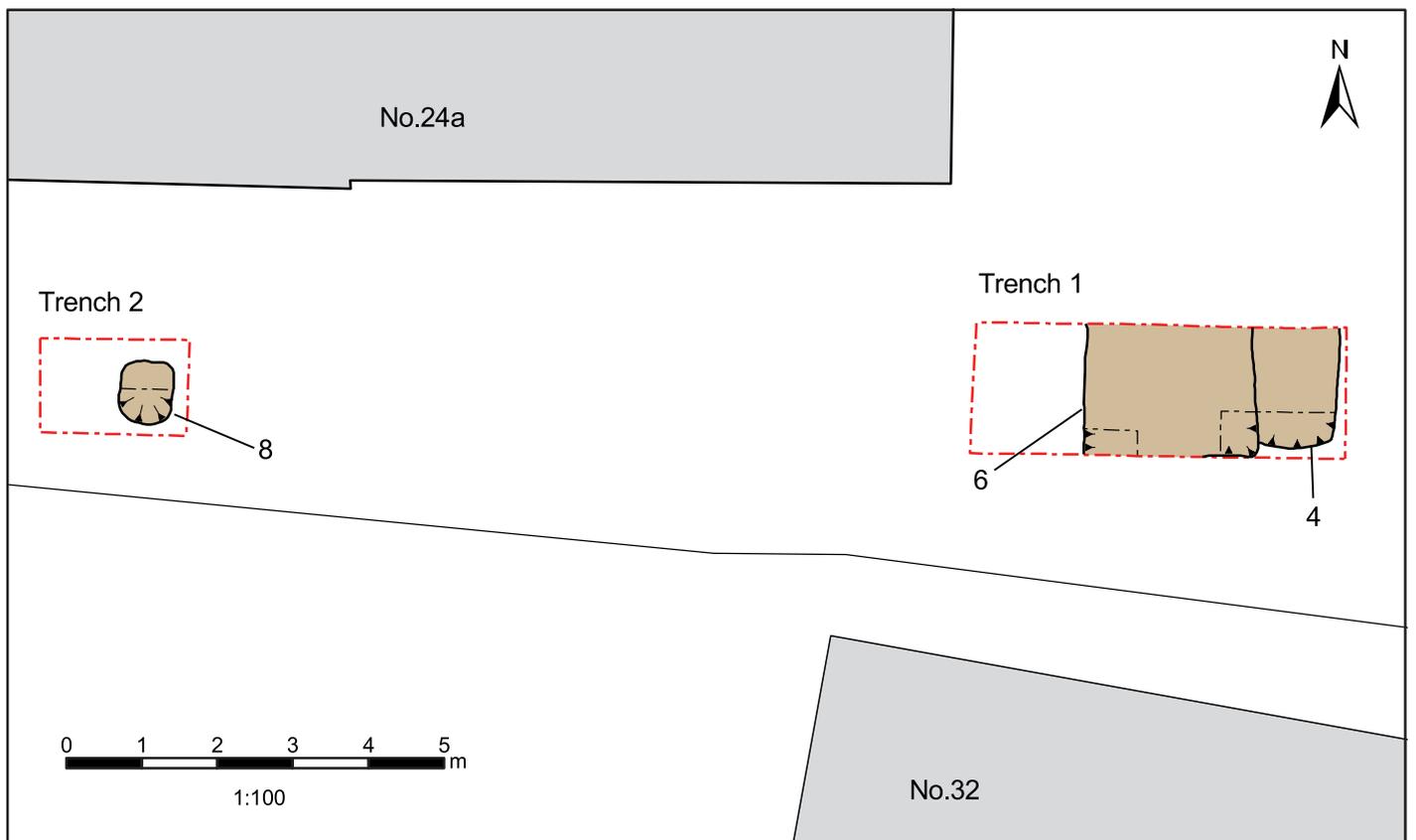
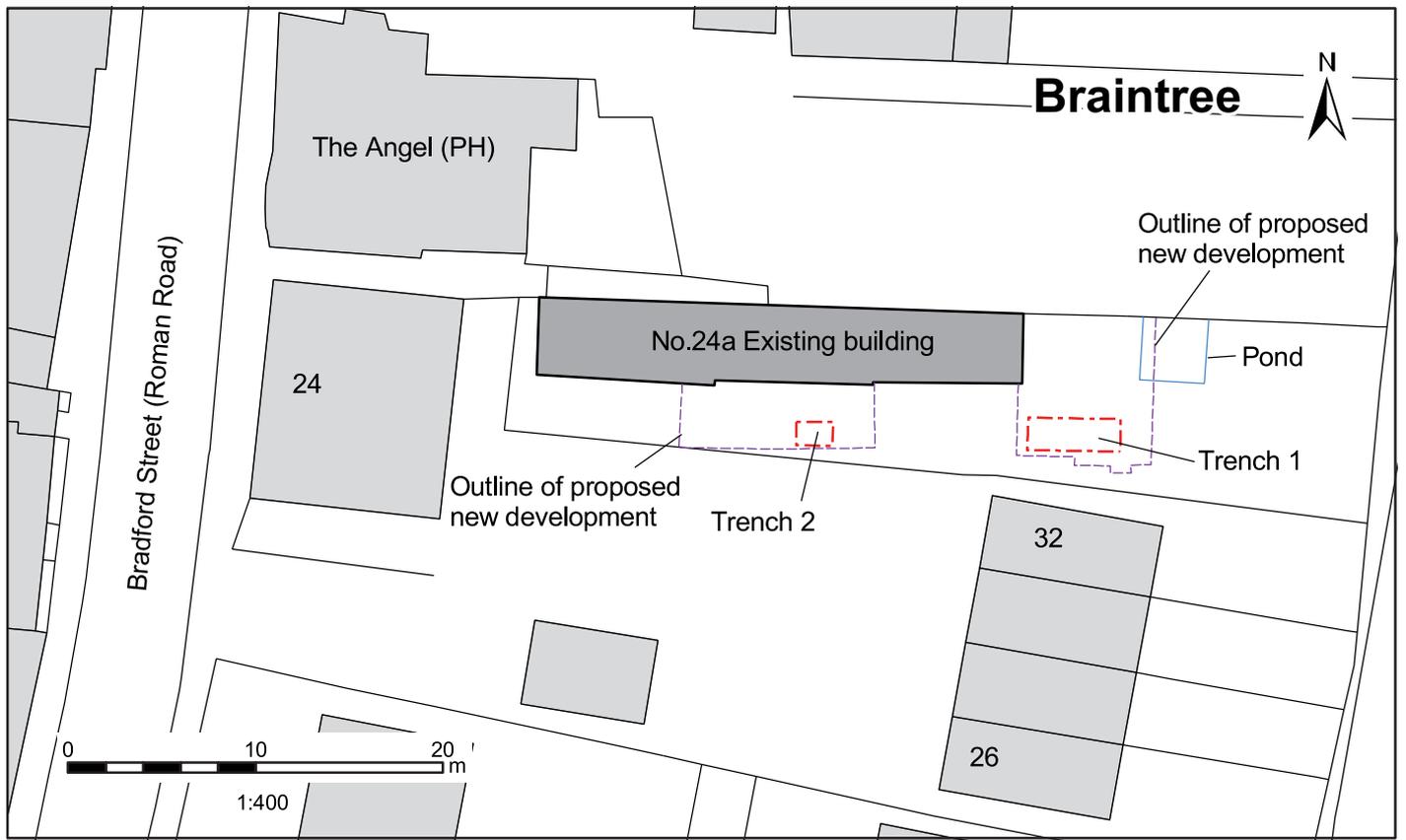
Hildyard, R. 1985 *Browne Mugs: English Brown Stoneware* (London, Victoria and Albert Museum Ceramic Studies)

Author of Summary:

Phillippa Sparrow

Date of Summary:

September 2009



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Fig.1. Location of archaeological evaluation trenches.
 (Trench 1: NW TL 76096 23889, SE TL 76101 23887
 Trench 2: NW TL 76083 23889, SE TL 76085 23887)