

**ALLOTMENT GARDENS AND LAND EAST OF MIDDLE MEAD
WEST HANNINGFIELD
CHELMSFORD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

MAY 2010

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: Allotment gardens and land east of Middle Mead, West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex	
Parishes: West Hanningfield	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TQ 73015 99710	Site Code: WHAMM 10
Type of Work: Archaeological Evaluation	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 21-22 April 2010	Size of Area Investigated: c. 4700 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Funding source: Hastoe Housing Association
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.:
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No.: essexcou1-76853
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land formerly used as allotment gardens, to the east of Middle Mead, West Hanningfield, in advance of a residential development (Fig. 1), which consisted of the construction of 13 new houses and two flats. The evaluation was undertaken as part of a condition placed on planning consent by Chelmsford Borough Council (09/01160/FUL) on the advice of the ECC Historic Environment Management team.</p> <p>The evaluation was to comprise nine trenches, but only eight trenches (Fig. 1, Trenches 1 - 4 and 6 - 9) were actually excavated, due to encroachment by a hedge along the east of the site and the discovery of a double man-hole which implied the existence of a previously unknown sewer run. All trenches were 15m long by 1.5m wide and varied in depth from 0.3m to 0.5m, with the exception of Trench 9 which was 0.9m deep.</p> <p>In Trenches 1 and 2, light to mid greyish brown silty-clay topsoil was removed directly onto yellowish brown silty-clay natural. An irregular linear patch of dark grey clay-silt only 0.05m deep in Trench 1 that may represent hedge or shrub disturbance corresponded with a recently removed boundary. Several other irregular, topsoil-filled features were investigated; all were very shallow (0.04 max.) and probably resulted from previous horticultural or agricultural activity on the site. Trenches 3 and 4 were both heavily disturbed. In Trench 3, the topsoil directly overlay comparatively recently disturbed and made-up ground containing breeze-blocks, which was investigated in two places and found to be 0.9m deep. The majority of Trench 4 also comprised modern backfill with only a small area of probable undisturbed orangey brown natural clay along the western edge of the trench.</p>	

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In Trenches 6 to 9 varying amounts of greyish brown to orangey brown silty clay subsoil, 0.10m to 0.25m deep, was noted below the topsoil and above the yellowish brown to orangey brown clay natural. No features were evident in Trench 7 and only modern service trenches filled with re-deposited brown clay were recorded in Trenches 6, 8 and 9.

Although prehistoric and Roman remains are known in the vicinity of West Hanningfield no remains of this date were identified in the evaluation. Similarly, no archaeological evidence of the medieval origins of the village or its subsequent post-medieval development was identified. The only identified features were clearly of modern date and either associated with the former use of the site as allotment gardens or with the construction and servicing of the adjacent Middle Mead housing estate. As no archaeological remains of any significance were identified during the evaluation the development is therefore unlikely to have any detrimental impact upon the archaeological record.

Trench co-ordinates (end, centre)

Trench 1 NE 573017.29, 199750.53 SW 573013.26, 199736.08	Trench 2 NE 573012.86, 199732.03 SW 573001.38, 199722.37
Trench 3 W 572993.29, 199711.64 E 573007.78, 199707.77	Trench 4 NE 573019.60, 199712.99 SW 573013.21, 199699.42
Trench 6 NE 572993.88, 199696.58 SW 572990.08, 199682.07	Trench 7 W 573004.92, 199683.48 E 573019.40, 199679.56
Trench 8 NW 572993.56, 199655.17 SE 573005.20, 199645.71	Trench 9 NW 573016.05, 199666.68 SE 573027.97, 199657.57

Previous Summaries/Reports: none

Author of Summary: T. Ennis

Date of Summary: May 2010

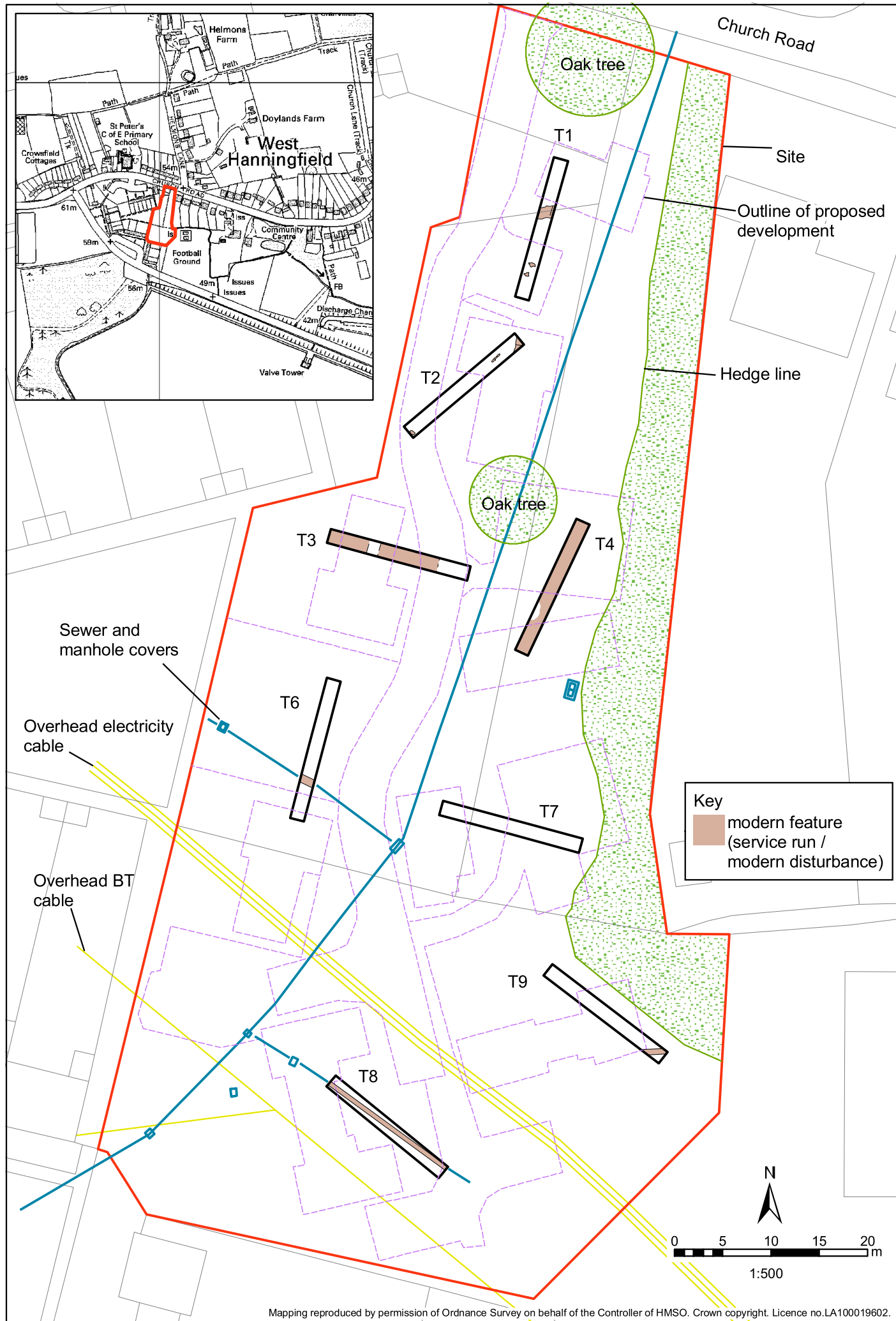


Fig.1. Indicative locations of archaeological evaluation trenches