

102 NORSEY ROAD

BILLERICAY

ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

MAY 2010

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: 102 Norsey Road, Billericay, Essex	
Parish: Billericay	District: Basildon
NGR: TQ 68058 95460	Site Code: BNLR 10
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 15th, 16th and 19th April 2010	Size of Area Investigated: c.200 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Funding source: RJV Paving Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: - 5328, 5307
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No.: essexcou1-76872
Periods Represented: Modern	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 102 Norsey Road, Billericay in advance of a residential redevelopment (Fig. 1). An existing bungalow was demolished and has been replaced with a larger house that extends to the south-east and south-west of the original. The monitoring was undertaken as part of a condition placed on planning consent by Basildon District Council (09/01101/FULL) on the advice of the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM).</p> <p>The site lies within the former extent of Norsey Wood, which was originally a medieval deer park enclosed by a substantial earth bank and ditch, dated documentarily to between 1291 and 1323. Most of the perimeter earthworks survived until the 1930s, perpetuating a boundary that had remained unchanged since the wood was first mapped in 1593. Earthworks are still visible, although not in the vicinity of the site, as a result of encroachment by modern housing along Norsey Road. The surviving area of Norsey Wood is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 29428), and in addition to medieval earthworks (EHER 5328) includes evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement and burial sites (EHER 5307).</p> <p>Monitoring was undertaken on the machine-excavation of the foundation trenches for the new house. The foundation trenches were approximately 0.6m wide and varied in depth from 1.3m to 1.6m. The overburden exposed in the sides of the trenches was 0.2m to 0.4m thick and consisted of disturbed dark grey gravelly clay-silt containing numerous modern finds. The underlying natural comprised mixed deposits of light orangey brown silty clay, sand and gravel.</p> <p>No remains of prehistoric or Roman date were identified, nor any related to the medieval deer</p>	

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park. Comparison of the 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1914-24 map with its modern-day equivalent (Fig. 1) suggests that the boundary of the deer park was formerly located in the front garden of the property beyond the extent of the current building works. It was noted that the front 5-6m of the property sloped very slightly down towards Norsey Road a topographical detail that was mirrored in several of the adjacent properties and may reflect the position of a former bank and/or ditch.

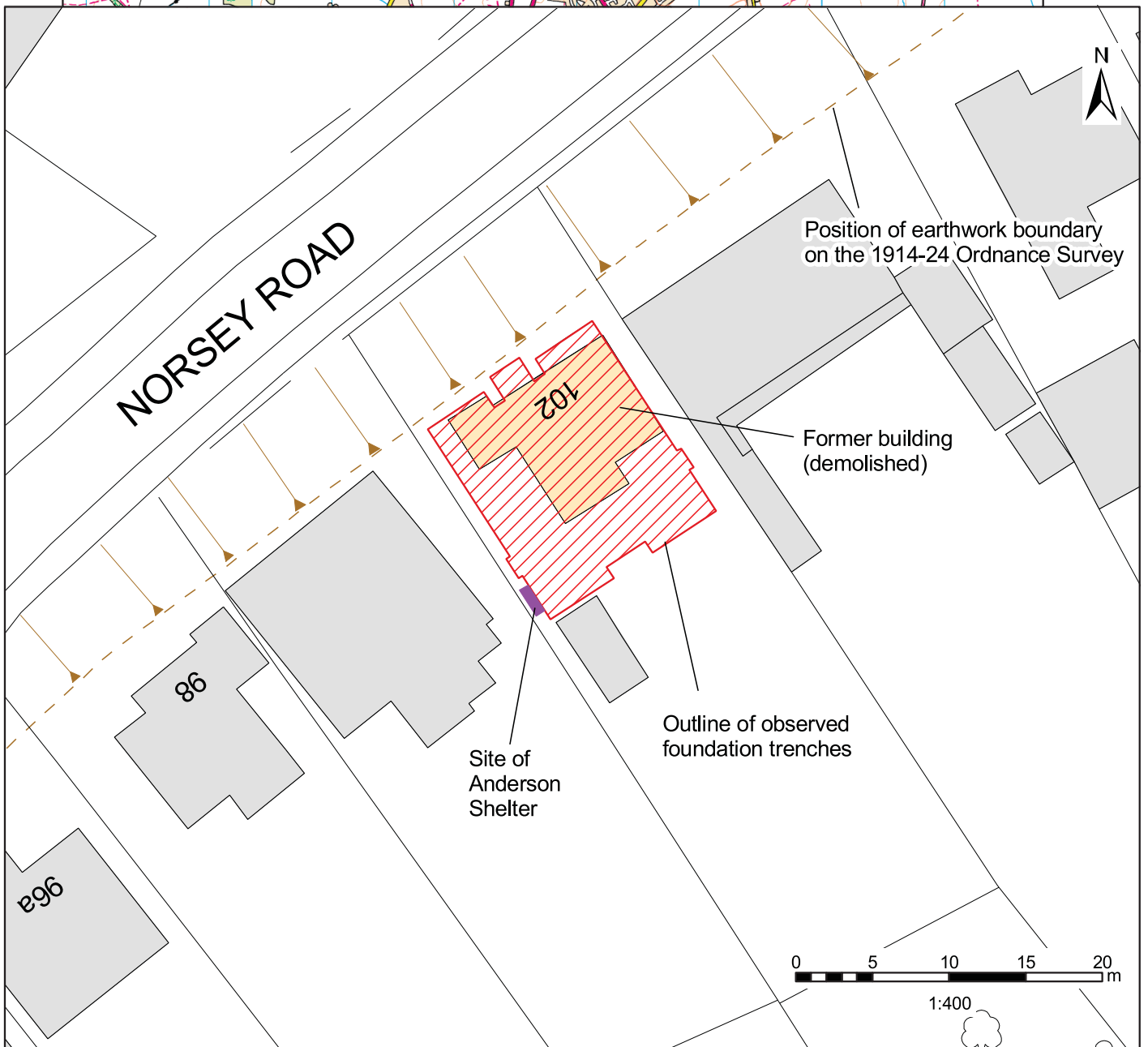
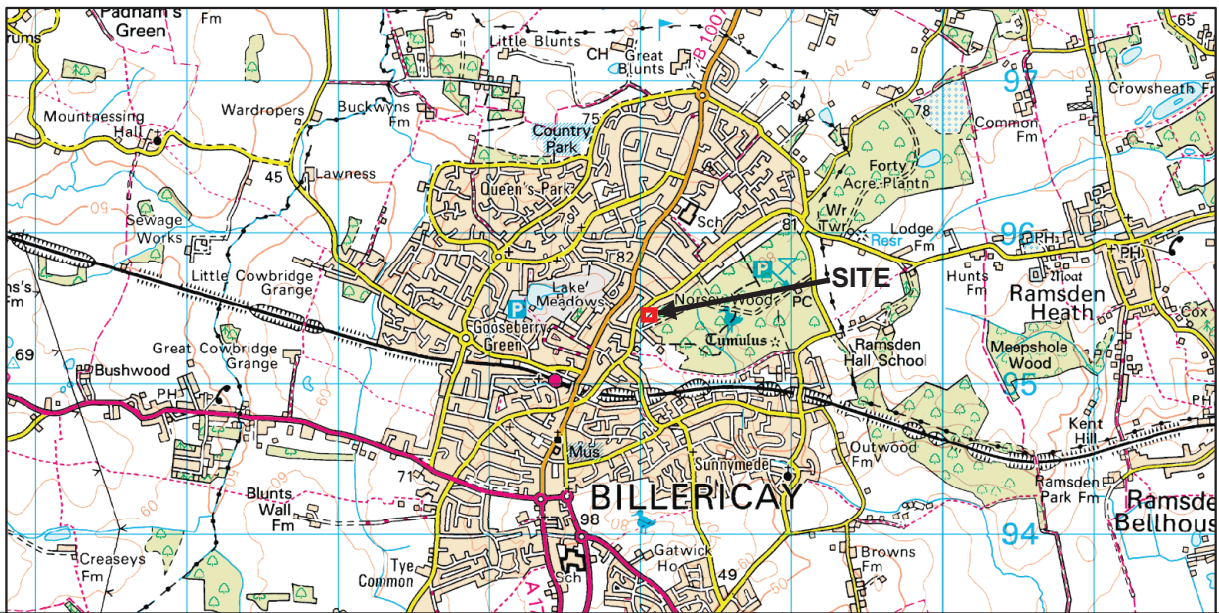
The only find of note was part of a rectangular concrete structure recovered from the south-west corner of the new build close to the property boundary. The surviving remains, consisting of two complete sides and part of the base, indicated that the structure was originally just over 2m long by 1.4m wide and 0.86m high. Internally the base and sides of the structure were flat but externally the sides had a corrugated appearance (Plate 1). The remains probably represent the below-ground half of a small World War II Anderson shelter constructed from concrete and corrugated metal sheets.

Over three quarters of the foundation trenches for the new house was observed, including all of its south-eastern and south-western sides, and no archaeological remains were observed. With the agreement of the ECC HEM monitoring officer the remainder of the foundation trenches were not monitored.

Previous Summaries/Reports: none

Author of Summary: T. Ennis

Date of Summary: May 2010



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Fig.1. Location of area of archaeological monitoring



Plate 1. Concrete sides and base of World War II Anderson shelter (1m scale)