

**7 COLNE PARK ROAD  
WHITE COLNE  
ESSEX**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



**Essex County Council  
Field Archaeology Unit**

**OCTOBER 2010**

## ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site Name/Address:</b> 7 Colne Park Road, White Colne, Essex.	
<b>Parishes:</b> White Colne	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 867 291	<b>Site Code:</b> WCCP 10
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
<b>Dates of Work:</b> 3rd August 2010	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 32 sq m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree	<b>Funding source:</b> Gary Smith
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos.:</b> -
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH summary	<b>Oasis No.:</b> essexcou1- 81996
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Modern	
<p><b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b></p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at 7 Colne Park Road, White Colne, in advance of the construction of a new house within the south eastern half of the plot (Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a condition placed on planning consent by Braintree District Council (09/01280/FUL) on the advice of the ECC Historic Environment Management team.</p> <p>The evaluation consisted of three machine-excavated trenches, all 1.8m wide, located within the footprint of the new building (Fig. 1). Trenches 1 and 2 were both 5m long and orientated north-west/south-east. Trench 3 was orientated north-east/south-west and was 8m long. Trench depths varied from 0.40m to 0.50m and the exposed underlying natural comprised of mid to light yellowish brown clay silt.</p> <p>The overburden in Trench 1 consisted of 0.30m of dark greyish brown topsoil above 0.10m of mid greyish brown clay silt subsoil. No archaeological remains were identified. In Trench 2 the topsoil was deeper (0.40m) with pebble and tile inclusions and overlay 0.05m of browner silt subsoil. Revealed at the south-east end of the trench was a triangular patch of brown clay containing fragments of post-medieval peg-tile. Root disturbance was also noted in the sides and base of the trench.</p> <p>At the north-east end of Trench 3, 0.40m of topsoil directly overlay yellow clay silt. In the south-west, slightly thinner topsoil overlay a compacted, 0.20m thick, layer of mixed greyish brown clay containing gravel and fragments of tile, which sealed a deposit of brown clay (1). Excavation of a narrow sondage revealed the brown clay (1) to be the upper fill of a linear feature (3) with a gently sloping southern side (Fig. 2). This feature was approximately 3m wide and in excess of 1.3m</p>	

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deep. In the base of the feature were several alternating dipping bands of clean brown gravel and yellowish grey clay (2) that were clearly re-deposited. Two brick fragments were recovered from the main fill (1), one was from a 12th-13th century Coggeshall brick and the other from a 15th-17th century Tudor brick. Other finds comprised fragments of roof tile, a piece of curved ceramic possibly from a modern drain pipe and a piece of slag. It is likely that Trench 3 was also cut by the projected line of a small drain observed in a near-by manhole but this was obscured by the clay capping layer – again suggesting that it is quite late in date.

The linear feature (3) in Trench 3 appeared to be of modern origin and was most probably the cut of a deep service trench. This was evidenced by the nature of the clay capping, which may have been deliberately (machine?) compacted, the recovery of a piece of possible ceramic drain pipe and the presence of the re-deposited gravel and clay bands which were clean and looked to be of recent origin. Also, local residents believed that there was a service trench running south across this part of the garden and originating from a property to the north.

No evidence for Saxon, medieval or post-medieval occupation facing onto the adjacent village green was identified and it seems likely that the two brick fragments originated from the ruins of Earls Colne Priory, located some 300m to the south-west. However, it is not clear whether they, along with the tile fragments, were deliberately imported onto the site in the past as hardcore or derive from a previous building in the vicinity that may have incorporated reclaimed material from the Priory buildings.

As no archaeological remains of significance were identified during the evaluation the construction of the new house is unlikely to have any detrimental impact upon the archaeological record.

Trench co-ordinates (end, centre)

Trench 1	NW – TL 86770,29125	SE – TL 86774, 29122
Trench 2	NW – TL 86774, 29130	SE – TL 86778, 29126
Trench 3	NE – TL 86780, 29124	SW – TL 86775, 29118

**Previous Summaries/Reports:** none

**Author of Summary:** T. Ennis

**Date of Summary:** October 2010

## **Finds report** by Helen Walker with brick and tile identifications by Pat Ryan

A small amount of finds were recovered from a single context (context 1) and are tabulated by count and weight (in grams) below. The most interesting find comprises two brick fragments (wt 666g), one is probably an example of a rather unusual and early Coggeshall 'great brick' datable to c.1160 to c.1225 (Ryan 1996, 94), and the second is somewhat later, being of probable Tudor date. Other finds comprise roof tile fragments (four fragments weighing 311g), which may also be early, perhaps pre-dating 1500, and therefore contemporary with one or other of the bricks. The only other finds are a possible fragment of modern ceramic drain (wt 22g) and a lump of purplish-coloured slag (wt 282g).

Pat Ryan notes that fragments of Coggeshall brick have been observed in the east wall of the chancel of White Colne Church (Drury 1981). An interesting item in the Earls Colne Priory accounts for 1424/5 records that a carpenter was paid to repair with 'briking and groundcilling the hoggespenne an le staple [?stable] at White Colne' (ERO D/DPr 14).

All finds have been retained apart from the piece of modern ceramic, and occupy less than one box.

### References

- |              |      |  |
|--------------|------|--|
| Drury, P. J. | 1981 | 'The production of brick and tile in medieval England' in Crossley, D. (ed.) <i>Medieval Industry</i> , Counc. Brit. Archaeol. Res Rep. 40, 126-42 |
| Ryan, P.     | 1996 | <i>Brick in Essex: from the Roman conquest to the Reformation</i> (Chelmsford)   |

## Brick and tile data

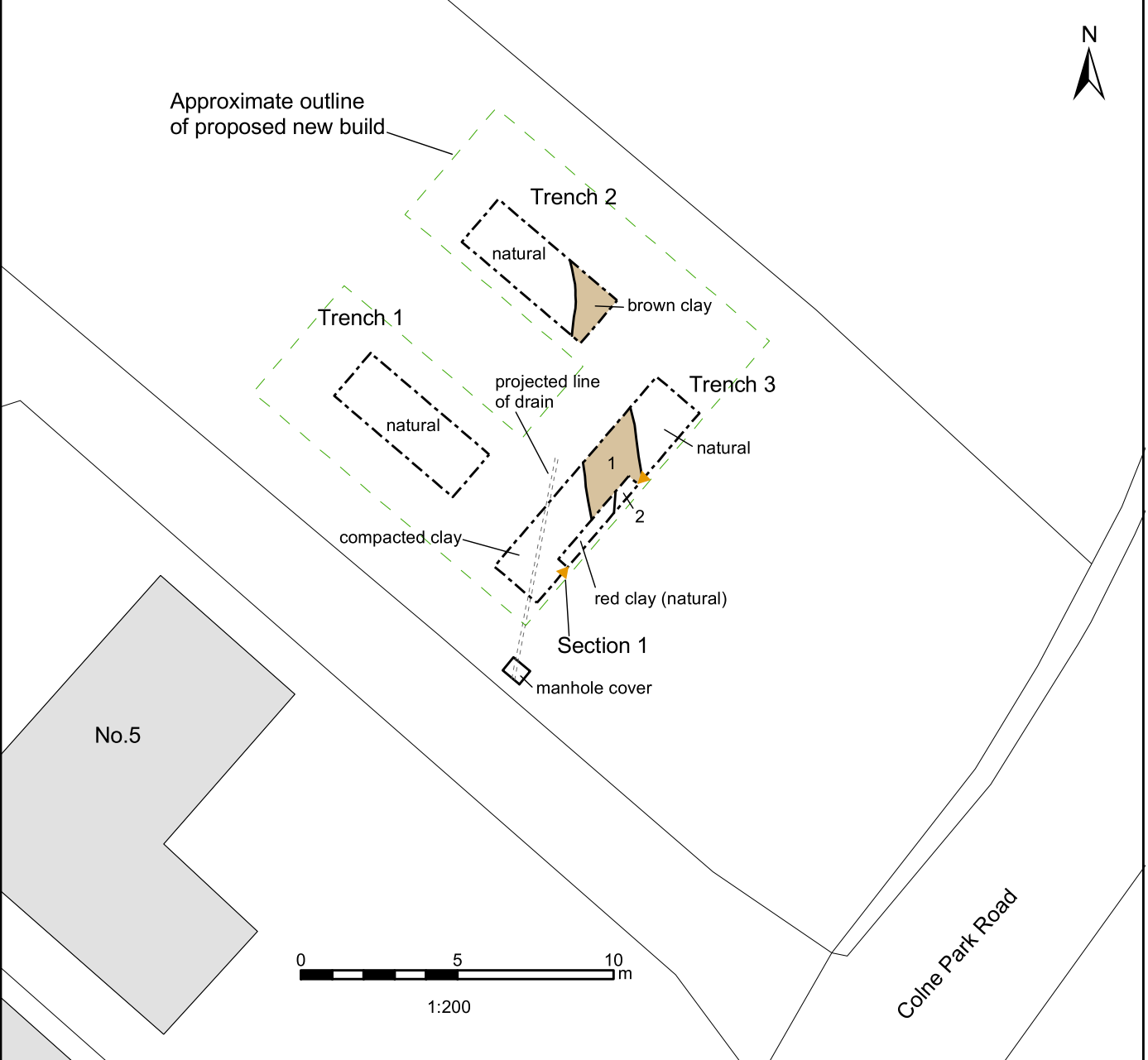
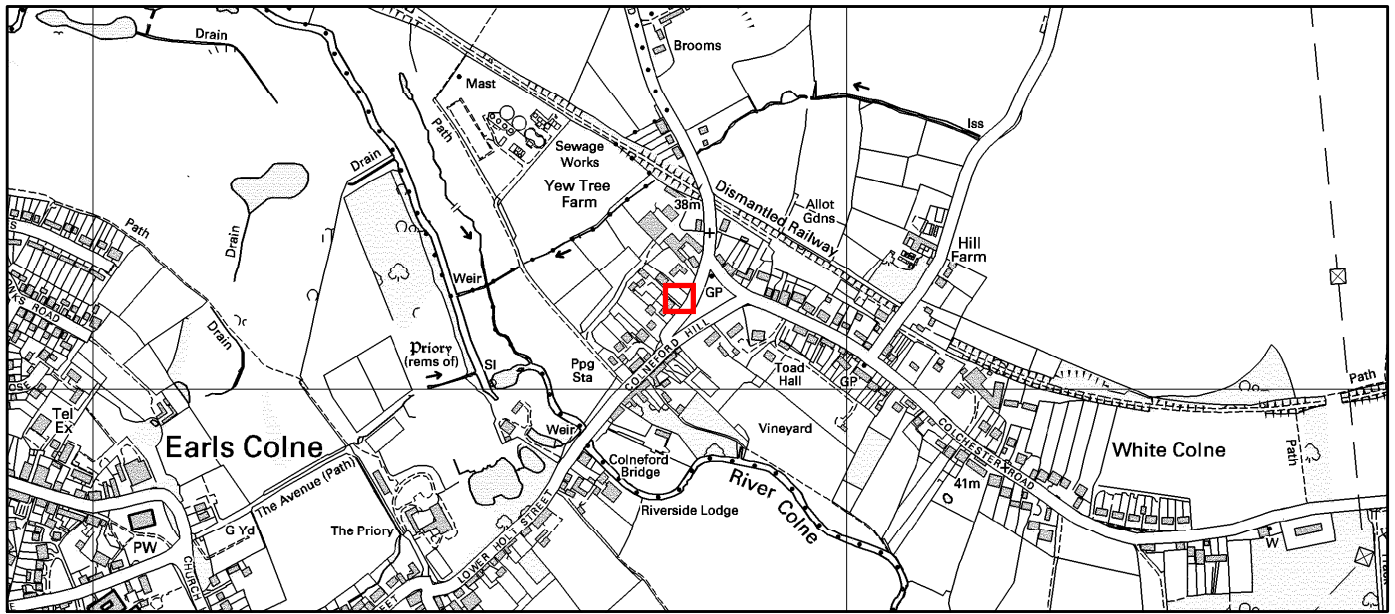
All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
1		1	348	Brick fragment, depth 40mm, sienna but with very much darker and slightly laminated upper and lower surfaces, coarse, pottery-like sand-tempered fabric with occasional larger pebbles, very sandy lower surface with very visible white quartz inclusions, v. abraded, probably a Coggeshall brick	c.1160-1225
		1	318	Brick fragment, depth 45-50mm, pinkish-red, fine sandy fabric with occasional red oxides, one face looks like part of a concave curved moulding, triangular cut marks on both surfaces, base is rough rather than damaged, possibly from a Tudor-type brick	Late 15th to early 17th C
		4	311	Roof tile fragments, all rather flat, three are very sandy, have a reduced core, a thickness of 10-15mm, and may be late medieval, rather than post-medieval, but without diagnostic features such as peg-holes, or size, this is not certain	?pre-1500
		<b>6</b>	<b>977</b>		

## Other finds data

All weights in grams

Context	Feature	Count	Weight (g)	Description	Date
1		1	282	Lump of slag, haematite-coloured, not magnetic	-
		1	22	Piece of curved ceramic, possibly from a modern drain (discarded)	?20th century



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Fig.1. Location and trench plan

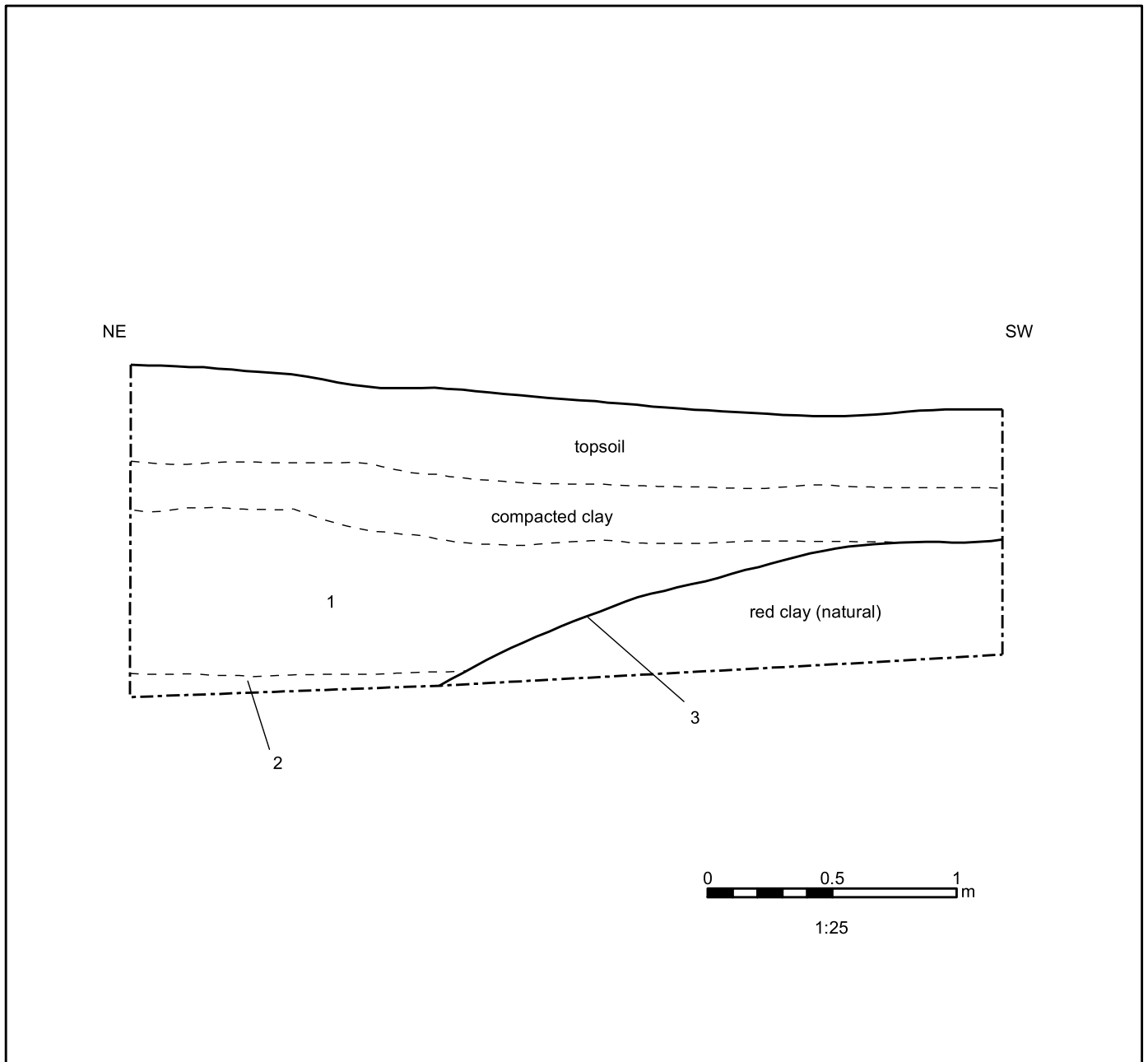


Fig.2. Section 1