

**10 HIGH STREET
BRENTWOOD
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

SEPTEMBER 2010

ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name/Address: 10 High Street, Brentwood, Essex	
Parish: Brentwood	District: Brentwood
NGR: TQ 5966 9385	Site Code: BW 19
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring	Site Director/Group: Adrian Scruby/ Phillippa Sparrow, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 8 th and 11 th August 2010	Size of Area Investigated: c.35 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford	Funding source: Hone Edwards Associates LLP on behalf of Kefco Sales Ltd
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos. EHER 525
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No.: essexcou1-83097
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land to the rear of 10 High Street, Brentwood, in advance of the construction of a small extension to the existing property (Fig. 1). The monitoring was undertaken as part of a condition placed on planning consent by Brentwood Borough Council (BRW/687/2009 & BRW/177/10) on the advice of the Essex CC Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM).</p> <p>Brentwood is a planned medieval town, established by the monks of St Osyth Priory in the third quarter of the 12th century. The name, meaning “burnt wood” is first recorded in 1176 although it was in 1177 and 1184 that the monks of St Osyth were given permission to assart 40 acres of woodland in Costed manor (now Brentwood). A small town was built with plots laid out along one side of London to Colchester Road, a former Roman Road which now forms the High Street, and in 1221 the monks were given permission to build a chapel. In 1227 the town obtained a market charter, although a market may well have been held before this date, and in 1234 Thomas de Cemil was given permission to build on the other side of the High Street. The site itself is located within a narrow plot typical of a medieval burgage plot and lies adjacent to both No. 12 High Street, an 18th century Listed building, and the rear of a former coaching inn.</p> <p>Monitoring was undertaken on the machine-excavation of foundation trenches for the new extension. The foundation trenches were approximately 0.6m wide and 1.6m deep. The deposit</p>	

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<p>sequence exposed in the sides of the trenches consisted of a thick concrete slab, forming the present yard surface, overlying a layer of crushed brick hardcore that in turn sealed natural deposits, which consisted of an orangey-brown silt clay with blue-grey clay mottles becoming apparent at depth (Plate 1). No traces of any original garden/ yard soil were noted and it is possible that the area had been stripped prior to the creation of the yard area.</p> <p>No archaeological remains were identified with the exception of a single vertically-sided cut feature immediately to the rear of the property, which contained a soft, dark grey-brown humic fill, fragments of tile, ash etc, and while undated appeared to be of comparatively recent origin (Victorian/ Edwardian? – Plate 2).</p> <p>The monitoring exercise suggests that the development will not have any significant impact upon the archaeological record; however, the apparent dearth of remains is more likely to be a result of the small area investigated, rather than a genuine absence of any archaeology in the vicinity.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: Adrian Scruby	Date of Summary: September 2010

Plate 1: General view of foundation trench



Plate 2: Early Modern feature at western end of southern wall foundation



