# LAND AT PIONEER SCHOOL ELMBROOK CAMPUS CHURCH ROAD BASILDON ESSEX

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION**





**NOVEMBER 2011** 

## ELMBROOK CAMPUS CHURCH ROAD BASILDON

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

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As part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or the presentation of this report. Please contact the Archaeological Fieldwork Manager, at the

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### LAND AT PIONEER SCHOOL

### **ELMBROOK CAMPUS**

### **CHURCH ROAD**

### **BASILDON**

### **ESSEX**

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Client: CgMs Consulting

NGR: TQ 71470 89620

Site Code: BAEC11

Oasis No: 91226

Dates of Fieldwork: 17th to 19th January, 22nd August and 31st October to

8th November 2011

### **SUMMARY**

An archaeological investigation was carried out on land at the former Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon, in advance of residential development. The 0.7 hectare development area was located immediately to the west of the site of a medieval manor house and moat known as Botelers (SAM Essex 76, EHER 7070). Nine evaluation trenches were excavated covering a total of 306 square metres. Access limitations meant that four trenches were excavated prior to demolition of the school buildings and five post demolition. In addition, intermittent monitoring was undertaken on the removal of concrete foundations and piles during the demolition phase.

Archaeological remains of Prehistoric and post-medieval date were identified in the evaluation trenching along with two clay-filled geological features, features of modern date and numerous areas of modern disturbance. No remains were observed during the monitoring.

A large irregular feature containing 14 small sherds of Iron Age pottery was investigated in Trench 6. It was not clear whether the feature was one large pit or a combination of two merging features, such as a ditch and pit. Three further sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the same trench

The partial remains of two brick wall footings were recorded in Trench 4. Both were constructed from bricks of late 18th to mid 19th century date bonded with lime mortar and are likely to be the remains of former farm buildings shown on 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey maps of the site. An east/west aligned ditch in Trench 2 was probably the southern boundary of a former east/west trackway also depicted on pre-1960s mapping, whilst gravel surfaces identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 are likely to be part of the track itself.

The overburden varied in depth across the site from 0.20m in the east to over 1.2m in the west. Most of the overburden was modern, either resulting from recent demolition or associated with the removal of the old farm buildings and the construction of the school in the 1960s. Undisturbed sequences of topsoil over subsoil over natural clay were only noted in the western half of Trench 6 and along the northern edge of Trench 8.

Overall, few archaeological remains were identified and much of the site had been heavily disturbed. Trench 6 was located within a small square of grass which was possibly one of the very few undisturbed parts of the site. The sole Iron Age feature was located close to the site boundary and it is likely that remains of this date may be present in the playing fields to the north. No remains or finds of medieval date were identified which perhaps surprising is given the proximity of the medieval moated enclosure, although the main area of medieval habitation would have been upon the platform within the moat some 50m to the east.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report describes the results of an archaeological investigation carried out on land at the former Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon in advance of residential development. The archaeological work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2 As the site is located within an area of archaeological potential, a condition was placed on planning consent (planning application ref: 10/01386/FULL) requiring that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken in advance of development, following advice given to Basildon District Council by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM), based upon guidance contained in PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.
- 1.3 The investigation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs Consulting (CgMs 2010) and approved by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM).
- 1.4 Copies of this report will be supplied to CgMs Consulting, ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record. A digital version of this report will be submitted, along with a project summary, to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) (<a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis</a>). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Southend Museum.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

### **2.1 Topography and Geology** (Fig. 1)

- 2.1.1 The former Pioneer School site is located approximately 2.5 km north-east of Basildon town centre and c.170 m south of Holy Cross Church, at NGR TQ 71470 89620. The site is situated on the east side of Church Road, immediately to the west of a medieval moated enclosure known as Botelers. To the north of the site is a public park and playing fields and to the immediate south an access road leading to Mundy House and an adjacent Day Nursery.
- 2.1.2 The site comprises a group of educational buildings with associated hard standing and grounds dating from the late 1960s. The majority of the buildings were situated in the north of the site behind a substantial metal fence. Within the complex were

several children's play areas containing permanent metal play equipment (swings, slides, walkways etc) and separated by wooden fences. The site was subsequently demolished with only a single, preserved, tree left standing. Crushed rubble for reuse during the development was stockpiled in the south-east corner of the site.

2.1.3 The development area is located in an area of gently undulating ground at an approximate OD of 37m. The underlying geology consists of London Clay (British Geological Survey, 1:50,000 series Sheet 258/9 Southend and Foulness, 1976).

### 2.2 Archaeology and History (Fig. 1)

- 2.2.1 The archaeological background of the site has previously been established in an archaeological desk-based assessment produced for the site by CgMs Consulting (2008). This suggested that the site has a low potential for prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains to be present, although little archaeological work has been done in the area to date.
- 2.2.2 The site is however located adjacent to a medieval moated site known as Botelers, which is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Essex 76) and therefore deemed to be of national importance. The moat is c. 90m square and 28m wide at its widest point with a series of four fishponds to the southeast, although only on is now visible, the other three having been filled in. A late 18th century house with an associated brewhouse stood on the moated platform as late as 1983 but has since been demolished. Farm buildings and an access track associated with the house are depicted to the west of the moat on 19th and 20th century editions of the Ordnance Survey.

### 3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aim of the investigation was to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The investigation would also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.

### 3.1.2 Specific aims were to:

- Establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development
- Identify any evidence of medieval or post-medieval occupation and its nature and extent
- Identify any evidence of the relationship of any medieval/post-medieval occupation with the development of the adjacent manorial site

### 3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In the event that significant archaeological remains were encountered this report would have aimed to place the results in context with the research objectives laid out in Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000). As so few features of significance were identified the project has little potential to contribute to any of the research agendas.

### **4.0 METHOD** (Fig. 1)

- 4.1 Nine evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a machine equipped with a flat-bladed bucket, covering a total of 306 square metres (Fig. 1). Access limitations meant that four trenches were excavated prior to demolition of the school buildings (Trenches 1 4) and five post demolition (Trenches 5 9). Trenches 8 and 9 were additional trenches to employed investigate the centre after the removal of the school buildings. Due to the initial presence of a landscaped play area comprising a series of large, earth-covered, concrete tunnels and the subsequent presence of a post-demolition rubble stockpile, Trench 5 was moved from its original proposed location to a thin strip of amenity grassland immediately alongside the eastern boundary of the site. Excavated trench length was dictated by the presence of modern obstructions and disturbances and ranged from 10m (Trench 1) to 25m (Trench 9). Trench widths varied from 1.6m (Trenches 1 4) to 2.1m (Trenches 5 9).
- 4.2 In addition, intermittent monitoring was undertaken on the removal of concrete foundations and piles during the demolition phase.
- 4.3 Potential archaeological features were cleaned and hand excavated. Standard ECC FAU excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed

throughout. ECC FAU is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and all work was carried out in accordance with IfA by-laws and guidelines (IfA 2010; 2008) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

### **5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS** (Figs 2 and 3)

- 5.1 Archaeological features were identified in Trenches 2, 4 and 6 and seemingly natural clay-filled features were investigated in Trenches 8 and 9. A modern ditch was present in Trench 5 and modern gravel surfaces were noted at the ends of Trenches 1, 2 and 4. Most trenches, with the exception of Trenches 3 and 6, contained some degree of modern disturbance in their base. No features of any kind were identified in Trench 3. Trench location data is recorded in Appendix 1 and detailed context information is presented in Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The overburden varied in depth from 0.20m in the east of the site (Trench 5) to over 1.2m in the west (Trench 1). Most of the overburden was modern, either resulting from recent demolition or associated with the removal of the old farm buildings and the construction of the school in the 1960s. Undisturbed sequences of topsoil over subsoil over natural clay were only noted in the western half of Trench 6 and along the northern edge of Trench 8. Most of the natural clay exposed in the evaluation trenches was bright orange in colour other than in Trench 7, where it was mid-light grey and contained decomposed roots.

### 5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 In the southern half of Trench 2 was a large east/west aligned ditch (1) with gently sloping (20-40°) sides and a flat bottom (Fig 3, Section 1; Plate 1). The ditch measured 2.8m wide by 0.57m deep and was filled with mid brown silty clay (2). No finds were recovered and definition between ditch fill and overlying subsoil was poor, in part due to extensive tree-root disturbance noted along the northern edge of the ditch. A band of re-deposited yellowy brown clay (3) of probable recent date was recorded beneath the topsoil in Section 1.

### 5.4 Trench 4

5.4.1 The truncated remains of two brick wall footings (4 and 5), one aligned north/south and the other east/west, were recorded in the south of Trench 4. Footing 4 was 1.67m long by 0.33m wide by at least 4 courses deep (Plate 2) and footing 5 was

0.70m long by 0.56m wide. Both were constructed from bricks of late 18th to mid 19th century date bonded with lime mortar and are likely to be the remains of former farm buildings shown on 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey maps of the site. A demolition layer (6) surrounding and overlying the footings contained brick, tile and slate and one sherd of 17th to early 18th century pottery.

### 5.5 Trench 6

5.5.1 A large irregular feature (10) was investigated at the western end of Trench 6. It was not clear whether the feature was one large pit, possibly in excess of 4m wide, or a combination of two smaller merging features, such as, a ditch and pit. It was filled with compact grey and orange mottled silty clay (9) and was poorly-defined in plan with no discernable difference between the main (north/south) arm of the feature and a curving extension to the west. Excavation revealed the feature to be in excess 0.50m deep and to have a 40° sloping eastern side (Fig 3, Section 2; Plate 3). It was not possible to bottom the feature without additional machine excavation as it continued below the 1.2m trench safety limit. The fill contained 14 small sherds of Iron Age pottery whilst a further three sherds of Iron Age were found unstratified. No other finds were recovered and the pottery appears to genuinely reflect the age of the feature.

### 5.6 Archaeological Monitoring

5.6.1 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the initial removal of hard-surfaces and floor slabs, following the demolition of the school buildings to ground level. However, the groundworks did not penetrate deep enough to reveal any archaeological remains and with the agreement of ECC Historic Environment Management monitoring of this aspect of the works was stopped. Further monitoring visits were made during the removal of the building foundations (Plate 4) but the nature of the operation, the size of the equipment used and the obvious level of disturbance that had occurred from the original construction of the buildings meant that no archaeological remains were observed.

### **6.0 FINDS** by Alan J Jacobs

6.1 A total of twenty fragments of brick and pottery weighing a total of 6633 grams, were recovered from four stratified and one unstratified context. All of the material has been sorted into context and recorded by count and weight. The finds are described below and tabulated in Appendix 3.

### **6.2** Prehistoric pottery by Alan Jacobs

6.2.1 All fabrics are defined by the Essex County Council Prehistoric Type Series, unless otherwise stated (Brown 1988 & 1995). A total of 17 sherds of Iron Age pottery weighing 54 grams were recovered during excavation, from just two contexts (U/S and 9). Only a single fabric was represented (Fabric C), with no definable forms being present. The unstratified material from Trench 6 probably comes from a small thin walled cooking pot. This material is significant in that the unabraded nature of the sherds and its presence here indicates the possibility of the survival of archaeological features in this area.

### **6.3** Post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker

6.3.1 A Metropolitan Slipware flanged rim from a dish was excavated from context 6. Little of the rim pattern survives, but is probably a single wavy line. The middle years of the 17th century were the peak period of Metropolitan Slipware production, but the industry continued making pottery for local consumption into the earlier 18th C

### 6.4 Brick and tile

6.4.1 The only other artefacts recovered consisted of two bricks (one mortared to two smaller fragments) weighing 6540 grams. The fabric of both these bricks is a distinct orange colour and they are fairly highly fired with vesicular with creased surfaces. The edges generally have sharp arises where they are not damaged. The form and fabric as well as the use of lime mortar would indicate a pre 1850 date for these bricks. They therefore date from the late 18th to the middle of the 19th century.

### 6.5 Conclusion

- 6.5.1 The features produced a limited finds assemblage but one that does little beyond indicating a broad date range for the feature. The post medieval sherd is residual in later context. The Iron Age pottery however, is significant in indicating the possibility of the survival of more substantial Iron Age deposits in this area.
- 6.5.2 No further work is required on any of the finds, the pottery should be retained and all other materials can be discarded.

### **7.0 DISCUSSION** (Fig. 4)

- 7.1 Overall, few archaeological remains were identified and much of the site had clearly been heavily disturbed by the construction of the school and its subsequent removal. No remains or finds of medieval date were identified, which is perhaps surprising given the proximity of the medieval moated enclosure, although the main area of habitation would have been located upon the platform within the moat located some 50m to the east of the development area.
- 7.2 The two truncated late 18th or early 19th brick wall footings in Trench 4 are likely to be the remains of former farm buildings and would appear to be broadly contemporary with the late 18th century house that is recorded standing on the moated platform until the mid-1980s and may suggest that the farmstead was substantially rebuilt/ remodelled around this date. The location of the wall footings correlates closely with the position of farm buildings depicted on the 1939 Ordnance Survey map of the site (Fig. 4). This map also shows an east/west track leading from Church Road to the farm buildings. The location of ditch 1 in Trench 2 matches almost exactly with the southern edge of this trackway implying that it is a track/field boundary of post-medieval date. The map evidence would also suggest that the modern gravel surfaces noted at the south end of Trenches 1 and 4 and at the north end of Trench 2 formed part of this trackway.
- 7.3 Trench 6, which was located within a small square of amenity grass on the northern side of the site, investigated what was possibly one of the very few undisturbed parts of the former school grounds, revealing a single Iron Age feature. This was located close to the site boundary and it is possible that additional remains of this date may be present under the playing fields in the park to the north. The presence of 17 sherds of Iron Age pottery from this trench, 14 from the feature and three unstratified, further suggests that the feature either lies within or very close to an area of settlement/ habitation, as opposed to being an isolated pit or field boundary ditch.

### 8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

8.1 Although the site is located in close proximity to the medieval moat, only a small number of genuine archaeological features were identified, none of which dated to the medieval period, along with a scatter of more ephemeral, undated or modern features. The evaluation and associated monitoring works indicate that the site had

been significantly disturbed by the construction of the school and any remains that may have been present appear to have been very badly damaged or destroyed.

8.2 The results of the archaeological work suggests that the overall potential of the site is very low, with the only area of survival seemingly represented by the Iron Age feature discovered at the north-western end of trench 6, and the development will have little or no impact upon the archaeological record. Accordingly, following discussions with ECC Historic Environment Management, no further work will be required.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ECC FAU would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Trevor Ennis, Phillippa Sparrow & Lukasz Miciak with the assistance of John Hewitt and Andrew Lewsey. Finds were analysed by Alan Jacobs and Helen Walker. The report was prepared by Trevor Ennis with illustrations by Andrew Lewsey. The project was managed by Adrian Scruby and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by Richard Havis of ECC HEM.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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|-----------------------------|------|--|
| DCLG                        | 2010 | Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. HMSO   |
| CgMs                        | 2010 | Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Investigation on land at Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon, Essex. |
| CgMs                        | 2009 | Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of land at Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon, Essex.                             |
| Gurney D.                   | 2003 | Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper <b>14</b>  |
| IfA                         | 2010 | Code of Conduct (revised). Institute for Archaeologists  |
| IfA                         | 2008 | Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (revised). Institute for Archaeologists  |

### **APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DATA**

All dimensions given in metres

| Trench | Measurements                                    | Co-ordinates (end, centre)                   |
|--------|---|--|
| 1      | 10m x 1.6m x 1.2 (max) deep, orientated NNE/SSW | NNE - 571439, 189598<br>SSW - 571437, 189588 |
| 2      | 17m x 1.6m x 0.85m deep, orientated NNW/SSE     | NNW - 571452, 189594<br>SSE - 571455, 189578 |
| 3      | 14m x 1.6m x 0.72m deep, orientated E/W         | W - 571479, 189585<br>E - 571493, 189584     |
| 4      | 25m x 1.6m x 0.5m deep, orientated N/S          | N - 571484, 189626<br>S - 571488, 189601     |
| 5      | 22m x 2.1m x 0.4m deep, orientated NNW/SSE      | NNW - 571500, 189645<br>SSE - 571504, 189623 |
| 6      | 15m x 2.1m x 0.68m deep, orientated WNW/ ESE    | WNW - 571470, 189656<br>ESE - 571485, 189652 |
| 7      | 15m x 2.1m x 0.55m, orientated WSW/ENE          | WSW - 571427, 189642<br>ENE - 571441, 189644 |
| 8      | 18m x 2.1m x 1m (max) deep, E/W                 | W - 571430, 189617<br>E - 571448, 189618     |
| 9      | 25m x 2.1m x 0.4m deep, orientated N/S          | N - 571463, 189641<br>S - 571464, 189616     |

### **APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DATA**

All dimensions given in metres

| Context | Trench | Туре          | Description                                       | Period        |
|---------|--------|---------------|---|---------------|
| 1       | 2      | Ditch         | E/W aligned, 1.6m+ long x 2.8m wide x 0.57m deep  | Post-medieval |
| 2       | 2      | Fill of 1     | Mid brown silty clay                              | Post-medieval |
| 3       | 2      | Layer         | Yellowy brown clay, 2.15m wide x 0.09m deep       | Modern        |
| 4       | 4      | Brick footing | N/S aligned, 1.67m long x 0.33m wide, 4 courses + | Post-medieval |
| 5       | 4      | Brick footing | E/W aligned, 0.70m + long x 0.56m wide            | Post-medieval |
| 6       | 4      | Layer         | Dark brown demolition deposit                     | Modern        |
| 7       | 8      | Fill of 8     | Mid grey clay with greenish tinge                 | Natural       |
| 8       | 8      | Feature       | Curving, E/W aligned, 6m x 0.60m + x 0.40m deep   | Natural       |
| 9       | 6      | Fill of 10    | Grey silty clay with orange mottling              | Iron Age      |
| 10      | 6      | Feature       | Irregular, 2m+ x 4.3m x 0.50m+ deep               | Iron Age      |

### **APPENDIX 3: FINDS DATA**

All finds data (all weights in grams)

| Context | Feature | Count | Wt (g) | Description   | Date                             |
|---------|---------|-------|--------|---|----------------------------------|
| U/S     | Tr.6    | 3     | 6      | Iron Age pottery, body sherds of well fired reduced thin walled fabric C, probably from a cooking pot.  | Iron Age                         |
| 4       | Tr. 4   | 1     | 4000   | Brick, complete brick still mortared to two partial brick fragments with a white lime mortar. Dimensions are 223mm by 110mm by 65mm. The fabric is a distinct orange, fairly highly fired and vesicular with creased surfaces and the edges generally have sharp arises where they are not damaged. The use of lime mortar would indicate a pre 1850 date for this brick. | Late 18th to mid<br>19th century |
| 5       | Tr. 4   | 1     | 2540   | Brick, complete brick with a white lime mortar patches. Dimensions are 220mm by 110mm by 65mm. The fabric is a distinct orange with rare large pebble inclusions and fairly highly fired. The brick has creased surfaces with indications of pressure marks, and the edges have sharp arises where they are not damaged.  | Late 18th to mid<br>19th century |
| 6       | Tr. 4   | 1     | 39     | Metropolitan Slipware, flanged rim from a dish, little of the rim pattern survives, but is probably a single wavy line  | 1625 to earlier<br>18th Century  |
| 9       | Tr. 6   | 14    | 48     | Iron Age pottery, body sherds of well fired red/black sherds, fabric C.   | Iron Age                         |
| total   |         | 20    | 6633   |   |                                  |

### **APPENDIX 4: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE**

Site Name: Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon, Essex

Site Code: BAEC 11

### Index to Archive:

### 1. Introduction

1.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

### 2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Reports

### 3. Site Archive

- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 10)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 1 A4 section sheet
- 3.6 Trench location plan
- 3.7 9 Trench sheets
- 3.8 Levels Register
- 3.9 Environmental Sample Register
- 3.10 1 Environmental Sample sheet
- 3.11 Photographic Register
- 3.12 Site Photographic Record (1 set of digital colour prints, contact sheets + digital images on cd)
- 3.13 Miscellaneous notes/plans

### Not in File

3 large plan/section sheets

### **Finds**

The retained finds occupy less than 1 box.

APPENDIX 5: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

| Site namelAddress: Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon, Essex           |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Parishes</b> : Basildon   | District: Basildon  |  |  |
| <b>NGR:</b> TQ 71470 89620   | Site Code: BAEC 11  |  |  |
| Type of Work: Archaeological Investigation   | Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit         |  |  |
| <b>Dates of Work:</b> 17th-19th January, 22nd August and 31st October to 8th November 2011 | Size of Area Investigated: Site area 0.7 ha, trench area 306 sq m |  |  |
| Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Southend  | Funding source: Client  |  |  |
| Further Seasons Anticipated?: No   | Related HER Nos.: 7070  |  |  |
| Final Report: EAH summary  | <b>Oasis No.:</b> 91226   |  |  |

Periods Represented: Prehistoric, Post-Medieval, Modern

### **SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:**

An archaeological investigation was carried out on land at the former Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon, in advance of residential development. The 0.7 hectare development area was located to the west of the site of a medieval manor house and moat known as Botelers (SAM Essex 76, EHER 7070). Nine evaluation trenches were excavated covering a total of 306 square metres. Access limitations meant that four trenches were excavated prior to demolition of the school buildings and five post demolition. In addition, intermittent monitoring was undertaken on the removal of concrete foundations and piles during the demolition phase.

Archaeological remains of Prehistoric and post-medieval date were identified in the evaluation trenching along with two clay-filled geological features, features of modern date and numerous areas of modern disturbance. No remains were observed during the monitoring.

A large irregular feature containing 14 small sherds of Iron Age pottery was investigated in Trench 6. It was not clear whether the feature was one large pit or a combination of two merging features, such as a ditch and pit. Three further sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the same trench

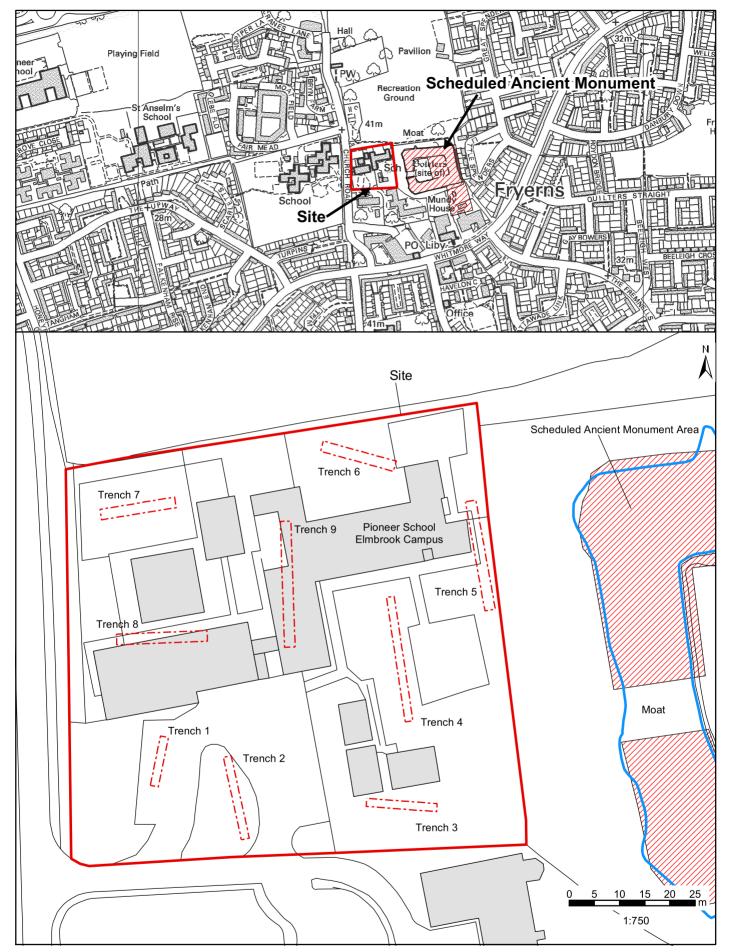
The partial remains of two brick wall footings were recorded in Trench 4. Both were constructed from bricks of late 18th to mid 19th century date bonded with lime mortar and are likely to be the remains of former farm buildings shown on 19th and 20th century Ordnance Survey maps of the site. An east/west aligned ditch in Trench 2 was probably the southern boundary of a former

**Site name/Address:** Pioneer School, Elmbrook Campus, Church Road, Basildon, Essex east/west trackway also depicted on pre-1960s mapping, whilst gravel surfaces identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 are likely to be part of the track itself.

The overburden varied in depth from 0.20m in the east of the site to over 1.2m in the west. Most of the overburden was modern, either resulting from recent demolition or associated with the removal of the old farm buildings and the construction of the school in the 1960s. Undisturbed sequences of topsoil over subsoil over natural clay were only noted in the western half of Trench 6 and along the northern edge of Trench 8.

Overall, few archaeological remains were identified and much of the site had been heavily disturbed. Trench 6 was located within a small square of grass which was possibly one of the very few undisturbed parts of the site. The sole Iron Age feature was located close to the site boundary and it is likely that remains of this date may be present in the playing fields to the north. No remains or finds of medieval date were identified which perhaps surprising is given the proximity of the moated enclosure, although the main area of medieval habitation would have been located upon the platform within the moat some 50m to the east.

| Previous Summaries/Reports: none |                                |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Author of Summary: T. Ennis      | Date of Summary: November 2011 |  |



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Fig.1. Trench location plan, former Pioneer School, Basildon



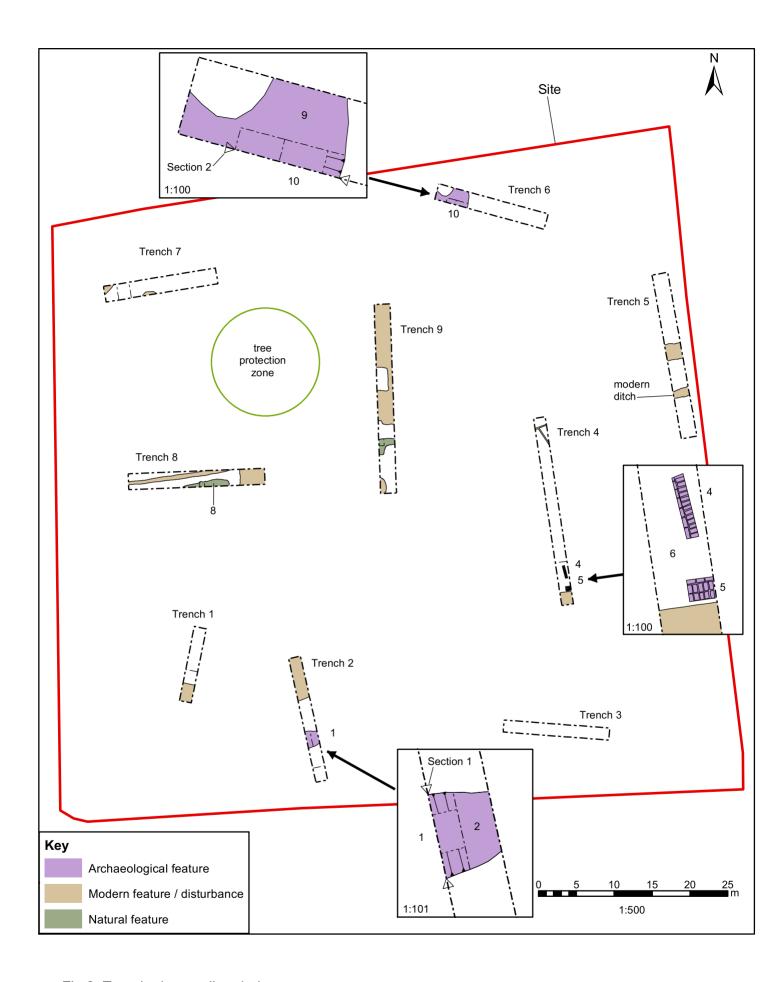


Fig.2. Trench plans - all periods

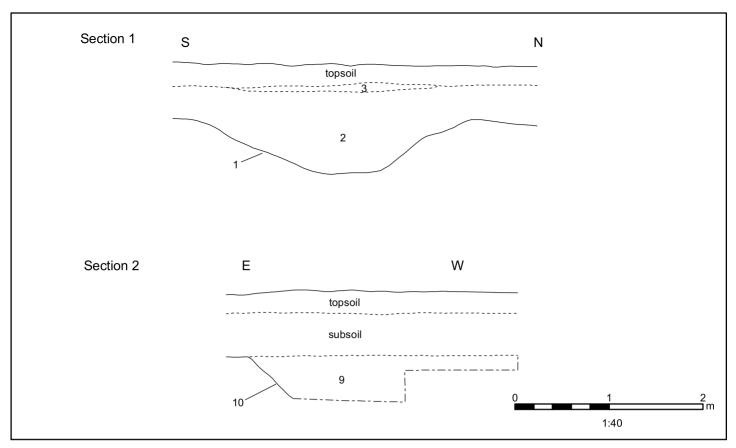


Fig.3. Sections 1 and 2

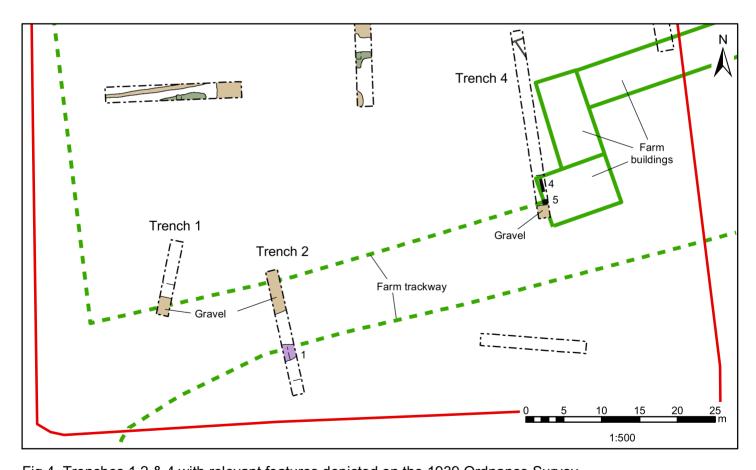


Fig.4. Trenches 1,2 & 4 with relevant features depicted on the 1939 Ordnance Survey





Plate 1: Ditch 1 - Trench 2 (2m scale)



Plate 2: Wall footing 4 – Trench 4 (2m scale)



Plate 3: Feature 10 – Trench 6 (1m scale)



Plate 4: Monitoring of foundation removal (looking south)