

**BINGHAMS
POTTERY LANE
CASTLE HEDINGHAM
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

FEBRUARY 2011

**BINGHAMS
POTTERY LANE
CASTLE HEDINGHAM
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Prepared By: Trevor Ennis	Signature:
Position: Project Officer	Date:
Approved By: Adrian Scruby	Signature:
Position: Project Manager	Date:

Document Ref.:	2312 Rep
Report Issue Date:	February 2011
Circulation:	Granville Developments
	ECC HEM
	Essex Historic Environment Record

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

Field Archaeology Unit,
Fairfield Court, Fairfield Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 3YQ.
fieldarch@essexcc.gov.uk
Tel: 01376 331470
Fax: 01376 331428

© **Field Archaeology Unit**, Essex County Council, c/o County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1QH

CONTENTS

	Page No.
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	3
2.0 BACKGROUND	3
3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	5
4.0 METHOD	5
5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS	6
6.0 FINDS	7
7.0 DISCUSSION	7
8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS	8
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	9
BIBLIOGRAPHY	9

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 Context Data

APPENDIX 2 Contents of Archive

APPENDIX 3 EHER Summary

FIGURES

Fig. 1 Location of areas of archaeological monitoring

Fig. 2 Sections 1 & 2

PLATES

Plate 1 Section 1

Plate 2 Section 2

**BINGHAMS
POTTERY LANE
CASTLE HEDINGHAM
ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Client: Granville Developments

NGR: TL 7860 3544

Site Code: CH9

Planning Ref: BTE/02310/06

Oasis No.: 91630

Date of Fieldwork: 9th to 16th December 2010

SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Bingham, Pottery Lane, Castle Heddingham, in advance of residential development. No remains of Saxon or medieval date were identified nor any other evidence to suggest that this peripheral area of the town, located between the postulated positions of the inner and outer medieval defensive ditches, was occupied prior to the late post-medieval period.

At least four vertically-sided flat bottomed features were identified in the sides of two large soakaways in the north of the development area. The features were most probably quarry pits for the extraction of clay for use in the adjacent 19th century brickworks and pottery. Although the quarrying activity was likely to be extensive its evidence was not immediately apparent in the south of the development area. However, the overburden removed during ground reduction of the southern edge of the site was particularly thick (c. 0.9m) and consisted of two deposits that were similar to the fills of the quarry pits. It is therefore conceivable that this overburden actually comprised of the remains of backfilled quarry pits that were subsequently truncated or made largely unrecognisable during ground reduction. If this is so, the quarrying activity would most probably have destroyed all traces of any earlier remains within the development area.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of archaeological monitoring and recording carried out at Binghams, Pottery Lane, Castle Hedingham, Essex, during groundworks for the construction of a new house and garage. The work was undertaken by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on behalf of Granville Developments.

As the site was located within an area of archaeological significance, an archaeological condition was placed on planning consent (planning application ref: BTE/02310/06), following advice given by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management team (ECC HEM) based on Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

The investigation was carried out in accordance with an archaeological design brief issued by ECC HEM (2010) and a written scheme of investigation prepared by the ECC FAU (2010).

Copies of this report will be supplied to Granville Developments, 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) (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). The site archive and copies of the report will be deposited at Braintree Museum.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 1)

The development site lies on the south-western edge of Castle Hedingham near to the junction of Queen Street and Pottery Lane (TL 7860 3544). The new development is situated to the west of an existing house (Binghams) in an area formerly occupied by a garage and outbuilding. Much of the northern half of the site is taken up by a driveway leading to the former garage whilst the remainder of the site is laid to lawn interspersed with trees of varying age. The site slopes from south-east to north-west and lies at an average height of 50m AOD.

A borehole survey of the development area was conducted by B. A. Turner Subsidence Investigation in 2010. Borehole 1, at the south-western corner of the proposed new property, revealed turf and topsoil to a depth of 0.30m overlying stiff mid brown, grey veined, silty clay natural to a depth of 2.8m. Borehole 2, at the north-eastern corner of the new property, revealed 0.20m of turf and topsoil overlying 0.8m of made ground composed of mid brown

silty clay with occasional small pieces of brick. Natural stiff, mid brown, silty clay was encountered at a depth of 1m below the surface.

2.2 Archaeology and History (Fig. 1)

This archaeological and historical background is based on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held by Essex County Council at County Hall, Chelmsford and the Historic Town Assessment for Castle Hedingham (Medlycott 1999).

Castle Hedingham lies within Braintree District on the eastern side of the Colne river valley and to the east of the main road from Colchester to Cambridge (A1017). Until recently there was a marsh between the town and the river. A settlement of some size had developed at Castle Hedingham by the end of the Saxon period (EHER 16206).

In 1066, Hedingham was granted to Aubrey de Vere and he probably erected a ringwork shortly after being confirmed in his new lands. The Keep was added to the ringwork c. 1125-1160, and it is possible that at this time the de Veres were not only strengthening the Castle but also creating the town to the south-west. Although there is no town charter, a market was in existence by 1216. The growth of Halstead in the late 13th century probably led to the decline of Castle Hedingham as a town.

The south side of the medieval settlement was defended by two town enclosure ditches (EHER 16076 & 16077) of unknown date. The development area is located within a c. 80m gap between the postulated position of these inner and outer ditches. Two small test pits dug in the 1980s on the north side of Pottery Lane (EHER 16069) revealed post-medieval build-up and three probable post-medieval cut features interpreted as a slot, a pit and a ditch – the last possibly the remnant of a former garden boundary. However, post-medieval and later cartographic evidence (Medlycott 1999, 15-16 & 31-32) suggests that the development area itself, located on the south side of Pottery Lane, was not built upon until the 20th century.

A brickworks was established in Pottery Lane by the early 19th century. This produced a variety of earthenware products including red and white flower and chimney pots, bricks and drainage pipes until the late 1850s, Terracotta and course ware up to 1872 and thereafter glazed ornamental pottery. Up to 13 kilns were in use at various times. On the 1846 Tithe Award map (D/CT 173) buildings associated with the brickworks are shown covering much of the area to the west of the site now occupied by three residential properties known as Pottery Cottage, Wedgewood and Dresden (Fig. 1). Later in the 19th century the first edition 25 inch

Ordnance Survey (c.1867-95) and documentary sources (e.g. Lindsay 1958, 179-191) indicate that buildings of the later pottery business, run by the Bingham family until the early 1900s, were restricted to the grounds of Pottery Cottage, some 30m to the west of the development area.

3.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

The general aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify and record any archaeological remains that would be destroyed by the development.

3.2 Objectives

The specific objective of the project was to interpret and place in context any exposed archaeological remains with previously excavated sites in the medieval and post-medieval town.

In the event that significant archaeological deposits were encountered the report would aim 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).

4.0 METHOD (Fig. 1)

The new house and garage was located to the south-east of the existing dwelling (Binghams) in an area of garden formerly occupied by an outbuilding and garage. The area of groundworks covered approximately 300 square metres. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of the drainage trenches and soakaways to the front and rear of the property. Monitoring was not undertaken on the excavation of the house footings due to a communication breakdown following numerous delays caused by poor weather. However, part of the footprint had been previously disturbed by the construction of the former garage and outbuilding.

For safety reasons recording of the two deep soakaway trenches was undertaken from surface level. 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 1997; 2008) and complied with Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

5.0 FIELDWORK RESULTS (Figs. 1 and 2)

Archaeological features of post-medieval/modern date were recorded during the monitoring. Detailed context information is presented in Appendix 1.

In the initial ground reduction/levelling c. 0.9m of overburden was removed from the higher, rear of the site whilst little or no overburden was removed from the lower, front part of the site. The overburden to the rear consisted of up to 0.22m of topsoil above 0.30m of mixed re-deposited brown clay in turn overlying 0.40m of brick-flecked greyer clay.

The southern drainage trenches were 0.6m wide and up to 0.9m deep and cut directly into natural clay which was generally brown in colour but noticeably greyer towards the east. No archaeological features were observed.

The northern drainage trenches were 0.8m wide by up to 1m deep. These cut through 0.20m of topsoil (9), 0.25m of underlying brick rubble and c. 0.50m of dark grey silty clay subsoil containing occasional flecks of brick. At the north end of this drainage run was a large 2.2m square by 2.1m deep soakaway.

Revealed in the southern side of the soakaway were two vertically sided flat bottomed features (3 and 6), both seemingly sealed by the dark grey silty clay subsoil (7) and cut into natural brown clay. Feature 3 was 0.86m deep and over 2.2m long by 1m wide, and was visible in the east, north and south sides of the trench (Fig 2, Section 1; Plate 1). It contained two fills, the lower consisted of dark grey silty clay (1) and the upper of mixed red, grey and brown silty clay (2). The latter was truncated in Section 1 by the end of the drainage trench. The only finds recovered from this feature were one small piece of brick and three fragments of roof tile. Feature 6 was over 0.30m long by at least 0.90m wide and 0.85m deep, and was visible in the south side of the trench and also partially at the south end of the west side. However, the bulk of this feature appeared to lie beyond the soakaway, to the south. It contained two fills, the lower a dark grey silty clay (5) and the upper a mixed brown clay (4). No finds were recovered but a few small fragments of brick/tile were visible along with several small fragments of coal.

A further drainage run, 0.50m wide and c. 0.8m deep led northwards to a second soakaway located 3m to the north. This soakaway was 1.9m long by 1.8m wide and 2m deep. Two similar vertically sided and flat bottomed features (13 and 16) were present. Both were cut into natural brown clay that appeared to have a slightly disturbed upper surface. Feature 13 was 1m deep and over 1.8m long by 0.84m wide and was visible in the east, north and west sides of the trench (Fig. 2, Section 2; Plate 2). It contained two fills, a brownish grey to grey silty clay lower fill (12) and a mixed brown silty clay upper fill (11), containing lenses of darker material and flecks of charcoal and brick. Feature 16 was also 1m deep and in excess of 1.8m long by 0.42m wide and was visible in the east, south and west sides of the trench. It also contained two fills, the lower comprising mixed brown silty clay (15) and the upper mixed grey silty clay with brown lenses (14). Both features were overlain, and partly infilled in the case of feature 13, by mixed dark grey and brown silty clay (10). At the top of the sequence was a dark brownish grey topsoil (9) which included some lenses (disturbed patches) of re-deposited brown clay.

6.0 FINDS by Helen Walker

The only finds were fragments of building material all from context 1, the backfill of a probable clay extraction trench. They comprise a single brick fragment (wt 108g) and three fragments of roof tile (wt 82g). The brick fragment is orange in colour and has no surviving dimensions, its single surviving surface is uneven, suggesting it is not modern, but the brick is otherwise un-datable. Two of the roof tiles have a thickness of 11mm and one shows the remains of a round peg hole, the third fragment is slightly thicker measuring 15mm. All the roof tile fragments are oxidised throughout and date anywhere between the late 13th/14th century and post-medieval period. These finds shed little light on the nature of occupation and have been discarded.

7.0 DISCUSSION

Four similar-looking vertically sided flat bottomed features were recorded in the north of the development area. All were 0.85m to 1.0m deep and cut through smooth natural brown clay. The base of the features all coincided with a change in the clay from smooth brown to a more flakier, mottled brown and grey clay. It is most probable that the features were quarry pits dug to extract clay suitable for use in brick making or potting. Although no firm dating evidence was recovered the presence of small fragments of brick, tile and coal suggest a post-medieval or later date for this quarrying activity. As the development area was located close to the site of a 19th century brickworks and the Bingham pottery business it seems

likely that quarrying took place during the life of these operations. Jack Lindsay (1958, 182) notes that the local potter Edward Bingham stressed his use of local clay and 'seems to have used the clay-beds at the side of his house till they were exhausted'.

It is presumed that the quarrying activity was wide-spread, certainly the quarry pits extended on all sides of the soakaways and at least as far as Borehole 2, where made ground was noted to a depth of 1m below the surface. Whilst it is evident that quarrying activity was probably extensive to the north of the new building footprint there was no apparent evidence of quarrying activity to the south. However, the overburden removed from this area was thick (c. 0.9m) and comprised of mixed re-deposited brown clay overlying brick-flecked grey clay. Both deposits were similar to the fills in the quarry pits to the north and it is conceivable that these deposits were the remains of quarry pits that had been truncated or made unrecognisable during levelling of the rear of the site. No made ground was recorded in Borehole 1 but this was located to the west of one of the former outbuildings in an area likely to have been previously landscaped.

8.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS

No remains of Saxon or medieval date were identified nor any evidence to suggest that this peripheral area of the town, located between the postulated positions of the inner and outer medieval defensive ditches, was occupied prior to the late post-medieval period. The Tithe Award map and early editions of the Ordnance Survey show the development area as meadowland and there is nothing to suggest that this was not the case in the medieval period. Indeed Medlycott (1999, 4) particularly states that the morphology of post-medieval Castle Hedingham differed little from that of the medieval town.

The meadow was adjacent to the 19th century brickworks and pottery and was clearly utilised as a source of clay during this period. The quarrying activity was extensive and is likely to have destroyed any evidence of earlier activity on site should it have been present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks go to the John Finch Partnership for commissioning the work on behalf of Granville Developments. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Trevor Ennis of the ECC Field Archaeology Unit. Finds were analysed by 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 Teresa O'Connor of ECC HEM.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------|--|
| Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 8 |
| DoE | 1990 | <i>Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning</i> . HMSO |
| ECC FAU | 2010 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Binghams, Pottery Lane, Castle Hedingham, Essex</i> . ECC FAU project design |
| ECC HEM | 2010 | <i>Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Binghams, Pottery Lane, Castle Hedingham</i> . ECC HEM brief. |
| Gurney, D. | 2003 | <i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14 |
| IfA | 1997 | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Institute for Archaeologists |
| IfA | 2008 | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised)</i> . Institute for Archaeologists |
| Lindsay, J. | 1958 | <i>The Discovery of Britain</i> |
| Medlycott, M. | 1999 | <i>Historic Towns in Essex: Castle Hedingham. Historic Town Assessment Report</i> . ECC HEM |

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DATA

All dimensions given in metres

Context	Type	Description	Period
1	Fill of 3 (lower)	Dark grey silty clay, occasional browner lenses, 0.52m thick	Modern
2	Fill of 3 (upper)	Mixed red, grey and brown silty clay, 0.34m thick	Modern
3	Trench	2.2m+ x 1m+ x 0.86m deep, vertically sided, flat bottomed	Modern
4	Fill of 6 (upper)	Mixed brown clay (re-deposited), 0.3m thick	Modern
5	Fill of 6 (lower)	Dark grey silty clay, 0.55m thick	Modern
6	Trench	0.3m+ x 0.9m+ x 0.85m deep, vertically sided, flat bottomed	Modern
7	Layer	Dark grey clay with occasional brick fragments, 0.35m thick	Modern
8	Layer	Brick rubble and sand, 0.36m thick	Modern
9	Layer	Topsoil – dark brownish grey clay silt with brown clay lenses, 0.35m thick	Modern
10	Layer	Mixed dark grey and brown silty clay, 0.45m thick	Modern
11	Fill of 13 (upper)	Mixed brown silty clay with dark grey lenses, charcoal & brick flecks. 0.4m thick	Modern
12	Fill of 13 (lower)	Brownish grey to grey silty clay. 0.26m thick	Modern
13	Trench	1.8m+ x 0.84m+ x 1m deep, vertically sided, flat bottomed	Modern
14	Fill of 16 (upper)	Mixed grey silty clay with large brown lens, 0.24m thick	Modern
15	Fill of 16 (lower)	Mixed brown silty clay, 0.76m thick	Modern
16	Trench	1.8m+ x 0.42m+ x 1m deep, vertically sided, flat bottomed	Modern

APPENDIX 2: CONTENTS OF ARCHIVE

Site Name: Bingham's, Pottery Street, Castle Hedingham

Site Code: CH 9

Index to Archive:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Brief
- 1.2 Written Scheme of Investigation

2. Research Archive

- 2.1 Client Report
- 2.2 Finds Report

3. Site Archive

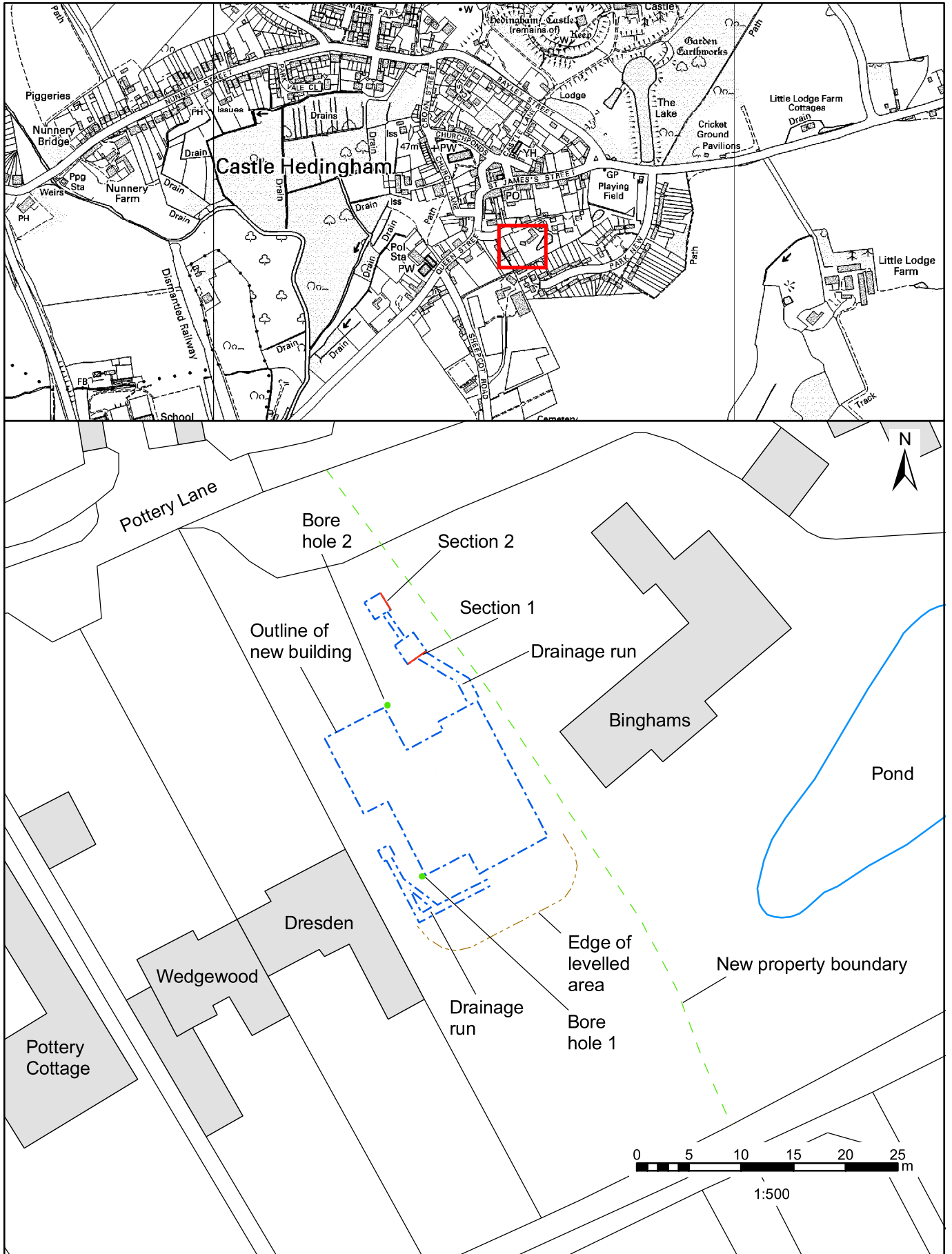
- 3.1 Context Record Register
- 3.2 Context Records (1 to 16)
- 3.3 Plan Register
- 3.4 Section Register
- 3.5 3 x A4 Plan/Section sheets
- 3.6 Trench location plan
- 3.7 Photographic Register
- 3.8 Site Photographic Record (1 set of B/W prints, 1 set of colour contact prints + digital colour images on disk)
- 3.9 Miscellaneous notes/plans

Finds

None of the finds have been retained

APPENDIX 3: ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

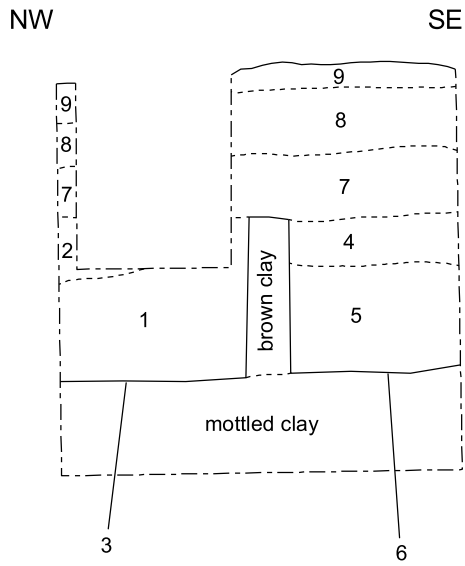
Site name/Address: Bingham, Pottery Lane, Castle Hedingham, Essex	
Parishes: Castle Hedingham	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 7860 3544	Site Code: CH9
Type of Work: Archaeological Monitoring & Recording	Site Director/Group: T. Ennis, ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Dates of Work: 9th to 16th December 2010	Size of Area Investigated: c. 300 sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Braintree	Funding source: Client
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos.: -
Final Report: EAH summary	Oasis No.: 91630
Periods Represented: Post-medieval, modern	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Bingham, Pottery Lane, Castle Hedingham, in advance of residential development. No remains of Saxon or medieval date were identified nor any other evidence to suggest that this peripheral area of the town, located between the postulated positions of the inner and outer medieval defensive ditches, was occupied prior to the late post-medieval period.</p> <p>At least four vertically-sided flat bottomed features were identified in the sides of two large soakaways in the north of the development area. The features were most probably quarry pits for the extraction of clay for use in the adjacent 19th century brickworks and pottery. Although the quarrying activity was likely to be extensive its evidence was not immediately apparent in the south of the development area. However, the overburden removed during ground reduction of the southern edge of the site was particularly thick (c. 0.9m) and consisted of two deposits that were similar to the fills of the quarry pits. It is therefore conceivable that this overburden actually comprised of the remains of backfilled quarry pits that were subsequently truncated or made largely unrecognisable during ground reduction. If this is so, the quarrying activity would most probably have destroyed all traces of any earlier remains within the development area.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: T. Ennis	Date of Summary: February 2011



Mapping reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of HMSO. Crown copyright. Licence no.LA100019602.

Fig.1. Location of areas of archaeological monitoring

Section 1



Section 2

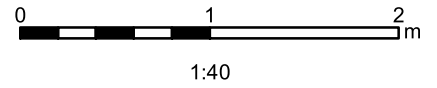
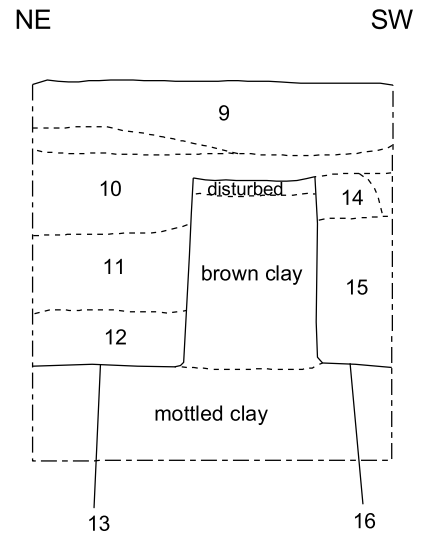


Fig.2. Sections 1 & 2



Plate 1. Section 1 (1m scale)



Plate 2. Section 2 (1m scale)