

HERITAGE NETWORK

Celebrating 20 years of independent professional service in the historic environment



HARMANS YARD **New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex**

HN1011

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

HARMANS YARD New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex

Project ref.:HN1011
LPA ref.: UTT/0912/10/FUL
Site code: GD36
Accession no.: SAFWM 2012.70

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of David Cook Esq.

by

James Snee BSc AIFA

Report no. 743

September 2012

© The Heritage Network Ltd

Contents

	Summary	Page i
Section 1	Introduction	Page 1
Section 2	Fieldwork.....	Page 2
Section 3	Discussion	Page 5
Section 4	Bibliography.....	Page 7
Section 5	Illustrations.....	<i>following</i> Page 8
Appendix 1	OASIS data record.....	Page 9

The cover illustration shows the proposed development area looking southwest

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones and James Snee. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to David Cook, Neil Cook of New World Architectural; and Richard Havis of the Historic Environment Management Team, Essex County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Harmans Yard, New Road, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1AS		
County:	Essex	District:	Uttlesford
Village/town:	Great Dunmow	Parish:	Great Dunmow
Planning reference:	UTT/0912/10/FUL	NGR:	TL 62780 21730
Client name and address:	David Cook, Pearsons Farmhouse, 176 London Road, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 9DT		
Nature of work:	Field evaluation	Previous land use:	Waste ground
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPS5)
Position in planning process:	Post Determination (as a condition)	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	<i>c.</i> 920m ²	Size of area investigated:	33m ²
Site code:	GD36	Museum accession no.:	SAFWM 2012.70
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Field evaluation	Archive Recipient:	Saffron Walden Museum
Start of work:	30/08/2012	Finish of work:	30/08/2012
Related HER nos:	n/a	Periods represented	Post-medieval
OASIS UID:	heritage1-132959	Significant finds:	Brick, Tile, Pot
Monument types:	Pit		
Physical archive:	Brick, Tile, Pot		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

As the result of a condition on the planning permission for a residential development at Harmans Yard, New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation.

A single trial trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new building, this representing the area of greatest potential impact. The trench revealed natural sand and gravel cut by post-medieval and modern extraction pits, overlain by 1m of overburden.

No features or deposits pre-dating the post-medieval period were revealed and it was concluded that the site had been substantially disturbed by quarrying.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of David Cook, as part of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out as part of a proposed development at Harmans Yard, New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex.

1.2 The work has been carried out as a requirement of Condition 12 of the planning consent for the development (ref: UTT/0912/10/FUL) granted by Uttlesford District Council (UDC), under the provisions set out in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5) now superseded by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The extent of the present work was defined in a brief for *Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at Haolmans (sic) Yard, Great Dunmow* produced by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEMT) of Essex County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to UDC (ref: RH 08/2012). A full specification for the investigation was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated August 2012.

1.3 The proposed development lies within Harmans Yard, to the west of New Street in the centre of Great Dunmow, at NGR TL 6277 2177 (Figure 1). The site is currently an area of grass, trees and bushes, bounded on all sides by residential properties.

1.4 The development lies on the eastern edge of the Roman small town and the southern edge of the bifocal medieval town of Great Dunmow, in an area of extensive archaeological activity.

1.5 The proposed development entails the construction of six dwellings in two blocks, with associated services and access.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Great Dunmow lies in the valley of the River Chelmer, a tributary of the River Blackwater. The underlying geology of the area consists of glaciofluvial drift.

2.2 As the present site is located in an urban environment the soils have not been surveyed. However, the surrounding soils are derived from the Ludford Association (571x) described as *Well drained fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk of water erosion.* (SSEW 1983).

METHODOLOGY

2.3 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

2.4 The trench was located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. It was opened using a tracked 360-degree digger fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. The trench was machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.

2.5 The trench was cleaned by hand, and any potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

2.6 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Plans were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:20, and sections at a scale of 1:10.

RESULTS

Stratigraphy

2.7 The overburden across the site comprised 1.0m of dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) clayey sandy silt makeup. Below this was reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/8) sand and gravel natural.

Results

2.8 The trial trench was located diagonally across the footprint of the proposed buildings (Figure 2, Plates 1 & 2). It was oriented approximately northeast to southwest and measured 17.5m in length, 1.8m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.0m.

Trench data:

Length (m):	17.5	Width (m):	1.8	Maximum Depth (m):	1.0	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top 73.64	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top 73.28
			Base 72.36				Base 72.20
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	Dark grey (7.5YR 4/1) clayey sandy silt.	17.5	1.8	1.0		
001	Cut	Irregular pit.	3.0	> 1.8	-		
002	Fill	Black (10YR 2/1) soft clayey sandy silt with frequent gravel and CBM.	3.0	> 1.8	-		
003	Cut	Sub-circular pit.	> 1.8	2.5	-		
004	Fill	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) soft clayey sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional CBM.	> 1.8	2.5	-		
005	Cut	Sub-rectangular pit.	> 1.35	> 0.80	-		
006	Fill	Black (10YR 2/1) soft clayey sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional CBM.	> 1.35	> 0.80	-		
007	Cut	Sub-circular pit.	> 1.7	> 0.75	-		
008	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft clayey sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional CBM.	> 1.7	> 0.75	-		
009	Cut	Sub-circular pit.	> 1.8	3.8	-		
010	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft clayey sandy silt with frequent gravel and moderate CBM.	> 1.8	3.8	-		
011	Cut	Elongated pit.	2.0	> 1.8	-		
012	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft clayey sandy silt with moderate gravel and occasional CBM.	2.0	> 1.8	-		
013	Cut	Elongated pit.	> 1.8	1.0	-		
014	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) soft clayey sandy silt with frequent gravel and occasional CBM.	> 1.8	1.0	-		
-	Layer	Reddish yellow (7.5YR 7/8) sand and gravel.	17.5	1.8	>0.1		

2.9 The natural sand and gravel was cut by seven post-medieval and early modern pits [001], [003], [005], [007], [009], [011] and [013] (Figure 3; Plates 3 & 4). These pits had fills (002), (004), (006), (008), (010), (012) and (014) varying in colour between dark grey and black, comprising clayey sandy silt similar to the overburden. Fragments of pottery, brick and tile were recovered from the pit fills.

FINDS ASSESSMENT**Concordance**

Context	Brick		Tile		Pottery		Glass		Claypipe	
	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
002			2	95	1	140				
004	2	510								
006			2	10						
008			1	60	1	3				
010	2	140	3	400	2	15	1	2	1	1
012			1	10	6	20				
014			1	90	2	60	1	15		
Total	4	650	10	665	12	238	2	17	1	1

Brick

2.10 Four fragments of brick, weighing 650g, were recovered from two pit fills (004) and (010). All four were identified as post-medieval bricks of probable local manufacture.

Tile

2.11 A total of ten fragments of tile, weighing 665g, was recovered from pit fills (002), (006), (008), (010), (012) & (014). All were fragments of post-medieval roof tile.

Pottery

2.12 Twelve sherds of pottery, weighing 238g, were recovered from five contexts. The majority were modern domestic wares, although two older, residual, fragments were recovered. These were a sherd of Romano-British greyware from pit fill (008) and a sherd of 18th/19th century brown glazed earthenware from fill (010).

2.13 One unidentified sherd, in a thick reduced coarse sand and grog tempered fabric with a slightly oxidised exterior, was recovered from fill (002). This may be a piece of residual Iron Age, Roman, or Saxon pottery, possibly briquetage.

Glass

2.14 Two fragments of modern glass, weighing 17g, was also recovered from pit fills (010) & (014).

Claypipe

2.15 One fragment of claypipe, weighing 1g, was also recovered from pit fill (010).

3. Discussion

Archaeological Background

3.1 To date, very little evidence of prehistoric activity has been recovered from within Great Dunmow (Medlycott 1999).

3.2 Great Dunmow is known to be the location of a Roman small town, established to the west of the cross roads of Stane Street and the Chelmsford-Cambridge road. The town occupies a ridge to the north of the river crossing. The present site is located on the eastern edge of the town area (Medlycott 1999).

3.3 Excavations at Redbond Lodge, 250m to the northwest, revealed extensive evidence of Roman occupation, including burials and a shrine. Further cemeteries have been postulated to the south of the present development in New Street Fields and Station Yard (Medlycott 1999).

3.4 Immediately to the south of the proposed development, investigations undertaken during the construction of a residential estate (Doyle & Harris 2005) revealed a number of post-medieval and modern pits and a single pit containing Roman pottery. Roman pits were also revealed during evaluations at 2 Chequers Lane in 2010 (HER 47335).

3.5 Medieval settlement at Great Dunmow had two foci: a minor, possibly earlier settlement centred around the church at Church End, to the northeast of the modern town, and a larger settlement centred around the High Street and Market Place (Medlycott 1999). The present study area saw the expansion of the town in the early post-medieval period, with development at the north end of New Street established by 1730 (ibid.). The properties on the east side of the study area are Grade II listed, nos.12-14 being 17th/18th century in date, nos.16-22 being early 19th century (National Heritage List for England). The 1st edition Ordnance Survey County series of 1875 shows the present site occupied by what appear to be allotments (Figure 4).

Research aims

3.6 The aims of the investigation have been to establish the location, depth, extent, date, character and condition of any remains that could be threatened by the development, to consider the local and regional archaeological and historical context of such remains, and their significance and quality, in relation to the current published regional research agenda (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011), and to provide sufficient information to ensure that an appropriate strategy for the mitigation of damage or destruction of such remains by the development could be adopted.

3.7 On the basis of the known archaeological potential of the site, as extrapolated from the HER, it was considered that archaeological investigation of the site had the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of:

- the origins and subsequent development of the Roman Small Town of Great Dunmow;
- an understanding the economic basis of the Roman town, its internal morphology and chronology;

- an understanding of the transition from the Roman to the medieval periods.

Collected Data

3.8 The trial trench lay in an area of the site that had a significantly reduced level, relative to the edges of the site. The overburden revealed during the excavation of the trial trench was heavily disturbed and may represent deliberate backfill.

3.9 The pits revealed in the base of the trench were probably extraction pits excavated in the base of a larger quarry pit. The pits had been deliberately backfilled with post-medieval and early modern material.

3.10 The majority of the finds recovered from the evaluation were late post-medieval or modern in date, although a piece of residual pottery of earlier date was recovered from (002).

Conclusions

3.11 Despite the identified potential of the site, no evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval activity was revealed during the investigation.

3.12 This area of Great Dunmow began to be developed from the early post-medieval period onwards, and may well have been exploited for building materials from the same time. The lack of early evidence in an area of high archaeological potential is likely to be due to the post-medieval quarrying that has been identified on the site. The site is likely to have been used for allotments in the course of the 19th century.

3.13 On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be *Low* for all periods.

Confidence Rating

3.14 In the course of the fieldwork the weather, ground and light conditions were acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

3.15 There are no circumstances that would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

4. Bibliography

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the eastern counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology

Dobney *et al.* 1995, *Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological evaluations: recommendations concerning the environmental component of archaeological evaluations in England*. Working Papers of the Association for Environmental Archaeology, Number 2

Doyle, K & Harris, P. 2005. *Haolmans (sic) Yard, New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex: Archaeological monitoring and recording*.

Dept. of Communities and Local Government 2010 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. (TSO)

Dept. of Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*. (TSO)

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*. (HBMC)

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Field Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*. (HBMC)

English Heritage 2010 *Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*. (HBMC)

English Heritage 2012 *National Heritage List for England*. (www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Gurney, D. *et al* 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. ALGAO (EER)

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation*. (IfA)

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation*. (IfA)

Medlycott, M. 1999 *Historic Towns in Essex, Great Dunmow; Historic Towns Assessment report*.

Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England*. EAA OP24.

5. Illustrations

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Trench Location

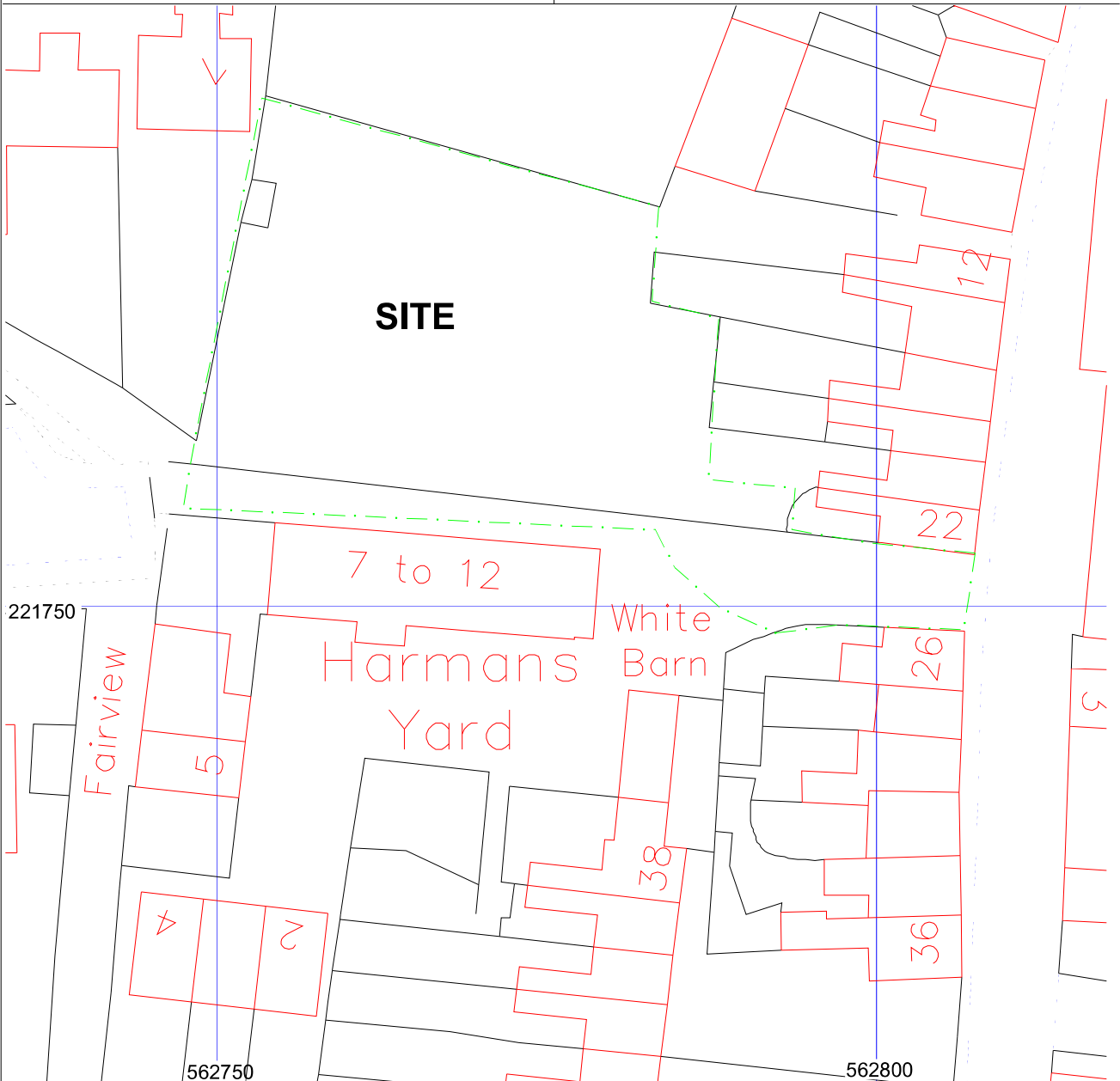
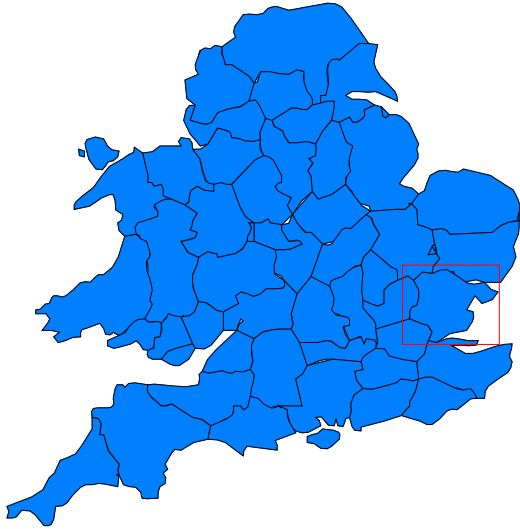
Figure 3 Trial Trench plan

Plate 1 General site view, looking east

Plate 2 General site view, looking west

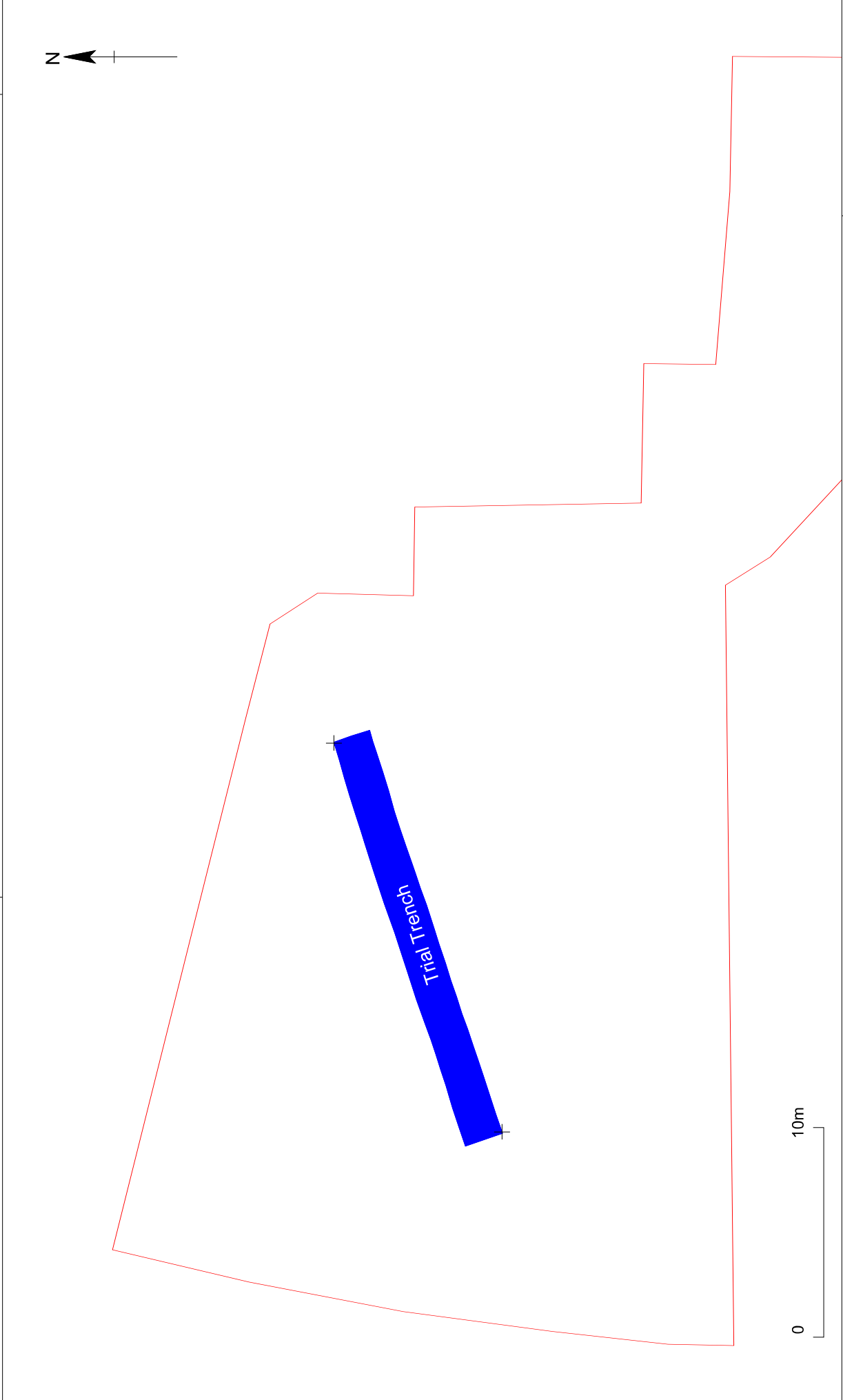
Plate 3 Trial Trench, looking northeast

Plate 4 Trial Trench, looking southwest

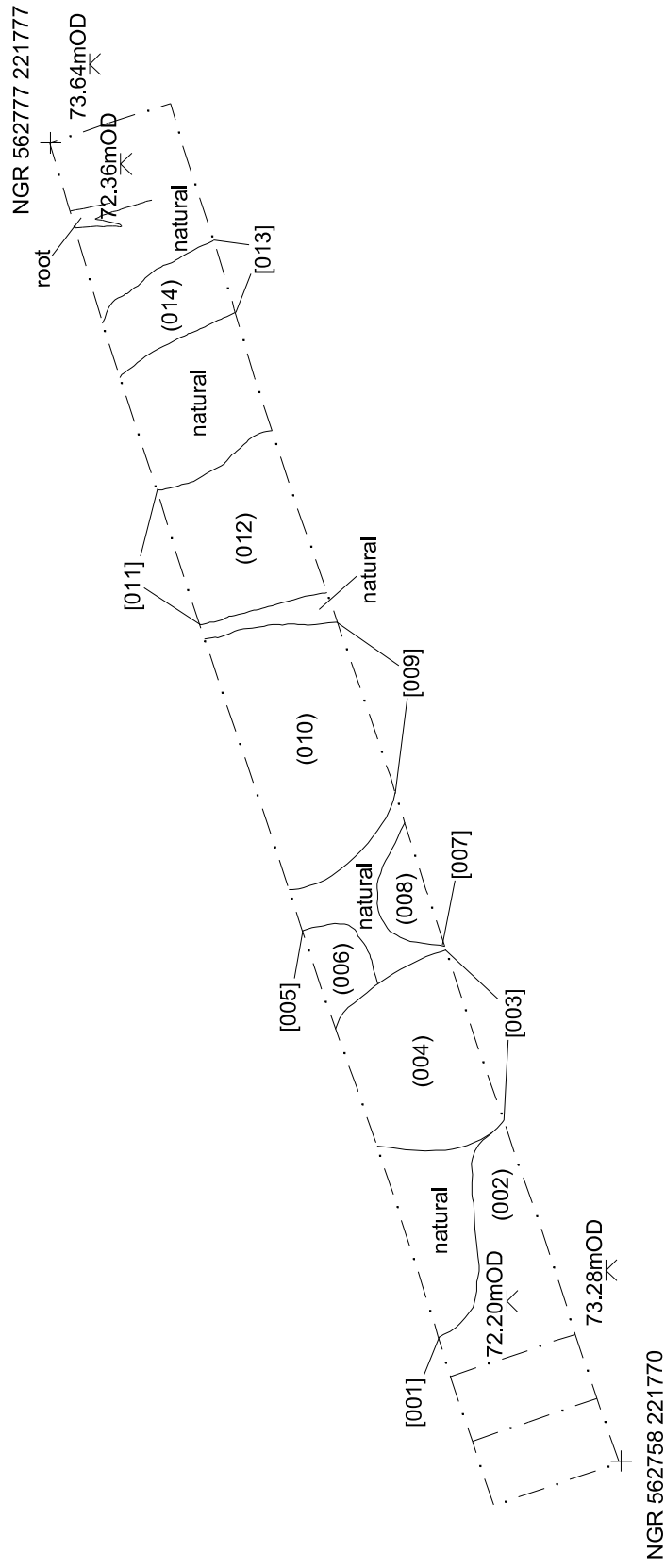
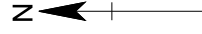


Site Location

Scale 1:500



Trench Location



0 2m

Trial Trench plan

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Harman's Yard, New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex

HN1011



Ordnance Survey County series, 1st edition, 1875

Scale 1:500

Figure 4



Plate 1: General site view, looking east



Plate 2: General site view, looking west



Plate 3: Trial Trench, looking northeast



Plate 4: Trial Trench, looking southwest

Appendix

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: heritage1-132959	
Project details	
Project name	Great Dunmow, Harman's Yard, New Street
Short description of the project	As the result of a condition on the planning permission for a residential development at Harmans Yard, New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation. A single trial trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new building, this representing the area of greatest potential impact. The trench revealed natural sand and gravel cut by post-medieval and modern extraction pits, overlain by 1m of overburden. No features or deposits dating to before the post-medieval period were revealed and it was concluded that the site had been substantially disturbed by quarrying. On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of any significance may be considered to be Low for all periods.
Project dates	Start: 30-08-2012 End: 30-08-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GD36 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	HN1011 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT DUNMOW Harman's Yard, New Street
Postcode	CM6 1AS
Study area	33.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 62780 21730 51 0 51 52 11 N 000 21 52 E Point
Project creators	

Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	HARMANS YARD New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J.
Other bibliographic details	Heritage Network Report No. 743
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 10 pages, 4 figures, 4 plates