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**WJ COURTAULD HOSPITAL**  
**London Road, Braintree, Essex**

HN1063

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT***



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

## WILLIAM JULIEN COURTAULD HOSPITAL London Road, Braintree, Essex

Project ref.: HN1063  
LPA ref.: 12/00585/OUT  
Site code: BT49  
Accession no.: BRNTM:2013.349

### *Archaeological Evaluation*

*Prepared on behalf of Croudace Homes Ltd*

by

Helen Ashworth BA (Hons) AIFA

Report no. 824

*October 2013*

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*The cover illustration shows the site looking east*

## Acknowledgements

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

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Liam Chapman of Croudace Homes and Teresa O' Connor of the Historic Environment Team, Essex County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 2LJ		
<b>County:</b>	Essex	<b>District:</b>	Braintree District Council
<b>Village/town:</b>	Braintree	<b>Parish:</b>	Braintree
<b>Planning reference:</b>	12/00585/OUT	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 75298 22647
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Croudace Homes Ltd, The Spirella Building, Bridge Road, Letchworth, SG6 4ET		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	Field evaluation	<b>Previous land use:</b>	Hospital grounds
<b>Site Status:</b>	None	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (NPPF)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	Post Determination (as a condition)	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	<i>c.</i> 10820m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	680m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site code:</b>	BT49	<b>Museum accession no.:</b>	BRNTM:2013.349
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Field evaluation	<b>Archive Recipient:</b>	Braintree Museum
<b>Start of work:</b>	13/08/2013	<b>Finish of work:</b>	28/08/2013
<b>Related HER nos:</b>	EHER 15642	<b>Periods represented</b>	Late IA; RB; post-med; modern
<b>OASIS UID:</b>	heritage1-148268	<b>Significant finds:</b>	Pottery, tile, brick, slag
<b>Monument types:</b>	Pit, gully, trackway, pond, wall		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	Pottery, tile, brick, slag, animal bone, clay pipe		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	Clarke, R. 2011 <i>William Julien Courtauld Hospital, Braintree, Essex: Desk-based Assessment and Monitoring of Two Infiltration Pits</i> . Oxford Archaeology East Report no.1234		

**Synopsis:**

As the result of a condition on the planning permission for the redevelopment of the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road, Braintree, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.

Trial trenches demonstrated that the western half of the site had been subject to significant terracing and modern disturbance, associated with the construction of the hospital. This was particularly evident in Trenches 5 and 6. Despite this, a number of features of late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval date survive on the site.

Evidence for late Iron Age and Roman activity was recorded from four trenches in the north-eastern quadrant of the site (Trenches 6, 8a, 10 and 11). The pottery recovered from the features and deposits in this area suggest domestic activity of early Roman date along the London Road, which may have extended to the west in the later Roman period.

Evidence for post-medieval activity was encountered in the western and southern parts of the site. The remains of a possible quarry was encountered at the northern end of Trench 2, but no such feature is marked on the maps consulted for the desk-based assessment, suggesting that it may pre-date the late 18th century. Other features encountered appear to represent ponds and boundaries recorded on 19th century mapping.

The remains of the post-medieval farmhouse that preceded the hospital on the site, were encountered in the northern half of Trench 11, close to London Road. This is represented on maps dating from at least the early 19th century. The building was clearly cellared, two walls of which were revealed in the south facing trench section.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development could disturb archaeological remains of significance may be considered to be High for the late Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and post-medieval periods, particularly at the eastern end of the site.

# 1. Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared at the request of Croudace Homes Ltd, to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of proposed development at William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road, Braintree, Essex.

**1.2** Outline planning permission for the development (ref: 12/00585/OUT) was granted by Braintree District Council (BDC), subject to an archaeological condition issued under the guidance given in the Department of Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF). The extent of the present work was defined in a brief for *Archaeological Trial Trenching at William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road, Braintree* produced by the Historic Environment Team (HET) of Essex County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to BDC (ref: TOC 18/04/2013). A full specification for the investigation was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated June 2013.

**1.3** The site of the present investigation is the former William Julien Courtauld Hospital which closed in 2011. It is located in the south-western outskirts of Braintree town centre, and is centred on NGR TL 75307 22648. The proposed development is bounded to the north by the Flich Way, the former route of the Braintree to Great Dunmow railway, to the east by London Road, and to the south by residential properties fronting onto London Road and Walnut Grove.

**1.4** An archaeological desk based assessment (Oxford Archaeology East 2011) was provided with the application for planning permission, and this included the results from test pitting on the site. The site lies in an area of known Iron Age and Roman activity, with the Roman town of Braintree lying to the north, and London Road probably following the route of a Roman road. Finds of pottery, tile and slag, suggested that Roman remains survive on the site. In addition, the buildings of the William Julien Courtauld hospital, erected in 1920-21, are considered to be of local historic importance.

**1.5** The development comprises the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of 29 dwellings with associated garages, access, services and landscaping.

## 2. Fieldwork

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**2.1** Braintree lies in the valley of the Rivers Pant and Brain, tributaries of the River Blackwater. The underlying geology of the area consists of sand and gravel of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup overlying clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation ([www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain)).

**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 trenches were located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. They were opened using a tracked 360-degree digger fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket and machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

**2.5** The trenches were 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

**2.7** Thirteen trenches were excavated across the site, giving a coverage of 680m<sup>2</sup>, a sample of approximately 6.25% of the area affected by the development groundworks.

#### *Stratigraphy*

**2.8** 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) natural sand and gravel.

#### *Trench 1*

**2.9** Trench 1 was located on the eastern side of the site, in front of the main hospital building and along the London Road frontage (Figure 2). It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m.



**2.10** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of dark grey sandy silt topsoil with frequent roots and pebbles, with a maximum depth of 1.60m. This overlay the natural yellow sand and gravel.

**2.11** Trench 1 was relocated, with the agreement of the HET, from the north-western corner of the site, in order to avoid disturbing local badger setts.

#### *Trench 1 data:*

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.60	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	60.61	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.14
			<b>Base</b>	59.46			<b>Base</b>	59.79
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Dark grey (2.5YR 4/1) sandy silt topsoil with frequent pebbles .	25	2	1.6			
101	Cut	Irregular pit, in the centre of the trench. Probable post-medieval quarry pit. Base not reached.	4.3	> 1.83	>0.35			
102	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) friable slightly silty sand with frequent gravel. Fill of [101].	4.3	> 1.83	>0.35			
-	Layer	Yellow (2.5YR 7/8) sand and gravel natural, below the topsoil.	25	2	-			

**2.12** The natural sand and gravel was cut by a large irregular feature [101], with undercut sides, in the centre of the trench (Figure 3, Plate 1). This contained fill (102), a dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent gravel (Plate 2). Finds of post-medieval date, including four sherds of red earthenware pottery and a number of clay pipe fragments were recovered from this fill. Residual finds included a sherd of late medieval green-glazed pottery and a sherd of Romano-British greyware.

#### *Trench 2*

**2.13** Trench 2 was located on the north-western side of the site (Figure 2). It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.20m.

**2.14** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil, 0.20m in depth. Below this was a layer of mixed greyish brown and brown clayey sandy silt subsoil, 0.40m in depth, which overlay the brown sandy silty clay natural. Patches of sand and gravel were also noted within the natural clay.

#### *Trench 2 data*

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.20	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	63.05	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	63.20
			<b>Base</b>	62.09			<b>Base</b>	62.18
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sand topsoil, with moderate pebbles.	25	2	0.20			

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.20	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	63.05	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	63.20
			<b>Base</b>	62.09			<b>Base</b>	62.18
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Mixed greyish brown (10YR 5/2) and brown clayey sandy silt subsoil with frequent pebbles.	25	2	0.40			
201	Cut	Irregular feature with sloping sides. Probable post-medieval quarry pit. Base not reached. Contains (202)	> 9.8	> 2	> 0.90			
202	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) firm silty sand containing frequent ash and pebbles and occasional CBM fragments. Fill of [201].	> 9.8	> 2	> 0.90			
203	Cut	Irregular feature, with sloping sides and flattish base. Probable post-medieval quarry pit seen in section only. Contains (204).		6	0.45			
204	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey sandy silt with frequent pebbles and gravel. Fill of [203].		6	0.45			
-	Layer	Brown sandy silty clay natural with occasional chalk fragments and patches of sand and gravel.	25	2	-			

**2.15** Two features, of probable post-medieval date, were recorded in the trench (Figure 3). Cut [201], which measured over 9m in length, over 2m in width and over 0.90m in depth, was located at the north-eastern end of the trench (Plate 3). It had sloping sides and contained fill (202), a dark greyish brown silty sand (Plate 4). Finds recovered from this fill include two sherds of post-medieval pottery and a brick fragment. No large features, such as quarries or extraction pits, are marked on the site in the 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, suggesting that this feature may predate the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**2.16** A second smaller feature was noted in the south-east facing section at the south-western end of the trench, approximately 3.5m to the south of [201]. This contained fill (204), a clayey sandy silt. Finds recovered from this feature comprise two tile fragments, one of which is a modern glazed wall tile, marked A. Johnson on the rear. The other dates to the Roman period and is likely to be residual in this feature. This may represent the field boundary shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map of 1875 (Clarke 2011, Figure 7a).

### Trench 3

**2.17** Trench 3 was located towards the north-western corner of the site, to the east of Trench 2 (Figure 2). It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and 1.2m in depth.

**2.18** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil, 0.20m in depth, above a mid greyish brown clayey silty sand subsoil, up to 0.60m in depth. This overlay the natural, which consisted of reddish brown sand and gravel with bands of red clay.

## Trench 3 data

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.20	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	62.91	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	62.91
			<b>Base</b>	62.60			<b>Base</b>	61.96
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand topsoil, with moderate pebbles.	25	2	0.20			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) clayey silty sand subsoil, with frequent pebbles.	25	2	0.60 max			
301	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) firm clayey silty sand with occasional pebbles. Interpreted as a former topsoil buried during terracing.	> 1	> 2	> 0.20			
302	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy silty clay with frequent pebbles. Interpreted as redeposited natural used as a make up deposit	> 1	> 2	> 0.50			
303	Cut	Sub-circular feature, recorded in plan. Possible pit for planting tree or shrub. Cuts (302) and contains (304).	c.2	c.2	-			
304	Fill	Loose black (10YR 2/1) peaty sandy silt, with roots and occasional gravel. Fill of [303]	c.2	c.2	-			
-	Layer	Reddish brown sand & gravel natural, with bands of red clay.	25	2	-			

**2.19** A single cut feature, [303], was recorded at the northern end of the trench (Figure 4, Plate 5). This appears to represent a pit dug to plant a tree or shrub. Two deposits of material associated with the terracing of the site, layers (301) and (302) were also encountered in the northern half of the trench.

## Trench 4

**2.20** Trench 4 was located in the northern half of the site, within the former hospital car park to the east of Trench 3 (Figure 2). It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and 1.20m in depth.

**2.21** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of tarmac and hardcore, 0.30m in depth, above a dark greyish brown sandy clayey silt topsoil, with occasional pebbles, up to 0.60m in depth. Below this was a greyish brown sandy clayey silt subsoil, 0.40m in depth, which overlay the yellowish brown sandy clayey silt natural.

## Trench 4 data

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.20	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	61.86	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.62
			<b>Base</b>	60.76			<b>Base</b>	61.10
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Tarmac and hardcore	25	2	0.30			
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) silty sand topsoil, with occasional pebbles.	7.82	2	0.40			

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.20	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	61.86	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.62
			<b>Base</b>	60.76			<b>Base</b>	61.10
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) clayey silty sand subsoil, with frequent pebbles.	10	2	0.40			
-	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clayey silt natural, with bands of sand and gravel.	25	2	-			

**2.22** No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered in this trench (Figure 4, Plate 6).

### Trench 5

**2.23** Trench 5 was located in the southern half of the site, to the west of the main hospital block and south of Trenches 3 and 4 (Figure 2). It was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and 1.20m in depth. The trench was located in an area of terracing and was significantly lower at the south-eastern end (Figure 5).

**2.24** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil, with frequent gravel, up to 0.40m in depth. This overlay the yellowish brown silty sand and gravel natural.

### Trench 5 data

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.20	<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE	
<b>Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	62.19	<b>Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	60.66
			<b>Base</b>	61.76			<b>Base</b>	59.48
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) sandy silt, with frequent gravel.	25	2	0.40			
501	Cut	Irregular feature, sloping steeply on SE side. Base & NW side not exposed. Contains (502). Possibly represents the pond shown on post-medieval mapping.	> 3.5	> 2	> 0.55			
502	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/6) sand with frequent gravel and occasional flint cobbles. Fill of [501].	> 3.5	> 2	> 0.55			
503	Cut	Irregular feature to N of [501]. Contains (504).	4	>2	>0.35			
504	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) slightly clayey sand with moderate gravel. Fill of [503].	4	>2	>0.35			
505	Layer	Black (10YR 2/1) soft sandy silt with frequent charcoal	2.2	2	0.06			
-	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand and gravel natural	25	2	-			

**2.25** Two large irregular features, cuts [501] and [503], were encountered towards the south-eastern end of the trench (Figure 5, Plates 7-9). Both were aligned approximately north – south and may have formed part of the pond, marked on maps from at least 1814 (Clarke 2011, Figures 4-9). The earlier mapping appears to show a large water filled feature with a line

across the centre, possibly marking a bridge or causeway. By 1875 the southern end had apparently been backfilled, but the feature appears to have been enlarged between 1878 and 1897 (ibid, Figures 7-8). A number of post-medieval tile fragments were recovered from the fills of both features.

### Trench 6

**2.26** Trench 6 was located in the centre of the site, between the two hospital buildings and to the east of Trench 4 (Figure 2). It was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 25m in length, 2m in width and 1.20m in depth.

**2.27** The stratigraphy revealed in the sections across most of the trench comprised a layer of dark greyish brown clayey silty sand topsoil, 0.40m in depth. Below this was a greyish brown clayey silty sand subsoil, 0.80m in depth, which may represent a levelling deposit. The north-western end of the trench, which extended into the access road to the car park, consisted of tarmac and hardcore, bounded to the south-east by a concrete block (Figure 5). This overlay the pale grey silty sand and gravel natural.

### Trench 6 data

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	1.20	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.53	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.15
		Base	60.88			Base	59.83
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	Tarmac and hardcore at the north-western end of the trench..	3.5	2	0.60		
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) clayey silty sand topsoil, with frequent roots and pebbles	21.10	2	0.45		
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) clayey silty sand subsoil, with frequent pebbles. Possibly a levelling deposit.	21.10	2	0.80		
601	Cut	Possible pit or ditch with near vertical side NW. Base not seen. Contains (602).	>5.4	> 1.83	> 0.50		
602	Fill	Very dark grey (10YR 3/1) clayey silty sand with humic or organic content and moderate gravel. Fill of [601].	>5.4	> 1.83	> 0.50		
-	Layer	Pale grey silty sand and gravel natural.	25	2	-		

**2.28** A single large feature, cut [601], was located at the south-eastern end of the trench (Figure 5, Plate 10). This contained fill (602), a clayey sandy silt containing some humic or organic material (Plate 11). Finds recovered from the fill include Roman pottery sherds, of 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century date, daub fragments and Roman brick and tile.

### Trench 7

**2.29** Trench 7 was located in the centre of the site, to the north of the rear wing of the main hospital building (Figure 2). It was aligned ENE – WSW and measured 15.15m in length, 2.30m in width and 1.60m in depth.

**2.30** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of tarmac, 0.10m in depth, above a layer of concrete, 0.20m in depth. Below this was a significant depth of made ground, consisting of loose dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) sandy clay silt, over 1.10m in depth. The natural was not exposed in the trench, due to the unstable nature of the overburden.

#### Trench 7 data

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2.30	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.60	<b>Orientation</b>	ENE-WSW	
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	60.25	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	60.17
			<b>Base</b>	59.75			<b>Base</b>	58.57
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>					
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>			
-	Layer	Tarmac	25	2.30	0.10			
-	Layer	Concrete	25	2.30	0.20			
-	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) loose sandy clay silt.	25	2.30	1.10			
701	Layer	Black (10YR 2/1) softy sandy clay silt with frequent charcoal.	>6.4	> 2.30	> 0.10			
702	Structure	Square brick structure, built of modern frogged red bricks in cement mortar . Central space c.0.58m square filled with brick rubble.	1	1	-			
703	Structure	Short length of brick wall, aligned NE-SW extending from S section. Built of frogged red bricks in cement mortar. Possibly the western side to [704].	0.70	0.12	-			
704	Structure	Two lengths of brick wall at E end of trench, 1 runs NE-SW, the other NW-SE. Walls built of frogged red bricks in cement mortar. Possibly eastern side of [703].	>2	0.15	-			
705	Layer	Possible hardcore or backfill layer, consisting of brick & concrete fragments and gravel . Butts walls [703] and [704].	>2	>3.80	-			

**2.31** A number of brick walls and structures, of modern date, were encountered in this trench (Figure 6). Of these, walls [703] and [704] may form part of a two-roomed structure. No buildings are visible on OS maps dating to the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century ([www.old-maps.co.uk](http://www.old-maps.co.uk)), suggesting that these walls may relate to cellars to the north of the main hospital block. Layer (705) may represent deliberate backfilling of the structure.

#### Trenches 8 & 8a

**2.32** The originally proposed location for Trench 8 was in the access roadway to the north of the main hospital block. Owing to the number of live services in this area it was agreed with the HET that two smaller trenches (8a and 8b) with the same total area, would be excavated between the dwellings and the maternity block.

#### Trench 8a

**2.33** Trench 8a was located towards the north-eastern corner of the site, between the maternity block and no.42 London Road (Figure 2). It was aligned NNE – SSW and measured 15m in length, 2m in width and 1.60m in depth.

**2.34** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a dark grey sandy silt subsoil, 1.60m in depth. This lay directly over the yellow natural sands and gravel. No topsoil was present in this area.

### Trench 8a data

<b>Length (m):</b>	15	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.60	<b>Orientation</b>	NNE-SSW	
<b>Level at N End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.40	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.38	
		<b>Base</b>	60.01			<b>Base</b>	59.73	
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Layer	Dark grey (2.5YR 4/1) sandy silt subsoil with frequent pebbles	15	2	1.60			
801	Layer	Black (10YR 2/1) soft clay silt with frequent charcoal. Possibly representing <i>in situ</i> burning.	0.90	0.40	0.20			
802	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) soft sandy clay silt with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal flecks.	>4.5	> 1.83	0.25			
803	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) sandy clay silt, possibly a redeposited natural overlying (804).	0.70	0.12	-			
804	Layer	Dark greyish brown (2.5 Y 4/2) soft sandy clay silt with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks. Underlies (803).	>1	>1	>0.05			
-	Layer	Yellow (2.5YR 7/8) natural sands and gravels.	15	2	-			

**2.35** A series of layers were encountered in the trench (Figure 6, Plates 13 – 14). Layer (801) appears to represent a small sub-rectangular area of *in situ* burning above a wider spread of material, context (802). Two sherds of Roman greyware were recovered from (801) and three sherds of early Roman pottery, including one grog-tempered sherd, were collected from (802). Layer (802) was butted by a spread of redeposited natural, context (803), which overlay (804). No finds were recovered from (803) but a single sherd of late Iron Age or early Roman grog-tempered ware was recovered from (804). Due to the size of the area exposed it was not possible to ascertain whether these layers represent fills within features.

### Trench 8b

**2.36** Trench 8b was located immediately to the north of the access road (Figure 2). It was aligned WNW-ESE and measured 10m in length, 2m in width and 1.60m in depth.

**2.37** The stratigraphy exposed in the trench sections comprised a layer of greyish brown clayey silty sand subsoil up to 1.50m in depth. This overlay the pale brown natural sandy clay with gravels. No topsoil was present in this area.

<b>Length (m):</b>	10	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.60	<b>Orientation</b>	WNW-ESE	
<b>Level at NW end of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.26	<b>Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.10	
		<b>Base</b>	59.70			<b>Base</b>	59.50	
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) clayey silty sand subsoil with frequent pebbles	10	2	1.50			

<b>Length (m):</b>	10	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.60	<b>Orientation</b>	WNW-ESE	
<b>Level at NW end of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	61.26	<b>Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	61.10
			<b>Base</b>	59.70			<b>Base</b>	59.50
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Dimensions (m)</b>			
					<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>	
805	Layer	Black (10YR 2/1) clayey silt with frequent charcoal.			10	2	0.14	
-	Layer	Yellow (2.5YR 7/8) natural sands and gravels.			10	2	-	

**2.38** A single layer burnt layer, context (805), was encountered below the overburden (Figure 6, Plate 15). This covered the entire trench, but no finds were present to date the context.

### Trench 9

**2.39** Trench 9 was located towards the south-eastern corner of the site, to the rear of the south-east wing of the main hospital building. It measured 25m in length, 2m in width and 1m in depth.

**2.40** The stratigraphy exposed in the trench sections comprised a layer of dark grey sandy silt subsoil, up to 0.80m in depth, which overlay the yellow natural sands and gravels.

### Trench 9 data

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1	<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE	
<b>Level at NW end of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	60.63	<b>Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	60.59
			<b>Base</b>	60.15			<b>Base</b>	59.71
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Dimensions (m)</b>			
					<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>	
-	Layer	Dark grey (2.5YR 4/1) sandy silt subsoil with frequent pebbles.			25	2	0.80	
901	Cut	Oval cut, with steep sides and flat base. Contains (902).			3	>1.2	0.25	
902	Fill	Grey (10YR 5/1) loose sandy silt with occasional pebbles and gravel. Fill of [901].			3	>1.2	0.25	
903	Cut	Irregular linear feature, aligned NE-SW, with irregular sides and base. Possible root channel. Contains (904).			>2	1.60	0.10	
904	Fill	Grey (10YR 5/1) loose sandy silt with frequent gravel and pebbles. Fill of [903].			>2	1.60	0.10	
-	Layer	Yellow (2.5YR 7/8) natural sands and gravels.			25	2	-	

**2.41** Two features, cuts [901] and [903], were encountered at the eastern end of the trench (Figure 7, Plate 16). Cut [901] was a shallow sub-circular feature, containing a loose sandy silt fill which produced one sherd of brown glazed earthenware of post-medieval date (Plate 17). This may represent the remains of a small pond shown on maps between 1852 and the 1920s (Clarke 2011, Figures 6 - 9b).

**2.42** Cut [903], to the east of [901], was an irregular linear feature aligned north-east to south-west. It contained a loose sandy silt fill, which produced a single sherd of post-medieval



glazed stoneware. The feature had irregular sides and base (Figure 9), suggesting that it may represent a root channel.

### Trench 10

**2.43** Trench 10 was located in the north-eastern quadrant of the site, between Trenches 8a and 8b (Figure 2). It was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 15m in length, 2m in width and 1.80m in depth.

**2.44** The stratigraphy exposed in the trench sections comprised a dark grey slightly clayey silty sand topsoil, up to 0.40m in depth, above a greyish brown slightly clayey silty sand subsoil, up to 1.40m in depth. This overlay the pale grey brown silty sand natural.

### Trench 10 data

Length (m):	17.5	Width (m):	2	Maximum Depth (m):	1.80	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE end of Trench (mOD)			<b>Top</b> 60.15	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			<b>Top</b> 60.33
			<b>Base</b> 58.71				<b>Base</b> 58.63
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) slightly clayey silty sand topsoil with frequent pebbles.	17.5	2	0.40		
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) slightly clayey silty sand subsoil with frequent pebbles.	17.5	2	1.40		
1001	Layer	Very dark brown (10YR 2/2) sandy clay silt, with some organic content, with moderate gravel, angular flint cobbles and charcoal.	12.5	2	0.28		
1002	Layer	Metalled surface, aligned NW-SE, comprising a single layer of sub-angular and rounded flint cobbles up to 0.12m in diameter & gravel up to 0.08m in diameter.	>1.15	>0.80	0.05		
1003	Fill	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) slightly silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and gravel and very occasional sub-angular flint cobbles. Fill of [1004].	>2	>0.50	0.08		
1004	Cut	Possibly sub-rectangular feature, aligned NE-SW, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Contains (1003).	>2	>0.50	0.08		
1005	Cut	Irregular oval cut, aligned N-S, with stepped sides and a flattish base. Contains (1006).	1	0.78	0.25		
1006	Fill	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) silty sandy clay with occasional gravel and sub-rounded stones. Fill of [1005].	1	0.78	0.25		
1007	Cut	Circular cut, with steep sides and a concave base. Contains (1008).	0.28	0.28	0.16		
1008	Fill	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silty clay, with no inclusions. Fill of [1007].	0.28	0.28	0.16		
-	Layer	Very pale grey brown (10YR 7/3) natural silty sand with moderate pebbles.	17.5	2	-		

**2.45** Removal of the overburden revealed a layer of buried soil, context (1001), which extended across the entire trench and sealed a number of features of Roman date (Figure 7,

Plate 18). Finds recovered from (1001) included an abraded fragment of post-medieval tile, 29 sherds of pottery, dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD, and four pieces of iron slag.

**2.46** A metalled surface, context (1002), was encountered below (1001) at the south-western end of the trench (Figure 7, Plate 19). This appeared to run north-west to south-east and consisted of a single layer of compacted flint cobbles and gravel, 0.05m in depth. No finds were recovered to date this surface, which overlay a shallow cut feature, cut [1004] (Figure 9, Plate 19). Four sherds of grog-tempered pottery, of probable late Iron Age date, were collected from its fill, context (1003).

**2.47** A possible oval pit, cut [1005], was revealed in the centre of the trench (Figure 7, Plate 20). This was aligned north – south and contained fill (1006), a sandy silty clay. Two small sherds of Roman greyware and a piece of tile, also of Roman date, were recovered from (1006).

**2.48** A small circular feature, cut [1007], was located to the north-east of [1005] (Figure 7). This has been interpreted as a possible posthole. No finds were recovered from its fill, context (1008), but it is likely to be of Roman date given the proximity of other Roman features.

### Trench 11

**2.49** Trench 11 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site, across the front of nos. 42 and 44 London Road (Figure 2). It was aligned NNE-SSW and measured 25m in length, between 2m in width at the southern end of the trench and 4m in width at the northern end. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.35m. A baulk was left towards the southern end to avoid disturbing live services.

**2.50** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of dark greyish brown slightly clayey silty sand topsoil, up to 0.15m in depth. This overlay a greyish brown slightly clayey silty sand subsoil at the northern end of the trench and layers of made ground, 0.55m in depth, at the southern end. The subsoil was present below the made ground at the southern end of the trench (Figure 8). The natural consisted of a yellowish brown silty sand with moderate pebbles.

### Trench 11 data

<b>Length (m):</b>	25	<b>Width (m):</b>	2 - 4	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.35	<b>Orientation</b>	N-S		
<b>Level at N end of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	60.88	<b>Level at S End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	60.32
			<b>Base</b>	60.28				<b>Base</b>	58.63
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>						
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>				
-	Layer	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) slightly clayey silty sand topsoil with frequent pebbles	25	4	0.15				
-	Layer	Greyish brown (10YR 5/2) slightly clayey silty sand subsoil with frequent pebbles.	25	4	1.08				
1101	Structure	Brick wall, constructed of light red (2.5YR 5/8) bricks in lime mortar.	0.70	0.50	-				
1102	Structure	Brick wall, aligned approximately N-S, built of light red (2.5YR 5/8) bricks in lime mortar. Its southern end adjoins [1103].	2.70	0.25	-				

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2 - 4	Maximum Depth (m):	1.35	Orientation	N-S	
Level at N end of Trench (mOD)			Top	60.88	Level at S End of Trench (mOD)		Top	60.32
			Base	60.28			Base	58.63
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)					
			Length	Width	Depth			
1103	Structure	Brick wall, aligned approximately E-W, built of light red (2.5YR 5/8) bricks in lime mortar. Its western end adjoins [1102].	2.25	0.25	-			
1104	Structure	Brick wall, aligned approximately N-S, built of red (2.5YR 5/8) bricks in lime mortar. Individual bricks measure 230mm x 120mm x 70mm. Wall damaged during excavation. No obvious bond pattern. Forms part of cellar with [1110] and [1109].	0.55	0.30	0.88			
1105	Cut	Linear feature, aligned approximately east – west, with gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Contains {1106}.	>4	0.60	0.25			
1106	Fill	Olive (5Y 5/6) sandy clay with frequent gravel and occasional sub-angular stones. Fill of [1105].	>4	0.60	0.25			
1107	Cut	Large feature of uncertain shape with gently sloping side to N. Base not reached. Contains (1108).	>2.25	>2	>0.40			
1108	Fill	Dark brown (10YR 3/3) sandy clay with occasional gravel, charcoal flecks and flint cobbles. Fill of [1107].	>2.25	>2	>0.40			
1109	Structure	Brick wall, only seen in section, built of red (2.5YR 5/8) bricks in lime mortar. Wall damaged during machining. Forms part of cellar with [1110] and [1104].	>0.12	0.47	0.72			
1110	Structure	Cellar roof, comprising a curving layer of lime mortar running between [1104] and [1109]. Three bricks visible at the southern end.	2	-	0.05			
1111	Cut	Irregular feature, with 2 arms extending to S. Steeply sloping side to S, base not reached. May represent more than 1 feature. Contains (1112).	>3.5	>1.80	>0.50			
1112	Fill	Dark greenish grey (1 Gley 3/1) sandy clay with moderate gravel and occasional flint cobbles and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1111].	>3.5	>1.80	>0.50			
-	Layer	Yellowish brown (10YR 5/6) silty sand with moderate pebbles.	25	4	-			

**2.51** A number of brick walls were encountered at the northern end of the trench (Figure 8, Plate 21). These appear to form part of a cellared structure, located to the east of the former maternity staff accommodation at no.42 London Road. The cartographic evidence shows that a farmhouse stood in this location from at least 1839 (Clarke 2011, Figure 4). Walls [1102] and [1103] form the southern and western sides of either a small freestanding structure, or a room within the farmhouse (Plate 22). To the south, walls [1104] and [1109] form the northern and southern sides to a cellar, which apparently had a vaulted brick ceiling, [1110] (Figure 8, Plate 23). Bricks from these contexts have been dated from the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**2.52** A number of features of probable Roman date were also encountered in Trench 11. The base of a narrow linear, cut [1105], was located immediately to the south of wall [1104]. It was aligned approximately E – W and contained fill (1106), which produced a single sherd of

Roman greyware, possibly from a ‘poppyhead’ beaker of 2<sup>nd</sup> century date. Alternatively, the pottery sherd could be a residual find within a drain associated with the farmhouse cellar.

**2.53** Part of possible pit, cut [1107], was encountered within the trench towards the southern end of the trench (Figure 8, Plate 24). This continued south under the baulk and contained fill (1108), which produced a single sherd of Roman greyware and 2 pieces of slag. Cut [1111] on the southern side of the baulk, appeared to represent an irregularly shaped feature with two arms extending to the south (Plate 25). Owing to the small area exposed within the trench, it was impossible to ascertain whether this was composed of a number of intercutting features. It contained fill (1112), which produced 19 sherds of Roman pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century date. The relationship between [1107] and [1111] could not be determined because of the presence of the baulk.

### Trench 12

**2.54** Trench 12 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site (Figure 2). It was aligned approximately east – west and measured 25m in length, 4m in width and 0.85m in depth.

**2.55** The stratigraphy revealed in the trench sections comprised a layer of dark grey sandy silt subsoil, over 0.80m in depth. This overlay the natural, which consisted of yellow sands and gravels.

### Trench 12 data

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	4	Maximum Depth (m):	0.85	Orientation	E-W
Level at E end of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.19	Level at W End of Trench (mOD)		Top	61.66
		Base	60.30			Base	61.28
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
-	Layer	Dark grey (2.5YR 4/1) sandy silt subsoil with frequent pebbles.	25	4	>0.80		
1201	Cut	Irregular linear feature, aligned NW-SE, with steep undercut sides. Base not reached. Contains (1202).	>5	3	>0.50		
1202	Fill	Very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) clayey silty sand with occasional gravel and charcoal flecks. Fill of [1201].	>5	3	>0.50		
1203	Cut	Irregular oval feature, aligned approximately E-W, with irregular sides and a concave base. Contains (1204).	2.70	1	0.40		
1204	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) loose sandy clay silt with frequent gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of [1203].	2.70	1	0.40		
1205	Cut	Sub-rectangular feature with steep, near vertical sides, aligned NNE–SSW. Base not reached. NW corner only exposed in the trench. Contains (1206).	>1.70	>0.90	>0.30		
1206	Fill	Dark greyish brown (10YR 4/2) loose sandy clay silt with moderate gravel and occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of [1205].	>1.70	>0.90	>0.30		
-	Layer	Yellow (2.5YR 7/8) sands and gravels	25	4	-		

**2.56** Three cut features were revealed in the trench (Figure 8, Plate 26). Cut [1201], at the western end, is an irregular linear feature, running north-west to south-east. This may represent part of a tree line shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851 (Clarke 2011, Figure 6). No feature is shown in this area on the maps consulted for the desk-based research (Clarke 2011). Fragments of post-medieval peg tile and a single small sherd of brown-glazed post-medieval earthenware were recovered from its fill.

**2.57** Cut [1203], an irregular oval feature aligned approximately east – west, lay less than 1m to the east of [1201] (Figure 8, Plate 27). Part of the rim of a brown-glazed earthenware dish of 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from its fill. No definite function could be assigned to this feature.

**2.58** The north-western corner of sub-rectangular feature, cut [1205], was encountered at the eastern end of the trench (Figure 8, Plate 28). A single sherd of blue and white glazed pottery, of 19<sup>th</sup> century date, and a number of post-medieval tile and brick fragments were recovered from its fill.

## FINDS ASSESSMENT

### Concordance of significant finds

Context	Pottery		Tile		Brick		RB CBM		Slag	
	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)	No.	Wt. (g)
102	6	35					1	10		
202	2	10			1	45				
204			2	50						
Tr.5 u/s	1	20								
502			9	435						
504			2	90						
602	10	190					8	500		
801	2	20					1	5		
802	3	45								
804	1	20								
902	1	3	4	60						
904	1	5	1	25						
Tr.10 u/s	1	2								
Tr.11 u/s	1	20								
1001	29	615					1	5	4	65
1003	4	105								
1006	2	15	1	35						
1104					5	2185				
1106	1	10								
1108	1	2							2	20
1109					8	4450				
1110					3	675				
1112	19	160	1	100			3	30	4	220
1202	1	10	12	615	7	905				
1204	2	120								
1206	1	3	1	50	3	145				
Total	91	1410	33	1410	26	8405	14	550	10	305

## POTTERY

**2.59** A total of 91 sherds of pottery, weighing 1410g, was recovered from 3 unstratified and 17 stratified contexts. The condition of the sherds consisted largely of small abraded fragments. The pottery from the site ranged in date between the late Iron Age and the late post-medieval period, with the bulk of the assemblage comprising material dating to the late pre-Roman Iron Age and the Romano-British period.

### Methodology

**2.60** The recording of the pottery was on standard pro forma, which record by fabric, weight (in grammes) number and type of sherd (e.g. rim, plain body etc.) and vessel form, where identified. Individual sherds were examined through a binocular microscope at x10 magnification to determine the nature of the inclusions, any surface treatment or decoration and any other notable characteristics, which were noted on the pottery recording form. The overall condition of the sherds from each context and the estimated date range, based on the forms and fabrics present, were also noted.

### Discussion

**2.61** Late Iron Age and Roman pottery formed the largest group within the assemblage, comprising 76 sherds (83.5% of the total assemblage) from 3 unstratified and 10 stratified contexts. A single fragment of late Medieval pottery (1% of the total assemblage) was recovered as a residual sherd within a post-medieval context. Post-medieval earthenwares (8 sherds, 8.8% of the total assemblage) and glazed china (3 sherds, 3.3% of the total assemblage) were also present.

**2.62** The bulk of the Roman pottery assemblage consisted of coarsewares commonly found on domestic sites. The earliest pottery on the site was represented by grog-tempered pottery of late Iron Age and early Roman date, which formed the second largest fabric group (21 sherds, 27.5% of the Roman assemblage). A small amount of late Roman pottery was also present, represented by oxidised and reduced ware sherds from Much Hadham in Hertfordshire and a single example of a colour coat ware from the Nene Valley in Cambridgeshire.

**2.63** The largest group (39 sherds, 51% of the Roman assemblage) comprised greywares, of which the bulk were from unsourced, but probably local, kiln sites. The majority of these sherds were undiagnostic and therefore difficult to date closely, but it appears that the majority are of late 1<sup>st</sup> – late 2<sup>nd</sup> century date. Small amounts of coarseware from kiln sites outside the immediate vicinity were recovered from the site. These include two sherds from a Colchester white ware mortarium, four sherds of probable Hadham ware and one sherd of Black Burnished 1 ware.

**2.64** Samian pottery comprised the largest group of finewares from the site (7 sherds, 9.2% of the Roman assemblage). Two sherds of colour-coat ware (2.5% of the Roman assemblage) were also recovered. One was probably from the Nene Valley kilns, the other was too small for a definite identification.

**2.65** As the bulk of the material consisted of abraded and undiagnostic bodysherds, few vessel forms could be identified. Jars were probably the predominant vessel type on the site. Of the identifiable sherds one rim fragment from a small Hadham ware jar was present in (602) and two rim sherds from a small bead rimmed jar in grog-tempered ware came from (1001). Other forms represented in the assemblage include a 'dog dish' rim in Black Burnished 1 ware

from (602), two sherds from the same Colchester mortarium from (1001), part of the base of a poppyhead beaker in (1106) and a small rim sherd from a flanged bowl, collected from the overburden in Trench 11. The sherds of samian were largely too small to definitely identify forms, but a decorated bodysherd in (1112) came from a form 29 bowl and a part of a possible form 18 rim was recovered from the overburden in Trench 10.

**2.66** Apart from a single sherd of late Medieval green-glazed ware, recovered as residual from (102), no evidence for activity between the late Roman period and the 18<sup>th</sup> century was encountered on the site. Brown-glazed earthenware sherds, of 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> century date, formed the largest group of post-Roman pottery. Very small amounts of glazed china and stoneware were also present.

### *Conclusions*

**2.67** The examination of the pottery has demonstrated that activity on the site started in the late Iron Age and continued into the late Roman period. The earliest feature on the site appears to be [1004], a possible pit which produced four sherds of late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery only. This was overlain by a metallated surface, context (1002), which was sealed in turn by layer (1001). Pottery of late 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> century date was recovered from (1001). Other features and deposits producing early Roman pottery were encountered in Trench 8a.

**2.68** Grog-tempered wares continued in use into the early Roman period, which is also characterised by the introduction of local greywares. The early Roman assemblage is noticeably lacking in imported wares. Apart from a handful of samian sherds, very little material from outside the immediate area is represented on the site.

**2.69** Activity appears to have restarted in the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> century AD. A single feature, linear or pit [601], located to the west of the early Roman features, contained part of a vessel in Nene Valley colour coat ware. Part of a Black Burnished 1 dish rim and sherds of Hadham ware were also recovered from this feature.

### *Recommendations*

**2.70** No further information of archaeological significance is likely to be obtained from further examination of the late Iron Age and Roman assemblage as it stands. On this basis, no further work is proposed at present.

**2.71** Should further work be required on the site, then this material may be considered as part of any future pottery report.

**2.72** Given the small size and fragmentary nature of the post-Roman pottery assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

## **CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL**

### *Post-medieval Tile*

**2.73** Thirty three tile fragments, weighing 1410g, were recovered from 9 stratified contexts. The material comprised broken fragments of post-medieval peg tile collected from features of post-medieval date only.

### *Recommendations*

**2.74** Given the small size and fragmentary nature of this assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

### *Post-medieval Brick*

**2.75** Twenty six brick fragments, weighing 8405g, were collected from 6 stratified contexts, three of which represented part of. No complete examples were available for collection.

**2.76** The majority of the brick fragments (16 pieces) were recovered from Trench 11, which contained the remains of a cellar below the demolished farmhouse, structures [1104], [1109] and [1110]. Most of these are soft reds, made in a hand mould with a very early crude frog. They are likely to have come from the west Essex / east London area, possibly around Ingatestone.

**2.77** The exceptions are the five bricks from [1104], the northern cellar wall, which date to the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The bricks from [1109] and [1110] date from the period 1840 – 1860 and appear to have been used as facing bricks, although there is little evidence of mortar being used on the upper or lower faces. This suggests that they may have been stacked, rather than being correctly built into a wall. The evidence suggests that the cellar existed by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, but may have been rebuilt in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**2.78** The remaining bricks fragments were recovered as part of the backfill in cut features of post-medieval date, including a possible quarry in Trench 2 and two pits in Trench 12. These are all later in date, showing evidence of machine manufacture and frogging.

### *Recommendations*

**2.79** Given the small size and fragmentary nature of this assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material.

### *Roman Ceramic Building Material*

**2.80** Fourteen fragments of Roman ceramic building material, weighing 550g, were recovered from 5 stratified contexts. All of this material, which includes 5 pieces of daub, weighing 30g, recovered from (602), consisted of small, abraded and undiagnostic pieces. However, their presence indicates a permanent structure in the immediate vicinity of the site.

### *Recommendations*

**2.81** Given the small size and fragmentary nature of this assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material at present. Should further work be required on the site then this material may be considered as part of any future report.

### *Slag*

**2.82** Ten pieces of iron slag, weighing 305g, were collected from 3 stratified contexts, all of Roman date. The presence of this material suggests possible ironworking in the vicinity of the site.

**2.83** All the slag pieces were of irregular shape, with rough, coarse exteriors, suggesting that these were derived from the smithing, rather than the smelting, process.

### *Recommendations*

**2.84** Given the small size and fragmentary nature of this assemblage, no further work is proposed on this material at present. Should further work be required on the site, and further examples of iron slag recovered, then this material will be considered as part of any future report.



### Bulk soil samples

**2.85** Ten bulk soil samples were collected from the site (see tables below). In order to rapidly assess their potential for the preservation of plant remains, and to provide other useful data, a 5 litre subsample has been processed from each sample. The heavy residues were washed through a 1mm mesh and the flots through a 300µm mesh. The flots were examined under a binocular microscope at x10 magnification and the residues were hand-sorted by eye.

Sample no.	Context no.	Sample size	Comments
1	1108	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
2	1106	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
3	1112	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
4	1001	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
5	1006	30 litres	Flot produced small no. of burnt grains, charcoal & rootlets;
6	1003	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
7	502	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
8	602	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
9	802	30 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal
10	801	10 litres	Flot produced rootlets & charcoal

### Finds from samples

Context	Sample	Pottery	CBM	Slag	An Bone	Charcoal	Fe obj
1108	1		✓ 5			✓ >1%	
1106	2		✓ 5			✓ 5*	
1112	3	✓ 2	✓ 9		✓ 1	✓ >1%	
1001	4		✓ 14	✓ 12	✓ 3	✓ >1%	✓ >1%
1006	5	✓ 3	✓ 1			✓ >1%	✓ >1%
1003	6				✓ >1%	✓ >1%	
502	7		✓ 1			✓ >1%	
602	8		✓ 14		✓ 1	✓ >1%	
802	9	✓ 2	✓ 4			✓ 21*	
801	10	✓ 6	✓ 3	✓ 6		✓ >1%	✓ >1%

**2.86** The subsamples provided little environmental evidence. A small number of burnt grains were recovered from sample 5, the fill of a possible pit in Trench 10. No molluscan or insect evidence was present in any sample, and the charcoal consisted of small flecks, not large enough for species identification.

**2.87** Industrial residues, comprising slag and hammerscale, were present in sample 4, from a layer within Trench 10 and sample 10, a small area of apparent in situ burning in Trench 8a.

**2.88** Other finds recovered from the sample residues include small pottery sherds and crumbs of fired clay. Fragments of animal bone were also present, but these appeared to represent animals larger than shrews and mice.

### Recommendations

**2.89** As the archaeological potential of these samples is low, no further work is proposed on the bulk samples at present. Should further work be required on the site, then the remaining soil from samples 4, 5 and 10 may be submitted for specialist analysis with samples collected at that time.

### 3. Discussion

#### Archaeological Background

**3.1** A desk based archaeological assessment (Oxford Archaeology East 2011), collating data from secondary historical sources, a HER search for a 250m radius from the site, and historic mapping, was submitted with the application for planning permission. This has been considered along with the Braintree Historic Towns Assessment Report (English Heritage 1999) and an updated search of the HER, to produce the following summary:

- Evidence for early prehistoric activity in the area of Braintree is limited and poorly located, but includes finds of lithic implements (HER 17490) and a Bronze Age hoard (HER 6227) associated with possible metal working debris.
- Iron Age activity in Braintree is dominated by an area of possible settlement close to the town centre, to the north of the present site, which includes round houses (HER 16351-3) and an enclosure on London Road (HER 6295/6). It has been proposed that a large banked and ditched enclosure, or *oppidum*, was located to the northeast of the current site, with the northern boundary running along Coggeshall and Cressing Road. Iron age burials have also been recorded in the southeast and south of the town (English Heritage 1999).
- The Roman small town of Braintree lay to the west of the junction formed between the east-west aligned Stane Street and the northeast-southwest aligned Sudbury-Chelmsford route, which follows London Road. The core of the town was approximately triangular in shape with ribbon development extending west and south. To the west of the town lay a substantial Roman cemetery (English Heritage 1999).
- Finds of Roman pottery and industrial residues during the construction of the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, and during recent test pit excavations, would suggest that Roman urban activity extends at least as far south as the southern extent of the site (Oxford Archaeology East 2011).
- Evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement in Braintree is scarce and it has been suggested that any settlement was essentially rural in nature (English Heritage 1999). However, a number of finds including pottery and two inhumations with knives are known from Hunnable's Gravel Pit (HER 6307), approximately 200m north of the site of the present investigation. There have also been reports of 'dark earth' from excavations within the Roman town (English Heritage 1999).
- The early medieval town of Braintree appears to have been concentrated around two centres: St Michael's Church, to the north of the present site, and the Bishops Palace, to the northwest. In the 13th century, a planned 'new town' was developed around the market (English Heritage 1999). A small number of medieval finds have been reported from the vicinity of the proposed development, including a 14th century coin (HER 6203) and 13th century pottery (HER 6308).
- Braintree continued to grow in the post-medieval period, and was dominated by the cloth trade. Initially producing wool cloth for export, the wool trade declined in the 19th century and was replaced by a silk cloth trade (English Heritage 1999). By 1845, the site was occupied by a farm, with a farmhouse fronting onto London Road with outbuildings and a pond to the rear (Oxford Archaeology East 2011).
- In 1920-21, the William Julien Courtauld Hospital was built as a replacement for the former Braintree and Bocking Cottage Hospital on Halstead Road. The hospital originally contained four wards, which were extended to seven in 1936 (HER 15642).

### Research aims

**3.2** 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.

**3.3** 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, extent and development of settlement in Braintree from the prehistoric period onwards, in particular, the development of Roman settlement and industry along London Road;
- the layout, development and function of the William Julien Courtauld Hospital.

### Collected Data

**3.4** The trial trenches demonstrated that the western half of the site has been subject to significant terracing and modern disturbance, associated with the construction of the hospital. This was particularly evident in Trenches 5 and 6. Despite this, a number of features of late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval date survive on the site.

**3.5** Evidence for late Iron Age and Roman activity was recorded from four trenches in the north-eastern quadrant of the site (Trenches 6, 8a, 10 and 11). The pottery recovered from the features and deposits in this area suggest domestic activity of early Roman date along the London Road, which may have extended to the west in the later Roman period. Industrial residues were also present on the site, particularly in Trenches 8a and 10. The morphology of the recovered slag, and the presence of hammerscale in samples collected from these trenches, suggests smithing was taking place in close proximity.

**3.6** The earliest feature on the site appears to be a pit, cut [1004], which was overlain by an undated metal surface, context (1002). This in turn was sealed by a layer of material, context (1001), which contained pottery of 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date.

**3.7** Evidence for post-medieval activity was encountered in the western and southern sides of the site. The remains of a possible quarry, cut [201], were encountered at the northern end of Trench 2, but no such feature is marked on the maps consulted for the desk-based assessment, suggesting that it may pre-date the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Other features encountered, including [501], [503], [901] and [903], appear to represent ponds and boundaries recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping.

**3.8** The remains of the post-medieval farmhouse were encountered in the northern half of Trench 11, to the east of no.42 London Road. This is marked in the north-eastern corner of the site on maps dating from at least the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The building was clearly cellared, two walls of which, [1104] and [1109], were revealed in the south facing trench section. The brick samples from the northern wall have been dated to the late 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century, while those

in the southern wall, [1109] are of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The evidence suggests that cellar was in existence in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but was rebuilt or renovated in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**3.9** A record of the existing hospital buildings will be the subject of a separate report.

### **Conclusions**

**3.10** The desk-based assessment indicated the potential for encountering remains of Iron Age and Roman date. Features, deposits and finds of these periods were identified in the north-eastern quadrant of the site.

**3.11** The mapping consulted for the desk-based assessment showed that during the 19<sup>th</sup> century the site was used as a farm, with field boundaries and ponds present to the south and west of the farmhouse, which survives as the northern cottage along the road frontage

**3.12** On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the risk that the proposed development might disturb archaeological remains of significance may be considered to be *High* for the late Iron Age, Roman, Medieval and post-medieval periods. Such remains survive predominantly in the north-east quadrant of the site and the impact of the development on such remains could be mitigated by the adoption of a minimally intrusive foundation design.

### **Confidence Rating**

**3.13** 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.

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

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## 5. Illustrations

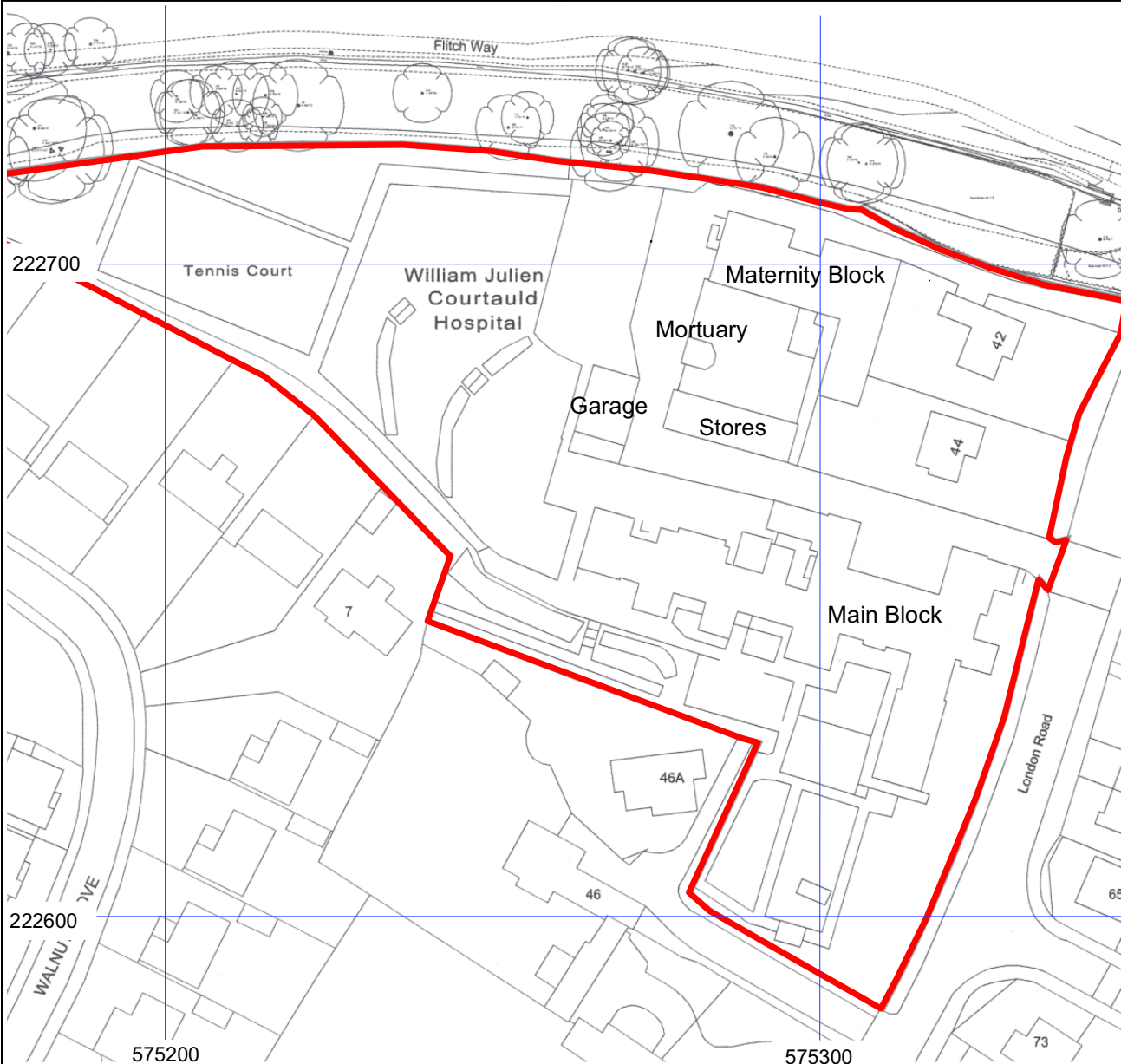
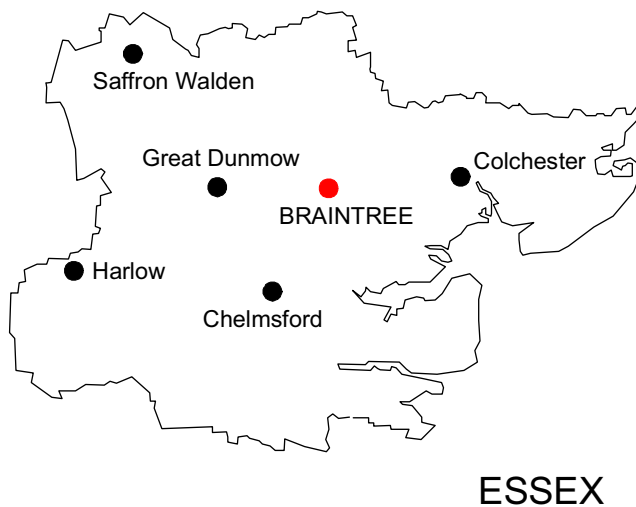
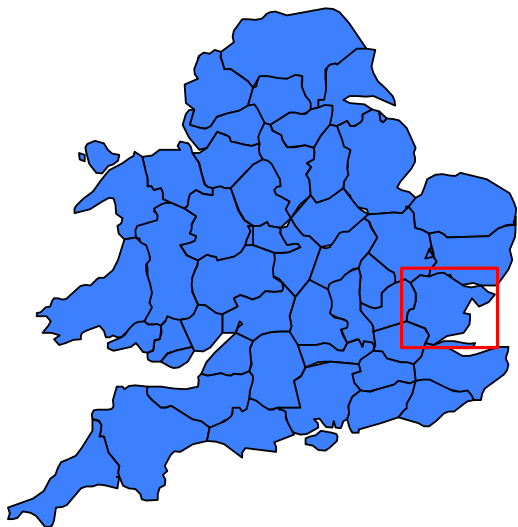
Figure 1 .....	Site location
Figure 2 .....	Trench Location
Figure 3 .....	Trenches 1 & 2: plan & section
Figure 4 .....	Trenches 3 & 4: plan & section
Figure 5 .....	Trenches 5 & 6: plan & section
Figure 6 .....	Trenches 7 & 8a/b: plan & section
Figure 7 .....	Trenches 9 & 10: plan & section
Figure 8 .....	Trenches 11 & 12: plan & section
Figure 9 .....	Feature sections
Figure 10 .....	Phase plan

Plate 1 .....	Trench 1, looking SW
Plate 2 .....	Trench 1, cut [101]
Plate 3 .....	Trench 2, looking SW
Plate 4 .....	Trench 2, cut [201]
Plate 5 .....	Trench 3, looking SW
Plate 6 .....	Trench 4, looking SW
Plate 7 .....	Trench 5, looking E
Plate 8 .....	Trench 5, cut [501]
Plate 9 .....	Trench 5, cut [503]
Plate 10 .....	Trench 6, looking SE
Plate 11 .....	Trench 6, cut [601]
Plate 12 .....	Trench 7, looking E
Plate 13 .....	Trench 8a, looking S
Plate 14 .....	Trench 8a, layers (801) – (804)
Plate 15 .....	Trench 8b, looking NW
Plate 16 .....	Trench 9, looking E
Plate 17 .....	Trench 9, cut [901]
Plate 18 .....	Trench 10, looking SW
Plate 19 .....	Trench 10, contexts (1001) – [1004]
Plate 20 .....	Trench 10, cut [105]
Plate 21 .....	Trench 11, looking S
Plate 22 .....	Trench 11, walls [1102] & [1103]
Plate 23 .....	Trench 11, farmhouse cellar & cuts [1105] & [1107]
Plate 24 .....	Trench 11, cut [1107]
Plate 25 .....	Trench 11, cut [1111]
Plate 26 .....	Trench 12, looking W
Plate 27 .....	Trench 12, cut [1203]
Plate 28 .....	Trench 12, cut [1205]

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William Julien Courtauld Hospital,  
Braintree, Essex

HN1063



Site Location

Scale 1:1000

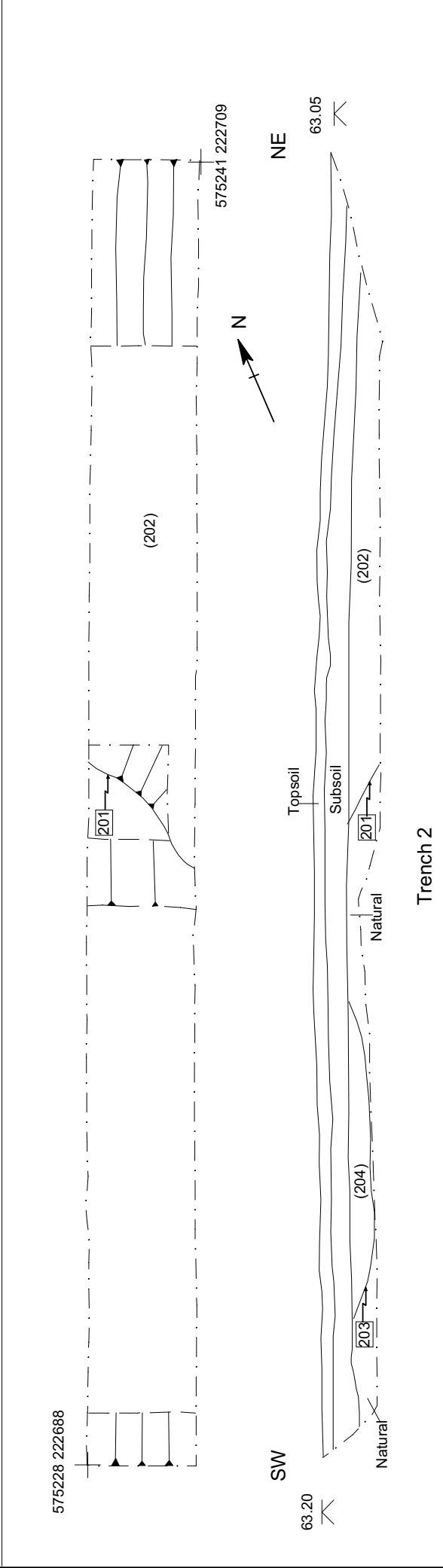
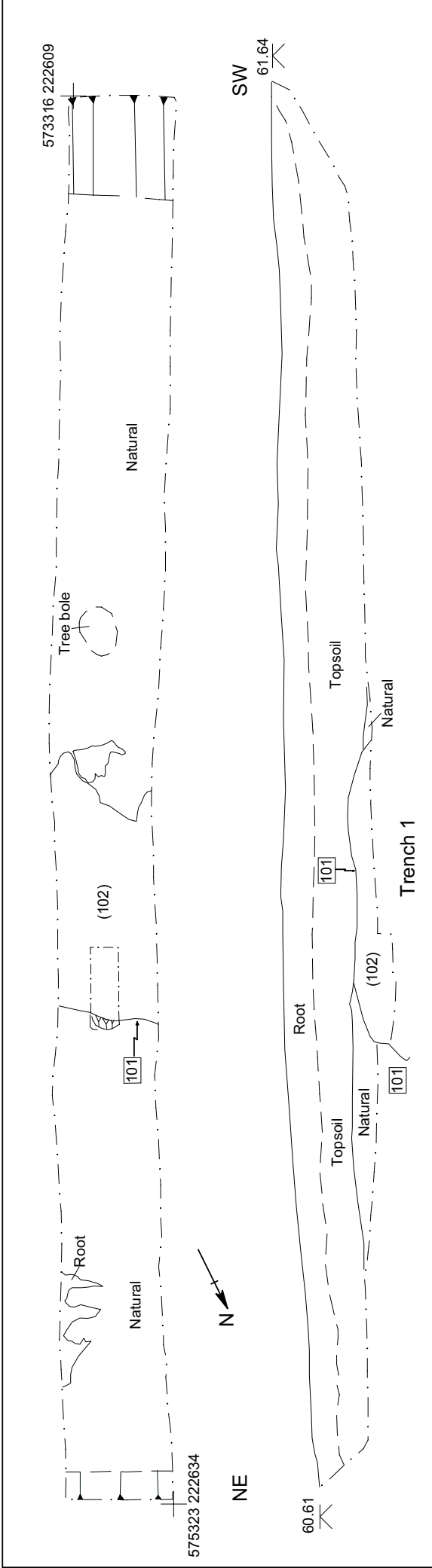
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Figure 1



Trench location








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Braintree, Essex

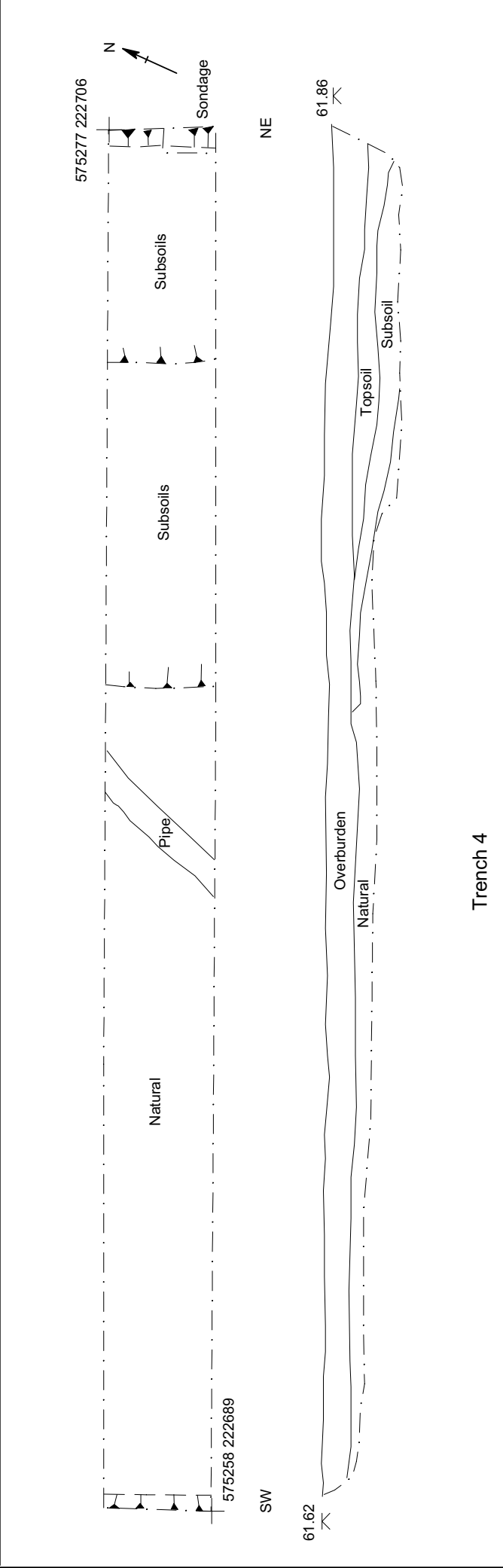
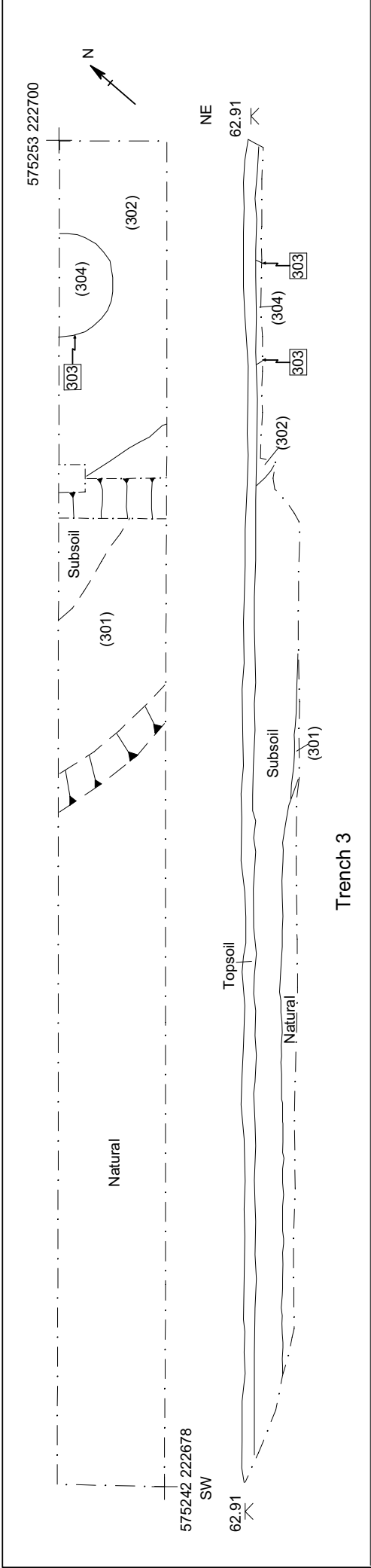
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Scale 1:75

Figure 3




Trenches 1 & 2: plan & section



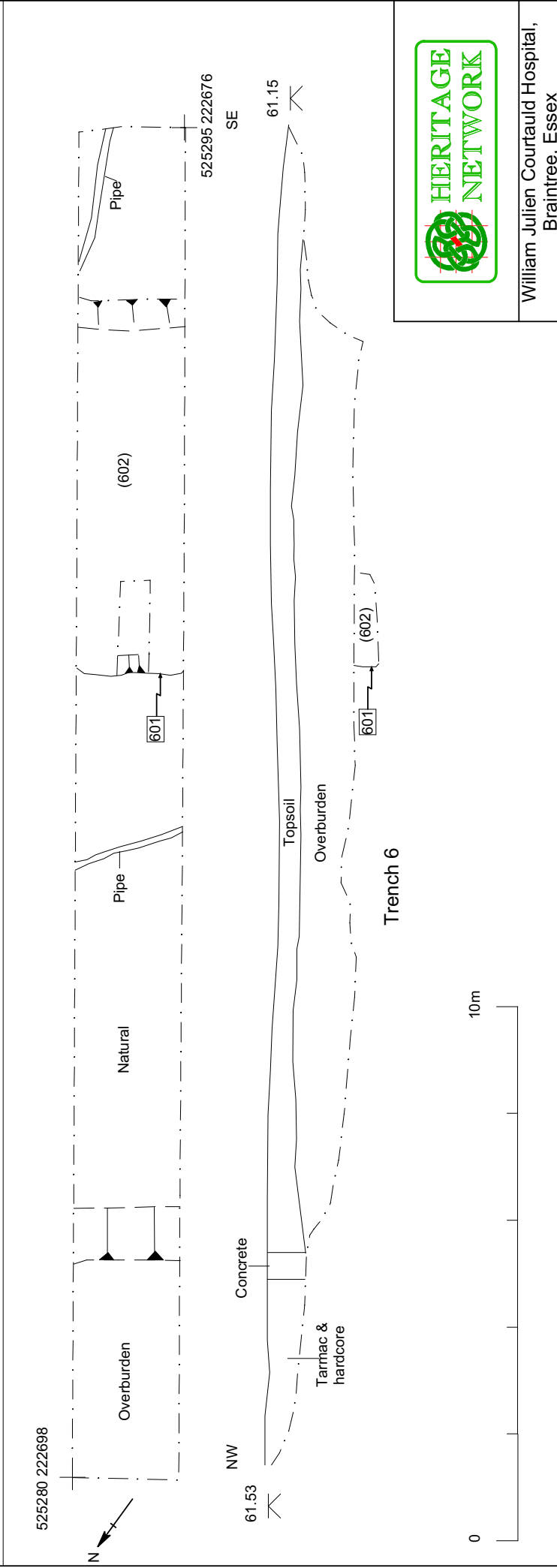
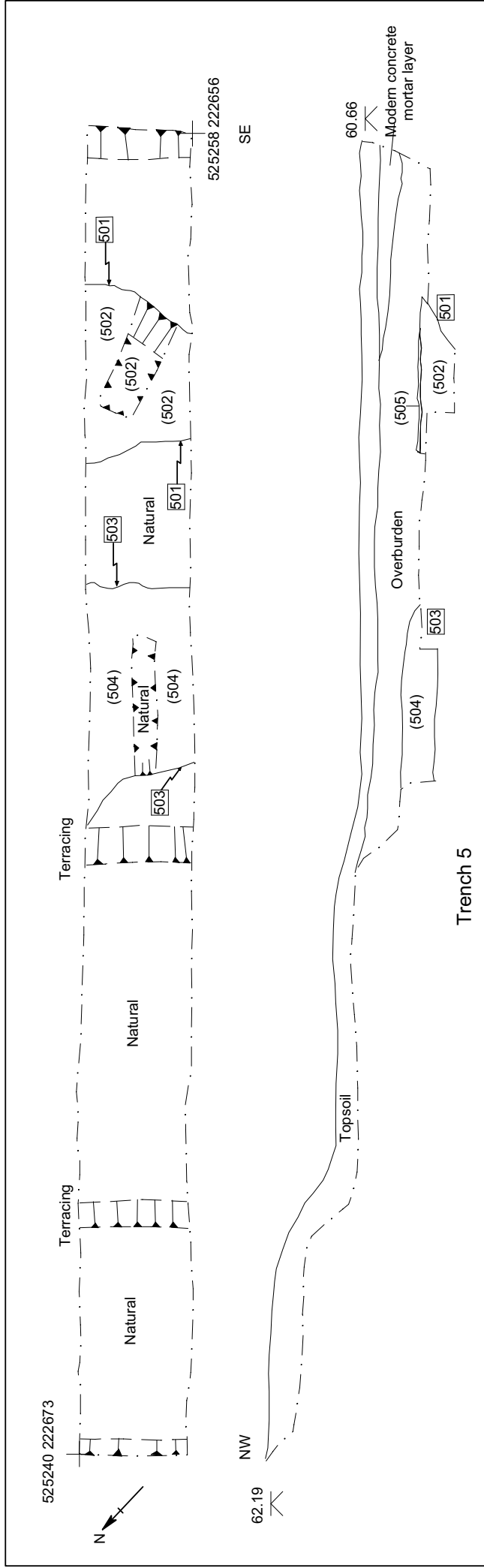


William Julien Courtauld Hospital,  
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HN1063 Scale 1:75 Figure 4



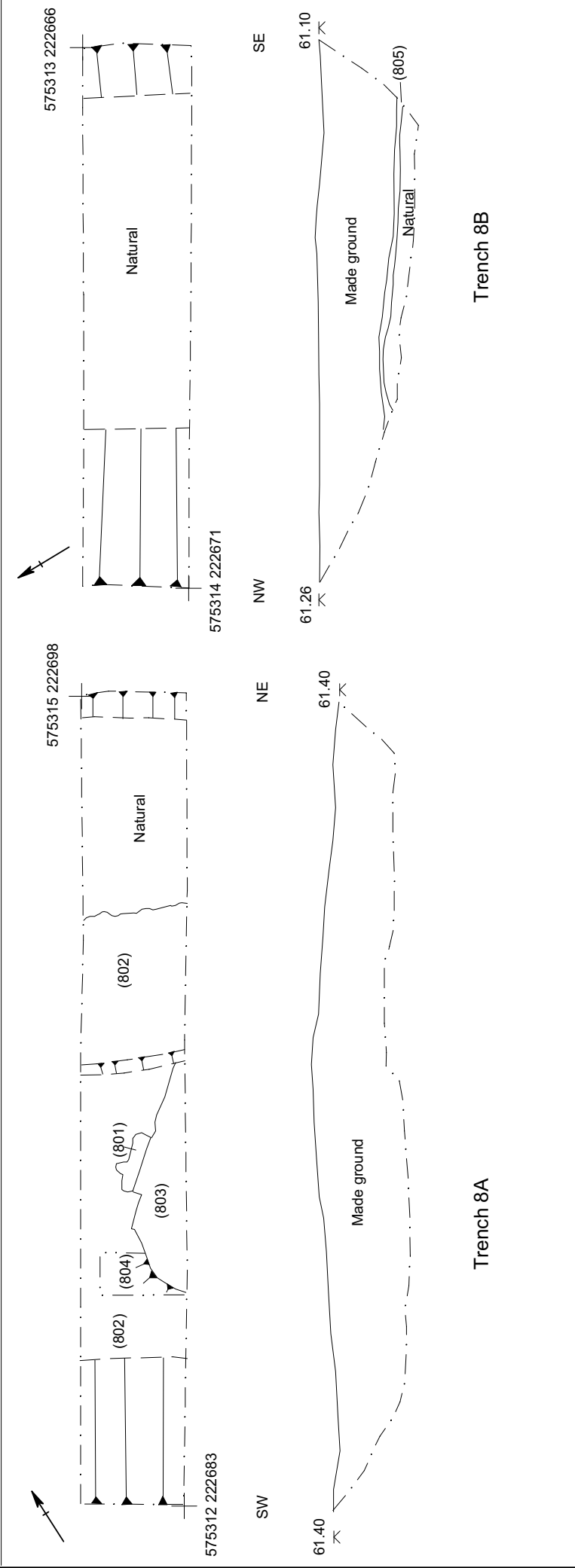
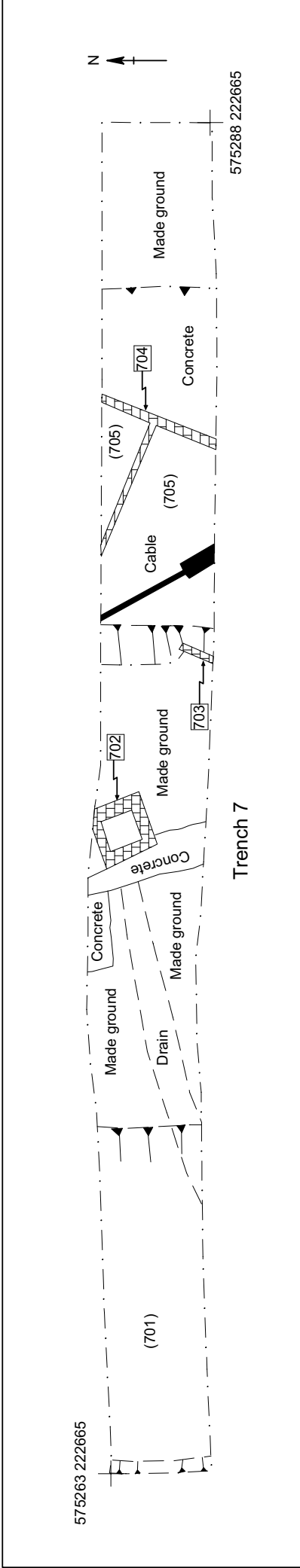
Trenches 3 & 4: plan & section




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Braintree, Essex

HN1063 Scale 1:75 Figure 5

Trenches 5 & 6: plan & section



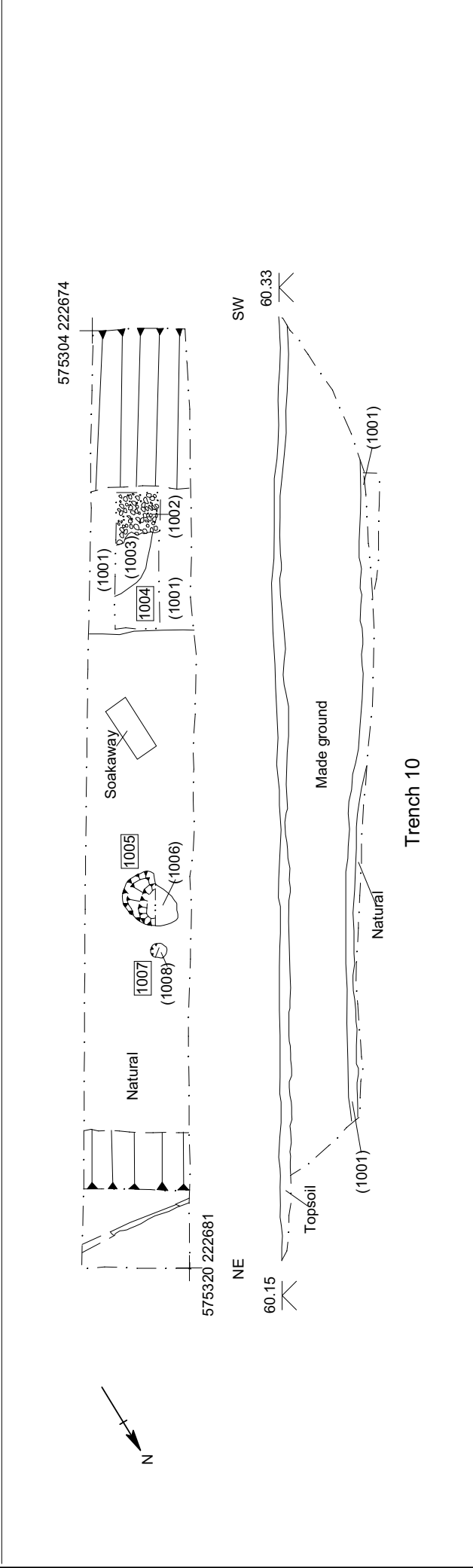
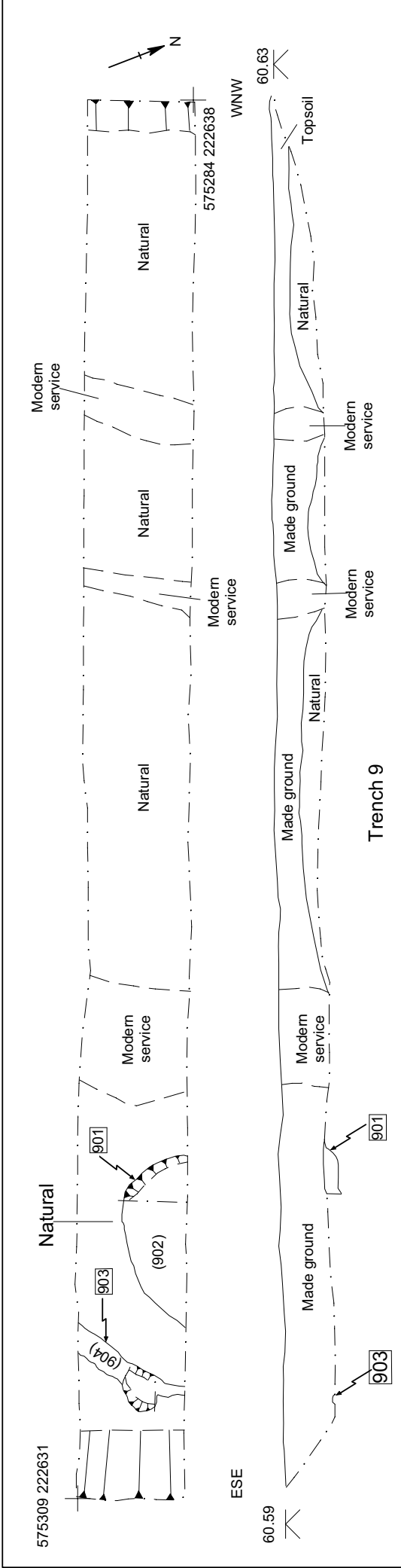



William Julien Courtauld Hospital,  
Braintree, Essex

HN1063 Scale 1:75 Figure 6

Trenches 7, 8A & 8B: plan & section

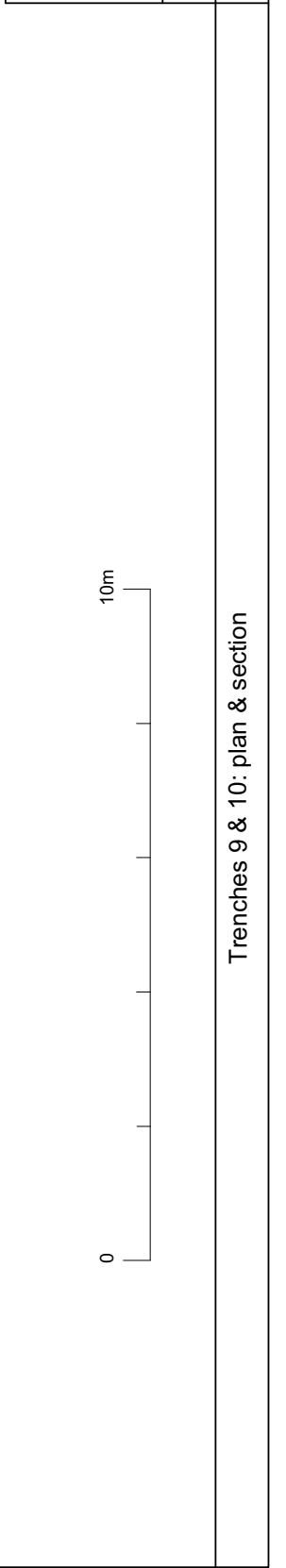


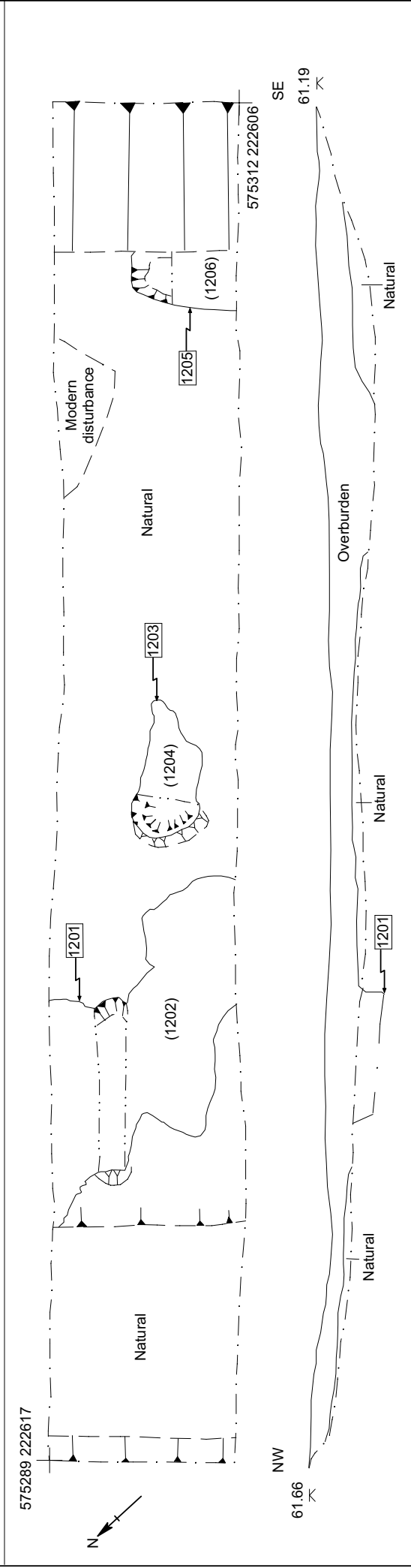
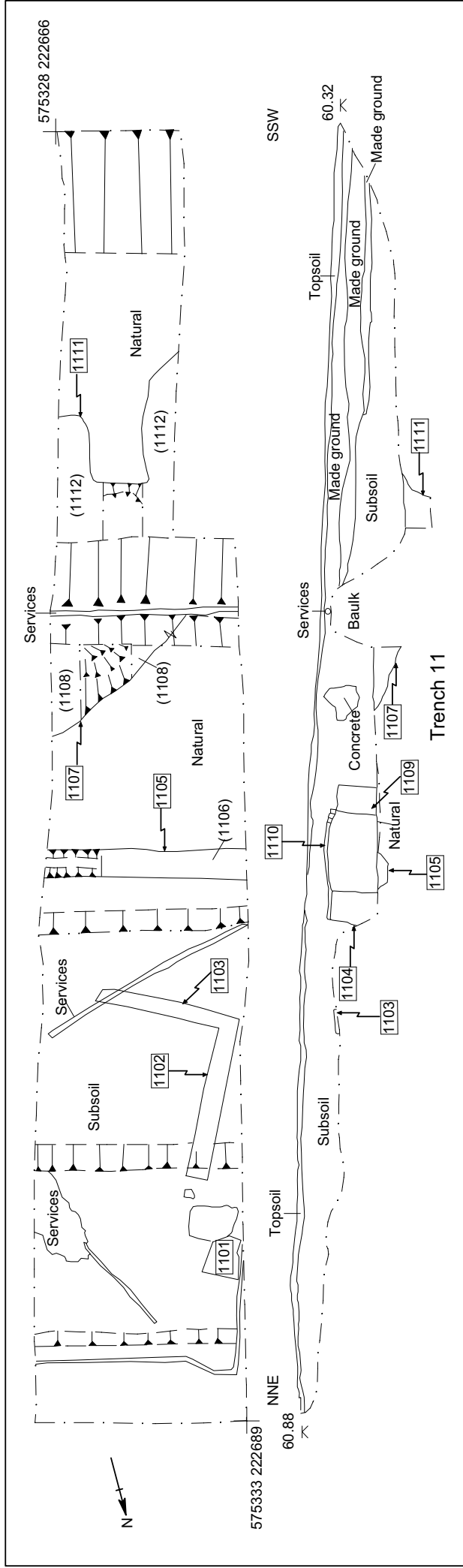




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William Julien Courtauld Hospital,  
Braintree, Essex

HN1063 Scale 1:75 Figure 7



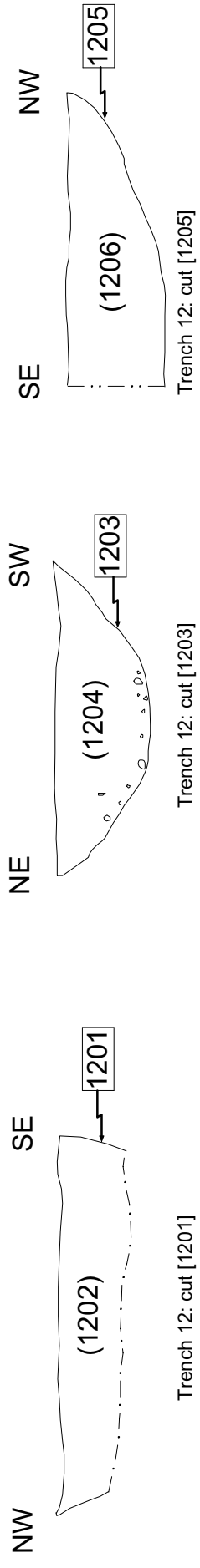
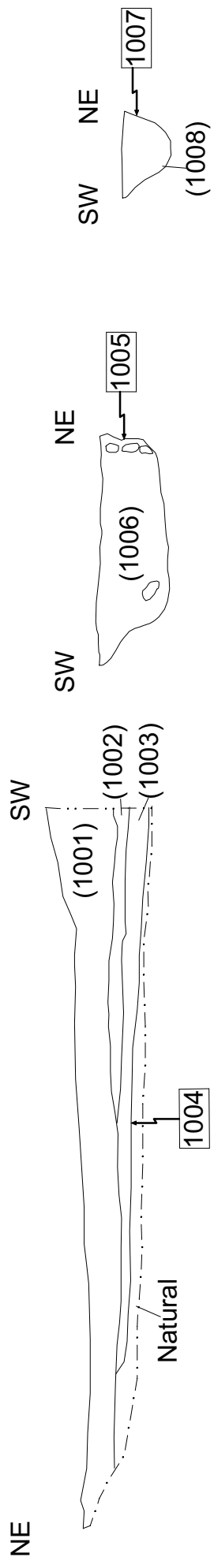
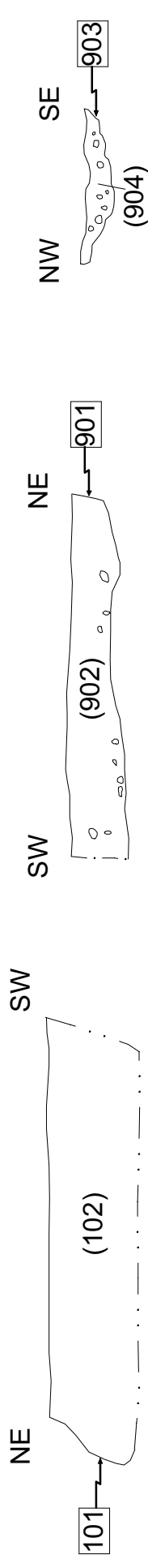



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HN1063 Scale 1:75 Figure 8

Trenches 11 & 12: plan & section



Feature sections



Phase plan

Scale 1:500

Figure 10





Plate 1: Trench 1, looking SW



Plate 2: Trench 1, cut [101] looking N



Plate 3: Trench 2, looking SW



Plate 4: Trench 2, cut [201], looking NE



Plate 5: Trench 3, looking SW



Plate 6: Trench 4, looking SW



Plate 7: Trench 5 looking E



Plate 8: Trench 5, cut [501]



Plate 9: Trench 5, cut [503] looking SW



Plate 10: Trench 6, looking SE



Plate 11: Trench 6, cut [601], looking NW



Plate 12: Trench 7, looking E



Plate 13: Trench 8a, looking S



Plate 14: Trench 8a, layers (801) - (804)



Plate 15: Trench 8b, looking NW



Plate 16: Trench 9, looking E





Plate 17: Trench 9, cut [901] looking E



Plate 18: Trench 10, looking SW



Plate 19: Trench 10, contexts (1001), (1002), (1003) & [1004] looking N



Plate 20: Trench 10, cut [1005] looking SW



Plate 21: Trench 11, looking S



Plate 22: Trench 11, walls [1102] & [1103] looking E



Plate 23: Trench 11, structures [1104], [1109] & [1110] & cuts [1105] & [1107] looking E



Plate 24: Trench 11, feature [1107] looking SE



Plate 25: Trench 11, cut [1111] looking W



Plate 26: Trench 12, looking W



Plate 27: Trench 12, cut [1203] looking E



Plate 28: Trench 12, cut [1205] looking S

# Appendix

## OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

<b>OASIS ID: heritage1-148268</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Braintree, William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road
Short description of the project	<p>As the result of a condition on the planning permission for the redevelopment of the William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road, Braintree, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developers to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.</p> <p>Trial trenches demonstrated that the western half of the site had been subject to significant terracing and modern disturbance, associated with the construction of the hospital. This was particularly evident in Trenches 5 and 6. Despite this, a number of features of late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval date survive on the site.</p> <p>Evidence for late Iron Age and Roman activity was recorded from four trenches in the north-eastern quadrant of the site (Trenches 6, 8a, 10 and 11). The pottery recovered from the features and deposits in this area suggest domestic activity of early Roman date along the London Road, which may have extended to the west in the later Roman period.</p> <p>Evidence for post-medieval activity was encountered in the western and southern parts of the site. The remains of a possible quarry was encountered at the northern end of Trench 2, but no such feature is marked on the maps consulted for the desk-based assessment, suggesting that it may pre-date the late 18th century. Other features encountered appear to represent ponds and boundaries recorded on 19th century mapping.</p> <p>The remains of the post-medieval farmhouse that preceded the hospital on the site, were encountered in the northern half of Trench 11, close to London Road. This is represented on maps dating from at least the early 19th century. The building was clearly cellared, two walls of which were revealed in the south facing trench section.</p>
Project dates	Start: 13-08-2013 End: 28-08-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	BT49 - Sitecode
Associated project reference codes	HN1063 - Contracting Unit No.
Associated project reference codes	BRNTM:2013.349 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	PIT Late Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	TRACK Roman
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Methods/techniques	"Targeted Trenches"

Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAintree BRAintree William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road
Postcode	CM7 2LJ
Study area	1082.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 75298 22647 51 0 51 52 27 N 000 32 48 E Point
<b>Project creators</b>	
Organisation	Heritage Network
Brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
PD originator	Heritage Network
Project director	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Funding body	Developer
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Archive ID	BRNTM:2013.349
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Industrial"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	BRNTM:2013.349
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	BRNTM:2013.349
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media	"Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Plan","Report"
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	William Julien Courtauld Hospital, London Road, Braintree, Essex. Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ashworth, H.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.824
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue	Letchworth, Herts
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 26 pages, 10 figures, 28 plates