



HERITAGE NETWORK



RADWINTER C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL Radwinter, Essex

HN616

Archaeological Monitoring Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

RADWINTER C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Water Lane, Radwinter, Essex

HN ref.: HN616
HEMT ref: RDRS'06

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Prepared on behalf of Radwinter C of E Primary School

by

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and

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Report no.452

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Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders and David Kaye. The finds assessment was carried out by Andy Fawcett, and the report text and illustrations were prepared by Geoff Saunders and Mark Winter. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to John Overy, The Bareham Overy Patnership; Bob Black, Bob Black Construction; Richard Havis and Vanessa Clarke, Historic Environment Branch, Essex County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

Summary

Site name and address:	Radwinter C of E School, Water Lane, Radwinter, Essex		
County:	Essex	District:	Uttlesford
Village/town:	Radwinter	Parish:	Radwinter
Planning reference:	UTT/1768/04	NGR:	TL 60683 37739
Client name and address:	Governors of Radwinter C of E School, c/o The Bareham Overy Partnership, 1 Station Road, Stansted, Essex.		
Nature of work:	New Building	Former land use:	Playground
Site Status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG16)
Position in planning process:	After determination	Project brief originator:	Local Authority
Size of affected area:	c.200m ²	Size of area investigated:	c.200m ²
Site Code:	RDRS'06	Other reference:	HN616
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc...	Watching Brief	Archive Recipient:	Saffron Walden Museum
Start of work	23/10/2006	Finish of work	31/07/2007
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Romano-British, Late post-medieval
Oasis UID	Heritage1 - 37539	Significant finds:	Pottery, CBM, Stone, Flint, Animal bone, Shell, Fe object, Slag
Monument types:	Pit/ditch terminus, ditch x 3, wall footing x 2		
Physical archive:	Pottery, CBM, Animal bone, Shell, Fe object, Slag		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In response to a condition on the planning permission for a development at Radwinter C of E Primary School, Radwinter, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the School Governors to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks.

The site lies within the historic core of Radwinter and adjacent to Radwinter's conservation area.

The fieldwork revealed evidence of a pit/ditch terminus, 3 ditches and 2 wall footings. Romano-British pottery was recovered from the investigated features providing further evidence for the presence of a 1st-2nd century villa or farmstead in the area.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared at the request of *The Bareham Overy Partnership* acting on behalf of the *Governors of Radwinter Church of England Primary School*, as part of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording of development works at Radwinter School, Water Lane, Radwinter, Essex.

1.2 The investigation has been a requirement of the planning consent for the development granted by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) (ref. UTT/1768/04), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work was defined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* prepared by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEMT) of Essex County Council, acting as archaeological advisers to the UDC (ref. RH 20/02/2006). A full specification for the work undertaken was contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated July 2006.

1.3 The school is located in the historic core of Radwinter, approximately 150m to the north east of the Church of St Mary the Virgin, centred on NGR TL 60683 37739. The development is situated on the school playground and partly occupied by an existing classroom. The development involved the construction of a new building incorporating an assembly hall, kitchen and storage facilities with a covered walkway to the main school.

1.4 The development lies adjacent to Radwinter's Conservation Area but within the development limits of the village, as designated in the UDC District Local Plan. This defines Radwinter as a medieval settlement with at least sixteen listed buildings in or close to the village, and notes that the church of St Mary the Virgin (HER 14974-5) dates to the 14th century. Archaeological features from the Roman period (HER 19095) were identified during the construction of East View Close, immediately to the north of the present site. These include ditches and domestic rubbish pits suggesting the presence of a 1-2nd century farmstead or villa. A chance find of a Neolithic axe (HER 1586) to the east of the site suggests prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

1.5 The aim of the present project has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which might have been uncovered, and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements which would allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

1.6 The present report is intended to set the site in its archaeological and historical context, and, together with the deposition of the archive for the project with Saffron Walden Museum, to complete the requirements of the planning condition.

2. Fieldwork

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The present study area is situated on the existing school playground and is partly occupied by an existing classroom (Figure 2).

2.2 The underlying natural geology of the area consists of chalky till with soils belonging to the Hanslope association, described as 'slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion'(SSEW).

METHODOLOGY

2.3 The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client's groundwork schedule. A number of site visits were made to supervise excavations of a test pit, services and footings.

2.4 All open area ground reduction was carried out using a 360⁰ mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, and under direct archaeological supervision.

2.5 Spoil from the various stages of the groundworks was inspected for archaeological artefacts.

2.6 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.

MONITORING AND RECORDING

Site Stratigraphy

2.7 Stratigraphy across the site was largely consistent and was formed of a 0.2m deep layer of tarmac, overlying a 0.1m layer of brick crush. Beneath this was a 0.05m thick aggregate layer covering a 0.15m layer of dark greyish brown firm slightly silty clay. This sealed the olive brown clay natural which contained chalk fragments and flint.

New building (Figure 2)

2.8 The footings for the new building measured 0.6m wide and reached a depth of up to 2.5m. A number of unstratified artefacts, consisting of pottery, ceramic building material and animal bone, were recovered.

2.9 Feature [01] (Figure 3) was a 0.78m long, 0.7m wide, 0.40m deep pit or ditch terminus. It contained a dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3), friable silty clay containing occasional charcoal, moderate roots and frequent angular flints.

2.10 Feature [03] (Figure 3) was a 1.63m wide, 0.61m deep ditch orientated NE-SW. It contained a dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) firm silty clay which contained a moderate amount of medium size, sub-angular flints and occasional charcoal.

Test Pit (Figure 2)

2.11 A test pit measuring 2.3m by 0.45m was excavated to a depth of 1.05m. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Ground reduction (Figure 2)

2.12 A small area in the northern corner of the site was reduced by 0.25m. This area had previously been covered by a raised flower bed and ‘wendy house’. The material removed from this area was different in appearance to that observed across the rest of the site and contained only modern 19th/20th century pottery, CBM, tarmac, concrete etc. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Soakaways and services (Figure 2)

2.13 Feature [05] (Figure 3) measured 0.45m+ long by 1.92m wide by 0.2m deep. This was a N-S orientated ditch feature containing a dark olive brown, slightly silty clay fill with frequent flints. A 0.4m deep, 0.25m wide 20th century wall footing, [09], was cut through this feature and the overlying silty clay. This was also on a N-S alignment. A second wall footing, [10], of a similar date but on an E-W alignment was also recorded just west of the existing school. This survived to 3 courses deep beneath the tarmac.

2.14 Ditch [07] (Figure 3) orientated N-S and measured 0.3m+ long by 0.7m wide by 0.29m deep. It contained a very dark grey silty clay fill with occasional small sub-rounded flints and stones, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small chalk flecks.

2.15 Further features of 19th/20th century date observed during this stage included two further boundary wall footings, [11] and [12], two modern service trenches, [13] and [14] and a large brick structure, built around a clay and lead pipe, [15].

Fieldwork data:

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
01	Cut	Pit/ ditch terminus.	0.78	0.70	0.40
02	Fill	Dark olive brown (2.5Y 3/3), compacted, friable, silty clay with occasional charcoal, moderate roots and frequent angular flints.	0.78	0.70	0.40
03	Cut	Ditch cut.		1.63	0.61
04	Fill	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/4) firm silty clay containing moderate amounts of medium sized, sub angular flints and occasional charcoal.		1.63	0.61
05	Cut	Ditch cut.	0.45+	1.92	0.2
06	Fill	Dark olive brown slightly silty clay with frequent flint inclusions.	0.45+	1.92	0.2
07	Cut	Ditch	0.30+	0.70	0.29
08	Fill	Very dark grey silty clay with occasional small sub rounded flints and stones, frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small chalk flecks.	0.30+	0.70	0.29
09	Structure	Modern wall	0.45+	0.25	0.40
10	Structure	Modern wall	0.45+	0.25	0.40
11	Structure	Modern wall	0.45+	0.25	0.40
12	Structure	Modern wall	0.45+	0.40	
13	Service	Modern service trench	0.45+	0.40	
14	Service	Modern service trench	0.45+	0.40	

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
15	Structure	large brick structure, built around a clay and lead pipe	0.45+	0.40	

FINDS ASSESSMENT

Concordance of finds

Context	Pottery		CBM		An bone		Shell		Fe object	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
U/S	114	1232	3	540	5	83				
U/S electric trench	1	33			4	74	3	9		
U/S water trench	18	168					12	54		
U/S drainage trench	5	34	10	195			1	13		
02	8	18	1	25	1	1	2	17	5	24
04	8	28					3	53		
06	49	393	1	58	6	18	20	63		
08	8	45			1	<1	9	33		
Total	211	1951	2162	4324	7	8655	50	242	17602	35204

Context	Slag		Other		Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	
U/S	3	310	2*	195	*?mortar
U/S water trench			1*	13	*fired clay
06	7	559			*?natural
Total	10	559	3	208	

Pottery

2.16 A total of 211 sherds with a combined weight of 1951g was recovered from the excavation at Radwinter. The pottery, in terms of abrasion, may be described as being between abraded and slightly abraded with an average diagnostic survival rate (based on rims and bases).

2.17 Virtually all of the assemblages are dated to within the 2nd century AD, the only exception being context 04 (mid-1st to early 2nd century AD). Interestingly the unstratified groups also reflect a 2nd century date, in terms of form, fabric and decoration; there is no evidence for later Roman activity.

2.18 Although a small number of sourced finewares are noted (LGF SA, LEZ SA 2, KOL CC, COL CC), most of the pottery is composed of unsourced locally produced coarsewares. A small percentage of coarseware fabrics are identifiable, though these are not untypical for the time period and geographical location.

Recommendations

2.19 The ceramic assemblage appears to reflect some form of low-grade rural activity. There is nothing within this assemblage that would require more detailed further analysis.

CBM

2.20 A total of 15 fragments of CBM with a weight of 818g were recovered from two stratified and two unstratified contexts. A number of pieces are dated to the Roman period and, within the unstratified assemblage, there are single examples of abraded *imbrex*, *tegula* and brick.

Recommendations

2.21 No further work is proposed on this material.

Animal bone

2.22 A total of 17 pieces of animal bone weighing 177g was recovered. Fragments of sheep/goat skull (including a tooth) and horn core were found unstratified in the electric/water trench which runs southeast from the new building. A long bone belonging to an unidentified medium sized mammal was also found in an unstratified context. One charred bone fragment was recovered from context 08. The remainder of the assemblage was too fragmentary to be identifiable.

Recommendations

2.23 No further action is proposed on this material.

Shell

2.24 A total of 50 oyster shell parts weighing 242g was recovered from four stratified and three unstratified contexts. Many of the examples are complete, with the largest selection being recorded as unstratified.

Recommendations

2.25 No further work is proposed on this material.

Fe object

2.26 Feature 02 contained 5 corroded iron fragments weighing 24g, one of which has been identified as a nail head.

Recommendations

2.27 No further work is proposed on this material.

Slag

2.28 A total of 10 pieces of slag weighing 869g was recovered, including 7 pieces from context 06. The remainder was unstratified.

Recommendations

2.29 No further action is proposed on this material.

Other

2.30 In addition to the artefacts discussed above, 2 pieces of mortar weighing 195g, a single piece of a field drain weighing 170g, and a piece of fired clay weighing 13g were recovered from unstratified contexts.

Recommendations

2.31 No further work is proposed on this material.

3. Discussion and Conclusion

3.1 The monitoring of the groundworks associated with the development revealed a number of features of Romano-British date, and a scatter of contemporary unstratified material. The artefacts recovered from the features were largely dated to the 2nd century and appear to reflect low grade rural activity.

3.2 Roman activity has previously been identified during works on East View Close, immediately to the north of the present site. This activity suggests the presence of a 1st-2nd century farmstead. It is likely that the remains uncovered during the present work represent part of the same settlement.

Conclusion

3.3 The fieldwork revealed evidence of Romano-British rural activity, which is likely to form part of possible 1st-2nd century farmstead or villa identified during previous development works to the north.

Confidence Rating

3.4 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

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

4. Schedule of Site Visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
23/10/2006	CT	4	Preliminary site meeting
01/11/2006	GIS	4	Monitor geological test pit
08/11/2006	GIS	3	Inspect ground reduction
09/11/2006	GIS	3	Inspect drainage trench
10/11/2006	GIS	4	Monitor footings
13/11/2006	GIS	8	Monitor footings
14/11/2006	GIS	8	Monitor footings
15/11/2006	GIS	8	Monitor footings
16/11/2006	GIS	2	Monitor footings
17/11/2006	GIS	8	Monitor footings
20/11/2006	GIS	4	Monitor footings
27/11/2006	GIS	7	Monitor footings
28/11/2006	GIS	5	Monitor footings
04/01/2007	GIS	3	Monitor services
15/01/2007	GIS/AH	2	Inspect artefacts
03/07/2007	GIS	3	Inspect services
04/07/2007	GIS	5	Inspect services
06/07/2007	GIS	4	Inspect services
11/07/2007	GIS	3	Inspect services
19/07/2007	GIS	3	Inspect services
24/07/2007	DGK	3	Inspect services
31/07/2007	GIS	3	Inspect services

5. Bibliography

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

Going, C. J, 1987 *The mansio and other sites in the south-east sector of Caesaromagus: the Roman pottery*, CBA Res Rep 62/Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Rep 3.2

Havis, R. 2006, *Archaeological Monitoring at Radwinter Primary School*. HEMT ECC

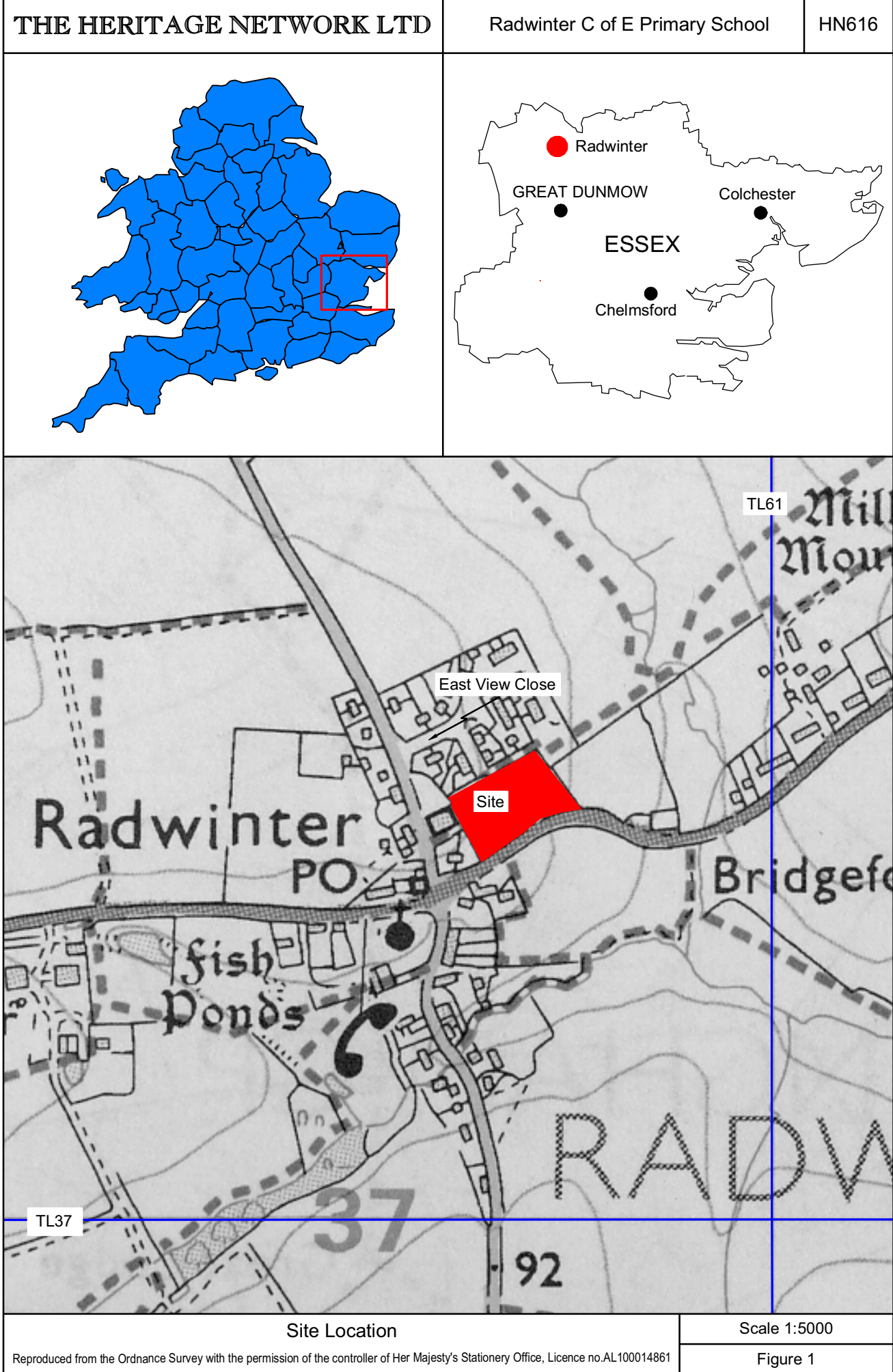
Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

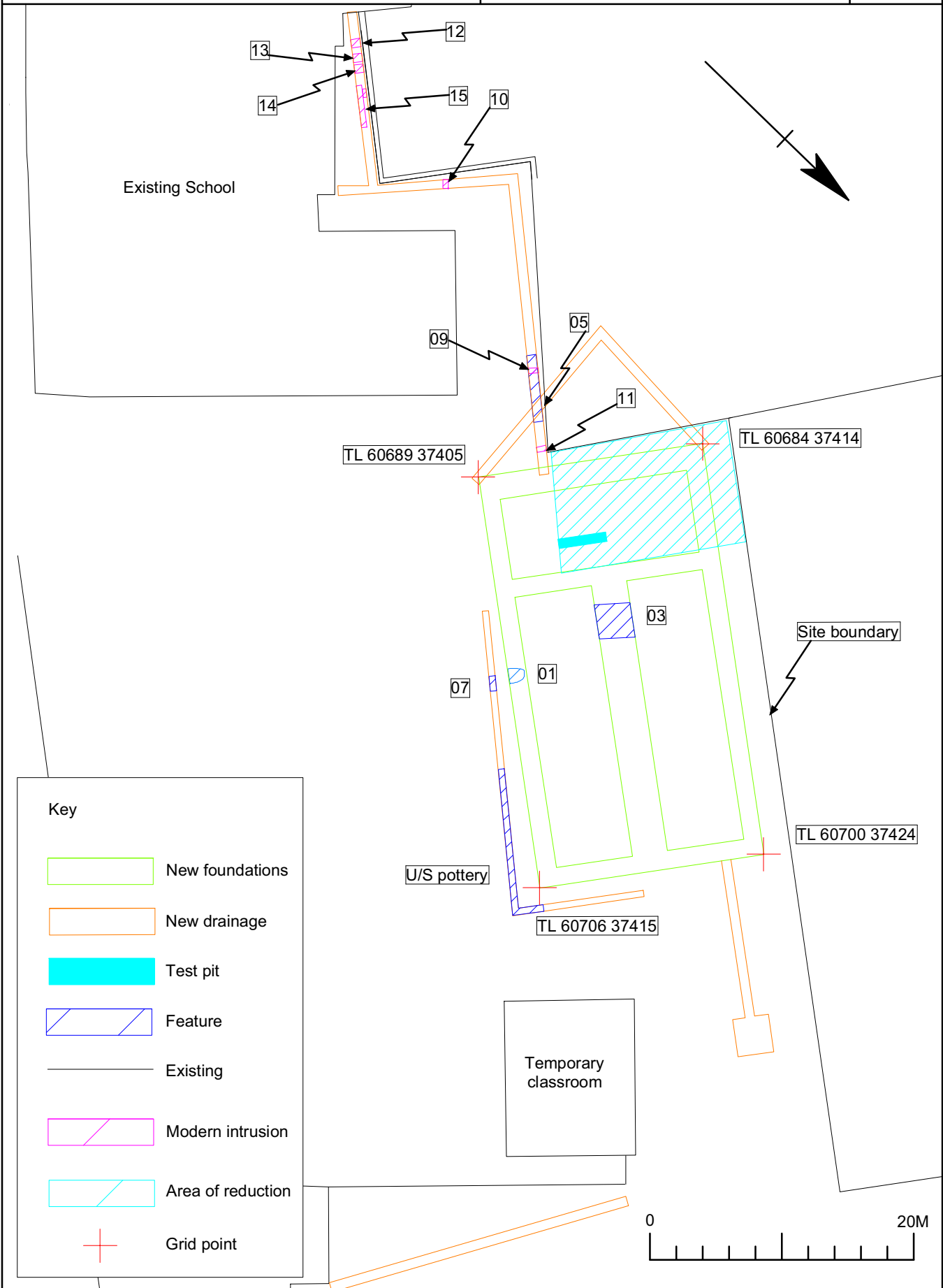
Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW) 1983 Map Sheet 4, Soils of Eastern England, Scale 1:250,000.

Turner, C. 2006, *Radwinter C of E Primary School, Radwinter Essex: Archaeological Monitoring Project Design*. Heritage Network

6. Illustrations

Figure 1	Site location
Figure 2	Site layout
Figure 3	Feature sections
Appendix 1	Oasis Form





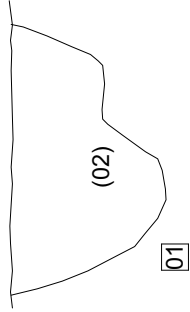
Site layout

Scale 1:400

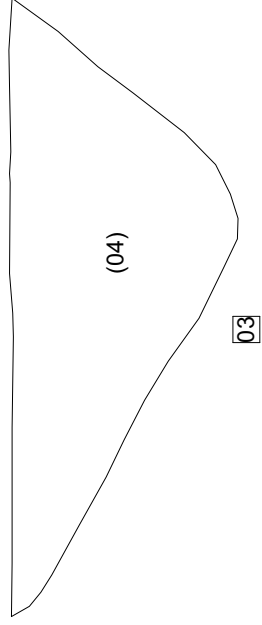
Figure 2

NE SW

Overburden

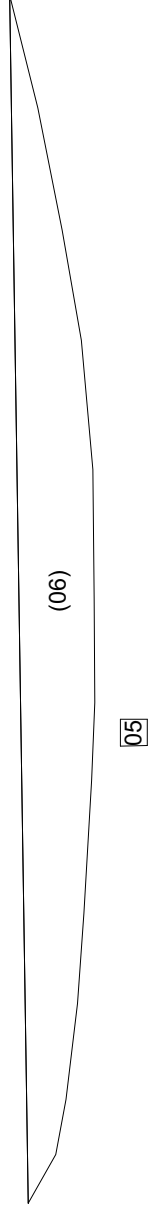


SW NE



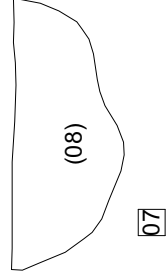
SW

NE



SW

NE



Feature sections



Plate 1: Typical footings trench section, looking southwest



Plate 2: South western service trench looking northeast



Plate 3: Southwestern service trench section, looking northwest



Plate 4: Feature [01], looking southeast



Plate 5: Feature [03], looking southeast



Plate 6: Feature [07], looking northwest

7. Appendix 1

<i>OASIS ID: heritage1-37539</i>	
Project details	
Project name	Radwinter C of E School
Short description of the project	In response to a condition on the planning permission for a development at Radwinter C of E Primary School, Radwinter, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the School Governors to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. The site lies within the historic core of Radwinter and adjacent to Radwinter's conservation area. The fieldwork revealed evidence of a pit/ditch terminus, 3 ditches and 2 wall footings. Romano-British pottery was recovered from the investigated features providing further evidence for the presence of a 1st-2nd century villa or farmstead in the area.
Project dates	Start: 23-10-2006 End: 31-07-2007
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	HN616 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RDRS'06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT/DITCH TERMINUS Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	WALL FOOTING Modern
Monument type	WALL FOOTING Modern
Monument type	WALL FOOTING Modern
Monument type	WALL FOOTING Modern
Monument type	SERVICE TRENCH Modern
Monument type	SERVICE TRENCH Modern
Monument type	BRICK CULVERT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	SHELL Roman
Significant Finds	FE OBJECT Roman
Significant Finds	SLAG Roman
Significant Finds	MORTAR Uncertain
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	SHELL Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England

Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD RADWINTER Radwinter C of E School
Postcode	CB10 2
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 60683 37739 52.0143199324 0.341725885081 52 00 51 N 000 20 30 E Point
Height OD	Min: 95.00m Max: 95.00m
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	Mark Winter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Radwinter Church of England Primary School
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Waldon Museum
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Metal','other'
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Waldon Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Radwinter C of E Primary School. Water Lane, Radwinter, Essex: Archaeological Monitoring Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Saunders, G
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Winter, M
Other bibliographic details	Report Number 452
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 8 pages
Entered by	Mark Winter (enquiries@heritagenetwork.co.uk)
Entered on	28 July 2008