

**Archaeological Evaluation  
The Old Builders Yard, Church Street  
Colne Engaine, Essex**

**ASE Project No: E8092  
Site Code: CECS 13**

**ASE Report No: 2014028**



**January 2014**



## **Archaeological Evaluation**

### **The Old Builders Yard, Church Street Colne Engaine, Essex**

**NGR: TL 85132 30385**

**Planning Ref: 11/01258/OUT**

**ASE Project No: E8092  
Site Code: CECS 13**

**ASE Report No: 2014028  
OASIS ID: 167265**

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**January 2014**

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### **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation at the site known as The Old Builders Yard, Colne Engaine.*

*Four trenches were excavated within those parts of the site identified to have been least impacted by its previous terracing and development as the builders yard. The evaluation established that at least a moderate degree of truncation and disturbance affected the whole site, as topsoil and some subsoil had evidently been removed, areas of rubble make-up laid down and a thin layer of re-deposited topsoil spread over the top.*

*Below the rubble make-up a small quantity of archaeological features were found in Trenches 1 and 4 only, cutting into the remnant subsoil. A post-medieval ditch, possibly marking a boundary along the road frontage, was found in the northwest of the site, along with an undated post-hole or small pit. The ditch contained cow and horse remains in its fill. Modern pits were encountered in the southern part of the site. No archaeological remains were found in the northern and central parts.*

*The further archaeological potential of the site is judged to be low and likely to be restricted only to remains of post-medieval and modern date. The only features of interest, close to the Mill Lane frontage, have been adequately investigated by this evaluation. It is therefore considered that the proposed redevelopment of the site will have a low impact upon the heritage resource of this location and on that of the wider historic village of Colne Engaine.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

### **Acknowledgements**

### **Bibliography**

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: HER Summary Sheet

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

### **Figures**

Front Cover Image: Trench 1 excavation, looking south-east

Figure 1. Site location plan

Figure 2. Trench 1 and 4 plans

Figure 3. West end of Trench 1, looking north

Figure 4. East end of Trench 1, looking east

Figure 5. Ditch [1/007] and skeletal remains [1/009], looking north

Figure 6. Trench 2, looking east

Figure 7. Modern disturbance at the north end of trench 2, looking east

Figure 8. Trench 3, looking southeast

Figure 9. Trench 4, looking East

Figure 10. Pits [4/005] and [4/007], looking northeast

### **Tables**

Table 1. Quantification of site archive

Table 2. Quantification of the finds

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 In December 2013, Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation at The Old Builders Yard, Church Street, Colne Engaine, CO6 2EY, in advance of proposed residential development.

### 1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 Colne Engaine is a village c.10 miles northwest of Colchester. The 0.337 ha development site comprises of a former builders yard located on the east side of Church Street and Mill Lane, at the centre of the village (NGR TL 85132 30385). The site is an irregularly-shaped plot, c.100m north-east of St. Andrew's Church (Fig.1), to the north and east of the property of Lodge Farm Cottage.
- 1.2.2 The majority of site was until relatively recently occupied by a range of 20th century commercial buildings, which have now been demolished, leaving substantial concrete floors and foundations, especially towards the northern end of the plot. The natural slope down to Mill Lane has evidently been modified, with parts of the site terraced and levelled. The site is bounded to the east by agricultural land and to the north, south and west by residential properties.
- 1.2.3 The site lies at roughly 54m AOD, on undulating ground approximately 500m north-east of the River Crouch. The superficial geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as the Lowestoft Formation (Diamicton), a chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The underlying bedrock deposits comprise the Crag Group of sands, which are characteristically dark green from glauconite but weather bright orange with haematite 'iron pans' (British Geological Survey © NERC 2013).

### 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A planning application (11/01258/OUT) was submitted to Braintree District Council in September 2010 for the erection of eight new dwellings. As the site lies adjacent to an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological deposits to be present, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, recommended that a full archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent.
- 1.3.2 The archaeological recommendation was based upon guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and the condition duly attached to consent states that:

*No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.*

- 1.3.3 A brief was issued by the ECC Place Services Historic Environment team (ECC HE) stipulating the requirement for an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation of the site. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently prepared by ASE (dated December 2013) and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of works.
- 1.3.4 The results of this evaluation will be used to inform decisions as to the need for, and extent of, any further archaeological work required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on any remains that are present where a design solution cannot be implemented to ensure their preservation in-situ.

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the site and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation would also be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.
- 1.4.2 To help achieve this aim, specifically identified objectives were:
  - to determine the presence or absence of medieval structural remains or other evidence of medieval occupation;
  - to determine the presence or absence of Roman occupation in the development area, as is suggested by the presence of Roman building material in the church fabric.
- 1.4.3 In the event that significant discoveries were made the subsequent report was to seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, with reference to those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of archaeological evaluation of an area of land prior to its development. It also assesses the archaeological potential of the site. The fieldwork was carried out by Adam Dyson (Archaeologist) between the 11th and 12th December 2013, and was managed by Adrian Scruby.

### **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) shows that the development site lies in an area of archaeological interest. Colne Engaine comprises a late Saxon settlement which developed into a small medieval and post-medieval village. There is also evidence for Roman occupation in the near vicinity.
- 2.2 Roman brick and tile, has been incorporated in the 12th century fabric of St Andrew's Church (EHER 9414-7). There are also reports of Roman building material being brought up by the plough on land to the south of the church (EHER 9415) and a portable iron anvil, thought to be of Roman date, was discovered approximately 400m north-east of the site (EHER 9290).

- 2.3 It is presumed that the original focus of the late Saxon and medieval settlement was around the church. A medieval manor is reputed to have been located beside the church (EHER 9317), and fragments of medieval building remains have also been discovered c.100m to its southwest (EHER 9384).
- 2.4 In terms of post-medieval settlement, analysis of historic cartographic evidence provides specific information on the development area itself. The site is shown to have contained at least one structure at its northern end during the early 1770s. The whole stretch of the eastern side of Church Street, between its junction with Station Road and north to The Green, is depicted as containing dwellings on the Chapman and André map published in 1777 (surveyed 1772-1774).
- 2.5 Later cartographic evidence indicates that the site was devoid of buildings by the mid 1870s, and at least up to the mid 1890s, at which time a *smithy* is depicted immediately south of the site directly opposite Station Road (Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition 1:2500). Further buildings are shown at the northern end of the site on a 1923 OS map; these may be associated with the smithy. The builders' yard, with the current plot of land extending in an arc to the south, is shown by 1969, by which time the smithy has been demolished.
- 2.6 No archaeological investigations have previously been undertaken on the site or in its immediate vicinity.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork**

- 3.1.1 The evaluation methodology comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of four trenches measuring 20m long and 1.55-1.8m wide. The trenches predominantly followed the course of an access road leading through the yard, but were also positioned within those parts of the site identified to have been least impacted by its past terracing and development as the builders yard. A T-shaped trench was deployed , area nearest Church Street in order to adequately evaluate this frontage location (Fig.1). The trenches were accurately located using Total Station digital survey equipment.
- 3.1.2 Due to the need to avoid the extensive modern building remains, the exact positioning of trenches was determined on-site but was kept as close as possible to the proposed locations put forward in the WSI.
- 3.1.3 The trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken to the surface of natural geology. Backfilling and compaction were undertaken by machine on completion of the work, and subsequent to the agreement of the ECC Place Services monitoring officer.
- 3.1.4 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the IfA (Institute for Archaeologists) Code of Conduct, by-laws and guidelines (IfA

2008, 2010) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

- 3.1.5 All stratigraphy was recorded using the ASE context recording system, with all exposed archaeological features and deposits recorded and excavated, except obviously modern features and disturbances.
- 3.1.5 A 50% sample of all contained features was excavated. Post-medieval and modern features were excavated as necessary in order to establish their date and significance. Features were excavated using hand tools and planned using digital survey equipment. Sections were drawn at 1:10 scale. A digital photographic record was also created.
- 3.1.6 Finds were identified by context number to a specific deposit, and have been properly processed according to ASE and IfA guidelines. All pottery and other finds where appropriate were marked with the site code and context number.
- 3.1.7 No deposits judged to have significant potential for environmental analysis were identified. Consequently, no bulk soil samples were collected.

### **3.2 The site archive**

The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Braintree Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	26
No. of files/paper record	1
No. of plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	24 (colour digital)
Bulk finds	19 frags / 2837g (A.bone, CBM, slag)

Table 1. Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Summary**

- 4.1.1 The trenches measured 20m in length and varied between 1.55 and 1.8m in width. The depths of the trenches varied over the site from 0.28 to 1.34m.
- 4.1.2 The existing ground surface consisted of either concrete hardstanding or a vegetation layer of patchy loose turf. The vegetation layer was present in all four trenches and was approximately 0.05-0.10m thick.
- 4.1.3 Beneath this, and present in all four trenches, was a layer of modern made ground, which largely consisted of mixed building rubble. It had a thickness varying from 0.05-0.33m.
- 4.1.4 A subsoil layer was present in all trenches, underlying made ground and overlying the natural deposit. Its depth varied across the site.
- 4.1.5 Archaeological remains were encountered in Trenches 1 and 4 only,

underlying the made ground deposit and subject to varying degrees of horizontal truncation due to terracing and ground reduction. The majority of the identified remains were cut features of modern date. Only a single ditch in Trench 1 is of significantly earlier established date. An undated feature, also in Trench 1, could also be of pre-modern date.

#### 4.2 Trench 1

- 4.2.1 T-shaped Trench 1 was located in the northwestern part of the site, alongside the street frontage, and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.73m. The undisturbed natural deposit, a light orangey brown silty clay [1/004], was encountered at varying depth across the trench; at 0.28m closest to the road and 0.73m at its east end. This was overlain by greyish-brown silty clay subsoil layer [1/003], rubbly made ground [1/002] and a thin layer of topsoil [1/001]. Only two archaeological features were encountered, both cut into the top of the subsoil layer (Fig.2).

*Trench 1: top = 53.75m AOD west, 53.16m AOD east*

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Period
1/001	Layer	Topsoil & turf	0.07-0.10 thick	Modern
1/002	Layer	Made ground	0.17-0.25 thick	Modern
1/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.20-0.46 thick	-
1/004	Layer	Natural deposit	-	-
1/005	Post-hole	Oval	0.40 x 0.38 x 0.10	Undated
1/006	Fill	Fill of 005	0.10 thick	Undated
1/007	Ditch	N-S aligned	1.5+ x 1.60 x 0.45	Post-med
1/008	Fill	Fill of 007	0.45 thick	Post-med
1/009	Fill	Skeletal remains in 007	-	Post-med

- 4.2.2 North-south aligned ditch [1/007] was located toward the west end of the trench, close to and parallel with the road (Figs.3 and 4). Relatively shallow for its 1.6m width, it contained a single mid greenish-grey silt clay fill [1/008] with occasional flint pebbles. This fill also contained the at least partially articulated remains of a cow skeleton [1/009] that extended beyond the confines of the trench (Fig.5), along with fragments of post-medieval brick and tile, slag and an iron nail. Dating of the CBM suggests that a 17th/18th century or later date is likely for the ditch fill.
- 4.2.3 Oval post-hole or small pit [1/005] was located toward the east end of the trench. It was filled with a greyish-brown silty clay [1/006] that contained no finds.

#### 4.3 Trench 2

- 4.3.1 East-west aligned Trench 2 was located at the northern end of the site and excavated to a maximum depth of 1.34m. A similar sequence of topsoil, made ground and subsoil overlying the natural mid yellow-brown silty clay natural was encountered to that in Trench 1. However, the made ground was noted to comprise two distinct deposits, [2/002] a rubble deposit and [2/003] a dark brown-grey silty clay containing brick and tile rubble. Additionally, yellow-brown clay silt subsoil [2/004] was not present at the east end of the trench, where it had presumably been removed by the modern terracing of the site. No archaeological remains were identified, though probable animal burrowing disturbance was noted at the east end (Figs.6 and 7).

*Trench 2: Top = 53.28m AOD west, 54.00m AOD east*

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Period
2/001	Layer	Topsoil & turf	0.05-0.08 thick	Modern
2/002	Layer	Made ground	0.23-0.33 thick	Modern
2/003	Layer	Made ground	0.38-0.45 thick	Modern
2/004	Layer	Subsoil	0.30-0.34 thick	-
2/005	Layer	Natural deposit	-	-

#### **4.4 Trench 3**

4.4.1 Roughly NW-SE aligned Trench 3 was located in the east-central part of the site, adjacent to the arable field beyond, and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.51m. A similar sequence of topsoil, made ground and subsoil was again recorded to overlie the natural deposit. No archaeological remains were identified to be present (Fig.8).

*Trench 3: top = 54.25m AOD north, 54.33m AOD south*

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Period
3/001	Layer	Topsoil & turf	0.10-0.20 thick	Modern
3/002	Layer	Made ground	0.05-0.08 thick	Modern
3/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.18 thick	-
3/004	Layer	Natural deposit	-	-

#### **4.5 Trench 4**

4.5.1 Roughly north-south aligned Trench 4 was positioned in the southern part of the site and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.66m. The same sequence of topsoil, made ground and subsoil was found to overlie the orange to yellow sandy clay natural deposit (Fig.9). A quantity of cut features, mostly judged not to be archaeologically significant, was identified across this trench (Fig.2).

*Trench 4: top = 53.79m AOD north, 53.83m south*

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)	Period
4/001	Layer	Topsoil & turf	0.05-0.10 thick	Modern
4/002	Layer	Made ground	0.10-0.20 thick	Modern
4/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.20-0.24 thick	-
4/004	Layer	Natural deposit	-	-
4/005	Pit	Sub-circular	0.40 x 0.30 x 0.08	Modern
4/006	Fill	Fill of 005	0.08 thick	Modern
4/007	Pit	Circular	0.45 x 0.13	
4/008	Fill	Fill of 007	0.13m thick	

4.5.2 Sub-circular pit [4/005] was a small and shallow cut into the top of the subsoil layer and overlain by modern made ground (Fig.10). Its dark grey-brown silty clay fill [4/006] was noted to contain CBM and animal bone, the latter perhaps denoting a pet burial, but was not retained. Nearby similarly-sized small circular pit [4/007] was also cut into the subsoil deposit and contained the same dark grey-brown fill which included small CBM fragments/flecks and the jawbone of a dog or cat. These two features are conjectured to be contemporary and of modern date.

4.5.3 Three other cut features were noted to be present within the trench, but not further investigated due to their obviously modern date. These comprised a circular pit containing glass bottles toward the middle of the trench, a larger probable pit extending beyond its eastern limit, and part of an oval pit / gully

terminal at the southern end.

## 5.0 FINDS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during the evaluation (Table 2). The collected assemblage was entirely recovered from ditch [1/007] (fill [1/008] containing animal bone [1/009]). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds are packed and stored following IfA guidelines. No further conservation is required.

Context	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Slag	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)
1/008	7	759	2	112	1	501	1	115
1/009			8	1350				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1462</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>115</b>

Table 2. Quantification of the finds

### 5.2 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A small assemblage of brick and tile was recovered from context [1/008]. By far the largest piece (658g) is from a well-formed and medium-fired brick, tempered with abundant fine/medium sand and occasional quartz and flint inclusions to 10mm (but most to 5mm). The brick, which measures 102mm wide by 58mm tall, has a deliberately glazed header and is probably of late 17th to 18th century date. The other brick fragments (4/36g) are all small and amorphous. They are in silty/fine sandy fabrics that could be placed anywhere in the post-medieval period, though one does have some light grey sandy mortar of 18th/19th century type adhering. The single piece of 13mm thick peg tile (54g) is quite well formed and fired. It is tempered with sparse fine sand, with rare iron oxide inclusions and is probably of 18th century date.

### 5.3 Slag by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Context [1/008] produced a single piece of slightly aerated but dense grey iron slag (501g) with some surface flow structure. Although not particularly diagnostic of process, it probably derives from smithing.

### 5.4 Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.4.1 The evaluation produced a small animal bone assemblage weighing 1462g. A total of 10 fragments of bone have been recovered from two contexts [1/008] and [1/009]. The specimens are in a good condition with little sign of surface erosion. Context [1/008] contains a complete horse astragalus and a rib fragment from a large mammal. Context [1/009] contains a fragmented cattle mandible, a complete, horse radius and the distal end of a horse humerus which display multiple, blunt chop marks along the articulation. There are no signs of burning, gnawing or pathology on the bone.

### 5.5 Other Finds by Luke Barber

5.5.1 The heavily corroded head from a large iron nail (115g) was recovered from [1/008] together with a 10g fragment of buff coarse sandy/gritty render. Although the nail is not closely datable, it is hand-made and likely to be earlier than the mid 19th century.

## **5.6 Overview**

- 5.6.1 The retrieved finds from the Old Builders Yard evaluation all derive from a single feature, with only the ceramic building material providing a broad date range. As just one piece of undiagnostic slag was found, no inferences can be made about industrial activities. Ironwork (only one nail fragment) and animal bone assemblages are too small and in case of the latter too fragmented to be of significance. As such, the assemblage is not considered to be of potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Discussion**

- 6.1.1 The evaluation has demonstrated that at least a moderate degree of disturbance and truncation has occurred in most areas of the site. Where not clearly impacted by building foundations and terracing to modify the natural slope, the original topsoil and some of the underlying subsoil has previously been removed, a layer of rubble laid down and a thin layer of re-deposited topsoil spread over the top.
- 6.1.2 The fact that an apparent subsoil deposit is present / survives across the majority of the trenches suggests that truncation has not been particularly severe in these immediate vicinities within the site. It is likely that the loss of any remains present has not been significant here and that the evaluation results reliably reflect the former archaeological content of the site as a whole. However, in other parts of the site, where terracing is pronounced, any such features will have been severely disturbed or removed altogether.
- 6.1.3 No remains have been found that can be identified as being of earlier than post-medieval date. As such, the site does not appear to have the potential to address research aims relating to either Roman or medieval settlement.
- 6.1.4 Ditch [1/007], in Trench 1, is the earliest datable feature and of likely 18<sup>th</sup>/19th century origin. It probably represents a property boundary running along the road frontage into which animal waste, possibly including a whole or part carcass was subsequently inserted - presumably as the feature passed out of use. Opportunistic burial of animal carcasses in such features, even in the close proximity of dwellings, is not uncommon in the rural settlement context. The ditch and its contents may relate to the phase of site occupation depicted on the Chapman and Andre map.
- 6.1.5 The remainder of the identified archaeological remains appear to be of relatively modern date and to represent back garden activity associated with the occupation of the roadside buildings, perhaps pre-dating the establishment of the builder's yard.

### **6.2 Conclusions**

- 6.2.1 The quantity and significance of the archaeological remains present and surviving within the site is judged to be low and likely to be restricted to only those of post-medieval and modern date. The only remains of interest have been found close to the Mill Lane frontage and, due to the limited frontage included within the site, have been adequately investigated by this evaluation.

6.2.2 It is anticipated that the proposed redevelopment of the site will therefore have a low impact upon the heritage resource of this location and of the wider historic village of Colne Engaine.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank the site owner/developer, Oak Home Developments Ltd, for commissioning the work, and Teresa O'Connor and Richard Havis (ECC Place Services monitoring officers) for their guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Adam Dyson. Andrew Lewsey produced the figures for this report and Elissa Menzel processed and quantified the finds. Adrian Scruby project managed the fieldworks and Mark Atkinson project managed the post-excavation process.

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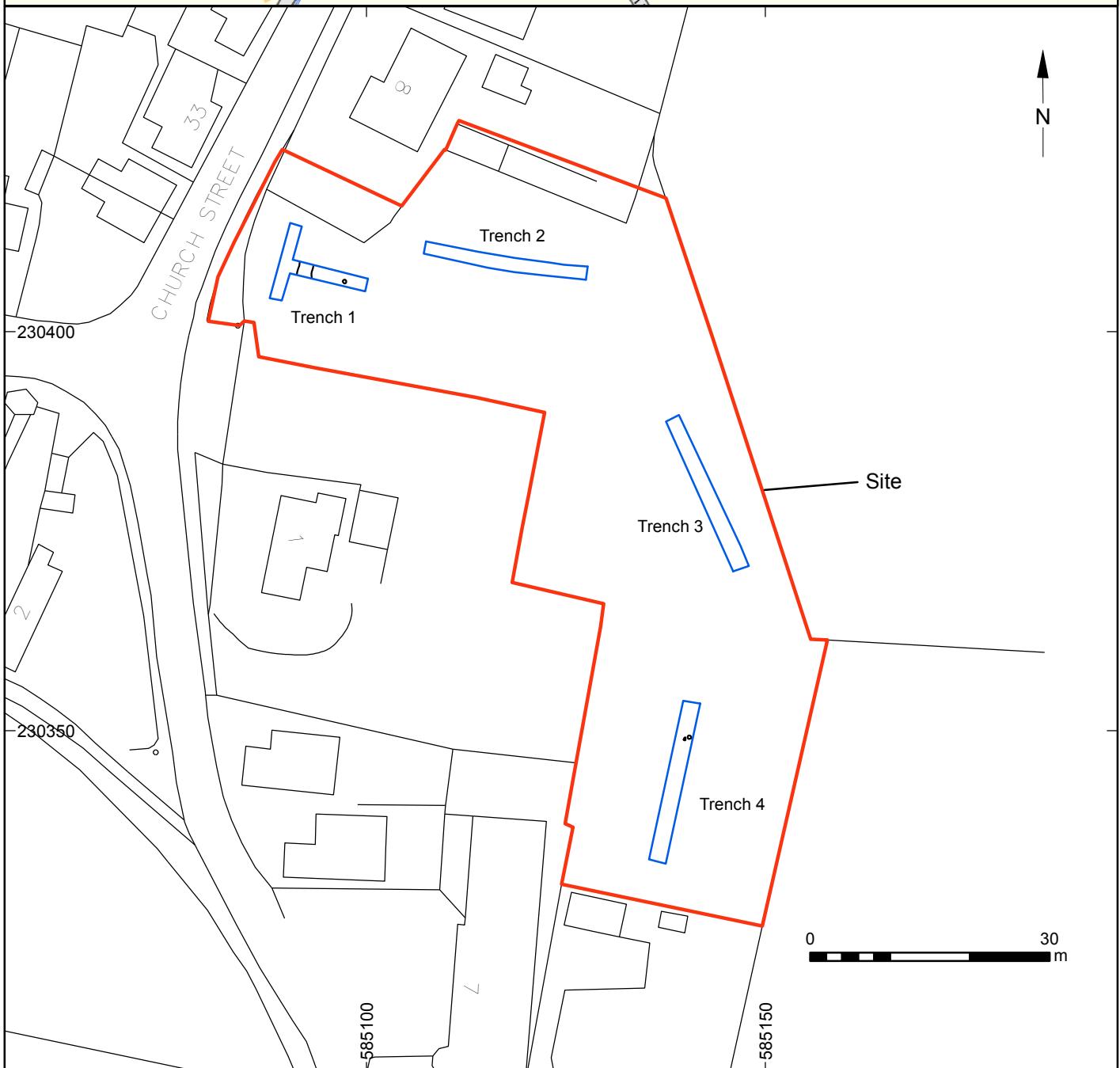
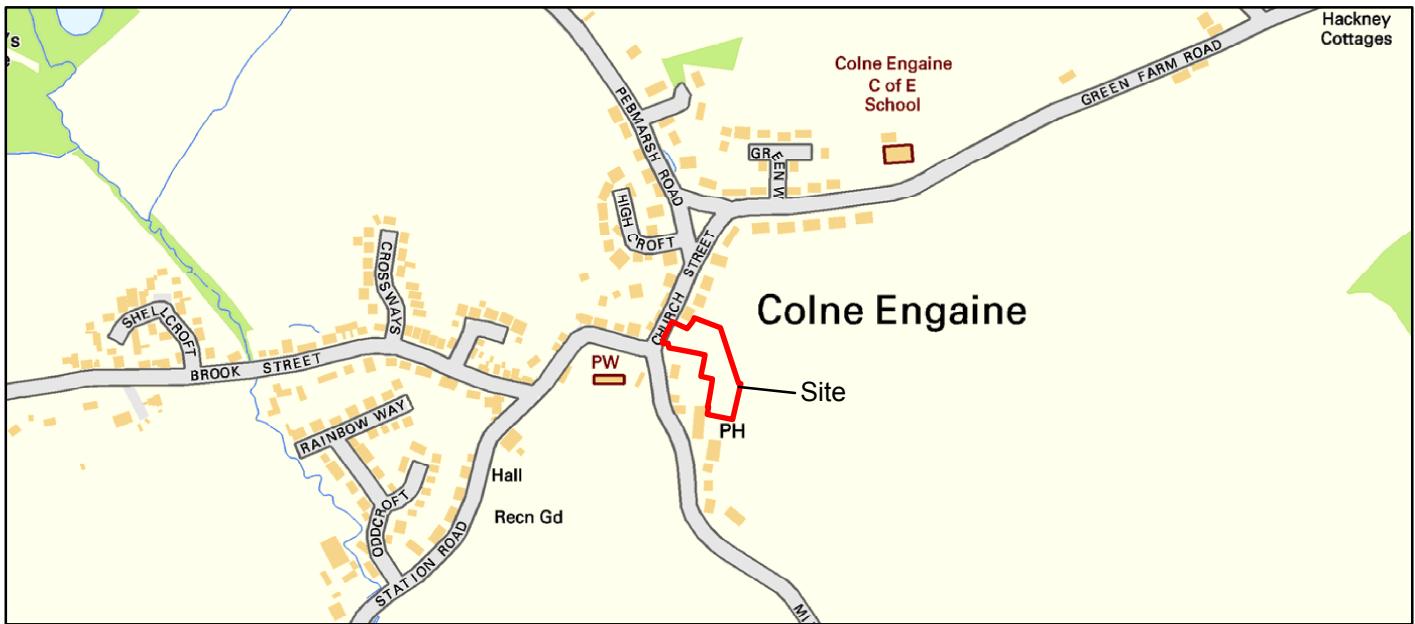
## Appendix 1: HER Summary Form

<b>Site name/Address:</b> The Old Builders Yard, Church Street, Colne Engaine	
<b>Parish:</b> Colne Engaine	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 85132 30385	<b>Site Code:</b> CECS13
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> A. Dyson, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> 11-12 December 2013	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 3370 sq m
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Landowner/developer
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> n/a
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH roundup	<b>OASIS No:</b> 167265
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Post-medieval, Modern	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b> Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) undertook an archaeological evaluation at the site known as The Old Builders Yard, Colne Engaine.  Four trenches were excavated within those parts of the site identified to have been least impacted by its previous terracing and development as the builders yard. The evaluation established that at least a moderate degree of truncation and disturbance affected the whole site, as topsoil and some subsoil had evidently been removed, areas of rubble make-up laid down and a thin layer of re-deposited topsoil spread over the top.  Below the rubble make-up a small quantity of archaeological features were found in Trenches 1 and 4 only, cutting into the remnant subsoil. A post-medieval ditch, possibly marking a boundary along the road frontage, was found in the northwest of the site, along with an undated post-hole or small pit. The ditch contained cow and horse remains in its fill. Modern pits were encountered in the southern part of the site. No archaeological remains were found in the northern and central parts.  The further archaeological potential of the site is judged to be low and likely to be restricted only to remains of post-medieval and modern date. The only features of interest, close to the Mill Lane frontage, have been adequately investigated by this evaluation. It is therefore considered that the proposed redevelopment of the site will have a low impact upon the heritage resource of this location and on that of the wider historic village of Colne Engaine.	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> A. Dyson	<b>Date of Summary:</b> January 2014

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

<b>OASIS ID: archaeol6-167265</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	The Old Builders Yard, Church Street, Colne Engaine
Short description of the project	Four trenches were excavated within those parts of the site identified to have been least impacted by its past terracing and development as the builders yard. This evaluation established that at least a moderate degree of truncation and disturbance affected the whole site. Below a layer of rubble make-up, a small quantity of archaeological features were found cutting into the remnant subsoil below, in Trenches 1 and 4 only. A post-medieval ditch, possibly marking a boundary along the road frontage, was found in the northwest of the site, along with an undated post-hole or small pit. The ditch contained cow and horse remains in its fill, some of which appeared to be articulated. Brick and tile from the ditch fill indicate a likely 18th century date. Modern pits were encountered in the southern part of the site. No archaeological remains were found in the trenches within northern and central parts.
Project dates	Start: 11-12-2013 End: 12-12-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Associated project reference codes	CECS 13 - Sitecode E8092 - Contracting Unit No. 11/01258/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval POST HOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICK AND TILE Post Medieval ANIMAL BONE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
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 COLNE ENGAINE Old Builders Yard, Church Street
Postcode	CO6 2EY
Study area	0.34 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 85132 30385 51.9406234644 0.693670108389

<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Adrian Scruby
Project supervisor	Adam Dyson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Oak Home Developments Ltd
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report"
<b>Project bibliog.</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation: The Old Builders Yard, Church Street, Colne Engaine, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dyson, A.
Other biblio details	Report No. 2014028
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Entered by	mark atkinson (mark.atkinson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 January 2014



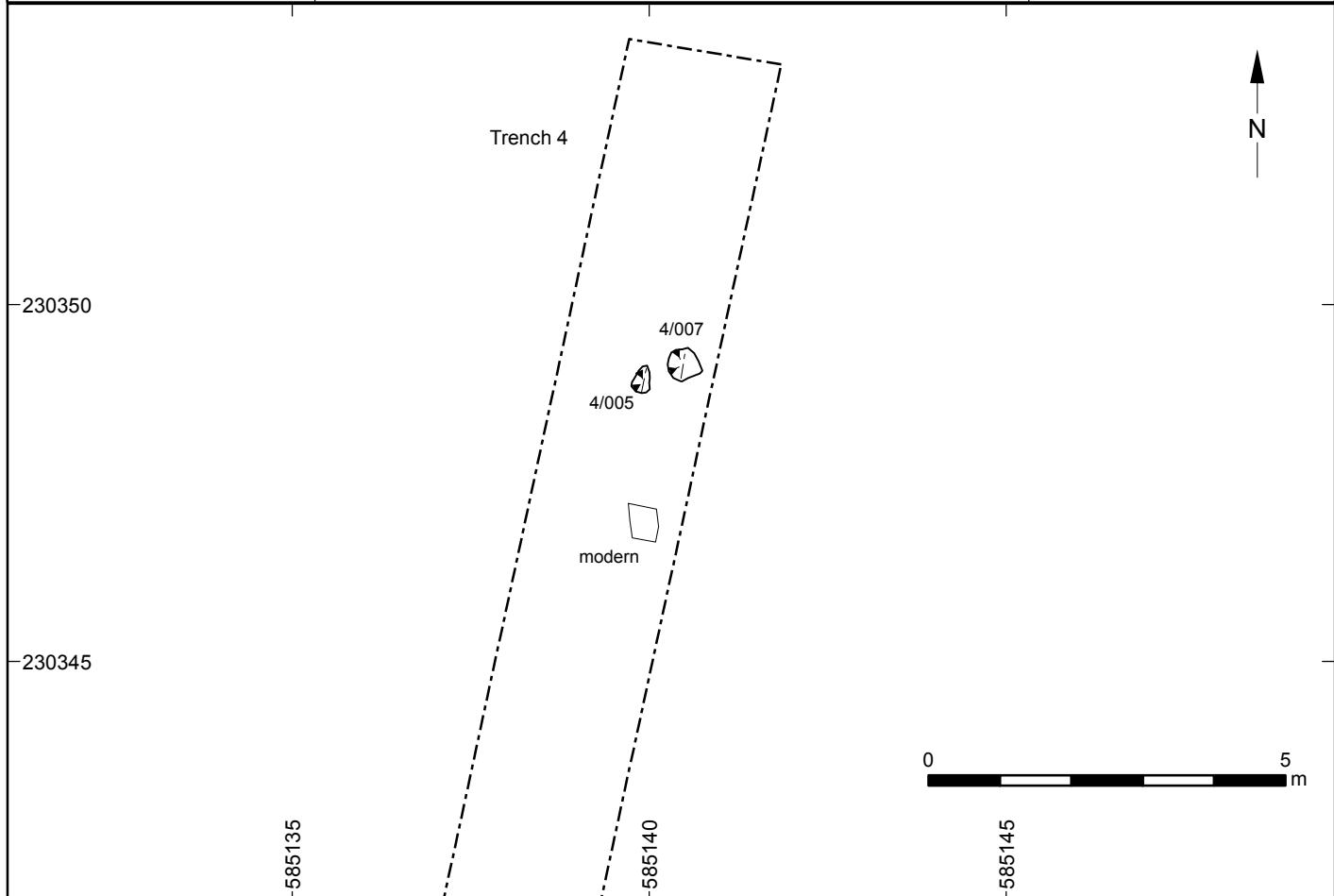
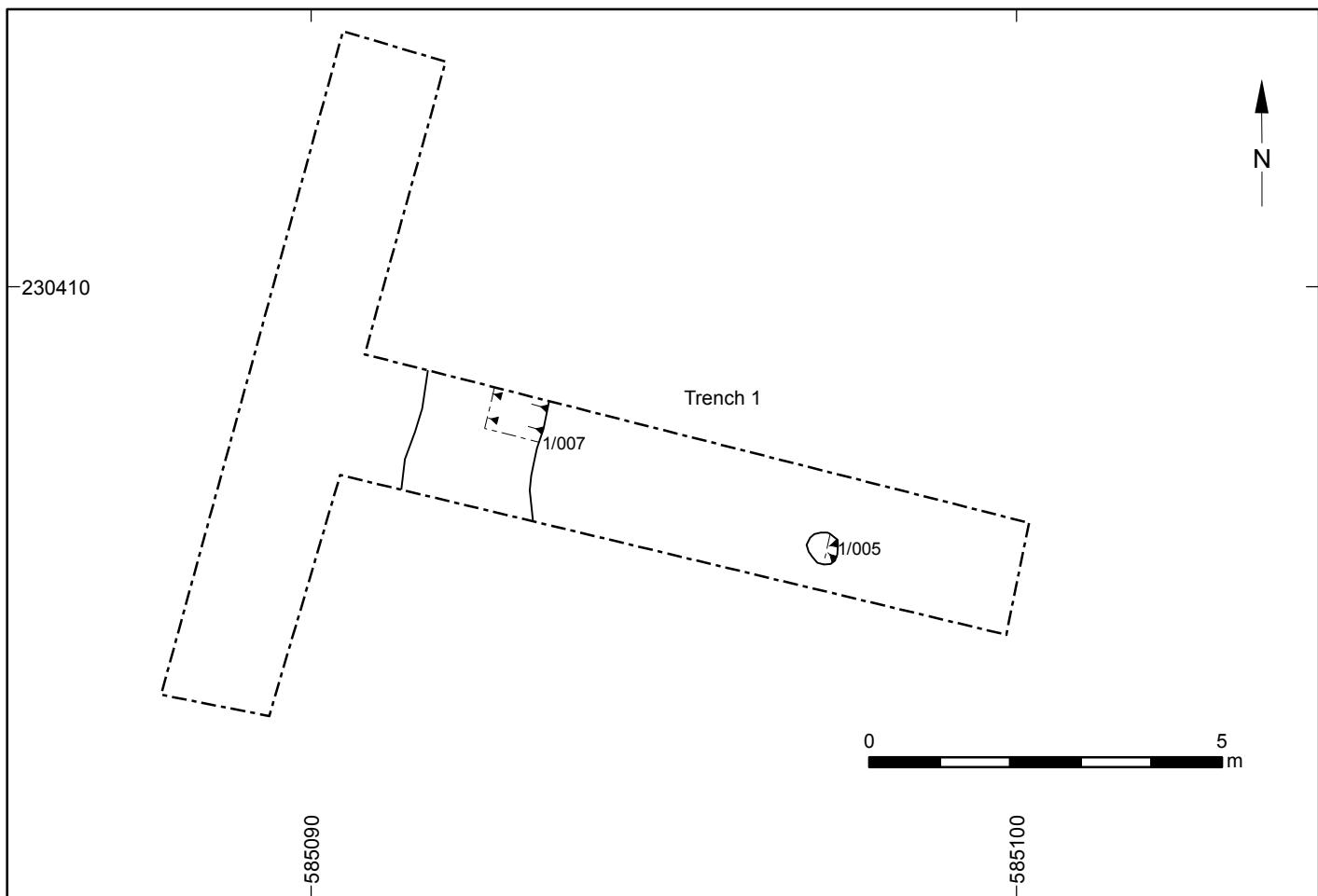




Figure 3. West end of Trench 1, looking north (1m scales)



Figure 4. Eastern end of Trench 1, looking east (1m scales)



Figure 5. Ditch [1/007] and skeletal remains [1/009], looking north (1m scale)



Figure 6. Trench 2, looking east (1m scales)



Figure 7. Modern disturbance at north end of Trench 2, looking east (1m scale)



Figure 8. Trench 3, looking southeast (1m scales)



Figure 9. Trench 4, looking south (1m scales)



Figure 10. Pits [4/005] and [4/007], looking northeast (0.5m scale)

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