

Final Report

**Archaeological Excavation
Land South of 94 South Street
Tillingham, Essex**

NGR: TL 99340 03130

Planning Ref: MAL/12/00832

**ASE Project No: 8226
Site Code: TISS 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014351
OASIS id: 193929**



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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southchurch Building Contracts, in advance of the redevelopment of the site, to undertake archaeological evaluation and excavation on land south of no. 94 South Street, in Tillingham, Essex. This report presents the results of the investigations which were carried out between May and July 2014.

The most significant remains comprise a medieval rectilinear ditched enclosure fronting South Street. Investigation of the enclosure ditch and associated pits and gullies support the presence of medieval settlement at this location from as early as the 10th to 11th centuries. Whilst no structural evidence was recorded, the recovered domestic finds strongly suggest that this was the settlement enclosure of a property fronting onto South Street.

This report represents a final account of the excavations and no further analysis work is suggested but it is proposed herein that a short note providing an account of the findings be submitted to the Essex Archaeology and History journal in due course.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 In July 2014, 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 excavation on land to the south of 94 South Street, Tillingham, Essex in advance of proposed residential development. The targeted excavation area was identified from a preceding trial trench evaluation, which established the presence of significant archaeological remains.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site is located on the southern edge of the historic village of Tillingham, at the junction of South Street and Tillingham Road (NGR TL 99340 03130). The property is bounded by residential development to the north, by South Street to the east, by Tillingham Road to the south and by a mixture of residential development and agricultural land to the west (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The site lies at roughly 21m AOD, on level ground. Tillingham is located on the Dengie Peninsular along the northern reaches of the outer Thames Estuary. The site lies approximately 4km west of the coastline, approximately 3.5km south-east of the River Blackwater and approximately 7.5km north of the River Crouch.

1.2.3 The superficial geology of the site is mapped by the British Geological Survey as comprising River Terrace Deposits 3 – sand and gravel, above an underlying bedrock comprising silty clay deposits of the Thames Group (British Geological Survey © NERC 2014). The natural geology revealed on site was silty clay with occasional gravel concentrations.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (MAL/12/00832) was submitted to Maldon District Council in 2012 for the construction of twenty four houses with associated access roads, parking and services. As the site lies in an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having the potential for archaeological deposits to be present, ECC Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisor to the local planning authority, recommended that an archaeological condition be attached to any grant of planning consent.

1.3.2 The archaeological condition that was recommended was based upon guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and the condition duly attached to the grant of planning consent states that:

Archaeological Assessment

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological

assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning authority and will inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.

Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work.

- 1.3.3 A brief was issued by the ECC Place Services Historic Environment team stipulating the requirement for archaeological trial-trenching at the site (ECC Place Services 2013). A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was subsequently prepared by ASE (ASE 2014a) and approved by ECC Place Services prior to the commencement of works.
- 1.3.4 In light of the evaluation results (Chew 2014), ECC Place Services requested that further work be carried out in order to fully satisfy the archaeological condition attached to planning consent. This work comprised a small targeted area of excavation centred on remains revealed in evaluation trench 4. The subsequent fieldwork was then carried out in line with an approved WSI for archaeological excavation prepared by ASE (ASE 2014b).

1.4 Circumstances and Dates of Work

- 1.4.1 The trial trench evaluation was carried out during May 2014. Eight trenches were excavated across the development area in order to evaluate the development's potential for disturbing significant archaeological remains. The most significant revealed remains were considered to be two, roughly oriented east-west, ditches in trench 4, which were thought to be indicative of a small medieval dwelling fronting onto South Street (Chew 2014).
- 1.4.2 A c. 500sqm excavation area was subsequently targeted on trench 4 to further elucidate the remains recorded therein. This was excavated between the 7th and 14th July 2014.
- 1.4.3 The fieldwork was project managed by Adrian Scruby and directed by Adam Dyson. The post-excavation work was project managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

1.5 Fieldwork Method

- 1.5.1 All mechanical excavation was carried out under the supervision of an archaeologist using a toothless ditching bucket. Care was taken not to remove seemingly homogenous layers that might have been the upper deposits of archaeological features. The resultant surfaces were cleaned as necessary and a pre-excavation plan prepared using Real Time Kinematic Global Positioning System (RTK-GPS) planning technology.
- 1.5.2 Where necessary, features were hand planned at a scale of 1:20 and then digitised to be included on the overall plan.
- 1.5.3 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 2008a, 2010) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 1.5.4 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.
- 1.5.5 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, and at least a 10% sample of non-structural linear features was excavated. All excavation was undertaken using hand tools. The site plan was updated following regular visits by ASE surveyors who plotted excavated features and recorded levels in close consultation with the supervisor. Sections were drawn at 1:10 scale and where necessary, features were hand planned at 1:20 scale and then digitised to be included on the overall plan.
- 1.5.6 A full digital photographic record of features was maintained. The photographic record also includes working shots to represent more generally the nature of the fieldwork.
- 1.5.7 Finds recovered from excavated deposits were collected and retained in line with the ASE artefacts collection policy (ASE 2011). In general, all finds from all sampled features were collected. Where large quantities of 19th-20th century finds were present and the feature was not of intrinsic or group interest, a sample of the finds assemblage was collected, sufficient to date and characterise the feature.
- 1.5.8 Environmental samples were taken from well-stratified deposits that were deemed to have potential for the preservation/survival of ecofactual material. Bulk soil samples (generally a minimum 40 litres or 100% of context) were taken for wet sieving and flotation, and for finds recovery.

1.6 Organisation of the Report

- 1.6.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines laid out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation (English Heritage 2008)*.
- 1.6.2 The report seeks to place the results from all phases of work within their local archaeological and historical setting; to quantify and summarise the results; specify their significance and potential, including any capacity they have to address the original research aims.
- 1.6.3 All finds and environmental archives are all recorded under a single site code: TISS 14.
- 1.6.4 Where relevant, the results from the evaluation have been integrated and assessed with the results from the excavation. The results from trenches outside of the excavation area will be discussed briefly within the archaeological background section (2.0) but are assessed in greater detail in the evaluation report (Chew 2014).

1.7 Archive

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

Evaluation	
No. of contexts	19
No. of drawing sheets	2
Photographs	37 (colour digital)
Bulk finds	120g
Environmental flots/residue	Material from 3 bulk samples
Excavation	
No. of contexts	38
No of files/paper record	1
No. of drawing sheets	2
Photographs	28 (colour digital)
Bulk finds	1804g
Environmental flots/residue	Material from 1 bulk sample

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric and Roman

2.1.1 In the prehistoric period Tillingham was essentially a coastal site, located at the end of a gravel ridge bordered by salt-marsh. There are a number of Neolithic and Bronze Age finds from the area, as well as crop-mark evidence for the settlement of the area in the prehistoric and Roman periods, which includes both rectangular enclosures and ring-ditches. The proposed development site lies south-east of a cropmark complex (EHER 13453) comprising linear features and pits, and likely to be of prehistoric or Roman date. Other apparent anomalies are very likely periglacial features.

2.1.2 In addition, there are numerous 'Red Hills' (remnants of salt production sites) dating to the late Iron Age and Roman period along the old interface between dry land and marsh, with a number of recorded sites located c.2km east of the development area (EHER 2043, 2046 and 2047).

2.2 Anglo Saxon and Medieval

2.2.1 Tillingham first appears in the historical record c. AD610 in the Cartularium Saxonicum, when it was granted by King Ethelbert of Kent to Bishop Mellitus to help fund his new Bishopric of London. The Dengie peninsula, is divided into a distinctive rectilinear field pattern. This is a planned ancient landscape, with possible origins in the middle Saxon period (ECC 2008). The boundaries of the proposed development site form part of this rectilinear pattern.

2.2.2 The Domesday Book (AD 1086) describes Tillingham as a manor with 20 villagers, 8 small holders and 4 slaves, with land under plough and pasture, as well as a mill and a fishery (Rumble 1983, 5.5)

2.3 Previous archaeological work

2.3.1 To the north of the site, an evaluation at Vicarage Lane recorded medieval and post-medieval ditches, pits and post-holes behind the disturbed street frontage (Roy 2004). On the basis of this evidence the medieval plots were postulated to extend only c.25m back from the roadside at this location in the settlement.

2.6 Approximately 600m to the north of the site, a recent evaluation at 14 Marsh Road, near to the Church of St Nicolas and Tillingham Hall, revealed two ditches of undetermined date (Dyson 2013).

2.7 The recent evaluation of the 94 South Street development site comprised the excavation of eight trial trenches located across the development area (Figure 1). Six cut features were recorded as being present in three of the trenches (Chew 2014). The most significant remains comprised the two roughly east-west oriented ditches, [10] and [17], located in trench 4 which contained medieval pottery dating to the 12th to 13th century. These remains were thought likely to be indicative of a small medieval dwelling fronting South Street and were the focus for the subsequent excavation

phase of additional work.

- 2.8 The remaining trenches revealed undated features comprising a ditch oriented north-east to south-west (trench 3), a gully oriented roughly north to south (trench 8), a shallow pit (trench 4) and an isolated post-hole (trench 8). These features could conceivably be contemporary with the medieval ditches although this remains speculative. A small quantity of residual Late Iron Age / early Roman pottery retrieved from the site also hinted at an earlier phase of activity (Chew 2014).

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS

- 3.1 The general aim of the archaeological excavation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the specified excavation area in order to ensure their preservation by record prior to destruction by the development. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the excavation were to be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.
- 3.2 Specific objectives for the excavation were to:
- Further investigate the medieval remains identified during the evaluation in order to more fully understand their form, date, function and significance
 - Investigate and interpret the nature and development of medieval Tillingham
- 3.3 In the event that significant discoveries were made the subsequent report was to seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with 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).
- 3.4 With regard to Medlycott, the dynamics of medieval settlement and the origins and development of different settlement types have been identified as a topic for further research (*ibid.* p70). In addition, the development of towns, changes in their internal layouts and housing densities, and the understanding of the inter-relationships between towns and their hinterlands and their role as centres of supply and demand have all been highlighted as needing further study.

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 - 3)

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The archaeological features exposed in the excavation area included an enclosure ditch, shallow gullies and pits containing artefacts indicative of medieval settlement activity. In addition, the recovery of a small assemblage of residual pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) suggests low level prehistoric and Roman activity was also present nearby, although no direct evidence of activity in the development area itself predates the 10th Century AD.

4.1.2 The archaeological remains are discussed under provisional date-phased headings determined primarily through assessment of the dateable artefacts, predominantly pottery, and secondarily through the creation of relative chronologies where stratigraphic relationships exist. On the basis of this, three phases of activity have been defined, phase 1 and to a lesser degree, phase 2, are represented by residual artefacts present within later features. A brief description of the phases is presented below:

4.1.3 **Phase 1** – prehistoric and Roman activity nearby

4.1.4 **Phase 2** (c. AD 900-1100) – Late Saxon / early medieval settlement activity, possibly represented by early deposits on site.

4.1.5 **Phase 3** (c. AD 1150-1300) – medieval settlement activity, represented by a rectilinear enclosure formed by a ditch containing a single fill deposit.

4.1.3 The archaeological sequence will be discussed by land use entities where possible. In this way, linear features, such as ditches which may have numerous individual excavated segments and context numbers, are discussed as single entities.

4.2 Modern overburden and natural geology

4.2.1 The extant ground surface on site comprised a layer of modern topsoil, [100], which was a loose deposit of mid grey brown sandy clay with occasional medium sized flint inclusions and occasional fragments of modern CBM. It was present across the whole excavation area and measured between 0.2-0.3m thick.

4.2.2 Beneath this was an earlier modern or post-medieval subsoil layer [101], also present across the whole area. It was a firm deposit of mid orange brown clay silt with occasional gravel inclusions and measured approximately 0.1-0.2m thick. It did not contain any datable finds; however it was observed to be sealing the medieval deposits.

4.2.3 The natural geology present beneath subsoil [101] comprised of a light yellow orange deposit of compact silty clay with occasional concentrations of gravel.

4.3 Phase 1: Prehistoric and Roman

- 4.3.1 Residual prehistoric and Roman material, indicating the earliest identifiable activity in the vicinity of the site was recovered from four medieval contexts.
- 4.3.2 The fill of enclosure ditch GP4 produced sherds of possible Iron Age pottery, three sherds from segment [17] and additional sherds from segment [137]. In both cases, the contexts also produced pottery dated to the early 13th century AD (5.2.3).
- 4.3.3 Fragments of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery were recovered from context [105], the upper fill of pit [106] alongside mid-13th to 14th century sherds. Also, heavily abraded Roman CBM was recovered from the fills of pit [125] and from segment [131] in gully GP1 (5.3). Pit [125] was part of a cluster of small medieval pits; and the fill of GP1 also produced pottery dated to the early 13th century (c.AD1200).

4.4 Phase 2: Late Saxon / Early Medieval

- 4.4.1 Pottery recovered from the Late Saxon / early medieval period may also be residual material within features cut much later. However, the size and distribution of this assemblage is far more indicative of focussed settlement activity at the site than the recovered prehistoric and Roman..
- 4.4.2 Pit [106] (Figure 2 and section 1) was located among a cluster of small pits in the far north-west corner of the enclosure formed by ditch GP4. Pit [106] was an irregular oval in shape (1.6 x 0.6 x 0.27m) with quite sharp edges and moderately shallow sides. It was the largest of the cluster of pits and recorded as having been cut through the fill of pit [125]. The single fill of pit [125] was in-turn cut by pit [120]. The whole cluster was tentatively recorded as being later than gully GP2 (Figures 2 and 3).
- 4.4.3 The relationship of the smallest pit, [109], to the others could not be surmised due to its location at the periphery of the cluster. All of the recorded relationships in this cluster of features are tentative due to the similarity of the fill deposits, which were of similar mid-brown grey silty clays. A contemporary date for the whole cluster of features is quite possible, especially given their similarity in profile and depth, all having quite shallow sides and all measuring between 0.15 and 0.27m deep. Leaving aside the residual Roman material from pit [125], finds from pit [106] offer the only dating evidence for this whole cluster of features.
- 4.4.4 Pit [106] contained two fills and in addition to substantial quantities of animal bone (5.6) and oyster shell (5.7), its lower fill, [107], contained the remains of an early medieval ware cooking-pot. Upper fill [105] contained similar early medieval ware sherds together with Late Saxon Thetford-type ware most likely dating to the 10th to 11th centuries; and fragments of German lava quern (RF<2>) (5.4). It also contained however, three pottery sherds from a Mill Green ware, which is much later than the rest of the ceramic group, dating to the mid-13th to 14th centuries (5.2.2). Given that the earlier material represents the larger assemblage, an interpretation of the Mill Green ware as intrusive material disturbing an earlier feature seems

possible.

- 4.4.5 A similar situation can be seen with gully GP1, which follows a similar alignment to GP2 and was located within the ditched enclosure at the eastern edge of the excavation area (Figure 2). The gully was investigated with two excavated segments, [131] (section 3), and [133]. These revealed the gully to be shallow with a concave base up to 0.2m deep in [133].
- 4.4.6 A single fill of mid orange grey, moderately compact silty clay contained a fragment of German lava quern (RF<1>) (5.4) and an early medieval ware cooking-pot, missing fragments from the base of which were found in the upper fill of pit [106] some 10m away (5.2.1). In itself this reinforces the argument for a 10th to 11th century date for this gully, the pit cluster and gully (GP2) to the north-west. However, it is important to note that in addition to sherds of loosely datable grog tempered early medieval ware, segment [131] also contained a cooking-pot fragment which is datable to c.1200 and therefore brings this feature back towards an early 13th century date (5.2.2), unless we consider this material intrusive as well.
- 4.4.7 On balance it seems likely that gully GP1, the pit cluster, and by association, gully GP2 are all early 13th century in date. The earlier pottery would therefore be residual but nevertheless represents compelling evidence for settlement activity being present on or very near to this site from the 10th to 11th century onwards.

4.5 Phase 3: Medieval

- 4.5.1 The most significant land use identified on this site is the enclosure formed by ditch GP4. The ditch was investigated within 9 hand-dug sondages, 7 of which investigated the full width of the ditch. The remaining two were partial excavations used to investigate possible stratigraphic relationships between the fill of the ditch and those of shallow gullies GP2 and GP3. The similarity in colour and composition of the fills meant a stratigraphic relationship could not be seen, perhaps suggesting a contemporary use of the ditch and gullies. This suggestion is especially strong regarding gully GP3 which shows a clear association to the ditch in terms of alignment (Figures 2 and 3).
- 4.5.2 Segment [10] and the two segments recorded as [17] were excavated in evaluation trench 4 and are somewhat inconsistent. This is due to the trench being machine-excavated to a lower level and the features are considered to be sections of the same enclosure ditch. Segment [10] contained 12th to earlier 13th century pottery. Segment [17] contained a rim sherd from a possible bowl, dated to c.AD1200, in addition to a thick-walled sherd of coil built medieval coarse ware perhaps from a jar or cooking-pot with patches of fire-blackening on the external surface, indicating it has been heated over a fire (5.2.3).
- 4.5.3 The full width and depth of the ditch was investigated in segments [104], [127] (section 2), [135] and [137]. In all segments a shallow sided cut with a concave base was revealed. The width ranged from 1-1.6m and the depth ranged from 0.22-0.34m.

- 4.5.4 The single fill recorded in all sondages was a mid-orange grey, compact silty clay with occasional small to medium angular stones. Occasional charcoal flecks were recorded in fill [126]. The single silty fill is assumed to represent natural silting.
- 4.5.6 Segment [104] contained early medieval ware along with a single sherd of Hedingham ware suggested to be mid- to late 12th century in date (5.2.2); and segment [137] contained a single sherd of early medieval ware broadly dated to between the 10th and early 13th century.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the excavations (table 2). Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context. Finds are packaged and stored according to IfA guidelines (2008b). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	F Clay	Wt (g)
103	3	15								
105	45	281								
107	29	74			27	11	230	609	1	8
122			3	92						
130	13	112	1	7						
132	9	616								
136	3	19								
<i>Total</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>1117</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>230</i>	<i>609</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>

Table 2 Overview of the finds assemblage

5.1.2 Low level prehistoric early Roman activity is attested by the presence of small quantities of residual pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) recovered from later deposits.

5.1.3 Late Saxon to early medieval grog tempered pottery of 10-11th/12th century date is of interest due to its presence outside the usual geographical range, and the recovery of Thetford ware may indicate coastal trading. The presence of oyster shell indicates domestic utilisation of marine food resources, and German lava quern fragments indicate arable crop processing.

5.1.4 12th - 14th century domestic wares were recovered from later deposits and the majority of ditch fills and appear to date the decline of the site.

5.2 Medieval pottery by Helen Walker

5.2.1 A total of 125 sherds weighing 1208g was excavated from eight contexts and has been catalogued according to Cunningham's typology of post-Roman pottery in Essex (Cunningham 1985, 1-16). The largest group came from pit [106]. Featured sherds from lower fill [107] comprise the remains of an early medieval ware cooking-pot with a simple everted rim. The upper fill, [105], produced a more varied assemblage, which includes two abraded sherds of Late Saxon Thetford-type ware, most likely dating to the 10th to 11th centuries, one sherd showing the characteristic rilled sides. The remaining pottery comprises mainly early medieval fabrics including part of a cooking-pot in a grog-tempered fabric showing a shouldered profile and an everted, slightly beaded rim. Also present is a rim sherd from the same

cooking-pot found in the lower fill, body sherds of shell-tempered ware, and fragments from a base, which forms part of the same early medieval ware cooking-pot found in gully segment [133] (fill [132]), several metres to the south-east. The cooking pot from gully segment [133] shows a slack profile and an everted, internally bevelled rim. All this pottery could be contemporary with the Thetford-type ware and belong to the 10th or 11th centuries. However, the latest pottery in upper fill [105] comprises three very abraded sherds from a Mill Green ware sagging base, which is much later than the rest of the group, dating to the mid-13th to 14th centuries.

5.2.2 Further sherds of early medieval grog-tempered ware were recovered from gully terminus [131] (fill [130]) (the same feature as gully segment [133]) and include a large sherd from the body of a shouldered cooking-pot (not from the same vessel as that in [105]). The fabric contains significant amounts of sand as well as grog. The most closely datable pottery in this feature however, is an early medieval ware ?cooking pot fragment with a flat-topped everted rim (Cunningham's sub-form B2 rim), which is datable to c.1200 and is therefore later than that from gully segment [133] and cut feature [106]. At the southern end of the enclosure, ditch segment [104] produced further sherds of early medieval ware and a single sherd of Hedingham ware. Hedingham ware is a medieval fabric spanning the mid-12th to mid-14th centuries, but its buff fabric indicates an early date of mid to late 12th century.

5.2.3 Ditch/gully [17] (fill [16]) produced material that is borderline between medieval coarseware and early medieval ware. The only featured sherd present is a second B2 rim datable to c.1200, perhaps from a bowl, accompanied by several body sherds that may belong to this vessel. Also present is a thick-walled sherd of medieval coarse ware perhaps from a jar or cooking-pot, like several of the other cooking-pot fragments excavated, patches of fire-blackening on the external surface show it has been heated over a fire. The unevenness of the vessel walls and the absence of throwing lines indicate it was coil-built rather than wheel-thrown, indicating a date well before the mid-13th century. Ditch/gully [17] also produced three sherds of possible Iron Age pottery and it follows that if residual pottery from an earlier archaeological period has got into the feature then the medieval pottery may also be residual and the ditch in-filled at a later date. A single sherd of early medieval ware was recovered from ditch [137] (fill [136]), but again, as this feature also produced prehistoric sherds, all the pottery may be residual. Two sherds of sand-with-shell-tempered ware spanning the 12th to early 13th centuries were excavated from ditch segment [10], (fill [9]) although the shell has leached out over time leaving characteristic lens-shaped vesicles.

Discussion

5.2.4 The pottery is of some interest as, assuming the Mill Green ware in cut [106] is intrusive, then this feature is of early date probably belonging to the 10th to 11th centuries. Material from this early date was also found in gully GP1 (seg. [133]), but is assumed to be residual as pottery from c.1200 was recovered from the same feature (seg. [131]).

5.2.5 Grog-tempered early medieval ware is unusual and where it does occur, is

normally found at the western side of the county, for example at Stansted and Waltham Abbey. The presence of Thetford-type ware may be explained by Tillingham's proximity to the coast, as Thetford-type ware was traded down the coast and is relatively common at the ports of Colchester and Maldon (although Thetford-type ware is also found inland). Other interventions such as ditch segment [17], ditch segment [104] (both in ditch GP4) and gully terminus segment [131] (gully GP1) containing pottery with the more developed B2 rims and the early-type sherd of Heddingham ware are likely to be later, spanning the mid-12th to early 13th centuries.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Trista Clifford

- 5.3.1 A total of four fragments of Roman ceramic building material weighing 96g were recovered from two contexts. Pit [125] (fill [122]) contained three conjoining fragments of probable tegula in a fine fabric with sparse rounded coarse quartz. The fragments are overfired. A small undiagnostic fragment in a similar fabric was recovered from ditch GP1 (terminus segment [131], fill [130]) and is probably residual in this context.

5.4 Registered Finds by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The excavations recovered just twelve pieces of stone, weighing 82g, from two individually numbered contexts. Pit [106] fill [105] produced 11 friable pieces (41g) of German lava quern (RF<2>), some of which have parts of the grinding face remaining. Ditch [133], fill [132], produced the other piece (RF<1>) – also part of a German lava quern though with no features remaining. Both features are of medieval date.

5.5 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 A single piece of utilised but otherwise undiagnostic fired clay in a sand tempered fabric was recovered from context [107], the lower fill of pit [106]. The fragment weighs 8g.

5.6 Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth

- 5.6.1 A small assemblage of animal bones totalling sixty two fragments and weighing 18g was recovered from context [107], the lower fill in pit [106]. The bone fragments are in poor condition with signs of surface erosion and no complete bones are present; only nine fragments are identifiable to taxa. The bones were hand collected and bulk sampled, with the majority unidentifiable. The assemblage contains fragmentary remains from sheep/goat, pig and medium mammals.
- 5.6.2 The hand collected fragments from context [107] included twenty-two medium mammal long bone fragments, five fragments of sheep/goat teeth and two pig molar fragments.
- 5.6.3 Small fragments of bone were collected from residue sample <4>, deriving from context [107]. A single sheep/goat incisor was recovered from the <4> 2-4mm mesh. Twenty-nine unidentifiable fragments were recovered from the <4> 4-8mm mesh, along with two burnt bone calcined fragments.

Fragments of a sheep/goat molar were recovered from the <4> >8mm mesh.

- 5.6.4 No evidence of butchery, gnawing or pathology has been noted and no metrical data or ageable mandibles were recorded. Due to the size and condition of the bone, the assemblage holds no potential for further analysis and no further work is required.

5.7 The Marine Mollusc by Trista Clifford

- 5.7.1 The excavated sample of pit [106], fill [107], produced a total of 230 fragments of edible oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) shell weighing 609g. Forty one upper and forty two lower valves are present (MNI 44); the remaining fragments are largely small and undiagnostic. The assemblage consists of adult specimens with minimal parasitic activity and represents utilisation of the resource for food, possibly from a single episode.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Four bulk samples were taken during evaluation and excavation work at the site to establish evidence for environmental remains and their potential to provide further information regarding the economy of the site and past vegetation. Samples were extracted from three ditches; <1> from fill [7] in ditch segment [8] (trench 3); <2> from fill [9] in ditch segment [10] (trench 4); <3> from fill [16] in ditch segment [17] (trench 4) and <4> from fill [107] in pit [106] (excavation). Ditches [10] and [17] (GP4) and pit [106] are dated to the Medieval Phase 3 (mid-12th – early 13th century), although the sampled deposit from pit [106] does contain significant residual 10th to 11th century material. Ditch [8] is undated.

6.1.2 The samples were processed in their entirety by flotation with the residues and flots retained on 500 and 250µm meshes respectively. Both fractions were air dried and the residues were passed through 8, 4 and 2mm geological sieves prior to sorting for environmental remains and artefacts (Appendix 1). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and estimated quantities of their contents recorded (Appendix 2). Taxonomic identifications were made by comparing the macrobotanical remains with modern specimens and with those documented in reference manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997) and Zohary and Hopf (2000).

6.2 Results

6.2.1 The flots from these samples were dominated by modern uncharred rootlets with a small quantity of modern seeds and insect remains suggesting a degree of bioturbation within the ditches and pit. Small assemblages of charcoal and charred macro plant remains were also recovered. No further identification work was warranted for the charcoal, however the macro plant remains are considered further below.

6.2.2 Charred cereal caryopses were recorded in samples from ditch segments [10] (<2> [9]) and [17] (<3> [16]), and in pit [106] (<4> [107]). The assemblages consist of wheat, including free-threshing bread-type wheat, barley and indeterminate fragments of cereal grain.

6.2.3 Sample <4> [107], pit [106] contained several more elongated wheat grains consistent in form with glume wheat types, however no glume bases, spikelets or other chaff, that could be used to confirm and verify their identification, were evident. Given that there was some evidence for residual LIA/early Roman pottery in context [105] (another fill of pit [107]) it is possible that these glume wheat cereal grains are also residual although they could equally represent either volunteer plants occurring as a remnant of previous crops within the main crop or a continuation of glume wheat cultivation in the region at this time.

6.2.4 Sample <3> [16], ditch [17] contained a very short, rounded free-threshing wheat grain (measuring 3.75 x 1.25mm). In the absence of rachis fragments

further taxonomic refinement of this is not possible. This sample also contained seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) an arable weed common on heavy clay-rich soils on which the free-threshing wheat crops could have been grown. This weed is a moderately common component of Medieval botanical assemblages in the south east and is therefore not out of place in this ditch deposit.

6.3 Summary

- 6.3.1 Sampling at the site provided evidence for a small array of archaeobotanical remains. Of these, the macro plant remains provide limited evidence for the use and perhaps local cultivation of bread-type wheat and barley between the 10th and 13th centuries AD. These small assemblages provide no clear evidence for changes in the crops being cultivated through the periods of land use, although there is some possible indication of glume wheats in pit [106]. These may have been relied upon more heavily during significantly earlier occupations, in the LIA/early Roman period, for example and as noted above they may be intrusive within pit feature [106], occur as remnants in the main crop or represent continued cultivation.
- 6.3.2 Although the charred macro plant remains were generally well preserved they were very infrequent. As such, they provide only limited evidence for cereals that may have been used at the site or cultivated locally. The limited weed assemblage suggests that this cultivation took place on clay-rich soils and the predominance of free-threshing bread-type wheat and barley is consistent with other medieval sites in the region. As none of the samples are from features known to contain remnants of primary activities, no detail regarding cultivation practices, crop processing or the use of cereal grain can be drawn from these limited assemblages. Instead these ditch and pit deposits are likely to contain amalgams of dumped and discarded debris or sediments and associated occupation debris that accumulated gradually.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Residual finds from the excavation are indicative of prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity. However, the principle remains comprise a ditched enclosure alongside pits and gullies dated to the mid-12th to early 14th century, with associated finds suggesting settlement activity in the area from as early as the 10th to 11th centuries.

7.2 Phase 1: Residual finds from the Prehistoric and Roman periods

7.2.1 The residual pottery and ceramic building material is of little significance. Prehistoric and later activity is indicated by the cropmark complexes in the area (see section 2) and Roman occupation is attested to by Roman roads in the area, one of which leads to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of *Othona* (SAM no.1013834), the Saxon Shore fort c.6km north-east of the development area at Bradwell-on-Sea. In addition, the remains of salt-manufacturing sites along the coast form part of the Roman salt-working industry in the area for which there is extensive evidence (2.0).

7.3 Phase 2: Residual finds from the Late Saxon/early medieval period

7.3.1 The presence of Late Saxon and early medieval pottery dating to the 10th to 11th century is significant and suggests localised settlement activity in the area of the site from this period.

7.4 Phase 3: Ditched enclosure, pits and gullies from the medieval period (mid-12th – early 14th century)

7.4.1 The enclosure recorded beside South Street suggests the site of a dwelling as, although no structural evidence such as post holes was identified, the recovered domestic finds, including blackened cooking-pots and quern stones certainly indicate settlement activity. In addition plant remains from environmental samples contained bread-type wheat and barley.

7.4.2 The large quantity of oyster shells and domestic pottery in a pit in one corner of the enclosure [106] suggest that this and other proximate pits were used to deposit refuse.

7.4.3 Investigation into two other gullies (GP2 and GP3) suggest that they were contemporary with the main enclosure ditch; GP4 and may have had a drainage function.

7.4.4 The function of a 3rd gully, GP1, within the enclosed area of GP4, is perhaps less clear, although it may also have been purely a drainage feature.

7.5 Consideration of research aims

7.5.1 In this section relevant original research aims (3.0) are considered:

7.5.2 *To determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the specified excavation area in order to ensure their preservation by record prior to destruction by the development. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the excavation were to be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.*

All identified archaeological remains were investigated and recorded to ensure their preservation by record.

7.5.3 *To further investigate the medieval remains identified during the evaluation in order to more fully understand their form, date, function and significance.*

The excavation was successful in confirming that the ditches identified in trench 4 were part of a medieval enclosure fronting onto South Street. Although no actual dwelling was identified as no structural remains were identified, the finds from the ditch fills and pits strongly suggests the location of a domicile.

7.5.4 *To investigate and interpret the nature and development of medieval Tillingham.*

The remains revealed on this site support the presence of medieval settlement in Tillingham at this end of South Street from as early as the 10th or 11th century AD. The identified enclosure is c. 600m from the present village centre; in a position directly beside the road conducive as a location for a dwelling.

8.0 PUBLICATION PROJECT

- 8.1 The medieval results of this investigation are considered to be of sufficient local and regional significance to merit inclusion of a short note, highlighting the medieval enclosure as an interesting local discovery, with accompanying plan in the journal *Essex Archaeology and History*. The text will draw specialist information from the above reports.

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Appendix 1: List of recorded contexts

Area/Trench	Context	Context type	Feature Type	Parent Context	Group	Period
1-8	1	Layer (L)	External cultivation (EC)	1		Modern
1-8	2	L	EC	2		Post-med
1-8	3	L	Natural strata (N)	3		-
1-8	4	-	N	4		-
2	5	L	Redeposited destruction debris (DB)	5		Modern
1,2,4,5,7	6	-	N	6		-
3	7	Fill (F)	Ditch (D)	8		
3	8	Cut (C)	D	8		
4	9	F	D	10		Medieval
4	10	C	D	10	4	Medieval
8	11	F	D	12		
8	12	C	D	12		
8	13	F	Structural cut (SP)	14		
8	14	C	SP	14		
8	15	F	SP	14		
4	16	F	D	17		Medieval
4	17	C	D	17	4	Medieval
4	18	F	Pit (P)	19		
4	19	C	P	19		
EX	100	L	EC	1		Modern
EX	101	L	EC	2		Post-med
EX	102	L	N	3		-
EX	103	F	D	104	4	Medieval
EX	104	C	D	104	4	Medieval
EX	105	F	P	106		Medieval
EX	106	C	P	106		Medieval
EX	107	F	P	106		Medieval
EX	108	F	P	109		Medieval
EX	109	C	P	109		Medieval
EX	110	F	D	111	4	Medieval
EX	111	C	D	111	4	Medieval
EX	112	F	D	113	3	Medieval
EX	113	C	D	113	3	Medieval
EX	114	F	D	115	2	Medieval
EX	115	C	D	115	2	Medieval

Area/Trench	Context	Context type	Feature Type	Parent Context	Group	Period
EX	116	F	D	117	4	Medieval
EX	117	C	D	117	4	Medieval
EX	118	F	D	119	2	Medieval
EX	119	C	D	119	2	Medieval
EX	120	F	P	121		Medieval
EX	121	C	P	121		Medieval
EX	122	F	P	125		Medieval
EX	123	C	D	123	2	Medieval
EX	124	F	D	123	2	Medieval
EX	125	C	P	125		Medieval
EX	126	F	D	127	4	Medieval
EX	127	C	D	127	4	Medieval
EX	128	F	D	129	3	Medieval
EX	129	C	D	129	3	Medieval
EX	130	F	D	131	1	Medieval
EX	131	C	D	131	1	Medieval
EX	132	F	D	133	1	Medieval
EX	133	C	D	133	1	Medieval
EX	134	F	D	135	4	Medieval
EX	135	C	D	135	4	Medieval
EX	136	F	D	137	4	Medieval
EX	137	C	D	137	4	Medieval

Appendix 2: Environmental Assessment - Residue Quantification

(* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charred botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Bone and Teeth	Weight (g)	Burnt bone 4-8mm	Weight (g)	Marine Molluscs	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	7	fill of ditch	40	*	<2g	**	4g									
2	9	fill of ditch	40	*	<2g	*	<2g									
3	16	fill of ditch	40	*	<2g	*	<2g	*	<2g							pot */ 4g - magnetic material */<2g
4	107	Fill of pit 106	40	**	<2	**	<2			**	<2	*	<2	**	52	Pot */14g - FCF */110g - Magnetised Material ***/2g

Appendix 2: Environmental Assessment - Flot Quantification

(* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed seeds charred	Identifications	Preservation	Insects, Fly Pupae etc min	Land Snail Shells	
1	7	17	120	100	98	<2	**	*	*	**							*	modern	
2	9	13	80	80	95	<2	*		*	**	**	<i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum/compactum</i> sl., <i>Hordeum</i> sp., Cerealia	+ / ++						
3	16	16	120	100	95	<2			*	**	**	<i>Triticum</i> sp. <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum/compactum</i> sl., (incl 1 very short 3.75x1.25mm) Cerealia indet.	+ / ++ / +++	*	<i>Anthemis cotula</i> , indet seed?	++		*	(1)
4	107	22	160	100	90	<2	*	*	**	****	**	cerealia, <i>Triticum</i> sp., <i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>aestivum</i> , <i>T.</i> cf <i>spelta/dicoccum</i>	+ / ++	*	Poaceae large (1)	+			

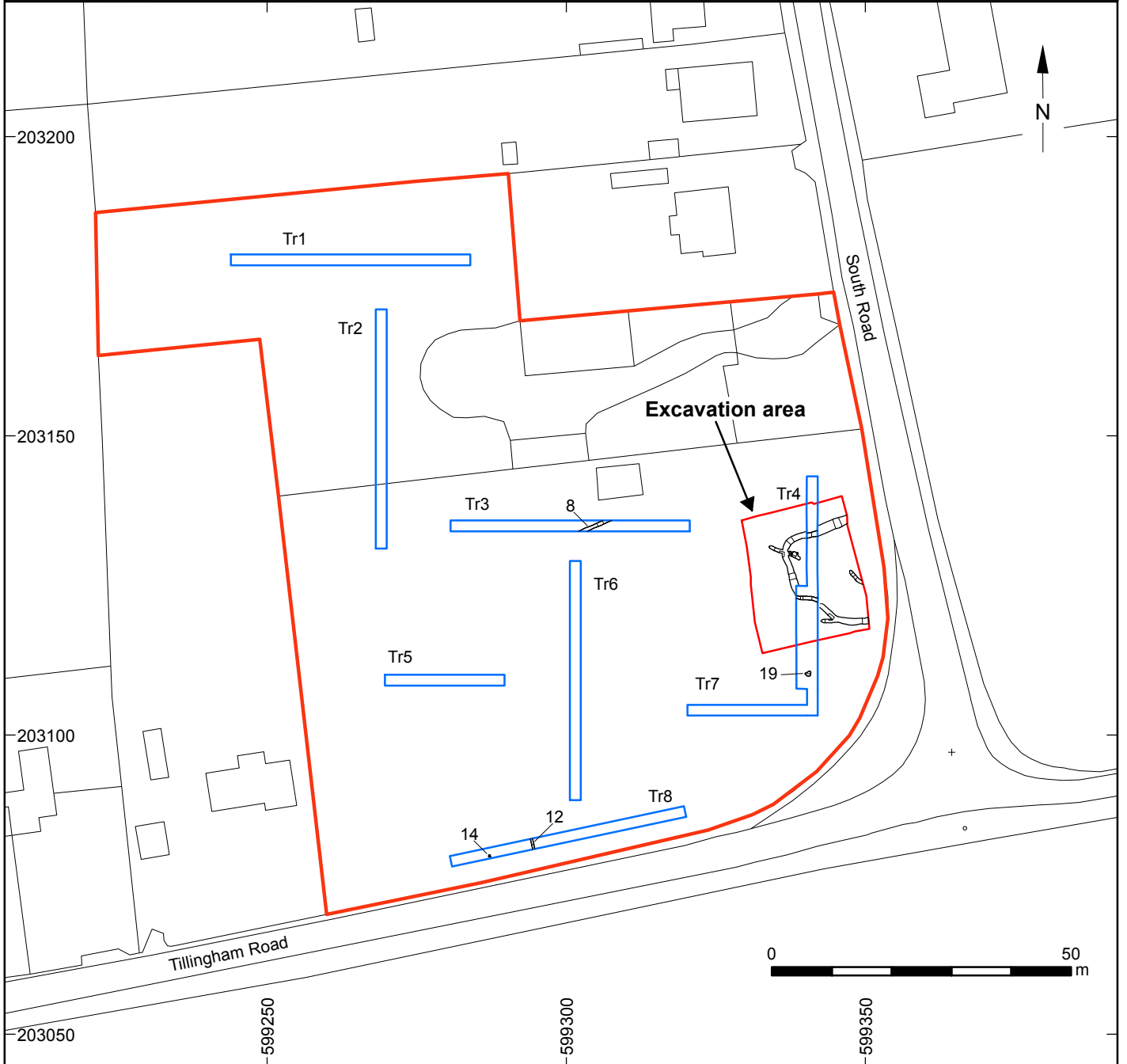
Appendix 3: HER Summary

Site name/Address: Land South of 94 South Street, Tillingham, Essex	
Parish: Tillingham	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 99340 03130	Site Code: TISS 14
Type of Work: Archaeological Excavation	Site Director/Group: A. Dyson, Archaeology South-East
Date of Work: 7-14 July 2014	Size of Area Investigated: 500sq m
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Landowner/developer
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos: n/a
Final Report: yes	OASIS No: 193929
Periods Represented: Medieval	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southchurch Building Contracts, in advance of the redevelopment of the site, to undertake archaeological evaluation and excavation on land south of no. 94 South Street, in Tillingham, Essex. This report presents the results of the investigations which were carried out between May and July 2014.</p> <p>The most significant remains comprise a medieval rectilinear ditched enclosure fronting South Street. Investigation of the enclosure ditch and associated pits and gullies support the presence of medieval settlement at this location from as early as the 10th to 11th centuries. Whilst no structural evidence was recorded, the recovered domestic finds strongly suggest that this was the settlement enclosure of a property fronting onto South Street.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Chew, S. 2014. Archaeological Evaluation at 94 South Street, Tillingham, Essex. Archaeology South-East. Unpublished report (no.2014188)	
Author of Summary: A. Dyson	Date of Summary: November 2014

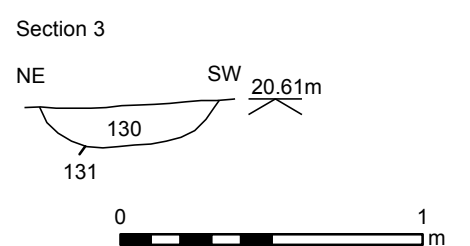
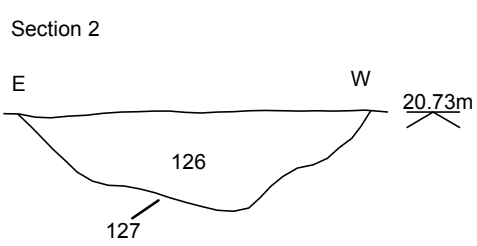
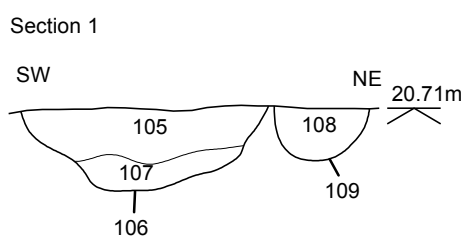
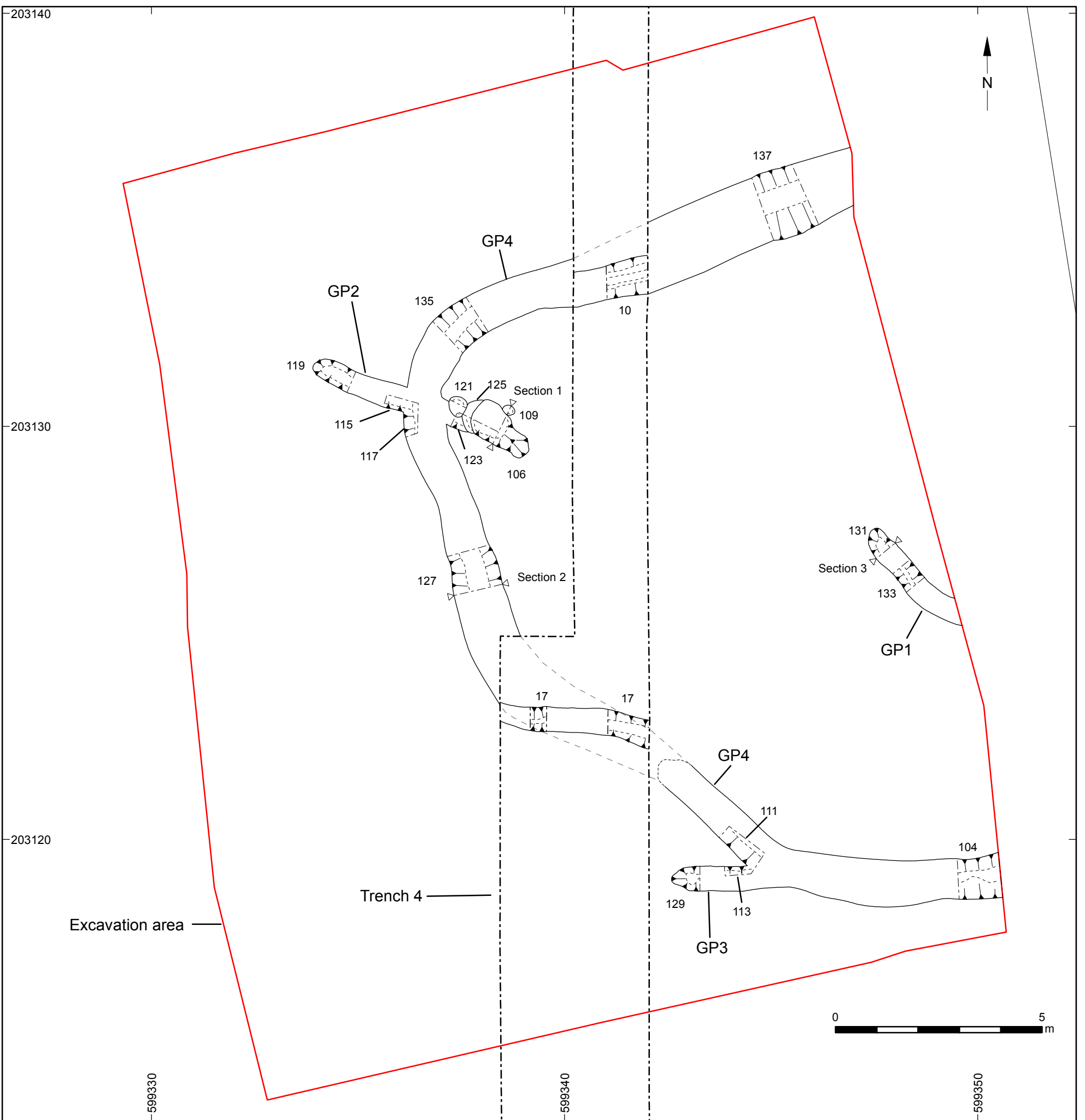
Appendix 4: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-193929	
Project details	
Project name	Archaeological Excavation on Land South of 94 South Street Tillingham
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southchurch Building Contracts, in advance of the redevelopment of the site, to undertake archaeological evaluation and excavation on land south of no. 94 South Street, in Tillingham, Essex. This report presents the results of the investigations which were carried out between May and July 2014. The most significant remains comprise a medieval rectilinear ditched enclosure fronting South Street. Investigation of the enclosure ditch and associated pits and gullies support the presence of medieval settlement at this location from as early as the 10th to 11th centuries. Whilst no structural evidence was recorded, the recovered domestic finds strongly suggest that this was the settlement enclosure of a property fronting onto South Street.
Project dates	Start: 07-07-2014 End: 14-07-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TISS 14 - Sitecode 8226 - Contracting Unit No. MAL/12/00832 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCHED ENCLOSURE Medieval PITS Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval POTTERY Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON TILLINGHAM Land South of 94 South Street
Postcode	CM0 7AT
Study area	500.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 99340 03130 51.6909303975 0.884438772448 51 41 27 N 000 53 03 E Point
Height OD	Min: 20.60m Max: 21.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project	Adrian Scruby

director/manager	
Project supervisor	Adam Dyson
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Final Report and Updated Project Design. Archaeological Excavation. Land South of 94 South Street, Tillingham, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Dyson, A.
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 2014351
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Braintree
Description	PDF report of approximately 40 pages including plans and photographs
URL	http://www.oasis.ac.uk
Entered by	A Dyson (adam.dyson@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	6 November 2014



© Archaeology South-East		South Street, Tillingham		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 8226	Nov 2014	Location of evaluation trenches and excavation area		
Report Ref: 2014351	Drawn by: APL			



Intercutting pit cluster with 106 in the foreground, looking west (0.5m scale)



Ditch GP4, segment 127, looking south (1m scale)



Gully GP1, segments 131 and 133, looking south-east (0.5m scale)



General view of excavation looking south



Gully GP2 looking towards ditch GP4, segments 119 and 115/117, looking east (0.5m scale)



Ditch GP4 and GP3, segments 104 and 111/113, looking south-east (0.5m scale)

© Archaeology South-East		South Street, Tillingham	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 8226	Nov 2014	Selected site photographs	
Report Ref: 2014351	Drawn by: APL		

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