

# **Archaeological Evaluation**

The White House Ongar Road Kelvedon Hatch Essex

**ASE Report No: 2015280** 



August 2015

# Archaeological Evaluation The White House, Kelvedon Hatch Brentwood Essex

NGR: TQ 5715 9867

Planning Ref: 15/00155/FUL

ASE Project No: 8399 Site Code: KHWH15

ASE Report No: 2015280 OASIS id: 219507

# Mark Germany With a contribution by Helen Walker

# **Illustrations by Andrew Lewsey**

Prepared by:	Mark Germany	Archaeologist	M Exmen
Reviewed and approved by:	Jim Stevenson	Project Manager	the same of the sa
Date of Issue:	August 2015		
Revision:			

Archaeology South-East
The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex
CM7 3QD

Tel: 01376 331470 Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

#### Abstract

Archaeology South-East have carried out an archaeological evaluation at The White House, Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch. Historic maps suggest the site to have bordered Kelvedon Hatch Common and to have been partly occupied by a row of small cottages during the 19th to early 20th century.

Five c.15m long trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains other than late post-medieval finds were identified. Numerous pieces of ceramic building material were present, although no building foundations remained in situ. Sherds of 18th to 19th century pottery comprised the earliest components and are possibly an indication that the site was being used for domestic occupation from that point onwards.

Large modern features were partly revealed by two of the trenches (Trenches 3 and 5) and are posited to have been dug when the row of cottages was demolished during the earlier part of the 20th century or when the existing residence, The White House, was constructed in the ?1980s.

The results of the trenching strongly suggest that it is unlikely that the site contains significant archaeological remains.

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

# **1.1 Site Background** (Fig. 1)

1.1.1 CgMs Consulting commissioned Archaeology South-East (ASE) to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of residential development at The White House, Kelvedon Hatch, Essex. ASE is the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology, UCL.

# 1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The development site borders Ongar Road on the western edge of the village of Kelvedon Hatch, c.6km north-west of Brentwood town centre. Extensive farmland lies immediately west of the site. The River Roding lies c.2km to the north-west.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology, as recorded by the British Geological Survey, composes superficial deposits of sand and gravel (Stanmore Gravel Formation) above 'bedrock' deposits of sand (Bagshot Formation) (<a href="http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbrtian/home.html">http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbrtian/home.html</a>). During the trenching, the surface geology was found to consist of a variable patchwork of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

# 1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been sought from Brentwood Borough Council for the construction of up to sixteen dwellings at the site of The White House (Planning ref. 15/00155/FUL). A condition placed on that consent by Essex County Council Place Services recommended that archaeological trialtrenching preceded construction of those dwellings because the site lay within the historic settlement area of Kelvedon Hatch, an area of small hamlets and manors during the past.
- 1.3.2 A WSI for the work was prepared by ASE and approved by CgMs Consulting and Essex County Council Place Services (ASE 2015).

# 1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of a five trench archaeological evaluation at The White House, Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch, Essex. ASE undertook the archaeological work on 6th to 7th July 2015.

# 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The source of the following information is a desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting (2015).

#### 2.2 Prehistoric and Roman

2.2.1 No recorded prehistoric or Roman remains have been found within the wider area of the site. The nearest Roman road (the Roman forerunner of the A12) lay c.5km to the south-east. A Roman villa is known at Handley Barns, c.8km to the north-east.

# 2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.3.1 No definitive records of Anglo-Saxon/early medieval date are recorded within the wider area of the development site.
- 2.3.2 The name 'hatch' probably derives from the old English word 'hæcc' for gate or opening. Consequently, Kelvedon Hatch is postulated to have developed at the entrance to or within an opening of the Forest of Essex (Essex County Council 2002).
- 2.3.3 The Domesday Survey of 1086 lists the village as part of lands held by Ailric in 1066. Ailric transferred his Kelvedon Hatch estate to Westminster Abbey shortly before his death in the early summer of that same year (Victoria County History 1956). By 1066, Kelvedon Hatch consisted of a fairly large settlement of twenty-six households, three manors, a church and a mill (Domesday Online 2015).
- 2.3.4 During the medieval period the development site was probably located on the edge of Kelvedon Hatch Common, which lay due east at Fox Hatch. The Chapman and André map records the common as it was in 1777, revealing it to have been bordered by dispersed crofts and cottages.

## 2.4 Post-medieval and modern

2.4.1 The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1873 records a row of small cottages and associated outbuildings in the north of the site, with small gardens laid out to the west. The north-east part of the site is shown as an open field and the south of the site is recorded as woodland. Only one of those cottages was still standing by 1920, but was no longer extant by 1985, probably because it had been replaced by 'The White House'.

# 2.5 Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.5.1 The aims of the archaeological trenching were:
  - To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

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• To enable Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management Team to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work in order to satisfy the archaeological condition.

# 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

# 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Fig. 2)

- 3.1.1 The methodology comprised machine excavation under archaeological supervision of five 15m long trenches, each within the proposed housing development.
- 3.1.2 The trench layout (ASE 2015, Fig. 2) was amended on site to avoid various obstacles (trees, services, a utility building) and to maintain site access.
- 3.1.3 Each trench was stripped of its modern overburden and reduced to the surface of the underlying un-disturbed natural geology by using a tracked excavator equipped with a 2.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. The exposed sections and base of each trench were then cleaned by hand if necessary, before being visually inspected for archaeological deposits, features and finds.
- 3.1.4 The trenches varied in length due to the aforementioned lack of space and a need to retain room for spoil-heaps. The trenches were located by use of tapes as they contained no pre-modern remains. No spot heights were taken.
- 3.1.5 Pro-forma sheets were used to record each trench and their deposits and features. Digital photographs were taken of each trench and of work in progress.

# 3.3 Archive

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

Number of Contexts	36
No. of files/paper record	18
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	17
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

# 4.0 RESULTS

# **4.1 Summary** (Fig. 2)

4.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were exposed. Small quantities of unstratified late post-medieval to modern pottery were recovered from Trenches 3 and 5. The trenches revealed that much of the site has been subject to modern truncation.

# **4.2** Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness (m)	Max Height AOD (m)
1/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.12	103.95
1/002	Layer	Hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.20 - 0.27	103.83
1/003	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10 – 0.21	103.63
1/004	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.18 – 0.26	103.53
1/005	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	103.45

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 lay near the site's north-western corner and was 0.68 to 0.80m deep, increasing in depth from north to south.
- 4.2.2 The natural sand and gravel, [1/005], was sealed by subsoil, topsoil, hardcore and tarmac ([1/004]-[1/001]).
- 4.2.3 No archaeological remains were exposed.

# **4.3** Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Context	Туре	Description	Max Length	Max Width	Deposit Thickness (m)	Max Height AOD (m)
2/001	Layer	Hardcore and tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.08 – 0.25	104.00
2/002	Laver	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31 – 0.40	103.92
2/003	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20 - 0.26	103.61
2/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	103.41

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 2, sat close to the site's south-western corner and was 0.91m deep.
- 4.3.2 The natural sand and gravel, [2/004], was sealed by subsoil, topsoil, hardcore and tarmac ([2/003]-[2/001]).
- 4.3.3 No archaeological remains were exposed.

# **4.4** Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Context	Туре	Description	Max Length	Max Width	Deposit Thickness (m)	Max Height AOD (m)
3/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.06 - 0.07	104.12
3/002	Layer	Hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.32 - 0.33	104.06
3/003	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20 - 0.26	103.74
3/004	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.15 – 0.30	103.59
3/005	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	103.59
3/006	Fill	Single fill of 3/007	11.00+	1.80+	-	103.55
3/007	Cut	Cut-feature	11.00+	1.80+	-	103.55

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 lay north-east of The White House and was 0.96m deep.
- 4.4.2 The trench revealed a stratigraphic sequence of natural sand and gravel, [3/005], sealed by subsoil, topsoil, hardcore and tarmac ([3/004]-[3/001]).
- 4.4.3 Two sides of a very large, probably machine-dug, straight-sided cut, [3/007], which extended into the trench from the north-west were exposed. The content of that cut mainly composed greenish brown silt clay [3/006] within which lay numerous short pieces of sawn timber, occasional fragments of ceramic building material and occasional late post-medieval and modern pot sherds.

# **4.5** Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

Context	Туре	Description	Max Length	Max Width	Deposit Thickness (m)	Max Height AOD (m)
4/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.04	103.89
4/002	Layer	Hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.09 – 0.25	103.85
4/003	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.15 – 0.16	103.76
4/004	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.16 – 0.25	103.61
4/005	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	103.45

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 4 lay within the driveway, immediately south of The White House, and was 0.70m deep.
- 4.5.2 The natural sand and gravel, [4/005], was sealed by subsoil, topsoil, hardcore and tarmac ([4/004]-[4/001]).
- 4.5.3 No archaeological; remains were exposed.

# **4.6** Trench **5** (Fig. 4)

Context	Туре	Description	Max Length	Max Width	Height AOD (m)	Height AOD (m)
5/001	Layer	Tarmac	Trench	Trench	0.05	104.08
5/002	Layer	Hardcore	Trench	Trench	0.32 - 0.35	104.03
5/003	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.14 - 0.23	103.89
5/004	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.12	103.77
5/005	Layer	Deposit	2.75	0.75+	-	103.65
5/010	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	103.70
5/006	Cut	Modern	2.20+	2.80	-	103.67
5/007	Fill	Fill of 5/006	2.20+	2.80	-	103.67
5/008	Cut	Modern	2.20+	2.75+	-	103.69
5/009	Fill	Fill of 5/008	2.20+	2.75+	-	103.69

Table 6: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 5 measured lay alongside the site's northern boundary and was 0.75m deep.
- 4.6.2 The natural sand and gravel, [5/010], was sealed, at the west of the trench only, by a loose brownish grey soil, [5/005] which contained five sherds of late post-medieval pottery. Overlying this was a sequence of subsoil, topsoil, hardcore and tarmac ([5/004]-[5/001]).
- 4.6.3 Two large modern features [5/006] and [5/008] truncated the majority of the trench, they both contained pieces of coal and modern artefacts, including shards of window glass and modern ceramic building material.
- 4.6.4 No archaeological; remains were exposed.

#### 5.0 THE FINDS

# 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 The finds were washed and dried, quantified by count and weight, and bagged by material and context (Table 7). Packing and storing followed CiFA guidelines (2014). None of the artefacts require conservation.
- 5.1.2 Artefacts revealed by the trenching largely composed modern items, such as pottery, bottle and window glass, scrap metal, slate and ceramic building material, little of which was retained for analysis. Small amounts of post-medieval to modern pottery from trenches 3 and 5 comprise the earliest closely datable items and are reported below.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)
3/006	9	120
5/005	5	56
Total	14	176

Table 7: Finds quantification

# **5.2** Post-medieval pottery by Helen Walker

- 5.2.1 A total of fourteen sherds of pottery weighing 177g was excavated from two contexts. The artefactual contents of surface spread [5/005] included two sherds of Pearlware; this is a fine bodied earthenware, made whiter by the addition of cobalt blue to the glaze, the blue colour sometimes collecting around the underside of the base or at the junction of handle and body. One of the pearlware sherds is perhaps from a hemispherical bowl and the second, a sherd with vertical sides, may be from a cup or a coffee can. Both show external blue-painted designs and are datable to c.1800. Also in this context are sherds of glazed post-medieval red earthenware comprising the beaded rim from a bowl, or possibly a jar, and joining sherds from a small jar form, strongly carinated around the shoulder. This may be from an albarello, a concave-sided jar used to contain pharmaceutical preparations, although such a vessel form would not be expected in post-medieval red earthenware. None of the post-medieval red earthenware is closely datable but could be contemporary with the pearlware.
- 5.2.2 Fill [3/006] of pit [3/007] contained further sherds of pearlware and post-medieval red earthenware. There is also a rolled rim from a small deep bowl in creamware. This is paralleled by an example from Norwich (Jennings 1981, fig.102.1617) dated to 'c.1745+'. Larger bowls with similar rolled rims occur in an inn clearance group from Middlesex, where most of the pottery was current during the 1770s and 1780s (Pearce 2000, 168, fig.7.18-19), so perhaps the rolled rim bowl is a mid-to late 18th century type. The pearlware sherds are all decorated with non-oriental transfer-printed designs in blue and comprise a flanged rim probably from a plate and footring bases from small bowls or cups. Both the latter are carinated above the base, and one has a concave profile below the base. This is known as London Shape and was

- current during the 1820s. The post-medieval red earthenware sherds from this context comprise a possible storage jar rim and an unglazed rim perhaps from a flowerpot. There is also a single sherd of yellow ware, probably from a kitchen ware form, which spans the late 18th to 20th centuries.
- 5.2.3 The pottery assemblage shows evidence of activity during the later 18th to early 19th centuries and the pottery comprises a mixture of kitchen wares and table wares. The transfer-printed pearlware sherds appear to be of good quality and indicate a household of middling status

#### 6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

# 6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Natural superficial geology consisting of sands and gravels was encountered across the site at between 103.41m and 103.59m OD.
- 6.1.2 The site contains a small number of 19th/20th century features cut into natural, most of which can be suggested to be related to landscaping, construction or demolition of former and existing buildings. Layers of subsoil, topsoil, hardcore and tarmac seal all of these features and have a combined thickness of c.0.57 to 0.85m.
- 6.1.3 The site pottery assemblage represents a single period, the 18th to 20th century, suggesting that prior to then the site was unused for domestic occupation. This date range slightly predates the 19th century construction date for the row of cottages, making it possible that an earlier building had preceded them, the location of which is not recorded. An absence of artefacts predating the 18th to 20th century is possibly partly due to the site's former location on the edge of the Forest of Essex and Kelvedon Hatch Common, since neither of these would have been intensively occupied.

# 6.2 Deposit survival

- 6.2.1 All of the trenches have revealed layers of topsoil and subsoil. However, these have been disturbed and/or redeposited during the recent past since they contain modern artefacts and overlie a number of modern features.
- 6.2.2 Further evidence for the layered stratigraphy having been much disturbed during the modern period is the fact that the evaluation has uncovered no building foundations, even though a row of cottages is known to have been present within the north part of the site during the 19th and early 20th century. Either those cottages had shallow foundations or the ground in which they stood has been much disturbed, the most likely occasions being their demolition during 1920s, or the construction of The White House in the ?1980s.

# 6.3 Conclusion

6.3.1 The results of the evaluation suggest the site is unlikely to contain any archaeological remains predating the late-post-medieval / modern period. In addition, it is clear that that much of the site has been disturbed by modern activity, particularly, although not exclusively, in the vicinity of Trenches 3 and 5.

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Victoria County History 1956 Essex, Volume 4

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE thanks CgMs Consulting for commissioning the archaeological trenching and for its help and assistance. ASE would also like to thank Essex County Council Place Services for their guidance.

# **HER Summary Form**

Site name/Address: The White House, Ong	Site name/Address: The White House, Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch			
Parish: Saffron Walden	District: Brentwood			
<b>NGR</b> : TQ 5715 9867	Site Code: SW61			
Type of Work: Archaeological trial trenching	Site Director/Group: Mark Germany, Archaeology South-East			
Date of Work: 23 to 24 February 2015	Size of Area Investigated: 162m <sup>2</sup>			
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Chelmsford Museum	Client: CgMs			
Further Seasons Anticipated?: No	Related HER Nos:			
Final Report: Essex Archaeology and History round-up	<b>OASIS Ref</b> : 219507			

Periods represented: Post-medieval and modern

#### **SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:**

Archaeology South-East have carried out an archaeological evaluation at The White House, Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch. Historic maps suggest the site to have bordered Kelvedon Hatch Common and to have been partly occupied by a row of small cottages during the 19th to early 20th century.

Five c.15m long trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains other than late post-medieval finds were identified. Numerous pieces of ceramic building material were present, although no building foundations remained in situ. Sherds of 18th to 19th century pottery comprised the earliest components and are possibly an indication that the site was being used for domestic occupation from that point onwards.

Large modern features were partly revealed by two of the trenches (Trenches 3 and 5) and are posited to have been dug when the row of cottages was demolished during the earlier part of the 20th century or when the existing residence, The White House, was constructed in the ?1980s.

The results of the trenching strongly suggest that it is unlikely that the site contains significant archaeological remains.

Previous Summaries/Reports: None	
Author of Summary: Mark Germany	Date of Summary: August 2015

#### **OASIS Form**

219507

**Project details** 

Project name The White House, Kelvedon Hatch

Short description of

the project

Archaeological trial-trenching in advance of residential development at The White House, Ongar Road, Kelvedon Hatch, Essex revealed disturbed ground and numerous artefacts most of which consisted of ceramic building material and pieces of modern glass and pottery. Cut features were present, but were few in number and modern. The earliest remains composed sherds of late post medieval to modern

pottery.

Project dates Start: 06-07-2015 End: 07-07-2015

Previous/future work

No / No

Any associated project reference

codes

KHWH15 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference

codes

8399 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location ESSEX BRENTWOOD KELVEDON HATCH The White

House

Study area 3600.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 5715 9867 51.6643069027 0.272530961571 51 39 51 N

000 16 21 E Point

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation

Archaeology South East

Project brief originator

**Essex County Council Place Services** 

Project design originator

ASE/CgMs

Project

director/manager

Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Mark Germany

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

**CgMs Consulting** 

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive recipient

Chelmsford Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient

Chelmsford Museum

Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Chelmsford Museum

Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

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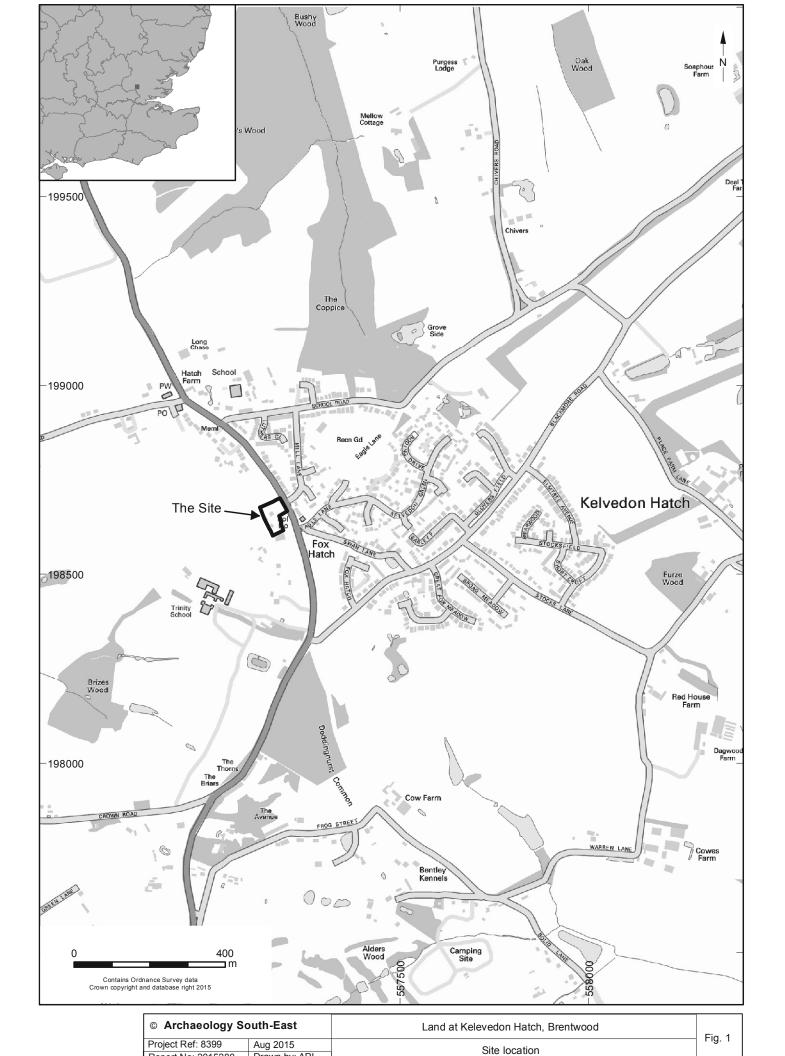
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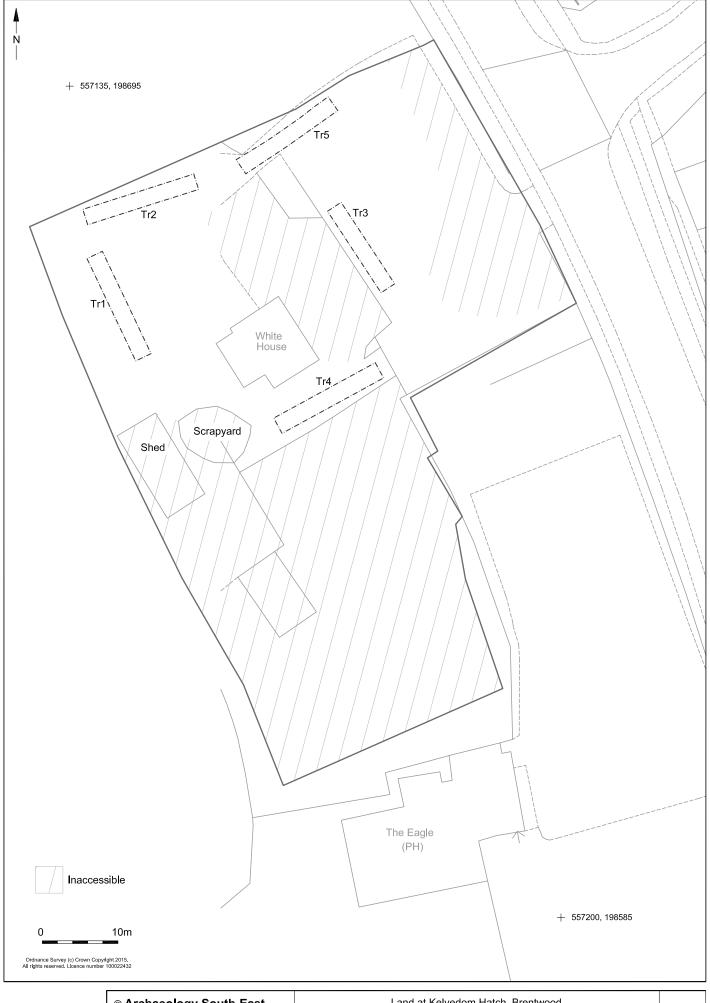
Description A4. c.20 pages, 4 illustrations

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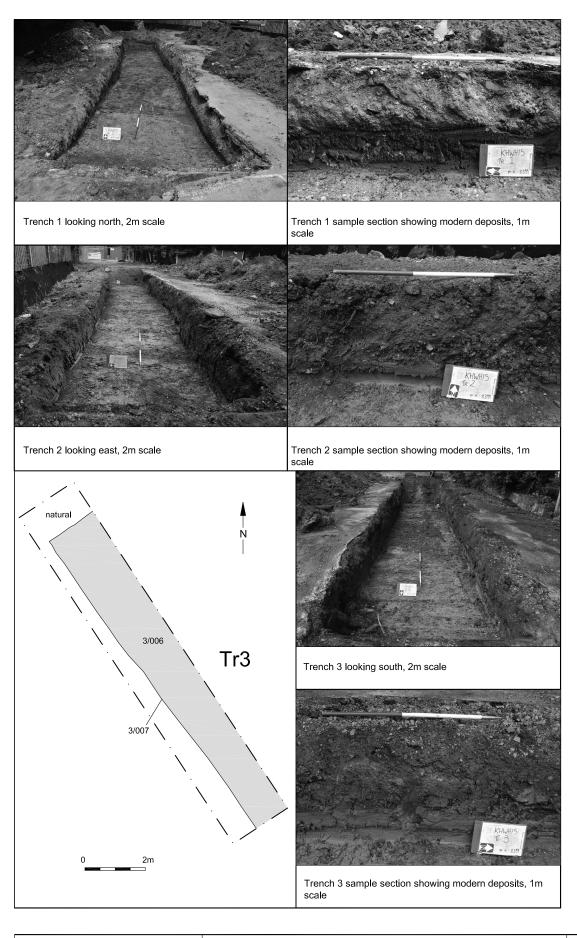
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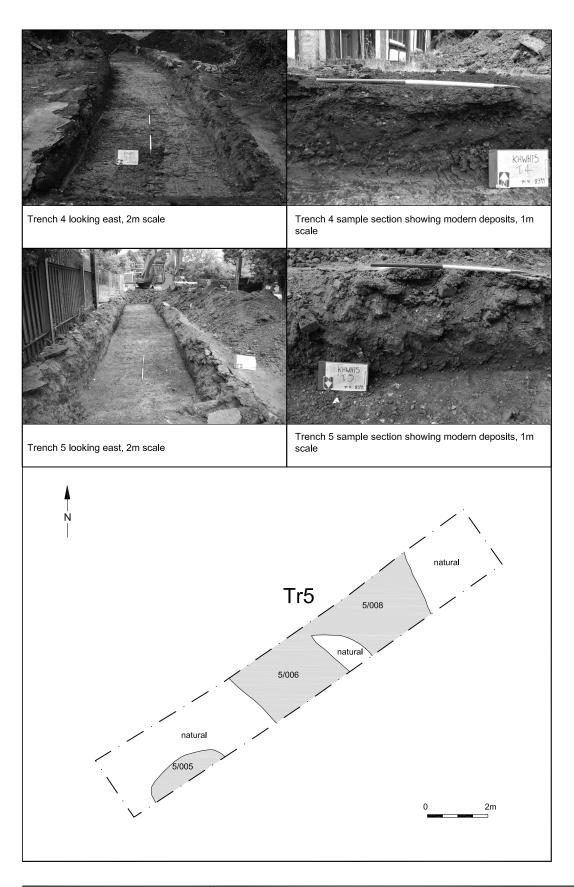




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Project Ref. 8399	Aug 2015	Translations	1 lg. 2	
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Kelvedon Hatch, Brentwood	Fig. 3	
Project Ref. 8399	Aug 2015	Trenches 1- 3 photographs and Trench 3 plan	1 ig. 5	ĺ
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Kelvedom Hatch, Brentwood	Fig. 4
Project Ref. 8399	Aug 2015	Trenches 4 and 5 photographs and Trench 5 plan	1 19. 7
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# **Sussex Office**

Units 1 & 2 2 Chapel Place Portslade East Sussex BN41 1DR tel: +44(0)1273 426830 email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

email: fau@ucl.ac.uk web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

# **Essex Office**

The Old Magistrates Court 79 South Street Braintree Essex CM7 3QD tel: +44(0)1376 331470 email: fau@ucl.ac.uk web: www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeologyse

# **London Office**

Centre for Applied Archaeology UCL Institute of Archaeology 31-34 Gordon Square London WC1H 0PY tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 email: fau@ucl.ac.uk web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

