

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**EASTWYN, BACK LANE, PLESHEY,  
ESSEX CM3 1HL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

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ESSEX CM3 1HL**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Authors:	Kamil Orzechowski (Fieldwork & report) Peter Thompson (background)	
NGR: TL 6642 1456		Report No: 4992
District: Chelmsford		Site Code: PY24
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA		Project No: 6269
Signed:		Date: 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2015

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#### **SUMMARY**

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<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Eastwyn House, Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex CM3 1HL</i>		
<i>In October 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at Eastwyn, Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex (NGR TL 6642 1456). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Chelmsford Borough Council Planning Approval Ref 13/00893/FUL) and as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent. The monitoring was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (HEA ECC).</i>			
<i>Monitoring of the groundworks revealed no archaeological features. Three medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherds were found: two from Layer L1003 and the third unstratified. A fragment of decorated brick (1915g) was also recovered as unstratified material. It appears to have formed part of a ceramic corbel, or possibly chimney brick. Bricks such as this may have been used to dress structures, and were likely produced in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, perhaps to function as a 'wavy section' under a window or as a corbel table.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>October 2015</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5292</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>PY24</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Scheduled area for Pleshey motte-and-bailey castle (SM22, EHER 1126)</i>		
Current land use	<i>Residential</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension and out building</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Three medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> C) sherds; decorated brick fragment (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> C)</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Chelmsford</i>	<i>Pleshey</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM3 1HL</i>		
Area of site	<i>-</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 6642 1456</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 75m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Kamil Orzechowski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr &amp; Mrs Fisher</i>		
Full title	<i>Eastwyn, Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Orzechowski, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4992</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2015</i>		

# EASTWYN, BACK LANE, PLESHEY, ESSEX

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

### SUMMARY

*In October 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at Eastwyn, Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex (NGR TL 6642 1456). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Chelmsford Borough Council Planning Approval Ref 13/00893/FUL) and as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent. The monitoring was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (HEA ECC).*

*Eastwyn lies within the Scheduled area for Pleshey motte-and-bailey castle and the town enclosure (SM22, EHER 1126). It lies within an area of archaeological potential, particularly for remains of medieval and post-medieval date associated with the development of the village and castle. Medieval pits and ditches have been recorded at the Village Hall on Back Lane (EHER 16218), and medieval features have been recorded close to Eastwyn. Foundations have also been recorded further along Back Lane at Hill House, which may relate to the medieval Church of St Mary (EHER 16967).*

*Monitoring of the groundworks revealed no archaeological features. Three medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherds were found: two from Layer L1003 and the third unstratified. A fragment of decorated brick (1915g) was also recovered as unstratified material. It appears to have formed part of a ceramic corbel, or possibly chimney brick. Bricks such as this may have been used to dress structures, and were likely produced in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, perhaps to function as a 'wavy section' under a window or as a corbel table.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks at Eastwyn, Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex (NGR TL 6642 1456). The monitoring was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Chelmsford Borough Council Planning Approval Ref 13/00893/FUL) and as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent. The monitoring was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (HEA ECC) and Historic England.

1.2 The archaeological monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by HEA ECC, *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Eastwyn, Back Lane, Pleshey (dated 05/05/2015)* and a specification compiled by AS (dated 19/05/2015), approved by ECC HEA/HE. The monitoring adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2014)* and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003)*.

1.3 The project aimed to:

- Ensure the archaeological excavation and monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- Secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme;
- Secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required;
- Secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

1.4 The site lies within part of the area Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Pleshey Castle). It lies within an area of archaeological potential, particularly for remains of medieval and post-medieval date associated with the development of the village and castle.

#### *Planning Policy Context*

1.5 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.6 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent

significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**

2.1 The residential property of Eastwyn lies on the south-eastern side of Back Lane, in the western part of the centre of the village of Pleshey, to the north of The Street. The site lies within part of the area Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (Pleshey Castle). It is proposed to construct a new extension to the residential dwelling, and a new detached outbuilding

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 The site lies within the Scheduled area for Pleshey motte-and-bailey castle and the town enclosure (SM22, EHER 1126)

3.2 The development of the castle and town at Pleshey are detailed in the historic town assessment for Pleshey (Medlycott 1999). The castle was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and has an exceptionally well-preserved town enclosure earthwork. Eastwyn lies within the line of the castle's northern bailey. The 14<sup>th</sup> century church and former college at Pleshey stood outside the south western corner of the enclosure containing the early town around the castle. This corner of the enclosure was subsequently remodelled to form a right-angled moated enclosure for the college. The castle, town enclosure and college are Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

3.3 Only a short length of the north bailey remains, the line marked by Back Lane. Medieval pits and ditches have been recorded at the Village Hall on Back Lane (EHER 16218), and medieval features have been recorded close to Eastwyn. Foundations have also been recorded further along Back Lane at Hill House, which may relate to the medieval Church of St Mary (EHER 16967). Previous monitoring at Eastwyn (EHER 16160) revealed no medieval remains but did yield residual early medieval pottery.

## **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The monitoring encompassed the excavation of foundation trenches for the proposed house extension.

4.2 Exposed sections were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Sample sections of the stratigraphy encountered were recorded:

<i>Sample Section 1</i> 0.00 = 75.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional chalk, stones, and charcoal.
0.16 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid greenish brown silty sand with moderate small chalk fragments, coal and charcoal.
0.41 – 0.62m	L1002	Layer. Compact, mid yellowish grey clay with frequent small and medium rounded chalk, and occasional charcoal flecks.
0.62 – 0.84m+	L1003	Layer. Compact, dark greyish green clay with moderate small and medium chalk fragments, and occasional charcoal flecks.

*Description:* No archaeological features were present within the trenches. Three medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherds were found: two from Layer L1003 and the third unstratified. A fragment of decorated brick (1915g) was also recovered as unstratified material.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the parameters of monitoring during groundworks it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional chalk, stones and charcoal (0.16m thick). Below was Subsoil L1001, a friable, mid greenish brown silty sand with moderate small chalk fragments, coal and charcoal (0.25m thick). Below L1001 was L1002, a layer of compact, mid yellowish grey clay with frequent small and medium rounded chalk and occasional charcoal flecks (0.21m thick). At the base of the sequence was L1003, a layer of compact, dark greyish green clay with moderate small and medium chalk fragments, and occasional charcoal flecks (0.23m+ thick). The natural deposits were not reached.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 Eastwyn lies within the Scheduled area for Pleshey motte-and-bailey castle and the town enclosure (SM22, EHER 1126). It lies within an area of archaeological potential, particularly for remains of medieval and post-medieval date associated with the development of the village and castle. Medieval pits and ditches have been recorded at the Village Hall on Back Lane (EHER 16218), and medieval features have been recorded close to Eastwyn. Foundations have also been recorded further along Back Lane at Hill House, which may relate to the medieval Church of St Mary (EHER 16967)

9.2 Monitoring of the groundworks revealed no archaeological features. Three medieval (12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) sherds were found: two from Layer L1003 and the third unstratified. A fragment of decorated brick (1915g) was also recovered as unstratified material. It appears to have formed part of a ceramic corbel, or possibly chimney brick. Bricks such as this may have been used to dress structures, and were likely produced in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, perhaps to function as a 'wavy section' under a window or as a corbel table.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with Chelmsford Museum, and the archive deposited there within three months of the conclusion of fieldwork.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr and Mrs Fisher for funding the monitoring, and their architect Stephen Waud for assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Bennett, Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council.

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**WEB SITE**

Heritage Gateway

**Concordance of Finds - WB  
 PY24, P6269, Eastwyn, Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex**

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000			Topsoil	19th-20th	5	68					
	1001			Subsoil	19th-20th	1	20	246	13			
	1002			Layer	Late medieval			43				
	1003			Layer	13th-14th	2	25			Daub	3	14
	U/S			Unstratified	Mid 12th-14th	2	97	1908	12			

## APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORTS

### THE POTTERY

*by Peter Thompson*

#### **Introduction**

The monitoring recovered 10 sherds weighing 202g from Layers 1003 and L2003, Topsoil L1000, Subsoil L1001, and unstratified. Three sherds are medieval (two from Layer L1003 and the third medieval sherd is unstratified). The remaining 7 sherds are 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries in date.

#### **Methodology**

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded in keeping with the Post-Roman Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001, Table 1). The fabrics have been assigned codes used in Essex for Post-Roman pottery (Cotter 2000). Forms are based on the Medieval Pottery Research Group guidelines (MPRG 1998). Dating is consistent with that used in Essex and also for fabrics listed on the Museum of London Database (Cotter 2000, MoLA 2014).

#### **The Pottery**

Layer L1003 contained an unprovenanced lightly abraded medieval glazed body sherd with orange brown surfaces and grey core, in a fine sandy fabric with occasional coarser quartz or other mineral present. The glaze comprises external patchy green slightly pimply glaze, with a vertical line of trailed brown slip indicating a 'high medieval' date. This was associated with a moderately abraded body sherd of medieval sandy coarseware with an applied thumb impressed decorative clay strip. The surfaces are pale brown and the fabric quite coarse, suggesting an earlier date within the fabric range of c. mid 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also present in this layer were three small abraded fragments of daub.

A lightly abraded medieval flanged rim to a large bowl of approximately 50 cm diameter was unstratified. It is also a medieval sandy grey ware with grey surfaces with slight orange mottling in places, and dates between the mid 12<sup>th</sup> and mid 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Also unstratified is a modern jar base with the makers marks 'BOOTH'S ROYAL SEMI-PORCELAIN' which was made in Staffordshire probably in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Layer L1002 contained a fragment of late medieval peg tile. The remaining 6 sherds from L1001 and the topsoil and subsoil, are late post-medieval to modern Transfer Printed Ware and porcelain.

**KEY:***(Fabric Code): Ware & Date Range*(F20) MGW: Medieval sandy greyware mid 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>(F98) UPG Unprovenanced glazed ware late 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>(F48) ENPO: English porcelain mid 18<sup>th</sup>+(F48X) TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

Feature	Layer	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000	4x65g 1x3g ENPO	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	TPW; x1 plate in blue printing; x1 jar or jug in brown printing ENPO: plate sherd
Subsoil	1001	1x20g TPW	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	TPW: blue printing
Layer	1002	1x43g peg tile	Medieval	Probably 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
Layer	1003	1x8g MGW 1x17g UPG	13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	MGW: applied thumb impressed clay strip UPG: patchy green glaze with line of brown slip 3x14g daub
Unstratified		1x65g MGW 1x32g ENPO	Mid 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	MGW: flanged bowl rim approximately 50cm diam ENPO: makers mark Booth's Royal Self-Porcelain

*Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context***Bibliography**Cotter, J. P., 2000 Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85 *English Heritage*MPRG 1998 'A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms' *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1*.Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2*.

## **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey MCIfA*

A single fragment of brick (1915g) was recovered as un-stratified material. The brick appears to have formed part of a ceramic corbel, or possibly chimney brick. The brick was manufactured in pale brown to cream fabric, with inclusions of common-abundant well-sorted quartz (<0.25mm) and sparse flint (<3mm). It has partially complete dimensions, with a straight long edge (150mm) opposite a convex opposite edge (projecting 40mm), from a short edge 125mm); with a small projecting nib adjacent to the corner of the straight edges to aid interlocking. The brick is 50mm thick with a smooth base, but the upper curving edge is characteristically rounded with a 15mm wide recessed groove inset parallel to the edge, mimicking designs carved into similar masonry designs. Bricks such as this may have been used to dress structures, and were likely produced in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> to mid 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, perhaps to function as a 'wavy section' under a window or as a corbel table, but the evidence is too limited to be conclusive.



## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
View of Eastwyn from the street



2  
General view of site from rear of Eastwyn



3  
View of site looking south-west



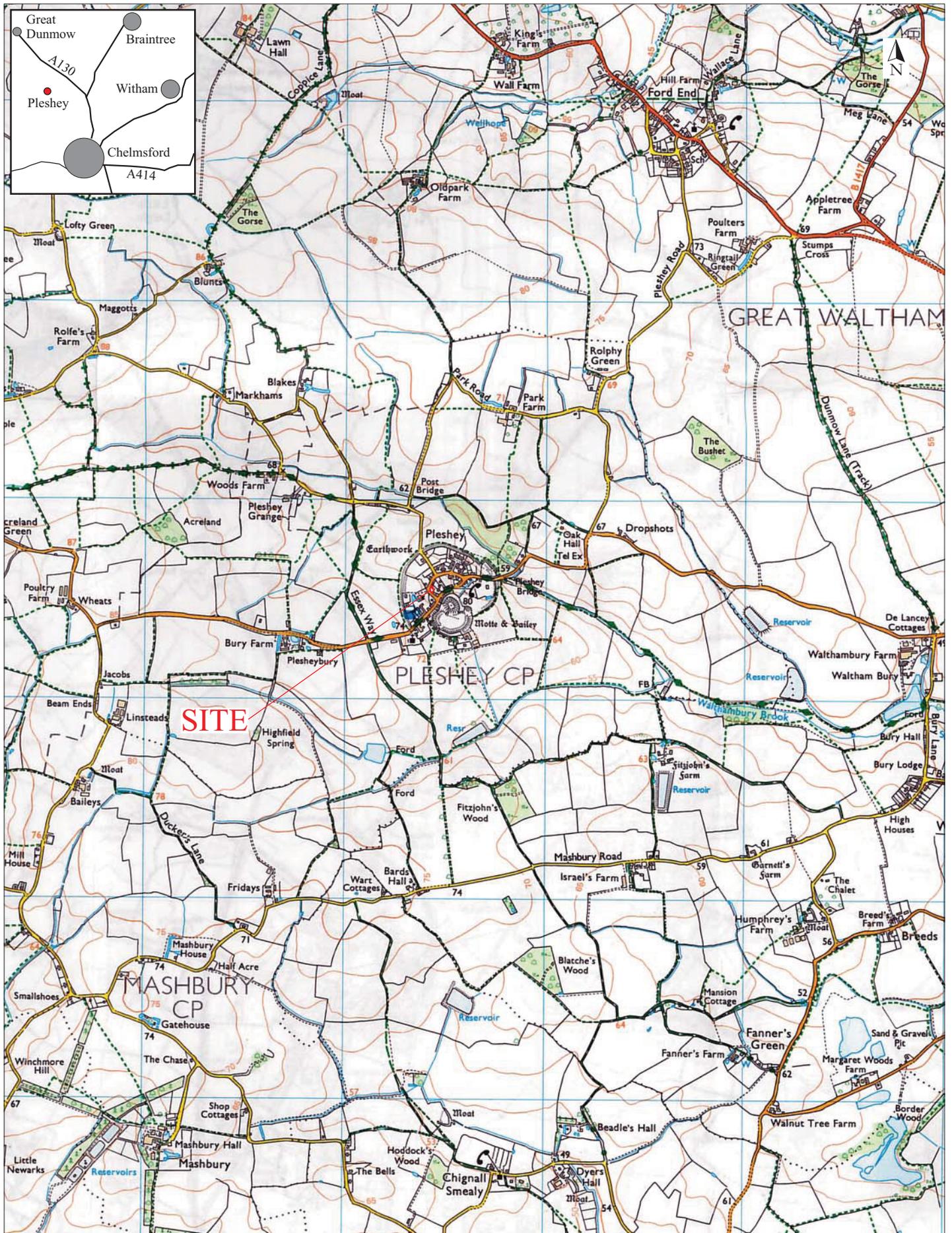
4  
Trench under excavation. Looking north-east



5  
sample section 1 looking south-west



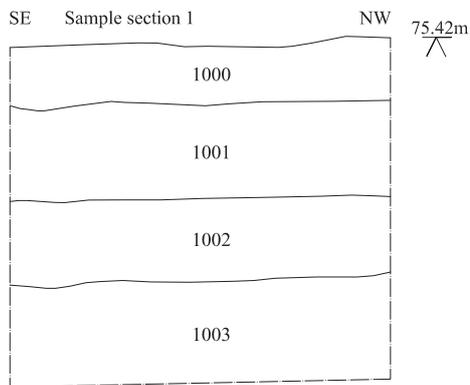
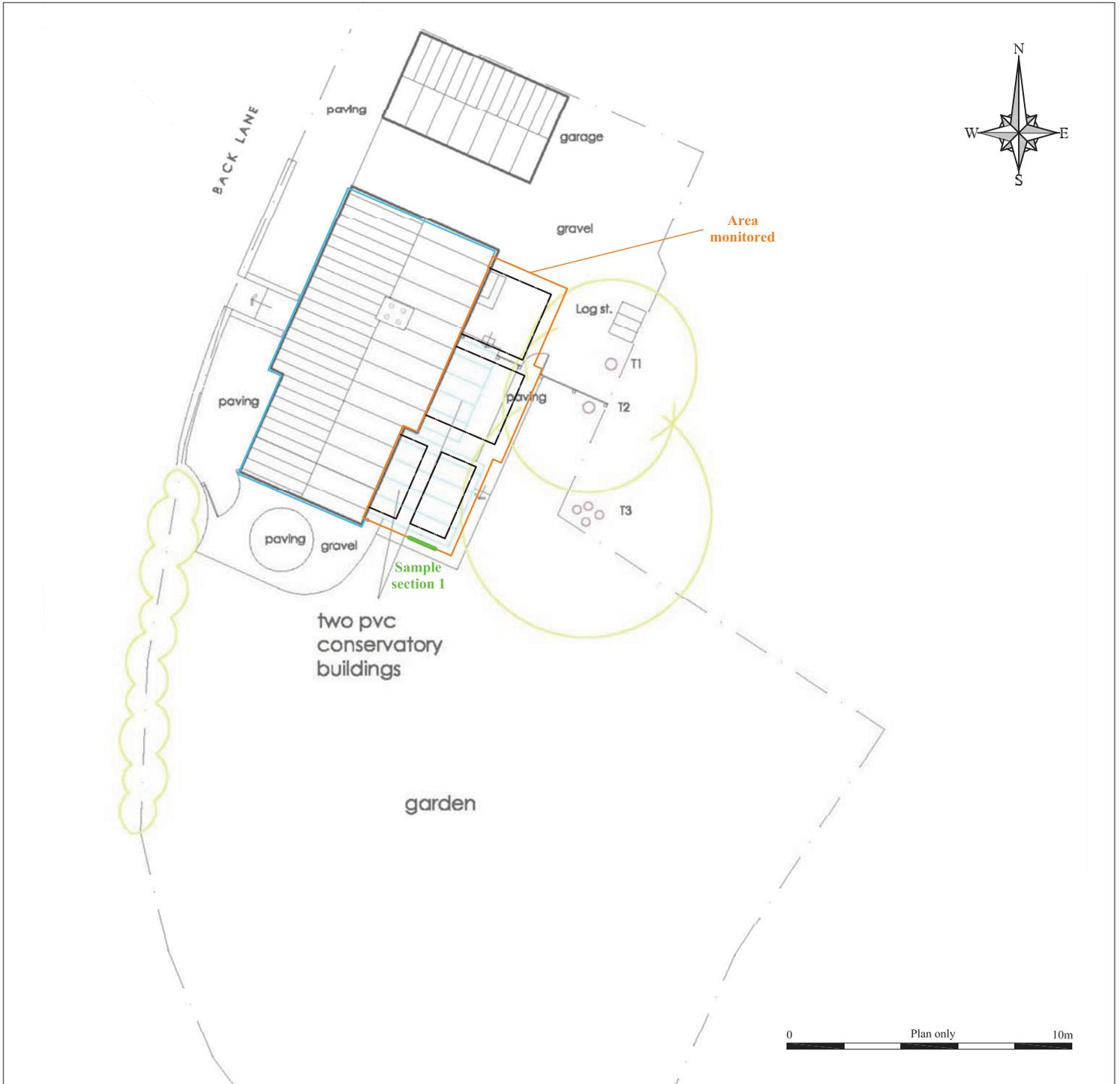
6  
View of excavated footing trenches. Looking north-east



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex (P6269)





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**Fig. 3 Site plan and section**

Scale 1:200 and 1:20 at A4

Back Lane, Pleshey, Essex (P6269)