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**ROCKY'S FUN HOUSE, WILLIAM HUNTER WAY,
BRENTWOOD, ESSEX**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 5945 9383	Report No: 5152
District: Brentwood	Site Code: BWRFH16
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 6386
Signed:	Date: 20 June 2016

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex (NGR TQ 5945 9383). The evaluation was commissioned by Beverley Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 10no. residential flats with associated car parking, refuse and cycle storage following demolition of a detached outbuilding.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated within the medieval and post-medieval core of Brentwood, recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record as EHER 525. The latter encompasses the planned medieval settlement, which straddles the main London-Colchester road, and was established in 1177 by the monks of St Osyth.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed a modern (19th – 20th century) soakway and numerous modern services.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>09/06/2016</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>6386</i>	Site code	<i>BRWFH16</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Within. EHER 525 historic core of the town</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former entertainment venue</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern (19th – 20th C.) soakway</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>	<i>Brentwood</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM14 4RH</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.300m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 5945 9383</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>105.00/105.40m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Beverley Homes</i>		
Full title	<i>Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5152</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2016</i>		

ROCKY'S FUN HOUSE, WILLIAM HUNTER WAY, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex (NGR TQ 5945 9383). The evaluation was commissioned by Beverley Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 10no. residential flats with associated car parking, refuse and cycle storage following demolition of a detached outbuilding.

The site is situated within the medieval and post-medieval core of Brentwood, recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record as EHER 525. The latter encompasses the planned medieval settlement, which straddles the main London-Colchester road, and was established in 1177 by the monks of St Osyth.

The evaluation revealed a modern (19th – 20th century) soakway and numerous modern services.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex (NGR TQ 5945 9383; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Beverley Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 10no. residential flats with associated car parking, refuse and cycle storage following demolition of a detached outbuilding (Brentwood Borough Planning Ref. 14/01495/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA; dated 06/08/2015) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 07/08/2015) and approved by ECC HEA. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 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.

1.5 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 site lies on the southern side of William Hunter Way, directly north of the High Street within the historic core of Brentwood, Essex (Fig. 1). It is occupied by an existing outbuilding (former Rocky's Fun House) and open yard area.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at approximately 105m AOD on relatively flat land. The local relief slopes gently downwards to the west-north-west to form a small valley of a watercourse. The solid geology of the area is clay of the London Clay Formation although the centre of Brentwood is located upon sand of the Bagshot Formation (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils in the area around Brentwood are primarily of the Windsor association, which are described as slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged clayey soils, mostly with brown subsoils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 There is little evidence for prehistoric activity in the Brentwood area. A rolled and stained hand-axe was found c.100m east of the site (HER 613). An Iron Age hillfort, South Weald Camp, is also located to the far north of the town in Weald County Park, and revealed evidence indicating later prehistoric activity.

Roman & Saxon

4.2 The Roman period is also poorly represented and there is no evidence of a Roman predecessor to the town. The London-Colchester Roman road, however, extends along the line of the High Street (HER 565) and trial trenching to the south of the town revealed two possible Roman road-side ditches at the Spital Lane/Brook Street junction (HER 562). Two Roman coins were also found on an allotment between the High Street and North Road (HER 588). There is no evidence of Saxon activity in the town and the area is thought to have been woodland/marginal land.

Medieval

4.3 Brentwood is largely a planned medieval settlement, set up on the main London-Colchester road in 1177 by the monks of St Osyth. The settlement grew in the 13th century, from an original layout of house plots along one side of the main road. Permission to build the chapel of St Thomas Beckett was obtained in 1221, and a market charter was granted in 1227. The northern side of the High Street (where the current site lies) was probably developed after 1234, when Thomas de Cecil received permission to build on this area. The town's location on the London-Colchester road resulted in Brentwood becoming an important coaching centre, with several inns along the High Street near the market place and chapel (Ryan 1993). The White Hart Inn, west of the site is a fine medieval coaching inn and may have been a pilgrim's hostel sponsored by the monks of St Osyth (ECC 1999; HER 6765). Investigations have been carried out to the rear of the White Hart Inn revealing medieval pottery sherds and a contemporary soil layers (EHER 6765 -6), and other work in the vicinity has revealed medieval and post-medieval remains.

Post-medieval & modern

4.4 Brentwood was described in 1616 as a 'great market town'. The coming of the railway to the town in the 19th century resulted in the growth of Brentwood, especially around the station to the south. Line of properties is also shown in the area of the site on 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping, the structures pre-dating 1880.

4.5 AS conducted an archaeological evaluation near to the site at 101-105 High Street, Brentwood (Grant & Williams 2004). A historic building recording

programme at the same site prior to the demolition of the structure (Wotherspoon *et al* 2004) recorded that the building appeared to originally date to the late 16th- early 17th century. Little pottery was found during the subsequent evaluation, but the dating evidence was consistent (16th – 17th century), and is contemporary with the original building. A pit of probable early post-medieval date was identified in a trial trench excavated across the High St frontage, and it contained several sherds of 16th – 17th century pottery. Further post-medieval remains were found c.100m to the west of the site at William Hunter Way, during the evaluation conducted also by AS (Doyle & Ginns 2005).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 One trench was excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). Two trenches were originally planned to form X-shaped excavation. This proved to be not viable due to modern live services (drains, electricity) present within majority of the site and serving properties fronting High Street. Attempt to form T-shaped trench was also abandoned on discovery of further service (gas).

5.2 Tarmac and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces 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 finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 1-2)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 3): north end, west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 105.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Yard surface. Dark grey, compact, silty sand and gravel.
0.08 – 0.15m	L1001	Levelling layer. Mid orange yellow, friable, sand, gravel and crushed red bricks.
0.15 – 0.20m	L1002	Light brown, compact, sandy silt with occasional small CBM fragments.
0.20 – 0.75m	L1003	Made ground. Dark grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.75 – 0.93m	L1004	Mid grey, compact, silty clay.
0.93m+	L1005	Natural light to mid yellow, compact, clay.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 4): north end, east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 105.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000	Yard surface. As above.
0.09 – 0.18m	L1001	Levelling layer. As above.
0.18 – 0.29m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.29 – 0.69m	L1006	Made ground. Mid to dark grey, loose, CBM rubble and silty sand.
0.69 – 1.03m	L1004	As above.
1.03m +	L1005	Natural clay. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained a modern (19th – 20th century) soakway (F1007)

Soakaway F1007 was probably sub circular(1.80+ x 2.10 x 0.30m+; DP 5). It had vertical sides and its fill, L1008, was a mixed mid grey and yellow, friable, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments. The fill also contained occasional modern china and window glass fragments.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 The recognition of archaeological features or finds was inhibited by presence of numerous live services on the site which limited space available for trenching.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by yard surface (L1000; 0.08 – 0.12m thick). Below were various deposits of modern made ground. The basal deposit, L1004, was a mid grey, compact, silty clay.

8.2 The natural clay, L1005, was present at 0.90 – 1.05m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid yellow, compact, clay.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the historic core of the settlement.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. A modern (19th – 20th century) was present. Numerous services, in particular deep drains, had caused significant truncation.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Brentwood Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Beverley Homes for funding the project and Mr Dominic Jones of the Beverley Homes for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Maria Medlycott the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.

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APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	3 (Drawing, Context, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	9
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	8

APPENDIX 2 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/Address: <i>Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex</i>	
Parish: Brentwood	District: Brentwood
NGR: TQ 5945 9383	Site Code: BRWFH16
Type of Work: Archaeological evaluation	Site Director/Group: Z. Pozorski
Date of Work: 09/06/16	Size of Area Investigated: 18m ²
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: Brentwood Museum	Funding source: Beverley Homes
Further Seasons Anticipated?:	Related HER No.s:
Final Report: Pozorski, Z., 2016, <i>Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex</i>	
Periods Represented: 19 th – 20 th c.	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:	
<p><i>In June 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Rocky's Fun House, William Hunter Way, Brentwood, Essex (NGR TQ 5945 9383). The evaluation was commissioned by Beverley Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of 10no. residential flats with associated car parking, refuse and cycle storage following demolition of a detached outbuilding.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated within the medieval and post-medieval core of Brentwood, recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record as EHER 525. The latter encompasses the planned medieval settlement, which straddles the main London-Colchester road, and was established in 1177 by the monks of St Osyth.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed a modern (19th – 20th century) soakway and numerous modern services.</i></p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports:	
Author of Summary: Z. Pozorski	Date of Summary: 17/06/2016

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Trench 1. Looking south-south-east.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking north.



DP 3. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A. Looking east.



DP 4. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1B. Looking west.

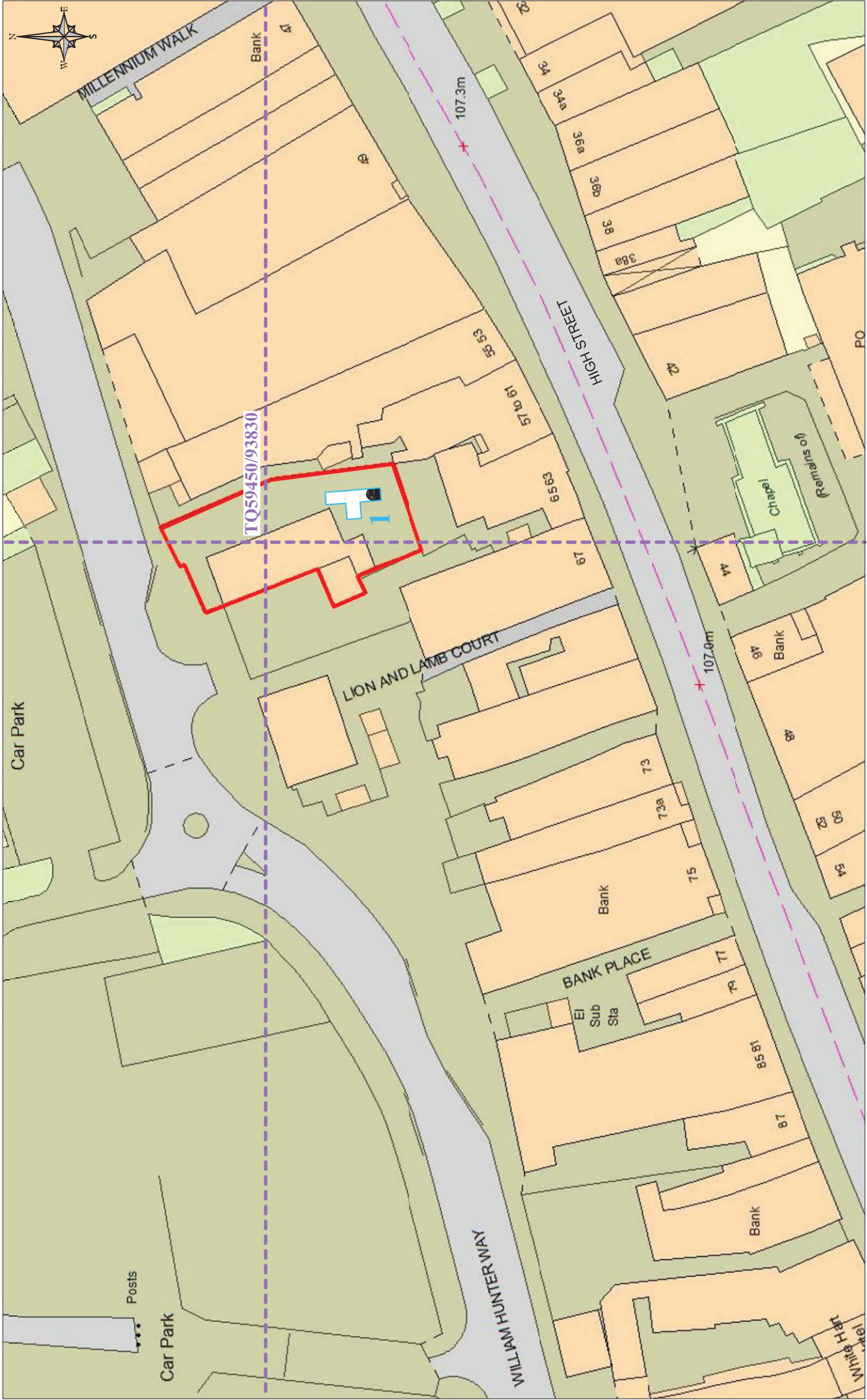


DP 5. Trench 1, south end. Soakway F1007. Looking south.



Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Brentwood, Essex (P6386)



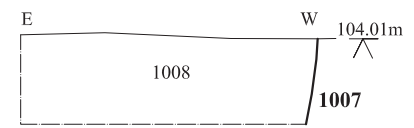
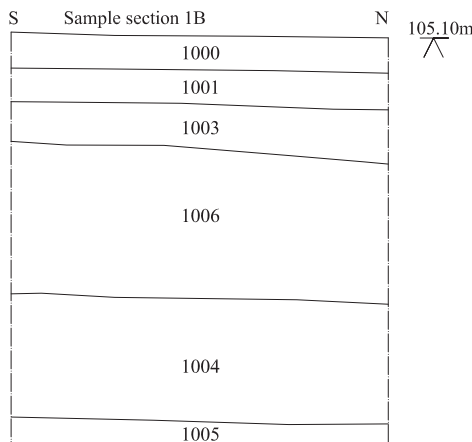
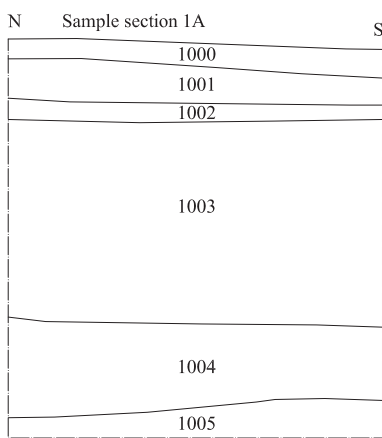
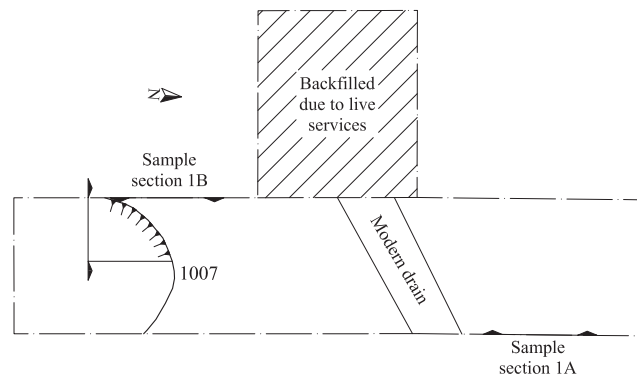
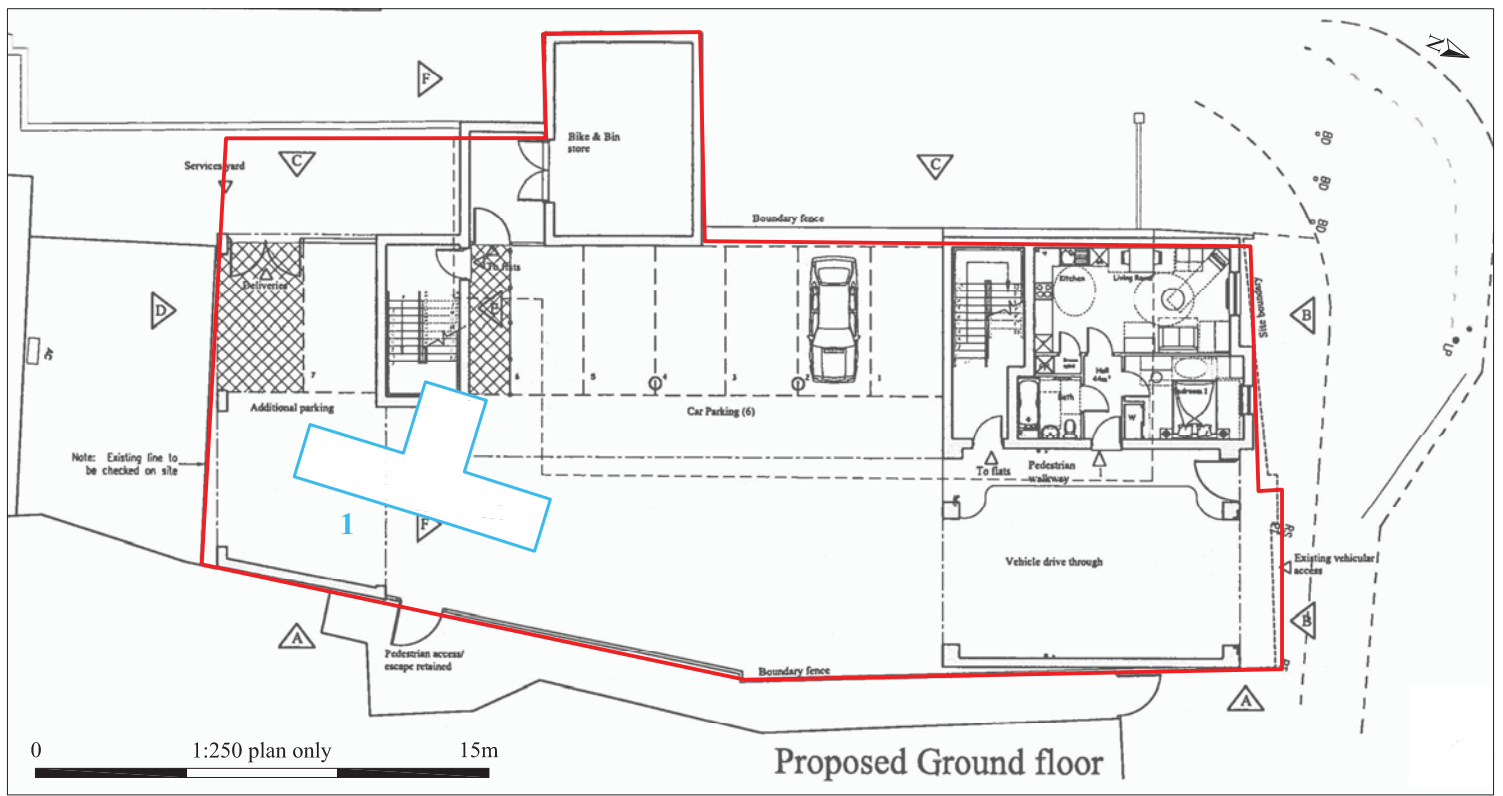
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4

Brentwood, Essex (P6386)





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Fig. 3 Proposed plan, trench plan and sections

Scale 1:250, 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

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