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LAND AT EPPING ROAD, ROYDON, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Julie Walker (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 40731 09769	Report No: R5316
District: Epping Forest	Site Code: ROER17
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 7054
MCIfA	Date: 17 February 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at Epping Road, Roydon, Essex</i>		
<p><i>In February 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Epping Road, Roydon, Essex CM19 5HT (NGR TL 40731 09769). It is proposed to construct four detached dwellings with car parking and a new vehicular access and garages. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/1841/16), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council</i></p> <p><i>The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Roydon (EHER 45221). Old Plough Cottage, on the street frontage to the immediate north, is Grade II listed and dates to the later 16th or early 17th century (EHER 33652). The site had a principal potential for evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity on the edge of the settlement at Roydon.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed five pits (F1004, F1008, F1010, F1012, and F1015), Ditch F1006 and Gully F1017. Pit F1010 (Trench 3) and Gully F1017 (Trench 4) were modern and the other features were undated.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>February 2017</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>7054</i>	Site code	<i>ROER17</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Grassland</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Pits, ditch, gully. Undated or modern</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Epping Forest</i>	<i>Roydon</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CM19 5HT</i>		
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 40731 09769</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.51. AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Julie Walker</i>		
Funded by	<i>Rockhold Epping Road Limited</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at Epping Road, Roydon, Essex CM19 5HT. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Walker, J.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5316</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2017</i>		

LAND AT EPPING ROAD, ROYDON, ESSEX CM19 5HT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Epping Road, Roydon, Essex CM19 5HT (NGR TL 40731 09769). It is proposed to construct four detached dwellings with car parking and a new vehicular access. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/1841/16), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Roydon (EHER 45221). Old Plough Cottage, on the street frontage to the immediate north, is Grade II listed and dates to the later 16th or early 17th century (EHER 33652). The site had a principal potential for evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity on the edge of the settlement at Roydon.

The evaluation revealed five pits (F1004, F1008, F1010, F1012, and F1015), Ditch F1006 and Gully F1017. Pit F1010 (Trench 3) and Gully F1017 (Trench 4) were modern and the other features were undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Epping Road, Roydon, Essex CM19 5HT (NGR TL 40731 09769; Figs. 1 - 2). It is proposed to construct four detached dwellings with car parking and a new vehicular access. The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission (Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/1841/16), based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to a brief prepared by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA; dated 24th January 2017) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 31st January 2017), and approved by ECC HEA. The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), and the

document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

1.4 The project aims were in particular to identify any evidence of medieval settlement associated with the mill, and other medieval or earlier deposits

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

21 The site lies on the north western side of Epping Road in Roydon. It comprises open grassland. It is proposed to erect four detached dwellings on the site, with new access and parking. New garages may also be proposed.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c.49-51m AOD close to the crest of the valley of the River Stort (and the River Stort Navigation). The complex channels of this waterway and associated lakes pass c.600m to the west, north-west and north; looping around the settlement of Roydon, with the site sloping at a gentle gradient down to the north-east, towards the natural course of the river.

3.2 The geology of the site comprises London Clay overlain by Lowestoft Formation diamiction, possibly giving way to glacio-fluvial sediments close to the north-western edge of the site. The soils of the area are lime rich loamy and clayey, typically with impeded drainage.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Roydon (EHER 45221).

4.2 The settlement of Roydon (EHER 45221) has origins in the medieval period, notably including St. Peter's Church c.500m to the north, which was built in the first half of the 13th century (EHER 3644). However the site appears to have lain on the fringes, if not beyond the extent of the nucleus of the medieval settlement, c.200m to the south of the 15th century timber framed White Hart Public House (EHER 33680). The growth of Roydon in the latter half of the 16th century appears to have enveloped the site, including the Grade II Listed late 16th century Old Plough Cottage (EHER 33652), on the street frontage to the immediate north; while other Grade II Listed 16th century timber frame buildings in the close vicinity include the Old Forge, Old Post Office, and 1 and 3 High Street (EHER 33658, 33670 & 33678). This pattern of building in the area of the site appears to have continued through the 17th century, including the Grade II Listed early 17th century timber frame Lightfoots (EHER 33651), and the 17th century the Forge, White House Public House, Clarks Cottages, and house adjoining the Niche (EHER 33657, 33656, 33653 & 33664).

4.3 In the early 19th century a terrace of three storey cottages were added at Allens, close to the north, possibly as railway navvies cottages though the industry with which they were associated remains unclear (HER 33681). In the late 19th century Roydon School moved to a location close to the south of the site on Epping Road (EHER 45226).

4.4 The historic development of Roydon is discussed in the historic settlement assessment report (Medlycott 2004).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The brief required trial trenches to be excavated across the footprint of the proposed house plots, garages and access. Four trenches each 12m x 1.6m were excavated (Fig.3).

5.2 The subsoil was 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

6.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> 0.00 = 51.65m AOD		
0.0 - 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small stones.
0.35 - 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, light grey brown clay silt
0.54m+	L1002	Natural. Friable, pale yellow silt.

<i>Sample section 1B</i> 0.00 = 51.63m AOD		
0.0 - 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20 - 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As Above

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> 0.00 = 51.49m AOD		
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0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.47m+	L1003	Natural. Firm, mid grey yellow silt with frequent small flint

<i>Sample section 2B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.41m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.53m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 2 contained Pits F1004 and F1008, and Ditch F1006.

Pit F1004 was sub-circular (0.80 x 0.62 x 0.13m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1005) was a friable, mid orange brown clay silt with occasional small flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1006 was linear (1.60+ x 0.94 x 0.10m), orientated north/south. It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (1007) was a friable, mid grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Pit F1008 was sub-circular (1.05 x 0.65 x 0.80m). It had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1009) was a friable, pale orange brown clay silt with very occasional flint. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 – 4)

<i>Sample section 3A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.68m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 2.

<i>Sample section 3B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.59m AOD</i>		
0.0 - 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 - 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.55m+	L1014	Natural. Compact, mottled orange and grey silt gravel.

Description: Trench 3 contained Pits F1010 and F1012.

Pit F1010 was sub-circular (0.60+ x 0.98 x 0.25m). It had steep sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1011) was a firm, bark brown sandy silt with very occasional small stones. It contained modern (18th – early 20th century pottery (5; 110g), CBM (55g) and animal bone (734g).

Pit F1012 was sub-circular (1.50+ x 0.90+ x 0.10m). It had near vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1013) was a friable, pale orange brown clay silt. It contained no finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 4A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 51.01m AOD</i>		
0.0 - 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.23 - 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.42m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 2.

<i>Sample section 4B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 50.32m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.20 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.45m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 2.

Description: Trench 4 contained Pit F1015 and Gully F1017.

Pit F1015 was sub-circular (0.32+ x 0.84 x 0.27m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1016) was a firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

Gully F1017 was curvilinear (1.25+ x 0.23 x 0.13m). It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1018) was a friable, dark grey brown, clay silt with occasional small, sub-angular flint. It contained modern (19th – early 20th century) pottery (1/1g) and glass (1/5g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 (0.20m - 0.30m) was a firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small stones. L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001 (0.19m - 0.38m thick), a firm, pale grey brown silt.

8.2 At the base of the sequence, at a depth of between 0.42m and 0.68m below the current ground surface, were the natural deposits. These varied across the site. In Trench 1 the natural deposits (L1002) comprised a friable, pale yellow silt. In Trenches 2, 4, and the north-western end of Trench 3 they comprised a firm, mid grey yellow silt with frequent small flint (L1003). At the south-

eastern end of Trench 3 they comprised a compact, mottled orange and grey silt gravel (L1014).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes the site lies on the edge of the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Roydon (EHER 45221). Old Plough Cottage, on the street frontage to the immediate north, is Grade II listed and dates to the later 16th or early 17th century (EHER 33652).

9.2 The evaluation revealed five pits (F1004, F1008, F1010, F1012, and F1015), Ditch F1006 and Gully F1017. Pit F1010 (Trench 3) and Gully F1017 (Trench 4) were modern and the other features were undated.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Epping Museum in accordance with their requirements. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Rockhold Epping Road Ltd. for funding the evaluation (in particular Mr Michael Johnson for his assistance).

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Maria Medlycott of Essex County Council

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Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

Medlycott, M, 2004, *Roydon: Historic Settlement Assessment*, ECC

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

APPENDIX 1**CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1010	1011		3	Fill of Pit	18th-early 20th	5	110	55	734			
1017	1018		4	Fill of Gully	19th-early 20th	1	1			Glass	1	5

APPENDIX 2

SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

Introduction

The archaeological evaluation recovered 7 sherds weighing 108g from two features. Four residual sherds are medieval and the remainder are post-medieval to early modern.

Methodology

The sherds were examined in keeping with the Post-Roman Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001, Table xx 1). The Essex fabric codes are included in brackets in the key.

The Pottery

Pit F1010 (L1011) contained four sherds of late medieval sandy orange ware. Two body sherds contain splashes of clear glaze, and one body sherd has patchy white slip. The glazed sherds contain grains of red quartz and may be local medieval Harlow wares, although the fabrics are not particularly micaceous or contain chalk flecks. The fourth sherd is a strap handle (but almost a rod handle) in a coarser sandy fabric. It is possible this is an oxidised medieval sandy coarseware (F20), rather than a sandy orange ware, but which could still be contemporary as these wares date broadly between the 12th and 14th centuries. However, the whole group of medieval sherds is residual as a sherd of post-medieval black glazed earthenware, and an early modern sherd of yellow ware date the pit.

Gully F1017 (L1018) contained a single sherd of early modern Transfer Printed Ware with flow blue decoration indicating a Victorian or later date.

Key:

SOW (21): Sandy Orange Ware 13th-16th

PMBL (40bl): Post-medieval black earthenware 17th-18th

YELL (48E): Yellow ware late 18th+

TPW (48): Transfer Printed Ware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1010	1011	4x76g SOW 1x9g PMBL 1x22g YELL	Late 18 th – early 20 th	SOW: x rounded strap handle 2.5 cm across; x2 splashes of clear glaze, x1 patchy white slip
Gully 1017	1018	1x1g TPW	19 th – early 20 th	TPW: flow blue printing

Table 1: quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

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 MCI(A)

A single fragment (55g) of post-medieval peg tile was contained in Pit F1010 (L1011). The 14mm thick flat tile was manufactured in a sandy red fabric that utilized local brickearth clay, and had been very hard-fired. It has a fine sanded base from where the tile was pressed onto a former or drying tray, but no other diagnostic traits are evident and the tile may have been produced between the 17th and 19th centuries.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1 looking north



2
Trench 2 looking north-east



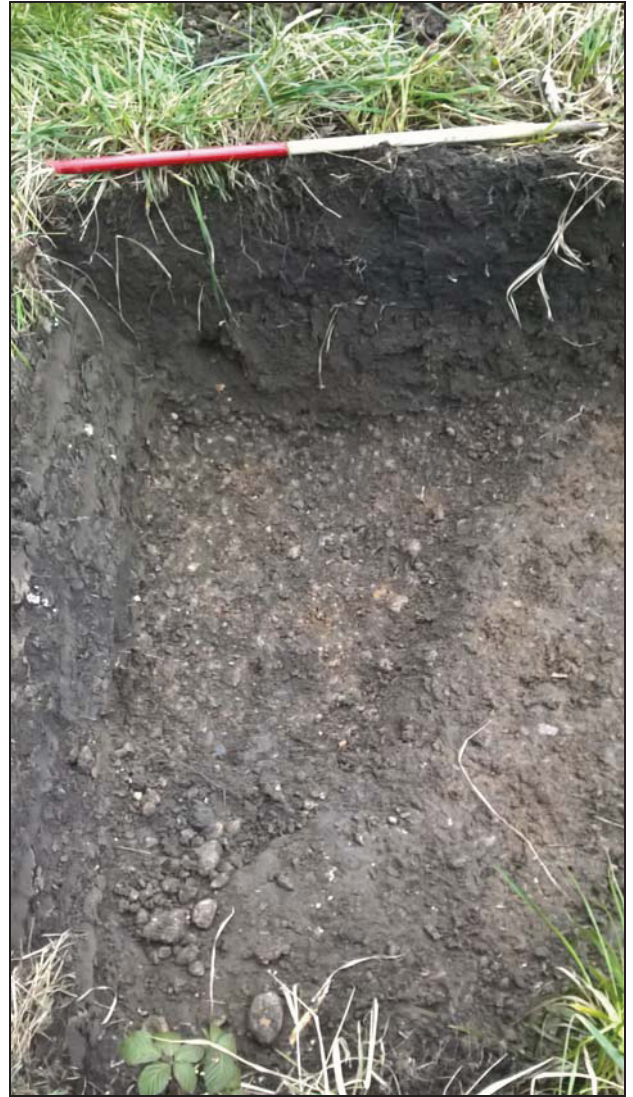
3
Pit 1004 in Trench 2



4
Pit 1008 in Trench 2



5
Trench 3 looking north-east



6
Pit 1012 in Trench 3



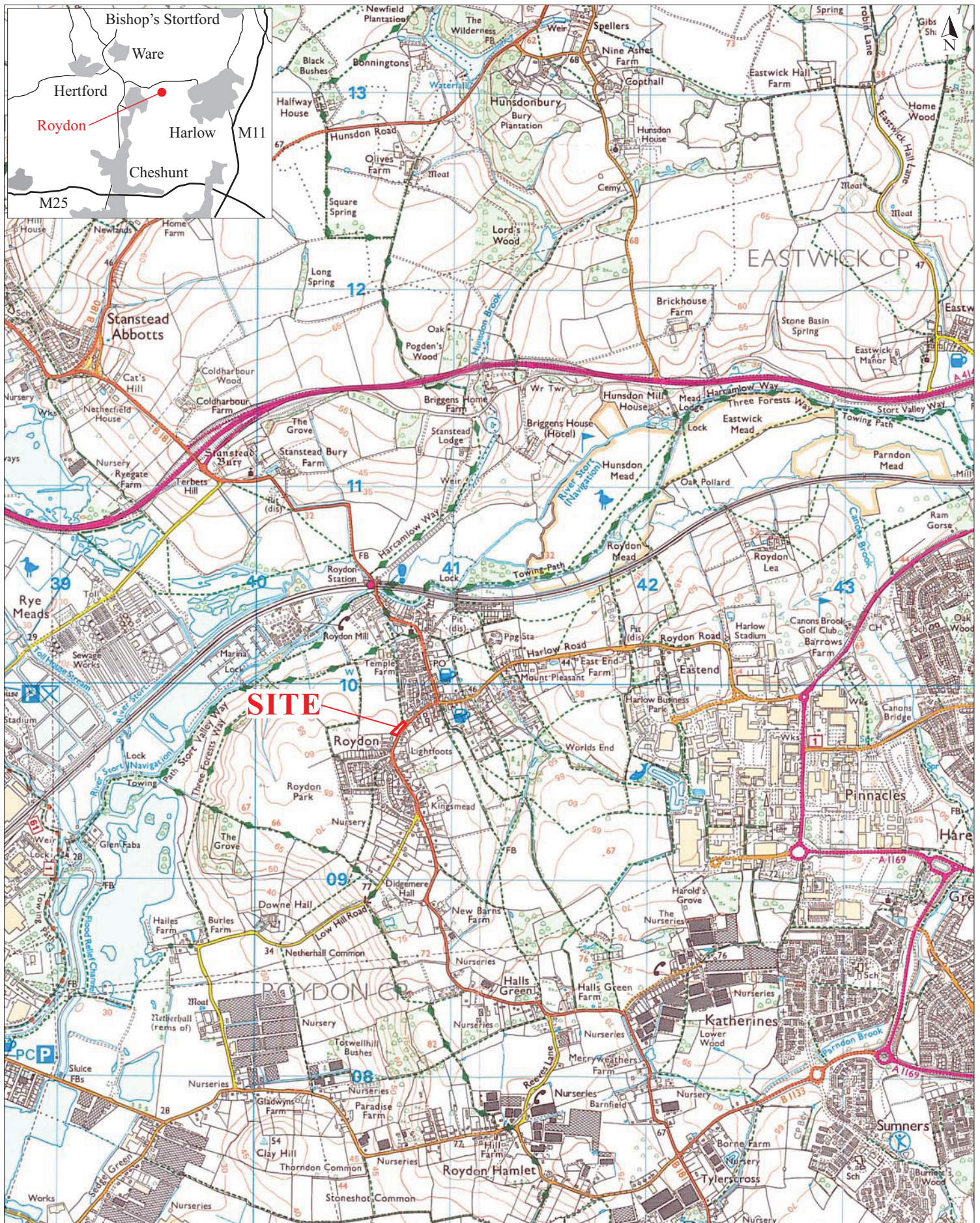
7
Pit 1010 in Trench 3



8
Test pit excavated in Trench 3

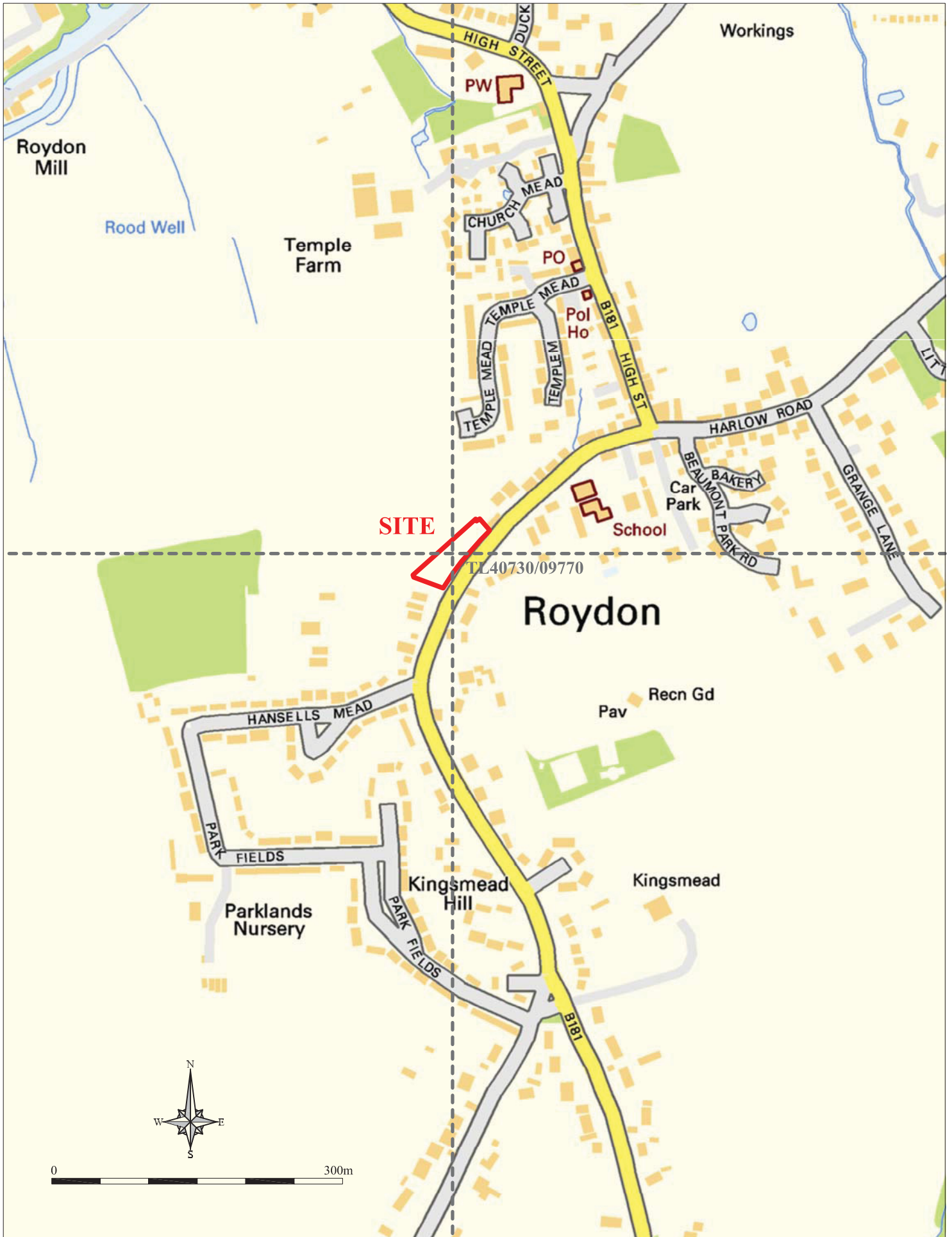


9
Trench 4 looking south-east showing Gully 1017
and Pit 1015



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Epping Road, Roydon, Essex (P7054)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:5000 at A4
 Epping Road, Roydon, Essex (P7054)

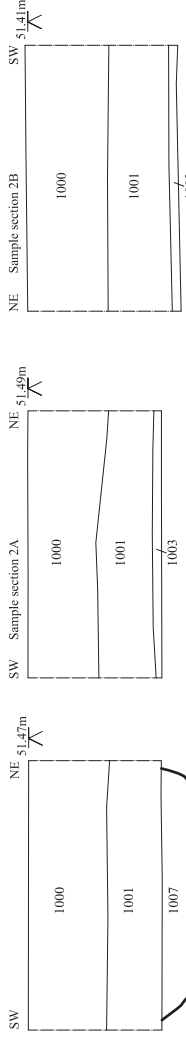
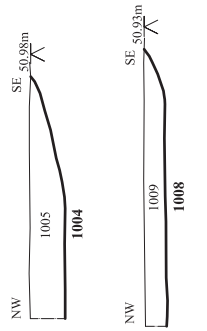
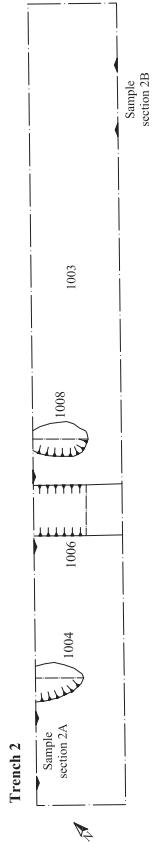


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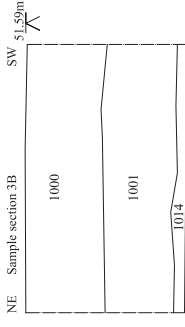
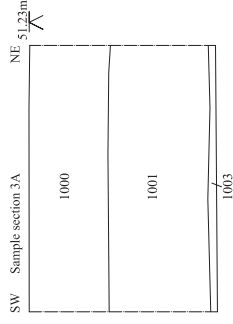
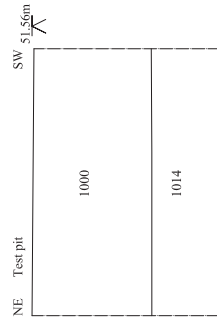
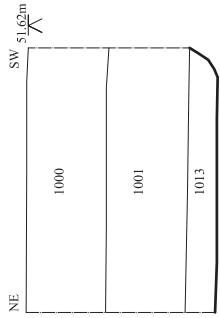
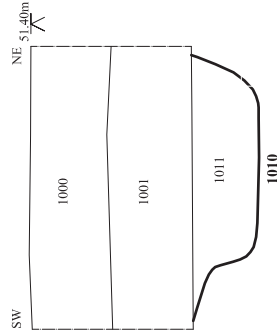
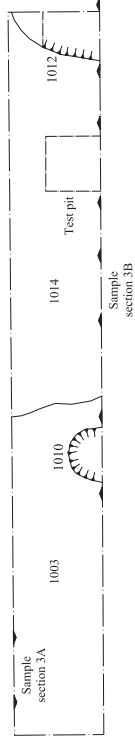
Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:500 at A4

Epping Road, Roydon, Essex (P7054)



Trench 3



Trench 4

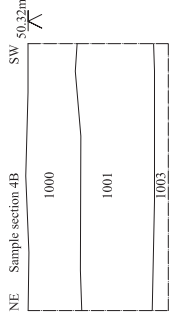
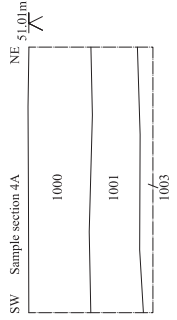
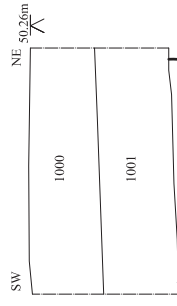
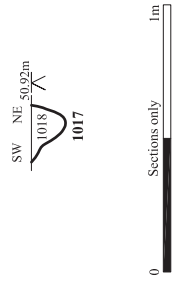
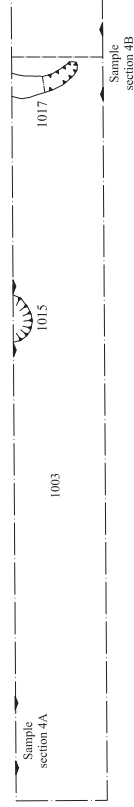


Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
Scale - Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
Epping Road, Roydon, Essex (P7054)