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14 LONDON HILL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Vinny Monahan (Fieldwork & report) Liam Podbury (Report and Background)	
NGR: TQ 8076 9100	Report No: 5836
District: Rochford	Site Code: RLLH19
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7955
	Date: 20 May 2019

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**PI House, 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire SG17 5AF
01462 850483**

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
01284 765210**

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PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex.		
<p><i>In May 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at 14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex (NGR TQ 8076 9100; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a 4-bed detached dwelling (Rochford Council Planning Approval Ref. 18/01097/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA) on behalf of the LPA.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed Ditch F1003 and Pond F1004. The latter was backfilled in 2006 with material from the rear of the property (pers comm the land owner). Each feature contained small quantities of medieval pottery and medieval peg tile are also present, however, the associated presence of post-medieval peg tile in both features suggests that the medieval finds are residual. The latter likely represent debris derived from the medieval core of the town, of which the site is situated on the peripheral edge.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	9 th May 2019		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	P7955	Site code	RLLH19
Type of project	Archaeological evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Residential		
Planned development	Dwelling		
Main features (+dates)	Ditch, backfilled pond		
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval pottery and CBM		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Rochford	Rayleigh
HER/ SMR for area	Essex County Council Historic Environment Record (SHER)		
Post code (if known)	SS6 7HR		
Area of site	c.1523m ²		
NGR	TQ 8076 9100		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.69m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Essex County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Lina Construction Ltd		
Full title	14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation.		
Authors	Monahan, V., & Podbury, L.		
Report no.	5836		
Date (of report)	May 2019		

14 LONDON HILL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at 14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex (NGR TQ 8076 9100; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a 4-bed detached dwelling (Rochford Council Planning Approval Ref. 18/01097/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA) on behalf of the LPA.

The site lies on the edge of medieval settlement core of the town of Rayleigh. A village at Rayleigh is recorded at Domesday and one of the earliest motte-and-bailey castles in the country was built here between 1066-1086 by Swein of Essex. A hundredal market may have existed here, and documents record a market and fair here in 1227. No town enclosure is recorded attached to the castle, unusual in Essex, but its outer bailey may have defended the town. The morphology of the town may have developed in two ways. Either the market place having been a cigar-shaped widening of the High Street, or that it lay between Bellingham Lane, London Hill and Church Hill as an elongated triangular space that became infilled. The 12th century church lies in the eastern part of the town, potentially the early focus of settlement. The castle fell out of use in the 14th century and the land was used as a royal stud and later a farmyard in the 17th century. The town remained a small market town thereafter until the arrival of the railway in the 20th century when it grew as a commuter settlement for London.

The evaluation revealed Ditch F1003 and Pond F1004. The latter was backfilled in 2006 with material from the rear of the property (pers comm the land owner). Each feature contained small quantities of medieval pottery and medieval peg tile are also present, however, the associated presence of post-medieval peg tile in both features suggests that the medieval finds are residual. The latter likely represent debris derived from the medieval core of the town, of which the site is situated on the peripheral edge.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at 14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex (NGR TQ 8076 9100; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a 4-bed detached dwelling (Rochford Council Planning Approval Ref. 18/01097/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA) on behalf of the LPA.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA), *Brief for*

Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at 14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Alison Bennett, dated 19th February 2019, and a specification prepared by AS (dated 22th February 2018) and approved by ECC HEA. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *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.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2018) 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 market town of Rayleigh is located between Chelmsford and Southend-on-Sea, c.51km to the east of central London. The site lies set back to the north eastern side of London Hill in Rayleigh. It forms part of the former garden area of No.14 adjacent. It is proposed to erect a detached dwelling on the site, which extends some 1523m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.69m AOD, within the historic core of Rayleigh which is situated on the highest ground in the area. The surrounding topography is dominated by low levels and waterways. The River Crouch is situated c.4.5km north of the site, while the River Rouch lies c.1.3km to the east and eventually converges with the River Crouch east of Rayleigh. Minor watercourses which converge to form tributaries to these two rivers pass a short distance to the north and east of the site.

3.2 The local geology is Claygate Member – clay silt and sand; formed during the Palaeogene Period. Overlaying this is a slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid base with rich loamy and clayey soils.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistory

4.1 The earliest known evidence of archaeological activity in the area surrounding the site comes in the form of a Mesolithic/Neolithic flint core (SMR 13348), recovered c.400m away from the site at Station Crescent. The Neolithic is further represented in the area by a selection of worked flints (SMR 13349; 13350; 13353; 13616). Evidence of later prehistoric activity is also present, c.200m away from the site a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery sherd (SMR 13375) was found during an excavation of the outer bailey ditch of Rayleigh Castle. An Early/Middle Iron Age copper brooch and Late Iron Age gold coin, reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme, were also located within the surrounding area (SMR 51922).

Romano-British

4.2 Evidence of Romano-British activity is represented by a limited selection of coins of ranging dates (SMR 13361; 13559) and pottery (SMR 13560; 13589). The earliest phase still present of the Holy Trinity Church, the c.12th century chancel, incorporated roman brick work and hypocaust tile in its construction (SMR 13583).

Medieval

4.3 The current site lies on the edge of the medieval settlement core of Rayleigh. A village at Rayleigh is recorded at Domesday and one of the earliest motte-and-bailey castles in the country was built here between 1066 and 1086, by Swein of Essex. Rayleigh Castle (SMR 13586) is located c.150m to the west-southwest from the current site, and the supposed line of the outer bailey ditch (SMR 16982) which was identified during a watching brief some 75m away. Further evidence of the development of Rayleigh Castle from the 11th Century through to the 17th century is apparent in the surrounding area (SMR 13376; 16326; 48922; 17995; 16982; 16350; 16349; 16329; 16328). The 13th century Rayleigh Gaol (SMR 19763), although not positively located, have been suggested to be sited within the defences of the castle. The Rayleigh Deer Park (SMR 46858), associated with the castle, is also within the area surrounding the site.

4.4 The morphology of the medieval built-up area is not entirely clear; however it appears to have been concentrated along the High Street, in the area to the east of the outer bailey. The parish church was sited at the north-eastern end of the town, its location perhaps marking the site of the original Domesday settlement. At this point the east-west route of London Hill meets the north-west route of the High Street. To the south of the church is a triangular built-up area, delimited by London Hill, Bellingham Lane and High Street. The parish church of Holy Trinity (SMR 13585; 13583; 13584; 16330), possibly dating from 1066, lies c.100m to the south-east from the current site. Excavations in the surrounding area have also revealed unspecified occupation evidence (SMR 47136) and 11-12th century pottery finds (SMR 48922) c.50m to the south of the site. There are also a number of 15th-16th century NHLE listed buildings (SMR 13374; 26384; 26390; 26392; 26393) situated near by to the site due to its location within the medieval core.

Post-medieval

4.5 In the area surrounding the current site there are a number of 17th to 18th century NHLE listed vernacular structures (SMR 26380; 26383; 26395; 35144; 13590; 26385; 26397; 26398; 26399; 35146; 35148). In the 18th century the current site was in the proximity of the three windmills present in Rayleigh (SMR 13588; 26377; 13493), with the closest located c.70m to the south-west (SMR 13588). The 19th century is also represented by NHLE listed vernacular buildings (SMR 26381; 26394; 26396), but industrial/commercial structures are also present including a public house (SMR 26386), a smithy (SMR 19764), a brewery (SMR 19765), gas works (SMR 40416) brickworks (SMR 15542), and a non-designated fourth windmill (TQ 8063 9094).

Modern

4.6 There is substantial evidence of activity from World War Two in close proximity to the site. Approximately 70m to the north-east from the site two ammunition shelters (SMR 20679; 20680) were constructed. Two Spigot Mortar Emplacements (SMR 20677; 29678), three road barriers (SMR 20676; 20682; 20683) and a pill box (SMR 20681), were also constructed nearby.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The ECC HEA advice required a cross-shaped trench to be excavated within the width and length of the proposed new house footprint. The trench was 10m x 1.8m and 13m x 1.8m (Fig. 2).

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs. 2 - 3

6.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below:

Trench 1

<i>Sample section 1</i> 0.00 = 68.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown silty clay with frequent crushed CBM rubble, coal, tarmac and plastic.
0.42 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, pale yellow grey silty clay.
0.60m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, mid grey yellow clay with occasional small chalk flecks.

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1003 and Pond F1005. Each feature contained medieval pottery and also post-medieval CBM.

Ditch F1003 was linear in plan (1.80m+ x 0.60m x 0.27m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep to moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1004, was a firm, light brown grey silty clay. It contained medieval (mid 12th – mid 13th century) pottery (5; 123g) and post-medieval CBM (81g).

Pond F1005 was only partially exposed. It was sub-circular in plan (1.80m+ x 1.60m+ x 0.40m+). It had moderately sloping sides and its base was unseen. Its fill, L1006, was a firm, dark grey brown with frequent CBM. It contained medieval (mid 12th – early 14th century) pottery (1; 24g), medieval and post-medieval CBM (221g) and animal bone (48g).

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with frequent crushed CBM rubble, coal, tarmac and plastic. L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, pale yellow grey silty clay. At the base of the sequence the natural, L1002, was a firm, mid grey yellow clay with occasional small chalk flecks.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated below:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1003	Ditch	Medieval (mid 12 th – mid 13 th C) pottery and also post-medieval CBM.
	F1005	Pond	Medieval (mid 12 th – Early 14 th C) pottery and also post-medieval CBM.

9.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, on the edge of medieval settlement core of the town of Rayleigh. A village at Rayleigh is recorded at Domesday and one of the earliest motte-and-bailey castles in the country was built here between 1066-1086 by Swein of Essex. A hundredal market may have existed here, and documents record a market and fair here in 1227. No town enclosure is recorded attached to the castle, unusual in Essex, but its outer bailey may have defended the town. The morphology of the town may have developed in two ways. Either the market place having been a cigar-shaped widening of the High Street, or that it lay between Bellingham Lane, London Hill and Church Hill as an elongated triangular space that became infilled. The 12th century church lies in the eastern part of the town, potentially the early focus of settlement. The castle fell out of use in the 14th century and the land was used as a royal stud and later a farmyard in the 17th century. The town remained a small market town thereafter until the arrival of the railway in the 20th century when it grew as a commuter settlement for London.

9.3 The evaluation revealed Ditch F1003 and Pond F1004. The latter was backfilled in 2006 with material from the rear of the property (*pers comm* the land owner). Each feature contained small quantities of medieval pottery including locally-produced coarse ware and part of a Hedingham fine ware jug, indicative of a mid 12th to mid 13th/14th century origin. Small quantities of medieval peg tile are also present, however, the associated presence of post-medieval peg tile in both features suggests that the medieval finds are residual. The latter likely represent debris derived from the medieval core of the town, of which the site is situated on the peripheral edge.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Peter Spicer of Lina Construction Ltd funding the works and for all his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Bennett of Essex County Council Place Services.

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Essex County Council 1999 *Great Dunmow: Historic Towns Assessment Report*

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

Appendix 1 - Concordance of Finds

RLLH19 - P7955, 14 London Hill, Raleigh

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1003	1004		1	Fill of Ditch	Mid 12th-Mid 13th C	5	123	81				
1005	1006		2	Fill of Pond	Mid 12th-Early 14th C	1	24	221	48			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery Report

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 6 sherds weighing 147g from two contexts. Ditch F1003 contained a base sherd from an early medieval slightly sandy shelly ware, and four sherds of Hedingham ware including the rim and strap handle of an unglazed jug. This assemblage would suggest a late 12th to early 13th century date. Pond F1005 contained jar body sherd of Hedingham coarseware of late 12th to early 14th centuries date. The pottery was all lightly to moderately abraded including large fragments.

Methodology

The sherds were examined and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). Fabric codes (in brackets) are those used for the Essex County Council pottery type series (Cotter 2000).

KEY:

EMSW (12B): Early medieval slightly sandy ware 11th-mid 12th centuries

HCW (20D): Hedingham coarseware mid 12th-early 14th

HFW (22) Hedingham fine ware

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Ditch 1003	1004	4x109g HFW 1x14g EMSW	mid 12 th - mid 13 th	HFW: x1 jug rim and wide attached strap handle with three grooves, unglazed
Pond 1005	1006	1x24g HCW	mid 12 th - early 14 th	

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

Bibliography

Cotter, J. 2000 Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, 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

The evaluation recovered 10 fragments (302g) of peg tile in a highly fragmented condition from Ditch F1003 and Pond F1005.

Of this peg tile, three fragments (134g) in Pond F1005 (L1006) may be of medieval date. These have a gritty sand-tempered fabric, red-brown surfaces over a red-orange core, slightly creased surfaces and a coarse sanded base. Peg tile such as this was utilised from the late 12th century onwards, becoming increasingly common in the 14th and 15th centuries.

The remainder of the peg tile occurs in a finer orange-red fabric with a regular flat appearance and un-sanded base. Based on the limited small fragments present, a Tudor origin cannot be entirely discounted, but they are perhaps more likely of subsequent post-medieval date.

The Faunal Remains

Julie Curl

The bone assemblage

A total of 48g of bone, consisting of a single fragment, was recovered from this site. The bone was recovered from Trench 2, the Pond 1005, fill 1006 and was found with ceramic material of a late 12th – early 14th century date. The assemblage is quantified in Table 2. The bone is in good condition, although fragmented from butchering.

Ctxt	Feature	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP
1006	1005	Pond	1	48	Cattle	1

Table 2. Quantification of the bone assemblage

The bone recovered is part of a cattle radius shaft, which has been chopped for a cut of meat; a couple of cuts were seen from removal of the meat. There are no animal gnawing marks or invertebrate damage on the surface of the bone, which would suggest it was rapidly buried and probably redeposited in the pond at a later date. Invertebrate damage from freshwater crustaceans, insects and molluscs would be expected if the bone was deposited into an active pond.

Bibliography

Baker, P. and Worley, F. 2014. *Animal Bones and Archaeology, Guidelines for best practice*. English Heritage.

Davis, S. 1992. *A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites*. English Heritage AML report 71/92

Table 3

Catalogue of the bone from RLLH19

C tx t	Fea ture	Type	C tx t Q ty	W t (g)	Speci es	NI SP	Ag e	Elemen t range	Butchering	Comments
1 0 0 6	100 5	Pond	1	4 8	Cattle	1	1	Radius shaft	Chopped and cut	Trench 2. No invertebrate damage.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-352176

Project details

Project name	14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex. TT
Short description of the project	In May 2019 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at 14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex (NGR TQ 8076 9100; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for a 4-bed detached dwelling (Rochford Council Planning Approval Ref. 18/01097/FUL). It was required based on the advice of Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA) on behalf of the LPA. The evaluation revealed Ditch F1003 and Pond F1004. The latter was backfilled in 2006 with material from the rear of the property (pers comm the land owner). Each feature contained small quantities of medieval pottery and medieval peg tile are also present, however, the associated presence of post-medieval peg tile in both features suggests that the medieval finds are residual. The latter likely represent debris derived from the medieval core of the town, of which the site is situated on the peripheral edge.
Project dates	Start: 09-05-2019 End: 10-05-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7955 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RLLH19 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH, BACK FILLED POND Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY AND CBM Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX ROCHFORD RAYLEIGH 14 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex.
Study area	1523 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 8076 9100 51.588285622692 0.609637410284 51 35 17 N 000 36 34 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 69m Max: 69m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator ESCC
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Name of sponsor/funding body Lina Construction Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Southend Central Museum
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
 Digital Archive recipient Southend Central Museum
 Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Southend Central Museum
 Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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 Author(s)/Editor(s) Podbury, L
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7955)



1
General site overview looking north-east



2
General site overview looking south-west



3
View of trench running north-east to south-west



4
View of trench running north-west to south-east



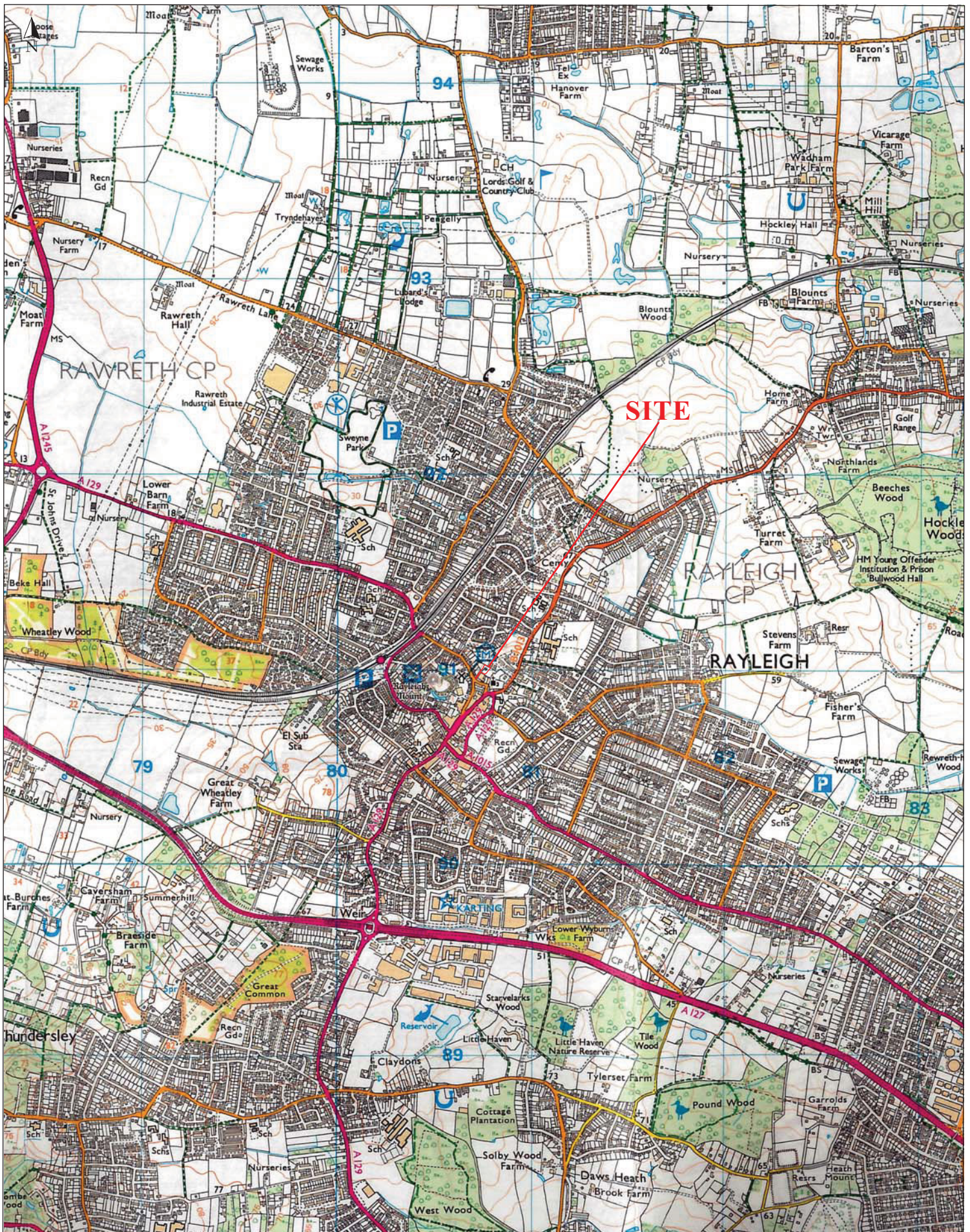
5
Sample section 1 looking south-east



6
Ditch F1003 looking south-east

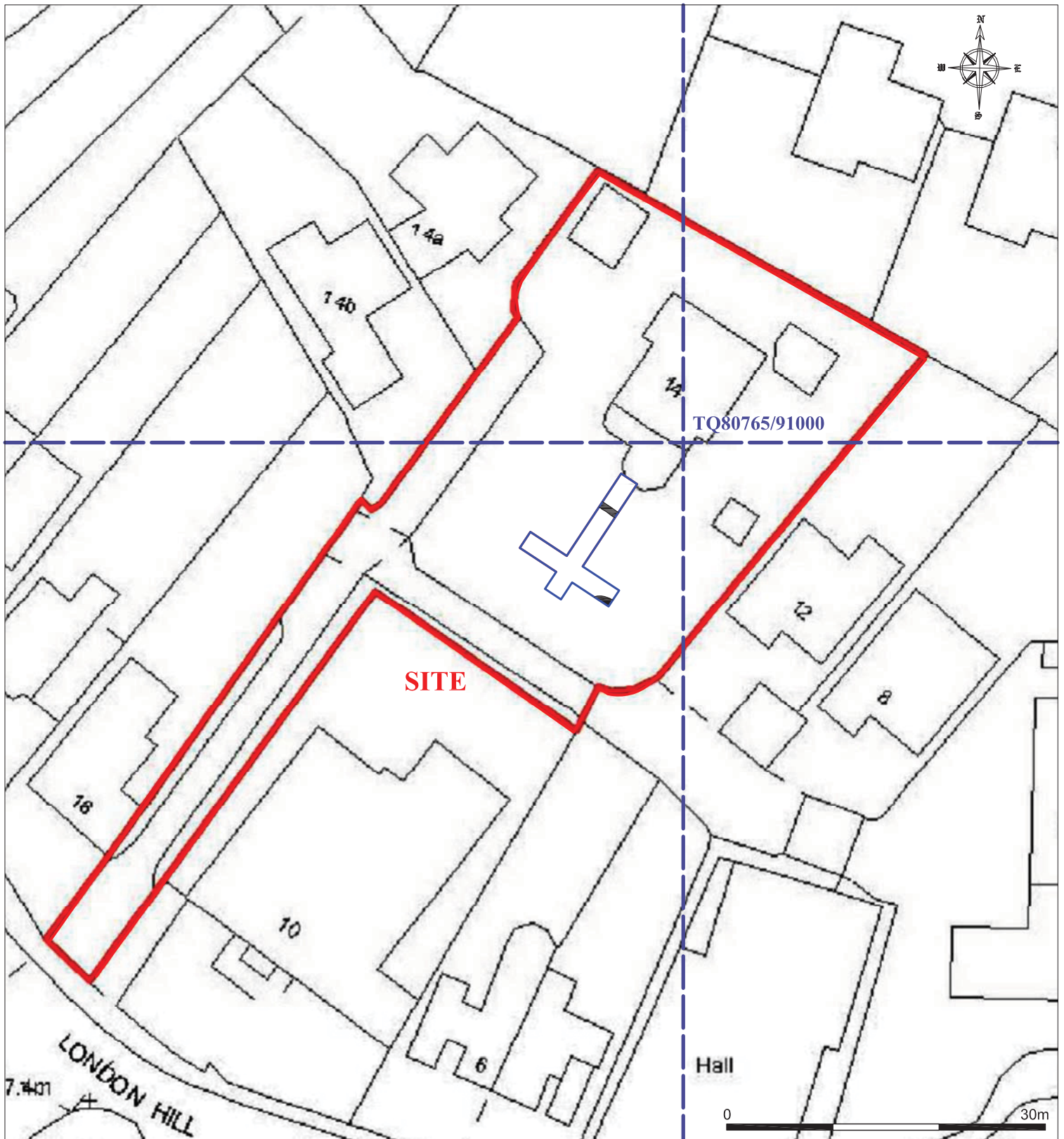


7
Pond F1005 looking south-west

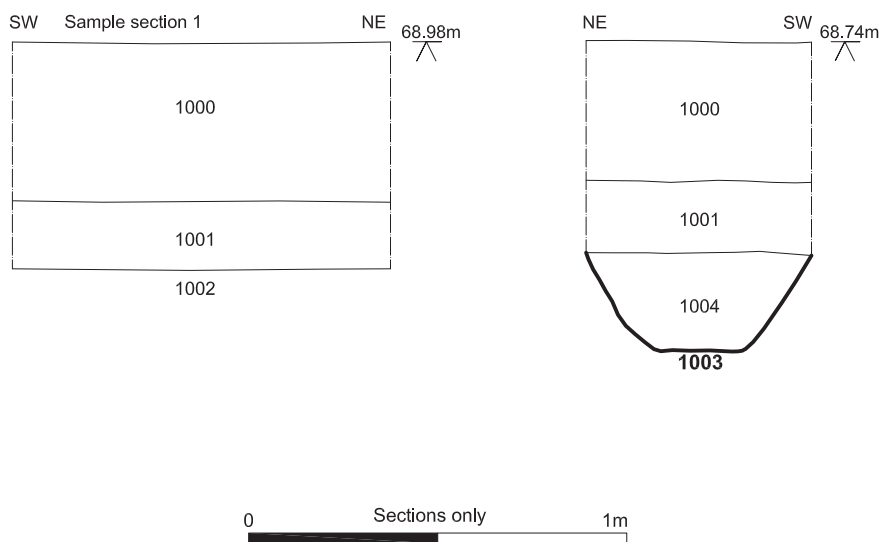
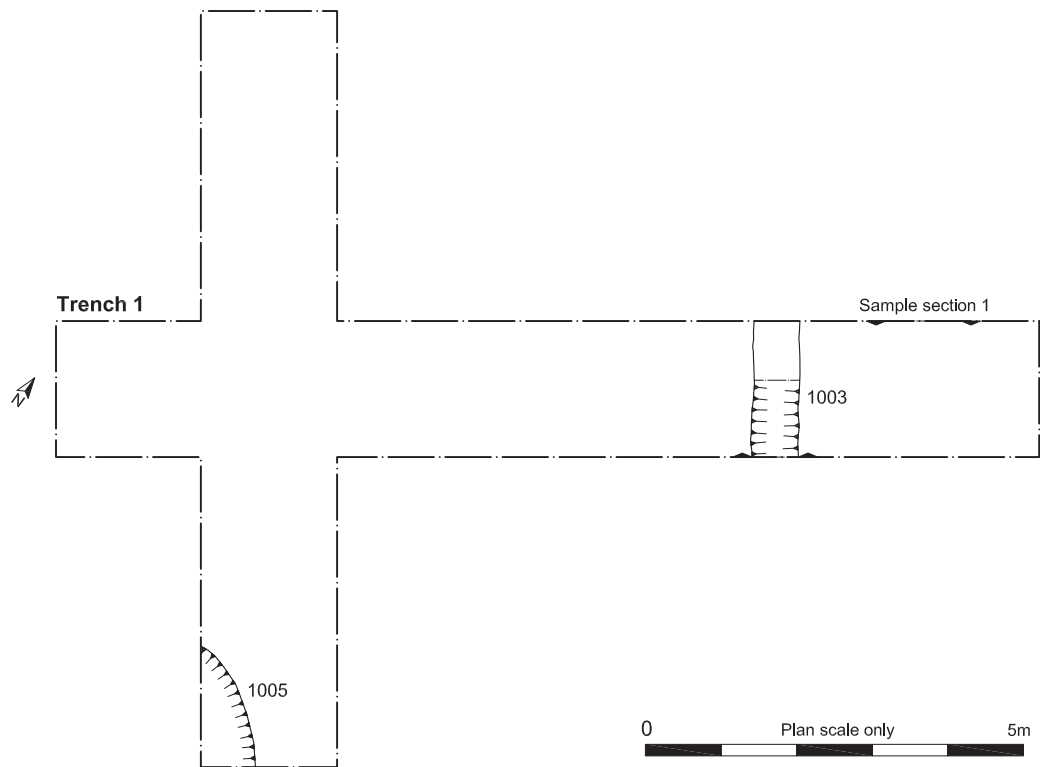


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 14 London Hill, Rayleigh (P7955)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4
14 London Hill, Rayleigh (P7955)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 3 Trench plan and sections
Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4
14 London Hill, Rayleigh (P7955)