

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**LAND ADJACENT TO SPRING LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
WITHAM, ESSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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NGR: TL 81431 15443	Report No. 3023
District: Braintree	Site Code: WH24
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project no: P2946
Signed:	Date: February 2008

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<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
Project name		<i>Land Adjacent to Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
<p><i>In February 2008, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham, Essex (NGR TL 81431 15443). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (BTE/0167/07). It was undertaken in advance of the creation of 52 new car parking spaces for the Community Centre, St John's Ambulance and the Scouts.</i></p> <p><i>An Iron Age hillfort is known to the south of the site (HER8106) with multi-period occupation starting during the Mesolithic/Neolithic. The site was also used in the medieval period. A Roman hypocaust was discovered immediately to the south of the site (HER8340), and the centre of the Roman settlement was located to the south-east of the site. Evidence of the inception of a market in 912 is recorded, although the centre of the Saxon burh has never been located. The town prospered during the medieval period. In recent years land around Witham has been increasingly developed, so much so that Chipping Hill and Witham form one settlement.</i></p> <p><i>The trial trench evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising a ditch (Tr.1 F1008), a gully terminus (Tr.1 F1004), two pits (Tr.1 F1006, Tr.2 F1015) and a posthole (Tr.2 F1011). The majority of archaeological features were identified towards the western edge of the site (Trenches 1 and 2), and were post-medieval. The site had a relatively high potential for archaeological remains, in the event small scale post-medieval features were revealed</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>February 2008</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		<i>P2946</i>	Site code
			<i>WH24</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>None</i>	
Current land use		<i>Grass to rear of Community Centre</i>	
Planned development		<i>Car Parking</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>Ditch, gully, pits, posthole</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>Post-medieval</i>	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Essex</i>	<i>Braintree</i>
			<i>Witham</i>
SMR for area		<i>Essex HER</i>	
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR		<i>TL 81431 15443</i>	
Height AOD (max)		<i>20m AOD</i>	
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by		<i>ECC HEM</i>	
		<i>Lisa Smith</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)			
Funded by		<i>Braintree District Council</i>	

Full title	<i>Land Adjacent to Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>
Authors	<i>Smith, L</i>
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Date (of report)	<i>Feb 2008</i>

## LAND ADJACENT TO SPRING LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WITHAM, ESSEX

### AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

#### **SUMMARY**

*In February 2008, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham, Essex (NGR TL 81431 15443). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (BTE/0167/07). It was undertaken in advance of the creation of 52 new car parking spaces for the Community Centre, St John's Ambulance and the Scouts.*

*An Iron Age hillfort is known to the south of the site (HER8106) with multi-period occupation starting during the Mesolithic/Neolithic. The site was also used in the medieval period. A Roman hypocaust was discovered immediately to the south of the site (HER8340), and the centre of the Roman settlement was located to the south-east of the site. Evidence of the inception of a market in 912 is recorded, although the centre of the Saxon burh has never been located. The town prospered during the medieval period. In recent years land around Witham has been increasingly developed, so much so that Chipping Hill and Witham form one settlement.*

*The trial trench evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising a ditch (Tr.1 F1008), a gully terminus (Tr.1 F1004), two pits (Tr.1 F1006, Tr.2 F1015) and a posthole (Tr.2 F1011). The majority of archaeological features were identified towards the western edge of the site (Trenches 1 and 2), and were post-medieval. The site had a relatively high potential for archaeological remains, in the event small scale post-medieval features were revealed*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2008, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological evaluation of land adjacent to Spring Lodge Community Centre, Witham, Essex (NGR TL 81431 15443). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (BTE/0167/07). It was undertaken in advance of the creation of 52 new car parking spaces, and was commissioned by Braintree District Council.

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM, dated May 2007), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by AS (25/06/2007). The project conformed to the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and*

*Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (revised 2001) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify areas of previous ground disturbance on the site.

### **Planning policy context**

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 & 2)**

2.1 Witham is located in the north-east of Essex, c.14km north-east of Chelmsford. The site is situated in the Chipping Hill area of Witham, c.4m east of the River Brain.

2.2 The site lies to the immediate rear (north) of the existing Community Centre, and comprises an area of grass and a small pond.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY**

3.1 The site is located on the floodplain of the River Brain at a height of 20m AOD. The geology of the area is boulder clay of Springfield Till, a silty, sandy clay and clayey gravel.

3.2 Witham is situated within an area not covered by the Soil Survey of England and Wales however the areas surrounding the west of Witham comprise soils of the Hamble 2 association which is an Aeolian silty drift. These soils are deep stoneless, well drained and silty with similar soils affected by groundwater; over gravel locally and usually on flat land. Around the River Brain the soils are of the Ludford association and are a result of glacio-fluvial drift. They are deep, well drained, fine loamy, coarse loamy and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. They hold a slight risk of water erosion.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### *Prehistoric (450,000 – 750 BC)*

4.1 There have been a small number of prehistoric finds recorded within 1 km of the site at Witham. The majority are stray finds. Two finds dated to the Palaeolithic have been recorded; a small ovate flint hand-axe (HER8042) and a flint axe (HER8171). A possible Neolithic occupation area has been discovered at Chipping Hill, a multi-period site, with archaeology dating from the Neolithic to medieval period (HER 14050). The site was not intensively occupied during the Neolithic period; a few sherds of Grooved Ware pottery and worked flints have been interpreted as an occupation site. It was later occupied during the late Bronze Age.

4.2 Several stray finds have been found dating to the Neolithic period, for example, an unpolished flint axe was discovered not far from the site (HER8051), and a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age bronze palstave was also recovered (HER8044) in the vicinity of the site.

### *Iron Age (750 BC – AD43)*

4.3 The Chipping Hill area of Witham was important during the Iron Age; a large hillfort comprising two concentric earthwork defences was excavated and the inner earthwork was a univallate Iron Age hillfort (HER8106). The hillfort was occupied during the Saxon period but the first two phases of the defences have been attributed an Iron Age date with scattered Iron Age occupation around the exterior and a small quantity of early Iron Age pottery recovered from the interior of the earthwork. Further away from the site at Temples Meadow three skeletons with three iron weapons were discovered during construction of the railway (HER8114). The iron weapons have been identified as La Tène II-III pokers and are the largest known of this type of weapon ever found in Britain. An isolated find of an Iron Age gold coin was found (HER45494).

### *Roman (AD43 – 410)*

4.4 The Roman evidence from Witham is extensive although the majority of it comprises stray finds. Several coins have been recovered dating to the late third to early fifth centuries AD (e.g. HER8045, HER8112 & HER8119). A large hoard comprising

302 barbarous radiates are all imitations of Antoniniani dated to AD270-284 (HER45493).

4.5 A hypocaust was recorded close to the site (HER8340). A hypocaust is usually indicative of a high-status building but no evidence has been found. The Roman focus of Roman settlement was the Ivy Chimneys/Maltings Lane area of Witham, and a few finds have been recovered from the Chipping Hill camp area. A Roman road to the east of the site, which passes through the eastern sector of modern Witham, was the London - Colchester route. Witham was not a major Roman town. It was located between the two Roman towns of Kelvedon (Canonium) north-east of Witham, and Chelmsford (Caesaromagus) to the south-west.

#### *Saxon (AD410 – 1066)*

4.6 Some material evidence exists relating to the Saxon history of Witham. The date of inception of the market at Witham is given as AD912 (Website 1). The centre of the burh was once believed to have been located on the hillfort; however, the main period of occupation of the hillfort is now thought to have been during the Iron Age. Despite this there has been evidence of Saxon activity upon the hillfort with finds of St. Neots ware, coins, a hearth and a well which could identify low-level occupation (HER8108). A more likely centre for the Saxon settlement at Witham is around a small triangular market place, to the north of the hillfort (HER 8121). The church is thought to have had a Saxon predecessor due to the mention of a church in Domesday (HER8123). A D-shaped enclosure has been identified at Wulvesford, to the south-west of the site (HER8166); evidence for this is topographical and cartographic with no material evidence showing Saxon occupation of the proposed enclosure.

4.7 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, though not wholly reliable, states that in 912 King Edward the Elder 'went with some of his forces into Essex to Maldon and camped there while the burh was being made and constructed at Witham, and a good number of people who had been under the rule of Danish men submitted to him' (website 2). During the later Saxon period it has been proposed there was a royal holding, a mill and a fair sized population (website 2).

#### *Medieval (1066 – 1550)*

4.8 Witham is described as a half-hundred in Domesday Book which Harold held prior to 1066 as one manor and five hides, the manor by 1086 was held by King William with three ploughs in demesne, 15 villagers, 10 cottagers, nine slaves and 23 sokemen. The Domesday Survey states there had been problems with carrel plague prior to 1086 with the result that the population decreased.

4.9 Witham grew in prosperity and size during the medieval period. In 1147 King Stephen and Queen Matilda gave the manor of Witham to the Knights Templar who then organised the development of the town along the London-Colchester road in c. 1212 (Website 2). The focus of the settlement was in the south-east, away from Chipping Hill,



although occupations continued near the current site. Artefacts have been recovered within one kilometre of the site including a large amount of earthenware and coarse wares (HER 8117), two iron arrowheads, a spearhead a horseshoe and some sherds of pottery which included Bellarmine sherds (HER8170, 8175).

4.10 Three mills are recorded in the area on the Historic Environment Record, although one may be a duplicate; it is stated that Witham mill was located inside Wulvesford enclosure (HER 14067) with the leat of the mill surviving, this is likely to be the same as that for Chipping Hill watermill (HER 14069) and is therefore in the southern part of the site. A third mill is mentioned at Witham Parva (HER14068).

#### *Post-medieval (1550 – 1900)*

4.11 The archaeological record attests to a fairly prosperous large village/small town. The introduction of the railway in 1843 brought new opportunity to the area and development began (HER 18507). Records show that the mill burnt down in 1777, was later rebuilt but then in 1882 was again destroyed by fire. The mill was not rebuilt a second time although the Mill House survived (HER 18290).

#### *Modern (1900 – 2007)*

4.12 There are a considerable number of records regarding World War Two defences although the majority of these were demolished soon after the end of the war (e.g. HER 20589, 20601, 20585).

#### *Undated*

4.13 Several cropmarks have been noted and described as possible field boundaries, parish boundaries and linear features (HER 14114, 14115, 14111, 18015), none of these have been excavated hence they remain undated

#### *Cartographic Sources*

4.1.4 Historic cartographic sources were consulted for the previous phases of archaeological works on the adjacent sites (Harris *et al* 2007 and Sparrow *et al* 2008). In summary:

##### *1730-1770 Map of Witham*

The site was not built over during this period and may have been used for arable farming or pasture.

##### *1777 Chapman and André's Map*

This map places the site in its countywide context. Witham and 'Cheping Hill' were separate in 1777. The site would have been located at Cheping Hill. A number of buildings, to the south of the site, are depicted on this map which suggests the mill

existed by 1777. There is no suggestion of development within the site although the map does identify the valley of the River Brain, in which the site is located.

#### *1839 Witham Tithe Map*

The tithe map shows the site was developed by 1839; the land-use as described in the Tithe Apportionment was arable cultivation and the yard and gardens of a house to the south-west of the site, and the range of mill buildings can clearly be shown to the immediate south of the site.

#### *1879 First Edition Ordnance Survey Sheet 34.16*

This map shows the site in considerably more detail. The mill buildings to the south of the site comprise a number of small buildings in the immediate vicinity of two large buildings. An annotation on the map states that corn was milled at Chipping Hill Mill. The area of the site appears to be in use as an orchard at this time.

#### *1897 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Sheet 34.16 &*

#### *1922 New Series Ordnance Survey 45.7 & 45.11 &*

#### *1955 Ordnance Survey TL81NW*

These maps also show the site to lie to the north of the mill complex, in an area shown as a large featureless field.

### **Previous Archaeological Works at the Site**

4.1.5 A programme of archaeological investigation has also been recently carried out in advance of the proposed development of a new Scout/Guide Centre, St Johns Ambulance Centre and residential development. During the first phase of evaluation at this site, which looked at the areas of the proposed new St John's Ambulance building and the Scout/Guide HQ, two evaluation trenches were excavated (Harris *et al* 2007). This first phase of evaluation revealed shallow linear features of post-medieval/modern date in Trench 2. Their alignment largely corresponded with the alignment of the current site boundaries. A calf burial of relatively recent date was also recorded. In Trench 1, a small post hole, a pit of post-medieval date, and a brick cellar wall of post-medieval date were recorded. The cellar wall almost certainly relates to the range of ancillary mill buildings depicted on cartographic sources from the early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, possibly demolished by 1922.

4.1.6 The second phase of, of an area to the north proposed for residential development revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising one ditch, one gully and one posthole (Sparrow *et al* 2008). The features contained no dating evidence. They were isolated in relation to one another and could not be related to any features depicted on the historic cartographic sources limiting scope for interpretation.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 Four trial trenches, totalling 53m, were excavated (Fig.2), in areas proposed for new car parking. The individual trenches were all linear, measuring 12 – 15m in length and 1.8m wide.

5.2 The location of Trenches 2 and 4 were altered in order to avoid a live gas main which traversed the site on a north/south alignment. A number of other services also traverse this part of the site, meaning that the trenches were excavated where possible to avoid these service runs.

5.3 Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under the close supervision of an Archaeological Project Officer. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### 6.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample Section 5: SE end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.94m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark greyish black silty loam with occasional fragments of cbm and frequent medium angular stones
0.39 – 0.81m	L1001. Modern make-up layer. Dark greyish black loam with frequent fragments of cbm and mortar, and medium angular stones.
0.81 – 0.88m	L1002. Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent fragments of cbm and occasional charcoal flecks.
0.88m+	L1003. Natural. Mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional small angular stones.

<i>Sample Section 2: NW end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.07m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000. Topsoil. As above.
0.10 – 0.35m	L1001. Modern make-up. As above
0.35 – 0.69m	L1002. Subsoil. As above
0.69m+	L1003. Natural. Silty Clay

*Description: A modern service trench, a gully terminus (F1004), a ditch (F1008) and a pit (F1006) were present in Trench 1.*

Shallow gully terminus F1004 (length >2.0m, width 0.25m, depth 0.08m) was located at the north-western end of Trench 1, aligned NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a

concave base. Its fill, L1005, was a light brownish grey silty clay with occasional pebbles. No finds were present.

Pit F1006, (length 1.05m, width 0.84m, depth 0.17m) was sub-ovoid in plan. It exhibited relatively steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1007, was a light greyish black sandy clay. It contained cbm (4509g), animal bone (348g), a fragment of iron (2g), a fragment of glass (8g) and late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (<1g).

Ditch F1008 (length >2.0m, width 1.23m, depth 0.16m) was aligned NE/SW. It was sealed by modern layer L1001. It had moderately steep sides and a slightly irregular base. Its fill, L1009, was a mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional gravel throughout. It contained post-medieval finds comprising glass (250g), iron fragments (278g), cbm (12112g), animal bone (6g) and a clay pipe fragment (52g).

## 6.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample Section 10: NE end, SE facing</i>	
<i>0.00 = 20.74m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.22 – 0.53m	L1001. Modern Make-up Layer. As above Tr. 1.
0.53 – 0.72m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.72 – 0.84m	L1014. Light yellowish brown clay with gravel
0.84 – 0.92m	L1013. Mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional cbm fragments (1012g) and animal bone (76g)
0.92m+	L1003. Natural. Silty clay. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 11: SW end, NW facing</i>	
<i>0.00 = 20.86m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.34 – 0.80m	L1001. Modern Make-up Layer. As above Tr. 1.
0.80 – 1.11m +	L1010. Sandy Gravel Fill of F1015. Mid yellowish red sandy gravel fill of F1015

*Description: A modern service, a posthole (F1011) and a large pit (F1015) were present in Trench 2.*

Posthole F1011, (length 0.25m, width 0.18m, depth 0.25m) was sub circular. It exhibited steep sides and a narrow, flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stones and preserved wood. It contained cbm (24g).

A large pit, F1015, was partially visible in the south eastern corner of Trench 2 (length >1.2m, width, >0.66m, depth >0.31m). Its fill, L1010, was a mid yellowish red sandy gravel which contained no finds. Due to the high water table this feature was not fully excavated.

### 6.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample Section 7</i> <i>0.00 = 20.53m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr. 1
0.35 – 1.00m	L1001. Modern Make-up Layer. As above Tr. 1
1.00 – 1.17m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Tr. 1.
1.17m +	L1003. Natural. Silty clay. As above Tr. 1.

<i>Sample Section 6</i> <i>0.00 = 20.45m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr. 1.
0.40 – 0.74m	L1001. Modern Make- up Layer. As above Tr. 1.
0.74 – 1.00m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Tr. 1.
1.00m +	L1003. Natural. Silty clay. As above Tr. 1.

*Description: Three modern services were visible in Trench 3. No archaeological features or finds were present.*

### 6.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample Section 8: SE end</i> <i>0.00 = 20.63 m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.06 – 0.24m	L1001. Modern Make-up Layer. As above Tr. 1.
0.24 – 0.46m	L1014. Clay with gravel. As above Tr. 2.

<i>Sample Section 8: NE end</i> <i>0.00 = 20.81m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.18 – 0.52m	L1001. Modern Make-up Layer. As above Tr. 1.

*Description: A modern service trench was visible in Trench 4. No archaeological features or finds were present.*

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 The identification of archaeological features in Trenches 2 and 4 was partially inhibited by the high water table, but it is not felt that this hindered the dating and characterisation of the features. Modern service trenches were also present in all trenches.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil, L1000, was present across the entire site, up to 0.40m below the ground surface. It was a dark greyish black silty loam with occasional fragments of cbm and frequent medium angular stones. It sealed all the modern services within Trenches 1 - 4. Animal bone (512g) and glass fragments (60g) were recovered from the topsoil.

8.2 A modern make-up layer (L1001) consisting of a dark greyish black loam with frequent fragments of cbm and mortar, and medium angular stones was located directly below L1000 in all trenches. It was present at a depth of between 0.10m and 0.81m below the ground surface and was cut by all modern services.

8.3 Subsoil (L1002) was below L1001. It was a light yellowish brown silty clay with frequent fragments of cbm and occasional charcoal flecks. The archaeological features cut L1002, suggesting that they were relatively recent in date.

8.4 At the north-eastern end of Trenches 2 and 4 a layer of light yellowish brown clayey gravel was identified, L1014. It was located at 0.72m – 0.84m below the ground surface, and below L1002.

8.5 Below L1014 in Trench 2 was a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional cbm fragments, L1013. It was 0.84m – 0.92m below the ground surface and directly overlay the silty clay natural. Cbm (1012g) and animal bone (76g) were recovered from this context.

8.6 The natural deposit (L1003) was a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional small angular stones. It was located at a depth of 0.69m at the western extent of the site and at a depth of 1.17m on the eastern side of the site indicating a fairly level ground surface.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

### *9.1 Summary of the Archaeology*

9.1.1 The trial trench evaluation revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising a ditch (Tr.1 F1008), a gully terminus (Tr.1 F1004), two pits (Tr.1 F1006, Tr.2 F1015) and a posthole (Tr.2 F1011).

9.1.2 The majority of archaeological features were identified towards the western edge of the site (Trenches 1 and 2), and were later post-medieval to modern in date.

### *9.2 Interpretation of the Site: History & Archaeology*

9.2.1 The site had a relatively high potential for archaeological remains. Sites of archaeological importance are known from within and around Witham, for example, an

Iron Age hill fort and an Iron Age enclosure at Chipping Hill and a Romano-British temple at Ivy Chimneys. In the event small scale post-medieval features were revealed

9.2.2 No firm evidence of the former mill/ancillary buildings, depicted on cartographic sources from the early/mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and possibly demolished by 1922, was recorded. The mill buildings lay to the south of the site, closer to Chipping Hill/Powers Hall Road.

### 9.3 *Finds & Environmental Evidence*

9.3.1 The finds assemblage was limited to material of later post-medieval and modern date.

### 9.4 *Research Potential*

9.4.1 Despite the site's potential little archaeological material was revealed, and it is suggested that that any further investigation of the site will have a limited research potential.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Braintree museum. 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.

## **11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Teresa O' Connor of the Historic Environment Team of Essex County Council

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## **APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

## **APPENDIX 2            SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The Pottery**

*Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered a single sherd (2g) of factory-made refined white earthenware dated between the later 18<sup>th</sup> and earlier 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (c.1750-1850).

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 93 fragments (17657g) of highly abraded, late post-medieval/early modern CBM from four features. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g). Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification with individual fabrics identified for the brick and peg tile in the assemblage, described below. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

#### *Fabric Descriptions*

Fabric 1: (Brick) Oxidised red throughout (2.5YR 4/8-5/8). Inclusions are moderately-sorted and comprise common-abundant quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse iron ore (0.1-0.5mm) and sparse quartz/quartzite (0.5-2mm). The fabric is hard with an abrasive feel

Fabric 2: (Peg Tile) Oxidised red (2.5YR 4/8-5/6) surfaces with either an equally oxidised or dark grey reduced core. Inclusions comprise well-sorted sparse-common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) with sparse iron rich grains/iron ore (0.1-0.5mm). The fabric is hard with an abrasive feel.

#### *Commentary*

The highest concentration of CBM in the assemblage was recovered from Ditch F1008 L1009 and comprised 34 fragments (9181g) of brick and 30 fragments (2931g) of peg tile. The brick in the assemblage had dimensions of 230x105x65-70mm with a smooth base and slightly irregular faces and arrises, indicating that these fragments were derived from 'soft red bricks' probably manufactured in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but with a potential date range spanning the late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Ryan 1996, 95). The peg tile had a thickness of 12-14mm and both circular and diamond peg holes were observed, and while no further diagnostic features were extant the peg tile is almost certainly contemporary with the brick. The remaining CBM in the assemblage is all comparable to the form and fabric types recorded in Ditch f1008 l1009. Pit F1006 L1007 and Layer L1012 produced sparse fragments of both brick and peg tile, while Posthole F1011 L1012 produced a solitary small fragment of peg tile.

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## The Animal Bone

By Carina Phillips

Only seven fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand excavation. The bone is of moderate-good preservation. Cattle (*Bos sp.*), dog (*Canis familiaris*) and crow (*Corvus corone*) were identified during analysis (see table 1). One cattle radius exhibits cut marks suggestive of filleting. The small size of the assemblage restricts further consideration of the bone. If further excavation produces a similar sized assemblage discussion of the animal bone will also be limited.

Species	Count	Butchery evidence
Cattle	3	cut marks on one radius
Crow	1	-
Dog	1	-
Unidentifiable	2	-
Total	7	-

Table 1: Number of animal bone fragments and butchery evidence