

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND OFF BRAMBLE ROAD,
PREVIOUSLY KINGDOM HALL, POWERS HALL END,
WITHAM, ESSEX**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Phase 2**

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NGR: TL 81431 15484	Report No: 3017
District: Essex	Site Code: WH23
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project no: P2893
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Land off Bramble Road, Previously Kingdom Hall, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<p><i>In July 2007, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological evaluation of land off Bramble Road, previously Kingdom Hall, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex (NGR TL 81431 15484). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (07/00257/FUL, 06/02289/FUL, & 06/02290/FUL) for a proposed new residential development comprising 85 units.</i></p> <p><i>An Iron Age hillfort has been discovered to the south of the site (HER8106) with multi-period occupation starting during the Mesolithic/Neolithic and used into the medieval period. A Roman hypocaust was discovered immediately to the south of the site (HER8340) although the centre of the Roman settlement was located to the south-east. The town was populated during the Saxon period although the centre of the burh has never been discovered. The town prospered during the medieval period, but was never an influential settlement. In recent years land around Witham has been increasingly developed.</i></p> <p><i>Three features were recorded during this second phase of evaluation at the site; a Posthole (F1005), a Ditch (F1008) and a Gully (F1009). These features were isolated from one another and did not appear to be related to features depicted on the historic cartographic sources making interpretation difficult. No finds were recovered from these features and as a result they remain undated.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>February 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>
P. number	<i>P2893</i>	Site code	<i>WH23</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Community Centre</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Chelmsford</i>	<i>Witham</i>
SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 81431 15484</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>20m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>ECC HEM</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Lisa Smith</i>		
Funded by	<i>Persimmon Homes</i>		
Full title	<i>Land off Bramble Road, Previously Kingdom Hall, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Sparrow, P & Smith, L</i>		
Report no.	<i>3017</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2007</i>		

LAND OFF BRAMBLE ROAD,

PREVIOUSLY KINGDOM HALL, POWERS HALL END, WITHAM, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION Phase 2

SUMMARY

In July 2007, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological evaluation of land off Bramble Road, previously Kingdom Hall, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex (NGR TL 81431 15484). The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition required by the local planning authority (07/00257/FUL, 06/02289/FUL, & 06/02290/FUL) for a proposed new residential development comprising 85 units.

The site is bounded to the east by a small leat running off the River Brain that was the former supplier of water to the former mill to the south of the site. The southern boundary of the site is formed by a small wooded area, the north and west by a residential estate. The site is located on the floodplain of the River Brain, c. 4 metres to the west of the river and c. 1km north of the railway.

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

Three features were recorded during this second phase of evaluation at the site; a Posthole (F1005), a Ditch (F1008) and a Gully (F1009). These features were isolated from one another and did not appear to be related to features depicted on the historic cartographic sources making interpretation difficult. No finds were recovered from these features and as a result they remain undated.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land off Bramble Road, previously Kingdom Hall, Powers Hall End, Witham, Essex (NGR TL 81431 15484) (Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Persimmon Homes in advance of the proposed replacement of a St John's Ambulance building and Scout/Guide HQ, and the development of 85 new residential units (Planning Refs. 07/00257/FUL, 06/00289/FUL & 06/02290/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation of the site of the proposed new residential units was carried out as a second phase of evaluation and this report records the results of the investigation of this area. This phase of work follows the previous evaluation of the sites of the St John's Ambulance building and Scout Guide HQ (Harris *et al* 2007).

1.3 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch (ECC HEM, dated 31/05/07), and a written scheme of investigation compiled by AS (31/05/07). 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 1999), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.4 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

1.5 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).

1.6 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.

1.7 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 is bounded to the east by a small leat running off the River Brain that was the former supplier of water to the former mill to the south of the site. The southern boundary of the site is formed by a small wooded area, the north and west by a residential estate.

2.3 An Iron Age hillfort has been discovered to the south of the site (HER8106) with multi-period occupation starting during the Mesolithic/Neolithic and used into the medieval period. A Roman hypocaust was discovered immediately to the south of the site (HER8340) although the centre of the Roman settlement was located to the south-

east of the site. The town was populated during the Saxon period, as evidence of the inception of the market in 912 shows, although the centre of the burh has never been discovered. The town prospered during the medieval period, although it was never a very influential settlement. In recent years land around Witham has been increasingly developed, so much so that Chipping Hill and Witham form one settlement.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, geology and soils

3.1.1 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 (Ennis 2005).

3.1.2 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. The ideal crop for this soil is cereals, potatoes, field vegetables and some short term grassland; local glasshouse and horticultural crops (SSEW 1983). 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. The ideal crop for this soil is cereals, sugar beet and other arable crops, with some fruit and horticultural crops.

3.2 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric (450,000 – 750 BC)

3.2.1 There have been a small number of prehistoric finds recorded within one kilometre of the site at Bramble Road, Witham. The majority of these have been stray finds. Two finds dated to the Palaeolithic have been recorded; a small ovate flint hand-axe (HER8042) and a flint axe (HER8171). The presence of these identifies Palaeolithic activity in the area, albeit sparse. A possible Neolithic occupation area has been discovered at Chipping Hill where a multi-period site, dating from the Neolithic to medieval period has been identified (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, which was later used during the late Bronze Age, also for occupation.

3.2.2 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) from the area surrounding the site. This evidence suggests the area was widely utilised by prehistoric peoples but it was not until the Iron Age that it was settled permanently.

Iron Age (750 BC – AD43)

3.2.3 The Chipping Hill area of Witham was important during the Iron Age; a large hillfort comprising two concentric earthwork defences was excavated and concluded that 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 range with scattered Iron Age occupation around the exterior with a small amount 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 ever found in Britain. A stray find of a gold coin has been dated to the Iron Age and implies a degree of wealth in the area (HER45494).

Roman (AD43 – 410)

3.2.4 The Roman evidence from Witham is extensive although the majority of it comprises stray finds. Several coins have been recovered and represent 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). The hoarding of such a large amount of coins at this time is likely to be indicative of the economic and political stresses felt throughout the Roman Empire during the third century.

3.2.5 A perhaps, more significant discovery is that of the hypocaust (HER8340) close to the site. A hypocaust is usually indicative of a high-status building in the area although none have been found, the Roman centre of the settlement appears to have been focussed upon the Ivy Chimneys/Maltings Lane area of Witham although there have been a few finds recovered from the Chipping Hill camp area. A Roman road is marked on the modern Ordnance Survey map to the east of the site, which appears to run through the eastern part of modern Witham, this road was the London - Colchester route and although Witham was not a major Roman town it is located between the two Roman towns of Kelvedon (Canonium), north-east of Witham, and Chelmsford (Caesaromagus) to the south-west. The Roman site at Ivy Chimneys was located alongside the road. The most likely interpretation that evidence of Roman activity at Chipping Hill could provide is that it was on or outside the northern periphery of the settlement.

Saxon (AD410 – 1066)

3.2.6 A small amount of material evidence exists relating to the Saxon history of Witham. The date of inception of the market at Witham is given as AD912, this shows Witham was a settled community by this point (Website 1). The centre of the burh was once believed to have been located upon 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.

3.2.7 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, although not highly 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). There is no evidence to suggest the mill mentioned was situated in the location of Chipping Mill, just south of the site, however it is possible.

Medieval (1066 – 1550)

3.2.8 Witham is described as a half-hundred in Domesday Book (Williams & Martin 2003) 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 and population decreased. Although by 1086 the village was gradually becoming more prosperous.

3.2.9 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. A number of 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).

3.2.10 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 Wolvesford 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)

3.2.11 There are a number of records relating to the post-medieval period. The archaeological record attests to a fairly prosperous large village/small town although it was not a significantly important town in the local area, given its proximity to Chelmsford and Colchester which were more influential. 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). The site remained undeveloped during this period.

Modern (1900 – 2007)

3.2.12 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

3.2.13 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

3.3 Cartographic Sources

1730-1770 Map of Witham (Figure 4)

3.3.1 This map shows land ownership and a mill to the north of the site; no mill is depicted to the south, possibly because the map does not include all of the land in that area. The map does not show who owned the land on which the site now stands although the field to the north is noted as belonging to the Matthews family. 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 (Figure 5)

3.3.2 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 (Figure 6)

3.3.3 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 (see appendix 3). A small road or track is shown leading up to the site, possibly a back entrance for the house and gardens. This map is the first to show the leat running to the mill at Chipping Hill; the 1730-1770 map (figure 4) did not identify this. It is therefore possible that the leat was constructed between 1730 and 1839. However, it is also possible the leat was in place prior to 1770 and not included on the map. This map does not identify a mill to the north of the site which suggests it had been demolished. It is possible the Chipping Hill mill was constructed as a result of the abandonment of the northern mill, or after a disaster that destabilised the building, a newer building was erected closer to the road running through the town.

1879 First Edition Ordnance Survey Sheet 34.16 (Figure 7)

3.3.4 This map shows the site in considerably more detail. The buildings close to the southern part of the site, the mill buildings, are illustrated and 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.

3.3.5 This map shows the site had been built upon in the forty years between 1839 and 1879; a small, rectangular structure is present in the central southern section of the site on a north-west – south-east alignment. The track depicted in the Tithe Map of 1839 appears to have been extended to reach all the way across the site to the leat of the river Brain. The western part of the track however is shown as overgrown and potentially marshy.

3.3.6 The land on which the site stands had been divided into four by 1879. The southern most part of the site lay within the land owned by the mill. The rest of the southern part of the site is situated in a second field, the main land-use of which, appears to have been pasture; a trough was noted on the map in this field. The land could also have been an orchard due to the alignment of the trees depicted upon this map. The northern most section of the site is located in a large field, south of which is a smaller field which appears to have been subdivided into two. The leat of the mill runs through the eastern part of the site on a north-west - south-east alignment.

1897 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Sheet 34.16 (Figure 8)

3.3.7 This map shows the site had not been altered a great deal since 1879. The small rectangular building shown in the central part of the site is no longer illustrated; this suggests it had been demolished. The track within the site was still intact and well-defined at this point although to the west of the site the track appears to have deteriorated and appears marshy, it no longer connected with the road to the west of the site. The map shows that Mr. Everitt owned the land comprising, and to the west of, the site and possibly the mill and its associated buildings. The mill complex remained largely unchanged.

1922 New Series Ordnance Survey 45.7 & 45.11 (Figure 9)

3.3.8 This map shows the site had been slightly developed by 1922; at the very southern edge of the site is marked a small rectangular building on an east-west alignment. This was the only building to have been constructed upon the site by 1922. The middle section of the site is illustrated with trees growing in an orderly fashion suggesting a possible orchard. The track in the middle of the site was still marked by marshy ground to the west of the site, although its western most point appears to have been re-connected with the road, suggesting it was in use again at this point. The mill complex appeared largely unchanged, though part of the range of mill buildings extending to the south-west seems to have been demolished.

1955 Ordnance Survey TL81NW (Figure 10)

3.3.9 This map shows many changes had occurred to the south-west of the site; a row of houses was constructed along the road through the town. No alterations to the site had occurred between 1922 and 1955 although the small rectangular building on an east-west alignment is no longer shown.

3.4 Pictorial Sources

Chipping Bridge Watermill c. 1840 (Gyford 1999) (Figure 11)

3.4.1 This illustration depicts the watermill at Chipping Bridge. This would later become the mill to the south of the site. This illustration does not show any part of the site; however it is a useful aid for presenting the site in its historical context. There appear to be a large number of buildings associated with the mill which were surrounded by very tall trees and large shrubs.

River Brain c. 1910 (Marriage 1995) (Figure 12)

3.4.2 This picture shows the river Brain in around 1910. The photograph does not show any part of the site but it does show that the banks of the river were used for cattle-grazing and were surrounded by tall trees. The photograph also shows the river was lined with reeds which are depicted on several of the cartographic sources (e.g. fig. 6)

3.5 Archaeological background and potential

3.5.1 Witham has abundant evidence of later prehistoric activity, with Neolithic finds (HER8051, 14050) and Bronze Age artefacts (HER8453, 17992). The Iron Age hillfort at Chipping Hill is located just south of the site (HER8106, 8114, 45491). Also just south of the site a evidence of a Roman hypocaust was discovered suggesting the presence of a high-status building nearby (HER8340). The site is not located close to the Roman road although it is likely to have been situated on the northern periphery of the Roman settlement.

3.5.2 The town is said to have a Saxon centre however this is yet to be located, the majority of the records for the Saxon periods are laced with conjecture and there have been very few actual Saxon period finds recorded (e.g. HER8037). The medieval evidence is more abundant than that of the Saxon period; the village increased in population and wealth but was never a very influential town. During the medieval period Chipping Hill and Witham were two separate villages; the southern part of Witham is said to have been founded by the Knights Templar in or around 1212.

3.5.3 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. 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 19th century onwards, possibly demolished by 1922.

4 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

4.1 Three trial trenches, totalling 40m, were excavated as part of a fifteen-trench phased investigation at Land off Bramble Road, Witham, Essex. The trenches were identified as Trenches 12, 13 and 14 in accordance with the proposed trench layout.

4.2 It was agreed with Essex County Council Planning Archaeologist, Teresa O'Connor, that a fourth trench, Trench 15, would not be excavated due to its proximity to residential buildings, associated services and a footpath.

4.3 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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

5.1 Trench 12 (Fig.13; DPs 1 & 2)

<i>Sample section 8: NE end, SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 21.53m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000. Topsoil. Dark greyish black sandy loam with occasional flecks of limestone and ceramic building material (cbm)
0.35 – 0.71m	L1002. Subsoil. Dark brown silty clay with occasional rounded gravel, cbm and charcoal flecks
0.71 – 0.91m	L1003. Brown silty clay. Mid reddish brown silty clay with moderate fragments of cbm and occasional rounded gravel
0.91m+	L1004. Silty clay natural. Mid reddish brown silty clay

<i>Sample section 9: SE side, NW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.38m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000. Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.60m	L1001. Modern make-up layer. Dark greyish black sandy loam with frequent fragments of cbm and concrete
0.60 – 1.13m	L1002. Subsoil. As above.
1.13 – 1.46m	L1003. Brown silty clay. As above.
1.46 – 1.58m+	L1004. Silty clay natural. As above.

Description: A posthole (F1005) was present in Trench 12.

Posthole F1005 (length 0.20m, width 0.17m, depth 0.33m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravel. It contained no finds.

5.2 Trench 13 (Fig. 13; DPs 3 & 4)

<i>Sample Section 3: SE end, NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 22.71m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.06m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.12
0.06 – 0.30m	L1003. Brown silty clay layer. As above Tr.12

0.30m +	L1004. Silty clay natural. As above Tr.12
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<i>Sample Section 4: NW end, NE facing</i>	
<i>0.00 = 22.72m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.12
0.08 – 0.30m	L1003. Brown silty clay layer. As above Tr.12
0.30m+	L1004. Silty clay natural. As above Tr.12

Description: A gully (F1009) was present in Trench 13.

Gully F1009 (length >2.0m, width 0.42m, depth 0.10m) was aligned NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. It contained no finds.

5.3 Trench 14 (Fig. 13; DPs 5 & 6)

<i>Sample Section 5: E side, NW facing</i>	
<i>0.00 = 21.19m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr. 12
0.18 – 0.61m	L1001. Modern make-up layer. As above Tr. 12
0.61 – 0.93m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Tr. 12
0.93 – 1.35m	L1003. Brown silty clay. As above Tr. 12
1.35 – 1.49m +	L1004. Silty clay natural. As above Tr. 12

<i>Sample Section 6: NE end, NW facing</i>	
<i>0.00 = 21.53m AOD</i>	
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr. 12
0.43 – 0.64m	L1002. Subsoil. As above Tr. 12
0.64 – 0.86m	L1003. Brown silty clay. As above Tr. 12
0.86m +	L1004. Silty clay natural. As above Tr. 12

Description: A ditch (F1008) was present in Trench 14.

F1007 was a ditch (length >2m, width 0.48m, depth 0.15m) located at the NE end of Trench 14, and orientated NW/SE. It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a mid orangey brown clayey silt with no inclusions. It contained no finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The Topsoil, L1000, a dark greyish black sandy loam with occasional flecks of limestone and CBM was seen in all trenches. It ranged between 0.06m and 0.43m in depth from west to east due to a gradual drop in ground level towards the leat.

7.2 A layer of modern make-up material (L1001) was identified below the topsoil in Trenches 12 and 14. It was seen at between 0.18m – 0.61m below the ground surface. It consisted of a dark greyish black sandy loam with frequent fragments of CBM and concrete and can be attributed to the demolition of buildings previously in existence on the site.

7.3 A subsoil layer L1002 was recorded after the removal of L1001 in Trenches 12 and 14. It was identified as a dark brown silty clay with occasional rounded gravel, CBM and charcoal flecks. This layer was consistent throughout these two trenches measuring between 0.35m – 0.71m below the ground surface. L1002 appears to follow the fall in gradient across the site from east to west and may represent an old ground surface. It seals layer L1003.

7.4 A mid reddish brown silty clay layer with moderate fragments of CBM and occasional rounded gravel was identified and assigned as L1003. It was seen at a depth of between 0.64m – 1.35m and in all trenches it sealed the archaeological features.

7.5 The natural geology was consistent across the site. It was identified as a mid reddish brown silty clay. It was encountered at 0.30m at the western end of the site gradually sloping to a depth of 0.86m at the eastern extent of the site. This gradient is likely to be natural relating to the nearby River Brain.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary of the archaeology

8.1.1 This phase of trial trenching at Land off Bramble Lane revealed a small number of archaeological features comprising one ditch, one gully and one posthole.

8.1.2 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.

8.2 Preservation of the archaeology

8.2.1 The archaeological remains recorded were relatively shallow and not exceptionally well preserved.

8.3 Research potential

8.3.1 It is not felt that further investigation has significant research potential.

9 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

Archive records (with an inventory) will be deposited at Braintree museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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2. http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/content_page.asp?content_page_id=135&content_parents=48,94

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a *c.* 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER). The locations of the sites are shown in Figure 3. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. No listed buildings are recorded within this information as Essex Historic Environment Record are currently working on the files.

HER No.	NGR TL	Description
<i>Prehistoric (450,000-750BC)</i>		
8042	82 14	Palaeolithic. Small ovate flint hand-axe with point found at quarry.
8171	8208 1539	Pal. Flint-axe.
8051	80 14	Unpolished Neolithic flint axe.

14050	819 151	Chipping Hill Camp. Phase 1 Mes/Neo flint work. Phase 2 Late Neo, flints and Grooved Ware, poss. domestic occupation. Phase 3 LBA pottery and occupation.
8044	81 14	Neo – BA Transitional bronze palstave.
17589	82 15	Polished or partly polished axe
8453	820 160	Late BA socketed axe from Rickstones Road.
17992	8182 1542	Sherd of pottery, could be earlier than BA. Found with worked flint.
13393	8230 1485	Fine barbed & tanged flint arrowhead Green Low type g early-mid 2 nd MM BC.
Iron Age (750BC-AD43)		
8106	8198 1512	Chipping Hill. 2 concentric earthwork defences. Hill fort.
8114	8193 1512	Chipping Hill Temples Field. 3 skeletons and 3 iron weapons during railway construction. La Tene II-III pokers.
45491	8 1	Gold Coin, cureaux pattern? horse L. ring & dot above, branch below. <i>Dubnovilla</i>
Roman (AD43-410)		
8036	82 15	Temple Meadow, Witham. Roman pottery vessel.
8045	81 14	Coin of Tetricus AD270-273
8046	81 14	Roman pottery
8107	8198 1512	Chipping Hill. Pottery including Castor Ware beaker, coins, glass indicated occupation within the camp.
8112	8207 1500	Gold coin of Honorius AD395-410
8113	815 149	Coin of Valens and one of Gratian. AD364-378.
8119	817 153	Gold coin of Honorius AD395-410
8122	8172 1537	Church of St Nicholas. Roman tile.
8167	8228 1494	Roman potsherds.
8340	8145 1538	Roman hypocaust, Roman brick.
8364	820 161	Coins, no other details.
8370	8167 1512	RB tile, pottery and quern frags.
8444	815 149	Coins of Valens and Gratian. POSSIBLE DUPLICATE OF 8113.
8445	818 144	Coin of Constans in Mill Lane AD337-350
14052	820 152	Scatter of RB pottery at Chipping Hill Camp.
14053	823 150	Scatter of RB pottery
14054	8204 1504	Roman coins. Silver denarius of Trajan, poss. found here.
45493	82 15	Hoard. 302 barbarous radiates, all imitations of Antoniniani. Dated AD270-284.
Saxon (410-1066)		
8037	82 15	Pottery and silver St. Edmund penny
8108	8198 1512	Chipping Hill. St. Neots ware pottery, coin, hearth and well found. Originally thought to have been site of Saxon <i>burh</i> but now is Iron Age hillfort.
8121	817 153	Chipping Hill. Site of Old Witham. Around a small triangular market place
8123	8172 1537	Church thought to have Saxon predecessor on site but no material evidence.
8166	820 150	Possible D-shaped enclosure at Wulvesford.
Medieval (1066-1550)		
8109	8198 1512	Chipping Hill. Pit containing C12-C13 pottery. Some refortification of camp.
8111	8193 1498	Chipping Hill. C14 bronze figure of Madonna and child.
8117	817 152	41 Chipping Hill. C15-17 earthenware & C12-14 coarse wares. 18kg of pottery.
8120	8180 1537	Medieval pottery.
8124	8172 1537	Church of St. Nicholas. Constructed C12 with later alterations.
8170, 8175	8224 1495	2 Fe arrowheads, Fe spearhead, horseshoe and potsherds, some Bellarmine sherds.
8436	8223 1506	Pottery. Norman date AD1066+
14051	819 150	DUPLICATE OF 8111
14067	8165 1475	Witham mill was inside Wulvesford earthwork. Leat of mill survived.
14068	8075 1640	Witham Parva. Poss. site of medieval water mill.
14069	8145 1545	Chipping Hill water mill. SAME AS 14067.

14398	8221 1458	Witham- Collins Lane. Ltd occupation evidence. Pottery C13th with sherds of Headingham fine wares and Mill Green jugs.
17993	8182 1542	Ditch with C13-C14 pottery. Pits of medieval date cut this ditch.
Post-medieval (1550-1900)		
8105	8114 1536	A chalybeate spring.
8110	8195 1535	Chipping Hill. C19 building activity – nail, bottle, pot, clay pipe.
8118	817 152	41 Chipping Hill. C15-17 earthenware & C12-14 coarse wares. 18kg of pottery.
8125	8172 1537	Church of St. Nicholas. Alterations. Late C16 monument and Jacobean alms-dish.
8341	8145 1548	Site of Witham Palace C16th mansion, demolished C19th
14399	8221 1458	Cobbled surface beneath which were frags. of post-med tile and pottery. Pits with post-med material also excavated.
15049	82238 14544	The Maltings and malthouse. c.1700.
15287	8220 1528	Malthouses. 2 parallel ranges with central rail siding depicted on OS 1897. mid-C19. Demolished 1950 and 1960.
15475	8070 1625	Brickyard at Faulkboune Hall. c. 1870s. No upstanding remains.
17994	8182 1542	Oval pit with one sherd of Post-med pottery, ditch.
18290	8150 1540	Watermill. Burnt down 1775 & 1882, not rebuilt 2 nd time. Mill House survived.
18507	8369 1145	Witham to Maldon dismantled railway line. Opened 1843 closed April 1966.
18903	803 164	Faulkbourne Hall Designed Landscape. Late C19 gardens.
40503	81942 14528	19 Guithaven Street, former site of Witham Saving Bank. Early C19th.
Modern (1900-2007)		
17941	8187 1534	Wilson House. Archaeological observation – only modern overburden.
8115	8210 1495	Modern service pipes only features uncovered at 33 The Avenue.
20585	8143 1457	Road barrier encircled Witham during WWII under railway bridge, Spa Road Nr. Water Tower. Nothing now survives.
20586	8207 1456	Ammunition Shelter (destroyed) “The Wilderness”, Newland St. No ammunition shelter visible in 1946 photo.
20587	8177 1458	Pillbox (destroyed) corner of Guithaven Street. Formed part of WWII defences. Nothing now remains.
20589	8233 1473	Ammunition Shelter (destroyed), garden adj. The Grove, Newland St.
20593	8215 1483	Ammunition Shelter (destroyed), pasture field, Collingwood Rd.
20596	8203 1499	Ammunition Shelter (destroyed) nr Church House, Collingwood road.
20598	8196 1505	Spigot Mortar Emplacement (Destroyed), Cattle Market, Witham.
20599	8242 1507	Spigot Mortar Emplacement (Destroyed), W of Catholic Bridge.
20601	8158 1533	Road Barrier (destroyed), Chipping Hill Bridge,
20302	8227 1553	Pillbox (destroyed), Cut Throat Lane.
20603	8228 1553	Road Barrier (destroyed), Cut Throat Lane.
20604	8196 1559	Pillbox (destroyed) Braintree Road/Chalks Road
20605	8198 1572	Road barrier (destroyed) Railway Bridge, Braintree Road
Undated		
8172	81 14	Transitional bronze palstave. APPEARS TO BE DUPLICATE OF 8051.
8369	8176 1497	Road. Straight line of gravel seen from a train in 1944, possibly from gravel pit.
8423	8195 1533	Bank (earthwork). Cut through bank of outer line of earthworks at White Horse Lane, all made ground.
14111	804 161	Cropmarks of linear features – field boundaries. Some shown on OS 1 st ed.
14112	805 158	Cropmarks of linear features – field boundaries inc. part of parish boundary of Witham.
14114	810 155	Cropmarks - Field boundaries now under housing estate.
14115	819 163	Cropmarks of linear features – field boundaries.
16406	8230 1467	Freebourne Farm Estate. No mat earlier than 19 th century found.
18015	812 162	Cropmarks of linear features and at least one field boundary.

45116	8187 1517	13 Chipping Hill. Undated subsoil horizon contained charcoal and burnt clay.
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APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

The following sources were consulted at Essex Record Office.

Date	Title	Scale	Reference
1730-1770	Map of Witham	-	D/P 30/28/16
1777	Chapman and André's Map of Essex	-	-
1839	Witham Tithe Map	-	-
1839	Witham Tithe Apportionment	-	-
1879	First Edition Ordnance Survey Sheet 34.16	25" : 1 mile	-
1897	Second Edition Ordnance Survey Sheet 34.16	25" : 1 mile	-
1922	New Series Ordnance Survey Sheets 45.7 & 45.11	25" : 1 mile	-
1955	Ordnance Survey Sheet T181NW	6" : 1 mile	-

APPENDIX 3 WITHAM TITHE APPORTIONMENT

Plot No.	Owner	Occupier	Plot/field name	Land Use	Area (a.r.p)
582a	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Thomas Wood	Meadow	Grass	3.1.24
582	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Meadow	Grass	2.2.1
583a	Robert Bretnell	Daniel Hervey Piper	Mill Dams	Grass	3.1.31
583	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Serpentine Walk	-----	0.1.37
584	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Meadow	Grass	3.2.38
585	Robert Bretnell	Daniel Hervey Piper	House, Watermill & premises		0.1.29
623	Thomas Shoobridge	Thomas Shoobridge	Mount Meadow	Grass	2.3.18
624	John Shaw Manley	Robert Bretnell	Meadow	Grass	0.3.31
625	John Shaw Manley	Abraham Springate	-----	Cottage & Garden	0.1.24
626	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	James Beadel	Knee Field	Arable	8.2.17
630a	Robert Bretnell	John Cutts	House, Yard & Gardens		5.0.23
631	Robert Bretnell	Robert Bretnell	House, Yard & Garden		0.1.26
632	Robert Bretnell	William Hutley	Witham Place Lane	Arable	8.0.26
633	Robert Bretnell	William Hutley	Witham Place Lane	Arable	2.1.14
634	Robert Bretnell	William Hutley	Witham Place Lane	Arable	3.1.17
635b	Robert Bretnell	William Hutley	In Dick Mead	Grass	2.1.9
635a	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	Robert Bretnell	In Dick Mead	Grass	0.2.29
636	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	James Beadel	Lower Balls	Arable	7.0.24
637	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	James Beadel	Upper Balls	Arable	4.1.38
638	Rev. John Bramston (glebe)	James Beadel	Further Balls	Arable	4.3.16

