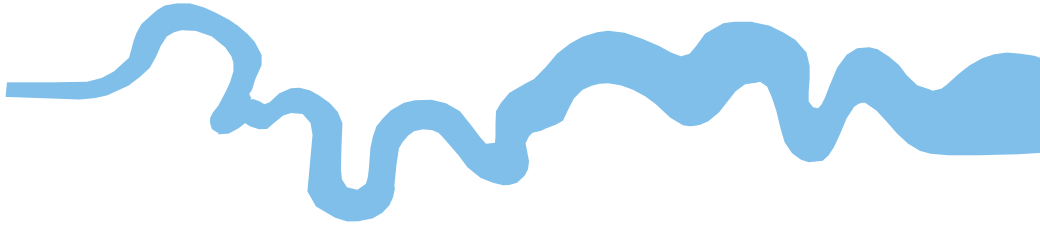


T V A S



EAST MIDLANDS

**Land at Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe,
Colchester, Essex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: ERW21/184B

(TM0420 2350)

**Land at Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe,
Colchester, Essex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Manor Oak Homes Limited**

by Steve Ford
TVAS (East Midlands)

Site Code RW21/184B

November 2021

Summary

Site name: Land at Elstead Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex

Grid reference: TM0420 2350

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 21st-26th October 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: ERW21/184B

Area of site: c. 0.88 hectares

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended. No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were recovered from any of the trenches with only late post-medieval pottery ('china'), brick/tile and slate noted in the topsoil. Two features were investigated but are considered to be tree holes. On the basis of these results the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands and will be deposited at Colchester Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 08.11.21
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Land at Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Report 21/184B

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land at Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex (TM0420 2350) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Oscar Briggs of Manor Oak Homes Limited, 21 The Point, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NU.

Planning permission has been sought from Colchester Borough Council for the construction of new housing on two separate land parcels totalling c. 4.5ha on land to the west of Colchester Road (TM 0398 2312) and north of Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex (TM 0420 2350). In light of the possibility of archaeological features being present which could be disturbed by ground works for the development, field evaluation by means of trial trenching has been requested in order to inform the planning application. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the Council's policies on archaeology. This report deals only with the land north of Elmstead Road (Fig. 1).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Simon Wood, Archaeological Officer to Colchester Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Luciano Cicu between 21st-26th October 2021 and the site code is ERW21/184B. The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands, Wellingborough and will be deposited at Colchester Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern fringe of Wivenhoe, a large village which lies to the south east of Colchester. (Fig. 1). The site is a rectangular parcel of land on the north side of Elmstead Road, comprising c. 0.88 hectares, of former arable land, with housing to the south west and farmland to the north. The site is flat and lies at a height of 30m aOD. The geology is mapped as cover loam- pebbly sandy clay which was observed in the trenches (BGS 2010).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Colne Valley with the major Iron Age, Roman and later town of Colchester a short distance away to the north west (Hawkes and Hull 1947). Numerous sites and finds are recorded in general, may observed as cropmarks from the air such as ring ditches (levelled Bronze Age round barrows) and enclosure complexes of Iron Age into Roman settlements. Relatively few finds are recorded for the environs of the site itself with a few metal detected finds of medieval and later date from nearby. The archaeological potential of the sites has been further considered by geophysical survey (Mola 2021) The geophysical survey revealed a number of vague linear and curvilinear anomalies none of which were convincingly of archaeological origin.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

Specific research objectives were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits as indicated by geophysical survey are present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy if needed.

The potential and significance of any such deposits were to be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in Historic England Research Agenda (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Medlycott (2011) and the East of England Research Framework (ALGAO 2021) as necessary.

It was proposed to excavate 6 trenches, each 25m long and between 1.6-2m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoil heaps were to be metal detected and monitored for finds.

Results

All six trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). All trenches were 1.8m wide and ranged in length from 22.3m to 25.2m, and depths were between 0.32m and 0.4m. Trench 2 was extended sideways slightly to further investigate a possible feature. It was noted that the natural geology (clayey gravel) was frequently scored by plough scars and (less so) field drains. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW- NE and was 24.9m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil above clayey sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4 ; Pls 2 and 4)

Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE and was 25.2m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil above clayey sandy gravel natural geology. A possible pit (1) was investigated at 8m from the SW end, and the trench was locally extended to fully examine the feature in plan. The feature was 2m long, *c.* 1.6m wide and 0.2m deep with a bowl-shaped profile. It was infilled with a markedly mixed fill of grey clayey sand with dark grey striations. No finds were recovered and the feature is considered to be a tree hole. A second similar feature (2) was also examined and also considered to be a tree hole.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned N-S and was 25.7m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil above clayey sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 3, 4, and 6; Pl. 5)

Trench 4 was aligned SE-NW and was 24.4m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil above clayey sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned W- E and was 24.1m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil above 0.12m of subsoil above clayey sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned SW-NE and was 22.3m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil above 0.08m of subsoil above sandy clay with gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

Conclusion

The evaluation revealed no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest. Two possible features were investigated but dismissed as tree holes. On the basis of these results the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

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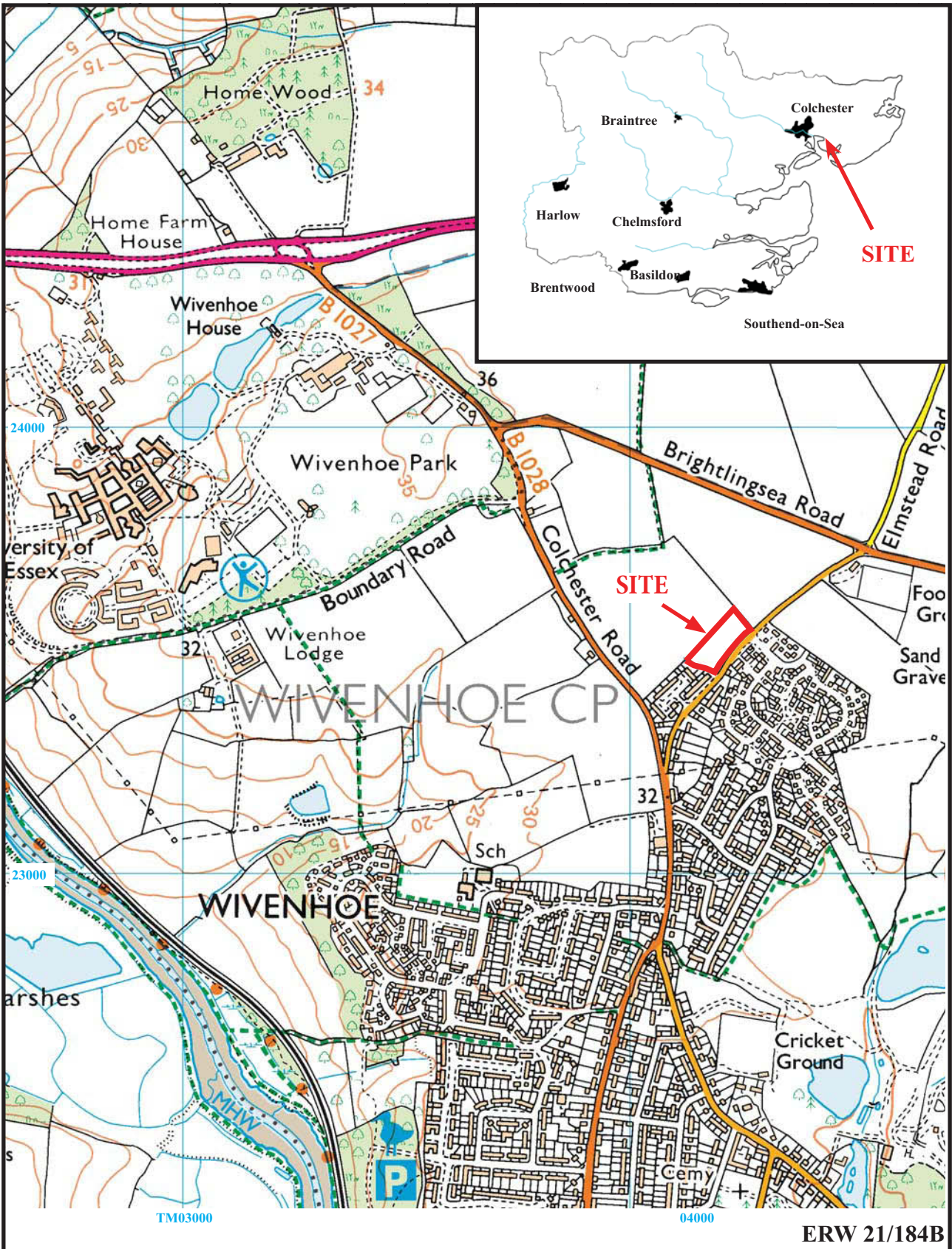
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details
 0m at W or S end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.9	1.8	0.38	0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36m+ light brown silty gravel with sandy clay (Natural geology) [Pl. 1]
2	25.2	1.8	0.36	0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36m+ Natural geology. Treehole 1 [Pls 2 and 4]
3	23.7	1.8	0.40	0–0.21m topsoil; 0.21–0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ Natural geology.
4	24.4	1.8	0.36	0–0.16m topsoil; 0.16–0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ Natural geology.
5	24.1	1.8	0.38	0–0.17m topsoil; 0.17–0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ Natural geology. [Pl. 3]
6	22.3	1.8	0.32	0–0.18m topsoil; 0.18–0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ Natural geology. Ditch 2,/3.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
4	1	52-3	Ditch	Post-medieval	Pottery (china)
6	2	54	Ditch	Post-medieval?	
6	3	55	Ditch recut of 2	Post-medieval?	
16	4	-	Same as 1	Post-medieval	By association
17	5	-	Same as 2	Post-medieval	By association



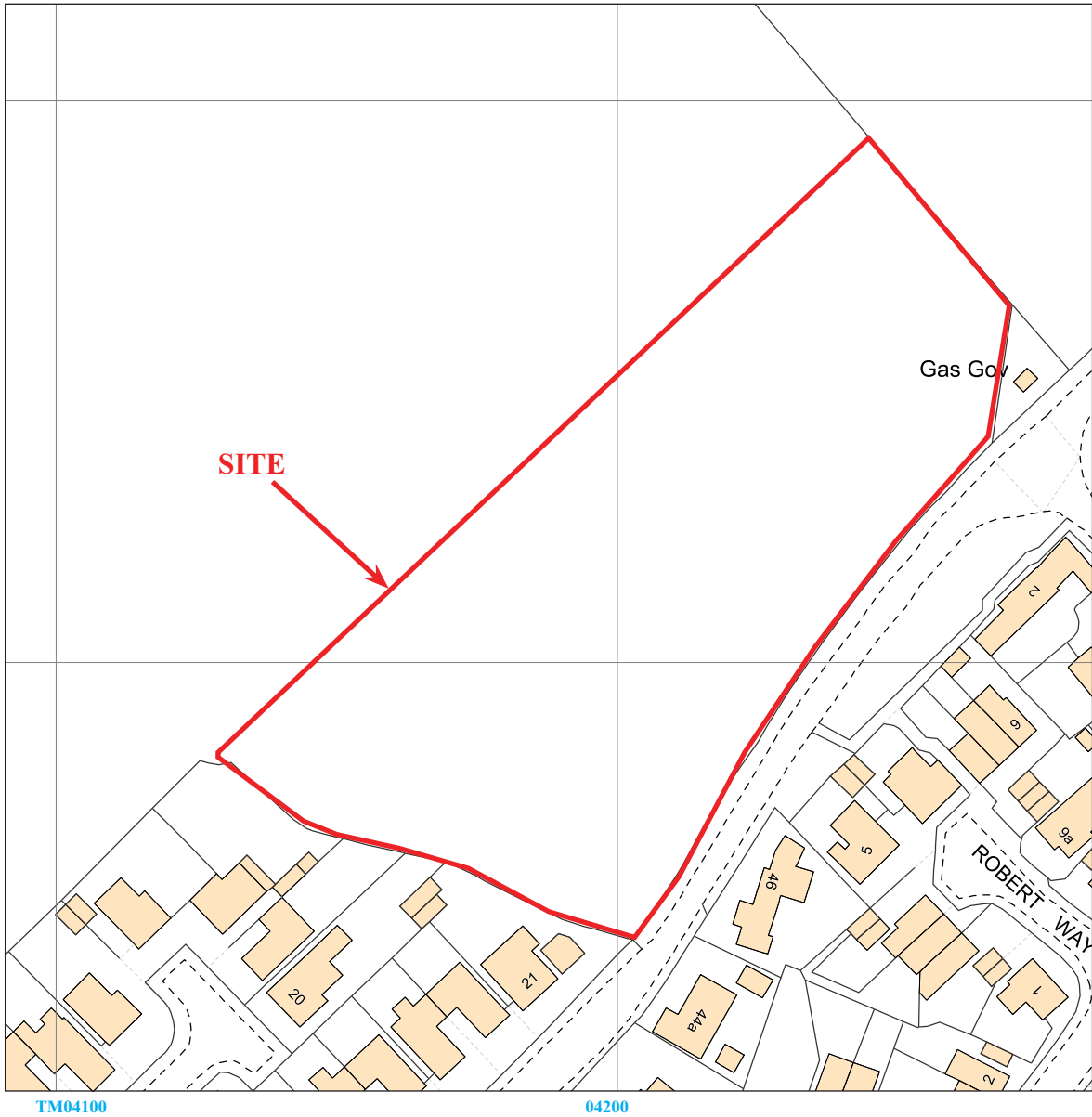
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Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 1. Location of site.**

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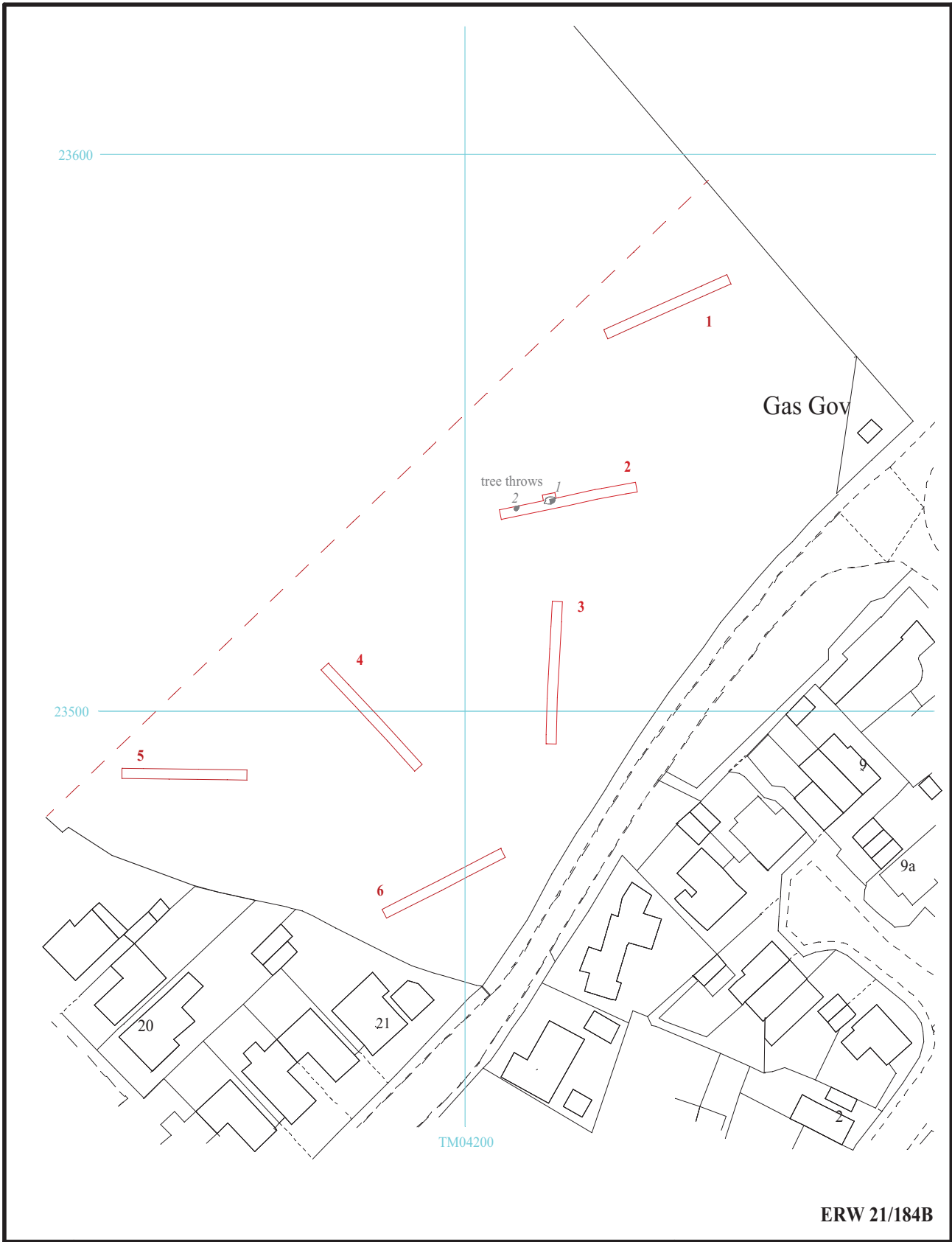
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Figure 3. Detailed location of site.

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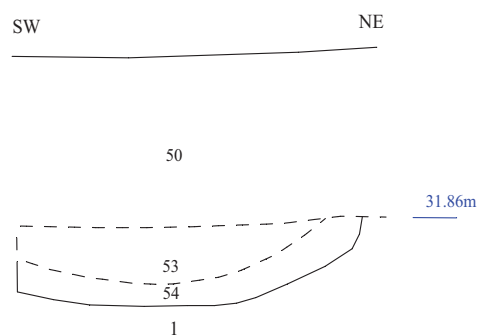
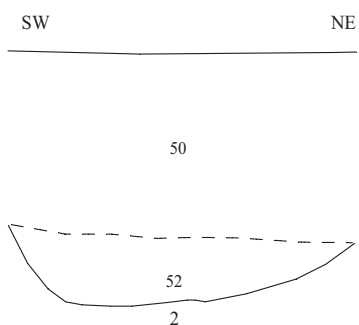


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.





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Figure 4. Sections of tree throws





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North East,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking East,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 5, looking West,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 2, pit 1, looking North,
Scales: horizontal 1m and 0.3m, vertical 0.1m.

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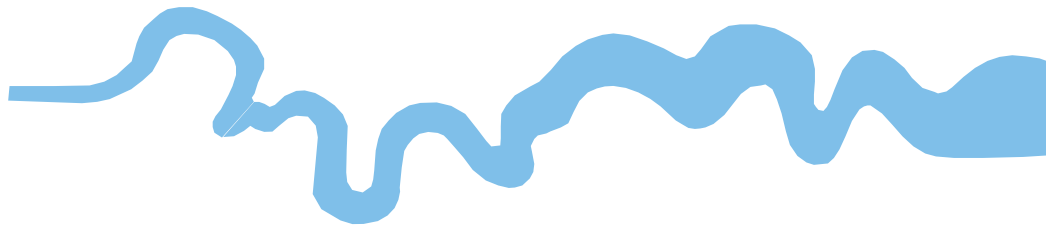
**Land at Elmstead Road,
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 to 4.**



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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