

**LAND ADJOINING
No.1 CHURCHGATE STREET
HARLOW, ESSEX**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

NEXUS HERITAGE

CA PROJECT: 3333
CA REPORT: 11019

JANUARY 2011

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date	26 January 2011
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date	26 January 2011
approved by	Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed	
date	28 January 2011
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land Adjoining No. 1 Churchgate Street
Location: Harlow, Essex
NGR: TL 4830 1156
Type: Evaluation
Date: 17-19 January 2011
Planning Reference: TL 4830 1156
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Harlow Museum
Site Code: HACS 11

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2011 at the request of Nexus Heritage on Land Adjoining No. 1 Churchgate Street, Harlow. Three trenches were excavated.

One undated probable ditch, one medieval ditch, and a ditch and two pits containing pottery and ceramic building material of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were revealed in two of the three trenches.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Nexus Heritage on Land Adjoining No. 1 Churchgate Street, Harlow Essex (centred on NGR: TL 4830 1156; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to determination of a planning application for construction of a new house, drive and parking on the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation (ECC 2010) prepared by Adam Garwood, Historic Environment Officer, Essex County Council, the archaeological advisors to Harlow Council, and with a subsequent detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Adam Garwood. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* (ALGAO 2003: East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). It was monitored by Adam Garwood, including a site visit on 18th January.

The site

- 1.3 The site comprises an area of approximately 0.175ha and is situated within Old Harlow and lies along the eastern side of Churchgate Street, close to its junction with Sheering Road to the north and Mill Lane to the south. (Fig. 2). The site is currently rough grassland and scrub, and is generally flat, lying at approximately 58m AOD.
- 1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation. These deposits are mapped as being sealed by Head deposits, comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel, of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2011)

Archaeological background

- 1.5 The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) shows that the development site is situated within an area of great archaeological potential, within the known medieval extent of Old Harlow (HER 3625), along Churchgate Street and adjacent to the focus of the medieval settlement, the parish Church of St Mary and St Hugh. Harlow was a polyfocal settlement, the dominant landowner was the Abbey of St Edmunds in Bury, Suffolk. The oldest part is Harlowbury which was the manorial centre and there may also have been an early medieval village on this site. The second focus, Churchgate Street appears to have developed before the end of the 11th century, possibly as a result of the deliberate movement of the village at Harlowbury to Churchgate Street. The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin is sited here, the earliest portions dating to the 12th century. The third focus of settlement is Old Harlow on the Hertford-Dunmow road, and it appears to have been deliberately planted by the Abbots of Bury St Edmunds, following the granting of a market and annual fair in 1218. The development is located toward the street frontage and was considered to have the potential for archaeological deposits to exist in this location.

Archaeological objectives

- 1.6 The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the character, quality, date and extent of any archaeological remains or deposits surviving within the site. This information will assist Harlow Council in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource, and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development.

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of three trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 1 could not be opened due to tree protection requirements and insufficient space for spoil storage. The locations and sizes of trenches 2, 3 and 4 were altered slightly for the same reasons. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2009).

- 1.8 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Harlow Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain. An Essex Historic Environment Record summary form has also been completed and submitted to the HER.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

- 2.2 No archaeological features were recorded or finds recovered from Trench 2. The clay substrate was overlain by 0.4m of subsoil and 0.25m of topsoil.

Trench 3 (Figs 2-3)

- 2.3 Ditch 303, on an approximately north-south alignment, cut subsoil 301. It could not be fully excavated due to safety considerations. It contained a single exposed silty clay fill 304 from which six sherds of medieval pottery, a single piece of medieval

ceramic building material (CBM) and a single piece of residual Roman CBM were recovered. This deposit was sealed by the existing topsoil 300. Safety considerations prevented full excavation of this feature.

Trench 4 (Figs 2-3)

- 2.4 One side of a possible ditch 413 was observed in section towards the north-eastern end of trench 4. It was cut through the subsoil 401, and contained a single silty clay fill 408 from which no artefactual material was retrieved.
- 2.5 Ditch 403 was cut through fill 408 and lay on an approximately north-south alignment. It could not be fully excavated due to safety considerations. It contained a clay fill 410 which appeared to have been tipped into the north-eastern side of the open ditch. This was then partially sealed by silty clay fill 409, clay levelling deposit 411, and a topsoil like deposit 402. Artefactual material of 18th-century date was recovered from deposit 409 and post-medieval date from deposit 402.
- 2.6 Two pits, 405 and 407, were cut into the uppermost ditch fill 402. The irregular nature of the sides and bases of these pits and the similarity of the respective fills to the overlying topsoil suggested that these features were modern tree-boles. Artefactual material of late post-medieval and modern date was recovered from the fills of both features.

The Finds and Palaeoenvironmental Evidence

- 2.7 Quantities of artefactual material were recovered from five deposits consisting of medieval and post-medieval pottery, Roman and medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material and an iron nail. Quantities of animal bone and oyster shell were also noted (Appendix B).
- 2.8 Medieval pottery was recorded from four deposits 304 (fill of ditch 303), 402 (fill of ditch 403), 406 (fill of pit 407) and 409 (fill of ditch 403). Identifiable fabrics consist of oxidised coarsewares and one oxidized sandy fabric with patchy clear glaze. Later medieval dating is suggested in the 13th to 15th century range. Comparable material is described from Rivenhall, Essex (Drury 1993, 78–92). Recorded vessels are restricted to a jar with ‘developed’ everted rims jar from deposits 304 and 409 and a base from a vessel with sagging base and knife trimming, recovered from deposit 409.

- 2.9 Post-medieval/modern pottery was recovered from two deposits 404 (fill of pit 405) and 409 (fill of ditch 403). Fabrics comprise refined whiteware, black-glazed earthenware, red-glazed earthenware and 'flowerpot' unglazed earthenware. All material is considered to date to the 18th or 19th centuries.
- 2.10 Roman ceramic building material, identifiable as flanged roof tile (*tegula*), was noted from two deposits 304 and 402. All appears to be residual within medieval or later-dated deposits. The remaining ceramic building material is attributable to the late medieval/post-medieval periods and comprises mainly tile, including roof tile with round peg hole from deposit 409. Brick fragments from deposit 402 probably date no earlier than the 18th century.
- 2.11 Small quantities of clay tobacco pipe were recorded from deposits 402 and 409 and consisting of two stems and one bowl corresponding to Oswald form 11 dated to 1730-60 (Oswald A. 1975, fig.3, G, 11).
- 2.12 Animal bone was recovered from three deposits; ditch fill 402, pit fill 406 and ditch fill 409, all of late post-medieval date. The assemblage totalled five bones weighing 203g. The only taxon identified was sheep/goat the remainder being too fragmented for full identification and was described as cow-sized. It is likely that this small assemblage represents food or butchery waste. The presence in pit fill 406 of a cow-sized long bone sawn through at both ends may indicate preparation of bone as a raw material for bone working.

3. DISCUSSION

Roman

- 3.1 Two fragments of Roman roof tile (*tegula*) were recovered, and both are residual within medieval and later contexts. No in situ Roman features were identified during the evaluation.

Medieval

- 3.2 The infill, 304, of ditch 303 contained six sherds of medieval pottery in relatively good condition, dating to the 14th to 15th century. Although a ditch on a very similar alignment in trench 4 (403), containing post-medieval pottery, could conceivably be

part of the same ditch, the differing fill characteristics and width of the two features suggest the latter has at least been modified at a later date. Undated possible ditch 413 is cut by 403, and may therefore represent an earlier ditch potentially contemporary with 304.

Post-medieval

- 3.3 At least two episodes of deliberate backfilling or levelling were identified within ditch 403. Eighteenth-century and later pottery was recovered from its fills, whilst 18th-19th-century pottery was recovered from the pits cut through its upper fill (pits 405 and 407). Small amounts of animal bone recovered from these deposits appear to represent waste from butchery, food processing and the preparation of material for bone working from this period if not earlier, although where this activity was taking place was not established.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Havard, assisted by Dan Sausins. The report was written by Tim Havard. The illustrations were prepared by Pete Moore. The archive has been compiled by Tim Havard, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html (accessed 24 January 2011)

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Land Adjoining No.1 Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

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Oswald A. 1975, *Clay pipe for the archaeologist*, Oxford, *Brit. Archaeol. Rep.* **14**.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 2 (25m length)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
201	Layer	Subsoil: mid green grey silty clay. Seals 202.			0.29	
202	Layer	Subsoil: mid yellow brown silty clay.			0.11	
203	Layer	Natural substrate: brown orange clay with patches of green brown clay.			>0.1	

Trench 3 (16m length)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil			0.25	
301	Layer	Subsoil: light to mid grey green clay silt			0.31	
302	Layer	Natural substrate: light brown yellow clay with rare patches of irregular dark brown gravel			>0.6	
303	Cut	Ditch cut: moderately sloped sides, base not established, aligned approx N-S	>1.7	2.6	>0.55	
304	Fill	Mid brown silty clay with rare irregular gravel inclusions	>1.7	2.6	>0.55	

Trench 4 (17m length)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil			0.46	
401	Layer	Subsoil: mid green grey clay silt			0.16	
402	Fill	Fill of 403: dark black brown silty clay			0.12	
403	Cut	Cut for probable ditch, moderately sloped sides, base not established, aligned approx N-S	>1.8	3.8	>0.7	
404	Fill	Fill of 405: dark brown grey silty clay with rare irregular gravel	1.13	1.13	0.21	
405	Cut	Cut for pit: sub-circular in plan, moderately sloped sides uneven base	1.13	1.13	0.21	
406	Fill	Fill of 407: mixed mid yellow grey silty clay and dark brown grey silty clay	1.71	1.71	0.36	
407	Cut	Cut for pit: ovoid in plan, uneven sides and uneven base	1.71	1.71	0.36	
408	Fill	Fill of 413: mid brown grey silty clay with rare irregular gravel inclusions			>0.6	
409	Fill	Fill of 403: mid brown grey silty clay			0.24	
410	Fill	Fill of 403: mid grey yellow slightly silty clay		0.4	0.45	
411	Fill	Fill of 403: mid grey yellow silty clay with rare CBM, chalk and gravel inclusions			0.34	
413	Cut	Cut for feature only observed in section: steeply sloped NE side, base not established			>0.6	

APPENDIX B: THE FINDS


Context	Description	Ct.	Wt.	Date
304	Medieval pottery: sand-and-shell-tempered fabric, glazed coarse shell-and-sand tempered fabric	6	126	C14-C15
	Roman ceramic building material: <i>tegula</i>	1	138	
	Medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material	1	49	
	Iron nail	1	14	
	Oyster shell	1	11	
402	Medieval/post-medieval ceramic building material: brick, tile	7	2199	P-MED
	Roman ceramic building material: <i>tegula</i> ?	1	351	
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem	1	9	
	Animal bone: sheep/goat, cow-sized	3	56	
	Oyster shell	2	8	
	Medieval pottery: sand-and-shell-tempered fabric	1	23	
404	Post-medieval pottery: refined whiteware, black glazed earthenware, 'flowerpot' unglazed earthenware	3	22	C19
406	Animal bone: cow-sized	1	119	C18-C19
	Oyster shell	1	12	
	Post-medieval ceramic building material	1	40	
	Medieval pottery: sand-tempered fabric	1	11	
409	Animal bone: sheep/goat	1	28	C18
	Post-medieval ceramic building material: peg tile	5	325	
	Clay tobacco pipe: stem, bowl	2	21	
	Medieval pottery: sand-and-shell-tempered fabric	2	27	
	Post-medieval pottery: red glazed earthenware	2	30	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land Adjoining No.1 Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in January 2011 at the request of Nexus Heritage on Land Adjoining No. 1 Churchgate Street, Harlow. Three trenches were excavated.</p> <p>One undated probable ditch, one medieval ditch, and a ditch and two pits containing pottery and ceramic building material of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were revealed in two of the three trenches.</p>	
Project dates	17-19 January 2011	
Project type	Archaeological Evaluation	
Previous work	n/a	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land Adjoining No.1 Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex	
Study area (M ² /ha)	0.175ha	
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	TL 4830 1156	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Historic Environment Management Team, Essex County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Simon Cox	
Project Supervisor	Tim Havard	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Harlow Museum	Pottery, animal bone, ceramic building material, shell, clay pipe, iron objects
Paper	Harlow Museum	Pro-forma recording sheets and permatrace plans
Digital	Harlow Museum	Digital photographs and CAD survey drawings
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Land Adjoining No.1 Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 11019		

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 COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY			
PROJECT TITLE			
Land Adjoining No. 1 Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex			
FIGURE TITLE			
Site location plan			
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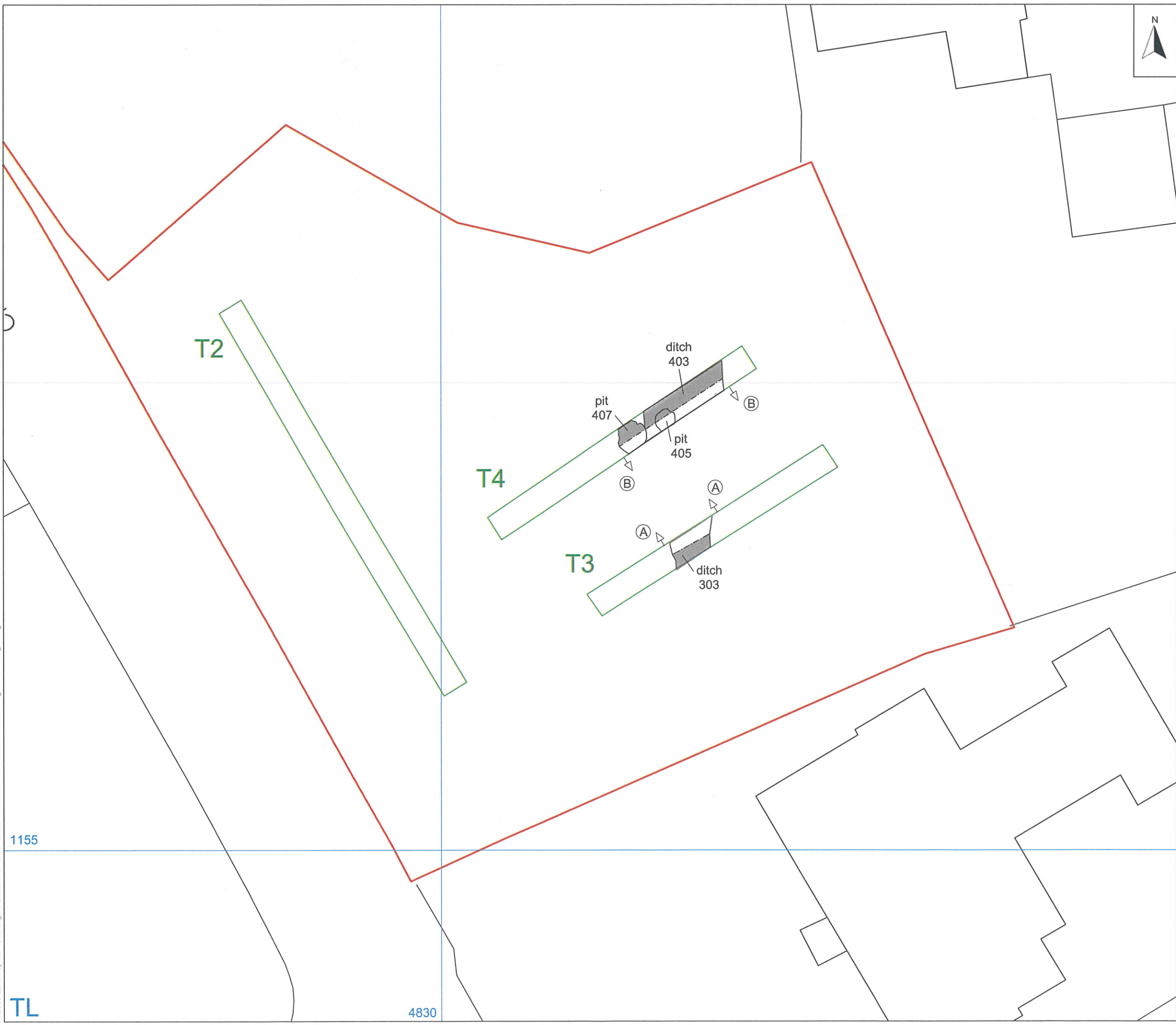
— site
— evaluation trench



PROJECT TITLE
Land Adjoining No. 1 Churchgate Street, Harlow, Essex

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing features

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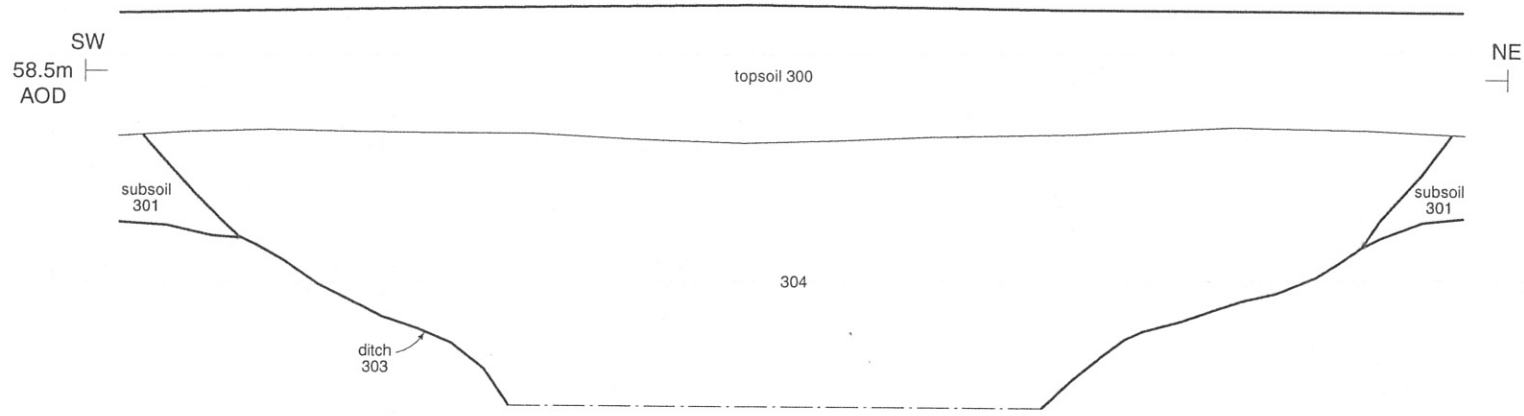
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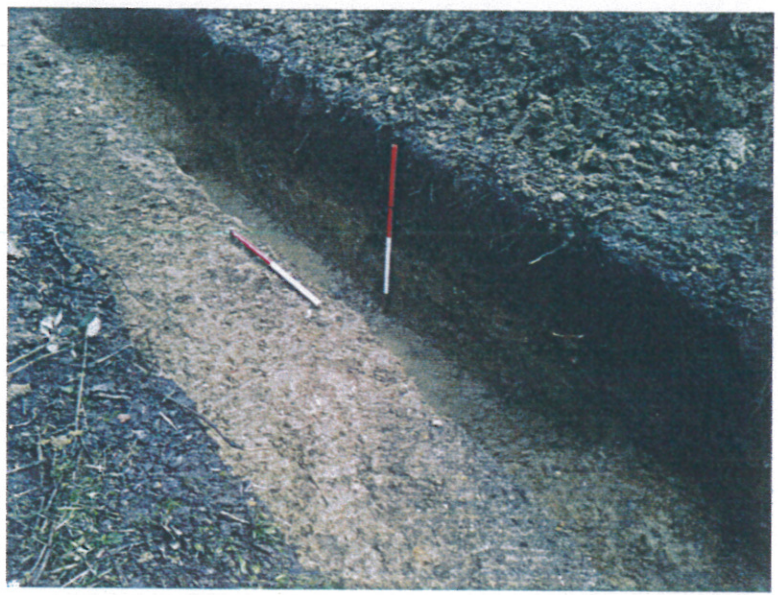
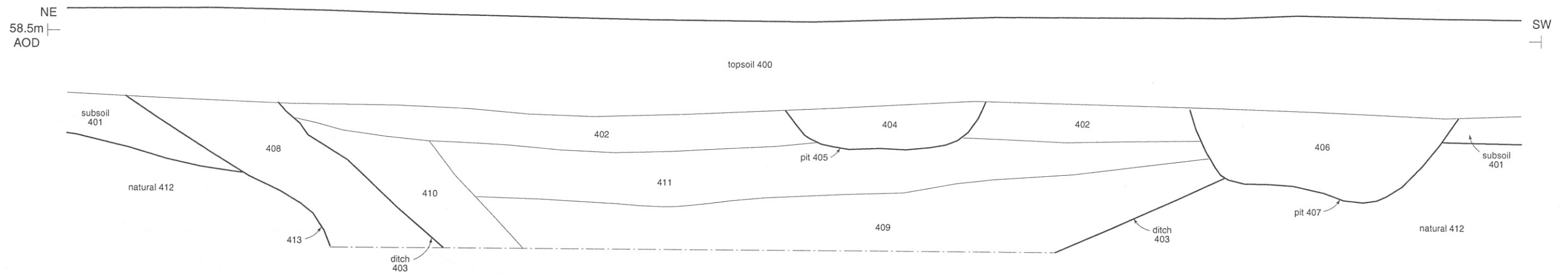
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Section AA

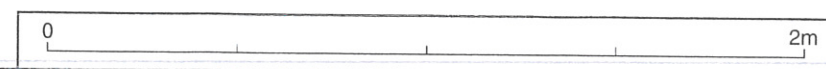


Ditch 303, looking north east (scale 1m)

Section BB



Ditch 403, looking south east (scales 1m)



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FIGURE TITLE Sections and photographs			
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