

**An archaeological evaluation by  
trial-trenching on land opposite  
The Reindeer public house,  
The Street, Black Notley,  
Essex  
June 2013**



**report prepared by  
Adam Wightman and Chris Lister**

**Commissioned by  
Chelsteen Homes Ltd**

CAT project ref.: 12/01d  
HEM site code: BNTS13  
NGR: TL 76687 20705



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**CAT Report 708**  
July 2013

## Summary

*Four evaluation trenches were excavated on land opposite the former Reindeer public house, The Street, Black Notley in June 2013, prior to the construction of six new dwellings. The site is on land adjacent to a 17th-century mill and a presumed Roman villa.*

*No structural remains associated with the 17th-century mill were encountered, although part of the infilled mill leet was exposed. The remains of a late 18th/early 19th century building, probably associated with the replacement mill, were identified during the evaluation. No evidence for Roman activity was recovered. The site appears to have been subject to significant landscaping in the 20th century, which may have removed evidence for earlier activity.*

## Introduction

This is the summary report on the archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land opposite the Reindeer public house, The Street, Black Notley, Essex ((NGR TL 76687 20705 ); Fig 1).

A planning application (11/01245/FUL) for the redevelopment of the site was submitted to Braintree District Council in July 2012. The following archaeological investigation was undertaken in advance of the redevelopment, which comprises the erection of six new dwellings, associated parking and a new access road.

The proposed development lies adjacent to the site of a 17th-century mill (HER 46230) and a presumed Roman villa site. In fields to the south-west of the site, aerial photography has recorded a small ring-ditch that may be a ploughed-out round barrow. For more information on the historical background of the area and details of archaeological finds recovered in the vicinity, see the Essex County Council brief (O'Connor 2012) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (CAT 2013), both of which are appended to this report.

Four trial-trenches (T1-T4) were excavated within the footprints of the proposed dwellings and within the area of the new access road (Fig 2). The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

## Results

### T1 (Figs 2-4, Plate 1)

T1 was positioned across the footprint of the proposed terrace of houses, located mainly in a grassed slope but with the north end in the tarmac car park (Fig 2). At the south-west end a c 0.3m thick mid-brown sandy-silt topsoil (L1) overlaid c 0.2m of siltier mid-brown soil (L2), which, in turn, overlaid an orange/brown natural sand mixed with patches of gravel (L3) (Fig 3 & Plate 1). Approximately 13m from the south end of the trench, L3 became covered by an increasingly thick layer of re-deposited natural sand and gravel (L8). Beneath this were the remains of a structure, a concrete surface (F4) bounded by a wall foundation of unfroged bricks with dimensions of 228mm x 104mm x 65mm (F2) and a robbed foundation (F3). The surface and robbed foundation were cut by a French drain (F1). The concrete surface was truncated to the north by an expanse of demolition material, comprising brick rubble and concrete fragments (L4). This sealed a rough concrete surface (F5) poured over rubble and flint cobbles (Plate 1). A thick layer of concrete cut this surface and extended north beyond the trench edges. This was removed at the behest of the ECC monitor at the time of

back-filling and proved to be a capping material for disturbed ground beneath.

Findings from throughout the excavated layers and features were of modern date and included plastic, slate and concrete rubble, which were not retained.

**T2** (Figs 2-3, Plate 2)

T2 was positioned along the length of the access road, parallel to T1, located entirely in the grassed slope to the south of the car park (Fig 2). The south-west end of the trench had the same stratigraphy as T1, with the same re-deposited natural (L8) appearing at an approximately equal distance along the trench. L8 appears to form a line across the site, parallel to the southern boundary. L8 extended 10m to the north where the natural geology was again encountered, although here the natural was a sandy clay reflecting the changing alluvial deposits of the steep river slope. No archaeological features were observed in T2.

A single sherd of medieval pottery and a worked flint flake were recovered from L2.

**T3** (Figs 2-3, Plate 3)

T3 was located along the line of the access road leading from the main road, in an area of the site that had previously been used as a car park (Fig 2). Tarmac and hardcore (L5) overlaid a c 0.3m thick deposit of dirty grey/brown clay (L6), which, in turn, overlaid a grey, alluvial clay (L7) (Plate 3).

No archaeological features were identified in T3, although a small quantity of post-medieval pottery was recovered from L5.

**T4** (Figs 2-4, Plate 4)

T4 formed an L-shape, located within the footprint of the detached dwelling near the northern boundary of the site, in the area of the former car park (Fig 2). As with T3, there was a c 0.3m thick layer of tarmac and hardcore which overlaid c 0.5m of dirty grey/brown clay (L6). Below L6 the natural alluvial clay (L7) was present. Groundwater was encountered at this level (Plate 4).

No archaeological features were identified in T4.



**Plate 1: T1, facing south-east.**

**Plate 2: T2, facing north-west.**



**Plate 3: T3, facing north-east      Plate 4: T4, facing north.**

## Finds

by Stephen Benfield

### Introduction

A small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery, and a small, undated flint flake were recovered from two layers (L2 & L5) located in two trenches (T2 & T3). The finds are listed and described by finds number below (Table 2). The pottery fabrics (Table 1) were recorded using the Essex post-Roman pottery fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985).

<b>Fabric</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fabric date</b>
21	Sandy orange wares	14-16C
40	Glazed red earthen ware	16-19C

**Table 1 Pottery fabrics**

<b>context</b>	<b>context type</b>	<b>finds no</b>	<b>description of finds</b>	<b>finds spot dating</b>
L2 (T2)	layer	2	<b>Pottery</b> Fabric 21 (1@ 9 g) abraded, orange fabric with band of cream painted decoration <b>Flint</b> (1@ 2 g) very small, irregular flake with percussion scar on ventral face, no cortex on any surface, possibly an incidental impact piece or primary flake removal (undated)	15-E16C
L5 (T3)	layer	1	<b>Pottery post-medieval</b> Fabric 40 (7@ 368 g) all from same vessel, glaze inside and out indicates it is a large storage jar, part of an arched lug(?) handle on one sherd	18-19C

**Table 2 Finds listed by finds number and context**

### Discussion

The handle scar on the glazed storage jar (Fabric 40) from T3 (1) clearly indicates an arched handle. This is probably part of an arched-lug handle and jars with this handle type and which have an external as well as an internal glaze are most characteristic of the 18th and 19th centuries at Colchester (CAR 7, 207). The vessel represented by the abraded sherd with

the painted cream band (Fabric 21) from T2 (2) is not identified, but the sherd is most likely to date to the 15th-early 16th century as this type of pottery is most common during that period at both Chelmsford and Colchester (Cunningham & Drury 1985, 1 & CAR 7, 109). The small flint flake from T2 (2) is undated. Although there is no cortex, there is no indication on the dorsal face of the prior removal of other flakes indicative of previous structured working and it may be a small (primary) flake or an incidental impact piece.

## Conclusion

The alluvial clay encountered in T4 is probably the remains of the infilled mill leet, although no evidence was found relating to the 17th-century mill itself. The structure encountered in T1 may be a building associated with the later mill but there is little evidence to support this. The unfrogged brick footing is in keeping with the late 18th/early 19th-century date of the replacement mill and must relate to the buildings shown on the 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps, but it is not known if these buildings were, in fact, linked to the mill. The re-deposited natural, and the presence of modern finds, indicate the structure was demolished in the mid-late 20th century, with the grassed slope landscaped over the remains.

Apart from the single residual sherd, no evidence of Roman activity was identified in the four trial-trenches.

## Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Bill Poulton of Chelsteen Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the project. The site work was undertaken by A Wightman, C Lister and E Holloway. The pottery was identified by S Benfield and E Holloway illustrated the sections.

The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor for the Essex County Council Historic Environment team.

## References

**Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>**

- |                          |      |  |
|--------------------------|------|--|
| CAR 7                    | 2000 | <i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85. Colchester Archaeological Report 7</i> , by John Cotter   |
| CAT                      | 2013 | Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial-trenching on land opposite the Reindeer public house, The Street, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex, by A Wightman |
| Cunningham, C & Drury, P | 1985 | <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford. CBA Research Report 54</i>  |
| O'Connor, T              | 2012 | Archaeological trial-trenching on land at land opposite The Reindeer PH, The Street, Black Notley, Braintree   |

**Distribution list:**

Bill Poulton of Chelsteen Homes Ltd  
Teresa O'Connor, ECC Historic Environment team  
Essex Historic Environment Record



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checked by: PC  
date: 02/07/2013

**Appendix 1: contents of archive**

One A4 document wallet containing:

**1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by ECC
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.2 Risk assessment

**2 Site archive**

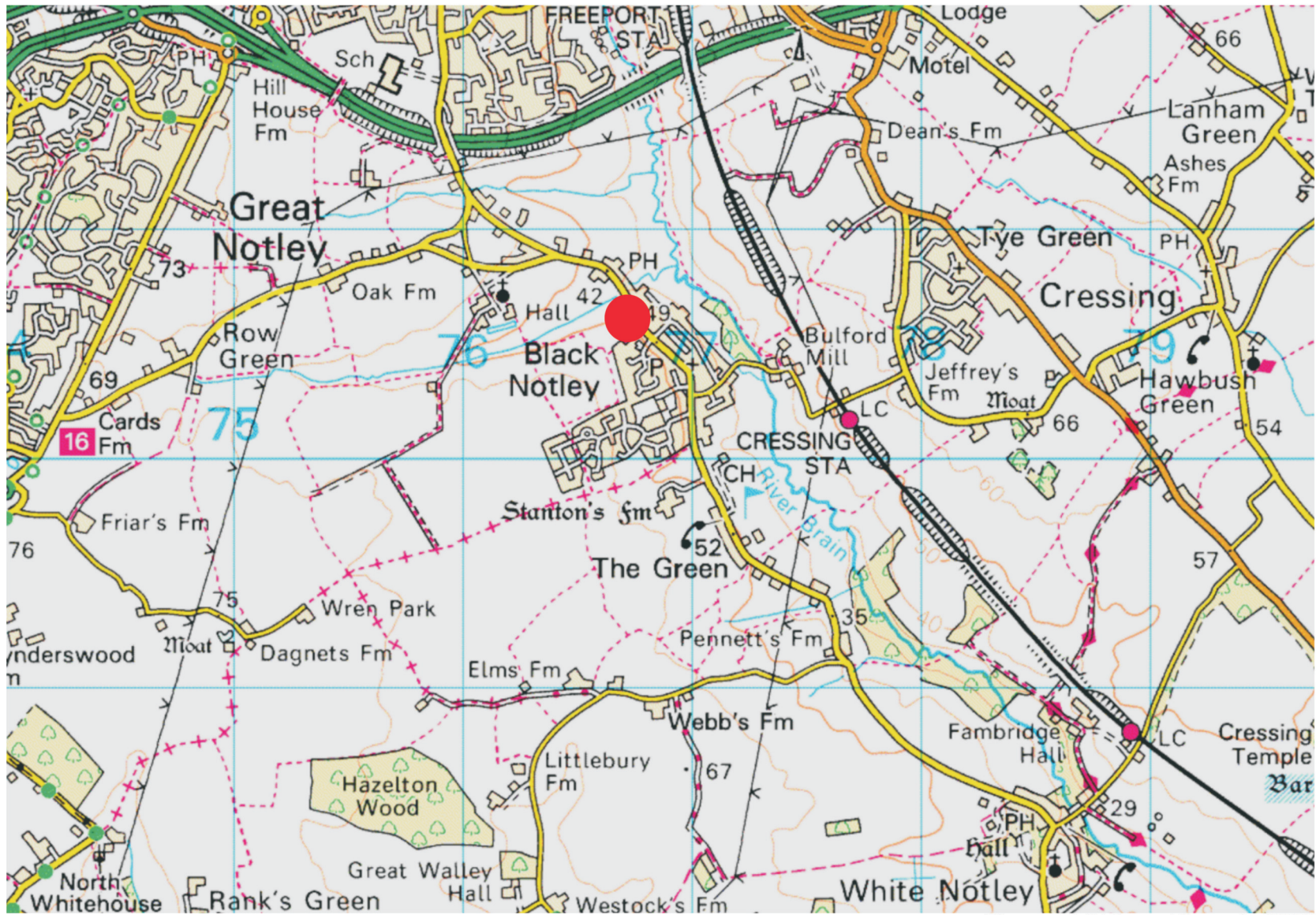
- 2.1 Site digital photographic record
- 2.2 Attendance register
- 2.3 Context sheets (F1-F6, L1-L8)
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.6 2 x A4 Sx sheet

**3 Research archive**

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report

**Not in wallet**

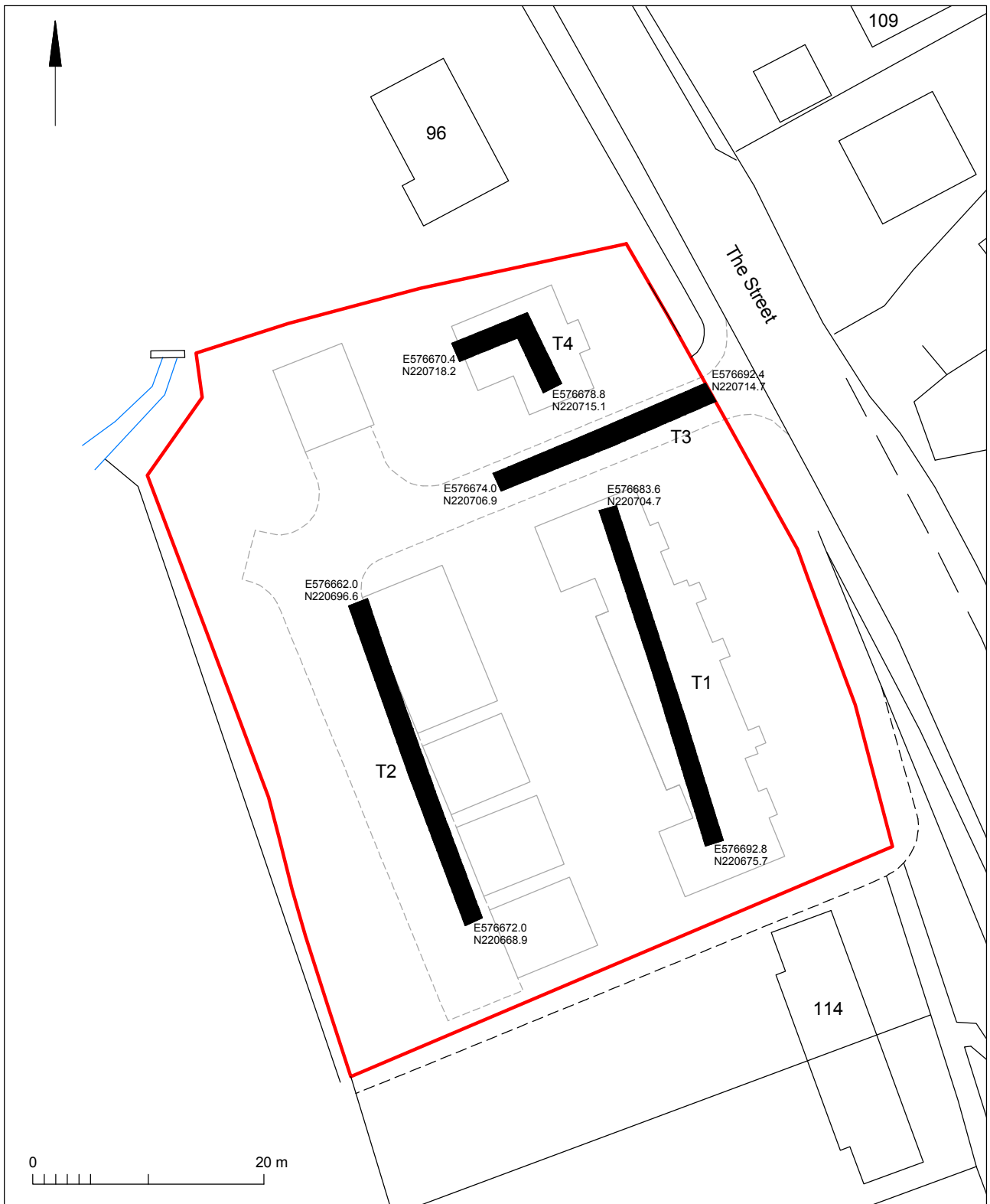
The finds (1 small bag)



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Fig 1 Site location, marked by a red dot.





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Fig 2 Trench locations in relation to the proposed development (which is shown grey).



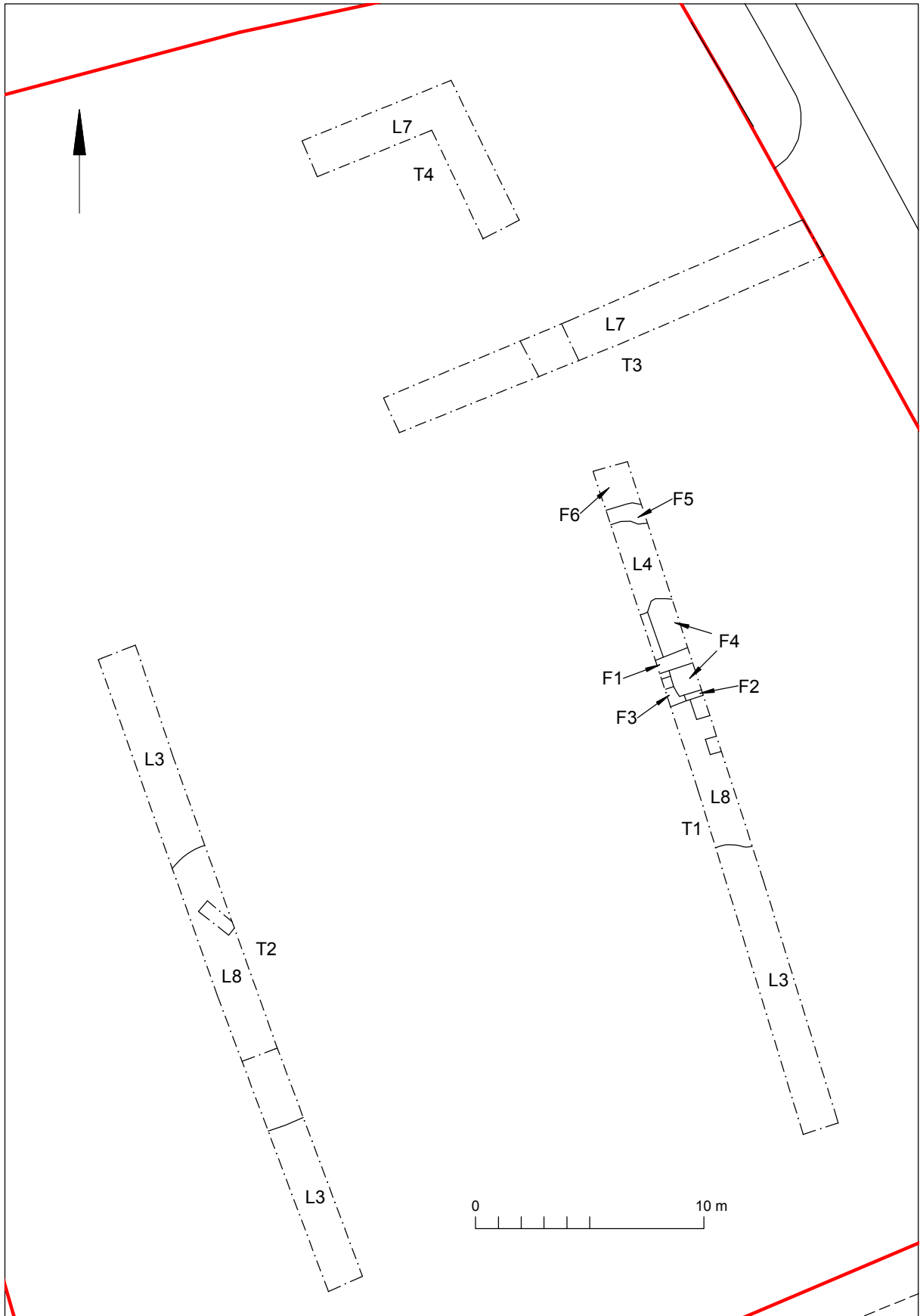


Fig 3 Trial-trenching results.



# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> land opposite The Reindeer public house, The Street, Black Notley, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Black Notley	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 76687 20705	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project – 12/01d ECC – BNTS13 Museum accession – pending
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation by trial-trenching	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 4th June 2013	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 4 trenches totalling 92m in length
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Braintree Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> 46230
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 708	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<p><b>Summary:</b>  <i>Four evaluation trenches were excavated on land opposite the former Reindeer public house, The Street, Black Notley in June 2013, prior to the construction of six new dwellings. The site is on land adjacent to a 17th-century mill and a presumed Roman villa.</i>  <i>No structural remains associated with the 17th-century mill were encountered, although part of the infilled mill leet was exposed. The remains of a late 18th/early 19th century building, probably associated with the replacement mill, were identified during the evaluation. No evidence for Roman activity was recovered. The site appears to have been subject to significant landscaping in the 20th century, which may have removed evidence for earlier activity.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> neg
<b>Author of summary:</b> Adam Wightman	<b>Date of summary:</b> June 2013

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND  
OPPOSITE THE REINDEER PH,  
THE STREET,  
BLACK NOTLEY,  
BRAINTREE**

**August 2012**



**Essex County Council**

**Site:** Land Opposite The Reindeer PH 111 The Street Black Notley Braintree Essex

**Planning app. no.:** 11/01245/FUL

**Agent:** Bill Poulton, Chelsteen Homes, Tel: 01245 264544, Email: [Bill@chelsteen.co.uk](mailto:Bill@chelsteen.co.uk)

**Historic Environment Officer:** Teresa O'Connor, [teresa.oconnor@essex.gov.uk](mailto:teresa.oconnor@essex.gov.uk), Tel: 01245-437638, Mobile: 07786 125894

**Museum:** Robert Rose, Museum Collections & Heritage Manager, Braintree District Museum

E-mail: [robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:robert.rose@braintree.gov.uk) Tel. (01376) 325266 or (01376) 551414 Ext. 6180

***This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council should be contacted to assess whether any changes are required. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.***

*The contractor is advised to visit the site before completing their **written scheme of investigation** as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.*

## **1. Introduction**

The Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council has prepared this brief for an archaeological investigation at the above site. The proposed development comprises the erection of 6 no. dwellings with access and parking. The proposed development is located along The Street in Black Notley on the site of former historic buildings and adjacent to a possible Roman villa site; hence there is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the site.

## **2. Site Location and Description**

The proposed site lies opposite The Reindeer PH, 111 The Street, Black Notley, Braintree (TL 76687 20705) and used to form their car park and seating area. The site is currently partly covered with hard standing for car parking and partly undeveloped land that is grassed.

## **3. Planning Background**

A planning application for the erection of 6 no. dwellings with access and parking was granted by Braintree District Council in July 2012.

As the development lies in an area of significant archaeological potential, the Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council made the following recommendation to the LPA in line with advice

given in National Planning Policy Framework (replacing Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment):

**RECOMMENDATION: Full condition**

**"No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."**

All archaeological work should be undertaken by a professional recognised archaeological contractor and there will be a financial implication for the applicant.

#### **4. Archaeological Background**

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors are advised to visit the EHER prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation.

The proposed development lies adjacent to the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> century mill (HER 46230). There is a mention of a corn mill in documents dating to 1668 (ERO D/DS 501/7) and in 1709 the mill is in the possession of John Mott (ERO Q/SR 540/1). This mill or mills must have been destroyed or burnt down as the mill present on the first edition OS dates from the late 18th/early 19th century. The corn mill is recorded on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777 and a possible associated building(s) is depicted opposite in the location of the proposed development. A complex of buildings and structures possibly associated with the mill are clearly depicted on the 1st to 3rd OS maps within the area of the proposed development. The former leet for the mill lies along the northern boundary of the development site, therefore there is the potential for the survival of waterlogged deposits associated with either the former watercourse or the leet .

Adjacent to the development site visible as a spread of Roman material in the field immediately to the north-east of Black Notley Hospital is a presumed Roman villa site. Large quantities of Roman tile have been recovered from the plough-soil, also spreads of gravel and flint rubble. Some tesserae were also recovered. Finds included a quantity of pottery; Samian, black-burnished, colour-coat and grey wares. Metal-detecting has taken place on the site and finds include a Colchester-type bronze brooch; a bronze decorated handle (mirror/patera?); bracelet fragments (silvered?); a small bell and a marble square 6x6x2cm with an iron fitting on one end. Coins recovered from the reigns of Constantinus, Gallienus, Valens, Allectus and 'barbarous radiates' providing a range of dates from mid-third to late-fourth century AD. A brooch suggests a presence from the first century AD also. Also in the fields to the southwest of the site aerial photography recorded a small ring-ditch that may be a ploughed out round barrow.

## 5. Requirement for Work

The specific aim of the investigation is to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the development area and to preserve, by record, any archaeological deposits that will be destroyed by the construction of the new buildings, access roads and other significant groundworks.

The proposed development area is within an area of archaeological potential that will be assessed by trial trenching in the first instance. The archaeological work will consist of trial-trenches within the footprint of the house buildings and new access road and, if required, any other areas of significant groundworks such as levelling/terracing. The trial trenches within the footprint of the detached dwelling will form an L shape to cover the length and width of the house footprint. The trial trench in the footprint of the terrace shall be a single trench to cover the length of the terrace (avoiding footings). All trenches should be 1.8m in width.

The new access road will require a single trial trench of 20m at right angles from The Street as close to the road frontage as possible and a single trial trench of 30m in the area of the new access road leading to the garages, running roughly N-S.

Specific attention should be paid to:

Surviving evidence for the buildings/structures seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map;

Possible earlier road frontage settlement/activity; and

Potential activity associated with the nearby Roman finds

**Should significant archaeological deposits be revealed further open area excavation will be required which will be defined following a site meeting and/or a further brief.**

**Should piled foundations be required the area of the house footprints requiring topsoil stripping may require monitoring under archaeological supervision.**

## 6. Methodology

6.1 The archaeological work shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation.

6.2 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003).

6.3 All of the latest Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.

- 6.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 6.5 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Officer one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 6.6 A site code shall be obtained from the Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council.
- 6.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.8 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.
- 6.9 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 6.10 Masonry walls shall be carefully cleaned and planned. Where possible these will be left in situ. If these have to be removed then detailed drawings both in plan and section will be required.
- 6.11 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).
- 6.12 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Burials will require 100% excavation
- 6.13 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- 6.14 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the project written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 6.14 Section drawings shall be completed on all trenches identifying the depth of the archaeological deposits and the depth of the natural sub-soil.



- 6.15 The photographic record policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. A photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.
- 6.16 The IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney, 2003) should be used for additional guidance in the production of the archaeological written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

## **7. Finds**

- 7.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 7.2 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 7.3 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who will be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.
- 7.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be stated within the written scheme of investigation.
- 7.5 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to the Institute of Field Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work.

## **8. Results**

- 8.1 The full report shall be submitted to the Historic Environment Officer within a length of time (but not exceeding 4 months) from the end of the fieldwork. A full digital copy shall be supplied to the HEM team.
- 8.2 This report must contain:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological programme.
  - Location plan of excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of excavated areas shall be given 10 figure grid references.

- A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
  - Methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Where appropriate the discussion should be completed in consultation with the Eastern Counties Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
  - All specialist reports or assessments
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- 8.3 An EHER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks. This will be completed in digital form. This shall include a plan showing the position of the trenches.
- 8.4 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the EHER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 8.4 Publication of the results at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.

## **9. Archive Deposition**

- 9.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Braintree), and confirmed in writing to the HEM Officer.
- 9.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the paper archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- 9.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 2 months of the completion of the report and confirmed in writing to the Historic Environment Officer.
- 9.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Officer at the time of deposition to the museum.

## **10. Monitoring**

- 10.1 The Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 10.2 Notification of the start of the archaeological work shall be given to the Historic Environment Officer one week in advance of its commencement.
- 10.3 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Officer prior to them being carried out.
- 10.4 All excavated trenches must be inspected by the Historic Environment Officer prior to their backfilling.

## **11. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation**

- 11.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide the basis for a measurable standard and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
- 11.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 11.3 The involvement of the Historic Environment Officer shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## **References**

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 8
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14

Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 24

**For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.**

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**Written Scheme of Investigation for  
Archaeological trial-trenching on land opposite  
the Reindeer public house, The Street, Black  
Notley, Braintree, Essex**

**Planning applications: 11/01245/FUL  
NGR: TL 76687 20705**

**May 2013**



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email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)**

## **1 Introduction**

0.0 This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching on land opposite the Reindeer Public House, The Street, Black Notley, Braintree, Essex. The work is to be carried out on behalf of Bill Poulton of Chelsteen Homes (Bill@chelsteen.co.uk) by the Colchester Archaeological Trust.

1.0 The proposed development comprises the erection of 6 new dwellings with access and parking.

2.0 The proposed site lies opposite The Reindeer PH, 111 The Street, Black Notley, Braintree (TL 76687 20705) and used to form their car park and seating area. The site is currently partly covered with hard standing for car parking and partly undeveloped land that is grassed.

3.0 The proposed development is located on the site of former historic buildings and adjacent to a possible Roman villa site; hence there is the potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the site.

4.0 The planning application (11/01245/FUL) was submitted to Braintree District Council in July 2012.

5.0 Given the archaeological potential of the site, a full archaeological condition was recommended to be attached to the planning consent based on the advice given in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, the wording is as follows:

*Recommendation: "No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."*

6.0 Any variations to this WSI will be agreed beforehand with Essex County Council's Historic Environment team.

## **0 Archaeological background**

This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development lies adjacent to the site of a 17<sup>th</sup> century mill (HER 46230). There is a mention of a corn mill in documents dating to 1668 (ERO D/DS 501/7) and in 1709 the mill is in the possession of John Mott (ERO Q/SR 540/1). This mill or mills must have been destroyed or burnt down as the mill present on the first edition OS dates from the late 18th/early 19th century. The corn mill is recorded on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777 and a possible associated building(s) is depicted opposite in the location of the proposed development. A complex of buildings and structures possibly associated with the mill are clearly depicted on the 1st to 3rd OS maps within the area of the proposed development. The former leet for the mill lies along the northern boundary of the development site, therefore there is the potential for the survival of waterlogged deposits associated with either the former watercourse or the leet .

Adjacent to the development, site visible as a spread of Roman material in the field immediately to the north-east of Black Notley Hospital, is a presumed Roman villa site. Large quantities of Roman tile have been recovered from the plough-soil, also spreads of gravel and flint rubble. Some tesserae were also recovered. Finds included a quantity of pottery; Samian, black-burnished, colour-coat and grey wares. Metal-detecting has taken place on the site and finds include a Colchester-type bronze brooch; a bronze decorated handle (mirror/patera?); bracelet fragments (silvered?); a small bell and a marble square 6x6x2cm with an iron fitting on one end. Coins recovered from the reigns of Constantinus, Gallienus, Valens, Allectus and 'barbarous radiates' providing a range of dates from mid-third to late-fourth century AD. A brooch suggests a presence from the first century AD also. Also in the fields to the southwest of the site aerial photography recorded a small ring-ditch that may be a ploughed out round barrow.

### 3 Aims

The specific aim of the investigation is to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the development area and to preserve, by record, any archaeological deposits that will be destroyed by the construction of the new buildings, access roads and other significant groundworks.

Specific attention will be paid to:

- Surviving evidence for the buildings/structures seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map;
- Possible earlier road frontage settlement/activity; and
- Potential activity associated with the nearby Roman finds

### 5 Methodology (Fig 1)

- 0.0 Trench 1 will be 33m long and will be excavated within the footprint of the terrace of houses (Fig 1).
- 1.0 Trench 2 will be 30m long and located in the area of the new access road leading to the garages (Fig 1). This trench will be excavated along the eastern edge of the access road to avoid the root protection zones of the adjacent trees (Fig 2).
- 2.0 Trench 3 will be 20m long and located in the new access road at right angles to 'The Street' and as close to the road frontage as possible (Fig 1).
- 3.0 Trench 4 will be located within the footprint of the detached dwelling near the northern boundary of the site and will form an L-shape to cover the length and width of the house footprint.
- 4.0 All trenches will be the width of one machine bucket.
- 5.0 All features and finds uncovered will be planned and excavation will be undertaken to achieve the aims set out in section 3. A report will then be prepared to inform any subsequent decision-making.
- 6.0 Should significant archaeological deposits be revealed further open area excavation will be required which will be defined following a site meeting and/or a further brief.
- 7.0 Should piled foundations be required the area of the house footprints requiring topsoil stripping may require monitoring under archaeological supervision.
- 8.0 Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/leveling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist.
- 9.0 Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.
- 10.0 Masonry walls will be carefully cleaned and planned. Where possible these will be left *in situ*. If these have to be removed then detailed drawings both in plan and section will be required.
- 11.0 Fast excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.
- 12.0 Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.
- 13.0 All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate. The site will located to the National Grid.
- 14.0 The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register should accompany the photographic record. This should detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 15.0 A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.
- 16.0 The site boundary and features and site levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.



## 6 General methodology

- 0.0 The relevant documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2008a) and *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluations* (2008b). Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA 3, EAA 8 and EAA 14.
- 6.2 A site code will be requested from Historic Environment officer before fieldwork commences.
- 6.3 At the start of work an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 0.0 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site. CAT has a standard health and safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 1999 updated 2012).

## 7 Finds

- 7.1 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a license from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed.
- 7.2 Environmental sampling policy. CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer at the University of East Anglia whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered VF will be asked onto site to advise. Helen Chappell of EH is available for further advice.
- 7.3 All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with the Historic Environment officer and the site owner.
- 7.4 All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.
- 7.5 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Braintree Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.
- 7.6 The site archive will be presented to Braintree Museum in accordance with their requirements.
- 7.7 All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.
- 7.8 Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2008a).
- 7.9 A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

## 8 Results

- 8.1 The full report will be submitted within 4 months from the end of the fieldwork, with one hard copy, a PDF, and a photo disk supplied to the Historic Environment Team. The report will contain both the results of the metal detector survey and the archaeological evaluation and more specifically;
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
  - Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
  - A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
  - The discussion and conclusions will be made (where appropriate) with reference to the objectives outlined in *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000).
  - Specialist reports
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
  - Any relevant borehole logs and explanation from previous site investigation works
- 8.2 An EHER summary sheet will be completed within four weeks (copy attached with brief) and supplied to the Historic Environment officer. This will be completed in digital

form (copy can be emailed). This will include a plan showing the area of monitoring and excavation and the converted structures.

- 8.3 If, after discussion with Historic Environment officer, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*. An Oasis online form will be completed for submission to the EHER, which will include an uploaded .pdf version of the report.

## 9 Monitoring

- 9.1 The Historic Environment team of Essex County Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, reporting, and publication stages.
- 9.2 Notification of the start of work will be given to the Historic Environment team one week in advance of its commencement.
- 9.3 Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with Historic Environment team before they are carried out.

## 10 Archive deposition

- 10.1 The full archive will be deposited at Braintree Museum within 2 months of completion of final publication report on the project, and confirmed to Historic Environment team.
- 0.0 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Braintree Museum. The storage of the archive will accord with Braintree Museum's guidelines.
- 1.0 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment team at the time of deposition at the museum.
- 2.0 Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Braintree Museum's storage systems.
- 3.0 The photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on disk and hard copies of selected digital photos on high-quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Braintree Museum.

## 11 References

- |  |       |  |
|--|-------|--|
| Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.                       | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 ( <b>EAA8</b> ) |
| Colchester Archaeological Trust<br>Glazenbrook, J. | 1999  | <i>Policies and procedures</i> . 1999 (updated 2012)   |
|  | 1997  | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 1 resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 3 ( <b>EAA3</b> )          |
| Gurney, D.   | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 ( <b>EAA14</b> )   |
| IfA  | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| IfA  | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations</i> .  |
| O'Connor, T  | 2012  | <i>Archaeological trial-trenching on land opposite the Reindeer public House, The Street, Black Notley, Braintree</i> , Historic Environment team brief.                 |

Adam Wightman 11/05/13

## **Appendix - team structure and details**

### **List of team members**

#### **Site supervision and Recording**

Adam Wightman

#### **Assistants**

TBC

#### **Finds consultants**

Stephen Benfield (CAT): Prehistoric and Roman pottery, other finds in small quantities

Joanna Bird (Guildford): Samian ware

Ernest Black (Colchester): Roman brick/tile

Howard Brooks (CAT): Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery

Dr Hilary Cool (Nottingham): Roman glass

Nina Crummy (Colchester): Small finds

Julie Curl: Human bone and large Animal bone assemblages

John Davis (Norwich Museum): Roman coins

Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): Environmental remains

Helen Chappell (English Heritage): Regional Science Advisor

Hazel Martingell (Braintree): Lithics

Valerie Rigby (British Museum): LIA ceramics

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums): Roman Amphoras

Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford): Medieval and later brick and tile

Sue Tyler (ECC): Saxon Pottery.

Helen Walker: Saxon, Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Adam Wightman (CAT): small animal bone and lithic assemblages

#### **Graphics**

Adam Wightman, Chris Lister and Emma Holloway

#### **Report writing**

Adam Wightman & Howard Brooks

### **Senior Site Staff**

#### **Adam Wightman BSc, MA**

After graduating from the University of Sheffield in 2004 with a BSc Hons in Archaeology and Prehistory, Adam worked for CAT during the Roman Circus excavations at Colchester Garrison in 2004/5. He then went on to work for Cambridge Archaeological Unit before completing a Masters in the Archaeology of Human Origins at the University of Southampton where he focused on lithic and animal bone analysis. Since returning to CAT in 2006 Adam has carried out evaluations and excavations at the Great Dunmow Salesrooms, 143-147 High Street Maldon, Firstsite Newsite in Colchester town centre, and at 21 St Peters Street adjacent to Colchester's Roman wall. He now completes assessments and full reports on small assemblages of animal bone and lithics for CAT.

### **Finds Specialists**

#### **Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT) Prehistoric and Roman pottery**

Steve's first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project to assist in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. He graduated from Reading University with a degree in archaeology and subsequently studied for his post-graduate Certificate in Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now *CAR 10*, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.

**Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian**

Joanna is one of the country's top samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the publication *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1986*.

**Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile**

Ernest is a Colchester schoolteacher with a wide interest in archaeology and the classical world. In this sense, he is following in the footsteps of A.F. Hall, and Mike Corbishley who were also local schoolmasters. He has developed his specialism by large scale hands-on experience with Roman brick and tile, and has contributed to the *Arch J*, *CAR 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-1985*.

**Howard Brooks BA, FSA, MIFA, (CAT) Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery**

Howard's involvement in Essex archaeology goes back to 1970 when he dug at Sheepen, Colchester with Rosalind Dunnett (now Niblett). He studied archaeology at the University of Wales, and graduated in 1975. He worked for Colchester Archaeological Trust between 1976 and 1981, and again in 1985, where he was involved at various levels of responsibility (up to Co-Director) in the excavation of deeply stratified urban remains in Roman Colchester and suburbs (Colchester Archaeological Report 3 [1994]). Between 1992 and 1995 he worked for Essex County Archaeology Section, first in directing the fieldwalking and excavation project at Stansted Airport (East Anglian Archaeology 107, 2004), and then in Development Control. Howard then left ECC to set up and run HBAS, the county's smallest contracting team, in which capacity he carried out over twenty field projects and wrote a dozen consultancy reports. He rejoined CAT in 1997. He regularly contributes to Essex Archaeology & History, and teaches University evening classes on archaeology.

**Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass**

Yet another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, and *Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993)*. Among her major works is the internationally selling *Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*.

**Nina Crummy BA FSA (Colchester) Small finds**

Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the *Colchester Archaeological Reports*, and was principal author of the best-selling *Colchester Archaeological Reports 2 (Roman small finds)*, 4 (*The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*) and 5 (*The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

**Julie Curl (Norfolk) Animal Bone**

Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. After many years working as both a bone specialist and in graphics for the NAU Julie has recently established her own freelance company Sylvanus in which she specialises in Archaeological and Natural History illustrations as well as being a freelance animal and human bone specialist. She has been producing faunal remains reports for many years and produces assessments and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of archaeology and natural history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

**Dr John A Davies (Norwich Museum) Roman coins**

John has, for some years, written reports on Roman coins from Colchester excavations. He specializes in barbarous radiates, and has contributed to *British Numismatic Journal* on that topic. Among his other publications is a contribution to *Colchester Archaeological Report 4: The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, and *CAR 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993)*.

**Val Fryer (Norfolk) Environmental Archaeologist BA, MIFA**

Val has fifteen years experience in environmental archaeology, working for English Heritage, County Units and independent archaeological bodies across the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. She has published reports in *East Anglian Archaeology* (including occasional papers), *Proceedings of the*

Prehistoric Society, Medieval Archaeology and Norfolk Archaeology. Specialist work for various police authorities across England and Northern Ireland. Val is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with special accreditation for environmental archaeology and she is also a Member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists.

**Helen Chappell (English Heritage) Regional Science Advisor**

Helen Chappell is English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor (RSA) for the East of England, providing regionally-based advice on all aspects of archaeological science: geophysics, scientific dating, hydrology, geoarchaeology, analysis of biological remains and technological residues, artifact analysis and conservation. RSAs give advice to a range of organizations and also produce good practice standards and guidelines. RSAs are all actively involved in research, and applying new methodologies to site investigation and management.

**Hazel Martingell BA, FAAIS (Braintree): Lithics**

Hazel has for many years worked as a lithics illustrator and specialist, undertaking work for The British Museum, ECC Field Archaeology Unit and for London and Cambridge Universities, to name but a few. Since 1987 she has been self-employed and has excavated at a Middle Stone Age site at Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar as well as writing and illustrating worked flint reports for CAT, ECC FAU, and the British Museum. Her impressive publication record includes reports on sites from around the globe. Closer to home she has published work in *Essex History and Archaeology*, *The East Anglian Archaeology Monograph Series*, *Antiquity* and *British Museum Occasional Papers*. Hazel is a fellow of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors and a founder member of the Lithics Study Group, London.

**Valerie Rigby (Hertfordshire) LIA ceramics**

Formerly working for the British Museum, Val is one of the country's leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major work include *Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72 (Britannia Monograph Series 7, with Ian Stead)*. On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88*, and to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Research Report 57, 1985).

**Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford) Medieval and later brick and tile**

Pat has for many years been examining excavated collections of brick and tile from Essex sites, and contributing reports which are usually consigned to the gloomier parts of archive reports, or as footnotes in published texts. Her regular contributions to *Essex Archaeology & History*, therefore, under-represent the devoted study which Pat has put in over the years. Nobody knows more about local brick and tile, except for David Andrews, with whom she collaborated on significant sections of *Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex* (1993).

**Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museum) Amphoras**

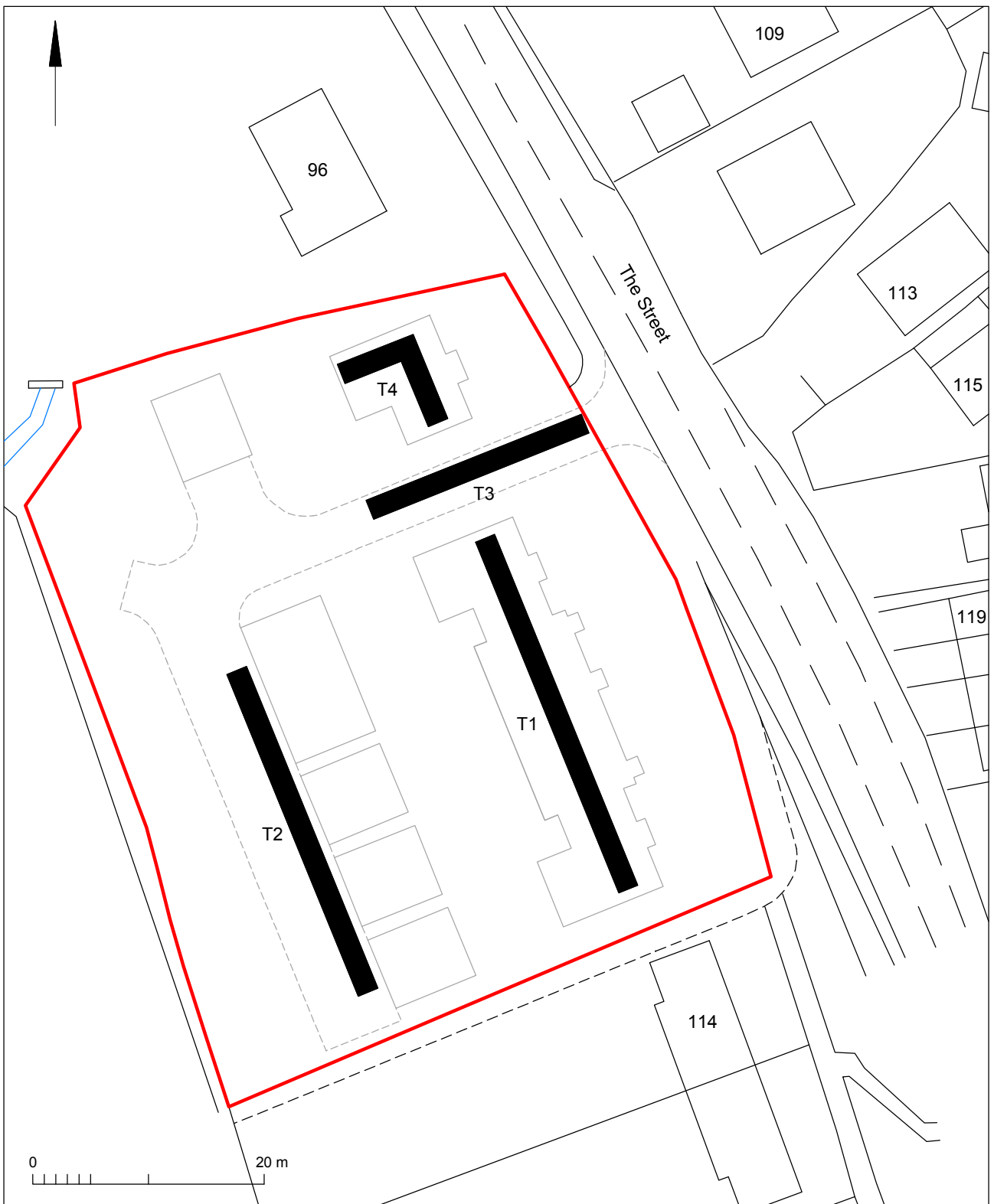
Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include *Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen* (BAR 142, 1985), contributions to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum* (CBA Res Rep 57, 1985). He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History*.

**Sue Tyler (ECC) Saxon Pottery**

Sue is the County authority on Saxon material, especially pottery. She has had several spells working with Essex County Archaeology Section, interrupted by a late-1980s spell in Hertfordshire. She has written reports on Saxon material for many Essex Projects, and contributes regularly to *Essex Archaeology & History*, including the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Prittlewell (*Essex Archaeol Hist* 19 (1988)).

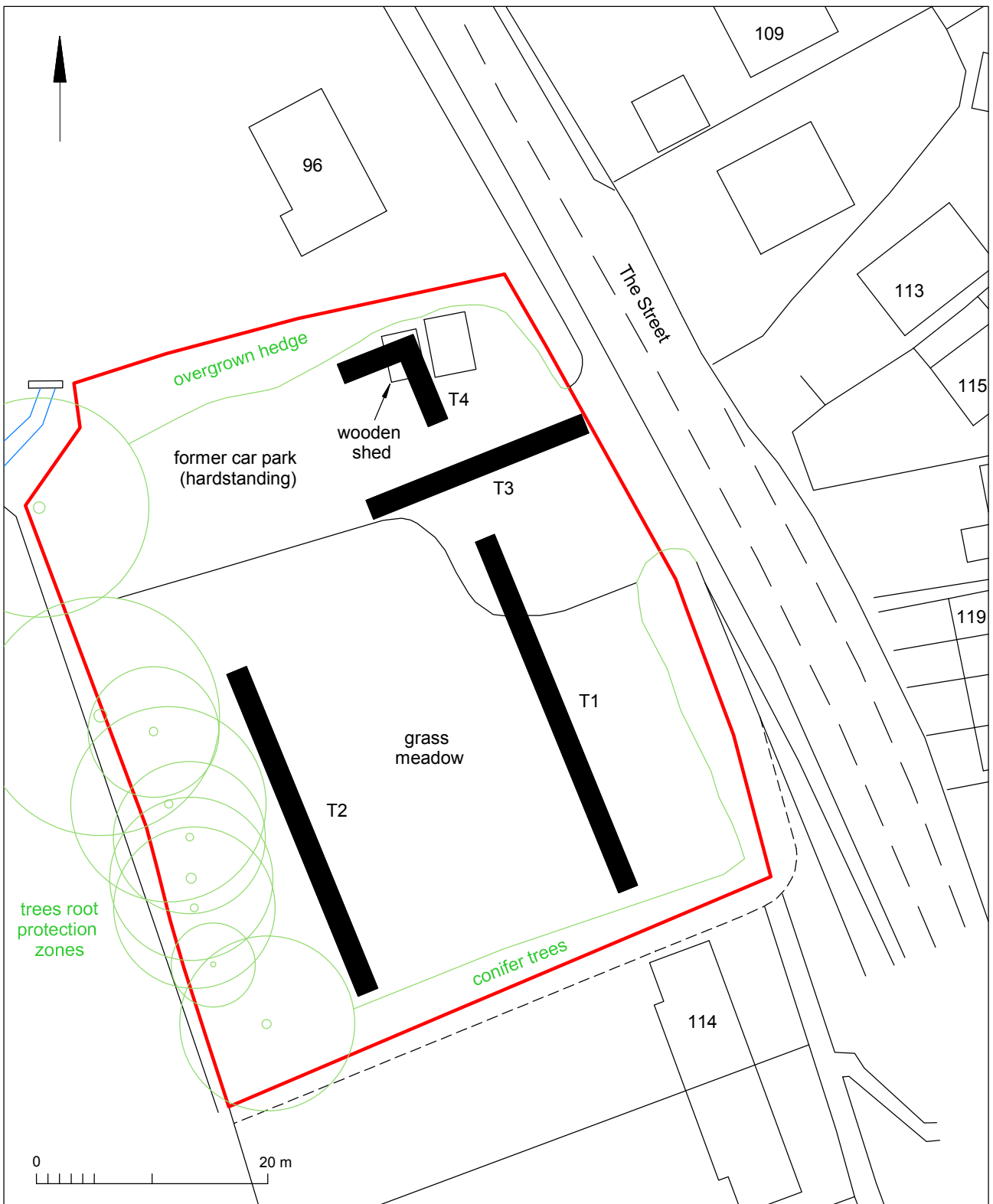
**Helen Walker BSc Medieval and post-medieval pottery.**

Helen was Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group's medieval and post-medieval pottery specialist. Before joining ECC in 1985, she worked on finds in Carmarthen, and for Hampshire CC on projects in Winchester. Since 1985, she has contributed reports on ceramics to many other projects in the county. A regular contributor to *Essex Archaeology & History*, her principal publications include reports on the Rayleigh kiln dump, and George Street and Church Street, Harwich (*Essex Archaeology & History*, 21 [1990]), and North Shoebury (*EAA* 75).



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Fig 1 Proposed trench plan in relation to the intended development.



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Fig 1 Proposed trench plan in relation to the current site layout.