

**Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation  
at Back Waterside Lane, R/O 90-102 High Street,  
Brightlingsea, Tendring, Essex**

**September 2013**



**report prepared by  
Mark Baister**

**commissioned by  
Brettfield Developments LTD**

Planning references: TEN/01250/10/FUL

CAT project ref.: 11/10e

HET code: BGBW13

NGR: TM 08985 16712

Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code: 2011.75



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**CAT Report 723**  
September 2013

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EHER summary sheet

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## 1 Summary

*The site is located in Brightlingsea, on the west side of Back Waterside Lane and to the south of the High Street, within the medieval and early post-medieval core of the town.*

*In advance of the erection of two semi detached bungalows and associated works, an evaluation by two trenches (total length 21m) was undertaken. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered.*

## 2 Introduction, archaeology and planning background (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Back Waterside Lane, R/O 90-102 High Street, Brightlingsea, Tendring, Essex. The proposed development was the construction of two semi-detached bungalows. The evaluation trenches were positioned over the intended footprints of the new buildings (site centre TM 08985 16712).

The site is located to the south of Brightlingsea High Street, which the Tendring Historic Environment Characterisation Project (ECC, 2008) identifies as part of the medieval and early post medieval core of the town. A feature of the historic core is the number of surviving medieval, early post-medieval and Georgian buildings. These are likely to have surviving archaeological deposits associated with their occupation and use, located beneath and to the rear of the properties. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the archaeological impact the proposed development would have on these deposits, if any.

Tendring District Council consulted Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team in October 2010 in relation to planning application 10/01205/FUL. The Historic Environment Team made the following recommendation, after *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*:

*Recommendation: Full Condition*

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

Historic Environment Officer (HEO) Adrian Gascoyne wrote a brief detailing the required archaeological work (Gascoyne 2011), and Brettfield Developments Ltd commissioned CAT to carry out the specified evaluation. The evaluation was carried out the 12th of September 2013 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CAT in response to the HEO's brief and agreed with the HEO (CAT 2013). Post-excavation work was carried out in September 2013. In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was carried out in accordance with standard policies and procedures as outlined in CAT 2012, IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, MoRPHE, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

## 3 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record and establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any remains and deposits likely to be disturbed by the proposed works.

## 4 Evaluation results (Figs 2-3)

To fulfil the requirements of the brief, two evaluation trenches (total length 21m) in a t-shape were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. No features were encountered, but both trenches were excavated through the same four layers:

### Trenches 1 and 2 – contexts and dating

context no	type	dated finds	date
L1	coal tar, concrete and CBM	peg tile, pottery	post-medieval/modern
L2	redeposited clay	-	post-medieval/modern
L3	coal tar, CBM	peg tile, pottery	post-medieval/modern
L4	natural clay	-	post-glacial



**Plate 1** Site stratigraphy in Trench 1, shot facing north-east.

## 5 Finds

*Stephen Benfield*

A small quantity of bulk finds of post-medieval and modern date were recovered from two layer contexts (L1 & L3) in Trench 1. All the finds are listed with both weight and count below (Table 2) and a spot date is provided for each context finds number.

The pottery fabrics recorded are listed below (Table 1) and the quantity of each fabric type is listed in the finds table. The medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics refer to the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985 & CAR 7).

Fabric code	Fabric name	Common date range
45M	English stonewares	19-20C
48	Porcelain and late post-medieval factory wares (general)	18/19-20C

**Table 1** Pottery fabrics recorded with common date ranges

Trench	ctxt (F/L) no.	finds no	ctxt type	finds	Finds spot date
1	L1	1	Modern make-up	<b>Pottery modern</b> late post-medieval/modern factory wares (Fabric 48) white sherd (8 g) (dated probably modern, 19th-20th century) <b>CBM Post-Roman</b> peg-tile (6@ 277 g) probably all the same tile (broken), medieval-post-medieval/modern (dated probably 14th century or later)	modern (19-20C)
1	L3	2	Modern make-up	<b>Pottery modern</b> Modern English stoneware (Fabric 45M) three complete pots (total 765 g): spouted inkpot (352 g), inkpot or blacking jar (238 g), small jar (175 g) <b>CBM Post-medieval</b> (2@ 211) edge piece (16 mm thick) in red sandy fabric, slightly abraded (151 g) (dated as probably post-medieval); piece (15 mm thick) in fine sandy red fabric with finely sanded base, possibly from a pan-tile (60 g) (dated 17th-20th century)	modern (17-20C)

**Table 2** Finds recovered by context with finds spot dates

## 6 Conclusions

The natural clay (L4) was encountered at a depth of approximately 900mm throughout the site, with no features cut into it.

Above it were three layers: two of deposited industrial waste/modern make-up (L1 and L3), and between them, one thin layer of redeposited clay (L2). In discussions with local residents the archaeologist on site was informed that prior to being an engineering works, the site was in use as a coal yard, which would account for the large amount of coal tar present in both L1 and L3, as well as the general disturbed nature of the site's stratigraphy.

The lack of archaeology on the site, as well as the contaminated stratigraphy, suggests that at some point the site has been heavily impacted by either its use as a coal yard, or the subsequent conversion into an engineering works. The presence of a layer of redeposited clay (L2) above a layer of modern make-up (L3), suggests that the natural clay (L4) has been dug into before being used to seal a deposit of modern material. If this has occurred, it would likely have removed any existing archaeology.

The spot dating of the finds from L1 and L3 suggest that this redepositing of natural clay and potential removal of archaeology occurred sometime in the 19th-20th century.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Brettfield Developments Ltd for commissioning the work. The project was managed and fieldwork carried out by M Baister. The project was monitored by ECC Historical Environment Officer Adrian Gascoyne.

## 8 References

- |                             |       |   |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|
| CAR 7                       | 2000  | Cotter, J., <i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , Colchester Archaeological Report 7   |
| CAT                         | 2012  | <i>Policies and procedures</i>  |
| CAT                         | 2013  | <i>Written scheme of investigation for Archaeological excavation of land at Back Waterside Lane, R/O 90-102 High Street, Brightlingsea, Tendring, Essex September 2013</i>  |
| Cunningham, C., & Drury, P. | 1985  | <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report 54  |
| DCLG                        | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Department of Communities and Local Government  |
| EAA 14                      | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, by David Gurney (editor)                                       |
| EAA 24                      | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the east of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott               |
| ECC                         | 2008  | <i>Tendring District Historic Environment Characterisation Project</i>  |
| English Heritage            | 2006  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| HEM                         | 2013  | <i>Archaeological Excavation of land at Back Waterside Lane, R/O 90-102 High Street, Brightlingsea, Tendring, April 2011</i> Essex County Council Brief, by Adrian Gascoyne |
| IfA                         | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>  |
| IfA                         | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| Ryan, P, & Andrews, D       | 1993  | 'A brick and tile typology for Cressing Temple' in Andrews, D, <i>Cressing Temple. A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex</i> , 93-99                                     |

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera).
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HET	Historic Environment Team
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
layer	an accumulation or deposition of archaeological material
medieval	the period from AD 1066 to AD 1500
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
post-medieval	the period from AD 1500 to AD 1800

## 10 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum under accession code 2011.75.

## 11 Contents of archive

### Finds archive

No finds retained after report completed.

### Paper archive

1 A4 wallet containing:  
this report  
original site record (context and finds sheets)  
section drawings  
digital photo log  
attendance record  
sundry papers  
digital photos on disc

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### Distribution list:

Brettfield Developments Ltd  
Adrian Gascoyne, Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Date: 30.09.13



Fig 1 Site location (shown by red dot).



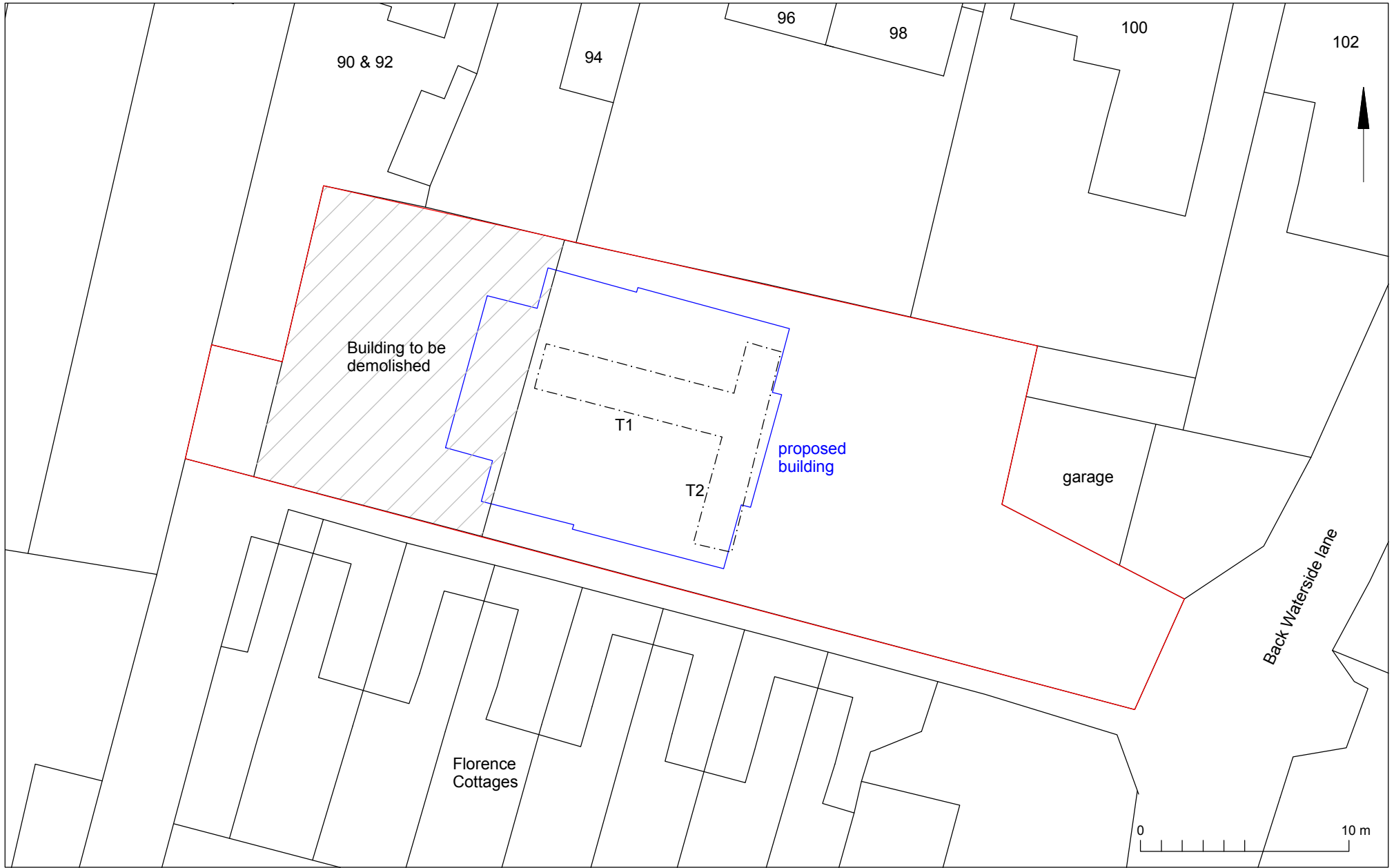


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

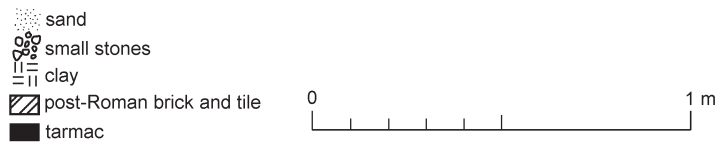
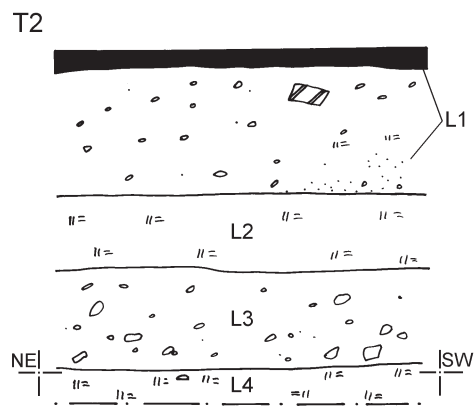
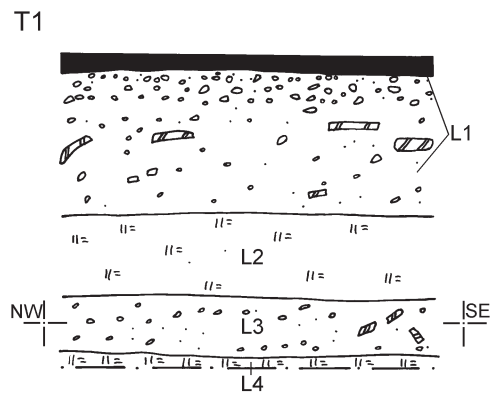


Fig 3 T1-2: Representative sections.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/  
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

<b>Address: Back Waterside Lane, R/O 90-102 High Street, Brightlingsea, Tendring</b>	
<b>Parish:</b> Tendring	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 08985 16712	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code – 11/10e HET Code – BGBW13
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 12th of September 2013	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 21m of trenching
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code : 2011.75	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 723	
<b>Periods represented:</b> post-medieval/modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>In advance of the erection of two semi detached bungalows and associated works, an evaluation by two trenches (total length 21m) was undertaken. Three layers of modern buildup were cut through before coming onto natural clay. Nothing of archaeological significance was discovered.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>ECC Monitor:</b> Adrian Gascoyne	
<b>Keywords:</b> --	<b>Significance:</b> neg
<b>Author of summary:</b> Mark Baister	<b>Date of summary:</b> September 2013