

**An archaeological evaluation
on the former car-park site
at the junction of Mess Road and Chapel Road,
Shoebury Garrison, Shoeburyness, Essex
January 2013**



**report by
Adam Wightman
with a finds report
by Stephen Benfield**

**commissioned
by David Andrews
on behalf of
Garrison Developments LLP**

CAT project ref.: 12/11a
Southend Museum accession code: pending
NGR: TQ 9388 8460 (c)



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CAT Report 680
January 2013

Summary

Trial-trenches were excavated by the Colchester Archaeological Trust within the footprints of two proposed buildings in the former car-park site at the junction of Mess Road and Chapel Road in Shoebury Garrison.

Ten potential archaeological features were investigated during the evaluation, including four ditches (one of which was a re-cut of an earlier ditch) and four small pits/post-holes. Based on the pottery, these features represent activity on the site in the Early Iron Age period extending into the Middle Iron Age.

Given that previous excavations undertaken within the interior of the 'Danish Camp' have shown that the Middle Iron Age was the principal period of occupation, the deposits and finds from this site could be of considerable significance.

Introduction (Figs 1-2)

This is the archive report on the archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the former car-park site at the junction of Mess Road and Chapel Road in Shoebury Garrison, Shoeburyness, Essex (NGR TQ 9388 8460 (c); Fig 1). The proposed development comprises the construction of two new houses, each with a large detached garage and with shared vehicular access from Mess Road (Fig 2).

The site is located within the southern half of the interior of the scheduled archaeological site known as the 'Danish Camp', but which is actually a Middle Iron Age hillfort (County monument no 29444). Sections of the ramparts remain and recent excavations have revealed round-houses and other structures inside the defences. For more information on the archaeological and historical background of the area and details of archaeological finds recovered in the vicinity, see *An assessment of the archaeological implications of a proposed development at Shoeburyness* (CAT 2012) which is appended to this report.

Results (Fig 2)

Two trial-trenches (T1, T2) were excavated within the footprints of the proposed houses (Fig 2). Both trenches were 1.6 m wide and were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

The following sections give a summary of the excavated sequence in each trench.

Trench 1 (Figs 2-4; Plate 1)

T1 was 8 m long and was located in an area of grass (Fig 3). Below the turf, there was a layer of dark grey/brown sandy-silt modern topsoil (L1; Fig 4) which contained modern materials such as plastic and roof slate. L1 overlay a similar topsoil layer which was lighter in colour and contained fewer inclusions than L1 (L2; Fig 4). Peg-tile fragments were observed in L2 but no modern materials were seen, probably indicating that this soil is post-medieval in date. Beneath L2, a medium brown sandy-silt soil accumulation was encountered (L3; Fig 4). No inclusions or finds were observed in L3. The natural sand and gravel (L4) was reached at an overall depth of 650 mm below modern ground-level and was sealed by L3 throughout the trench (Fig 4).

Seven features (F1-F7) cut the natural sand and gravel in T1 (Fig 3). These features did not appear to be cut from higher up within

L3 (Fig 4). However, the fills of the features were mostly similar to L3, making them difficult to detect.

A cluster of four small pits/post-holes was identified in southern half of T1 (F1-F4; Fig 2). The fill of F2 was slightly darker than the medium grey/brown sandy-silt fills of the other three features on account of a high charcoal content (Fig 4). Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age pottery sherds were recovered from F1 and F4, and burnt flints were recovered from F2 and F4.

A section was excavated through an E-W orientated ditch in the centre of T1 (F5/F6; Fig 3). The original ditch (F5) was at least 750 mm wide and 650 mm deep and had relatively straight sides and a flat base (Fig 4). After this ditch had silted up completely, it was re-dug. The subsequent ditch (F6) had a roughly V-shaped profile and a lighter grey/brown sandy-silt fill with a lower charcoal content than its predecessor. Both ditch fills contained Early Iron Age to Middle Iron Age pottery sherds, animal bone, worked flints and pieces of fired clay (see finds section below). There is only one pottery sherd which is Middle Iron Age in date as opposed to Late Iron Age to Middle Iron Age (hand-made sand-tempered pottery), and this was recovered from the upper fill of F6.

At the northern end of T1, a feature with a light brown silty-sand fill and a high gravel content was half-sectioned (F7; Fig 3). No finds or inclusions were observed in the fill. It is probable that F7 was a glacial feature or perhaps a tree-throw pit. At the southern end of T1, a large area of silty-sand was identified which is also presumed to be glacial in origin (Fig 3).



Plate 1: T1, view south-west.

Trench 2 (Figs 2-4; Plate 2)

In T2, a thick layer of tarmac and crushed concrete (L5) overlay the same medium brown sandy-silt soil accumulation observed in T1 (L3; Fig 4). The natural sand and gravel (L4) was reached at an overall depth of 530 mm below modern ground-level (Fig 4).

Three features (F8-F10) were identified in T2 (Fig 3). Sections were excavated through two ditches (F8, F9), both of which were relatively shallow and had medium grey/brown sandy-silt fills with a high gravel content. Ditch F8 was NE-SW aligned, had a V-shaped profile, and its

fill contained charcoal and daub flecks as well as sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age pottery and a worked flint (see finds section below). No finds were recovered from the fill of the N-S orientated ditch F9 and no inclusions were observed in it. A probable glacial feature (F10), which was similar to F7 in T1, was also excavated in T2 (Fig 3).

Two electricity cable trenches were found in T2 (Fig 3). Both cable trenches cut the natural sand and gravel (L4) and one of them cut the ditch F8. No other modern disturbances were identified in either of the trenches.



Plate 2: T2, view south-east.

Finds (pottery and other material culture)

by Stephen Benfield

A quantity of bulk finds were recovered from six features. The finds consist of pottery, fired clay, worked flint, burnt flint and animal bone. The finds are listed by context and described in Table 2. The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: pottery fabrics.

| Fabric | Description |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| HMF | Hand-made flint-tempered pottery |
| HMS | Hand-made sand-tempered pottery |

Table 2: finds by feature and finds number.

| trench | context | finds no | finds | finds spot-date |
|--------|-----------|----------|---|--|
| T1 | F1 | 1 | Pottery prehistoric (2@ 19 g), Fabric HMF, one sherd with oxidised surface Burnt stone Flint (2@ 10 g) | Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age |
| T1 | F2 | 2 | Burnt stone Flint (3@ 24 g) discoloured by heat | ?prehistoric |
| T1 | F4 | 3 | Pottery prehistoric (1@ 39 g), Fabric HMF, black surface with vertical wipe marks Burnt stone Flint (2@ 27 g), part of a small stone cobble and one other fragment | Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age |
| T1 | F6/ F5 | 4 | Pottery prehistoric (44@ 623 g), Fabric HMF (43@ 599 g) includes rim sherds from two bowls/jars with simple everted rims (one with burnt residue on exterior surface), several body sherds joining together, mix of buff oxidised and dark grey/black surfaces (Early Iron Age, possibly Middle Iron Age); Fabric HMS (1@ 24 g), rim from a bowl/jar with simple everted rim, dark brown-grey surfaces (Middle Iron Age) Fired clay (7@ 160 g), sandy buff-orange-red fabrics, moderately well fired although some abrasion to surfaces, includes surface piece with part of sub-square, moulded perforation surviving at one edge and angled, shallow wattle impressions on rear (broken) face; also two other pieces with edges - one a rounded corner edge Burnt stone Flint (1@ 28 g), part of a burnt, small rounded stone Animal bone (1@ 2 g), degraded | Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age and Middle Iron Age |
| T1 | F5 | 5 | Burnt stone Flint (1@ 47 g) | ?prehistoric |
| T1 | F5 | 6 | Pottery prehistoric (1@ 16 g), Fabric HMF, dark grey burnished surface Fired clay (2@ 302 g): 1 - red sandy fabric (1@ 56 g), original surface on one slightly rounded face, curvature suggests a diameter of 80 mm; 2 - buff, hard fabric with several small stone inclusions (1@ 246 g). Rectangular block (60 x 60 x 40 mm), appears complete, possibly a small slab or clay brick Flint (1@ 4 g), small, secondary flake, cortex on base and part of one edge Animal bone (3@ 15 g): 2 pieces, including a sheep metacarpal, are burnt | Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age |
| T1 | F6 | 7 | Pottery prehistoric (1@ 3 g), Fabric HMF, abraded Flint (1@ 15 g), broad, secondary flake, cortex to one side of earlier flake removal scar Animal bone (1@ 1 g), degraded | Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age |
| T2 | F8 | 8 | Pottery prehistoric (21@ 119 g), Fabric HMF, buff and dark grey/black surfaces, possible vertical wipe marks on largest sherd, one corner sherd from a pot with a flat base, much of pottery quite broken up, some abraded surfaces, other sherds appear relatively fresh Flint (1@ 5 g), broad, tertiary flake Burnt stone Flint (1@ 20 g) | Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age |

Pottery

The majority of the finds consist of pottery sherds (71 sherds weighing 843 g), which probably represent an assemblage dating to the late Early Iron Age extending into the Middle Iron Age.

With the exception of just one sand-tempered rim sherd (Fabric HMS; 24 g) from F5(4), all the pottery is flint-tempered. All of this pottery has been recorded simply as hand-made flint-tempered (Fabric HMF). There is variation in the nature of the flint inclusions, both in size and density, but the majority of the sherds contain moderate-common flint inclusion of small-medium size. Some sparse, orange grog was also noted in some flint-tempered sherds and one flint-tempered sherd also appears to have a distinctly sandy fabric. The sherd surfaces are mostly grey, dark grey, or oxidised a pale orange to orange-red. A few of the of the dark-surfaced sherds, possibly representing just two vessels, are burnished and these commonly have fewer and finer flint inclusions than the majority of other sherds. The pottery recovered from upper ditch fill F5/F6(4) represents a small but significant assemblage in its own right and is notable both for the quantity recovered (44 sherds weighing 623 g) and because the sherds are mostly quite large with several joining as pairs.

Diagnostic sherds are limited so that much of the dating relies on the pottery fabrics. There are two flint-tempered rim sherds (F5(4)) both from round-bodied bowls or jars of similar form with simple everted rims: one burnished, indicating a possible fineware vessel, and a rim sherd from a similar jar or bowl in a sand-tempered fabric (F5(4)). There is also one sherd from the edge of the base of a thicker-walled, flat-based pot (F8(8)). All of the remaining sherds are body sherds. Two of the body sherds exhibit vertical wipe marks on the exterior surface (F4(3), F8(8)). None of the pottery is decorated, apart from surface burnishing on some sherds. The nature of the pottery recovered suggests that it can, with some reservations, be treated as a coherent assemblage, although close dating is difficult and it may be possible that the pottery spans a more extended period.

In terms of the fabrics recorded, the use of flint-temper declined in Essex over the period of the Early Iron Age (Sealey 2007, 50). The near exclusive use of flint-temper indicates a probable Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date for the assemblage. Vertical surface wiping (smearing), recorded on two of the sherds, is also common among assemblages of Late Bronze Age date (Brown 1988, 270). The absence of any decoration among the pottery or any apparent angled-vessel forms could also indicate a Late Bronze Age date, suggesting that the pottery could be part of a post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) assemblage, initially defined by Barrett (Barrett 1980), broadly dating to c 1,100-600 BC.

However, some of the pottery has traits which indicate a later, Middle Iron Age date. This is most clearly seen in the single rim from a sand-temper jar which appears to be typical both in fabric and form of Middle Iron Age assemblages. This could also be true of two flint-tempered bowl or jar rims, although the fabric could indicate an earlier date. It is noted that some use of flint-temper persisted into the Middle Iron Age among assemblages from the south of the county, both at the Ardale School, Stifford, Essex (Wilkinson 1988) and at North Shoebury (Wymer & Brown 1995). The moderate quantity of medium to fine flint-temper in the vessels here does not appear to be significantly different from that described for some of the vessels dated to the Middle Iron Age at these other sites. However, the range of fabrics seen among the Middle Iron Age assemblages, including shell-tempered and sand-tempered wares, is not seen among the pottery here.

Given the nature of the pottery, while a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age dating may be possible for some of the assemblage, some could date later, to the period of the Middle Iron Age, with one sherd which is almost certainly of that period. The PDR tradition itself is perceived as being divided between an early 'plain ware' phase dated c 1,100-800 BC and a later 'decorated phase' dated c 800-600 BC (Brudenell 2008, 190). However, Brudenell has questioned the linear transition from plain ware assemblages to decorated ones and suggests that the plain ware tradition could be viewed as persisting into the Iron Age in East Anglia and, possibly, should be seen to extend as late as the beginning of the Middle Iron Age (Brudenell 2008, 195 & table 12.3). Sealey has also noted that assemblages at the beginning of the Middle Iron Age may have a high incidence of flint-tempered pottery, and that a group of pots from Stock in Essex dated to the beginning of the Middle Iron Age period were all flint-tempered (Sealey 1996, 50). Also, a larger assemblage from Frogs Hall Borrow Pit (Takeley in Essex) has a similar fabric composition to the assemblage here, with over 90% of the pottery being flint-tempered; and the vessels there also lack the decoration and angled profiles commonly associated with Early Iron Age assemblages in Essex (Lavender 2006). The Frogs Hall Borrow Pit assemblage is dated to the end of the Early Iron Age, possibly extending into the Middle Iron Age.

Other material culture

In general, the remainder of the finds are not closely datable but they are not inconsistent with a broad late prehistoric (Late Bronze Age-Iron Age) date.

Of significance are a number of pieces of fired clay, most of which are not identifiable as to purpose or source. These include a small rectangular block in a slightly stony, oxidised (buff) fabric which came from the upper ditch fill of F5(6). The sides and faces are flat with angular edges and the piece appears to be complete. The parallel sides and hardness suggest a formed brick or small slab from an oven or kiln. Although the context suggests a late Early Iron Age to Middle Iron Age date, the piece appears most similar to objects identified as small, Iron Age 'Belgic bricks', an example of which comes from the Ardale School in Essex (Wilkinson 1988, fig 82 no 4) and which are generally dated to the Late Iron Age or early Roman period. Another piece of fired clay has part of a sub-rectangular perforation on one edge with two shallow wattle impression in one face and is likely to be structural.

Other finds include heat-altered stones, all of which are flint, and a few worked flints which would not be out of place in a late prehistoric assemblage. There are also a few pieces of bone, all of which appear to be animal although only one piece of a sheep metacarpal (F5(6)) could be positively identified to a species. This particular bone, along with another piece from this same context, has been burnt. The other unburnt bone pieces include some which are degraded and might indicate that bone (unless burnt) is not well preserved on the site.

Discussion

This evaluation has shown that significant archaeological features survive at the proposed development site. These take the form of ditches and small pits/post-holes which are covered by an undisturbed layer of buried topsoil. With the exception of two electricity cables, there appears to be little evidence of modern disturbance in the areas in which the trial-trenches were excavated. However, the archaeological deposits were not far below ground-level (650 mm below modern ground-level in T1 and 530 mm in T2) and, at such

depths, may be regarded as vulnerable to damage and destruction during any redevelopment of the site.

The pottery assemblage of over 70 sherds has been used to date the archaeological deposits to the late Early Iron Age period extending into the Middle Iron Age. Given that previous excavations undertaken within the interior of the 'Danish Camp' have shown that the Middle Iron Age was the principal period of occupation, the deposits and finds from this site could be of considerable significance, especially if they can be more securely dated as part of a larger group of finds or by other dating methods such as radiocarbon (C14) dating. A suitable sample of charcoal for C14 dating could be recovered from a soil sample collected from F2 during this evaluation.

Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank David Andrews and Garrison Developments LLP for commissioning and funding the project. The site work was undertaken by A Wightman and C Lister. The section illustrations are by E Holloway.

The project was monitored by Deborah Priddy for English Heritage.

References

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

- | | | |
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Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by English Heritage
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Copy of Scheduled Monument Consent
- 1.4 Copy of the archaeological assessment by CAT
- 1.5 Risk assessment
- 1.6 1 x A3 site plan provided by developer
- 1.7 1 x A4 site plan provided by developer

2 Site archive

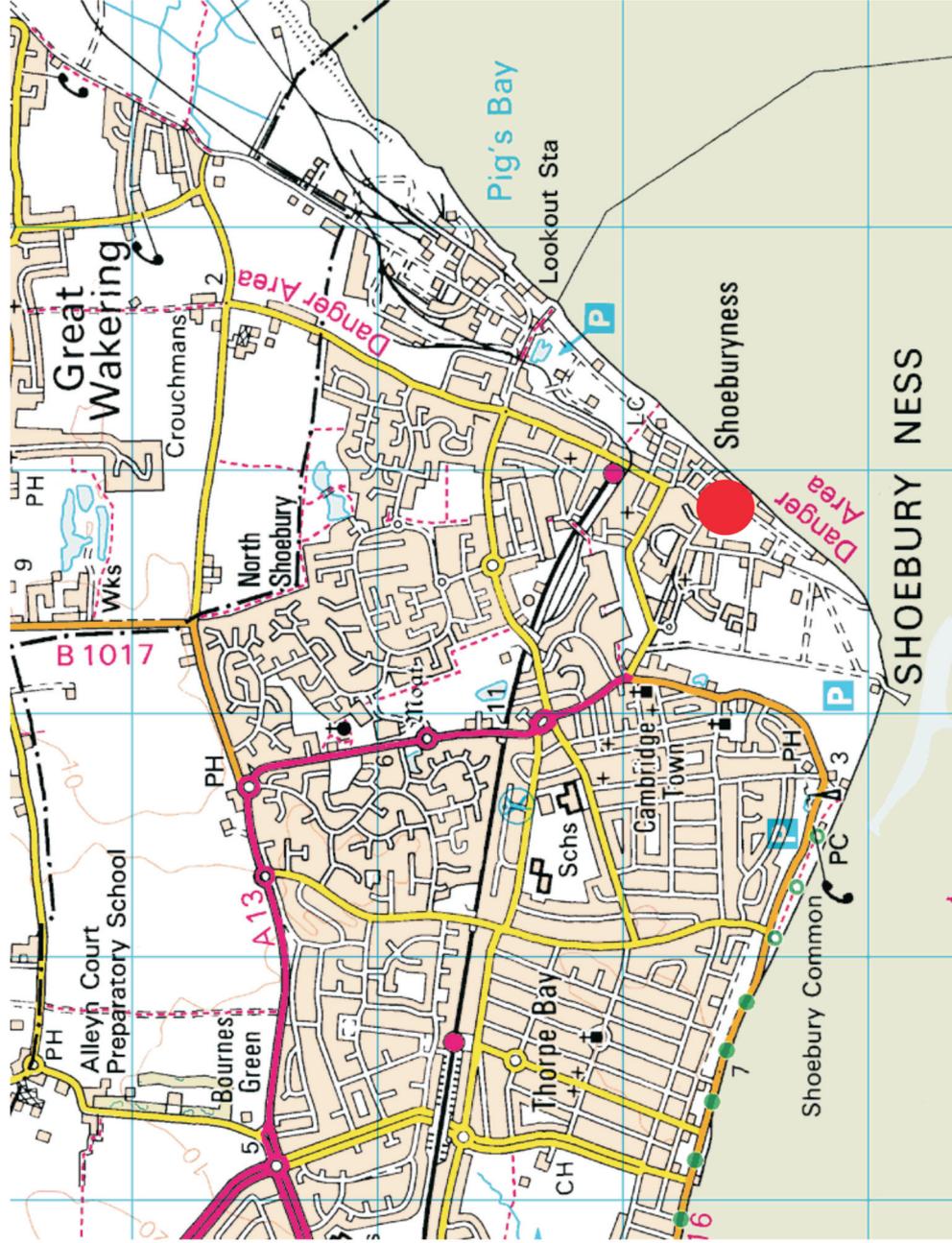
- 2.1 Site digital photographic record
- 2.2 Attendance register
- 2.3 Context sheets (F1-F10, L1-L5)
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report
- 3.2 Finds report

Not in wallet

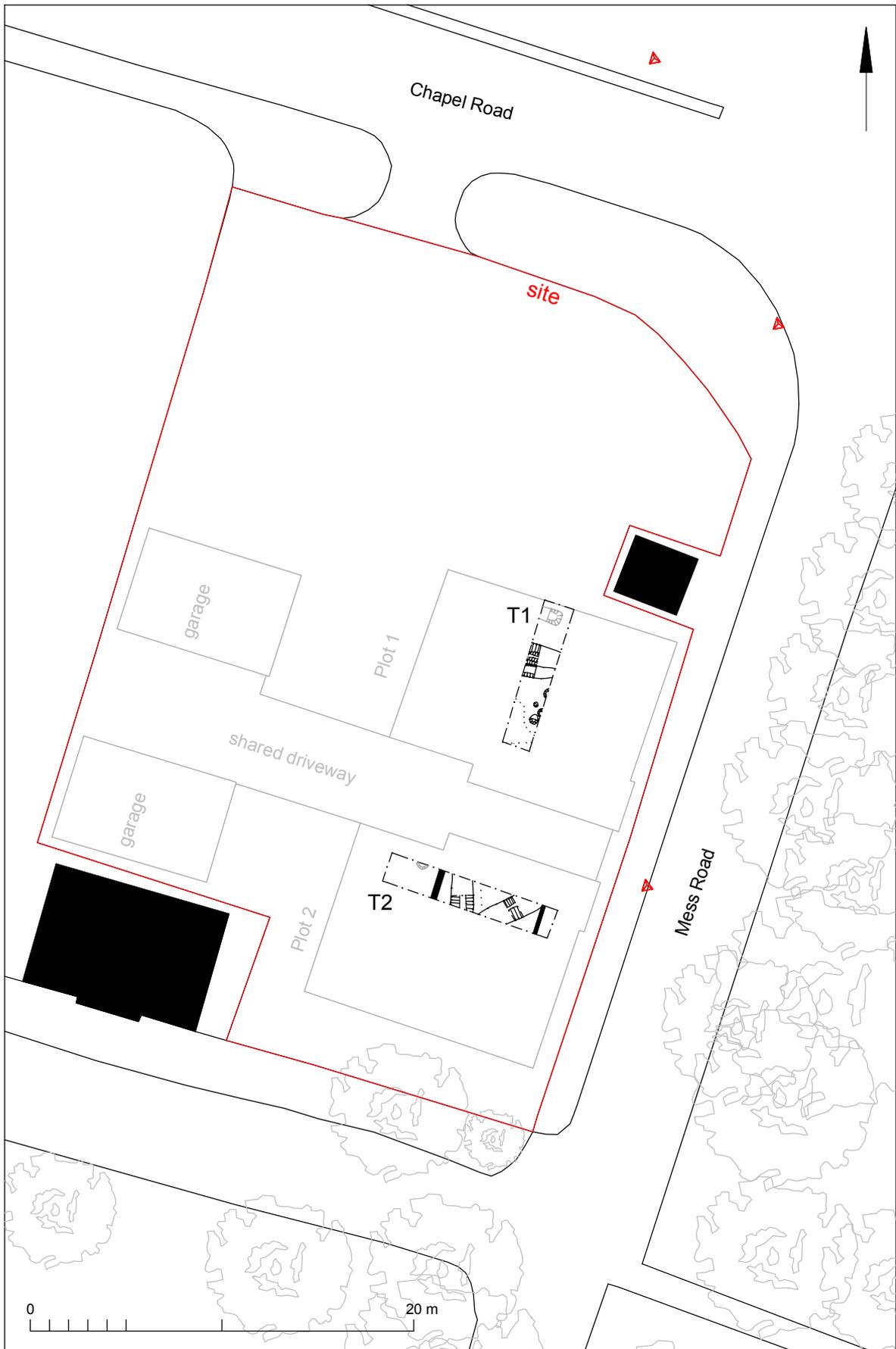
The finds (less than one museum box)
1 x A3 Sx sheet



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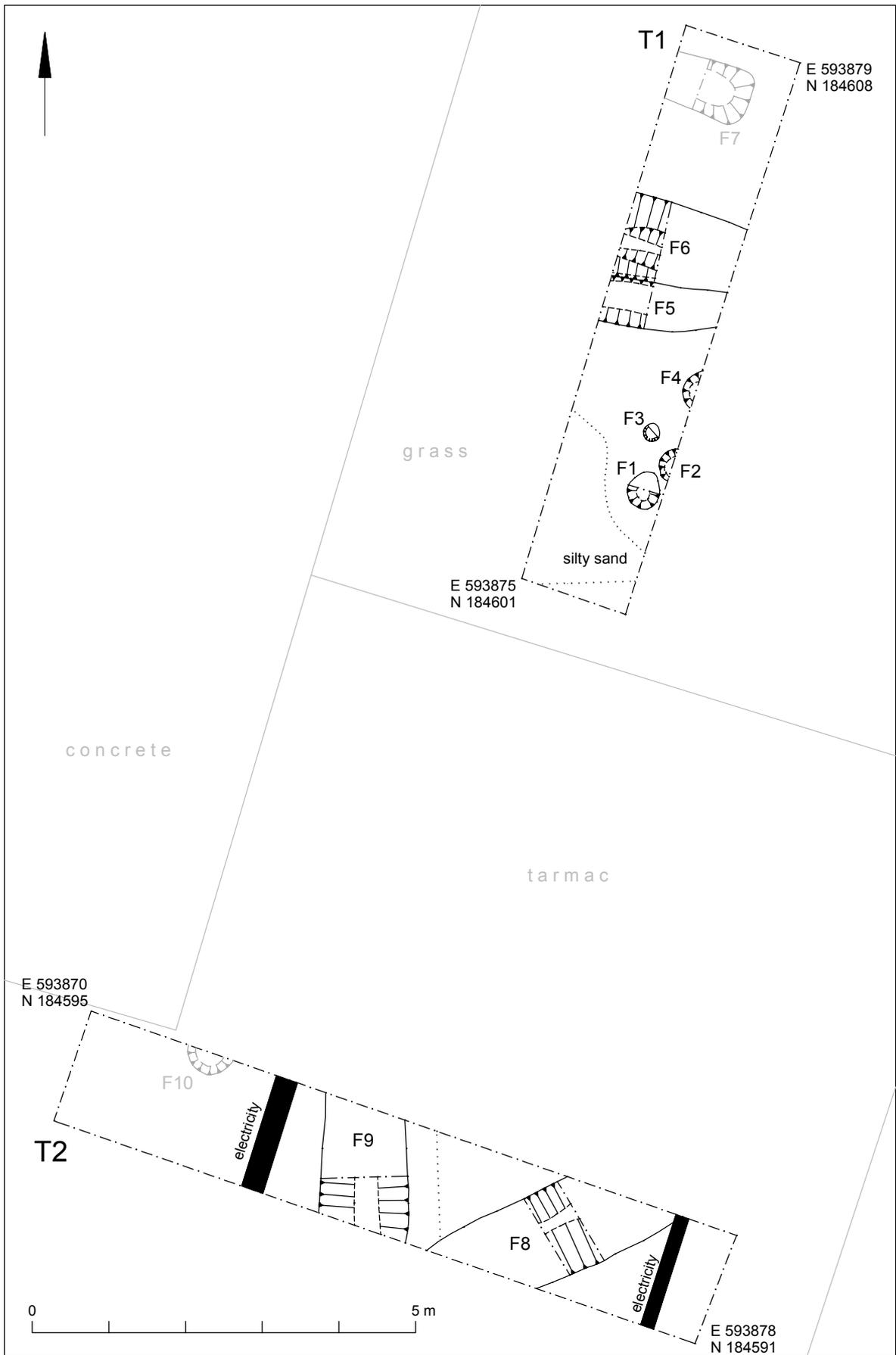


Fig 1 Site location (marked by a red dot).



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Fig 2 Site plan, showing the positions of the trial-trenches and the proposed development.



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Fig 3 Results.

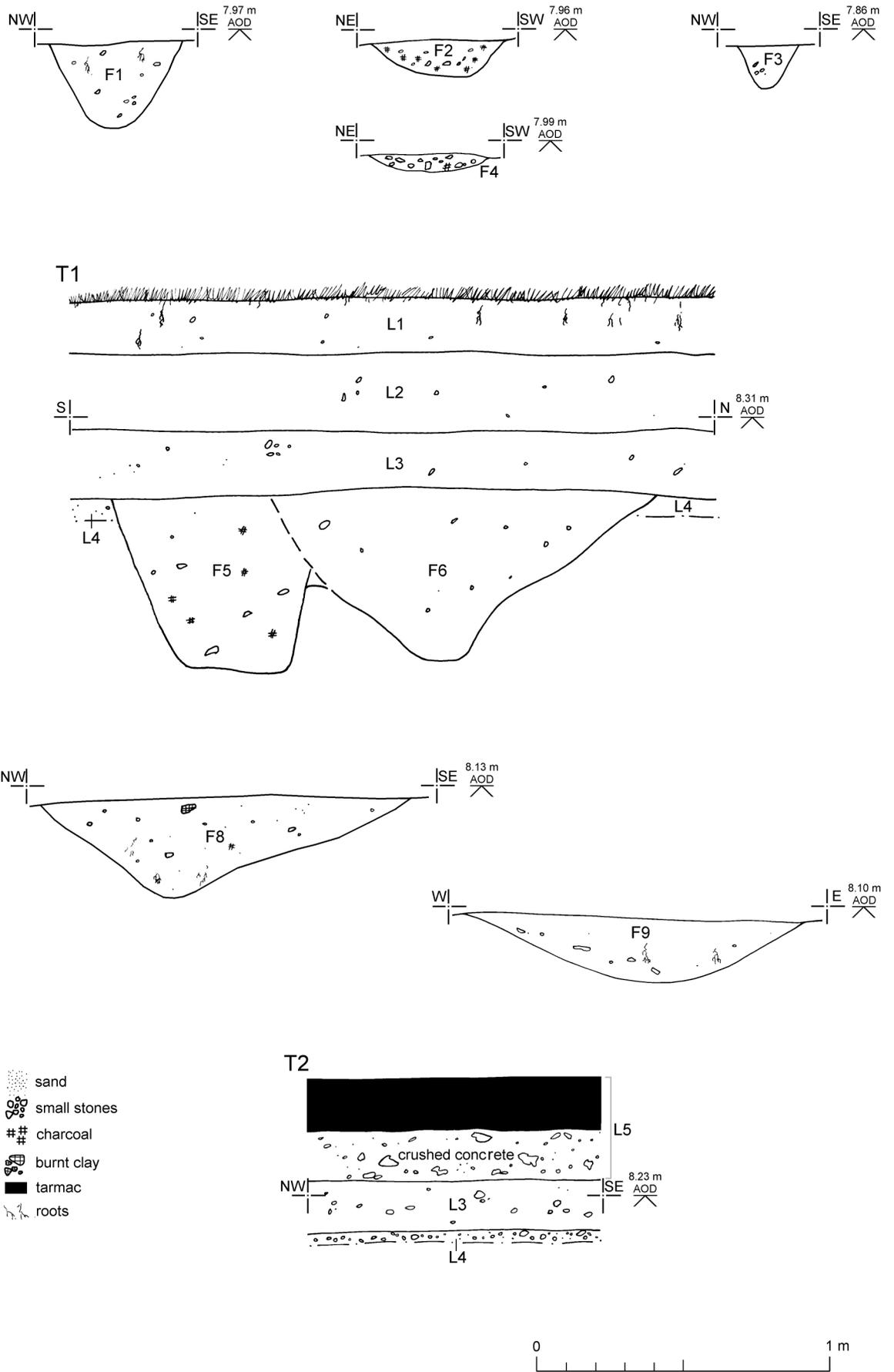


Fig 4 F1-F9: sections; T1-T2: representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

| | |
|--|---|
| Address: former car-park site at the junction of Mess Road and Chapel Road, Shoebury Garrison, Shoeburyness, Essex | |
| Parish: Shoeburyness | District: Southend-on-sea |
| NGR: TQ 9388 8460 (c) | Site codes: CAT project – 12/11a Museum accession – pending |
| Type of work: Evaluation by trial-trenching | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: 9th January 2013 | Size of area investigated: Two trial-trenches totalling 18m in length |
| Location of curating museum: Southend-on-sea | Funding source: Developer |
| Further seasons anticipated? Yes | Related EHER numbers: |
| Final report: CAT Report 680 | |
| Periods represented: Iron Age | |
| <p>Summary: <i>Trial-trenches were excavated by the Colchester Archaeological Trust within the footprints of two proposed buildings in the former car-park site at the junction of Mess Road and Chapel Road in Shoebury Garrison.</i> <i>Ten potential archaeological features were investigated during the evaluation, including four ditches (one of which was a re-cut of an earlier ditch) and four small pits/post-holes. Based on the pottery, these features represent activity on the site in the Early Iron Age period extending into the Middle Iron Age.</i> <i>Given that previous excavations undertaken within the interior of the ‘Danish Camp’ have shown that the Middle Iron Age was the principal period of occupation, the deposits and finds from this site could be of considerable significance.</i></p> | |
| Previous summaries/reports: none | |
| Keywords: ditch, pit, post-hole, Early Iron Age-Middle Iron Age, pottery | Significance: ** |
| Author of summary: Adam Wightman | Date of summary: January 2013 |

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Shoebury Garrison

**Defended prehistoric settlement at Shoeburyness, known as
the Danish Camp.**

COUNTY MONUMENT NO 29444

October 2012

ENGLISH HERITAGE

Site: Defended prehistoric settlement at Shoeburyness, known as the Danish Camp, Southend on Sea

English Heritage Inspector: Deborah Priddy (01223 582720)

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period English Heritage should be contacted to assess if archaeological requirements have changed. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

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

1. Introduction

This brief is issued by the East of England Regional Office of English Heritage for the archaeological evaluation within the scheduled monument. The brief sets out the requirements for an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken in connection with the development of proposals for the construction of two new houses. This is housed within the surviving monastic claustral range. The implementation of the evaluation will be subject to obtaining scheduled monument consent. The work will be specifically designed to assess and characterise archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed footprint. The specification for the evaluation should include a short desk top assessment of the evaluation site in relation to the wider scheduled monument. Archaeological work should consist of the evaluation by means of a trial trenching.

2. Requirement for Work

The archaeological evaluation is required to .

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and their character and importance, so as to establish the likely archaeological impact of a new museum building, and to inform the acceptability and scope for mitigation via foundation design, and archaeological recording.

3. Methodology

3.1 The evaluation shall be carried out by a team of professional archaeologists . details of the name, qualifications and experience of the site director and all other project personnel (including specialist staff0 shall be supplied as part of the WSI.

3.2 Details of the evaluation strategy shall be provided within the written scheme of investigation, as appropriate, and the area evaluated should be sufficient to predict the archaeological impact of the proposed development.

3.3 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.

3.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all amins services locations and avoid damage to these.

3.5 all current health and safety guidelines must be followed on site.

3.6 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the 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.

3.7 Details of the photographic record shall be included in the WSI. This shall include both general and feature specific photographs. A photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot shall accompany the photographic record.

3.8 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 Helen Chappel, English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy and Wiltshire 1994) is available from the EH regional office.

3.9 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. All burials are to be fully excavated.

3.10 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological watching briefs and excavations* should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

4. Finds

4.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

4.2 All pottery shall be marked with the site code and context number.

4.3 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.

4.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be stated within the written scheme of investigation.

5. Results

5.1 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 6 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the Southend on Sea Sites and Monuments Record. . Where possible a single hard copy with a full digital copy shall be supplied. Two hard copies shall be provided to English Heritage East of England Office. .

5.2 This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- 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)
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

5.3 Publication of the results, at least to a summary level shall appear in the year following the excavation.

6. Archive Deposition

6.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum.

6.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

6.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 2 month of the completion of the report.

6.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to EH at the time of deposition to the museum.

7. Monitoring

7.1 English Heritage will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project.

7.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the EH in line with the notice conditions on the scheduled monument consent.

7.3 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with EH prior to them being carried out.

8. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

8.1 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 English Heritage for approval.

8.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to English Heritage for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.

8.3 The involvement of EH shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Email Debbie.priddy@english-heritage.org.uk

Written Scheme of Investigation
for an archaeological evaluation

at

the former car park site,
Mess Road, Shoebury Garrison,
Shoeburyness, Essex

November 2012

commissioned by
Garrison Developments LLP



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
ROMAN CIRCUS HOUSE,
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at the former car park site, Mess Road, Shoebury Garrison, Shoeburyness, Southend-on Sea, Essex, in advance of a proposed residential redevelopment.
- 1.2 The site (NGR: TQ 9388 8460) is situated on the corner of Mess Road and Chapel Road in Shoeburyness (Fig 1). The site lies within the former Shoebury Garrison.
- 1.3 The proposed redevelopment includes the construction of two houses, each with a large detached garage, and with shared vehicular access from Mess Road.
- 1.4 The implementation of the evaluation will be subject to obtaining scheduled monument consent.
- 1.5 This WSI has been written by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). It sets out proposals for an archaeological evaluation, and for post-excavation work including the production of a report, an archive and (if necessary) publication texts. It follows a brief produced by the East of England Regional Office of English Heritage (EH 2012).
- 1.6 Any variations in this WSI will be agreed beforehand with the East of England Regional Office of English Heritage (EH).

2 Archaeological background

- 2.1 The archaeological potential of the site was assessed in a CAT desk-based assessment (CAT 2012). This is included in this WSI as Appendix 1. The more significant and relevant archaeological remains and documentary sources are summarised below:
- 2.2 The site lies in the Scheduled southern half of the archaeological site known as the 'Danish Camp', but which is actually a Middle Iron Age hillfort (County monument no 29444). Sections of the ramparts remain and recent excavations have shown the position of round houses and other structures.
- 2.3 There is evidence of later occupation in Roman times and the possibility of a Roman building east of Mess Road.
- 2.4 The site had originally been thought to have been a 9th-century Danish encampment, but no evidence of this has been found.
- 2.5 In the mid-19th century the site was incorporated within Shoebury Garrison.

3 Aims

The aims of the evaluation are to record the depth and extent of any archaeological remains uncovered in the trial trenches, and to assess the date and significance of these remains in terms of the wider area of the proposed redevelopment.

4 General Methodology

- 4.1 All works will be undertaken by professional archaeologists employed by CAT. The field officer(s) will have a level of experience appropriate to the work. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to EH one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 4.2 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard health and safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 2007).
- 4.3 For the purposes of the deposition of the archive, a museum accession code will be obtained through Southend Museum. The code used will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.
- 4.4 The relevant document of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (IfA 2008a), including its 'code of conduct'. English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006) will be adhered to throughout the course of the project. Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA 3, EAA 8, EAA 14 and EAA 24.
- 4.5 At the start of work an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

5 Recording methodology

- 5.1 Two evaluation trenches will be dug within the footprints of the proposed houses (Fig 2). The trenches will each measure approximately 8 m long by 1.65 m wide.
- 5.2 They will be dug using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of the CAT archaeologist. Any modern concrete surfaces will first be broken out.
- 5.3 Machine-stripping will continue down to the uppermost surviving levels of archaeological significance. Where no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until the natural subsoil is reached. The surface of the subsoil will then be scrapped clean and checked for archaeological features.
- 5.4 CAT will obtain information about existing service locations from the client. If no such information is available, a CAT scan will be undertaken prior to and during excavation. In general, cable and service positions will not be excavated, but will be left as upstanding baulks.
- 5.5 All archaeological deposits or features will be excavated by hand. Fast excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.
- 5.6 Individual records of excavated contexts, such as layers or features, as well as finds, will be entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of small finds and soil samples.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits taken on a digital camera. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a register detailing, as a minimum, feature number, location and direction of shot.
- 5.9 The environmental sampling policy is as follows. CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, with any processing and reporting done by VF. If advice is required Helen Chappell at English Heritage will be consulted.
- 5.10 A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.
- 5.11 The limits of the trenches, the features and levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum using a Total Station.

6 Finds

- 6.1 The policy with regard to human remains depends on how old they are. If it is clear, from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then the normal procedure is to apply to the Home Office (Department of Constitutional Affairs) for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the licence will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client and the monitoring officer will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed. **Note:** As the relevant legislation is currently in a state of flux, advice will be sought from EH monitoring officer and DCA on best practice.
- 6.2 All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with EH and Southend Museum.
- 6.3 All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.
- 6.4 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Southend Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.
- 6.5 Provisions for conservation and storage shall be agreed with Southend Museum in accordance with their requirements.
- 6.6 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.

- 6.7 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 2008b).
- 6.8 A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

7 Results

- 7.1 Notification will be given to EH when the fieldwork has been completed.
- 7.2 The full report, including full reports on artefacts, will be submitted to the EH within a length of time not exceeding 3 months from the end of fieldwork. A digital copy of the report will be supplied to the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) as a PDF.
- 7.3 This report will include:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological work.
 - Location plan of all monitored areas. At least two corners of the area shall be given 10 figure grid references.
 - A section drawing showing the depth of deposits including present ground-level related to Ordnance Datum.
 - The recording methodology and results with a suitable conclusion and discussion.
 - All specialist reports and assessments.
 - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- 7.4 An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006).
- 7.5 A digital EHER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks and supplied to the Historic Environment officer. This shall include a plan showing the position of the monitored areas.
- 7.6 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the EH. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).
- 7.7 If, after discussion with EH, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*.

8 Archive deposition

- 8.1 The full archive will be deposited at Southend Museum within 6 months of completion of the final report on the project. The guidance in *Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (IfA 2007) will be followed.
- 8.2 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Southend Museum. The storage of the archive will accord with Southend Museum guidelines.
- 8.3 Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Southend Museum storage systems.
- 8.4 The photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on disk and hard copies of digital photo logs.
- 8.5 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to EH at the time of deposition at the museum.
- 8.6 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

9 Monitoring

- 9.1 EH will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 9.2 Notification of the start of work will be given to EH, if possible, one week in advance of its commencement.
- 9.3 Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with EH in writing prior to them being carried out.
- 9.4 EH will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.
- 9.5 The involvement of EH shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

10 References

- | | | |
|--------|-------|---|
| CAT | 2007 | <i>Health and Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2012 | An assessment of the archaeological implications of a proposed development at Shoeburyness, January 2012, unpublished CAT archive report, by H Brooks |
| EAA 3 | 1997 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment</i> , ed by J Glazebrook |
| EAA 8 | 2000 | <i>Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> , ed by N Brown and J Glazebrook |
| EAA 14 | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , ed by D Gurney, ALGAO East |
| EAA 24 | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties . Research agenda and strategy</i> , ed by M Medlycott |
| EH | 2012 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Shoebury Garrison</i> , EH brief, October 2012, by Debbie Priddy |
| IFA | 2007 | <i>Archaeological archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| IFA | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> |
| IFA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| MoRPHE | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> , English Heritage |

Donald Shimmin 7/11/12

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List of team members

Site supervision and recording

Adam Wightman

Assistants

To be decided

Finds consultants

Stephen Benfield (CAT): Prehistoric and Roman pottery
Francesca Boghi (NAU): Human bone
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 (NAU): Animal bone
John Davis (Norwich Museum): Roman coins
Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): Environmental
Dr 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 (ECC): Saxon, Medieval and post-medieval pottery.
Adam Wightman (CAT): small animal bone and lithic assemblages

Graphics

E Holloway, G Adams, C Lister

Report writing

A Wightman

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.

Francesca Boghi MSc (Norfolk Archaeological Unit) Human bone

Francesca has been the Norfolk Archaeological Unit's human bone specialist since 1998. Her previous experience includes work for the Calvin Wells laboratory at the University of Bradford, where she undertook the analysis of 79 skeletons from the medieval cemetery of Pennell Street, Lincoln, Lincolnshire and of a group of Romano-British cremations from Kempston, Bedfordshire. Since joining Norfolk Archaeological Unit she has analysed the medieval assemblage from the parish church of Brettenham, Norfolk (89 skeletons), the human remains from Norwich Whitefriars (thirty-three skeletons from the Carmelite Friary and thirty-seven from the Baptist Chapel of Friary Yard), the skeletal remains from a medieval well in Norwich and numerous other smaller assemblages of inhumations and cremated human remains from the county. In addition she contributes to local education programmes by providing short sessions on skeletal analysis and interpretation. Her professional qualification is an MSc from the University of Sheffield and Bradford in Osteology, Palaeopathology and Funerary Archaeology. She is a member of the British Association of Biological Anthropologists and Osteoarchaeologists (BBAO).

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, 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 (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.

Dr Helen Chappell (English Heritage) Regional Science Advisor

Dr 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 *Crissing 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 (ECC) Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Helen is 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).

Appendix 1

An assessment of the archaeological implications of a proposed development at Shoeburyness.



Prepared for Garrison Developments LLP

by Colchester Archaeological Trust



January 2012

1 Introduction

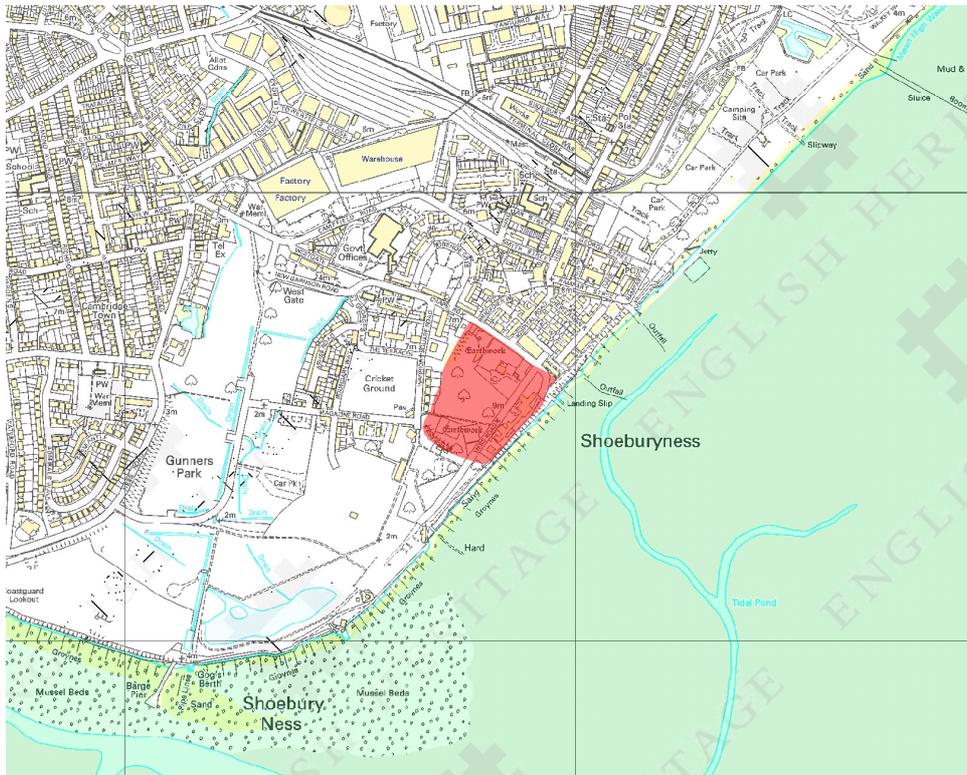
This is a brief assessment of the archaeological background to the site, its present condition, and the archaeological implications of redevelopment.

It was prepared on behalf of Garrison Developments LLP, and was researched and written on January 9th-11th by Howard Brooks BA FSA MIfA of Colchester Archaeological Trust.

The primary source was the Southend Museum Historic Environment Record (HER), for access to which we are grateful to Ken Crowe, the English Heritage *National Heritage Listing for England*, and annual summaries of work published in *Essex Archaeology & History*.

2 Archaeological background

The site is in the Scheduled southern half of the archaeological site known as the 'Danish Camp', but actually a Middle Iron Age hillfort. The scheduled area is shown in the map below.



The location of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (the Danish Camp). Source *National Heritage List for England* (English Heritage website).

The following site summary is given on the Southend Borough Council website http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/841/historic_sites_and_monuments/96/overview_of_southends_history/5.

The "Danish Camp", Shoebury Garrison

Sections of ancient ramparts remain at the former Shoebury Garrison. They form part of the defences of a prehistoric settlement on the edge of the shore. Recent excavations have indicated that the main period of settlement was in the middle Iron Age (300 to 100 BC) and have shown the position of round houses and other structures. There is also evidence of later occupation in Roman times and the possibility of a Roman building east of Ness Road. The site had originally been thought to have been a 9th century Danish encampment, but no evidence of this has been found.

(Further detail of the site as given in the English Heritage National Heritage List for England is given in Appendix 2).

Recent fieldwork

There has been considerable archaeological activity in and around the Danish Camp site over the past fifteen years. Four projects are summarised here to give an idea of what exists on the site.

1) 1998 Gifford Archaeology evaluation

An extensive programme of geophysical survey, test pitting and evaluation work was undertaken over a large area including the Danish Camp area and Gunners Park to the east. Two project areas closest to the PDS are Areas A, B, and E. Area A was over the road and N of the Gunnery Drill Shed, and was centred approximately 130m N of the PDS. Area B was approximately 220 m x 240m and included the PDS in its NE corner. Area E was centred 180m W of the PDS.

The nine trenches cut into Area A showed considerable disturbance caused by the construction of the Garrison in the 1850s. The two trenches cut into Area E showed (in one trench) an old field boundary ditch of indeterminate age, and (in the other), a considerable depth of modern disturbance between 500mm and 800mm deep, the result of ground disturbance caused by the Garrison construction of the 1850s.

The Gifford 1999 report states that the Area B evaluation would be done in due course, and would be published separately. There was no Area B report in the HER, nor is it available on the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) website of unpublished fieldwork reports. In the limited time available for this assessment, the Area B report could not be located. However, it is noted from the NHLE that the 4% trenching evaluation of this area revealed a dense pattern of well preserved Iron Age features, including evidence of four round houses (identifiable from characteristic drainage gullies), two post-built structures, several boundary ditches and numerous post holes and pits. In summary, the evaluation demonstrated the survival of significant archaeological remains within the 'Danish Camp' ramparts and beyond.

2) 1998 ?Gifford Archaeology sections across ramparts

A report in the Southend HER gives a publication draft for a 1998 project which involved the excavation of two trenches across the surviving ramparts of the hillfort.

A recut of the original ditch contained Neolithic 'Grooved ware' pottery. Rather than taking this as evidence of an earlier defended site than was envisaged (i.e., Neolithic rather than Iron Age), the report prefers to see this pottery as residual material in a later ditch, and possibly to be associated with a Bronze Age palisade slot which may represent the earliest date at which this site was fortified. This early stage, whatever form it took, was replaced by a revetted bank of the Iron Age. Given that the other excavations of the interior show that the Middle Iron Age (circa 300 BC – 100 BC) was

the principal period of occupation, that date is preferred for the laying out of the ramparts and ditch system. There is evidence of Roman and Anglo-Saxon reuse of the Camp.

3) 2003 Pre Construct Archaeology excavations in North Camp

An excavation of three areas in North Camp is described in *A phased summary and assessment of the excavations at North Camp, Shoeburyness, Essex*, by Roddy Mattinson of Pre-Construct Archaeology (2005). Major excavation over 3 areas (A-C) revealed multiperiod archaeological activity from the Middle Bronze Age to the Roman period, but centred on the Middle Iron Age, when at least four round-houses occupied the site. This area is now covered in new build (i.e., Hale Way).

4) Current Essex County Field Archaeology Unit test pits and watching brief on Officers Mess site (attached Fig 1)

We are obliged to ECC FAU for the following summary of current work on this site, which is immediately south of the PDS (see attached Fig 1).

An archaeological test-pit evaluation was carried out along the north-western side of the derelict Officers Mess building, in 2010, as a precursor to structural engineering and environmental ground investigations (Letch 2010). This established the immediate proximity of the building to have been disturbed by 19th and 20th century activity associated with it. However, some areas of undisturbed and un-truncated natural deposits were identified and three residual sherds of medieval pottery were retrieved. Test-pit 1, closest to the former car park site [i.e., the PDS], contained the least disturbance and depth of modern overburden.

The Officers Mess site is currently undergoing conversion and extension to residential use and archaeological monitoring of major construction groundworks is being undertaken as this development progresses. The contractors' excavation of all but one of the extension footprints, a substantial storm drain and some of the plot boundary walls and drainage runs have so far been observed. This has demonstrated variable but widespread 19th and 20th century disturbance along the northwest side of the Officers Mess. In areas of low disturbance, natural subsoil deposits are encountered at a depth of c.0.4m. To date, only the remains of a single ditch of archaeological significance, buried c.1.1m below the present ground surface, has been identified.

3 The current condition of the site

The PDS has a grassy area on its eastern side but is mostly covered in concrete slab. Maps of the 1980s show buildings on the site and over its western edge.



Illustration 1: view of site looking SE across Chapel Road. Brick building with pitched roof centre is the electricity substation.



Illustration 2: view of site looking N. Building in background is the Gunnery Drill Shed on the N side of Chapel Road.

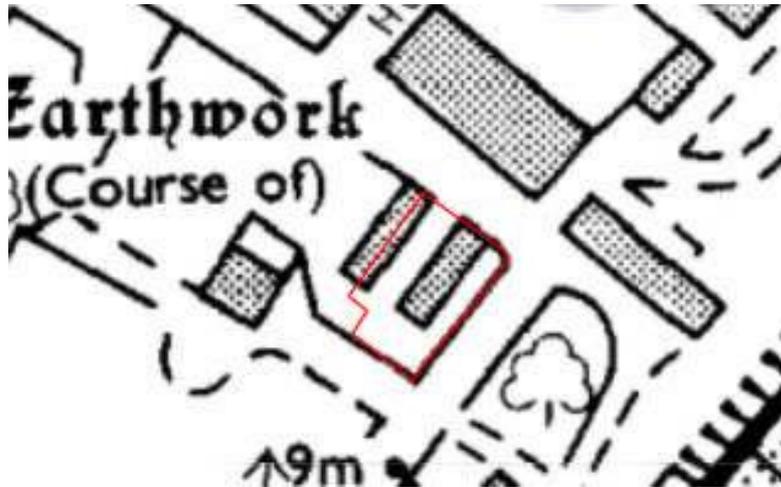


Illustration 3: Extract from OS 1989 1:2500 showing buildings (now demolished) on PDS (red outline). © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294

The existing concrete slab over the western side of the PDS does not readily relate to the outline of the buildings shown in the 1980s (above), so the slab is more likely to be a new construction after the demolition of those buildings, rather than their floor slab. Further, an electricity substation has been built on the E edge of the PDS.

The conclusion is that although the surrounding land has a pleasant 'parkland' appearance, the PDS cannot be regarded as untouched ground. There have been several phases of activity here, and any archaeological remains will have been disturbed.

The unknown factor is whether there is (under the slab) a blanket of modern 'disturbed ground', and how thick it is. In this respect, it should be noted that on the adjacent Officers Mess site, this modern disturbance is up to 1.1m thick. If the same is the case on the PDS, then undisturbed archaeological remains may exist below it. However, elsewhere on the Officers Mess site, natural ground is seen at only 0.4m deep. If this were so on the PDS, then previous building on the PDS (including the existing slab) may have disturbed the archaeological horizons.

4 Conclusions and summary

- 4.1 The proposed development site (PDS), at the junction of Mess Road and Chapel Road, Shoeburyness is a vacant lot currently used for visitor parking and storage of building materials. It has an electricity substation on the Mess Road frontage.
- 4.2 The PDS occupies part of the Iron-Age 'hill-fort' (traditionally known as the 'Danish Camp'), which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). The northern part of the hillfort (as defined by the course of Brigadier Way and Rampart Street) is already built over.
- 4.3 There have been a number of archaeological evaluations and excavations within the interior of the hill-fort. Three points emerge:

- 1) there are extensive archaeological remains within the hillfort.
 - 2) the main period of activity appears to be the Middle Iron Age, as evidenced by Iron Age round-houses (although there is also evidence of activity from the Neolithic to the medieval period).
 - 3) the building of the Garrison in the 1850s has contributed to the slighting of most of the circuit of the ramparts, and to the truncation of the archaeological horizons, which are now covered by a blanket of soil up to 1.1m deep (which can be described as 'modern disturbance').
- 4.4 There is pleasant green space to the east and south, but the PDS itself is covered in a concrete slab, and a map of the 1980s shows a building (or buildings) on the site. The PDS cannot therefore be regarded as untouched ground.
- 4.5 However, given the importance of the site and the survival of archaeological remains elsewhere within the Scheduled hillfort, the PDS has undoubted archaeological potential. There is a possibility that archaeological remains survive below the concrete slab now covering most of the PDS.
- 4.6 Archaeological evaluation / excavation will be required prior to development (its extent and methodology to be determined). No work, including archaeology, may be carried out here without Scheduled Monument Consent.
- 4.7 However, given the amount of disturbance the site has already seen, and the low level of survival of archaeological remains on the adjacent Officers Mess site, the SAM status of the site should not, in itself, be a barrier to sensitive redevelopment.

5 References

| | | |
|--------------|------|---|
| Gifford | 1998 | <i>Shoeburyness 'Danish Camp' excavation 1998</i> . Draft report in HER. |
| Gifford | 1999 | <i>Report on an archaeological evaluation at the Old Ranges, Shoeburyness, Essex. Volume 1, April 1999</i> . Report number B1644A.3R (1998 fieldwork for Defence Estates Organisation). |
| Mattinson, R | 2005 | <i>A phased summary and assessment of the excavation at North Camp, Shoebury, Essex</i> . Pre-Construct Archaeology. Site Code EORG 01. |

Appendix 2: NHLE details for hillfort

Name:

Defended prehistoric settlement at Shoeburyness, known as the Danish Camp

List entry Number: 1017206

Summary of Monument

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

The defended prehistoric settlement at Shoeburyness, although low-lying, belongs to the class of prehistoric monuments known as 'slight univallate hillforts'. These are fortified enclosures, ranging in size between 1ha and 10ha and surrounded by a single boundary of substantial, but not especially imposing earthworks.

.....Slight univallate hillforts are rare with around 150 examples recorded nationally, with concentrations in Devon (where they are the major class of hillfort) and in Wessex, Sussex, the Cotswolds and the Chilterns (where they occur alongside other classes). Although particularly rare in south eastern England, the slight univallate hillfort, sometimes (but not invariably) located on elevated ground, is the predominant form of defended settlement. In view of their rarity and their importance in understanding the development of Bronze Age and Iron Age communities, all slight univallate hillforts which survive comparatively well and have the potential for the recovery of further archaeological remains are considered to be of national importance.

The defended prehistoric settlement at Shoeburyness has been denuded by the development of the 19th century military complex, although the southern half of the enclosure has been shown to survive extremely well and to retain significant and valuable archaeological information. The original appearance of the rampart is reflected in the two standing sections, and the associated length of the perimeter ditch will remain preserved beneath layers of accumulated and dumped soil. Numerous buried features related to periods of occupation survive in the interior, and these (together with the earlier fills of the surrounding ditch) contain artefactual evidence illustrating the date of the hillfort's construction as well as the duration and character of its use. In particular, the recent investigations have revealed a range of artefacts and environmental evidence which illustrate human presence in the Middle and Late Bronze Age and a variety of domestic activities in the Middle Iron Age, including an assemblage of pottery vessels which demonstrate extensive trading links with southern central England. Environmental evidence has also shown something of the appearance and utilisation of the landscape in which the monument was set, further indications of which will remain sealed within deposits in the enclosure and on the original ground surface buried beneath the surviving sections of bank. Evidence of later use, or reuse, of the enclosure in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods is of particular interest for the study of the impact of the Roman invasion and subsequent provincial government on the native population; the brief reoccupation of the

site in the Anglo-Saxon period, although currently unsupported by archaeological evidence, also remains a possibility.

Details

The monument includes the buried and visible remains of the known extent of a defended prehistoric settlement located on the north shore of the Thames Estuary, on the eastern side of Shoebury Ness, a broad promontory at the eastern end of the Southend Flat.

The settlement, which many 19th century antiquarians associated with historical references to a Danish Camp, lay in a rural setting until 1849 when Shoebury Ness was adopted as a range finding station by the Board of Ordnance and later developed into a complex of barracks and weapon ranges. The visible remains of the Iron Age settlement were probably reduced at this time leaving only two sections of the perimeter bank, or rampart, standing..... The surviving section of the north west bank, parallel to the shore line and flanking Warrior Square Road, now lies some 150m-200m inland. It measures approximately 80m in length with an average height of 2m and width of 11m. The second upstanding section, part of the southern arm of the enclosure, lies some 150m to the south alongside Beach Road. This bank is similar in width although slightly lower overall, with some evidence of remodelling associated with two mid-19th century magazine buildings and a blast mound situated immediately to the south. The bank is flanked by an external ditch, now largely buried, which was shown by exploratory excavations in 1876 to be 12m wide and nearly 3m deep. More recent trial excavations (1999) have found pottery assemblages dating from the Middle and Late Bronze Age in association with the rampart.

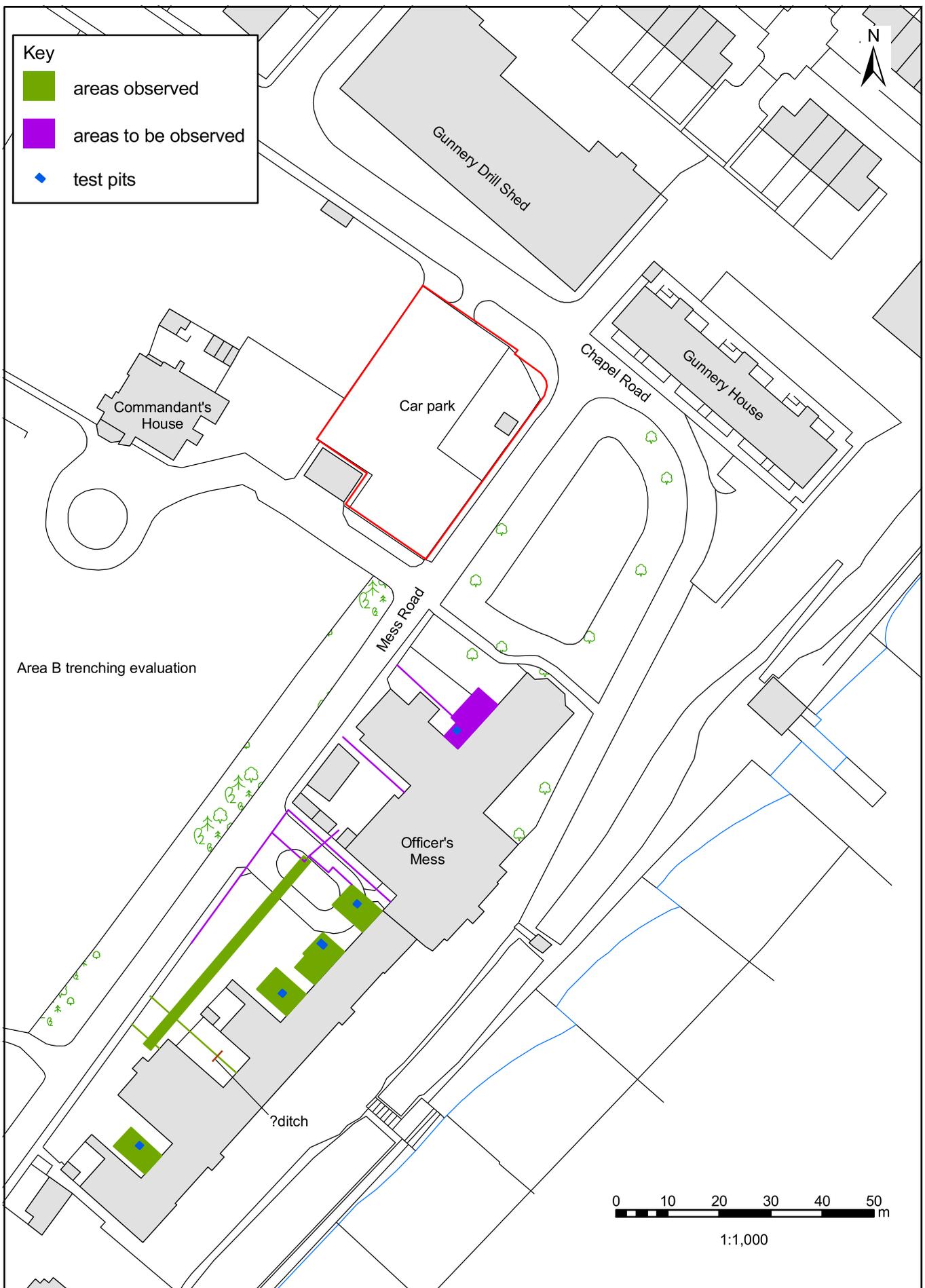
The area enclosed by these surviving banks, was investigated in 1998 as part of a wider archaeological evaluation of the Shoeburyness Barracks. Trial trenches were excavated to sample approximately 4% of this area and revealed a dense pattern of well preserved Iron Age features, including evidence of four round houses (identifiable from characteristic drainage gullies), two post-built structures, boundary ditches and numerous post holes and pits. Fragments from ...pottery vessels date the main phase of occupation to the Middle Iron Age (400-200 BC). Within this period, evidence was found to indicate a variety of domestic activities, including spinning, weaving, salt manufacture, cereal processing and butchery. Indications were also found that the interior of the defended settlement was subdivided, with some areas set apart for storage, particular dwellings or communal activities.

Slight evidence of earlier prehistoric activity, dating from both the Mesolithic period and the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, was found within the area of the settlement... Evidence was also found of some form of occupation within the ramparts in the Late Iron Age, and of continued use after the Roman invasion. Material related to the demolition of a substantial Romanised structure, [with] wattle and daub walls and a tiled roof, was found amidst later medieval debris in the south-western corner of the settlement. Since no traces of such a structure were revealed by the other trenches or by geophysical survey, it is thought that this building may have stood to the east, seaward of Mess Road, where fragments of Roman pottery and Roman coins were discovered in the 1930s. Trial trenches in the northern part of the settlement (as defined by the putative line of the ramparts to the north of Chapel Road) found considerable modern disturbance and no

evidence of surviving Iron Age features. This northern area is therefore not included in the scheduling.

The former interpretation of the monument as a 'Danish Camp' is based on entries in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles. These record the expulsion of Danish forces from their base at Benfleet in AD 893 and their subsequent regrouping, under the Viking leader *Haesten*, at a fort near Shoebury. Although the prehistoric earthwork might have been adopted for this purpose, the evidence for this period currently consists of only two fragments of Anglo-Saxon pottery (found during the 1998 investigation), and cannot be said to support this theory.

A number of features are excluded from the scheduling: these are all buildings, including the Grade II Listed Commandant's House and the Officer's Mess, the Mess range, the houses and garages on Chapel Road, the electricity sub-station at the junction of Mess Road and Chapel Road and the air raid shelters located to east, south and west of the recreation ground, all modern laid surfaces of roads, driveways, paths and tennis courts, and all bollards, railings, fences and boundary walls; the ground beneath all these features is, however, included.



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Fig.1. Location of areas observed and to be observed

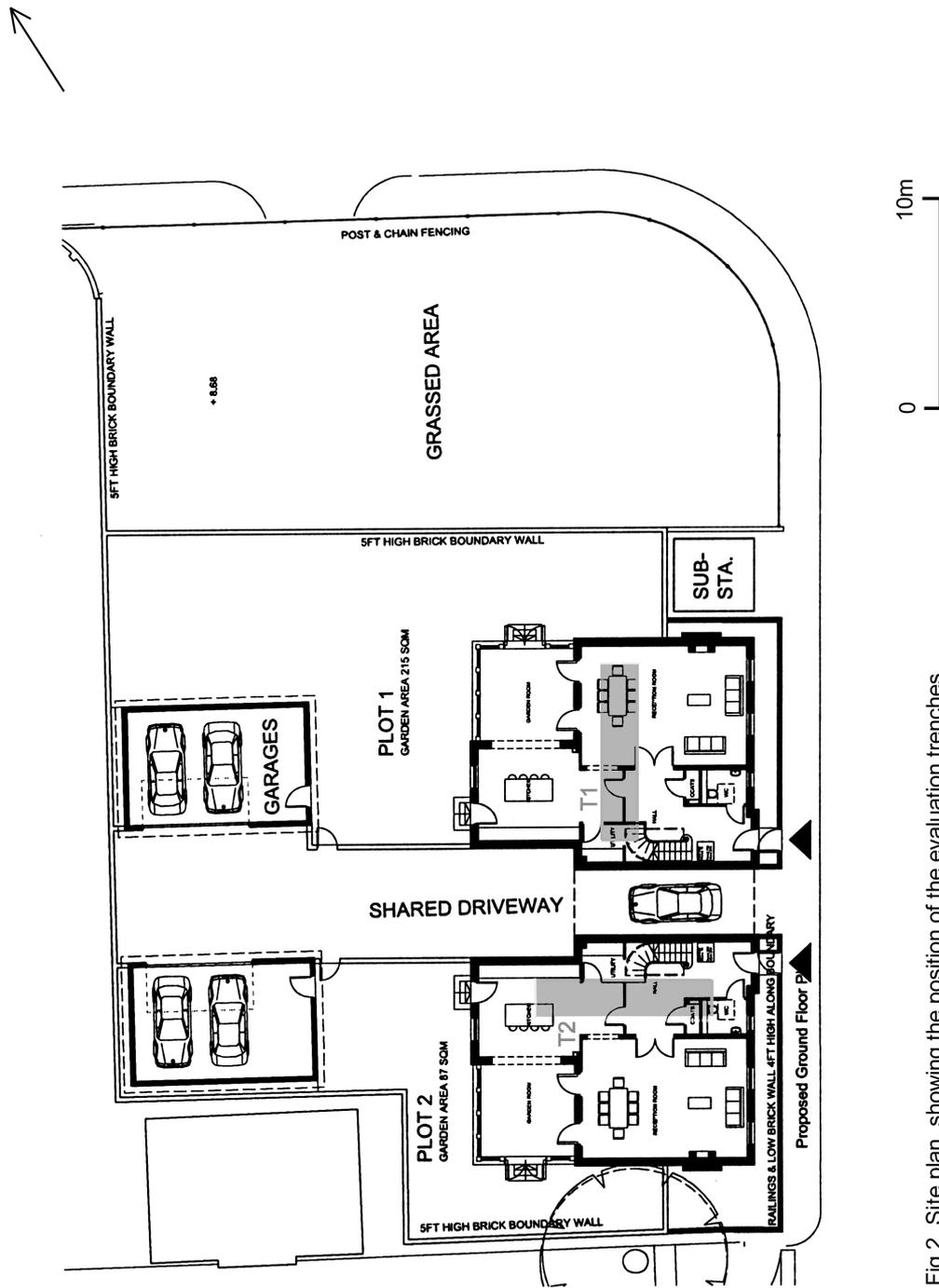


Fig 2 Site plan, showing the position of the evaluation trenches.