

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

CAT Report 586

Summary sheet

Address: 9 Dorset Road, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex	
Parish: Burnham-on-Crouch	District: Maldon
NGR: TQ 59519 19516	Site codes: CAT project – 11/3a ECC HEM – BCDR11 Museum accession – COLIM 2011.25
Type of work: Evaluation by trial-trenching	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 14th March 2010	Size of area investigated: 230m ² plot, one 9m x 1.4m trench
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer/landowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 11326, 13461
Final report: CAT Report 586	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The site is located on the east side of Dorset Road, to the north of the historic core of Burnham-on-Crouch in Essex. A planning application (MAL/10/01002) for the construction of a pair of semi-detached houses was submitted to Maldon District Council in 2010. Bronze Age pottery, human bones and one fragment of Iron Age pottery are recorded as having been recovered from a sewer trench in Dorset Road (EHER nos 11326, 13461). These finds are recorded as having been recovered from eight feet down in undisturbed clay. It is thought that the finds may represent a Bronze Age cremation burial.</i></p> <p><i>A single archaeological trial-trench was excavated along the long axis of the footprint of the proposed buildings to identify the extent and importance of any surviving archaeological deposits and whether any further excavation would be required to mitigate the destructive effects of development. The trench was 9m long and it was the width of a toothless ditching bucket.</i></p> <p><i>The trench was excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. Modern turf and hoggin overlay a dark grey/brown clayey silt topsoil 330mm-410mm thick (L1). The topsoil contained charcoal and brick inclusions, as well as fragments of modern pottery and building materials. Beneath the topsoil was a layer of light brown sandy clay 150mm-190mm thick (L2). This layer contained stones derived from the natural geology below (L3) and had no inclusions other than a few fragments of peg-tile which did not appear to be within cut features. The natural geology was a light orange/brown sandy clay with frequent gravel patches. A small sondage (300mm x 300mm) was hand-excavated</i></p>	

into the clay to confirm that it was the natural geology. Boreholes, excavated on the same day by engineers to obtain soil profiles, confirmed that L3 was undisturbed natural clay.

No archaeological deposits were identified during the removal of the overlying soil by the mechanical excavator and no archaeological features were identified during the hand-cleaning of the natural clay. The only artefacts identified were modern building materials, pottery fragments and peg-tile. These were not retained. Although the soil appeared to be relatively undisturbed, the presence of peg-tile in L2 and the location of the site in a heavily developed area may mean that landscaping has taken place on the site in the recent past. The confirmation of the presence of undisturbed natural clay at a depth of approximately 0.5m below modern ground-level suggests that the reported discovery of artefacts at a depth of eight feet may be inaccurate.

Previous summaries/reports: None

Keywords: -

Significance: negative

Author of summary:
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Date of summary:
March 2011

Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing;

1 Introduction

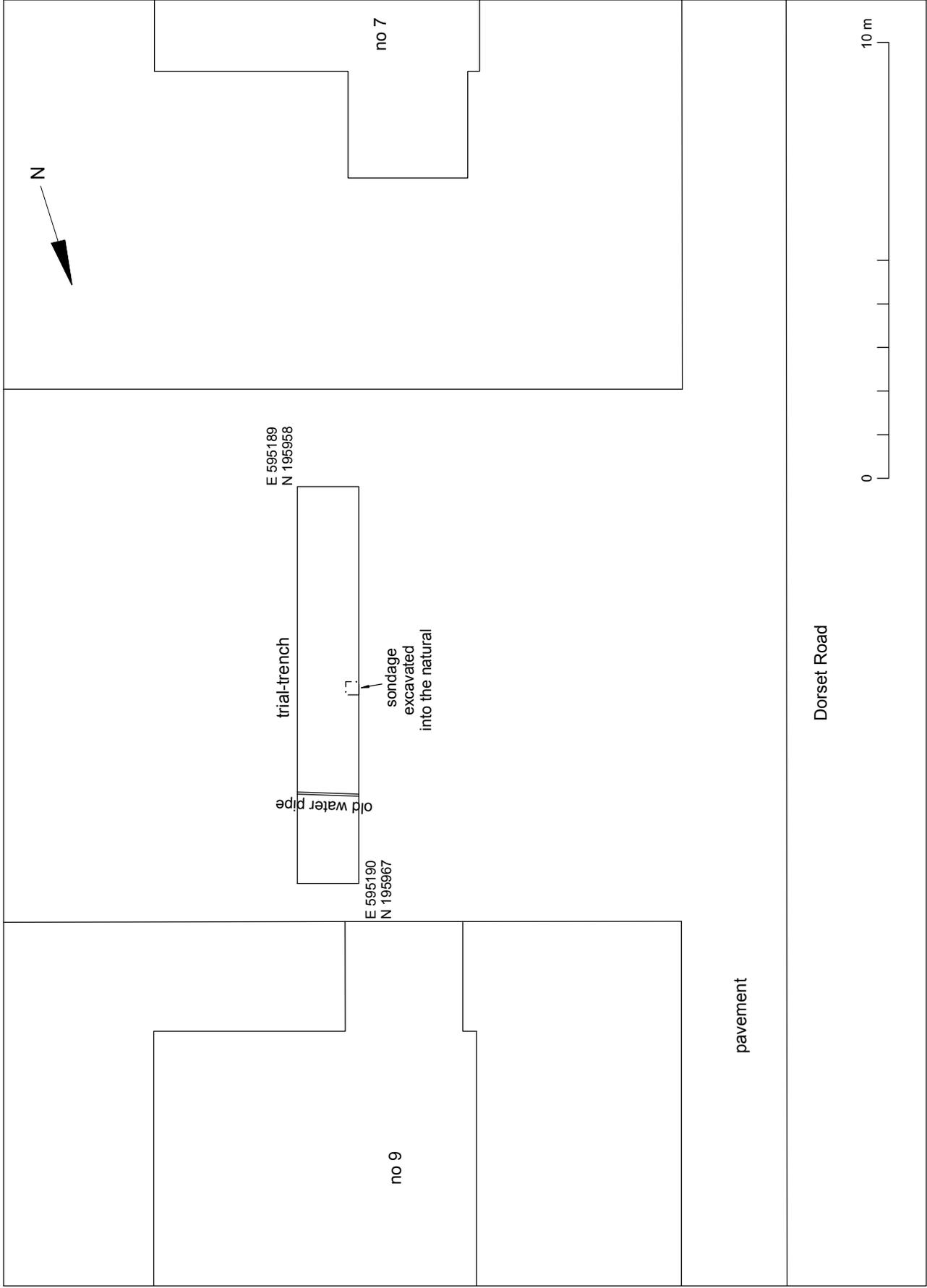
- 1.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by ECC HEM
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 1 x A3 site plan provided by developer

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photo record
- 2.2 Context sheets (L1-L3, 1 x trench sketch sheet)
- 2.3 Attendance register
- 2.4 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.5 1 x A4 sheet of graph paper with a representative section drawing

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report



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Fig 1 Site plan.