

LAND ADJACENT 1 ST. MARTIN'S CLOSE, WHITE RODING, DUNMOW, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report Number: 1360 August 2023



LAND ADJACENT 1 ST MARTIN'S CLOSE, WHITE RODING, DUNMOW, ESSEX

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Version 1.0



Site Code	WHRSM23	NGR	556300/213436
Project No.	P1395	Museum Acc	-
Planning Ref.	UTT/21/1439/OP	OASIS	britanni1-517643
Approved By:	Left -	Date	October 2023



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Abstract

On the 23rd August 2023, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trenching evaluation on behalf of Ali Gilbart-Smith. The archaeological work was required as a condition of application UTT/21/1439/OP for the erection of one new three bedroom dwelling with rear garden, garage and parking with new vehicular access onto Church Lane at Land Adjacent 1 St Martins Close, White Roding, Dunmow (556300/213436).

The site had a high potential for features and finds relating to the medieval and post medieval periods. Due to Roman material being found within St Martin's church fabric and the proximity of Roman pottery to the sites south west, the potential for features and finds dating to the Roman period was considered moderate. The potential for all other periods was considered to be low.

Despite the potential, no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the evaluation, bar a single modern service trench at the north-western end of Trench 2. From the lack of archaeological features, it is likely that the site has always been in the agricultural hinterland of the nearby settlement of White Roding.



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the 23rd August 2023, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trenching evaluation on behalf of Ali Gilbart-Smith. The archaeological work was required as a condition of application UTT/21/1439/OP for the erection of one new three bedroom dwelling with rear garden, garage and parking with new vehicular access onto Church Lane at Land Adjacent 1 St Martins Close, White Roding, Dunmow (556300/213436) (Fig.1).

A design brief issued by Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS) (Lee-Smith, K. 23^{rd} February 2023) required a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the area threatened by development. This was achieved by excavating two trenches measuring 10.0m and 5.0m x 1.80m, covering the house and garage footprints respectively. The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked, mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.



2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located within the southern bounds of the village of White Roding, Essex which is approximately 8km north-east of Harlow. The site lies south of the A1060, north of the intersection between Church Lane and St Martin's Close. The site is bound to the north by scrubland, to the east by Church Lane, the south by St Martin's Close and to the west by housing.

2.1 Site Geology

The Bedrock geology is described as London Clay Formation - Clay, Silt and Sand. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 48 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene period when the local environment previously dominated by deep seas. (BGS, 2023).

The superficial geology is described as Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton. These superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period when the local environment was previously dominated by ice age conditions. (BGS, 2023).



3.0 PLANNING POLICIES

The archaeological investigation is to be carried out on the recommendation of the local planning authority, following guidance laid down by the *National Planning and Policy Framework (NPPF, DCLD 2021*). The relevant local planning policy is the *Uttlesford Local Plan (adopted September 2005)*.



4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND (Figs. 2 & 3)

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) (1km search centred on the site), English Heritage PastScape (www.pastscape.org.uk), and the Archaeological Data Service (www.ads.ahds.ac.uk) (ADS) (Figs. 2 & 3).

4.1 Prehistoric

Cropmarks of a rectilinear enclosure are visible through aerial photography are visible some 700m to the sites south east (MEX1039074) and may date to the prehistoric period.

4.2 Roman

Some 300m to the sites south west during the mid 20th century, fragments of Roman pottery were recovered (MEX15819).

4.3 Medieval

Some 130m to the sites west is St Martin's Church (MEX10135). The church's origins lay in the 11th century. The church comprises a west tower, nave and chancel, north vestry and south porch. The church was extensively remodelled in the following centuries, with remodelling works in the 14th century, the tower being altered in the 16th century and several additions in the 19th century. Several fragments of Roman tile appear to have been incorporated into the church's fabric at different points during its construction and remodelling.

4.4 Post-medieval

The site is surrounded by a large number of post-medieval domestic structures. Some 100m to the south is a 16th century timber framed house (MEX1013533). This structure lays adjacent to a moated area known as Homestead Moat (MEX15428), which in part is still extant. Within the moat, a modern structure 'The Rectory' has incorporated a stone chimney surround and hearth which possibly dates to the 15th century. Directly to the north of the site is a clay lump build house dating to the 18th century (MEX1013521). To



the north of the clay lump house is a further brick and clay lump house possibly dating to the early post-medieval period (MEX22157).

Church Lane itself on which the site borders appears to mark a medieval/post-medieval expansion area away from the core of the village to the north surrounding the now A1060, although Church Lane and Marks Hall Lane to the north of the A1060 may also be the settlements original linear settlement pattern, being north to south. Many post-medieval dwellings are adjacent to Church Lane spreading south, such as MEX1013525, MEX1013524, MEX1013527, MEX1013526 and MEX15440 with fewer examples to the north. This alongside the location of St Martin's Church (MEX10135) is suggestive of the latter suggested north to south linear settlement being the most likely.

Although not recorded within the HER data, structures are visible on the late 19th OS 6" map of the site, alongside what appears to be a small stream running north to south towards the moated area to the south of the site (MEX15428) and may mark part of the water management system for the moat.

4.5 Archaeological Potential

Given the above records the site has a **high** potential for features and finds relating to the medieval and post medieval periods. Due to Roman material being found within St Martin's church fabric and the proximity of Roman pottery to the sites south west, the potential for features and finds dating to the Roman period is considered **moderate**. The potential for all other periods is considered to be **low**.



5.0 PROJECT AIMS

The ECCPS brief states that the archaeological work should aim to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development.

Both the WSI, fieldwork and resulting report/archiving will be undertaken in accordance with CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, 2020 and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, 2003.



6.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Research objectives for the project are in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England,* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24 (Medlycott, 2011).

Particular study of the following should occur:

- presence/absence of palaeosols and old land surface soils/deposits,
- the character of deposits and their contents within negative features
- palaeochannels
- site formation processes generally.

An assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits must also be arranged with a suitably qualified specialist. Attention should be paid:

- to the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dryland palaeosols and cut features, and to soil pollen analysis;
- to the retrieval of plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits located.
- provision for the absolute dating of critical contacts should be made: eg the basal contacts of peats over former dryland surfaces; distinct landuse or landmark change in urban contexts

The evaluation should also carefully consider the retrieval, characterisation and dating (including absolute dating) of artefact, burial or economic evidence to assist in the characterisation of the site's evidence and in the development of future mitigation strategies.

Project specific research objectives outlined in the ECCPS brief Lee-Smith, K. 2022) are:

- Features associated with identified cropmarks
- Roadside settlement



7. 0 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

The SCCAS brief required a programme of linear trial trenching to sample the site ahead of the erection of one new three bedroom dwelling with rear garden, garage and parking with new vehicular access onto Church Lane at Land Adjacent 1 St Martins Close, White Roding, Dunmow (556300/213436) (Fig.1). This was achieved by excavating two trenches measuring 10.0m and 5.0m x 1.80m covering the house and garage footprints respectively. In addition, provision was made for localised extensions to trenches if unclear archaeological remains or geomorphological features are encountered.

A 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used to machine down to the first archaeological horizon, thereafter all excavation work was undertaken by hand (Fig. 4).

The archaeology was recorded using pro-forma record sheets, drawn plans and section drawings and appropriate photographs were taken.



8.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Figs. 4 - 7)

A summary of the features and layers encountered is described below. Full context descriptions can be found at Appendix 1.

A professional metal detectorist was used to scan the trench locations prior and post excavation along with the spoil heaps. Only demonstrably modern finds were recovered and therefore were not retained.

8.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the northern portion of the site on a east to west orientation, measuring $5.00 \,\mathrm{m} \times 1.80 \,\mathrm{m}$. No archaeological features or finds were present.

8.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the was located in the southern portion of the site, on a northwest to south-east orientation, measuring $10.00m \times 1.80m$. A single modern service trench was present at the north-western end of the trench. No archaeological features or finds were present.



9.0 DEPOSIT MODEL (Figs. 5 - 6)

The site stratigraphy was consistent across the site. Please see Appendix 1 for detailed context descriptions.

At the top of the stratigraphic sequence was topsoil **1000**, a mid-greyish brown, compact, silty clay which was present to a maximum depth of 0.45m in Sample Section 2.

Beneath topsoil 1000, and the base of the stratigraphic sequence was natural geology **1001**, a light-greyish yellow, compact silty clay.



10.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The site had a high potential for features and finds relating to the medieval and post medieval periods. Due to Roman material being found within St Martin's church fabric and the proximity of Roman pottery to the sites south west, the potential for features and finds dating to the Roman period was considered moderate. The potential for all other periods was considered to be low.

Despite the potential, no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the evaluation. From the lack of archaeological features, it is likely that the site has always been in the agricultural hinterland of the nearby settlement of White Roding. The area of investigation can be seen on the 1836 Tithe Map of the area, with the current site being located within an agricultural field known as 'Hoppet No. 1', noted as meadow and owned by the Reverend Henry Budd (Fig. 7).



11.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive will be prepared in line with the standards and guidance in *Selection, Retention* and *Dispersion of Archaeological Collections*, Archaeological Society for Museum Archaeologists, 1993.

Arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with Essex County Council Place Services subject to agreement with the legal landowner where finds are concerned. The digital archive with be stored with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).



12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Britannia Archaeology would like to thank Ali Gilbart-Smith for commissioning and funding the project.

We would also like to thank Katie Lee-Smith of Essex County Council Place Services for her advice and assistance on the project.

Special thanks to Mr Steve Clarkson (PCIfA) for his specialist services in metal detecting on the site.

The on-site project officer was Martin Brook and the site was excavated by Martin Brook and Dan McConnell of Britannia Archaeology.



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English Heritage PastScape www.pastscape.org.uk

Archaeological Data Service (ADS) www.ads.ahds.ac.uk

English Heritage National List for England www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england

DEFRA Magic http://magic.defra.gov.uk/website/magic



APPENDIX 1 - DEPOSIT TABLES

TRENCH 1

Trench No	Orientation			Height AOD		Shot ID
1	E-W			79.59m		1
Sample Section No	Location		n		Facing	
1	1 Ea		st end of trench, N side		S	
Context No	Depth		Deposit Description			
1000	0.00m - 0.32m		Topsoil: mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay.			
1001	0.33m+		Natural: light greyish yellow, compact, silty clay.			

TRENCH 2

Trench No	Orientation			Height AOD		Shot ID
2	NW-SE			79.88m		3
Sample Section No	Location		n		Facing	
2	South east		ast end o	f trench, SW side	NE	
Context No	Depth D		Deposi	t Description		
1000	0.00m - 0.45m		Topsoil: mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay.			
1001	0.46m+		Natural: light greyish yellow, compact, silty clay.			

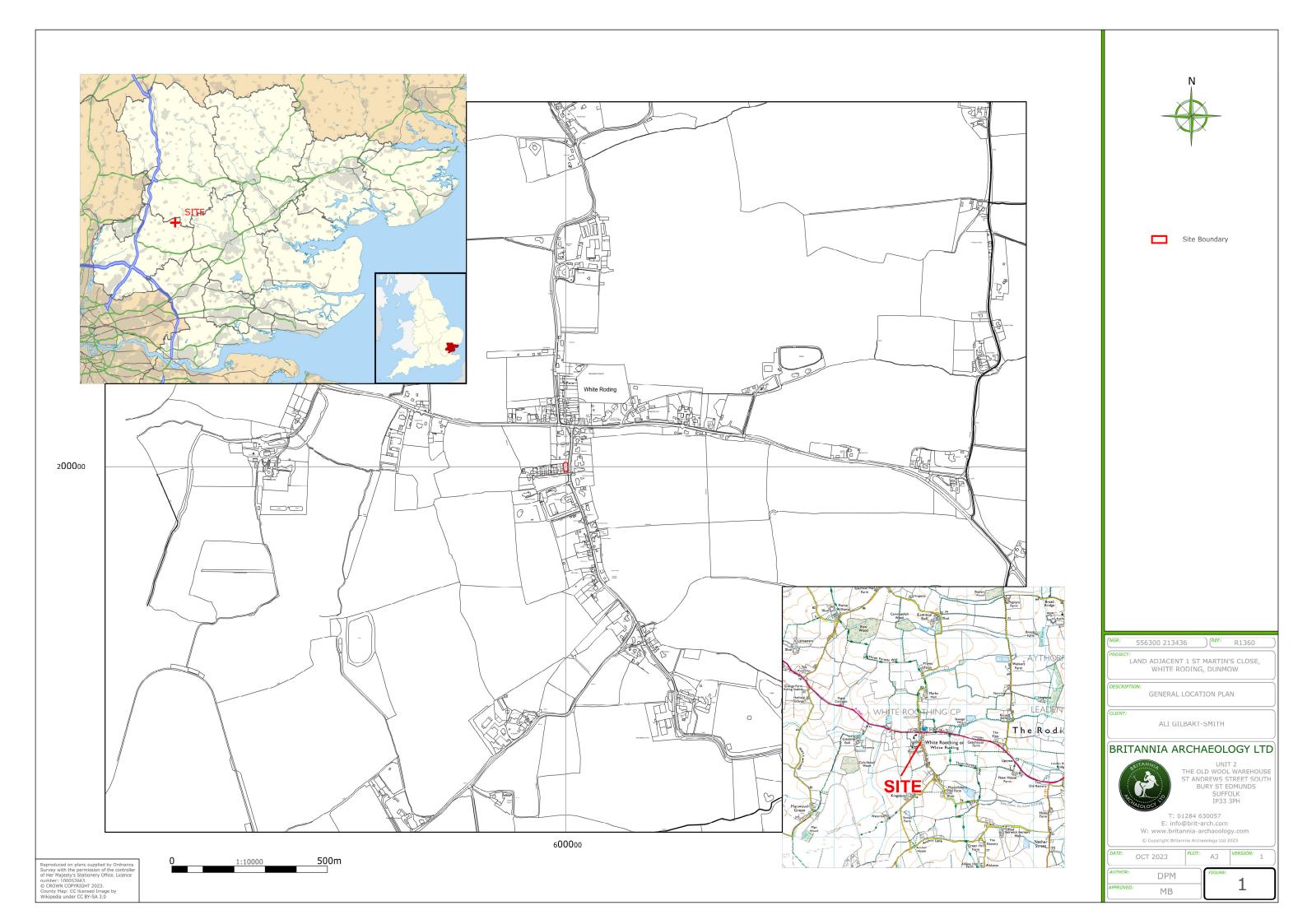


APPENDIX 2 - OASIS Sheet

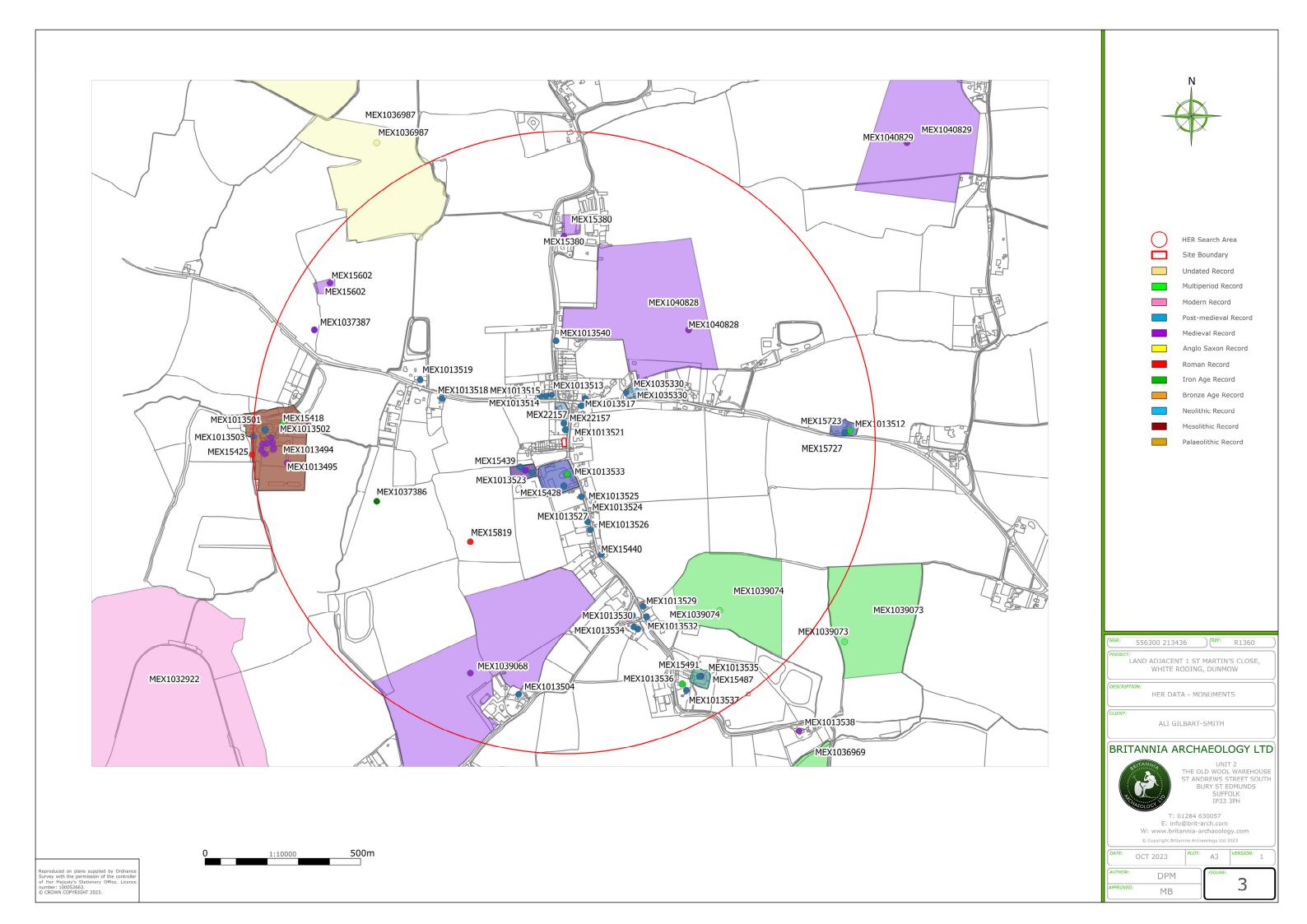
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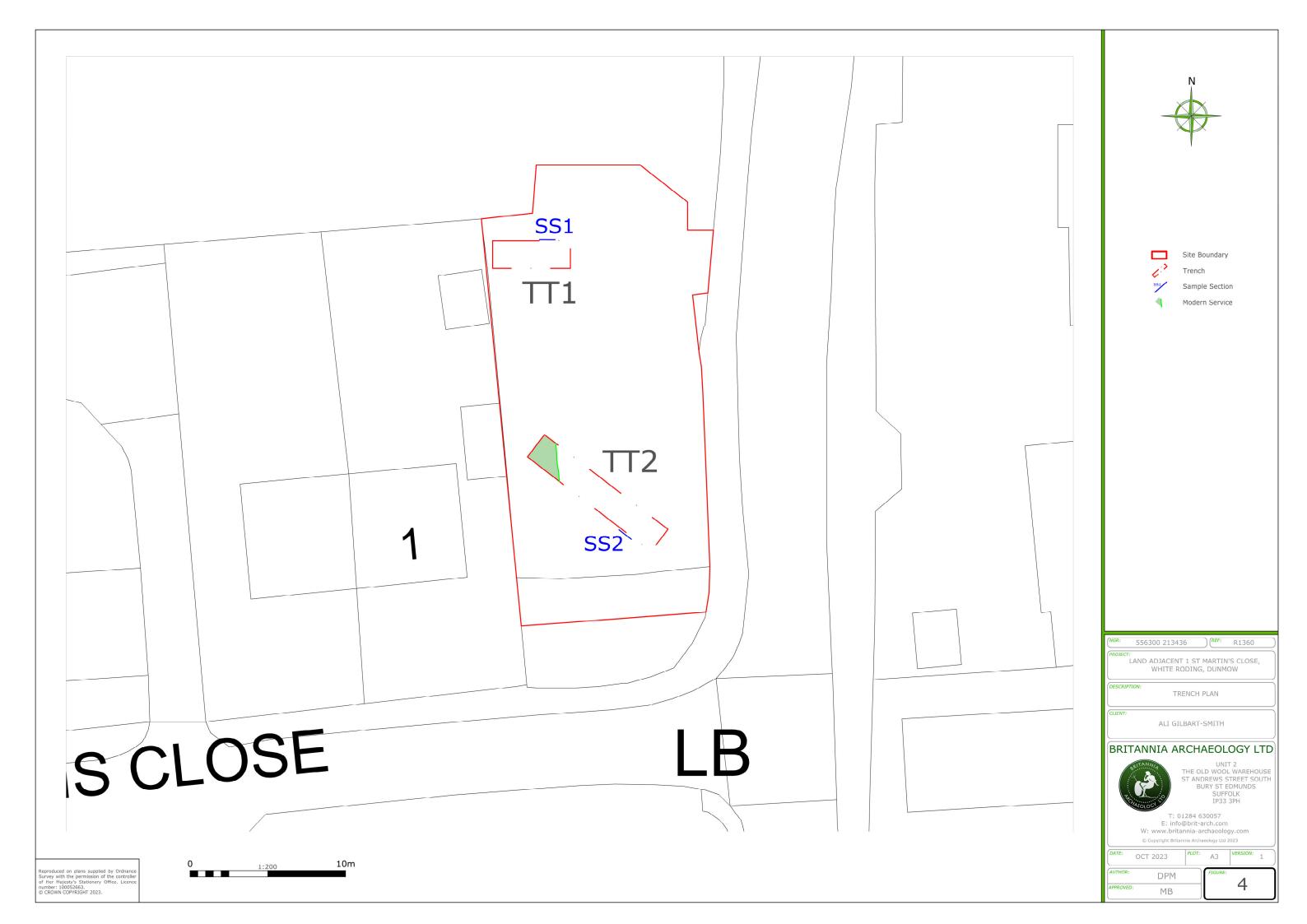
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Project Name	Evaluation at Land Adjacent 1 St Martins Close, White Roding, Dunmow
Sitename	Land Adjacent 1 St Martins Close, White Roding, Dunmow
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	P1432
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	UTT/21/1439/OP
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Britannia Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	23-Aug-2023 - 23-Aug-2023
Location	Land Adjacent 1 St Martins Close, White Roding, Dunmow
	NGR : TL 56300 13436
	LL: 51.797733482337115, 0.265215819028572
	12 Fig : 556300,213436
Administrative Areas	Country : England
	County/Local Authority : Essex
	Local Authority District : Uttlesford
	Parish : White Roothing
Project Methodology	Archaeological trial trench evaluation comprising 10.0m and 5.0m x 1.80m trenches, covering the house and garage footprints respectively.
Project Results	On the 23rd August 2023, Britannia Archaeology Ltd (BA) undertook a trial trenching evaluation on behalf of Ali Gilbart-Smith. The archaeological work was required as a condition of application UTT/21/1439/OP for the erection of one new three bedroom dwelling with rear garden, garage and parking with new vehicular access onto Church Lane at Land Adjacent 1 St Martins Close, White Roding, Dunmow (556300/213436). The site had a high potential for features and finds relating to the
	medieval and post medieval periods. Due to Roman material being found within St Martin's church fabric and the proximity of Roman pottery to the sites south west, the potential for features and finds dating to the Roman period was considered moderate. The potential for all other periods was considered to be low.
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Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	
Person Responsible for work	Dan McConnell
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

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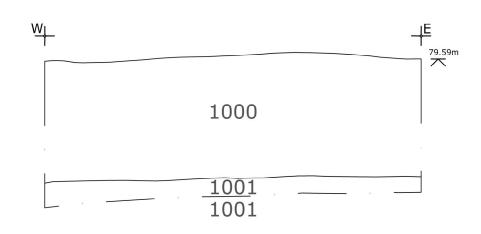








SAMPLE SECTION 1

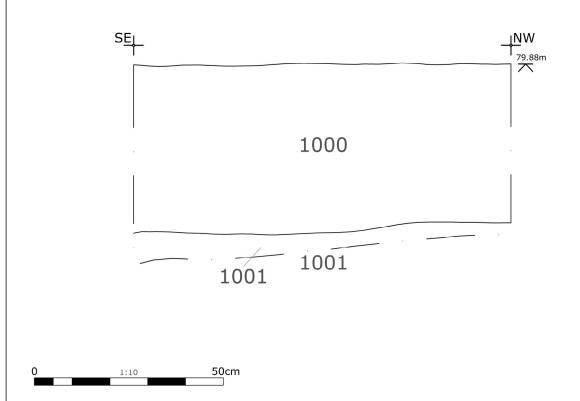






DP1 - SS1 - VIEW N

SAMPLE SECTION 2





DP3 - SS2 - VIEW NE





DP2 - TT1 - VIEW W



DP4 - TT2 - VIEW NW







Site Boundary





Modern Service

556300 213436 (REF: R1360

LAND ADJACENT 1 ST MARTIN'S CLOSE,
WHITE RODING, DUNMOW

TRENCH PLAN OVER 1836 TITHE

ALI GILBART-SMITH

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