

Archaeological Evaluation & Mitigation Report

The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Great Dunmow, Essex

Planning Ref: UTT/23/2204/HHF

Site Code: CSGD24

Prepared with:  **PCA**
Pre-Construct Archaeology

794-PLN-HER-00299
The Old Vicarage, Great
Dunmow
Archaeology Report Version
1
March 2024

Quality Management

Version	Status	Authored by	Reviewed by	Approved by	Date
Version 1	For Comment	Simon Carlyle	James Archer	James Archer	12/03/2024

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QUALITY CONTROL

Version No.	Status	Date	Reason	Checked by
0	Draft	12th March 2024	For client review	S Carlyle
1	Final	12th March 2024	For client review	J Archer

ABSTRACT

On the 29th January 2024, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) undertook an archaeological investigation of a plot of land at The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Great Dunmow, Essex. The work, which was commissioned by RPS Group Ltd on behalf of their client, was carried out to meet the requirements of a condition that had been attached to planning consent for the construction of a new swimming pool and pool house on the land by Uttlesford District Council. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 1no. 12m trial trench at 1.6m wide and a test pit, positioned within the footprints of the proposed swimming pool and pool house respectively.

Beneath the garden topsoil, the edge of a large 19th-century pit was revealed in Trench 1, which contained sherds of late 18th and 19th-century pottery and fragments of brick and tile of a similar date. Part of a small post-medieval pit was revealed in the adjacent test pit, the fill of which yielded seven sherds of pottery dating to c. AD 1200-1250, a piece of daub, a fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval glazed tile and other fragments of later post-medieval peg tile. No other archaeological features were encountered by the investigation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 On the 29th January 2024, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) undertook an archaeological investigation of a plot of land at The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Great Dunmow, Essex (site centred on NGR: TL 62887 22971; Fig. 1). The work, which was commissioned by RPS Group Ltd (RPS) on behalf of their client, was carried out to meet the requirements of a condition that had been attached to planning consent for the construction of a new swimming pool and pool house on the land by Uttlesford District Council (UDC planning ref. UTT/23/2204/HHF, Condition 3). The condition stated that:

'An Archaeological Programme of Trial Trenching followed by Open Area Excavation

1. No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until a programme of archaeological investigation has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

2. No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the completion of the programme of archaeological investigation identified in the WSI defined in 1 above.

3. The applicant will submit to the local planning authority a post excavation assessment (to be submitted within six months of the completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Planning Authority). This will result in the completion of post excavation analysis, preparation of a full site archive and report ready for deposition at the local museum, and submission of a publication report.

Reason: In the interests of the archaeological deposits in the surrounding locality in.

1.2 UDC were advised to attach the planning condition by Place Services at Essex County Council (PSECC), providers of archaeological advice on planning matters in the county. This was in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework*, Section 16, paragraphs 195 to 214 (MHCLG 2023), as the site was known to lie within an area of high archaeological potential, immediately opposite the medieval church of St Mary the Virgin.

1.3 Following discussions between RPS and PSECC, it was agreed that the evaluation would consist of the excavation of 1no. 12m trial trench at 1.6m wide and a test pit, to be positioned within the footprints of the proposed swimming pool and pool house respectively. Had significant archaeological remains been encountered, subsequent

archaeological excavation would have been required to mitigate against the impact of the proposed development on the buried remains; however, as agreed with PSECC, the archaeological features encountered by the evaluation were not of sufficient interest to warrant this.

- 1.4 The project was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* that was approved by PSECC prior to the commencement of fieldwork (PCA 2024). It also abided by *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2022), *Standard for Archaeological Evaluation* (CIfA 2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2023b).
- 1.5 The project was managed in accordance with the Historic England procedural document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (HE 2015).
- 1.6 On completion of the project and following Transfer of Title, the site archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum.

2 SITE BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location, topography and geology

- 2.1.1 The site is located at Church End, on the north-eastern outskirts of Great Dunmow, Essex. It consists of a privately-owned house (The Old Vicarage) and mature garden on the west side of Church Street, directly facing the Church of St Mary the Virgin and its churchyard.
- 2.1.2 Topographically, the site is situated on a gradual east-facing slope overlooking the valley of the River Chelmer, the river flowing in a general south-easterly direction c. 120m east of the site. Ground level within the site descends from c. 57m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at its western boundary to c. 54m aOD at its boundary on Church Street.
- 2.1.3 The geology of the site consists of Eocene clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation, overlain by superficial Quaternary deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel Head (BGS 2024).

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

- 2.2.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) indicates that the proposed development lies within an area of sensitive heritage assets located to the north of Great Dunmow Church End Conservation Area (EHER references in parentheses).

Prehistoric and Roman (pre-AD 410)

- 2.2.2 There are no records of prehistoric remains within the vicinity of the site, although prehistoric remains have been identified and investigated in the wider area (Morgan-Shelbourne 2021; Revell 2022; Pedro 2023).
- 2.2.3 A Roman town developed on the junction between the Roman roads of Stane Street and the roads from Sudbury to London and Cambridge to Chelmsford. The main settlement spread westwards from the road junction between the Chelmer and a tributary stream. There was also a second Roman settlement at Church End, immediately to the north of modern Great Dunmow, which consisted of a small villa and burial ground. Several other villas and farmsteads are known to have existed in the area.
- 2.2.4 A Roman cemetery (1277) was identified in a field adjacent to the west boundary of the development site. During the construction of new buildings between 1935-36, burials were found, comprising of several urned cremations.

2.2.5 Cropmarks reveal four 'square and circular barrows' (1278), identified 260m south-east of Parsonage Farm, to the west of the development site. Although no thorough archaeological investigation was undertaken in this field, the artefactual evidence identified in the field mostly dated to the Roman period. It consists of three square enclosures and a round barrow which appear to be associated with internal pits, all aligned on a north-north-west to south-south-east axis. In two of the three square barrows, the pits are located centrally. The square enclosures/barrows are defined by broad ditches, each enclosing areas measuring 9-10m², with slightly rounded corners. The round barrow measures 10m in diameter, with a broad perimeter ditch and internal pits related to primary and secondary burials. Given the date of the artefactual evidence collected in the fields and the funerary character of the identified features, it is possible that they are associated with the above-mentioned Roman cemetery. Other features, such as ring ditches and various linear features, are also shown as cropmarks in this area.

2.2.6 Excavations close to The Broadway, to the south-west of the site, have uncovered a single ditch of unknown function.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066)

2.2.7 The place-name Dunmow means 'meadow on the hill' and the first recorded mention of that name is in AD 951 in an Anglo-Saxon will. The Great Dunmow Roman settlement was reoccupied during the 7th century and the one at Church End in the later Saxon period. Excavations in the area of the Roman town, on the Chequers Lane site, in 1970-72 recovered eight sherds of handmade early 5th-century Saxon pottery in the subsoil layers above the late 4th-century Roman shrine (13866). There was also evidence for a Middle Saxon sunken-floored building, which contained a large amount of 7th to 9th-century pottery (13867).

2.2.8 A late Saxon coin was also found to the east of Folly Farm (9963).

Medieval (1066 to 1485)

2.2.9 By 1066, Great Dunmow was divided into six manors and a number of smaller land-holdings, with a total of 48 families and a priest. By 1086 the number of manors and holdings were the same, but the population had risen to 64 families and a priest. Excavations on the Chequers Lane site revealed that the area reverted to agricultural use in the medieval period, with the medieval settlement continuing on from the late Saxon settlement at Church End, to the south of the site (SMR 13868). The granting of a market charter in 1227 may mark the transition of the settlement from Church End

to the High Street and marketplace.

- 2.2.10 On the site of the 16th-century and earlier vicarage the proposed development lies near the Church of St Mary the Virgin which dates to the at least the 13th century; a priest is recorded at Dunmow in 1066 in the Domesday Book (1298, 1299).
- 2.2.11 A small moat was identified to the north-west of the site (1221), composed of an approximately rectangular-shaped ditch that measured on average 10m wide, and generally very shallow. No remains of buildings were identified within the moated area.
- 2.2.12 Excavations to the south of the proposed development have identified prehistoric finds, Roman features and medieval settlement (16773, 167774, 16775).

Post-medieval and modern (1485-present)

- 2.2.13 During the 16th-17th centuries Great Dunmow prospered from the cloth industry, leading to a population increase of approximately 40% and expansion along North Street and New Street. There was considerable rebuilding undertaken in the 19th century, but further expansion did not appear to take place until the end of the 19th and 20th centuries when Great Dunmow became a commuter town.
- 2.2.14 The Old Vicarage is a Grade II-Listed timber-framed and plastered house of two storeys with attics, of complex plan form, the earliest phase of which has been dated to the mid-16th century and earlier, with later phases and fabric dating to the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (listed as St Mary's Side Vicarage, List entry number 1142474). The Old Vicarage is located directly opposite (to the west of) the Grade I-Listed medieval church of St Mary the Virgin (List entry number 1142471).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The broad aim of the investigation, as stated in the WSI (PCA 2024, 7-8), was to identify, excavate and record the location, extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains encountered in the trial trenches and in any ensuing mitigation areas, should the latter have been required by PSECC to further investigate any archaeological remains that may be encountered by the initial trenching.

3.2 The specific objective of the investigation was to identify, excavate and record the remains of any medieval and early post-medieval features that may pre-date the extant vicarage house or be associated with the adjacent church, with the intended aim of contributing to our understanding of the development of Church End and the relationship between Church End and Great Dunmow in the medieval period. The following regional research questions were posed for the investigation, although the limited results prevent any meaningful contribution being made to answering them:

Med (Rural) 06: How can we improve our understanding of medieval rural religious structures and features?

Med (Rural) 07: How significant was the relationship between medieval rural churches and their churchyards?

3.3 An additional objective of the investigation was to determine if previously identified evidence for prehistoric and Roman occupation at Church End extends north into the development area and to characterise the nature of this activity. The following regional research questions were posed for the investigation, although no features dating to this period were encountered by the evaluation:

LIA-Rom 08: How might we distinguish Roman estate-centres?

LIA-Rom 13: How can we increase our understanding of Late Iron Age and Roman farmsteads?

3.4 Where appropriate, soil samples were to have been taken for assessment, primarily to establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site but also to gain an insight into the range of activities (i.e. domestic, industrial, agricultural) that were undertaken at the site in the past. However, no suitable deposits were encountered by the evaluation.

3.5 To determine the significance of the results of the investigation in a local, regional and national context (as appropriate), reference has been made to the East Anglian

regional research agendas listed in the *East of England Regional Research Framework* (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 1no. 12m trial trench at 1.6m wide and a test pit, positioned within the footprints of the proposed swimming pool and pool house respectively (Fig. 2). No archaeologically significant features were encountered by the evaluation, so with the agreement of PSECC, no extension of the trenches was required.

4.2 Excavation methodology

4.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a 3-tonne 360° rubber-tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket. The overburden was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.

4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate, and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and finds recovery

4.3.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Geomax GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.3.2 All hand-excavation, investigation and recording were carried out in accordance with PCA's *Operations Manual I: Fieldwork Induction Manual* (Taylor and Brown 2018). The linear features was investigated by means of 1m-wide slot within the trench. Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20). All individual deposits and cuts were recorded using PCA's digital tablet-based recording system.

4.3.3 Cameras with an APS-C or larger sensor and with a resolution of no less than 18 megapixels were used. Images are of archival quality, non-proprietary RAW (.DNG) or .TIFF files. Suitable horizontal and vertical scales were used as appropriate. Digital photographs were taken of all trenches, archaeological features, and deposits.

4.4 Finds and environmental sampling

4.4.1 Artefacts were collected by hand and retained, receiving appropriate care prior to

removal from site (ClfA 2020; Brown *et al.* 2016).

- 4.4.2 Deposits were assessed in accordance with *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (EH 2011). No suitable deposits were encountered.

4.5 Metal-detecting

- 4.5.1 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the evaluation process. The metal detector was not set to discriminate against iron. No metal finds of archaeological significance were recovered from the site.

4.6 Monitoring

- 4.6.1 The results of the evaluation were limited, so a site monitoring meeting was not held and the trenches were signed off remotely, following a review of site photographs by Richard Havis (PSECC).

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper archive

Context register sheets	1
Context sheets	10
Section register sheets	1
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	3
Trench record sheets	2
Photo register sheets	1

5.2 Digital archive

Digital photos	37
GPS survey files	1
Digital plans	1
GIS project inc all context and trench data	1
Access database	1

5.3 Physical archive

Pottery	9 (145g)
Ceramic building material (CBM)	42 (2,595g)
Animal bone	7 (111g)

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 1no. 12m trial trench at 1.6m wide and a test pit, positioned within the footprints of the proposed swimming pool and pool house respectively (Fig. 2). Beneath the garden topsoil, the edge of a large 19th-century pit was revealed in Trench 1, which contained sherds of late 18th and 19th-century pottery and fragments of brick and tile of a similar date. Part of a small post-medieval pit was revealed in the adjacent test pit, the fill of which yielded seven sherds of pottery dating to c. AD 1200-1250, a piece of daub, a fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval glazed tile and other fragments of later post-medieval peg tile. No other archaeological features were encountered by the investigation.
- 6.1.2 The features and deposits encountered in the trench and test pit are described below and presented in full in Appendix 1.

6.2 General stratigraphy

- 6.2.1 The geological substrate (109), which was encountered at c. 55.64m aOD, was firm mid-brownish orange silty clay. The overlying subsoil (108) was firm, mid-orangey-brown clayey silt, c. 0.42m thick. The topsoil (100), which supported the turf of the garden lawn, was firm, dark grey clayey silt and measured c. 0.26m thick.

6.3 Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Plate 1 and 2)

- 6.3.1 The edge of an elongated, flat-based pit [105] dating to the 19th century extended along the length of the trench on a north to south alignment (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2; Plates 3 and 4). It measured over 12m long by 1.1m wide by 0.7m deep and extended beyond the limits of the trench to the west. It had four fills: basal fill (104) was hard, light orangey brown clayey silt; fill (103) was firm, mid-brownish grey, clayey silt that contained fragments of animal bone; fill (102) was soft, light yellowish brown clayey silt, from which was recovered two sherds (33g) of late 18th to 19th-century pottery and fragments of brick and tile of a similar date; upper fill (101) was firm, dark brownish grey clayey silt, which yielded fragments of brick and tile dating to the 18th to 19th centuries.

6.4 Test Pit (Fig. 3; Plates 5 and 6)

- 6.4.1 Pit [107] was partially exposed within the northern part of the test pit, the feature extending beyond the test pit's northern edge (Fig. 4, Section 3; Plate 6). It measured over 1.1m long by 1.0m wide by 0.21m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a

flat base. Its fill (106) was soft, dark brownish grey clayey silt, from which was recovered seven sherds (112g) of medieval pottery dating to the first half of the 13th century AD, a piece of chalk-flecked daub, fragments of animal bone, a fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval greenish-brown glazed tile and other fragments of later post-medieval peg tile.

7 FINDS

7.1 Post-Roman pottery *by Berni Suds*

- 7.1.1 A total of nine sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 145g, were recovered from the evaluation. The pottery was recorded and quantified for each context by fabric, vessel form and decoration, using sherd count (with fresh breaks discounted), weight, estimated/ minimum number of vessels (ENV) and estimated vessel equivalent by percentage rim present (REVE). The fabrics were examined under x20 magnification and recorded using the numerical codes taken from the post-Roman pottery codes for Essex (Cunningham 1985, Cotter 2000). A catalogue of the pottery by context is presented in Appendix 2.
- 7.1.2 The pottery was recovered from two pit features, [105] and [107]. Pit [107] in Trench 2 yielded seven sherds of medieval pottery, comprised of Medieval sandy greywares (Fabric 20), Medieval sandy orange wares and Hedingham ware (Fabric 22). The small group includes a Hedingham ware jug with white slip decoration of Rouen or possibly highly decorated style and a Medieval sandy greyware jar rim, together suggestive of an early 13th century date. Pit [105] in Trench 1 contained two sherds of late 18th to 19th century mass-produced industrial refined wares, comprising a Creamware dish (Fabric 48C) and a transfer-printed refined white earthenware plate (Fabric 48D).
- 7.1.3 Although relatively small and comprised of types well-paralleled in the immediate region (Walker 2022 and 2023), the assemblage provides evidence for medieval and post-medieval activity in the vicinity of site. The nature this may have taken is difficult to assess from so few sherds, although the presence of sooting and residues on the medieval pottery is consistent with domestic household use.

7.2 Ceramic building material *by Amparo Valcarcel*

Introduction and methodology

- 7.2.1 A very small assemblage of post-medieval brick and roof tile (42 fragments, 2,595g) was recovered from site. A date range of the material in each context and a suggested date of deposition is presented below in Table 1.
- 7.2.2 A fabric number is allocated to each object, specifying its composition, form, method of manufacture and approximate date range. Local variants, differing from the London corpus have been prefixed with a provisional letter code (GDUN), and were compared to the fabrics found in the archaeological excavation west of Woodside Way, Great Dunmow (Valcarcel, 2022). The material was examined under magnification (x20) and

quantified by number but not measured or weighed. Fabric identifications remain provisional.

Post-medieval

GDUN1(AD1450-1900): sandy fabric very course, frequent quartz, muscovite, mica and occasional fine pebbles, 23 fragments, 1261g.

GDUN2 (AD1450-1900): sandy fabric, abundant quartz, frequently with fine black iron oxide, 15 fragments, 1039g.

GDUN3 (AD1450-1900): well-fired fabric, very course, frequent quartz inclusions, occasional pebbles inclusions, 3 fragments, 241g

7.2.3 The assemblage of ceramic building material recovered from the site dates to the post-medieval period. The material is in mixed condition, although is generally well-preserved. The loose assemblage is quite fragmented but demonstrates little sign of abrasion.

Table 1: Quantification and dating of the CBM assemblage

Context	Cut	Fabric	Form	Size	Date range of material Based on fabric		Latest dated material Based on fabric		Spot date
101	105	GDUN1; GDUN2	Post-medieval peg tile	6	1700	1900	1700	1900	1700- 1900
102	105	GDUN1; GDUN3	Post-medieval peg tile, brick	7	1700	1900	1700	1900	1700- 1900
103	105	GDUN1; GDUN2; GDUN3	Post-medieval peg tile; brick	11	1700	1900	1700	1900	1700- 1900
106	107	GDUN1; GDUN2; 3102	Post-medieval peg tile; undiagnostic fired clay	18	4000B C	1900	1700	1900	1700- 1900

7.2.4 The roof tiles are late post-medieval in date in local fabric GDUN1 and GDUN2, recovered from fills (101) (102) (103) of Pit [105], and fill (106) of Pit [107]. The majority of peg tiles had fine moulding sand that dates them to AD 1700-1900, although one fragment from fill (106) preserved traces of greenish-brown glaze on the surface, indicating an early post-medieval date for this fragment (AD 1450-1700).

7.2.5 One brick fabric was identified within the assemblage. A local sandy fabric GDUN3 was collected from fills (102) (103) of Pit [105]. Both examples are handmade and unfrosted and are likely to be 18th-19th century in date.

7.2.6 A single daub fragment in a silty sandy matrix with abundant chalk inclusions was found in fill (106) of Pit [107].

Conclusions

7.2.7 The assemblage recovered from The Old Vicarage is relatively small and thinly distributed. The presence of daub may suggest that structures of medieval date were originally sited in the locality but as they are small and undiagnostic, little can be concluded from this. The later building material also attests indirectly to the presence of post-medieval settlement activity in the vicinity.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

8.1 Animal bone by Ryan Desrosiers

Introduction

8.1.1 The evaluation revealed two features yielding a total of seven fragments (111g) of animal bone. These remains are comprised of taxa from the taxonomic class of mammals (Mammalia) and bird (Aves). This section details the assessment of these faunal remains, their analytical potential, and presents any recommendations.

Methodology

8.1.2 The animal bone was identified and recorded to species level whenever possible. In the case of unidentifiable fragments, like long bone shaft fragments or vertebral fragments, classification into size classes (e.g., cattle-sized, sheep-sized, or rat-sized) as per Rielly (2018) was attempted. During the recording of individual elements recovered, attributes including species, bone portion, condition, taphonomy, pathology, or anthropogenic alteration to elements were noted. Attempts were made to refit all possible elements within contexts, with the total number of fragments being additionally noted.

8.1.3 All of the animal bone found in the assemblage was collected by hand. Once brought back from site, all hand-collected specimens were washed by hand using tepid water (roughly 20-25°C) and medium to firm bristled toothbrushes.

Assemblage description

8.1.4 The evaluation yielded seven fragments of animal bone from two features. After attempting to refit, no refits could be determined. One common domesticate, cattle (*Bos taurus*) is present within assemblage (Table 2). No other mammal specimens could be identified to taxon. Unidentifiable bird remains were also recovered from fill of (105) within pit [107].

8.1.5 All fragments display evidence of extraneous taphonomic factors influencing preservation, including possible water-wear. No specimens from the evaluation display direct evidence of human consumption (e.g., cut or saw marks) or alteration in the form of burning.

8.1.6 Given the dearth of highly diagnostic elements and relatively small overall NISP within the assemblage, The Old Vicarage assemblage is not analytically significant.

Table 2: Animal bone specimens (NISP) by context.

Key: BOS=cattle (*Bos taurus* (domestic); CHKZ=chicken-sized; SSZ=sheep-sized;
NISP=number of individual species present

Context	Cut	BOS	CHKZ	CSZ	SSZ	Total
103		2		1		3
106			1		3	4
Total		2	1	1	3	7

Conclusions

- 8.1.7 Overall, the small size and poor condition of the animal bone assemblage recovered by the evaluation limits the potential for further analysis. If no further fieldwork is to be undertaken, these specimens would be prime for discard during the archival process.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 Despite of the archaeological potential of the site within the garden of The Old Vicarage, with the house dating from the 16th century, and its location adjacent to the medieval church of St Mary the Virgin, no features of archaeological significance were encountered by the evaluation.
- 9.2 The two pits investigated in the trench and test pit were typical of features likely to be revealed by excavation in an old garden, with one pit filled with a mixture of finds dating from the 13th century through to the later post-medieval period, the other, larger pit filled with a sequence of dumped soils that yielded brick, tile and pottery of predominately 19th century date.
- 9.3 Although there may be more significant archaeological remains within the garden associated with Church End's medieval past, and possibly its Roman past if the remains in the adjacent field extend this far east into the garden, no evidence was found for such remains within the areas to be impacted by the proposed development.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank RPS Group Ltd (RPS) for commissioning the work on behalf of their client and Richard Havis (PSECC) for monitoring the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.
- 10.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Rita Pedro (Project Supervisor) and Daniel Percy. This report was written by Rita Pedro, with specialist contributions from Berni Sudds, Amparo Valcarcel and Ryan Desrosiers, and the figures were prepared by Joanna Nastaszyc. Finds processing was coordinated by Sîan O'Neill and QGIS support was provided by Valerio Pinna. The project was managed for PCA by Simon Carlyle and for RPS by James Archer.

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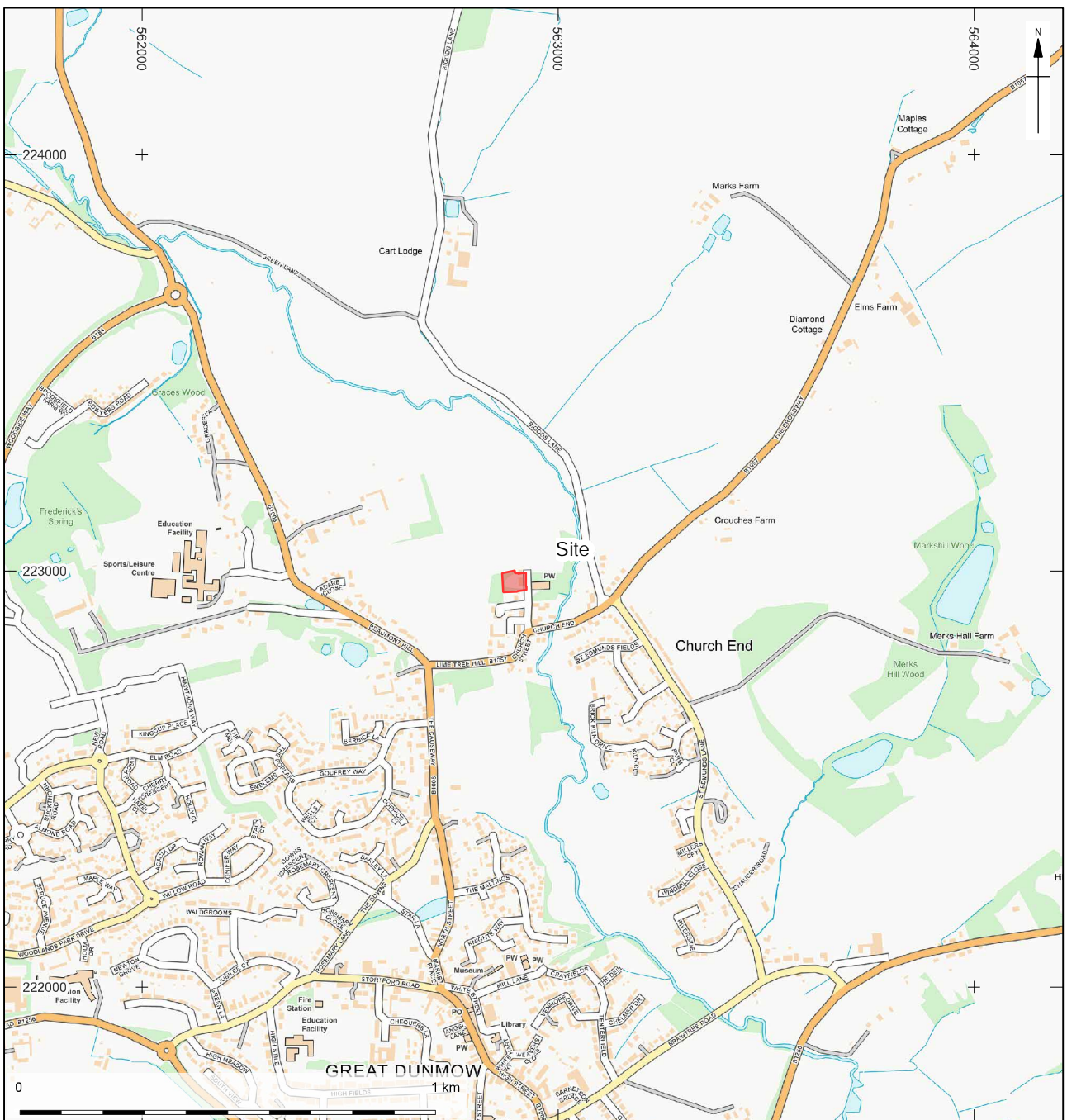
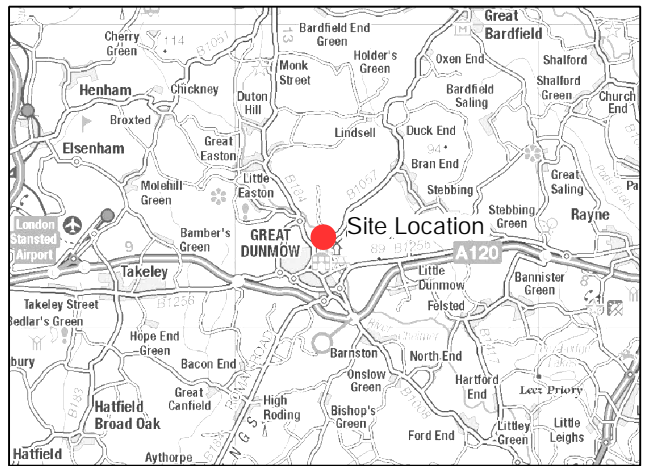
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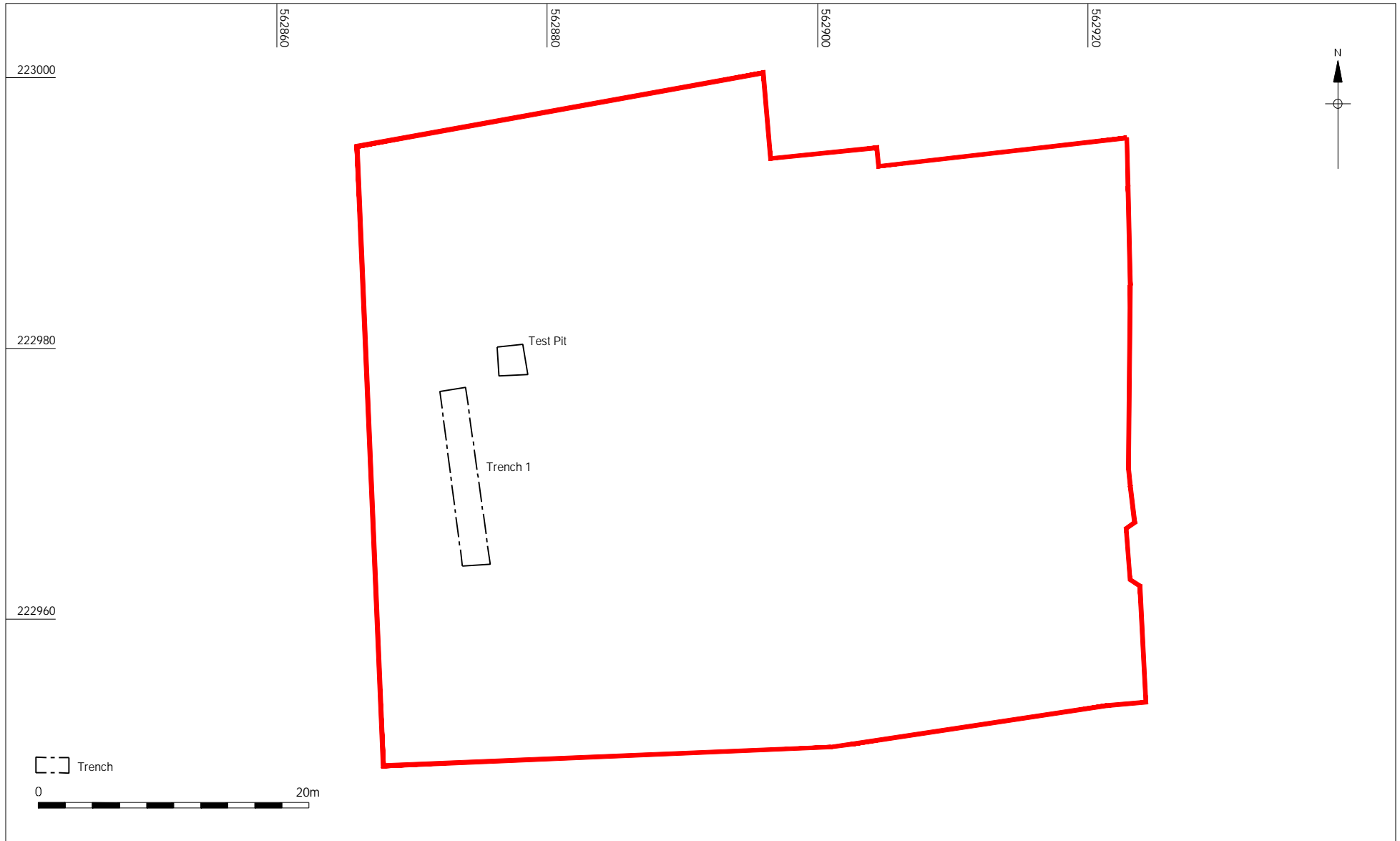
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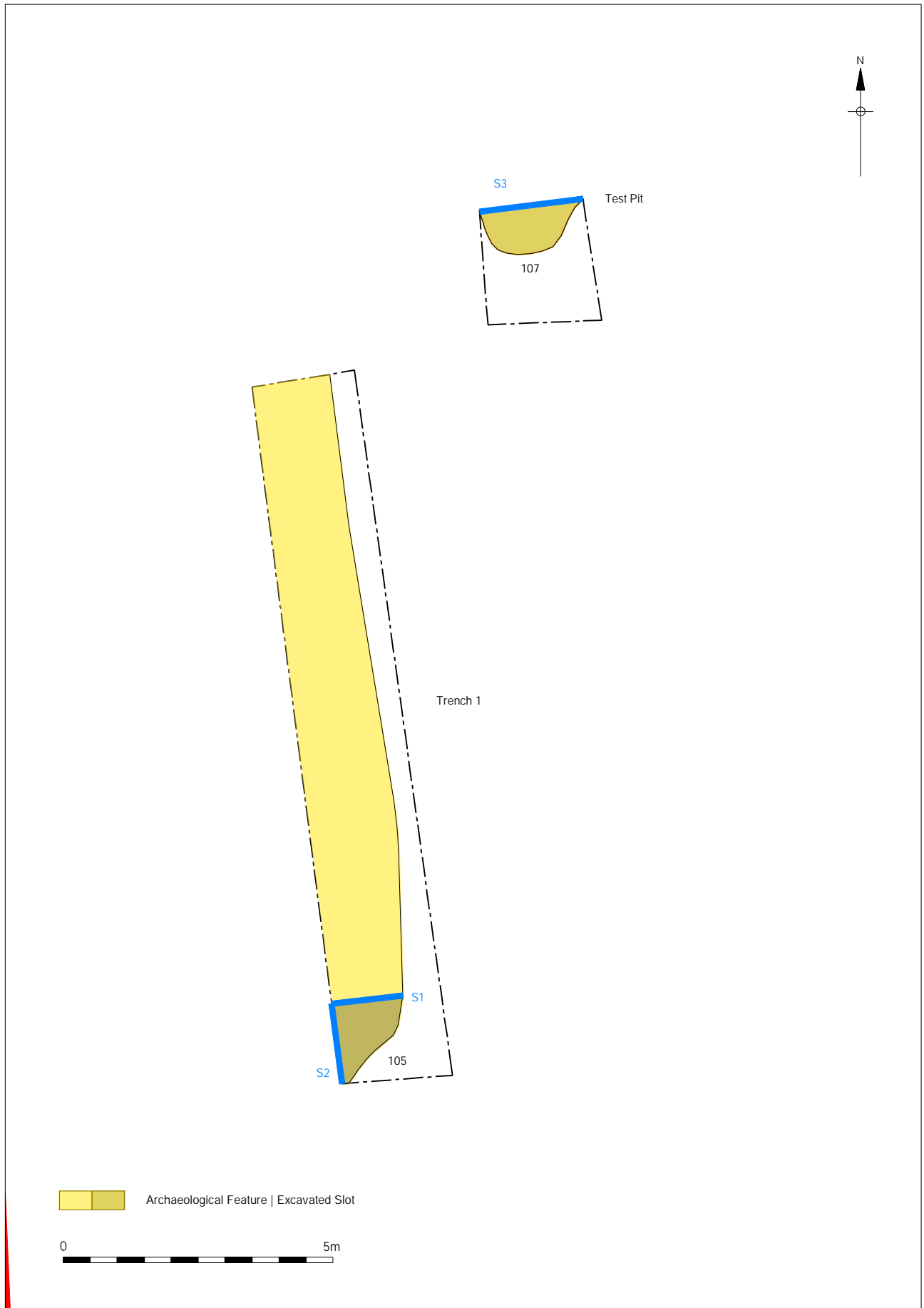
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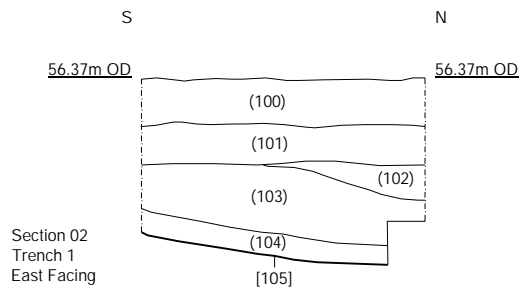
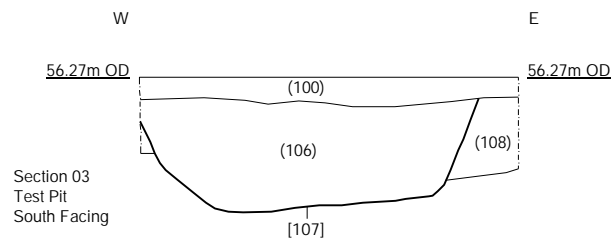
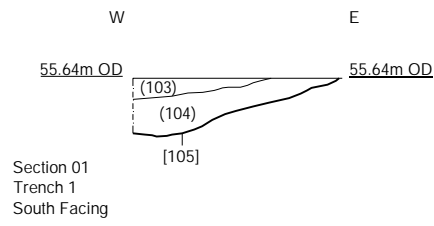
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PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 3: Trench 1, Pit [105], looking north



Plate 4: Trench 1, east-facing section of Pit [105], looking west



Plate 5: Test Pit, looking north



Plate 3: Test Pit, Pit [107], looking north



Plate 4: The Old Vicarage house and garden, looking east



Plate 5: St Mary's Church, Church End, Great Dunmow, looking south

APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DETAILS AND CONTEXTS INDEX

Trench Number	Alignment	Length (m)	Max machine depth (m)	Topsoil thickness (m)	Subsoil thickness (m)
1	N-S	10	0.84	0.27	0.13
2	N-S	2	0.5	0.15	0.35

Context	Cut	Trench	Type	Category	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)	Description
100	100		Layer	Layer	10	2	0.26	Firm dark - grey clayey silt
101	105	1	Fill	Pit	9	1.1	0.2	Firm dark brownish grey clayey silt
102	105	1	Fill	Pit	1	1.1	0.18	Soft light yellowish brown clayey silt
103	105	1	Fill	Pit	1	0.73	0.38	Firm mid brownish grey clayey silt
104	105	1	Fill	Pit	1	1.1	0.21	Hard light orangish brown clayey silt
105	105	1	Cut	Pit	1	1.1	0.7	Sub-circular, moderate sides, flat base and NW-SE aligned
106	107	2	Fill	Pit	0.75	1.78	0.6	Soft dark - black clayey silt with frequent small to large cbm fragments
107	107	2	Cut	Pit	0.75	1.78	0.6	Circular, moderate sides, concave base
108	108		Layer	Layer	10	2	0.42	Firm mid orangish brown clayey silt
109	109		Layer	Layer	10	2	0	Firm mid brownish orange silty clay

APPENDIX 2: POST-ROMAN POTTERY CATALOGUE

Key: Cxt = context; SC = sherd count; ENV = estimated/ minimum number of vessels; Wgt = weight in grams.

Cut	Cxt	Essex code	Comments	SC	ENV	Wgt	Date range		Spot date
105	102	48C	Creamware dish, body sherd.	1	1	24	1740	1830	1780 - 1900
105	102	48D	Transfer-printed plate rim. Stylised foliate design with fleur de lis. Rim diameter: 240mm; REVE: 0.07.	1	1	9	1780	1900	
107	106	22	Hedingham fineware jug. Large body sherd with white slip painted circle surrounded by a ring of small white slip dots. Clear glaze. Rouen or possibly highly decorated style. Internal wear/ abrasion, small remaining area of glaze and white/ limescale residue.	1	1	52	1200	1250	1200 – 1225/ 1250
107	106	21	Body sherds. Oxidised dull orange. Patches of external glaze. Externally sooted.	2	1	18	1150	1400	
107	106	21	Base sherd. Grey core and oxidised orange surfaces.	1	1	10	1150	1400	
107	106	21	Sagging base sherd with internal burnt residue and external sooting. Grey core, dull orange surfaces (possibly oxidised 20).	1	1	10	1150	1400	
107	106	20/21?	Base sherd. External wear. Dull orange- brown.	1	1	16	1150	1400	
107	106	20	Jar rim. Reduced mid-grey throughout. Rivenhall type B4 rim. Rim diameter 170mm; REVE:0.08.	1	1	6	1175	1225	

APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS Summary for preconst1-521849

OASIS ID (UID)	preconst1-521849
Project Name	The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Great Dunmow, Essex: An Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Great Dunmow
Sitecode	CSGD24
Project Identifier(s)	CSGD24
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	UTT/23/2204/HHF
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project Dates	29-Jan-2024 - 29-Jan-2024
Location	The Old Vicarage, Church Street, Great Dunmow NGR : TL 62887 22971 LL : 51.881511182265385, 0.365138648053296 12 Fig : 562887,222971
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Uttlesford Parish : Great Dunmow
Project Methodology	The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 1no. 12m trial trench at 1.6m wide and a test pit, positioned within the footprints of the proposed swimming pool and pool house respectively.
Project Results	Beneath the garden topsoil, the edge of a large 19th-century pit was revealed in Trench 1, which contained sherds of late 18th and 19th-century pottery and fragments of brick and tile of a similar date. Part of a small post-medieval pit was revealed in the adjacent test pit, the fill of which yielded seven sherds of pottery dating to c. AD 1200-1250, a piece of daub, a fragment of late medieval/early post-medieval glazed tile and other fragments of later post-medieval peg tile. No other archaeological features were encountered by the investigation.
Keywords	Rubbish Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pot - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Pot - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Roof Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation No known
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Simon Carlyle
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - CSGD24
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum;



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