

Trenching at the point where the spine route crossed Jacks Lane did not provide a date for the establishment of the route and its flanking ditches, but indicated that it had an extended history of maintenance and repair.

Priors Green, Phase II

Phase II works comprised trial trenching of the former nursery and orchard and an area west of Broadfield Wood along the northern side of the B1256. The trenching was a follow-up to the archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits previously undertaken on the former nursery and orchard. A total of 30 archaeological trial trenches were excavated. Three north-south ditches and a single modern gully were uncovered. Although only one of the ditches was positively dated, it is likely that they are all post-medieval and represent further field divisions. All the ditches uncovered during the trenching were parallel to the extant north-south boundaries, as well as to each other. This suggests that they may originally have been contemporary with the extant field boundaries, which are known to pre-date the 1875 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. This suggests that this area of the Priors Green development was divided into long narrow fields during the post-medieval period. However, there is little evidence for any substantive earlier activity and none of the remains identified within the adjacent Phase I of the Priors Green development were seen to continue into this phase.

Previous summaries: Havis 2006

**112 Takeley, Thremhall Priory
(TL 5215 2140)**

A.S.

Large scale excavations have taken place in advance of the redevelopment of the existing listed building and large site to commercial offices. The excavations at Thremhall Priory have shown extensive surviving archaeological deposits of multi-period date. The archaeological excavation revealed evidence of a large medieval building, probably one of the Priory structures comprising clunch and mortar pads for columns, robbed out walls, flint cobbles and tiled floor surfaces and demolition rubble. Archaeological research for the final report will hopefully identify the function of the building.

Underlying the foundations and floor levels of the 18th-century house were the wall foundations of an earlier building which appeared to post date the dissolution of the Priory in 1536. The cellar of the 18th-century house and the foundations of the post dissolution building contained numerous masonry blocks and column fragments robbed from the original Priory masonry structures. Post-excavation work will unravel the many phases of the structure and may be able to provide an indication of the nature of the original Priory structures from the surviving re used stone work.

Previous summaries: Havis 2006

**113 Takeley, Thremhall Priory
(TL 5325 2160)**

D. Dodds, O.A.

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at Thremhall Priory Barns during conversion groundworks. The watching brief revealed widespread evidence of demolition debris (principally brick fragments) probably associated with the dissolution of the Priory. This had been heavily disturbed and truncated by 20th-century ground reduction. The truncated foundations of an agricultural building of c. 19th-century date were also observed.

**114 Thaxted, Bellrope Meadow
(TL 6180 3167)**

C. Hallybone, P. Weston, A.S.

The archaeological evaluation revealed twelve archaeological features consisting of a pit/ditch terminus, a possible plough furrow, seven ditches, two pits, and a probable modern geotechnical pit. Dateable artefacts recovered included late Iron Age and early Romano-British pottery. The dating of the site is of interest as it suggests that a late Iron Age phase of activity was superseded by an early Romano-British phase, and it is possible that there was a degree of continuity between the two periods.

Archive: S.W.M.

**115 Tilbury, Methodist Church
(TQ 6859 7733)**

A. Padfield

The historic building survey report of the Methodist Church, was received in 2006. The church was to be demolished and replaced by a house. Built in 1856 as a result of the spread of village Methodism in the early to mid 19th century, the original church cost £167. It was constructed in greyish stock bricks with a shallow pitched slate roof. It was quite plain, with double doors in the centre of the west gable for direct entry from the road. It had a panel with METHODIST CHURCH and an illegible date (probably 1856) painted on. The windows in the west wall had 'Early English' arches, and all the windows of the main church contain coloured glass decoration set in lead. The interior had boarded and plastered walls. The recording of these structures is important because many are now being demolished or converted for residential use.

**116 Tilbury, Biosolids Dryer
(TQ 6600 7570)**

O.A.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on development at the Anglian Water Sewage Treatment Works. The watching brief identified made ground on top of a layer of peat and alluvial deposits. A range of archaeological features were identified relating to farm buildings that had been on the site prior to the water treatment works.