

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**  
**LAND AT THE CENTRAL PILING SITE**  
**COLCHESTER ROAD**  
**HALSTEAD**  
**ESSEX**

**ASE Project No: 160079**  
**Site Code: HSCP16**

**ASE Report No: 2016170**



**April 2016**

**Archaeological Evaluation**  
**Land at the Central Piling Site**  
**Colchester Road, Halstead**  
**Essex**

**NGR: TL 82420 30150**

**Planning Ref: 15/01312/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 160079**  
**Site Code: HSCP16**

**ASE Report No: 2016170**  
**OASIS id: 247363**

**By Trevor Ennis**

**With a contribution by**  
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<b>Revision:</b>		

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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at the former Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead, Essex, in April 2016. The fieldwork was undertaken in advance of residential development on behalf of CgMS Consulting.*

*The evaluation area covered 0.45 hectares and was located adjacent to Colchester Road. Four trial trenches were excavated.*

*No archaeological remains of significance were identified. The few features present were all of modern date and were almost certainly associated with previously demolished later 19th and 20th century buildings. Land in the north-east of the area, the site of a former post-WW2 petrol station, had clearly been truncated whilst ground levels in the south had been raised by the addition of modern building rubble and other mixed deposits. Existing truncation around the south-eastern and south-western periphery of the site had resulted from 20th century mineral extraction and subsequent landscaping associated with the construction of the engineering works.*

*The results of the evaluation suggest that this land located at the edge of Halstead was not extensively utilised, except perhaps as farmland, until the late 19th and 20th century. It is considered that the intended development of this site will have a negligible impact on the heritage resource of this location.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead, Essex.
- 1.1.2 The development area is located at the south-eastern edge of Halstead, between Colchester Road (A1124) and the River Colne (Figure 1). The entire site (centred on TL 82393 30069) covers an area of approximately 3.05 hectares and is currently occupied by a large two-storey engineering works (Central Piling) located centrally within the site and accessed from Colchester Road by a concrete road.
- 1.1.3 The development area to be evaluated is situated to the front (north-east) of the site area and occupies approximately 0.45 hectares (centred on TL 82420 30150) (Figure 2). The evaluation area is bounded by Colchester Road to the north-east, access roads to the works to the south-east, a public footpath, with grass and woodland beyond, to the south-west and residential development to the north-west. The area was until recently occupied by dense vegetation comprised mainly of trees and shrubs all of which were removed prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The evaluation area slopes gradually from north-west to south-east dropping nearly 3m in height from the north-west end of Trench 2 (45.53m AOD) to the south-west end of Trench 4 (42.60m AOD). There is also a significant drop in height from south-west to north-east demonstrated by heights of 43.80m AOD at the south-east end of Trench 2 as opposed to 41.01m AOD at the south-east end of Trench 1. The area around Trench 1 has been previously terraced, presumably to allow level vehicular access off Colchester Road to the former petrol station. At the southern end of the evaluation area there is a severe drop in height of around 6m down to the concrete access road and the main part of the former Central Piling site to the south-west.
- 1.2.2 The geology of the site comprises clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation, partially overlain by sand and gravel drift deposits of the Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup (British Geological Survey © NERC 2016). During fieldwork, the geological deposit was recorded mainly as mid to light brownish yellow sandy silt and gravel with clay exposed in the lower lying north-east of the site.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Development proposals for the entire 3.05 hectare site comprise the erection of a low-rise residential development with associated landscaping, access, services, open space and associated ancillary work (planning application ref. 15/01312/FUL).

- 1.3.2 As the development is perceived to be located in an area of archaeological significance and potential, Essex County Council (ECC) Place Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, have requested a programme of archaeological investigation to ensure that any archaeological remains are suitably recorded.
- 1.3.3 Evaluation trial trenching has been confined to the north-east part of the site, to target areas where potential archaeological deposits, if present, are likely to be impacted by the proposed development. Most of the remainder of the development area has been excluded from archaeological evaluation because it has been historically quarried and levelled, and impacted by the construction of the engineering works. Other parts of the site are subject to various ecological constraints or are to be left as open spaces within the development.
- 1.3.4 The methodology for this archaeological evaluation work was set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation* produced by ASE (2016). The planned programme for trial trenching was approved by ECC prior to the commencement of works and was monitored by ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor, Teresa O'Connor.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out by Trevor Ennis (Senior Archaeologist) between the 11th and 12th of April 2016. The fieldwork was managed by Niall Oakey.
- 1.4.2 Recipients of this report comprise CgMS Consulting, ECC Place Services, and the Essex Historic Environment Record. Copies of the report will be submitted to fulfil the archaeological planning condition.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The historical and archaeological background to the development area is covered in detail in a desk-based assessment (CgMS 2016). The following represents a summary of the information contained within that report relevant to the evaluation area.
- 2.2 No archaeological work has previously taken place on the evaluation site. Historic Environment Record information for the prehistoric and Roman eras is limited, with no recorded evidence of early prehistoric activity in the area. A late Iron Age settlement south of the River Colne was succeeded by a Roman villa, excavated in the 1950s (EHER 8605-6). The evaluation site may have been land farmed from these estate centres.
- 2.3 Records of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval activity are centred on the historic core of Halstead to the north-west and it is likely that the evaluation site was utilised for agricultural activity in these periods and into the post-medieval era. Most of the wider development area was used for agriculture and mineral extraction until an iron works was established in the later 20th century, but the evaluation site has been the location of more diverse activities.

- 2.4 Cartographic evidence from the late 18th and earlier 19th century shows a building on the street frontage, at the south-eastern corner, although this may largely lie within the modern access road onto the site (1799 OS survey drawing and 1838 Halstead Tithe Map). Subsequent Ordnance Survey maps of 1876 and 1923 show a single large house on the site, set back from the street frontage and within grounds broadly conforming to the evaluation site. A shelter belt separated it from the road and the footpath had been established to the south. By 1954-5 the building had been demolished and a long linear building was present with an outbuilding behind. The 1972-81 OS shows these buildings incorporated into a petrol station, which occupied the area between them and the road. This may indicate that the long building was a garage or workshop, or possibly a post-WW2 petrol station; inspection records of the petrol station (the Blue Bridge Filling Station) from August 1974 suggest that the petrol station already existed at this time. Records survive of removal of the petrol and diesel tanks in 2002 and by 2012 the evaluation site had been cleared of its buildings. Subsequently it has been derelict and become overgrown with shrubs, saplings and more mature trees.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Project Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation were to be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.
- 3.1.2 In the case of the discovery of archaeological remains with potential to contribute to regional research objectives, the results of the fieldwork were to be reviewed in relation to research questions and topics identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.2.1 According to the WSI, four 30m x 1.8m trial trenches were to be excavated across the 0.45 hectare evaluation area (ASE 2016, Figure 2). The trenches were located to avoid known constraints wherever possible whilst targeting potential areas of below-ground disturbance from the proposed development.
- 3.2.2 All of the trenches were set-out in their proposed positions. However, only one (Trench 3) was 30m in length. Trench 1 was shortened to 27m due to the presence of a steep (c.2m high) bank at its north end and Trench 4 was shortened to a similar distance due to the presence of a live electricity pole at its west end and a steep downward slope to its east. At 31m in length, Trench 2 was slightly longer than proposed.

- 3.2.3 Machining of the trenches was conducted, under close archaeological supervision, by a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket in stages to reveal the stratigraphy. Modern surface deposits, topsoil and subsoil were removed down to the top of the natural geology or the top of any archaeological remains encountered.
- 3.2.6 All archaeological features were hand-excavated; either 50% of discrete features or 1m segments of larger features were excavated. Modern features were only excavated sufficient as to confirm their date and relationships.
- 3.2.7 Standard ASE excavation, artefact collection, and recording methodologies were employed throughout, with all work carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct, by-laws and guidelines (CIfA 2014a, 2014b) and in compliance with *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 3.2.8 All trenches were recorded regardless of the presence/absence of archaeological features. This included a record of soil stratigraphy at each end, and in the middle, and a post-excitation photograph as a minimum. Written records were maintained on pro forma trench sheets.
- 3.2.9 All features were digitally photographed and planned using GPS.
- 3.2.10 Where present, finds were retrieved from all excavated deposits and identified by context number to a specific deposit. These have been processed according CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014c). Where appropriate, finds were marked with the site code and context number.

### 3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 Subject to the landowner's permission, Archaeology South-East will arrange with Braintree Museum for the deposition of the archive, currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Item	Quantity
Trench Record forms	4
Section/Plan sheets	2
Drawing register	1
Digital photos	25

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 A total of four trenches were excavated. Trench lengths varied from 27m to 31m, all trenches were 1.8m wide. Excavated trench depths ranged from 0.31m to 1.30m. Final trench locations are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.1.3 No archaeological remains of any antiquity were present. All investigated features and deposits appeared to be of modern date. Most features were cut



into natural deposits or subsoil. Feature legibility was generally good.

4.1.4 The four trenches are described below in sections 4.2-4.5.

#### 4.2 Trench 1

Heights at NW end of trench = 41.78 AOD (top) 41.37 AOD (base)

Heights at SE end of trench = 41.01 AOD (top) 40.77 AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
1/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey brown sandy silt	27 x 1.8 x 0.25
1/002	Layer	Subsoil – mid yellowish brown sandy silt	27 x 1.8 x 0.23
1/003	Layer	Natural – brownish yellow silty clay with sandy gravel patches	27 x 1.8

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 1 was orientated north-west/south-east and was located in the north-east corner of the site (Figure 3). Trench 1 was shortened to 27m in length as the original north-west end of the trench was located on the top of a steep bank c.2m higher than the land surface to the south.

4.2.2 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m with the overburden consisting of topsoil [1/001] overlying sandy silt subsoil [1/002]. In the base of the trench were a series of modern deposits with natural clay [1/003] exposed at both ends. In places, modern bricks had been compacted into the top of the natural clay.

4.2.3 The exposed modern deposits are all likely to be associated with a former petrol station and consisted of an L-shaped concrete foundation and brick rubble and sand infilling disturbances cut into the natural clay. Sand in the southern half of the trench was only 0.10m thick and overlay concrete and brick rubble. A wider patch of sand/gravel in the north of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. The sand/gravel was clean and was either a deliberate deposit of imported natural material used to infill a large hole, perhaps after the removal of a fuel storage tank, or was a *bona fide* outcrop of natural sand.

#### 4.3 Trench 2

Heights at NW end of trench = 45.53 AOD (top) 45.27 AOD (base)

Heights at SE end of trench = 43.80 AOD (top) 43.66 AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
2/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark greyish brown sandy silt	31 x 1.8 x 0.18
2/002	Layer	Subsoil – dark yellowish brown sandy silt	31 x 1.8 x 0.15
2/003	Layer	Natural – light brownish yellow sandy silt with gravel patches	31 x 1.8

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 2 was orientated north-west/south-east and was located in the north-west corner of the site (Figure 4). The trench was 31m in length and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.31m with the removed overburden consisting of topsoil [2/001] and subsoil [2/002] overlying natural deposits of sandy silt and gravel [2/003].

4.3.2 Several modern features were present in the southern half of the trench. These consisted of a rectangular brick structure, a linear cut containing disturbed bricks and the remains of a ceramic pipe running along the edge of the trench. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

#### 4.4 Trench 3

Heights at NW end of trench = 43.56 AOD (top) 43.34 AOD (base)

Heights at SE end of trench = 42.66 AOD (top) 42.38 AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
3/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark greyish brown sandy silt	30 x 1.8 x 0.37
3/002	Layer	Subsoil – dark yellowish brown sandy silt	30 x 1.8 x 0.19
3/003	Layer	Natural – mid brownish yellow sandy gravelly silt	30 x 1.8

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 3 was orientated north-west/south-east and was located along the western side of the site (Figure 5). The removed overburden was up to 0.56m deep and consisted of topsoil [3/001] and subsoil [3/002] overlaying natural deposits of gravelly silt [3/003].

4.4.2 Running the length of the trench, and aligned with the remains of a square brick manhole in the south, was a linear trench containing a modern ceramic drain pipe. This linear drainage trench cut through an earlier, north-east/south-west aligned drain, and was itself truncated by a modern (machine-made) test pit. No archaeological features of significance were identified.

#### 4.5 Trench 4

Heights at NE end of trench = 41.90 AOD (top) 40.91 AOD (base)

Heights at SW end of trench = 42.60 AOD (top) 41.58 AOD (base)

Context	Type	Description	Max Dimensions (L x W x D in m)
4/001	Layer	Topsoil – dark grey clay silt	27 x 1.8 x 0.13
4/002	Layer	Modern overburden – mixed brick rubble, ash, sand and gravel etc.	27 x 1.8 x 0.71
4/003	Layer	Buried topsoil – dark greyish brown clay silt	27 x 1.8 x 0.40
4/004	Layer	Subsoil – mid-dark grey brown clay silt	19 x 1.8 x 0.17
4/005	Layer	Subsoil - mid-dark grey brown clay silt	7 x 1.8 x 0.30
4/006	Layer	Natural – orange brown silty clay	19 x 1.8
4/007	Fill	In 4/008 – mid-dark greyish brown clay silt & pipe	1.8+ x 0.9 x 0.2
4/008	Cut	Linear – NW/SE aligned, sides 30-75°	1.8+ x 0.9 x 0.2

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 4 was aligned north-east/south-west and located at the south end of the site (Figure 6). The trench was reduced in length to just over 27m due to the presence of a live electricity pole at its west end and a steep slope to its east. At the western end of the trench only topsoil could be removed for the initial 3m due to the presence of a water table inspection pipe. Due to its depth, the east end of the trench was sloped, at the request of the ecologist, to allow animal egress.

4.5.2 The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m, but for most of its

length varied between 1m and 1.1m in depth. The removed overburden consisted of a small amount of modern topsoil [4/001] overlaying mixed modern deposits of brick rubble, ashy silt, sand and gravel [4/002] up to 0.71m thick. These sealed a deposit of buried topsoil [4/003] generally 0.1-0.15m deep but deepening to 0.4m at the eastern end of the trench. Underlying this topsoil was a thin layer of slightly lighter and browner subsoil ([4/004] and [4/005]) which also became deeper (up to 0.3m) towards the east. Three pieces of post-medieval brick were recovered from this deposit including one firmly dated to the 19th century. Natural deposits [4/006] exposed in the base of the trench consisted of orange brown silty clay [4/006] with one or two patches of bluey grey clay possibly resulting from contamination.

4.5.2 In the eastern half of the trench was a north-west/south-east aligned linear feature [4/008] filled with mid-dark greyish brown clay silt [4/007] seemingly sealed by subsoil [4/004]. Excavation revealed the feature to be a service trench containing a modern ceramic drain pipe. A modern feature containing brick rubble was noted cutting subsoil [4/005] at the eastern end of the trench and a second feature containing plastic pipe was noted in the west. No archaeological features of significance were identified.

**5.0 FINDS**

**5.1 Summary**

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 6). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c). No further conservation is required.

<b>Context</b>	<b>CBM</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
4/005	3	920
<i>Total</i>	3	920

Table 6: Finds quantification

**5.2 Ceramic Building Material** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.2.1 Three pieces of brick weighing a total of 920g were recovered from context [4/005]. One corner fragment was broken from a machine-made compressed brick, which would date to the later 19th century. The remaining two fragments were made from a soft, sandy reddish fabric with common quartz up to 2mm and sparse pebble sherds, clay pellets and burnt oxides. This fabric looks more similar to pre-1666 brick fabrics, and at the latest are likely to be residual c.18th century fragments.

**6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

6.1 No suitable deposits were identified for bulk environmental sampling during the evaluation.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 7.1.1 The natural geological deposit was encountered at a range of heights between 45.27m AOD in the north-west (Trench 2) and 41.58m AOD in the south-west (Trench 4) which reflects the general downwards from north-west to south-east. Terracing in the north-east of the evaluation area is evident in natural deposit heights of 40.77m and 41.37m AOD recorded in Trench 1.
- 7.1.2 Where undisturbed, the overburden consisted of topsoil above varying amounts of subsoil above natural silt, sand and clay. This sequence was also present in the south-west of the site (Trench 4) although the land here had been raised by up to c.0.70m by the addition of modern deposits on top of the (now buried) topsoil and subsoil.
- 7.1.3 The density and distribution of archaeological remains was low consisting mainly of drainage features and disturbances associated with demolished 19th and 20th structures shown on earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey. Remains within Trench 1 clearly relate to the former petrol station present on this site.

### **7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 7.2.1 Truncation of underlying deposits has clearly occurred in Trench 1 where the top of the c.2m high bank at the north-west end of the trench probably represents the original land surface. It is likely that the truncation occurred during landscaping works associated with the construction of the former petrol station. Elsewhere, there appears to be only localised truncation associated with modern features.
- 7.2.2 Trench 4 was located at the south-east end of a promontory of land which has been cut away on three sides. The land in this area had been artificially raised mainly by the dumping of modern building debris perhaps originating from the near-by demolished garage/workshop buildings. The significant raising of the ground level in this area may not have adversely impacted upon any potential archaeological remains and indeed may have assisted in their survival.

### **7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

- 7.3.1 No evidence was found for any prehistoric or Roman activity on site, which reflects the sparse nature of known remains of this date in the immediate area. Similarly, no evidence of Saxon or medieval activity was identified. As the site is located away from the historic core of the village it is probable that it was used solely for agriculture purposes throughout much of antiquity and well into the post-medieval period.
- 7.3.2 The identified modern features most probably all relate to former structures evident on earlier Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 7). Perhaps the earliest feature was the service trench [4/008] containing a ceramic drain pipe in Trench 4 as this was appeared to be sealed by subsoil. However, as the subsoil contained part of a late 19th-century brick which was most probably residual, neither the drain nor the subsoil is likely to pre-date the 20th century. It is

possible that the drain is associated with a former house located to the south of Trench 4 and in existence from at least 1876 until the 1950s.

7.3.3 Remains within Trenches 2 and 3 are all likely to be drainage features associated with the long linear building, possibly part of the garage or workshop, constructed in this part of the site by 1954-5. Remains within Trench 1 are clearly associated with the former post-war petrol station fronting onto Colchester Road. The L-shaped concrete foundation might be part of the central island upon which the fuel pumps were located. One of the fuel tanks was situated beneath this island and it's possible that some of the shallow sand and rubble in the south of the trench might be the infilling of its former position. Whether the deeper sand in the north of the trench was infilling another tank depression or was a natural pocket of sand within the clay was not determined.

## **7.5 Consideration of research aims**

7.5.1 The trial trenching has achieved its primary research aim in that it has determined the absence of archaeological remains of any antiquity within the evaluated area. All the encountered archaeological remains appear to be of modern date and are consequently of low significance.

7.5.2 No archaeological remains were encountered that inform understanding of the date and nature of land use prior to the late 19th or 20th centuries.

7.5.3 In view of the limited archaeological remains encountered, the results of the evaluation have no potential to contribute to regional research objectives as identified in *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

## **7.6 Conclusions**

7.6.1 The trial trenching has demonstrated that the north-east part of the Central Piling site is unlikely to contain any archaeological remains of significance. The few modern remains present are considered only to be of negligible importance to the understanding of Halstead's past and are adequately documented by modern mapping.

7.6.2 It is considered that the proposed development of this part of the site will have a negligible impact on the heritage resource of this location.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CgMS Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. Teresa O'Connor of Essex County Council Place Services is thanked for her guidance and monitoring undertaken on behalf of the LPA. The excavation was undertaken by Trevor Ennis with assistance from Kim Hosking. Site survey was carried out by Lukasz Miciak and report figures were prepared by Andrew Lewsey. The fieldwork was project managed by Niall Oakey and the post-excavation process was managed by Mark Atkinson.

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**Appendix 1: HER Summary Form**

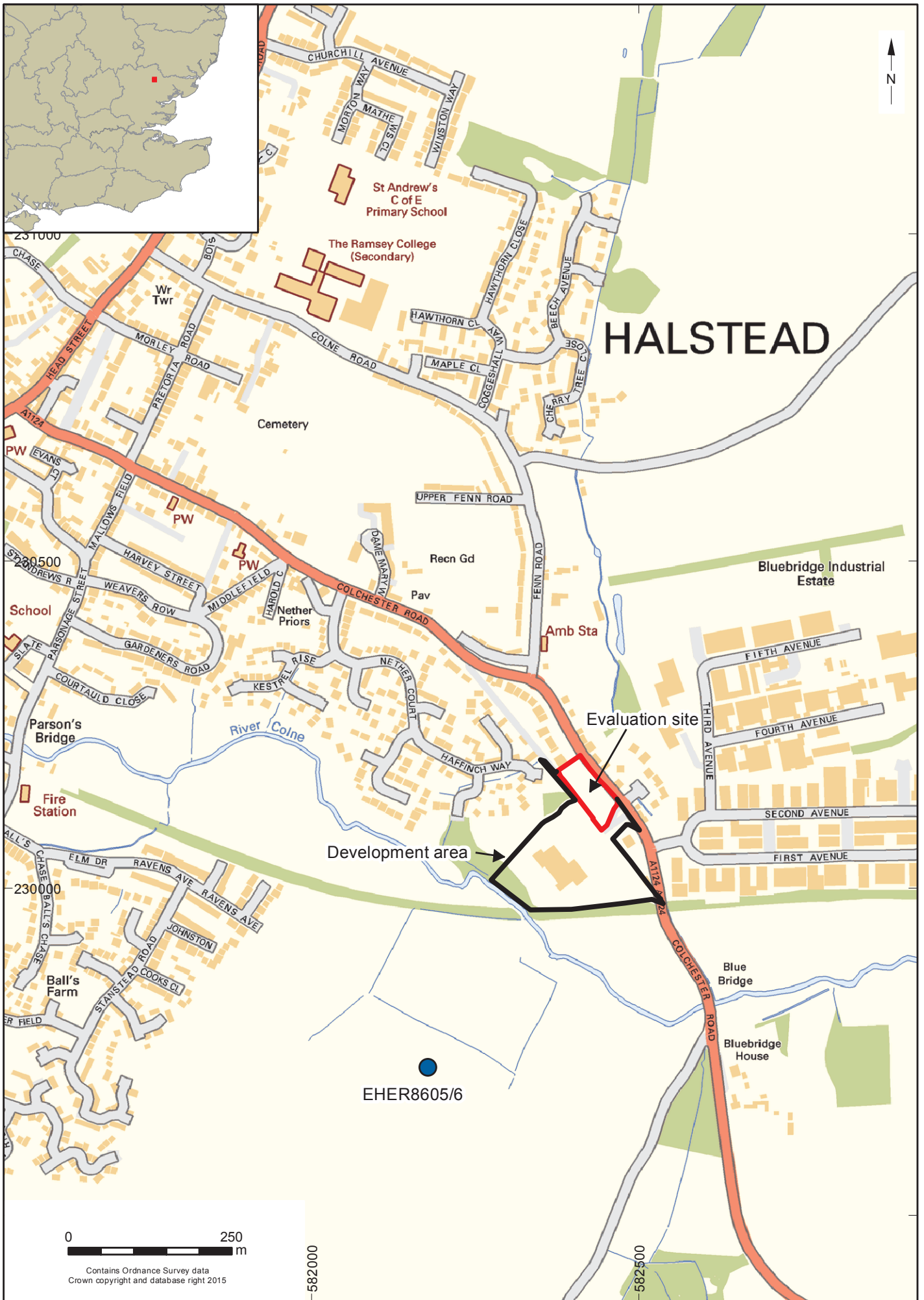
<b>Site name/Address:</b> Land at the Central Piling Site, Colchester Road, Halstead, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Halstead	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 82420 30150	<b>Site Code:</b> HSCP 16
<b>Type of Work:</b> Archaeological Evaluation	<b>Site Director/Group:</b> T. Ennis, Archaeology South-East
<b>Date of Work:</b> 11th-12th April 2016	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b> 0.45 hectares
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b> Braintree Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b> No	<b>Related HER Nos:</b> -
<b>Final Report:</b> EAH roundup?	<b>OASIS No:</b> 247363
<b>Periods Represented:</b> Modern	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at the former Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead, Essex, in advance of residential development. The evaluation area covered 0.45 hectares and was located adjacent to Colchester Road. Four trial trenches were excavated.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological remains of significance were identified. The few features present were all of modern date and were almost certainly associated with previously demolished later 19th and 20th century buildings. Land in the north-east of the area, the site of a former post-war petrol station, had clearly been truncated whilst land in the south had been raised by the addition of modern building rubble and other mixed deposits. Existing truncation around the south-eastern and south-western periphery of the site had resulted from 20th century mineral extraction and subsequent landscaping associated with the construction of the adjacent engineering works.</i></p> <p><i>The results of the evaluation suggest that this land located at the edge of Halstead was not extensively utilised, except perhaps as farmland, until the 19th and 20th century.</i></p>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b> none	
<b>Author of Summary:</b> T. Ennis	<b>Date of Summary:</b> April 2016

**Appendix 2: OASIS Form**

<b>OASIS ID: 247363</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Land at the Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead: Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of residential development. The evaluation area covered 0.45 hectares and was located adjacent to Colchester Road. Four trial trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains of significance were identified. The few features present were all of modern date and were almost certainly associated with previously demolished later 19th and 20th century buildings. Land in the north-east of the area, the site of a former post-war petrol station, had clearly been truncated whilst land in the south had been raised by the addition of modern building rubble and other mixed deposits. Existing truncation around the south-eastern and south-western periphery of the site had resulted from 20th century mineral extraction and subsequent landscaping associated with the construction of the adjacent engineering works.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2016 End: 12-04-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project ref. codes	HSCP 16 – Site code
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	DRAINS Modern
Monument type	WALLS Modern
Significant Finds	BRICKS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE HALSTEAD Central Piling, Colchester Road, Halstead
Postcode	CO9 2EU
Study area	4500 Square metres
Site coordinates	0 0 582419 00 00 N 230146 00 00 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 40.77m Max: 45.27m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of	Archaeology South-East

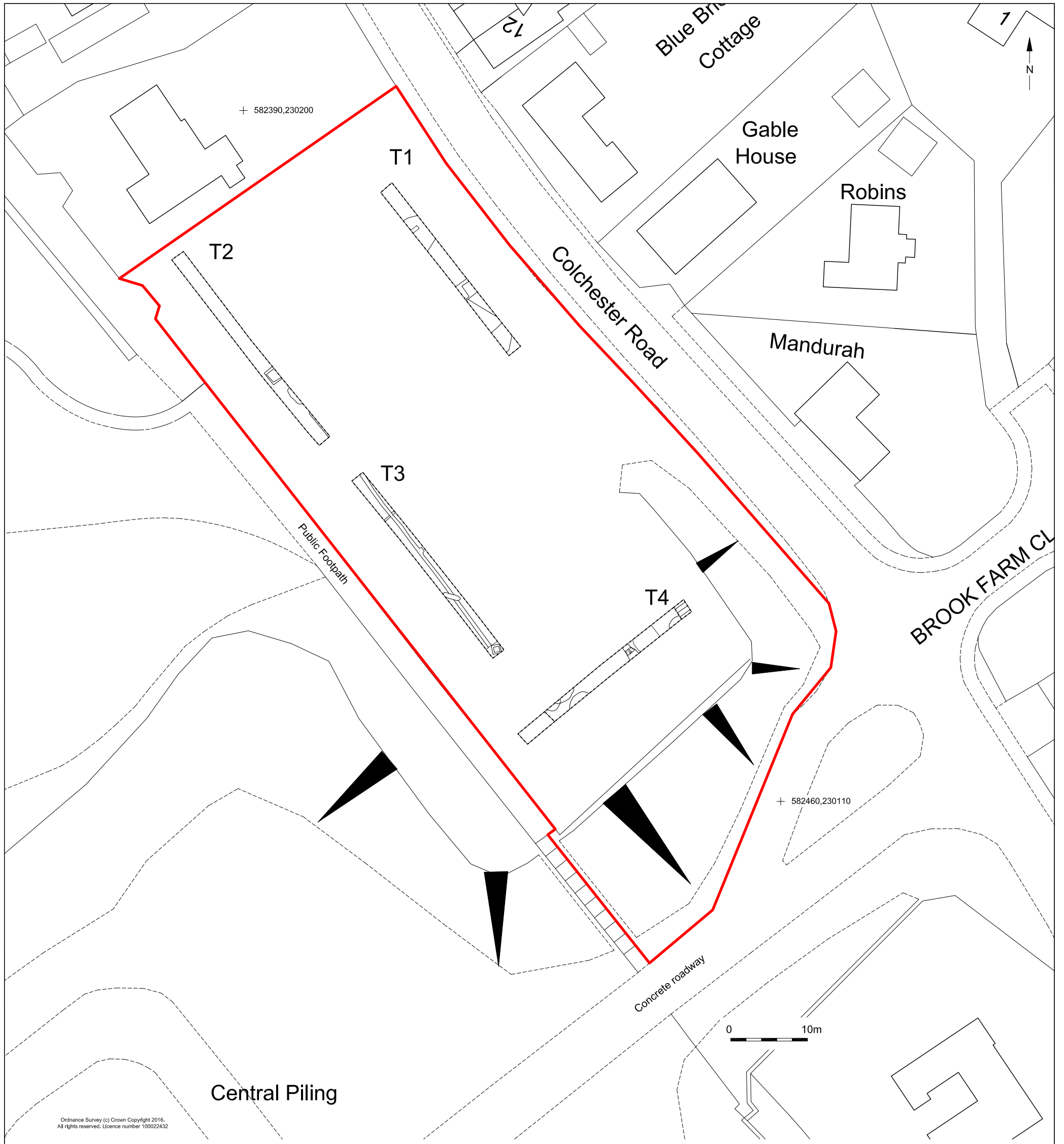


Organisation	
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Niall Oakey
Project supervisor	Trevor Ennis
Type of sponsor	CgMs Consulting
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	HSCP 16
Digital Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	HSCP 16
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "
<b>Project bibliography</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Central Piling, Colchester Road, Halstead: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Ennis, T.
Other bibliographic details	Report number 2016170
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4, 25 pages
Entered by	Trevor Ennis (T.Ennis@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	27 April 2016

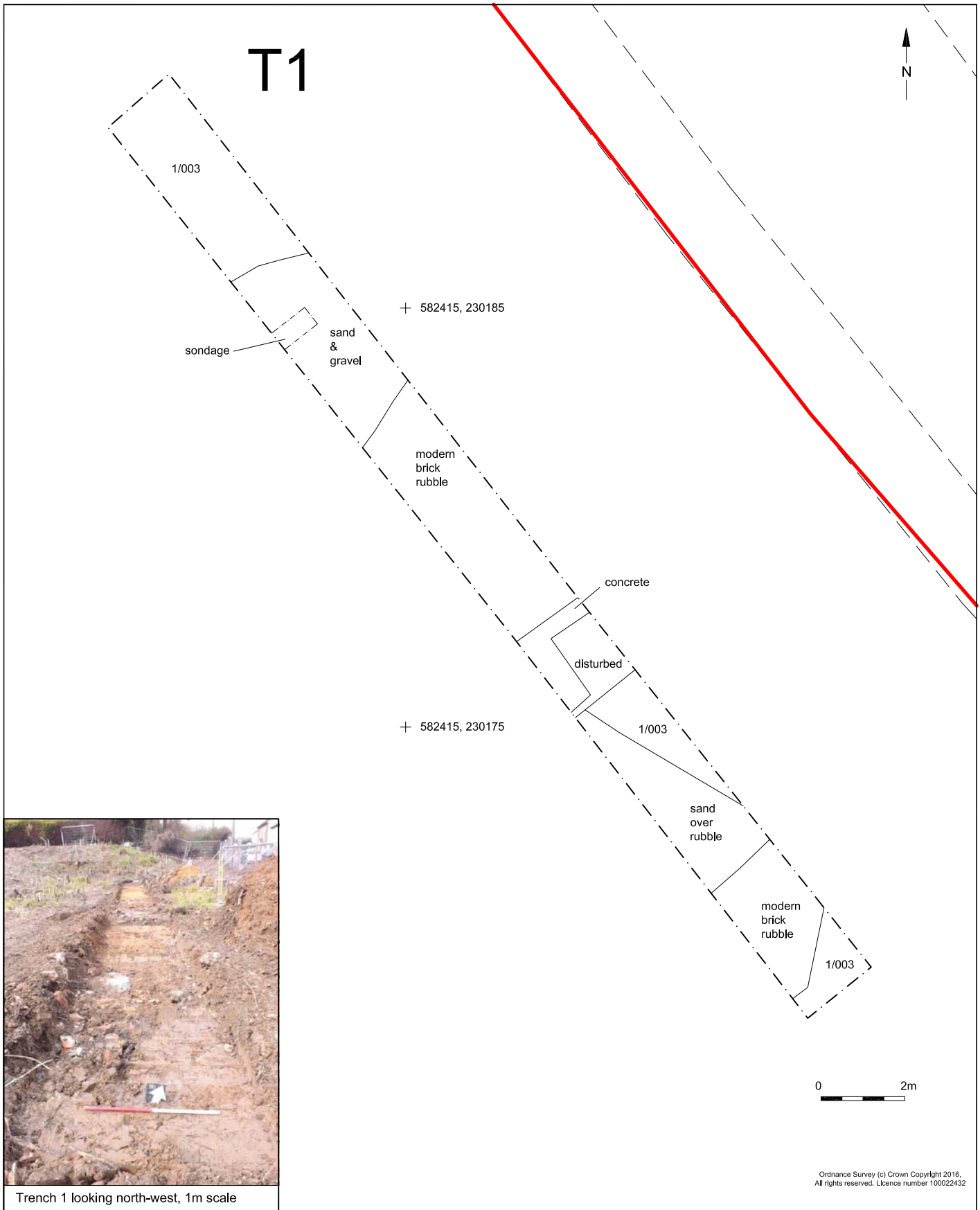


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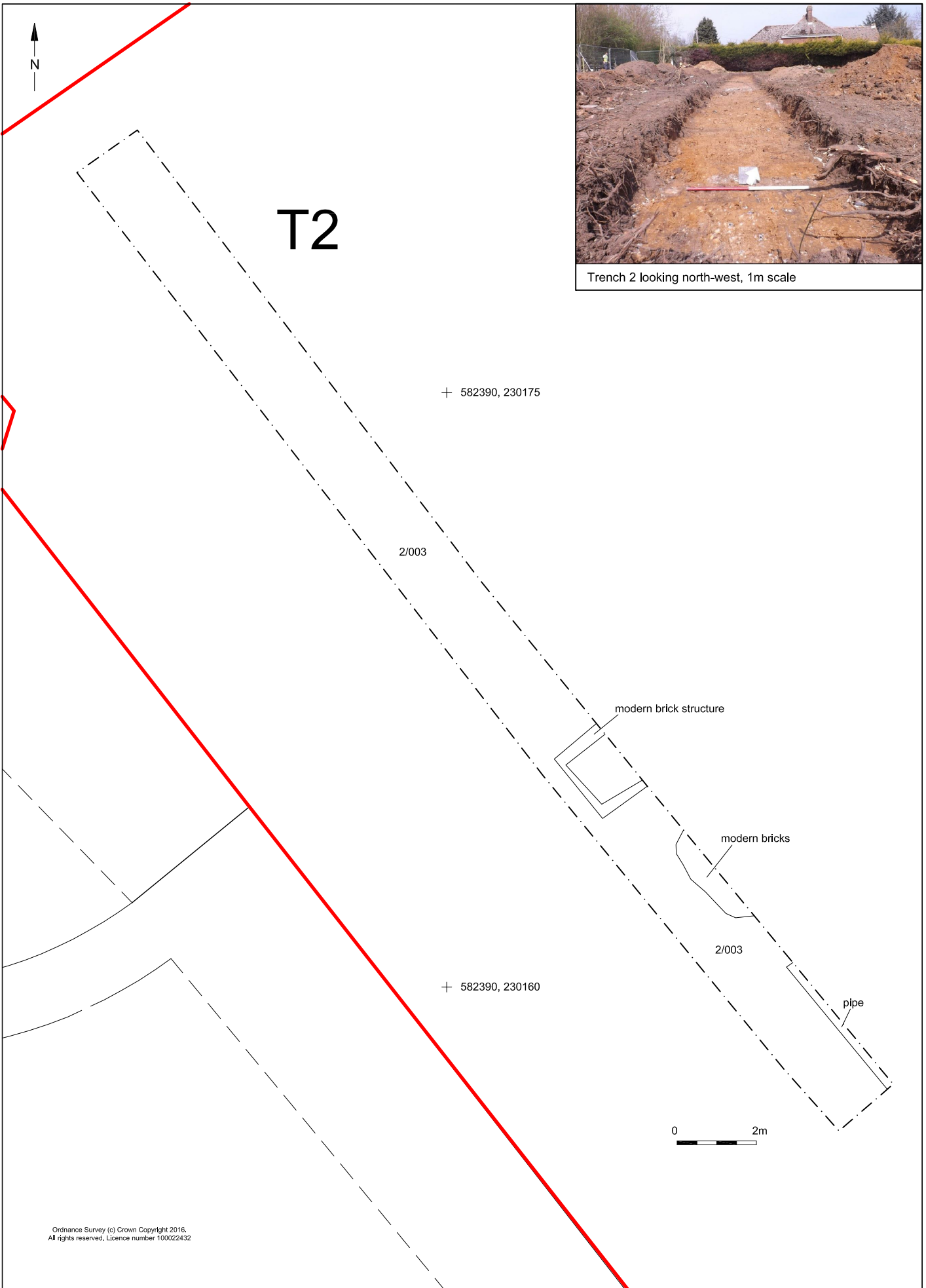
© Archaeology South-East		Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160079	Apr 2016	Site location	
Report No: 2016170	Drawn by: APL		



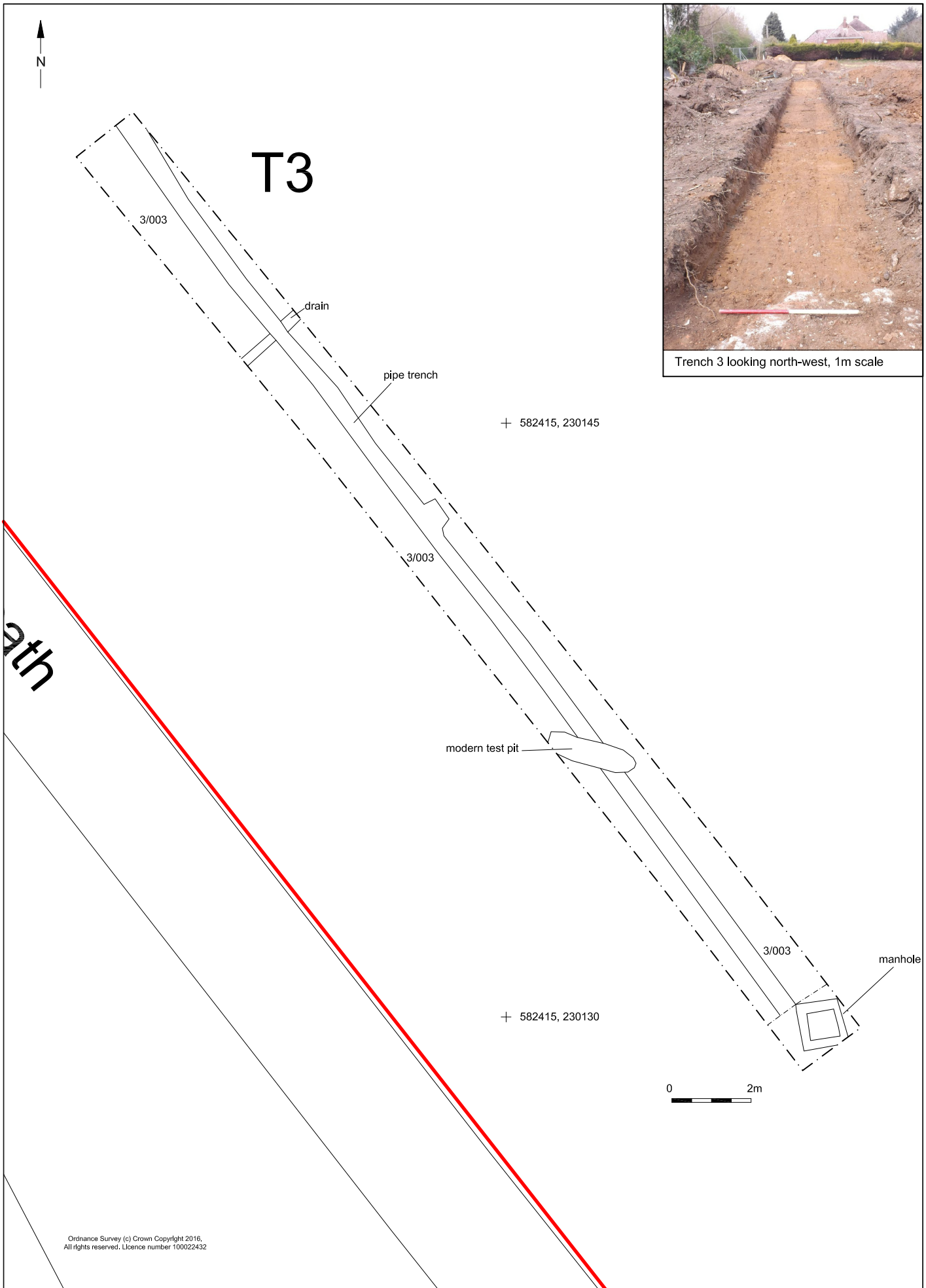
© Archaeology South-East		Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160079	Jan 2016	Trench locations	
Report Ref: 2016170	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160079	Apr 2016	Trench 1	
Report Ref: 2016170	Drawn by: APL		



<b>© Archaeology South-East</b>		Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 160079	Apr 2016	Trench 2	
Report Ref: 2016170	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 160079	Apr 2016	Trench 3	
Report Ref: 2016170	Drawn by: APL		

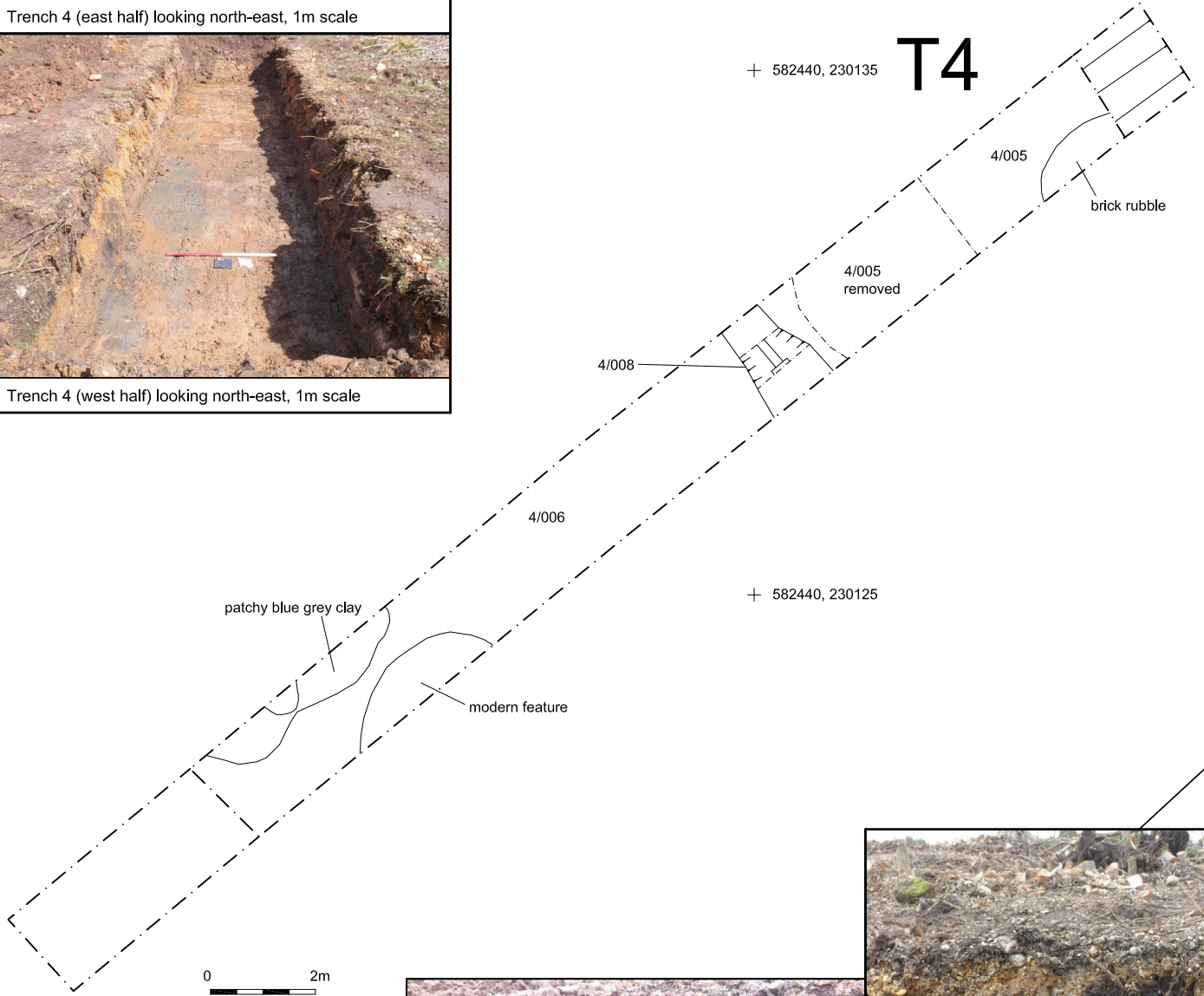




Trench 4 (east half) looking north-east, 1m scale



Trench 4 (west half) looking north-east, 1m scale



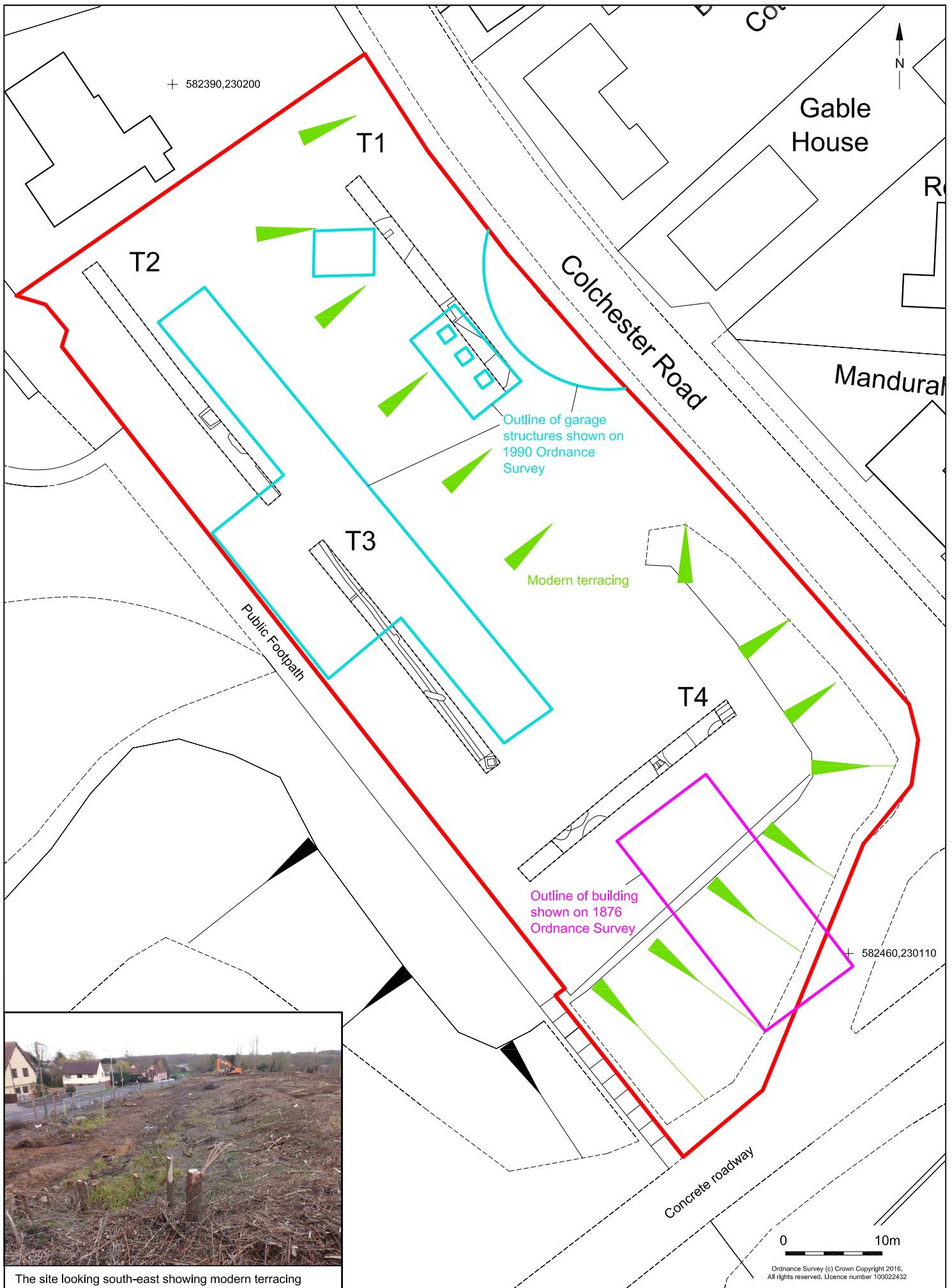
Trench 4 sample section north-west facing showing subsoil 4/005, 1m scale



Trench 4 sample section north-west facing, 1m scale

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© Archaeology South-East		Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead	Fig. 6
Project Ref: 160079	Apr 2016	Trench 4	
Report Ref: 2016170	Drawn by: APL		



The site looking south-east showing modern terracing

© Archaeology South-East		Central Piling site, Colchester Road, Halstead	Fig. 7
Project Ref: 160079	Jan 2016	Excavated trenches and former buildings	
Report Ref: 2016170	Drawn by: APL		



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