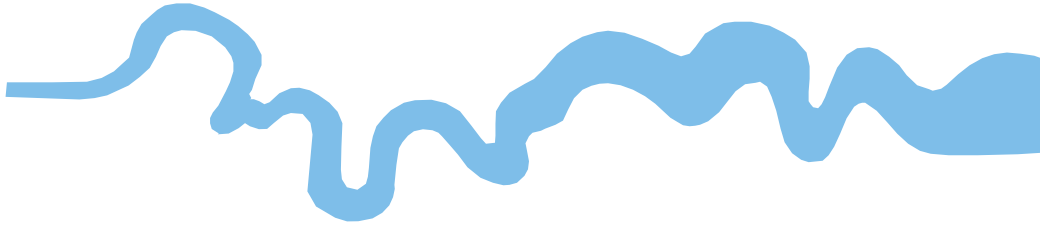


**T V A S**



**EAST MIDLANDS**

**Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe,  
Colchester, Essex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Steve Ford**

**Site Code: CRW21/184**

**(TM0390 2305)**

**Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe,  
Colchester, Essex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Manor Oak Homes Limited**

by Steve Ford  
TVAS (East Midlands)

Site Code RW21/184A

**November 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex

**Grid reference:** TM 0390 2305

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 21st–26th October 2021

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** CRW21/184A

**Area of site:** c. 3.3 hectares

**Summary of results:** The evaluation was carried out as intended, with extra trenches opened to clarify the initial results. Two ditches were recorded, neither of which corresponded with geophysical anomalies. One ditch was certainly of late post-medieval date, and while the second was undated it is also considered to be of similar post-medieval date. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from any of the trenches with only late post-medieval pottery ('china'), brick/tile and slate noted in the topsoil. On the basis of these results the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands and will be deposited at Colchester Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:*

*[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 08.11.21
----------------------------------------------------

# Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

**Report 21/184A**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex (TM0390 2305) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Oscar Briggs of Manor Oak Homes Limited, 21 The Point, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7NU.

Planning permission has been sought from Colchester Borough Council for the construction of new housing on two separate land parcels totalling *c.* 4.5ha on land to the west of Colchester Road (TM 0398 2312 and north of Elmstead Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex (TM 0419 2348). In light of the possibility of archaeological features being present which could be disturbed by ground works for the development, field evaluation by means of trial trenching has been requested in order to inform the planning application. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the Council's policies on archaeology. This report deals only with the land west of Colchester Road (Fig. 1).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Simon Wood, Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Richard Dewhurst between 21st-26th October 2021 and the site code is CRW21/184A. The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands, Wellingborough and will be deposited at Colchester Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the northern fringe of Wivenhoe, a large village which lies to the south-east of Colchester (Fig. 1). The site is an irregular parcel of land comprising *c.*3.3 hectares, of former arable land with housing to the south and east, a school to the west and farmland to the north. The site is flat and lies at a height of 30m aOD, though the land beyond the site boundary falls away to the west towards the river Colne about 1km away. The geology is mapped as Kesgrave sand and gravel which was observed in the trenches (BGS 2010).

## **Archaeological background**

The site's archaeological potential stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Colne Valley with the major Iron Age, Roman and later town of Colchester a short distance away to the north-west, which has a long history of archaeological investigation (Hawkes and Hull 1947; Gascoyne and Radford 2013). Numerous sites and finds are recorded in general, many observed as cropmarks from the air such as ring ditches (levelled Bronze Age round barrows) and enclosure complexes of Iron Age to Roman settlements. Relatively few finds are recorded for the environs of the site itself, however, with just a few metal detected finds of medieval and later date from nearby. The archaeological potential of the site has been further considered by geophysical survey (MoLA 2021) The geophysical survey revealed a number of vague linear and curvilinear anomalies none of which were convincingly of archaeological origin.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

Specific research objectives were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits as indicated by geophysical survey are present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy if needed.

The potential and significance of any such deposits were to be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in Historic England Research Agenda (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000), Medlycott (2011) and the East of England Research Framework (ALGAO 2021) as necessary.

It was proposed to excavate 15 trenches, each 25m long and between 1.6-2m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoil heaps were to be metal detected and monitored for finds.

## Results

Eighteen trenches were eventually excavated (Fig. 3) with three additional trenches dug to clarify the initial results. All trenches were 1.8m wide and ranged in length from 7m to 29.5m, and depths were between 0.38m and 0.49m. It was noted that the natural geology (gravel) was frequently scored by plough scars and (less so) field drains. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 23.5m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil above 0.18m of dark brown gravelly sand subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology which occasionally included silt and sand patches and some iron/manganese pan. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned N-S and was 26.5m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil above 0.18m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned N-S and was 23.3m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil above 0.13m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

### Trench 4 (Figs 3, 4, and 6; Pl. 5)

Trench 4 was aligned NW-SE and was 29.5m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil above 0.16m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. A linear feature (1) was recorded at the north end of the trench, which had been cut by a geotechnical test pit. Ditch 1 was 2m wide and 0.57m deep with a deep bowl-shaped profile. It had two fills (52-3) comprising grey-brown clay sand above grey-white gravelly sandy clay. A fragment of 19th century 'china' and a few fragments of bone were recovered from the upper fill (52). The feature continued to the east and was also recorded in trench 16.

### Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned NW-SE and was 23m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil above 0.16m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features or finds were observed.

#### Trench 6 (Figs 3, 5 and 6; Pl. 6)

Trench 6 was aligned S-N and was 27m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil above 0.12m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. A linear feature (2) was recorded at the north end of the trench, which had been re-cut (3). Ditch 2 was 2.45m wide and 0.62m deep with a deep bowl-shaped profile. It had two fills (54-55) comprising brown gravelly sand above pale grey sandy gravel. However, what appears to be a small recut (3) cut into the lower fill (55) but was overlain by the upper fill (54). The recut (3) was only 0.8m cross and 0.22m deep with a bowl-shaped profile and dark brown sandy gravel fill (56). No dating evidence was recovered. The feature continued to the west and was recorded in trench 17.

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned NW-SE and was 25.1m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil above 0.178m of subsoil above sandy gravel geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned SW-NE and was 27m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil above 0.13m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned W-E and was 24.5m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil above 0.16m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned S-N and was 25.5m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil above 0.12m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned SSW-NNE and was 25m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil above 0.16m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

Trench 12 was aligned W-E and was 27.5m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil above 0.12m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned SW-NE and was 25.5m long and 0.41m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil above 0.18m of subsoil above sandy gravel geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 14 (Fig. 3)

Trench 14 was aligned S-N and was 26.6m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil above 0.16m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 15

Trench 15 was aligned E-W and was 25.0m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil above 0.16m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

#### Trench 16 (Figs 3, 4 and 6)

Trench 16 was aligned SE-NW and was 7.0m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil above 0.21m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. This trench was dug to further investigate ditch 1 found in adjacent trench 4. A single linear feature (5) was observed but not excavated but confirms that feature 1 in trench 4 was indeed a linear feature. No finds were recovered from this trench.

#### Trench 17 (Figs 3, 5 and 6; Pl. 4)

Trench 17 was aligned S-N and was 7.0m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil above 0.2m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. This trench was dug to further investigate ditch 2/3 found in adjacent trench 6. A single linear feature (5) was observed but not excavated but confirms that feature 2/3 in trench 6 was indeed a linear feature. No finds were recovered from this trench.

#### Trench 18 (Fig. 3)

Trench 18 was aligned SSE-NNW and was 19m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above sandy gravel natural geology. It was dug to determine if the projected line of the linear feature found in trenches 4 and 16 to the west continued eastwards. However no features were observed nor finds recovered.



## Conclusion

The evaluation revealed no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest. Two linear features were recorded, one of which was of late 19th century date, and the other similar feature probably so, the fills being very closely comparable. They are thought to be simple field boundaries. Neither feature obviously corresponded with any geophysical anomalies. On the basis of these results the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

## References

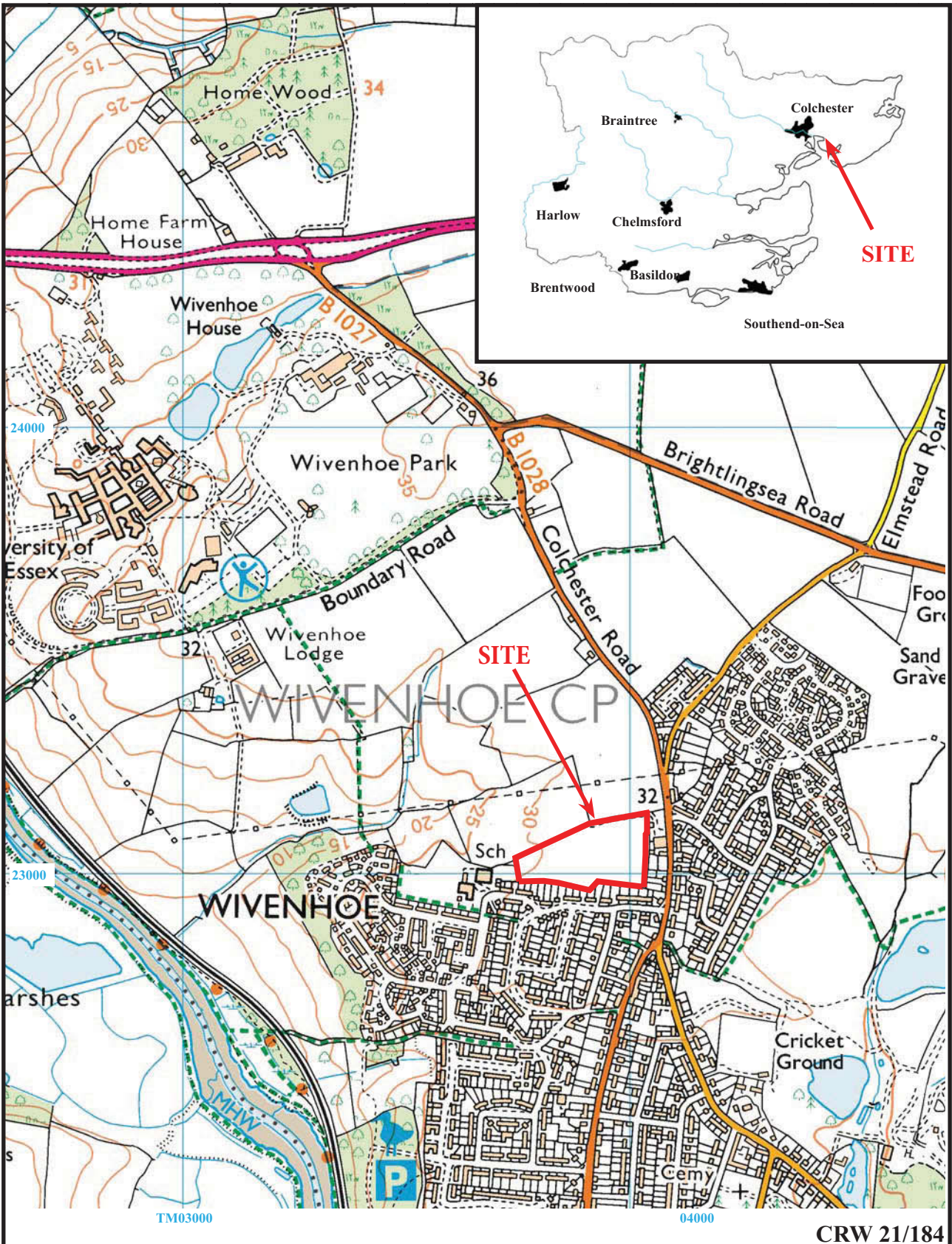
- ALGAO, 2021, *East of England Research Framework*, Internet
- BGS, 2010, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000 Sheet **224**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Gascoyne, A and Radford, D, 2013, *Colchester; fortress of the war god: an archaeological assessment*, Oxford
- Glazebrook, J, 1997, *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties-1*, E Anglian Archaeol Occas Pap 8
- Gurney, D, 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, E Anglian Archaeol Occas Pap **14**
- Hawkes, C F C and Hull, M R, 1947, *Camulodunum: first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930–1939*, Rep Res Comm Soc Antiq London 14, Oxford
- HE, 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London.
- Medlycott, M and Brown, N 2008, *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region*, ALGAO East of England
- Medlycott, M (ed.), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occas Pap **24**
- MoLA 2021, 'Geophysical Survey on land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex', Museum of London Archaeology, Northampton
- NPPF, 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**  
0m at W or S end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.5	1.8	0.38	0–0.16m topsoil; 0.16–0.34m brown gravelly sand subsoil; 0.34m+ light brown sandy gravel with white sand and silt patches with some iron pan, (Natural geology)' <b>[PI. 1]</b>
2	26.5	1.8	0.47	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22–0.4m subsoil; 0.34m+ Natural geology' <b>[PI. 2]</b>
3	23.3	1.8	0.42	0–0.21m topsoil; 0.21–0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ Natural geology.
4	29.5	1.8	0.48	0–0.16m topsoil; 0.16–0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ Natural geology. Ditch 1 and geotechnical test pit. <b>[PI. 5]</b>
5	23.0	1.8	0.42	0–0.17m topsoil; 0.17–0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ Natural geology.
6	27.0	1.8	0.38	0–0.18m topsoil; 0.18–0.3m subsoil; 0.3m+ Natural geology. Ditch 2/3. <b>[PI. 6]</b>
7	25.1	1.8	0.44	0–0.19m topsoil; 0.19–0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ Natural geology
8	27.0	1.8	0.38	0–0.17m topsoil; 0.17–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ Natural geology
9	24.5	1.8	0.40	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ Natural geology. <b>[PI. 3]</b>
10	25.5	1.8	0.40	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ Natural geology
11	25.0	1.8	0.42	0–0.19m topsoil; 0.19–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ Natural geology
12	27.5	1.8	0.40	0–0.16m topsoil; 0.16–0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ Natural geology
13	25.5	1.8	0.41	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ Natural geology
14	26.6	1.8	0.48	0–0.21m topsoil; 0.21–0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ Natural geology
15	25.0	1.8	0.42	0–0.15m topsoil; 0.15–0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ Natural geology
16	7.0	1.8	0.54	0–0.19m topsoil; 0.19–0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ Natural geology. Ditch 4 (unexc)
17	7.0	1.8	0.40	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ Natural geology. Ditch 5 (unexc). <b>[PI. 4]</b>
18	19.0	1.8	0.40	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ Natural geology

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
4	1	52-3	Ditch	Post-medieval	Pottery (china)
6	2	54	Ditch	Post-medieval?	
6	3	55	Ditch recut of 2	Post-medieval?	
16	4	-	Same as 1	Post-medieval	By association
17	5	-	Same as 2	Post-medieval	By association



CRW 21/184

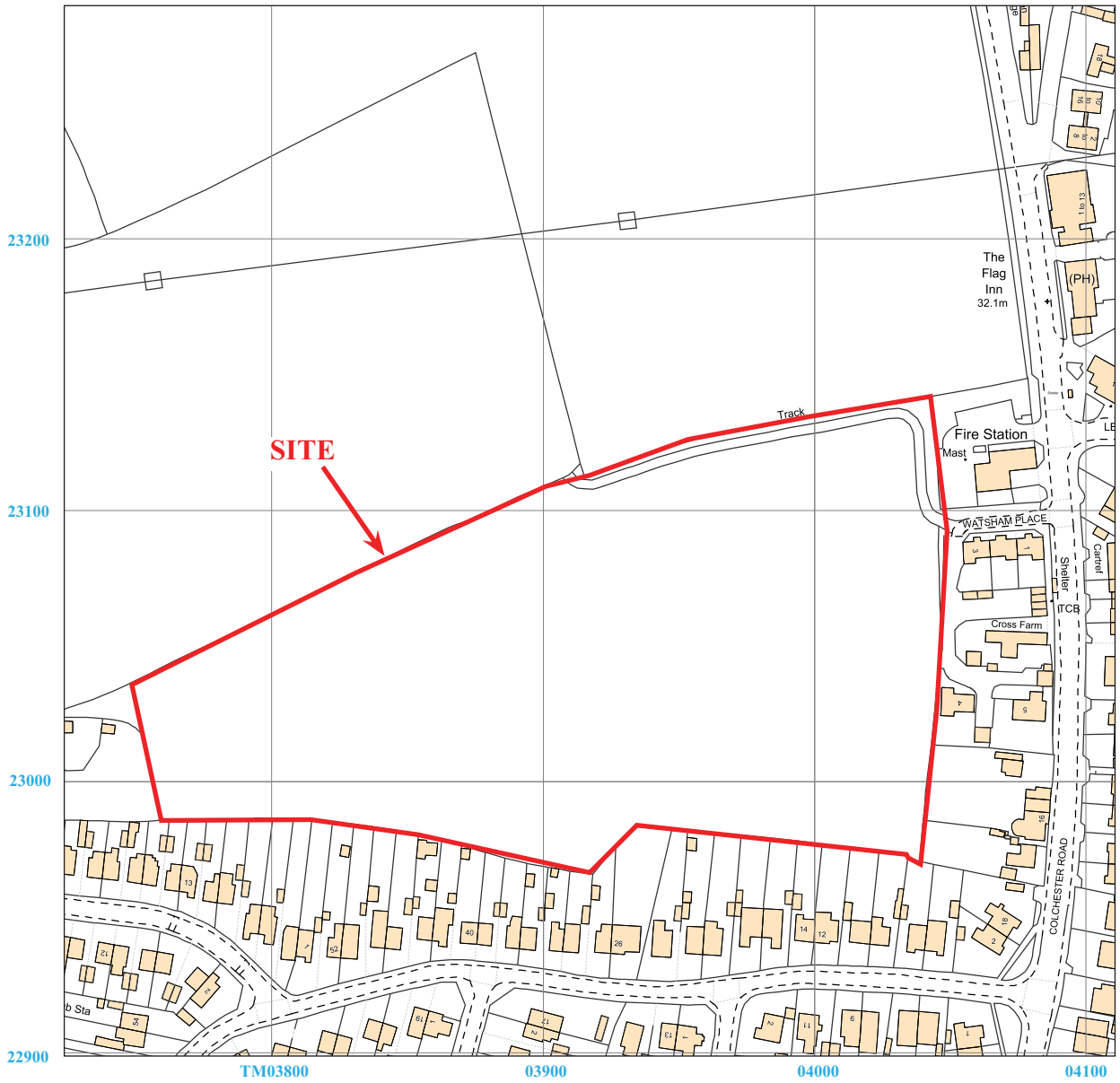


**Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe,  
Colchester, Essex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Figure 1. Location of site.**



Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
Crown Copyright reserved





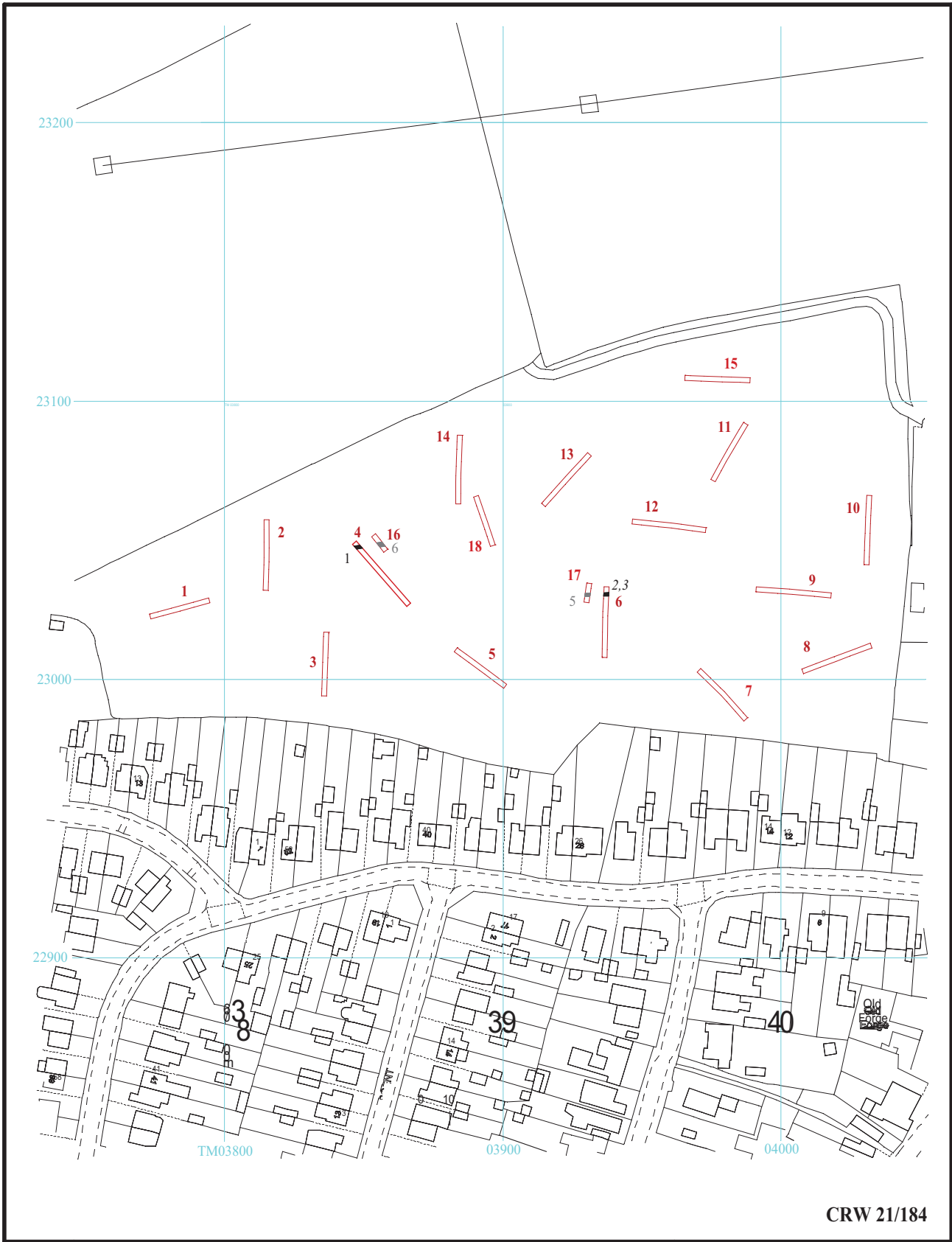
CRW 21/184



**Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe,  
Colchester, Essex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:2500

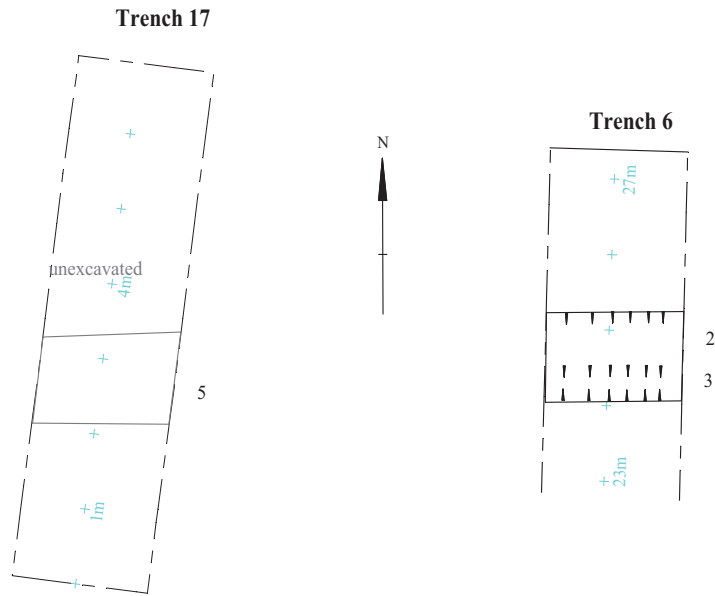




**Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester,  
Essex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Detail of trenches and features.



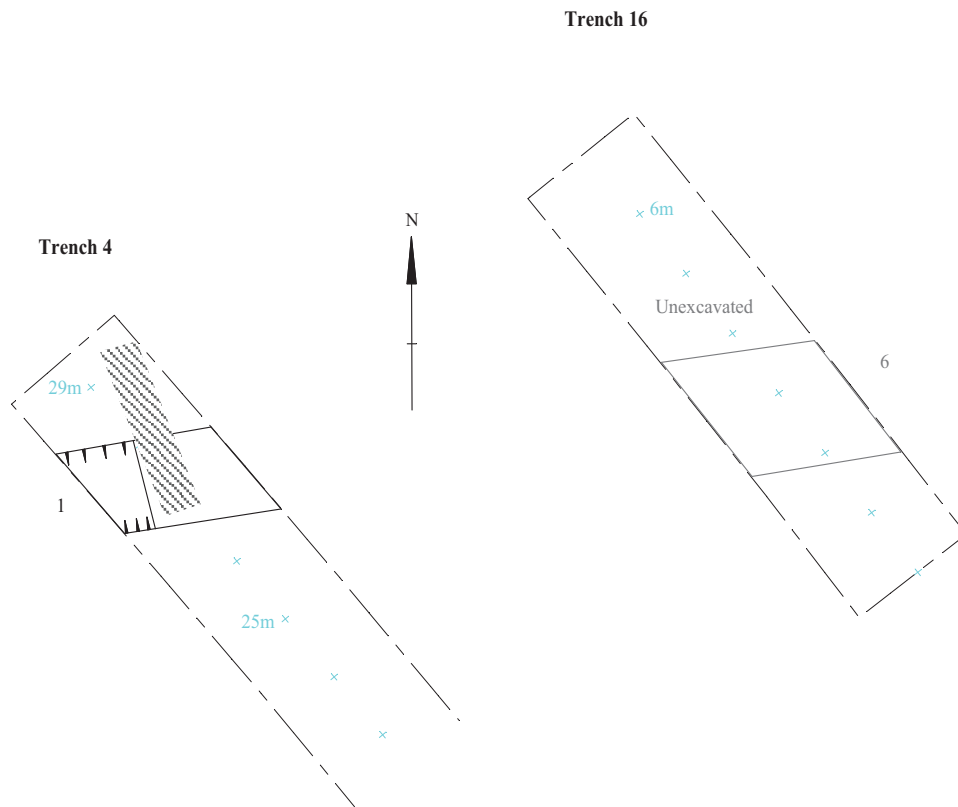


CRW 21/184A

**Land at Colchester Road,  
Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Detail of trenches 6 and 17.





CRW 21/184A

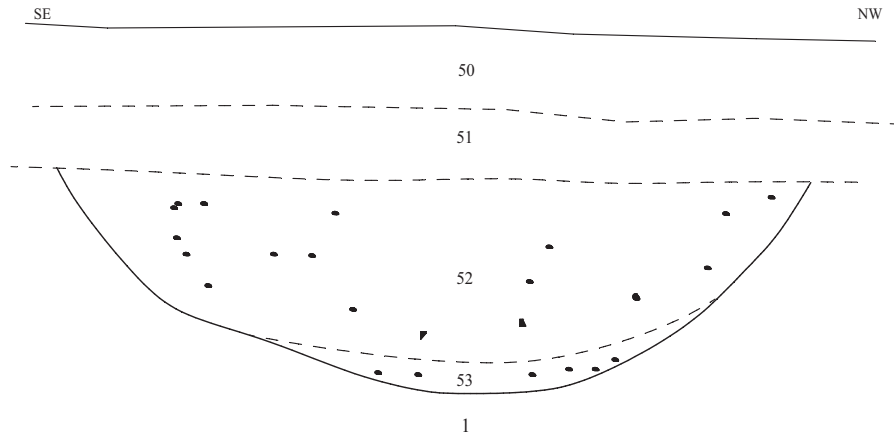
**Land at Colchester Road,  
Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Detail of trenches 4 and 16.

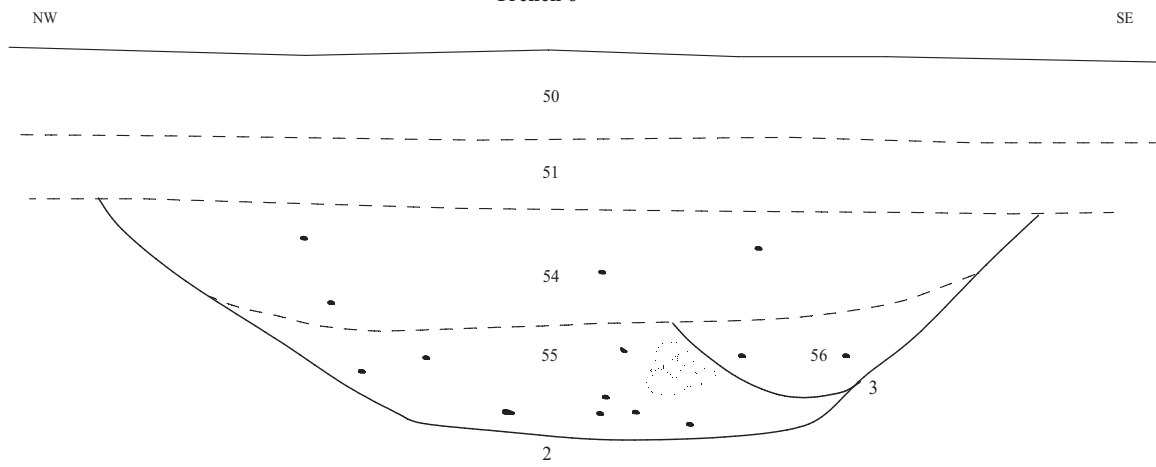




**Trench 4**



**Trench 6**



CRW 21/184A

**Land at Colchester Road,  
Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Detail of trenches.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking North,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 9, looking East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 17, Ditch 5, looking North,  
Scales: horizontal 1m and 0.3m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 5. Trench 4, Ditch 1 looking North West,  
Scales: 2m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, Ditches 2/3, looking East,  
Scales: 2m and 0.3m.

CRW21/184A

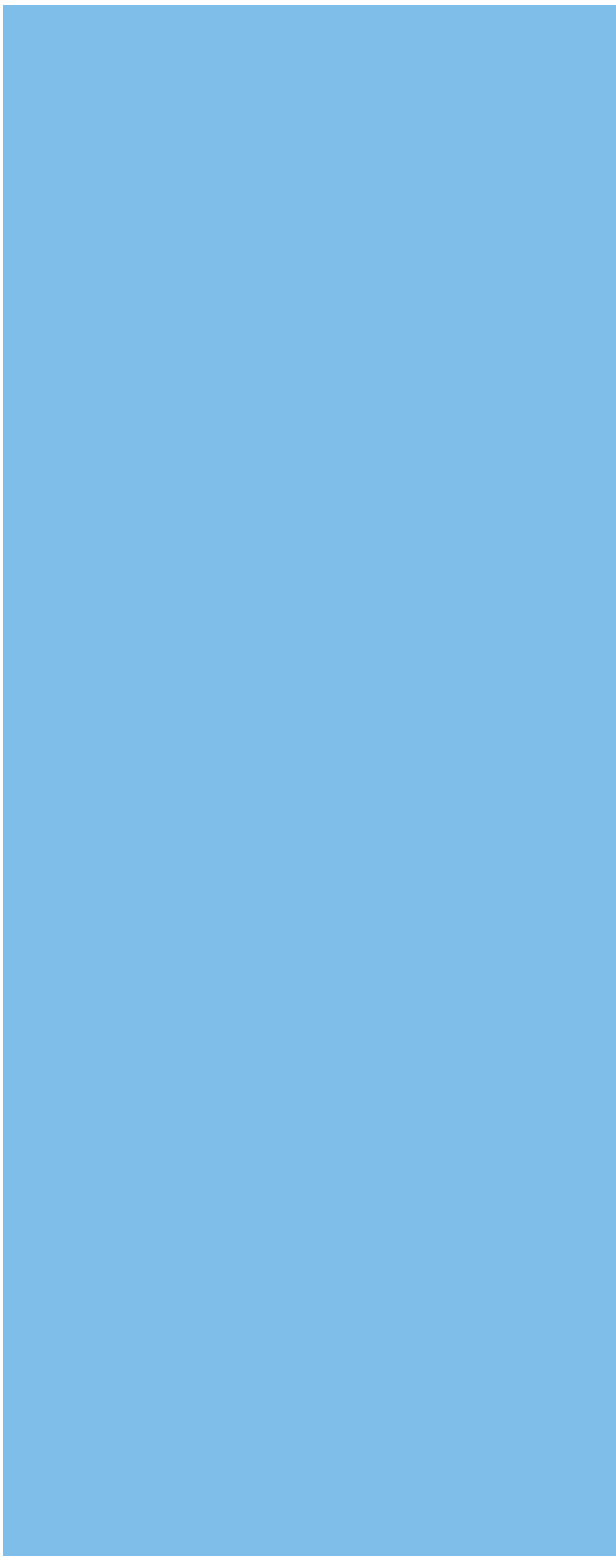
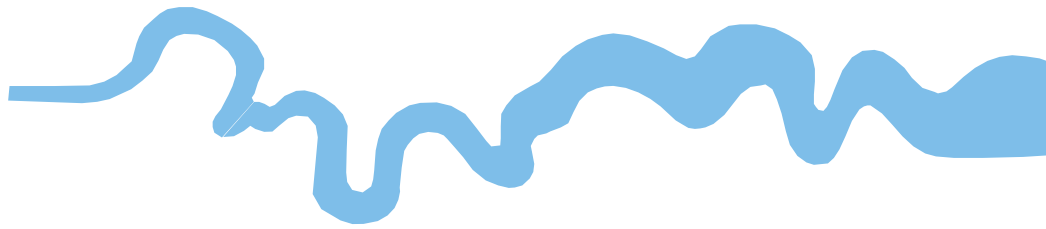
**Land at Colchester Road, Wivenhoe,  
Colchester, Essex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 to 6.**



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





**TVAS (East Midlands),  
4 Bentley Court, Wellingborough  
Northamptonshire, NN8 4BQ**

**Tel: 01933 277 377  
Email: [eastmidlands@tvas.co.uk](mailto:eastmidlands@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk/eastmidlands](http://www.tvas.co.uk/eastmidlands)**

*Offices in:  
Reading, Brighton, Taunton and Stoke-on-Trent*