



**Winsford Way  
Chelmsford  
Essex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**CgMs Consulting**

CA Project: 660091  
CA Report: 12319

October 2012

Winsford Way  
Chelmsford  
Essex

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 66091  
CA Report: 12319

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date	19 October 2012
approved by	Roland Smith, Regional Manager
signed	
date	26 October 2012
issue	01

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project name:</b>	Winsford Way
<b>Location:</b>	Chelmsford, Essex
<b>NGR:</b>	TL 7380 0875
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	15-17 October 2012
<b>Site code:</b>	WIW 12
<b>Museum:</b>	Chelmsford Parks and Heritage Services
<b>Accession Number:</b>	CHMER 2012.258

In October 2012, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex. The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trial trenches and was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. It was undertaken at the request of the Historic Environment Officer at Place Services of Essex County Council prior to determination of a planning application for the construction of a waste transfer station.

A number of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval sites are known from the vicinity of the proposed development site. The site itself was occupied by a small residential development after World War II. All of these houses have been demolished, although the associated road survives.

The evaluation recorded no archaeological features or deposits. Modern disturbance was found to be extensive. An extremely compacted redeposited clay overlay the natural substrate within Trenches 1-3, suggesting that the site was levelled in the 20th century, presumably during either the construction or the demolition of the post-World War II buildings. This process is likely to have removed any archaeological remains which may have been present at the site. Trench 4 was within the footprint of the former 20th century buildings and was very disturbed.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In October 2012, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex (site centred on NGR: TL 7380 0875; Fig. 1). The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trial trenches (Fig. 2). It was undertaken at the request of CgMs Consulting.
- 1.2 The site is proposed for development as a waste transfer station. Given the high archaeological potential of the surrounding area (see 1.6, below), the Historic Environment Officer at Place Services of Essex County Council required that an archaeological evaluation of the site be undertaken prior to determination of the planning application.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with an approved written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CgMs Consulting (2012). It was also in line with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2008), and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Richard Havis and Alison Bennett (ECC), with a site visit being made on 17 October 2012.

### The site

- 1.4 The site lies within the Springfield Industrial Estate on the north-eastern edge of Chelmsford, between the A130 and the A12. It encloses an area of approximately 1.3 hectares. The site is presently overgrown scrubland, with a defunct tarmac road in its centre.
- 1.5 The site's bedrock is recorded as clay, silt and sand of the London Clay Formation. The bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of Mid Pleistocene glaciolacustrine clay and silt (CgMs 2012).

### Archaeological background

- 1.6 The following archaeological background is summarised from the WSI (CgMs 2012).

- 1.7 While no archaeological sites or findspots are known from within the proposed development site itself, there is a wealth of archaeological evidence from the immediate vicinity.
- 1.8 To the south of the proposed development site, archaeological investigation has uncovered a multi-period site which was exploited from the late Neolithic onwards, as well as evidence for the continuation of dispersed late prehistoric activity on the western scarp of the Chelmer valley. Archaeological excavations to the north-east of the proposed development site have also produced evidence for Bronze Age settlement.
- 1.9 The site lies just over 100m to the south of the Romano-British road between Chelmsford and Colchester, and Romano-British material has been recovered in the vicinity. There is also archaeological evidence for medieval activity in the area.
- 1.10 The site was occupied by a small residential development after World War II. All of these houses have been demolished, although the associated road survives.

#### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.11 As outlined in the WSI (CgMs Consulting 2012), the objectives of the evaluation were:
- to determine the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the proposed development site;
  - to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of any archaeological deposits encountered;
  - to provide further information on the archaeological potential of the site, in order to allow the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed;
  - to assess the impact of previous land use on any archaeological resource at the site;
  - to aid the formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on any archaeological remains;
  - to produce a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER).

- 1.12 The results of this evaluation will assist the Council in determining the application and making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource of the site, the likely impact of the proposed development on that significance and determining if any further archaeological mitigation strategies are required.

### **Methodology**

- 1.13 The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trial trenches (Fig. 2):
- Trench 1: 30m x 1.8m
  - Trench 2: 20m x 1.8m
  - Trench 3: 50m x 1.8m
  - Trench 4: 50m x 1.8m
- 1.14 The trenches were positioned to evaluate those areas of the site considered least likely to have been directly disturbed by 20th century development.
- 1.15 In order to avoid an area of standing contaminated water, it was necessary to re-orientate Trench 4 from the north-east/south-west alignment specified in the WSI (CgMs 2012) to a north/south alignment. This re-orientation was carried out with the approval of Paul Gajos, CgMs. Due to the possible presence of below-ground services, it was also necessary to leave an unexcavated baulk within Trench 4.
- 1.16 Furthermore, machine excavation of Trench 4 was abandoned at 33m length due to the high levels of modern disturbance (see Section 2, below). This was done on the advice of Richard Havis (ECC).
- 1.17 The trenches were surveyed using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS, in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2009).
- 1.18 The topsoil and subsoil deposits within the trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, operating under constant archaeological supervision. As no significant archaeological horizons were encountered, the trenches were machine-excavated to the top of the natural substrate. Trenches were recorded in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007).

- 1.19 The evaluation archive is currently held by CA at their offices in Milton Keynes. CA has made arrangements for the archive to be deposited with Chelmsford Parks and Heritage Services (Accession Number: CHMER 2012.258).
- 1.20 A summary of information from this project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. FIELDWORK RESULTS

- 2.1 Each recorded layer, deposit and feature has been assigned a unique context number, by which they are identified in the below discussion. For full details of all recorded contexts, refer to Appendix A.

### **Trenches 1-3 (Figs. 3-5)**

- 2.2 The natural substrate comprised grey-brown sandy clay with gravelly patches, becoming distinctly paler and greyer in the south-eastern end of Trench 3. It was overlain by up to 0.2m of redeposited clays, which contained flecks of red brick, charcoal and glass. This redeposited material was extremely hard and compacted in Trenches 2 and 3.
- 2.3 These trenches were sealed by up to 0.3m of modern topsoil.

### **Trench 4 (Fig. 6)**

- 2.4 Natural substrate 404 was overlain in the southern end of the trench by 0.15m-thick clayey subsoil 402, which was less compacted than in the other trenches. In the remainder of Trench 4, the natural substrate was immediately overlain by 0.3m of modern demolition rubble (concrete, brick, tile, metal) in a silty matrix (403). The trench was sealed by 0.2m-0.3m of topsoil 401.

### **The finds and palaeoenvironmental evidence**

- 2.5 No pre-modern artefactual material was recovered from the site, and no palaeoenvironmental samples were taken.

## 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation recorded no archaeological features or deposits.



- 3.2 Modern disturbance was found to be extensive. The compacted redeposited natural subsoil within Trenches 1-3 suggests that the site was levelled in the 20th century, presumably during either the construction or the demolition of the post-World War II buildings. This process is likely to have removed any archaeological remains which may have been present at the site. Trench 4 was within the footprint of the former 20th century buildings and was very disturbed.

#### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

- 4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by Derek Evans, assisted by Rob Scott. The report was written by Derek Evans, and the illustrations were prepared by Ian Atkins. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Derek Evans. The project was managed for CA by Roland Smith.

#### **5. REFERENCES**

CgMs Consulting 2012 *Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS****Trench 1**

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
101	Deposit	Topsoil: dark brown/grey silty clay	0.23m	Modern
102	Deposit	Grey-brown silty clay	0.15m	Modern
103	Natural	Grey-brown sandy clay with gravelly patches	-	Geological

**Trench 2**

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
201	Deposit	Topsoil: dark brown/grey silty clay	0.27m	Modern
202	Deposit	Grey-brown silty clay	0.19m	Modern
203	Deposit	Grey-brown sandy clay with gravelly patches	-	Geological

**Trench 3**

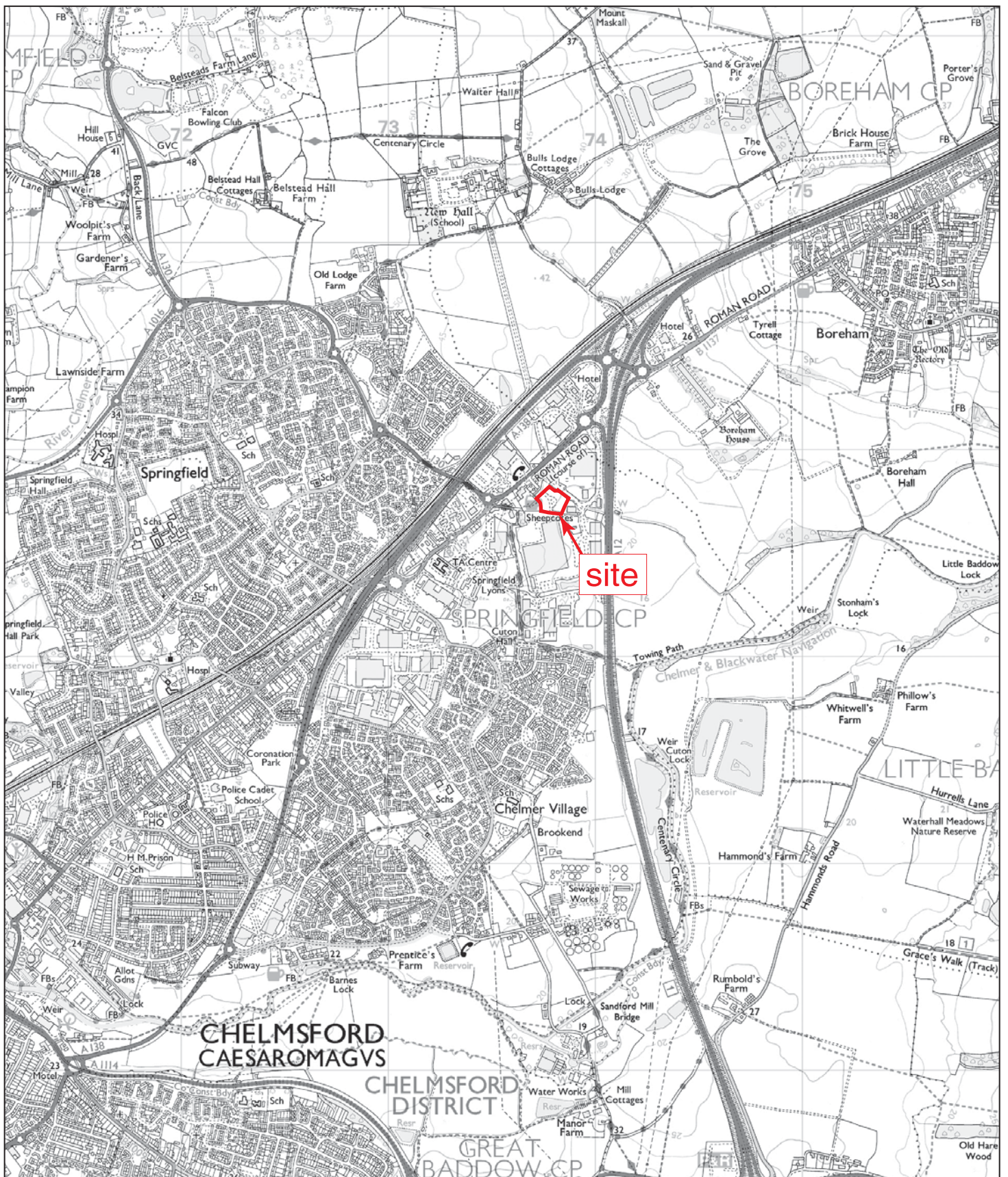
No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
301	Deposit	Topsoil: dark brown/grey silty clay	0.24m	Modern
302	Deposit	Grey-brown silty clay	0.18m	Modern
303	Deposit	Grey-brown sandy clay with gravelly patches, becoming paler and greyer to SE	-	Geological

**Trench 4**

No.	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Spot-date
401	Deposit	Topsoil: dark brown/grey silty clay	0.25m	Modern
402	Deposit	Dolomite bedding for 300	0.15m	Modern
403	Deposit	Building rubble	0.3m	Modern
404	Natural	Grey-brown sandy clay	-	Geological

**APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>In October 2012, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex. The evaluation comprised the excavation of four trial trenches. It was commissioned by CgMs Consulting. It was undertaken at the request of the Historic Environment Officer at Place Services of Essex County Council prior to determination of a planning application for the construction of a waste transfer station.</p> <p>A number of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval sites are known in the vicinity of the proposed development site. The site was occupied by a small residential development post World War II. All of the houses have been demolished, although the associated road survives.</p> <p>The evaluation recorded no archaeological features or deposits. Modern disturbance was found to be extensive. An extremely compacted redeposited clay overlay the natural substrate within Trenches 1-3, suggesting that the site was levelled in the 20th century, presumably during either the construction or the demolition of the post-World War II buildings. This process is likely to have removed any archaeological remains which may have been present at the site. Trench 4 was within the footprint of the former 20th century buildings and was very disturbed.</p>	
Project dates	15-17 October 2012	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	Unknown	
Future work	Unknown	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex	
Study area		
Site co-ordinates	TL 7380 0875	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	Essex County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CgMs Consulting	
Project Manager	Roland Smith (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Derek Evans (CA)	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		
	Accession no: CHMER 2012.258	Content
Physical		
Paper		Site records
Digital		Report, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 <i>Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 12319		



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**PROJECT TITLE**

Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex

**FIGURE TITLE**

Site location plan

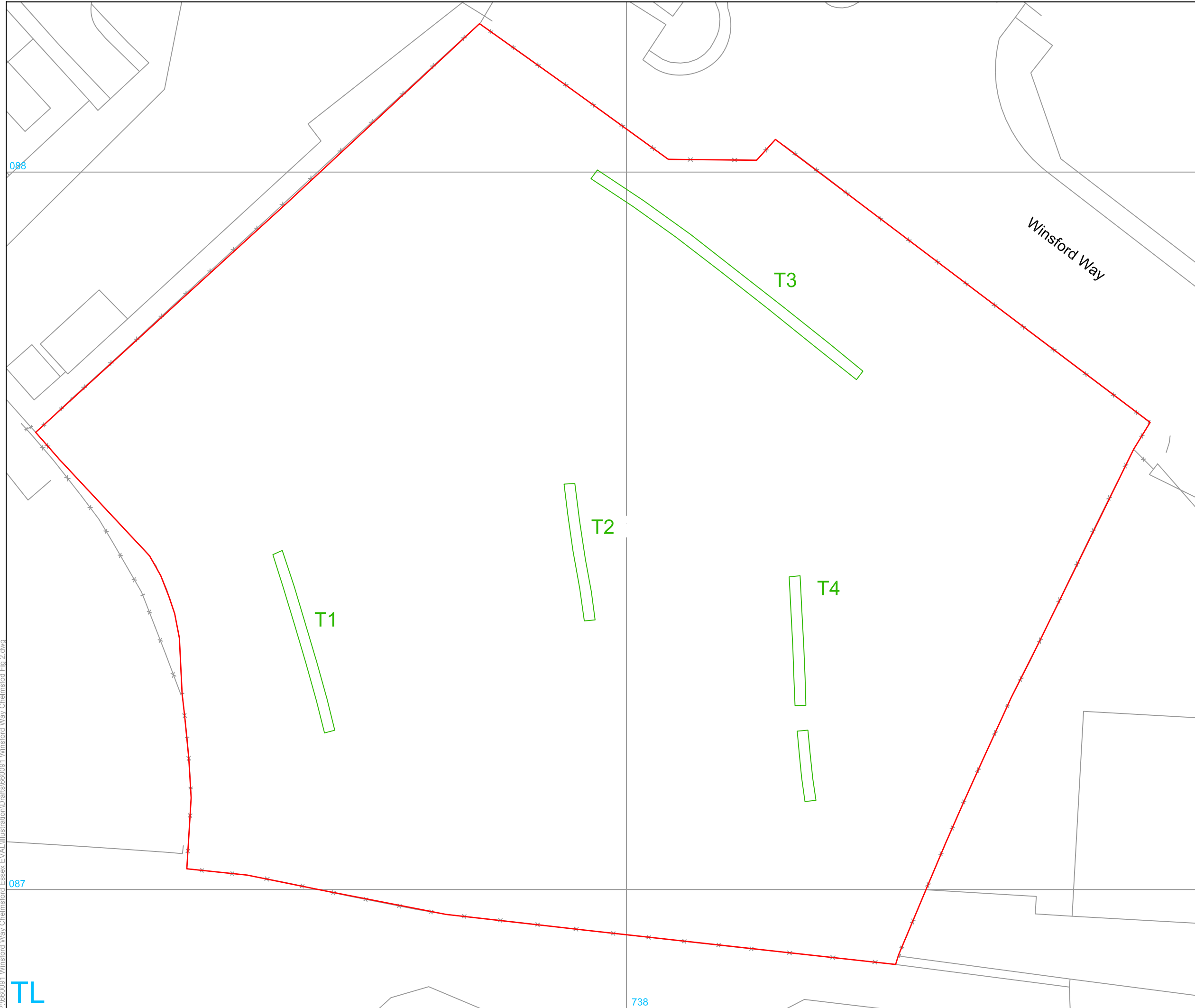
0 1km

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PROJECT NO. 660091 DATE 26-10-2012  
 DRAWN BY PJM REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site
- evaluation trench



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex

**FIGURE TITLE**  
Trench location plan

PROJECT NO.	660091	DATE	26-10-2012	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	PJM	REVISION	00	<b>2</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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738

086

087

Winsford Way

T3

T2

T1

T4



### 3 Trench 1, facing south-east (scales 1m)



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO. 660091 DATE 26-10-2012  
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 APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 N/A

*FIGURE NO.*

**3**



#### 4 Trench 2, facing north (scales 1m)



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Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO.	660091	DATE	26-10-2012	FIGURE NO.
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## 5 Trench 3, facing south-east (scales 1m)



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Winsford Way, Chelmsford, Essex

*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

<i>PROJECT NO.</i>	<b>660091</b>	<i>DATE</i>	<b>26-10-2012</b>	<i>FIGURE NO.</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>DRAWN BY</i>	<b>PJM</b>	<i>REVISION</i>	<b>00</b>		
<i>APPROVED BY</i>	<b>PJM</b>	<i>SCALE@A4</i>	<b>N/A</b>		





6

**6 Trench 4, facing south (scales 1m)**



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

**Photograph**

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DRAWN BY	PJM	REVISION	00	<b>6</b>
APPROVED BY	PJM	SCALE@A4	N/A	