

# Land off Tey Road Coggeshall Essex

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*



for  
MW Land Developments Ltd

CA Project: 660973  
CA Report: 17728  
Essex Site Code: CGTR17

December 2017



Land off Tey Road  
Coggeshall  
Essex

Archaeological Watching Brief

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4. METHODOLOGY .....	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	6
6. THE FINDS .....	6
7. DISCUSSION.....	7
8. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
10. REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	9
APPENDIX B: THE FINDS.....	10
APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM .....	11

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)

Fig. 3 Trench 11: sections and photographs (1:20)



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land off Tey Road
<b>Location:</b>	Coggeshall, Essex
<b>NGR:</b>	585753 223384
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>Date:</b>	30 November – 1 December 2017
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	15/013725/FUL
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	To be deposited with Braintree and Ipswich Museum service
<b>Essex Site Code:</b>	CGTR17
<b>Site Code:</b>	TEY17

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of 11 dwellings, estate roads, footpaths, garages, car spaces, foul and surface drainage and landscaping at land off Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex.

Two ditches and a gully, containing artefacts dating to the post-medieval and modern periods, were observed during ground works. These were identified during a previous evaluation on the site and are probably the remains of a former agricultural field system.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November and December 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for MW Land Developments Ltd at land off Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex (centred at NGR: 585753 223384; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to satisfy a condition (no. 16) attached to planning consent (15/013725/FUL) granted by Braintree District Council (BDC) for residential development comprising the erection of eleven dwellings, estate roads, footpaths, garages, car spaces, foul and surface drainage and landscaping. The condition was attached to the consent in keeping with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and on the recommendation of Richard Havis, Principal Historic Environment Consultant, Essex County Council (ECC). The condition required that:

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

- 1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2017a) and approved by Teresa O'Connor, Historic Environment Consultant, ECC. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014).

### ***The site***

- 1.3 The site is approximately 1.38ha, and comprises undeveloped land formerly part of a larger field which was divided at the time of the construction of the A120 Coggeshall Bypass. The site is bounded to the north and east by Coggeshall Road (the A120), to the south by Tey Road and to the east by the Monkdowns Road housing estate. The centre of the site lies at approximately 46m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) with the ground level within the site dropping away downwards from the north-west to the south-east.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as London Clay Formation comprising Clay, Silt and Sand of the Palaeogene Period. It is overlain by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation of the Quaternary Period (BGS 2017). The natural

substrate revealed on site during the watching brief was a silty clay with areas of chalk inclusions.

## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site was evaluated archaeologically by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2017 (CA 2017b) and the archaeological and historical background of site was summarised in a brief for the evaluation produced by Richard Havis, ECC (Havis 2017). The following section is summarised from this source with reference to the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) (EHER 2017) and a historic town assessment of Coggeshall (Medlycott 1999). The proposed development lies along a historic route linking the historic town of Coggeshall to Great Tey; which lies approximately 6.4km to the north-east
- 2.2 There is no recorded evidence for prehistoric activity within the site. The area around Coggeshall has evidence for prehistoric occupation with residual prehistoric pottery and Neolithic waste flakes having been recovered.
- 2.3 The former Roman road, known as Stane Street, which ran east to west between Braughing at the west and Colchester at the east, ran through Coggeshall, to the south of the site. On the eastern edge of Coggeshall excavations have revealed the edge of a sizeable Roman farm or villa complex, containing at least one masonry structure and one timber structure set within a grid of paddocks, fields and a droveway. The site lies within 500m of the Roman settlement.
- 2.6 There is some evidence for early Saxon activity at Coggeshall comprising pottery sherds recovered opposite the church. It is thought that the late Saxon and early medieval settlement was focused near the church, on the higher, drier ground above the valley floor.
- 2.7 Coggeshall is mentioned in the Domesday Book recording a reasonably large, settled community with a church and possibly two mills. It is also records a priest in Coggeshall in 1089 and in 1140 Queen Matilda founded the Savigny order at Little Coggeshall and an Abbey was constructed at that time. St Nicholas Chapel was built by the Abbey gatehouse in 1240. The Church of St Peter Ad Vincula which lies to

the south west of the site had its origins in the early 14th century and the main part of the church was built on its present site between 1324 and 1326.

- 2.8 Later in the medieval period the settlement focused on the lower areas west of the church around Market Hill, which is the current centre of the town. In the later medieval period and early post-medieval periods Coggeshall became an important and wealthy centre of the cloth industry, the number of surviving buildings from this period reflecting this.
- 2.9 Ten trenches were excavated during the archaeological evaluation of the site undertaken by CA in September 2017 (CA 2017b). The evaluation identified the remains of a probable former agricultural field system. Although the features remained largely undated during the evaluation they were felt to date to the late medieval/post-medieval period. A large extraction pit of the same period was also revealed. This was probably associated with historical activity of this type to the west of the site identified on historic mapping.

### **3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

### **4. METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). An archaeologist was present during the first phase of intrusive groundworks, comprising groundworks along the access road and within Plot 2 (Trenches 11 to 15; T11 to T15 on Fig. 2). At this point the watching brief was halted with the agreement of Teresa O'Connor, ECC.



4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Braintree and Ipswich Museum Service under accession number CGTR17, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

5.1 The natural geological substrate, consisting of chalk flecked, light orange brown clay with occasional sand, was revealed across the excavated areas at an average depth of 0.58m below present ground level.

5.2 A number of linear features were identified within the area of groundworks. A north-west/south-east orientated ditch was observed running through all five of the areas observed. This feature has previously been recorded as ditch 607 in trench 6 and ditch 703 in trench 7 of the evaluation (see Fig. 2). The single fill 1107 of the ditch in Trench 11 contained porcelain of post-medieval or modern date.

5.3 A north-east/south-west orientated gully, recorded during the evaluation as gully 1003 within Trench 10, was exposed in the southern area of Trench 11. It contained two fills, 1104 and 1105. The upper fill 1104 contained 18th or 19th-century pottery and the feature was interpreted as a drainage gully. Finally, a north-east/south-west orientated ditch, exposed and excavated as ditch 705 during the evaluation, was recorded during the watching brief as ditch 1108. Its single fill 1109 contained post-medieval/modern pottery.

## 6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material was hand-recovered from three deposits (ditch and gully fills). The recovered material dates to the Roman and post-medieval/modern periods.

Quantities of the artefact types are given in Appendix B. The pottery has been recorded according to sherd count/weight per fabric. Pottery fabric codes have been devised for the purpose of this report.

*Pottery: Post-medieval/modern*

- 6.2 A total of five sherds (22g) of pottery from this date range was recovered, mostly in an unabraded condition. Dating to the 18th century is an unfeathered bodysherd of white salt-glazed stoneware (WSG) from fill 1107 of ditch 1106. Of 18th to 19th-century date are black-glazed earthenware (BGE), unglazed red earthenware with black surfaces (UGE) and transfer-printed refined whiteware (TPW).

*Ceramic building material*

- 6.3 An abraded fragment (173g) of Roman imbrex (roofing tile) was retrieved as a residual find in fill 1109 of ditch 1108. Fill 1107 of ditch 1106 produced nine fragments (169g) of post-medieval ceramic building material, most of which were identifiable as deriving from flat roof tile.

*Other finds*

- 6.4 A fragment of cement mortar, with a trace of brick adhering, was recorded from ditch fill 1109. The use of cement mortar began in the mid 19th century (P. Davenport, pers. comm.).

## 7. DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The watching brief identified archaeological features in all five of the excavated areas. These comprised a series of ditches and a gully that were observed in the preceding evaluation. These features contained post-medieval/modern pottery and ceramic building material, and have been interpreted as the remains of a former agricultural field system.

## 8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Alison Roberts. The report was written by Michael Joyce. The finds report was written by Jacky Sommerville. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled by Michael Joyce, and

prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

## 10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 22 August 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017a *Land off Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017b *Land off Tey Road, Coggeshall Essex: Archaeological Watching Brief* CA typescript report **17728**

CIFA (Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists) 2014 *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

EHHER (Essex Historic Environment Record) 2017 *Coggeshall*  
[http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/content\\_page.asp?content\\_page\\_id=113&content\\_parents=48,94](http://unlockingessex.essexcc.gov.uk/uep/content_page.asp?content_page_id=113&content_parents=48,94) Accessed 22 August 2017

Havis, R. 2017 *Brief for trial trenching evaluation on Land off Tey Road, Coggeshall*

NLS (National Library of Scotland) <http://maps.nls.uk/> Accessed 22 August 2017

Medlycott, M. 1999. *Historic towns in Essex: Coggeshall historic towns assessment report*, English Heritage



## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay			0.3m	
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay			0.29m	
11	1102	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown clay, freq chalk			-	
11	1103	Cut		Cut of linear	NE-SW linear, post med- modern	6m	0.3	0.33m	
11	1104	Fill	1103	Fill of linear	Backfill within drainage gully	6m+	0.3	0.08m	
11	1105	Fill	1103	Fill of linear	Secondary deposit in drainage gully	6m+	0.3	0.25m	C18-C19
11	1106	Cut		Cut of linear	NW-SE linear	6m+	0.95	0.31m	
11	1107	Fill	1106	Fill of linear	Mid yellow brown silt clay	6m+	0.95	0.31m	LC18-C19
11	1108	Cut		Cut of linear	E-W post med linear	6m+	1.13	0.13m	
11	1109	Fill	1108	Fill of linear	Mid yellow brown silt clay fill	6m+	1.13	0.13m	Modern
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay			0.3m	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay			0.25m	
12	1202	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown clay, freq chalk			-	
12	1203	Cut		Cut of linear	NW-SE linear, post med-modern	6m+	0.95	NFE	
12	1204	Fill	1203	Fill of linear	Mid yellow brown silt clay	6m+	0.95	NFE	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay			0.32m	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay			0.3m	
13	1302	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown clay, freq chalk			-	
13	1303	Cut		Cut of linear	NW-SE linear, post med-modern	6m+	0.95	NFE	
13	1304	Fill	1303	Fill of linear	Mid yellow brown silt clay	6m+	0.95	NFE	
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay			0.3m	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay			0.27m	
14	1402	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown clay, freq chalk			-	
14	1403	Cut		Cut of linear	NW-SE linear, post med-modern	6m+	0.95	NFE	
14	1404	Fill	1403	Fill of linear	Mid yellow brown silt clay	6m+	0.95	NFE	
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark grey brown silt clay			0.32m	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid grey brown silt clay			0.29m	
15	1502	Layer		Natural	Light orange brown clay, freq chalk			-	
15	1503	Cut		Cut of linear	NW-SE linear, post med-modern	6m+	0.95	NFE	
15	1504	Fill	1503	Fill of linear	Mid yellow brown silt clay	6m+	0.95	NFE	

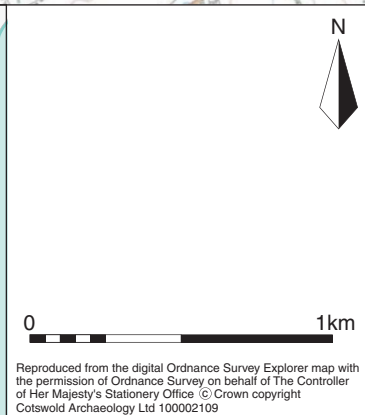
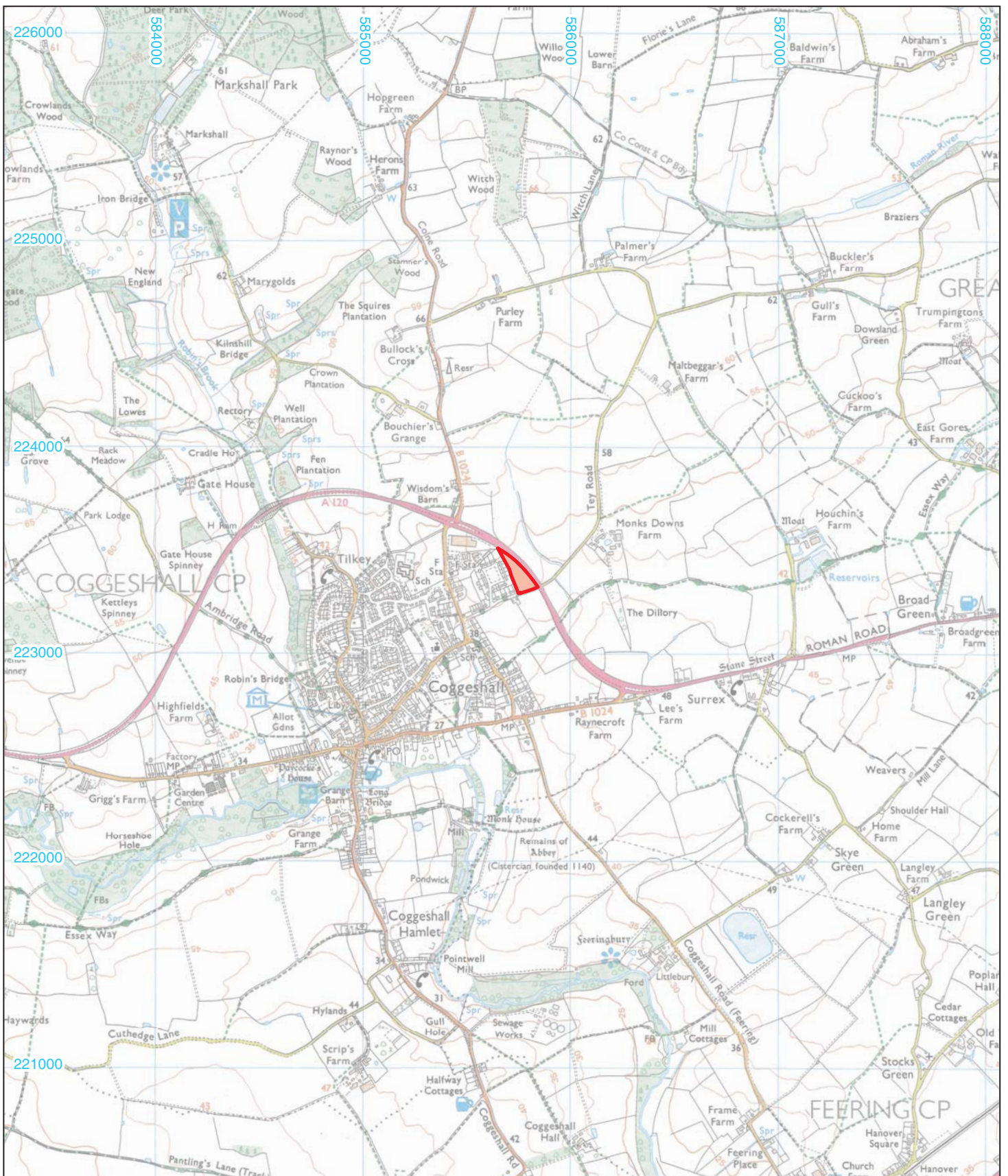
## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Context	Category	Description	Fabric Code	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
1105	Post-medieval/modern pottery	Black-glazed earthenware	BGE	2	6	C18-C19
1107	Post-medieval pottery Post-medieval/modern pottery Post-medieval ceramic building material	White salt-glazed stoneware Transfer-printed refined whiteware Flat roof tile, fragments	WSG TPW	1 1 9	10 3 169	LC18-C19
1109	Post-medieval/modern pottery Roman ceramic building material Cement mortar	Unglazed earthenware  Imbrex	UGE	1 1 1	3 173 22	Modern

## APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Land off Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the erection of 11 dwellings, estate roads, footpaths, garages, car spaces, foul and surface drainage and landscaping at land off Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex. Two ditches and a gully, containing artefacts dating to the post-medieval and modern periods, were observed during ground works. These were identified during a previous evaluation on the site and are probably the remains of a former agricultural field system.	
Project dates	30 November - 1 December 2017	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	Field evaluation (CA 2017)	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex	
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	1.38ha	
Site co-ordinates	585753 223384	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Essex County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alison Roberts	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	None	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	None	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Braintree & Ipswich Museum Service (CGTR17)	Pottery, Ceramic Building Material
Paper	Braintree & Ipswich Museum Service (CGTR17)	Trench sheets, context sheets, permatrace plans
Digital	Braintree & Ipswich Museum Service (CGTR17)	Digital photographs, GPS survey
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land off Tey Road, Coggeshall Essex: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report <b>17728</b>		





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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land off Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex

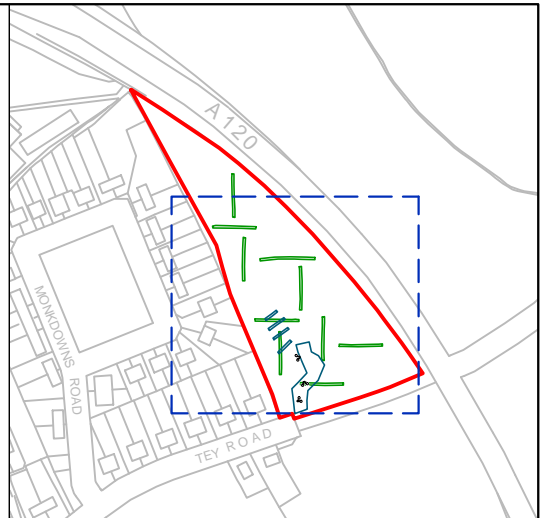
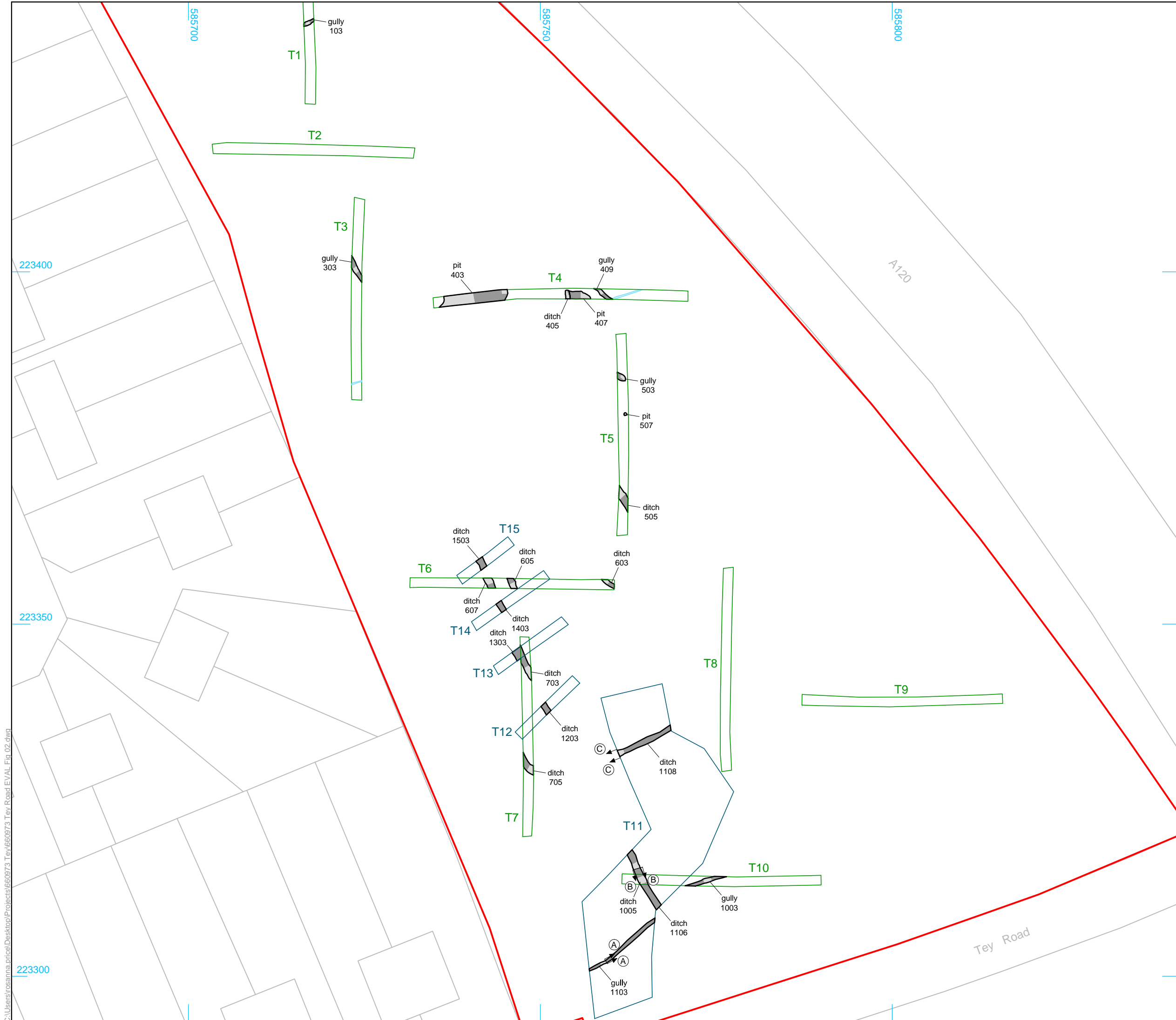
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**FIGURE TITLE**  
**Site location plan**

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- ▭ site boundary
- ▭ evaluation trench
- ▭ area of watching brief
- ▭ cut feature
- ▭ excavated intervention
- ▭ field drain
- B B section location



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
Land off Tey Road, Coggeshall, Essex

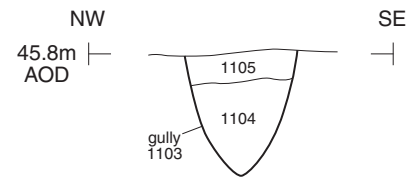
**FIGURE TITLE**  
**The site, showing location of ground works**

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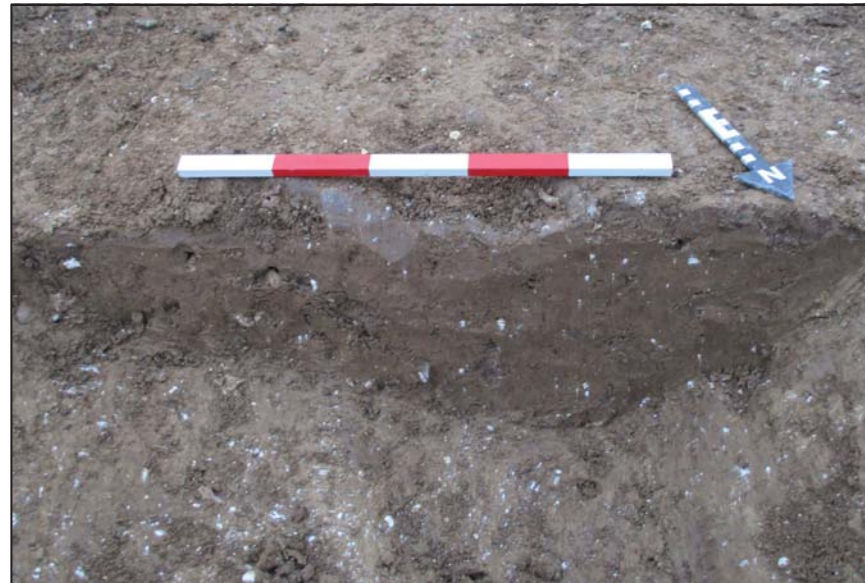
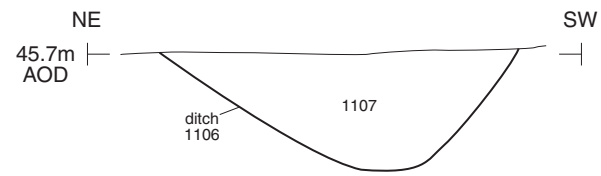


Section AA



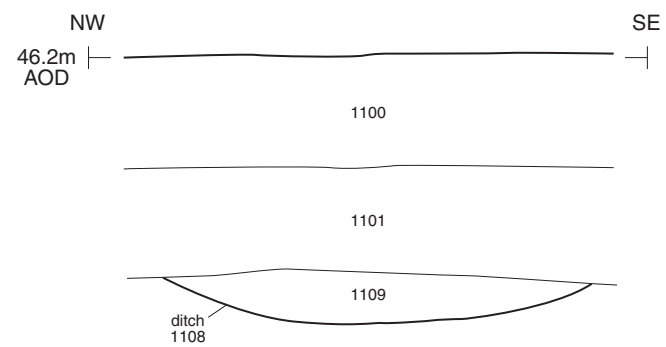
Gully 1103, looking north-east (0.2m scale)

Section BB

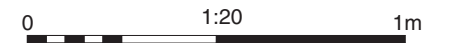


Ditch 1106, looking south-west (0.5m scale)

Section CC



Ditch 1108, looking south-west (1m scale)




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PROJECT TITLE  
 Land off Tey Road, Coggleshall, Essex

FIGURE TITLE  
**Trench 11: sections and photographs**

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