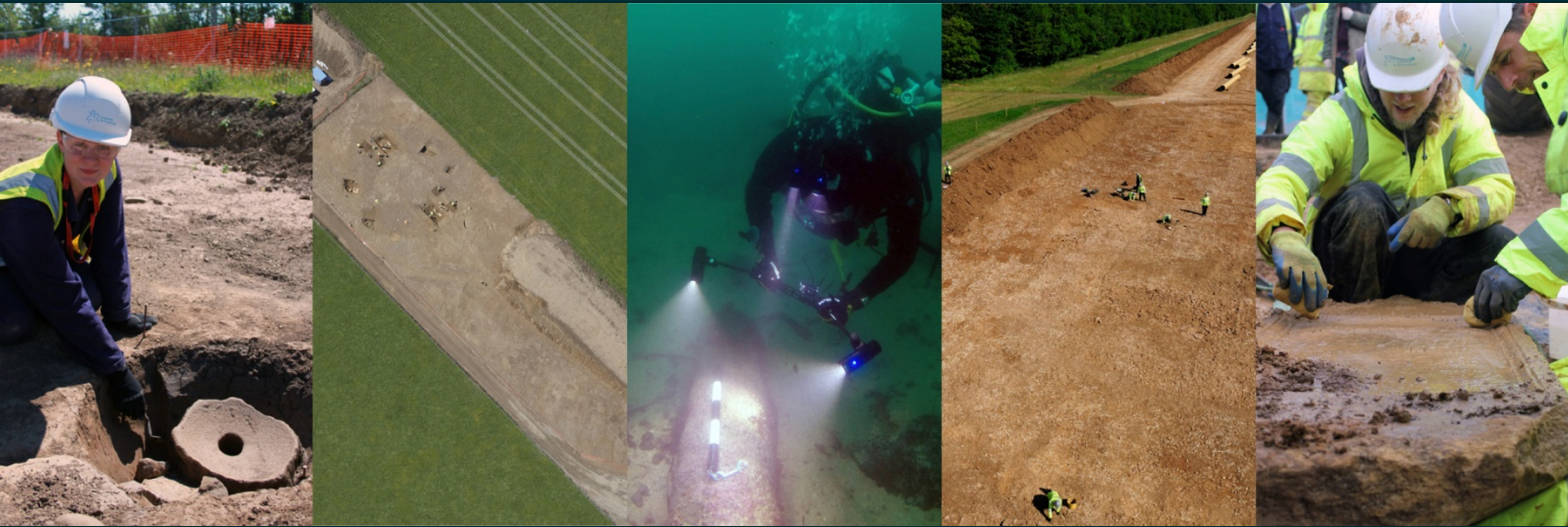


Land rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex

Archaeological Evaluation



for

Archaeology Collective

CA Project: SU0096

CA Report: SU0096_1

February 2020



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Earls Colne, Essex

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
<i>The site</i>	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
<i>Prehistoric and Roman</i>	5
<i>Medieval</i>	6
<i>Post medieval</i>	6
<i>Modern</i>	6
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	7
4. METHODOLOGY	8
<i>Constraints</i>	8
5. RESULTS	9
<i>Soil conditions</i>	9
<i>Trench results</i>	9
6. THE FINDS	12
<i>Introduction</i>	12
<i>Pottery</i>	12
<i>Struck flint</i>	13
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	13
<i>Animal bone</i>	13
<i>Plant macrofossils</i>	14
8. DISCUSSION.....	15
<i>Deposit model</i>	15
<i>Phase 1: Later Prehistoric</i>	15
<i>Phase 2: Medieval</i>	15
<i>Phases 3 and 4: Post medieval and Modern</i>	15

<i>Undated features</i>	16
<i>Confidence rating</i>	16
9. CONCLUSION	17
10. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	18
11. REFERENCES.....	19
APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS	20
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	21
APPENDIX 3: FINDS.....	25
APPENDIX 4: OASIS REPORT FORM	27

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)
Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan (1:500)
Fig. 3 Trench 1: plan, section and photographs (1:200 & 1:20)
Fig. 4 Trench 2: plan, section and photographs (1:200 & 1:20)
Fig. 5 Trench 2: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 6 Trench 3: plan, section and photographs (1:200 & 1:20)
Fig. 7 Trench 3: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 8 Trench 4: plan, section and photographs (1:200 & 1:20)
Fig. 9 Trench 4: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 10 Trench 5: plan, section and photograph (1:200 & 1:20)
Fig. 11 Trench 5: section and photograph (1:20)
Fig. 12 Trench 6: plan, section and photographs (1:200 & 1:20)
Fig. 13 Trench 7: plan, section and photographs (1:200 & 1:20)

SUMMARY

Project Name:	Land rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex
Location:	Earls Colne, Essex
NGR:	586446 228558
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	7 January 2020– 8 January 2020
Planning Reference:	18/00214/OUT
Location of Archive:	Braintree Museum
Site Code:	ECTR20

In January 2020, a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on a piece of land to the rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex prior to the construction of twenty-three dwellings with associated access and open space. Seven archaeologically supervised trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.

The evaluation revealed a ditch within Trenches 1 and 2 that was tentatively dated to the prehistoric period, and a posthole within Trench 5 that was tentatively dated to the medieval period. An undated posthole likely to be modern in date and an undated ditch terminus or treethrow were identified within Trench 3, whilst five undated gullies were identified within Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 along with undated pits in Trenches 2 and 5. A small assemblage of later prehistoric flint and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the overlying topsoil deposit.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In January 2020 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on a piece of land to the rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex. The project was commissioned by Archaeology Collective on behalf of their client, Oakland Country Homes Ltd. The evaluation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The relevant planning application reference is 18/00214/OUT. The proposed development consists of the construction of twenty-three dwellings with associated access and open space.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out according to a Brief (dated 19/11/2019) produced by the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Teresa O'Connor of Place Services and then addressed by a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Archaeology Collective (Archaeology Collective 2019). The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014) and the *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). It was monitored by Teresa O'Connor of Place Services and included a single site visit on the 8th January 2020.

The site

- 1.3 The site is located in the Braintree district of Essex, in the civil parish of Earls Colne centred at NGR: 586446 228558 (Fig. 1) The proposed development area is approximately 1ha comprising a single field set to pasture located c.0.4km southeast of the historic core of the village of Earls Colne and c.0.5km west of the River Colne. The site is bounded by a pasture field to the west and housing to the north, east and south. The site lies at approximately 30m AOD, on land that is predominately flat. Until recent times the field was split into two paddocks by a fence line noted on satellite imagery (Google Earth 2018).

The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as London Clay Formation of Clay, Silt and Sand, with the superficial geology identified as River Terrace Deposits of Sand and Gravel (BGS 2020). Clay substrate were revealed in all of the trenches.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Evidence for occupation and utilisation of the landscape surrounding Earls Colne from the prehistoric period through to the Post-medieval period, derives from sources such as findspots, aerial photography and built heritage assets. The following section is a summary of the known archaeological background for Earls Colne. Data was obtained from the WSI and Essex Historic Environment Record (HER);

The Brief from Place Services states: *The Essex Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies on land which bordered the historic core of Earls Colne (EHER18469) and south of the Priory, a medieval Benedictine monastery, the remains of which are a Scheduled Monument. The medieval town is thought to have grown up around two foci, one at the High Street and the second around the Priory. Ribbon development is known to have continued along Upper Holt Street and listed buildings survive from the 15th century onwards. The remains of the Priory lie to the north of Upper Holt Street. Between 1100 and 1107 Aubrey de Vere, an ancestor of the earls of Oxford, founded a priory, a cell of the Benedictine Abingdon Abbey, which continued until the Dissolution. The base of the northwest church tower survives above ground. A geophysical survey showed that the main Priory church had been constructed in a single phase and was accompanied by a number of inhumation burials on the north side of the presbytery. During excavations (EEX58162) prehistoric flints and Roman building material have also been recovered from the Priory site. To the south significant remains of Roman building material as well as pottery, coins and prehistoric implements have been recovered over an area with recorded cropmark features including a possible barrow, ring ditch, trackway and linear features, potentially property or field boundaries.*

Prehistoric and Roman

- 2.2 MEX28216, c.360m south-east of the site, records the location of cropmarks of a penannular ring ditch and linear features and pits (all undated), as well as an early Mesolithic to late Bronze Age findspot, a Bronze Age barrow and a Roman findspot. Immediately to the south-west, more undated cropmarks of linear features (MEX1038306) are recorded. A late Iron Age Holloway (MEX28009) is recorded c.800m south-east of the site and could have potentially continued across the proposed development area.

Medieval

- 2.3 The present settlement of Earls Colne likely originated during the early-medieval period. It was included in the Domesday survey (1086) and referred to as Colun (Williams 2003), translated as a “place by the River Colne” (Mills 2003, 127). The prefix “Earls” is a manorial addition from possession in medieval times and was first written as *Erlescolne* in 1358 (*ibid*). It had a recorded population of eighty-five households in 1086, putting it in the largest 20% of settlements and is listed under eight owners in the Domesday Survey.

Little evidence of the villages early medieval origin has been identified. It is likely the early medieval settlement was focused around the church of St. Andrew (EHER17834) located 400m west-northwest of the site.

Earls Colne Priory is a well-documented example of a Norman priory with historical records dating from its construction in the 12th century to its destruction in the 16th century. It has important associations with the Earls of Oxford and is located 350m north of the site.

Post medieval

- 2.4 HER entry MEX1031825, immediately north/north-west of the site, describes the medieval and post-medieval historic town of Earls Colne. Eighteen listed buildings are located to the north of the site along Upper Holt Street and a further fifty listed buildings in the historic core of the village close to the church and along the High Street. a majority of which are early post medieval in date. A late 15th/early 16th century timber framed house (MEX1004154) is located c.100m east of the site.

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief took place during a development on Church Hill, c.340m NW of the site. Evidence was uncovered for 16th to 17th century occupation, including several ditches and gullies, pits and gravelled surfaces, as well as a stoke hole for an oven or kiln (MEX1039401).

In the mid-19th century the Atlas Ironworks became the dominant employer in the town, and provider of public buildings and workers housing.

Historic OS mapping shows the site as one large field that extended further east than it does today abutting Tey Road (Old-maps.co.uk).

Modern

- 2.5 The housing located to the east of the site was constructed in the 1940s with the latest development to the south constructed in the 1950s and 1970s. Modern satellite

imagery show the site is split into two paddocks with fencing running across the site in a NW-SE direction.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 As described in the Written Scheme of Investigation the aims of the evaluation were:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains,
- to record the character, date location and preservation of any archaeological remains on site,
- to record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains on site.
- to mechanically excavate trenches to expose the surface of any underlying archaeological horizon or the natural ground,
- to clean the base and representative sections of the trenches and record them in both plan and representative section,
- to partially excavate any identified archaeological features so as to ascertain their extent, form, function and where possible date,
- to inform the need (or otherwise) for any future archaeological works on the site by means of an illustrated report.

3.2 The objectives of the project were:

- to undertake work in accordance with national best practice and guidelines,
- to archaeologically record any deposits, features or structures of significance,
- to analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use,
- to produce a written account to include summary; site description; deposit descriptions deposit levels (relative to ordnance datum) conclusions,
- to disseminate the findings of the work in an illustrated report, integrating the findings of the archaeological evaluation to produce as comprehensive a record as possible,
- provide an ordered archive.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Seven trenches were excavated across the development area (Fig. 2). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*. The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision. Upper deposits were removed, exposing the superficial geological layers. Following excavation, the trenches were cleaned sufficiently to determine if archaeological remains were present. Where archaeological deposits were encountered, they were excavated by hand in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*. The ploughsoil within the line of the trenches was metal detected prior to machine excavation and the spoil heaps were visually scanned and metal detected looking for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 4.2 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*; which states that in evaluations, bulk environmental samples are only to be taken where the presence/absence, quality and significance of suspected artefacts or ecofacts will have a direct impact on the assessment of significance of the entire site. A single environmental sample was taken during the evaluation. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.3 Site data has been added onto a database and recorded using the County HER code ECTR20. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (Ref: cotswold2-386284; Appendix 4) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).
- 4.4 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Suffolk. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive will be deposited with the Braintree Museum.

Constraints

- 4.5 Trench 7 was moved slightly northwards of its original intended location due to logistical constraints.

5. RESULTS

Soil conditions

- 5.1 The natural geological substrate was identified at a depth of between 0.35m and 0.73m below the topsoil and subsoil and comprised a light brown and orange clay. This was overlain by a subsoil of a mid-orange brown silty clay measuring between 0.16m–0.32m deep, in turn sealed by a topsoil of mid grey-brown silty clay measuring between 0.15m–0.41m thick. A thicker deposit of topsoil was evident at the western end of Trenches 2 and 6 likely caused by the turning of the plough along this field boundary.

Trench results

- 5.2 This section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation by trench. The location of evaluation trenches is shown in Figure 2, full descriptions of the trenches are provided in Appendix 1 and contexts listed in Appendix 2.

5.2.1 **Trench 1** (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 measured 30m x 1.8m and 0.52m deep and was orientated NW-SE. A ditch which contained a single small flint flake was identified within the trench and a sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil deposit.

Ditch 101

Ditch 101 was located close to the centre of the trench orientated N-S. The ditch measured 1.4m wide and 0.63m deep and contained a single fill of mid orange brown silty clay. A small flint flake was recovered from the ditch's only fill.

5.2.2 **Trench 2** (Figs. 4 & 5)

Trench 2 measured 30m x 1.8m and 0.73m deep and was orientated NE-SW. A single ditch and an undated shallow gully were identified within the trench.

Ditch 205

Ditch 205 was located at the western end of the trench orientated N-S. Full dimensions of the ditch could not be ascertained as the ditch extended beyond the western limit of excavation however it measured 0.52m deep and contained a single fill of mid orange brown silty clay. A small sherd of Bronze Age flint tempered pottery and a small flint core were recovered from the ditch's single fill.

Pit 203

An undated Pit 203 was located just north of Ditch 205. The pit measured 1.38m x 0.45m wide and 0.13m deep and contained a single fill. The pit contained a concentration of charcoal so an environmental sample (1) was taken to examine the environmental potential and recover artefacts. Results of the environmental sample were poor with only large amounts of wood charcoal fragments recovered along with charred grass stems and a bedstraw seed.

5.2.3 Trench 3 (Figs. 6 & 7)

Trench 3 measured 30m x 1.8m and 0.35m deep and was orientated NW-SE. An undated ditch terminus/treethrow and an undated posthole were identified within the trench.

Ditch/Tree throw 305

An irregular feature believed to be the remnant of a tree throw or ditch terminus was identified at the centre of the trench orientated NE-SW. The feature terminated within the trench and extended beyond the northern limit of excavation. The feature had a steep NW side and a gradual SE side leading to an irregular base and contained a single sterile fill with no inclusions or finds.

Posthole 303

Posthole 303 was located just west of feature 305 positioned centrally within the trench. The posthole had steep sides with a gradual base and contained a single fill of mid brown grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

5.2.4 Trench 4 (Figs. 8 & 9)

Trench 4 measured 30m x 1.8m and 0.52m deep and was orientated NE-SW. Two undated gullies were identified within the trench.

Gullies 403 and 405

Gully 405 was identified at the southern end of the trench orientated NE-SW. The gully extended beyond the SW limit of excavation and terminated within the trench. The gully had steep sloping sides and a concave base and contained a single fill. Gully 403 was identified at the northern end of the trench orientated N-S. The gully extended beyond the SE limit of excavation and terminated within the trench. The gully had steep sloping sides and a concave base and contained a single fill. No finds were recovered from either gully.

5.2.5 **Trench 5** (Figs. 10 & 11)

Trench 5 measured 30m x 1.8m and 0.60m deep and was orientated NE-SW. A posthole tentatively dated to the medieval period, and two undated features, a pit and a gully were identified within the trench.

Pit 507

A small shallow pit was identified at the centre of the trench, extending beyond the eastern limit of excavation. The pit measure 0.8m wide and 0.1m deep and contained a single fill. No finds were recovered.

Posthole 503 and Gully 505

Posthole 503 was located at the northern end of the trench. The posthole was sub-circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a sharp concave base. A small sherd of medieval greyware pottery was recovered from the single fill. An undated shallow gully 505 extended westwards from posthole 503 however a relationship could not be ascertained due to the shallow nature of the gully.

5.2.6 **Trench 6** (Fig. 12)

Trench 6 measured 30m x 1.8m and 0.59m deep and was orientated NE-SW. A single curvilinear gully was identified at the centre of the trench and a flint flake was recovered from the topsoil deposit.

Gully 603

Curvilinear gully 603 was identified at the centre of the trench extending beyond the SE limit of excavation. The gully measured 0.5m wide and 0.28m deep with a steep NW side and a gradual SE side leading to a concave base. No finds were recovered from the single fill.

5.2.7 **Trench 7** (Fig. 13)

Trench 7 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and 0.54m deep and was orientated WNW-ESE. A single undated gully was identified within the trench.

Gully 703

Gully 703 was identified at the eastern end of the trench orientated NE-SW. The gully measured 0.9m wide and 0.23m deep and contained a single fill of mid grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

6. THE FINDS

Introduction

6.1 A small number of bulk finds, consisting primarily of pottery and struck flints, was recovered from the fill of several cut features (consisting of ditches and a posthole) and from topsoil. Single sherds of pottery can be dated to the prehistoric (?Bronze Age), medieval and modern period. A few struck flints of poor quality suggest a late prehistoric date and are most probably Bronze Age or possibly Iron Age. The few prehistoric finds appear to be concentrated in the area of Trench 1 and Trench 2. All of the bulk finds are listed by context in Table 1 (Appendix 3). It can be noted that no registered artefacts (also commonly referred to as Small Finds) were recovered.

Pottery

6.2 Just three pieces of pottery were recovered. These have a combined weight of 19g. Of two small abraded sherds, one is prehistoric, the other is probably medieval. The largest sherd is of post-medieval or modern date. All of the pottery is listed and described by fabric in Table 2 (Appendix 3). The medieval and post-medieval/modern pottery fabrics codes refer to the Suffolk post-Roman fabric series (unpublished).

Prehistoric

A small sherd (3g) of hand-made, flint-tempered pottery (Fabric HMF) was recovered from fill (206) of ditch 205 in Trench 2. The sherd has some abrasion and it appears the surface was originally oxidised. It can be broadly dated as prehistoric, the presence of the flint-temper indicating a date in the period of the Neolithic-Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age, although the nature of the sherd and the temper would suggest it most likely dates to the period of the Mid-Late Bronze Age.

Medieval

A small abraded sherd of greyware pottery (1g) came from the fill (504) of a feature identified as a posthole located in Trench 5. The sherd is not particularly sandy and the fabric could be Roman; however, the sherd appears hand-made and is therefore more likely to be of medieval date. It has been broadly categorised and catalogued as Medieval coarseware (Fabric MCW) current from the 12th-14th century.

Post-medieval/modern

A single sherd (15g) from a Late slipped earthenware bowl (Fabric LSRW) came from topsoil (100) on the area of Trench 1. This type of pottery, also referred to as Late slipped Kitchen ware (Cotter 2000, Fabric 51A 254-256), is broadly current in the period of the 18th-19th century; although it can be noted that at Colchester most of this pottery dates to the 19th or early 20th century (ibid, 254).

Struck flint

- 6.3 Several pieces of struck flint and flint flakes/shatter pieces were recovered from contexts in Trench 1 and Trench 2 and from topsoil from the area of Trench 6.

One piece, from fill (102) of ditch 101 (Trench 1), and another from fill (204) of pit 203 (Trench 2) appear accidentally created or natural shatter pieces.

This leaves four other flints, three flakes which come from fill (102) of ditch 101 (Trench 1), fill (206) of ditch 205 in Trench 2 and Trench 6 topsoil (600), and one core piece from ditch 205 (206). These appear to be, or are likely, deliberately struck pieces; although their technological standard is not high and there is no secondary working on the flakes. Most have also suffered significant damage as two of the flakes, contexts (102) and (206), have been snapped longitudinally, while the core piece is from a shattered core with previous flake removals at various angles. The remaining flake has chipping along two of the edges, possibly use wear but possibly from natural damage.

The three flakes and the core piece suggest some deposition of later prehistoric worked flints and therefore limited prehistoric activity in the area. The nature of the flints indicates they could be broadly contemporary and appear likely to be Bronze Age, although an Iron Age date cannot be excluded. The mix of brown and black flint could indicate possible use of surface material.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

Animal bone

- 7.1 A small flake from the surface of a bone was recovered during processing a bulk soil sample (Sample 1) taken from fill (204) of pit 203 in Trench 2. The flake, which weighs less than 1g, is not further identified but is presumed to be animal.

Plant macrofossils

7.2 *Introduction and Methods*

A single 20 litre bulk sample was taken from fill (204) of pit 203 in Trench 2. The sample was processed in order to assess the quality of preservation of any plant remains present and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations.

The sample was processed using manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300µm mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at x10 magnification. The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh and sorted when dry. Any artefacts recovered were retained for inclusion with the bulk finds.

7.3 *Results and conclusions*

The flot recovered was moderate to small at 200ml; wood charcoal fragments were common and made up the entire volume. A further 100ml of charcoal fragments was recovered from the non-floating residues. Many of the fragments present were suitable for radiocarbon dating or species identification if required. A low number of charred stem fragments, most likely from grasses (Poaceae) were recovered, along with a single bedstraw (*Galium* sp.) seed.

Overall identifiable organic material that had been preserved by charring was sparse and offers little information of value to the results of this evaluation.



8. DISCUSSION

Deposit model

- 8.1 The natural geological surface and pre- modern archaeological horizon is generally present at a depth ranging from 0.35m and 0.73m, being deepest in Trenches 2 and 6 where a build-up of topsoil was present.

Phase 1: Later Prehistoric

- 8.2 Ditch 101 identified within Trench 1 and Ditch 205 identified within Trench 2 align with one another and are likely to be the same feature. A small sherd of Bronze Age pottery and a flint flake and flint core were recovered from the ditches single fill. The ditch likely represents a Bronze Age or later prehistoric field boundary ditch.

The single sherd of pottery and worked flint indicates Bronze Age activity within the vicinity of the trench, but the paucity of material suggests that the site was located on the periphery of settlement or beyond and as such the site is thought to have minimal potential to address regional research aims for the period.

Phase 2: Medieval

- 8.3 Posthole 503 identified within Trench 5 contained a small sherd of greyware pottery likely to be medieval in date. Undated shallow gully 505 that extended westwards from posthole 503 is likely to be contemporary.

The single sherd of pottery indicates medieval activity within the vicinity of the trench, but the paucity of material suggests that the site was located on the periphery of settlement or beyond and as such the site is thought to have minimal potential to address regional research aims for the period.

Phases 3 and 4: Post medieval and Modern

- 8.4 The single sherd of post-medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil of Trench 1 suggests that the site was located on the periphery of settlement or beyond and as such the site is thought to have minimal potential to address regional research aims for the period.
- 8.5 Posthole 303 identified within Trench 3 was undated, however it was located close to the fence line noted on recent satellite imagery and is likely to be modern in date.

Undated features

- 8.5 An undated ditch terminus or treethrow was identified within Trench 3, whilst five undated gullies were identified within Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 along with two undated pits in Trenches 2 and 5.

Confidence rating

- 8.6 The evaluation took place in dry weather conditions. Full co-operation was received from the client and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the evaluation.

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9. CONCLUSION

The evaluation trenching has successfully defined the character, significance and deposit model of the heritage assets present within the development site.

The evidence suggests the survival of an archaeological horizon with the presence of three broad phases of past activity in the Later prehistoric period, medieval and modern periods.

The Bronze Age ditch, medieval posthole, and modern pit are heritage assets of local significance and the results of the evaluation suggest that the archaeological potential for other features of these periods are low.

The final decision on whether further work is required to mitigate the impact of the development on heritage assets rests with Place Services.

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10. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) ACIfA, Georgie Palmer and Tara Schug BA (Hons) PCIfA, and directed by Martin Cuthbert. Project management was undertaken by Rhodri Gardner PhD MCI fA.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin BA (Hons) PgDip MCI fA. Finds processing was undertaken by Jonathan van Jennians. The specialist finds report were produced by Stephen Benfield and Anna West BSc.

The report was written by Martin Cuthbert, the illustrations were prepared by Gemma Bowen and Ryan Wilson and the report was edited by Stuart Boulter BSc (Hons) MCI fA. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Ruth Beveridge MA.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench Number	Area	Length	Orientation	Geology	Depth to Natural	Description	Comments	Summary	Associated Contexts
1		30	NW-SE	Mid brown orange clay with occasional stones	0.52	Topsoil over subsoil		Single ditch	100, 101, 102, 103, 104
2		30	NE-SW	Mid brown orange clay with occasional stones	0.83	Topsoil over subsoil		Pit 203 and Ditch 205	200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206
3		30	NW-SE	Mid brown orange clay with occasional stones	0.44	Topsoil over subsoil		Posthole 303 and Feature 305	300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306
4		30	NE-SW	Mid brown orange clay with occasional stones	0.52	Topsoil over subsoil		Gully 403 and 405	400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406
5		30	NE-SW	Mid brown orange clay with occasional stones	0.60	Topsoil over subsoil		Posthole 503, Gully 505 and Pit 507	500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508
6		30	NE-SW	Mid brown orange clay with occasional stones	0.68	Topsoil over subsoil		Gully 603	600, 601, 602, 603, 604
7		30	WNW-ESE	Mid brown orange clay with occasional stones	0.54	Topsoil over subsoil		Gully 703	703, 704, 700, 701, 702

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Samples
100		1		Layer	Dark grey brown clayey silt friable occasional stones	Topsoil			0.24	103		
101	101	1	Ditch	Cut	cut of ditch orientated N-S with steep sides and a concave base	Boundary ditch		1.40	0.63		102	
102	101	1	Ditch	Fill	mid orange brown silty clay	single fill of ditch		1.4	0.63	101	103	
103		1		Layer	mid grey brown clay silt	Subsoil			0.28	102, 104	100	
104		1		Layer	Mid orange brown clay occasional stones	Natural geology					103	
200		2		Layer	Dark grey brown clayey silt friable occasional stones	Topsoil			0.41	201		
201		2		Layer	light yellowish-brown silty clay	Subsoil			0.32	202	200	
202		2		Layer	Light brown silty clay with orange patches	Natural geology					201, 203	
203	203	2	Pit	Cut	sub oval in plan with gentle sloping sides and an irregular base	Possible pit	1.38	0.45	0.13	202	204	
204	203	2	Pit	Fill	light greyish brown with iron pan	fill of pit	1.38	0.45	0.13	203		1
205	205	2	Ditch	Cut	N-S orientated ditch with moderate sloping sides	Boundary Ditch, same as ditch 101	1+	1+	0.52		206	
206	205	2	Ditch	Fill	light yellowish brown with iron pan	single fill of ditch	1+	1+	0.52	205		
300		3		Layer	Dark grey brown clay silt	Topsoil			0.15	301		

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Samples
301		3		Layer	mid orange brown clay silt	subsoil			0.20	302	300	
302		3		Layer	mid brown orange clay	natural			0.09		301	
303	303	3	Posthole	Cut	oval in plan with a moderate NE side and steep SW side leading to a gradual base	cut of undated posthole	0.42	0.36	0.15		304	
304	303	3	Posthole	Fill	Mid brown grey silty clay	single fill of posthole	0.42	0.36	0.15	303		
305	305	3	Bioturbation	Cut	Possible ditch terminus or tree throw with a steep NW side and gradual SE side leading to a heavily disturbed and irregular base	Possible tree throw	1+	1.08	0.39		306	
306	305	3	Bioturbation	Fill	mid orange grey clay	fill of tree throw	1+	1.08	0.39	305		
400		4		Layer	dark grey brown clay silt	Topsoil			0.31	401		
401		4		Layer	mid orange brown clay silt occ stones	subsoil				402	400	
402		4		Layer	mid brown orange clay with iron panning and stones	Natural geology					401	
403	403	4	Gully	Cut	linear orientated N-S with a steep SW side and a gradual NE side leading to a concave base	Possible gully terminus	1+	0.50	0.21		404	
404	403	4	Gully	Fill	light brown grey silty clay	Single fill of gully	1+	0.50	0.21	403		

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Samples
405	405	4	Gully	Cut	NE-SW orientated linear with steep sloping sides and a concave base	possible gully	1+	0.47	0.30		406	
406	405	4	Gully	Fill	light greyish brown silty clay	single fill of possible gully	1+	0.47	0.30	405		
500		5		Layer	mid grey brown silty clay	topsoil			0.40	501		
501		5		Layer	mid brown orange silty clay	subsoil			0.20	502	500	
502		5		Layer	orange brown clay	Natural geology					501	
503	503	5	Posthole	Cut	cut of posthole circular in plan with steep sides leading to a sharp concave base	posthole, unknown relationship with 505	0.4	0.34	0.30		504	
504	503	5	Posthole	Fill	grey with orange and brown mottling silty clay with occasional manganese	single fill of posthole	0.4	0.34	0.30	503		
505	505	5	Gully	Cut	shallow gully orientated E-W with very gradual sides leading to a flat base	very shallow gully possible rooting	0.5	0.25	0.05		506	
506	505	5	Gully	Fill	grey with orange mottling soft silty clay	fill of possible gully	0.5	0.25	0.05	505		
507	507	5	Pit	Cut	sub circular pit with very gradual sides leading to a flat base	shallow pit	0.8	0.5	0.1		508	
508	507	5	Pit	Fill	grey with orange mottling soft silty clay	fill of pit	0.8	0.5	0.1	507		

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth	Over	Under	Samples
600		6		Layer	mid greyish brown silty clay occasional CBM and charcoal flecks	topsoil			0.38	601		
601		6		Layer	light yellowish-brown silty clay	subsoil			0.21	602	600	
602		6		Layer	light brown with orange mottling	Natural geology					601	
603	603	6	Gully	Cut	curvi-linear extending beyond the eastern trench edge with steep sides and a gradual base	possible gully	1+	0.50	0.28		604	
604	603	6	Gully	Fill	mid brown grey with flecks of blue silty clay	fill of gully	1+	0.50	0.28	603		
700		7		Layer	mid greyish brown silty clay	topsoil			0.38	701		
701		7		Layer	mid yellowish-brown silty clay	subsoil			0.16	702	700	
702		7		Layer	orange brown silty clay with frequent stone inclusions and manganese	natural geology					701	
703	703	7	Gully	Cut	E-W orientated linear with moderate sloping sides and a concave base	Cut of linear	1+	0.9	0.23		704	
704	703	7	Gully	Fill	mid greyish brown with orange patches silty clay with sparse small stones	single fill of gully	1+	0.9	0.23	703		

APPENDIX 3: FINDS

Table 1 Bulk finds by context (initial processing quantification)

Context	Pottery		Struck flint		Finds from bulk soil samples	Spotdate (initial processing)
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
100	1	15				p-med
102			2	34		
204					Struck flint (1); Animal bone fragment (1)	
206	1	3	2	35		preh
504	1	1				med
600			1	7		
<i>Totals</i>						

Table 2 Pottery by context

Ctxt no.	Trench no.	Feature/layer no.	F/L type	Find type	Period	Fabric	Form	No.	Wt/g	Abr / brt	Pots (min No)	Description/ comments	Pottery dating
100	1		topsoil	pot	p-med/mod	LSRW	bowl	1	15			Late slipped redware, internal cream slip/glaze Fabric LSRW (Late slipped kitchen ware Fabric 51A – Cotter 2000, 254-256 (CAR 7)	18-19C
206	2	205	ditch	pot	preh	HMF		1	3	(A)		Small hand-made flint-tempered sherd, small-medium flint with occasional larger piece, flint slightly protruding in surface, coarse feel. Oxidised surface. Broadly prehistoric Neolith-LBA/EIA but probably likely to be BA	Preh, probably mid-late Bronze Age
504	5	503	Post hole	pot	med	MCW		1	1	A		Small abraded greyware sherd, difficult to date with confidence, appears hand-made and probably medieval	c. 12-14C

Table 3 Struck flints and other recovered flint pieces by context

Ctxt no.	Trench no.	Feature/ layer no.	F/L type	Type	No.	Wt/g	Description/ comments	Dated
102	1	101	ditch	flake	1	32	Broad dull flake in slightly grainy flint, cortex on one surface, appears to be a large shatter flake from a nodule – natural?	(shatter piece/ natural)
102	1	101	ditch	flake	1	2	Small, snapped flake in brownish flint, no impact/strike area remaining, cortex on one edge	Prehistoric
204 <1>	2	203	pit	flake	1	16	Single irregular shatter flake with one surface covered by cortex (Recovered during processing bulk soil sample 1)	(shatter piece/ natural)
206	2	205	ditch	flake	1	9	Flake in dark flint, snapped vertically at impact point, hard hammer strike, plunge fracture at distal end; previous flake removal on ventral face, area of cortex remaining on dorsal face at distal end	Prehistoric ?later prehistoric
206	2	205	ditch	Core?	1	26	Core shatter piece? Appears to be probably part of a flint core, varied flake removals on worked (dorsal) face, broad shatter facets on other faces	Prehistoric later prehistoric
600	6		topsoil	flake	1	7	Flake in brownish flint, cortex on platform, large bulb scars on ventral face, varied previous flake removal scars dorsal face, use wear/edge damage on edges of one side and distal end	Prehistoric ?later prehistoric

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OASIS ID: cotswold2-386284

Project details

Project name	Land rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex - Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	In January 2020, a programme of archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on a piece of land to the rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex prior to the construction of twenty-three dwellings with associated access and open space. Seven archaeologically supervised trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. The evaluation revealed a ditch within Trenches 1 and 2 that was tentatively dated to the prehistoric period, and a posthole within Trench 5 that was tentatively dated to the medieval period. An undated posthole likely to be modern in date and an undated ditch terminus or treethrow were identified within Trench 3, whilst five undated gullies were identified within Trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7 along with undated pits in Trenches 2 and 5. A small assemblage of later prehistoric flint and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the overlying topsoil deposit.
Project dates	Start: 07-01-2020 End: 08-01-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ECTR20 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	18/00214/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SU0096 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Monument type	GULLY None
Monument type	PIT None
Monument type	POSTHOLE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds	FLINT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE EARLS COLNE Land rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex
Postcode	CO6 2LH
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 86441 28562 51.923810936793 0.711705235826 51 55 25 N 000 42 42 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30m Max: 30m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Cotswold Archaeology
Project brief originator	Place Services, Essex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology Collective
Project director/manager	Rhodri Gardner
Project supervisor	Martin Cuthbert
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Oakland Country Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Archive ID	ECTR20
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECTR20
Digital Contents	"none"

Digital Media available	"Database","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECTR20
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land rear of Tey Road, Earls Colne, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cuthbert, M
Other bibliographic details	SU0096_1
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Cotswold Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Needham Market, Suffolk
Description	A4 bound Grey Literature report with colour photos and plans
Entered by	martin cuthbert (martin.cuthbert@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk)
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Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 1, Clyst Units
Cofton Road
Marsh Barton
Exeter
EX2 8QW

t: 01392 573970

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

