

# Archaeological evaluation on land at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3EF

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## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	4
7	Environmental assessment	13
8	Conclusion	13
9	Acknowledgements	13
10	References	14
11	Abbreviations and glossary	14
12	Contents of archive	15
13	Archive deposition	15
	Appendix 1 Context list	17
	Appendix 2 Pottery list	18
	Appendix 3 CBM list	21
	Figures	after p22

OASIS summary sheet

## List of maps, photographs, tables and figures

Cover: Working shot

Photograph 1	F1 Sx – looking E	2
Photograph 2	F7, L4 and L5 – looking SW	3
Photograph 3	T5 trench shot – Looking N	4
Photograph 4	F7 roller stamped flue tile	10
Table 1	Details of the main types of ceramics and pottery	4
Table 2	Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts	5
Table 3	Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics recorded	5
Table 4	Details on the post-Roman pottery	6
Table 5	Roman pottery quantification via vessel form	7
Table 6	Quantities of Roman pottery from specific features and contexts	7
Table 7	Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded	8
Table 8	Details on the post-Roman pottery	9
Table 9	CBM by period and type	9
Table 10	Quantities of CBM by features and layers	9
Table 11	Approximate dates for the individual features and layers	11
Table 12	Struck flint from evaluation contexts	12
Table 13	Animal bone by context	13
Fig 1	Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).	
Fig 2	Results.	
Fig 3	Detailed trench plans.	
Fig 4	Feature and representative sections.	
Fig 5	Small finds.	

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex, in advance of the construction of four new dwellings. The site is located east of a 17th-century timber-framed house (The Watch House) and to the southeast of a 16th-century timber-framed barn. Nearby evaluation works have uncovered features dating from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval period.*

*In total twelve cut features (eleven ditches and one post-hole) and a metalled surface were identified in this evaluation. The predominant phase of activity present was from the Roman period, except three ditches and post-hole that were post-medieval or later in date.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex which was carried from the 21st to the 22nd April 2021. The work was commissioned by Darren Stevens on behalf of Dengie Construction Ltd, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in advance of the construction of four new detached dwellings with garages and access off Braintree Road.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Katie Lee-Smith advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief for *Archaeological trial trenching and excavation on Land at Watch House Green, Felsted* written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background (Maps 1-2)

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The EHER shows that the proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains. It is located to the east of The Watch House, a 17th-century or earlier timber-framed house (EHER 37001) and to the southeast of a 16th-century timber-framed barn associated with the house (EHER 370000). Both buildings are listed. The site is also located to the north/northwest of an area of recorded cropmarks which include a square enclosure, linear features and pits (EHER 1356).

An archaeological evaluation c 300m to the north of the site revealed a Roman ditch, medieval ditches, gullies and pits, and post-medieval/modern field boundary ditches (EHER 49073). Another evaluation c 350m northeast revealed medieval, post-medieval and undated ditches (EHER 49494).

#### 4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Five trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 20m long by 1.8m wide, unless stated below. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

The trenches were cut through three layers, modern topsoil (L1, c 0.13-0.31m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.14-0.36m thick) onto natural sand (L3, encountered at c 0.39-0.55m below current ground level (bcgl)). In trench 5 a thin layer of Roman accumulation (L4, c 0.03m-0.05m thick) was encountered between L2 and L3.

##### Trench 1 (T1)

Located in the south-east end of the trench, ditch F1 was Roman in date and produced a single sherd of pottery. It was orientated ENE/WSW and had a shallow U-shaped profile that was 0.98m wide and 0.25m deep.



Photograph 1 F1 Sx – looking E

##### Trench 2 (T2)

Two ditches and one post-hole were excavated in T2. Both ditches were aligned NE/SW, F5 likely represents a later re-cut of F3. F3 was 1.40m wide and 0.25m deep and F5 was V-shaped and 1.17m wide and 0.54m deep. Peg-tile recovered from the fill of F3 dated it to the medieval/post-medieval period. The profile of F3 could not be ascertained due to the relationship with F5. Glass and an iron nail dated F5 to the 19th-20th century in date. A single piece of residual Roman pottery was also recovered from F5.

Post-hole F4 was sealed by ditch F3, it had a flat base and steep break of slope. It was not fully exposed due to the section of F3 but the excavated area was 0.38m by 0.25m and 0.18m deep. Small fragments of CBM were recovered from the fill dating it to the medieval/post-medieval period.



### **Trench 3 (T3): 25m long by 1.8m wide**

Roman ditch F2 was on a NE/SW orientation and had a wide U-shaped profile. It was 1.02m wide and 0.24m deep and is likely to be the same as F6 in T4. Two fragments of Roman tile and nine sherds of pottery were recovered from the fill.

### **Trench 4 (T4)**

Two ditches were recorded in T4. F6 was Roman in date and produced 20 sherds of pottery. It had a U-shaped profile that was 0.81m wide and 0.29m deep. On a NE /SW orientation, F6 is likely a continuation of F2 in T3.

F11 was NNW /SSE orientated and post-medieval in date. The profile was U-shaped measuring 1.82m wide and 0.66m deep. Eight sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the fill, as well as a large quantity of peg-tile and brick. F11 truncated F6.

### **Trench 5 (T5)**

Four ditches, one gully and a metallated surface were uncovered in T5, all Roman in date. In the NW end of the trench ditches F8 and F9 were uncovered. Ditch F8 (c 1.85m wide and 0.18m deep) was wide and shallow with a flat base and a NE/SW alignment. F9 was E/W orientated with a U-shaped profile that was 0.44m wide and 0.14m deep. Both produced a small quantity of Roman pottery.



**Photograph 2** F7, L4 and L5 – looking SW

Ditches F7 and F10 and gully F12 were cut into a metallated surface (L5/L6, c 0.05m thick). Thirty-two sherds of pottery were recovered from the surface of L5/L6 plus a small quantity of Roman CBM, including a flue-tile fragment. The metallated surface was over 8.9m wide and was possibly aligned NW/SW, although this is not certain as only one edge was uncovered.

F7 had a wide U-shaped profile that was 0.65m wide and 0.20m deep and was orientated NE/SW. The sites largest assemblage of pottery (89 sherds) was recovered from F7, along with a roller stamped flue-tile fragment (photograph 4) and a Roman nummus of Constantius II. F10 was on a ESE/WSW alignment with wide U-shape profile (c 0.79m wide and 0.29m deep) and produced a small pottery assemblage and a copper-alloy ring. Gully terminus F12 was NNE/SSW orientated with a shallow flat-based profile 0.39m wide and 0.04m deep.



Photograph 3 T5 trench shot – looking N

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramics

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered 275 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just under 5kg and EVE of 2.64 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 18g.

Ceramic material	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	215	78.2%	1,800	36.3%	8	2.64
CBM	60	21.8%	3,162	63.7%	53	-
<b>All</b>	<b>275</b>		<b>4,962</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>2.64</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery.

Pottery and CBM was recovered from 16 contexts including 12 features and four layers (Table 2). A large proportion of the pottery and CBM came from the ditch F7 and the ditch F11.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	LINEAR/DITCH	1	16	16
F2	DITCH	11	74	7
F3	LINEAR	2	29	15
F4	? POST HOLE	1	6	6
F5	DITCH	2	7	4
F6	DITCH	20	206	10
F7	DITCH	103	1,488	14
F8	DITCH	23	272	12
F9	LINEAR	2	3	2
F10	DITCH	11	58	5
F11	DITCH	50	2,129	43
F12	GULLY	3	13	4
L2	SUBSOIL	2	233	117
L4	ACCUMULATION LAYER	6	23	4
L5	METALLING	17	140	8
L6	METALLING	21	265	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>275</b>	<b>4,962</b>	<b>18</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts.

### Roman Pottery

The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999) and the vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487) supplement with vessel forms from the Chelmsford type series (Going 1987). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BA	Unid. Gaulish samian	Mid-1st-early/mid-3rd century AD
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian	Mid-1st-late 1st century AD
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	2nd century AD
BAEG	Eastern Gaulish plain samian	Mid-2nd-early/mid-3rd century AD
BSW	Black surface ware	Roman
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman (primarily mid-1st to 2nd century AD)
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	Mid-3rd-4th century AD
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	Early 2nd-4th century AD
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	Early 2nd-3rd century AD
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	4th century AD
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	Late Iron Age to AD 200/300

HZ OX	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares	Late Iron Age to AD 200/300
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	Early 2nd-4th century AD
TZ (Col.)	Mortaria, Colchester	Mid-1st to early 3rd century AD
WA	Silvery micaceous wares	Roman
WC	Miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	Roman

**Table 3** Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

There were 207 sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of 1.7kg (Table 6) and 2.55 vessels according to the rim EVE (Tables 4-5). The mean sherd is relatively low at 8g and the material is heavily fragmented. Some of the Roman pottery has been affected by the soil conditions and the external surfaces are abraded and/or lost. The samian pottery has been particularly badly affected and lost most of its slipped surfaces.

Roman pottery was recovered from nine features and four layers. The largest assemblage is the 89 sherds with a weight of 729g and EVE of 0.83 from ditch F7 followed by ditch F8 with 22 sherds with a weight of 262g and EVE of 0.48 (Table 6).

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
BA	Unid. Gaulish samian	1	1	1	0.00
BASG	South Gaulish plain samian	6	23	4	0.23
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	2	5	2.5	0.07
BAEG	Eastern Gaulish plain samian	1	2	2	0.00
BSW	Black surface ware	1	1	1	0.00
CH	Oxidised Hadham wares	10	59	6	0.14
DJ	Coarse oxidised and related wares	10	49	5	0.10
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated wares	1	7	7	0.00
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	1	1	1	0.03
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	6	89	15	0.25
GX	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	135	846	6	1.37
HD	Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	2	7	4	0.00
HZ	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	1	3	3	0.00
HZ OX	Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares	1	2	2	0.00
KX	Black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware	1	18	18	0.07
TZ (Col.)	Mortaria, Colchester	1	11	11	0.00
WA	Silvery micaceous wares	12	254	21	0.00
WC	Miscellaneous grey and pale grey wares	11	322	29	0.07
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2.55</b>

**Table 4** Details on the Roman pottery.



Fabric Group	Form	EVE
BASG	Drag. 33	0.23
BACG	Curle 15	0.07
CH	Cam 316	0.14
DJ	Cam 288?	0.10
GA	Cam 39	0.03
GB	Cam 37B/38B	0.04
	Cam 39B	0.10
	Cam 278	0.11
GX	?	0.10
	Cam 268	0.50
	Cam 287-290	0.12
	Cam 307	0.12
	Cam 391	0.10
	G21?	0.08
	G35	0.11
	? Jar	0.10
Lid	0.14	
HD	?	0.07
HZ (OX)	Cam 273	0.07
KX	Cam 278	0.11
WC	?	0.11

**Table 5** Roman pottery quantification via vessel form.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F1	LINEAR/DITCH	1	16	16	0.12
F2	DITCH	9	55	6	0.11
F5	DITCH	1	1	1	0.00
F6	DITCH	20	206	10	0.42
F7	DITCH	89	729	8	0.83
F8	DITCH	22	262	12	0.48
F9	LINEAR	2	3	2	0.00
F10	DITCH	11	58	5	0.17
F11	DITCH	10	50	5	0.07
F12	GULLY	3	13	4	0.13
L2	SUBSOIL	1	4	4	0.00
L4	ACCUMULATION LAYER	6	23	4	0.02
L5	METALLING	14	98	7	0.00
L6	METALLING	18	239	13	0.20
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2.55</b>

**Table 6** Quantities of Roman pottery from specific features and contexts.

The Roman pottery broadly dates from the early/mid-2nd to the 4th century AD with a bias toward later Roman pottery of the 3rd-4th centuries AD. Notable sherds included a Cam 316 (copy of the Drag. 38) in fabric CH (oxidised Hadham ware) dating to AD 280-400 from ditch F7. Sherds of oxidised Hadham ware (fabric CH) dating to AD 250/275-425 were also recovered from ditch F10. Ditch F8, gully F12, metalling L5 and metalling L6, contained sherds of possible Hadham reduced pottery (fabric GX/HAD RE 1) dating to AD 250/275-425.

Examples of the Cam 268 cooking pot in fabric GX (other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares), dating to AD 125/150-280/320 came from ditches F6, F7, F8 and F10. Notably, there are no examples of the earlier Cam 266 cooking pot which was current during the period AD 43-80. Ditch F7 contained a possible G21 Braughing jar in fabric GX (other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares) of later form dating to the 3rd-4th centuries AD (Going 1987, 25). A Cam 307 wide-mouthed globular bowl or jar with a lid-seated rim, dating to AD 180/220-400, was recovered from linear/ditch F1. A G35 narrow-necked jar in fabric GX (other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares) dating to AD 300-400 (Going 1987, 26) was recovered from ditch F5. Rare sherds of shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares (fabric HD) dating from the early 4th century AD onwards were recovered from ditches F7 and F8, and metalling L5. The only vessel from ditch F8 was a cooking pot slightly similar to some examples from Colchester (CAR 10, 459 fig. 6.110 nos. 16-18).

There was also a small quantity of black-burnished ware and related pottery in fabrics GA, GB, and KX with examples of the Cam 37B/38B (AD 180-275), Cam 39A (AD 140-400), Cam 39B (AD 140-300) and Cam 278 (AD 117-250/260) (Table 5). These vessel came from the ditches F7, F8 and F10, gully F12 and metalling L6.

A late Roman date for the pottery assemblage is also indicated by the presence of some possible Rettendon style locally-produced grey wares (fabric GX with flint temper) from ditch F7, which at Chelmsford is dated from the late 3rd to the 4th century AD (Going 1987, 10).

It is worth noting the presence of a Cam 287-290 facepot in fabric GX (other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares) from ditch F6 and possible Cam 288 facepot in fabric DJ (coarse oxidised and related wares) from ditch F7. Facepots date from the Claudian period until c AD 300 (Bidwell & Croom 1999, 480-481). Finally, there was one southern Gaulish samian (fabric BASG) Drag. 33 (Table 5) dating to AD 43-100 which came from ditch F8.

### Post-Roman pottery

There was a small quantity of post-Roman pottery with eight sherds with a weight of 43g and 0.09 vessels according to the EVE (Table 8). All of this material came from ditch F11 and three fabrics are represented dating from the 11th to the 15th-19th/20th century (Table 7). The only diagnostic vessel was a metal copy baluster jug in Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) dating to c 1400/1425-1550 (Cotter 2000, 117-118 fig. 74 no. 23).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	11th-early 13th century
F21	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century

**Table 7** Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	2	10	5	0.00
F21	Colchester-type ware	3	18	6	0.09
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	3	15	5	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.09</b>

**Table 8** Details on the post-Roman pottery.

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were 60 sherds of CBM with a weight of just over 3kg with a mean sherd weight of only 53g (Table 9). Sherds of CBM were recovered from seven features and three layers (Table 10). The largest assemblage of CBM is the 32 sherds with a weight of just over 2kg from ditch F11 followed by ditch F7 with 14 sherds weighing 759g (Table 10).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW
<b>Roman</b>				
RI	Roman imbrex	1	229	229
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	17	755	44
RFT	Roman flue-tile	3	86	29
<b>Post-Roman</b>				
PT	Peg-tile	33	1,906	58
BR	Brick	1	148	148
<b>Undated</b>				
Baked clay		2	12	6
Daub		3	26	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>53</b>

**Table 9** CBM by period and type.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	DITCH	2	19	10
F3	LINEAR	2	29	15
F4	? POST HOLE	1	6	6
F5	DITCH	1	6	6
F7	DITCH	14	759	54
F8	DITCH	1	10	10
F11	DITCH	32	2,036	64
L2	SUBSOIL	1	229	229
L5	METALLING	3	42	14
L6	METALLING	3	26	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>3,162</b>	<b>53</b>

**Table 10** Quantities of CBM by features and layers

Roman CBM was recovered from the ditches F2, F5, F7, F8 and F11, along with subsoil L2 and metalling L5. Noteworthy pieces included a sherd of Roman flue-tile with a roller stamped design of die 9 (Photograph 4), dating from the mid/late 2nd century AD (Betts *et al.* 1997, 54 fig. 27b 9, 76-77) which came from ditch F7. A combed Roman flue-tile was also recovered from metalling L5.



**Photograph 4** F7 roller stamped flue tile

Post-Roman CBM mostly consists of sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile which were recovered from the linear F3, post-hole F4 and ditch F11. Finally, a fragment of post-medieval brick was recovered from ditch F11.

#### **Baked Clay**

A small quantity of daub (three pieces at 26g) came from metalling L6.

#### **Conclusion**

Table 11 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and other contexts which produced dateable pottery and ceramic finds. Most of the features date from the 3rd to the end of the 4th century AD, although there is a small quantity of earlier material dating to the 2nd century AD. The large quantity of pottery including cooking pots, jars and storage vessels, suggests the presence of a Roman settlement or given the sherds of flue-tile a nearby villa dating from the mid/late 2nd century onwards. Finally, a small number of features (F3, F4, F11) date to the medieval/post-medieval period.



Context	Roman pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date approx.
F1	GX (Cam 307)	-	-	AD 180/220-400
F2	DJ, GX (G35)	-	RBT	AD 300-400
F3	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F4	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F5	GX	-	RBT	Medieval/post-medieval
F6	DJ, EA, GX (Cam 268, Cam 287-290, Cam 391), HZ, WA	-	-	AD 225/250-425
F7	BA, BAEG, BSW, CH (Cam 316), DJ (Cam 288?), GB (Cam 278), GX (Cam 268, G21), HD, HZ OX (Cam 273), WC	-	RBT, RFT (die 9)	AD 325/350-400
F8	BASG (Drag. 33), DJ, GB (Cam 39B), GX (Cam 268), HD (?)	-	RBT	AD 325/350-425
F9	GX	-	-	Roman
F10	CH, GX (Cam 268), KX (Cam 278)	-	-	AD 250/275-425
F11	BACG (Curle 15), GB, GX	F13, F21 (metal copy baluster jug), F40	RBT, BR, PT	AD 1400-1800
F12	GX (Jar), GA (Cam 39)	-	-	AD 140-400
L2	GX	-	RI	Roman
L4	DJ, GX (Lid)	-	-	Roman
L5	DJ, HD, HZ OX, GX	-	RBT RFT	AD 325/350-425
L6	DJ, GB (Cam 37B/38B), HZ, HZ OX (Cam 273), GX (Lid), TZ (Col.)	-	-	AD 180-275

**Table 11** Approximate dates for the individual features and layers.

## 6.2 Small Finds

by Laura Pooley

Four small finds came from Roman ditches F7 and F10, with a fifth recovered as a residual find within post-medieval ditch F11. A 4th-century nummus of Constantius II from the Trier mint dating AD 330-335 (SF1) and a piece of lava quernstone (SF2) both came from ditch F7. From ditch F10 was a copper-alloy ring (SF3) and a possible polishing or rubbing stone (SF4). Another second fragment of lava quernstone (SF5) was also recovered from ditch F11. All of these finds would indicate Roman settlement activity somewhere in the vicinity of the site.

**SF1, Fig 5.1:** F7, finds no. 9. Roman nummus of Constantius II, Trier mint, general date AD 330-335. Generally in good condition but damaged on part of edge.

Reverse: Bust right, laureate, draped and curiassed, FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB [C].

Obverse: Two soldiers holding spears and shields with two standards between them, GLORIAEX[ERC]-ITVS. Mintmark in exergue: TR dot P.

Die axis: 6; diameter: 18.1mm; weight: 1.2g.

**SF2, Fig 5.3:** F7, finds no 11. Fragment of lava quernstone (now with two small joining fragments broken off of two corners). Lower stone, includes curved outer edge and part of the

central hole. Outer surface flat and smooth with slight curved indentation around central hole. Grinding surface slightly convex and dressed with segmented furrows. Total dimensions: 210mm long, 162mm wide (max), 28.1mm thick, 1,124g.

**SF3, Fig 5.2:** F10, finds no. 18. Copper alloy ring. Oval in plan, rectangular in cross-section, damage to edges makes it difficult to determine if the ring was originally penannular or, probably more likely, if it is simply broken and incomplete. External: 21.03mm by 18.3mm; internal: 15.24mm by 15.96mm; ring: 3.14mm wide by 1.97mm thick (across least damaged section); 0.7g.

**SF4, Fig 5.4:** F10, finds no, 19. Possible polishing or rubbing stone. Roughly spherical stone pebble, c 63mm by 60mm by 57mm, 290.7g. No obvious signs of being utilised on the surface, but could possibly have been a polishing or rubbing stone.

**SF5, Fig 5.5:** F11, finds no. 23. Fragment of lava quernstone. Includes part of the curved outer edge with furrowing on one surface, other surface damaged. 123.4mm long, 86.0mm wide (max), 54.5mm thick, 743.0g.

### 6.3 Lithics

*By Adam Wightman*

Five struck flints were recovered from three Roman ditches during the archaeological evaluation. Two hard-hammer-struck flakes were recovered from ditch F1. Both flakes exhibited evidence of edge-wear or use-damage which could have occurred when the flakes were loose in the topsoil before they became incorporated in the fill of ditch F1. The platform of one of the flakes had been prepared prior to removal of the flake. This technique is characteristic of the core reduction methodologies used in the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic. Two worked flints were recovered from ditch F6. A small waste piece was collected from the lower fill and a small retouched flake with two retouched notches on the right lateral edge came from the upper fill. A small waste flake was also recovered from ditch F8.

Context	Fill	Find no.	Type	cortex %	hard/ soft hammer	platform prep	modification
F1		1	flake	0	hard	yes	edge-damage or use-wear
			flake	5	hard	no	edge-damage or use-wear
F6	lower	16	?waste piece	0			
	upper	17	retouched flake	0	hard	no	semi-abrupt retouch on left lateral and two retouched notches on right lateral
F8		14	waste flake	0	hard	no	

**Table 12** Struck flint from evaluation contexts

All of the flints were residual in later contexts and were scattered across the investigation area in low levels. There are no truly diagnostic pieces present in the assemblage so it is difficult to assign dates. However, it is likely that the struck flints from the evaluation represent prehistoric activity at the site, or in the close vicinity, during the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods or perhaps maybe later.

### 6.4 Miscellaneous finds

*By Laura Pooley*

A fragment of 19th- to 20th-century clear bottle glass (14g) and an iron nail (25.6g) came from ditch F5 (finds no.5). Both have been discarded.

### 6.5 Animal Bone

*By Alec Wade*

The evaluation produced 13 pieces of animal bone weighing a total of 26g from three ditches dated to the Roman (F2 and F7) and Post-medieval periods (F11). Two species were identified from the Roman contexts, cattle, and horse, both from tooth fragments. Three small pieces of unidentifiable bone were recovered from an environmental sample taken from the later dated ditch F11.

Context	Find or sample number	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F2	2	8	14	Cattle	Tooth fragments (molar).
F7	Sample <1>	3	2	Unidentified	Unidentified fragments. One small piece appears to have been cut but it is unclear if this is resulting from bone working or butchery.
F11	22	2	10	Horse	Tooth fragments.
<b>Total</b>		13	26		

**Table 13** Animal bone by context

## 7 Environmental Assessment

*By Laura Pooley*

A single sample of 10L was taken from Roman ditch F7. It was floated by CAT staff and produced 7.6g of charcoal and no other environmental remains. No further analysis of the charcoal will take place at this evaluation phase.

## 8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land at Watch House Green revealed 12 features and a metalled surface. The earliest remains were in the form of a small assemblage of struck flints, all found in later-dated features but indicating activity on or close to the development site in the Mesolithic or Neolithic periods, or possibly later.

Eight ditches/gullies and the metalled surface dated to the Roman period, with a higher concentration of features located in the trenches to the south of the development site. The ditches/gullies may form part of a wider field system, with the ditches in T3 and T4 probably forming part of the same boundary. Dating evidence recovered suggests that the main period of activity was focussed in the 3rd to the 4th century. Construction of the metalled surface cannot be closely dated as the only finds recovered came from the surface of the layer, but it was cut by later Roman ditches F7 and F10 so must be of an earlier date. The metalled surface could represent a trackway or working surface, but more archaeological investigation would be needed to interpret this layer further. The types of finds recovered (cooking pots, jars, storage vessels, flue-tile and small finds) suggest the site is in the vicinity of a Roman farmstead or villa. Located 1.8km south of the main Roman road running from Colchester to Braughing (Stane Street), previous investigations in the district have revealed a number of farmsteads and villas spread out on both sides of this road (ECC 2009, 45), with the Roman towns at Great Dunmow and Braintree located c 6.5km to the west and east.

Post-medieval and modern ditches F3, F5 and F11 likely represent backfilled field boundaries.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Darren Stevens and Dengie Construction Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner and A Wightman with N Pryke and M Seehra. Figures are by C Lister, A Wightman and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

## 10 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- |                                |       |   |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|
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| CAT                            | 2021  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and excavation at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3EF</i> By L Pooley             |
| <b>CAR 10</b>                  | 1999  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> By R Symonds and S Wade  |
| CIfA                           | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| CIfA                           | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| ECC                            | 2009  | <i>Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Project</i>  |
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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record



feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** Part of one box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1660)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1660)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

## 13 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Waldon museum under accession code SAFWM:2021.15.

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### **Distribution list:**

Darren Stevens, Dengie Construction Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date:

## Appendix 1 Context list

Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
All	L1	-	Topsoil	firm moist dark grey/brown clay silt	Modern
All	L2	-	Subsoil	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay	Undated
All	L3	-	Natural	firm moist medium orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
T5	L4	6	Accumulation	soft moist medium orange/grey sandy clay with charcoal flecks, tile flecks	Roman
T5	L5	7	Metalled surface	soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 70%	Roman 4th century
T5	L6	20	Metalled surface	soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 70%	Roman 2nd-3rd century
1	F1	1	ditch	very firm dry medium brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 10%	Roman 2nd-4th century
3	F2	2, 13	ditch	soft moist medium orange/grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1%	Roman 4th century
3	F3	3	linear	firm moist light/medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: tile/brick 5%	Post-medieval
2	F4	4	?post-hole	hard moist medium green/grey silty clay and inclusions of: tile/brick 5%	Post-medieval
2	F5	5	ditch	soft moist dark grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: tile/brick 10%	Modern
4	F6	16, 17	ditch	firm medium/dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 40%	3rd-4th century
5	F7	8, 9, 10, 11, 12	ditch	soft moist medium orange/grey/brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 40%	Roman 4th century
5	F8	14	ditch	firm dry dark grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 25% tile/brick 5% pot 15%	Roman 4th century
5	F9	15	linear	hard dry medium/dark orange/grey silty clay and inclusions of: gravel 30% stone 15% pot 5%	Roman
5	F10	18, 19	ditch	firm medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: gravel 35%	Roman 3rd-4th century
4	F11	21, 22, 23	ditch	firm dry medium/dark grey/brown silty clay with daub flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 5% tile/brick 15% pot 15%	Post-medieval
5	F12	24	gully	firm dry medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: pot 20%	Roman

## Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wind	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin Lin.	Gritted	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F001	LINEAR/DITCH	1		1	16	16		1	0	0																				GX	Cam 307	0.12	140		AD 180/220-400	
F002	DITCH	2		1	1	1																								DJ					ROMAN	
F002	DITCH	2		8	54	7		1	0	0																				GX	G35	0.11	160		AD 300-400	
F005	DITCH	5		1	1	1	X																							GX					ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	16		1	37	37		1	0	0							X													GX	CAM 268	0.20	160		AD 125/150-280/320	
F006	DITCH	16		1	7	7																								HZ					LIA-AD 200/300	
F006	DITCH	16		1	3	3											X	X												GX					ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	16		2	12	6																								GX				HADHAM RED? VFINE S & COMMON MICA	ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	16		1	8	8																								DJ				OXID HADHAM? NO BURNISHING	ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	16		3	32	11		2	0	0																				GX	CAM 287-290	0.12	175		AD 43-300	
F006	DITCH	16																												GX	CAM 391	0.10	130		AD 110/125-180/210	
F006	DITCH	16		1	2	2												X												GX					ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	17		1	31	31		0	0	1																				HZ					LIA-AD 200/300	
F006	DITCH	17		6	28	5																								GX					ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	17		1	35	35																								WA					ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	17		1	4	4																								GX				HADHAM RED?	ROMAN	
F006	DITCH	17		1	7	7																								EA				BROWN SLIP, SLIGHTLY COARSER	AD 225/250-425	
F007	DITCH	8		4	121	30																								HZ					LIA-AD 200/300	
F007	DITCH	8		5	133	27		1	0	0																				HZ OX	CAM 273	0.03	480		AD 43-200/300	
F007	DITCH	8		1	33	33		1	0	0													X							CH	CAM 316	0.14	170	FLANGE, NO TRACE OF BURNISHING, DRAG. 38 COPY	AD 280-400	
F007	DITCH	8		5	16	3																	X							CH				? LOST ALL BURNISHING	c.AD 250/275-425	
F007	DITCH	8		1	10	10																	X							DJ				FLAGON NECK?	ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	8		1	19	19		0	0	1																				GB					AD 110-300	
F007	DITCH	8		26	184	7		3	0	3																				GX	?	0.02?			ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	8																												GX	?	0.08	160		ROMAN	

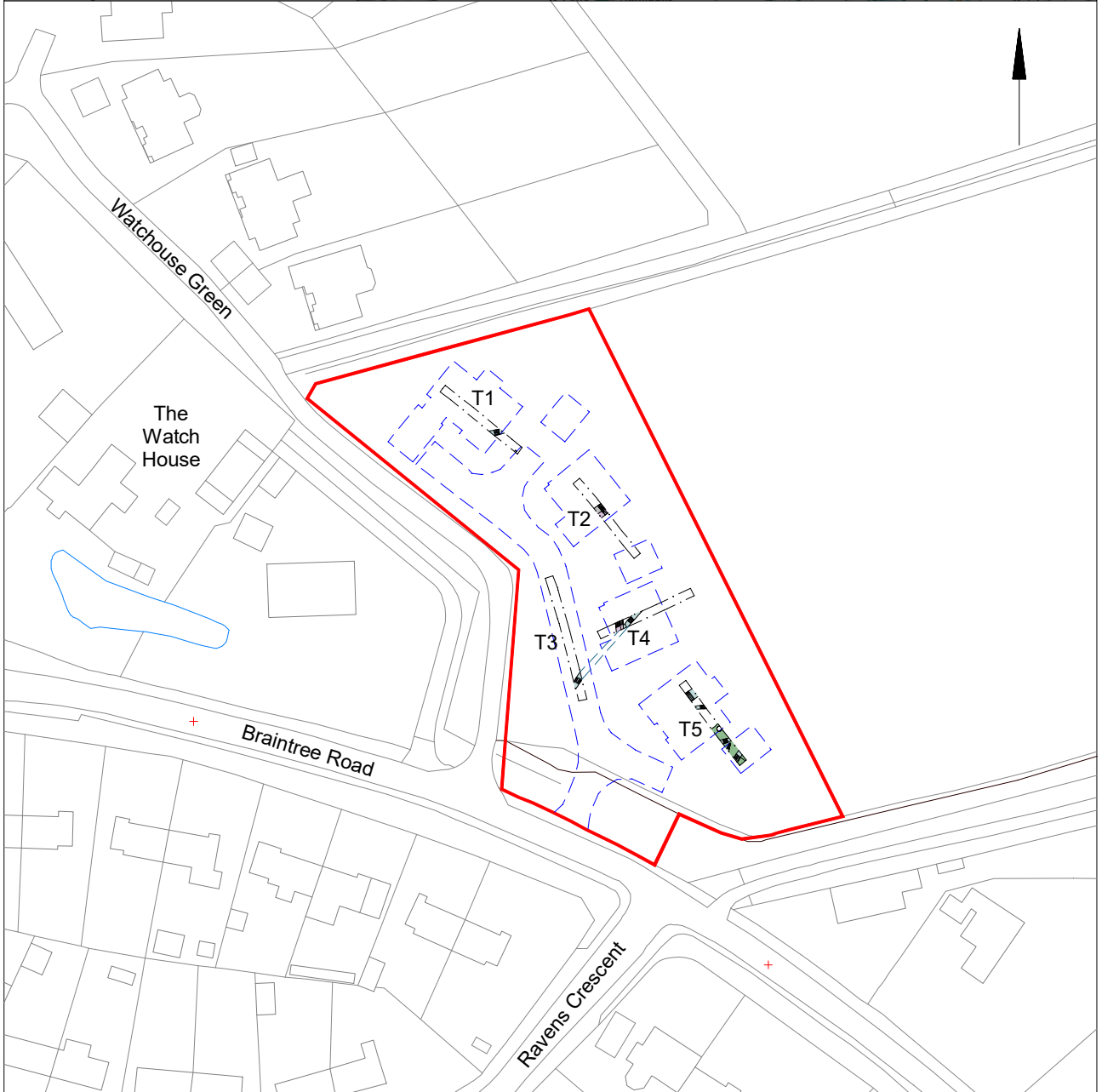
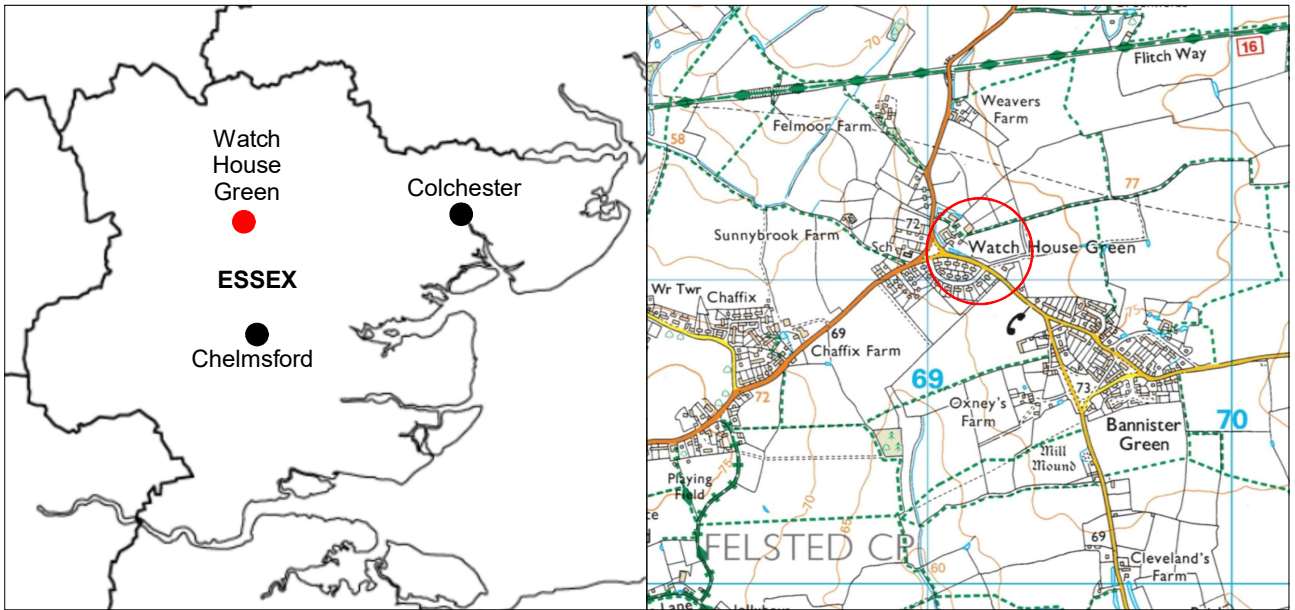


Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wmd	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin Lin.	Gritted	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F007	DITCH	8																												GX	G21?	0.08	185		AD 100/200-400	
F007	DITCH	8		1	40	40																								GX				FREQ C FL RETTENDON	ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	8		1	3	3																								GX				RARE FLINT/CHERT RETTENDON	ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	8		3	37	12		0	0	3																				GX					ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	8		1	6	6		1	0	0																				WC	?	0.11	70		ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	8		1	8	8		1	0	0																				DJ	CAM 288	0.10	110	FRILLED RIM?	AD 43-300	
F007	DITCH	8		1	2	2																	X							BAEG					AD 150-260	
F007	DITCH	8		1	1	1																								BA				?	AD 43-260	
F007	DITCH	8		1	3	3																								HD (B)				HANDMADE, BROWN SURF., BLACK CORE, RARE SHELL	AD 325/350-425	
F007	DITCH	8		1	12	12		1	0	0																				GB	CAM 278	0.11	150		AD 117-250/260	
F007	DITCH	8		2	7	4																								GX				BLACK SURFCE	ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	8		1	6	6																								GX				COARSE FL & CH RETTENDON	ROMAN	
F007	DITCH	10		11	46	4		2	0	0																				GX	CAM 268	0.16	125		AD 125/150-280/320	
F007	DITCH	12		1	1	1																								GX					ROMAN	
F007	DITCH		1	13	24	2																								GX					ROMAN	
F007	DITCH		1	1	1	1																								BSW					ROMAN	
F007	DITCH		1	1	2	2																								HD (K)					AD 325/350-425	
F007	DITCH		1	5	14	3		0	0	1																				GX					ROMAN	
F008	DITCH	14		3	60	20																								HZ					LIA-AD 200/300	
F008	DITCH	14		4	52	13																								GX					ROMAN	
F008	DITCH	14		3	55	18		1	0	1																				GX	CAM 268	0.08	210	HADHAM RED?	AD 125/150-280/320	
F008	DITCH	14		1	2	2																								GX					ROMAN	
F008	DITCH	14		1	2	2																								DJ					ROMAN	
F008	DITCH	14		1	7	7																								DJ					ROMAN	
F008	DITCH	14		2	43	22		2	0	0							X													GB	CAM 39B	0.06	180		AD 140-300	
F008	DITCH	14															X													GB	CAM 39B	0.04	220		AD 140-300	
F008	DITCH	14		1	18	18		1	0	0																				HD (L)	?	0.07	190	CAR 10, 459 fig. 6.110 no. 16-18	AD 325/350-425	
F008	DITCH	14		6	23	4		2	0	0													X							BASG	DRAG 33	0.23	110		AD 43-100	









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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



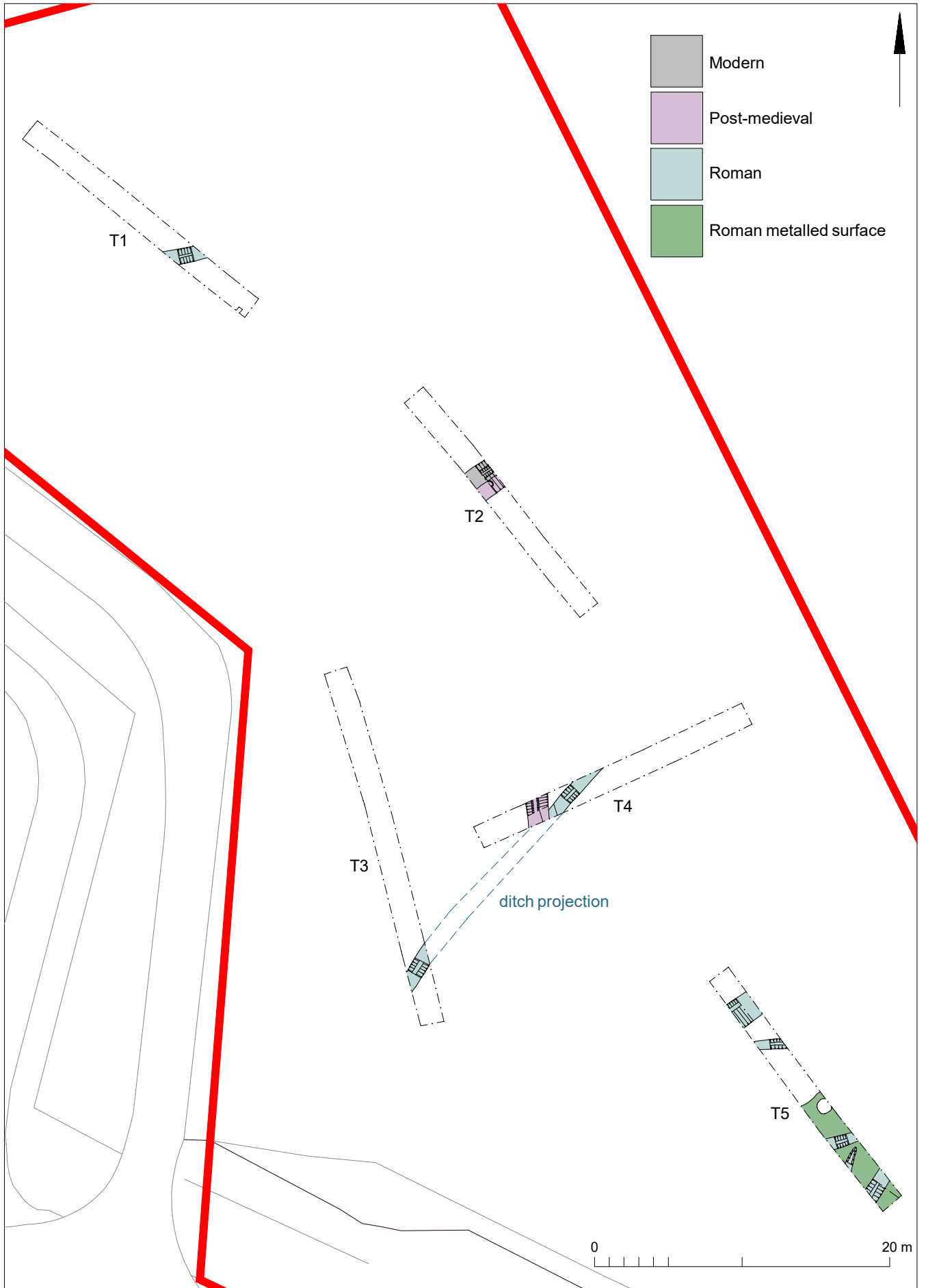


Fig 2 Results.

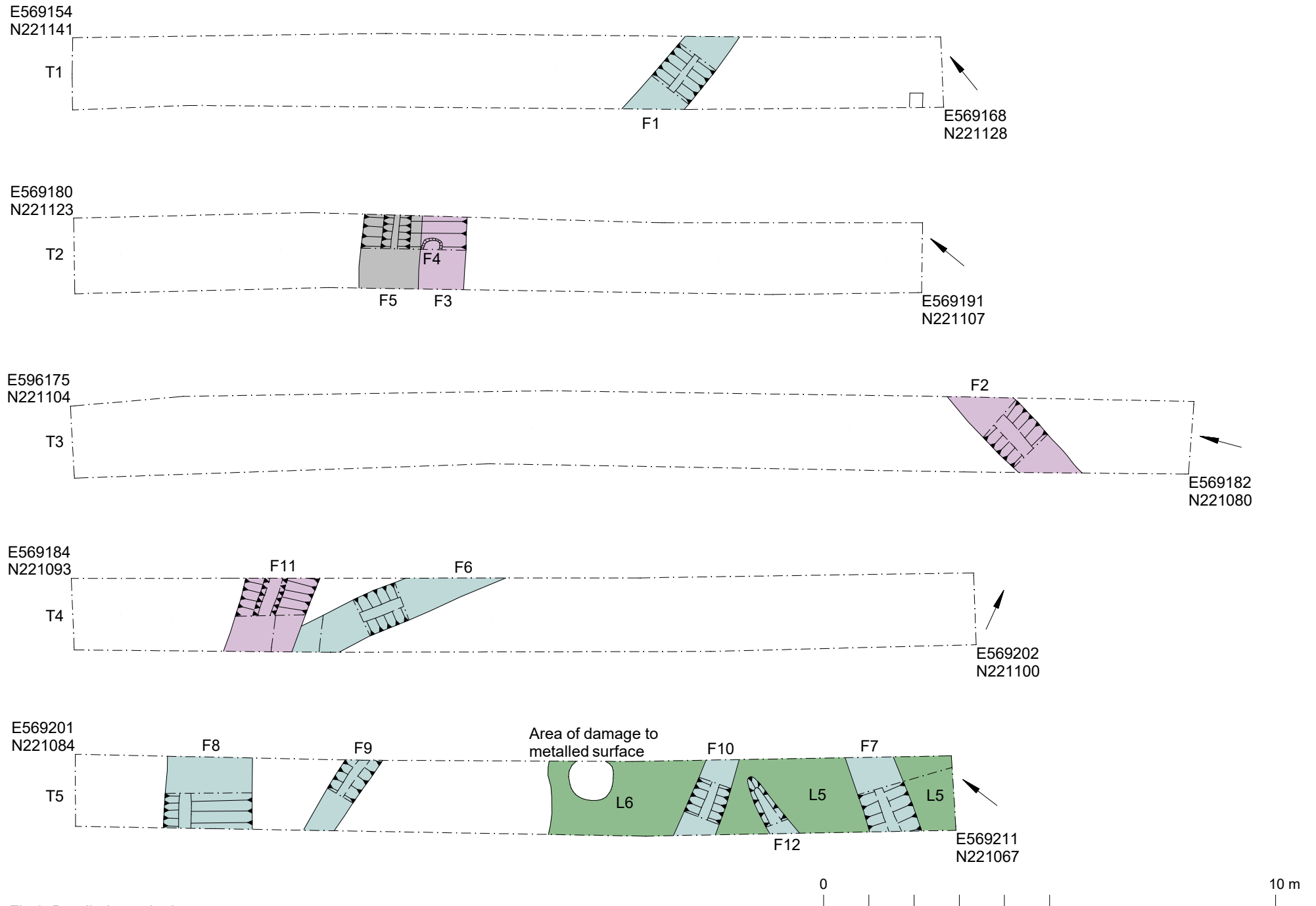


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans.

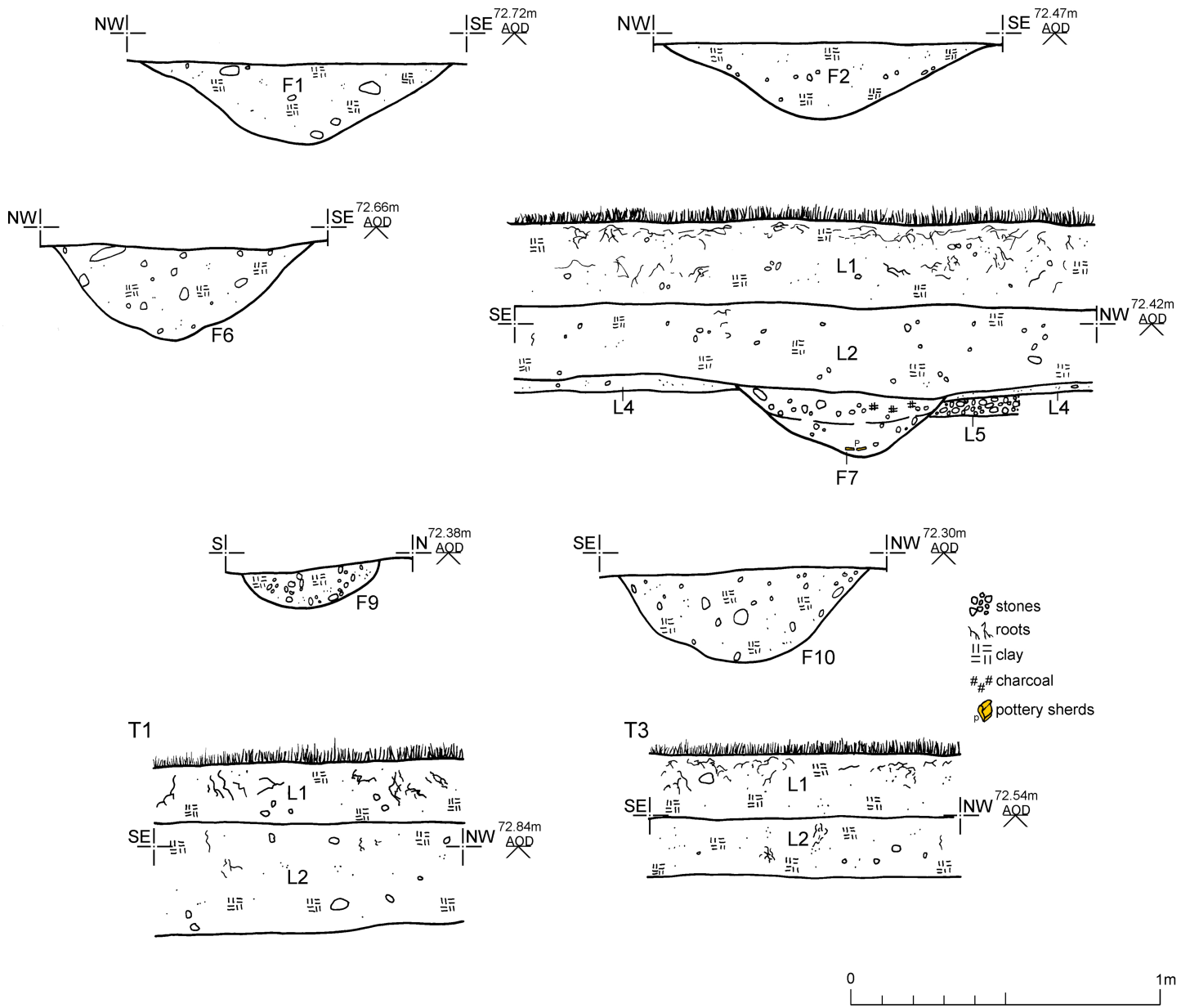


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

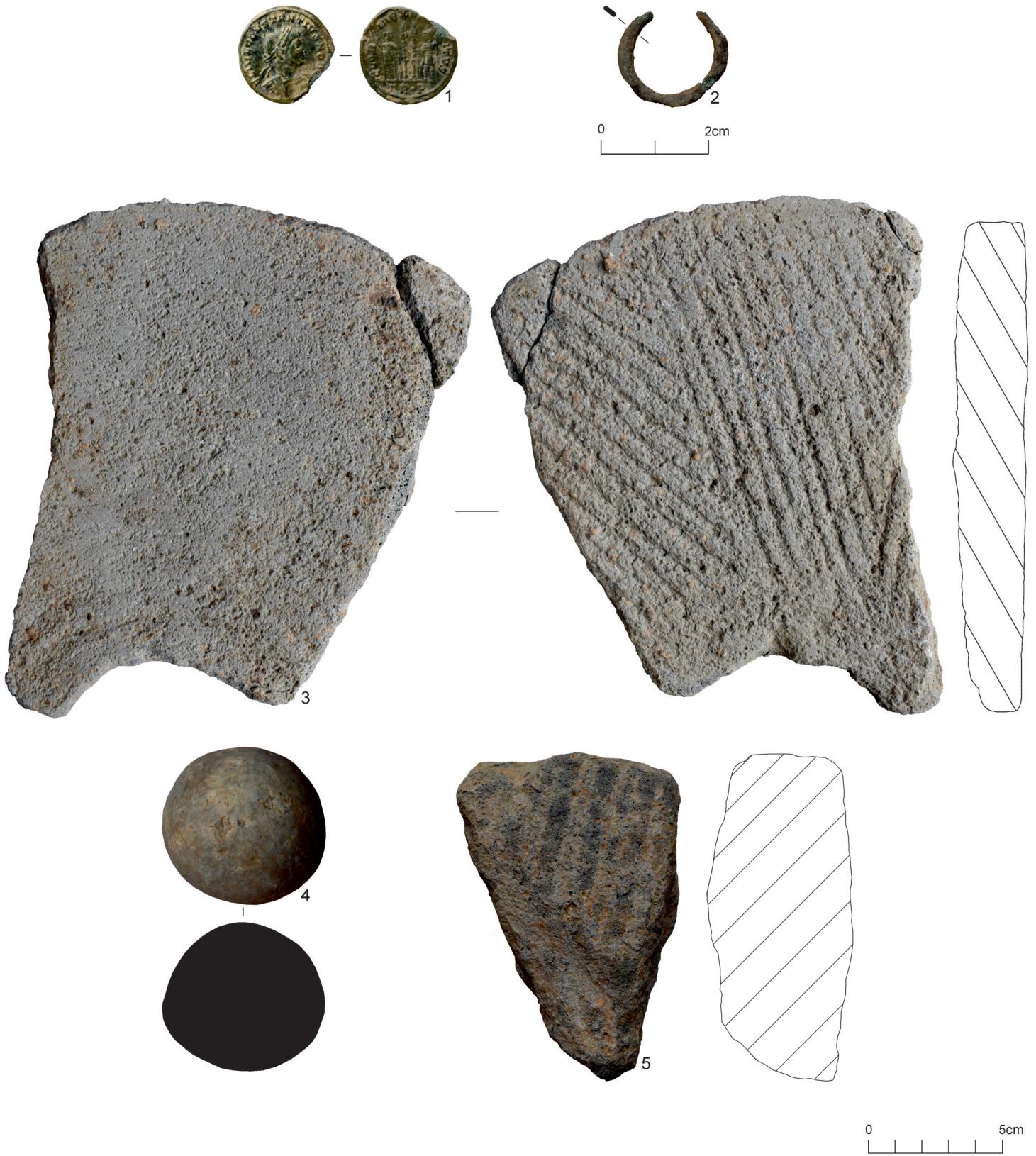


Fig 5 Small finds.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-417399**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3EF
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex, in advance of the construction of four new dwellings. The site is located east of a 17th-century timber-framed house (The Watch House) and to the southeast of a 16th-century timber-framed barn. Nearby evaluation works have uncovered features dating from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval period. In total twelve cut features (eleven ditches and one post-hole) and a metal surface were identified in this evaluation. The predominant phase of activity present was from the Roman period, except three ditches and post-hole that were post-medieval or later in date.
Project dates	Start: 21-04-2021 End: 22-05-2021
Previous/future work	Not known / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	2021/03f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/20/2375 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	WHSW21 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM:2021.15 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	METALLED SURFACE Roman
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	POST-HOLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	RING Roman
Significant Finds	QUERN STONE Roman
Significant Finds	RUBBING STONE Roman
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD FELSTED land at Watch House Green
Postcode	CM6 3EF

Study area 0.51 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 69168 21101 51.862322593683 0.45707867292 51 51 44 N 000 27 25 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 72.23m Max: 72.34m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Project brief originator HEM Team Officer, ECC  
 Project design originator Laura Pooley  
 Project director/manager Chris Lister  
 Project supervisor Adam Wightman  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum  
 Physical Archive ID SAFWM:2021.15  
 Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"  
 Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient SAFWM 2008.78  
 Paper Archive ID SAFWM:2021.15  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological evaluation on land at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3EF: April 2021  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Veasey, S  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1660  
 Date 2021  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
 Description A4 loose-leaf comb-bound  
 URL cat.essex.ac.uk  
 Entered by Sarah Veasey (sv@catuk.org)  
 Entered on 8 June 2021

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and excavation on land at Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3EF**

**NGR:** TL 69198 21101 (centre)

**District:** Uttlesford

**Parish:** Felsted

**Planning reference:** UTT/20/2375/FUL

**Commissioned by:** Darren Stevens

**Client:** Dengie Construction Ltd

**Curating museum:** Saffron Walden

**Museum accession number:** SAFWM: 2021.15

**ECC project code:** WHSW21

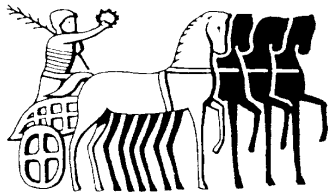
**CAT project code:** 2021/03f

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-417399

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**ECC monitor:** Katie Lee-Smith

**This WSI written:** 15/03/2021



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site currently comprises a small field to the east of Watch House Green, Felsted, Essex (Fig 1). Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 69198 21101.

## Proposed work

The planning application proposes the construction of four detached dwellings and garages with new access off Braintree Road.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The EHER shows that the proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological remains. It is located to the east of The Watch House, a 17th-century or earlier timber-framed house (EHER 37001) and to the southeast of a 16th-century timber-framed barn associated with the house (EHER 37000). Both buildings are listed. The site is also located to the north/northwest of an area of recorded cropmarks which include a square enclosure, linear features and pits (EHER 1356).

An archaeological evaluation c 300m to the north of the site revealed a Roman ditch, medieval ditches, gullies and pits, and post-medieval/modern field boundary ditches (EHER 49073). Another evaluation c 350m northeast revealed medieval, post-medieval and undated ditches (EHER 49494).

## Planning background

The original planning application (UTT/20/2375) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in September 2020 proposing the *construction of 4 no. detached dwellings and garages with new access off Braintree Road*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains a phased full archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

## Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work will consist of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECCPS (*Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation on land at Watch House Green, Felsted – ECC 2021*).

As per the brief, 4% of the development site will be evaluated. This works out at 105m of trenching at 1.8m wide. It is proposed that four 20m long trenches will be positioned within the footprints of the proposed new dwellings, with a single 25m long trench within the new access road.

Specific areas of interest are:

- Potential continuation of features shown in cropmark evidence in the adjacent areas
- Evidence for Roman occupation and activity

Further area excavation may be required should significant archaeological deposits/features be identified that cannot be preserved *in situ*. This will be decided by the ECCHEA on completion of the trial-trenching and report.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2021)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to ECCHEA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT project officer and two archaeologists for two day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Mark Baister/Ben Holloway/Nigel Rayner

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the ECCHEA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proformarecord sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the ECCHEA.

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or ECCHEA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the ECCHEA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc.: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to ECCHEA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

### **Post-excavation assessment**

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

### **Results**

Notification will be given to ECCHEA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects ([paul.gilman@me.com](mailto:paul.gilman@me.com)).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

### **Archive deposition**

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

The paper archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within two months of the completion of the final publication report and confirmed in writing to the ECCHEA.

The digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service ([www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk](http://www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the ECCHEA at the time of their deposition.

## Monitoring

ECCHEA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given ECCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with ECCHEA prior to them being carried out.

ECCHEA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of ECCHEA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- |                               |       |  |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J      | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT                           | 2020  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CIfA                          | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>   |
| CIfA                          | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                                      |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013  | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>   |
| ECCPS                         | 2020  | <i>Brief for Trial Trenching &amp; Excavation on land at Watch House Green, Felsted</i> by K Lee-Smith   |
| Gurney, D                     | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).                                     |
| Historic England (HE)         | 2015  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>  |
| Historic England (HE)         | 2018  | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell  |
| Medlycott, M                  | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)             |
| MHCLG                         | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.  |



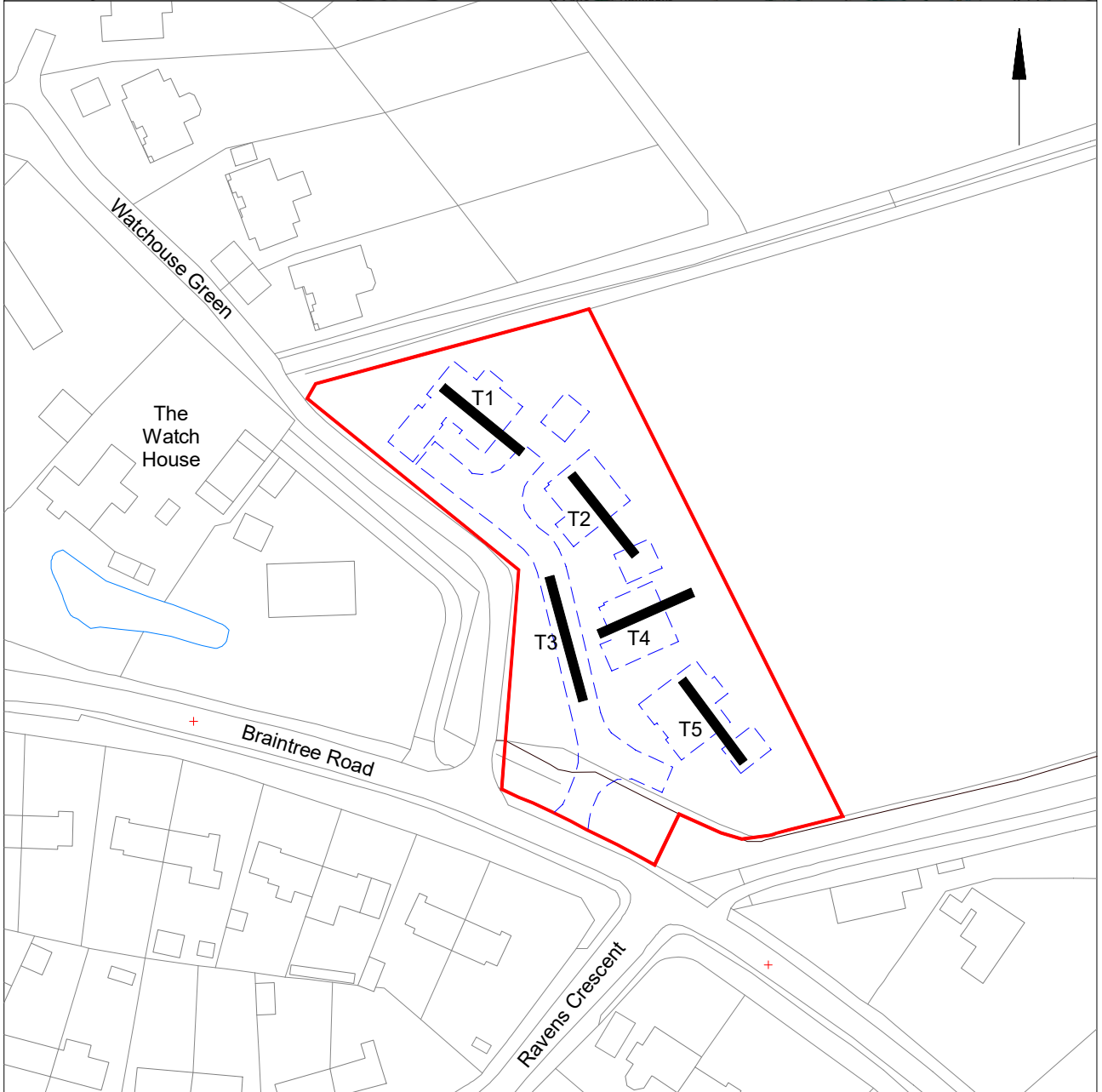
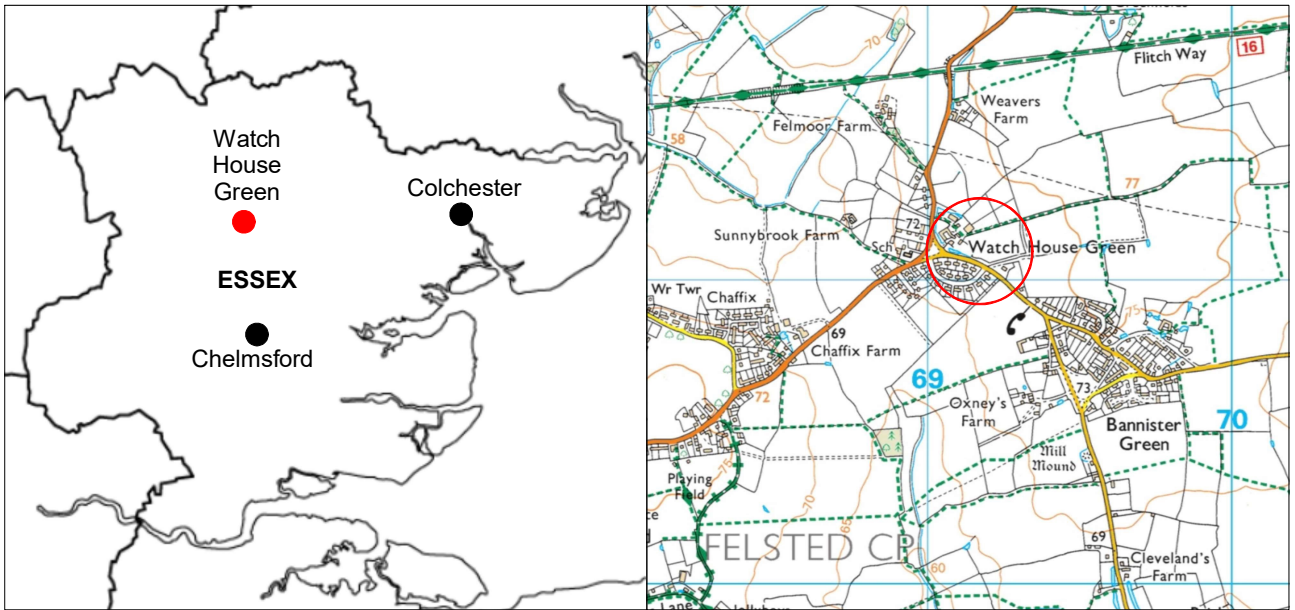
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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).