

Archaeological evaluation on land north of Rolphs Cottage, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, Essex, CM65 3TB

March 2022



by Harvey Furniss

with contributions by Laura Pooley

figures by Chris Lister, Nick Pryke and Harvey Furniss
fieldwork by Harvey Furniss and Oliver Windridge

**commissioned by Neville Rice
on behalf of Blasford Hill Fisheries**

NGR: TL 70737 11796 (centre)

Planning ref.: CHL/21/02140/FUL

CAT project ref.: 2022/02h

ECC code: LWNRC22

Chelmsford Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

OASIS ref.: colchest3-504794



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CAT Report 1785

March 2022

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land north of Rolphs Cottage, Little Waltham, Essex in advance of the construction of a fisherman's lodge. There are several nearby archaeological sites including a Roman settlement to the south-east and a multiperiod settlement and scheduled monument to the north. However, no archaeological remains were revealed by the evaluation.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land north of Rolphs Cottage, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, Essex which was carried out on the 4th March 2022. The work was commissioned by Neville Rice on behalf of Blasford Hill Fisheries in advance of the construction of a fisherman's lodge with associated parking and landscaping.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Mark Baister 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 Programme of Archaeological evaluation and excavation at site North of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham* (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 2016), 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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background 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 development site is located within an area of Roman settlement remains uncovered during excavations in the 1950s. Substantial amounts of Roman pottery were recovered, along with evidence for a timber-framed building with a gravel floor (EHER 6088). The settlement was dated to the 2nd century AD and postulated to be extensive. The site is also directly adjacent to the route of the Chelmsford-Braintree-Long Melford Roman road (EHER 6057).

Some 900m to the north north-west is "Settlement site at Ash Tree Corner", a Scheduled Monument (NHLE no 1002140). Excavations in the vicinity of the monument, during work for the Little Waltham bypass in the 1970s, uncovered an extensive multi-period landscape ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the 14th century (EHERs 6182, 6183, 6184, 6185, 6186, 6187, 6188). Remains included evidence of prehistoric and Roman buildings, the Chelmsford-Braintree Roman road, cremation burials, a 2nd-/3rd-century well, and a substantial Iron Age settlement with at least three major occupation phases.

An excavation c 400m to the south of the site in 1995 uncovered a Late Bronze Age sub-rectangular enclosure containing the remains of a farmstead (EHER 6142). The presence of multiple cropmark concentrations to the east and north-east of the development site (EHERs

7345, 8942, 8942) suggests that the multi-period landscape uncovered during these previous investigations extends into the surrounding fields.

An archaeological evaluation and excavation c 175m north-west of the current was site carried out by CAT in November 2021 (CAT Report 1746) and February 2022 (CAT Report 1786 in preparation). The site can be summarised as a series of pits and ditches dating from the Late Iron Age to the early Roman period with significant features including the corner of an enclosure ditch, a substantial possible roadside ditch and trackway.

Additionally, 15th- and 17th-/18th-century timber-framed houses (EHERs 30675, 30681, 30677, 30678, 30679), a 17th-century malthouse (EHERs 15017, 48532) and a listed post-medieval red brick house (EHER 30680) are located to the south of the development site.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were 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 2-3)

Two evaluation trenches were machine excavated through the footprint of the proposed dwelling under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Laid out in a T-shape, the trenches measured 7.5m and 8.5m long by 1.8m wide, and were cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.22m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.35m thick) into natural (L3, identified at a depth of 0.46-0.55m below current ground level). There were no archaeological remains in either trench.



Photograph 1 Trench 2 – view east



Photograph 2 Trench 1 – view north



Photograph 3 Representative section – view north

6 Conclusion

Despite being located immediately east of a proposed Roman road and just south of Late Iron Age and Roman remains at land north-west of Montpellier Villa, both trenches were devoid of archaeological remains. The location of the development site in conjunction to the nearby works to the north-west showed that we are still very much in a farming landscape during the Roman period whereby archaeology is witnessed in a ‘feast or famine’ context. The inconsistency in archaeological remains becomes apparent on rural sites and generally across rural landscapes.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Neville Rice and Blasford Hill Fisheriers for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by H Furniss and O Windridge. Figures were compiled by C Lister, H Furniss and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Mark Baister.

8 References

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

| | | |
|------------------|-------|--|
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land north of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill Fisheries, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, Essex, CM6 3TB</i> , by S Veasey |
| CAT Report 1746 | 2021 | <i>Archaeological evaluation and monitoring on land north-west of Montpellier Villa, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, CM3 3PG</i> , by S Veasey |
| CAT Report 1786 | 2022 | <i>Archaeological excavation on land north-west of Montpellier Villa, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, CM3 3PG</i> (in preparation) |
| 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> . Updated Oct 2020 |
| ECCPS | 2022 | <i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at Site North Of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham</i> , by M Baister |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England | 2016 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| 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. |

9 Abbreviations and glossary

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Bronze Age | period from c 2500 – 700 BC |
| Bronze Age (Late) | Late Bronze Age, period from c 1000 – 700 BC |
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| CBM | ceramic building material, ie brick/tile |
| CifA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| ECC | Essex County Council |
| ECCHEA | Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor |
| ECCPS | Essex County Council Place Services |
| EHER | Essex Historic Environment Record |
| evaluation | a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area. This may take the form of an intrusive investigation of a percentage of the site, geophysical or topographical survey. The results of this investigation will establish the requirements for any further work. |
| 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 |
| Iron Age (Early) | Early Iron Age, period from c 600 – 400BC |
| Iron Age (Late) | Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43 |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| layer (L) | distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material |
| 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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main |
| 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 |
| wsj | written scheme of investigation |

10 Contents of archive

Finds: None

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1785)

ECCPS brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site records

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1785)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code [tbc](#).

Distribution list:

Blasford Hill Fisheries
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

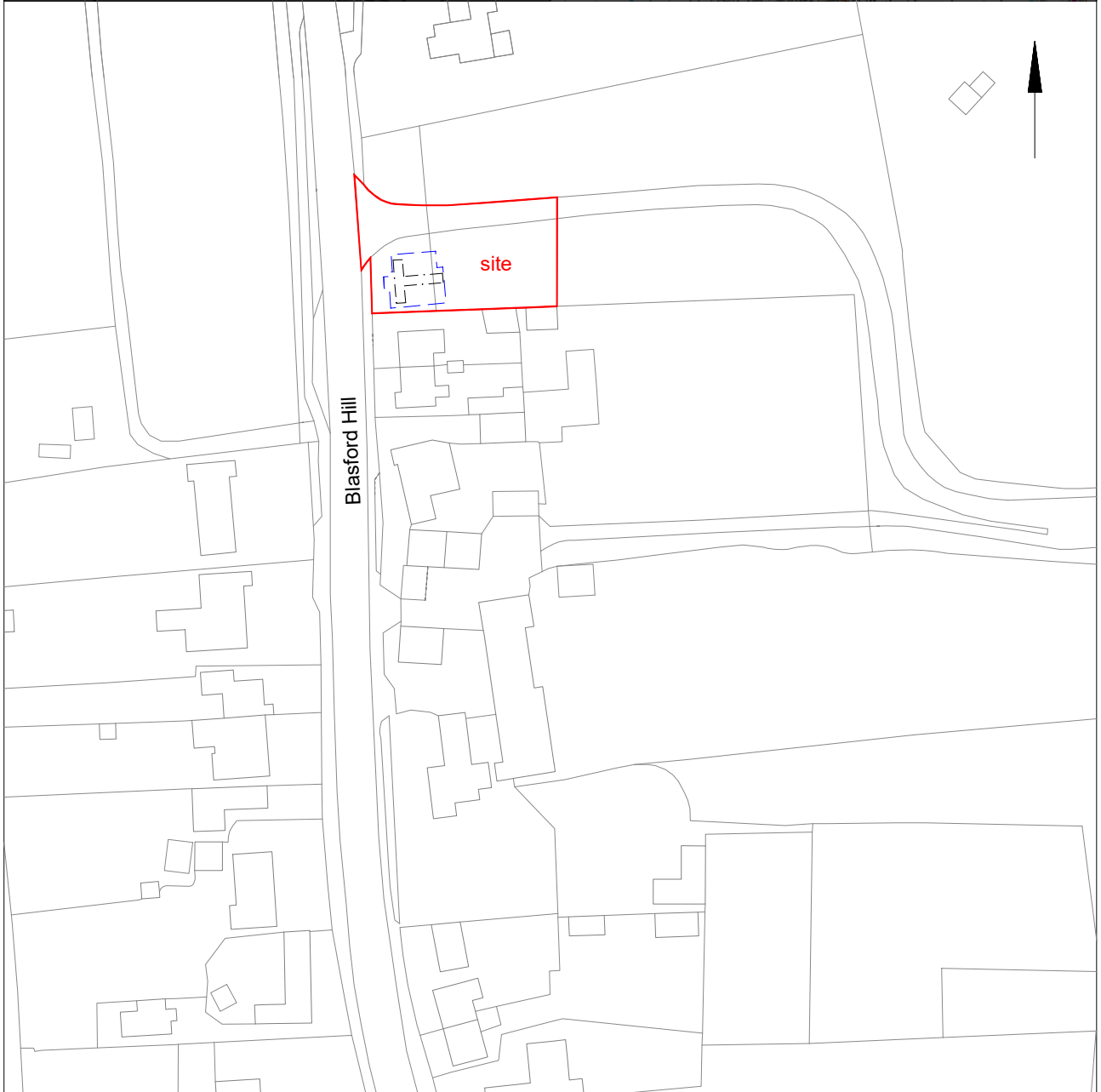
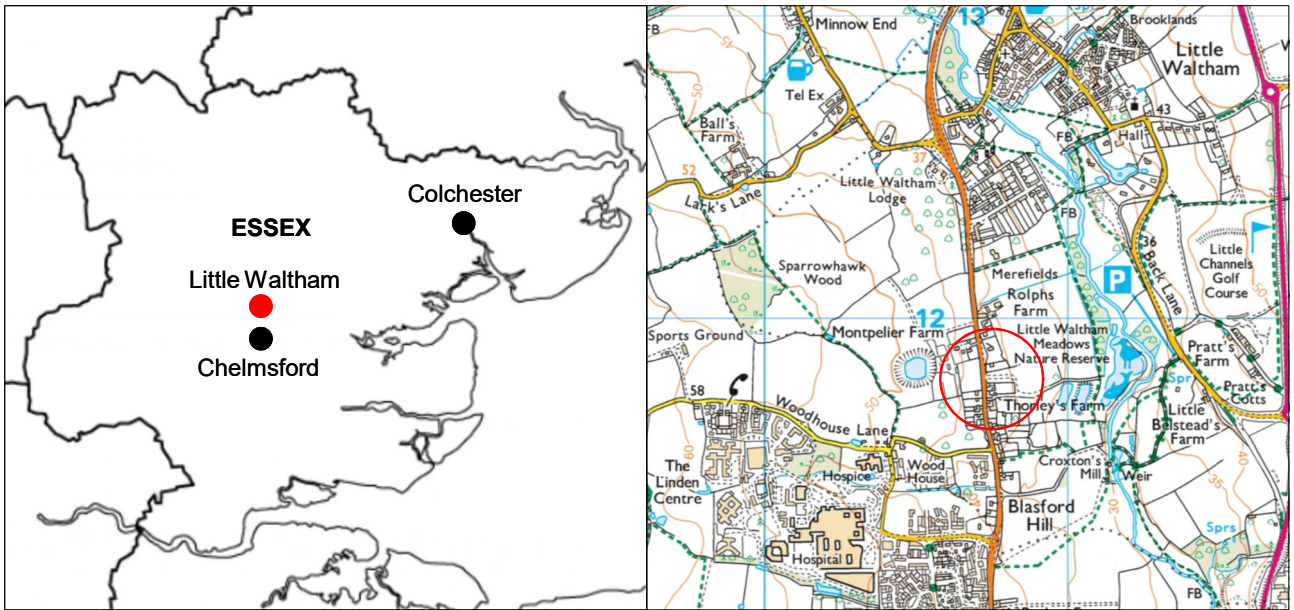
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 11/03/2022

Appendix 1 Context list

| Trench no. | Context | Finds no. | Context type | Description | Date |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|--|--------------|
| All | L1 | - | Topsoil | Friable, moist, medium greyish-brown sandy silt with small rounded stone inclusions and rooting | Modern |
| All | L2 | - | Subsoil | Friable, moist, medium brown sandy silt with occasional small rounded stone inclusions and rooting | Undated |
| All | L3 | - | Natural | Firm moist medium orange/brown sandy gravel with regular small to medium stone inclusions | Post-glacial |



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Fig 1 Site location (proposed development dashed blue)



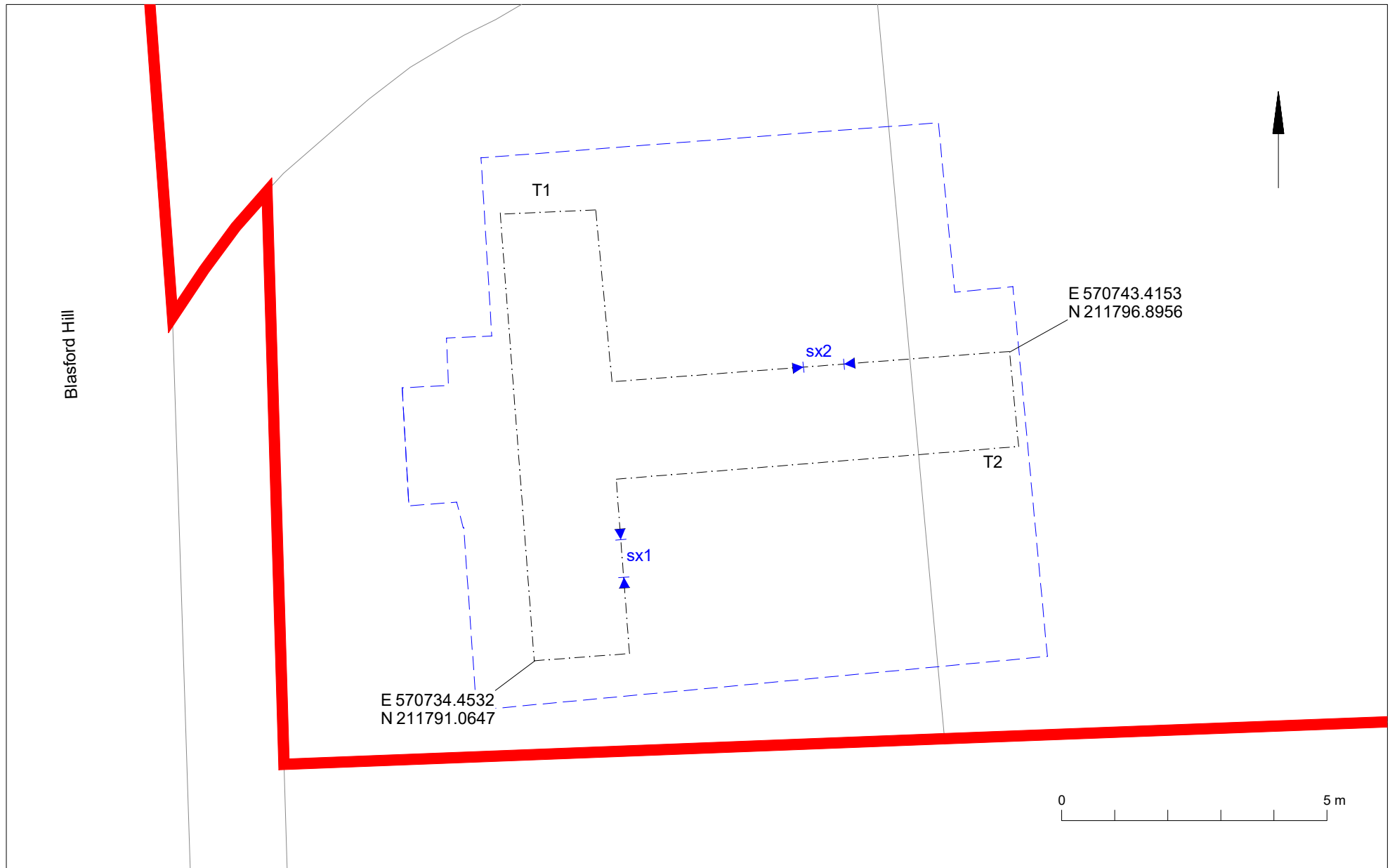


Fig 2 Results.

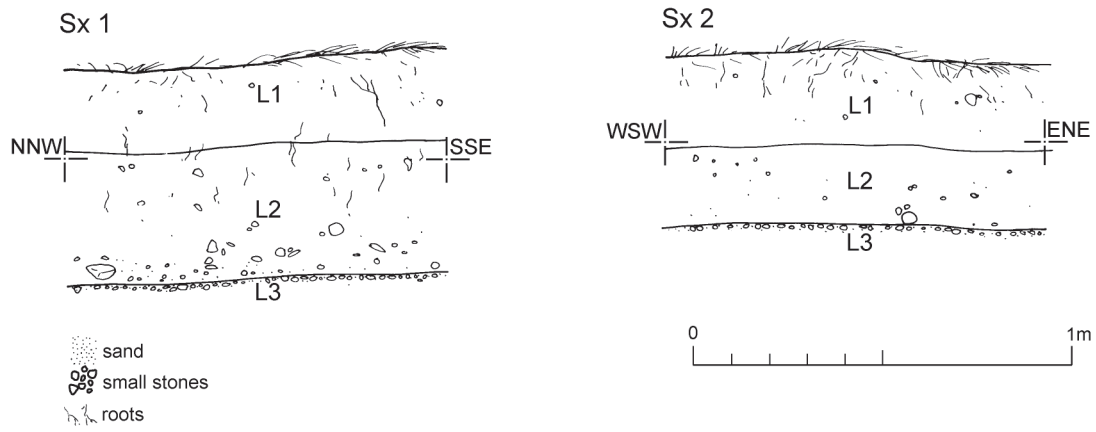


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-504794

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| OASIS ID (UID) | colchest3-504794 |
| Project Name | Evaluation at land north of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill Fisheries, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham |
| Sitename | |
| Activity type | Evaluation |
| Project Identifier(s) | 2022/02h |
| Planning Id | CHL/12/02140/FUL |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning: Post determination |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project Dates | 04-Mar-2022 - 04-Mar-2022 |
| Location | land north of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill Fisheries, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham NGR : TL 70737 11796 LL : 51.7787848425192, 0.473569158241218 12 Fig : 570737,211796 |
| Administrative Areas | Country : England County : Essex District : Chelmsford Parish : Little Waltham |
| Project Methodology | A single T-shaped trench was to be evaluated within the footprint of a proposed fisherman's lodge. The trench was made up of two 8m long and 1.8m wide trenches. All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a, b) • East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/ • relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021) • the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2022) |
| Project Results | An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land north of Rolphs Cottage, Little Waltham, Essex in advance of the construction of a fisherman's lodge. There are several nearby archaeological sites including a Roman settlement to the south-east and a multiperiod settlement and scheduled monument to the north. However, no archaeological remains were revealed by the evaluation. |
| Keywords | |
| Funder | |
| HER | Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD |
| Person Responsible for work | Harvey, Furniss |
| HER Identifiers | HER Event No - LWNRC22 |
| Archives | Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Chelmsford Museum Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive |

Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at
**Site North Of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little
Waltham**



Date: 10/02/22





Title: Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at Site North Of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham

Applicant: Blasford Hill Fishery | info@blasfordhillfishery.co.uk

Planning Reference: CHL/ 21/02104/FUL

Date issued: 10/02/22

Historic Environment Advisor: Mark Baister | mark.baister@essex.gov.uk

Museum: Chelmsford Museum

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council should be contacted to assess whether any changes are required. Any Written Scheme of Investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

*The contractor is advised to visit the site before completing their **Written Scheme of Investigation** as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.*

1. Introduction

The Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council has prepared this brief for archaeological investigation at a site north of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham. The proposed development site lies on the main road between the villages of Little Waltham and Broomfield and is likely to contain archaeological remains. The purpose of the initial investigation, consisting of trial-trenching, is to determine the presence/absence and significance of any surviving archaeological remains within the development area and, where present, to record these remains and to determine the need for any further archaeological work or mitigation measures.

This brief details the first phase of below ground archaeological work on the site. If any further work is required, this will follow on from a site visit and agreement to expand into open area excavation and/or monitoring of groundworks associated with the development.

This document forms the basis for any Written Scheme of Investigation submitted by an archaeological contractor for approval by this office.

2. Site Location and Description

The proposed development is situated on the eastern side of Blasford Hill, north of Rolphs Cottages, centred on NGR TL 70737 11796. The development area is currently open land. Details of the proposed application can be found on the Chelmsford planning web site.

3. Planning Background

The development comprises the construction of a Fisherman's Lodge, with associated parking spaces and landscaping. A planning application was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in November 2021 (CHL/21/02104/FUL). As the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, a full archaeological condition was recommended to ensure that appropriate

archaeological recording is undertaken, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 205. The recommendation that was made is:

RECOMMENDATION: Full condition

(i) No development or preliminary ground works shall take place within the site until a Written Scheme of Investigation for the programme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

(ii) No development or preliminary ground works shall take place until such time that the programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation.

4. Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors are advised to obtain the EHER data prior to the completion of any Written Scheme of Investigation.

The EHER shows that the development site is in the location of Roman building remains that were uncovered during excavation in the 1950s. Substantial amounts of Roman pottery was recovered, along with evidence for a timber-framed building with a gravel floor (EHER 6088). The remains were dated to the 2nd century AD and postulated to be part of an extensive settlement.

Blasford Hill is on the line of the Chelmsford-Braintree-Long Melford Roman road (EHER 6057), and further Roman settlement evidence has been uncovered along its route. A recently completed archaeological excavation, some 175m to north-west of the development site, has uncovered extensive Roman extra-mural remains, including boundary/roadside ditches and pits. A significant amount of pottery was also recovered, and the site has been tentatively dated to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period.

875m to the north of the proposed development is the Scheduled Monument "Settlement site at Ash Tree Corner" (NHLE no 1002140). Excavations in the vicinity of the monument during work for the Little Waltham bypass in the 1970s uncovered an extensive multi-period landscape ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the 14th century (EHERs 6182, 6183, 6184, 6185, 6186, 6187, 6188). Remains uncovered included evidence of Prehistoric and Roman

buildings, a Roman road, cremation burials, a 2nd/3rd-century well, and a substantial Iron Age settlement with at least three major occupation phases.

An excavation c425m to the south-west of the proposed development uncovered a sub-rectangular enclosure of a Late Bronze Age date, containing the remains of a farmstead (EHER 6142).

In addition, the presence of multiple cropmark concentrations to the north-east of the development site (EHERs 7345, 8942, 8942) suggests that the multi-period remains uncovered during previous archaeological investigations extends into the surrounding landscape.

5. Requirement for Work

The archaeological work should aim to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development. The archaeological work will comprise the excavation of a "T"-shaped evaluation trench within the footprint of the proposed building. The fieldwork will assess the potential for further archaeological remains being present within the development site.

Specific aims include the recovery of:

- Evidence associated with the Roman settlement remains previously identified on the site.
- Evidence pertaining to previous land use(s).
- Evidence of any activity relating to the identified multi-period landscape to the north, or the immediately adjacent Roman road.

The initial work will comprise trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report. If significant archaeological deposits are identified, further work may be required, comprising open area excavation of those deposits, following an on-site meeting with the Historic Environment Advisor. If no archaeological deposits are identified a report on the trial trenching alone will be required.

6. Methodology

6.1 The archaeological work shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The number of staff involved, the structure of the team and an indicative timetable for the work shall be stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

- 6.2 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the document Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).
- 6.3 All of the latest Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 6.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 6.5 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 6.6 A site code shall be obtained from the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.
- 6.7 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>) must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

7. Trial Trenching Methodology

- 7.1 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required, and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 7.2 Machine stripping will only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon unless agreement is obtained from the Historic Environment Advisor to deepen the trenches by this method.
- 7.3 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.
- 7.4 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 7.5 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other

pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

- 7.6 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are anticipated, or where analysis of the remains is considered to be a necessary requirement for satisfactory evaluation of the site.
- 7.7 The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 7.8 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- 7.9 The CiFA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation*, and the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* documents should all be used for additional guidance in the production of the Written Scheme of Investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.
- 7.10 A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed to define requirements for further work. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.**

8. Post Excavation Assessment

- 8.1 An updated post excavation assessment shall be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 8.2 Where archaeological results do not warrant a post excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the Historic Environment Advisor to proceed straight to grey literature/publication.

9. Finds

- 9.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 9.2 All pottery and other finds, where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

- 9.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who will be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.
- 9.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be stated within the Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 9.5 Finds work should be to accepted professional standards and adhere to CIFA Guidelines.

10. Results

- 10.1 The report shall be submitted to the Historic Environment Advisor within a length of time (but not exceeding 2 months) from the end of the fieldwork. A single digital copy shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor. A final publication report and grey literature report deadline shall be agreed following the post excavation assessment.
- 10.2 This report must contain:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological programme.
 - Location plan of trenches and excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the excavated areas shall be given 10 figure grid references.
 - A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
 - Reports on specific areas of specialist study.
 - Methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Where appropriate the discussion should be completed in consultation with the Eastern Counties Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
 - An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and included in the report. A copy should also be e-mailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal (paul.gilman@me.com).
- 10.3 Publication of the results at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.

11. Archive Deposition

- 11.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Chelmsford), and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 11.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- 11.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 2 months of the completion of the report and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 11.4 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor at the time of deposition to the museum.

12. Monitoring

- 12.1 The Historic Environment Advisor will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 12.2 Notification of the start of the archaeological work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
- 12.3 Any variations of the Written Scheme of Investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.
- 12.4 All excavated trenches must be inspected by the Historic Environment Advisor prior to their backfilling.

13. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

- 13.1 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the CIFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide the basis for a measurable standard and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
- 13.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Advisor for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 13.3 The involvement of the Historic Environment Advisor shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

- Bennett, A 2006 Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project.
ECC
- Brown, N. and 2000 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties
Glazebrook, J. 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ.
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- Gurney, D. 2003 Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East
Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
- Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the
East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

Mark Baister
Place Services
Essex County Council
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land north of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill Fisheries, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, Essex, CM6 3TB

NGR: TL 70737 11796 (centre)
District: Chelmsford
Parish: Little Waltham

Planning reference: CHL/21/02140/FUL

Commissioned by: Neville Rice
On behalf of: Blasford Hill Fisheries

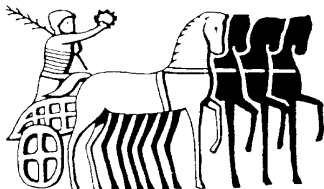
Curating museum: Chelmsford

Museum accession code: *tbc*
ECC project code: *tbc*
CAT project code: 2021/02h
Oasis project ID: colchest3-504794

Site managers: Chris Lister and Adam Wightman

ECC monitor: Mark Baister

This WSI written: 21/02/2022



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
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Site location and description

The proposed development site is currently an area of open land north of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham, Essex (Fig 1). Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 70737 11796

Proposed work

The planning application proposes the construction of a fisherman's lodge, with associated parking spaces and landscaping.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background 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 development site is located within an area of Roman settlement remains, which were uncovered during excavations in the 1950s. Substantial amounts of Roman pottery was recovered, along with evidence for a timber-framed building with a gravel floor (EHER 6088). The settlement was dated to the 2nd century AD and postulated to be extensive. The site is also directly adjacent to the route of the Chelmsford-Braintree-Long Melford Roman road (EHER 6057).

Some 900m to the north north-west is "*Settlement site at Ash Tree Corner*", a Scheduled Monument (NHLE no 1002140). Excavations in the vicinity of the monument, during work for the Little Waltham bypass in the 1970s, uncovered an extensive multi-period landscape ranging in date from the Mesolithic to the 14th century (EHERs 6182, 6183, 6184, 6185, 6186, 6187, 6188). Remains uncovered included evidence of Prehistoric and Roman buildings, the Chelmsford-Braintree Roman road, cremation burials, a 2nd/3rd-century well, and a substantial Iron Age settlement with at least three major occupation phases.

An excavation to c 400m to the south of the site in 1995 uncovered a sub-rectangular enclosure of a Late Bronze Age date, containing the remains of a farmstead (EHER 6142). The presence of multiple cropmark concentrations to the east and north-east of the development site (EHERs 7345, 8942, 8942) suggests that the multi-period landscape uncovered during these previous investigations extends into the surrounding fields.

Additionally, timber-framed 15th and 17th-18th century houses (EHERs 30675, 30681, 30677, 30678, 30679), a 17th century malthouse (EHERs 15017, 48532), and a listed post-medieval red brick house (EHER 30680) are located to the south of the development site.

An archaeological evaluation c 175m north-west of the current site was carried out by CAT in November 2021 (CAT Report 1746). Fifteen features were identified; seven pits, seven ditches and a gully. Thirteen features produced dating evidence, mainly pottery sherds, placing the main phase of activity in the Late Iron Age into the Roman period. Of particular note fired clay fragments suggest evidence of a possible wattle and daub structure and a fragment of Roman polychrome glass point to a higher status inhabitant. Four Window sample bore-holes were also observed, two of which contained material from a potential archaeological horizon.

Planning background

The original planning application (CHL/21/02104/FUL) was submitted to Chelmsford City Council in November 2021 proposing the construction of a fisherman's lodge, with associated parking spaces and landscaping

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 Programme of Archaeological evaluation and excavation at site North of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham* – ECC 2022).

It is proposed that a single T-shaped trench will be evaluated within the footprint of the proposed building. The trench will be made up of two 8m long and 1.8m wide trenches. It will have a total linear length of 16m and cover an area of 14.4m².

The archaeological work will aim to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development, and to assess the potential for further archaeological remains being present.

Specific areas of interest are:

- Evidence associated with the Roman settlement remains previously identified on the site.
- Evidence pertaining to previous land use(s).
- Evidence of any activity relating to the identified multi-period landscape to the north, or the immediately adjacent Roman road.

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.

A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed to define requirements for further work. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.

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)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2022)

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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). 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 one archaeologist for one days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Harvey Furniss

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 trenches 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 manual 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 Historic England guidance (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 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): Megan 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 / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser 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* (Historic England 2016).

The report will be submitted within 2 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).

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) 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 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>

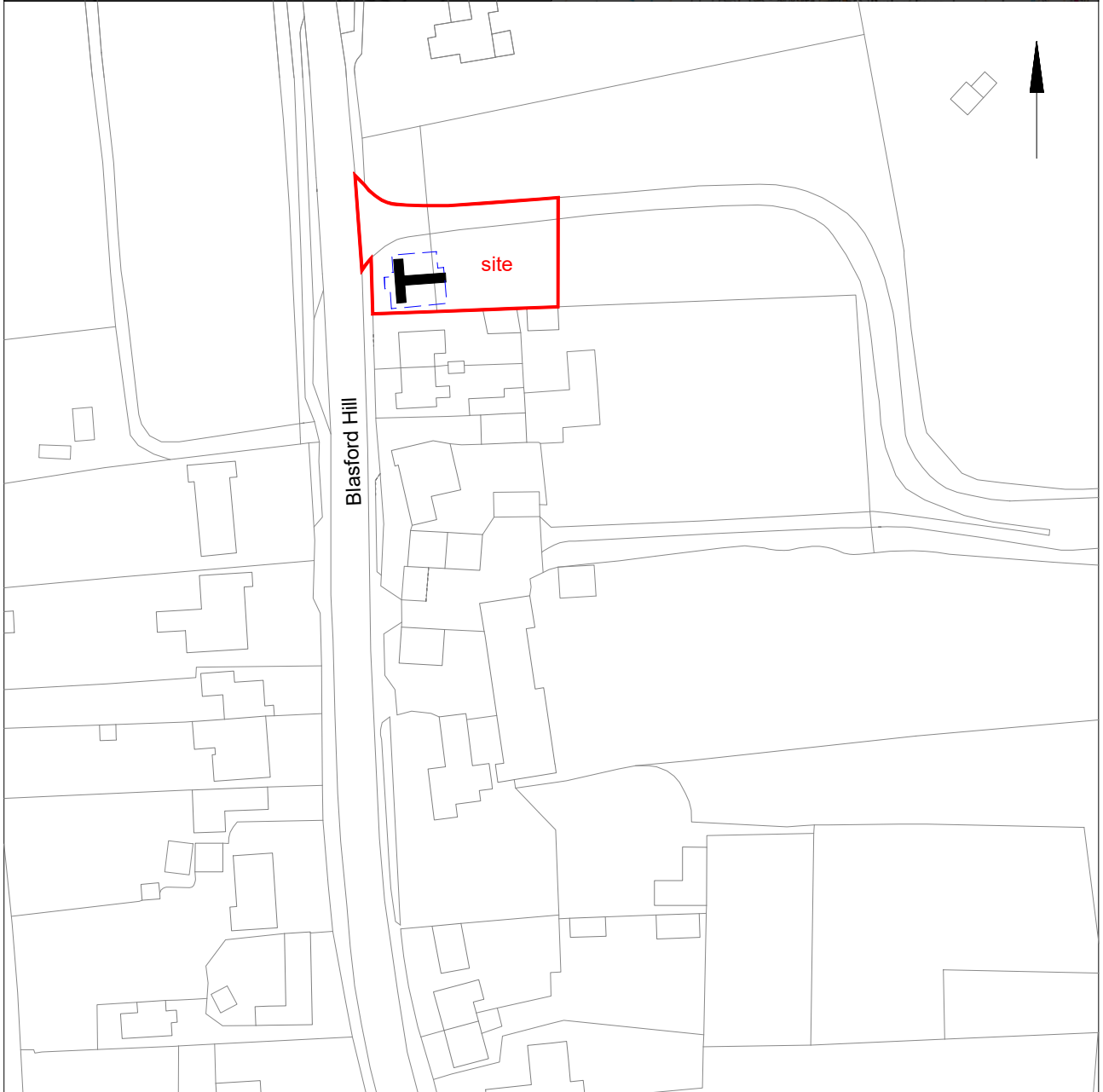
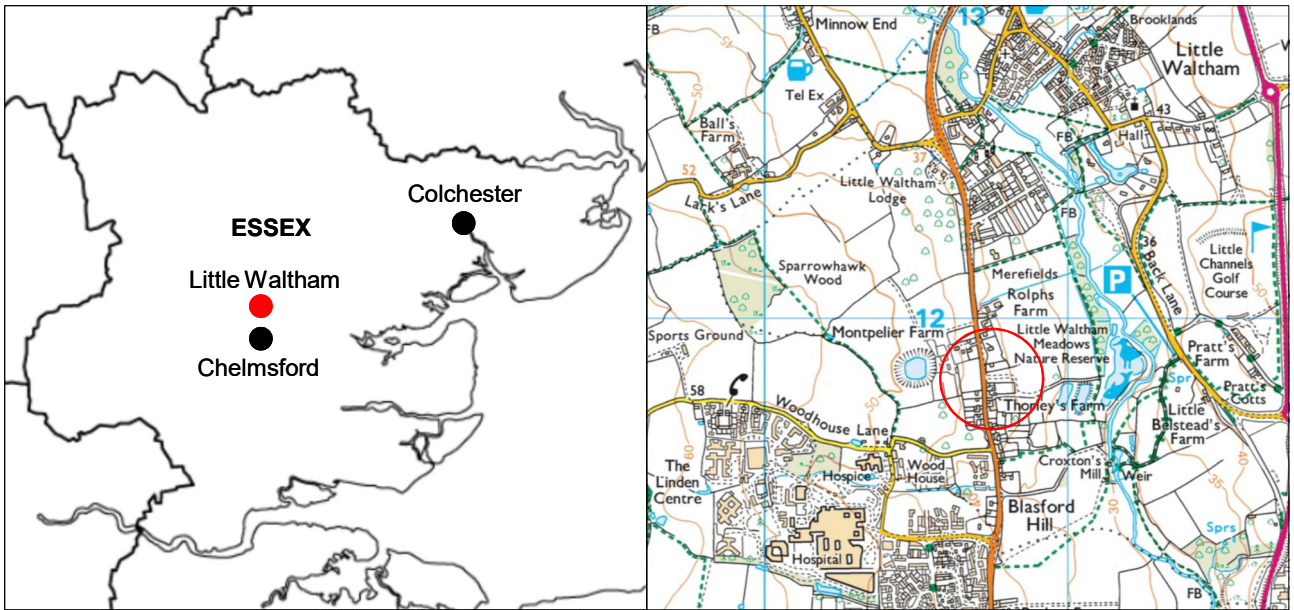
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|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Health & 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 | 2013 | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i> |
| ECCPS | 2021 | <i>Brief for Programme of Archaeological evaluation and excavation at Site North of Rolphs Cottages, Blasford Hill, Little Waltham</i> By M Baister |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England | 2016 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Historic England | 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 the proposed development (dashed blue lines).

0 50 m

Site Lt Waltham site N of Rolphs Cottages EVAL Site code: LWNRC22

Layer No.

Interpretation Topsoil

Period Undated

Location Across site

1

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black
✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand
✓ ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 5

RECORDING Photo and drawing 1:10 Sx

Plan nos

Section nos

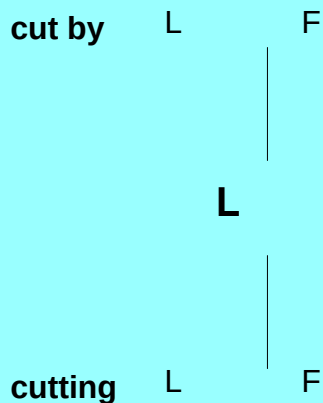
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS No finds

Find Nos:

NOTES Topsoil with no recoverable finds.



By HF Date 04/03/22

Site: Lt Waltham site N of Rolphs cottages EVAL Site code: LWNRC22

Layer No.

Interpretation Subsoil

Period Undated

Location Across site

2

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black
✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand
✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 5

RECORDING Photo and drawing 1:10 Sx

Plan nos

Section nos

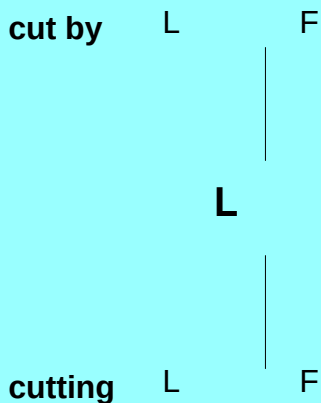
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS No finds

Find Nos:

NOTES Subsoil seen in both trenches. Contained no recoverable finds. Only flecks of ceramic building material observed during the machine strip.



By HF Date 04/03/22

Site Lt Waltham site N of Rolphs Cottages EVAL Site code: LWNRC22

Layer No.

Interpretation Natural

Period Undated

Location Across site

3

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand
✓ ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces 80

RECORDING Photo and drawing 1:10 Sx

Plan nos

Section nos

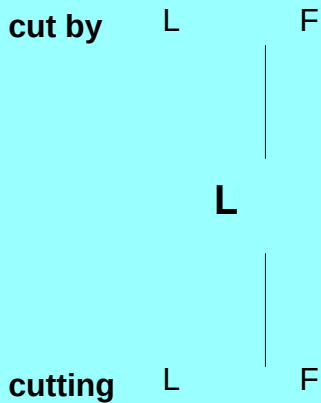
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS No finds

Find Nos:

NOTES Natural gravels



By HF Date 04/03/22



001



002
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003



004
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005



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007



008
4/



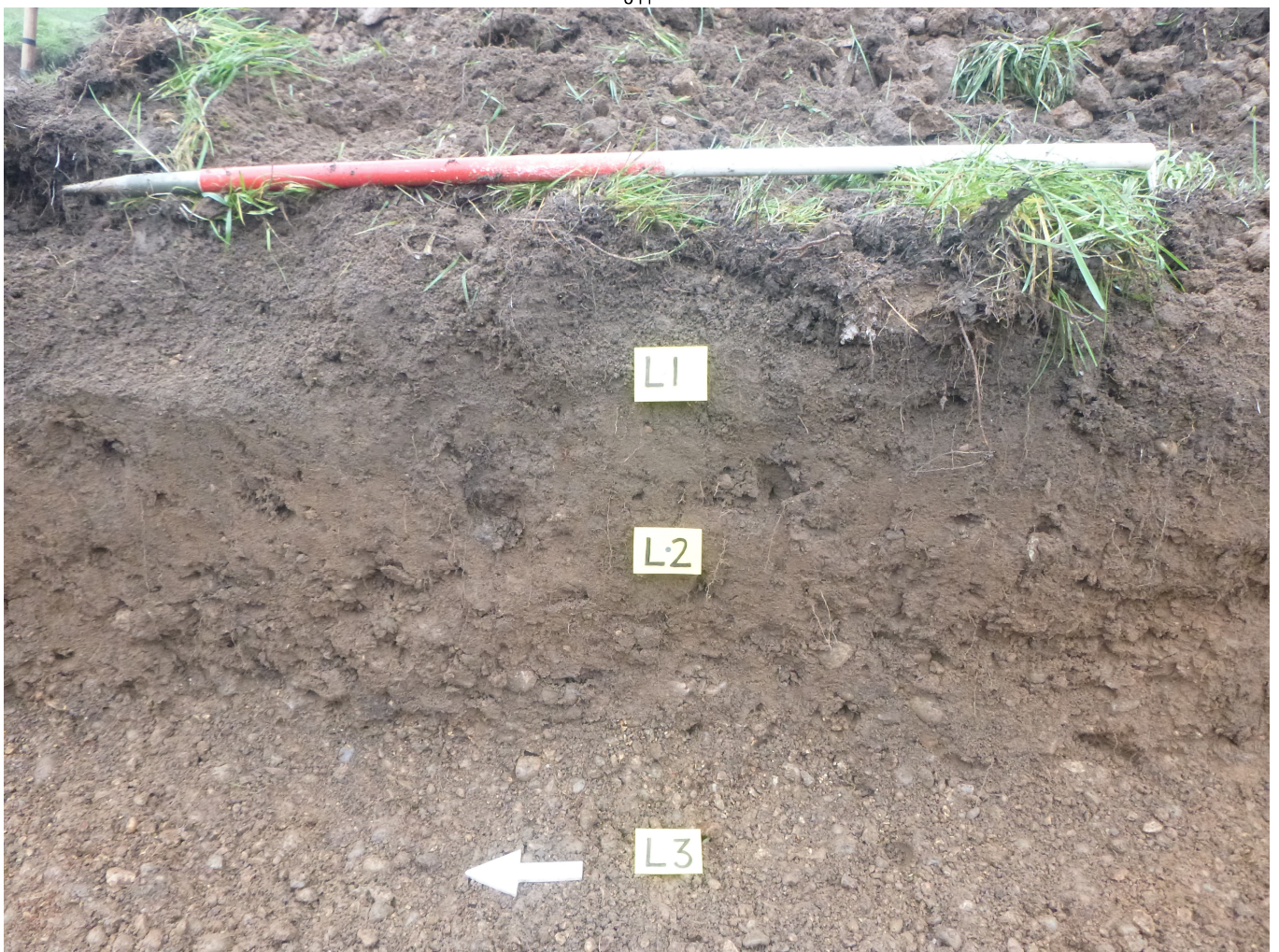
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011



012
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013

listing

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|---------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trench 2, looking west |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trench 2, looking west |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trenches 1-2, looking northwest |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trench 2, looking northwest |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trench 1, looking north |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trenches 1-2, looking northeast |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trench 1, looking northwest |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Trench 2, looking east |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | General site shot, looking southeast |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Representative section, looking north |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Representative section, looking north |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Representative section, looking east |
| LWNRC22_Photo | 4608x3456,16M | Representative section, looking east |