

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1863  
Issued November 2022**

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of  
Debden Barns, Water Lane, Elder Street,  
Wimbish, Essex, CB11 3JY: October 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/09f  
ECC code: DBWIM22**

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of  
Debden Barns, Water Lane, Elder Street,  
Wimbish, Essex, CB11 3JY: October 2022**

**NGR: TL 56440 34169**

**Planning ref.: UTT/20/0217/OP**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/09f  
CAT Report 1863**

**ECC code: DBWIM22  
OASIS id: colchest3-509664**

**report prepared by  
Dr Elliott Hicks**

**fieldwork by Harvey Furniss with Tabitha Lawrence  
and Ziya Eksen**

**commissioned by Robert Tetlow, Debden Barns**

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<b>Issued:</b>	11/11/2022	

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of Debden Barns, Wimbish, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The development site is located next to a property containing a possible moat which likely has its origins in the medieval period, and lies near a historic RAF airfield and in the midst of a number of Second World War era defensive structures. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the rear of Debden Barns, Wimbish, Essex on 24th October 2022. The work was commissioned by Robert Tetlow of Debden Barns, and was carried out in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor 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 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022).

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 excavation* (ClfA 2014a), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

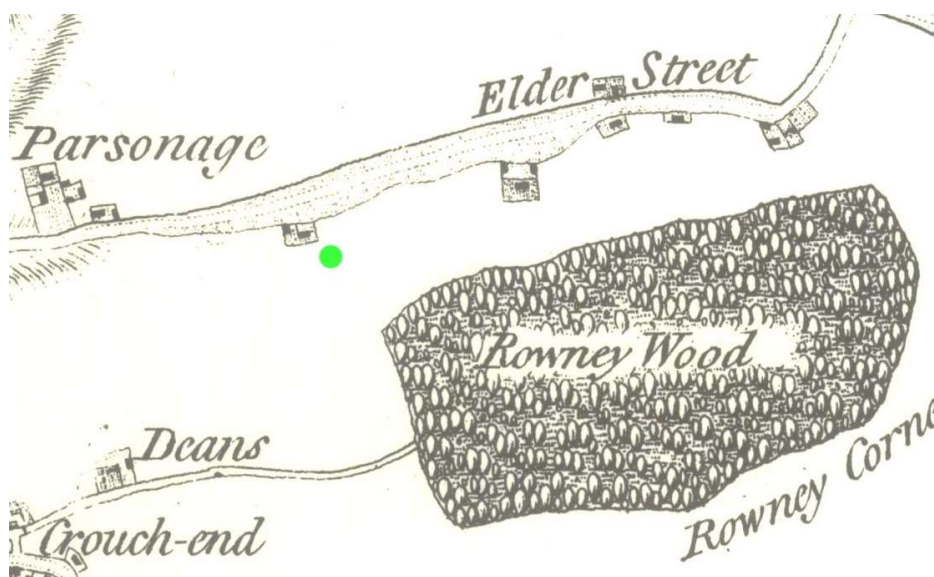
## 3 Archaeological background

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 adjacent to a site known as 'Ricketts', which is depicted on Chapman and André's 1777 map of Essex (Map 1). Ordnance Survey mapping of the area compiled in 1881 also indicates the presence of a possible moat on the site, indicating that medieval features may be present on the development site (Map 2).

Freemans Farm moated site lies approximately 500m to the east of the development site. It is an ancient scheduled monument (NHLE No. 1008708) which dates to the medieval period and is still visible and water-filled today.

Directly north of Debden Barns is the site of the former RAF Debden airfield (EHER 16539). It was constructed in 1935 as part of the RAF expansion scheme and is the only airfield built in Essex during this period. The airfield closed in 1975 but several of the buildings now form part of Carver barracks. Several Second World War era pill boxes are also located in the vicinity (EHER 21518, 21520-2).



**Map 1** Extract of the Chapman and André map (1777). The approximate location of the site is highlighted in green with Ricketts visible to the northwest



**Map 2** Extract of the 1st edition 6-inch OS Map (1881). Approximate location of the development site is highlighted in green with the possible moat highlighted blue

#### 4 Aim

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 2-3)

Three trial-trenches were laid out across the development site. Trench T1 was 5m long and 1.8m wide, trench T2 was 19m long and 1.8m wide, and trench T3 was 10m long and 1.8m wide. The latter two trenches were arranged in a cross-shape, and were positioned slightly differently from the trench plan proposed in the WSI due to the presence of trees.

The trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.13-0.26m thick, firm, moist dark grey/black/brown sandy-silty-loam) and subsoil (L2, 0.07-0.24m thick, firm, moist medium

grey/brown clayey-sandy-silt with 1% stones) onto natural (L3, firm, moist medium brown silty-clay, encountered at a depth of 0.25-0.49m below current ground level). A sondage was excavated in trench T1 to confirm the identification of L3 as natural.

No archaeological features or material were encountered.



**Photograph 1** T2 trench shot – looking southwest

## 6 Finds

There were no finds.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological remains were encountered.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Debden Barns for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, and fieldwork was carried out by H Furniss with Z Eksen and T Lawrence. Figures are by C Lister, H Furniss, and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

## 9 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                      | 2022  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CifA                     | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020   |
| CifA                     | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020                |
| CifA                     | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021   |
| ECCPS                    | 2022  | <i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation At Land Rear of Debden Barns, Elder</i>  |

Gurney, D	2003	<i>Street, Wimbish</i> , by R Havis <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
Historic England	2015	<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 <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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'
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>
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

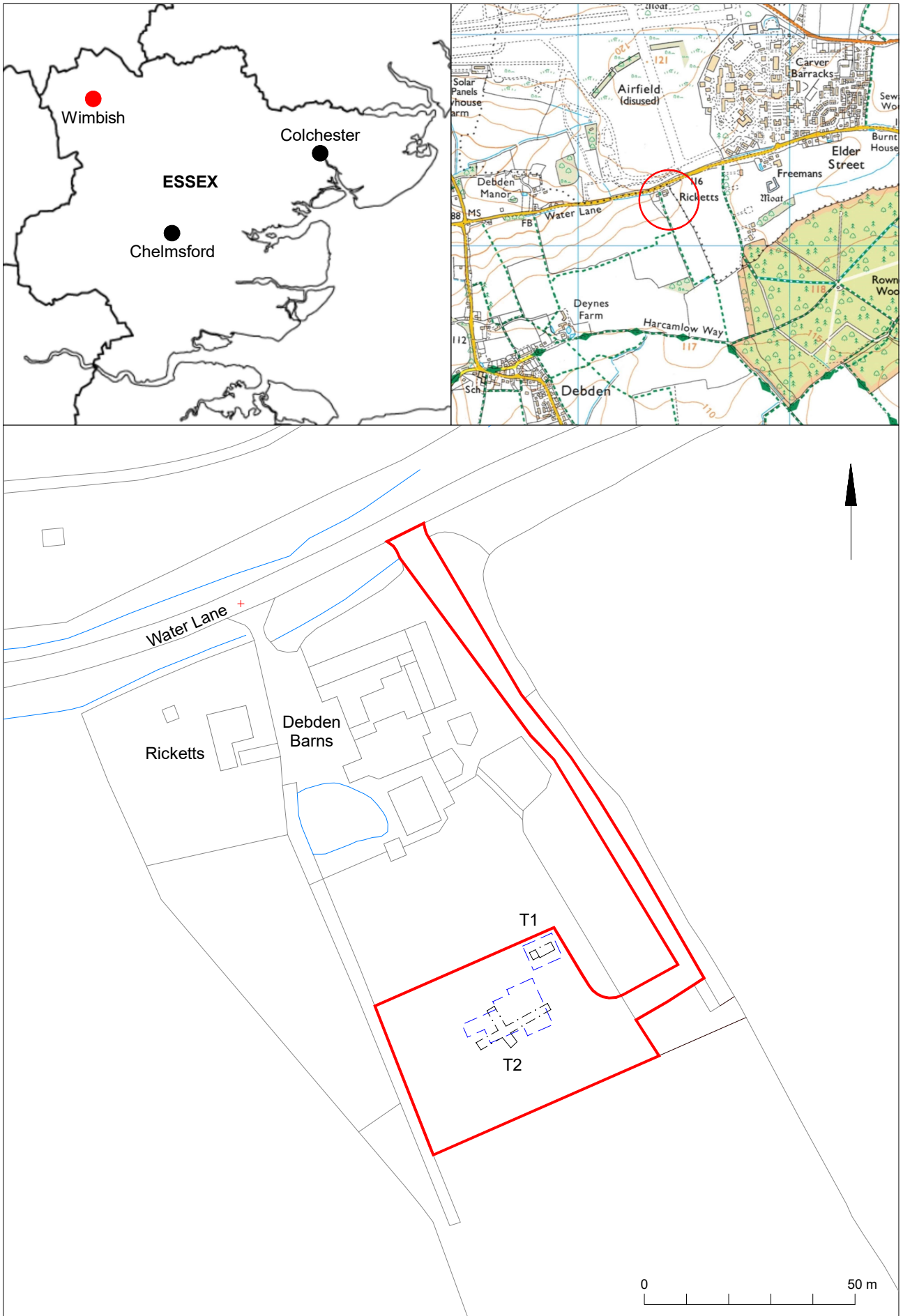
## 11 Archive deposition

This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, WSI, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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### Distribution list:

Robert Tetlow (Debden Barns)  
Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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



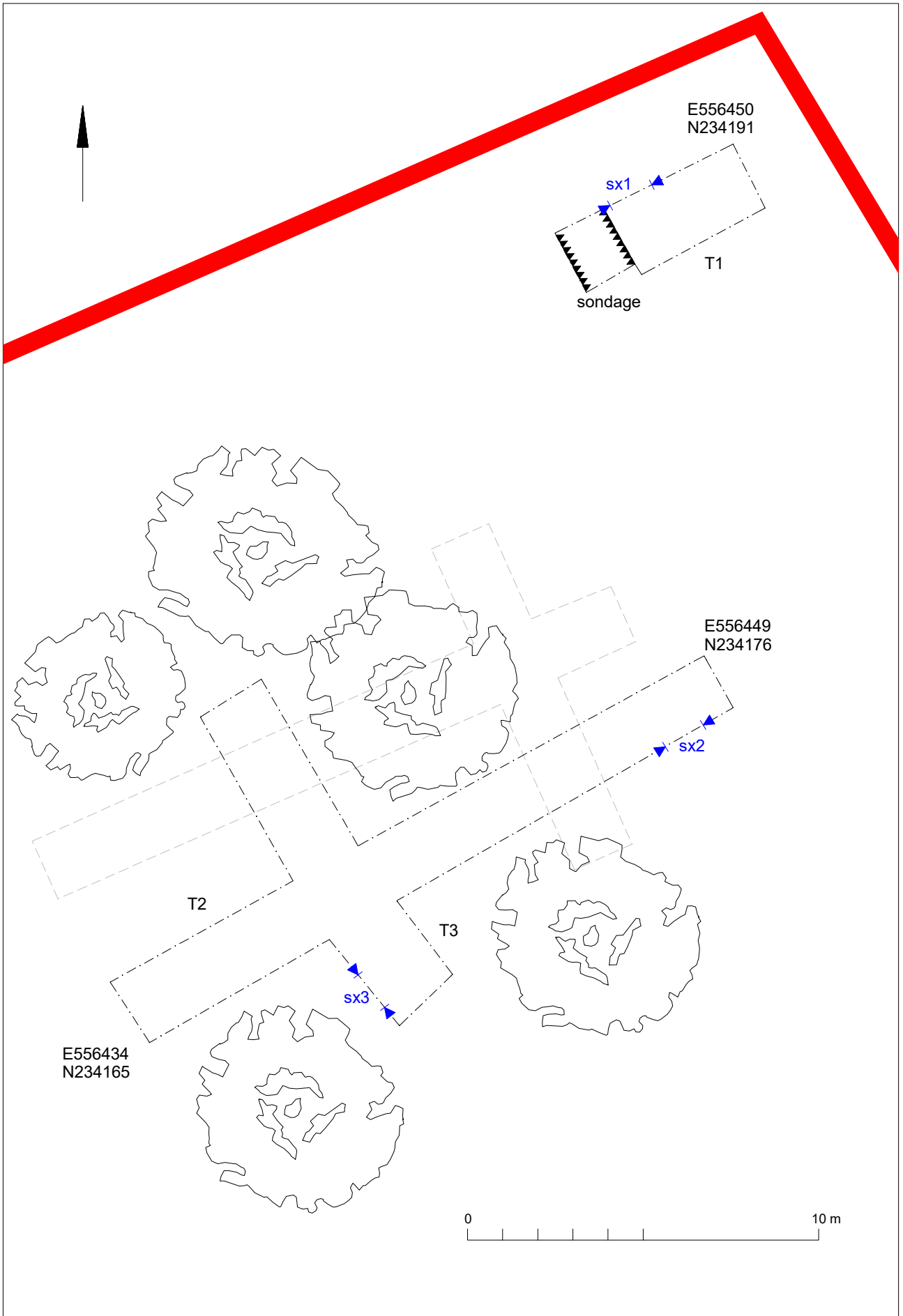


Fig 2 Results

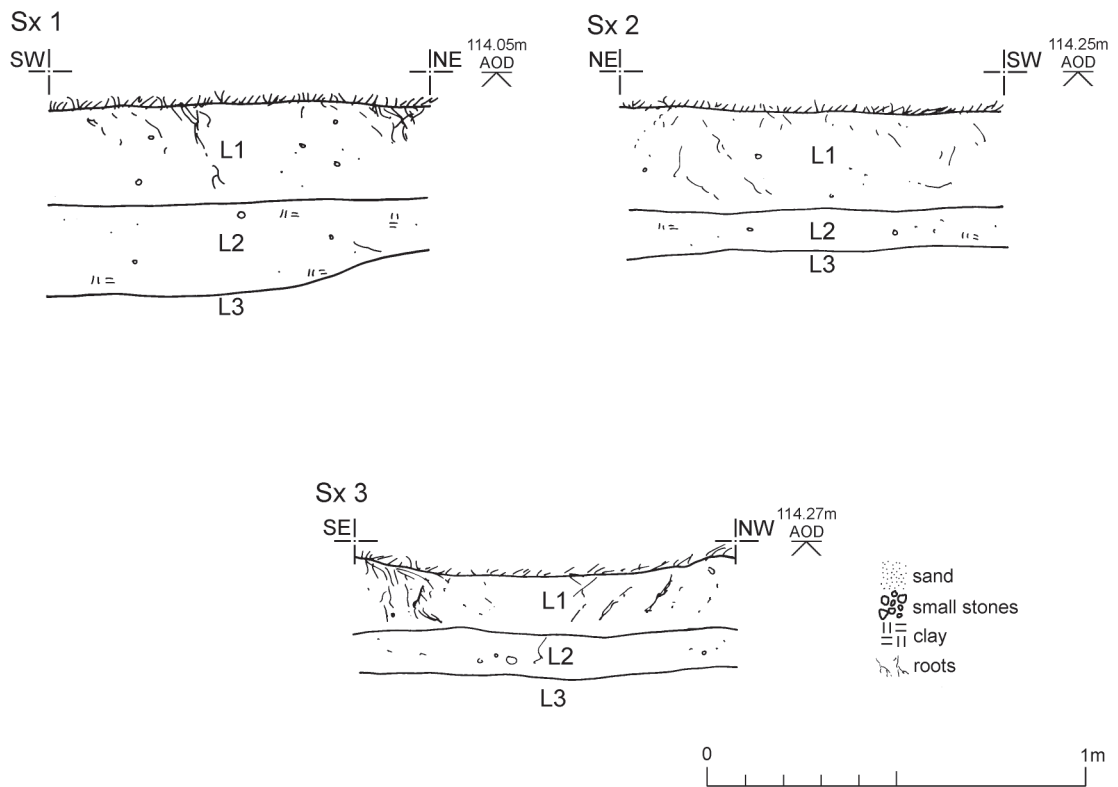


Fig 3 Representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-509664

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509664
Project Name	Evaluation at Land rear of Debden Barns, Water Lane, Elder Streetm Wimbish, Essex
Sitename	Land rear of Debden Barns, Water Lane, Elder Streetm Wimbish, Essex
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/09f
Planning Id	UTT/20/0217/OP
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	24-Oct-2022 - 24-Oct-2022
Location	Land rear of Debden Barns, Water Lane, Elder Streetm Wimbish, Essex NGR : TL 56440 34169 LL : 51.9839552664806, 0.276640309497515 12 Fig : 556440,234169
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Debden
Project Methodology	Evaluation was carried out as per the brief and the WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of Debden Barns, Wimbish, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The development site is located next to a property containing a possible moat which likely has its origins in the medieval period, and lies near a historic RAF airfield and in the midst of a number of Second World War era defensive structures. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	E, Hicks
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - DBWIM22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum;

# Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation At Land Rear of Debden Barns, Elder Street, Wimbish



**Date:**  
31 August 2022





**Title:** Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation at Land Rear of Debden Barns, Elder Street, Wimbish

**Contractor:** Robert Tetlow <info@debdenbarns.co.uk>

**Planning Reference:** UTT/20/0217/OP

**Date issued:** 31/08/22

**Historic Environment Advisor:** Richard Havis | richard.havis@essex.gov.uk

03330 136849

**Museum:** Saffron Walden 01799 510333

***This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor should be contacted to assess whether changes are required to the brief. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.***

*The contractor is strongly 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 has prepared this brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation in advance of the erection of a single dwelling with detached garage. The archaeological trial trenching will target the proposed buildings' footprint. The trial trenching will form the first stage of the archaeological work with excavation to follow if archaeological deposits are identified in the trial trenching.

## **2. Site Location and Description**

The proposed development site lies within an area of potentially extensive archaeological remains west of Carver Barracks, at the former moated site of Ricketts (TL5644034169). The development comprises the erection of a dwelling with detached garage. Plans of the proposed development can be obtained from Uttlesford District Council web site under the planning application number.

## **3. Planning Background**

A full planning application (20/0217/OP) was validated by Uttlesford District Council in January 2020 for the erection 1 no. dwelling and detached garage with all matters reserved except for access. The planning application was identified as being located within a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. Therefore, a full archaeological condition was recommended to the local Planning Authority.

The archaeological condition that was recommended is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework and states:

**RECOMMENDATION: Archaeological Programme of Trial Trenching followed by Open Area Excavation**

No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching and excavation has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority.

**4. Archaeological Background**

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective archaeological contractors should obtain the HER prior to the completion of their WSI.

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within an area of potential archaeological deposits. Cartographic evidence indicates a possible moat on the site of Ricketts which is also visible in cropmark evidence. Ricketts is visible on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777. There is therefore the potential for surviving medieval features associated with the moated settlement being impacted on by the proposed development.

**5. Requirement for Work**

The archaeological programme will initially comprise the excavation of a cross-shaped trial trench which spans the width and length of the proposed dwelling and a single trench across the proposed garage. A trench plan will be provided with the WSI.

Specific area of interest will be evidence for:

- The former moated site of Ricketts and any associated dating

The initial work will comprise the trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report. This will lead to further archaeological work, comprising open area excavation of those significant deposits identified. If no archaeological deposits are identified a report on the trial trenching alone will be required.

## **6. General Methodology**

- A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the archaeological work.
- The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. 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.
- The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists
- The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 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. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

## **7. Trial Trenching Methodology**

- Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.



- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* document should 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.
- A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed to discuss requirements for further open area excavation. 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**

- An updated post excavation assessment shall be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 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**

- All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.
- The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.

## **10. Results**

The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 2 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the trial trenching and any further excavation.
- Location plan of excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the excavated area 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.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and result section

assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).

- All specialist reports
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor (in lieu of the previous HER summary sheet). This will be completed in digital form. 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](mailto:paul.gilman@me.com)

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 the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

## **11. Archive Deposition**

- The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- The archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 months of the completion of the final publication report with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor

## **12. Monitoring**

- 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.
- Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
- All trial trenches must be inspected by the Historic Environment Advisor prior to their backfilling.

- Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

### **13. Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation**

- In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA 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.
- Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- The involvement of the Historic Environment Advisor shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* 2. Research agenda and strategy East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
- EAA 2020 *East of England Regional Research Framework on line* [Research Agenda - East of England Research Framework \(researchframeworks.org\)](https://www.researchframeworks.org)
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
- Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

Richard Havis  
Principal Historic Environment Advisor  
Place Services  
County Hall  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1QH

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land rear of Debden Barns, Water Lane, Elder Street, Wimbish, Essex, CB11 3JY

**NGR:** TL 56440 34169 (centre)

**District:** Uttlesford

**Parish:** Wimbish

**Planning reference:** UTT/20/0217/OP

**Commissioned by:** Robert Tetlow (Debden Barns)

**Client:** Debden Barns

**Curating museum:** Saffron Walden and ADS Archaeology

**ECC project code:** DBWIM22

**CAT project code:** 2022/09f

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-509664

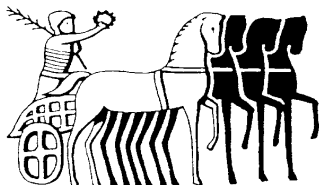
**Contracts Manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork Manager:** Adam Wightman

**Post-excavation Manager:** Laura Pooley

**ECC monitor:** Katie Lee-Smith

**This WSI written:** 27/09/2022



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*email:* [services@catuk.org](mailto:services@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on land to the rear of Debden Barns, Water Lane, Elder Street, Wimbish, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 56440 34169.

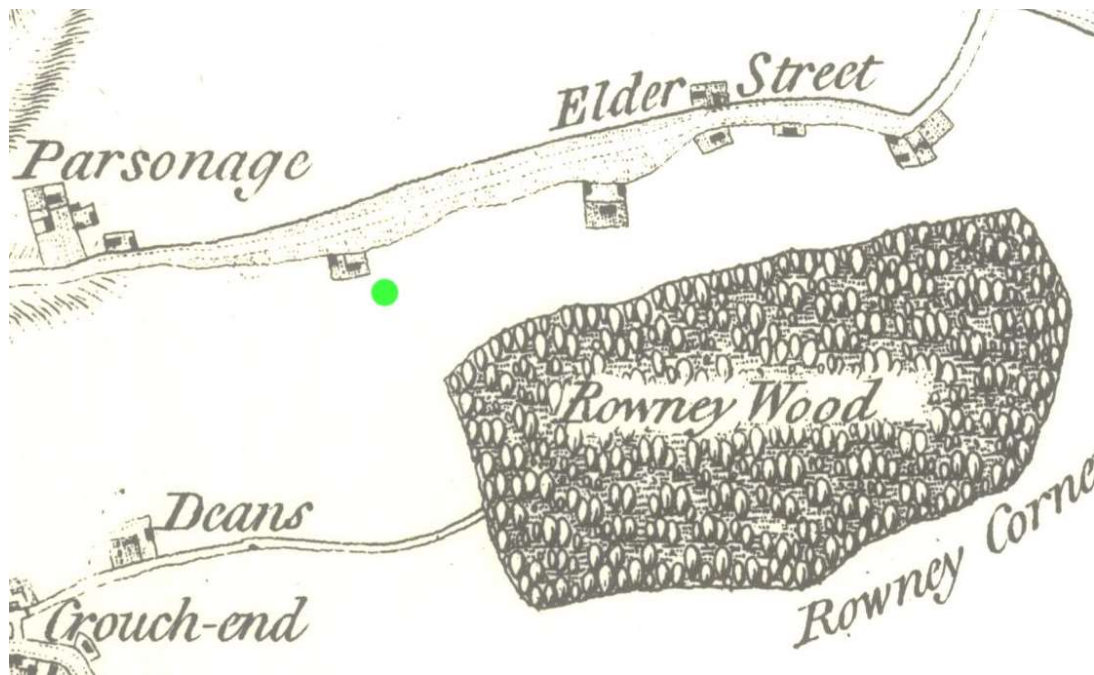
## Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a single dwelling with a detached garage.

## 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 development site is located adjacent to a site known as 'Ricketts', which is present on the 1777 Chapman and André map (Map 1). Later cartographic evidence also indicates the presence of a potential moat on the site (Map 2). There is potential for medieval features associated with the moat to be present on the development site.



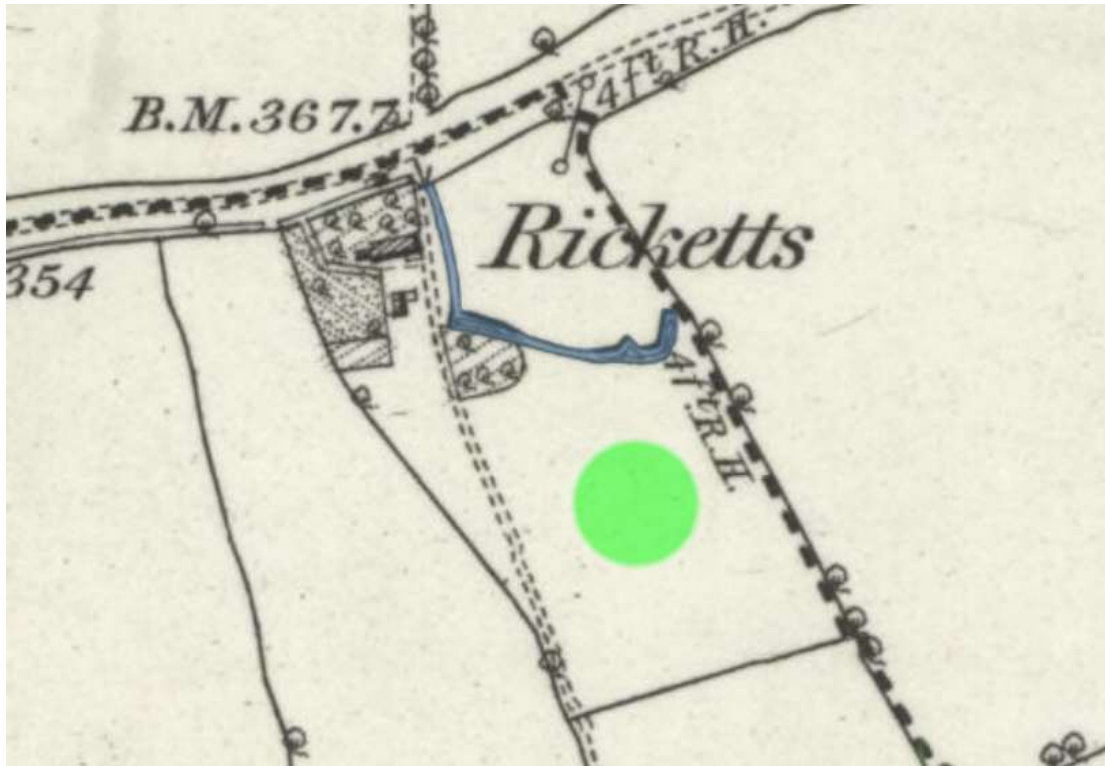
Map 1 Extract of the 1777 Chapman and André map. The approximate location of the site highlighted in green and Ricketts visible to the north-west.

Another moat is located rough 500m to the east of the site. Freemans Farm moated site is an ancient scheduled monument (NHLE No. 1008708) which dates to the medieval period. It is still visible and water-filled today.

Directly north of Debden Barns is the site of the former RAF Debden (EHER 16539). It was constructed in 1935 as part of the RAF expansion scheme and it is the only example of a base built in this period in Essex. The RAF site closed in 1975 but Carver barracks now occupies several of the buildings. Several pill boxes are also located nearby (EHER 21518, 21520-2).

The geology of the Uttlesford district is boulder clay (or till). This was laid down during the coldest period of the last ice age, when the Anglian ice sheet spread south into Essex. Below

this is a layer of Kesgrave sands and gravels which were deposited by the Thames when it flowed across central Essex (GeoEssex 2020).



Map 2 Extract of the 1st edition 6-inch OS Map (1881). Approximate location of the development site highlighted in green and the potential moat highlighted blue.

### Planning background

A planning application (UTT/20/0217/OP) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in January 2022 proposing an *Outline application for 1 no. dwelling and detached garage with all matters reserved except for access.*

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 2021).

### Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work will consist of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECCPS (*Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Land Rear of Debden Barns, Elder Street, Wimbish – ECC 2022*).

The evaluation will comprise of two evaluation trenches, located within the footprint of the proposed dwelling and garage. T1 will measure 18m long and 1.8m wide. T2 will be arranged in a cross-shape, and will have a total length of 17m and a width of 1.8m. This equates to 35m of trenching covering an area of 63m<sup>2</sup>.

Specific areas of interest will be:

- looking for evidence associated with the former moated site of Ricketts and any associated dating

The initial work will comprise of the trial trench which will be followed by a site meeting with the ECCHEA. Further archaeological work may be required. 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-c)
- 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 2022)
- 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 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 three archaeologists for three days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furniss/ 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 proforma record 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.

The trench 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 micromorphological 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 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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton  
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/ Pip Parmenter - 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  
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth  
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: Tom Lawrence

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 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. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

A summary (with trench plan) will 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.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited with Saffron Waldon Museum unless otherwise agreed in advance. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

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.

The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

## 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	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020

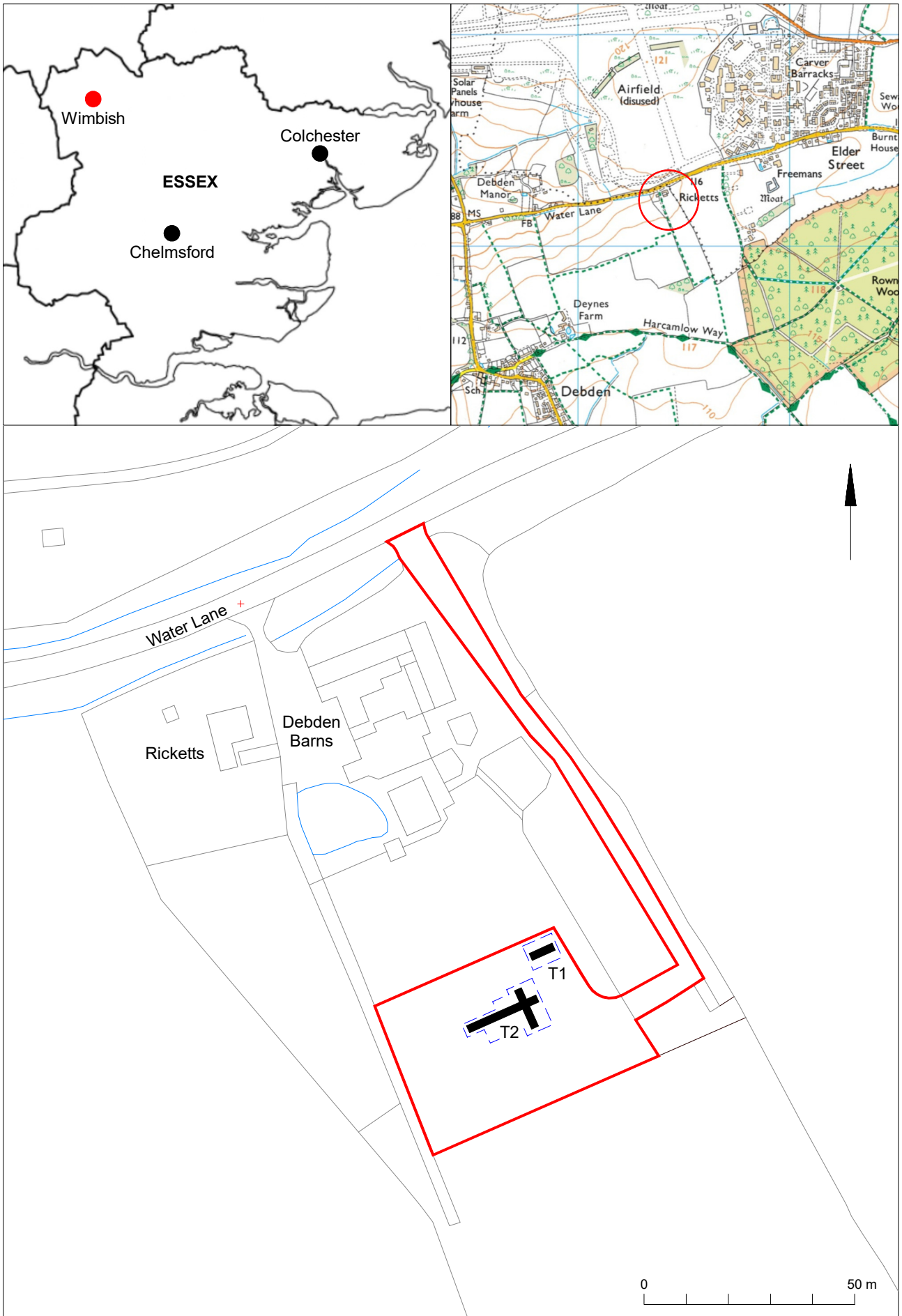
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised October 2021
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation At Land Rear of Debden Barns, Elder Street, Wimbish</i> by R Havis
GeoEssex	2020	<i>Uttlesford District Council: Report of Local Geological Sites</i> by G Lucy and R Mercer
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Historic England	2015	<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	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex - Kelvedon- Historic Towns Assessment Report</i> . Essex County Council
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2021	<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).



001



002  
1/





003



004  
2/



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006  
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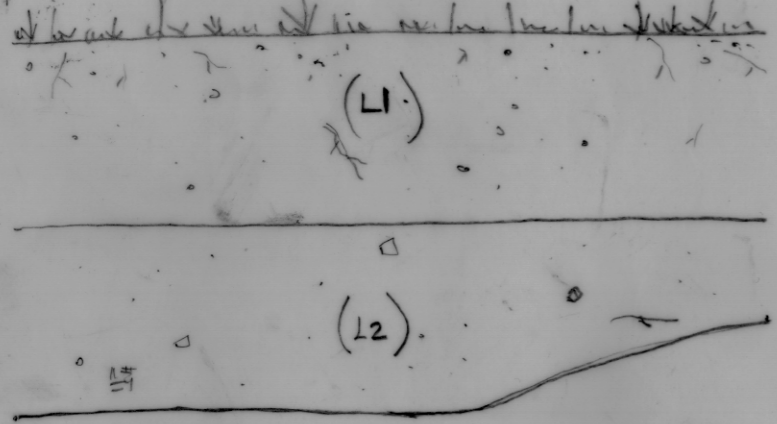
015

### Listing

DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_001.jpg TR1 trench shot - looking north-east  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_002.jpg TR1 trench shot - looking south-west  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_003.jpg TR1 rep sx - looking north-west  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_004.jpg TR2 trench shot - looking south-west  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_005.jpg TR2 trench shot - looking north-east  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_006.jpg TR2 rep sx 1 - looking south-south-east  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_007.jpg TR2 rep sx 2 - looking north-north-west  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_008.jpg TR3 rep sx 1 - looking south-west  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_009.jpg Working shot  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_010.jpg Working shot  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_011.jpg TR3 trench shot - looking south-south-  
east  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_012.jpg TR3 trench shot - looking west-south-  
west  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_013.jpg TR3 rep sx - looking west-south-west  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_014.jpg Working shot  
DBWIM22\_PhotoGraph\_015.jpg Working shot



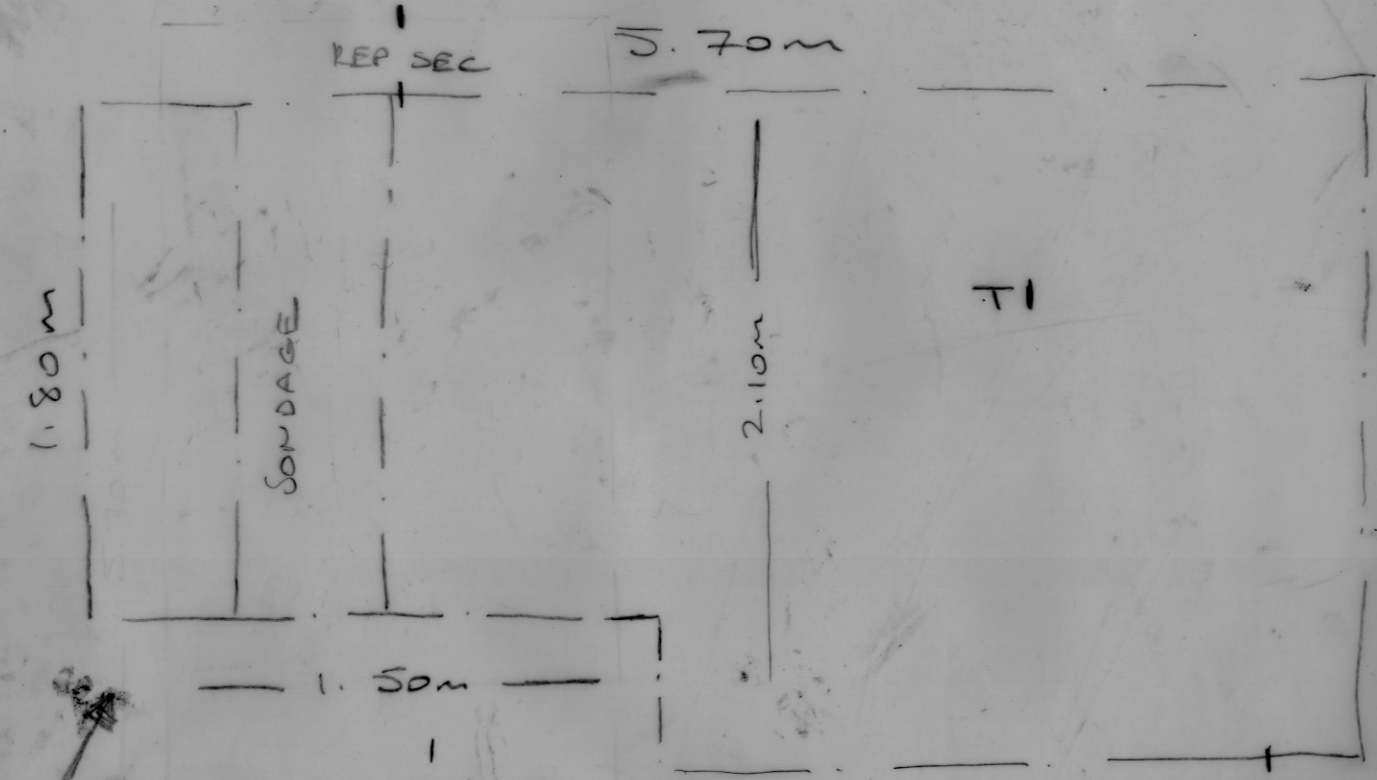
SX1  
S FAC REP SEC OF T1 SX1:10  
E 114.05m  
100



Top Soil / Plough Soil  
Dark brown silty sandy

Sub Soil  
Accumulated till wash  
Mid greyish brown silty  
clayey sandy with  
rare small stones

L3 - NAT CLAY.



Top soil : 0.25m

Sub soil : 0.20 - 0.25m

BASE OF TRENCH : 0.40 - 45

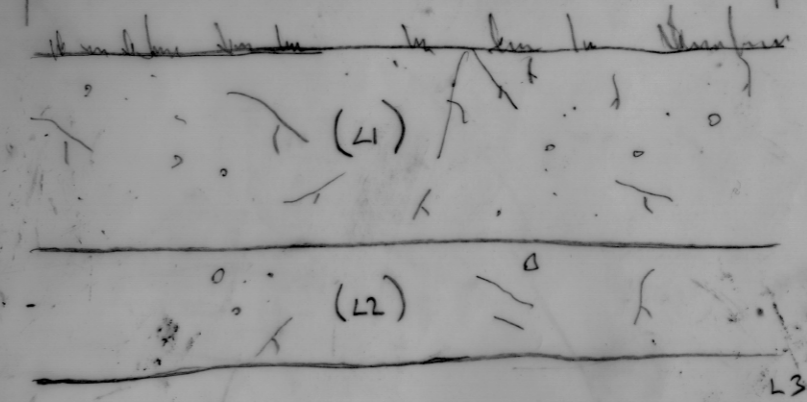
Top Soil : 0.25m

Sub soil : 0.11m

BASE OF T : 0.36m

NW END

SE | NW FAC REP SEC T2 SX1:10 | SW

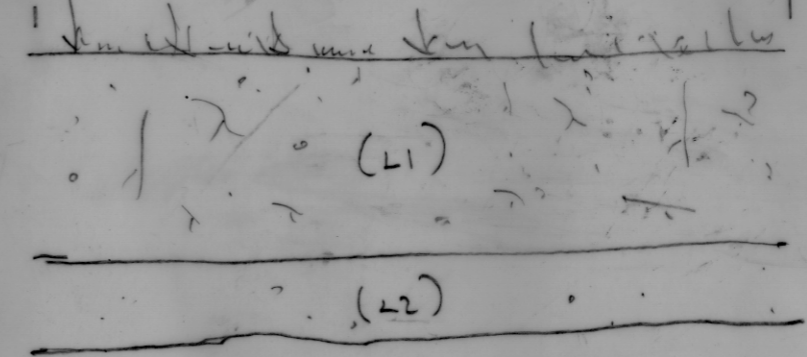


L1 Top Soil

Sub Soil (SAME AS T1)

NE END

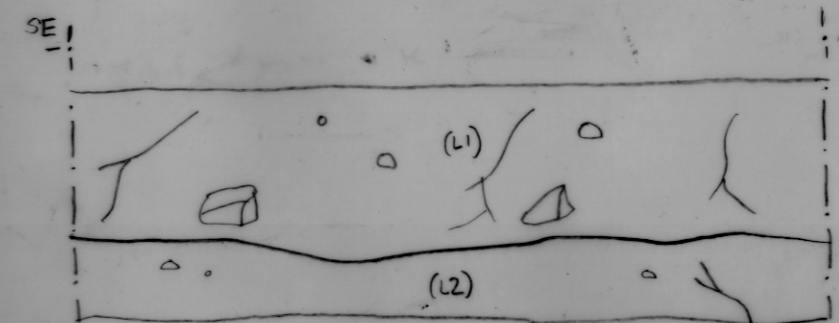
SW | SW FAC REP SEC OF T2 SX1:10 | NE



L1 Top Soil

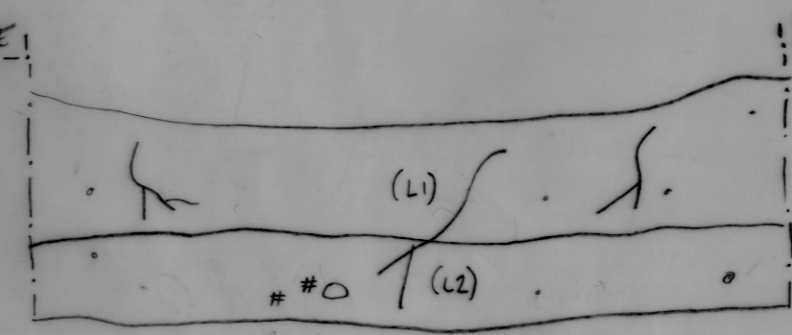
L2 Sub Soil

SX2 114.25m  
100



NE-FACING REPSEC  
TOPSOIL OF T3 SX1:10  
SUBSOIL TL 24/10/22

SE 114.27m  
100



NE FACING REPSEC OF  
T3 SX1:10  
TOPSOIL TL 24/10/22  
SUBSOIL SX3