

**An archaeological evaluation by
metal-detector survey and trial-trenching
on land to the rear of
11 & 12 Wykeham Road, Writtle, Essex
March 2012**



**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
the Chelmer Housing Partnership**

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and the back of 11 & 12
Wykeham Road, view south.

- Fig 1 Site location, marked by a red dot.
- Fig 2 Site plan, showing the positions of the trial-trenches and the proposed development.
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1 Summary

Six potential archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. However, their irregular shapes, profiles and fills suggest that they were probably tree-throw holes or areas of modern disturbance in the hillwash into which small, abraded finds from the topsoil have become incorporated.

Worked flints and pottery sherds recovered from the site suggest activity in the area in the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods.

No evidence associated with the nearby King John's Hunting Lodge was uncovered during the evaluation. The probable musket ball recovered during the metal-detector survey may derive from the possible use of the neighbouring field as a Napoleonic Wars-period army camp.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by metal-detecting survey and trial-trenching carried out on behalf of the Chelmer Housing Partnership by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). The site work was carried out on the 21st and 22nd of March 2012 on land to the rear of 11 & 12 Wykeham Road, Writtle, Essex (site centred at NGR TL 6787 0653; Fig 1).
- 2.2 The site is located just outside the Conservation Area and historic core of Writtle, north of Writtle Green, off St John's Road. Two houses, their gardens and an area of allotment land to the rear formerly occupied the site. It is proposed that ten affordable housing dwellings with a new access road, garages and associated parking will be built on the site (Fig 2).
- 2.3 A planning application was submitted to Chelmsford Borough Council (10/01635/FUL) in November 2010. As the development site lies within an area of archaeological potential, the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) team recommended that an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching should be carried out.
- 2.4 A brief detailing the required archaeological work was written by the HEM team officer Teresa O'Connor in February 2011 and then amended in January 2012 (HEM 2012). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT in response to the HEM team brief and agreed with the HEM team (CAT 2012).
- 2.5 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). Other sources used are *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

Finds of pottery and flints from the prehistoric period as well as of pottery from the Roman period indicate a long history of settlement within the surrounding area (HEM 2012).

To the north-west of the development site, in the area of Lordship Farm (Fig 1), lie the high-status remains of King John's Hunting Lodge (EHER no 659). The lodge comprised a series of buildings surrounded by a moat with three adjacent fish ponds to the east and an external farm based around a court to the south (Brudenell 2004). The complete

excavation of the platform interior between 1955-57 revealed three stratified phases of building from the 13th to the 15th centuries (Rahtz 1969). Personal finds dating to the medieval period have been uncovered in the adjacent field and residual medieval pottery within later domestic features have been found about 120m to the west of the development site (Robertson 1998).

The development site is also adjacent to the site of a possible Napoleonic Wars-period camp (EHER no 18584). Finds of musket balls within this area suggest that military practice occurred there during the early 19th century (HEM 2012).

4 Aims

The aim of the evaluation was to record the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the proposed development. This information will then enable an informed decision to be taken on the preservation or otherwise of any deposits and the need for further work and/or mitigation.

5 Methodology (Figs 2-3)

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the demolition of 11 and 12 Wykeham Road. The out-buildings, trees and fences had been removed using a mechanical excavator from the back gardens of the properties and from the area of former allotment land to the rear.

The metal-detecting survey was carried out by Heritage Writtle (<http://heritage-writtle.co.uk/default.aspx>), a group of local enthusiasts who investigate the history and archaeology of the parish of Writtle. A 10m-grid was established across the development site using tapes and canes to facilitate a systematic coverage of the site (Fig 3). Each grid square was metal-detected thoroughly by a member of Heritage Writtle. Squares 25-27 were abandoned due to the quantity of modern metal rubbish on the surface, and squares 17, 21, 9 and 10 were only partially surveyed due to the presence of a large rubbish-heap and the bases of three demolished out-buildings (Fig 3). The precise depth and location of the more interesting or potentially historically significant finds was recorded by a CAT archaeologist using a total station (Fig 3). General modern metal finds were retained by grid square number.

A dowsing survey was also undertaken across the investigation area to try to locate any features which could be of potential archaeological significance. The dowsing was undertaken by Heritage Writtle using two L-shaped copper rods, one rod being held in each hand with the short arm of the L held upright and the long arm pointing forward. When something was found, the rods crossed over one another. At these locations, a mark was sprayed on the ground and the location was recorded using the total station (Fig 3).

Four 1.8m-wide trial-trenches were excavated, totalling 70m in length (a 5% sample). The trial-trenches were positioned to encompass the findings of the metal-detector and dowsing surveys while focusing on the areas of intended groundworks. The trenches were also positioned to avoid the large rubbish-heap and the bases of the three demolished out-buildings. Trenches T1-T3 were 20m long and T4 was 10m long (Fig 2). The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

6 Results (Figs 1, 3-5)

The metal-detector survey and the dowsing survey

Eleven metal items were individually numbered and recorded using the total station (see section 7 and Appendix 3 below). Where they can be dated, they are all of post-medieval or modern date. The only item of particular archaeological significance is a lead ball presumed to be from a muzzle-loading firearm. Other metal finds recovered during the survey were clearly of modern date and only a sample of this material from five of the detecting squares was retained (see section 7 and Appendix 3). The finds were recovered from a depth of up to 200mm below ground-level, although most were located in the uppermost 100mm.

The dowsing survey indicated the possible presence of two linear features, 4-5m wide, crossing the site (Fig 3). The location of the evaluation trenches was altered slightly to investigate these anomalies, following approval from the ECC HEM team. None of the finds recovered during the metal-detector survey were considered significant enough to influence the positions of the trial-trenches.

The trial-trenching

All four trial-trenches were excavated into the same stratigraphic sequence. A dark grey/brown clayey-loam topsoil (L1) overlay a lighter brown clayey-loam (L2), which in turn overlay the natural geology (L3; Fig 5). The natural geology was a light yellow/brown sandy-clay hillwash (a colluvial deposit), which had accumulated on the side of the valley of the River Wid (Fig 1).

With the exception of modern material in the top 50-100mm of L1, both layers L1 and L2 were homogeneous and contained relatively few inclusions or finds. The small quantity of finds which was recovered from L2 were all prehistoric or Roman in date (see section 7 and Appendix 2). L2 is interpreted as either a soil accumulation which has survived below the level of the plough, or the result of deep-ploughing mixing the uppermost surface of the sandy-clay hillwash with the topsoil.

Six potential archaeological features (F1-F6) were identified (Fig 4). Only one of these features (gully F2) appeared to be cut from within the overlying soil layers. The fill of gully F2 contained coal and clinker, confirming that it had been dug from near the surface in modernity.

F3, F4 and F6 were all identified due to the presence of finds in areas of disturbed natural. None of these features had well-defined edges or profiles and they were all relatively shallow (Figs 4-5). Moreover, in each case, the finds were recovered from the 'surface' of the feature and no other inclusions were observed in the fills. Therefore, it is probable that these 'features' were either modern disturbances or tree-throw holes into which prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval/modern finds had become incorporated.

F1 and F5 both had well-defined edges but were also shallow and contained fills devoid of inclusions (Fig 5). In shape, F2 resembled a rubbish-pit. However, the only finds recovered from F2 were two heat-altered stones, which are presumed to be prehistoric, and a sherd of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. It is probable that these finds are residual and that F2 is a tree-throw hole. F1 was very irregular in shape and contained four sherds of prehistoric pottery including a sand-tempered sherd, which could indicate that this group is Iron Age in date.

Three exploratory slots were hand-excavated into the hillwash (L3) in locations where worked flints had been collected from the interface between L2 and L3 (T2; Fig 4). L3 became more orange

in colour and increased in solidity with depth, and it contained no finds or inclusions.

Two pieces of lead or alloyed lead were recovered from the spoil of T1 by metal-detectorists from Heritage Writtle. Both are unstratified and are probably of post-medieval or modern date.

7 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

The finds recovered are pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), worked flint and heat-altered stone. All of these finds are listed and described in Appendix 2 below. In addition, there are the metal finds which were recovered from the metal-detector survey of the site and the evaluation trenches. The individually numbered finds from the survey are listed and described in Appendix 3 below.

Pottery

A small quantity of pottery (ie thirteen sherds, with a combined weight of 43 g) was recovered from seven contexts. The pottery was divided into fabrics and the number of sherds and weight was recorded by fabric type for each context finds number. All of the pottery is listed and described by feature in Appendix 2.

Prehistoric

There are seven sherds of prehistoric, pre 'Belgic' pottery, with a total weight of 19 g. The average sherd weight is small, at 2.7 g. Almost all of this pottery (6 sherds, weighing 16 g) is flint-tempered (Fabric HMF), with just one sherd (weighing 3 g) which is tempered with white quartz sand (HMS). With one possible exception, all the sherds appear to be undistinguished body wall sherds and none are decorated.

Flint-tempered sherds were recovered from T1 (L2), T2 (F4) and T2 (L2), and flint-tempered sherds and a sand-tempered sherd were recovered from T1 (F1). The fabric of each sherd is described in Appendix 2. Except for F1, which produced four sherds in total, the other contexts produced only single sherds.

The prehistoric pottery is difficult to date closely. This is because the sherds are very small with no decoration or diagnostic traits, and flint-temper was commonly used from the Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods. The single sand-tempered sherd from F1 (11) suggests an Iron Age date. Also, one of the flint-tempered sherds from L2 (10) has a noticeable concentration of flint and sand on the surface which contrasts with the fabric. A dense concentration of surface flint is known from the bases of pottery vessels dating to the Late Bronze Age (Brown 1988, 270). While it is not clear if this sherd is part of a base, the concentration of material on its surface might indicate a Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date.

Roman

Six sherds of sandy grey ware pottery, together weighing 24 g, were recovered. The pottery is from three features and one layer located in three of the trenches, ie T1 (F5), T2 (F3) and T4 (F6, L2). All are single sherds, except for three very small sherds from F5 (15). The average sherd weight is 4 g and two are quite abraded. The sherds have been broadly categorised either as Romanising grey wares (Fabric 45) or Sandy grey wares (Fabric 47), following Going (Going 1987).

The small sherds from F5 (15) are from a rim or possibly the edge of a lid. Two of the sherds join and are clearly recently broken. Also, they are not significantly abraded. The surfaces are dark grey/black in colour and the fabric, which is relatively soft and sandy, possibly has some burnt

organic matter and dark grog (Fabric 45). The sherds have a possibly hand-made feel to them, although there are too small to be certain. Another sherd (quite abraded) from L2 (17) in a sandy (abraded), pale grey fabric is from the body of a jar (Fabric 47). It is clearly wheel-thrown. The remaining two sherds are in fine sand/silt fabrics. One, from F6 (16) is a very abraded, relatively thick, body sherd in a grey fabric (Fabric 47) which includes some burnt organic matter. The other, from F3 (13), is in a black-surfaced micaceous fabric (Fabric 45) and, again, the sherd appears relatively thick.

Close dating is very difficult. One sherd (L2) is clearly a Roman grey ware. The sherds from (F5) suggest either a Late Iron Age or early Roman date although early Roman appears more probable. For the other two sherds (from F3 and F6), which have a fine sand fabric and a moderately thick body, an Iron Age date might be possible. However, the colour and surface suggest that they are both Roman rather than Iron Age. An early-mid Roman date is likely.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Three small pieces of CBM (combined weight 11 g) were recovered from three contexts located in two trenches, ie F2 (T3), and F3 and F6 (T2).

Two of the pieces, from F2 (12) and F6 (16), are in a fine, sandy orange fabric. One (16, from F6) is from the flat, slightly uneven, surface of a tile/flat brick. Although difficult to date, both appear fairly typical of the silty fabric and feel of some pieces of Roman CBM and are provisionally dated as Roman. The other piece, from F3 (13), is rather coarser and may be Roman, although a post-medieval/modern date appears more probable.

Worked flints

by Adam Wightman

Six struck flakes or utilised pieces of flint were recovered from features and layers in three trenches, ie T1 (L2), T2 (F3, F4) and T4 (F6, L2). None are patinated.

Three pieces are complete struck flakes which retain the striking platform, ie two from F3 (13) and one from F6 (16). Two of these, one from each context, have some cortex on them. The flakes are irregular and one (from F3) has a hinge fracture. There is usewear or retouch along one edge, close to the striking platform on one flake (from F3), and discrete patches of usewear or retouch on the concave base of a broad flake (from F3).

Two pieces, F4 (14) and L2 (17), are possibly pieces from cores or shatter pieces. One (17 from L2) has usewear or retouch along one edge indicating that it has been utilised. The other (14 from F4) retains some cortex and has a hinge fracture on one face.

A small flake recovered from L2 (10) is slightly different to the other flint pieces. The surface is dulled and polished while the edges are battered, indicating that it has probably been rolled and is possibly of some antiquity. There is a small flake scar from a previous flake on the top of the dorsal face indicating flaking from one edge of a core. This flake may be natural piece.

Overall, the nature of most of the flints recovered indicates relatively unsystematic working producing irregular flakes, which is typical of later prehistoric, perhaps Later Bronze Age, flint-working.

Heat-altered (burnt) stone

Two pieces of heat-altered stone (together weighing 23 g) were recovered from F5 (15) in T2. Both pieces are flint. Heat-altered stone, commonly flint (often referred to as 'burnt flint') is often associated with prehistoric sites and is probably mostly associated with cooking, either

through heating water or possibly slow cooking using pits (Loveday 2012).

Metal-detector finds

Finds numbers 1-8 and 18 were recovered from the surface (L1, topsoil) during the metal-detecting survey. The earliest in date is probably a lead ball (finds no 7), presumed to be from a muzzle-loading firearm. Other identified items are a copper-alloy strap fitting (finds no 3) and a small tap handle of post-medieval or modern date (finds no 6), part of a modern metal toy soldier (finds no 4), and a penny coin of George V (reigned 1910-1936; finds no 1). Of local historical interest is a complete tablespoon stamped HOFFMAN on the shaft, which is from the Hoffman factory in Chelmsford (finds no 18).

Two pieces of lead or alloyed lead (finds nos 9a, 9b) were recovered from spoil from T1. Both are unstratified. One (finds no 9a) is a melted piece which appears to be of post-medieval or modern date. The other (finds no 9b) appears to be part of a semicircular piece which is not closely dated, but is probably of post-medieval or modern date.

Most of the metal-detected finds from the surface survey were clearly of modern date and were not retained. All were unstratified. A sample of this material from five of the detecting squares consists of:

Square 2

Round metal tube with closed end (similar in shape to a cigar tube), damaged (dented and slightly flattened), unknown purpose.

Square 4

Thirty-one post-decimalisation one-penny and two-penny coins, a thin metal washer; also a copper-alloy fitting and a copper-alloy object similar to a dart barrel from a set of darts, both of unknown purpose.

Square 5

Two post-decimalisation penny coins, a metal washer, a piece of thin aluminium/aluminium foil, two pieces of melted, alloyed metal (metal unidentified); also a light metal fitting of modern date and a small part of a cast fitting, both of unknown purpose.

Square 6

Broad ring or small section of metal pipe, 14 mm long, 16 mm in diameter.

Square 7

Thick, grey metal washer, 30 mm in diameter, 5 mm thick.

Discussion

Most of the small quantity of finds recovered consists of small, often abraded pottery sherds, fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) and a worked flint. The nature of the finds assemblage makes close dating difficult.

The earliest activity appears to date to the later prehistoric period of the Later Bronze Age-Early Iron Age. The prehistoric pottery is very broken up, suggesting that it may be residual in later contexts.

There is a small quantity of finds which can be dated to the Iron Age-Roman period. These are associated with F2, F3, F5 and F6. However, most of the pottery sherds are quite abraded, which suggests that they may have been quite old when they entered these contexts. Some might date to the Iron Age period, although none are grog-tempered. At least one sherd, from L2 (17), is undoubtedly Roman, and an early Roman or Roman date appears most likely for all of these sherds. Two small pieces of CBM from F2 and F6 also appear to be probably Roman. The small quantity of finds of this period indicates that they may derive from agricultural manure scatter away from a settlement.

The metal-detected finds, where closely datable, are of post-medieval or modern date and all of the metal-detected finds appear to belong to the post-medieval or modern period.

8 Discussion (Fig 2)

This evaluation revealed no significant archaeological deposits and has shown that the development site has not been the focus of any significant activity in the past. However, the finds evidence does suggest some activity in the area during the Later Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods.

It is possible that two of the features excavated (F1, F4) could date to the prehistoric period and two (F5, F6) to the Roman period. However, it is probable that, with the exception of the modern gully (F2), all of the features examined are actually tree-throw holes or areas of modern disturbance into which small, abraded finds from the topsoil have become incorporated.

The results of this evaluation are similar to those of three trial-trenching evaluations and two watching briefs undertaken around Writtle Agricultural College, 200-400m north of the development site. These investigations yielded few archaeological features, but prehistoric pottery, struck and burnt flints, and abraded Roman pottery sherds were recovered during the fieldwork, either from the topsoil or as residual finds in later contexts (Reidy 1993a; Reidy 1993b; Robertson 1998; Gibson 1999; Vaughan 2000).

No evidence associated with King John's Hunting Lodge was uncovered during the evaluation. The probable musket ball recovered during the metal-detector survey may derive from the site of the possible Napoleonic Wars-period army camp located 200m to the east.

9 Archive deposition

The paper archive is currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex. The finds are currently held by CAT but will be passed to Heritage Writtle at The Steading, 1 Guys Farm, Writtle, Essex. Both the paper archive and the finds will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE 2012.066.

10 Acknowledgements

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Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

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12 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
Bronze Age	period from c 2,500 to 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick and tile

context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
HEM	Historic Environment Management team of ECC
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4,500 to 2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD 1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx for drawn sections) - vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

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Adams x c:/reports 12/writtle/report 639.doc

13 Appendices

Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by ECC HEM
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 1 x A3 site plan provided by developer
- 1.5 1 x A4 site plan provided by developer

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Site digital photographic record
- 2.2 Attendance register
- 2.3 Context sheets (F1-F6, L1-L3)
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report
- 3.2 Specialist finds report

Not in wallet

The finds (these occupy less than 1 museum box)
1 x A3 sheet of section drawings

Appendix 2: the bulk finds catalogue
by Stephen Benfield

HMF = hand-made flint-tempered, HMS = hand-made sand-tempered, HAS = heat-altered stone, CBM = ceramic building material

Trench	context	finds no	material	description	fabric/colour	abraded	quantity	wt (g)	spot date
T1	F1	11	pot	common small-medium flint, dark hard fabric	HMF		2	4	Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
T1	F1	11	pot	moderate quartz sand fabric	HMS		1	3	?Iron Age
T1	F1	11	pot	moderate small-medium flint, dark fabric	HMF		1	1	Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
T1	L2	10	flint	small battered flake, previous flake removal on dorsal face, battered and rolled(?)			1	1	palaeolithic/?natural
T1	L2	10	pot	coarse, sparse-moderate flint, oxidised exterior, more flint and sand in oxidised surface. If it is part of the base (not clear), then it might indicate a Late Bronze Age date	HMF		1	7	Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
T2	F3	13	pot	fine sand, micaceous fabric, black surface, slightly abraded	45	*	1	3	Roman
T2	F3	13	CBM	slightly coarse sandy fabric, orange; flake from brick or thick tile, Roman or post-medieval/modern			1	3	
T2	F3	13	flint	squat, secondary flake, slight hinge fracture at base			1	8	later prehistoric
T2	F3	13	flint	broad, flake with concave base with several small areas of use wear/retouch, small piece of cortex on striking platform			1	22	later prehistoric
T2	F4	14	flint	core fragment/shatter piece with cortex and a hinge fracture			1	5	
T2	F4	14	pot	fragment, sparse medium flint, brown fabric, part oxidised surface	HMF	*	1	2	Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
T2	F5	15	HAS	heat-altered stone: burnt flint			2	23	prehistoric
T2	F5	15	pot	very small sherds (two joining) from an angled/everted rim with flat top/edge, sandy, dark grey surfaces, sandy fabric with some dark burnt organic matter and possibly some grog, ?hand-made, vessel rim or possibly from the edge of a lid	45		3	3	Late Iron Age/ Roman
T3	F2	12	CBM	orange fine sand fabric, small flake from a tile/brick			1	4	Roman
T4	F6	16	pot	grey, fine sand fabric, some burnt organic matter, ?wheel-made, abraded, probably Roman	47	*	1	9	Roman

Trench	context	finds no	material	description	fabric/colour	abraded	quantity	wt (g)	spot date
T4	F6	16	CBM	fine sand fabric, orange; flake from tile/brick surface			1	4	Roman
T4	F6	16	flint	thick flake with large flake scar, secondary flake with some cortex and previous flake-removal scars. Small area of use wear/retouch on shoulder close to striking platform			119		later prehistoric
T2	L2	17	pot	small-medium, moderate-common flint	HMF		1	2	Neolithic-Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
T2	L2	17	pot	sandy grey fabric, wheel-made	47	*	1	9	Roman
T2	L2	17	flint	irregular flake/broken flint piece, utilised piece, areas of use wear/retouch along one edge			1	11	later prehistoric(?)

Appendix 3: the numbered metal-detector finds
by Stephen Benfield

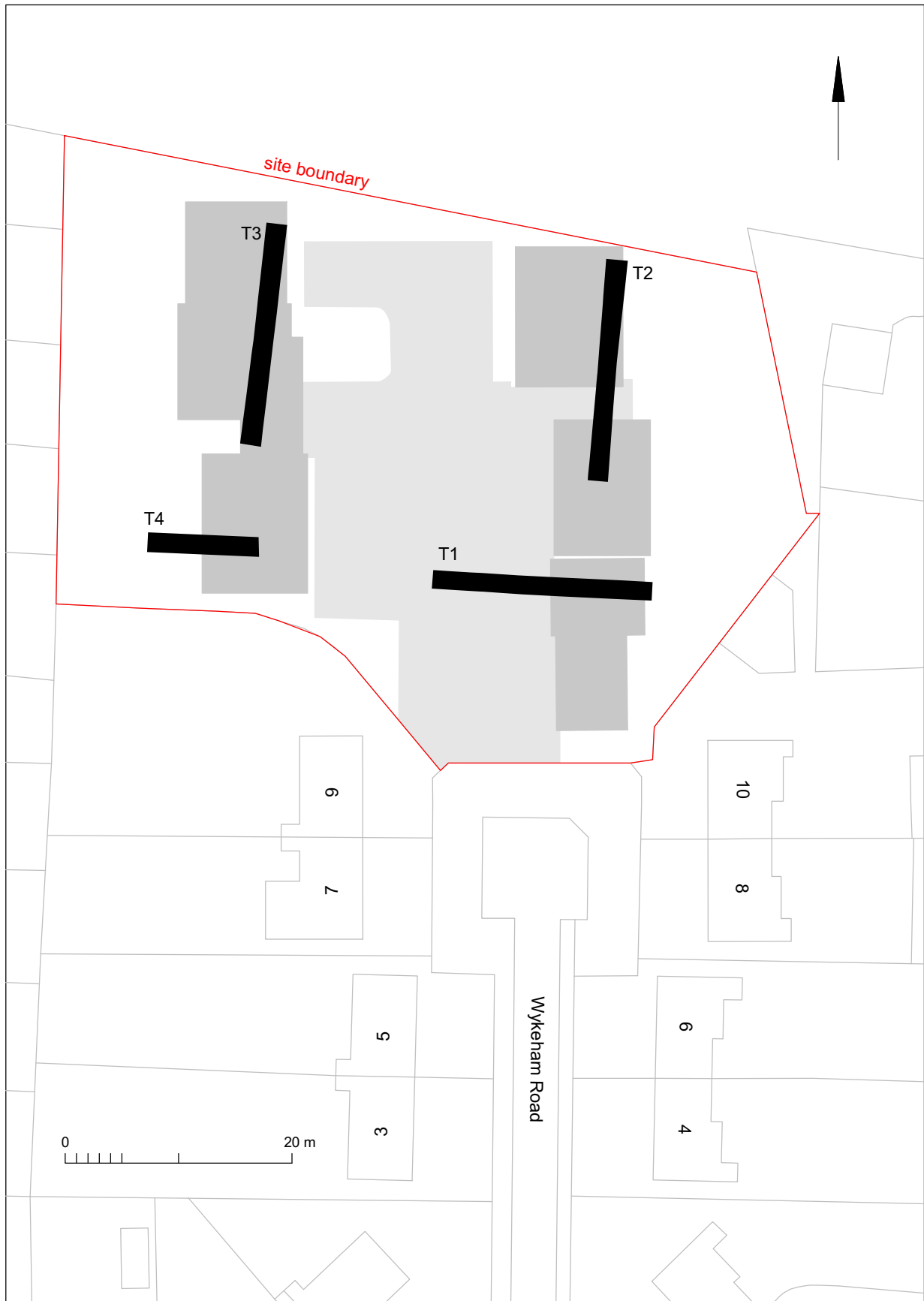
Finds no	context type	material	object type	description	quantity	wt (g)	length (mm)	width (mm)	thickness (mm)	diameter (mm)	spot date
1	L1 (US)	copper alloy	coin	very worn penny, George V (obverse bust facing left, legendDVS..... GRA : BRITT : OMN : (RE..), reverse obscured	1	4.8				25	modern (AD 1910-1936)
2	L1 (US)	copper alloy	?coin	very worn/corroded, no discernible surface features other than irregular, small, slightly raised lumps; size suggests modern penny	1	5.3				25	?modern
3	L1 (US)	copper alloy	strap fitting	complete cast, oval strap fitting with central bar, rounded/oval cross-section to frame and central bar, one side of outer frame and central bar slightly bent	1	15.0	60	22			post-medieval/modern
4	L1 (US)	lead/lead alloy	toy figure	torso (neck to knees) from toy figure of a soldier firing rifle/musket (missing), belted tunic, traces of red paint on tunic with some traces of white paint	1	10.0	35				modern
5	L1 (US)	lead/lead alloy	piece	irregular, thin, flat piece from run of melted lead or alloyed lead (rounded sides, rough base), broken at one end	1	45.0					
6	L1 (US)	copper alloy	tap handle	small, oval, flat tap handle	1	3.4	18	14	1.5		post-medieval/modern
7	L1 (US)	lead	ball	firearm ball	1	20.1				15	post-medieval/modern
8	L1 (US)	copper alloy	thimble	sides of thimble, top missing (irregular broken upper edge), plain base below faint groove, some surface dimples close to the top edge have corroded through	1	3.2	17				post-medieval/modern
9a	L1 (US)	lead	piece	lozenge-like piece of melted lead or alloyed lead (rounded sides), rough base with two irregular, deep grooves, small casting sprue, part broken away at one end	1	34.0	30	25			
9b	L1 (US)	lead	piece	curving piece of lead with one flat edge	1	13.0	27	23			
18	L1 (US)	nickel silver	spoon	tablespoon stamped HOFFMAN on top of the handle, underside stamped NICKEL SILVER followed by a stamped diamond	1	43.0	170				modern



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Fig 1 Site location, marked by a red dot.



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Fig 2 Site plan, showing the positions of the trial-trenches and the proposed development.
 (The proposed buildings are shown dark grey and the access road and car-parking are shown light grey.)

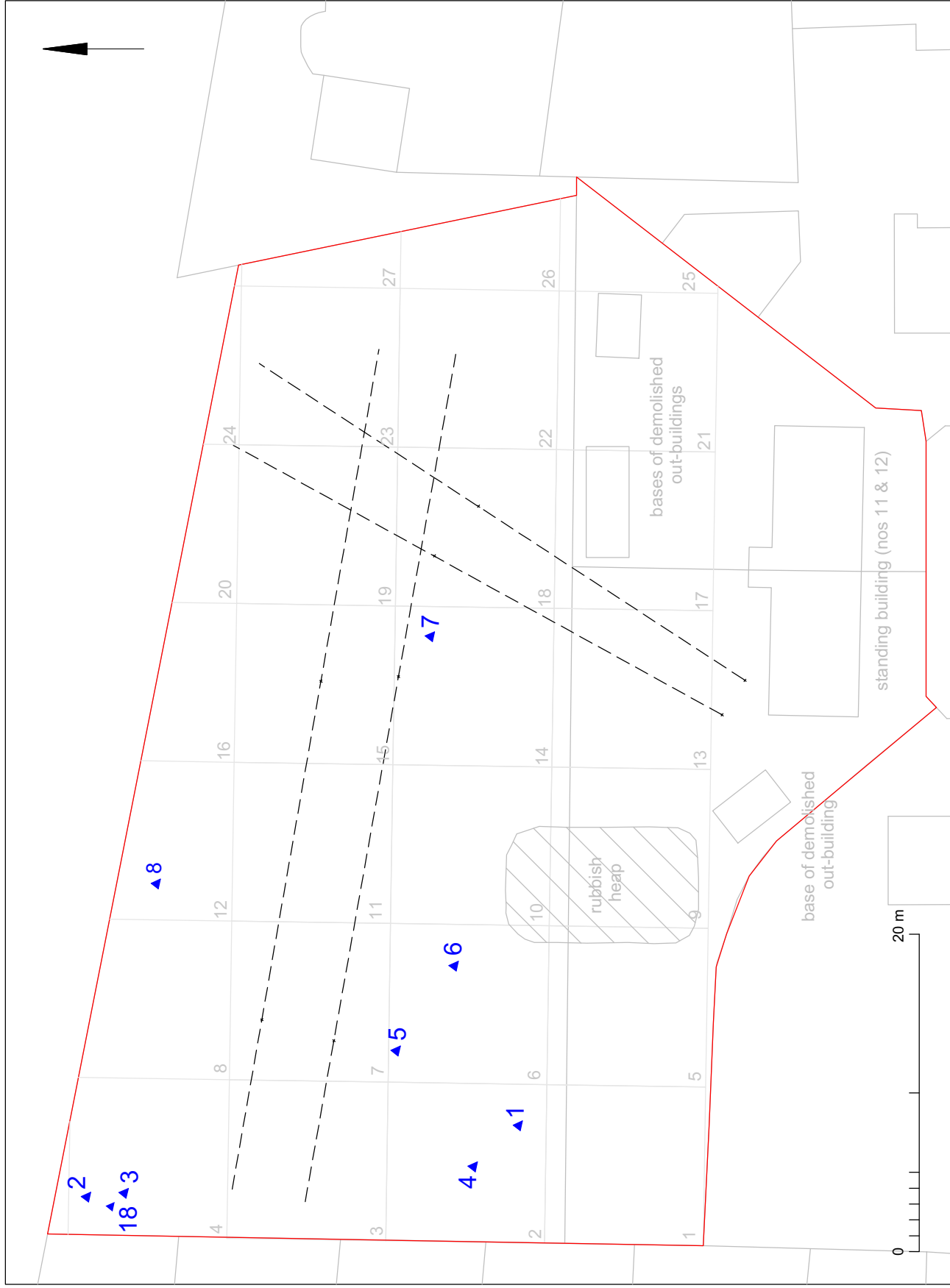
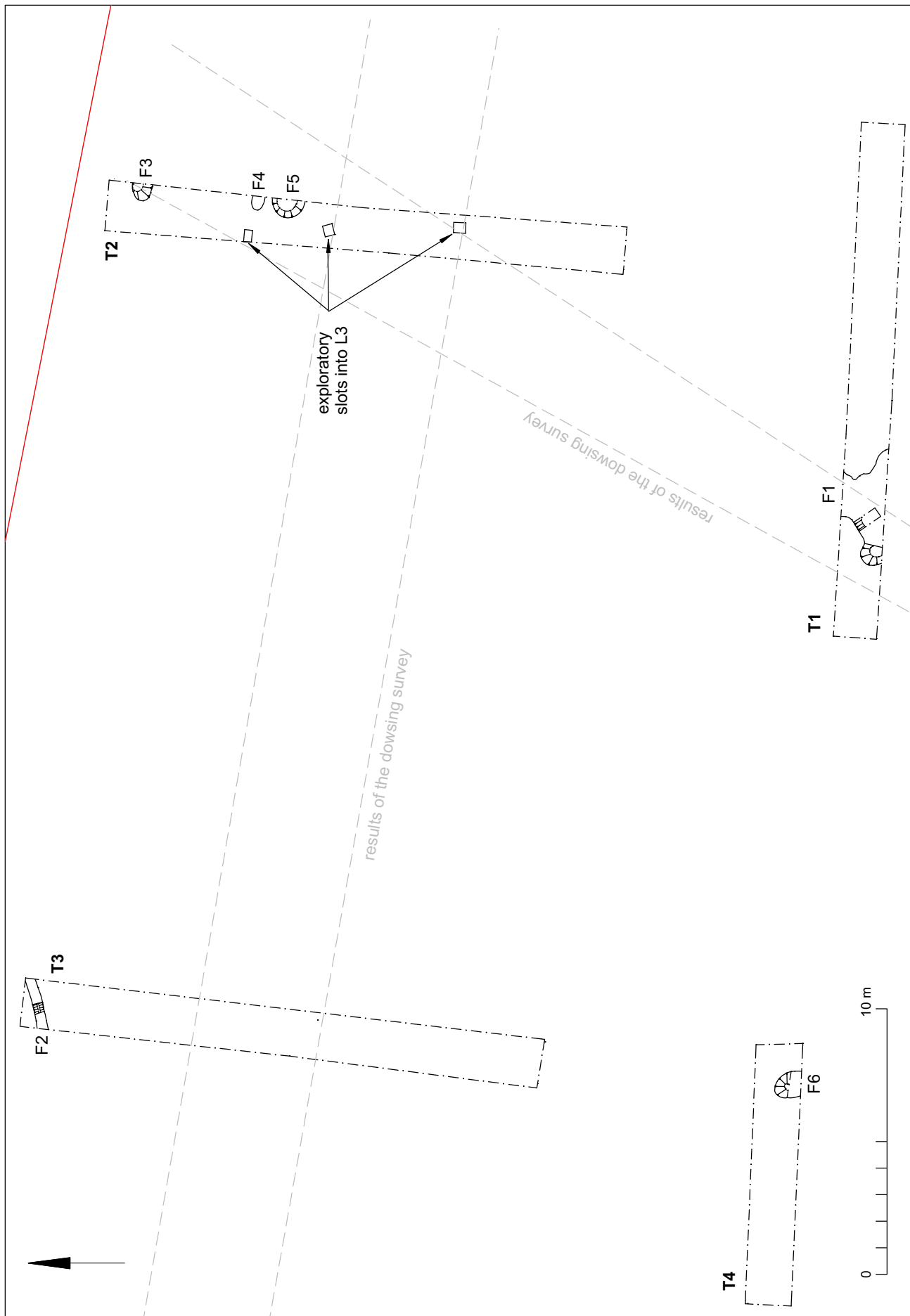


Fig 3 The results of the metal-detector survey and the dowsing survey. (Heritage Writtle's 10m grid shown light grey, numbered metal-detector finds shown blue, and the dowsing results shown as dashed black lines).



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Fig 4 Trial-trenching results.

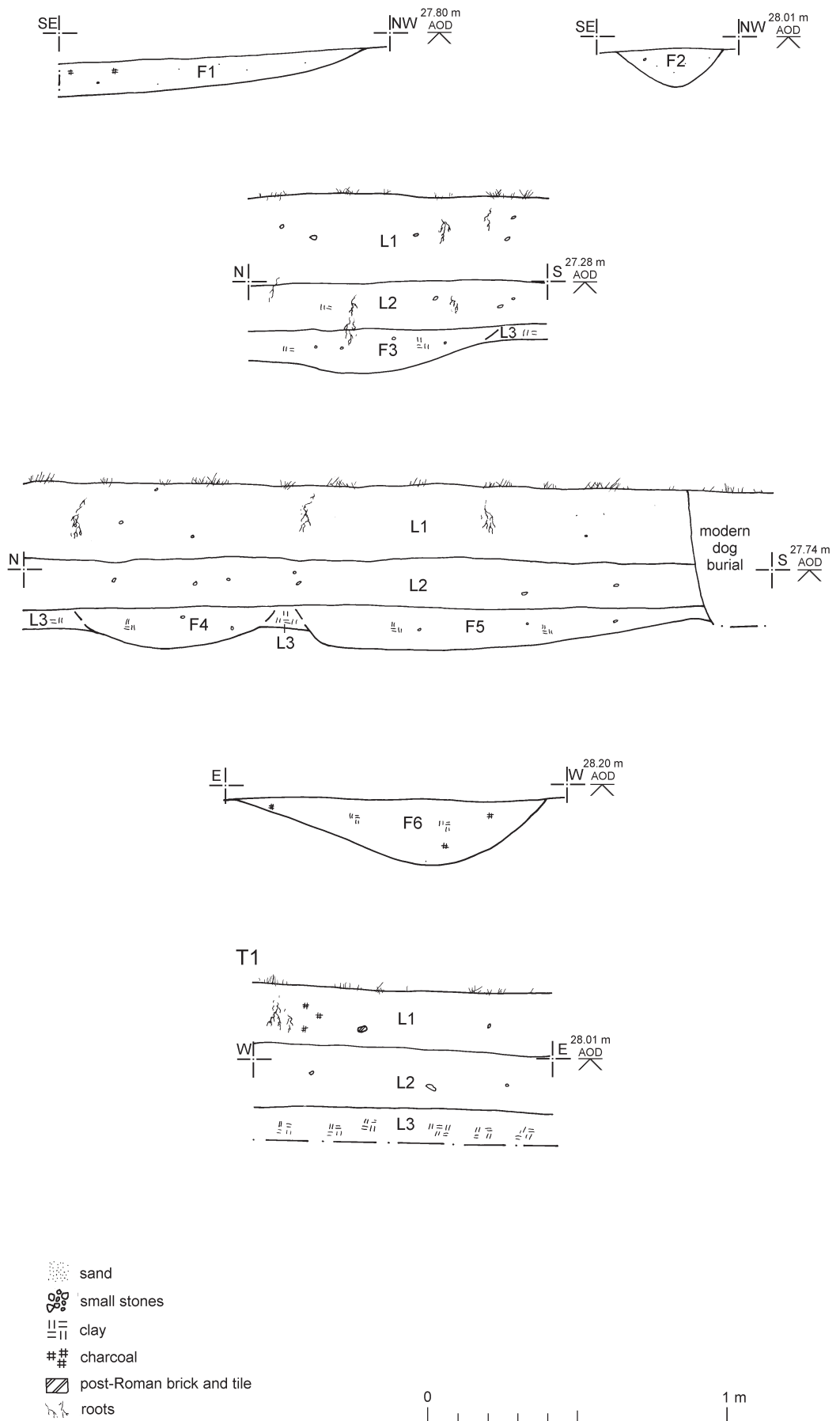


Fig 5 F1-F6: sections; T1: representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: land to the rear of 11 & 12 Wykeham Road, Writtle, Essex	
Parish: Writtle	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 6787 0653	Site codes: CAT project – 12/3f ECC – WRWR12 Museum accession – CHMRE 2012.066
Type of work: Evaluation by metal-detector survey and trial-trenching	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 21st-22nd March 2012	Size of area investigated: approximately 2,500m ² site, four trenches totalling 70m x 1.8m
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 659, 14587-14591, 18174, 18255, 18584, 18921, 18922
Final report:	CAT Report 639 and summary in <i>EAH</i>
Periods represented:	Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, post-medieval
<p>Summary: <i>Six potential archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. However, their irregular shapes, profiles and fills suggest that they were probably tree-throw holes or areas of modern disturbance in the hillwash into which small, abraded finds from the topsoil have become incorporated.</i> <i>Worked flints and pottery sherds recovered from the site suggest activity in the area in the Late Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods.</i> <i>No evidence associated with the nearby King John's Hunting Lodge was uncovered during the evaluation. The probable musket ball recovered during the metal-detector survey may derive from the possible use of the neighbouring field as a Napoleonic Wars-period army camp.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: pottery, tree-throw hole	Significance: *
Author of summary: Adam Wightman	Date of summary: April 2012