

# **An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Throws Farm, Stebbing, Essex October 2012**



**report prepared by  
Adam Wightman**

**commissioned by  
Clive Petch Architects  
on behalf of  
Agrii**

CAT project ref.: 12/09c  
Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM 2012.75  
HEM site code: STTF12  
NGR: TL 6584 2248 (c)



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**CAT Report 669**  
November 2012

## Summary

*Three trial-trenches were excavated by the Colchester Archaeological Trust within the footprints of three of the four proposed buildings which are to be located in and around the existing buildings at Throws Farm. Two of the proposed buildings are on vacant ground, one is across the sites of two buildings to be demolished, and one is across vacant ground and the sites of two buildings, one of which is to be demolished and one to be partly demolished.*

*Seven potential archaeological features were identified by the evaluation, ie a possible natural glacial feature, three probable tree-throw pits, and three shallow features containing modern building materials (a trench and two large pits).*

*Evidence of activity associated with Throws Farm during the modern and later post-medieval periods was identified. However, no post-medieval or earlier farm buildings appear to have been situated within the footprints of the three proposed buildings which were investigated. One small sherd of Roman grey ware pottery was recovered from the trench closest to the line of the Roman road (immediately south of the site), but no archaeological features associated with a roadside settlement were identified in the trial-trenches.*

## Introduction

This is the summary report on the archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (T1, T2, T3) carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Throws Farm, Stebbing, Essex (NGR TL 6584 2248 (c); Fig 1). The proposed development comprises the demolition or redevelopment of existing farm buildings and the construction of four new buildings (Fig 2).

Throws Farm is a historic farm complex which lies immediately adjacent to the line of the Roman road from Braughing to Colchester (ie Stane Street; Fig 1). For more information on the historical background of the area and details of archaeological finds recovered in the vicinity, see the Essex County Council brief (HEM 2012) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (CAT 2012), both of which are appended to this report.

Three trial-trenches (T1-T3) totalled 80m in length. These were excavated within the footprints of the three proposed buildings which are to be located on or partly on vacant ground. The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

## Results

### T1 (Figs 2-4, Plate 1)

T1 was located in a cultivated field to the north of the farm complex (Fig 2). The medium brown/grey clayey-silt ploughsoil (L1) was removed by machine, exposing the orange/grey natural clay (L2) (Fig 4; Plate 1). The ploughsoil contained fragments of post-medieval/modern brick and tile as well as worked and burnt flints (see below). The only feature cut into the natural clay in T1 was a modern land drain (Fig 3).

### T2 (Figs 2-4, Plate 2)

T2 and T3 were both located in a grass paddock to the west of the farm complex (Fig 2). In both trenches, the turf and medium grey/brown clayey-silt topsoil (L3) overlaid a light brown silty-clay soil (L4), which in turn overlaid the natural clay (L2; Fig 4). Occasional modern/post-medieval brick and tile fragments were observed in L3,

and worked flints and a small abraded sherd of Roman grey ware pottery were recovered from L4.

Four features were identified in T2 (Fig 3). Two sections were excavated through curved gully F1, and three pits were half-sectioned (F2-F4; Fig 3). F1, F2 and F3 were all shallow and had light grey/brown silty-clay fills with rare charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered from these three features. Pit F4 had a darker fill with charcoal flecking. A fragment of peg-tile was also recovered from F4. It is possible that the three pits are backfilled tree-throw pits created by the removal of trees and the backfilling of the holes during this process. These trees were probably fruit trees, based on the presence of large elderly fruit trees along the western edge of the paddock and by the presence of what appears to be an orchard on the old Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The gully F1 may be a natural glacial feature or may have been created by the removal of the fruit trees.

### **T3 (Figs 2-4, Plate 3)**

T3 was located in a grass paddock to the west of the farm complex (Fig 2), within a notable depression. In T3, as in T2, the turf and medium grey/brown clayey-silt topsoil (L3) overlaid a light brown silty-clay soil (L4), which in turn overlaid the natural clay (L2; Fig 4). Occasional modern/post-medieval brick and tile fragments were observed in L3, and worked flints and a small abraded sherd of Roman grey ware pottery were recovered from L4.

A north-south orientated linear feature (F5) was identified in the southern half of T3 (Fig 3). F5 was very shallow (Fig 4) and contained brick and peg-tile fragments, post-medieval pottery sherds and two small lumps of burnt clay (see 'finds' below). It is probable that F5 was the base of a shallow trench. In the centre of T3, two large pits with dark grey silty-clay fills (F6, F7) were cut into the natural clay (Fig 3). Both pits were shallow (Fig 4) and contained fragments of modern frogged bricks and roof slate. F6 also contained six whole 17th- to early 18th-century bricks which had been laid onto the natural in the base of the pit (see Finds section below). However, none of the bricks showed any evidence of having been mortared and they did not form a surface or the base of a structure. It is possible that these bricks and the other fragments of building material were imported into this area to help consolidate an area of soft ground.

### **Conclusion**

Evidence of activity associated with Throws Farm during the modern and later post-medieval periods was identified in T2 and T3 to the west of the existing farm complex. However, no post-medieval or earlier farm buildings appear to have been situated within the footprints of the three proposed buildings which were investigated. One small sherd of Roman grey ware pottery was recovered from the trench closest to the line of the Roman road immediately to the south of the site, but no archaeological features associated with a roadside settlement were identified in the trial-trenches.



**Plate 1: T1, view east.**



**Plate 2: T2, view west.**



**Plate 3: T3, view south.**

## Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of finds was recovered from five contexts (F4, F5, F6, L1, L4). The finds consist of worked flint, burnt flint, pottery, fired clay and ceramic building material (CBM: brick and tile). The worked flints which were recovered from the soil layers L1(1) and L4(5) are, as a group, most typical of later prehistoric (Later Bronze Age) flint-working. One flint, from L4(5), is probably a utilised natural flake. A piece of burnt flint of likely prehistoric date was also recovered from L1(1). There is one small sherd of abraded Roman grey ware pottery (L4(5)). Where closely datable, the other finds recovered are, or probably are, of post-medieval date. The finds are listed and described by context in Table 1 (below). The Roman pottery fabrics refer to *CAR 10* and post-Roman pottery fabrics to *CAR 7*.

**Table 1: list of finds by context with spot-dating.**

trench	context	finds no	finds	finds spot-date
T1	L1	1	<b>Flint</b> Three flint flakes (1-3; total weight 68 g). (1) Large secondary thick flake, large striking platform and hinge fracture; small notch at base corner exhibiting secondary working or edge damage from use. (2) Cortex removal flake, lower part snapped away, internal cortex-lined void in ventral face, some edge damage/use wear. (3) Small broken secondary flake, some edge damage/use wear. (Dated: probably later prehistoric (Later Bronze Age).) <b>Burnt flint</b> Small, irregular lump (1@ 95 g), crazed surfaces. (Dated: probably prehistoric.)	later prehistoric (Later Bronze Age)
T2/ T3	L4	5	<b>Pottery</b> (1@2 g) One small, abraded, soft sandy grey ware sherd, appears wheel-made, Roman (Fabric GX). (Dated: Roman.) <b>Flint</b> Two flakes (total weight 6 g), one squat tertiary flake, some edge damage/secondary working; one small, elongated natural(?) flake (no cortex) with retouched from ventral face in rectangular notch at tip and possible retouch to tip.	Roman and prehistoric
T2	F4	2	<b>CBM Medieval-modern</b> One peg-tile fragment (43 g), 11 mm thick, fine sand, orange fabric, part of a round fixing hole survives. (Dated: medieval-post-medieval/modern; fabric suggests a probable post-medieval/modern date.)	?post-medieval
T3	F5	3	<b>Pottery, post-medieval</b> One post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40) (1@6 g) body sherd (dated: late 16th/17th-19th century); Stoneware (Fabric 45) (1@7 g) rilled body sherd. (Dated: late medieval-post-medieval). <b>Fired clay</b> (2@151 g) Two abraded small lumps, no clear surviving surfaces, reddish-orange, soft, fine sand fabric with common inclusions of chalk fragments. (Not closely dated.) <b>Iron</b> One forged nail, corroded, sub-round head, square shaft, length 70 mm (tip missing). (Dated: medieval-post-medieval/modern, probably post-medieval.)	post-medieval
T3	F6	4	<b>CBM Post-medieval</b> One complete unfrosted brick (225 x 105 x 55 mm) in reddish-orange fine sand fabric, slight creasing to faces, traces of white lime mortar on all surfaces. (Dated: probably late 17th-early 18th century.)	post-medieval (?late 17th-early 18th century)

## Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Clive Petch Architects for commissioning and Agrii for funding the project. The site work was undertaken by A Wightman and C Lister. The digital survey and plans are by C Lister and the section illustrations are by E Holloway.

The project was monitored by Mr Richard Havis for the Essex County Council Historic Environment team.

## References

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

- |        |      |  |
|--------|------|--|
| CAR 7  | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter   |
| CAR 10 | 1999 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R P Symonds and S Wade, ed by P Bidwell and A Croom |
| CAT    | 2012 | Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at Throws Farm, Stebbing, by A Wightman                                  |
| HEM    | 2012 | Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at Throws Farm, Stebbing, by R Havis of the ECC HEM team   |

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### Distribution list:

Clive Petch, Clive Petch Architects  
Richard Havis, ECC HEM team  
Essex Historic Environment Record



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date: 19.11.12

Adams x c://reports12/stebbing/report 669.doc

## **Appendix 1: contents of archive**

One A4 document wallet containing:

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Copy of the evaluation brief issued by the ECC HEM team
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 2 x A3 site plans provided by developer

### **2 Site archive**

- 2.1 Site digital photographic record
- 2.2 Attendance register
- 2.3 Context sheets (F1-F7, L1-L4)
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.6 2 x A4 Sx sheets

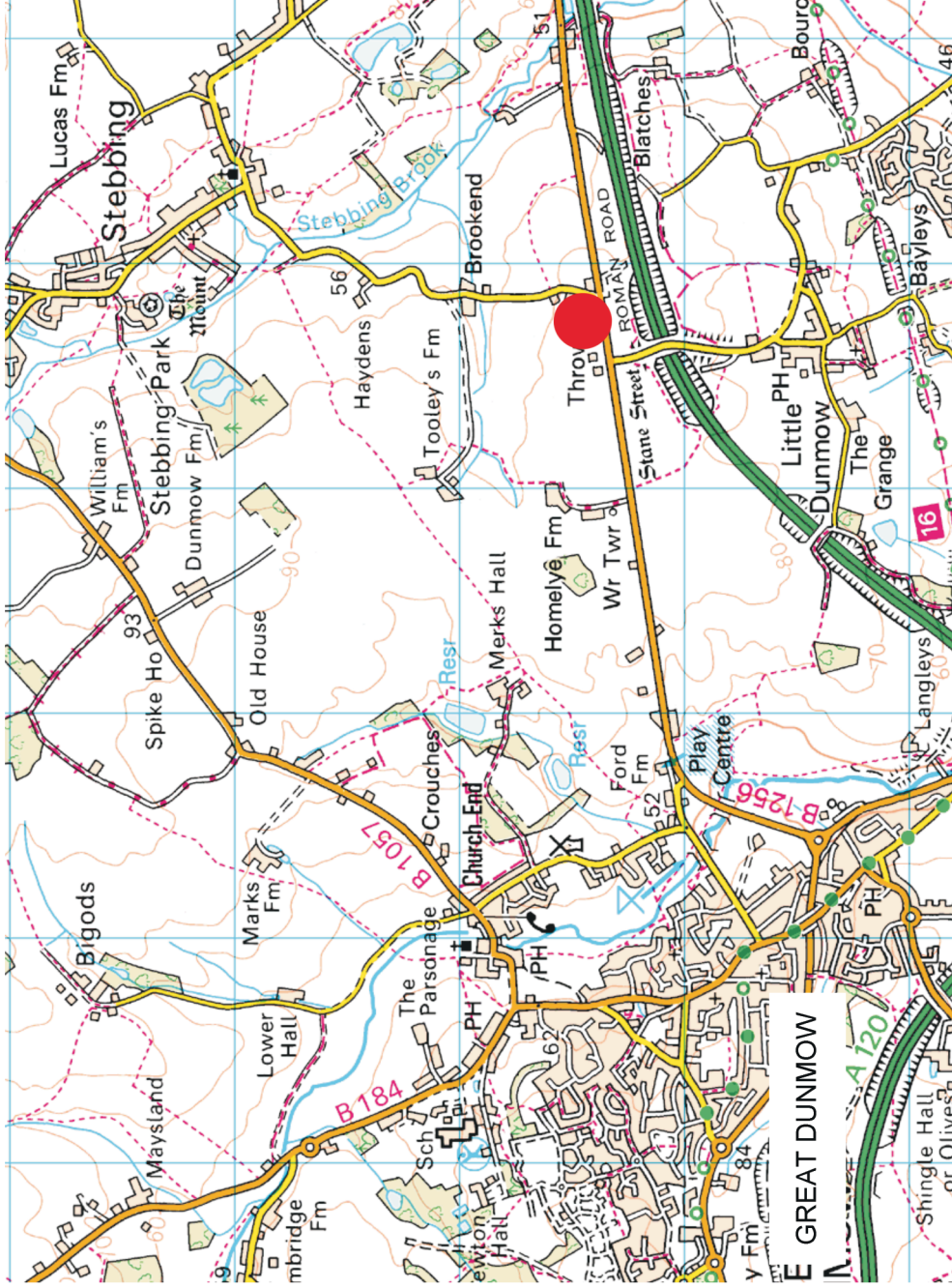
### **3 Research archive**

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report

### **Not in wallet**

- The finds (1 small bag)
- 1 x A3 Sx sheet



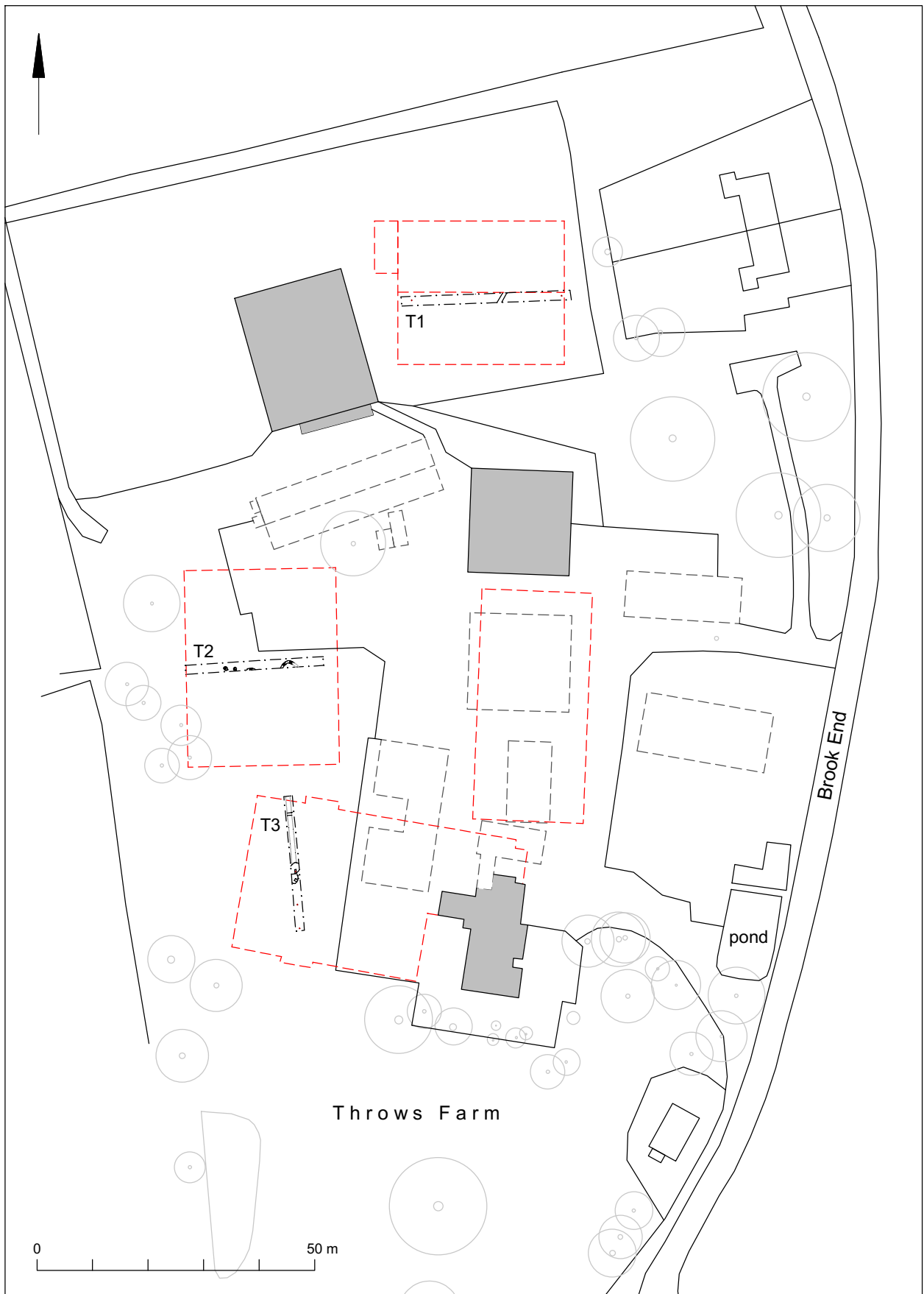


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Fig 1 Site location (marked by a red dot).





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Fig 2 Site plan, showing the locations of the trial-trenches (T1-T3). (The buildings to be demolished are shown by dashed grey outlines and the proposed buildings are shown by dashed red outlines. The existing buildings to be retained are shown with grey tone.)

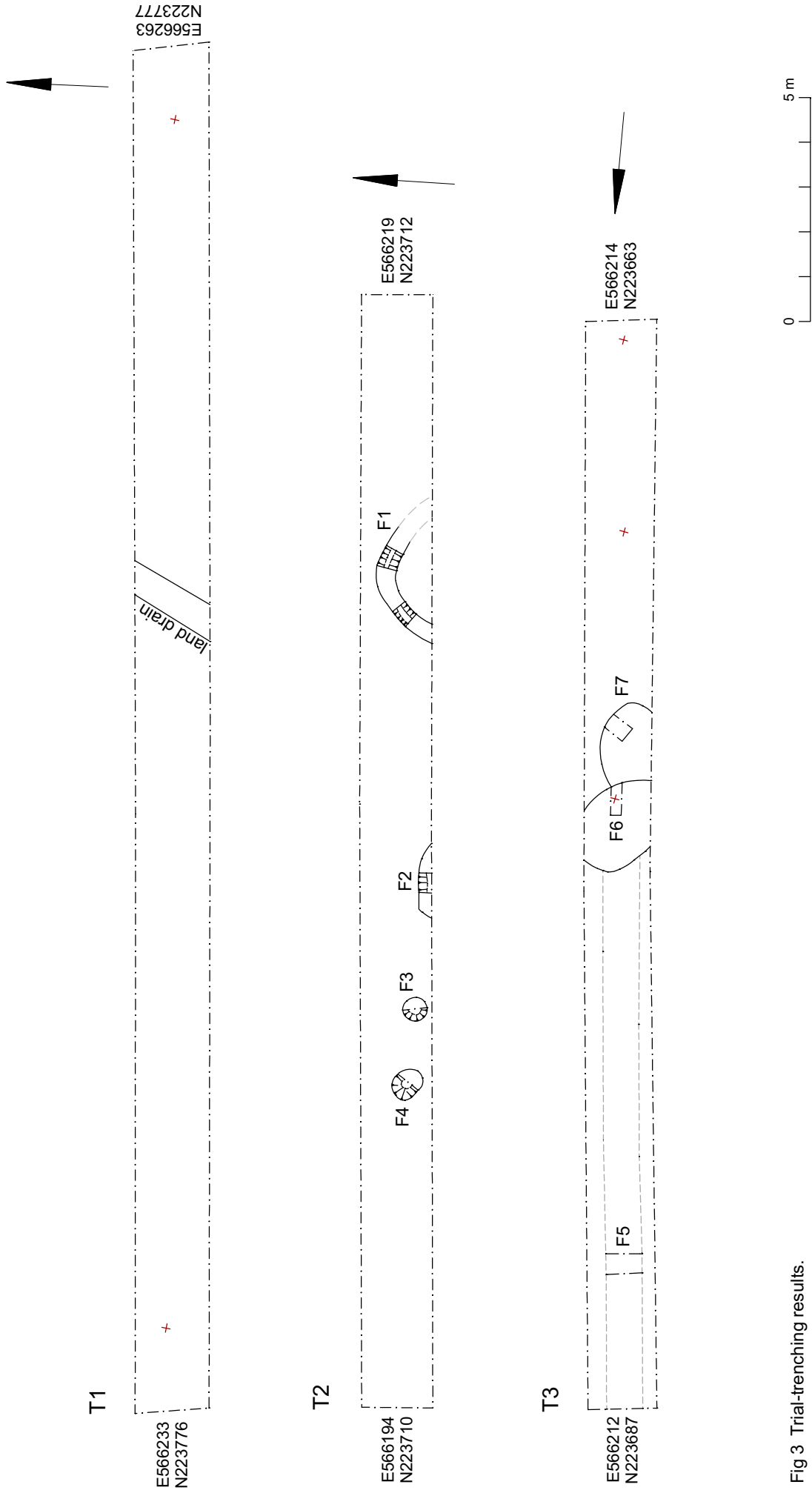


Fig 3 Trial-trenching results.

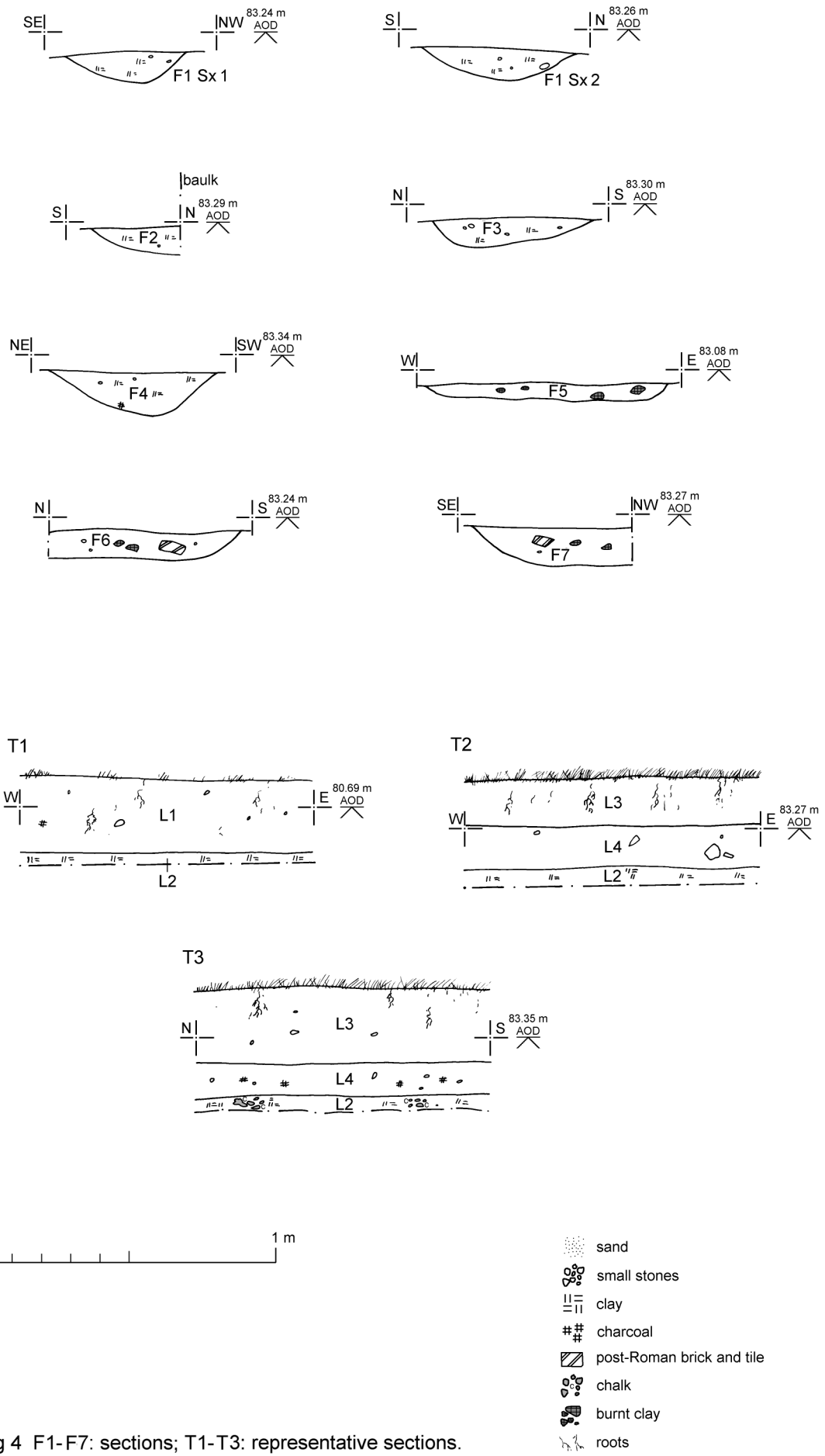


Fig 4 F1-F7: sections; T1-T3: representative sections.

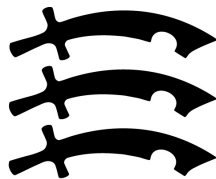
# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Throws Farm, Stebbing, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Stebbing	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 6584 2248 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project – 12/09c ECC – STTF12 Museum accession – SAFWM 2012.75
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation by trial-trenching	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 11th October 2012	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Three trial-trenches totalling 80m in length
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Saffron Walden Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes, watching brief phase still to undertake	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> 1348
<b>Final report:</b>	CAT Report 669
<b>Periods represented:</b>	modern, post-medieval
<p><b>Summary:</b>  <i>Three trial-trenches were excavated by the Colchester Archaeological Trust within the footprints of three of the four proposed buildings which are to be located in and around the existing buildings at Throws Farm. Two of the proposed buildings are on vacant ground, one is across the sites of two buildings to be demolished, and one is across vacant ground and the sites of two buildings, one of which is to be demolished and one to be partly demolished.</i></p> <p><i>Seven potential archaeological features were identified by the evaluation, ie a possible natural glacial feature, three probable tree-throw pits, and three shallow features containing modern building materials (a ?trench and two large pits).</i></p> <p><i>Evidence of activity associated with Throws Farm during the modern and later post-medieval periods was identified. However, no post-medieval or earlier farm buildings appear to have been situated within the footprints of the three proposed buildings which were investigated. One small sherd of Roman grey ware pottery was recovered from the trench closest to the line of the Roman road (immediately south of the site), but no archaeological features associated with a roadside settlement were identified in the trial-trenches.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> neg
<b>Author of summary:</b> Adam Wightman	<b>Date of summary:</b> November 2012

# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AND EXCAVATION AT THROWS FARM, STEBBING**

September 2012



Essex County Council

**Site:** Throws Farm, Stebbing

**Planning app. no.:** No application as yet

**Agent:** Clive Petch Architects (clive@clivepetcharchitects.co.uk)

**Historic Environment Officer:** Richard Havis 01245 437632

**Museum:** Uttlesford (01799 510333)

***This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council 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**

This brief for archaeological trial trenching, excavation and monitoring has been prepared by the Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council. The brief sets out the requirements for archaeological trial trenching, excavation and monitoring at Throws Farm, Stebbing. There is evidence of multi-period archaeological deposits in the vicinity of the historic farm complex and it lies immediately adjacent to a main Roman Road.

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

The proposed development comprises the redevelopment of the present buildings at Throws Farm (TL 65842248). The development comprises the demolition and new build of a number of buildings at Throws Farm. Two of the new buildings are on grassed areas with the remainder being constructed within the existing farmyard.

## **3. Planning Background**

The applicants have had discussions with Uttlesford District Council who recommended that consultation with the Historic Environment Team was undertaken. The architects were advised that as the site lies within an area thought to contain archaeological deposits a full archaeological condition would be recommended to the District Council if a planning application was submitted. The full archaeological condition that would be recommended states:

***"No development, or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording 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. It is advisable to visit the HER prior to the completion of any archaeological written scheme of investigation.

A number of buildings are recorded on the site of Throws Farm from cartographic evidence. The site of the farm complex is recorded on the Chapman and Andre maps of 1777 and there is the potential that this would have had its origins in the medieval period.

Quantities of Harlow Metropolitan Ware, of post-medieval date have been recovered from the fields immediately to the west of Throws Farm. To the east of the farm quantities of Roman pottery have been recovered.

The Historic Environment Record identified the location of a windmill mound immediately adjacent the road (EHER 1348). This mound now contains the remains of a reservoir and it is probable although not confirmed that this mound was only constructed at the time of the building of the reservoir.

The main road running east west to the south of Throws Farm is the original line of the Roman Road from Braughing to Colchester.

#### **5. Requirement for Work**

A single trial trench shall be excavated in each of the proposed buildings on undeveloped grassed areas. **A meeting will be held on site once the excavation of the trial trenches has been completed to discuss any excavation requirements.** Depending on the results of this work open area excavation across the area of the building may be required.

The remaining new buildings will require archaeological monitoring during the initial stage of development. Foundations will be monitored with an agreed timetable to allow for recording to take place. .

Specific research requirements include:



- Evidence of buildings of medieval and post medieval date associated with Throws Farm
- Evidence of Roman settlement associated with the Roman road.

## 6. Trial Trenches, Excavation and Monitoring Methodology

- 6.1 The trial trenching, excavation and monitoring shall be undertaken by a professional team of field archaeologists. The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation.
- 6.2 Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Officer one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 6.3 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 6.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 6.5 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 6.6 A site code shall be obtained from the Historic Environment Officer 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.
- 6.8 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and control of a professional archaeologist. On areas that are cleared the exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 Masonry walls shall be carefully cleaned and planned. Where possible these will be left *in situ*.

- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 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 English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).
- 6.14 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.
- 6.15 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- 6.16 The IFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations, Excavations and watching briefs*, and the EAA *Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the archaeological specification, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

## **7. Finds**

- 7.1 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 7.2 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Saffron Walden 01799 510333) prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the Historic Environment Officer

7.5 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the HEM Team within four weeks of the end of the excavation

## **8. Results**

8.1 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 4 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor. A full digital copy as a single PDF shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Officer.

8.2 This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the survey and 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 or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

8.3 An HER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks (copy attached with brief) and supplied to the Historic Environment Officer. This will be completed in digital form. This shall include a plan showing the position of the excavation.

8.4 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.

## **9. Archive Deposition**

9.1 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Saffron Walden 01799 510333), and confirmed in writing to the Historic Environment Officer.

- 9.2 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- 9.3 The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 month of the completion of the final publication report and confirmed with the Historic Environment Officer in writing.
- 9.4 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 (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

## **10. Monitoring**

- 10.1 The Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 10.2 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Officer one week in advance of its commencement.
- 10.3 All excavated areas must be inspected by the Historic Environment Officer prior to the commencement of development.
- 10.4 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Officer prior to them being carried out.

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

- 11.1 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.
- 11.2 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Officer of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.

11.3 The involvement of the Historic Environment Officer 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. 8
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14

**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.**

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**ESSEX HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD/ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY  
SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Site name/Address:</b>	
<b>Parish:</b>	<b>District:</b>
<b>NGR:</b>	<b>Site Code:</b>
<b>Type of Work:</b>	<b>Site Director/Group:</b>
<b>Date of Work:</b>	<b>Size of Area Investigated:</b>
<b>Location of Finds/Curating Museum:</b>	<b>Funding source:</b>
<b>Further Seasons Anticipated?:</b>	<b>Related HER Nos</b>
<b>Final Report:</b>	
<b>Periods Represented:</b>	
<b>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</b>	
<b>Previous Summaries/Reports:</b>	
<b>Author of Summary:</b>	<b>Date of Summary:</b>

# Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at Throws farm, Stebbing

NGR: TL 65842248

September 2012



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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching, excavation and monitoring at Throws farm, Stebbing. Essex. The work is to be carried out on behalf of Clive Petch Architects by the Colchester Archaeological Trust.
- 1.2 The proposed development comprises the demolition and redevelopment of some of the existing buildings as well as the construction of a number of new buildings at Throws Farm (TL 65842248).
- 1.3 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential. There is evidence of multi-period archaeological deposits in the vicinity of the historic farm complex and it lies immediately adjacent to a main Roman road.
- 1.4 The applicants have had discussions with Uttlesford District Council who recommended that consultation with the Historic Environment Team was undertaken. The architects were advised that as the site lies within an area thought to contain archaeological deposits a full archaeological condition would be recommended to the District Council if a planning application was submitted. The full archaeological condition that would be recommended states:  
*"No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."*
- 1.5 Any variations to this WSI will be agreed beforehand with Essex County Council's Historic Environment Management team (HEM).

## **2 Archaeological background**

This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

A number of buildings are recorded on the site of Throws Farm from cartographic evidence. The site of the farm complex is recorded on the Chapman and Andre maps of 1777 and there is the potential that this would have had its origins in the medieval period.

Quantities of Harlow Metropolitan Ware, of post-medieval date have been recovered from the fields immediately to the west of Throws Farm. To the east of the farm quantities of Roman pottery have been recovered.

The Historic Environment Record identified the location of a windmill mound immediately adjacent the road (EHER 1348). This mound now contains the remains of a reservoir and it is probable although not confirmed that this mound was only constructed at the time of the building of the reservoir.

The main road running east west to the south of Throws Farm is the original line of the Roman Road from Braughing to Colchester.

## **3 Aims**

The specific aim of the investigation is to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits within the development area and to preserve, by record, any archaeological deposits that will be destroyed by the construction of the new buildings, access roads and other significant groundworks

Specific research requirements include:

- Evidence of buildings of medieval and post medieval date associated with Throws Farm
- Evidence of Roman settlement associated with the Roman road.

## **5 Methodology (Fig 1)**

- 5.1 The archaeological work will consist of archaeological trial-trenching, monitoring and possible excavation. Three trial-trenches will be excavated within the footprints of each of the proposed buildings located on undeveloped grassed areas (Fig 1). T1 is located within the footprint of the proposed grain store and is 30m long, T2 is located

- within the footprint of the proposed machine store and is 25m long and T3 is located within the footprint of the proposed training offices and is 25m long (Fig 1).
- 5.2 All features and finds uncovered will be planned and excavation will be undertaken to achieve the aims set out in section 3.
  - 5.3 A meeting will be held on site once the excavation of the trial trenches has been completed to discuss any excavation requirements. Depending on the results of this work open area excavation across the area of the building may be required.
  - 5.4 Archaeological monitoring will also take place during the initial stage of the development of the remaining new buildings. The excavation of the foundations will be monitored with an agreed timetable to allow for recording to take place.
  - 5.5 Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/leveling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist.
  - 5.6 Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.
  - 5.7 Fast excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.
  - 5.8 Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.
  - 5.9 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 site will located to the National Grid.
  - 5.10 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. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register should accompany the photographic record. This should detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
  - 5.11 A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.
  - 5.12 The site boundary and features and site levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

## **6 General methodology**

- 6.1 The relevant documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2008a) and *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluations* (2008b). Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA 3, EAA 8 and EAA 14.
- 6.2 A site code will be requested from HEM before fieldwork commences.
- 6.3 At the start of work an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 6.4 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard health and safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 1999 updated 2008).

## **7 Finds**

- 7.1 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a license from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed.
- 7.2 Environmental sampling policy. CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer at the University of East Anglia whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered VF will be asked onto site to advise. The English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England) is available for further advice.
- 7.3 All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with the HEM officer and the site owner.

- 7.4 All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.
- 7.5 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Braintree Museum. Marking will include the site code and context number.
- 7.6 The site archive will be presented to Saffron Walden museum in accordance with their requirements.
- 7.7 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.
- 7.8 Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2008a).
- 7.9 A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

## **8 Results**

- 8.1 The full report will be submitted within 4 months from the end of the fieldwork, with one hard copy, a PDF, and a photo disk supplied to the HEM Team. The report will contain both the results of the metal detector survey and the archaeological evaluation and more specifically;
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the investigation.
  - Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will 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.
  - The discussion and conclusions will be made (where appropriate) with reference to the objectives outlined in *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds.) 2000).
  - Specialist reports
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- 8.2 An EHER summary sheet will be completed within four weeks (copy attached with brief) and supplied to the HEM Team officer. This will be completed in digital form (copy can be emailed). This will include a plan showing the area of monitoring and excavation and the converted structures.
- 8.3 If, after discussion with HEM, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level) will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*. An Oasis online form will be completed for submission to the EHER, which will include an uploaded .pdf version of the report.

## **9 Monitoring**

- 9.1 The HEM Team of Essex County Council will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, reporting, and publication stages.
- 9.2 Notification of the start of work will be given to the HEM Team one week in advance of its commencement.
- 9.3 All excavated trenches must be inspected by the HEM Team Officer prior to their backfilling.
- 9.4 Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with HEM Team before they are carried out.

## **10 Archive deposition**

- 10.1 The full archive will be deposited at Saffron Walden museum within 2 months of completion of final publication report on the project, and confirmed to HEM.
- 10.2 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Braintree Museum. The storage of the archive will accord with Braintree Museum's guidelines.
- 10.3 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to HEM at the time of deposition at the museum.
- 10.4 Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Braintree Museum's storage systems.

- 10.5 The photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on disk and hard copies of selected digital photos on high-quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Braintree Museum.

## 11 References

- |                                       |       |  |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| Brown, N and<br>Glazenbrook, J.       | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 ( <b>EAA8</b> ) |
| Colchester<br>Archaeological<br>Trust | 1999  | <i>Policies and procedures</i> . 1999 (updated 2008)   |
| Glazenbrook, J.                       | 1997  | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 1 resource assessment</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 3 ( <b>EAA3</b> )          |
| Gurney, D.                            | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 ( <b>EAA14</b> )   |
| IfA                                   | 2008a | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| IfA                                   | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations</i> .  |

Adam Wightman 28/09/12

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## **Appendix - team structure and details**

### **List of team members**

#### **Site supervision and Recording**

Adam Wightman

#### **Assistants**

Chris Lister & TBC

#### **Finds consultants**

Stephen Benfield (CAT): Prehistoric and Roman pottery

Joanna Bird (Guildford): Samian ware

Ernest Black (Colchester): Roman brick/tile

Howard Brooks (CAT): Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery

Dr Hilary Cool (Nottingham): Roman glass

Nina Crummy (Colchester): Small finds

Julie Curl: Human bone and large Animal bone assemblages

John Davis (Norwich Museum): Roman coins

Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): Environmental remains

Helen Chappell (English Heritage): Regional Science Advisor

Hazel Martingell (Braintree): Lithics

Valerie Rigby (British Museum): LIA ceramics

Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museums): Roman Amphoras

Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford): Medieval and later brick and tile

Sue Tyler (ECC): Saxon Pottery.

Helen Walker (ECC): Saxon, Medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Adam Wightman (CAT): small animal bone and lithic assemblages

#### **Graphics**

Adam Wightman & Chris Lister

#### **Report writing**

Adam Wightman & Howard Brooks

### **Senior Site Staff**

#### **Adam Wightman BSc, MA**

After graduating from the University of Sheffield in 2004 with a BSc Hons in Archaeology and Prehistory, Adam worked for CAT during the Roman Circus excavations at Colchester Garrison in 2004/5. He then went on to work for Cambridge Archaeological Unit before completing a Masters in the Archaeology of Human Origins at the University of Southampton where he focused on lithic and animal bone analysis. Since returning to CAT in 2006 Adam has carried out evaluations and excavations at the Great Dunmow Salesrooms, 143-147 High Street Maldon, Firstsite Newsite in Colchester town centre, and at 21 St Peters Street adjacent to Colchester's Roman wall. He now completes assessments and full reports on small assemblages of animal bone and lithics for CAT.

### **Finds Specialists**

#### **Stephen Benfield BA, Cert Archaeol (Oxon) (CAT) Prehistoric and Roman pottery**

Steve's first involvement with Colchester archaeology was in 1985, working on a Manpower Services Commission sponsored project to assist in processing the enormous collection of Roman pottery from excavations in the town. He graduated from Reading University with a degree in archaeology and subsequently studied for his post-graduate Certificate in Archaeology at Oxford. Returning to CAT, he has since worked on many CAT projects at various supervisory and directorial positions, including the major projects at Stanway Iron Age burial site and Gosbecks Roman temple/theatre complex. Stephen has also, through much hands-on experience, built up a considerable working knowledge of LIA and Roman ceramics. He now completes ceramic assessments and full reports for CAT, drawing on the unrivalled catalogues provided by the standard Colchester works *Camulodunum* (Hawkes & Hull 1947), *Roman Colchester* (Hull 1958) and now *CAR 10*, and by examining the fabric series held at CAT headquarters.

### **Joanna Bird FSA (Guildford) Samian**

Joanna is one of the country's top samian specialists. Among her large corpus of work is a contribution to the publication *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1986*.

### **Ernest Black (Colchester) Roman brick/tile**

Ernest is a Colchester schoolteacher with a wide interest in archaeology and the classical world. In this sense, he is following in the footsteps of A.F. Hall, and Mike Corbishley who were also local schoolmasters. He has developed his specialism by large scale hands-on experience with Roman brick and tile, and has contributed to the *Arch J, CAR 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-1985*.

### **Howard Brooks BA, MIFA (CAT) Medieval and Post-Medieval pottery**

Howard's involvement in Essex archaeology goes back to 1970 when he dug at Sheepen, Colchester with Rosalind Dunnett (now Niblett). He studied archaeology at the University of Wales, and graduated in 1975. He worked for Colchester Archaeological Trust between 1976 and 1981, and again in 1985, where he was involved at various levels of responsibility (up to Co-Director) in the excavation of deeply stratified urban remains in Roman Colchester and suburbs (Colchester Archaeological Report 3 [1994]). Between 1992 and 1995 he worked for Essex County Archaeology Section, first in directing the fieldwalking and excavation project at Stansted Airport (East Anglian Archaeology 107, 2004), and then in Development Control. Howard then left ECC to set up and run HBAS, the county's smallest contracting team, in which capacity he carried out over twenty field projects and wrote a dozen consultancy reports. He rejoined CAT in 1997. He regularly contributes to Essex Archaeology & History, and teaches University evening classes on archaeology.

### **Dr Hilary Cool FSA MIFA (Nottingham) Roman glass**

Yet another graduate of the University of Wales, Hilary is now a freelance glass and finds specialist, and has written many reports on glass from Colchester sites, including contributions to *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, and *Colchester Archaeological Report 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993)*. Among her major works is the internationally selling *Colchester Archaeological Report 8: Roman vessel glass from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*.

### **Nina Crummy (Colchester) Small finds**

Nina first worked in the early 1970s as finds assistant on the major urban excavations in Colchester for the Colchester Excavation Committee (later the Trust). Over the next twenty years she built up an unrivalled working knowledge of small finds of all types. She has collaborated in most of the *Colchester Archaeological Reports*, and was principal author of the best-selling *Colchester Archaeological Reports 2 (Roman small finds)*, 4 (*The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*) and 5 (*The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85*). She recently worked for the Museum of London, and was instrumental in the recent transfer of and the massive improvement in accessibility to archaeological archives in London. She now works freelance on small finds reports for CAT, HBAS, and other bodies including Winchester Excavation Committee.

### **Julie Curl (Norfolk) Animal Bone**

Julie has over 16 years of experience in archaeology and in particular finds for the Norfolk Archaeological Unit and Norfolk Museums Service. After many years working as both a bone specialist and in graphics for the NAU Julie has recently established her own freelance company Sylvanus in which she specialises in Archaeological and Natural History illustrations as well as being a freelance animal and human bone specialist. She has been producing faunal remains reports for many years and produces assessments and analysis reports for clients across the East Anglian region. She has her own extensive bone reference collection built up over many years. Her particular interests in faunal remains are animal husbandry and pathologies. She has also worked as a conservator, particularly on Pleistocene vertebrates and a wide variety of archaeology and natural history projects at the Norwich Castle Museum. Julie is also an extra-mural lecturer with the University of East Anglia, teaching Animal bones in Archaeology.

### **Dr John A Davies (Norwich Museum) Roman coins**

John has, for some years, written reports on Roman coins from Colchester excavations. He specializes in barbarous radiates, and has contributed to *British Numismatic Journal* on that topic. Among his other publications is a contribution to *Colchester Archaeological Report 4: The coins from excavations in Colchester 1971-9*, and *CAR 9: Excavations on Roman and later cemeteries, churches and monastic sites in Colchester 1971-88 (1993)*.

### **Val Fryer (Norfolk) Environmental Archaeologist BA, MIFA**

Val has fifteen years experience in environmental archaeology, working for English Heritage, County Units and independent archaeological bodies across the United Kingdom and Southern Ireland. She has published reports in East Anglian Archaeology (including occasional papers), Proceedings of the

Prehistoric Society, Medieval Archaeology and Norfolk Archaeology. Specialist work for various police authorities across England and Northern Ireland. Val is a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with special accreditation for environmental archaeology and she is also a Member of the Association of Environmental Archaeologists.

#### **Helen Chappell (English Heritage) Regional Science Advisor**

Helen Chappell is English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor (RSA) for the East of England, providing regionally-based advice on all aspects of archaeological science: geophysics, scientific dating, hydrology, geoarchaeology, analysis of biological remains and technological residues, artifact analysis and conservation. RSAs give advice to a range of organizations and also produce good practice standards and guidelines. RSAs are all actively involved in research, and applying new methodologies to site investigation and management.

#### **Hazel Martingell BA, FAAIS (Braintree): Lithics**

Hazel has for many years worked as a lithics illustrator and specialist, undertaking work for The British Museum, ECC Field Archaeology Unit and for London and Cambridge Universities, to name but a few. Since 1987 she has been self-employed and has excavated at a Middle Stone Age site at Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar as well as writing and illustrating worked flint reports for CAT, ECC FAU, and the British Museum. Her impressive publication record includes reports on sites from around the globe. Closer to home she has published work in *Essex History and Archaeology*, The *East Anglian Archaeology* Monograph series, *Antiquity* and *British Museum Occasional Papers*. Hazel is a fellow of the Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors and a founder member of the Lithics Study Group, London.

#### **Valerie Rigby (Hertfordshire) LIA ceramics**

Formerly working for the British Museum, Val is one of the country's leading authorities on later prehistoric ceramics in general, and traded wares in particular. She has published widely. Her major work include *Baldock: the excavation of a Roman and pre-Roman settlement, 1968-72 (Britannia Monograph Series 7, with Ian Stead)*. On a more local level, she has contributed to the magisterial *Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-88*, and to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (CBA Research Report 57, 1985)*.

#### **Patricia Ryan (Chelmsford) Medieval and later brick and tile**

Pat has for many years been examining excavated collections of brick and tile from Essex sites, and contributing reports which are usually consigned to the gloomier parts of archive reports, or as footnotes in published texts. Her regular contributions to *Essex Archaeology & History*, therefore, under-represent the devoted study which Pat has put in over the years. Nobody knows more about local brick and tile, except for David Andrews, with whom she collaborated on significant sections of *Cressing Temple: A Templar and Hospitaller Manor in Essex (1993)*.

#### **Dr Paul Sealey (Colchester Museum) Amphoras**

Paul has worked at Colchester Museum since the late 1970s. His PhD specialism was Roman amphoras, a topic on which he writes specialist reports. His main areas of interest are prehistory and the Roman period, and he has developed a familiarity with those periods and their ceramics. He has published widely. His major works include *Amphoras from the 1970 excavations at Colchester Sheepen (BAR 142, 1985)*, contributions to Ros Niblett's *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum (CBA Res Rep 57, 1985)*. He regularly contributes to *Essex Archaeology & History*.

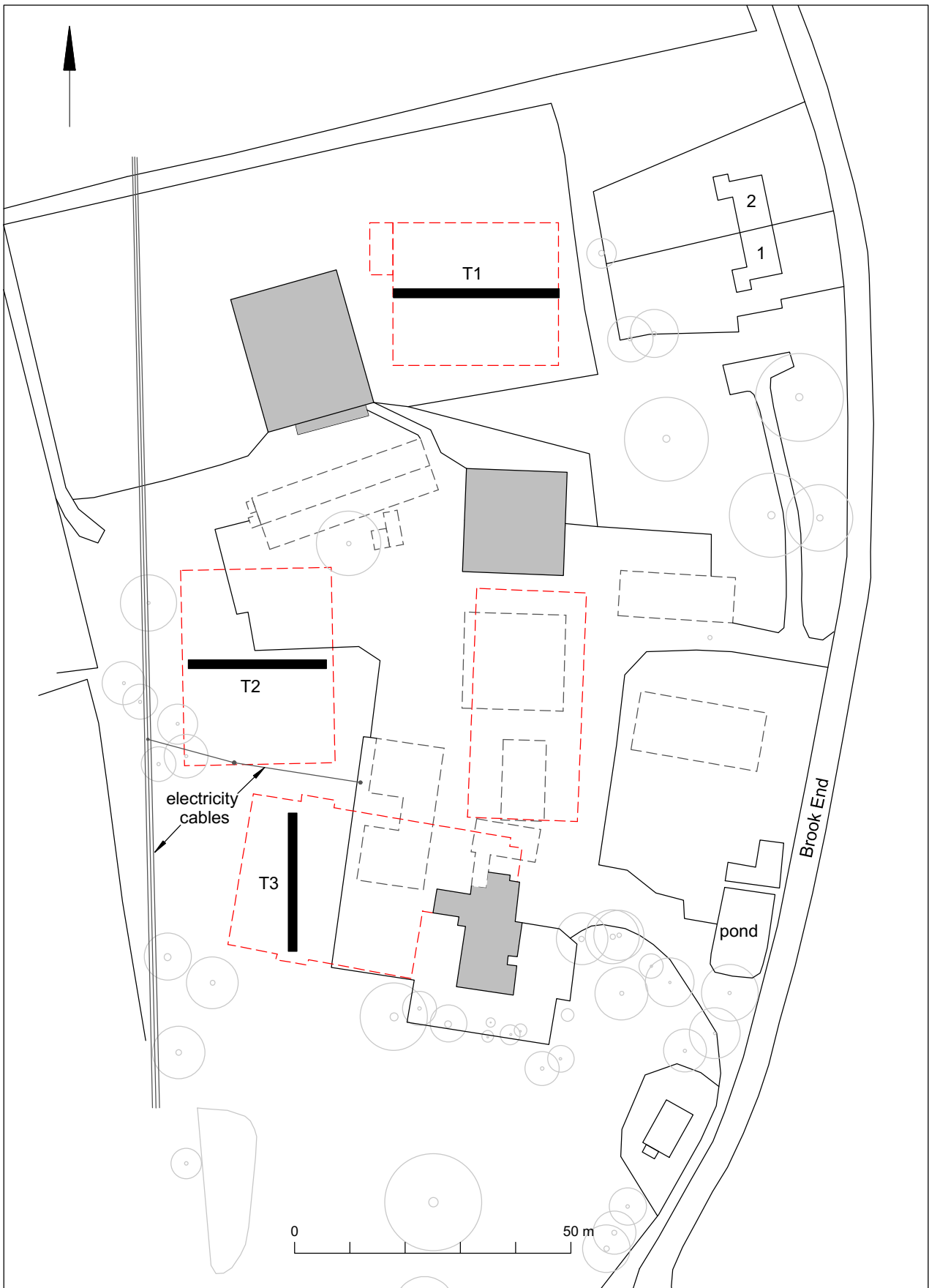
#### **Sue Tyler (ECC) Saxon Pottery**

Sue is the County authority on Saxon material, especially pottery. She has had several spells working with Essex County Archaeology Section, interrupted by a late-1980s spell in Hertfordshire. She has written reports on Saxon material for many Essex Projects, and contributes regularly to *Essex Archaeology & History*, including the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Prittlewell (*Essex Archaeol Hist* 19 (1988)).

#### **Helen Walker BSc (ECC) Medieval and post-medieval pottery.**

Helen is Essex County Council Field Archaeology Group's medieval and post-medieval pottery specialist. Before joining ECC in 1985, she worked on finds in Carmarthen, and for Hampshire CC on projects in Winchester. Since 1985, she has contributed reports on ceramics to many other projects in the county. A regular contributor to *Essex Archaeology & History*, her principal publications include reports on the Rayleigh kiln dump, and George Street and Church Street, Harwich (*Essex Archaeology & History*, 21 [1990]), and North Shoebury (*EAA* 75).





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Fig 1 Site plan showing the locations of the proposed trial-trenches (T1-T3). The buildings which are to be demolished are shown as dashed grey lines and the new buildings are shown as dashed red lines.