

Archaeological evaluation at 157 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9EW

March 2016



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on behalf of
Chelsteen Homes Ltd

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Braintree Museum accession code: [requested](#)



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CAT Report 923
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of fourteen new dwellings at 157 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, Essex. Despite being located immediately to the north of a Roman road (Stane Street) and close to a known Roman settlement no significant archaeological horizons were identified. The eleven features recorded were all modern and an undated gravel deposit was probably natural in origin.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 157 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, Essex which was carried out on 2nd March 2016. The work was commissioned by Colin Crawley on behalf of Chelsteen Homes Ltd in advance of the construction of fourteen new dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor 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* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows that the site lies along the route of an east-west Roman road known as Stane Street (HER 1226). To the north, excavations in advance of the building of the housing estate and school uncovered evidence for a small Roman settlement, including industrial activity as well as occupation (HER 6477, HER 6482). The settlement would have had links to Stane Street and it is possible that evidence associated with the Roman occupation may survive along the Roman road.

4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Five trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. Three layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, c 300mm thick) sealed an accumulated subsoil (L2, c 150mm thick) which in turn sealed natural clay with gravel patches (L4).

Trench 1 (T1), 30m long by 1.8m wide

Modern ploughsoil scaring was observed but no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

Trench 2 (T2), 30m long by 1.8m wide

Modern ploughsoil scaring was observed but no significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 T1, looking W



Photograph 2 T2, looking N

Trench 3 (T3), 30m long by 1.8m wide

Two modern land drains were identified along with an area of modern disturbance (F11, poured concrete slabs and associated sub-base) and an undated linear (F10) which was probably modern and agricultural in origin. This trench was located in an attempt to find a farm building associated with the adjacent Great Bradford Farm. However, modern disturbance F11 would suggest that any traces of this building had been previously removed.



Photograph 3 T3, looking W



Photograph 4 T4a, looking S

Trench 4 (T4), 30m long by 1.8m wide

Trench 4 was dug in two sections as a modern brick wall ran E-W across the garden. A modern brick and mortar wall foundation (F8) was identified in T4b along with two modern post-holes (F6 and F7) in T4a, probably from an old fence line. The wall foundation had been built with late 19th/early 20th century frosted bricks.



Photograph 5 T4b, looking N



Photograph 6 T5, looking W

Trench 5 (T5), 30m long by 1.8m wide

Seven archaeological features were identified. Six were modern pits and post holes (F1-F5 and F9) containing fragments of peg-tile, brick and coal, that area probably associated with the garden and vegetable plots of the current dwelling.

The last feature was an undated gravel deposit (L3). It was investigated as a possible metalled surface associated with the known Roman road (Stane Street) which ran immediately to the south of the development area. However, on further inspection this was identified as patches of natural gravel.



Photograph 7 Gravel deposit L3, W

5 Finds

Finds from Trench 5

Finds No	Context	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
1	L2	Flint nodule with possible flake removal but more likely to be plough damage	1	297g
2	F5	Modern flower pot fragment	1	12g
		Post-medieval brick (62mm wide)	1	129g
		Coke	1	1g
3	F6	Iron nail	1	17g
4	F9	Peg-tile (15mm thick)	2	45g

6 Discussion

Eleven modern features were identified across the evaluation trenches with ploughsoil scarring and two land drains also recorded. Much of this activity is probably associated with the current property and the earlier Great Bradford Farm where the OS map of 1875/6 shows that much of the development site was located in both the garden of the farm and surrounding agricultural land. Trench T3 failed to find any traces of one the farm buildings associated with Great Bradford Farm, with modern disturbance (F11) suggesting that any traces of this building had been previously removed.



Map 1 Six-inch OS map 1875/6, site located to the north of the red arrow.

The gravel deposit in T5 (L3) was investigated as a possible metallated surface associated with the known Roman road (Stane Street) located immediately to the south of the development site. However, on further inspection this was identified as patches of natural gravels.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Colin Crawley of Chelsteen Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, R Mathieson, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

8 References

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at 157 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9EW</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench evaluation at 157 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, CM7 9EW</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHF	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 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
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
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 sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 923)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

Distribution list:

Colin Crawley, Chelsteen Homes Ltd
Teresa O'Connor, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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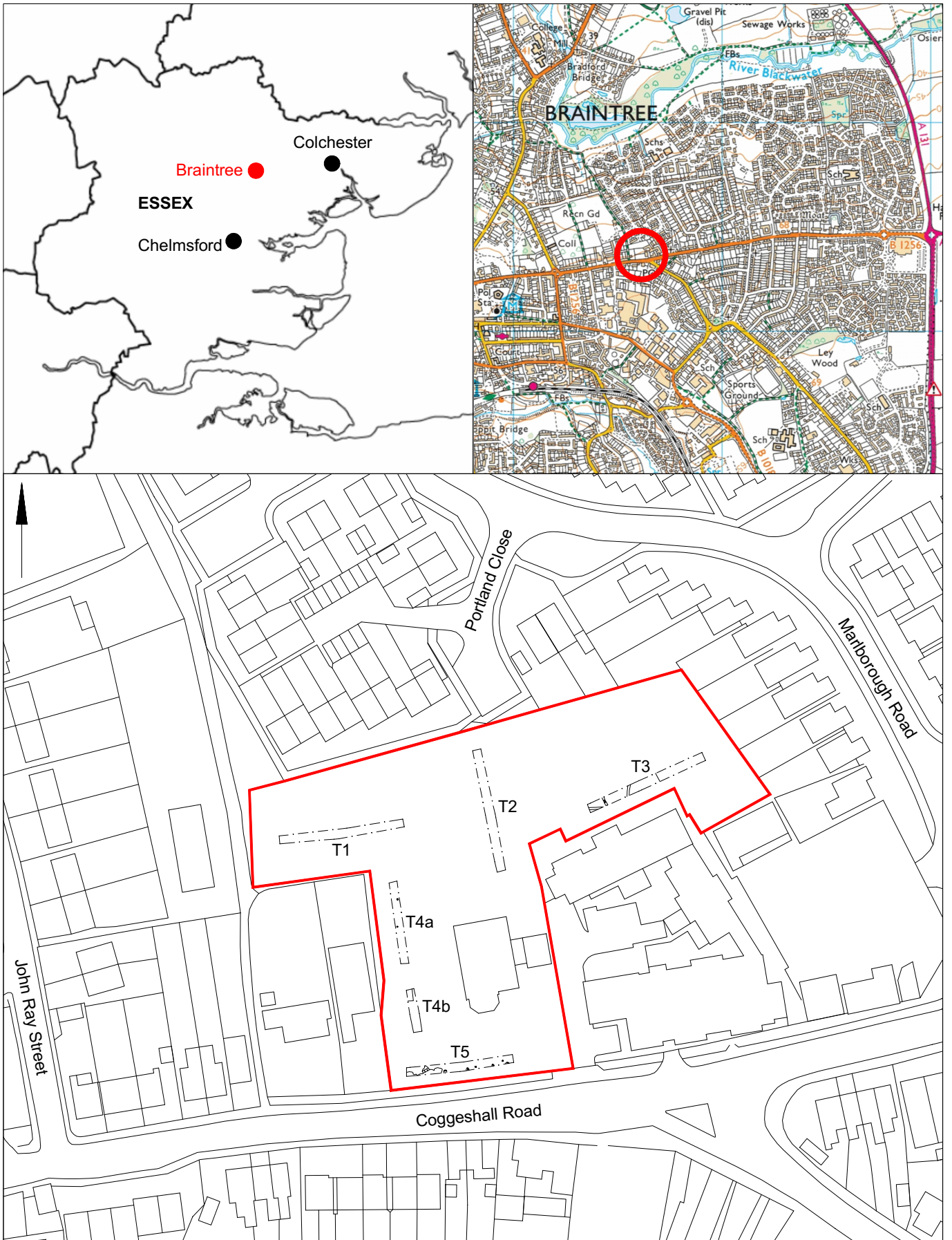
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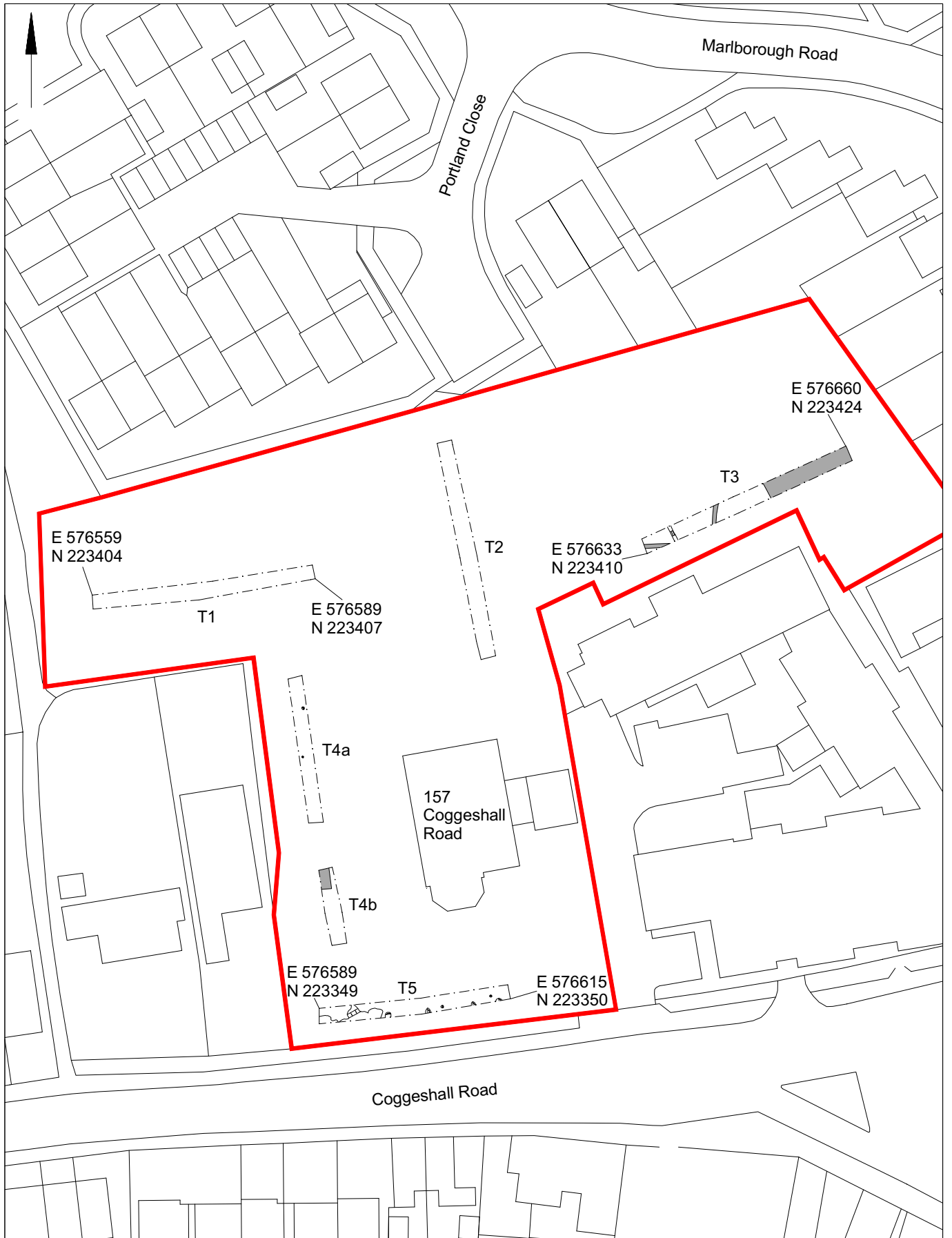
Date: 09.03.2016



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Fig 1 Site location.

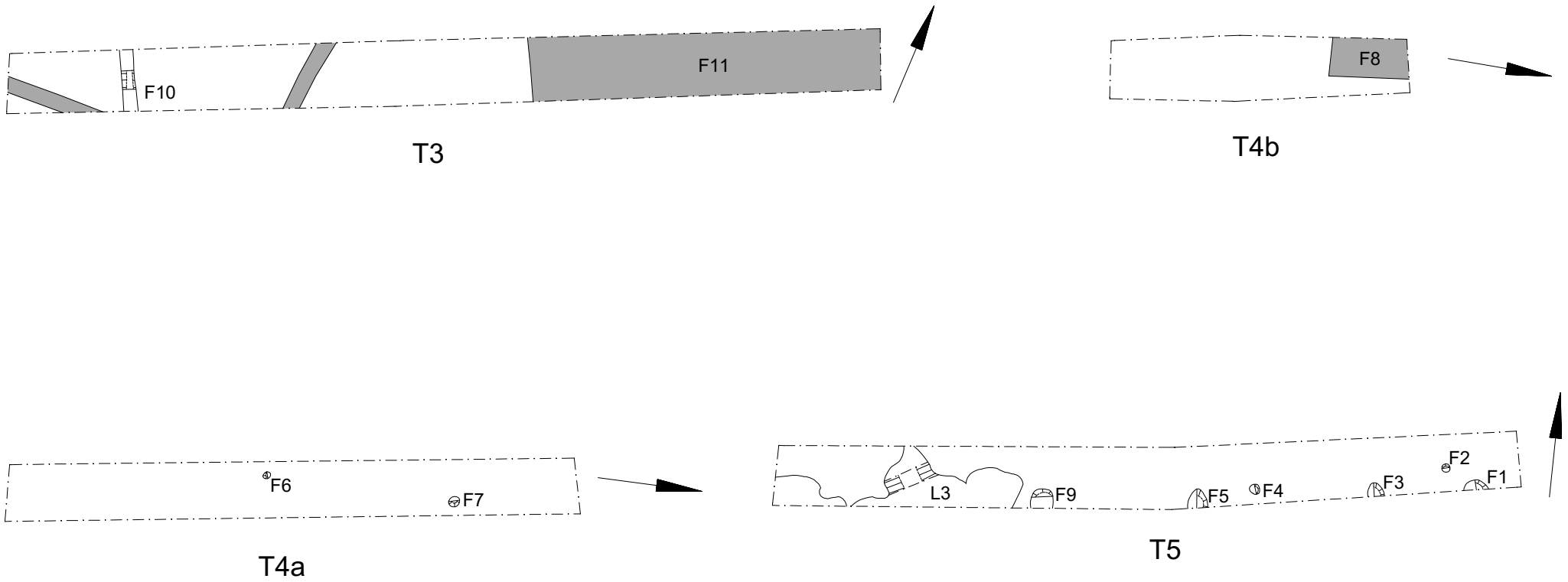




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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

0 20 m



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Fig 3 T3-T5: detailed trench plans.

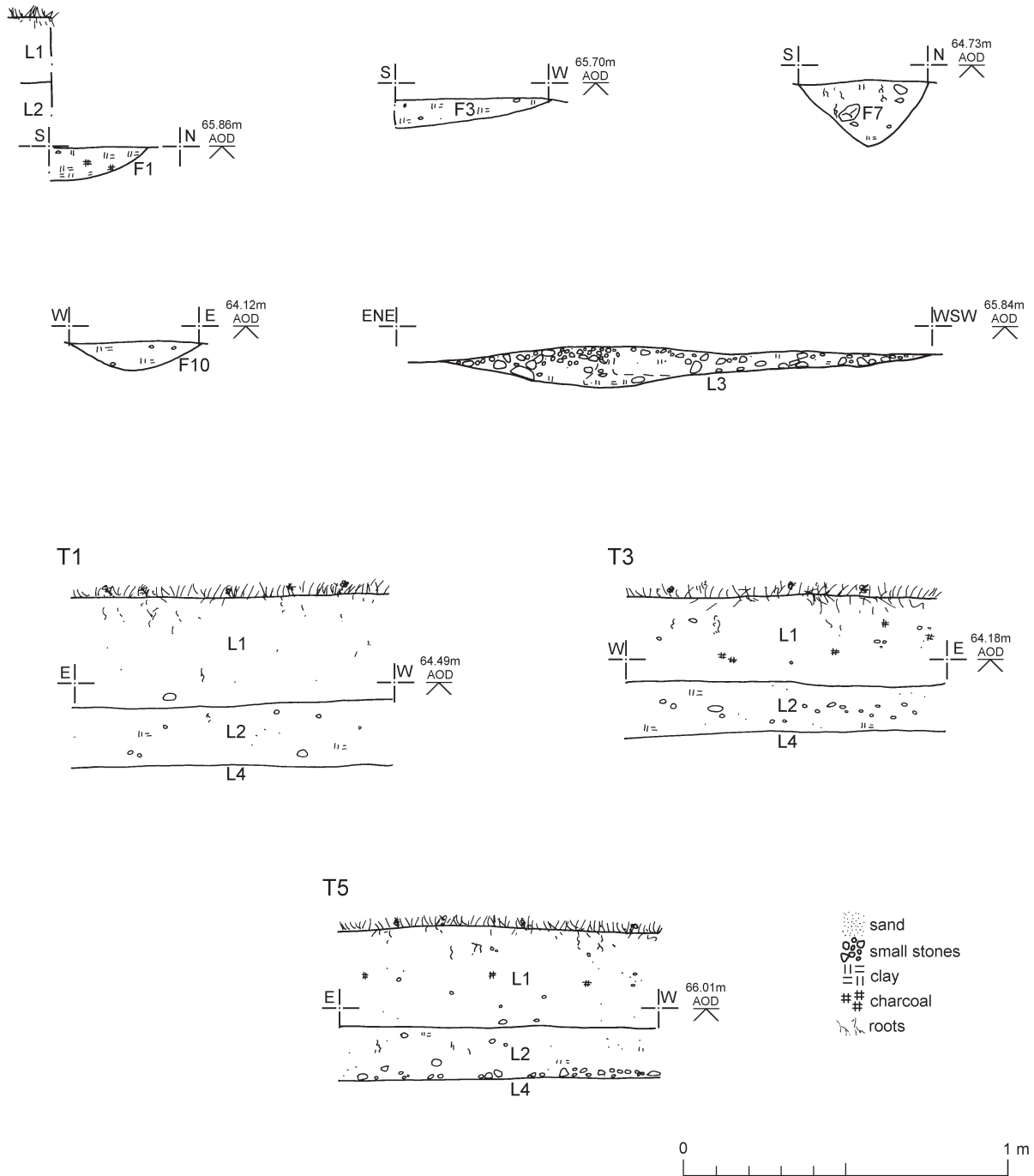


Fig 4 Feature sections (F1, F3, F7 and F10), surface (L3) and representative trench sections (T1, T3 and T5).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 157 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9EW	
Parish: Braintree	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 7661 2337	Site code: CAT project code: 15/12g ECC project code: BTCR16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-235394
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 2nd March 2016	Size of area investigated: Five trenches each 30m long by 1.8m wide (270m ²)
Location of curating museum: Braintree Museum accession code: requested	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: EHER 1226, 6477, 6482
Final report: CAT Report 923	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of fourteen new dwellings at 157 Coggeshall Road, Braintree, Essex. Despite being located immediately to the north of a Roman road (Stane Street) and close to a known Roman settlement no significant archaeological horizons were identified. The eleven features recorded were all modern and an undated gravel deposit was probably natural in origin.	
Previous summaries/reports: --	
Keywords: --	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: March 2016