

# Archaeological evaluation on land east of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6SH

**March 2016**



**by Laura Pooley**

**with contributions by Stephen Benfield and Adam Wightman  
figures by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway**

**fieldwork by Ben Holloway, Nigel Rayner and Alec Wade**

**commissioned by Lauren Bates, Hill Street Holdings**

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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 01206 501785

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

**CAT Report 932**  
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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of two new industrial buildings on land east of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex. Iron Age and Roman sites have been identified to the east and northwest of the development site and the medieval manorial complex of Maldon Hall is located further to the north. The four trial-trenches revealed a ditch, two pits, six postholes, a brick drain hub or soakaway, and a land drain, all of post-medieval/modern date. These features were probably associated with a row of four terrace cottages that used to stand on the site. Known as 'Knowles' these cottages dated from at least 1875.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological investigation by trial-trenching on land east of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex which was carried out on 21st March 2016. The work was commissioned by Lauren Bates of Hill Street Holdings in advance of the construction of two new industrial units with associated access, car-parking, landscaping and engineering works. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medleycott 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 Trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medleycott (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

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 proposed development site is located on the edge of the historic town of Maldon. The site has archaeological potential, particularly for the Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval periods. Fieldwork to the east on the Safeways Supermarket site and Bloors Development (EHER 9040-1, 14780-1) established the survival of Iron Age and Roman features in the vicinity. The postulated route of the Roman road and undated cropmarks are also recorded to the north-west (EHER 8026 and 940). Maldon Hall further to the north is a medieval manorial complex (EHER 7777-7780), and there is archaeological evidence for a preceding Roman phase of occupation of the site. Examination of the historic cartographic data also shows that there was a small terrace of four cottages on the development site in 1875. Known as Knowles, these were still in existence in the 1950s.

#### 4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Four trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. They all measured 16m long by 1.8m wide. Three layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, c 300mm thick) sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, c 80-100mm thick), which sealed a natural sandy/silty clay (L3).

##### Trench 1 (T1)

A single modern pit (F1) was excavated at the east end of the trench along with three post-medieval/modern post-holes (F2-F4) and a pit (F5) at the west end.



Photograph 1 T1, looking NE



Photograph 2 T2, looking S

##### Trench 2 (T2)

A single land drain was the only feature identified.

##### Trench 3 (T3)

A rectangular brick drain hub or soakaway (F6) was identified in the centre of the trench and three undated but probably modern post-holes (F7-F9) were excavated.



Photograph 3 T3, looking W



Photograph 4 T3, F6, looking N

##### Trench 4 (T4)

A shallow linear feature (F10) of modern date was excavated.



**Photograph 5** T4, looking SW



**Photograph 6** T4, F10, looking N

## 5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A quantity of finds, most dating to the modern period of the late 18th/19th-early 20th century, were recovered from a number of features and soil layers in four of the trenches (T1 & T3-T5). All of the finds are listed in Table 1. Pottery fabrics recorded in the report refer to the Colchester (Essex) post Roman fabric series listed in *CAR 7*.

One small, abraded sherd of medieval coarseware pottery (Fabric 20) of late 12th/13th-14th century date was recovered from F3 in T1. A small abraded piece of ceramic building material (CBM) in a red, fine sand fabric and which is not closely dated was the only other find from this feature. The small size of the pieces and that both are abraded indicates that they are probably residual in this context.

The other closely dated finds are all of modern (late 18th/19th-early 20th century) date, while the majority probably date to the period of the 19th/late 19th-early 20th century. Pottery, which makes up the majority of the finds, consists of sherds from modern factory-type wares. There is also a complete modern glass (screw-top) bottle and pieces from post-medieval/modern bricks including a complete brick from F6 in T5 that has been shaped (cut & rubbed) into a voussoir-type form.

Trench	Ctxt	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
T1	L1	1	<i>Modern pottery:</i> Quantity (10-20) of medium size sherds from several pots, inc Staffordshire-type earthenwares (Fabric 48D) & stonewares (Fabric 47) and modern English stoneware (Fabric 45M) (NR)	M19-E20C
T1	F1	5	<i>Modern glass:</i> Complete clear glass, seamed, screw-top bottle with ridged back, possibly a medicine or caustic substances bottle (NR)	M19-M20C
T1	F3	2	<i>Medieval pottery:</i> Single small abraded sherd (3g) in a sandy medieval coarseware fabric (Fabric 20) (L12/13-14C). <i>CBM:</i> Small, abraded piece of brick/tile in a fine sand fabric (not closely dated)	medieval - post-medieval/modern?
T1	F4	3	<i>Modern pottery:</i> Sherd of Staffordshire-type earthenware (Fabric 48D) <i>Other:</i> Shank from an iron nail (probably post-medieval-modern)	19/M19-E20C
T1	F5	4	<i>CBM:</i> Piece of peg-tile (medieval -post-medieval/modern). Piece of red brick (post-medieval/modern-probably modern L18-19/20C) with one other small brick/tile fragment.	post-medieval/modern - probably L18-E20C

Trench	Ctxt	Find no	Form/ description	spot date
			<i>Other:</i> Small corroded iron object/piece, (not closely dated - probably post-medieval-modern)	
T3	L1	6	Single, very large secondary hard hammer flake with evidence of previous removals	
T3	L1	7	<i>Modern pottery:</i> Small quantity (5-10) small-medium size sherds, from several pots, inc Staffordshire-type earthenwares (Fabric 48D) & stonewares (Fabric 47) and sherd from a modern flower pot (Fabric 51) (NR)	19-E20C
T4	F10	8	<i>Modern pottery:</i> Very small quantity (VSQ) 2 sherds from a yellow ware bowl (Fabric 48E) & 1 Staffordshire-type earthenware transfer-printed plate (Fabric 48D). <i>CBM:</i> Small piece of red brick (post-medieval/modern) (NR)	E/M19-E20C
T5	F6	9	<i>CBM:</i> Complete voussoir-type (probably shaped - cut & rubbed - on site) brick, red sandy fabric, wedge shape across profile (235 x 110 x 50-40 mm), well formed with sharp edges/arisesers (modern L18/19-E20C)	L18/19-20C

**Table 1** Finds list by trench and context (NR=not retained in archive)

### Worked flint by Adam Wightman

**T3, L1 (6)** Very large secondary hard hammer flake. Evidence of usewear/damage on one left lateral edge and rough, abrupt retouch on the distal edge (dorsal face). Some removals from ventral face but these may have been caused by damage.

Although the size and knapping characteristics would suggest it could be palaeolithic in date, the flake scars and edges are very sharp and fresh, and the piece looks relatively freshly knapped. It is possible that the flake may be a waste piece from the production of a flint wall associated with the farm buildings on the site.

## 6 Discussion

Ten features of a post-medieval/modern date were identified within the evaluation trenches along with a single land drain. The features are all probably associated with the row of four terrace cottages known to have been located on the development site since at least 1875.



**Map 1** 1st edition OS map, Essex LIV, published 1881. Location of terraces, known as the 'Knowles', shown by the red arrow.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Lauren Bates of Hill Street Holdings for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medleycott.

## 8 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, 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
CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land east of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6SH</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, <b>14</b> . 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 <b>24</b> , by Maria Medleycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching on land east of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill, Maldon</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
EHEN	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
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** half a box

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 932)

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 Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2016.29

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### Distribution list:

Lauren Bates, Hill Street Holdings  
Maria Medleycott, Essex County Council Place Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 18/03/2016



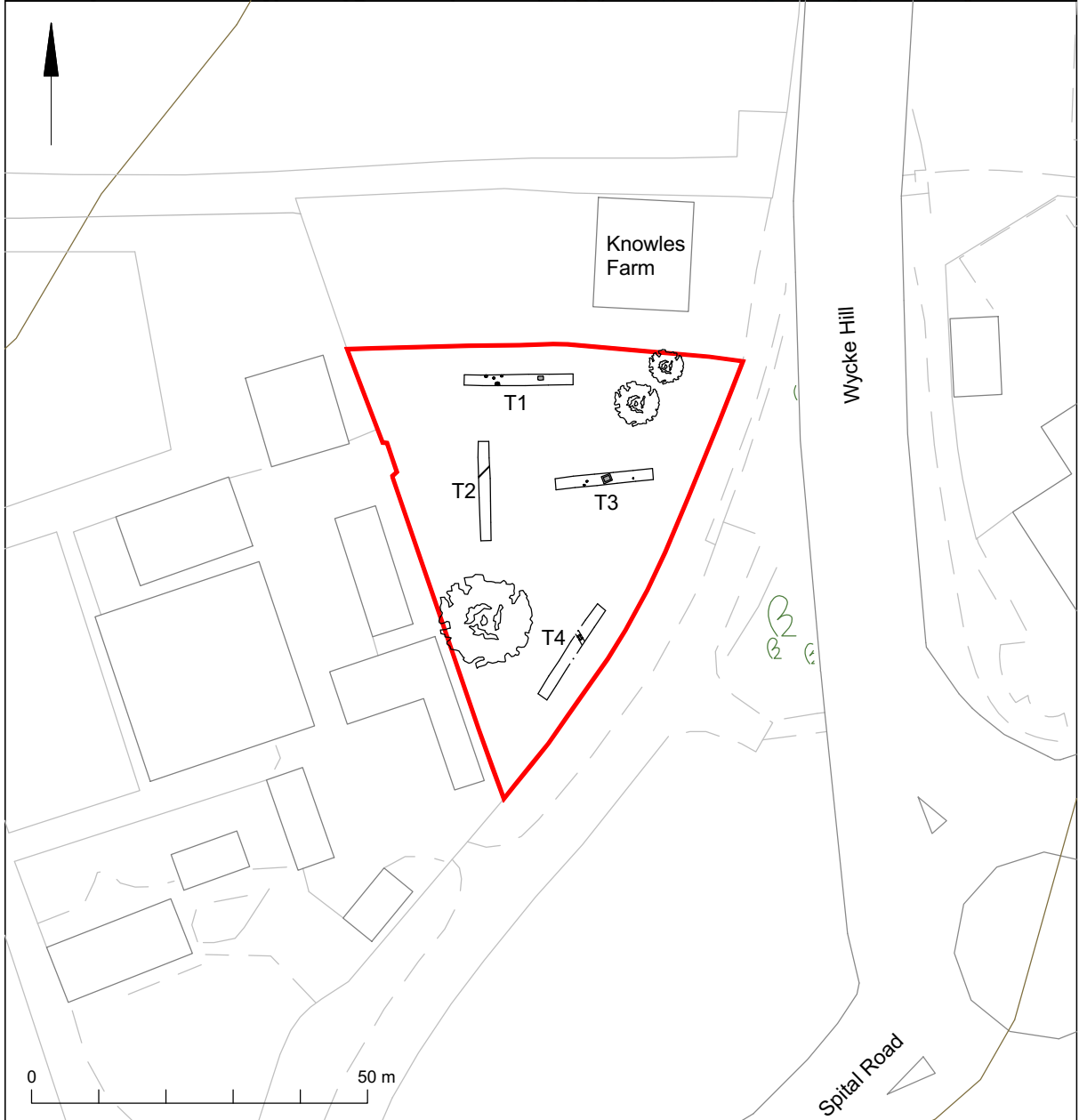
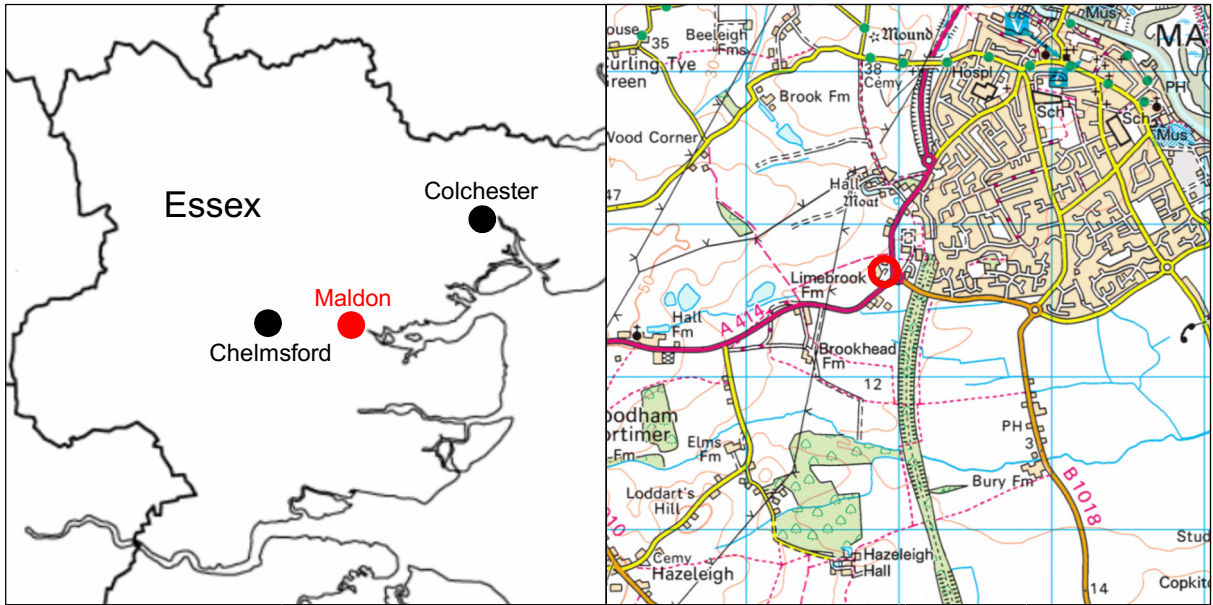


Fig 1 Site location.

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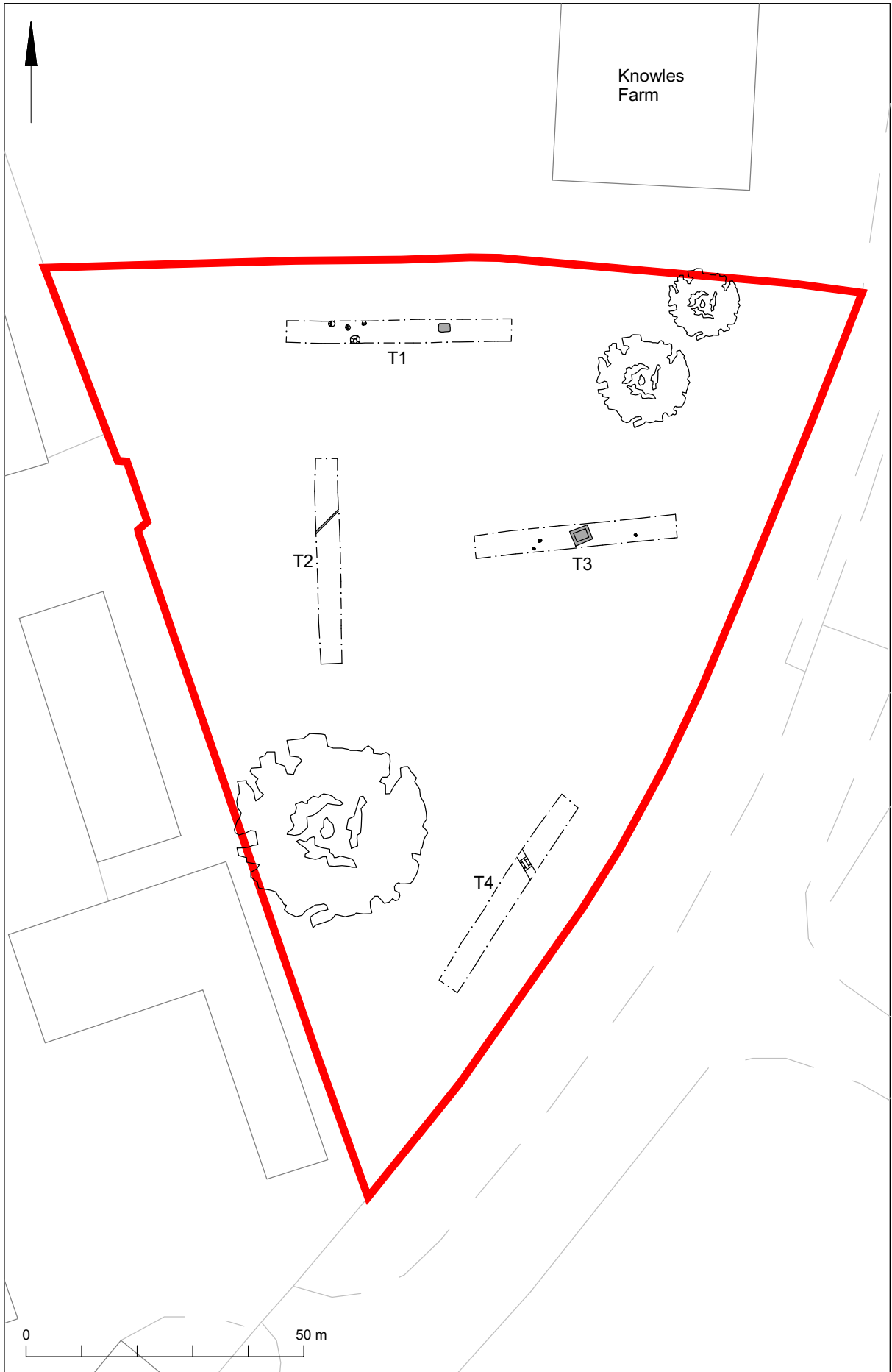


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

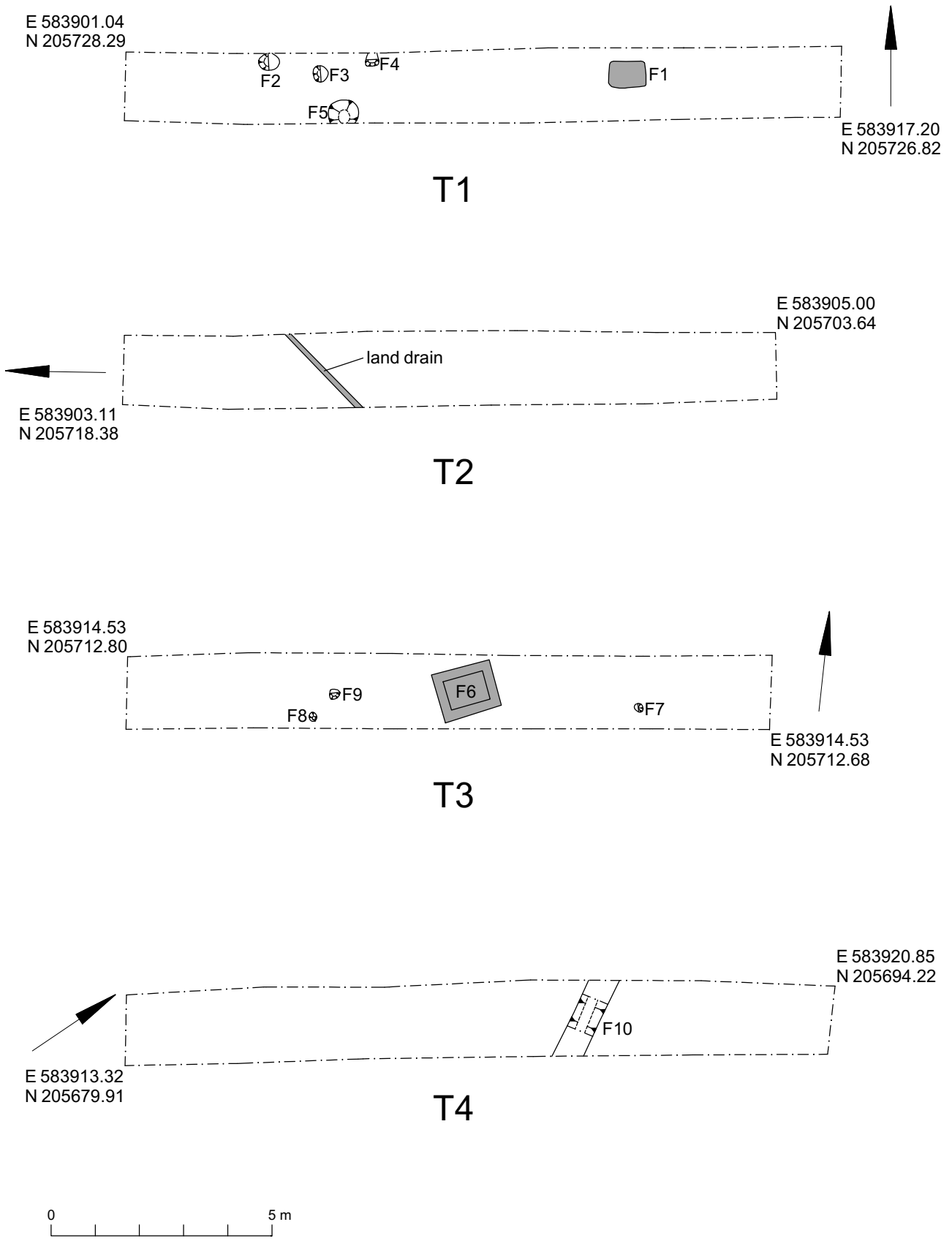


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans.

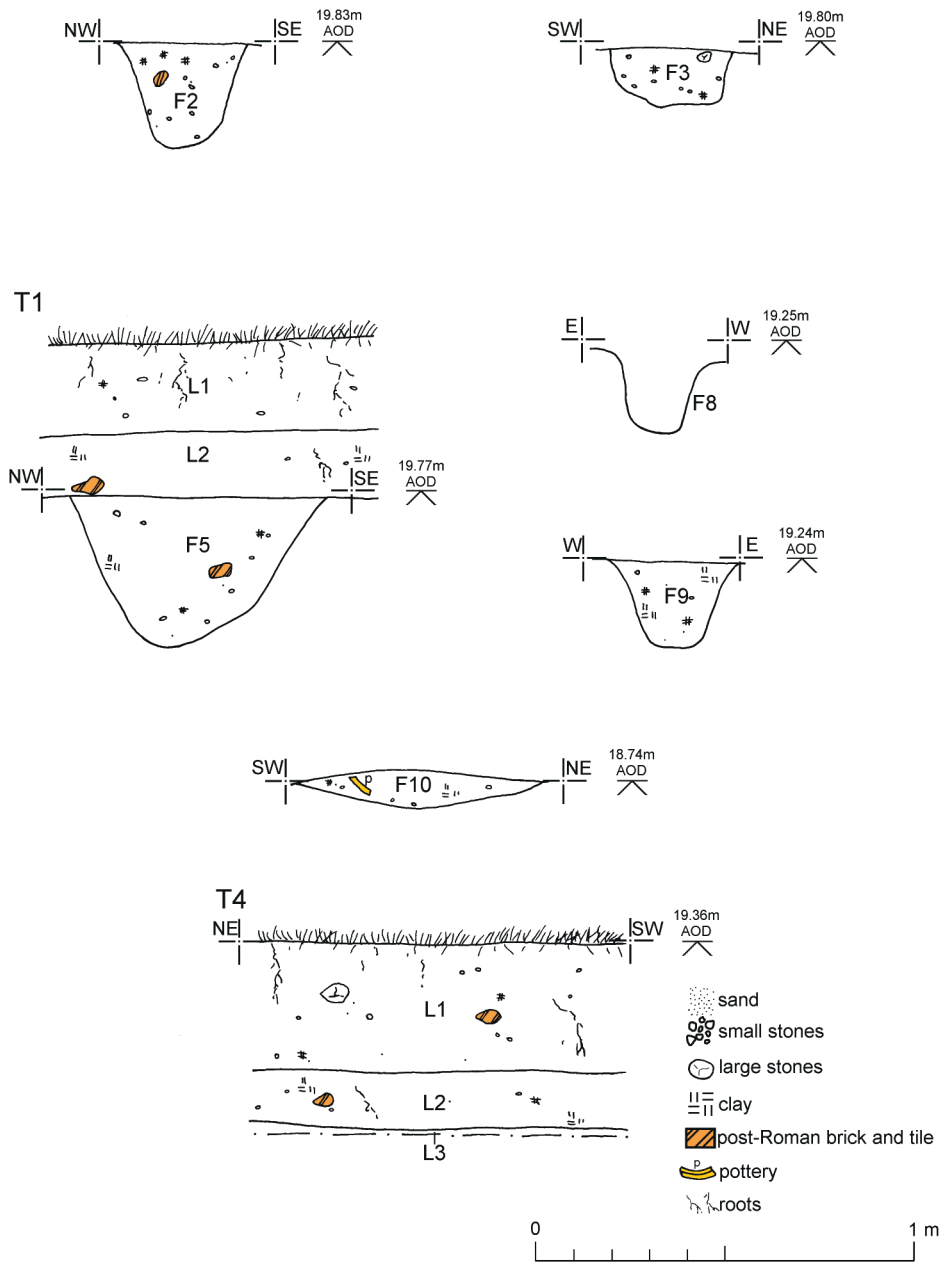


Fig 4 Feature sections (F2-3, F5 and F8-10) and representative trench sections (T1 and T4).

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex, CO9 6SH	
<b>Parish:</b> Maldon	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 83908 05708 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code: 16/03c ECC project code: MDKF16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-244903
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 21st March 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Four trenches totalling 64m linear at 1.8m wide (or 115.2m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2016.29	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER number:</b> EHER 940, 7777-7780, 8026, 9040-1, 14780-1
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 932	
<b>Periods represented:</b> post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of two new industrial buildings on land east of Knowles Farm, Wycke Hill, Maldon, Essex. Iron Age and Roman sites have been identified to the east and northwest of the development site and the medieval manorial complex of Maldon Hall is located further to the north. The four trial-trenches revealed a ditch, two pits, six postholes, a brick drain hub or soakaway, and a land drain, all of post-medieval/modern date. These features were probably associated with a row of four terrace cottages that used to stand on the site. Known as 'Knowles' these cottages dated from at least 1875.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> --	
<b>Keywords:</b> --	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> April 2016