

Colchester Archaeological Trust



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issued October 2022

**An archaeological evaluation on land off Colchester
Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0ES: September 2022**



CAT project ref.: 2022/06f
ECC code: ECC4752

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**commissioned by Andrew Ransome (ADP)
on behalf of Mersea Homes**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (59 trial-trenches) was undertaken on land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex in advance of the construction of 200 new homes. The site is located in an area that has been subject to very little archaeological investigation. This evaluation uncovered 25 features: 16 pits, eight ditches or gullies and a gully/plough scar. Of particular interest are a pit that has a possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, on the western side of the excavation area, and a cluster of medieval features in the north. A small quantity of features dating to the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval/modern periods were also spread across the site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex which was carried out on 13th-23rd September 2022. The work was commissioned by Andrew Ransome (ADP) on behalf of Mersea Homes, in advance of the construction of 200 new homes.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for a predetermination archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching to inform the planning application.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCAA 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the CBCAA (CAT 2022).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological 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 draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The proposed development site is located on the boundary between the villages Tiptree and Messing-cum-Inworth, within an area that has had little archaeological investigation.

Historically, the area comprised of Tiptree Heath, a huge area of common rough pasture and wood pasture shared between several neighbouring parishes. Encroachment on to this area began in a piecemeal fashion in the medieval period, but extensive areas of heath remained until the early 19th century, when it was finally enclosed by the Enclosure Act.

The smaller, eastern parcel of land is located adjacent to Elms Farm. The timber-framed and plastered farm house is late 16th century in date (MCC4573), Grade II Listed (NHLE no. 1266593) and features on early historic mapping (MCC9180). To the south of the farmhouse is a building which was originally a granary in the 17th century but later converted into a stable in the 19th century (MCC4575). This structure is also Grade II Listed (NHLE no. 1266570).

Although nothing of archaeological significance has yet been recorded on the proposed development site, three Neolithic axes have been recorded nearby (MCC6950, MCC6981 and MCC6985).

Approximately 600m to the north-west of the site a single Roman cremation was identified (MCC6943). It was contained in a tall, square, blue-green glass bottle with a single broad handle.

On land north of Barbrook Lane, approximately 1km to the south-west, a geophysical survey identified multiple features that looked to be possibly archaeological in origin (Davies 2018). The subsequent evaluation of 35 trenches by Cotswold Archaeology revealed few features (Moosbauer 2019). One heavily disturbed Bronze Age cremation was identified in the north-west of the site, and aside from this, archaeological features were post-medieval and modern and comprised field boundaries and land drains.

Cropmarks, while limited in the Tiptree area, have been recorded on a small number of sites around the development area. These include cropmarks of a possible curvilinear enclosure (MCC5696), linear features and a curving trackway (MCC6995) and field boundaries (MCC7398, MCC5700).

For a full background, see the Desk-Based Assessment for the site (CAT Report 1811).

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-8)

Fifty-nine trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches in the southern half of the site were cut through a layer of topsoil/turf (L1, 0.15-0.34m thick), a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.06-0.20m thick) and into the natural geology (L3, c 0.21-0.32m below current ground level [bcgl]) while trenches in the north were only cut through L1 into L3.

Sondages were excavated in trenches T7, T13, T24, T27, T33, T35, T36 and T37 to confirm the identification of the natural.

There were no archaeological remains in T2-T5, T8-T17, T19-T20, T22, T24, T25, T27-T35, T37-T50, T52, T53, T55, T56 and T58

A full context list, with soil descriptions and dimensions, can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (T1)

The only feature uncovered in T1 was a large post-medieval pit, F10. It was machine excavated to a depth of 0.80m and then augered a further 1.20m without encountering natural. A small quantity of pottery sherds and CBM fragments were recovered from the fill.

Trench 6 (T6)

Trench 6 contained the largest number of features of all the trenches: eleven pits and a gully/plough scar. All twelve features were located in the eastern half of the trench.

Six of the pits were medieval in date (F11, F14, F15, F19, F20 and F24) while the remaining five were undated (F12, F16, F18, F21 and F23). Between 2 and 6 sherds of

pottery were discovered in the medieval pits, plus a fragment of baked clay from pit F15. It's likely the undated pits are contemporary with the medieval pits.

Gully/plough scar F17 was post-medieval/modern in date and produced a fragment of brick and a fragment of peg-tile.



Photograph 1 Overview of features in T6, looking north-east.

Trench 7 (T7)

A large modern ditch, F22, was the only feature found in T7. It was located in the northern end of the trench and probably represents a field boundary present on historic OS mapping (see Map 1).



Map 1 Extract of the 25-inch 1921 OS Map. The field boundary represented by F22 highlighted in pink and the field boundary represented by F7 and F8 highlighted in green.

Trench 18 (T18)

A single prehistoric ditch, F25, was located in the centre of T18. Twenty-five sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fill of F25, unfortunately none of which had an identifiable form so could not be more closely dated.

Trench 21 (T21)

Ditch F8 was modern in date and could be a continuation of ditch F7 from T26. It could also represent a ditch present on historic mapping (see Map 1). An iron chain and a rubber bottle top were found in the fill.



Photograph 2 T21 trench shot, looking east.

Trench 23 (T23)

Pit F6 was located in the eastern end of T23 and produced two Mesolithic or Early Neolithic worked flints and several fragments of baked clay. It also had frequent charcoal flecking throughout the fill.



Photograph 3 F6 sx, looking south.

Trench 26 (T26)

Three features were excavated in T56, namely two pits and a ditch.

Prehistoric pit F13 and medieval pit F9 were located in the southern end of the trench while post-medieval ditch F7 extended the entire length of the trench. Pit F13 was truncated by pit F9, which was in turn cut by ditch F7.

Pit F13 produced seven sherds of prehistoric pottery, a single sherd of medieval pottery and a small quantity of burnt flint. This later sherd of pottery is intrusive from the pit being truncated by F9.

Eleven sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from pit F9, including sherds of a bowl/pancheon.

Ditch F7 may represent a continuation of ditch F8 in T21 and possibly also a field boundary visible on historic OS maps (see Map 1).



Photograph 4 F7, F9 and F13 sx, looking east.

Trench 36 (T36)

Modern ditch F5 produced the site's largest assemblage of finds, which included 24 sherds of pottery, 45 fragments of CBM and an iron nail.

Trench 51 (T51)

Modern pit F4 was excavated in T51. It produced three sherds of modern pottery, four fragments of brick, a fragment of peg-tile and some fragments of iron.

Trench 54 (T54)

Undated ditch F1 was located in the centre of T54.



Photograph 5 T54 trench shot, looking north.

Trench 57 (T57)

Prehistoric gully F3 was the only feature in T57, it produced 6 sherds of pottery.



Photograph 6 T57 trench shot, looking east.

Trench 59 (T59)

Ditch F2 was the only Roman-dated feature uncovered during the evaluation. It produced a single sherd of abraded pottery and some fragments of Roman CBM.



Photograph 8 F2 sx, looking south-east.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered 190 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of nearly 6.5 kg and EVE of 0.41 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is high at 34g, reflecting the fact that sherds of CBM account for a substantial proportion of the weight of the assemblage (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	97	53%	939	15%	10	0.41
CBM	87	47%	5,533	85%	64	-
All	184		6,472		35	0.41

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Sherds of pottery and ceramics were recovered from 18 features (Table 2). The largest assemblage, in terms of sherd count and weight, came from the ditch F5 with 69 sherds weighing 3.8 kg followed by the ditch F25 with 28 sherds weighing 153g (Table 2). The majority of features contained small-sized assemblages with 11 or fewer sherds of pottery and CBM (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	DITCH	6	327	55
F3	GULLY	6	12	2
F4	PIT	8	66	8
F5	DITCH	69	3,833	56
F6	PIT	16	206	13
F7	DITCH	1	6	6
F9	PIT	11	38	3
F10	PIT	8	367	46
F11	PIT	6	12	2
F13	PIT	8	13	2
F14	PIT	4	12	3
F15	PIT	3	18	6
F17	GULLY/PLOUGH SCAR	2	10	5
F19	PIT	3	6	2
F20	PIT	3	35	12
F22	DITCH	3	1,333	444
F24	PIT	5	37	7
F25	DITCH	28	153	5
Total		184	6,472	35

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features.

Prehistoric pottery

There was a small assemblage of handmade prehistoric pottery with 37 sherds with a weight of 126g. This material is very fragmented with a mean sherd weight of only 3g (Table 3). Most of this pottery was tempered with flint (HMF) or with flint and sand (HMFS, HMSF) (Table 3). There was no diagnostic material or any identifiable vessel forms so the material cannot be dated more precisely than Prehistoric. Most of the Prehistoric pottery came from the ditch F25 with small sized assemblages from the gully F3 and the pit F13 (Table 4).

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
HMF	Handmade flint-tempered	13	56	4
HMFS	Handmade flint and sand tempered	5	18	4
HMS	Handmade sand tempered	11	28	3
HMSF	Handmade sand and flint tempered	8	24	3
Total		37	126	3

Table 3 Summary of the prehistoric pottery.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)
F3	GULLY	5	10	2
F13	PIT	7	11	2
F25	DITCH	25	105	4
Total		37	126	3

Table 4 Quantities of Prehistoric pottery from specific features.

Late Iron Age-Roman pottery

The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in CAR 10 (Symonds & Wade 1999) (Table 5). Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hull 1958; CAR 10, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487).

A possible small sherd (2g) of Late Iron Age grog-tempered (GTW) pottery came from the gully F3. Roman pottery was limited to small scrap (1g) of central Gaulish Lezoux samian, dating to AD 110-220 which has lost its external slip. This came from the ditch F2.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
BACG	Central Gaulish plain samian	AD 110-220
GTW	Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware	Late Iron Age

Table 5 Late Iron Age-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Post-Roman pottery

The post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) (Table 6) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). There was a modest assemblage of post-Roman pottery with 64 sherds with a weight of 822g and EVE of 0.41. (Table 7). This material was recovered from 11 features although ditch F5 and pit F9 produced the majority of this material (Table 8). Early medieval wares (fabrics F12B, F13, F13T) and later medieval wares (fabrics F20, F21) account for the majority of this material (Table 7) and were recovered from eight features (ditch F5, pit F9, pit F11, pit F13, pit F14, pit F19, pit F20, pit F24). Diagnostic elements were limited to examples of jugs in fabrics F13 (EVE:10) and F21 (EVE:0.08) including one with incised lines on the handle (Cotter 2000, 56 fig. 32 no. 85). A quantity of post-medieval (fabric F40) and modern pottery (fabrics F45M, F48D) was recovered from the pit F4, ditch F5, pit F9, and pit F10. Most of the post-medieval red earthenwares (F40) pottery, including a cup/mug (EVE:0.11), came from the ditch F5. There was also a large bowl/pancheon (EVE:0.06) in post-medieval red earthenwares (F40) which came from the pit F9.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F12B	Early medieval slightly sandy shelly wares	Late 11th-12th century
F13	Early medieval sandy wares	11th-early 13th century
F13T	Early medieval sandy wares transitional	Early 12th-early 13th century
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	c1150-1375/1400
F21	Colchester-type ware	c1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c1500-19th/20th century
F45M	Modern English stoneware	19th-20th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century

Table 6 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F12B	Early medieval slightly sandy shelly wares	3	5	2	0.00
F13	Early medieval sandy wares	27	95	4	0.10
F13T	Early medieval sandy wares transitional	1	5	5	0.00
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	3	39	13	0.06
F21	Colchester-type ware	2	10	5	0.08
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	24	648	27	0.17
F45M	Modern English stoneware	1	10	10	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	3	10	3	0.00

Total	58	810	14	0.41
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Table 7 Summary of the post-Roman pottery.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F4	PIT	3	10	3	0.00
F5	DITCH	24	609	25	0.19
F9	PIT	11	38	3	0.12
F10	PIT	2	46	23	0.00
F11	PIT	6	12	2	0.00
F13	PIT	1	2	2	0.00
F14	PIT	4	12	3	0.00
F15	PIT	2	15	8	0.00
F19	PIT	3	6	2	0.00
F20	PIT	3	35	12	0.00
F24	PIT	5	37	7	0.10
Total		58	810	14	0.41

Table 8 Quantities of post-Roman pottery from specific features.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were 87 sherds of CBM with a weight of just over 5.5 kg with a mean sherd weight of 64g (Table 9). CBM was recovered from 10 features although most contained six or fewer sherds (Table 10). Two features did however contain larger sized assemblages: the ditch F5 with 45 sherds with a weight of 3.2 kg and the pit F6 with 16 sherds with a weight of 206g (Table 10).

Five Roman brick or tile fragments (RBT) with a weight of 326g were recovered from the ditch F2. Sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile were recovered from the pit F4, ditch F5, linear F7, pit F10, gully/plough scar F17 and ditch F22. Fragments of post-Roman brick were recovered from the pit F4, ditch F5, pit F10, gully/plough scar F17 and ditch F22. The fragments from the ditch F5 appear to be from un-frogged bricks dating to the 18th-19th century. One of the brick fragments from the ditch F22 appears to be modern.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Roman				
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	5	326	65
Post-Roman				
PT	Peg-tile	18	918	51
BR	Brick	35	3,983	114
Un-dated				
Baked clay		11	77	7
Daub		18	229	13
Total		87	5,533	64

Table 9 Building material by period and type.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	DITCH	5	326	65
F4	PIT	5	56	11

F5	DITCH	45	3,224	72
F6	PIT	16	206	13
F7	DITCH	1	6	6
F10	PIT	6	321	54
F15	PIT	1	3	3
F17	GULLY/PLOUGH SCAR	2	10	5
F22	DITCH	3	1,333	444
F25	DITCH	3	48	16
Total		87	5,533	64

Table 10 Quantities of CBM from specific features.

Conclusion

Table 11 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. There is at least one prehistoric (ditch F25) and one Roman (ditch F2) feature while many of the pits date to the medieval period (pit F13, pit F14, pit F15, pit F19, pit F20, pit F24). There is one late medieval/post-medieval feature (pit F9) and several modern features (pit F4, ditch F5, gully/plough scar F17, ditch F22).

Context	Description	Prehistoric	Roman	Post-Roman	CBM	Date Approx.
F2	DITCH	-	BACG	-	RBT	2nd century AD
F3	GULLY	HMS, HMFS, GTW?	-	-	-	Prehistoric or LIA?
F4	PIT	-	-	F48D	PT, BR	19th/20th century
F5	DITCH	-	-	F21 (Jug), F40 (Mug/cup), F45M	BR (un-frogged), PT	19th century
F7	DITCH	-	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F9	PIT	-	-	F12B, F13, F20, F40 (Large bowl/pancheon)	-	13th-16th century
F10	PIT	-	-	F40	PT, BR	Post-medieval
F11	PIT	-	-	F13	-	1000-1225
F13	PIT	HMS, HMF	-	F13	-	1000-1225?
F14	PIT	-	-	F13 F20	-	1150-1375/1400
F15	PIT	-	-	F13	-	1000-1225
F17	GULLY/ PLOUGH SCAR	-	-	-	PT BR	Post-medieval/ modern
F19	PIT	-	-	F13	-	1000-1225
F20	PIT	-	-	F13, F13T, F20	-	1150-1375/1400
F22	DITCH	-	-	-	PT, BR	Modern
F24	PIT	-	-	F13 (Jug)	-	1000-1225
F25	DITCH	HMF, HMFS, HMSF, HMS	-	-	-	Prehistoric

Table 11 Approximate dates for the individual features.

6.2 Lithics

By Adam Wightman

A small tertiary flake and a broken bladelet were recovered from pit F6 in Trench 23. The tertiary flake is very small (18mm x 13mm x 3mm) and exhibits evidence of use-wear/edge-damage. The striking platform was prepared prior to detachment from the parent core, and it is likely that the flake was detached using a soft hammer. The bladelet is also very small (12mm x 6mm x 2mm) and is broken at the distal end. It is possible that the distal end of the blade may have been intentionally snapped off to produce a microlith. As with the tertiary flake, it shows signs of having been detached using a soft hammer following the preparation of the striking platform. Based on the knapping characteristics evident on the two pieces, it is likely that they both date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic.

6.3 Agricultural iron work and other modern finds

by Laura Pooley

Field boundary ditch F7/F8 produced a length of 19th-/20th-century iron chain and fragments of iron strip along with a rubber bottle top. A modern iron nail and piece of slate was recovered from F22, an incomplete iron nail from F5 and fragments of indeterminate iron from F4. All of these items are recorded below and have been discarded.

F4, finds no. 4 – Seven small fragments of iron, 11.7g.

F5, finds no. 6 – Incomplete iron nail with round head and rectangular cross-section, tip missing, 9.4g.

F7, finds no. 8 – Two fragments of iron strip, in poor condition with edges damaged and surface flaking.

1) Long, thin strip, slightly curving, triangular in cross-section. Broken at one end, other end tapering to a short central point. 21mm long, 25mm wide, 7mm thick, 74.2g.

2) Long, thin strip, curved, triangular in cross-section. Broken at both ends, bent twice. 27mm long, 32mm wide, 7mm thick, 142.6g.

With triangular cross-section, both strips could be parts of blades but they are in too poor a condition to make a positive identification. Probably post-medieval/modern.

F8, finds no. 10.

1) Very long length of thick iron chain with large oval links (90mm x 45mm) at both ends and a length of smaller oval links (60mm x 45mm) in the middle which have twisted and corroded together. The different sizes of chain link are connected by two figure-of-eight links. Also found was a connector plate probably for attachment of the chain to a plough or tractor. 19th/20th century. All components total 139cm long and 4,044g.

2) Modern rubber bottle top, 19.9g.

F22, finds no. 19 – Modern iron nails, square-shank clenched at 45°, small oval head, 15.2g. Fragment of slate, 7.8g.

6.4 Burnt flint

by Laura Pooley

Six fragments of burnt flint (254g) came from prehistoric pit F13. They were cracked, crazed and burnt various shades of grey, pink and red (now discarded).

7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray

Introduction – aims and objectives

Two samples were presented for assessment, one from a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic pit and the second from a medieval pit.

Sample no.	Finds no.	Feature type	Date	% sampled	Sample volume (L.)
1	6	Pit	Mesolithic/ Early Neo- lithic	60	30
2	9	Pit	Medieval, 13th-16th century	50	20

Table 12 Samples presented for assessment.

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the sample and to consider its use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment. Recommendations will be made about any further work necessary on these samples and for future interventions at the site.

Sampling and processing methods

Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. Once with the author, the flot was scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 45x. The whole flot was examined. The abundance, diversity, and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in the sample was recorded.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once, and the common names used thereafter. Quantities were estimated using the DAFOR scale (see below):

- D – Dominant - >200 (items)
- A – Abundant – 51-200 (items)
- F – Frequent – 16-50 (items)
- O – Occasional – 6-15 (items)
- R – Rare – 5 or fewer (items)

The quantity of identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been noted separately from the quantity of charred wood flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charred wood flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

Results (Table 13)

Most of the plant macro-remains were preserved by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman & Jones 1990, 2; Campbell *et al.* 2011, 17). Grains of oat, barley, wheat/rye and bread/club/rivet wheat were present in rare numbers in Sample 2 from F9, along with broad bean. Charcoal was the only CPR present in Sample 1, with both samples producing fragments of over 4mm in diameter. A very low number of dewatered testas of seeds of fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.), black

bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus* L.) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* L.) were also found in both samples. Due to the frequency of modern rootlets they have been interpreted as intrusive.

Sample no.	1	2
Feature no.	6	9
Feature type	Pit	Pit
Feature date	Mesolithic or Early Neolithic	Medieval
Sample volume (l)	30	20
Flot volume (ml)	0.175	0.05
General preservation*	Good	Good
Sufficient for C14?*	Yes-charcoal if suitable taxa present	Yes-CPR and charcoal if suitable taxa present
Full analysis recommended? (depending on the results of future assessment)	Yes-if C14 desired	No – unless needed for C14 or comparisons with samples taken in later interventions
CPR		
Oat (<i>Avena</i> sp.) grain	-	R
Barley (<i>Hordeum</i> sp.) grain		R
Wheat/Rye (<i>Triticum/Secale</i>) grain	-	R
Bread/Club/Rivet Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum</i>) grain	-	R
Broad bean (<i>Vicia faba</i> L.)	-	R
Charcoal >4MM Ø estimated quantity:-	>100	>25
Charcoal <4MM Ø	F	F
Dewatered Seeds	R	R
Modern roots	F	F

Table 13 Contents of Flots (*General Preservation – Good = Species or Genus identification possible, Moderate = Family identification possible, Poor = too poorly preserved to identify; ** consultation with dating laboratory recommended; CPR = Charred Plant Remains).

Potential, significance and recommendations

The charcoal fragments, particularly those in Mesolithic/Early Neolithic pit F6 could be identified if selection for radiocarbon dating is required. Depending on the results of any future investigations, full analysis of the small, charred assemblage in medieval pit F9 may be useful but the low number of grains and seeds in this sample could mean they are remnants of a general background waste from activities at the site that cannot be associated with any feature or are a midden scatter on cultivated fields.

If further archaeological work is to proceed at this site, bulk samples should be taken for recovery of charred and possible mineralised plant macro-remains. The soil type is Soilscape 6 'Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils' (Cranfield University 2020). This type of soil can provide preservation conditions suitable for the survival of charred and mineralised plant remains, bones, mollusca, ostracods, foraminifera, parasite eggs and phytoliths (Campbell *et al.* 2011, 5-6).

8 Conclusion

Twenty-five features were identified during this evaluation: 16 pits, eight ditches or gullies and a gully/plough scar. Nineteen of the features produced dating material but much of it was in relatively small quantities.

Evidence of activity prior to the medieval period is sparse, with only five earlier features. The earliest was pit F6, which produced two small worked flints that dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. A further three features were more generally dated to the prehistoric period. While they all produced pottery sherds, none had an identifiable form to indicate a closer date range. Lastly, a Roman ditch was excavated. These features were spread throughout the development area.

The most significant remains was a cluster of six medieval-dated pits located in the north-east corner of the site and another medieval pit further south. Five of the pits had a date of 1000-1225 and the other two 1150-1375/1400, indicating activity on the site in the 12th and 13th centuries. It is unclear whether these features indicate domestic or agricultural activity as many of the features were not fully exposed and diagnostic elements of the recovered pottery sherds were limited. Despite the difficulty in identifying the utilization of the features, they are important in a wider context as little of medieval date has been recorded in the Tiptree area.

Several post-medieval/modern features were also identified, including three field boundaries seen on early OS maps (see Map 1).

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Ransome (ADP) and Mersea Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with K Davies, C Hill, B Holloway, C Lister, A Wade and A Wightman. Figures are by C Lister, A Wade and S Veasey. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

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Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
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| CAR 10 | 1999 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> by R Symonds and S Wade |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0ES</i> by E Holloway |
| CAT Report 1811 | 2022 | <i>An archaeological desk-based assessment for land to the north of Colchester Road, Tiptree</i> |
| CBCAA | 2022 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at land north of Colchester</i> |

		<i>Road, Tiptree</i> by S Wood
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
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Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles</i>

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of digital archive

Finds: less than one box

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1859)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (plan/sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1859)
CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The 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 reference number ECC4552 and with the Archaeological Data Service.

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Distribution list:

Mersea Homes
Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context List

Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
All	L1	-	Top soil/ turf	Friable dry medium/dark grey/brown loamy with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks.	Modern
All	L2	-	Sub-soil	Firm dry light/medium yellow/grey sandy silt.	Post-glacial
All	L3	-	Natural	Firm dry medium yellow/brown clay with common gravel	Post-glacial
<hr/>					
T54	F1	-	Ditch	Firm dry light orange/grey clayey silt Aligned north-east/south-west Exposed length 2.01, 0.84m wide and 0.09m deep Wide U-shaped profile	Undated
T59	F2	1, 2	Ditch	Firm/hard dry light/medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 2% Aligned north-west/south-east Exposed length 2.19m, 0.66m wide and 0.17m deep U-shaped profile	Roman 2nd century AD
T57	F3	3	Gully	Firm dry light grey/brown silty clay Aligned north-east/south-west Exposed length 2.13m, 0.36m wide and 0.13m deep U-shaped profile	Prehistoric
T51	F4	4	Pit	Firm dry light grey/brown silty clay 1.12m by 0.99m and 0.16m deep	19th/20th century
T36	F5	5, 6, 7	Ditch	Firm dry medium grey/brown clayey silt with brick flecks, tile flecks Aligned north north-east/south south-west Exposed length 1.92m, 1.10 wide and 0.31m deep V-shaped profile with a flat base	19th century
T23	F6	9	Pit	Firm medium yellow/grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks 0.80m by 0.59m and 0.19m deep	Mesolithic/ Early Neolithic
T26	F7	8, 12	Ditch	Firm medium/dark orange/grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% Aligned roughly north/south Exposed length 30m, 0.80m wide and 0.38m deep U-shaped profile	Post-medieval/ modern
T21	F8	10	Ditch	Firm medium/dark orange/grey/brown silty clay Aligned north-west/south-east Exposed length 1.99m, 0.54m wide and 0.17m deep U-shaped profile	Post-medieval/ moder
T26	F9	11	Pit	Firm dry medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%	Medieval

				1.08m by 1.33m and 0.22m deep	
T1	F10	14	Pit	Firm moist medium/dark yellow/grey/brown clay silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks 12m wide, augered to 1.90m and not bottomed	Post-medieval
T6	F11	13	Pit	Firm moist light yellow/grey/brown clay silt 0.92m by 0.76m and 0.10m deep	Medieval
T6	F12	-	Pit	Firm moist light yellow/grey/brown clay silt 0.70m by 0.32m and 0.11m deep	Undated
T26	F13	15	Pit	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1% 1.07m by 1.31m and 0.31m deep	Prehistoric
T6	F14	16	Pit	Firm moist light yellow/grey/brown clay silt 0.71m by 0.48m and 0.08m deep	Medieval
T6	F15	17	Pit	Firm moist light yellow/grey/brown clay silt 0.52m by 0.48m and 0.08m deep	Medieval
T6	F16	-	Pit	Firm moist medium yellow/grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% c 0.30m in diameter and 0.06m deep	Undated
T6	F17	23	Gully/ plough scar	Soft moist medium/dark yellow/grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks Aligned north-east/south-west Exposed length 2.56m, 0.33m wide and 0.08m deep Shallow U-shaped profile	Post-medieval/ modern
T6	F18	-	Pit	Firm moist light yellow/grey/brown clay silt 0.73m by 0.66m and 0.10m deep	Undated
T6	F19	20	Pit	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, daub flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% 0.52m by 0.78m and 0.15m	Medieval
T6	F20	18	Pit	Firm moist medium yellow/grey/brown silty clay 1.66m by 0.82m and 0.08m deep	Medieval
T6	F21	-	Pit	Firm moist medium yellow/grey/brown silty clay 1.22m by 0.70m and 0.09m deep	Undated
T7	F22	19	Ditch	Firm moist dark yellow/grey/brown clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% Aligned north-east/south-west Exposed length 3.46m, 1.62m wide and 0.35m deep	Modern
T6	F23	-	Pit	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1% 0.26m by 0.19m and 0.06m deep	Undated
T6	F24	21	Pit	Firm moist medium/dark grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, daub flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% c 0.35m in diameter and 0.10m deep	Medieval
T18	F25	22	Ditch	Firm/hard dry light/medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 30% pot 30%	Prehistoric

				Aligned north-east/south-west Exposed length 2.40m, 1.39m wide and 0.18m deep Wide U-shaped profile	
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Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	W/mid	Sooting (ext.)	Burning	Abraision	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F2	DITCH	2		1	1	1								X	BACG				LOST ALL OF SLIP	AD 110-220
F3	GULLY	3		3	5	2									HMFS				OR GREY CORE, SAND, F&C FL	PREHISTORIC
F3	GULLY	3		1	2	2									GTW				?	LIA
F3	GULLY	3		2	5	3									HMS				BR BL CORE	PREHISTORIC
F4	PIT	4		3	10	3	X								F48D					19TH/20TH CENTURY
F5	DITCH	6		12	371	31		2	0	2					F40	CUP/MUG	0.11	140		c.1500-19TH/20TH CENTURY
F5	DITCH	6		4	198	50		0	0	1					F40					c.1500-19TH/20TH CENTURY
F5	DITCH	6		5	20	4									F40					c.1500-19TH/20TH CENTURY
F5	DITCH	6		1	4	4									F21					c.1200-1550
F5	DITCH	6		1	6	6		1	0	0					F21	JUG	0.08	90		c.1200-1550
F5	DITCH	6		1	10	10									F45M					19TH/20TH CENTURY
F9	PIT	11		1	13	13		1	0	0					F40	LARGE BOWL/PANCHEON	0.06	220	GLAZE	c.1500-19TH/20TH CENTURY
F9	PIT	11		1	4	4		1	0	0					F20	?	0.06	160		c.1150-1375/1400
F9	PIT	11		4	13	3		0	0	1					F13					1000-1225
F9	PIT	11		3	5	2									F12B					1080-1200
F9	PIT		2	1	2	2									F13					1000-1225
F9	PIT		2	1	1	1	X								F13					1000-1225
F10	PIT	14		2	46	23		0	0	2					F40					c.1500-19TH/20TH CENTURY
F11	PIT	13		6	12	2									F13					1000-1225
F13	PIT	15		6	10	2									HMF				BR, DARK CORE, COMMON F-M FL	PREHISTORIC
F13	PIT	15		1	1	1									HMS					PREHISTORIC
F13	PIT	15		1	2	2									F13				BR, BL CORE	1000-1225
F14	PIT	16		1	8	8									F20					c.1150-1375/1400
F14	PIT	16		3	4	1									F13					1000-1225
F15	PIT	17		2	15	8		0	0	2					F13					1000-1225
F19	PIT	20		3	6	2									F13					1000-1225
F20	PIT	18		1	27	27		0	0	1					F20					c.1150-1375/1400
F20	PIT	18		1	3	3									F13					1000-1225
F20	PIT	18		1	5	5									F13T					1125-1225

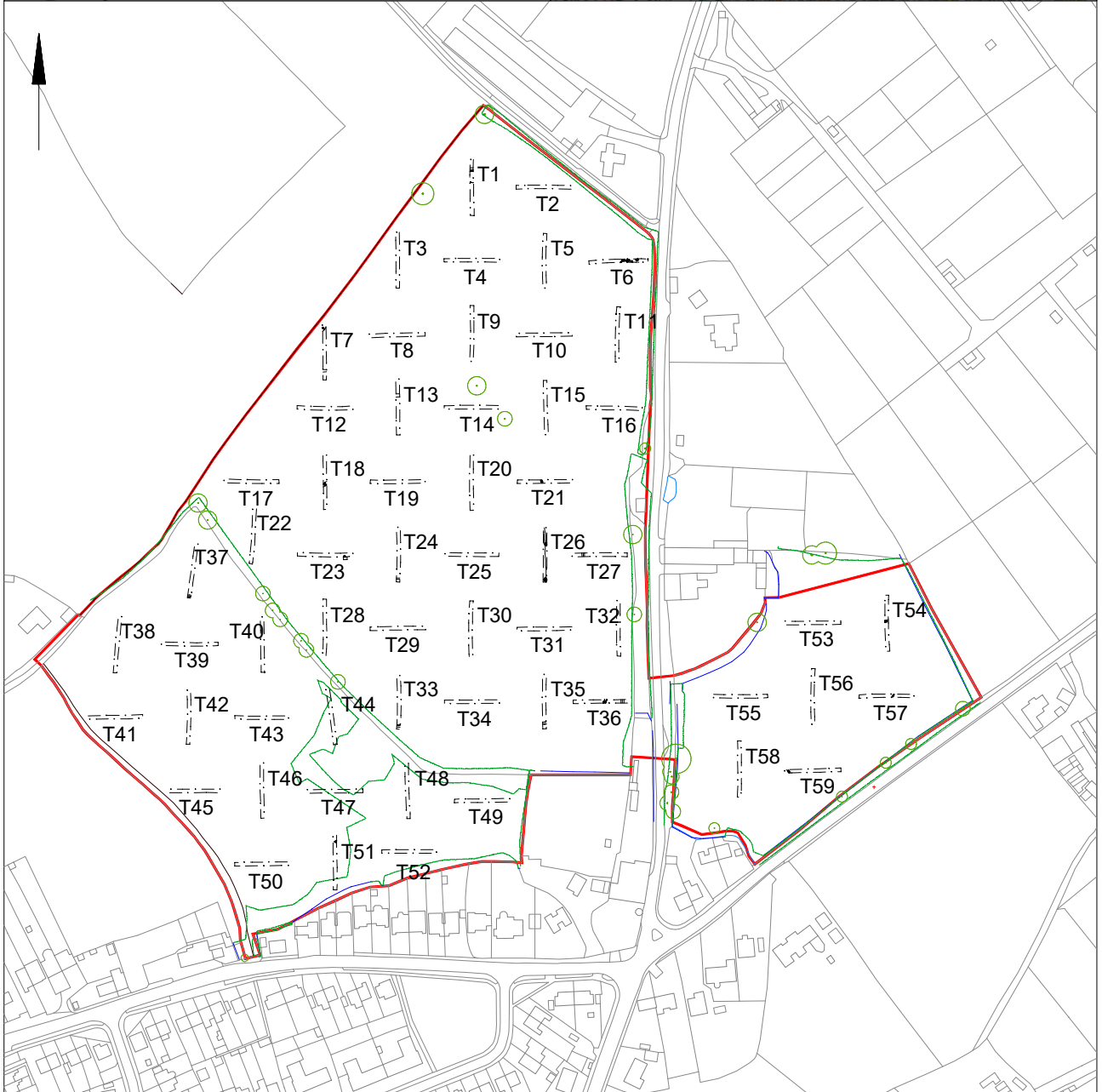
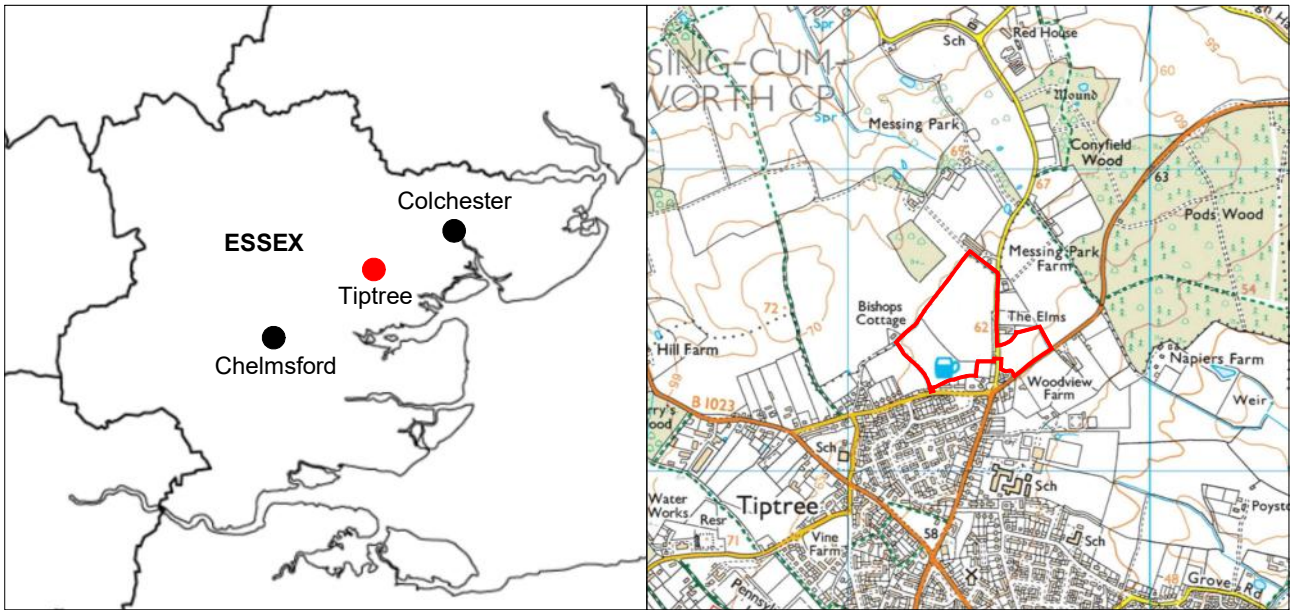
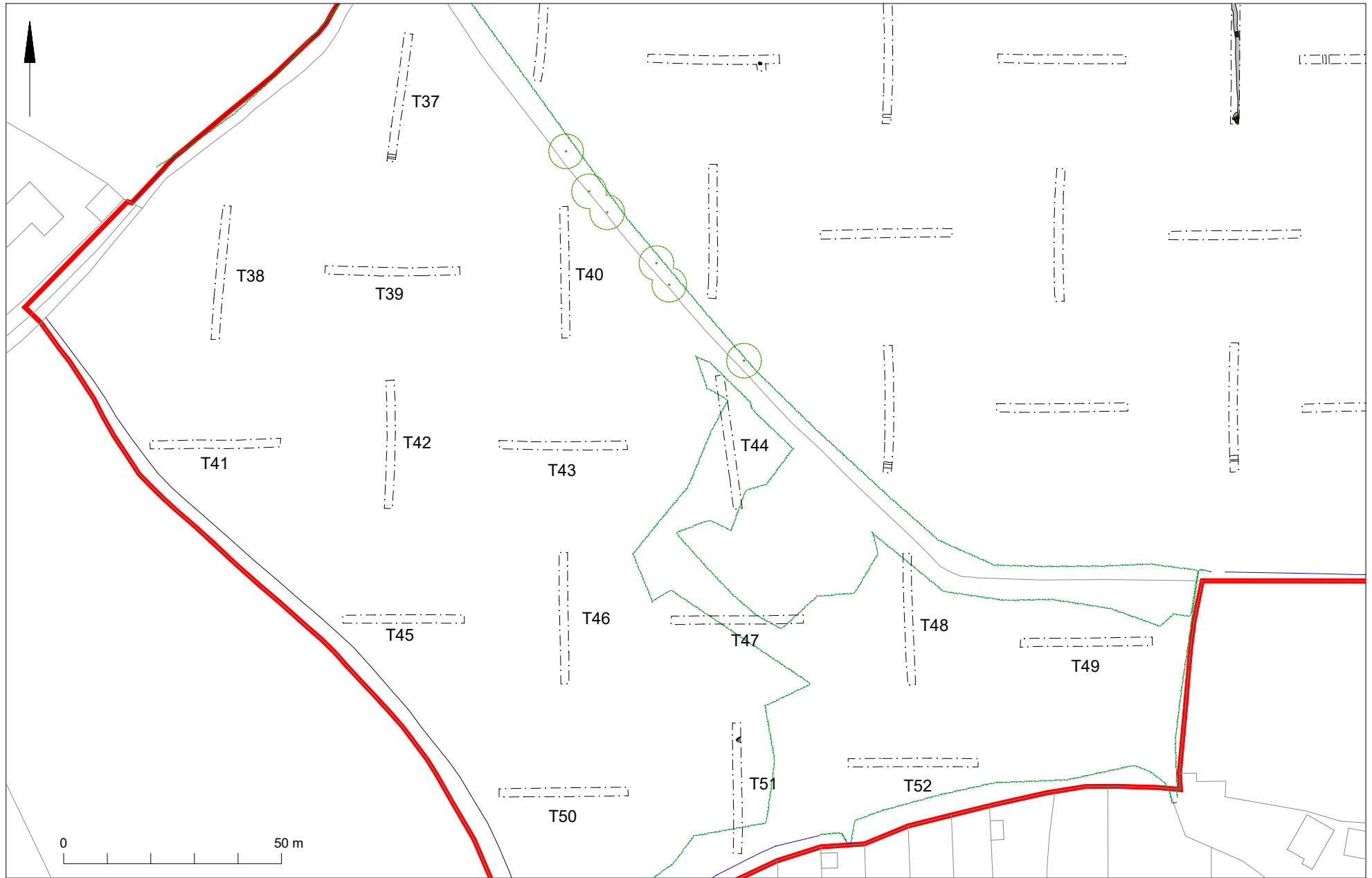


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout.

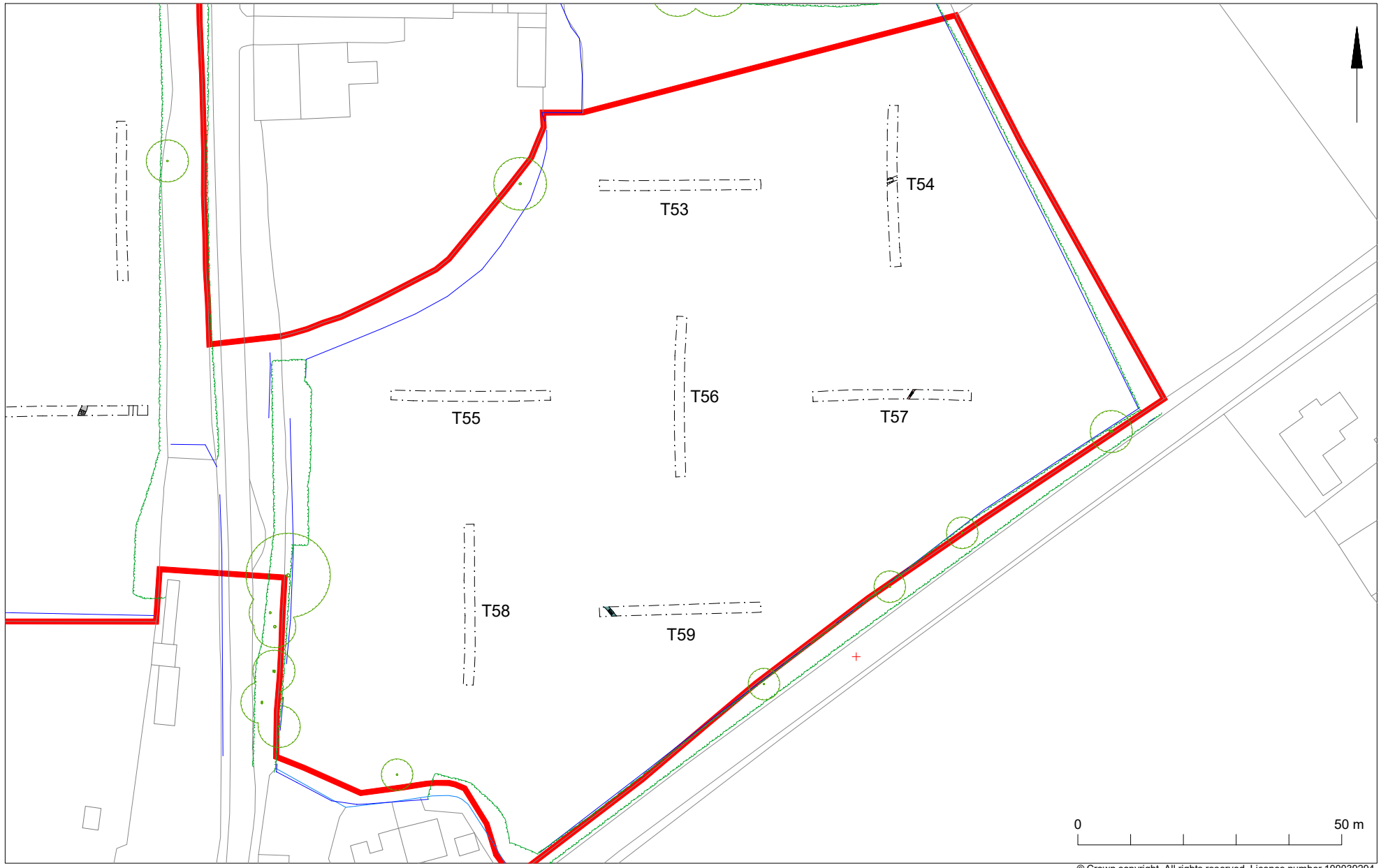


Fig 2 Results - north field.



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Fig 3 Results - south field.



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Fig 4 Results - east field.

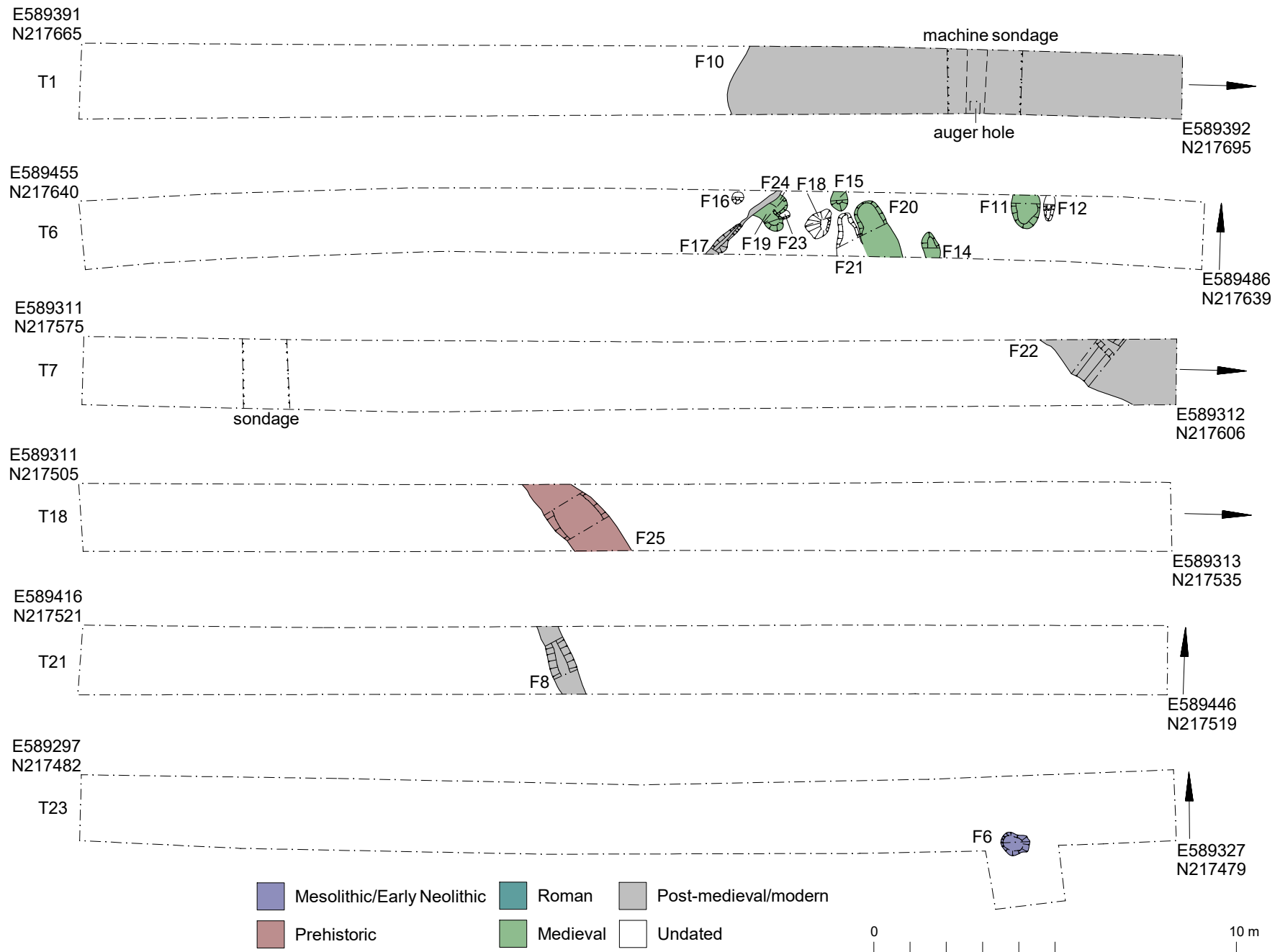


Fig 5 Detailed trench plans.

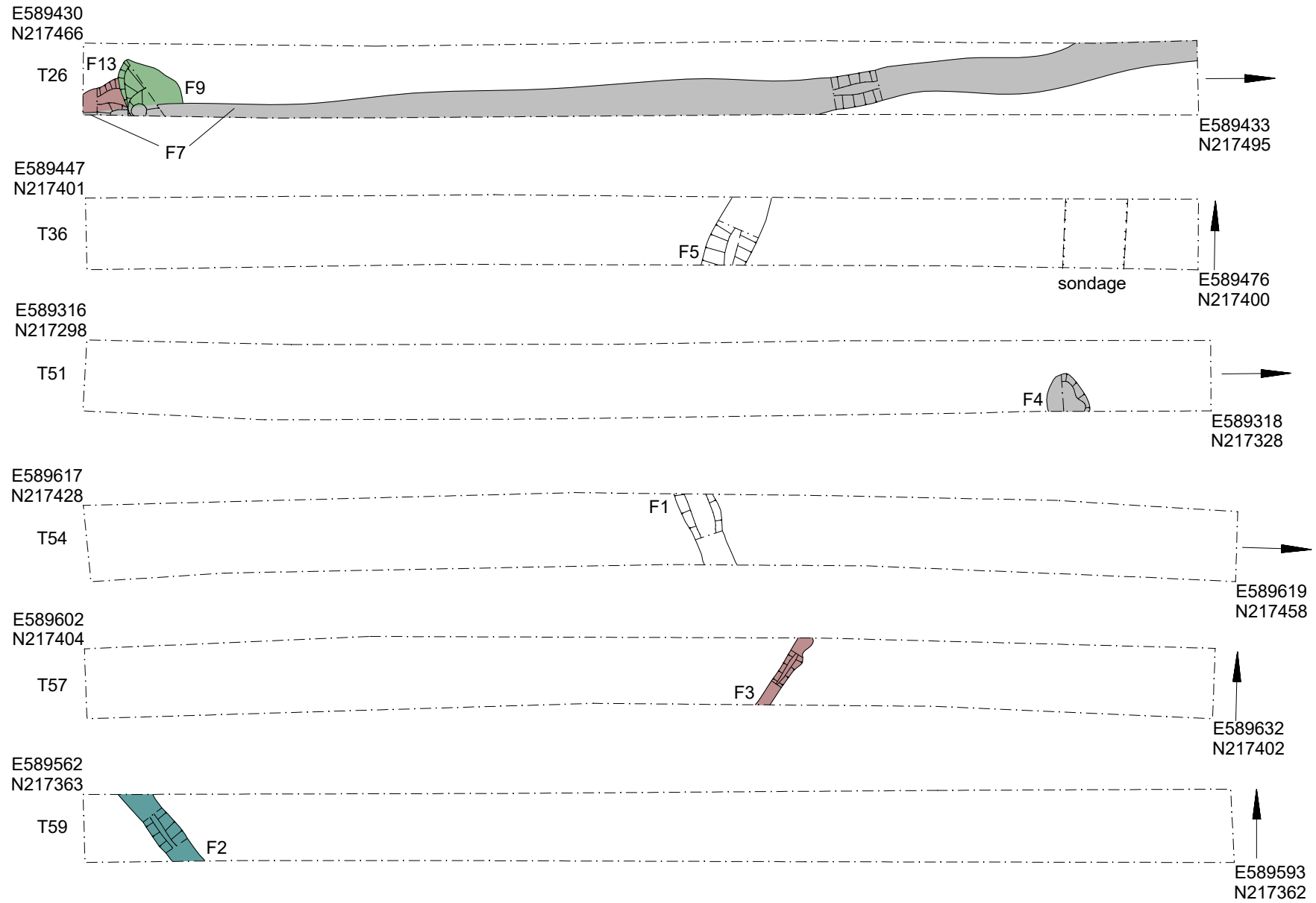


Fig 6 Detailed trench plans.

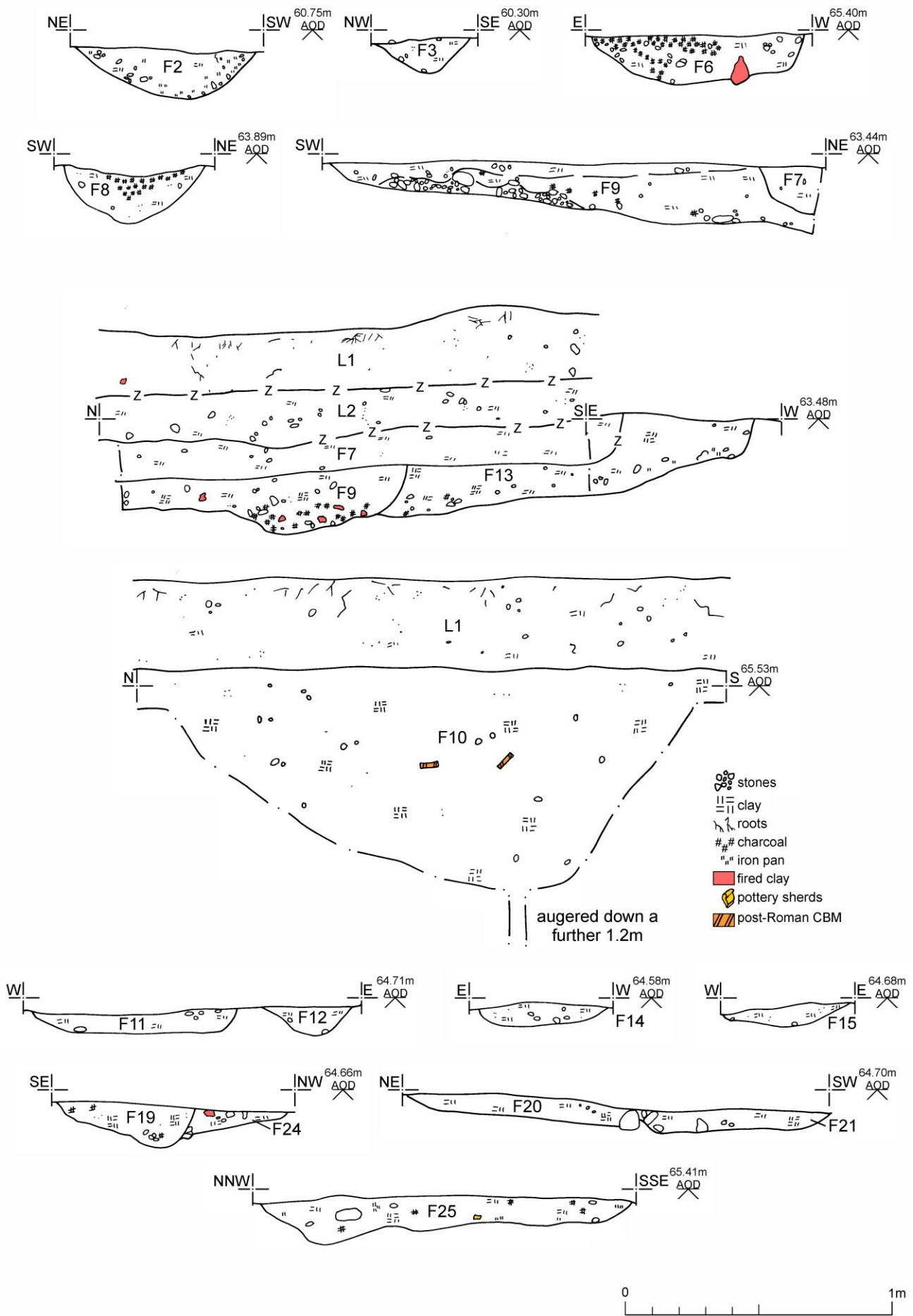
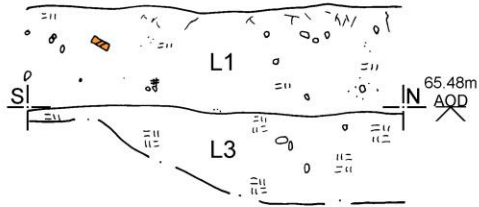
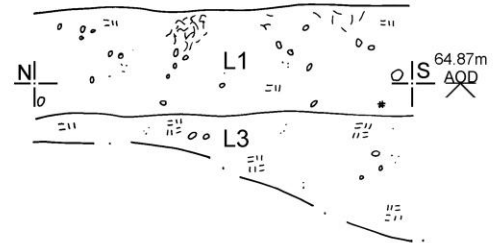


Fig 7 Feature and representative sections.

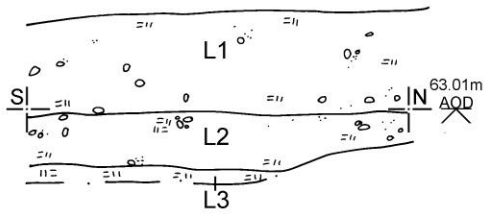
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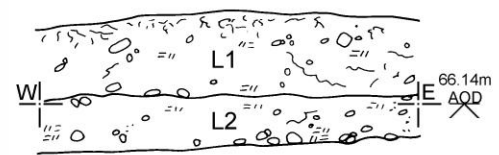
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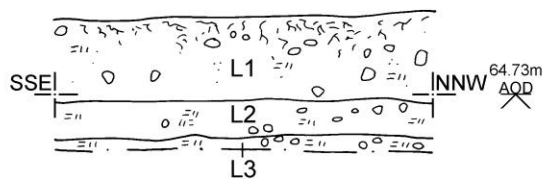
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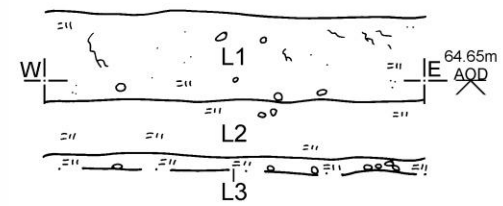
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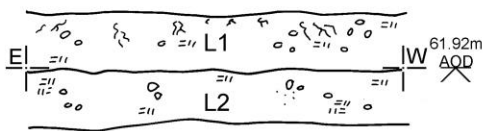
T44



T50



T53



T58

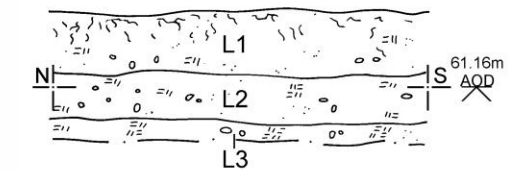


Fig 8 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0ES	
Parish: Tiptree	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 89435 17485 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/06f CHER ref.: tbc OASIS ref.: colchest3-508132
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 13-23rd September 2022	Size of area investigated: 10.6ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester, Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Mersea Homes
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1859	
Periods represented: Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (59 trial-trenches) was undertaken on land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex in advance of the construction of 200 new homes. The site is located in an area that has been subject to very little archaeological investigation. This evaluation uncovered 25 features: 16 pits, eight ditches or gullies and a gully/plough scar. Of particular interest are a pit that has a possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, on the western side of the excavation area, and a cluster of medieval features in the north. A small quantity of features dating to the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval/modern periods were also spread across the site.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: **
Author of summary: Sarah Veasey	Date of summary: October 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0ES

NGR: TL 89435 17485 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Tiptree

Planning references: pre-planning

Commissioned by: Andrew Ransome (ADP)

Client: Mersea Homes

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: [tbc](#)

CAT project code: 2022/06f

OASIS project number: colchest3-508132

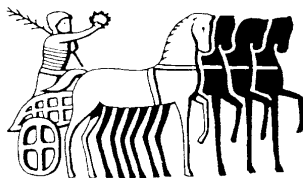
Contracts Manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation Manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 18/07/2022



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785 (option 1)

email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site includes two areas of land either side of New Road, approximately 1km to the north-east of the centre of Tiptree and 1.5km to the south-west of Messing. Located on land to the northwest of Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex. The site is centred on national grid reference (NGR) TL 89435 17485. The site covers an area of just under 27 acres. Most of this (c 23 acres) will be located to the west of New Road. This area is currently in use growing barley. The smaller field, to the east of New Road, is currently an area of rough pasture. Four acres of this are currently pasture for horses.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of 200 new homes and associated access, landscaping and groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts from CAT Report 1811 and draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The area comprises a low ridge of land in the southern half of the Borough, dipping to the north into the valley of the Domsey Brook. The site is largely flat and with ground levels ranging between 60m and 65m AOD. The geology consists of London Clay, overlain to the north by Boulder Clay and along the ridge by sands and gravels. Historically this area was predominantly heathland, with large areas surviving through to the 19th century when much was enclosed. Today most is arable although areas of Tiptree Heath survive.

Cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography, are scarce in this area. This may reflect the geology or of limited exploitation of the area until recently. Those that are visible comprise of linear features, probably field boundaries and trackways of varying dates, and several enclosures, possibly of later prehistoric in date. Excavations in advance of quarrying have shown multi-period occupation within the area from the Bronze Age. The Roman Road to Colchester forms the northern limit of this area with several Roman roads running south-west from the town of Colchester.

A few sparse find scatters suggest potential for prehistoric activity. Closest to the site include a Neolithic axehead (MCC6985).

Little archaeological investigation has occurred within this area. On land north of Barbrook Lane a geophysical survey identified multiple features that looked to be potentially archaeological in origin (Davies, 2018). The subsequent evaluation of 35 trenches by Cotswold Archaeology revealed few features (Moosbauer, 2019). One heavily disturbed Bronze Age cremation was identified in the north-west of the site, and aside from this archaeological features were post-medieval and modern and comprised field boundaries and land drains.

The smaller eastern parcel of land is located adjacent to Elms Farm. The timber-framed and plastered farmstead is late 16th century in date (MCC4573), Historic England Grade II Listed (no. 1266593) and features on early historic mapping (MCC9180). To the south of the farmhouse is a building which was originally a granary in the 17th century but later converted into a stable in the 19th century (MCC4575), this structure is also Grade II Listed (no. 1266570).

For a full background see the Desk-Based Assessment for the site (CAT Report 1811).

Project background

The project is currently at the pre-application phase. Consultation was made with the CBCAA for archaeological advice. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological evaluation was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

Specifically,

As per the brief 59 trenches will be laid out in a linear grid. Each trench will measure 30m long by 1.8m wide. This equates to 1,770m of trenching covering an area of 3,186m². Some trenches have been positioned to avoid known obstructions, including trees and water pipes.

The work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence.
- Establish the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits.

Further archaeological investigation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of a brief and WSI.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b & c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus five archaeologists for fifteen days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furness/Sarah Veasey

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least a 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Site surveying

The excavation area and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of the evaluation trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Human remains

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed.

If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flints: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
project osteologist (human remains): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Tom Lawrence
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

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

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

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

Note: CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

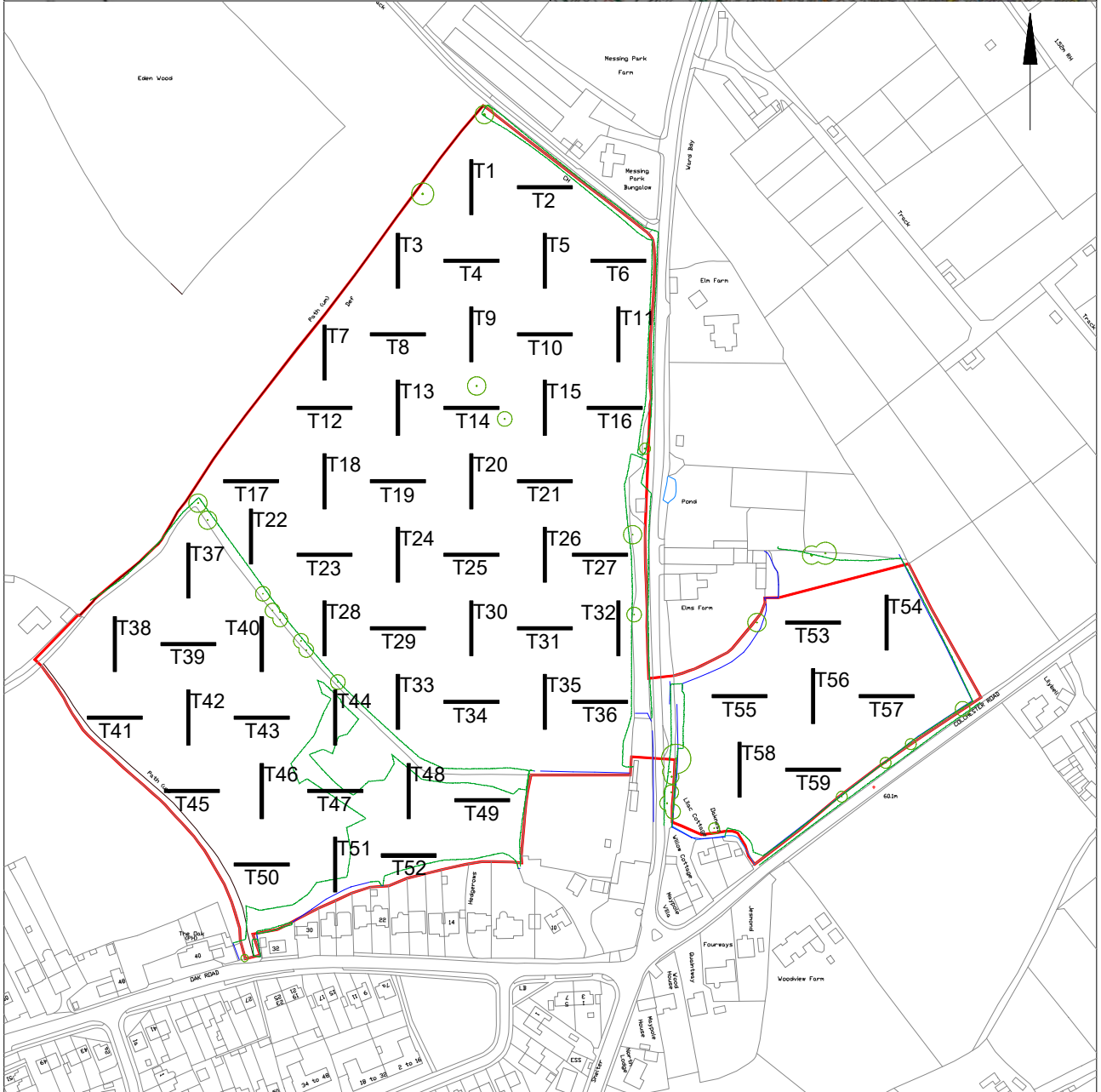
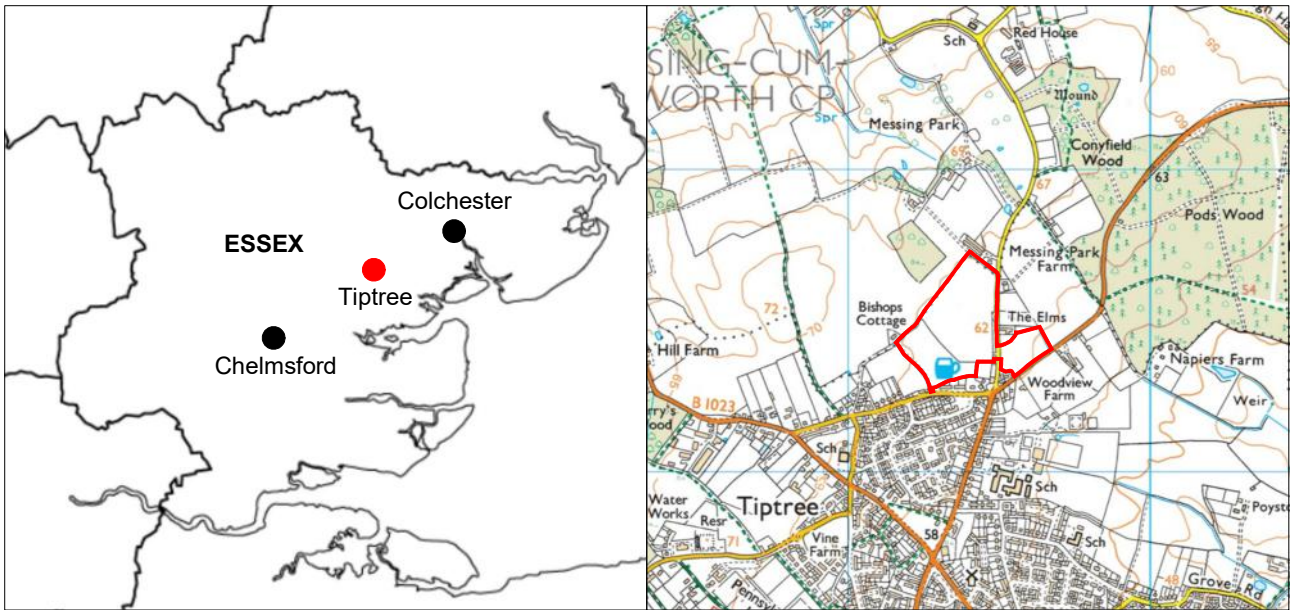
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> 2nd Edition
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1811	2022	<i>An archaeological desk-based assessment for land to the north of Colchester Road, Tiptree</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Revised Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020
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Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

0 200 m

Summary for colchest3-508132

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508132
Project Name	Evaluation at land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0ES
Sitename	land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0ES
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/06f
Planning Id	pre-planning
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	13-Sep-2022 - 23-Sep-2022
Location	land off Colchester Road, Tiptree, Essex, CO5 0ES NGR : TL 89435 17485 LL : 51.8238648689899, 0.747398459690248 12 Fig : 589435,217485
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Tiptree
Project Methodology	Fifty-nine trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide.
Project Results	This evaluation uncovered 25 features: 16 pits, eight ditches or gullies and a gully/plough scar. Of particular interest are a pit that has a possible Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, on the western side of the excavation area, and a cluster of medieval features in the north. A small quantity of features dating to the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval/modern periods were also spread across the site.

Keywords	<p>Backed Bladelet - EARLY NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Flake - EARLY NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Peg Tile - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Brick - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Tile - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Brick - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Jug - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Cup - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Pancheon - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Pot - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Pot - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Pot - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Gully - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - EARLY NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p>
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	
Archives	<p>Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;</p> <p>Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection);</p>