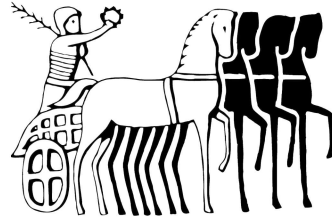


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1919
issued May 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation at Squirrels Croft,
Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX:
March 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/03a
ECC code: TXSC23**

**Archaeological evaluation at Squirrels Croft,
Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX:
March 2023**

NGR: TL 62764 31058 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/21/1510/OP

**CAT project ref.: 2023/03a
CAT Report 1919**

**ECC code: TXSC23
OASIS id: colchest3-513679**

**report prepared by
Harvey Furniss**

**fieldwork by Harvey Furniss with Charlie Hodges,
and Robin Mathieson**

**commissioned by Tom Cannon
on behalf of the homeowner**

Prepared by:	Harvey Furniss	Project Officer
Reviewed by:	Laura Pooley	Post Excavation Manager
Reviewed and approved by:	Philip Crummy	Director of Archaeology
Issued:	09.05.2023	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: hf@catuk.org

web: www.catuk.org

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	3
6	Finds	4
7	Conclusion	5
8	Acknowledgements	5
9	References	5
10	Abbreviations and glossary	5
11	Contents of digital archive	5
12	Archive deposition	6
	Appendix 1 Context list	7
	Figures	after p7
	OASIS summary sheet	

List of photographs and figures

Cover: Trench 1 oblique angle.

Map 1	Extract of Plate VII, Chapman and André 1777, showing the current site in red	2
Map 2	Extract of the 1st OS map of England and Wales, Essex Sheet XV, surveyed 1876. With site boundary in red and proposed dwellings and garages in blue.	2
Photograph 1	Site shot – view east	3
Photograph 2	Trench 1 – view north-west	3
Photograph 3	Trench 2 – view north north-east	4
Photograph 4	Representative section from T2 – view north-west	4
Fig 1	Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue)	
Fig 2	Results.	
Fig 3	Representative sections.	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. Despite lying in the heart of the historic village of Bardfield End Green, no archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Essex on 27th March 2023. The work was commissioned by Tom Cannon on behalf of the homeowner and took place in advance of the construction of two new dwellings, with associated landscaping, parking and other groundworks.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor 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* (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted* written by Katie Lee-Smith and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2023). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2023).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *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 field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

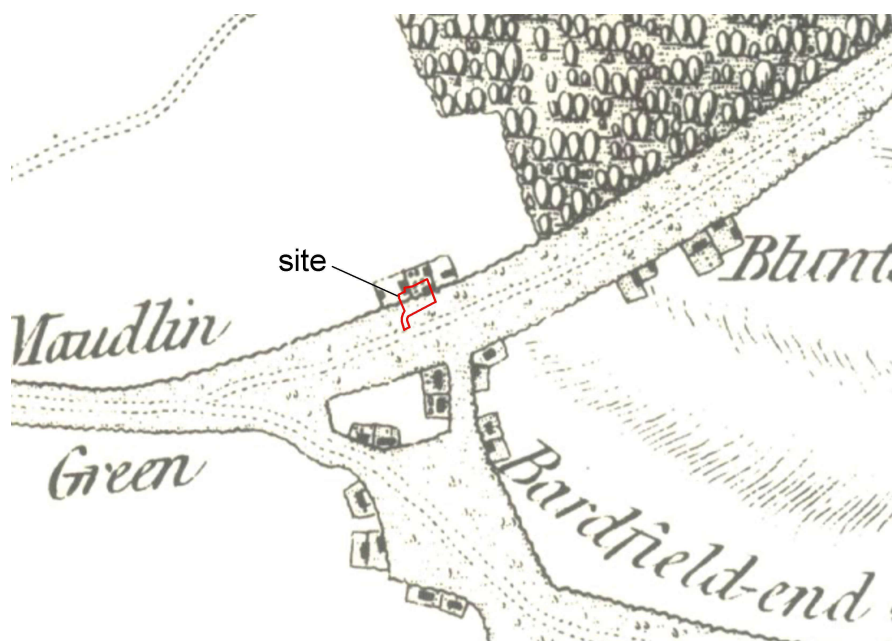
The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site is London clay formation (clay, silt and sand, comprised of bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay), with superficial deposits of Lowestoft formation (chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till is characterised by its chalk and flint content).

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within an area of potentially sensitive archaeological deposits. The site located within the historic hamlet of Bardfield End Green. The Chapman and André map of 1777 (Map 1) shows that the southern half of the site was located within the historic green, along the edge of the road and the northern half of the site show buildings no longer extant.

The proposed development is also located within a possible moated homestead site at Millers Farm (EHER 1482). The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (Map 2) shows the ditches of the moat clearly likely to be of medieval date. There is therefore the potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains being impacted on by the proposed development.

The site is also surrounded by cropmarks depicting historic field boundaries (EHER 46602, EHER 14979, EHER 9859 and EHER 46598).

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



Map 1 Extract of Plate VII, Chapman & André 1777 showing the current site in red.



Map 2 Extract of the 1st OS map of England and Wales, Essex Sheet XV, surveyed 1876. With site boundary in red and proposed dwellings and garages in blue.

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 ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3 and Appendix 1)

Two trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist which uncovered no archaeological contexts. The layers within both trenches consisted of a topsoil (L1, c 0.22m thick) overlying subsoil (L2, c 0.32m thick) on top of the natural (L3).



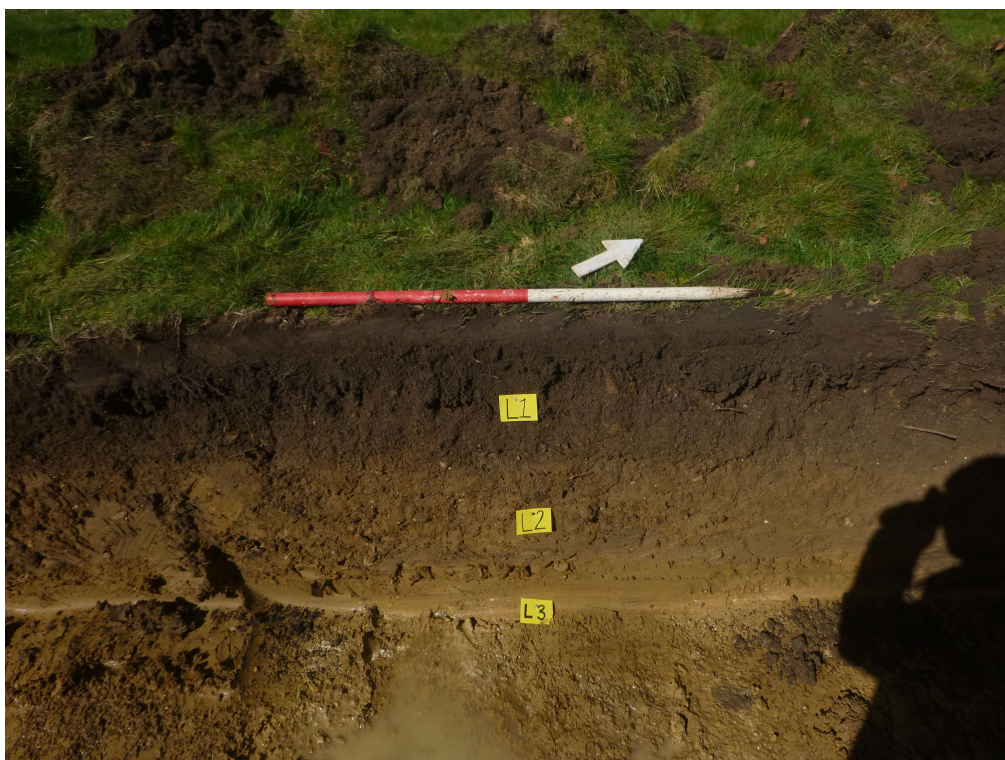
Photograph 1 Site shot – view east.



Photograph 2 Trench 1 – view north-west.



Photograph 3 Trench 2 – view north north-east.



Photograph 4 Representative section from T2 – view north-west.

6 Finds

No finds were recovered from site.

7 Conclusion

There were no archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, with no evidence for the possible moated homestead present within the development area.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Tom Cannon for commissioning the work on behalf of the homeowner. The project was managed by A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by H Furniss with C Hodges and R Mathieson. Figures were compiled by C Lister, H Furniss and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

9 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2023	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2023	<i>Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX</i> by Emma Holloway
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation At Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted,</i> by K Lee-Smith
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of digital archive

CAT Report 1919
 ECCPS brief
 Digital photographs
 Site data

Survey data

12 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2023

Distribution list:

Tom Cannon

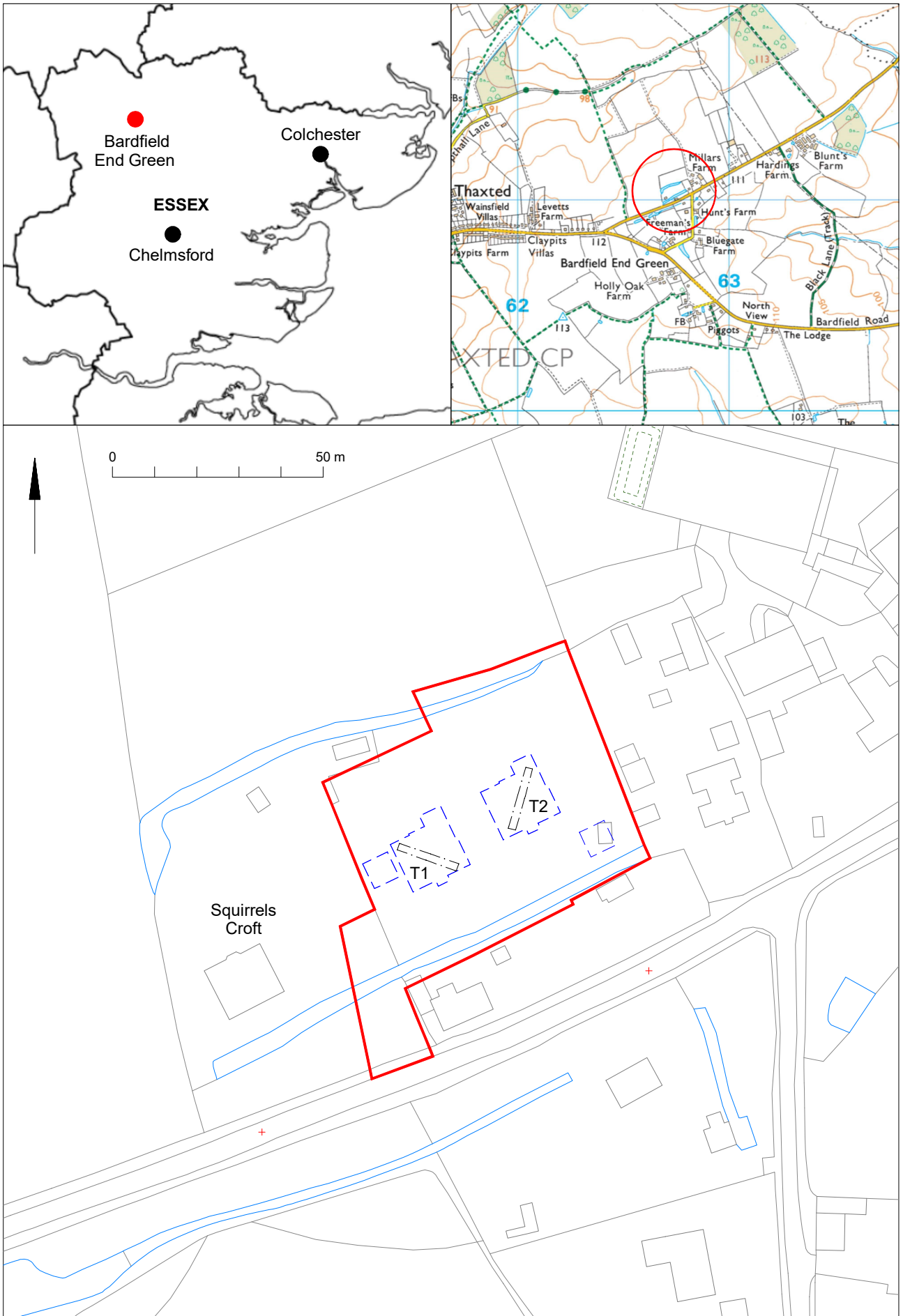
The homeowner

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Identification	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, wet dark brownish blue clayey silt with infrequent rooting	Undated
L2	-	Subsoil	Firm, moist light brownish grey clayey-silt with irregular charcoal flecking and infrequent small rounded stone inclusions	Undated
L3	-	Natural	Compact, moist mottled brownish yellow chalky clay	Post-glacial



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue).

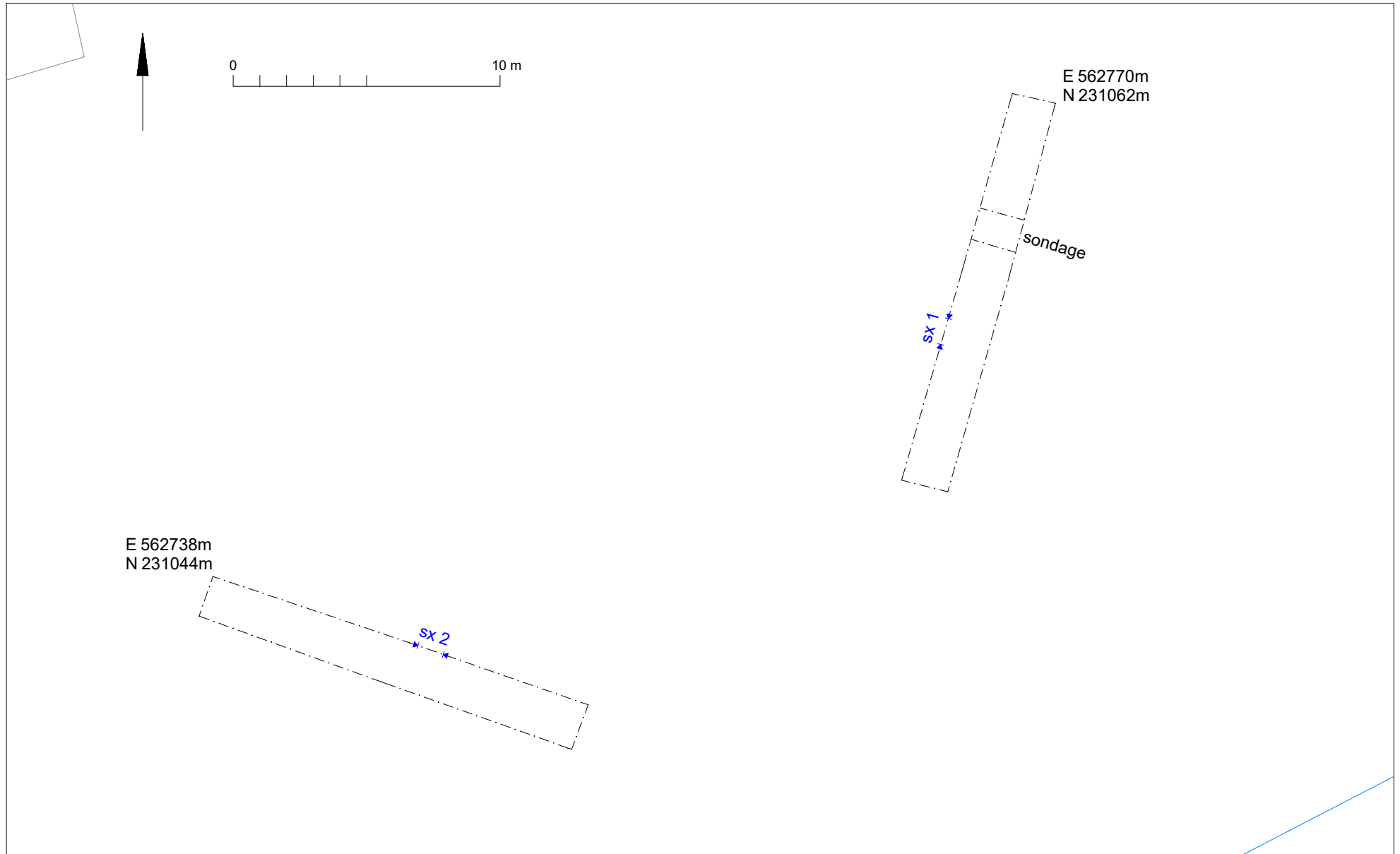


Fig 2 Results

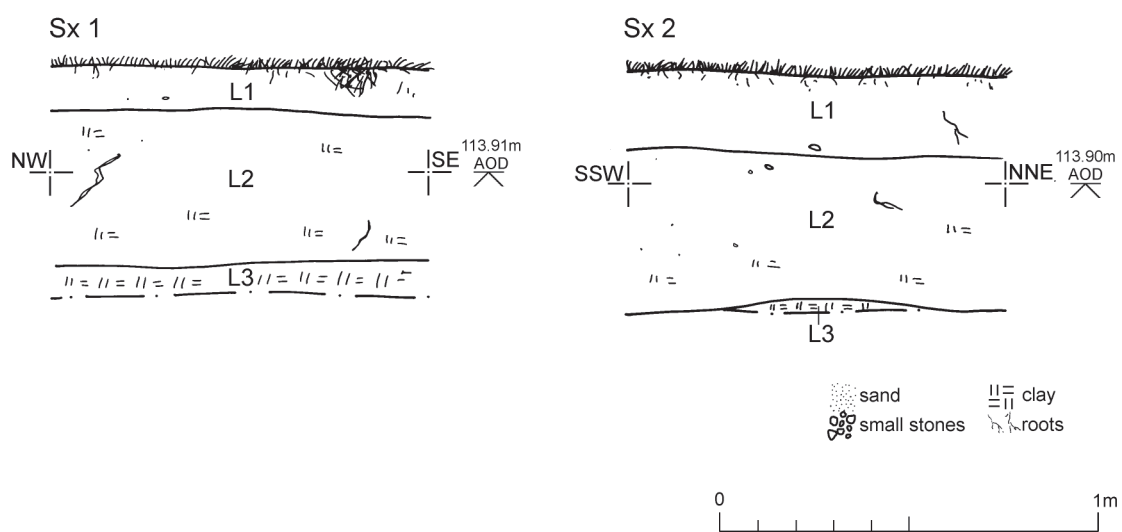


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-513679

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-513679
Project Name	Evaluation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX
Sitename	Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2023/03a
Planning Id	UTT/23/034/DFO, UTT/21/1510/OP
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	27-Mar-2023 - 27-Mar-2023
Location	Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX NGR : TL 62764 31058 LL : 51.9541938414933, 0.3671723405892 12 Fig : 562764,231058
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Thaxted
Project Methodology	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out Squirrels Croft in Bardfield End Green, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings and their associated groundworks. Despite lying in the heart of the historic village of Bardfield End Green, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Project Results	
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - TXSC23
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation At Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted



Date: 2nd March 2023





Title: Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted

Contact: Chris Lister <cl@catuk.org>

Planning Reference: UTT/21/1510/OP

Date issued: 2/03/23

Historic Environment Advisor: Katie Lee-Smith | katie.lee-smith@essex.gov.uk |

03330 133338

Museum: Saffron Walden 01799 510333

This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor should be contacted to assess whether changes are required to the brief. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.

Introduction

The Historic Environment Advisor has prepared this brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation for the erection of up to 2 dwellings. The archaeological trial trenching will target the proposed buildings' footprints. The trial trenching will form the first stage of the archaeological work with excavation to follow if archaeological deposits are identified.

This document forms the basis for any Written Scheme of Investigation submitted by an archaeological contractor for approval by this office. It is recommended that an individual or organisation with membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is instructed for this work. Details of CIfA registered organisations can be found at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/ro>.

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies within an area of potentially significant archaeological deposits at Bardfield End Green (TL6276431058). The development comprises the erection of up to 2 dwellings. Plans of the proposed development can be obtained from Uttlesford District Council web site under the planning application number.

Planning Background

A full planning application was validated by Uttlesford District Council in June 2020 (UTT/21/1510/OP) for the erection of up to 2 dwellings. The planning application was identified as being located within a potentially archaeologically sensitive area. Therefore, a full archaeological condition was recommended to the local Planning Authority.

The archaeological condition that was recommended is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework and states:

RECOMMENDATION: An Archaeological Programme of Trial Trenching followed by Open Area Excavation

No development or preliminary groundworks can commence until a programme of archaeological trial trenching and excavation has been secured and undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective archaeological contractors should obtain the HER prior to the completion of their WSI.

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within an area of potentially sensitive archaeological deposits. It is located within the historic village of Bardfield End Green and development is evident within the vicinity of the proposed on the Chapman and Andre map of 1777. The proposed development is also located within a possible moated homestead site at Millers Farm (EHER 1482). The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875 shows clearly the ditches of the moat likely to be of medieval date. There is therefore the potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains being impacted on by the proposed development.

Requirement for Work

The archaeological work will initially comprise the excavation of a sequence of trial trenches to cover 4% of the area of the access drive, garage, driveways and houses, with an additional 1% contingency. Where possible these should be based on a grid pattern to provide the best coverage of the site. Trenches shall be no longer than 30m. A trench plan will be provided with the WSI.

Specific areas of interest will be:

- Historic buildings formerly extant on the site

- Deposits and features associated with the possible moated homestead site at Millers Farm
- Any identifiable medieval activity

The initial work will comprise the trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report with spot dating of all features. This will lead to further archaeological work, comprising open area excavation of those significant deposits identified. If no archaeological deposits are identified a report on the trial trenching alone will be required.

General Methodology

- 1.1 A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the archaeological work.
- 1.2 The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 1.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 1.5 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 1.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Trial Trenching Methodology

- 1.7 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand

immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.

- 1.8 Machine stripping will only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon unless agreement is obtained from the Historic Environment Advisor to deepen the trenches by this method.
- 1.9 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.
- 1.10 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 1.11 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).
- 1.12 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are anticipated, or where analysis of the remains are considered to be a necessary requirement for satisfactory evaluation of the site.
- 1.13 The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 1.14 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- 1.15 The CIFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

- 1.16 A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed to discuss requirements for further open area excavation. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.**

Post Excavation Assessment

- 1.17 An updated post excavation assessment shall be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 1.18 Where archaeological results do not warrant a post excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the Historic Environment Advisor to proceed straight to grey literature /publication.

Finds

- 1.19 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 1.20 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 1.21 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.
- 1.22 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.

Results

- 1.23 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 2 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.
- 1.24 This report must contain:
- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the trial trenching and any further excavation.
 - Location plan of excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the excavated area shall be given 10 figure grid references.

- A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and result section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011, EAA 2021).
- All specialist reports
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

1.25 An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor. A copy should also be e-mailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal paul.gilman@me.com

1.26 Publication of the results, at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

Archive Deposition

- 1.27 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 1.28 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- 1.29 The archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 months of the completion of the final publication report with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor

Monitoring

- 1.30 The Historic Environment Advisor will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 1.31 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
- 1.32 All trial trenches must be inspected by the Historic Environment Advisor prior to their backfilling.

- 1.33 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

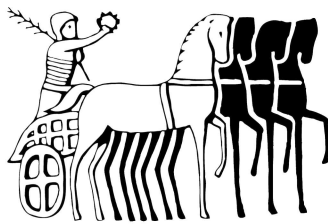
- 1.34 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the CIFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide *the basis for a measurable standard* and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.
- 1.35 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.36 The involvement of the Historic Environment Advisor shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties
2. Research agenda and strategy East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap.
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
- Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England East Anglian*. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

Katie Lee-Smith
Historic Environment Advisor
Place Services
County Hall
Chelmsford
CM1 1QH

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written scheme of investigation
for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching
at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted,
Essex, CM6 3PX**

March 2023

**CAT project ref.: 2023/03a
ECC code: tbc**

**Written scheme of investigation for archaeological
evaluation by trial-trenching at Squirrels Croft,
Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX.**

March 2023

NGR: TL 62764 31058

**Planning district.: Uttlesford
Planning ref.: UTT/21/1510/OP & UTT/23/034/DFO**

CAT project ref.: 2023/03a

**ECC code: tbc
ECC monitor: Katie Lee-Smith
OASIS id: colchest3-513679**

**WSI prepared by: Emma Holloway
Figure by: Chris Lister**

**commissioned by: Tom Cannon
client: Homeowner**

Prepared by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	07/03/2023	
Revised by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Re-issued:	08/03/2023	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

web: www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk
eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located 1km to the east of Thaxted, within the hamlet of Bardfield End Green at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on national Grid Reference (NGR) TL 62764 31058.

The development site is part of the original garden of Squirrels Croft, to the east of the dwelling. The whole plot covers an area of approximately 0.39 hectares.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the construction of up to two new dwellings and associated groundworks, parking and landscaping.

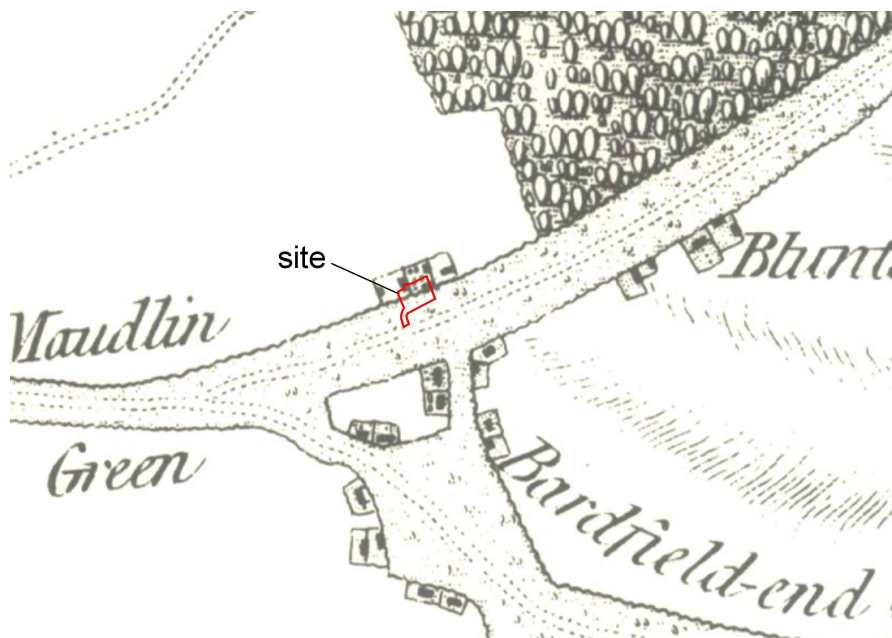
Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site is London clay formation (clay, silt and sand, comprised of bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay), with superficial deposits of Lowestoft formation (chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till is characterised by its chalk and flint content).

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within an area of potentially sensitive archaeological deposits.

The site located within the historic hamlet of Bardfield End Green. The Chapman and André map of 1777 shows that the southern half of the site was located within the historic green area along the edge of the road and the northern half of the site show buildings no longer extant.



Map 1 Extract of Plate VII Chapman and Andre map of 1777 showing the current site in red.

The proposed development is also located within a possible moated homestead site at Millers Farm (EHER 1482). The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876 shows the ditches of the

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

moat clearly likely to be of medieval date. There is therefore the potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains being impacted on by the proposed development.



Map 2 Extract of the 1st OS map of England and Wales, Essex Sheet XV, surveyed 1976. With site boundary in red and proposed dwellings and garages in blue.

The site is surrounded by areas cropmarks, recorded by aerial photography, depicting historic field boundaries (EHER 46602, EHER 14979, EHER 9859 and EHER 46598)

Planning background

A planning application (UTT/21/1510/OP) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in June 2020 requesting *outline planning application with all matters reserved for the erection of up to 2 dwellings*. An additional application (UTT/23/034/DFO) was added in February 2023 for a change of detail to the previous application. The second application only covers the eastern plot which has been purchased by the applicant to create an accessible dwelling for themselves.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains an archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the ECCPS (*Brief for a Trial Trenching and excavation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green – ECC 2023*).

Specifically:

Two linear trenches each measuring 15m long and 1.8m wide will be located to target the location of the new dwellings.. This equates to 30m on trenching covering an area of 54m². The trenching scheme is to cover a 4% sample of the area of the access drive, garage, driveways and house plots as requested in the brief. An additional 1% contingency is held in reserve if required.

The evaluation will be followed by a site meeting with the ECCHEA. Further archaeological excavation work may be required. This will be decided by the ECCHEA on completion of the evaluation and report.

Specific project aims

- Look for evidence relating to historic buildings formerly extant on the site
- Look for deposits and features associated with the possible moated homestead site at Millers Farm
- Look for identifiable medieval activity

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-c)
- East of England 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)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2023)

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 the ECCHEA 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from the ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows:

Archaeological evaluation: one CAT project officer and two archaeologists for two days.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furniss

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 geology 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.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least 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, and only then after discussion with the ECCHEA, will it be removed.

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

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, 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 the natural geology.

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.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

The trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the ECCHEA.

Site surveying

The evaluation trenches 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 excavation areas 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.
- 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.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or the ECCHEA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). 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 ECCHEA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photographic register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in the site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

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
flint: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
osteology: (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: Han Li (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 the ECCHEA.

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.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEA 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 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- 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.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet will be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. 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

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum 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.

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 digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the ECCHEA at the time of their deposition.

The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

Monitoring

ECCHEA 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 the ECCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

The ECCHEA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our

volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

Events, activities and social media

In addition, the CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

References

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

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------|--|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CIfA | 2014 | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020 |
| CIfA | 2014 | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020 |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013 | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i> |
| ECCPS | 2023 | <i>Brief for a trial trenching evaluation and excavation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted,</i> by K Lee-Smith |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England | 2015 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Historic England | 2018 | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24) |
| NPPF | 2021 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |

Site: Bardfield End Gn Squirrels Croft EVAL

Site code: TXSC23

Layer No.

Interpretation Topsoil

Period Undated

Location Site wide

1

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

RECORDING 1:10 representative sx drawing and photo

Plan nos

Section nos

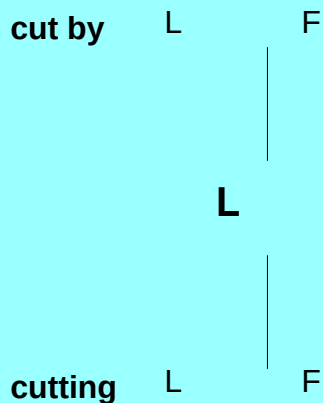
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS None

Find Nos:

NOTES Firm, wet, dark brownish-blue clayey silt with infrequent rooting. Organic silt deposit. 20cm depth.



By

Date

Site: Bardfield End Gn Squirrels Croft EVAL

Site code: TXSC23

Layer No.

Interpretation Subsoil

Period Post-glacial

Location Site wide

2

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

RECORDING 1:10 representative sx drawing and photo

Plan nos

Section nos

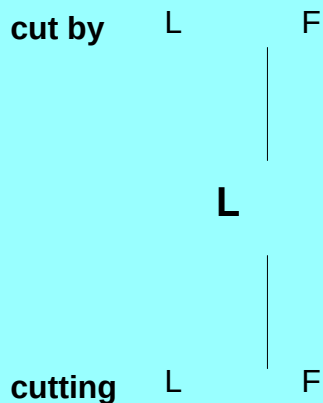
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS None

Find Nos:

NOTES Firm, moist light brownish-grey clayey-silt with irregular charcoal flecking and infrequent small rounded stone inclusions. 40cm depth.



By

Date 27/03/23

Site: Bardfield End Gn Squirrels Croft EVAL

Site code: TXSC23

Layer No.

Interpretation Natural

Period Undated

Location Site wide

3

SOIL DESCRIPTION

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black

Soil sand silt clay loam clay silt sand

Type

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

RECORDING 1:10 representative sx drawing and photo

Plan nos

Section nos

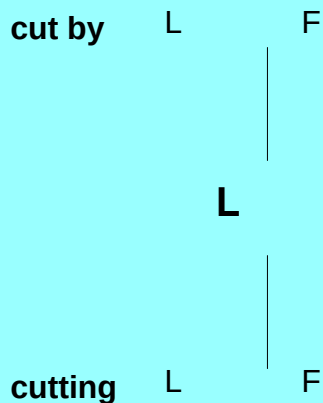
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS None

Find Nos:

NOTES Compact, moist mottled brownish-yellow chalky clay.



By

Date 27/03/23



001



002



003



004



005



006



007



008



009



010



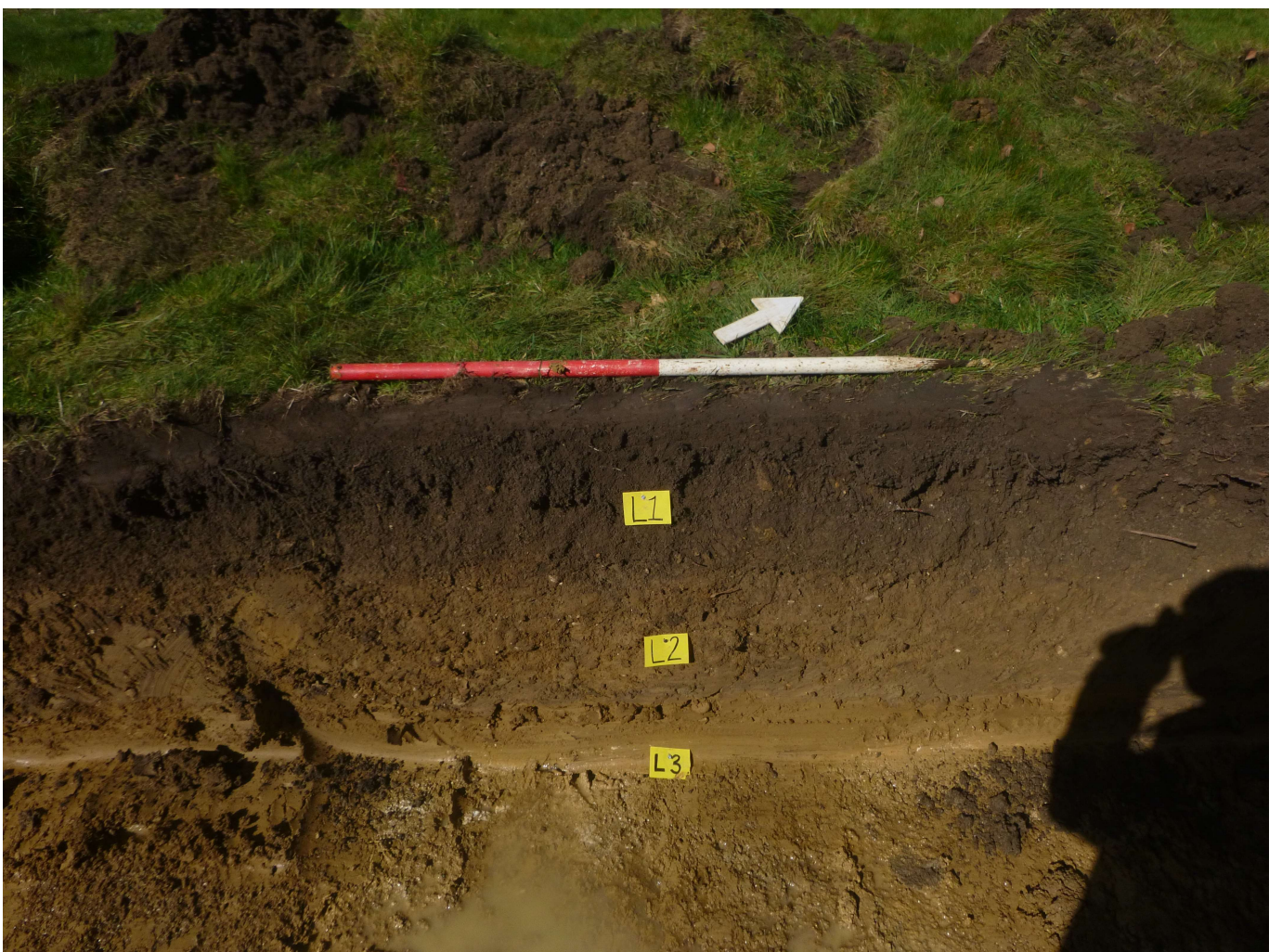
011



012



013



014



015



016



017



018



019



020



021



022



023



024



025



026



027



028

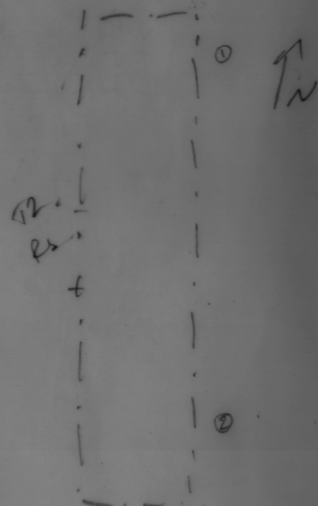
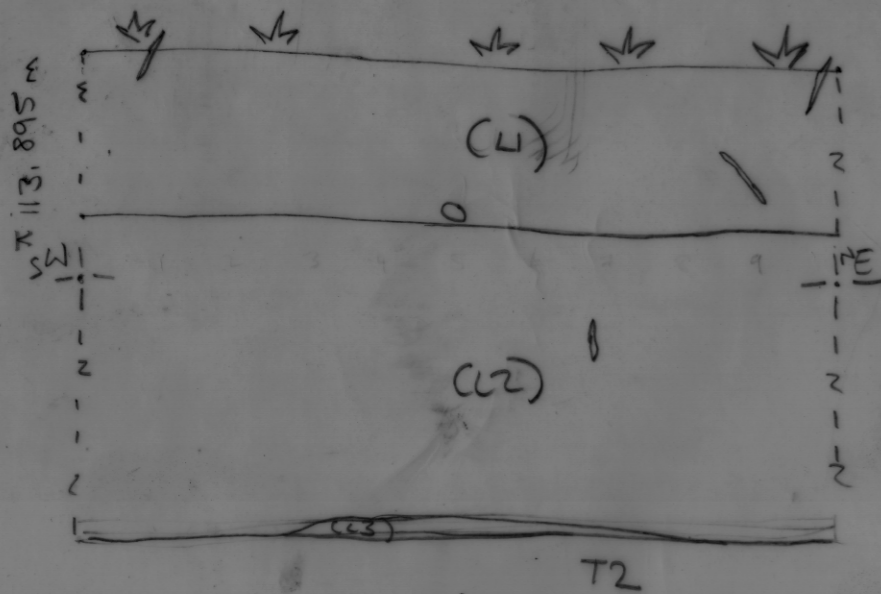


Filename	Description
TXSC23_Photograph_001.jpg	Site shot
TXSC23_Photograph_002.jpg	Site shot - view east
TXSC23_Photograph_003.jpg	Site shot
TXSC23_Photograph_004.jpg	Site shot
TXSC23_Photograph_005.jpg	Site shot
TXSC23_Photograph_006.jpg	Site shot
TXSC23_Photograph_007.jpg	Site shot
TXSC23_Photograph_008.jpg	Trench 2 - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_009.jpg	Trench 2 - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_010.jpg	Trench shot - view south-west
TXSC23_Photograph_011.jpg	Trench shot view south-west
TXSC23_Photograph_012.jpg	Trench shot
TXSC23_Photograph_013.jpg	Trench shot - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_014.jpg	Representative section from T2 - view north-west
TXSC23_Photograph_015.jpg	Working shot
TXSC23_Photograph_016.jpg	Trench shot
TXSC23_Photograph_017.jpg	Trench shot
TXSC23_Photograph_018.jpg	Trench shot
TXSC23_Photograph_019.jpg	Trench shot
TXSC23_Photograph_020.jpg	Trench 1 - view north-west
TXSC23_Photograph_021.jpg	Trench 1 - view north-west
TXSC23_Photograph_022.jpg	Trench shot - view east
TXSC23_Photograph_023.jpg	Trench shot - view east
TXSC23_Photograph_024.jpg	Trench shot - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_025.jpg	Trench shot - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_026.jpg	Representative section - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_027.jpg	Representative section - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_028.jpg	Representative section - view north-east
TXSC23_Photograph_029.jpg	Representative section - view north-east

SE FAC SEC REP SX T2. 1110, CH, 27, 3, 23

TXSC23

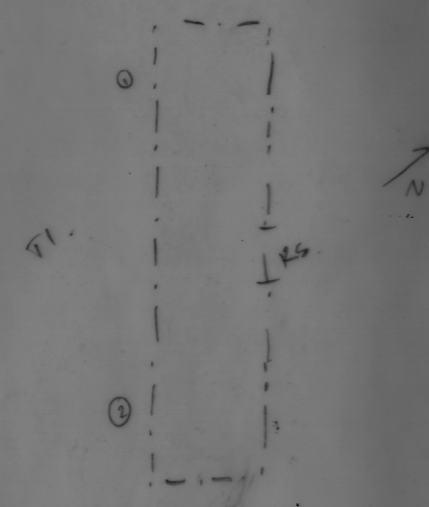
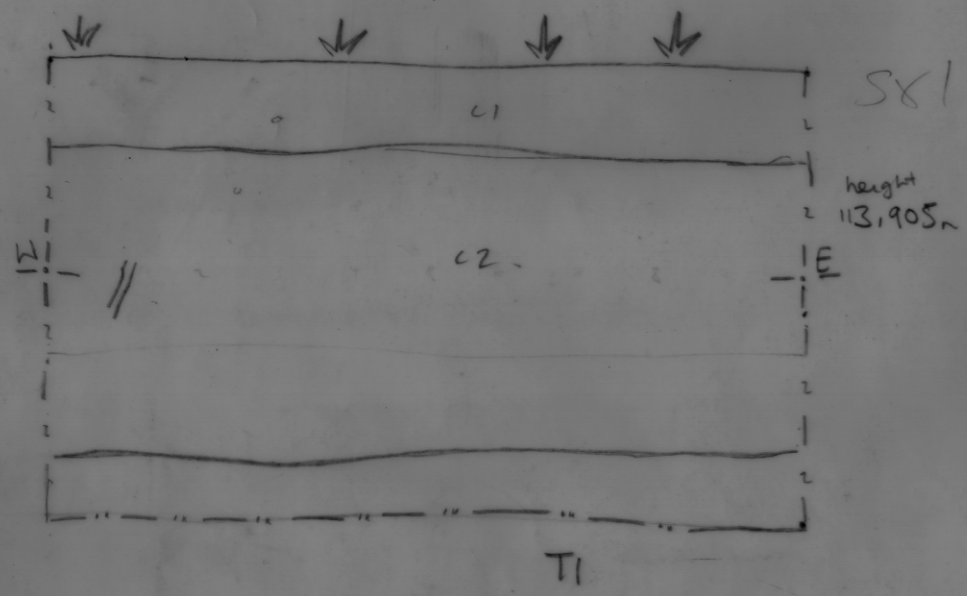
SX2



1 TS - 0.22m
SS - 0.42m
T - 0.68m

2 TS - 0.29m thick
SS - 0.31m thick
T - 0.66m

S FAC SEC T1 REP SX, 1110, 27, 3, 23



1 TS - 0.18m thick
SS - 0.34m thick
T - 0.68m

2 TS - 0.25m thick
SS - 0.22m thick
T - 0.69m