

**An archaeological
fieldwalking evaluation
at Tile House Farm,
Great Horkesley, Essex
July-September 2005**

**commissioned by
ADP Chartered Architects
on behalf of
The Ingleton Properties Ltd and Mersea Homes**

CAT project code: 05/7b
NGR: TL 9780 2960 (north field centre)
TL 9765 2935 (west field centre)
Colchester Museums accession code: 2005.94



Colchester Archaeological Trust
12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
tel./fax: (01206) 500124
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 339
October 2005

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	1
5	Methodology	1
6	Results	1
7	Statistical information	5
8	References	6
9	Acknowledgements	7
10	Archive deposition	7

Figures after p 7

EHER summary sheet

List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location, showing fieldwalk areas (toned) – not to scale.
- Fig 2 Prehistoric finds.
- Fig 3 Roman finds.
- Fig 4 Medieval finds.

1 Summary

Fieldwalking on two fields (totalling 5.26 hectares) recovered very low weights of archaeological material, principally prehistoric burnt flints, Roman brick/tile, and post-medieval pottery and tile. It is likely that the Roman and later finds are the result of manure scatter, and are not evidence of settlement.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological fieldwalking evaluation at Tile House Farm, Great Horkesley, Essex. Two fields were surveyed: the long narrow field (no 6434) south of the farm and west of Bishop William Ward School (National Grid Reference or NGR: TL 9765 2935, centre); and the field east of the farm (the section of field no 8048 north of Tile House Road (NGR: TL 9780 2960, centre).
- 2.2 The work was commissioned by ADP Chartered Architects on behalf of The Ingleton Properties Ltd and Mersea Homes, and was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 21st and 22nd of July and 27th September 2005. Post-excavation work was carried out in August and October 2005. All work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO).
- 2.3 Proposed work is the creation of a residential and community park. A large field south-east of the farm is to be retained as public open space.
- 2.4 The work has been carried out in accordance with Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003), and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001), *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and also *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

- 3.1 The site lies west of the A134, which is on the line of the Roman road heading from Colchester towards Long Melford in Suffolk. However, the course is not known north of the River Stour (ECC Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER no 9172).
- 3.2 The Iron Age hillfort at Pitchbury Ramparts lies 1.2km to the south-west (EHER nos 11654-11655 and 12560).
- 3.3 A very worn Roman coin of Claudius was found to the rear of St John's Church in field no 8048m (EHER no 11793). This is the field which is to be retained as public open space.

4 Aim

The aim of the fieldwalking evaluation was to locate previously unknown archaeological sites by means of surface finds.

5 Methodology

The fieldwalking was a total field surface collection, with individual finds or groups of finds plotted by EDM. As this differs from the standard Essex 10% collection methodology (collection in 2m corridors in 20m collection units), a concordance of the two systems is given in section 7 (below).

6 Results

6.1 The following types of finds were collected: prehistoric flint and burnt flint, Roman brick and tile, Roman pottery, medieval pottery, post-medieval and modern pottery, clay tobacco-pipe fragments, peg-tile, and post-medieval and modern glass. All finds are listed in section 6.7 below. The following finds have not been retained: peg-tile. Significant finds are discussed below (sections 6.2-6.5).

6.2 Prehistoric finds (Fig 2)

Two classes of prehistoric material were recovered: worked flints and burnt flints.

Worked flints

total collected: 2 flakes: 33g
average weight per ha: 6.273g

The weight of worked flints is very low. No sensible comments can be made about such low weights of material.

Burnt flints

total collected: 8 pieces: 128g
average weight per ha: 24.334g
County average: 122.1g

Burnt flints were thinly spread over the north field. Burnt flints are not intrinsically datable, but are generally held to be prehistoric in date, and perhaps specifically Bronze Age. At this weight (about 20% of the county average) they can only represent occasional visits to the site by prehistoric man.

6.3 Roman finds (Fig 3)

Two classes of Roman material were collected: pottery and brick/tile.

Roman pottery

total collected: 1 sherd: 21g
average per ha: 3.992g
County average per ha: 15.9g

There was only a single sherd of Roman pottery. It is difficult to interpret this; perhaps it is the result of 'manure scatter' (where sherds are transported out onto the fields with the manure from a local farm).

Roman brick/tile

total collected: 12 pieces: 681g
average per ha: 129.467g
County average per ha: 127.275g

With the exception of post-medieval pottery, this was the heaviest group of finds. Location was restricted to the north field. Weights are very close to the county average, but are not sufficient to indicate a Roman site on this spot. For comparison, a Roman villa site at Castle Hedingham produced over 50kg per hectare (Brooks forthcoming). The weight of tile here is more consistent with manure scatter. The site of the nearby Roman farm which generated this material is not yet known.

6.4 Medieval finds (Fig 4)

One class of medieval find was collected: pottery.

Medieval pottery

total collected: 2 sherds: 50g
average weight per ha: 9.505g
County average: 25.225g

The medieval sherds are again consistent with manure scatter.

6.5 Post-medieval and modern finds

Four classes of post-medieval and modern finds were collected: pottery, peg-tile, glass, and clay tobacco-pipe. Only the latter two are considered here.

Post-medieval and modern pottery

total collected: 40 sherds: 819g
average weight per 20m box: 155.703g
County average: 90.875g

Post-medieval pottery was collected, at a weight above the county average.

It is conventional wisdom to interpret this post-medieval pottery as having been 'manure scatter', rather than being derived from below-ground archaeological sites. There is no reason to dispute this idea here.

Peg-tile

total collected: 11 pieces: 414g
average weight per ha: 78.707g
County average: 1,275.225g

Although it may seem pointless to collect peg-tile, it is picked up in case it should turn out to be Roman brick or tile. The total collected is quite small, at well below the county average. The peg-tile is distributed fairly evenly across the survey area. Peg-tile is clearly from the roof of a nearby house or farm.

6.6 Fieldwalking conclusions

The prehistoric flints and burnt flints are at very low weights. Perhaps the burnt flints hint at occasional visits to this site by prehistoric people, but the evidence is not strong enough to suggest permanent settlement.

The Roman brick/tile and pottery were probably deposited on these fields as manure scatter from a nearby (unknown) Roman farm; again, the evidence is not strong enough to suggest settlement here.

Likewise, the medieval, post-medieval and modern material (pottery and peg-tile) is almost certainly the result of manuring operations over the last five or six centuries, and has no other significance.

6.7 Finds list

Introduction

This is a list of the 102 items (total weight 2,749g) of material recovered by the fieldwalking survey. Pottery fabric descriptions are after Cunningham (1985) and CAR 7. PMRE is post-medieval red earthenware; CBM is ceramic building material.

D = discarded

Table 1: quantities and weights of finds types, per bag.

Finds no	Quantity	Weight	Finds type	Finds date
1	1	7	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
2	1	17	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
3	1	29	Prehistoric worked flint: backed scraper?	prehistoric
4	1	13	Base fragment of PMRE (Fabric 40), black glazed	17th or 18th century
5	1	8	Base fragment of PMRE (Fabric 40), clear glazed	17th or 18th century
6	1	18	Natural flint flake (frost shattering)	
7	2	76	Tiles, 16mm thick, could be Roman or thick peg-tiles	Roman?
8	1	115	Roman tile, 23mm thick	Roman
9	1	19	German stoneware handle, prob Langerwehe (Fabric 45a)	late 14th-late 15th century
10	1	3	Struck flint, not totally convincing as prehistoric (too fresh?)	
11	1	20	rim of late slipped kitchen ware (Fabric 51a)	19th-20th century
12	1	8	body shed of Border ware (Fabric 42)	mid 16th-17th century
13	1	78	tile: looks like a Roman <i>tegula</i> , but is not	post-medieval or modern

Finds no	Quantity	Weight	Finds type	Finds date
14	1	18	flanged rim of Fabric 21 or Fabric 40 vessel	medieval or post-medieval
15	1	9	German stoneware base: Raeren (Fabric 45c)?	15th-16th century
16	1	4	Prehistoric worked flint	prehistoric
17	1	8	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
18	1	30	Edge of pantile?	post-medieval
19	2	6	Clay tobacco-pipe stem and bowl fragments	post-medieval
20	1	21	Roman grey ware base sherd	Roman
21	1	5	Body sherd of PMRE (Fabric 40), clear glazed	17th or 18th century
22	1	3	Clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment	post-medieval
23	1	12	Roman tile; is it a <i>tessera</i> ?	
24	1	12	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
25	1	35	Roman tile, 18mm thick	Roman
26	1	4	Clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment	post-medieval
27	1	81	Base/wall fragment of PMRE (Fabric 40), black glazed	17th or 18th century
28	1	32	Unglazed base of Fabric 40 vessel	17th-18th century
29	1	2	Struck flint, not totally convincing as prehistoric (too fresh?)	
30	1	59	Roman tile	
30	1	10	Peg-tile	D
30	1	8	PMRE (Fabric 40)	
30	1	4	German stoneware: Westerwald (Fabric 45f)	late 17th-18th century
30	1	1	Modern glass	
31	2	45	Roman <i>imbrex</i> or pantile fragment?	
32	1	5	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
33	1	42	Roman tile	
34	1	79	Glazed ridge tile	post-medieval
35	1	1	Clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment	post-medieval
35	1	4	Body sherd of PMRE (Fabric 40), clear glazed	17th or 18th century
36	1	31	Medieval grey ware handle (Fabric 20)	13th-15th century
37	1	3	Border ware (Fabric 42)	mid 16th-17th century
38	1	5	Clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment	post-medieval
38	1	6	Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a)	15th-16th century
39	1	8	German stoneware: Westerwald (Fabric 45f)	17th or 18th century
40	1	9	Handle fragment PMRE (Fabric 40)	17th or 18th century
41	1	3	Flowerpot fragment (Fabric 51b)	19th-20th century
42	1	9	Bodysherd in PMRE (Fabric 40)	17th or 18th century
43	1	14	Modern stoneware handle (Fabric 48d)	19th-20th century
44	1	32	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
45	1	5	German stoneware: Frechen or Cologne (Fabric 45d)	late 15th-17th century
46	1	46	Roman <i>imbrex</i> or pantile fragment?	
47	1	7	Bodysherd in PMRE (Fabric 40)	17th or 18th century
48	1	108	Large abraded base of vessel in PMRE (Fabric 40)	17th or 18th century
49	1	35	Modern stoneware (Fabric 45m)	19th-20th century
50	1	22	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
51	1	25	Burnt flint	presumably prehistoric
52	1	5	Notts-Derby stoneware fragment (Fabric 45g)	late 17th-19th century
52	1	12	Rim of later slipped kitchen ware (Fabric 51a)	19th-20th century
53	1	167	Roman <i>imbrex</i> or pantile fragment?	
54	1	78	Modern stoneware (Fabric 45m)	19th-20th century
55	1	84	Roman <i>imbrex</i> or pantile fragment?	

Finds no	Quantity	Weight	Finds type	Finds date
56	1	13	Bodysherd in PMRE (Fabric 40)	17th or 18th century
57	1	126	Base of stoneware bottle	19th-20th century
58	1	198	Brick fragment	19th-20th century
59	1	17	Peg-tile	
60	1	3	Thin pot sherd	18th-19th century?
61	1	37	Peg-tile	
62	1	5	Glazed potsherd	17th century +?
63	1	25	Glazed base sherd	17th century +?
64	1	23	Body sherd of stoneware vessel	19th-20th century
65	1	13	Unidentified CBM	20th century
66	1	35	Peg-tile	
67	1	1	Flake from modern brick	20th century
68	1	30	Land-drain fragment	
69	1	34	Rim of glazed vessel	18th century +
70	1	14	Sherd of glazed vessel	20th century
71	1	49	Peg-tile	
72	1	8	Rim fragment of beer or lemonade bottle	19th century
73	1	8	Clay tobacco-pipe stem	18th-19th century
74	1	17	Peg-tile	
75	1	15	Possible sherd of Colchester ware or later unglazed grey ware vessel	14th-16th century?
76	1	10	Base sherd of modern unglazed vessel	19th-20th century
77	1	5	Rim sherd of unglazed vessel	19th-20th century?
78	1	78	Brick fragment	?
79	1	13	Body sherd of stoneware vessel	20th century
80	1	82	Brick fragment	18th century +
81	1	2	Clay tobacco-pipe stem	18th-19th century
82	1	15	Body sherd of glazed vessel	19th century +
83	1	11	Peg-tile	
84	1	31	Peg-tile	
85	1	30	Stone	
86	1	6	Body sherd of glazed vessel	17th century +
87	1	6	Clay tobacco-pipe stem	18th-19th century
88	1	8	Peg-tile	
89	1	12	Rim sherd of glazed vessel	18th century +
90	1	80	Peg-tile	
91	1	19	Peg-tile	
92	1	5	Clay tobacco-pipe stem	18th-19th century
	102	2,749		

7 Statistical information

This section provides the statistical data to allow comparison with other Essex surveys (Medlycott & Germany 1994). However, this was a 100% collection, rather than the customary 10%, so all quantities and weights have been divided by 10 to give a comparable figure. It is understood that the actual weights and numbers of collected finds are ten times the 'Ex' and ' μ ' figures given below. The 'n' figure is the survey area (5.26 ha) times 25 nominal boxes.

Key:

n	= (equivalent of) number of 20m boxes walked
Ex	= total weight of individual finds type (ie Roman pottery)
Ex ²	= sum of weight of individual finds individually squared
μ	= average weight of finds type per 20m box
σ	= standard deviation
+1 σ	= mean +1 sd weight
+2 σ	= mean +2 sd weight

Struck flint		Post-medieval pottery	
n	132	n	132
Ex	3.3	Ex	81.9
Ex2	9	Ex2	728
μ	0.025	μ	0.605
σ	0.303	σ	2.106
+1 σ	0.328	+1 σ	2.711
+2 σ	0.631	+2 σ	4.817
Burnt flint		Roman brick/tile	
n	132	n	132
Ex	13	Ex	68.1
Ex2	27	Ex2	647
μ	0.097	μ	0.516
σ	0.524	σ	2.547
+1 σ	0.621	+1 σ	3.062
+2 σ	1.145	+2 σ	5.609
Roman pottery		Peg-tile	
n	132	n	132
Ex	2.1	Ex	41.4
Ex2	4.01	Ex2	208
μ	0.016	μ	0.314
σ	0.218	σ	1.637
+1 σ	0.234	+1 σ	1.951
+2 σ	0.451	+2 σ	3.588
Medieval pottery			
n	132		
Ex	7		
Ex2	16		
μ	0.053		
σ	0.406		
+1 σ	0.459		
+2 σ	0.866		

8 References

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|--|
| Brooks, H | forth-coming | Fieldwalking at Castle Hedingham, Essex, 2001-2004, unpublished report for EHER |
| <i>CAR 7</i> | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-1985</i> , by John Cotter |
| Cunningham, C M | 1985 | 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , by C M Cunningham and P J Drury, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 5 and Council for British Archaeology Research Report 54 , 1-16 |
| Medlycott, M, & Germany, M | 1994 | 'Archaeological fieldwalking in Essex: interim results 1985-93', <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> , 25 , 14-28 |

9 Acknowledgements

Thanks to ADP Chartered Architects for commissioning the work on behalf of The Ingleton Properties Ltd and Mersea Homes. Site work was undertaken by Nicky Garland, Chris Lister, Kate Orr, and Emma Spurgeon. Finds identification by Stephen Benfield, Howard Brooks and Philip Crummy. Original digital plotting by Chris Lister.

10 Archive deposition

The finds, paper and digital archive are currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2005.94.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2005

Distribution list:

ADP Chartered Architects
The Ingleton Properties Ltd
Mersea Homes
Martin Winter, Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

12 Lexden Road,
Colchester,
Essex CO3 3NF

tel.: (01206) 541051
tel./fax: (01206) 500124
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 10.10.05

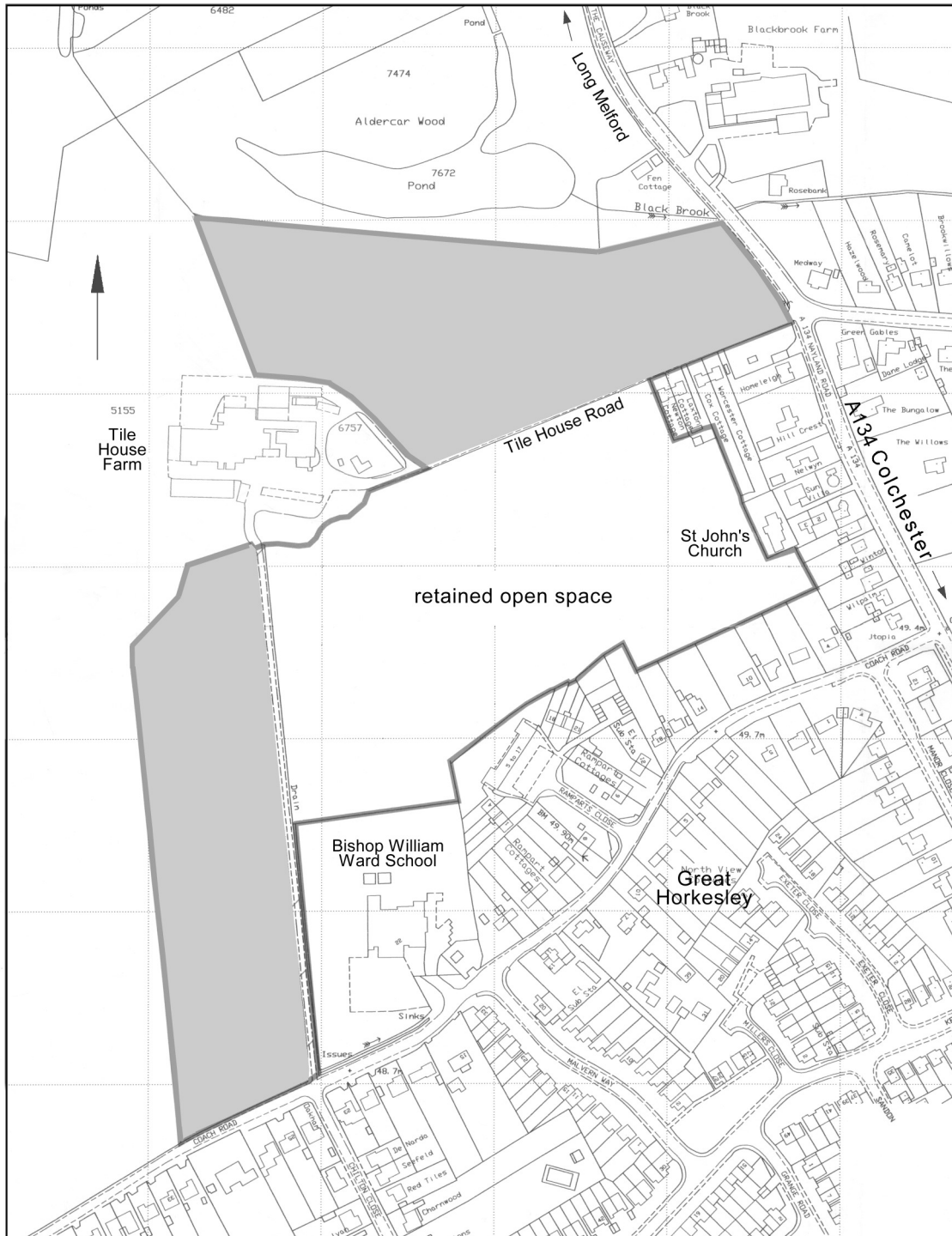


Fig 1 Site location, showing fieldwalk areas (toned) – not to scale.

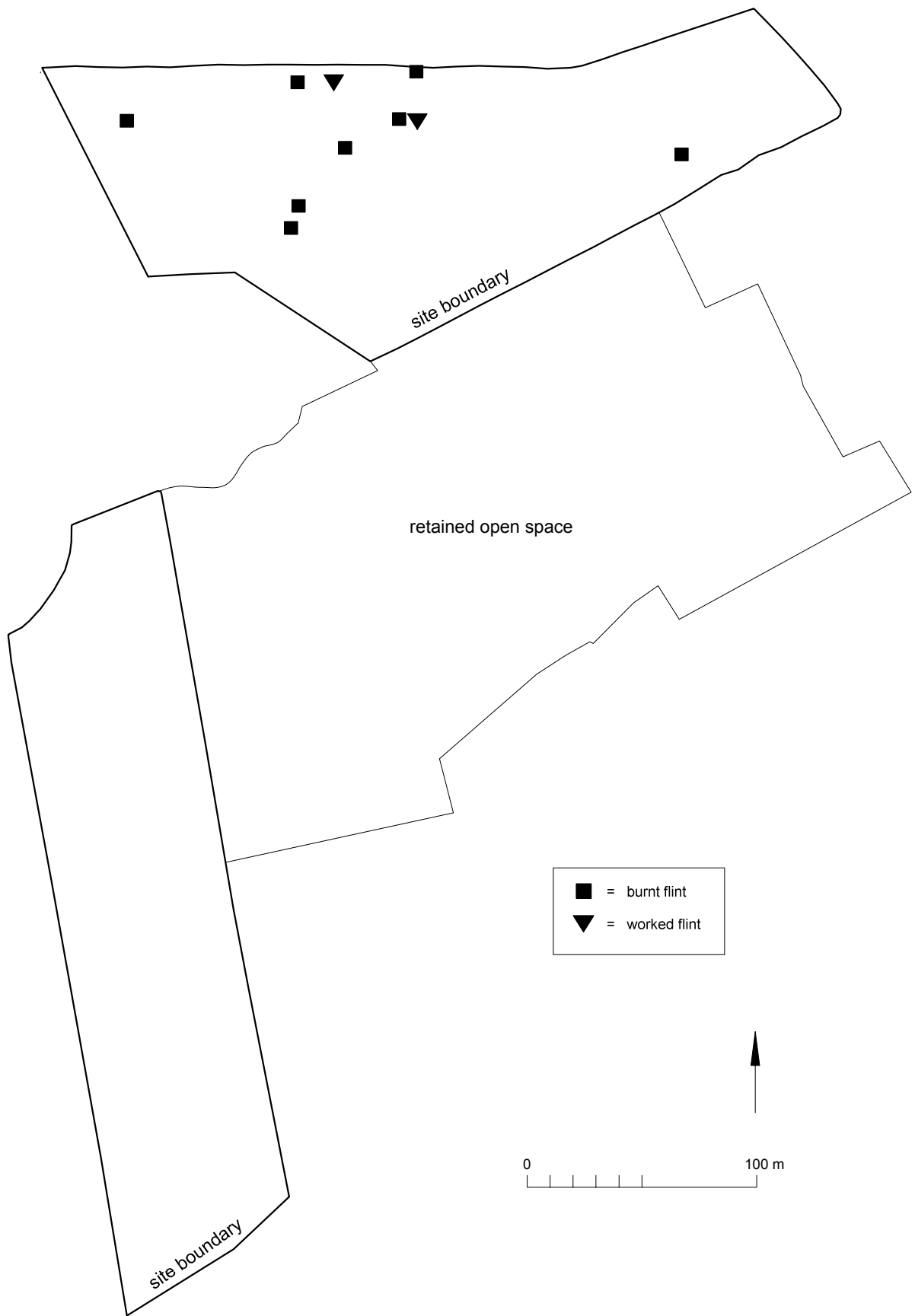


Fig 2 Prehistoric finds.

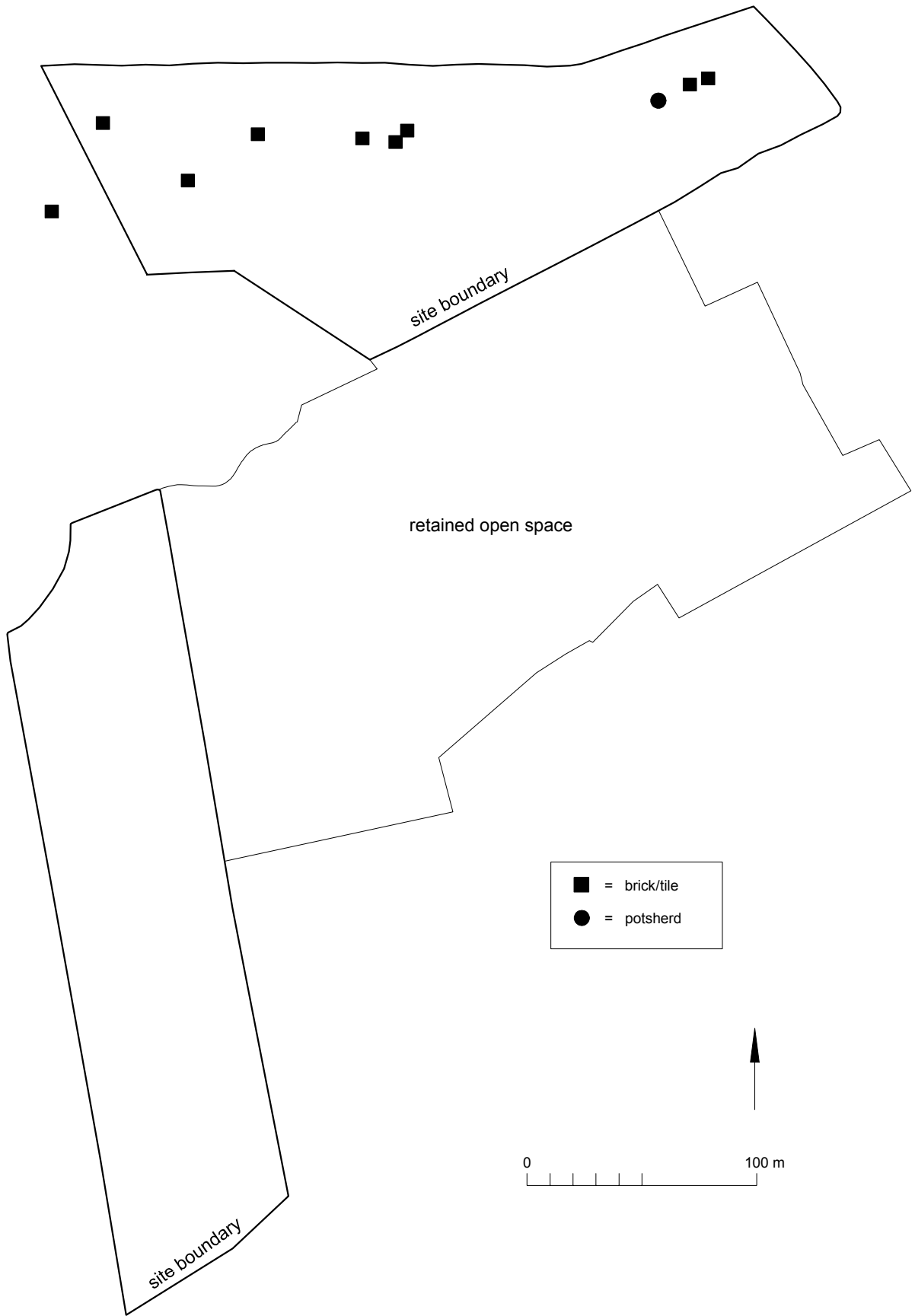


Fig 3 Roman finds.

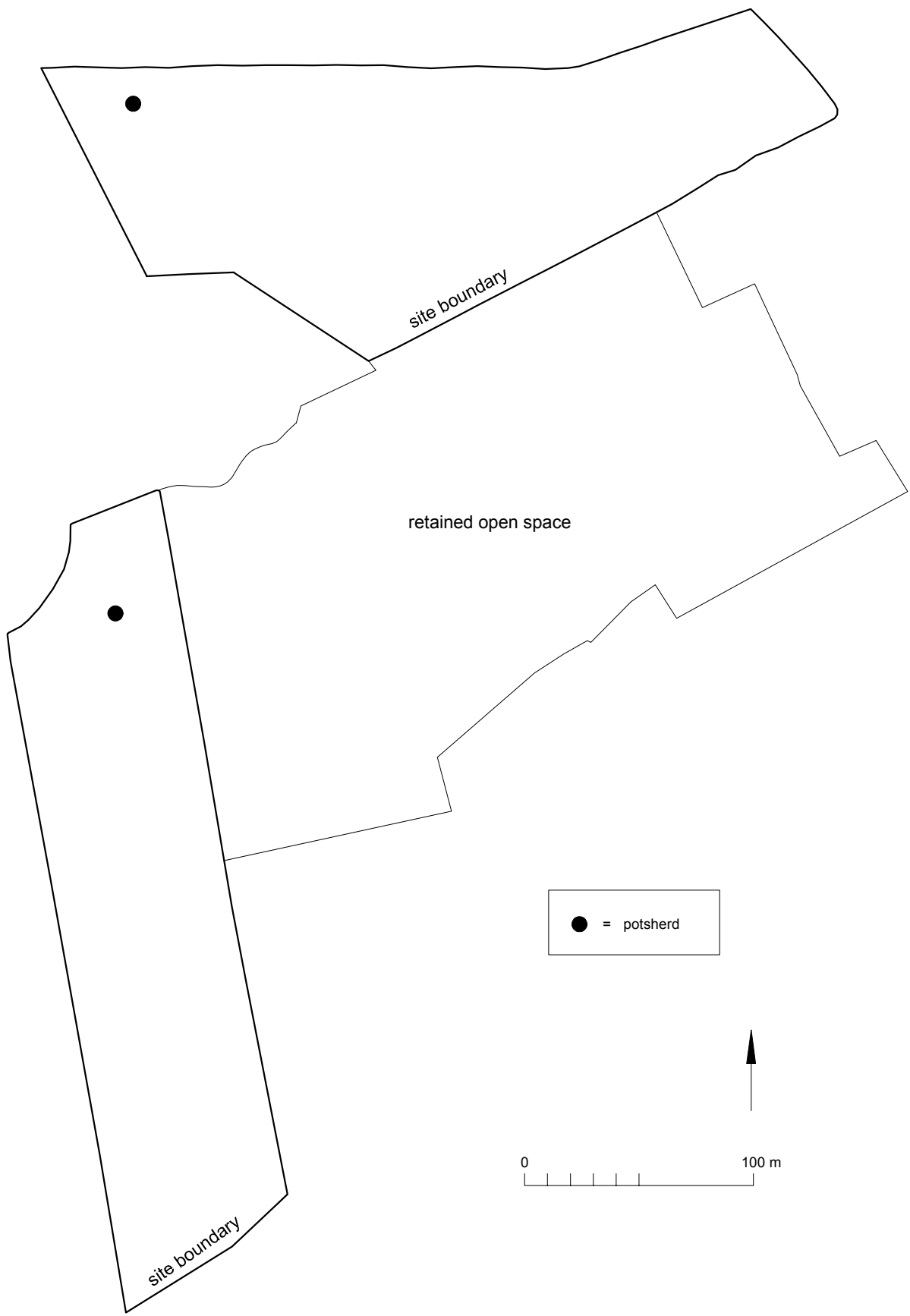


Fig 4 Medieval finds.

**Essex Sites and Monuments Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site name/address: Tile House Farm, Great Horkesley, Essex	
Parish: Great Horkesley	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9780 2960 (north field centre) TL 9765 2935 (west field centre)	Site code: CAT project 05/7b
Type of work: Fieldwalking evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: July-September 2005	Size of area investigated: 5.26 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museum (accession 2005.94)	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? uncertain	Related EHER nos: 9172, 11654-11655, 11793, 12560
Final report: CAT Report 339 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: prehistoric, Roman, medieval, and later	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Fieldwalking on two fields (totalling 5.26 hectares) recovered very low weights of archaeological material, principally prehistoric burnt flints, Roman brick/tile, and post-medieval pottery and tile. It is likely that the Roman and later finds are the result of manure scatter, and are not evidence of settlement.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: October 2005