

Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: Grove Cottage, Jaywick Lane, Clacton on Sea, Essex

May 2015



report prepared by
Ben Holloway

on behalf of
Weeley Contracts Ltd

CAT project ref.: 15/04d
HER project code: pending
NGR: TM 1516 1445

Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code: Pending



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CAT Report 837
June 2015

1 Summary

The built-up area west of Jaywick Lane is surrounded by the cropmarks of ancient field boundaries and burial sites. Despite this, the evaluation of the current site revealed no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation at Grove Cottage, Jaywick Lane, Clacton on Sea Essex, which was carried out by CAT on May 6th 2015 (Figs 1-3). The work was commissioned by by Duncan Clarke and Beckett on behalf of Weeley Contracts Ltd, in advance of the development of Residential Care Home.

Site centre is TM 1516 1445.

ECC Historic Environment Team (Place Services) was consulted by Tendring District Council in November 2014 (14/01693/FUL). In response to consultation, Adrian Gascoyne of ECCHET made the following recommendation to the LPA in line with advice given in National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012)

"L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work."

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation* (ECC 2015) detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to brief and agreed with ECCHET (CAT 2015).

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

3 Archaeological background

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

EHER identifies the presence of a number of below ground archaeological sites surviving in the vicinity (EHER 2921-2, 2930, 2942, 46844). The Tendring Historic Environment Characterisation project shows that the proposed development lies within a wider area with good potential for below ground archaeological deposits. One hundred metres to the south west of the application site, EHER has records of a barrow cemetery, enclosure, field boundaries and pits, all identified from crop mark evidence (EHER 2942).

4 Results (Figs 2 - 3)

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator, through L1 - a thin modern topsoil directly sealing natural geological deposits (L2). L1 contained much modern building debris (concrete, plastic, brick, etc), none of which was retained. Natural geological deposit L2 was a clean yellow/grey clay.

There were no significant archaeological features or deposits here. There were three undated pits in T3.

Trench 2 was not excavated as the development area had been altered the trench fell within the area of car parking associated with the willow farm centre).

Below is a summary of the evaluation trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating.

Trench 1: summary

T1, in the north-central part of the site, contained no significant archaeological features. A area of modern disturbance covering the eastern third of the trench may have been caused by the removal of a cess pit (site owner, *pers comm*) The trench was excavated through topsoil (L1), in to natural geological deposits (L2).

Trench 2: summary

T2 was not excavated because it now falls outside the site and is car-park associated with the Willow Farm Centre, to the north of the site.

Trench 3: summary

T3, on the western side of the site, contained no significant archaeological features. However, there was an area of modern disturbance in the centre of the trench, where building debris was compressed into natural L2.



General shot of T3, view N

Trench 4: summary

T4, on southern edge of the site contained two areas of modern disturbance, and three shallow, undated pits, F1-F3, possibly of natural origin. T4 was excavated through topsoil L1, in to natural geological deposits (L2).



General shot of T4, view W. F1 and F2 are mid-way along the trench.

Trench 4 – contexts and dating

Feature no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F1	pit	--	undated
F2	pit	--	undated
F3	pit	--	undated

5 Finds

Fragments of modern brick, concrete, and other building debris was seen in L1 and pressed into natural L2. None were retained

6 Discussion (Figs 2-3)

No archaeological material or features were revealed by this evaluation. The thin topsoil indicates that the site has been graded or reduced, and the modern finds in L1 show that building debris has been imported to the site, presumably when it was in use as a builders' yard. Much modern disturbance was apparent across the site, particularly at the east end of T1 (this was caused by the removal of a cess pit, according to the site owner).

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Weeley Contracts for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, and the fieldwork was carried out by BH and R Matthieson. Site plans by are by Mark Baister, and the sections are by Emma Holloway. The project was monitored for the ECC Place Services by Adrian Gascoyne.

8 References

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

CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Grove Cottage, Jaywick Lane, Clacton on Sea, Essex</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Dept of Communities and Local Government).
EAA 8	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8, ed by Nigel Brown and Jenny Glazebrook
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott
ECC	2015	<i>Brief for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Grove Cottage, Jaywick Lane, Clacton on Sea.</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPD	Colchester Borough Council Planning Department
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g. a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds

none

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 837)

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, Trench record sheet)

ECC Brief

CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD

Attendance register: Benchmark data: Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (accession code pending) .

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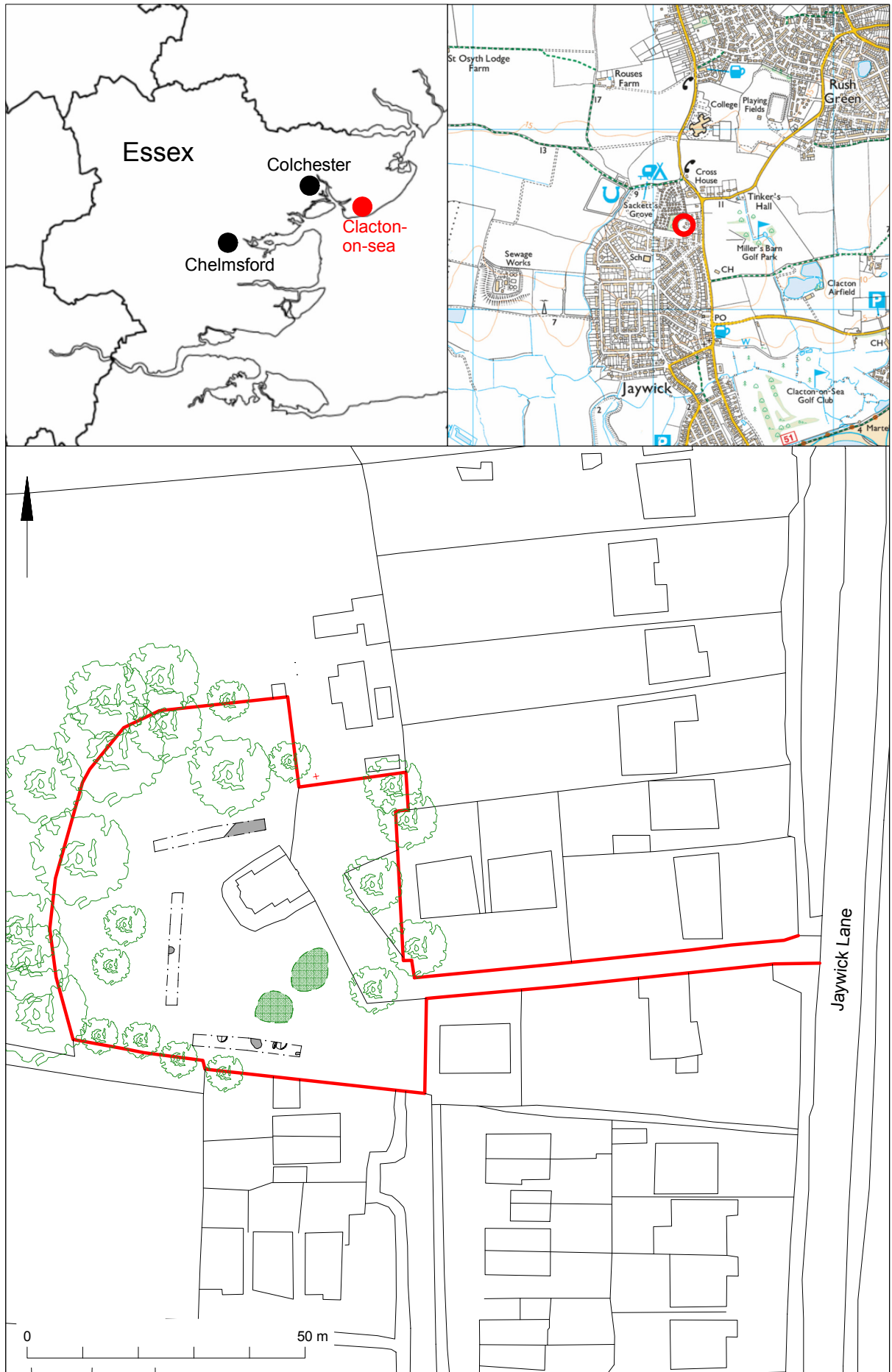
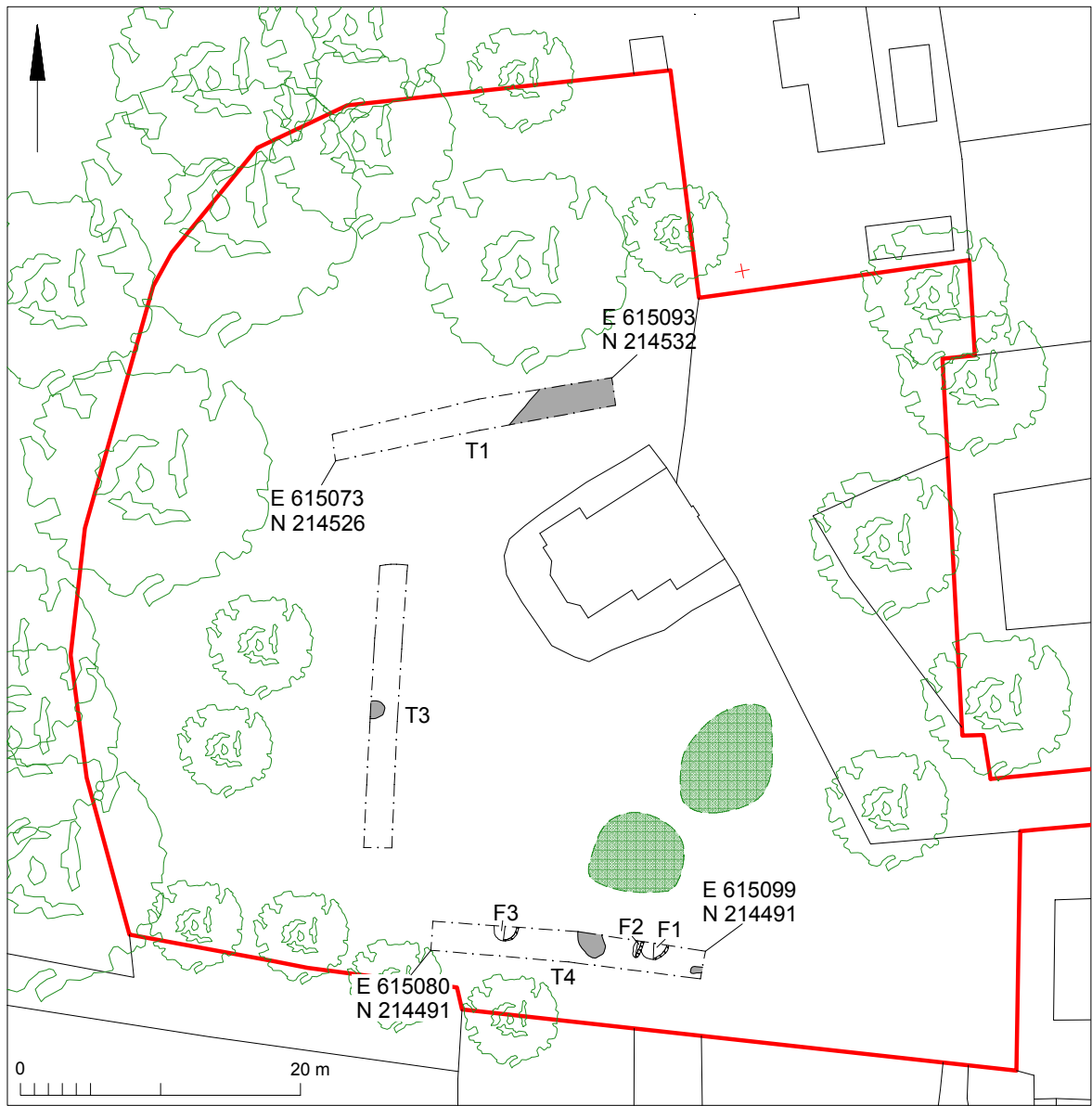


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results, modern disturbance shown in grey.

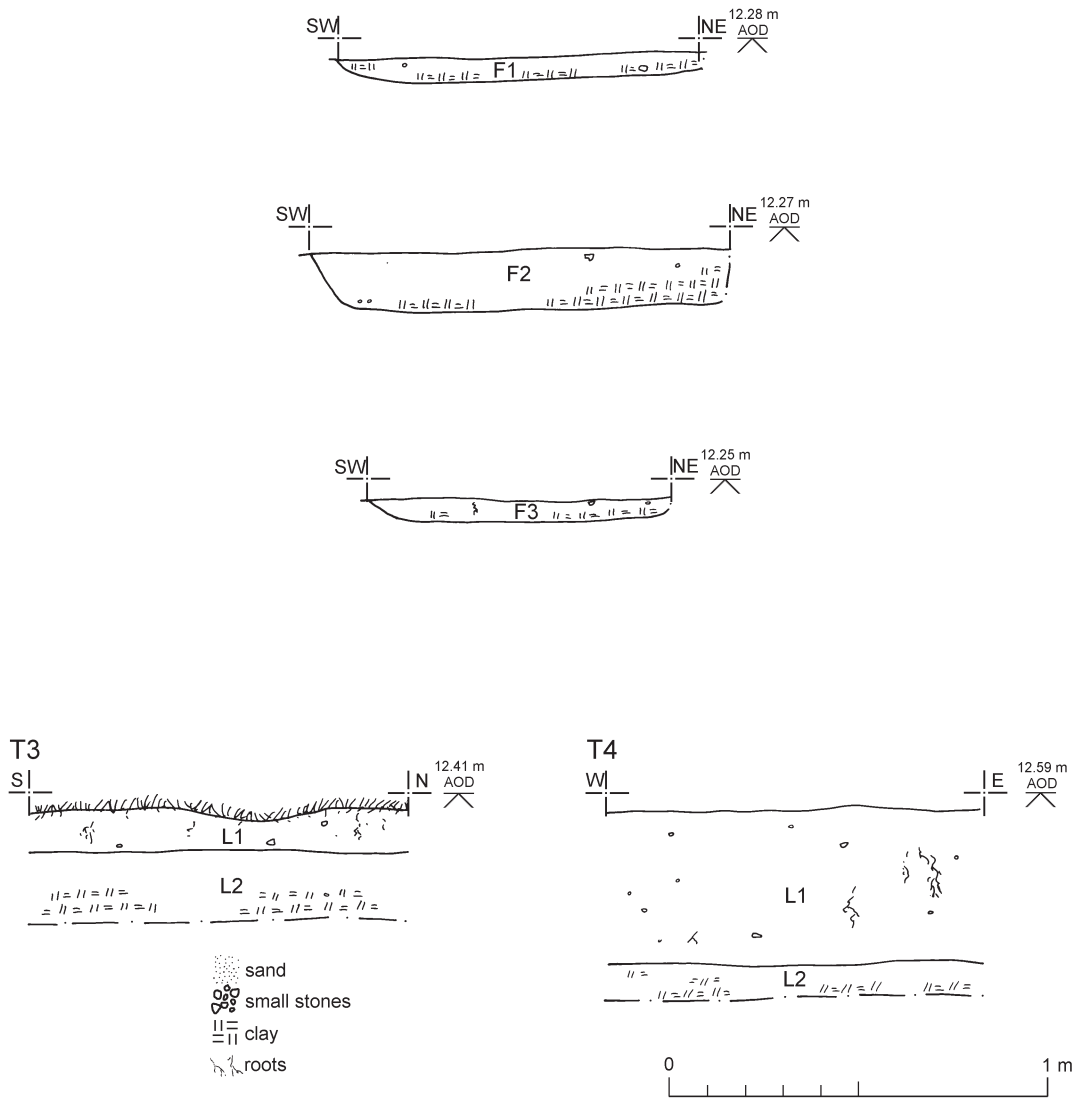


Fig 3 Feature sections (F1-3) and representative trench sections (T3-4).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Grove Cottage, Jaywick Lane, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex	
Parish: Clacton	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 1516 1445	Site code: CAT project code – awaited
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 6th May 2015	Size of area investigated: 60m (linear)
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code : awaited	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER numbers: 2921-2, 2930, 2942, 46844
Final report: CAT Report 837	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>The built-up area west of Jaywick Lane is surrounded by the cropmarks of ancient field boundaries and burial sites. Despite this, the evaluation of the current site revealed no significant archaeological remains.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
ECC Monitor: Adrian Gascoyne	
Keywords: modern	Significance: n/a
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: June 2015