

Archaeological excavation and monitoring at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AE

June-September 2015



report prepared by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks

with finds reports by Stephen Benfield and Val Fryer,
and illustrations by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway

on behalf of Hills Building Group

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Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

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1 Summary

This site is on the eastern edge of the built-up area of Dedham, whose historic core lies approximately 400m to the NW. The site is an 'L' shaped area of open ground, recently used as paddocks and containing buildings for livestock.

A significant area of cropmarks lies to the north and east of this site (ESSEX HER MEX9725 and MEX9645). Although mostly unexcavated, these include field systems and burial mounds. Limited excavation in 1960 showed that the cropmark complex includes a Late Iron Age / Roman enclosure, and a Bronze Age burial site.

An evaluation in May 2015 identified eighteen archaeological features. These included an Iron Age ditch which may be part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east.

The excavation reported here is a follow-up to the evaluation. It involved the stripping of two house plots (total area, 370m²), with the aim of further exploring the prehistoric features revealed by the evaluation.

Twenty-nine archaeological features were excavated (including three which had been examined at evaluation stage) - prehistoric ditches, pits and post-holes, a Roman ditch and a large post-medieval / modern pit probably associated with gravel extraction.

A single trench (T11) to intercept a possible ring-ditch showed that it was a modern pit.

Monitoring of the digging of footings trenches for three house plots on the southern edge of the site revealed four undated pits (probably post-medieval).

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological excavation at Hallfields Farm, Dedham, Essex, which was carried out by CAT on 17th-22nd June 2015. The work was commissioned by Hills Building Group, in advance of residential development. Post-excavation work was carried out in July to October 2015.

Site centre is TM 0612 3286.

A planning application was submitted to the LPA on 18th November 2014, and was approved 4th June 2015, with conditions. One condition was that a further stage of archaeological work be carried out. The required archaeological work (excavation and monitoring) was detailed in a Brief written (CBC 2015) by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA), in line with advice given in *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT in response to the CBCAA brief and agreed with CBCAA (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* (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* (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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

A desk-based assessment of the site was commissioned by Hills Building Group and carried out by CAT in May 2014 (CAT Report 772). Below is a summary:

Approximately 400m to the NW of the site lies the medieval town of Dedham (and the 'ham' name suggests it has Anglo-Saxon origins). The medieval town of Dedham rose to prominence with the cloth trade, specialising in bay and say cloth. It contains a wealth of 14th century and later buildings, and retains its medieval street pattern and morphology. However, the proposed development will have no effect on the medieval town because it is too far away. Indeed, map evidence shows that Manningtree Road and the southern part of Brook Street were not built up until the late 18th or 19th century.

To the east of Dedham is an important 'cropmark' landscape. Most of the cropmarks are unexcavated and undated, but where excavation has taken place, Bronze Age (2,500-700 BC) and early Roman (1st century AD) material has come to light. The nearest significant cropmark sites (indicating the presence of enclosures and ring-ditches and therefore a Bronze Age barrow cemetery) are approximately 150m - 200m from the Application Site.

These cropmarks are recorded in the National mapping programme (Essex HER: MEX9725 and MEX9645).

In May 2015 CAT undertook a trial-trenching evaluation of the site on behalf of Hills Building Group (CAT Report 842, UAD Event no. EVT4251). Ten trenches (1.8m wide, and total length, 200m) positioned across the area of the new housing identified eighteen archaeological features. These were a Middle Iron Age ditch, ten post-medieval pits and a ditch, and seven undated features (of which two may be prehistoric, and five may be post-medieval). One of the post-medieval ditches aligns with current property boundaries running south of Manningtree Road. This, along with a ditch in an adjacent trench, may be part of a farm trackway grubbed out before the 1870s (nothing shows here on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey).

The Middle Iron Age ditch may have been part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east of this site. There is one plotted cropmark line which heads towards the eastern site boundary, but it would need to change direction to be on the same alignment as the ditch excavated at Hallfields.

4 Results of the excavation (Figs 2-5)

This section gives an archaeological summary of the two excavated areas (plots 4/5 and 6, both on the site's eastern edge), and of Trench 11, positioned to intercept a possible ring-ditch on the southern site edge.

By machine under archaeological supervision, the following were removed: modern topsoil 250-400mm thick (L1), and a silt/clay accumulation 250-300mm thick (L2). The removal of L2 revealed the archaeological features cut into natural (L3). Twenty-nine archaeological features were revealed (six of which F6/F43, F8/F42, F9, F10, F17 and F18 were seen at evaluation stage). These consisted of three prehistoric ditches, one Roman ditch, two prehistoric pits, three probably prehistoric pits, six prehistoric post-holes, nine probably prehistoric post-holes, and three modern pits.

Plot 4/5: summary (Fig 3)

Plot 4/5 was an 'H-shaped' trench approximately 235m² in extent, which overlapped evaluation trenches T5 (eastern end) and T6. The excavation revealed two ditches (E-W F17, and N-S F43), and an undated pit F18.

Both ditch F17 and pit F18 had been sectioned at evaluation stage (T6). In evaluation, ditch F17 produced prehistoric pottery, but that can now be seen to be residual because Roman pottery came from ditch F17 at excavation stage.

The features revealed by excavation but not seen at evaluation were pits F19, F20, F27, F28 and F41, ditches F42 and F43, and post-holes F21-26. Pit F19 was undated, but the others contained prehistoric sherds, and in the case of F27 and F28, more closely-dated to the IA and EIA respectively.

Ditch F43, aligns exactly on F8 in evaluation T8. F8 contained post-medieval peg-tile. The likelihood, therefore is that F8/F43 is post-medieval, and the flint and burnt flints (dated Mesolithic/Neolithic) found in excavation are residual.

Ditch F42 was not seen in evaluation, but does align with pit F7 in T8. It contained five prehistoric sherds and a burnt flint, and is the best-dated feature in this excavation. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of ditch F42 is that it was flanked by a row of post-holes (F21-26). As three of these (F23-26) contained burnt flints, it is very likely that they are contemporary with ditch F42 and probably associated with it (as a fence?).



Plate 1: general view west across plot 4/5. Sections middle and far distance are across ditches F43 and F42.



Plate 2: ditch F42 with pits F27 and F28 to its left (west) and post-holes F21-26 to its right (east)

Plot 4/5: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F17	ditch	18: Roman pottery, with residual LBA-EIA. Prehistoric flints	Roman 2nd cent
F18	pit	no finds	undated (prehistoric)
F19	pit	no finds	undated (prehistoric)
F20	pit	16: sherd, prehistoric?	prehistoric?
F21	post-hole	no finds	prehistoric?
F22	post-hole	no finds	prehistoric?
F23	post-hole	20: burnt flint	prehistoric
F24	post-hole	21: burnt flint	prehistoric
F25	post-hole	22: burnt flint	prehistoric
F26	post-hole	no finds	prehistoric?
F27	pit	23: sherd, probably Iron Age	prehistoric - IA
F28	pit	24: sherd, EIA	prehistoric EIA
F41	pit	25: two undated sherds	prehistoric ?
F42	ditch	13: pottery, probably prehistoric. Burnt flint	prehistoric?
F43	ditch	11: Prehistoric (Mesolithic/Neolithic?) flints. Burnt flint	prehistoric (LBA?)



Plate 3: N-S ditch F43, view north.

Plot 6: summary (Fig 3)

Plot 6, an 'L-shaped' trench approximately 136m² and overlapping evaluation trench T5 revealed SW-NE ditch F10, which had been examined in evaluation T5 (as evaluation F5).

Other new features in plot 6 were post-holes F29-F37, and modern pits F38-F40. Mirroring the line of post-holes F21-26 alongside ditch F42 in plot 4/5, post-holes F29-37 ran along the eastern side of ditch F10. Ditch F10 is undated, as are all the post-holes. However, given the similarity to the F42/F21-27 sequence, F10/F29-37 may also be prehistoric.



Plate 4: general view south-west across plot 6. Ditch F10 is in left hand corner.



Plate 5: View south-west, ditch F10 with post-holes F29-37.

Plot 6: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F10	ditch	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F29	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F30	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F31	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F32	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F33	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F34	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F35	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F36	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F37	post-hole	no finds	undated (prehistoric?)
F38	pit	concrete, brick, glass (not retained)	modern
F39	pit	modern glass (not retained)	modern
F40	pit	concrete, brick, glass (not retained)	modern

Trench 11: summary

A trench (T11) was placed to intercept a suspected ditch (F9 in evaluation T9) and to confirm its date and alignment. In fact, T11 showed that F9 was not a ditch, but a large modern pit whose size and depth suggest is a backfilled gravel pit.

Trench 11: context and dating

Context	Description	Date
F9	(gravel?) pit	modern

5 Monitoring

Monitoring visits were made during the contractor's digging of footings for house plots 1-3 during July- September 2015.

House plot 1

A small pit was seen in section in the centre of this plot. Due to the extreme slipperiness of the site, this feature could only be photographed. It did not have the dark-soiled fill of post-medieval features on this site, so is probably medieval or earlier. Ditch F6, heading south from the excavated site was not seen in this plot, so probably did not extend this far south.



Plate 6: plot 1 footings, showing typical soil profile.

House plot 2

Plot 2 showed:

- evaluation T9 in its expected position along most of northern side of plot 2.
- a large dark pit (post-medieval?) centred on the eastern side of plot 2
- a large dark pit (post-medieval?) in the south-western corner of plot 2.

Evaluation T11 showed a large dark pit near the western side of plot 2. The two pits in Plot 2 are of this type, and show that the southern end of the site has been used for waste disposal in the post-medieval period.

House plot 3

No archaeological features seen.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

A small finds assemblage of pottery, worked flints and heat-altered (burnt) stones (HAS) was recovered from ten features (F17, F20, F23-F25, F27-F28, and F41-F43). The closely-dated finds are primarily of prehistoric date, with one sherd of imported Roman samian pottery. All of the finds are listed and described by finds number for each context in Table 2. The fabrics of the prehistoric pottery sherds have been assigned broad fabric codes but are individually described in the finds description. The Roman pottery fabric refers to the Colchester Roman fabric series (**CAR 10**). The pottery codes and descriptions are listed in Table 1. Samian pottery forms refer to Webster 1996.

Fabric	Description	totals
Prehistoric:		
HMF	Hand made, flint-tempered	12 sherds, 39g
HMFS	Hand made, flint & sand-tempered	2 sherds, 6g
HMS	Hand made, sand-tempered	2 sherds, 3g
HMG	Hand made, grog-tempered	1 sherd, 1g
Roman:		
BXCG	Central Gaulish mould decorated samian	1 sherd, 16g

Table 1 Fabric descriptions

ctxt no.	find no	find type	finds description	fabric code	no	wt/g	period/spot date
F017	18	pot	abraded sherd from a Dr 37 bowl with ovolo and border, small repair hole for lead rivet at edge	BXCG	1	16	Rom E/M2-L2C
F017	18	pot	small abraded sherd, sand-tempered with rare small flint, indications of internal burnt residue, probably Iron Age	HMFS	1	3	preh EIA-MIA
F017	18	pot	small abraded sherd, moderate small-medium flint, probably later prehistoric - Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age	HMF	1	4	preh LBA-EIA
F017	18	flint	small thin flint flake with edge cortex, snapped from larger piece, small striking platform		1	1	preh
F017	18	flint	small flint flake with edge cortex, not obviously struck or worked, probably a shatter piece		1	3	
F020	16	pot	small sherds/ fragments in a sandy fabric tempered with common small-medium flint, probably from the same vessel and probably a broken sherd	HMF	5	9	preh
F020	16	pot	small sherds/ fragment in a dark sandy fabric with moderate-common fine-medium flint-temper	HMF	1	1	
F023	20	HAS	heat altered flint, white, crazed, reddened		1	8	
F024	21	HAS	heat altered flint, white, crazed		1	15	
F025	22	HAS	heat altered flint, white, crazed, reddened		1	18	
F027	23	pot	small thin sherd in a dark sandy fabric decorated with a band of four parallel (combed?) grooves, appears hand-made, probably Iron Age	HMS	1	2	preh IA
F028	24	pot	small, slightly abraded sherd with sand	HMFS	1	3	preh EIA

ctxt no.	find no	find type	finds description	fabric code	no	wt/g	period/spot date
			and moderate-common small-medium flint-temper, later prehistoric, probably EIA (two other very small fragments of pot also from this context)				
F041	25	pot	abraded sherd in a fine sand fabric with sparse coarse flint-temper	HMF	1	8	
F041	25	pot	small sherd with sparse-moderate small-medium flint-temper, some indication of possible surface decoration	HMF	1	2	
F042	13	pot	abraded sherd, decorated with small, slightly elongated, smooth impressions (made by the end of a small bone?) fine sandy fabric with sparse small-medium flint	HMF	1	12	preh
F042	13	pot	small sherd, decorated with small kidney shaped impressions, two certain with the beginning of a possible third to one side of these at the sherd edge, dark fabric with common fine flint	HMF	1	2	preh
F042	13	pot	small thin abraded sherd/ fragment in sandy fabric	HMS	1	1	preh
F042	13	pot	small abraded sherd/ fragment in sandy fabric with small flint	HMF	1	1	preh
F042	13	pot	small sherd/ fragment with grog-temper and dark organic? tempering material	HMG	1	1	preh
F042	13	HAS	heat altered flint, white, crazed		1	10	
F043	11	flint	small thin blade or blade-like piece, snapped away at both ends, patinated, small retouch notches on one edge and some use-wear/damage on other, probably Mesolithic-Neolithic		1	1	preh Meso- Neo
F043	11	HAS	heat altered flint, white, crazed		1	21	

Table 2 Finds by context**Finds discussion***Prehistoric*

The prehistoric pottery that makes up the majority of the finds assemblage consists almost entirely of small, abraded body sherds making confident close dating of individual sherds difficult. Almost all contain some flint-temper (HMF), broadly indicating a date probably not later than the Early Iron Age (EIA). The well-embedded, moderate, fine-medium size flint-temper common to most of the sherds suggests that, while some sherds may date earlier, much of the pottery is likely to date to the Late Bronze Age (LBA) or EIA (c 1000-350 BC). A few of sherds with sand-temper or sand & flint-temper are also likely to be of Iron Age (IA) date.

Three of the sherds are decorated, two from F42 (13) and one from F27(23). The sherd from F27 is from a fine, sand-tempered, thin walled pot and has a band of four shallow, incised parallel lines. This type of decoration suggests a LBA or EIA date and the fabric suggests that is more probably Iron Age. The other two sherds (F8) are more difficult to date closely. Both are flint-tempered. On the larger of the two, which is noticeably abraded, the decoration clearly extends over an area of the body. On the other the decoration may be a row of impressions, but may possibly be more expansive. Decoration, extending across the surface of the body of the pot, is more common in the Mid-Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c 3500-1500 BC) than later, but is also occasionally encountered in later prehistoric assemblages. None of the decoration appears conclusive to an early date such

as would be indicated by the use of whipped cord, although the elongated impressions on the larger sherds appear slightly lobed, possibly indicating the end of a small bone may have been used. While it is noted that the surfaces of the larger sherd are abraded, which may have removed fine marks, this is not considered to have adversely affected the interior of the individual impressions sufficient to remove any cord marks. Overall, a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date is possible for the larger sherd, which as it is abraded might be residual in this context. The other decorated sherd, with its sandy fabric, appears visually more likely to be of later date (LBA-EIA) although this is subjective. A small, thin sand-tempered sherd from this same context (if not intrusive) suggests the context itself is more probably of Iron Age date than earlier.

Only three pieces of worked flint (including a possible worked flint flake or shatter piece) were recovered, these coming from F43 (11) and F17 (18). A single flint from F6 is patinated and consists of a section snapped from the mid area of a blade. This is likely to date to the Mesolithic or Neolithic. That there are not more flints could be seen to support the dating of the majority of the pottery to the Iron Age rather than earlier.

Individual pieces of heat altered stone (HAS) or 'burnt' stone, all of them flint, were recovered from several of the features (F43, F42, F23, F24 and F25). Of itself the burnt stone is not closely datable, although it is commonly associated with prehistoric activity. It was used extensively during the prehistoric period to transfer heat from a fire primarily to water for boiling, hence the term of 'pot-boilers' commonly applied to these stones. The more closely-dated (pottery) finds suggest that this material here is primarily of LBA or EIA date.

Roman

A single, abraded sherd of Roman pottery from F17(18) is a moderately large sherd of Central Gaulish samian from a mould decorated bowl of form Dr 37, current during the 2nd century. The pot bowl had either been repaired, or a repair had been attempted, as there is part of a small, drilled hole for a lead rivet in one edge.

7 Assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other plant remains

by Val Fryer, Environmental Archaeologist (October 2015)

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from both the evaluation (samples 1-5: Features 6-7, 10, 17-18) and the excavation phases (samples 6-11: F17, F19-20, F23, F41-3). All eleven were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by CAT and the flots collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

Results

Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, other plant remains are exceedingly scarce comprising a single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and individual seeds of fat hen type (*Chenopodiaceae*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). Small pieces of charred root/stem are also noted within five of the assemblages studied. The charcoal fragments are mostly small (i.e. <2mm), and some pieces are distinctly rounded and abraded, possibly indicating that they were exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to incorporation within the feature fills.

All eleven assemblages contain low to moderate densities of black porous and tarry residues and small pieces of coal, all which are probably intrusive within the feature fills. As the porous and tarry residues are distinctly hard and brittle, it is thought most likely that all are bi-products of the combustion of the coal. Such materials, probably derived from either the spreading of night soil or the use of steam implements on the land, are frequently recorded within features which have suffered some degree of post-depositional disturbance via the bioturbation of the soil column.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the recovered assemblages are all small (i.e. 0.1 litres or less in volume) and exceedingly limited in composition. The material which is recorded is probably derived from scattered midden waste, but it offers few insights into the day-to-day functioning of the site or its component features. Post-depositional contamination appears to be an issue across the entire excavated area, with all of the current assemblages being severely compromised by the introduction of intrusive materials.

As plant macrofossils are so scarce and as none of the features are securely dated, no further analysis is recommended.

Sample no	8	9	1	3	5	11	2	10	4	6	7
Feature no	19	20	10	18	7	41	17	17	6	6	8
Finds no	15	17	4	8	10	26	7	19	9	12	14
Feature type	pit	pit	ditch	pit	pit	pit	ditch		ditch	ditch	ditch
Date	preh	preh	preh?	preh?	preh?	preh?	Roman	Roman	post-medieval	post-med	post-med
Plant macrofossils											
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)						x					
Chenopodiaceae indet		x									
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		x									
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xxxx	xx	x	xxx	xxxx	xxx	xx	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	xxxx	x	x	xx	xxx	xx	xx	x	x
Charcoal >5mm	xx		x	x	x	x	xxx	x		x	x
Charcoal >10mm			x	x			x		x		
Charred root / stem	x	x						x		x	x
Other remains											
Black porous 'cokey' material	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	xx	
Black tarry material	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	xx	x
Small coal frags	x		xx	x	x		x		x	xx	
Sample volume (litres)											
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% of flot sorted	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 Preh = prehistoric ?LBA = ?Late Bronze Age

8 Discussion (Figs 1-5)

This site consists of a group of modern buildings on the fringes of a prehistoric and Roman cropmark site. The excavated features reflect this situation. The best-dated features are pits and ditches associated with Hallfields Farm, its outbuildings and associated fences and paddocks. However, the majority of features excavated at both evaluation and excavation stages were undated - 26 out of 44 (59%). It is the cropmark material (ie, the pre-modern ditches, pits and post-holes) which is relatively poorly dated.

First, the post-medieval and modern features associated with Hallfields. Trench 11 was positioned to intercept a feature (F9) revealed in the adjacent evaluation trench T9. However, this turned out to be part of a large modern pit (similar to the large pit F4 revealed at evaluation stage). It is not surprising to see the fringes of the site used for the digging of large pits. The desk-based assessment (CAT Report 772) identified gravel pits at the southern end of this site. The large pits identified here may be the northern edge of an area of gravel pits which were later used for rubbish disposal.

Two ditches found at evaluation stage align closely with the adjacent eastern site boundary and the plots to the north of the excavation areas (Fig 4). These were F8 in T8, and F6 in T10 (CAT Report 842, 2-4). F8 was dated by post-medieval brick and tile, and F6 was undated, but presumed to be post-medieval because it was parallel to the eastern site boundary, and roughly parallel to ditch F8.

None of these post-medieval ditches are shown on map coverage, which implies they are pre-1881 (see maps in desk-based assessment).

Ditch F43 in the excavated area appears to be a continuation of F8, but contained only prehistoric flints. Without ruling out entirely the possibility that F43 is a prehistoric ditch, it seems much more likely that it was indeed a continuation of F8, and was a post-medieval ditch containing residual prehistoric material.

The main archaeological interest of this site is that it is adjacent to a significant group of cropmarks (Essex HER MEX9725 and MEX9645) containing field boundaries, trackways and groups of ring-ditches (prehistoric burial sites). The limited excavation which had taken place previously on this cropmark complex confirmed that parts of it are Late Iron Age/Roman (an enclosure), and Bronze Age (burial sites: Blake 1960).

The evaluation stage recovered three prehistoric sherds from east-west ditch F17, the latest dating to the Middle Iron Age. However, at excavation stage the same ditch produced a sherd of Roman Samian ware, showing that the prehistoric material (from both evaluation and excavation) is all residual. Ditch F17 looks overwhelmingly likely to belong to the cropmark complex, although not strictly in alignment with adjacent cropmarks as shown on Fig 2 of this report.

Ditch F42 contained five small (some tiny) fragments of prehistoric pottery and a burnt flint. As Stephen Benfield points out, the pottery is difficult to date precisely, but is likely to date to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (c 1000-350 BC). The burnt flint would fit well into that date bracket. A curious feature of F42 is that it had a row of post-holes outside its right (eastern) side (F21-26). Although none contained any dating evidence, it seems overwhelmingly likely that these are contemporary with ditch F42. They are regularly-spaced, and may represent a fence line.

There are obvious reasons for thinking the undated ditch F10 forms the other side of a prehistoric trackway. It resembles F42, in that it has a row of post-holes down its outer (western) side. However, the fact that the two ditches diverge and that the ditch was not seen in the expected position in T7 may mean they are not a trackway.

Two small pits between ditches F10 and F42 contained tiny fragments of prehistoric pottery. Larger groups of pottery might indicate prehistoric occupation nearby, but these quantities (total of 5 grammes) are really too small. Small pit F20 contained a slightly larger group of prehistoric pottery (6 sherds, 10g). Adjacent pits F18-19 are undated.

In summary, the eight residual flints from this project (three from evaluation and five from excavation) are sufficient to indicate some measure of Mesolithic or Neolithic activity which predates the creation of the cropmark ditches. Pottery dating indicates that the field ditches were first laid out in the Iron Age. The largest feature is the Roman field ditch, which may indicate a strong recutting of or perhaps a realignment of the earlier field system.

How far can the evidence from this excavation be extrapolated into the wider cropmark system, as shown on Fig 2? The earliest use of the landscape would appear to be for burial, as indicated by the Bronze Age ring-ditch excavated (1960) by Bryan Blake of Colchester Museum (site 13). The field ditches appear to have been laid in the Iron Age (dating from current site) with the Roman ditch showing a recut or realignment of the field system. Bryan Blake excavated a Late Iron Age or early Roman enclosure (site 11). This may be the start of occupation in this area, a supposition not contradicted by any of the excavated evidence from Hallfields. After the time of the Roman field ditch, there is no sign of any activity on this site in the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Hills Building Group for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, and the fieldwork was carried out by BH, Emma Holloway and Emma Sanford. Site plans by are by Mark Baister, and the sections are by Emma Holloway. The project was monitored for CBC by Dr Jess Tipper.

10 References

- CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>
- | | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
| Blake, Brian | 1960 | 'Excavation of a Bronze Age barrow at Dedham, Essex', <i>Trans Essex Archaeological Society</i> , vol 25 , part III, 344-357. |
| CAR 10 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-86</i> , by Robin P Symonds, and Sue Wade |
| CAT | 2015 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological excavation, trial trench, and watching brief: land adjacent to Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex</i> |
| CAT Report 772 | 2014 | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Hallfields farm, Dedham, Essex</i> , by Howard Brooks, May 2014. |
| CAT Report 842 | 2015 | <i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex. May 2015</i> . Report prepared by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks on behalf of Hills Building Group. June 2015 |
| CBC | 2015 | <i>Brief for archaeological excavation: land at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Colchester, CO7 6AE</i> . |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</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 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 |
| English Heritage | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE) |
| Stace, C | 2010 | <i>New Flora of the British Isles</i> . 3 rd edition. Cambridge University Press |
| Webster, P | 1996 | <i>Roman samian pottery in Britain, practical handbook in archaeology</i> 13 |

11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from circa AD 410 to AD 1066
BA	Bronze Age (2,000 - 700 BC)
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
EIA	Early Iron Age (<i>circa</i> 700-400 BC)
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
IA	Iron Age (<i>circa</i> 700 BC - AD 43)
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
LBA	Late Bronze Age (1,000- 700 BC)
LIA	Late Iron Age (100 BC - AD 43)
modern	period from <i>c</i> AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to <i>c</i> AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g. a Roman coin in a modern pit
ring-ditch	burial site - usually a ditch around a central burial, often under a mound which has usually been flattened by ploughing.
Roman	period from AD 43 to <i>circa</i> AD 410/430
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds

1 museum box containing all finds (pottery, flints).

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing: This report (CAT Report 848)
Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, Trench record sheet)
CBC Brief and CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD
Attendance register: Benchmark data: Risk assessment

13 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 2015.48).

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Distribution list:

Hills Building Group
Dr Jess Tipper, CBCAA
EHER



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

checked by: P Crummy

date: 10/11/2015

revision 1: 24/11/15

Following pages:

Figures

EHER summary sheet

Appendix 1: CAT WSI

Appendix 2: OASIS summary

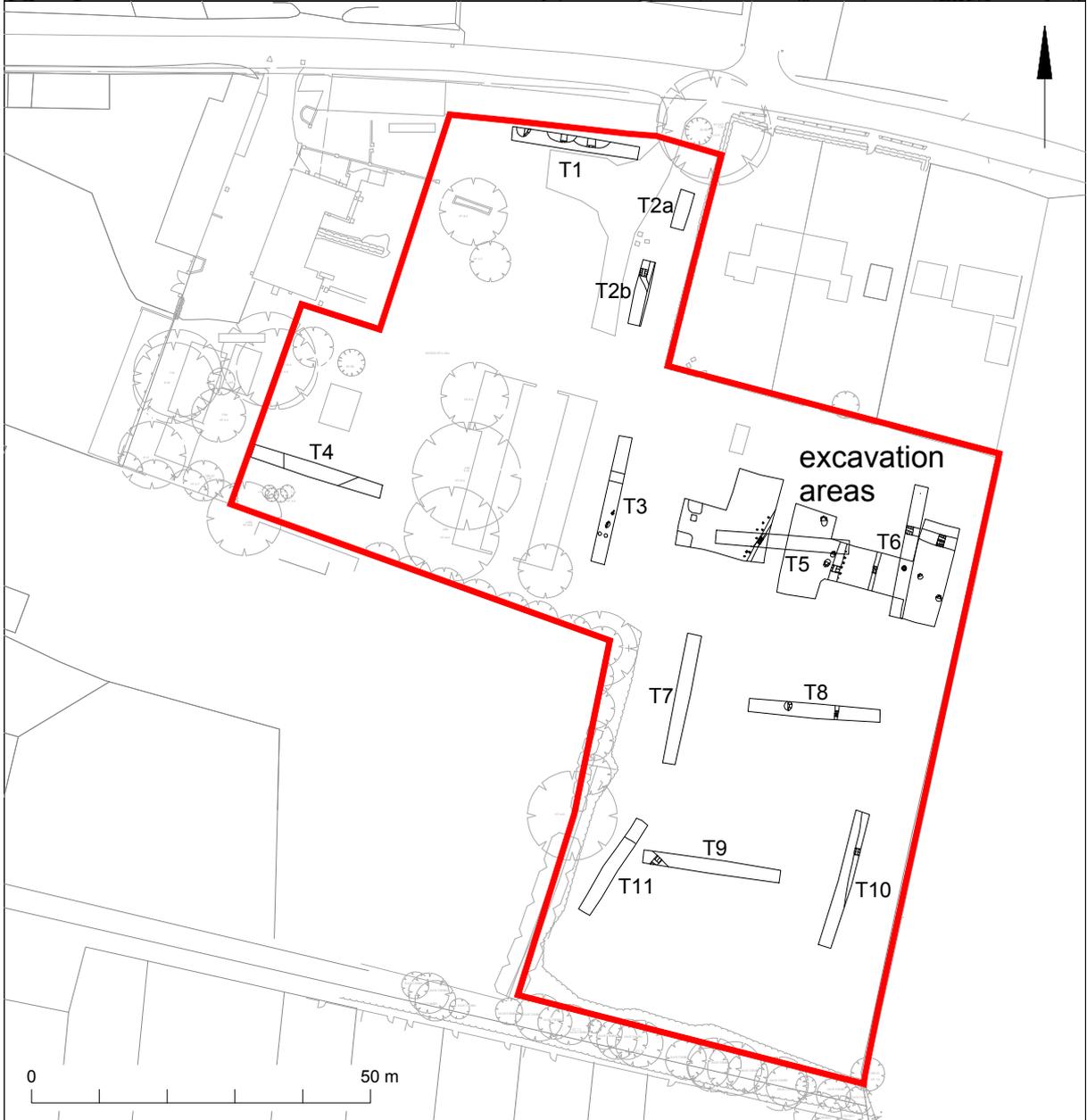
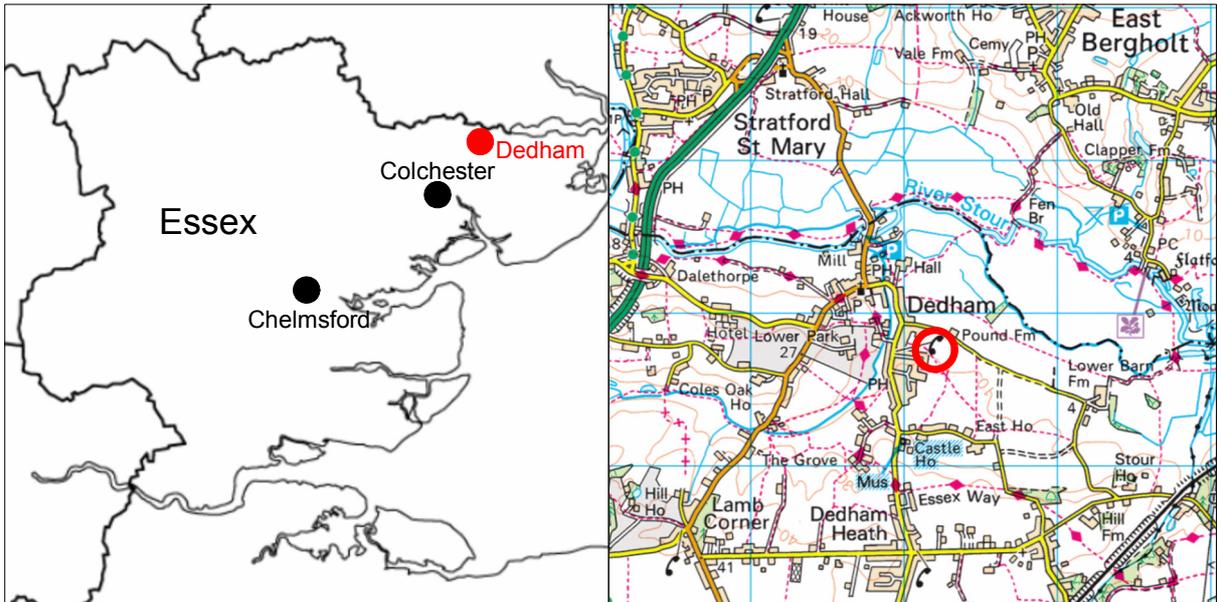


Fig 1 Site location.

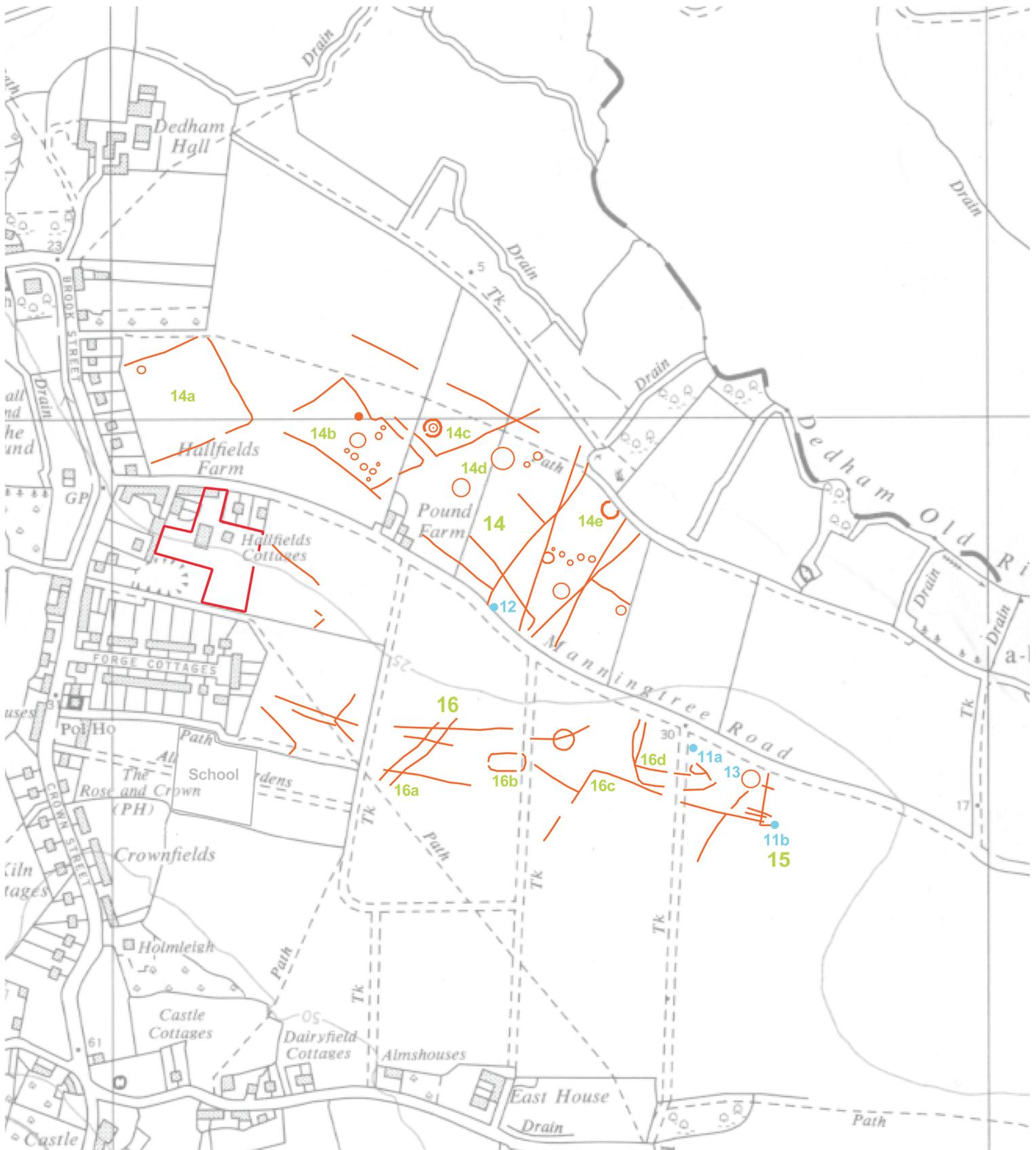


Fig 2 Excavations (11-13) and cropmark sites (14-16).

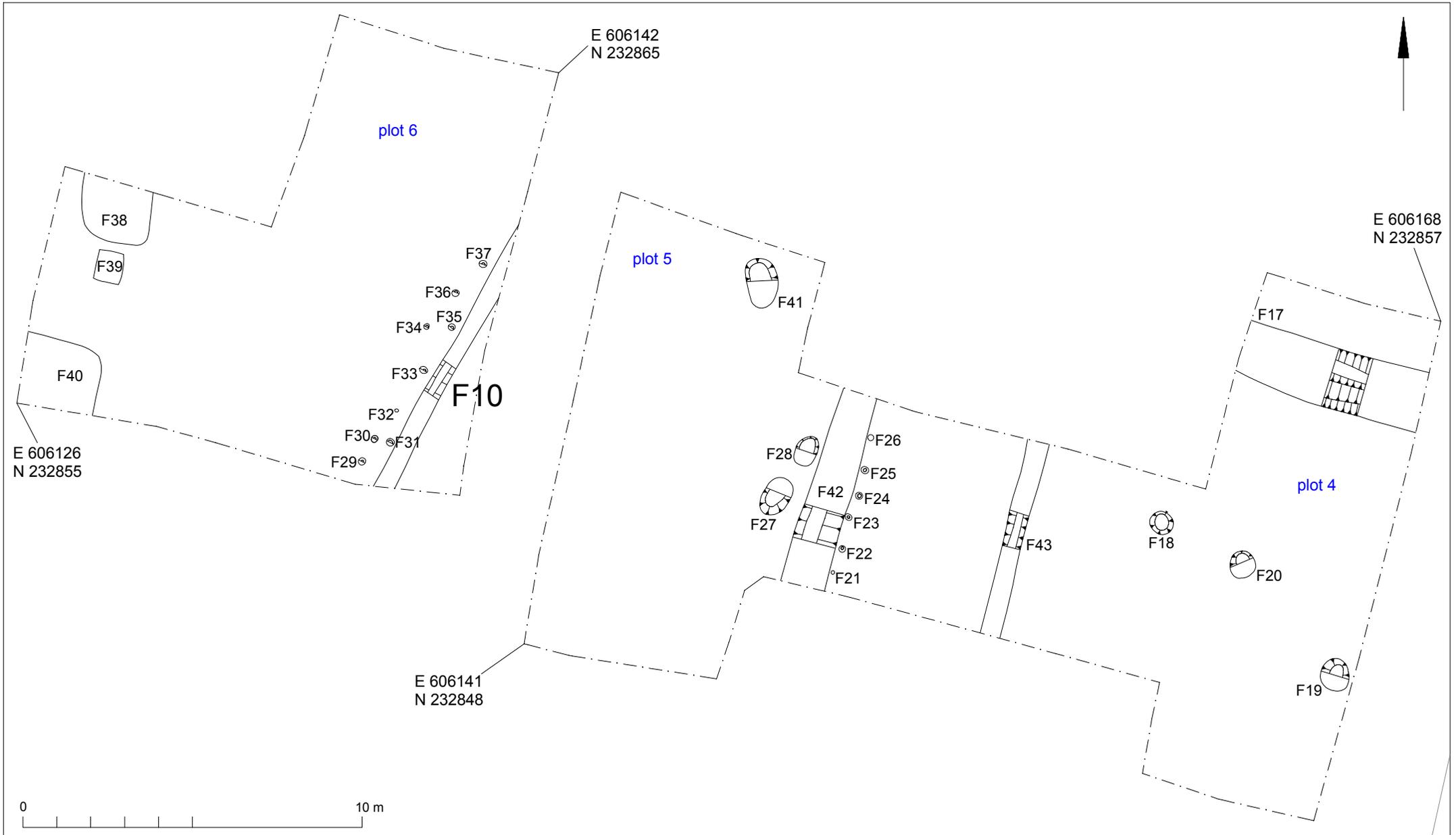
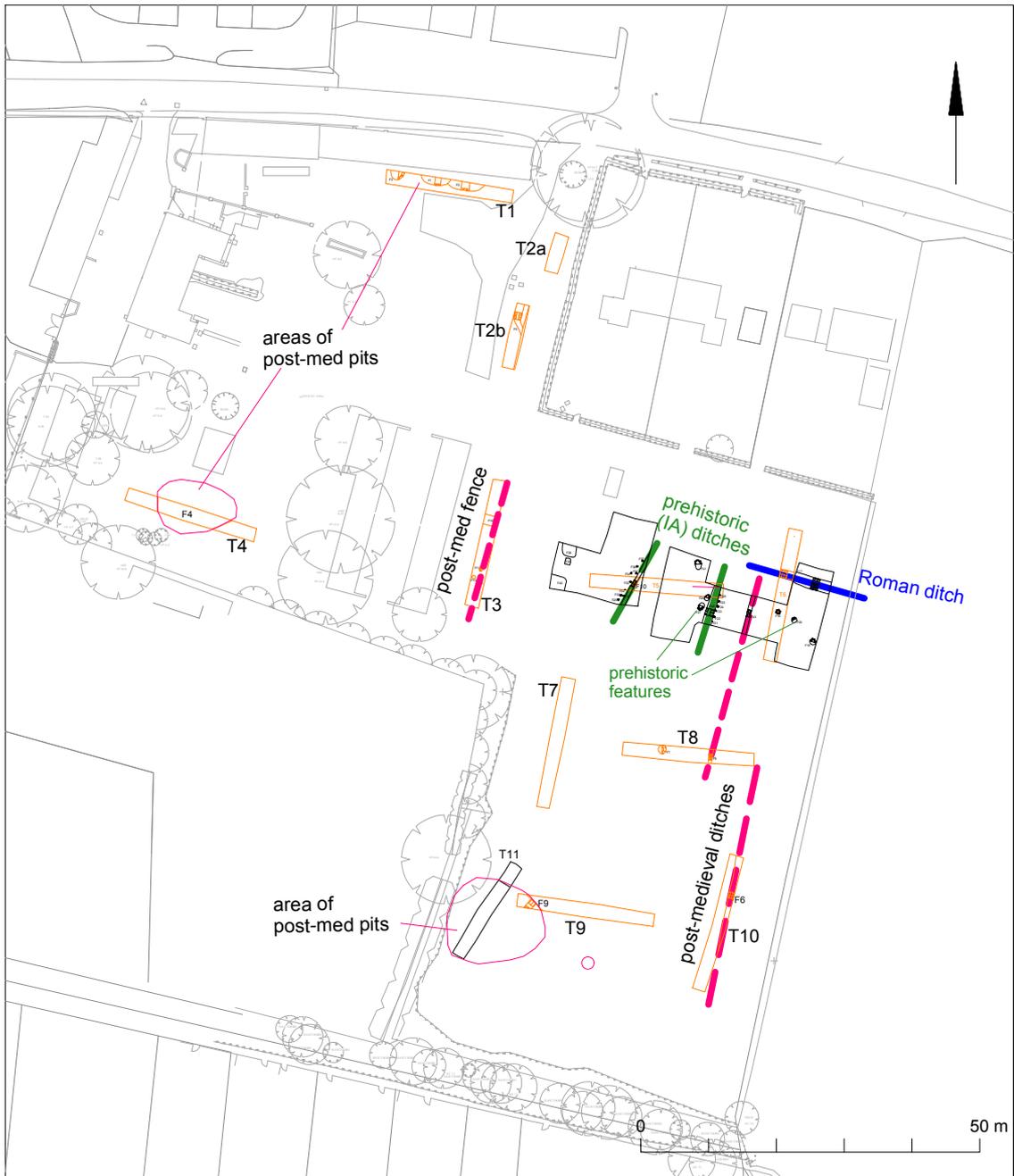


Fig 3 Excavated areas (Plots 4, 5, 6).



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Fig 4 Site interpretation

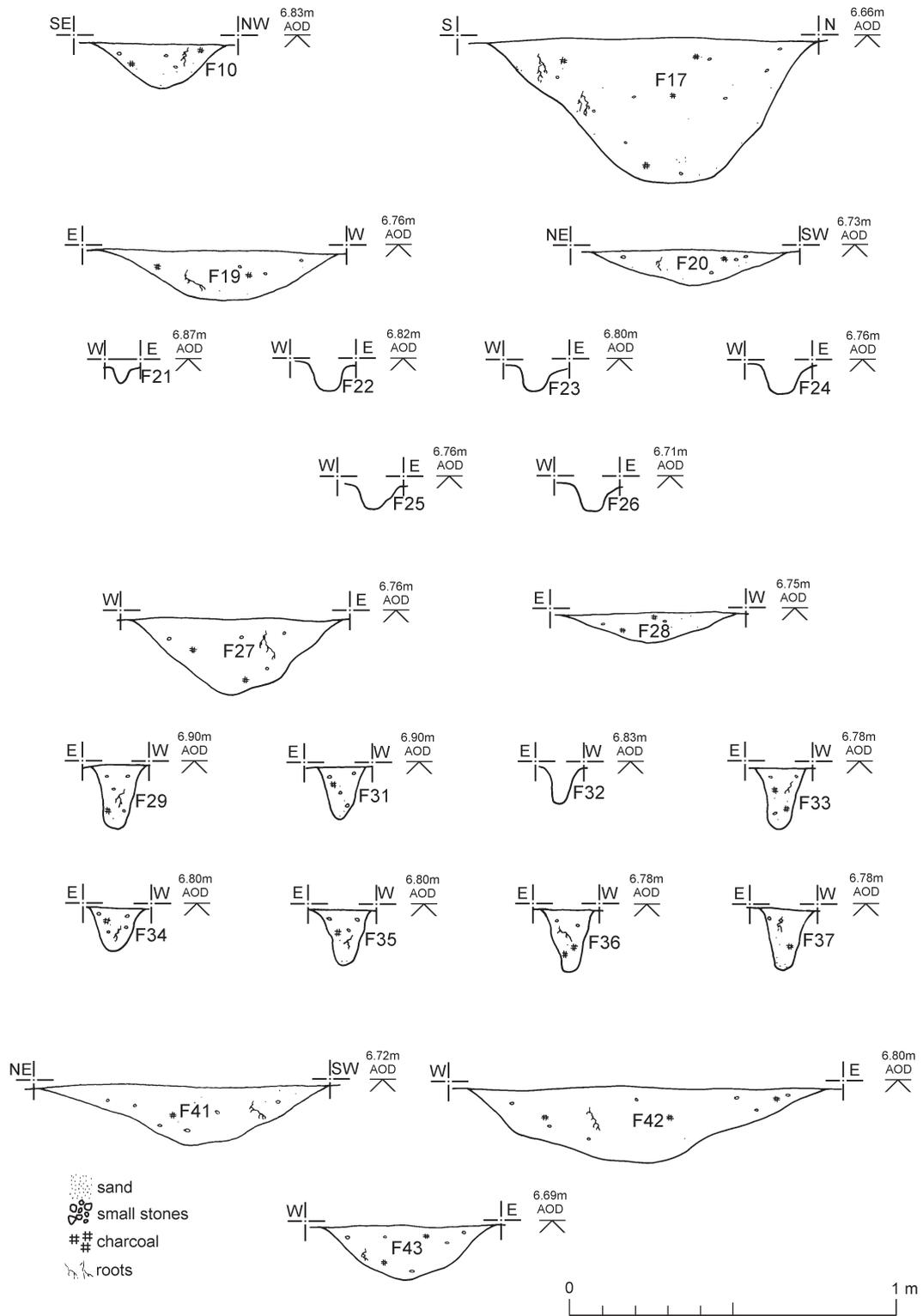


Fig 5 Sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record

Summary sheet

Address: Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, CO7 6AE	
Parish: Dedham	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TM 0612 3286	Site code: CAT project code – 15/06b
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: June 2015	Size of area investigated: 370m2
Location of curating museum: Colchester: accession code : 2015.48	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER number: MEX9725, MEX9645
Final report: CAT Report 848	
Periods represented: Iron Age, Roman, post-medieval	
Summary of fieldwork results: <p>This site is on the eastern edge of the built-up area of Dedham, whose historic core lies approximately 400m to the NW. The site is an 'L' shaped area of open ground, recently used as paddocks and containing buildings for livestock. A significant area of cropmarks lies to the north and east of this site (ESSEX HER MEX9725 and MEX9645). Although mostly unexcavated, these include field systems and burial mounds. Limited excavation in 1960 showed that the cropmark complex includes a Late Iron Age / Roman enclosure, and a Bronze Age burial site.</p> <p>An evaluation in May 2015 identified eighteen archaeological features. These included an Iron Age ditch which may be part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east of this site.</p> <p>The excavation reported here is a follow-up to the evaluation. It involved the stripping of two house plots (total area, 370m2), with the aim of further exploring the prehistoric features ditches revealed by the evaluation. Twenty-nine archaeological features were excavated, including three sectioned at evaluation stage. They consisted of prehistoric ditches, pits and post-holes, a Roman ditch and a large post-medieval / modern pit probably associated with gravel extraction. A single trench (T11) to intercept a possible ring-ditch showed that it was a modern pit.</p> <p>Monitoring of the digging of footings trenches for three house plots on the southern edge of the site revealed four undated pits (probably post-medieval)..</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 842	
Keywords: Modern	Significance: **/*
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: November 2015

Appendix 1

(following pages)

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological excavation, trial trench and watching brief at land adjacent to Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Colchester, Essex

NGR: TM 0614 3285 (centre)

Planning reference: 146334

Client: Hills Residential Ltd

Agent: ADP Ltd

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2015.48

UAD Event number: EVT4256

CAT Project code: 15/06b

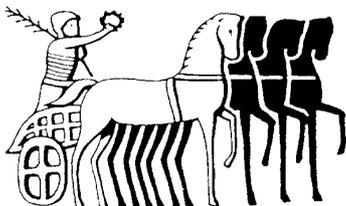
OASIS project Id: colchest3-214216

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 16.06.2015

Revision 1



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 07436 273 304
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies on the south side of Manningtree Road, Dedham CO7 6AE, 100m east of its junction with Brook Street. The site is centred on NGR TM 0614 3285. The site is an 'L' shaped area of open ground, currently a small holding and recently paddocks and buildings for livestock.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of farm outbuildings and the erection of nine affordable homes, eight market homes and associated works and access/parking amendments.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on CAT Reports **772** and **852**, Colchester UAD and Essex HER:

Approximately 400m to the NW of the site lies the medieval town of Dedham (and the “-ham” name suggests it has Anglo-Saxon origins). The medieval town of Dedham rose to prominence with the cloth trade, specialising in bay and say cloth. It contains a wealth of 14th century and later buildings and retains its medieval street pattern and morphology. However, the proposed development will have no effect on the medieval town because it is too far away. Indeed, map evidence shows that Manningtree Road and the southern part of Brook Street were not built up until the late 18th or 19th century.

To the east of Dedham is an important ‘cropmark’ landscape. Most of the cropmarks are unexcavated and undated, but where excavation has taken place, Bronze Age (2,500-700 BC) and early Roman (1st century AD) material has come to light. The nearest significant cropmark sites (indicating the presence of enclosures and ring-ditches and therefore a Bronze Age barrow cemetery) are approximately 150m - 200m from the Application Site. These crop marks are recorded in the National mapping programme (Essex HER: MEX9725 and MEX9645).

In May 2015 CAT undertook a scheme of trial-trenching across the site (CAT Report **842**, UAD Event no. EVT4251). Ten trenches (1.8m wide, and total length, 200m) positioned across the area of the proposed development identified eighteen archaeological features. These were a Middle Iron Age ditch, ten post-medieval pits and a ditch, and seven undated features (of which two may be prehistoric, and five may be post-medieval). One of the post-medieval ditches aligns with current property boundaries running south of Manningtree Road. This, along with a ditch in an adjacent trench, may be part of a farm trackway grubbed out before the 1870s (nothing shows here on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey).

The Middle Iron Age ditch may be part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east of this site. There is one plotted cropmark line which heads towards the eastern site boundary, but it would need to change direction to be on the same alignment as the ditch excavated at Hallfields. Two other (undated) features may be prehistoric, and part of the cropmark complex.

Planning Background

A planning application was originally submitted to Colchester Borough Council in December 2011 proposing to renovate a farm office/workshop into a single residential dwelling (planning reference 112426). In May 2013 this was amended to request the replacement of the farm office/workshop instead of renovation. Permission was granted, but in November 2014 a third application was presented requesting the abovementioned proposed work (planning reference 146334).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, a full archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and states:

"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work involves three parts:

- An excavation within the proposed location of dwellings 4, 5 and 6 equating to an area approximately 377m².
- An additional trial-trench to be located NE-SW across plot 16 to attempt to establish the date and form of the ditch uncovered in the western end of trench 9.
- In the eastern part of the development site CAT will undertake a Watching Brief of groundworks undertaken by the contractor (including the removal of the foundations of the previous farm buildings) in order to ensure no damage occurs to any heritage assets.

The mechanical stripping will involve using a flat-edged ditching bucket whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Land at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree, Dedham - CBC 2015). Once the strip of the trial-trench is complete a meeting will be held on site with CBCAA, the developer and CAT to discuss if any further work is needed. During any of the abovementioned stages should any unexpected remains be encountered the CBCAO will be notified immediately and could require amendments to the brief.

It is anticipated that this work will comprise the complete excavation and recovery of any burials on the site and standard sample excavation of all other features.

Specific research aims are:

- Follow requirements as stated in section 3 of the Brief

- Identify and record the date, form and purpose of archaeological deposits within the application area which would otherwise be removed or damaged by the new build footprints and associated infrastructure.
- Preserve by record the impact of past land uses, and the presence of any masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

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)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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.

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

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prior to start of work, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to CBCAA. The WSI will describe in appropriate detail how the *Brief* from CBCAA will be implemented in fieldwork, post-excavation, reporting and publication stages.

The WSI shall be submitted to CBCAA, and fieldwork will not commence prior to approval of WSI from CBCAA.

The WSI will include a location plan of the development site showing area of proposed excavation or trench layout.

OASIS Record

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 CBCAA and EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows – one archaeologist to continually monitor the stripping with additional site assistants for digging and recording. This will initially be one assistant dependant on the quantity of archaeology exposed.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Excavation and evaluation methodology

The evaluation and excavation will involve use of a mechanical excavator under constant archaeological supervision equipped with a toothless bucket used to progressively strip the topsoil down to the uppermost surviving level of archaeological significance. Horizontal archaeological deposits will not be removed or sampled by machine. All further investigation will be carried out by hand to an extent necessary to achieve the aims set out in this WSI.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which will be done with a toothless bucket.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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

Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, or ovens will be fully defined and recorded.

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

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma 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.

If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Should the trial-trench yield significant archaeology the CBCAO will be notified and could request changes to the brief or a new brief issued requesting further work.

Watching brief methodology

For the watching brief there will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which will be done with a toothless bucket.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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

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

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma 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.

If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Site surveying

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 and 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 micromorphical 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 (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

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

Human remains

Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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 license to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed.

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

Allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains (inhumations), and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

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.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

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

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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.

End of Fieldwork, and Report

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

An appropriate report will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by CBCAA.

Final report will normally be submitted to CBCAA as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site and excavated area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench / excavated area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Detailed archaeologists results including list of sites resulting from an EHER/UAD search, and historic maps to show changes and development of site, with a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- As Appendices, the OASIS entry and the WSI.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and attached as Appendix to the site report, which will be emailed as PDF 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

Archive Deposition

A site archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards given in CM 2008, ClfA 2014b, and MoRPHE (EH 2006).

The requirements for archive storage shall 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.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the UAD/HER. AutoCAD files will also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo.

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 772	2014	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Hallfields Farm, Dedham Essex.</i> Unpublished CAT archive report, by H Brooks (May 2014)
CAT Report 842	2015	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex, May 2015</i> Unpublished CAT archive report, by B Holloway and H Brooks (June 2014)
CBCAA	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Land at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree, Dedham</i> by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M. R	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL, 20
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)

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

Emma Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, C02 2GZ

tel: 07436 273 304:
email: eh@catuk.org

Appendix 2

(following pages)

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM:

England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-214216

Project details

Project name	Excavation at Hallfields Farm, Dedham, Essex
Short description of the project	This site is on the eastern edge of the built-up area of Dedham, whose historic core lies approximately 400m to the NW. The site is an 'L' shaped area of open ground, recently used as paddocks and containing buildings for livestock. A significant area of cropmarks lies to the north and east of this site (ESSEX HER MEX9725 and MEX9645). Although mostly unexcavated, these include field systems and burial mounds. Limited excavation in 1960 showed that the cropmark complex includes a Late Iron Age / Roman enclosure, and a Bronze Age burial site. An evaluation in May 2015 identified eighteen archaeological features. These included an Iron Age ditch which may be part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east of this site. The excavation reported here is a follow-up to the evaluation. It involved the stripping of two house plots (total area, 370m ²), with the aim of further exploring the prehistoric features ditches revealed by the evaluation. Twenty-nine archaeological features were excavated, including three sectioned at evaluation stage. They consisted of prehistoric ditches, pits and post-holes, a Roman ditch and a large post-medieval / modern pit probably associated with gravel extraction. A single trench (T11) to intercept a possible ring-ditch showed that it was a modern pit. Monitoring of the digging of footings trenches for three house plots on the southern edge of the site revealed four undated pits (probably post-medieval).
Project dates	Start: 16-06-2015 End: 22-06-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/06b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	EVT4256 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2015.48 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age

Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Open-area excavation","Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER DEDHAM Land adjacent to Hallfields Farm, Mannintree Road, Dedham, Essex
Postcode	CO7 6AE
Study area	377 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 0614 3285 51.955338282 1.00038537767 51 57 19 N 001 00 01 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project director/manager	Ben Holloway
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	2015.48
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	2015.48
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	2015.48
Paper Media	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Report","Survey "

available

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological excavation and monitoring at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AE. June - September 2015.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Holloway, B, and Brooks, H
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 848
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OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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