

Archaeological evaluation at Kirkmead, Clacton Road, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9DN

March 2016



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on behalf of Colin Crawley, Chelsteen Homes

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings at Kirkmead, Clacton Road, Weeley. Dispersed settlement is recorded along Clacton Road with 17th- and 19th-century listed buildings and a possible deserted medieval village with a church/hall complex at Weeley Hall. Three of the trial-trenches revealed no significant archaeology. The remaining two trenches contained ditches, pits, postholes and natural features. Most were undated but are probably post-medieval/modern and agricultural in origin.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological investigation by trial-trenching at Kirkmead, Clacton Road, Weeley, Essex which was carried out on 22nd March 2016. The work was commissioned by Colin Crawley of Chelsteen Homes in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Adrian Gascoyne advised that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Adrian Gascoyne (ECCPS 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (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 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.

The Tendring Historic Environment Characterisation project identified that the area of the proposed development has good potential for below ground archaeological remains. This includes a possible deserted medieval village with church/hall complex identified at Weeley Hall (EHER 3028). Two listed buildings of 17th- and 19th-century date are located to the south of the site showing dispersed settlement along the Clacton Road.

Gravels on the northern side of the river have also produced Pleistocene and Palaeolithic remains within surface geology (EHER 3086).

4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Five trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. Three layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, c 200-300mm thick) sealed a thin layer of subsoil (L2, c 80-100mm thick), which sealed natural silty-clay (L3).

Trench 1 (T1), 30m long by 1.8m wide

No archaeological features or finds were identified.



Photograph 1 T1, looking E



Photograph 2 T2, looking N

Trench 2 (T2), 40m long by 1.8m wide

No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Trench 3 (T3), 30m long by 1.8m wide

No archaeological features or finds were identified.



Photograph 3 T3, looking W



Photograph 4 T4, looking N

Trench 4 (T4), 40m long by 1.8m wide

Two natural features were identified (F9 and F13) along with a shallow ditch (F12), pit (F10) and posthole (F11). All of the features are undated but are thought to be fairly modern and agricultural in nature.

Trench 5 (T5), 30m long by 1.8m wide

Two natural features were identified (F3 and F8) along with a pit (F2), six postholes (F1, F4, F5, F6, F7, F16) and two ditches (F14 cut by F15). The features are largely

undated (see Section 6) but thought to be post-medieval/modern and agricultural in nature.



Photograph 5 T5, looking E



Photograph 6 F1, F2, F4, F5, looking W



Photograph 7 F6, F7, F14, F15, F16, looking NE

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were recorded from T1-T4.

Finds from T5

Feature no.	Finds no.	Description	Qt	Wt (g)
F1	2	Animal bone, burnt	5	5g
		Coke	1	3g
F2	1	Tile, 15mm thick, post-medieval	2	40g
		Oyster shell	1	9g
F3	3	Roman greyware, fabric GX, very abraded	1	2g
F14	4	Brick/tile, tiny fragment	1	1g
F15	5	Roman greyware, fabric GX, very abraded	1	<1g

The two small fragments of Roman greyware pottery are very abraded and are likely to have been churned around in the ploughsoil for a considerable period of time. They are both likely to be much older than the features they were recorded in.

6 Discussion

No significant archaeological horizons were identified in three of the trial-trenches (T1-T3) located in the northwest half of the development site. The remaining two trenches (T4-T5) contained three ditches, two pits, seven postholes and four natural features. The ditches, pits and postholes were largely undated but are probably post-medieval/modern and agricultural in origin.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Colin Crawley of Chelsteen Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS 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	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching at Kirkmead, Clacton Road, Weeley, Essex, CO19 9DN</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 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
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
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching at Kirkmead, Clacton Road, Weeley</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 931)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2016.2

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Distribution list:

Colin Crawley, Chelsteen Homes
Adrian Gascoyne, Essex County Council Place Services
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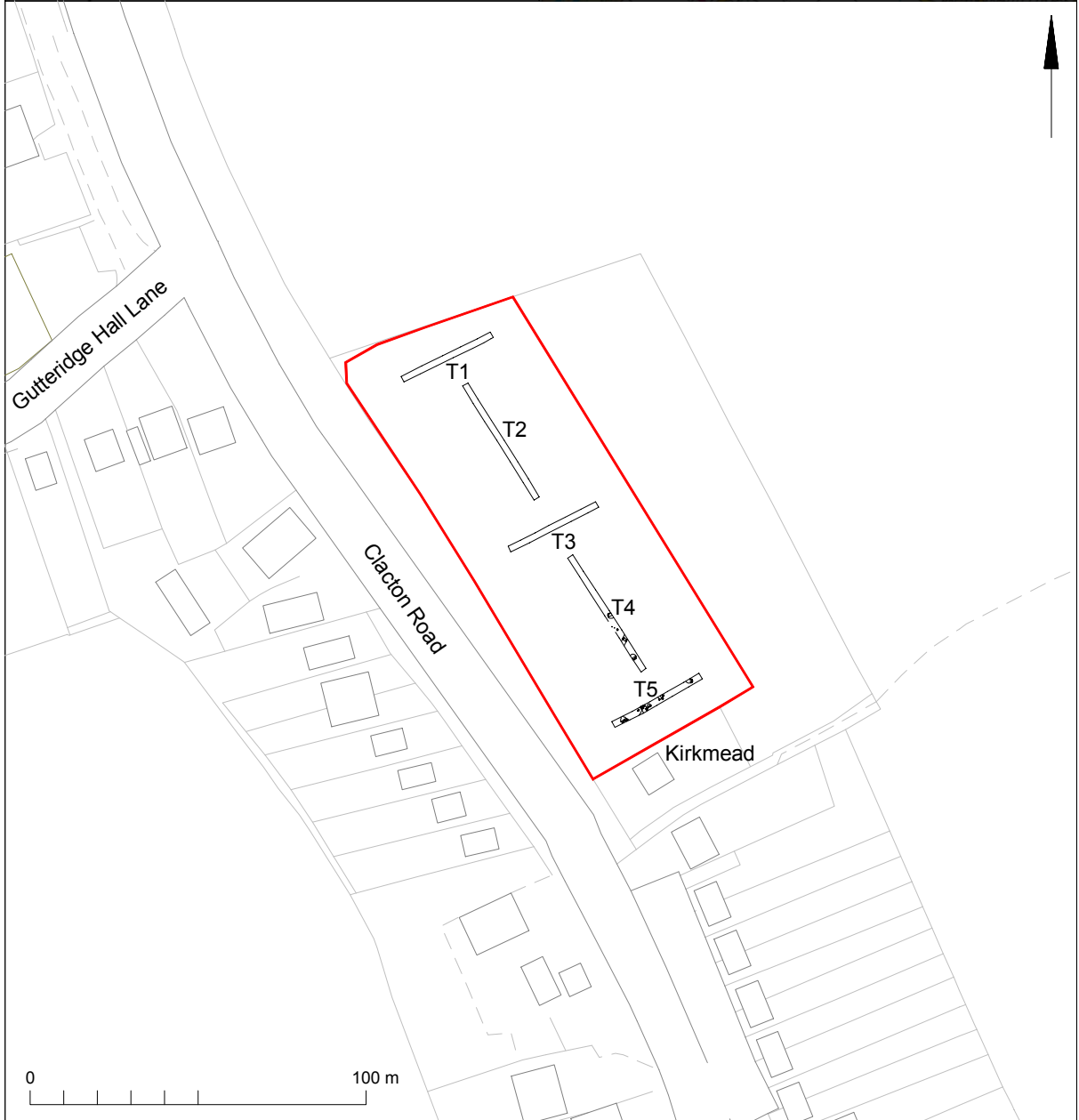
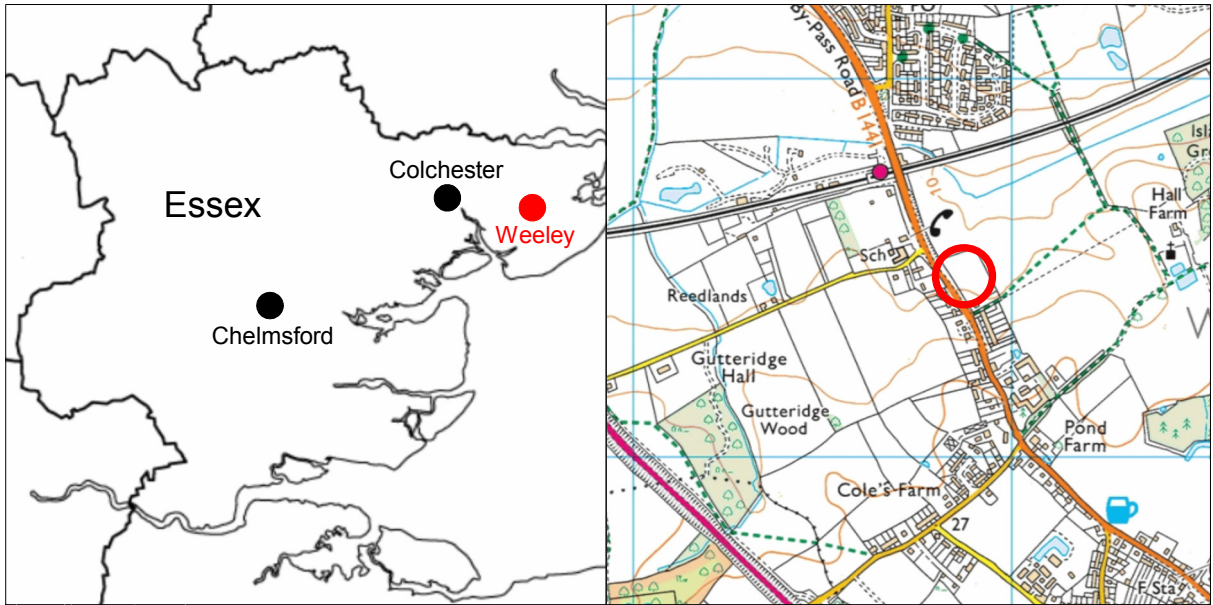


Fig 1 Site location.

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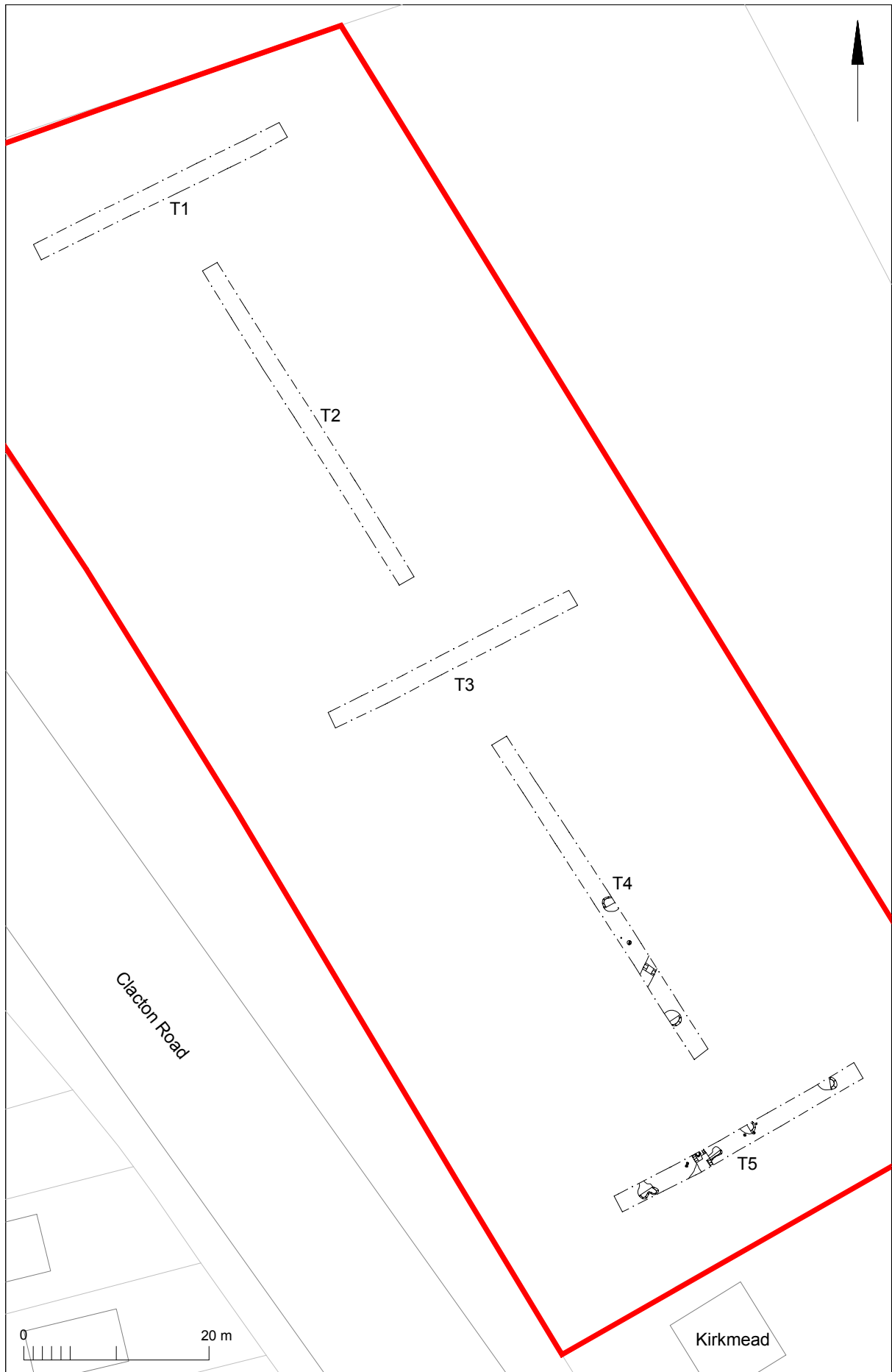


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

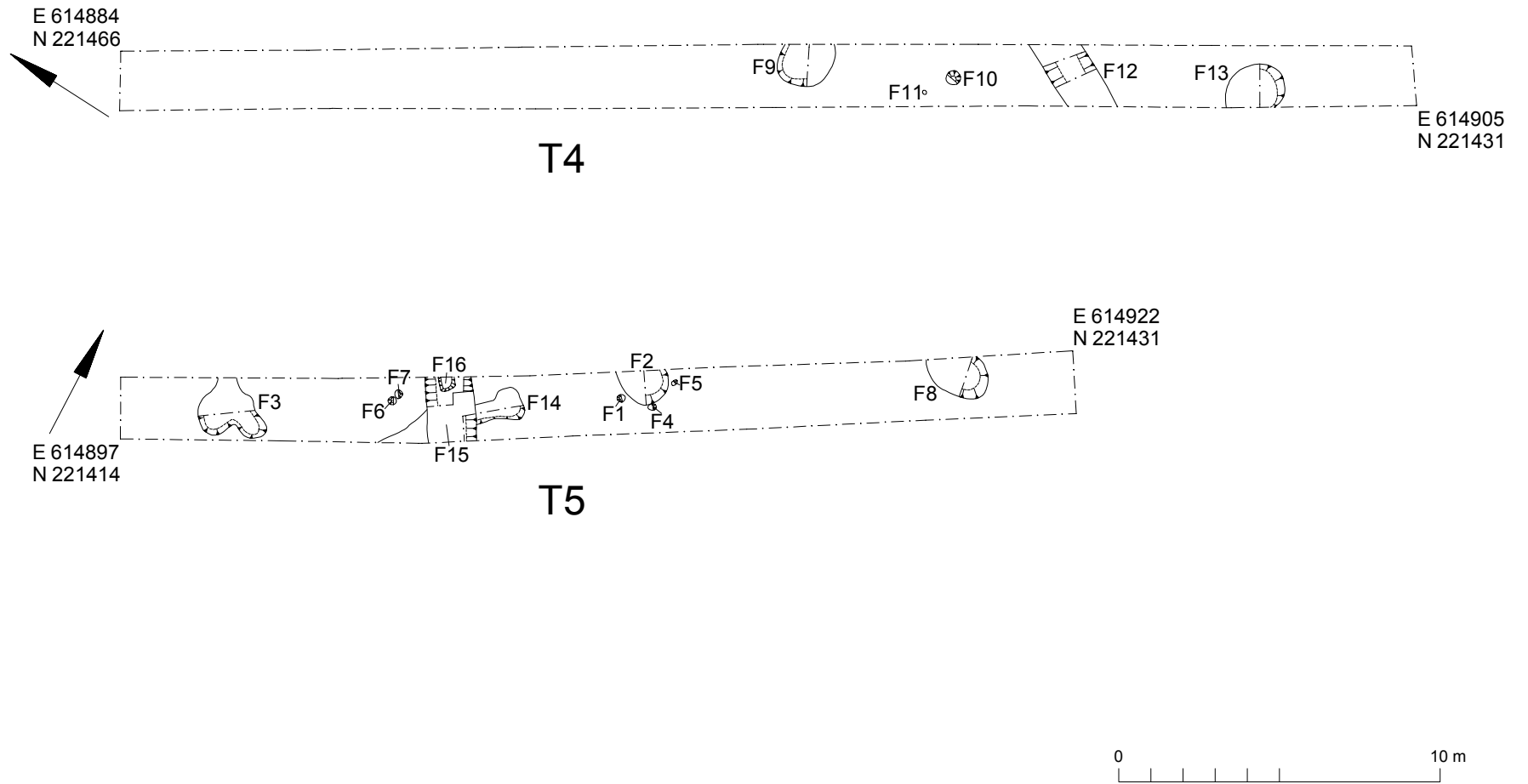


Fig 3 T4-5: Detailed trench plans.

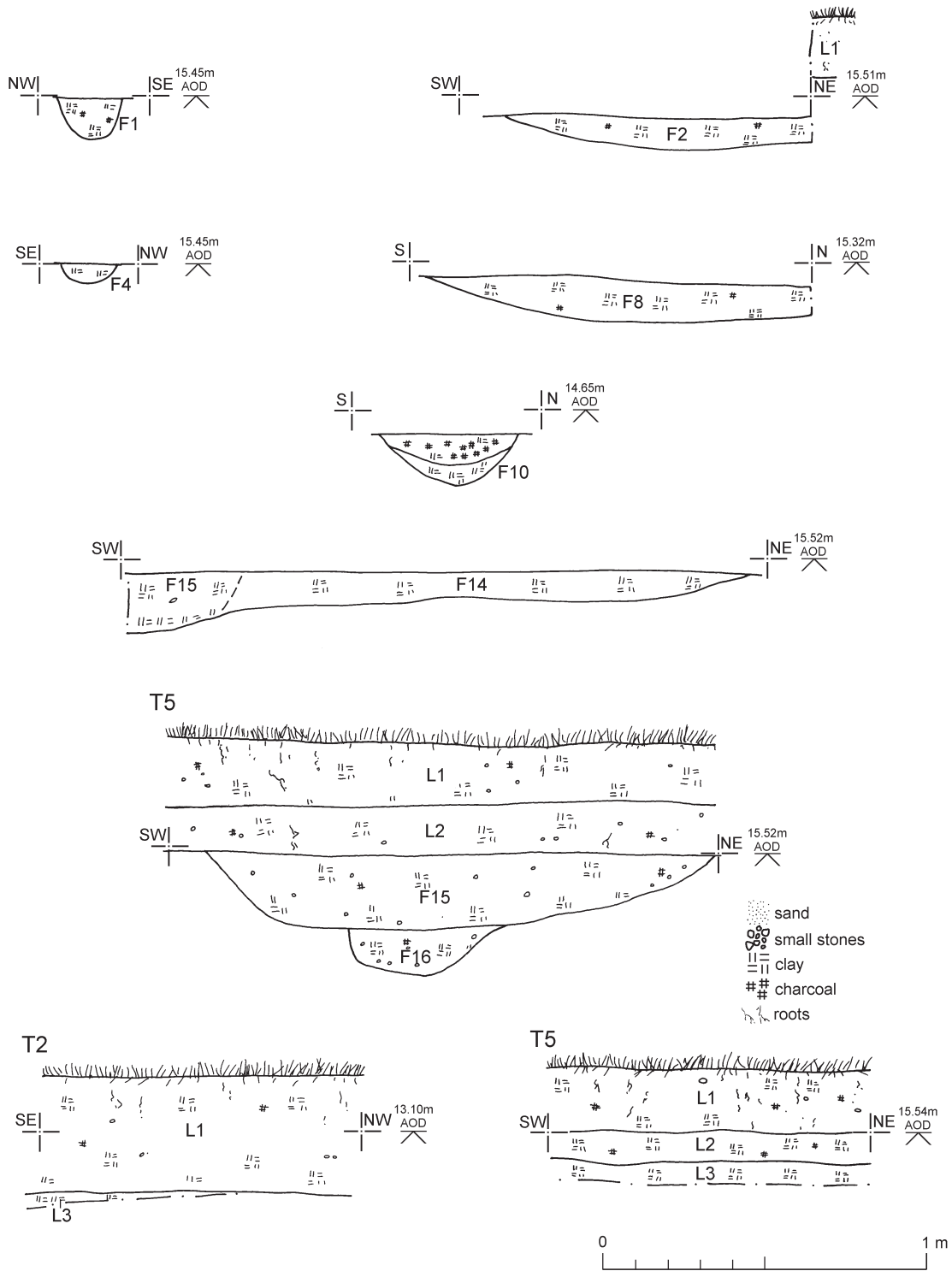


Fig 4 Feature sections (F1-2, F4, F8, F10 and F14-F16) and representative trench sections (T2, T5).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Kirkmead, Clacton Road, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9DN	
Parish: Weeley	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 14893 21473 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 15/11h ECC project code: WEKM15 OASIS project ID: colchest3-232127
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 22nd March 2016	Size of area investigated: Five trenches totalling 170m linear at 1.8m wide (or 306m ²)
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum accession code COLEM: 2016.2	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: EHER 3028, 3086
Final report: CAT Report 931	
Periods represented: post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings at Kirkmead, Clacton Road, Weeley. Dispersed settlement is recorded along Clacton Road with 17th- and 19th-century listed buildings and a possible deserted medieval village with a church/hall complex at Weeley Hall. Three of the trial-trenches revealed no significant archaeology. The remaining two trenches contained ditches, pits, postholes and natural features. Most were undated but are probably post-medieval/modern and agricultural in origin.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2016