

# Archaeological evaluation at Westrope Haulage Yard, Sturmer Road, Birdbrook, Essex, CO9 4BB

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at Westrope Haulage Yard, Sturmer Road, Birdbrook, Essex in advance of the construction of new offices/light industrial units. Located close to a Roman cemetery, no significant archaeological horizons were exposed in three of the four trenches. The fourth trench contained the partial remains of a Roman clay-lined hearth/oven and a Roman pit. Two Mesolithic flint microliths were also found residually in a Roman feature.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Westrope Haulage Yard, Sturmer Road, Birdbrook, Essex which was carried out on 18th-19th October 2016. The work was commissioned by Jill Bell, SBW Planning on behalf of Mason Corp Properties, in advance of the construction of new offices/light industrial units as part of the Phase 2 development work, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor 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 Trench evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

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 site lies within an area of considerable archaeological potential. A Roman cemetery (EHER 6964) was partially excavated in the 1860s immediately to the east, and the discovery of human remains (EHER 6963) to the south (at the road junction) in 1863 would suggest that the cemetery originally covered a large area, including the area of the proposed development. The skeletons are reported to have been '7 feet deep' with two urns and were positioned 'arm in arm, each clasping an urn, the right leg of one laid across the left leg of the other, the lower urn being placed between their hips'. Several other urns were discovered as well as further skeletons without urns. To the north of the site there are antiquarian reports of a 'Roman camp', which included a flint rubble wall and tower (EHER 6958-62). Whilst there are no above-ground remains of these extant, watching briefs undertaken during the work associated with the extension of the Abberton reservoir at the adjacent waterworks and in Suffolk have recorded numerous finds of Roman pottery and features indicative of an extensive settlement, as well as prehistoric worked flints and medieval and post-medieval finds. In addition a former channel of the River Stour, complete with important palaeoenvironmental remains, has also been recorded from the adjacent site and other palaeochannel and/or waterlogged deposits may exist within the development area.

During the archaeological evaluation for the Phase 1 redevelopment, five trenches were excavated in the areas of the proposed new buildings and access (CAT Report 698). Find spots of Roman pottery and prehistoric worked flints were recovered from the spoil of the trenches within the former agricultural field. However, no evidence of Roman activity or any archaeological activity was identified in the trial-trenches from within the former haulage yard and former allotment area. The trenches revealed that much of the site was composed of built up modern layers relating to the recent land-use and industrial history of the site. The site had a previous industrial history and has been used as a haulage yard for the last 50+ years.

#### 4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Four trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. Trench T3 could not be excavated as a building was still in existence on the site of the trench. All of the trenches were dug by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.

##### Trench 1 (T1) – 30m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T1 was excavated through modern hardstanding (L1, c 320mm thick) onto a layer of modern build-up (L2, c 390mm thick, dark grey/brown silt), which sealed a dark grey silty subsoil (L3, c 240mm thick). Natural silty-sands with gravels (L4) were identified beneath L3. Two modern foundations were recorded but no significant archaeological horizons were exposed.



Photograph 1 T1, looking N



Photograph 2 T2, looking W

##### Trench 2 (T2) – 30m long by 1.8m wide

Trench T2 was excavated through modern hardstanding (L1, c 350-420mm thick) onto a dark grey silty subsoil (L3, c 300-390mm thick). Natural silty-sands with gravels (L4) were identified beneath L3. A modern service was recorded at the far southeast end of the trench.

A small section of a Roman hearth or oven (F1) was located to the southeast. Unfortunately only part of one edge was exposed within the trench and the size, shape and form of the feature is uncertain. The excavated area measured approximately

1.1m by 0.6m wide and 0.48m deep, and appears to have had a broadly bowl-shaped cross-section although this flattens out on the western side. The remains of a rake-out pit may exist on that western side as a shallow patch of mixed black, red-brown and mid-grey sandy silt (see Fig 3), but this is a very tentative interpretation.

The hearth/oven had been clay-lined and the inner lining heat-affected (burnt pink). The initial layer of clay-lining encompassed the bowl-like cut of the feature. At a later date, a second flat layer of clay had been added to the base of the hearth/oven. The heat-affected clay-lining does it indicate a very high temperature was used during firing/baking.

The only contemporary find from the oven was a fragment of Roman brick which had also been heat-affected. Found at the threshold of the clay-lined pit and possible rake-pit, this may have formed part of the structure of the hearth/oven. If so, does the brick-lining continue into the baulk perhaps indicating the existence of a larger structure beyond?

A second feature, Roman pit F2, was excavated further to the northwest. It was a small oval-shaped feature approximately 0.7m by 0.6m and 0.3m deep.



**Photograph 3** Hearth/oven F1, pre-excavation, looking W



**Photograph 4** Hearth/oven F1, mid excavation, showing clay lining, looking S



**Photograph 5** Hearth/oven F1 fully excavated, looking S

**Trench 4 (T4) – 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench T4 was excavated through a layer of modern build-up (L2, c 430-450mm thick, dark grey/brown silt) onto a dark grey silty subsoil (L3, c 100-340mm thick). Natural

silty-sands with gravels (L4) were identified beneath L3. No significant archaeological horizons were exposed.



**Photograph 6** T4, looking SW



**Photograph 7** T5, looking E

#### **Trench 5 (T5) – 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench T5 was excavated through modern hardstanding (L1, c 390mm thick) onto a layer of modern build-up (L2, c 500mm thick, dark grey/brown silt), which sealed a dark grey silty subsoil (L3, c 220-250mm thick). Natural silty-sands with gravels (L4) were identified beneath L3. Modern services and foundations were recorded but no significant archaeological horizons were exposed.

## **5 Finds**

*by Stephen Benfield (unless otherwise stated)*

A small quantity of finds was recovered from two contexts (F1 and F2). The finds consist of two Mesolithic flints, Roman pottery, Roman ceramic building material (CBM) (brick) and fired clay which came from the same feature as the Roman brick. The finds are listed and described by context in Table 1 and an overall spot date for the finds from each context is also provided. The flints are discussed separately to the other finds.

### **The Mesolithic flints**

*by Adam Wightman*

Two worked flints were recovered as residual finds from the fill of F1 (2). Both flints are distinctive Mesolithic flint types, although interestingly the surface of one is heavily patinated whereas the surface of the other is not patinated at all (Fig 5). The patinated microlith can be classified as a shouldered or tanged point (Clark 1934, Type 29), which date from the earlier Mesolithic (10,000 BP through to c 8,500 BP).

#### **1) Mesolithic microlith (F1 (2)) (32mm long, 7mm wide, 3mm thick)**

The microlith has been made from a very narrow bladelet with evidence for at least three previous removals from the core prior to the detachment of this piece. No cortex remains of the dorsal surface. It appears to have been made from a light grey flint that has become heavily

patinated turning it entirely white in colour. The bladelet forms a natural point at the distal end which is slightly offset towards the left lateral. Small removals from the lateral edges around the tip of the piece appear to have been applied to strengthen the point, although it is possible (but unlikely) that this is simply usewear/edge damage. A wide notch was formed on the right lateral edge of the blade (dorsal face) using abrupt retouch before the proximal end of the bladelet was removed using the microburin technique. This results in a tang which is offset towards the left lateral edge and a distinct shoulder on the right lateral edge where the tang joins the main body of the blade. Therefore, the piece can be classified as a shouldered or tanged point (Clark 1934, Type 29), which date from the earlier Mesolithic (10,000 BP through to c 8,500 BP) and may have parallels with some continental cultures (Butler 2004). Microliths were used in a number of composite tools and hunting weapons. It is possible that the shouldered or tanged point was used as an arrow point.

**2) Unfinished Mesolithic microlith (F1 (2)) (31mm long, 8mm wide, 2mm thick)**

A thin, narrow bladelet which exhibits evidence of having been detached using a soft hammer or a punch (a small platform, a diffuse bulb of percussion and evidence of platform preparation). There is evidence of four previous blade removals prior to the detachment of this piece and no cortex is present on the dorsal surface. The bladelet is made from a dark grey flint which shows no sign of patination on the surface. The distal end of the blade has been snapped or broken off, although there is no evidence to say whether or not this was done intentionally. A small notch has been retouched into the left lateral edge near to the proximal end of the bladelet. It is probable that the intention of the knapper was to break the bladelet obliquely at the notch to remove the proximal end creating a piece which could be turned into a microlith and a waste piece called a microburin. This method of microlith production is called the microburin technique (Inzian *et al.* 1992; Neeley *et al.* 1994). It is possible that the break at the distal end occurred after the notch had been retouched and the piece was subsequently abandoned.

**The Roman and other bulk finds**

Finds that can be closely dated as Roman consist of a single sherd of pottery (F2(1)) and pieces from a single brick (F1 (3 & 4)). The pottery sherd (which is wheel-made) is not closely dated within the Roman period but the carinated form suggests it is likely to be of Early-Mid Roman date rather than Late Roman. The Roman brick comes from a cut feature F1, only part of which fell within the area of the evaluation trench. The brick piece is the end of a single brick recently (freshly) broken into several joining pieces, the break across the width of the brick being much older/ancient. Pieces of fired clay that formed a lining to the feature were also recovered from F1(3). These pieces mostly come from the lower clay lining, a second (later) clay lining being much more broken-up. The tile has clearly been affected/scorched by heat and the clay has been baked hard *in situ*. That both the brick and the clay lining(s) have been affected by heat makes a link between these finds and suggests that the feature is Roman. Both the fired clay and the tile contain natural, hard white chalk inclusions. The fired clay would clearly be of local origin and the chalk inclusions in the tile indicate this was made in the same geological area. The fired clay is not particularly thick, nor does it indicate a very high temperature during firing/baking. This suggests the feature is more likely to be a domestic or light industrial hearth or oven rather than a kiln or furnace. The heat affected surface of the Roman brick also has small pieces of weakly magnetic, slag-like material fused to the surface, suggesting a possible connection with either hearth slag or iron-working and might indicate a light industrial process associated with F1. A search for micro-magnetic debris was made through bulk soil samples from the fill of the feature (F1 <5>) using a magnet. This produced a few fragments of ferrous sand material, but did not produce any material such as hammer scale or iron spheroids indicative of metal (iron) working. The very small quantity of finds of Roman date and the fact that only a few sherds of Roman pottery were recovered during an earlier adjacent evaluation (CAT Report 698) suggests the site is peripheral to an area of Roman occupation and that the feature (F1) probably represents a domestic or agricultural oven.

Feature and Finds No.	Form/ description	spot date
F1, 2	<b>Worked flint Mesolithic (2)</b> two microliths (fully described in text)	Mesolithic



Feature and Finds No.	Form/ description	spot date
F1, 3	<b>Roman CBM:</b> (2) Two small piece of Roman brick, joining with the Roman brick from F1 (4). <b>Fired clay:</b> (10 pieces with 13 small pieces/fragments) all in the same buff/reddish-brown coloured sandy clay with common small-large, unsorted inclusions of hard, white chalk (natural inclusions form the local clay), largest surviving individual pieces 100 mm x 50 mm & 70 mm x 70 mm, thickness of pieces c 10 mm-25 mm. Undulating finger smoothed upper surfaces, rough sandy undersides, one piece with straight, smooth chamfered edge. Surfaces and parts of clay body (buff coloured) moderately hard fired with softer underside (red-brown & brownish-red). The pieces appear consistent with both in thickness and in their relatively low level of heating with a hearth or oven but are not vitrified as might be expected with greater heating such as a kiln or furnace.	Roman
F1, 4	<b>Roman CBM:</b> (6) Joining pieces from the end of a Roman brick (280 mm wide, 35 mm thick) fine sand fabric with occasional small-medium hard, white chalk inclusions; heat affected, brownish-red surfaces & dark-grey core, some lighter orange-buff discolouration to upper surface from heat. The pieces have fresh breaks on the joining sides, but the broken ends are clearly old breaks. The upper surface of the tile has small pieces of what appears to be slag material which is weakly magnetic (indicating the presence of iron) fused to the surface, concentrated toward one corner of the tile.	Roman
F2, 1	<b>Roman pottery:</b> (1) small body sherd in Black surface ware (Fabric BSW), wheel-turned, dark surfaces and sandy red-brown fabric core carinated body with rough smoothing/burnishing to one side of the carination, probably early-mid Roman rather than late Roman (weight 6 g). <b>Fired clay:</b> (2) very small pieces/fragments in sandy fabric, one sandy orange, the other sandy buff coloured.	Roman (M/L1-2/3C)

**Table 1** All finds by context

Seven small fragments of burnt bone (<1g) were recovered from the environmental sample taken from F1. It was not possible to determine if the bone was animal or human, but is perhaps more likely to be animal bone representing domestic waste from the oven/hearth.

## 6 Environmental report

by Lisa Gray, MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

### Introduction – aims and objectives

Sample <1> (finds no.5) was taken from a clay-lined pit (F1) that appeared to be heat affected and a possible oven or heath (*pers. comm.* Laura Pooley 2016).

### Sampling and processing methods

This sample was taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. Its original size was 30L and it was processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried. Once with the author the flot was scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flot was examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across the flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers

et al. 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010) and for mollusca from Kerney and Cameron (Kerney and Cameron 1979). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant remains were counted. As were spheroidal hammer scale if present. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low.

## Results (Table 2)

<b>Sample</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Finds No.</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Feature Number</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Roman oven or hearth</b>
<b>Charred Plant Remains</b>	
Poaceae stem fragment	1
Indeterminate plant tissue	2
<b>Dried Waterlogged Plant Remains</b>	
<i>Lithospermum arvense</i> L. (fruit)	+
<i>Lamium</i> sp. (fruit)	+
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp. (fruit, pappus removed)	+
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> L. (fruit endocarp)	+
<i>Juncus</i> sp.	+
<i>Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus</i> (fruit)	+
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L.(fruit)	++
<i>Polygonum/Persicaria</i> sp.(seed)	+
<i>Silene</i> sp. (seed)	+
<i>Stellaria</i> sp. (seed)	+
<i>Atriplex prostrata/patula</i> (fruit)	+
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L. (fruit)	+
<b>Other plant macrofossils</b>	
Charcoal <4mmØ	+
Charred Plant Tissue	+
Uncharred root/rhizome fragments	+++
<b>Fauna</b>	
Terrestrial mollusca	+++
<b>Sample Volume (litres)</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Volume processed (litres)</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>0.01</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 2** Sample contents (key: + =1-10, ++=11-50, +++=51-150, ++++=151-250, ++++=>250)

### **Plant remains**

Charred plant remains consisted of one grass/cereal stem fragments, two fragments of indeterminate plant tissue fragments and low numbers of charcoal flecks too small to identify. Uncharred remains consisted of low numbers of seeds of ruderals, mostly herbs and one shrub, Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.). Modern root/rhizome fragments were moderately frequent.

### **Faunal remains**

Terrestrial mollusca were present in moderate quantities. Among these were *Ceciliodes acicula*, a snail that borrows well below the ground surface (Kerney & Cameron 1979, 149) and can be indicative of bioturbation and oxygenation of the soil.

### **Artefactual remains**

No artefactual remains were found in this sample.

## Discussion

### ***Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination***

Nothing was highlighted with regards biases in recovery and contamination but the presence of modern root/rhizome fragments and terrestrial snails, particularly *Ceciliodes acicula* could be evidence of bioturbation and aeration of the soil leading to differential preservation of plant remains favouring charred and robust uncharred plant remains.

### ***Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work***

The charred grass/cereal stem and indeterminate charred plant tissue fragments could be associated with the use of the feature as a Roman oven or hearth but without radiocarbon dating it would be unwise to conclude this. The dried waterlogged plant remains could be contemporary with the feature but are more likely to have moved into the sampled context due to stratigraphic movement caused by modern rootlets and mollusc activity.

No further work is recommended for this sample.

### **Concluding summary and key points**

One sample from a Roman hearth/oven was presented for assessment. It contained one charred cereal/grass stem fragment and two indeterminate plant tissue fragments that could be associated with the use of the feature but molluscan and rootlet activity means that stratigraphic movement is likely.

## 7 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at the Westrope Haulage Yard revealed two features of Roman date, a small pit and an oven/hearth. Aside from a few sherds of residual pottery no other archaeological horizons of a Roman date were exposed on the site, which would suggest these features were probably located within a rural, probably agricultural setting.

A small number of similar ovens/hearths have been excavated over the years, noticeably at Birch Quarry. A large, oval, shallow pit was excavated in 1995 (unpublished CAT report 6/95b). This formed the main chamber of an oven and contained slight indications that the bottom and sides of the feature had a deliberate coating of 'daub'. A flue for the oven had been constructed of tile and sandy clay loam, and had a burnt floor. A second oven was found during excavations in 2008 within a Roman enclosure (CAT Report 523). This consisted of the lower part of a tile-lined flue channel which linked the stoke-pit and the base of the oven chamber. Like the Birdbrook example, both had been heat-affected but operated at relatively low temperatures as no vitrification was evident. Being from rural contexts these features were interpreted as having a small-scale agricultural use, possibly as corn-drying kilns.

Given the lack of high temperatures and associated pottery sherds from the Birdbrook example, this feature is unlikely to be a pottery kiln or furnace. The small fragments of weakly magnetised iron concretions on the brick may suggest a light-industrial use, but no corresponding micro-magnetic debris was recovered from the environmental sample. Given the relative isolation of the Birdbrook oven/hearth a small-scale agricultural use, possibly as a corn-drying oven, is perhaps the most likely interpretation, but without excavating the entire feature it is difficult to be certain.

Although found residually in a later Roman feature, it is also significant that two Mesolithic flint microliths were found. Evaluation on phase 1 redevelopment land to the south also revealed ten worked flints, nine from ploughsoil and an Early Neolithic flint blade from a subsoil layer (CAT Report 698). All of which suggest earlier prehistoric activity on the site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Jill Bell (SBW Planning) and Mason Corp Properties for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with J Dodd, R Mathieson, N Rayner and J Roberts. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

## 9 References

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

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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	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
Mesolithic	period from c 9600 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
Neolithic (Early-Middle)	Early-Middle Neolithic, period from c 4000 – 2900 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** ½ box

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1030)

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

## 12 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 Braintree Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

**Distribution list:**

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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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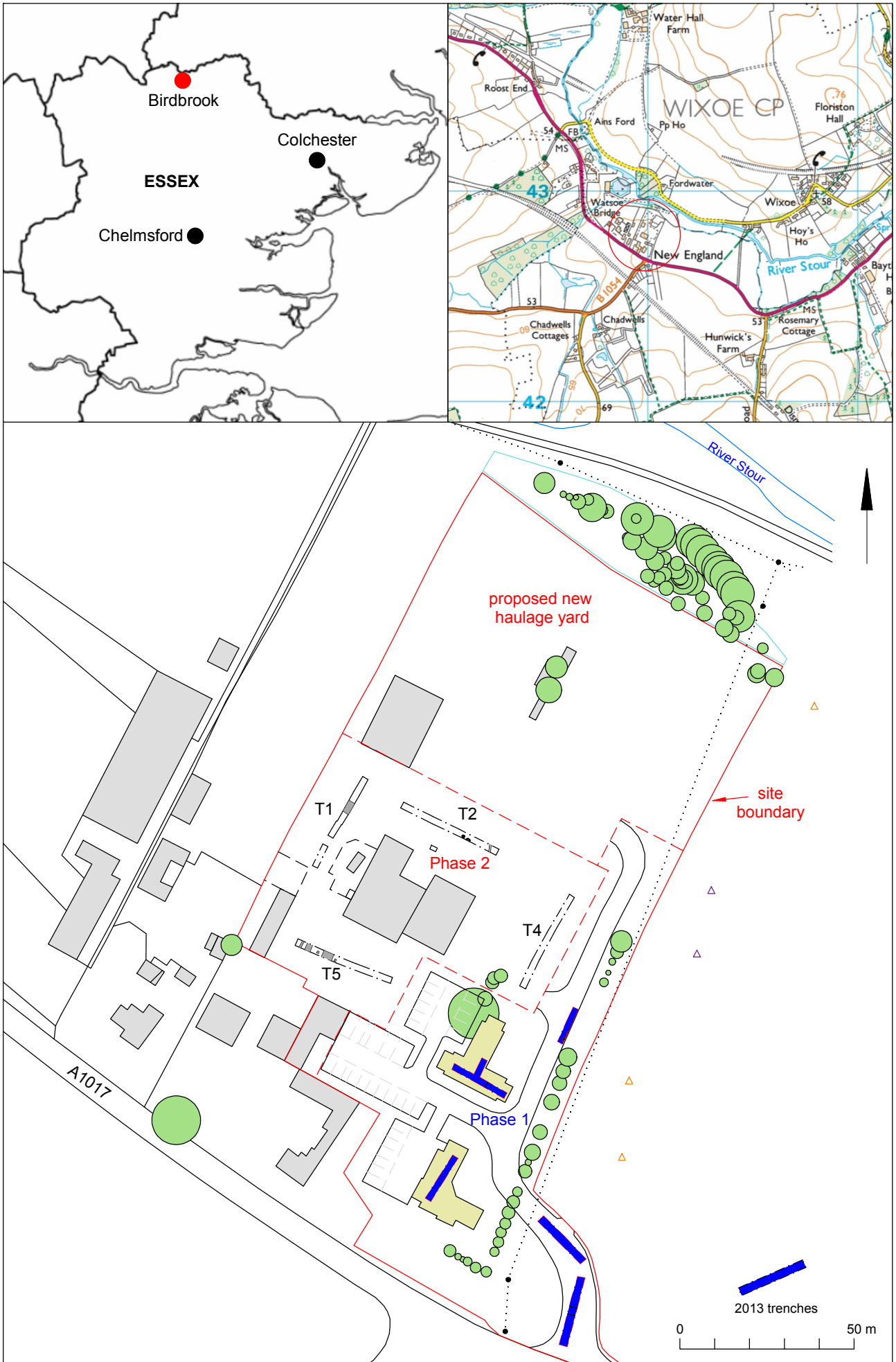
email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 9.11.2016

**Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Trench</b>	<b>Feature No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
T2	F1	Clay-lined oven/hearth.	Roman
T2	F2	Pit of loose, dry, dark brown sandy-silt with common stone	Roman
All	L1	Layers of modern hardstanding consisting of tarmac, concrete and sand	Modern
All	L2	Build-up layer underneath the modern hardstanding	Modern
All	L3	Subsoil of firm, dark grey silt with 10% stone	-
All	L4	Natural sands and gravels	Natural



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Fig 1 Site location and trench plan for Phase 2 development (Phase 1 in blue)



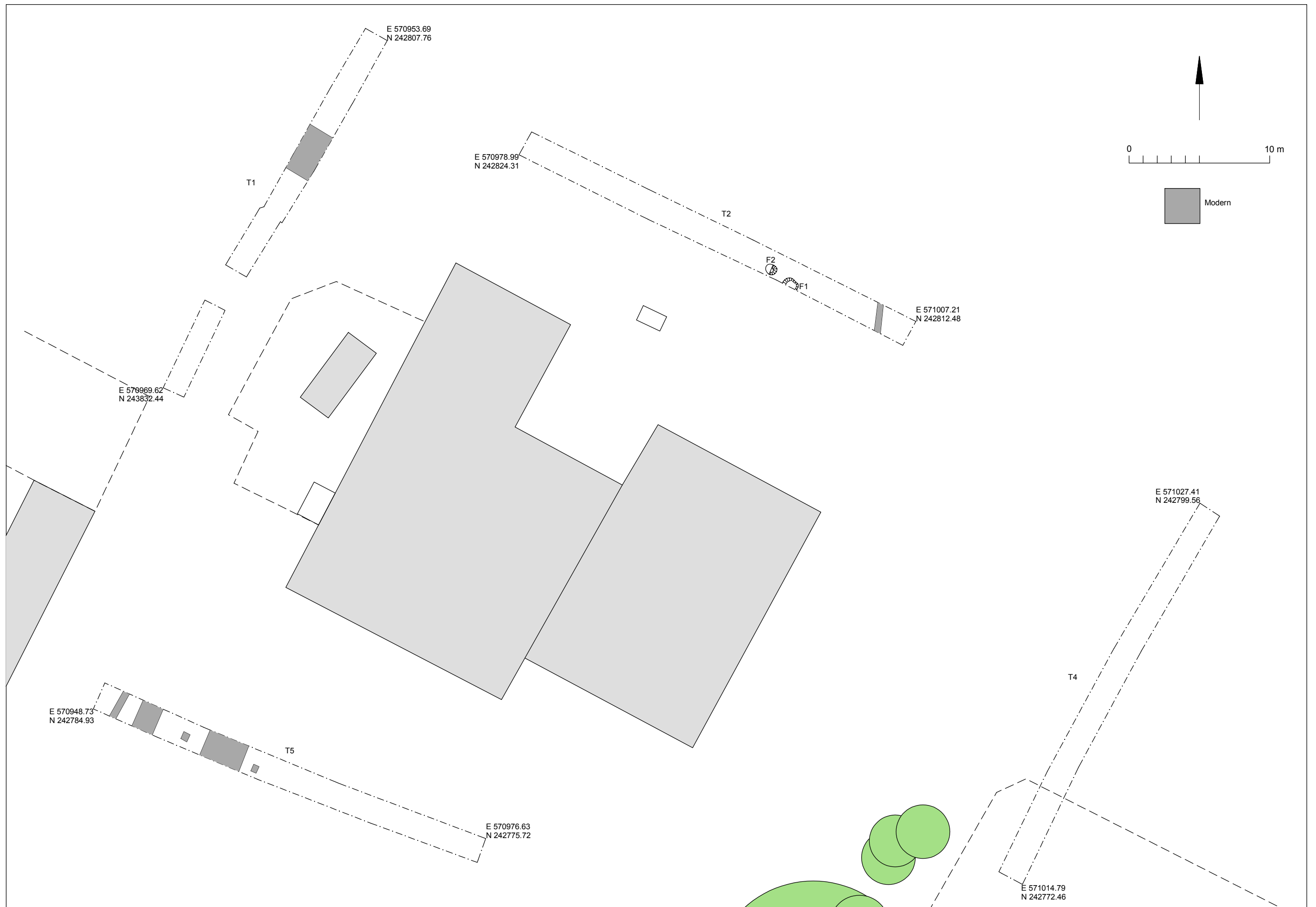


Fig 2 Trench plan.

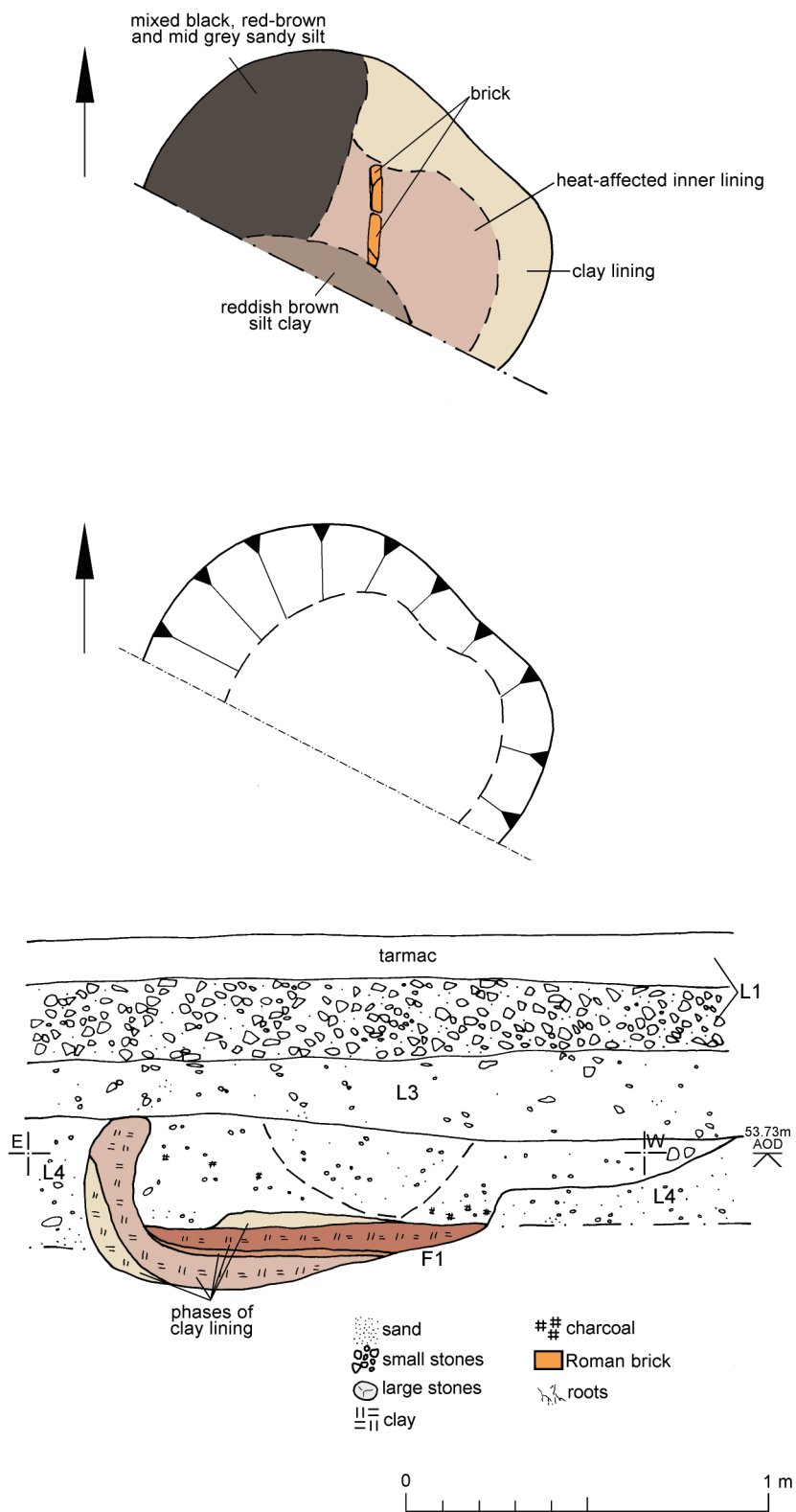


Fig 3 F1: mid-excitation plan, full excavation plan and section.

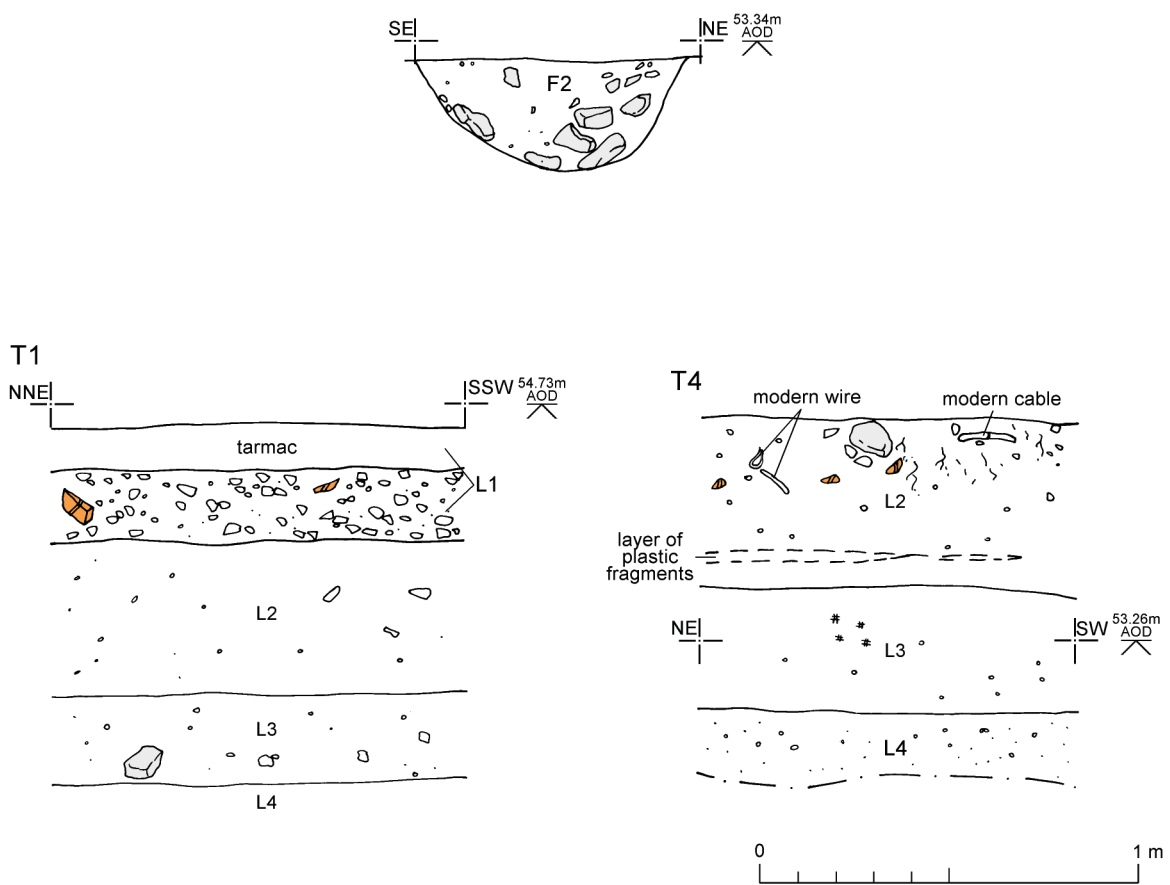


Fig 4 Feature and representative trench sections.

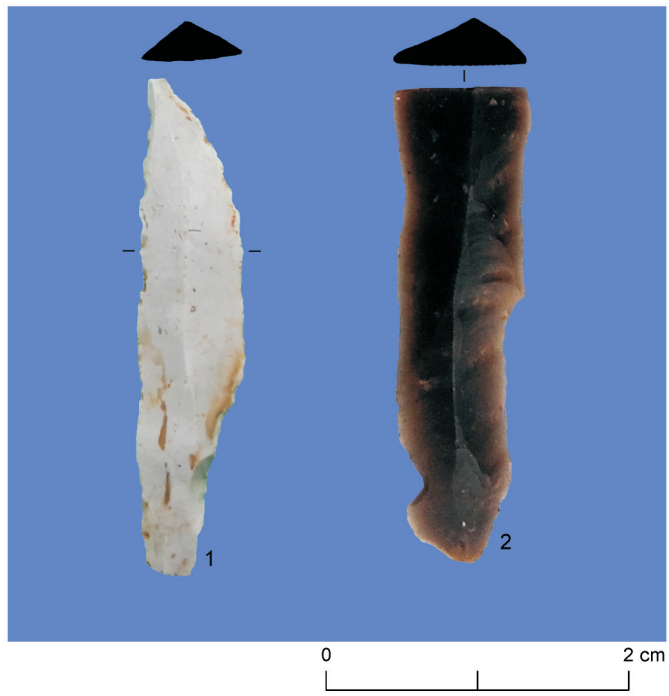


Fig 5 Mesolithic microliths.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Westrope Haulage Yard, Sturmer Road, Birdbrook, Essex, CO9 4BB	
<b>Parish:</b> Birdbrook	<b>District:</b> Braintree
<b>NGR:</b> TL 70980 42788 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code: 16/10b ECC project code: BKWH16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-264961
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 18th-19th October 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Four trenches totalling 120m long by 1.8m wide (216m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Braintree Museum accession code: <a href="#">requested</a>	<b>Funding source:</b> developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related EHER number:</b> EHER 6958-6964
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1030	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Mesolithic, Roman, Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Westrope Haulage Yard, Sturmer Road, Birdbrook, Essex in advance of the construction of new offices/light industrial units. Located close to a Roman cemetery, no significant archaeological horizons were exposed in three of the four trenches. The fourth trench contained the partial remains of a Roman clay-lined hearth/oven and a Roman pit. Two Mesolithic flint microliths were also found residually in a Roman feature.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 698	
<b>Keywords:</b> Roman hearth/oven, Mesolithic microliths	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> November 2016