

Archaeological evaluation at Stables, Hatch Farm, Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex, RM14 3RL

November-December 2016



by Laura Pooley

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on behalf of Peter Hunt, Akkad Construction Ltd

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CAT Report 1044

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EHER Summary Sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at Stables, Hatch Farm, Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex in advance of the construction of four new dwellings. The development is located on the site of a former farmhouse dating from at least 1777. Two 18th century gravel surfaces were recorded in the trenches representing trackways and/or yard surfaces most likely associated with the farmhouse.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Stables, Hatch Farm, Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex carried out 30th November – 1st December 2016. The work was commissioned by Peter Hunt, Akkad Construction Ltd, in advance of the construction of four new dwellings, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis 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).

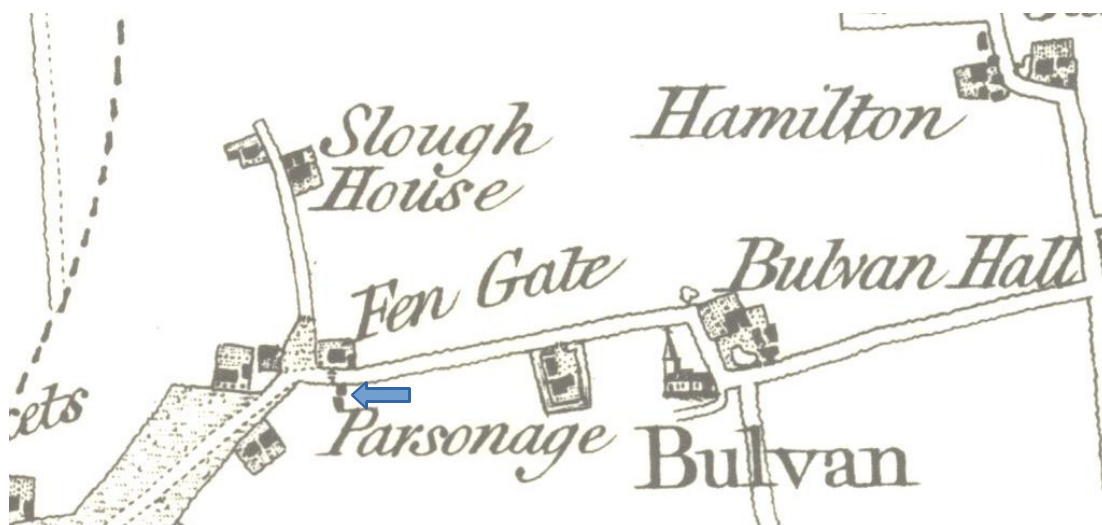
All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological brief for trial trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with 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 EHER shows the proposed development is located on the site of a former farmhouse and its associated structures which were occupied from at least the late 18th century and possibly date back to the medieval period. These buildings are visible on the Chapman and André map of 1777 and have been extended/replaced by the first edition OS map of 1872. This shows that the development site has a high potential for earlier settlement activity in the immediate vicinity that would be destroyed or damaged by this development.



Map 1 Chapman and André's map of 1777, buildings in development site indicated by the blue arrow



Map 2 First edition six-inch OS Map of 1872 (Essex LXXV), buildings in development site indicated by the blue arrow

4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Four trial-trenches were laid out across the development site to target the locations of the new dwellings and associated garages. All were machine excavated under archaeological supervision.

Three layers were identified. Modern crush/hardstanding (L1, c 250-350mm thick) sealed an accumulation horizon of medium grey/brown silty-clay (L2, c 200-250mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3).

Trench 1 (T1): 24m long by 1.8m wide

A compacted gravel trackway (F1) was aligned approximately NW/SE and measured 2.5-3m wide and 0.05-0.08m thick. Patches of crushed brick/peg-tile which had been used to repair to the surface. Further to the SW was a patch of asbestos and a modern service trench.

Trench 2 (T2): 18m long by 1.8m wide

Two modern postholes (F2-F3) aligned E/W were excavated. Fragments of modern brick and the remains of timber posts were still present in the postholes (none retained). To the north of the trench were two modern services and a patch of asbestos.

Trench 3 (T3): 19m long by 1.8m wide

A single modern service trench was identified.

Trench 4 (T4): 15m long by 1.8m wide

A compacted gravel surface (F4), possibly a trackway or yard surface, ran the length of the trench. Like F1 this also measured 0.05-0.08m thick and had been repaired with patches of crushed brick/peg-tile.



Photograph 1 T1 showing gravel trackway F1, looking NE

5 Finds

Fragments of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material were recovered from surfaces F1 (1) and F4 (2). All finds are listed by context in the table below.

Trench, feature and finds nos.	Description	Date
T1, F1 (1)	Post-medieval pottery: fragment of bowl base plus one other sherd (2:156g), Fabric 40A* metropolitan slipware, 17th century; fragments of a Fabric 40* storage jar (3: 110g) with internal glaze, late 16th – early 18th century. Post-medieval CBM: pan tile (1: 42g), 18th century+	18th century
T4, F4 (2)	Post-medieval CBM: small brick (1: 254g), incomplete length (at least 81 mm), 46mm wide by 44mm thick, possibly a paving brick like those used in herringbone floors or in drains; unglazed floor tile (1:34g), 15mm thick; peg-tile (2: 68g), 13mm thick	Post-medieval, possibly 18th century

Table 1 All finds by context (*CAR 7)

6 Discussion

Cartographic evidence from Chapman and André's map of 1777 shows the presence of a former farmhouse and associated structures on the development site in the late 18th century (see Map 1). This evaluation has revealed two post-medieval gravel surfaces likely dating from the 18th century and therefore contemporary with the 18th century farmhouse. Surface F1 was located to the east of the farmhouse opposite China Lane, and was probably part of a trackway leading to the property. Surface F4 to the south was possibly part of the same trackway around the farm or may have been an associated yard surface. Both appear to have been maintained over a period of time as holes had been repaired with patches of crushed brick/peg-tile.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Peter Hunt, Akkad Construction Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and A Wade. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

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 evaluation at Hatch Farm Stables, Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex, RM14 3RL</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>Archaeological for an archaeological trial trench and excavation at Hatch Farm, Fen Lane, Bulphan</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
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
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
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1044)

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 Thurrock Museum under accession code THKLH: 4375

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Distribution list:

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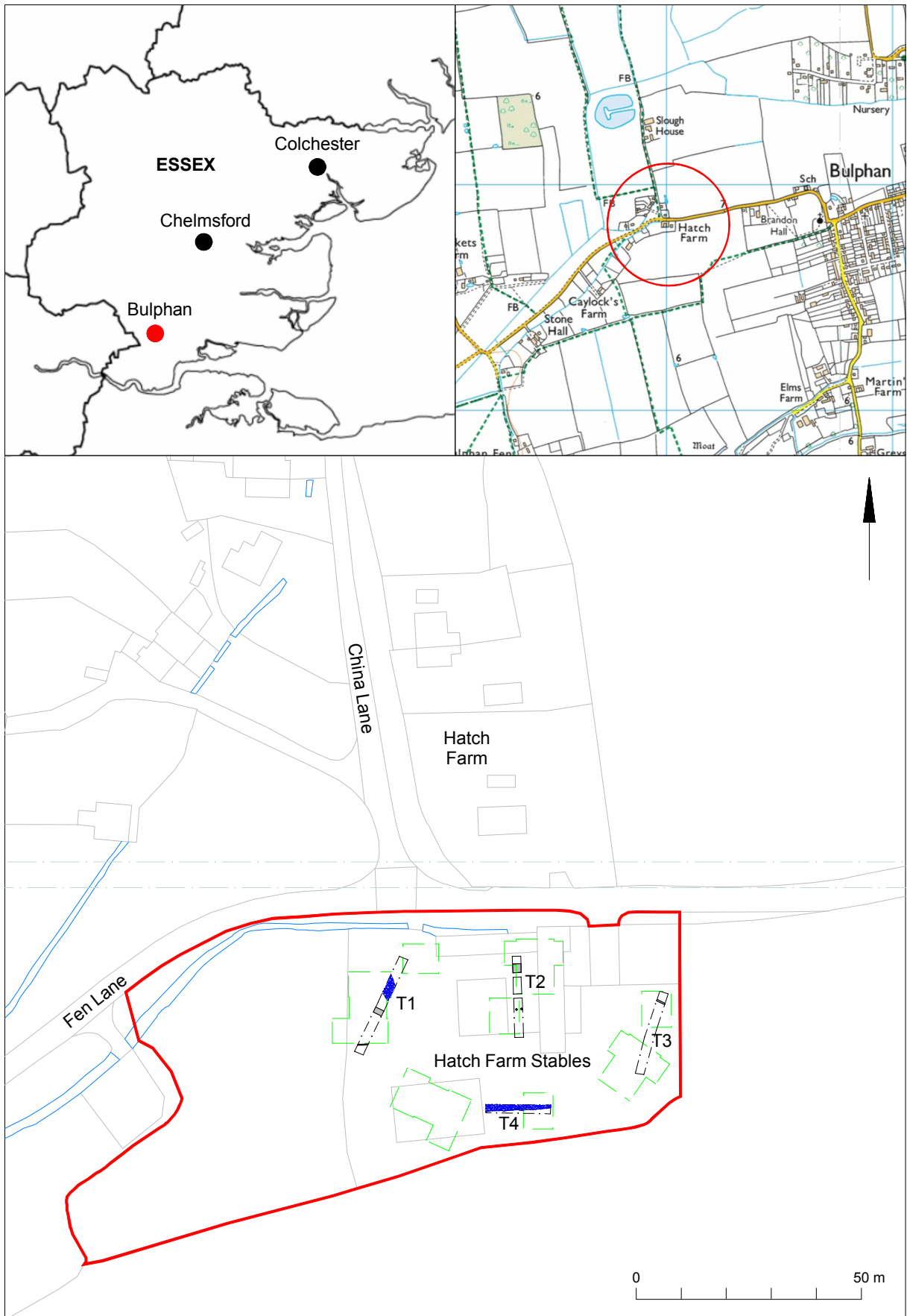
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Date: 13/12/2016



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Fig 1 Site location and results in relation to proposed development (dashed green)

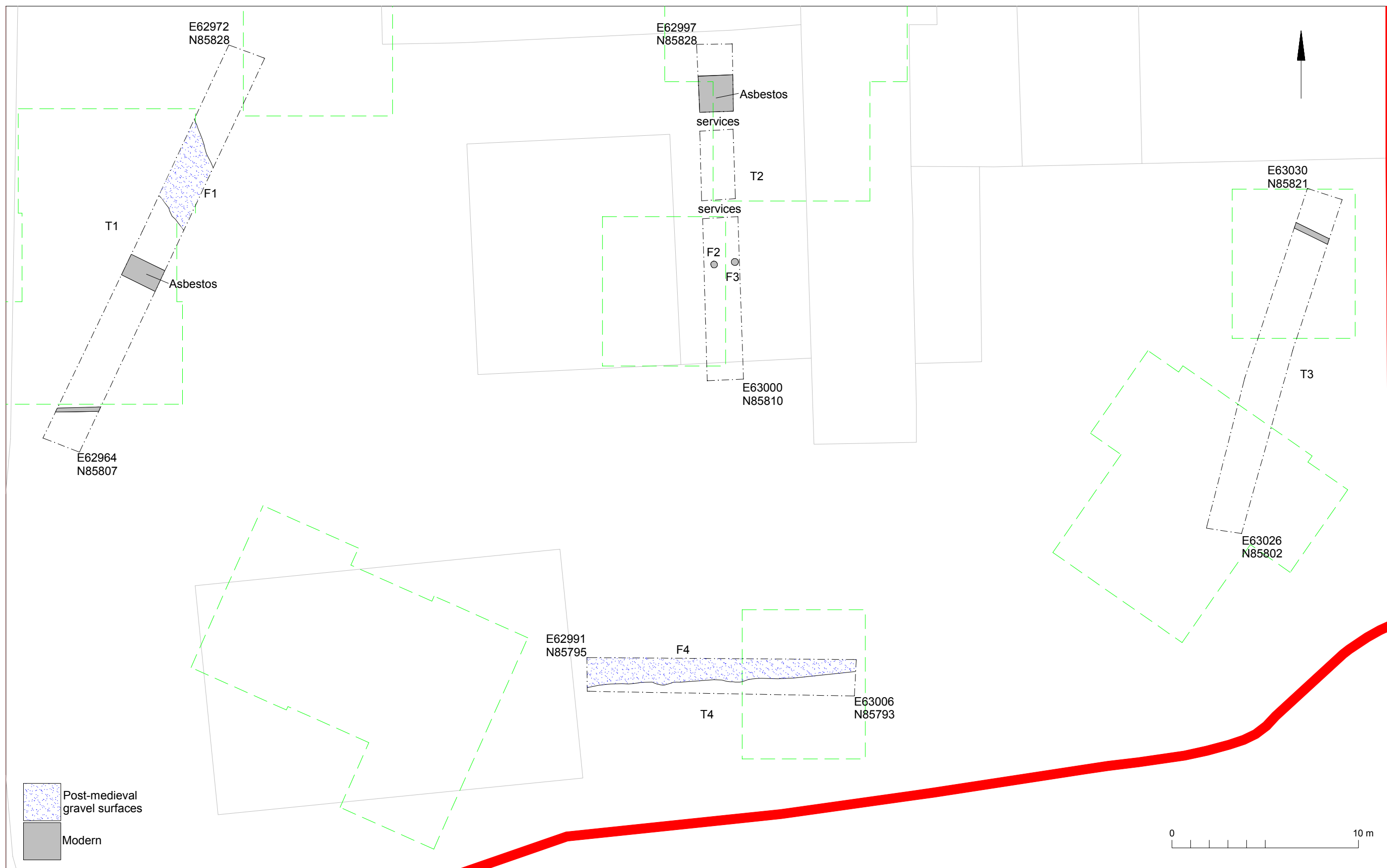


Fig 2 Results

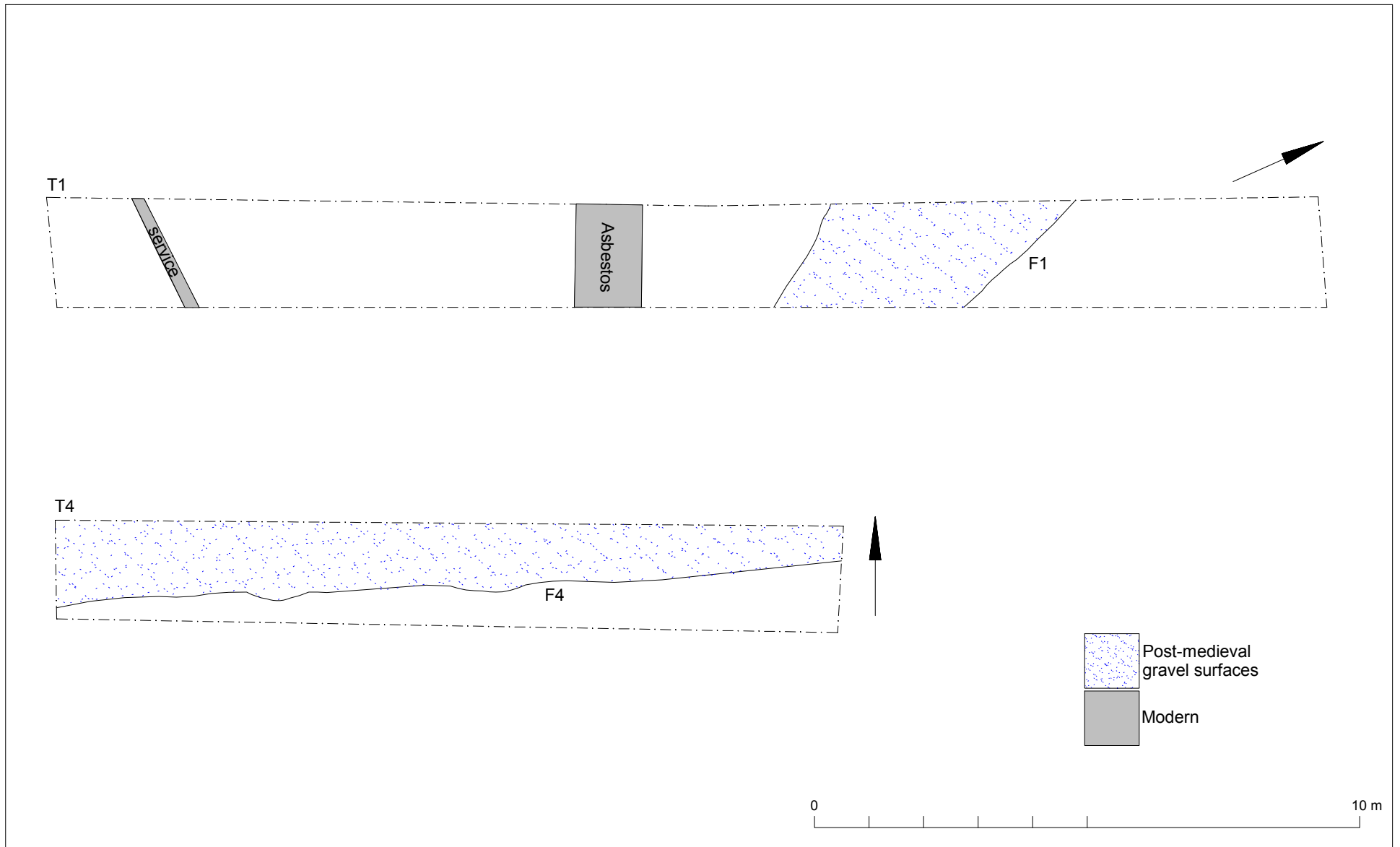


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans: T1 and T4

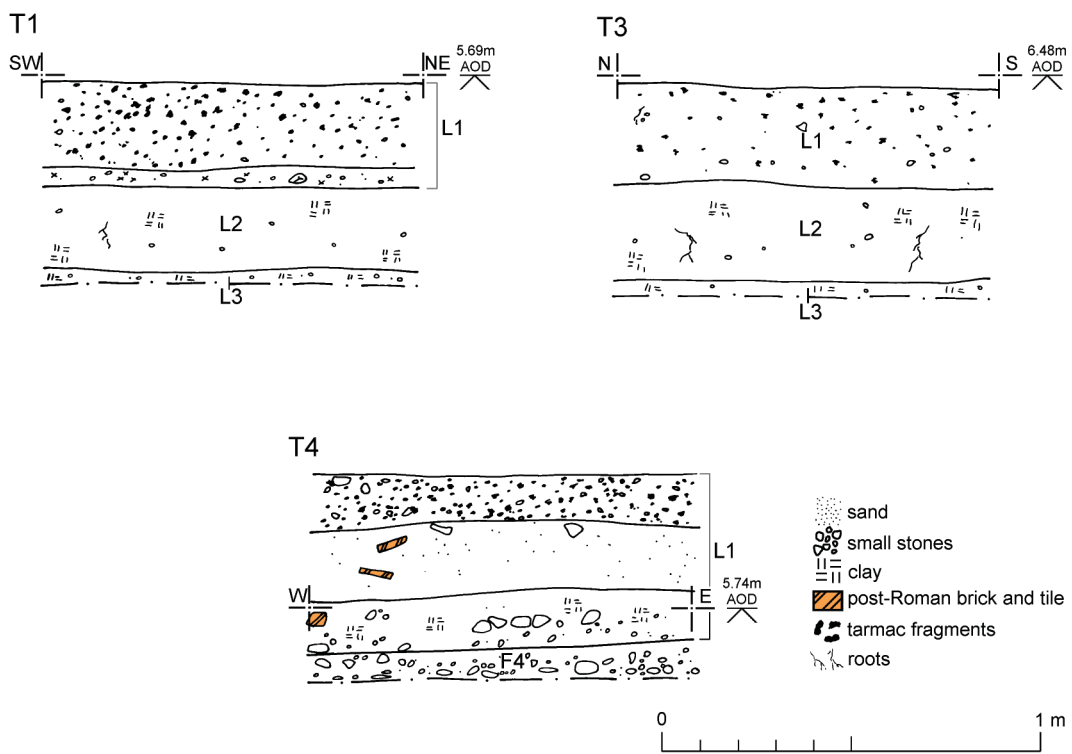


Fig 4 Representative trench sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Hatch Farm Stables, Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex, RM14 3RL	
Parish: Bulphan	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ 63008 85806 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 16/11i ECC project code: THHF16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-269309
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 30th November – 1st December 2016	Size of area investigated: 0.7ha; four trial-trenches totalling 76m linear by 1.8m wide (136.8m ²)
Location of curating museum: Thurrock Museum accession code THKLH: 4375	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER number:
Final report: CAT Report 1044	
Periods represented: post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at Stables, Hatch Farm, Fen Lane, Bulphan, Essex in advance of the construction of four new dwellings. The development is located on the site of a former farmhouse dating from at least 1777. Two 18th century gravel surfaces were recorded in the trenches representing trackways and/or yard surfaces most likely associated with the farmhouse.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
Keywords: –	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: December 2016