

Archaeological monitoring and recording at Crumps Farm, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1DN

October 2017



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Commissioned by Andrew Josephs Associates
On behalf of Crumps Farm Recovery Ltd.

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CAT Report 1187
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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Crumps Farm, Stortford Road, Little Canfield in advance of groundworks for the ongoing formation of a major waste management facility. The groundworks consisted of topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of an eastern screening landform and a new bund. The development site lies near to the locations of a number of excavations around Little Canfield which have produced evidence of occupation and activity from the Palaeolithic to the post-medieval periods, and within a complex of cropmarks of medieval or post-medieval date. A single ditch of medieval to post-medieval/modern date was uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at Crumps Farm, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, which was carried out on the 2nd-11th October 2017. The work was commissioned by Andrew Josephs Associates on behalf of Crumps Farm Recovery Ltd, in advance of groundworks for the ongoing formation of a major waste management facility, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Essex County 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). Richard Havis confirmed that he was satisfied for CAT to undertake this work according to an existing WSI prepared by the former ECC Field Archaeology Unit in June 2012.

In addition to the 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 watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Historical and archaeological background

The following archaeological background makes use of an earlier Cultural Heritage Assessment of the site (Josephs 2006), which utilised cartographic and documentary sources relating to the area, and the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching undertaken in December 2007 (Ennis 2008).

Concentrations of cultural material and isolated remains have been recovered from the wider landscape around Little Canfield, ranging in date from the Palaeolithic through to the post-medieval period. In particular, excavations carried out at Priors Green (Scrubby 2009), the Stone Hall Excavations (EHER 19455), the Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline and the A120 Trunk Road (EHER 45259) have demonstrated dispersed prehistoric settlement, cultivation, and mortuary activity taking place nearby. Of particular relevance to the proposed development area was the discovery of a scatter of Iron Age and largely undated features, found during the construction of the Cambridge to Matching Green pipeline, some 300-400m away from the boundary of the site.

At Frogs Hall, approximately 1km to the north of the existing quarry/waste management facility, a multi-period site dating to the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, was excavated in 2002 (Ennis 2006). This included the remains of a medieval pottery production centre dating to around 1200 AD, possible medieval occupation adjacent to

a green lane and late Roman structural remains associated with a postulated villa on the eastern side of the River Roding (EHER 9140).

Within the development area itself, elements of an extensive cropmark complex (EHER 18884) of probable medieval to early post-medieval date are present. Centred around All Saints' Church, which appears to have been the focus for a dispersed settlement pattern across the parish, the cropmarks are thought to represent former field boundaries and trackways.

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Crumps Farm, Little Canfield, during December 2007 (Ennis 2008). Thirteen trial trenches were excavated across three areas and a variety of archaeological remains dating to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods were recorded. No earlier features were encountered, although the recovery of a small number of abraded Roman finds did attest to activity of this date in the area. No significant remains were found in the northern part of the evaluation area.

In the south of the evaluation area (Trenches 1 and 5) was a small cluster of medieval gullies and pits, dating from the 12th to later 13th century, that may represent small-scale settlement or agricultural activity close to the position of a former track-way. A dog-leg in this track-way located just outside the development area was believed to be the likely centre of this activity. The northern part of Bund B was located immediately west of the position of Trenches 1 and 5 and included this dog-leg area.

Medieval pottery was also recovered from a series of large field boundary ditches previously identified as part of the cropmark complex (EHER 18884). The majority of these ditches correspond with those shown on the 1842 tithe map and the medieval pottery is therefore likely to be residual, possibly deriving from manuring, but does indicate that the field system may have had medieval origins.

Since the evaluation a composting facility has been constructed in the area of Trenches 1, 5 and 6, and topsoil has been stripped from the area of Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 7. The topsoil stripping extended south-east to the site boundary and was undertaken without permission by a previous landowner. The ECC HET were subsequently informed. A walkover of this area in late 2011 by Andrew Josephs did not identify any archaeological features. In the north of the evaluation area, a pond has been excavated in the vicinity of Trench 8, whilst the area around Trenches 9 to 13 continued in use as rough grassland.

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on the site.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

An area measuring approximately 0.64ha was reduced under archaeological supervision. Excavation occurred through three layers. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.03-0.51m thick) sealed a layer of sand/ballast (L2, c 0.13-0.49m thick) in the northern part of the excavation area. Over the rest of the area, L1 sealed a layer of naturally-deposited soils (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.23-0.92m).

Medieval or post-medieval/modern ditch F1 was aligned WSW-ENE and measured 1m in width and 0.09m in depth.

During the process of reduction, it was found that the area had previously been stripped, which had significantly disturbed the stratigraphy of the site, and that it was also truncated by the presence of a disused gas mains run and modern land drains.

With the agreement of the ECC Monitor, it was decided that the rest of the site could be assessed through the excavation of three trial trenches, each measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width. No significant archaeological remains were uncovered in the trenches.



Photograph 1 Site shot showing reduction area



Photograph 2 T1 trench shot – looking north north-east

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of sandy orange peg-tile fragments was recovered from F1 (1). In total there are 5 pieces (two joining) representing one or two tiles (thickness c 12 mm, total weight 142 g). These can be broadly dated as originating from the medieval to post-medieval/modern periods and in Essex only became common on roofs during the 14th century and later (Ryan and Andrews 1993, 97).

7 Discussion

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Crumps Farm due to the wealth of archaeological remains uncovered by previous excavations in the vicinity, particularly those conducted during the construction of the Cambridge-Matching Green pipeline some 300-400m from the site, and due to the presence of a large cropmark complex of probable medieval or post-medieval date. Despite being located in an area of significant archaeological interest, the only significant feature uncovered was a ditch originating from the medieval period or later, which may form part of the broader system of cropmarks in the area. The paucity of archaeological remains encountered at the site is almost certainly the consequence of the aforementioned topsoil stripping conducted by the former landowner.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Josephs Associates and Crumps Farm Recovery Ltd. for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway, G Morgan and A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Richard Havis.

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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Assessment. ECC FAU Report 1795

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
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
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
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
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
peg-tile	rectangular thin tiles with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 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 sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1187)

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code: SAFWM 2017.121

Distribution list

Andrew Josephs Associates
Crumps Farm Recovery Ltd.
Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 04.11.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist, dark grey/brown silty-clay	Modern
L2	-	Sand/ballast	Medium yellow sand	-
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown clay	Post-glacial
F1	1	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown clay	Medieval to post-medieval/modern

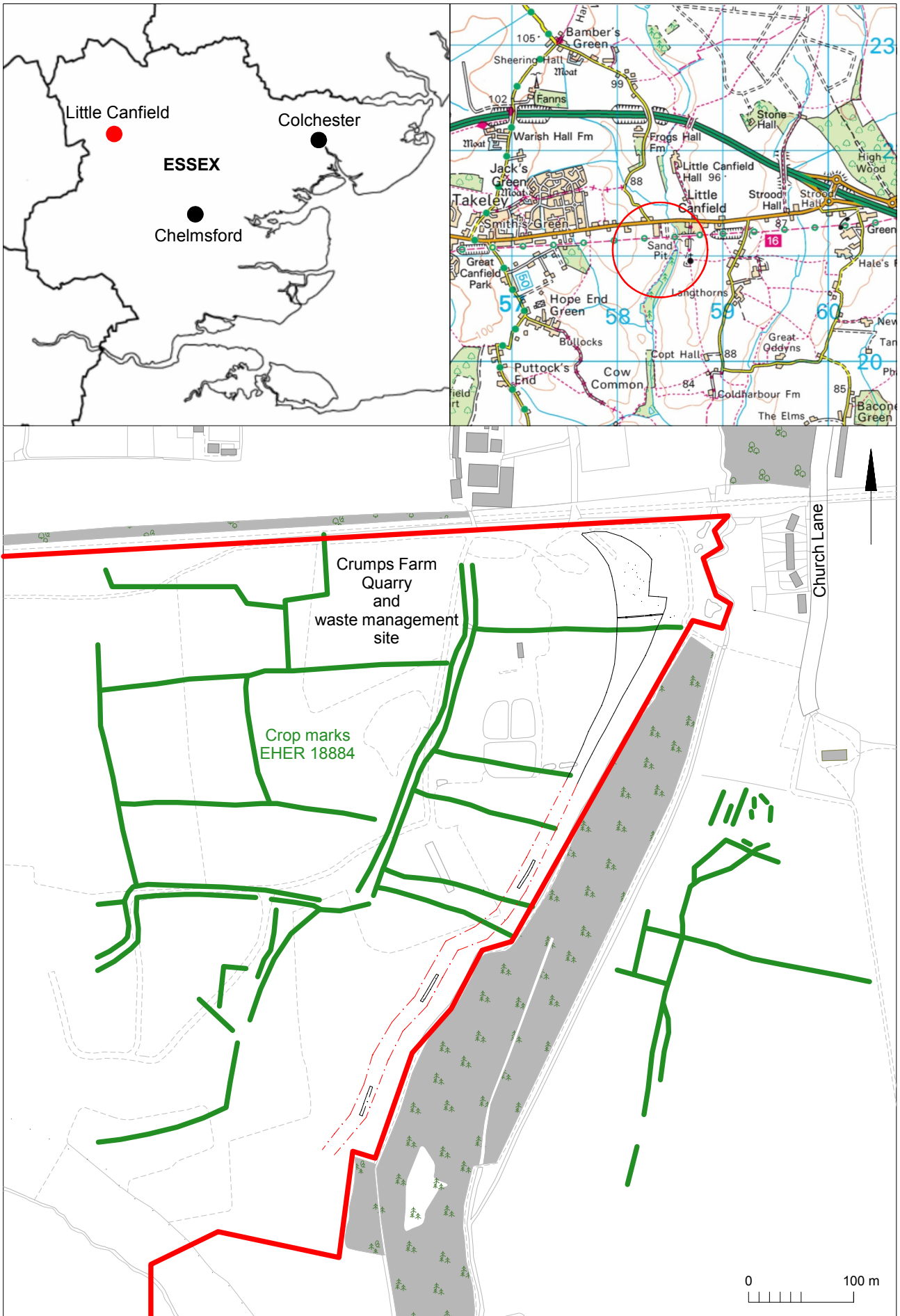


Fig 1 Site location.

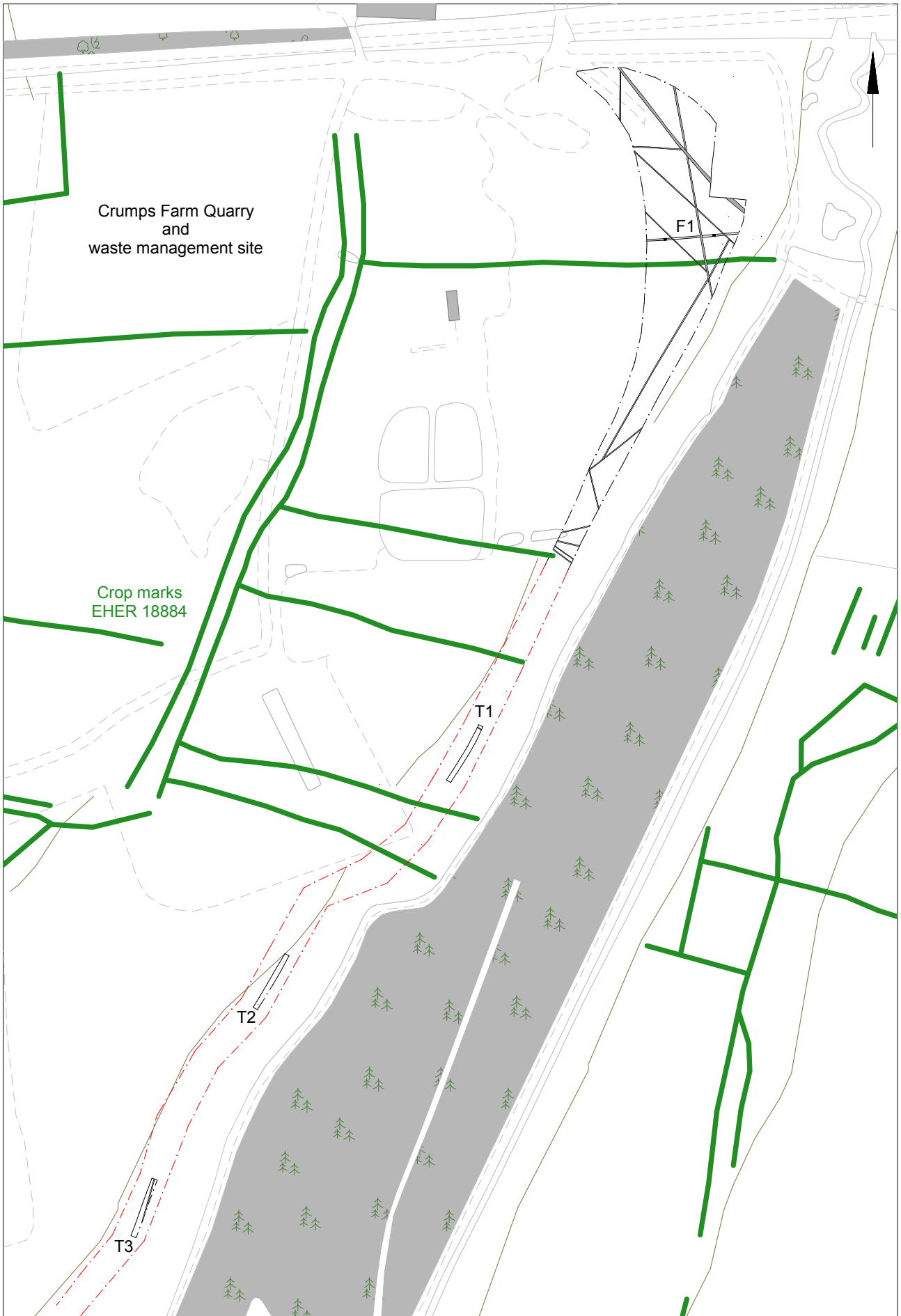


Fig 2 Results of monitoring. Observed strip shown black, area mitigated by trial trenches shown red.

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Fig 3 Ditch F1 in relation to crop mark and modern disturbance (shaded grey).

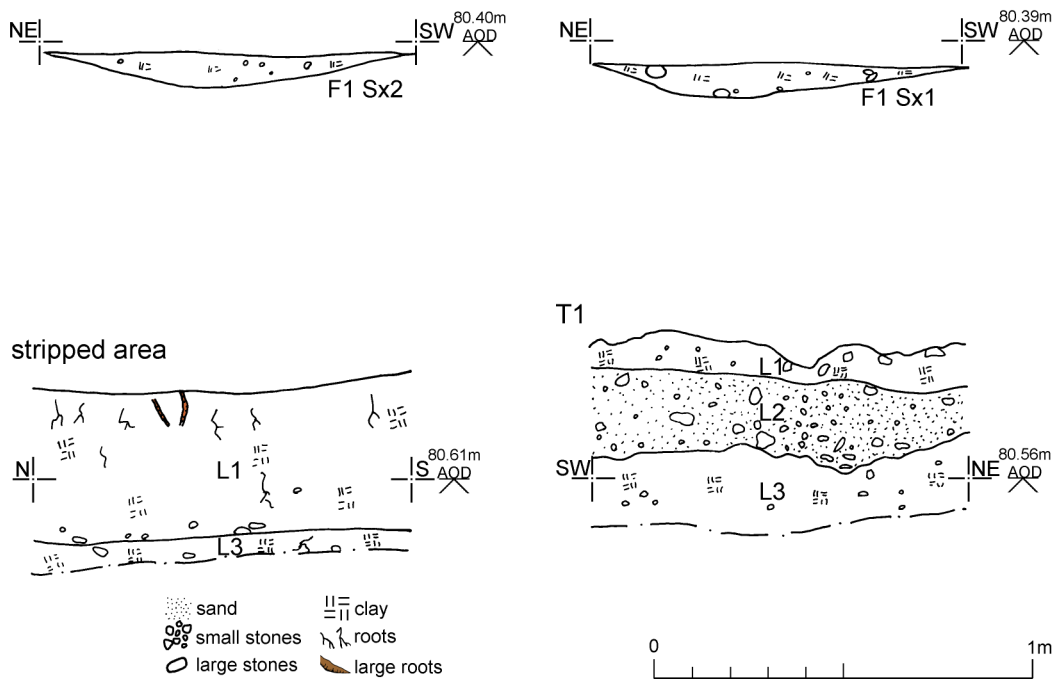


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-299223

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Crumps Farm, Stortford Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1DN: October 2017
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at Crumps Farm, Stortford Road, Little Canfield in advance of groundworks for the ongoing formation of a major waste management facility. The groundworks consisted of topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of an eastern screening landform and a new bund. The development site lies near to the locations of a number of excavations around Little Canfield which have produced evidence of occupation and activity from the Palaeolithic to the post-medieval periods, and within a complex of cropmarks of medieval or post-medieval date. A single ditch of medieval to post-medieval/modern date was uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 02-10-2017 End: 11-10-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	17/09r - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD LITTLE CANFIELD Crumps Farm
Postcode	CM6 1DN
Study area	1.25 Hectares

Site coordinates TL 58492 21004 51.864596203823 0.302110269774 51 51 52 N 000 18 07 E
Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 80.24m Max: 80.68m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator none
Project design originator ECC Field Archaeology Unit
Project director/manager Chris Lister
Project supervisor Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID SAFWM 2017.121
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID SAFWM 2017.121
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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