

Archaeological evaluation on land at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ

December 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Stephen Benfield and Laura Pooley
figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Adam Tuffey and Elliott Hicks

on behalf of Greg Dodds, Orwell Homes Ltd

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (eleven trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley in advance of the construction of twenty-four new dwellings with additional overflow parking for the church and school. Archaeological evaluation at this site uncovered a medieval ditch, a medieval/post-medieval pit, a modern pit, four undated pits and a ditch, and two natural features. Fragments of late 13th- or 14th-century decorated floor tiles retrieved from one of these features indicates that a high-status dwelling or religious building stood in close proximity to the site during this period.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex which was carried out on 18th-20th December 2017. The work was commissioned by Greg Dodds of Orwell Homes Ltd in advance of the construction of twenty-four new dwellings with additional overflow parking for the church and school 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 evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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 draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The development site lies in open land south of the historic settlement of Great Bromley and on the northern extreme of the former parkland surrounding the former Great Bromley Lodge (now Hamilton Lodge) and Rectory (now Copley Dene), a Queen Anne country house and listed building.

A number of cropmark complexes in the surrounding area include ring-ditches of probable Bronze Age date, settlement enclosures and trackways of later prehistoric or Roman date, and probable medieval field boundaries. Although none of these cropmarks are projected to cross the development site, Bronze Age, Roman, early medieval and medieval objects have been found in the vicinity.

4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at this site to investigate its relationship, if any, to the prehistoric, Roman and probable medieval cropmark complexes located

nearby, and to other evidence of Bronze Age, Roman and medieval activity and/or occupation in the vicinity. The evaluation sought to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that exist on the site more broadly, in order to determine whether further investigations were required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Eleven trial-trenches were machine-excavated to natural under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All of the trenches were 1.8m wide. Trenches T1, T2, T5, T6, T7, T8 and T10 measured 30m in length, T9 measured 25m in length, T3 and T4 20m in length, and T11 15m in length.

Two layers were recorded. Modern plough soil (L1, c 0.33-0.39m thick firm, moist, dark grey/brown silt) sealed naturally-deposited sands and soils (L2, firm, moist, medium yellow/grey sandy-silt, encountered at a depth of 0.33-0.39m below current ground level).

No significant archaeological remains were identified in trenches T5-T11.

Trench 1 (T1)

Medieval ditch F2 may have represented the junction of two ditches, one aligned NW-SE and the other NE-SW, or the point at which a single ditch changed course. Two sections were cut through this feature, one measured 0.89m in width and 0.24m in depth, the other 0.79m in width and 0.21m in depth.

Undated pit F1 and probable natural feature F4 were also excavated. Modern pit F3 was uncovered but was not excavated.



Photograph 1: T1 trench shot – looking south south-east

Trench 2 (T2)

Undated ditch F5 was aligned NE-SW. It extended beyond the limit of excavation and so was not fully-uncovered but its excavated extent measured 0.79m in width and 0.23m in depth.

Medieval/post-medieval pit F10 extended beyond the limit of excavation and so was not fully-uncovered. Two sections were cut into this feature, the western section measured 1.3m in width and 0.5m in depth, the eastern section 2.36m in width and 0.82m in depth.

Probable natural feature F6 was also excavated.



Photograph 2: T2 trench shot – looking east

Trench 3 (T3)

Undated ditch F7 was aligned NW-SE and measured 0.59m in width and 0.26m in depth.

Undated pit F8 extended beyond the limit of excavation and so was not fully-uncovered but its excavated extent measured 1.46m in width and 0.19m in depth.

Trench 4 (T4)

Undated pit F9 extended beyond the limit of excavation and so was not fully-uncovered but its excavated extent measured 0.39m in width and 0.18m in depth.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Finds of medieval and modern date were recovered from the excavation of three features. The medieval finds, associated with F2 (T1) and F10 (T2) include coarse

pottery and decorated floor tiles. All of the finds are listed and described in Table 1. The medieval pottery fabrics refer to the Essex & Colchester post-Roman fabric series (CAR 7). A single, individually recorded iron key was also recovered from F10 (SF1).

Medieval

A quantity of ceramic building material (CBM) and two sherds of pottery were recovered from pit F10. The pottery sherds are both medieval sandy greyware (Fabric 20). One, a rim from a neckless cooking pot, can be dated to the period of the late 13th to the 14th century (CAR 7, 95). With this were a number of pieces from peg-tiles and pieces from three floor tiles, two of which are decorated.

The decorated pieces are all large tile flakes from the upper surface, none of which preserve the full thickness of the tile. Two joining pieces from one tile have a white slip design, consisting of dots between broad brush painted line borders, applied directly to the tile surface with a clear glaze over (Fig 5.1). The other decorated tile piece preserves only a small piece of an area of white slip paint, again painted directly on to the surface, but there is no sign of any surface glaze. Both of these tiles preserve parts of small round conical fixing holes made from the underside of the tile and which do not penetrate the tile surface.

The plain tile is a large piece from the corner with the broken side surviving to 11mm in length (Fig 5.2). The tile body is 25mm thick. Some limited rimming may have taken place on the edges but this is not clear and the base is finely sanded. The orange/orange red coloured fabric is similar to that of the decorated tiles but appears slightly less sandy and has a slightly silty feel. The underside has one clear, small round fixing hole; one or two other irregular indents are probably incidental rather than deliberate.

The floor tiles indicate a building of some status from which they originate, possibly a domestic or more commonly a religious house, presumably lying not too distant from the site. The keying, formed by small conical holes made into the base of the tiles, are paralleled on medieval tiles from the church of St. Peter in the East (Oxford) where one illustrated (typical) tile base has sixteen irregular spaced holes of this type (Emden 1969, fig 10; see also fig 9 for profiles of holes). Slip painted tiles where the slip appears to have been applied freehand direct to the surface (as opposed to stamped or coloured in outlined patterns) are recorded at Maldon Friary (Essex) established in the late 13th or early 14th century (Ryan 1999, 92 - small pebble fabric). In terms of dating, one pottery sherd recovered with these tiles is from a neckless, greyware cooking pot which can be broadly dated as late 13th to 14th century. The quantity of broken peg-tile pieces recovered with them also suggests a date in the 14th century or later. These tiles were not common in Essex prior to the 14th century (Ryan and Andrews 1993, 97), although they might possibly appear earlier on buildings of status. Similar free-hand decorated tiles from Dunmow Priory (Essex), held at the British Museum, are dated as 13th to 14th century (<http://www.britishmuseum.org>). It can be noted that stylistically the decoration could be compared with that commonly seen on Colchester-type pottery, the slightly thick slip (with some slow relief) is reminiscent of the earlier phase dating to the 13th to 14th century, although the probable brushed lines are possibly more indicative of the later style dated 15th to early 16th century (CAR 7, 108-109).

The only other general find of medieval date is a single pottery sherd from ditch F2 in Trench 1. This is in an oxidised fabric (Fabric 21) and is broadly dated as c late 13th to 15th century.

Iron key by Laura Pooley

A corroded iron rotary key from pit F10 (SF1) was identified from x-ray. It has a solid, plain stem with a tip which ends in line with the end of the bit, similar to Goodall Type E keys (2011, 240-241). It measures 57mm long, oval bow 25mm by 19mm with internal

projection, bit 9mm by 9mm, 32.7g. Found with medieval pottery but the internal projection on the bow appears to be more common on post-medieval examples.



Photograph 3 Iron key SF1

Modern

A few finds of modern date come from a pit (F3) in Trench 1. These consist of a large piece from a red brick of 19th to early 20th century date, with two other small brick pieces and a piece of roof slate.

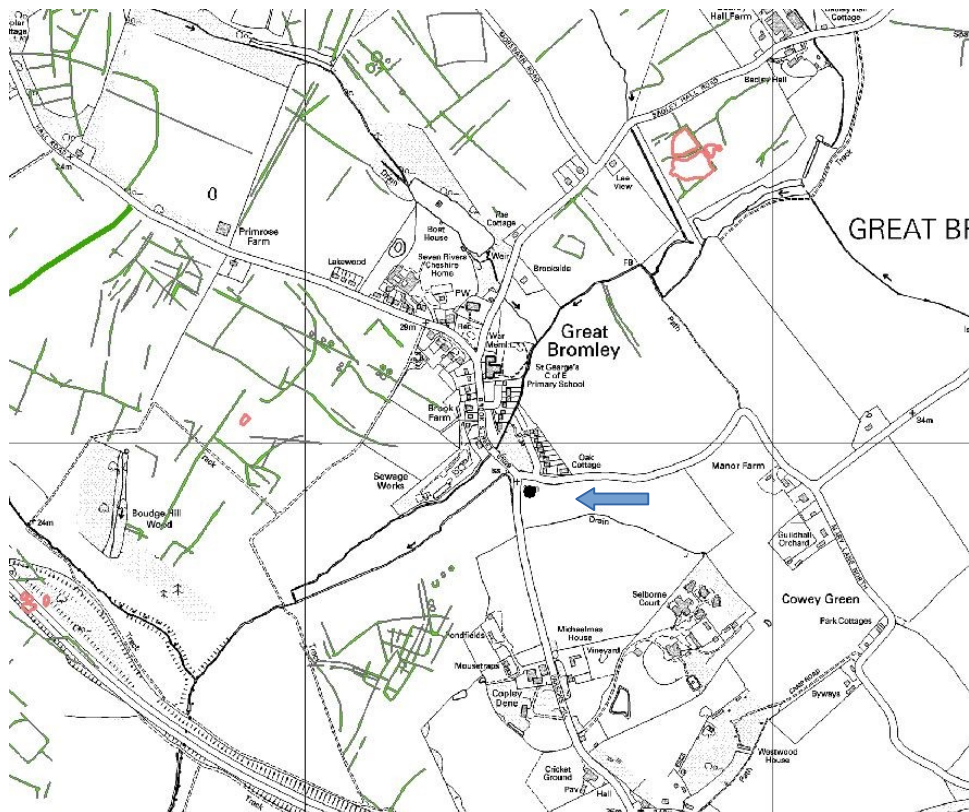
Context	Find no	Type/ description	Finds Spot date
T1, F2, Ditch	2	Medieval Pottery: (1 sherd, 26g) Fabric 21 base edge sherd, probably from a cooking pot or jug, sagging base, oxidised sandy orange/ brownish-red fabric with prominent milky and white quartz sand, pot hand finished (c late 13th to 15th century)	Medieval (c late 13th to 15th century)
T1, F3, Pit	3	CBM: (3 pieces, 1672g) one large piece of a red brick (105mm x 65mm) with grey cement mortar adhering, brick not frogged (c 19th to early 20th century); two other smaller pieces both with sandy-lime base mortar which extends over broken edge of one piece (re-used) Slate: (1 piece, 26g) piece of blue-grey roofing slate	Modern (19th-early 20th century)
T2, F10, Pit	1	Medieval Pottery: Fabric 20 (2 sherds, 44g), body sherd and rim form a neckless cooking pot (late 13th to 14th century) CBM: (total 16 pieces, 1222g). Medieval Floor tile: (4 pieces, 644g) from three tiles, two decorated, one plain; the decorated tile pieces preserve only the upper part of the tile (no full thickness), two joining pieces are decorated with white slip paint (lines and dots) with a clear glaze over (Fig 5.1), one other (probably a second tile) has a small area of slip paint; with these is one plain tile piece (corner) 25mm thick, sides >11mm in length; the decorated tiles are in a coarsely sanded orange/ brownish orange fabric, the plain tile (Fig 5.2) is in an orange, rather more silty fabric with common medium sand; all the pieces have parts of small, comical, deliberately made keying holes (pierced from the underside) which do not fully penetrate the thickness of the tile (for similar fixing holes see Emden Oxoniensia Vol XXXIV 1969 29-44). Peg-tile: (12 pieces, 578g) mostly orange or brownish orange in colour, some grey, with moderate-abundant coarse sand, between 10mm and 15mm	Medieval / post-medieval

Context	Find no	Type/ description	Finds Spot date
		thick, some pieces with round peg holes (probably 14th century or later – see Ryan and Andrews 1993). Iron key: see above	

Table 1 Finds by context and finds number

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at this site uncovered a medieval ditch, a medieval/post-medieval pit, a modern pit, four undated pits and a ditch, and two natural features. It might be speculated that these features bear some relation to the large cropmark complexes within the broader area, some of which, as well as dating to the Bronze Age and Roman period, may indicate the locations of grubbed out medieval field boundaries (see Map 1 below). However, as these cropmarks do not extend onto the site, their relation to the features uncovered cannot be definitively determined.



Map 1 Cropmark plot (courtesy of EHER), site indicated by a blue arrow

Medieval pottery sherds found in F2 and further medieval pottery sherds and fragments of floor tiles uncovered in F10, all of which date to the period from the late 13th to the 15th century, add to existing evidence of activity and/or occupation close to the site during this period. Of particular note, the floor tiles are characteristic of high-status domestic or religious buildings of the 14th century; their presence suggests that such a structure was built in close proximity to the site during this period. The construction of this building can be located within what appears to have been a period marked by some degree of development within the settlement, including that of the parish church of St George, the construction of which began during the early 14th century, and continued throughout the following century (Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, 1922, pp. 111-3).

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Greg Dodds of Orwell Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister. Fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Tuffey and E Hicks. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. 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>

British Museum	Undated	http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_on_object_details/collection_image_gallery.aspx?assetId=191204001&objectId=9004&partId=1#more-views
Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 7	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Archaeological trial trenching on Land at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley</i>
Emden, A	1969	'Medieval floor-tiles in the church of St Peter in the East', Oxford, <i>Oxoniensia</i> Volume 34, 29-44
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Goodall, I	2011	<i>Ironwork in Medieval Britain: An Archaeological Study</i> . The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 31
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011a	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England	1922	'Great Bromley', in <i>An Inventory of the Historical Monuments in Essex, Vol. 3, North East</i> (London, 1922), pp. 111-113.
Ryan, P	1992	'Medieval floor tile' in Isserlin, R., <i>The Carmelite Friary at Maldon: excavations 1990-1</i> , <i>EAH</i> Volume 30, 91-92
Ryan, P and Andrews, D	1993	'A brick and tile typology for Cressing Temple' in Andrews, D., <i>Cressing Temple, a Templar and Hospitaller manor in Essex</i> , 93-99, Essex County Council

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	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 (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
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile 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 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: part of one box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1212)

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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2017.148

Distribution list:

Mr Greg Dodds, Orwell Homes Ltd
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 13.03.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Finds number	Context type	Description	Date
F1	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F2	2	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Medieval
F3	3	Pit	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silt	Modern
F4	-	Natural	Firm, moist light grey sand	Post-glacial
F5	-	Ditch	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F6	-	Natural	Firm, moist grey/brown sandy-silt	Post-glacial
F7	-	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sand	Undatable
F8	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey silt	Undatable
F9	-	Pit	Firm, moist light grey silt	Undatable
F10	1	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Medieval/ post-medieval
L1	-	Plough soil	Firm, moist, dark grey/brown silt	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow/grey sandy-silt	Post-glacial

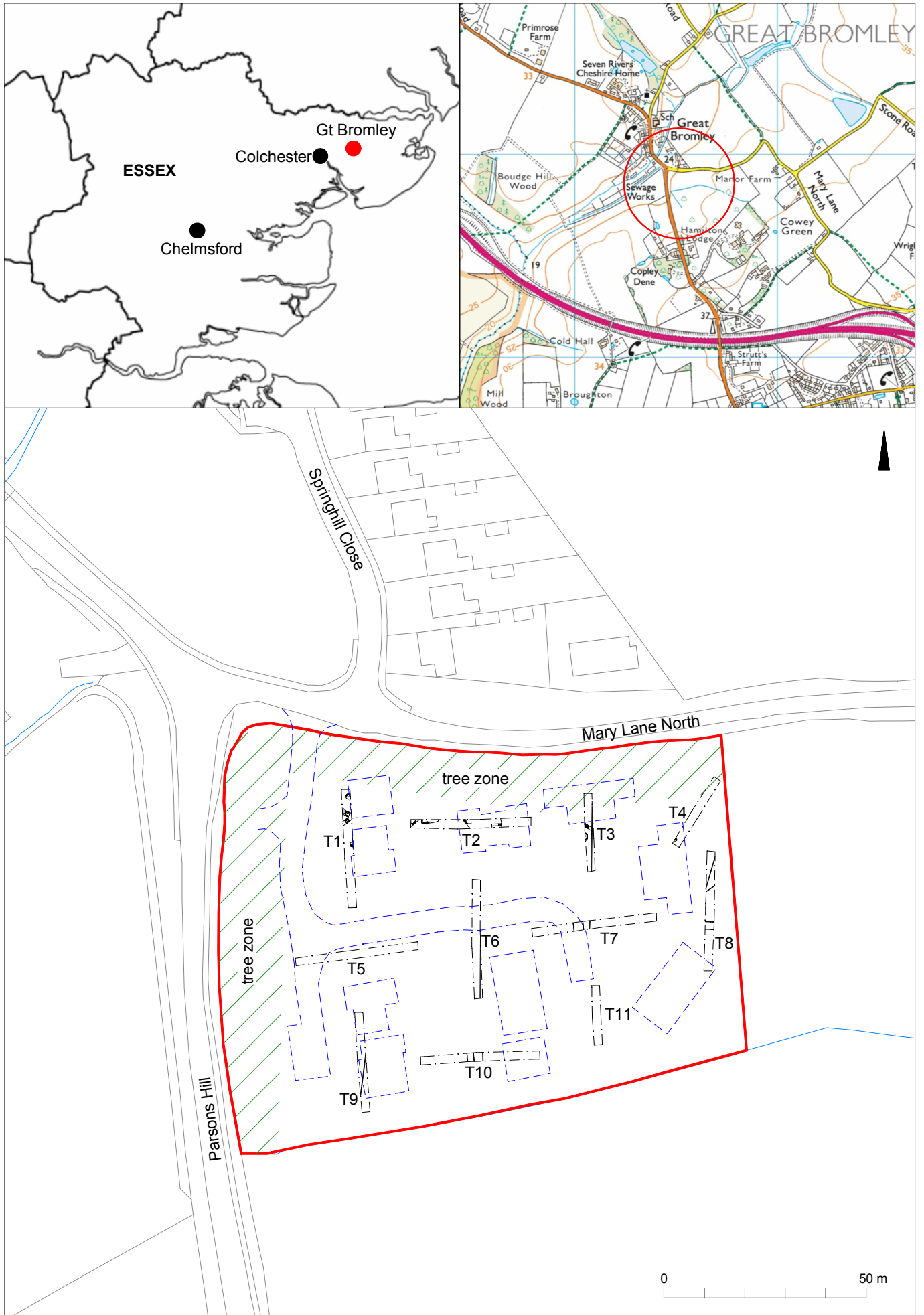


Fig 1 Site location, proposed development dashed blue

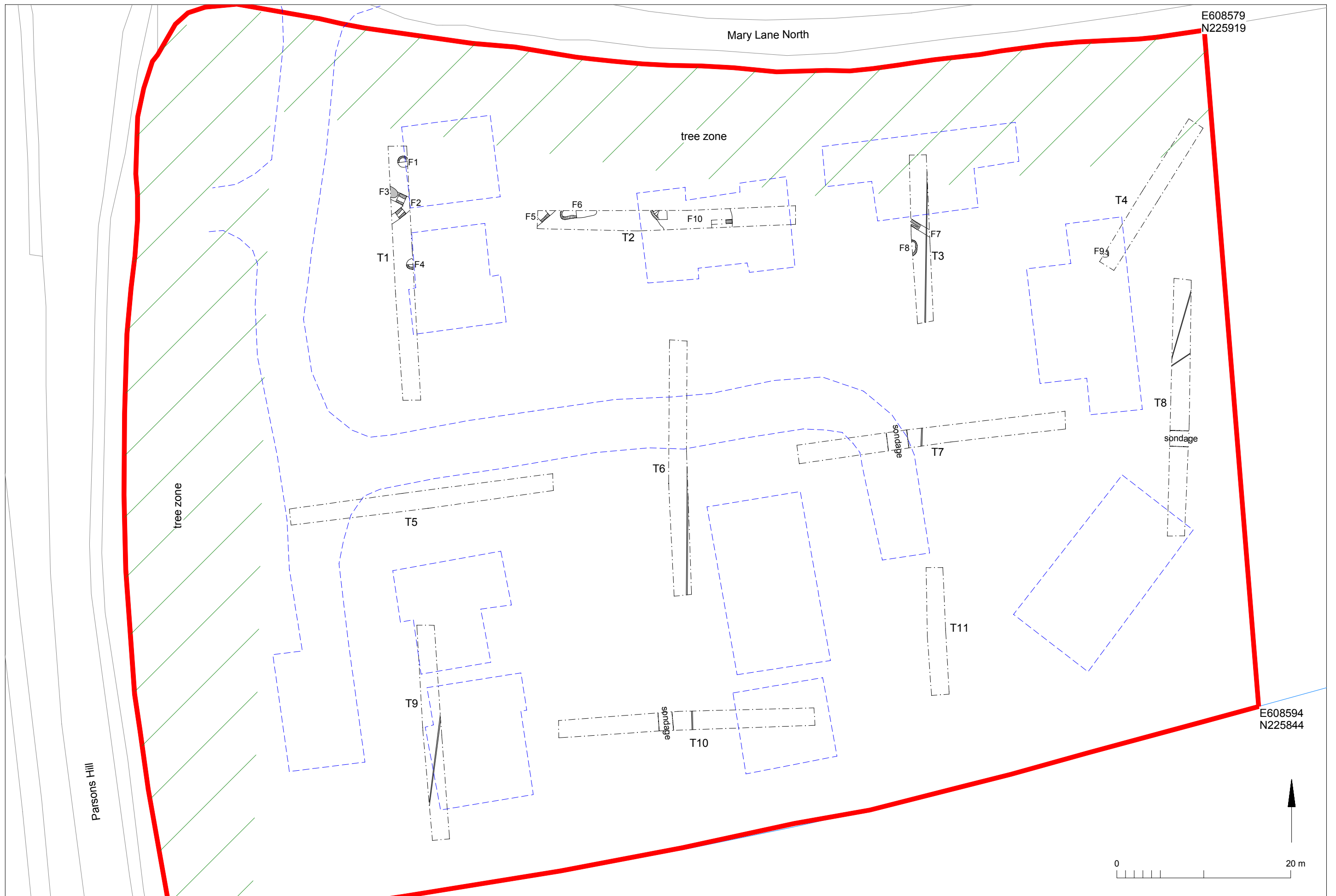


Fig 2 Results, proposed development dashed blue, modern services in grey.

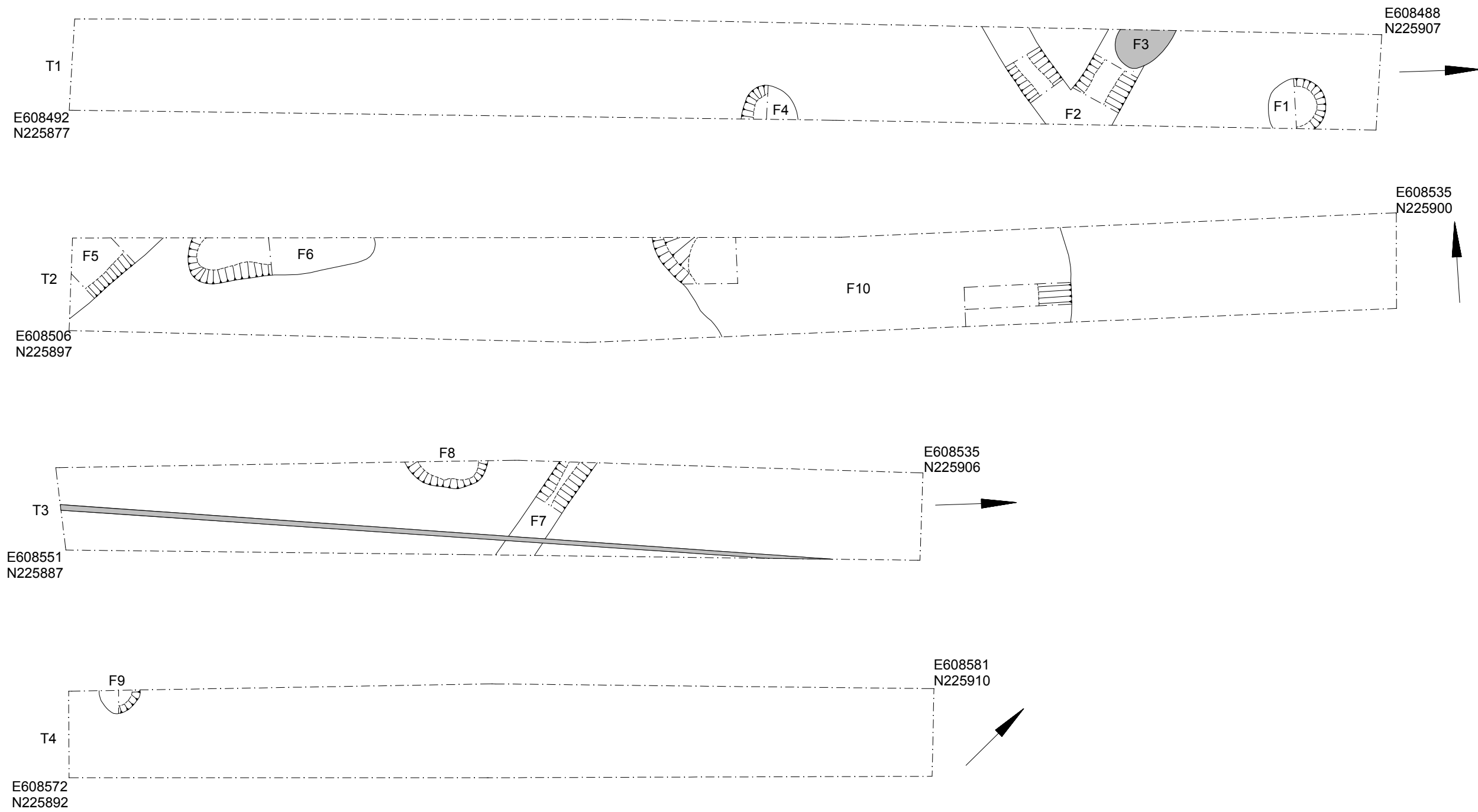


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans

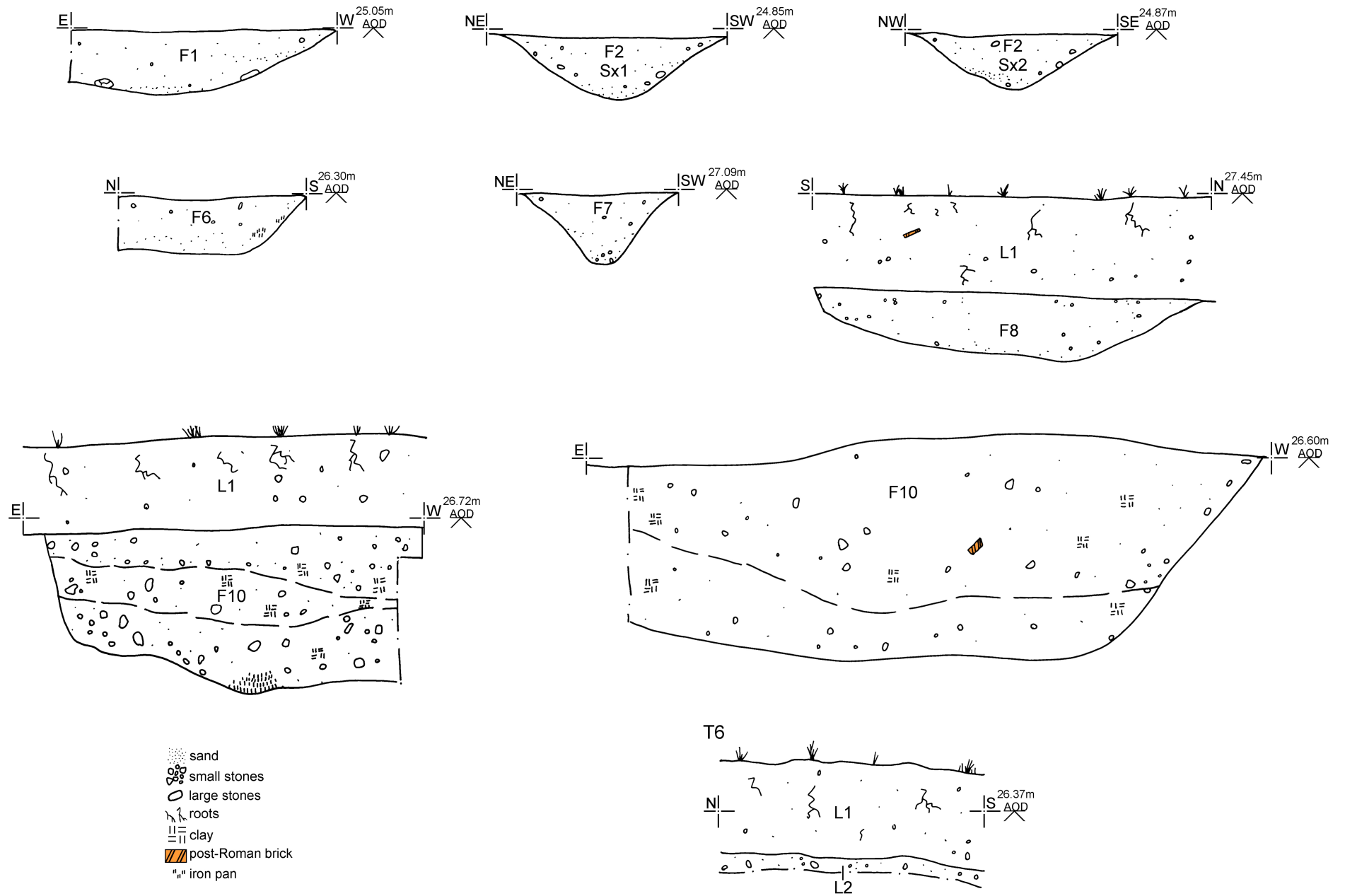


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections



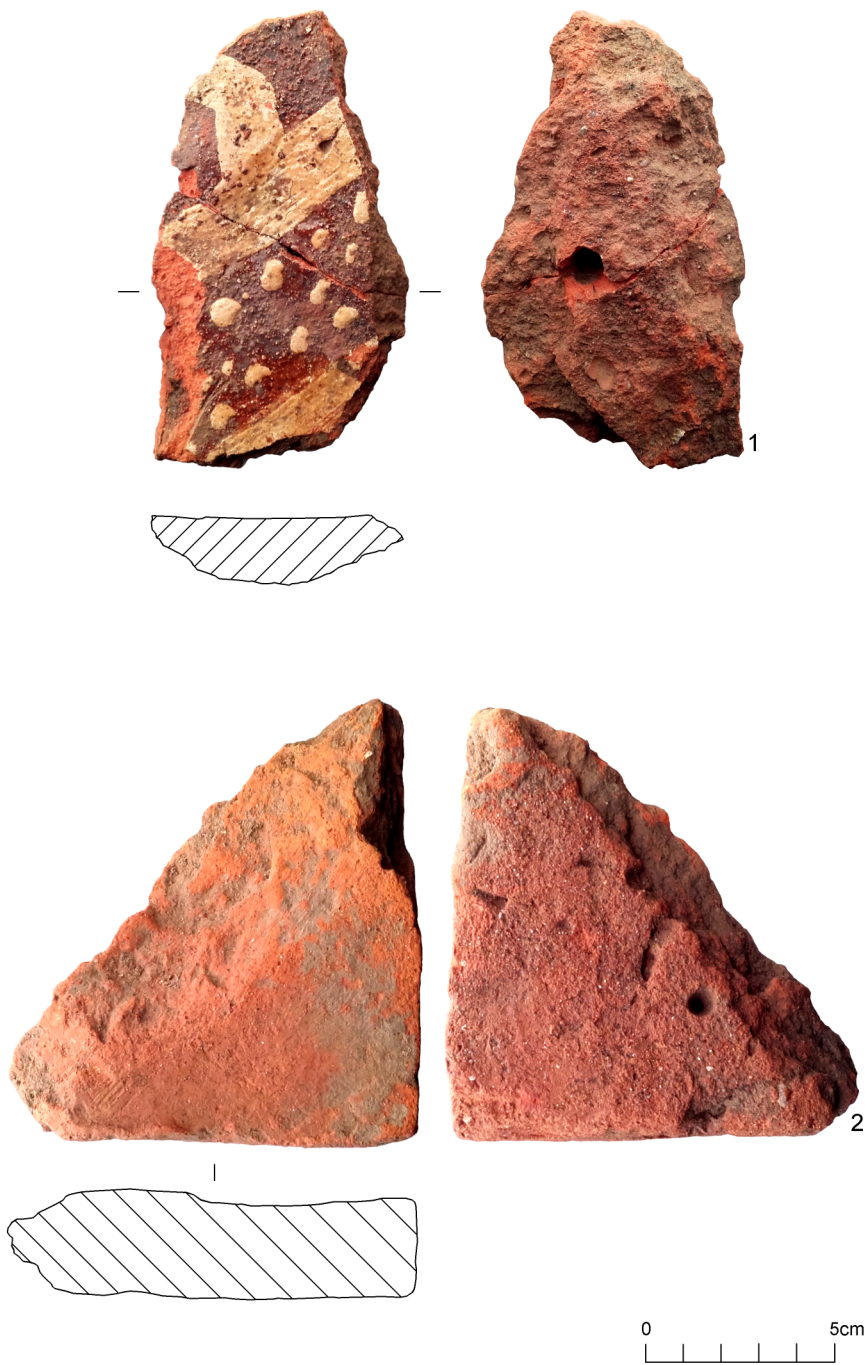


Fig 5 Medieval floor tiles from F10.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-300926

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (eleven trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley in advance of the construction of twenty-four new dwellings with additional overflow parking for the church and school. Archaeological evaluation at this site uncovered a medieval ditch, a medieval/postmedieval pit, a modern pit, four undated pits and a ditch, and two natural features. Fragments of late 13th- or 14th-century decorated floor tiles retrieved from one of these features indicates that a high-status dwelling or religious building stood in close proximity to the site during this period.
Project dates	Start: 18-12-2017 End: 20-12-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/11d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00782/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	GBYBH17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2017.148 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE None
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain

Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	KEY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING GREAT BROMLEY Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road
Postcode	CO7 7TJ
Study area	1.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 08480 25897 51.892029447093 1.030182319049 51 53 31 N 001 01 48 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 24.59m Max: 27.1m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	COLEM 2017.148
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2017.148

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2017.148
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

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