Archaeological evaluation on land east off The Street, Assington, Suffolk, CO10 5LJ

March 2018

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

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Robin Mathieson, Kyle Mollan and Nigel Rayner

commissioned by Ross Bain
on behalf of Vaughan & Blyth

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Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the east of The Street, Assington, Suffolk in advance of the construction of ten new dwellings. Located close to the medieval church of St Edmund and Assington Hall, the development site is in an area of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity and close to a number of undated cropmarks.

The evaluation revealed a possible linear of medieval (c 13th- to 14th-century) date, probably located of the periphery of medieval activity which was focussed around the medieval church and Assington Hall to the north. The only other dated features were a pit of Roman or medieval date, and a boundary ditch, pit and ditch of post-medieval/modern date. Fourteen undated features (six pits, three ditches, three natural features/tree-throws, a ground hollow and area of root activity) were also excavated. Recovered from the topsoil was a residual flint flake of Neolithic or Bronze Age date and a quantity of post-medieval/modern agricultural ironwork.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land to the east of The Street, Assington, Suffolk which was carried out on 22nd-23rd March 2018. The work was commissioned by Ross Bain, on behalf of Vaughan and Blyth, in advance of the construction of ten new dwellings, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council: Planning reference 17/06170) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and 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* P*lanning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* detailing the required archaeological work written by Rachael Abraham (SCCAS 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2018).

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 evaluation* (CIfA 2017a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2017b).

3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9210441.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale[1]) shows the bedrock geology of the site as 'London Clay Formation – clay, silt and sand' with superficial deposits of 'Lowestoft Formation – sand and gravel '.

[1] British Geological Survey – http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?

Historic landscape
Assington is in an area defined as *ancient rolling farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment[2]. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map[3] it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.1, built up area (unspecified). The landscape immediately around the development site is primarily characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th-century enclosure – random fields), sub-type 2.1 (18th-century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland), sub-type 2.7 (18th-century and later enclosure – woodland clearance), sub-type 3.1/2 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from random fields/rectilinear fields), sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland – meadow), sub-type 7.1 (woodland – ancient woodland) and sub-type 9.2 (post-medieval park and leisure – informal park).

Archaeology[4] (Fig 2)
(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the HER monument).

The only prehistoric finds in the vicinity of the development site are a surface scatter of Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age flints found 870m SSE (ASN 027), and a Bronze Age stone axe-hammer found 1.78km E/ESE (ASN 004).

The medieval church of St Edmund is located 590m NNE (ASN 003), reputedly on the site of the last battle between the English and the Danes. Assington Hall (ASN 001, 500m N) sits adjacent to the church. The hall, which is possibly of 14th-century origin, is supposedly on the site of an earlier monastery. The 16th-century and later red brick hall was destroyed by fire in 1957, and only the 19th-century west wing is still intact. To the west of Assington Hall is a square moat clearly shown on the Assington tithe map of 1837, named 'The Island' (ASN 008, 545m N). To the east of the church is Assington Green (ASN 013, 600m NNE).

A watermill is also recorded in the Domesday Survey at Assington in 1086 (ASN 009, 1.5km S) and Leaven Hall (LVH 006, 2km SE) is a possible moated site with 15th- or 16th-century house on a central platform.

Several post-medieval monuments are located within 2km of the development site. These consist of:

- 19th-century agricultural buildings at Hill Farm (ASN 025, 180m NNE),
- Assington Park, which was landscaped in 1750 (ASN 012, 700m N),
- an open trestle-type post mill (ASN 031, 1.1km S),
- a brick kiln and cottage recorded on the tithe map of 1837 (ASN 007, 1.5km SSW),
- the site of a possible dovecote (ASN 030, 1.65km NE),
- a 15th-century barn (constructed *c* 1600) with a 19th-century stable and cattleyard at Goulding's Farm (NEN 010, 2km NW).
- a small quantity of post-medieval fieldwalking and metal-detecting finds (NEN Misc, approximately 1.8km W).
- 19th-century stable block at Moor's Farm (ASN 033, 1.7km SSW),

Undated cropmarks and other monuments include:

- possible fish ponds and dam on a stream course to the south of Assington Hall, with possible house platforms to the east (possibly a deserted village) (ASN 005, 410m NNE),
- two parallel ditch marks (possibly a road) running north-south (ASN 002, 670m NNE),

[2] http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/
[3] The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council
[4] This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

- cropmarks of ring-ditches (ASN 016, 1.05km NNW; ASN 018 and ASN 019, 1km N; and ASN 026, 1.5km NW),
- cropmarks of park(?) and field boundaries of at least two phases (ASN 017, 1.05km NNW),
- part of an ancient woodland now known as Assington Thicks (ASN 011, 780m SW),
- area of Birch Avery, formerly part of larger ancient woodland known as Assington Thicks (ASN 010, 1.7km SW),
- Ancient woodland at Mumford's & Fitch's Woods (COL 018, 2.1km W), Leadenhall Wood (LVH 002, 1.8km SE) and Lord's Wood (NEN 005, 1.8km WNW).

Listed buildings[5]

As well as the Grade I listed medieval church of St Edmund, there are a further 33 Grade II listed buildings, dating from the 15th to the 20th centuries, within a 2km search radius of the development site.

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits that were identified within the development site.
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

5 Methodology

Six trial-trenches were laid out across the development site, all measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide (totalling 170m linear or 306m²).

All of the trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata. For full details of the methodology, refer to the attached WSI.

6 Results (Appendix 1, Figs 3-5)

Two layers were recorded in each trench. Modern topsoil (L1, *c* 0.29-0.37m thick, dark grey/brown sandy-loam) sealed natural sands and gravels (L2).

Trench 1 (T1)

Four features were uncovered with T1. Possible linear feature F2 was recorded on the northern edge of the evaluation trench. It was not fully defined but appeared to be aligned NW to SE and measured at least 0.32m deep. Five sherds of medieval (13th to 14th century) pottery were recovered from the fill.

[5] This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Two undated ditches (F3-F4) and an undated pit (F1) were also recorded. The ditches were aligned NE/SW (F4) and NNE to SSW (F3). Ditch F3 was U-shaped measuring 1.02m wide by 0.22m deep, and ditch F4 was V-shaped measuring 0.75m by 0.29m deep. A piece of slate was present in F3 but not retained, suggesting it may have been of a post-medieval/modern date. The pit produced burnt flint and animal bone, neither of which can be closely dated.

Photograph 1 Trench T1, looking south

Trench 2 (T2)
Two undated parallel ditches (F5 and F6) were aligned N/S, measuring 1.02m wide by 0.32m deep and 0.88m wide by 0.2m deep respectively.

Two undated pits (F10 and F14) were also excavated along with a 19th- to early 20th-century pit (F13).

A large, possibly natural, depression (F9) filled with a medium yellow/brown loamy-sand was identified at the eastern end of the trench and in T3. A sondage was excavated through F9 which was 0.31m thick.

Trench 3 (T3)
A large, possibly natural, depression was identified covering most of T3 and the eastern end of T2. A sondage was dug through the loamy-sand fill, which was *c* 0.72m thick, revealing what appeared to be root disturbance (F17) into natural.

Photograph 2 Trench T2, looking east

Trench 4 (T4)
A modern ditch (F19) was aligned NNW/SSE and measured 1.54m wide by 0.54m deep. It is first recorded on the 1885 6-inch OS map where it forms a property boundary for 'The Hollies' to the southwest of the development site.

Undated pits F15 and F16 were also excavated.

Trench 5 (T5)
There were no significant archaeological remains in T5. A sondage was excavated to check natural had been reached.

Trench 6 (T6)
A few small fragments of lava quern were recovered from a pit (F8), which could possibly date to the Roman or medieval period.

An undated pit (F7) and three natural features or tree-throws (F11, F12 and F18) were also excavated.

Photograph 3 Trench T6, looking west

7 Finds

7.1 Bulk finds

by Stephen Benfield

Bulk finds, primarily consisting of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), glass and animal bone, were recovered from pits, a linear feature and a ditch located in three evaluation trenches (T1, T2 & T4) as well as from topsoil (L1) and excavated spoil. The pottery fabrics recorded (listed in Table 1) refer to the Colchester post-Roman fabric type series (*CAR* **7**). All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2. In addition a collection of metal-detected bulk iron work and a few individually-numbered small finds (SF) are listed and discussed separately.

Fabric	Fabric description
20	Medieval coarseware
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenwares (general)
46	Tin-glazed earthenwares
47	Staffordshire-type white stonewares
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares
48E	Yellow ware
51A	Late slipped kitchenware
51B	Flowerpot

Table 1 Pottery fabrics

Context	Find no.	Type/ description	Finds spot date
T1, F1 Pit	1	**Burnt stone:** singe small piece of burnt flint (28g). **Animal bone:** (3 pieces, 42g) deer radius, sheep or deer tibia & an unidentified axial fragment.	-
T1, F2 Linear	2	**Medieval pottery:** Fabric 20 (5 sherds, 14g), small wheel-made, sandy greyware body sherds from three or four pots, includes jar or jar-like body sherds & two thin walled sherds (one possibly Roman).	Medieval, *c* 13 to 14th century
T1, L1 Topsoil	4	**Roman or medieval pottery:** single sherd (3g), moderately sandy greyware, wheel-made	Roman or medieval
T2, F13 Pit	14	**?Medieval pottery:** (one sherd, 6g), sandy greyware, wheel-made. **Post-medieval & modern pottery:** Fabric 40 (1 sherd, 22g), Fabric 46 (2 sherds, 2g), Fabric 48E (1 sherd, 14g). **CBM:** single piece of sandy orange brick (7g). **Slate:** (2 pieces, 8 g) thin, flaked pieces.	19th to early 20th century
	15	**Copper-alloy button:** small button 12mm in diameter and 2mm thick (1.4g) with a worn and unidentifiable image in a central circle, the fitting on the back is broken off and missing.	20th century
T2, L1 Topsoil	12	**Prehistoric flint:** Single flint flake, thin secondary flake with cortex down one edge, striking platform snapped off; previous flake scars and a hinge fracture just below the striking area on dorsal face, plunge fracture at distal end of flake, retouch notch on one side with damage or usewear along same side, corner of proximal end on that side and damage or usewear along distal end. While not closely-dated, a Neolithic or Bronze Age date appears likely.	Prehistoric (Neolithic or Bronze Age)
	16	**Post-medieval pottery:** Fabric 40 (1 sherd, 8g). **Slate pencil**: short piece, length 40mm.	*c* 18th to 19th century
T4, F16 Pit	17	**Stone**: natural flint, cortex and white patinated areas, not heat affected or worked (discarded).	(natural)
T4, F19 Ditch	19	**Modern pottery:** Fabric 47 (1 sherd, 18g) head from a moulded white stoneware figure group; Fabric 48D (6 sherds, 452g) includes sherd from a hand painted blue and white large plate or dish with floral pattern; also a near complete (broken) Keiller marmalade pot in three joining sherds, dated to after 1873 (Newcastle Maling pottery); Fabric 51A (2 sherds, 446g); Fabric 51B (1 sherd, 12g). **CBM**: complete red brick (2872g), moulded rectangular frog with rounded base (230 x 110 x 65mm); second brick, end piece, Suffolk white (90 x 60mm); also wall-tile piece (20g). *(It can be noted that the frog of the complete brick is similar in form to some bricks recovered from a probable kiln site at East Bergholt (CAT Report 1164, Type 1), although overall the frog here is larger and deeper so this is not a direct parallel).* **Modern glass:** two complete, moulded, clear glass paste pots (226g), 85mm & 95mm in height; centre of green-tinted moulded glass bottle base or lid with monogram in circle in surrounding radiate sun pattern. **Modern ironwork:** two corroded iron wire nails and a piece of thick iron wire.	late 19th century
T6, F8 Pit	10	**Lava quern:** seven very small fragments of lava quern (5.7g), some joining (fresh breaks) other surfaces abraded.	Roman or medieval
U/S spoilheap	7	**Modern pottery:** Fabric 48E (1 sherd, 22g). **Iron nail:** small head, rectangular shaft, length 105mm.	19th to early 20th century

Table 2 All finds by context

The earliest dated find is a worked flint (12), recovered from topsoil in T2. This is most probably of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

A single burnt flint recovered from a possible pit (F1) in T1 might also be prehistoric, but cannot be closely dated. Of the three pieces of animal bone from the same feature, one can be identified as deer and another as either sheep or deer, but again these cannot be closely dated.

A few small body sherds of wheel-made, sandy greyware pottery are probably medieval (*c* 13th to 14th century) although two of the sherds are quite thin and at least one of these might be Roman, as might a single sherd from L1 in T4. However, on balance and with certain reservations, a medieval date is probably to be preferred for most if not all this pottery. Sherds of greyware pottery were the only finds associated with a linear feature F2 in T1, indicating a probable medieval date for the feature. The sherds come from more than one pot and have an average sherd weight of less than 3g (2.8g) so that they have some prior depositional history before they entered this feature. A couple of similar small sherds of probable medieval date were also recovered as residual finds from topsoil in T1 (4) and from a pit (F13) in T2.

The great majority of the finds of pottery, glass and CBM are of post-medieval and modern date. These are associated with pit F13 in T2 and with the fill of ditch F19 in T4. A base from a small yellow ware bowl (Fabric 48E) current from the late 18th until the early 20th century, is the latest closely dated find from F13 and is likely to be of 19th-century date. A large number of pottery sherds from ditch F19 includes includes a ceramic (Keiller & sons) marmalade jar, current in the late 19th century, and which can be dated to the year 1873 or later.

Discussion
The prehistoric flint recovered indicates some limited activity in the area, probably in the Neolithic or Bronze Age.

While one or two sherds might be Roman, the majority of the greyware pottery can be taken to result from medieval activity related to settlement in the general area. However, the small quantity and small size of sherds in both feature fill and as residual finds indicates that the settlement focus is likely to be located off of the present site. The pottery appears likely to reflect agricultural manure scatter on surrounding farm land.

Most of the finds are of post-medieval or modern date. A few sherds of post-medieval red earthen ware, broadly current from the 16th to 18th centuries, hint at activity probably in the latter part of that period, although the majority of the finds confirm that most of the later-dated contexts are of late 19th- or early 20th-century date.

7.2 Small finds

by Laura Pooley

SF1: A copper-alloy button recovered from F13 (15) is of probable 20th-century date. It has a worn and unidentifiable image in a central circle, with the fitting on the back broken off and missing. It measures 12mm in diameter, 2mm thick and 1.4g.

SF2: Seven very small fragments of imported lava quernstone almost without doubt from the Mayen quarries in Germany, were recovered from pit F8 in Trench 6. Some of the fragments join and show fresh brakes (probably as a result of the current evaluation), other surfaces are quite abraded. These lava quernstones were first imported in the Roman period during which time large numbers arrived in Britain; the trade began again in the later Anglo-Saxon period and continued into the medieval period (*CAR* **2**, 75). Such small fragments cannot be closely dated but, given the other finds from the development site, it would appear that the likelihood is that the quern here is of a Roman or medieval date.

7.3 Metal-detected finds
by Laura Pooley

The trenches were metal-detected before machining (L1) and the spoil heaps metal-detected after machining. All of the metalwork was identified from spoil heaps and topsoil (L1), none were recovered from features. There was a total of 14 pieces of ironwork (2.223kg) and one fragment of lead (60.5g). The ironwork included one complete horseshoe, a horseshoe nail, a fragment of a garden/agricultural fork, a bolt, and three iron nails (see Table 3 for full details). None need date to earlier than the late post-medieval/modern period, and most are probably of agricultural origin. All will be discarded once this report has been approved.

Trench and finds no.	Description
T1, (5) spoil heap	**Ironwork** 1) complete horseshoe – plain, flat iron horseshoe with square heels and toe clip, an agricultural horseshoe suitable for slow work, probably 19th century onwards, 150mm by 150mm by 12mm thick, 516g. 2) fragment of a garden/agricultural fork with the remains of three prongs, 125mm long by 100mm wide by 30mm thick, 445.8g. 3) unidentifiable lump, 80mm by 70mm by 45mm, 426.2g.
T2, (8) spoil heap	**Ironwork** 1) piece of modern engine fitting, 55mm by 23mm by 13mm, 28.4g. 2) two iron nails, both with square heads and square-shanks, one clenched, 70mm and 60mm long, 24.3g.
T3, (9) spoil heap	**Ironwork** 1) large iron bolt, octagonal head and round shank, 130mm long, 227.7g. 2) oval iron ring fitting, 70mm by 58mm by 22mm thick, 140g. 3) unidentifiable strip fragment, 65mm by 20mm by 4mm thick, 17.2g
T4, (20) L1	**Ironwork** 1) half of a square/rectangular flat iron plate, broken diagonally, 150mm by 140mm by 5mm thick, 306g. 2) fragment, 45mm by 23mm by 8mm thick, 20.4g
T6, (21) L1	**Ironwork** 1) iron bracket fragment, 55mm by 23mm by 23mm, 52.1g. 2) iron nail, square-shank, round head, clenched 45 degrees, 60mm long, 15g. 3) horseshoe nail, flat with expanded head, 35mm long, 3.9g. **Lead** 1) mangled fragment, 65mm by 35mm by 10mm thick, 60.5g

Table 3 All metal-detected finds

8 Environmental assessment
by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction
Six samples were taken from ditches, a pit and a ground hollow.

Sampling and processing methods
Six samples (totalling 300 litres of soil) were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample

were recorded. A magnet was passed across each 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). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

Results (Table 4)
The plant remains
Uncharred, probably recent, root/rhizome fragments were present in abundance in every sample.

The charred plant remains consisted of grains, charcoal and one seed. One charred bread/club/rivet (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) grain each were found in undated ditch F5 (sample <3>) and undated ground hollow F9 (sample <6>). One poorly preserved cereal grain was found in Roman or medieval pit F8 (sample <5>). One possible olive (Olea sp.) stone was found in post-medieval ditch F3 (sample <2>). No cereal chaff was recovered. No charcoal fragments were of identifiable size.

Dried waterlogged seeds of ruderals were found in samples <2>, <3>, <5> and <6>. These were present in low numbers. Seeds of bedstraw (*Galium verum/mollugo*) were found in F3 <2>, F5 <3> and undated F9 <6>. Fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.) seeds were found in F9 <6> and seeds of orache (*Atriplex* sp.) were found in F8 <5>.

Sample no.	Finds no.	Sample description	Bulk sample vol. (L.)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charred plant remains								Dried waterlogged plant remains			
					Grains			Seeds			Charcoal <4mmØ	Charcoal >4mmØ	Seeds			Root/rhizomes
					a	d	p	a	d	p	a	a	a	d	p	a
1	3	F2, medieval linear	40	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
2	6	F3, post-medieval ditch	40	20	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	1	1	3	3
3	10	F5, undated ditch	40	35	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	3
4	13	F6, undated ditch	40	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
5	11	F8, Roman or medieval pit	40	5	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
6	18	F9, undated ground hollow	40	5	1	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	3	3

Table 4 Plant remains in samples

Key to Table 4
a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; and 3 = abundant >100]
d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high]
p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

Faunal remains
Terrestrial mollusca were found in low to moderate numbers in each sample apart from the sample from possible medieval linear F2 <1>. Worm cocoons were found in low numbers in F2 <1>, F3 <2>, F5 <3> and F9 <6>.

Significant inorganic remains and artefacts
No significant inorganic remains were observed.

Discussion
Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination
Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples. Uncharred root/rhizome fragments, terrestrial mollusca and earthworm cocoons can indicate that bioturbation is possible. Worm action can carry small items such as seeds and small stones up to a metre down into the soil (Canti 2003, 143). Shells of the terrestrial snail *Ceciliodes acicula* were found in samples <2> to <7>. This snail burrows well below the ground surface (Kerney & Cameron 1979, 149) and can play a role in bioturbation.

Quality and type of preservation
Preservation was by charring and possibly waterlogged conditions that have since dried. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; English Heritage 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

Preservation by waterlogging occurs when plant remains are in anoxic conditions such as sealed pits or layers or a high water-tables (English Heritage 2011, 13).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson and Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work
The plant remains, aside from the uncharred root/rhizome fragments, were present in low numbers relative to sample size. These are small and durable enough to have been move about the site in backfill, re-working and bioturbation so cannot be guaranteed to be the same date as or originate from the sampled feature or context unless the excavators are sure the sampled contexts were stratigraphically secure.

A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern England (Pelling *et al*. 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

If the stratigraphic integrity of the sampled contexts containing charred plant remains are secure then they are evidence of cereals consumed and associated crop weeds. But they are very low in number relative to the volume of sampled soil.

Preservation conditions appear to support charred and mineralised plant macro-remains so bulk/whole-earth sampling in future excavations will be a suitable method of sampling.

Due to the low number of charred items per litre of sampled soil and that fact that this report records all the items seen, no further work is recommended on these samples unless it is for radiocarbon dating. Items that may be suitable for radiocarbon dating were found in samples <2>, <3>, <5> and <6>.

9 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land to the east of The Street, Assington revealed a possible medieval linear of *c* 13th- to 14th-century date. Significant medieval archaeology is known from Assington, centred around the church of St Edmund and Assington Hall both located *c* 500m north of the development site. The hall, which is possibly of 14th-century origin, is also supposedly on the site of an earlier monastery. The linear and medieval finds recorded on the development site may be associated with this activity, but would appear to only be on the periphery of it.

The only other dated features were a pit of either Roman or medieval date (F8), a post-medieval/modern property boundary ditch (F19) present on early OS maps, and a post-medieval/modern pit (F13). Another ditch (F3) containing a piece of slate may also be of a post-medieval date but is not visible on OS maps. Fourteen features were undated (six pits, three ditches, three natural features/tree-throws, one ground hollow and one area of root activity).

A single flint flake recovered from the topsoil is likely of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, suggesting some prehistoric activity on the site, and at least two residual Roman pottery sherds were recorded. Also from the topsoil was a quantity of metal-detected ironwork, indicating significant agricultural activity on the site in the post-medieval and modern periods, including the use of horses probably for ploughing.

10 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Ross Bain and Vaughan and Blyth for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson, K Mollan and N Rayner. Figures are by BH and S Carter. The project was monitored by Hannah Cutler for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

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

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12 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from *c* 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from *c* 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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* AD 1500
modern	period from *c* AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from *c* 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	**O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S**, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from *c* AD 1500 to *c* 1800

prehistoric	pre-Roman
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
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
u/s	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
wsi	written scheme of investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: One box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1251)
SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Original site record (feature and layer sheets, trench record sheet, finds record)
Site digital photographic log, site photographic record
Sundries (attendance register, risk assessment).

14 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number ASN 036.

Distribution list:
Ross Bain, Vaughan & Blyth
Hannah Cutler, SCCAS
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ
tel.: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 3.4.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Context type	Description	Date
L1	4, 12, 16	Topsoil	Loose, soft, moist, very dark grey/brown sandy-loam with abundant stone and gravel, some charcoal and brick inclusions	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow sand and gravel.	Post-glacial
F1	1	Pit	Friable, moist, medium grey/brown silty-loam with 1.5% stone.	Undated
F2	2 <3>	?Linear	Loose, soft, moist, dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-loam with rare flecks of charcoal and brick, common stone.	Medieval, *c* 13th-14th century
F3	<6>	Ditch	Friable, dry-moist, medium grey/brown loamy-silt with 1% stone. Slate present but not retained.	?Post-medieval
F4	-	Ditch	Soft, moist, dark yellow/brown sandy-loam with common stone and gravel	Undated
F5	-	Ditch	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone.	Undated
F6	<13>	Ditch	Friable, dry-moist, medium grey/brown loamy-silt, 2% stone.	Undated
F7	-	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt, 10% gravel	Undated
F8	10 <11>	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks.	Roman or medieval
F9	<18>	Ground hollow	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown loamy-sand with abundant stone	Undated
F10	-	Pit	Friable, moist, medium grey/brown loamy-clay, 1% stone	Undated
F11	-	Tree-throw or natural feature	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F12	-	Tree-throw or natural feature	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F13	14, 15	Pit	Loose, soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-loam with charcoal, brick and coal inclusions, frequent stone and gravel.	Modern
F14	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown sandy-loam with occasional stone	Undated
F15	-	Pit	Friable, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay, 3% stone	Undated
F16	17	Pit	Friable, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay, 2% stone	Undated
F17	-	Possible rooting	-	Undated
F18	-	Tree-throw or natural feature	Loose, soft, moist, medium yellow/brown slightly-loamy sand, common stone and gravel	Undated
F19	19	Ditch	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown loamy-silty-clay, occasional CBM and coal flecks, 2 % stone	Modern

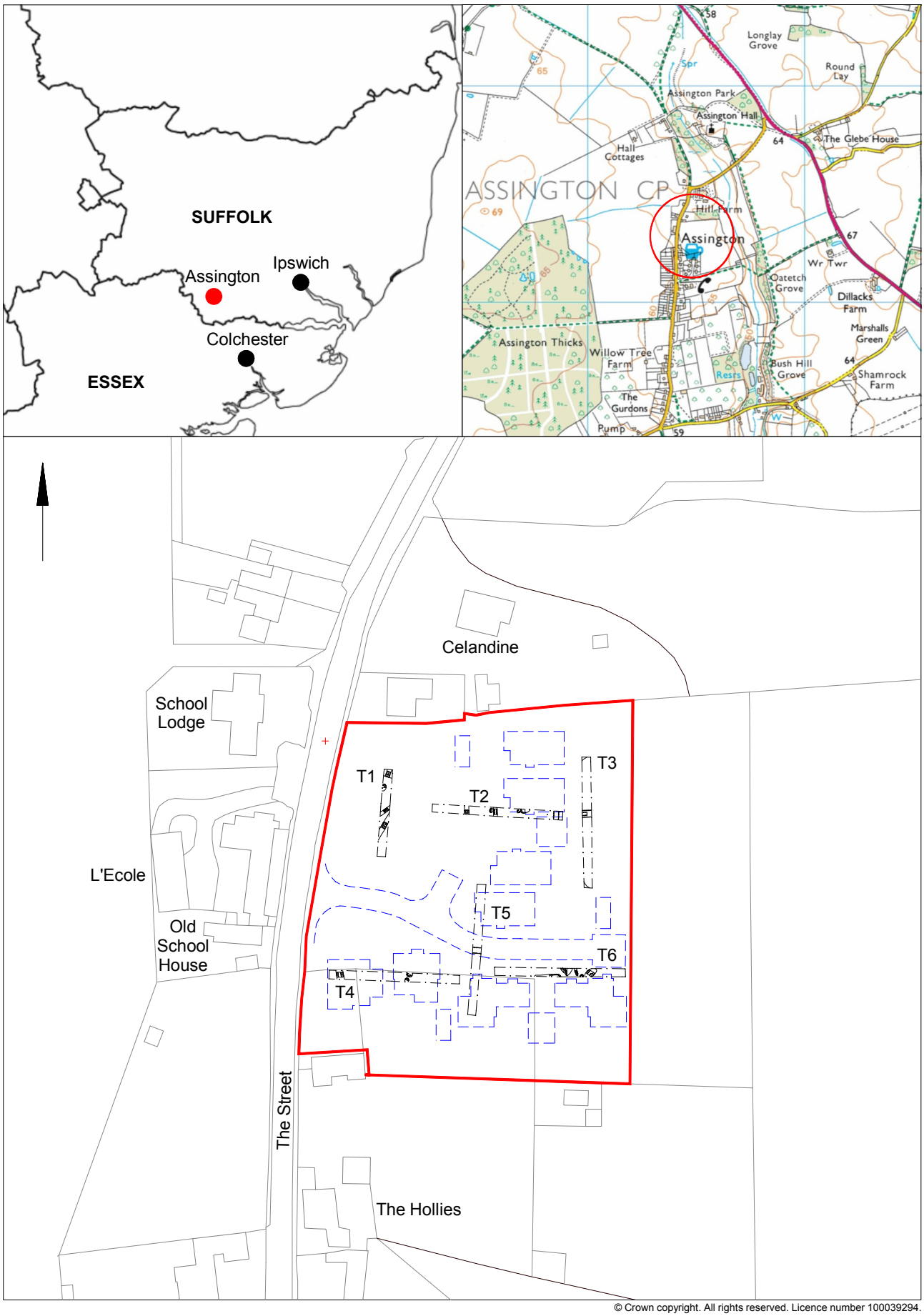

Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)

Imagery ©2018 Google, Getmapping plc, Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Map data ©2018 Google
HER data ©2018 Suffolk Historic Environment Record, Suffolk County Council

0 1 km

Fig 2 Development site in relation to nearby archaeological and historic monuments recorded by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record

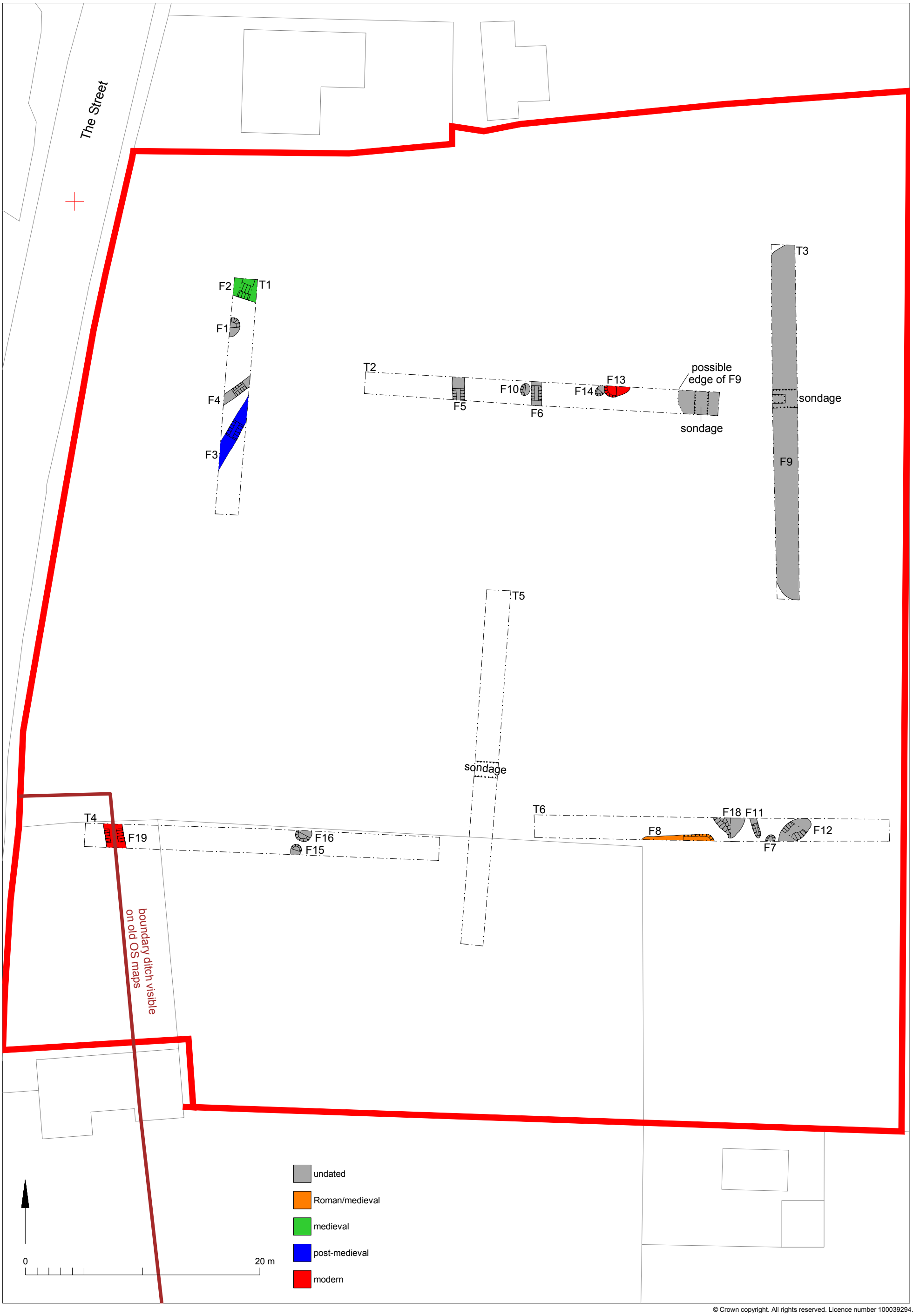

Fig 3 Results

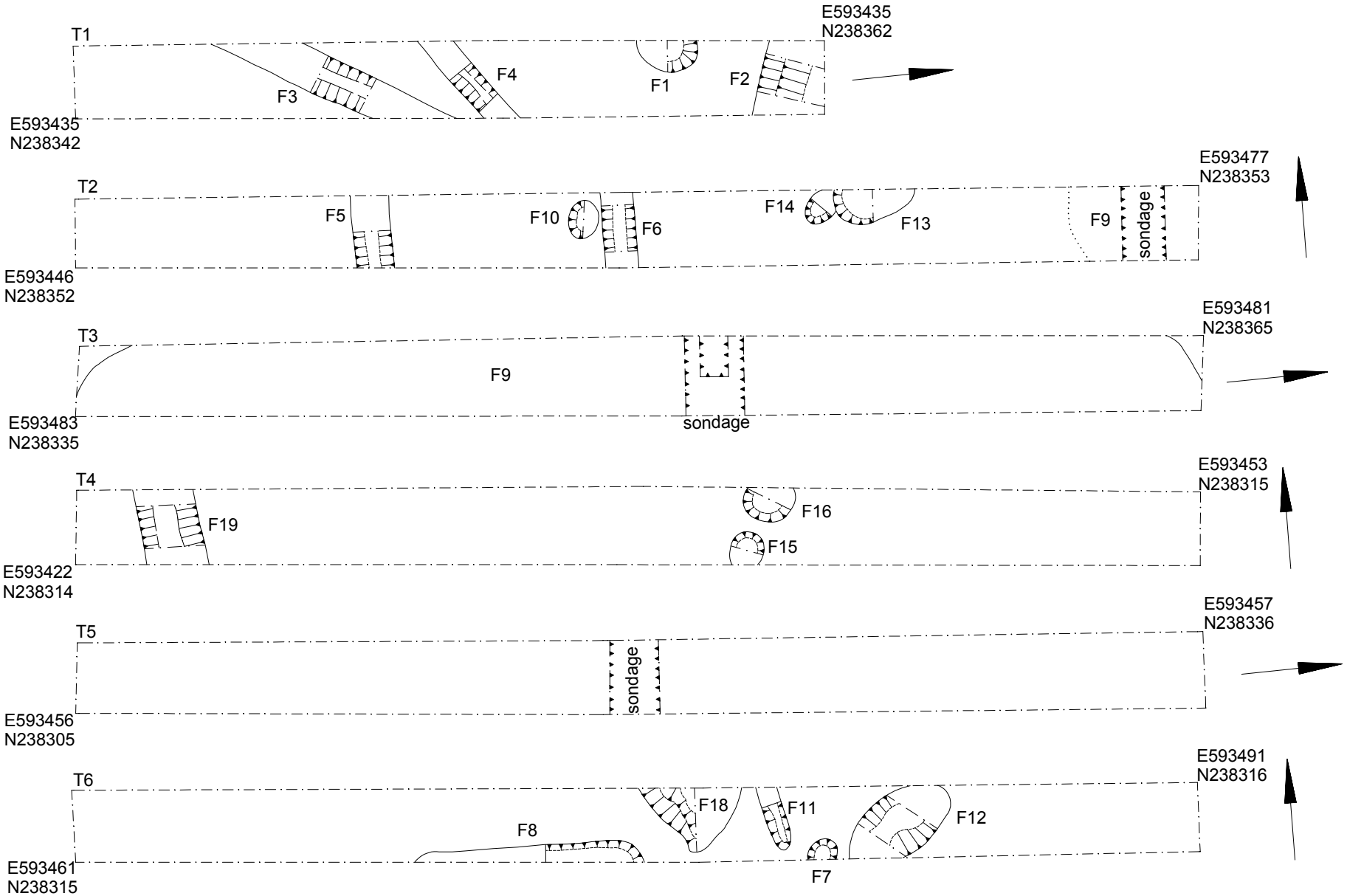

Fig 4 Detailed trench plans

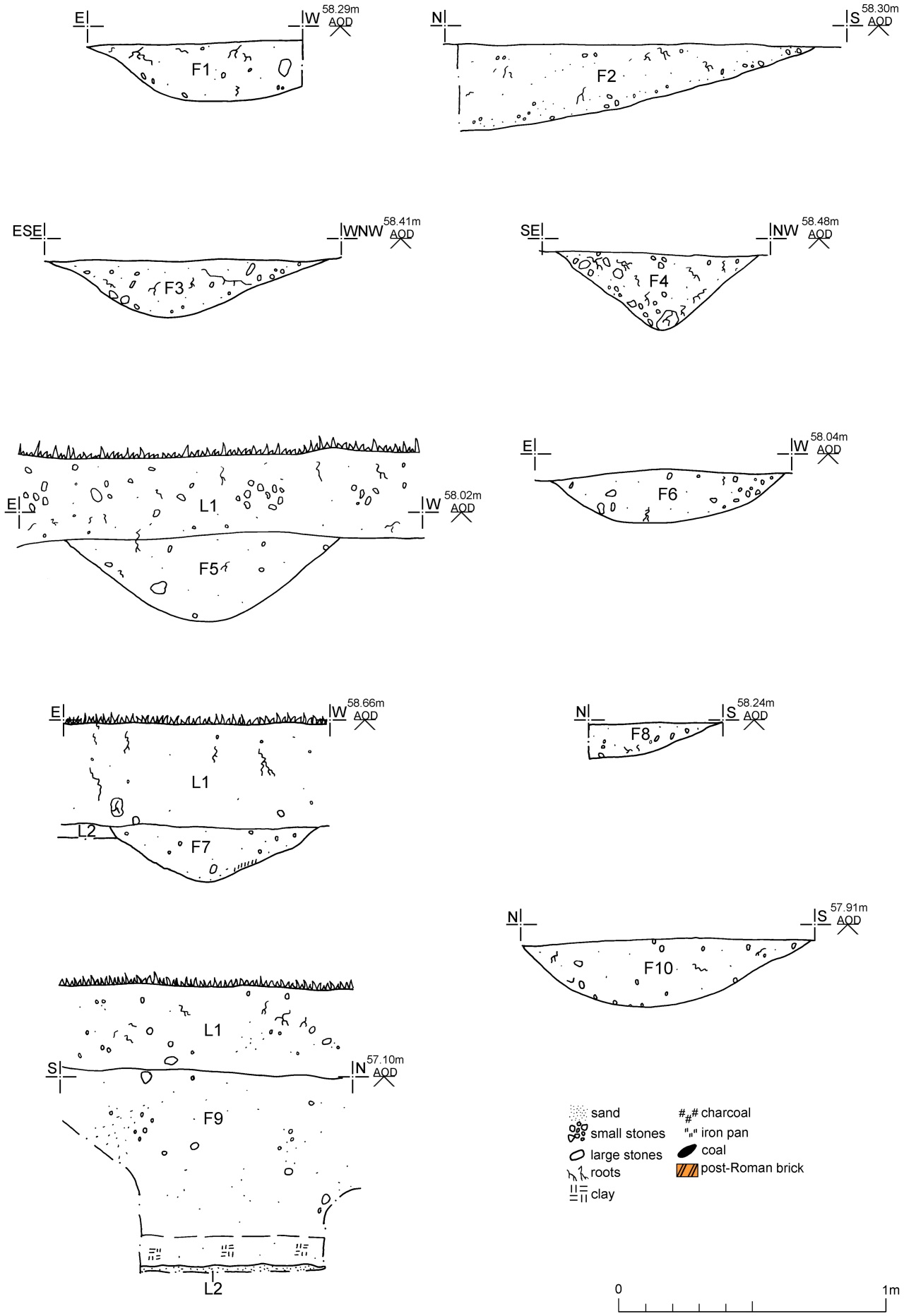

Fig 5 Feature and representative sections

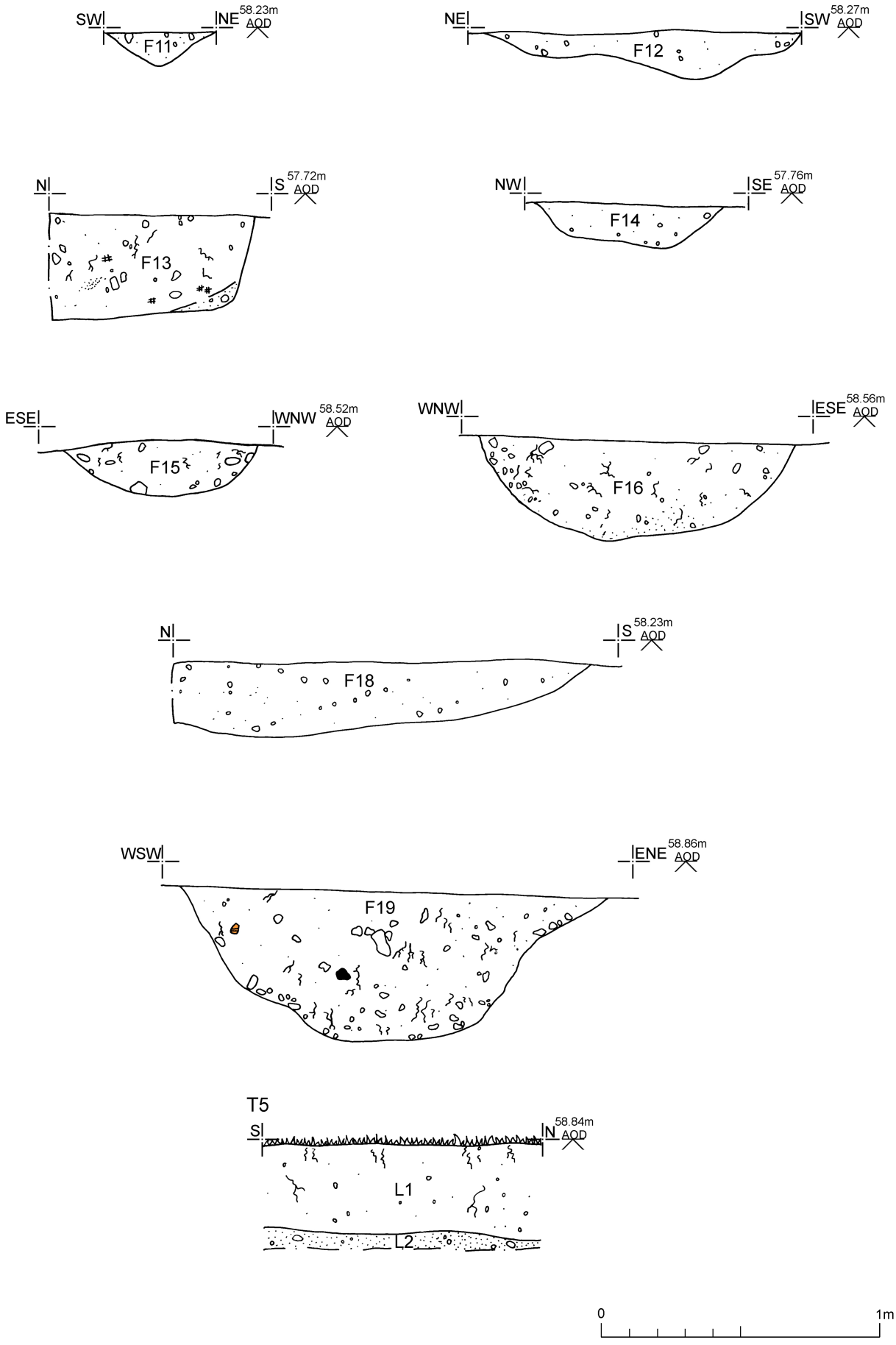

Fig 6 Feature and representative sections

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land east of The Street, Assington, Suffolk, CO10 5LJ

NGR: TL 934 383 (centre)

Planning references: DC/17/06170

Commissioned by: Ross Bain, Vaughan & Blyth

Client: Vaughan & Blyth

Curating museum: Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk HER parish code: ASN 036
CAT project code: 18/02a
OASIS reference: colchest3-308519

Site manager: Chris Lister
SCCAS monitor: Rachael Abraham

This WSI written: 20.2.2018

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

Site location and description
The development site is located on land east of The Street, Assington, Suffolk (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TL 934 383.

Proposed work
The development comprises the construction of 10 new dwellings.

Archaeological background (Fig 2)
The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9210441.

Geology
The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale[1]) shows the bedrock geology of the site as 'London Clay Formation – clay, silt and sand' with superficial deposits of 'Lowestoft Formation – sand and gravel '.

Historic landscape
Assington is in an area defined as *ancient rolling farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment[2]. Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map[3] it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.1, built up area (unspecified). The landscape immediately around the development site is primarily characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th-century enclosure – random fields), sub-type 2.1 (18th century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland), sub-type 2.7 (18th-century and later enclosure – woodland clearance), sub-type 3.1/2 (post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from random fields/rectilinear fields), sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland – meadow), sub-type 7.1 (woodland – ancient woodland) and sub-type 9.2 (post-medieval park and leisure – informal park).

Archaeology[4] (Fig 2)
(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the HER monument).

The only prehistoric finds in the vicinity of the development site are a surface scatter of Late Neolithic to Late Bronze Age flints found 870m SSE (ASN 027), and a Bronze Age stone axe-hammer found 1.78km E/ESE (ASN 004).

The medieval Church of St Edmund is located 590m NNE (ASN 003), reputedly on the site of the last battle between the English and the Danes. Assington Hall (ASN 001, 500m N) sits adjacent to the church. The hall, which is possibly of 14th century origin, is supposedly on the site of an earlier monastery. The 16th century and later red brick hall was destroyed by fire in 1957, and only the 19th century west wing is still intact. To the west of Assington Hall is a square moat clearly shown on the Assington tithe map of 1837, named 'The Island' (ASN 008, 545m N). To the east of the church is Assington Green (ASN 013, 600m NNE).

A watermill is also recorded in the Domesday Survey at Assington in 1086 (ASN 009, 1.5km S) and Leaven Hall (LVH 006, 2km SE) is a possible moated site with 15th or 16th century house on a central platform.

Several post-medieval monuments are located within 2km of the development site. These consist of:

- 19th century agricultural buildings at Hill Farm (ASN 025, 180m NNE),
- Assington Park, which was landscaped in 1750 (ASN 012, 700m N),
- an open trestle-type post mill (ASN 031, 1.1km S),
- a brick kiln and cottage recorded on the tithe map of 1837 (ASN 007, 1.5km SSW),

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1 British Geological Survey – http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?

2 http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/

3 The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

4 This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

- the site of a possible dovecote (ASN 030, 1.65km NE),
- a 15th century barn (constructed *c* 1600) with a 19th century stable and cattleyard at Goulding's Farm (NEN 010, 2km NW).
- a small quantity of post-medieval fieldwalking and metal-detecting finds (NEN Misc, approximately 1.8km W)

Undated cropmarks and other monuments include:

- possible fish ponds and dam on a stream course to the south of Assington Hall, with possible house platforms to the east (possibly a deserted village) (ASN 005, 410m NNE),
- two parallel ditch marks (possibly a road) running north-south (ASN 002, 670m NNE),
- cropmarks of ring-ditches (ASN 016, 1.05km NNW; ASN 018 and ASN 019, 1km N; and ASN 026, 1.5km NW),
- cropmarks of park(?) and field boundaries of at least two phases (ASN 017, 1.05km NNW),
- part of an ancient woodland now known as Assington Thicks (ASN 011, 780m SW),
- area of Birch Avery, formerly part of larger ancient woodland known as Assington Thicks (ASN 010, 1.7km SW),
- 19th century stable block at Moor's Farm (ASN 033, 1.7km SSW),
- Ancient woodland at Mumford's & Fitch's Woods (COL 018, 2.1km W), Leadenhall Wood (LVH 002, 1.8km SE) and Lord's Wood (NEN 005, 1.8km WNW).

Listed buildings[5]

As well as the Grade I listed medieval Church of St Edmund, there are a further 33 Grade II listed buildings, dating from the 15th to the 20th century, within a 2km search radius of the development site.

Planning background

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, it was recommended by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) that an archaeological evaluation take place to identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Details are given in a Project Brief written by SCCAS (2018):

Specifically, 5% of the 300m² development site will be covered by the evaluation. This totals 170m of linear trenching at 1.8m wide, positioned to provide a good sample of all areas. The evaluation will consist of six evaluation trenches: five 30m trenches and one 20m trench.

Trial-trenching is required to:

- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

All work will take place within and contribute to the goals of the Regional research frameworks (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011).

[5] This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

Decision on the need for any further archaeological investigation (eg excavation) will be made by SCCAS, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the report for this evaluation. Any further investigation will be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus three archaeologists for two days.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2008a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by SCCAS (2018)
- The outline specification within *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2017a) to be used alongside the Project Brief.

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to SCCAS ten days before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

Prior to the commencement of the site a HER parish code will be sought from the HER team. The HER parish code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to SCCAS. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned,

planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the SCCAS, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard “record” shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the SCCAS.

Site surveying

The evaluation trenches and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will

process the samples (unless complex or otherwise needing specialist processing) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by SCCAS, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with SCCAS.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

- animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman
- small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
- flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

- animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
- environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
- conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

- Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black
- Roman glass: Hilary Cool
- Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey
- Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and reported immediately to the Suffolk FLO (Finds Liaison Office) who will inform the coroner within 14 days, in accordance

with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with SCCAS and carried out as per their guidelines (SCCAS 2017b).

Results

Notification will be given to SCCAS when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft final report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by SCCAS.

The approved final report will normally be submitted to SCCAS as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA**8**, EAA**14** & EAA**24**).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Appendices to include a copy of the completed OASIS summary sheet and the approved WSI

Results will be published, to at least a summary level, in the PSIAH (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History) annual round up should archaeological remains be encountered in the evaluation. An allowance will be made for this in the project costs for the report.

Final reports are also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

Archive deposition

The archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service as per their archive guidelines (SCCAS 2017b).

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the SCCAS.

The archive will be deposited with the SCCAS within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to SCCAS.

Monitoring

SCCAS/CT will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given SCCAS one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with SCCAS prior to them being carried out.

SCCAS will be notified when the fieldwork is complete. Evaluation trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the SCCAS.

The involvement of SCCAS shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) is updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. A magazine (*The Colchester Archaeologist Vol 28* out now) summarises all our sites and staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works alongside the Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785.

References

Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J.	2000	*Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy,* East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA **8**)
CAT	2014	*Health & Safety Policy*
CIfA	2008a	*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation*
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SCC	2008	*The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3*
SCCAS	2017a	*Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (version 1.3)
SCCAS	2017b	*Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition*
SCCAS	2018	*Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at The Street, Assington*, by R Abraham, January 2018

L Pooley

Colchester Archaeological Trust,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

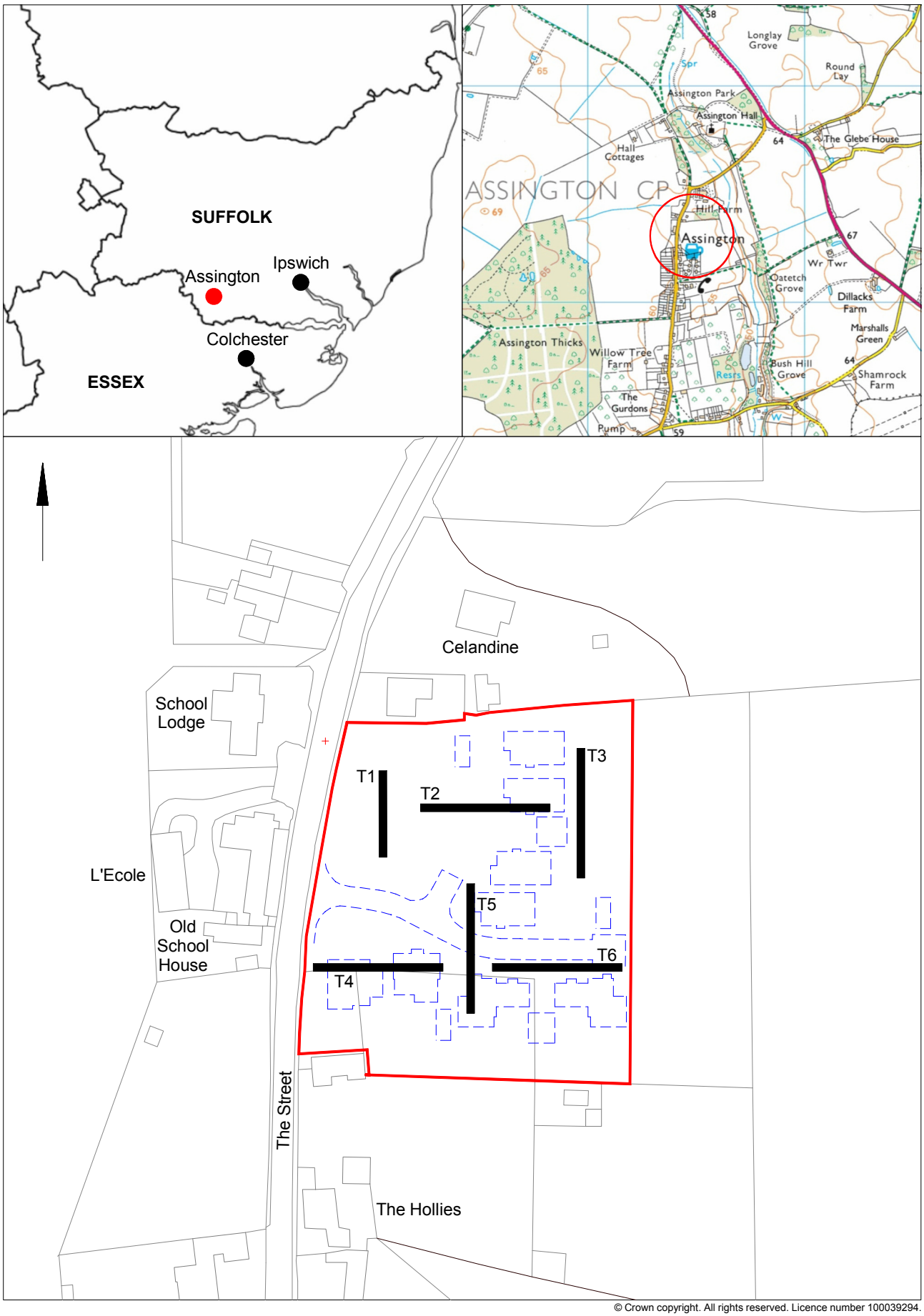

Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

0 1 km

Fig 2 Development site in relation to nearby archaeological and historic monuments recorded by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: colchest3-308519

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land east of The Street, Assington, Suffolk, CO10 5LJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the east of The Street, Assington, Suffolk in advance of the construction of ten new dwellings. Located close to the medieval church of St Edmund and Assington Hall, the development site is in an area of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval activity and close to a number of undated cropmarks. The evaluation revealed a possible linear of medieval (c 13th- to 14th-century) date, probably located of the periphery of medieval activity which was focussed around the medieval church and Assington Hall to the north. The only other dated features were a pit of Roman or medieval date, and a boundary ditch, pit and ditch of post-medieval/modern date. Fourteen undated features (six pits, three ditches, three natural features/tree-throws, a ground hollow and area of root activity) were also excavated. Recovered from the topsoil was a residual flint flake of Neolithic or Bronze Age date and a quantity of post-medieval/modern agricultural ironwork.
Project dates	Start: 22-03-2018 End: 23-03-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/02a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/17/06170 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ASN 036 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	LINEAR FEATURE Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Monument type	TREE-THROW/NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	LAVA QUERN Uncertain
Significant Finds	BURNT STONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	IRONWORK Modern
Significant Finds	COPPER ALLOY BUTTON Modern
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"'Sample Trenches'"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH ASSINGTON land east of The Street
Postcode	CO10 5LJ
Study area	0.61 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 934 383 52.00888244226 0.818275980259 52 00 31 N 000 49 05 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 57.16m Max: 58.72m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, SCC
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	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	ASN 036
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	ASN 036
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	ASN 036
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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