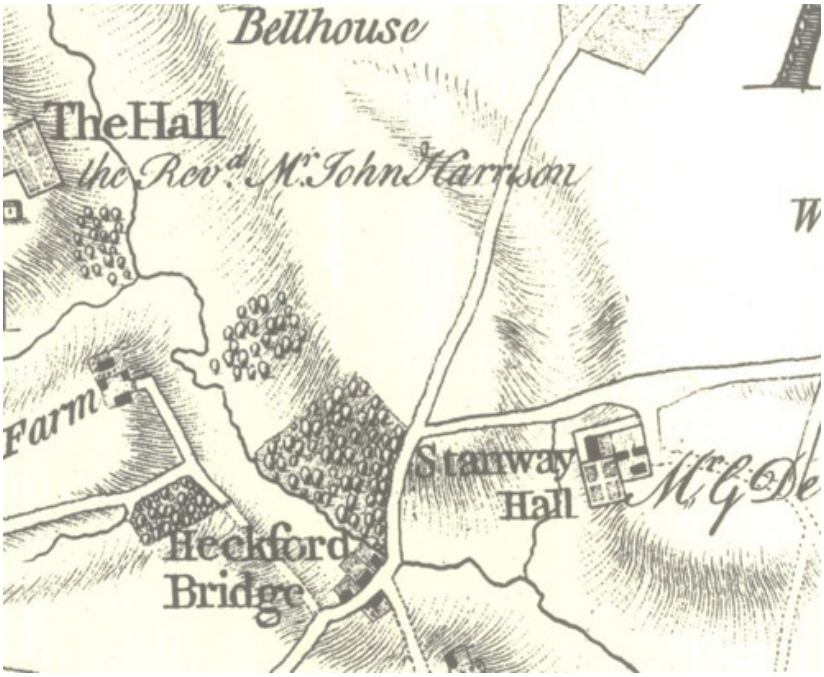
# Archaeological evaluation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW

## June 2018




**by Dr Elliott Hicks**
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fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Robin Mathieson, Alec Wade and Adam Tuffey

**commissioned by Kevin Hall**
**on behalf of Mr Julian Mead**

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## Contents



## List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (eleven trenches) was undertaken on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new agricultural building and greenhouses for growing soft fruit. It is located in an area of significant Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman activity, with cropmarks crossing the far eastern side of the site.*

*A small quantity of finds meant that few features could be firmly dated. However, three possible prehistoric features, a ?Bronze Age pit, ?Iron Age ditch and ?prehistoric pit, were excavated as well as two ditches and a pit of Roman date. Undated features consisted of five ditches, three pits, a posthole, a ditch/pit, two pits/tree-throws and three tree-throws/natural features. Both Roman ditches may be aligned with cropmarks extending across the eastern side of the site.*

*Located within a multi-period historic landscape, this site is probably on the periphery of a farming community/farmstead during the Iron Age (and perhaps earlier), which continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes into the Roman period.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, which was carried out during 6th to 8th June 2018. The work was commissioned by Kevin Hall on behalf of Mr Julian Mead, in advance of the construction of a new agricultural building and protective structure (greenhouses) for growing soft fruit, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (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 field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential. Excavations in 1999-2001 at Abbotstone field (770m north-west) revealed a farmstead of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date (CAT Report 312) with round- and square-ditched enclosures, a roundhouse and droveways. In 2015, excavations at Fiveways Fruit Farm (1.4km north-east) revealed two Middle Iron Age (*c* 350-50 BC) farmsteads, the main components of which were two sub-square ditched enclosures

containing roundhouses, two smaller enclosed areas between the main enclosures, and a series of discontinuous boundary ditches (Wightman 2016, 16-23).

The development site is also located on the edge of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, close to the Colchester Dykes. It is located 2km to the west of the Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks (CHER MCC7470) and 1km west-south-west of the Stanway élite burial site. During the Late Iron Age, Gosbecks was the focus of a native tribal centre, with an enclosed farmstead connected to corresponding field systems by a network of droveways. It is thought to contain a funerary enclosure which after the Roman invasion saw the construction of a Romano-Celtic temple complex (site 11649), along with other large public buildings including a theatre (sites 11646, 11647). The five enclosures at the Stanway burial complex included an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high status individuals (Crummy *et al*, 2007).

Cropmarks within the development site have been recorded as possible roads/trackways, though they are fairly indistinct on the aerial photographs (MCC7638) (see Fig 1 for location of cropmarks).

## 4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to investigate the cropmarks which extend onto the site. More generally, the investigation sought to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, and to determine their relationship, if any, to the Iron Age and Roman archaeological sites within the vicinity.

## 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Eleven trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

**Trench 1 (T1): 40m long by 1.8m wide**
T1 was excavated through plough soil (L1, *c* 0.45-0.48m thick) onto natural (L2).

Undatable ditch F1 was aligned NE-SW and measured 0.99m in width and 0.19m in depth.

**Trench 2 (T2): 40m long by 1.8m wide**
T2 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.34-0.38m) onto L2.

A group of features were located in the northern half of the trench. A large possible Iron Age ditch, F3, was aligned WNW-ESE and measured 5m in width and 0.25m in depth. The feature was not identified in T3, T4 or T7, suggesting that it either terminates at some point between T2 and these aforementioned trenches or that it continues to the east on a different alignment. Undated pit F4 was apparently cut into the fill of F3 and measured 0.77m in width and 0.21m in depth. Undatable posthole F5 seemed similarly to have been cut into F3 although the relationship between the features cannot be ascertained with certainty as both had the same fill. It measured 0.56m in width and 0.3m in depth.

Located to the south of these features was undatable pit F2 – a discrete feature – measuring 1.52m in width and 0.32m in depth.

**Trench 3 (T3): 30m long by 1.8m wide**
T3 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.34-0.5m thick) onto L2.

Undatable pit F6 measured 0.75m in width and 0.22m in depth.

**Trench 4 (T4): 40m long by 1.8m wide**
T4 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.3m thick) onto L2.

Undatable pit or ditch terminus F7 extended beyond the limit of excavation and so its full dimensions could not be ascertained, but its exposed extent measured 0.9m in width and 0.21m in depth.

**Trench 5 (T5): 20m long by 1.8m wide**
T5 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.38-0.48m thick) onto L2. In the area between F15 and F17, L2 was sealed by a layer filling possible natural feature F16 (L3, up to 0.12m thick).

Two tree-throws/natural features (F16 and F18) had been cut by pit F17, which was possibly of prehistoric date. The pit measured 1.06m in width and 0.21m in depth. Immediately to the south was undatable ditch F15. The feature was aligned E-W and measured 0.94m in width and 0.23m in depth. The feature became shallower towards the eastern limit of excavation, suggesting that it may have been terminating at this point, kinking slightly towards the northeast, or possibly meeting the terminus of another ditch running to the east. The feature was not evident in T3 to the west, and may therefore continue on an altered alignment.

**Photograph 1** F15, F16, F17, F18 and L3 oblique view, looking NNW

**Trench 6 (T6): 40m long by 1.8m wide**
T6 was excavated in two sections due to the presence of modern water pipes, one measuring 28m in length (T6A) the other 12m in length (T6B). Excavations occurred through L1 (*c* 0.4-0.45m thick) onto L2.

Undatable pit F8, possibly a tree-throw, was uncovered in the eastern half of T6a. Possible Bronze Age pit F9 was located at the mid-point of T6b. It measured 1.13m in width and 0.17m in depth.

**Trench 7 (T7): 25m long by 1.8m wide**
T7 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.36-0.37m thick) onto L2.

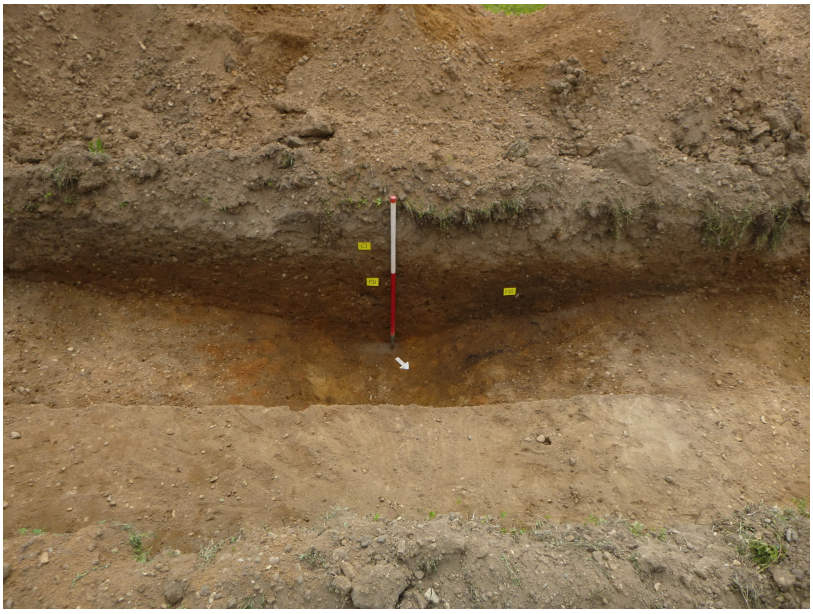
No archaeological remains were encountered.

**Trench 8 (T8): 30m long by 1.8m wide**
T8 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.38-0.41m thick) onto L2.

Two undatable ditches, F13 and F14, were uncovered towards the southern end of the trench. The former was aligned NE-SW and measured 0.54m in width and 0.14m in depth; the latter NW-SE, and measured 0.76m in width and 0.19m in depth. F14 was not detected in T6a to the north-west.

**Trench 9 (T9): 24m long by 1.8m wide**
T9 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.43-0.57m thick) onto L2.

Ditch F21 was aligned NE-SW and measured 3.85m in width and 0.59m in depth, it probably continued as ditches F12 in T10 and F19 in T11. Roman pit F22 cut F21. The feature measured 1.54m in width and 0.33m in depth. Lying adjacent to these features was undatable pit/tree-throw F23. It measured 1.82m in width and 0.28m in depth.



**Photograph 2** F21 and F22 sx, looking SW

**Trench 10 (T10): 40m long by 1.8m wide**
T10 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.31-0.37m thick) onto L2.

Two undatable features, F10 and F11, were located in the northern half of the trench. The former, a pit/tree-throw, measured 1.15m in width and 0.16m in depth; the latter, a shallow ditch, was aligned NE-SW and measured 1.63m in width and 0.08m in depth.

Undatable ditch F12 was uncovered in the southern half of the trench, and was probably a continuation of ditch F21 in T9 and F19 in T11. It was also aligned NE-SW and measured 2.59m in width and 0.52m in depth.

**Trench 11 (T11): 20m long by 1.8m wide**
T11 was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.34-0.36m thick) onto L2.

Two linear features were situated at the eastern end of the trench. Roman or post-Roman ditch F19 was probably a continuation of ditches F21 in T9 and F12 in T10. It was aligned NE-SW and measured 1.34m in width and 0.32m in depth. Roman ditch F20 was similarly aligned NE-SW and was 1.8m wide and 0.39m deep.

## 6 Finds

*by Stephen Benfield*

Small quantities of finds that are dated to the prehistoric period (Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age) and Roman period were recovered from several features located in five of the evaluation trenches (T2, T5, T6B, T9 and T11). All of the finds are listed and describes by context for each of these trenches in Table 1. The prehistoric pottery has been broadly characterised as hand-made flint-tempered (HMF) and hand-made sand and flint-tempered (HMSF). The Roman pottery fabrics quoted refer to the Colchester fabric series (*CAR* **10**).

**Prehistoric**

The earliest dated find is a broken flint blade recovered from ditch F3 (T2). This is likely to be Early Neolithic. A flint core piece and three flint shatter pieces were also recovered from the same feature. Unusually, one of the shatter pieces has been modified for use with fine retouch along one of the edges. A sherd of sand-tempered pottery with some flint inclusions (Fabric HMSF) was also recovered from the ditch fill. While not easy to date, based on the fabric it appears probably to be Iron Age (*c* mid-late 1st millennium BC), although it is noted that it may come from a relatively large pot. The date assigned to the pottery and the rather disparate nature of the flints recovered suggests that the flints are likely to belong to more than one period rather than being an associated group. The only other finds from the ditch are two small, heat-altered pieces of flint. These are likely to be of prehistoric date. A small, irregular, roughly round piece of sandstone from the feature is not closely-dated, although in association with these other finds a prehistoric date appears likely.

There is one other sherd of prehistoric pottery. This comes from pit F9 (T6B) and is a small flint-tempered sherd (Fabric HMF) for which a Bronze Age date (*c* late 2nd-early 1st millennium BC) appears likely but is not certain. A small, heat discoloured flint was also recovered from the same context. In addition a prehistoric struck flint was recovered as an unstratified (U/S) find.

Pieces of heat-altered flint (similar to F3 and F9) were recovered from pit F17 (T5). They include a few calcified pieces as well as pieces that have almost certainly been reddened by exposure to heat. These are likely to be of prehistoric date but of themselves, without other more secure context dating, are not closely datable.

**Roman**

An abraded sherd of Roman greyware pottery (Fabric GX) was recovered from ditch F20 (T11). The fabric suggests this might be of early Roman date (*c* mid 1st-2nd century). A second abraded Roman sherd in a sandy oxidised fabric (Fabric DJ) was recovered from pit F22 (T9).

**Other**

A small piece of corroded iron, possibly part of a nail of Roman or later date, was recovered from F19 (T11) and is the only find associated with this feature.

| Trench | Context | Find no. | Type/ description | Finds Spot date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| T2 | F3, ditch | 1 | **Prehistoric pottery:** single, slightly abraded sherd (14g), sand-tempered with some sparse flint (Fabric HMSF), dark grey with some fire clouding (grey-buff) on surface – appears to be from a large vessel but probably Iron Age.<br>**Flint:** snapped flint blade, vertical dorsal surface, scars from earlier removal, retouched notch on shoulder at proximal end – probably Early Neolithic; core piece with some cortex on one surface, flaking from more than one direction; modified shatter piece with fine retouch along one edge; shatter piece with crude, squat flake scare; shatter piece.<br>**Heat-altered stone:** flint (4, 146g), two calcified, third reddened/discoloured by heat (not closely-dated but commonly associated with prehistoric activity)<br>**Stone:** small abraded/rolled piece of dark sandstone (164g) | ?Iron Age |
| T5 | F17, pit | 10 | **Heat-altered stone:** flint, small pieces (5, 38g), one calcified, one internally crazed/fractured, three reddened – discoloured by heat (?prehistoric) | ?Prehistoric |
| T6B | F9, pit | 4 | **Prehistoric pottery:** single small sherd (14g), flint-tempered (Fabric HMF), oxidised fabric, grey surface, unsorted rather coarse flint-temper – Neolithic-Bronze Age (Bronze Age?)<br>**Heat-altered stone:** single small flint (8g), reddened, probably discoloured by heat | ?Bronze Age |
| T9 | F22, ?pit | 11 | **Roman pottery:** Fabric DJ (6g) single abraded sandy oxidised sherd from the shoulder of a bowl/jar - Roman | Roman |
| T11 | F19, ditch | 7 | **Iron:** small piece of corroded iron (6g), possibly part of an iron nail | Roman or later |
| T11 | F20, ditch | 20 | **Roman pottery:** Fabric GX (6g), single abraded sandy body sherd with some slightly diffuse, dark inclusions, Roman (mid 1st-2nd century) | Roman, mid 1st-2nd century |
| | US | 2 | **Flint:** single small secondary flake with cortex on dorsal face, earlier flake removal on dorsal surface, later flake removal on one edge with some retouch to scar edge | Prehistoric |

**Table 1** Finds by context and find type

# 7 Environmental analysis

*by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist*

### Introduction

This report describes plant macro-remains recovered from three samples (see Table 2) excavated during an evaluation. The evaluation revealed ditches and pits, possibly pre-historic but currently undated. It was hoped that analysis of these samples would reveal charred plant remains suitable for radiocarbon dating.

| Sample | Finds no. | Feature no. | Feature | Sample size (L) | Flot size (L) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <1> | 5 | F17 | ?prehistoric pit | 30 | 1.5 |
| <2> | 12 | F12 | Roman pit | 20 | 0.7 |
| <3> | 3 | F9 | ?Bronze Age pit | 40 | 1.9 |

**Table 2** Sample details

**Sampling and processing methods**
Three samples (totalling 90 litres of soil) were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were processed 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. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications of seeds and cereals were made using uncharred 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; Jacomet 2006).

Only fragments of charred wood larger than 4mm (sieve mesh aperture size) or roundwood or twigs larger than 2mm were selected for identification. The reason for this size selection was based on observations made by charcoal specialists that fragments larger than this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections necessary, meaning that more diagnostic features are likely to survive (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). When fragments have been broken to reveal anatomy they have been wrapped in foil to keep those fragments intact so they can be counted. Charcoal identifications were made using modern reference slides (author's own) and anatomical guides Gale and Cutler 2000, Hather 2000, InsideWood 2004, Schoch *et al.* 2004 and Wheeler 2011).

**Results**
***The plant remains – seeds, grains, chaff***
No non-charcoal plant remains other than uncharred modern root/rhizome fragments were found in these samples. Each sample contained low numbers of these fragments.

***The charcoal***
Charcoal in samples <1> and <3> were identified. Due to the high number of fragments in each sample both were sub-sampled using a riffle box and ¼ of each charcoal assemblage was examined. The only taxa type present was oak (*Quercus* sp.). Sample <1> contained 153 fragments of oak charcoal and sample <3> contained 127 fragments of oak charcoal. No fragments of roundwood or twigs were present. *Quercu*s sp. cannot be differentiated based on their microscopic wood anatomy alone. (Schoch *et al.* 2004).

**Discussion**
***Comments on preservation, stratigraphic integrity and bioturbation***
Plant macro-remains were preserved by charring and possibly waterlogging but the plant remains here are dry. 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.

The plant macro-remains in these samples were preserved by charring. 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; Campbell *et al.* 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire, pit or in an oven, or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

There is no floral or faunal evidence in these samples for bioturbation.

***Recommendation of items for radiocarbon dating***

Unfortunately, the oak charcoal fragments in samples <1> and <3> are not suitable for radiocarbon dating because oak trees are very long-lived and are unlikely to give a useful date.

## 8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at this site uncovered three possible prehistoric features, a ? Bronze Age pit, ?Iron Age ditch and ?prehistoric pit, as well as two ditches and a pit of Roman date. Undated features consisted of five ditches, three pits, a posthole, a ditch/pit, two pits/tree-throws and three tree-throws/natural features.

The paucity of finds meant that the majority of these features could not be firmly dated, complicating interpretation of the phasing of the site. Human activity and occupation of this site during the Neolithic period is suggested by a number of flints recovered from ditch F3, although these were residual finds in a later context. Similarly, human activity here during the Bronze Age is indicated by a single sherd of pottery retrieved from pit F9, though this too may have been residual in a later context, and pottery from ditch F3 in T2 is probably Iron Age. A further feature, pit F17, contained a single heat-altered stone, suggesting a possible prehistoric date.

Within the eastern part of the site, ditch F20 and pit F22, were dated as Roman. Ditch F19 in T11 also contained an iron nail of Roman or later date. Ditches F21 in T9, F12 in T10 and F19 in T11 appear to be on the same alignment as the eastern-most cropmark and are likely to be part of the same ditch (see Fig 2). As F21 is cut by Roman pit F22, and given the presence of the iron nail, it is likely that this ditch is consequently of Roman date. However, ditch F19 in T11 is smaller than the other two ditch-sections, and the ditch might actually continue to the south as F20 in T11, neither of which would affect the Roman date of the ditch but which might suggest that the cropmark has been plotted slightly out of alignment. Alternatively ditch F20 is part of the western-most cropmark, but no trace of this ditch/cropmark was identified in trenches T9 or T10.

The site at Warren Lane can therefore be located within a multi-period historic landscape which has been revealed during previous excavations of the wider area (see Archaeological background). Like these other sites, this area is probably on the periphery of a farming community/farmstead during the Iron Age (and perhaps earlier), which continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes into the Roman period.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Kevin Hall and Mr Julian Mead for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with R Mathieson, A Wade and A Tuffey. Figures are by C Lister and S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

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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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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

| | |
|---|---|
| Bronze Age | period from *c* 2500 – 700 BC |
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| CBCAA | Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor |
| CBCPS | Colchester Borough Council Planning Services |
| CHER | Colchester Historic Environment Record |
| 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' |
| Iron Age | period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43 |
| layer (L) | distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| section | (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s |
| wsi | written scheme of investigation |

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

**Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1289)
CBC 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

## 13 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: 2018.51.

**Distribution list:**
Kevin Hall
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Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

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**Appendix 1** Context list

| Context no. | Trench no. | Finds no. | Context | Description | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L1 | | - | Plough | Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-loam with abundant stone piece inclusions | Modern |
| L2 | | - | Natural | Loose, dry light/medium/dark yellow/brown sandy-slit with abundant gravel and stone piece inclusions | Post-glacial |
| L3 | | 6 | Layer filling F16 | Firm, dry medium/dark grey/brown with orange patches sandy-silt with very occasional charcoal fleck inclusions and 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| | | | | | |
| F1 | T1 | - | Ditch | Loose/firm, dry light grey/brown silty-sand with 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F2 | T2 | - | Pit | Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F3 | T2 | 1 | Ditch | Soft/friable, dry medium/dark grey/brown silty-sand with <11% gravel and <28% stone piece inclusions | ?Iron Age |
| F4 | T2 | - | Pit | Soft/friable, dry medium/dark grey/brown silty-sand with <10% gravel and <15% stone piece inclusions | Undated |
| F5 | T2 | - | Posthole | Soft/friable, dry medium/dark grey/brown silty-sand with <5% gravel and <1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F6 | T3 | - | Pit | Soft, dry light grey/brown silty-sand with 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F7 | T4 | - | Pit / ditch terminus | Soft, dry medium grey/brown silty-sand with 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F8 | T6a | - | Pit / tree-throw | Loose/soft, moist medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions and common stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F9 | T6b | 3<3><br>4 | Pit | Friable, dry medium grey/brown silty-sand with a quantity of charcoal, >15% gravel and <20% stone piece inclusions | ?Bronze Age |
| F10 | T10 | - | Pit/tree-throw | Soft, moist medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F11 | T10 | - | Ditch | Soft, moist medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with common stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F12 | T10 | | Ditch | Loose/soft, moist medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with common gravel and stone piece inclusions. Probably the same as F19 in T11 and F21 in T9. | Roman or later |
| F13 | T8 | - | Ditch | Soft/friable, dry medium red/brown silty-sand | Undatable |
| F14 | T8 | - | Ditch | Soft/friable, dry medium brown silty-sand | Undatable |
| F15 | T5 | - | Ditch | Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F16 | T5 | - | Tree-throw/ natural | Firm, dry medium/dark grey/brown/orange sandy-silt with very occasional charcoal fleck inclusions and 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F17 | T5 | 5 <1><br>9<br>10 | Pit | Upper fill: firm, dry dark grey sandy-silt with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions and <1% stone piece inclusions; lower fill: soft, dry dark | Prehistoric |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | black silt with a quantity of charcoal, <1% stone piece inclusions | |
| F18 | T5 | - | Tree-throw/ natural | Upper fill: firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stone piece inclusions; lower fill: firm, dry light grey/brown silty-clay with 1% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |
| F19 | T11 | 7 | Ditch | Loose/soft, moist medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with common stone piece inclusions.<br>Probably the same as F12 in T10 and F21 in T9. | Roman or later |
| F20 | T11 | 8 | Ditch | Loose/soft, moist light/medium yellow/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions | Roman |
| F21 | T9 | - | Ditch | Soft/friable medium brown/yellow/orange mottled silty-sand with <12% gravel and <18% stone piece inclusions.<br>Probably the same as F12 in T10 and F19 in T11. | Roman or later |
| F22 | T9 | 11<br>12<2> | Pit | Soft/friable medium/dark brown silty-sand with >15% charcoal fleck inclusions and <10% gravel and <10% stone piece inclusions | Roman |
| F23 | T9 | - | Pit/tree-throw | Friable medium grey/brown silty-sand with >18% gravel and >18% stone piece inclusions | Undatable |

Note:
L3, finds no. 6 – flot discarded as taken from a natural feature.
F17, finds no.9 – flot discarded as taken from the upper fill of the pit and a more stratigraphically secure sample was taken from the lower fill (see F17, finds no.5, sample <1>).

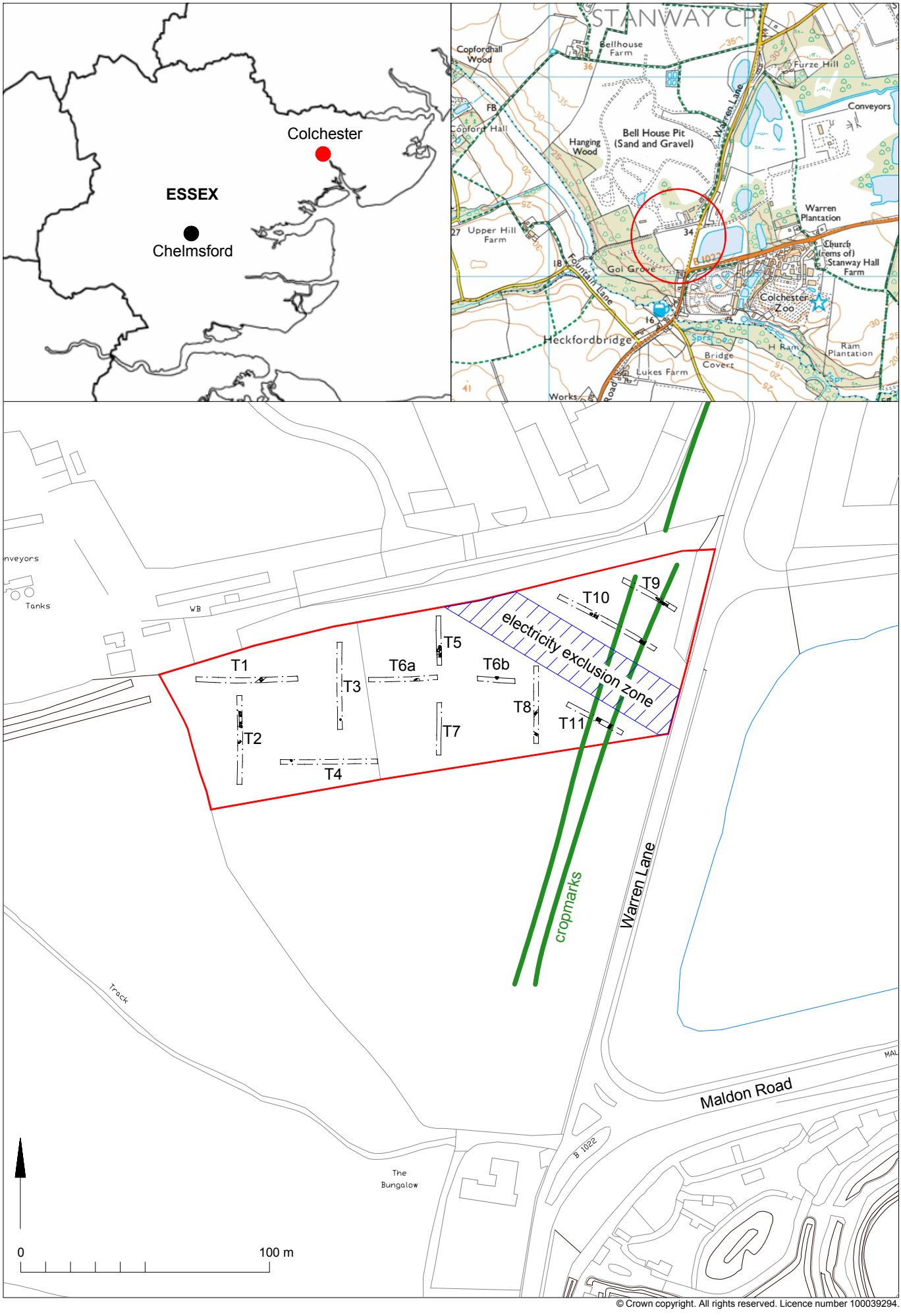




Fig 1 Site location, cropmarks in green

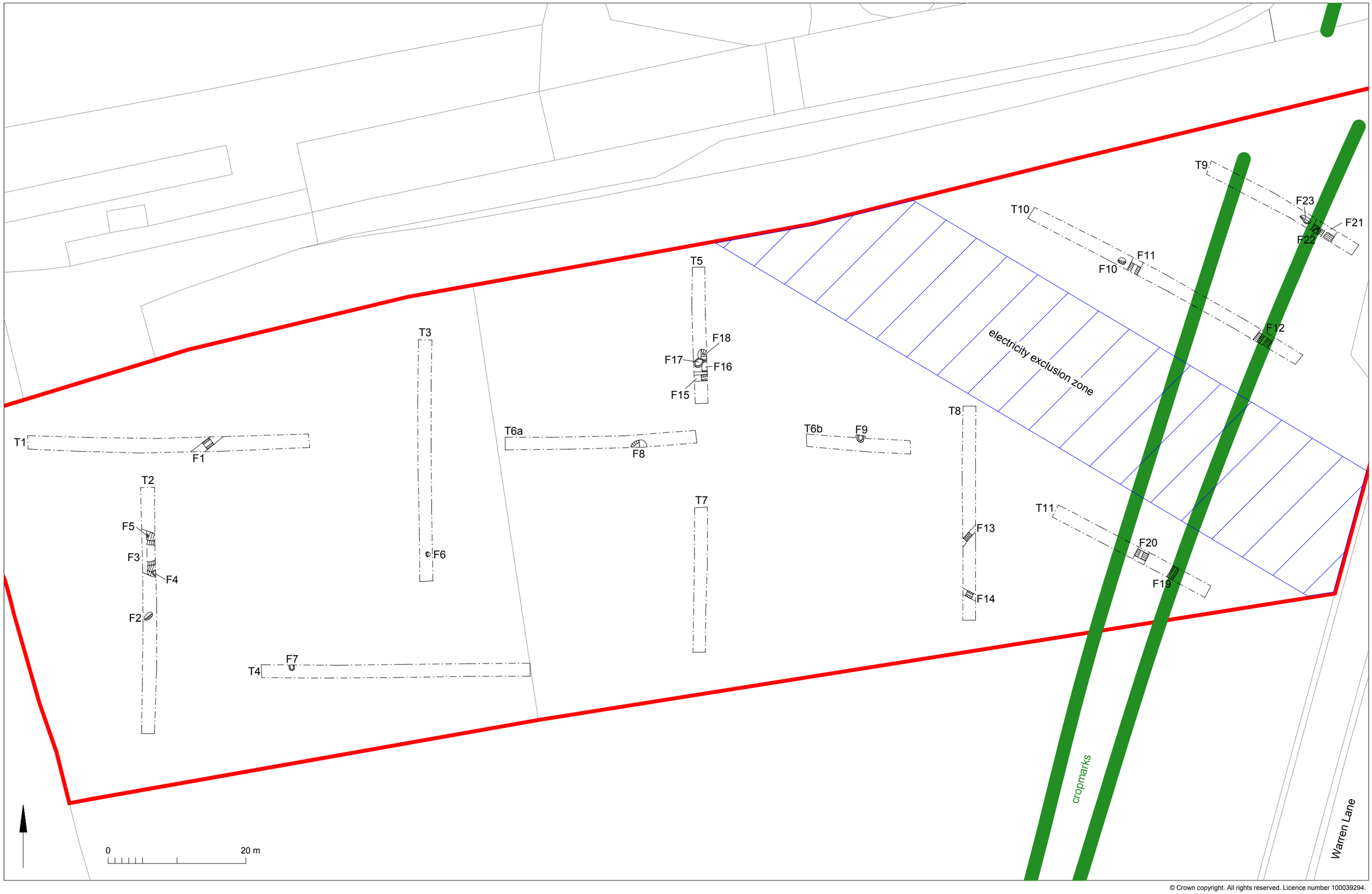




Fig 2 Results

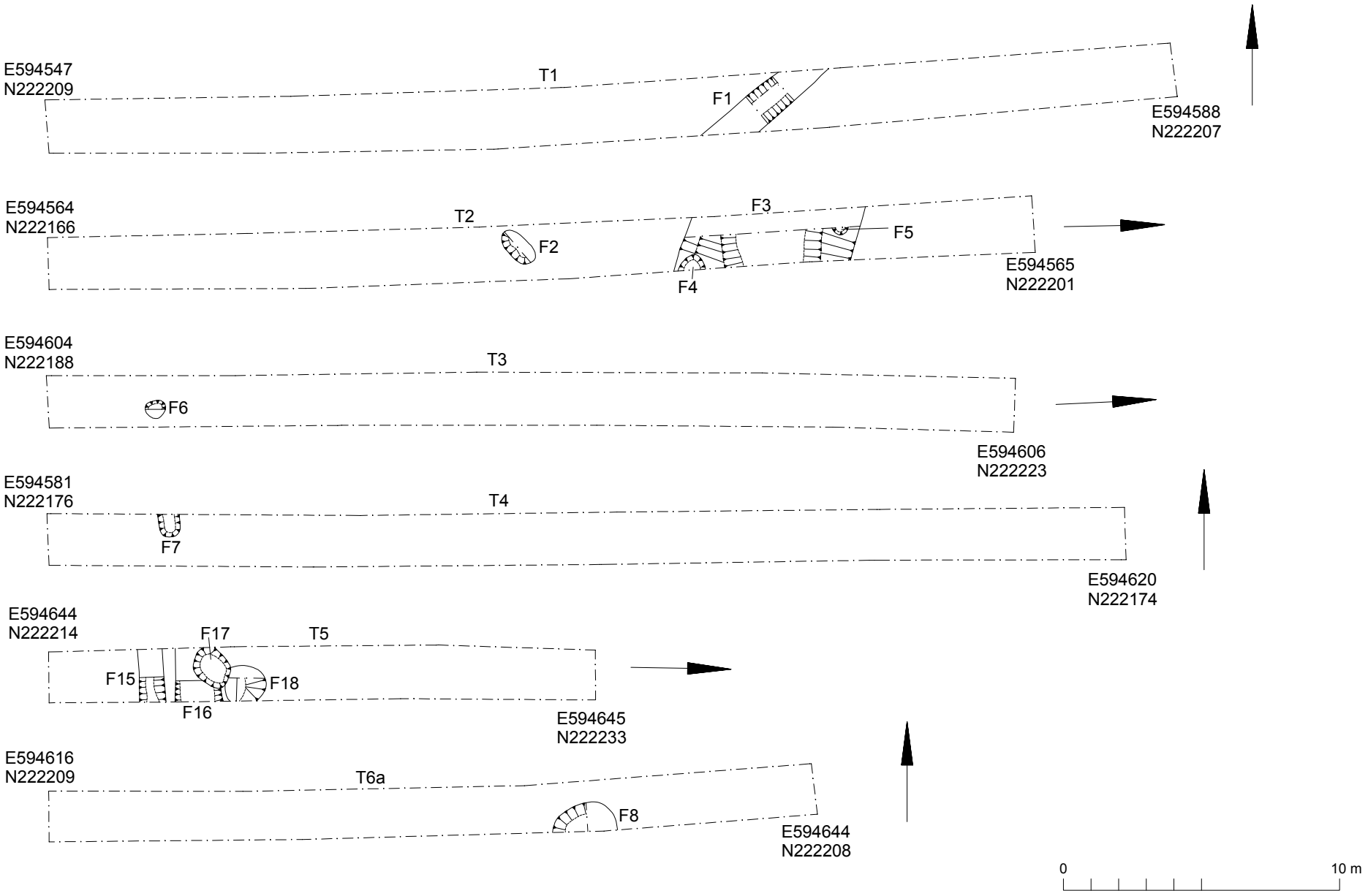


Fig 3 Trench results

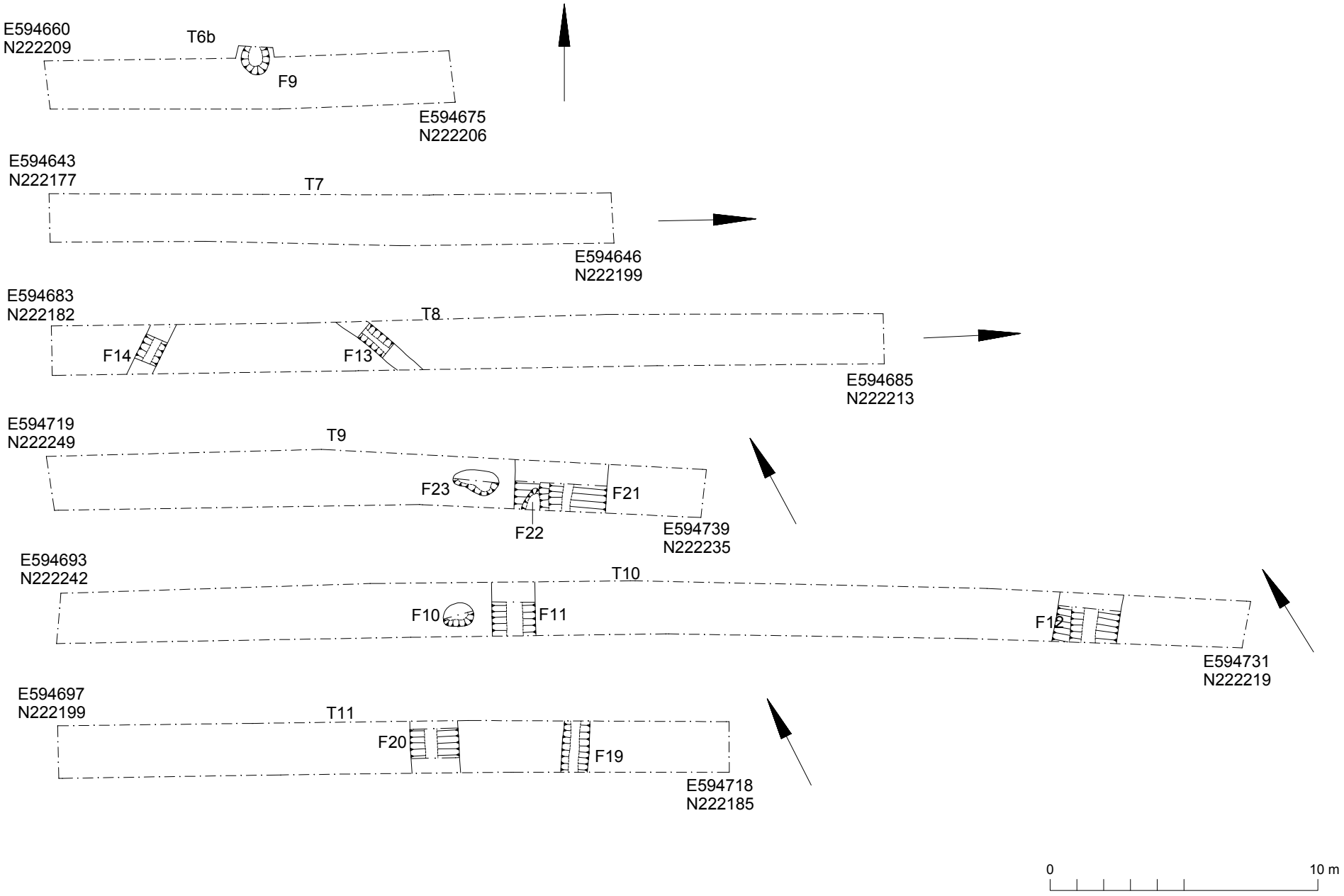


Fig 4 Trench results

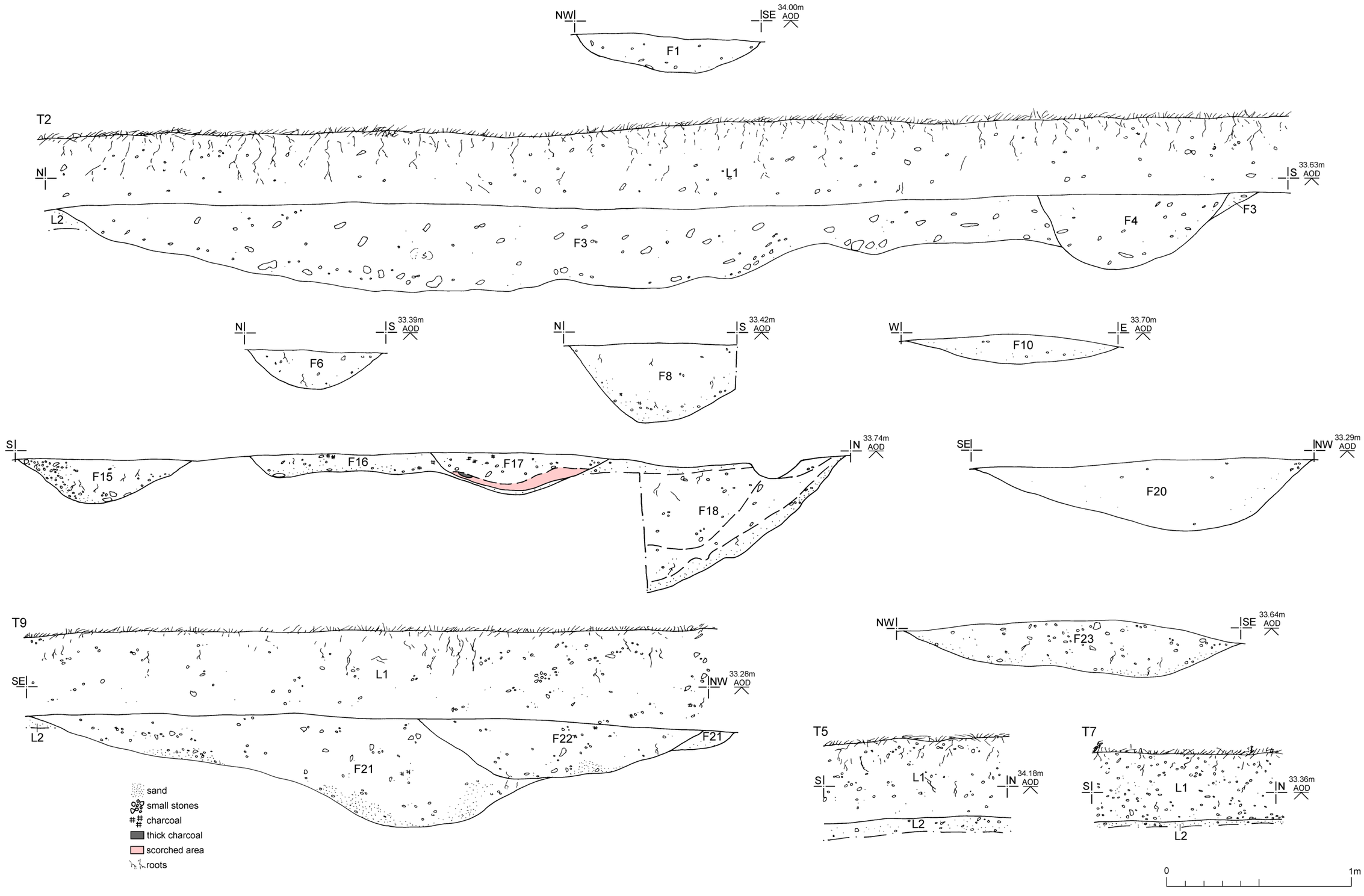


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/
# *Essex Archaeology and History*

**Summary sheet**

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Address:*** **Land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW** | |
| ***Parish:*** Colchester | ***District:*** Colchester |
| ***NGR:*** TL 9469 2221 (centre) | ***Site code:***<br>CAT project ref.: 18/05o<br>CHER ref: ECC4223<br>OASIS ref: colchest3-318289 |
| ***Type of work:***<br>Evaluation | ***Site director/group:***<br>Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| ***Date of work:***<br>6th-8th June 2018 | ***Size of area investigated:***<br>1.36ha |
| ***Location of curating museum:***<br>Colchester museum<br>accession code COLEM: 2018.51 | **Funding source:**<br>Developer |
| ***Further seasons anticipated?***<br>Not known | ***Related CHER/SMR number:***<br>MCC7470, MCC7638 |
| ***Final report:*** CAT Report 1289 | |
| ***Periods represented:*** Prehistoric, ?Bronze Age, ?Iron Age, Roman | |

***Summary of fieldwork results:***


*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (eleven trenches) was undertaken on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new agricultural building and greenhouses for growing soft fruit. It is located in an area of significant Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman activity, with cropmarks crossing the far eastern side of the site.*

*A small quantity of finds meant that few features could be firmly dated. However, three possible prehistoric features, a ?Bronze Age pit, ?Iron Age ditch and ?prehistoric pit, were excavated as well as two ditches and a pit of Roman date. Undated features consisted of five ditches, three pits, a posthole, a ditch/pit, two pits/tree-throws and three tree-throws/natural features. Both Roman ditches may be aligned with cropmarks extending across the eastern side of the site.*

*Located within a multi-period historic landscape, this site is probably on the periphery of a farming community/farmstead during the Iron Age (and perhaps earlier), which continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes into the Roman period.*


| | |
|---|---|
| ***Previous summaries/reports:*** - | |
| ***CBC monitor:*** Jess Tipper | |
| ***Keywords:*** - | ***Significance:*** * |
| ***Author of summary:***<br>Dr Elliott Hicks | ***Date of summary:***<br>July 2018 |

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW

**NGR:** TL 9469 2221 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 180554

**Commissioned by:** Kevin Hall

**Client:** Mr Julian Mead

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** tbc
**CHER number:** tbc
**CAT project code:** 18/05o
**OASIS project id:** colchest3-318289

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written**: 29.5.2018

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 proposed development site lies approximately 6km southwest of Colchester town centre on land off Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 9469 2221.

## Proposed work

The development comprises of a new agricultural building (including packing warehouses, cold stores, secure stores, agricultural machinery stores with ancillary offices, welfare facilities and associated produce retail) and protective structure (greenhouses) for growing soft fruit.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential. Excavations in 1999-2001 at Abbotstone field (770m northwest) revealed a farmstead of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date (CAT Report 312) with round- and square-ditched enclosures, a roundhouse and droveways. In 2015 excavations at Fiveways Fruit Farm (1.4km northeast) revealed two Middle Iron Age (*c* 350-50 BC) farmsteads, the main components of which were two sub-square ditched enclosures containing roundhouses, two smaller enclosed areas between the main enclosures, and a series of discontinuous boundary ditches (Wightman 2016, 16-23).

The development site is also located on the edge of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, close to the Colchester Dykes. It is also located 2km to the west of Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks (CHER MCC7470) and 1km west-south-west of the Stanway élite burial site. During the Late Iron Age Gosbecks was the focus of a native tribal centre, with an enclosed farmstead connected to corresponding field systems by a network of droveways. It is thought to contain a funerary enclosure which after the Roman invasion saw the construction of a Romano-Celtic temple complex (site 11649), along with other large public buildings including a theatre (sites 11646, 11647). The five enclosures at the Stanway burial complexed included an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high status individuals (Crummy *et al*, 2007).

Cropmarks within the development site have been recorded as possible roads/trackways, though they are fairly indistinct on the aerial photographs (MCC7638) (see Fig 1 for location of cropmarks).

## Planning background

A planning application (180554) was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2018 proposing the development of a new agricultural building (including packing warehouses, cold stores, secure stores, agricultural machinery stores with ancillary offices, welfare facilities and associated produce retail) and protective structure (greenhouses) for growing soft fruit.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012).

## Requirement for work

The required work is for a trenched archaeological evaluation to be carried out in advance of any groundworks, to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Specifically, 11 trial-trenches will be positioned across the development site (avoiding the electricity exclusion zone) to provide a 5% sample (Fig 1). The trenches will total 361m linear and will measure 1.8m wide.

The 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 cost.

If unexpected or unusual remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Further evaluation may be required by the CBCAA, which would be the subject of an additional brief.

## 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 2014a-c)
- 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 CBCAA (CBC 2018)

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 CBCAA one week before start of work.

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

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus three/four archaeologists for three days.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner

## 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.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. 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 will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

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

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.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and spoil heaps, and the 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.

## Site surveying

The evaluation trench 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. Any significant features, ie burials, will be planned by hand.

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 do all processing with flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and 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. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be subject to the following criteria: 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 Ministry 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 CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

## 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:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman
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: Laura Ratcliffe (L R Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service

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: Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, 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 the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

## Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA 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 report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

## Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full *copy* of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

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

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

## Monitoring

CBCAA 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 to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

## References

CAT 2014 *Health & Safety Policy*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| CAT Report 312 | 2005 | *Excavations at Abbotstone field, Bell House Pit, Tarmac Colchester Quarry, Warren Lane, Stanway, Essex: 1999-2001* |
| CBCPS | 2018 | *Brief for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, CO3 0NW.* |
| CIfA | 2014a | *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation* |
| CIfA | 2014b | *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* |
| CIfA | 2014c | *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* |
| Crummy, P et al | 2015 | *Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum.* Britannia Monograph Series **24**. |
| DCLG | 2012 | *National Planning Policy Framework* |
| English Heritage | 2006 | *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA **14**). |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24**) |
| Wightman, A | 2016 | 'Fiveways Fruit farm, two Iron Age farmsteads beneath a modern fruit farm', in *The Colchester Archaeologist* **28** |



L Pooley

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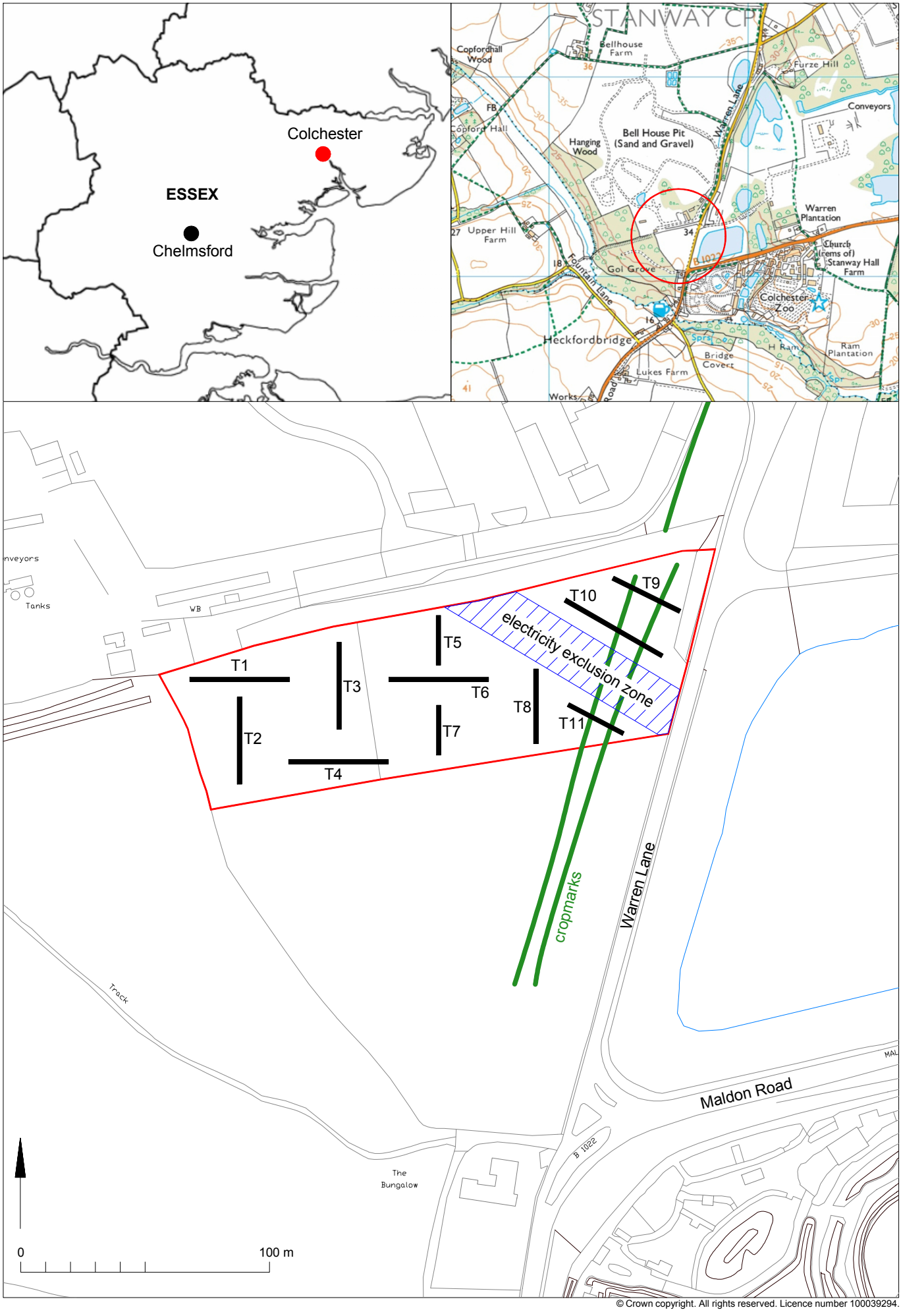




Fig 1 Site location, trench proposal and cropmarks

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England



## OASIS ID: colchest3-318289

### Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | Archaeological evaluation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (eleven trenches) was undertaken on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a new agricultural building and greenhouses for growing soft fruit. It is located in an area of significant Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman activity, with cropmarks crossing the far eastern side of the site. A small quantity of finds meant that few features could be firmly dated. However, three possible prehistoric features, a ?Bronze Age pit, ?Iron Age ditch and ?prehistoric pit, were excavated as well as two ditches and a pit of Roman date. Undated features consisted of five ditches, three pits, a posthole, a ditch/pit, two pits/tree-throws and three tree-throws/natural features. Both Roman ditches may be aligned with cropmarks extending across the eastern side of the site. Located within a multi-period historic landscape, this site is probably on the periphery of a farming community/farmstead during the Iron Age (and perhaps earlier), which continued to be utilised for agricultural purposes into the Roman period. |
| Project dates | Start: 06-06-2018 End: 08-06-2018 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 18/05o - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | 180554 - Planning Application No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | COLEM 2018.51 - Museum accession ID |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECC4223 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined |
| Monument type | PIT Bronze Age |
| Monument type | DITCH Iron Age |
| Monument type | PIT Late Prehistoric |
| Monument type | DITCHES Roman |
| Monument type | PIT Roman |
| Monument type | PITS Uncertain |
| Monument type | DITCHES Uncertain |
| Monument type | TREE-THROWS Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | FLINT Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | HEAT-ALTERED STONE Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | SANDSTONE Late Prehistoric |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Significant Finds | IRON OBJECT Roman |
| Methods & techniques | """Sample Trenches""" |
| Development type | Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.) |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | Not known / Not recorded |

### Project location

| | |
|---|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | ESSEX COLCHESTER STANWAY land off Warren Lane |
| Postcode | CO3 0NW |
| Study area | 1.36 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TL 9469 2221 51.863928884803 0.827942656389 51 51 50 N 000 49 40 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 32.56m Max: 34.03m |

### Project creators

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Organisation | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project brief originator | CBC Archaeological Officer |
| Project design originator | Laura Pooley |
| Project director/manager | Chris Lister |
| Project supervisor | Nigel Rayner |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Landowner |

## Project archives

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Digital Archive ID | COLEM 2018.51 |
| Digital Contents | "other" |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Survey" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Paper Archive ID | COLEM 2018.51 |
| Paper Contents | "other" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section" |

## Project bibliography 1

| | |
|---|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological evaluation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW: June 2018 |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Hicks, E. |
| Other bibliographic details | CAT Report 1289 |
| Date | 2018 |
| Issuer or publisher | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Place of issue or publication | Colchester |
| Description | A4 loose-leaf ringbound |
| URL | http://cat.essex.ac.uk |

| | |
|---|---|
| Entered by | Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org) |
| Entered on | 8 August 2018 |