

Archaeological strip, map and record project at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4AP

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1 Summary

An archaeological strip, map and record project was carried out at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex in advance an agricultural development. The site is located in the midst of a series of cropmark complexes and a 2018 evaluation at the site revealed the presence of charcoal-rich pits similar to those identified 2km to the southeast during archaeological investigations at Colchester Northern Gateway.

Archaeological investigation has revealed that historic activity on the development site dates from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to the 19th/20th century. Forty-two charcoal-rich pits ranging in date from the Early Iron Age to the post-medieval or modern periods (late 15th to 19th/20th century) were uncovered that are probably associated with charcoal production. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit, an Early Iron Age pit, a late medieval pit and a number of undated features are likely associated with this activity. Two medieval or post-medieval ditches were also excavated. The features detected, and the artefacts recovered, indicate that this has periodically formed a site of charcoal production from the late prehistoric era to the 19th century.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological excavation at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex which was carried out from the 3rd to the 18th September 2018. The work was commissioned by James Williams of TNS Group on behalf of P.G. Rix (Farms) Ltd in advance of the construction of an agricultural steel portal-framed grading building, a compost building, concrete yard area, attenuation tank and associated groundworks. The excavation was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/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 excavation and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2012).

The archaeological investigation was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Excavation (strip, map and record)*, detailing the required archaeological work written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCAA (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 in line 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 excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The original evaluation WSI completed by John Newman described cropmarks, indicative of below-ground archaeological remains, recorded within this site (CHER MCC4815). Groundworks relating to the application would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist. Ordnance Survey mapping of the area undertaken in the late 19th century depicts some field boundaries around the proposed development site that have disappeared in the last hundred years or so and

which may be some of the cropmarks as recorded on aerial photographs, (Newman, 2018; see map 1 below).



Map 1 Extract from Essex XVIII.SE, rev. 1896, pub. 1898

In May 2018, Britannia Archaeology Ltd undertook an evaluation on the site (Britannia Report 1201). This work identified archaeological features dating to the late prehistoric and medieval periods (HER Event no. ECC4211). Archaeological features were defined in trenches T3, T5, T6, T8 and T9 (Fig 2). Of particular interest was a pit (1002) from T6 with a charcoal-rich fill. There was also a small undated gully (1004) in T6. Three pits (1009, 1011 and 1013) in T9 also had charcoal-rich fills. The fill of 1013 contained 6 small sherds (11g) of pottery dated from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age. Accretions of burnt sandy sediment in 1011 suggested *in situ* burning. In T8, a solution hollow (1015) contained 11 sherds (60g) of Early Iron Age pottery. A ditch (1006A), aligned NW to SE, was defined in T3, T5 and T7 (and relates to a cropmark recorded by aerial photography). In T3, the ditch contained a single sherd of medieval coarseware, dated from the mid 12th to 14th century (possibly late 12th to mid/late 13th), as well as a fragment of roof tile.

The shallow pits containing charcoal and burnt material recorded during the evaluation phase seem similar in character to a series of pits containing burnt material CAT excavated during Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub (plots 2-3) evaluation in November-December 2017 (CAT Report 1219). Amongst the 120 trenches twenty-four pits thought to be related to charcoal production were excavated. These were sub-round or sub-oval charcoal-rich features with occasional evidence of *in situ* burning. Dating evidence was mostly lacking but two of the pits contained artefacts dated to the Roman and post-Roman periods. Radiocarbon dates from charcoal in a further two pits dated to the Middle Iron Age and Late Anglo-Saxon/early medieval periods. This discovery prompted a review of other archaeological site work in the northern Colchester area, resulting in a further 77 charcoal-rich pits identified from previous archaeological investigations (see CAT Report 1219 pp. 28-32 for a full discussion). They indicate that charcoal production was occurring in this part of northern Colchester from at least the Early Iron Age through to the medieval period. Although the Northern Gateway Sports Hub site is 2.4km to the south-east of Lodge Farm it is plausible that the charcoal-rich features identified by Britannia Archaeology during the evaluation are part of this industry.

4 Aim

The aim of this investigation was to excavate and record all archaeological horizons due to be destroyed during the proposed development.

5 Results (Figs 2-6)

An area measuring 8714m² was stripped of modern ploughsoil (L1, c 0.36-0.47m thick) to reveal natural sands and gravels (L2).

Summary of the charcoal-rich pits (Figs 2-5) (Table 1)

Defining the charcoal-rich pit is somewhat problematic. Charcoal production clamps were burnt from top to bottom (see discussion for details of the charcoal-production process), and so the absence of scorching around a pit's base and edges does not necessarily mean that it is not the remains of a charcoal-burning clamp. Equally, the scorching of a feature might simply be the result of hot waste material from the charcoal-production process being deposited within it, and similarly, a high concentration of charcoal within a pit could be the consequence of its use as a means of waste disposal during the process. Features have therefore been defined as charcoal-rich pits if their fills contained at least moderate amounts of charcoal (flecks, pieces or lenses) and/or if they showed evidence of scorching around their base or edges, that is, if it can be asserted confidently that they were utilised in the charcoal-production process.

Forty-two charcoal-rich pits were uncovered during the excavation. Those which were sub-round in shape ranged in diameter from 0.32m to 1.71m and those which were sub-oval in shape ranged from 0.2m to 1.97m. Depths varied from between 0.02m and 0.43m.

The distribution of charcoal-rich pits is plotted on Figs 2-5. In general, they appear to be scattered across the development site, with fewer recorded in the southeastern corner. There were no associated features such as boundaries or structural remains. This might suggest that associated activity is of a temporary nature, possibly seasonal. It is also possible, however, that any associated activity may have had little impact on the ground and has since been lost to ploughing.

Only seven of the charcoal-rich pits contained datable finds. F18 contained a small piece of medieval or post-medieval possible CBM, while F29 contained fifty-five sherds of prehistoric (Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age) pottery. Thirty-one sherds of medieval (early 13th- to late 14th-century) pottery were recovered from charcoal-rich pit F31, and four sherds of medieval (early 13th- to late 14th-century) pottery from F39. F41 yielded seven sherds of medieval (mid 12th- to late 14th-century) pottery. F42 produced a considerable assemblage of Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age pottery consisting of some 170 sherds from an estimated eight vessels. This feature also contained moderate quantities of charred wheat and rye which yielded a radiocarbon date of 380-204 calBC (Middle Iron Age), expressed at one sigma level of confidence. Finally, F44 contained a single sherd of post-medieval (late 15th- to 19th-century) pottery.



Photograph 1 F29 sx, looking west



Photograph 2 F39, F40, F41 and F42, looking west



Photograph 3 F44 sx, looking southwest

Context	Size and shape	Scorching?	Other notes
F3	Sub-round, flat base 0.59m wide 0.09m deep	No scorching	
F4	Sub-round, flat base 0.7m wide 0.07m deep	Very slight, possible, scorching on base	
F7	Sub-round, flat base c 0.71m wide 0.05m deep	No scorching	
F8	Sub-oval, flat base c 0.68m wide 0.1m deep	No scorching	
F9	Sub-oval, irregular base c 0.35m wide 0.02m deep	No scorching	
F10	Sub-oval, irregular base 0.76m wide 0.05m deep	Very slight, possible, scorching on base	
F11	Sub-round, flat base c 0.62m wide	No scorching	

	0.08m deep		
F12	Sub-round, irregular base 0.92m wide 0.17m deep	No scorching	
F13	Sub-round, irregular base 0.41m wide 0.22m deep	No scorching	
F14	Sub-round, flat base c 0.79m wide 0.07m deep	No scorching	
F15	Sub-round, flat base c 0.51m wide 0.08m deep	Scorched base and edges which were a dark reddish- orange and baked firm	
F16	Sub-round, flat base c 0.65m wide 0.15m deep	No scorching	
F17	Sub-round, flat base 0.52m wide 0.08m deep	No scorching	
F18	Sub-oval, irregular base c 1.01m wide 0.07m deep	No scorching	Finds: A small piece of medieval or post-medieval possible CBM was retrieved from the base of the feature.
F19	Sub-round, steeply-sloping sides 0.62m wide 0.35m deep	No scorching	
F20	Sub-round, steeply-sloping sides 0.36m wide 0.07m deep	No scorching	
F21	Sub-round, flat base 0.6m wide 0.08m deep	No scorching	
F22	Sub-round, irregular base 1.05m wide 0.12m deep	No scorching	
F23	Sub-round, flat base 0.49m wide 0.1m deep	No scorching	
F24	Sub-round, flat base 0.65m wide 0.08m deep	Very slight scorched base	
F25	Sub-oval, irregular base 0.41m wide 0.15m deep	No scorching	
F26	Sub-oval, flat base c 0.91m wide 0.07m deep	No scorching	
F27	Sub-oval, irregular base 0.39m wide	No scorching	

	0.15m deep		
F28	Sub-round, flat base c 0.43m wide 0.1m deep	No scorching	
F29	Sub-round, flat base c 0.41m wide 0.09m deep	Scorched base and partial sides which were reddened and baked firm	Finds: Fifty-five sherds of prehistoric (Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age) pottery were recovered from this feature, along with nine heat-affected stones.
F30	Sub-round, steeply-sloping sides 0.32m wide 0.18m deep	Partially-scorched base	
F31	Sub-round, flat base c 0.64m wide 0.16m deep	Scorched base and partial sides which were reddened and baked firm	Finds: Thirty-one sherds of medieval (early 13th- to late 14th-century) pottery were recovered from this feature.
F33	Sub-oval, steeply-sloping sides 0.2m wide 0.12m deep	Very slightly scorched base	Finds: One heat-affected stone was retrieved from this feature
F34	Sub-oval, flat base c 0.46m wide 0.05m deep	Scorched base and partial sides which were reddened and baked firm	
F39	Sub-oval, flat base c 0.64m wide 0.04m deep	Scorched base and sides which was reddened and baked firm	Finds: Four sherds of medieval (early 13th- to late 14th-century) pottery were recovered from this feature.
F40	Sub-round, irregular base 0.39m wide 0.16m deep	No scorching	
F41	Sub-round, flat base 0.66m wide 0.09m deep	No scorching	Finds: Seven sherds of medieval (mid 12th- to late 14th-century) pottery and one heat-affected stone were recovered from this feature.
F42	Sub-oval, irregular base 1.97m wide 0.43m deep	No scorching	Finds: 170 sherds of prehistoric (Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age) pottery, moderate quantities of charred wheat and rye with a radiocarbon date of 380-204 calBC (Middle Iron Age), 176 heat-affected stones and one fragment of fired clay were recovered from this feature. Charcoal: very thick charcoal lens in the middle fill

F43	Sub-round, flat base 0.43m wide 0.05m deep	No scorching	
F44	Sub-oval, flat base 0.96m wide 0.12m deep	No scorching	Finds: A single sherd of post-medieval (late 15th- to 19th-century) pottery was recovered from this feature.
F45	Sub-round, concave base 0.77m wide 0.18m deep	Some scorching evident on the base, parts of which were reddened and baked firm	
F46	Sub-round, irregular base c 0.75m wide 0.1m deep	Some scorching evident on the base, parts of which were reddened and baked firm	
F47	Sub-round, flat base 0.79m wide 0.14m deep	Scorched base and partial sides which were reddened and baked firm	
F51	Sub-round, flat base c 0.65m wide 0.16m deep	Some scorching evident on the base, parts of which were reddened and baked firm	
F52	Sub-round, slightly irregular base c 0.78m wide 0.12m deep	Some scorching evident on the base, parts of which were reddened and baked firm	
F55	Sub-round, flat base c 0.47m wide 0.06m deep	No scorching	
F56	Sub-round, gently-sloping sides and flat base 1.71m wide 0.63m deep	No scorching	Charcoal: thick charcoal lens in the lower fill

Table 1 Description of the charcoal-rich pits

Other features

Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age

Two sherds of Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age pottery were retrieved from pit F49, which was 0.65m wide and 0.21m deep.

Medieval / post-medieval

Passing through the centre of the site on a NNW-SSE alignment, and measuring 1.8m in width and 0.45m in depth, ditch F1 yielded one fragment of peg-tile, dating this feature to the period from the mid 13th to the 16th centuries. Another ditch, F5, passed through the northwestern corner of the site on a NE-SW alignment, and was 2.66m wide and 0.51m deep. Four sherds of pottery, giving a date range of the 16th to the 19th/20th century, were recovered from this feature.



Photograph 4 F1 sx 1, looking south southeast

Undated

Several undatable features were excavated, consisting of seven undatable pits (0.47-1.7m wide and 0.07-0.68m deep), a posthole (0.27m wide, 0.07m deep) and two pits/postholes (one 0.48m wide and 0.17m deep, the other 0.37m wide and 0.16m deep). A tree-throw was also excavated.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

There was a modest assemblage of ceramics and pottery with 297 sherds with a weight of 3,357 g (Table 2). The vast majority of this material consists of handmade prehistoric pottery which accounts for 80% of the assemblage by count and 74% by weight. There was also a small assemblage of medieval/post-medieval pottery (Table 1). Roman pottery is quasi-absent with only one sherd while ceramic building material is also rare (Table 2). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVREP (estimated vessel representation) and rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

Ceramic material	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW/g	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Prehistoric	238	80.0	2,498	74.4	10	0.59	8
Roman	1	0.3	10	0.3	10	0.00	0
Medieval/post-medieval	52	17.5	220	6.6	4	0.17	1
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	5	1.7	628	18.7	126	-	-
Unidentified	1	0.3	1	0.0	1	-	-
All	297		3,357		11	0.76	9

Table 2 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery (MSW = mean sherd weight)

Prehistoric pottery

The prehistoric pottery was classified into fabric groups on the basis of the type of inclusions (flint, sand, grog, organic), their size, frequency and sorting, using the scheme developed and used by Brown (1988) to record assemblages of prehistoric pottery from Essex. There were 238 sherds of prehistoric pottery with a weight of nearly 2.5 kg from 8 vessels (rim EVREP/0.59 EVE) (Table 3). Nearly all of this material came from three features: F29 (charcoal-rich pit), F42 (charcoal-rich pit) and F49 (pit); except for 11 sherds from the ploughsoil (L1, 58) (Table 3). The bulk of the prehistoric pottery and all the individual vessels came from pit F42 with a smaller assemblage from charcoal-rich pit F29 (Table 3). The prehistoric pottery from charcoal-rich pit F29 and pit F49 was in a very

fragmentary condition with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of only 2g. In contrast, the material from charcoal-rich pit F42 was in a less fragmentary state, including the presence of some larger-sized sherds, and a higher MSW of 14g (Table 3).

Context	Context type	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW/g	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
F29	Charcoal-rich pit	55	23.1	124	5.0	2	0.00	0
F42	Charcoal-rich pit	170	71.4	2,320	92.9	14	0.59	8
F49	Pit	2	0.9	4	0.1	2	0.00	0
L1	Ploughsoil	11	4.6	50	2.0	5	0.00	0
Total		238		2,498		10	0.59	8

Table 3 Prehistoric pottery by context

The majority of the prehistoric pottery is flint-tempered (HMF fabrics A-Q) and these account for nearly 81% of the sherds and 80% by weight (Table 4). The most common fabric is group D, which is characterized by abundant fine- to coarse-sized flint, and this group accounts for half of the sherds and 70% of the weight. The flint-temper is often crushed and burnt. The next most common fabric group are sherds tempered with fine- to medium-sized flint (group B), closely followed by fabric A with fine flint which is well sorted (Table 4). Flint- and sand-tempered fabrics (HMFS fabric E, M, W) are less common and are mostly limited to sherds from the fabric group E. Sand-tempered fabrics (HMS) are quasi-absent except for one sherd (Table 4).

Fabric code	Fabric	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW/g
<i>HM (hand-made)</i>						
N	Vegetable temper	4	1.7	12	0.5	3
<i>HMF (hand-made flint-tempered)</i>						
A	Flint fine, common, well sorted	33	13.9	30	1.2	1
B	Flint fine-medium, common/abundant	38	16.0	212	8.5	6
C	Flint fine-medium-rare coarse, common/abundant	1	0.4	4	0.2	4
D	Flint fine-coarse, common/abundant, poorly sorted	119	50.0	1,750	70.1	15
Q	Flint fine-medium, grog fine-medium	1	0.4	12	0.5	12
<i>HMFS (hand-made flint- and sand-tempered)</i>						
E	Flint and sand fine-medium	33	13.9	346	13.9	10
M	Grog with some flint or sand	1	0.4	40	1.6	40
W	Flint fine-coarse, some sand and vegetable material	7	2.9	74	3.0	11
<i>HMS (hand-made sand-tempered)</i>						
I	Sand fine-medium, common/abundant	1	0.4	18	0.7	18
Total		238		2,498		10

Table 4 Prehistoric pottery fabrics recorded

As can be seen from Table 5 there are some subtle differences in the prehistoric fabrics from F29 and F42. The most common fabric group HMF D in pit F42 is absent from charcoal-rich pit F29 and conversely the most frequent fabric in the charcoal-rich pit (HMF A) is quasi-absent from F42 (Table 5). However, both features are dominated by pottery tempered with flint (HMF) and the proportion of flint- and sand-tempered (HMFS) pottery is broadly similar: 14.6% by sherd count for F29 as against 13.5% for F42.

Feature	Fabric code	Fabric	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW/g
F29	HMF	A	32	58.2	26	21.0	1
		B	13	23.6	50	40.3	4
		C	1	1.8	4	3.2	4
	HMFS	E	8	14.6	26	21.0	3
	HMS	I	1	1.8	18	14.5	18

		Total	55		124		2
F42	HM	N	4	2.4	12	0.5	3
		A	1	0.6	4	0.2	4
	HMF	B	23	13.5	158	6.8	7
		D	118	69.4	1,742	75.1	15
		Q	1	0.6	12	0.5	12
	HMFS	E	15	8.8	278	12.0	19
		M	1	0.6	40	1.7	40
		W	7	4.1	74	3.2	11
		Total	170		2,320		
F49	HMF	B	2	100.0	4	100.0	2
		Total	2		4		

Table 5 Breakdown of the prehistoric fabric groups via feature

Dating the prehistoric pottery is hampered by the relatively small size of the assemblage, the rarity of rims and bases, and the bias toward plain and undecorated sherds. Occasional sherds have been decorated with finger/nail impressions below the rim and/or on the shoulder, and some with finger-wiping marks on the exterior surface. Handmade flint-tempered pottery is seen as typical of Late Bronze Age (LBA) assemblages from Essex, with sand- and shell-tempered fabrics becoming more common from the Early Iron Age (EIA) onwards (Brown in Ecclestone 1995, 30). However, handmade pottery on some EIA sites in Essex can still show a bias towards flint-tempered fabrics and it is not until the Middle Iron Age that flint-tempered fabrics become rare (Sealey 1996, 47; Brown in Bedwin 1991, 27). The fabric HMFS E, of which 23 sherds came from F29 and F42 as well as a further 10 sherds from the ploughsoil, is typical for the EIA (Brown 1988, 272, 1999, 76).

The identified vessels can also provide some further help concerning the dating of the assemblage. The eight vessels from charcoal-rich pit F42 include coarse ware jars with flat-topped upright rims with rounded shoulders (Brown form D) in the HMF fabric D (Fig 7, nos. 2-3, 5), three fine ware carinated tripartite bowls with rounded slightly everted rims (Brown form K) all in the fabric group HMF B (Fig 7, nos. 4, 7-8), and one open fine ware bowl with a rounded rim (form H) (Fig 7, no. 6) also in fabric HMF B. Finally, in fabric HMF D there is one carinated jaw/large bowl with a wide diameter, with a line of finger-impressions just below a flat rim and shallow nail impressions along the top and inside of the rim (Fig 7, no. 1).

Some of this material shows similarities with the Darnsden-Linton pottery culture which is dated by Cunliffe to either the EIA and the 8th-5/4th century BC or to the 5th-3rd centuries BC and the MIA (Cunliffe 2010, 102; 624 fig. A: 13; Sealey 1996). Similar tripartite bowls with flared rims are known from EIA sites in Essex including Maldon 'Beacon Green' (Brown in Bedwin 1992, 16 fig. 5 nos. 2-7) and Lofts Farm (Brown 1988, 267, 271-2 fig. 16 nos. 55-61). The jars with upright flat-topped rims (form D) can also be found in EIA assemblages from Essex, such as Fox Hall Farm, Southend (Brown in Ecclestone 1995, 32-33 fig. 8 no. 6). However, the large jar/bowl is slightly similar to a vessel of LBA date from Windmill Field at Broomfield, Chelmsford (Brown in Atkinson 1995, 11 fig. 8 no. 34) and one from a collection of post-Deverel-Rimbury ceramics from Stonea, Cambridgeshire (Needham 1996, 250 fig. 84 no. 32). According to Needham the Stonea example is typical of the LBA/EIA transition and the late 8th-6th centuries BC (1996, 256). All in all, a date spanning the late EIA and into the MIA (c 6th-4th centuries BC), is likely for the prehistoric pottery from F29, F42, and F49 with the possibility of some earlier (LBA/EIA) material.

Roman pottery

Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds and Wade 1999) (Table 6). There was only one small slightly-worn sherd of Roman pottery (Table 6). This came from an imported Spanish Dressel 20 olive oil amphora and was recovered from the ploughsoil (L1, 58).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
Roman:		
AJ	Amphorae, Dressel 20	1st-3rd century
Post-Roman:		
20	Medieval sandy grey ware (general) – elsewhere medieval coarse ware	Medieval, 1150-1375/1400
21A	Colchester-type ware	Medieval, 13th-14/15th century
40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	Post-medieval, late 15th-19th/20th century
51A	Late slipped kitchenware	Modern, 19th-early 20th century

Table 6 Roman and post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Post-Roman pottery

The post-Roman pottery was recorded using the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) and Cunningham (1985) (Table 6). Fifty-two sherds of post-Roman pottery with a weight of 220g (Table 7) was recovered from five features: F5 (ditch), F31, F39, F41 and F44 (all charcoal-rich pits). The fabric groups 20 (medieval sandy grey wares) and 21A (Colchester-type ware) account for the majority of the post-Roman pottery (Table 7) and it is possible that most of this material was produced locally. A nearby kiln at 'The Rookery' Great Horkesley, was producing medieval sandy grey wares (fabric 20) of 14th-century types and also early Colchester wares (fabric 21A) (CAR 7, 109-110; Drury and Petchey 1975).

Roman							
Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim	Handle	Base
AJ	Amphorae, Dressel 20	1	10	10	0	0	0
Total		1	10		0	0	0
Post-Roman							
Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim	Handle	Base
20	Medieval sandy grey wares (general) – elsewhere medieval coarse ware	11	76	7	0	0	1
21A	Colchester-type ware	36	112	3	3	0	0
40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	4	24	6	0	0	1
51A	Late slipped kitchenware	1	8	8	0	0	0
Total		52	220	4	3	0	2

Table 7 Details on the Roman and post-Roman pottery

F5 ditch

Only four sherds with a weight of 24g came from ditch F5. The post-Roman fabric groups 21A, 40 and 51A are represented and as such span from the 15th to the 19th/early 20th century (Table 8).

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
21A	Colchester-type ware	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	2	12	0	0	0	0	0
51A	Late slipped kitchenware	1	8	0	0	0	0	0
Total		4	24	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8 Details on the post-Roman pottery from the ditch F5

F31 charcoal-rich pit

This feature contained 31 sherds of Colchester-type ware with a weight of 86g. These sherds appear to be from a storage jar (rim EVE: 0.17/EVREP 1) with an applied decorative thumb-strip below the rim while there also appears to be traces of a washed-

out cream slip (cf. CAR 7, 136 fig. 88). The fabric is soft and poorly-fired and it is worth noting that some of the material from the Rookery, Great Horkesley kiln site was underfired (Drury and Petchey 1975, 55). The presence of an early Colchester-type ware provides a date of c 1200-1375/1400 for this assemblage.

F39 charcoal-rich pit

Four sherds of Colchester-type ware (fabric 21A) were present with a weight of 22g, suggesting a date of 13/14th-15th century for this assemblage.

F41 charcoal-rich pit

This pit contained seven sherds of medieval sandy greyware (fabric 20) with a weight of 60g. Again, it is possible that this pottery originated at the 'The Rookery', Great Horkesley, kiln. Medieval sandy greyware is typically dated from 1150/1175 until 1375/1400 (CAR 7, 91-92).

F44 charcoal-rich pit

This feature only produced one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric 40) pottery with a weight of 2g. This ware was produced at various locations within Essex and over a long period from the late 15th until the 19/20th century (CAR 7, 189-193). Again, production of this ware may also have taken place at Great or Little Horkesley during the 18th century (CAR 7, 191).

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There was only a small collection of ceramic building material (five sherds at 628g) (Table 2). All of this is of medieval/post-medieval date and was recovered from the ditches F1 and F5, except for a small possible piece of CBM (?) from the base of charcoal-rich pit F18. Three sherds of post-Roman peg tile were recovered from F1 and F5.

Summary

Table 9 provides a brief dating summary for the features with ceramics and pottery.

Feature	Prehistoric	Date approx.	Medieval/post-med (fabric group)	Date approx.	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	-	-	-	-	Medieval / post-med	Medieval / post-medieval
F5	-	-	21A, 40, 51A	15th – 19th/early 20th	Medieval / post-med	Post-medieval/modern, c16th-19th century
F18	-	-	-	-	Medieval / post-med	Medieval / post-medieval
F29	HMF, HMFS, HMS	EIA - MIA	-	-	-	EIA - MIA
F31	-	-	21A	1200 - 1375/1400	-	Medieval, 1200-1375/1400
F39	-	-	21A	1200-1500	-	Medieval, 1200-1500
F41	-	-	20	-	-	Medieval, 1150/75-1375/1400
F42	HM, HMF, HMFS	EIA - MIA	-	-	-	EIA - MIA
F44	-	-	40	Late 15th-19/20th	-	Post-medieval/modern, late 15th-19th/20th century
F49	HMF	EIA - MIA	-	-	-	EIA - MIA

Table 9 Approximate dates for the diagnostic pottery fabric groups from the individual features

6.2 Non-ceramic finds

by Laura Pooley

Fired clay

A fragment of fired clay (138g) from Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age charcoal-rich pit F42 is of fine reddish-orange fabric with vegetable temper. It is roughly triangular in shape with one flat edge, one curved edge and one face surviving. It measures roughly 75mm by 75mm by 33mm thick. It does not appear to be part of an object, but possibly originated from a hearth or oven.

Heat-affected (burnt) stone

Heat-affected (burnt) stones were recovered from five contexts, two dating to the Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age (charcoal-rich pits F29 and F42), one medieval charcoal-rich pit (F41) and two undated charcoal-rich pits (F33 and F56) (see Table 10). In total there are 195 pieces with a combined weight of over 6.8kg. The majority are fragments of sandstone/quartzite (S/Q) (34 pieces weighing 3kg) and flint (F) (155 pieces weighing 3.36kg) with a very small quantity of quartz (Q) (4 pieces weighing 426g).

As might be expected, there are more pieces of flint as, due to its poor thermal properties, it has a tendency to fragment when heated and then rapidly cooled. Most of the burnt flints are whitened (calcified) and crazed from the heat although a few are discoloured various shades of white, grey and red, some with surface crazing while others are simply discoloured. The burnt flints are mostly small to medium size, irregular broken pieces. The sandstone-quartzite is less broken-up, having better thermal properties, and many of these stones appear to represent complete or parts of rounded stones or small cobbles.

The largest group came from Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age charcoal-rich pit F42 (176 pieces weighing 6.1kg) and formed 90% of the heat-affected (burnt) stone from the site by count and by weight. The second largest group also came from an Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age feature, charcoal-rich pit F29. Both features contained a mix of sandstone/quartzite and flint, but pieces of quartz were only present in F42. Medieval charcoal-rich pit F41 and undated charcoal-rich pit F33 both contained one piece of burnt flint with eight pieces of burnt flint from undated charcoal-rich pit F56.

The large amount of heat-affected (burnt) stone from F42 is likely to suggest that the stones had been deliberately heated and used as pot boilers. The heat-affected (burnt) stone from F29 may have had a similar use. Flint and sandstone/quartzite both occur in the underlying gravel deposits. While flint is very common, sandstone/quartzite is less so but, as it has superior thermal properties and is less prone to thermal shock, it may have been specifically collected, a process also identified at a Middle Iron Age farmstead at Stanway Quarry (Crummy *et al* 2007, 18-19).

All of the heat-affected (burnt) stone will be discarded once this report has been approved.

Context	Finds no.	Type of stone	No.	Weight	Description
F29	26	S/Q	5	318g	Cracked, crazed, some with red tinge.
		F	4	186g	Cracked, crazed, discoloured white, grey and red.
F33	31	F	1	34g	Cracked, crazed, discoloured
F41	37	F	1	6g	Cracked, crazed and burnt red
F42	38	S/Q	13	994g	Cracked, crazed, two burnt red, some with red tinge.
		F	25	680g	Cracked, crazed, discoloured white, grey and red.
		Q	2	90g	Cracked and crazed.
	39	S/Q	10	1.2kg	Cracked, crazed, one burnt red, several others with red tinge.
		F	58	1.1kg	Cracked, crazed, discoloured white, grey and red.

		Q	3	334g	Cracked, crazed.
	47	S/Q	6	508g	Cracked, crazed, one burnt red, several others with red tinge.
		F	58	1.22kg	Cracked, crazed, discoloured white, grey and red.
		Q	1	2g	Crazed with a slight red tinge.
F56	53	F	8	180g	Cracked, crazed, discoloured white, grey and red.

Table 10 Heat-affected (burnt) stone by context

7 Environmental report

7.1 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction

Fifteen samples (Table 10) were taken during a small excavation that revealed a scatter of charcoal-rich pits and a pit/posthole, some of which contained pottery sherds of prehistoric (Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age) and medieval date.

Sample no.	Find no.	Feature no.	Feature type	Date	Bulk sample size (L)
1	7	F7	pit	undated	20
2	9	F10	pit	undated	20
3	10	F12	pit	undated	40
4	19	F14	pit	undated	20
5	15	F19	pit/posthole	undated	20
6	17	F24	pit	undated	20
7	30	F29	pit	Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age	10
8	34	F31	pit	Medieval	20
9	32	F33	pit	undated	10
10	35	F34	pit	undated	10
11	46	F39	pit	Medieval	10
12	44	F42	pit	Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age	40
13	41	F43	pit	undated	20
14	54	F47	pit	undated	40
15	55	F56	pit	undated	30

Table 11 Sample details

Sampling and processing methods

In total, 330 litres of soil were sampled and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were completely 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. 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; Cappiers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; 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 12)

The plant remains

Charcoal fragments were the most abundant plant remain type in these samples. One Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age pit, sample 12 (F42), contained moderate quantities of charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and rye (*Secale cereale* L.) grains. Uncharred plant remains were present in the form of modern root/rhizome fragments.

Sample	Feature no.	Bulk sample size (L)	Flot volume (L)	Charred plant remains					Modern root/rhizome fragments	Fauna	
				Grain			Charcoal >4mmØ	Charcoal <4mmØ		Terrestrial mollusca	Earthworm cocoons
				a	d	p					
1	F7	20	0.15	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	-
2	F10	20	0.15	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	-
3	F12	40	0.1	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-
4	F14	20	0.2	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-
5	F19	20	0.03	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	-
6	F24	20	0.3	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-
7	F29	10	0.002	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-
8	F31	20	0.04	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-
9	F33	10	0.02	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-
10	F34	10	0.015	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-
11	F39	10	0.03	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-
12	F42	40	0.01	2	1	2	2	3	2	-	-
13	F43	20	0.05	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	1
14	F47	40	0.2	-	-	-	2	3	2	1	1
15	F56	30	0.015	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-

Table 12 Contents of flots

Key to Table 12:

UNCH = uncharred/dried waterlogged,

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

Low numbers of terrestrial mollusca were found in sample 14 (F47) and low numbers of earthworm cocoons were found in sample 13 (F43).

Significant inorganic remains and artefacts

No significant inorganic remains or artefacts were observed.

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

No biases in recovery, residuality or contamination were reported on at the time of writing. Uncharred root/rhizome fragments and earthworm cocoons can indicate that bioturbation has been active and this can influence stratigraphic integrity. Worm action can carry small items such as seeds and small stones up to a metre down into the soil (Canti 2003, 143).

Quality and type of preservation

Preservation was by carbonisation. Carbonisation 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).

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 charcoal in these samples may be suitable for radiocarbon dating if they are identified and found to be short-lived taxa or sapwood. The grains in sample 12 may also be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

7.2 Charcoal identification report

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction

During the archaeobotanical assessment (see Gray above) fifteen samples were found to contain charcoal fragments large enough for identification (see Table 1 below)

Charcoal identification

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.

Results

No fragments of roundwood or any other fragments clearly discernible as sapwood were present. 346 fragments were identified.

Oak (*Quercus* sp.) stem/branch wood was the only taxa type in these samples. Each fragment has the flame-like ring pore distribution, very large rays distinctive of oak. Oak wood species cannot be differentiated based on their microscopic wood anatomy alone. (Schoch *et al* 2004). The distributed of these fragments is shown in Table 12.

Sample	Feature no.	Finds no.	Feature type	Date	Quantity of Oak
1	F7	7	pit	undated	32 fragments
2	F10	9	pit	undated	37 fragments
3	F12	10	pit	undated	30 fragments

4	F14	19	pit	undated	36 fragments
5	F19	15	pit/posthole	undated	27 fragments
6	F24	17	pit	undated	45 fragments
7	F29	30	pit	Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age	6 fragments
8	F31	34	pit	Medieval	19 fragments
9	F33	32	pit	undated	12 fragments
10	F34	35	pit	undated	5 fragments
11	F39	46	pit	Medieval	11 fragments
12	F42	44	pit	Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age	11 fragments
13	F43	41	pit	undated	26 fragments
14	F47	54	pit	undated	45 fragments
15	F56	55	pit	undated	4 fragments

Table 13 Quantity of oak per sample

Recommendations for radiocarbon dating

Unfortunately, oak trees tend to be regarded as too long-lived to provide accurate radiocarbon dates unless they are definitely from sapwood or saplings so no fragments can be recommended from these samples.

8 Radiocarbon dating

A charred grain from F42 (finds no. 44, sample no. 12) produced a radiocarbon date (calibrated to 95.4% accuracy) of 380-204 calBC, the Middle Iron Age (SUERC-84433 [GU50418]).

9 Discussion

Charcoal-rich pits (Figs 2-5)

Forty-two charcoal-rich pits ranging in date from the Early Iron Age to the post-medieval/modern period were uncovered during the excavation. Added to the four which were revealed during the evaluation stage, a total of forty-six charcoal-rich pits have been detected during archaeological investigations at this site.

Since 2001, another ninety-nine charcoal-rich pits have been excavated during nine archaeological investigations within an area measuring 2km east to west by 4km north to south in northern Colchester (see Table 14 below). All charcoal-rich pits are plotted on Fig 8. Although there appears to be a concentration of charcoal-rich pits in the area immediately to the north and south of the A12, especially between Boxted Road and Severalls Lane, this distribution may simply reflect where archaeological investigations have taken place rather than revealing any particular clusters of activity. Only six of these ninety-nine charcoal-rich pits containing datable finds. Three produced pottery sherds of a Roman date (1st-century), two others yielded pottery sherds of a medieval date (late 12th- to 14th-century), and one contained a piece of peg-tile. Since 2015, the charcoal from eight of these pits has also been sent for radiocarbon dating, producing results dating to the Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age (x2), Late Iron Age, early Roman and early medieval periods.

Like the charcoal-rich pits elsewhere excavated in northern Colchester, the forty-two charcoal-rich pits uncovered during this phase of work at Lodge Farm were relatively shallow, round or oval pits, containing charcoal-rich fills and occasional evidence of *in situ* burning. The seven dated charcoal-rich pits uncovered at Lodge Farm fit comfortably within this range of dated activity apart from one, F44, which was of post-medieval or modern date (late 15th to 19th/20th century).

Project	Description
CAT: Northern Approach Road, evaluation 2001 (CAT Report 159)	Description: Fourteen charcoal-rich pits with charcoal rich fill, three of which showed evidence of <i>in situ</i> burning with a further four showing discolouration which may or may not be burning. Dating: No dating evidence.
CAT: Northern Growth Area Urban Extension (NGAUE), evaluation 2011 (CAT Report 627)	Description: Thirteen charcoal-rich pits with a charcoal rich fill (no record of any <i>in situ</i> burning). Dating: Two contained pottery of a medieval date; 1) late 12th to 14th centuries; and 2) 13th to 14th centuries.
CAT: Northern Approach Road, monitoring 2013 (CAT Report 728)	Description: Eight charcoal-rich pits with charcoal rich fills. Dating: No dating evidence.
Pre-Construct Archaeology: Cuckoo Farm, the Flakt Woods project, evaluation 2014 (Mattinson 2004)	Description: One charcoal-rich pit with a charcoal rich fill. Dating: No dating evidence.
Archaeology South-East: Cuckoo Farm Park and Ride, evaluation and excavation 2015 (Dyson 2015)	Description: Thirty charcoal-rich pits all with charcoal rich fills and evidence of <i>in situ</i> burning. Dating: Two of the pits contained pottery sherds from 1st century AD jars. A third pit was radiocarbon dated, producing results of Cal. 50BC-AD65 and 170BC-AD5, making it broadly contemporary with the pottery-dated examples.
Archaeology South-East: Severalls School, Via Urbis Romanae, evaluation 2015 (Wroe-Brown 2015)	Description: One possible charcoal-rich pit with a charcoal rich fill (half sectioned only). Dating: No dating evidence.
Pre-Construct Archaeology: Severalls Hospital, evaluation and excavation 2017 (House 2017)	Description: Seven charcoal-rich pits all with charcoal rich fills. Dating: Four were radiocarbon dated and produced dates for the Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and early medieval periods. 1) C14 date of 797-545 cal. BC at 95.4% probability, with a 44.8% probability within this range of 650-545 BC date, placing the feature in the Early Iron Age. 2) C14 date of 394-208 cal. BC at 95.4% probability, with a 63.2% probability within this range of 317-208 BC date, placing the feature in the Middle Iron Age. 3) calibrated C14 date of 160BC-50AD at 95.4% probability, with a 88.8% probability within this range of 116BC-30AD date, placing the feature in the Late Iron Age. 4) calibrated C14 date of 997-1155 AD at 95.4% probability, with a 53.2% probability within this range of a 1065-1155 AD date. Note: a fourth pit was radiocarbon dated to the Early Bronze Age (C14 date of 1746-1611 cal. BC at 95.4% probability, placing the feature in the latter part of the Early Bronze Age) but it was thought by the excavators to be a tree-throw as it differed in size and form to the charcoal-rich pits.
CAT: Cambian Fairview, Boxted Road, evaluation 2017 (CAT Report 1095)	Description: One charcoal-rich pit with charcoal rich fill and a burnt base. Dating: radiocarbon dated to 2218±27 BP, which calibrates at a 95% probability to 350-203 BC (ie, Middle Iron Age).
CAT: Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, evaluation 2017 (CAT Report 1219)	Description: Twenty-four charcoal-rich pits with charcoal-rich fills, sixteen of which showed evidence of <i>in situ</i> burning. Dating: Two were radiocarbon dated, one producing results of Cal. 1095 to 1157 AD, the other producing results of Cal. 362 to 183 BC. One yielded Roman pottery dated to the 1st century, while another contained a piece of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile. Two other charcoal-rich pits produced undatable finds (burnt clay fragments and burnt flint).

Britannia Archaeology: Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley: Archaeological Evaluation (Britannia Archaeology Report 1201)	Description: Four charcoal-rich pits Dating: One charcoal-rich pit contained Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery
CAT: Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, excavation 2018 (CAT Report forthcoming)	Description: Over one hundred charcoal-rich pits. Dating: Post-excavation analysis pending.

Table 14 Previous archaeological investigations in northern Colchester where charcoal-rich pits have been excavated.

Previous theories as to the origin and function of these charcoal-rich pits concluded that they were associated with military encampments from the 19th century or First World War (for which there has been no dating evidence) (Mattinson 2004; CAT Report 728) and that they were associated with medieval tree-clearance (CAT Report 627). More recently they have been interpreted as being connected to charcoal production (Dyson 2015; House 2017).

Experimental archaeology shows the processes involved in charcoal production (for example, see You Tube clips <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0HW4qk8dv4> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzLvqCTvOQY>). First the area is cleared of vegetation and dried wood collected and cut to size. A small shallow pit is dug for the central post. Larger pieces of wood are stacked around this post with smaller pieces of wood around the edges. The whole lot is covered in kindling and then mud to create a domed structure. The top of the dome is left open to vent smoke, and air holes made around the base to let combustion air in. The mound is set alight from the top with hot coals, the fire burning back down the heap against the draft. As the fire progresses, first the air vents then finally the top vent is plugged. When the fire goes out and the mound cooled, it can be opened and the charcoal inside collected. As so much of the process occurred above ground, and would have been removed soon after the event, it is unsurprising that all that is left behind is the original shallow pit. The introduction of the hot coals from the top of the dome and the spread of heat downwards may explain why not all of the charcoal-rich pits showed evidence of *in situ* burning.

Similar charcoal-rich pits, dating primarily to the Saxon period, have been identified in Cambridgeshire at Wittering and Parnwell, in Norfolk at Mayton Wood and Mousehold Heath, and further afield at Bestwall Quarry in Dorset (Webley 2007; House 2017). These have also been interpreted as charcoal production sites, sometimes associated with iron working features. In 2012 archaeological investigations at Eversley Quarry in Berkshire revealed similar pits dated to the mid-late Iron Age and medieval period (11th to 13th centuries) (Hardy 2012). Work in 2013 at the University of Kent, Canterbury also revealed charcoal-rich pits and charcoal pits associated with an early to middle Iron Age settlement that 'likely formed multiple small scale industries centred on charcoal production and possible food preparation/smoking' (accessed 16.1.2018: <http://www.canterburytrust.co.uk/news-2/projectdiaries/turing-college-university-of-kent/>).

The charcoal production pits from these sites share a number of common features with the examples from northern Colchester, including: similar size, shape and profile (although some variations occur); the presence of burning, occasionally with *in situ* burning or at least hot materials being deposited within the pit with sufficient heat to scorch the base; preferred use of oak; lack of finds; and a sporadic distribution across the landscape (House 2017).

It is likely the sporadic nature of the distribution relates either to the targeting of dense woodland or the use of existing clearings within that woodland. This would explain why little other evidence (features or finds) has been found relating to the charcoal-rich pits

across northern Colchester although, if this were a seasonal activity, the charcoal burners probably lived in the woods in temporary accommodation, especially as each charcoal clamp would have been monitored for a number of days during its burn. It is interesting to note, however, that no tree-throws were excavated at Lodge Farm.

Records show that by the 11th century much of this area of northern Colchester was still woodland, divided into Kingswood Forest and Cestrewald (BHO, 'Lexden Hundred'). However, large-scale woodland clearance began during the 13th century. It was this clearance that eventually led to the creation of the heathland of later centuries, the development site being located just to the west of Boxted Heath (BHO, 'Boxted: Introduction' and 'Great Horkesley: Economic History'). Radiocarbon dating of the charcoal-rich pits shows that these ancient woodlands were being exploited for charcoal production as far back as the Early Iron Age, presumably for localised use. The proximity of such a large woodland to the urban centre of Colchester in the Roman and medieval periods would have been significant for the supply and/or trade of charcoal to the town.

Charcoal was very important for ancient metalworkers as it is one of the best fuels available for smelting iron ore. This is because it has a high carbon content, no sulphur, a high calorific value, is readily available and is easy to produce (Clere 1981, 49). Although no direct evidence has been found, it is likely that the charcoal being produced in northern Colchester was being used for iron working.

In summary, the forty-two charcoal-rich pits at Lodge Farm add to growing evidence of approximately 2000 years of charcoal production within a large woodland that used to exist in northern Colchester.

Other features

Aside from the charcoal-rich pits, which were the predominating features uncovered at this site, archaeological remains representing multiple phases of activity at this location were uncovered. Pit F49 yielded two sherds of pottery of Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age date. A single sherd of Roman pottery of 1st- to 3rd-century date recovered from the ploughsoil indicates at least some degree of activity in the vicinity during this period too. There were no archaeological remains deriving from the Anglo-Saxon or the early medieval periods. Pit F41 did, however, produce seven sherds of pottery dated to the period from the mid-12th century to the late 14th century. All of these features are most likely associated with charcoal production at this site.

Finally, the two medieval or post-medieval ditches uncovered presumably relate to agricultural activity at the site during this period. There is no cartographic evidence which can provide a more specific dating or indication as to their purpose, but we can at least assume that the woodland which had sustained charcoal production at this site had been cleared by the time that they were dug.

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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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CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation (strip, map and excavate) at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4AP</i>
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12 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 to 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: one box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1337)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log

14 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: 2018.78.

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Distribution list:

James Williams, TNS Group

P.G. Rix (Farms) Ltd

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 19.03.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	58	Plough soil	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow/grey clay	Post-glacial
F1	1	Ditch	Friable/firm, dry/moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with <5% stone pieces	Medieval / post-medieval
F2	-	Pit	Soft/friable, medium grey/brown silty-clay with <4% charcoal flecks	Undatable
F3	2	Charcoal-rich pit	Soft/friable medium grey/brown silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Undatable
F4	3	Charcoal-rich pit	Very hard, dry medium grey silty-clay with >18% charcoal flecks and <4% stones	Undatable
F5	4	Ditch	Firm, dry medium brown/grey clayey-silt	Post-medieval / modern (C16th-19th)
F6	-	Natural feature	Soft/friable, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F7	7	Charcoal-rich pit	Friable, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with >17% charcoal flecks and <1% stones	Undatable
F8	5	Charcoal-rich pit	Friable/firm, dry medium yellow/brown clayey-silt with <17% charcoal flecks and <2% stones	Undatable
F9	8	Charcoal-rich pit	Friable/firm, dry medium grey/brown clayey-silt with <9% charcoal flecks	Undatable
F10	9	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry medium/dark grey clayey-silt with >15% charcoal flecks and <2% stones	Undatable
F11	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with >12% charcoal flecks and <2% stones	Undatable
F12	10	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist light grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F13	18	Charcoal-rich pit	Hard, dry light grey sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F14	19	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay	Undatable
F15	20	Charcoal-rich pit	Hard, dry dark orange/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F16	12	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional/frequent orange/brown fired clay flecks	Undatable
F17	21	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F18	13	Charcoal patch – base of charcoal-rich pit?	Hard, dry medium orange/grey silty-clay with common charcoal flecks	Medieval / post-medieval

F19	15	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecks and <1% stones	Undatable
F20	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F21	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with <10% charcoal flecks and 15% stones	Undatable
F22	16	Charcoal-rich pit	Soft, moist light grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks and 2% stones	Undatable
F23	22	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 5% stones	Undatable
F24	17	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry/moist, light grey/brown/black silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks and 2% stones	Undatable
F25	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium/dark grey silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecks and <1% stones	Undatable
F26	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Soft, wet light grey/brown/black silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F27	25	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium/dark grey silty-clay with occasional/frequent charcoal flecks	Undatable
F28	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist dark grey silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecks and <1% stones	Undatable
F29	26, 27, 30	Charcoal-rich pit	Soft, moist light/dark grey/brown/black silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks and 3% stones	Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age
F30	28	Charcoal-rich pit	Soft, moist light green/black silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 2% stones	Undatable
F31	29, 33, 34	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium/dark grey/black silty-clay with abundant charcoal flecks and 1% stones	Medieval (1200-1375/1400)
F32	-	Posthole	Soft, moist medium orange/grey silty-clay	Undatable
F33	31, 32	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist dark grey/black silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 5% stones	Undatable
F34	35	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown/black silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Undatable
F35	-	Pit	Firm, moist light grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 5% stones	Undatable
F36	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with occasional/frequent charcoal and very occasional daub flecks and 1% stones	Undatable
F37	-	?Pit / posthole	Firm, moist medium/dark grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 1% stones	Undatable
F38	-	?Pit / posthole	Firm, moist medium/dark grey silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks	Undatable
F39	36, 46	Base of charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium/dark grey silty-clay with 1% pottery pieces	Medieval (1200-1500)
F40	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F41	37	Charcoal-rich	Firm, moist medium grey silty-clay with	Medieval (1150/75-

		pit	charcoal flecks and 1% pottery pieces	1375/1400)
F42	38, 39, 40, 44, 45, 47, 57	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist light/medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with frequent charcoal and very occasional daub flecks and <1% heat-altered stones	Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age
F43	41	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with frequent charcoal flecks	Undatable
F44	42, 43	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 15% stones	Post-medieval / modern (late C15th – C19th/20th)
F45	52	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F46	51	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F47	54	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F48	-	Pit	Firm, moist light grey/brown silt	Undatable
F49	48	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Early Iron Age / Middle Iron Age
F50	-	Pit	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F51	50	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F52	49	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F53	-	Pit	Firm, dry light grey silty-clay	Undatable
F54	-	Pit	Hard, dry light grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F55	-	Charcoal-rich pit	Hard, dry light grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 5% stones	Undatable
F56	53, 55, 56	Charcoal-rich pit	Firm, moist light/medium/dark orange/grey/black silty-clay with charcoal flecks and <1% stones	Undatable

Appendix 2 Ceramic and Pottery list

Cxt	Find no.	Feature type	Fabric Group	No.	Weight (gr.)	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F1	1	Ditch	CBM	1	160	-	-	-		PT Peg-tile with small hole	Medieval-Post Medieval
F18	13	Base of charcoal-rich pit	CBM	1	2	-	-	-		?	Medieval-Post Medieval
F29	26	Charcoal-rich pit	?	1	1	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F29	26	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric A	32	26	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F29	26	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric B	13	50	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F29	26	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric C	1	4	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F29	26	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric E	8	26	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F29	26	Charcoal-rich pit	HMS fabric I	1	18	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F31	29	Charcoal-rich pit	21A	31	86	3	0	0	Storage jar	Colchester ware	13/14th-15th
F39	36	Base of charcoal-rich pit	21A	4	22	0	0	0		Colchester ware	13/14th-15th
F41	37	Charcoal-rich pit	20	4	18	0	0	0		Medieval sandy greyware	1150-1375/1400
F41	37	Charcoal-rich pit	20	3	42	0	0	1		Medieval sandy greyware	1150-1375/1400
F42	38	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric B	11	58	0	0	0		Finger wiping marks	Prehistoric
F42	38	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric D	68	690	6	0	1		Finger impressions	Prehistoric
F42	38	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric Q	1	12	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	38	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric E	3	26	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	38	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric W	7	74	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HM fabric N	4	12	1	0	0		Finger wiping marks	Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric A	1	4	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric B	9	78	2	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric B	1	10	1	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric B	1	6	1	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric B	1	6	1	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric D	45	974	2	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric D	1	10	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric E	7	156	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric E	1	6	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric E	3	50	0	0	0			Prehistoric

Cxt	Find no.	Feature type	Fabric Group	No.	Weight (gr.)	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F42	39	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric M	1	40	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	47	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric D	1	4	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	47	Charcoal-rich pit	HMF fabric D	3	64	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F42	47	Charcoal-rich pit	HMFS fabric E	1	40	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F44	43	Charcoal-rich pit	40	1	2	0	0	0		Post-Medieval red earthenwares	late 15th-19/20th
F49	48	Pit	HMF fabric B	2	4	0	0	0			Prehistoric
F5	4	Ditch	21A	1	4	0	0	0		Colchester ware	late type c.1400/25-1550
F5	4	Ditch	40	2	12	0	0	0		Post-Medieval red earthenwares	late 15th-19/20th
F5	4	Ditch	51a	1	8	0	0	0		Late slipped kitchenware	19th-early 20th
F5	4	Ditch	CBM	1	362	-	-	-		BRBrick	Medieval-Post Medieval
F5	4	Ditch	CBM	2	104	-	-	-		PTPeg-tile	Medieval-Post Medieval
L1	58	ploughsoil	20	4	16	0	0	0		Medieval sandy greyware	1150-1375/1400
L1	58	ploughsoil	40	1	10	0	0	1		Post-Medieval red earthenwares	late 15th-19/20th
L1	58	ploughsoil	AJ	1	10	0	0	0		Dressel 20, worn	1st-3rd
L1	58	ploughsoil	HMF fabric D	1	8	0	0	0			Prehistoric
L1	58	ploughsoil	HMFS fabric E	10	42	0	0	0			Prehistoric

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

12 February 2019

Laboratory Code SUERC-84433 (GU50418)

Submitter Laura Pooley
Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester
Essex CO2 7GZ

Site Reference Lodge Farm, Great Horkesley

Context Reference F42 (finds no. 44)

Sample Reference 12

Material Charred grain

$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ relative to VPDB -23.2 ‰

Radiocarbon Age BP 2226 \pm 24

N.B. The above ^{14}C age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon* 58(1) pp.9-23.

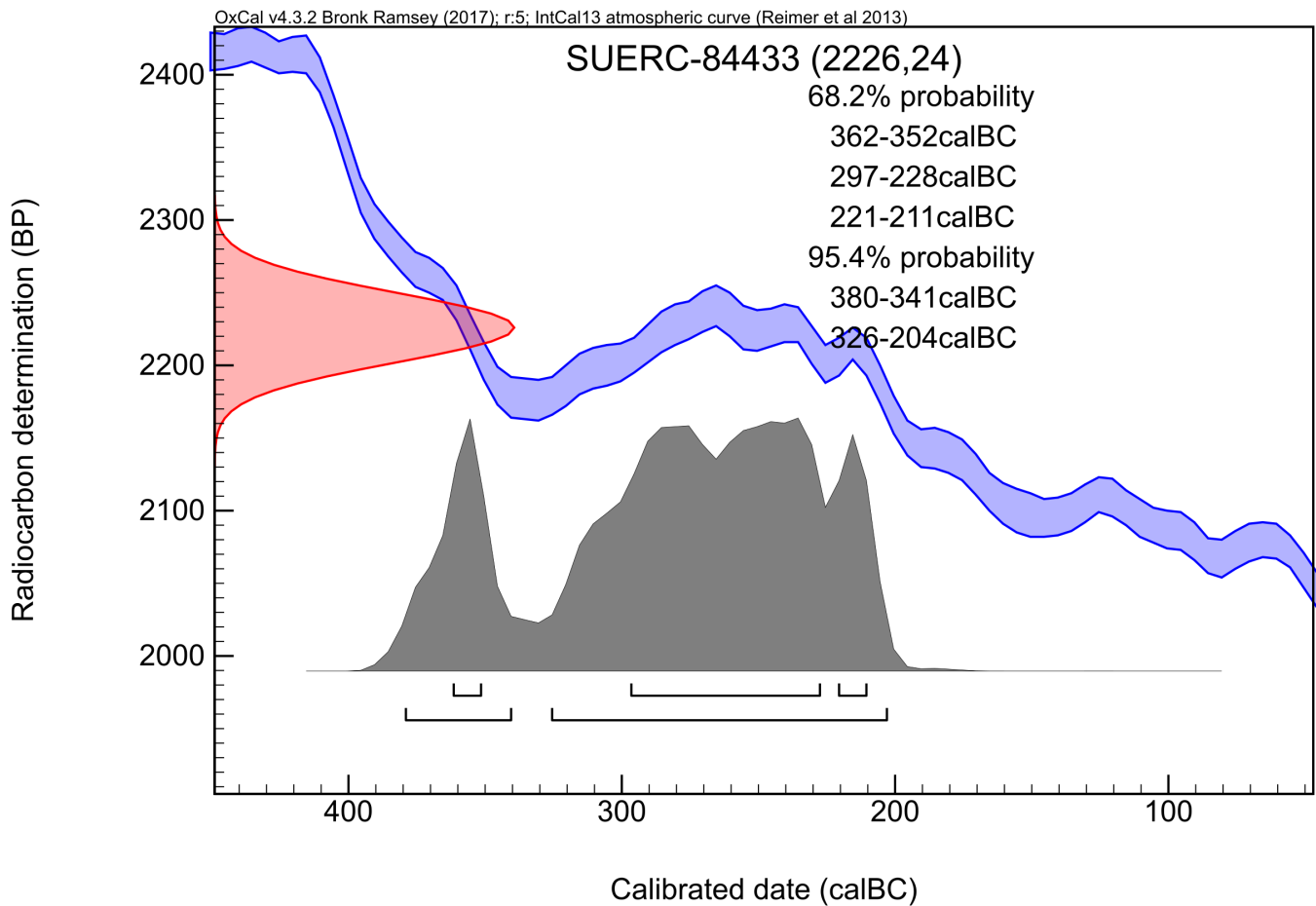
For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at suerc-c14lab@glasgow.ac.uk.

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :



Checked and signed off by :





The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon* 51(1) pp.337-60

† Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon* 55(4) pp.1869-87

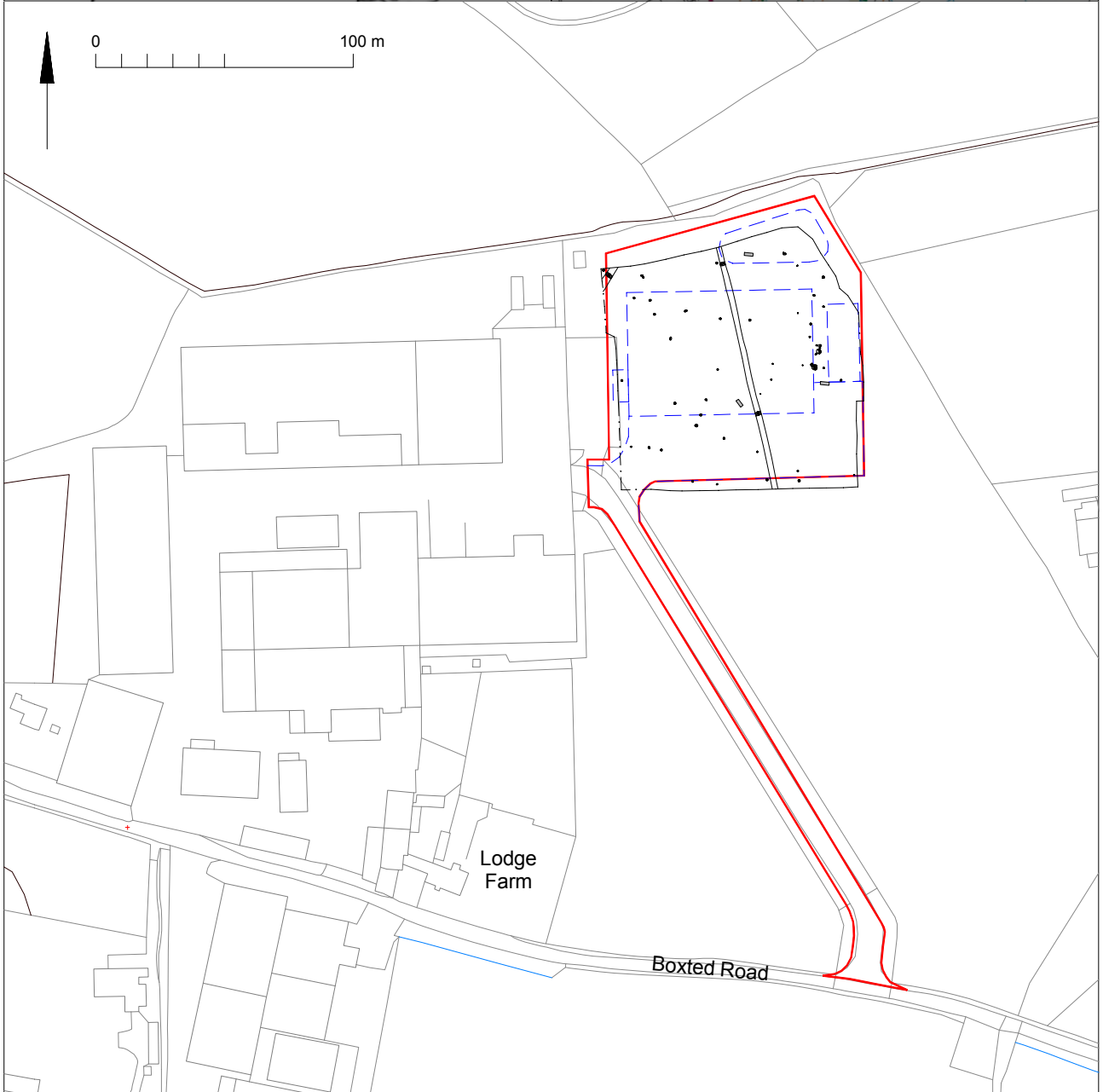


Fig 1 Site location with proposed development dashed blue.



Fig 2 Excavation results and evaluation results (shown green).



Fig 3 Results, close-up of the northern half of the site

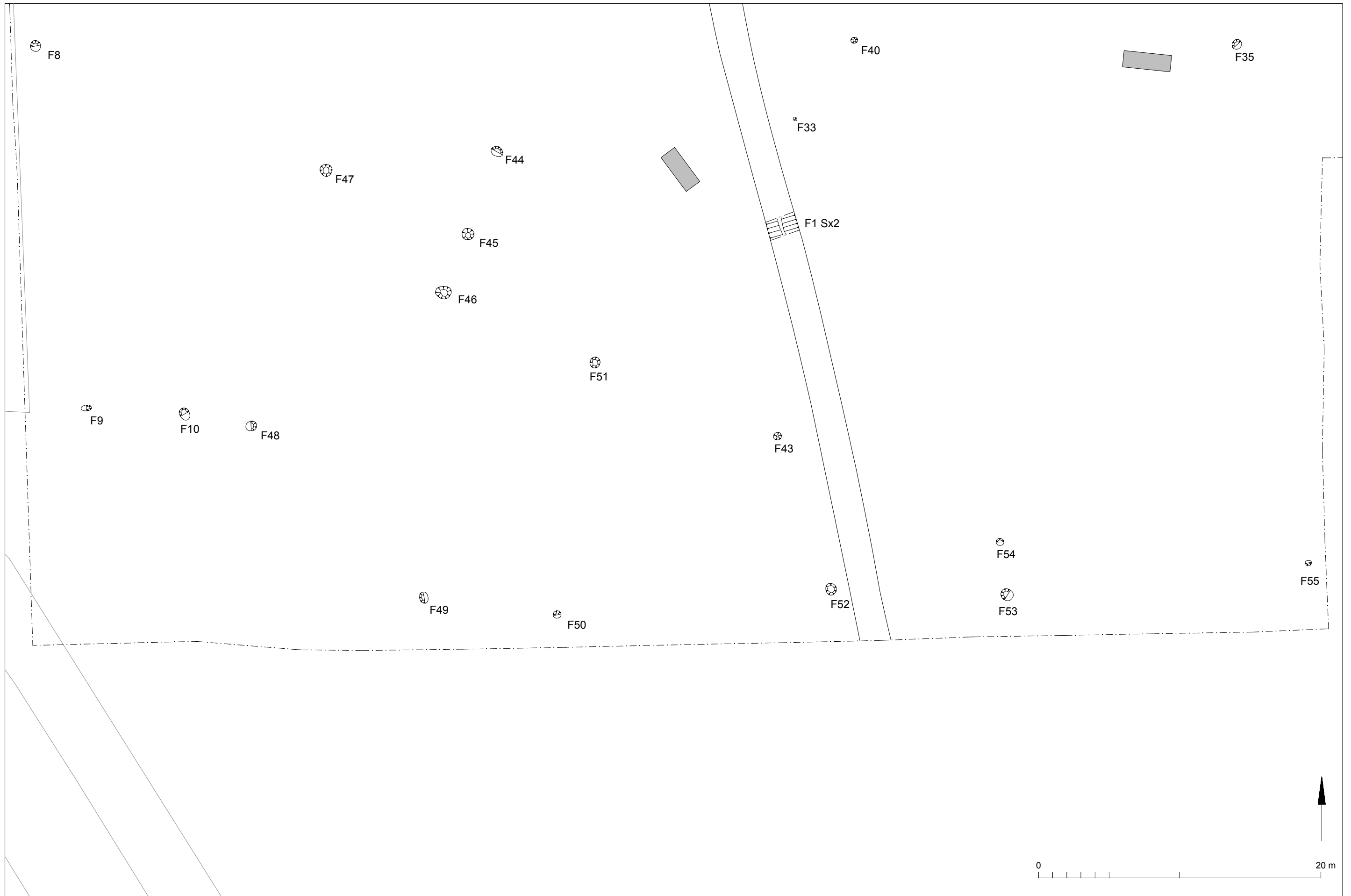


Fig 4 Results, close-up of the southern half of the site

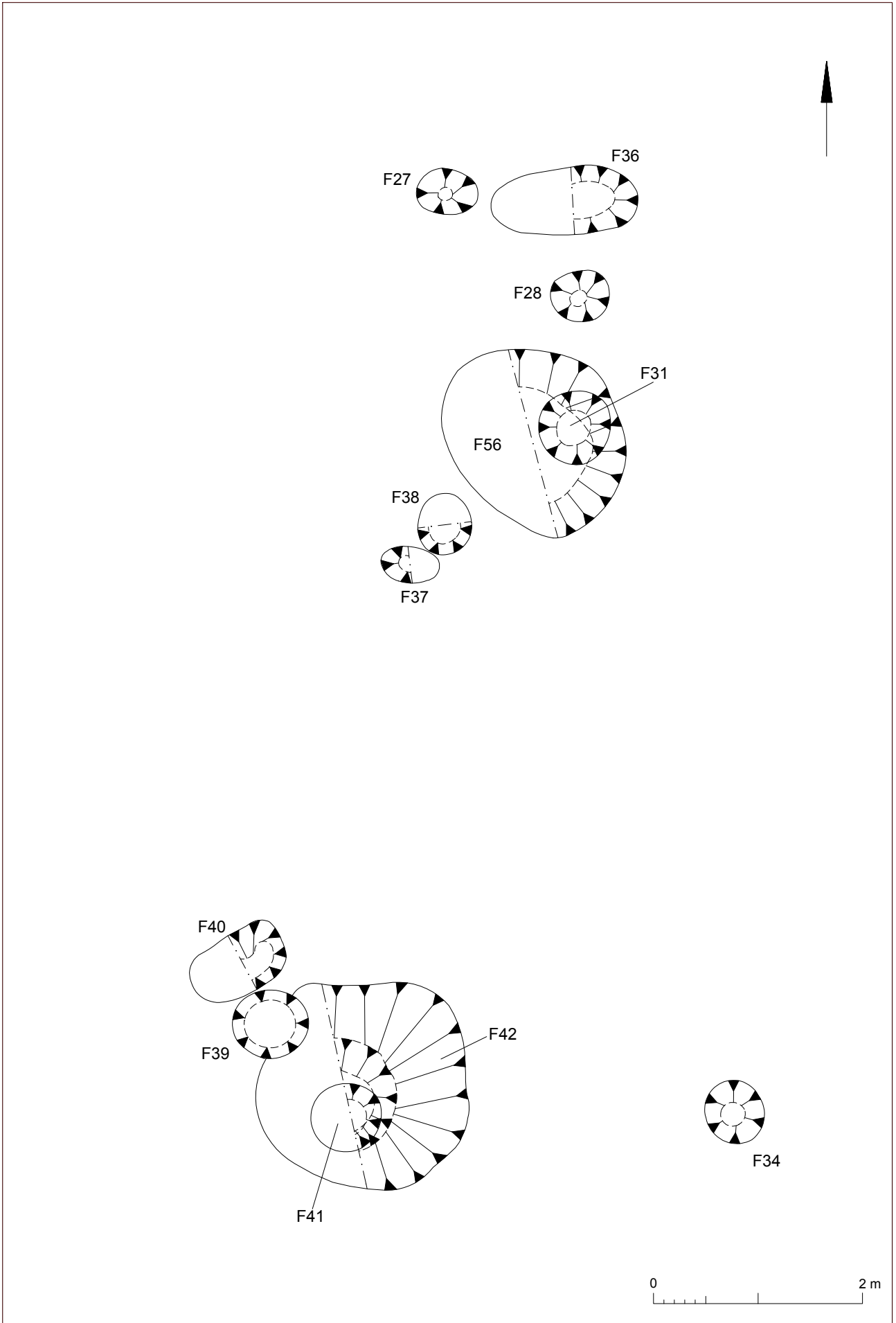


Fig 5 Pit cluster.

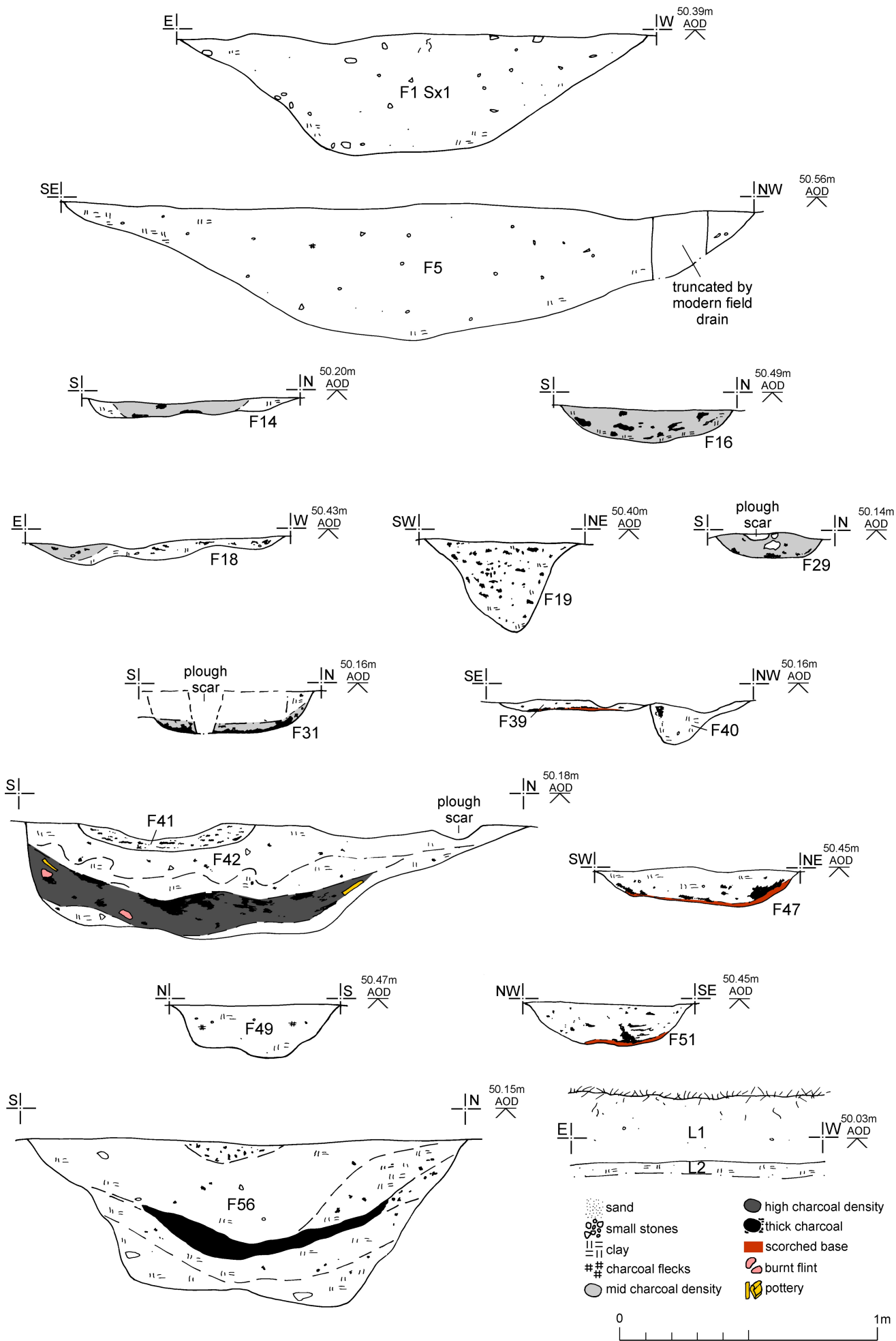


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

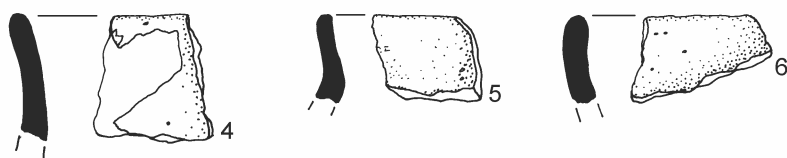
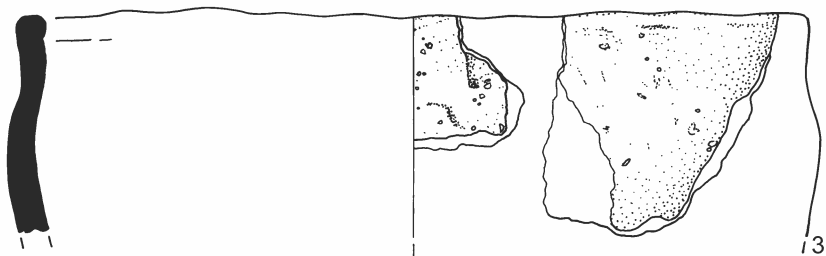
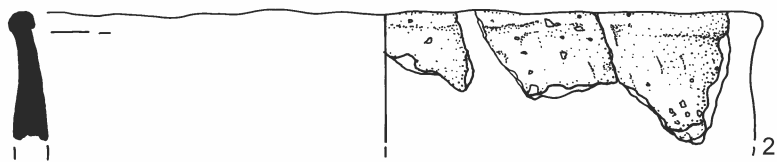


Fig 7 Prehistoric pottery from F42.

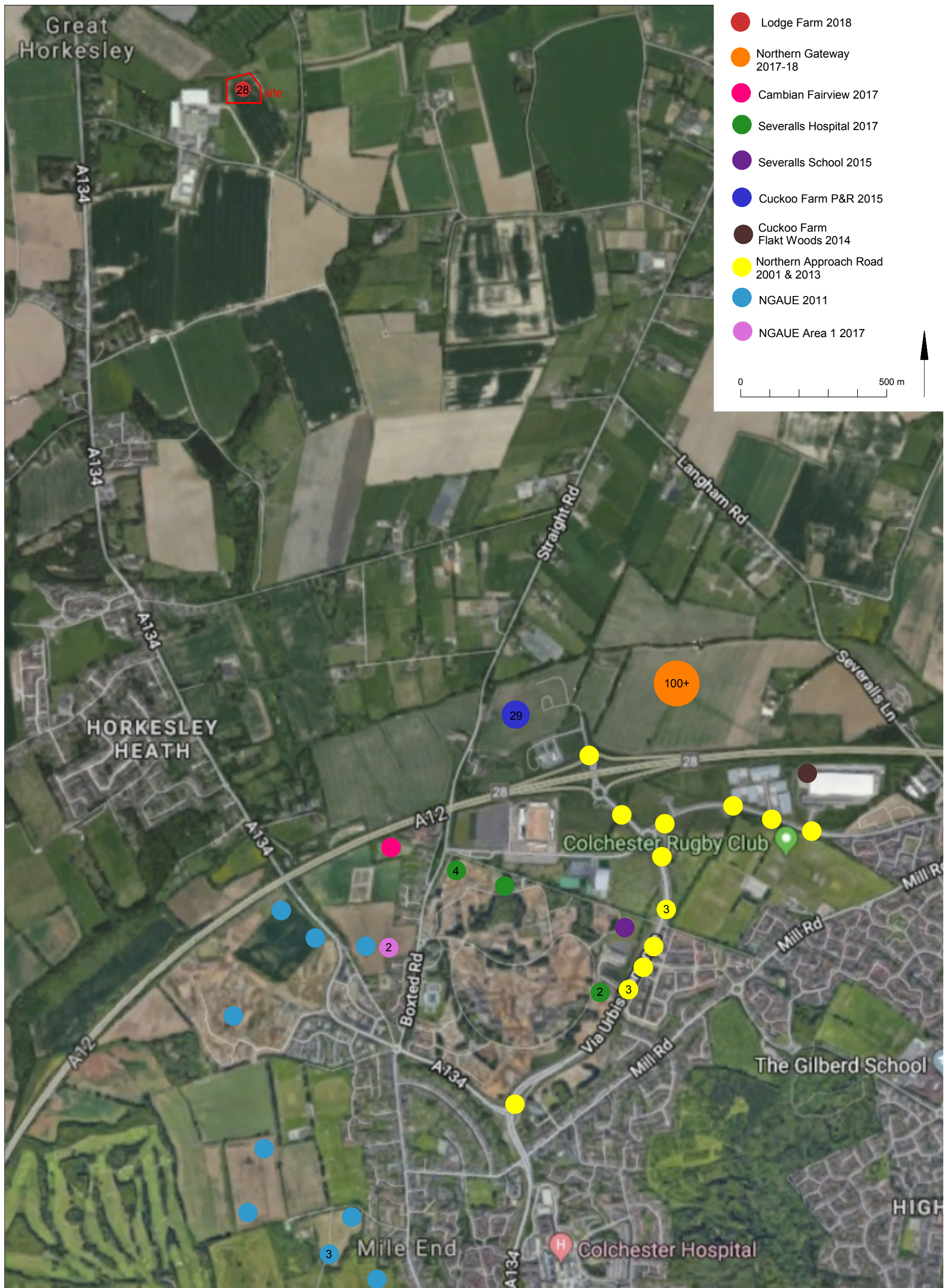


Fig 8 Distribution of fire pits across northern Colchester as recorded since 2001. Each circle represents a single pit unless otherwise stated.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4AP	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 98268 31378 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/08e CHER ref: ECC4256 OASIS ref: colchest3-326660
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 3rd-18th September 2018	Size of area investigated: 1.21 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.78	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC4815; ECC4211
Final report: CAT Report 1337	
Periods represented: Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological strip, map and record project was carried out at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex in advance of the construction of an agricultural steel portal-framed grading building, a compost building, concrete yard area, attenuation tank and associated groundworks. The site is located in the midst of a series of cropmark complexes and some 2km northwest of Colchester Northern Gateway, where 24 charcoal-rich pits thought to be related to charcoal production were excavated by CAT during an evaluation undertaken in November-December 2017.</p> <p>Archaeological investigation has revealed that historic activity on the development site dates from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to the 19th/20th century. Twenty-eight charcoal-rich pits ranging in date from the Early Iron Age to the post-medieval or modern periods (late 15th to 19th/20th century) were uncovered, as well as a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit, an Early Iron Age pit, a late medieval pit and two medieval or post-medieval ditches. The features detected, and the artefacts recovered, indicate that this has periodically formed a site of occupation and activity from the late prehistoric era to the 19th century.</p> <p>A number of undated features were excavated, and a single sherd of Roman pottery was also recovered.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	

Keywords: -	Significance: *
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: March 2019

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological excavation (strip, map and excavate) at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4AP

NGR: TL 98268 31378 (centre)

Planning reference: 180632

Commissioned by: James Williams (TNS Group)

Client: P G Rix (Farms) Ltd

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: tbc

CHER number: tbc

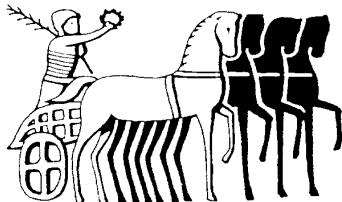
CAT project code: 2018/08e

OASIS project id: colchest3-326660

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 23.08.2018



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email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies on the south-eastern edge of Great Horkesley, approximately 6km north of Colchester town centre, at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, CO6 4AP (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 98268 31378.

Proposed work

The development comprises a proposed agricultural steel portal-framed grading building, a compost building, concrete yard area, attenuation tank and associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer.

The original evaluation WSI completed by John Newman (Newman 2018) described the historic background to include cropmarks, indicative of below-ground archaeological remains, are recorded within this site (CHER MCC4815). Groundworks relating to the application would cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.' The late 19th-century map extract included as the frontispiece depicts some field boundaries around the PDS that have disappeared in the last 100 years or so and which may be some of the cropmarks as recorded on aerial photographs, (Newman, 2018).

In May 2018 Britannia Archaeology Ltd undertook the evaluation (Britannia Report 1201). This work identified archaeological features dating to the late prehistoric and medieval periods (HER Event no. ECC4211). Archaeological features were defined in trenches T3, T5, T6, T8 and T9 (Fig 2). Of particular interest is a pit (1002) from T6 with a charcoal-rich fill. There was also a small undated gully (1004) in T6. Three pits (1009, 1011 and 1013) in T9 also had charcoal-rich fills. The fill of 1013 contained 6 small sherds (11g) of pottery dated from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age. Accretions of burnt sandy sediment in 1011 suggested *in situ* burning. In T8, a solution hollow (1015) contained 11 sherds (60g) of early Iron Age pottery. A ditch (1006A), aligned NW to SE, was defined in T3, T5 and T7 (and relates to a cropmark recorded by aerial photography). In T3, the ditch contained a single sherd of medieval coarseware, dated from the mid 12th to 14th century (possibly late 12th to mid/late 13th), as well as a fragment of roof tile.

The shallow pits containing charcoal and burnt material recorded during the evaluation phase seem similar in character to a series of pits containing burnt material CAT excavated during Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub (plots 2-3) evaluation in November-December 2017 (CAT Report 1219). Amongst the 120 trenches 24 charcoal-rich pits thought to be related to charcoal production were excavated. These were sub-round or sub-oval charcoal-rich features with occasional evidence of *in situ* burning. Dating evidence was mostly lacking but two of the pits contained artefacts dated to the Roman and post-Roman periods. Radiocarbon dates from charcoal in further two pits dated to the Middle Iron Age and late Anglo-Saxon/early Medieval period. This discovery instigated a review of other archaeological site work in the northern Colchester area, resulting in a further 77 charcoal-rich pits identified from previous archaeological investigations (see CAT Report 1219 p28-32 for a full discussion). They indicate that charcoal production was occurring in this part of northern Colchester from at least the Early Iron Age through to the medieval period. Although the Northern Gateway Sports Hub site is 2.4km to the south-east of Lodge Farm it is conceivable that the charcoal-rich features identified by Britannia Archaeology during the evaluation are part of this industry.

Planning background

A planning application was first made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2018 (application no.180632) proposing the erection of new agricultural steel portal-framed grading and compost buildings.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / 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).

This initial archaeological evaluation took place in May 2018 by Britannia Archaeology Ltd (Britannia report 1201). Following the evaluation it was recommended by the CBCAA that further archaeological work take place.

As significant archaeological remains were identified during both phases of archaeological evaluation, the CBCAA recommended that further archaeological investigation take place. This recommendation was for an archaeological excavation and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required work is for an archaeological excavation (strip, map and record) to be carried out in advance of any groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

The site measures 4.75 hectares. Specifically, within this area there will be a controlled strip, map and sample excavation within the area of the new storage building, compost building, concrete yard and the attenuation tank (Fig 2).

If unexpected or unusual remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately, who may decide that amendments to the brief, and this WSI, are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

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* (ClfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- 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 two archaeologists for ten days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner

Excavation 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 CBCAA, will it be removed.

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

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all areas of the strip and map both before and during excavation. All features and spoil heaps will 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. A representative section will be drawn to include ground level and the depth of machining. 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.

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 micromorphological 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.

Matthew Loughton (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

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 / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

Other: Historic England Regional Advisor 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.

Post-excavation assessment

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with CBCAA.

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within two months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA. It will be a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and will identify the research potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework. It will include an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

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

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 area stripped, mapped and excavated in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the area 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

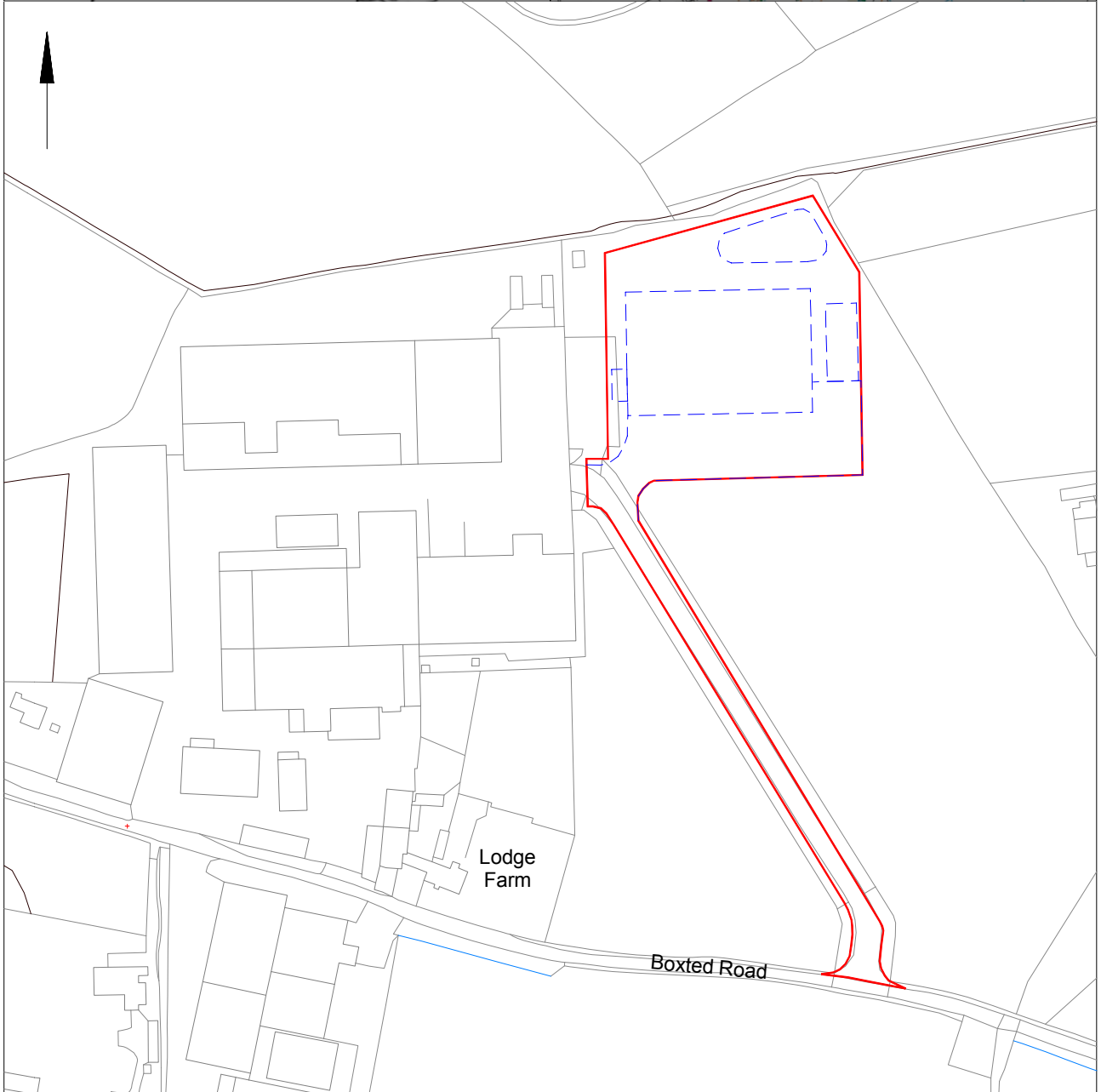
- | | | |
|------------------------|-------|--|
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| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> |
| ClfA | 2014c | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
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E Holloway



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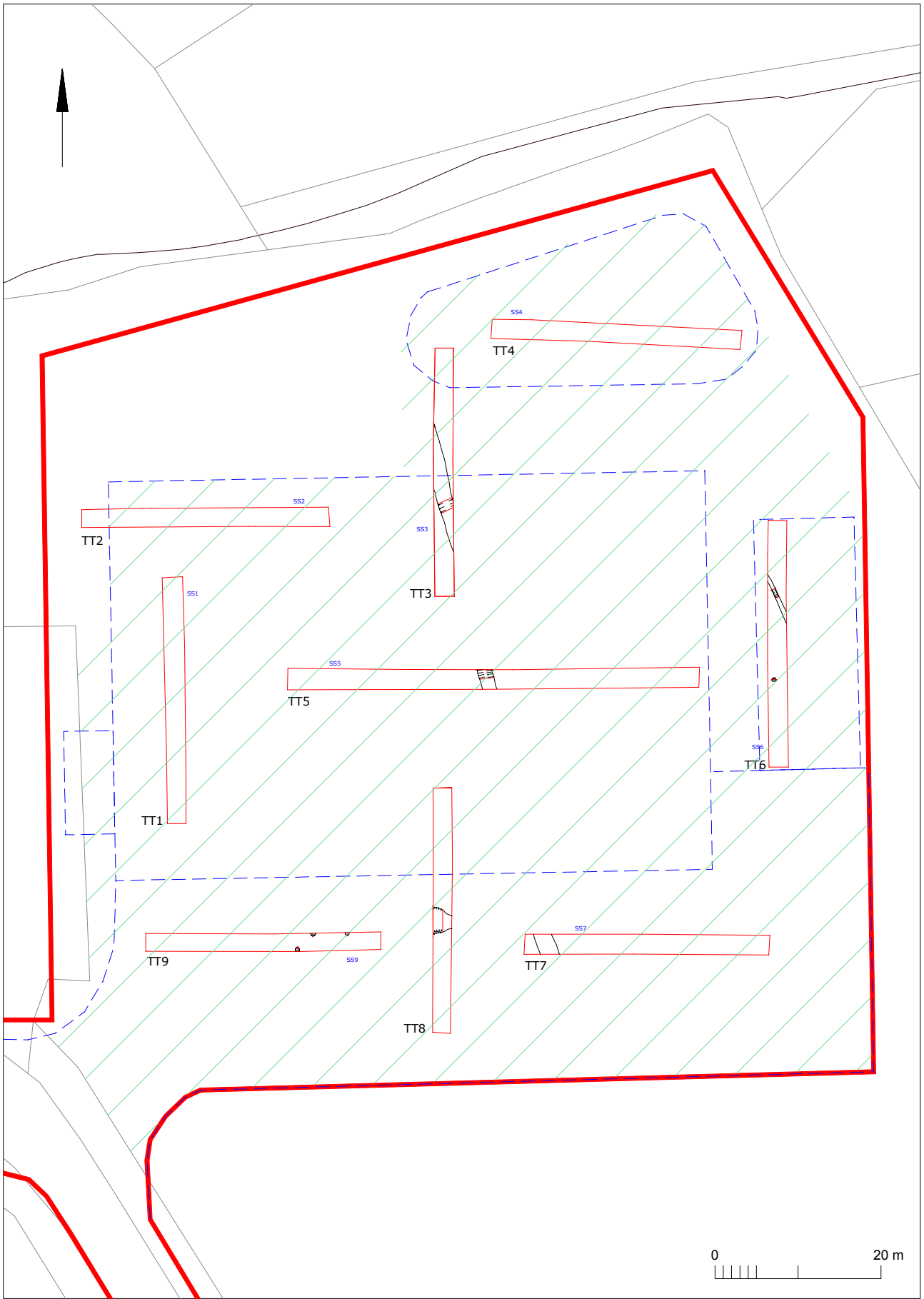
tel: 01206 501785 (option 4)
email: eh@catuk.org



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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Excavation area (hatched) and evaluation results.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-326660

Project details

Project name	Archaeological strip, map and record project at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4AP: September 2018
Short description of the project	An archaeological strip, map and record project was carried out at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex in advance an agricultural development. The site is located in the midst of a series of cropmark complexes and a 2018 evaluation at the site revealed the presence of charcoal-rich pits similar to those identified 2km to the southeast during archaeological investigations at Colchester Northern Gateway. Archaeological investigation has revealed that historic activity on the development site dates from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to the 19th/20th century. Forty-two charcoal-rich pits ranging in date from the Early Iron Age to the post-medieval or modern periods (late 15th to 19th/20th century) were uncovered that are probably associated with charcoal production. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit, an Early Iron Age pit, a late medieval pit and a number of undated features are likely associated with this activity. Two medieval or post-medieval ditches were also excavated. The features detected, and the artefacts recovered, indicate that this has periodically formed a site of charcoal production from the late prehistoric era to the 19th century.
Project dates	Start: 03-09-2018 End: 18-09-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/08e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	180632 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2018.78 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4256 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined

Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	CHARCOAL-RICH PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain
Monument type	CHARCOAL-RICH PIT Medieval
Monument type	CHARCOAL-RICH PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	CHARCOAL-RICH PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	CHARCOAL-RICH PIT Middle Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT/POSTHOLE Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FIRE CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	HEAT-AFFECTED STONE Uncertain
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER GREAT HORKESLEY Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley
Postcode	CO6 4AP
Study area	1.21 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98268 31378 51.944995613817 0.885118571218 51 56 41 N 000 53 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49.62m Max: 50.54m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer Emma Holloway

Project design originator	
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	P.G. Rix (Farms) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2018.78
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2018.78
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological strip, map and record project at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkeley, Essex, CO6 4AP: September 2018
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1337
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Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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Entered on	21 March 2019

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