

Archaeological evaluation at Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sproughton, Suffolk, IP2 0DA

May 2019



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commissioned by Steve Norman, Crown Gate Homes Ltd

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CAT Report 1411

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological and landscape background	1
4	Aims	3
5	Methodology	4
6	Results	4
7	Finds	4
8	Discussion	4
9	Acknowledgements	5
10	References	5
11	Abbreviations and glossary	5
12	Contents of archive	6
13	Archive deposition	6

Figures after p7

OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs and figures

Cover: extract from Hodgkinson's map of Suffolk, 1783

Photograph 1	T1 trench shot, looking northeast	4
Photograph 2	T2 trench shot, looking northeast	4

Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development

Fig 2 Development site in relation to archaeological monuments as recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.

Fig 3 Evaluation results

Fig 4 Representative sections

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sproughton, Suffolk in advance of alterations to the existing dwelling and the construction of six new detached bungalows with garages, parking areas and access drive. Two modern pits were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sproughton, Suffolk which was carried out on 1st May 2019. The work was commissioned by Steve Norman, of Crown Gate Homes Ltd, in advance of alterations to the existing dwelling and the construction of six new detached bungalows with garages, parking areas and access drive and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Babergh District Council: Planning reference DC/19/000526) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and that, in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sproughton* detailing the required archaeological work written by Hannah Cutler (SCCAS 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2019).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2017a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2017b).

3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9224603.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as being partially Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (diamicton) and Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with unrecorded superficial deposits.

Historic landscape

Sproughton is defined as plateau farmlands in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment². Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.2, built up area – town. The landscape immediately around the built up area is characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th century enclosure – random fields), sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland -meadow), sub-type 9.2 (post-

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

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

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

medieval park and leisure – informal park), sub-type 11.4 (industrial – disused mineral extraction) and sub-type 14.1 (communications -major road).

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site). The background is focused on results within a 1km radius of the site.

Prehistoric

Within the 1km search area around the development site, entries of Prehistoric date are common. The abundance of finds related to the earlier Prehistoric is of particular interest, as sites of this date are rare in this area. Of particular note directly north of the current site is Devil's Wood Pit, where archaeological evidence for multiple-period activity have been found (IPS 001, 278m N). Key finds include thousands of blades, cores, backed blades and worked antler and bone, dated to the Upper Palaeolithic. Interpretation of imported raw materials suggest this could be a location for a Palaeolithic 'camping site'. There are Mesolithic artefact scatters which include lithic cores, blades, flakes, scrapers and microliths. Post-holes, pits, a cremation burial and artefacts show the area was in use as a settlement during from the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age. Finds recovered include Late Neolithic Peterborough ware with some Beaker pottery, lithics including arrowheads, knives and awls and a sharpened sheep's tibia. A Bronze Age dirk has also been recorded within this area (SPT 018, 578m NW).

Other prehistoric finds include Palaeolithic implements thought to have been found on the western side of the LNER (SPT 004, 898m NNE), a Palaeolithic flake found at The Old Rectory (SPT 026, 574m NW) and a Mesolithic tranchet axe from Lavenham Road (IPS 105, 886m NE). A Mesolithic occupation site was discovered at Sproughton Knoll in 1924. The occupation was recorded as being about 0.4m below modern ground level (SPT 002a, 653m NW). Mesolithic axes, cores, hundreds of blades, a scraper and microliths were found near White House (SPT 003, 794m NNW). Three excavations in a field on land south of Sproughton Road revealed four axes, 18 cores, 550 flakes, one scraper and five microliths (SPT 017, 887m NNW and SPT 025, 839m NNW). A Neolithic perforated quartzite hammer was found during levelling work on Hadleigh Road (IPS 917, 1.18km NE) and two Neolithic axes were recorded from Bolards Field (SPT 011, 962m WSW). Flint flakes dated to Neolithic and Bronze Age Beaker pottery were recorded at the AWA Sewage Works (SPT 002b, 600m NW). Bronze Age pottery including fragments of collared cinerary urns have been recorded at Gipping Way (SPT 005, 902m NW) and during construction of the Sugar Beet factory (SPT 010, 676m N). Archaeological investigations on the site of the former Sugar Beet factory revealed a small assemblage of Mesolithic-Neolithic lithics and a ring-gully, enclosure ditches, pits and key-hole oven dated to the Iron Age (SPT 059, 794m N).

Romano-British

Romano-British finds within 1km of the development site area are scarce. The B113 follows the route of a Roman road (SPT 025, 696m W). Roman coins have been recorded at Devil's Wood Pit (SPT 001, 278m N) and Crane Hill (IPS 185, 770m E) and a couple of sherds of Roman pottery was found at 22 Swallow Road (IPS 574, 809m SSE).

Anglo-Saxon

The only evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity within the search area is a small collection of Thetford ware pottery, alongside some animal bone, found on land south of Sproughton Road after the area of a circular cropmark was bulldozed (SPT 017, 887m NNW) and a pit dated as Middle Saxon during archaeological work at Chantry Vale (SPT 053, 1.1km SW).

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

Medieval

Archaeological investigations at Chantry Vale revealed the area was a focus for activity during the medieval period, with a series of probable enclosures, as well as a building platform and post-holes. The features were dated to the 12th- to early 13th-century and thought to be related to the former hamlet of Felchurch and its church. Activity on the site seemed to have ceased during the 13th and 14th centuries. Other medieval finds within the search area are mostly represented by artefacts. Pottery has been recorded at Crane Hill (IPS 185, 770m E), Chantry Estate (IPS 457, 705m SSE), 22 Swallow Road (IPS 574, 809m SSE) and Church Lane (SPT 053, 956m NW). A silver groat of Henry VIII has been recorded from 1 Lower Chantry (IPS 1937, 135m E) and approximately 100m east of this another groat, of Henry VII was found in a garden (SPT Misc, 271m ENE).

Post-medieval

The Chantry is a large mansion, built in the 18th century, but considerably altered and extended in the 19th century. It was presented to the people of Ipswich in 1927 and is Historic England Grade II listed (NHLE no. 1037783). The Chantry sits within a park of 124 acres (IPS 248, 430m E-SE) and includes a gatehouse and entrance with gatepiers.

Undated

There are several areas of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography close to the site. As a non-intrusive recording method, these cannot be dated with any certainty. These include a cistern field noted on the 1844 Tithe Map (IPS 1909, 773m E), seven trackways with ditches either side and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a ring-ditch at one end (IPS 422, 675m SE), a rectilinear ditch system (IPS 020, 1.1km W), a large circular enclosure open to the south close to the River Gipping (SPT 027, 996m NW). Ring-ditches can represent the ploughed out remains of Bronze Age barrow mounds and ditches can often be the remains of agricultural field systems. Undated features, including ditches, gullies and pits were discovered during an evaluation at Church Lane (SPT 038, 956m NW). A sharpened and polished sheep tibia found in a pit to the north of Devil's Wood (SPT 009, 491m N) is not dated but may well relate to the worked bone at Devil's Wood found alongside Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery.

Listed buildings⁵ (Fig 2)

Located in the edge of Ipswich, the site is surrounded by six listed buildings within a 1km radius, all HE Grade II. They date from the medieval period through to the 19th century.

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

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

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

5 Methodology

Five trial-trench was laid out across the development site. Trench 1 (T1) measured 25.5m long, T2 was 18m long, T3 was 22m long, T4 was 10.5m long and T5 was 12m long. All the trenches were 1.8m wide (totalling 158.4m²).

The trench was mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WSI. A metal detector was used to check trenches, spoil heaps and excavated strata.

6 Results (Appendix 1, Figs 3-8)

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.19-0.56m thick, soft, moist dark brown silty-sand) and subsoil (L2, c 0.07-0.68m thick, soft, moist medium yellow/brown silty-clay) onto natural (L3, firm, moist medium yellow/orange/brown clay). At the northern end of T3, a layer of redeposited natural (L4, c 0.16-0.23m thick, firm, moist medium yellow/brown clay) was situated between L1 and L2. Sondages were excavated in T1, T4 and T5 to ensure that the natural had been reached.

Two large pits were observed, one at the western end of T2 (F1) and another at the southern end of T5 (F2). Plastic and concrete was apparent in the upper fill of each feature, confirming them both to be modern, and so neither was excavated.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking northeast



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking northeast

7 Finds

There were no finds.

8 Discussion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, only two modern pits were uncovered.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Steve Norman and Crown Gate Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen and B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored by Hannah Cutler for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

10 References

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

Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sproughton, Suffolk, IP2 0DA</i>
ClfA	2008a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
SCC	2008	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCAS	2017a	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition</i>
SCCAS	2017b	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation (version 1.3)</i>
SCCAS/CT	2019	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Larchwood, larchwood Close, Sproughton</i> , by H Cutler

11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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 AD 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
post-medieval	from cAD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman

Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1411)

SCC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1411)

SCC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number SPT 064.

Distribution list:

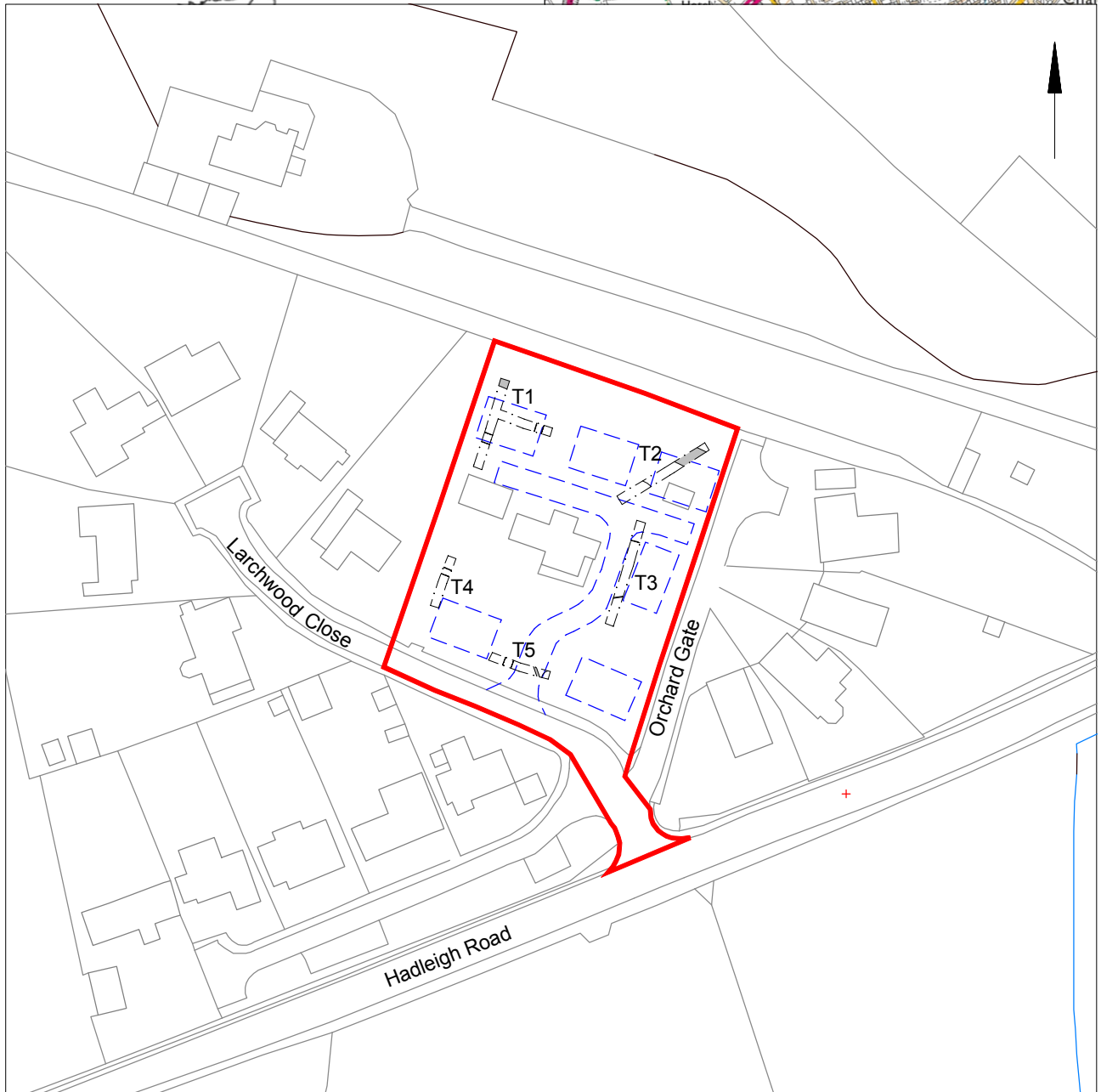
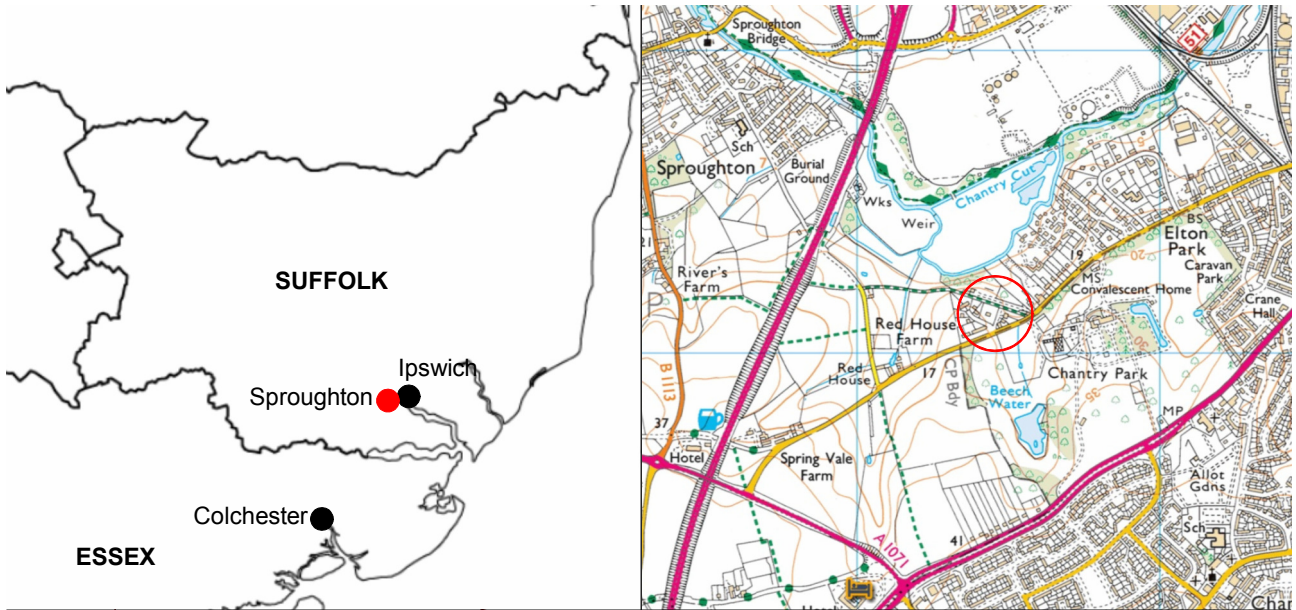
Steve Norman
Crown Gate Homes Ltd
Hannah Cutler, SCCAS
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



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date: 15.05.2019



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





Fig 2 Development site (in red) shown in relation to archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record.

Imagery ©2019 Google, Map data ©2019 Google
HER data © Suffolk Historic Environment Record

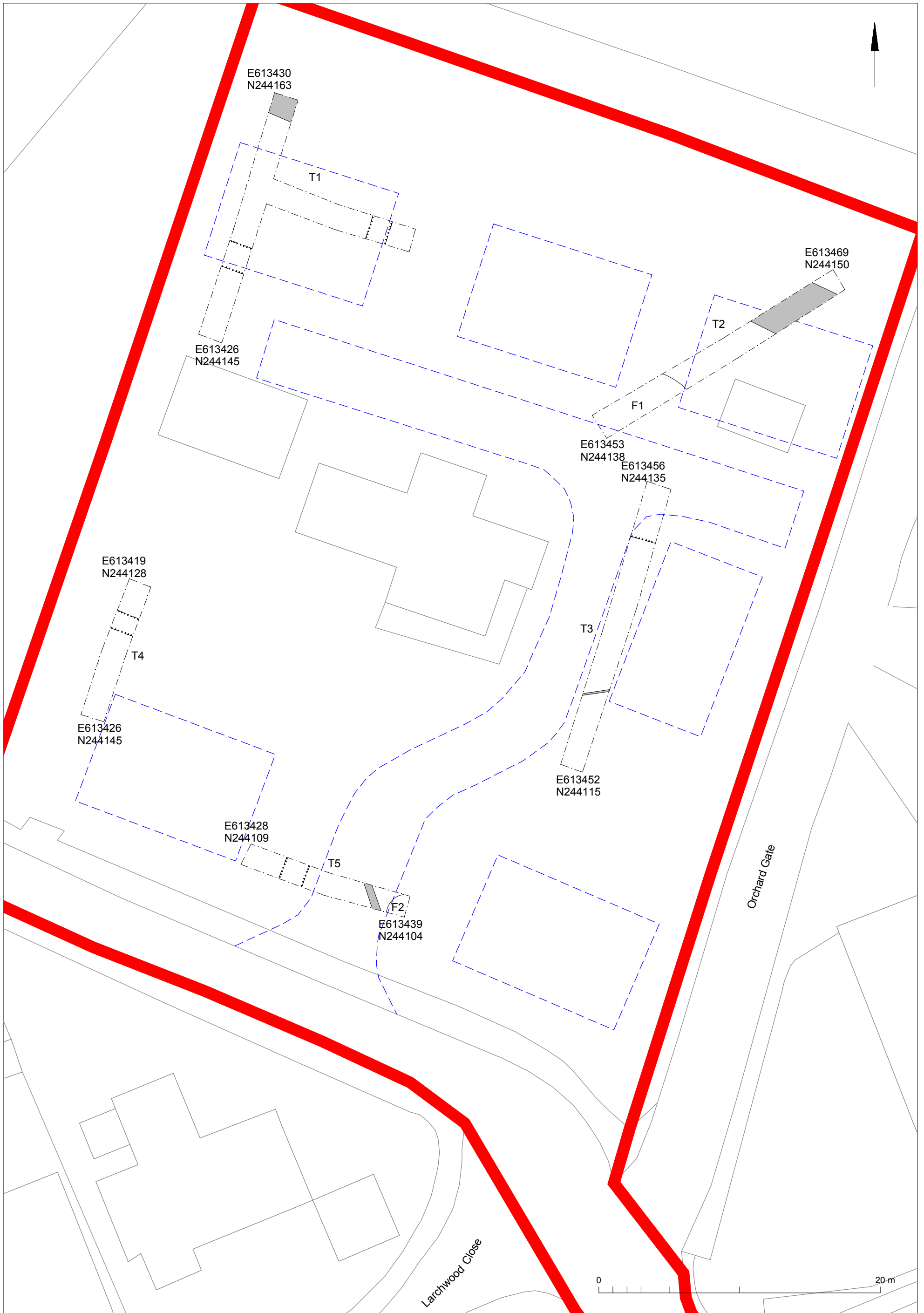


Fig 3 Evaluation results, proposed development (dashed blue lines).

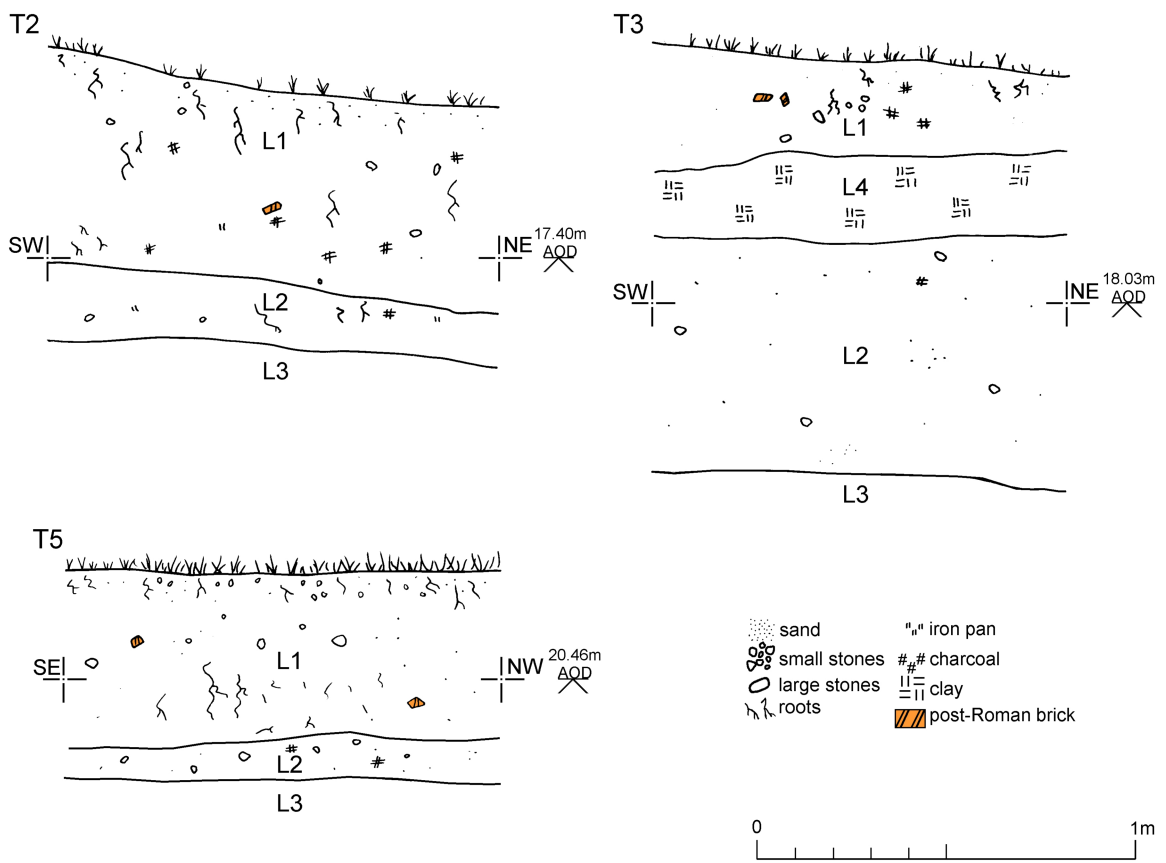


Fig 4 Representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-347333

Project details

Project name	A trenched archaeological evaluation at Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sprouton, Suffolk, IP2 0DA
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sproughton, Suffolk in advance of alterations to the existing dwelling and the construction of six new detached bungalows with garages, parking areas and access drive. Two modern pits were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2019 End: 01-05-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	DC/19/00526 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/03j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SPT064 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK BABERGH SPROUGHTON Larchwood, Larchwood Close, Sprouton, Suffolk
Postcode	IP2 0DA
Study area	0.32 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 134 441 52.053592324087 1.11289659812 52 03 12 N 001 06 46 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 17.17m Max: 20.22m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator HEM Team Officer, SCC
 Project design originator Emma Holloway
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway
 Type of sponsor/funding body Owner
 Name of sponsor/funding body Crown Gate Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
 Digital Archive ID SPT 064
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
 Paper Archive ID SPT 064
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography

1

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