Archaeological evaluation on land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE

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Cover: Site shot

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (fourteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of thirty-two dwellings with associated parking areas, new site access and associated groundworks. Thirteen features – eight ditches, a pit, a charcoal-rich pit, a pit/treethrow, a possible treethrow and a possible pit – were uncovered. A single ditch of possible Iron Age date and a charcoal-rich pit of Late Roman or early Anglo-Saxon date evidence some degree of human activity at the site during these periods, while the remaining datable features were associated with agricultural activity from the late 17th century to the 20th century.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation on land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex which was carried out during 23rd to 26th April 2019. The work was commissioned by Robert Pomery on behalf of Harding Homes in advance of the construction of a thirty-two dwellings and 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 evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a Trial Trenched Evaluation*, 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 CBCPS (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 field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The development area is located directly adjacent to an area of cropmarks north of Birch Grove, which indicate the presence of numerous rectilinear features (CHER MCC8692). New cropmarks became visible during the summer of 2018, revealing features crossing into the development area. Although not rectified, these have been approximately plotted (see Fig 1). Within Birch Grove, a Roman hearth and burial were discovered in 1933 (CHER MCC7670). A prehistoric axe was also found there (CHER MCC4843). In 1998, CAT carried out an evaluation prior to an extension to Birch Grove golf club (CAT Report 24). This investigation revealed a straight ditch-like feature of indeterminate but possibly 'early' date. The feature lies in the western corner of a large field close to cropmarks indicating linear features and ring ditches. To the south of Birch Grove is another large area of identified cropmarks near Fridaywood Farm. Features identified from these cropmarks include boundaries, linear features and clusters of faint ring-ditches to the south (CHER MCC8705).

The western edge of the development site is approximately 170m east of the important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; CHER MCC7470), the site of multiple investigations including aerial photography, geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; *CAR* **11**, 95-105; CAT Report 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (CHER MCC7044), possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin, King of the Trinovantes (CHER MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (CHER MCC7472); a Romano- British temple (CHER MCC2849) surrounded by a monumental portico (CHER MCC7043); a Roman theatre (CHER MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (CHER MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (CHER MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park. During a watching brief undertaken by CAT at 'Oaklyn', Layer Road, in 2006 (CAT Report 387), no archaeological features were observed, although the stripping was quite shallow (between 0.16-0.44m).

The site is also surrounded by substantial cropmark complexes. Cropmarks north of Baronswood Road, to the northeast of the present site, show linear features (CHER MCC7714), enclosures, trackways, linears and pits (CHER MCC7635). On land east of Berechurch Hall Road, CAT undertook a large-scale evaluation in 2002 (CAT Report 207) in advance of the Garrison redevelopment project. Areas M, P and R are close to the current site. Prehistoric pits, Late Iron Age and Roman ditches and trackways were excavated in the evaluation trenches, confirming the presence of features indicated by cropmarks.

4 Aim

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Fourteen trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All of the trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide with the exception of T2 and T10, which were 20m long.

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, 0.14-0.39m thick) and subsoil (L2, *c* 0.15-0.34m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.3-0.66m below current ground level). Sondages were excavated in trenches T4, T7, T8 and T12 to confirm the identification of L3 as natural.

There were no archaeological remains in trenches T7, T8, T10 or T12.

Trench 1 (T1): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Ditch F7 dated to the period *c* 1500 to the 19th/20th century. It lay on a WSW-ENE alignment and was 1.59m wide and 0.31m deep.

Trench 2 (T2): 20m long by 1.8m wide
Post-medieval/modern ditch F11 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep.

Trench 3 (T3): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Late Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon (mid/late 4th to the 5th or early 6th centuries) charcoal-rich pit F8 was 0.82m wide and 0.12m deep. The feature showed no evidence of in-situ burning.

Photograph 1 T3 trench shot – looking northwest

Trench 4 (T4): 30m long by 1.8m wide
?Iron Age ditch F10 lay on a NW-SE alignment and was 3m wide and 0.3m deep. This feature is likely that indicated by a cropmark observed to the southeast during the summer of 2018.

The excavation of F10 revealed an undatable possible treethrow F9 in its base. F9 was 1.36m wide and 0.48m deep.

Trench 5 (T5): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Undatable ditch F12 was aligned ENE-WSW and was 0.71m wide and 0.37m deep.

Trench 6 (T6): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Ditch F6 was of possible late 17th- or 18th-century date. It was aligned WNW-ESE and was 1.25m wide and 0.54m deep. This feature is likely that indicated by a cropmark observed to the east southeast during the summer of 2018 and continues on to the west northwest as F4 (T11) and F1 (T13).

Photograph 2 T6 trench shot – looking northeast

Trench 9 (T9): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Undatable possible pit F13 was 0.72m wide and 0.37m deep.

Trench 11 (T11): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Ditch F4 was of possible late 17th- or 18th-century date. It was aligned WNW-ESE and was 0.89m wide and 0.15m. This feature is likely that indicated by a cropmark observed to the east southeast during the summer of 2018 and continues on to the west northwest as F1 (T13) and to the east southeast as F4 (T11).

Post-medieval/modern pit or treethrow F3 was 1.07m wide and 0.19m deep. Pit F5 lay opposite to F3. It was of late 18th-20th century date and was 1.13m wide and 0.75m deep. The lower fill of the feature contained a large amount of poultry bones, suggesting it may have been used for domestic waste disposal.

Trench 13 (T13): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Ditch F1 was of possible late 17th- or 18th-century date. It lay on a WNW-ESE alignment and was 1.96m wide and 0.35m deep. This feature is likely that indicated by a cropmark observed to the east southeast during the summer of 2018 and continues on to the to the east southeast as F4 (T11) and as F6 (T6).

Trench 14 (T14): 30m long by 1.8m wide
Ditch F2 was uncovered. Modern detritus was observed on the surface of the feature, and so it was not excavated.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and CBM

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of prehistoric and post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) (Table 1). CBM accounts for the majority of the material by sherd count and by sherd weight. This material was recovered from seven features and one layer (Table 2) although a sizeable proportion of this material came from ditch F1.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
Prehistoric	6	8	1
Medieval / post-medieval	3	122	41
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	26	3,817	147
All	**35**	**3,947**	

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Feature	No.	Weight g	MSW g
F1	15	2,616	174
F4	4	244	61
F5	1	2	2
F6	6	745	124
F7	1	10	10
F10	6	8	1
F11	1	212	212

L1	1	110	110

Table 2 Number and weight of pottery and CBM from features and other contexts

Prehistoric pottery
Six small sherds of handmade sand tempered (HMS) pottery with a weight of 9g was recovered from ditch F10. This is possibly of Iron Age date.

Post-Roman pottery
There were three sherds of post-Roman pottery with a weight of 122g and this material was classified using the fabric groups from *CAR* **7** (2000) and Cunningham (1985). This material came from two features and one layer:

F5 (4): one sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric 48D), with a weight of 2g, dating from the late 18th to the 20th century.

F7 (8): one worn sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric 40) with a weight of 10g. This ware dates from *c* 1500 to the 19th or 20th century.

L1 : a complete body from a small modern (19th-early 20th century) English stoneware (fabric F45M) bottle with a weight of 110g.

Ceramic building material (CBM)
There was a small collection of CBM mostly of post-medieval brick fragments alongside a small quantity of Roman brick, and medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (Table 3). This material was recovered from ditches F1, F4, F6, and F11. Definite Roman brick fragments were recovered from ditches F4 and F6. Ditch F1 contained four possible Roman brick fragments with a weight of 1,398g. These are burnt and also overfired with a dense fused fabric, while some of the surfaces but also sherd breaks are covered with a vitrified glaze or glassy deposit. The post-Roman brick fragments, which came from ditches F1 and F4, are unfrogged, while one sherd has traces of a thin glaze, and are possibly late 17th to early 18th century and/or 18th/early 19th century Red bricks according to Ryan's Essex brick typology (1996, 95).

Finally, there were five small fragments of mortar with a weight of 5g which all came from ditch F6 (6).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW
Roman				
BR	Brick	7	2,307	330
Post-Roman				
PT	Peg-tile	3	289	96
BR	Brick	11	1,216	111
Mortar		5	5	1
	Total	**26**	**3,817**	**147**

Table 3 CBM by period and type

Summary
Table 4 provides a brief dating summary for the features with datable ceramic finds. Most of the features are modern and can be dated from the 17th/18th to the early 20th century. Finally, ditch F10 could be of Iron Age date although only on the basis of a small collection of sherds.

Feature	Prehistoric pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	-	-	PT RB? BR	Late 17th-18th century?
F4	-	-	BR	Late 17th-18th century?
F5	-	F48D	-	Late 18th-20th century
F6	-	-	RB	Roman?
F7	-	F40	-	*c* 1500-19th/20th century
F10	HMS	-	-	Iron Age?
F11	-	-	PT	

Table 4 Approximate dates for the individual features

6.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

Post-medieval/modern finds included a small fragment of glass, clinker and coal waste, and a fragment of clay pipe stem. The waste from ditch F10 is likely to be intrusive from the ploughsoil.

Context no.	Finds no.	Description
F3	2	**Glass:** Small fragment (0.6g) of olive green glass, post-medieval (discarded). **Clinker:** Small fragment of clinker (4.6g), post-medieval/modern (discarded).
F10	11	**Waste:** Fragment of clinker (3.6g) and coal waste (12g), post-medieval/modern (discarded).
L1 (T4)	-	**Clay pipe:** Fragment of stem (2g), post-medieval (discarded).

Table 5 Other finds by context

6.2 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced 6.37kg of animal and bird bone from two post-medieval pits, F3 and F5. The material was generally in poor condition, with domestic fowl being the only species that could be positively identified, although bone from F3 may have included pig.

Samples from pit F5 produced thousands of small pieces of domestic fowl bone representing at least 109 individual birds (based on a quick count of easily identifiable sternum fragments). Though only briefly examined this deposit appeared to include bone representing all parts of the bird anatomy (legs, wings, skull and pelvis etc). These were mainly of adult individuals though some variation in size was noted between comparable skeletal parts. No diagnostic traits were observed to suggest that there were males present in the group and no obvious signs of either butchery or disease was noted.

Context	Finds number	Type	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
F3	2	Pit / tree-throw	5	12	Four medium mammal sized rib fragments (probably pig?) and a small bird ulna of indeterminate species.
F5	5	Pit	Not counted	6358	Many thousands of domestic fowl bones in poor condition. Bones from all parts of the skeleton appear to be present.

Table 6 Animal bones by context

7 Environmental assessment and charcoal identification

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

7.1 Environmental assessment

Introduction

Two samples were presented for assessment. Sample 2 was taken from post-medieval/ modern pit F6 and sample 3 from undated pit F8.

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples and consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

Sampling and processing methods

These samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust and 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 the 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 uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Jacomet 2006). 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.

At this stage numbers given are estimates but where only one item is present that has been noted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been described as that. Charred wood <4mm diameter are described as 'flecks'. Samples this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Fragments smaller than this and larger then 2mmØ were scanned incase any fragments of twig or roundwood survived.

Results (Table 7)

The plant remains

2.5L of fragments of charcoal of identifiable size were found in sample 3 and removed for identification (Gray 2019). Uncharred anaerobically preserved seeds with resilient endocarps and testas were found in both samples but the uncharred seeds for sample 3 were among the charcoal fragments and not in the flot. These were seeds of ruderal plants and included fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*), blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus/idaeus*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus).* As there was no reported evidence of waterlogged conditions at this site and no evidence of dried waterlogged plant remains in these flots it is likely that these uncharred plant remains are intrusive.

Fauna

Earthworm cocoons were found in sample 3.

Artefacts

No artefactual remains were found in these samples.

Sample no.	Feature no.	Finds no.	Sample volume (L.)	Flot Volume (L.)	Charred		Uncharred				Fauna
					Charcoal fragments >4mm	Charcoal flecks <4mm	Seeds			Root/rhizome fragments	Earthworn cocoons
					a	a	a	d	p	a	a
2	F6	7	40	0.015	-	1	2	1	3	3	-

Table 7 Flot contents (estimated charred plant macro-remains per litre of sample excluding charcoal flecks, root/rhizome fragments and stem/leaf fragments)

Key to Table 7:
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)

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples at the time of writing.

Quality and type of preservation

The plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring. Charring of plant macrofossils occurs when plant material is heated under '…reducing conditions…' where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman & Jones 1990, 2) leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to biological and chemical decay (Campbell *et a*l. 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. No waterlogged plant remains were present meaning that the area was well-drained with no evidence of standing or running water.

Potential and significance
At the time of writing, it is clear that there is the potential for more charred plant remains to be found if further investigations are carried out on the site. The charcoal in these samples has been identified (see below).

If the charcoal can be dated, then it may be locally significant with comparison possible with other charcoal assemblages from Colchester.

Recommendations for further work on these samples
If further investigation takes place at this site, then bulk soil sampling is recommended because it is clear that charred plant remains survive here. No further work is recommended one either of these flots. The charcoal in sample 3 has been identified.

7.2 Charcoal identification

Introduction
During the archaeobotanical assessment of two samples (see above), fragments of charcoal of identifiable size was found in sample 3 (undated pit F8). No other charred plant remains were recovered. This report records the identification of charcoal >4mm in size and recommends which fragments may be suitable for radiocarbon dating. Other interpretation is limited because this sample has not been dated.

Identification
For this analysis fragments larger than 4mm Ø in size were separated and identification was attempted using epi-luminating microscopy. It is difficult to make identifications of charcoal fragments that are smaller than 4mm Ø in size because the diagnostic features necessary for identification may not be visible in such small fragments (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Fragments smaller than this size were scanned to find any twigs or smaller roundwood fragments. When fragments have been broken to reveal anatomical features, 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 (Hather 2000; Schoch *et al.* 2004). The number of identifiable fragments in this sample was very high, so the fragments were sorted using a riffle box and one hundred randomly selected fragments were identified (see Table 8).

Results

Charcoal type	Stem wood	Roundwood – whole	Roundwood – fragment	Roundwood – diameter	Roundwood – ring count	Fragment count
Prunus sp.	Y	N	N	NA	NA	6
Fagus sylvatica L.	N	Y	N	10mm	16	1
Fagus sylvatica L.	Y	NA	NA	NA	NA	3
Fagus sylvatica L.	N	Y	N	20mm	12	1
Fagus sylvatica L.	N	N	Y	12mm	15	1
Fagus sylvatica L.	N	N	Y	unclear	8	1
Quercus sp.	N	N	Y	10mm	7	1

Quercus sp.	N	N	Y	22mm	4	1
Quercus sp.	N	N	Y	12mm	4	1
Quercus sp.	Y	N	N	NA	NA	11
Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn	Y	N	N	NA	NA	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	N	Y	unclear	12	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	N	Y	10mm	4	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	Y	N	15mm	13	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	N	Y	11mm	9	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	N	Y	22mm	22	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	Y	N	20mm	unclear	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	Y	N	10mm	9	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	N	Y	unclear	4	1
Corylus avellana L.	N	Y	-	20mm	10	1
Corylus avellana L.	Y	N	N	NA	NA	63

Table 8 Charcoal Identifications

Many of the charcoal fragments are fragments of roundwood. Where possible, the number of rings and the diameter or these fragments were recorded. Most of the roundwood fragments were hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Also present were fragments of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and oak (*Quercus* sp.) roundwood. Where visible, the ring count ranged from 4 to 22. The diameters ranged from 10 to 22mm diameter.

Discussion and recommendations for radiocarbon dating
At the time of writing the date of this sample was not known so any interpretations of this charcoal assemblage will be very general. It is not possible to compare other charcoal assemblages from Colchester because the date of these fragments is not yet known.

All wood taxa are woods native to England. There are five types of wood in this pit so the charcoal is not likely to be from a post or other structure burnt in situ. These fragments may be hearth or furnace waste. The roundwood fragments could be charcoal fuel. It is also possible that bundles of wood and woody stems from trees and shrubs, such as hazel, alder and cherry/plum were gathered to produce extreme heat and high flames over a short time (Marguerie & Hunot 2007, 1425). Oak wood provides long-lasting fuel (Gale & Cutler 2000, 205) and beech wood is also a fuel wood that burns at a high heat with little smoke (Taylor 1981, 46). Beech wood was the traditional fuel for bread ovens (Warren 2006, 46), which is one of many uses this fuel might have had (Gale & Cutler 2000, 205). The fragments from those described as stem-wood here still have very narrow, slightly curved rings that may have come from larger roundwood fragments such as branches.

The roundwood fragments may be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

8 Radiocarbon dating

A fragment of hazel roundwood charcoal from pit F8, sample no. 3 was sent to SUERC Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre for radiocarbon dating, laboratory code SUERC-87564 (GU52297).

The analysis produced a 2-sigma calibrated date at 95.4% confidence of 348 to 534 calAD (see Appendix 2). Within this date range, there is a 70.7% confidence that the date falls within the range of 378 to 435 calAD.

Therefore, pit F8 dates from the mid/late 4th- to either the early 5th- or early 6th-centuries, ie. the late Roman or early Anglo-Saxon periods. No other dating evidence from these periods was found on the development site during the evaluation.

9 Conclusion

Thirteen features were uncovered during archaeological evaluation at this site. One was of possible Iron Age date and another was of Late Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon date; the rest originated from the post-medieval and modern periods, or else could not be dated. They consisted of eight ditches, a pit, a charcoal-rich pit (CRP), a pit/tree-throw, a possible tree-throw and a possible pit.

Activity at this site can be divided into three phases. The site lies near to a known area of Iron Age activity at Gosbecks, and within T4, at the eastern end of the site, ditch F10 yielded a modest assemblage of Iron Age pottery, indicating that this area also witnessed some degree of activity during the later prehistoric era.

A single CRP was also uncovered, and was identified through radiocarbon dating as having its origins in the Late Roman or Early Anglo-Saxon periods (AD348 to 534). Over the past two decades, some 140 CRPs have been excavated across northern Colchester during a number of archaeological investigations – most recently at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub (CAT Reports 1219 and forthcoming) and at Lodge Farm in Great Horkesley (CAT Report 1337) – providing evidence for the existence of charcoal production across this area dating back several centuries. At first sight, the discovery of another CRP to the south of the town suggests that this industry might have existed in this area too. In several respects, however, this feature was unlike those previously excavated. While in northern Colchester, the charcoal remains within CRPs were exclusively of oak, several tree species were present in the CRP at this site. Nor did this CRP exhibit any evidence of the in-situ burning characteristic to those in northern Colchester. Finally, only one such feature was uncovered at this site, rather than several, as was the case in northern Colchester. It seems likely, therefore, that this feature is unrelated to charcoal-production, and instead represents the remains of a campfire.

The majority of archaeological remains uncovered during this investigation, however, date to the post-medieval and modern periods, predominantly to the period from the late 17th to the 20th centuries during which the site was utilised as farmland. The late 17th- or 18th-century ditch F1/F4/F6 which runs through the southern part of the site is not depicted on early OS mapping of the area compiled during the late 19th century, and it is likely that this feature represents the remains of an older field boundary ditch which was backfilled prior to this point. The remaining archaeological deposits found across the site dating to this period were almost certainly related to agricultural activity.

10 Acknowledgements

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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 Report 1219	2018	*Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, east of Colchester Park and Ride, Mile End, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5JA: November-December 2017*, by L Pooley
CAT Report 1337	2019	*Archaeological strip, map and record project at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4AP: September 2018*, by E Hicks and L Pooley
CBCAA	2018	*Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester*, by J Tipper
Charles, M	1984	'Introductory remarks on the cereals', *Bulletin on Sumerian Agriculture* **1**, 17-31
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation*
CIfA	2014b	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
Cunningham, CM	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex' in Cunningham, CM and Drury, PJ (eds.), *Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750*
English Heritage	2006	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Fuller, D	2007	'Cereal Chaff and Wheat Evolution', retrieved on 12th February 2010 from http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~tcrndfu/archaeobotany.htm
Green, F J	1979	'Phosphatic mineralization of seeds from archaeological sites', *Journal of Archaeological Science* **6**, 279–284
Gurney, D	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA **14**)
Hather, J	2000	*The Identification of the Northern European Woods: A guide for archaeologists and conservators*
Historic England	2015	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Historic England	2018	*The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*, by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, MR	1957	*Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL, **20**
Jacomet, S	2006 (2nd ed.)	*Identification of cereal remains from archaeological sites*
Marguerie, D & Hunot, J-Y	2007	'Charcoal analysis and dendrology: data from archaeological sites in north-western France', *Journal of Archaeological Science* **34**, 1417-1433
Medlycott, M	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for*

		the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24**)
MHCLG	2019	*National Planning Policy Framework.* Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Reynolds, P	1979	*The Iron Age Farm: The Butser Experiment*
Robinson, M & Straker, V	1990	'Silica skeletons of macroscopic plant remains from ash' in J M Renfrew (ed.), *New light on early farming: Recent Developments in Palaeoethnobotany*
Ryan, P	1996	*Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation*
Schoch, W, Heller, I, Schweingruber, F H & Kienast F	2004	'Wood Anatomy of Central European Species' Retrieved 10th -18th June 2019 from http://www.woodanatomy.ch/
Smart, T L & Hoffman, E S	1988	'Environmental Interpretation of Archaeological Charcoal', in C A Hastorf & V S, *Popper Current Palaeobotany*
Stace, C	2010 (3rd ed.)	*New Flora of the British Isles*
Warren, P	2006	*British Native Trees: Their Past and Present Uses*

12 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from *c* 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S**, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	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
wsi	written scheme of investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: part of a box

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1421)
CBC 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 1421)
CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files

Survey data

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.

Distribution list:
Robert Pomery, Harding Homes
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

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

tel.: 01206 501785
email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 08.08.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Trench number	Finds number	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Friable/firm, dry light/medium grey/brown loamy-silt with 1% stones	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Friable/firm, dry medium orange/brown clayey-silt with 2% stones	Undatable
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm/hard, dry medium/dark orange/brown clayey-silt with 10% stones	Post-glacial
F1	T13	1	Ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silty-sand	?Late 17th-18th century
F2	T14		Ditch	Not excavated	Modern
F3	T11	2	Pit / treethrow	Soft, dry/moist light grey loam with 4% stones	Post-medieval / modern
F4	T11	3	Ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	?Late 17th-18th century
F5	T11	4, 5	Pit	Upper fill: soft, medium orange/brown silty-sand; lower fill: dark grey/brown sandy-silt with very frequent animal bones.	Late 18th-20th century
F6	T6	6, 7	Ditch	Soft, dry/moist light grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and 5% stones	?Late 17th-18th century
F7	T1	8	Ditch	Soft, dry light grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	*c* 1500-19th/20th century
F8	T3	9	Charcoal-rich pit	Loose, dry dark grey/black sandy-silt with very frequent charcoal flecks	Mid/late 4th-5th/early 6th century
F9	T4	-	?Treethrow	Soft, moist medium orange/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F10	T4	11, 12	Ditch	Soft, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt	?Iron Age
F11	T2	10	Ditch	Soft, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stones	Post-medieval / modern
F12	T5	-	Ditch	Soft, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% gravel	Undatable
F13	T9	-	?Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and 50% stones	Undatable

Appendix 2 Ceramic and pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	Discard	No.	Weight	Rim	Base	Form	Comments	Date
F1		1	CBM	-	X	2	77			PT	12, 15 mm thick	Medieval / post-medieval
F1		1	CBM	-		9	1,141			BR	brick frags, unfrogged, orange, pebble inclusions, 50 mm thick	?18th-19th century
F1		1	CBM	-		4	1,398			RB?	burnt, fused fabric, traces of glaze/glass deposit on surfaces and also on sherd breaks, 48, 52, 60 mm thick	?Roman
F4		3	CBM	-		2	75			BR	traces of glaze	?18th-19th century
F4		3	CBM	-		2	169			RB	37 mm thick	Roman
F5		4	Pottery	F48D	X	1	2	0	0			18th-20th century
F6		6	CBM	-		5	5			Mortar		?
F6		6	CBM	-		1	740			RB	41 mm thick	Roman
F7		8	Pottery	F40		1	10	0	0		Worn	*c* 1500-19th/20th century
F10		11	Pottery	HMS		6	8	0	0		black, handmade, sand	Iron Age
F11		10	CBM	-		1	212			PT	18 mm thick	Medieval / post-medieval
L1		-	Pottery	F45M		1	110	0	0		Small Bottle, complete body	19th-20th century

Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Rankine Avenue, Scottish Enterprise Technology Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QF, Scotland, UK
Director: Professor F M Stuart Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc

RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

23 July 2019

Laboratory Code	SUERC-87564 (GU52297)
Submitter	Laura Pooley Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House Roman Circus Walk Colchester Essex CO2 7GZ
Site Reference	Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester
Context Reference	F8 (finds number 9)
Sample Reference	3
Material	Charcoal : Hazel (Corylus avellana)
$\delta^{13}C$ relative to VPDB	-26.2 ‰
Radiocarbon Age BP	1631 ± 23

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.

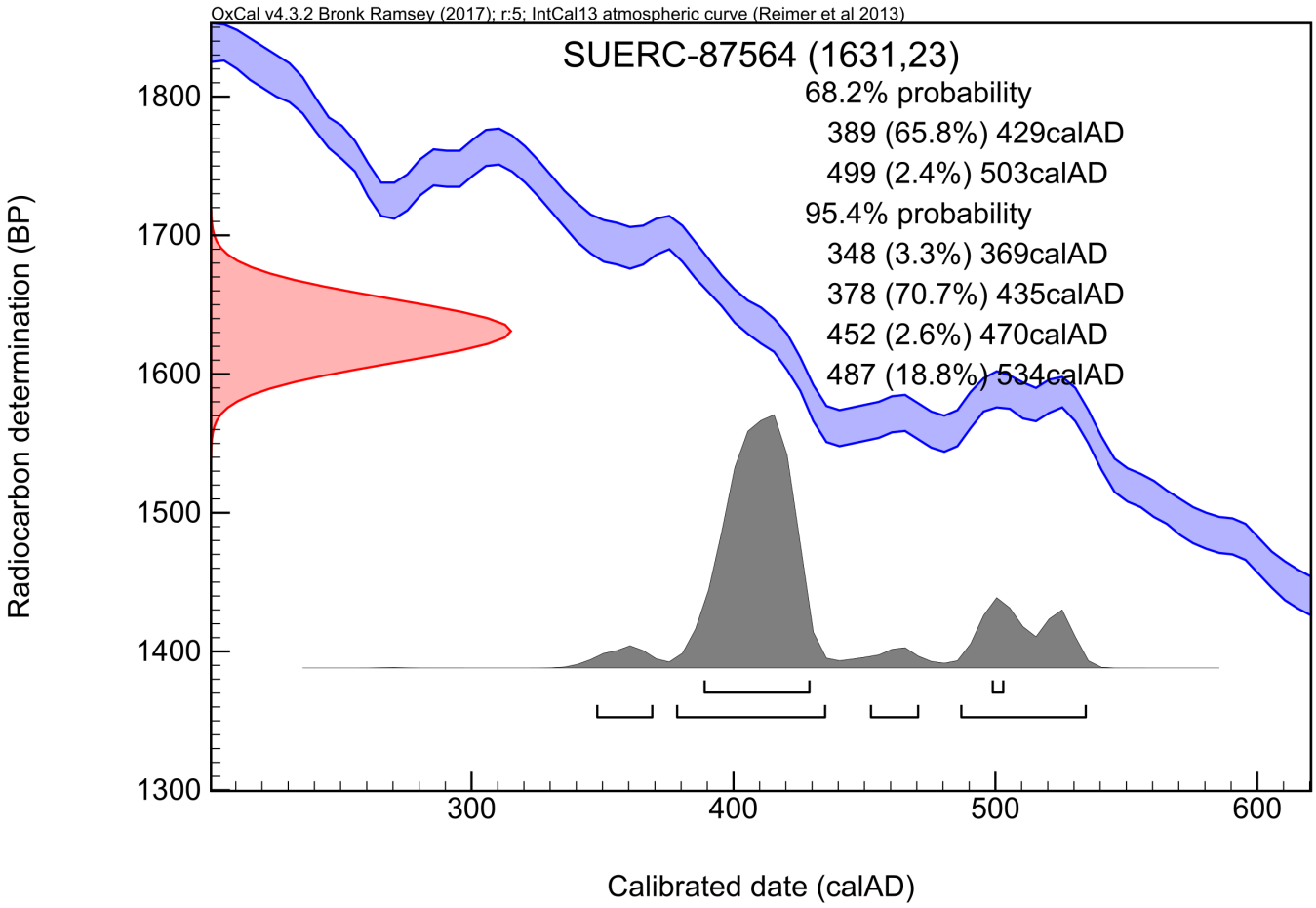
Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Laboratory and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

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*

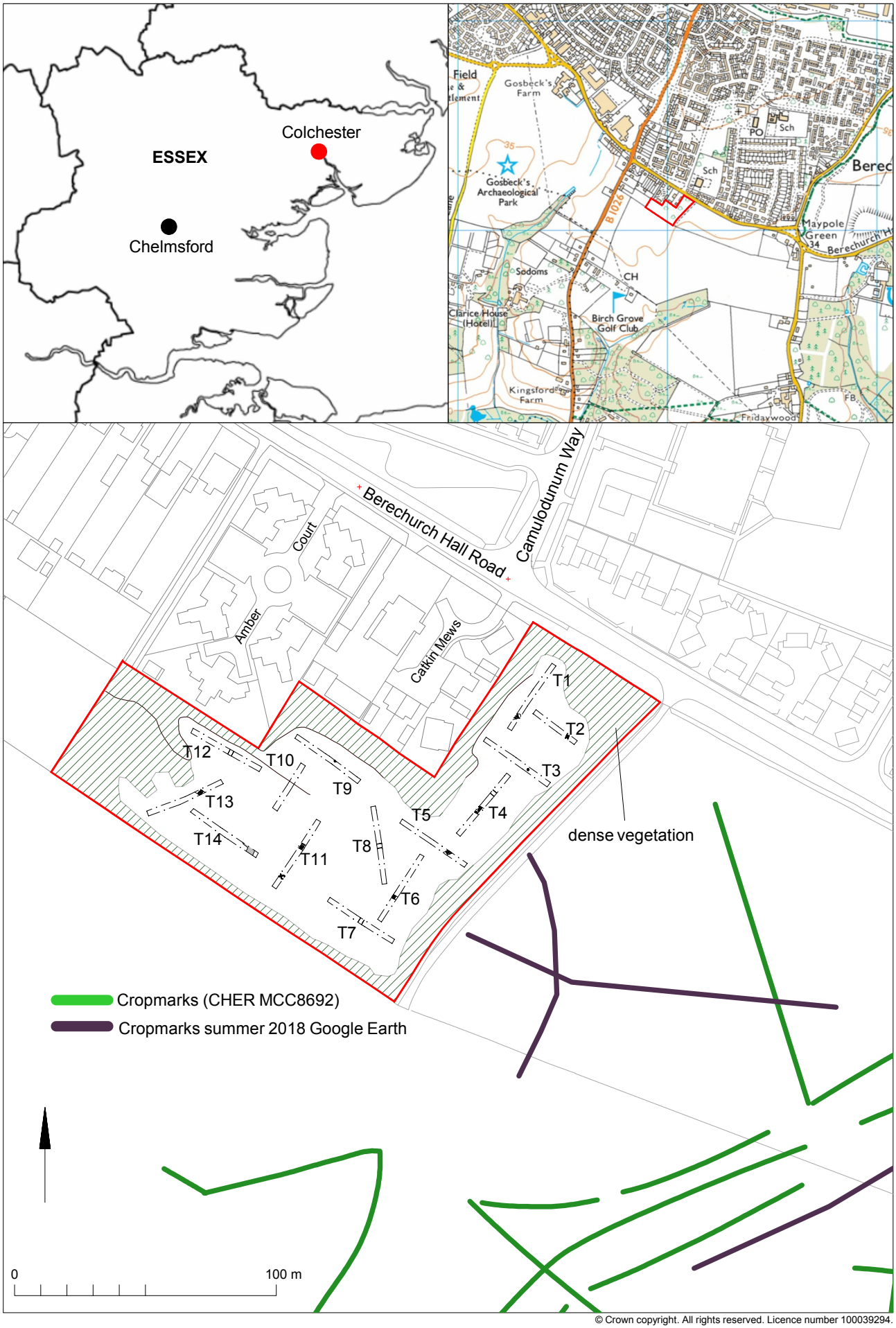


Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Evaluation results.

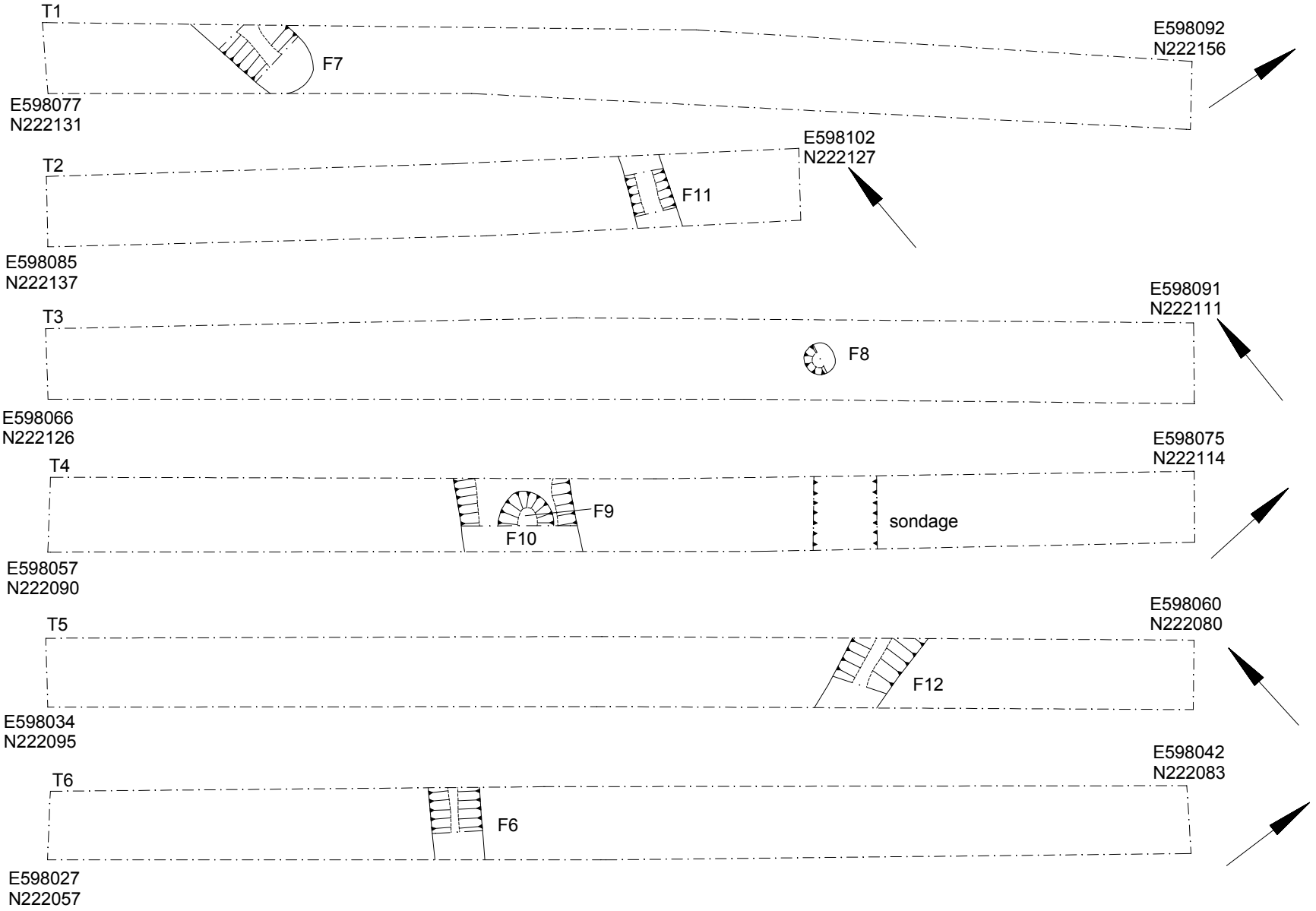


Fig 3 Trench results.

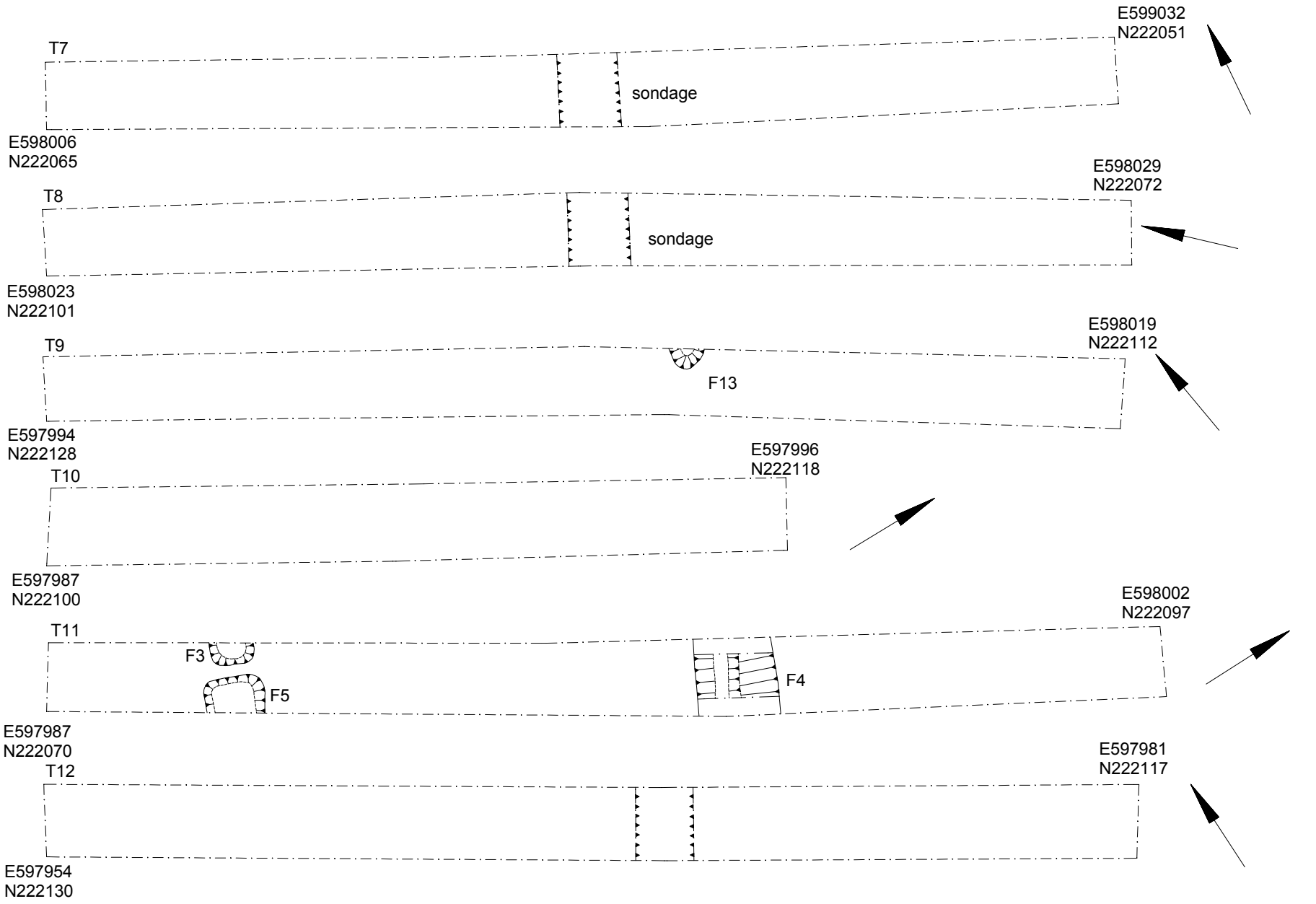


Fig 4 Trench results.

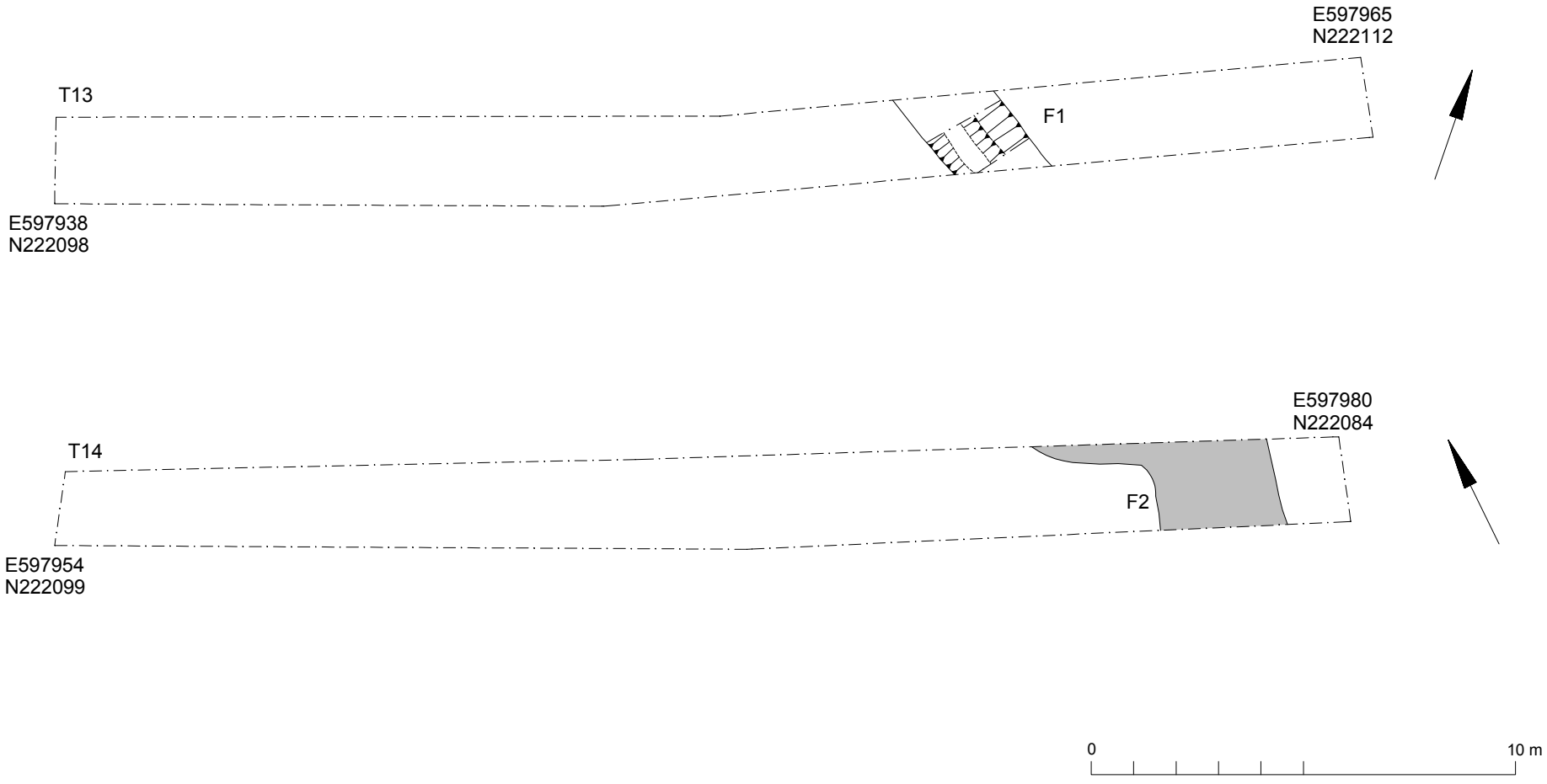


Fig 5 Trench results.

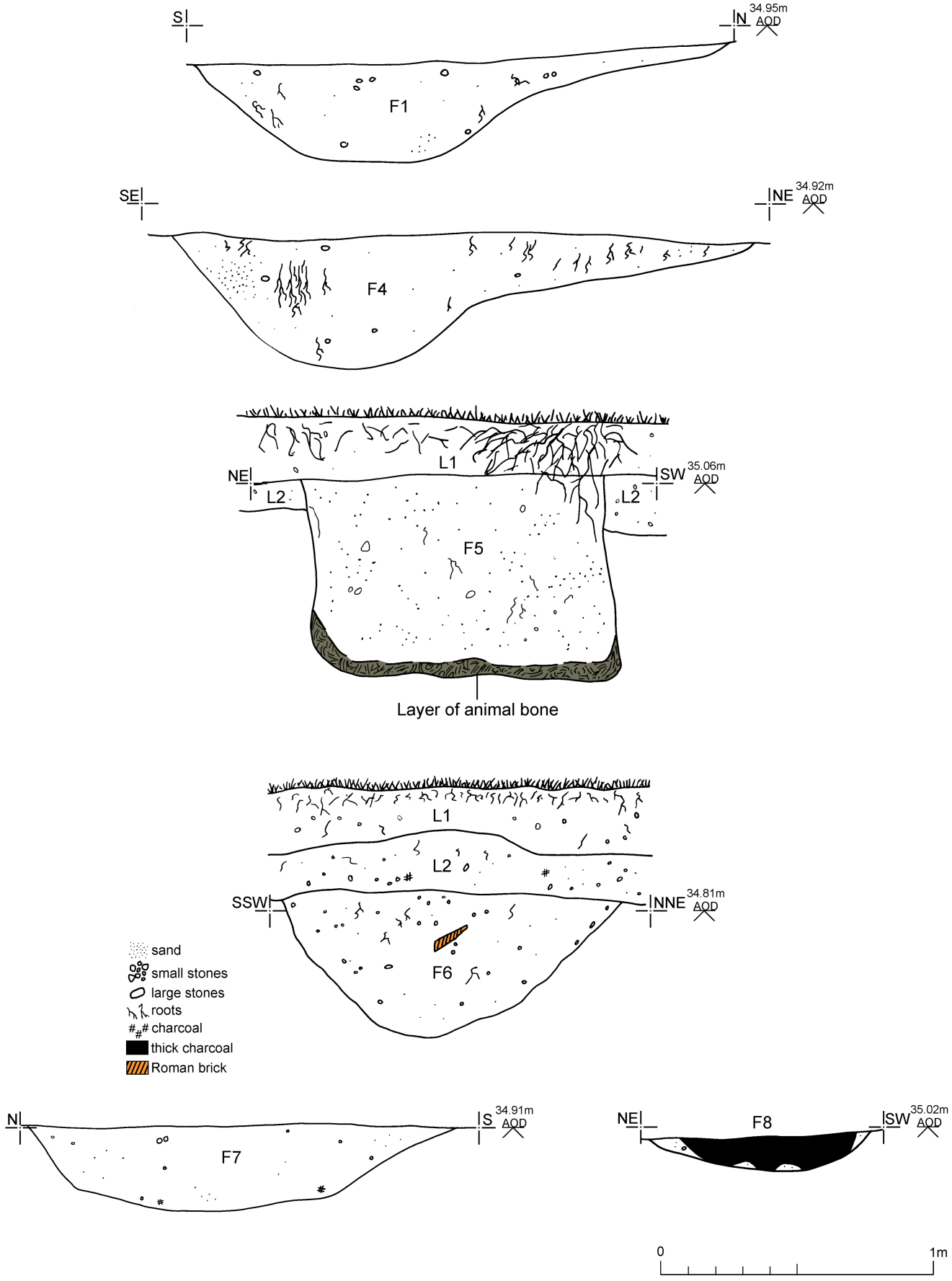


Fig 6 Feature sections.

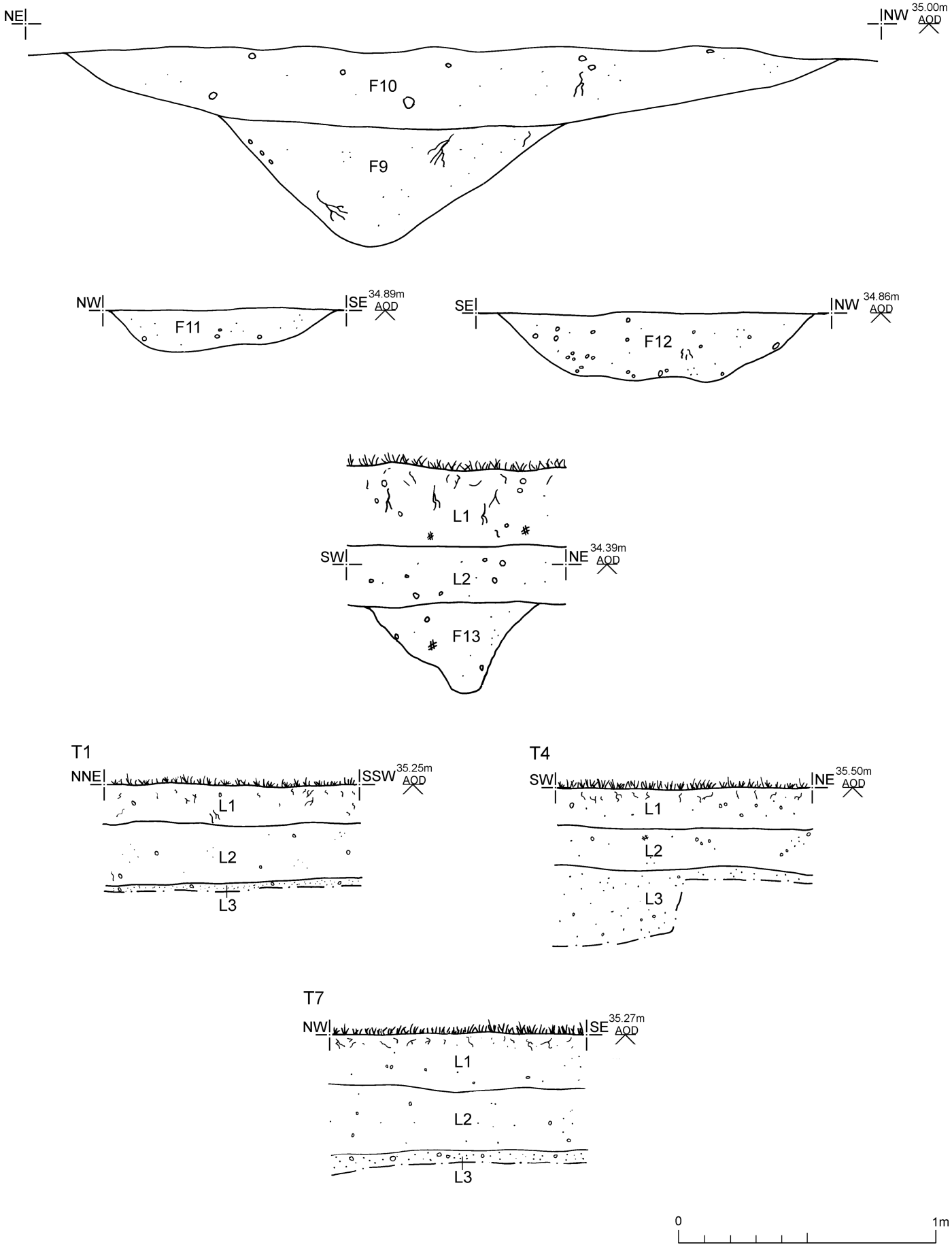


Fig 7 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: **Land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE**	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 98015 22085 (centre)	***Site code:*** CAT project ref.: 19/03p CHER ref: ECC4329 OASIS ref: colchest3-348226
Type of work: Evaluation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd-26th April 2019	***Size of area investigated:*** 1.46ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	**Funding source:** Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	***Related CHER/SMR number:*** CHER MCC2529, MCC2831, MCC2849, MCC2903, MCC4843, MCC7043, MCC7044, MCC7470, MCC7472, MCC7635, MCC7670, MCC7714, MCC8692, MCC8705
Final report: CAT Report 1421	
Periods represented: Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (fourteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of thirty-two dwellings with associated parking areas, new site access and associated groundworks. Thirteen features – eight ditches, a pit, a charcoal-rich pit, a pit/treethrow, a possible treethrow and a possible pit – were uncovered. A single ditch of possible Iron Age date and a charcoal-rich pit of Late Roman or early Anglo-Saxon date evidence some degree of human activity at the site during these periods, while the remaining datable features were associated with agricultural activity from the late 17th century to the 20th century.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	***Significance:*** *
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	***Date of summary:*** July 2019

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation on land south of Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE.

NGR: TL 98015 22085 (centre)

Planning reference: 181043

Commissioned by: Robert Pomery
On behalf of: Harding Homes

Curating museum: Colchester
CHER project code: ECC4329

CAT project code: 2019/03p
Oasis project ID: colchest3-348226

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 05/04/2019 (revised)

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

tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on land to the south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference TL 98015 22085. The 1.44ha site is currently an area of grass and dense vegetation.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of thirty-two dwellings, with associated parking areas, new site access and associated groundworks.

Archaeological background (Fig 1)

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

The development area is located directly adjacent to an area of cropmarks known as 'site north of Birch Grove'. Interpretation of the cropmarks show numerous rectilinear features (CHER MCC8692). New cropmarks became visible during summer 2018 on Google Earth that show features crossing into the development area. Although not rectified these have been approximately plotted (see Fig 1). Within Birch Grove a Roman hearth and burial were found in 1933 (CHER MCC7670) and a prehistoric axe (CHER MCC4843). In 1998 CAT carried out an evaluation on land for an extension to Birch Grove golf club (CAT Report 24). The evaluation revealed a straight ditch-like feature of indeterminate but possibly early date (Trench 2, F1). The feature lies in the western corner of a large field from which nearby cropmark evidence of linear features and ring ditches has previously been recovered. To the south of Birch Grove is another large area of identified cropmarks at 'near Fridaywood Farm'. Features identified from the cropmarks include boundaries, linear features and clusters of faint ring-ditches to the south (CHER MCC8705).

The western edge of the development site is approximately 170m east of the area of the important Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; CHER MCC7470), the site of multiple investigations including aerial photography, geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; *CAR* **11**, 95-105; CAT Report 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (CHER MCC7044), possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin, King of the Trinovantes (CHER MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (CHER MCC7472); a Romano- British temple (CHER MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (CHER MCC7043); a Roman theatre (CHER MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (CHER MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (CHER MCC2529). Many of these remains are located within Gosbecks Archaeological Park. During a watching brief undertaken by CAT in 2006 at 'Oaklyn', Layer Road (CAT Report 387), for a new ménage for horses no archaeological features were seen, but the stripping was quite shallow (between 160-440mm).

As well as Gosbecks the site is surrounded by areas identified with substantial cropmarks. To the northeast cropmarks north of Baronswood Road show linear features (CHER MCC7714) and enclosures, track-ways, linears and pits (CHER MCC7635). On land east of Berechurch Road CAT undertook a large scale evaluation in 2002 (CAT Report 207) in advance of the Garrison redevelopment project. Areas M, P and R are close to the current site. Prehistoric pits, Late Iron Age and Roman ditches and trackways were excavated in the evaluation trenches confirming features seen on the cropmarks.

Planning background

A pre-planning enquiry (181043) was submitted to Colchester Borough Council in April 2018 proposing a *residential development of 32no. dwellings*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for

archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological evaluation by trial trench. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Specifically, 14 trenches, 12 measuring 30m long (T1, T3-T9 and T11-T14) and two 20m long (T2 & T10), all 1.8m wide, which equates to 400m of linear trenches covering 720m^2 in area, representing a 5% sample of the site. Trenches are located in a systematic grid with some rotated to avoid areas of deep vegetation. T4 and T6 have been located to target the new 2018 cropmarks. Areas may need to be locally widened if there are deep trenches and/or sections across deep features to ensure they are evaluated.

The purpose of the trenches is to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- 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 the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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.

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

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

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

Evaluation methodology

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

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

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

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*.

Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

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

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

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

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

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

Site surveying

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

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

Environmental sampling policy

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

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

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the 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. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

prehistoric and Roman pottery: Matthew Loughton
post-Roman pottery: Howard Brooks
animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
flints: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Robin Mathieson

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) /
Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

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

prehistoric and Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey
Small Finds: Nina Crummy
Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for absolute dating of appropriate finds/deposits.

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* (HE 2015).

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:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum,
  vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks 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

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

Brown, D	2011 (2nd Ed.)	*Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*
CAR **11**	1995	*Colchester Archaeological Report **11**: Camulodunum II, by CFC Hawkes and P Crummy*
CAT	2018	*Health & Safety Policy*
CAT Report 24	1998	*Archaeological evaluation on land adjoining Birch Grove Golf Club, Layer Road, Colchester*. By C Crossan
CAT Report 30	1998	*Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area*. By S Benfield
CAT Report 45	1999	*Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999*. By C Austin
CAT Report 127	2008	*Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex 1995-1996*. by S Benfield
CAT Report 207	2002	*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Areas DR, G, M, P, Q, R, RO, S and T at Colchester Garrison PFI site, Colchester, Essex: May-September 2002*. By H Brooks
CAT Report 387	2006	*Archaeological watching brief at 'Oaklyn', Kingsford, Layer Road, Colchester*. By K Orr
CBCAA	2018	*Brief for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Land South of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester.* By J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation*

CIfA	2014b	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
English Heritage	2006	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Gurney, D	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA **14**).
Historic England (HE)	2015	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Historic England (HE)	2018	*The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, MR	1957	*Roman Colchester*, RRCSAL, **20**
Medlycott, M	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24)**
MHCLG	2019	*National Planning Policy Framework.* Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway

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tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

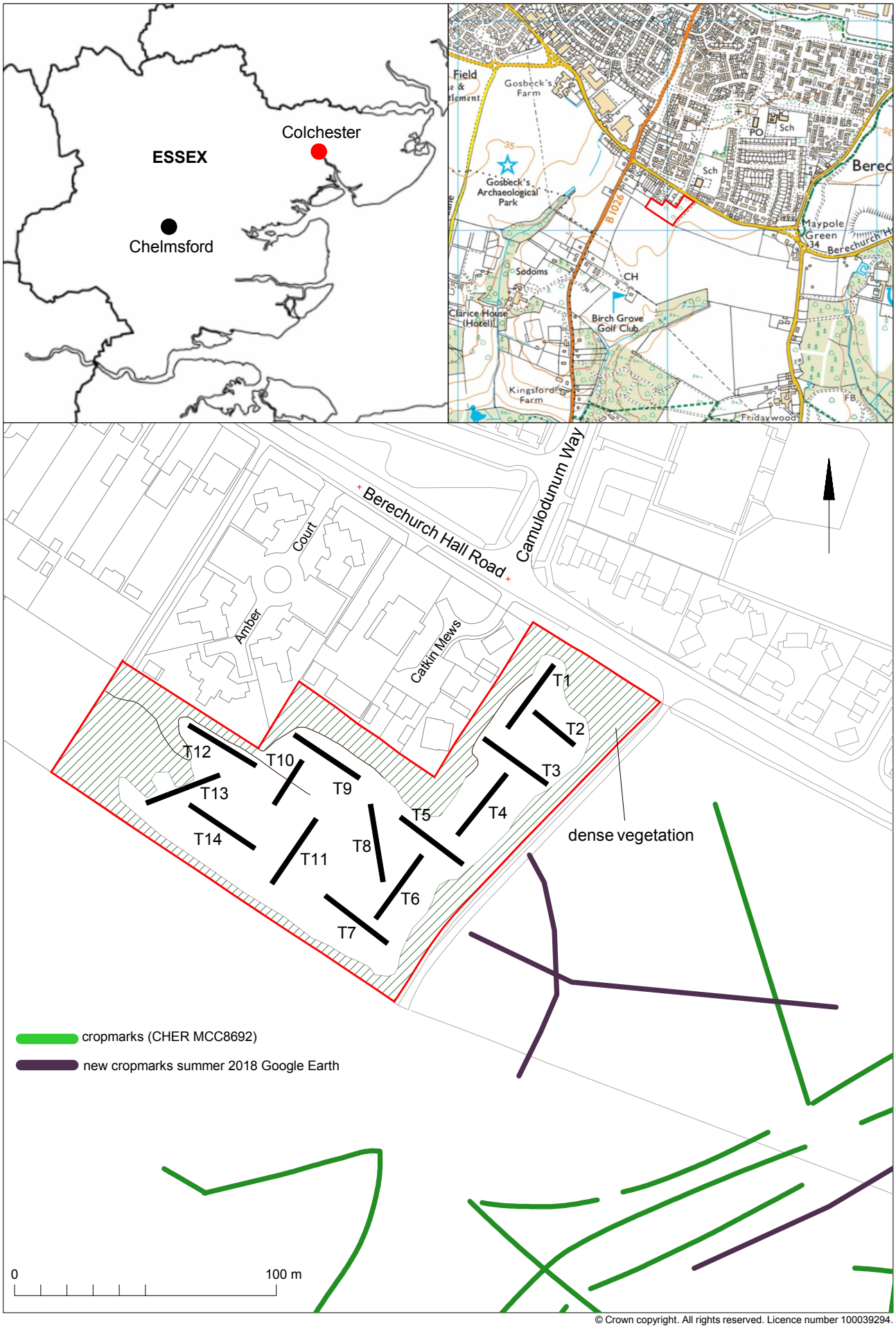

Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchest3-348226

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenched evaluation on land south of Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (fourteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Berechurch Hall Road, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of thirty-two dwellings with associated parking areas, new site access and associated groundworks. Thirteen features - eight ditches, a pit, a charcoal-rich pit, a pit/treethrow, a possible treethrow and a possible pit - were uncovered. A single ditch of possible Iron Age date and a charcoal-rich pit of Late Roman or early Anglo-Saxon date evidence some degree of human activity at the site during these periods, while the remaining datable features were associated with agricultural activity from the late 17th century to the 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 23-04-2019 End: 26-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/03p - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4329 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-348226 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	TREETHROW Modern
Monument type	TREETHROW Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	CHARCOAL-RICH PIT Roman
Monument type	CHARCOAL-RICH PIT Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	TREETHROW Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain

Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	MORTAR Uncertain
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLINKER Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLINKER Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"'Sample Trenches'"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER land south of Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex
Postcode	CO2 9GE
Study area	1.46 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 98015 22085 51.861630824936 0.876102757098 51 51 41 N 000 52 33 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33.91m Max: 35.21m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body	Harding Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID	ECC4329
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4329
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4329
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land south of Berechurch Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9GE: April 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1421
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk

Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	5 August 2019

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice