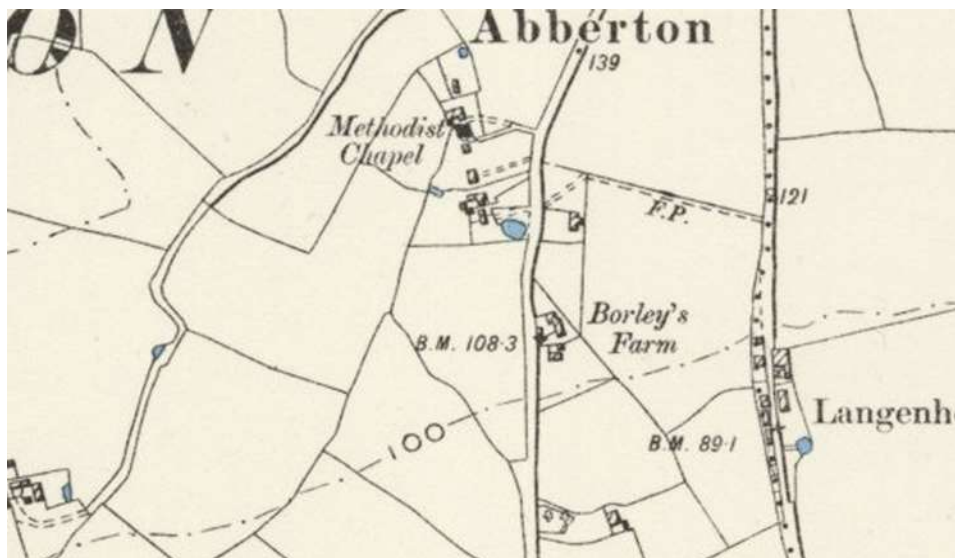


# Archaeological evaluation on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, CO5 7NX

August 2020



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Alexander Smith, Matthew Perou, Meghan Seehra,  
Ziya Eksen and Sarah Carter

commissioned by **Andrew Ransome (APD)**  
**Brad Davies (Mersea Homes Ltd)**

NGR: TM 0040 1868 (centre)

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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1593**

August 2020

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (fourteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development. The site is located immediately to the south of the historic Abberton Green. Fourteen features – five pits, four ditches, two pit/treethrows, a gully and two treethrows – were uncovered. It is likely that these remains are the product of activity within the historic Peete-tye Common.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex which was carried out during 20th-24th August 2020. The work was commissioned by Andrew Ransome of APD on behalf of Brad Davies of Mersea Homes Ltd in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development 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, a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2020).

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](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The site is located in an area that has not been the subject of any previous archaeological investigations. It is situated immediately south of Abberton Green, a historic green depicted on Chapman and André's 1777 map of Essex (MCC9757). The green is shown to be have been irregularly shaped with two thin linear sections following the roads to south. At this time, the Green extended south along Peldon Road, joining Peete-tye Common to the south of it (MCC9156). The Green does not appear on any subsequent mapping of the area, so it must have been developed over at some point prior to the publication of the first Ordnance Survey map in 1874. Peete-tye Common is also irregular in shape, with linear sections following the roads. The main part of the common is still extant today. A bank situated along part of its southern boundary has yielded finds dating from 16th to the 19th century (MCC8912).

Approximately 350m south of the development is the site of a rectangular cropmark (MCC7245). It is thought that a Saxon settlement may have been located in the area, and an undated bronze or brass object has also been found here (MCC7244).

Some 400m to the northeast is the site of a standing stone known as the Deramy Stone. Dating to the early medieval period, it is mentioned in a charter granted by Edward the Confessor to the priory of St Ouen in 1046 (MCC8238).

Finds recovered in the area include a collection of flakes dating from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age (MCC8805), an early 19th-century cannon ball (MCC8782), an undated deposit of oyster shell and tile deposited in a field with some burnt clay or brick on the surface (MCC8911), an Iron Age silver coin of Epaticcus (MCC8239) and a flint dagger (MCC8804).

In 2008, CAT carried out an evaluation at Abberton Reservoir, approximately 800m northwest of the development site. A modern field drain and a post-medieval track way were uncovered (CAT Report 478).

A number of listed buildings lie within the vicinity of the site. There are several 16th- to 18th-century timber-framed houses, such as Willow Cottages (MCC4259, NHLE 1223396), Pete Tye Hill (MCC3683, NHLE 1337390), Old Cottage (MCC3684, NHLE 1169960), Corrie Cottage (MCC3676, NHLE 1110919), Elmira Cottage (MCC3672, NHLE 1110917) and White House (MCC3675, NHLE 1337388). Listed buildings of 19th-century date include Abberton Bakery (MCC3674, NHLE 1110918), a cottage 50 yards west of Elmira Cottage (MCC3673, NHLE 1337426) and Winstree Cottage (MCC3682, NHLE 1606303).

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out on the development site by Magnitude Surveys prior to the evaluation. The geophysical survey identified anomalies of a natural origin but nothing indicating the presence of anything of archaeological significance (Magnitude Surveys 2020). Modern interference was encountered but this was limited to the boundaries of the area and occasional ferrous debris.

#### **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 2-7)

Fourteen trial-trenches, all 30m long by 1.8m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

It was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.1-0.33m thick) onto natural clays (L2). Sondages were excavated in trenches T1, T4, T7, T9 and T14 to ensure the identification of L2 as natural.

There were no archaeological remains in trenches T3, T4, T5, T8 or T9.

##### **Trench 1 (T1): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Treethrow F5 was excavated.

##### **Trench 2 (T2): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Post-medieval or modern gully F1 was aligned NW-SE and was 0.37m wide and 0.06m deep.

Modern pit/treethrow F2 extended beyond the limit of excavation, and so its full dimensions could not be determined, but its exposed extent was 1.15m wide and 0.15m deep.

Medieval/post-medieval ditch F3 lay on a N-S alignment and was 0.88m wide and 0.38m deep. The feature possibly continues on to the south as F4 (T6).

Modern pit F6 was 1.29m wide and 0.32m deep.

**Trench 6 (T6): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Undatable ditch terminus F4 was oriented N-S and was 0.77m wide and 0.1m deep. It may have represented a continuation of ditch F3, to the north.



**Photograph 1** T6 trench shot – looking west

**Trench 7 (T7): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Undatable ?pit F7 was 0.53m wide and 0.15m deep.

**Trench 10 (T10): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Undatable ditch F9 lay on a N-S alignment and was 0.81m wide and 0.11m deep.

Treethrow F8 was excavated.

**Trench 11 (T11): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Undatable pit/treethrow F11 was 1.48m wide and 0.14m deep.

**Trench 12 (T12): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Modern ditch F12 was oriented ENE-WSW and was 0.91m wide and 0.3m deep.

**Trench 13 (T13): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Pit F10 was 0.8m wide and 0.11m deep. A fragment of burnt flint was recovered from the feature, indicating that it may have been of prehistoric date, but this flint may have been residual.

Post-medieval/modern pit F13 extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 0.41m wide and 0.05m deep.



**Photograph 2** T13 trench shot – looking south

**Trench 14 (T14): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Medieval/post-medieval charcoal-rich pit F14 was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) and pottery with 23 sherds with a weight of 334g and 0.06 vessels (Table 1).

Ceramic material	no.	weight/g	MSW/g	Rim EVE
Pottery	5	34	7	0.06
CBM	18	300	17	-
<b>All</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.06</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Small quantities of pottery and CBM was recovered from eight features (Table 2).

Cxt	Description	no.	weight/g	MSW/g
F1	Tree throw	1	19	19
F2	Tree throw/pit	4	35	9
F3	Linear	4	54	14
F5	Tree throw	1	2	1
F6	Pit	3	56	19
F12	Linear	4	32	8
F13	Pit	4	133	33
F14	Fire pit	2	3	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>15</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts

Most of the pottery consists of body sherds of post-medieval red earthenwares (F40) dating to c 1500-19th/20th century and was recovered from four features: gully F1, treethrow F5, pit F6 and pit F13. The only other pottery sherd from tree throw/pit F2 was a rim (0.06) of Late slipped kitchenware dating to the 19th or 20th century.

The small collection of CBM mostly consists of sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile which was recovered from the five features: treethrow/pit F2, ditch F3, pit F6, treethrow/pit F12, pit F14. Small fragments of 19th-20th century brick were recovered from pit F6 and treethrow/pit F12. Other CBM of note was a possible sherd of medieval (?) nib tile which came from pit F13.

These features date to the post-medieval period and at least three (treethrow/pit F2, pit F6, and treethrow/pit F12) are modern (19th-20th century).

## 6.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

1) A complete iron horseshoe with toe caulk and one in situ nail from topsoil L1 (finds no.6), 180mm long by 170mm wide and 487g, 19th to 20th century. Discarded.

2) A small fragment of burnt flint from pit F10 (finds no.7), 2.5g, cracked, crazed and burnt white on the inside and a greyish-red on the surface. Discarded.

## 7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray

### Introduction

This report is an assessment of one sample taken from modern pit F1. No environmental remains were found in samples <2>, <3> or <4> from features F7, F10 and F14, respectively.

Sample	Feature no.	Feature type	Date	Initial volume (L.)
1	F6	Pit	19th-20th century	40

**Table 3** Samples presented for assessment

### Methodology

The samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried.



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

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; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter.

Charcoal fragments larger than 4mm Ø in size were separated from the main flots and where possible, one hundred fragments were randomly selected for identification using a riffle box. 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).

## Results

This flot produced only charcoal and modern rootlet fragments. The charcoal (see table 2 below) came from fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.), beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) and hazel (*Corylus avellana* L.). Oak cannot be differentiated to species based on microscopic wood anatomy alone (Boyd 1988, 608; Schoch *et al.* 2004).

Sample	Oak (Stem wood)	Oak (branch wood)	Beech	Hazel
1	91	4	4	1

**Table 4** Charcoal taxa

## Discussion

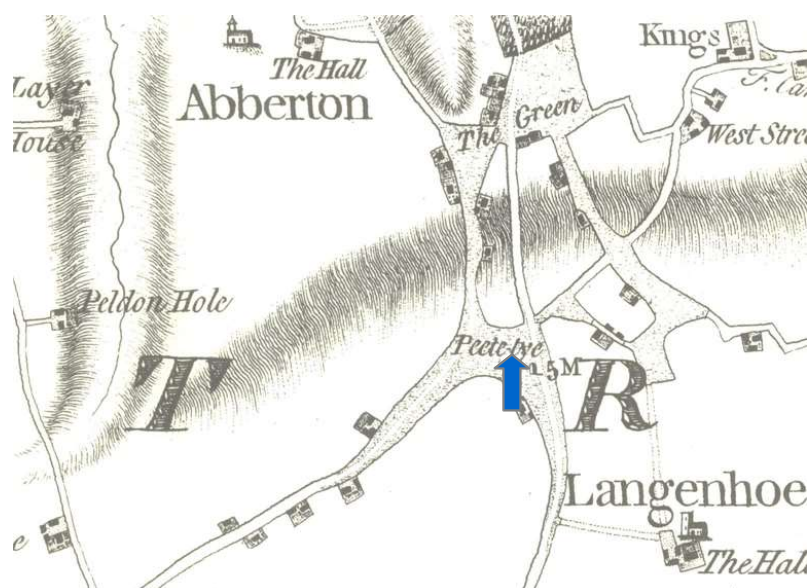
The wood taxa represented in the charcoal have uses as fuel and craft woods. Well-seasoned oak burns slowly giving off a '...good lasting heat...' and well-seasoned beech also burns well but not as well as oak (Skellern 2000). Oak wood provides long-lasting fuel (Gale & Cutler 2000, 205). Beech wood is also a fuel wood that burns at a high heat with little smoke (Taylor 1981, 46) and was the traditional fuel for bread ovens (Warren 2006, 46), which is one of any uses this fuel might have had (Gale & Cutler 2000,205). Hazel wood has been a popular choice for turning into charcoal fuel (Warren 2006, 40).

## 8 Conclusion

Excavations at this site only revealed sparse remains. Fourteen features were uncovered: a medieval or a post-medieval charcoal-rich pit, a post-medieval or modern gully, a post-medieval or modern pit, a modern pit or treethrow, a medieval or post-medieval ditch, a modern pit, a modern ditch, an undated ditch, a pit of possible prehistoric date, an undated ditch, an undated pit or treethrow, an undated possible pit, and two treethrows.

These remains were fairly evenly distributed across the site, although a concentration of features lay in trench T2, at the far northeast corner of the site. This part of the site previously lay within Peete-tye Common, and it is likely that the features uncovered here relate to historic activity within the green.





**Map 1** Extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777. The approximate location of trench T2 is indicated by the blue arrow.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Ransome of ADP Brad Davies of Mersea Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with M Perou, S Carter, M Sehra and A Smith. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper.

## 10 References

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

- |                                 |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Beijerinck, W                   | 1947           | <i>Zadenatlas der Nederlandsche Flora</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Boyd, W                         | 1988           | 'Methodological problems in the analysis of fossil non-artefactual wood assemblages from archaeological sites', <i>Journal of Archaeological Science</i> <b>15</b> , 603-619                                                                                                |
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| Cappers, R, Bekker, R & Jans, J | 2006           | <i>Digital Zadenatlas Van Nederlands – Digital Seeds Atlas of the Netherlands</i>                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| CAT                             | 2020           | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| CAT Report 478                  | 2008           | <i>Investigation of Henry Laver's postulated route of the Roman road from Colchester to Mersea Island</i> , by Ben Holloway                                                                                                                                                 |
| CBCAA                           | 2020           | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land to west of Peldon Road, Abberton</i> , by J Tipper                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Charles, M                      | 1984           | 'Introductory remarks on the cereals', <i>Bulletin on Sumerian Agriculture</i> <b>1</b> , 17-31                                                                                                                                                                             |
| ClfA                            | 2014a          | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| ClfA                            | 2014b          | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                                                                                                                                                       |
| Gale, R & Cutler, D             | 2000           | <i>Plants in Archaeology</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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Taylor, M	1981	<i>Wood in Archaeology</i>
Warren, P	2006	<i>British Native Trees: Their Past and Present Uses</i>

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained  
**Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1593)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, notes, sections)

Site digital photos and log

**Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1593)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

### 13 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under project ref. ECC4548.

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**Distribution list:**

Andrew Ransome, ADP

Brad Davies, Mersea Homes Ltd

Dr 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](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 29.09.2020

**Appendix 1 Context list<sup>1</sup>**

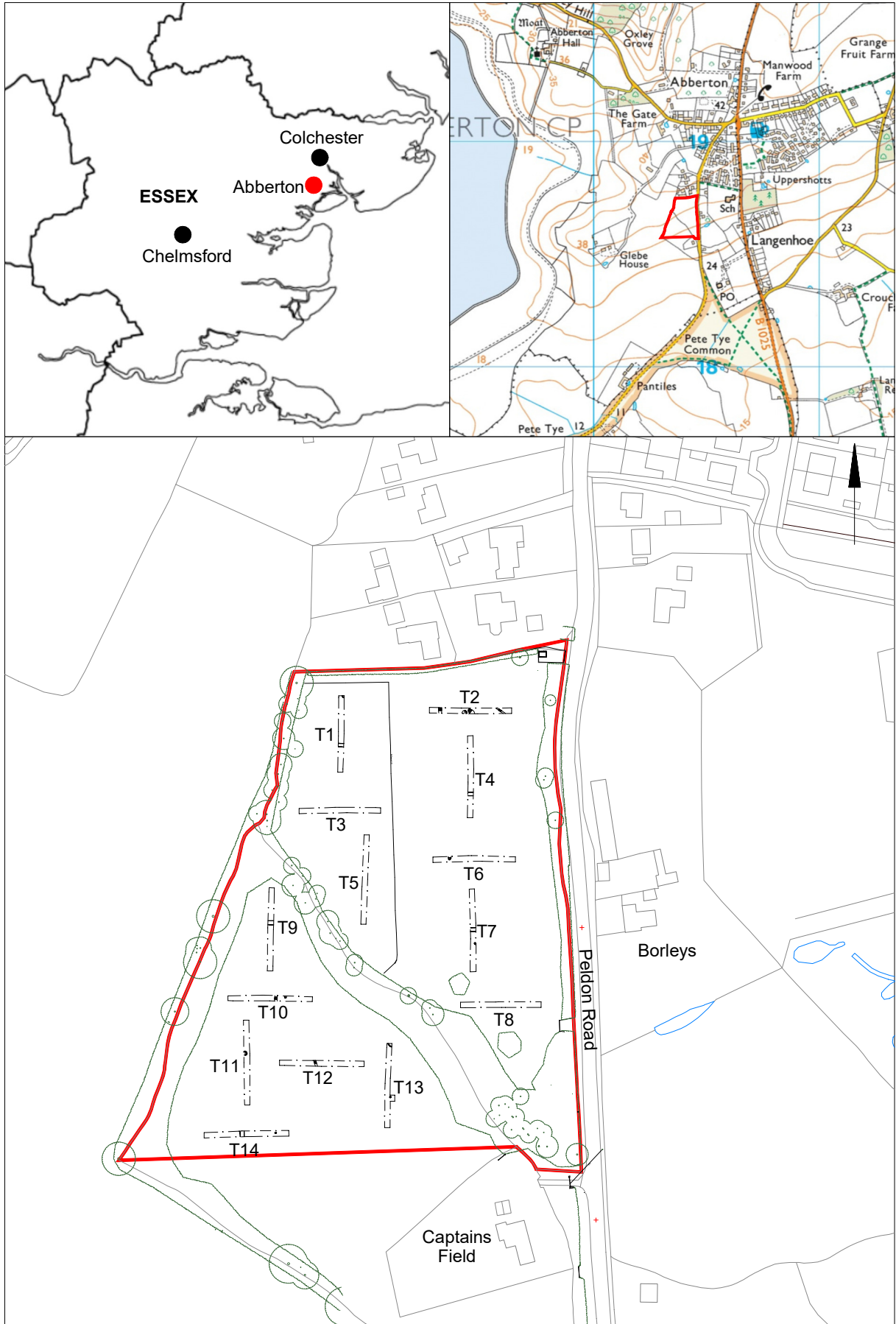
Context number	Trench number	Finds number	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Hard, dry light/medium grey silty-clay	Modern
L2	All	-	Natural	Hard, dry medium orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
F1	T2	1	Gully	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-clay with daub flecks	Post-medieval / modern
F2	T2	2	Pit/treethrow	Hard, dry light grey/brown silty-clay with 5% stones	Modern
F3	T2	3	Ditch	Hard, dry medium grey/brown clay	Medieval / post-medieval
F4	T6	-	Ditch terminus	Hard, dry medium grey/brown clay	Undatable
F5	T1	4	Treethrow	Firm, dry medium grey/brown clay	Post-medieval / modern
F6	T2	5	Pit	Firm, dry medium orange/grey clay with charcoal flecks	Modern
F7	T7	-	?Pit	Hard, dry medium/dark grey/brown/black silty clay	Undatable
F8	T10	-	Treethrow	Hard, dry medium orange/brown clay	Undatable
F9	T10	-	Ditch	Hard, dry medium yellow/brown clay	Undatable
F10	T13	7	Pit	Firm/hard dry dark brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal flecks	?Prehistoric
F11	T11	-	Pit/treethrow	Firm/hard, dry medium yellow/orange clay	Undatable
F12	T12	9	Ditch	Hard, dry light/medium yellow/brown clay	Modern
F13	T13	10	Pit	Very hard, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay	Post-medieval / modern
F14	T14	11	Charcoal-rich pit	Hard, dry medium grey/brown clay with charcoal flecks	Medieval / post-medieval

<sup>1</sup> Find no. 8 was not assigned to a context.

**Appendix 2 Pottery list**

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	TR	NR	GR	N SW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Dec.	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wmd	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	Vessel function	EVE	Diam.	Vessel H.	Comments	Date
F001	Tree throw	1	2	1	19	19	X	0	0	1																	F40							c.1500-19th/20th century	
F002	Tree throw/pit	2		1	3	3	X	1	0	0																	F51A			0.08	190			19th to 20th century	
F005	Tree throw	4		1	2	2	X																				F40							c.1500-19th/20th century	
F008	Pit	5	2	1	3	3	X																				F40							c.1500-19th/20th century	
F013	Pit	10		1	7	7	X																				F40							c.1500-19th/20th century	





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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.





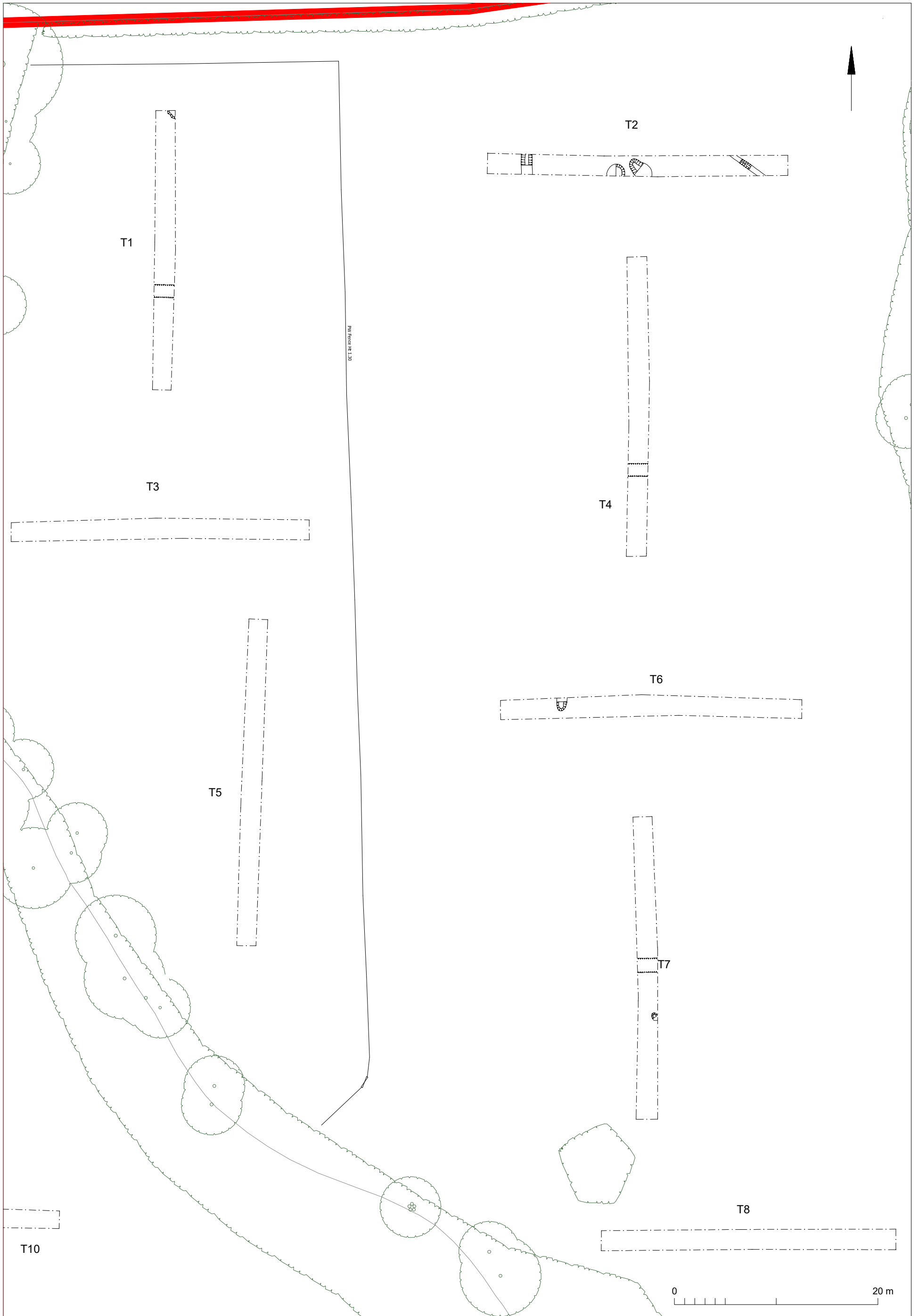


Fig 2 Evaluation results (north of site).

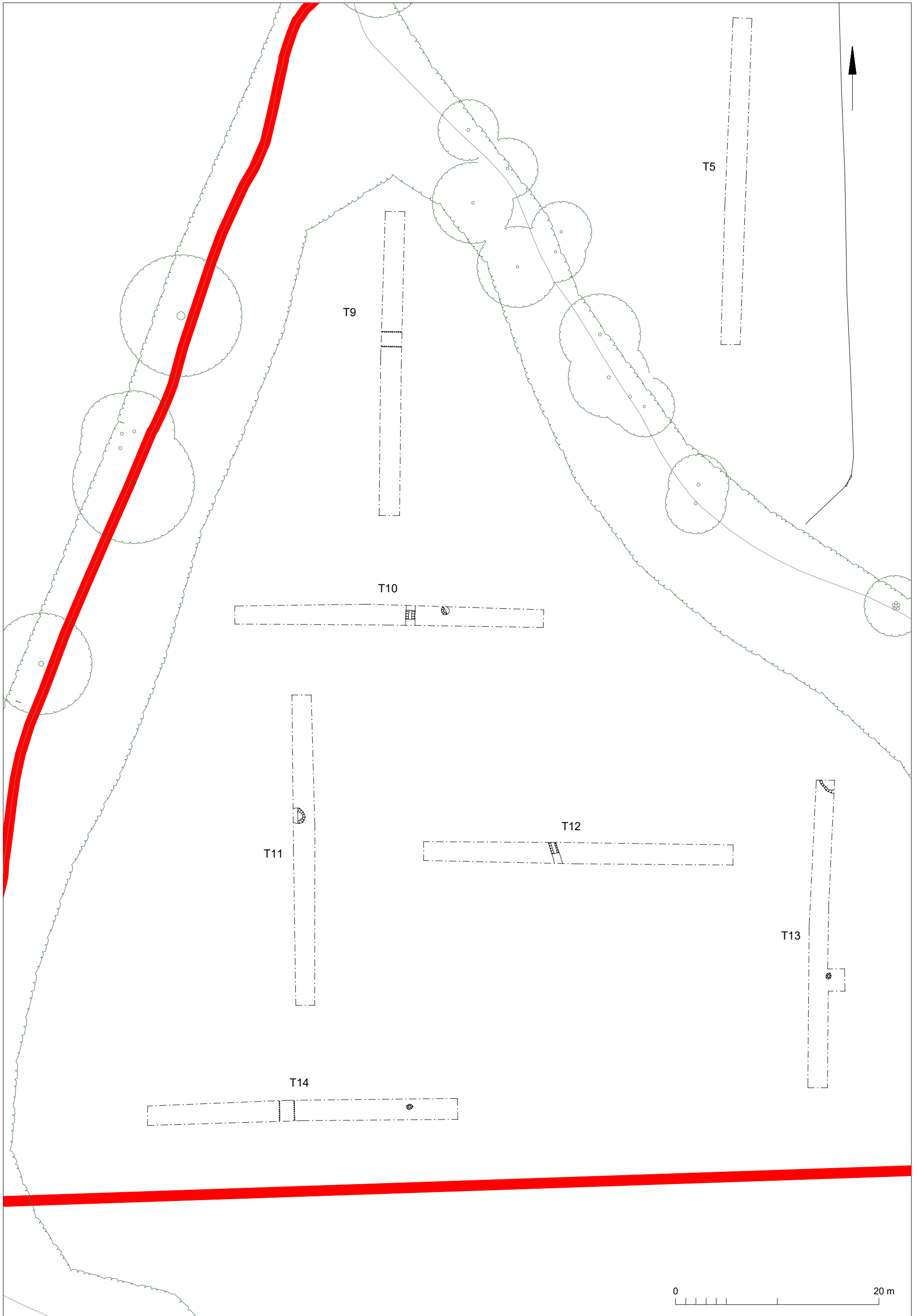


Fig 3 Evaluation results (south of site).

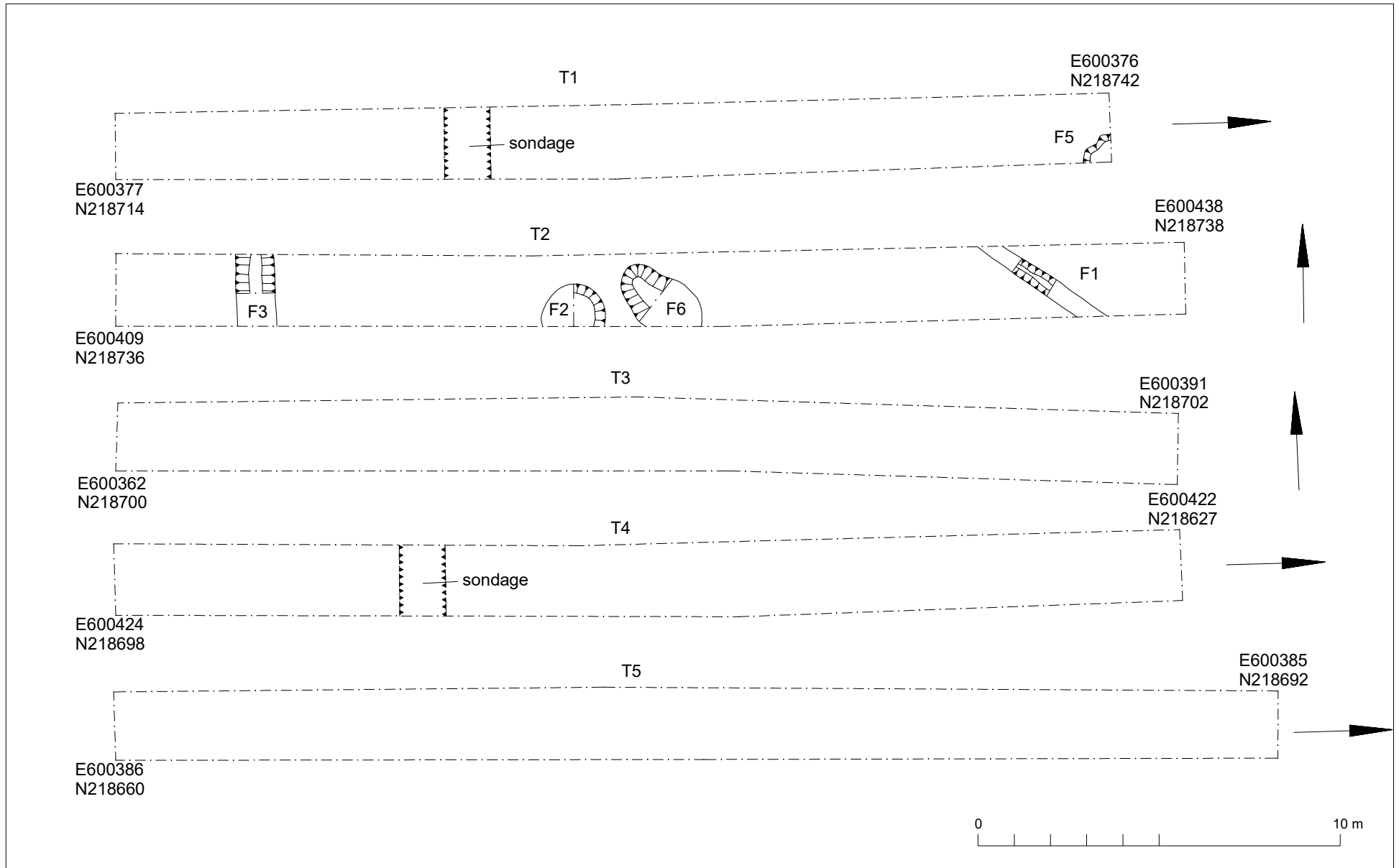


Fig 4 Trench results.

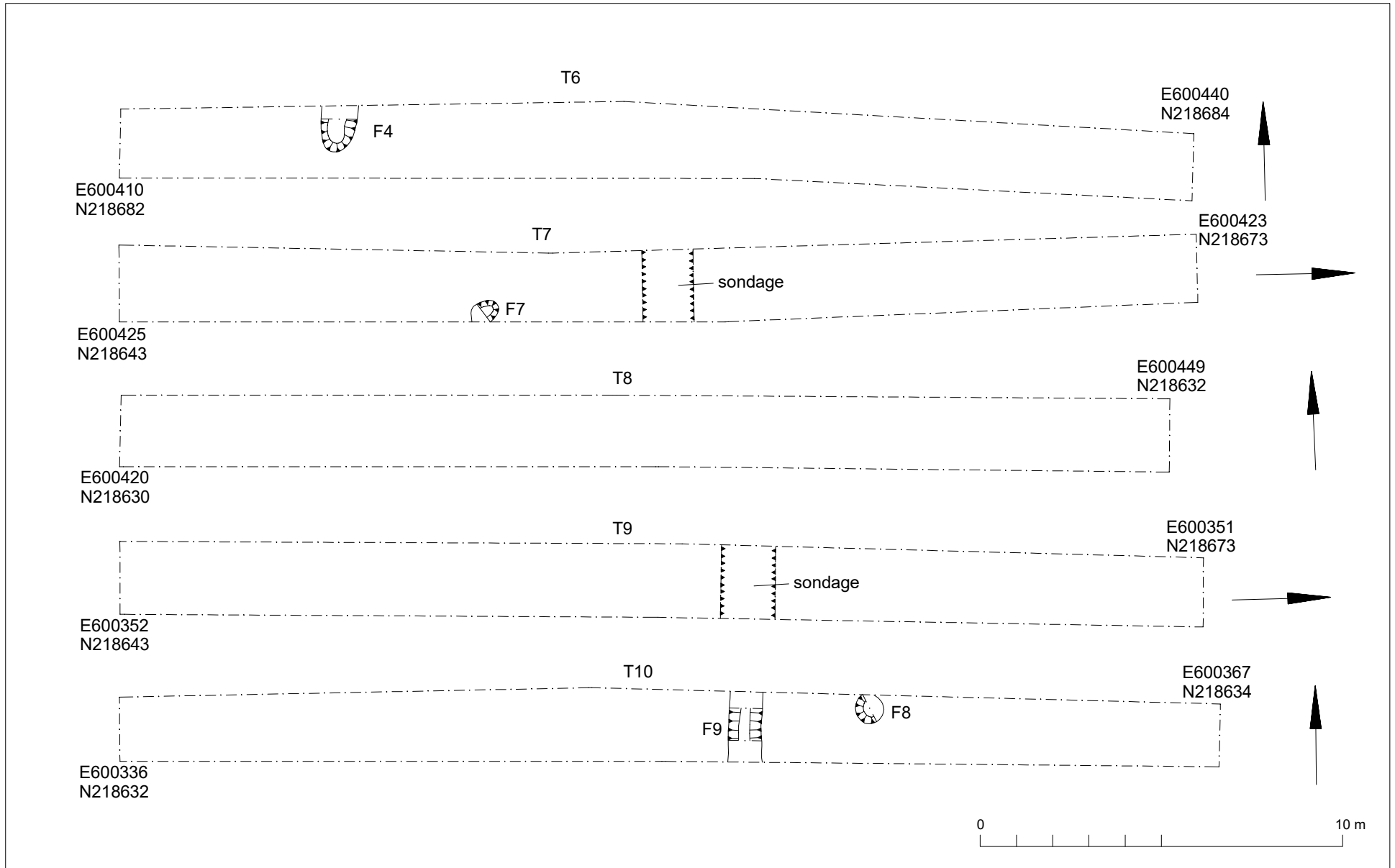


Fig 5 Trench results.

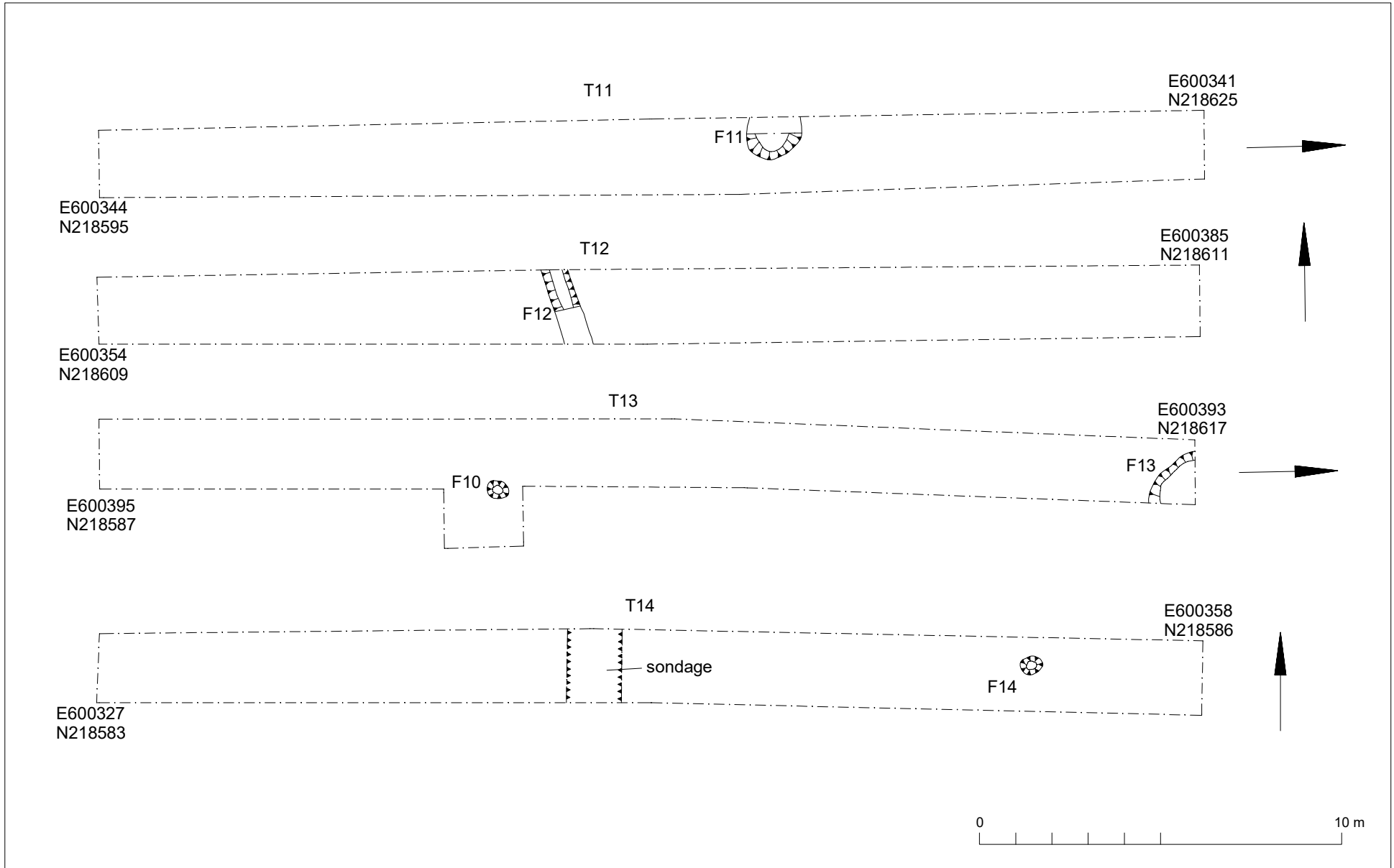


Fig 6 Trench results.

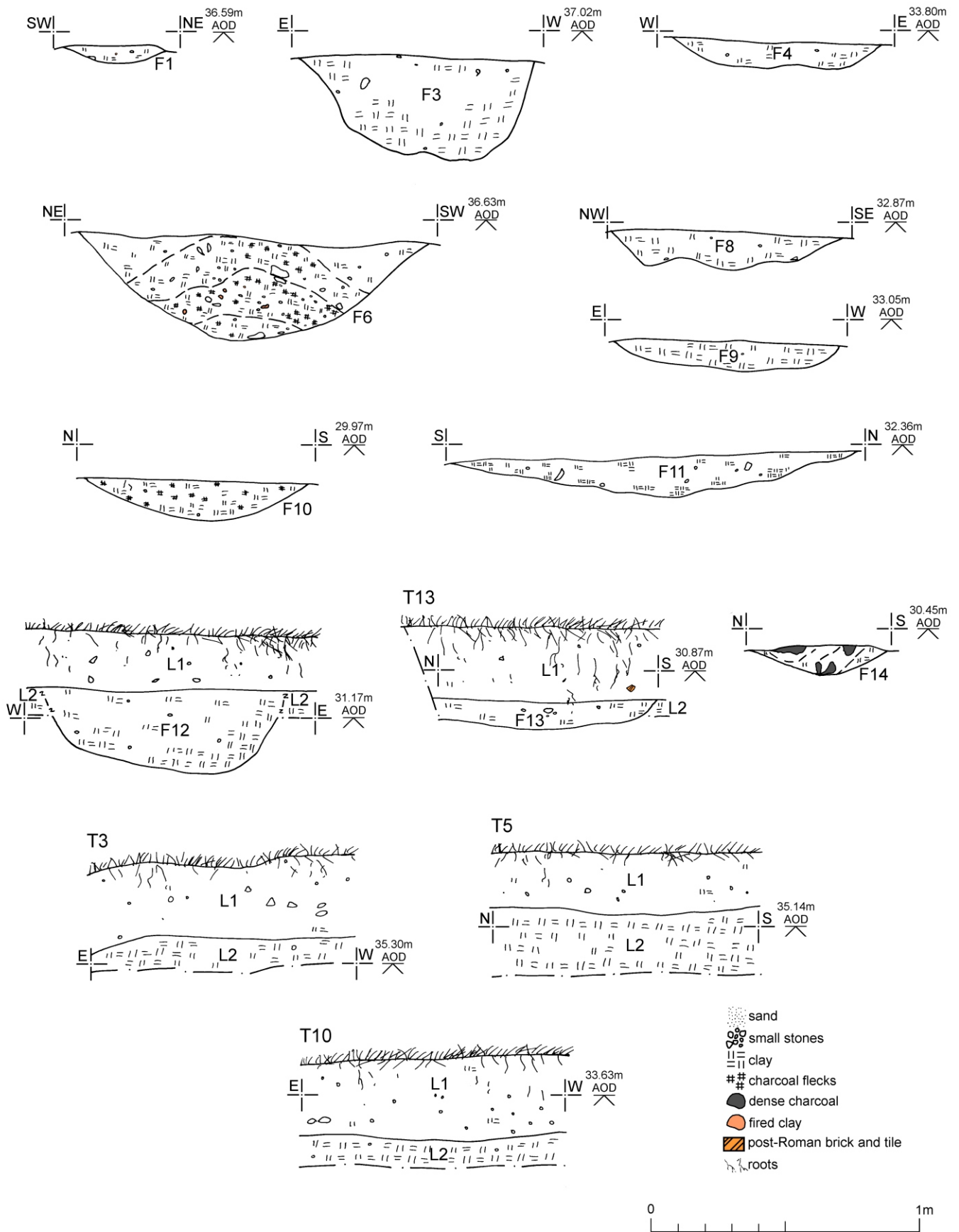


Fig 7 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, CO5 7NX	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 0040 1868 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 20/07j CHER ref: ECC4548 OASIS ref: colchest3-401377
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 20th-24th August 2020	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 2.24ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC3672, MCC3673, MCC3674, MCC3675, MCC3676, MCC3682, MCC3683, MCC3684, MCC4259, MCC7244, MCC7245, MCC8238, MCC8239, MCC8782, MCC8804, MCC8805, MCC8911, MCC8912, MCC9156, MCC9757
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1593	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>An archaeological evaluation (fourteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development. The site is located immediately to the south of the historic Abberton Green. Fourteen features – five pits, four ditches, two pit/treethrows, a gully and two treethrows – were uncovered. It is likely that these remains are the product of activity within the historic Peete-tye Common.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> August 2020



# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, CO5 7NX

**NGR:** TM 0040 1868 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Abberton

**Commissioned by:** Brad Davies (Mersea Homes Ltd)

**Client:** Mersea Homes Ltd.

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER project code:** [tbc](#)

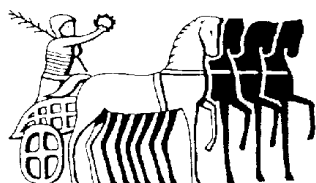
**CAT project code:** 2020/07j

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-401377

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 13/08/2020



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

*tel:* 01206 501785

*email:* [sc@catuk.org](mailto:sc@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The site is on land to the west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex (Fig 1). The land's current use is agricultural. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 0040 1868.

## Proposed work

The development will be residential however the archaeological investigations are taking place prior to the planning application.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on extracts of the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (search MCC/ECC numbers at [www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

The site is located in an area that has not been the subject of any previous systematic archaeological investigations. It is situated immediately south of Abberton Green (MCC9757), a historic green present on the 1777 Chapman & André map. The green is shown to be irregularly shaped with two thin linear sections following the roads to south. At this time, the Green extends south along Peldon Road, joining Peete-tye common (MCC9156) to the south of it. The Green does not appear on any other maps, so it must have been developed over at some point before 1874. Peete-tye common is also irregularly shaped, with linear sections following the roads, the main part of the common is still extant today. Within the area of Peete-tye common is also a bank (MCC8912), around 5ft wide with a selection of finds dating from 16th to the 19th century.

350m south of the development is the site of a rectangular cropmark (MCC7245), local history research indicates the possibility of a Saxon settlement in the area, a find spot in this area includes an undated bronze or brass object (MCC7244).

400m to the north-east is the site of a standing stone (MCC8238) known as the Deramy Stone. Dating to the early medieval period, it is mentioned in a reputed charter from Edward the Confessor to the priory of St Ouen to have been granted in 1046.

Find spots around the site include a collection of flakes (MCC8805) dating from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age found 400m to the north-east, an early 19th-century cannon ball (MCC8782) 450m south-east, an undated deposit of oyster shell and tile deposited in a field with some burnt clay or brick on the surface (MCC8911) 800m to the south, an Iron Age silver coin of Epaticcus (MCC8239) 400m east and a flint dagger (MCC8804) 450m to the north.

In 2008 CAT undertook a single-trench evaluation at Abberton Reservoir, 800m north-west of the development. This identified two features, a modern field drain and a post-medieval track way (CAT Report 478).

Surrounding the development site there are a number of listed buildings, these include several 16th- to 18th-century timber-framed houses: Willow Cottages (MCC4259, NHLE 1223396), Pete Tye Hill (MCC3683, NHLE 1337390), Old Cottage (MCC3684, NHLE 1169960), Corrie Cottage (MCC3676, NHLE 1110919), Elmira Cottage (MCC3672, NHLE 1110917) and White House (MCC3675, NHLE 1337388). Other 19th-century brick listed buildings include Abberton Bakery (MCC3674, NHLE 1110918), a cottage 50 yards west of Elmira Cottage (MCC3673, NHLE 1337426) and Winstree Cottage (MCC3682, NHLE 1606303).

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out on the development area by Magnitude Surveys prior to the evaluation work. The geophysical survey identified anomalies of a natural origin but nothing suggestive of anything archaeological significance (Magnitude Surveys

2020). Modern interference was encountered but limited to the boundaries of the area and occasional ferrous debris.

## **Project background**

A planning application is yet to be made with specifics of the proposed development, however it will be residential with associated infrastructure.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as a site with little information about any buried 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 was for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

The brief requires 14 trenches measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width, this equates to 420m in total or an area of 756m<sup>2</sup>.

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, and will be completed prior to determination of the planning application. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

## **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 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020).

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: Ben Holloway/Mark Baiser.

## **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.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

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 the trench, 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 or GPS, 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 evaluation trenches 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 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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## Human remains

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, 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. 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.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

## 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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

## 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:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

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:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

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 scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## 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 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three 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 or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

### **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>

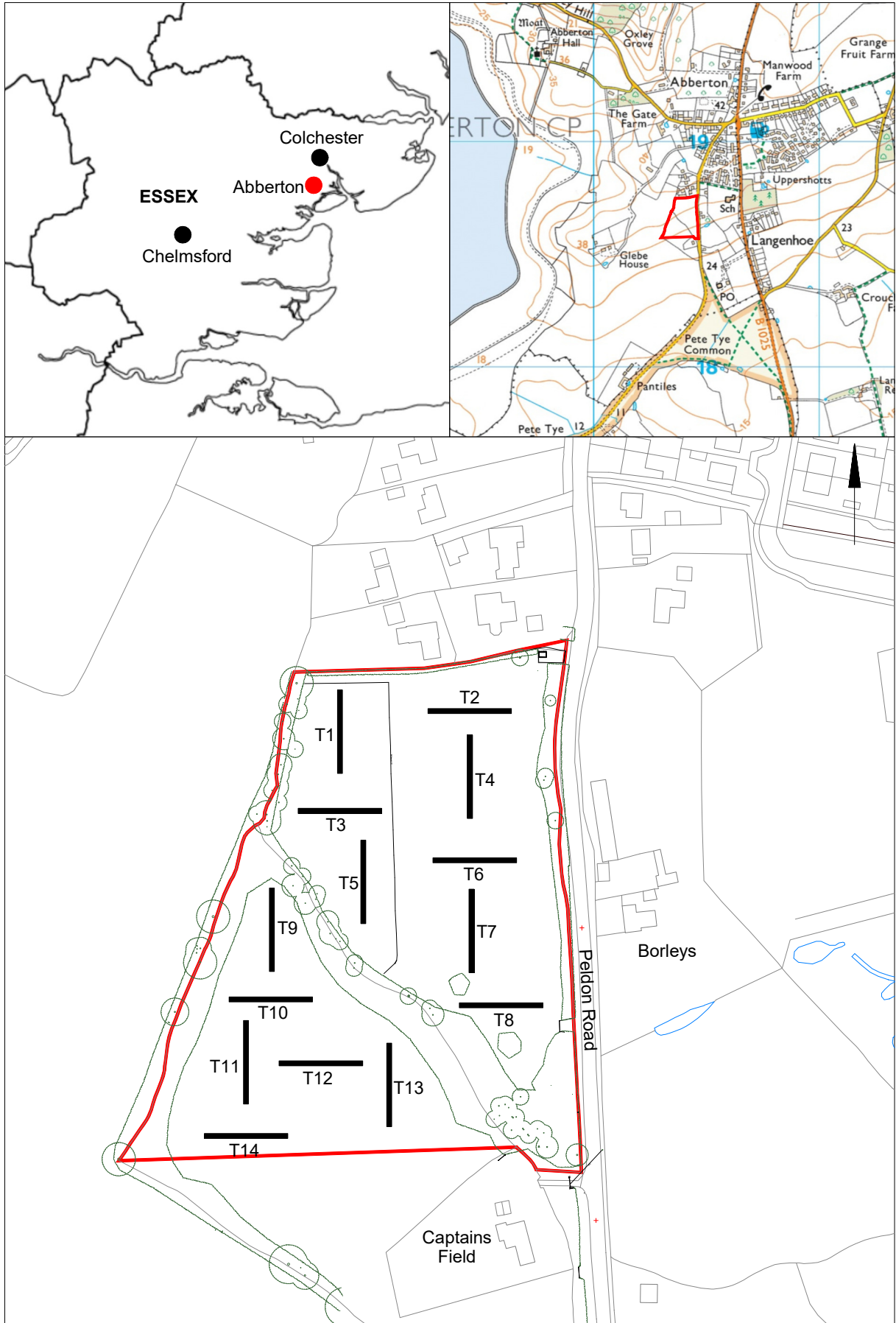
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> 2nd Edition
CAT	2020	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 478	2008	<i>Investigation of Henry Laver's postulated route of the Roman road from Colchester to Mersea Island</i> By Ben Holloway
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land to west of Peldon Road, Abberton.</i> By J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Magnitude Surveys	2020	<i>Geophysical Survey Report of a magnetometer survey at land West of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex.</i> By Leigh A. Garst
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)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

S Carter



Colchester Archaeological Trust,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 2GZ

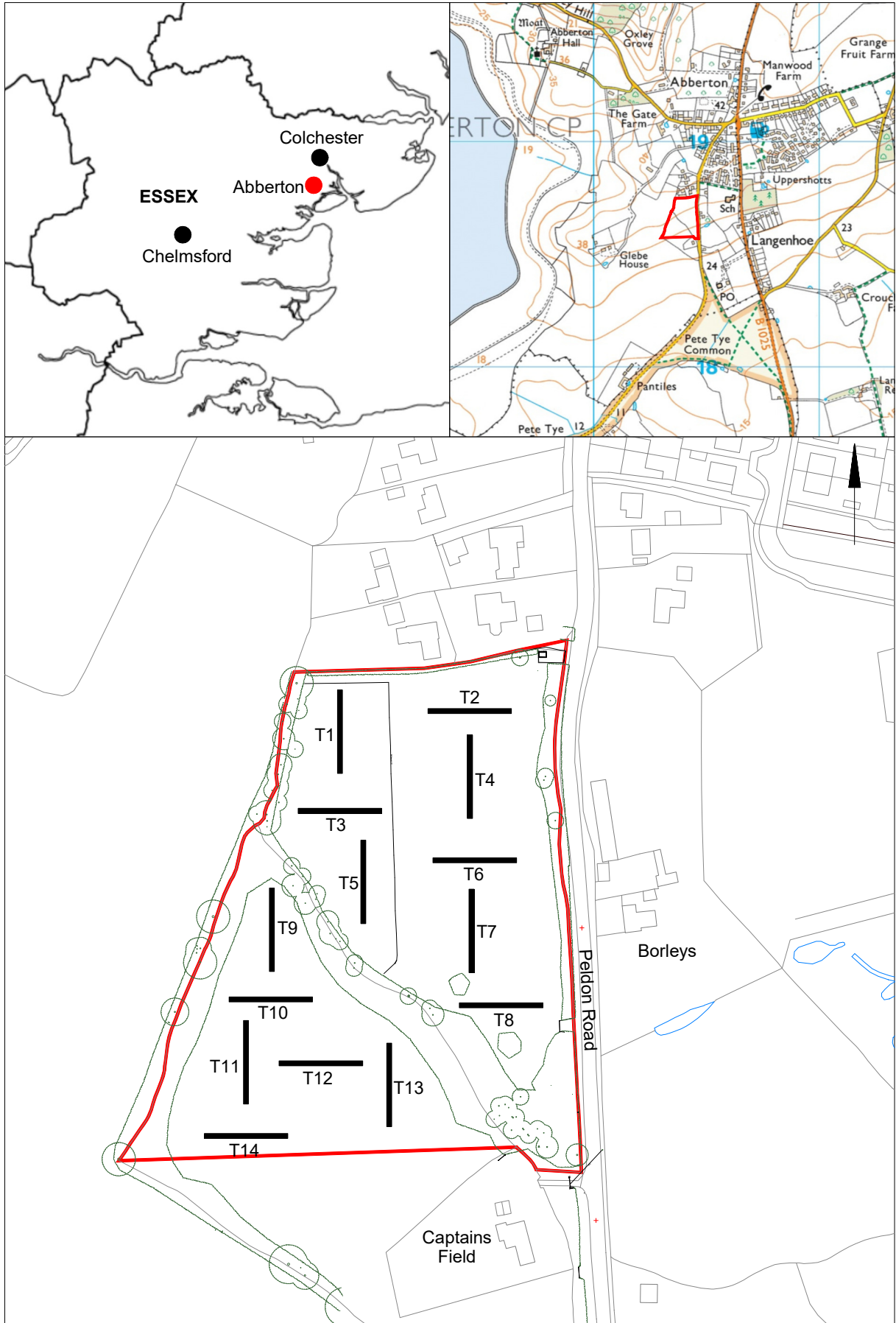
tel: 01206 501785  
email: [sc@catuk.org](mailto:sc@catuk.org)



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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.





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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

0 100 m

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-401377**

### Project details

Project name	Evaluation on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (fourteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development. The site is located immediately to the south of the historic Abberton Green. Fourteen features - five pits, four ditches, two pit/treethrows, a gully and two treethrows - were uncovered. It is likely that these remains are the product of historic agricultural activity at the site.
Project dates	Start: 20-08-2020 End: 24-08-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/07j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4548 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2020/07j - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	TREETHROW Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Post Medieval
Monument type	GULLY Modern
Monument type	PIT/TREETHROW Modern
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT/TREETHROW Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Significant Finds	HORSESHOE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	HORSESHOE Modern
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER ABBERTON Land west of Peldon Road, Abberton
Postcode	CO5 7NX

Study area 2.24 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TM 0040 1868 51.830197464192 0.908722930542 51 49 48 N 000 54 31 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 29.36m Max: 36.8m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Project brief originator CBCAO  
 Project design originator Sarah Carter  
 Project director/manager Chris Lister  
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Digital Archive ID ECC4548  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Archive ID ECC4548  
 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 west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex: August 2020  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1593  
 Date 2020  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
 Description A4 loose-leaf brass-stapled  
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>  
 Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)  
 Entered on 29 September 2020

**OASIS:**

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