

# Archaeological evaluation at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1PJ

March 2021



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fieldwork by Mark Baister with Robin Mathieson and Nick Pryke

**commissioned by Stephen Sanderson, ADP  
on behalf of Nevill Developments**

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**CAT Report 1652**

April 2021

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OASIS summary sheet

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Essex, in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. Despite being located on the edge of the post-medieval town of Halstead which has medieval origins, there were no significant archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Essex which was carried out on 30th March 2021. The work was commissioned by Stephen Sanderson (ADP) on behalf of Nevill Developments, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in advance of the construction of five new dwellings with associated parking and garaging.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services, Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) Teresa O'Connor advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial trenching evaluation and excavation* written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), 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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) shows that the proposed development site lies on the edge of the post-medieval town of Halstead, which can be traced back to the medieval period and is possibly of even earlier origin (EHER 9429). Listed buildings on Chapel Hill include the 17th century timber-framed public house 'Bird in Hand' virtually opposite the site (EHER 28857; NHLE 1122461), a late 15th-/early 16th-century timber-framed hall house at nos 7 and 9-13 (EHER 28856; NHLE 1169197), and Holy Trinity Church which was erected in 1843/4 (EHER 28874, NHLE 1122421).

Halstead benefited from the rise in the East Anglian cloth trade, and the late post-medieval period saw major changes to the town with the introduction of the silk-weaving trade by the Courtaulds in the 18th century and the building of Courtaulds factory in 1828. Courtaulds were also responsible for the building of many public buildings within the town, including housing, the library, the Cottage Hospital, the Public Park, Jubilee Fountain etc. In addition other major employers included the Tortoise and Portway Iron Foundries and Adams Brewery. At the height of the cloth-manufacturing period the density of housing was much greater in Halstead, with crowded tenements in the yard areas behind the buildings on the frontage.

To the south of the site Roman pottery and coins (EHER 9362, 9427) have been found close to a postulated Roman road, suggesting activity within the area during the Roman period.

#### 4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Four trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. A significant quantity of modern detritus on the site meant that some of the trenches had to be moved from that proposed in the WSI.

##### **Trench 1 (T1): T-shaped, 15m and 5m long by 1.8m wide**

A large rubble pile meant that Trench 1 was flipped and rotated further to the southeast. It was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.25-0.3m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.1-0.2m thick) into natural clay (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.35-0.5m below current ground level (bcgl)), and a sondage was excavated at the southwestern end of the trench. There were no archaeological remains.



**Photograph 1** Trench 1, looking northeast

##### **Trench 2 (T2): 15m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 2 was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.2-0.23m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.15-0.22m thick) into natural clay (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.35-0.45m bcgl). There were no archaeological remains.

##### **Trench 3 (T3): 10m long by 1.8m wide**

A shrub meant that Trench 3 had to be moved 5m further to the northeast. It was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.35 thick) into natural clay (L3), and a sondage was excavated at the northwestern end. There were no archaeological remains.



**Photograph 2** Trench 2, looking southwest



**Photograph 3** Trench 3, looking northwest

#### **Trench 4 (T4): 10m long by 1.8m wide**

A soil bund meant that Trench 4 had to be moved very slightly further north. It was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.24-0.6 thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.1-0.66m thick) into natural clay (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.5-0.7m bcgl). There were no archaeological remains, although the remains of a modern pet burial was noted but left *in situ*.



**Photograph 4** Trench 4, looking southeast

## **6 Finds**

There were no archaeological finds.

## **7 Conclusion** (Fig 5)

No significant archaeological remains were found during evaluation on land at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks Stephen Sanderson of ADP and Nevill Developments for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with R Mathieson and N Pryke. Figures are by L Pooley and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor and Katie Lee-Smith.

## **9 References**

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

- |                          |       |   |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> ) |
| CAT                      | 2021  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| 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>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Code of conduct</i> . Updated 2019
ECCPS	2020	<i>Brief for a trial trenching evaluation and excavation on land at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Braintree</i> , by T O'Connor
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigation <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1652)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1652)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The 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 Braintree Museum under reference HSCH21.

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**Distribution list:**

Stephen Sanderson, ADP  
Nevill Developments  
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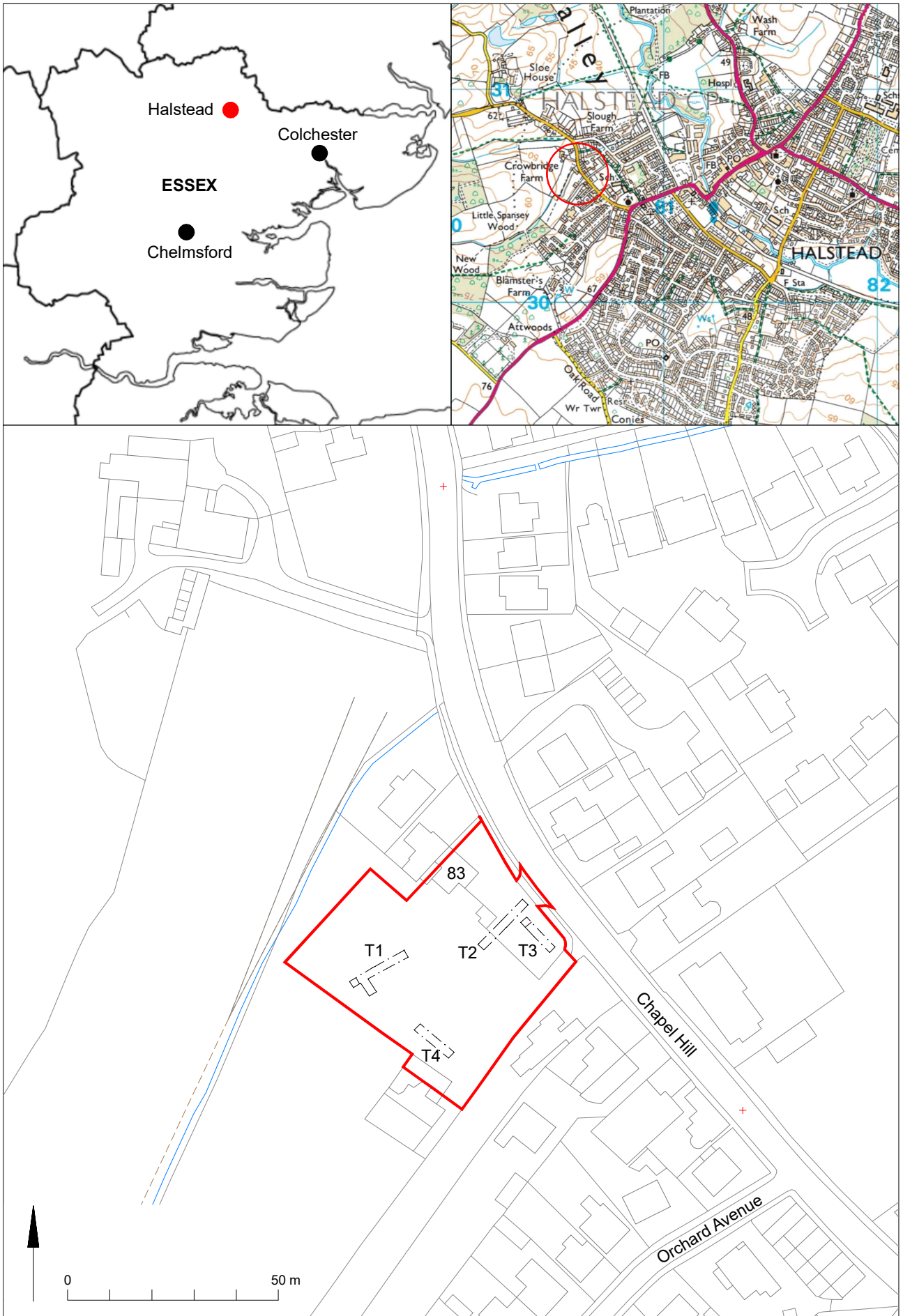
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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 13.4.2021



**Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Trench no.</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
All	L1	-	Topsoil	Soft moist dark brown/black silt	Modern
T1, T2, T4	L2	-	Subsoil	Firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay	Undated
All	L3	-	Natural	Hard moist light grey/brown clay	Post-glacial



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Fig 1 Site location

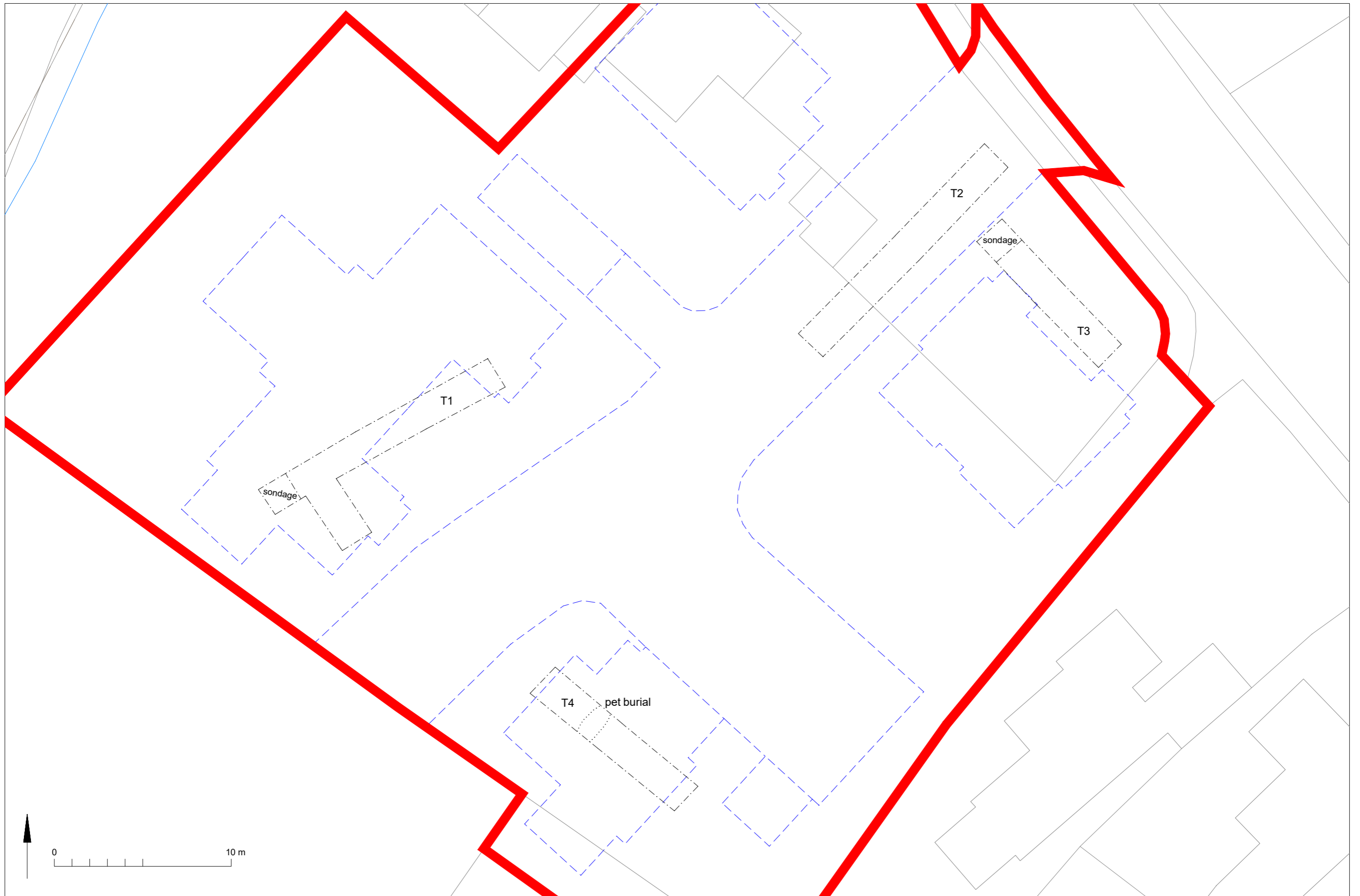


Fig 2 Results, shown in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue)

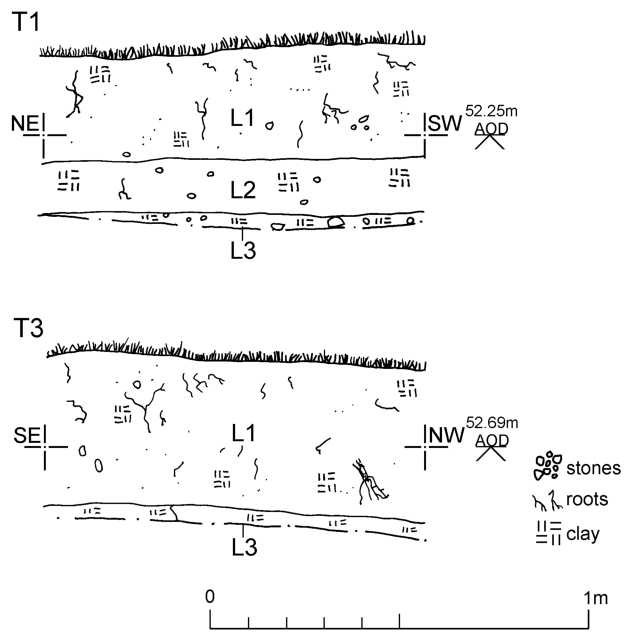


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1PJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Essex, in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. Despite being located on the edge of the post-medieval town of Halstead which has medieval origins, there were no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 30-03-2021 End: 30-03-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2021/02m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	20/01483/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	HSCH21 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE HALSTEAD 83 Chapel Hill
Postcode	CO9 1PJ
Study area	0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 80590 30584 51.943909706768 0.627764500287 51 56 38 N 000 37 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51.8m Max: 53.4m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	HSCH21
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text","Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	HSCH21
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land at 83 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1PJ: March 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
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