

Archaeological evaluation on land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon, Essex, CO5 9DX

January 2022



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**commissioned by Matthew Elliott
on behalf of Havering Homes Developments Ltd**

NGR: TL 86051 18575 (centre)

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CAT Report 1762
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. The site is located to the rear of Kelvedon High Street and Kelvedon is a historic settlement with origins in the Iron Age. A 19th-century ditch was the only feature uncovered. Finds recovered from the ditch included unfroged brick, pottery sherds and peg-tile.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon, Essex which was carried out from 18th to the 19th of January 2022. The work was commissioned by Mr Matthew Elliott of Havering Homes in advance of the construction of two three-bedroom semi-detached dwellings.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor 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 on land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon* detailing the required archaeological work, 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 2016), 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 background 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 site is of considerable archaeological potential lying to the rear of the High Street frontage in Kelvedon. Settlement at Kelvedon originated in the Iron Age with timber structures and enclosures. It developed into a small Roman town situated to the south-east of the main London to Colchester Roman Road. Roman occupation began in the mid-late 1st century, later a defensive ditch enclosed the settlement. To the immediate north-east of the site is the location of a postulated mid-1st century AD Roman fort (EHER 18762). Excavation at The Chase, at an intersection of known ditches, revealed Late Iron Age rectangular beam-and-post buildings and a Roman four-post structure overlay the earlier building and a Roman oven (EHER 8286-7). Residual Mesolithic flints were also recorded in the Late Iron Age and Roman features (EHER 8290).

Evidence for medieval activity associated with the historic settlement at Kelvedon has been revealed on sites surrounding the proposed development, and many of the buildings on the High Street road frontage are listed.

Nearby archaeological investigations include a partial excavation on land adjacent to 46 High Street where four post-holes and two pits were recorded at a depth of c 1.6m below modern ground level. Finds from one of the post-holes dated them to probably late medieval or post-medieval periods (EHER 46307). Archaeological work on land to the rear of 32 High Street

revealed some medieval to post-medieval activity and modern reuse dumps (EHER 46718). An evaluation on land at the Grangewood Centre, High Street exposed a spread of gravel and cobbles thought to be a fragment of Roman road (EHER 46221). Evaluation trenching in the garden of Blandford House revealed two Late Iron Age field systems on different alignments (EHER 8259).

For a full background on the history and development of Kelvedon, see the *Historic Town Assessment Report* for Kelvedon (Medlycott, 1999).

4 Aims

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 ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trench (15m long and 1.8m wide) was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was excavated through a modern tarmac surface (L1, c 0.11-0.12m thick) and a make-up layer (L2, c 0.38-0.50m) into natural (L3, c 0.40-0.62m below current ground level). A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot, looking south southeast.

Ditch F1 (0.91m wide and 0.29m deep) was on a north-west/south-east alignment and had a U-shaped profile. Finds recovered included post-medieval CBM and pottery sherds, along with residual Roman pottery sherds, dating it to the 19th century.



Photograph 2 F1 sx, looking north-west.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and CBM

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material totalling 12 sherds weighing 1.5kg, with a mean sherd weight of 132g (Table 1). All of this material came from ditch F1.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Pottery	5	130	26
CBM	7	1,458	208
All	12	1,588	132

Table 1 Summary of the ceramics from F1

Pottery

There were two sherds (71g) of Roman pottery (fabric HZ, large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares) and three sherds (59g) of post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40) dating to c 1500-19th/20th centuries.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

The seven sherds of CBM consisted of five fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (307g) and two fragments of brick (1,151g) including an unfroged example with dimensions of ? x 120mm x 60mm dating to the 18th-19th century.

Conclusion

Ditch F1 dates to the 19th century.

6.2 Glass

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of post-medieval/modern olive green bottle glass (51.4g) came from F1 (finds no.1).

6.3 Animal Bone

by Adam Wightman

A single piece of large mammal (?cattle) pelvis was recovered from ditch F1. The pelvis exhibited butchery marks (both cut and chop marks).

7 Conclusion

Despite being located within the historic settlement of Kelvedon the only feature uncovered at Easterford Nursery works was a ditch. Ditch F1 yielded a small assemblage of post-medieval CBM and pottery dating it to the 19th century. Although the ditch is not present on early OS mapping, indicating it was backfilled by the early 19th century, it does run parallel to other ditches present on these maps. It is possible this ditch denotes a smaller parcel of land off the High Street.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr Matthew Elliott of Havering Homes Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman with fieldwork carried out by H Furniss and O Windridge. Figures are by H Furniss, S Veasey and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

9 References

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

CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation on land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon, Essex, CO5 9DX</i> by E Holloway
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i>
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>
ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation on Land at Easterford Nursey, Easterford Rd, Kelvdon</i> By T O'Connor
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2016	<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 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
evaluation	a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the

	presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area. This may take the form of an intrusive investigation of a percentage of the site, geophysical or topographical survey. The results of this investigation will establish the requirements for any further work.
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1762)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

Site notes

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 the Archaeological Data Service.

Distribution list:

Mr Matthew Elliott (Havering Homes Developments Ltd)
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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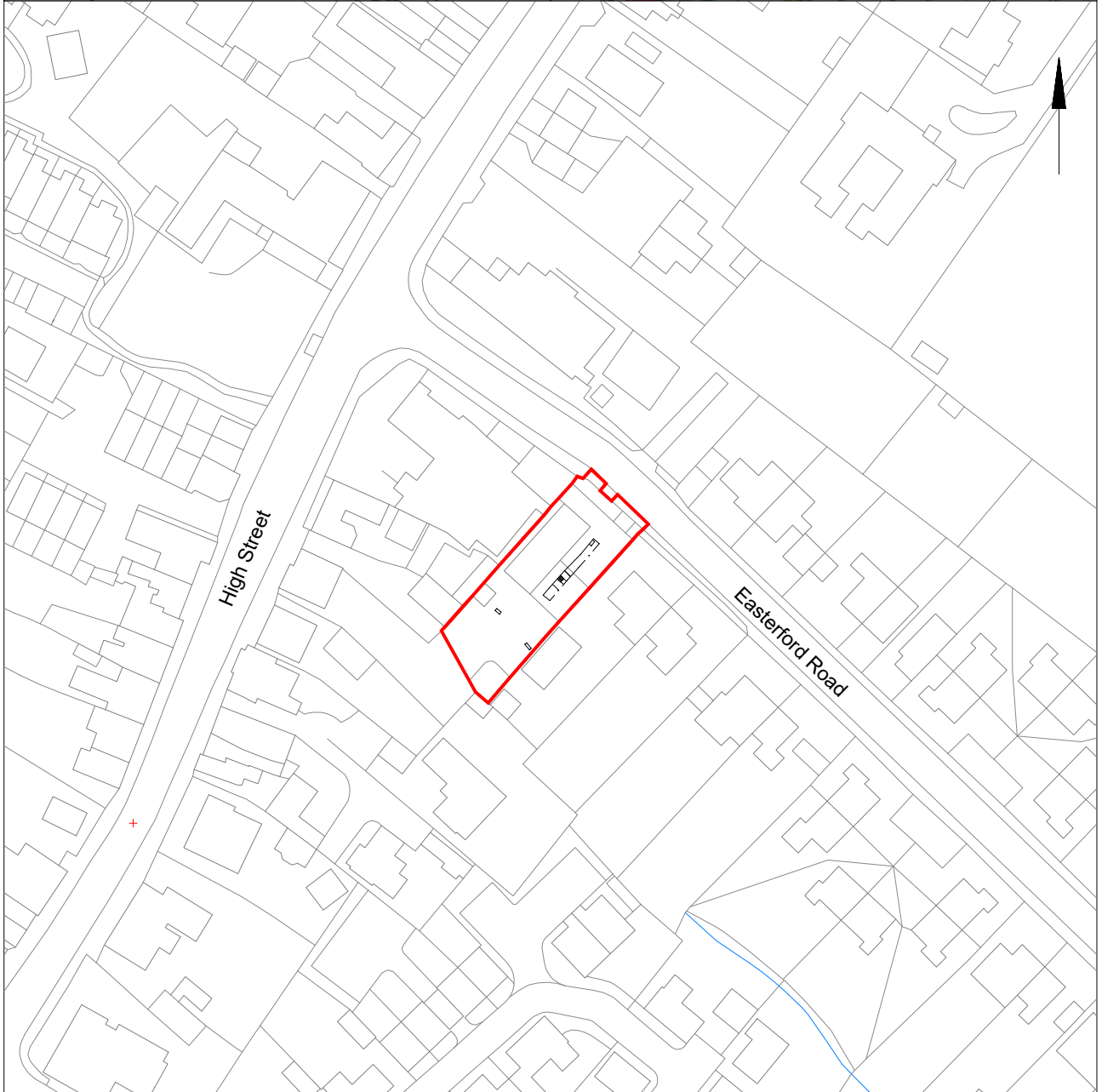
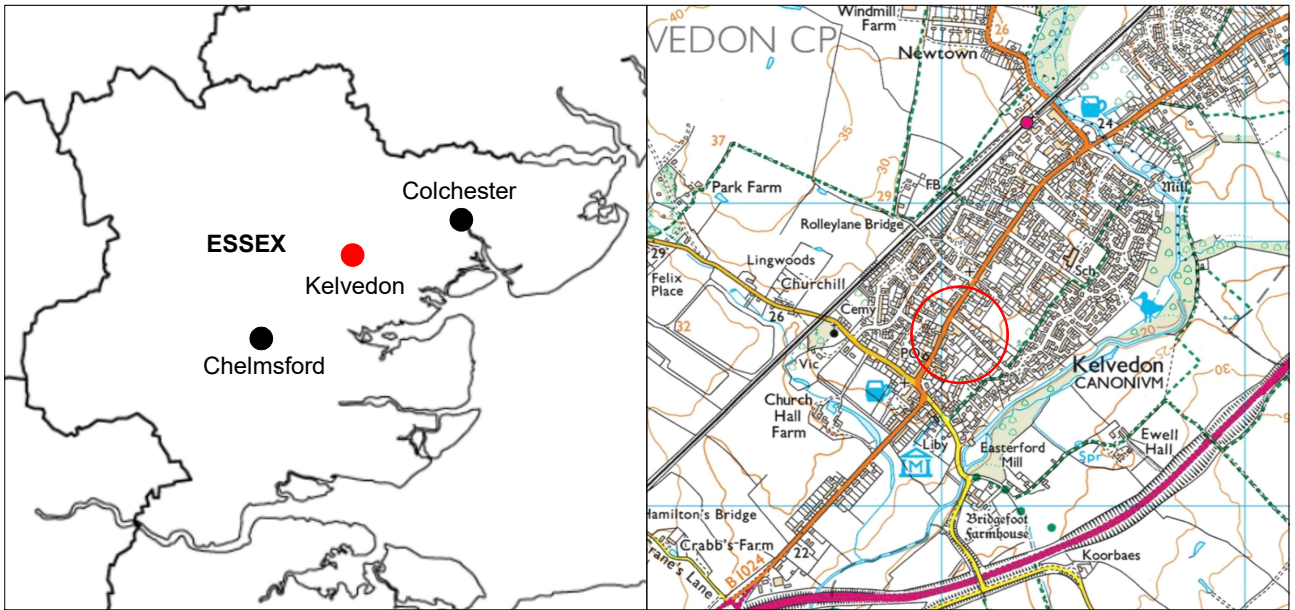
tel.: 01206 501785

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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 02/02/2022

Appendix 1 Context list

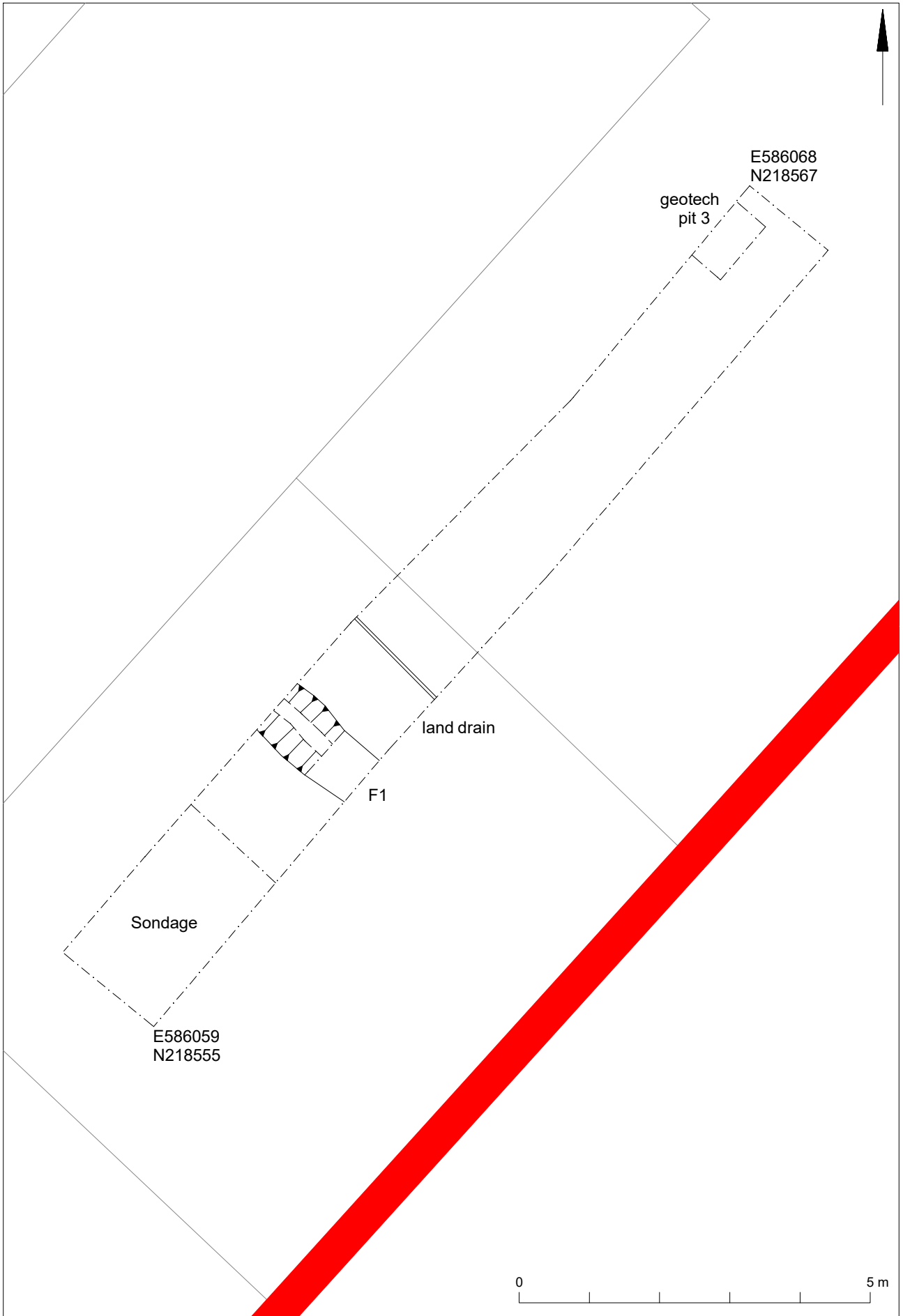
Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Tarmac	Two layers of tarmac	Modern
L2	-	Make-up	Firm, mid grey sandy-silt with irregular stone inclusions	Post-medieval
L3	-	Natural	Firm, mid brownish-orange clayey-silt	Post-glacial
F1	1	Ditch	Friable, moist, mid brownish-grey silt with gravel and small stone inclusions	19th century



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Fig 1 Site location.





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Fig 2 Results

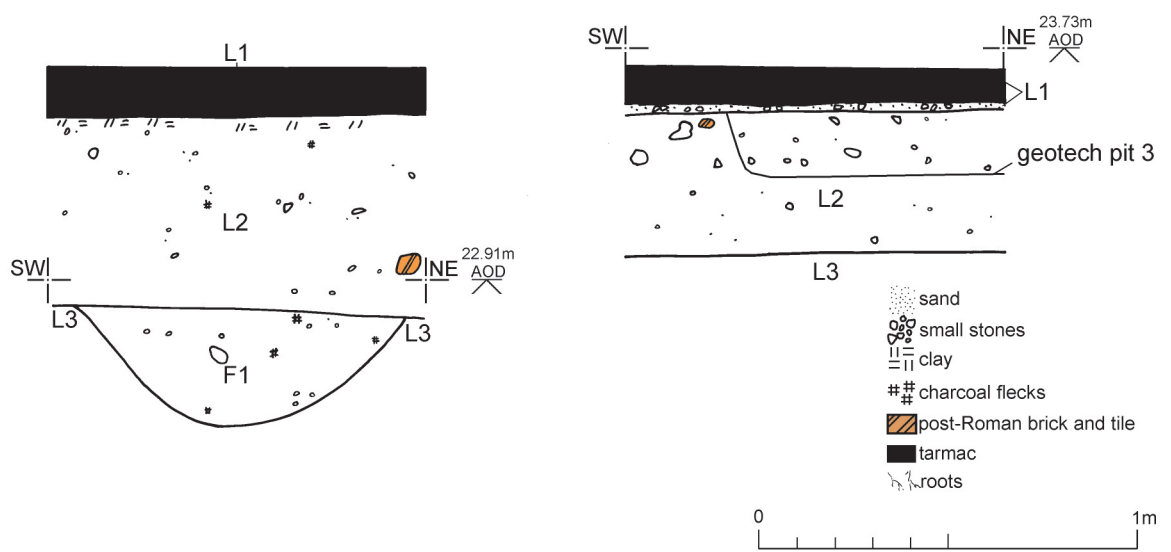


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-503119

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-503119
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon, Essex, CO5 9DX
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2021/11i
Planning Id	21/02354/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	31-Jan-2022 - 01-Feb-2022
Location	Land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon, Essex, CO5 9DX NGR : TL 86051 18575 LL : 51.8347902488484, 0.698939531283586 12 Fig : 586051,218575
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Braintree Parish : Kelvedon
Project Methodology	One trench (15m long and 1.8m wide) was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out on land at Easterford Nursery, Easterford Road, Kelvedon, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. The site is located to the rear of Kelvedon High Street and Kelvedon is a historic settlement with origins in the Iron Age. A 19th-century ditch was the only feature uncovered. Finds recovered from the ditch included unfrogged brick, pottery sherds and peg-tile.
Keywords	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - CRBR22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive