

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Leyfield, Braintree Road, Tye Green, Cressing, Essex

January 2022



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**commissioned by Timothy Racher
on behalf of Raer Construction Ltd**

NGR: TL 77974 21119 (centre)

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CAT project ref.: 2022/01e

ECC code: CRBR22

OASIS ref.: colchest3-504133



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CAT Report 1773

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1 Summary

Archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Leyfield, Braintree Road, Tye Green, Cressing prior to redevelopment. The development site is located in the historic village of Tye Green, which was formally known as End Way. The aim of this evaluation was to identify the edge of the historic green and the potential for any dwellings surrounding the green. However, no finds or features were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Leyfield, Braintree Road, Tye Green Cressing, Essex which was carried out on the 31st January to 1st February 2022. The work was commissioned by Timothy Racher of Raer Construction Ltd prior to residential redevelopment. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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 Archaeological trial trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022).

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 located within the northern edge of the village of Tye Green, overlooking the Brain Valley. On early historic mapping the area, around this site is labelled as End Way. On the Chapman and André map of 1777, End Way is depicted as an area with a historic green along the edge of the road (Map 1). Dwellings are depicted on both sides of the road, and the buildings to the immediate south-east of the site are likely to be the Grade II Listed Frogs Cottage (EHER 29965) and Tudor House (EHER 29966). The green is likely to be at least late medieval, if not earlier, in origin. The EHER records a moat as lying on the opposite side of the road, which is thought to potentially be part of a village enclosure ditch for an abandoned medieval village (EHER 6463).

To the south-west of the site (c 510m) is the location of a possible Roman villa. Concentrations of mid-to-late Roman pottery, flue tile and floor tile have been recorded by the Brain Valley Archaeological Society (EHER 14136). Evaluation and monitoring works in advance of a compound and cable trench in the site of the postulated villa revealed no evidence of the farmstead or villa (FAU Report 1246, 2004).



Map 1 Extract of sheet VIII of the 1777 Chapman and André map showing the location of the current site in red.

Approximately 750m south-east of the current site, Oxford Archaeology East investigated a four-hectare site which revealed substantial remains of a Late Iron Age settlement. Structural remains included a substantial defensive enclosure, over 17 round-houses and other semi-circular structures, thought to represent wind breaks or screens. Several of these structures were associated with hearths. At some point during the later 1st century AD, the main enclosure was cleared and a number of the larger roundhouses were burnt down. It is difficult to be certain prior to further analysis, but there is potential that this represents evidence for reprisals on local important families following the Boudiccan uprising. Alternatively, and somewhat less dramatically, this abandonment of the main enclosure could represent the local elite moving to nearby villa sites and the Tye Green settlement devolving into smaller farmsteads (https://oxfordarchaeology.com/images/pdfs/In_Touch_54_Review_2019-20.pdf). The site has produced a significant assemblage of Iron Age pottery and an area the west of the site produced over 10 brooches alone and evidence of a possible Roman temple (OAE Report forthcoming).

Approximately 780m to the south of the site, on land east of Mill Lane, an archaeological excavation carried out in 2017 established evidence of multi-period occupation. Remains uncovered were dated to the prehistoric, Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British and medieval periods. A cluster of pits and post-holes, largely concentrated in the west of the excavation area, provided evidence of land use during the Late Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age. The remains of a Late Iron Age/early Roman roundhouse and associated enclosure ditch were also excavated. The majority of remains encountered were of medieval date, comprising a field system, trackway, gullies, pits and a single ditch. Prehistoric residual flints were found across the site (ASE Report 2017, EHER 49457).

For background on the general history and development of Tye Green and Cressing see the *Braintree District Historic Environment Characterisation Project* (ECC 2010).

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)

Five trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 20m long and 1.8m wide. The trenches were excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.05-0.14m thick, firm moist dark grey/brown silty clay) and subsoil (L2, c 0.14-0.36m thick, firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay) into the natural (L3, c 0.25-0.46m below current ground level, firm moist medium yellow/orange/brown clay).



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot, looking north-east.



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot, looking north-west.

Sondages were excavated in every trench to confirm the identification of the natural. No archaeological features were present.



Photograph 3 T3 trench shot, looking north-east.



Photograph 4 T4 trench shot, looking looking south-east.



Photograph 5 T5 trench shot, looking west.

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite the proximity to other archaeological discoveries, no archaeological finds or features were uncovered during evaluation works on land adjacent to Leyfield. Constraints within the development site meant that the trenches were arranged in irregular pattern (Fig 2), this may have been a factor in the lack of archaeological discoveries.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Timothy Racher and Raer Construction Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with N Pryke, T Lawrence and O Windridge. Figures are by B Holloway and S Veasey. 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>

ASE Report	2017	<i>Archaeological excavation at Lane East of Mill Lane, Cressing. Archaeology South East post-excavation assessment</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Leyfield, Braintree Road, Tye Green Cressing, Essex</i> by E Holloway
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 adjacent Leyfield Braintree Road Cressing</i> By T O'Connor
FAU Report 1246	2004	<i>Telecommunications Site, Dagnets Farm, Mill Lane, Tye Green,</i>

		<i>Braintree, Essex: Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring</i> , by M Germany
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	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex - Kelvedon- Historic Towns Assessment Report</i> . Essex County Council
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.
OEA Report	forth-coming	<i>Archaeological excavation at The Paddocks, Land South of Braintree Road, Tye Green, Cressing</i> . Oxford Archaeology East

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1773)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data (including context sheets and scanned section drawings)

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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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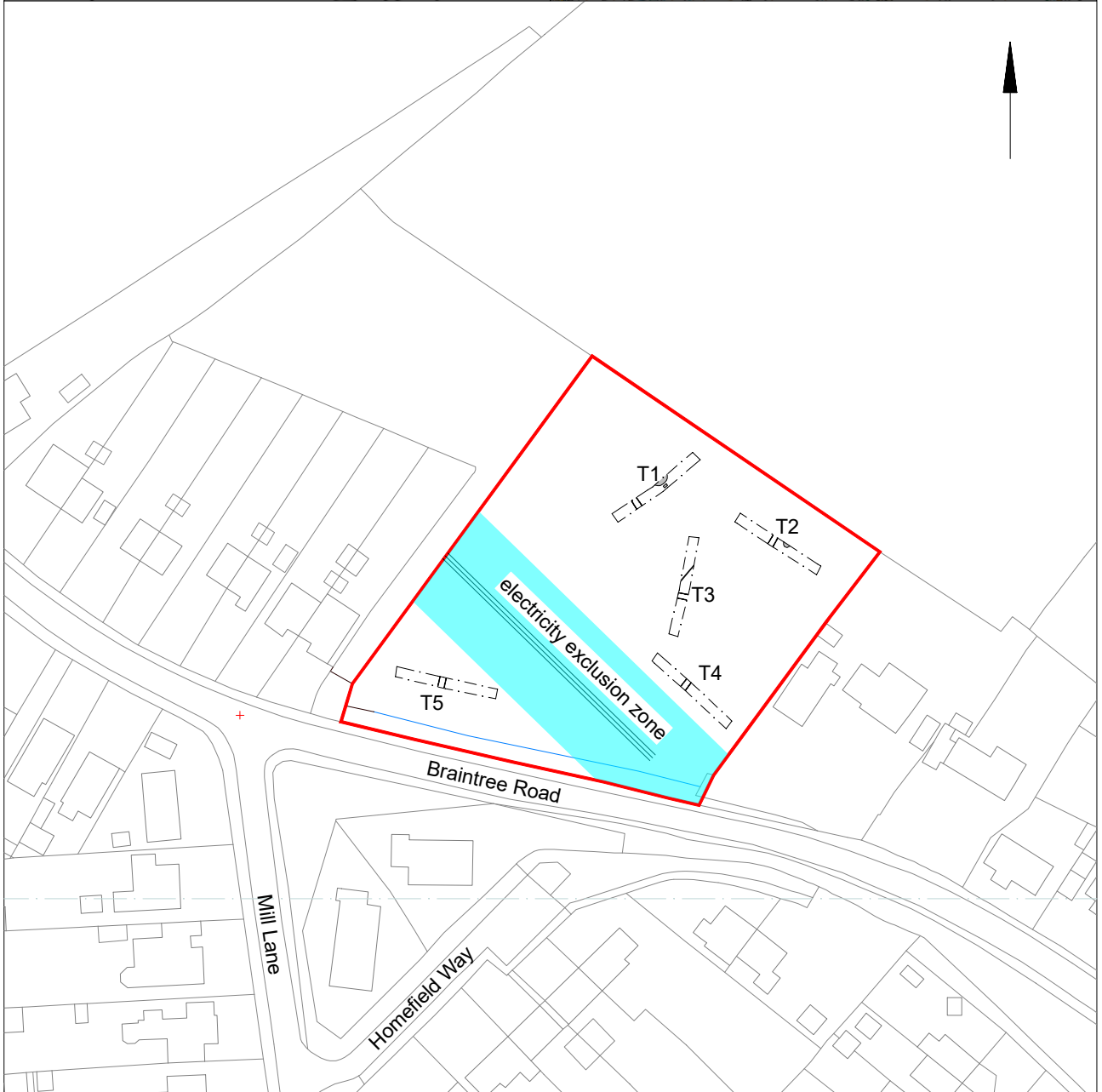
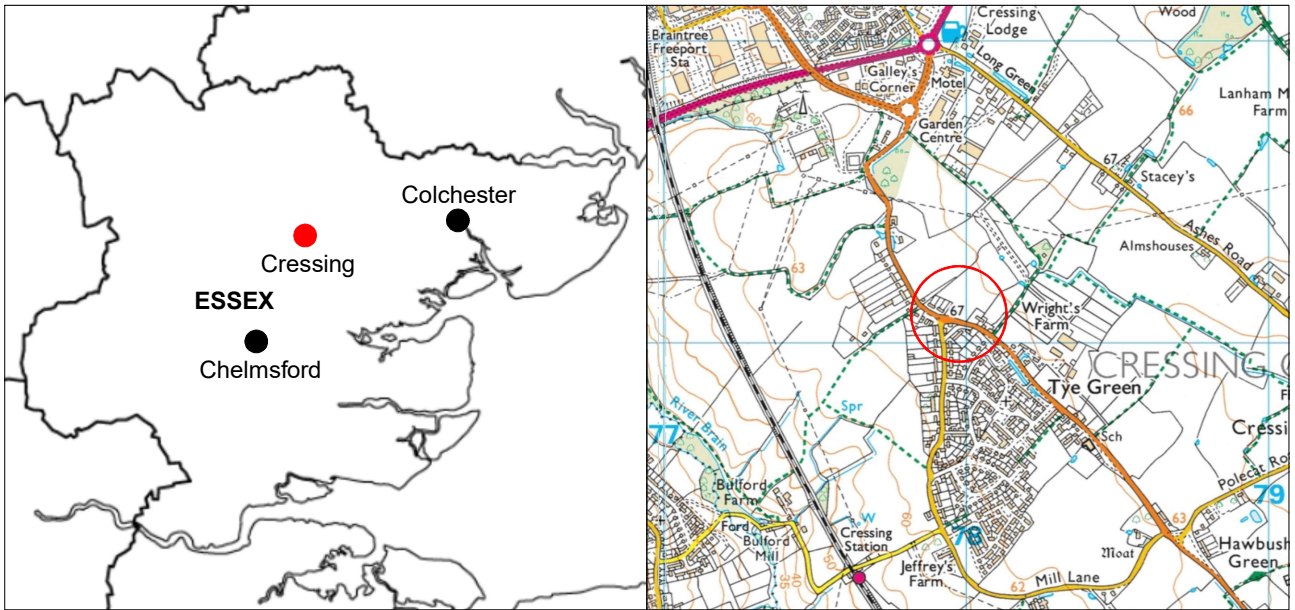
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Fig 1 Site location.



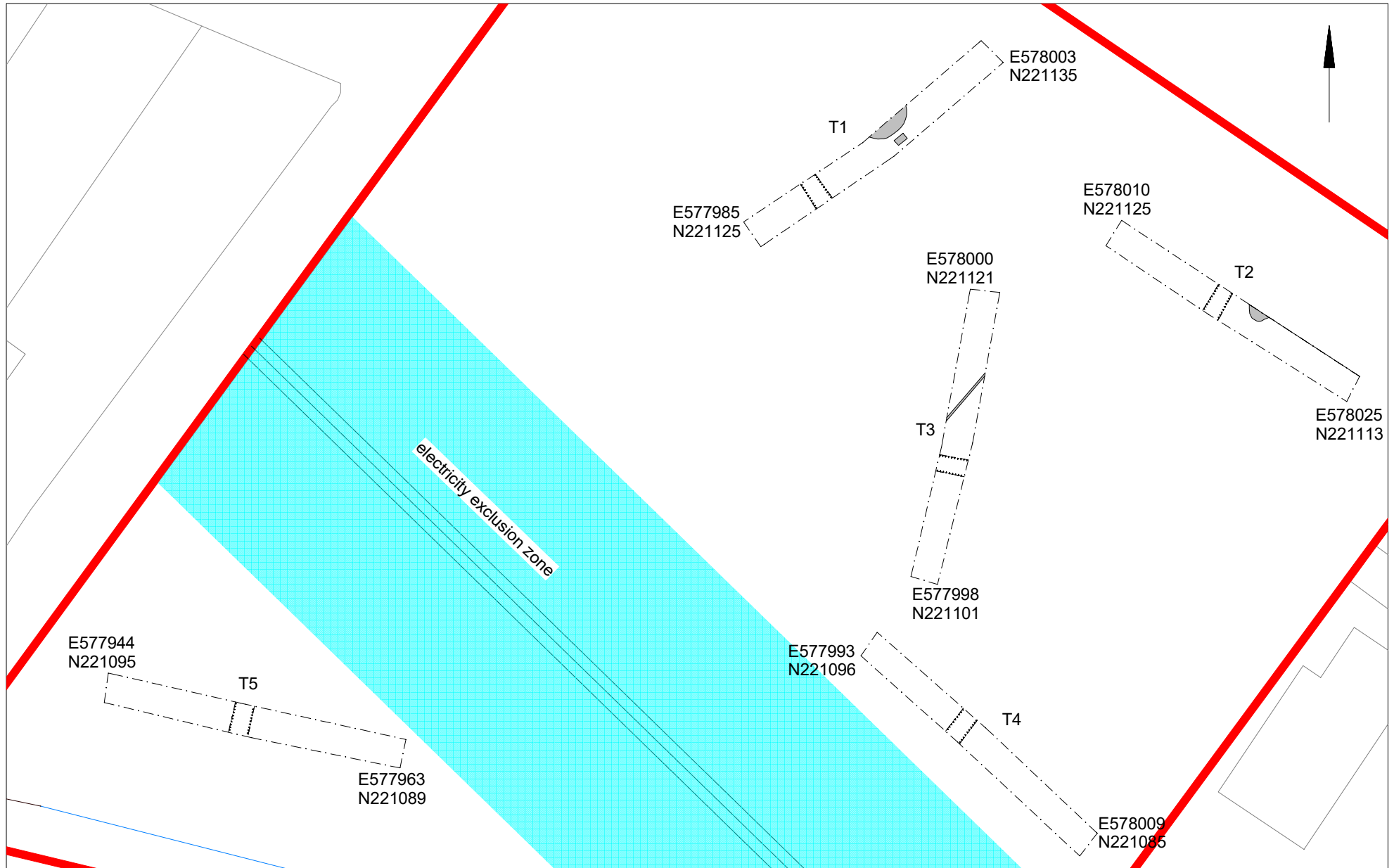


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

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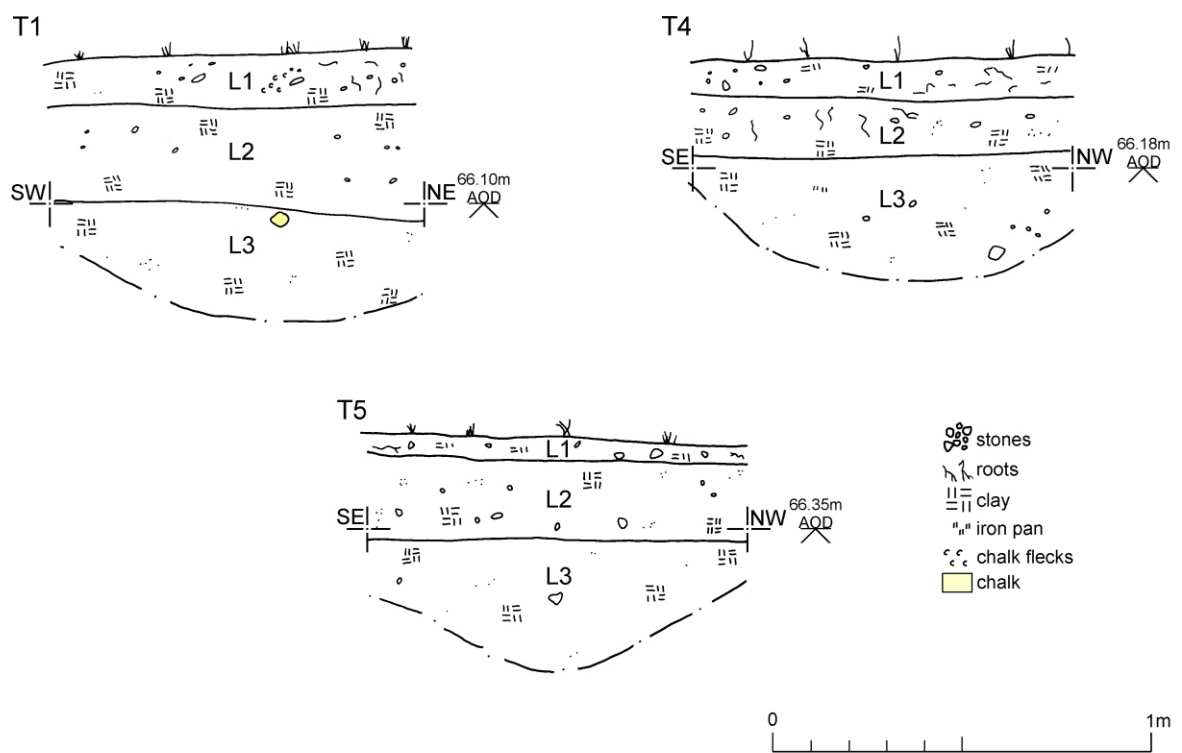


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-504133

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-504133
Project Name	Trial Trench at land adjacent to Leyfield, Braintree Road, Tye Green Cressing, Essex
Sitename	
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/01e
Planning Id	21/01940/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	31-Jan-2022 - 01-Feb-2022
Location	land adjacent to Leyfield, Braintree Road, Tye Green Cressing, Essex NGR : TL 77974 21119 LL : 51.8602699409982, 0.583149766662763 12 Fig : 577974,221119
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Braintree Parish : Cressing
Project Methodology	Five trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 20m long and 1.8m wide.
Project Results	Archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to Leyfield, Braintree Road, Tye Green, Cressing prior to redevelopment. The development site is located in the historic village of Tye Green, which was formally known as End Way. The aim of this evaluation was to identify the edge of the historic green and the potential for any dwellings surrounding the green. However, no finds or features were uncovered.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive