

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2090  
issued October 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to  
Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex, CO6 3JN:  
September 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/05h  
CHER code: ECC4877**

**Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to  
Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex, CO6 3JN:  
September 2024**

**NGR: TL 96750 27812 (centre)**

**Planning district: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 180733**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/05h  
CAT Report 2090**

**CHER code: ECC4877  
OASIS id: colchest3-507515**

**report prepared by Laura Pooley**

**fieldwork by Sarah Veasey and Elliott Hicks**

**commissioned by NEEB Holdings**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Laura Pooley	Post-Excavation Manager
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Howard Brooks	Senior Associate
<b>Issued:</b>	07/10/2024	

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (ten trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located within Bergholt Heath and surrounded by cropmarks, evaluation revealed three post-medieval ditches and a grubbed-out hedgerow, all probably associated with old field boundaries. Also excavated were three undated pits and a post-medieval/modern tree-throw.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex from 9th-13th September 2024. The work was commissioned by NEEB Holdings and was carried out in advance of the construction of a new residential development.

In response to consultation with the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA), and as the site was highlighted by Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) as having a high archaeological potential, a scheme of archaeological evaluation was recommended in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at land adj Armoury Road, West Bergholt* written by Dr Simon Wood (CCCAA 2022). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and was agreed with the CCCAA (CAT 2022).

In addition to the project brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024).

## 3 Archaeological background

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

The CHER shows that the proposed development site is located on the eastern edge of the former Bergholt Heath (MCC9145) which was fully enclosed by 1865. Undated cropmarks are recorded to the immediate north-east of the development (MCC7769) with further cropmarks (MCC8634) identified to the north of Armoury Farm, c 685m to the north-east of the development site.

In 2019 a magnetometer survey was undertaken on a site off Colchester Road c 360m to the north-west (ECC4457). This indicated the presence of a number of subsurface features or disturbances, interpreted as either minor or insubstantial in character, or else of clearly non-archaeological origin. A broad, weak feature visible in the grey scale plot aligned with extant field boundaries at each side of the field was interpreted as a shallow infilled ditch or hollow on the line of a former boundary. No other linear features representing former ditches, boundaries or enclosures were identified in the survey (Bartlett 2019).

#### 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 CCCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Ten trial trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. At 30m long by 1.8m wide, all ten trenches cut through a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.08-0.3m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.15-0.36m thick) which sealed natural (L3, identified at a depth of 0.41-0.5m below current ground level). Sondages were dug in Trenches 4, 5 and 6 to confirm the identification of L3 as natural. Archaeological features were present in eight of the ten trenches. A full context list with soil descriptions and dimensions can be found in Appendix 1.

##### Trench 2

Ditch F1, aligned north-west to south-east had a U-shaped profile and was 1.35m wide and 0.38m deep. It appears to continue through Trench 8 to the south-east where it was recorded as ditch F7.

##### Trench 3

Undated pit F2 included flecks of charcoal and daub in the backfill of the feature but there was no evidence of in situ burning and it did not produce any finds.



**Photograph 1** Trench 2, looking east.

##### Trench 5

An irregular and undulating linear feature F5 was recorded on site as the remains of a grubbed-out hedgerow. Aligned roughly north/south, the feature was >15m long, 0.66-0.84m wide and 0.18-0.2m deep. The only finds recovered were a piece of peg-tile.



**Photograph 2** Ditch F1, looking north-west.



**Photograph 3** Trench 4, looking west.



**Photograph 4** Hedgerow F5 sx2, looking south-south-west.

**Trench 6**

Undated pit F10 was excavated.

**Trench 7**

Ditch F3, aligned north-north-east/south-south-west had a shallow U-shaped profile at 0.8m wide and 0.08m deep. It appears to continue through Trench 10 to the south-south-west where it was recorded as F4. A fragment of post-medieval brick came from ditch F3.

**Trench 8**

Ditch F7, aligned north-west to south-east had a U-shaped profile and was 0.75m wide and 0.24m deep. It appears to continue through Trench 2 to the north-west where it was recorded as ditch F1. Post-medieval pottery, brick and peg-tile was recovered from ditch F7.

Also excavated was tree-throw F9 which included flecks of brick and coal in the backfill (not retained for post-excitation analysis) suggesting a post-medieval/modern date.

**Trench 9**

Aligned north-north-west/south-south-east was ditch F6. With a shallow V-shaped profile it was 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep and produced peg-tile. Undated pit F8 was also excavated.

**Trench 10**

Ditch F4, aligned north-north-east/south-south-west had a shallow U-shaped profile at 0.81m wide and 0.09m deep. It appears to continue through Trench 7 to the north-north-east where it was recorded as F3.



**Photograph 5** Ditch F3, looking south.



**Photograph 6** Ditch F6, looking north-north-west.





**Photograph 7** Trench 10, looking east.

## 6 Finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery (1 sherd, 3g) and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) (8 fragments, 346g) from four features.

### **Post-medieval pottery**

One sherd (3g) of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (fabric F40) dating to 1500-1800/1900 (Cotter 2000) came from ditch F7.

### **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

Most of the CBM consists of pieces of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (6 fragments, 73g) recovered from hedgerow F5 and ditches F6 and F7. Finally, possible post-medieval brick fragments (2 fragments, 273g) came from ditches F3 and F7.

### **Conclusion**

The small assemblage would suggest that F3, F5, F6 and F7 all date to the post-medieval period. None of this material has been retained.

## 7 Environmental assessment

*by Bronagh Rae-Quinn*

### **Introduction**

One sample was taken during the evaluation from undated pit F2. The sample was floated using a serif-style flotation device which produced a flot and a larger residue, both of which were

analysed by the author. Flots were collected in a 300-micron mesh and scanned using a microscope (magnification x10), while the larger residues were scanned by eye and any charcoal/charred wood removed by hand. Nomenclature for all plant remains is taken from Stace (2010).

## Results

The sample taken produced a moderate density of charred indeterminate *Brassicaceae* seeds along with fragments of charcoal.

<b>Sample No.</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Context No.</b>		<b>F2</b>
<b>Dry-land herbs</b>		
<i>Brassicaceae</i> <i>indet.</i>	Mustard/cabbage	xxxx
<b>Other material</b>		
Charcoal >10mm		x
Charcoal 4-10mm		xxxxx
Charcoal <4mm		xxxxx
Modern plant material (rootlets, grass)		xxxxx
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>		<b>20</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>		<b>0.2</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Table 1** Environmental results.

### Key to Table 1

x 0-10

xx 10-25

xxx 25-50

xxxx 50-100

xxxxx 100+

### Potential, significance and recommendations

The sample produced a minimal amount of indeterminate *Brassicaceae* seeds. It is likely that these seeds and the pit itself are the results of shrubbery clearance and are not a purposeful deposit of charred material.

Further works on these remains is not recommended at this time as it would be unlikely to add to the overall site interpretation. However, any further works on the site should continue to follow guidance laid out in CAT's Environmental Policy (forthcoming) and the site's specific guidelines.

## 8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex revealed three ditches (F1/F7, F3/F4 and F6) and a grubbed-out hedgerow of post-medieval date. Likely representing field boundaries, none of these features are present on the Tithe or OS maps so must have been backfilled by the early 19th century. Also excavated were three undated pits and a post-medieval/modern tree-throw.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks NEEB Holdings for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey with E Hicks. Figures are by L Pooley and C Hill. The project was monitored for CCCPS by Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 10 References

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

Bartlett, A D H      2019      *Land at Colchester Road, West Bergholt, Essex. Report on Archaeological*

		<i>Geophysical Survey 2019.</i>
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	2022	<i>Written scheme of investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex,</i> by C Lister. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.
CAT	2024	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.
CIfA	2020a	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
CIfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
CIfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.
CIfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
CIfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
Cotter, J P	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles.</i> 3rd edition.

## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CCCPS	Colchester City Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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 to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <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
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws_i	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained  
**Digital record**  
 CAT Report 2090  
 CCC Brief  
 Digital photographs  
 Graphic files  
 Survey data

### **13 Archive deposition**

The 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 the Archaeology Data Service.

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**Distribution list:**

NEEB Holdings

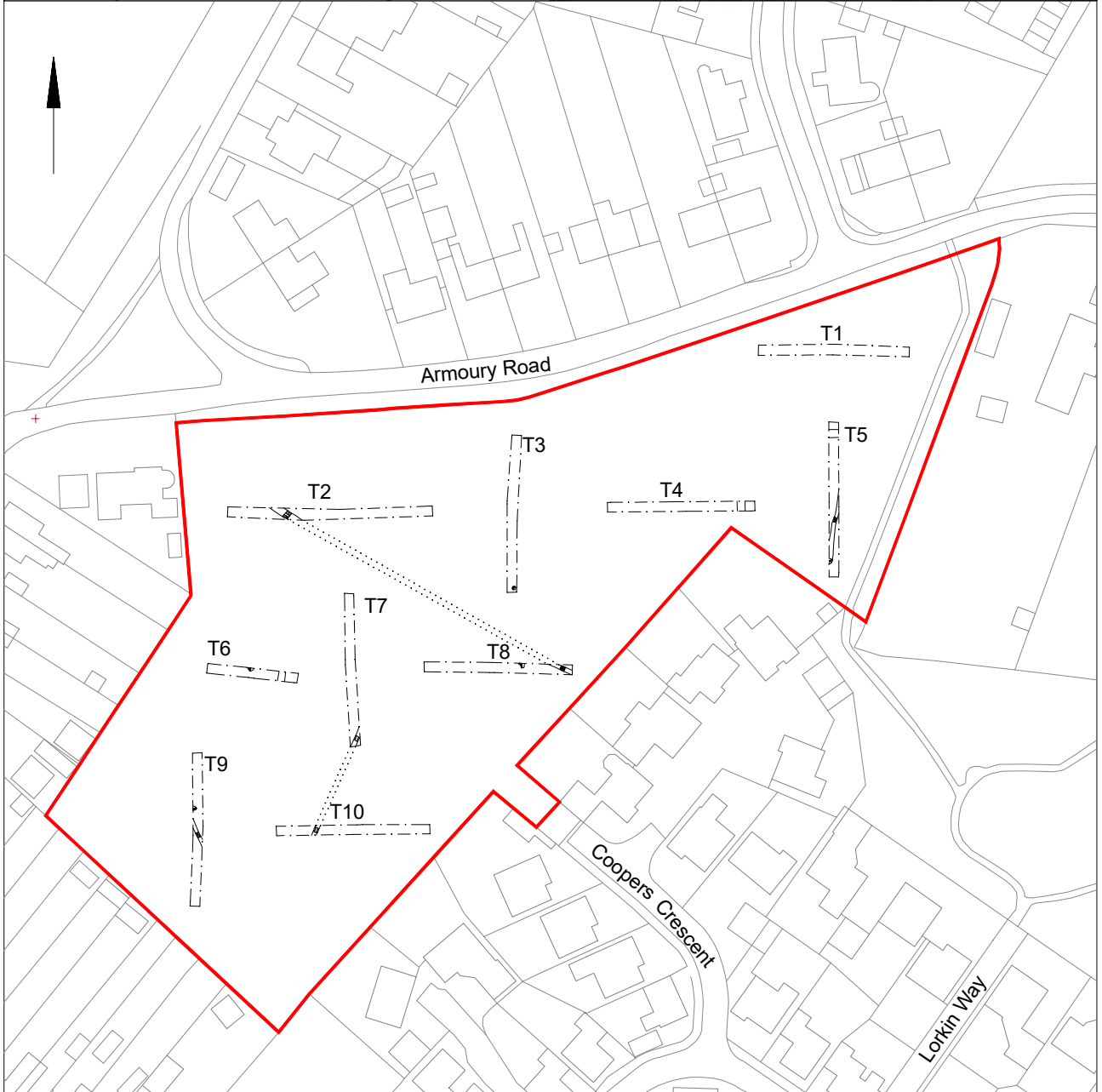
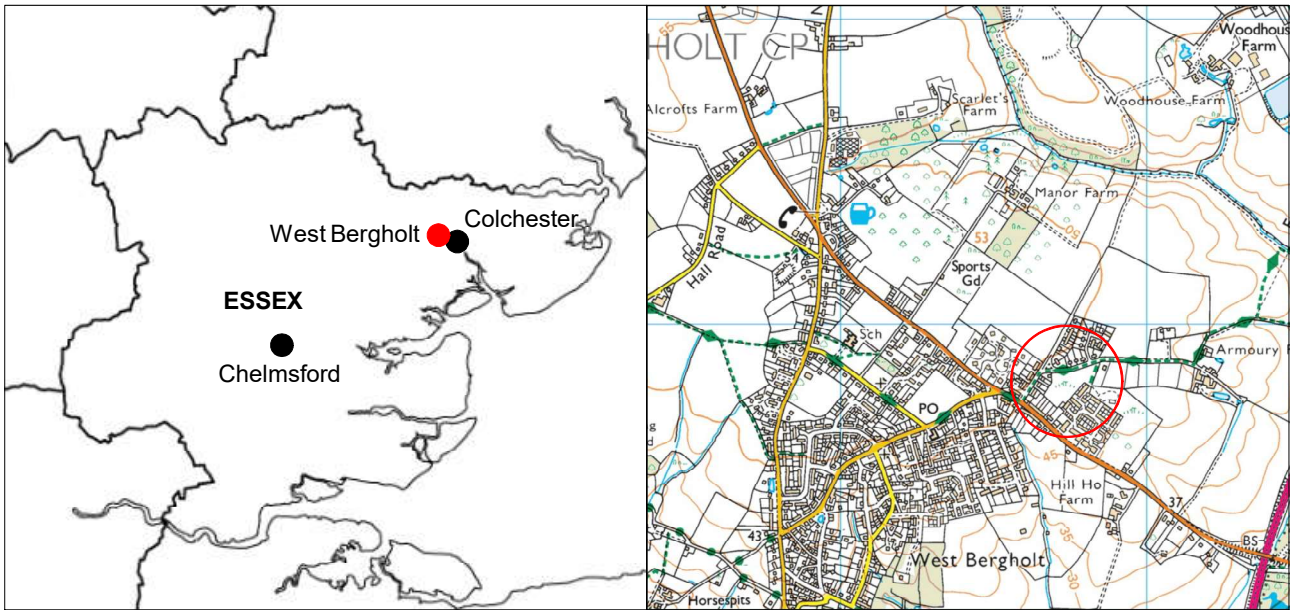
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	loose dry medium grey sandy silt with tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	hard dry medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 2%	Post-medieval
L3	All	-	Natural	firm dry medium yellow/orange/brown sandy clay and inclusions of: gravel 10%	Post-glacial
F1	T2	-	Ditch	Aligned north-west/south-east, U-shaped, 1.35m wide and 0.38m deep. Soft dry light/medium grey/brown sand silt and inclusions of 1%.	Post-medieval
F2	T3	<1>	Pit	0.73m by 0.69m and 0.14m deep, gently sloping sides with a slightly undulating base. Soft moist medium grey silty clay with charcoal and daub flecks but no signs of in situ burning, and inclusions of 1% stone.	Undated
F3	T7	1	Ditch	Aligned north-north-east/south-south-west, shallow U-shaped profile, 0.8m wide and 0.08m deep. Soft moist dark grey/brown sand silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Post-medieval
F4	T10	-	Ditch	soft moist light/medium grey/brown sand silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%	Post-medieval
F5	T5	2	Hedgerow	Aligned roughly north/south, >15m long, 0.66-0.84m wide and 0.18-0.2m deep, irregular and undulating. Soft moist light/medium grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of 2% stone.	Post-medieval
F6	T9	3	Ditch	Aligned north-north-west/south-south-east, shallow V-shaped profile, 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep. Soft moist medium grey/brown silty sand and inclusions of 2% stone.	Post-medieval
F7	T8	4	Ditch	Aligned north-west to south-east, U-shaped profile, 0.75m wide and 0.24m deep. Firm moist medium grey/brown sandy silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of 3% stone.	Post-medieval
F8	T9	-	Pit	0.85m by >0.7m and 0.11m deep. Soft moist medium/dark grey/brown sand silt and inclusions of 1% stone.	Undated
F9	T8	-	Tree-throw	1.1m by >0.88m and 0.27m deep. Firm dry/moist medium grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions 3% stone.	Post-medieval/ modern
F10	T6	-	Pit	1.19m by >0.65m and 0.08m deep. Soft moist medium/dark grey/brown sand silt and inclusions of 1% stone.	Undated

<1> = sample number



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Fig 1 Site location.



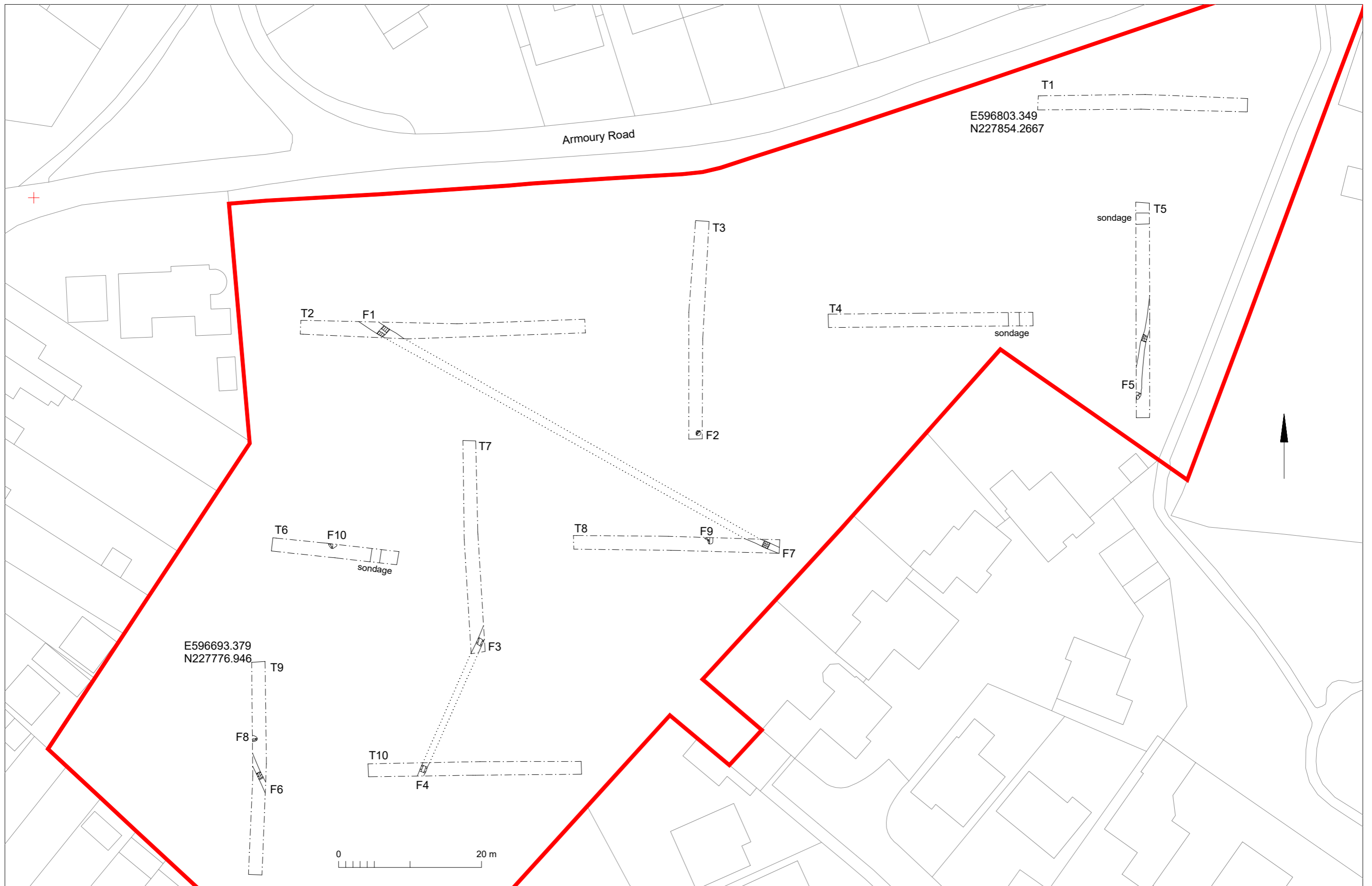


Fig 2 Results.

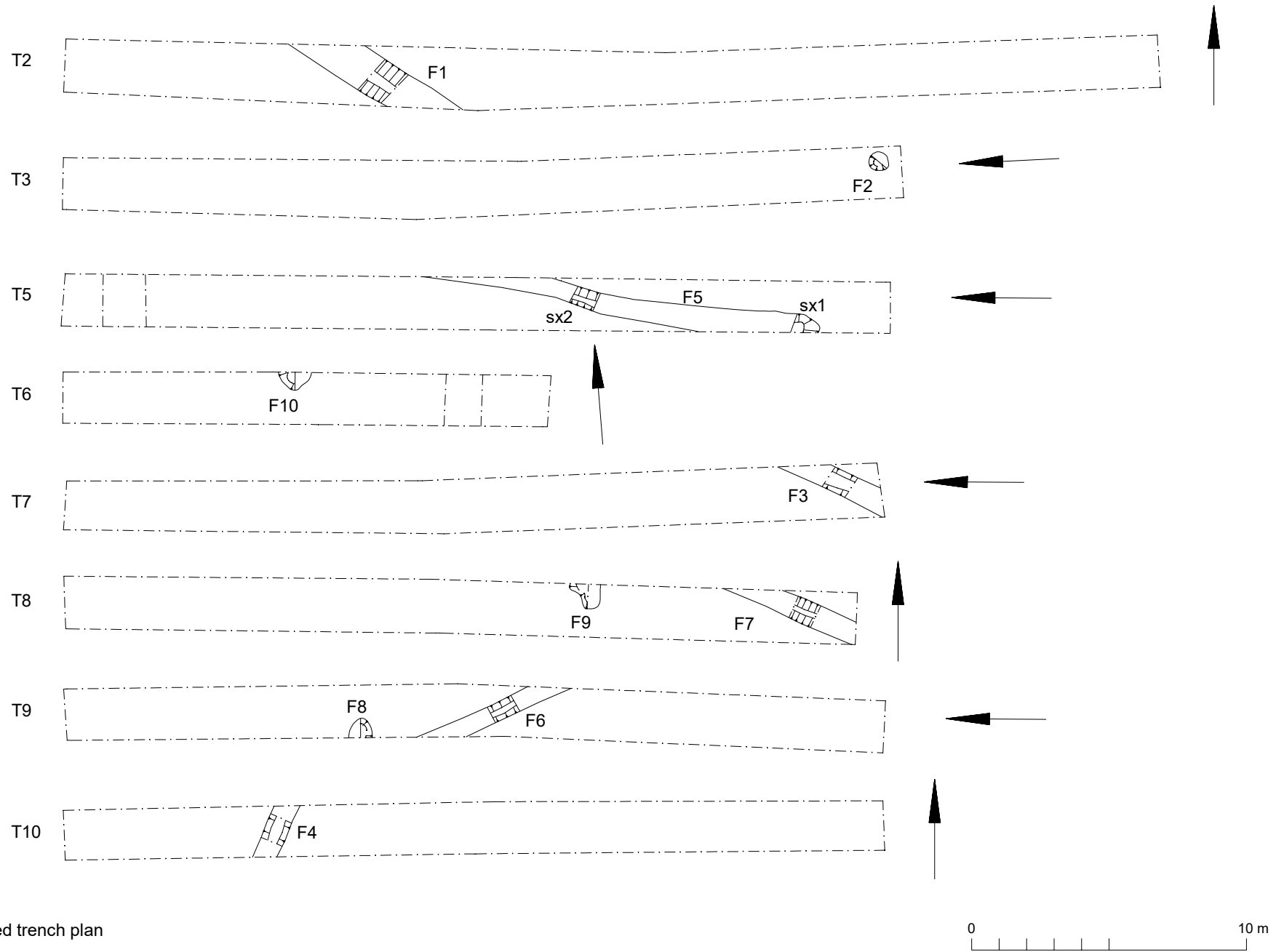


Fig 3 Detailed trench plan



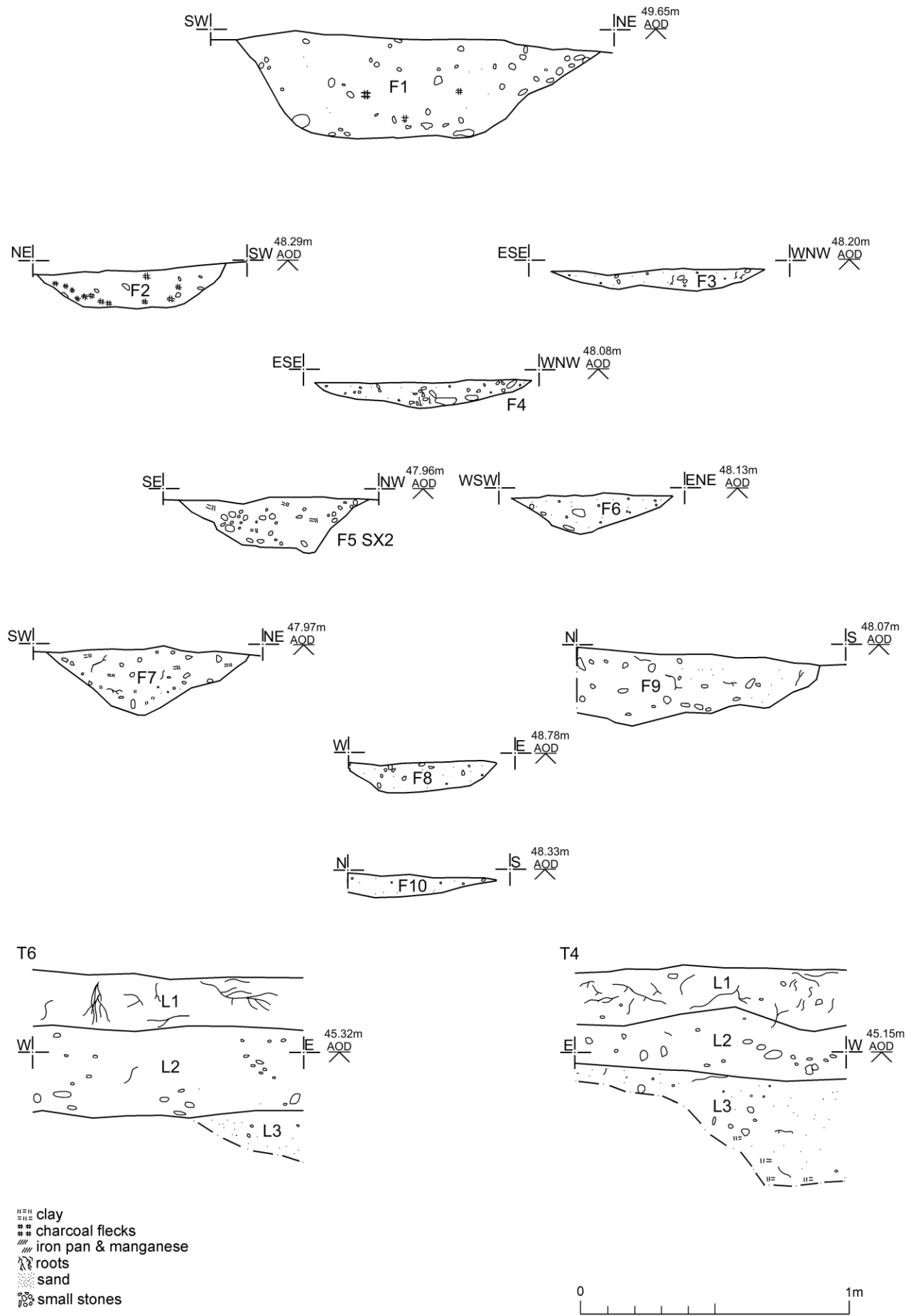


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex, CO6 3JN	
<b>Parish:</b> West Bergholt	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 96750 27812 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2022/05h CHER ref.: ECC4877 OASIS ref.: colchest3-507515
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 9th-13th September 2024	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1.19 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeology Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 2090	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Post-medieval, post-medieval/modern, undated.	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation (ten trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located within Bergholt Heath and surrounded by cropmarks, evaluation revealed three post-medieval ditches and a grubbed-out hedgerow, all probably associated with old field boundaries. Also excavated were three undated pits and a post-medieval/modern tree-throw.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> n/a	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> 19th September 2024

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex

**NGR:** TL 96592 27740 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** West Bergholt

**Planning references:** 180733

**Client:** NEEB Holdings

**Curating museum:** Colchester/ADS Archaeology

**CHER number:** [tbc](#)

**CAT project code:** 2022/05h

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-507515

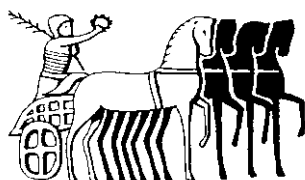
**Contracts Manager:** Chris Lister

**Fieldwork Manager:** Adam Wightman

**Post-excavation Manager:** Laura Pooley

**CBC monitor:** Dr Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 20/06/2022



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located south of Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex. The site is centred on national grid reference (NGR) TL 96952 27740. The development site comprises 1.16ha of rough grassland bounded to the north, west and south-west by housing along Armoury Road and Colchester Road, and to the south-east by housing at Maltings Park Road.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of twenty-six dwellings associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

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

The CHER shows that the proposed development site is located on the eastern edge of the former Bergholt Heath (MCC9145) which was fully enclosed by 1865.

Undated cropmarks are recorded to the immediate north-east of the development (MCC7769) with further cropmarks (MCC8634) identified to the north of Armoury Farm, c. 685m to the north-east of the development site.

In 2019 a magnetometer survey was undertaken on a site off Colchester Road c. 360m to the north-west (ECC4457). This indicated the presence of a number of subsurface features or disturbances, interpreted as either minor or insubstantial in character, or else of clearly non-archaeological origin. A broad, weak feature visible in the grey scale plot aligned with extant field boundaries at each side of the field, and was interpreted as a shallow infilled ditch or hollow on the line of a former boundary. No other linear features representing former ditches, boundaries or enclosures were identified in the survey (Bartlett 2019).

## Project background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2018 (application number 180733) for *outline application for 26 dwellings including 30% affordable housing, vehicular and pedestrian access from Coopers Crescent, pedestrian access from Armoury Road, public open space and landscaping with details of access and structural landscaping*. This was approved upon appeal.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

## Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work as stated in the Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022) was for an archaeological evaluation.

Ten trenches, 30m long by 1.8m wide, will be positioned across the proposed development area to provide a 5% sample of the site.

The work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. 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, condition and significance 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.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits.

Further archaeological investigation 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 a 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 & c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)

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 the 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 three archaeologists for five days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Harvey Furness/Sarah Veasey

## **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), at least a 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens 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 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 excavation area 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 the 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

The 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 Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

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 (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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)  
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray  
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth  
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 / Gwladys Monteil  
Roman brick/tile: 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 the 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 the 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* (Historic England 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the trenches. 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- 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 the 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible

### **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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

**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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and the CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the 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.

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**

The 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 the CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the 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>

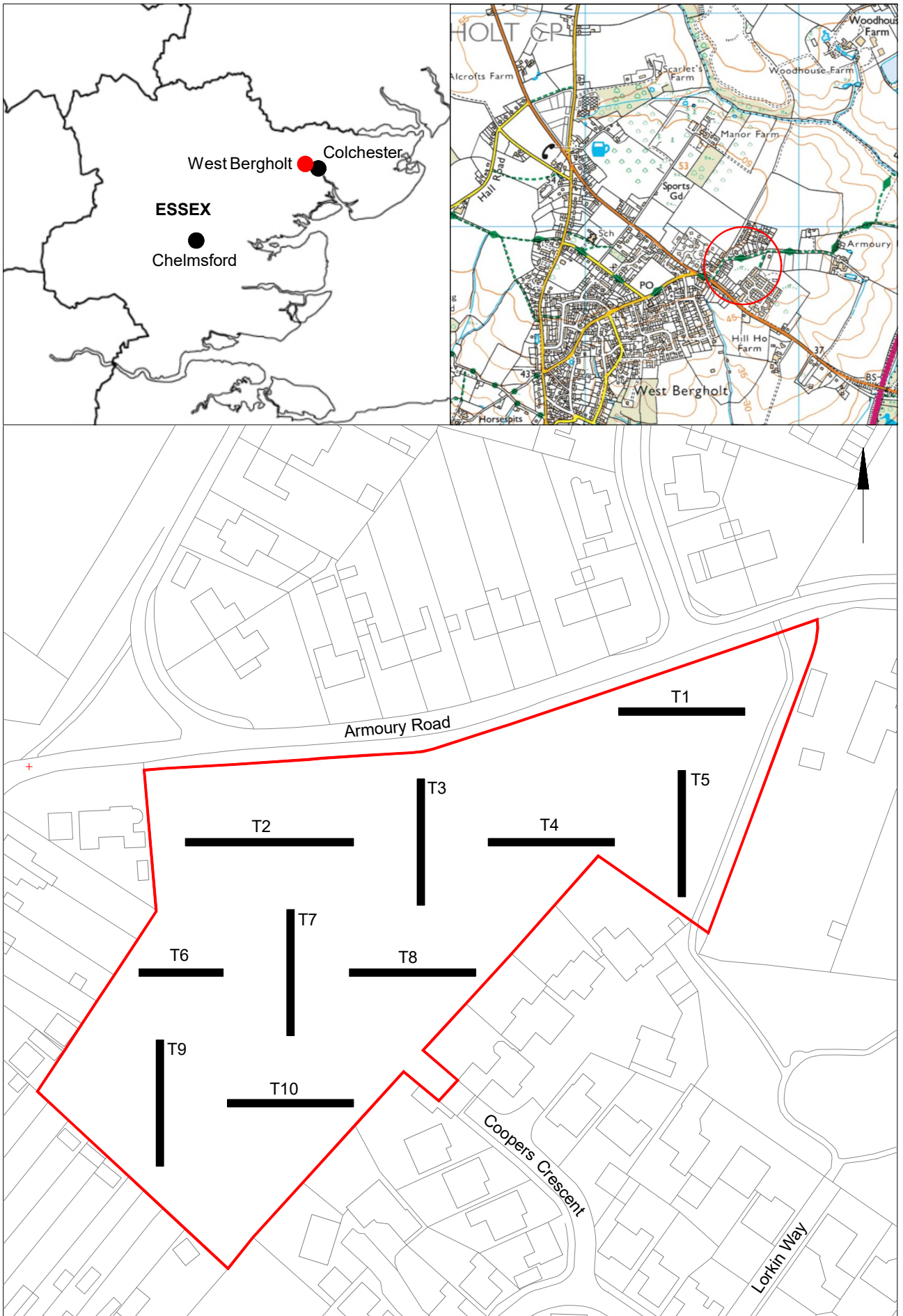
- |                               |       |  |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|
| Bartlett, A.D.H.              | 2019  | <i>Land at Colchester Road, West Bergholt, Essex. Report on Archaeological Geophysical Survey 2019.</i>  |
| Brown, D.                     | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation.</i> 2nd Edition                          |
| CAT                           | 2022  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CifA                          | 2014a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Revised Oct 2020   |
| CifA                          | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020        |
| CifA                          | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised Oct 2021   |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013  | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>   |
| Gurney, D.                    | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).                         |
| Historic England              | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S. Cole & P. Backhouse   |
| Historic England              | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>  |
| Historic England              | 2018  | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S. Mays, M. Brickley and J. Sidell                         |
| 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.  |

C Lister



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout.



# OASIS Summary for colchest3-507515

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-507515
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex, CO6 3JN: September 2024
Sitename	land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex, CO6 3JN
Sitecode	ECC4877
Project Identifier(s)	2022/05h
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	180733
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	09-Sep-2024 - 13-Sep-2024
Location	land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex, CO6 3JN NGR : TL 96750 27812 LL : 51.914072713762636, 0.859281963232928 12 Fig : 596750,227812
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : West Bergholt
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (ten trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (ten trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to Armoury Road, West Bergholt, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located within Bergholt Heath and surrounded by cropmarks, evaluation revealed three post-medieval ditches and a grubbed-out hedgerow, all probably associated with old field boundaries. Also excavated were three undated pits and a post-medieval/ modern tree-throw.
Keywords	Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation developer
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4877
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;