

Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation on land adjacent to Broad Street Green Road, Heybridge, Essex (Phase III)

November 2013



report prepared by Ben Holloway
on behalf of Granville Developments

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HET code: BSGT13
NGR: TL 8611 0905
Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code: 2013.60



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CAT Report 744
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EHER summary sheet

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1 Summary

This site lies on the northern edge of Heybridge and 800m west of the extensive area of cropmarks which includes the Lofts Farm Bronze Age enclosure excavated in 1984-5. Three evaluation trenches (total length 30m) were positioned within the footprint of two new dwellings, and along an associated access road. Archaeological features revealed included the foundations of a farm cottage demolished in the mid-1960s, as well as two small modern rubbish pits which were probably associated with the demolished cottage.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

This is the archive report on the archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on a site on the eastern side of Broad Street Green Road, Heybridge on 18th November 2013. The work was commissioned by Richard Horley of the John Finch Partnership on behalf of the Granville Developments. Post-excavation work was carried out in November and December 2013.

NGR for site centre was TL 8611 0905.

At the time of the evaluation the site was a vacant plot covered in grass and shrubs. Proposed development is two new dwellings and associated infrastructure.

3 Archaeological background

The site is adjacent to Lofts Farm, a major multi-period cropmark complex on which Maldon Archaeological Group carried out fieldwalking and selective rescue excavation prior to destruction by gravel extraction (EHER 7881-96: EHER 7909, 7928: Brown and Brown 1985). The site included evidence of Neolithic activity, an Early-Middle Bronze Age cemetery, a Late Bronze Age enclosure (excavated by Essex County Council Archaeology Section under the direction of Nigel Brown: 1988), an Iron Age enclosed settlement and field-systems, a possible Roman enclosure, and a 14-16th century moated site. The proposed development therefore had considerable potential for significant surviving archaeological remains.

This evaluation is phase 3 of series of adjacent evaluations along the eastern side of Broad Street Green Road. The previous phases I and II took place in March and July 2013 on plots to the north of the phase III plot (see CAT reports 693 and 715. To summarise phases I and II, nine evaluation trenches uncovered an undated ditch, and a number of post medieval/modern features associated with existing land boundaries.

4 Methodology

Given the potential importance of the site, Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Officer for Essex County Council Place Services advised Maldon District Council that the planning application would need to be supported by archaeological survey and assessment. This advice was based on the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to the required methodology (for three trenches within the footprints of the proposed houses and along the access road) as defined in a *Brief* written by Maria Medlycott (ECC 2013), and with a corresponding written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2013).

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the recognised national standards as defined in IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

5 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any remains and deposits likely to be disturbed by the proposed works.

6 Results (Figs 1-4)

This section gives an archaeological summary of the evaluation trenches (T1-T3), with context and finds dating information.

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. Two layers were removed: L1, a modern topsoil 250mm thick, and (sealed by L1) L2, a silt/clay accumulation horizon 150mm thick. This revealed natural boulder clay with occasional patches of gravel (L3).

There were six post-medieval/modern features. Pits F1, F2, and F6, and foundations F3, F4 and F5.

Trench 1: summary

Located on the northern part of the site, T1 contained three features. Pits F1 and F2 contained modern pottery, brick ash and clinker (none of which was retained). On the southern edge of the trench was a fragment of brick foundation F3 which is likely to be associated with a weather-boarded cottage which was demolished in the mid-1960s (information from farmer).

Trench 1 – contexts and dating

context no	type	dated finds	date
F1	pit	pottery, CBM, fe	modern
F2	pit	ash, clinker	modern
F3	brick foundation	brick	post-medieval /modern



Plate 1: Trench 1, view S



**Plate 2: Trench 2, view W:
brick footing F4 in foreground**

Trench 2: summary

Located in the centre of the site, T2 contained a brick drain F4 which runs into a ditch on the eastern edge of the site. T2 also contained significant areas of modern disturbance and the reduced depth of topsoil L1 and accumulation L2 is probably due to the demolition of the cottage which stood here, and to subsequent site levelling.

Trench 2 – contexts and dating

context no	type	dated finds	date
F4	brick drain	--	modern



Plate 3: Trench 2, typical section

Trench 3: summary

Located in the southern part of the site, T3 contained brick foundation F5 and a large modern pit (F6) containing modern building debris including slate and brick fragments probably associated with the demolition of the cottage in the mid 1960s.

Trench 3 – contexts and dating

Context no	type	dated finds	date
F5	foundation	brick	modern
F6	pit	slate, brick	modern



Plate 4: Trench 3, view S showing remains of cottage demolished in the 1960s.

7 Finds

Modern brick, slate, and pottery in the ploughsoil and pits F1 and F6, was not retained.

10 References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown Paul N, and Brown, Nigel	1985	'Great Totham, Lofts Farm', in Priddy, Deborah, 'Excavations in Essex', <i>Essex Archaeology & History</i> 16 128-9.
Brown, Nigel	1988	'A late Bronze Age Enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex', <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> 54 , 249-302
CAT	2013	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trenching at land adjacent to Broad Street Green Road, Heybridge, Essex</i> . September 2013
CAT Report 693	2013	<i>An archaeological evaluation on land at Broad Street Green Road, Heybridge, Essex, March 2013</i> . Client report prepared by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks, April 2013
CAT Report 715	2013	<i>An archaeological evaluation on land to the north-west of Lofts Farm (Phase II), Broad Street Green Road, Great Totham, Essex, July 2013</i> . Client report prepared by Adam Wightman, July 2013
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> , Department for Communities and Local Government
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECC	2013	<i>Archaeological Investigation. Land at Broad Street Green Road, Heybridge (MAL/00818/12)</i> February 2013.
ECC	2013	<i>Archaeological Investigation at Broad Street Green Heybridge</i> . Essex County Council Brief by Maria Medlycott
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

11 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, etc)
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
fe	iron
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
Iron Age	from around 700 BC to the Roman invasion of AD 43
modern	from 1800 to nowadays
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from around 1530 to 1800 AD
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
Neolithic	from around 4500 to 2500 BC
Bronze Age	from around 2500 – 700 BC

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum (accession COLEM 2013.60).

13 Contents of archive

Finds: none

Paper record: One A4 wallet containing

Copy of this report

ECC Brief

CAT WSI

Original site record (feature, layer, trench and finds sheets)

Section drawings

Sundries

Photo log and photos on CD

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Distribution list:

Granville Developments
Maria Medlycott Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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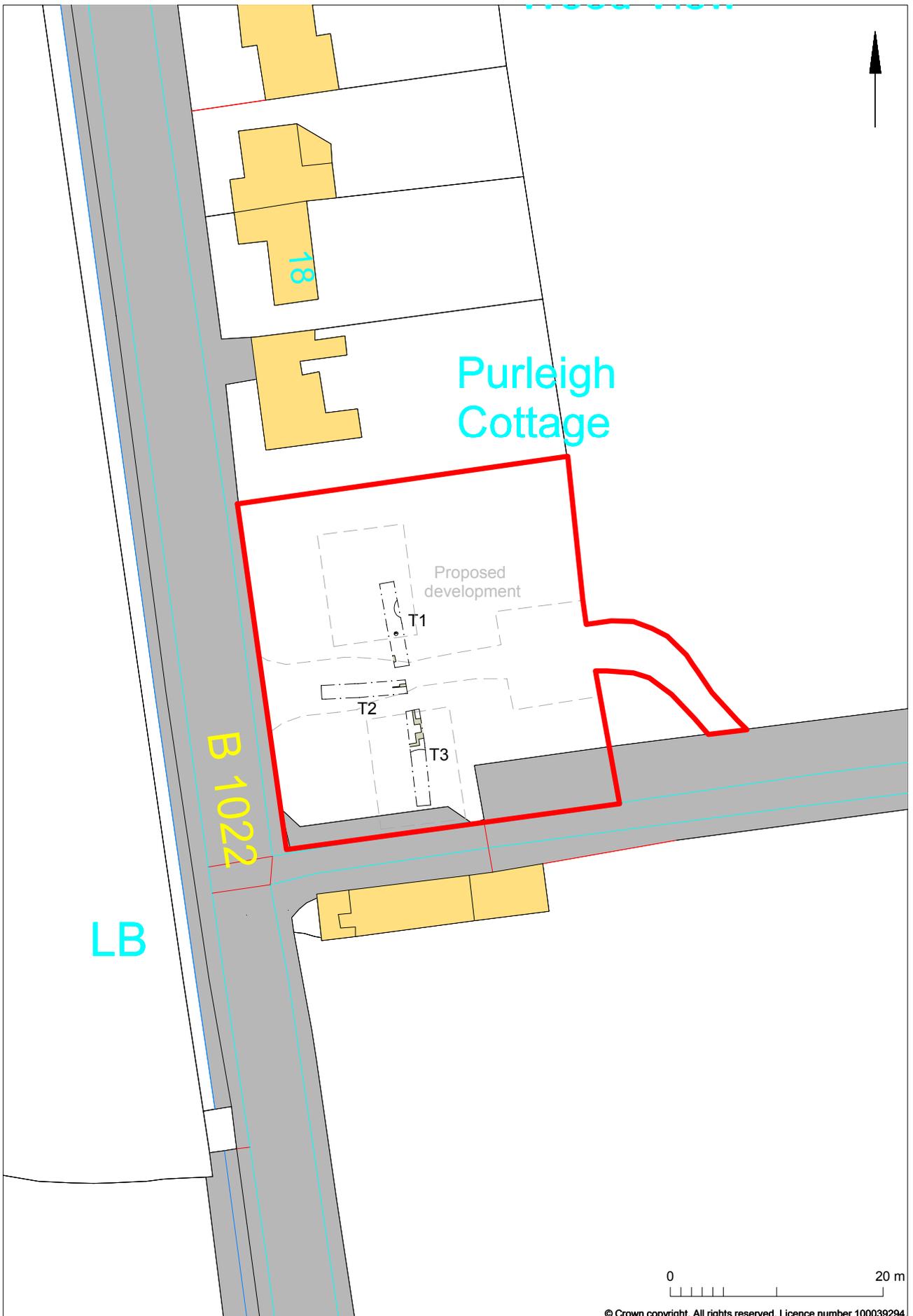
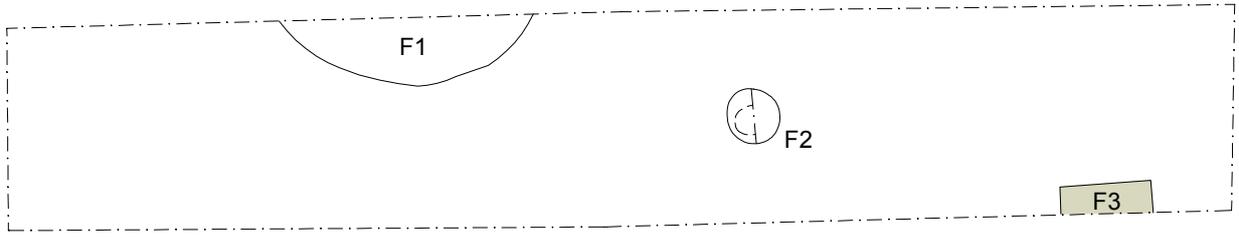
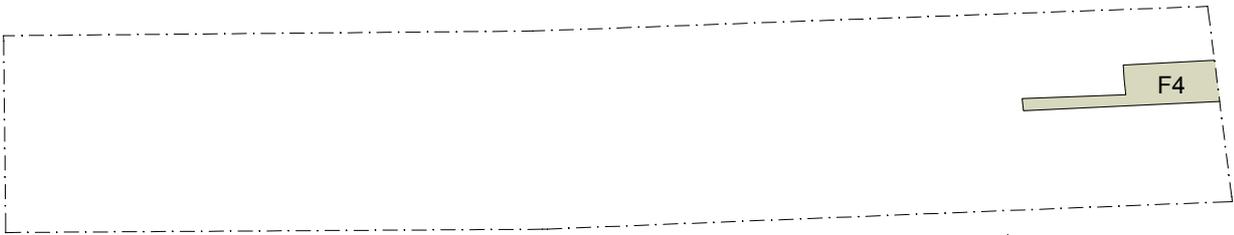


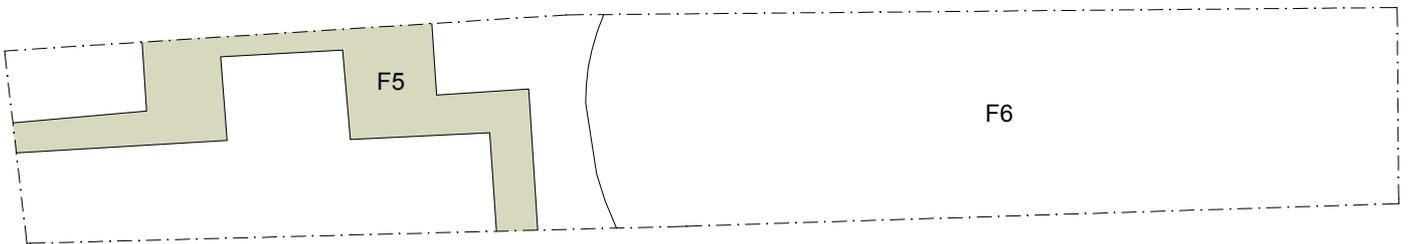
Fig 1 Evaluation results. Proposed development indicated by grey dashed lines.



Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



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Fig 2 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 detailed plans.

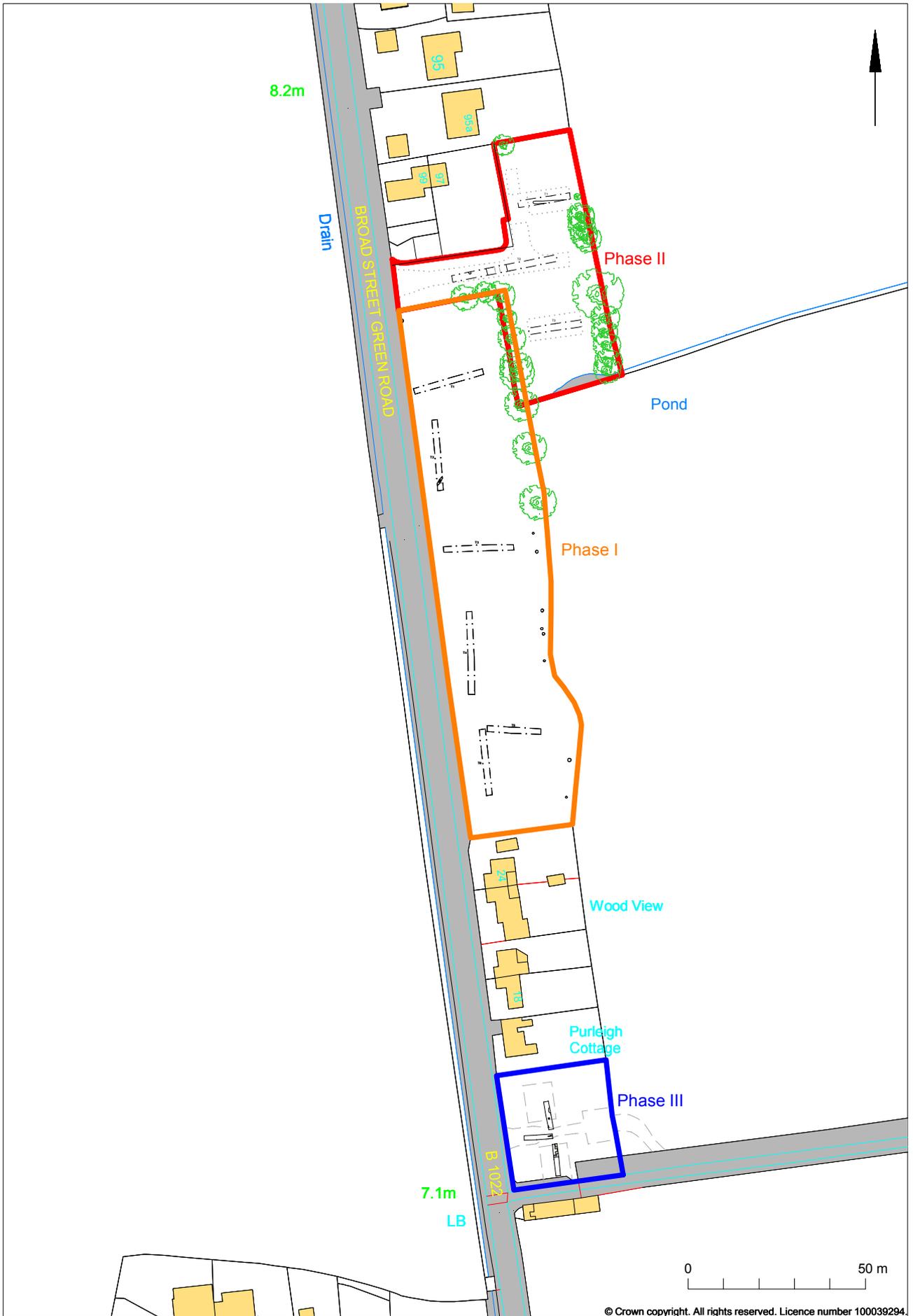


Fig 3 All three phases of the Broad Street Green evaluation.

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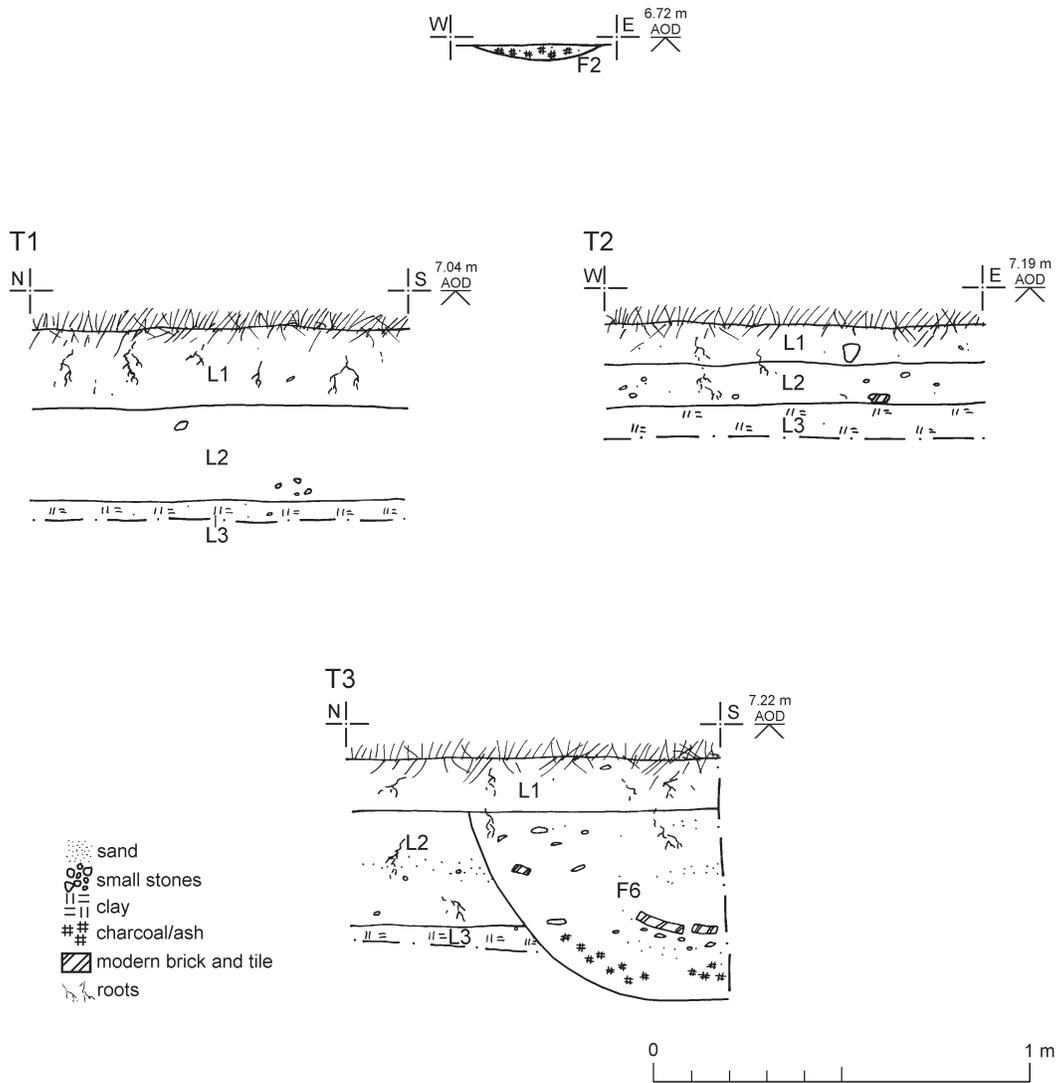


Fig 4 Pit section (F2) and representative trench sections (T1-T3)

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Broad Street Green, Heybridge, Essex (Phase III)	
Parish: Heybridge	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 8611 0905	Site code: CAT project code – 13/08g HET Code – BGST13
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 11th November 2013	Size of area investigated: total of 30m of trenches
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museum (accession 2013.60)	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 7881-96, 7909, 7928
Final report: CAT Report 744 and summary in EAH	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <p>This site lies on the northern edge of Heybridge and 800m west of the extensive area of cropmarks which includes the Lofts Farm Bronze Age enclosure excavated in 1984-5. Three evaluation trenches (total length 30m) were positioned within the footprint of two new dwellings, and along an associated access road. Archaeological features revealed included the foundations of a farm cottage demolished in the mid 1960s, as well as two small modern rubbish pits which were probably associated with the demolished cottage.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 693, 715	
ECC Monitor: M Medlycott	
Keywords: --	Significance: neg
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: December 2013