

Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Essex

July 2015



report prepared by Ben Holloway

on behalf of New Hall School

Planning reference: 14/01846/FUL

CAT project ref.: 15/04i

HER project code: BONH15

NGR: TL 7386 0958

Chelmsford Museum accession code: pending

OASIS: colchest3-214033



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CAT Report 851

July 2015

1 Summary

The site is an easement for a new access road across arable land south of New Hall School and north west of the A12 Boreham Interchange.

Four 15m-long trenches positioned within the easement revealed no archaeological features or finds. There was no evidence for the continuation of the prehistoric landscape excavated to the south of the Interchange (and 600m south of this site) in 1993.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological trial-trenching evaluation commissioned by Nigel Floyd on behalf of New Hall School Trust, and carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 1st July 2015. Although the school address is 'The Avenue', the new road line will link Generals Lane with White Hart Lane.

At the time of the evaluation, the site was an arable field, an 'L-shaped' easement 500m in length, centred at NGR TL 7386 0958. Proposed work is the construction of a new access road to the school.

ECC Place Services (ECCPS) was consulted by Chelmsford City Council in November 2014 (14/01846/FUL). In response to consultation, ECCPS made the following recommendation to the LPA in line with advice given in *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012):

" L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work."

A brief detailing the required archaeological work (an evaluation by trial-trenching) was written by Place Services officer Alison Bennett (ECC 2015).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT in response to the Place Services brief and agreed with the Place Services officer (CAT 2015).

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeology's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b). The guidance contained in *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development lies in an area which contains known archaeological remains. To the north and west are cropmarks of undated and prehistoric enclosures and other features (EHER 5763, 5796). The Boreham to Springfield Link Main crossed this area just to the north of the proposed access road, and revealed three undated ditches. Along the line of this link main Early Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flints were found (EHER 47632). To the west and south-west of the school, recent excavations prior to the Countryside Zest development have revealed archaeological features contemporary with New Hall, and remains of Iron Age settlement (EHER 47635).

4 Aim

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

5 Results of the evaluation (Figs 1-2)

This section gives an archaeological summary of the evaluation trenches (T1-4), with context and finds dating information.

The evaluation trenches (T1-4) were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. The removal of modern ploughsoil (L1) revealed natural clean yellow/grey clay (L2).

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed, nor were there any finds. Some minor modern disturbance in the form of plough-scarring was visible across the site. Modern plastic and brick in ploughsoil L1 was not retained.

6 Finds

Fragments of modern brick and plastic fragments were seen in the ploughsoil and compressed into L2 by the action of ploughing. None were collected.

7 Discussion

No archaeological features or finds were revealed by this evaluation. The excavated sequence of ploughsoil over natural clay is consistent with long term agricultural use of this land. There was no evidence of prehistoric activity of the type excavated 600m to the south on the Boreham Interchange site in 1993.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks New Hall School Trust for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, and fieldwork was carried out by BH and Emma Holloway. Site plans are by Mark Baister, and sections by EH. The project was monitored for ECC Place Services by Alison Bennett.

9 References

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

CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation and excavation at New Hall School, The Avenue Boreham, Essex.</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Dept of Communities and Local Government).
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney</i>
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott</i>
ECC	2015	<i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham.</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from <i>circa</i> 2,500 - 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	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'
Iron Age	period from <i>circa</i> 700 BC to the Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to <i>circa</i> AD1500/1530
modern	period from <i>c</i> AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from <i>circa</i> 4,500 BC to 2,500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to <i>c</i> AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context - a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Archive deposition

The paper and 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code: pending (requested 8/7/15).

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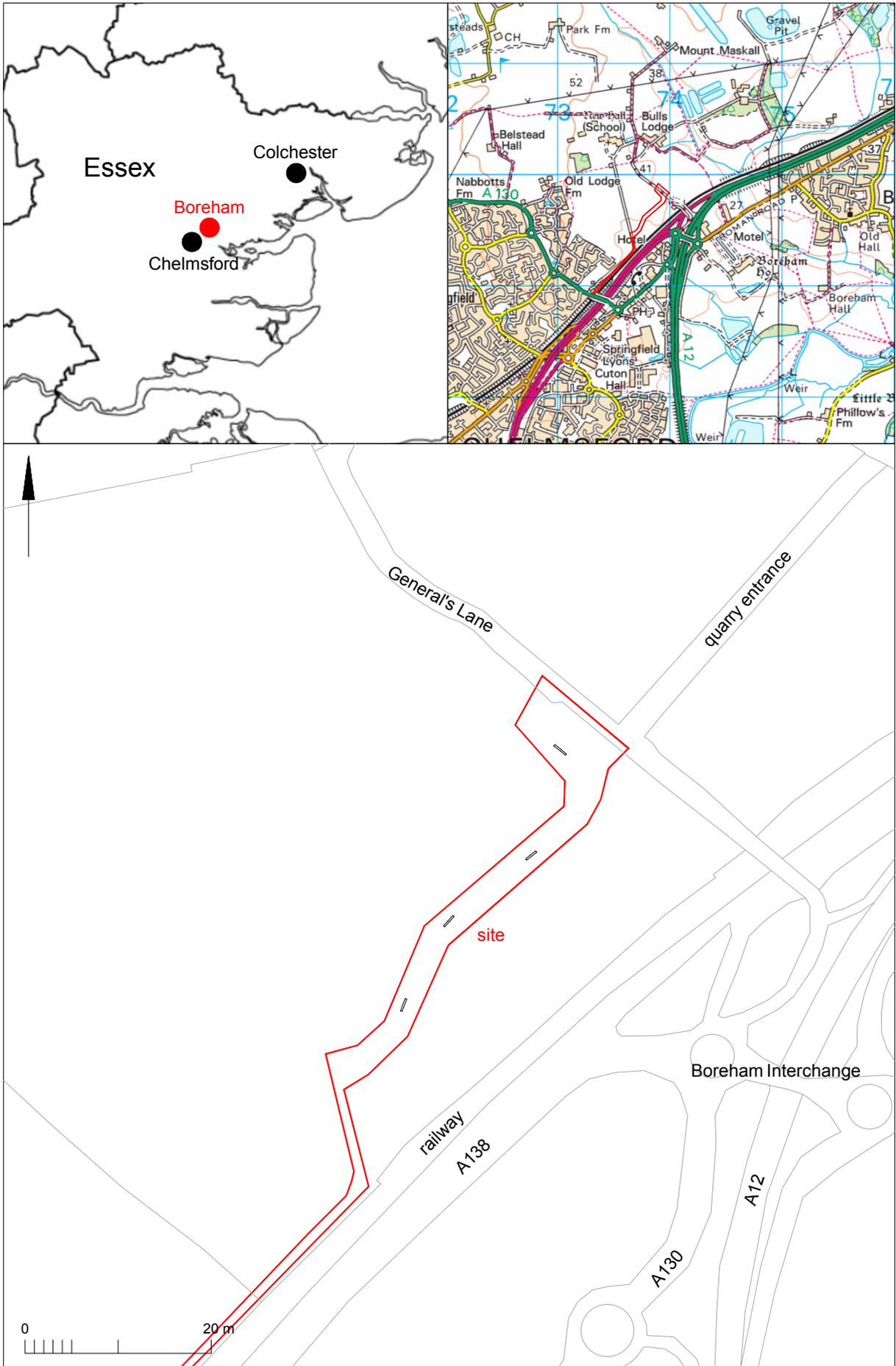
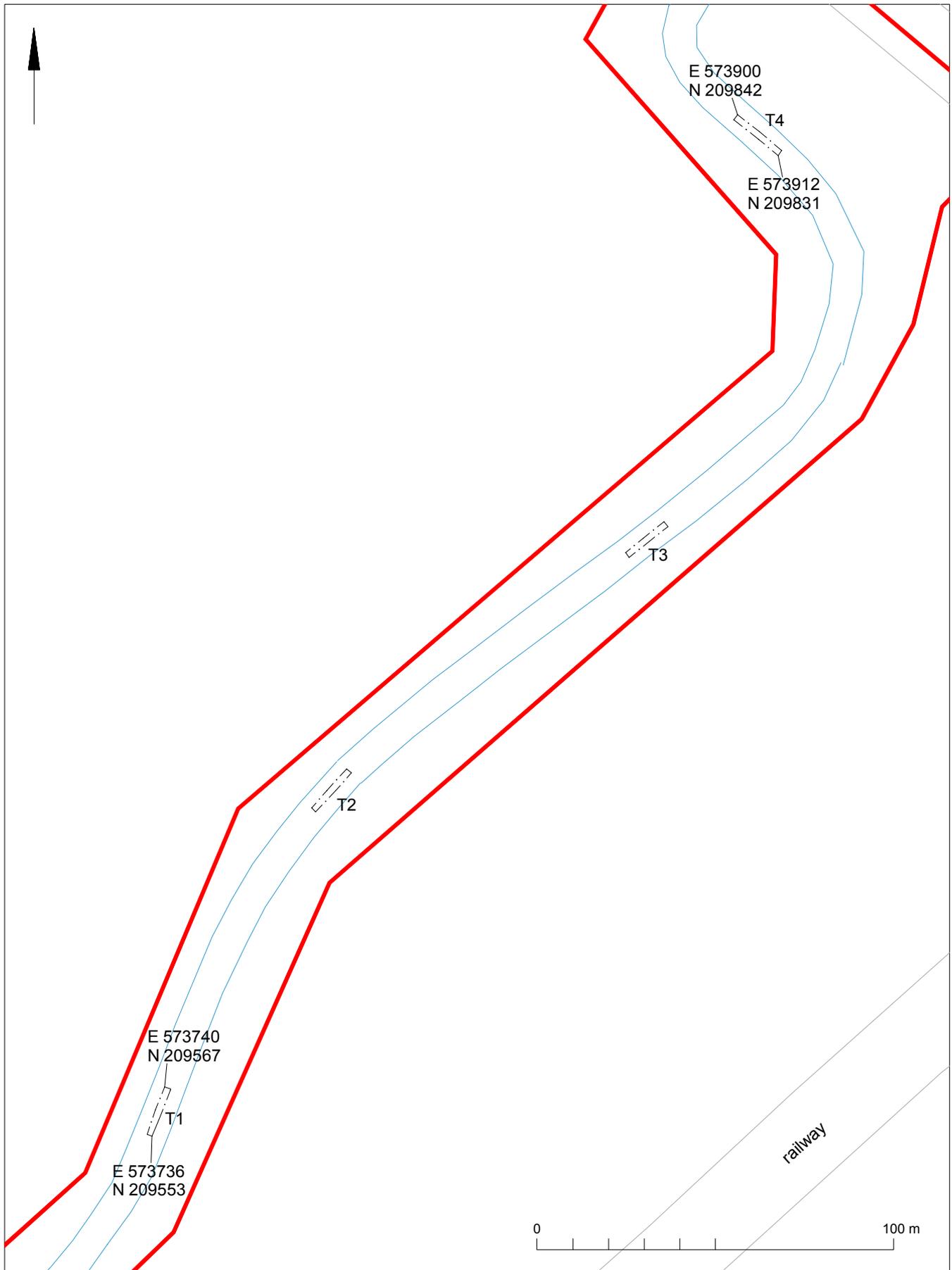


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results, proposed road shown in blue.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Essex	
Parish: Boreham	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 7386 0958	Site code: CAT project code – 15/04i HEM code - BONH15
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 1st July 2015	Size of area investigated: 60m (linear)
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford museum accession code : pending (requested 8/7/15)	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER number: EHER 5763, 5796, 47632, 47635,
Final report: CAT Report 851	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>The site is an easement for a new access road across arable land south of New Hall School and north west of the A12 Boreham Interchange. Four 15m-long trenches positioned within the easement revealed no archaeological features or finds. There was no evidence for the continuation of the prehistoric landscape excavated to the south of the Interchange (and 600m south of this site) in 1993.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
ECC monitor: Alison Bennett	
Keywords:	Significance: n/a
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: July 2015