

An Archaeological Evaluation at Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex

August 2015



**by Pip Parmenter and Ben Holloway
on behalf of Mr G Elmer and Mrs L King**

CAT project ref.: 15/06a
NGR: TL 50446 42806
Saffron Walden Museum accession code: 2015.52



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CAT Report 864
September 2015

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of a dwelling, garage and outbuildings on land to the north-east of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford. One modern pit containing 19th/20th-century glass and pottery, and one natural feature were encountered during the evaluation. Neither is of any archaeological significance.

2 Introduction (Figs 1 - 2)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation on land to the north-east of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford. The work was commissioned by Mr G Elmer and Mrs L King in advance of the construction of a dwelling and associated garage and outbuildings. The work was carried out on 13th August 2015 and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Historic England and Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development site lies on the southern edge of the 4th-century walled Roman town of Great Chesterford – a scheduled ancient monument (SM24871). The Roman town wall ran parallel to the present Newmarket Road beneath the present Granta Cottages and directly through the development site. Most of the development site is to the south of the scheduled area but, given its close proximity, it is accorded the same significance as the remainder of the scheduled town (EHER 4915). Archaeological evaluations previously undertaken at 3 and 4 Granta Cottages both found evidence of masonry walls. At 3 Granta Cottages the main town wall was discovered to run directly beneath the property and at 4 Granta Cottages these masonry walls are thought to represent a structure inside the walled town area rather than the town wall itself (EHER 48223).

Roman coffins and further evidence of masonry walling have been found on the southern side of Newmarket Road (EHER 4941). It is thought that the masonry structures were not part of the town wall, but rather represent a secondary enclosure within the boundary of the walled town and in the vicinity of the existing church (EHER 13922).

Further information on the development of the town can be found in the Historic Town Survey (Medlycott 1999) and East Anglian Archaeology Report 137 on Great Chesterford (Medlycott 2011).

4 Results

Four evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. Trench 1 was located in the south-east of the development site, Trench 2 was located centrally within the site, and Trenches 3 and 4 were located near the southern and northern edges of the site respectively. Trench 4 was the only trench to be located within the bounds of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman town.

Three layers were identified during the evaluation; a modern topsoil 300mm thick (L1), which, in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, sealed a natural geological boulder clay horizon (L2). In Trench 4 a buried topsoil (L3), was identified between the modern topsoil (L1) and natural geological horizon (L2). Two features were identified in the evaluation trenches; a single natural feature (F1) in Trench 1 and in Trench 2, a pit (F2) containing a deposit of modern bottles glass and pottery, likely associated with the nearby Granta Cottages.

5 Finds

By Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of modern (19th/20th-century) finds were recovered from pit F2. They are listed and described in Table 1. The pottery fabrics refer to Colchester Archaeological Report 7 (CAR 7). None of the finds are considered to be of any archaeological significance.

Find Type	Fabric	No	Wt/g	Form/ description	Period	Spot date
pottery	English stoneware (CAR 7, Fabric 45M)	1	110	top of an ink bottle with pouring spout	modern	19C
pottery	Staffordshire-type white earthenware (CAR 7, Fabric 48D)	2	245	part of a plate & one other sherd probably from a bowl	modern	19-E20C
wine bottle	light brown glass	1	650	complete (H & A Gilly LTD moulded on sie of bottle)	modern	L19-E20C
bottle	clear glass, flat sides	1	154	complete	modern	L19-E20C
paste jar	clear glass, ribbed	1	142	complete	modern	L19-E20C
small jar	green glass	1	112	complete, screw top	modern	L19-E20C

Table 1: Finds Concordance

6 Discussion

The evaluation carried out at land north-east of Granta Cottages produced no significant archaeological material. The only features that were identified in were two pits, one natural (F1) and one modern in origin (F2). Three layers were observed during the evaluation; a modern topsoil (L1) which, in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, directly sealed the natural geological horizon (L2). In Trench 4, a buried topsoil (L3) was visible between the modern topsoil (L1) and natural geological horizon (L2).

7 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Mr G Elmer and Mrs L King for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway and carried out by B Holloway and E Sandford. Site plans were prepared by Chris Lister and Mark Baister.

The project was monitored for the ECCPS by Ricahrd Havis and for Historic England by Sarah Poppy.

8 References

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

CAR 7	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971 – 85. By John Cotter.</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at Land north-east of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Dept of Communities and Local Government.</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14. Ed. 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>
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Land north-east of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (English Heritage)</i>
Medlycott, M	1998	<i>Great Chesterford: Historic Towns Project Assessment Report. Essex County Council Planning: Archaeology Section.</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>The Roman Town at Great Chesterford. East Anglian Archaeology Report 137. Essex County Council: Chelmsford</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII

modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g. a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 864)
ECCPS Evaluation Brief
CAT Written Scheme of Investigation
Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record)
Site digital photographic log
Architectural Plans
Attendance register
Trench record sheet
Finds register
Original Plans
Risk assessment

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code: 2015.52.

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Distribution list

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Richard Havis, Essex Historic Environment Record
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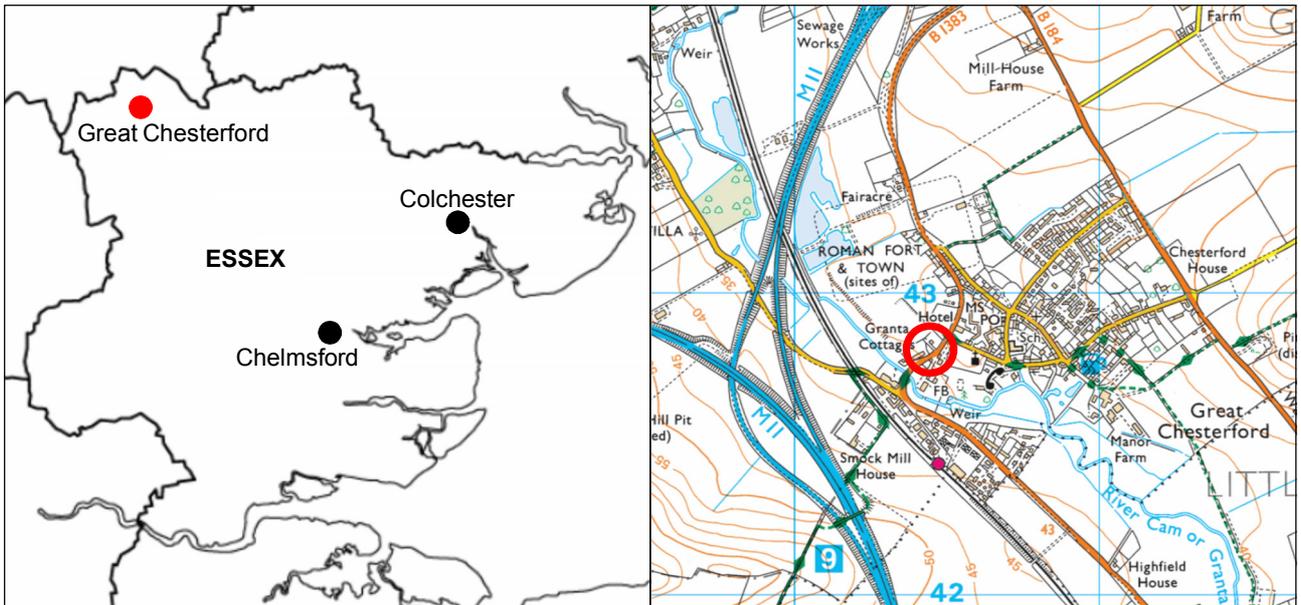
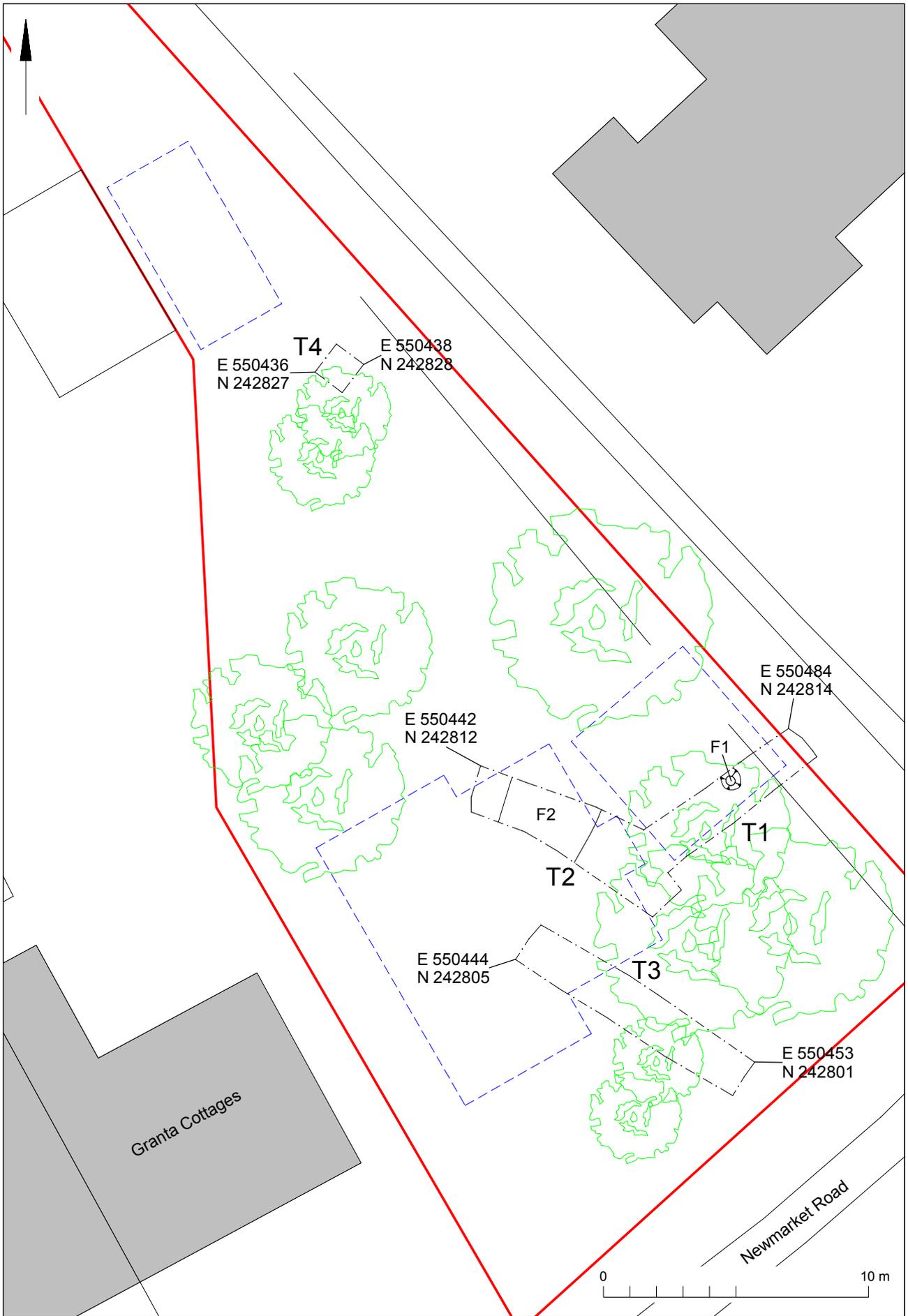


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results. Proposed development shown in blue.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Land north-east of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford	
Parish: Great Chesterford	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 50446 42806	Site code: CAT project code – 15/06a Museum Accession – 2015.52
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 13th August 2015	Size of area investigated: Eval: 30m (linear)
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden accession code : 2015.52	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related SMR/EHER number: SM24871 EHER 4915 EHER 48223 EHER 4941 EHER 13922
Final report: CAT Report 864	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the construction of a dwelling, garage and outbuildings on land to the north-east of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford. One modern pit containing 19th/20th-century glass and pottery, and one natural feature were encountered during the evaluation. Neither is of any archaeological significance.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: --	
Keywords: --	Significance: *
Author of summary: Pip Parmenter	Date of summary: September 2015