

Archaeological evaluation at the new Innovation Centre, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ

February 2016



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1 Summary

An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out at the University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester in advance of the construction of an Innovation Centre with associated infrastructure. The site was located in a field to the south-east of the junction between Boundary Road and Nesfield Road. This site had not previously been investigated but archaeological work in and around the University has revealed Bronze Age barrows, a Roman road, burials and domestic activity, and medieval pottery scatters.

A cluster of medieval features, layers and finds were identified in evaluation trenches T1-T3 and T7. Ditches, pits, post-holes and patches of charcoal/burnt daub may all be associated with domestic/light industrial activity on the site. No significant archaeological horizons were identified in any of the other trenches (T4-T6 and T8-T14), aside from one field boundary ditch (T10) and two undated pits (T9 and T13).

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 8-12th February 2016. The work was commissioned by Simon Kerr of Faithful and Gould, on behalf of University of Essex, in advance of the construction of an innovation centre with associated infrastructure, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper 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 Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

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 watching brief* (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 draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

This development site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, although it has not been the subject of any previous systematic archaeological investigation. It is situated in a topographically favourable location for early occupation of all periods, overlooking the floodplain of the River Colne, and at the confluence with Salary Brook.

There is no record of any archaeological artefacts having been discovered on the development site. However, the EHER does record a presumed Roman road (EHER

2534) to the north of the development site and a prehistoric barrow cemetery (EHER 2413) to the west. A field evaluation across the area of the barrows (FAU 2004) confirmed that the four mounds and ring-ditches situated adjacent to the railway line and Salary Brook were man-made and artefacts recovered indicated a late Iron Age or Roman date. However, it was thought that this material may be the product of later use of an existing Bronze Age monument. The rest of the evaluation revealed little of interest.

A watching brief in 2010-2011 (CAT Report 638) on infrastructure works immediately to the north of the development site revealed evidence of Late Iron Age/Roman activity, which included burials as well as identifying a dense spread of medieval pottery sherds dating to the 13th-14th century.

A watching brief at 'The Meadows' in 2012, located to the west of the development site (CAT Report 678), identified nineteen Late Iron Age/Roman features including ditches, pits, post-holes and a probable inhumation.

A watching brief in 2013 during the groundworks for the new Parkside Office Development revealed no archaeological features and sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery (CAT Report 753).

An ongoing watching brief (started 2015) also during groundworks for the new Parkside Development has so far revealed one Roman pit (CAT Report pending).

See CAT Report 856 for a further detailed study of the area (*A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Project Area 2a, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester*)

4 Results (Figs 2-5)

Fourteen trial-trenches were excavated across the development site (T1-T14). They were all excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 180-200mm thick), post-medieval subsoil (L2, c 120-170m thick) and onto natural clay with occasional sand and gravel patches (L5).

Trench 1 (T1), 22m long by 1.8m wide

A medieval pit (F10) and ditch (F11) aligned NW to SE were excavated.



Photograph 1 T1, F11, looking NW



Photograph 2 T2, F3, looking W

Trench 2 (T2), 25m long by 1.8m wide

Nine medieval features were excavated in the northwest end of T2 along with a natural feature in the centre of the trench (F17/L6). The features included a ditch (F1) cut by a later land drain. A pit (F2) was probably associated with a cluster of four post-holes (F3, F4, F5 and F16). Three of the post-holes were set into pit F2 with the last located slightly further to the northeast. Finds recorded from these features included pottery and fired clay with wattle impressions. At the bottom of post-hole F3 was a pottery base used as a post-pad. These features are possibly structural.

Three features in the centre of the trench were identified as a pit (F12), shallow linear (F13) and shallow cut/depression (F14, containing burnt layer L3 sealing clay layer L4). It was difficult to distinguish the edges and full extent of the features within the evaluation trench.



Photograph 3 T2, F2-F5, looking SW



Photograph 4 T2, F12-F14 & L1-L4, looking W

Trench 3 (T3), 25m long by 1.8m wide

A single modern land drain was identified and a spread of medieval pottery and tile excavated (F15).

Trench 4 (T4), 20m long by 1.8m wide

A single modern land drain was identified.

Trench 5 (T5), 20m long by 1.8m wide

A single modern land drain was identified.

Trench 6 (T6), 18m long by 1.8m wide

A single modern land drain was identified.

Trench 7 (T7), 50m long by 1.8m wide

A single medieval ditch (F9) aligned east to west was excavated. It was probably associated with the medieval activity in T1-T2.



Photograph 5 T7, F9, looking W



Photograph 6 T9, F6, looking S

Trench 8 (T8), 50m long by 1.8m wide

A single modern land drain was identified.

Trench 9 (T9), 50m long by 1.8m wide

A single undated pit (F6) was excavated. It had a charcoal rich fill and was possibly agricultural in origin.

Trench 10 (T10), 50m long by 1.8m wide

A single irregular linear feature was excavated (F8). It contained fragments of clay pipe and peg-tile (not retained) and was possibly a modern wheel-rut from previous drainage work on the site.

Trench 11 (T11), 30m long by 1.8m wide

Four modern land drains were identified.



Photograph 7 T10, F8, looking NE **Photograph 8** T13, F7, looking S

Trench 12 (T12), 50m long by 1.8m wide

A spread of modern disturbance was identified along the western half of the trench. It was probably associated with a nearby water main.

Trench 13 (T13), 50m long by 1.8m wide

A single undated pit (F7) was excavated. It had a charcoal rich fill similar to pit F6, and was also possibly agricultural in origin.

Trench 14 (T14), 30m long by 1.8m wide

No features or finds were identified.

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Bulk finds of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and fired clay were recovered from a range of feature types located in several evaluation trenches. The closely dated pottery and CBM are consistent with a medieval assemblage dating to L12/13-14C. The types of finds and quantity recovered are listed in Table 1. All of the finds are listed and described in Appendix 1.

Find type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	57	584
CBM	23	2591
Fired clay	89	1401
Heat affected (burnt) stone	1	40

Table 1 Types and quantities of finds recovered

Pottery

The pottery was recorded using the Colchester post-Roman fabric series (CAR 7). The pottery is listed by fabric in Table 2.

Fabric	Fabric code	No.	Wt/g.
Medieval greywares	20	50	560
Colchester ware	21A	5	15

Fabric	Fabric code	No.	Wt/g.
Hedingham ware	22	1	4
Other (medieval)	20/21	1	5
<i>Total</i>		<i>57</i>	<i>585</i>

Table 2 Pottery by fabric

Medieval pottery was recovered from a range of features (ditches, hollows/depressions, pits and a post-hole) located in four trenches (T1, T2, T3 & T7). Small groups of pottery (between 11 & 13 sherds) were located in pit F10 (T1), hollow/depression F14 (T2) and post-hole F3 (T2). The assemblage consists mostly of medieval greyware (Fabric 20) dating to the period of the late 12th/13th-14th century. Rims and body sherds indicate that most of this is from cooking pots with one rim sherd from a bowl form. There are a small number of glazed sherds, probably from jugs, in Colchester ware (Fabric 21A) and a micaceous sherd that can be identified as Hedingham ware (Fabric 22), all dating the period of the late 12th-13th century. That some of the pottery has been used, presumably in a domestic setting, is indicated by a black vitreous sooting on the exterior of one sherd from the depression F14 (T2). Some of the greyware sherds from post-hole F3 (T2) appear possibly to be scorched by heat, although it may be possible that soil conditions could have affected the surfaces of this pot. A few sherds from pit F10 (T1) have hard lumps of mineralised sandy soil adhering to them that might indicate the presence of cess material in the fill.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There are two pieces of CBM from ditch F1 (T2) that appear to be typical of Roman brick/tile and are dated as Roman. Otherwise the CBM consists of pieces of peg-tile and pieces of large flat brick/tile of post-Roman date. Most of the peg-tiles come from ditch F1 (T2) and from finds spread F15 in T3. Of themselves, the peg-tiles are not closely dated within broad range of medieval-post-medieval, but are clearly associated with the medieval activity here. The pieces of large, flat brick/tile are of interest. These come from ditch F1 (T2) and from finds spread F15 in T3. In general the pieces have a smooth upper surface and a relatively smooth base, with vertical sides and sharp or slightly rounded edges. The largest surviving piece (F15) measures 16 mm x 14 mm and is 27 mm thick; although some pieces (F1) are up to 35 mm thick. These can be probably be classified as medieval 'great bricks' dating to the period of the 12th-14th century (Ryan 1996, 22-31) and while relatively thin in comparison to some 'great bricks' they can be compared to 'great bricks' at Pleshey (Essex), which are c 30 mm thick (Ryan 1996, 30). It can be noted that medieval 'great bricks' are present at the Church of St Anne & St Lawrence, at nearby Elmstead, built into one of the walls there though to date to c AD 1310 (Ryan 1996, 31). Pieces of 'great bricks' were also recovered from an archaeological evaluation on land north of Elmstead Road (CAT Report 759). There is variation in fabrics of the medieval CBM recovered but, visible white quartz sand is common in some of the peg-tiles and the 'great bricks' suggesting that they may share a common source.

Fired clay

There is a significant quantity of fired clay (89 pieces weighing 1401 g). A proportion of the pieces among the assemblage are relatively small, abraded/rounded and non-diagnostic. However, a large proportion is of similar appearance having a moderately hard, sandy fabric with orange or brown margins and a dark-grey interior. All of this was located in three features in Trench 2; these being two post-holes (F3 & F16) and a pit (F2). Among the fired clay from F2 are pieces that preserve pairs of round wattle voids with diameters of 14/15 mm-20 mm, both running in one direction, but set at an angle to each other indicating woven wattles. They are separated from each other by between 4 mm-10 mm. The layer of clay over the wattles is about 20 mm-30 mm thick with a flat exterior surface. While there are no wattle voids noted in the pieces from F3 & F16 the fired clay is sufficiently similar in appearance to indicate that, together with that from F2, they are probably all part of one structure. The wattle voids and flat surfaces suggest this material is from a wattle panel(s) that had been exposed to significant heat or that was part of a structure that was burnt.

Miscellaneous

The only other find recovered is a piece of heat altered (burnt) flint from post-hole F5 (T2). This is the only find associated with this feature and of itself is not closely datable

6 Environmental assessment

by Val Fryer, Environmental Archaeologist

Introduction and method statement

Excavations at the University of Essex, undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust, recorded a number of features of probable medieval date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit and post-hole fills and from an accumulation of charred material, with a control sample being taken from the underlying natural. Ten samples were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots were present throughout.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

Cereals and seeds are present at a low to moderate density within all but two assemblages. Preservation is generally poor, with a large proportion of the cereals being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. In addition, many of the ecofacts are heavily coated with concreted silt and grits, which have almost certainly precluded full retrieval of materials from the samples and have also hindered identification in some instances.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded along with a number of cereals which are too poorly preserved for close identification. Chaff is all but absent, with only one rye rachis node noted within the assemblage from deposit L3 (sample 6). Weed seeds are also exceedingly scarce. However, poorly preserved specimens of corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), brome (*Bromus* sp.) and indeterminate small legumes (Fabaceae) are noted within four of the assemblage studied. Charcoal/charred wood fragments (including a number of larger pieces >10mm in size) are present throughout and are predominant within most assemblages. Other plant macrofossils include fragments of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) pinnule and stem, indeterminate buds and rose (*Rosa* sp.) type thorns/prickles.

Other remains are relatively scarce. The black porous and tarry residues are all thought to be derived from the high temperature combustion of organic remains including the cereal grains. Small pieces of red/orange burnt clay/soil are also noted along with fragments of coal. A single piece of an open-textured burnt organic concretion with small seed-shaped voids is noted within the assemblage from pit F13 (sample 8). The exact nature of this material is unknown, but it is thought most likely to be either a burnt foodstuff or charred dung.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although charred plant remains are present within most samples, preservation is generally very poor and it is thought most likely that the surviving materials are in no way an accurate reflection of the original pre-combustion assemblages. The predominance of cereals may suggest that the remains are largely

derived from some form of cereal processing (e.g. grain drying), but this hypothesis is far from certain. The material could equally be domestic in origin (i.e. hearth/oven waste), although evidence for such high temperatures of combustion are rarely seen within such a context. Whatever the origin of the materials, it would appear most likely that the assemblages are largely derived from scattered detritus, much of which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. The only possible exception to this is context L3, which may represent a small midden or dump.

As the assemblages are quite limited in composition, and as the materials are generally so poorly preserved, it is difficult to make recommendations for a future sampling strategy should further interventions be planned. However, in the hope that data from additional samples may provide corroborative evidence for the activities that were being undertaken within the near vicinity during the medieval period, it is suggested that if further excavations are undertaken, samples of 20 – 40 litres in volume should be taken from all well-sealed and dated contexts recorded during excavation.

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens
xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare fg = fragment ph = post-hole

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Finds No.	6	7	8	10	11	15	17	20	22	27
Context No.	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	L3	L4	F13	F12	F17
Context type	ph	ph	ph	Pit	Pit	Deposit	Pit	Pit	Pit	Natural
Cereals										
Avena sp. (grains)	x	x					x			
Secale cereale L. (grains)	xcf	x	x						xcf	
(rachis node)						x				
Triticum sp. (grains)		x	x				x	xcf	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	xx	x			xfg	x	x	xx	x
Herbs										
Agrostemma githago L.		x								
Bromus sp.	x						xcf	x		
Fabaceae indet.	xcf	x								
Other plant macrofossils										
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x	xxxx	xxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm		xx	x	xx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xx	xx	x
Charcoal >10mm		x	x	x	xx	xxxx		x	x	x
Charred root/stem		x	x			xx	x	x		
Pteridium aquilinum (L.)Kuhn (pinnule and stem frags.)			x							
Indet. buds			x						x	x
Indet. seeds	x							x		
Indet. thorns (Rosa type)						x				

Other remains										
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material							x		x	
Burnt/fired clay				x	x	x			x	
Burnt organic concretions								x		
Small coal frags.		x	x	x			x	x		x
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10	10	10	30	30	30	30	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	<0.1	0.2	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	12.50%	100%	100%	50%	100%

Table 3 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

7 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation on the site of the new innovation centre revealed a cluster of medieval features, layers and finds focused around trenches T1-T3 and T7. Ditches, pits, post-holes and patches of charcoal/burnt daub are all possibly associated with domestic/light industrial activity. The medieval pottery identified further to the north during the Parkside Office Development (CAT Report 638, 753) is probably related to this group.

No archaeological features were identified to the south of this cluster (T4-T6 and T8) with only one field boundary ditch (T10) and two undated pits (T9 and T13) identified in trenches further to the south-west (T8-T14). There is no evidence to suggest that the Roman features and finds identified across Boundary Road to the south-west (CAT Report 638, 678) continue into the development site.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Simon Kerr for commissioning the project and University of Essex for funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by Ben Holloway, R Mathieson, A Wade and E Holloway. Figures were prepared by M Baister and EH. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

9 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</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ</i>
CAT Report 638	2012	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Knowledge Gateway, the University of Essex, Colchester, Essex: September 2010-August 2011.</i>
CAT Report 678	2013	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 'The Meadows', University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex: July-September 2012</i>
CAT Report 753	2014	<i>Archaeological monitoring at the University of Essex Parkside Office Development, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex (Phase 1): September 2013</i>
CAT Report 759	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching on land north of Elmstead Road, Colchester, Essex: February 2014</i>
CAT Report 856	2015	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Project Area 2a, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester</i>
CBC	2015	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at University of Essex,</i>

		<i>Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ, by J Tipper</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECC FAU	2004	<i>Land adjacent to Elmstead Road and Boundary Road, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, archaeological evaluation, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit Report, by T Ennis. Report 1328</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex, from the Roman conquest to the Reformation</i>
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press.</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
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 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 AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: Half a box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 918)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

12 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2016.9.

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Distribution list

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Appendix 1 Finds catalogue

HAS=heat altered (burnt) stone, NR=not retained

CBM: Fabrics CS=coarse sand, MS=medium sand, FS=fine sand, PC=pale clay, SS=small stones, Q= white quartz sand

T	ctxt no.	ctxt type	find no	type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	no	wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
T1	F010	pit	12	pot	med	abraded sherd in brownish-orange fabric with traces of green glaze, one other in same fabric with no glaze	21A		2	8		L12-13 C
T1	F010	pit	12	pot	med	rim from a bowl with simple flange rim (3 sherds); misc other greyware body sherds, some mineralised sand adhering to some sherds - possibly indicating cess material in the pit?	20	bowl	12	147		L12/13-14C
T1	F0011	ditch	11	pot	med	2 sherds in an oxidised fabric, but essentially fabric 20	20		2	8		L12/13-14C
T1	F0011	ditch	11	pot	med	squared rim from a cooking pot or more probably a bowl as the body is sloping inward from the rim, 1 other sherd probably from same pot	20		2	16		L12/13-14C
T2	F3	post-hole	3	F clay		similar to the fired clay from F2 (2) & F16 (26), but more broken-up with no clear wattle impressions (pale firing clay streaks noted in the oxidised orange margins of some pieces)	MS SS		28	546		
T2	F016	post-hole	26	F clay		similar to the fired clay from F2 (2), but more broken-up with no clear wattle impressions (pale firing clay streaks noted in the oxidised orange margins of some pieces)	MS SS		24	190		
T2	F14 (L4)	depression	18	CBM		peg-tile piece, fine-medium sand	FS	PT	1	29		med-p-med
T2	F14 (L4)	depression	18	pot	med	misc sherds, includes squared rim from a cooking pot which has an oxidised surface but prob. Fabric 20 rather than fabric 13; one sherd with black vitreous sooting on exterior	20	cooking pot	11	100		L12/13-14C
T2	F002	pit	2	pot	med	oxidised but with grey core and essentially Fabric 20	20		1	15		L12/13-14C
T2	F002	pit	2	F clay		medium sand fabric, quite hard fired, some small stones, brown or orange margins with dark grey core; three pieces with parts of wattle impressions/voids indicating wattles with dia of 10/15-20 mm, close set with separation of approx 4-10 mm between, angles of voids indicate a woven pattern, parts of flat surfaces indicating a panel thicker than 45-50 mm	MS SS		16	456		
T2	US	US	25	pot	med	squared rim from a necked cooking pot	20		1	16	*	L12/13-14C
T2	F012	pit	21	F clay		irregular pieces, fine-medium sand, brownish	FS PC		4	66	(*)	(med)

T	ctxt no.	ctxt type	find no	type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	no	wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
						orange, rippled through or with pellets of pale firing clay, rounded pieces						
T2	F012	pit	21	pot	med	oxidised sandy fabric	20/21		1	5		c 13-14/15C
T2	F012	pit	21	pot	med		20		1	4		L12/13-14C
T2	F001	ditch	1	F clay		irregular, quite hard fired, brownish-orange surface, dark grey core, common medium sand some small stones	MS SS		3	53		
T2	F001	ditch	1	CBM		poorly fired? brick, little or no surviving surface, friable and soft medium sand, orange fabric, some coarse sand inclusions	MS	BR(?)	3	124		
T2	F001	ditch	1	CBM		peg-tile, fine sand, two pieces with some visible white & translucent quartz esp. on sanded underside, thickness 10-12 mm	FS & FS (Q)	PT	6	211		med-p-med
T2	F001	ditch	1	CBM	med	pieces of large flat bricks, one edge piece, fine sand fabric, occasional small stone and some sparse white/translucent quartz but otherwise few distinct inclusions, one piece with smoothed surface (35+ mm thick), one other rather more rough (30 mm thick)	FS (Q)	MGB	3	622		med 12-14C
T2	F001	ditch	1	CBM	Rom	almost certainly Roman - fine silt/sand fabric, dull-orange, few visible inclusions, one piece is brick (RB) 35 mm thick		RBT	2	294		Rom
T2	F14 (L3)	depression	16	F clay		fine-medium sand, brownish orange, rippled through with pale firing clay, rounded piece, abraded and fragmented	FS PC		11	37	*	(med)
T2	F14 (L3)	depression	16	pot	med	small sherd	20		1	4	(*)	L12/13-14C
T2	F004	post-hole	5	F clay		fine-medium sand, brownish orange, rippled through with pale firing clay, rounded piece	FS PC		1	14	*	
T2	F013	depression	19	F clay		fine-medium sand, brownish orange, rippled through with pale firing clay, rounded pieces	FS PC		2	39	*	(med)
T2	F013	depression	19	pot	med	base and wall sherds from a medieval cooking pots	20	cooking pot	4	53		L12/13-14C
T2	F013	depression	19	pot	med	sherds from a jug, green mottled, pitted glazed exterior, orange fabric	21A	jug	3	7		L12-13 C
T2	F013	depression	19	pot	med	sherd from a jug, glazed exterior, pale orange micaceous fabric	22		1	4	(*)	L12-13C
T2	F005	p-hole	9	HAS		burnt flint (NR)	flint		1	40		
T2	F003	p-hole	4	pot	med	base and wall sherds from a medieval cooking pot(s) prob 2 pots represented, sherds possibly heat affected/scorched	20	cooking pot	13	178	*	L12/13-14C
T3	F015	finds spread	24	CBM		peg-tile, fine sand, some visible white & translucent quartz, thickness 10 mm	FS (Q)	PT	2	127		med-p-med
T3	F015	finds	24	CBM		peg-tile pieces in a medium-coarse sand fabric,	CS Q	PT	3	186		med-p-med

T	ctxt no.	ctxt type	find no	type	Period	Description	Fabric	Form	no	wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
		spread				prominent visible white & translucent quartz (up to 2 mm), 12 mm thick						
T3	F015	finds spread	24	CBM	med	pieces of large flat bricks, one edge piece, medium sandy fabric, prominent visible white & translucent quartz (up to 2 mm), surfaces smoothed and with moderately sharp arises/edges, underside slightly rougher with more visible sand on surfaces, clearly part of large tile-like bricks, thickness 27 mm, largest surviving piece 16 x 14 mm - Probably medieval 'great brick'	MS Q	MGB	3	998		med 12-14C
T3	F015	finds spread	24	pot	med	sherd	20		1	8		L12/13-14C
T7	F009	ditch	14	pot	med	base sherd from a medieval cooking pot	20	cooking pot	1	11		L12/13-14C

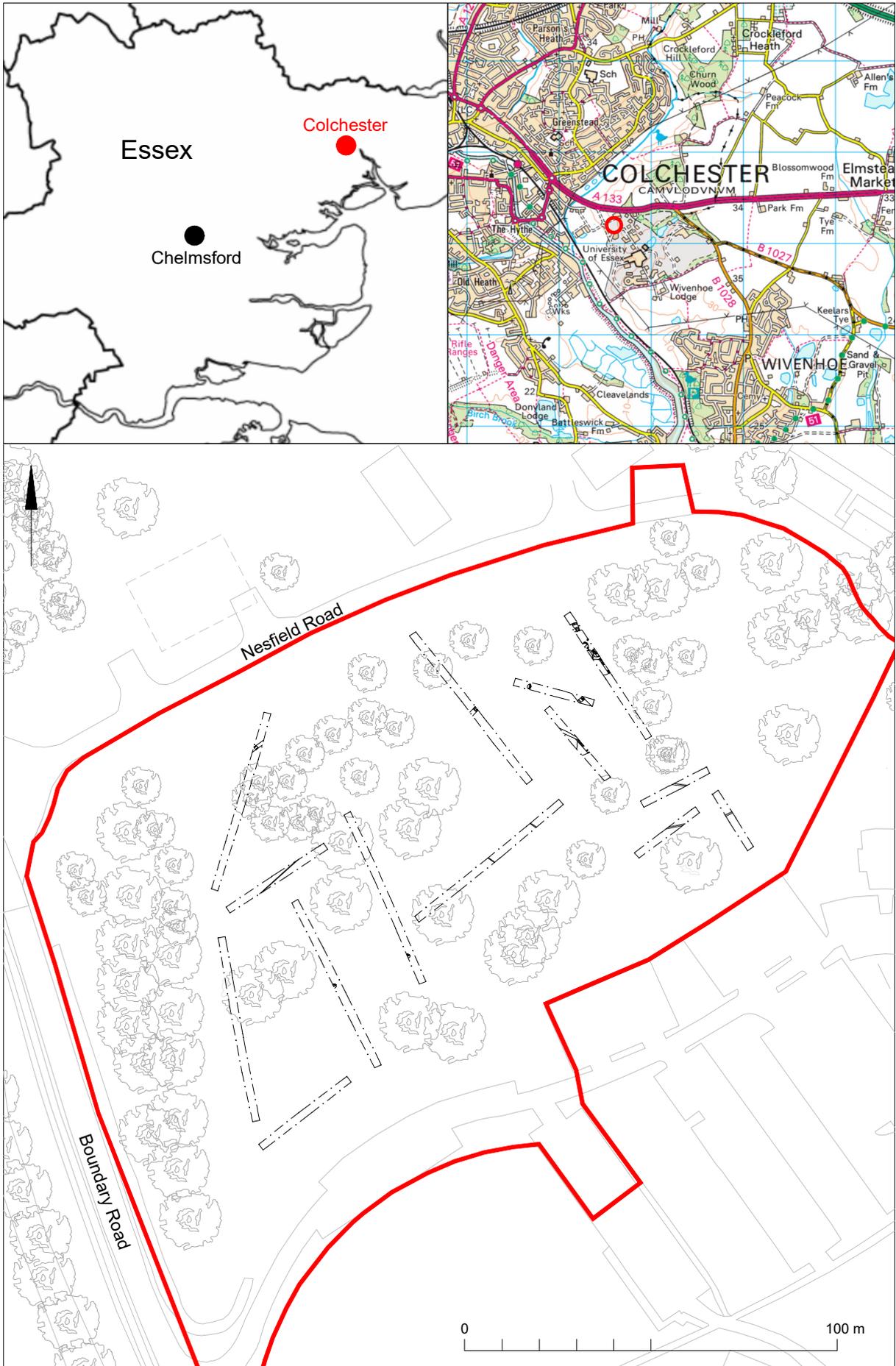


Fig 1 Site location.

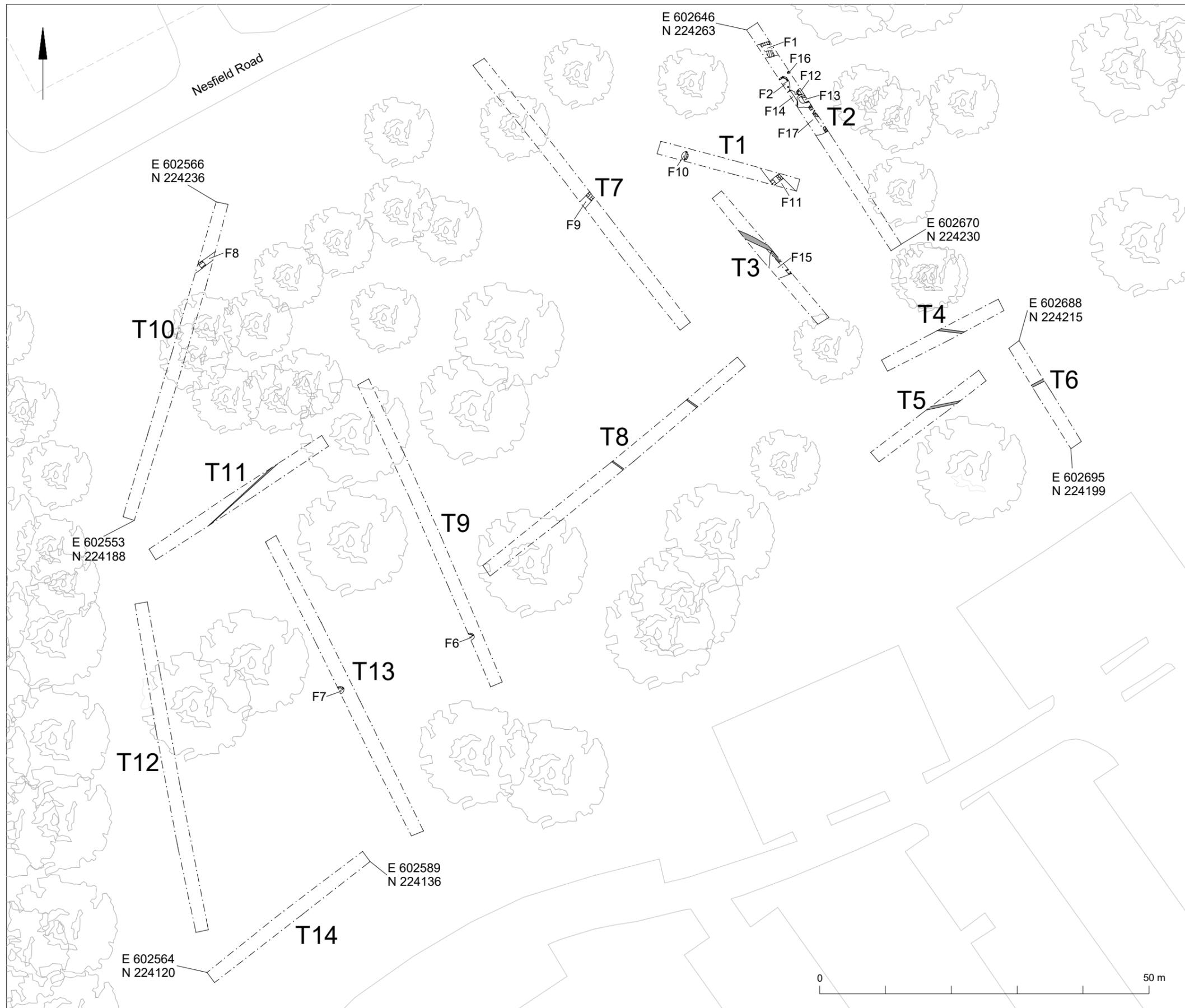


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

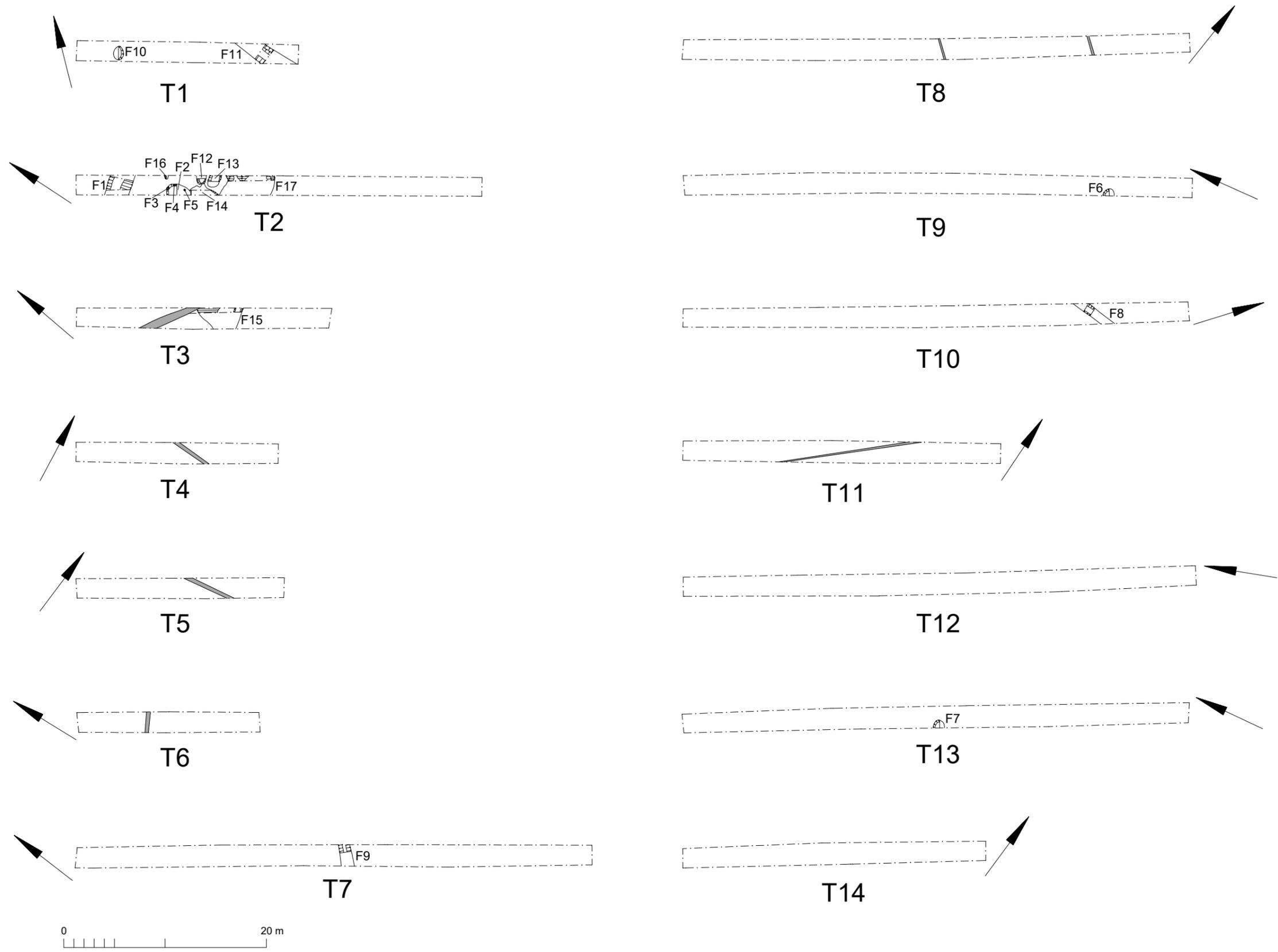


Fig 3 Detailed evaluation trench plans (modern land drains shown in grey).

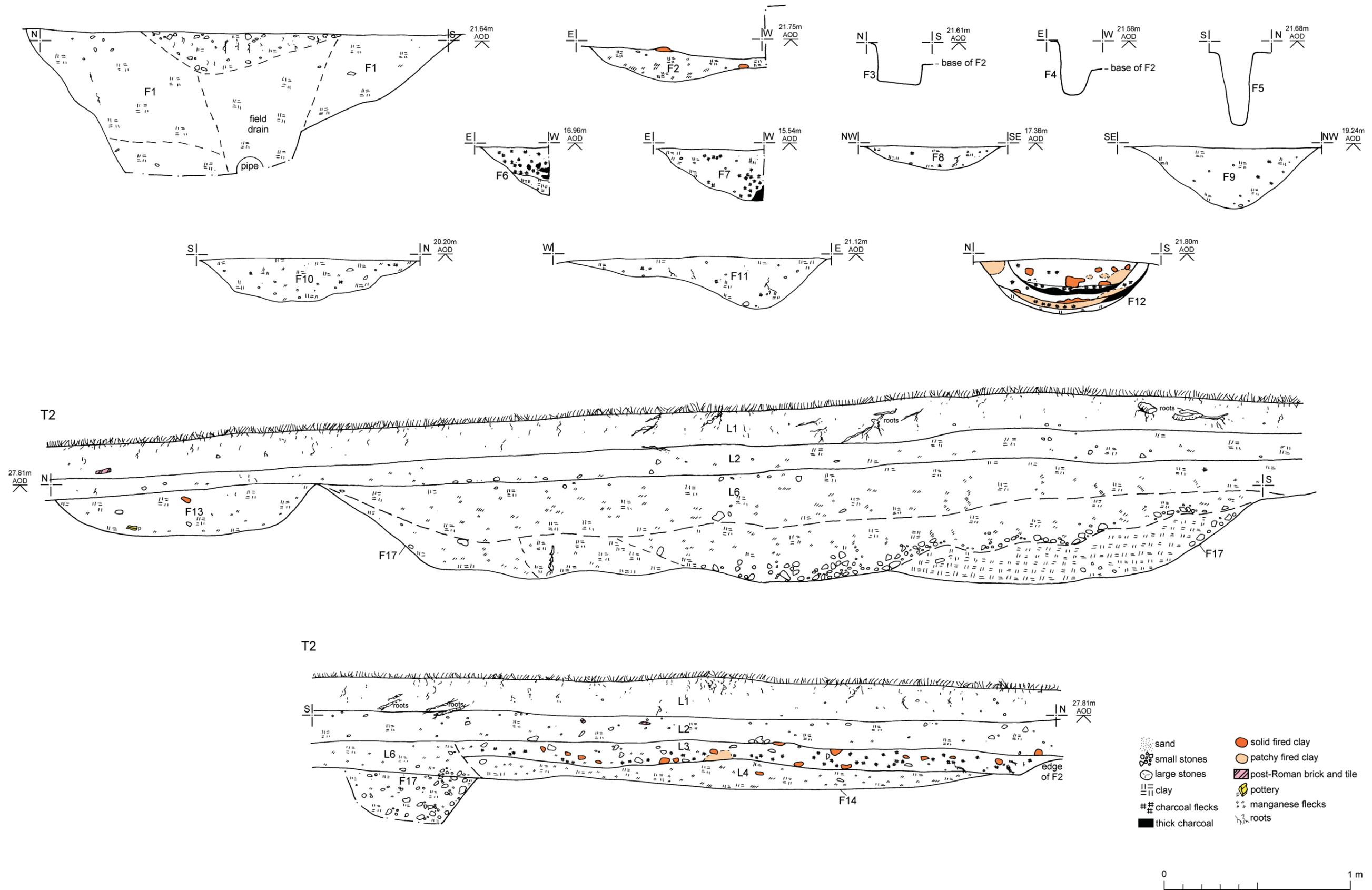


Fig 4 Feature sections

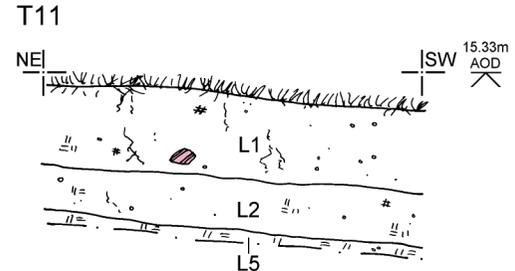
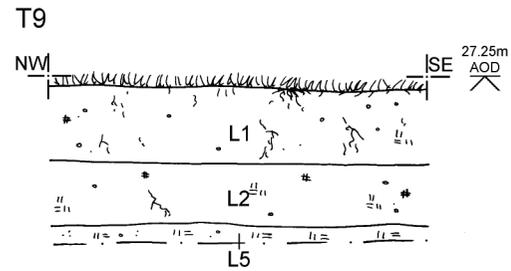
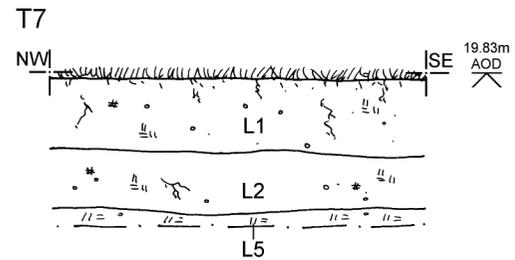
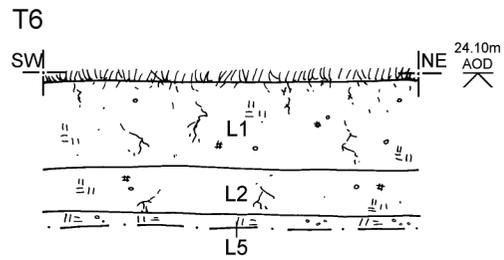
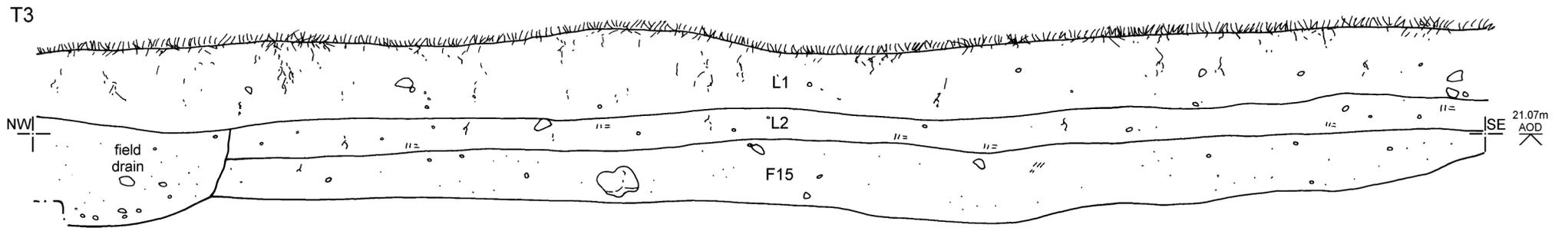


Fig 5 Feature section (F15) and representative trench sections (T3, T6-7, T9 and T11).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 0261 2419 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/01f UAD ref: ECC3658 OASIS ref: colchest3-238718
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 8-12th February 2016	Size of area investigated: Total size of trenches 490m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.9	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 2413, 2534
Final report: CAT Report 918	
Periods represented: medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out at the University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester in advance of the construction of an Innovation Centre with associated infrastructure. The site was located in a field to the south-east of the junction between Boundary Road and Nesfield Road. This site had not previously been investigated but archaeological work in and around the University has revealed Bronze Age barrows, a Roman road, burials and domestic activity, and medieval pottery scatters.</p> <p>A cluster of medieval features, layers and finds were identified in evaluation trenches T1-T3 and T7. Ditches, pits, post-holes and patches of charcoal/burnt daub may all be associated with domestic/light industrial activity on the site. No significant archaeological horizons were identified in any of the other trenches (T4-T6 and T8-T14), aside from one field boundary ditch (T10) and two undated pits (T9 and T13).</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 856	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: March 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for an archaeological evaluation at
University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester,
Essex, CO4 3SQ

NGR: TM 0261 2419 (centre)

Planning reference: 152219

Client: University of Essex

Agent: Simon Kerr

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2016.9

UAD Event number: ECC3658

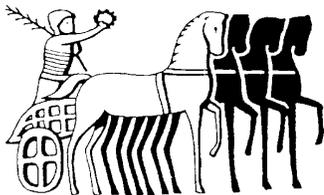
CAT Project code: 16/01f

OASIS Project id: colchest3-238718

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 15.01.2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester,
Essex, C02 7GZ
tel: 01206 501785
email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Site Location and Description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.5km east of Colchester town centre. It is a block of land approximately 2.6 ha in size, and consists of grassland/woodland. The site is centred on NGR TM 0261 2419.

Proposed work

The development comprises the erection of an innovation centre and associated works.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

This development site is located in an area of high archaeological potential, although it has not been the subject of any previous systematic archaeological investigation. It is situated in a topographically favourable location for early occupation of all periods, overlooking the floodplain of the River Colne, and at the confluence with Salary Brook.

There is no record of any archaeological artefacts having been discovered on the development site. However, the EHER does record a presumed Roman road (EHER 2534) to the north of the development site and a prehistoric barrow cemetery (EHER 2413) to the west. A field evaluation across the area of the barrows (FAU 2004) confirmed that the four mound and ring ditches situated adjacent to the railway line and Salary Brook were man made and artefacts recovered indicated a late Iron Age or Roman date. However, it was thought that this material may be the product of later use of an existing Bronze Age monument. The rest of the evaluation revealed little of interest.

A watching brief in 2010-2011 (CAT Report 638) on infrastructure works immediately to the north of the development site revealed evidence of Late Iron Age/Roman activity, which included burials as well as identifying a dense spread of medieval pottery sherds dating to the 13th-14th century.

A watching brief at 'The Meadows' in 2012, located to the west of the development site (CAT Report 678), identified 19 Late Iron Age/Roman features including ditches, pits, post-holes and a probable inhumation.

A watching brief in 2013 during the groundworks for the new Parkside Office Development revealed no archaeological features and sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery (CAT Report 753).

An ongoing watching brief (started 2015) also during groundworks for the new Parkside Development has so far revealed one Roman pit (CAT Report pending).

See CAT Report 856 for a further detailed study of the area (*A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Project Area 2a, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester*)

Planning Background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2015 (application No.152219) proposing the erection of an innovation centre and associated works.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO). The recommended archaeological

condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (CBC 2016).

Specifically, 24 trial-trenches measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide will be laid out in a systematic grid to cover all parts of the site. This totals 722m of trenching (or 5% of the development area).

The trial-trenches will:

- 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 of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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 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.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor and three archaeologists.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Evaluation methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which will be done with a toothless bucket. If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine the site, 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Site surveying

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 excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

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.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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 CBCAO.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAO 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* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAO as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- 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 CBCAO.

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

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. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that 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).

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.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAO.

Monitoring

CBCAO 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 CBCAO one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAO prior to them being carried out. CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAO shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

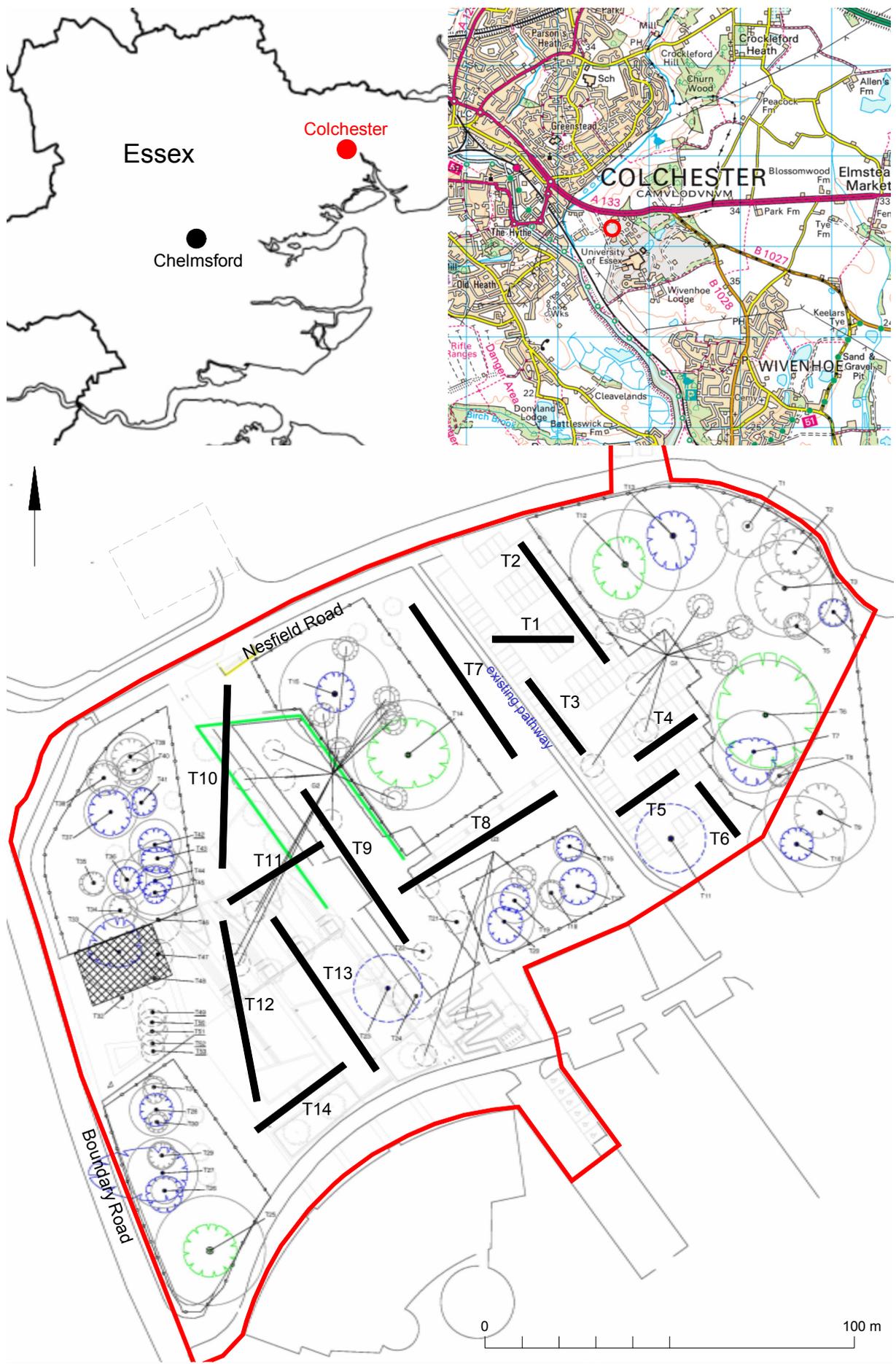
CAT Report 638	2012	<i>An archaeological watching brief at the Knowledge Gateway, the University of Essex, Colchester, Essex: September 2010-August 2011.</i>
CAT Report 678	2013	<i>Archaeological monitoring at 'The Meadows', University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex: July-September 2012</i>
CAT Report 753	2014	<i>Archaeological monitoring at the University of Essex Parkside Office Development, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex (Phase 1): September 2013</i>
CAT Report 856	2015	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Project Area 2a, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester</i>
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ by J Tipper</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECC FAU	2004	<i>Land adjacent to Elmstead Road and Boundary Road, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex, archaeological evaluation, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit Report, by T Ennis. Report 1328</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

L Pooley



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Fig 1 Site location with revised trench locations in relation to tree protection zones.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-238718

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out at the University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester in advance of the construction of an Innovation Centre with associated infrastructure. The site was located in a field to the south-east of the junction between Boundary Road and Nesfield Road. This site had not previously been investigated but archaeological work in and around the University has revealed Bronze Age barrows, a Roman road, burials and domestic activity, and medieval pottery scatters. A cluster of medieval features, layers and finds were identified in evaluation trenches T1-T3 and T7. Ditches, pits, post-holes and patches of charcoal/burnt daub may all be associated with domestic/light industrial activity on the site. No significant archaeological horizons were identified in any of the other trenches (T4-T6 and T8-T14), aside from one field boundary ditch (T10) and two undated pits (T9 and T13).
Project dates	Start: 08-03-2016 End: 12-03-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/01f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	152219 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.9 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3658 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage

Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLES Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Extensive green field commercial development (e.g. shopping centre, business park, science park, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ
Postcode	CO4 3SQ
Study area	2.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 0261 2419 51.878876301224 0.943984794131 51 52 43 N 000 56 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 14.91m Max: 26.86m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	University of Essex

Project archives

Physical Archive	Colchester Museum
------------------	-------------------

recipient

Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2016.9

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2016.9

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2016.9

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation at the new Innovation Centre, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ: February 2016

Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 918

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