

Archaeological evaluation at Bush House Yard, 294 Ongar Road, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3NZ

April 2016



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**commissioned by Ian Tate, Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects
on behalf of Julia Mackay Properties**

NGR: TL 6621 0596 (centre)
Planning ref.: CHL 15/02143/FUL
CAT project ref.: 16/03k
ECC project code: WRBH16
Chelmsford Museum accession code: CHMRE 2016.065
OASIS ref.: colchest3-247098



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CAT Report 944
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Bush House Yard, 294 Ongar Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, in advance of the construction of six new dwellings with associated works. The development site is located within the former post-medieval farmstead of Bush Farm dating from 1549. Modern disturbance was recorded across the evaluation trenches with modern layers sealing natural clay. No trace of Bush Farm was identified and no significant archaeological horizons were recorded.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Bush House Yard, 294 Ongar Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex which was carried out on 21st April 2016. The work was commissioned by Ian Tate of Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects, on behalf of Julia Mackay Properties, in advance of the construction of six new dwellings with associated works, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett 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 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 Maria Medleycott (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (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 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 is located within the former farmstead of Bush Farm. Historic mapping shows the farm extent and its position facing the former extent of Oxney Green. Bush Farm is first mentioned in 1549 and there is the potential for archaeological features and deposits related to the original farm to remain in the proposed development site.

4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Five trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. Each trench measured 20m long by 1.8m wide.

Trench 1 (T1)

Trench T1 was excavated through a modern make-up layer of mixed builder's waste (L4, c 1200mm thick) onto dirty natural clay (L6). As sections of the trench began to flood only a small area 2m long was reduced to natural. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.

Trench 2 (T2)

Trench T2 was excavated through a modern make-up layer of mixed builder's waste (L4, c 900mm thick) onto dirty natural clay (L6). The north end of the trench began to flood and there was a patch of petrol/diesel contamination in the centre so these areas were not reduced to natural. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 T1, looking W



Photograph 2 T2, looking N

Trench 3 (T3)

Trench T3 was excavated through a modern yard surface (L1, c 300mm thick) sealing a modern sandy-clay topsoil (L2, c 280mm thick), which sealed natural clay (L6). A natural tree-throw was identified at the south end of the trench (F4) with two large modern pits (F5-F6) at the north end.

Trench 4 (T4)

Trench T4 was excavated through modern concrete/tarmac (L3, c 110mm thick) onto a modern make-up layer of mixed builder's waste (L4, c 220mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L6). A modern drain was recorded at the east end of the trench.



Photograph 3 T3, looking S



Photograph 4 T4, looking E

Trench 5 (T5)

Trench T5 was excavated through a modern yard surface (L1, c 270mm thick) sealing a modern sandy-clay topsoil (L2, c 220mm thick), which sealed natural clay (L6). Two

modern pits (F1-F2) and an undated posthole (F3, probably modern) were recorded in the trench along with a pipe trench and unexcavated modern cut full of large stones, brick and tile fragments.



Photograph 5 T5, looking W

5 Finds

Context no.	Finds no.	Description	Qt.	Wt. (g)
T3, F5	2	Staffordshire-type factory wares, Fabrics 47 and 48D, late 19th/20th – 20th century.	6	12g
		Modern bottle glass, green and clear	4	166g
T3, F6	3	<i>Finds lost – modern pottery and glass, modern earring, peg-tile, iron nail</i>	-	-
T5, F2	1	Modern ceramic kitchenware, possibly pyrex.	1	4g
		Peg-tile, incomplete, 11-14mm thick, two joining fragments measure 163mm wide, post-med/modern	5	1.31kg

Table 1 All finds list by context. Post-Roman pottery fabrics as per CAR 7.

6 Discussion

The evaluation revealed modern disturbance across the development site with modern layers sealing natural clay. No trace of the post-medieval farmstead of Bush Farm was identified and no significant archaeological horizons were recorded.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ian Tate of Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects and Julia Mackay Properties for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, R Mathieson, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

8 References

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

CAR 7 2000 *Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85*, by J Cotter

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at Bush House Yard, 294 Ongar Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3NZ</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</i> . Dept of 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. 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
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for archaeological evaluation at Bush House Yard, 294 Ongar Road, Writtle</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

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
EHER	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
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 944)

ECC 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

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 CHMRE: 2016.065

Distribution list:

Ian Tate of Wincer Kievenaar Chartered Architects
Julia Mackay Properties
Alison Bennett, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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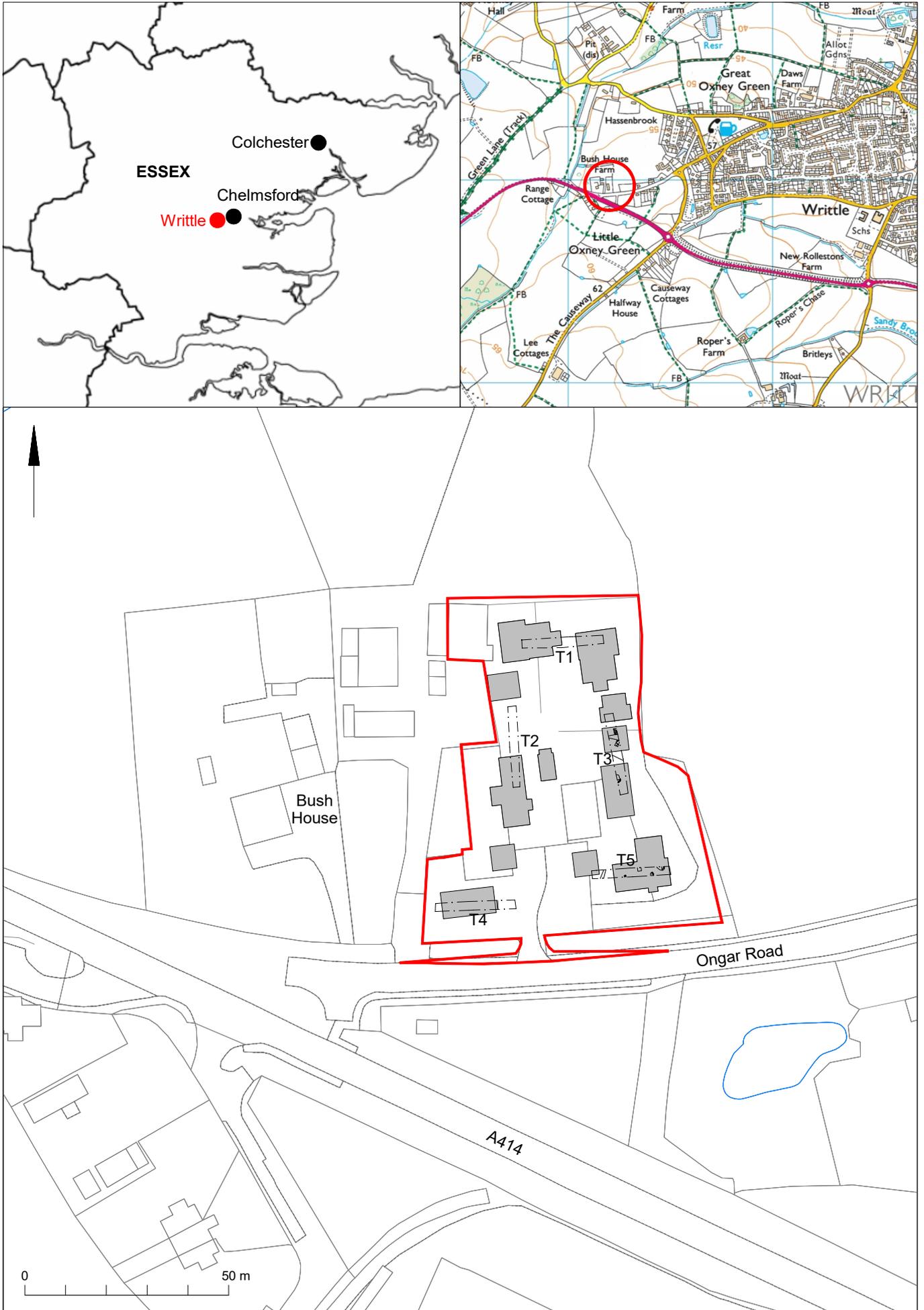


Fig 1 Site location showing proposed buildings.

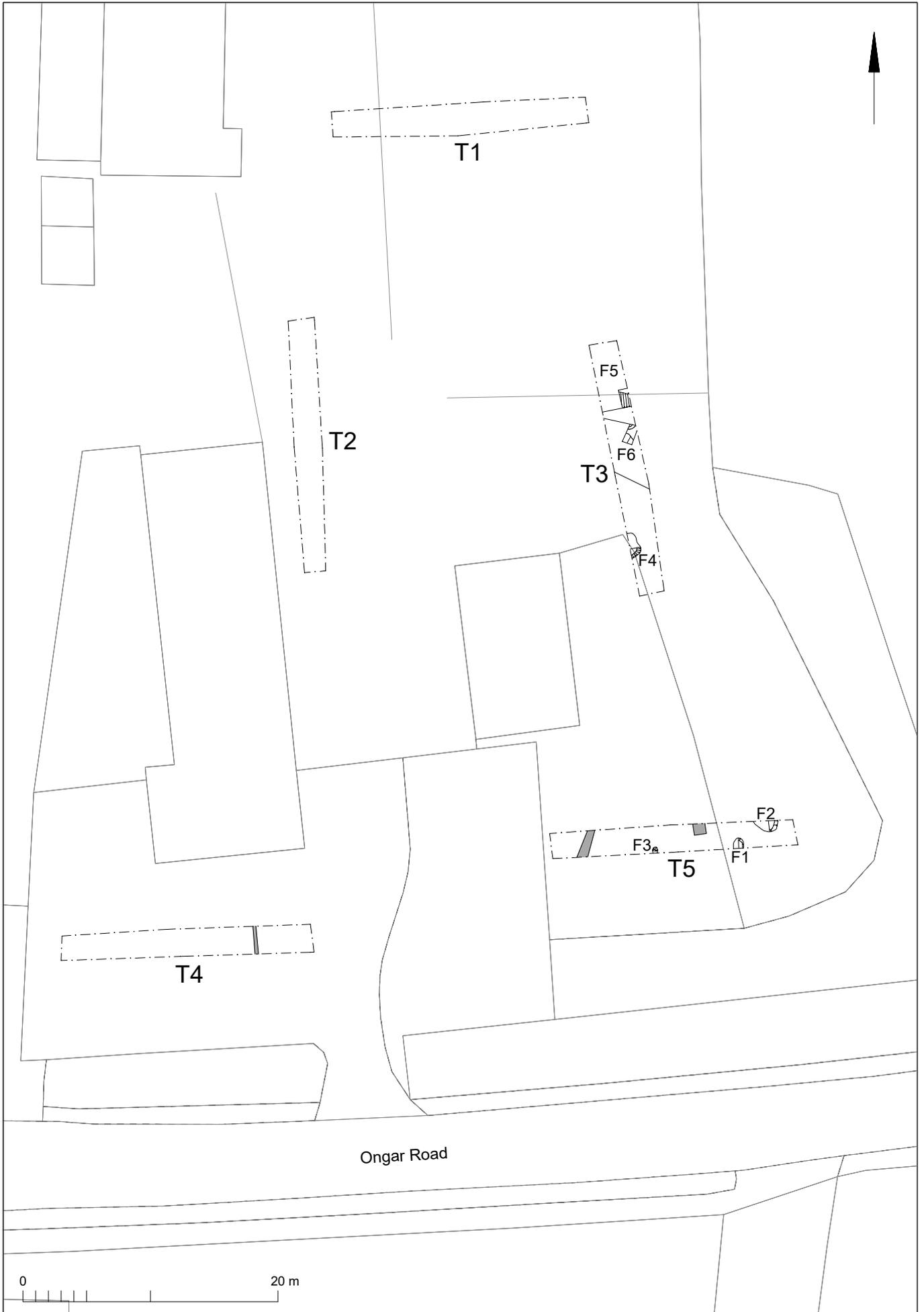
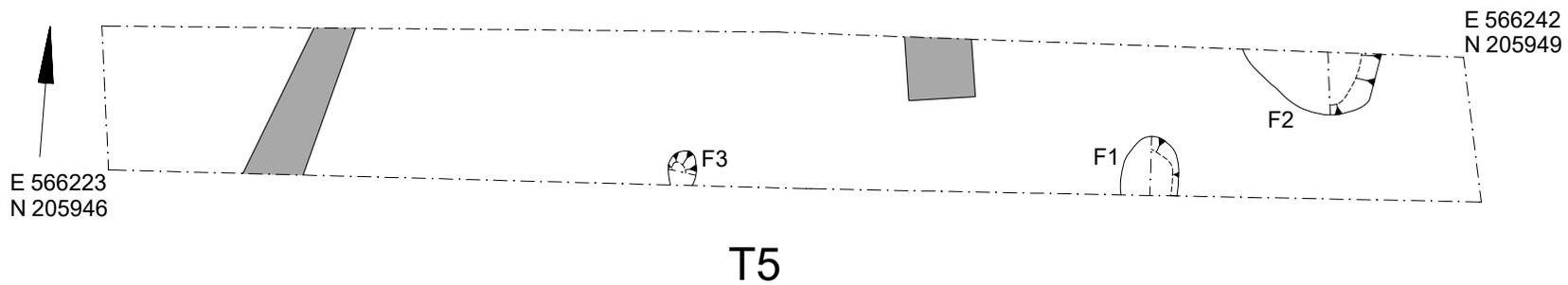
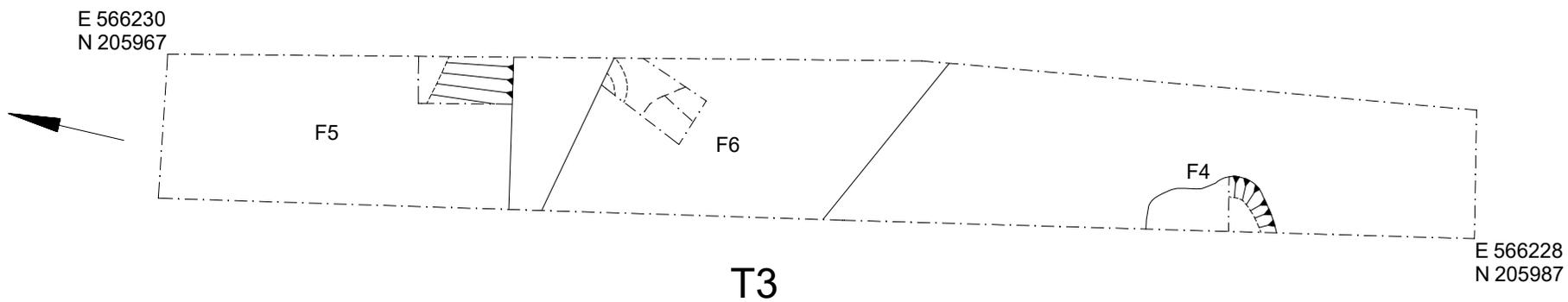


Fig 2 Evaluation results.



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Fig 3 T3 & T5: Detailed trench plans.

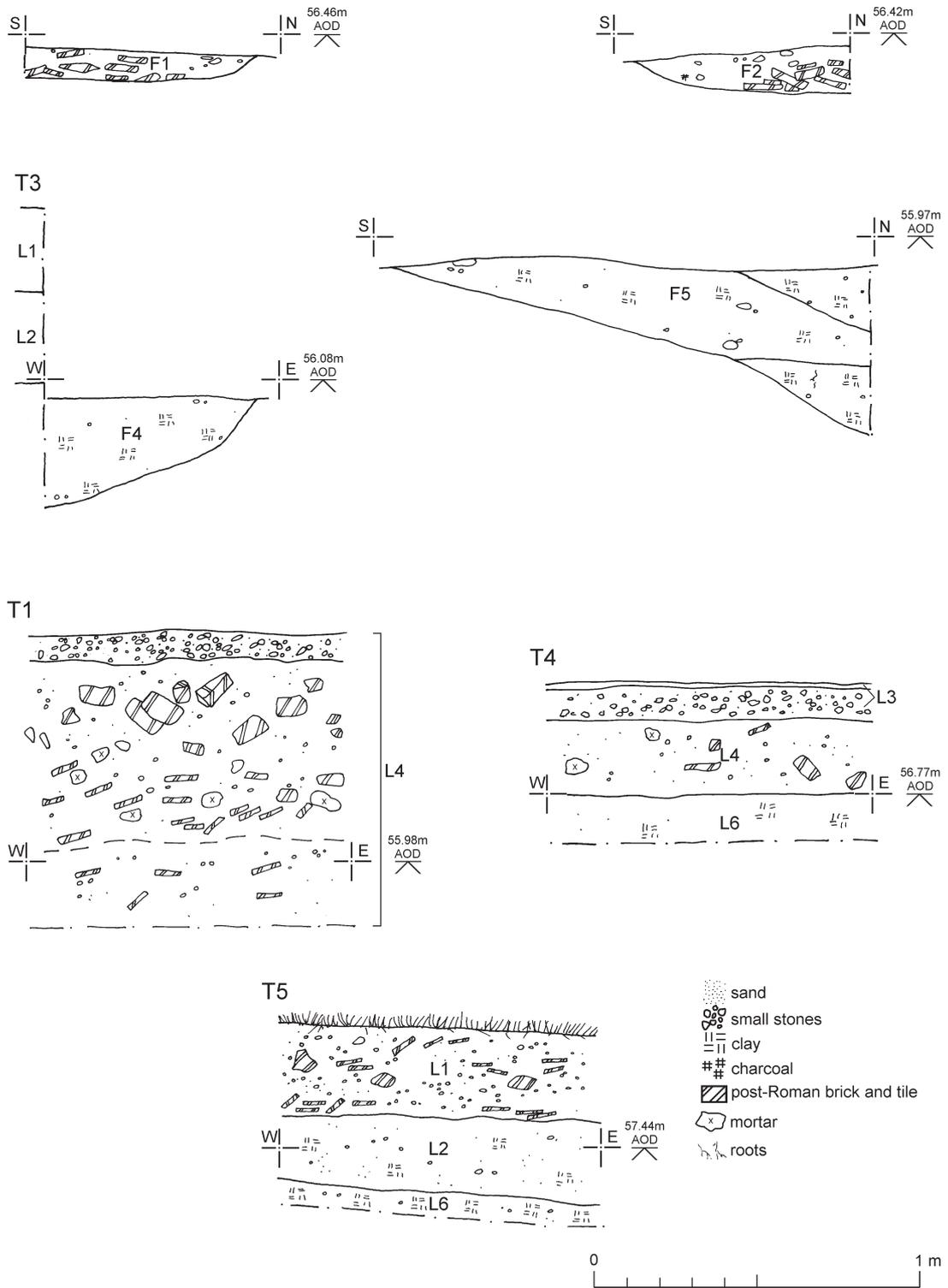


Fig 4 Feature sections (F1-2 and F4-5) and representative trench sections (T1 and T3-5).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Bush House Yard, 294 Ongar Road, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3NZ	
Parish: Writtle	District: Chelmsford
NGR: TL 6621 0596 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 16/03k ECC project code: WRBHY16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-247098
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 21st April 2016	Size of area investigated: Five trenches each measuring 20m long by 1.8m wide (36m ²)
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford Museum accession code CHMRE: 2016.065	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number:
Final report: CAT Report 944	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Bush House Yard, 294 Ongar Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, in advance of the construction of six new dwellings with associated works. The development site is located within the former post-medieval farmstead of Bush Farm dating from 1549. Modern disturbance was recorded across the evaluation trenches with modern layers sealing natural clay. No trace of Bush Farm was identified and no significant archaeological horizons were recorded.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2016