

Archaeological evaluation on land at Brick Kiln Lane, Bran End, Stebbing, Essex, CM6 3RW

August-September 2016



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway, Sarah Carter, Nigel Rayner, Jane Roberts,
Robin Mathieson, Alec Wade and Bethany Watson

on behalf of Nick Ridgway, NDR Contracting Ltd

NGR: TL 65495 25208 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/15/0515/OP

CAT project ref.: 16/07o

ECC code: STBL16

Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2016.21

OASIS ref.: colchest3-258550



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

CAT Report 1016
September 2016

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	2
5	Finds	4
6	Discussion	5
7	Acknowledgements	5
8	References	5
9	Abbreviations and glossary	6
10	Contents of archive	6
11	Archive deposition	6

Figures after p7

List of maps, photographs, tables and figures

Cover: general site shot

Map 1 Six-inch OS map (Essex XXIV.NW), 2nd edition, revised 1896, published 1898 overlaid on modern aerial shot of site showing property boundary/enclosed green and change in road alignment. 2

Photograph 1 T1, looking SW 3

Photograph 2 T5 with ditch F10 in background, looking SE 3

Photograph 3 T5, looking SW 4

Table 1 Pottery fabrics 4

Table 2 Finds by context 5

Fig 1 Site location and trench plan in relation to proposed development

Fig 2 Trench plans

Fig 3 Feature (F6-F8 and F10) and representative trench sections (T1, T3 and T5)

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land at Brick Kiln Lane, Bran End, Stebbing in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. The development site was located close to 16th-19th century listed buildings and may include occupation evidence. A medieval pit and ditch were excavated in trench T5 at the southeast end of the site, with the ditch possibly forming part of a field boundary. Two post-medieval pits and a number of modern features were excavated in trenches T1-T2 at the northwest end of the site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Brick Kiln Lane, Bran End, Stebbing, Essex which was carried out on 23rd August and 2nd September 2016. The work was carried out on behalf of Nick Ridgway, NDR Contracting Ltd, in advance of the construction of five new dwellings, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation*, 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 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 EHER shows that the proposed development site lies immediately adjacent to a series of listed buildings to the northwest of the site. The nearest are Mead Cottage and Oak Cottage (NHLE no. 1112775) listed as 16th century or earlier, with five other listed properties further to the northwest dating from the 17th-19th centuries. The first edition OS map shows a former property boundary or enclosed green on the site, but also shows that the line of Brick Kiln Lane was slightly further to the south than it is today and buildings on the northern side of the lane may extend into the development site. Similarly the Chapman and André maps suggest that there may be properties extending into this area. The location of the site on the immediate road frontage also suggests there is a high probability that there was occupation on this site from the medieval period.



NLS Historic Maps Subscription API layer © 2016 Getmapping plc © 2016 GeoEye © 2016 Microsoft Corporation © 2016

Map 1 Six-inch OS map (Essex XXIV.NW), 2nd edition, revised 1896, published 1898 overlaid on modern aerial shot of site showing property boundary/enclosed green and change in road alignment.

4 **Results** (Figs 2-3)

Five trial-trenches were machine excavated across the development site under archaeological supervision.

Three layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, c 250-320mm thick) sealed a post-medieval sandy-silt subsoil (L2, c 200-220mm thick), which sealed natural orange-brown sand (L3).

Trench 1 (T1) – 15m long by 1.8m wide

Modern pits F1-F5 were excavated at the northeast end of the trench and modern linear feature F8 to the southwest. In the centre of the trench was post-medieval pit F7.

Trench 2 (T2) – 15m long by 1.8m wide

A single post-medieval pit (F6) was excavated in the centre of the trench.

Trench 3 (T3) – L-shaped, 10m and 5m long by 1.8m wide

No significant archaeological horizons were identified.

Trench 4 (T4) – L-shaped, 10m and 4m long by 1.8m wide

No significant archaeological horizons were identified.

Trench 5 (T5) – L-shaped, 10m and 8m long by 1.8m wide

Medieval ditch F10, aligned north/south, measured approximately 0.78m wide by 0.23m deep. A medieval pit, 0.7m in diameter, was also excavated immediately to the east of the ditch.



Photograph 1 T1, looking SW



Photograph 2 T5 with ditch F10 in background, looking SE



Photograph 3 T5, looking SW

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Small quantities of finds, variously dating from the medieval, post-medieval and modern period, were recovered from eight features (F2 and F4-F10). All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2 and an overall spot date for the finds from each context is also provided. The pottery fabrics referred to follow the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1985 & *CAR 7*) and are listed in Table 1.

While most of the features contained finds of modern date that (of themselves) are of little or no archaeological significance, two features in Trench 5 (F9 and F10) contained a few sherds of medieval pottery dating to the period of the L12th/13th-14th century, including a rim sherd from a cooking pot.

Fabric code	Fabric name
13	Early medieval sandy wares
20	Medieval sandy greywares
21	Medieval sandy orange wares
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenwares
40B	Stock-type black glazed wares
45M	Modern stonewares
47	Staffordshire-type white stonewares
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares
48E	Yellow ware
51A	Late slipped kitchen wares
51B	Flowerpot

Table 1 Pottery fabrics

Context (trench, feature, finds)	Form/ description	Finds spot date
T1, F2, 1 (pit)	Post-medieval & modern pottery: (SQ) Fabric 40 (16/17-E18C), Fabric 48E (L18-19C), Fabric 51A (19-E20C), Fabric 48D (18-19/E20C). Slate: (1) small piece (prob Post-medieval/modern)	Modern 19-E20C
T1, F4, 2 (pit)	Modern pottery: (1) Fabric 47/48D (18/19-E20C). CBM: (2) peg-tile (med-post-med/mod); Brick, end piece, well formed, buff-pale red fabric with common red & cream inclusions, dense, well formed (100 mm x 38 mm) floor brick (c 19C)	Modern 19-E20C
T1, F5, 3 (pits)	Modern pottery: (2) Fabric 48D blue transfer print (L18/19-E20C). CBM: (2) peg-tile (med-post-med/mod)	Modern L18/19-E20C
T1, F7, 5 (pit)	Post-medieval pottery: (1) Fabric 40B (c L16/17-E18C)	Post-med c 17-E18C
T1, F8, 6 (linear)	Post-medieval & modern pottery: (Q) Fabric 40 (2 sherds) (16/17-E18C); Fabric 45M (18/L18-19C), Fabric 48E (L18-19C), Fabric 48D, green and blue transfer wares (L18-19/E20C – probably 19-20C), Fabric 51(?) score decorated earthenware pot/garden pot (L19-20C). Clay pipe: (2) small stem pieces (post-medieval). Glass: (3) lettered moulded pale green bottle glass and dark green bottle neck sherd (all pieces with light iridescence) (c 19C). Nails: (2) one small alloy(?) nail and one small iron nail (corroded)	Modern 19/L19-20C
T2, F6, 4 (pit)	Late medieval/post-medieval pottery: (1) Single oxidised sherd, abraded, Fabric 21/40 (Late med-post med). CBM: (2) peg-tile (med-post-med/mod). Nail: (1) corroded small iron nail	Post-med c 15/16-17C?
T5, F9, 7 (pit)	Medieval pottery: (SQ) Fabric 13/20, sherds from a cooking pot, necked, flat-topped rim, sooted externally from use (c L12/13-14C), base sherd, grey, (c 13-14C). Stone: (1) natural flint with discoloured corner suggesting exposure to heat	Medieval c 13-14C
T5, F10, 8 (ditch)	Medieval pottery: (2) Fabric 20, dark grey/black surfaces (c 13-14C)	Medieval c 13-14C

Table 2 Finds by context

6 Discussion

The evaluation revealed medieval activity (c 13th-14th century) at the southeast end of the development site, with the north-south ditch possibly forming part of a field boundary. Post-medieval and modern features were concentrated to the northwest of the site and were possibly related to the listed buildings located slightly further to the north.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Nick Ridgway, NDR Contracting Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, S Carter, N Rayner, R Mathieson, J Roberts, Alec Wade and B Watson. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

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>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land at Brick Kiln Lane, Bran End, Stebbing, Essex, CM6 3RW</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>
Cunningham, C	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex' in Cunningham, C., & Drury, P., <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report 54
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 Trial Trenching and Excavation on Land at Brick Kiln Lane, Stebbing</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
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
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
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg 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

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1016)

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2016.21

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2016

Distribution list:

Nick Ridgway, NDR Contracting Ltd
Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

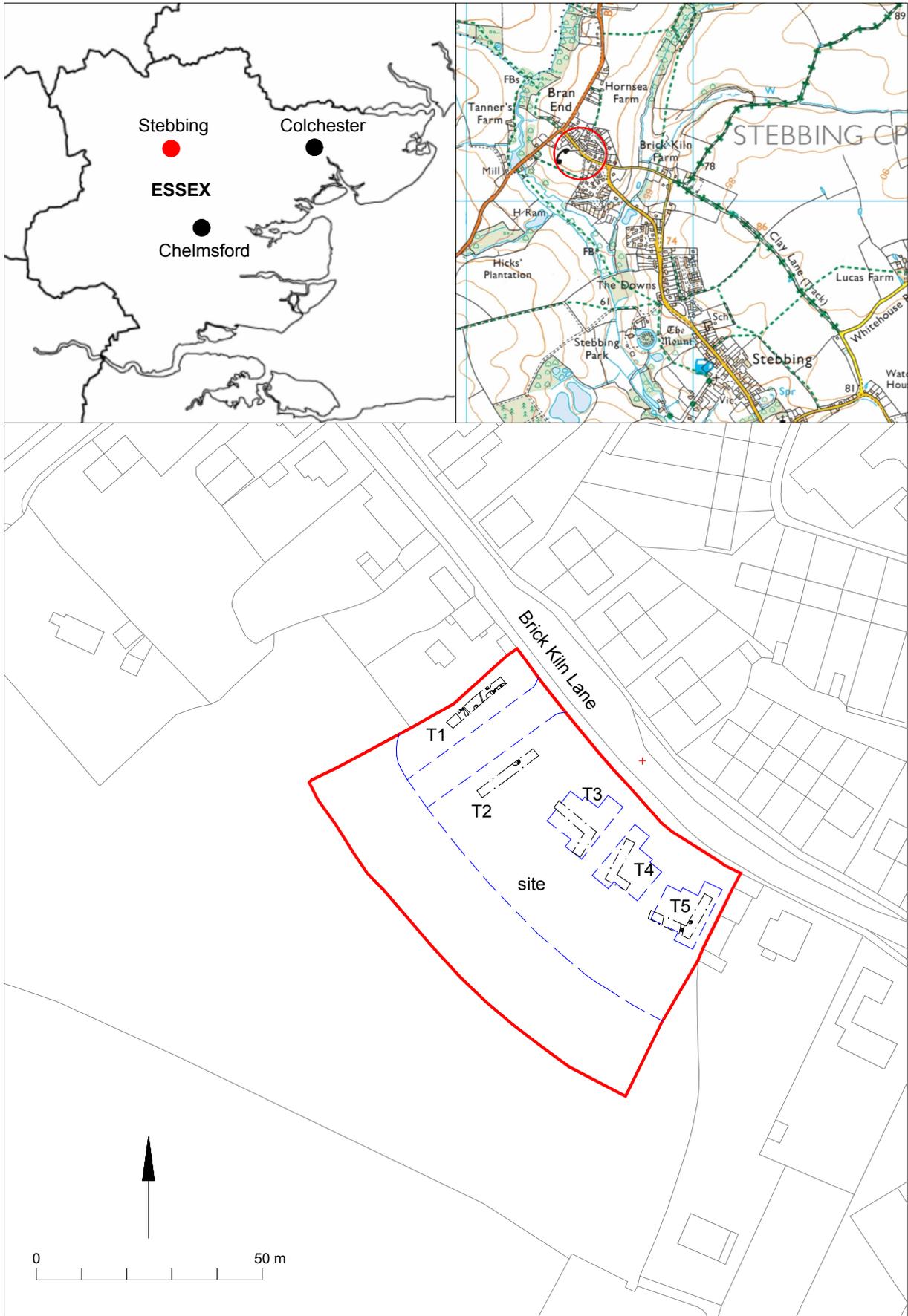
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: archaeologists@catuk.org

Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 20.09.2016



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location and trench plan in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

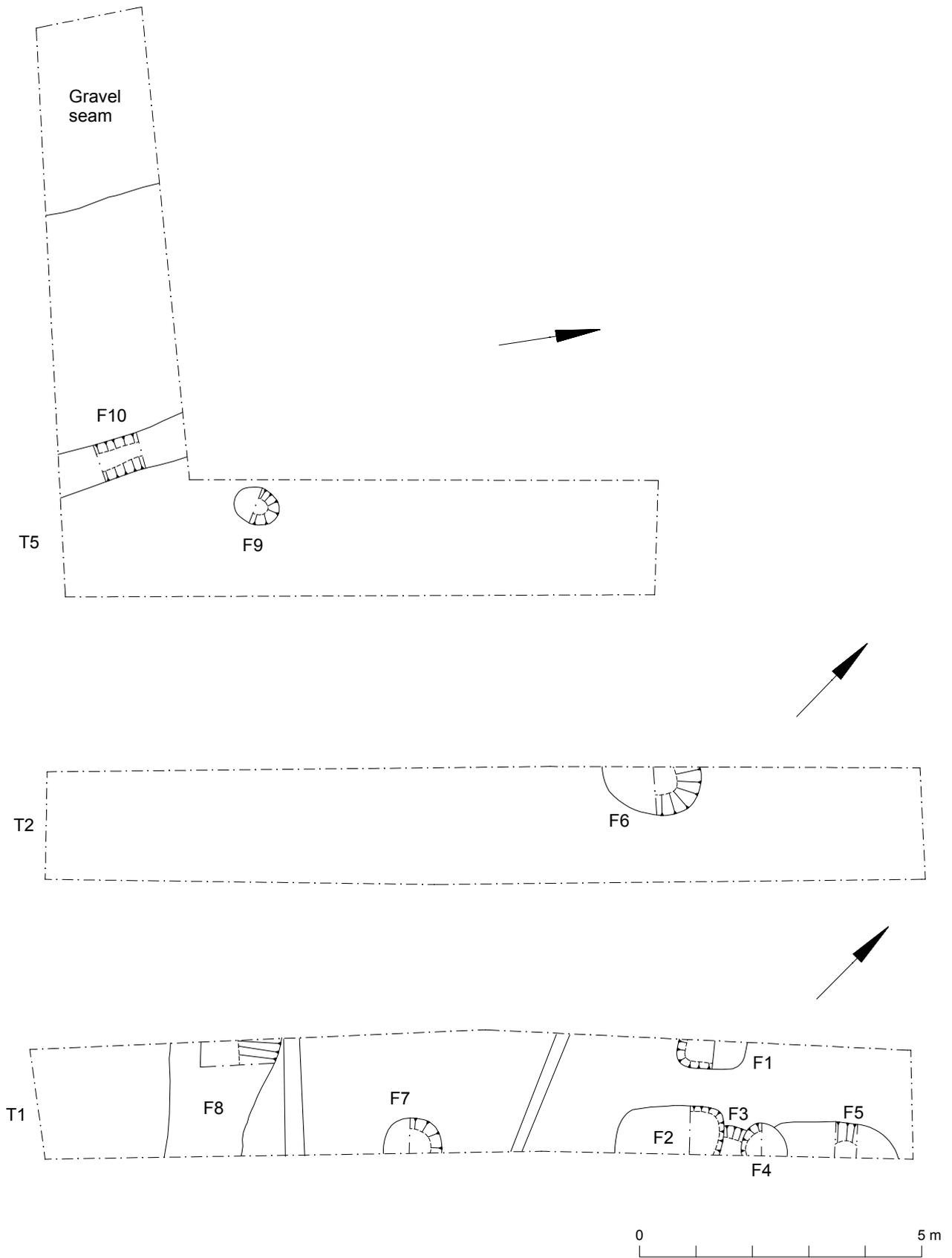


Fig 2 Trench plans

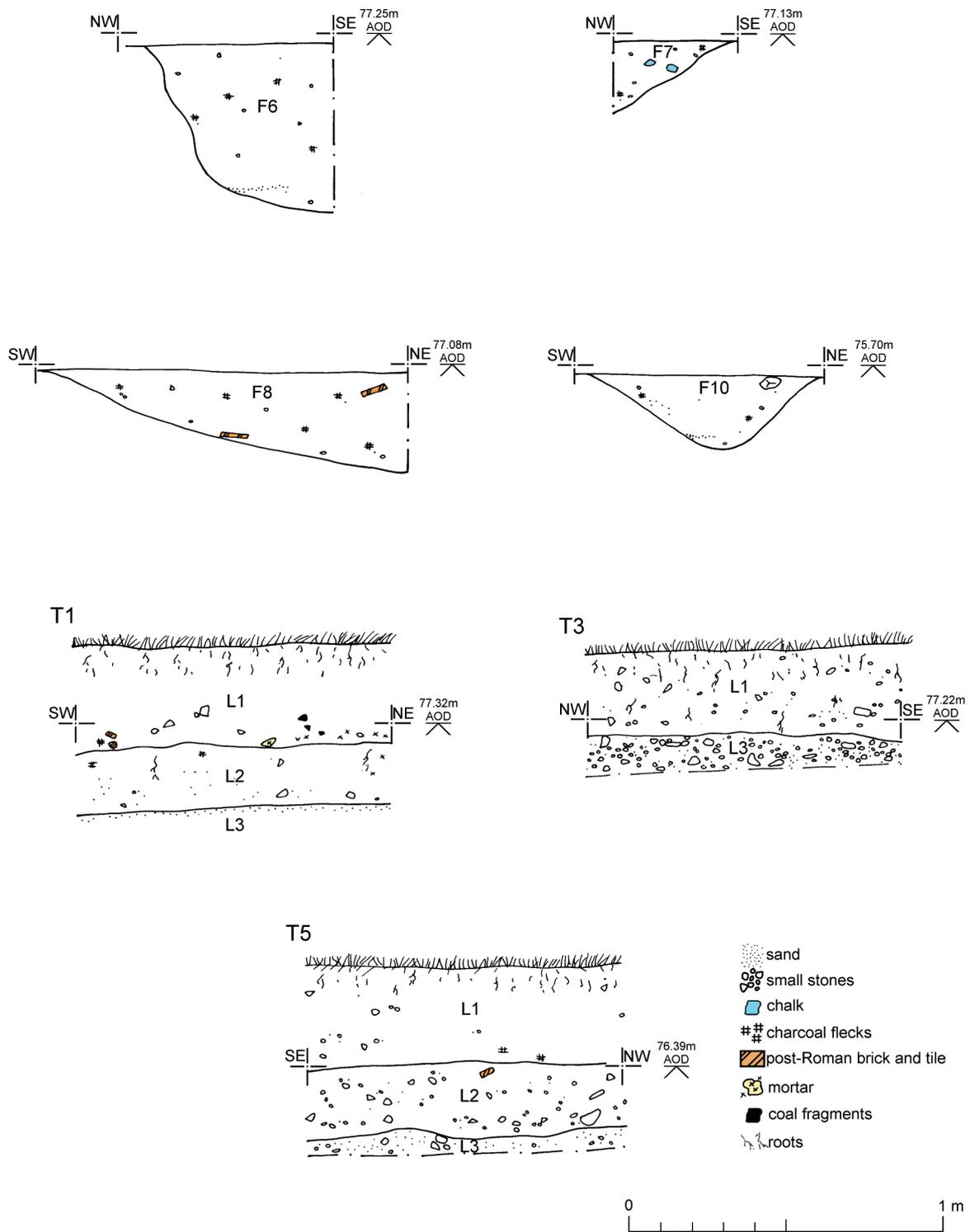


Fig 3 Feature (F6-8 and F10) and representative trench sections (T1, T3 and T5).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Land at Brick Kiln Lane, Bran End, Stebbing, Essex, CM6 3RW	
Parish: Stebbing	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 65495 25208 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 16/07o ECC project code: STBL16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-258550
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd August & 2nd September 2016	Size of area investigated: Five trenches (totalling 138.6m ²)
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2016.21	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number:
Final report: CAT Report 1016	
Periods represented: Medieval, post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land at Brick Kiln Lane, Bran End, Stebbing in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. The development site was located close to 16th-19th century listed buildings and may include occupation evidence. A medieval pit and ditch were excavated in trench T5 at the southeast end of the site, with the ditch possibly forming part of a field boundary. Two post-medieval pits and a number of modern features were excavated in trenches T1-T2 at the northwest end of the site.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
Keywords: –	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: September 2016