

Archaeological evaluation on land between Little Woodrolfe and Woodrolfe Farm, Woodrolfe Farm Lane, Tollesbury, Essex, CM9 8SX

February 2017



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Emma Holloway, Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman

fieldwork by Adam Wightman with Gareth Morgan

**commissioned by Sam Rabin, 3bd architecture and design
on behalf of Edward Coates**

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Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1073
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Contents

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

Appendix 1	Context list	6
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Figures	after p6
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OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs and figures

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	T1, looking E	2
Photograph 2	T3, looking N	3
Table 1	All finds by context	3

Fig 1 Site location in relation to new development (dashed blue)

Fig 2 Results

Fig 3 Representative sections

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land between Little Woodrolfe and Woodrolfe Farm, Woodrolfe Farm Lane, Tollesbury, Essex in advance of the construction of a new detached dwelling with detached garage. Despite being located on a historic route linking the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement of Tollesbury with Woodrolfe Creek and the marshes, and close to evidence for the Late Iron Age/Roman salt industry, there were no archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land to between Little Woodrolfe and Woodrolfe Farm, Woodrolfe Farm Lane, Tollesbury, Essex which was carried out on 17th February 2017. The work was commissioned by Sam Rabin (3db architecture and design), on behalf of Edward Coates, in advance of the construction of a new detached dwelling with detached garage, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott 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 trench evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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 is sited on the slope overlooking the former marsh-edge. Woodrolfe Farm Lane is a historic route linking the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement of Tollesbury with Woodrolfe Creek and the marshes. To the east of the proposed development there is evidence for the Late Iron Age and Roman salt industry (EHER 11508), as well as more recent sites associated with the use of the creek (EHER 16341-5, 16710, 48466). To the north is a post-medieval kiln site (EHER 11561). Woodrolfe Farm is historic in origin. The area of the proposed development has been identified as having high potential for archaeological remains and high sensitivity to change in the Historic Environment Characterisation undertaken for Maldon (ECC 2008, HECZ 3.4).

4 Results (Figs 2-4)

As stated in the brief and wsi two trial-trenches were due to be excavated within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling and access road. However, prior to the evaluation the access road had been lowered by c 500mm (compared to ground level to the west) and consolidated using crushed bricks and concrete. Following

consultation with the ECCHEA, the decision was made to excavate a small trench in the road to establish preservation levels below the crush and to excavate another small trench in the area of the proposed garage.

All three trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench 1 (T1): 12m long by 1.8m wide

Trench 1 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 160-200mm thick) onto a medium grey/brown clayey-silt subsoil (L2, c 80-140mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L4). Lots of dead roots were noted in the topsoil and subsoil from when the site was used as an orchard.

A couple of plastic pipes were uncovered in the topsoil/subsoil which had been installed for drainage as the site is prone to flooding. Two parallel gullies were cut into natural (F1-F2). They were both very narrow and shallow, contained modern building waste, and are presumed to be the bases of modern drainage channels. Ceramic drainage pipe F3 was also recorded.

Trench 2 (T2): 4.5m long by 1.8m wide

Trench 2 was excavated through compacted modern crush (brick and concrete) (L4, c 360mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). Investigation of a silty-clay deposit (F4) at one end of the trench proved to be a nothing more than a shallow silt patch which quickly filled with water.

Trench 3 (T3): 6m long by 1.8m wide

Trench 3 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 160mm thick) onto a medium grey/brown clayey-silt subsoil (L2, c 200mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L4). The trench was considerably more difficult to excavate owing to the proximity of large trees which had reduced the moisture content of the ground in this location.



Photograph 1 T1, looking E



Photograph 2 T3, looking N

5 Finds

Modern finds were recorded from F1-F2 (see Table 1).

Feature (and finds) numbers	Description	Date
F1 (1)	CBM: modern brick fragments (3: 104g) Others: fragment of concrete (160g); fragment of cinder (42g)	Modern
F2 (2)	CBM: modern brick fragment (8g) Others: fragment of cinder (8g)	Modern

Table 1 All finds by context

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological importance, there were no significant archaeological remains. The site is incredibly prone to flooding (a neighbour, pers comm) confirmed by the large number of modern drainage features recorded. As such, it is perhaps unsurprising that no evidence of activity on the site before the modern era was encountered.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Sam Rabin and Edward Coates for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by A Wightman and G Morgan. Figures are by AW, L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

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 J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land between Little Woodrolfe and Woodrolfe Farm, Woodrolfe Farm Lane, Tollesbury, Essex, CM9 8SX</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological 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>
ECC	2008	<i>Maldon District Historic Environment Characterisation Project</i>
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for land between Little Woodrolfe and Woodrolfe Farm, Woodrolfe Farm Lane, Tollesbury</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</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex from the Roman conquest to the reformation</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
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’
Late Iron Age (LIA)	period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
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 c AD 1500 to c 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 sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1073)

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 Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2017.12.

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Distribution list:

Sam Rabin, 3bd architecture and design
Edward Coates
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

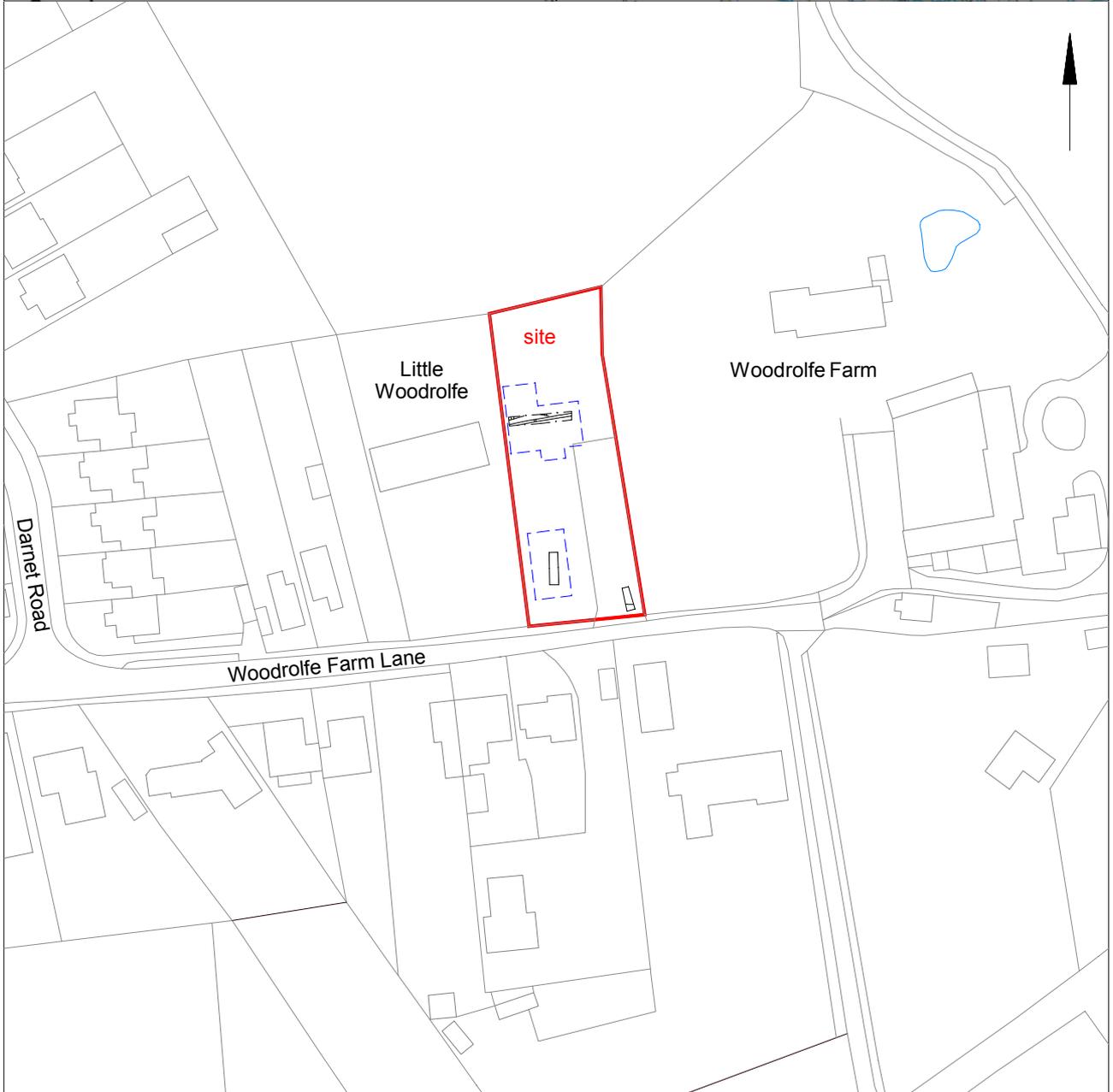
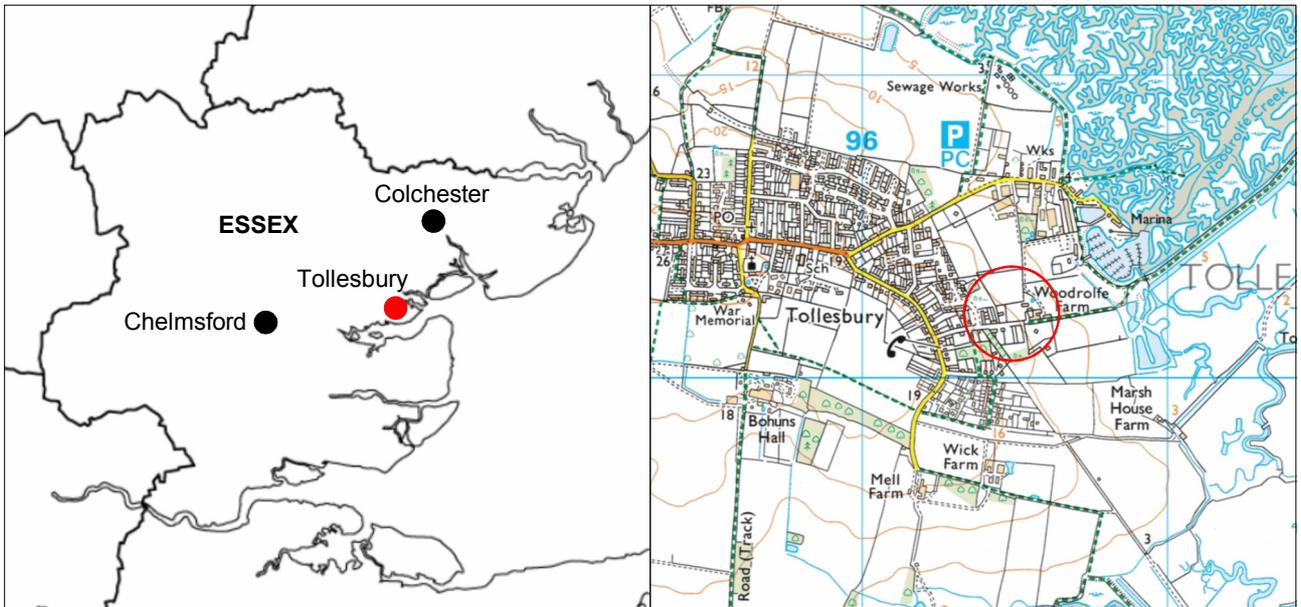
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 27.2.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Feature Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	1	Gully	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay containing concrete and brick	Modern
F2	2	Gully	Firm, moist, dark grey silty-clay containing brick	Modern
F3		Drain	Friable, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay containing a ceramic land drain	Modern
F4		Natural silt patch	Firm, moist, medium orange/brown silty-clay	-
L1		Topsoil	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown clayey-silt, very rare inclusions of brick/tile, lots of dead roots	Modern
L2		Subsoil	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown clayey-silt	-
L3		Natural	Firm, moist medium orange with (grey/brown patches) clay, 1% gravel	-
L4		Crush	Compacted brick and concrete	Modern



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)



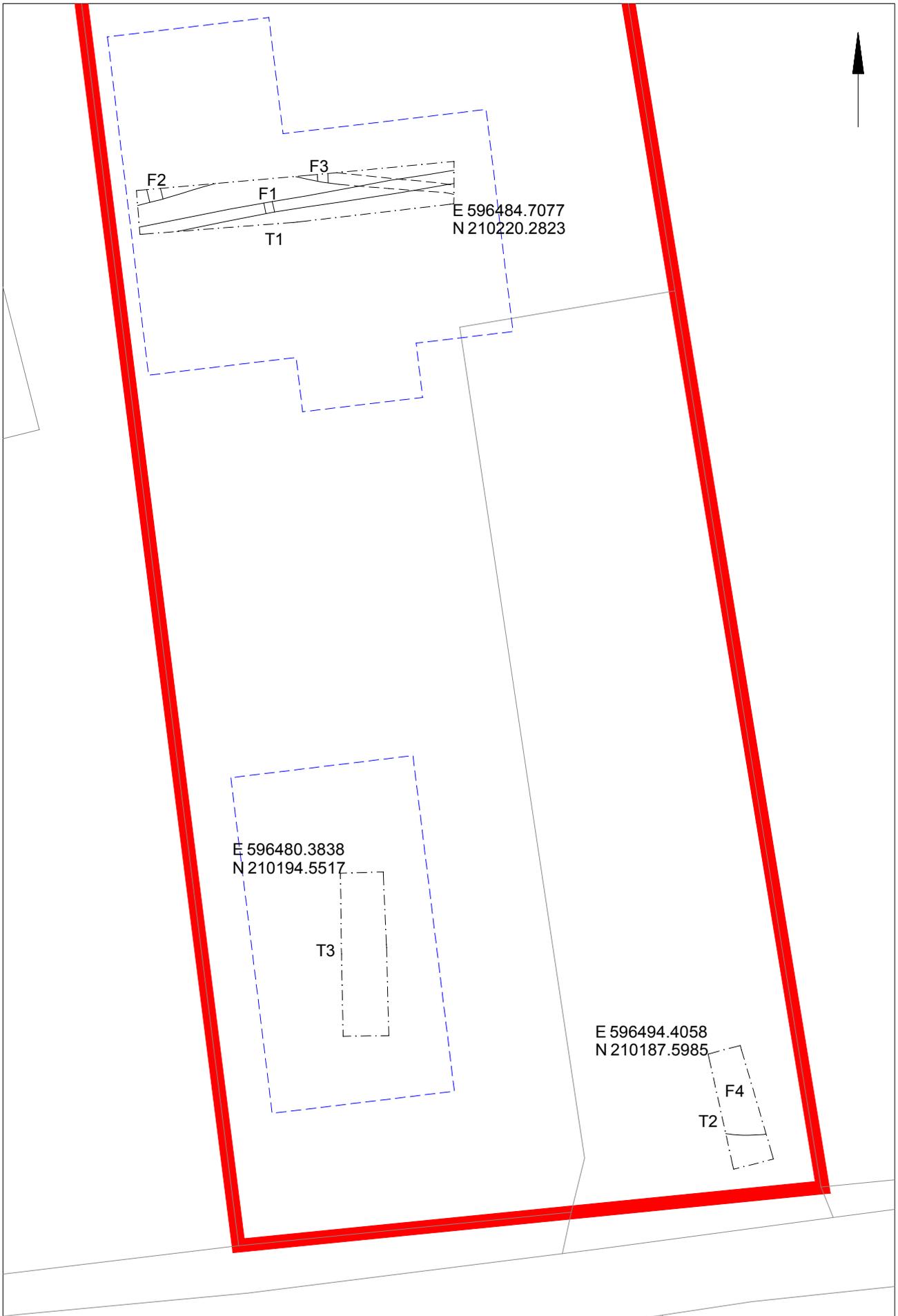


Fig 2 Results

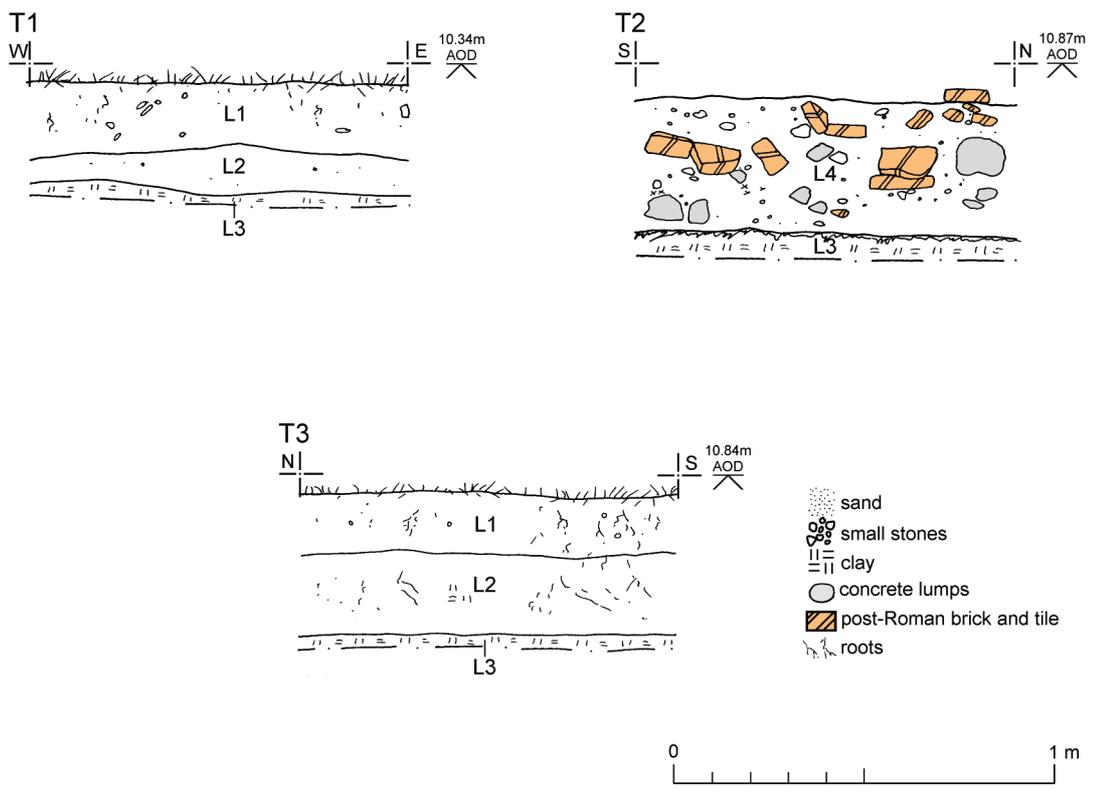


Fig 3 Representative trench sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-275110

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land off Woodrolfe Farm Lane, Tollesbury, Essex, CM9 8SX
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land between Little Woodrolfe and Woodrolfe Farm, Woodrolfe Farm Lane, Tollesbury, Essex in advance of the construction of a new detached dwelling with detached garage. Despite being located on a historic route linking the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement of Tollesbury with Woodrolfe Creek and the marshes, and close to evidence for the Late Iron Age/Roman salt industry, there were no archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 17-02-2017 End: 17-02-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/02d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	MAL 16/01013/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	TOLW17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.12 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DRAINS Modern
Significant Finds	CONCRETE Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON TOLLESBURY land between Little Woodrolfe and Woodrolfe Farm,

	Woodrolfe Farm Lane
Postcode	CM9 8SX
Study area	0.13 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 96483 10205 51.755482764886 0.847145032338 51 45 19 N 000 50 49 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.8m Max: 10.41m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.12
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.12
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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