

# Archaeological evaluation at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TZ

March 2017



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on behalf of **William Meacham, Amherst Homes Ltd**

NGR: TL 51862 34417 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/16/2538/FUL

CAT project ref.: 17/02m

ECC code: NP22

Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2017.17

OASIS ref.: colchest3-278183



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**CAT Report 1081**

March 2017

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OASIS summary sheet

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. Despite being located close to the medieval town, possible castle and Leper Hospital the only archaeological remains were a field boundary ditch and backfilled pond, both identified on the 1896 6-inch OS map and extant until at least the late 1940s.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex which was carried out on 13th-14th March 2017. The work was commissioned by William Meacham of Amherst Homes Ltd in advance of the construction of five new detached 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 trial trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2017), 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 EHER and the Historic Environment Characterisation study indicate that the proposed development lies within a potentially sensitive area of heritage assets. It lies just outside the suggested limits of the medieval town (EHER 376-377) and there is documentary evidence of a castle being in the vicinity (EHER 234). To the northeast lies the site of a medieval Leper Hospital where excavations have identified a number of structures and human burials related to the hospital (EHER 1937). In addition an evaluation to the west has revealed two areas of prehistoric activity (EHER 48597) with multiple pits as well as two small ditches, indicating some longevity of use. Pottery recovered from both areas dated to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age. The nature of the features suggest that they were probably related to settlement activity. Evidence from cartographic records show the land to the immediate west of the site has been quarried.

## 4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Six trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Four were located in the rear garden of the existing property (T1-T4) with two in the front driveway (T5-T6).

**Trench 1 (T1): 8m 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 80-240mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). There were no archaeological remains.

**Trench 2 (T2): 10m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 2 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 200mm thick) onto a medium grey/brown clayey-silt subsoil (L2, c 400mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). A single modern pit (unexcavated) was located at the east end of the trench.

**Trench 3 (T3): 12m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 3 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 250-310mm thick) onto a medium grey/brown clayey-silt subsoil (L2, c 110-220mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). A single undated ditch was aligned N-S along the trench. It measured approximately 1.7m wide by 0.54m deep and was cut by a modern brick wall (an old garden feature).



**Photograph 1** T3, looking S

**Trench 4 (T4): 8m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 4 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 180mm thick) onto a medium grey/brown clayey-silt subsoil (L2, c 130-200mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). There were no archaeological remains but a modern drain did cross the trench.

**Trench 5 (T5): 8m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 5 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 350-430mm thick) onto a medium grey/brown clayey-silt subsoil (L2, c 320-350mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). There were no archaeological remains.

**Trench 6 (T6): 5m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 6 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 180-200mm thick) onto a medium grey/brown clayey-silt subsoil (L2, c 260-400mm thick) which sealed natural

clay (L3). A small sondage was dug to check that L3 was natural. There were no archaeological remains.



Photograph 2 T6, looking NW

## 5 Finds

Modern finds dated to the early-mid 20th century were recorded from F2 (1).

Feature (and finds) number	Description	Date
F2 (1)	<p><b>Modern pottery:</b> four sherds (126g) of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D*) and stoneware (Fabric 47*), late 19th to early 20th century.</p> <p><b>Modern glass bottles, all early-mid 20th century:</b></p> <p>1) Small brown glass Bovril jar, inscription on edge: <b>2oz / BOVRIL / LIMITED / 252</b>, inscription on base <b>BOTTLE MADE IN ENGLAND / BY / FGC</b> (Forsters Glass Company Ltd), screw cap lid missing.</p> <p>2) Clear glass bottle, inscription on edge: <b>BRYLCREEM / REGD</b>, screw-cap lid missing.</p> <p>3) Clear glass bottle, inscription on edge 1: <b>EIFFEL TOWER / LEMONADE</b>, inscription on edge 2: <b>FOSTER CLARK LTD / MAIDSTONE</b>.</p> <p>4) Clear glass meat paste bottle, inscription on base: <b>RD NO 684057</b>.</p>	Modern, early-mid 20th century

Table 1 All finds by context (Fabrics as CAR 7)

## 6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological importance there were no significant archaeological remains. The 6-inch OS map of 1896 (Map 1) shows that the undated ditch (F1) is a field boundary and the modern pit (F2) is probably a backfilled pond seen on the same map. Both boundary and pond were still extant in the late 1940s (6-inch OS map of 1948) so must have been backfill sometime after this date, presumably when the current property was built.



NLS Historic Maps Subscription API layer © Getmapping plc © 2017 GeoEye © 2017 Intermap © 2017 Microsoft Corporation © 2017 HERE ©

**Map 1** 6-inch OS map of 1896 (Essex IX, SW) overlaid on modern mapping, location of old field boundary ditch and pond shown by the blue arrow.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks William Meacham and Amherst Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with and H Furniss and E Hicks. 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 J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation and excavation at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TZ</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	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	2009	<i>Uttlesford District Historic Environment Characterisation Project</i>
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport</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)

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
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
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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 1081)

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: 2017.17.

**Distribution list:**

William Meacham, Amherst Homes Ltd  
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 24.3.2017

**Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Finds Number</b>	<b>Feature Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
F1		Ditch	Firm, moist, medium brown silty-clay	Modern, in existence between at least 1896-1948
F2	1	Pit (backfilled pond)	Friable, dry, dark brown sandy-silt with 1% stone, 2% tile/brick	Modern, in existence between at least 1896-1948
L1		Topsoil	Soft, moist, dark brown/black clayey-silt with 1% tile/brick	Modern
L2		Subsoil	Friable, moist, medium grey/brown clayey-silt with <1% tile/brick	-
L3		Natural	Firm, moist medium orange silty-clay with <1% stone	-

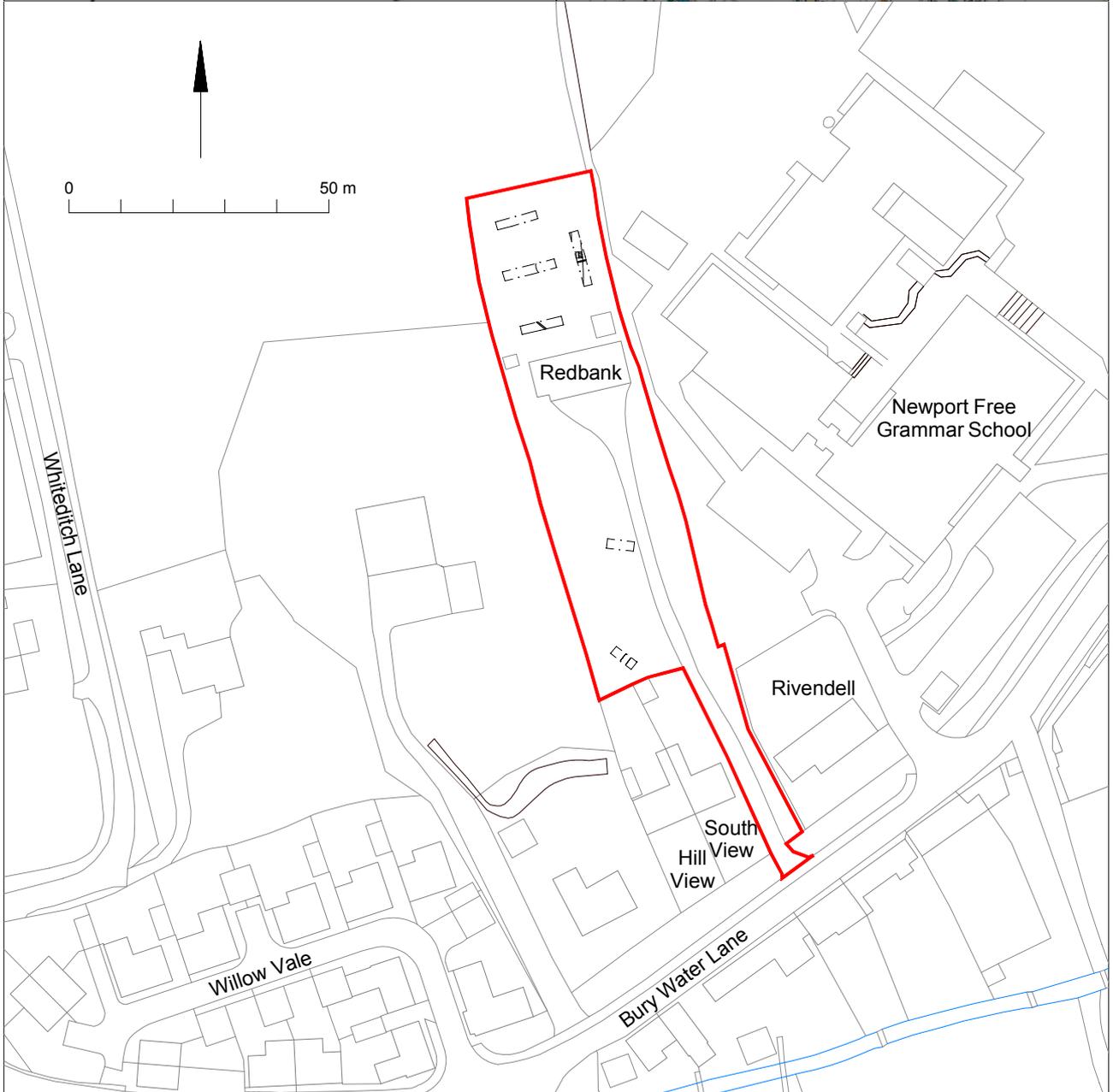
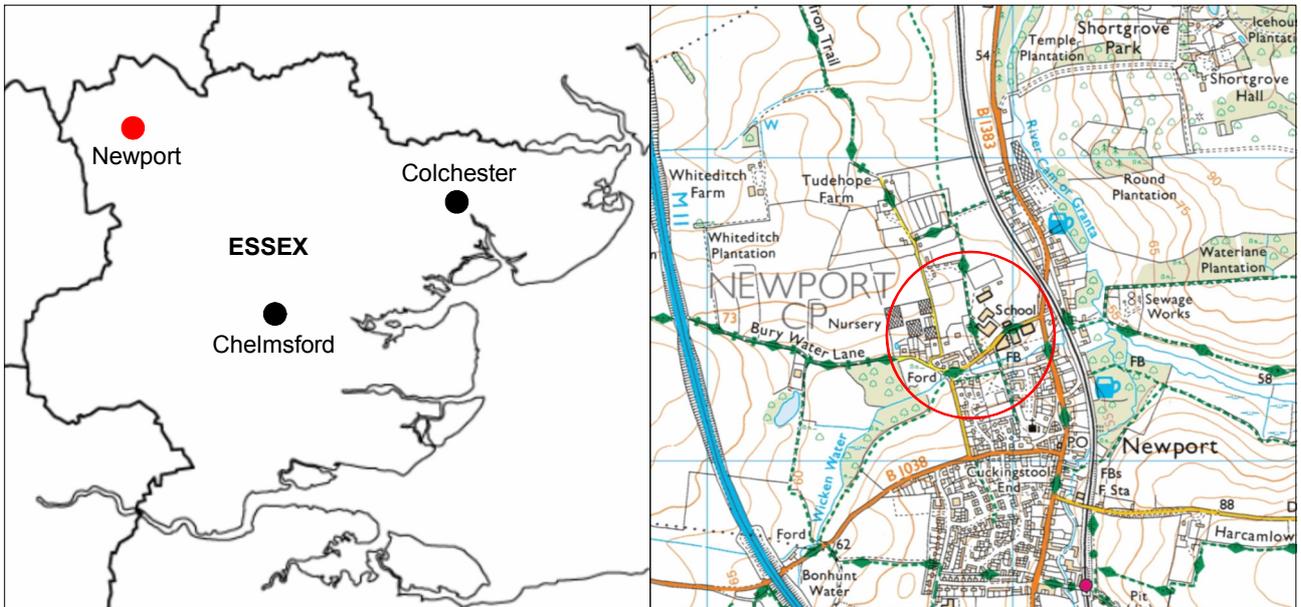


Fig 1 Site location.

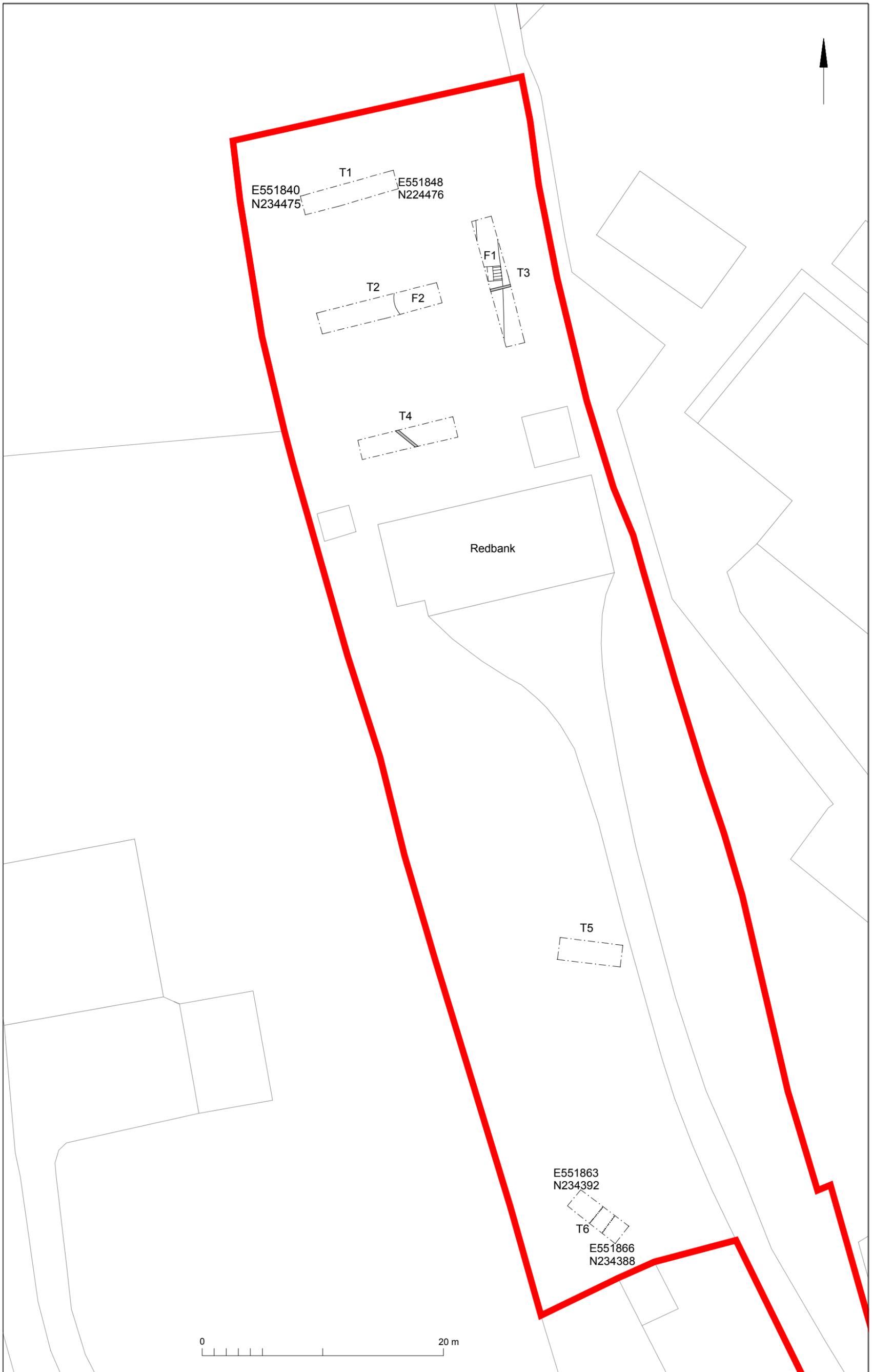


Fig 2 Results

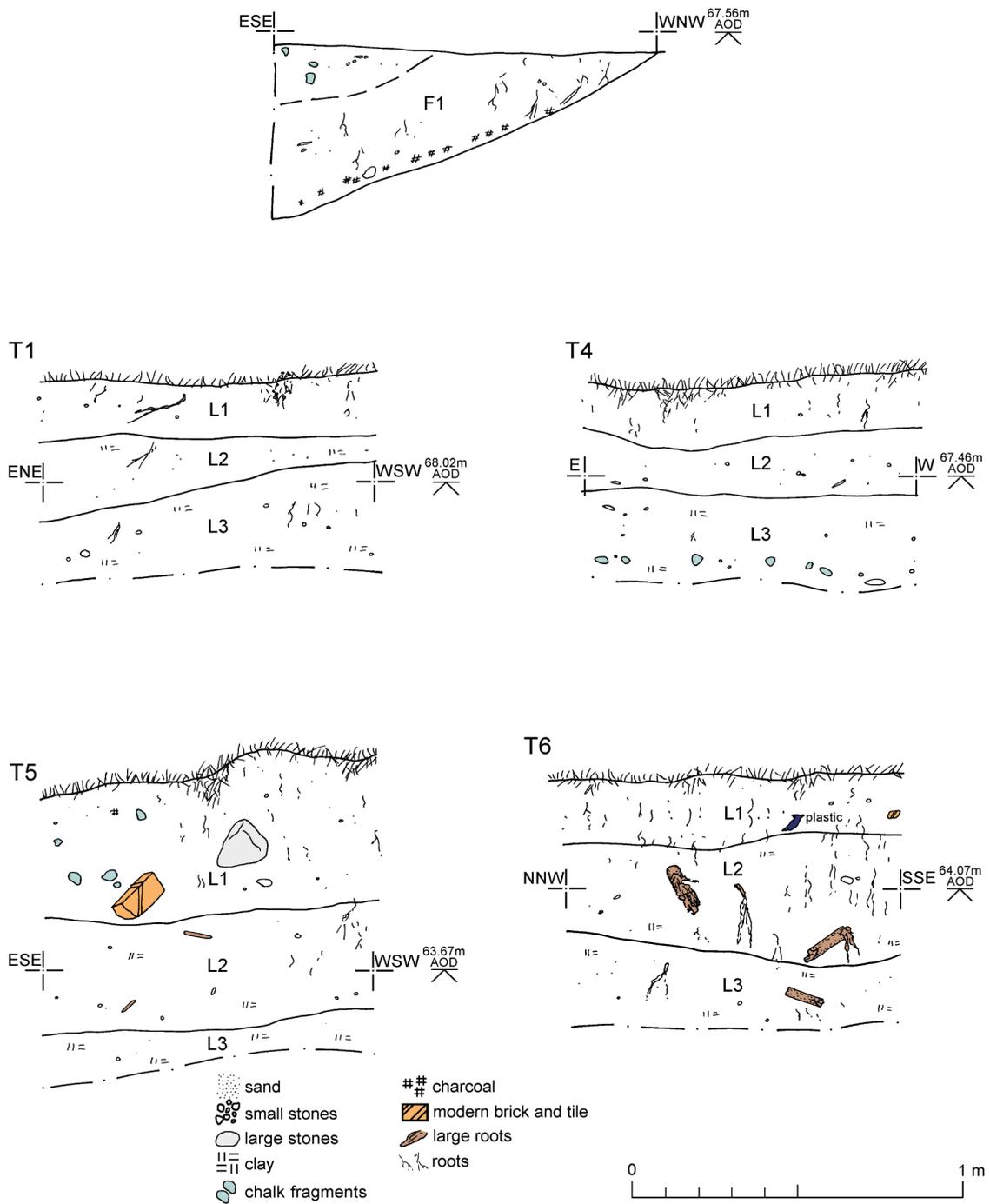


Fig 3 Feature and representative trench sections.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-278183**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TZ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex in advance of the construction of five new dwellings. Despite being located close to the medieval town, possible castle and Leper Hospital the only archaeological remains were a field boundary ditch and backfilled pond, both identified on the 1896 6-inch OS map and extant until at least the late 1940s.
Project dates	Start: 13-03-2017 End: 14-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/02m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/16/2538/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	NP22 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2017.17 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	BACKFILLED POND Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
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Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD NEWPORT Redbank, Bury Water Lane
Postcode	CB11 3TZ
Study area	0.28 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 51862 34417 51.986963406119 0.211806610763 51 59 13 N 000 12 42 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 63.52m Max: 67.83m

### 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	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2017.17
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2017.17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
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 Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TZ: March 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1081
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ringbound loose leaf

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)

Entered on 29 March 2017

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