

# Archaeological evaluation at Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6DQ

May 2017



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Alec Wade with Harvey Furness and Elliott Hicks

**commissioned by Stephen Hayhurst  
on behalf of James Parrish**

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Planning ref.: EPF/2173/16

CAT project ref.: 17/04q

ECC code: CHGLL17

Epping Forest Museum accession code, EPPMS: 2017.4

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**CAT Report 1103**  
May 2017

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OASIS summary sheet

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Fig 1 Site location showing proposed development (dashed blue) and original trench locations (solid black) in relation to the excavated trenches (red).

Fig 2 Results

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell, Essex in advance construction of two detached houses with detached double garages and new vehicular access. Despite being located close to the Roman site of Little London, there were no archaeological remains.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell, Essex which was carried out on 11th May 2017. The work was commissioned by Stephen Hayhurst on behalf of James Parrish in advance of the construction of two detached houses with detached double garages and new vehicular access, 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 trial trenching and excavation* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (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 draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the proposed development is sited next to the Roman site of Little London (EHER 4057-9), which has been variously interpreted as a villa, a mansio (Roman government staging-post) and a small town. The cropmark of a trackway (EHER 4064) links the proposed development area to the Roman road from London to Cambridge, and it is probable that the development area formed part of the wider Roman settlement area.

## 4 Results (Figs 2-3, photographs 1-2)

As a result of human error the trial-trenches were not located within the footprint of the proposed dwellings and garages (as stated in the brief and wsi), but were instead located approximately 20m further to the east and south (see Fig 1). This was discussed with ECCHEA when the error was discovered during post-excavation and, as there were no significant archaeological remains (see below), it was agreed that no further trenching was necessary to rectify the error.

Two trial trenches (both measuring 16m long by 1.8m wide) were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. They were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.15-0.25m thick, medium grey/brown silty-loam with frequent gravel inclusions) and subsoil (L2, c 0.12-0.24m thick, medium brown silty-clay with

occasional gravel inclusions), which sealed a natural yellow/brown silty-clay (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.35-0.42m below current ground level).

**Trench 1 (T1):** A small sondage was dug at the southwestern end of T1 to confirm that L3 was natural. Several small fragments of post-medieval/modern peg tile were recovered from L2. There were no significant archaeological remains.

**Trench 2 (T2):** Two small patches of modern hydrocarbon staining were recorded in the base of the trench. There were no significant archaeological remains.



**Photograph 1** T1, looking NNE



**Photograph 2** T2, looking NNE

## 5 Finds

Three sherds (44g) of glazed red earthenware (Fabric 40, late 16th to early 18th century) and four fragments (86g) of post-medieval/modern tile were recovered from L2 (1).

## 6 Discussion

Despite being located in proximity to the Roman site of Little London and a cropmark trackway linking Little London to the Roman road from London to Cambridge, there were no archaeological remains.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephen Hayhurst and James Parrish for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by A Wade with H Furness and E Hicks. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. 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>

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
Brown & Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agendas and Strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6DQ</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>
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell</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

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'
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, <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
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 1103)

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 Epping Forest Museum under accession code, EPPMS: 2017.4.

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### Distribution list:

Stephen Hayhurst

James Parrish

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 25.5.2017

**Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Finds number</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1		Topsoil	Very loose, dry, medium grey/brown silty-loam with frequent gravel with a base of crushed concrete, brick and building materials laid by the farmer in 1996 (owner, pers comm).	Modern
L2	1	Subsoil	Firm, moist, medium brown silty-clay with occasional gravel	Post-medieval / modern
L3		Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow/brown silty-clay with occasional gravel patches	-

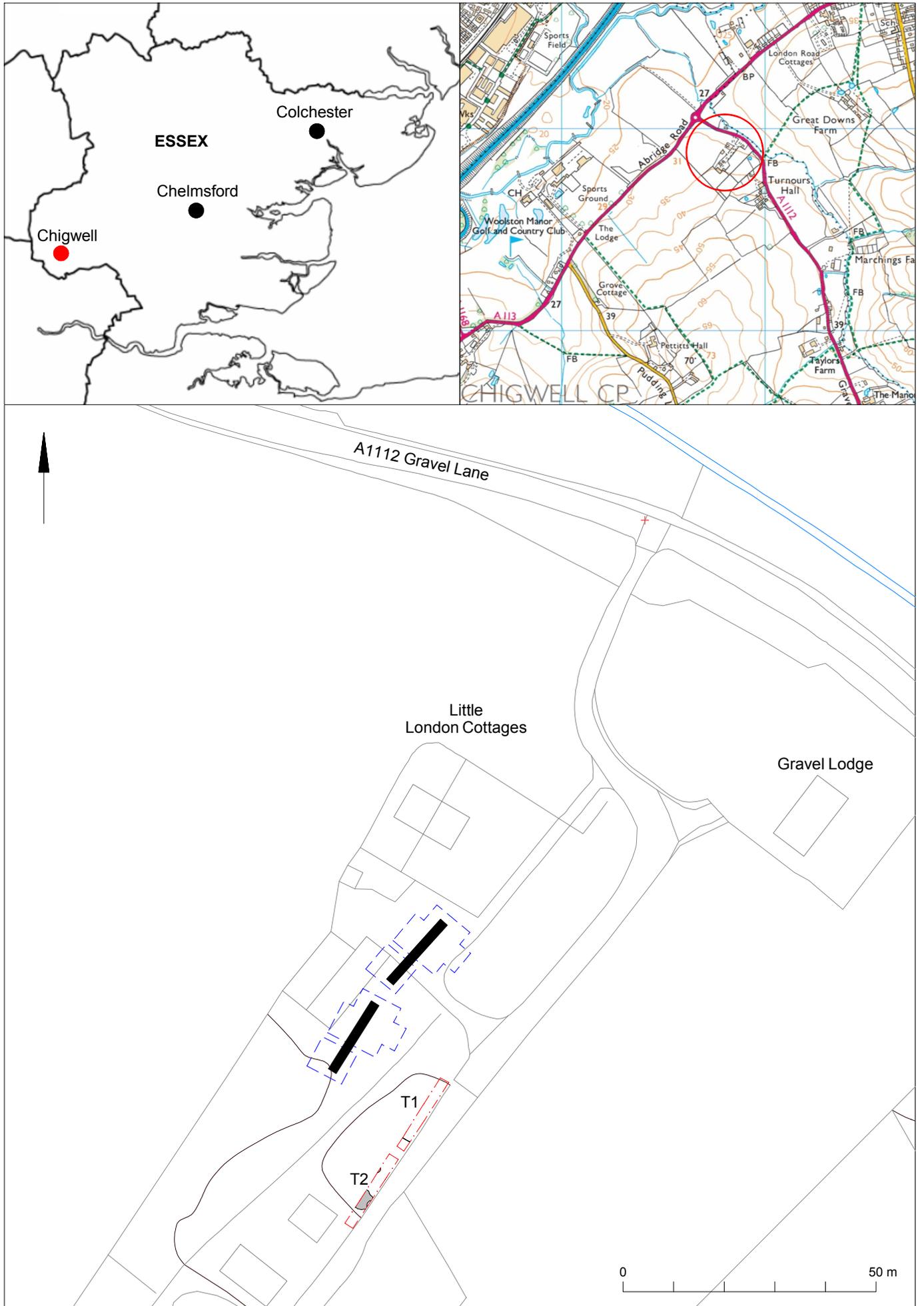


Fig 1 Site location showing proposed development (dashed blue) and original trench locations (solid black) in relation to the excavated trenches (red).

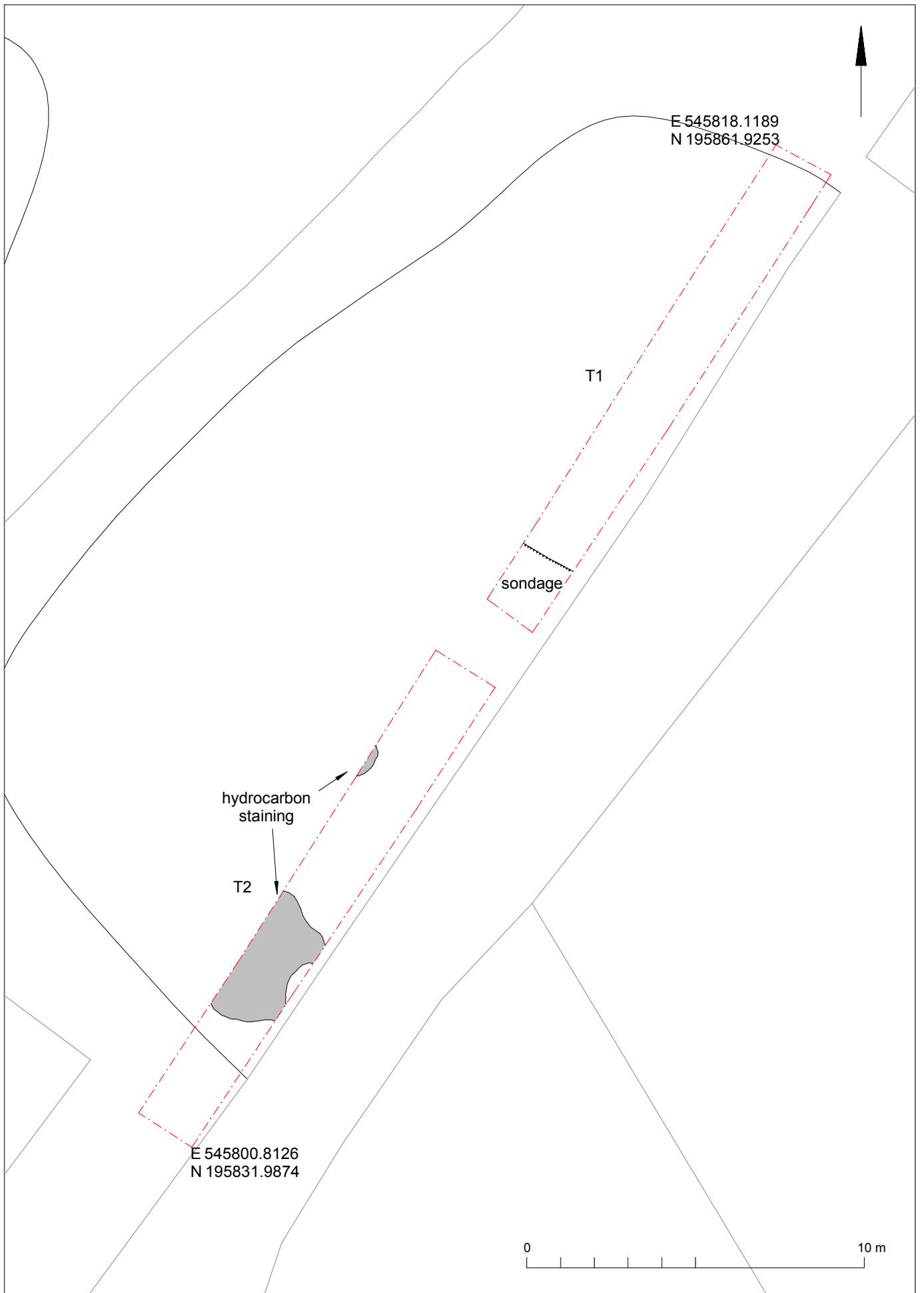


Fig 2 Results



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**OASIS ID: colchest3-284205**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6DQ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell, Essex in advance construction of two detached houses with detached double garages and new vehicular access. Despite being located close to the Roman site of Little London, there were no archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 11-05-2017 End: 11-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/04q - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	EPF/2173/16 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHGLL17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	EPPMS: 2017.4 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX EPPING FOREST CHIGWELL Little London Farm, Gravel Lane
Postcode	IG7 6DQ
Study area	0.4 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 45813 95870 51.642210594908 0.107544002385 51 38 31 N 000 06 27 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30.72m Max: 30.93m

## 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	Alec Wade
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Epping Forest Museum
Digital Archive ID	EPPMS: 2017.4
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"

Paper Archive recipient Epping Forest Museum  
Paper Archive ID EPPMS: 2017.4  
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 Little London Farm, Gravel Lane, Chigwell, Essex, IG7 6DQ: May 2017  
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