

Archaeological evaluation on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna, Essex, SS3 0LS

August 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Sarah Carter

commissioned by Tim Lawrence

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Southend Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

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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 1157

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial trench) was carried out on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna, Essex in advance construction of a new detached dwelling. The site lies in close proximity to a medieval church and south of an area of archaeological features and finds originating from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period. Archaeological excavation at this site uncovered a single ditch of late prehistoric, possibly Middle Iron Age date.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna, Essex which was carried out on 15th August 2017. The work was commissioned by Tim Lawrence in advance of the construction of a new detached dwelling, 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 trial trenching and excavation* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 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 development site is located adjacent to the medieval church of All Saints (EHER 34928). This would have formed part of a church hall complex which had its origins in the medieval period. The church itself dates to the 12th century and is grade II* listed. The church would have formed a potential focus for settlement in the medieval period and it is possible that the site contains important archaeological deposits.

To the northeast, many features and finds from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods have been excavated in Barling Marsh Quarry (EHER 11344-45). To the west and north excavations along the haul road to the quarry also revealed an area of complex landscape development from the Bronze Age onwards (EHER 14815-31).

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

One trial trench (measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide) was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.1-0.13m thick, loose, dry, light to medium grey/brown sandy-silt) and subsoil (L2, c 0.17-0.2m thick, firm, dry, medium grey/brown loamy-clay). This sealed a layer of possible

buried topsoil (L3, c 0.17m thick, firm, light brown clayey-silt with tile and chalk fleck inclusions) which in turn sealed a further possible layer of buried subsoil (L4, c 0.11-0.13m thick, friable to firm medium brown clayey-silt). Beneath this were naturally-deposited soils (L5, encountered at a depth of c 0.57-0.6m below current ground level).

Late prehistoric ditch F1 was uncovered. It was aligned NE-SW and measured 1.05m in width and 0.3m in depth.



Photograph 1 F1 sx – looking northeast

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

The only finds recovered come from the fill of ditch F1. These consist of three small sherds of pottery (10 g), a worked flint flake, a small piece of burnt flint, three small pieces/fragments of fired clay (4 g) and a quantity of animal bone (c 20 pieces and fragments weighing 146 g). The pottery and the worked flint are the only datable finds.

All of the pottery sherds appear hand-made and each has a different fabric type. One is flint-tempered with rather ill-sorted fine-medium size and occasional larger flint inclusions, another is vesicular from dissolved small shell-temper, while the third contains small fractured (dark) stone pieces that are not obviously fractured by heat. While difficult to date closely and allowing that the flint-tempered sherd might be residual, the nature of the sherds and the mix of fabrics suggests a late prehistoric date, possibly Middle Iron Age date (c 4th century BC to the 1st century BC), although the shell-tempered sherd could date as late as the 1st century AD. The flint, a small tertiary flint flake with some edge damage/use wear is certainly prehistoric and is probably most likely to date to the Bronze Age or earlier, but close dating is difficult. The fired clay pieces are in a soft orange sandy fabric but are otherwise nondescript small pieces. The animal bone consists of pieces from a cow (cattle) humerus, fragments from a large mammal scapula and a single sheep tooth.

6 Discussion

Archaeological excavation on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna uncovered a single late prehistoric ditch, possibly Middle Iron Age, although one sherd of pottery recovered from the feature could be dated as late as the late 1st century AD. Indicating activity in the vicinity in the late prehistoric period, this could be related to the contemporaneous activity evidenced in the broader area to the north and west of the site.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Tim Lawrence for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with S Carter. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. 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>

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8).
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna, Essex, SS3 0LS</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for 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>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Brief for archaeological evaluation at land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna</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
CIfA	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
EH	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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman

Roman section wsi	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410 (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s written scheme of investigation
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10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1157)

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 Southend Museum under accession code, [tbc](#).

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Distribution list:

Tim Lawrence

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

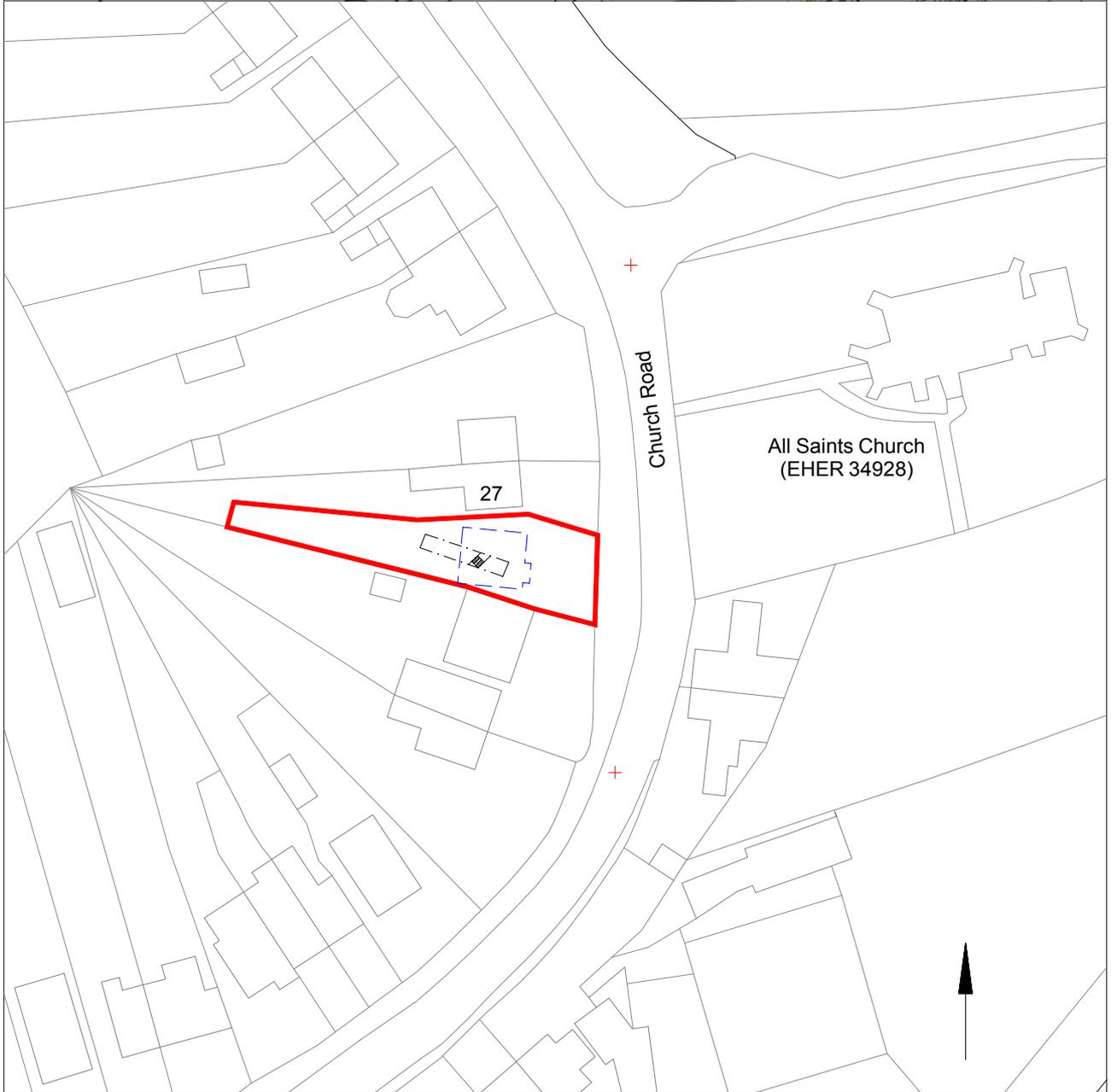
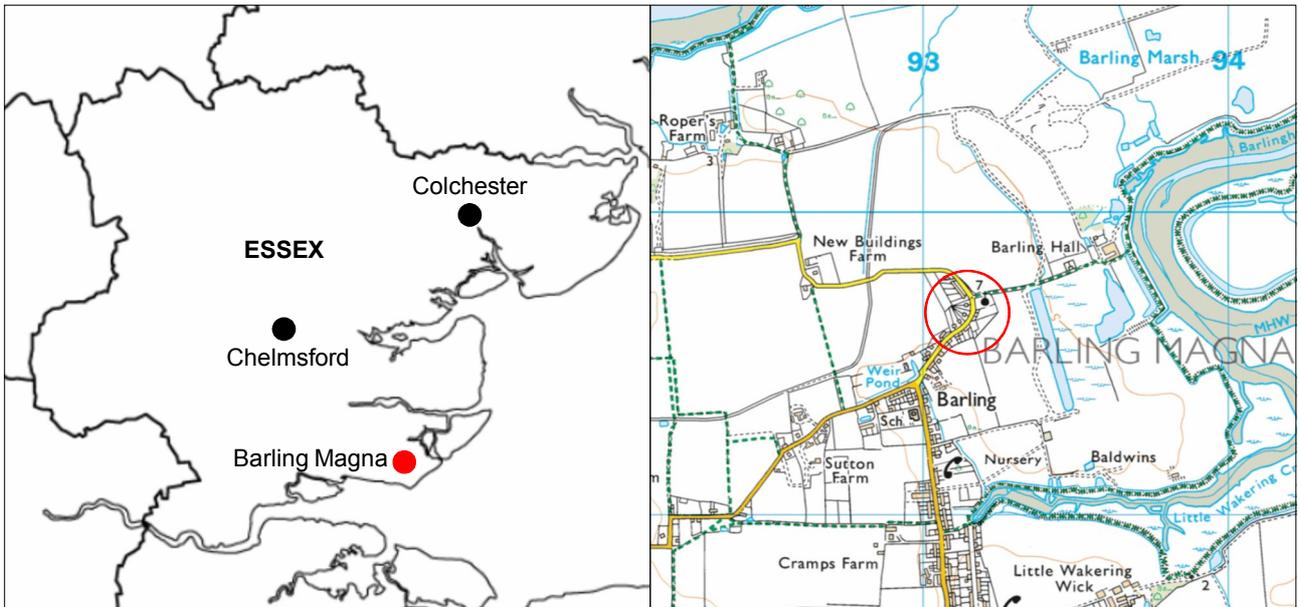
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 1.9.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Finds number	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Loose, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown loamy-clay	?Modern
L3	-	?buried topsoil	Firm light brown clayey-silt with tile and chalk fleck inclusions	Post-medieval
L4	-	?buried subsoil	Friable to firm medium brown clayey-silt	?post-medieval
L5	-	Natural	Firm, dry, light to medium orange clay	Post-glacial
F1	1	Ditch	Very hard, dry, medium grey/brown clay with charcoal and daub fleck inclusions	Late prehistoric



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



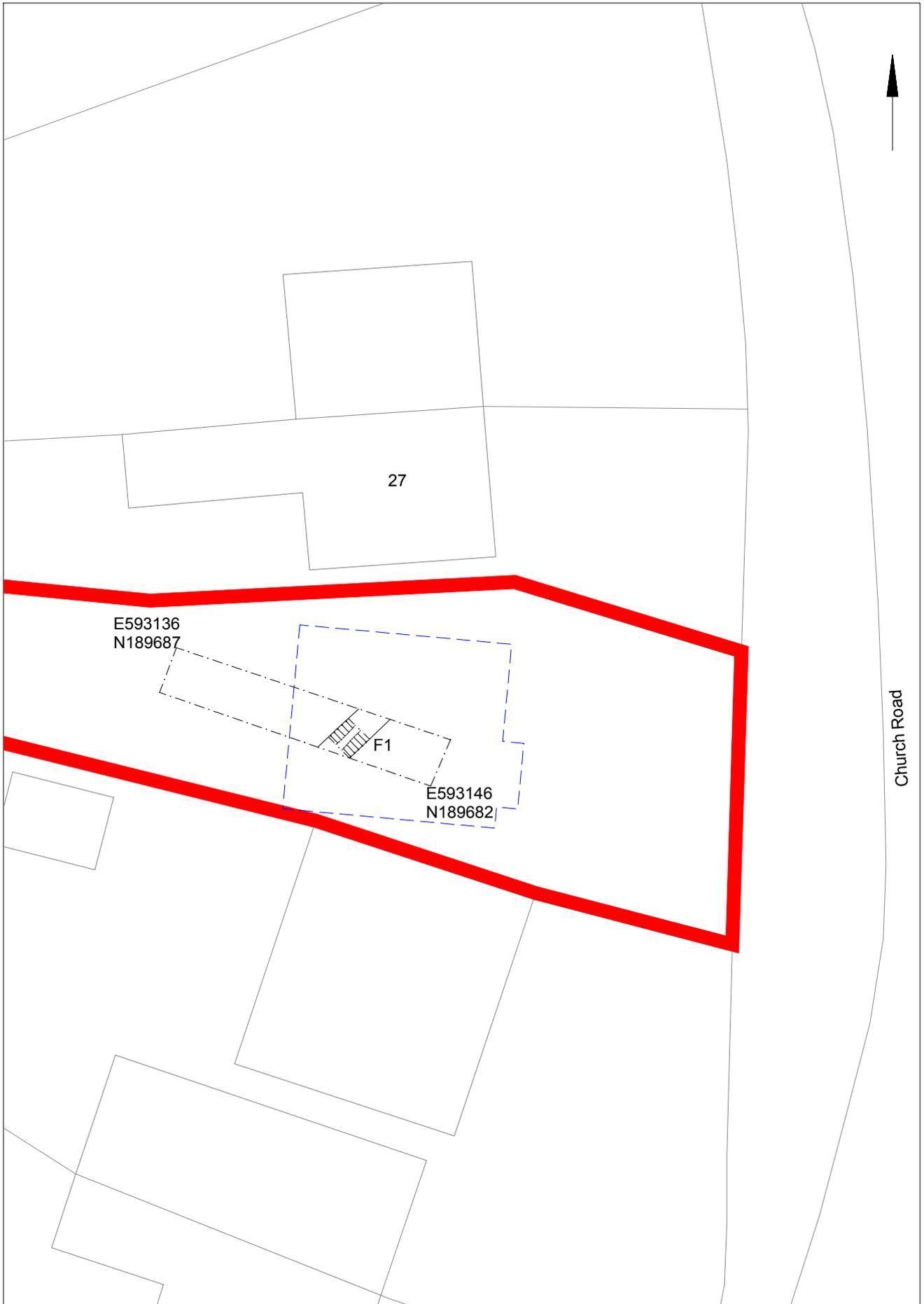
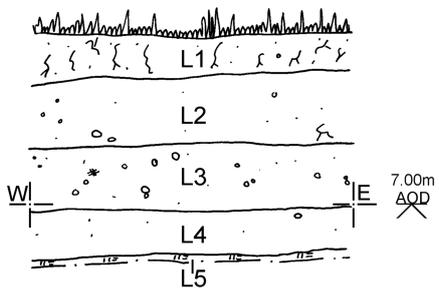
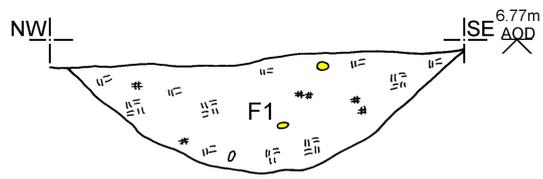


Fig 2 Results in relation to proposed development (dashed blue).

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-  small stones
-  large stones
-  clay
-  charcoal
-  roots
-  animal bone



Fig 3 Feature and representative section

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-287376

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna, Essex, SS3 0LS
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (one trial trench) was carried out on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna, Essex in advance construction of a new detached dwelling. The site lies in close proximity to a medieval church and south of an area of archaeological features and finds originating from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period. Archaeological excavation at this site uncovered a single ditch of late prehistoric, possibly Middle Iron Age date.
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2017 End: 15-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/06f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/0043/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BMCR17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
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
Site location	ESSEX ROCHFORD BARLING MAGNA 27 Church Road
Postcode	SS3 0LS
Study area	0.03 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 9314 8968 51.572305645081 0.787421594038 51 34 20 N 000 47 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.42m Max: 6.88m

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	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Southend Museum
Digital Archive ID	tbc
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Southend Museum
Paper Archive ID	tbc
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', ' General Notes", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land south of 27 Church Road, Barling Magna, Essex, SS3 0LS: August 2017
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