

Archaeological evaluation on land at Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TR

March 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Alec Wade and Robin Mathieson

**commissioned by Steve Norman
on behalf of Mr S. Brazier**

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CAT Report 1241
March 2018

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and five associated buildings (including a games room and an office). Archaeological evaluation at this site revealed a modern pit, which was probably used for refuse purposes.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex which was carried out on 1st March 2018. The work was commissioned by Steve Norman on behalf of Mr S. Brazier in advance of the demolition of the existing main dwelling to be replaced with a new detached dwelling, alterations to the main vehicular access, demolition of existing agricultural/domestic buildings to be replaced with a new games room and biomass boiler room, cart lodge and farm office and two outbuildings with covered storage as well as other associated groundworks, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor 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).

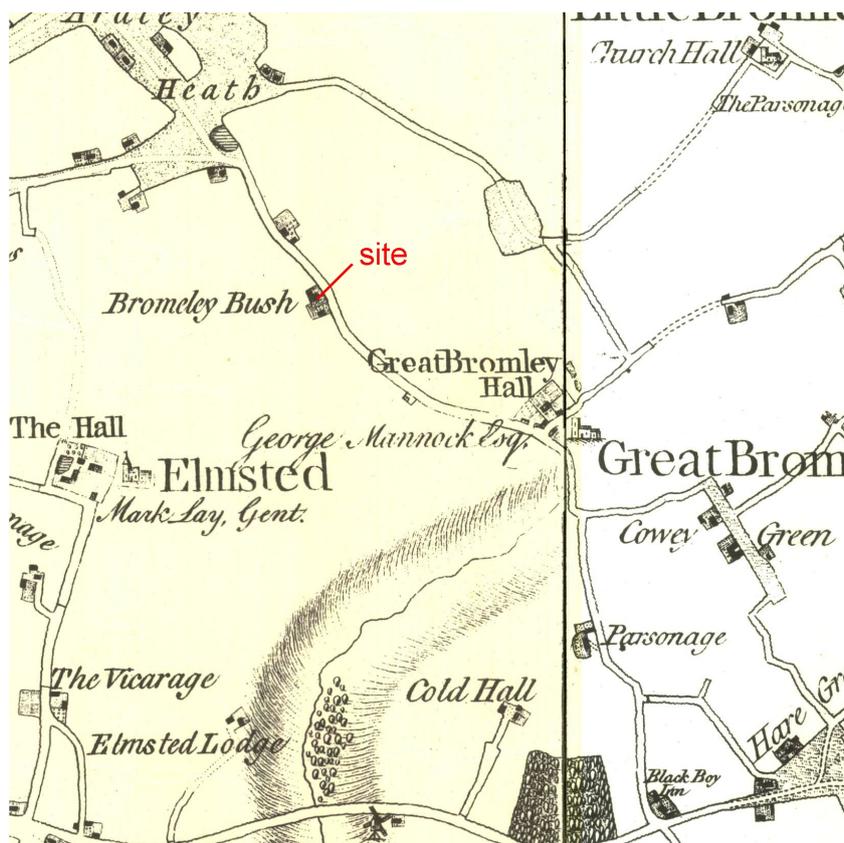
All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial-trenching evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

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 proposed development lies within the historic farmstead of Bush Farm, the farm is depicted on the Chapman & Andre map of 1777 as Bromeley Bush and so must predate this. At least two buildings are depicted on this map; the farm had expanded by the time of the 1st edition OS map, which depicts a number of large barns which would therefore date to between 1777 and c 1870.



Map 1: Extract of Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777

Surrounding the site, the HER records a number of cropmarks of probable archaeological origin including trackways, ring-ditches, enclosures and pits, suggestive of settlement and possible ritual activity. Investigation of similar cropmarks adjacent to the site has dated some of them to the Iron Age and possibly the Saxon periods. The features indicated by the cropmarks may be multi-period and represent activity within the area over a long period of time.

4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at this site to learn more about the origins of the historic farmstead of Bush Farm, and to investigate whether Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon activity detected within the wider area extended onto the site. More broadly, investigation was undertaken to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, to determine whether further work is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Five trial-trenches totalling 62.9m in length were excavated within the development site. T2, 3, 4 and 5 were excavated through modern crush (L1, loose, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with concrete and brick inclusions). In T2, 3 and 4, L1 sealed a layer of modern build-up (L2, loose/soft, moist, orange/brown sandy-silt with occasional brick, concrete and mortar inclusions). This layer, in T4, sat above a modern layer of pond in-fill (L3, soft, wet, medium/dark grey sandy-silty-clay with occasional stone piece inclusions). In T2 and 3, L2 sealed a modern build-up layer (L4, soft, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with frequent gravel, stone, brick, concrete and mortar piece inclusions), beneath which lay natural (L5, soft, moist medium orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent gravel and stone piece inclusions). In T5, L5 was sealed by L1. In T1, excavations occurred through modern topsoil (L6, soft, moist dark yellow/brown sandy-loam with frequent gravel and stone inclusions) and a modern demolition layer

(L7, soft, moist dark orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal, brick and tile fleck inclusions and brick, tile and mortar piece inclusions) onto L5.

No significant archaeological remains were uncovered in T2, 3, 4 or 5.

Trench 1 (T1): 20m long by 1.8m wide

T1 was projected to be U-shaped. However, due to the presence of a septic tank, one branch of the trench was not excavated.

Modern pit F1 extended beyond the limit of excavation, and was not excavated, but it measured at least 5m in width.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking east

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Discussion

Archaeological at Bush Farm did not produce evidence relating to either the historic origins of the farmstead, or the Iron Age and Anglo-Saxon activity detected within the vicinity. Instead, one large pit of modern date, probably used for refuse purposes, was uncovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Steve Norman and Mr S. Brazier for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with A Wade and R Mathieson. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Teresa O'Connor.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for 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>
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)
O'Connor, T	2018	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching on Land at Bush Farm, hall Road, Great Bromley</i>

10 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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
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
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1241)

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

12 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 2018.15.

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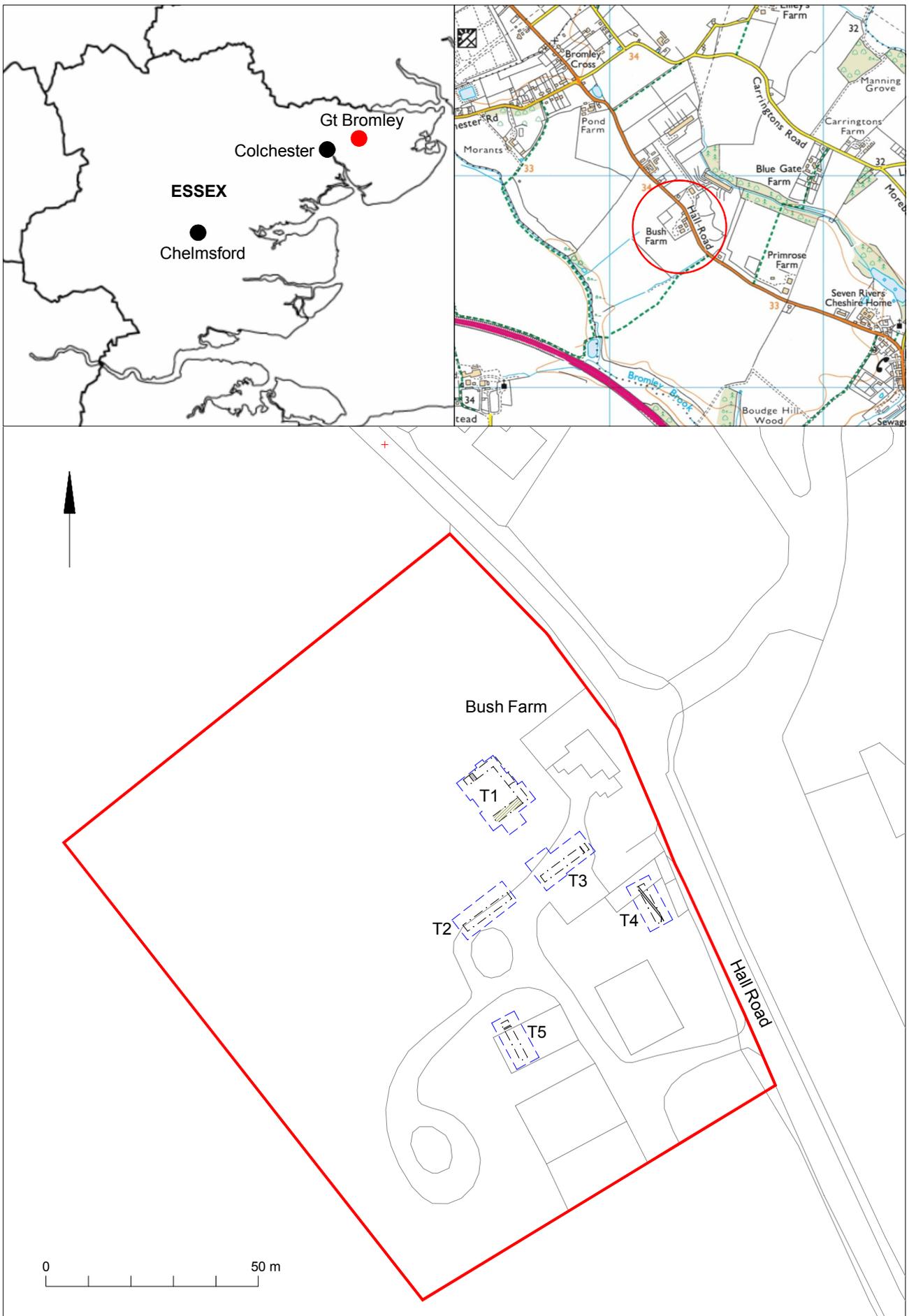
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 20.03.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	Crush layer	Loose, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with concrete and brick inclusions	Modern
L2	Build-up layer	Loose/soft, moist, orange/brown sandy-silt with occasional brick, concrete and mortar inclusions	Modern
L3	Pond in-fill	Soft, wet, medium/dark grey sandy-silty-clay with occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern
L4	Build-up layer	Soft, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with frequent gravel, stone, brick, concrete and mortar piece inclusions	Modern
L5	Natural	Soft, moist medium orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent gravel and stone piece inclusions	Post-glacial
L6	Topsoil	Soft, moist dark yellow/brown sandy-loam with frequent gravel and stone inclusions	Modern
L7	Demolition layer	Soft, moist dark orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal, brick and tile fleck inclusions and brick, tile and mortar piece inclusions	Modern
F1	Pit	Soft, moist dark yellow/brown loam with plastic piece inclusions and hessian sacks	Modern



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

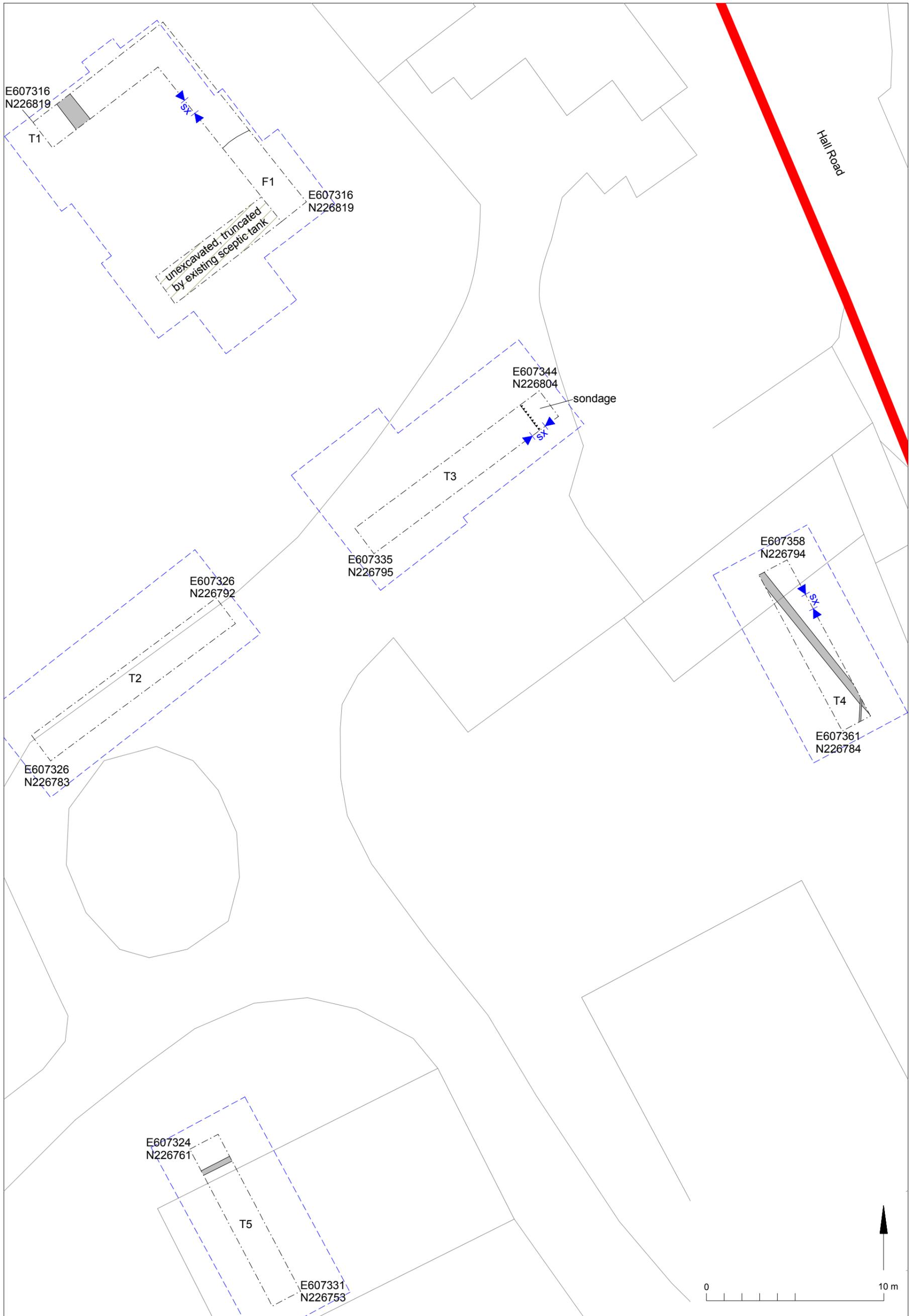


Fig 2 Results, proposed development dashed blue, modern services in grey

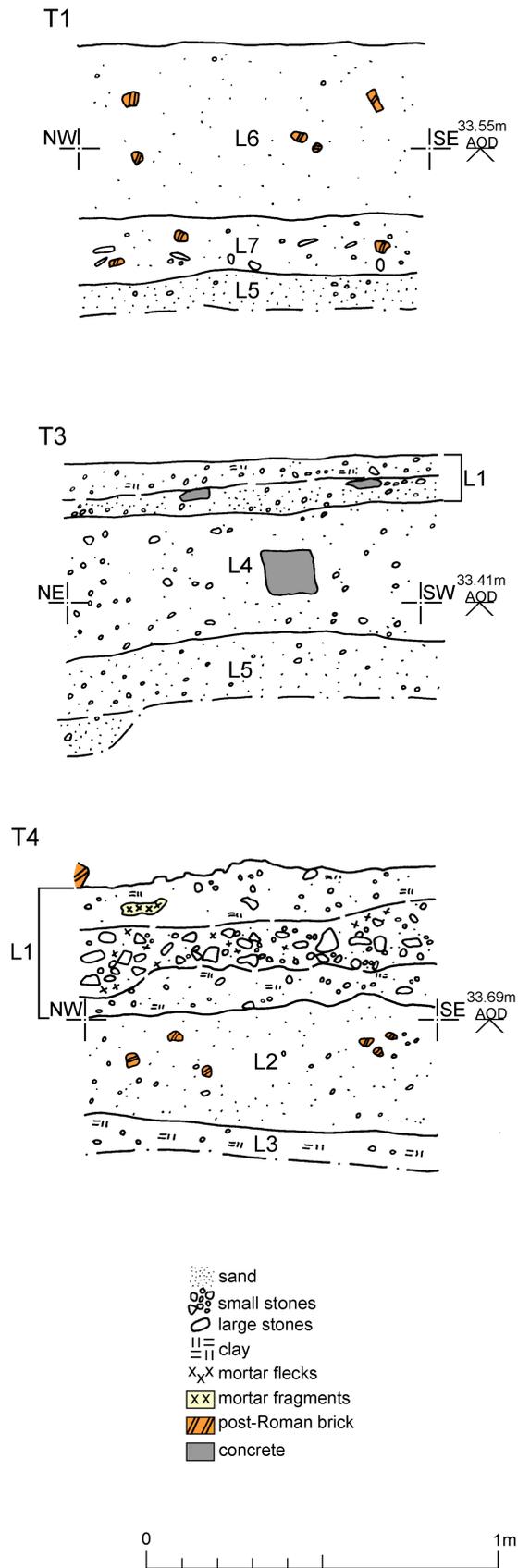


Fig 3 Representative sections

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OASIS ID: colchest3-308920

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Land at Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley, CO7 7TR
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling and five associated buildings (including a games room and an office). Archaeological evaluation at this site revealed a modern pit, which was probably used for refuse purposes.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2018 End: 01-03-2018
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/02e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	17/01720/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	17/00424/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/01368/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2018.15 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	GBYBF18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	PIT Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)

Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING GREAT BROMLEY Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley
Postcode	CO7 7TR
Study area	1.62 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 07286 06806 51.721048515368 1.001436128129 51 43 15 N 001 00 05 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 33.2m Max: 33.34m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr S Brazier

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2018.15
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2018.15
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title	Archaeological evaluation on land at Bush Farm, Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TR: March 2018
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