

Archaeological evaluation on land north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7HR

April 2018



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Sarah Carter, Robin Mathieson and Alec Wade

**commissioned by John Lynch, South East Developments Ltd
on behalf of South East Developments Ltd**

NGR: TM 05773 24739 (centre)

Planning ref.: 14/01238/OUT

CAT project ref.: 18/03p

ECC code: ESMC18

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2018.27

OASIS ref.: colchest3-312546



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1257

April 2018

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	4
7	Conclusion	4
8	Acknowledgements	4
9	References	4
10	Abbreviations and glossary	5
11	Contents of archive	5
12	Archive deposition	5
	Appendix 1 Context list	7
	Figures	after p7
	OASIS summary sheet	

List of photographs and figures

Cover: working shot

Photograph 1	Trench T2 with F1 visible in first third of trench, looking S	2
Photograph 2	Trench T8, ditch F2, looking W	3
Photograph 3	Trench T3, looking E	3
Photograph 4	Trench T7, looking W	4

Fig 1	Site location
Fig 2	Results
Fig 3	Detailed trench plans: T2, T6 & T8
Fig 4	Feature and representative sections

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (eight trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market in advance of the construction of a residential development. Located close to a number of cropmarks, the only features identified were a historic boundary ditch visible on the first edition, 6-inch, OS map of 1874 and an undated pit or tree-throw.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market, Essex which was carried out on 10th to 11th April 2018. The work was commissioned by South East Developments Ltd in advance of the erection of twenty dwellings with associated access and pedestrian crossing, and was undertaken 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 archaeological trial-trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2017), 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* (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 lies within an area which has substantial archaeological evidence as recorded by aerial photography and seen as cropmarks. These include settlement enclosures of probable prehistoric date, a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, isolated ring-ditches, multi-period trackways and field-systems, and possible Roman farmsteads. In particular, cropmarks to the west of the site show a double-ditched trackway as well as other linear features of possible agricultural origin. The orientation of these field boundaries correspond to others seen on historic maps within the development site but which no longer survive (see Fig 1). These predate c 1870 and are likely to be earlier in origin.

The Colchester Road to the south of the site is a Roman road which led directly to the Roman town of Colchester to the west of Elmstead Market area. A Roman coin has been recorded south of the road within the village. To the south of Colchester Road cropmarks depicting pits and possible ring-ditches are recorded.

An evaluation in 2018, 400m to the northwest of the development site revealed seven ditches, two of modern date including a field boundary ditch visible on OS maps, a ditch of Roman or medieval date, and four undated ditches. Other features were an undated ditch/pit, a tree-throw, animal burrow and two natural features (CAT Report 1214).

Historic buildings survive within the village of Elmstead Market which date from the 15th century with the village expanding along Colchester Road in the 17th and 18th centuries. The development site lies within the agricultural fields surrounding the historic settlement which have a distinct regular field pattern which surrounds the historic settlement.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, in order for the ECC Historic Environment Advisor determine whether further investigations would be required.

5 Results (Figs 2-6)

Eight trial-trenches, seven 30m long and one 20m long (all 1.8m wide), were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Two layers were recorded. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4m thick) sealed naturally-deposited clay (L2). No significant archaeological remains were identified in trenches T1, T3, T4 (plough scars were observed), T5 and T7.

Trench 2 (T2):

Undated pit or tree-throw F2 was a long, shallow feature measuring 1.16m long, 0.5m wide and 0.11m deep.



Photograph 1 Trench T2 with F1 visible in first third of trench, looking S

Trenches 6 and 8 (T6 & T8):

Trenches 6 and 8 were positioned across a historic field boundary, identified crossing the site diagonally on the first edition, 6-inch, OS map of 1874 (see Figs 1-2). This ditch, F2, was identified in both trenches. It was a thin, shallow, V-shaped ditch measuring 0.4-0.6m wide by 0.15-0.2m deep. No finds were recovered.



Photograph 2 Trench T8, ditch F2, looking W.



Photograph 3 Trench T3, looking E



Photograph 4 Trench T7, looking W

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation revealed a field boundary ditch visible on the first edition, 6-inch, OS map of 1874 and an undated pit or tree-throw. The boundary ditch features on OS maps as late as the 1930s.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks John Lynch and South East Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with S Carter, R Mathieson and A Wade. Figures are by S Carter, B Holloway and L Pooley. The project was monitored for ECCPS 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, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2017 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land to the north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7HR</i> |
| CAT Report 1214 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation on land west of Church Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7AW: January 2018</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	2016	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching on land north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market</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)

10 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
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	O nline A ccess S to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1257)

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: 2018.27.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2018

Distribution list:

John Lynch, South East Developments Ltd
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

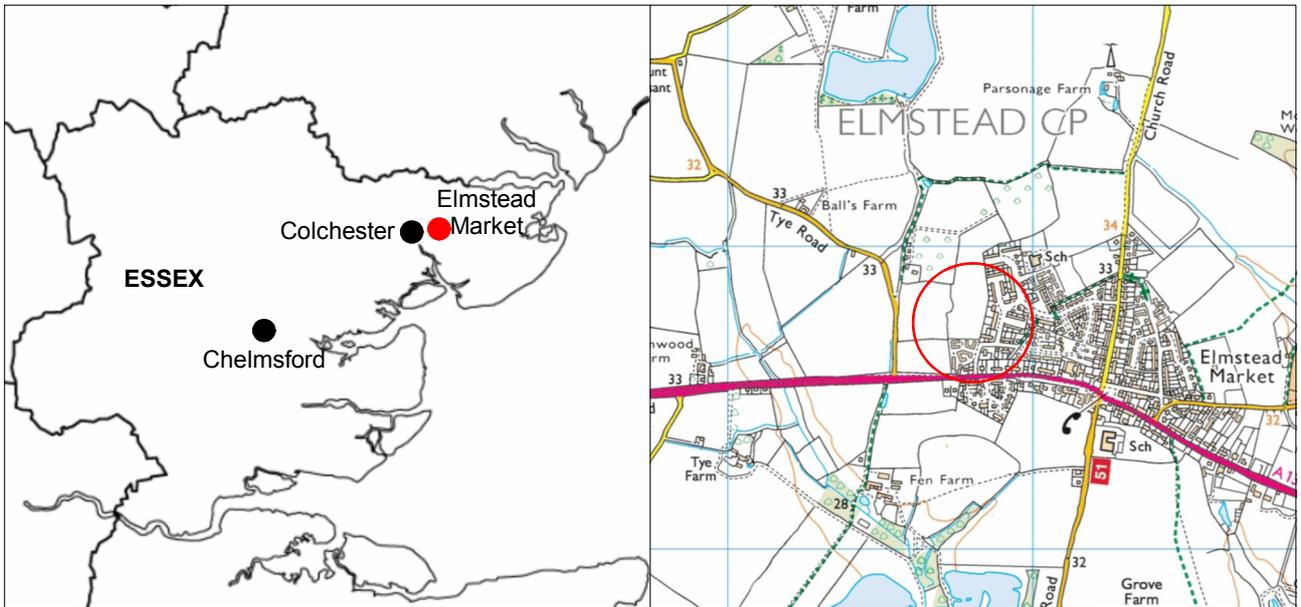
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 19.4.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Trench no.	Context type	Description	Date
F1	T2	Pit or tree-throw	Firm, dry, dark grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F2	T6 & T8	Field boundary ditch	Soft, moist, light grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and brick flecks, 1% stone	Post-medieval
L1	All	Topsoil	Firm, wet, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Modern
L2	All	Natural	Firm, moist, medium brown/orange/yellow silty-clay	Post-glacial



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

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



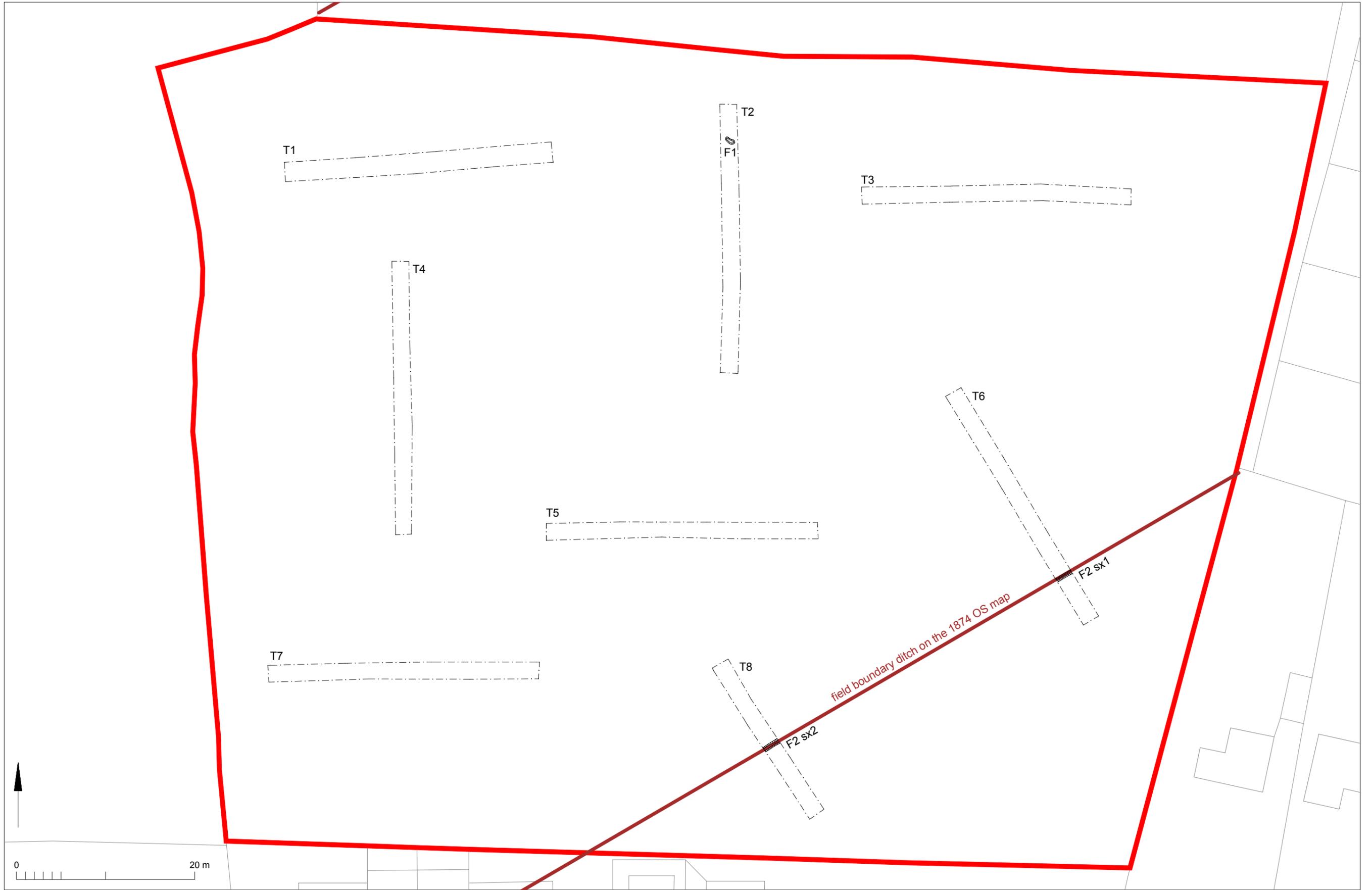


Fig 2 Results

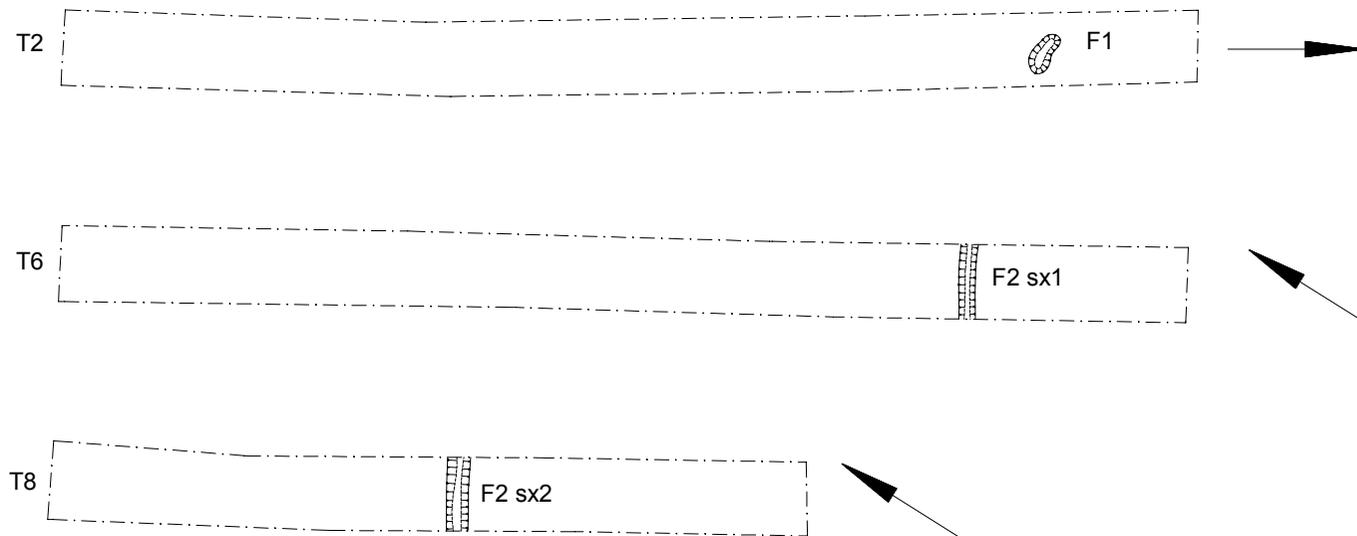


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans: T2, T6 and T8



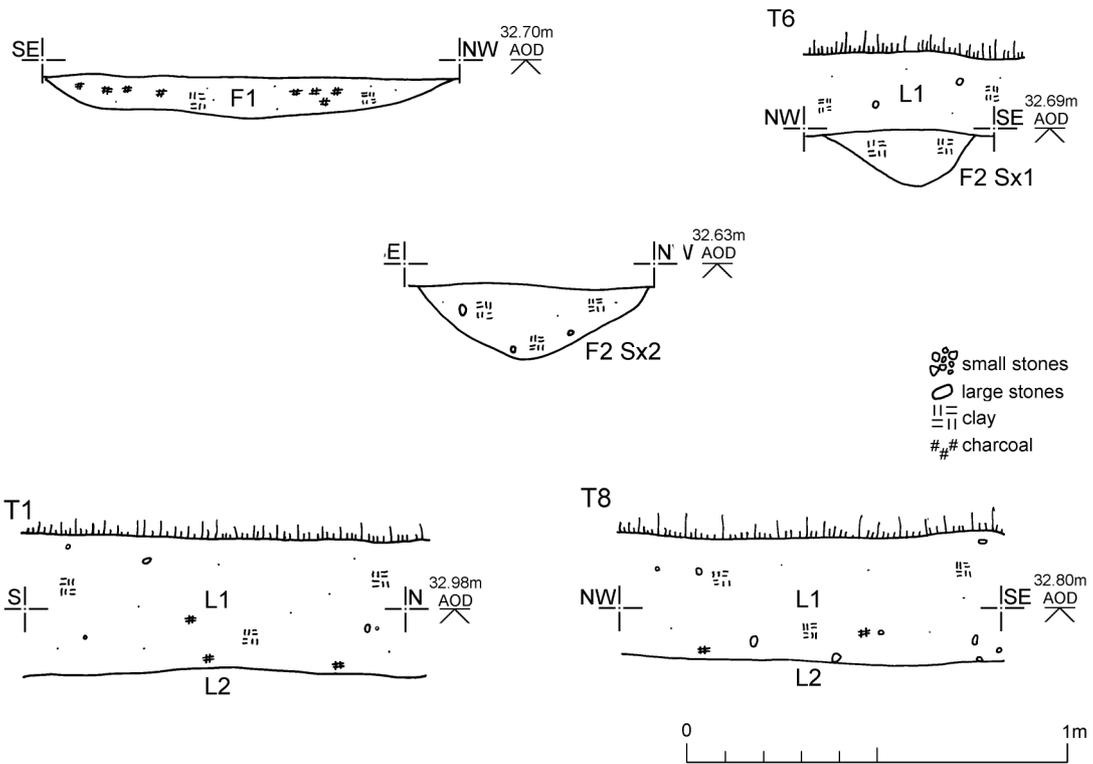


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: colchest3-312546

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7HR
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (eight trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market in advance of the construction of a residential development. Located close to a number of cropmarks, the only features identified were a historic boundary ditch visible on the first edition, 6-inch, OS map of 1874 and an undated pit or tree-throw.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2018 End: 11-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/03p - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	14/01238/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESMC18 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM:2018.27 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT / TREE-THROW Uncertain
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING ELMSTEAD land north of Meadow Close
Postcode	CO7 7HR
Study area	1.05 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 05773 24739 51.882642190859 0.990204499529 51 52 57 N 000 59 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 32.57m Max: 32.81m

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	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.27

Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.27
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7HR: April 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1257
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	20 April 2018

OASIS: Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham, email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=315095> for this page