

Archaeological evaluation at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex, CO6 4BD

August-November 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Sarah Carter, Robin Mathieson, Alec Wade and
James Keeble

commissioned by Brad Davies, Mersea Homes

NGR: TL 9725 3220 (centre)

Planning ref.: 160906

CHER project: ECC3940

CAT project ref.: 16/12g

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.7

OASIS ref.: colchest3-273116



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CAT Report 1341

November 2018

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (thirty-two trenches) was undertaken at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex following the removal of the existing glasshouses and ancillary buildings and prior to their replacement with a new residential scheme comprising 18 private dwellings and four affordable dwellings. Two pits/treethrows, five natural features, a ditch terminus, four pits and eleven ditches were uncovered. None of these features could be accurately dated as no finds were recovered during excavations. It is possible, however, that some of the ditches represented the remains of post-medieval field boundaries depicted on the tithe map of the area compiled during 1831-51.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, which was carried out in two phases, from 21st to 23rd August, and from 29th October to 5th November 2018. The work was commissioned by Brad Davies of Mersea Homes to inform a planning application for the replacement of the existing glasshouses and ancillary buildings with a new residential scheme comprising 18 private dwellings and four affordable dwellings, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trenched archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2016), 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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Essex Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

Two archaeological desk-based assessments for the development site have been carried out. The first is *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed Horkesley Park Heritage and Conservation Centre* (Kate Orr, 2008), and the second is *Horkesley Green, Nursery Site, Great Horkesley, Essex: Assessment of Archaeological Significance* (Adrian Tindall, 2015). Both of these reports were then summarised by Howard Brooks (CAT Report 884) in *Horkesley Green: Executive summary of local archaeological and heritage asset sites*. The following is a summary of these reports: for full details see Orr (2006) and Tindall (2015).

There are no known archaeological sites on the Greenhouse development site. Anecdotal evidence in Orr (p10) suggests that up to 1m of topsoil and subsoil had been

removed from the site when the glasshouses had to be heightened. Evaluation will give an accurate determination of ground conditions.

A number of archaeological sites are located close to the development site. The most important of these is the medieval All Saints Church and a possible deserted medieval (or earlier) village on the cricket pitch, although there is no direct evidence for its existence. Other sites are the fishponds, which may have medieval origins; osier beds or a pond at Rectory Grove; the site of a small building shown on a map of 1813, but now demolished; and the cropmarks of old field boundaries on both the southern and northern edges of the site. The postulated line of a Roman road is also located c 200m to the east.

4 Aim

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at this site to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The evaluation was carried out in two phases as the client wanted the area to the northwest of the site cleared so that debris from the demolition and the clearance of the site could be moved there, in line with the monitor's request that it not be placed on unexcavated ground. Prior to the commencement of each phase of archaeological work, the glasshouses and associated structures which stood at the two respective areas of the site were demolished down to slab level to facilitate excavations. The only below-ground structures extracted were the concrete footings for the glasshouse stanchions and two underground tanks, which were removed from the site for health and safety reasons.

Thirty-two trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide except T1, T3 and T12, which were 20m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches T1-T9 were excavated during the first phase of the evaluation, and the remainder during the second.

The majority of the trenches were dug through subsoil (L1, c 0.1-0.62m thick, soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 7% stones) onto natural (L2, firm, moist medium yellow/orange/brown sand, encountered at a depth of 0.18-0.62m below current ground level [bcgl]). T1, T2 and T3 were excavated through a topsoil/accumulation layer (L3, c 0.1-0.2m thick, soft, dry light grey/brown sandy-silt with CBM flecks) and L2 onto L3. T30 was excavated through a modern hardcore layer (L4, 0.17-0.36m thick, soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent CBM, glass etc.) and L1 onto L2. Sondages were excavated in T7, T10, T19, T27 and T31 to ensure that natural had been reached.

There were no archaeological remains in T2, T6, T10, T11, T12, T15, T16, T17, T19, T20, T21, T22, T28, T29, T31 or T32.

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

Undatable ditch F10 was aligned NE-SW and was 1.35m wide and 0.21m deep. This feature continued through to T5 (F8) and T3 (F6) to the east.

Trench 3 (T3): 20m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F6 was aligned NE-SW and was 2.2m wide and 0.24m deep.



Photograph 1 F6 oblique view – looking east

Trench 4 (T4): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F7 was aligned NW-SE and was 0.67m wide and 0.25m deep.

Natural feature F9 was 0.7m wide and 0.14m deep.

Trench 5 (T5): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F8 was aligned NE-SW was 1.03m wide and 0.24m deep.

Trench 7 (T7): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable pit/treethrow F1 measured 0.49m wide and 0.09m deep.

Trench 8 (T8): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F2 was aligned NW-SE was 0.87m wide and 0.19m deep.

Undatable pit/treethrow F3 was 0.59m wide and 0.13m deep.

Trench 9 (T9): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F4 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 1.9m wide and 0.21m deep.



Photograph 2 F4 sx – looking west northwest

Trench 13 (T13): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F17 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 1.48m wide and 0.22m deep.

Trench 14 (T14): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable pit F16 was uncovered. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation and so its full dimensions could not be ascertained but its exposed extent was 0.69m wide and 0.22m deep.

Trench 18 (T18): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Two undatable ditches, F18 and F19, were uncovered. F18 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 0.96m wide and 0.2m deep; F19 was aligned NW-SE and was 1m wide and 0.24m deep.

Trench 23 (T23): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F13 was aligned ENE-WSW and was 0.55m wide and 0.12m deep.

Trench 24 (T24): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Two undatable pits, F14 and F15, were excavated. F14 was 1.44m wide and 0.32m deep; F15 was 1.1m wide and 0.3m deep.



Photograph 3 F14 sx – looking east northeast

Trench 25 (T25): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F11 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 0.35-0.8m wide and 0.04-0.16m deep.

Trench 26 (T26): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable pit F12 was 1.29m wide and 0.16m deep.

Trench 27 (T27): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Two undatable pits, F22 and F23, were uncovered. Both features were excavated but not recorded.

Trench 30 (T30): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable natural feature F20 was 0.85m wide and 0.36m deep.

Undatable ditch F21 was aligned NW-SE and was 0.51m wide and 0.16m deep.

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Environmental assessment

Environmental samples were taken from ditches F7 and F10 but did not yield sufficient material to warrant analysis.

8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation revealed a site affected by considerable disturbance. The removal of topsoil and subsoil prior to the construction of the glasshouses which previously stood here left an area with a ridge along its northern boundary measuring c

54.64m above ordnance datum (AOD). South of this ridge, on the western half of the site, the ground had been reduced to 53.15-54.35m AOD and, within the eastern half of the site, to 51.92-52.26m AOD. It was clear too that the ground had been further disturbed by the construction of the glasshouses. It should also be added that the tithe map of the area compiled during 1831-51 indicates that the road running along the southern boundary of the site originally extended into the southwestern corner of the site (see Figure 7) and that, by the time the Ordnance Survey County mapping was undertaken in 1874, it had been redirected to its present-day course. It is likely that the construction and demolition of the road impacted the archaeological deposits on the site.

Perhaps because of the abovementioned factors, the features which were uncovered – two pits/treethrows, eleven ditches, five natural features, a ditch terminus and four pits – tended to cluster towards the southwestern end, and within an area roughly in the centre of the site. It is possible that these features were themselves truncated by ground reduction and were originally deeper. The absence of finds recovered from the site precludes the dating of these features, although the absence of modern finds implies they might have preceded this period.

Some of the ditches uncovered lie on the same alignment, giving the impression of field boundaries (see Fig 2). One of these ditches, excavated across T1 (F10), T3 (F6) and T5 (F8), appears to correspond with the northwestern boundary of field no. 114 depicted on the tithe map of the area compiled during 1831-51 (see Figure 7). Similarly, ditch terminus F11 might be part of the northern boundary of field no. 212 shown on this map with the ditch terminating here to form an entry point. The other ditches, however, are not evident on any other 19th or 20th-century mapping of the area, and it is possible that they represent earlier remains, though the lack of dating evidence means this cannot be definitively stated. Equally, it is possible that some of these features are related to the stripping of the area, or to the construction of the glasshouses themselves.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Brad Davies (of Mersea Homes) for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter, R Mathieson, A Wightman and J Keeble. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

10 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, CO6 4BD</i>
CAT Report 884	2015	<i>Horkesley Green: Executive summary of local archaeological and heritage asset sites</i>
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Site of Existing Glasshouses, Land Adjoining Church Of All Saints, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester CO6 4BD</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<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)
Orr, K	2008	<i>An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed Horkesley Park Heritage and Conservation Centre</i>
Tindall, A	2015	<i>Horkesley Green, Nursery Site, Great Horkesley, Essex: Assessment of Archaeological Significance</i>

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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 to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	period 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
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1341)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log

13 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: 2017.7.

Distribution list:

Brad Davies (Mersea Homes)

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 14.11.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Subsoil	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 7% stones	Undatable
L2	All	-	Natural	Firm, moist medium yellow/orange/brown sand	Post-glacial
L3	T1, T2, T3	-	Topsoil / accumulation layer	Soft, dry light grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent CBM and glass	Modern
L4	T30	-	Hardcore layer	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with frequent CBM, glass etc.	Modern
F1	T7	-	Pit / treethrow	Firm, dry light grey sandy-silt	Undatable
F2	T8	-	Ditch	Soft, dry medium grey silty-sand	Undatable
F3	T8	-	Pit / treethrow	Firm, dry medium grey sandy-silt	Undatable
F4	T9	-	Ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sand with charcoal flecks and 2% stones	Undatable
F5	T4	-	Natural feature	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 2% stones	Undatable
F6	T3	-	Ditch	Friable, dry medium grey/brown silty-sand	Undatable
F7	T4	1	Ditch	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F8	T5	-	Ditch	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 20% stones	Undatable
F9	T4	-	Natural feature	Firm, moist light grey/brown silt with 2% stones	Undatable
F10	T1	2	Ditch	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-sand with 1% gravel	Undatable
F11	T25	-	Ditch terminus	Soft, medium grey sandy-loam with 10% gravel and 10% stones	Undatable
F12	T26	-	Pit	Friable, dry medium/dark grey silty-sand with 1% stones	Undatable
F13	T23	-	Ditch	Soft, dry light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F14	T24	-	Pit	Soft/friable, moist/wet light/medium grey/brown sandy-loam	Undatable
F15	T24	-	Pit	Soft/friable, moist light/medium grey sandy-loam	Undatable
F16	T14	-	Pit	Friable, dry light/medium grey/brown silty-sand	Undatable
F17	T13	-	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 2% gravel and 5% stones	Undatable
F18	T18	-	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F19	T18	-	Ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable

F20	T30	-	Natural feature	Soft/friable, dry very light grey sandy-loam	Undatable
F21	T18	-	Ditch	Firm, moist/wet medium green/grey silty-sand	Undatable
F22	T27	-	Natural feature	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silt	Undatable
F23	T27	-	Natural feature	Firm, moist medium grey silt	Undatable

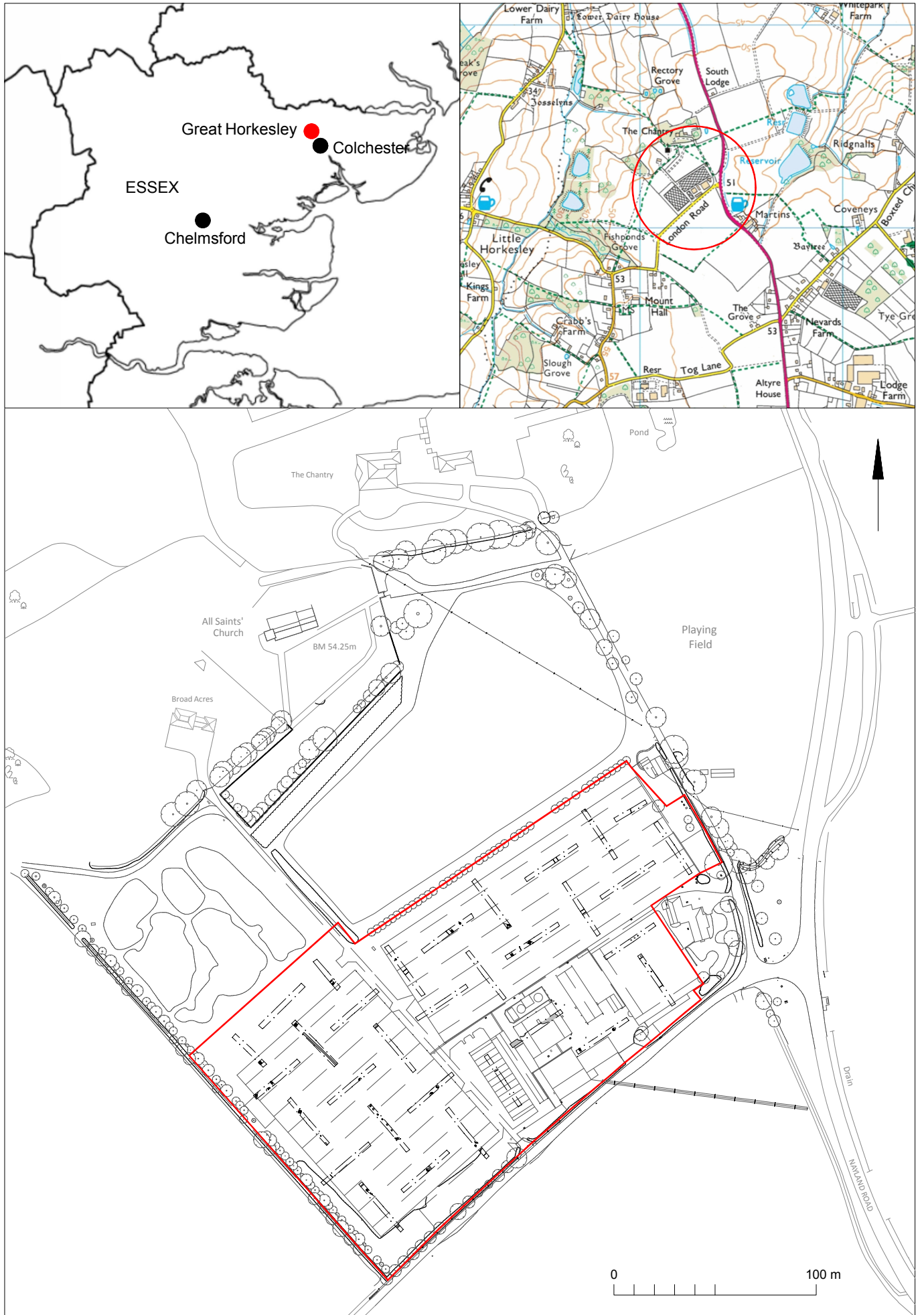


Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Evaluation results.

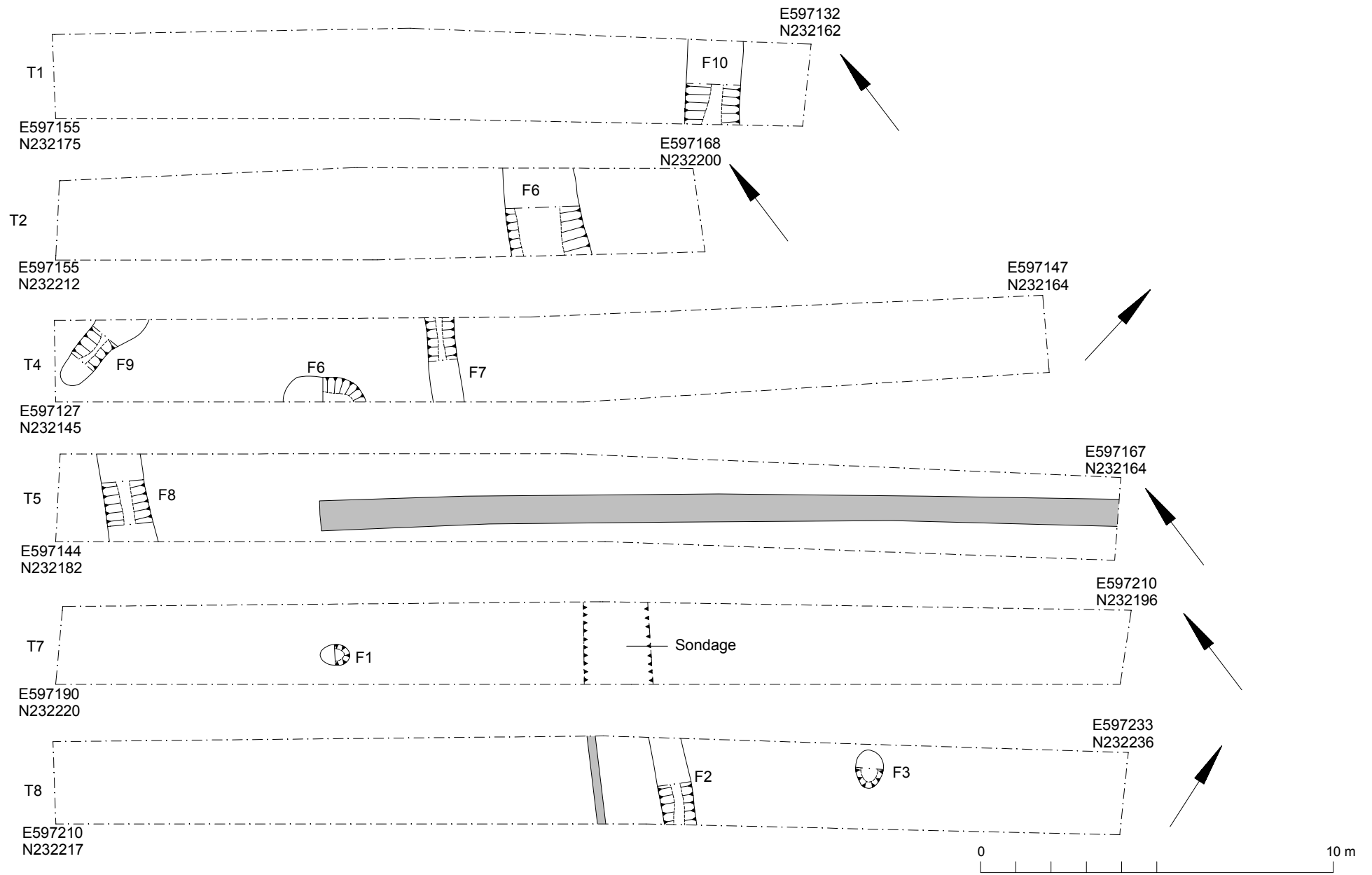


Fig 3 Trench results

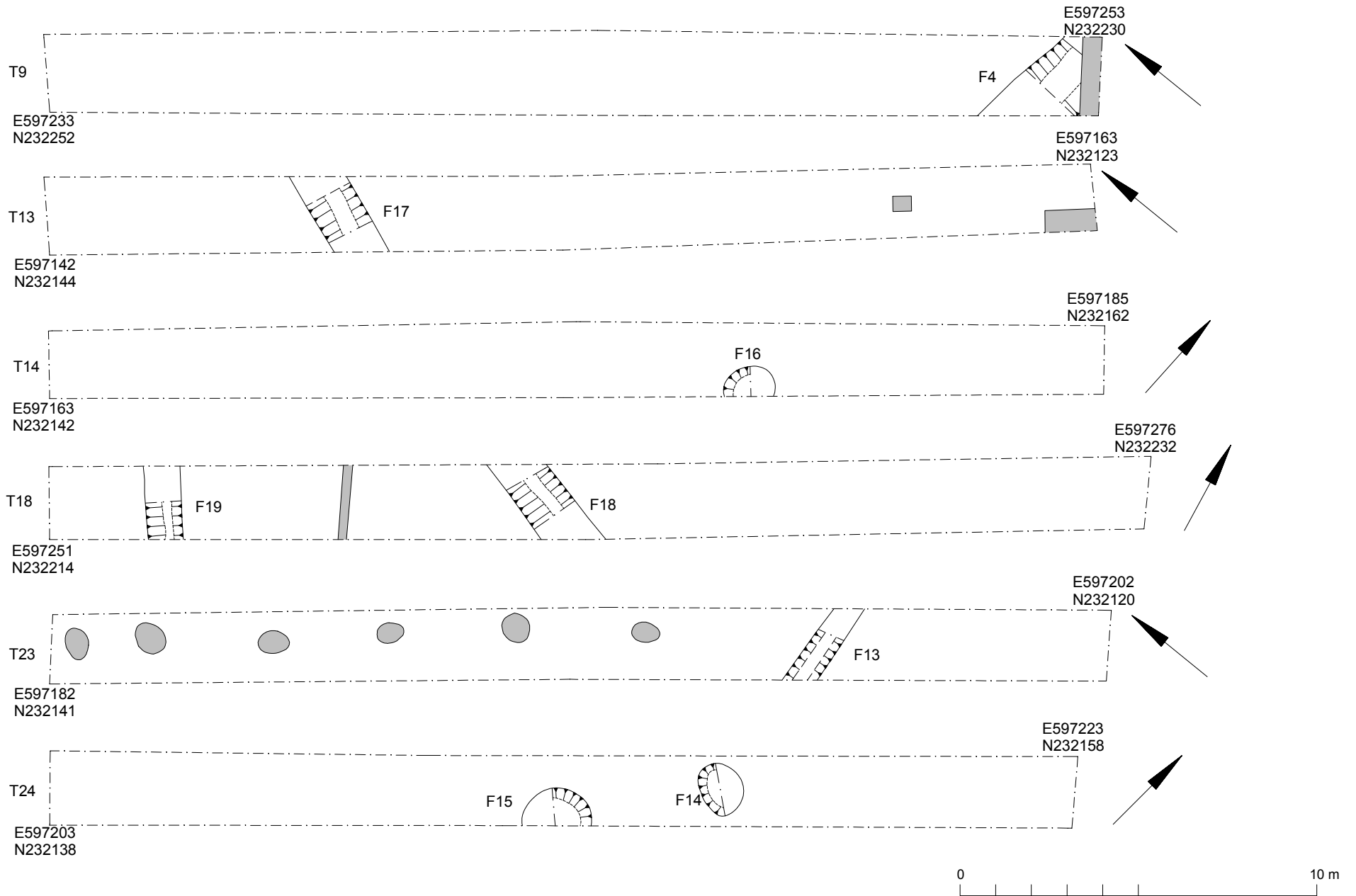


Fig 4 Trench results.

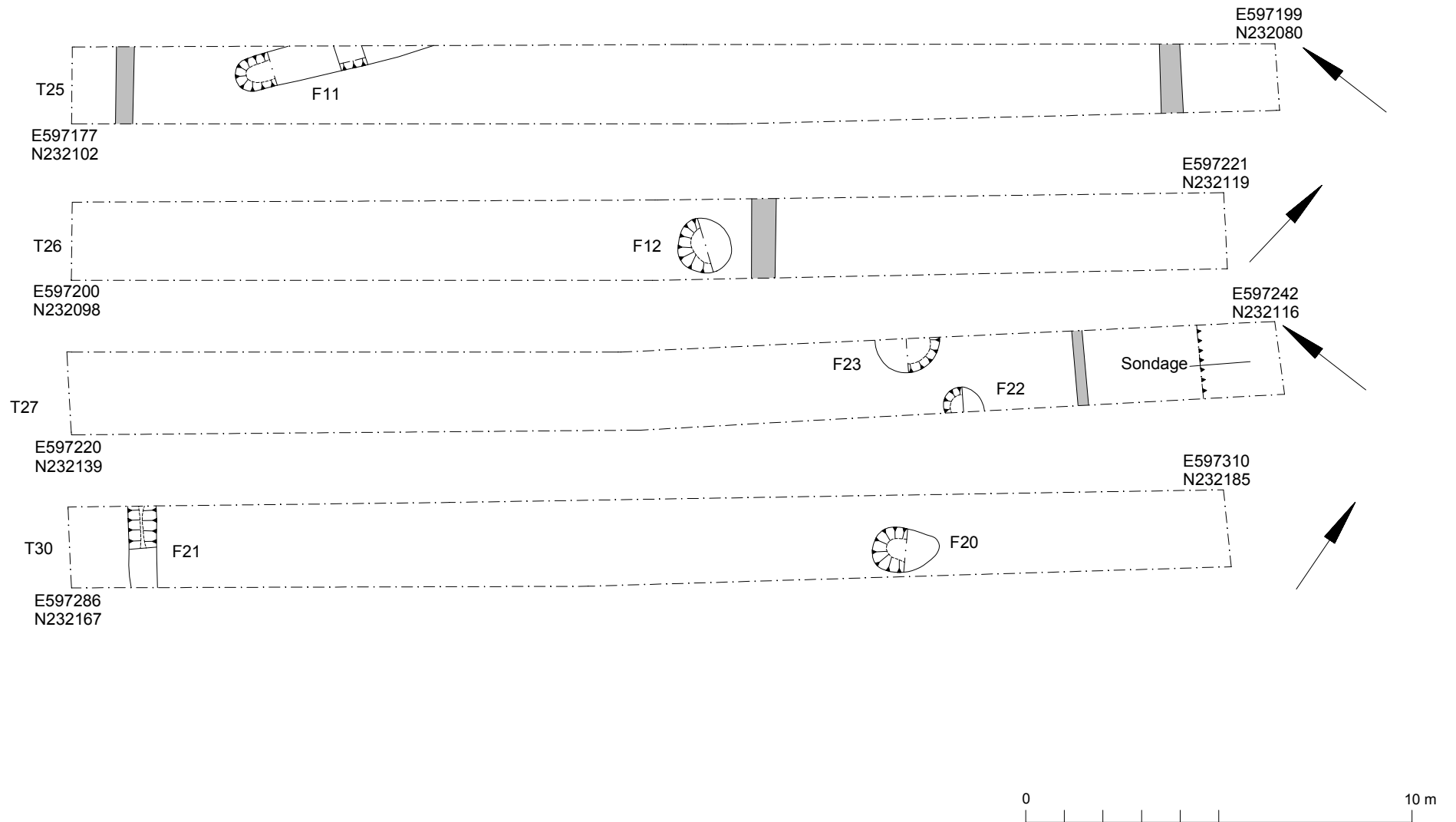


Fig 5 Trench results.

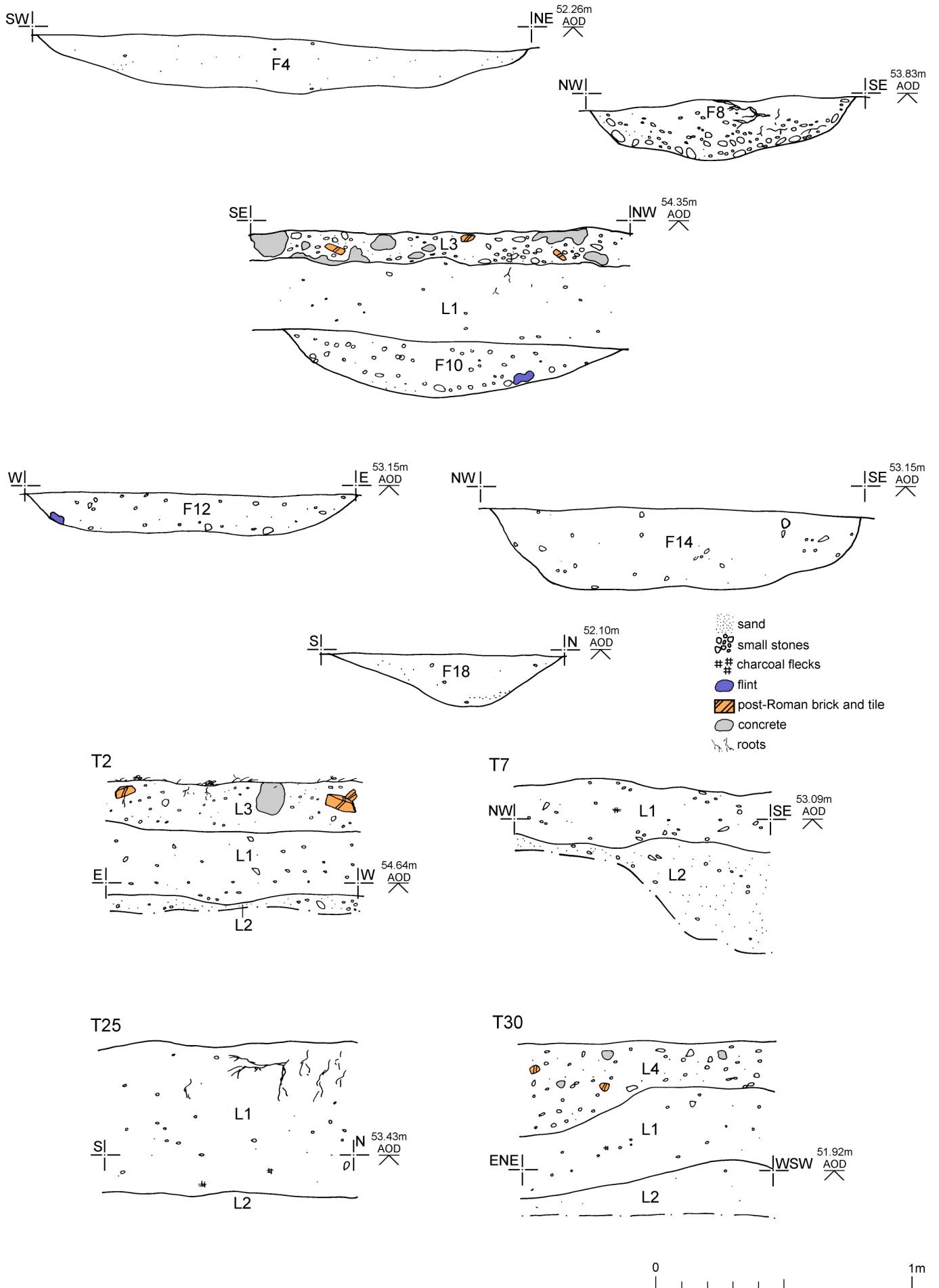


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.



Fig 7 Evaluation results overlain on tithe map 1831-51.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex, CO6 4BD	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9725 3220 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/12g CHER ref: ECC3940 OASIS ref: colchest3-273116
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 21st August - 5th November 2018	Size of area investigated: 3.24ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.7	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1341	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (thirty-two trenches) was undertaken at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex following the removal of the existing glasshouses and ancillary buildings and prior to their replacement with a new residential scheme comprising 18 private dwellings and four affordable dwellings. Two pits/treethrows, five natural features, a ditch terminus, four pits and eleven ditches were uncovered. None of these features could be accurately dated as no finds were recovered during excavations. It is possible, however, that some of the ditches represented the remains of post-medieval field boundaries depicted on the tithe map of the area compiled during 1831-51.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: November 2018

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, CO6 4BD

NGR: TL 9725 3220 (centre)

Planning reference: 160906

Client: Brad Davies, Mersea Homes

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: [requested](#)

CHER event number: ECC3940

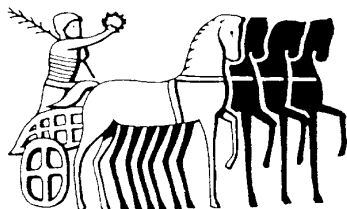
CAT project code: 16/12g

OASIS project id: colchest3-273116

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 11.1.2017



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Site location and description

The proposed development site (3.3ha) lies approximately 7.4km NNW of Colchester at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, on the site of the existing glasshouses, on land adjoining All Saints Church, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, CO6 4BD (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 9725 3220.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the removal of the existing glasshouses and ancillary buildings, change of use and replacement with a new residential scheme comprising 18 private dwellings and four affordable dwellings.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Essex Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

Two archaeological desk-based assessments for the development site have been carried out. The first is *An archaeological desk-based assessment of the proposed Horkesley Park Heritage and Conservation Centre* (Kate Orr, 2008), and the second is *Horkesley Green, Nursery Site, Great Horkesley, Essex: Assessment of Archaeological Significance* (Adrian Tindall, 2015). Both of these reports were then summarised by Howard Brooks (CAT Report 884) in *Horkesley Green: Executive summary of local archaeological and heritage asset sites*. The following is a summary of these reports, for full details see Orr (2006) and Tindall (2015).

There are no known archaeological sites on the Greenhouse development site. Anecdotal evidence in Orr (p10) suggests that up to 1m of topsoil and subsoil had been removed from the site when the glasshouses had to be heightened. Evaluation will give an accurate determination of ground conditions.

A number of archaeological sites are located close to the development site. The most important of these is the medieval All Saints Church and a possible deserted medieval (or earlier) village on the cricket pitch, although there is no direct evidence for its existence. Other sites are the fishponds, which may have medieval origins; osier beds or a pond at Rectory Grove; the site of a small building shown on a map of 1813, but no demolished; and the cropmarks of field boundaries which have been grubbed out on both the southern and northern edges of the site. The postulated line of a Roman road is also located c 200m to the east.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in April 2016 (application No.160906) proposing the removal of the existing glasshouses and ancillary buildings, change of use and replacement with a new residential scheme comprising 18 private dwellings and four affordable dwellings.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately plotted. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, 31 trial-trenches will be laid out across the development site totalling 1650m² (5% by area). This equates to thirty-one 30m by 1.8m trenches (Fig 1).

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

If unusual, significant or unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and further evaluation may be required, which would be the subject of an additional brief.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2016)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus four archaeologists for seven days

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Nigel Rayner

Evaluation methodology

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket under the supervision of an archaeologist.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, these will be excavated by hand, planned and recorded. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m sections where this is possible.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine the site, spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Samples will be taken based on the strategy requested by CBCAA (see 'Environmental Sampling Policy' below)

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

Provision will be included (where necessary) for column or core samples to be taken, for the assessment and/or full analysis of those samples, and for absolute dating of the sequence.

Provision will also be made for the dating of suitable deposits and requirements for any absolute dating, including C14.

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. CAT staff will process samples (unless of a complex nature) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. As the requirement for work is for full excavation any human remains encountered on the site will be

subject to the following criteria: if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Ministry of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

Post-excavation assessment

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with CBCAA.

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA. It will be a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and will identify the research potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework. It will include an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the excavation area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

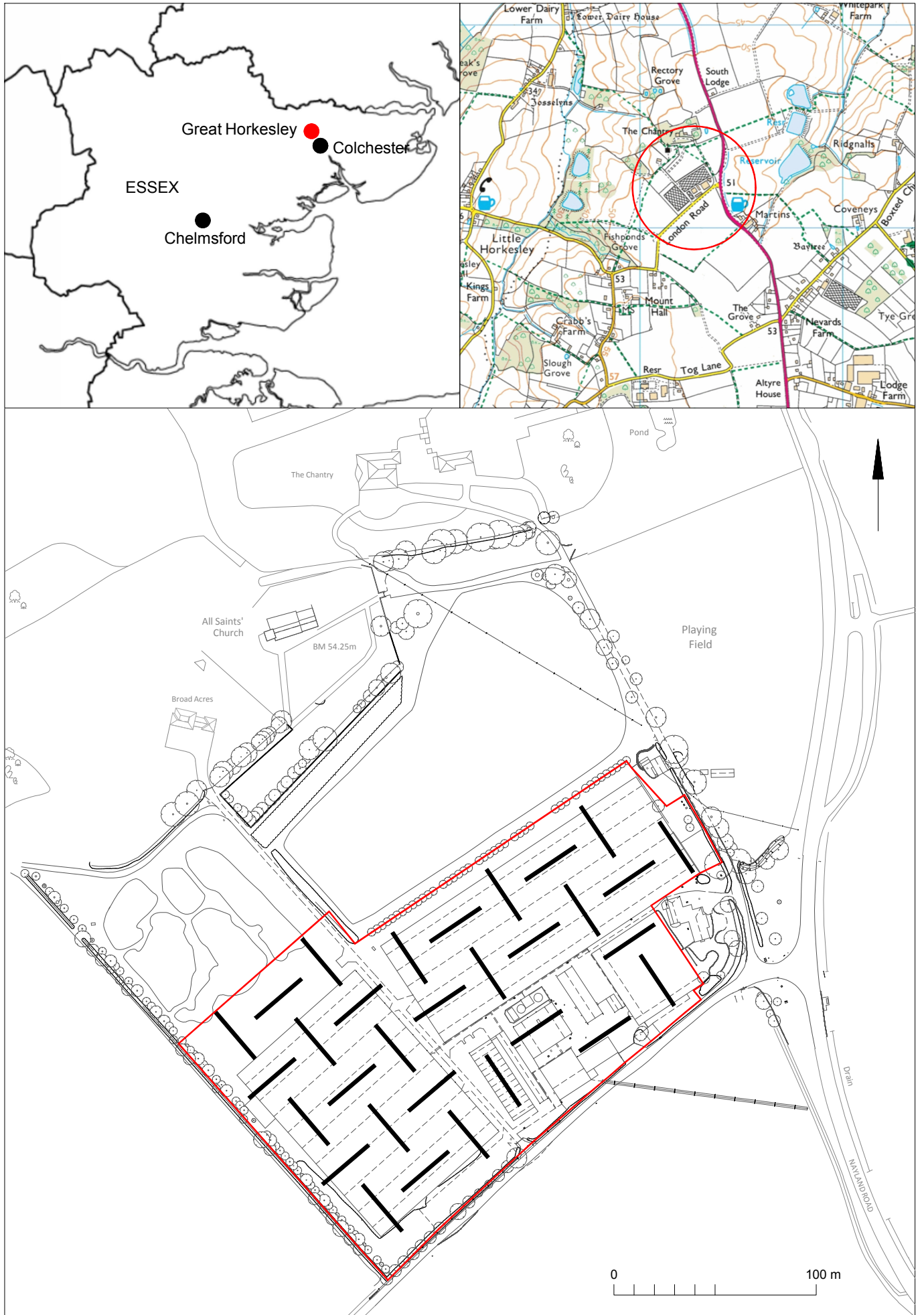
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Fig 1 Site location with trench proposal.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-273116

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Horkesley Green Nursey, London Road, Great Horkesley, Essex, CO6 4BD
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (thirty-two trenches) was undertaken at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex following the removal of the existing glasshouses and ancillary buildings and prior to their replacement with a new residential scheme comprising 18 private dwellings and four affordable dwellings. Two pits/treethrows, five natural features, a ditch terminus, four pits and eleven ditches were uncovered. None of these features could be accurately dated as no finds were recovered during excavations. It is possible, however, that some of the ditches represented the remains of post-medieval field boundaries depicted on the tithe map of the area compiled during 1831-51.
Project dates	Start: 23-07-2018 End: 05-11-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/12g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	160906 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2017.7 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3940 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH TERMINUS Uncertain
Monument type	PIT/TREETHROW Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain

Monument type	PIT Uncertain
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 COLCHESTER GREAT HORKESELEY Horkesley Green Nursery
Postcode	CO6 4BD
Study area	3.3 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9725 3220 51.952741106802 0.870796855667 51 57 09 N 000 52 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 51.81m Max: 53.92m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
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	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM 2017.7
Digital Media available	"Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM 2017.7
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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Title	Archaeological evaluation at the former Horkesley Green Nursery, London Road, Great Horkesley, Colchester, Essex, CO6 4BD: August-November 2018
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