

# Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex, CO16 7RZ

February 2019



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**commissioned by Rian O'Dell, Leisurefame Ltd  
on behalf of Russell Oldham**

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**CAT Report 1381**

February 2019

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation of five trial-trenches was carried out on land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex in advance of the construction of five new dwellings with associated garaging. Although located in the midst of a number of cropmark complexes, no archaeological features were encountered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex, which was carried out from the 18th to the 19th of February 2019. The work was commissioned by Rian O'Dell of Leisurefame Ltd on behalf of Russell Oldhm in advance of the construction of five new dwellings with associated garaging. The work 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* (MHCLG 2018).

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 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 Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, 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)*, *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 brief and Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (ECC codes below refer to SMR numbers).

Prior to the installation of an 11km long cable for EDF Energy between Sackett's Grove Caravan Park (Clacton-on-Sea) and Cook's Green (Little Clacton), Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS) was commissioned to write a desk-based assessment of the area. The DBA concluded that there was the potential for the survival of archaeological remains relating to the early occupation of this area. The topography, geology, nearby watercourses and access to the coast would have been conducive to settlement (O'Goreman 2009). In particular, a number of cropmark sites identified from aerial photographs by the National Mapping Programme were located within the vicinity of the cable route (O'Goreman 2009, fig 3). Two sets of cropmarks were crossed by the cable route which are also very close to the current site. These include rectilinear cropmarks to the south of Cook's Green Farm (EHER no 2980), interpreted as potential Iron Age or Romano-British enclosures and/or field systems, and one linear feature and some possible pits to the west of Oak House Farm in the field directly north of Centenary Way (EHER no 16988). CAT carried out the monitoring of the cable trench where it crossed open fields. The rest of the route the cables were laid in existing ducts or along roads. Area 4 was adjacent to the current proposed site. Unfortunately, this area was laid without an archaeologist present. However, in area 3 (land south of Cook's Farm)

there were a cluster of postholes/small pits and a gully that contained medieval pottery. To the north of the current site there are also cropmarks of possible field boundaries (EHER 16987) on land adjacent to the Grade II Listed 18th-century timber-framed house at Parkgate Farm (EHER 34794).

A field-walking survey undertaken by Lynsey Archaeological Service (LAS Report 163) in 1998 prior to the construction of Oakwood Business Park, approximately 650m to the south of the cable route, recovered three pieces of worked flint, a sherd of Roman grey ware pottery, nine sherds of medieval pottery, and twenty-nine fragments of medieval tile.

Although the date of the creation of the parish of Little Clacton is unknown, it was certainly established by 1286 because a charter of that date mentions 'Great Clacton' for the first time, presumably to differentiate it from Little Clacton (Jacobs 2002, 8). The main settlement of Little Clacton grew up around the church of St James, which is approximately 1.4km to the west of the site.

An archaeological investigation has recently been carried out on land just to the north at Chicken Farm. The site had been subject to modern landscaping with only modern features surviving.

#### **4 Aims**

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### **5 Results (Figs 2-3)**

Five archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. T1 and T5 were 12m long and 1.8m wide, T2 was 20m long and 1.8m wide, and T3 and T4 were 10m long and 1.8m wide.

With the agreement of the archaeological monitor, T2 was repositioned slightly to the north due to the presence of a pond.

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.07-0.37m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay), and subsoil (L3, c 0.15-0.26m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and CBM flecks) onto natural (L4, firm, moist medium yellow/orange/brown clay, encountered at a depth of 0.39-0.63m below current ground level). In the area of T1 and T3, L3 was sealed by a modern make-up layer (L2, c 0.1-0.24m thick, firm, moist medium yellow/brown clay with charcoal and CBM flecks). Sondages were excavated in T1 and T2 to ensure that the natural had been reached.

No archaeological features were encountered.



**Photograph 1** T1 trench shot – looking east



**Photograph 2** T3 trench shot – looking west northwest

## 6 Finds

There were no finds.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-significant area, no archaeological remains were encountered.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Rian O'Dell of Leisurefame Ltd and Russell Oldham for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson, S Carter and B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. 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 and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching on land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex, CO16 7RZ</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>
ECCPS	2018	<i>Archaeological trial trenching at land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Rd, Little Clacton</i> , by T O'Connor
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.

Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Jacobs, N	2002	<i>Clacton past, with Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick</i>
LAS Report no. 163	1998	<i>Clacton-on-Sea, Essex: Extension to Oakwood Business Park. Archaeological Fieldwalking Survey. By M Williams</i>
Medlycott, M	2011a	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
O' Goreman, L	2009	<i>Proposed EDF cable route, Clacton: archaeological desk-based assessment, MoLAS</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
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'
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	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>
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 record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1381)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

### Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1381)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

Survey data

## 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 2018.116.

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**Distribution list:**

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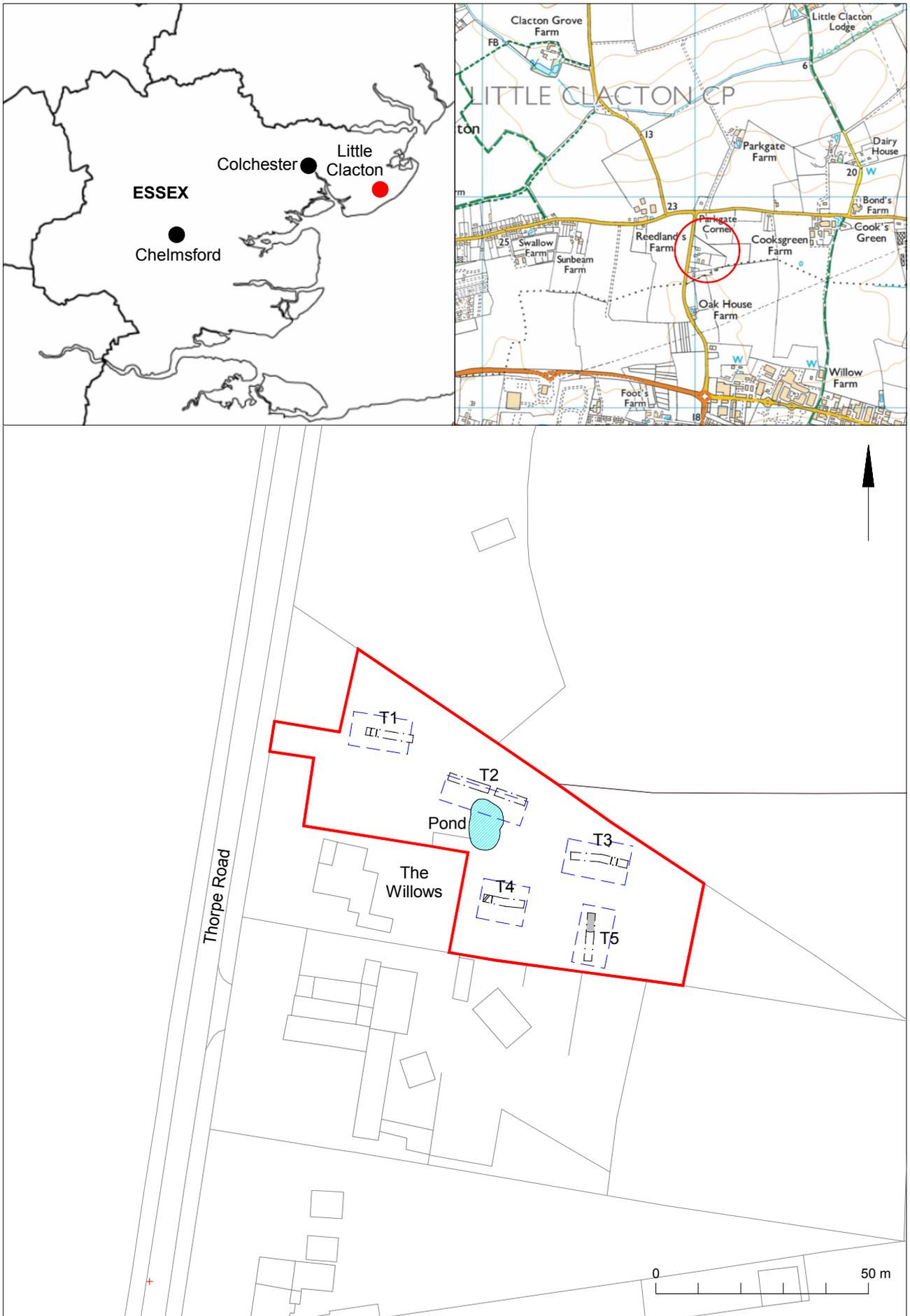


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).

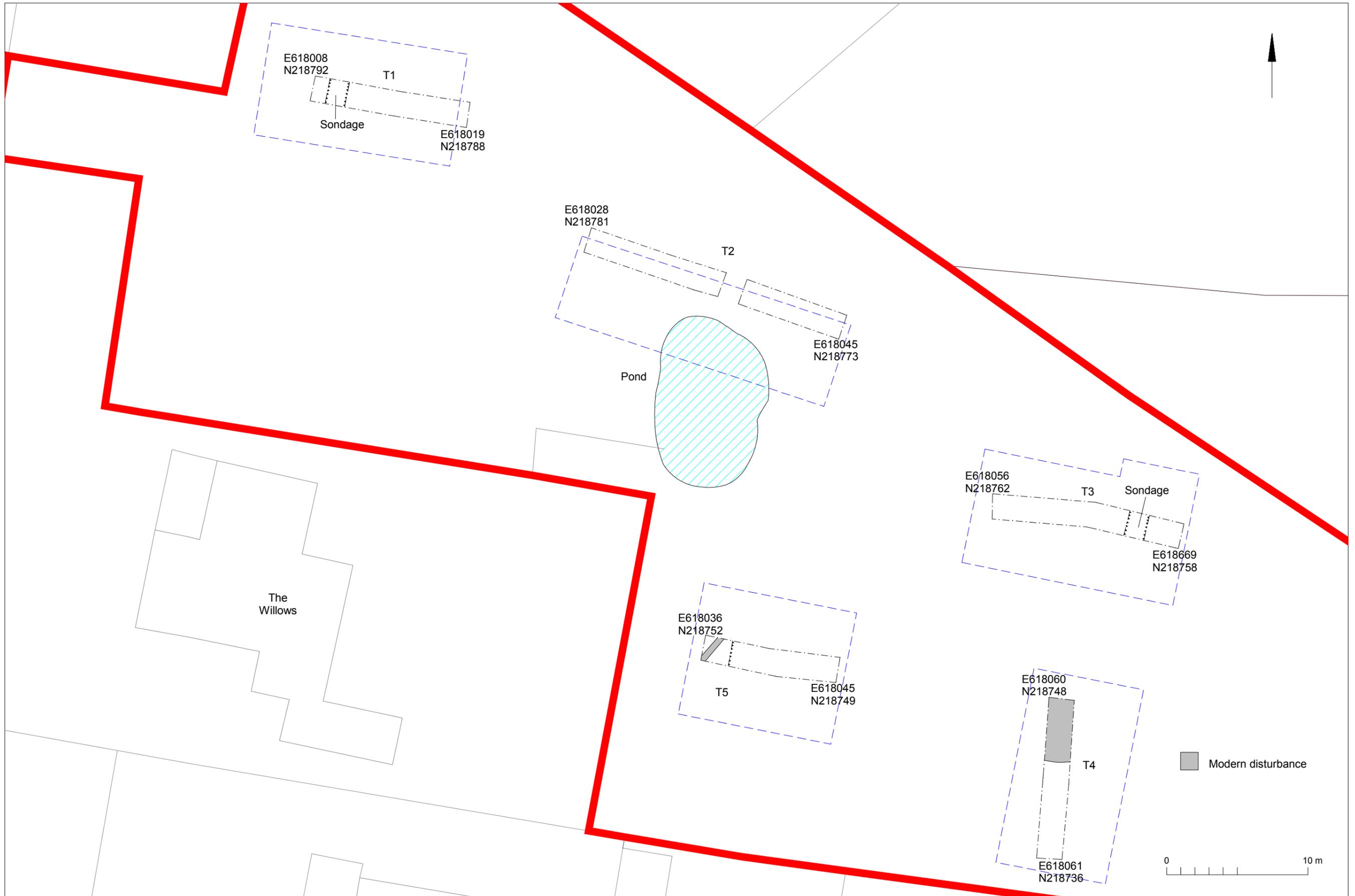


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

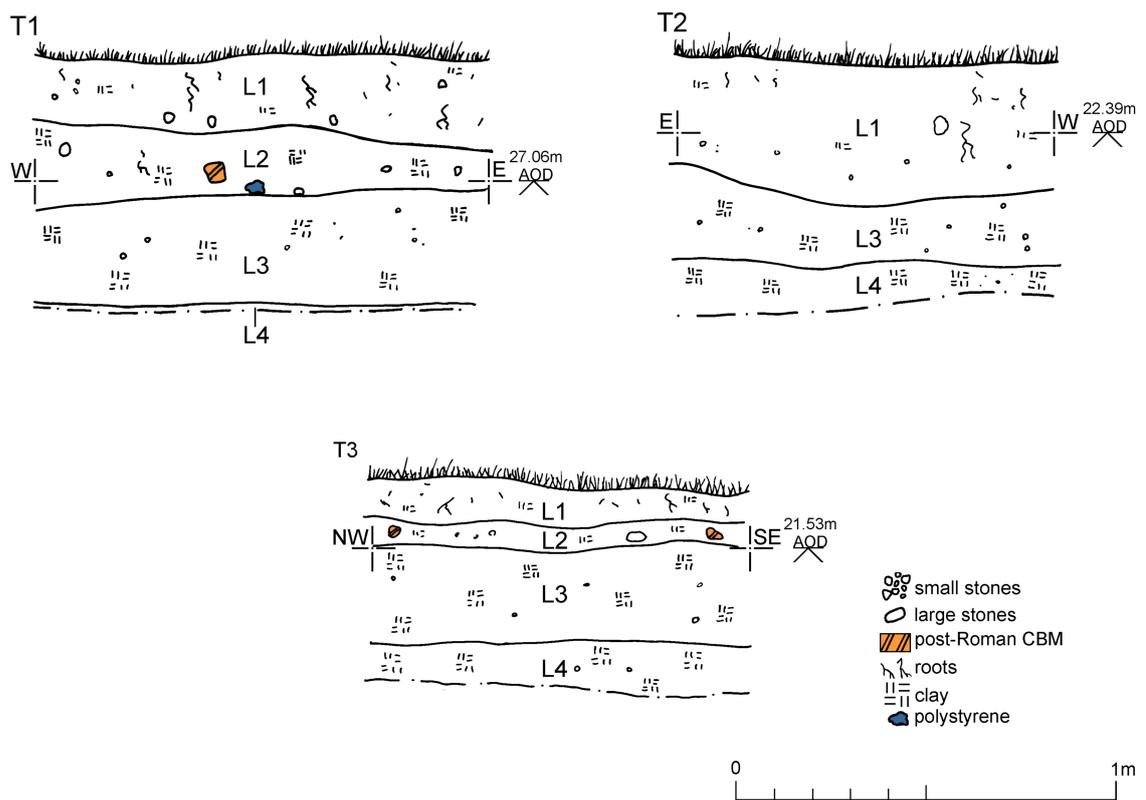


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-333540**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenching on land adj to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex, CO16 7RZ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of five trial-trenches was carried out on land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex in advance of the construction of five new dwellings with associated garaging. Although located in the midst of a number of cropmark complexes, no archaeological features were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 18-02-2019 End: 19-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/10L - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	18/01104/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.116 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	LCLTR18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
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 LITTLE CLACTON land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex
Postcode	CO16 7RZ
Study area	0.35 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 18003 18774 51.824415766295 1.163879344016 51 49 27 N 001 09 49 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 21.29m Max: 26.76m

### 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
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Russell Oldham

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.116
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.116
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to The Willows, Crossways House, Thorpe Road, Little Clacton, Essex, CO16 7RZ: February 2019
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