

Archaeological evaluation at FBS Motor Salvage, Stanhope Industrial Park, Wharf Road, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex, SS17 0AL

April 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman
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commissioned by Mr David Briault (OCB Construction Ltd)

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CAT Report 1410

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	3
7	Conclusion	4
8	Acknowledgements	4
9	References	4
10	Abbreviations and glossary	4
11	Contents of archive	5
12	Archive deposition	5

Figures after p6

OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777

Photograph 1	T1 trench shot, looking west	3
Table 1	Non-ceramic finds by context	3
Fig 1	Site location and trench proposal	
Fig 2	Evaluation results	
Fig 3	Representative sections	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at FBS Motor Salvage, Stanhope Industrial Park, Wharf Road, Stanford-Le-Hope in advance of the construction of flexible industrial units, a new access road and parking, sewage treatment and services. The evaluation found a sparsity of archaeological deposits across the site, and only a single post-medieval gully was uncovered. This feature yielded three sherds of post-medieval pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery. A further sherd of Roman pottery as well as a flint and a fragment of post-medieval glass were also found.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at FBS Motor Salvage, Stanhope Industrial Park, Wharf Road, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex which was carried out from 10th to the 11th April 2019. The work was commissioned by Mr David Briault of OCB Construction Ltd in advance of the construction of flexible industrial units, a new access road and parking, sewage treatment and services, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis 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 trial-trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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 ECCPS brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible online via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Historic Environment Record shows the proposed development lies in an area of potential archaeological deposits north of the Thames. Immediately to the north of the site are three areas of extensive cropmark complexes dating to multiple periods. To the immediate northwest the field contains a large ring-ditch over 50m in diameter (HER 5259). The HER notes that geological marks could be obscuring further features. The area directly to the north includes a double-ditched enclosure, with the evidence for at least one ring-ditch inside. Further ring-ditches and other linear features are also visible (HER 47050). The ring-ditches could be evidence of ploughed-out round barrows, which would suggest the features could date to the Bronze Age. A further cropmark complex and a possible deserted medieval village may lie to the northeast (HER 7131 and 7132).

To the immediate east of the site CAT undertook an evaluation and georachaeological assessment in 2009 (CAT Report 488). The 35 trenches revealed evidence of activity

ranging from the Mesolithic to the modern period. Features of note were a Roman pit and a medieval ditch. An interesting find was a collection of unstratified Palaeolithic flints deposited on the site from the river margin somewhere upstream. As approximately one-third of the features excavated were modern, it was thought that the industrial use of the site and, later, stripping of topsoil to remove contaminants, had severely affected *in situ* preservation. A geological appraisal of the site included palaeontological identification of molluscs which indicate that the shallow channels crossing the site were active in the Roman or later periods.

Directly to the south of the aforementioned site, Oxford Archaeology undertook a large-scale archaeological investigation in advance of the development of a new deep-sea London Gateway container port. An area of approximately 30 hectares was investigated with large areas extensively excavated (HER 47049). Although there were limited artefacts, two large Romano-British salt-production sites with associated buildings were located at each end of the excavations (OA 18). Key evidence included channels dug to catch salt water, briquetage trays and supports, evaporation hearths and traces of mounds generally known as 'Red Hills'.

There are extensive records of finds spots recorded from both along the foreshore and marshes of Roman pottery (HER nos 7030, 7138-9 and 7223-6).

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 2-6)

Four trial-trenches, all 15m long by 1.8m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Four layers were recorded. A modern crush surface (L1, c 0.09-0.24m thick) and underlying make-up layer (L2, c 0.3-0.44m thick, loose/friable, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with CBM flecks, >5% gravel, >10% stones and >70 CBM pieces) sealed humic silts (L3, c 0.13-0.28m thick, firm, moist/wet dark grey/brown silty-clay), beneath which were natural clays (L4, firm/hard, moist medium yellow/orange/grey/brown/blue clay with >7% gravel >7% stones, encountered at a depth of 0.64-0.8m below current ground level). A sondage was excavated in T4 to ensure that natural had been reached.

No significant archaeological remains were identified in trenches T2, T3 or T4, but considerable modern disturbance was apparent in T2 and T3.

Trench 1 (T1):

Post-medieval (1500-1800) gully F1 was excavated. The feature lay on a N-S alignment; it extended beyond the limit of excavation and so its full dimensions could not be determined, but it was found to be c 0.1m deep.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking west

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramics and pottery

by Dr Matthew Loughton

There were only five sherds of pottery with a weight of 24g. This material came from F1 and L3:

F1 (1): two worn sherds of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (Fabric F40) with a weight of 19g, dating from c 1550 to the 19/20th century (*CAR 7* 2000, 189-193). There was also one sherd, with a weight of 1g, of Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21A) which is dated from AD 1200 to 1550 (*ibid*, 107-113). Finally, there was also a worn sherd with a weight of 1g from a possible rouletted decorated Roman beaker in fabric DJ (coarse oxidised ware) (*CAR 10* 1999). This feature can be dated to the post-medieval period (c 1500-1800).

L3 (2): one worn Roman sherd of coarse oxidised ware (Fabric DJ), with a weight of 3g.

6.2 Non-ceramics and finds

by Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman

A piece of worked flint and a small fragment of glass came from L3 (finds no. 2). See Table 1 for details.

Context No.	Finds No.	Description
L3	2	Flint: Possible broken flake or tool of convenience with two small areas of retouch on the ?ventral face. Glass: Small fragment (1.4g) of green glass, probably from a bottle, post-medieval/modern.

Table 1 Non-ceramic finds by context

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, only a single feature – a post-medieval gully – was uncovered. This general paucity of archaeological features across the site might be the consequence of industrial activity and topsoil stripping, which, as within the area immediately to the east evaluated by CAT in 2009, may have truncated any deposits which may have been present. The considerable level of modern disturbance evident in T3 lends weight to this speculation. The gully which was uncovered yielded three sherds of medieval/post-medieval pottery, indicating some degree of activity at the site during this period. Two sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered during excavations, adding to the already considerable evidence of Roman activity within the area, most notably, the two salt production sites previously excavated to the south of the site, near to the foreshore. It should be noted, however, that no evidence of salt manufacture was found during this investigation.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David Briault and OCB Construction Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with A Tuffey. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------|--|
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| OA 18 | 2012 | <i>London Gateway: Iron Age and Roman salt making in the Thames Estuary. Excavation at Stanford Wharf Nature Reserve, Essex.</i> Oxford Archaeology Monograph 18 , by E Biddulph, S Foreman, Stafford, Stansbie and Nicholson |

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1410)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1410)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

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 Thurrock Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

Distribution list:

Mr David Briault, OCB Construction Ltd
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

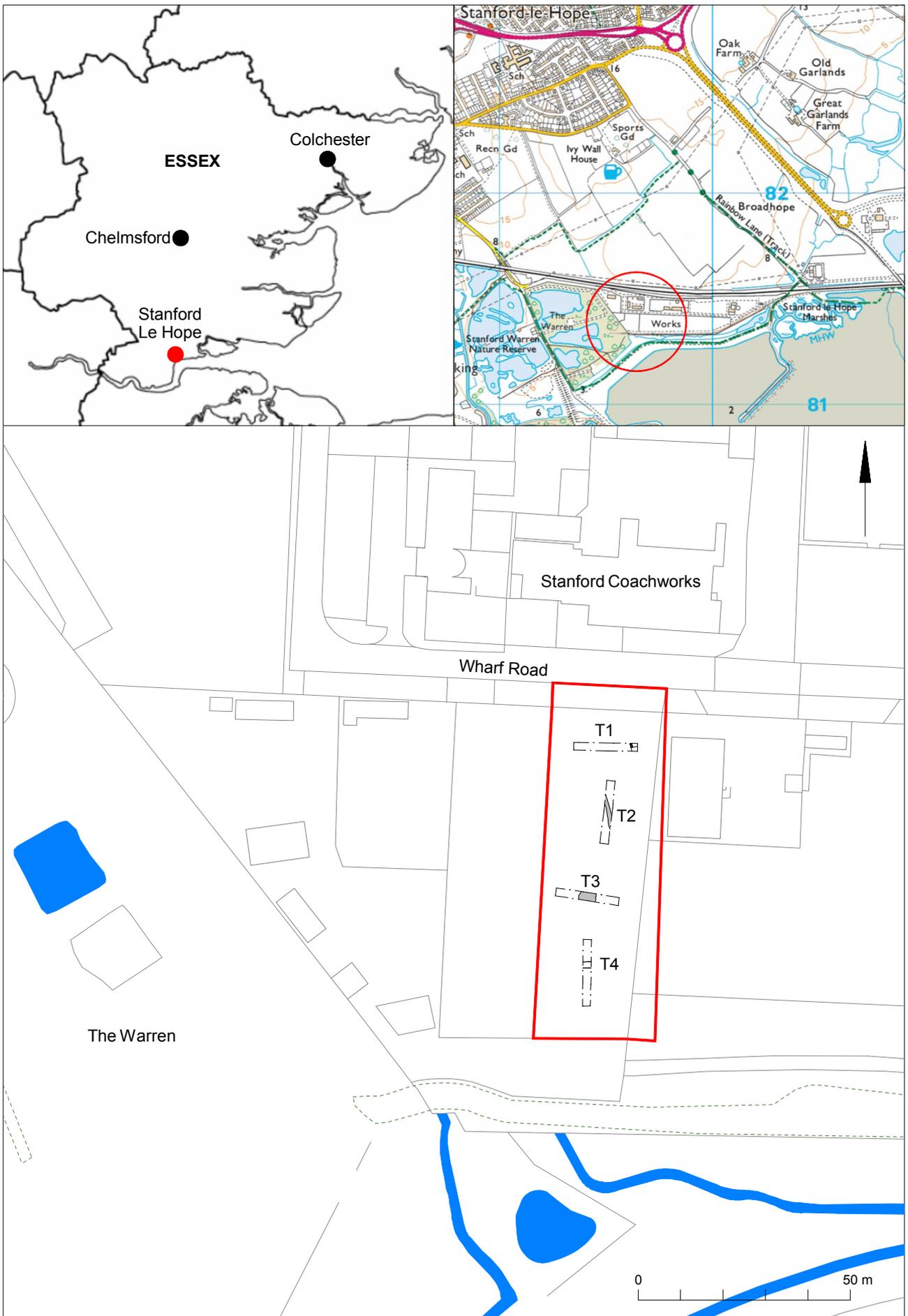
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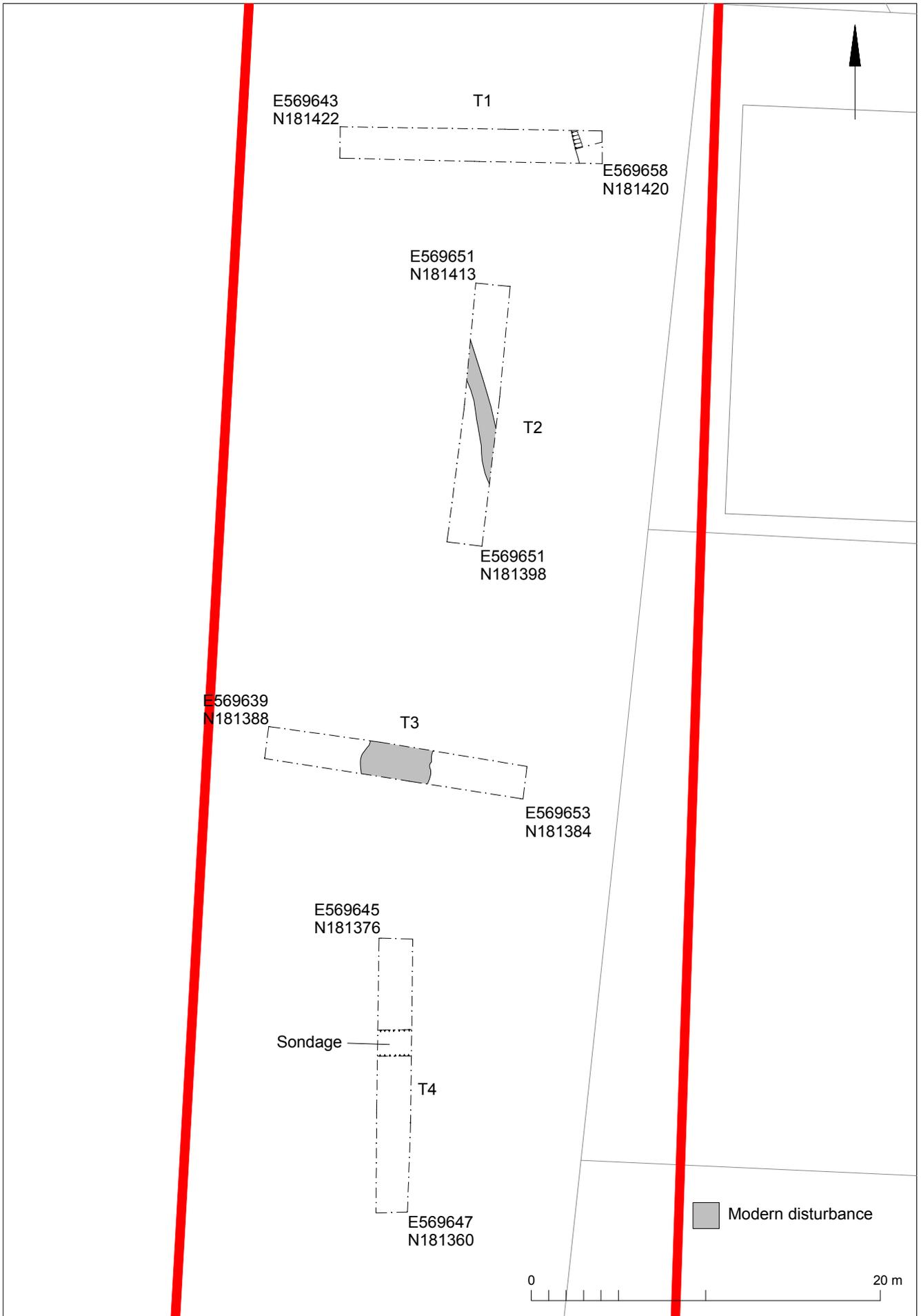
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 13.05.2019



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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-346279

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at FBS Motor Salvage, Stanhope Industrial Park, Wharf Road, Stanford-Le-Ho
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at FBS Motor Salvage, Stanhope Industrial Park, Wharf Road, Stanford-Le-Hope in advance of the construction of flexible industrial units, a new access road and parking, sewage treatment and services. The evaluation found a sparsity of archaeological deposits across the site, and only a single post-medieval gully was uncovered. This feature yielded three sherds of post-medieval pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery. A further sherd of Roman pottery as well as a flint and a fragment of post-medieval glass were also found.
Project dates	Start: 10-04-2019 End: 11-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/01635/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/03i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	THSI19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	GULLY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural commercial

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 THURROCK STANFORD LE HOPE FBS Motor Salvage, Stanhope Industrial Park, Wharf Road, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex

Postcode SS17 0AL

Study area 0.22 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 69649 81405 51.505550138906 0.444762924194 51 30 19 N 000 26 41 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 7.67m Max: 7.75m

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 Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body OCB Construction Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Thurrock Museum

Digital Archive ID THSI19

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Thurrock Museum

Paper Archive ID THSI19

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

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