

Archaeological evaluation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4PZ

June 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Sarah Carter and Bronagh Quinn

commissioned by Lois Heywood

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Planning ref.: UTT/19/0096/FUL

CAT project code: 19/06c

ECC code: GFHE19

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM: 2019.28

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CAT Report 1439

July 2019

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WSI

OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex in advance of the construction of a new agricultural storage building. Although located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only features present were two modern pits and an undated pit.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, which was carried out on 18th June 2019. The work was commissioned by Lois Heywood in advance of the construction of a new agricultural storage building. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisors Richard Havis and Katie Lee-Smith 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 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 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 the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

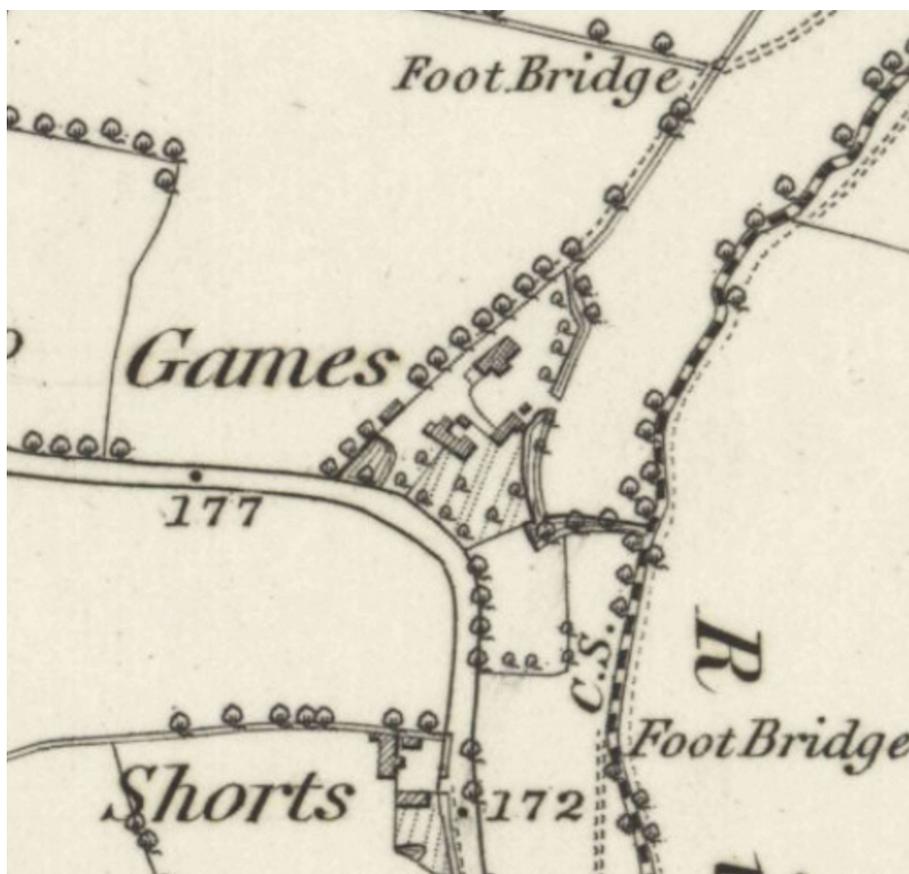
Games farmhouse is a timber-framed Historic England Listed Building (no.111252, EHER no. 38123) which dates to the mid 16th century. The farm first appears on the Chapman and André map of Essex (1777), but the first map which depicts the farm in detail, including its outbuildings and gardens, is the Ordnance Survey map issued in 1881 (see Map 1 below).

The farm sits along the western bank of the River Can. Map 1 shows that a moat divided the main farm complex from the river.

The site is surrounded by areas of cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography. Interpretations of the cropmarks suggest they show a series of former historic agricultural boundaries (EHER nos. 19177-8, 19180 and 19182-3). Many of the nearby farm complexes are of historic interest dating from the 14th century (Braids Farm, EHER no. 38119) and 16th-17th centuries (Lower House Farmhouse, EHER no. 38133; Motts Farmhouse, EHER no. 38157; The Hill farmhouse and barn, EHER nos. 38141-2; and Slyces, EHER no. 38156).

A number of Portable Antiquities find spots have been recorded close to the site. These include that of an Iron Age finger-ring (EHER no. 51908) and coins (EHER nos. 56582

and 51627); a Roman coin (EHER no. 56582); a medieval scabbard chape (EHER no. 50736), a mount (EHER no. 54097), a harness pendant (EHER no. 50735) a finger-ring (EHER no. 54972), and a post-medieval 17th-century trade token (EHER no. 50739).



Map 1 Extract of the 6-inch OS map of England and Wales (surveyed 1974-5, published 1881), showing Games Farm

4 Aim

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)

Two archaeological trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench 1 (T1) was 18m long and 1.8m wide, and Trench 2 (T2) was 9m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were excavated through a layer of modern made ground (L1, c 0.27-0.41m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with frequent concrete and CBM pieces), modern topsoil (L2, c 0.16-0.25m thick firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay), and subsoil (L3, c -0.27m thick, firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay) onto natural (L4, firm, moist medium yellow clay with frequent chalk flecks and occasional gravel).

Trench 1 (T1): 18m long by 1.8m wide

Two pits, F1 and F2, were uncovered. Detritus such as plastic, corrugated iron and asbestos were observed on the surfaces of the pits, confirming them to be modern. They were not excavated.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking northeast

Trench 2 (T2): 9m long by 1.8m wide

Pit F3 was excavated. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation, but its exposed extent was 0.99m wide, and was dug to a depth of 0.4m whereupon excavations ceased due to waterlogging. The feature may have been natural in origin.

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance, only two modern pits and a natural feature were uncovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Lois Heywood for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter and B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis and Katie Lee-Smith.

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	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4PZ</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	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and excavation on Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter. By R Havis</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project, by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</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
EHER	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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	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

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1439)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1439)

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM
2019.28.

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Distribution list:

Lois Heywood

Richard Havis and Katie Lee-Smith, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisors
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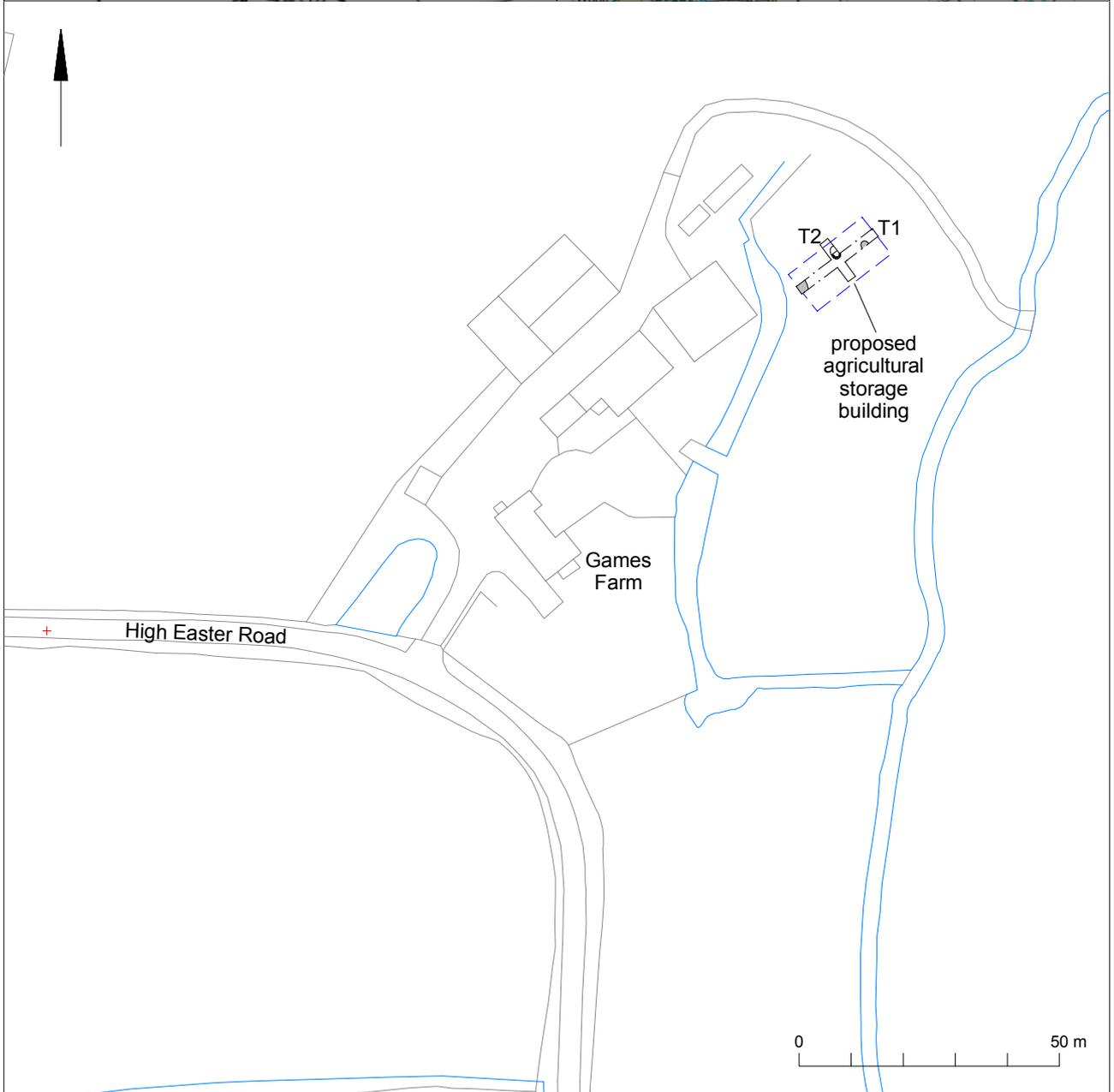
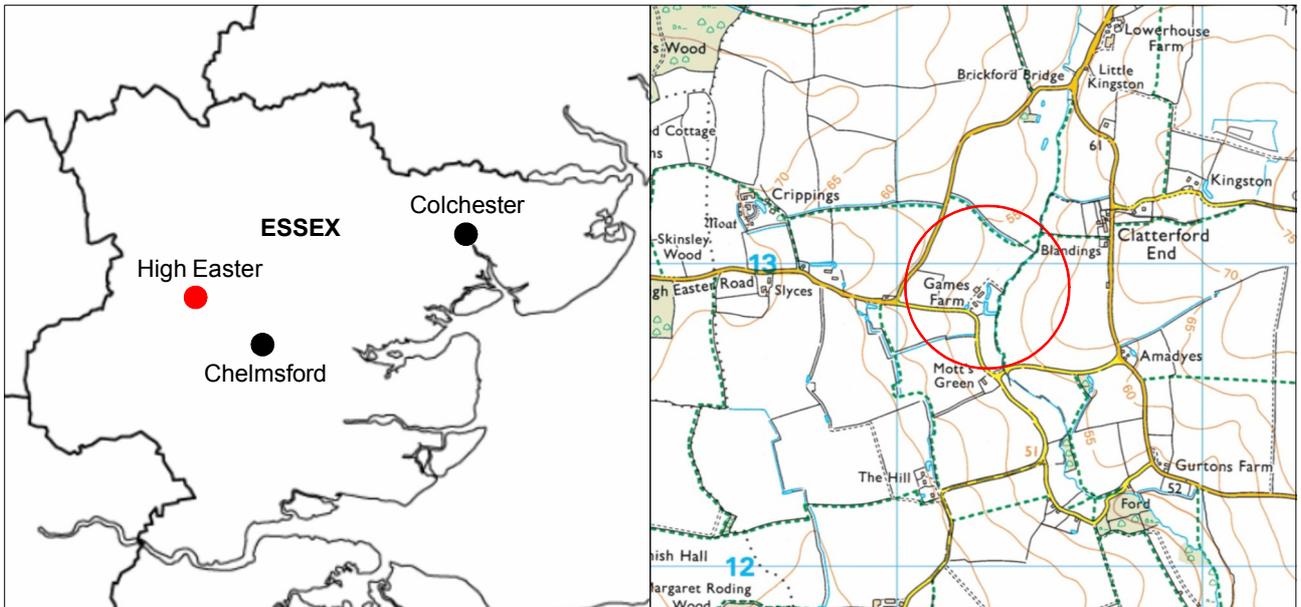
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Fig 1 Site location

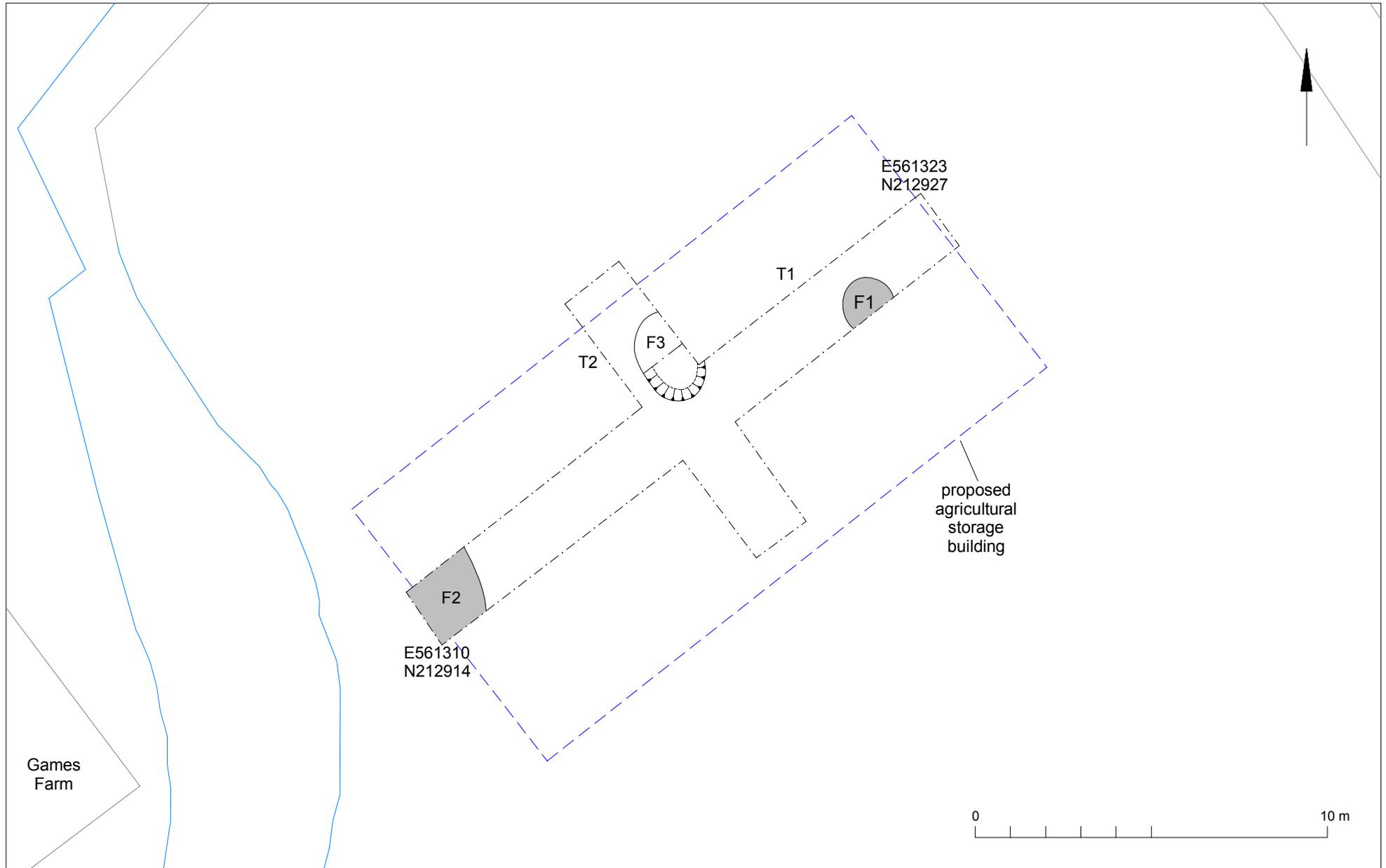


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

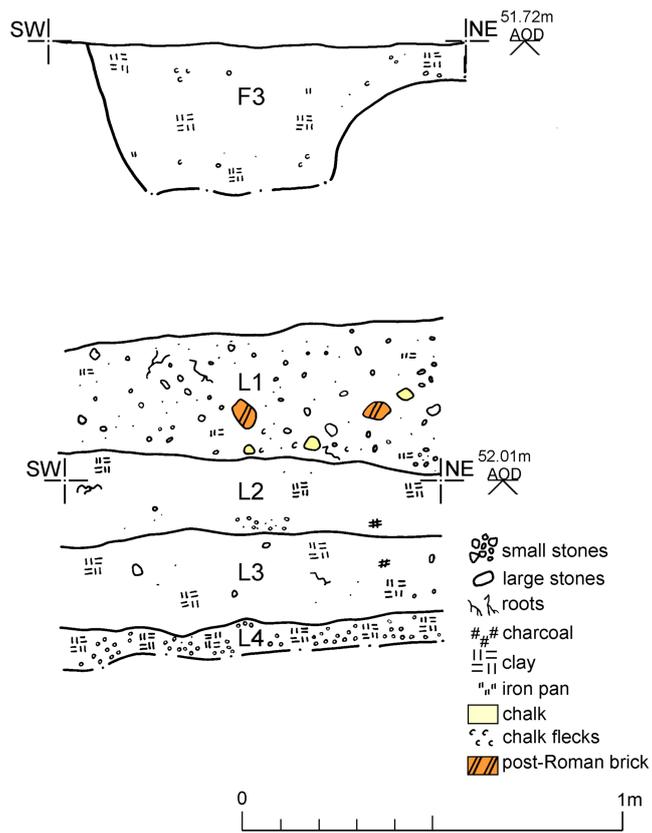


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-354555

Project details

Project name	n archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex, CM1 4
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex in advance of the construction of a new agricultural storage building. Although located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only features present were two modern pits and an undated pit.
Project dates	Start: 18-06-2019 End: 18-06-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/06c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/19/0096/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2019.28 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	GFHE19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, 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 UTTLESFORD HIGH EASTER Games Farm, High Easter Road, High Easter, Essex
Postcode	CM1 4PZ
Study area	162.2 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 61316 12922 51.791171928686 0.339325778165 51 47 28 N 000 20 21 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
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	Lois Heywood

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2019.28
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2019.28
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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