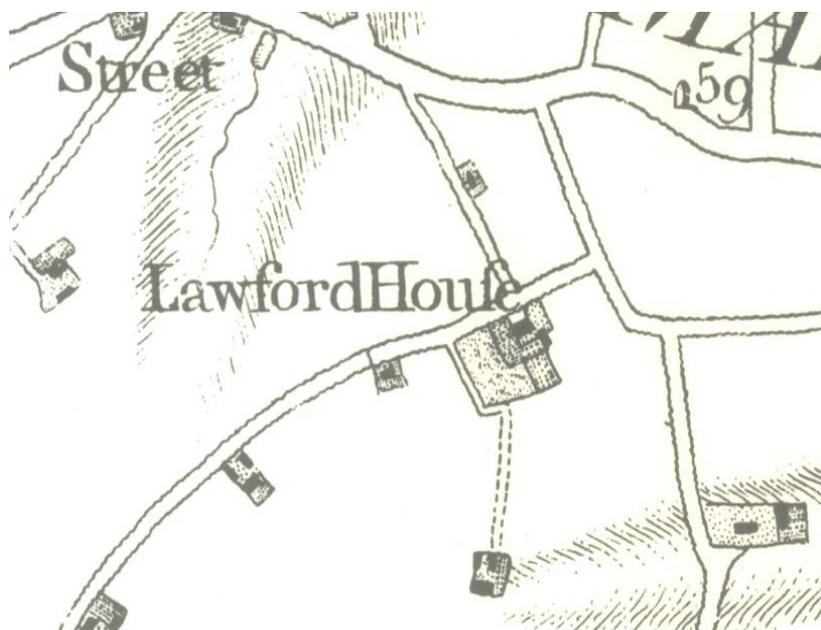


Archaeological evaluation on land at Lawford House, Grange Road, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2JD

August 2019



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Alec Wade
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Alexander Smith, Ziya Eksen and Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by Steve Wheelhouse,
Jenny Moody Properties**

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CAT Report 1461
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of thirteen trial-trenches was carried out on land at Lawford House, Grange Road, Lawford, Essex in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings with garages, a new access road and associated groundworks. A post-medieval field boundary ditch, two ditches, two pits and a natural feature were uncovered. A scarcity of finds meant that only the field boundary ditch could be confidently dated; a single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from one of the other ditches does indicate some activity in the vicinity of the site during this earlier period, however.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Lawford House, Bromley Road, Lawford, Essex, which was carried out 15th-19th August 2019. The work was commissioned by Steve Wheelhouse of Jenny Moody Properties Ltd in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings with garages, a new access road and associated groundworks. 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 2019).

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 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)*.

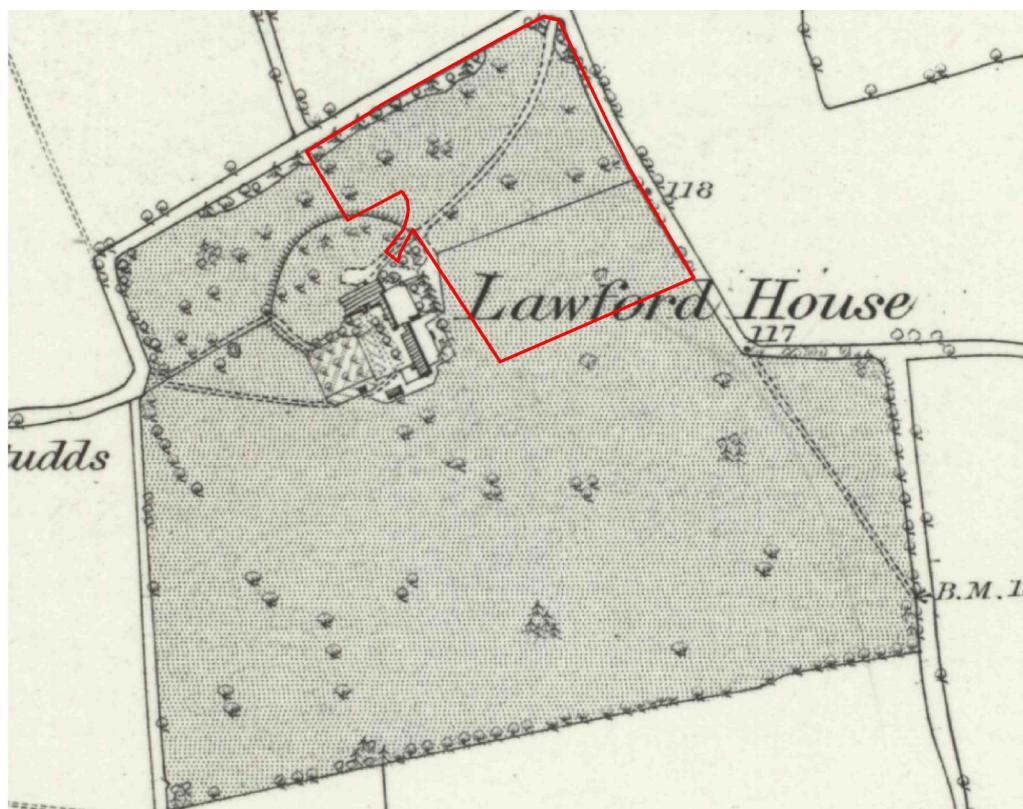
3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Lawford House is a Historic England Grade II Listed building. The timber-framed house was built in the 17th century but has an 18th- or 19th-century brick-fronted range (EHER 34599). The current site is located within the area of Lawford House's landscaped grounds and may contain evidence of previous structures, outbuildings or earlier garden features.

Lawford House sits within a landscape containing multiple significant cropmark complexes, recorded through aerial photography, most of which appear to be prehistoric in date. Approximately 450m north northwest of the site, in Tye Field, lie the remains of a Neolithic settlement (EHER 3). Cropmarks revealed the presence of a circular enclosure with two entrances. When first excavated in 1962-3 the circular bank survived to a height of 0.3-0.46m and was 36.58m in diameter, with a ring of post holes which probably represent a large circular house on the inner lip. The site was re-excavated in 1971. The centre of the enclosure revealed evidence of a small house.

Finds recovered during the two excavations included worked flints, Grooved Ware pottery, bone pins and animal bone. The site is now protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no. 1002157).



Map 1 Extract of the 1875 6-inch OS map of England and Wales showing the current site (in red) in relation to Lawford House

On land immediately adjacent to Tye Field (known as Glanfields), cropmarks show an irregular circular enclosure, part of a rectangular enclosure and other linear features and pits (EHER 2771). To the west, at Hungerdown Lane, cropmarks indicate the presence of an irregular curvilinear enclosure, a possible trackway and later field boundaries. A Neolithic polished axehead was found close to this site (EHER 2744), suggesting the enclosure could be contemporary with the Tye Field settlement. Another polished axehead was recovered from land near Goldings Farm buildings, just to the east of Glanfields (EHER2737).

To the east of the site, on land west of Mistley Hall, cropmarks reveal two sub-rectangular enclosures, one complete enclosure by Long Road and an incomplete enclosure which is cut by Clacton Road. Outside the enclosure is a possible ring-ditch with a possible ?hut in the centre (EHER 3225). To the south of this area, a number of Late Iron Age and medieval or post-medieval finds have been recorded (EHER 51409, 51864 and 53573-4)

Cropmarks to the south of the site include several ring ditches, an irregular ditched trackway (EHER 2723) and the line of a possible Roman road running from Colchester to Manningtree (EHER 2770). Land near Riddlesdale Farm contains a cropmark complex of linear features, rectilinear enclosures and an oval enclosure (EHER 2444). Other cropmarks at Lawford House Farm indicate the presence of numerous ring-ditches, trackways, pits and other linear features (EHER 2782 and 17104). Land east of The presence of linear features and a further sub-rectangular enclosure is evidenced by further cropmarks at Wormseywood Farm (EHER 17476-7).

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)

Thirteen archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trenches T6, T9, T11 and T12 were 30m long and 1.8m wide, trenches T1, T4, T5, T7, T8, T10 and T13 were 20m long and 1.8m wide, and trenches T2 and T3 were 15m long and 1.8m wide. Trenches T2 and T3 were laid out to form an L-shaped trench, and trenches T12 and T13 were arranged to form a T-shaped trench. The trenches were excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.14-0.36m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.12-0.55 thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.47-0.8m below current ground level). Sondages were excavated in trenches T1, T2 and T4 to ensure that the natural had been reached.

There were no archaeological features in T1, T2, T3, T4, T7 or T13.

Trench 5 (T5): 20m long by 1.8m wide

Field boundary ditch (FBD) F8, which was of possible 18th- or 19th-century date, lay on a NE-SW alignment and was 1.3m wide and 0.4m deep. The feature continues to the southwest as F3 (T6).



Photograph 1 T5 trench shot, looking north

Trench 6 (T6): 30m long by 1.8m wide

FBD F3, which was of possible 18th- or 19th-century date, was aligned NE-SW. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) but its exposed extent was 1.1m wide and 0.22m deep.

Trench 8 (T8): 20m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable pit F6 was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep.

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

Undatable ditch F2 lay on a WNW-ESE alignment and was 0.87m wide and 0.13m deep. The feature continues to the east southeast as F7 (T10).

?Roman ditch F4 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 1.08m wide and 0.25m deep. The feature continues to the east southeast as F9 (T11).

Undatable pit F5 extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 0.79m wide and 0.4m deep.



Photograph 2 T9 trench shot, looking northeast

Trench 10 (T10): 20m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable ditch F7 lay on a WNW-ESE alignment. The feature extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 0.55m wide and 0.11m deep.

Trench 11 (T11): 30m long by 1.8m wide

?Roman ditch F9 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 0.77m wide and 0.17m deep.

Trench 12 (T12): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Natural feature F1 was excavated.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramics

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of ceramic and pottery finds with 28 sherds with a weight of 420g (Table 1). Most of the assemblage consists of fragments of post-Roman CBM (Table 1) and one possible sherd of Roman coarse oxidised pottery (fabric DJ) which came from ditch F4.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight/g	MSW/g
Roman?	1	14	14
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	27	406	15
Total	28	420	15

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

The pottery and ceramic finds were recovered from two features and one layer, although most of this material came from field boundary ditch F8 (Table 2).

Feature/Layer	Feature Type	No.	Weight/g	MSW/g
L1	Top soil	4	247	62
F4	Boundary ditch	1	14	14
F8	Boundary ditch	23	159	7
Total		28	420	15

Table 2 Number and weight of pottery and CBM from features and other contexts

The post-Roman CBM consists of fragments of peg-tile and brick. All the peg-tile (no. 2/42g) came from topsoil L1 and all the brick, which is heavily fragmented and not closely datable, came from field boundary ditch F8.

Summary

The paucity of pottery and ceramic material makes dating the features from Lawford House difficult. However ditch F4 could date to the Roman period (?) and field boundary ditch F8 to the 18th to 19th century (?).

Feature	Feature Type	Pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F4	Ditch	Roman?	-	Roman?
F8	Boundary ditch	-	BR	18th-19th?

Table 3 Feature dating summary

6.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley and Alec Wade

A single fragment of clay pipe stem (3.3g) came from L1 (3) and the end of a cow scapula (110.4g) in poor condition from F8 (2). Both have been discarded.

7 Conclusion

Nine features were uncovered during this evaluation: a natural feature, two ditches (both sectioned twice), two pits and a field boundary ditch (sectioned twice). A general scarcity of finds across the site meant that only one of these features – the 18th- or 19th-century field boundary ditch – could be confidently dated. This feature subdivided the grounds of Lawford House and appears to be depicted on late 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping of the area. However, there is a discrepancy between the location of the ditch on the OS map and the location of the excavated ditch (see Fig 2). It is possible that they represent different phases of the same boundary as, although there was no trace of the plotted boundary in evaluation trenches T6, T7 or T8, it might not be visible archaeologically. Alternatively, they are the same field boundary and there is an error on the OS map.

A single sherd of Roman pottery was also recovered from ditch F4/F9. While this ditch appears to represent part of an older historic landscape, this sherd may have been

residual in a later context. Its presence does attest, however, to some degree of activity in the vicinity during the Roman period. Given the alignment of the adjacent ditch F2/F7, it may be contemporary with ditch F4/F9.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Steve Wheelhouse of Jenny Moody Properties for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Smith, Z Eksen and B Quinn. Figures are by S Carter, B Holloway and C Lister. 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	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</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 land at Lawford House, Bromley Road, Lawford,</i> by T O'Connor
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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,</i> by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
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)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
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: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1461)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1461)

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.

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Distribution list:

Steve Wheelhouse, Jenny Moody Properties

Teresa O'Connor, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisors

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.09.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	3	Topsoil	Loose, medium/dark grey/brown silty-sand with charcoal flecks	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Soft, dry medium yellow/brown silty-sand	Undatable
L3	All	-	Natural	Friable medium orange/brown silty-sand	Post-glacial
F1	T12	-	Natural feature	Soft, dry light grey/brown silty-sand with 1% stones	Undatable
F2	T9	-	Ditch	Soft, light grey/brown silty-sand	Undatable
F3	T6	-	Field boundary ditch	Firm, dry light brown sandy-silt with rare charcoal flecks, 1% gravel and 1% stones	18th-19th century
F4	T9	1	Ditch	Friable medium grey/brown silty-sand	?Roman
F5	T9	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F6	T8	-	Pit	Firm, very light grey/brown clay	Undatable
F7	T10	-	Ditch	Soft/friable, moist medium orange/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F8	T5	2	Field boundary ditch	Firm, dry light/medium grey/brown silty-sand	18th-19th century
F9	T11	-	Ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	?Roman

Appendix 2 Ceramic and Pottery list

Context	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	Discard	No.	Weight/ g	Rim	Handle	Base	Form	Comments	Date
L1	Topsoil	3	CBM	-	X	2	42				PT		Medieval/post-medieval
L1	Topsoil	3	CBM	-	X	2	205				BR		Medieval/post-medieval
F4	Ditch	1	Pottery	GX	X	1	14				DJ	?	Roman
F8	Field boundary ditch	2	CBM	-	X	23	159				BR		Medieval/post-medieval



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Fig 1 Site location.

= Root Protection Zone



Fig 2 Results

= Root Protection Zone

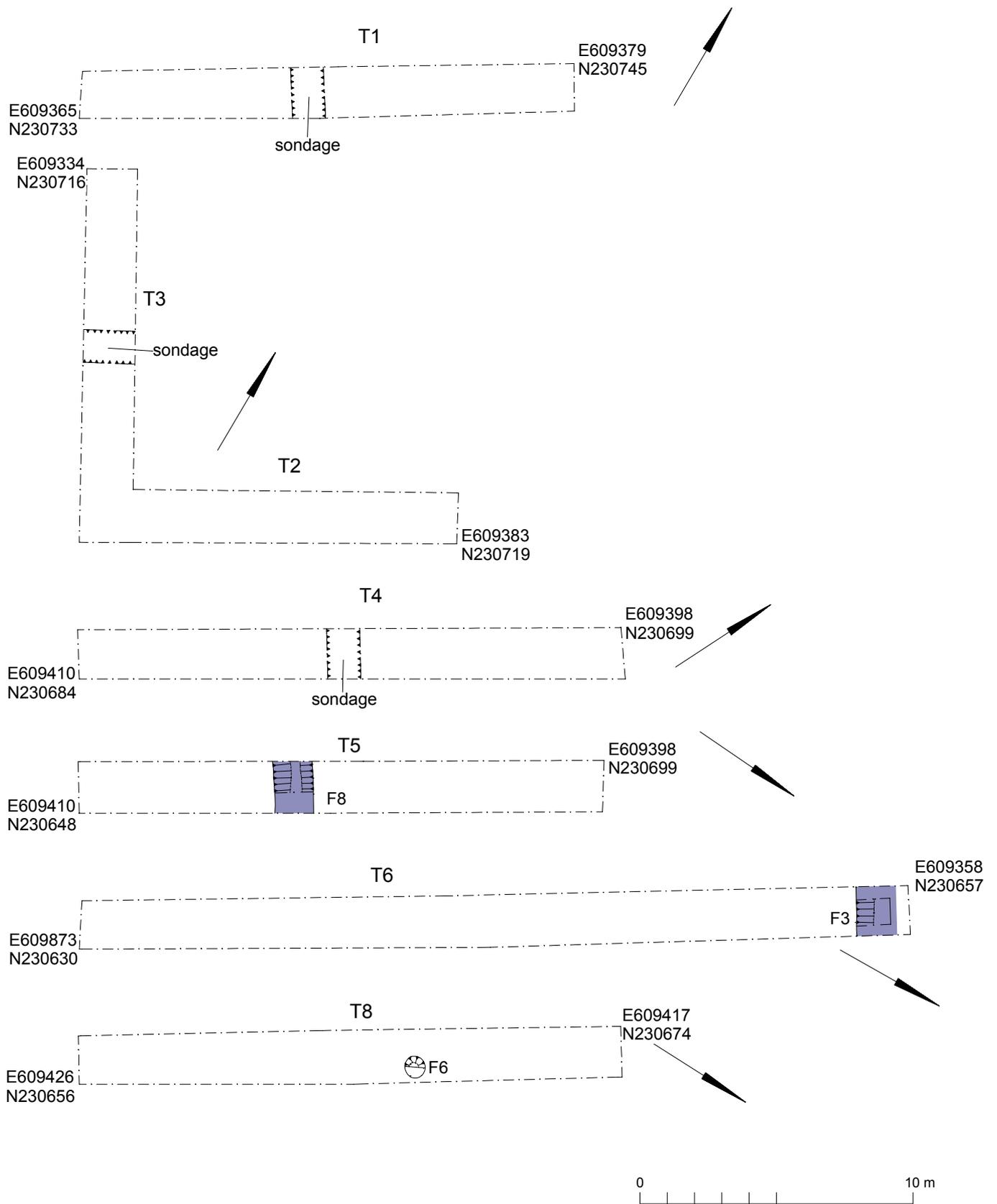


Fig 3 Trench results.

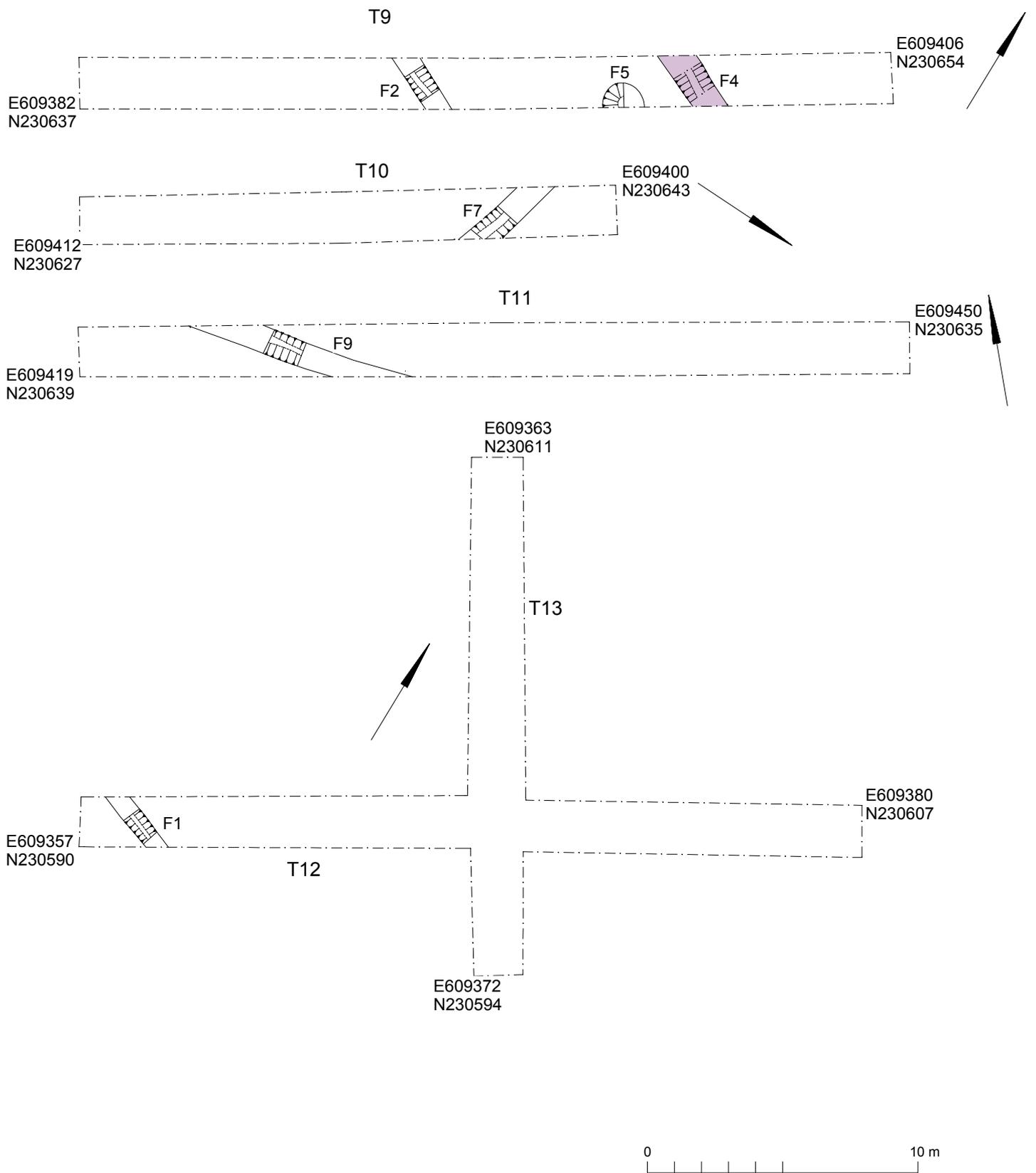


Fig 4 Trench results.

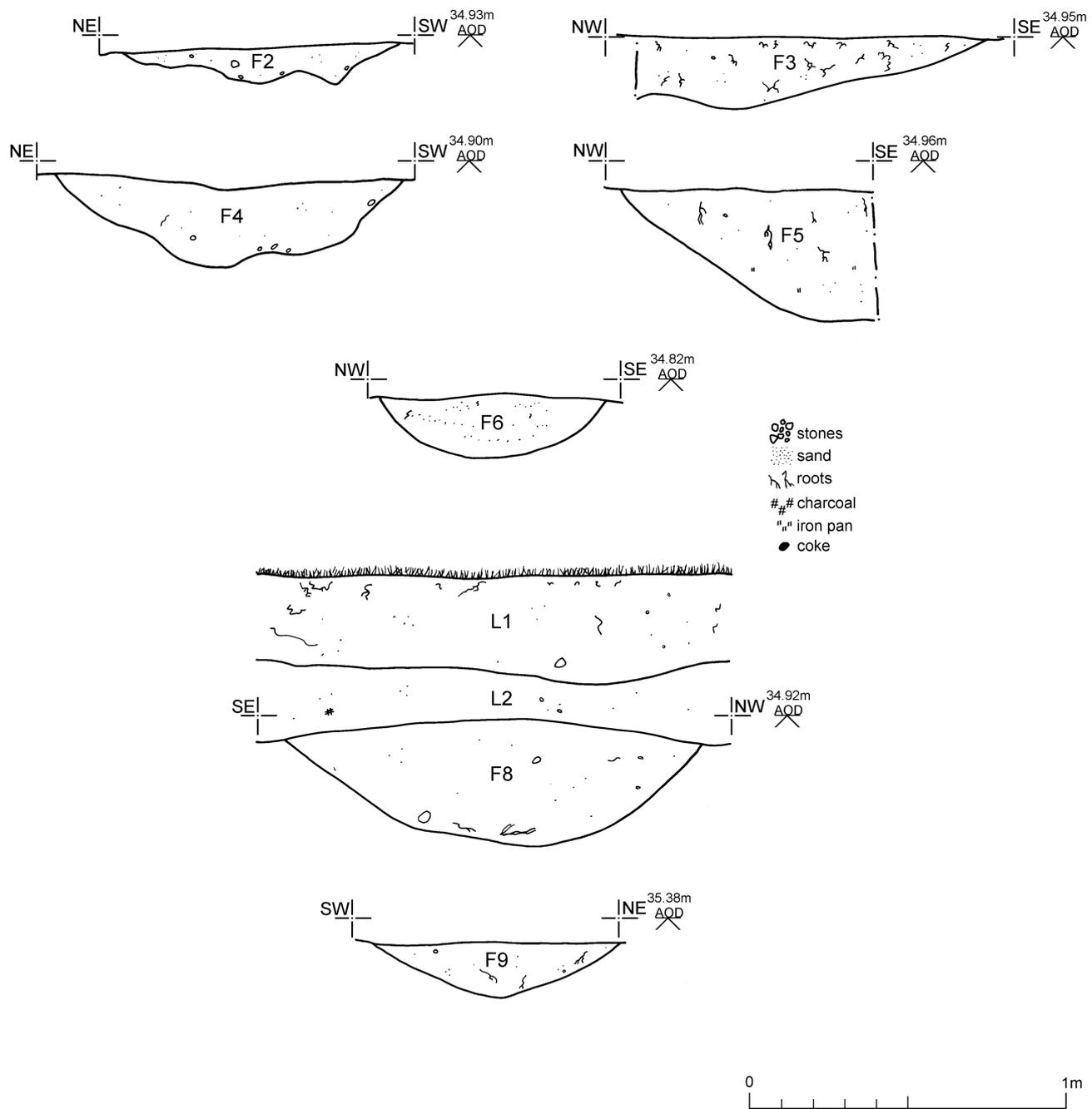


Fig 5 Feature sections.

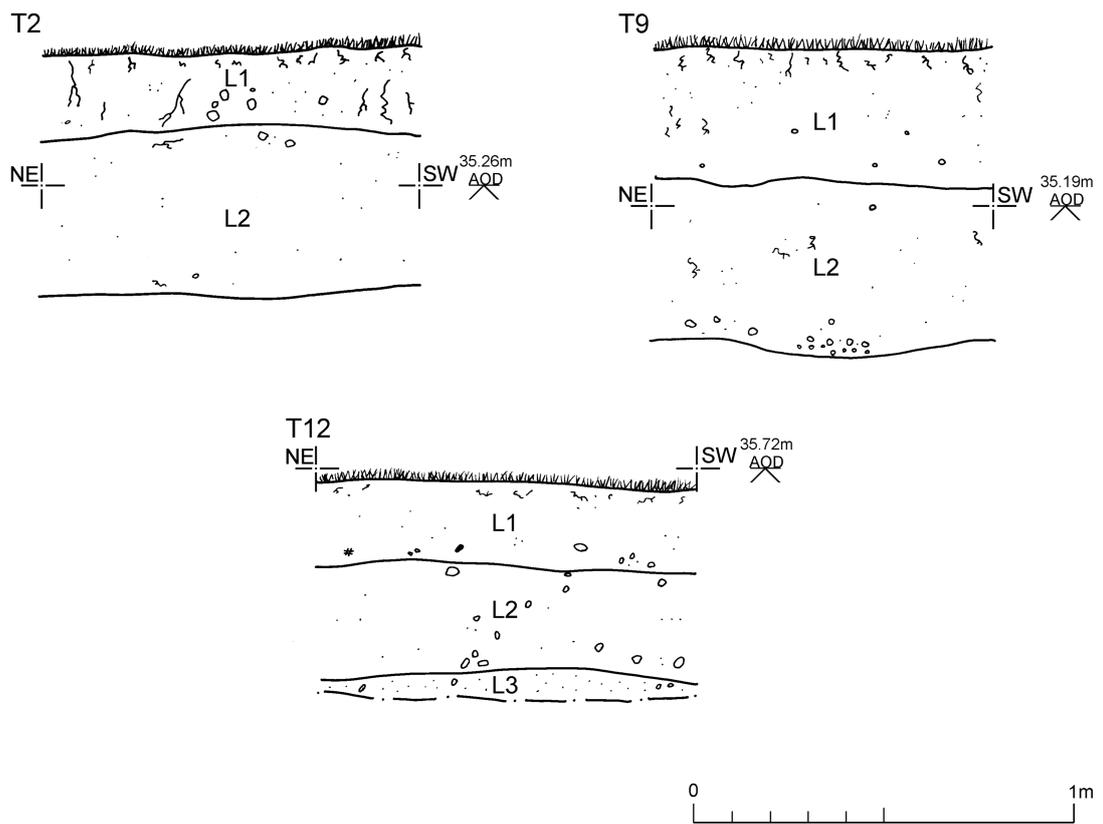


Fig 6 Representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-361217

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at Lawford House, Bromley Road, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2JD.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of thirteen trial-trenches was carried out on land at Lawford House, Grange Road, Lawford, Essex in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings with garages, a new access road and associated groundworks. A post-medieval field boundary ditch, two ditches, two pits and a natural feature were uncovered. A scarcity of finds meant that only the field boundary ditch could be confidently dated; a single sherd of Roman pottery recovered from one of the other ditches does indicate some activity in the vicinity of the site during this earlier period, however.
Project dates	Start: 15-08-2019 End: 19-08-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/07a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00618/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	LAWLH19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain

Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, 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 TENDRING LAWFORD Lawford House, Bromley Road, Lawford, Essex
Postcode	CO11 2JD
Study area	2.54 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 09370 30670 51.934551219688 1.045999626183 51 56 04 N 001 02 45 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34.47m Max: 35.32m

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	Jenny Moody Properties Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	LAWLH19
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	LAWLH19
Paper Media available	"Photograph", "Report", "Context sheet", "Drawing"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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