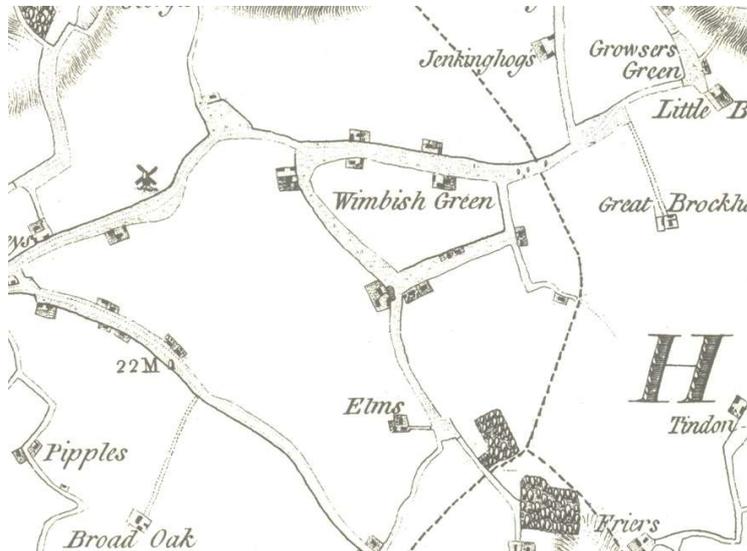


# Archaeological evaluation on land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish, Essex, CB10 2XH

July 2020



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Ziya Eksen and Matthew Perou

**commissioned by Peter Purkiss  
on behalf of Guillermo Marquez**

NGR: TL 60224 34880 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/20/0868/DFO

CAT project ref.: 20/06g

ECC code: DLGW20

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM: 2020.54

OASIS ref.: colchest3-397073



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1574**

August 2020

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	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, maps and figures

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

Photograph 1	T1 trench shot, looking southeast	3
Photograph 2	T2 trench shot, looking south	3

Map 1	Extract of the 1880 6-inch OS map of England and Wales showing site location	2
-------	--	---

Fig 1	Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development
Fig 2	Evaluation results
Fig 3	Feature and representative sections

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish, Essex, in advance of the construction of a cottage-style dwelling with detached cartlodge. The site lies within a possible medieval moated settlement. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, only a post-medieval or modern ditch or pit and a modern pit were uncovered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish, Essex which was carried out on 14th July 2020. The work was commissioned by Peter Purkiss on behalf of Guillermo Marquez in advance of the construction of a cottage-style dwelling with detached cartlodge, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor 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 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

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).

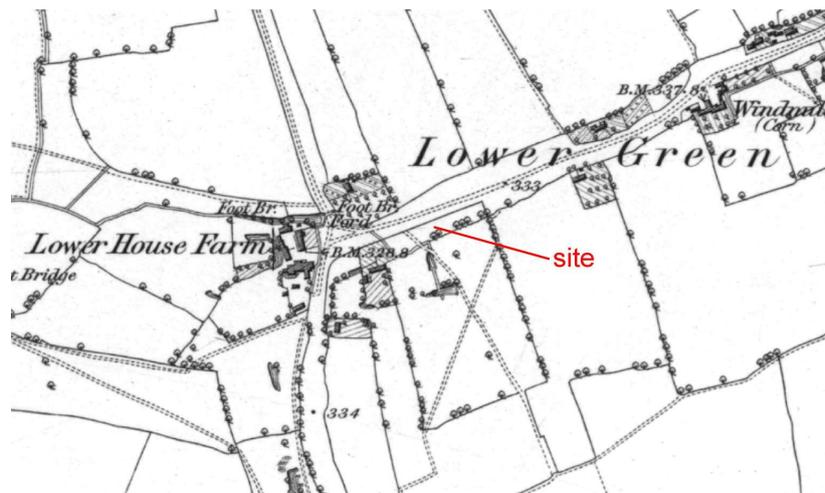
## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The site abuts a protected lane which appears to be an old access route to the farm which lies to the west. Historical cartographic evidence indicates that the boundaries of the site correspond to an older boundary defined by four ponds, which is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area. It is possible these ponds, with their rectangular arrangement around the site, are the remains of a moated site (see Map 1 below). It is therefore possible that archaeological remains lie within the development area, and these may provide some indication of the original site of the nearby farmstead and of land use during the medieval period.

The site lies adjacent to a small settlement of dwellings and other buildings arranged around a central green. The adjoining property to the southwest, Stock Cottage, dates to the 17th or 18th century (EHER 36979). Lower House Farm, to the west, dates to the 16th or 17th century (EHER 36977).

During the Second World War, an emergency landing strip associated with RAF Great Sampford, was located directly opposite the site. It was used during the war by the USAAF as a dormitory site and contained six barrack blocks for airmen and separate quarters for officers and senior NCOs (EHER 16569).



**Map 1** Extract of the 1880 6-inch OS map of England and Wales showing site location

#### 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)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1 was 8m long and 1.8m wide, T2 was 12m long and 1.8m wide, and T3, a cross-shaped trench, was 22m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenching was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.07-0.19m thick, soft, dry dark brown silty-loam) and subsoil (L2, c 0.04-0.33m thick, firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-sandy-clay with occasional chalk flecks and small stones) onto natural (L3, firm, dry medium brown clay with occasional chalk flecks, encountered at a depth of 0.21-0.47m below current ground level).

There were no archaeological remains in trench T3.

##### **Trench 1 (T1): 8m long by 1.8m wide**

Modern pit F2 lay at the western end of the trench. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation and so its full dimensions could not be ascertained, but its exposed extent was 1.28m wide and 0.2m deep.



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

**Trench 2 (T2): 12m long by 1.8m wide**

Post-medieval or modern ditch or pit F1 passed through the trench on a NW-SE alignment. It was approximately 4m wide. The feature was not excavated as it clearly represented the remains of an old trackway depicted on late 19th-century OS mapping.



**Photograph 2** T2 trench shot – looking south

## 6 Finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation produced eight fragments of unfrosted brick dating to the 18th-20th centuries with a weight of 4.632kg. This material came from the following contexts: F1, F2 and L1. Pit F2 (2) produced a complete (3.63kg) unfrosted brick with dimensions of 205 mm x 110 mm x 80 mm. This is stamped STEIN and is from the Stein Manuel Firebricks & Refracting Works at Whitecross, Stirlingshire (Scotland), which operated

from 1928 to 2001. This brick is dense, with a bright yellow coloured fabric with pink to red coloured surfaces and dark inclusions (ore?). This is possibly a refractory brick, one edge is dark and covered with a dark glassy like deposit, from a fireplace, kiln or furnace.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being located within an archaeologically-sensitive area, only a post-medieval or modern ditch or pit and a modern pit were uncovered.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Peter Purkiss and Guillermo Marquez for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with M Perou and Z Eksen. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by 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 <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> )                 |
| CAT                      | 2019  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                      | 2020  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and an excavation on land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish, Essex, CB10 2XH</i> |
| ClfA                     | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| ClfA                     | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| ECCPS                    | 2020  | <i>Brief for Trial Trenching &amp; Excavation at Land Opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish,</i> by Katie Lee-Smith   |
| Gurney, D                | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )  |
| Historic England         | 2016  | <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 <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )                             |
| MHCLG                    | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.   |

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	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
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>
post-medieval residual section wsi	from c AD 1500 to c 1800 something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1574)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1574)

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2020.54

**Distribution list:**

Peter Purkiss

Guillermo Marquez

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

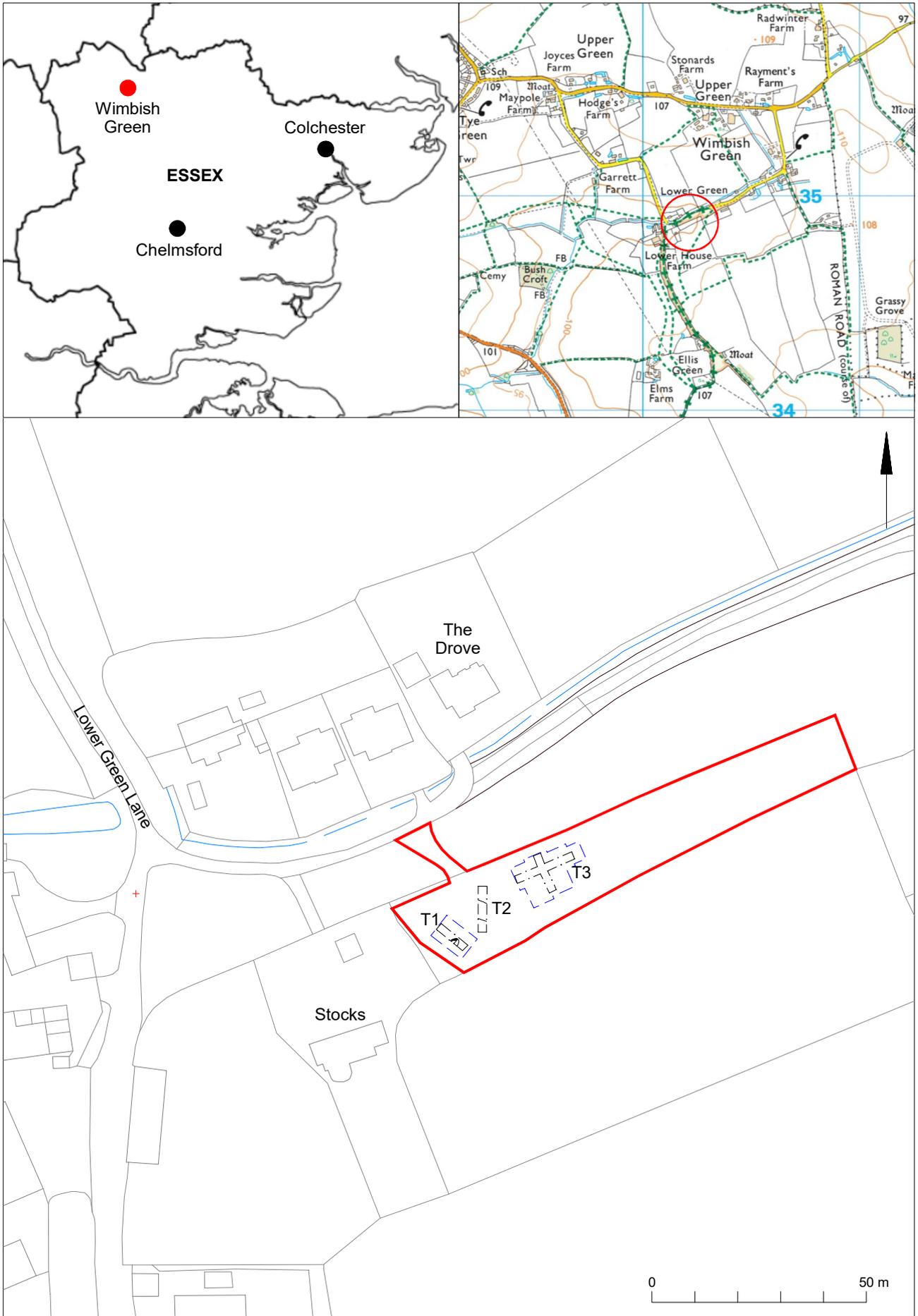
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 13.08.2020



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

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

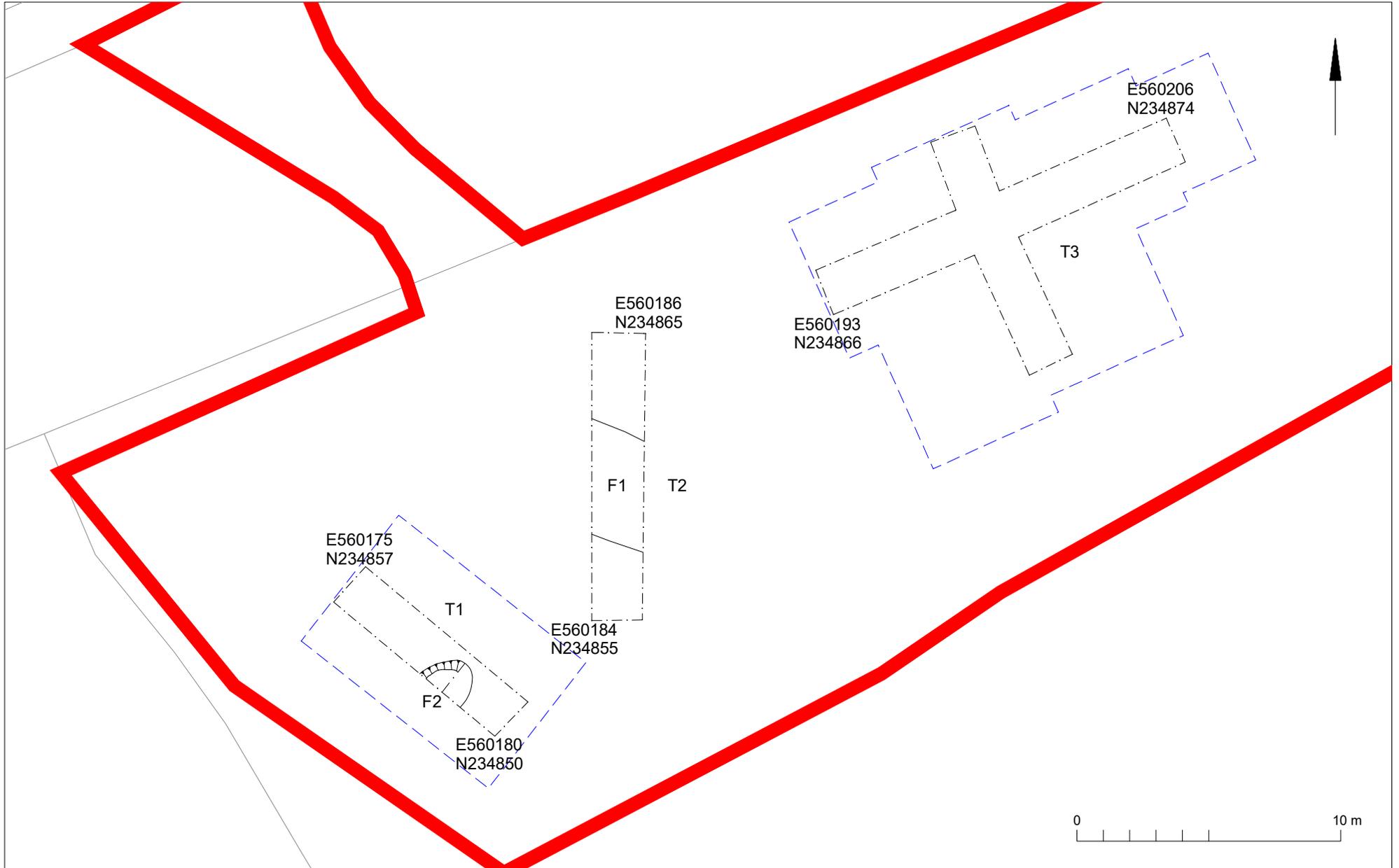


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

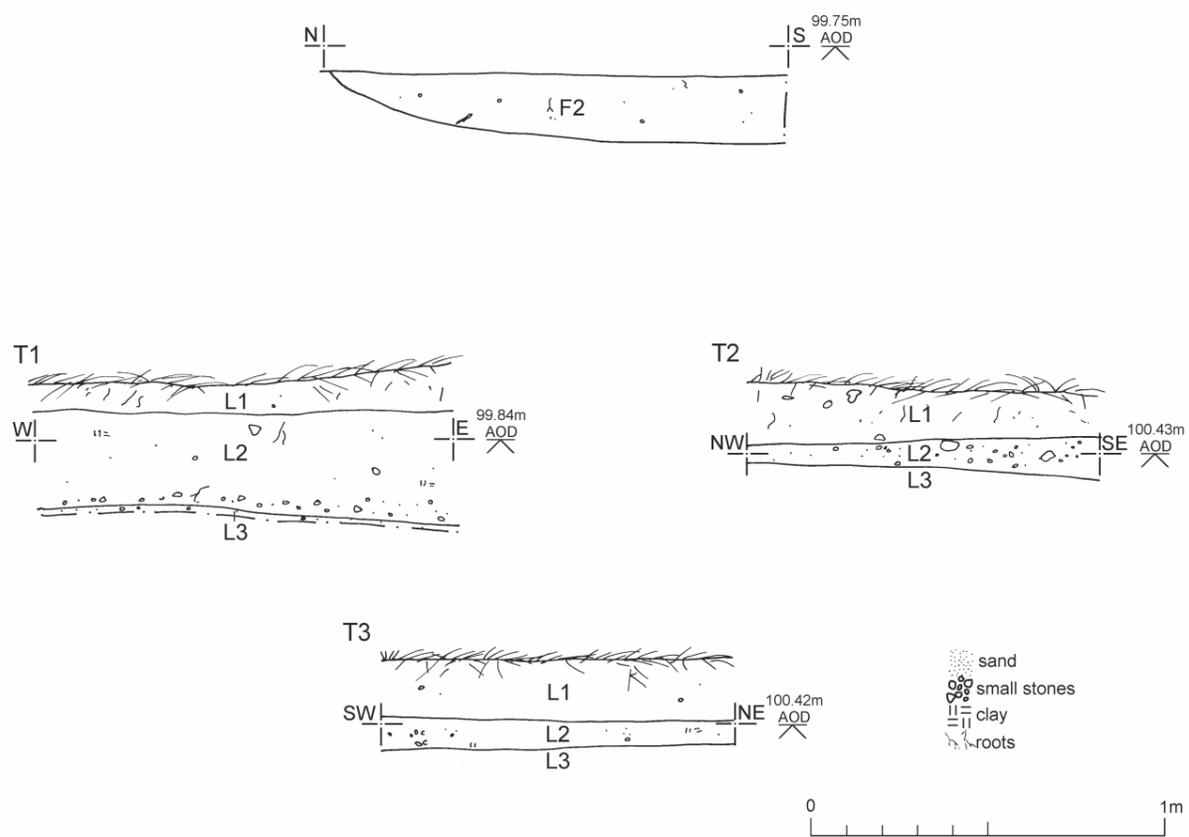


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-397073**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and an excavation on land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish,
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish, Essex, in advance of the construction of a cottage-style dwelling with detached cartlodge. The site lies within a possible medieval moated settlement. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, only a post-medieval or modern ditch or pit and a modern pit were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 14-07-2020 End: 14-07-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/20/0868/DFO - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/06g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DLGW20 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, 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 WIMBISH land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish, Essex
Postcode	CB10 2XH
Study area	0.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 60224 34880 51.988767141777 0.333705726309 51 59 19 N 000 20 01 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 99.41m Max: 100.4m

### 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 Owner  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Guillermo Marquez

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum  
 Digital Archive ID SAFWM: 2020.54  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum  
 Paper Archive ID SAFWM: 2020.54  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological evaluation on land opposite The Drove, Lower Green Lane, Wimbish, Essex, CB10 2XH: July 2020  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1574  
 Date 2020  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
 Description A4 loose-leaf brass-stapled  
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>  
 Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)  
 Entered on 13 August 2020

**OASIS:**

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice  
 © ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012  
 Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=401392> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)