

# Archaeological evaluation on land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon, CM9 6SQ

April 2021



**by Sarah Veasey**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Nik Pryke

**commissioned by Paula Robertson, Plaiter Claiborne  
on behalf of Pharaoh Group**

NGR: TL 84004 06109 (centre)

Planning ref.: APP/X1545/W/19W3243280 (MAL/19/00786)

CAT project ref.: 2021/03cc

ECC code: MD67

OASIS ref.: colchest3-418889



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

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

**CAT Report 1659**

June 2021

## 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	5
11	Contents of archive	5
12	Archive deposition	5
	Appendix 1 Context list	7
	Figures	after p7
	OASIS summary sheet	

## List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: Site shot

Photograph 1	Trench 3 – view N	2
Photograph 2	Pit F2 – view SSE	3
Table 1	Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery	3
Table 2	Quantities of pottery and CBM by features	4
Table 3	Approximate dates for the individual features	4

- Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines)  
Fig 2 Trench results  
Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation of three trenches was carried out on land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. The site was located to the southeast of the historic town of Maldon and within a farmstead that has origins in the medieval period. Despite the sites location only two pits were recorded, one medieval/post-medieval in date and one 18th-19th century in date.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex which was carried out on the 14th April 2021. The work was commissioned by Paula Roberson (Plaiter Claiborne) on behalf of Pharaoh Group in advance of the construction of three detached dwellings and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott 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 at Land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (ECCPS 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), 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 brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The proposed development site is located just south of a Maldon Hall, where a number of listed buildings exist (NHLE 1256294-7, NHLE 1256299, EHER 38490-4). Relating the medieval and post-medieval hall and farm, the buildings date from the 15th century to the 19th century. Maldon Hall is enclosed by a large rectangular homestead moat (EHER 7778), the majority of which is still visible today.

Within the grounds of Maldon Hall is a possible Roman villa (EHER 7777), with finds including a gold stater of Bellovaci (EHER 7780).

An archaeological excavation carried out at Maldon Hall Farm recorded a small enclosed cemetery, dated to the second half of the 1st century AD (EHER 14778). Three of the nine pits excavated contained cremation burials, and a selection of pedestal urns and bowls was recovered (Lavender, 1991). Metal finds included a silver brooch, an iron disc and fragments of copper alloy (EHER 14779).

In 2019 CAT undertook an archaeological evaluation at Maldon Hall Farm, to the north of the development site, which uncovered a post-medieval culvert, a post-medieval ditch and an undated posthole (CAT Report 1397).

Approximately 500m to the west is a complex of cropmarks (EHER 7989, 8026), mainly linear features but also a small rectangular cropmark.

#### 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 2-4)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. T1 consisted of two 10m long trenches arranged in a T-shape, T2 was 20m long and T3 25m long. All trenches were 1.8m wide. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

The trenches were excavated through three layers. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.14-0.21 thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 0.10-0.25m thick) beneath which lay natural (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.28-0.45m below current ground level).



**Photograph 1** Trench 3 – view N

Sondages were excavated in all three trenches to confirm the identification of natural ground level. No archaeological remains were discovered in T2.

##### **Trench 1 (T1)**

Pit F1 produced a small assemblage of finds of different dates. The pit was most likely dated 18th-19th century and the earlier finds residual. It was circular in shape with a flat base and was not fully exposed due to the trench edge. The exposed area was 1.93m by 0.77m and 0.17m deep.

### Trench 3 (T3)

F2 was a large, shallow pit dating to the medieval/post-medieval period. Four peg-tile fragments were recovered from the fill of F2. The exposed area of F2 was 5.55m by 2.42m and 0.21m deep.



**Photograph 2** Pit F2 – view SSE

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic and pottery finds

*By Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered a small collection of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with eight sherds with a weight of 419g (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 52g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Pottery	1	2	2
CBM	7	417	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>52</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

This material was recovered from just two features (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Pit	4	82	21
F2	Pit	4	337	84
<b>Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>52</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM by features

Pit F1 contained one sherd of medieval sandy greyware (fabric F20) pottery with a weight of 2g which dates to c 1150-1375/1400. In addition, there was also a sherd of Roman brick or tile (RBT) with a weight of 18g, one sherd of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (28g), and a small fragment of brick (34g) dating from the 18th to the 19th century.

Pit F2 contained four sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with a weight of 337g.

### Conclusion

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which produced dateable ceramic finds.

Context	Feature type	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date Approx.
F1	Pit	F20	BR, PT	18th-19th century
F2	Pit	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval

**Table 3** Approximate dates for the individual features

## 7 Conclusion

Two features were uncovered during the evaluation at Maldon Wycke. Pit F1 was dated to the 18th to 19th century and pit F2 more broadly to the medieval/post-medieval period. Both features are likely associated with the Maldon Wycke farmstead. Residual finds from pit F2 (Roman brick and medieval pottery) are indicators of earlier activity in the vicinity of the development site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Paula Robertson (Plaiter Claiborne) for commissioning and Pharaoh Group for funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with N Pryke. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

## 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                      | 2021  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                      | 2020  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at land a Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon, SM9 6SQ</i> by S Carter |
| CAT Report 1397          | 2019  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6SQ: March 2019</i> By E Hicks  |
| 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	2020	<i>Brief for trial trenching &amp; excavation at Land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon</i> by M Medlycott
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 (HE)	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Lavender, N J	1991	<i>A Late Iron Age Burial Enclosure at Maldon Hall Farm, Essex, Vol 57, p203-207</i>
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
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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigati <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1659)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1659)

CBC 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 Colchester Museum under the reference number MD67.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2020

**Distribution list:**

Paula Robertson (Plaiter Claiborne)  
Pharaoh Group  
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

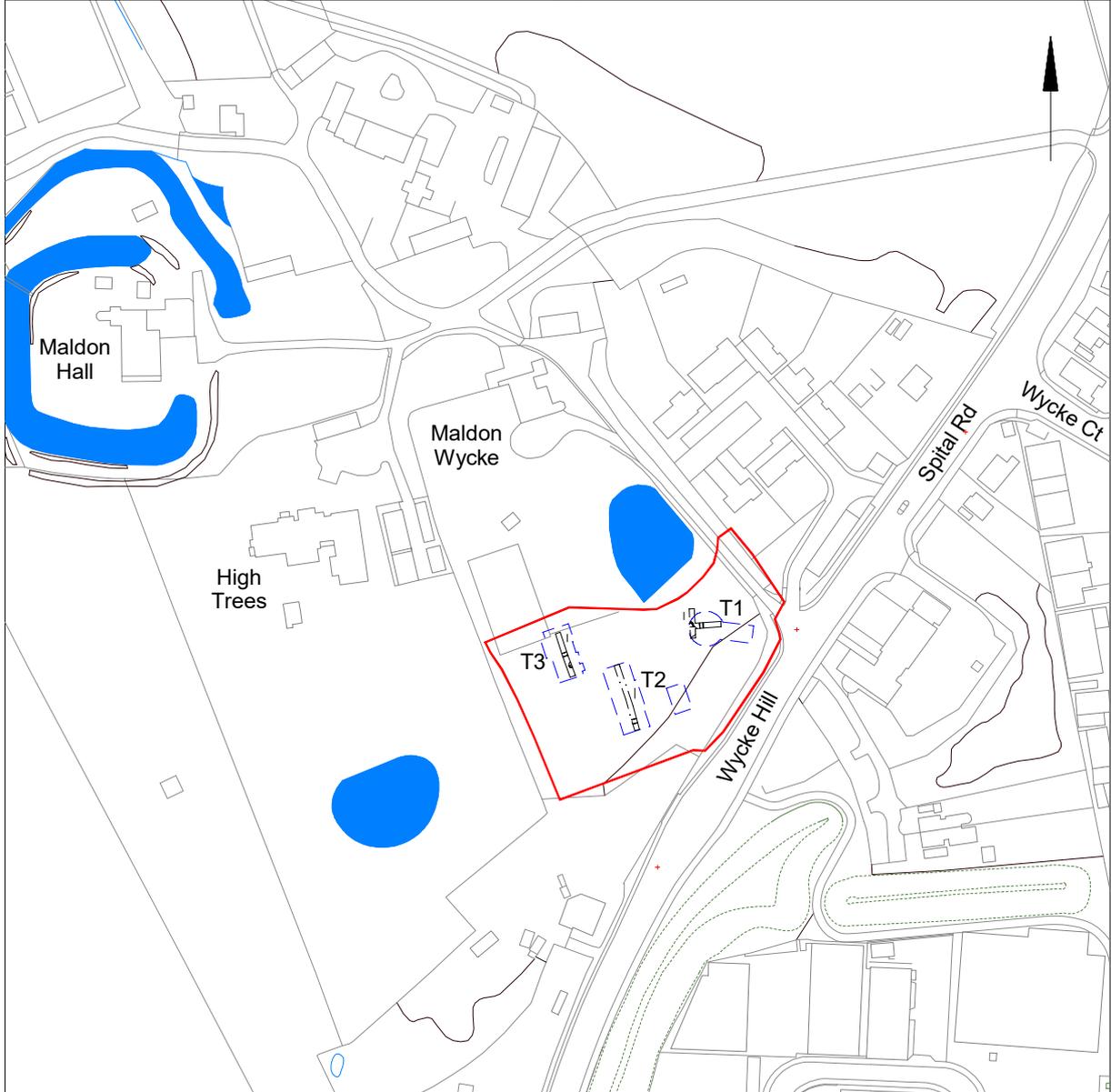
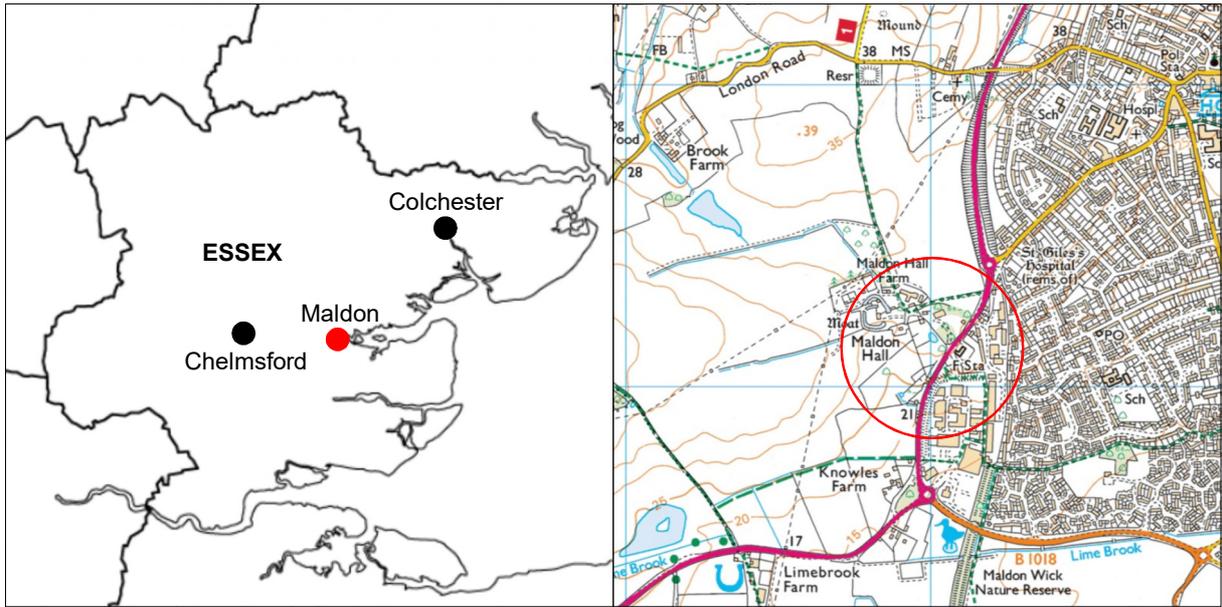
email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 09/06/2021

## Appendix 1 Context List

Context number	Trench number	Finds number	Feature type	Description	Date
L1	All trenches	-	Paddock topsoil	firm moist dark grey/brown silty clay	Modern
L2	All trenches	-	Subsoil	firm moist medium grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
L3	All trenches	-	Natural	medium grey/brown clay and inclusions of: gravel 10% and stone 40%	Post-glacial
F1	T3	1	Pit	firm moist light/medium grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 50%, tile/brick 5% and pot 2%	18th-19th century
F2	T1	2	Pit	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	Medieval/post-medieval



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

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



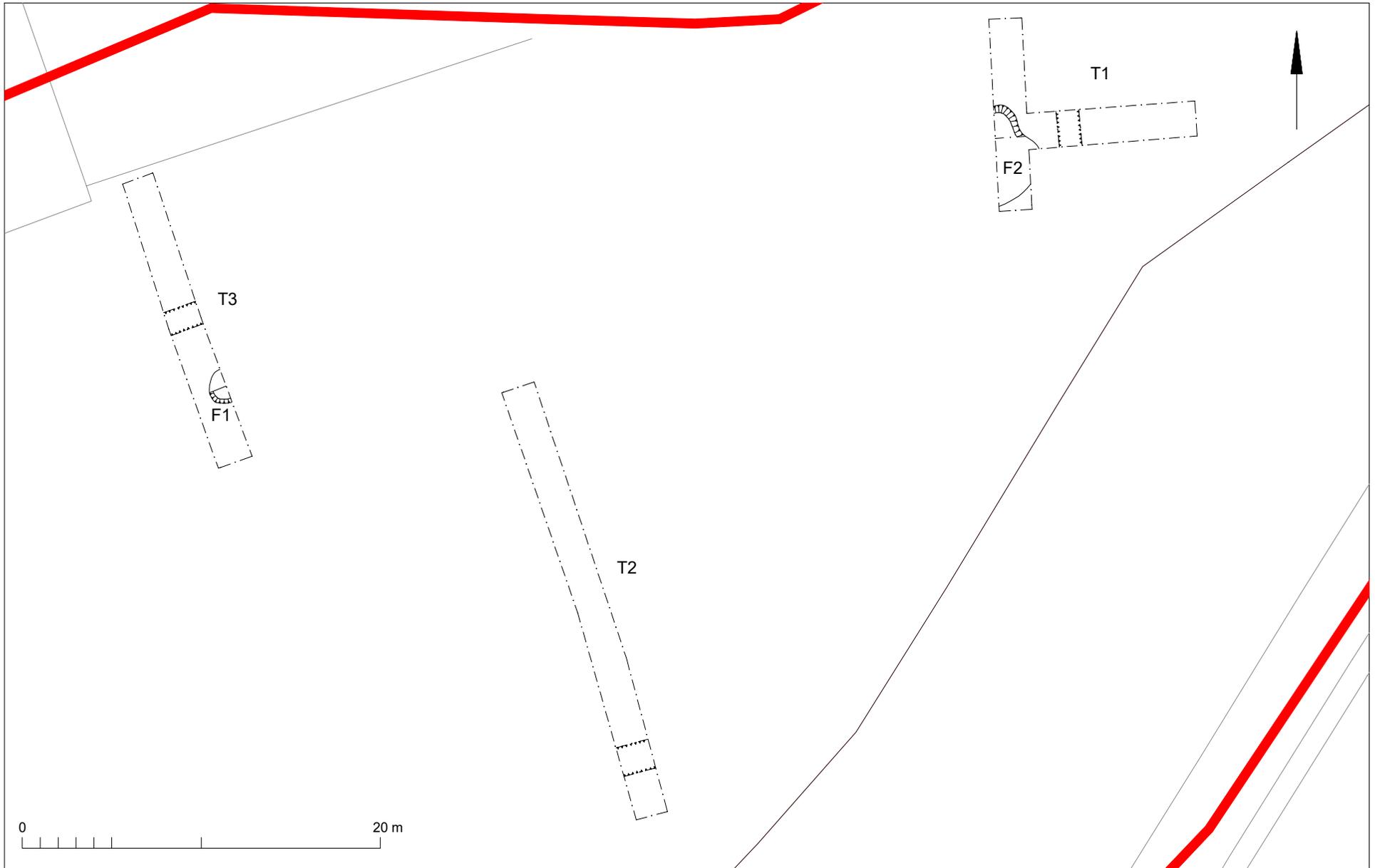


Fig 2 Trench results.

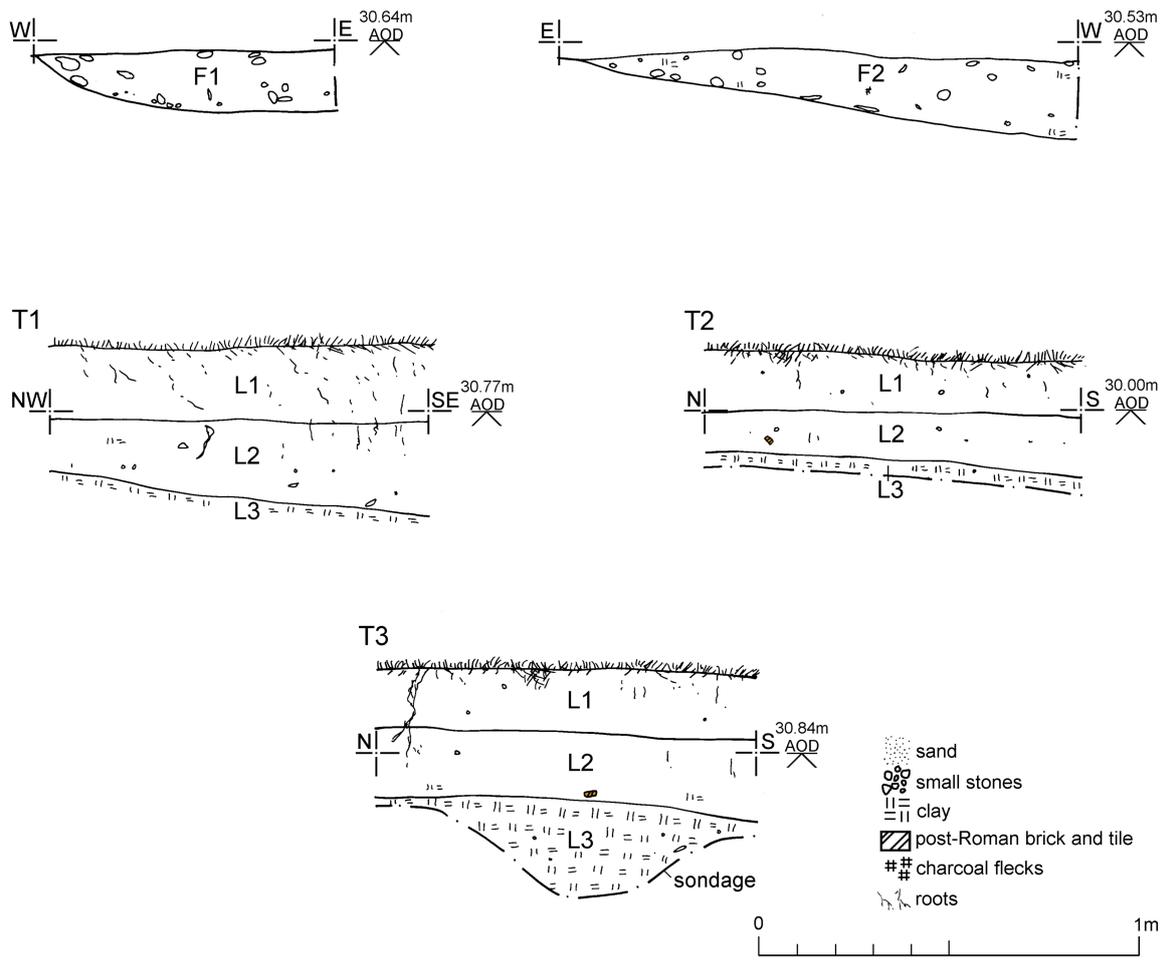


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-418889**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of three trenches was carried out on land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. The site was located to the south-east of the historic town of Maldon and within a farmstead that has origins in the medieval period. Despite the sites location only two pits were recorded, one medieval/post-medieval in date and one 18th-19th century in date.
Project dates	Start: 14-04-2021 End: 14-04-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	MD67 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	APP/X1545/W/19W3243280 (MAL/19/00786) - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/03cc - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Roman
Significant Finds	PEG TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample 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 MALDON MALDON Land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon
Postcode	CM9 6SQ
Study area	0.56 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 8400 0610 51.722868699383 0.664306611873 51 43 22 N 000 39 51 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Sarah Carter
Project	Chris Lister

director/manager  
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological evaluation on land at Maldon Wycke, Spital Road, Maldon, CM9 6SQ: April 2021  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Veasey, S.  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1659  
 Date 2021  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
 Description A4 loose-leaf comb-bound  
 URL cat.essex.ac.uk  
 Entered by S Veasey (sv@catuk.org)  
 Entered on 4 June 2021

**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> for this page

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