

Archaeological excavation on land north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex, CM77 8AL

May 2021



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on behalf of Task Force Developments Ltd**

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CAT Report 1666
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1 Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out on land north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex in advance of the construction of a residential development. Located within the historic village of Stisted, which is likely of medieval origin, an evaluation in February 2021 revealed prehistoric pits and medieval ditches, a gully/plough scar and pit. Open area excavation of the northernmost residential plot uncovered a small number of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits, pits/ditches and postholes/stakeholes.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological excavation on land north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex which was carried out on the 6th and 7th May 2021. The work was commissioned by Robert Steed on behalf of Task Force Developments Ltd in advance of the construction of a residential development of three dwellings, and 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). Consequently a programme of archaeological trial-trenching was undertaken in February 2021 by CAT (CAT Report 1636). The results of this evaluation identified the need for archaeological mitigation in the form of a programme of open area excavation in part of the footprint of the northernmost proposed dwelling (170m²), where Bronze Age pits were discovered.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the consultation and agreed in advance with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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 excavation* (ClfA 2014a), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Stisted is a historic village of likely medieval origin and the centre of the village, some 400m to the southeast of the development site, contains several listed buildings dating from the 15th century onwards. Approximately 670m southwest of the development site is Stisted Hall (EHER 30193), a 19th-century Grade II* listed country house (NHLE no.1171201) with designed landscape (EHER 19953) (now part of the golf course).

An earlier manor house (EHER 6385) is known to have existed on the site of Stisted Hall which was demolished before the current house was built. The manor house dated to before the 16th century and is likely to have had medieval origins. During the digging of the foundations for the present Stisted Hall in c 1828, six Roman funerary urns were uncovered, strongly suggesting the presence of a Roman cemetery (EHER 6406).

Struck flints and abraded ?prehistoric pottery have also been recovered from topsoil within the golf course (EHER 48202), with undated cropmarks c 550m to the northwest including linear features and large pits (EHER 6532).

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was undertaken by CAT in February 2021 (CAT Report 1636). The evaluation identified two phases of activity on the development site. The first consisted of two pits containing Bronze Age pottery and a quantity of heat-altered (burnt) stone. The second dated to the later medieval period with three ditches, a gully/plough scar and pit producing pottery sherds of 12th- to 14th-century date.

4 Aims

Archaeological excavation was carried out within part of the footprint of the northernmost proposed dwelling to record any archaeological remains due to be destroyed by the development.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

All feature, layer and finds numbers used during the current excavation follow on from numbers assigned during the evaluation stage of this investigation (CAT Report 1636). See Appendix 1 for a full context list.

An area measuring 170m² was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The excavation area was located over the western half of evaluation trench T1. It was excavated through modern make-up (L1, c 0.6-0.9m thick), a layer of buried topsoil (L1, c 0.1-0.3m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.1m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.8-1.35m below current ground level).

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery, fragments of fired clay and assemblages of heat altered (burnt) stone were recovered from six pits, two pits/ditch termini and three out of seven postholes/stakeholes.

Three (F8, F9 and F10) of the pits had been initially identified during the evaluation. Half-sectioned at this time, they were fully excavated during this current phase, with heat-altered (burnt) stone recovered from all three. Fragments of Bronze Age pottery had previously been recorded in F9 during the evaluation (see CAT Report 1636), and although no dating evidence was recovered from F8 or F10 during either phase of evaluation or excavation, the presence of heat-altered (burnt) stone from both features means that they are likely associated with the prehistoric activity on this site.

All of the three remaining pits excavated during this current phase produced small quantities of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. Elongated pit F23 was 2.4m long, 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep, with pits F17 and F20 being circular in plan at c 1m in diameter and 0.3m deep and 0.8m in diameter and 0.16m deep respectively.

Elongated pits or ditch termini F11 and F25 were also excavated. If ditches, F11 was on a NW/SE alignment and F25 on a NE/SW alignment. Sections through both features were c 0.48m wide and c 0.1m deep, and both also produced small quantities of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery. Although undated, pit/ditch F12 was cut by F11 so must be of earlier date.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and fragments of baked clay/daub were also recovered from postholes F13, F18 and F24 (c 0.18-0.29m diameter and 0.12-0.18m deep). Two further postholes (F16 and F19, 0.18-0.3m diameter and 0.13-0.15m deep) and two stakeholes (F14 and F22, 0.1-0.12m diameter and 0.06-0.08m deep) were

undated, producing no archaeological finds, but appeared to be grouped with the dated features and are likely associated with this activity.



Photograph 1 F11 and F12, looking east



Photograph 2 F20, looking south southeast



Photograph 3 F9, F13, F14 and F22, looking south

Medieval/post-medieval

Pit F15, 0.91m long, 0.88m wide and 0.08m deep, contained a single fragment of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile.

Undated

Pit F21 was 0.62m long, 0.41m wide and 0.08m deep.

Natural features F26 and F27 were also excavated.

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramics

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The excavation produced a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 52 sherds with a weight of 372g while the mean sherd weight is very low at only 7g (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	25	98	4	0.00
CBM	27	274	10	-
All	52	372	7	0.00

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics

Pottery and CBM was recovered from nine features although a large proportion of this material came from posthole F18 (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F11	Pit/ditch	5	14	3
F13	Posthole	5	38	8
F15	Pit	1	2	2
F17	Pit	2	11	6
F18	Posthole	25	251	10
F20	Pit	7	26	4
F23	Pit	1	3	3
F24	Posthole	4	20	5
F25	Pit/ditch	2	7	4
Total		52	372	7

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features**Prehistoric pottery**

There was a small and fragmented assemblage of handmade prehistoric pottery with 24 sherds with a weight of 97g and a mean sherd weight of only 4g (Table 3). This material was recovered from eight features although the largest assemblage only consists of six sherds with a weight of 12g (Table 4). Handmade pottery tempered with flint (fabric HMF) accounts for the majority of this material (Table 3). Sherds tempered with sand (fabric HMS) and sand and flint (fabric HMSF) account for nearly all of the remaining sherds. Finally, there was one sherd tempered with grog and sand (fabric HMGS). Most of the pottery was black to dark brown coloured while one sherd from posthole F13 was thinner-walled with a smoother slightly burnished surface. Dating this assemblage is difficult given the absence of any typological diagnostic elements, however the presence of slightly finer tempered sherds with sand and/or flint suggests that the assemblage dates from the Late Bronze to the Early Iron Age.

Fabric	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
HMF	10	47	5
HMGS	1	2	2
HMS	8	27	3
HMSF	5	21	4
Total	24	97	4

Table 3 Details on the handmade pottery fabrics

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F11	Pit/ditch	4	13	3
F13	Posthole	4	32	8
F17	Pit	2	11	6
F18	Posthole	3	14	5
F20	Pit	6	12	2
F23	Pit	1	3	3
F24	Posthole	2	5	3
F25	Pit/ditch	2	7	4
Total		24	97	4

Table 4 Quantities of prehistoric pottery from specific features

Late Iron Age pottery

there was one small sherd (1g) of possible Romanising coarseware pottery (RCW) which came from pit/ditch F11.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were only 27 sherds of CBM with a weight of 274g and a mean sherd weight of only 10g (Table 5). Sherds of CBM were recovered from five features although most came from posthole F18 (Table 5). Most of this material consists of baked clay (no. 24/231g) which came from posthole F13, posthole F18, pit F20, and posthole F24. There was also two sherds (41 g) of daub with a stakehole (20mm diam.) which came from posthole F18. Finally, there was one sherd of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile which came from pit F15.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F13	Posthole	1	6	6
F15	Pit	1	2	2
F18	Posthole	22	237	11
F20	Pit	1	14	14
F24	Posthole	2	15	8
Total		27	274	10

Table 5 Quantities of CBM by feature

Conclusion

Table 6 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and other contexts which produced dateable pottery and ceramic finds. Apart from pit F15, which dates to the medieval or post-medieval periods, all the features date to the later prehistoric period, possibly to the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age. The small quantity of daub suggests the nearby presence of a habitation.

Context	Description	Prehistoric pottery	Late Iron Age-Roman pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F11	Pit/ditch	HMF HMSF	RCW? (intrusive?)	-	?Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F13	Posthole	HMF HMS	-	-	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F15	Pit	-	-	PT	Medieval/post- medieval
F17	Pit	HMS HMSF	-	-	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F18	Posthole	HMF HMSF HMGS	-	-	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F20	Pit	HMS	-	-	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F23	Pit	HMSF	-	-	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F24	Posthole	HMF	-	-	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F25	Pit/ditch	HMF HMFS	-	-	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age

Table 6 Approximate dates for the individual features

6.2 Burnt (heat-altered) stone

by Laura Pooley

During the evaluation and excavation, a large quantity of burnt (heat-altered) stone was recovered from pits F8 (84 pieces at 8.15kg), F9 (141 pieces at 21.87kg) and F20 (158 fragments at 23.05kg). Smaller quantities were also recovered from F10 (four pieces at 1.59kg), F18 (one piece at 15g) and F24 (three pieces at 192g). Most of the material comprised of sandstone pebbles (complete, cracked and fragmented) but did include a few quartzite pieces and some flint.

The burnt flints were small- to medium-sized irregular broken pieces, most of which had been cracked and crazed from the heat and discoloured various shades of white (calcified), grey, pink and red. The sandstone/quartzite was less broken-up, having better thermal properties, with many representing parts of large rounded stones or smaller pebbles. Approximately half were discoloured various shades of red, pink and white, but the rest showed only slight or no traces of heat discolouration.

Burnt stones are commonly associated with prehistoric occupation, often occurring as groups in pits. Created when in close proximity to heat, notably ovens, hearths and cremations, deliberately heated stones could also have been used as an indirect method for heating water and are often referred to as 'pot boilers' (although their precise use is debated). The types of stones utilised here, flint and sandstone/quartzite, occur in the underlying gravel deposits and would have been available to be collected from the surrounding area.

All of the burnt (heat-altered) stone has been recorded in Tables 7 and 8 and discarded.

Context & trench	Finds no.	Description
F8, T1	12	Burnt pebbles: 40 pieces at 3.98kg, cracked and fragmented, some burnt red/white, most only show slight traces of being heat-affected. Burnt flint: 19 pieces at 740g, cracked and crazed, burnt shades of red, pink, white and grey.
F9, T1	9	Burnt pebbles: 49 pieces at 8.58kg, some complete, others cracked and fragmented, some burnt red and pink, most only show slight traces of being heat-affected. Burnt quartzite pebbles: Five pieces at 724g, cracked, burnt white/off-white.
	10	Burnt flint: One piece, 21g, cracked, crazed and burnt white

Table 7 Burnt (heat-altered) stone list by context from the evaluation

Context	Finds no.	Description
F8	26	Burnt stone: 22 pieces at 3.34kg, complete, cracked and fragmented pieces of sandstone pebbles, ranging from large to small in size, most discoloured red, pink and grey from heating. Burnt stone: Two pieces at 64g, cracked quartzite pebbles, burnt pink. Burnt flint: One piece, 29g, cracked, crazed and burnt white/grey.
F9	9	Burnt stone: 73 pieces at 11.47kg, complete, cracked and fragmented pieces of sandstone pebbles, ranging from large to small in size, 60% discoloured red/pink from heating but some showing no colour change. Burnt stone: 11 pieces at 724g, fragments of cracked quartzite pebbles, many burnt pink. Burnt flint: Three pieces at 260g, cracked, crazed and burnt white/grey.
F10	18	Burnt flint: One large flint nodule, 746g, cracked, burnt white externally and red internally.

		Burnt stone: Three pieces at 846g, medium-sized sandstone pebbles, slightly burnt red/pink in places.
F18	19	Burnt flint: One piece, 15g, cracked and crazed, burnt grey.
F20	20	Burnt stone: 119 pieces at 21.47kg, complete, cracked and fragmented pieces of sandstone pebbles, ranging from large to small in size, 50-60% discoloured red/pink from heating but some showing no colour change. Burnt flint: 39 pieces at 1.58kg, cracked and crazed, burnt various shades of pink and red, with some white and grey.
F24	25	Burnt stone: Two fragments of quartzite pebble, 65g, cracked and burnt pink. One fragment of sandstone pebble, 127g, cracked and burnt red.

Table 8 Burnt (heat-altered) stone list by context from the excavation

7 Environmental assessment

Samples were taken from F8 (10L), F10 (10L), F11 (10L) and F20 (10L). They were floated by CAT staff using a Siraf-type flotation device with the flot collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried. Small fragments of charcoal were recovered from F11 (12.9g) and F20 (2.9g) but no other environmental remains were present.

8 Discussion

Twenty features were uncovered during excavation at this site, consisting of eight pits, three pits/ditches, five postholes, two stakeholes and two natural features. Nine features produced Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery with another two undated pits producing large quantities of heat-altered (burnt) stone, which is usually associated with prehistoric activity and likely of the same date as the dated features.

Perhaps the most significant of these prehistoric features were a group of postholes/stakeholes which were located in the southern half of the excavation area. While the majority of these features produced no dating evidence, pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age was recovered from three postholes, and it is likely that all of these features date to this period. The presence of baked clay and daub from the same three postholes as the pottery suggest at least one posted structure stood here during this period. The features and finds are indicative of some form of settlement activity on the development site in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

Remains dating to the medieval period were encountered during the evaluation phase of this investigation, consisting of a pit, four ditches and a gully or plough scar, which were concentrated along the eastern border of the development site. However, only a single pit dating to the medieval/post-medieval period was recorded during the current excavation.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Robert Steed and Task Force Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with E Hicks, N Pryke and S Veasey. Figures are by C Lister, S Veasey and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

10 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 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)

CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological excavation on land to the north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex, CM77 8AL</i>
CAT Report 1636	2021	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex, CM77 8AL: February 2021</i> , by L Pooley
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation</i> . Updated Oct 2020
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
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.

11 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
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
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

12 Contents of archive

Finds: Part of one box (pottery)

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1666)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (section drawings)

Inked section drawings

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1666)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics

Site data

Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The 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 Braintree Museum under site code SSRR21.

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Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	-	Buried topsoil	Soft, moist dark grey/brown/black silt	Modern
L2	2, 11	Accumulation	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silt	Modern
L3	-	Natural	Soft, moist light/medium orange/grey/brown clay	Post-glacial
L4	-	Make-up layer	Soft, moist light/medium/dark yellow/orange/grey/brown sandy-clayey-loam	Modern
Evaluation				
F1	4	Ditch	Medium yellow/brown clay	Medieval
F2	3	Pit	Firm, moist medium orange/brown clay	Medieval
F3	-	Service trench	-	Modern
F4	1	Shallow gully/ plough scar	Friable, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Medieval/ post-medieval
F5	5	Linear	Dark medium silty-clay with rare stones and charcoal flecking	Medieval
F6	6	Ditch	Firm, medium grey/brown silty-clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones	Medieval
F7	7	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay	Medieval
F8	12	Pit	Soft, firm moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks and very frequent stones	Prehistoric
F9	8, 9	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks and very frequent stones	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F10	10	Pit	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks and 1% stones	Prehistoric
Excavation				
F11	13, <2>	Pit/ditch	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and CBM flecks	?Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F12	-	Pit/ditch	Firm, moist medium orange/grey clay with CBM flecks	Prehistoric
F13	14	Posthole	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F14	-	Stakehole	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks	?Prehistoric
F15	15	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with CBM pieces and charcoal and CBM flecks	Medieval/ post-medieval
F16	-	Posthole	Firm, moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with abundant stones and charcoal and CBM flecks	?Prehistoric
F17	16	Pit	Firm, moist medium orange/grey silty-clay and occasional stones	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age

F18	19	Posthole	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and daub flecks	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F19	-	Posthole	Soft, moist light grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks	?Prehistoric
F20	20, 23, <3>	Pit	Hard, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with abundant stones and charcoal and daub flecks	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F21	-	Pit	Soft, moist light/medium orange/grey silty-clay with occasional stones	Undatable
F22	-	Stakehole	Soft, moist light grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks	?Prehistoric
F23	21	Pit	Firm, moist medium orange/grey silty-clay and with occasional stones	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F24	25	Posthole	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with frequent stones and oyster shell flecks	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F25	22	Pit/ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with occasional stones	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age
F26	-	Natural feature	Soft, moist light/medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay with occasional stones	Post-glacial
F27	-	Natural feature	Firm, moist medium orange/grey silty-clay with frequent stones	Post-glacial

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	No.	Wt.g	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Grat Pre-F	Grat Post-F	Wind	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin Lin.	Gritted	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F011	PIT/DITCH	13		1	2	2																							HMF					BR/OR OXID., FREQ M-C FL	PREHISTORIC	
F011	PIT/DITCH	-	2	2	10	5																							HMF					BROWN, DARK INT, FREQ M-C FL	PREHISTORIC	
F011	PIT/DITCH	-	2	1	1	1																							HMSF					BLACK RARE FINE FL & S	PREHISTORIC	
F013	POST HOLE	14		2	18	9																							HMF					BROWN SURF., GREY CORE, COMMON F-M FL	PREHISTORIC	
F013	POST HOLE	14		1	11	11																							HMS					THINNER-W, BLACK, SMOOTH SURF., FREQ FINE S	LBA-EIA	
F013	POST HOLE	14		1	3	3																							HMF					BLACK, MOD MED FL	PREHISTORIC	
F017	PIT	16		1	7	7																							HMSF					BROWN/OR., FREQ S & MOD C FL	PREHISTORIC	
F017	PIT	16		1	4	4																							HMS					BROWN, BLACK CORE, COMMON FINE S	LBA-EIA	
F018	POST HOLE	19		1	4	4																							HMF					BROWN SURF., BLACK CORE, COMMON F-M FL	PREHISTORIC	
F018	POST HOLE	19		1	2	2																							HMGS					GROG & SAND	PREHISTORIC	
F018	POST HOLE	19		1	8	8																							HMSF					GREY FREQ FINE S, RARE C FL, FINGERNAIL IMPS	PREHISTORIC	
F020	PIT	23		4	6	2																							HMS					BROWN SURF., GREY CORE, FINE COMMON S	PREHISTORIC	
F020	PIT	-	3	2	6	3																							HMS					DARK BROWN/BLACK, FINE FREQ S	PREHISTORIC	
F023	PIT	21		1	3	3																							HMSF					DARK BR EXT, BLACK CORE, RARE FINE S, RARE C FL	PREHISTORIC	
F024	POST HOLE	25		1	3	3																							HMF					BLACK CORE, BROWN SURF., MOD MED FL	PREHISTORIC	
F024	POST HOLE	25		1	2	2																							HMF					BLACK, FL	PREHISTORIC	
F025	PIT/DITCH	22		1	5	5																							HMF					BLACK CORE, BROWN SURF., FREQ M FL, RARE C FL	PREHISTORIC	
F025	PIT/DITCH	22		1	2	2																							HMSF					BLACK, BROWN SURF., RARE FL & S	PREHISTORIC	

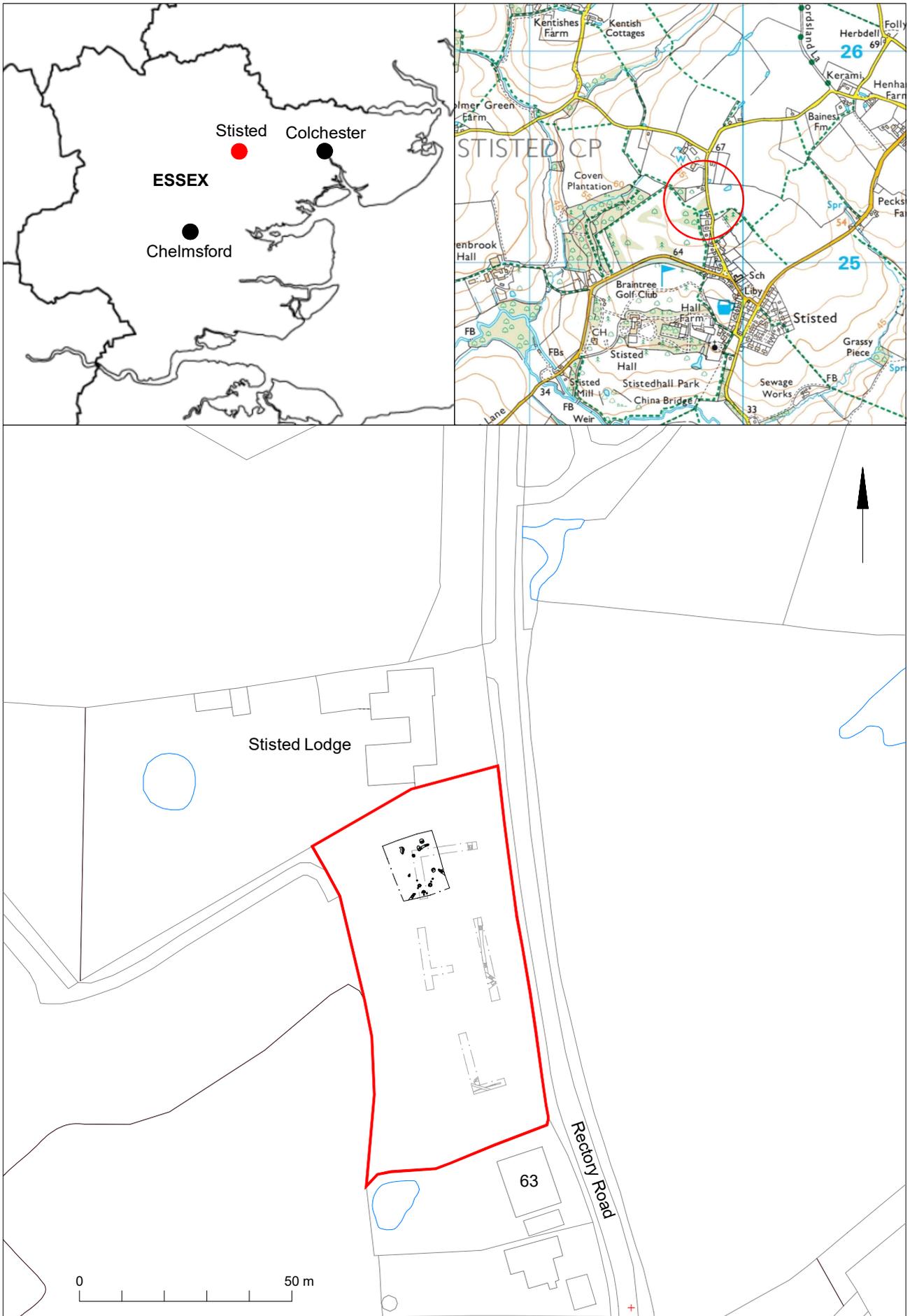


Fig 1 Site location.

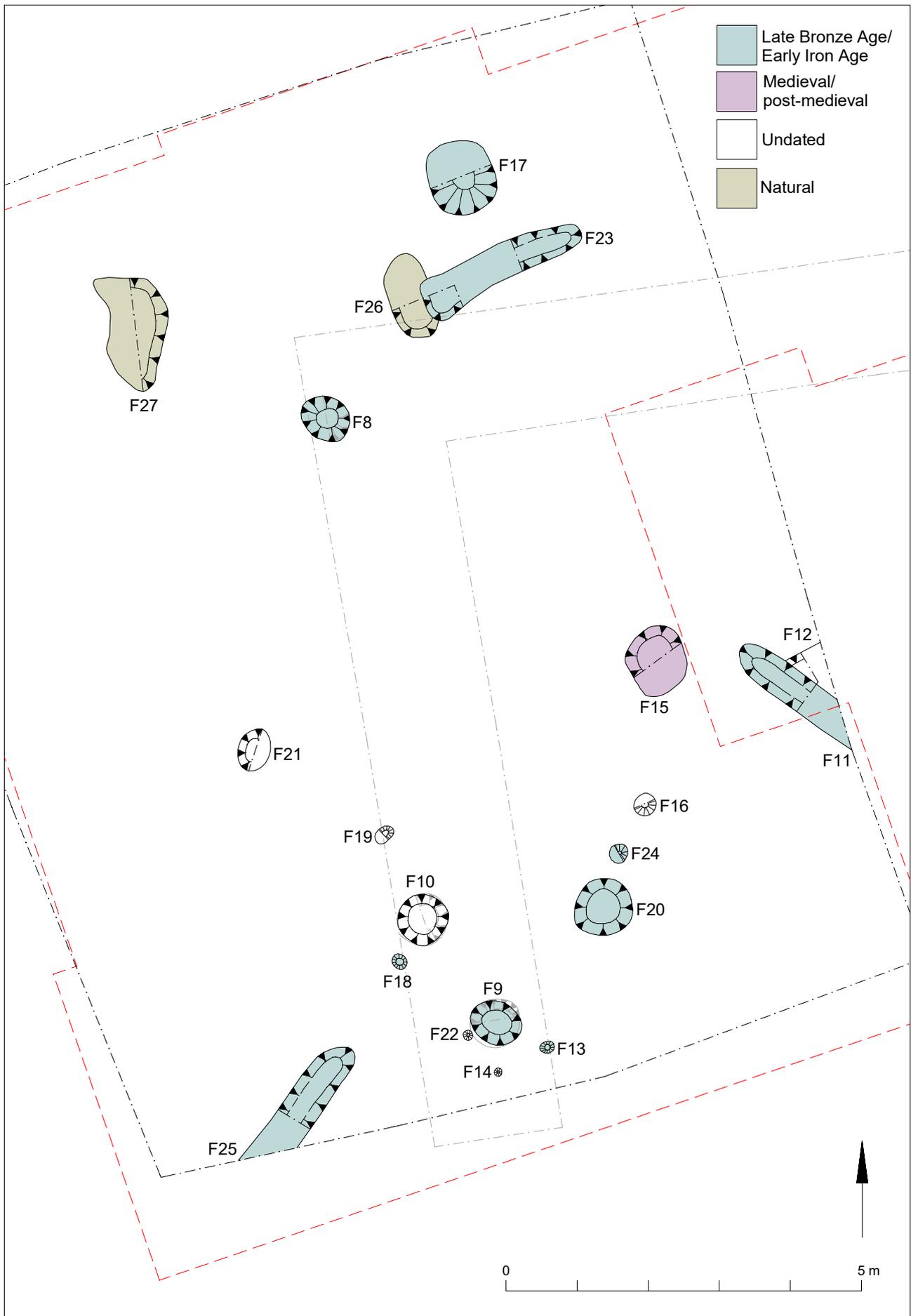


Fig 2 Phased excavation results, with the evaluation trench outlined in grey and the proposed development in red.

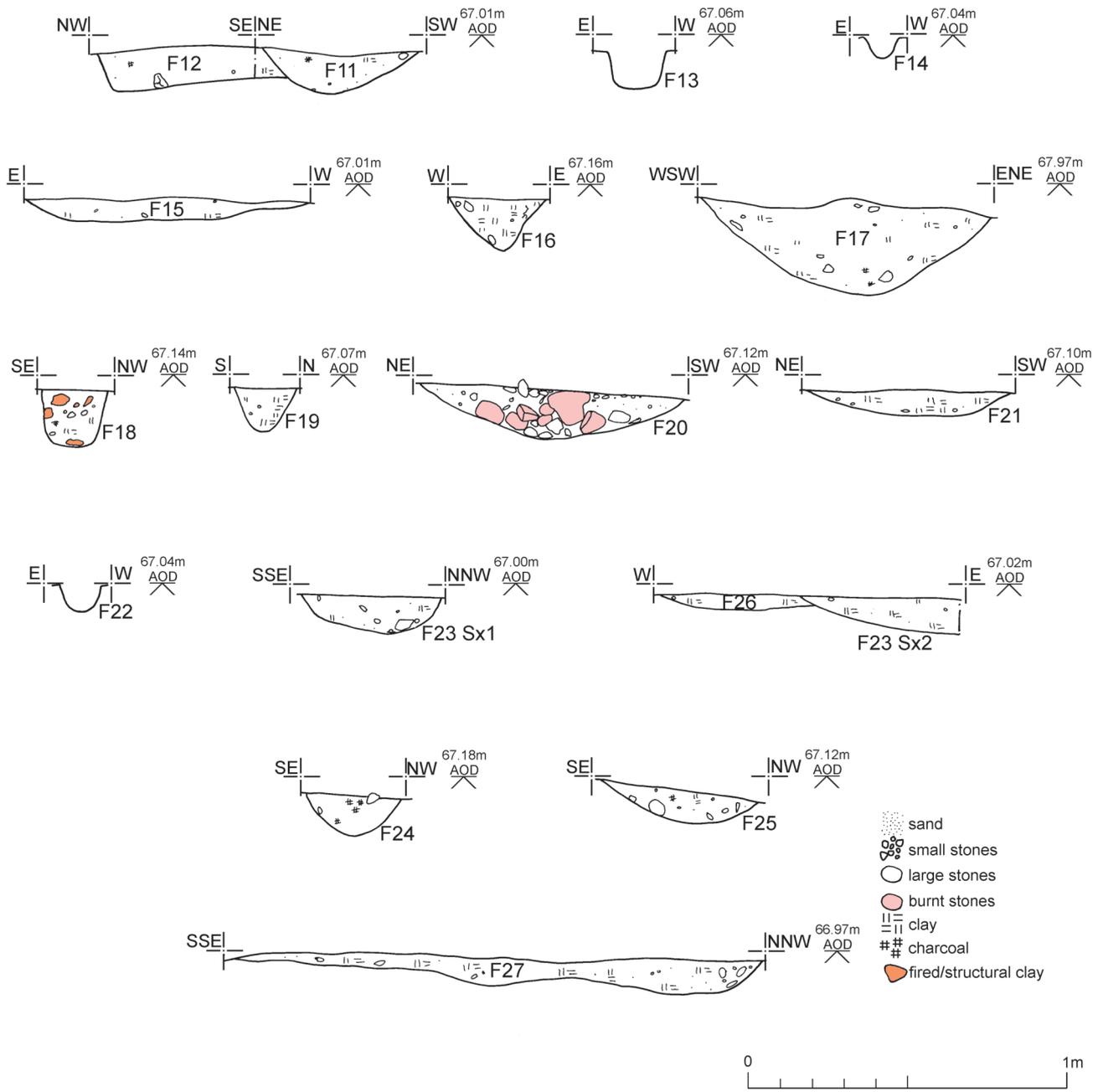


Fig 3 Sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-420375

Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation on land north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex, CM77 8AL
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was carried out on land north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex in advance of the construction of a residential development. Located within the historic village of Stisted, which is likely of medieval origin, an evaluation in February 2021 revealed prehistoric pits and medieval ditches, a gully/plough scar and pit. Open area excavation of the northernmost residential plot uncovered a small number of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits, pits/ditches and postholes/stakeholes.
Project dates	Start: 06-05-2021 End: 07-05-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	21/04j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	21/00822/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SSRR21 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PITS Late Bronze Age
Monument type	PITS Early Iron Age
Monument type	PITS/DITCHES Late Bronze Age
Monument type	PITS/DITCHES Early Iron Age
Monument type	POSTHOLES Late Bronze Age
Monument type	POSTHOLES Early Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	BAKED CLAY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	BAKED CLAY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	BURNT STONE Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	""Open-area excavation""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE STISTED land north of 63 Rectory Road
Postcode	CM77 8AL
Study area	0.35 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7981 2527 51.896430681785 0.613652191759 51 53 47 N 000 36 49 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 66.86m Max: 67.1m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Archive ID	SSRR21
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	SSRR21
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	SSRR21
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological excavation on land north of 63 Rectory Road, Stisted, Essex, CM77 8AL: May 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1666
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