

Archaeological evaluation on land south of Bromley Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7BX

September 2021



by Megan Seehra

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton
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**commissioned by Steve Norman
on behalf of Roman Homes LLP**

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ECC code: ESB21
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CAT Report 1708
September 2021

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CAT WSI
OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Bromley Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, in advance of the construction of four new dwellings. The site is located south of a road of Roman origin (Bromley Road), and is nearby to cropmarks indicating a rectilinear enclosure, ring-ditches, pits and linear features. Nearby evaluation works have uncovered features dating from the medieval and post-medieval period, and metal detecting in the area has revealed Late Iron Age/Roman and Anglo-Saxon coins and brooches.

In total only one ditch was found in this evaluation. It is post-medieval or modern in date.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at south of Bromley Road, Elmstead Market, Essex which was carried out on the 14th September 2021. The work was commissioned by Steve Norman on behalf of Roman Homes LLP, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in advance of the construction of four new detached dwellings with garages and access off Bromley Road.

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 evaluation on land South of Bromley Road, Elmstead* written by Teresa O'Connor (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 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 field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background 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>).

The development site lies along the Bromley Road which is considered to be Roman in origin.

The site sits within a landscape of fields of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography. To the south of the southern boundary cropmarks show a rectilinear enclosure (EHER 2665). Further south at South of Bottles Hall cropmark evidence includes trackways, pits and linears (EHER 2593). Archaeological investigation by CAT at Blue Barn Farm in 2017 revealed two medieval ditches, three undated (but probably medieval) ditches, three undated small pits/postholes, two modern features (a pit and ditch) and two tree-throws containing residual medieval pottery (CAT Report 1094). The ditches appear to be field boundaries within a medieval, c 12th/13th-14th century, field-system. Southwest of the site at West of Blue Green cropmarks show a potential ring-ditch, linear features and pits (EHER 2615). To the north/northeast cropmarks show possible ring-ditches, pits, linear features and part of a rectilinear enclosure (East of Elmstead Market EHER 2596 and ECC17556). To the east of the site, north of Bottles Hall, cropmarks show a small ring-ditch and many linears (EHER 2647), metal-detected finds from this area have revealed LIA/Roman and Saxon coins and brooches. Bottles Hall lies to the southeast,

accessed by Finch Lane which is historic in origin, the lane and Hall are depicted on the Chapman and André map of 1777 and may be earlier in origin.

4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Six trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches varied in length, from 11-18.5m. All were 1.8m wide. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

The trenches were cut through two layers, modern subsoil (L1, friable, dry, light grey-brown silt with charcoal and brick inclusions, c 0.32m+ thick) onto natural silty sand (L2, firm, dry, medium orange-grey-brown silty sand, encountered at c 0.30-0.43m below current ground level (bcgl)). The area of excavation had already been partially stripped prior to arrival, therefore only a very thin layer of topsoil (turf) survived, but was not recorded.

Trench 2 was the only trench to contain a feature. F1 was a ditch, which had a wide u-shaped profile with a flat base. It was 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep and orientated E/W. A post-medieval brick fragment was found in F1.

No archaeological features were found in trenches T1, or T3-6.



Photograph 1: Trench shot of T2, showing ditch F1. Looking south-east.



Photograph 2: Section of F1, looking south-west.



Photograph 3: Trench shot of T5, looking south.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramics by Dr Matthew Loughton

The ditch F1 produced one fragment (624 gr.) of late 17th-18th century unfrogged brick with dimensions of ? x 103 mm x 44 mm.

7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, only one post-medieval-modern ditch was found at land south of Bromley Road, which contained a post-medieval brick fragment. This ditch does not appear on any old OS maps, but may be a former field boundary or similar.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Steve Norman and Roman Homes LLP for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by C Lister, S Veasey and O Windridge. Figures are by S Veasey. 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	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on Land south of Bromley Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7BX</i> by E Holloway
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>Programme of Archaeological evaluation on land South of Bromley Road, Elmstead</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	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

10 Abbreviations and glossary

aerial photograph	photographs taken from the air and used to identify archaeological sites either by low light for upstanding monuments or by differential crop growth on sites within arable fields
Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
cropmark	an archaeological site no longer visible on the ground due to the removal of upstanding remains (often by ploughing). The sites are recorded from aerial photographs by differential crop growth over buried features such as pits, ditches and walls
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor

ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
evaluation	a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area. This may take the form of an intrusive investigation of a percentage of the site, geophysical or topographical survey. The results of this investigation will establish the requirements for any further work.
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
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 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
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: None retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1708)

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 1708)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

12 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 Colchester Museum under EHER reference ESR21

Distribution list:

Steve Norman
Roman Homes LLP
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 24/09/21

Appendix 1 Context list

Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
All	L1	-	Subsoil	friable dry light grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 10%	Undated
All	L2	-	Natural	firm dry medium orange/grey/brown silty sand and inclusions of: stone 15%	Undated
1	F1	1	Ditch	Soft moist medium brown silty loam with abundant root activity and rare cbm	Post-medieval/ modern

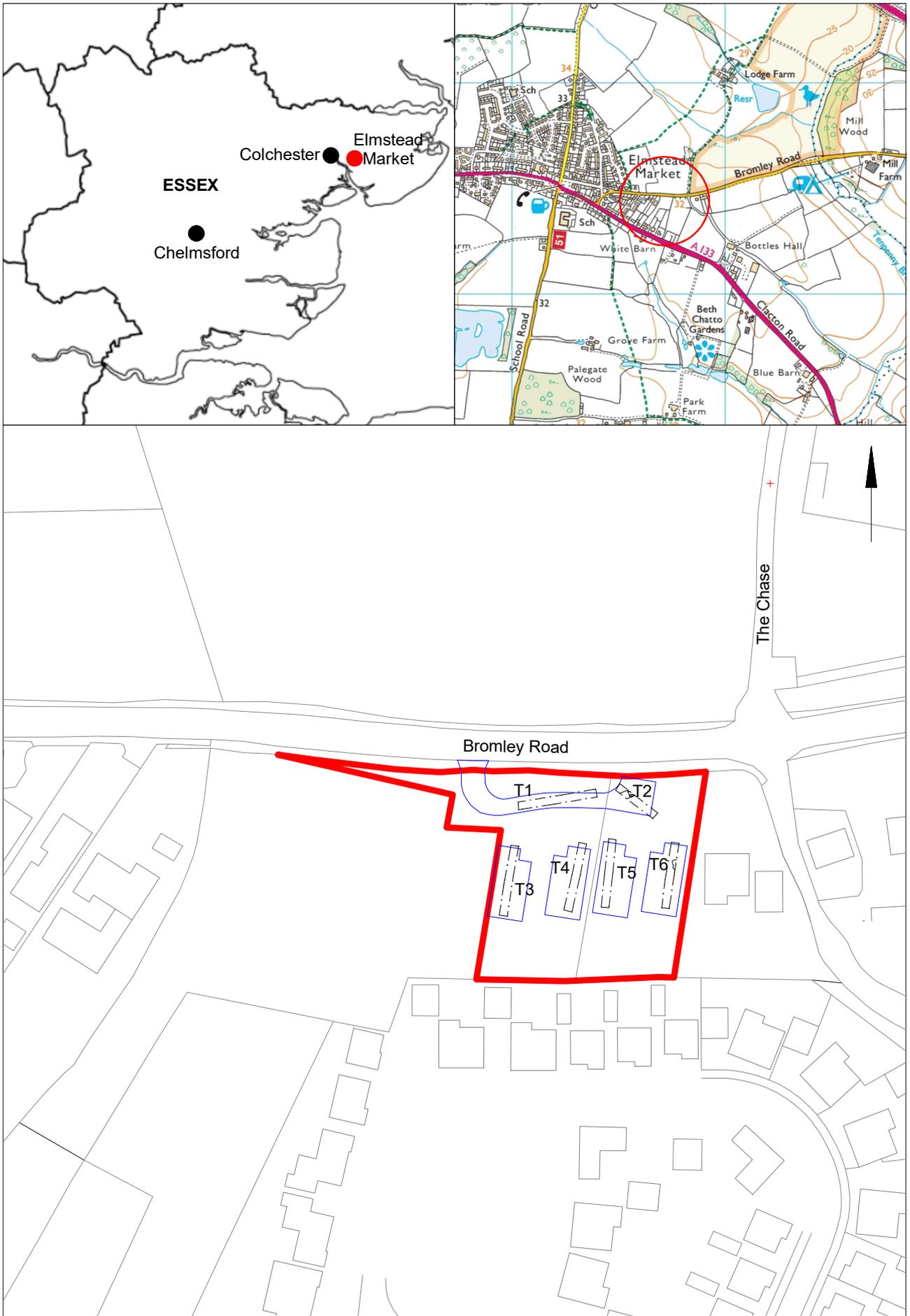


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

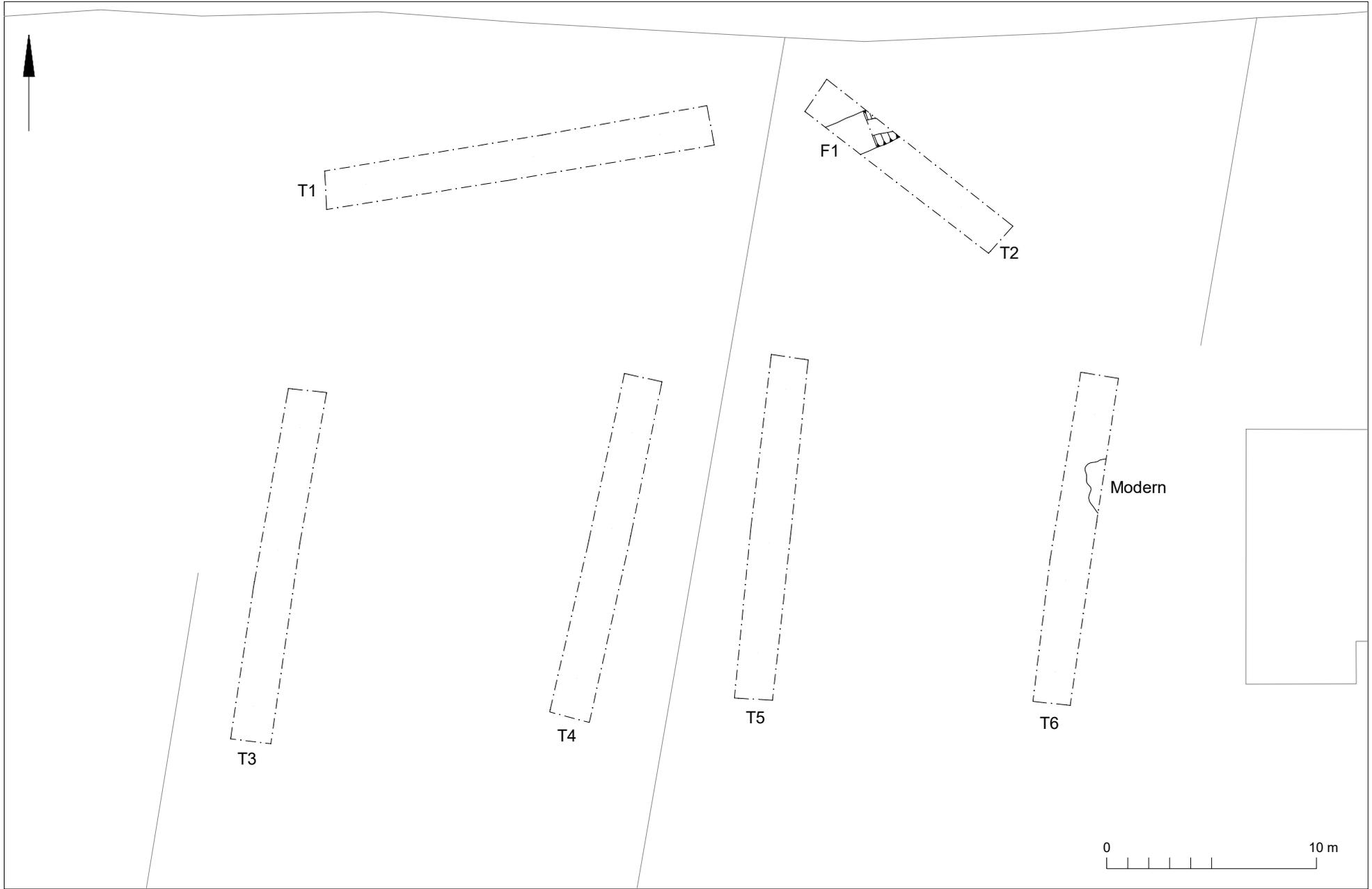


Fig 2 Trench results.

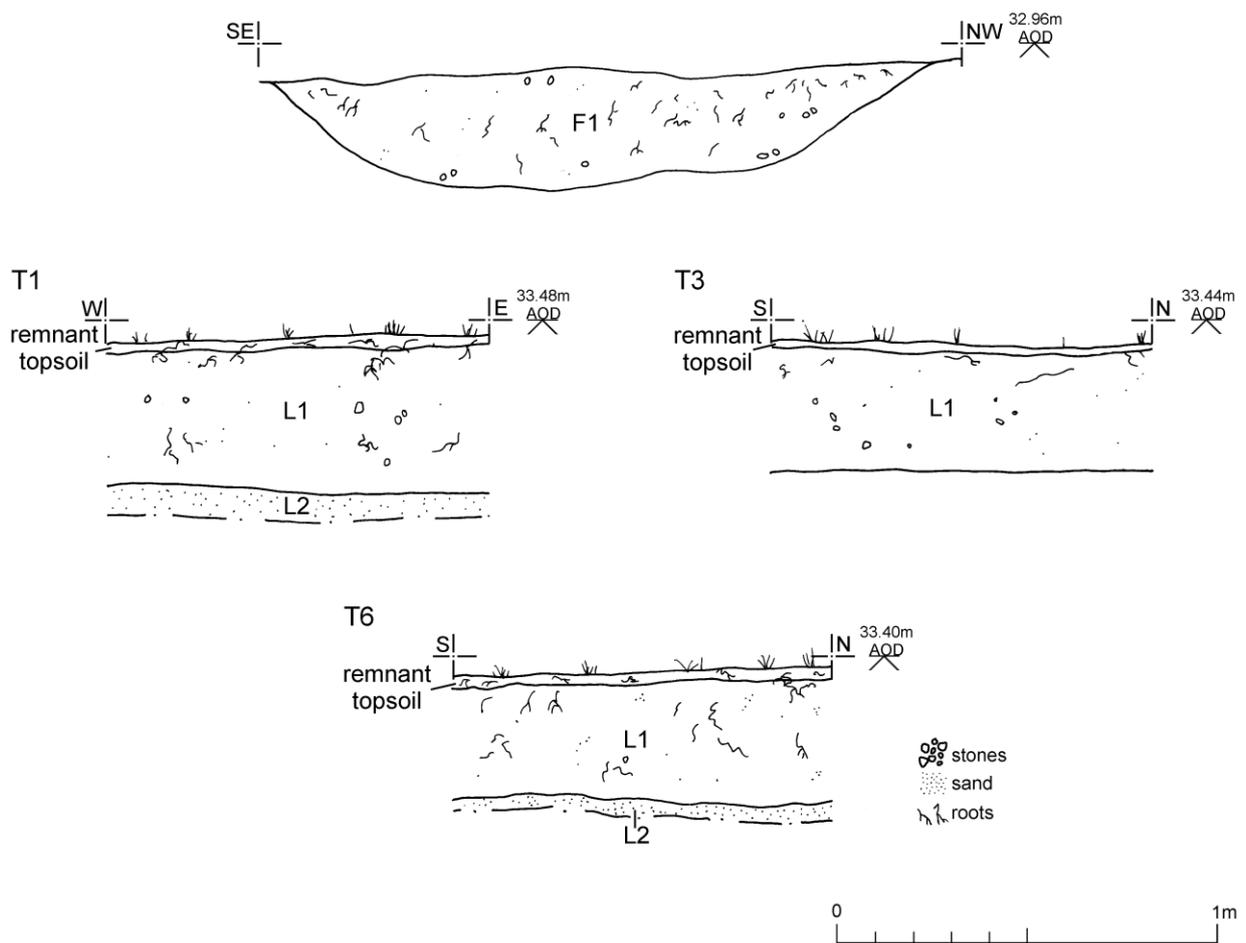


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-427365

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation on Land south of Bromley Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7BX
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Bromley Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, in advance of the construction of four new dwellings. The site is located south of a road of Roman origin (Bromley Road), and is nearby to cropmarks indicating a rectilinear enclosure, ring-ditches, pits and linear features. Nearby evaluation works have uncovered features dating from the medieval and post-medieval period, and metal detecting in the area has revealed Late Iron Age/Roman and Anglo-Saxon coins and brooches. In total only one ditch was found in this evaluation. It is post-medieval or modern in date.
Project dates	Start: 14-09-2021 End: 14-09-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	20/00475/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/07i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESBR21 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 5 - Character undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	N/A None
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 ELMSTEAD Land south of Bromley Road, Elmstead Market
Postcode	CO7 7BX

Study area 0.25 Hectares
 Site coordinates TM 06786 24443 51.879607612046 1.004725830714 51 52 46 N 001 00 17 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 32.86m Max: 33.09m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator HEM Team Officer, ECC
 Project design originator Emma Holloway
 Project director/manager Adam Wightman
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Chris Lister
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Roman Homes LLP

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service
 Digital Archive ID ESB21
 Digital Contents "other"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID ESB21
 Paper Contents "other"
 Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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