# Archaeological evaluation on land at Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7QR

## June-October 2021


**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

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

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Harvey Furniss with Nicholas Pryke, Megan Seehra, Bronagh Quinn, Ziya Eksen, Alexander Smith, William Bateson, Tabitha Lawrence and Matthew Perou


**commissioned by Steven Williams (Hills Group)**


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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 01206 501785
*email:* eh2@catuk.org



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Cover: Working shot

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (eighteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Essex, in advance of the construction of a small business park. The site lies within an area which previous archaeological investigations have identified as one of concentrated activity during the Iron Age and early Roman periods, containing, among other remains, a D-shaped enclosure and an annexe likely used for industrial purposes. This evaluation has uncovered a similar concentration of features dating to the Late Iron Age-early Roman transition, but has also revealed evidence of later occupation during the 2nd and 3rd centuries, including a possible well and a possible trackway. Fragments of worked stone which were recovered suggest the presence of a high-status Roman building in the vicinity. A post-medieval or modern ditch which likely represented the remains of a former field boundary was also recorded.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Essex which was carried out in two phases from 30th June to 7th October 2021. The work was commissioned by Mark Dymond in advance of the construction of a new business park 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).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Brief for Programme of Archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2021), 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 Historic England's *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 site lies immediately adjacent to Crown Quarry where archaeological investigations over the last decade have revealed an historical landscape with evidence of multiple periods of activity. Of particular significance are the remains of an extensive Late Iron Age (mid-1st century BC to mid-1st century AD) settlement spanning the head of an east-west valley which includes a large D-shaped enclosure and annexe which was likely used for industrial activity (EHER 2545). A postulated Roman road is thought to follow the route of the Old Ipswich Road. The medieval and later remains relate to a field system and enclosures which predate the existing field pattern.

Part of the proposed development site overlaps with an area of quarry expansion investigated by fieldwalking during which finds of Late Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date were recovered (FAU 2001; EHER 45455, 45456, 45457, 45458). Further investigations included an evaluation by archaeological trial trenching in 2006 (FAU Report

1399), excavations in 2009 and 2012 (FAU Report 1938 & 2471) and an investigation in 2013 (ASE Report 2013209).

During the evaluation undertaken by Essex Field Archaeological Unit (FAU) in 2006, Field 1 was identified as an area of concentrated archaeological remains (Site E). The subsequent report on the investigation states:

*Site E comprises Late Iron Age and Early Roman remains and lies in the north-west of the development area, in field 1. It is centred on four trenches (157, 158, 162 and 168) and is indicated by pottery, find spots, pits/post-holes, gullies and ditches. Trench 162 contained three gullies (124, 130 and 394), two small pits or post-holes (122 and 128) and a post-medieval field ditch (395). The evaluation sampled two of these features (122 and 124), and recorded the rest. Gullies 124 and 130 lay at right angles to each other and possibly represented the corner of a small enclosure. In the single fill of excavated gully 124 was a small amount of charcoal, baked clay and Late Iron Age pottery. Gully 394 was on a different alignment than the other two gullies, and was possibly a post-medieval mole drain. Pits/postholes 122 and 128 lay near the south-west corner of the conjectured enclosure. Excavated pit 122 was dish-shaped and shallow. It was fully sampled and contained a large number of Late Iron Age body sherds, probably all from the same vessel. In trenches 157 and 158, to the north, were ditches (132, 139, 141, 143 and 146) and a small pit or post-hole (393). The alignment of the ditches is not the same as that of the existing field pattern and suggests that they may be of some antiquity. Ditch 143 in trench 157 was probably the same feature as ditch 146 in trench 158. Ditch 132 is of late 1st/early 2nd-century AD date and is the only one of the six to be excavated. The other five features remain undated. It had a profile consisting of a steep-sided slot beneath moderately-sloping sides, and contained nearly 2kg of pottery. It also contained fragments of burnt bone and baked clay and a small lens of charcoal. A pit (133) and a ditch (144) lay in trench 168 on the south side of the site. The pit had a rounded profile and was approximately 0.2m deep. In its single fill were sherds of Late Iron Age pottery, frequent flecks of charcoal, fragments of baked clay, and small amounts of burnt flint and bone. No attempt was made to excavate the ditch. On its surface lay sherds of Late Iron Age pottery. Other features, which may be associated with the site, lay in some of the surrounding trenches: ditch 199 in trench 165, pit 111 in trench 176 and gullies 120 and 197 in trenches 164 and 172. All four of these features are undated. Ditch 199 was not excavated, and features 111, 120 and 197 contained no finds* (FAU Report 1399, 13-14).

## 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)

Eighteen trial-trenches, 30m long by 1.8m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

For the most part the trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, *c* 0.09-0.26m thick) and subsoil (L2, *c* 0.13-0.28m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.31-0.45m below current ground level). Within the central part of the northern half of the site the trenches were excavated through L1 (*c* 0.13-0.36m) onto L3. Sondages were excavated in trenches T3 and T17 to confirm the identification of L3 as natural.

There were no archaeological features in trenches T2, T4, T6, T8, T13 or T17.

**Trench 1 (T1)**

Undatable ditch F17 lay on a NE-SW alignment and was 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep.

**Trench 3 (T3)**
Gully or natural feature F23 was aligned NW-SE and was 0.4m wide and 0.15m deep.

**Trench 5 (T5)**
Post-medieval/modern ditch F18 was oriented NE-SW and was 0.31-0.38m wide and 0.09-0.1m deep. The feature likely carried on to trenches T7, to the southwest, where it was recorded as F21.

**Trench 7 (T7)**
Post-medieval/modern ditch F21 was aligned NE-SW and was 1.23m wide and 0.21m deep. It likely represented a continuation of F18 in T5, to the northeast.

**Trench 9 (T9)**
Undatable gully F22 entered the southern half of the trench on a NW-SE alignment before terminating. It was 0.49m wide and 0.17m deep.

**Trench 10 (T10)**
Late Iron Age or Roman ditch F20 was oriented NNE-SSW and was 1.07m wide and 0.12m deep.

**Photograph 1** T10 trench shot – looking west northwest

**Trench 11 (T11)**
Post-medieval/modern ditch F19 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 2.01m wide and 0.59m deep. The feature produced a possible fragment of veneer.

**Trench 12 (T12)**
Undatable ditch F1 was oriented NW-SE. The feature extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 1.39m wide and 0.4m deep.

Late Iron Age or Early Roman ditch F2 was aligned NE-SW and was 0.79m wide and 0.24m deep.

**Trench 14 (T14)**
Early Roman pit F3 extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 1.4m wide and 0.26m deep. Sherds of a mid 1st- to early 2nd-century Cam 227 bowl were recovered form this feature.

**Trench 15 (T15)**
Roman ditch F12 was oriented WNW-ESE and was 1.48m wide and 0.4m deep. A possible fragment of a column was recovered from this feature

**Trench 16 (T16)**
Undatable ditch F4 passed through the northern end of the trench on a NNE-SSW alignment. It extended beyond the LOE but its exposed dimensions were 0.99m wide and 0.25m deep.

Medieval or post-medieval ditch F13 was located just to the west of F4. It was aligned N-S and was 1.69m wide and 0.32m deep.

Undatable pit/posthole F14 was situated between F4 and F13. It was 0.26m wide and 0.12m deep.

Ditch F9 was oriented NNE-SSW and was 0.93m wide and 0.38m deep. Ditch F9 was cut by ditch F11 which was oriented WNW-ESE. F11 was 2.49m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.73m and then augered for a further 0.2m to its base. No dating evidence was recovered from F9 but pottery dating to the mid to late 2nd century – including sherds of Cam 227 bowls, a Cam 278 cooking pot, Gallo-Belgic butt beakers and Baetican Dressel 20 olive oil amphoras – was recovered from F11, and so the former feature must date to this period at the latest. Both features were cut by modern land drain F10.

Undatable pit F15 lay at the southern end of the trench. It was 0.39m wide and 0.09m deep.


**Photograph 2** T16 trench shot – looking southwest

**Trench 18 (T18)**
Gullies F5 and F6 lay adjacent to one another, extending through the centre of the trench on a WNW-ESE alignment, and were 0.69m wide and 0.23m deep and 0.6m wide and 0.22m deep, respectively. F6 produced a moderate pottery assemblage ranging in date from the Late Iron Age to the mid/late 2nd to the late 4th century including sherds of a Baetican Dressel 20 olive oil amphora and a Cam 280-281 narrow-necked storage jar. Also recovered from this feature were a possible fragment of veneer and a copper-alloy coin. A single sherd of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile was recovered from F5 but it is possible that both features date to the mid/late 2nd to the late 4th century and that the sherd of peg-tile is intrusive.

A further gully, F8, passed through the southern half of the trench on a NNE-SSW alignment. It was 0.3m wide and 0.09m deep and produced artefactual evidence dating to the early Roman period

?Well F7, which dated to the late 2nd to the late 3rd century, was located just to the west of F8. It extended beyond the LOE; its exposed extent was 1.29m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.87m and augered for a further 0.9m but the base was not encountered. A substantial pottery assemblage ranging in date from the Late Iron Age and early Roman period to the early 2nd to the early 4th century was recovered from the feature, which included a southern Gaulish samian bowl, a Cam 268 cooking pot and a Cam 37B/38B bowl.

**Photograph 3** T18 trench shot – looking north northeast

# 6 Finds

## 6.1 Ceramic finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered 279 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just over 6.4kg and EVE of 3.48 (Table 1).

| Ceramic material | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) | EVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pottery | 253 | 4,133 | 16 | 3.48 |
| CBM | 26 | 2,289 | 88 | - |
| **All** | **279** | **6,422** | **23** | **3.48** |

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

Sherds of pottery and ceramics were recovered from 11 features (Table 2). Three features, ditch F11, ?well F7 and gully F6, produced the majority of the pottery and CBM (Table 2). Ditch F11 contained the largest assemblage with 106 sherds with a weight of just under 2kg, followed by ? well F7 with 68 sherds weighing 940g. (Table 2).

| Context | Description | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F2 | Ditch | 20 | 424 | 21 |
| F3 | Pit | 17 | 450 | 26 |
| F5 | Gully | 1 | 116 | 116 |
| F6 | Gully | 50 | 1,793 | 36 |
| F7 | ?Well | 68 | 940 | 14 |
| F8 | Gully | 5 | 46 | 9 |
| F11 | Ditch | 106 | 1,989 | 19 |
| F12 | Ditch | 4 | 383 | 96 |
| F13 | Ditch | 3 | 43 | 14 |
| F19 | Ditch | 4 | 167 | 42 |
| F20 | Ditch | 1 | 71 | 71 |
| | **Total** | 279 | 6422 | 23 |

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

**Late Iron Age and Roman pottery**

The Late Iron Age to early Roman pottery was recorded using the fabric groups from the Stanway (Benfield 2007) and Colchester Institute (Loughton in prep.) reports (Table 3) alongside the fabric groups outlined in *CAR* **10** (1999) for the Roman pottery. The Late Iron Age and Roman vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR* **10**, 468-87). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles, and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

There were 252 sherds of Late Iron Age to Roman pottery with a weight of just over 4kg and 3.48 vessels according to the EVE (Table 4). This material was recovered from eight features and the largest assemblage with 101 sherds with a weight of 1.7kg and EVE of 1.39 came from ditch F11, followed by ?well F7 with 60 sherds with a weight of 701g and EVE of 0.84 (Table 6). Gully F6 also produced a modest-sized assemblage of 47 sherds at 960g and an EVE of 0.60 (Table 6).

| Fabric code | Fabric description | Fabric date range guide |
|---|---|---|
| BASG | South Gaulish plain samian | Mid-1st-late 1st century AD |
| BAEG | East Gaulish plain samian | Mid-2nd-early 3rd century AD |
| BAET | Baetican Amphorae (Dressel 20) | 1st-3rd century AD |
| BSW | Black surface ware | Roman |
| CSOW | Coarse sandy oxidized ware | Late Iron Age-early Roman |
| DJ | Coarse oxidised and related wares | Roman |
| DJ (M) | Coarse oxidised and related wares micaceous | Roman |
| DZ | Fine oxidised wares | Mid-1st-early 2nd century AD |
| FSOW | Fine sandy oxidized ware | Late Iron Age-early Roman |
| FSW/EGW | Fine sandy ware/early Greyware | Early Roman |
| GB | BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 | Early 2nd-3rd century AD |
| GTW | Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware | Late Iron Age-early Roman |
| GTW (BG) | Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware with black-grog | Late Iron Age-early Roman |
| GTW OX (BG) | Oxidised 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware with black-grog | Late Iron Age-early Roman |
| GX | Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares | Roman |
| GX (BG) | Other coarse, principally locally-produced | Roman |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | grey wares with black-grog | |
| HZ | Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares | Late Iron Age-2nd/3rd century AD |
| HZ OX | Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares | Late Iron Age-2nd/3rd century AD |
| RCW | Romanising coarse wares | Late Iron Age-early Roman |
| SW | Sandy ware | Late Iron Age-early Roman |
| TN | *Terra Nigra* | Augustan to Flavian |
| TZ (Col.) | Mortaria, Colchester | Mid-1st-3rd century AD |
| WA | Silvery micaceous wares | Roman |

**Table 3** Late Iron Age-Early Roman pottery fabrics recorded. *NRFRC

| Fabric Group | Fabric description | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) | EVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BASG | South Gaulish plain samian | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0.02 |
| BAEG | East Gaulish plain samian | 4 | 42 | 11 | 0.46 |
| BAET | Baetican Amphorae (Dressel 20) | 2 | 753 | 377 | 0.00 |
| BSW | Black surface ware | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0.00 |
| CSOW | Coarse sandy oxidized ware | 4 | 48 | 12 | 0.16 |
| DJ | Coarse oxidised and related wares | 14 | 118 | 8 | 0.00 |
| DJ (M) | Coarse oxidised and related wares micaceous | 1 | 26 | 26 | 0.00 |
| DZ | Fine oxidised wares | 2 | 25 | 13 | 0.00 |
| FSOW | Fine sandy oxidized ware | 3 | 8 | 3 | 0.00 |
| FSW/EGW | Fine sandy ware/early Greyware | 2 | 3 | 2 | 0.00 |
| GB | BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2 | 7 | 70 | 10 | 0.19 |
| GTW | Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware | 5 | 47 | 9 | 0.00 |
| GTW (BG) | Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware with black-grog | 22 | 170 | 8 | 0.00 |
| GTW OX (BG) | Oxidised 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware with black-grog | 8 | 132 | 17 | 0.14 |
| GX | Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares | 92 | 640 | 7 | 1.51 |
| GX (BG) | Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares with black-grog | 2 | 13 | 7 | 0.00 |
| HZ | Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares | 30 | 1,096 | 37 | 0.00 |
| HZ OX | Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered oxidised wares | 11 | 570 | 52 | 0.22 |
| HZ OX (BG) | Large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares with black grog | 4 | 83 | 21 | 0.00 |
| RCW | Romanising coarse wares | 28 | 213 | 8 | 0.75 |
| SW | Sandy ware | 4 | 14 | 4 | 0.00 |
| TN | *Terra Nigra* | 1 | 8 | 8 | 0.03 |
| TZ (Col.) | Mortaria, Colchester | 2 | 29 | 15 | 0.00 |
| WA | Silvery micaceous wares | 1 | 6 | 6 | 0.00 |
| | **Total** | **252** | **4119** | **16** | **3.48** |

**Table 4** Details on the Late Iron Age-Roman pottery

| Fabric group | Form | EVE |
|---|---|---|
| BASG | **All** | **0.02** |
| | DRAG. 18 ? | 0.02 |
| BAEG | **All** | **0.46** |
| | DRAG. 33 | 0.46 |
| CSOW | **All** | **0.16** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | CAM 266 | 0.11 |
| | CAM 270B | 0.05 |
| GB | **All** | **0.19** |
| | CAM 37B/38B | 0.13 |
| | CAM 278 | 0.06 |
| GTW OX (BG) | **All** | **0.14** |
| | CAM 256 | 0.14 |
| GX | **All** | **1.51** |
| | ? | 0.08 |
| | CAM 119 | 0.33 |
| | CAM 227 | 0.19 |
| | CAM 268 | 0.31 |
| | CAM 280-281 | 0.6 |
| HZ OX | **All** | **0.22** |
| | CAM 270B | 0.22 |
| RCW | **All** | **0.75** |
| | CAM 231-232 | 0.1 |
| | CAM 264 | 0.28 |
| | CAM 266 | 0.37 |
| TN | **All** | **0.03** |
| | CAM 2 | 0.03 |
| | **Total** | **3.48** |

**Table 5** Late Iron Age-Roman pottery quantification via vessel form

| Context | Description | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) | EVE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F2 | Ditch | 20 | 424 | 21 | 0.44 |
| F3 | Pit | 16 | 182 | 12 | 0.12 |
| F6 | Gully | 47 | 960 | 20 | 0.60 |
| F7 | ?Well | 60 | 701 | 12 | 0.84 |
| F8 | Gully | 5 | 46 | 9 | 0.03 |
| F11 | Ditch | 101 | 1,717 | 17 | 1.39 |
| F12 | Ditch | 2 | 18 | 9 | 0.00 |
| F20 | Ditch | 1 | 71 | 71 | 0.06 |
| | **Total** | **252** | **4119** | **16** | **3.48** |

**Table 6** Quantities of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery from specific features

The assemblage as a whole shows a mixture of Late Iron Age to early Roman and Roman pottery fabrics and some features, notably ?well F7, contain a mixture of Late Iron Age to early Roman and later 1st to 3rd century AD pottery.

Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery fabrics (CSOW, FSOW, FSW/EGW, GTW, GTW BG, GTW OX BG, RCW, SW) are well-represented in the assemblage accounting for *c* 31% of the assemblage by sherd count, 15% by sherd weight and 30% of the EVE. Notable vessels include examples of the Cam 253 (GTW) from ditch F11 and Cam 256 (GTW OX BG) from ?well F7 which date to the Late Iron Age. There are also Cam 266 bowls (CSOW, RCW) from ?well F7 and ditch F11, which date from the Late Iron Age to AD 80. There are examples of the Cam 264 (Late Iron Age) in Romanising coarse ware (RCW) from ditch F2 and a Cam 231-232 (Late Iron Age-AD 150/180) from pit F3. Finally, gully F8 produced an imported *terra nigra* (TN) Cam 2 platter dating from the Augustan to the Flavian period.

Roman pottery dates from the mid/later 1st until the 3rd century AD. For example, pit F3 and ditch F11 contained Cam 227 bowls in fabric GX dating to AD 54-120. ?Well F7 produced a

southern Gaulish samian (BASG) Drag 18 bowl dating to AD 43-100. ?Well F7 also contained a Cam 268 cooking pot (AD 125/150-280/320) in fabric GX and a Cam 37B/38B bowl in fabric GB (BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2) dating to AD 180-275. Ditch F11 contained a Cam 278 cooking pot in fabric GB (BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2), dating to AD 117-250/260. An eastern Gaulish Samian (BAEG) Drag. 33 cup from Sinzig (although it could be a Colchester product) dating to AD 150-200 was recovered from ditch F11. Ditch F11 also contained copies of Gallo-Belgic butt-beakers (Cam 119) in fabric GX, which date from AD 43 to the early 4th century. A Cam 280-281 narrow-necked storage jar in fabric GX dating to AD 150/180-400 came from gully F6. Finally, it is worth noting that Baetican Dressel 20 olive oil amphora sherds were recovered from gully F6 and ditch F11.

**Post-Roman pottery**

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR* **7** (2000) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) (Table 3). There was one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware pottery dating to *c* 1500-19th/20th century (fabric F40) with a weight of 14g which came from ditch F19.

**Ceramic building material (CBM)**

There were 26 sherds of CBM with a weight of just over 2.2kg (Table 7) which was recovered from eight features (Table 8). Most of the CBM dates to the Roman period and was recovered from five features: pit F3, gully F6, ?well F7, ditch F11, and ditch F12 (Table 8). Post-Roman CBM was limited to rare sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile, which was recovered from gully F5, and ditches F13 and F19.

| CBM code | CBM type | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Roman* | | | | |
| RB | Roman brick | 8 | 1491 | 186 |
| RT | Roman tegulae | 1 | 367 | 367 |
| RBT | Roman brick or tile (general) | 3 | 27 | 9 |
| *Post-Roman* | | | | |
| PT | Peg-tile | 7 | 312 | 45 |
| *Undated* | | | | |
| Baked clay | | 7 | 92 | 13 |
| | **Total** | **26** | **2289** | **88** |

**Table 7** Building material by period and type

| Context | Description | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F3 | Pit | 1 | 268 | 268 |
| F5 | Gully | 1 | 116 | 116 |
| F6 | Gully | 3 | 833 | 278 |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | 239 | 30 |
| F11 | Ditch | 5 | 272 | 54 |
| F12 | Ditch | 2 | 365 | 183 |
| F13 | Ditch | 3 | 43 | 14 |
| F19 | Ditch | 3 | 153 | 51 |
| | **Total** | **26** | **2289** | **88** |

**Table 8** Quantities of CBM from specific features and contexts

**Conclusion**

Table 9 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layer which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. The pottery indicates activity from the Late Iron Age/early Roman period till the 3rd century AD. The variety of imported fine ware pottery with vessels from northern, southern and eastern Gaul, and the olive oil amphora, suggests the presence of a high-status settlement in the vicinity.

| Context | LIA-Roman | Post-Roman | CBM | Date Approx. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F2 | CSOW, DJ, GX, HZ OX (Cam 270B), RCW (Cam 264) | - | - | Late Iron Age-Early Roman |
| F3 | GX (Cam 227), HZ, RCW (Cam 231-232) | - | RB | Early Roman |
| F5 | - | - | PT | Medieval/post-medieval |
| F6 | BAET (DR 20), BSW, GTW, GTW (BG), GX (Cam 280-281), HZ | - | RB, RT | AD 150/180-400 |
| F7 | BASG (Drag. 18?), CSOW (Cam 266, Cam 270B), FSOW, FSW/EGW, GB (Cam 37B/38B), GTW, GTW BG, GTW OX BG (Cam 256), GX (Cam 268), HZ, HZ OX, RCW (Cam 266), TZ (Col.), WA | - | RB | AD 180-275 |
| F8 | GX, TN (Cam 2) | - | - | Early Roman |
| F11 | BAET (DR 20), BAEG (Drag. 33), DJ (Flagon), DJ M, DZ, FSOW, GB (Cam 278), GTW (Cam 253?), GTW BG, GX (Cam 119, Cam 227), GX BG | - | RB | AD 150-200 |
| F12 | GTW, GX | - | RB | Roman |
| F13 | - | - | PT | Medieval/post-medieval |
| F19 | - | F40 | PT | *c* 1500-19th/20th century |
| F20 | HZ OX (Cam 270B) | - | - | Late Iron Age/Roman |

**Table 9** Approximate dates for the individual features

## 6.2 Small finds

*by Laura Pooley*

Five small finds were found during the evaluation. From gully F6 was a Roman copper-alloy *as* (SF1) and a possible fragment of greensand stone veneer (SF2). A second possible fragment of limestone veneer (SF5) came from post-medieval/modern ditch F19. It is so rough and abraded though that it could actually have been formed naturally. A fragment of worked sandstone from Roman ditch F12 (SF3) has a curved edge and could have been part of a column. The only other small find was an unidentifiable fragment of iron from medieval/post-medieval ditch F13 (SF4). The pieces of worked stone are significant as they could indicate the presence of a substantial Roman building in the vicinity of the development site.

SF1, F6, finds no. 5. Copper-alloy as, incomplete, very worn and in very poor condition. Obverse: Bust right, [...]CAESAR AV[…]. Reverse: Mostly illegible, possibly a standing figure, S in left field. 27.5mm diameter, 4.8g.

**Fig 8.1** SF2, F6, finds no. 7. Fragment of worked greensand stone. Possibly a piece of thin veneer with two straight edges and two broken edges, but neither side has been smoothed/polished. Length: 69.1mm, width: 40.2mm, thickness: 10.8mm, 38.2g.

**Fig 8.2** SF3, F12, finds no. 12. Fragment of worked sandstone, possibly a column fragment. One partially smoothed surface, one curved edge (*c* 25mm diameter but not a perfect arch), and one partially worked straight edge. Length: 143.8mm, width: 86.1mm, thickness: 97.6mm, weight: 1.25kg.

SF4, F13, finds no. 14. Fragment of iron. Length: 31.9mm, width: 24.4mm, thickness: 5.4mm, weight: 5.6g.

SF5, F19, finds no. 19. Fragment of limestone, possibly a worked piece of veneer but if so very abraded with irregular surfaces. Could possibly be a natural piece of stone. Length: 121.9mm, width: 86.3mm, thickness: c 14mm, weight: 203.7g.

### 6.3 Miscellaneous finds
*by Laura Pooley*

Two fragments of nail shank (13.0g) came from Roman ditch F12 (finds no. 23), and from post-medieval/modern ditch F19 (finds no. 16) were another two fragments of iron nail (25.1g) and a fragment of coke/clinker (48.9g).

### 6.4 Animal bone
*by Alec Wade*

The acidic ground conditions would not have been favourable to the survival of the animal bone and consequently only a single fragment was recovered from Roman ditch F12. The fragment (weighing 18g) was in very poor condition with a total loss of surface detail. The general size and form of the piece suggests that it may be the proximal fused end of a cattle calcaneus.

| Context | Find number | No. of pieces | Weight (g) | Species | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F12 Roman ditch | 13 | 1 | 18g | Large sized mammal | Amorphous bone fragment – possibly the fused proximal end of a cattle calcaneus? |
| **Total** | | 1 | 18g | | |

**Table 10** Animal bone by context

## 7 Environmental Assessment
*by Lisa Gray*

**Introduction**
Three samples (Table 1) were taken during the evaluation. The aims of this assessment are to evaluate the preservation of plant macro-remains, make recommendations for future sampling and determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains.

| Sample | Feature no. | Feature Type | Sampling notes | Provisional date | Sample Volume (L.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | F2 | Ditch | - | Roman | 40 |
| 2 | F15 | Pit | 50% sampled | undated | 10 |
| 3 | F7 | Pit/well | Sample from 1.6m deep | Roman | 10 |

**Table 11** Samples presented for assessment

**Sampling and processing methods**
Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 45x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once, and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a low number of items are present, they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separate from charred wood flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charred wood flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not

recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

**Results (Table 2)**

***Quality and type of preservation***

The plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman & Jones 1990, 2; Campbell *et al.* 2011, 17). There was no evidence of waterlogging or mineralisation.

***Bioturbation and contamination***

Evidence of possible bioturbation present in the form of modern rootlet fragments and earthworm cocoons but not in abundant quantities. No mollusca were found in the flots.

***The plant remains***

Charcoal fragments were the only plant macro-remains in these samples. Fragments of charcoal of identifiable size were found in each flot.

**Potential, significance and recommendations**

The soil type is 'Soilscape 8', slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (Cranfield University 2021). These soil conditions preserve charred and mineralised plant macro-remains (Campbell *et al.* 2011, 5).

It is clear that charred plant remains are present at this site so whole-earth/bulk soil sampling should be continued should further archaeological work take place. There is no evidence in these evaluation samples for waterlogged preservation conditions and if those conditions are encountered during excavation sampling will need to account for this.

The charcoal fragments in each sample are of identifiable size. Further analysis may provide information about fuel use and some of these fragments may be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

| Sample no. | Feature no. | Feature Type | Sample volume (L.) | Flot volume (Litres) | CPR - charcoal flecks <4mm Ø | CPR - Identifiable charcoal > 4mm Ø | UPR - Root/rhizomes | FAUNA: Earthworm cocoons |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | F2 | Ditch | 40 | 0.01 | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| 2 | F15 | Pit | 10 | 0.075 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | F7 | Pit/well | 10 | 0.015 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |

**Table 12** Plant macro-remains and faunal remains

**Key:** Abundance: 1 = 1-10, 2 = 11-100, 3 = >100; CPR = Charred Plant Remains; UPR: Uncharred/dried waterlogged plant remains

# 8 Conclusion

Twenty-two features were recorded during this evaluation: twelve ditches, four gullies, two pits, a possible well, a pit/posthole, a gully/natural feature and a land drain. Some of these features produced large assemblages of artefactual evidence but ten of them were undatable.

The most significant remains uncovered were located in the southern half of the site. The broader area has previously been investigated by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit, an investigation which revealed evidence of occupation here during the Late Iron Age and early Roman period and identified this area of the present site as a particular focus of this activity. This evaluation has uncovered a similar concentration of remains in this area. The most notable of these deposits were located in trench T18, in which remains including a possible well and a pair of parallel gullies which might represent the remains of a Roman trackway were excavated. Late Iron Age or early Roman features were uncovered across the southern half of the site, some of them producing substantial assemblages of pottery. In contrast to the FAU's evaluation, however, this investigation indicates that occupation of this site extended beyond the early Roman period, suggesting either a continuation of this activity as far as the 3rd century or a subsequent phase of activity at the site following its abandonment in the early Roman period. Of particular note in this respect were three pieces of worked stone recovered in this part of the site, two which were possibly fragments of veneer, another a possible piece of a column, which, along with the other artefactual evidence, together suggest that a high-status Roman building lies nearby. It should be noted that a conjectured Iron Age feature and a conjectured post-Roman feature detected in one of the FAU evaluation trenches were not observed in trench T18, just to the west, and so they must either terminate or deviate before reaching this area. In addition, remains picked up in trench T16 were not detected in a trench from the FAU evaluation, which it overlapped, though the FAU trench was not tied in to the grid referencing system, and may have been positioned slightly differently.

Datable remains in the northern half of the site were sparser. Ditch F18/F19/F21, which extended along the eastern half of this part of the site, likely represented the remains of a field boundary ditch. Pottery dating from the early 16th to the 20th century was recovered from this feature, but it does not correspond to any ditches depicted on early Ordnance Survey mapping, and it is likely that it formed part of the earlier field pattern uncovered during previous investigations. None of the other features uncovered in this part of the site – a ditch, a gully and a gully or natural feature – produced any dating evidence, and so their possible relationship to other archaeological remains in the area cannot be determined.

# 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephen Williams and Hills Group for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with H Furniss, N Pryke, M Seehra, B Quinn, Z Eksen, A Smith, W Bateson, T Lawrence and M Perou. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

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## 11 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 |
| EHER | 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**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S**, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main |
| peg-tile | rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern |
| 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 |
| wsi | written scheme of investigation |

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** one box

**Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1723)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Original site record (trench sheet, sections)
Site digital photos and log
Inked sections

**Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1723)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Site data
Survey data

## 13 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 site code ARCQ21.

**Distribution list:**
Steven Williams (Hills 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:* eh2@catuk.org

*Checked by:* Philip Crummy
*Date:* 22.10.2021

## Appendix 1 Context list

| Context Number | Trench number | Finds Number[1] | Feature / layer type | Description | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| L1 | All | - | Topsoil | Soft, moist dark grey/brown silt | Modern |
| L2 | All | - | Subsoil | Soft, moist medium grey/brown silt | Undatable |
| L3 | All | - | Natural | Firm, dry medium orange/grey sandy-silt with abundant stones | Post-glacial |
| | | | | | |
| F1 | 12 | - | ?Ditch | Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with CBM flecks and abundant stones | Undatable |
| F2 | 12 | 1, <1> | Ditch | Firm, dry light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks and very frequent stones | Late Iron Age / Early Roman |
| F3 | 14 | 2 | Pit | Friable, dry medium orange/grey/brown silty-sand with charcoal flecks | Early Roman |
| F4 | 16 | - | Ditch | Firm, moist medium grey/brown silt | Undatable |
| F5 | 18 | 3 | Gully | Firm, moist dark grey silt with CBM flecks | Mid/late 2nd to late 4th century or medieval / post-medieval |
| F6 | 18 | 4, 5, 7 | Gully | Firm, moist medium grey sandy-silt with charcoal flecks | Mid/late 2nd to late 4th century |
| F7 | 18 | 8, <3> | ?Well | Firm, moist medium orange/grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks | Late 2nd to late 3rd century |
| F8 | 18 | 9 | Gully | Firm, moist medium grey/brown silt | Early Roman |
| F9 | 16 | - | Ditch | Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with very frequent stones | Undatable |
| F10 | 16 | - | Land drain | - | Modern |
| F11 | 16 | 10, 11 | Ditch | Soft/firm, dry dark orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal, daub and CBM flecks and very frequent stones | Mid/late 2nd century |
| F12 | 15 | 12, 13 | Ditch | Firm, dry light/medium grey/brown clayey-silt with abundant stones | Roman |
| F13 | 16 | 14 | Ditch | Firm, dry light grey/brown sandy-silt | Medieval / post-medieval |
| F14 | 16 | - | Pit / posthole | Firm, moist medium grey silt with charcoal flecks | Undatable |
| F15 | 16 | <2> | Pit | firm dry light/medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 60% | Undatable |
| F16 | FEATURE VOIDED | | | | |

1 Finds no. 6 was taken out in error and was not assigned to a context. Sherds of pottery were recovered from F18 and F22 but were lost.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F17 | 1 | - | Ditch | Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt | Undatable |
| F18 | 5 | 15 | Ditch | Friable, moist light/medium yellow/brown silt with frequent stones | Undatable |
| F19 | 11 | 16, 19 | Ditch | Friable/firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt | Early 16th to 19th/20th century |
| F20 | 10 | 17 | Ditch | Friable, moist light/medium yellow/orange clayey-silt | Late Iron Age / Roman |
| F21 | 7 | - | Ditch | Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt | Undatable |
| F22 | 9 | 18 | Gully | Firm, moist medium grey/brown silt | Undatable |
| F23 | 3 | - | Gully / natural feature | Firm, moist medium grey silt | Undatable |

## Appendix 2 Pottery list

| Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | Soil S no. | NR | GR. | *MSW* | Rim | Handle | Base | Soot | Burn | Abraded | Fabric Grp | Typology | EVE | Diam. | Comments | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F2 | Ditch | 1 | | 3 | 308 | *103* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | HZ OX | CAM 270B | 0.16 | 310 | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F2 | Ditch | 1 | | 1 | 25 | *25* | | | | | | | HZ OX | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F2 | Ditch | 1 | | 2 | 7 | *4* | | | | | | | CSOW | | | | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F2 | Ditch | 1 | | 10 | 65 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | X | | | RCW | CAM 264 | 0.28 | 100 | Sandy soft brown to black, or odd CAM 266 | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F2 | Ditch | | 1 | 1 | 3 | *3* | | | | | | | RCW (6) | | | | Black grog | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F2 | Ditch | | 1 | 2 | 10 | *5* | | | | | | | DJ | | | | | Roman |
| F2 | Ditch | | 1 | 1 | 6 | *6* | | | | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F3 | Pit | 2 | | 2 | 16 | *8* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | RCW | CAM 231-232 | 0.10 | 90 | | Late Iron Age-AD 150/180 |
| F3 | Pit | 2 | | 10 | 136 | *14* | | | | | | | HZ | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F3 | Pit | 2 | | 1 | 15 | *15* | | | | | | | HZ | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F3 | Pit | 2 | | 2 | 4 | *2* | | | | | | | RCW | | | | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F3 | Pit | 2 | | 1 | 11 | *11* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | GX | CAM 227 | 0.02? | | Dark ext, or/br int, grey core, sandy | AD 54-120 |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 1 | 694 | *694* | | | | | | | BAET | DR20 | | | | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 1 | 2 | *2* | | | | | | | GTW | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 1 | 4 | *4* | | | | X | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 2 | 34 | *17* | | | | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 14 | 26 | *2* | | | | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 20 | 141 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 1 | X | | | GX | CAM 280-281 | 0.60 | 70 | | AD 150/180-400 |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 1 | 26 | *26* | | | | | | | HZ | | | | | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 2 | 4 | *2* | | | | | | | BSW | | | | | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | | 5 | 29 | *6* | | | | | | | GTW (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 6 | *6* | | | | | X | | WA | | | | | Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 5 | 85 | *17* | | | | | | | HZ | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 2 | 29 | *15* | | | | | | | TZ (COL) | | | | | Roman |

| Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | Soil S no. | NR | GR. | *MSW* | Rim | Handle | Base | Soot | Burn | Abraded | Fabric Grp | Typology | EVE | Diam. | Comments | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 8 | 85 | *11* | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | GX | CAM 268 | 0.31 | 150 | | AD 125/150-280/320 |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 5 | *5* | | | | | | | GX | | | | Fine | Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 5 | 57 | *11* | 1 | 0 | 2 | | | | GB | CAM 37B/38B | 0.13 | 220 | | AD 180-275 |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 1 | *1* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | BASG | DRAG 18? | 0.02? | | | AD 43-100 |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 2 | 3 | *2* | | | | | | | FSW/EGW | | | | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 33 | *33* | | | | | X | | GTW OX (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 9 | 102 | *11* | | | | | | | GTW (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 49 | *49* | | | | | | | GTW OX (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 15 | *15* | | | | | X | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 21 | *21* | | | | | | | GTW OX (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 2 | 14 | *7* | | | | | | | RCW | | | | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 2 | 4 | *2* | | | | | | | FSOW | | | | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 5 | 29 | *6* | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | GTW OX (BG) | CAM 256 | 0.14 | 120 | | Late Iron Age |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 19 | *19* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | X | | CSOW | CAM 266 | 0.11 | 160? | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 9 | *9* | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 13 | *13* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | RCW 2 | CAM 266 | 0.08 | 160 | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 1 | 22 | *22* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | CSOW | CAM 270B | 0.05 | 260? | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | | 4 | 95 | *24* | | | | | | | HZ OX | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F7 | ?Well | | 3 | 5 | 5 | *1* | | | | | | | GTW (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F8 | Gully | 9 | | 4 | 38 | *10* | 0 | 0 | 2 | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F8 | Gully | 9 | | 1 | 8 | *8* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | X | TN | CAM 2 | 0.03? | | Lost most of surface | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 4 | 83 | *21* | | | | | | | HZ OX (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 1 | 37 | *37* | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | HZ | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 3 | 34 | *11* | | | | | | | GTW (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 2 | 11 | *6* | | | | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 1 | 2 | *2* | | | | | | | DJ | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 2 | 5 | *3* | | | | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |

| Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | Soil S no. | NR | GR. | *MSW* | Rim | Handle | Base | Soot | Burn | Abraded | Fabric Grp | Typology | EVE | Diam. | Comments | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 4 | 34 | *9* | | | | | X | | RCW (BG) | | | | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 10 | | 1 | 4 | *4* | | | | | | | FSOW | | | | | Late Iron Age / early Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 59 | *59* | | | | | | | BAET | DR20 | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 48 | *48* | | | | | | | HZ OX | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 3 | *3* | | | | | | | GB | | | | | AD 110-300 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 9 | 241 | *27* | | | | | | | HZ | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 1 | *1* | | | | | | | DZ | | | | Or CZ but lost C-C | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 8 | *8* | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | DJ | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 14 | 66 | *5* | 3 | 0 | 0 | | | | GX | CAM 119 | 0.13 | 140 | | AD 43-320 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | GX | ? | 0.03? | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | GX | ? | 0.05 | 140 | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 9 | 42 | *5* | 0 | 7 | 0 | | | | DJ | FLAGON | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 4 | *4* | | | | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 4 | 10 | *3* | | | | | | | GX | | | | Misfired | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 6 | 19 | *3* | | | | | X | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 4 | 14 | *4* | | | | | | | SW | | | | Black, sandy, irreg wheel-finished? | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 4 | 12 | *3* | | | | | | | RCW | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 23 | *23* | | | | | | | HZ OX | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 10 | *10* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | GB | CAM 278 | 0.06 | 140 | | AD 117-250/260 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 20 | *20* | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 9 | *9* | | | | | | | GTW | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 2 | 22 | *11* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | GTW | CAM 253 | | | ? or CAM 229 | Late Iron Age |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 2 | 13 | *7* | | | | | | | GX (BG) | | | | Misfired | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 3 | 556 | *185* | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | HZ | | | | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 6 | 117 | *20* | 2 | 0 | 2 | | | | GX | CAM 227 | 0.12 | 140 | | AD 54-120 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | GX | CAM 119 | 0.20 | 140 | | AD 43-320 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 24 | *24* | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | DZ | | | | Or CZ but lost all C-C | Roman |

| Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | Soil S no. | NR | GR. | *MSW* | Rim | Handle | Base | Soot | Burn | Abraded | Fabric Grp | Typology | EVE | Diam. | Comments | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 56 | *56* | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | DJ | | | | Sandy | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 2 | 52 | *26* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | RCW (6) | CAM 266 | 0.29 | 130 | Black grog | Late Iron Age-AD 80 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 10 | *10* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | GX | CAM 227 | 0.05 | 130 | Grey surface, grey core, brown | AD 54-120 |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 1 | 26 | *26* | | | | | X | | DJ (M) | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | | 4 | 42 | *11* | 4 | 0 | 0 | | | X | BAEG | DRAG 33 | 0.46 | 100 | Worn top rim ext, groove ext middle body, Sinzig or Col (BACO)? | AD 150-200 |
| F12 | Ditch | 13 | | 1 | 4 | *4* | | | | | | | GX | | | | | Roman |
| F12 | Ditch | 13 | | 1 | 14 | *14* | | | | | | | GTW | | | | | Late Iron Age |
| F19 | Ditch | 16 | | 1 | 14 | *14* | | | | | | | F40 | | | | Glaze | *c* 1500-19th/20th century |
| F20 | Ditch | 17 | | 1 | 71 | *71* | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | HZ OX | CAM 270B | 0.06 | 340 | | Late Iron Age-AD 200/300 |

## Appendix 3 CBM list

| Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | NR | GR. | *MSW* | Discard | Typology | FL CORN. | MNI | FL H. | FL W. | FL TH. | TH. | Mortar | Burnt | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F3 | Pit | 2 | 1 | 268 | *268* | X | RB | 1 | 0.25 | | | | | | | Roman |
| F5 | Gully | 3 | 1 | 116 | *116* | X | PT | | 0 | | | | | | | Medieval / post-medieval |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | 1 | 366 | *366* | X | RB | | 0 | | | | 44 | | | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | 1 | 100 | *100* | X | RB | | 0 | | | | | | X | Roman |
| F6 | Gully | 4 | 1 | 367 | *367* | | RT | | 0 | 44 | 19 | 22 | | X | | Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | 1 | 147 | *147* | X | RB | | 0 | | | | 35 | | | Roman |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | 5 | 81 | *16* | X | Baked clay | | 0 | | | | | | | ? |
| F7 | ?Well | 8 | 2 | 11 | *6* | X | Baked clay | | 0 | | | | | | | ? |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | 1 | 93 | *93* | X | RB | | 0 | | | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | 1 | 152 | *152* | X | RB | | 0 | | | | | | | Roman |
| F11 | Ditch | 11 | 3 | 27 | *9* | X | RBT | | 0 | | | | | | | Roman |
| F12 | Ditch | 13 | 2 | 365 | *183* | X | RB | | 0 | | | | 42 | | | Roman |
| F13 | Ditch | 14 | 3 | 43 | *14* | X | PT | | 0 | | | | | | | Medieval / post-medieval |
| F19 | Ditch | 16 | 2 | 138 | *69* | X | PT | | 0 | | | | | | | Medieval / post-medieval |
| F19 | Ditch | 16 | 1 | 15 | *15* | X | PT | | 0 | | | | | | | Medieval / post-medieval |

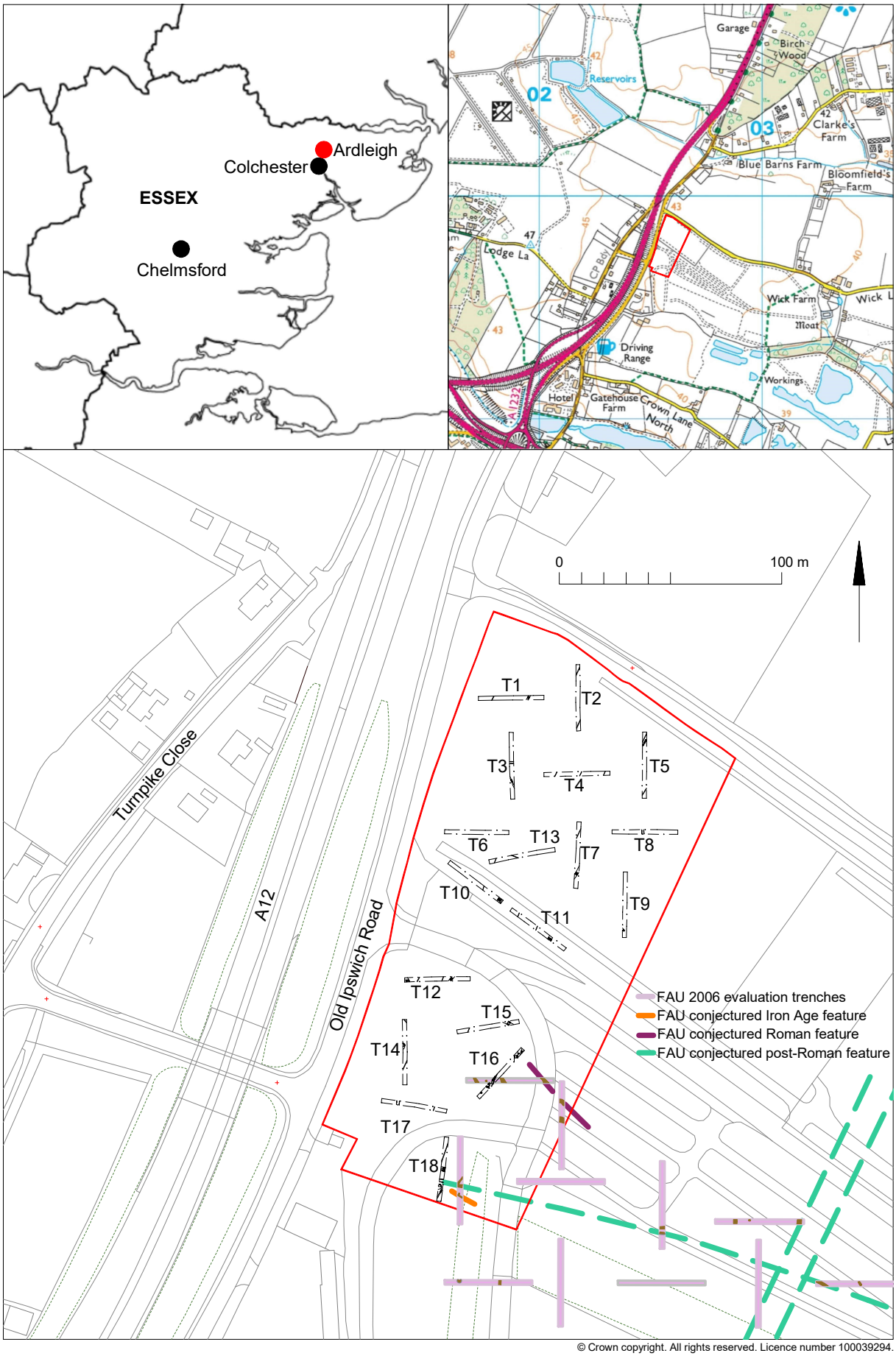




Fig 1 Site location in relation to FAU 2006 evaluation trenches.

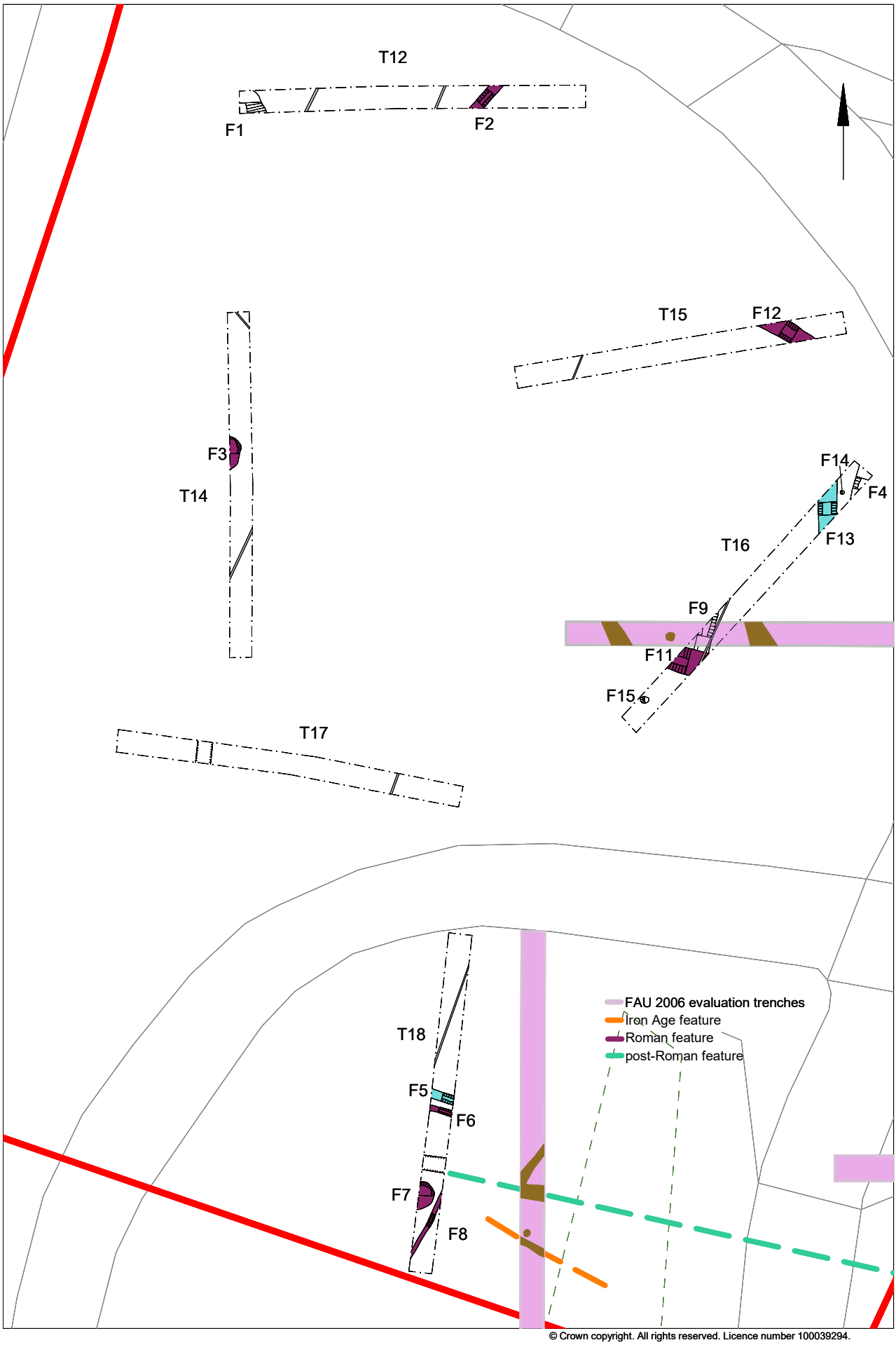




Fig 2 Evaluation results South part of Evaluation T12, T14-18 in relation to FAU 2006 evaluation scheme.

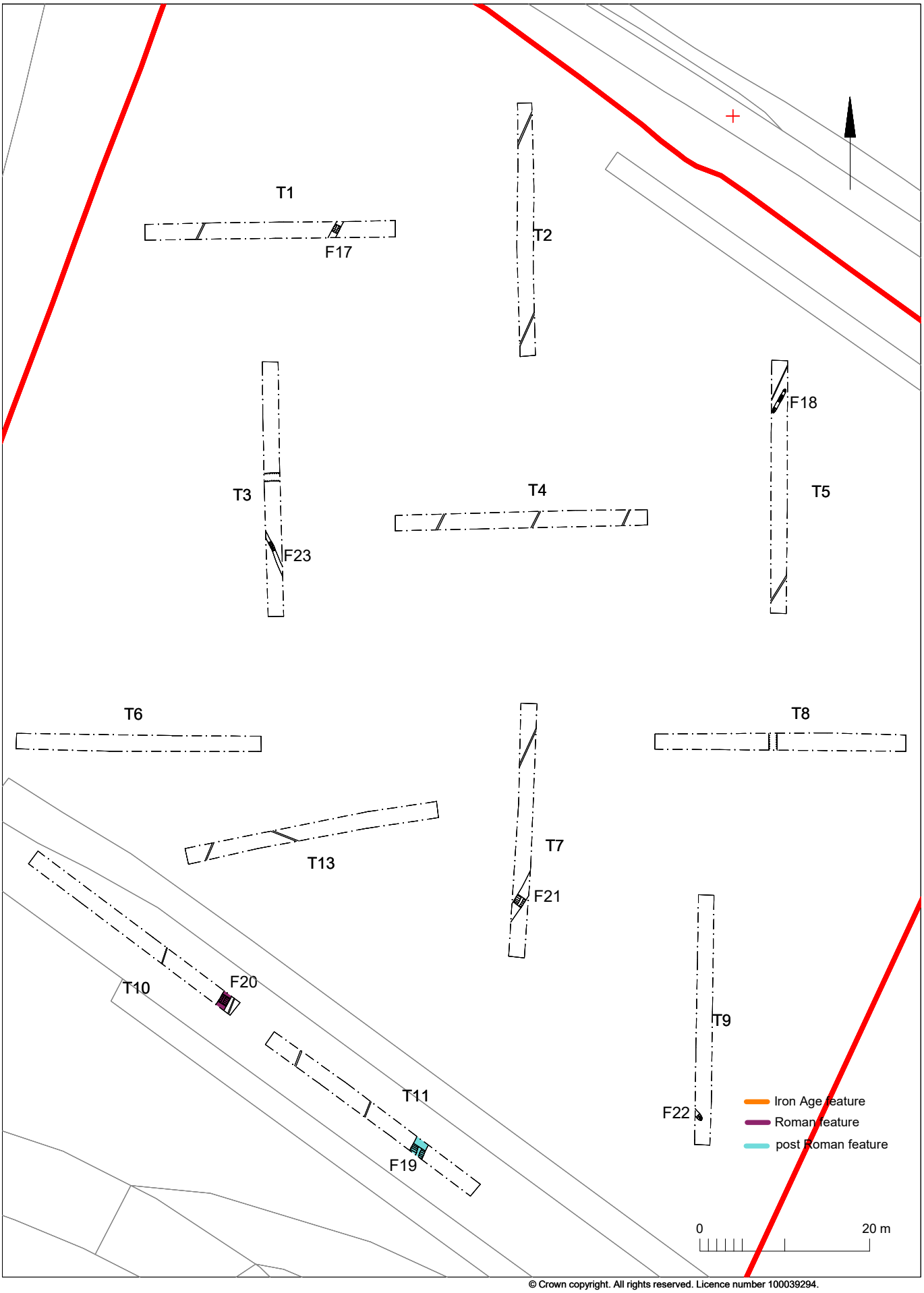




Fig 3 Evaluation results North part of Evaluation T1-11, T13.

0 100 m

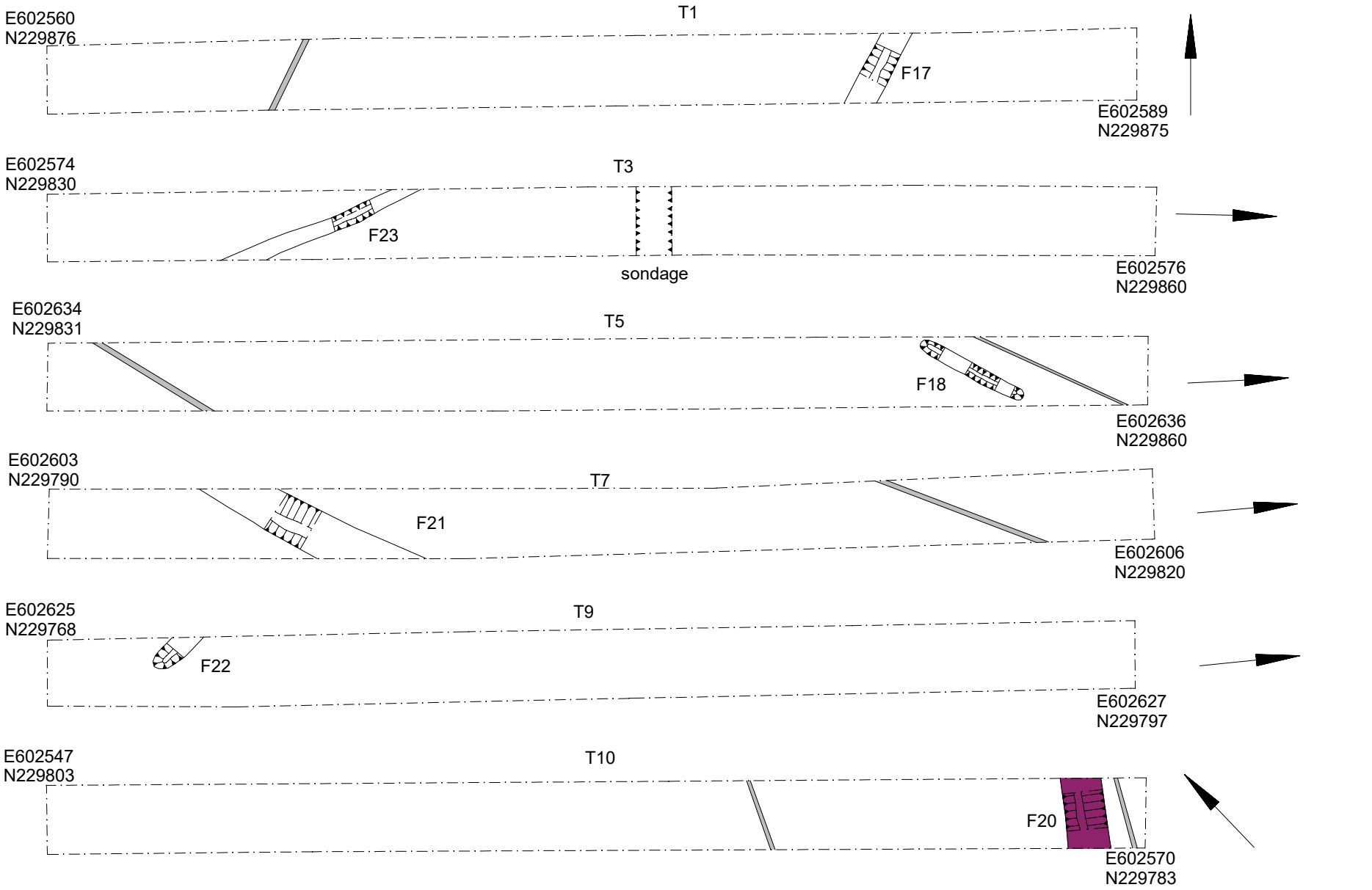


Fig 4 Trench results.

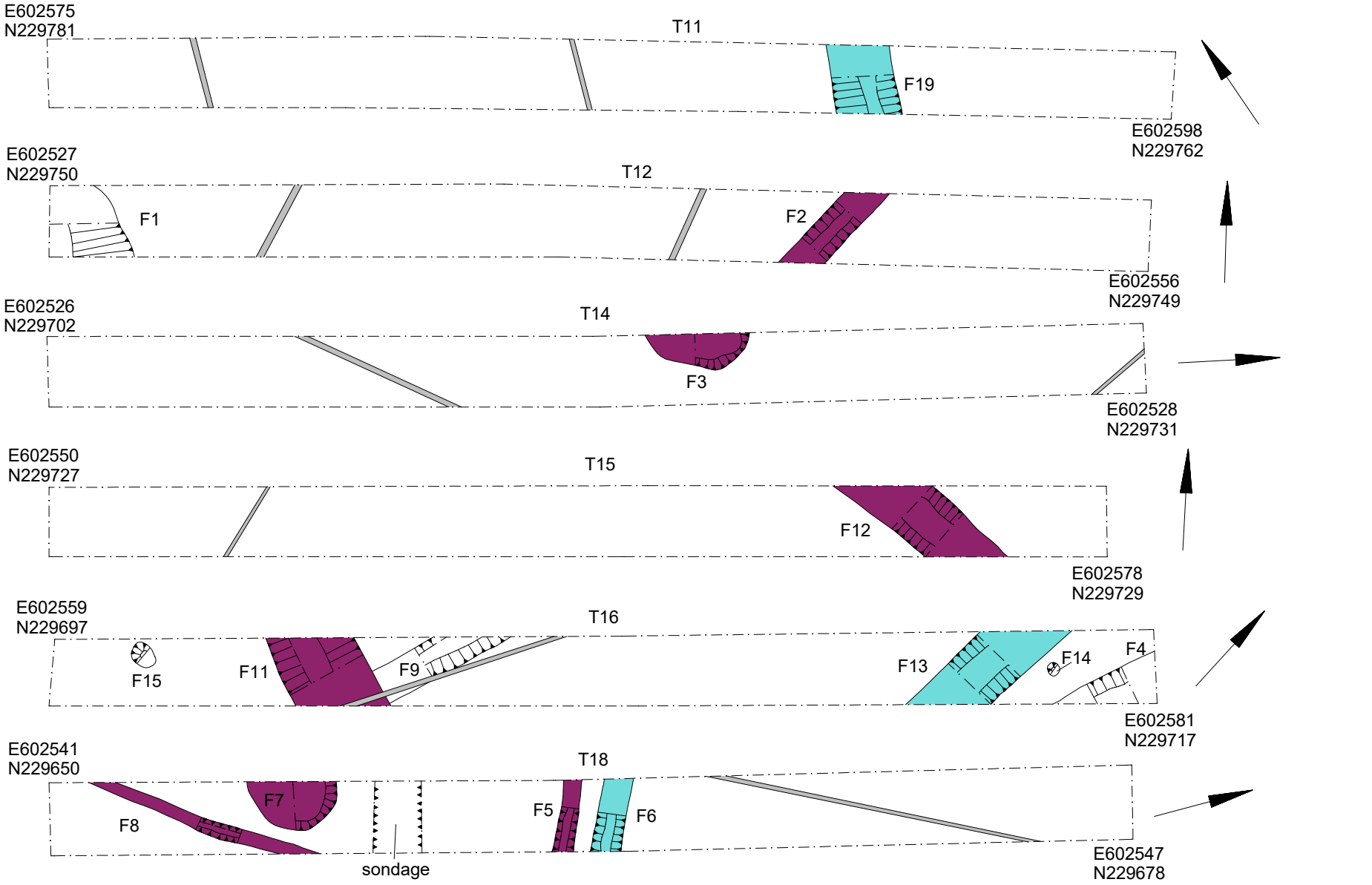


Fig 5 Trench results.

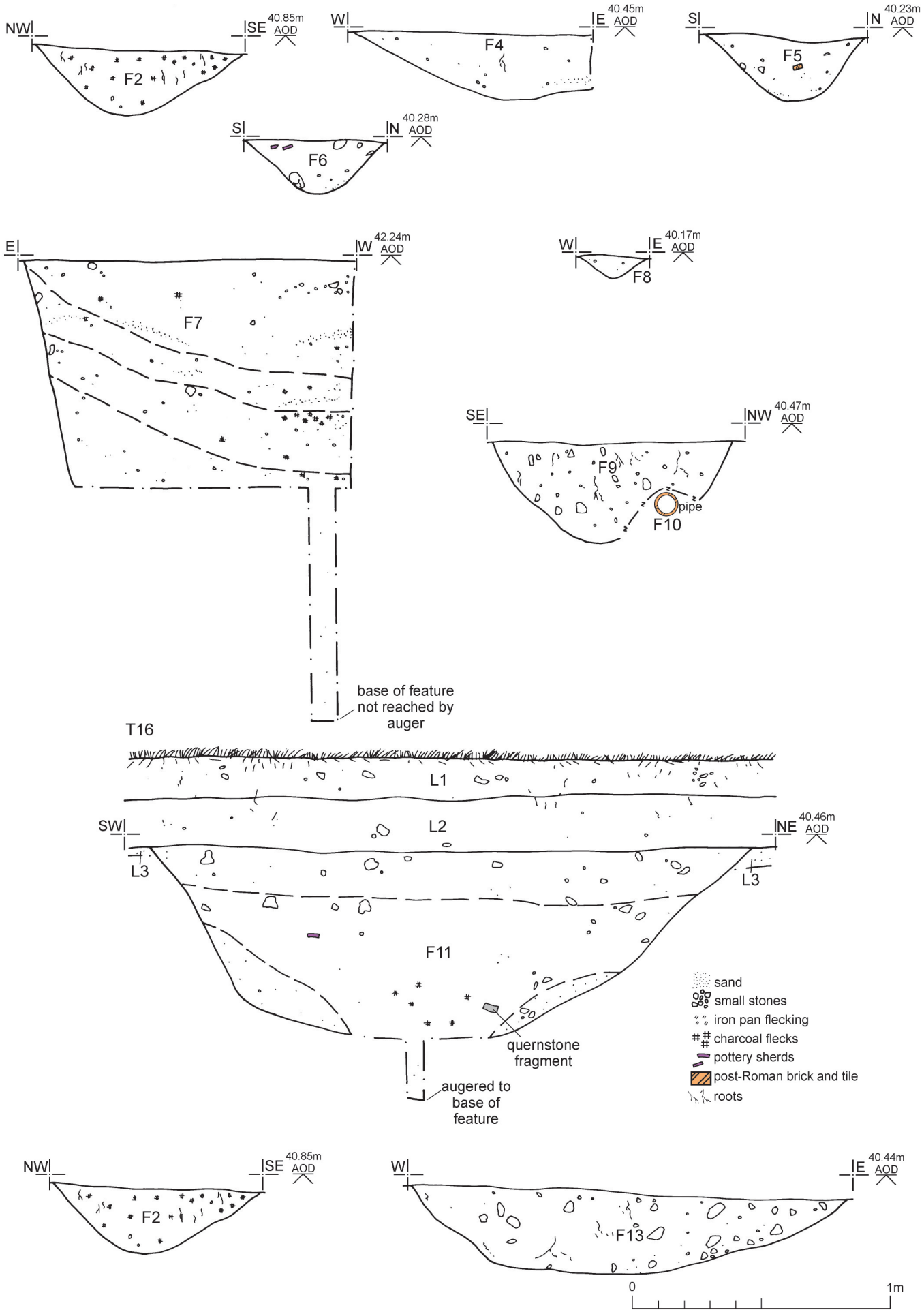


Fig 6 Feature sections.

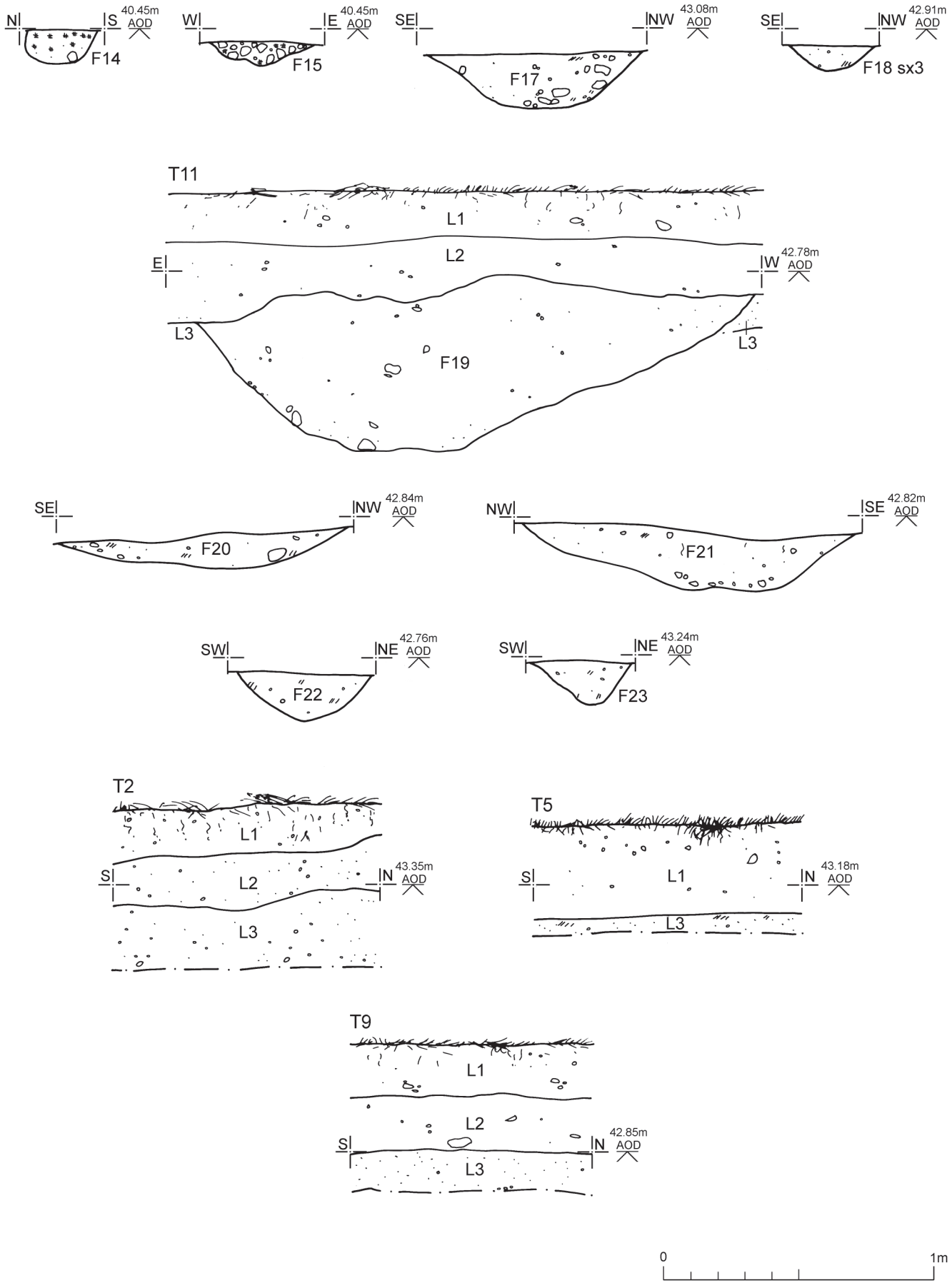


Fig 7 Feature and representative sections.


Fig 8  Small finds.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England



## OASIS ID: colchest3-422563

### Project details

| | |
|---|---|
| Project name | Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and excavation on Land at Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Essex, |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological evaluation (eighteen trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Essex, in advance of the construction of a small business park. The site lies within an area which previous archaeological investigations have identified as one of concentrated activity during the Iron Age and early Roman periods, containing, among other remains, a D-shaped enclosure and an annexe likely used for industrial purposes. This evaluation has uncovered a similar concentration of features dating to the Late Iron Age-early Roman transition, but has also revealed evidence of later occupation during the 2nd and 3rd centuries, including a possible well and a possible trackway. Fragments of worked stone which were recovered suggest the presence of a high-status Roman building in the vicinity. A post-medieval or modern ditch which likely represented the remains of a former field boundary was also recorded. |
| Project dates | Start: 30-06-2021 End: 07-10-2021 |
| Previous/future work | Yes / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2021/05f - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | ARCQ21 - Sitecode |
| Any associated project reference codes | 19/01939/OUT - Planning Application No. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Current Land use | Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland |
| Current Land use | Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices |
| Monument type | DITCH Uncertain |
| Monument type | DITCH Late Iron Age |
| Monument type | DITCH Roman |
| Monument type | PIT Roman |
| Monument type | GULLY Roman |
| Monument type | GULLY Medieval |
| Monument type | GULLY Post Medieval |
| Monument type | WELL Roman |
| Monument type | LAND DRAIN Post Medieval |
| Monument type | LAND DRAIN Modern |
| Monument type | DITCH Medieval |
| Monument type | DITCH Post Medieval |
| Monument type | PIT Uncertain |
| Monument type | POSTHOLE Uncertain |
| Monument type | DITCH Modern |
| Monument type | GULLY Uncertain |
| Monument type | NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Late Iron Age |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Modern |
| Significant Finds | CBM Roman |
| Significant Finds | CBM Medieval |

| | |
|---|---|
| Significant Finds | CBM Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | COIN Roman |
| Significant Finds | SBM Roman |
| Significant Finds | IRON OBJECT Medieval |
| Significant Finds | IRON OBJECT Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | IRON NAIL Roman |
| Significant Finds | IRON NAIL Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | IRON NAIL Modern |
| Significant Finds | COKE/CLINKER Modern |
| Significant Finds | ANIMAL BONE Roman |
| Methods & techniques | "'Sample Trenches'" |
| Development type | Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, 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 ARDLEIGH Land at Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Essex |
| Postcode | CO7 7QR |
| Study area | 2.77 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TM 02574 29773 51.929024292269 0.946744072841 51 55 44 N 000 56 48 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 40.15m Max: 43.34m |

## 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 | Hills Group |

## Project archives

| | |
|---|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Physical Archive ID | ARCQ21 |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics","other" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Digital Archive ID | ARCQ21 |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text" |
| Paper Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Paper Archive ID | ARCQ21 |
| 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 at Crown Quarry, Old Ipswich Road, Ardleigh, Essex, CO7 7QR: June-October 2021 |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Hicks, E. |
| Other bibliographic details | CAT Report 1723 |
| Date | 2021 |
| Issuer or publisher | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Place of issue or publication | Colchester |
| Description | A4 loose-leaf ring-bound |
| URL | http://cat.essex.ac.uk |
| Entered by | Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org) |
| Entered on | 25 October 2021 |