

Archaeological evaluation and monitoring at Paxman Academy, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DQ

September 2021 – January 2022



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**commissioned by Alex Drouet
on behalf of Barnes Construction**

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Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	8
7	Conclusion	10
8	Acknowledgements	11
9	References	11
10	Abbreviations and glossary	12
11	Contents of archive	12
12	Archive deposition	13
Appendix 1	Context list	14
Appendix 2	Pottery list	15
Appendix 3	CBM list	15

Figures

after pg 15

OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: Working shot

Photograph 1	F12 sx – view south-east.	3
Photograph 2	T1 trench shot – view north-east.	3
Photograph 3	F5 plan – view north-west.	4
Photograph 4	T4 trench shot – view north-east.	5
Photograph 5	F17 sx – view north-west.	6
Photograph 6	Monitoring site shot – view north-west.	7
Photograph 7	Monitoring site shot – view south.	7
Photograph 8	F19 in section – view north-east.	10
Photograph 9	Fragment of loomweight from F5.	
Table 1	Summary of the ceramic finds.	8
Table 2	Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features.	8
Table 3	Quantities of prehistoric pottery from specific features.	9
Table 4	Details on the prehistoric pottery.	9
Table 5	Building material by period and type.	9
Table 6	Approximate dates for the individual features.	9
Fig 1	Site location and trench layout in relation to EHER cropmark plots (shown in green), the MUGA site (orange) and the projected route of the Roman road (dashed blue).	
Fig 2	Trench results. Cropmarks in green and proposed MUGA in orange Ditch projections in blue.	
Fig 3	Detailed trench plans.	
Fig 4	Monitoring results in relation to evaluation trenches.	
Fig 5	Feature and representative sections.	
Fig 6	Feature and representative sections.	
Fig 7	Monitoring representative sections.	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) and monitoring was carried out at Paxman Academy, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction a multi-use games area. The proposed development sites lies within an area of known cropmarks recorded by aerial photography. Twenty features were uncovered during the evaluation, only three of which produced dating evidence. One pit dated to the Early Bronze Age and four of the ditches correspond with the linear cropmarks targetted by the trenches. Continuations of two ditches were observed during the monitoring.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and archaeological monitoring at Paxmans Academy, Paxmans Avenue, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on from 28th September 2021 to 11th January 2022. The work was commissioned by Alex Drouet on behalf of Barnes Construction, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in advance of the construction of a multi-use games area (MUGA).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis 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 at Paxmans Academy, Colchester* written by Richard Havis (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* (ClfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (ClfA 2014b) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014c).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (MCC/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development sites lies within an area of known cropmarks recorded by aerial photography. The photographs are held by the Historic Environment Record at Essex County Council and the cropmarks have been rectified. They show evidence of a series of features comprising a trackway, enclosure, pits and other linears (MCC7706). Within the development area itself are four linears, possibly two trackways which either meet at a junction, or one that crosses the other.

The site also lies within the *oppidum* of Camulodunum in close proximity to the Gosbecks Iron Age and Romano-British site to the south (MCC7470, NHLE 1002180). The Gosbecks to Colchester Roman road is projected to cross the southeastern edge of Paxmans Academy (MCC2529), which is immediately to the southeast of the current development site (see dashed blue line on Fig 1).

For a full archaeological background see the two desk-based assessments of the archaeological and historical assets on and around the site produced by CAT (CAT Report 1124 from July 2017 and CAT Report 1497 based on this development).

A summary from CAT Report 1497 concludes:

The school lies in an area of high archaeological significance. It is inside the oppidum of Camulodunum, and approximately 1km north-east of the major Late Iron Age and early Roman 'small town' at Gosbecks, with its Roman temple and theatre, and network of fields and living sites. In addition to this, a Roman road crosses the school site, and although this is a short distance to the south of the site, aerial photographs indicate that a smaller road branches off of it and intersects with the northern corner of the school grounds.

Alderman Blaxill School was demolished in 2017 and replaced by the Paxman Academy buildings. Prior to the demolition, Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook trial-trenching along Paxman Avenue in order to determine the location and state of preservation of the Gosbecks to Colchester Roman road. This evaluation identified mixed evidence to indicate the survival of the road and was interpreted as an indication that this section of the road had little or no nearby settlement. This in turn may have contributed to a poorly-defined or at least poorly-maintained section that has proven difficult to identify (CAT Report 1167, ECC4075).

Another evaluation was carried out by CAT in 2021 on the Walnut Tree Way side of the school in advance of the construction of a new pupil referral unit. The evaluation revealed modern brick foundations along with five ditches and three features which could either be ditches or natural glacial channels. Also excavated were four tree-throws and eight natural silt patches/tree-throws. Finds were scarce, but residual pottery sherds from a redeposited soil layer and a tree-throw show some limited activity on or close to the development site in the Bronze Age (CAT Report 1655 ECC4619).

4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to assess the archaeological potential of the site. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results

5.1 Evaluation Results (Figs 2-3 and 5-6)

Seven trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches, except T6, were 30m long and 1.8m wide. T6 was 10m long and 1.8m wide.

The majority of the trenches were excavated through topsoil (L1, 0.11-31m thick) and a layer of subsoil (L4, c 0.17-0.54 thick) into natural (L3, c 0.51-70m below current ground level [bcgl]). A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

No archaeological features were found in Trench 6.

Trench 1 (T1)

Two undated ditches, F12 and F13, were excavated in T1. Both were on a north-west/south-east alignment and correspond with the cropmarks targeted by T1. Ditch F12 (1.48m wide and 0.49m deep) had a U-shaped profile and ditch F13 (1.50m wide and 0.41m deep) had a V-shaped profile. Ditches F12 and F13 are likely continuations of ditches F19 and F17 in T5.



Photograph 1 F12 sx – view south-east.



Photograph 2 T1 trench shot – view north-east.

Trench 2 (T2)

Two ditches, a pit/tree-throw and a tree-throw were identified in T2. Pit/tree-throw F11 produced three sherds of undiagnostic prehistoric pottery. The exposed area of the feature was 0.9m by 1.64m and 0.3m deep.

Modern ditch F9 was aligned north-east/south-west and had an asymmetric U-shaped profile with a flat base. The excavated section was 1.16m wide and 0.25m deep. This is likely a continuation of ditch F15 in T3.

Undated ditch F10 (0.82m wide and 0.29m deep) had a U-shaped profile with a flat base and was on a north north-east/south south-west alignment. Undated tree-throw F8 was 0.73m by 1.7m and 0.29m deep.

Trench 3 (T3)

Undated ditch F15 was 0.69m wide and 0.15m deep. It was on a north-east/south-west alignment with a U-shaped profile and is probably a continuation of F9 in T2.

Natural feature F16 was also excavated.

Trench 4 (T4)

T4 was cut through four layers: topsoil (L1, c 0.12-0.31), buried topsoil (L5, c 0.18-0.32m thick) and subsoil (L4, c 0.17-0.20m thick) into natural (L3, c 0.32-0.70m bcgl).

Three pits, two tree-throws and a linear were uncovered in T4. Early Bronze Age pit F5 produced a large assemblage of pottery, 38 sherds, as well as a loomweight fragment. The exposed area of the pit was 1.8m by 1.23m and 0.34m deep



Photograph 3 F5 plan – view north-west.

Pit F4 was 0.87m by 1.07m and 0.12m deep and pit F7 was 1.13m by 0.62m and 0.09m deep. Both were undated.

Undated ditch F3 was on a west north-west/east south-east alignment with a U-shaped profile. The excavated section was 1.04m wide and 0.15m deep with an undulating base.

Undated tree-throws F6 and F14 were 0.76m by 1.25m and 0.22m deep and 0.80m by 3.02m and 0.36m deep, respectively.



Photograph 4 T4 trench shot – view north-east.

Trench 5 (T5)

Three undated ditches were excavated in T5. Ditches F17 (1.76m wide and 0.85m deep) and F19 (1.71m wide and 0.34m deep) were on a north-west/south-east alignment while ditch F20 (1.18m wide and 0.46m deep) was on a north-east/south-west alignment. They all had a U-shaped profile. Ditches F17 and F19 likely represent the cropmarks targeted by T5 and are probably continuations of ditches F12 and F13 in T1.

Glacial channel F18 was also excavated.



Photograph 5 F17 sx – view north-west.

Trench 7 (T7)

T7 was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.26-0.30m thick) and a layer of stone (L2, c 0.27-0.30m thick) into natural (0.55-0.58m bcgl).

Undated pit F2 was 0.68m by 0.74m and 0.13m deep.

Modern ?pit F1 was not excavated but the exposed area was 1.01m by 7.22m.

5.2 Monitoring Results (Figs 4 and 7)

Prior to the attendance of an archaeologist the site was levelled, stripping off roughly 0.3m in the south rising to 0.1m in the north, removing most of the topsoil. A drainage trench (0.3m wide and approximately 300m in length) and manhole (2m by 3m) were then machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The trench was dug to varying depths (Fig 4): at its shallowest only 0.1m deep (west corner) and at its deepest 1.3m (east corner). The trench was mainly cut through subsoil (L4) and into the natural (L3). In the east corner the trench was excavated through topsoil (L1), a stone layer (L2) and into natural (L3).

Continuations of ditches F17 and F19 were the only features observed during monitoring.



Photograph 6 Monitoring site shot – view north-west.



Photograph 7 Monitoring site shot – view south.



Photograph 8 F19 in section – view north-east.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramics

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered 107 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 379g and EVE of 0.07 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is low at 4g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	41	179	4	0.07
CBM	66	200	3	-
All	107	379	4	0.07

Table 1 Summary of the ceramic finds.

Sherds of pottery and ceramics were recovered from three features although most of the material came from the pit F5 (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F5	Pit	99	367	4
F9	Ditch	5	10	2
F11	Pit/tree-throw	3	2	1
Total		107	379	4

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features.

Prehistoric pottery

There was a small assemblage of handmade prehistoric pottery at 41 sherds weighing 179g with an EVE of 0.07. This material was recovered from two features although most came from pit F5 (Table 3). The majority of the handmade pottery was tempered with flint (HMF) followed by or grog and flint (HMGF) and a small number of sherds which are nearly temperless, except

for some sparse sand (Table 4). Pit F5 contained sherds of cord decorated beaker pottery in fabric HMGF and part of a beaker (EVE: 0.07) in fabric HMS. Pit F5 also produced five sherds of flint-tempered pottery decorated with incised grooves either of Late Neolithic grooved ware or more likely from a Bronze Age food vessel. The presence of Beaker pottery and a possible food vessel suggests that pit F5 dates to the Early Bronze Age.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F5	Pit	38	177	5	0.07
F11	Pit/tree-throw	3	2	1	0.00
Total		41	179	4	0.07

Table 3 Quantities of prehistoric pottery from specific features.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
HMF	Handmade flint-tempered	29	151	5	0.00
HMGF	Handmade grog & flint-tempered	8	21	3	0.00
HMS	Handmade sand tempered	4	7	2	0.07
Total		41	179	4	0.07

Table 4 Details on the prehistoric pottery.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There was a small assemblage of CBM at 66 sherds weighing 200g with a mean sherd weight of only 3g (Table 5). Most of this material consists of sherds of baked clay and daub, all of which came from pit F5. Finally, five small sherds of post-medieval or modern brick was recovered from the ditch F9.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
<i>Post-Roman</i>				
BR	Brick	5	10	2
<i>Undated</i>				
	Baked clay	15	22	1
	Daub	46	168	4
Total		66	200	3

Table 5 Building material by period and type.

Conclusion

Table 6 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which produced dateable pottery and CBM. Pit F5 dates to the Early Bronze Age, while the presence of daub and baked clay suggests a nearby habitation.

Context	Description	Prehistoric	CBM	Date Approx.
F5	Pit	HMF (Food urn?), HMGF (Beaker pottery), HMS (Beaker)	-	Early Bronze Age
F9	Ditch	-	BR	Post-medieval/ modern
F11	Pit/tree-throw	HMS	-	Prehistoric

Table 6 Approximate dates for the individual features.

6.2 Small finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of ceramic loomweight came from Bronze Age pit F5 (SF1, finds number 1; see Photograph 9). Rare in England before the Middle Bronze Age, loomweights are generally cylindrical in this period, with pyramidal versions appearing in the Late Bronze Age and triangular loomweights from the Middle Iron Age (Barford & Major 1992; Haugton, Sørensen &

Bender Jørgensen 2021, 8). The fragment is probably part of the side of a cylindrical weight and is made of a fairly coarse grog- and flint-tempered orange clay (99.3mm by 87.9mm and 42.9mm thick, 340.3g). If, as the pottery suggests, pit F5 does date to the Early Bronze Age, then the presence of a loomweight fragment in this feature is significant, and is indicative of textile production occurring on the site or in the immediate vicinity.



Photograph 9 Fragment of loomweight from F5.

6.3 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Six fragments of clinker/coke (6.3g) and a fragment of oyster shell (7.4g) came from modern ditch F9 (finds nos. 3 and 5). These finds have been discarded.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation and monitoring at Paxman Academy revealed 20 features, nine ditches, five pits, a pit/tree-throw, three tree-throws and two natural features, only three of which produced dating material.

The most noteworthy feature uncovered was Early Bronze Age pit F5, which produced over 30 pottery sherds and a loomweight fragment. The presence of this material along with the Bronze Age pottery found in the Walnut Tree Way evaluation (CAT Report 655) suggests there may be a Bronze Age settlement in the vicinity of Paxman Academy.

Cropmark plots from aerial photographs of the site have identified four ditches, possibly two trackways which either meet at a junction, or one crosses the other. Four of the undated ditches, F12, F13, F17 and F19, correspond with the possible north-west/south-east trackway identified

in the cropmarks. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from any of these ditches. Modern ditch F9/F15 is likely to be northernmost north-east/south-west cropmark. However, no features corresponded with of the second north-west/south-east ditch.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Alex Drouet and Barnes Construction for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner, R Mathieson and S Veasey with E Hicks, M Perou and A Smith. Figures are by S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Adrian Gascoyne and Richard Havis.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- | | | |
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| CAT Report 1497 | 2019 | <i>Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Paxman Academy, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, CO2 9DQ</i> , by P Parmenter |
| CAT Report 1655 | 2021 | <i>Archaeological Evaluation at Walnut Tree Way, Colchester, Essex: April 2021</i> , by L Pooley |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i> |
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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
Bronze Age (Early)	Early Bronze Age, period from c 2500 – 1500 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
clinker	the stony residue from burnt coal or from a furnace
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.
or	
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
monitoring	archaeological monitoring involves an archaeologist being present in the course of carrying out development works (which may include conservation works), to identify and protect archaeological deposits, features or objects which may be uncovered or otherwise affected by the works
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
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: Part of one box

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 1768)

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 CHER reference ECC4651, and with the Archaeological Data Service.

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Appendix 1 Context list

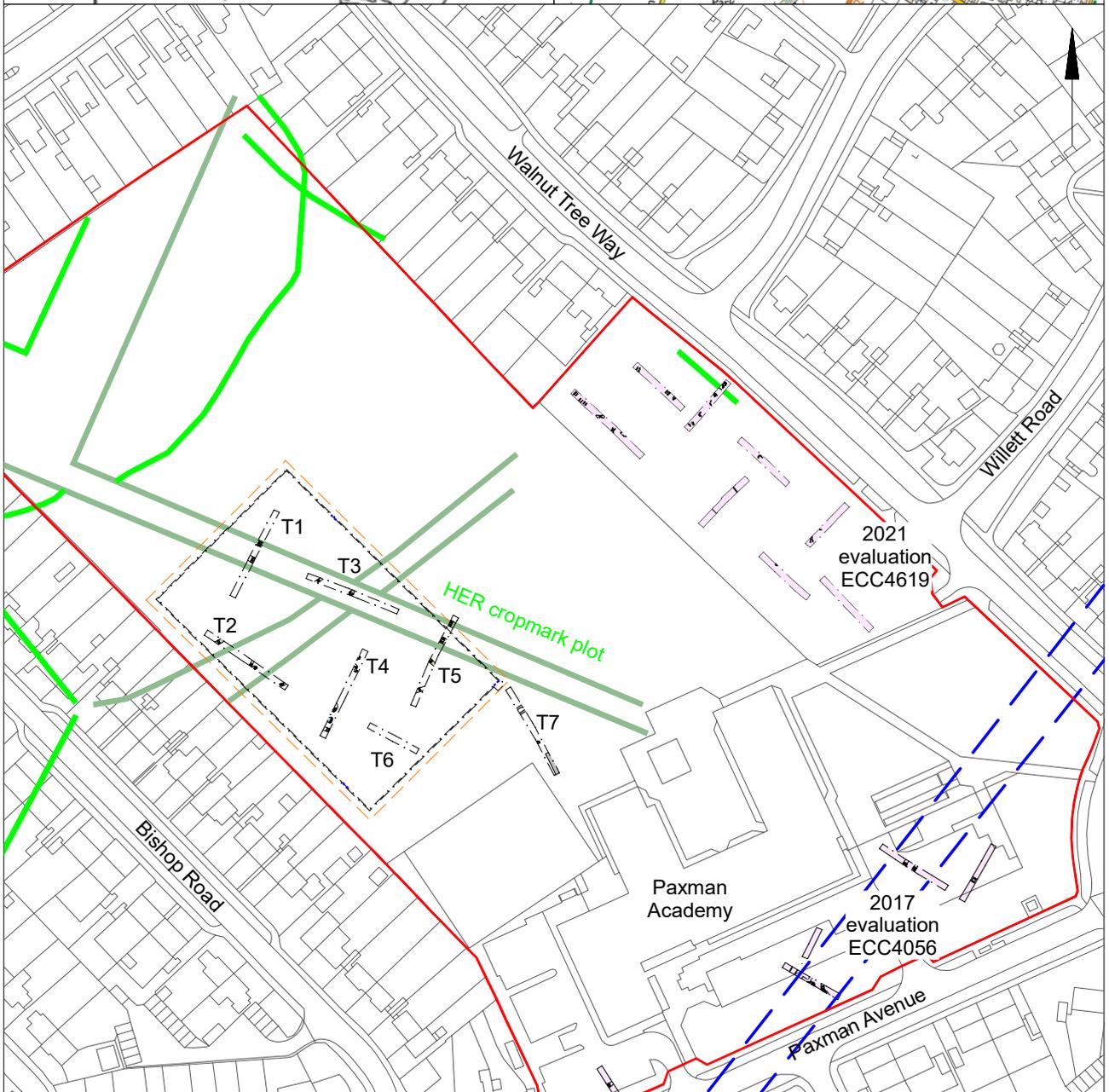
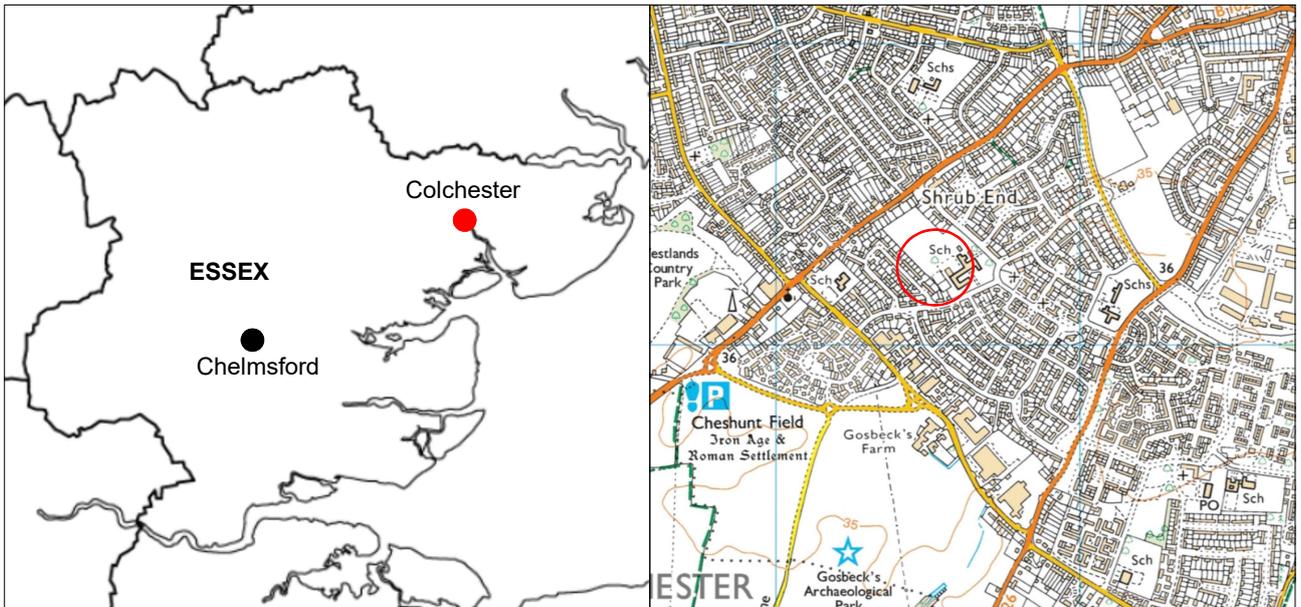
Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
All	L1	-	Topsoil	firm dry light grey/brown sand silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Modern
T7	L2	-	Stone layer	firm dry light grey/brown sand silt and inclusions of: large stones 70%	Modern
All	L3	-	Natural	firm moist medium orange/brown silty clay and inclusions of: gravel 5%	Post-glacial
T1-T6	L4	-	Subsoil	firm dry light orange/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Post-glacial
T4	L5	-	Buried top soil	firm dry dark grey/brown sand silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Undated
T7	F1	-	?Pit	soft firm dry medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silty sand and inclusions of: gravel 3%	Modern
T7	F2	-	Pit	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	Undated
T4	F3	-	Ditch	soft moist medium orange/grey/brown silt	Undated
T4	F4	-	Pit	soft dry light orange/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Undated
T4	F5	1, 2	Pit	firm moist medium orange/brown silty clay with daub flecks	Early Bronze Age
T4	F6	-	Tree-throw	soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silt	Undated
T4	F7	-	Pit	soft dry light orange/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Undated
T2	F8	-	Tree-throw	firm dry light/medium orange/grey/brown sandy silt	Undated
T2	F9	3, 5	Ditch	soft moist light orange/brown silt with brick flecks and inclusions of: gravel 0% stone 1%	Modern
T2	F10	-	Ditch	soft moist orange/brown silty clay	Undated
T2	F11	4	Pit/tree-throw	soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silt	Prehistoric
T1	F12	-	Ditch	firm dry medium grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
T1	F13	-	Ditch	soft moist medium orange/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Undated
T4	F14	-	Tree-throw	soft moist medium yellow/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Undated
T3	F15	-	Ditch	firm dry medium grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
T3	F16	-	Natural feature	soft moist medium orange/grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Post-glacial
T5	F17	-	Ditch	firm dry medium grey/brown silt	Undated
T5	F18	-	Natural linear	soft moist light/medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Post-glacial
T5	F19	-	Ditch	soft moist medium orange/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 1%	Undated
T5	F20	-	Ditch	friable dry dark grey/brown silt	Undated

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wmd	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
F5	PIT	2	4	1	0.3																					HMF				BR, FLINT, CRUMBS	PREHISTORIC	
F5	PIT	2	11	81	7		0	0	5			X														HMF				OR, SPARSE F&C FL, SOFT, SMOOTH	PREHISTORIC	
F5	PIT	2	2	8	4																					HMF				BR COMMON C ANG FL	PREHISTORIC	
F5	PIT	2	1	6	6																					HMF				BR, BL CORE, COMMON F&C ANG FL	PREHISTORIC	
F5	PIT	2	6	37	6		0	0	1																	HMF				BR/DARK BR, COMMON C-M-F ANG FL	PREHISTORIC	
F5	PIT	2	1	4	4																					HMGF				CORD DEC, OR/BR SOFT, SMOOTH, THIN-W, SPARSE GROG & C FL	EBA	
F5	PIT	2	4	6	2																					HMGF				CORD DEC, OR/BR SOFT, SMOOTH, THIN-W, SPARSE GROG & FINE FL	EBA	
F5	PIT	2	1	3	3							X														HMGF				OR/BR SOFT, FINE FL & GROG	PREHISTORIC	
F5	PIT	2	2	8	4																					HMGF				BEAKER, LINES, OR/BR, SPARSE F&G, SOFT, THIN-W	EBA	
F5	PIT	2	1	5	5		1	0	0																	HMS	Bell Beaker	0.07	85	SPARSE SAND, BR-GREY CORE, THIN-W, SOFT, CORD IMP	EBA	
F5	PIT	2	5	18	4																					HMF				GROOVED WARE? Or FOOD URN, COMMON F, BR	LN-EBA	
F11	PIT/TREE THROW	4	3	2	1																						HMS				BR SURFACE, BL CORE, SAND	PREHISTORIC

Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	L.	BR.	TH.	Frog. L	Frog. Width	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date
F005	PIT	2	15	22	1		Baked clay		0																													X						?
F005	PIT	2	46	168	4		Daub		0																																		?	
F009	DITCH	3	5	10	2	X	BR		0																																			POST-MEDIEVAL-MODERN



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the EHER cropmark plots (shown in green), the MUGA site (orange) and the projected route of the Roman road (dashed blue).



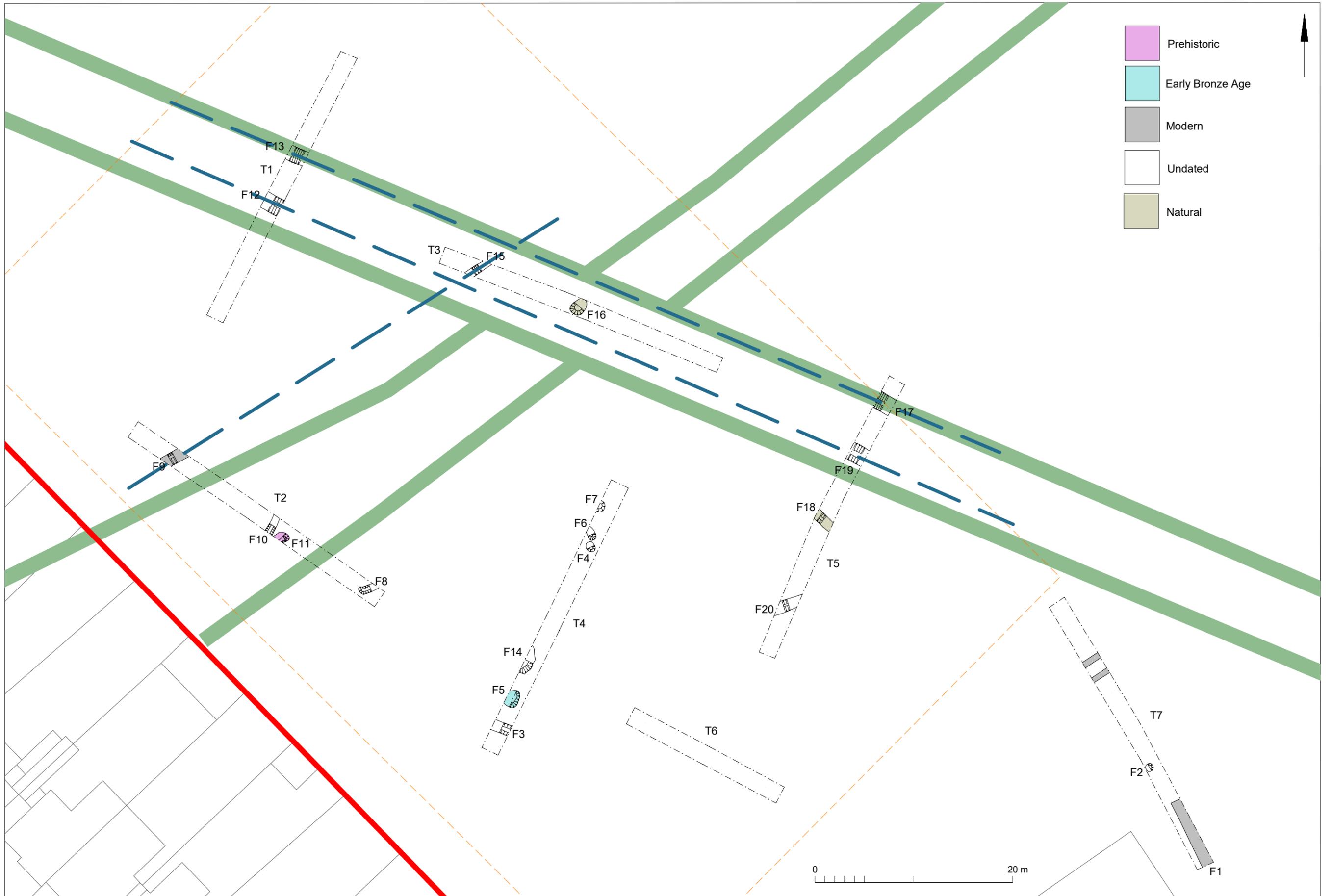


Fig 2 Trench results. Cropmarks in green and proposed MUGA in orange. Ditch projections in blue.

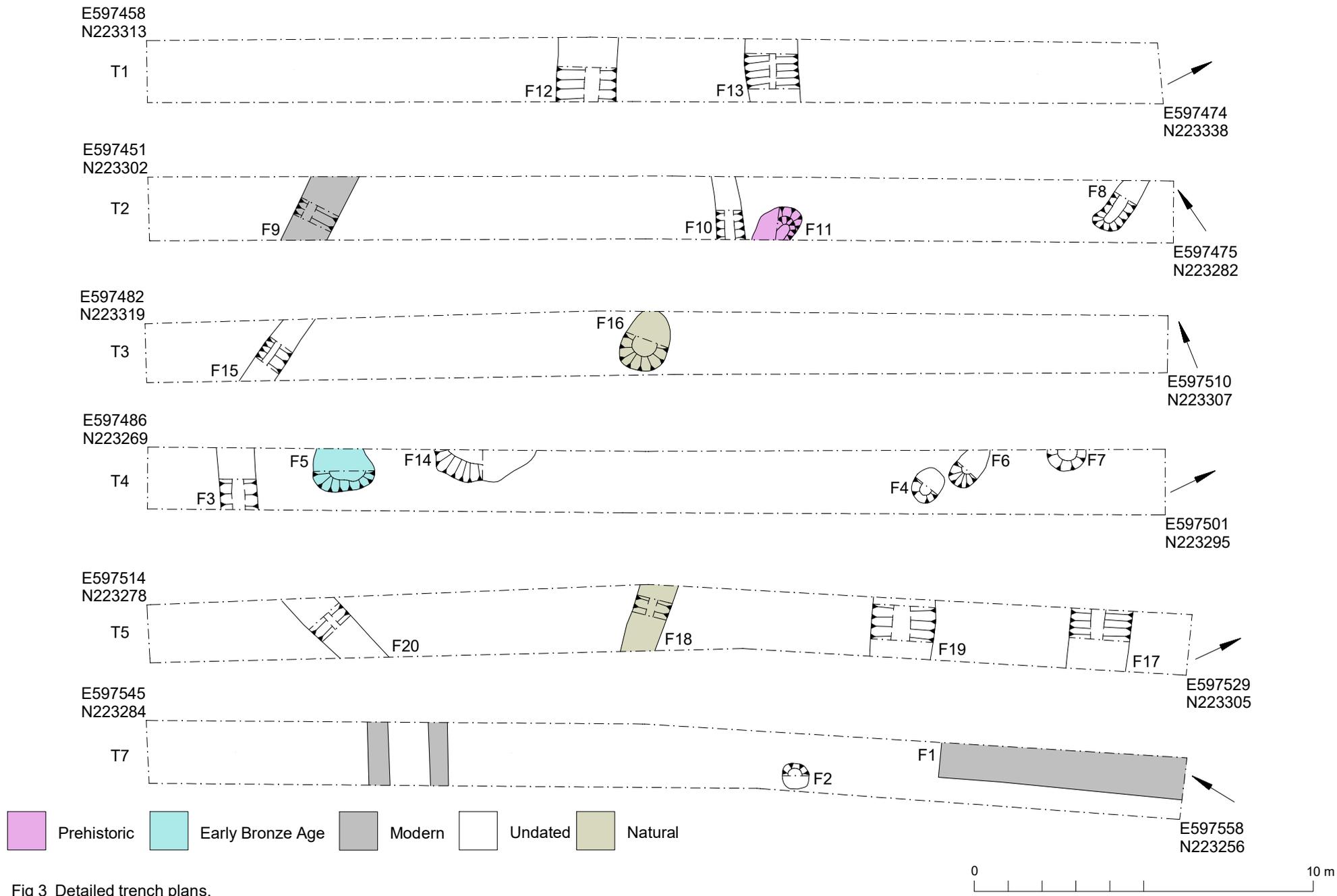


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans.

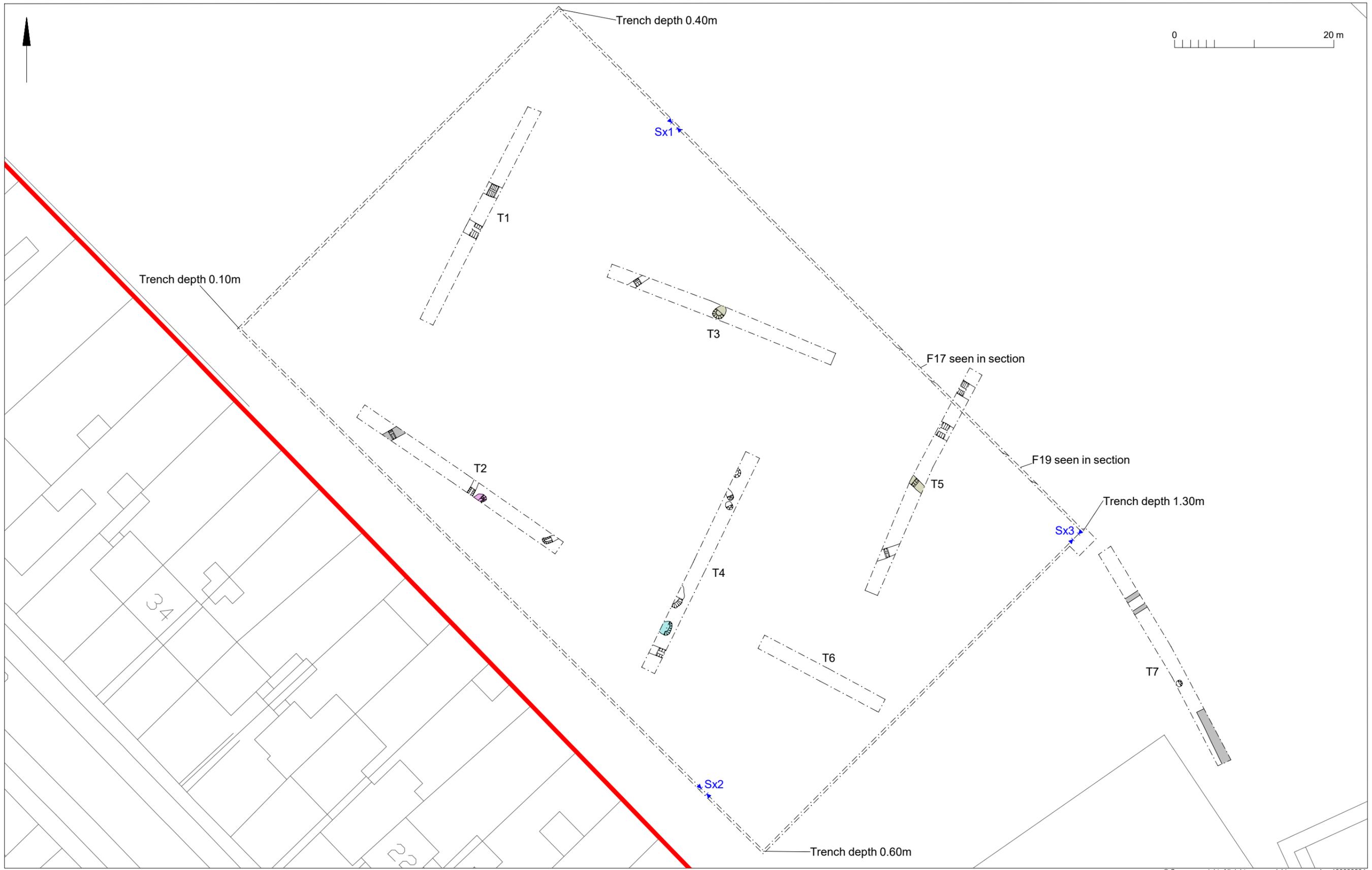


Fig 4 Monitoring results in relation to evaluation trenches.

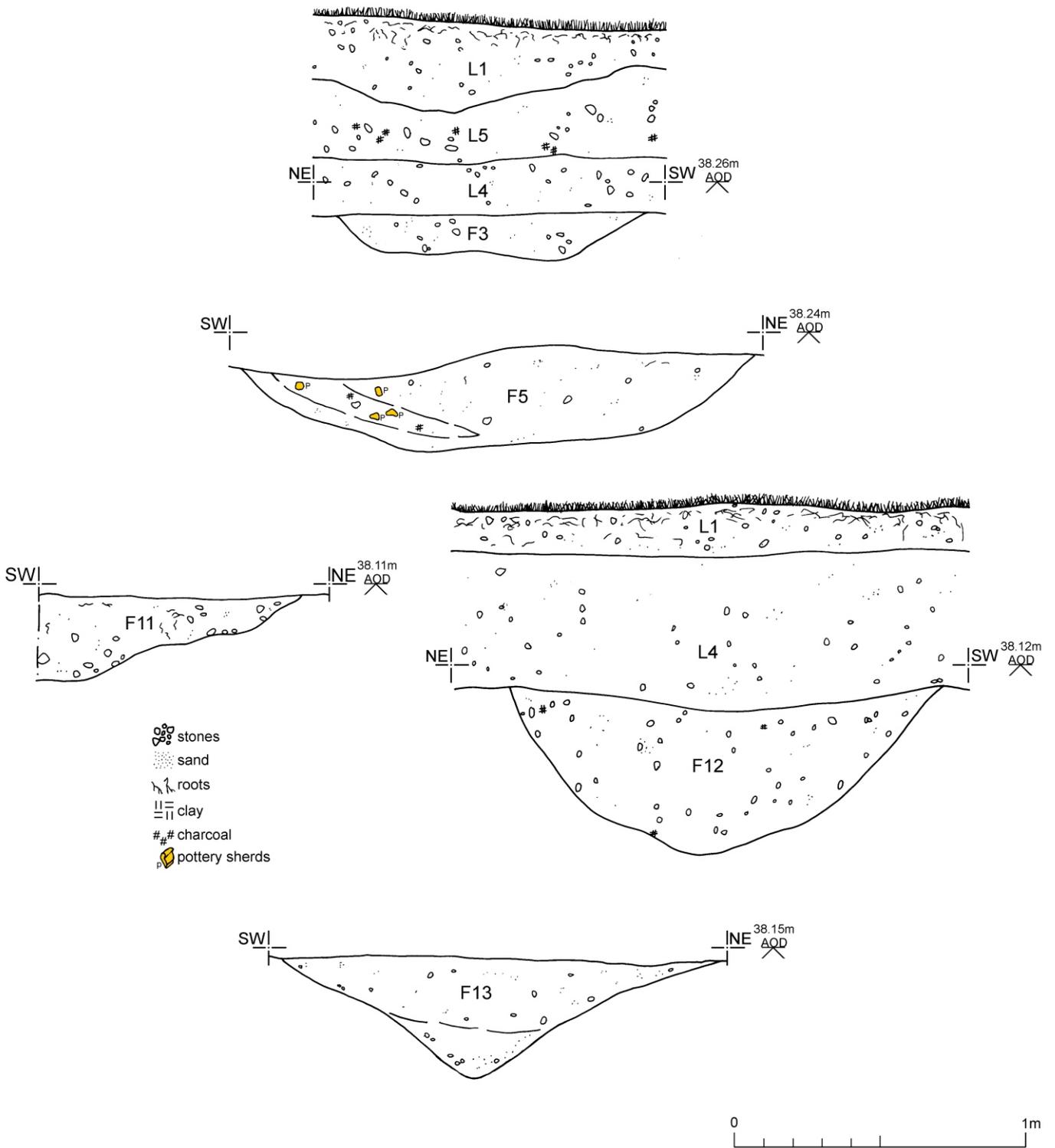


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

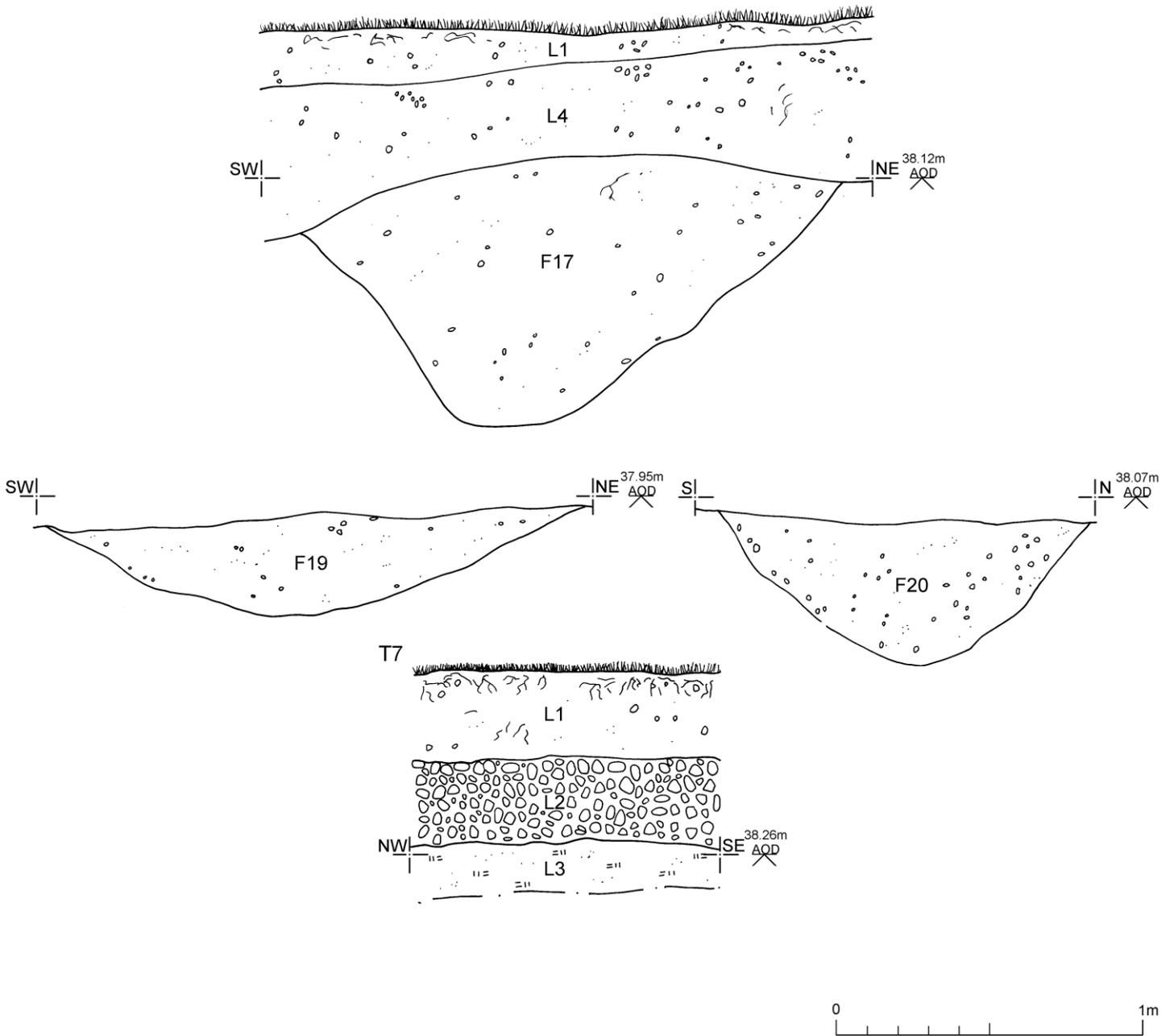


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

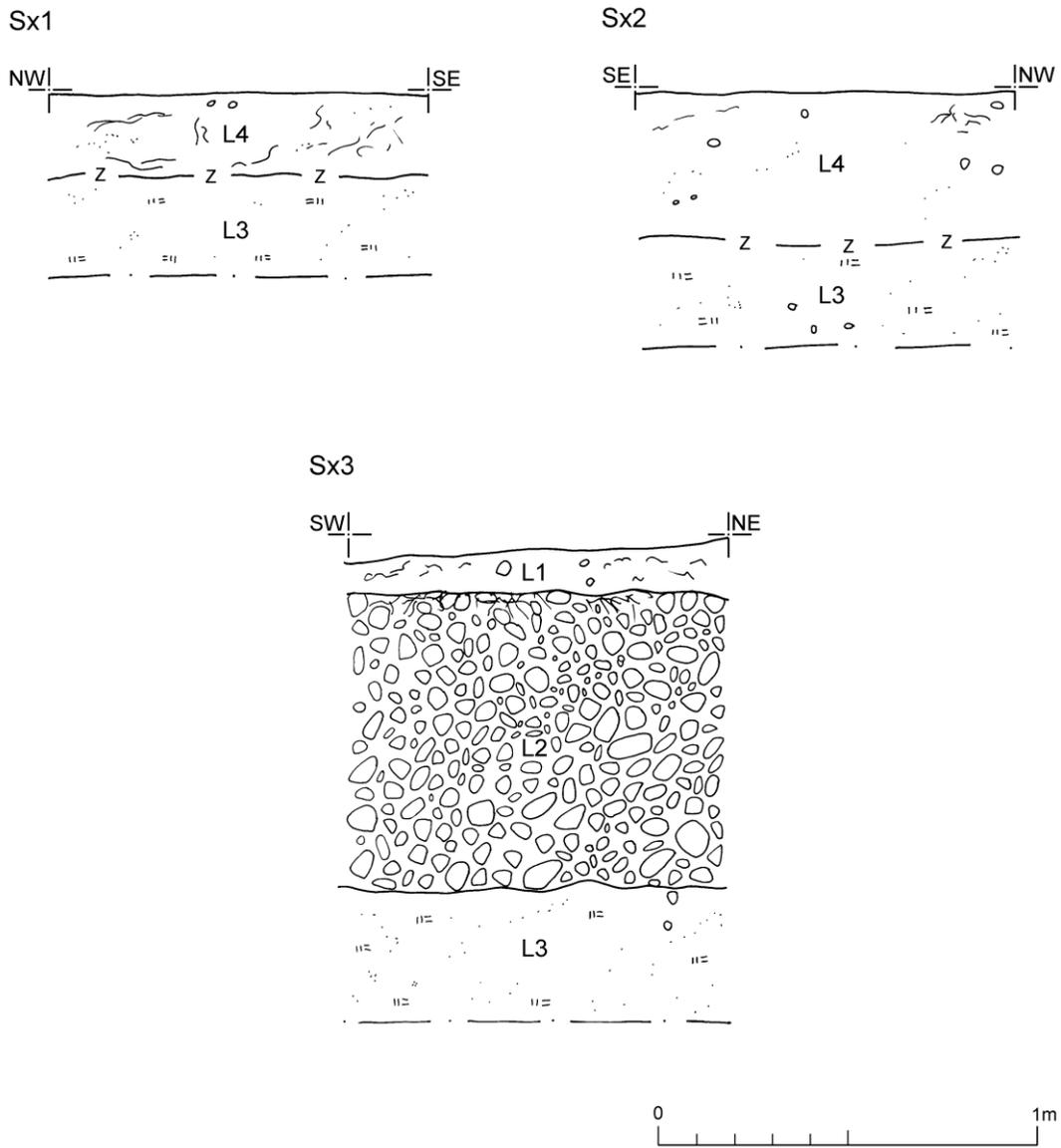


Fig 7 Monitoring representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-428174

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-428174
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at Paxman Academy, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, Essex, CO2 9DX
Activity type	TRIAL TRENCH, Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2021/08e
Planning Id	CC/COL/100/19
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	28-Sep-2021 - 11-Jan-2022
Location	Paxman Academy, Paxmans Avenue, Colchester NGR : TM 97630 23227 LL : 51.8282702530984, 2.31836185889299 12 Fig : 697630,223227
Administrative Areas	Country : England Area : Maritime
Project Methodology	Seven trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches, except T6, were 30m long and 1.8m wide. T6 was 10m long and 1.8m wide. Prior to the attendance of an archaeologist the site was levelled, stripping off roughly 0.3m in the south rising to 0.1m in the north, removing most of the topsoil. A drainage trench (0.3m wide and approximately 300m in length) and manhole (2m by 3m) were then machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (seven trial-trenches) and monitoring was carried out at Paxman Academy, Paxman Avenue, Colchester, Essex, in advance of the construction a multi-use games area. The proposed development sites lies within an area of known cropmarks recorded by aerial photography. Twenty features were uncovered during the evaluation, only three of which produced dating evidence. One pit dated to the Early Bronze Age and four of the ditches correspond with the linear cropmarks targetted by the trenches. Continuations of two ditches were observed during the monitoring.
Keywords	Pit - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pot - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Loomweight - BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4651
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Sevice (Colchester Collection)