

# Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating, Essex, CO7 7DG

June 2022



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fieldwork by Sarah Veasey with Oliver Windridge

**commissioned by Andy Cameron of Wright, Ruffle, Cameron  
on behalf of the landowner**

NGR: TM 08048 23316 (centre)

Planning ref.: 19/01113/FUL

CAT project ref.: 2022/03e

ECC code: FRCR22

OASIS ref.: colchest3-505963



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**CAT Report 1823**

July 2022

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one L-shaped trench) was carried out on land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating in advance of the construction of a new house and garage. Despite being located in an area of extensive cropmarks, there were no archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating, Essex on the 8th June 2022. The work was commissioned by Andy Cameron of Wright, Ruffle, Cameron on behalf of the landowner, and was carried out in advance of the construction of a new house and garage.

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*, written by ECCPS and detailing the required work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS in advance of the work commencing (CAT 2022).

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)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts from 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 Historic Environment Record shows that there are extensive archaeological deposits within the area identified from cropmark evidence recorded through aerial photography. Situated immediately to the north of the development area on land west of Morehams Hall lies the remains of a double-ditched enclosure, with linear features running south towards the application site and two small ring-ditches to the north-west (EHER 2536). Further east, on land west of Frating Green, are linear features depicting extensive field boundaries (EHER 17560). To the south there are extensive cropmarks of a field system and enclosures, potentially related to late prehistoric or Roman settlement (EHER 2611, EHER 17569). One of these linear features, if extending north of the Frating Hill Road, would bisect the site. North-west of the site are cropmarks showing a possible curvilinear enclosure (EHER 48544), and aerial photographs taken in 2014 show that although the area is masked by geological deposits and there may be other pits and ditches present. Recent archaeological work on land south-west of the site revealed a thin spread of multi-phase activity ranging from the Neolithic to Roman period (EHER 17574).

## 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)

An L-shaped trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench, 20m and 5.5m long by 1.8m wide, cut through:

- topsoil (L1, c 0.15m thick, mid grey/brown silt) overlying
- subsoil (L2, c 0.25m thick, lighter grey/brown sandy-silt) into
- natural (L3, yellow/orange clayey-sand and gravel, identified at c 0.4m below current ground level, c 28.68-28.86m AOD).

A sondage was excavated to confirm the identification of L3 as natural.

There were no archaeological remains.



**Photograph 1** Evaluation trench, looking south



**Photograph 2** Evaluation trench, looking west

## **6 Finds**

There were no archaeological finds.

## **7 Conclusion**

Archaeological evaluation did not reveal any archaeological remains, indicating that none of the surrounding cropmarks pass through the development site.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

CAT would like to thank Andy Cameron of Wright, Ruffle, Cameron, and the landowner, for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, with fieldwork carried out by S Veasey with O Windridge. Figures were compiled by C Lister, S Veasey and E Holloway. 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	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating, Essex, CO7 7DG, by E Holloway</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021
ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching on land adjacent Tall Trees, Frating Hill, Frating by T O'Connor</i>
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

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
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, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
prehistoric	the period before AD 43
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

### Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1823)  
 ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
 Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log  
 Scan of the section  
 Site data  
 Graphic files  
 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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### Distribution list:

Andy Cameron, Wright, Ruffle, Cameron  
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ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



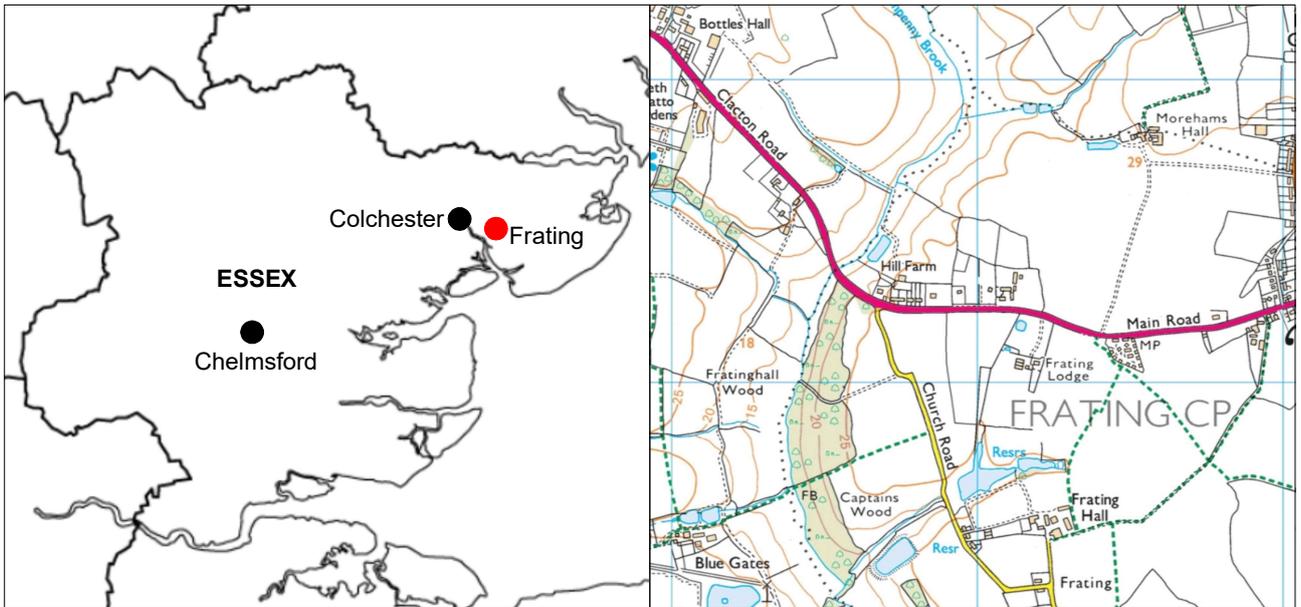
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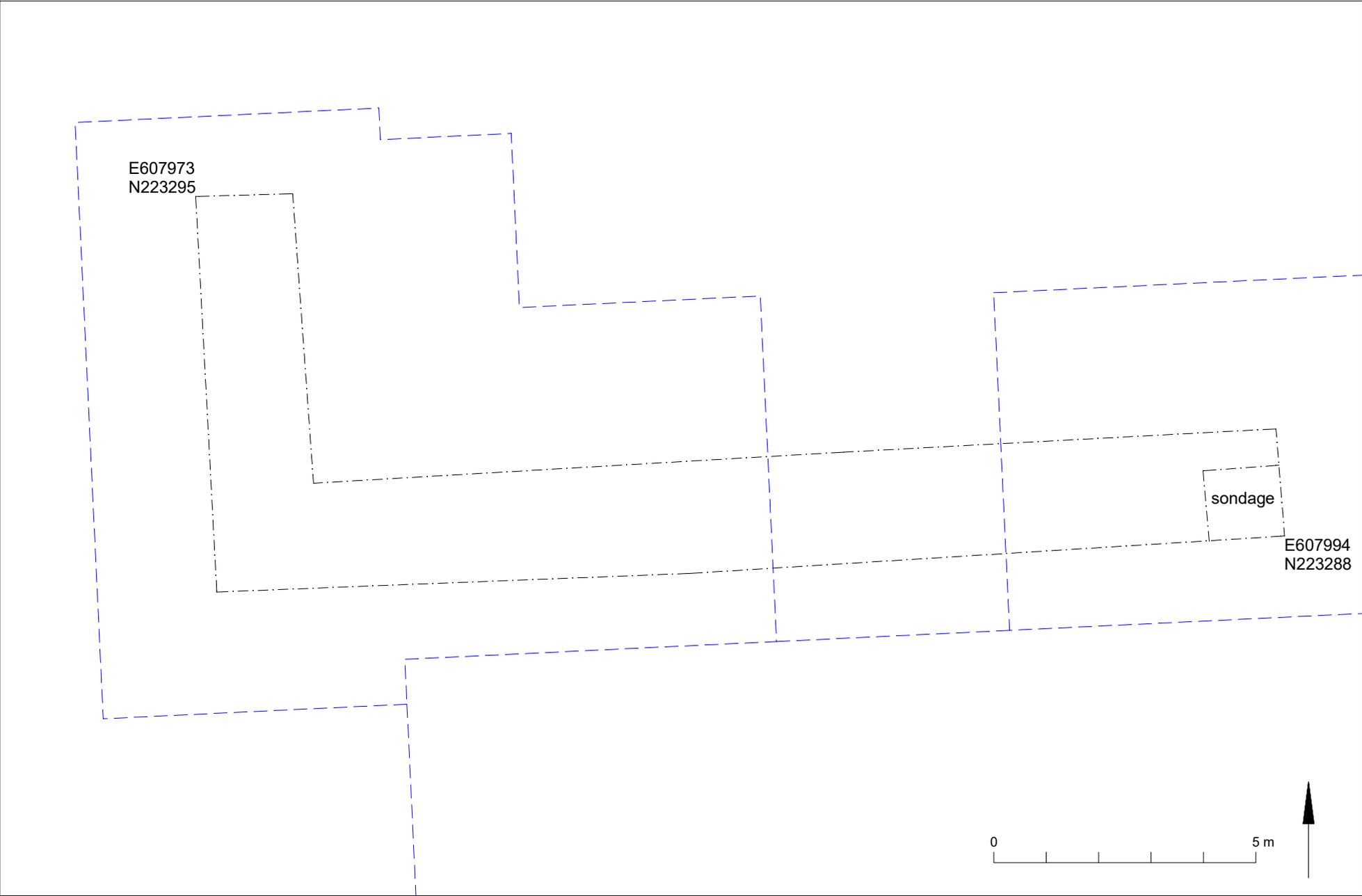
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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



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Fig 2 Results (proposed development dashed blue)

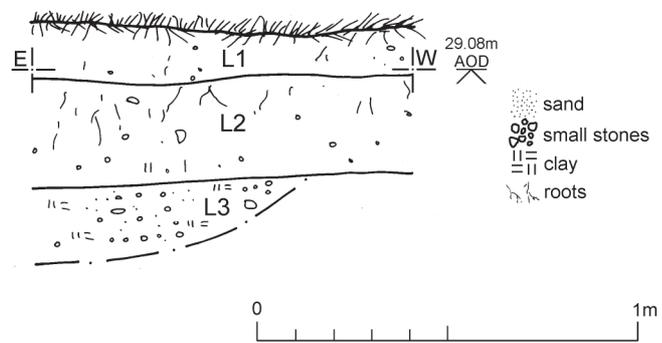


Fig 3 Representative section.

## Summary for colchest3-505963

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-505963
Project Name	Evaluation at land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating, Essex, CO7 7DG
Sitename	Land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating, Essex, CO7 7DG
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/03e
Planning Id	19/01113/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	08-Jun-2022 - 08-Jun-2022
Location	Land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating, Essex, CO7 7DG NGR : TM 08048 23316 LL : 51.8696040584299, 1.02060175801955 12 Fig : 608048,223316
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : Frating
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation of one L-shaped trench.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one L-shaped trench) was carried out on land adjacent to Tall Trees, Clacton Road, Frating Hill, Frating in advance of the construction of a new house and garage. Despite being located in an area of extensive cropmarks there were no archaeological remains.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	L, Pooley
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;