

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1919
issued May 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation at Squirrels Croft,
Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX:
March 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/03a
ECC code: TXSC23**

**Archaeological evaluation at Squirrels Croft,
Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX:
March 2023**

NGR: TL 62764 31058 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/21/1510/OP

**CAT project ref.: 2023/03a
CAT Report 1919**

**ECC code: TXSC23
OASIS id: colchest3-513386**

**report prepared by
Harvey Furniss**

**fieldwork by Harvey Furniss with Charlie Hodges,
and Robin Mathieson**

**commissioned by Tom Cannon
on behalf of the homeowner**

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Issued:	09.05.2023	

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. Despite lying in the heart of the historic village of Bardfield End Green, no archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Essex on 27th March 2023. The work was commissioned by Tom Cannon on behalf of the homeowner and took place in advance of the construction of two new dwellings, with associated landscaping, parking and other groundworks.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor 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 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted* written by Katie Lee-Smith and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2023). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2023).

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

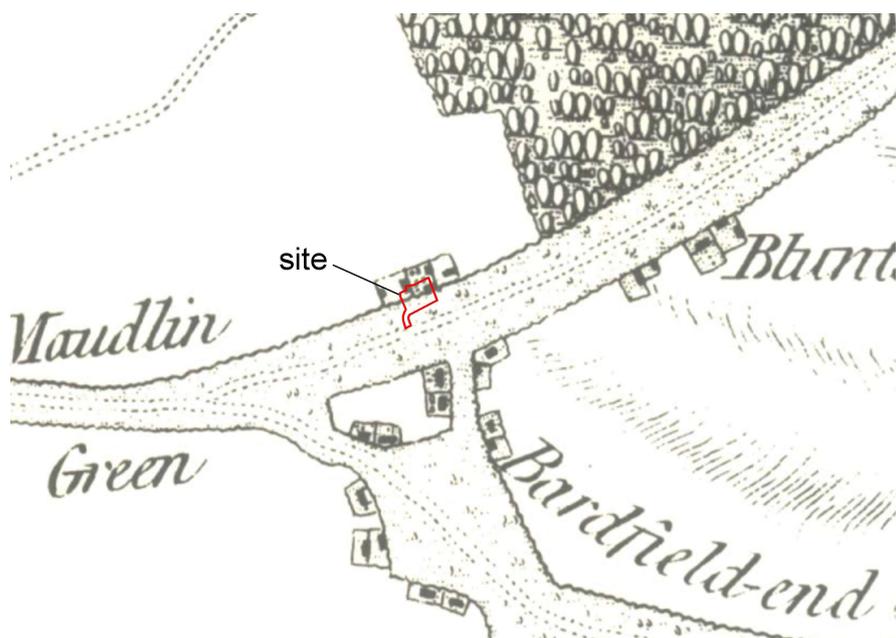
The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site is London clay formation (clay, silt and sand, comprised of bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay), with superficial deposits of Lowestoft formation (chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till is characterised by its chalk and flint content).

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within an area of potentially sensitive archaeological deposits. The site located within the historic hamlet of Bardfield End Green. The Chapman and André map of 1777 (Map 1) shows that the southern half of the site was located within the historic green, along the edge of the road and the northern half of the site show buildings no longer extant.

The proposed development is also located within a possible moated homestead site at Millers Farm (EHER 1482). The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (Map 2) shows the ditches of the moat clearly likely to be of medieval date. There is therefore the potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains being impacted on by the proposed development.

The site is also surrounded by cropmarks depicting historic field boundaries (EHER 46602, EHER 14979, EHER 9859 and EHER 46598).

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>



Map 1 Extract of Plate VII, Chapman & André 1777 showing the current site in red.



Map 2 Extract of the 1st OS map of England and Wales, Essex Sheet XV, surveyed 1876. With site boundary in red and proposed dwellings and garages in blue.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were 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 and Appendix 1)

Two trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist which uncovered no archaeological contexts. The layers within both trenches consisted of a topsoil (L1, c 0.22m thick) overlying subsoil (L2, c 0.32m thick) on top of the natural (L3).



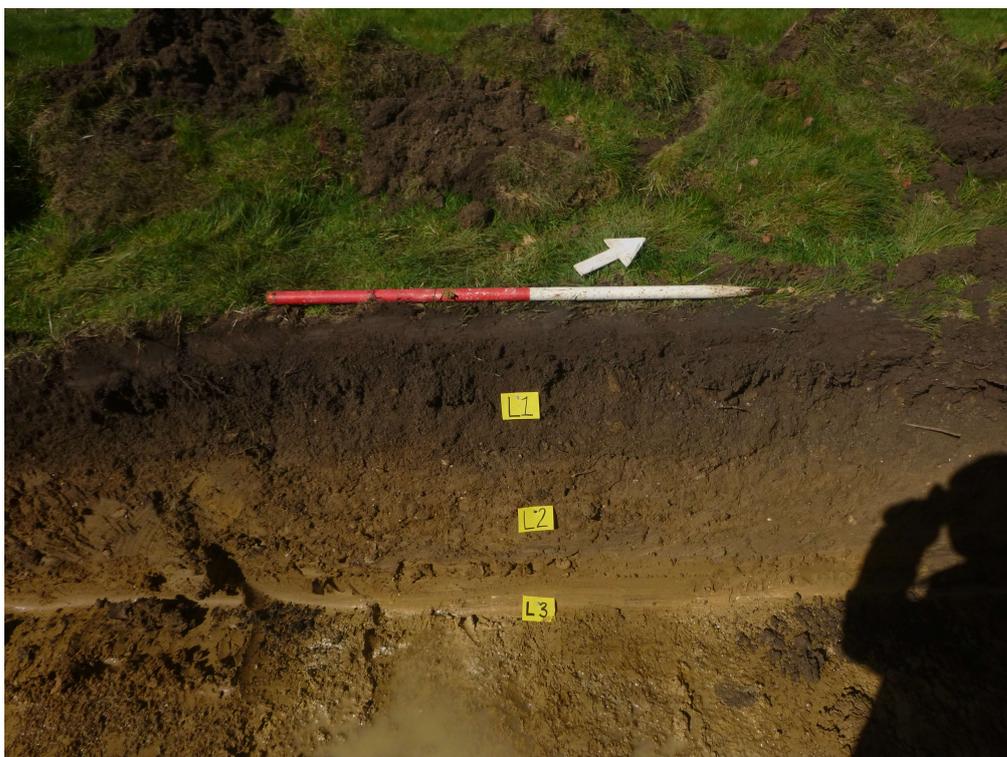
Photograph 1 Site shot – view east.



Photograph 2 Trench 1 – view north-west.



Photograph 3 Trench 2 – view north north-east.



Photograph 4 Representative section from T2 – view north-west.

6 Finds

No finds were recovered from site.

7 Conclusion

There were no archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, with no evidence for the possible moated homestead present within the development area.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Tom Cannon for commissioning the work on behalf of the homeowner. The project was managed by A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by H Furniss with C Hodges and R Mathieson. Figures were compiled by C Lister, H Furniss and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

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	2023	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2023	<i>Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX</i> by Emma Holloway
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	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation At Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted,</i> by K Lee-Smith
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	2021	<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
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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of digital archive

CAT Report 1919
 ECCPS brief
 Digital photographs
 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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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Distribution list:

Tom Cannon

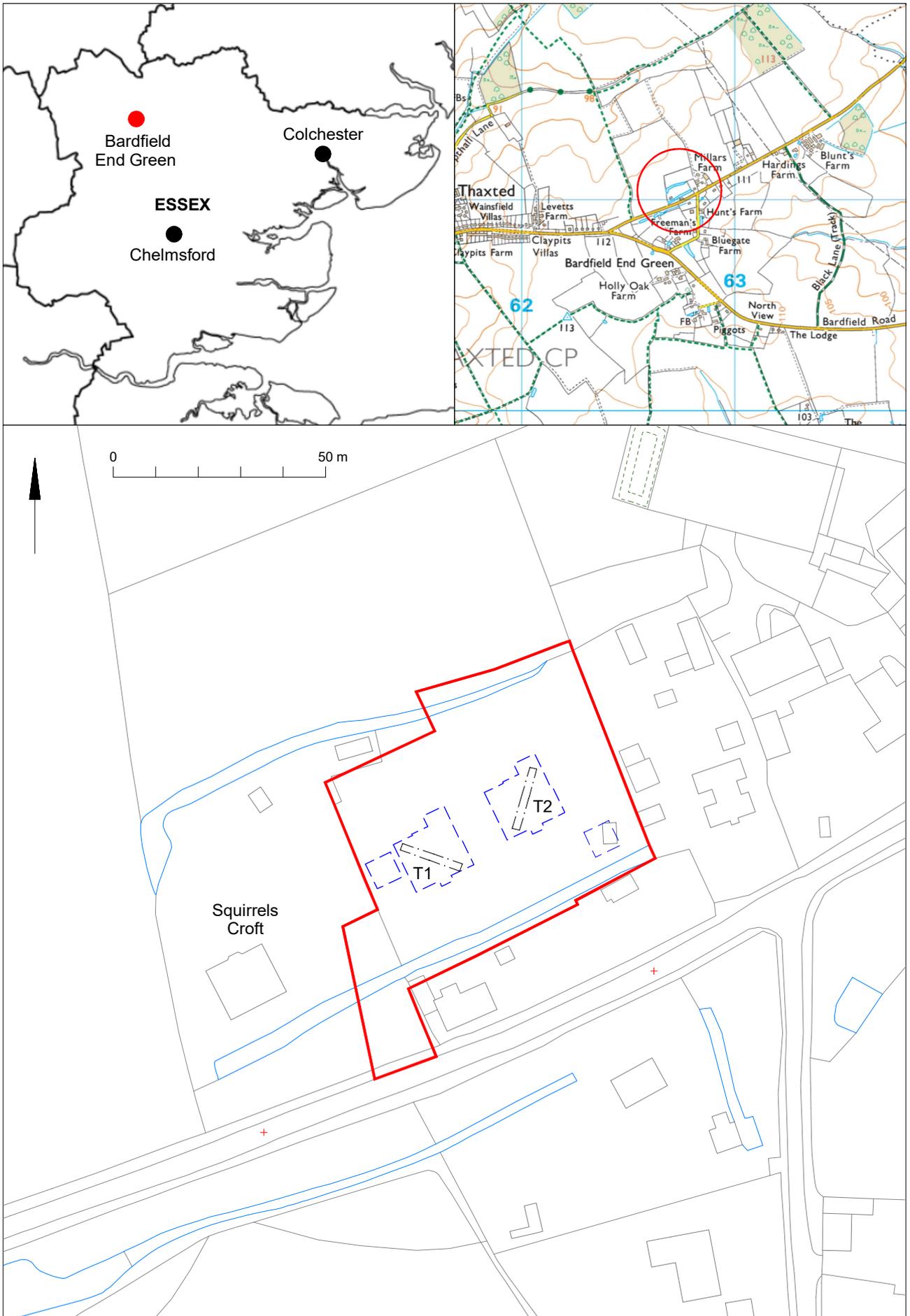
The homeowner

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Identification	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, wet dark brownish blue clayey silt with infrequent rooting	Undated
L2	-	Subsoil	Firm, moist light brownish grey clayey-silt with irregular charcoal flecking and infrequent small rounded stone inclusions	Undated
L3	-	Natural	Compact, moist mottled brownish yellow chalky clay	Post-glacial



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

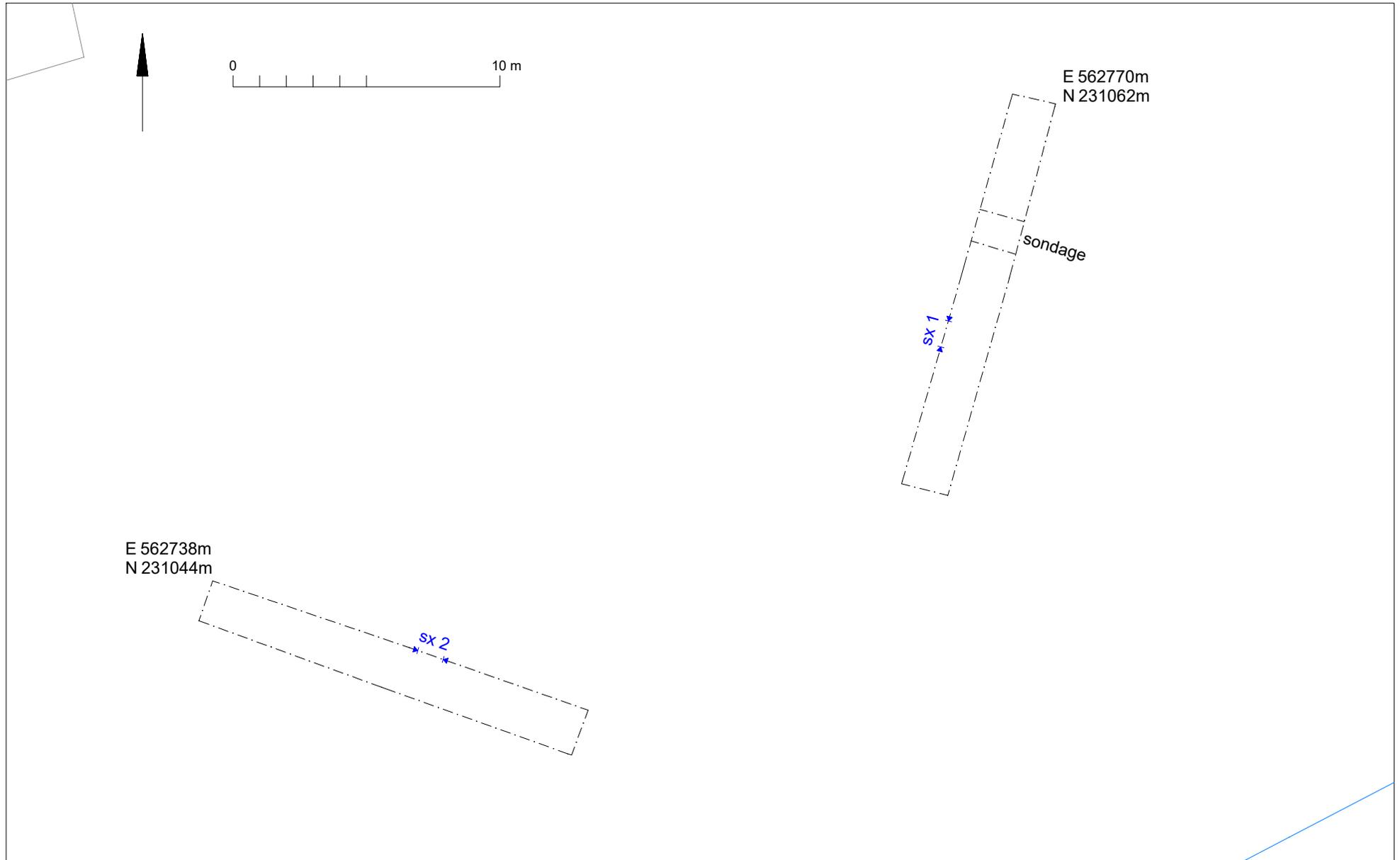


Fig 2 Results

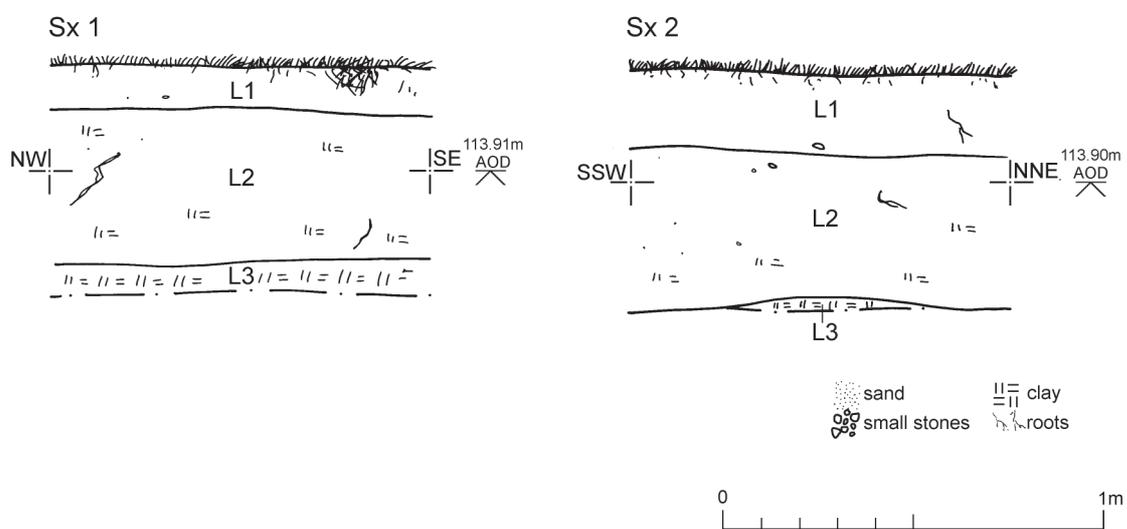


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-513679

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-513679
Project Name	Evaluation at Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX
Sitename	Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2023/03a
Planning Id	UTT/23/034/DFO, UTT/21/1510/OP
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	27-Mar-2023 - 27-Mar-2023
Location	Squirrels Croft, Bardfield End Green, Thaxted, Essex, CM6 3PX NGR : TL 62764 31058 LL : 51.9541938414933, 0.3671723405892 12 Fig : 562764,231058
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Thaxted
Project Methodology	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out Squirrels Croft in Bardfield End Green, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings and their associated groundworks. Despite lying in the heart of the historic village of Bardfield End Green, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Project Results	
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - TXSC23
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;