

Colchester Archaeological Trust



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issued June 2023**

**An archaeological excavation at Moorlands Farm,
Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS:
February-March 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/02d
ECC code: GBEMF22**

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CAT Report 1920**

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1 Summary

Archaeological excavation was carried out at Moorland Farm, Great Bentley, Essex in advance of the construction of 26 houses. An archaeological evaluation on the site uncovered some sporadic prehistoric activity and evidence of a medieval field system. The excavation area was focussed on trenches 7 and 8 of the evaluation and uncovered 63 features. The results of the excavation are very similar to those of the evaluation with minimal finds evidence, limited prehistoric activity and a medieval/post-medieval field system.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological excavation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley, Essex from 27th February until 6th March 2023. The work was commissioned by Stephen Williams of Hills Residential on behalf of Hills Group in advance of the construction of 26 new dwellings.

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). Consequently a programme of archaeological trial-trenching was undertaken in December 2022 by CAT (CAT Report 1896). The results of this evaluation identified the need for archaeological mitigation in the form of a programme of open area excavation in the south-west corner of the development site. It focusses on a prehistoric ditch and some of the medieval features identified in trenches 7 and 8 of the evaluation. All excavation work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT and agreed with ECCPS.

In addition to the 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 the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Great Bentley is a large village, centred around the (reputably) largest village green in England (Medlycott 2008, 68). The site is located within an area of cropmark complexes. North of the site is the cropmark of a single ring-ditch with several linear features (EHER 3176). To the north of the ring-ditch, at The Grange, is evidence of a curvilinear enclosure, a possible rectilinear enclosure and probable field boundaries (EHER 17253). To the north-east, cropmarks indicate the presence of a field system with a rectangular enclosure, subdivided at the east end and a circular ditch abutting the northern end. An entrance appears to lie at the southern side of this complex, with a series of pits and linear features scattered around the enclosure (EHER 6559). Numerous linear features have been identified to the north-east of the development site, including a possible trackway and old field boundaries which are depicted on the first edition OS map (EHER 46882). To the immediate east and east north-east of the site is a small ring-ditch and series of ditches (EHER 3661).

The Great Bentley Pumping Station, built in 1903 by the Clacton-on-Sea Company and acquired by Tendring Hundred Waterworks Company in 1962, lies approximately 135m to the north north-west of the site (EHER 15580).

In 2016, CAT carried out an evaluation to the immediate north of the site, at Admirals Farm. Thirty-four trial trenches were excavated, which uncovered ten modern features, ten tree-throws, eighteen undated pits and ditches and a medieval or post-medieval pit and ditch (CAT Report 1031, EHER 496000).

In 2021, CAT carried out a further evaluation and subsequent excavation on land east of Heckfords, to the immediate north of the Admirals Farm site. A total of 287 features were uncovered. The main phase of activity at the site occurred during the Late Iron Age and early Roman period, with a further subsequent phase of activity during the medieval and post-medieval periods. Evidence points to a thriving settlement that produced both textiles and metalwork in an agricultural landscape. A series of irregular field boundaries, possibly delineating seven fields, were identified, indicating an area which witnessed sustained activity over a few hundred years. The vast majority of the finds recovered were pottery sherds, although a pyramidal loomweight was also discovered. This site is the first in the Great Bentley area that provides evidence for a settlement in the Late Iron Age to the early Roman period (CAT Report 1740).

To the north-west of the development site, an evaluation carried out by CAT on land north of Michael Wright Way revealed a small concentration of seven features (one pit, four tree throws and two ditches). Most of these features were undated, although one produced two late prehistoric worked flints and another a sherd of Roman grey ware pottery (CAT Report 1829). Approximately 600m west north-west of the site, another evaluation undertaken by CAT at Sturrick Farm in 2014 uncovered part of a possible droveway and prehistoric field system (CAT Report 794).

A trial-trenched evaluation was carried out by CAT at the present site in December 2022. Evaluation revealed evidence of limited and sporadic activity at the site during the prehistoric period, consisting of a pit containing a Mesolithic or Early Neolithic flint blade, and a ditch which produced three sherds of prehistoric pottery. A series of medieval ditches, thought to represent part of a field system, were also uncovered (CAT Report 1896).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of cover sand (clay silt and sand). Cover sands are periglacial blanket deposits of lowland areas comprising fine- to very fine-grained sand.

4 Aims

Archaeological excavation was carried out on this site to record any archaeological remains threatened by destruction during the proposed development.

5 Results (Figs 2-7)

All context, finds and sample numbers are a continuation of those used in the evaluation phase of work (CAT Report 1896). The layers encountered were the same as the evaluation stratigraphy. A full context list, with soil descriptions and context dimensions, can be found in Appendix 1.

An area covering roughly 1,612m² was machine excavated, through topsoil L1 and subsoil L2 into natural L3, under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The excavation was targeted to investigate the area around trenches 7 and 8 of the evaluation.

Sixty-three features were uncovered in the excavation area, eight of which had been previously identified during the earlier evaluation. Dating evidence was sparse, with only ten features producing dateable finds.

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



Photograph 1 Site shot, looking north.



Photograph 2 F32 plan, looking north-east.

Prehistoric

Similarly to previous work in the surrounding area, the earliest evidence of activity on the site is in the form of a residual worked flint, recovered from post-medieval/modern tree-throw F42. A

total of three prehistoric pottery sherds were recovered from three features: post-hole F32, pit F58 and ditch F68. The sherds are residual finds from post-hole F32 and ditch F68.

Prehistoric feature F17 was originally identified as a ditch during the evaluation phase. Subsequent excavation of the feature has changed its interpretation to a discrete feature, likely a pit. During the evaluation, pit F17 produced three sherds of prehistoric pottery. No further finds were recovered during the excavation.

Medieval/post-medieval

The main phase of activity on the site is centred around a medieval/post-medieval period field system. The field system appears to consist of seven ditches: F12/34, F28, F29, F50, F67, F68 and F87. While only three of the ditches produced finds dating to the medieval or medieval/post-medieval periods, due to the positions and orientations of the four undated ditches, it is reasonable to assume they are also associated with the field system.



Photograph 3 F50 section, looking north.

Ditches F50 and F67 are probable continuations of each other which form a north/south trackway and western boundary with ditch F12/F34. Ditch F34 represents a continuation of medieval ditch F12 from T7 of the evaluation. No further dating evidence was recovered from ditch F34. Ditches F29 and F68 form a northern boundary, with a 3.5m wide entrance, and possibly another trackway on an east/west alignment, with ditch F87.



Photograph 4 F68 overview, looking east.

Ditch F28 truncates three of the smaller ditches, an indication it is later addition to the field system, and forms a new western boundary. It was first identified in T7 of the evaluation as medieval, but finds recovered from the excavation suggest a slightly later date of medieval/post-medieval.

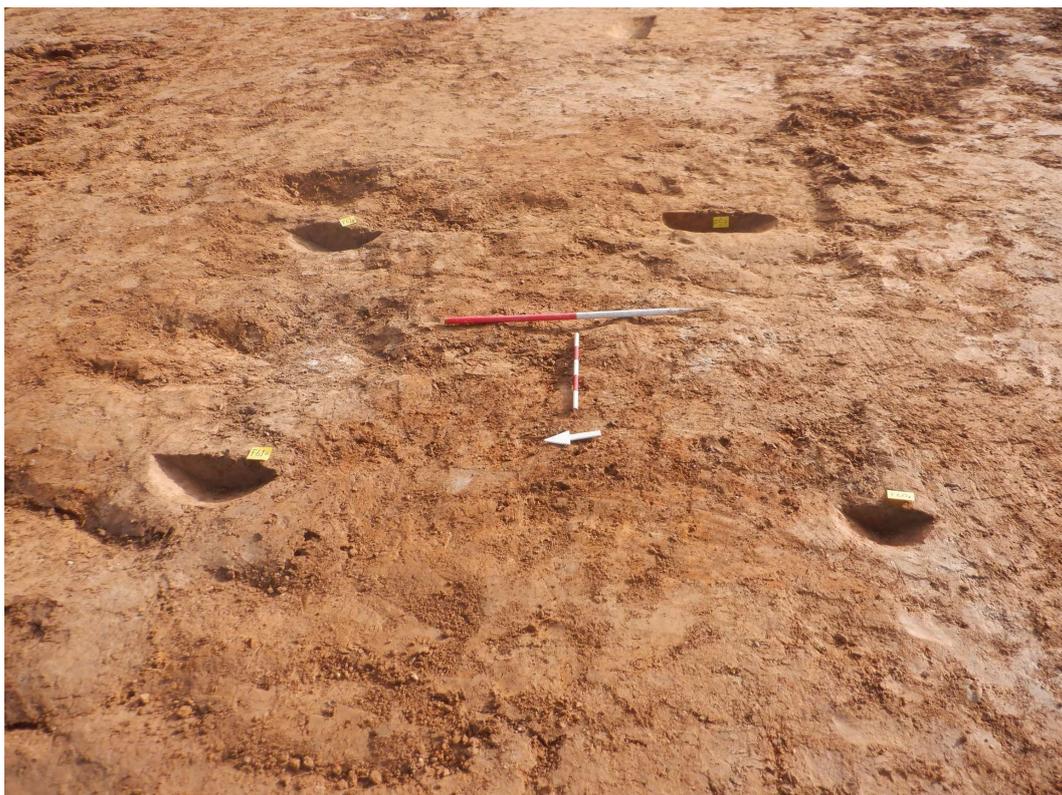
Post-hole F32, pit F64 and tree-throw F76 were all medieval in date and all produced five sherds or less of pottery and CBM. Two pits (F71 and F75) produced medieval/post-medieval peg-tile.

Post-medieval/modern

A single post-medieval/modern tree throw, F42, was excavated.

Undated

Two possible four-post structures were identified, one in the north-west of the excavation area and one in the south-east. The north-western structure comprises post-holes F57 and F60-62, which are located 1.6-1.9m apart. Post-holes F45-48 make up the south-eastern structure, with the post-holes between 2m and 2.4m apart. None of the post-holes of either possible structure produced any dating evidence.



Photograph 5 Possible four-post structure, F57 and F60-63, looking south-east.



Photograph 6 F69 section, looking north.

Two other clusters of post-holes were also present in the excavation area: post-holes F35-39 and post-holes F23-25 (originally identified during the evaluation) and F78-81. Neither cluster appeared to form a discernable shape or structure.

Undated pit F21, now labelled F51, was re-excavated and found to be much larger and reinterpreted as a tree-throw. Although a worked flint was recovered from the feature during the evaluation, no further finds evidence was uncovered.

Several other undated pits and tree-throws were scattered across the excavation area and likely represent phases of shrub and tree clearance in preparation for agricultural practices.

Two natural, post-glacial, features were also excavated.

Other evaluation features

Undated ditch F22, from the evaluation, could not be relocated and has therefore been reclassified as a pit.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The excavation uncovered 29 pieces of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 1,185g (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is high at 41g which reflects the greater contribution of heavier CBM to the assemblage. This material came from 11 contexts (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Pottery	6	33	6
CBM	23	1,152	50
All	29	1,185	41

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F28	Ditch	5	979	196
F32	Post-hole	5	24	5
F42	Tree-throw	2	2	1
F50	Ditch	2	97	49
F58	Pit	4	3	1
F64	Pit	2	8	4
F67	Ditch	1	10	10
F68	Ditch	1	6	6
F71	Pit	4	38	10
F75	Pit	2	11	6
F76	Tree-throw	1	7	7
Total		29	1,185	41

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features.

Pottery

Small sherds of prehistoric handmade flint-tempered (fabric HMF) pottery were recovered from post-hole F32 (1 at 6g), pit F58 (1, 1g) and ditch F68 (1, 6g). There was also a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery, which was recorded using the fabric groups created by Cotter (2000) and Anderson (2020). There was one sherd (7g) of early medieval sandy ware (fabric F13/EMW) from tree-throw F76 and one sherd (11g) of early medieval flinty ware (F13/EMWFL) from post-hole F32. Both of these sherds date to c 1000-1225. Finally, pit F64 produced one small sherd (6g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21/COLC) dating to AD 1200-1550.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Most of the CBM consists of pieces (12 at 455g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with occasional fragments of post-medieval/modern brick, including one unfroged brick from ditch F28 (Table 3).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Post-Roman				
PT	Peg-tile	12	455	38
BR	Brick	3	666	333
Undated				
	Baked clay	8	31	4
Total		23	1,152	50

Table 3 Ceramic building material by period and type.

Conclusion

Table 4 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. Most of the contexts date to the medieval and post-medieval periods while the pit F58 and ditch F68 could be prehistoric.

Context	Description	Prehistoric pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F28	Ditch	-	-	PT, BR UN-FROGGED	Post-medieval
F32	Post-hole	HMF	F13/EMWFL	-	1000-1225
F42	Tree-throw	-	-	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F50	Ditch	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F58	Pit	HMF	-	-	Prehistoric
F64	Pit	-	F21/COLC	PT	Medieval
F68	Ditch	HMF	-	-	Prehistoric
F71	Pit	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F75	Pit	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F76	Tree-throw	-	F13/EMW	-	1200-1550

Table 4 Approximate ceramic dates for the individual features.

6.2 Small finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of schist hone/whetstone (SF1) and an iron horseshoe (SF3) were both recovered from ditch F28. Fourteen fragments of lava quernstone (SF2) from ditch F68 were small and abraded suggesting that, despite being of likely Roman or medieval date, the pieces had been

rolling around the landscape for a while before becoming incorporated into the backfill of the ditch.

Small find no.	Context	Finds no.	Description
SF1	F28	21	Fragment of schist hone/whetstone, broken at both ends, rectangular in cross-section with tapering sides, undated. 67.6mm long, tapering from 31.4mm to 24.4mm wide, 17.4mm thick, 72.9g.
SF2	F68	18	Fourteen small and abraded fragments of lava quernstone, 102.2g, Roman or medieval.
SF3	F28	28	Iron horseshoe, 121mm long by 123mm wide, 347.6g, undated.

Table 5 The small finds.

6.3 Animal Bone

by Alec Wade

The only animal bone recovered from the excavation was a single piece of the left ilium of a cow from medieval/post-medieval ditch F28. It was in generally poor condition with much loss of surface detail. Two cut marks were noted above the acetabulum on the arm of the ilium associated with the dismembering of the carcass (code PS-7, Binford 1981).

Context	Find no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F28	28	1	166g	Bos taurus (cattle)	Fragment of ilium from the left side of the pelvis.

Table 6 Animal bone summary.

6.4 Lithics

by Adam Wightman

Two worked flints were recovered from investigations on the site, a Mesolithic/Early Neolithic blade from pit F21 excavated during the evaluation phase (CAT Report 1896) and a burin recovered from tree-throw F42 during the excavation phase. The burin has been made on a dark grey tertiary flake by forming a point at the distal end of the piece. The flake itself appears to have been removed from a blade core. A narrow spall has been removed from a prepared surface on the right lateral edge of the piece. It is possible that the distal end of the flake may have been broken before the spall was removed. The burin is likely to have been used as a bone working/engraving tool and is probably of a similar age to the blade found during the evaluation (Mesolithic/Early Neolithic).

6.5 Burnt flint

by Laura Pooley

Pieces of burnt flint came from five contexts, undated ditch F34, post-medieval/modern tree-throw F42, undated post-hole F45, and undated pits F69 and F73. Given the small quantity, the flint is unlikely to have been deliberate deposits of material. This material has been recorded in the table below and discarded.

Context	Finds no.	Description
F34 sx2	14	One piece, cracked and crazed, burnt white and grey, 11.9g.
F42	13	Nine pieces, cracked and crazed, burnt various shades of white and grey with one burnt red, 153.1g.
F45	29	One piece, cracked and crazed, burnt grey, 2.9g.
F69	19	Four pieces, cracked and crazed, three burnt various shades of white and grey, one burnt red, 14.0g
F73	24	One piece, cracked and crazed, burnt grey, 2.9g.

Table 7 Burnt flint listed by context.

7 Environmental assessment

by Bronagh Quinn

Two samples from post-holes were taken during the excavation. All samples were floated by a trained member of CAT staff and analysed by the author.

Sample no.	Context	Feature	% Sampled	Sample volume (L)	Volume of flot (L)	Provisional date of feature
3	F80	Post-hole	100	10	<0.1	Undated
4	F81	Post-hole	100	10	<0.1	Undated

Table 8 Sample information.

Both samples produced only a very small quantity of charcoal (Table 9), with no other environmental remains present. No further analysis is recommended.

Sample no.	Weight of charcoal (g)
3	1.9
4	1.1

Table 9 Weights of charcoal recovered.

8 Discussion

The excavation phase of work at Moorlands Farm revealed 63 features, primarily associated with a medieval/post-medieval field system. While the vast majority of the features were undated, similarly to the evaluation, there was limited evidence of two periods present: prehistoric and medieval/post-medieval.

Prehistoric

The earliest evidence uncovered was in the form of a residual Mesolithic/early Neolithic worked flint, recovered from a post-medieval/modern dated tree-throw. Comparably small quantities of prehistoric worked flint (Mesolithic to Bronze Age) have also been found in many of the surrounding archaeological investigations (CAT Reports 794, 1031, 1740 and 1829). Small quantities of pottery, more generally dated to the prehistoric period, were also found during both the evaluation and excavation. Due to the small size of the assemblages, it seems likely that most of the sherds were residual. The flint and pottery, along with the one found during the evaluation, add to the previously identified evidence of small-scale, temporary and sporadic use of the landscape over a long period of time.

Medieval/post-medieval

The main phase of activity takes form as a medieval/post-medieval field system, although the lack of later dated finds indicates this activity may have faded out in the early post-medieval period. At least seven ditches divide the landscape into what appears to be a rectilinear field system, on a north/south to east/west alignment.

The northern and western boundaries of a field appear to be defined by a north/south trackway (ditches F12/F34, F50 and F67) and an east/west trackway (ditches F29, F68 and F87). There is a 3.5m wide field entrance between the termini of ditches F68 and F29. The eastern end of ditch F29 may also form a secondary entrance with a ditch beyond the limit of the excavation area. The larger boundary ditch, F28, is a later addition to the area. It truncates several of the smaller ditches and probably represents a subsequent phase of land division.

Although the two possible four-post structures were both undated, they are likely medieval/post-medieval in date and associated with the identified field system. They both probably represent small grain stores.

The excavation at Moorlands Farm produced similar results to those of the evaluation phase of work, mostly undated features with insubstantial assemblages from the few dated features. The

work does, however, provided further evidence that the site at Moorlands Farm is located away from the focus of the domestic settlement in the area. At the heart of the village of Great Bentley, roughly 400m to the south-west of Moorlands Farm, is a historic village green. It seems reasonable to assume the settlement associated with the farmstead at Moorlands Farm was centred around this historic green.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephen Williams of Hills Residential and Hills Group Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and R Mathieson with Z Eksen, T Lawrence, A Parker and A Smith. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

10 References

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

Baker, P & Worley, F	2019	<i>Animal Bones and Archaeology</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation at Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS</i> by E Hicks
CAT	2023	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 794	2014	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Sturrrick Farm, Sturrrick Lane, Great Bentley, Essex: October 2014</i> , by H Brooks
CAT Report 1031	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land at Admirals Farm, Heckfords Road, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS: September-October 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 1740	2021	<i>Archaeologic evaluation and excavation on land east of Heckfords, Heckfords Road, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS: February-May 2021</i> , by S Veasey
CAT Report 1829	2022	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land north of Michael Wright Way, Admirals Green, Great Bentley, Essex – July 2022</i> , by Z Eksen & L Pooley
CAT Report 1896	2023	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land at Moorlands Farm, Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS: December 2022</i> , by S Veasey
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
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.

11 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
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main

post-medieval section wsi from c AD 1500 to c 1800 (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: One box

Digital record

CAT Report 1920

CAT written scheme of investigation

Digital photographs

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

13 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 (finds) and with the Archaeology Data Service (digital files).

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Distribution list:

Hills Group Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context lists

Trench No.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
-	L1	-	Top-soil	Soft moist dark grey/brown sandy loam with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks 0.32-0.42m thick	Modern
-	L2	-	Sub-soil	Soft moist medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks 0.05-0.24m thick	Post-glacial
-	L3	-	Natural	Soft moist medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silty clay Encountered 0.32-0.61m below current ground level	Post-glacial
Evaluation					
T1	F1	-	Natural feature	Loose friable/firm dry light grey sandy loam Exposed size 0.78m by 2.11m and 0.22m deep	Post-glacial
T1	F2	-	Post-hole	Soft/friable dry light grey sandy loam with charcoal flecks 0.35m by 0.27m and 0.10m deep	Undated
T1	F3	-	Natural feature	Loose/soft dry light/medium grey silty clayey loam with charcoal flecks 0.75m by 0.88m and 0.10m deep	Post-glacial
T1	F4	1	Ditch	Firm dry medium grey sandy silt Exposed length 1.80m, 1.46m wide and 0.53m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	18th-19th century
T1	F5	-	Gully	Soft dry light grey silty clayey loam with charcoal flecks Exposed length 1.87m, 0.38m wide and 0.09m deep Aligned north north-east/south south-west U-shaped profile	Undated
T1	F6	-	Ditch	Firm dry light grey sandy silt Exposed length 1.80m, 1.05m wide and 0.63m deep Aligned north/south V-shape profile	Undated
T4	F7	3	Ditch	Soft dry light grey silt Exposed length 13.56m, 0.81m wide and 0.21-0.25m deep Aligned north-west/south-east U-shaped profile	Medieval/ post-medieval
T2	F8	-	Gully	Soft light brown silty clay Exposed length 8.39m, 0.29m wide and 0.18m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	Undated
T11	F9	2	Ditch	Firm dry medium/dark grey/brown clayey sand with charcoal flecks Exposed length 1.80m, 1.58m wide and 0.71m deep Aligned north/south Steep U-shaped profile	1200-1550
T4	F10	-	Tree-throw	Friable moist very light grey silt	Undated

				0.84m by 1.33m and 0.10m deep	
T4	F11	-	?Post-hole	Friable moist light grey silt c 0.31m in diameter and 0.10m deep	Undated
T7	F12	4	Pit	Soft moist light/medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed length 1.80m, 0.99m wide and 0.20m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	1000-1225
T2	F13	-	Natural feature	Soft light brown silty clay Exposed size 0.90m by 1.80m and 0.10m deep	Post-glacial
T9	F14	-	Ditch	Firm dry light grey/brown sandy silt Exposed length 1.80m, 0.94m wide and 0.45m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	Undated
T10	F15	5	Ditch	Friable dry light/medium grey/brown clayey silt Exposed length 1.80m, 1.05m wide and 0.13m deep Aligned east/west U-shaped profile	Medieval/ post-medieval
T3	F16	-	Ditch	Soft moist light grey/brown silty sand Exposed length 1.80m, 0.59m wide and 0.17m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	Undated
T8	F17	6, 10	Ditch	Friable moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks Exposed length 1.90m, 1.07m wide and 0.34m deep Aligned north-west/south-east Asymmetric U-shaped profile	Prehistoric
T3	F18	-	Pit	Soft light brown clay 0.76m by 0.80m and 0.18m deep	Undated
T1	F19	-	?Pit	Hard dry light dark yellow/grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed size 0.44m by 0.31m and 0.13m deep	Undated
T7	F20	-	Service trench	Loose/soft light dark yellow/grey/brown sandy silty loam Exposed length 30.00m, 0.65m wide and dug to 0.53m	Modern
T7	F21	7	Pit	soft moist medium yellow silty clay 0.50m by 0.36m and 0.08m deep	Undated
T8	F22	-	Pit	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy silt Exposed length 1.04m, 0.74m wide and 0.24m deep Aligned east/west U-shape profile	Undated
T8	F23	-	Post-hole	Soft/friable moist dark grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks c 0.18m in diameter and 0.14m deep	Undated
T8	F24	-	Post-hole	Friable moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks c 0.21m in diameter and 0.06m deep	Undated
T8	F25	-	Post-hole	Friable moist medium grey/brown sandy silt	Undated

				with charcoal flecks Exposed area c 0.20m in diameter and 0.04m deep	
T10	F26	-	Gully	Soft moist medium yellow/orange sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed length 1.97m, 0.39m wide and 0.13m deep Aligned north-east/south-west U-shaped profile	Undated
T3	F27	-	Natural feature	Soft moist light brown clayey Exposed area 1.01m by 0.79 and 0.22m deep	Post-glacial
T7	F28	8, 21, 28	Ditch	Soft medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silty loam with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed length 26.05m, 2.50m wide and 0.53m deep Aligned north-east/south-west Asymmetric U-shaped profile	Medieval/ post-medieval
T8	F29	9	Ditch	Friable moist light grey/brown clayey silt 14.92m long, 0.65-0.81m wide and 0.11-0.17m deep Aligned east/west U-shaped profile	Undated
T5	F30	-	Natural feature	Soft moist light orange/grey sandy silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1% 1.00m by 1.32m and 0.14m deep	Post-glacial
Excavation					
-	F31	-	Stake-hole	Firm dry light grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks 0.33m by 0.12m and 0.09m deep	Undated
-	F32	11, 12	Post-hole	Fill A: firm dry light grey sandy silt with charcoal and daub flecks Fill B: firm dry mid grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks 0.50m by 0.45m and 0.26m deep	1000-1225
-	F33	-	Tree-throw	Firm dry light grey/brown sandy clay 0.91m by 0.70m and 0.05m deep	Undated
-	F34	14	Ditch	Friable moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks Exposed length 8.94m, 0.56-0.97m wide and 0.10-0.16m deep U-shaped profile, aligned north north-west/south south-east	Undated
-	F35	-	Post-hole	Friable dry medium grey silt with charcoal flecks c 0.21m in diameter and 0.09m deep	Undated
-	F36	-	Post-hole	Friable dry medium grey silt with charcoal flecks c 0.24m in diameter and 0.10m deep	Undated
-	F37	-	Post-hole	Friable dry medium orange/grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks 0.35m by 0.24m and 0.11m deep	Undated
-	F38	-	Post-hole	Friable dry medium grey silt with charcoal flecks, daub flecks 0.23m by 0.15m and 0.15m deep	Undated
-	F39	-	Stake-hole	Friable dry medium grey silt with charcoal	Undated

				flecks, daub flecks 0.23m by 0.11m and 0.09m deep	
-	F40	-	Pit	Firm moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks 2.00m by 0.92m and 0.19m deep	Undated
-	F41	-	?Pit	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks 2.46m by 1.26m and 0.22m deep	Undated
-	F42	13	Tree-throw	Soft dry light brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 15% 2.11m by 1.36m and 0.09m deep	Post-medieval/modern
-	F43	-	Post-hole	Friable moist medium brown silt 0.31m by 0.22m and 0.20m deep	Undated
-	F44	-	Tree-throw	Hard moist light orange/grey sandy clay 1.87m by 0.61m and 0.18m deep	Undated
-	F45	29	Post-hole	Firm dry light/medium grey sandy clay 0.42m by 0.55m and 0.11m deep	Undated
-	F46	-	Post-hole	Firm dry light/medium sandy clay 0.49m by 0.44m and 0.07m deep	Undated
-	F47	-	Post-hole	Firm dry light/medium grey sandy clay 0.39m by 0.36m and 0.05m deep	Undated
-	F48	-	Post-hole	Firm dry light/medium sandy clay 0.48m by 0.35m and 0.05m deep	Undated
-	F49	-	Tree-throw	Friable moist light brown silt with charcoal flecks c 0.95m in diameter and 0.06m deep	Undated
-	F50	15	Ditch	Friable moist light brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks Exposed length 11.91m, 0.71 wide and 0.26m deep U-shaped profile, aligned north/south	Medieval/post-medieval
-	F51	-	Tree-throw	Friable dry medium brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks 1.32m by 1.12m and 0.09m deep	Undated
-	F52	-	Pit	Friable moist medium orange/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks 0.72m by 0.83m and 0.14m deep	Undated
-	F53	-	Tree-throw	Firm moist light/medium orange/grey/brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks 3.89m by 1.32m and 0.29m deep	Undated
-	F54	-	Pit	Friable moist light brown sandy silt 0.65m by 0.71m and 0.10m deep	Undated
-	F55	-	Pit	Firm moist medium grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 15% 0.57m by 0.64m and 0.10m deep	Undated
-	F56	-	Pit	Firm dry light grey silty clay 1.35m by 0.93m and 0.32m deep	Undated
-	F57	-	Post-hole	Firm dry light grey/brown sandy silt 0.46m by 0.50m and 0.09m deep	Undated
-	F58	16	Pit	Friable moist medium grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks 0.68m by 0.59m and 0.07m deep	Prehistoric
-	F59	-	Tree-throw	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy clay 1.89m by 0.77m and 0.16m deep	Undated

-	F60	-	Post-hole	Firm moist medium grey/brown silt 0.44m by 0.30m and 0.11m deep	Undated
-	F61	-	Post-hole	Firm moist medium grey silt 0.51m by 0.44m and 0.14m deep	Undated
-	F62	-	Post-hole	Firm moist medium grey/brown silt 0.47m by 0.44m and 0.15m deep	Undated
-	F63	-	Pit	Firm moist medium grey sandy silt with charcoal flecks 0.48m by 0.41m and 0.10m deep	Undated
-	F64	17	Pit	Firm moist light brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: tile/brick 10% 1.64m by 1.08m and 0.16m deep	Medieval
-	F65	-	Pit	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy clay 1.12m by 1.12m and 0.19m deep	Undated
-	F66	-	Post-hole	Firm moist very light yellow/grey sandy clay c 0.16m in diameter and 0.17m deep	Undated
-	F67	20	Ditch	Firm moist medium grey silty clay Exposed length 8.06m, 0.82m wide and 0.13m U-shaped profile, aligned roughly north/ south	Undated
-	F68	18, 22	Ditch	Firm moist medium grey/brown silt Exposed length 29.58m, 0.44-0.70m wide and 0.11-0.17m deep U-shaped profile, aligned east/west	Undated
-	F69	19	Pit	Firm moist medium grey sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 15%	Undated
-	F70	-	Pit	Firm moist medium grey silt with charcoal flecks 0.68m by 0.41m and 0.12m deep	Undated
-	F71	23	Pit	Firm moist medium brown silt with daub flecks 0.56m by 0.66m and 0.12m deep	Medieval/ post-medieval
-	F72	-	Pit	Firm moist medium orange/brown sandy silt 0.59m by 0.82m and 0.10m deep	Undated
-	F73	24	Pit	Firm moist medium grey/brown silt 0.93m by 0.99m and 0.21m deep	Undated
-	F74	-	Post-hole	Friable moist light grey/brown sandy clay c 0.30m in diameter and 0.08m deep	Undated
-	F75	25	Pit	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks 0.95m by 1.23m and 0.22m deep	Medieval/ post-medieval
-	F76	27	Tree-throw	Firm moist light grey/brown clay 0.55m by 2.19m and 0.12m deep	1200-1550
-	F77	-	Pit	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy clay 0.62m by 0.51m and 0.10m deep	Undated
-	F78	-	Post-hole	Friable moist dark grey/brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks 0.24m by 0.32m and 0.14m deep	Undated
-	F79	-	Post-hole	Friable moist dark grey/brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks 0.25m by 0.31m by 0.12m deep	Undated
-	F80	-	Post-hole	Firm moist light grey silt with charcoal flecks 0.27m by 0.51m and 0.14m deep	Undated
-	F81	-	Post-hole	Firm moist light grey silt with charcoal flecks c 0.25m in diameter and 0.09m deep	Undated

-	F82	-	Natural feature	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy clay 1.22m by 2.11m and 0.43m deep	Post-glacial
-	F83	-	Pit	Soft moist medium grey sandy silty clay 0.49m by 0.71m and 0.07m deep	Undated
-	F84	-	Pit	Soft moist medium grey sandy silty clay 0.42m by 0.30m and 0.05m deep	Undated
-	F85	-	Pit	Friable moist medium grey sandy silty clay 0.66m by 0.64m and 0.21m deep	Undated
-	F86	-	Natural feature	Friable moist medium grey sandy silty clay 0.82m by 1.68m and 0.21m deep	Post-glacial
-	F87	-	Ditch	Friable moist medium grey/brown sandy silt Exposed length 18.34m, 0.57-0.66m wide and 0.07-0.09m deep U-shaped profile, aligned east/west	Undated

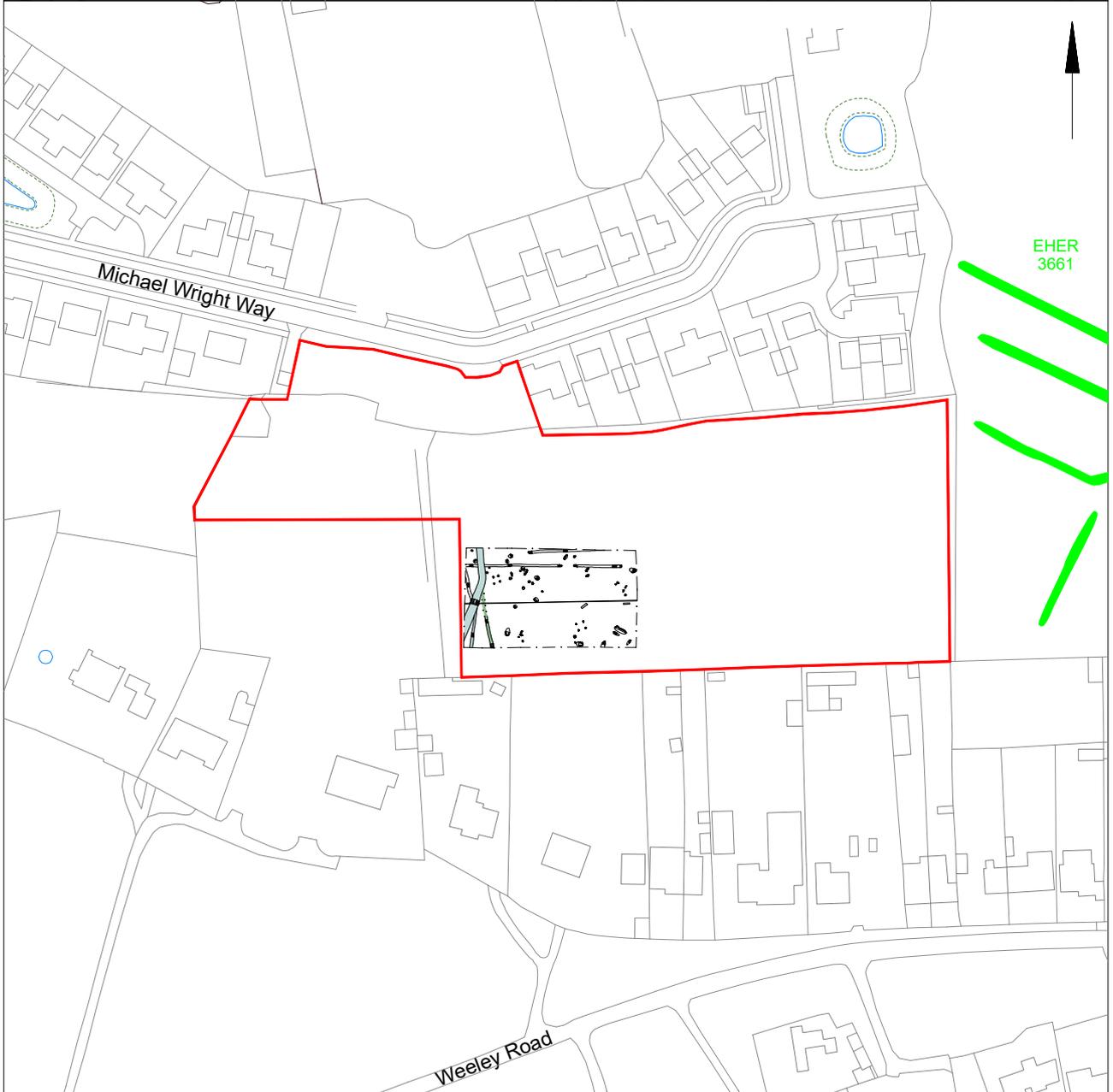
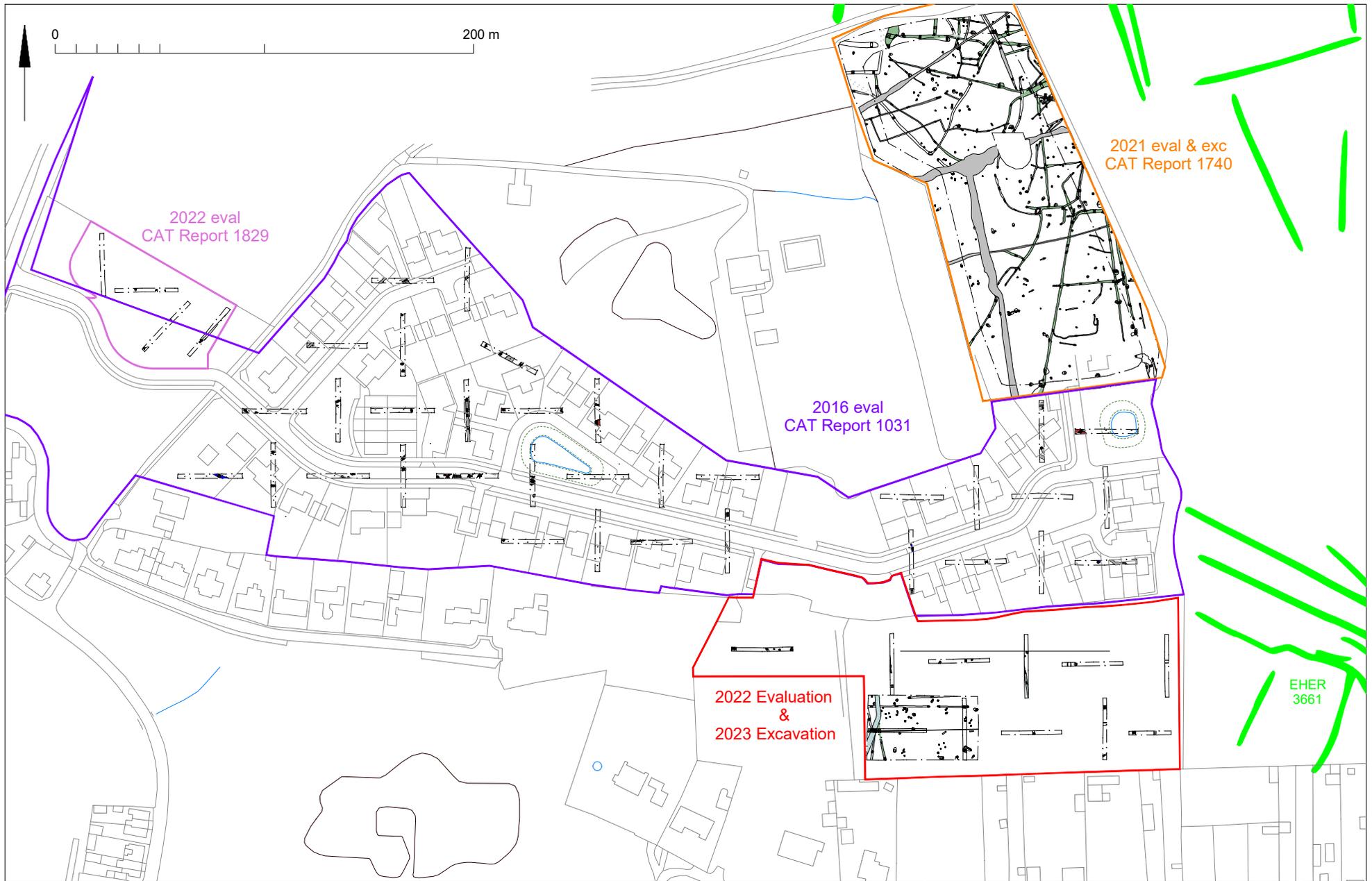


Fig 1 Site location.

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Fig 2 Site in relation to nearby archaeological projects and cropmarks (green).

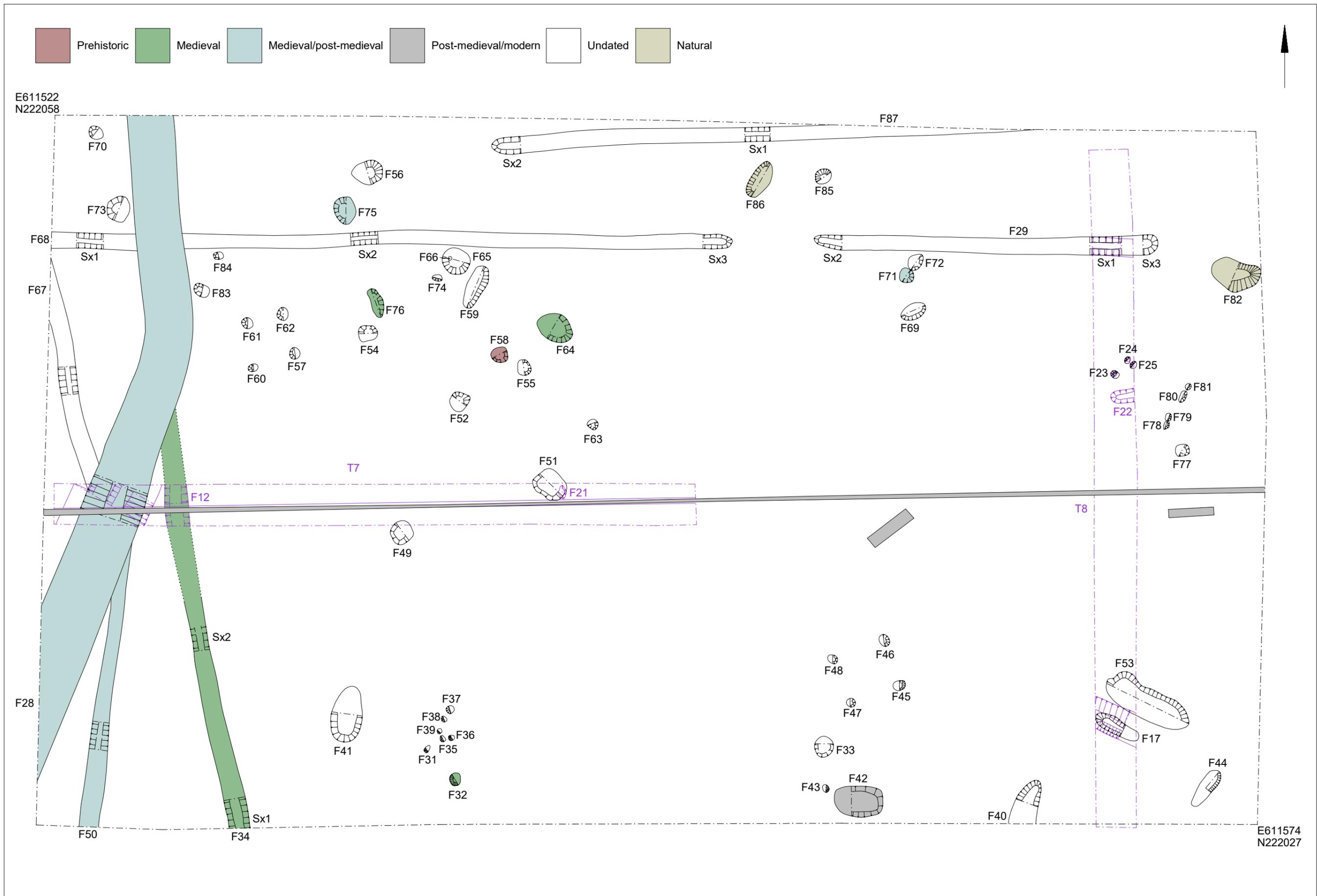


Fig 3 Excavation Results. 2022 evaluation trenches in purple.

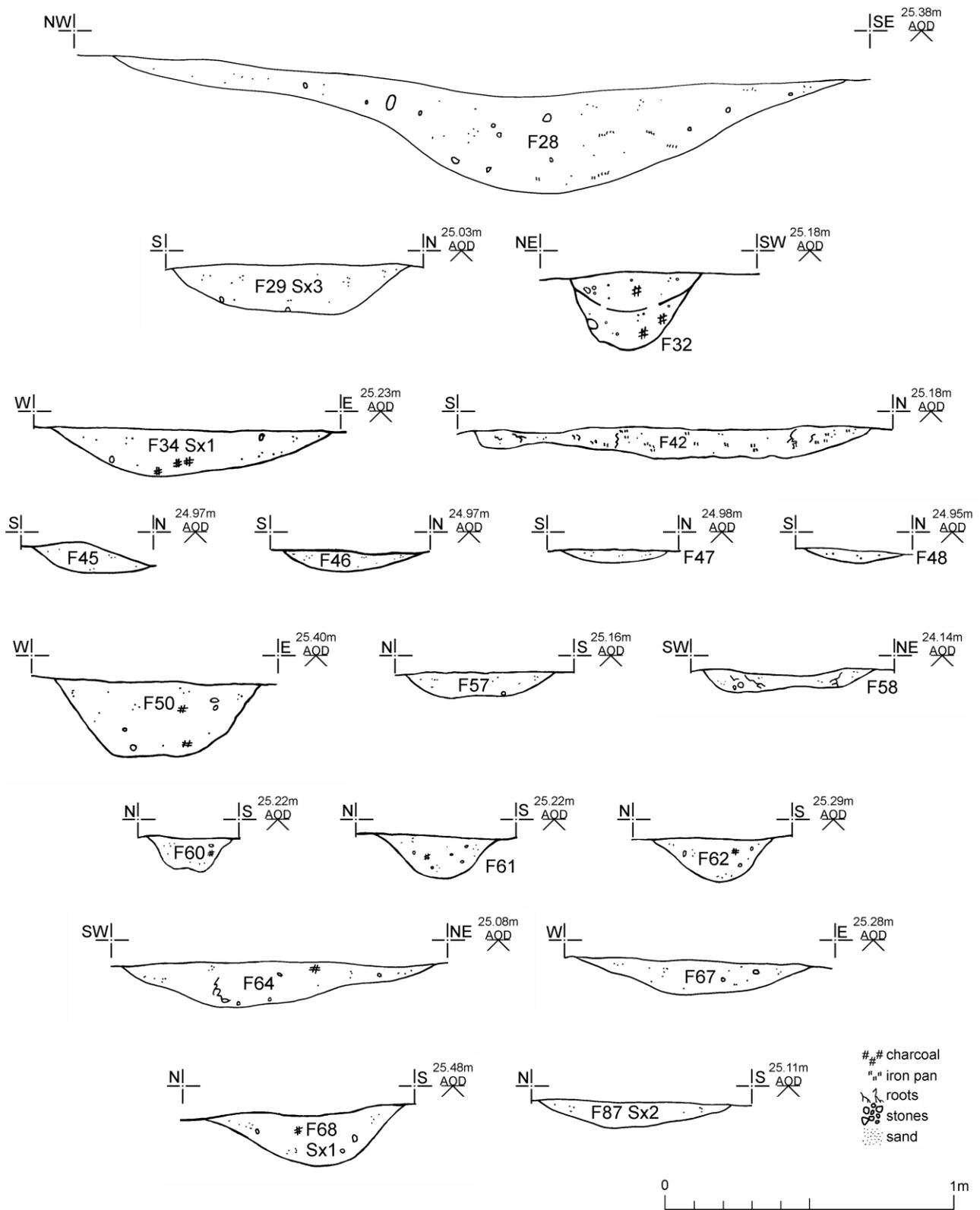


Fig 4 Feature sections.

Summary for colchest3-513050

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-513050
Project Name	Excavation at Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS
Sitename	Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS
Activity type	Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	2023/02d
Planning Id	21/02176/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	27-Feb-2023 - 06-Mar-2023
Location	Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS NGR : TM 11589 22056 LL : 51.8569610909277, 1.07118645427346 12 Fig : 611589,222056
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : Great Bentley
Project Methodology	Following an archaeological evaluation, an area covering roughly 1,612m2 was machine excavated, through topsoil L1 and subsoil L2 into natural L3, under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The excavation was targeted to investigate the area around trenches 7 and 8 of the evaluation.
Project Results	Archaeological excavation was carried out at Moorland Farm, Great Bentley, Essex in advance of the construction of 26 houses. An archaeological evaluation on the site uncovered some sporadic prehistoric activity and evidence of a medieval field system. The excavation area was focussed on trenches 7 and 8 of the evaluation and uncovered 63 features. The results of the excavation are very similar to those of the evaluation with minimal finds evidence, limited prehistoric activity and a medieval/post-medieval field system.
Keywords	Field System - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Granary - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pot - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Peg Tile - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Whetstone - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Quern - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Horseshoe - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Thesaurus Lithic Implement - EARLY NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	

HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - GBEMF22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection);