

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1939
issued June 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation by trial tranching on Land
to the rear of 'Springwood', Rectory Road,
Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HB: May 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/04c
ECC code: LATBR23**

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to the rear of 'Springwood', Rectory Road,
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commissioned by Pete Wells (Woodhill Estates Ltd)

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of Springwood, Rectory Road, Latchingdon, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located on the southern edge of the historic village, previous archaeological investigation to the north produced evidence of medieval pitting and ditches likely on the edge of a small settlement. Features encountered during the evaluation consisted of seven undated tree throws, one ditch, and two pits containing brick and small amounts of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) from 9th-10th May 2023 on land to the rear of Springwood, Rectory Road, Latchingdon, Essex. The work was commissioned by Pete Wells and WoodHill Estates Ltd in advance of the construction of five new residential dwellings and associated amenity space.

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 Archaeological Evaluation by trial trenching on land to the rear of 'Springwood', Rectory Road, Latchingdon* written by Maria Medlycott detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2023), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) 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 (ECCPS 2023) 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 no superficial deposits.

The proposed development site is on the southern side of the historic village of Latchingdon. The EHER shows that the site is c 360m north-east of Snoreham Hall (EHER 13596). The latter includes the site of St Peter's Church Snoreham, a deserted medieval village and a Grade II listed timber-framed house of c 1570 date (NHLE 1110875; EHER 38521). A possible medieval moated site is also located c 360m to the east at Red Lyons Farm. The EHER has a record of a sketch plan showing a tiny island surrounded by a wide, irregular moat (EHER 7946).

Cartographic evidence identifies that Burnham Road, to the north, had its origins as a linear green with post-medieval settlement gradually developing along its edges. Excavation in similar locations across Essex has established that such locations are also favoured for medieval settlement.

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

In January 2021, CAT carried out an evaluation on the adjacent plot to the north. Nineteen features were recorded in the six trenches (CAT Report 1633). The predominating remains were a series of pits and ditches dating to the medieval period. A medieval or post-medieval pit, a post-medieval pit, and a large modern quarry pit were also uncovered. The subsequent excavation phase revealed a series of medieval ditches and pits probably located on the periphery of a settlement (CAT Report 1668). The finds assemblage was relatively small and fragmentary but did include a range of medieval and post-medieval pottery along with small amounts of ceramic building material, animal bone and evidence for blacksmithing activities. Dating evidence ranged from the later 12th into the 16th century, indicating that at least some activity continued into the early post-medieval period.

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 2-4)

Five trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches totalled 15m in length and were 1.8m wide. Site stratigraphy was modern topsoil (L1, 0.15-0.2m thick) sealing subsoil (L2, 0.25-0.30m thick) over natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.40-0.45m below current ground level). The dimensions of all features can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Tree throw F1 was located at the eastern end of the trench. The pit continued beyond the limit of excavation. There was no datable material from the feature. Rooting was noted at the edge of the pit and irregularities in its profile suggest a natural origin.

F2 located at the east end of T1. The profile suggests a natural origin likely a tree throw.

Pit F3 was located at the west end of the trench and continued beyond the trench edges. The observed dimensions of F3 were 3.4m long (observed), 1.9m wide (observed) and 0.25m deep. Medieval pottery and post-medieval brick fragments were recovered from the pit fill.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, pit F3, facing east.

Trench 2

Ditch F4 was located in the central part of T2. The feature measured 2.7m long (observed), 0.8m wide and 0.15m deep. There was no datable material recovered from the feature. Undated tree throw F5 was also excavated.



Photograph 2 Trench 2, facing west.



Photograph 3 T2, ditch F5, facing north east

Trench 3

The only features present in T3 were undated tree throws F6 and F7.

Trench 4

Tree-throw F8 produced a sherd of medieval pottery and a small fragment of post-medieval/modern brick. A sondage was also excavated in T4 to check for any masking deposits, there were none.



Photograph 4 Trench 4, facing south.

Trench 5

A small amount of Roman and medieval pottery was recovered from pit F10. Undated tree throw F9 was also excavated within T5.



Photograph 5 T5, facing south west.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Pottery and ceramic building material was rare. Pit F3 produced two sherds (66g) of medieval (c 1200-1550) Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) and three fragments (10g) of post-medieval/modern brick. Similarly, tree-throw F8 also produced a sherd (2g) of early medieval (1000-1225) sandy shell dusted ware (fabric F13S) and a fragment (8g) of post-medieval/modern brick. A sherd (30g) possibly from a Late Iron Age-Roman storage vessel (fabric HZ) came from pit F10 along with a sherd (3g) of medieval Colchester-type ware (fabric F21). Finally one sherd (6g) of modern Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric F48d) was recovered from topsoil L1.

Table 1 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. Most of the contexts are post-medieval/modern while pit F10 could be of medieval date.

Context	Description	LIA-Roman pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F3	Pit	-	F21	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F8	Tree-throw	-	F13S	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F10	Pit	HZ?	F21	-	Medieval, c 1200-1550
L1	Topsoil	-	F48D	-	Modern, 19th-20th century

Table 1 Approximate dates for the individual contexts

7 Conclusion

Ten features were recorded during the archaeological evaluation to the rear of 'Springwood', Rectory Road, Latchingdon. These features consisted of 9 pits and a single ditch.

These features consisted of two pits, seven undated tree-throws and a ditch. Finds were scarce in quantity and small in size, with fragments of medieval pottery and post-medieval/modern brick recovered from the two pits and a tree-throw. These features could possibly be associated with the medieval/post-medieval activity recorded to the north of the investigation area. If they are, this site is very much on the periphery of any associated settlement activity.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Pete Wells and WoodHill Estates Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen, G Smith. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

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 evaluation by trial-trenching on Land to the rear 'Springwood', Rectory Road, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HB</i>
CAT Report 1633	2021	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land northwest of Springwood, High Street, Rectory Lane, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HB: January 2021</i> , by E Hicks
CAT Report 1668	2021	<i>Archaeological excavation on land northwest of Springwood, Rectory Lane, Latchingdon, Essex – April 2021</i> , by E Hicks and L Pooley
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 2022
ECCPS	2023	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Land rear of 'Springwood', Rectory Lane, Latchingdon</i> , by M Medlycott
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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
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
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g a Roman coin in a modern pit
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 1939
ECC Brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Digital photographs
Survey data
Site 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:

Pete Wells, WoodHill Estates Ltd
Maria Medlycott, Essex County Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench no.	Finds no.	Identification	Description	Date
L1	All	1	Topsoil	Firm moist dark grey/brown silty clay	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay	Undated
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm moist medium-light grey/brown clay	Post-glacial
F1	T1	-	Tree-throw	firm moist medium brown silty clay. 1.5m x >0.74m and 0.1m deep.	Undated
F2	T1	-	Tree-throw	Firm medium grey/brown silty clay 1.2m x >0.65m and 0.3m deep.	Undated
F3	T1	2	Pit	Firm medium grey/brown silty clay 3.9m x >1.8m and 0.2m deep.	Post-medieval/ modern
F4	T2	-	Ditch	Firm moist medium brown silty clay. 0.8m wide by 0.15m deep.	Undated
F5	T2	-	Tree-throw	Firm medium grey/brown silty clay c 1.05m diameter and 0.2m deep.	Undated
F6	T3	-	Tree-throw	Firm moist medium brown silty clay. 1.2m x >0.65m and 0.15m deep.	Undated
F7	T3	-	Tree-throw	Firm moist medium brown silty clay. 1.05m x >0.77m and 0.15m deep.	Undated
F8	T4	3	Tree-throw	Firm moist medium brown silty clay. 1.7m x 1.3m and 0.15m deep.	Post-medieval/ modern
F9	T5	-	Tree-throw	Firm moist medium brown silty clay. 1.03m x >0.87m and 0.15m deep	Undated
F10	T5	4	Pit	Firm moist medium brown silty clay. c 1.7m diameter and 0.2m deep.	?Medieval

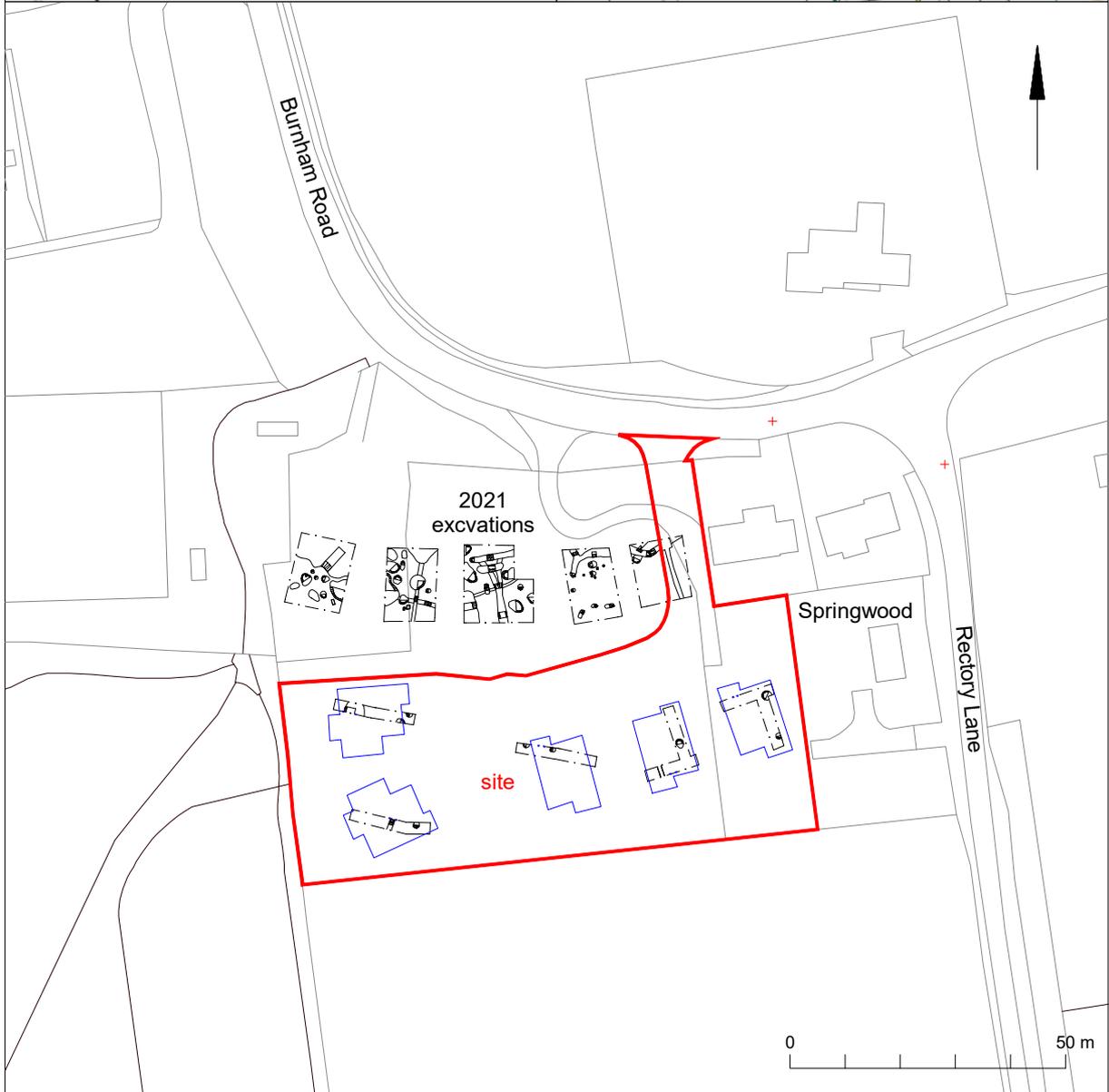
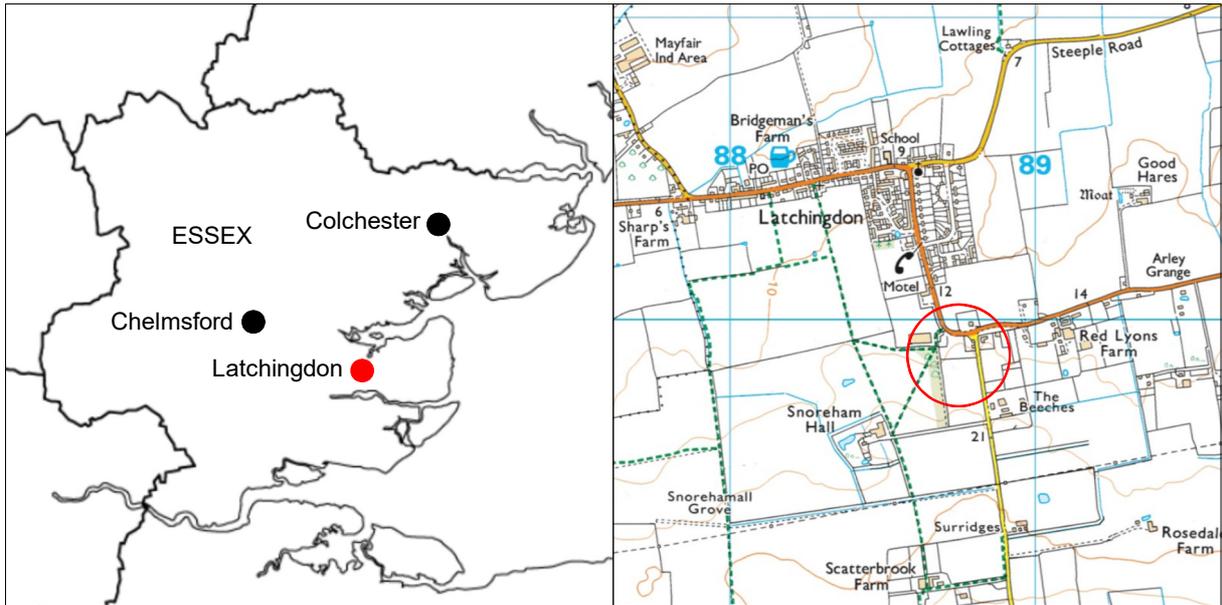


Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Evaluation results in relation to phased results from the previous excavation.

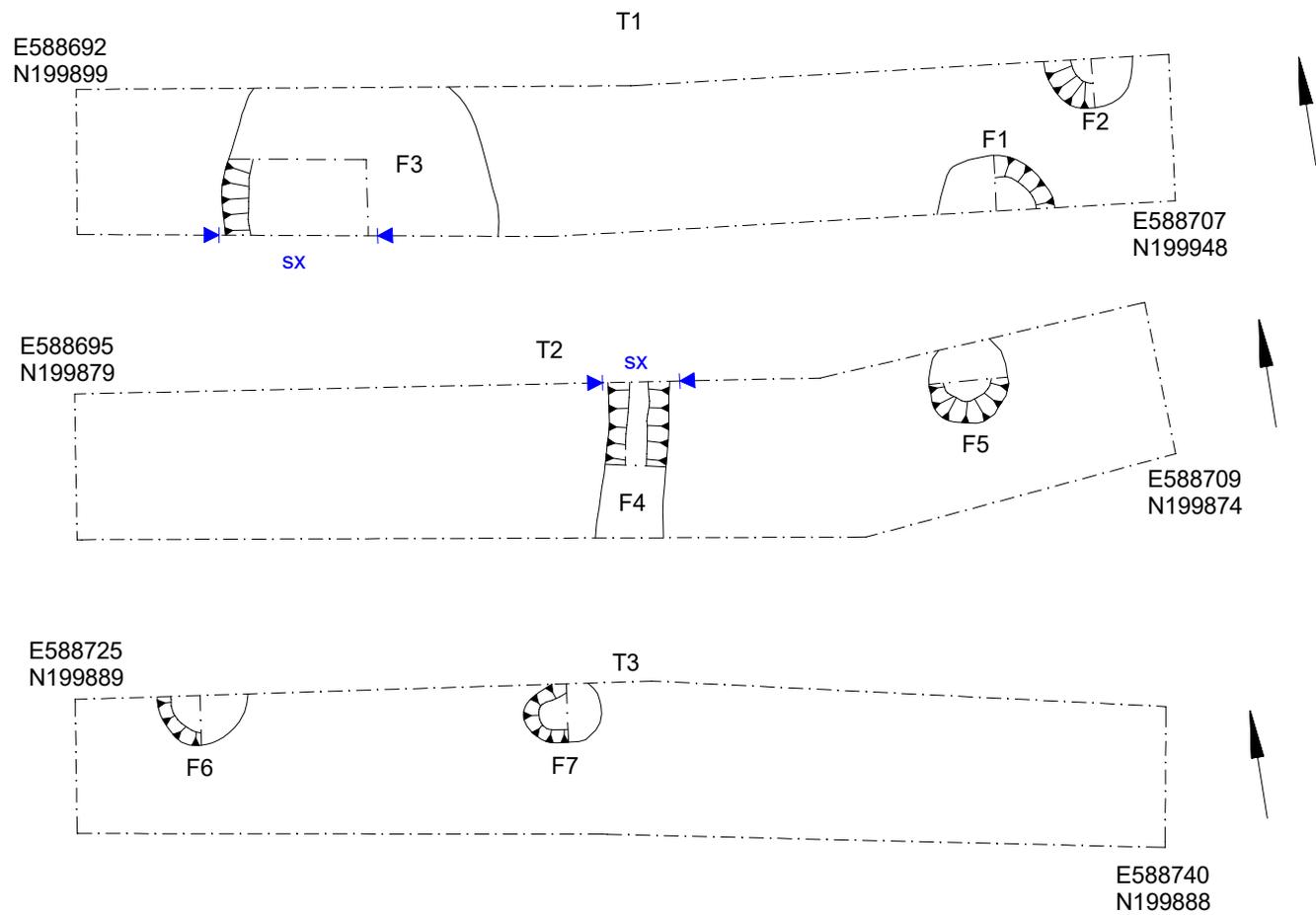


Fig 3 Trench results.

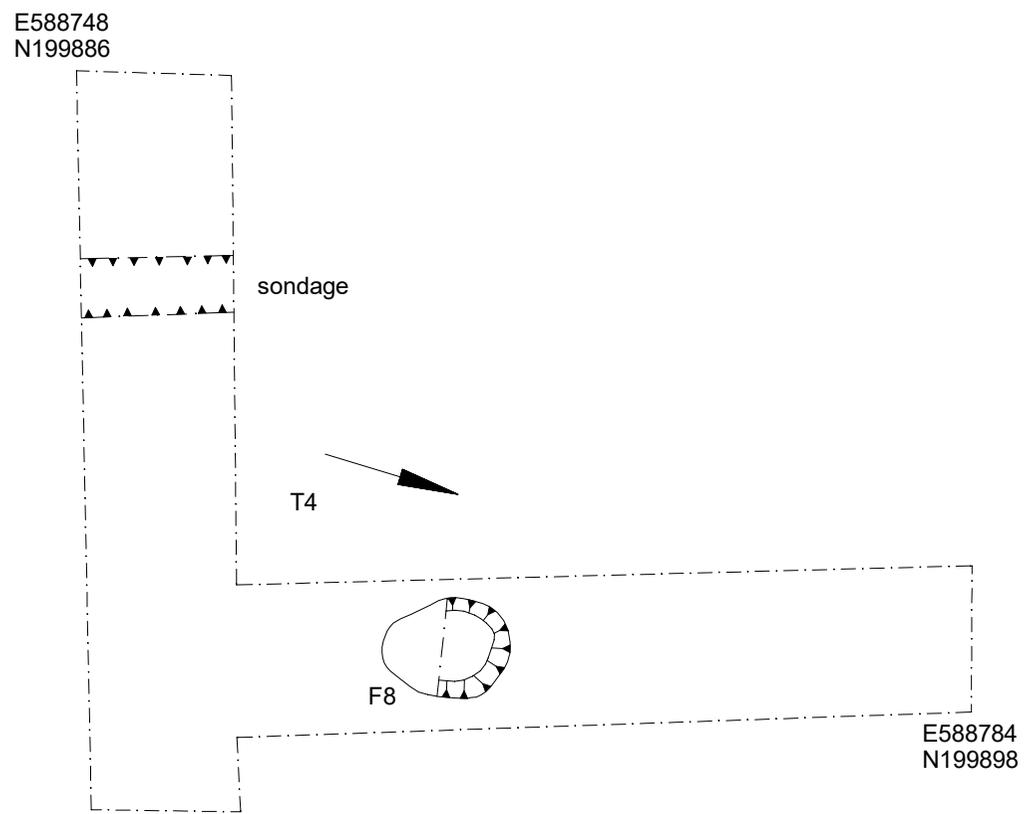


Fig 4 Trench results.

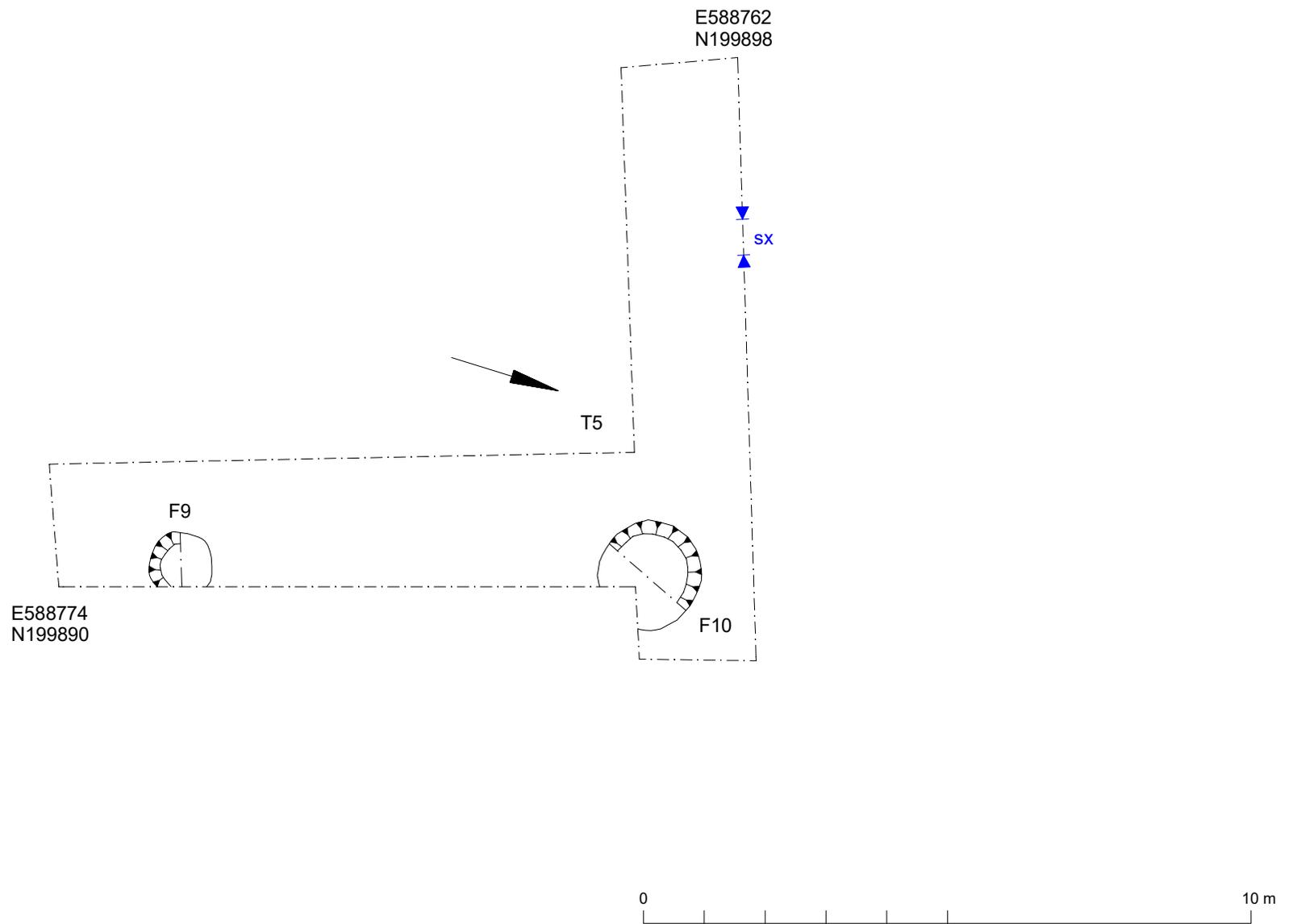


Fig 5 Trench results.

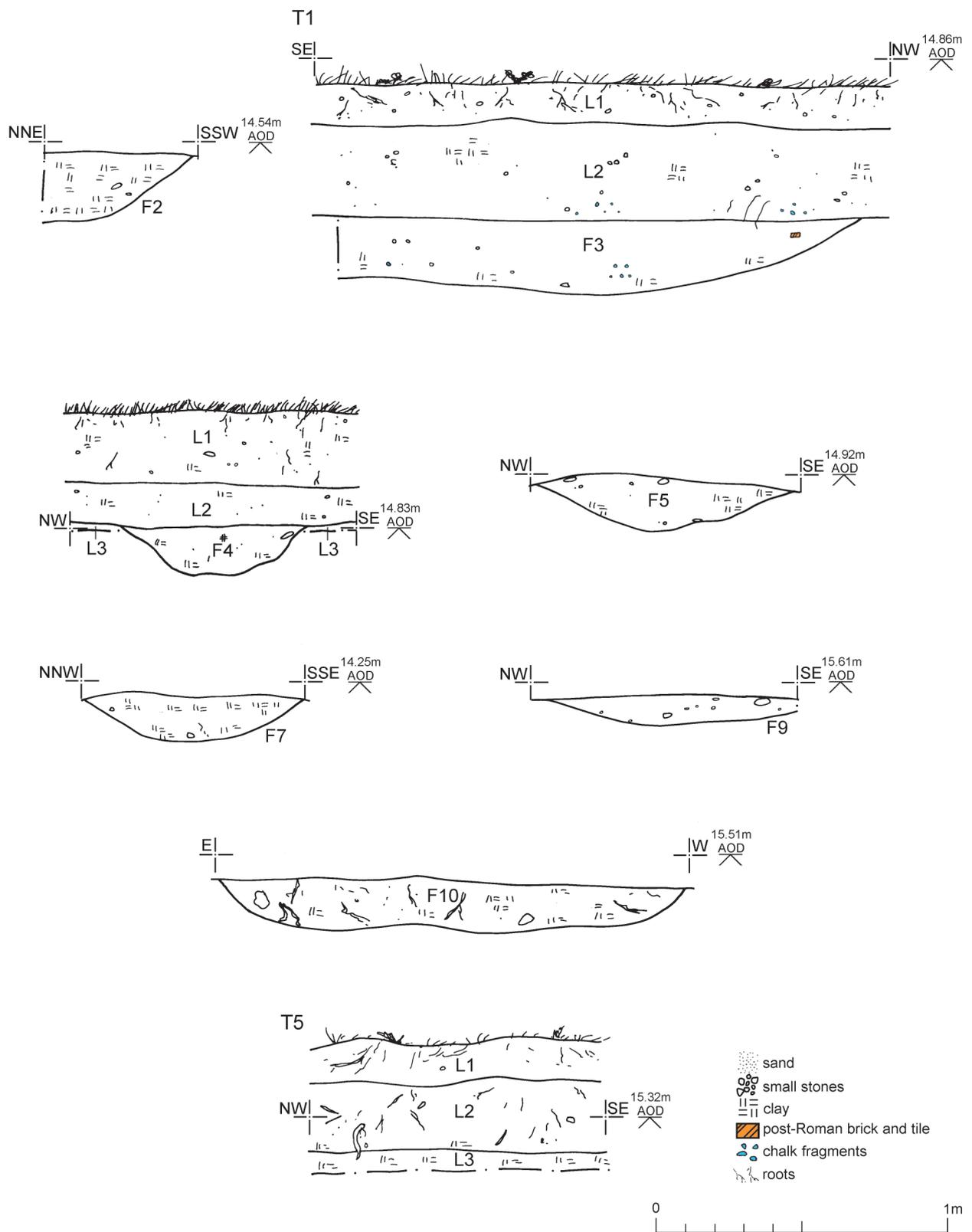


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-515036

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-515036
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of Springwood, Rectory Road, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HB.
Sitename	Land to the rear of Springwood, Rectory Road, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HB.
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2023/04c
Planning Id	FUL/MAL/21/00989, APP/X1545/W/22/3293818
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	09-May-2023 - 10-May-2023
Location	Land to the rear of Springwood, Rectory Road, Latchingdon, Essex, CM3 6HB. NGR : TQ 88719 99888 LL : 51.666070824326155, 0.727482156167084 12 Fig : 588719,199888
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Maldon Parish : Latchingdon
Project Methodology	Archaeological Evaluation (5 trial trenches) carried out as specified in project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of Springwood, Rectory Road, Latchingdon, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located on the southern edge of the historic village, previous archaeological investigation to the north produced evidence of medieval pitting and ditches likely on the edge of a small settlement. Features encountered during the evaluation consisted of seven undated tree throws, one ditch, and two pits containing brick and small amounts of medieval and post-medieval pottery.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Holloway
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - LATBR23
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;