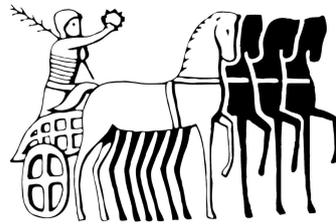


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1981  
issued October 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the east of  
Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex:  
August 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/06b  
ECC code: ECC4817**

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the east of  
Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex:  
August 2023**

**NGR: TL 89463 28060**

**Planning ref.: pre-planning**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/06b  
CAT Report 1981**

**ECC code: ECC4817  
OASIS id: colchest3-516312**

**report prepared by Dr Elliott Hicks  
with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and  
Adam Wightman**

**figures by Chris Lister, Elliott Hicks  
and Emma Holloway**

**fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Nigel Rayner with  
Darcey Spenner, Alice Parker and Megan Beale**

**commissioned by the landowner**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Dr Elliott Hicks	Junior Project Officer
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Laura Pooley	Post-Excavation Manager
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<b>Issued:</b>	11/10/2023	

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## **Contents**

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	4
7	Conclusion	4
8	Acknowledgements	5
9	References	5
10	Abbreviations and glossary	5
11	Contents of digital archive	6
12	Archive deposition	6

Appendix 1	Context List	7
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Figures	after p7
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EHER summary sheet

CAT WSI

OASIS summary

## **List of photographs and figures**

Cover: Site shot

Photograph 1	T8 trench shot – looking west	3
Photograph 2	T12 trench shot – looking south	4

Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal in relation to site constraints

Fig 2 Results

Fig 3 Trench results

Fig 4 Feature and representative sections

## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (13 trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex in advance of a proposed new residential development. The site lies to the south of the historic settlement of Chappel. Little archaeological work has been carried out in the area, although the discovery of a Roman mosaic pavement at Viaduct Farm, to the north northeast of the site, during the 1970s evidences the existence of a Roman settlement in the area. Excavations revealed a Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pit or ditch terminus and a Roman pit.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex during 21st-24th August 2023. The work was commissioned by the landowner and took place in advance of the proposed construction of a new residential development.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

No brief for this project was issued by the CCCAA, but as the site has been identified as having a high potential for archaeological remains, it was recommended that a trial-trench evaluation be undertaken at the site prior to the submission of a planning application. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to this recommendation and agreed with the CCCAA (CAT 2023).

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 (CIfA 2020a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2020b)*.

## 3 Archaeological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is London clay formation (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). There are no superficial deposits recorded for the western half of the site but the eastern half contains superficial deposits of head (poorly sorted and poorly stratified, angular rock debris and/or clayey hillwash and soil creep, mantling a hillslope and deposited by solifluction and gelifluction processes).

Chappel is a village located approximately 6.5km northeast of Colchester. It consists of a core settlement area with dispersed clusters of houses situated along roads or around greens. Chappel borders the adjacent village of Wakes Colne, and the two villages, although in different parishes, share resources.

During the 1970s, a Roman mosaic pavement was uncovered at Viaduct Farm, c 200m north northeast of the development site (MCC7036).

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

The nearby St Barnabas Church (MCC10030-1 and MCC3824) is a single-celled church thought to have been erected in 1352. It is constructed primarily out of flint rubble and has a weatherboarded spire. Much of the graveyard has been destroyed, with headstones having been used for paths and boundaries.

A small number of historic timber-framed buildings survive in the cluster of dwellings surrounding the church, including: The Swan Inn, which was originally a timber-framed hall-house constructed in 14th century but was later converted into an Inn (MCC3830); The Stores (MCC3827) and Viaduct Farmhouse (MCC3826), both of which date to the 16th century; the 17th-century Bridgewick Cottages (MCC3818); and Viaduct Farm Cottages, 1-3 The Street (MCC3828) and The Cottage, also on The Street (MCC3829), all of which date to the 18th and 19th centuries.

The site is bordered to the east by a railway line. The Gainsborough Line was a Sudbury branch line originally opened in 1849 as part of the Stour Valley Railway. The Chappel viaduct, to the northeast of the site, was built in 1849 (MCC7124).

Little archaeological work has been carried out in this area. Archaeological monitoring carried out by CAT at the nearby 15th-century Grade II-listed Popes Hall in 2018 did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (CAT Report 1329).

#### **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 CCCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### **5 Results** (Appendix 1 and figs 2-4)

Thirteen trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were all 30m long and 1.8m wide apart from trenches T1 and T3, which were 25m long and 1.8m wide, and trench T5 which was 20 long and 1.8m wide.

All of the trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.16-0.55m thick) and a buried soil layer (L3, c 0.03-0.3m thick) onto natural (L2, encountered at a depth of 0.25-0.59m below current ground level [bcgl]) apart from trenches T1 and T13, which were cut through L1 (0.25-0.55 thick) onto L2 (encountered at a depth of 0.25-0.55m bcgl). Sondages were excavated in trenches T2, T6, T7, T9, T11 and T12 to confirm the identification of L2 as natural.

There were no archaeological remains in trenches T1, T3, T5, T7, T9, T10 or T11.

##### **Trench 2**

Natural feature F9 was excavated.

##### **Trench 4**

Pit F10 was uncovered in the southern half of the trench. It was 0.41m by 0.72m and 0.15m deep with a slightly irregular V-shaped profile. The feature contained no dating evidence.

##### **Trench 6**

Silt patch F5 was excavated.

##### **Trench 8**

Modern stake hole F6 was uncovered near the centre of the trench. The dimensions and profile of the feature were not recorded.

Ditch F7 passed through the western end of the trench on a north northeast-south southwest alignment. It was 0.63m wide and 0.05m deep with a very shallow, slightly irregular U-shaped profile. It produced no artefactual evidence.

Pit F8 lay at the eastern end of the trench. It was 0.53m by 0.75m and 0.11m deep with a shallow U-shaped profile. The feature yielded a single sherd of Roman pottery.



**Photograph 1** T8 trench shot – looking west

### **Trench 12**

Pit/ditch terminus F3 extended into the northern end of the trench from the west on an east-west alignment before terminating. It was 0.96m wide and 0.08m deep with a shallow, irregular U-shaped profile. It contained a worked flint of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date and a sherd of late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery.

Natural feature F4 was also excavated.



**Photograph 2** T12 trench shot – looking south

### **Trench 13**

Treethrow F1 and natural feature F2 were excavated.

## **6 Finds**

### **6.1 Pottery**

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation produced three sherds of pottery:

One sherd (51g) of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40), dating c 1500-19th/20th century, from topsoil L1.

One sherd (7g) of Roman greyware pottery (fabric GX) from pit F8.

One sherd of earlier (?late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age) prehistoric handmade sand and flint-tempered pottery (5g) with combed or incised decoration from pit or ditch terminus F3.

### **6.2 Flints**

*by Adam Wightman*

Pit or ditch terminus F3 produced a secondary hard-hammer flake with a long edge of semi-abrupt retouch on the right lateral edge. The retouch removals are large, invasive and even spaced to form a denticulated edge. The denticulate is Mesolithic-Bronze Age in date, most likely Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

## **7 Conclusion**

Excavations at this site revealed two pits, a ditch, a pit or ditch terminus, a stakehole, a treethrow, a silt patch and three natural features. Only two of these features produced any

dating evidence: a Neolithic to Bronze Age flint and pottery sherd from pit or ditch terminus F3 in trench T12, and a Roman pottery sherd from pit F8 in trench T8. Roman inhabitation of the area was evidenced in the 1970s by the discovery of a Roman mosaic pavement at Viaduct Farm, around 200m north northeast of the site, and it is possible that the Roman pit is related to this settlement. The Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pit or ditch terminus uncovered apparently constitutes the first evidence of prehistoric activity in the area.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the landowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, and fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and N Rayner with D Spenner, A Parker and M Beale. Figures are by C Lister, E Hicks, and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 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 <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> )
CAT	2023	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2023	<i>Written scheme of investigation for an evaluation on land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex</i>
CAT Report 1329	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring at Popes Hall, Popes Lane, Chappel, Essex – September 2018</i> , by L Pooley
CifA	2020a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Published 2014; revised October 2020
CifA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Published 2014; revised October 2020
CifA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
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 <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
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	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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
WSI	written scheme of investigation

## **11 Contents of digital archive**

CAT Report 1981  
CAT written scheme of investigation  
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 Colchester Museum under project ref. ECC4817 (pottery sherd, flint) and with the Archaeology Data Service.

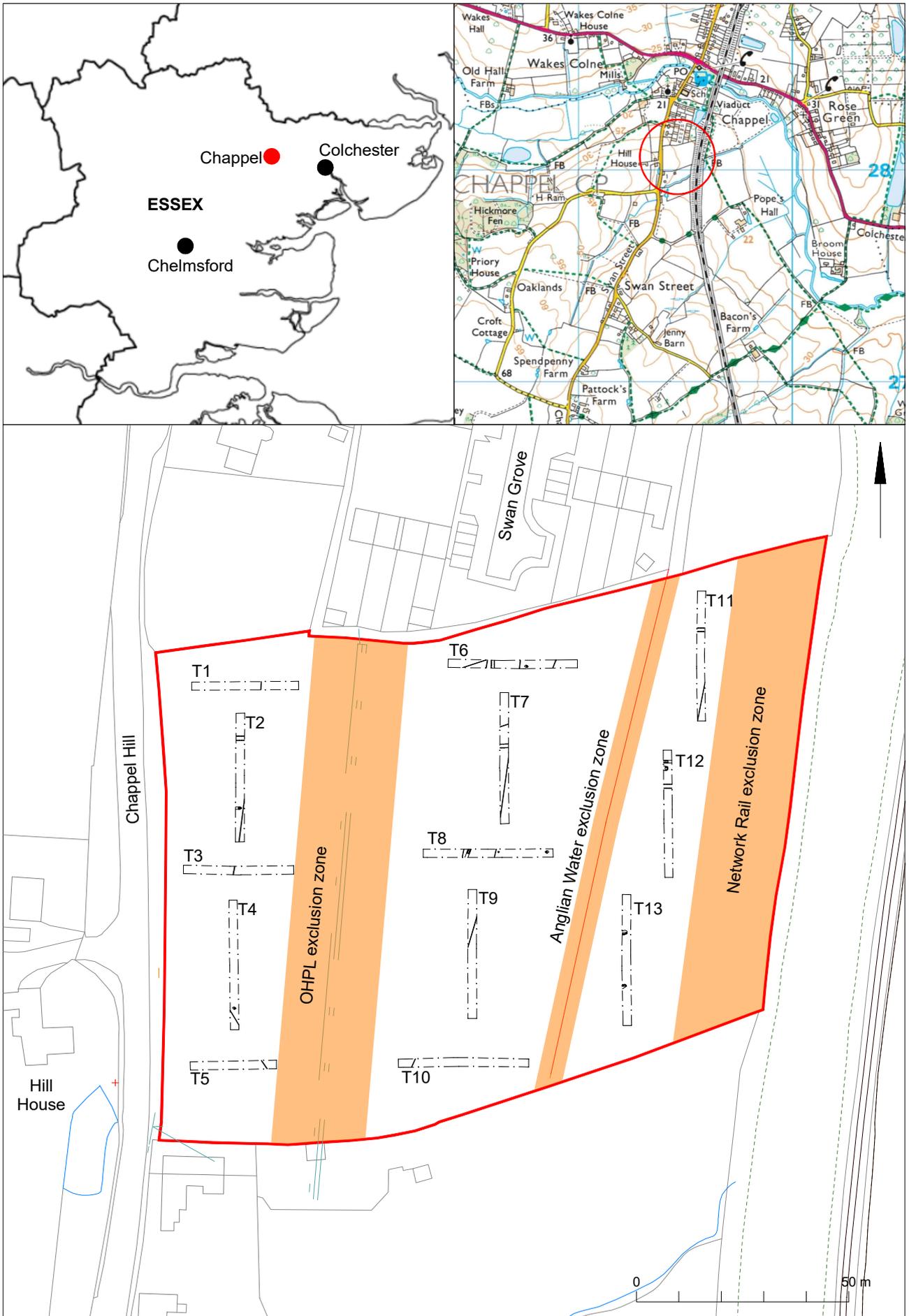
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### **Distribution list:**

The landowner  
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record

## **Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Trench number</b>	<b>Finds Number</b>	<b>Feature / layer type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1	All	3	Topsoil	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with CBM flecks and 5% stones	Modern
L2	All	-	Natural	Firm, dry/moist light yellow/grey/brown clayey-silt	Post-glacial
L3	T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10, T11 and T12	-	Buried soil layer	Soft, moist dark orange/grey clay	Undatable
F1	T13	-	Tree throw	Soft, moist light brown silty-clay	Post-glacial
F2	T13	-	Natural feature	Soft, dry/moist light/medium grey/brown clayey-silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F3	T12	1	Pit/ditch terminus	Soft, moist medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay	Neolithic / Early Bronze Age
F4	T12	-	Natural feature	Soft, moist light grey clay	Post-glacial
F5	T6	-	Silt patch	Soft, dry light grey silt	Post-glacial
F6	T8	-	Stake hole	Loose/soft, dry dark brown/black silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Modern
F7	T8	-	Ditch	Soft, moist light yellow/orange clay	Undatable
F8	T8	2	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 1% stones	Roman
F9	T2	-	Natural feature	Soft, light orange/grey clay	Post-glacial
F10	T4	-	Pit	Soft, dark grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable



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Fig 1 Site location and results in relation to site constraints.



Fig 2 Results

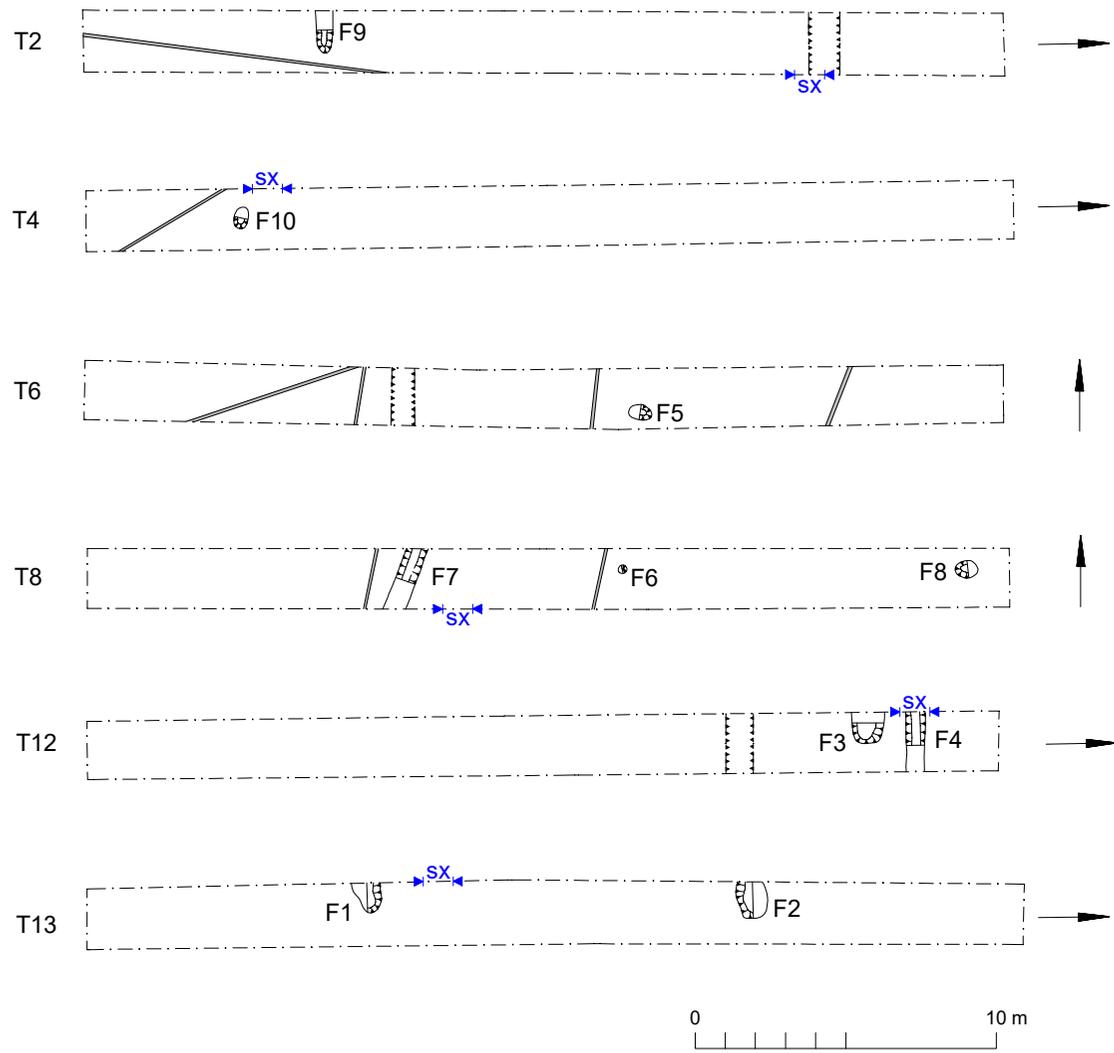


Fig 3 Trench results

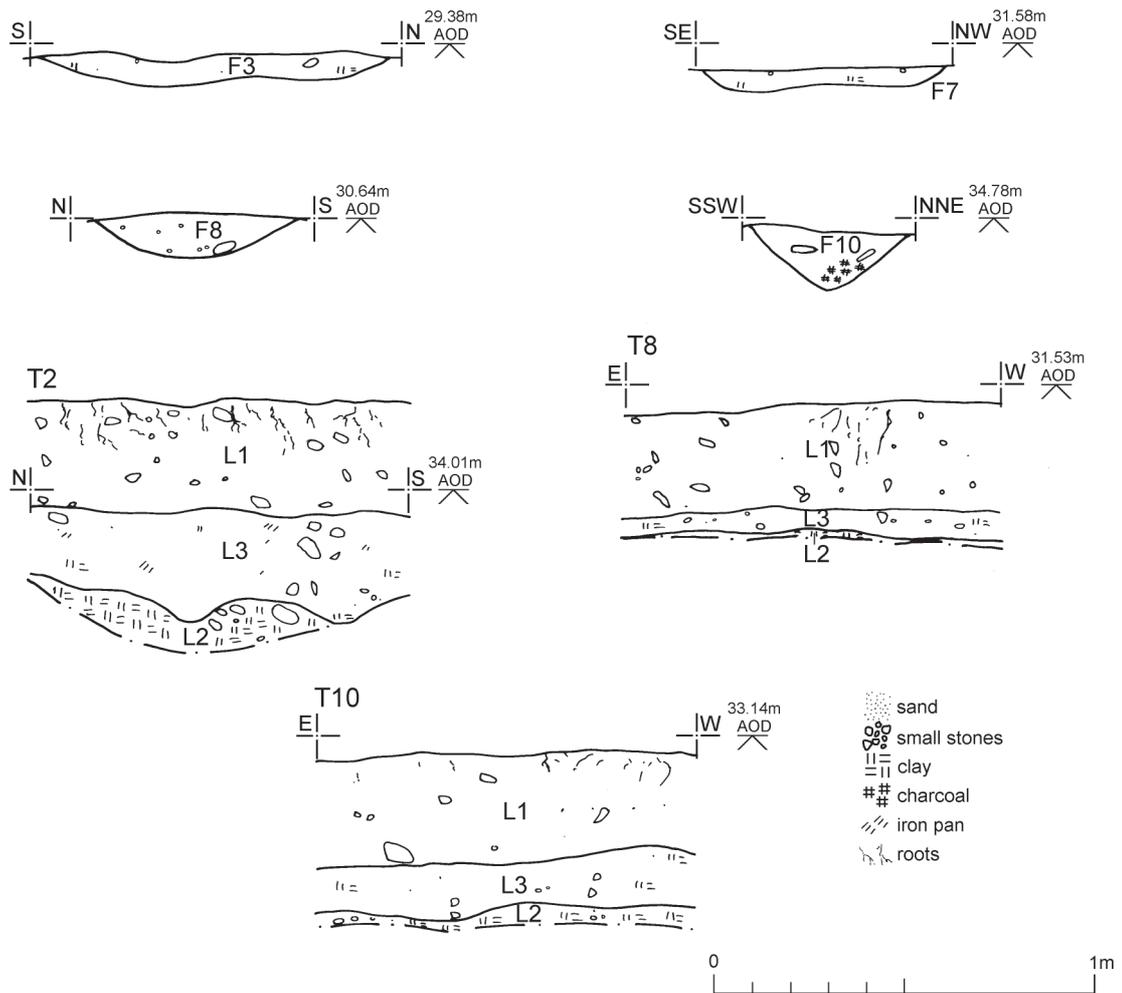


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Land to the east of Chappel Road, Chappel, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Chappel	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 89463 28060 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2023/06b CHER ref.: ECC4817 OASIS ref.: colchest3-516312
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 21st-24th August 2023	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 1.71 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeology Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC3818, MCC3824, MCC3826, MCC3827, MCC3828, MCC3829, MCC3830, MCC7036, MCC7124, MCC10030, MCC10031
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1981	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Late Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Roman	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>An archaeological evaluation (13 trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex in advance of a proposed new residential development. The site lies to the south of the historic settlement of Chappel. Little archaeological work has been carried out in the area, although the discovery of a Roman mosaic pavement at Viaduct Farm, to the north northeast of the site, during the 1970s evidences the existence of a Roman settlement in the area. Excavations revealed a Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pit or ditch terminus and a Roman pit.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Elliott Hicks	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2023

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written scheme of investigation  
for an evaluation on land to the east of Chappel Hill,  
Chappel, Essex**

**June 2023**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/06b  
CHER code: [tbc](#)**

**Written scheme of investigation for an evaluation on  
land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex.**

**June 2023**

**NGR: TL 89463 28060**

**Planning district.: Colchester  
Planning ref.: pre-planning**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/06b**

**CHER code: tbc  
CCC monitor: Dr Rik Hoggett  
OASIS id: colchest3-516312**

**WSI prepared by: Emma Holloway  
Figure by: Chris Lister**

**Client: landowner**

Prepared by:	Emma Holloway	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	07/06/2023	

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## Site location and description

The site is located c 247m south/south-west of St Barnabus' Church, and 290m south of the River Colne, on land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 89463 28060.

The site is currently a c 1.68 hectare agricultural field which slopes from c 33.93m above ordnance datum at the south-western edge of the site (Chappel Hill), to c 24.44m in the north-east corner of the site.

## Proposed work

The proposed development comprises of a residential development and associated groundworks such as parking, landscaping and utilities.

## Geological and archaeological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is London clay formation (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). There are no superficial deposits recorded for the western half of the site but the eastern half contains superficial deposits of head (poorly sorted and poorly stratified, angular rock debris and/or clayey hillwash and soil creep, mantling a hillslope and deposited by solifluction and gelifluction processes).

Chappel is a village located approximately 6.5km north-east of Colchester. The Colchester-to-Halstead road crosses the northern part of the parish and the road to Great Tey runs south from it. Chappel is comprised of a core settlement area with dispersed clusters of houses along roads or around greens. Chappel borders the adjacent village of Wakes Colne. The two villages, although in different parishes, share resources.

During the 1970's Roman activity was recorded nearby in the form of a mosaic pavement at Viaduct Farm c 200m north/north-east of the development site (MCC7036).

St. Barnabus Church (MCC10030-1 and MCC3824) is a single-celled church, which was said to have been erected in 1352. It is comprised of primarily flint rubble with a weatherboarded spire. Much of the graveyard has been destroyed with headstones having been used for paths and boundaries.

A small number of historic timber-framed buildings survive in the cluster of dwellings surrounding the church, including:

- 14th century: The Swan Inn, which was originally a timber-framed hall-house but later converted into an Inn (MCC3830).
- 16th century: The Stores (MCC3827) and Viaduct Farmhouse (MCC3826).
- 17th century: Bridgewick Cottages (MCC3818)
- 18th-19th century: Viaduct Farm Cottages, 1-3 The Street (MCC3828) and The Cottage, The Street (MCC3829).

The site is bordered on the east by the railway. The Gainsborough Line was a Sudbury branch line. It was originally opened in 1849 as part of the Stour Valley Railway. The Chappel viaduct to the north-east of the site was built in 1849 and contains 32 arches constructed from 7 million local yellow stock bricks (MCC7124)

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

Little archaeological work has been carried out in this area. Archaeological monitoring in 2018 by CAT at the nearby 15th century Grade II listed Popes Hall did not reveal any archaeological features or finds (CAT Report 1329).

## **Project background**

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA) was approached for advice about the potential development at pre-application stage. An archaeological evaluation was recommended. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

## **Requirement for work** (Fig 1)

The archaeological work will consist of an evaluation by trial-trenching. There was no archaeological brief for this project but after consultation with the CCCAA a 4% sample by archaeological trial-trenching was agreed.

*Specifically* In order to meet a 4% sample of the c 16,800m<sup>2</sup> site CAT proposes to evaluate thirteen linear trenches covering an area of 666m<sup>2</sup>. Trenches are positioned in a systematic array to sample as much of the site as possible whilst avoiding exclusion zones related to utilities and the railway. All trenches will measure 1.8m wide. Trench lengths will be the following:

- T1 & T3: 25m
- T2, T4, T6-T13: 30m
- T5: 20m:

The initial work will comprise of the trial-trenching which will be followed by a site meeting with the CCCAA. Further archaeological work may be required. This will be decided by the CCCAA on completion of the trial-trenching and report.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to the CCCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event

code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT project officer and four archaeologists for four days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furniss/Nigel Rayner.

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural geology is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the CCCAA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into the natural geology.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

The trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the CCCAA.

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trenches and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small-sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- The range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality.
- Concentrations of macro-remains.
- Differences in remains from undated and dated features.
- Variation between different feature types and areas of site.

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

### **Human remains**

The CCCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation. Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage.

Following Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CCCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

## **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photographic register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in the site archive.

## **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton  
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)  
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley  
flint: Adam Wightman  
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn  
osteology: (human remains): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)  
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray  
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth  
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow  
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the CCCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## **Post-excavation assessment**

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the CCCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the CCCAA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

## Results

Notification will be given to CCCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet will be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the CCCAA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects ([paul.gilman@me.com](mailto:paul.gilman@me.com)).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in Essex Archaeology & History) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

## Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited with Colchester Museum unless otherwise agreed in advance. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service ([www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk](http://www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the CCCAA at the time of their deposition.

The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

## Monitoring

The CCCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CCCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CCCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

## Events, activities and social media

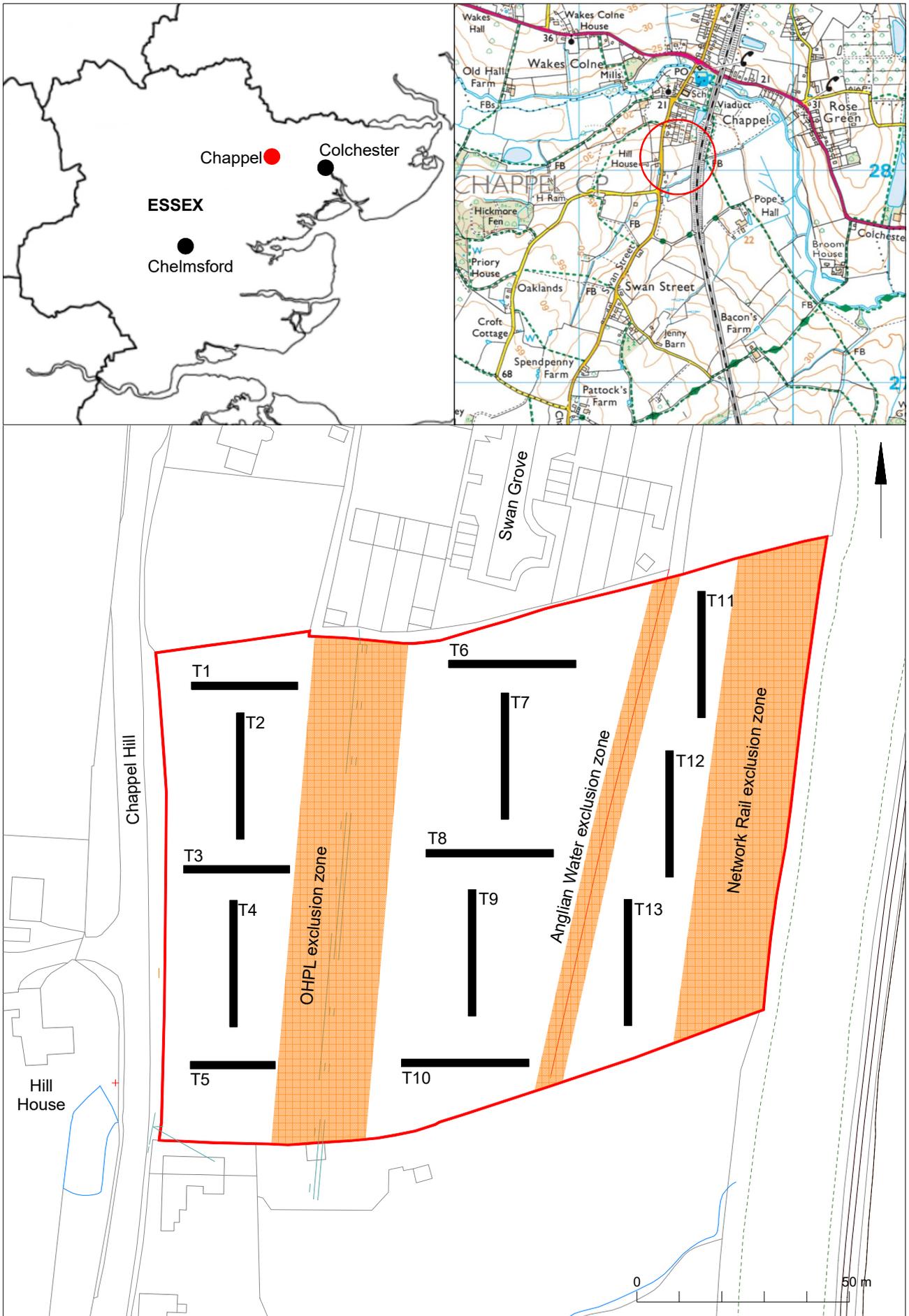
In addition, the CAT website (<https://catuk.org/>) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

## 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 <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> ) |
| CAT                      | 2022 | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |

CAT Report 1329	2018	<i>Archaeological monitoring at Popes Hall, Popes Lane, Chappel, Essex – September 2018</i> , by 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
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i> .
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell.
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government



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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal in relation to site constraints.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-516312

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-516312
Project Name	Evaluation at Land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex
Sitename	Land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2023/06b
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	21-Aug-2023 - 24-Aug-2023
Location	Land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex NGR : TL 89463 28060 LL : 51.918824411905454, 0.75360204876573 12 Fig : 589463,228060
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Chappel
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation was carried out as per the brief and WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (13 trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the east of Chappel Hill, Chappel, Essex in advance of a proposed new residential development. The site lies to the south of the historic settlement of Chappel. Little archaeological work has been carried out in the area, although the discovery of a Roman mosaic pavement at Viaduct Farm, to the north northeast of the site, during the 1970s evidences the existence of a Roman settlement in the area. Excavations revealed a Neolithic to Early Bronze Age pit or ditch terminus and a Roman pit.

Keywords	<p>Tree Throw - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Natural Feature - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Stake Hole - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Ditch - NEOLITHIC - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Pit - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Ditch - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types</p> <p>Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Sherd - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Sherd - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Lithic Implement - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p> <p>Lithic Implement - EARLY BRONZE AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p>
Funder	Private individual
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman
HER Identifiers	
Archives	