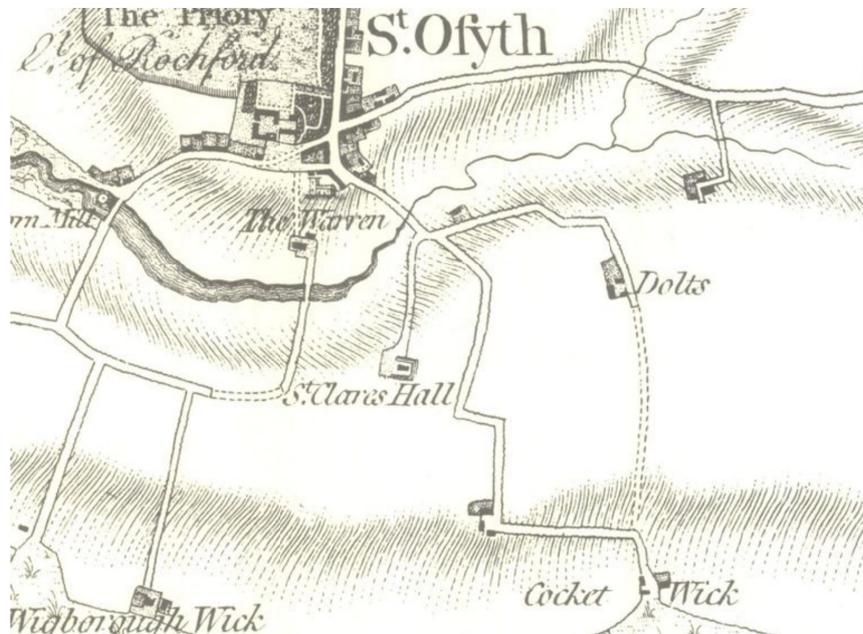


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1984  
issued October 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land east of  
St Clere's Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane,  
St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8RX:  
September 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/08e  
ECC code: STOSC23**

**Archaeological evaluation on land east of  
St Cleres Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane,  
St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8RX:  
September 2023**

**NGR: TM 12685 15096 (centre)**

**Planning ref.: 22/01100/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/08e  
CAT Report 1984**

**ECC code: STOSC23  
OASIS id: colchest3-518751**

**report prepared by Dr Elliott Hicks**

**fieldwork by Robin Mathieson with Elliott Hicks  
and Alice Parker**

**commissioned by the landowners**

<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>	04/10/2023	

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land east of St Clere's Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane, St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies to the south-west of a site where an Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure, Bronze Age barrows, a Middle Iron Age settlement and further remains dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods have been excavated. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land east of St Clere's Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane, St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth, Essex during 27th-28th September 2023. The work was commissioned by the landowners and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

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 programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation on land south of St Clere's Hall Cottages and St Clere's Hall Lane, St Clere's Hall Lane, St Osyth* written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2023). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2023).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (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 includes extracts of the ECC Brief and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale) shows that the bedrock geology of the site is London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand).

The proposed development site lies around half a mile from St Osyth's town centre which includes a series of listed buildings and the medieval St Osyth's Priory (EHER 4). It is situated to the south-west of a large cropmark complex indicating the presence of a settlement consisting of a large sub-rectangular enclosure containing numerous pits and some smaller sub-rectangular enclosures as well as a double-ditched trackway presumably linking this settlement with a Roman road (EHER 2970). These cropmarks extend further on to the north-east, where archaeological excavations were carried out in 2000-2003 in advance of gravel extraction. The excavation site was approximately 4.5ha, and the investigation revealed extensive and significant remains including an Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure, Bronze Age barrows, a Middle Iron Age settlement and other remains dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods (Germany 2007).

Immediately to the west of the site, to the east of Warren Farm, lies a cropmark denoting the presence of a large ring ditch (EHER 2991). Further cropmarks indicating the presence of seven

further ring ditches, as well as linear features thought to be drains, lie directly to the south-west of the site, west of St Clere's Hall (EHER 2936). Approximately 260m south-east of the site, east of St Clere's Hall, are cropmarks of a double ring ditch and two smaller ring ditches (EHER 2931). Cropmarks of linear features have also been observed west of Whyers Hall Farm, some 200m south of the site (EHER 16879).

A number of historic buildings are located in the vicinity of the site. Some 150m to the south is St Clere's Hall, a Grade I-listed, moated, timber-framed aisled hall originally constructed in the 14th century with alterations made from the 16th century onwards (EHER 2839, 34827). Approximately 30m west of St Clere's Hall is a Grade II-listed timber-framed barn dating to the 17th or 18th century (EHER 34828). Tan Cottage and the Old Cottage, two Grade II-listed early 15th-century timber-framed houses, lie some 300m north-east of the site (EHER 25647). Old Warren Farmhouse, which dates to the 17th century or earlier, is located approximately 350m west-north-west of the site. To the north of this farmhouse is an undated earthwork which is variously thought to be either a house platform, a moat or a boundary ditch (EHER 9017, 9018, 9913).

#### **4 Aims**

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### **5 Results** (Figs 2-3)

Three trial trenches were excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench 1 was 15m long and 1.8m wide, and trenches 2 and 3 were 30m long and 1.8m wide.



**Photograph 1** T1 trench shot, looking north-west.

The trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.27-0.44m thick), and a layer of buried soil (L2, c 0.09-0.23m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.4-0.65m below current ground level).

L1 – firm/hard dry medium grey/brown sandy silt with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%.

L2 – firm/hard dry medium brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 1%.

L3 – firm/hard dry light/medium orange/brown sand clay silt and inclusions of: stone 1%.

No archaeological features or material were encountered.



**Photograph 2** T3 trench shot – looking east north-east.

## **6 Finds**

There were no finds.

## **7 Conclusion**

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological features or material were found.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowners for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by R Mathieson with E Hicks and A Parker. Figures were compiled by C Lister, R Mathieson and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

## 9 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2023	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2023	<i>Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation and excavation on land south of St Cleres Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane, St Cleres Lane, St Osyth, Essex, Essex, CO16 8RX</i>
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> Published 2014; revised October 2022
ECCPS	2023	<i>Brief for Archaeological evaluation and excavation on Land South of St Cleres Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane St Cleres Hall Lane St Osyth</i> by T O'Connor
Germany, M	2007	<i>Neolithic and Bronze Age Monuments and Middle Iron Age Settlement at Lodge Farm, St Osyth, Essex: Excavations 2000-3</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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
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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
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, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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 Archive deposition**

**Digital record:** This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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### **Distribution list:**

Landowners

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

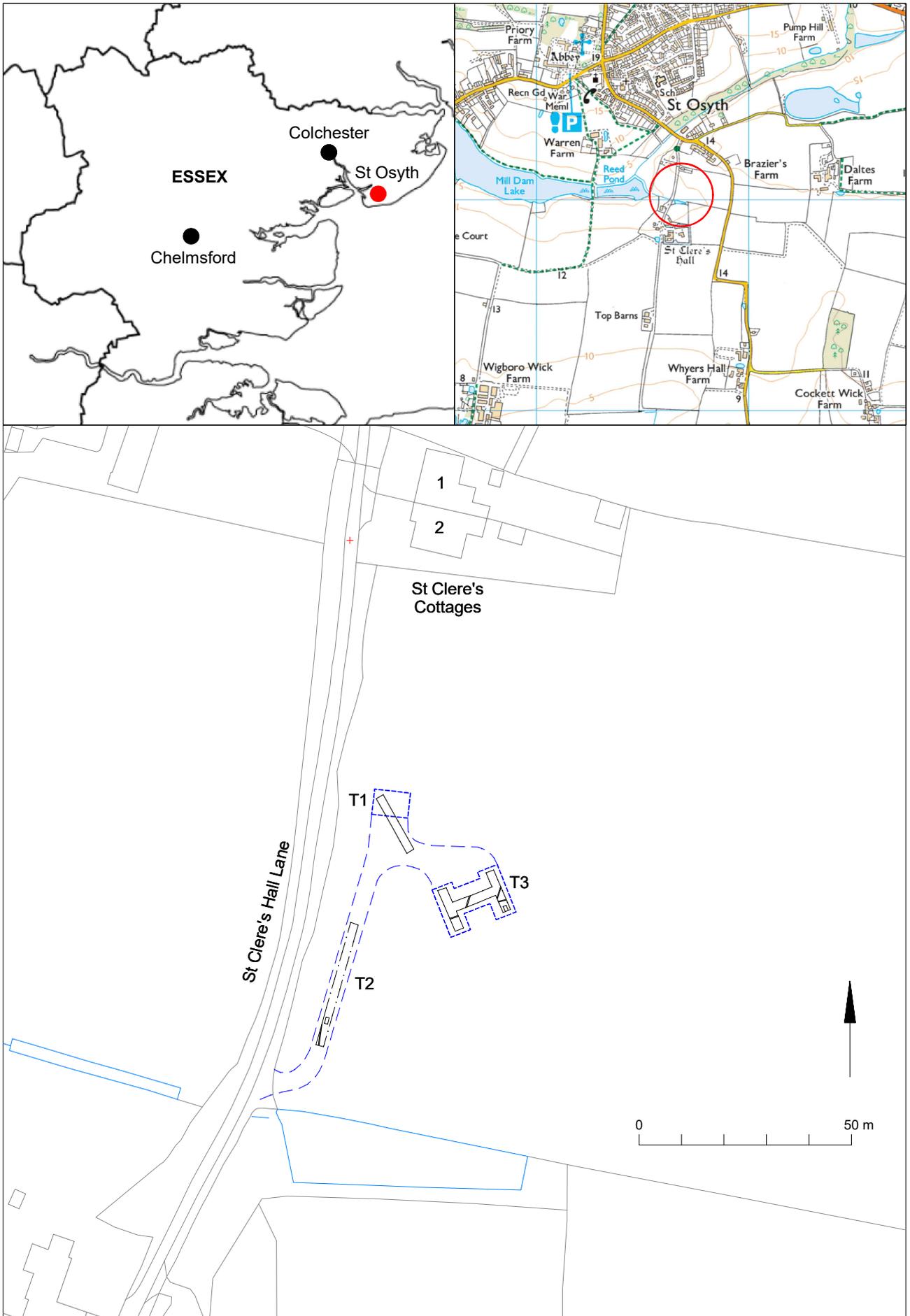


Fig 1 Site location with proposed development dashed blue.

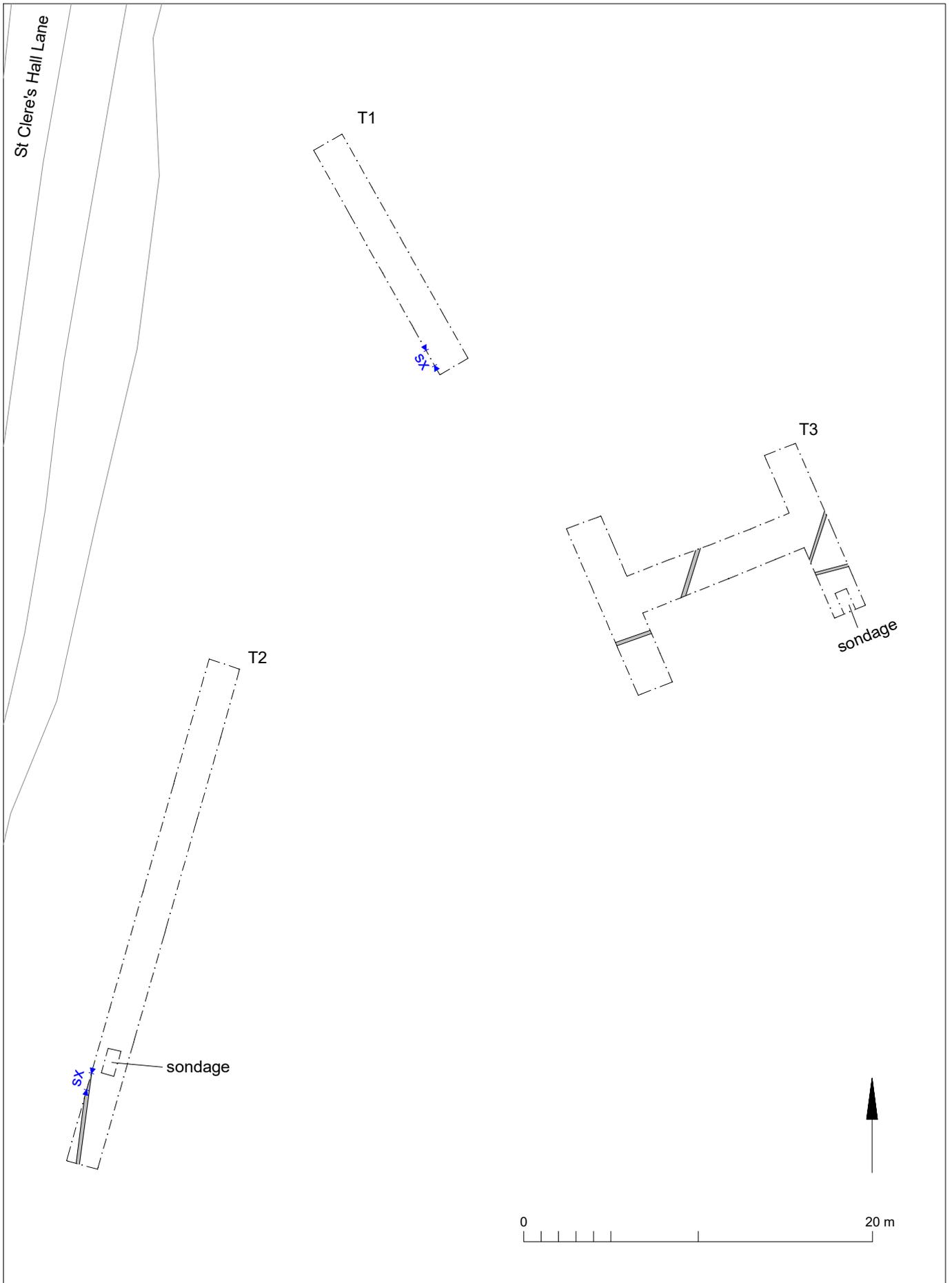
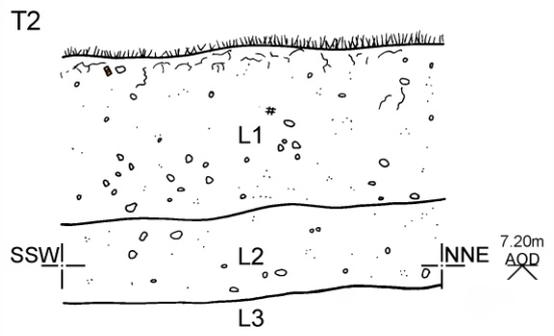
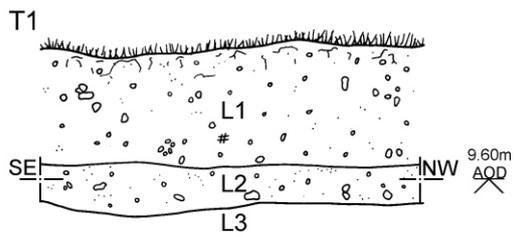


Fig 2 Results. Modern land drains shown in grey.



-  roots
-  stones
-  sand
-  post-Roman CBM



Fig 3 Representative sections.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-518751

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-518751
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land south of St Clere's Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane, St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth, Essex, CO16 8RX: September 2023
Sitename	Land south of St Cleres Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane, St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth
Sitecode	STOSC23
Project Identifier(s)	2023/08e
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	22/01100/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	27-Sep-2023 - 28-Sep-2023
Location	Land south of St Cleres Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane, St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth NGR : TM 12685 15096 LL : 51.794058498643864, 1.082805151998428 12 Fig : 612685,215096
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Tendring Parish : St. Osyth
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land east of St Clere's Hall Cottages and St Cleres Hall Lane, St Cleres Hall Lane, St Osyth, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies to the south-west of a site where an Early Neolithic causewayed enclosure, Bronze Age barrows, a Middle Iron Age settlement and further remains dating to the Roman, Saxon and medieval periods have been excavated. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman, Laura Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - STOSC23
Archives	