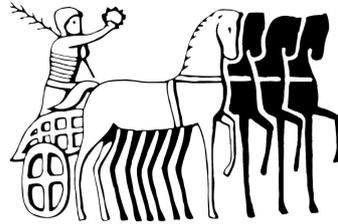


# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1998  
issued November 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land between  
Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield,  
Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8BL:  
October 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/081  
ECC code: EHBL23**

**Archaeological evaluation on land between  
Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield,  
Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8BL: October 2023**

**NGR: TL 76790 00829**

**Planning ref.: 17/01646/OUT**

**CAT project ref.: 2023/081  
CAT Report 1998**

**ECC code: EHBL23  
OASIS id: colchest3-519019**

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with contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton**

**fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Megan Beale,  
Chloé Hill and Charlie Hodges**

**commissioned by CCC Property Ltd**

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<b>Issued:</b>	24/11/2023	

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## 1 Summary

A six-trench evaluation was carried out on land between Back Lane and Old Church Road in East Hanningfield, ahead of the construction of 26 new dwellings. There are several Grade II listed buildings close to the development site, with evidence of activity dating back to the prehistoric period nearby. Several features dating to the medieval/post-medieval periods were recorded, with residual pottery from the Late Iron Age-early Roman period found as well. A couple of the features may have been post-medieval field boundaries.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land between Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford on the 23rd and 24th October 2023. The work was commissioned by CCC Property Ltd and took place during groundworks for the construction of 26 new dwellings with associated garages and landscaping.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Planning Services (ECCPS), the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor Mark Baister 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 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Mark Baister (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 field archaeological evaluation* (ClfA 2020a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020b).

## 3 Geological and archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief (ECC 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 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology of the site is Claygate Member (clay, silt and sand).

The proposed site is located in East Hanningfield, in which “*multi-period archaeological deposits are recorded from the zone*” (Bennett 2006, 112). Although no archaeological work has been undertaken at the site, immediately to the west lies Huntingdon's Farm, which includes a Grade II 16th-century timber-framed farmhouse (EHER 30996, no. 1237308).

Further west are cropmarks highlighted by aerial photography, that could evidence a prehistoric or Roman enclosure (EHER 47752; ECCPS 2023, 4). Additionally, there is the site of a previous airfield, used during 1916 as a night landing ground (EHER 19349).

To the north-west of the site lies the Grade II listed Claydons Manor, which is a 16th-/17th-century timber-framed house (EHER 30360) with adjacent moat (EHER 5657).

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

Approximately 500m to the north-east is the historic town of East Hanningfield, which includes a series of listed buildings such as The Windmill Inn (no. 1338420), and the Old Forge (no. 1170525), as well as the 19th-century East Hanningfield Steam Mill (EHER 40763). These features centre around The Tye road.

#### 4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

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

A total of six trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide.

Three horizons were noted throughout:

- grassy topsoil (L1, c 0.25m thick) covered the entire site;
- under which was a makeup layer (L2, c 0.42m thick), and this covered,
- clayey natural (L3, from c 0.65m bcgl (below current ground level)).

##### Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated east-west and excavated to a depth of 0.42-0.44m. The corner of a geotechnical test-pit was seen mid-trench.



Photograph 1 T1, view west.

Natural (L3) was noted from c 0.42m bcgl. No archaeological features were encountered.

## Trench 2

Trench 2 was orientated north-south and excavated to a depth of 0.33-0.44m.



**Photograph 2** T2, view south.

Natural (L3) was encountered from 0.32m bcgl. A shallow, sub-rounded pit (F1) was noted mid-trench. It was at least 0.9m wide, 1m long, and 0.1m deep. Late Iron Age and medieval pottery was recovered from this feature.



**Photograph 3** F1 in plan.

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated north-west/south-east and excavated to a depth of 0.34-0.44m.



**Photograph 4** T3, view north-east.

Natural occurred from 0.32m bcgl. A partial geotechnical test-pit was noted near the south-western end of the trench. At the same end of the trench, a shallow, sub-oval tree-throw (F8) was excavated. F8 was at least 1.2m long, 1.5m wide, and a maximum of 0.1m deep. A small quantity of medieval pottery was recovered from this feature.



**Photograph 5** F8 section, view south-west.

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated east-west and excavated to a depth of c 0.43m.



Photograph 6 T4, view west.

Natural (L3) occurred from 0.41m bcgl. A small post-hole (F2) was encountered at the west end of the trench. It was approximately 0.36 x 0.42m, and 0.16m deep. No finds were recovered.



Photograph 7 F2 section, view east.

### Trench 5

Trench 5 was orientated north-south and excavated to a depth of 0.40m.



**Photograph 8** T5, view north.

Natural was encountered from 0.4m bcgl. No archaeological features were noted in this trench.

### Trench 6

Trench 6 was orientated north-east/south-west and excavated to a depth of 0.40-0.43m.



**Photograph 9** T6, view east.

Natural (L3) was encountered from c 0.31m bcgl. Four features were excavated in this trench. F3 is a north-east/south-west orientated ditch feature, with a terminus at the south-western end. It was at least 9m long, 0.66m wide, and 0.13m deep. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the excavated terminus.



**Photograph 10** F3 section, view north-east.

Cutting F3 is a north-south orientated ditch, F4. This feature was at least 2.7m long, 0.33m wide, and 0.08m deep. Medieval pottery was recovered from F4. It cut F3 on its western edge.



**Photograph 11** Oblique shot of relationship slot between F3 and F4, view west.

Around the middle of the trench is an undated sub-oval tree-throw, F5. Only half of it was seen, the other half extending beyond the limit of excavation (LOE). F5 is at least 1.3m long, 0.5m wide, and 0.10m deep.



**Photograph 11** F5 in plan.

Seen at the south-west end of the trench, a north-east/south-west orientated ditch, F6 was encountered, with a terminus at the north-eastern end. It was at least 6.6m long, 0.6m wide, and 0.17m deep. No finds were recovered.



**Photograph 12** F6 section, view west.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material (Appendices 2 and 3)

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) totalling 60 sherds with a weight of 537g (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is low at 9g. This material was recovered from five features and one layer, although a large proportion of the assemblage came from ditch F6 (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	55	506	9	0.10
CBM	5	31	6	-
<b>All</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.10</b>

**Table 1** Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Pit	3	17	6
F3	Ditch	10	60	6
F4	Ditch	4	27	7
F6	Ditch	36	365	10
F8	Tree-throw	3	59	20
L2	Subsoil	4	9	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>9</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific contexts.

#### Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

Pit F1 produced one sherd (8g) of Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery (fabric GTW). There was also a small quantity of Roman pottery which was recorded according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999). Ditch F6 produced one sherd (9g) of fine oxidised ware (fabric DZ) and a Cam 243-244/246 bowl (EVE:0.07, 4g), dating to AD 43-140, in fabric DJ (oxidised and related wares). Finally, two sherds (2g) of fine oxidised wares (fabric DZ) came from makeup L2.

#### Medieval and post-medieval pottery

The medieval and post-medieval pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) (Table 3). There was a small-sized assemblage of pottery at 50 sherds with a weight of 483g and an EVE of 0.03 (Table 4). The MSW is 10g. This material was recovered from five features and one layer although a sizeable proportion came from ditch F6 (Table 5).

The majority of the pottery dates to the medieval period and includes sherds of medieval sandy greywares (fabric F20) and Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) (Table 4), although the only diagnostic element was a cooking pot (EVE:0.03) with a blocked neckless rim (H2) in fabric F20 and dating to c 1250/1275-1375/1400, which came from ditch F6. There was a small quantity of post-medieval pottery (fabrics 40, 45E) from the ditches F3 and F6, and makeup L2.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	11th-early 13th century
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	c 1150-1375/1400
F21	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F45E	Frechen stonewares	16th-17th century

**Table 3** Medieval and post-medieval pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	1	4	4	0.00
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	24	282	12	0.03
F21	Colchester-type ware	17	107	6	0.00
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	7	77	11	0.00
F45E	Frechen stonewares	1	13	13	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.03</b>

**Table 4** Summary of the medieval/post-medieval pottery by fabric group.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F1	Pit	2	9	5	0.00
F3	Ditch	10	60	6	0.00
F4	Ditch	3	15	5	0.00
F6	Ditch	30	333	11	0.03
F8	Tree-throw	3	59	20	0.00
L2	Subsoil	2	7	4	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.03</b>

**Table 5** Quantities of medieval/post-medieval pottery from specific contexts.

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

There was a very small quantity of CBM at five fragments with a weight of 31g. Most of the CBM came from ditch F6 which produced two small brick fragments (7g), one sherd of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (8g) and one sherd of baked clay (4g). Finally, one fragment of daub (12g) came from ditch F4.

### Conclusion

Table 3 summarises the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and CBM. The features and layer date to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Context	Description	Late Iron Age-Roman pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date approx.
F1	Pit	GTW	F20	-	Medieval
F3	Ditch	-	F21, F40, F45E	-	Post-Medieval
F4	Ditch	-	F21	-	Medieval
F6	Ditch	DZ, DJ (CAM 243-244/246)	F20 (cooking pot H3), F21, F40	BR, PT	Post-Medieval
F8	Tree-throw	-	F13, F20	-	Medieval
L2	Makeup	DZ	F20, F40	-	Post-Medieval

**Table 6** Approximate dates for the individual features and layers.

## 7 Conclusion (Figs 4-5)

Trial-trenching at the land between Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield revealed several features, all dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Ditches F3 and F6 are the same form, orientation, date and approximate size. They are both parallel to the current road (Old Church Road) so may be a former boundary, with an entrance in the gap. Although the pottery recovered from F4 implies it is earlier than F3, F4 clearly cuts into F3, so may be contemporary, or later than, F3. F4 may be another field boundary.



**Map 1** Section of Chapman and André's 1777 *Map of Essex*, showing the approximate centre of the development site in red. Huntingdon's Farmhouse is the blue dot, Rails Farmhouse is the yellow dot. All Saints Church is the green dot. North is up.

Nearby Huntindgon's Farmhouse (no. 1237308) and Rails Farmhouse (no. 1122179) both date to the late 16th century, so it is very likely activity from the same period would occur between the two. Pottery found from several features agrees with this.

Residual pottery recovered from a few contexts implies activity in the area from as early as the Late Iron Age to Roman period, which corresponds with significant activity found at nearby Rettendon and A130 works (Bennett 2006, 27). Pottery dated to the medieval period is not surprising as East Hanningfield appears in the AD1086 Domesday Book, with the now demolished All Saints Church (no. 1408737) originating from the 7th, then 13th centuries.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks CCC Property Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman and carried out by B Holloway, M Beale, C Hill and C Hodges. Figures were prepared by B Holloway, E Holloway and M Beale. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Mark Baister.

## 9 References

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

- |            |       |   |
|------------|-------|---|
| Bennett, A | 2006  | Chelmsford Borough Historic Environment Characterisation Project. Essex County Council  |
| CAT        | 2023  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for field archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Land Between Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8BL</i> by V Sands |
| Cifa       | 2020a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> . First published 2014, revised 2020  |
| Cifa       | 2020b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . First published 2014, revised 2020.   |

Cotter, J P	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd
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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</i> (MoRPHE)
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Symonds, R and Wade, S (eds.)	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86.</i> Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Planning Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 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
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>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
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 archive

**Finds:** not retained  
**Digital record**  
 CAT Report 1998  
 ECC brief, CAT WSI  
 Digital photographs  
 Graphics files  
 Site data (including scans of original plans/sections)  
 Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

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**Distribution list**

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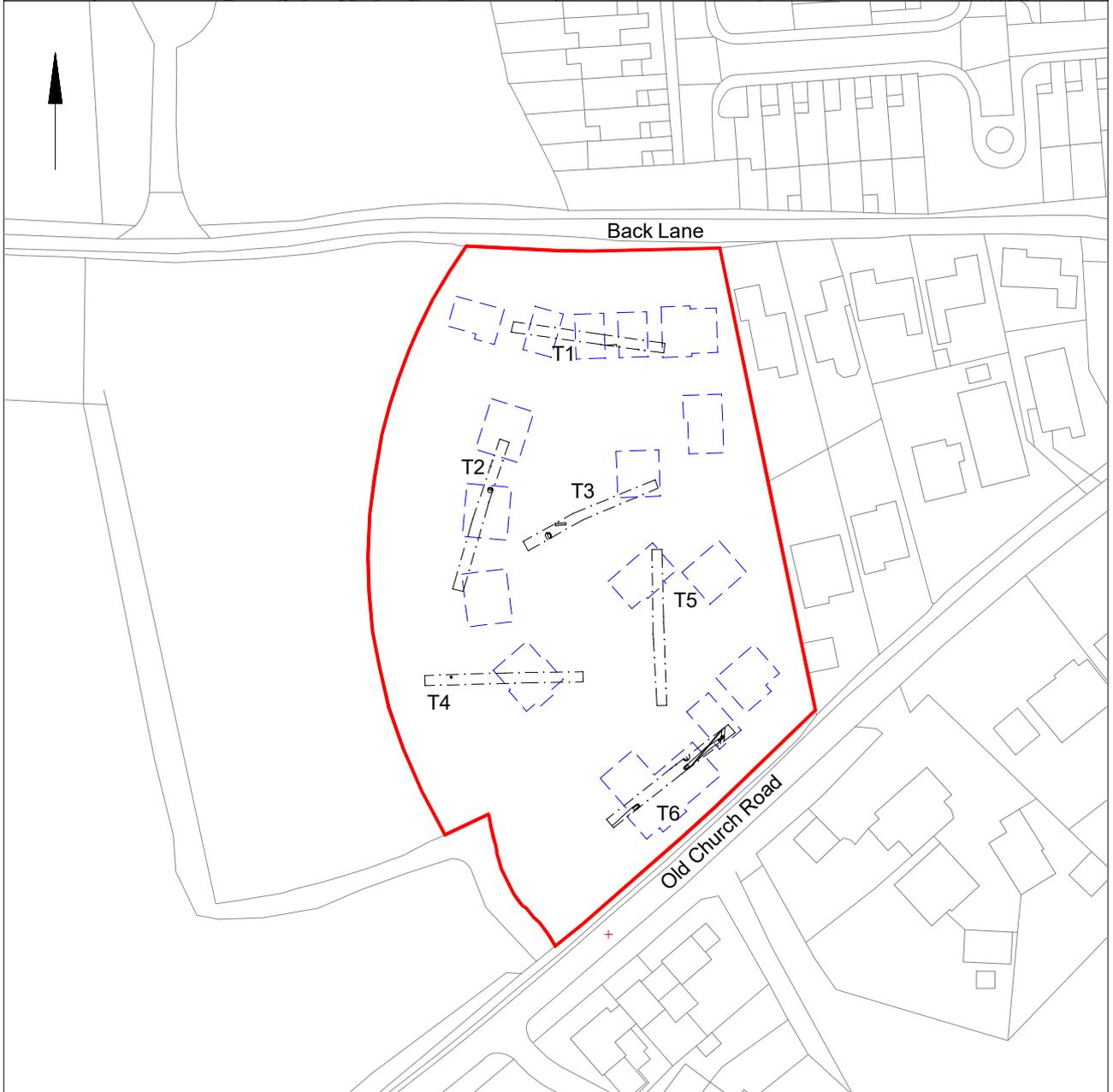
## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	friable moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey silt with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 3%	modern
L2	1	Makeup	friable moist light/medium orange/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 3%	post-medieval
L3	-	Natural	firm moist light orange clay and inclusions of: stone 5%	post-glacial
F1	2	Pit	friable moist/wet medium grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 4%	medieval
F2	-	Post-hole	firm moist light grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	undated
F3	3	Ditch	friable light orange/brown silty clay	post-medieval
F4	4	Ditch	friable moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 2%	medieval
F5	-	Tree-throw	firm light orange/brown silty clay	undated
F6	5	Ditch	firm wet light orange/brown silty clay with brick flecks	post-medieval
F7	-	VOID	-	-
F8	6	Tree-throw	friable light grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1%	medieval

## Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wmd	Sooting (ext.)	Sooting location	Charing (int.)	Charing location	Burning	Overfired	Wasters	Kiln second	Org. Residue	Abrasion	Modif.	Mark	Hole	Hole diam.	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F1	PIT	2	1	8	8																						GTW						-100	43	
F1	PIT	2	1	7	7																						F20						1150	1375/1400	
F1	PIT	2	1	2	2																						F20						1150	1375/1400	
F3	DITCH	3	1	19	19																						F40						1500	1800/1900	GLAZE
F3	DITCH	3	6	16	3																						F21						1200	1550	
F3	DITCH	3	2	12	6																						F21						1200	1550	W SLIP & GLAZE
F3	DITCH	3	1	13	13																						F45E						1500	1700	?
F4	DITCH	4	2	13	7																						F21						1200	1550	W SLIP & GLAZE
F4	DITCH	4	1	2	2																						F21						1200	1550	
F6	DITCH	5	1	9	9																						DZ						43	225	
F6	DITCH	5	1	4	4		1	0	0																		DJ	CAM 243-244/246	BOWL	0.07	180		43	140	
F6	DITCH	5	2	21	11						X																F21						1200	1550	
F6	DITCH	5	1	11	11		1	0	0																		F20	COOKING POT H3	COOKING POT	0.03	?	BLOCKED NECKLESS RIM	1250/1275	1375/1400	
F6	DITCH	5	4	43	11		0	1	0							X											F21						1200	1550	OF GREY OR CORE GREY (OF F21?), SLIGHTLY WARPED BASE
F6	DITCH	5	17	146	9		0	0	1							X		?									F20						1150	1375/1400	
F6	DITCH	5	1	60	60		0	0	1																		F20						1150	1375/1400	?
F6	DITCH	5	5	52	10																						F40						1500	1800/1900	
F8	TREE THROW	6	1	25	25																						F20						1150	1375/1400	
F8	TREE THROW	6	1	4	4																						F13						1000	1225	
F8	TREE THROW	6	1	30	30								X														F20						1150	1375/1400	
L2	SUBSOIL	1	2	2	1																						DZ						43	225	?
L2	SUBSOIL	1	1	1	1	X																					F20						1150	1375/1400	
L2	SUBSOIL	1	1	6	6	X																					F40						1500	1800/1900	

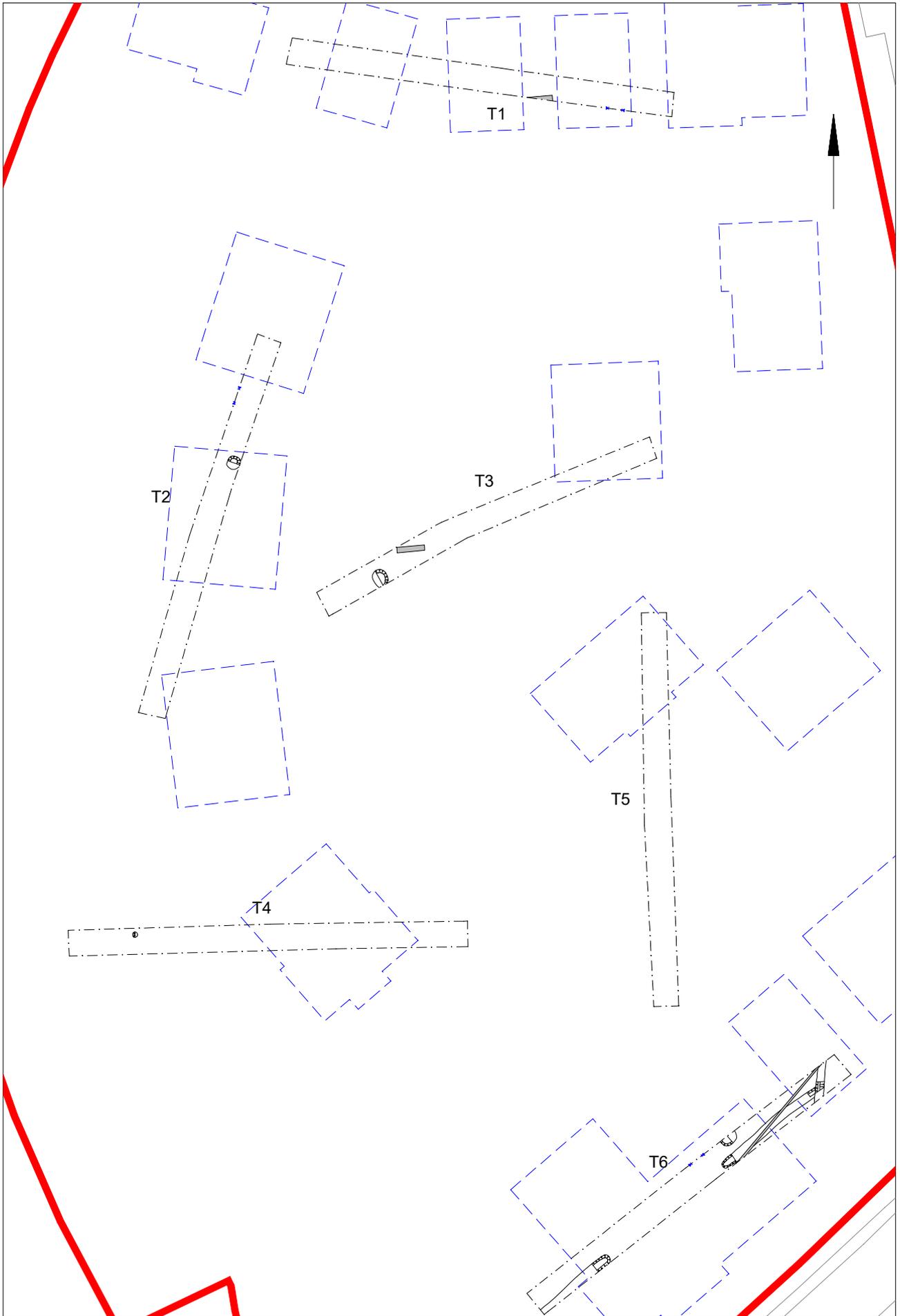




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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).





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Fig 2 Evaluation results.  
Geotech pits and land drain in grey.



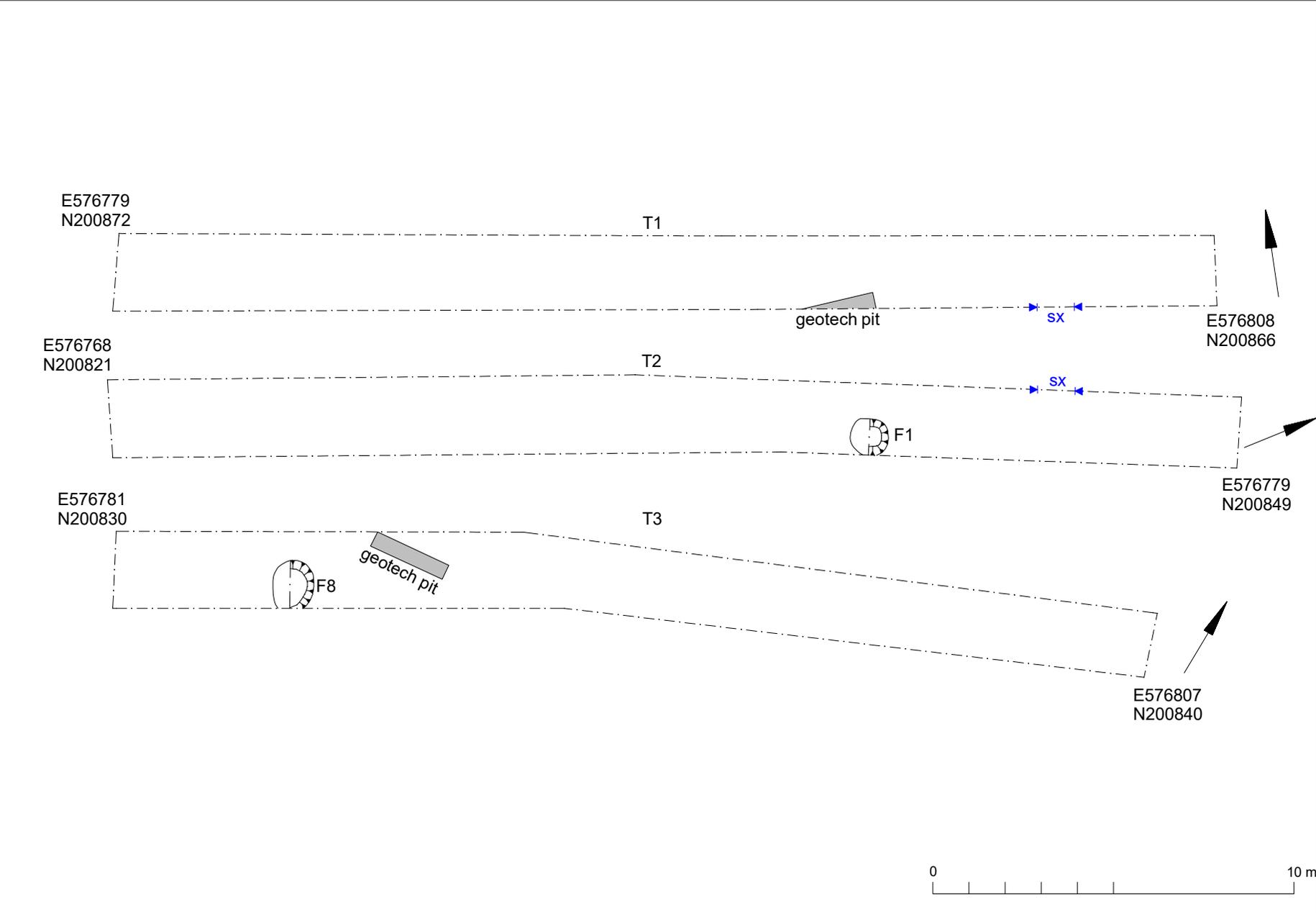


Fig 3 Trench results.

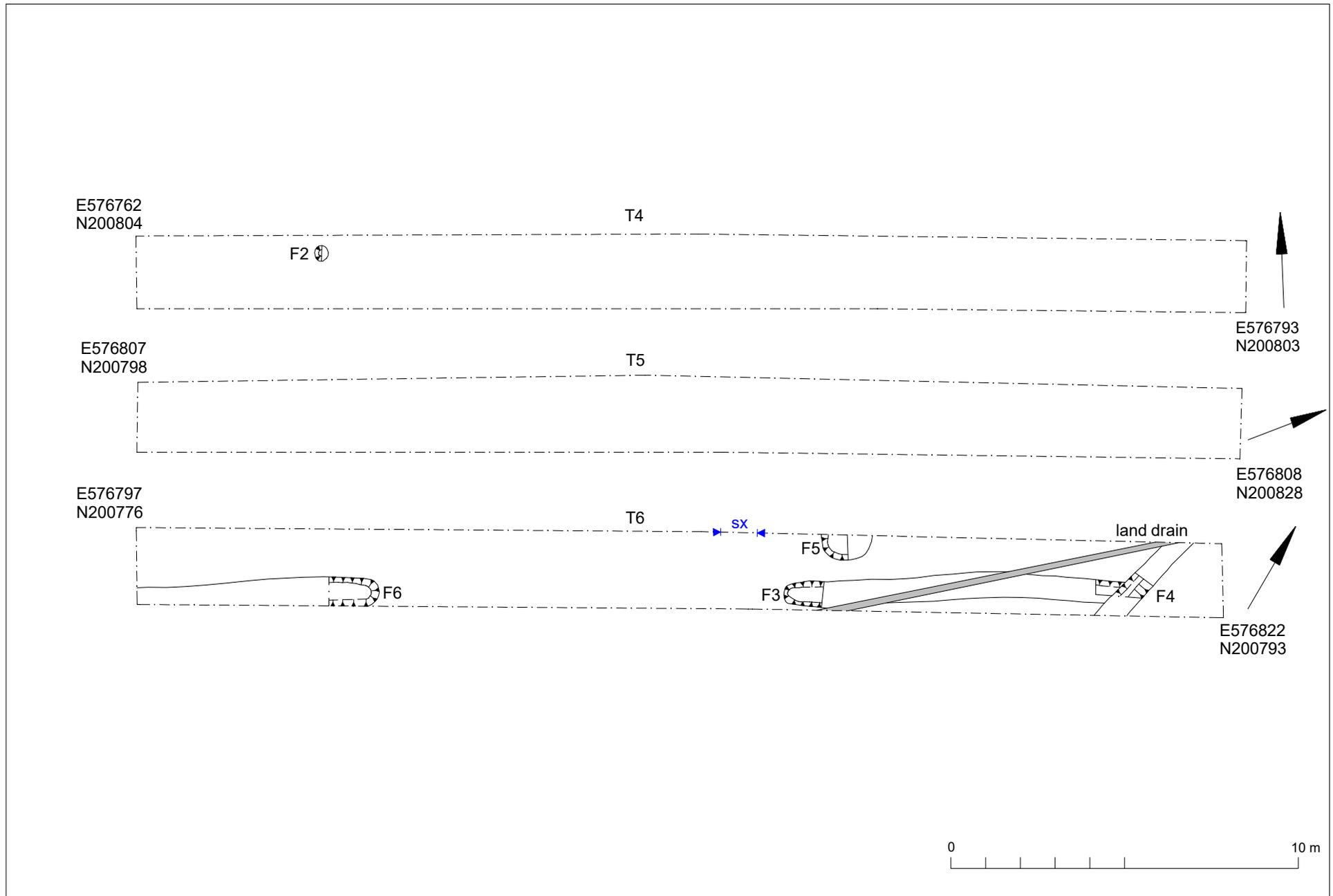


Fig 4 Trench results.

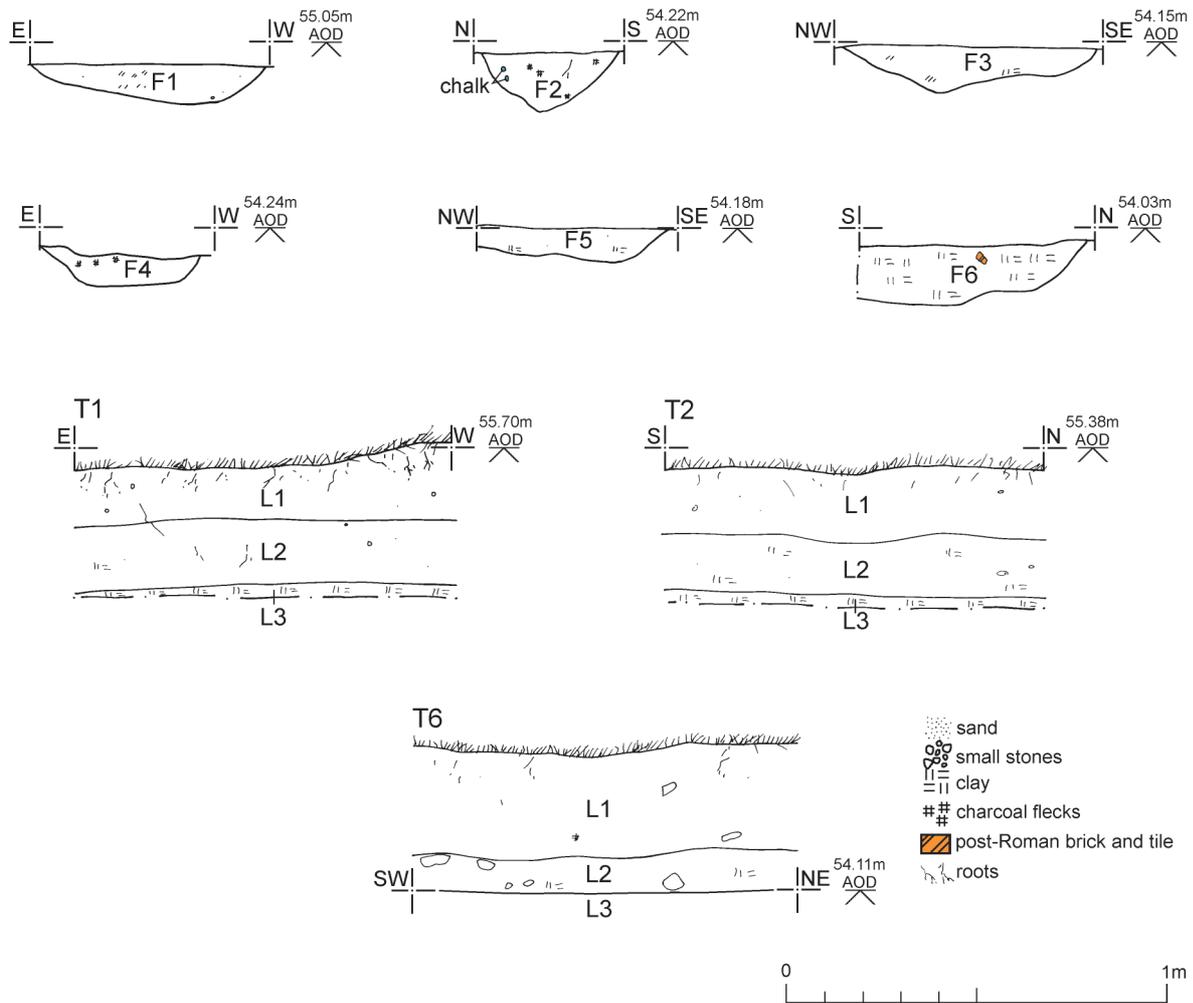


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-519019

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-519019
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring on land between Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8BL
Sitename	Land Between Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8BL
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2023/08I
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	17/01646/OUT
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Oct-2023 - 24-Oct-2023
Location	Land Between Back Lane and Old Church Road, East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8BL NGR : TL 76790 00829 LL : 51.67839994725697, 0.555655515639909 12 Fig : 576790,200829
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Chelmsford Parish : East Hanningfield
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring by trial trenching was carried out ahead of the construction of 26 new dwellings with associated garages and landscaping. All work was carried out in accordance with the Brief and WSI.
Project Results	A six-trench evaluation was carried out on land between Back Lane and Old Church Road in East Hanningfield, ahead of the construction of 26 new dwellings. There are several Grade II listed buildings close to the development site, with evidence of activity dating back to the prehistoric period nearby. Several features dating to the medieval/post-medieval periods were recorded, with residual pottery from the Late Iron Age-early Roman period found as well. A couple of the features may have been post-medieval field boundaries.
Keywords	Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation CCC Property Ltd
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;