

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2008
Issued December 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land formerly known
as Tile House Bungalow, Stebbing Green, Essex,
CM6 3TE: November 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/11d
ECC code: TBST23**

**Archaeological evaluation on land formerly known
as Tile House Bungalow, Stebbing Green, Essex,
CM6 3TE: November 2023**

NGR: TL 68614 23215 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/23/1133/FUL

**CAT project ref.: 2023/11d
CAT Report 2008**

**ECC code: TBST23
OASIS id: colchest3-520786**

report prepared by Ben Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Charlie Hodges

commissioned by the landowner

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
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| Issued: | 06/12/23 | |

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(dashed blue lines)

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (a single trial trench) was carried out at 'Tile House Bungalow', Stebbing Green, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwellings associated access and landscaping. The site lies within an area of known archaeological activity, with Roman settlement and agricultural activity identified in fields to the north of the investigation area. No archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, despite the proximity of known Roman activity.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at the site of the former Tile House Bungalow, Stebbing Green, Essex on 27th November 2023. The work was commissioned by the landowner, and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwellings with associated access and landscaping.

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 Trial Trenching & Excavation at land formerly known as 'Tile House Bungalow', Stebbing Green* written by Katie Lee-Smith and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2023), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2023b) in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS in advance of the work.

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 2015), 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 2020a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within an area of known archaeological finds and deposits. Historically a number of chance finds have been found in fields to the north of the site. In 1938 a local farmer reported that when ploughing the field artefacts were revealed. In 1948 Felsted School Archaeological Society dug five trial-trenches and six test pits to look for the Roman pavement previously reported by the local farmer. They uncovered the tessellated floor, which was damaged by ploughing. Rubbish pits were recorded 50 yards east of the tessellated floor. Several of the trenches revealed the remains of a structure with flint rubble foundations. Finds included Roman pottery, roof tiles and oyster shells (EHER 1238).

To the immediate north-east of the site is an area known as Stebbing Green Roman Mill. In 1988 a large area proposed for a borrow pit drew the attention of the County Council Archaeological section. Archaeologists regularly monitored the stripping. Although most of the area was devoid of features or finds a spread of substantial Roman material was found at the western edge. An excavation on this area was then carried out. A spread of rammed clay with chalk defining a presumed Roman timber building and the presence of many fragments of millstone grit quernstone in and around the building suggests it was the site of a mill. A dog burial was also recorded under the clay floor (EHER 8001, Bedwin 1999).

Stebbing Green is a small hamlet. Although not in a conservation area the site has a number of historic listed buildings nearby. To the east of the site is the Grade II listed mid 16th-century Tile House Farmhouse (EHER 36702). To the north-west of the site are adjoining Grade II listed timber-framed, plastered and thatched cottages Byways and Sunnyside (NHLE 1168880), dated to the 17th century or earlier, with later alterations. To the south of the site is Home Farmhouse, a Grade II listed timber-framed house dating to the 16th-17th century (EHER 36717).

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)

A single trial-trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 1.8m wide, T-shaped and totalled 35m in length. To the north-west of the trench, it cut through a modern hardstanding which consisted of a mixture of tarmac plainings and hardcore crush (L1 0.06-0.1m thick). Beneath this and throughout the remainder of the trench, modern topsoil (L2, 0.2-0.3m thick) sealed a subsoil (L3, 0.1m thick) above natural geological deposits (L4, encountered at a depth of 0.45-0.5m below current ground level).



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking north-west.



Photograph 2 Trench 1, looking south-west.

No archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation. Sondages were cut to investigate the possibility of any potential masking deposits but none were identified.

6 Finds

Fragments of modern brick and concrete were observed in the remains of L1. None of this material was retained.

7 Conclusion

No archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation carried out at the 'Tile House Bungalow' site. There was no evidence for Roman settlement activity despite its proximity to known find spots to the north.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner 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 C Hodges. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and S Vasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

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 | 2023a | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2023b | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching & excavation at land formerly known as 'Tile House Bungalow', Stebbing Green, Essex, CM6 3TE</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 trial trenching & excavation at land formerly known as 'Tile House Bungalow', Stebbing Green,</i> by K Lee-Smith |
| 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> |
| 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

| | |
|-----------|--|
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| CIfA | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists |
| ECC | Essex County Council |
| ECCHEA | Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor |
| ECCPS | Essex County Council Place Services |
| EHHER | Essex Historic Environment Record |
| 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 | O nline A ccess to the I ndex of Archaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main |
| section | (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s |
| ws_i | written scheme of investigation |

11 Archive deposition

This project falls within the CIfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>) and therefore the preserved archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project. 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 (eg context sheets, section drawings).

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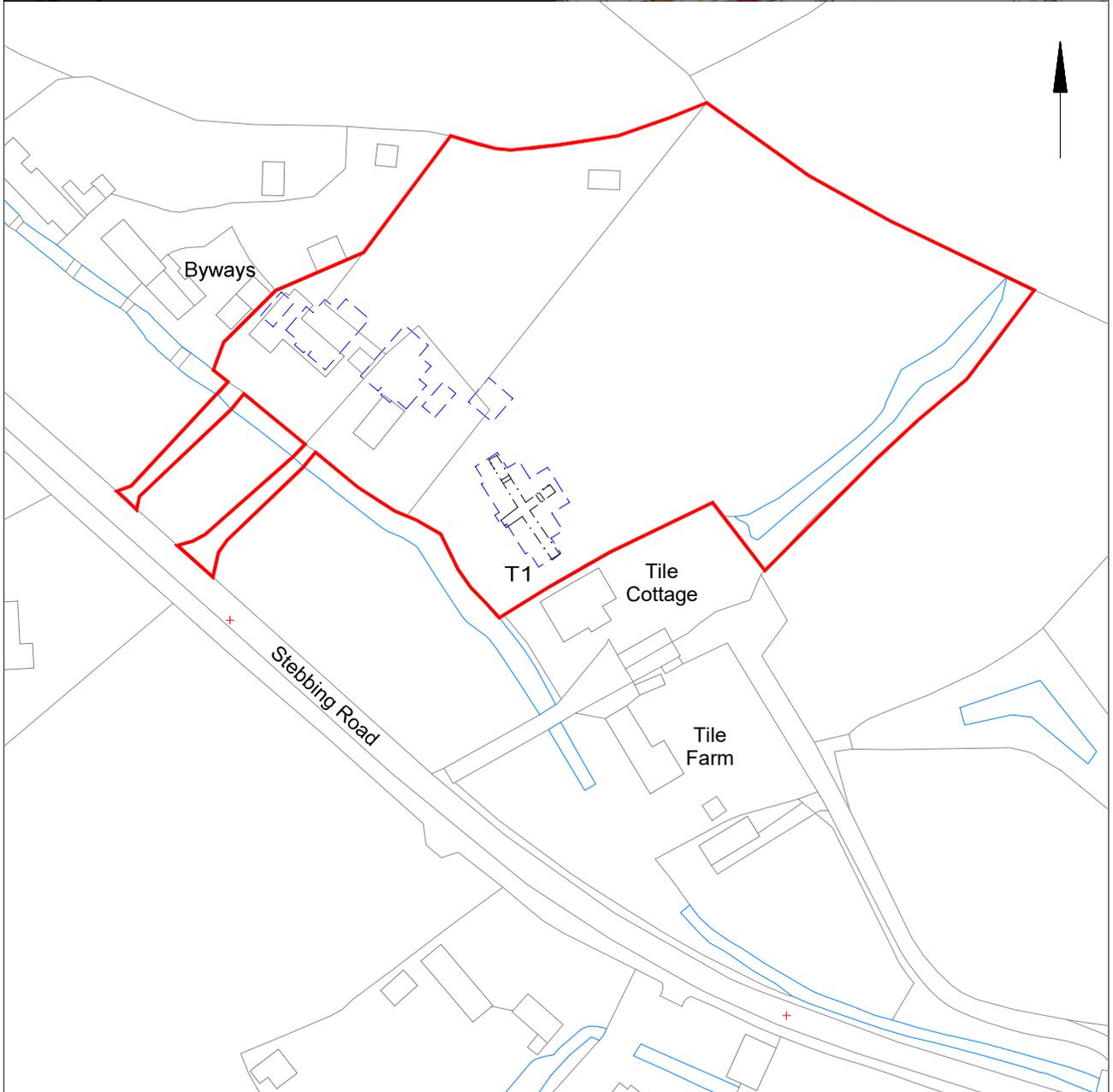
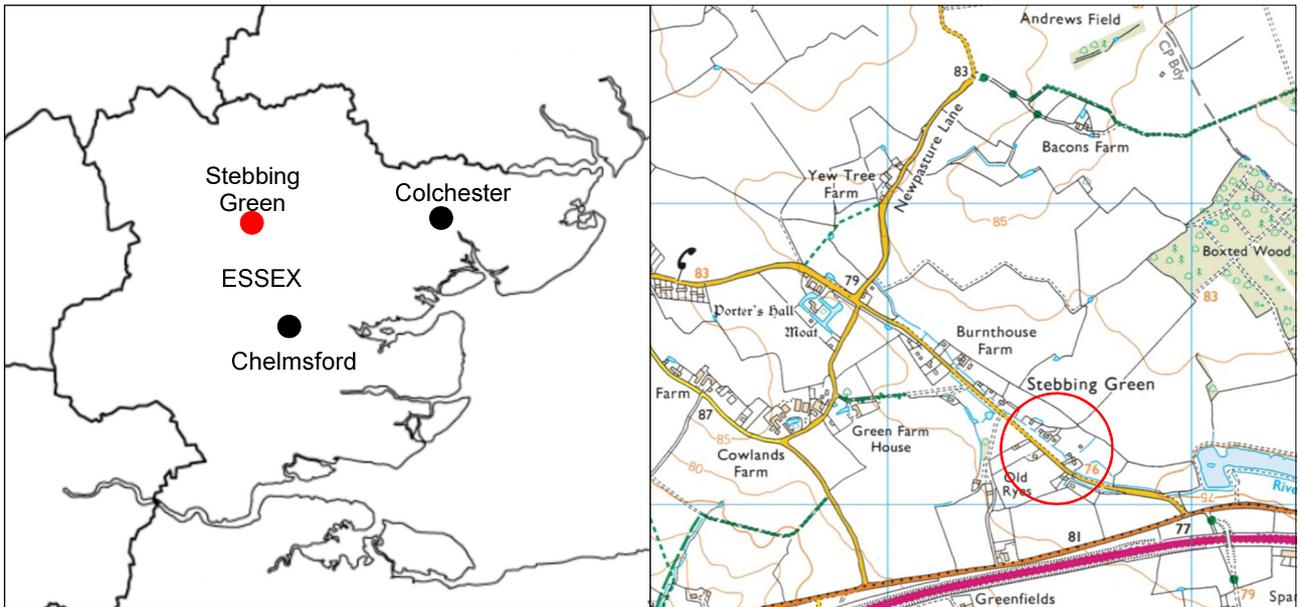
Landowner

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

| Context | Finds no. | Layer type | Description | Date |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|---|--------------|
| L1 | - | Hardstanding | Soft, moist dark brownish-black silt with brick/concrete inclusions. | Modern |
| L2 | - | Topsoil | Firm, dry mid to dark grey-brown silt with occasional small stone inclusions. | Modern |
| L3 | - | Subsoil | Firm, dry mid brown silty clay occasional small stones. | Undated |
| L4 | - | Natural | Firm, moist yellow- brown clay containing occasional gravel patches. | Post-glacial |



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

0 50 m

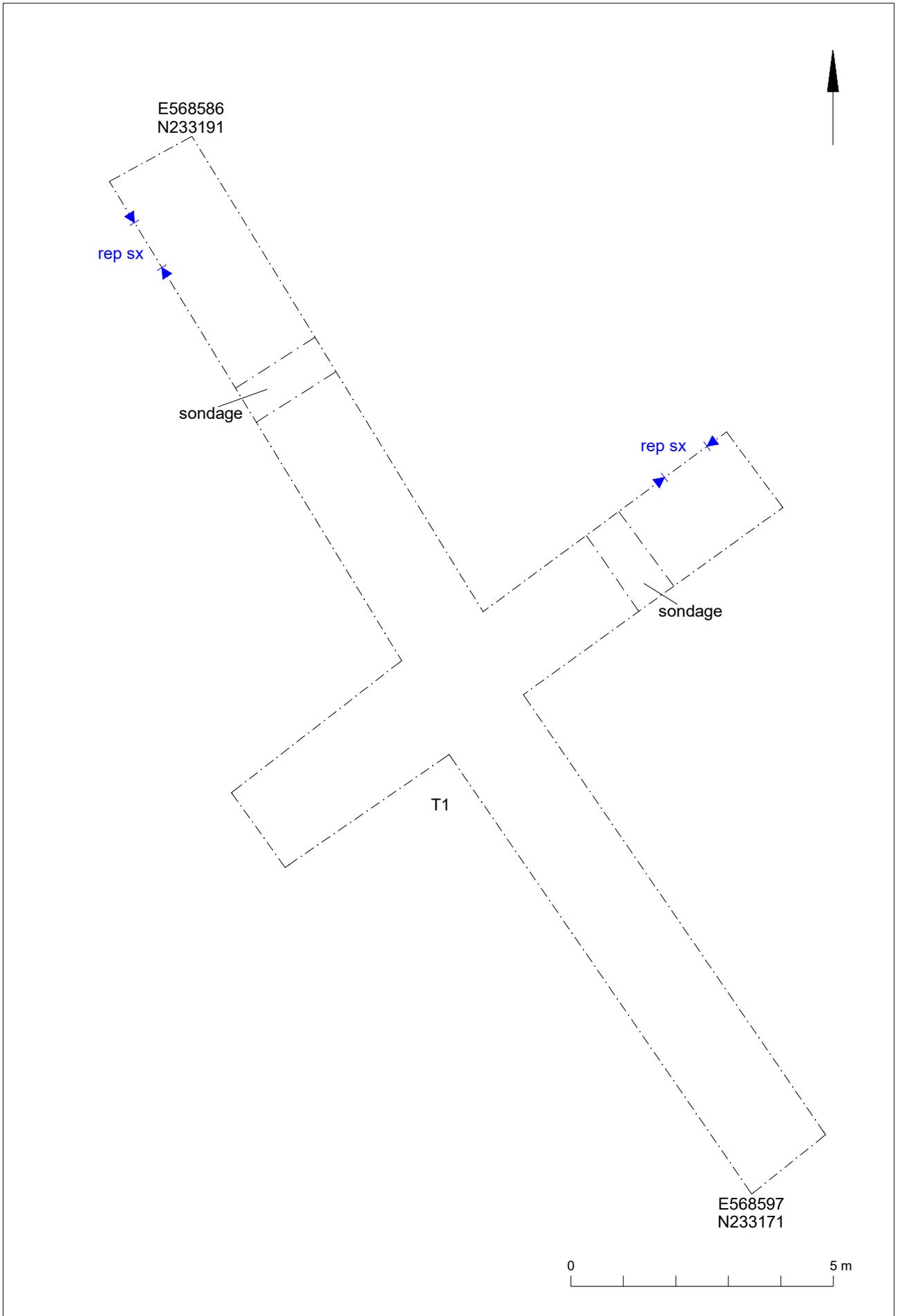
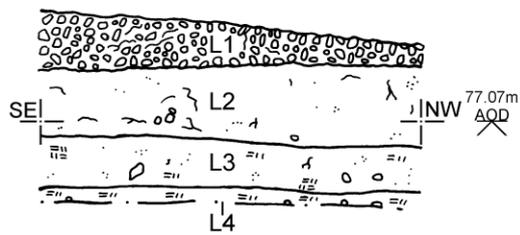


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

North-east facing



- ||| clay
- hard standing
- √ roots
- stones

South-east facing



Fig 3 Representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-520786

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| OASIS ID (UID) | colchest3-520786 |
| Project Name | Evaluation at land formerly known as Tile House Bungalow, Stebbing Green, Essex CM6 3TE |
| Sitename | land formerly known as Tile House Bungalow, Stebbing Green, Essex CM6 3TE |
| Sitecode | TBST23 |
| Project Identifier(s) | 2023/11d |
| Activity type | Evaluation |
| Planning Id | UTT/23/1133/FUL |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning: Between application and determination |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project Dates | 27-Nov-2023 - 27-Nov-2023 |
| Location | land formerly known as Tile House Bungalow, Stebbing Green, Essex CM6 3TE NGR : TL 68614 23215 LL : 51.88200206798904, 0.448383307489835 12 Fig : 568614,223215 |
| Administrative Areas | Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Uttlesford Parish : Stebbing |
| Project Methodology | Archaeological evaluation by trial trenching (single trench) as per the conditions stipulated in the project brief and subsequent wsi. |
| Project Results | An archaeological evaluation (a single trial trench) was carried out at 'Tile House Bungalow', Stebbing Green, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwellings. The site lies within an area of known archaeological activity, with Roman settlement and agricultural activity identified in fields to the north of the investigation area. No archaeological remains were encountered during the evaluation, despite the proximity of known Roman activity. |
| Keywords | |
| Funder | Private or public corporation developer |
| HER | Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD |
| Person Responsible for work | C Lister, L Pooley, A Wightman |
| HER Identifiers | HER Event No - TBST23 |
| Archives | |