

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2023
issued February 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to
3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Essex, CM9 8DF:
February 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/01f
ECC code: GTRL24**

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NGR: TL 86985 13454 (centre)

Planning ref.: FUL/MAL/21/00407

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**ECC code: GTRL24
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commissioned by Essex Developers Ltd

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Cover: extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Essex, in advance of the construction of two new bungalows. The site lies in an area given over to brick and tile production during the 19th and early 20th centuries and is within numerous cropmark complexes. Excavations at the site uncovered a modern pit and an undated pit or natural feature.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Essex on 2nd February 2024. The work was commissioned by Essex Developers Ltd and took place in advance of the construction of two new bungalows.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor advised that, 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 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial trenching and excavation at land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham* written by Mark Baister (ECCPS 2022). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Icen Projects in response to the brief (Icen Projects 2023). The client subsequently contracted CAT to undertake the project.

In addition to the project Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2023).

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 proposed development site lies within an archaeologically sensitive area. It is situated within a brick and tile yard associated with brickworks at the nearby Brick Kiln Farm, which was in operation from the 1830s until around 1908 (EHER 15710). The brickworks themselves were situated some 380m south-east of the present site and were operative from the 1820s until the mid-19th century. A pond on the south side of Brick Kiln Farm may have been a clay extraction pit for brick manufacture (EHER 15713). A further 19th-century brick and tile yard was located approximately 285m to the north-east (EHER 15711). The Totham Pottery also operated in this area, some 60m east of the development site, from the 1840s until the 1870s (EHER 15712).

Approximately 660m to the north-east is Shrub Hill Farm, a 19th-century planned farm which replaced an earlier pre-improvement farmstead (EHER 15729). South of Great Braxted, 720m to the north-west, earthworks in a field have been interpreted as possibly indicating the presence of a shrunken village, although they may be the product of quarrying (EHER 8302).

Numerous historic buildings lie in the vicinity. They include: The Laurels, a Grade II-listed timber-framed cottage dating from the 17th to the 19th century (EHER 38863; 1km north-west);

Box Cottage, a Grade II-listed timber-framed cottage dating to the 17th or 18th centuries (EHER 38862; 1km north-west); Farm Cottage and Sexton Cottage, two Grade II-listed early 19th-century cottages (EHER 38859; 1.05km north-west); Village Farmhouse, a Grade II-listed early 19th-century house (EHER 38861; 1.05km north-west); Five Gables, a Grade II-listed timber-framed cottage dating to the 18th century or earlier (EHER 38860; 1.1km north-west); the Grade II-listed 16th-century timber-framed Cartlodge (EHER 38856; 1km south-east); a Grade II-listed 18th or 19th-century barn and attached outbuildings (EHER 38870; 975m south south-east); Hill Farmhouse, Grade II-listed timber-framed house, built c 1500, with a 19th-century red brick frontage (EHER 38869; 990m south south-east); Bean and Walnut Cottages, a pair of Grade II-listed 18th-century timber-framed cottages (EHER 38904; 800m south); Croft Cottage, a Grade II-listed 16th-century timber-framed cottage (EHER 38905; 835m south); Roundbush Farmhouse, a Grade II-listed 17th-century timber-framed house (EHER 38892; 580m south-west); and Mountains, a Grade II-listed late 16th-century timber-framed house with 18th- and early 20th-century extensions (EHER 38898; 960m south-west).

There are number of cropmark complexes within the wider area. South of Great Braxted, some 750m west north-west of the proposed development site, cropmarks indicate the presence of linear features and a rectilinear enclosure (EHER 9865). North of Great Braxted, approximately 1.1km to the north-west, are cropmarks denoting the presence of old field boundary ditches and possibly quarry pits (EHER 16441). Further cropmarks of linear features lie south-east of Porter's Farm, some 320m to the north-west. Some of these overlap, indicating multiple phases of activity (EHER 16442).

4 Aims

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

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Two trial-trenches were excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Both trenches were 10m long and 1.8m wide. A full context list with soil descriptions and dimensions can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench T1 cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.13-0.17m thick), a crush layer (L2, c 0.12-0.18m thick), a layer of redeposited clay (L3, c 0.13-0.16m), and a ?subsoil layer (L4, c 0.05-0.12m thick) onto natural (L5, encountered at a depth of c 0.54m below current ground level [bcgl]).

Pit F1 was uncovered in the northern half of the trench. It contained a sherd of 13th- to mid 16th-century pottery and a sherd of post-medieval pottery, as well as a fragment of coke or coal.

Pit or natural feature F2 lay in the southern half of the trench. The feature produced no finds.

Trench 2

Trench T2 was cut through a distinct modern topsoil (L6, c 0.16-0.19m thick) and subsoil (L7, c 0.22-0.24m thick) onto L5 (encountered at a depth of c 0.4m bcgl).

There were no archaeological remains in trench T2.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking south-west.



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking north-west.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and CBM

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 17 sherds with a weight of 3.6kg and mean sherd weight of 217g (Table 1). This material was recovered from one feature and two layers (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Pottery	4	644	161
CBM	13	3,039	234
All	17	3,683	217

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Pottery

A sherd (79g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) with a white slip decoration dating to 1200-1550 came from pit F1, which also produced a sherd (107g) of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40). A sherd (458g) from a post-medieval red earthenware storage jar dating to c 1750-1900 came from topsoil L6.

CBM

The small collection of CBM consists of one fragment of Roman brick (830g), medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (5 fragments at 360g) and brick fragments (7 at 1,849g).

Conclusion

Table 2 summarizes the dating evidence for the feature and layers which contained dateable pottery and CBM. All the contexts are post-medieval/modern and none of the finds were retained.

Context	Description	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Date Approx.
F1	Pit	F21, F40	PT, BR	Modern
L2	Crush	-	RB, BR (unfrogged)	Post-medieval
L6	Topsoil	F40 (storage jar)		Post-medieval/modern

Table 2 Approximate dates for the individual features and layers

6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A single fragment of coal/coke (3.8g) came from F1 (finds no.1). It has been discarded.

6.3 Flints

by Tabitha Lawrence

A single flint was recovered from topsoil L6. The analysis of this flint has been completed in accordance with the Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA, 2014). The principal works cited include *Prehistoric Flintwork* (Butler, 2005) and the *Classification of Lithic Artefacts from the British Late Glacial and Holocene Periods* (Ballin, 2021). The stone artefact was collected during hand-excavation. The measurement of flakes follows the methodology devised by Saville (1980) and outlined by Butler (2005).

The flint is a flake made of dark grey/brown flint. A small amount of mid brown cortex is still present on the dorsal face. The dorsal face exhibits a number of flake scars with a large number of ripples present. These attributes suggest the flake was produced using a hard hammer knapping technique. The flake is not closely datable.

Context	Find no.	Context type	Type	Cortex %	Hard/ soft hammer	Platform prep	Modification
L7	3	Layer	Flake	25	Hard	No	-

Table 3 Worked flints by context.

7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, excavations at this site only revealed a modern pit and an undated pit or natural feature, although residual prehistoric flint, medieval and post-medieval pottery was present.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Essex Developers Ltd for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with M Perou and Z Eksen. Figures were compiled by C Lister, Z Eksen and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

9 References

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

Ballin, TB	2021	<i>Classification of Lithic Artefacts from British Late Glacial and Holocene Periods</i> (Oxford: Archaeopress Publishing Ltd.)
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)
Butler, C CAR 7	2005 2000	<i>Prehistoric flintwork</i> (London: Tempus Pub Ltd.) <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT ClfA	2023 2020a	<i>Health & Safety Policy.</i> Colchester Archaeological Trust <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020
ClfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020
ClfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022
ClfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ClfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation at land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham</i> , by M Baister
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England Iceni Projects	2015 2023	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> <i>Enhanced Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation: Land Adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Maldon, CM9 8DF</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	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Saville, A	1980	'On the measurement of Struck Flakes and Flake Tools', <i>Lithics</i> 1, 16-20

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	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'
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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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 archive

Finds: none retained

Digital:

CAT Report 2023

ECC evaluation brief

Digital photographs

Site data

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The digital 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:

Essex Developers Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench no.	Finds no.	Interpretation	Context information	Period
L1	T1	-	Topsoil	Loose/soft, moist very dark grey/brown loam with CBM flecks	Modern
L2	T1	2	Crush	Loose, moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silt with abundant CBM pieces and % stones	Modern
L3	T1	-	Redeposited clay	Firm, moist light grey clay with CBM flecks	Undated
L4	T1	-	?Subsoil	Loose/soft, moist medium brown sandy-silt	Undated
L5	T1	-	Natural	Friable, moist medium yellow/orange/brown sandy-silt	Post-glacial
L6	T2	3	Topsoil	Loose/soft, moist very dark grey/brown loam with CBM flecks	Modern
L7	T2	-	Subsoil	Loose/soft, moist medium yellow/orange/brown sandy-silt with CBM flecks 40% stones	Undated
F1	T1	1	Pit	Loose, moist dark grey/brown clayey-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks and 5% stones. Irregular profile. 0.56m by 0.64m and 0.13m deep.	Modern
F2	T1	-	Pit/natural feature	Loose/soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt and 75% stones. Irregular profile. Extended beyond the limit of excavation; exposed extent 1.4m by 2.71m and 0.4m deep.	Undated

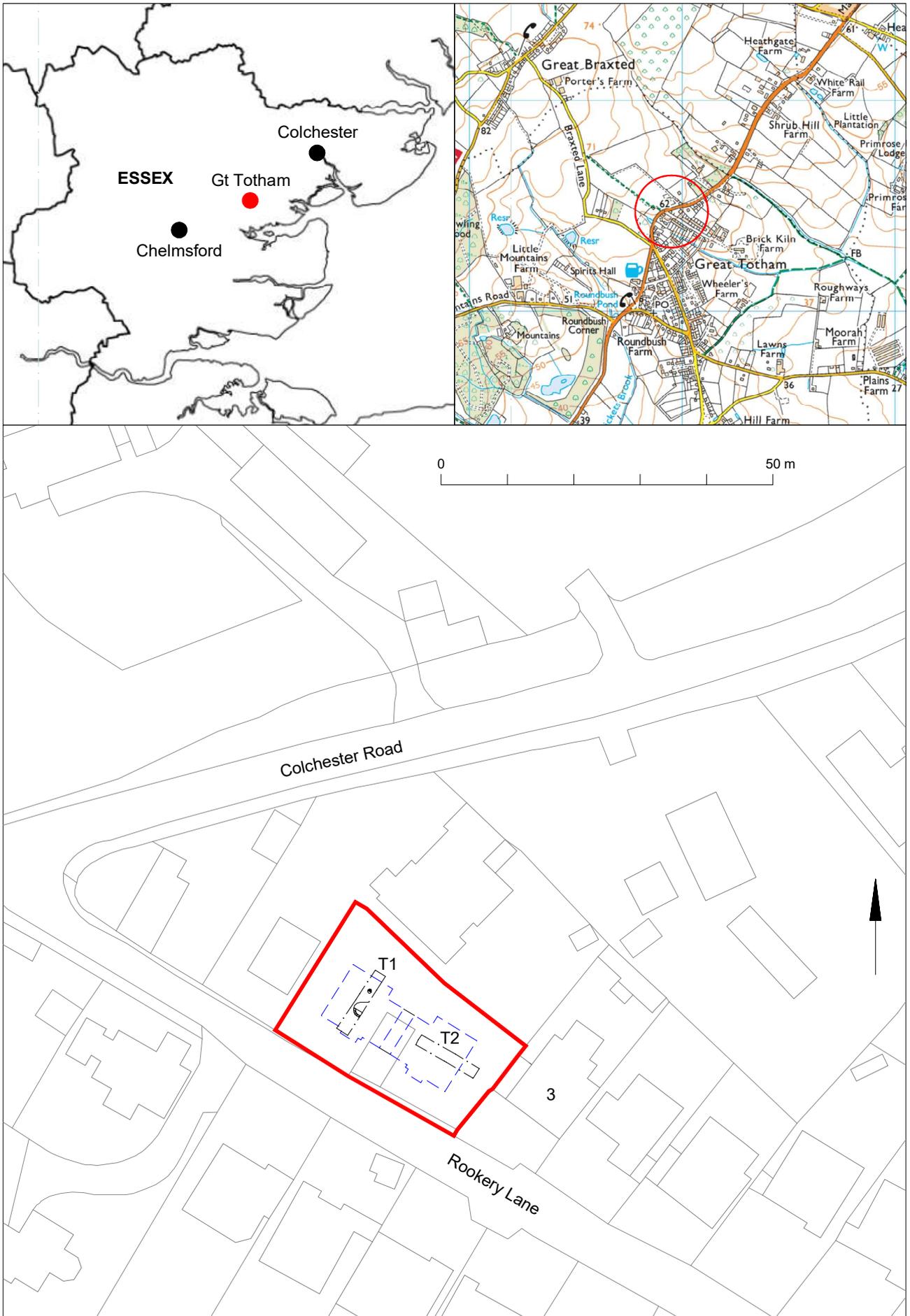


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



Fig 2 Results.

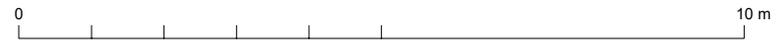
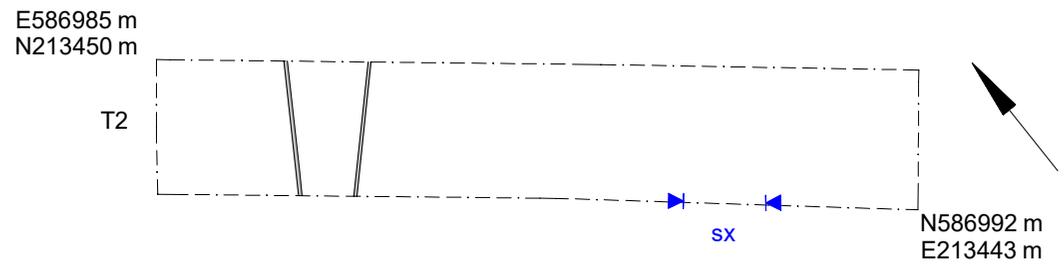
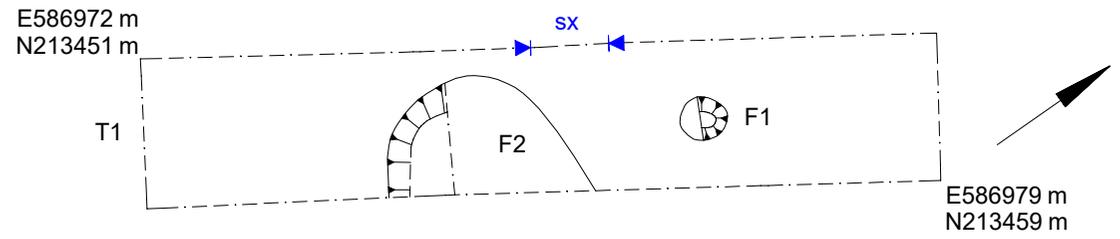


Fig 3 Trench results.

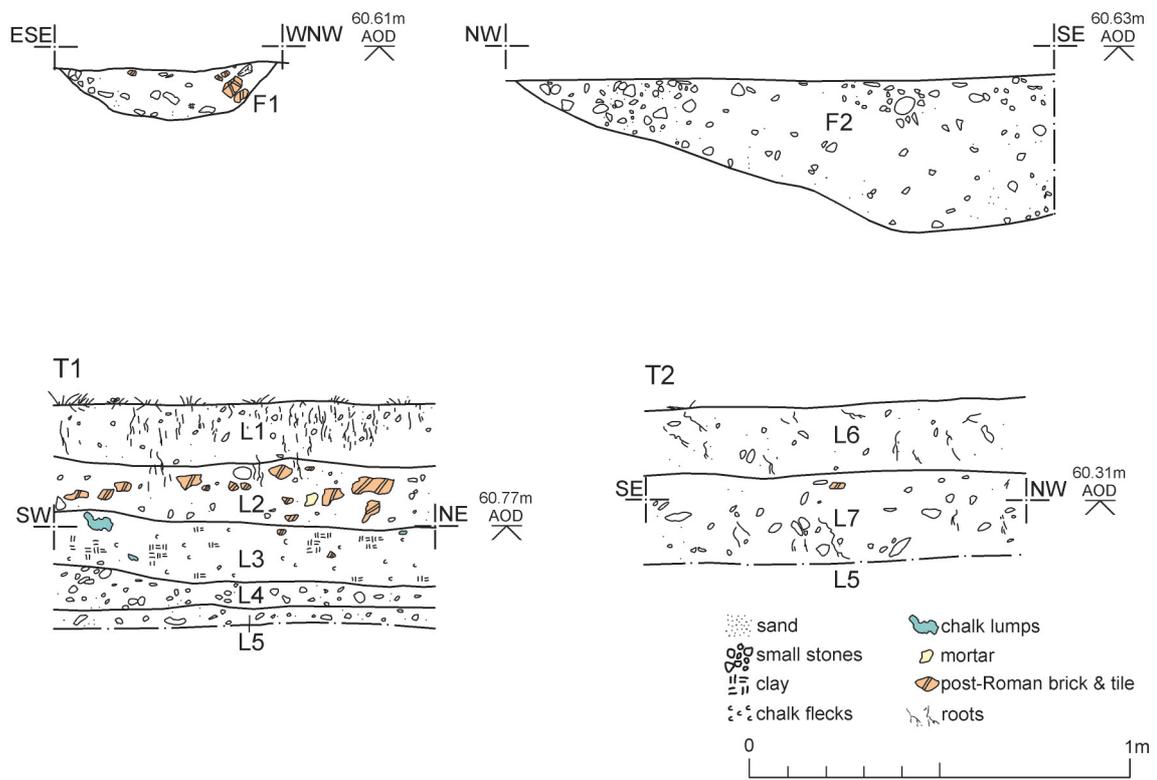


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-522250

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-522250
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Essex, CM9 8DF: February 2024
Sitename	Land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Maldon, CM9 8DF
Sitecode	2024/01f
Project Identifier(s)	2024/01f
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	FUL/MAL/21/00407
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	02-Feb-2024 - 02-Feb-2024
Location	Land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Maldon, CM9 8DF NGR : TL 86983 13453 LL : 51.78847903828973, 0.709688533529215 12 Fig : 586983,213453
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Maldon Parish : Great Totham
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation was carried out as per the brief and the WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to 3 Rookery Lane, Great Totham, Essex, in advance of the construction of two new bungalows. The site lies in an area given over to brick and tile production during the 19th and early 20th centuries and is within numerous cropmark complexes. Excavations at the site uncovered a modern pit and an undated pit or natural feature.
Keywords	Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Natural Feature - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tile - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Lithic Implement - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation Essex Developers Ltd
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - GTRL24

Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;
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