

**An archaeological evaluation
on land at Broad Street Green Road,
Heybridge, Essex
March 2013**



**report prepared by Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks
on behalf of John Finch Partnership**

HEM code: BSGT 13
CAT project ref.: 13/02j
Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code: COLEM 2013.08
NGR: TL 86113 09183



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CAT Report 693
March 2013

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EHER summary sheet

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1 Summary

The site is 800m west of the Lofts Farm Bronze Age enclosure excavated in 1984-5, and 600m north-west of medieval cropmarks on the same site. Prior to new housing, an evaluation by six trial-trenches found only a single undated (but possibly medieval) ditch. There were no finds.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

This is the archive report on the archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of the John Finch Partnership on a site on the eastern side of Broad Street Green Road, in the northern part of Heybridge (TL 8611 0918). The site was open ground covered in grass and shrubs. Proposed development is five new dwellings and associated driveways and infrastructure

3 Archaeological background

The site is adjacent to Lofts Farm, a major multi-period cropmark complex on which Maldon Archaeological Group carried out fieldwalking, monitoring, and selective rescue excavation prior to destruction by gravel extraction (EHER 7881-96: Brown and Brown 1985). The site included evidence of Neolithic activity, an Early-Middle Bronze Age cemetery, a Late Bronze Age enclosure (excavated by Essex County Council Archaeology Section under the direction of Nigel Brown: 1988), an Iron Age enclosed settlement and field-systems, a possible Roman enclosure, and a 14-16th century moated site. The proposed development therefore had considerable potential for significant surviving archaeological remains.

4 Methodology

Given the potential importance of the site, Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Officer for Essex County Council Place Services advised Maldon District Council that the planning application would need to be supported by an archaeological survey and assessment. This advice was based on the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to the required methodology as defined in a *Brief* written by Maria Medlycott (ECC 2013), and with a corresponding written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2013). The requirement was for a 5% evaluation, which equated to five 20m x 1.8m trenches and one 25m x 1.8m trench. The trenches were positioned between the proposed houses to avoid problems in the construction phase.

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a), *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

5 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by ground works. Specific attention was paid to the potential for archaeological remains associated with the Lofts Farm site.

6 Results and discussion (Figs1-3; Plates 1-5)

Turf and topsoil (Layer 1: L1), normally 12-15cm thick, were removed using a tracked excavator with a flat-edged ditching bucket. This exposed a slightly lighter silty clay horizon whose thickness varied between 15cm (in trench 1: T1), and 32cm (T4). This is interpreted as a lower topsoil level, possibly post-medieval in date (there were no finds). The removal of L2 exposed natural ground (L3), a medium yellow clay in which the archaeological feature was visible. The only exception to this sequence was in T6, where there was a dumped 20cm-thick layer of gravel (L4) between L1 and L2. Ground level in all trenches was approximately 7.10m AOD.



Plates 1, 2: T2 view N, with ditch F1 foreground. Ditch F1.



Plates 3, 4: T3 view east. T4 view SW



Plates 5, 6: T5 view W. T6 view N.



Plate 7: T2 representative section.

There were no features in any of the trenches with the exception of ditch F1 in T2. This was 45cm wide and 12cm deep. Its fill was a clean, medium grey/brown silt clay without any noticeable flecking (such as charcoal). There were no finds. Although the feature is undated, the clean fill may favour a date earlier than the post-medieval period, but this is speculative.

It is instructive to compare the alignment of F1 (SW-NE) with the published Lofts Farm cropmark plan in Brown 1988. This shows the alignment of an Iron Age trackway (N-S), and of a rectilinear Roman-British field system (WNW-ESE), neither of which aligns with F1. However, the excavated medieval enclosure (Brown 1988 fig 4, A) and an undated trackway to the east on exactly the same alignment as the enclosure are both aligned SW-NE, as is F1. Clearly, the published cropmarks are some distance away from the current site (the medieval enclosure is approximately 600m to the SE), but based on this shared alignment, a medieval date for F1 (a truncated field ditch?) may be postulated.

7 Finds

There were no finds.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the John Finch Partnership for commissioning and funding the project. The site work was managed by Ben Holloway, and undertaken by BH, C Lister and Mark Baister. Post-excavation work was by BH, MB (plans), Emma Holloway (sections), and H Brooks (text and layout).

The project was monitored by Maria Medlycott for ECC and Maldon District Council.

9 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Bronze Age	the period 2,500 – 700 BC, the first use of metals
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a feature such as a pit or ditch
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
Iron Age	period immediately before the Roman period, dating from c 700 BC
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1500 (secular) or 1550 (religious)
modern	dating from Victorian period onwards
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	the period 4,500 - 2,500 BC, which saw the introduction of farming
post-medieval	period from early 16th century to 18th century
prehistoric	Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age (prior to Roman period)
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around c AD 410

10 References

Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown Paul N, and Brown, Nigel	1985	'Great Totham, Lofts Farm', in Priddy, Deborah, 'Excavations in Essex', <i>Essex Archaeology & History</i> 16 128-9.
Brown, Nigel	1988	'A late Bronze Age Enclosure at Lofts Farm, Essex', <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> 54 , 249-302
CAT	2012	Written scheme of investigation for archaeological attendance and recording (a watching brief), at 'The Meadows', University of Essex, Wivenhoe park, Colchester, Essex
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> , Department for Communities and Local Government
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 , ed by D Gurney
ECC	2013	<i>Archaeological Investigation. Land at Broad Street Green Road, Heybridge</i> (MAL/00818/12) February 2013.
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>

IfA 2008b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2013.08

12 Contents of Archive

1 Paper archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

This report
Original site record (context sheets: F1, L1-4)
EHER brief
CAT WSI
Risk assessment
Digital photographic record
Attendance register
Site photographic record on CD
Sundry papers

2 Finds archive

There were no finds

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Distribution list:

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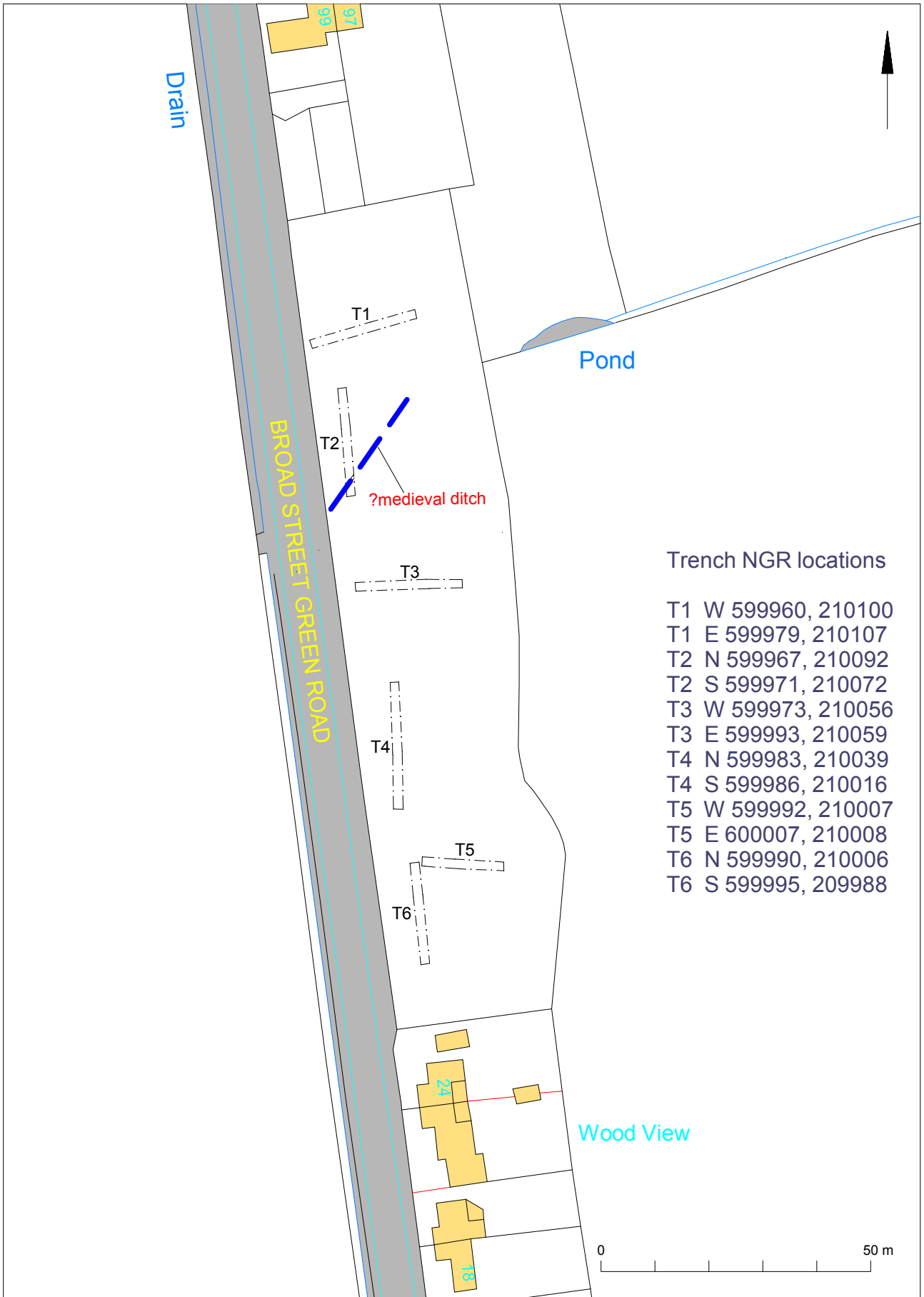


Fig 1 Site location showing trial-trench positions

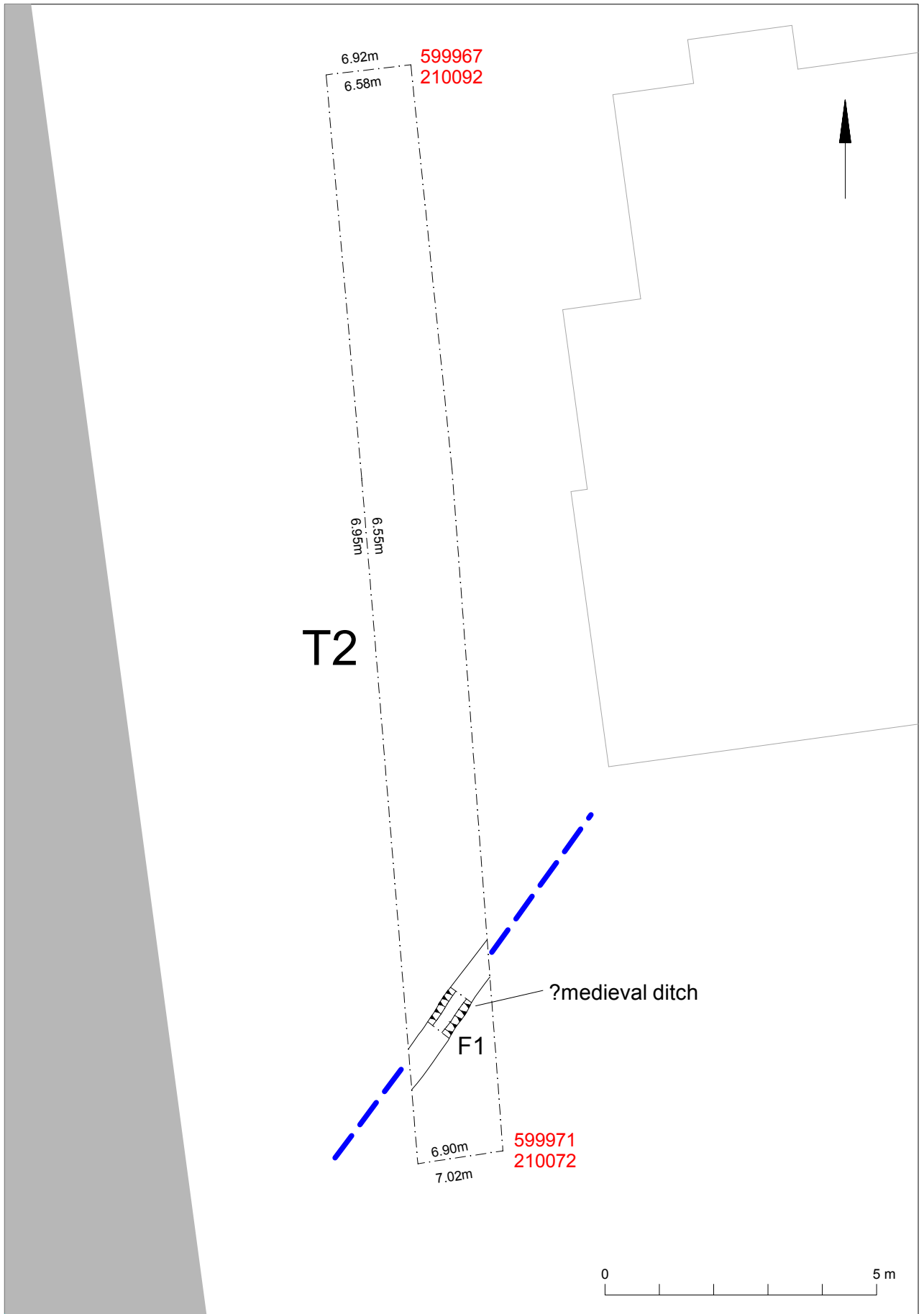


Fig 2 T2 detail

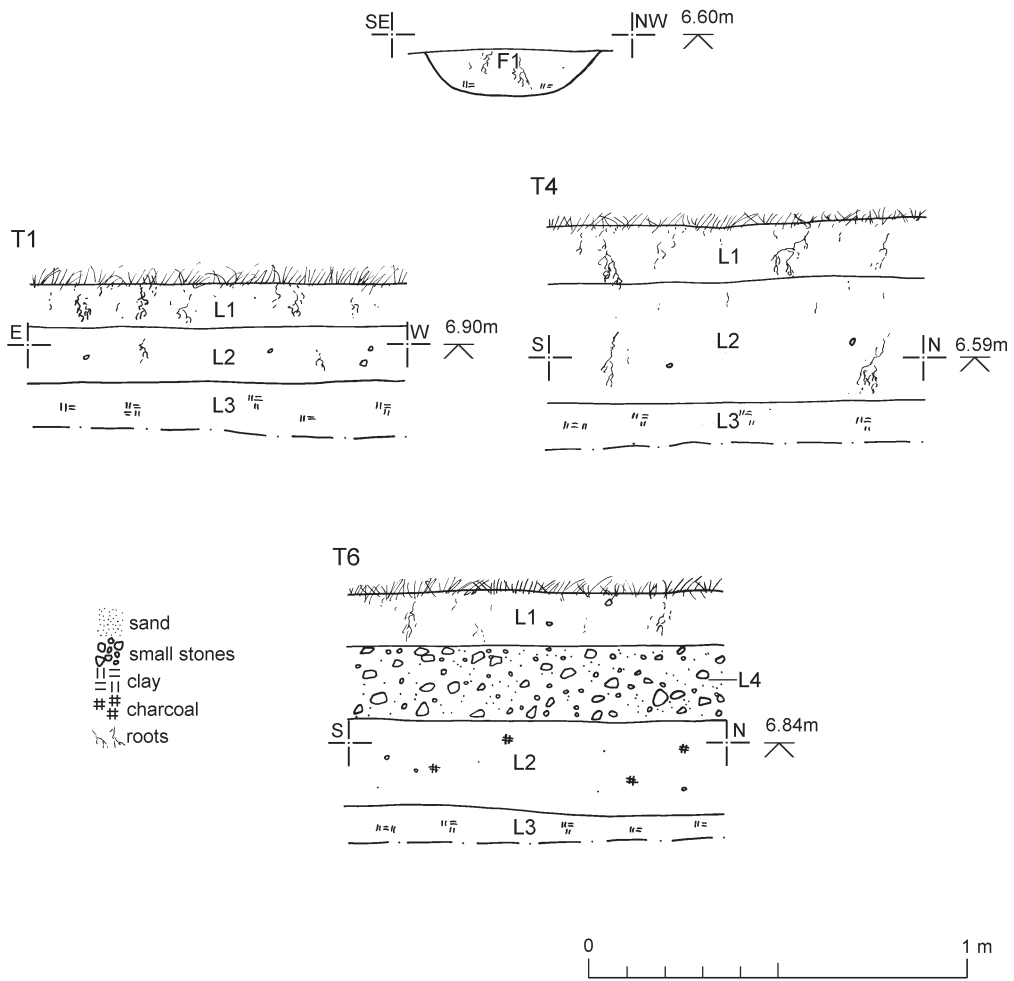


Fig 3 Ditch section (F1) and representative trench sections (T1, T4 and T6).

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Address: Land at Broad Street Green Road, Heybridge, Essex	
Parish: Heybridge	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 86113 09183	Site codes: CAT project code – 13/02j HEM code BSGT 13
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: March 2013	Size of area investigated: 5 trenches (total length 125m) in a site approximately 1,150m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums, accession – COLEM 2013.08	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related EHER numbers: 7881-96
Final report:	CAT Report 693
Periods represented:	undated
Summary: <i>The site is 800m west of the Lofts Farm Bronze Age enclosure excavated in 1984-5, and 600m north-west of medieval cropmarks on the same site. Prior to new housing, an evaluation by six trial-trenches found only a single undated (but possibly medieval) ditch. There were no finds.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
FAU monitor: Maria Medlycott	
Keywords: Undated ditch	Significance: *
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: March 2013