

**Archaeological evaluation
on land south-east of Roman Way,
Burnham-on-Crouch,
Essex**

June 2014



**Site managed by Mark Baister
report prepared by Howard Brooks and Graham S McKean**

commissioned by Mark Jackson Planning

Planning reference: MAL/14/00006
ECC project code: BC RW 14
Colchester & Ipswich Museums: accession 2014.63
CAT project ref: 14/5c
NGR: TL 9494 9756



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CAT Report 777
July 2014

1 Summary

Five trial-trenches were excavated on land to the south-east of Roman Way, Burnham-on-Crouch prior to the construction of nine dwellings. There were no significant archaeological features (only modern garden features).

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on the trial-trenching archaeological evaluation of land to the south-east of Roman Way, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, in June 2014. At the time of the evaluation, the site was rough grassland. Proposed work is the construction of nine dwellings. Site is located at NGR TL 9494 9756.

3 Archaeological background

This section draws upon the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). The site is adjacent to the postulated route of a Roman road (EHER 11285). To the south of the site is the medieval church of St Mary's (EHER 11226-7) and the moated hall complex of Burnham Hall (EHER 11224).

4 Methodology

Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS) was consulted by Maldon District Council in February 2014 for planning application (MAL/14/00006). In line with DCLG 2012, ECCPS recommended the following conditions:

L1 Archaeological Assessment

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning authority and will inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.

L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work.

ECCPAS issued a brief for the recommended trial-trenching in March 2014 (ECC 2014: this is attached here as Appendix 1). Mark Jackson Planning instructed CAT to carry out the archaeological work, which it did in accordance with the ECC Brief and with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* prepared by CAT and agreed with ECC (CAT 2014). In addition to the WSI, all archaeological work was in accordance with local and national standards as given in CAT 2012, IfA 2008a and IfA 2008b, **EAA 14** and **EAA 24**. The evaluation took place on 4th June 2014, and post-excavation work in June-July 2014.

5 Aim

The aim of the trial-trenching was to identify and record any buried archaeological deposits that are likely to be disturbed or destroyed by the development.

6 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-3)

Trench 1: summary

Two horizons were removed by machine, under archaeological supervision: topsoil L1 (500mm deep): L2 (200mm deep). This revealed natural L3. No features.

Trench 2: summary

Two horizons were removed by machine, under archaeological supervision: topsoil L1 (300mm deep): L2 (300mm deep). This revealed natural L3.

Features: F2 - Modern cut for modern path which is still extant to N and S. 0.65m wide.
Fill: medium grey silty loam. No finds.

Trench 3: summary

Two horizons were removed by machine, under archaeological supervision: topsoil L1 (400mm deep): L2 (180mm deep). This revealed natural L3.

Features: F1. Line of a now-removed modern fence parallel to eastern side of garden. Consists of a 6.2m-long, thin trench, filled with dark brown silty loam (i.e., topsoil) with charcoal flecks, and containing the post-holes from removed fence posts. No finds.



Trench 4: summary

Two horizons were removed by machine, under archaeological supervision: topsoil L1 (200mm deep): L2 (400mm deep). This revealed natural L3.
No features.

Trench 5: summaryT5

Two horizons were removed by machine, under archaeological supervision: topsoil L1 (600mm deep): L2 (240mm deep). This revealed natural L3

Features: F3-F6. Natural features? Some or all created by tree-roots? No finds.

6 Finds

A sherd (12g) of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40: fabric codes are after *CAR 7*) was recovered from the machining of T2. Not kept.

7 Discussion

In fulfilment of the ECC brief, five trenches were dug in the positions shown on Fig 2. Despite the site being close to the course of a postulated Roman road, there were no Roman features or finds. The only features were related to modern gardening activities - a garden path (F2) in T2, and an old fence line (F1) in T3. There were four natural features in T5.

All trenches showed root disturbance to a greater or lesser extent. T3 showed a thinner layer of subsoil L2, so there has probably been some ground disturbance/reduction in that part of the site.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Mark Jackson Planning for commissioning the work. Site work was managed by Mark Baister. Plans by MB and Chris Lister.

The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

9 References

CAR 7	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85. Colchester Archaeological Report 10</i> , by John P Cotter.
CAT	2012	<i>Policies and Procedures</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological evaluation on land south-east of Roman Way, Burnham-on-Crouch. May 2014</i>
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 Archaeological, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers, 24, ed by M Medlycott
ECC	2014	<i>Brief for Historic Environment Assessment for Land south-east of Roman Way, Burnham on Crouch</i> by Maria Medlycott . 21/3/2014
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC(PS)	Essex County Council (Place Services)
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable physical trait: a pit, a wall, a drain, can contain 'contexts'
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
modern	19th-21st centuries
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Post-medieval	period from c. AD 1530 to 1900
Roman	period from c. AD 43 to AD 430

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 Museum (accession 2014.63)

12 Contents of Archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

This report

Original site records and notes

ECC Brief and CAT WSI

Sundry papers

Photos index, and photos on CD

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Distribution list:

Mark Jackson Planning

Maria Medlycott, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Date: 4/7/14

Appendix 1: ECC Brief



Essex County Council

Title: Brief for Historic Environment Assessment for Land south-east of Roman Way, Burnham on Crouch

Planning application: MAL/14/00006

Archaeological Consultant:

Date issued: 21/3/2014

Historic Environment Advisor: Maria Medlycott, 03330-136853

maria.medlycott@essex.gov.uk

Museum: Colchester Museum

This project brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor should be contacted to assess if any changes need to be made. Any Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.

Introduction

This brief for trial trenching has been prepared by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council. The trial trenching will enable the assessment of the historic environment significance of the site and the development of an archaeological mitigation strategy if required. It should identify both the known and potential historic environment impacts of the proposed development, and determine the likely presence of any such remains, their significance and the need for preservation *in situ* or further investigation prior to any construction work taking place.

Site Location and Description

The proposed development is situated to the north of the Burnham-on-Crouch. To the south is the medieval church of St Marys and Burnham Hall, whilst the projected route of the Roman road runs adjacent to the site. The site is currently occupied trees and rough grassland.

Planning Background

A planning application for this site was submitted in February and the following conditions were recommended.

L1 Archaeological Assessment

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning

authority and will inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.

L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme

No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work.

This brief has been prepared by the Historic Environment Advisor, Place Services.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective contractors are advised to visit the EHER prior to the completion of any written scheme of investigation.

The proposed development site has the potential to impact on archaeological remains. The EHER shows that it is located immediately adjacent to the route of the Roman road (EHER 11285). To the south of the site is the medieval church and hall complex of Burnham Hall and St Mary's Church (EHER 11224 and 11226-7).

Requirement for Work

The fieldwork assessment will take the form of trial-trenching at a density of 5%. The trenching will be spaced so as to ensure maximum coverage, in order to establish the preservation, nature, date and significance of the archaeology. The trenching plan will be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to work commencing.

The IfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations should be used for additional guidance in the production of the content of the WSI and report, and the general execution of the project.

NB: *The work described here forms the first part of the archaeological fieldwork to be undertaken on this site and will define the significance of the surviving Historic Environment assets. Further fieldwork comprising open-area excavation maybe required dependent on the results of this phase of investigation and if the development receives planning permission.*

General Methodology

All works shall be undertaken by persons with recognised expertise in their own specialisms

The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of commencement of work.

A provisional timetable for the work shall be given in the written scheme of investigation.

The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these during the trial trenching.

All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms

Trenching Methodology

Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features excavated and recorded.

Details of the site planning and recording policies shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.

If walls or other masonry remains are uncovered these should be cleaned up, recorded and sampled, but left in situ where possible.

The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the English Heritage Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

Details of the site photographic policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. These should be left in situ wherever possible.

The IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations and the EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.

Finds

All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.

All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.

The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.

The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Colchester) prior to the start of work, and confirmed in writing to the Historic Environment Advisor.

Results

The report shall be submitted within 3 months from the end of the fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the EHER (A full digital copy of the report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single .pdf.)

This report must contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the assessment
- Location plan of excavated areas and/or other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site shall be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Where appropriate the discussion should be completed in consultation with the Maldon Historic Environment Characterisation Report, Eastern Counties Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet shall also be completed within four weeks (copy attached with brief) and supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor. This will be completed in digital form (copy can be emailed).

Publication of the results at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in Essex Archaeology and History) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for full publication in an appropriate journal.

Archive Deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum (Colchester), and confirmed by email to the Historic Environment Advisor.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.

The full archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 month of the completion of the report and confirmed with the Historic Environment Advisor.

A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor at the time of deposition to the museum.

Monitoring

The Historic Environment Advisor will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages (there will be a separate charge to the applicant for this work).

Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation

In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the IFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide the basis for a measurable standard and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.

Archaeological contractors shall forward a written scheme of investigation to the Historic Environment Advisor for validation before any work is undertaken on site.

All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

References

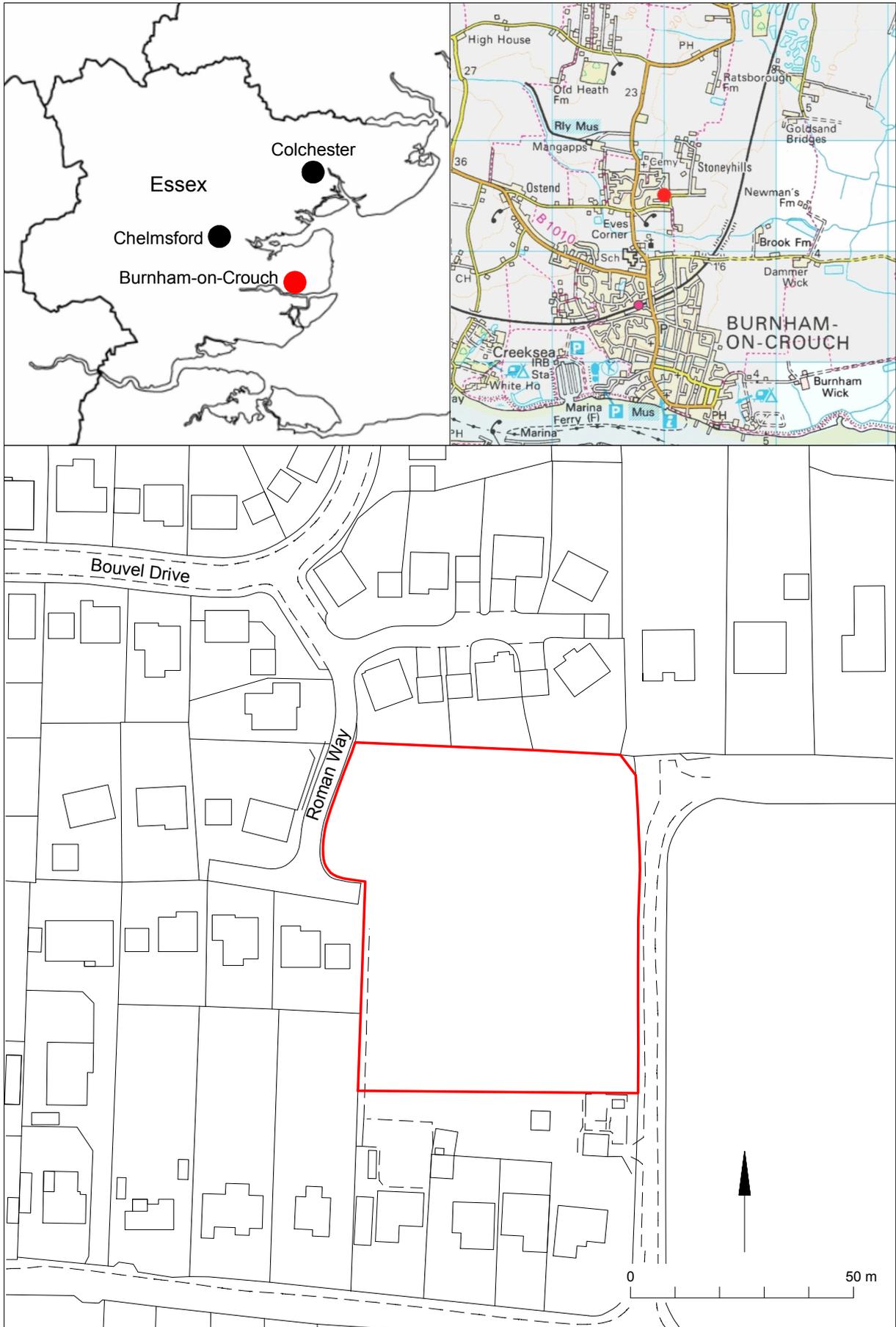
Brown and Glazebrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2- Research Agenda and Strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occ. Paper 8
Gurney, D.	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occ. Paper 18
Historic Environment Branch	2008	<i>Maldon District Historic Environment Characterisation Project, MDC/ECC report</i>
IFA	1994	<i>Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessments</i>
Medlycott, M.	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

For further information regarding the content of this brief and as part of our desire to provide a quality service, we would welcome any comments you may have on the content and presentation of this archaeological brief. Please address them to the author at the address below.

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Fig 1 Site location.



Fig 2 Evaluation results. Extensive undergrowth shown in green. Existing sheds shown in brown.

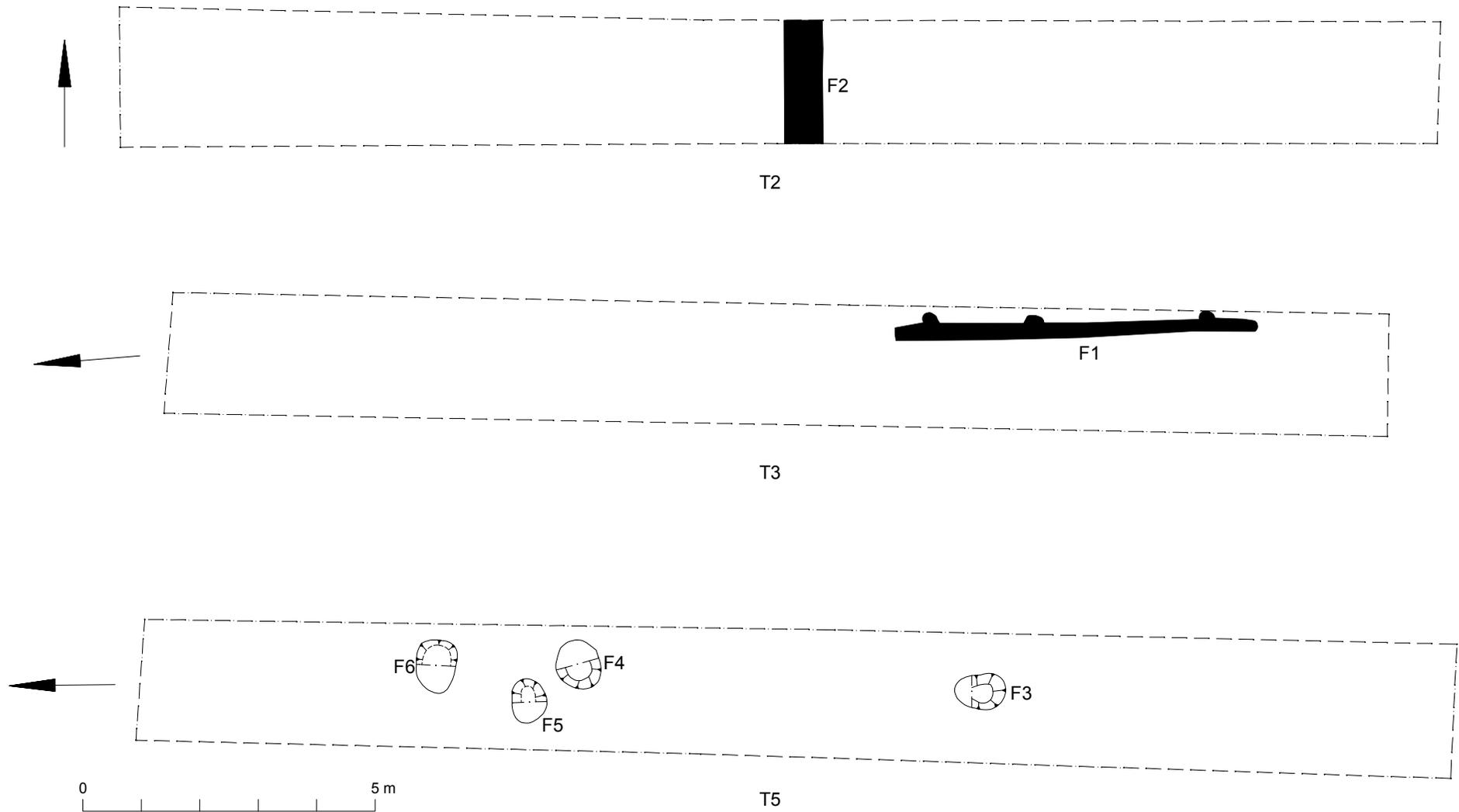


Fig 3 T2, T3 and T5: Detailed trench plans.

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

Summary sheet

Address: Land SE of Roman Way, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex	
Parish: Burnham-on-Crouch	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 9494 9756	Site code: CAT project code – 14/05e ECC code – BCRW14
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 4th June 2014	Size of area investigated: 5 trenches (105m length, 2m wide) in 0.48ha site
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums accession 2014.63	Funding source: <i>Developer</i>
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 11224, 11226-7, 11285
Final report: CAT Report 777 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Five trial-trenches were excavated on land to the south-east of Roman Way, Burnham-on-Crouch prior to the construction of nine dwellings. There were no significant archaeological features (only modern garden features).</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: --	
ECC monitor: Maria Medlycott	
Keywords: <i>modern</i>	Significance: Neg
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: July 2014