

# Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at Dale Hall, Cox's Hill, Lawford, Essex

August 2014



**Fieldwork directed by Ben Holloway  
report prepared by Howard Brooks  
with a contribution by Stephen Benfield**

**on behalf of Rose Builders**

CAT project ref.: 14/02k  
NGR: TM 096 314  
HEM code: LAWDH 14  
Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code: 2014.80



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**  
Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ  
*tel.:* 07436 273 304  
*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 783**  
October 2014

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Evaluation results	2
6	Finds, <i>by S Benfield</i>	8
7	Discussion	12
8	Acknowledgements	12
9	References	12
10	Glossary and abbreviations	13
11	Archive deposition	13
12	Contents of archive	13
13	Finds list	14

Figures after p 15

EHER summary sheet

## List of figures

- Fig 1 Site location.
- Fig 2 Trench plan, showing cropmarks and Field numbers.  
Areas of archaeological interest are circled in green
- Fig 3 T37, T39: detail of prehistoric and Roman features.
- Fig 4 T1-T69: detailed trench plans

## List of plates

Front cover: view of evaluation site

Plate 1: T2 F34 ditch, view S	2
Plate 2: T17 F20, view SW	4
Plate 3: T19 ditch F15, view south	4
Plate 4: T37 ditches F5, with F7 beyond. View south	6
Plate 5: T39 Features 11, 12, view NE	7

## 1 Summary

*An evaluation of this 9 ha site revealed generally low levels of archaeological activity, but with small pockets of prehistoric and Roman material. Of the sixty-nine evaluation trenches, only 21 revealed archaeological features – 34 in total. Of these, twenty-one were undated or natural features, five were prehistoric or probably so, five were Roman or probably so, and three were post-medieval or modern.*

*For convenience of discussion, the site can be split into three fields – Field 1 (Trenches 1-23, immediately east of Cox's Hill); Field 2 (Trenches 24-34, south of Dale Hall Farm); and Field 3 (Trenches 35-69, east of Dale Hall and south of Cornford Way).*

*Rather than being evenly-spread, the significant features were grouped in four small areas. In Field 1, closest to Cox's Hill, there were three Roman ditches, one of which coincided precisely with the ditches of a cropmark trackway (and the other two are probably connected with it). Also in Field 1 were two undated ditches coinciding with a C-shaped cropmark, and a prehistoric ditch producing a Beaker sherd.*

*The fourth and possibly most interesting area was at the north edge of Field 3 (close to Cornford Way) which produced a prehistoric ditches and prehistoric and Roman pits. This may represent a small occupation site.*

*Residual prehistoric flints may indicate activity here before the Bronze or Iron Age.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological trial-trenching evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land south and west of Dale Hall Farm, Lawford, between July 31st and August 18th 2014 (site centre: TM 0969 314). The archaeological work was commissioned and funded by Rose Builders. Proposed development is residential housing. Post-excavation work was carried out in September and October 2014.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT and agreed with Essex County Council Historic Environment team (CAT 2014). In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with local and national standards as detailed in IfA 2008a, IfA 2008b, CIM 2008a, CIM 2008b, English Heritage 2006, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

## 3 Archaeological background

This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), and on a desk-based assessment of this site (CAT Report 681) prepared in February 2013 for Rose Builders.

There are two archaeological sites within the Application Site (AS). The first is a prehistoric pit excavated during laying of a pipeline along Cox's Hill in 1975, on the extreme western side of the AS (DBA site reference 17). The site of the prehistoric pit is unaffected by the proposed development, since it coincides with a 20-m wide protected strip along the east side of Cox's Hill. The second is an undated set of cropmarks (DBA 13), apparently consisting of a trackway and field boundaries. Without evaluation, it is difficult to know the date of the cropmarks, which will be affected by the proposed development.

Beyond the Application Site, the nearest significant site is Dale Hall, a grade 2 listed brick house whose surviving fabric dates to the 15th century or earlier (DBA 8). The Tending peninsula is known for its archaeological heritage, principally of the prehistoric period. This includes an important Neolithic site at Tye Field (11), 1km SW of Dale Hall, and the sites of now destroyed prehistoric burial mounds 100m to the NE (6) and 200m to the S (30) of the application site.

#### 4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record the character, extent, date, condition and significance of any archaeological remains likely to be disturbed by the proposed works, in particular the archaeological remains mentioned in section 3 above.

#### 5 Evaluation results (Figs 2-4; Plates 1-3)

This section gives an archaeological summary of the evaluation trenches (T1-T69), with context and finds dating information. At the time of evaluation, the site was open arable land.

One context was removed by machine (under archaeological supervision); modern topsoil 350-400 mm thick (L1). This revealed the natural subsoil (L2).

##### Field 1

###### Trench 1: summary

T1, in the NW corner of Field 1, contained no archaeological features.

###### Trench 2: summary

T2, located on the northern edge of Field 1, and close to the northern site boundary, contained ditches F33 and F34. Both are dated by LIA or early Roman sherds, although an iron nail in F34 indicates a Roman date at the earliest.



Plate 1: T2 F34 ditch, view S

There is a very strong correlation between these features and the position of one of the cropmarks. There can be little doubt that they are the same ditch, one of parallel ditches forming a trackway along with F34. The most difficult thing to decide is the date of the iron nail. It is quite possible that the trackway ditches are Roman in date, but (given the presence of the iron nail), a later medieval or post-medieval date cannot entirely be ruled out.

**Trench 2: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F33	cropmark ditch	LIA – Roman sherd residual flint scraper	LIA – Roman
F34	cropmark ditch	fe nail (Roman or later) LIA – early Roman sherds	Roman or later

**Trench 3: summary**

T3 (Field 1), contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 4: summary**

T4, located on the eastern edge of Field 1 contained a ditch F32 dated by a single Roman rim sherd. This is the only Roman context revealed by this evaluation. The reported 1975 finds-spot of the prehistoric pit on the western site edge is not too far from here.

**Trench 4: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F32	ditch	Roman rim sherd	1st – 2nd century Roman

**Trench 5: summary**

T5, on the northern side of Field 1, contained an undated ditch F31, aligned SW-NE.

**Trench 5: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F31	ditch	-	undated

**Trenches 6, 7: summary**

T6-7 (Field 1) contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 8: summary**

T8, in the centre of Field 1, contained an undated ditch F30, aligned N-S.

**Trench 8: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F30	ditch	-	undated

**Trenches 9-12: summary**

T9-12 (Field 1) contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 13: summary**

T13, located on the western side of Field 1, contained undated pit F29.

**Trench 13: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F29	pit	-	undated

**Trenches 14-16: summary**

T14-16 (Field 1) contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 17: summary**

T17, located on the southern side of Field 1, contained two parallel ditches F19 and F20. These are precisely in the correct position to be the C-shaped feature appearing here as a cropmark. Neither ditch contained finds.



**Plate 2: T17 F20, view SW**

**Trench 17: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F19	ditch	-	undated
F20	ditch	-	undated

**Trench 18: summary**

T18 (Field 1) contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 19: summary**

T19, located in the south-eastern corner of Field 1, contained a prehistoric ditch F15, aligned N-S.



**Plate 3: T19 ditch F15, view south**

**Trench 19: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F15	ditch	prehistoric sherd – BA / IA? (Beaker)	prehistoric

**Trench 20: summary**

T20, in the south-eastern corner of Field 1, contained undated ditch F28, aligned SW-NE.

**Trench 20: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F28	ditch	-	undated

**Trench 21: summary**

T21, on the southern edge of Field 1, contained undated ditch F21, aligned NW-SE.

**Trench 21: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F21	ditch	-	undated

**Trench 22: summary**

T22, in the south-eastern corner of Field 1, contained two natural pits F17 and F18.

**Trench 22: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F17	natural pit	-	-
F18	natural pit	-	-

**Trench 23: summary**

T23, located in the south-eastern corner of Field 1, contained natural pit F16.

**Trench 23: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F16	natural pit	-	-

## Field 2

**Trenches 24-30: summary**

T24-30 (Field 2) contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 31: summary**

T31, located on the southern side of Field 2, contained undated ditch F13, aligned SSW-NNE.

**Trench 31: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F13	ditch	-	-

**Trench 32: summary**

T32 on the southern side of Field 2 contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 33: summary**

T33 on the southern side of Field 2 contained natural pit F14.

**Trench 33: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F14	natural pit	-	-

**Trench 34: summary**

T34 on the southern side of Field 2 contained no archaeological features.

**Field 3**

**Trench 35: summary**

T35, on the northern edge of Field 3, contained field boundary ditch F8. There were no finds, but given its loose and dark fill, a post-medieval or modern date can be inferred.

**Trench 35: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F8	ditch	-	post-medieval or modern

**Trench 36: summary**

T36 on the northern edge of Field 3 contained a natural feature F1.

**Trench 36: contexts and dating**

context	description	date
F1	natural pit	-

**Trench 37: summary**

T37 at the northern end of Field 3 contained three intercutting features. A narrow ditch F7 aligned SSW-NNE contained only a tiny scrap of fired clay, but it was overlain by F5, which is a recut of F7 on the same alignment. F5 contained sherds which can be classified as Middle- to Late-Iron Age, as well as residual Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flints. F5 cut pit F6, which contained no finds but is therefore prehistoric by relationship. Ditch F5/F7 continued to the north as F12 in T39.



Plate 4: T37 ditches F5, with F7 beyond. View south

**Trench 37: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F5	ditch	MIA – LIA sherds	MIA-LIA
F6	pit	-	prehistoric by relationship
F7	ditch	tiny scrap of fired clay	prehistoric (cut by F5)

**Trench 38: summary**

T38 on the northern side of Field 3 contained a natural pit F2, probably a tree-throw pit.

**Trench 38: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F2	tree-throw pit?	-	-

**Trench 39: summary**

T39 on the northern edge of Field 3 contained the most complicated set of archaeological features from this evaluation. From west to east: Roma post-hole F12; prehistoric ditch F11 aligned N-S; undated ditch F9 aligned NW-SE; undated ditch F23 cut by undated pit F24 which cuts Roman pit F25; undated post-hole F27; post-medieval ditch F26 aligned N-S.



Plate 5: T39 Features 11, 12, view NE

**Trench 39: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F9	ditch		undated
F12	post-hole	(cuts prehistoric ditch F11)	Roman
F11	ditch	sherd LBA - IA	LBA – IA
F23	ditch		undated
F24	pit		undated
F25	pit	Roman sherd with residual prehistoric	
F26	ditch	post-medieval brick and sherds, residual ?MIA	post-medieval
F27	post-hole		undated

**Trench 40: summary**

T40 in the northern half of Field 3 contained one post-medieval ditch F3, aligned W-E.

**Trench 40: contexts and dating**

context	description	date
F3	ditch	post-medieval brick and peg-tile

**Trench 41: summary**

T41 in the centre of Field 3 contained an undated ditch F22, aligned NW-SE.

**Trench 41: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F22	ditch	-	-

**Trench 42: summary**

T42 in the centre of Field 3 contained a natural pit F4.

**Trench 42: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds	date
F4	natural pit	-	-

**Trenches 43-58: summary**

T43-58 (Field 3) contained no archaeological features.

**Trench 59: summary**

T59 in the southern half of Field 3 contained an undated ditch F10, aligned NW-SE.

**Trench 59: contexts and dating**

context	description	dated finds
F10	ditch	-

**Trenches 60-69: summary**

Trenches 60-69 (Field 3) contained no archaeological features.

**6 Finds** (Tables 1-3)

by Stephen Benfield

**Introduction**

The small quantity of prehistoric (Neolithic-Early Bronze Age & Iron Age), Late Iron Age, Roman, Late medieval-Early post-medieval and post-medieval-modern bulk finds consists of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM), fired clay, flints, iron (an object & a nail) and animal bone. These come from ten contexts in six evaluation trenches (T2, T4, T19, T37, T39 & T40) with one unstratified find from T47. The total quantities of each find type are listed below (Table 1) and all of the finds are listed, together with spot dates, by context in Section 13.

Finds type	no.	wt (g)
Pottery	26	209
Ceramic building material (CBM)	7	3095
Fired clay	2	2
Flint	4	41
Iron	2	134
Animal bone	12	203

**Table 1: Type and quantities of finds**

**Pottery**

In total twenty-six sherds of pottery were recovered, with a combined weight of 209g. The pottery was recorded by sherd count (no.) and weight for each fabric type. The prehistoric pottery fabrics refer to the Essex fabric type series (Brown 1988). Late Iron Age and Roman pottery fabrics refer primarily to the Colchester fabric series (*CAR 10*) with the addition of Fabric GTW (grog-tempered wares), BSW (black surface wares) & RCW (Romanising coarse wares). The post-Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester post-Roman fabric series (*CAR 7*). All of the pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 2.

Fabric	code	no.	wt/g
<b>Prehistoric:</b>			
Flint S-M 2	B	4	24
Flint S-M with occasional L 2	C	1	3
Sand S 3	G	2	2
Sand S 2	H	1	10
Quartz, sometimes with some sand S-L 2	L	8	103
Grog, often with some sand or flint (occasional voids)	M	2	17
<i>Sub-total</i>		18	159
<b>Late Iron Age and Roman:</b>			
Grog-tempered ware	GTW	2	12
Other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares	GX	1	14
Other coarse wares (Black surface ware)	GX(BSW)	2	9
Romanising coarse ware	RCW	2	10
<i>Sub-total</i>		7	45
<b>Post-Roman:</b>			
Late medieval transitional	40(LMT)	1	5
<i>Total</i>		26	209

**Table 2: Pottery fabrics**

Size: S=small <1 mm, M=medium 1-2 mm, L=large >2 mm; Density: 1=less than 6 per cm, 2=6-10 per cm, 3=more than 10 per cm

Almost all the pottery is abraded and most of the sherds are relatively small, although there are a few larger sherds among the prehistoric pottery, some of which are recently broken.

#### *Prehistoric*

There are eighteen sherds (159 g) of hand-made, prehistoric pottery (average sherd weight 8.8g). Some of this pottery is residual in later dated features; however, F5 contained a number of sherds with nothing dated later than Iron Age. Single sherds of prehistoric pottery are the only finds from F11 & F15.

Only one sherd is decorated and the majority of the pottery consists of plain body sherds which are relatively undiagnostic so that most of the dating of the pottery relies on the fabrics.

The earliest dated pottery was recovered from F15. This is a small sherd in a sandy, oxidised (buff) fabric which can be identified as Beaker pottery (c 2400-1700 BC). The sherd is decorated with rows of close set indentations made by a finger nail.

A few sherds with flint-tempered fabrics are not closely dated, but are probably of later prehistoric date (Bronze Age-Iron Age) rather than earlier.

The majority of the pottery is sand-tempered, with a number of sherds notable for the presence of white quartz sand. This indicates that the majority of the pottery recovered can be dated to the later Iron Age (Middle-Late Iron Age) spanning the 4th-1st century BC or slightly later. It is possible that some of this pottery could overlap with the Late Iron Age. One sherd is possibly from the carinated shoulder of a jar similar to Little Waltham Form F8 (Drury 1978).

#### *Late Iron Age & Roman*

Seven sherds can be dated to the Late Iron Age (LIA) & Roman period. The average weight of these sherds is slightly less than that of the prehistoric pottery at 6.4g. Two features contained a small quantity of Roman or Early Roman pottery with no later dated finds (F33 & F34), both located in T2, and single sherds of Roman pottery are the latest dated finds associated with two other features (F25 & F32).

The pottery consists of two grog-tempered body sherds (GTW) dated to the LIA and a few sherds of Roman greywares (GX, GX(BSW)) which include the

rim from a jar. Two sherds with some organic temper can be classified as 'Romanising' (RCW) and might possibly date to the LIA, although an Early Roman date is likely. The jar rim (F32) is also likely to date to the Early Roman period (c mid 1st-early/mid 2nd century).

#### *Post-Roman*

A single small sherd (5g) in an orange-red, relatively fine, sandy fabric can be identified as Late medieval transitional ware (40 (LMT)) and probably dates to the period of the mid 15th- late 16th century (Cunningham 1985). The sherd was recovered from F26.

#### **Ceramic building material (CBM)**

The CBM consists of peg-tiles and bricks. These were recovered from two features (F3 & F26) and as an unstratified (US) find in spoil from T47.

A few pieces of peg-tile were recovered from F3. Of themselves they are broadly dated to the medieval to post-medieval/modern period, but probably date from at least the 14th century or later as peg-tile was probably not in common use prior to that period (Ryan 1993). Their association with finds of post-medieval or modern date indicates they are probably of that same late date.

The bricks are all dated to the post-medieval or modern period (following Ryan 1996). These consist of most of an unfrosted brick (dated to the 18th-early 19th century) and a part of a floor brick (dated to the 19th century) both from F3; together with a near complete floor brick (dated late 17th-19th century) among spoil (US) from T47. One other piece of CBM comes from F26. This is a piece from the upper surface of a brick but is distinctly abraded in relation to the other CBM. The abrasion might suggest an earlier date, but the fabric suggests it is probably also post-medieval and is certainly post-Roman.

#### **Flints**

Worked flints were recovered from three features (F5, F25 & F33). One (F25) is a small flake with some use wear or edge damage and is not closely dated other than as prehistoric. Another (F5) can be described as a shatter piece and again is not closely dated. The other two flints consist of a flake and a scraper. The flake (F5) appears to have been part of a core, of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date, which had become detached as a frost fracture piece and was subsequently reused – having a retouched notch made on one edge. The scraper (F33) is made on a thick, rounded flake and can be dated as Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age.

#### **Animal bone**

Small quantities of animal bone came from two post-medieval or later features (F3 & F26). All were in a relatively poor condition, indicating that the soil conditions are not good for preservation of bone. All of the bone is almost without doubt from domesticates.

The bone from F26 consists of small pieces, one with a possible butchery chop cutting away one side. That from F5 includes larger pieces, and the size of some of the bones indicates they are almost certainly from a cow.

#### **Other finds**

A few other bulk finds were made of which there are only a few pieces or are only present as small fragments.

#### *Iron*

Part of an iron object (unidentified) was found in F3. This is associated with finds of post medieval date and is almost certainly of that period. Also, what is

almost certainly part of a nail shaft was recovered from F34. This is not closely dated but is associated with Roman pottery.

#### *Fired clay*

Two small fragments of fired clay were recovered from two of the features (F5 & F7).

#### **Finds discussion**

The finds show activity or occupation on and around the area from the prehistoric period onwards.

The earliest closely dated find is a sherd of Beaker pottery (date c 2400-1700 BC). A flint scraper can also be dated to this period, while a frost detached flake (later reused) may also have come from a core of this same period.

Although there are a few flint-tempered pottery sherds, which are not closely dated within the prehistoric period, these are probably likely to be of Bronze Age or Iron Age date. However, the majority of the prehistoric pottery can be dated to the Middle Iron Age (c 400-50/25 BC). This is mostly associated with two features, F5 and as residual sherds in F34. The moderately large size of some sherds (F34) suggests occupation on or adjacent to the area from which it was recovered.

Late Iron Age (LIA) and Roman pottery is also associated with several features and Roman pottery is the latest dated of the finds from F25, F33 & F34. Most of the sherds are small and abraded so that these possibly derive from manure scatters away (but not distant) from the area(s) of occupation. While many sherds are not closely dated there appears possibly to be an emphasis on pottery which is of Early or Early-Mid Roman date, although this is not at all clear. The absence of any Roman ceramic building material (CBM) is noted.

The Middle and Late Iron Age pottery together with pottery dated as Early Roman & Roman indicates a possible continuous occupation in this area during that period.

The remainder of the closely dated finds are of Late medieval- post-medieval and post medieval or modern date. One pottery sherd (F26) is dated as Late medieval-Early post-medieval (mid 15th -late 16th century), but the majority of finds of this period are post-medieval and post-medieval-modern bricks, including two floor bricks. Almost all of these finds come from two features in T39 & T40, with one unstratified (floor) brick from T47. The only animal bone from the site is also from these features indicating it is also of this date and its poor condition and absence from features with earlier date finds suggests it does not survive well in the soil conditions here.

## 7 Discussion

Although the majority of the trenches (48 out of 69) had no archaeological features, there were four small areas of archaeological interest. The first three were in Field 1, closest to Cox's Hill.

The first consists of three Roman ditches in T2 and T4, one of which coincides precisely with a previously-known cropmark trackway (plotted blue on Fig 2). The other two ditches in T2 and T4 do not fit quite so well with the plotted cropmarks, but presumably at least one of them must belong to the trackway.

The second is on the south edge of Field 1, and consists of two undated field ditches which coincide precisely with a previously-known C-shaped cropmark. The ditches are undated, so we do not know the date of the cropmark.

The third (approximately 60m east of the C-shaped cropmark) was a prehistoric ditch which produced a sherd of Beaker pottery (dated c 2400-1700 BC). The prehistoric ditch was aligned N-S, in contrast to the Roman trackway, which is tilted slightly east of N-S.

The fourth was in Field 3. T37 and T39 contained a small group of prehistoric ditches (LBA/EIA), a Roman pit, and several undated features. The pit may indicate occupation here, but not apparently very widespread occupation, as there were no features in surrounding trenches.

It can be noted that no Roman tile was found on this evaluation, so there is no nearby Roman masonry structure.

There were post-medieval field ditches in T35, T39, T40. These are not thought to be significant

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Rose Builders for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, and fieldwork was carried out by BH and M Baister, Nigel Rayner and Brian Hurrell. The project was monitored by Adrian Gascoyne for Historic and Built Environment Team Manager (ECC Place Services).

Figures 1-4 are by MB, and Fig 5 by Emma Holloway.

## 9 References

**Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are published online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>**

Brown, N	1988	'Late Bronze Age enclosures at Lofts Farm, Essex', <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> 1984, 294-302
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , John Cotter
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R P Symonds and S Wade
CAT	2014	<i>A Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at land adjacent to Dale Hall, Cox's Hill, Lawford</i> . Ben Holloway March 2014
CIM	2008a	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i> - Colchester and Ipswich Museums

CIM	2008b	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service.</i>
Cunningham, C	1985	in Cunningham, C., & Drury, P., <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report 54
Drury, P	1978	<i>Excavations at Little Waltham 1970-71</i> , CBA Research Report 26
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , EAA Occ Pap 24, Maria Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE)
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>
Ryan, P	1993	'Roof tile' in: Andrews, D (ed) <i>Cressing Temple. A Templar and Hospitaller manor in Essex</i> , Essex County Council
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex, from the Roman conquest to the Reformation</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBA	Council for British Archaeology
CBM	ceramic building material (brick, tile, tessera).
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
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 hole such as a pit or ditch
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to the Roman invasion of AD 43
Late Iron Age	from around 200 BC to AD 43
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430
sealed	covered over, and therefore post-dated

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, CO2 7GZ, but will be deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum under accession code COLEM 2014.80

## 12 Contents of archive

### Finds archive

1 Museum box containing all retained finds (CBM, pottery)

### Paper archive

#### 1 A4 wallet containing:

this report (CAT Report 783), original site record (context and finds sheets), section drawings, trench sheets, digital photo log, digital photos on disc attendance record, sundry papers

### 13 Finds list \* = abraded

T	ctxt	find no.	find type	Fabric	no	wt/g	notes	spot date
02	F33	09	pot	RCW	1	6	Dark surfaces, some grog/dark organic inclusions, may have been heat affected, LIA-E ROM (*)	LIA-E Rom
02	F33	09	pot	RCW	1	4	Small abraded sherd *	LIA-E Rom
02	F33	09	flint		1	23	Scraper, made on thick, round flake, retouched around edge, small area of cortex	L NEO-EBA(?)
02	F34	08	iron		1	5	Probably part of a nail shaft	Rom or later
02	F34	08	pot	GX (BSW)	1	7	Jar? Traces of grey surface, sandy fabric almost certainly abraded Roman Black surface ware (BSW) rather than later. *	Rom
02	F34	08	pot	L	7	65	Moderately thick, sandy fabric with visible white quartz, smoothed or burnished shoulder(?) area, dated c 350-50/25 BC; possibly from the shoulder of a jar similar to Little Waltham Form F8 (Drury 1978) (*)	MIA (later IA)
04	F32	07	pot	GX	1	14	jar rim, EVE 0.12, necked jar with bead rim, probably 1-2C *	Rom 1-2C(?)
19	F15	06	pot	M	1	4	Small oxidised sherd decorated with rows of finger nail impressions, appears to be Beaker *	LNeo-EBA
37	F05	02	pot	B	4	24	Moderately thick sherds, oxidised (*)	IA(?)
37	F05	02	pot	M	1	13	Moderately thick sherds, fine grog *	
37	F05	02	pot	GTW	1	4	(*)	LIA
37	F05	02	pot	G	1	1	*	M-LIA
37	F05	02	F clay		1	1	Silty fabric *	
37	F05	02	Flint		1	15	Flake from core. Frost removed (pot-lid) flake from a utilised core (retouched in notched area on side), earlier soft hammer flake removal on dorsal face (Neo-EBA?) cortex on striking platform	Poss Neo-EBA core, later reused
37	F05	02	Flint		1		Small, thick shatter piece with cortex and small patinated area	Preh(?)
37	F07	03	F clay		1	1	frag *	
39	F11	04	pot	C	1	3	Moderately thick sherd, oxidised	LBA-IA(?)
39	F25	11	flint		1	1	Small flake, some edge damage or use wear	preh
39	F25	11	pot	GX (BSW)	1	2	Small sherd (*)	Rom
39	F25	11	pot	GTW?	1	8	Sandy with some grog(?)	LIA(?)
39	F25	11	pot	H	1	10	Fine sand fabric	MIA (Later IA)
39	F26	10	pot	LMT	1	5	Small orange-red sherd	15-16C
39	F26	10	pot	L	1	38	Moderately thick, sandy fabric with visible white quartz (*)	MIA? (Later IA)
39	F26	10	CBM		1	360	Pieces from upper surface of brick, 100 x 60 x 33 mm +, poss Rom but fabric appears L med/p-med	P-med?
39	F26	10	A bone		8	14	Fragmented pieces of small (narrow) long bone (7) and abraded piece with probable butchery chop from a medium-large (domesticate?) mammal	
40	F03	01	pot		1	1	Sandy, soft, fine quartz sand, dark fabric *	Later IA(?)
40	F03	01	A bo		4	189	Large mammal, almost certainly cow, poor condition	
40	F03	01	CBM		3	82	Peg-tile. 10-12 mm thick, one with part of square peg-hole, hard red sandy fabric	Med/p-med/mod
40	F03	01	CBM		1	1744	Brick. 100 x 650 mm, length greater than 160 mm, sandy red fabric, not frogged	18-E19C
40	F03	01	CBM		1	367	Floor brick. Buff surface, pink fabric, fine hard, rounded upper edge	19C
40	F03	01	iron		1	129	Corroded rectangular flat fe plate (110 x 65 mm), hollow central area, agricultural? not significant	p-med-mod
47	US	05	CBM		1	542	Floor brick, 140/45 x 60 x 30/33 mm, hard fired, light (buff) surfaces, grey fabric (US from trench spoil)	P-med (L17-19C)

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2014

**Distribution list:**

Rose Builders

Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO)

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

**Roman Circus House**

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 07436 273 304

*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

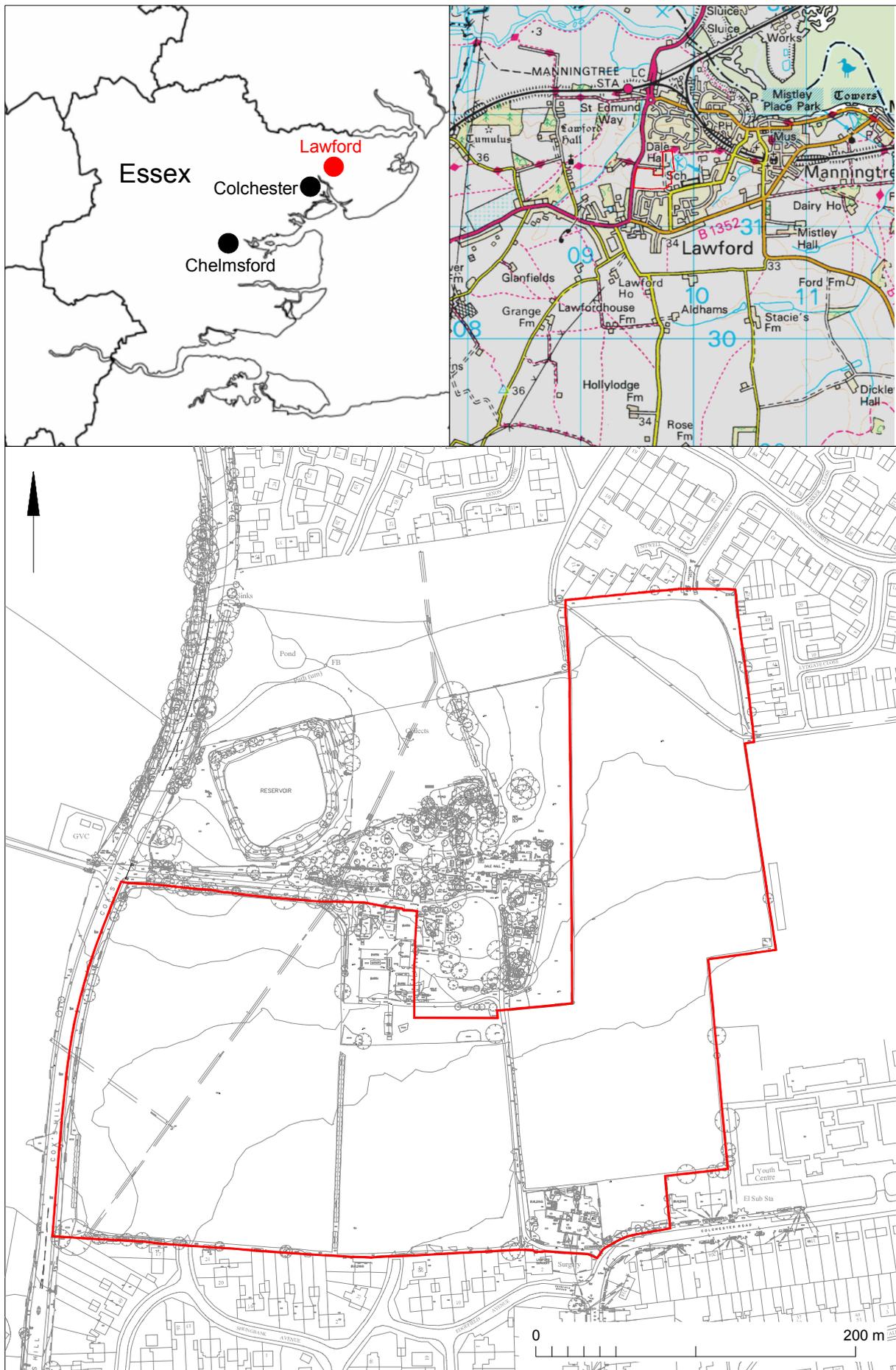


Fig 1 Site location.

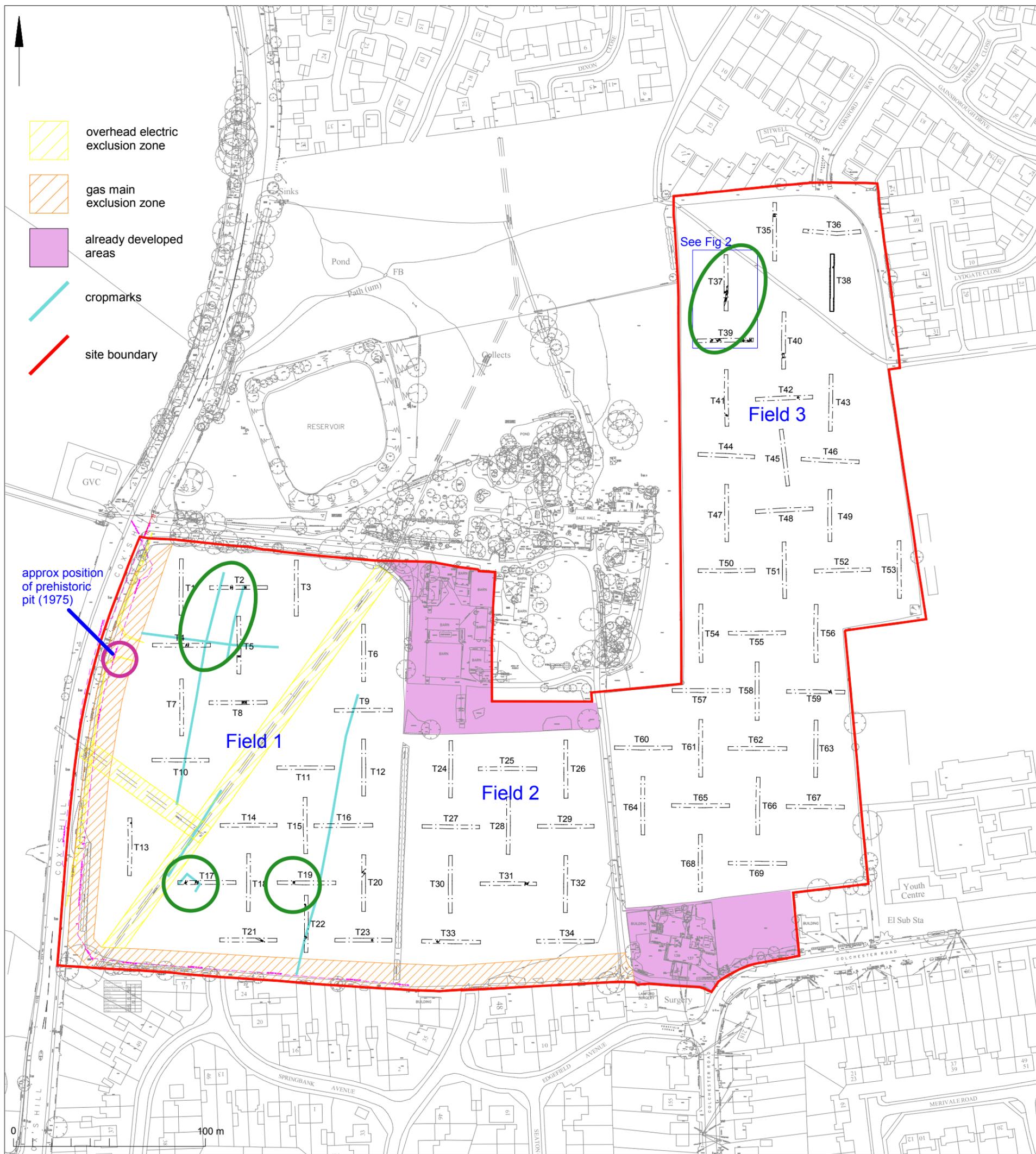


Fig 2 Trench plan, showing cropmarks, Field numbers, position of prehistoric pit found in 1975, and areas of archaeological importance (green circle or ellipse)

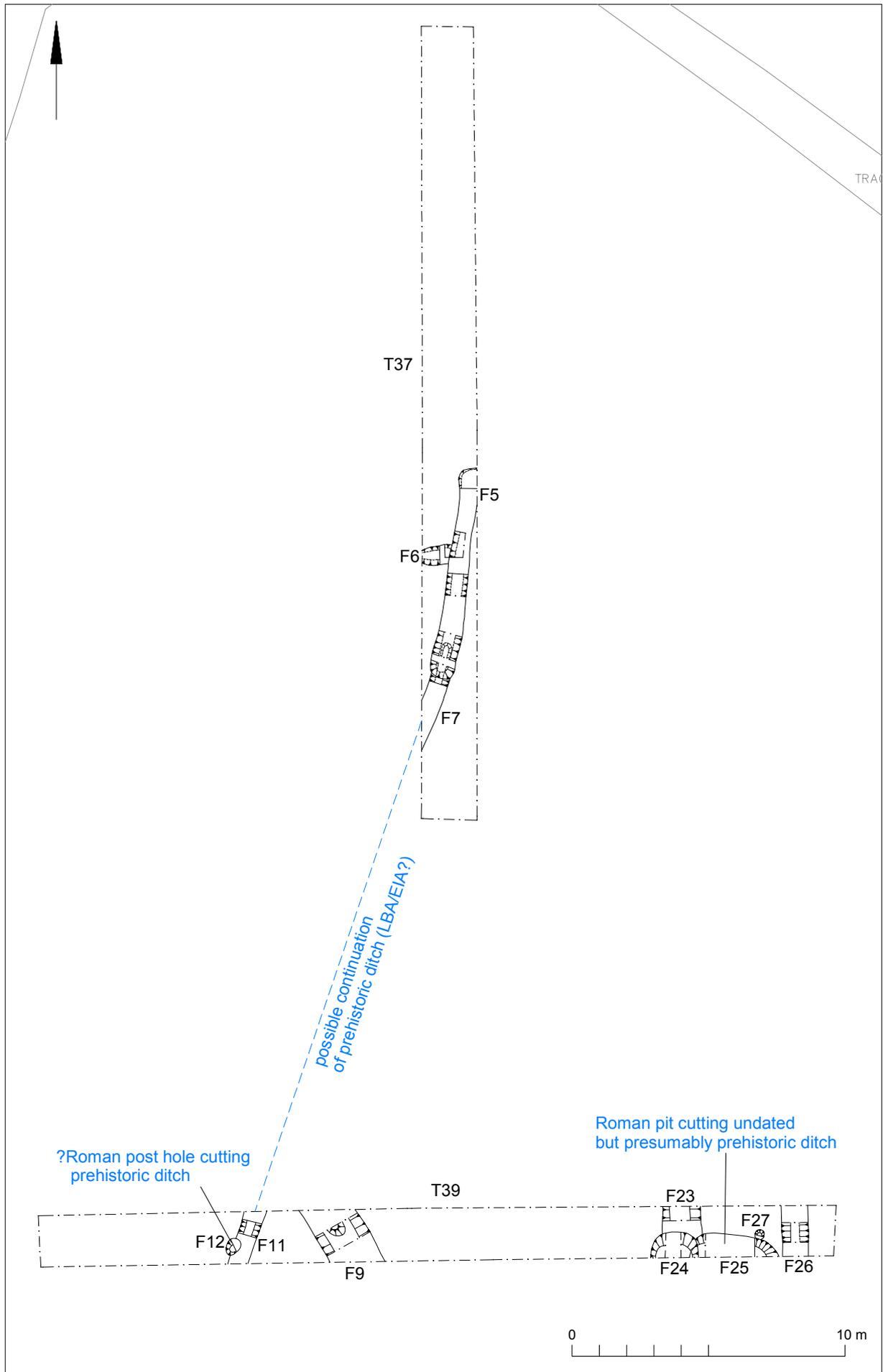


Fig 3 T37, T39; detail of prehistoric and Roman features.

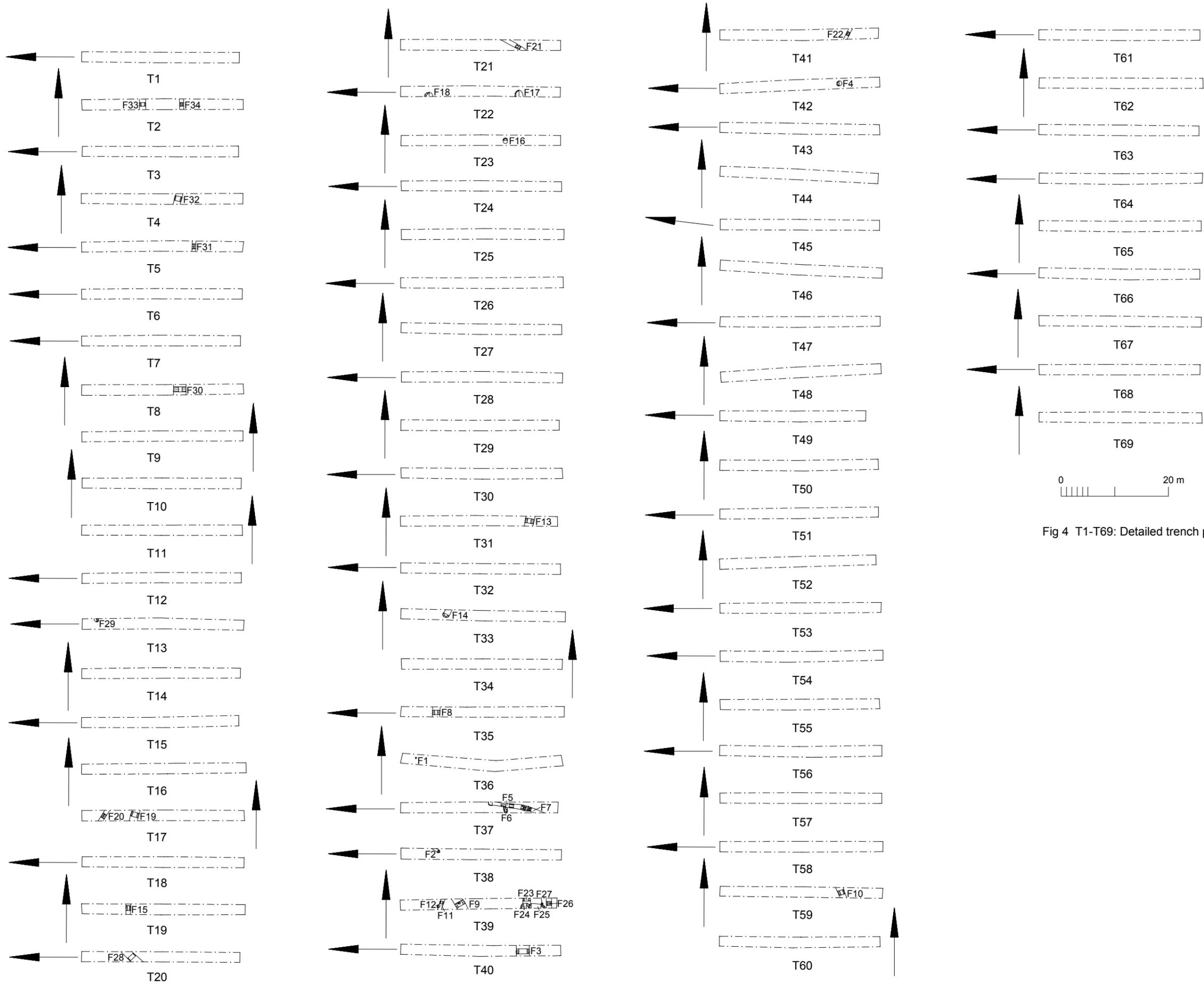


Fig 4 T1-T69: Detailed trench plans.

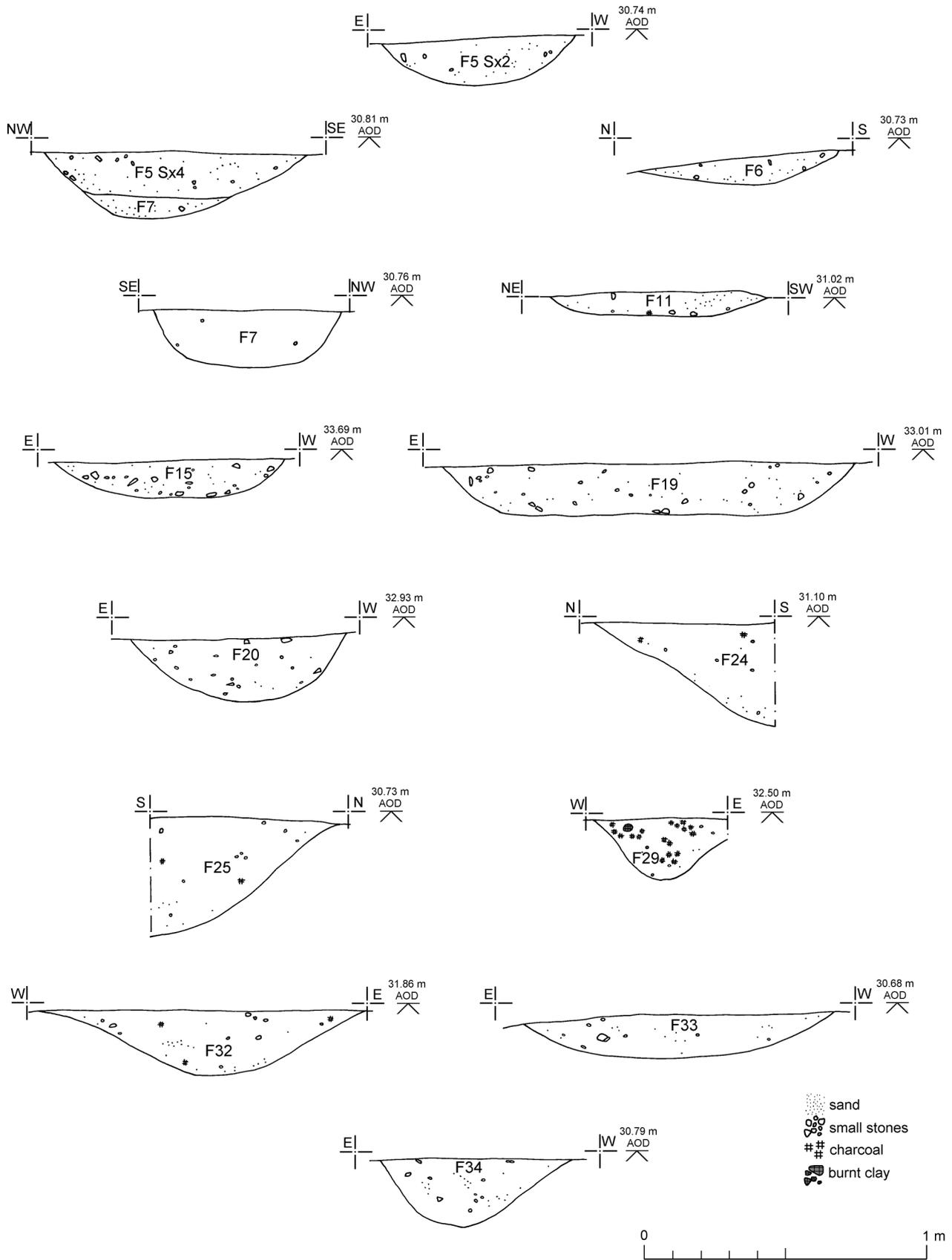


Fig 5 Sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Dale Hall Farm, Cox's Hill, Lawford, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Lawford	<b>District:</b> Tendring
<b>NGR:</b> TM 096 314 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project – 14/02k Museum accession – 2014.80
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> August 2014	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 69 x 30m of trenches
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHER number:</b> 7392
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 783	
<b>Periods represented:</b> prehistoric, Roman, post-medieval	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>An evaluation of this 9ha site revealed generally low levels of archaeological activity, but with small pockets of prehistoric and Roman material. Of the sixty-nine evaluation trenches, only 21 revealed archaeological features – 34 in total. Of these, twenty-one were undated or natural features, five were prehistoric or probably so, five were Roman or probably so, and three were post-medieval or modern.</i></p> <p><i>For convenience of discussion, the site can be split into three fields – Field 1 (Trenches 1-23, immediately east of Cox's Hill); Field 2 (Trenches 24-34, south of Dale Hall Farm); and Field 3 (Trenches 35-69, east of Dale Hall and south of Cornford Way).</i></p> <p><i>Rather than being evenly-spread, the significant features were grouped in four small areas. In Field 1, closest to Cox's Hill, there were three Roman ditches, one of which coincided precisely with the ditches of a cropmark trackway (and the other two are probably connected with it). Also in Field 1 were two undated ditches coinciding with a C-shaped cropmark, and a prehistoric ditch producing a Beaker sherd. The fourth and possibly most interesting area was at the north edge of Field 3 (close to Cornford Way) which produced a prehistoric ditches and prehistoric and Roman pits. This may represent a small occupation site. Residual prehistoric flints may indicate activity here before the Bronze or Iron Age.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 681	
<b>ECC / CBC monitor:</b> Adrian Gascoyne	
<b>Keywords:</b> prehistoric and Roman ditches and pits	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Howard Brooks	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2014