

# Archaeological evaluation at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU

March 2016



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commissioned by **Steve Belchem, ADP**  
on behalf of **Wescom Development Group Ltd**

NGR: TL 973 263 (centre)  
Planning reference: 151564  
CAT project ref.: 16/03a  
Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.28  
UAD ref: ECC3726  
OASIS reference: colchest3-244703



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**CAT Report 930**  
May 2016

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Results	2
5	Finds	5
6	Assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains	6
7	Discussion	7
8	Acknowledgements	7
9	References	7
10	Abbreviations and glossary	8
11	Contents of archive	8
12	Archive deposition	8

Figures after p9

Appendix 1 CAT WSI

Appendix 2 OASIS Summary

## List of photographs, figures and tables

Cover: general site shot

Photograph 1	T1, looking E	3
Photograph 2	T2, looking NE	3
Photograph 3	T3, looking SW	3
Photograph 4	T4, looking NE	3
Photograph 5	T5, looking NE	4
Photograph 6	T6, looking SE	4
Photograph 7	T7, looking NE	4
Photograph 8	T7, F9-F12, looking W	4
Photograph 9	T8, looking SW	5
Photograph 10	T9, looking NW	5

Table 1	All finds by context	5
Table 2	Charred plant macrofossils and other remains	7

Fig 1	Site location
Fig 2	Evaluation results
Fig 3	T1, T3, T5, T6 and T7 detailed trench plans
Fig 4	Feature sections (F1, F2, F4, F6, F9-F12). Representative trench sections (T1, T4, T7 and T9).
Fig 5	Site location in relation to previous archaeological work and enclosure cropmarks

## 1 Summary

An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out at Playgolf Colchester (Lexden Wood Golf Club), Bakers Lane, Colchester in advance of the construction of an adventure golf course and associated car parking. The development site is located in an area of archaeological significance with Moat Farm Dyke extending along the eastern edge of the golf course, a Late Iron Age/Early Roman burial enclosure located underneath the current clubhouse and driving range, and other cropmarks identified nearby. The nine trial-trenches revealed seven post-medieval/modern features, two undated pits and three structural features associated with a large quantity of fired clay probably from a wattle and daub structure. One fragment of Roman tile was found in association with the fired clay but no other dating evidence was recovered.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex which was carried out on the 17-18th March 2016. The work was commissioned by Steve Belchem, ADP on behalf of Wescom Development Group Ltd, in advance of the construction of an adventure golf course and associated car parking, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Dr Jess Tipper 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2016)

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) created by Colchester Borough Council, and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

Moat Farm Dyke, a Scheduled Monument (Essex SAM 10; EHER 11627), extends along the eastern edge of the golf course. It formed part of the extensive and complex earthwork defensive system of pre-Roman Colchester (CAR 11, 34).

A roughly square-shaped enclosure (EHER 11842) measuring approximately 85m across is located immediately to the southeast of the development site, partially underneath the clubhouse, golf shop and driving range, initially identified as a cropmark. In 1952 Lieutenant-Colonel R J Appleby cut an exploratory trench across the cropmark in a field immediately to the east of Westhouse Farm (CMR 1954, 13; EHER 12761). He located the ditch forming the southern side of the enclosure. The ditch was recorded as 16 feet (4.9m) wide and 4 feet (1.2m) deep. It contained pottery (now lost),

provisionally dated to between the 8th century and c 50 BC (CAR 11, 137). The car park to the south of the clubhouse now overlies the site of the 1952 trench.

Between 1999 and 2002, CAT carried out a series of archaeological investigations in response to redevelopments at the golf course. This included a desk-based assessment (CAT Report 47) in 1999, an evaluation including a geophysical survey in 2000 (CAT Report 59), and two watching briefs in 2001 and 2002 (CAT Reports 167 & 182). These confirmed the position of the enclosure and uncovered scatters of prehistoric and Roman pottery, and burnt daub.

In May 2012, in advance of an extension to the clubhouse, CAT conducted an archaeological evaluation at the site consisting of two trial-trenches (CAT Report 647). One of these (T1) was situated within the footprint of the extension and located the ditch forming the western side of the enclosure. This produced a small quantity of finds, including potsherds dating to the Bronze Age and Iron Age. The other trial-trench (T2) was located further south, outside the enclosure, within a proposed extension to the car park. In this trial-trench, a probable Roman field boundary ditch was recorded on a similar alignment to, and 9m to the south of, the ditch forming the southern side of the enclosure.

Between January and August 2013 a watching brief was undertaken during groundworks for the extension to the clubhouse (CAT Report 709). It revealed parts of two Late Iron Age or early Roman burials or burial-related features within the enclosure. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial, from which were recovered an amphora and some worked bone, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. Nearby, another feature was partially uncovered. From this came fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman imported pottery, and a small quantity of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997.

Other cropmarks are also known to run E-W and NW-SE through the existing car park located immediately to the south of the development site (CAT Report 709, Fig 1).

#### **4 Results** (Figs 2-4)

Nine trial-trenches were excavated across the development site (T1-T9), each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide.

Unless otherwise stated below, the trenches were excavated through two layers, modern topsoil (L1, c 300mm thick) sealing natural yellow clay (L3).

##### **Trench 1 (T1)**

Modern topsoil (L1, c 300mm thick) sealed a modern road/track make-up layer (L2, 200-250mm thick) which in turn sealed thin patches of subsoil (L4, 10-50mm thick). Beneath L2/L4 was natural clay (L3). A shallow and irregular feature was identified (F1) along with a shallow linear feature (F2), both of modern date.

##### **Trench 2 (T2)**

No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



**Photograph 1** T1, looking E



**Photograph 2** T2, looking NE

### **Trench 3 (T3)**

A post-medieval/modern gully (F4) was identified along with a modern pit (F3), modern wheel-rut (F5) and undated pit (F6).

### **Trench 4 (T4)**

No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



**Photograph 3** T3, looking SW



**Photograph 4** T4 section, looking NE

### **Trench 5 (T5)**

A modern pit (F7) was identified in the southern end of the trench, with plough scars at the north end.

### **Trench 6 (T6)**

A large modern rubbish pit (F8) was identified in the centre of the trench. A slot through the feature was machine dug and modern concrete, tile and brick observed but not retained.



**Photograph 5** T5, looking NE



**Photograph 6** T6, looking SE

#### **Trench 7 (T7)**

Most of the trench contained layers L1 and L3, however the southern end contained two layers of a modern road/track make-up (L2, c 180mm thick above L6, 200-250mm thick), sealing patches of a post-glacial silty-clay layer (L5, c 130mm thick). Natural (L3) was identified beneath L5. A possible beam slot/gully (F9) had been cut by two postholes (F11 and F12). Both postholes contained a large quantity of fired clay from a wattle and daub structure. The only dating evidence recovered from these features was a single fragment of Roman tegula roof tile. An undated pit (F10) was also identified nearby.



**Photograph 7** T7, looking NE



**Photograph 8** T7, F9-F12, looking W

#### **Trench 8 (T7)**

A number of plough scars were observed running along the trench.

### Trench 9 (T9)

A post-glacial silty-clay layer (L5) was recorded between L1 and L3. No archaeological features or finds were identified.



Photograph 9 T8, looking SW



Photograph 10 T9, looking NW

## 5 Finds

All of the finds from the evaluation are listed in Table 1.

Trench no.	Context no.	Finds no.	Description	Qt	Wt (g)
T1	F1	1	Staffordshire-type white earthenware pottery fragment, late 19th/early 20th century (CAR 7).	1	4g
			Glazed tile, post-medieval/modern.	1	15g
			Brick fragment, post-medieval/modern.	1	13g
T1	F2	2	Tile fragment, post-medieval.	1	15g
T2	U/S	5	Tile fragment.	1	7g
T3	F3	4	Peg-tile, 11mm thick, post-medieval.	1	18g
			Brick fragment, post-medieval.	1	2g
T3	F4	3	Modern green glass bottle, fragment.	1	3g
			Brick fragment, post-medieval.	1	2g
			Iron nail.	1	8g
T7	F11	11	Roman tegula roof tile with flange, 90mm long, 62mm wide, base 26mm thick, flange 28mm high.	1	313g
			Fired clay.	41	2286g
T7	F12	12	Fired clay.	5	348g
T9	U/S	6	Probable secondary flint flake, no evidence of working.	1	3g

Table 1 All finds by context

### Wattle and daub

Forty-six fragments of fired clay (2634g) were recovered from postholes F11 and F12 in T7. They are made of a soft, fine sandy fabric with occasional grits, largely reddish-brown or reddish-orange in colour, with 13 pieces burnt to a dark red, reddish-brown or black. One of the fragments had some charcoal inclusions.

The fired clay largely appears to be daub from some kind of a wattle and daub structure, with 21 of the largest fragments showing smoothed flat surfaces on one side with wattle impressions on the other. The wattle voids are 16-21mm in diameter, set between 10-36mm apart, although some are nearly touching, and largely ran parallel to each other along one plane. The fragments measure approximately 30-40mm thick.

A single curved fragment of fired clay, 48mm thick, was also identified which may have come from a separate structural feature like a hearth or oven.

## 6 Assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other remains

by Val Fryer

### Introduction and method statement

Evaluation at Bakers Lane, undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. (CAT), recorded a limited number of features of possible Roman date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit, post-hole and gully fills and four were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by CAT and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.

### Results

Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce. However, individual wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.) grains are recorded along with two large grass (Poaceae) fruits and a single indeterminate seed.

Other remains are also exceedingly scarce, although black porous and tarry residues are recorded along with a small piece of coal.

### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, all four assemblages are small and extremely limited in composition. The abundance of charcoal within the sample from pit F10 (sample 3) may suggest that this material is derived from a small, discrete deposit of hearth waste, but otherwise, it is suggested that the macrofossils are indicative of a very low density of scattered or wind-dispersed refuse, all of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

On the basis of this evaluation, it is difficult to make recommendations for a future sampling strategy should further interventions be planned. Charred plant remains are clearly present within the archaeological horizon, but at such a low density that any recovered assemblages may have very little immediate merit. Therefore, if further work is undertaken, it is suggested that additional samples could be taken, but only from features which are well stratified or which appear to be of particular significance to the overall interpretation of the site.

### Key to Table 2

x = 1-10 specimens      xx = 11-50 specimens  
xxxx = 100+ specimens      cf compare

Sample No.	1	2	3	4
<b>Finds No.</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>F11</b>	<b>F9</b>	<b>F10</b>	<b>F12</b>
<i>Avena</i> sp. (grain)				xcf
<i>Triticum</i> sp.(grain)		x		
Large Poaceae indet.	x			x
Charcoal <5mm	xx	x	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	xx	x	xxxx	x
Indet. seed		x		
Black porous and tarry residues		x		x
Small coal frags.	x			
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>				
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 2** Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

## 7 Discussion

Evaluation trenches T1-T6 and T8-T9 revealed one post-medieval/modern gully, six modern features and one undated pit. In contrast, T7 in the south-west corner of the site produced three possible structural features (a beam slot or gully and two postholes) associated with a quantity of fired clay probably from some kind of wattle and daub structure. One fragment of Roman tegula found in F11 might suggest that the structure was Roman in date and may be associated with the LIA/early Roman enclosures to the south-east (Fig 5). The archaeological features identified in T7 were cut into post-glacial soil layer L5 which appeared to have been largely absent in the other trenches, suggesting that the rest of the site had been partially stripped at some point in the past.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Steve Belchem, ADP for commissioning the project and Wescom Development Group Ltd for funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister, R Mathieson and A Wade. Site plans were prepared by MB. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Dr Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAR 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Lexden Wood Golf Club, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU</i>
CAT Report 47	1999	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Westhouse Farm, Lexden, Colchester</i>
CAT Report 59	2000	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: January 2000</i>
CAT Report 167	2001	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: December 2001</i>

CAT Report 182	2002	<i>An archaeological watching brief on an extension to the driving range at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Colchester, Essex: March 2002</i>
CAT Report 647	2012	<i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'Playgolf', Bakers Lane, Westhouse Farm, Colchester, Essex: May 2012</i>
CAT Report 709	2014	<i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013</i>
CBC	2015	<i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Lexden Wood Golf Club, Bakers Lane, Colchester, CO3 4AU, by J Tipper</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles. 3rd edition. Cambridge University Press</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CM	Colchester Museum
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database
U/S	unstratified, ie without a well-defined context
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** half a box (fired clay and Roman tile only, others not retained)

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 930)

CBCPS Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper and 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM  
2016.28.

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**Distribution list**

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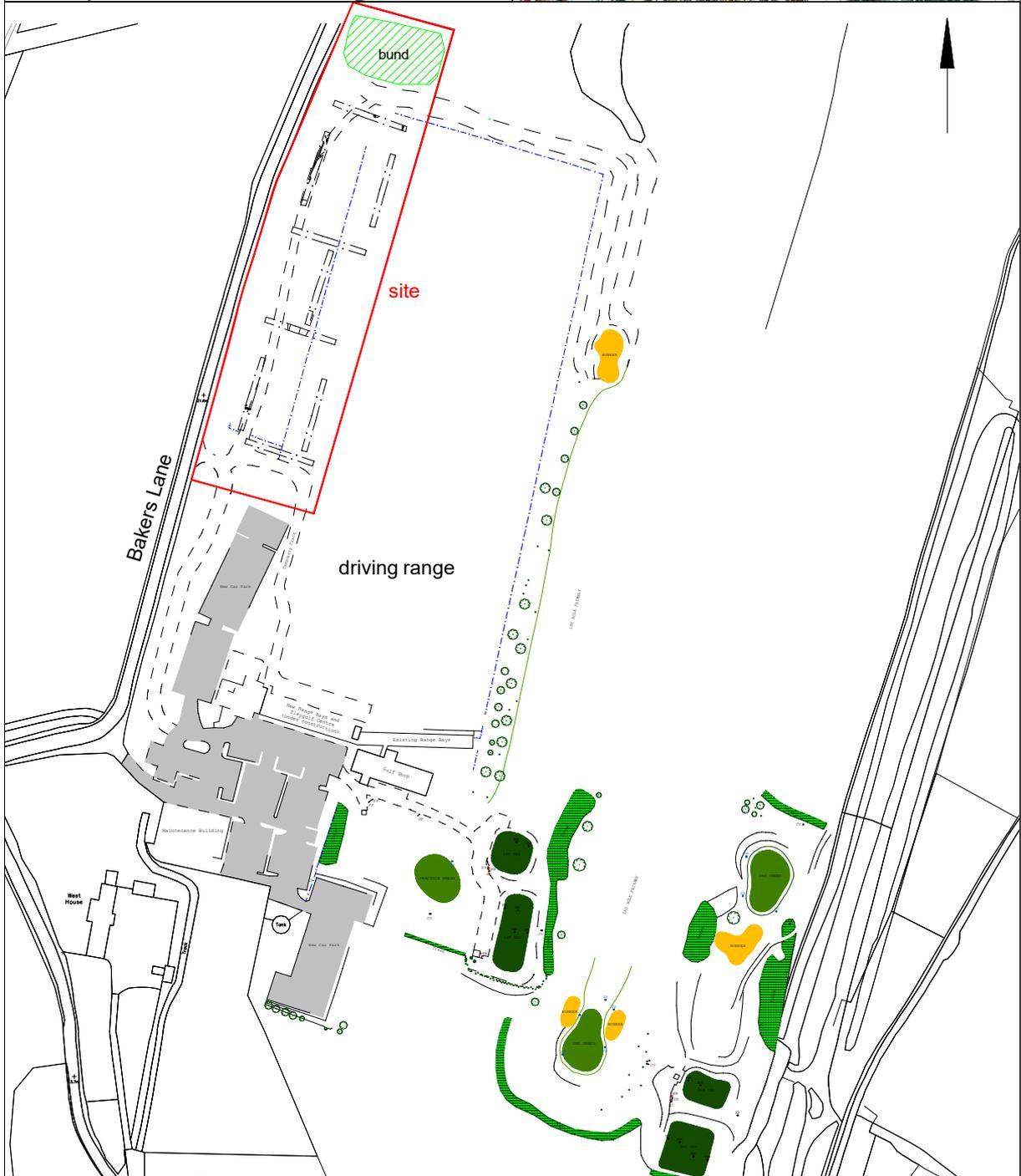
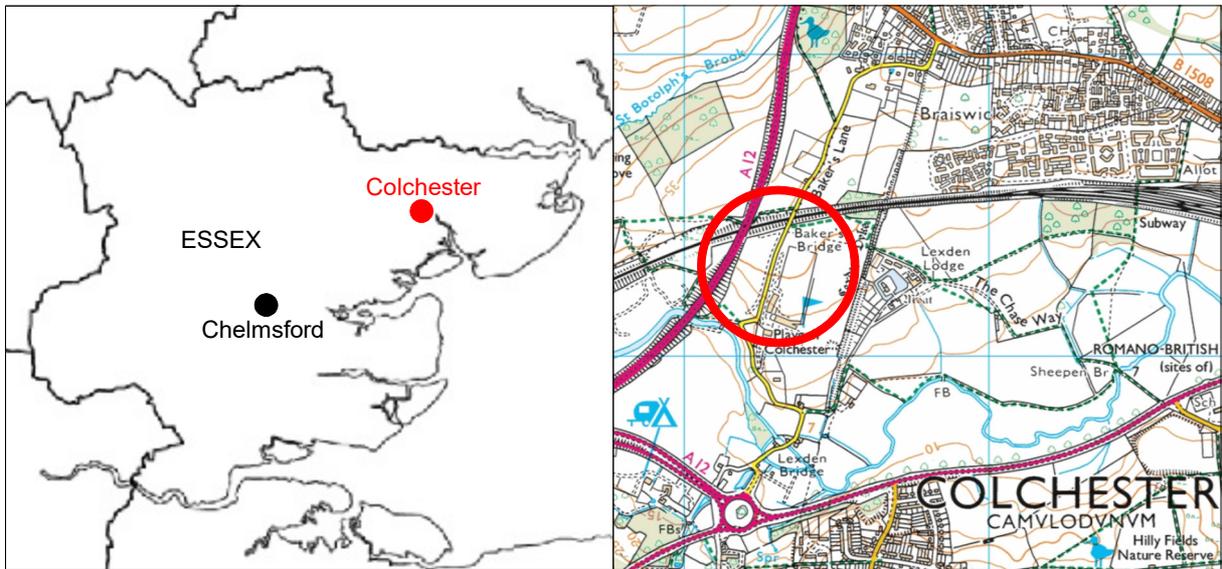
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Checked by: Howard Brooks

Date: 17/05/2016



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Fig 1 Site location.



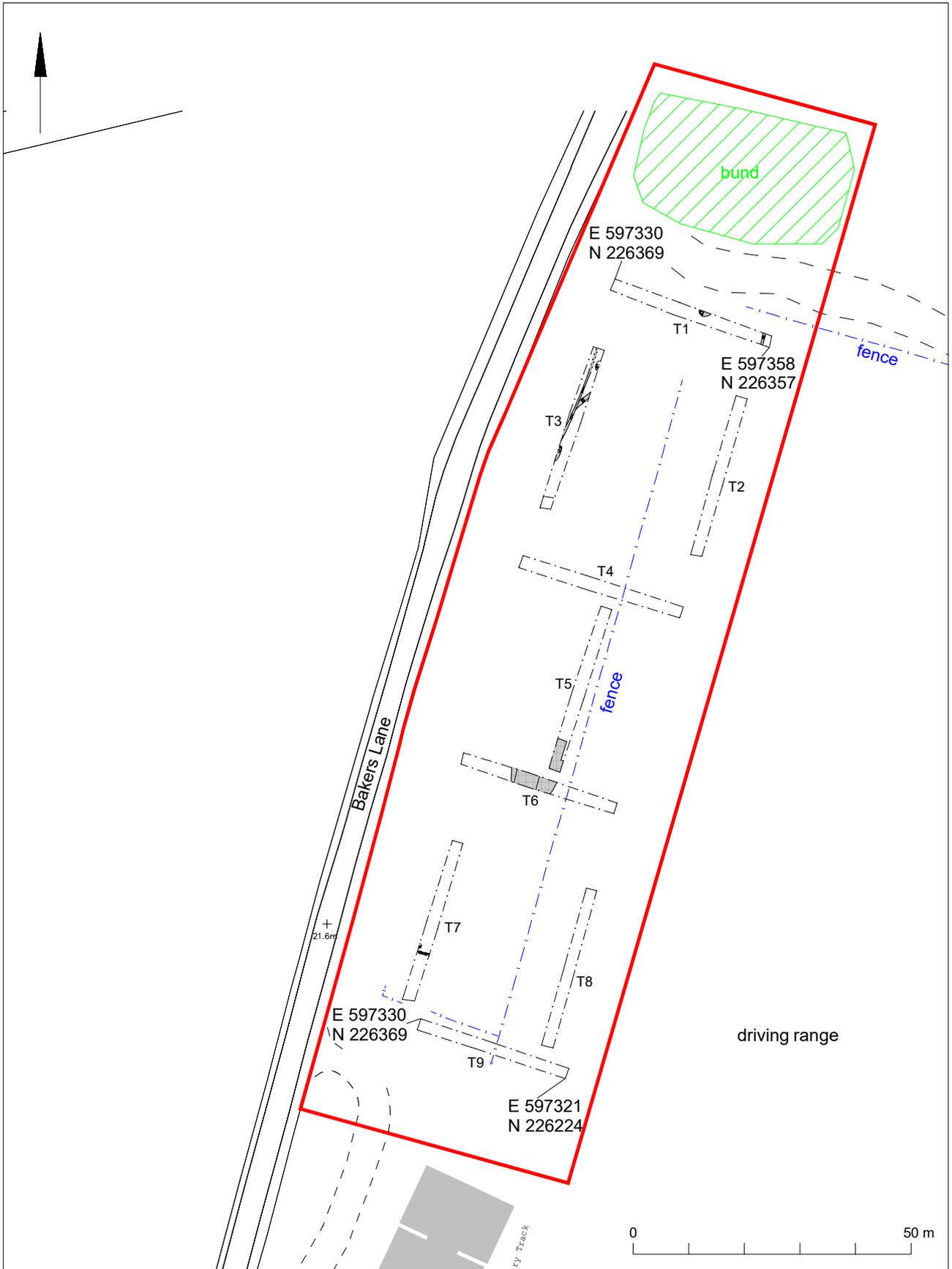


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

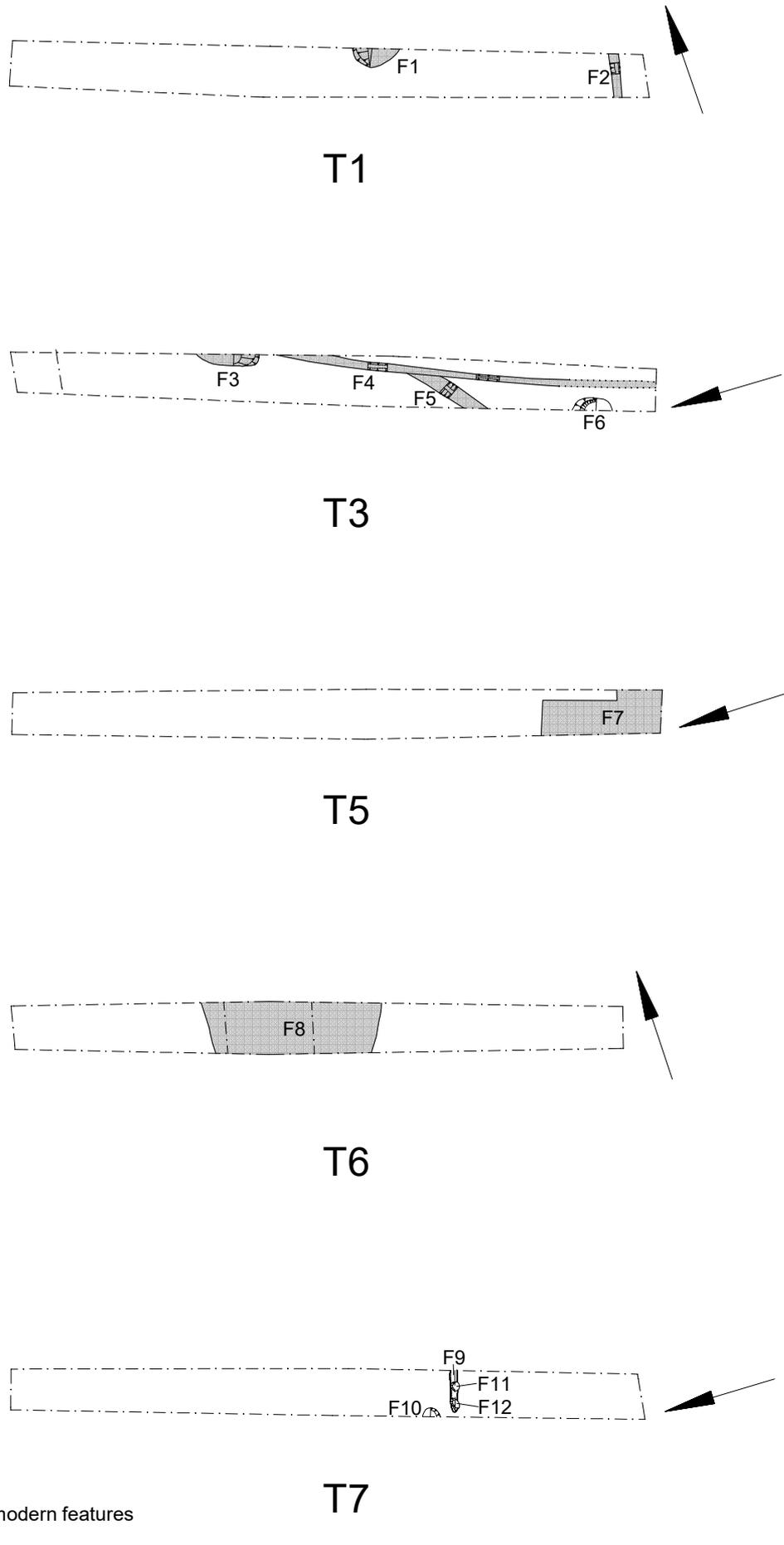


Fig 3 T1, T3, T5, T6 and T7 detailed trench plans.



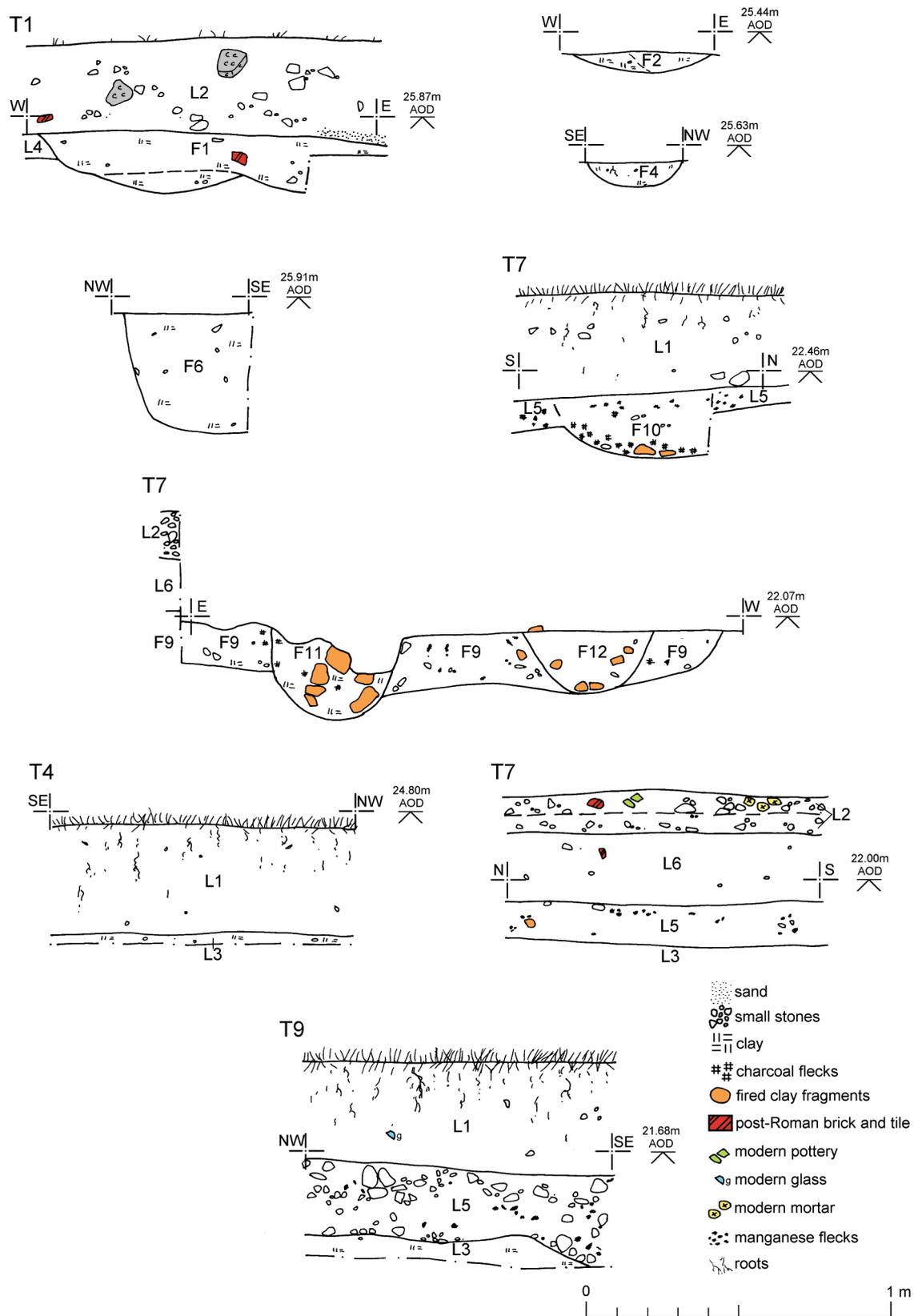
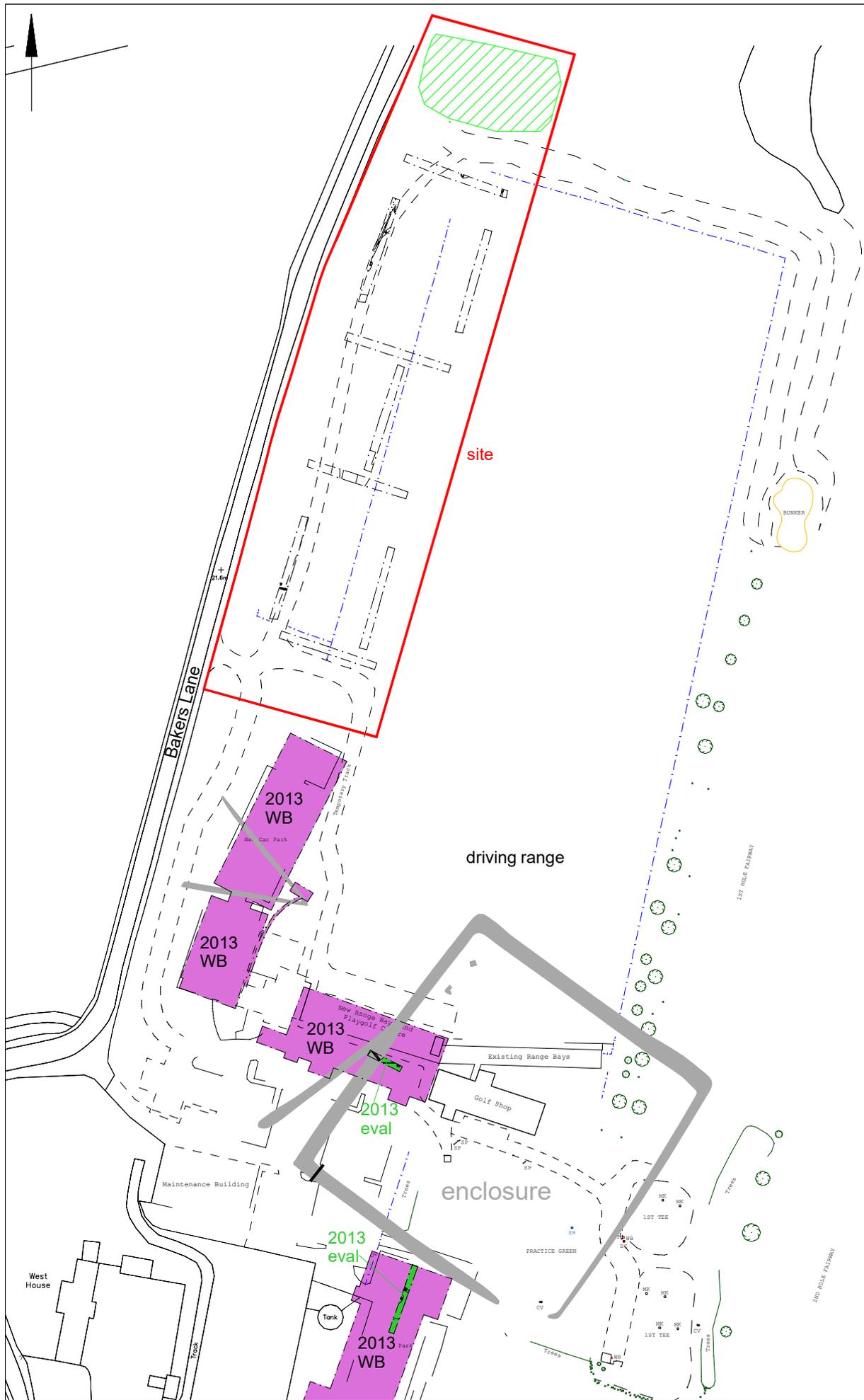


Fig 4 Feature sections (F1,F2, F4, F6 and F9-F12). Representative trench sections (T1, T4, T7 and T9).



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Fig 5 Site location in relation to previous archaeological work and enclosure cropmarks.



# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Playgolf Colchester (Lexden Wood Golf Club), Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 973 263 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 16/03a UAD ref: ECC3726 OASIS ref: colchest3-244703
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 17-18th March 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Nine trenches each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide, totalling 486m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2016.28	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> yes	<b>Related UAD/SMR number:</b> EHER 11627, 11842, 12761
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 930	
<b>Periods represented:</b> LIA/Roman and post-medieval/modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out at Playgolf Colchester (Lexden Wood Golf Club), Bakers Lane, Colchester in advance of the construction of an adventure golf course and associated car parking. The development site is located in an area of archaeological significance with Moat Farm Dyke extending along the eastern edge of the golf course, a Late Iron Age/Early Roman burial enclosure located underneath the current clubhouse and driving range, and other cropmarks identified nearby. The nine trial-trenches revealed seven post-medieval/modern features, two undated pits and three structural features associated with a large quantity of fired clay probably from a wattle and daub structure. One fragment of Roman tile was found in association with the fired clay but no other dating evidence was recovered.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> CAT Report 47, 59, 167, 182, 647, 709	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> May 2016

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for an archaeological evaluation at  
Lexden Wood Golf Club, Bakers Lane, Colchester,  
Essex, CO3 4AU

**NGR:** TL 973 263 (centre)

**Planning reference:** 151564

**Commissioned by:** Steve Belcham, ADP

**Client:** Wescom Development Group Ltd

**Curating Museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** COLEM: 2016.28

**UAD Event number:** ECC3726

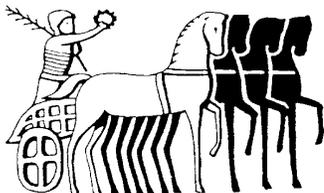
**CAT Project code:** 16/03a

**OASIS Project id:** colchest3-244703

**Site Manager:** Mark Baister

**CBC Monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 04.03.2016



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## Site Location and Description

The proposed development covers an area of 0.98ha and is located within Lexden Wood Golf Club, Bakers Lane, to the east of the A12 (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 973 263.

## Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the addition of an adventure golf course and car parking to the existing golf club.

## Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database (UAD) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

Moat Farm Dyke, a Scheduled Monument (Essex SAM 10; EHER 11627), extends along the eastern edge of the golf course. It formed part of the extensive and complex earthwork defensive system of pre-Roman Colchester (*CAR 11*, 34).

A roughly square-shaped enclosure (EHER 11842) measuring approximately 85m across is located immediately to the southeast of the development site, partially underneath the clubhouse, golf shop and driving range. It was initially identified as a cropmark. In 1952 Lieutenant-Colonel R J Appleby cut an exploratory trench across the cropmark in a field immediately to the east of Westhouse Farm (CMR 1954, 13; EHER 12761). He located the ditch forming the southern side of the enclosure. The ditch was recorded as 16 feet (4.9 m) wide and 4 feet (1.2 m) deep. It contained pottery (now lost), provisionally dated to between the 8th century and c 50 BC (*CAR 11*, 137). The car park to the south of the clubhouse now overlies the site of the 1952 trench.

Between 1999 and 2002, CAT carried out a series of archaeological investigations in response to redevelopments at the golf course. This included a desk-based assessment (CAT Report 47) in 1999, an evaluation including a geophysical survey in 2000 (CAT Report 59), and two watching briefs in 2001 and 2002 (CAT Reports 167 & 182). These confirmed the position of the enclosure and uncovered scatters of prehistoric and Roman pottery, and burnt daub.

In May 2012, in advance of an extension to the clubhouse, CAT conducted an archaeological evaluation at the site consisting of two trial-trenches (CAT Report 647). One of these (T1) was situated within the footprint of the extension and located the ditch forming the western side of the enclosure. This produced a small quantity of finds, including potsherds dating to the Bronze Age and Iron Age. The other trial-trench (T2) was located further south, outside the enclosure, within a proposed extension to the car park. In this trial-trench, a probable Roman field boundary ditch was recorded on a similar alignment to, and 9m to the south of, the ditch forming the southern side of the enclosure.

Between January and August 2013 a watching brief carried out during groundworks for the extension to the clubhouse (CAT Report 709). It revealed parts of two Late Iron Age or early Roman burials or burial-related features within the enclosure. One of the burial features was a Late Iron Age or early Roman unurned cremation burial, from which were recovered an amphora and some worked bone, as well as a quantity of cremated human bone. Nearby, another feature was partially uncovered. From this came fragments of at least five iron spearheads, a couple of sherds of Late Iron Age or early Roman imported pottery, and a small quantity of cremated human bone. The ditch, which formed the western side of the enclosure, was recorded as it crossed the footprint of the extension. The funerary enclosure and the features within it are comparable to the ditched enclosures excavated by CAT at the Stanway gravel quarry between 1987 and 1997.

Other cropmarks are also known to run E-W and NW-SE through the existing car park located immediately to the south of the development site (CAT Report 709, Fig 1).

## **Planning Background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in July 2015 (application No.151564) proposing the addition of an adventure golf course and car parking to the Lexden Wood Golf Club.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / UAD as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

## **Requirement for Work**

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, a total of 270m linear of trenching will be positioned to cover all practical parts of the site (Fig 2). All trenches will be 1.8m wide.

The trial-trenches will:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence (a contingency will be included for palaeo-environmental assessment and absolute dating).
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Further evaluation may be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

## **General Methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the finds bags and boxes, and the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor and two site assistants for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Adam Wightman

## **Evaluation methodology**

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine the site, spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

Samples will be taken if palaeo-environmental and/or geoarchaeological remains are encountered (ie waterlogged deposits).

## **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

## **Environmental sampling policy**

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

## **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

## Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the

project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

## Archive Deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

## Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out. CBCAO will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

- |                |       |   |
|----------------|-------|---|
| CBC            | 2015  | <i>Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Lexden Wood Golf Club, Bakers Lane, Colchester, CO3 4AU</i> , by J Tipper                        |
| CAR 11         | 1995  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum 2</i> , by C F C Hawkes and P Crummy  |
| CAT            | 2014  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT Report 47  | 1999  | <i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Westhouse Farm, Lexden, Colchester.</i>   |
| CAT Report 59  | 2000  | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: January 2000</i>                            |
| CAT Report 167 | 2001  | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Lexden, Colchester, Essex: December 2001</i>                           |
| CAT Report 182 | 2002  | <i>An archaeological watching brief on an extension to the driving range at Lexden Wood Golf Club (Westhouse Farm), Colchester, Essex: March 2002</i> |
| CAT Report 647 | 2012  | <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 'Playgolf', Bakers Lane, Westhouse Farm, Colchester, Essex: May 2012</i>                        |
| CAT Report 709 | 2014  | <i>An archaeological watching brief at Playgolf Colchester, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex: January-August 2013</i>                                   |
| CIfA           | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>   |
| CIfA           | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>  |
| CIfA           | 2014c | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                                 |
| CM             | 2008  | <i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the</i>  |

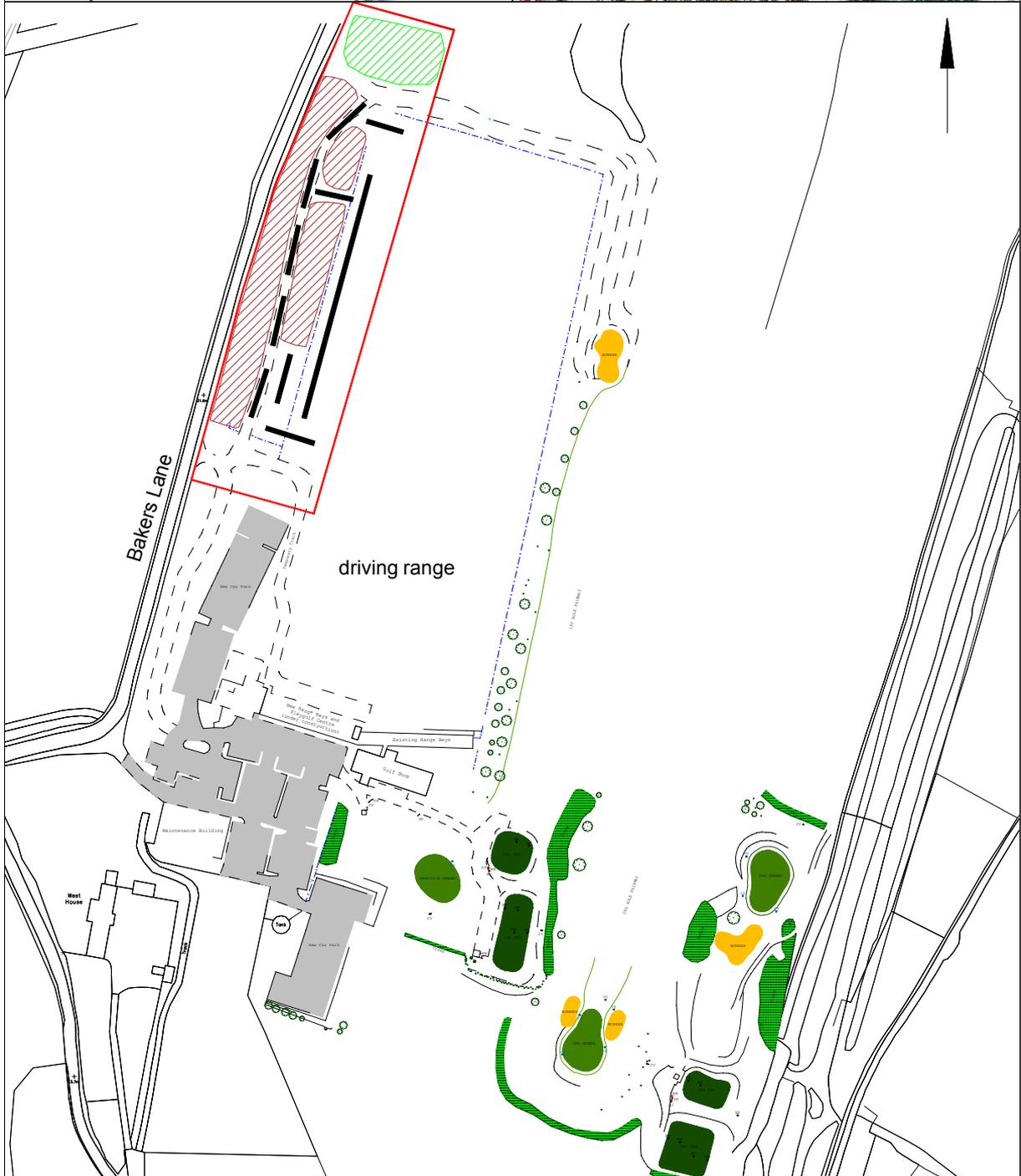
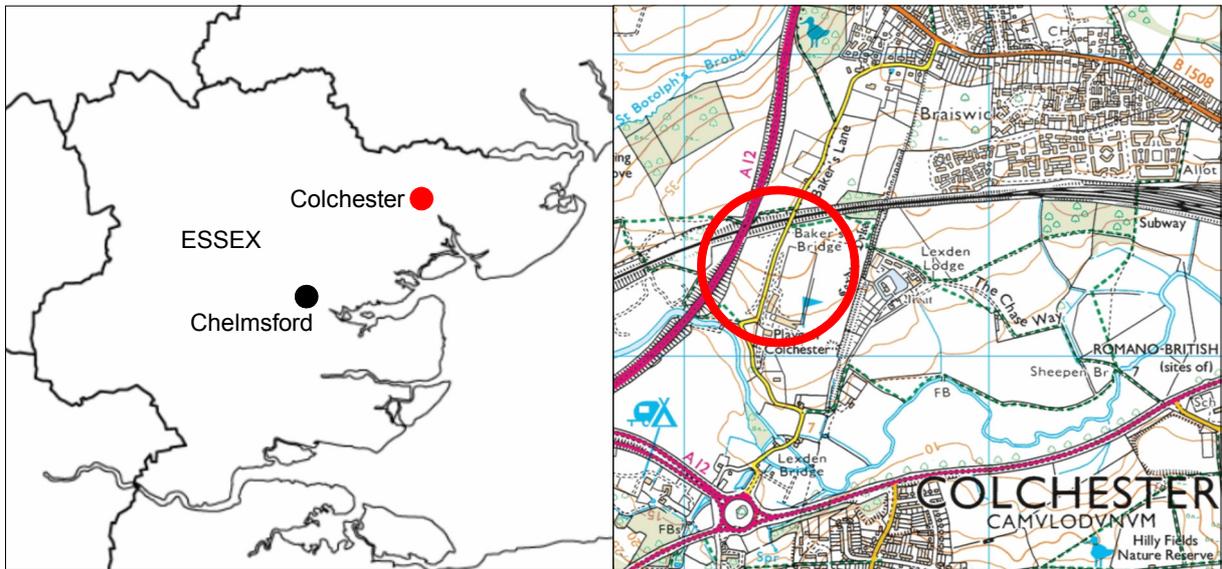
CM	2008	<i>Borough of Colchester Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester &amp; Ipswich Museums</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

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 email: lp@catuk.org



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Fig 1 Site location.

 spoil heaps
  bund

0 100 m

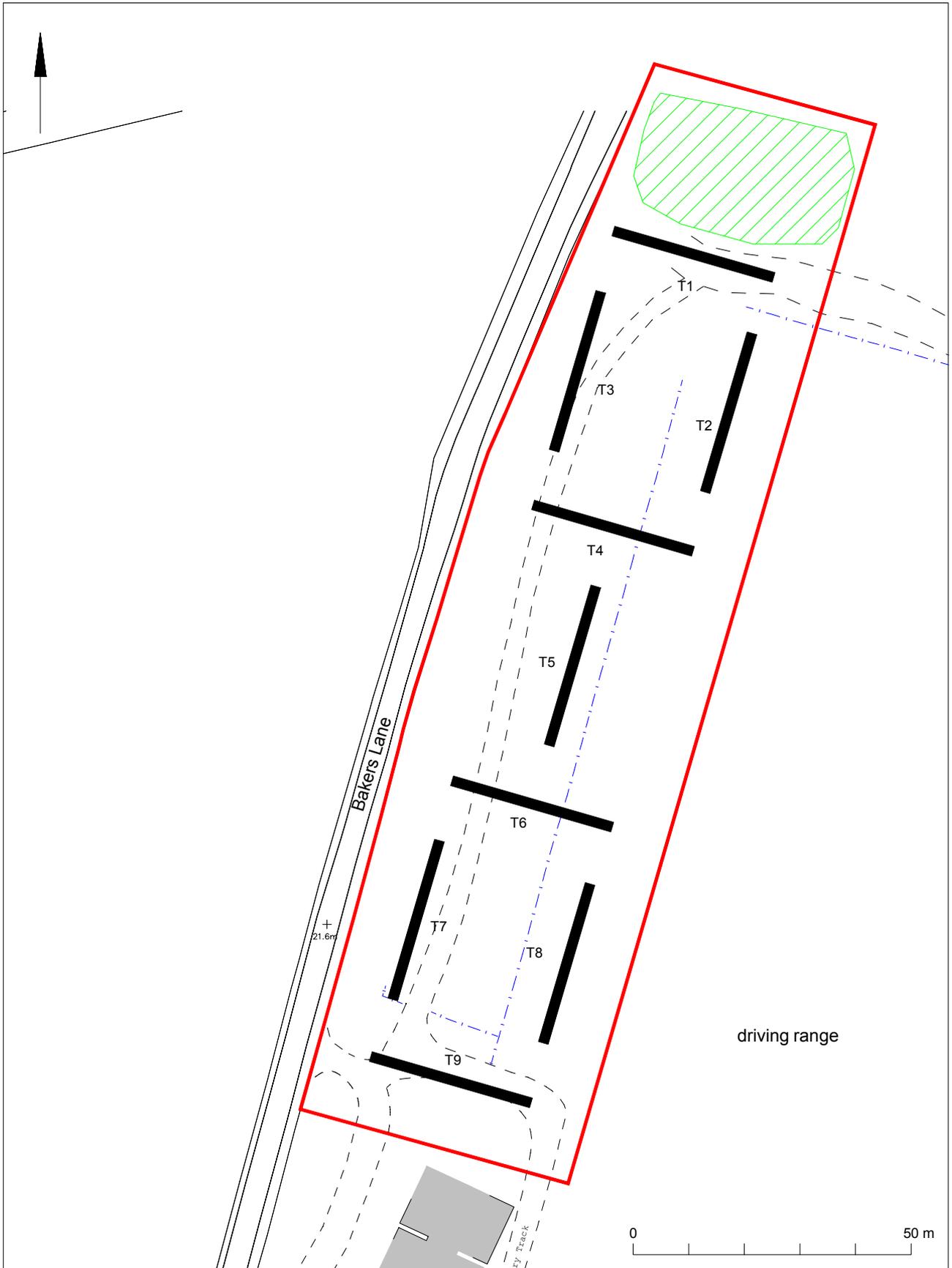


Fig 2 Trench proposal.

 bund protecting golf course

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-244703**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Playgolf Colchester (Lexden Wood Golf Club), Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex, CO3 4AU
Short description of the project	An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation was carried out at Playgolf Colchester (Lexden Wood Golf Club), Bakers Lane, Colchester in advance of the construction of an adventure golf course and associated car parking. The development site is located in an area of archaeological significance with Moat Farm Dyke extending along the eastern edge of the golf course, a Late Iron Age/Early Roman burial enclosure located underneath the current clubhouse and driving range, and other cropmarks identified nearby. The nine trial-trenches revealed seven post-medieval/modern features, two undated pits and three structural features associated with a large quantity of fired clay probably from a wattle and daub structure. One fragment of Roman tile was found in association with the fired clay but no other dating evidence was recovered.
Project dates	Start: 17-03-2016 End: 07-04-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	16/03a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	151564 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3726 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2016.28 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	POST HOLE Uncertain
Monument type	BEAM SLOT Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain

Monument type GULLY Post Medieval  
 Monument type LINEARS Modern  
 Monument type PITS Modern  
 Significant Finds TEGULA Roman  
 Significant Finds DAUB Uncertain  
 Methods & techniques ""Sample Trenches""  
 Development type Golf course  
 Prompt Planning condition  
 Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country England  
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Playgolf Colchester (Lexden Wood Golf Club)  
 Postcode CO3 4AU  
 Study area 0.98 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TL 973 263 51.899738420081 0.86814147759 51 53 59 N 000 52 05 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 21.34m Max: 26.2m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer  
 Project design originator Laura Pooley  
 Project director/manager Chris Lister  
 Project supervisor Mark Baister  
 Project supervisor Mark Baister  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
 Name of sponsor/funding body Wescom Development Group Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Physical Archive ID Colem 2016.28  
 Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
 Digital Archive Colchester Museum

recipient  
Digital Archive ID Colem 2016.28  
Digital Contents "none"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Paper Archive ID Colem 2016.28  
Paper Contents "none"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological evaluation at Iexden Wood Golf Club, Bakers Lane, Colchester, Essex CO3 4AU: March 2016  
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