

# Archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1TA

August 2016



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**on behalf of Philip Branton (Wincer Kievenaar)**

NGR: TL 57405 21191 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/16/0270/FUL

CAT project ref.: 16/08b

ECC code: LCDR16

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: [requested](#)

OASIS ref.: colchest3-259076



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**CAT Report 1002**  
August 2016

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield, Essex in advance of the construction of a twelve new dwellings. Despite being located immediately to the south of the Roman road of Stane Street, no significant archaeological horizons were identified. Modern features and layers were identified associated with the previous use of the site as a garage.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield, Essex which was carried out on 15th-16th August 2016. The work was commissioned by Philip Branton of Wincer Kievenaar in advance of the construction of twelve new dwellings with associated infrastructure, and undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (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 field 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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows that the Roman Road of Stane Street, which ran from Braughing to Colchester (EHER 1226/4697), is located immediately to the north of the development site on the line of Dunmow Road.

Immediately to the south of the development site is the former Bishop's Stortford, Dunmow and Braintree Branch Railway (Fritch Way) which opened in 1869 and closed in 1969 (EHER 19629).

Post-medieval features were identified to the east during an evaluation at North View and No 3 The Warren (EHER 48559), but no significant archaeological horizons were identified during evaluations across the road from the development site at The Rest, Dunmow Road (EHER 47255).

Excavations on the opposite side of the old A120 have identified the remains of multi-period occupation from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. To the south-east is a possible deserted medieval village (EHER 4588).

#### 4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Four trial-trenches were machine excavated across the development site under archaeological supervision.

##### **Trench 1 (T1) – 40m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 1 was excavated through tarmac (L6, c 100-120mm thick) and crush (L7, c 360-390mm thick) onto a grey/brown silty-clay subsoil (L2, c 100-140mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). Two modern drains, a modern brick drainage hub (F2) and what appeared to be a brick-line vehicle inspection pit backfilled with loose brick, concrete and hardcore (F3, not excavated) were recorded.

##### **Trench 2 (T2) – 25m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 2 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 100mm thick) onto a grey/brown silty-clay subsoil (L2, c 120-160mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). A small modern pit (F1) was excavated at the north end. Two sondages were excavated to the south to check that L3 was natural clay.

##### **Trench 3 (T3) – 30m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 3 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 40mm thick) and a layer of hardcore (L2, c 200mm thick) onto a grey/brown silty-clay subsoil (L2, c 170-270mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). No archaeological horizons were identified.

##### **Trench 4 (T4) – 25m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench 4 was excavated through a thin layer of modern topsoil (L1, c 10mm thick) and patches of redeposited chalky-clay (L5, c 0-250mm thick) onto a grey/brown silty-clay subsoil (L2, c 200mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). No archaeological horizons were identified.



**Photograph 1** T1, looking E



**Photograph 2** T4, looking N

## 5 Finds

Lots of modern debris was identified throughout the evaluation trenches (none retained). No archaeological finds were recorded.

## 6 Discussion

An evaluation on land to the south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield revealed modern horizons in two trenches associated with the previous use of the site as a garage. No significant archaeological horizons were identified in any of the trenches.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Philip Branton of Wincer Kievenaar for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, J Roberts and A Wade. Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

## 8 References

- |        |       |  |
|--------|-------|--|
| CAT    | 2014  | <i>Health and Safety Policy</i>  |
| CAT    | 2015  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation and excavation on land to the south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1TA</i>     |
| CIfA   | 2014a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>   |
| CIfA   | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>  |
| DCLG   | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.  |
| EAA 14 | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> . Ed. D Gurney                              |
| EAA 24 | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> , by Maria Medlycott |
| ECCPS  | 2015  | <i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation on land south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield</i>   |

English Heritage 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*  
(English Heritage)

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit 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
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1002)

ECC 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

## 11 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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

**Distribution list:**

Philip Branton, Wincer Kievenaar  
Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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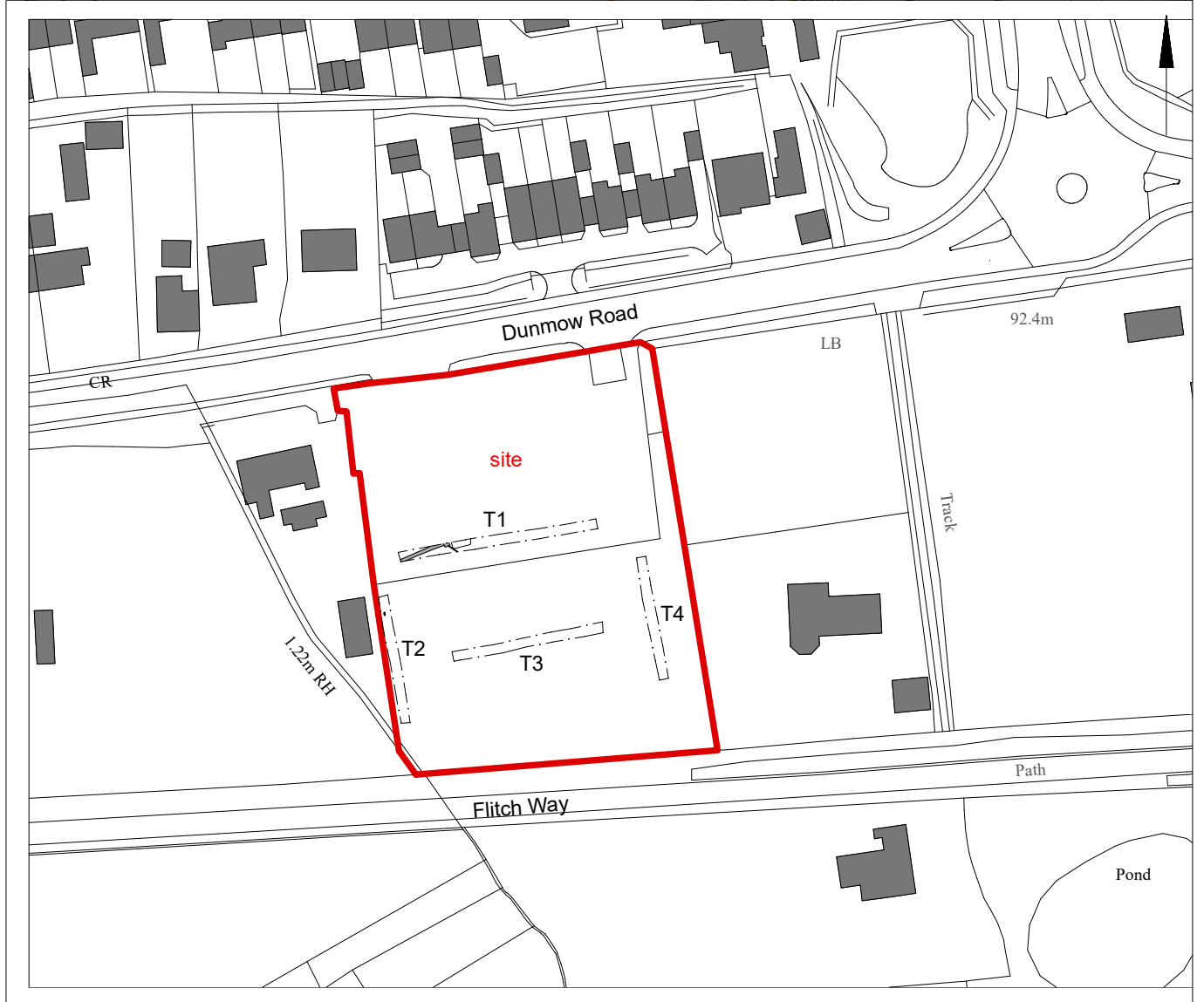
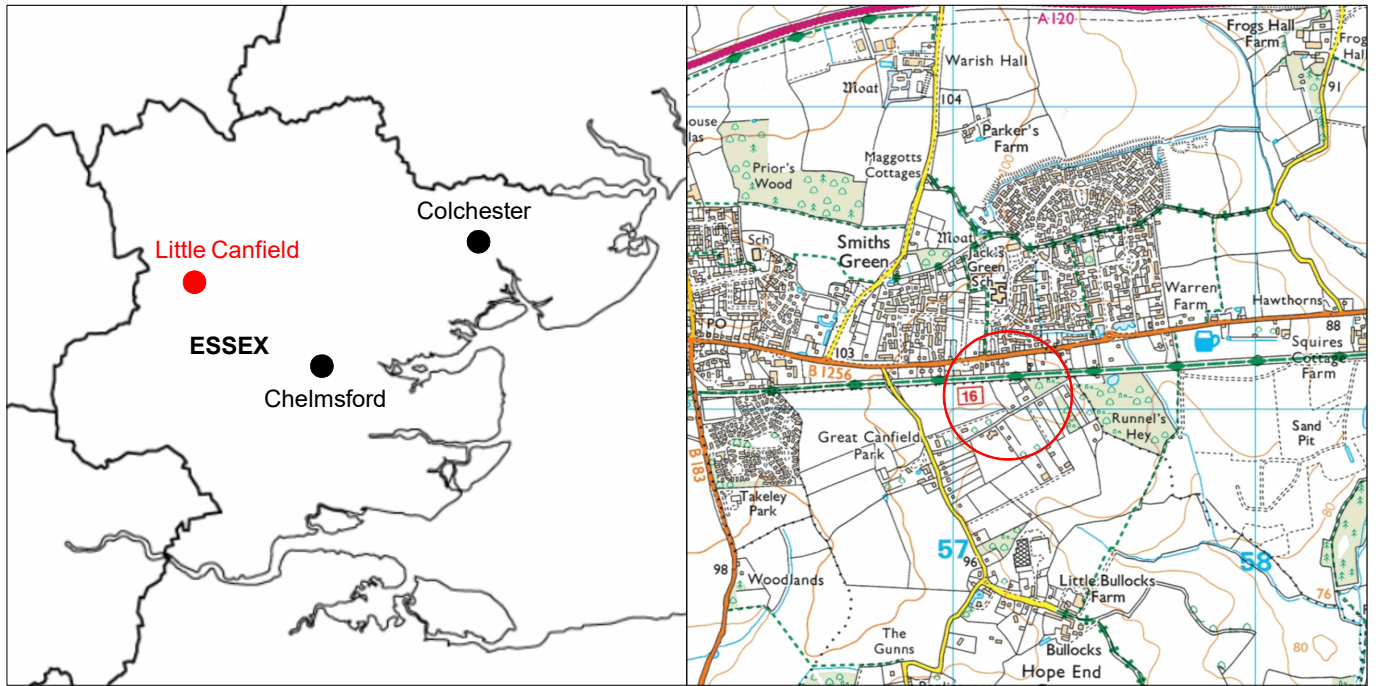
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Fig 1 Site location.





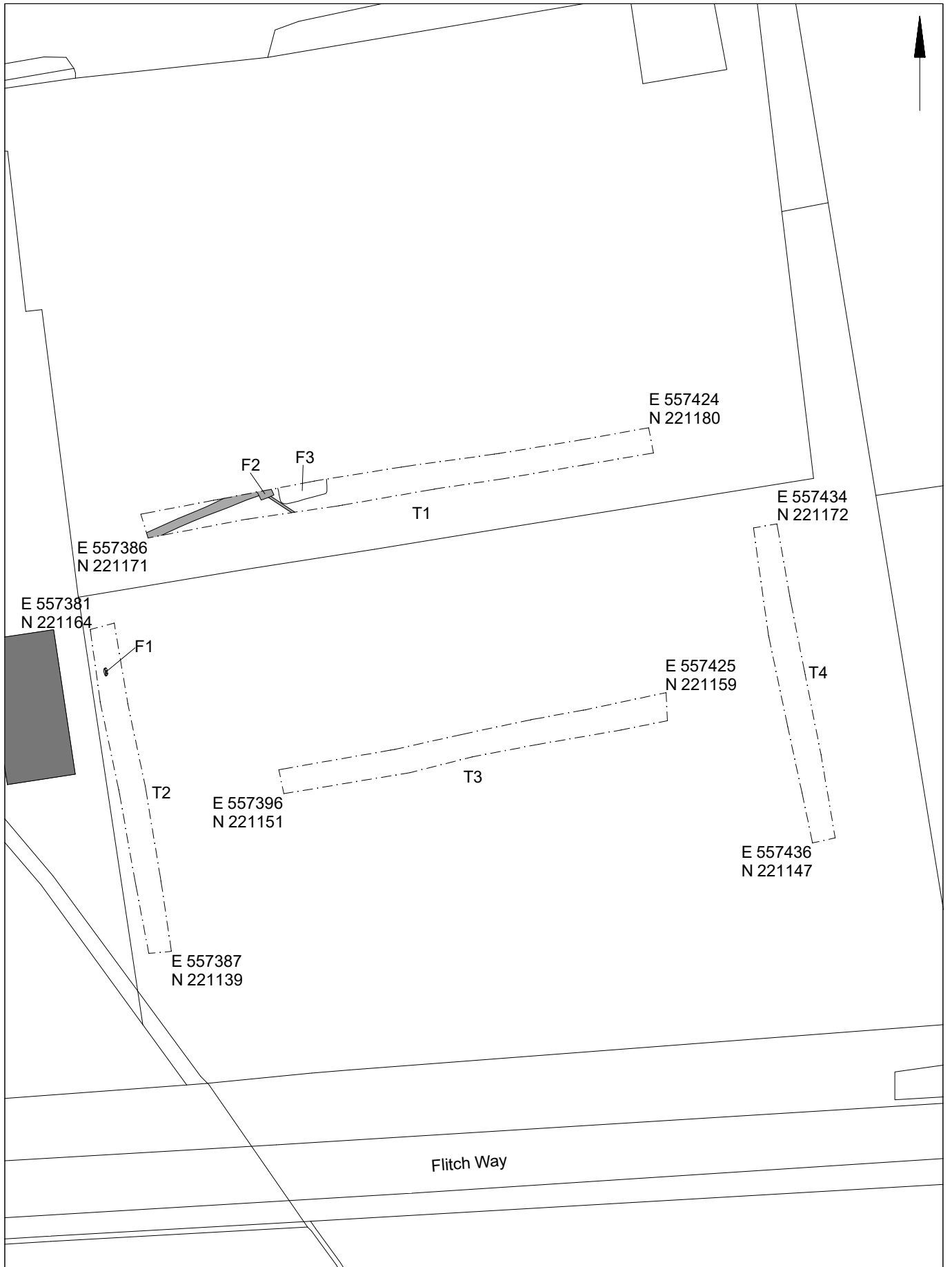


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

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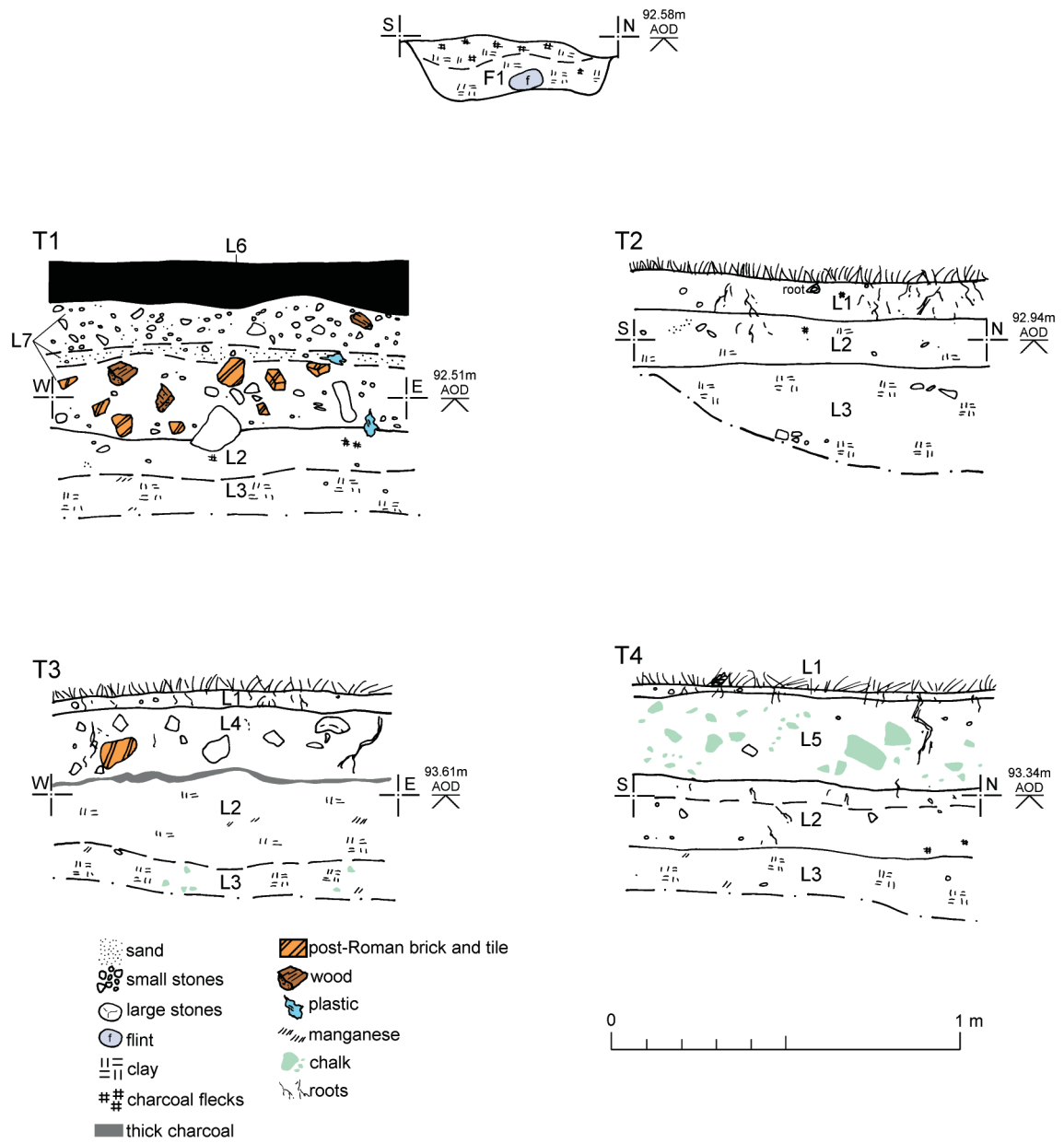


Fig 3 Feature (F1) and representative trench sections.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> land south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield, Essex, CM6 1TA	
<b>Parish:</b> Little Canfield	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 57405 21191 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code: 16/08b ECC project code: LCDR16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-259076
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 15th-16th August 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Four trenches (totalling 216m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Saffron Walden Museum accession code: requested	<b>Funding source:</b> developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related EHER number:</b> EHER 1226/4697, 4588, 19629, 47255, 48559
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1002	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land south of Dunmow Road, Little Canfield, Essex in advance of the construction of a twelve new dwellings. Despite being located immediately to the south of the Roman road of Stane Street, no significant archaeological horizons were identified. Modern features and layers were identified associated with the previous use of the site as a garage.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> –	
<b>Keywords:</b> –	<b>Significance:</b> –
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> August 2016