

# Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD

September 2016



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on behalf of **Tarry Moore, Alun Design Consultancy Ltd**

NGR: TL 51651 34724 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/15/1942/FUL

CAT project ref.: 16/08j

ECC code: NP21

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM 2016.23

OASIS ref.: colchest3-261010



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**CAT Report 1020**

September 2016

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land adjacent to Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. Despite being located within the medieval town of Newport, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex which was carried out on 19th September 2016. The work was commissioned by Tarry Moore, Alun Design Consultancy Ltd in advance of the construction of two new dwellings, and was 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 proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area to the north of the medieval town of Newport (EHER 376-7). The proposed development lies just outside the suggested limits of the medieval town, however, there is documentary evidence of a castle being in the vicinity (EHER 234). Initially thought to be in the area of the school, excavations here have failed to identify any remains. An evaluation to the west of the proposed site revealed two areas of activity with multiple pits, two small ditches and pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (EHER 48597). The nature of this evidence suggests that it was probably related to settlement activity which could extend onto the site. There is also a wide range of prehistoric through to medieval deposits in the immediate area of Newport.

## 4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two trial-trenches were excavated on the development site, the first within the footprint of a new dwelling and the second further to the east to avoid the demolished swimming pool. All of the trenches were dug by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.

**Trench 1 (T1) – 10m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench T1 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 140-180mm thick) sealing an accumulation horizon of silty-clay (L4, c 160-270mm thick), which in turn sealed natural clay (L6). No significant archaeological horizons were identified.

**Trench 2 (T2) – 10m long by 1.8m wide**

Trench T2 was excavated through modern topsoil (L5, c 70-120mm thick) and a layer of redeposited natural believed to be the up-cast from the adjacent swimming pool (L2, c 110mm thick). Beneath L2 buried topsoil (L1, c 200mm thick) led onto a thick layer of silty-clay accumulation (L4, c 520-570mm) and a possible natural silty-clay (L5, c 110mm thick). Natural clay (L6) was sealed by L5. An electricity cable and service trench were recorded. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



**Photograph 1** T1, looking N



**Photograph 2** T2, looking W

## 5 Finds

No archaeological finds were identified.

## 6 Discussion

Despite being located within the medieval town of Newport and close to prehistoric activity, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Tarry Moore, Alun Design Consultancy Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and A Wade. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

## 8 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECC	2016	<i>Brief for Archaeological trial trenching and excavation at the land adjacent Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex</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</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).

Medlycott, M            2011            *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

## 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 1020)

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 SAFWM: 2016.23.

**Distribution list:**

Tarry Moore, Alun Design Consultancy Ltd  
Historic Environment Advisor, ECC Place Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

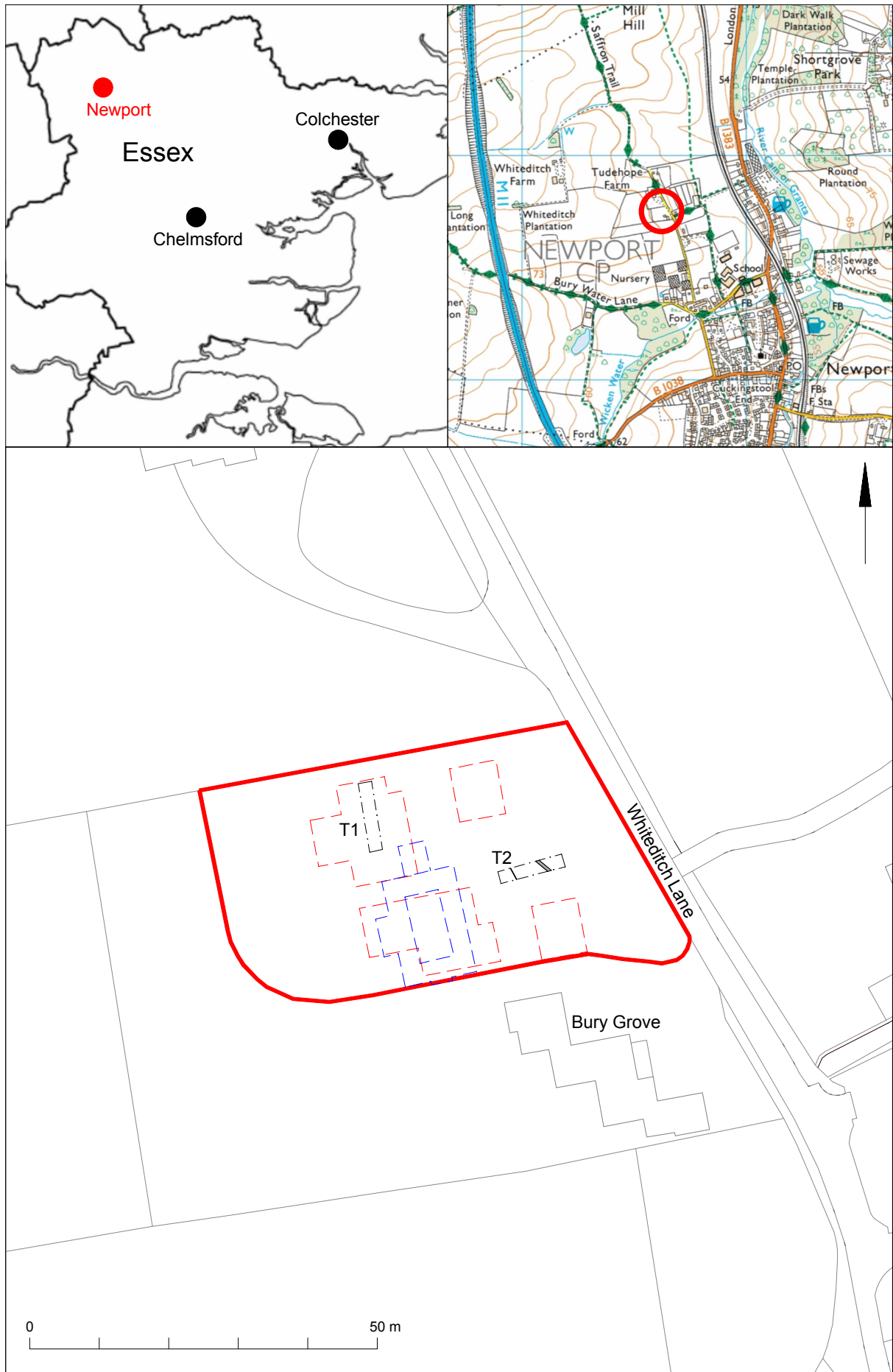
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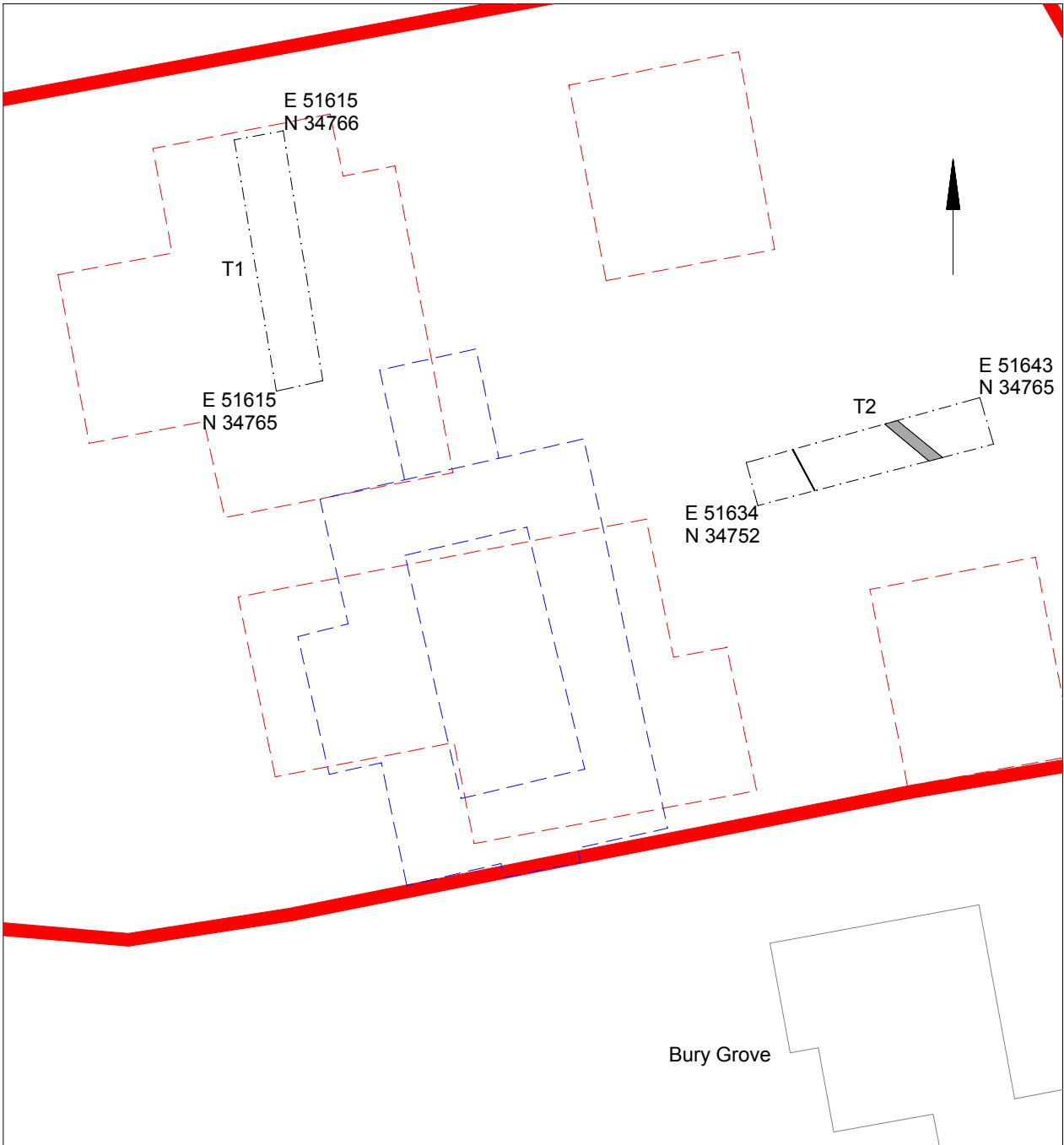
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Fig 1 Site location and trenches.  
Footprints of proposed buildings in red. Demolished swimming pool in blue.





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Fig 2 Results

Footprints of proposed buildings in red. Demolished swimming pool in blue.



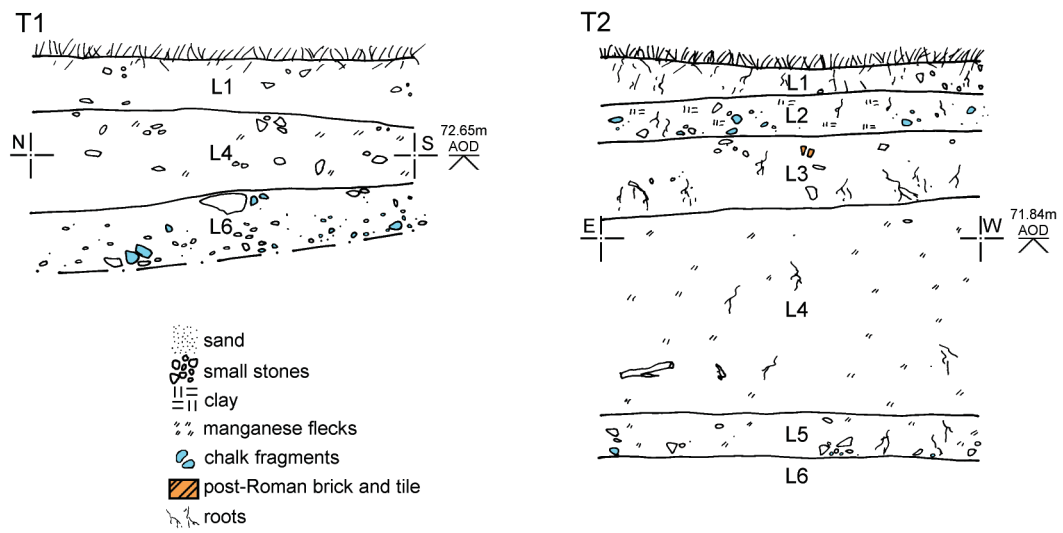


Fig 3 Representative trench sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> land adjacent Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD	
<b>Parish:</b> Newport	<b>District:</b> Uttlesford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 51651 34724 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code: 16/08j ECC project code: NP21 OASIS project ID: colchest3-261010
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 19th September 2016	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Two trenches totalling 20m long by 1.8m wide (36m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2016.23	<b>Funding source:</b> developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER number:</b> EHER 234, 376-7, 48597
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1020	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land adjacent to Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. Despite being located within the medieval town of Newport, no significant archaeological horizons were identified.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> –	
<b>Keywords:</b> –	<b>Significance:</b> –
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> September 2016