

Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land west of Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5NR

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (94 trial-trenches) was carried out on Phase 1 land to the west of Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex in advance of the construction of new housing estate. The development site is located within an area of known cropmarks with Roman and medieval features and finds identified on the site during archaeological work in 2014. The earliest features identified during the evaluation were two pits of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. A cluster of four ditches and three pits in the centre of the site dated to the early Roman period (early/mid-late 1st century – early/mid 2nd century) and were possibly associated with chalk quarrying and nearby low-status occupation. Thirteen features (five ditches and eight pits) dated to the post-medieval/modern and modern periods. The ditches formed old field boundaries, two of which had previously been plotted as cropmarks. One undated ditch, eight undated pits and twenty natural features/tree-throws were also excavated.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on Phase 1 land to the west of Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex which was carried out 5th-29th September 2016. The work was commissioned by Brad Davies, on behalf of Mersea Homes and Hills Residential Ltd, in advance of the construction of a new housing estate, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). Further evaluation on Phase 2 land to the west of Panfield Lane will be the subject of a separate report.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor 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 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT 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.

A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains in and around the development site was produced in 2013 (CAT Report 713, by Howard Brooks). The following is a summary from that report:

A recent assessment of the historic environment of the Panfield area has shown that, in general, the historic settlement pattern survives well in the form of dispersed moats, farms and manors, and that aerial photographic evidence indicates multi-period occupation with a number of enclosures (ie, living sites or farms) and ring-ditches (ie, prehistoric burial sites). The dispersed settlement pattern will have shifted over the centuries, and archaeological remains of medieval and early post-medieval date reflecting such shifts may survive here.

A Proposed Development Site (PDS) at Panfield Lane contains only one farm, probably of 18th century origin, and a number of cropmarks which probably mark the position of field boundaries removed in the post-medieval period. The only other archaeological sites within the PDS are a postulated Roman road, and map evidence for buildings (now demolished) along the approach road to Park Farm (formerly Bockingpark Farm).

There has been little archaeological work around the PDS. In fact, the only local archaeological excavation has conclusively shown that the postulated Roman road does not run through this site.

The excavation mentioned above occurred at Gypsy corner (Havis, 1993) and aimed to examine the route of the postulated Roman road. No evidence of the road was found.

In 2014 Oxford Archaeology, on behalf of Anglian Water, undertook archaeological monitoring and excavation during the construction an additional water main across the site. A medieval site, 100m SE of Park Farm was excavated (within Phase 2 land to the north). There was evidence of metal-working, and the site is probably peripheral to a larger medieval site beyond the excavated area. There was also a group of Roman coins found further to the south within the Phase 1 development area.

A small evaluation was carried out in March 2015 on a plot beyond the eastern side of the current site, to the south of the trackway up to Park Farm (Sandon House). Nothing of significance was found (CAT Report 829).

4 Results (Figs 2-8; Appendix 1)

Metal-detecting survey

During the 2014 Oxford Archaeology monitoring a group of Roman coins was identified on the development site. Part of the archaeological requirement for this phase of work was to complete a metal-detector survey over the area in which the coins had been found. An 80m by 80m grid was laid out and systematically metal-detected by CAT staff. Forty-two fragments of modern agricultural iron work were detected and discarded. No archaeologically significant metal finds were detected.

Trial-trenching evaluation

Ninety-eight archaeological trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. All of the trenches were dug by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision.

All of the trenches measured 30m long by 1.8m wide except where stated otherwise below. The total area investigated within the trenches is 5500m².

Trenches containing no archaeological horizons are listed here: T2, T4, T6, T7, T9, T11-T14, T17-T20, T22-T24, T27-T29, T32 (remains to two backfilled field drains), T33-T35, T37, T40-T42, F47, F50, F57, F60, T63-T85, T87-T98.

Trenches containing only modern pits are listed here: T31 (F20), T49 (F25-F26), T51 (F48), T56 (F30), T59 (F55), T61 (F60, aligned with ditch F62 in T43 and F64 in T54 and possibly associated with it) and T62 (F61).

Trench 1 (T1): Post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch F6 was aligned NW-SE and continued to the SE as F5 in T3 and F4 in T8. It measured 0.52m wide by 0.06m deep. Earlier undated ditch F7 was cut by F6. It was aligned NE-SW and measured 1m wide by 0.16m deep.

Trench 3 (T3): Post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch F5 was aligned NW-SE and continued to the NW as F6 in T1 and to the SE as F4 in T8. It measured 0.51m wide by 0.07m deep. Undated pit F8 measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.08m deep.

Trench 5 (T5): Four undated features (F9, F11, F15 and F17) were excavated. Ditch F16 was identified as a continuation of modern boundary ditch F14 in T16 and was left unexcavated. It is likely that the four undated features are tree-throws from trees that had grown either side of the boundary ditch and had been removed when the ditch was backfilled and fields combined. This modern field boundary ditch had previously been identified as a cropmark.



Photograph 1 Ditches F6 and F7, looking S

Trench 8 (T8): Post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch F4 was aligned NW-SE and continued to the NW as F5 in T3 and F6 in T1. It measured 0.65m wide by 0.08m deep.

Trench 10 (T10): Small undated pits/postholes F18-F19 were excavated.

Trench 15 (F15): Modern field boundary ditch F13 was aligned roughly E-W and appears to have formed a field boundary with the NE/SW ditch formed by F14/T16 and F16/T5. This ditch had also previously been identified as a cropmark.

Trench 16 (T16): Modern field boundary ditch F14 was only partially excavated, when it became apparent that it was a modern feature excavation ceased. It was aligned NE/SW and measured 2.15m wide. It continued to the NE as ditch F16 in T5, and had been previously identified as a cropmark.

Trench 21 (T21): Undated pit F3 was a shallow, circular feature containing charcoal and fired clay inclusions in its fill.

Trench 25 (T25): Undated F10 was a possible fire-pit. It measured 1.1m long, 0.57m wide and 0.07m deep. It contained fragments of charcoal and showed evidence of being heat-affected.

Trench 26 (T26): Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits F1 and F2 were excavated.

Trench 30 (T30): Undated pit/postholes F31 and F32 were excavated.

Trench 36 (T36): Possible fire-pit F22 was excavated. It measured 0.4m in diameter and 0.15m deep and had a charcoal rich fill.

Trench 38 (T38): Undated feature F27 was excavated as a pit with steep-sides and a flat base. However, it is directly on the line of a known cropmark and could well be part of this feature. Steep-sides and a flat base may suggest that this feature was modern.

Trench 39 (T39): Modern pit F21 and undated pit/posthole F23 were excavated.



Photograph 2 Fire-pit F10, looking W

Trench 43 (T43): Roman gully F12 was aligned E/W and measured approximately 0.52m wide by 0.07-0.14m deep. It contained a quantity of Roman pottery as well as a fragment of human bone. It had been cut by post-medieval/modern ditch F62, aligned NW/SE, which continued to the SE as F64 in T54 and was also possibly associated with F61 in T62. To the west another Roman ditch, F47, was aligned NE/SW and measured 0.58m wide by 0.09m deep.

Trench 44 (T44): Large modern pit F51 was also identified in trenches T52-T53 and as F28 in T45. It was shallow around the edges of the feature but in the centre measured at least 1.2/1.3m deep.

Trench 45 (T45): Large modern pit F28 was was part of F51 in trenches T45 and T52-T53. It was shallow around the edges of the feature but in the centre measured at least 1.2/1.3m deep. To the east a, Roman ditch F29 was aligned N/S and measured 0.43m wide by 0.17m deep.

Trench 46 (T46): A number of features (F33-F46) were excavated to the south of the trench. After excavation it became apparent that they were all natural features.

Trench 48 (T48): Undated pit F24 was excavated (not surveyed so not present on the figures).



Photograph 3 Ditch F29, looking NE

Trenches 52-53 (T52-T53): Evaluation trenches T52-T53 each measured 30m long by 1.8m wide but a further, approximately, 70m linear of trenching was excavated between them to explore the exposed archaeological horizons. This totalled 316m².

Large modern pit F51 was identified and several slots excavated. It measured 55m long by 35m wide and 1.2/1.3m deep. Modern household waste was recorded throughout.

To the west of T52, the modern pit (F51) had cut through large Roman pit F63. The pit was irregularly shaped but measured approximately 15m by 5m and was excavated/augured to a depth of approximately 1.37m. A concentration of chalk nodules in the fill of the feature may indicate that this was a Roman chalk quarry pit. Post-medieval/modern pit F50 was excavated to the west of F63.

To the south of T53 was Roman ditch F54. It was aligned NE/SW and measured 1.12m wide by 0.31m deep. It continued to the SW as ditch F58 in T58.

Trench 54 (T54): Post-medieval/modern ditch F64 contained one fragment of slate (not retained). It was aligned NW/SE and measured 1.30m wide by 0.24m deep. It continued to the NW as F62 in T43 and was also possibly associated with F61 in T62. Roman feature F52 was cut by ditch F64. It was originally identified on site as the terminal of a Roman ditch, but perhaps an elongated pit is a more likely explanation. It cut earlier Roman pit F53. To the east undated pits F56 and F57 were also excavated.

Trench 55 (T55): Modern ditch F49 was aligned E/W and measured 1.83m wide by 0.14m deep.

Trench 58 (T58): Roman ditch F58 was aligned NE/SW and measured 0.53m wide by 0.14m deep. It continued to the NE as ditch F54 in T53.

Trench 86 (T86): Undated pit F59 was excavated. It measured 0.95m long, 0.86m wide and 0.2m deep. It contained fragments of charcoal and showed evidence of being heat-affected.



Photograph 4 F63 with F51 in the distance, looking E

5 **Finds** (Appendix 2) *by Stephen Benfield (unless otherwise stated)*

Introduction

Bulk finds of later prehistoric, Late Iron Age-Early Roman, Roman and post-medieval-modern date were recovered. The largest quantity of finds consists of Late Iron Age-Early Roman, Roman pottery, concentrated in features in the centre of the Phase 1 evaluation area. The finds are discussed by period (below) and all of these finds are listed in the bulk finds appendix (Appendix 2). It can be noted that although medieval archaeological remains, including evidence of metalworking, were exposed about 100m north of the Phase I evaluation by Oxford Archaeology East (2016), no finds that can be closely dated to the medieval period were recovered during the Phase 1 evaluation.

Prehistoric

Finds of prehistoric date consist of a small quantity of hand-made flint-tempered pottery and a few worked flints.

Pottery

Almost all of the prehistoric pottery comes from two pits in T26 (F1 and F2). The pottery from these two features consists of plain, flint-tempered body sherds. The prehistoric pottery fabrics are listed and quantified in Table 1. The only distinctive part of any pot recovered are sherds from the lower wall and base of a flat bottomed pot from F2. This

is in a relatively fine flint fabric (HMF(F)) with quite dense, well sorted, well embedded flint and is the only pot in this relatively fine fabric. It can be noted that the surviving part of the underside of the base does not indicate any additional/dense flint surface gritting as is sometimes seen of Late Bronze Age pots. All of the other sherds are in a medium or moderately coarse flint-tempered fabric with small-medium flint and occasional larger flint pieces (HMF(M)). Some flint slightly protrudes from the surfaces giving a slightly rough feel. Single sherds in similar medium or moderately coarse flint-tempered fabrics were recovered as residual pottery from F12 sx2 (24), located in T43 and from F58 (39) located in T58. A few sherds from F2 have small patches of a thin burnt residue on the interior. The absence of diagnostic sherds makes the prehistoric pottery difficult to date closely, but is consistent with post-Deverul Rimbury pottery (Barrett 1980) and a broad Late Bronze Age (c 1000-700 BC) or possibly Early Iron Age (c 700-400 BC) date is appropriate.

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g
HMF	Hand-made, flint-tempered (general – not fine)	2	6
HMF(F)	Hand-made, flint-tempered – fairly fine (small-medium) flint	5	16
HMF(M)	Hand-made, flint-tempered – moderate-coarse, small-medium flint with occasional large flint	57	236
	<i>Total</i>	64	258

Table 1 Prehistoric pottery by fabric

Flints

by Adam Wightman

There are four worked flints. Three were recovered as single finds from the fill of different archaeological features, two ditches (F12 and F28) and a pit (F53), and one came from the interface between the subsoil and the natural in Trench 88 (49). The three features also contained finds dating to the Roman (F12, F53) and post-medieval periods (F28) and all the flints are considered to be residual in the contexts from which they were recovered. All of the pieces were made from a dark grey flint.

The flakes from F12 and F53 are both small hard hammer flakes, one of which exhibits signs of edge damage/usewear (F12), whereas the other has been roughly retouched at the distal end and has two small retouched notches on its right lateral edge (F28). The flake from F53 is broken at the proximal end but appears to be a tertiary soft hammer flake. A small, thin soft hammer flake with evidence of platform preparation (recovered from Trench 88) is the only piece which exhibits any distinct technological or typological characteristics and is probably Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date.

Overall, the worked flints recovered represent a relatively low level of prehistoric activity across the investigation area.

context	find no.	artefact type	cortex %	soft/hard hammer	retouch
F12	9	flake	0	hard	usewear/edge damage
F28	19	flake	0	hard	Abrupt retouch at distal end and two small abrupt notches on right lateral
F53	32	flake	0		
U/S T88	49	flake	0	soft	Soft hammer flake with platform preparation & evidence of usewear/edge damage

Table 2 Worked flints (a more detailed table can be found in the site archive).

Quern stone (saddle quern?)

A piece of pinkish-red sandstone/quartzite (1534g) recovered from linear feature F12 Sx1 (9) in T43 is possibly part of a saddle quern. The piece is approximately 40-50mm thick and approximately 160mm x 120mm in area. One face is polished smooth to the surrounding broken edges so that the original polished face extended beyond these

breaks. If part of a saddle quern this is likely to be of prehistoric date and residual among the Roman finds from this context.

Late Iron Age and Roman

Pottery

Late Iron Age-Early Roman and Roman pottery makes up a large proportion of the finds recovered. The pottery is quantified by fabric type in Table 3. The numbered Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Chelmsford fabric series (Going 1987) commonly used for recording Roman pottery in Essex. Pottery forms refer to the Chelmsford form series, but the equivalent, more commonly recognised *Camulodunum* (Cam) form numbers are also quoted where possible (Hawkes & Hull 1947 & Hull 1958).

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g
<i>Imported wares</i>			
SAMV	Les Martres-de-Verve samian	1	4
55	Spanish amphora (Dressel 20)	4	1340
<i>Local & regional coarsewares</i>			
21	Miscellaneous oxidised red wares	3	6
31	Unspecified buff wares	8	14
34	Fine 'Romanising' wares	2	8
39	Fine grey wares	14	76
40	Black Burnished ware Type 1	1	4
44	Storage jar fabrics	47	530
45	Romanising wares	49	452
47	Sandy greyware (general)	401	2672
GROG	Late Iron Age-type Grog-tempered ware	22	140
GROG/45	Late Iron Age-type Grog-tempered ware/ Romanising wares	136	484
BSW	Black surface wares	26	118
<i>Late regionally important wares</i>			
4	Hadham oxidised red wares	1	2
	<i>Total</i>	<i>714</i>	<i>5848</i>

Table 3 Roman pottery by fabric

Overall, the condition of the pottery is moderately good, but the soil conditions appear to have damaged surfaces on some of the Roman coarsewares.

A small proportion of the pottery is grog-tempered (GROG) consistent with Late Iron Age potting techniques. This distinctive pottery becomes common on settlement sites in the southeast of Britain in the late 1st century BC and appears to form a significant proportion of assemblages on some sites, especially rural sites, in the pre-Flavian (post-conquest) period. The fabric is best represented among groups of pottery from linear (ditch) features F29 (T45) and F58 (T58) suggesting a relatively early date for these features. The Grog-tempered wares appear to be wheel made or wheel finished and probably closely allied with 'Romanising' coarsewares that have moderate quantities of burnt organic fragments and/or grog in the fabric (Fabric 45). These 'Romanising' sherds appear in the same features as the groups of grog-tempered sherds. In F29 they are the only other fabric type present, while in F58 Roman greywares (Fabric 47), buff wares (Fabric 31) and storage jar sherds (Fabric 44) are also present. The 'Romanising' sherds suggest that both features date to the post-conquest period and F58 is certainly of post-conquest date. The pottery from F58 suggests a mid-late 1st century date, while the absence of distinct Roman coarsewares from F28 suggests a mid 1st century (pre-Flavian) date. The only form recorded among this pottery is the jar/deep bowl G18 (Cam 219) in the 'Romanising' fabric Fabric 45 which has a broad date range of 1st century-early 2nd century.

Among the sand-tempered Roman coarsewares closely datable pot forms and diagnostic sherds are few, and most of those that can be clearly identified are typical of the Early Roman period. These forms are beaker H1.41 (Cam 108), jar H23 (Cam 221) current in the period of the mid 1st-early 2nd century and an early bowl form (from F63 (47)) similar to West Stow fig 59 no 234 (West 1989) and Marsh Type 29 (1978) which is probably of late 1st-early 2nd century date. There are also sherds from a 'Belgic'-style platter from F12 (24) which can be dated to the mid 1st-late 1st/early 2nd century. Imports are represented by sherds from just two pots. One is a large samian dish with a rouletted base in Les Martres fabric current in the early 2nd century (c AD100-120), the other is a Dressel 20 Spanish amphora (represented by a few neck sherds) and broadly dated to the period of the mid 1st-2nd/3rd century. Sherds from several storage jars probably also belong with the more closely dated pottery of this period or slightly later. Later dated pottery may be present as rims from two jars, one from linear F53 (30) and the other from quarry pit F63 (46) appear to be probably from the form G24 (ovid jar) dated to the early/mid 2nd-4th century. However, pottery that can be closely dated to after the early-mid 2nd century is not apparent in any quantity among the pottery recovered. Notable is a near absence of black-burnished ware and similar form types in greywares that are usually a component of most assemblages after the early-mid 2nd century. One small sherd from F52 (30) appears to be in black-burnished ware Type 1 fabric (Fabric 40) current in Essex from the early 2nd-4th century, although the identification is not certain. Equally pottery of certain Late Roman date (mid/late 3rd-4th century) is also virtually absent, although one small oxidised sherd from F63 (46) appears to probably be Oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric 4) which would date to the period of the late 3rd-4th century.

Much of the pottery recovered is quite broken-up. Sherds that appear to represent a significant part of one pot were recovered with other pottery from the linear F12 Sx1 (9). The pot, probably a jar of form G23 (Cam 221), survives with about 60% of the rim (joining sherds), 30% of the base (joining sherds) and other body sherds. An early bowl form from quarry pit F63 (47) (see above) is also represented by several sherds including part of the rim and base.

The Roman finds cluster around the centre of the Phase 1 evaluation area (T43, T45, T52, T54 & T58). Overall the pottery assemblage can be characterised as representing occupation of relatively low status on or close to the site in the period of the early/mid-late 1st century-early/mid 2nd century. This is based on the reasonable quantity of pottery recovered from some features, the presence of grog-tempered pottery, the low incidence of imports and fine wares, and the absence of vessel forms characteristic of assemblages dating to after the early-mid 2nd century. Also, it can be noted that there is an absence of Roman brick/tile and there are no Roman metal personal or monetary small finds. Later dated pottery appears to be represented by just a few sherds that might suggest agricultural manuring scatters on this area in the mid-late Roman period.

Human bone

Part of an abraded adult human femur head (not recognised at the time of excavation) together with other small pieces/fragments of bone that are probably part of this upper end of the femur shaft were recovered from the upper fill of linear feature F12 Sx1 (10) located in T43 (identification by Pip Parmenter). Other than a few residual prehistoric finds, all of the other finds from this context are Roman indicating a Roman date for the bone. Apart from one small piece of animal bone associated with Roman finds (see below) all of the other animal bone comes from post-medieval or modern contexts indicating that soil conditions are poor for bone preservation. This suggests that it is unlikely that the femur bone could be residual in the context and supports a Roman date. The femur head itself is in a relatively poor condition but is not so abraded or degraded as to suggest that other bone (if present with it) would not have survived, although the femur head/top of the femur bone is possibly more likely to survive than the bone shaft.

While possibly an isolated or curated and buried piece of human bone, another possibility is that this might represent the remains of a Roman burial made in the ditch and it can be noted that a broken, part pottery jar (see above) was recovered (along with other pottery sherds) from this section of the ditch.

Animal bone

A small undiagnostic piece of animal bone was recovered from F53 (31), the pottery from which is of Roman date.

Miscellaneous

Quern stone(?)

A very small piece of a hard, porous material that is possibly imported (Rhineland) lava quern was recovered from quarry pit F63 (47) in T52.

Briquetage(?)

A small, abraded piece of pinkish fired clay with common voids, possibly salt briquetage (dating to the Late Iron Age or Roman period), came from the fill of F63 (47) in T52.

Fired clay

Small pieces of fired clay associated with Roman finds were recovered as one or two pieces from F47 (25) in T43 and F53 (31) in T54. A piece of fired clay was also recovered from F52 (30) in T54 which, as well as Roman finds, also contained a piece from a modern glass bottle. The fired clay may well be of Roman date.

Post-medieval and modern

Small-moderate quantities of finds datable to the post-medieval and modern period were recovered from a number of features (F4, F5, F13, F14, F21, F25, F26, F28, F30, F49, F50, F51, F52, F55, F60, F61, F62, F63 and unstratified in T44). Not all of this material was quantified in detail and the modern (19th-20th century) finds from F14 (12 and 13), F30 (23) and F51 (29) were rapidly quantified and spot dated as groups of finds. The finds consist primarily of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and glass. The finds are listed by context in the bulk finds appendix (Appendix 2).

The pottery recovered is primarily of late 18th/19th-early 20th century date. The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 4. Most are typical of assemblages dating to the late 18th/19th-early 20th century.

Fabric	Fabric description	Date range
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenwares	16/17-18/E19C
51A	Late slipped kitchen wares	19-E20C
48	Late post-medieval factory wares (general)	L18-E20C
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	L18-19/E20C

Table 4 Post-medieval and modern pottery fabrics recorded and approximate date range

The closely dated glass (primarily glass vessels with one piece of flat window glass) is of similar 19th/late 19th-early 20th century date. The glass is commonly mould blown and frequently carries moulded lettering. The CBM (consisting mostly of pieces of peg-tile, with some land drain and brick pieces) is not so closely dated. Peg-tile only becomes common on most sites in Essex from the 14th century onwards (Ryan & Andrews 1993) and pieces of peg-tile, where no other finds dating is available, could allow a medieval date, for example F13 (8) in T15. However, judging by the associated finds, most if not all of the CBM recovered is probably of a post-medieval or early modern date. Small-medium lengths of clay pipe stem, broadly dated as post-medieval, were recovered from F49 (26), F51 (35), F61 (41) & F62 (42). A nail from F51 (34), probably of iron, with a flat square head and tapering shaft is possibly a finishing nail of probable 18th-19th century date. Two small iron shaft pieces, almost certainly from nails, were recovered from F49 (26) and F63 (47). Small pieces of coal and slate were also recovered from post-medieval-modern contexts.

Animal bone was recovered from two post-medieval/modern features. A few identifiable bones are from F14 (12) consisting of a sheep metacarpal, sheep tibia and a rib bone also probably sheep from more than one animal. A small undiagnostic piece of animal bone was also recovered from F63 (47)

A fragment of modern iron nail was recorded in grubbed out tree-throw F11 (T5) and a modern moulded copper-alloy fitting was recovered from modern ditch F49 (T55).

Undated finds

Heat reddened clay & charcoal

Reddish clay soil, possibly representing unconsolidated fired clay and associated with small pieces of charcoal mixed in a soil matrix, were recovered from pit (fire pit?) F10 (7) in T25. This is away from the area of Roman finds (located about 200m to the south east of this pit) and about 60m to the west of two pits containing prehistoric pottery (F1 and F2) located in T26.

Burnt stone (flint)

A single, small calcified (burnt) flint stone was recovered from the fill of linear feature F47 (25) in T3.

6 Environmental report

by Lisa Gray, Archaeobotanist

Introduction – aims and objectives

These samples were taken during a trial-trenching evaluation.

Sampling and processing methods

Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were completely processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

Results (Table 5)

The plant remains

Charred wood fragments were the most frequent plant macro-remain in these samples. Samples 1, 3 and 4 contained fragments of identifiable size. Sample 1 contained one twig fragment. One poorly preserved barley/wheat (*Hordeum/Triticum* sp.) grain was found in sample 4.

Uncharred/dried waterlogged remains were present in low numbers in samples 2, 3, 4 and 5. These were all of plants of disturbed habitats and may be intrusive as uncharred root/rhizome fragments were also frequent in these samples.

Faunal remains

Low numbers of terrestrial mollusca were present, mostly the subterranean snail *Ceciliodes acicula* (Müller). This snail burrows well below the ground surface (Kerney & Cameron 1979, 149) and can be indicative of bioturbation and oxygenation of the soil.

Inorganic remains

No inorganic remains were found in this sample.

Sample	1	2	3	4	5
Finds number	6	11	15	22	32
Feature number	10	12	22	29	53
Feature type	fire pit	ditch	fire pit	ditch	pit
Date	undated	Roman	undated	Roman	Roman
Initial volume	20L	10L	10L	20L	20L
Flot volume	400ml	25ml	15ml	5ml	5ml
Counted items per litre of sampled soil	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Charred plant remains					
<i>Hordeum/Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	-	-	-	1	-
Charred twig fragment	1	-	-	-	-
>4mmØ charred wood	+++	-	+	+	-
<4mmØ charred wood	+++++	++	+++++	+++	++++
Uncharred plant remains					
<i>Atriplex hastata/patula</i> (fruit)	-	3	1	4	2
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A.Love (fruit)	-	-	-	1	15
Root/rhizome fragments	-	+++++	++++	++++	-
Faunal remains					
Terrestrial mollusca	-	+	+	-	-
Terrestrial mollusca (<i>Ceciliodes acicula</i> Müller)	-	-	+	+	-

Table 5 Sample contents (key – + = 1-10, ++ = 11-50, +++ = 51-150, ++++ = 151-250, +++++ = >250)

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples.

On microscopic examination of was clear that bioturbation was likely due to the presence of root/rhizome fragments, terrestrial mollusca.

Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work

It is likely that the uncharred/dried waterlogged plant macro-remains are intrusive and the only charred plant remains are fragments of charred wood.

It is probably not wise to place too strong an emphasis on the find of one poorly preserved cereal grain in sample 4. A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

It is not wise to assume that the context in which the plant macro-remain was found during excavation was the context in which it was originally deposited, especially when the preservation of the plant remain is poor, numbers are very low relative to the amount of soil sampled and there is evidence of bioturbation, truncation or backfilling. At this site evidence for bioturbation was present in the form of modern root/rhizome fragments and *Ceciliodes acicula* snails.

Therefore, it is not recommended that further work is carried out on the plant remains.

7 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land to the west of Panfield Lane, Braintree revealed a number of ditches and pits of modern, post-medieval/modern, Roman, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and unknown date. Of particular significance is the cluster of Roman activity in the centre of the site and the identification of two previously undated cropmarks as late post-medieval/modern field boundaries.

Prehistoric

The earliest features excavated were two pits containing pottery dating from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. These appear to be relatively isolated features although four prehistoric flints were also identified in later features.

Roman

The main phase of activity on the site is a cluster of early Roman features, of early/mid-late 1st century-early/mid 2nd century date, located in the centre of the site. The four ditches and three pits were located approximately 180m to the southwest of a group of Roman coins identified during metal-detecting in 2014. The ditches are likely to be field boundaries that appear to at least partially enclose large pit F63, which has tentatively been identified as a chalk quarry pit. The bedrock geology of this area of Braintree is classified as London Clay Formation consisting of clay, silt and sand¹. However, overlying superficial geology is Lowestoft Formation², an extensive sheet of chalky till, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till is characterised by its chalk and flint content³. A particular concentration of chalk appears to have been present on this area of the development site. Chalk was utilised by the Romans in a number of ways including in road building, to make lime mortar and as a cosmetic. Chalk may also have been applied to clay fields to improve soil texture (Dark 2017, p21). It is difficult to determine the exact nature of pit F63 but the forthcoming excavation of the feature and the area surrounding it⁴ should go some way to determining the extent of the pit, its function and the presence of any associated features.

Roman pottery from this evaluation is indicative of relatively low status occupation on or close to the site, although the presence of the coin group would contradict this and suggest a certain degree of wealth. A fragment of disturbed human bone identified in one of the Roman ditches (F12) may also indicate that people were also being buried close-by. In 1975 linear cropmarks were identified approximately 700m to the NW (EHER 6508) (see Fig 1) and were recorded as being possibly associated with a 'Romano-British villa alleged to exist in the vicinity'. These cropmarks are undated and do appear to form an enclosure with a trackway on its northern side, but they also align, for the most part, with the current field pattern suggesting a possible later date.

1 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

2 *ibid*

3 *ibid*, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?pub=LOFT>

4 as requested by the ECC Historic Environment Advisor

No evidence for the postulated Roman road was found during the evaluation. This does not mean that the road does not exist, just that it does not exist on the current postulated alignment.

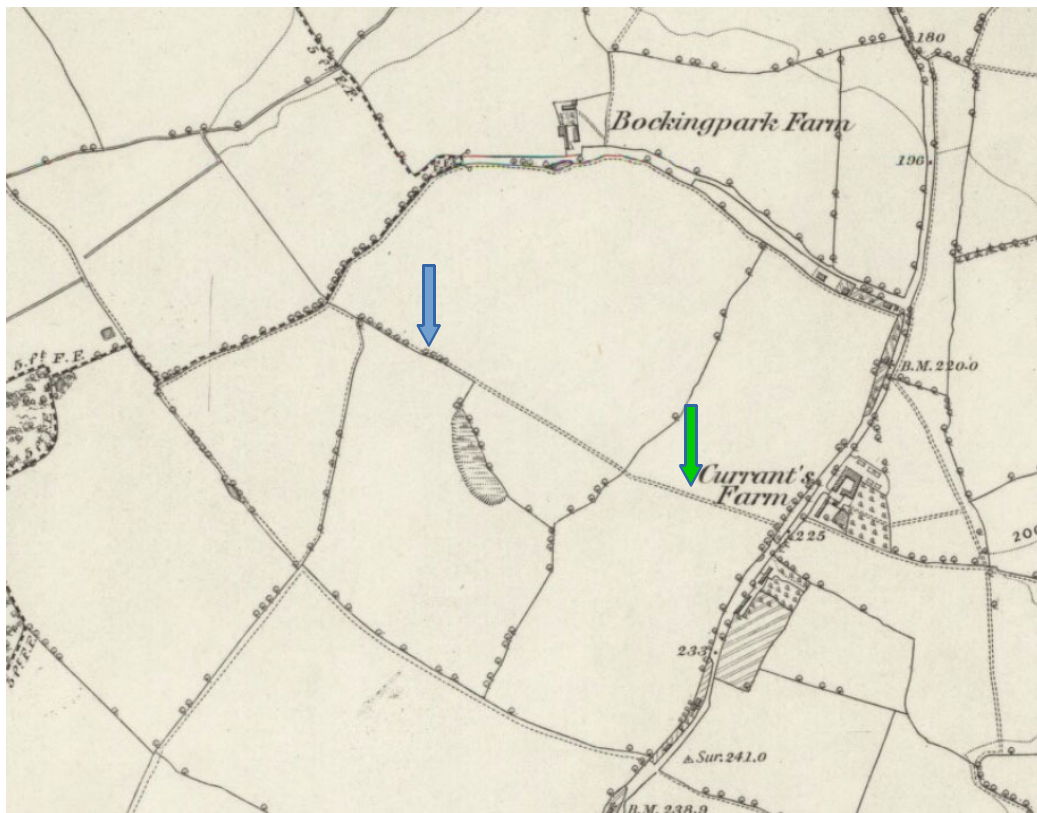
Medieval

No evidence was found during the evaluation for a continuation of the medieval site identified by Oxford Archaeology in 2014 100m to the north (see Fig 1).

Post-medieval/modern and two cropmarks

Two ditches and one pit were dated to the post-medieval/modern period and three ditches, six small pits and one large pit were all modern. Pit F51 contained modern domestic waste and household junk, and was probably associated with the population of the area by gypsies who worked on the farm, which is why the area is also known as 'gypsy corner'. The remaining small pits probably have an agricultural origin.

Two ditches recorded in T5/T16 and T15 on the western edge of the site correspond to plotted cropmarks (Figs 1-2, blue cropmarks) and appear to represent field boundaries. The NE/SW ditch (F16 in T5, F14 in T16) fits well into the present-day field pattern but is not present on the OS maps, meaning it was grubbed out sometime before the 1st edition OS map in 1875 and is probably of early-19th century date. The NW/SE ditch (F13 in T15) is visible on early OS maps (Map 1, indicated by the blue arrow) and was grubbed out sometime after 1961. The 1875 OS map also shows the line of this ditch continuing to the southeast as a footpath. Post-medieval/modern ditch F42(T43) and F64(T54) appear to be located on the line of this footpath, suggesting that the later footpath followed the line of an earlier field boundary which had also been removed prior to 1875.



Map 1 1875 6-inch OS map showing field boundary ditch (blue arrow) and associated footpath (green arrow)

Undated features

One undated ditch, eight undated pits and twenty natural features/undated tree-throws were also excavated.

Cropmarks

Two further cropmarks are located to the southeast of the Phase 1 development site (see Figs 1-2). Assessment (CAT Report 713) showed that they did not particularly align with the current field pattern and that, if they were field boundaries, they must have belonged to a field system that predates the current field layout (ie earlier than post-medieval). However, neither of these cropmarks were identified in evaluation trenches T30, T36-T38, T50, T69 or T74. Were these natural features? Were they ditches which have been ploughed out since the aerial photographs were taken? Or do they occur on a different alignment (although no evidence for this was identified in any of the surrounding trenches)?

8 Acknowledgements

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

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHF	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 (layer) of soil or other material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 9600 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
Neolithic (Early-Middle)	Early-Middle Neolithic, period from c 4000 – 2900 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
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
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: part box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1034)

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

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 Braintree Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

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Appendix 1 Context list

Trench	Feature No.	Description	Date
T26	F1	Pit; hard, dry-moist, medium-dark orange/grey/brown clay with charcoal inclusions	LBA/EIA
T26	F2	Pit; hard, dry-moist, medium grey/brown clay with charcoal inclusions	LBA/EIA
T21	F3	Pit; hard, dry, medium-dark brown/black clay with charcoal and daub inclusions	Undated
T8	F4	Ditch; hard, dry, medium orange/grey/brown clay with chalk inclusions	Post-medieval/modern
T3	F5	Ditch; hard, dry, grey/brown clay with charcoal and chalk inclusions	Post-medieval/modern
T1	F6	Ditch; hard, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Post-medieval/modern
T1	F7	Ditch; hard, dry, light-medium grey/brown silty-clay with 5% stone	Undated
T3	F8	Pit; hard, dry, grey/brown clay with charcoal inclusions	Undated
T5	F9	Tree-throw; hard, dry light grey/brown clay	?Modern
T25	F10	Fire-pit; friable, dry, dark brown/black clay with charcoal inclusions and occasional stones	Undated
T5	F11	Tree-throw; hard, dry, grey/brown clay with charcoal inclusions	?Modern
T43	F12	Ditch; firm, dry, light-medium grey/brown silty-clay	Roman
T15	F13	Ditch; hard, dry, medium grey/brown clay with charcoal inclusions	Modern
T16	F14	Ditch; firm, dry, dark brown silty-clay with very large stones, chalk and charcoal inclusions	Modern
T5	F15	Tree-throw; hard, dry, light-medium orange/grey/brown clay	?Modern
T5	F16	Ditch; not excavated	Modern
T5	F17	Tree-throw; hard, dry, medium grey/brown clay	?Modern
T10	F18	Pit; firm, dry, light-medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal inclusions and 5% stone	Undated
T10	F19	Pit; firm, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undated
T31	F20	Pit; hard, dry, grey/brown clay	Modern
T39	F21	Pit; firm, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay with 2% stone	Modern
T36	F22	Fire-pit; hard, dry, dark brown/black silty-clay with charcoal and chalk inclusions with occasional stone	Undated
T39	F23	Pit; firm, dry, light-medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undated
T48	F24	Pit; hard, dry, medium orange/grey/brown/black clay with charcoal inclusions; not surveyed so not present on the figures.	Undated
T49	F25	Pit; hard, dry, grey/brown clay	Modern
T49	F26	Pit; hard, dry, grey/brown clay with charcoal inclusions	Modern
T38	F27	Pit; firm, dry/moist, medium orange/grey/brown clay with 5% stone	Undated
T45	F28	Ditch; firm, dry, medium brown silt	Modern
T45	F29	Ditch; friable, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal inclusions	Roman
T56	F30	Pit; hard, moist, grey/brown clay with charcoal inclusions	Modern
T30	F31	Pit; soft, dry, medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay	Undated

T30	F32	Pit; soft, dry, medium-dark brown silty-clay with charcoal inclusions and rare small stones	Undated
T46	F33 - F46	Natural features; firm, dry-moist, medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay	Natural
T43	F47	Ditch; friable, dry, medium grey/black silt with charcoal inclusions	Roman
T51	F48	Pit; firm, dry, light-medium grey/brown silty-clay with 5% stone	Modern
T55	F49	Ditch; hard, moist, medium grey/brown clay with charcoal and chalk inclusions	Modern
T52	F50	Pit; firm, dry, dark brown silty-clay with 5% stone	Post-medieval/ modern
T52- T54	F51	Pit; firm, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay with brick/tile flecks and 1% stone	Modern
T54	F52	Ditch; firm, medium grey/brown silty-clay with 5% stone	Roman
T54	F53	Pit; firm, moist, light-medium yellow/orange/grey/brown silty-clay	Roman
T53	F54	Ditch; friable, dry, medium orange/brown silty-clay	Roman
T59	F55	Pit; soft, dry, dark brown silt with charcoal and brick/tile inclusions	Modern
T54	F56	Pit; friable/firm, dry, medium-dark orange/grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal inclusions	Undated
T54	F57	Pit; firm, dry, medium orange/brown silty-clay with chalk inclusions and rare stones	Undated
T58	F58	Ditch; hard, moist, grey/brown clay with charcoal and daub inclusions	Roman
T86	F59	Fire-pit; firm, dry, light-medium orange/grey silty-sand with charcoal inclusions	Undated
T61	F60	Pit; firm, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Modern
T62	F61	Pit; firm, dry, medium-dark brown silty-clay with charcoal and chalk inclusions	Post-medieval/ modern
T43	F62	Ditch; firm, dry, medium brown silty-clay with chalk inclusions	Post-medieval/ modern
T52	F63	Pit; hard, dry-moist, light-medium yellow/orange/grey chalky-clay with charcoal and daub inclusions	Roman
T54	F64	Ditch; firm, dry, light yellow/brown silty-clay with chalk inclusions	Post-medieval/ modern
	L1	Topsoil; hard, dry, medium-dark grey/brown silt	Modern
	L2	Subsoil; hard, dry-moist, medium grey/brown silt	-
	L3	Natural clay	-

Appendix 2 Finds list

NR=not retained, BS=heat affected (burnt) stone

T	Ctxt no.	Ctxt type	Find no	Find type	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
T26	F1	pit	1	pot	Misc sherds from more than one pot, relatively thin walled, most with oxidised / buff-grey surfaces, most small-medium flint, occasional larger pieces, 17 sherds with a SQ of small fragments	HMF(M)		17	52		LBA-EIA
T26	F2	pit	2	pot	Misc sherds from more than one pot, relatively thin walled, most with oxidised surfaces, most small-medium flint, occasional larger pieces, 40 sherds with a Q of small fragments. Several sherds have traces of a thin burnt residue on the sherd interior.	HMF(M)		40	184		LBA-EIA
				pot	Sherds from the wall edge & base of a flat bottomed vessel, relatively thin walled, common fine flint	HMF(F)		5	16		LBA-EIA
T21	F3	pit	3	charcoal	Very small fragments in dirt matrix (NR)			1			
T8	F4	ditch	21	glass	Small piece of flat clear glass, probably window glass, surface scratched but otherwise few or no imperfections, probably modern (NR)			1			18/19-E20C?
				CBM	Small piece probably from a peg-tile and a small piece from a brick (NR)			2		*	Prob p-med-mod
T3	F5	ditch	14	CBM	Peg-tile, 2 small pieces, c 10 mm thick (NR)			2			Med/p-med-mod
T25	F10	Pit (fire pit)	7	FC	Small pieces of sandy fired / heated clay, smeared by excavation, not consolidated into an object or lining and appear to be heated clay soil						
				charcoal	Small pieces of charcoal and charcoal powder in a soil material						
T5	F11	Tree-throw	5	iron	Iron nail fragment SF2			1	2		modern
T43	F12 sx1	ditch	10 (upper fill)	Human bone	Part of an adult human femur head (abraded) with other small pieces/ fragments of human? bone. Bone is in relatively poor condition. Possible remains of Human burial in linear/ditch(?)			9	40	*	
			9 (upper-mid fill)	Quern?	Sandstone/ quartzite piece, one face polished smooth to broken edges. Possibly part of a saddle quern	S/Q		1	1534		Preh?
				pot	Misc sherds from minimum of 3 pots	47		21	346		Rom
				pot	Cam 108 type beaker sherd decorated with fine comb stab	34	H1.41	1	6		M-L1C
				pot	One sherd with some grog	44		2	80		1C-L1/2C
				pot	Part pot, sherds from same pot, rim body and base, circa 60% of rim, 30% of base, probably neck jar form G23 Pot quite broken-up	47	G23	49	472		M1-E2C(?)
				flint	Flint flake			1			preh
	pot	Side of neck with joining handle (Dressel 20)	55	P1	4	1340		M1-2/E3C			
F12	ditch	24	pot	Flint & white quartz inclusions			1	2		LBA/EIA	

T	Ctxt no.	Ctxt type	Find no	Find type	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
	sx2			pot	Roman greyware sherd	47		1	2		Rom
				pot	Small sherds from several pots in a 'Belgic'-style platter/dish with small internal groove below rim (M/L1-E2C), several sherds with dark surfaces and lighter fabric (BSW)	45		11	38		M-L1/E2C
	F12 sx3	ditch	44	pot	Small sherds from 2 pots	47		2	16		Rom
				pot	Sherds all from one jar, body sherds only, no rim, no base (pot quite broken-up)	47	jar	59	402		Rom
T15	F13	pit	8	CBM	P-tile, small pieces (NR)			4			Med/p-med-mod
T16	F14	ditch	12	misc	Q Finds spot date c 19/L19-E20 century. Pottery inc Fabric 40D, clay pipe stem fragment sherds from a glass bottle with veined surface, pieces of iron wire (corroded), small piece of slate, shotgun cartridge end, SQ of animal bone (sheep metacarpal, tibia and rib also probably Sheep – more than one animal represented). Finds NR.						19/L19-E20C
			13 lower fill	glass	SQ Finds spot date c 19/L19-E20 century. Clear glass, bottle base with moulded letters, bottle with veined surface pattern, probable bottle top (corroded), iron buckle frame (corroded). Finds NR.						
T39	F21	pit	18	glass	Light green with part of moulded letter R (NR)			1			19/L19-E20C
T49	F25	pit	16	CBM	P-tile, small piece (NR)			1			Med/p-med-mod
T49	F26	pit	17	glass	Clear glass, mould blown, bottle top (NR)			1			L19-E20C
T45	F28	ditch	19	CBM	Brick pieces (4), pieces of red brick (NR)			4			19-E20C
				glass	clear			1			19-E20C
				pot	Fabric 48D & Fabric 51A			3			19-E20C
				pot		31		1	10	*	Rom (M1-2C?)
				pot	Misc greyware body sherds	47		6	80		Rom
				pot		45		1	8	(*)	M-L1C
				pot	Hand-made or part hand-made	GROG		2	16	(*)	E-M1C
				flint	Flake, secondary, large striking platform, hard hammer, some edge damage/use wear			1			Prob Later preh BA(?)
T45	F29	ditch	20	pot	Inc flaring jar or more probably a deep bowl rim and everted small jar/deep bowl rim	GROG		16	68		LIA (L1CBC/E-M1C AD)
			21 lower fill	pot	Fabric with some black organic matter and/or grog, everted rim with carinated body and small cordon below rim and another above the rounded carination	45	G18	11	98		M1-E2C
T56	F30	pit	23	misc	Q Finds spot date c 19/L19-E20 century. Pottery inc Parian ware (C 1845+), Fabric 48D, Fabric 51A; modern (19-E20C), clay pipe stem						M/L19-E20C

T	Ctxt no.	Ctxt type	Find no	Find type	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date	
					pieces, peg-tile, ceramic land drain, corroded iron buckle, fe nail shaft pieces. Finds NR.							
T43	F47	ditch	25	BS	Calcified, part of a small stone	flint		1				
				FC	Small pieces, no surfaces, dark sandy fired clay			2				
				pot	Some grog and common burnt organic material	44		4	22		C M-L1C	
T55	F49	ditch	26	CP	Small piece of pipe stem (NR)			1			p-med	
				CBM	Pieces of ceramic field drain (NR)	O-R	FD	6			P-med/mod	
				nail	Nail shaft (NR)	fe		1				
			27	fitting	Copper-alloy moulded decorative fitting			1	28		modern	
T52	F50	pit	28	CBM	Brick, red, piece, p-med/mod (NR)			1			P-med/mod	
(T44, T52 & T53)	F51	pit			Collected material of modern date, inc several complete glass vessels in SIMONS S FRUIT JUICE / LONDON S E (clear glass rectangular bottle) and Vinol (brown glass), also complete ceramic stoneware preserve jar with GOLDEN SHRED BRAND on base (NR)							modern
			29	misc	VSQ Finds spot date c 19/L19-E20 century. Modern glass with moulded lettering consisting of numbers 6 8 8 9 , piece of peg-tile, Roman sherd Fabric 47 (NR)	47		1	3			L19-E20C
			34	Fe?	Nail with flat square head, tapering down shaft, moderate corrosion (possibly a finishing nail?)			1				Probably 18-19C
			35	CP	Small stem piece (NR)			1				P-med (17-E19C)
				glass	Clear (NR)			1				18/19-E20C
				pot	Small oxidised shed, difficult to identify with confidence, probably p-med (Fabric 40?)	40(?)		1	1			C 17-19C
			36	coal	Small pieces (NR)			2				Prob p-med-mod
				glass	Green relatively thin walled bottle? Glass (NR)			2				Prob modern c 19-E20C
			45	glass	Dark green & clear bottle glass sherds (NR)			5				19/L19-E20C
				CBM	Peg-tile pieces (3), pieces of red brick (2) (NR)			5				*
65	pot	Rouletted dish			SAMV		1	4		E2C (c 100-120 AD)		
T54	F52	ditch	30	glass	Piece from an angle sided bottle (octagonal?) with parts of moulder letters, pale blue-green, modern			1			19/L19-E20C (intrusive?)	
				FC	Small irregular abraded piece, orange-buff fabric (NR)			1			*	
				pot	Burnt, sherds from a jar	BSW?		10	66		Rom	
				pot	Inc lid sherd	BSW		2	8		Rom	
				pot	Misc, inc several jar rims (inc G24?), bowl bead rim(?)	47	G24?	51	250		Rom (E/M2-3/4C?)	

T	Ctxt no.	Ctxt type	Find no	Find type	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
				pot	Small sherd, burnished surface	40		1	4		E/M2-4C
				pot	Inc rim sherds	44	G44-type	5	154		Rom M1-2/3C
T54	F53	pit	31	FC	Small irregular abraded pieces, one orange-red, the other pink-buff (NR)			2		*	
				pot	Misc sherds inc. oxidised greyware(?)	21		3	6	(*)	Rom
				pot	Small sherds	BSW		6	14	(*)	Rom
				pot	Misc inc. 2 jar rims	47		18	144	(*)	Rom 2-3/4C?
				pot	Misc more than one pot	44		12	132	(*)	M1-2/3C
				A bone	Piece of animal bone, sliver from large bone (medium-large mammal)			1			
				fe	Object, broken piece			1			From Roman(?) context
				fe	Object, ferrule-like piece with curving body and open side			1			From Roman(?) context
			32 <S>	pot		BSW		3	6		Rom
				pot	Jar rim, abraded, poss G23 but not clear	47	G23?	2	20	*	Rom (M1-E2C?)
				flint	Snapped flake, lower part with hinge fracture			1			preh
T53	F54	ditch	33	pot	Oxidised with grog-temper and surface pitted from burnt-out organic material	44		1	18	*	LIA-E Rom (M-L1C?)
T59	F55	pit	38	pot	Small sherd	48D		1	2		M18/19C-19/E20C
T58	F58	ditch	39	pot	Small rim sherd, some organic material in fabric	45		1	4		M-L1C
				pot	Rim from a jar or bowl, some pitting from burnt-out organic material, black exterior surface	GROG		1	12		E-M1C
				pot	Small sherd with moderated small-medium flint inclusions and some visible sand, prob LBA-EIA	HMF		1	4	*	LBA-EIA(?)
				pot	Greyware sherds, one sandy & soft	47		2	4	*	Rom (M1-2C?)
				pot	Very small abraded sherds, inc. small upright simple rim, probably from a cup or bowl in silty, buff fabric, surfaces degrading	31		7	4	*	M1-2C(?)
				pot	Body sherds from a large storage jar, sand and organic temper	44		3	36		1C
				pot	Rim from a jar, some pitting from burnt-out organic material, black exterior surface	GROG		3	44		M-L1C
				pot	Sherds from a large jar with small cordon at neck, dark grey surfaces, pitted interior - from acidic contents(?)	45		25	304	*	M-L1C
				pot	Sherds from a number of pots, quite broken-up, moderate-common inclusions of grog and burnt organic material appearing as black, but also	GROG/45		13 6	484	(*)	c E-M/M1C and prob.

T	Ctxt no.	Ctxt type	Find no	Find type	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date	
					red & yellow grog inclusions in the clay, some voids from organic matter. Includes sherd(s) with rounded cordon. Some of this appears hand-made or part hand-made. Pottery quite broken-up						slightly later C M-L1C	
T61	F60	pit	40	pot	Small sherd	48D		1	2		M18/19C-19/E20C	
T62	F61	pit	41 upper fill	CP	Small stem piece (bore c 3mm) (NR)			1			P-med (17-E19C)	
				pot	Small sherd from a plate, painted?	48D		1	4		M18-E19C(?)	
T43	F62	ditch	42	CP	Two medium size (length) stem pieces (bore c 2.5-2 mm) (NR)			2			C 17-18C	
			43	pot	Small body sherd	34		1	2	(*)	Rom M1-E2C	
				pot	Body sherds probably all from one greyware jar	47		19	90	(*)	Rom	
T52	F63	Quarry pit	48	stone	Piece of limestone, naturally rounded edges & face with one broken face area (NR)			1				
				pot	Misc body sherds, more than one pot	47		20	96		Rom	
			46 fill 1	stone	Limestone, small abraded piece (appears unmodified)			1				
				coal	Small piece (NR)			1				L med/p-med-mod
				pot	Jar rim sherds from two jars, some sooting one rim	47	G24 (?)	7	44		Rom 2-4C(?)	
			pot		BSW		2	6	(*)	Rom		
			pot	Misc sherds from several pots, inc jars/deep bowl sherds, most sherds in pale-medium grey fabric	47		80	306	*	Rom		
			pot	Small sherds	44		5	42		M1-2/3C		
			pot	Small, abraded sherd, appears to be Hadham	4		1	2	*	L3-4C		
			CBM	Moderately thin tile (c 13-14 mm), smal piece, probably PT (NR)		PT	1			med-p-med		
			CBM	Thin, hard tile with sanded base, (medium size) appears to be certainly peg-tile (PT) (NR)		PT	1		(*)	med-p-med		
			47 fill 2	nail	Shaft piece from a corroded iron nail (NR)	fe		1				
				misc	Small piece of pinkish fired clay with common voids, possibly briquetage			1		*	(Rom?)	
				misc quern?	Very small piece of hard, porous material, possibly lava quern			1			(Rom?)	
				misc	Small piece of black, sandy vitreous material (NR), not closely dated			1			-	
				shell	Part of an oyster shell (NR), not closely dated			1			-	
				glass	Small sherd, yellowish-brown colour, from flat base edge, edge rounded, thick (c 4-5mm thick), chipped with dull base surface			1				
				pot	Small/ very small sherds, prob from same pot	51A		4	4		Mod	
				pot	Misc sherds from more several pots	47		61	374		Rom	
pot		BSW		3	18		Rom					

T	Ctxt no.	Ctxt type	Find no	Find type	Description	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Ab	Period/ spot date
				pot	Mostly small sherds	44		15	46		M1-2/3C
				pot	Sherds from a beaker with everted rim	47		3	26		Flav-E2C/2C
				pot	Sherds from a bowl with small footring, curving wall & lipped/ triangular rim, probably similar to West Stow fig 59 no 234 (West 1989) & Marsh Type 29 (1978)) (dated L1-E2C)	39		14	76		L1-E2C
				A bone	Small pieces/ frags			3			
				CBM	Thin, hard tile with sanded base, (small size) appears to be certainly peg-tile (PT) (NR)		PT	1		(*)	med-p-med
T88	US	US	49	flint	Small flint with parallel blade-like removals on dorsal face, thin flake with soft hammer and prepared platform (late mesolithic – early Neolithic)			1			L Meso-E Neo
T44	US	US?	37	pot	Fabric 48, glass glazed surfaces			1			L19-E20C
				CBM	P-tile, small piece (NR)			1			Med/p-med-mod

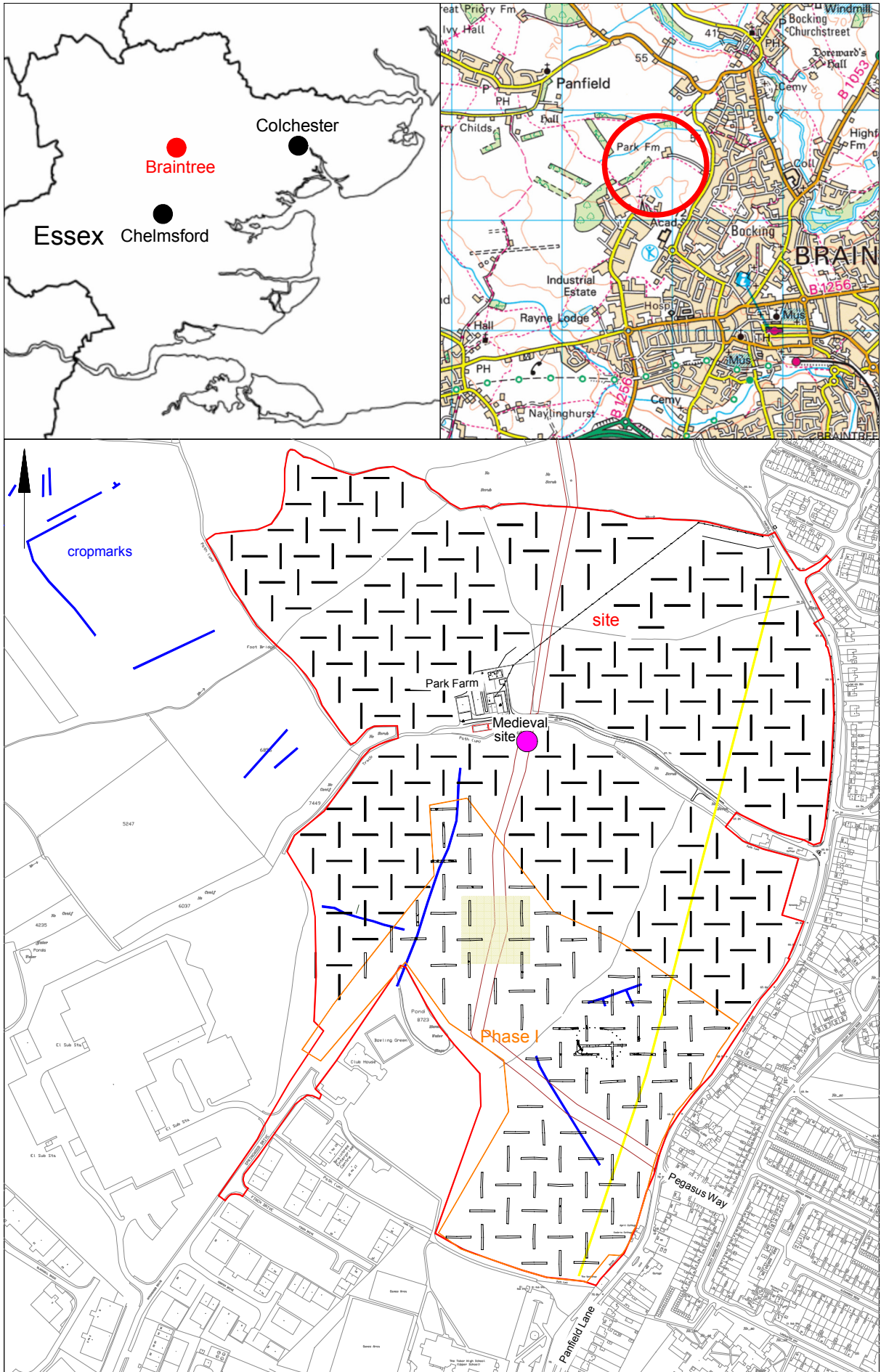


Fig 1 Site location, cropmarks in blue, postulated Roman road in yellow.

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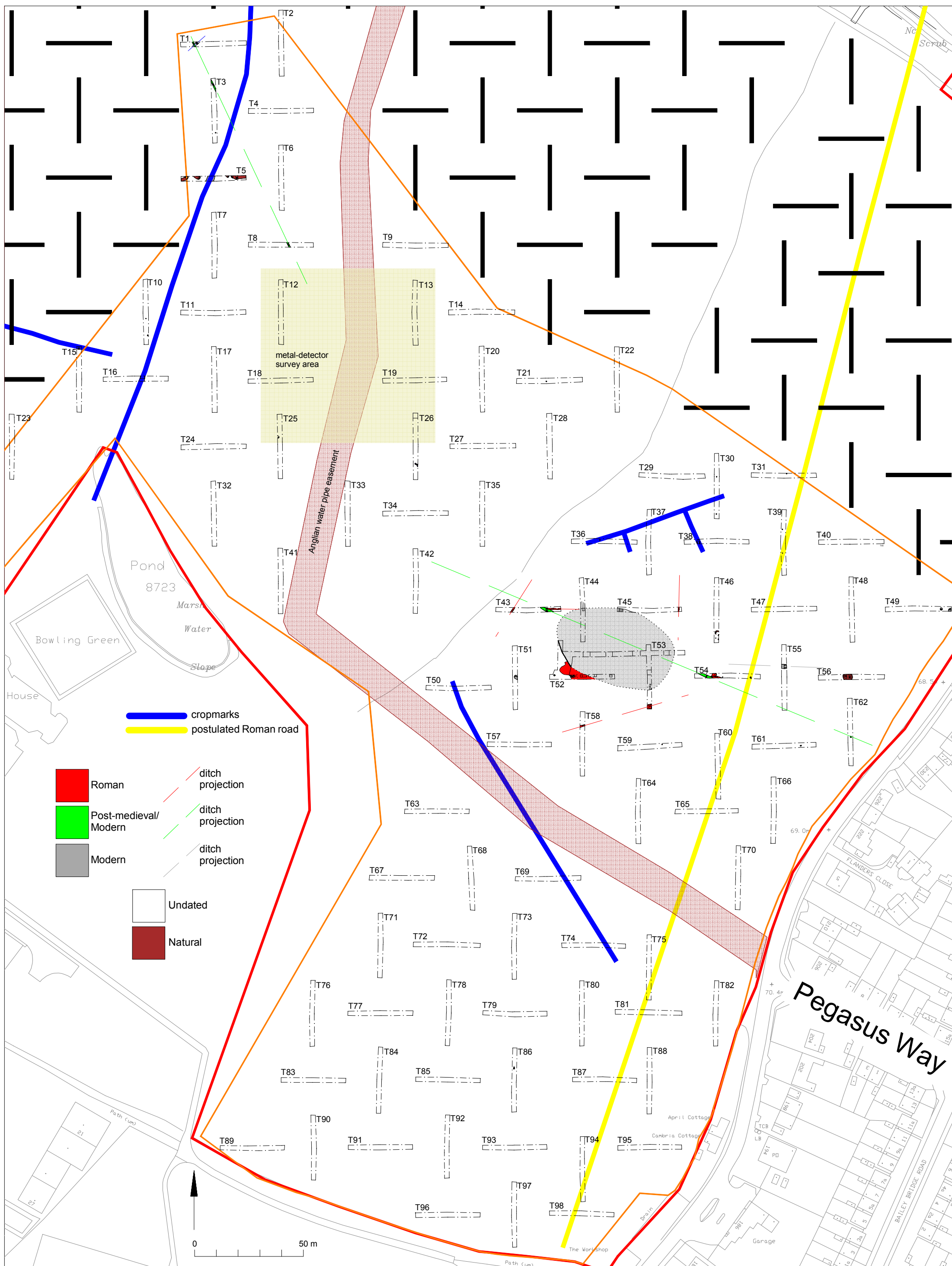


Fig 2 Results

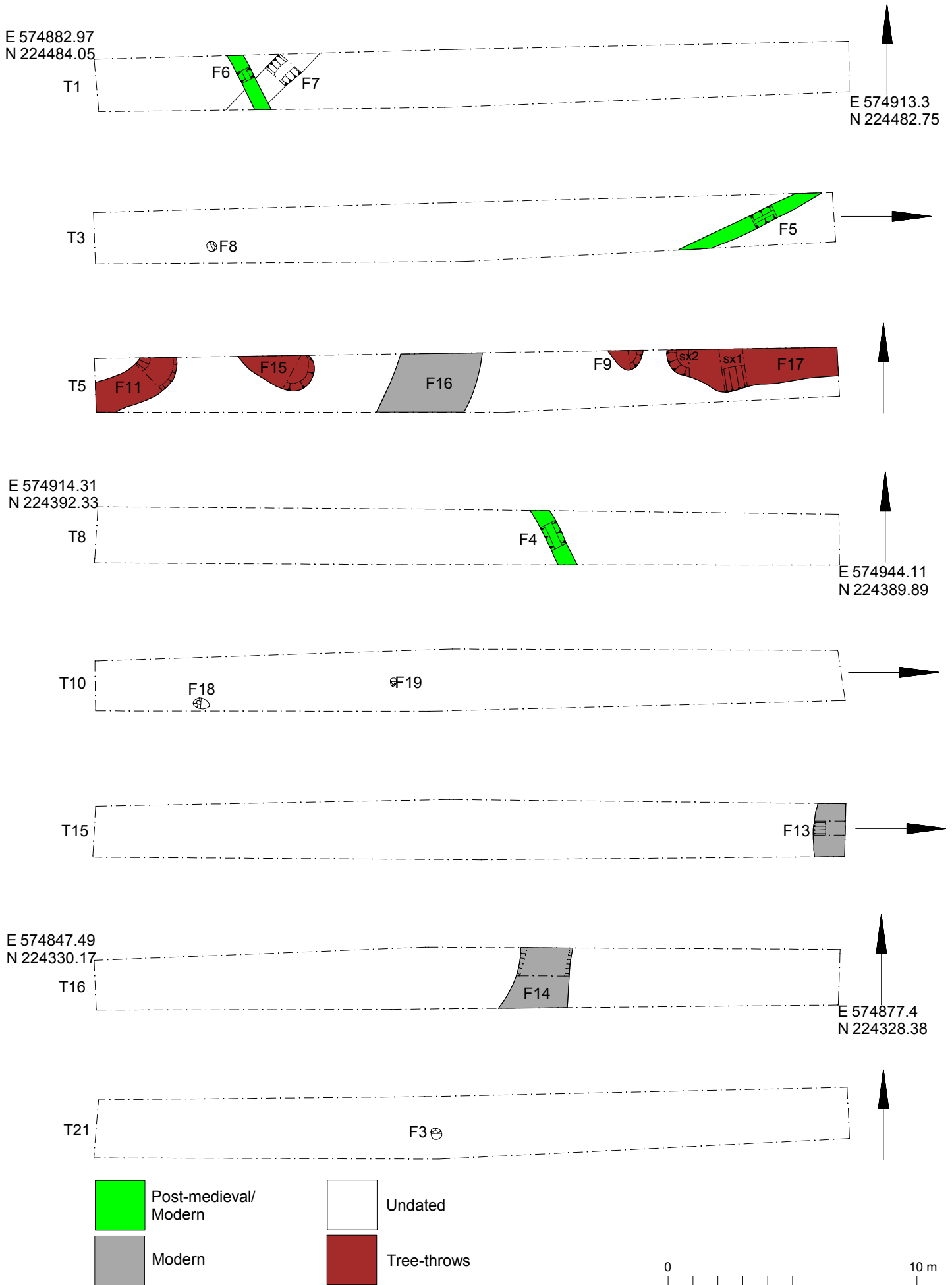


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans: T1, T3, T5, T8, T10, T15, T16 and T21

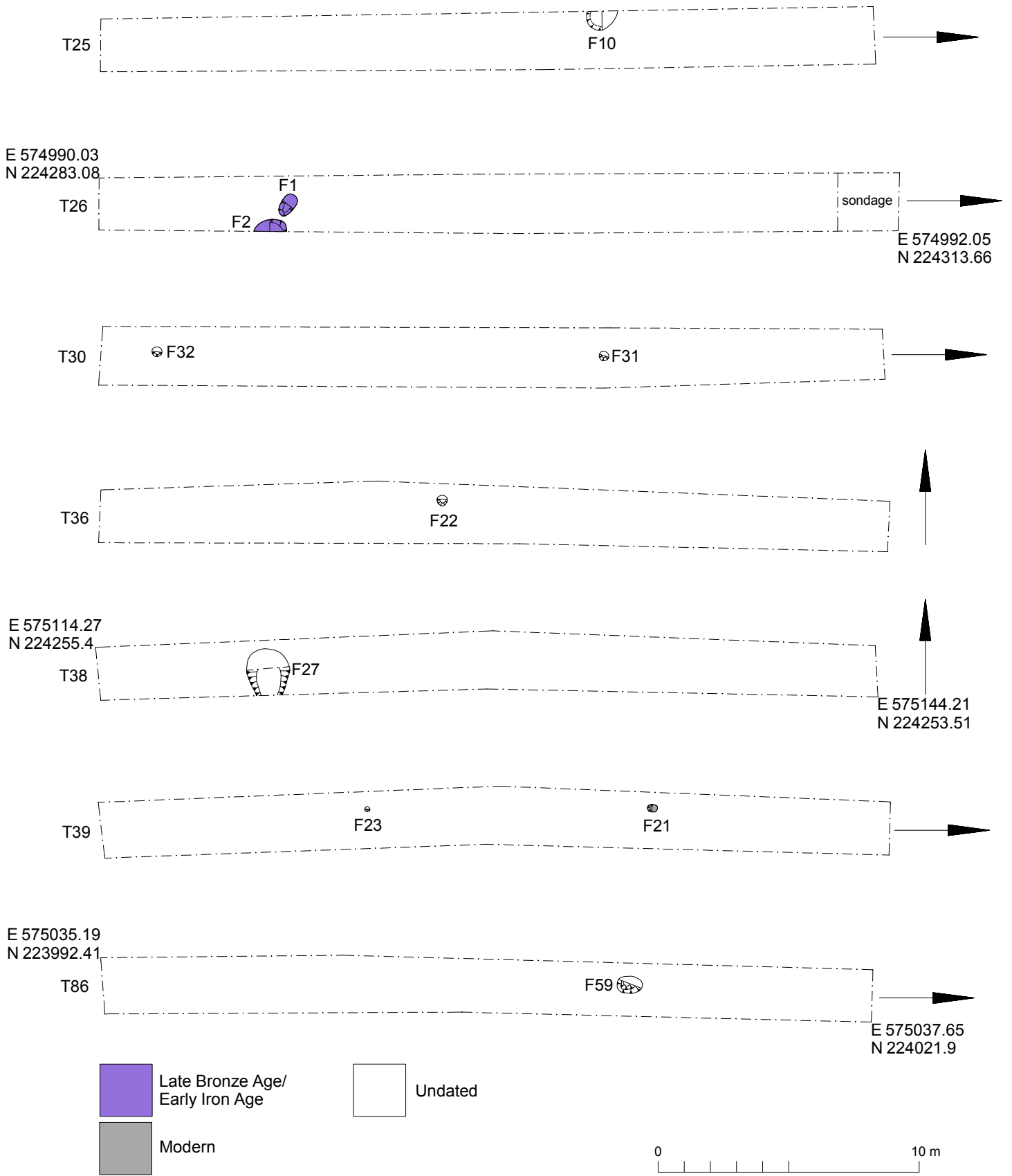


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans: T25, T26, T30, T36, T38, T39 and T86

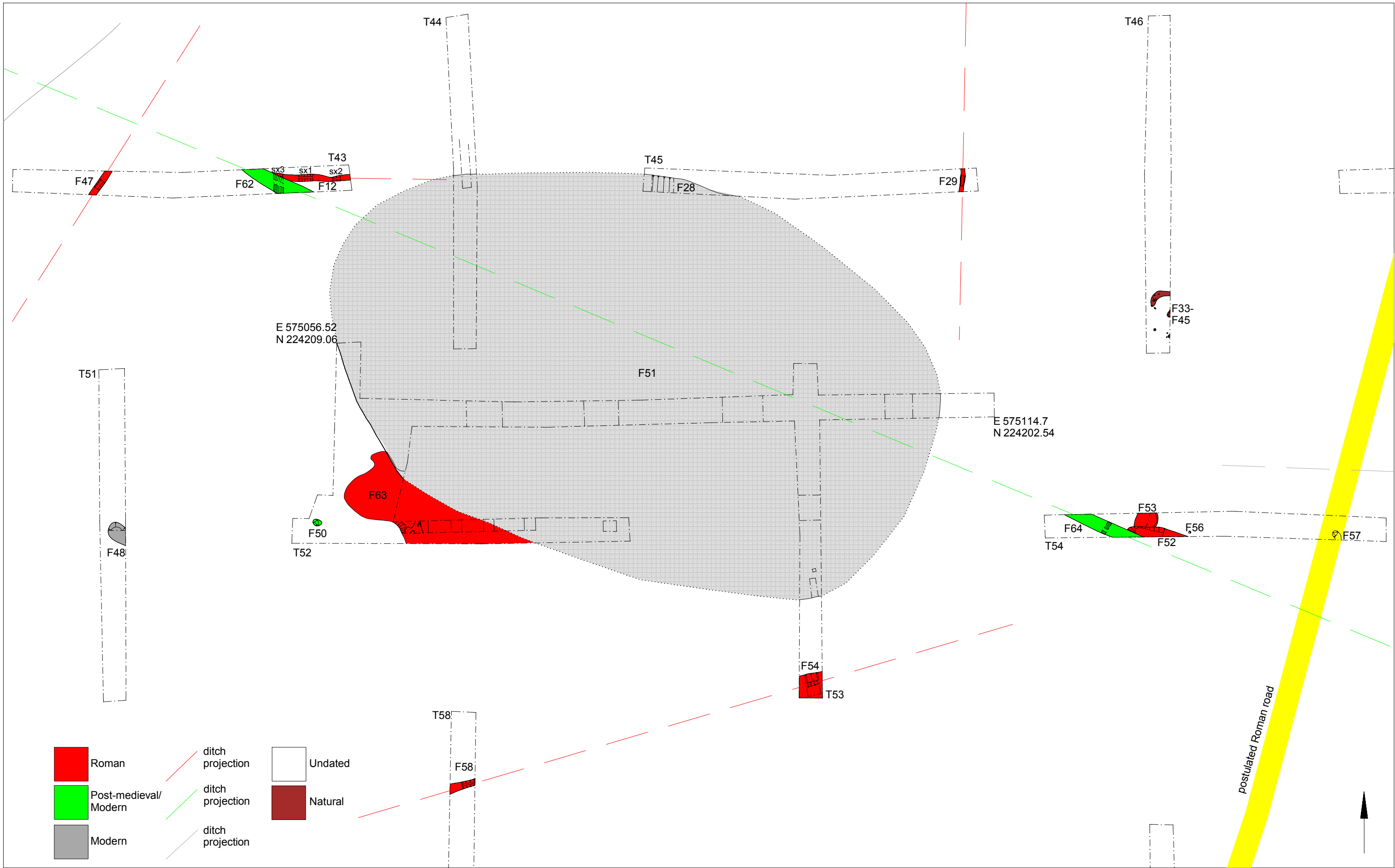


Fig 5 Detailed trench plans: T43-T46, T51-T54 and T58

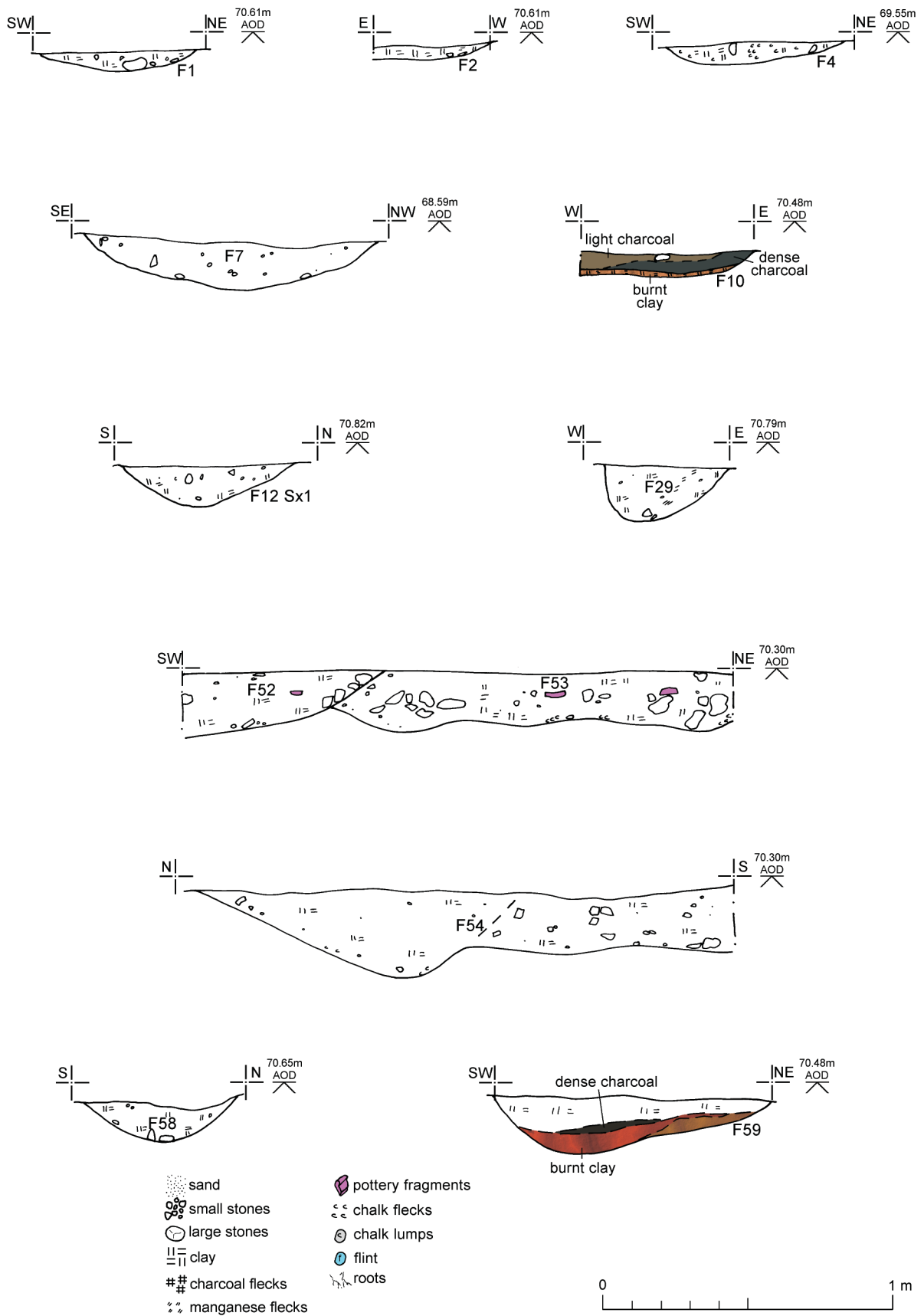


Fig 6 Feature sections.

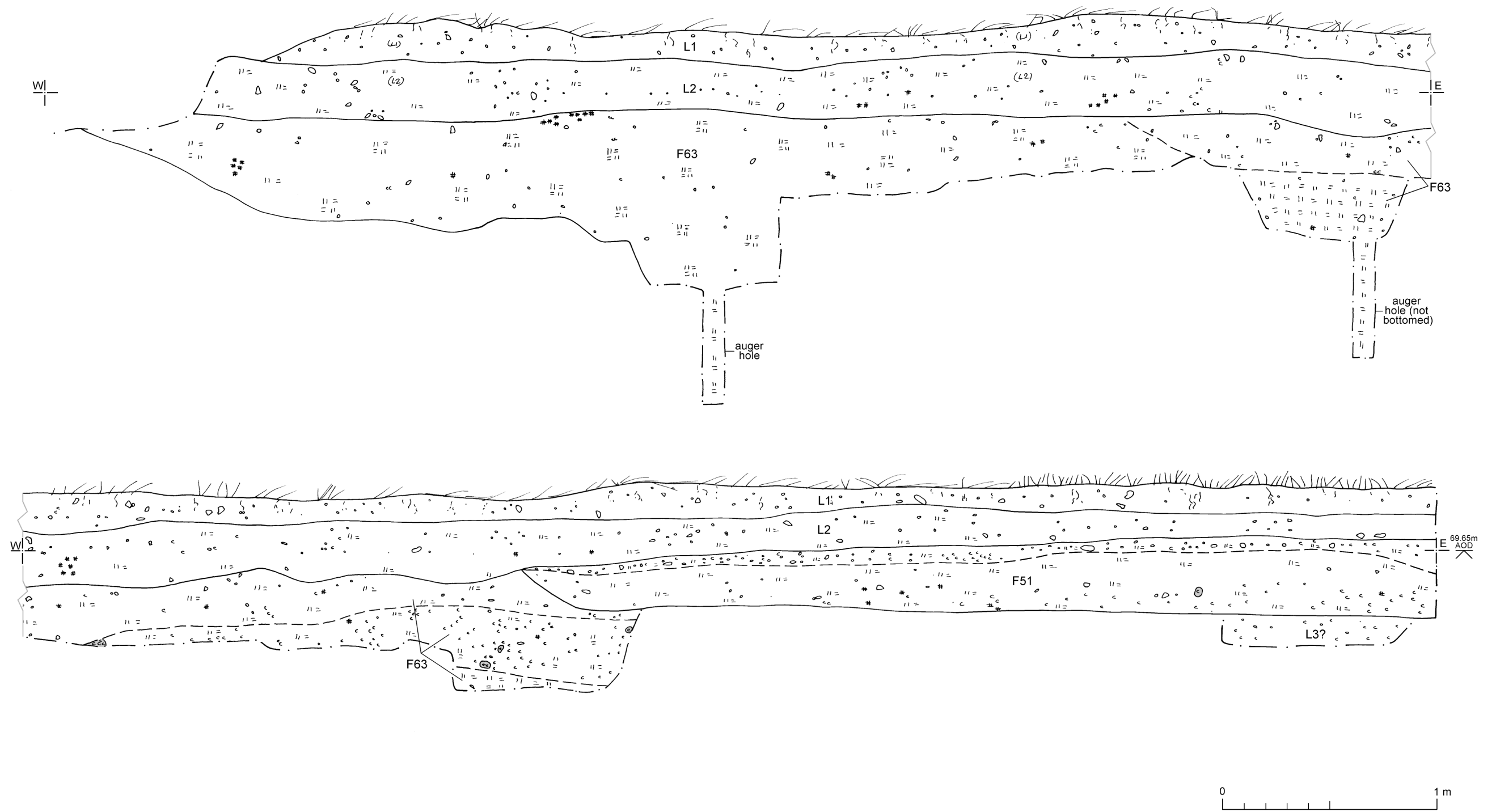


Fig 7 F51 and F63: long section.

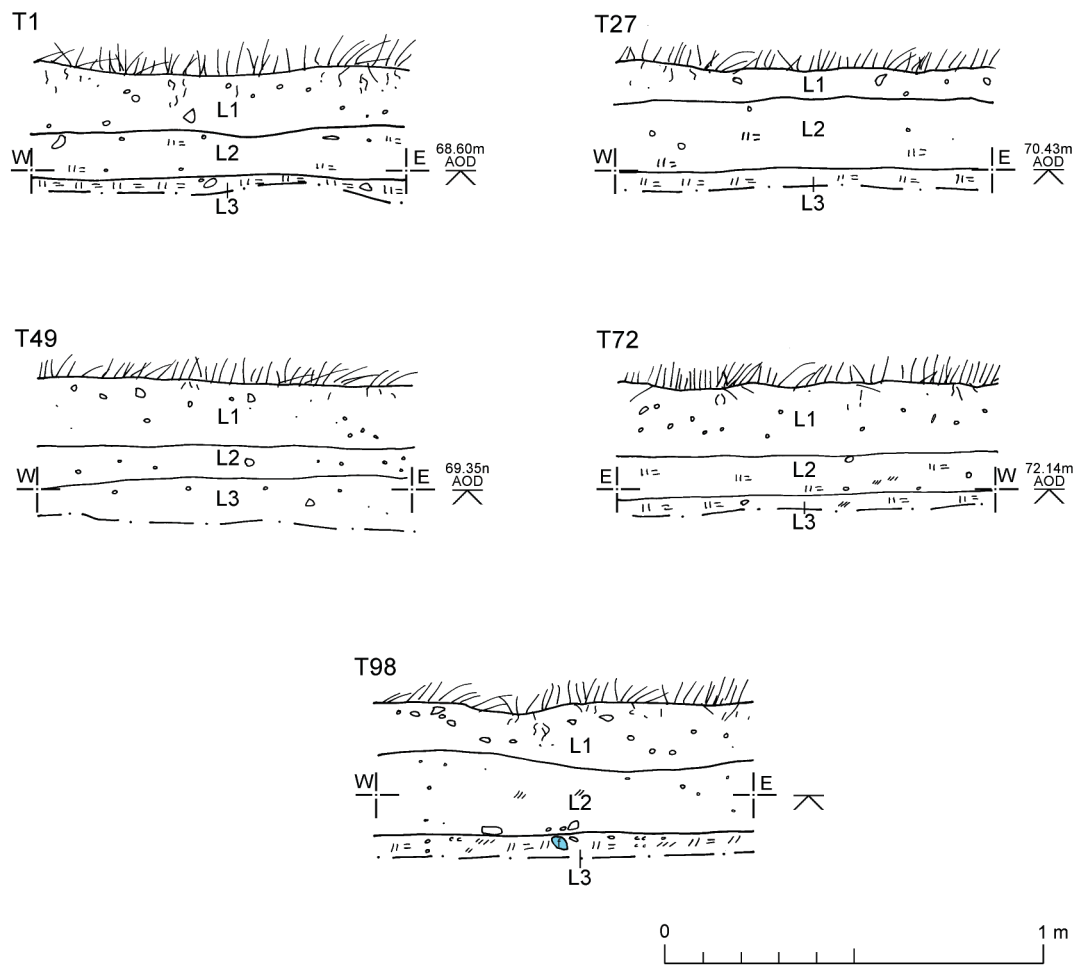


Fig 8 Representative trench sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-260783

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land west of Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5NR
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (94 trial-trenches) was carried out on Phase 1 land to the west of Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex in advance of the construction of new housing estate. The development site is located within an area of known cropmarks with Roman and medieval features and finds identified on the site during archaeological work in 2014. The earliest features identified during the evaluation were two pits of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age date. A cluster of four ditches and three pits in the centre of the site dated to the early Roman period (early/mid-late 1st century - early/mid 2nd century) and were possibly associated with chalk quarrying and nearby low-status occupation. Thirteen features (five ditches and eight pits) dated to the post-medieval/modern and modern periods. The ditches formed old field boundaries, two of which had previously been plotted as cropmarks. One undated ditch, eight undated pits and twenty natural features/tree-throws were also excavated.
Project dates	Start: 05-09-2016 End: 29-09-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/08d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	15/01319/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BTPL15 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PITS Late Bronze Age
Monument type	PITS Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Modern
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain

Significant Finds	FLINT Mesolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	HUMAN BONE Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	QUERNSTONE Roman
Significant Finds	BRIQUETAGE Roman
Significant Finds	FIRE CLAY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE BRAINTREE land west of Panfield Lane
Postcode	CM7 5NR
Study area	12.1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7508 2416 51.887971407794 0.544409233262 51 53 16 N 000 32 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 68.6m Max: 73.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Mark Baister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Archive ID	requested
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Human Bones","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	requested
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	requested
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land west of Panfield Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 5NR: September 2016
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