# Archaeological evaluation on land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD

June 2017



**by Dr Elliott Hicks** figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Jane Roberts and Ziya Eksen

# commissioned by Richard Peel

NGR: TL 51643 34839 (centre) Planning ref.: UTT/16/1756/FUL CAT project ref.: 16/11d ECC code: NP24 Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2017.59 OASIS ref.: colchest3-285771



Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

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CAT Report 1115 June 2017

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OASIS summary sheet

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# 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex in advance construction of two new dwellings. The development site lies in proximity to the medieval town of Newport and possibly a castle which once stood in the vicinity, as well as a medieval leper hospital and two sites of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity. A single modern pit was uncovered during the excavation.

# 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex which was carried out on 13th June 2017. The work was commissioned by Richard Peel 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 trial trenching and excavation* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

# 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

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 of the Castle. To the east of the development site is a medieval Leper Hospital where excavations have identified a number of structures and human burials related to the hospital (EHER 1937).

An evaluation to the south 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. However, a recent evaluation between the development site and this earlier evaluation found no archaeological remains (EHER 48908; CAT Report 1020).

# 4 **Results** (Figs 2-3, photographs 1-2)

Two trial trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench 1 measured 12m by 1.8m, whilst Trench 2 measured 13m by 1.8m. They were excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.02-0.09m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.3-0.5m thick), which sealed naturally-deposited soils (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.35-0.52m below current ground level).

Trench 1 (T1): A single modern pit was uncovered at the northern end of T1.



Photograph 1 T1, looking NNW

Trench 2 (T2): T2 yielded no significant archaeological remains.

Photograph 2 T2, looking NE

# 5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

F1 (1) Two small pieces of glazed earthenware, possibly from a tile rather than a pot, dated probably 19th or early-20th-century. Medium size piece from a modern ceramic (earthenware) drain pipe, probably mid/late 19th or early 20th century.

L2 (2) Abraded piece of ceramic building material (CBM), small-medium size, in buff/reddish-brown relatively fine sand/silt, not closely dated, probably post-medieval/modern.

# 6 Discussion

Despite being located in proximity to the medieval town of Newport and possibly a castle which once stood in the vicinity, as well as a medieval leper hospital and two sites of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity, the only significant archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation was single modern pit.

# 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Richard Peel for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with J Roberts and Z Eksen. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. 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 <a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>

CAT CAT	2014 2017	Health & Safety Policy Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD
ClfA ClfA	2014a 2014b	Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
ECC	2016	Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. 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)
CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report 1020	2016	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD: September 2016

# 9 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from <i>c</i> 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
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
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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 (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from <i>c</i> AD 1500 to <i>c</i> 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to <i>c</i> AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

# 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained **Paper and digital record** One A4 document wallet containing: The report (CAT Report 1115) 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: 2017.59.

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# Distribution list:

Richard Peel ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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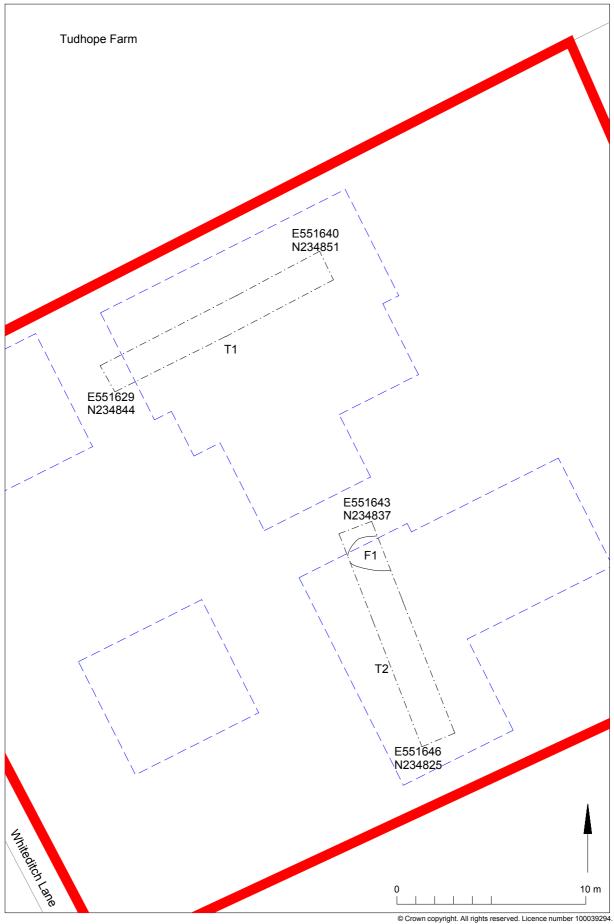
Checked by: Philip Crummy Date:

# Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	1	?Pit	Friable firm dry dark grey/brown silty-clay and loose orange sand surrounding the edge of feature with occasional stone and chalk inclusions	Modern
L1	-	Topsoil	Loose friable dry dark grey/brown silty-clay	Modern
L2	2	Subsoil	Firm dry light to medium brown clay with occasional stones inclusions and occasional iron pan inclusions in T2	Post- medieval / modern
L3	-	Natural	Very firm hard dry medium grey/brown clay with occasional to common chalk inclusions and occasional stone inclusions including flint	Post-glacial

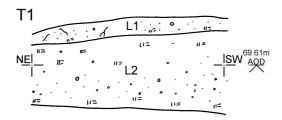


Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)





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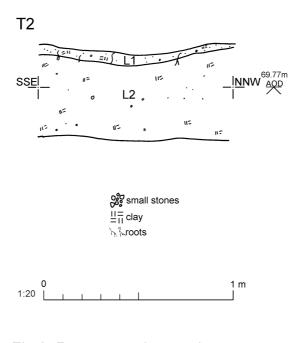


Fig 3 Representative sections

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD

NGR: TL 51643 34839 (centre)

Planning reference: UTT/16/1756/FUL

**Client:** Richard Peel

Curating Museum: Saffron Walden

Museum accession code: tbc ECC Project code: tbc CAT Project code: 16/11d Oasis project ID: colchest3-285771

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

ECC Monitor: Richard Havis

This WSI written: 23.5.2017



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# Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex (Fig 1). Site centre is National Grid Reference TL 51643 34839.

# Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of two new dwellings.

# Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

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 of the Castle. To the east of the development site is a medieval Leper Hospital where excavations have identified a number of structures and human burials related to the hospital (EHER 1937).

An evaluation to the south 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. However, a recent evaluation between the development site and this earlier evaluation found no archaeological remains (EHER 48908; CAT Report 1020).

# Planning background

Planning application UTT/16/1756/FUL was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in June 2016 for the construction of two new dwellings.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Historic Environment Record as having a high potential for archaeological remains a full archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and states:

"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority."

# **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECC Place Services (*Brief for Archaeological Trial-Trenching and Excavation at land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex* – ECC 2016).

Specifically, the work will comprise of two trial-trenches measuring 13m and 12m long by 1.8m wide (Fig 1). They will be located within the footprint of each new dwelling.

Specific research aims include the:

- identification of remains associated with the hospital to the east
- identification of earlier or other activity of a Roman or prehistoric date

If significant archaeological deposits are identified an open area excavation and/or monitoring may be required. This will be decided by the ECCHEA following on-site discussions with CAT staff, the contractors and client.

# 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 (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECC 2016)

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 ECCHEA 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.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify 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 plus two archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

# Trial-trenching methodology

Machine stripping shall be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the archaeological horizon, under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a CAT archaeologist.

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

All features or deposits will 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 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. A meeting will be held on site once trial-trenching has been completed. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.

# Site surveying

The evaluation trenches and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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 will be located by NGR coordinates.

# **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer / Lisa Gray will do any processing and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

# Human remains

During evaluation work 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 the remains from the site during the evaluation phase, 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 ECCHEA 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:

 <u>small finds, metalwork, coins, etc</u>: Pip Parmenter / Laura Pooley <u>animal bones</u> (small groups): Pip Parmenter <u>flints</u>: Adam Wightman
or to outside specialists: <u>animal bones (large groups) and human remains</u>: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*) <u>environmental processing and reporting</u>: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray <u>conservation</u> of finds: staff at Colchester Museum
Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include: <u>Roman brick/tile</u>: Ernest Black <u>Roman glass</u>: Hilary Cool <u>Prehistoric pottery</u>: Paul Sealey <u>Other</u>: 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 ECCHEA.

#### **Post-excavation assessment**

If a post-excavation assessment is required by ECCHEA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with ECCHEA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

#### Results

Notification will be given to ECCHEA 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 the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological work.
- Location plan of fieldwork in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the development site will be given 10 figure grid references.

• Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.

• Appropriate discussion and result sections assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000 and Medlycott 2011).

- All specialist reports or assessments.
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form. A copy will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the

Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal (<u>paul.gilman@me.com</u>).

Publication of the results at least to summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. 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

The requirements for archive storage shall 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 the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to ECCHEA.

# Monitoring

ECCHEA 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 ECCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with ECCHEA prior to them being carried out.

ECCHEA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

# References

CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report	2016	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bury Grove,
1020		Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD: September 2016
ClfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation
ClfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,
		conservation and research of archaeological materials
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
ECC	2016	Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at land
		south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment
		(MoRPHE)
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. 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 <b>24</b> )

L Pooley



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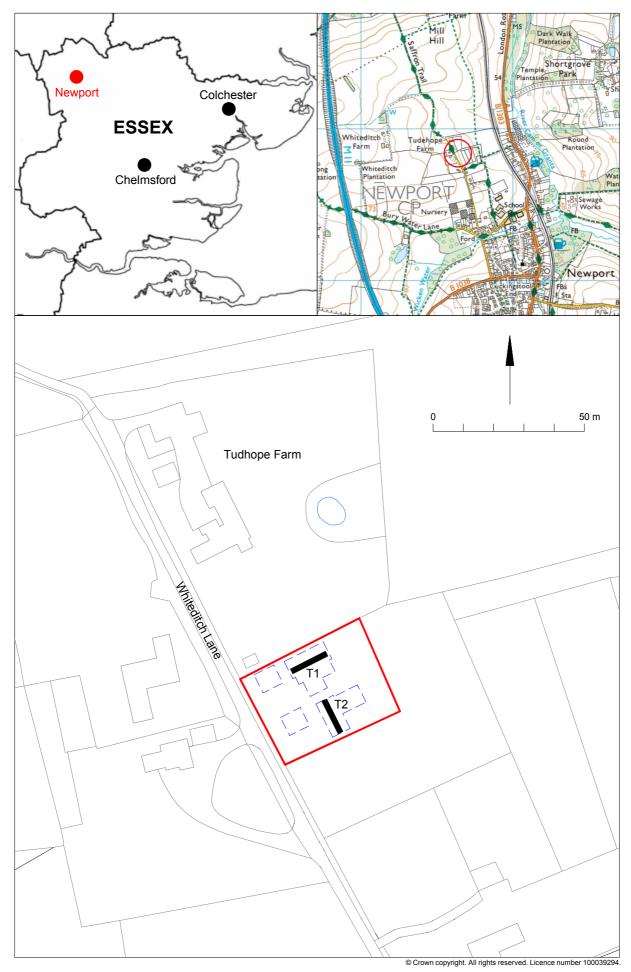


Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal in relation to new development (dashed blue lines).

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# OASIS ID: colchest3-285771

#### **Project details**

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/16/1756/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/11d - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Dreject location	

# **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD NEWPORT land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane
Postcode	CB11 3UD
Site coordinates	TL 51643 34839 51.990815094107 0.208806157556 51 59 26 N 000 12 31 E Point

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

#### **Project bibliography 1**

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Archaeological evaluation on land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD
Hicks, E.
CAT Report 1115
2017
Colchester Archaeological Trust
Colchester
A-4 loose-leaf, ring-bound
http://cat.essex.ac.uk/
Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
23 June 2017



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