

Archaeological evaluation at Blue Barn Farm (Phase 2, Plots 6 and 7), Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7DF

December 2017



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**commissioned by Stephen Williams
on behalf of Hills Residential**

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CAT Report 1209

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Phase 2, plots 6&7, Blue Barn Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings with associated garages and access. The development site is located within an area of cropmarks, including that of a possible trackway leading from Elmstead Market. The evaluation revealed two pits, one modern and one undated and two modern services. There was no evidence of features relating to the projected cropmarks or any finds.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Blue Barn Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex. Fieldwork was carried out on 11th December 2017. The work was commissioned by Stephen Williams, of Hills Residential. Work was in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings with associated garages and access, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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 2017). After discussion with ECC Place Services, it was decided that a Brief would not be issued and that the Specialist Archaeological Advice issued to Tendring District Council Planning Services would be sufficient for the preparation of the Written Scheme of Investigation.

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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows that the development site lies within an area which has substantial archaeological evidence, as recorded by aerial photography and seen in cropmark features. The cropmark plot (provided by the EHER) provides evidence for a possible trackway crossing the site indicated by two parallel linear features running NW-SE, they extend across the landscape for over 800m and lead from the village at Elmstead Market which is historic in origin. The road through the village is thought to be Roman in origin and this track may be associated with this or could be later, possibly medieval, in date. In addition, there are two further parallel linear features close by, aligned NW-SE (to the south of the main trackway) and NE-SW (Fig 1) all indicating historic settlement activity. Both Roman and medieval finds have been recovered from the area through metal detecting, including pottery and glass vessels, coins and jewellery.

Former farm buildings associated with the site of Blue Barn Farm are depicted on the 1st edition OS maps and so must pre-date c 1870 and are likely to be earlier in origin. These buildings are no longer extant but lie within the area of development. Below

ground remains for the buildings may survive which could provide an indication of age and origin for the site. A pond was located beside the farm buildings which may preserve waterlogged deposits or stratified archaeological deposits.



NLS

Historic Maps Subscription API layer © Getmapping plc © 2017 GeoEye ©2017 Intermap © 2017 Microsoft Corporation © 2010 NAV/TEQ ©

Map 1 First edition 1896 6-inch OS map (ESSEX.XXVIII.SE) overlaid on modern mapping.

In April 2017 CAT undertook an archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) in advance of the construction of five new dwellings with associated garages and access to the southeast of the current site (CAT Report 1094). The evaluation revealed two medieval ditches, three undated (but probably medieval) ditches, three undated small pits/postholes, two modern features (a pit and ditch) and two tree-throws containing residual medieval pottery. The ditches appear to be field boundaries within a medieval, c 12th/13th-14th century, field-system. One of the ditches (F2) was on a similar alignment as the trackway cropmark, but given the distances involved between the edge of the cropmark and the feature (250m) it is impossible to determine if they are related.

4 Aims

Plot 6 was located to straddle the projected trackway (WSI Fig 1), targeted by a 15m long by 1.8m wide trench (T6), in an attempt to locate the trackway ditches. This was to be extended if necessary to confirm the full profile of each ditch identified. The footprint of Plot 7 was to be evaluated by a 10m long by 1.8m wide trench (T5). The proposed driveways for each of these plots will have minimal formation depths (150mm as confirmed by the developer). Consequently it has been decided not to evaluate these areas.

As the development area is 0.14ha the total minimum trenching (45m²) will be just over 3%.

Specific research aims were to identify:

- A continuation of the main trackway and other cropmarks through the site.
- Potential roadside settlement or activity along Clacton Road.

5 Methodology

Two archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Both trenches were positioned to target potential cropmarks or features on the 1st edition OS map (see above). Trench, feature and layer numbers continue on from the previous evaluation on adjacent plots (CAT Report 1094).

6 Results (Figs 2-3)

Trench 5 (T5): 8m long by 2m wide

Due to an overhead power cable Trench 5 had to be shortened in length by 2m. It was excavated through modern topsoil (L2, 0.3-0.42m thick) onto mid orange and brown natural sands and gravels (L4) to a trench depth of 0.48-0.55m.

The north-eastern third of T5 was not excavated due to the presence of a modern water main. At the southwestern end was an undated pit F15 (0.7m wide, 1.31m long by 0.32m deep) with a fill was loose mid brown silt.



Photograph 1: T5 general shot, looking southwest.

Trench 6 (T6): 15m long by 2m wide

Trench 2 was excavated through modern topsoil (L2, 0.32-0.35m thick) onto natural sands and gravels (L4) to a trench depth of 0.50-0.54m. An additional 0.2m slot was excavated below the general depth of the trench to confirm no further layers were present.

Towards the northeastern end of T6 was a small shallow modern feature F14 (0.64m long, 0.52m wide by 0.11m comprised of firm mid brown silt deep which contained fragments of modern frogged bricks (none retained).



Photograph 2: T6 general shot, looking southwest.

7 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

8 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation of plots 6 & 7, Blue Barn Farm, Elmstead Market revealed one modern pit, one undated pit and two modern services. There was no sign of ditches thought to perhaps link to cropmarks to the northeast of the site, or with medieval ditch F2 in T3, thought to be part of a medieval agricultural landscape. The level of the natural is quite high at 25.02m AOD in T5 and 25.70m AOD in T6, similar to those seen in T1 (25.05m AOD) and T2 (25.61m AOD). Apart from the modern disturbance in T5 and a modern service crossing T6 both trenches were completely devoid of any finds, even residual in the topsoil.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephen Williams and Hills Residential for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and E Holloway. Figures are by B Holloway, E Holloway and L Pooley. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor

10 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at Blue Barn Farm (Plots 6 & 7), Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7DF</i>
CAT Report 1094	2017	Archaeological evaluation at Blue Barn Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex, April 2014 by L Pooley
Charles, M	1984	'Introductory remarks on the cereals.' <i>Bulletin on Sumerian</i>

		<i>Agriculture 1</i> , 17-31.
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>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
English Heritage	2011	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods for Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation</i> . Swindon: English Heritage Publications.
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	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

11 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
EHER	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 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 c AD 1500 to c 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

12 Contents of archive

Finds: none

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1209)

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

13 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM: 2017.48.

Distribution list:

Stephen Williams, Hills Residential
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 21.12.2017

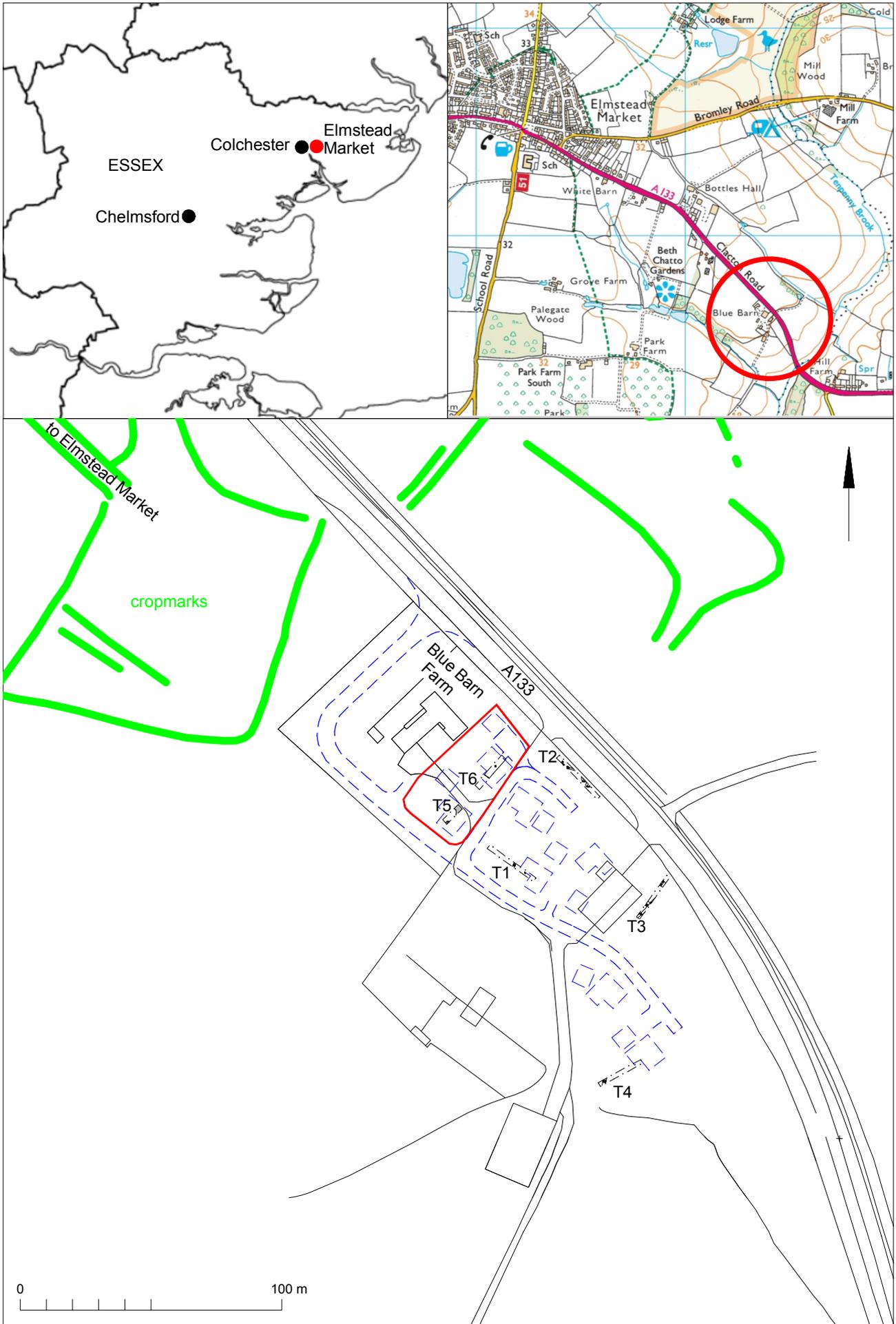


Fig 1 Site location showing trenches T5 and T6 in relation to the April 2017 evaluation trenches T1-T4, the proposed development (dashed blue) and the cropmarks (green)

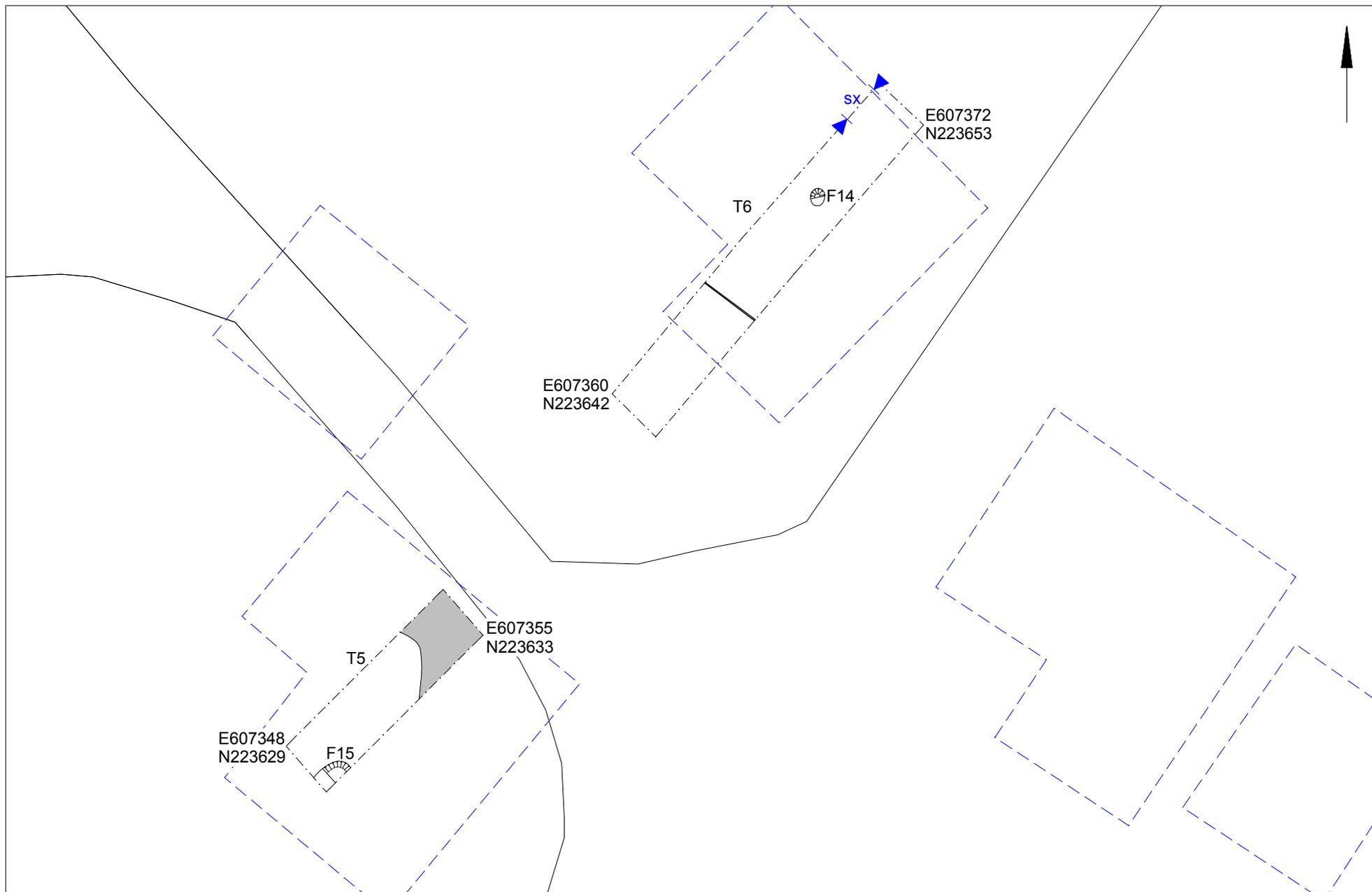


Fig 2 Results (modern features in grey)

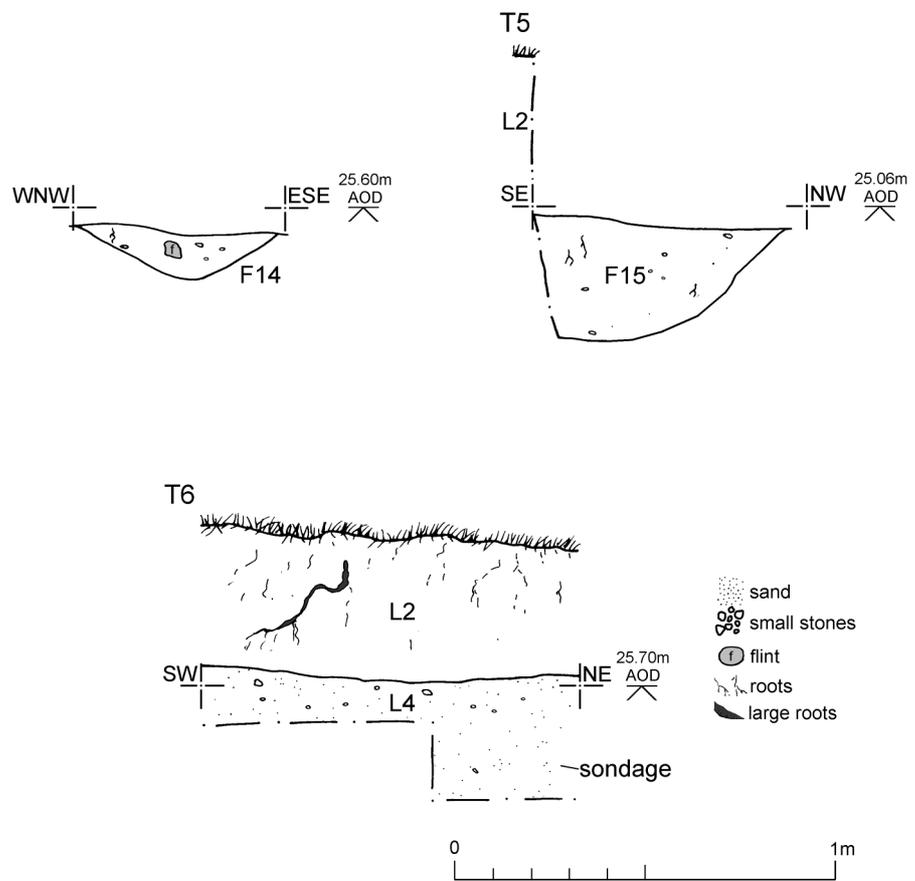


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-302434

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Blue Barn Farm (Phase 2, plots 6 and 7), Elmstead Market, Essex - December 2017
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Phase 2, plots 6 and 7, Blue Barn Farm, Elmstead Market, Essex in advance of the construction of two new detached dwellings with associated garages and access. The development site is located within an area of cropmarks, including that of a possible trackway leading from Elmstead Market. The evaluation revealed two pits, one modern and one undated and two modern services. There was no evidence of features relating to the projected cropmarks or any finds.
Project dates	Start: 11-12-2017 End: 11-12-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	17/111 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	17/01617/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESBB17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.48 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After outline determination (eg. As a reserved matter)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING ELMSTEAD Blue Barn Farm, Elmstead Market
Postcode	CO7 7DF
Study area	0.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 07349 23644 51.87222295172 1.012414457009 51 52 20 N 001 00 44 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.06m Max: 25.7m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	2017.48
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	2017.48
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Blue Barn Farm (Phase 2, Plots 6 and 7), Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7DF
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