

# Archaeological evaluation at Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3TJ

January 2018



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**commissioned by Michael Norcross  
on behalf of Smart Planning Ltd**

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**CAT Report 1225**

February 2018

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	4
7	Discussion	4
8	Acknowledgements	4
9	References	4
10	Abbreviations and glossary	4
11	Contents of archive	5
12	Archive deposition	5
	Appendix 1 Context list	6
	Figures	after p6
	OASIS summary sheet	

## List of photographs, maps and figures

Cover: site shot

Photograph 1	T1 trench shot, looking W	3
Photograph 2	T2 trench shot, looking NNE	3
Map 1	1805 map of East Tilbury, Essex	1
Map 2	1876 OS map (surveyed 1865-6), Essex LXXVI	2
Fig 1	Site location	
Fig 2	Trench results	
Fig 3	Representative sections	

## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Upminster, Essex in advance of the construction of storage units, a stable yard and six residential dwellings. The evaluation uncovered the remains of a collection of nineteenth-century cow sheds which formerly stood at this site.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Upminster, Essex which was carried out on 25th-26th January 2018. The work was commissioned by Michael Norcross of Smart Planning Ltd in advance of the construction of storage units, a stable yard and six residential 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 historic building-recording, archaeological trial trenching and excavation* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2015), 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).

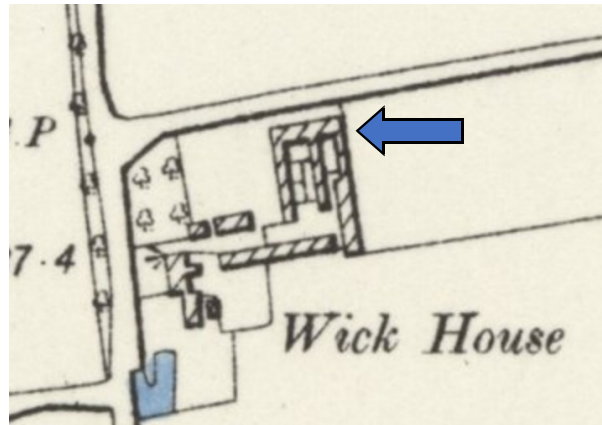
## 3 Archaeological background

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



**Map 1** 1805 map of East Tilbury, Essex

Cartographic evidence shows that the proposed development will impact on historic farm buildings dating to the post-medieval period associated with Wick House, a house formerly standing at this site which was extant from at least the early nineteenth century (see Map 1 above). There is also the potential of encountering remains of a much earlier farm complex on the site. During the nineteenth century, a complex of cow sheds was erected on the site (see Map 2 below). According to the present owner of the property, these cow sheds burnt down during the 1950s, and a new barn was built in their stead.



**Map 2** 1898 OS map (surveyed 1895), Essex LXXVI.NW. The cow sheds are indicated by the blue arrow.

The EHER shows that a World War II road barrier existed to the north of the site on Doesgate Lane (EHER 21503) associated with a bombing decoy airfield further to the east (EHER 16682).

#### 4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3, photographs 1-2)

Six trial-trenches totalling 177m in length were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

##### **Trench 1 (T1): 27m long by 1.8m wide**

T1 was excavated through a layer of modern concrete and crush (L5, c 0.19-0.25m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.18-0.21m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.39-0.44m bcgl). T1 was excavated within the barn which now stands at this site.

Post-medieval/modern building foundations F1 were uncovered at the eastern end of the trench. They comprised of a brick structure with concrete flooring and a ceramic drain pipe. Another modern building foundation, F2, also composed of a brick structure and concrete flooring, was uncovered at the western end of the trench.

##### **Trench 2 (T2): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

T2 was excavated through L5 (c 0.17-0.21m thick) and a modern chalk yard surface (L6, c 0.15-0.22m thick) onto L3. The trench was truncated by modern services and disturbance in several places. T2 was excavated within the barn which now stands at this site.

Modern wall F3 was found towards the northern end of the trench. It was composed of frogged bricks, indicating that it was constructed around or after the mid nineteenth century. Modern concrete surface F4, similar to that of F1, was uncovered midway along the trench. Possibly underlying F4 was F5, a post-medieval/modern gravel surface consolidated with peg-tiles.

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

T3 was excavated through L5 (c 0.3-0.32m thick) and L2 (c 0.08-0.14m thick) onto L3.

Post-medieval/modern gravel surface F6, equivalent to F5, was uncovered at the eastern end of the trench.



**Photograph 1** T1 trench shot – looking west



**Photograph 2** T2 trench shot – looking north north-east

**Trench 4 (T4): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

T4 was excavated through modern surface/crush (L1, c 0.16-0.23m thick, friable/firm, dry/moist sandy-silt and fragmented rubber overlying tarpaulin and crush) through L2 (c 0.35-0.43m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.58-0.6m bcgl).

No significant archaeological remains were encountered.

**Trench 5 (T5): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

T5 was excavated through L1 (c 0.04-0.09m thick) and buried topsoil (L4, c 0.33-0.44m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.42-0.48m bcgl).

No significant archaeological remains were encountered.

**Trench 6 (T6): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

T6 was excavated through L1 and L2 onto L3.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered.

## 6 Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered.

## 7 Discussion

Archaeological excavations at Manor House Farm uncovered some remains of the cow sheds attached to the former Wick House indicated in OS mapping of the area compiled during the 1890s (see Map 2 above). No other remains of archaeological significance were found.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Michael Norcross of Smart Planning for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter and A Tuffey. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

## 9 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3TJ</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECC	2015	<i>Brief for historic building recording, archaeological trial trenching and excavation at Manor House, Doesgate Lane, Bulphan, Richard Havis, March 2015</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	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
EH	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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800

section (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s  
wsi written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1225)

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 Thurrock Museum under accession code, [tbc](#).

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### **Distribution list:**

Michael Norcross, Smart Planning Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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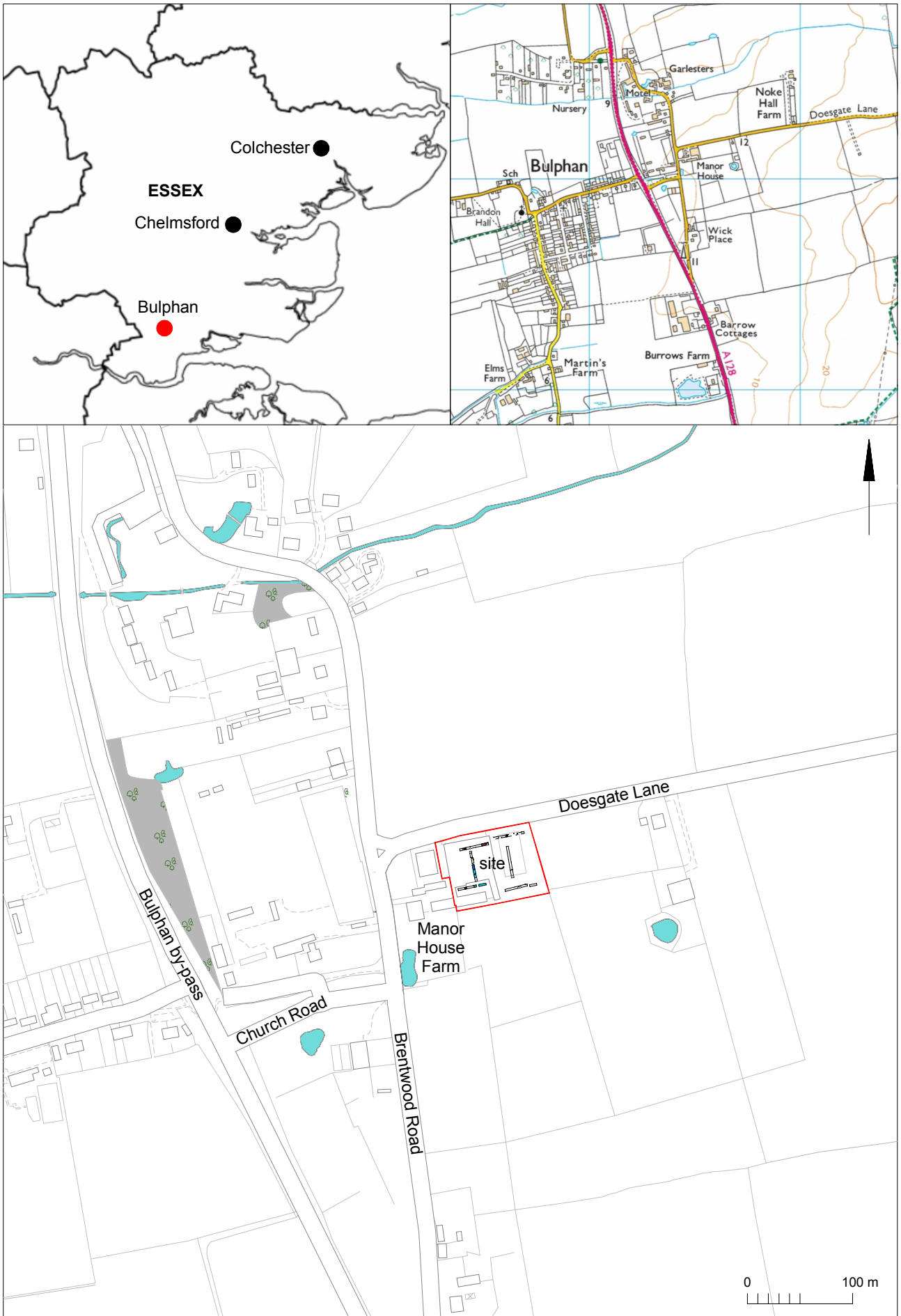
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 9.2.2018

**Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
F1	Building foundations	Brick structure with concrete flooring	Post-medieval / modern
F2	Building foundations	Brick structure with concrete flooring and wooden posts	Modern
F3	Wall	Constructed from frogged bricks	Modern
F4	Concrete surface	Concrete floor surface	Modern
F5	Gravel surface	Gravel floor surface	Post-medieval / modern
F6	Gravel surface	Gravel floor surface	Post-medieval / modern
L1	Modern surface / crush	Friable/firm, dry/moist sandy-silt and fragmented rubber overlying tarpaulin and crush	Modern
L2	Subsoil	Firm, medium yellow/grey/brown silty-clay with >1% tile fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Undatable
L3	Natural	Friable/firm, dry/moist medium yellow/grey clay	Post-glacial
L4	Buried topsoil	Friable dark brown silty-loam with .2% brick and >2% tile fleck inclusions	Undatable
L5	Concrete / crush	Modern concrete/crush layer	Modern
L6	Yard surface	Chalk surface	Modern





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Fig 1 Site location.

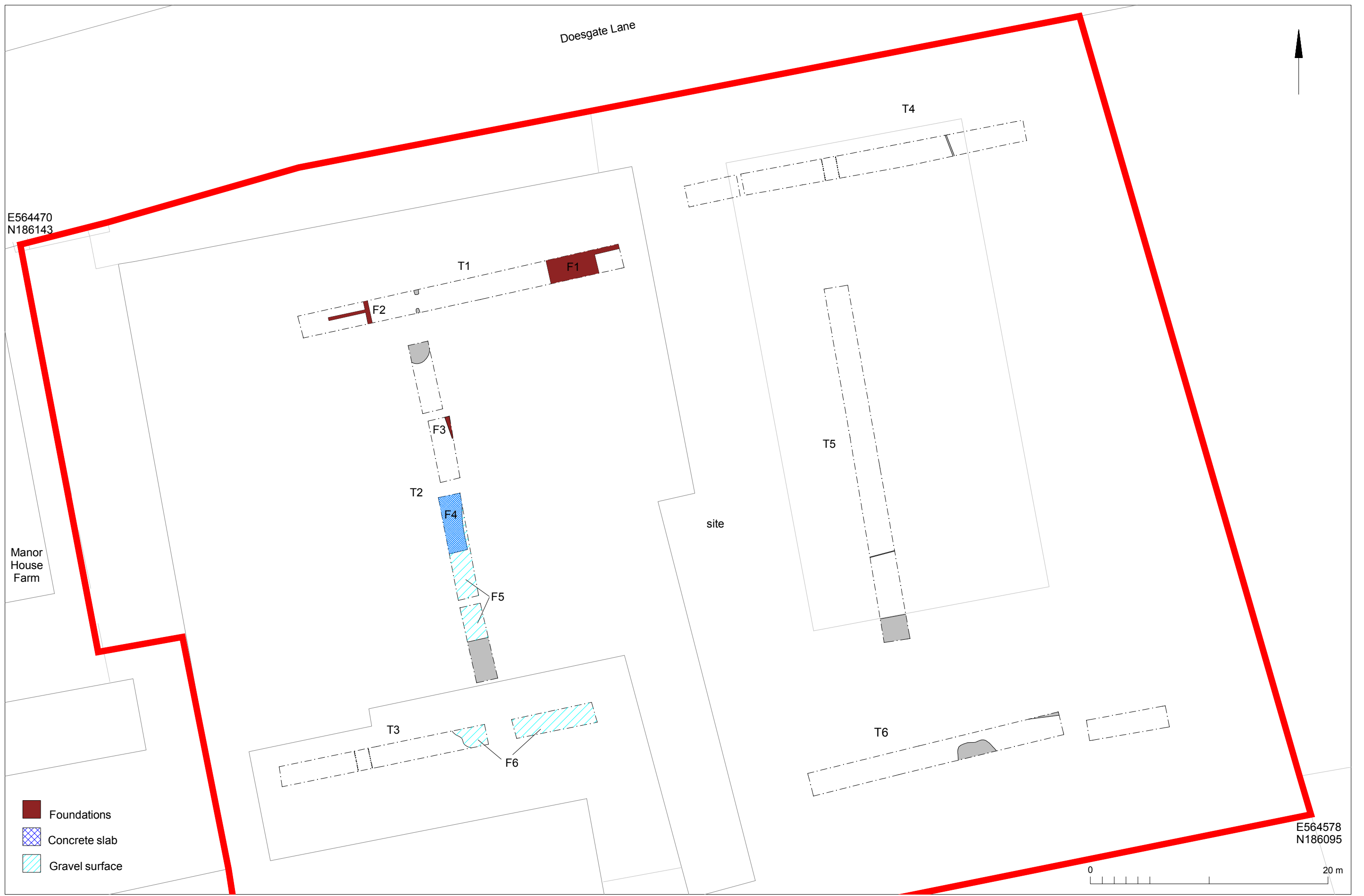
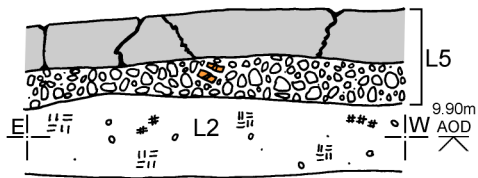
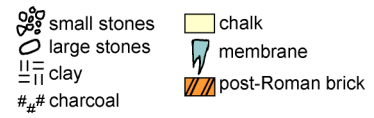
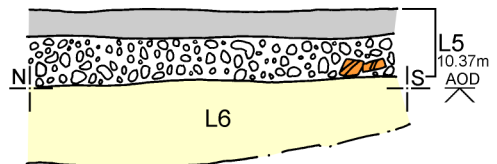


Fig 2 Trench results.

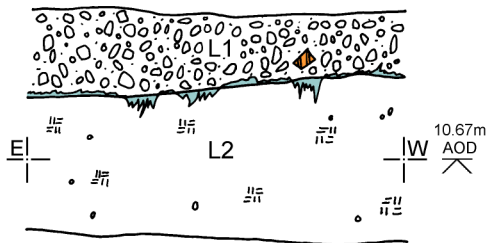
T1



T2



T4



T5

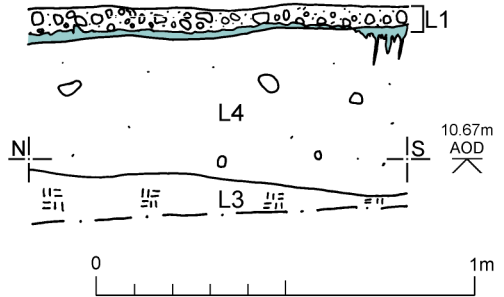


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-242917**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3TJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Upminster, Essex in advance of the construction of storage units, a stable yard and six residential dwellings. The evaluation uncovered the remains of a collection of nineteenth-century cow sheds which formerly stood at this site.
Project dates	Start: 25-01-2018 End: 26-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/02g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	15/00183/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	THMF16 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Monument type	FOUNDATIONS Modern
Monument type	WALL Modern
Monument type	CONCRETE SURFACE Modern
Monument type	GRAVEL SURFACE Post Medieval
Monument type	GRAVEL SURFACE Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX THURROCK BULPHAN Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road
Postcode	RM14 3TJ
Study area	6650 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 64515 86120 51.549436065118 0.373050007507 51 32 57 N 000 22 22 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.8m Max: 10.65m

## 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	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Michael Norcross / Smart Planning Ltd

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	Thurrock Museum
Digital Archive ID	TBC
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"; "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Thurrock Museum
Paper Archive ID	TBC
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"; "Drawing"; "Miscellaneous Material"; "Photograph"; "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Manor House Farm, Brentwood Road, Bulphan, Upminster, Essex, RM14 3TJ
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1225
Date	2018
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/</a>
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