

Archaeological evaluation at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 1JG

June 2018



by Mark Baister

figures by Mark Baister
and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Nigel Rayner, Adam Tuffey,
Elliot Hicks, Alec Wade and Robin Mathieson

**commissioned by Sworders
on behalf of David Harvey**

NGR: TL 47452 22985 (centre)

Planning ref.: 3/17/0407/FUL

CAT project ref.: 17/08f

OASIS ref.: colchest3-292568



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: mb@catuk.org

CAT Report 1288
July 2018

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	3
6	Finds	10
7	Discussion	14
8	Acknowledgements	15
9	References	15
10	Abbreviations and glossary	16
11	Contents of archive	16
12	Archive deposition	16
	Appendix 1: Context List	18
	Figures	after p19
	HHER summary sheet	
	CAT WSI	
	OASIS summary sheet	

List of photographs and figures

Cover: working shot in T4

	pg
Photograph 1 Long shot of T1 from west. F14 visible in foreground. Photograph taken facing north-east.	3
Photograph 2 Section in T1 across F18, exposing F16, F17, F20 and F21. Photograph taken facing east.	4
Photograph 3 Detailed shot of section through F18, showing F20 and F21's redeposited natural fill (to right). Photograph taken facing east.	4
Photograph 4 Ditch F16 cut through F18 in T1. Photograph taken facing south-east.	5
Photograph 5 Long shot of T2, showing unexcavated F13 and contaminated natural. Photograph taken facing south-west.	6
Photograph 6 Long shot of T3, showing modern service and edge of backfilled pond. Photograph taken facing north-east.	7
Photograph 7 Long shot of T4, showing gravelly natural L3 and F10, F11 and F12. Photograph taken facing north-west.	8
Photograph 8 F9 and F10 section. Photograph taken facing south-east.	9
Fig 1 Site location with evaluation results.	
Fig 2 Detailed plan of site, with phasing and extrapolated ditches.	
Fig 3 Detailed trench plans, with phasing.	
Fig 4 Plan showing evaluation results in relation to proposed development.	
Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire in advance of the erection of a new office building and café/restaurant, with associated parking.

Little evidence was found that relates to the historical 16th/17th century farmstead, which could date back as far as 1487. The only discovery that may have been associated with it was a backfilled pond, that occupied the majority of one of the trenches.

There were, however, multiple Roman features uncovered, with most dating from the late 3rd/4th century. These were largely pits and ditches, including two ditches that may form the corner of an enclosure. A large Roman feature was tentatively identified as a quarry pit and was cut through by several later Roman features.

A single Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch indicates the possibility of earlier activity on the site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire which was carried out on the 11th-12th June 2018. The work was commissioned by Sworders on behalf of Mr David Harvey in advance of erection of one office building and one café/restaurant, as well as associated parking. The work was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning (HCCERP), Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) Alison Tinniswood 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). This was to take the form of a programme of archaeological trial-trenching.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by the HEA (HEUHCC 2012), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the HEA (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), 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), *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b) and *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014c).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway and an archaeological desk-based assessment carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in 2010 (Letch 2010).

The proposed development site is located to the north-west of the Roman and medieval town of Bishop's Stortford and within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 115, as identified in the Local Plan. This covers Wickham Hall, a Grade II listed

16th/17th-century timber-framed farmhouse (HHER no. 10918), and the fields immediately to its east.

There are references to a probable manorial site at this location dating back as far as 1487, suggesting that Wickham Hall had medieval origins with the original manor house being replaced sometime in the 16th century/17th century. There are also references to an earlier medieval settlement, possibly a deserted village, related to earthworks to the north-west of the farmhouse, and pottery has been recovered from this area (Letch 2010). The settlement may even have had Saxon origins as Wickham is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the place-name is an Old English form (*ibid*).

As well as the farmhouse, two 17th-century aisled barns and an outbuilding are also listed and are arranged around a central courtyard. Other later farm buildings of mid-late 19th-to 20th-century date were not listed and some have been demolished as part of the proposed development with others converted (see below).

Older remains are located in fields to the south of the A120 which include evidence for prehistoric settlement, particularly of Late Iron Age date (eg HHER nos. 30299 and 30301).

The site has already been the subject of several archaeological investigations in advance of the proposed development:

- 1) Roman pottery was recovered from test-pits excavated prior to the construction of a stable block in 1999 (Heritage Network Report 80). This building was subsequently demolished.
- 2) A comprehensive archaeological desk-based assessment, site inspection and preliminary trial-trenching was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in October 2010 (Letch 2010). Although documentary evidence and pottery finds suggested the possibility of Roman, Saxon and medieval remains, no archaeological remains were identified in the three trial-trenches. Two trenches showed a build-up of 0.4-0.5m of subsoil and topsoil above natural and the third suggested that parts of the central area of the farm may have been levelled with clay within the modern era (*ibid*).
- 3) A comprehensive historic building recording of all farm buildings due to be converted was carried out by CAT in 2012 (CAT Report 733).
- 4) A small test-pit evaluation was simultaneously carried out during the historic building recording. Five test-pits were dug through the floors of the buildings highlighted for conversion to assess the impact of groundworks required for new floors, underpinning works, etc (CAT unpublished summary report by A Wightman 2012). This work concluded that, with the possibly exception of the larger of the aisled buildings, any trace of original floors has been destroyed by subsequent activity (ie the laying of concrete floors), and that it was unlikely that groundworks would have any significant impact on underlying archaeology.

4 Aims

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the extent of any existing archaeological deposits within the site, and to determine whether further investigation is necessary.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Four 30m-long and 1.8m wide archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The features uncovered in the trenches are summarised below. Appendix 1 describes them in more detail.

Trench 1 (T1)



Photograph 1 Long shot of T1 from west. F14 visible in foreground. Photograph taken facing north-east.

T1 was aligned north-east to south-west and was the northernmost trench on the site, located in an area of proposed car parking (Fig 4). It was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 250mm thick), before encountering L2, a firm moist medium grey/brown subsoil that was observed in all the trenches (see below). In T1, however, it varied in thickness substantially, being c 150mm thick at the north-eastern end of the trench and c 560mm thick at the south-western end (Photograph 1). Beneath this was the natural subsoil, a firm yellow/brown silty clay (L3).

Six features were uncovered in T1.

F14 was a Roman ditch with a 'U'-shaped profile, aligned WNW-ESE in the south-west end of T1. It was 1.45m wide and 0.37m deep.

F15 was a Roman ditch with a 'U'-shaped profile, aligned NNE-SSW in the centre of T1. It was 1.1m wide and 0.19m deep, and visible in plan cutting through F18.

F16 was a late 3rd-/4th-century Roman ditch with a 'U'-shaped profile, aligned north-west to south-east in the centre of T1 (Photograph 4). Much like F15 it was cut through the large feature F18, although unlike F15, F16 was totally invisible in plan.



Photograph 2 Section in T1 across F18, exposing F16, F17, F20 and F21. Photograph taken facing east.



Photograph 3 Detailed shot of section through F18, showing F20 and F21's redeposited natural fill (to right). Photograph taken facing east.

F17 was a large late 3rd-/4th-century Roman pit just north-east of the centre of T1. It was cut through the larger feature F18, and its extent was not visible in plan. A section across F18 revealed both F16 (see above), F17, F20 and F21, and showed F17's width to be c 4m. F17 was not bottomed during the evaluation due to the confined space and

depth (Photograph 2).

F18 was a very large Roman feature of indeterminate depth and with an uncertain purpose. It was cut to the north-east by the modern ditch F19 (see below), and its only edge was 13m to the south-west, just beyond F15. F15, F16, F17, F19, F20 and F21 all cut this feature, although only F15 and F19 were visible in plan as doing so (see above).

F19 was a 2.1m wide modern ditch aligned NNE-SSW in the north-east end of T1. Modern finds were recovered from its surface and as a result it was not excavated.

F20 was an undated discrete feature cut into the top of the large feature F18. It was itself cut by F21. The fill of F20 was entirely redeposited natural clay and sand, it was not apparent as a feature until observed in section (Fig 5). No finds were recovered from F20, and its edges were not clear in plan. It was 380mm deep.

F21 was very similar to F20 in that it was an undated discrete feature filled with redeposited natural. Unlike F20, however, it contained far less sand, and contained some bands of silty grey/brown fill as well as the redeposited natural. F20 and F21 may possibly have been the same feature, but this difference in the fill was considered sufficient to record them separately. F21's edge was not apparent in plan and it was only identified in section. It was 360mm deep.



Photograph 4 Ditch F16 cut through F18 in T1. Photograph taken facing south-east.

Trench 2 (T2)



Photograph 5 Long shot of T2, showing unexcavated F13 and contaminated natural. Photograph taken facing south-west.

T2 was aligned NNE to SSW and was located within the footprint of the proposed office building (Fig 4). The southern c 4m of the trench was separated from the rest by a fence-line (Fig 2).

T2 was excavated partially through a concrete surface and associated sub-base (to the north - L4, c 180mm thick) and partially through modern topsoil (to the south - L1, c 250mm thick), before encountering L2 (c 260mm thick), a firm moist medium grey/brown subsoil that was also observed in the other trenches. To the south of the trench this sealed the natural subsoil (L3). The north of the trench contained another layer between L2 and L3; L5, a poorly defined layer, c 200mm thick, that was heavily disturbed by multiple modern services. As a result it was only partially investigated, but contained several sherds of late 3rd-/4th-century Roman pottery (see Finds).

The machining of T2 uncovered four modern services, which curtailed the mechanical excavation of the centre of the trench (Fig 3). Only the northern and southern ends of the trench exposed natural subsoil (L3) and features. A small sondage was hand dug into L5 between the modern services but no features were identified within it.

Two features were uncovered in T2.

F12 was a Roman ditch with a 'V'-shaped profile (Fig 5) aligned north-south in the centre of T2. It was 1.4m wide and 0.41m deep. Two modern services cut across it.

F13 was an undated 2m wide pit in the northern end of T2. Several animal bone fragments were observed on its surface. It was left unexcavated during the evaluation due to suspected diesel/petrol contamination of the surrounding soil (Photograph 5).

Trench 3 (T3)



Photograph 6 Long shot of T3, showing modern service and edge of backfilled pond. Photograph taken facing north-east.

T3 was aligned NNE to SSW and was located within the footprint of the proposed café/restaurant (Fig 4). The southern half of the trench was realigned during excavation to avoid a modern service (Fig 3).

Most of T3 was excavated through a backfilled pond, the edge of which was encountered c 6m from the southern end of the trench (Photograph 6). The entire trench was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 350mm thick).

Below the topsoil in the pond was L6, a c 560mm thick friable wet dark greyish brown clayey silt. This forms the backfill of the pond and was quite homogeneous and sterile, with some CBM flecking but no finds observed during machining. This sealed the natural clay subsoil (L3), which, beneath the backfilled pond, was much more mottled and grey than elsewhere (Photograph 6).

Outside of the pond, L3 was instead sealed by L2, the subsoil seen in the other trenches, although it was considerably thinner at only c 100mm thick.

Two features were uncovered in T3, both of them sealed beneath the backfilled pond and L6.

F7 was a late 3rd-/4th-century Roman ditch with a 'U'-shaped profile aligned east-west at the very north of T3. It was c 3m wide and 0.48m deep. It was cut to the south by the shallower F8 (see below).

F8 was an irregular-shaped late 3rd-/4th-century Roman pit at the north end of T3, cutting into the south edge of F7 (Fig 4). It was c 2m wide and 0.39m deep.

Trench 4 (T4)



Photograph 7 Long shot of T4, showing gravelly natural L3 and F10, F11 and F12. Photograph taken facing north-west.

T4 was aligned WNW to SSE and was located in an area of proposed car parking (Fig 4). The eastern half of the trench was realigned during excavation to avoid a large tree stump and a concrete stanchion.

T4 was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 250mm thick), which sealed the subsoil (L2, c 200mm thick), as was observed in other trenches. Below this was the natural clay (L3). At the very eastern end of the trench the natural subsoil (L3) changes from clay to a patch of loose grey gravel (Photograph 7).

Nine features were uncovered in T4.

F1 was a late 3rd-/4th-century Roman ditch terminus/elongated pit in the western end of the trench. It was 750mm wide and 90mm deep. It cut through a small pit F2 to the west.

F2 was an undated small pit at the western end of T4, cut through by F1. It was 350mm wide and 120mm deep.

F3 was a shallow undated linear with a 'U'-shaped profile in the western half of T4. It was 910mm wide and between 50mm and 190mm deep. It was cut by small pits F4 and F5 (Fig 3).

F4 was a small undated circular pit cutting the east side of F3. It was 520mm wide and 80mm deep.

F5 was a small late 3rd-/4th-century Roman pit cutting the west side of F3. It was

490mm wide and 80mm deep.

F6 was a Roman ditch with a 'V'-shaped profile aligned north-south in the eastern half of the trench. It was 900mm wide and 350mm deep.

F9 was a Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch with a 'U'-shaped profile aligned north-west to south-east in the eastern half of the trench. It was 700mm wide and 150mm deep, and cut to the east by F10 (Photograph 8).

F10 was a late 3rd-/4th-century Roman ditch with a 'V'-shaped profile (Fig 5) aligned north-south in the eastern half of the trench. It was 1.4m wide and 0.68m deep, and cut F10 to the west, while itself being cut by F11 to the east (Fig 3).

F11 was an undated oval pit in the eastern half of the trench. It was 1m wide and 0.22m deep. It cut the deeper ditch F10 to the west.



Photograph 8 F9 and F10 section. Photograph taken facing south-east.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

All of the finds recovered are listed and described in Table 2.

A small quantity of prehistoric finds were recovered, consisting of worked flints and a few sherds of hand-made, flint-tempered pottery. The pottery is likely to be of Bronze Age or, probably more likely, Iron Age date. One of the flints is possibly of Early Neolithic date, while another is perhaps a piercer/borer tool. One or two burnt flints recovered could also belong with the prehistoric finds but are not closely dated.

There is a single sherd in grog-tempered fabric of probable Late Iron Age date, but the great majority of the finds are Roman. Much of the more closely dated pottery is late 3rd-4th century, the most common vessel form being the late dated flanged bowl B6 (Going 1987). There is a single small sherd of samian of 2nd-(perhaps 3rd-) century date and this is the only import among the assemblage. Otherwise the pottery consists primarily of local finewares in the form of Hadham oxidised wares (Fabric 4), Grey & Black surface coarsewares in similar fabric (Fabrics 35 & 36), that are also probably Hadham products, as well as a significant number of sherds in coarse sand-tempered fabrics. Some of these latter sherds (Fabrics 47A & 47B) appear similar to Horningsea wares (Cambridge). However, Great Chesterford (Essex), located some distance north of the site here at Wickham Hall, appears to be the furthest south of the distribution of this pottery (Evan 2017, 80-82) and another source for some or all of these appears probable. It is noted that unsourced, possibly similar coarse sand fabrics are a significant component of the coarse pottery at Boxfield Farm, Chells (Stevenage) (Waugh 1999, Fabrics 48-50) and this may reflect a wider occurrence of coarse sandy fabrics in the Hertfordshire area. There is also a small quantity of Roman brick and tile, including combed flue tile pieces.

Of note are two, possibly three counters. Two are of Roman pottery (from F7 & F8 in T3) and one of Roman tile (from F7 in T3). The pottery counters are both formed from pot bases with the pot wall removed down to the base ring. This is clearly deliberate in one instance (F8) with smoothing of the broken edges. The other (F7) is more dubious consisting of a rough counter shape formed by the base of the pot. The tile counter has been roughly chipped into a near circular form and some grinding smooth of the edges appears to have taken place.

None of the pottery appears to be medieval and this is supported by the diagnostic vessel forms, which are all Roman. Also, almost all of the ceramic building material (CBM) recovered appears to be Roman or is probably so. Later dated (post-Roman) finds consist of a small piece of what looks to be peg-tile (from F14 in T1) which is intrusive and probably either medieval or post-medieval in date and the finds from one feature (F19 in T1) which are of modern date. Other finds include a small assemblage of animal bone (with pieces recovered from several contexts) and a few finds that are present as just one or two pieces which include oyster shell and fired clay.

The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 1. The numbered Roman fabrics and form types refer to the Chelmsford (Essex) fabric and form series (Going 1987). The post-Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1985).

Fabric code	Fabric name
<i>Prehistoric:</i>	
HMF	Hand-made flint-tempered (general)
<i>Roman:</i>	
GROG	Grog-tempered ware Late Iron Age 'Belgic'-type
SACG	Central Gaulish samian
21	Miscellaneous oxidised red wares
35	Hadham black surface wares
36	Hadham greywares
44	Storage jar fabrics
47	Miscellaneous sandy greywares
47A	Hard coarse sandy greyware
47B	Moderate-hard coarse sandy greyware, tending to buff/red-brown in break
51	Late shell-tempered ware
<i>Post-Roman:</i>	
45G	English stonewares

Table 1 Pottery fabrics

Evaluation Trench	Ctxt	Ctxt type	Find no	Type/description	Finds spot date
T1	F14 (upper fill)	ditch	16	Pottery: LIA/Roman & Roman Fabric GROG single sherd (6 g) Fabric 4 (5 sherds, 14 g) Fabric 35 (1 sherd, 4 g) Fabric 47 (2 sherds, 4 g) Fabric 47B single sherd (14 g) CBM: Roman RBT (2 pieces, 96 g) one orange-red with grey core, other small piece, orange fine sand fabric. Post-Roman single piece, thin sandy tile – appears to be peg-tile (late medieval-post-medieval)	Roman with one fragment of intrusive post-Roman CBM
T1	F14 (lower fill)	ditch	17	Pottery: Roman Fabric 21 single sherd (20 g) coarse sandy fabric CBM: Roman , single piece (58 g) orange fine-medium sand fabric	Roman
T1	F15	ditch	18	Pottery: Roman Fabric 4 (11 sherds, 102 g) Fabric 36 (2 sherds, 18 g) Fabric 47 (1 sherd, 82 g) sherd from large vessel, dark fine sand fabric with buff surface CBM: Roman RBT (2 pieces, 20 g) Hadham-like fabric Animal bone: half of an end of a cattle metapodial	Roman
T1	F16	ditch	19	Pottery: Roman Fabric 4, single sherd (6 g) slightly abraded	Roman 3rd/late 3rd-4th century
T1	F17	pit?	20	Pottery: Roman Fabric SACG (single sherd (2 g), quite limestone dominated fabric but with plate mica indicating Central Gaul (2nd century) - <i>small hooked rim, possibly from form O&P LV 13 (Webster 1996) (late 1st- 3rd century, commonly 2nd century)</i> Fabric 4 (6 sherds, 36 g) some slightly abraded Fabric 36 single sherd (2 g) Fabric 47A single sherd (14 g) Form B6 rim (late 3rd-4th century) Fabric 47B (2 sherds, 6 g) CBM: Roman RBT single small piece (14 g) abraded Heat affected stone: crazed (not calcified) burnt flint (20 g)	Roman late 3rd-4th century
T1	F18	quarry pit?	23	Pottery: Roman Fabric 21 (2 sherds, 10) fine sand fabric with some pale silty clay CBM: Roman RBT/RB single piece c 30 mm thick (292 g) abraded – fine sand fabric reminiscent of Hadham	Roman

Evaluation Trench	Ctxt	Ctxt type	Find no	Type/description	Finds spot date
				Animal bone: Horse tooth	
T1	F18	quarry pit?	21	Pottery: Roman Fabric 47A (1 sherds, 12 g) Flint: retouched tertiary hard hammer flake, small area of retouch close to shoulder (right lateral), and small retouched notch(?) on left lateral some damage/use wear to edges - dated prehistoric (Mesolithic-Bronze Age, most likely Early Neolithic)	Roman (2nd-early 4th century?) (residual prehistoric)
T1	F19	ditch	22	Pottery: Modern Fabric 45G (modern) (3 sherds, 412 g) (19th-early 20th century) Glass: vessel glass- wine bottle base in green glass (c 19th-early 20th century) 2 other pale green bottle sherds (total 3 pieces, 398 g) Other: forged iron nail (80 mm long)	Modern (c 19th-early 20th century)
T2	F12	ditch	14	Pottery: Roman Fabric 4 (9 sherds, 124 g), includes sherds from the rim of a large jar Fabric 35 (1 sherd, 10 g) Fabric 44 (5 sherds, 66 g) all from same pot, coarse sandy fabric, common elongated voids possibly from leached out shell(?) Fabric 47 (1 sherd, 4 g) Fabric 47A (3 sherds, 42 g) Fabric 47B (1 sherd, 8 g) CBM: Roman RBT (3 pieces, 78 g) oxidised Hadham-like fabric Other: tar lump/modern surfacing (10 g)	Roman
T2	L5		15	Pottery: Roman Fabric 4 (3 sherds, 22 g) includes Form B6-type rim (mid/late 3rd-4th century) Fabric 21 (1 sherd, 4 g) Fabric 35 (4 sherds, 66 g) Fabric 36 (6 sherds, 42 g) Fabric 47A (9 sherds, 236 g) includes large bowl/jar with thick rim Fabric 47B (7 sherds, 138 g) includes necked jar rim and bowl with bead rim. CBM: Roman RFT, comb keyed face, fine sandy orange Hadham-like fabric (100 g); RBT single piece orange sandy fabric (20 g) Animal bone: Cattle tooth (laminating) Heat affected stone: crazed (not calcified) burnt flint (16 g)	Roman mid/late 3rd-4th century
T3	F7	ditch	8	Pottery: Roman Fabric 4 (2 sherds, 192 g) includes dish form B2-type rim Fabric 35 (2 sherds, 34 g) includes Form B2 rim (c 2nd-3rd century) Fabric 36 (6 sherds, 410 g) includes narrow-necked jar with plain shoulder cordon Form G36 (c 2nd-3rd century) and Form B6-type rim (late 3rd-4th century) Fabric 47 (1 sherd, 12 g) Fabric 47A 1(1 sherd, 22 g) jar rim, pale grey coarse sandy fabric CBM: Roman RI (1 piece, 76 g) RBT (1 piece, 246 g) grey core, cut into the form of a counter (dia c 100 mm)	Roman late 3rd-4th century
T3	F7	ditch	8	Pottery: Roman Fabric 36 (3 sherds, 52 g) Form B6 rim (late 3rd-4th century) Fabric 47 single sherd (18 g) Fabric 47B (2 sherds, 34 g) CBM: RI single piece (72 g) fine sand fabric Animal Bone: includes adult cattle tibia with cut marks, juvenile cattle tibia, cattle metacarpal (3 pieces with cut marks, cattle tibia Shell: oyster, single shell (18 g)	Roman late 3rd-4th century
T3	F7	ditch	9	Pottery: Roman Fabric 35 (1 sherd, 78 g) base modified (roughly cut down) into a counter (dia 85 mm) Fabric 36 (4 sherds 156 g) includes Form B6-type rim (mid/late 3rd-4th century) Fabric 47 (6 sherds, 182 g) Fabric 47B (4 sherds, 132 g) jar base	Roman mid/late 3rd-4th century

Evaluation Trench	Ctxt	Ctxt type	Find no	Type/description	Finds spot date
				CBM: Roman RBT (1 piece, 164 g) orange surfaces broad grey core, moderate (coloured) quartz sand RBT Abraded piece (1 piece, 380 g) abraded fine sand, appearance of Hadham oxidised-type fabric Shell: oyster shell (1)	
T3	F8	Pit?	7	Pottery: Roman Fabric 47 (1 sherd, 126 g) thick sherd from large vessel, possibly Hadham greyware Fabric 47B (1 sherd, 36 g) fabric Fabric 51 jar base (132) possibly a very rough counter (dia c 95 mm) CBM: Roman RT flange piece (92 g) orange with grey core - Hadham-like fabric RFT comb keyed surface, two joining pieces (98 g) buff-brown with grey core, Hadham-like fabric Flint: small waste piece/broken flake - some cortex on dorsal surface, retouched notch at one side of plunge fracture at distal end of flake has produced the effect of a narrow tip so that the piece could be utilised as a borer, natural hole through flake on edge of flake with cortex lining - dated prehistoric (Neolithic-Bronze Age) Animal bone: Cattle tooth	Roman (3rd-4th century?) (residual prehistoric)
T4	F1	linear/pit	1	Pottery: Roman Fabric 4 single sherd (4 g) abraded Fabric 21 single sandy sherd (2 g) Fabric 47 single sherd (28 g) Fabric 47A single sherd (4 g) Fabric 35 (3 sherds, 4 g) CBM: Roman RBT one small piece (16 g) fine sand fabric	Roman (3rd-4th century?)
T4	F2	pit	2	Other: natural flint stone - discarded	
T4	F5	pit	5	CBM: Roman RT single flange piece (316 g), orange sandy fabric, grey core, lower cut away (LCA) Warry Type-D15 – late Roman?)	Roman (c 3rd-4th century?)
T4	F6	ditch	6	Pottery: Prehistoric Fabric HMF (2 sherds, 12 g) moderately hard, sandy, flint-tempered, BA-IA? Roman Fabric 21 single orange sherd (6 g) abraded fabric 47A single sherd (2 g)	Roman (with residual prehistoric)
T4	F9	ditch	10	Pottery: Prehistoric Fabric HMF (2 sherds, 8 g) BA-IA? Flint: dubious worked piece, possibly natural, cortex on one face, possible use wear in centre of curving edge	Prehistoric (Bronze Age- Iron Age)
T4	F10	ditch	11	Pottery: Roman Fabric 4, single sherd (10 g) Fabric 47 single sherd (18 g), coarse sandy greyware Fabric 47A (2 sherds, 30 g) Form B6 (late 3rd-4th century) CBM: Roman (4 pieces, 106 g) orange buff (3) orange with grey core (1) Fired clay: (4 pieces, 32 g) silty-buff/pale orange (3), sandy brownish orange (1) abraded Flint: secondary waste flake - cortex on distal end, reasonably broad striking platform, some damage/use wear on part of one edge- dated prehistoric (Neolithic-Bronze Age)	Roman late 3rd-4th century (residual prehistoric)
T4	L2	subsoil	3	Pottery: Roman Fabric 47B quite sandy buff fabric (presumed Roman)	Roman
T4	US		4	Pottery: Roman Fabric 21 single rim sherd (6 g) abraded Fabric 47A single sherd (8 g)	Roman (2-3/4C?)

Table 2 Finds by Evaluation Trench and context

Key: RT=Roman *tegula* tile; RI=Roman *imbrex* tile; RFT=Roman flue tile; RBT=Roman brick or tile

7 Discussion

This evaluation uncovered a significant number of archaeological features, almost entirely of AD c 275 – c 400 date. Nothing was uncovered that could be associated with the surviving 16th/17th century farmstead, with the possible exception of the backfilled pond in T3 (see below).

The Roman features largely comprised pits and ditches. Presumably the ditches form part of field systems or enclosures. Unfortunately, no historic landscape could be extrapolated (Fig 2) with the exception of a possible enclosure defined by the two ditches at right-angles in T1 (F14 and F15).

L5 within T2 was unclear in plan due to the multiple modern services cutting across that trench. There is a possibility that it is a feature, the edges of which were never observed (again due to the aforementioned services).

F18 in T1 is amongst the most inscrutable of the features encountered, and providing a satisfactory interpretation of it is challenging. The finds recovered from it, and being cut by multiple Roman features, obviously implies it is Roman or earlier in origin. It has a clear edge with the natural subsoil to the west (as noted on pg 5) and is not present to the east of F19 (Fig 3), suggesting it is a discrete feature rather than, for example, a layer of subsoil.

The relative lack of finds from F18 (see Finds above) makes it unlikely it was dug as a rubbish pit. Perhaps the most tenable interpretation of F18 is that it was a quarry pit, presumably for the extraction of clay. This would explain its large size and scarcity of finds in its backfill. Unfortunately the limitations of observing such a large feature in an evaluation trench means that this must be proposed as merely a possible interpretation, rather than a definite one. If any future archaeological work is undertaken on this site than further investigation into this feature would certainly be beneficial.

The finds from the evaluation suggest there was occupation on the site in the late Roman period (i.e. late 3rd-4th century). No structural evidence was discovered in any of the trenches, but there was Roman roof tile and combed flue tile in some contexts.

The only direct evidence of pre-Roman activity is F9, the Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch in T4. Its alignment is substantially different to the Roman ditches surrounding it; suggesting it could be part of an earlier field system that the Roman ditches have overlain (Fig 2). A small number of residual flints and sherds of prehistoric pottery were also recovered from Roman features, suggesting there may be limited prehistoric activity in proximity to the evaluation site.

The four undated features in T4 can probably be assigned to the Roman period, given the prevailing nature of the archaeology uncovered on this site, but are left as undated on the plans (Figs 2 and 3).

The backfilled pond in T3, although also undated, is likely to be later in date. Given its proximity to the still open pond to the west (Fig 1), it is probably associated with the historic farmstead.

In contrast to the previous below-ground archaeological investigations at Wickham Hall (see Archaeological background pg 2), this evaluation has uncovered widespread archaeological remains. Every trench contained multiple Roman features, and although no structures were found, the finds recovered suggest there was Roman occupation on, or in proximity to, the site in the late 3rd-/4th-century.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Sworders and Mr David Harvey for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with N Rayner, A Tuffey, A Wade, E Hicks and R Mathieson. Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Hertfordshire County Council by Alison Tinniswood.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, D H | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . Second Edition. Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF) |
| Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J. | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAT | 2017 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2018 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land at Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7AB</i> |
| CAT Report 733 | 2013 | <i>Historic building recording at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire</i> by Lister, C |
| CifA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CifA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| CifA | 2014c | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> |
| Cunningham, C. | 1985 | 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex' in Cunningham, C., & Drury, P., <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report 54 |
| DCLG | 2012 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> |
| Evans, J., Macaulay, S., & Mills, P. | 2017 | <i>The Horningsea Roman pottery industry in context</i> , East Anglian Archaeology 162 |
| Heritage Network report 80 | 1999 | <i>Wickham Hall Farm, Bishops's Stortford, Herts. Archaeological Field Assessment</i> |
| Historic England | 2015 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Going, C. | 1987 | <i>The mansio and other sites in the south-eastern sector of Caesaromagus; the Roman pottery</i> , CBA Research Report 62 |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Letch, A | 2010 | <i>Wickham Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire: Archaeological deskbased assessment, site inspection and preliminary trial-trenching</i> |
| Hertfordshire Museums | 2017 | <i>Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards: A countywide standard for the creation, compilation, and transfer of archaeological archives in Hertfordshire</i> . |
| 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) |
| Warry, P. | 2006 | <i>Tegulae, manufacture, typology and use in Roman Britain</i> , BAR British Series 417 |
| Waugh, K. | 1999 | 'Roman coarse pottery' in Going, C., <i>Excavations at Boxfield Farm, Chells, Stevenage, Hertfordshire</i> , Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust Report No. 2 |
| Webster, P. | 1996 | <i>Roman samian pottery in Britain</i> , CBA Practical Handbook in Archaeology 13 |
| Wightman, A | 2012 | <i>Summary of test-pitting at Wickham Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire</i> |

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from 2000 to c 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
HHER	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
HCCERP	Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning
HEUHCC	Historic Environment Unit Hertfordshire County Council
Iron Age	period from c 700 BC to 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
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	period from AD 43 to c 410
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: 1 museum box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1288)

HCC 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 Bishop's Stortford Museum under accession code: 17/08f.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2018

Distribution list:

Sworders

Mr David Harvey

Alison Tinniswood, Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning

Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: mb@catuk.org

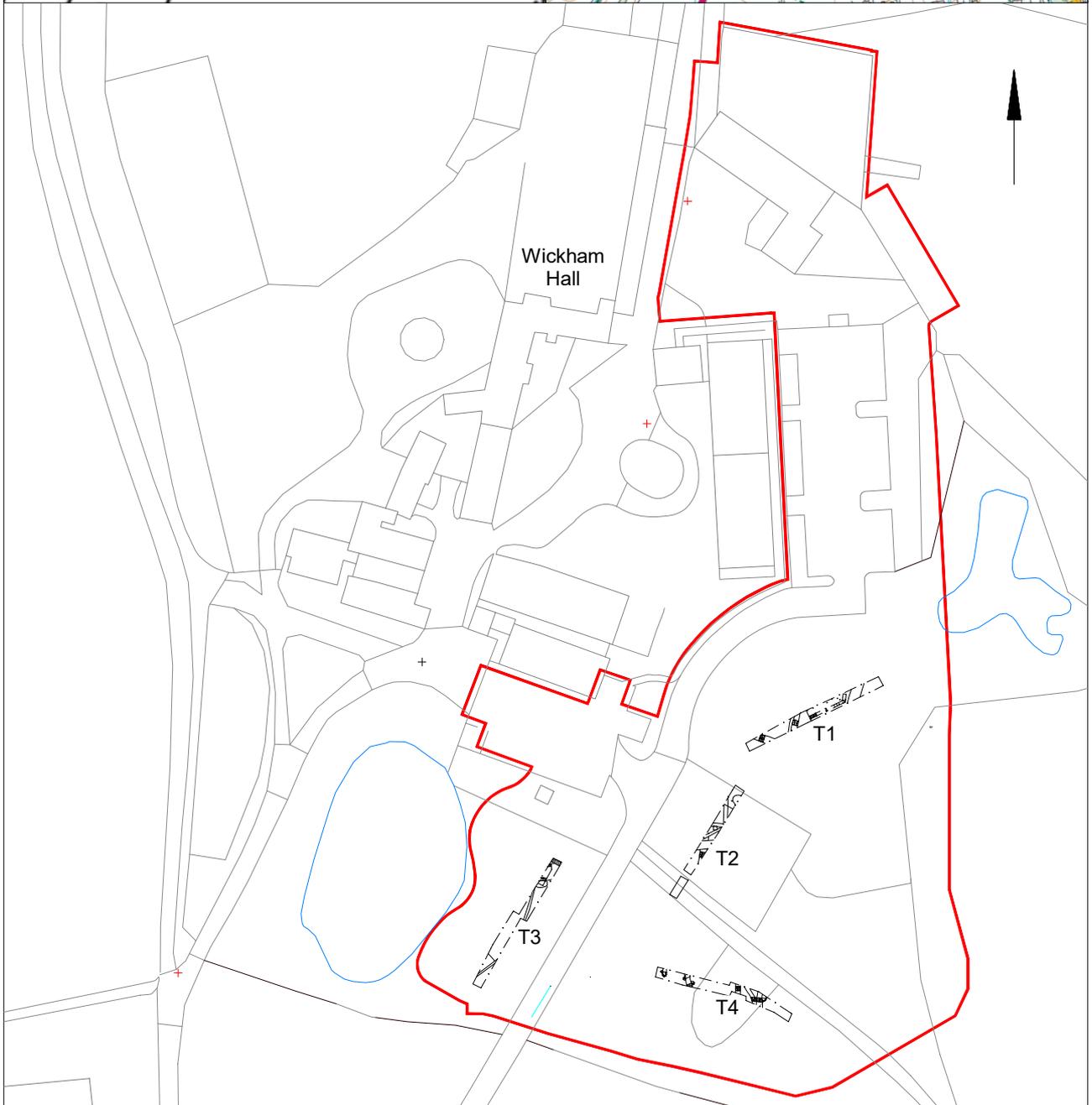
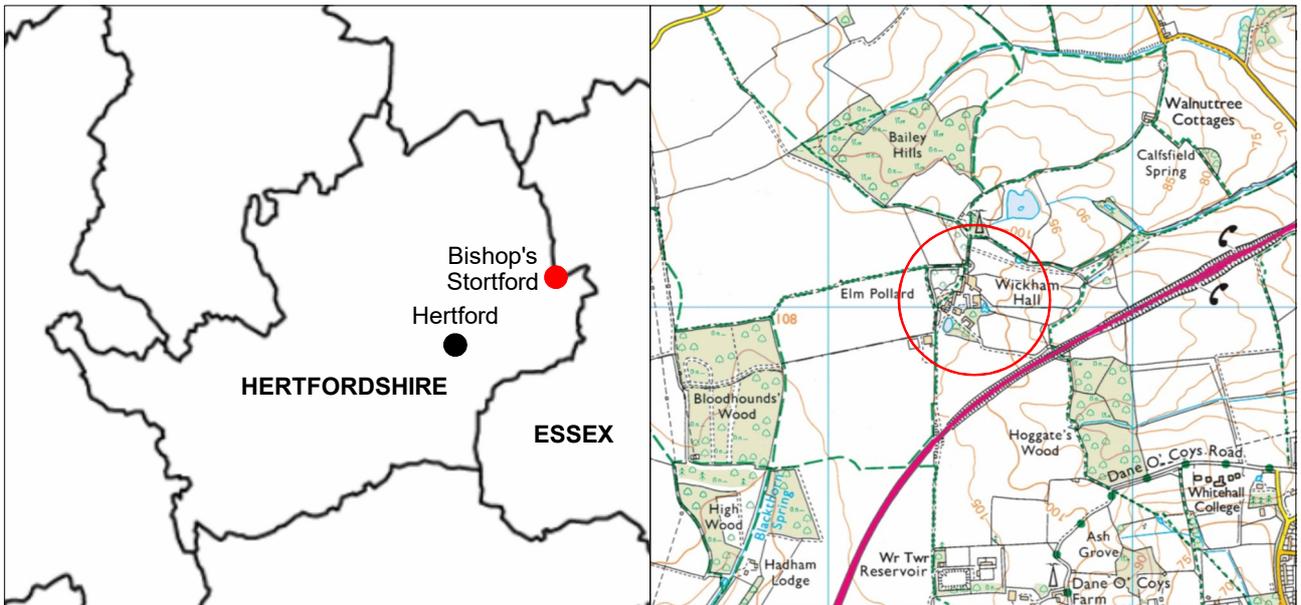
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 02.07.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	1	elongated pit/ditch terminus	firm, moist, dark grey/brown clayey-silt with occasional small stone inclusions	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
F2	2	small pit	soft, moist, medium yellow/grey/brown clayey-silt with rare small stone inclusions	undated
F3	-	shallow ditch	hard, dry, light/medium grey clayey-silt with rare small stone inclusions	undated
F4	-	small pit	hard, dry, medium grey/brown clayey-silt	undated
F5	5	small pit	hard, dry, medium brown clayey-silt	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
F6	6	ditch	friable, moist, v. dark grey/brown loam mottled with dark yellow/brown clay with occasional small stone inclusions	Roman
F7	8, 9	ditch	friable, moist/wet, dark grey/brown clayey-silt	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
F8	7	irregular pit	firm, moist/wet, medium grey/brown clayey-silt	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
F9	10	ditch	firm, dry, dark grey/brown clayey-silt with c 3% small stone inclusions	Bronze Age/Iron Age
F10	11	ditch	firm, moist, dark grey clayey-silt, lower fill has frequent gravel/small stone inclusions	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
F11	-	pit	firm, dry, dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 10% small stone inclusions	undated
F12	14	ditch	firm, moist, dark orange/grey/brown clayey-silt with rare flecks of charcoal and daub	Roman
F13	-	?pit (unexcavated)	firm, moist, dark grey clayey-silt with 1% small stone inclusions	undated
F14	16, 17	ditch	friable, dry, dark grey/brown clayey-silt with common gravel and small stone inclusions	Roman
F15	18	ditch	friable, dry, dark grey/brown/black clayey-silt with occasional small stone inclusions	Roman
F16	19	ditch	friable, dry, medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with rare small stone inclusions	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
F17	20	?large pit	friable, dry, dark grey clayey-silt with rare small stone inclusions	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
F18	21, 23	?quarry pit	friable, dry, medium/dark grey/black mottled clayey-silt	Roman
F19	22	ditch (unexcavated)	loose/soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	modern
F20	-	?pit	friable, dry, light yellow/brown clay and yellow/orange sand	undated
F21	-	?pit	friable, dry, light yellow/brown mottled clay	undated

L1	-	topsoil	loose/soft, moist very dark grey/brown loam with common stone inclusions	modern
L2	3	subsoil	firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt	post-Roman
L3	-	natural	firm, dry, light yellow/brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions	post-glacial
L4	-	concrete and sub-base (T2 only)	sub-base contains rubble hardcore with numerous brick and tile fragments	modern
L5	15	?subsoil (T2 only)	firm, dry, dark grey/brown silty clay with rare daub and charcoal inclusions	Roman (late 3rd - 4th century)
L6	-	backfill of pond (T3 only)	friable/firm, moist, dark grey/brown clayey-silt	undated (post-medieval?)



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location with evaluation results.





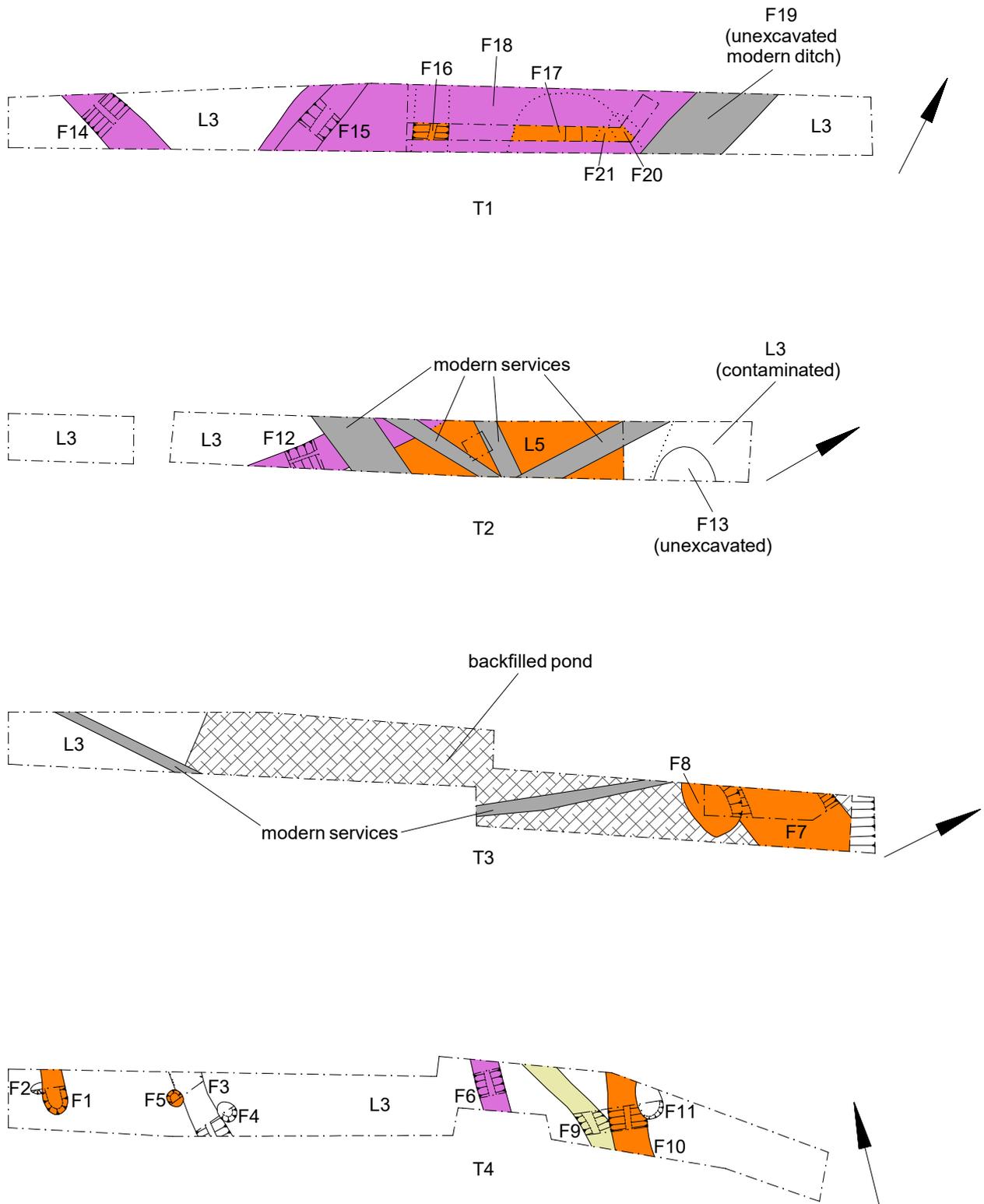
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 2 Detailed plan of site, with phasing and extrapolated ditches.



key





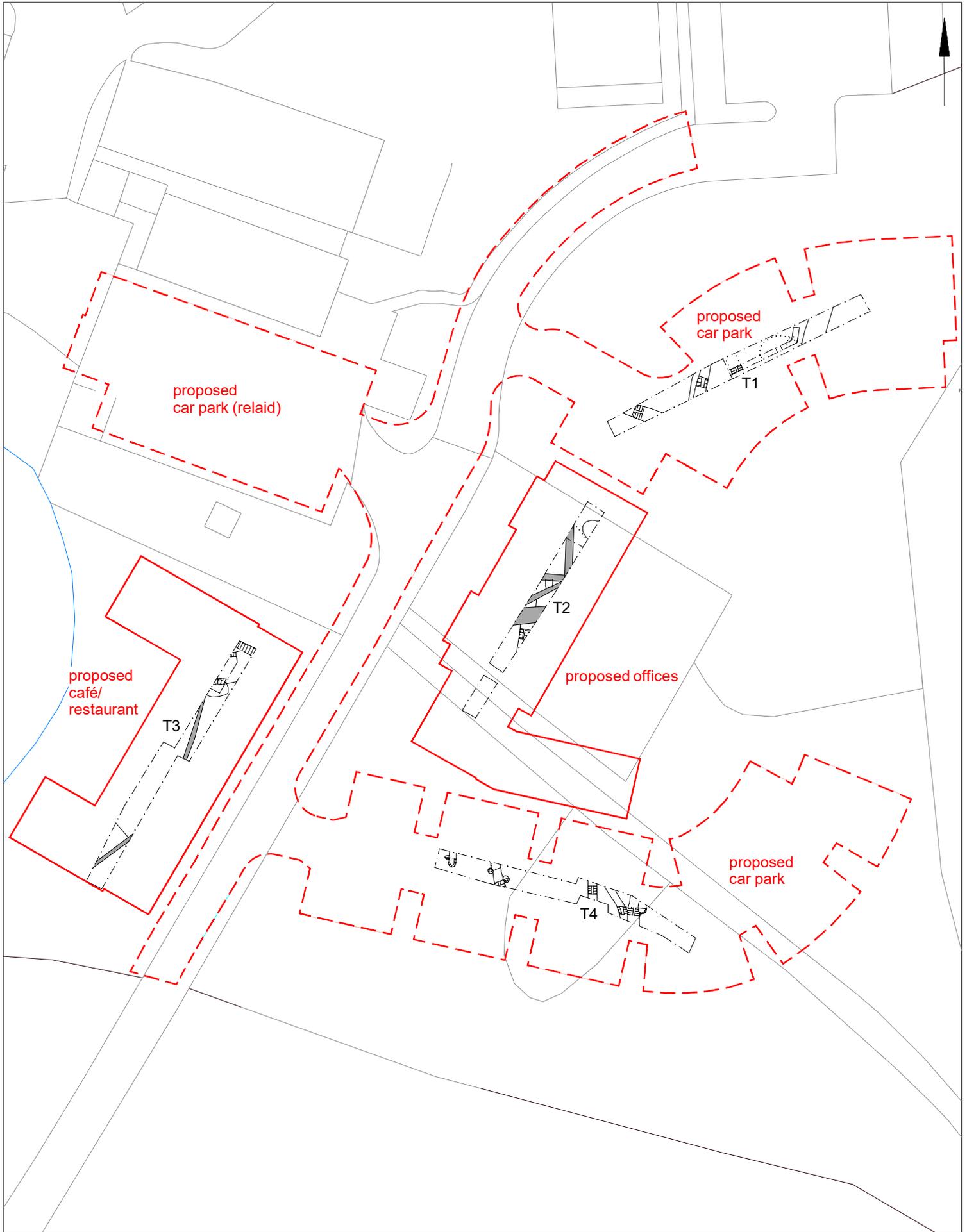
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 3 Detailed trench plans, with phasing.



key





© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 4 Plan showing evaluation results in relation to proposed development.



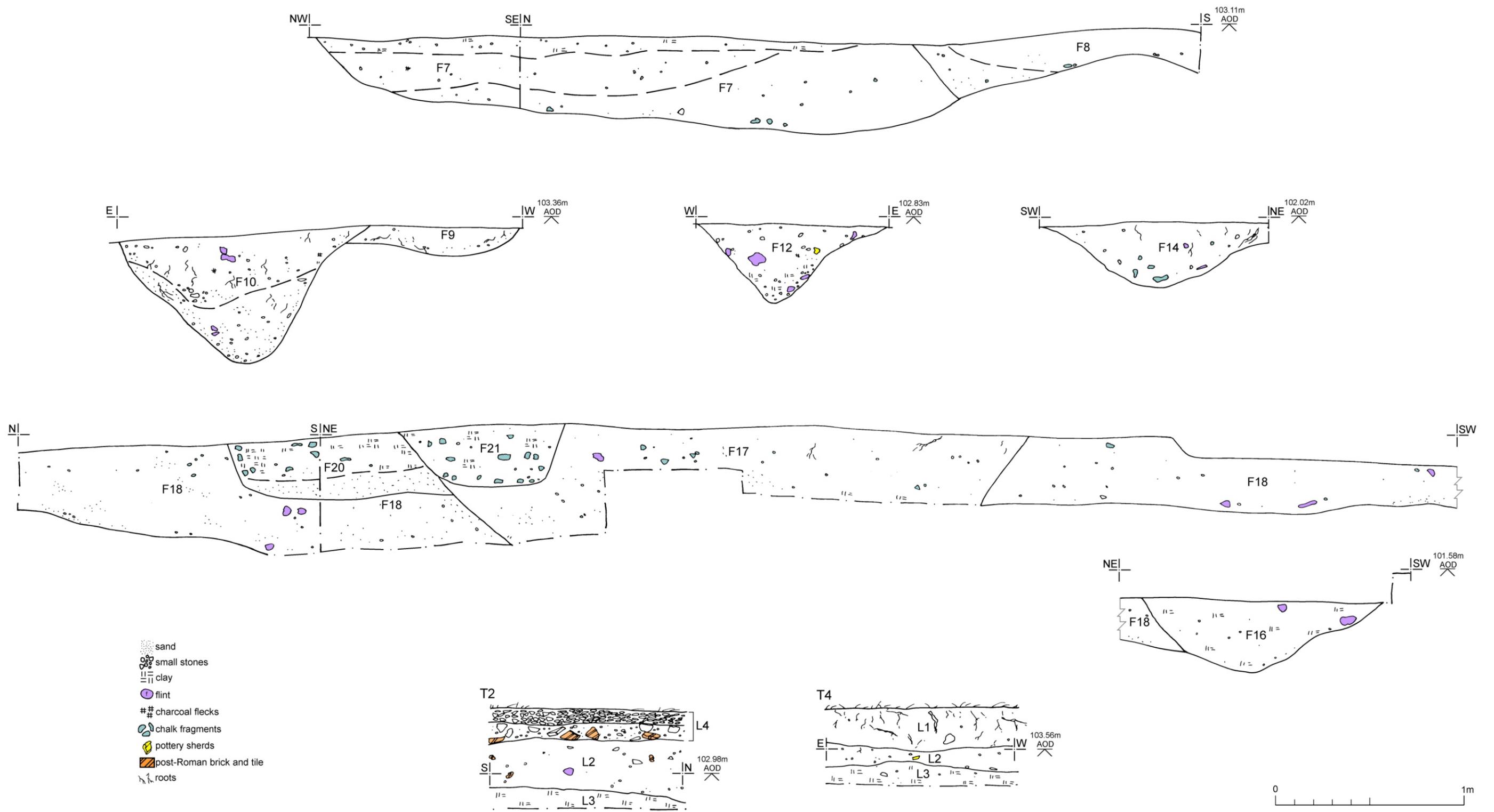


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 1JG		
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire
Village/Town: Bishop's Stortford		Parish: Bishop's Stortford
Planning application reference: 3/17/0407/FUL		
HER Enquiry reference: -		
Funding source: Developer		
Nature of application: Construction of one office building and one café/restaurant, with associated parking.		
Present land use: Field and Commercial		
Size of application area: 1.176ha		Size of area investigated: 216m ²
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 47452 22985 (centre)		
Site code (if applicable): CAT project code 17/08f		
Site director/organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)		
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation		
Date of work: June 2018	Start: 11th June 2018	Finish: 12th June 2018
Location of finds & site archive/curating museum: Bishop's Stortford Museum		
Related HER Nos: HHER 10918, HHER 30299 and HHER 30301		Periods represented: Roman, Prehistoric
Relevant previous summaries/reports: - CAT Report 733: Historic building recording at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire - Wickham Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire: Archaeological deskbased assessment, site inspection and preliminary trial-trenching by Letch, A - Heritage Network Report 80: Wickham Hall Farm, Bishops's Stortford, Herts. Archaeological Field Assessment - Summary of test-pitting at Wickham Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire by Wightman, A		
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire in advance of the erection of a new office building and café/restaurant, with associated parking. Little evidence was found that relates to the historical 16th/17th century farmstead, which could date back as far as 1487. The only discovery that may have been associated with it was a backfilled pond that occupied the majority of one of the trenches. There were, however, multiple Roman features uncovered, with most dating from the late 3rd/4th century. These were largely pits and ditches, including two ditches that may form the corner of an enclosure. A large Roman feature was tentatively identified as a quarry pit and was cut through by several later Roman features. A single Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch indicates the possibility of earlier activity on the site.		
Author of summary: Mark Baister		Date of summary: 29.06.2018

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 1JG

NGR: TL 47452 22985 (centre)

Planning reference: 3/17/0407/FUL

Commissioned by: Sworders

Client: David Harvey

Curating museum: East Hertfordshire, Bishop's Stortford Museum

CAT project code: 17/08f

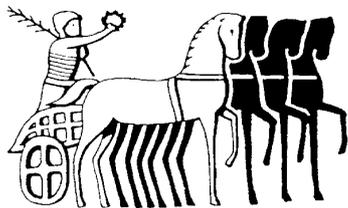
OASIS project id: colchest3-292568

Site manager: Chris Lister

Hertfordshire monitor: Alison Tinniswood

This WSI written: 09.08.2017

Revised: 14/09/2017



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 2.7km northwest of the centre of Bishop's Stortford at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 47452 22985.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises a change of use of barn from agriculture to B1 (Office) and the erection of 1 no. B1 (Office) building and one A3 (Cafe/Restaurant) to include parking.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway and an archaeological desk-based assessment carried out by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in 2010 (Letch 2010).

The proposed development site is located to the northwest of the Roman and medieval town of Bishop's Stortford and within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 115, as identified in the Local Plan. This covers Wickham Hall, a Grade II listed 16th/17th century timber-framed farmhouse (NHLE no. 10918), and the fields immediately to its east.

There are references to a probable manorial site at this location dating back as far as 1487, suggesting that Wickham Hall had medieval origins with the original manor house being replaced sometime in the 16th century/17th century. There are also references to an earlier medieval settlement, possibly a deserted village, related to earthworks to the northwest of the farmhouse, and pottery has been recovered from this area (Letch 2010). The settlement may even have had Saxon origins as Wickham is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the place-name is an Old English form (*ibid*).

As well as the farmhouse, two 17th century aisled barns and an outbuilding are also listed and are arranged around a central courtyard. Other later farm buildings of mid-late 19th to 20th century date were not listed and some have been demolished as part of the proposed development with others converted (see below).

Older remains are located in fields to the south of the A120 which include evidence for prehistoric settlement, particularly of Late Iron Age date (eg 30299 and 30301).

The site has already been the subject of several archaeological investigations in advance of the proposed development.

1) Roman pottery was recovered from test-pits excavated prior to the construction of a stable block in 1999 (Heritage Network Report 80). This building has been subsequently demolished.

2) A comprehensive archaeological desk-based assessment, site inspection and preliminary trial-trenching was carried out by the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit in October 2010 (Letch 2010). Although documentary evidence and pottery finds suggested the possibility of Roman, Saxon and medieval remains, no archaeological remains were identified in the three trial-trenches. Two trenches showed a build-up of 0.4-0.5m of subsoil and topsoil above natural and the third suggested that parts of the central area of the farm may have been levelled with clay within the modern era (*ibid*).

3) A comprehensive historic building recording of all farm buildings due to be converted was carried out by CAT in 2012 (CAT Report 733).

4) A small test-pit evaluation was simultaneously carried out during the historic building recording. Five test-pits were dug through the floors of the buildings highlighted for conversion to assess the impact of groundworks required for new floors, underpinning works, etc (CAT unpublished summary report by A Wightman 2012). This work concluded that, with

the possibly exception of the larger of the aisled buildings, any trace of original floors has been destroyed by subsequent activity (ie the laying of concrete floors), and that it was unlikely that groundworks would have any significant impact on underlying archaeology.

Planning background

Planning applications were submitted to East Hertfordshire Council in February 2017 (3/17/0407/FUL) for a change of use of barn from agriculture to B1 (Office) and the erection of 1 no. B1 (Office) building and one A3 (Cafe/Restaurant) to include parking.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the Hertfordshire HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisor (HCCHEA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and in this case in section 3 of the planning permission:

"No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions."

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for evaluation by trial-trenching.

No archaeological brief was produced by the HCCHEA but after discussions with the HCCHEA the following trial-trenching proposal was produced:

Four trial-trenches, each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide, will be laid-out across the development site, specifically within the footprints of the two new buildings and areas of new car parking.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus four archaeologists for one day.

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

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)

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 HCCHEA 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.

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 HCCHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Evaluation trial-trenching methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

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

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established across the site.

Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, or ovens will be sufficiently defined for recording, but will not be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench 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 micromorphological 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. Trained CAT staff will process the samples (unless complex or otherwise needing specialist processing) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for 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

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 remains from the site during the monitoring, 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 CBCAO will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

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:

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter / Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and reported immediately to the Hertfordshire FLO (Finds Liaison Office) who will inform the coroner within 14 days, 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 Bishop's Stortford Museum and carried out as per their guidelines (Hertfordshire Museums 2017).

Results

Notification will be given to HCCHEA 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 draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by HCCHEA.

The final report will normally be submitted to HCCHEA as both a PDF and a hard copy.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of the area in relation to the proposed development.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (EAA8, EAA14 & EAA24).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results
- Appendices to include a copy of the completed OASIS summary sheet

Final reports will be published on the CAT website and on the OASIS website.

A report (of a level appropriate to the project's findings) will also be submitted, accompanied by appropriate resources, for publication in Hertfordshire Archaeology & History or another agreed publication within six months of the completion of the fieldwork.

Archive deposition

The archive will be deposited with the Bishop's Stortford Museum as per their archive guidelines (Hertfordshire Museums 2017).

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the Bishop's Stortford Museum.

The archive will be deposited with the Bishop's Stortford Museum within 1 year of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to HCCHEA.

Monitoring

HCCHEA 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 HCCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

HCCHEA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete. Trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the HCCHEA

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

References

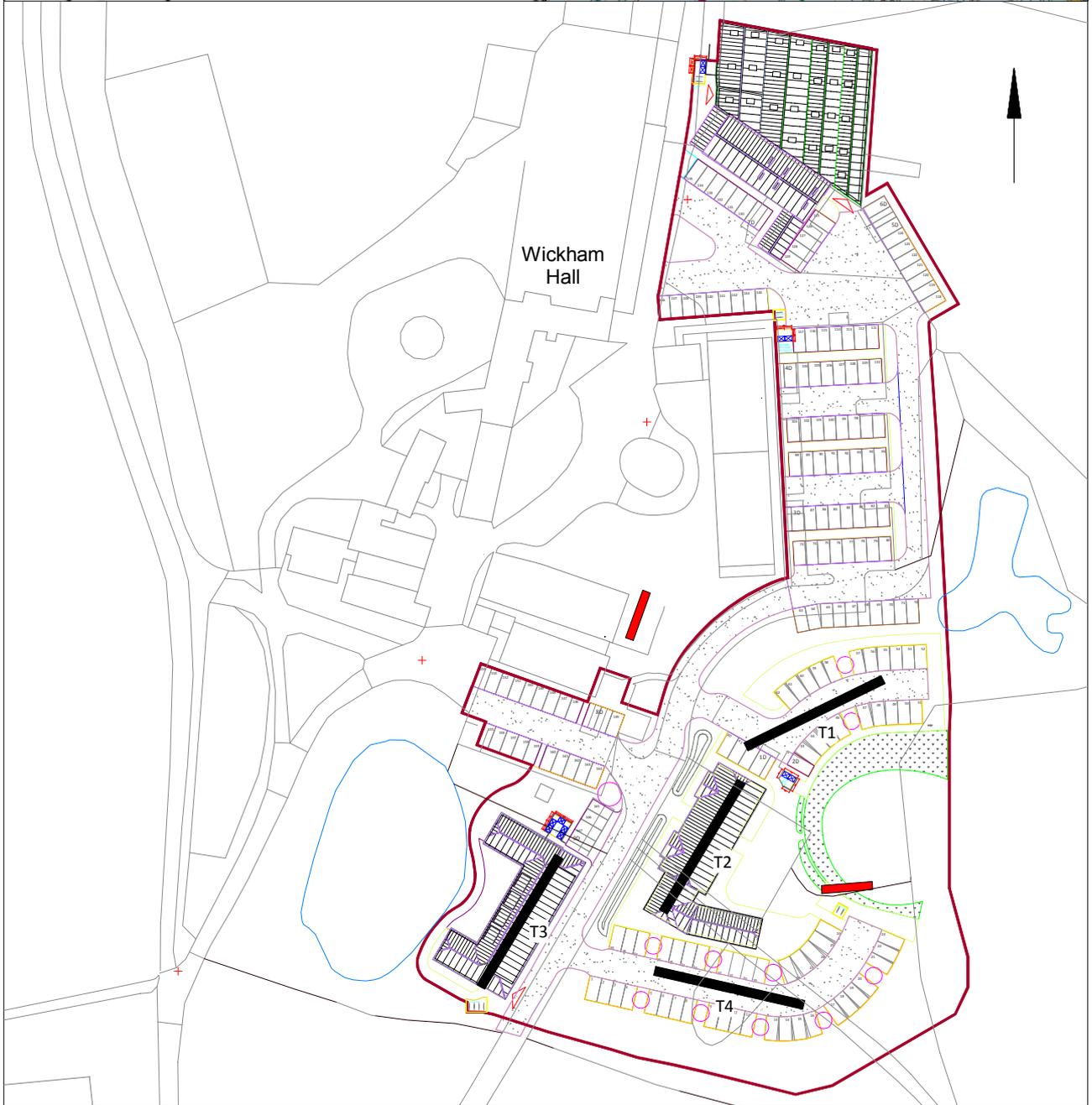
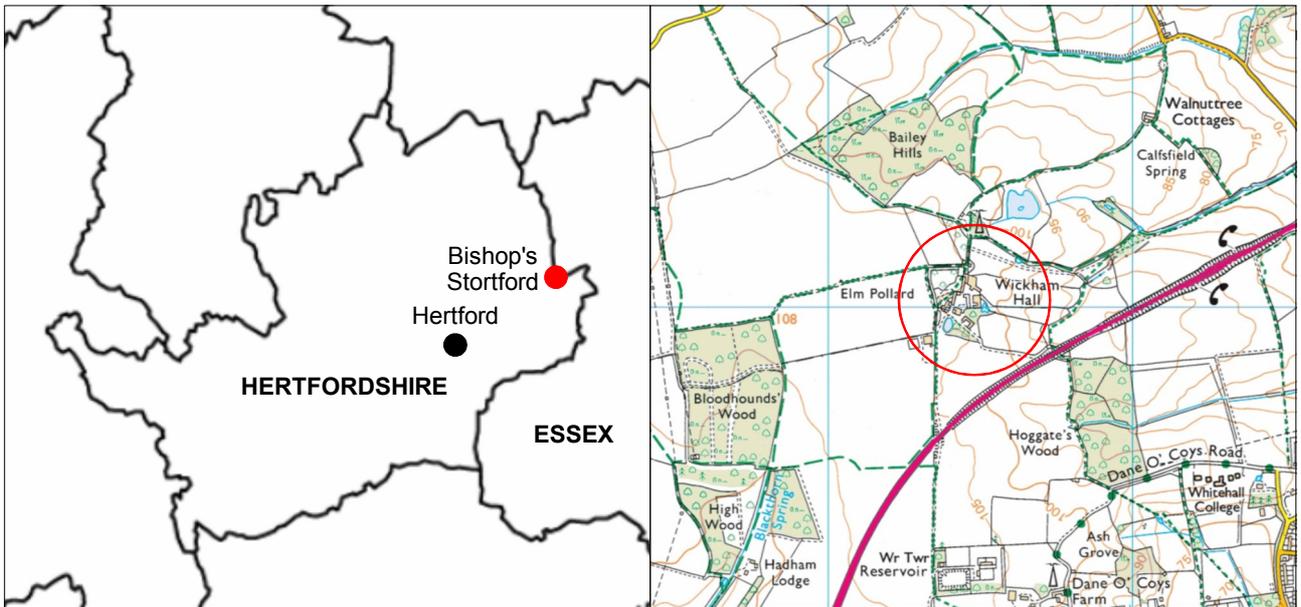
- Brown, D H 2011 *Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*. Second Edition. Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF)
- Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
- CAT 2014 *Health & Safety Policy*
- CAT Report 733 2013 *Historic building recording at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire: August 2012*
- ClfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation*
- ClfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- ClfA 2014c *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.*
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- 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).
- Heritage Network report 80 1999 *Wickham Hall Farm, Bishops's Stortford, Herts. Archaeological Field Assessment.*
- Hertfordshire Museums 2017 *Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards: A countywide standard for the creation, compilation, and transfer of archaeological archives in Hertfordshire.*
- Letch, A 2010 *Wickham Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire: Archaeological desk-based assessment, site inspection and preliminary trial-trenching.*
- Medlycott, M 2011 *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
- Wightman, A 2012 *Summary of test-pitting at Wickham Hall, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire*

L Pooley



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

tel: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Proposed trench locations (T1-4 totalling 120m) in relation to new development.
Red trenches = 2006 FAU investigations.



OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-292568

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire in advance of the erection of a new office building and café/restaurant, with associated parking. Little evidence was found that relates to the historical 16th/17th century farmstead, which could date back as far as 1487. The only discovery that may have been associated with it was a backfilled pond, that occupied the majority of one of the trenches. There were, however, multiple Roman features uncovered, with most dating from the late 3rd/4th century. These were largely pits and ditches, including two ditches that may form the corner of an enclosure. A large Roman feature was tentatively identified as a quarry pit and was cut through by several later Roman features. A single Bronze Age/Iron Age ditch indicates the possibility of earlier activity on the site.
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2018 End: 02-07-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/08f - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Iron Age
Significant Finds	SHERD Roman
Significant Finds	SHERD Iron Age
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE BISHOPS STORTFORD Wickham Hall, Hadham Road
Postcode	CM23 1JG
Study area	216 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 47452 22985 51.885432587465 0.142725018521 51 53 07 N 000 08 33 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 101.24m Max: 104.13m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	none
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford Museum
Digital Archive ID	17/08f
Digital Contents	"Survey","other"
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford Museum
Paper Archive ID	17/08f
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey","Worked stone/lithics"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Wickham Hall, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM23 1JG - June 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baister, M.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1288
Date	2018

Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 bound report with clear plastic front and opaque black card back.
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/summaries/CAT-1288.html>

Entered by Mark Baister (mb@catuk.org)
Entered on 2 July 2018

OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)