

Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1JB

July 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Howard Brooks, Adam Wightman and Stephen Benfield
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fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Nigel Rayner, Adam Tuffey and Elliott Hicks

commissioned by Stephanie Feiger, Shire Hall Homes

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) followed by a small excavation was carried out on land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex in advance of the construction of 5 new dwellings and associated infrastructure. The investigation revealed a series of undated postholes (presumably indicating a line of fencing), a late medieval/post-medieval ditch, a modern refuse pit and three undatable pits.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex which was carried out on 12th-26th July 2018. The work was commissioned by Stephanie Feiger of Shire Hall Homes in advance of the construction of five new dwellings and associated infrastructure 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 archaeological trial trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

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

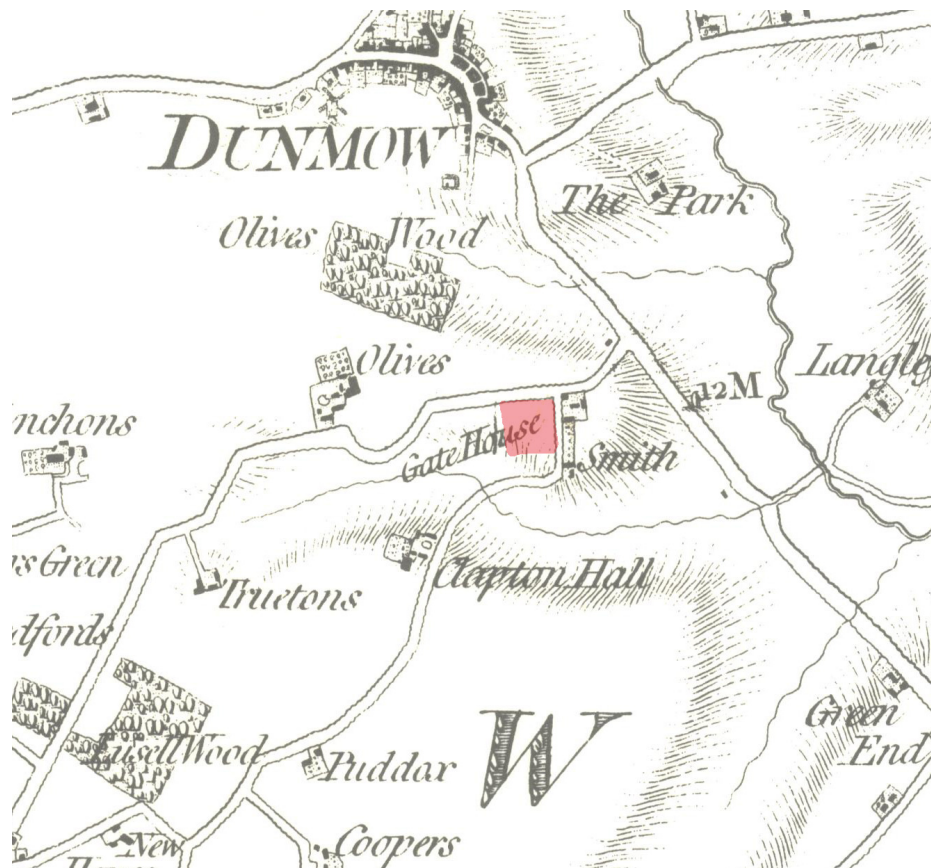
3 Archaeological background

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

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies in a sensitive area overlooking the Scheduled Monument of Clapton Hall Moat, a medieval moated site (SM no. 1008140).

The development area lies immediately adjacent the line of a known Roman Road, which leads from the Rodings into the southern side of the Roman settlement at Great Dunmow (EHER 1234). Excavations to the northeast of the development area found extensive spreads of prehistoric flint work during the construction of the A120 dual carriage way (EHER 14488). The development area also lies to the southeast of the medieval manor complex at Shingle Hall (EHER 1232).

Recent excavations on the northern side of the A120 have identified Late Iron Age and Roman settlement evidence.



Map 1 Extract from Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777. Approximate development site highlighted in red.

4 Aims

Primarily, archaeological evaluation was carried out at this site due to its proximity to the Roman road, to large spreads of prehistoric flint, to the medieval Clapton Hall Moat, and to the medieval Shingle Hall. The evaluation sought to determine the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site and which might be affected by the proposed development. The subsequent excavation further investigated a line of postholes uncovered during the evaluation, seeking to ascertain whether they formed part of a larger structure.

5 Evaluation trenching (Figs 2-3, 5)

Six archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Each trench was excavated to natural. Several sondages were excavated within the trenches to ensure that the natural had been reached.

No archaeological features were found in T2, T4 or T5.

Trench 1 (T1): 21m long by 1.8m wide

T1 was excavated through modern tarmac crush (L2, c 0.08-0.1m thick), ?modern plough soil/subsoil (L4, c 0.18-0.26m thick), and subsoil/accumulation (L6, c 0.34-0.38m thick) onto natural (L5, encountered at a depth of 0.64-0.7m below current ground level [bcgl]).

Undated pit F2 was uncovered. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation, but its exposed extent measured 1.84m in width and 0.32m in depth.

Trench 3 (T3): 17.5m long by 1.8m wide

Trench 3 was excavated through L2 (c 0.14-0.34m thick) and a layer of pond infill or accumulation (L3, c 0.3-0.52m thick) onto L5 (encountered at a depth of 0.64-0.66m bcgl).

A series of postholes, F4-7, was uncovered at the mid-point of the trench. The postholes were 0.18-0.32m across and 0.1-0.18m deep, and were arranged in a line aligned NNE-SSW. A single worked flint flake of Mesolithic to Bronze Age date was recovered from the upper fill of F7, but it is likely that this was a residual find in a later context. Stakehole F8 was located just to the north of this collection of postholes, suggesting a relationship with these features. It measured 0.14m in width and 0.06m in depth.

Modern pit F3 was located towards the southern end of T3. It contained an ashy sandy-loam fill with a large amount of modern debris (CBM, wood, galvanised wire, plastic hose etc.). The feature was not excavated but measured 2.6-2.7m in length and 1.8-1.9m in width.

Trench 6 (T6): 21.6m long by 1.8m wide

T6 was excavated through L2 (c 0.16-0.17m thick) and L3 (c 0.33-0.45m thick) onto L5 (encountered at a depth of 0.5-0.6m thick).

Late medieval/post-medieval ditch F1 was uncovered towards the western end of the trench. It was aligned NNW-SSE and measured 2.08m in width and 0.27m in depth.

6 Excavation (Figs 4-5)

The excavation area was a square-shaped area approximately 100m² in extent, which overlapped evaluation trench T3 (southern end).



Photograph 1 F8, F11, and F12, with F4-7 and F10 in the background – looking southwest.

A number of features were uncovered which were not observed at the evaluation stage. Undatable postholes F11 and F12 measured 0.3-0.33m in width and 0.13m in depth. They were located immediately north northeast of the line of postholes F4-7 and stake hole F8, and presumably all of these features formed part of the same structure.

Ditch F10 extended along the length of the western half of the excavation area. It measured 0.94m in width and 0.22-0.37m in depth and was aligned NNW-SSE. It is likely that this feature represented a continuation of late medieval/post-medieval ditch F1 in T6.

South of F10, in the southwestern corner of the excavation area, a further undatable posthole, F13, was uncovered. It measured 0.35m in width and 0.12m in depth. It, too, lay on the same alignment as postholes F4-7 and F11-12 and stake hole F8, and likely represented part of the same structure indicated by these other features.

Undatable pit F9 was located in the southwestern corner of the excavation area. It measured 0.37m in width and 0.05m in depth.

7 Finds

By Howard Brooks, Adam Wightman and Steve Benfield

This small group of finds indicates a site dominated by post-medieval activity, but with a sherd and a flint flake indicating earlier and probably limited activity in the Roman and prehistoric periods in general.

Context no.	Trench	Finds no.	Description	Finds spot date
L1	T5	1	Glass: Modern glass bottle, 520g. Embossed logo THE BISHOPS STORTFORD MINERAL WATERS CO LD. Other: Five tiny fragments (4g) of a burnt substance, possibly ceramic, but nothing diagnostic.	Modern, 19th century
F1	T6	2	Pottery: Sherd (4g), now in three pieces, probably Roman greyware but no diagnostic pieces. CBM: Fragment of peg-tile, 44g, no peg hole. Flint: Small piece of natural flint.	Late medieval or post-medieval with residual Roman
F7 (upper fill)	T3	3	Flint: Worked flint flake with retouch on left lateral edge of ventral face, later prehistoric (Mesolithic or Bronze Age).	Later prehistoric (Mesolithic or Bronze Age)
F10 sx 2	T3	4	Natural stone: A piece of natural stone in three pieces.	-

Table 1 All finds by context (all finds discarded).

8 Environmental assessment

Environmental samples were taken from postholes F11 and F12. Both samples (10L each) were floated by CAT staff but ultimately discarded as they yielded no environmental remains to send for assessment.

9 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation on land east of Green Hollow revealed a site marked by multi-period occupation and/or activity. A NNE-SSW aligned series of postholes and a stakehole uncovered in T3 and within the excavation area are suggestive not so much of a defensive structure, such as a palisade, but rather a fence ringing a property or

animal enclosure. The only dating evidence retrieved from this collection of post/stakeholes was a single worked flint flake dated to the Mesolithic or Bronze Age. It is likely that this was a residual find in a later context, but it nevertheless indicates human activity or occupation within the vicinity of the site during the prehistoric era.

Ditch F1 was located to the south of the excavation area, in T6. This feature was determined to be of late medieval/post-medieval date, indicating some cultivation and/or habitation of the site during this period, although it also contained residual sherds of probable Roman pottery evidencing some human presence in the area around this time too. It appears that this feature continued to the north, appearing as F10 in the excavation area, where it bisected and apparently disturbed the line of post/stakeholes, implying that they pre-date the ditch. Ditch F10 was cut by modern pit F3. Of early to mid 20th-century date, the feature was clearly used for refuse purposes, demonstrating activity upon the site during these years too.

10 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephanie Feiger of Shire Hall Homes for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with N Rayner, A Tuffey and E Hicks. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis and Alison Bennett.

11 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1JB</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECC	2018	<i>Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation On Land East of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</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)

12 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43

layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
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	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1306)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1306)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photos, thumbnails and log

Graphics files

Survey data

14 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2018.95

Distribution list:

Stephanie Feiger (Shire Hall Homes)
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

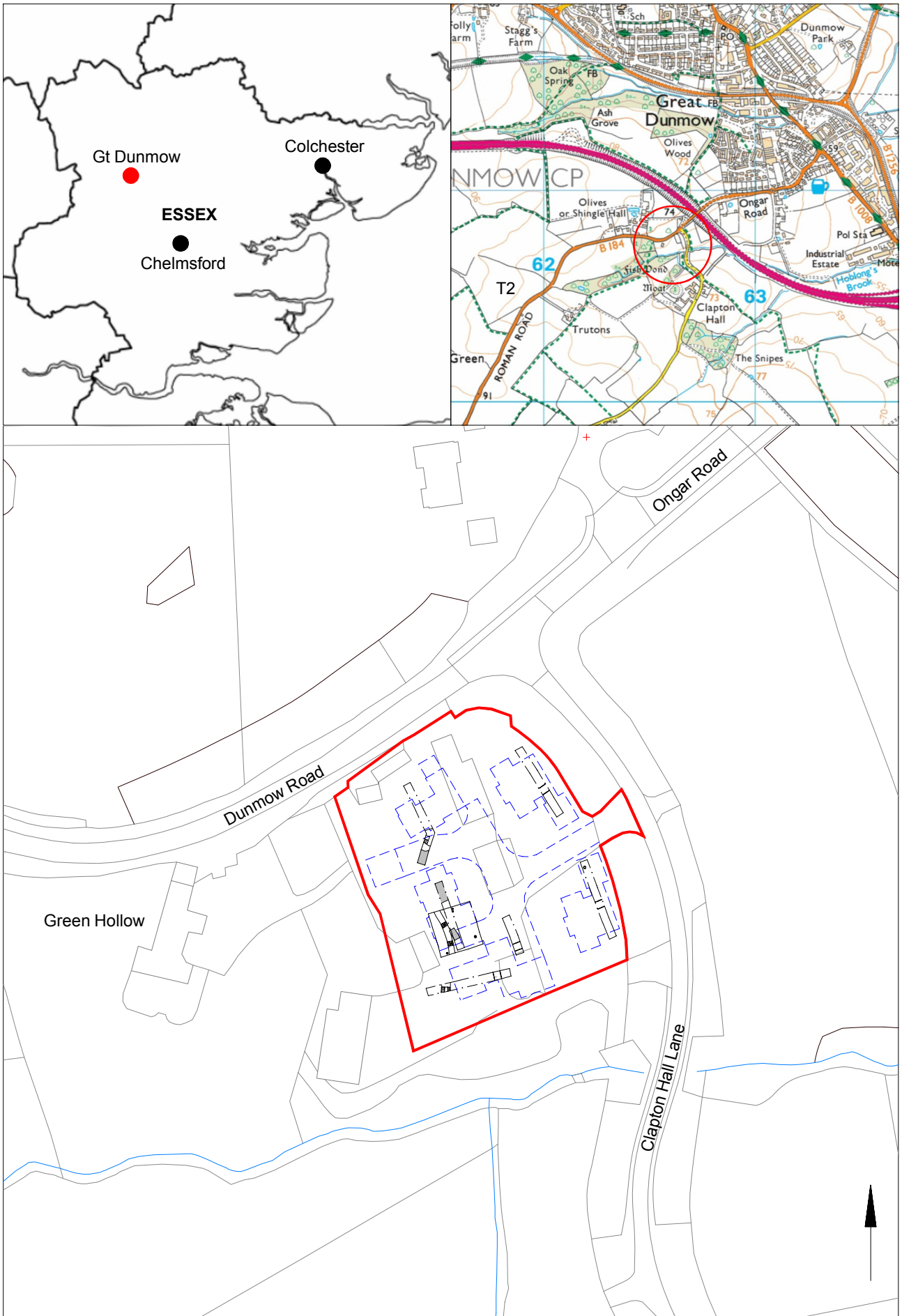
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 09.08.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

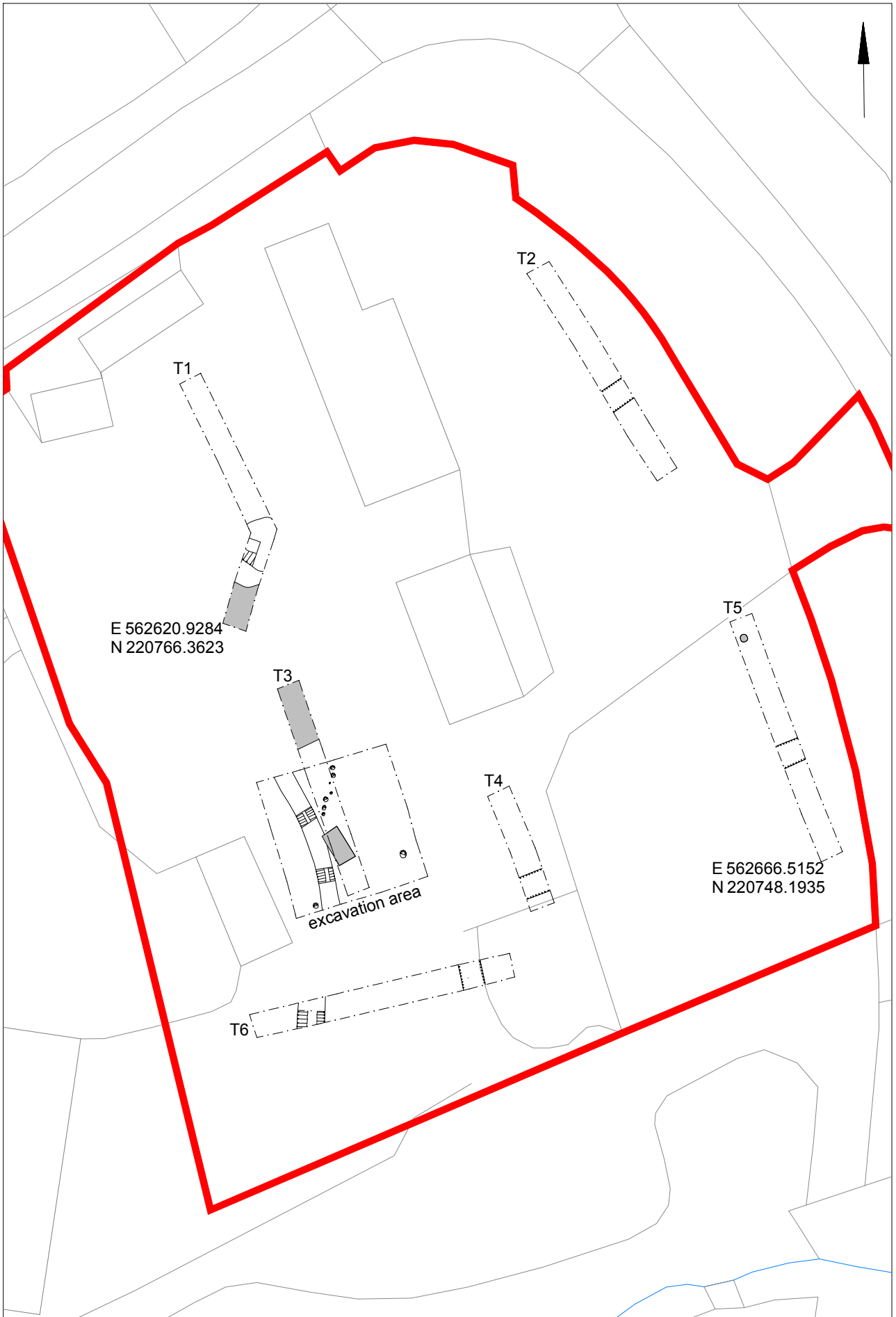
Context Number	Find Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	2	Ditch	Firm dry/moist medium/dark blue/grey/brown silty-clay with <2% stone, <1% CBM and <1% pottery piece inclusions	Late Medieval/post-medieval
F2	-	Pit	Firm, moist light grey silty-clay	Undated
F3	-	Pit	Loose/soft, moist dark grey/brown/black ash-sand	Modern
F4-7	3 (F7)	Postholes	Soft, moist light grey silty-clay with rare charcoal fleck inclusions and rare stone inclusions	Late Medieval/post-medieval at latest
F8	-	Stake hole	Soft, moist medium yellow/brown silty-clay	Undated
F9	-	Pit	Friable, moist medium green-brown silty-clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions	Undated
F10	4	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable
F11-12	5 (F12), 6 (F11)	Postholes	Firm, moist light grey silt	Undated
F13	-	Posthole/small pit	Firm, moist medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay	Undated
L1	1	Topsoil	Soft, moist dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-loam	Modern
L2	-	Tarmac crush	Tarmac crush layer	Modern
L3	-	?Pond infill/accumulation layer	Soft, moist medium grey sandy-silty-clay with occasional stone piece inclusions	Undated
L4	-	?Plough soil/subsoil	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with <2% charcoal fleck inclusions and <10% stone piece inclusions	?Modern
L5	-	Natural	Hard, dry light orange/brown silty-clay with <15% gravel, <12% stone and <2% chalk fleck inclusions	Post-glacial
L6	-	?Subsoil/accumulation layer	Soft, moist medium green/grey silty-clay with occasional stone piece inclusions	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue).

0 50 m



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Fig 2 Combined evaluation and excavation results
(modern features in grey)

0 10 m

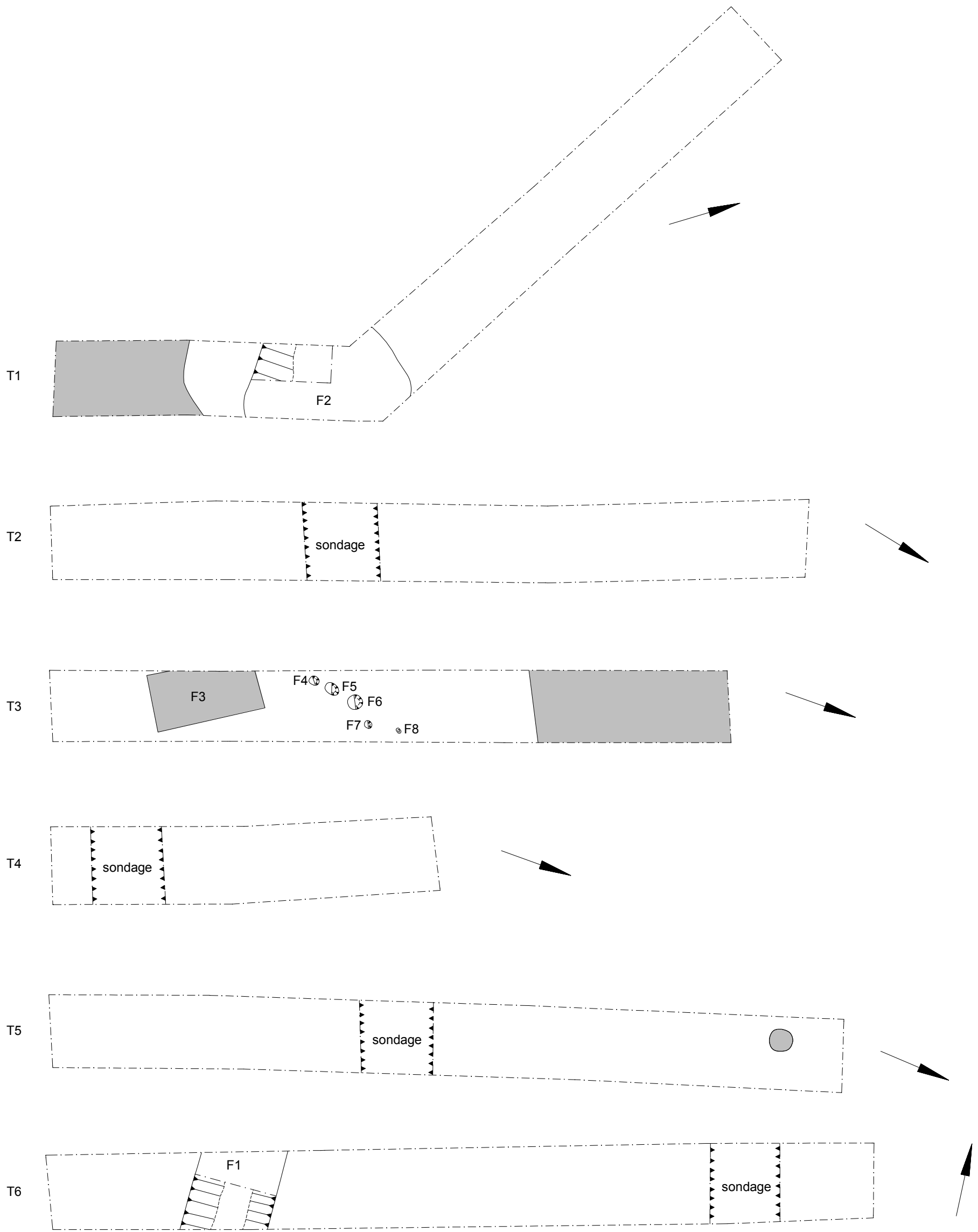


Fig 3 Trench plans (modern features in grey)



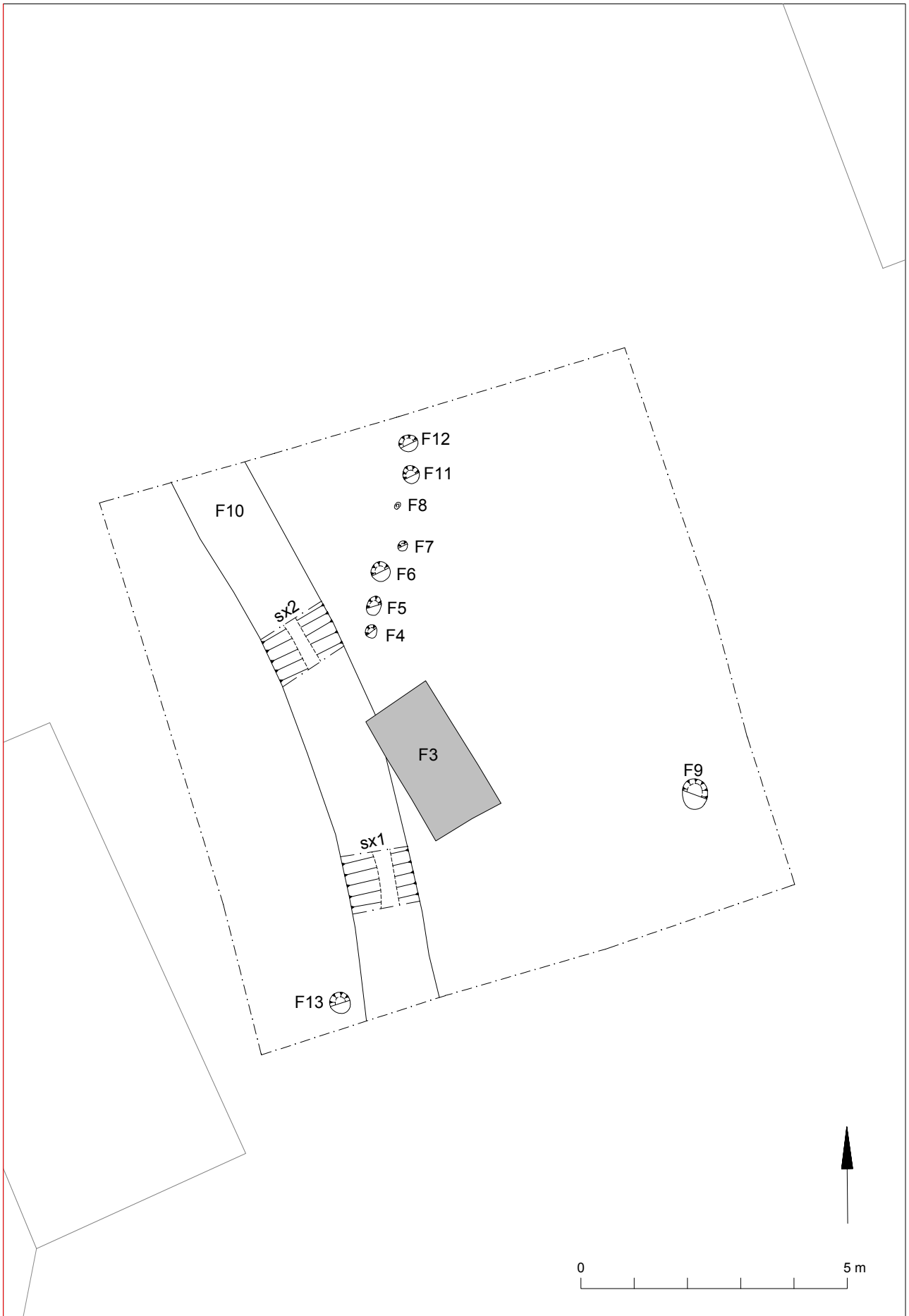


Fig 4 Excavation results (modern features in grey)

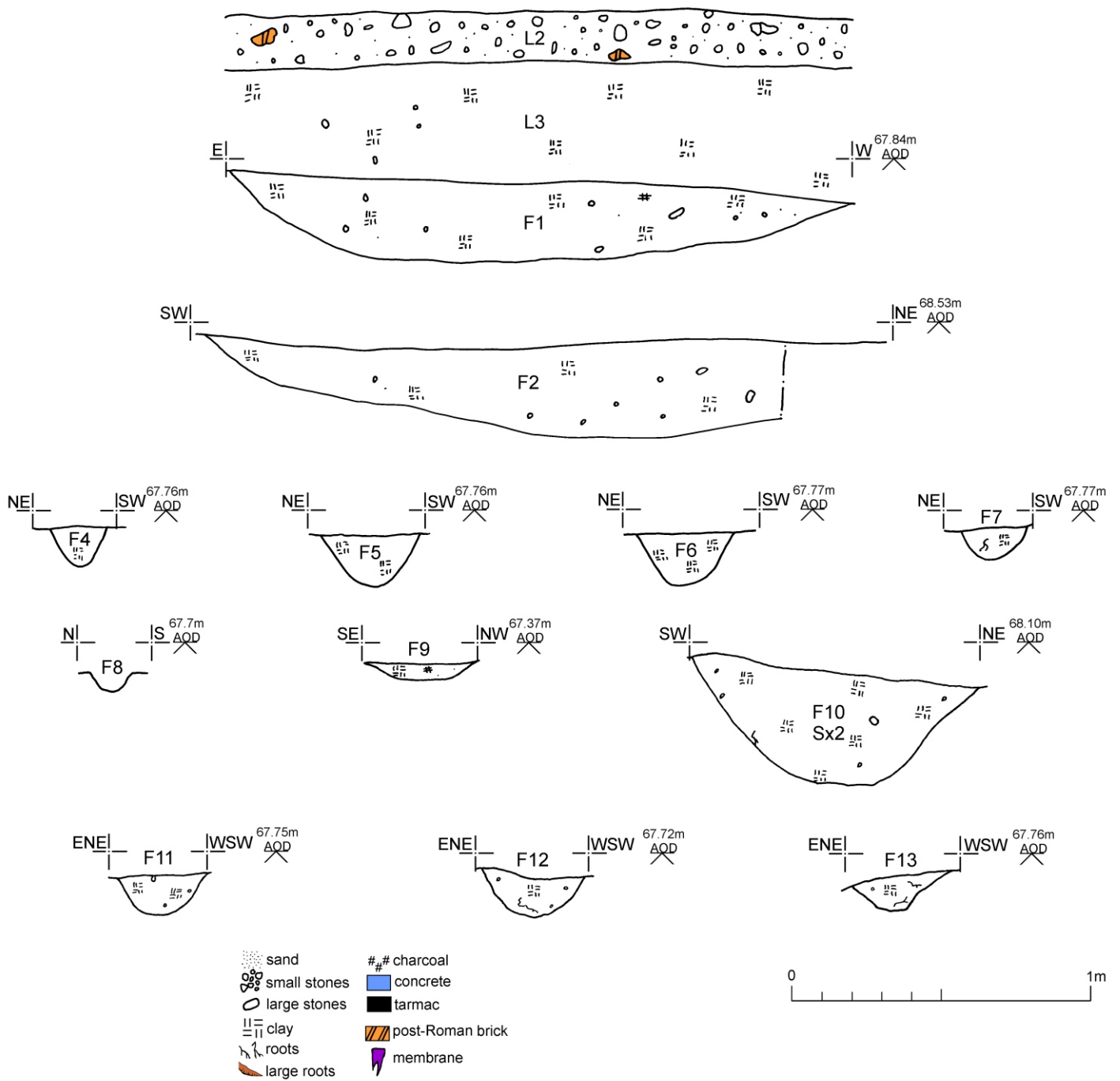


Fig 5 Feature sections

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OASIS ID: colchest3-321815

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation and excavation on land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1JB
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) followed by a small excavation was carried out on land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex in advance of the construction of 5 new dwellings and associated infrastructure. The investigation revealed a series of undated postholes (presumably indicating a line of fencing), a late medieval/post-medieval ditch, a modern refuse pit and three undatable pits.
Project dates	Start: 12-07-2018 End: 26-07-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/07b - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/17/1114/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	GDGH18 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2018.95 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	POSTHOLES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Mesolithic
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches"" ""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT DUNMOW Land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane
Postcode	CM6 1JB
Study area	0.37 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 62625 20752 51.861139050697 0.36196949515 51 51 40 N 000 21 43 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 66.82m Max: 70.33m

Project creators

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

sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2018.95
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2018.95
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

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