

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Tye Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7BB

August 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Laura Pooley
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fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Adam Tuffey and Nick Pryke

commissioned by Stephen Williams, Hills Residential

NGR: TM 05371 24808 (centre)

Planning ref.: 16/00219/OUT

CAT project code: 18/05m

ECC code: ESTR18

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2018.65

OASIS ref.: colchest3-321768



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CAT Report 1309

August 2018

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OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of eighteen trial-trenches was carried out on land adjacent to Tye Road, Elmstead Market, Essex in advance of the construction of a new housing development. Although located to the north and east of a number of cropmark complexes, and to the north of a Roman road leading to Colchester, the only features present were a tree-throw and natural silt patch.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Tye Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, which was carried out 7th-8th August 2018. The work was commissioned by Stephen Williams of Hills Residential in advance of the construction of sixty-two dwellings with associated garaging, parking, a swale/pond and associated groundworks. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisors Teresa O'Connor and 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 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 (CIfA 2014a)*, *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 (accessible via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The EHER shows that the development site lies within an area which has substantial archaeological evidence recorded by aerial photography and seen as cropmarks. In particular, cropmarks to the west of the site show a double-ditched trackway as well as other linear features of possible agricultural origin (EHER 2626). The orientation of these field boundaries correspond to others seen within the development site on historic maps but which no longer survive. These predate c 1870 and are likely to be earlier in origin. Cropmarks to the south of the site suggest possible small pits and a small ring-ditch (EHER 2610). Furthermore, the Colchester Road to the south of the site is a Roman road (EHER 2534), which leads directly from the Roman town of Colchester to the west of Elmstead Market.

Historic buildings survive within the village of Elmstead Market which date from the 15th century with the village expanding along Colchester Road in the 17th and 18th century. The development site lies within the agricultural fields surrounding the historic settlement which are arranged in a distinct regular field pattern.

The site lies adjacent to a site CAT evaluated in January 2018 on land to the north of Meadow Close (CAT Report 1250). Although the eight trenches were located close to a number of cropmarks, the only features identified were a historic boundary ditch visible on the first edition, 6-inch, OS map of 1874 and an undated pit or tree-throw.

4 Aim

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at this site due to its proximity to a complex of cropmarks and to the Roman road leading to Colchester. The aim was to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Eighteen archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches measured 30m long by 1.8m wide, aside from one (T18) which measured 20m long, and were excavated to natural. Sondages were excavated in T1, T7, and T18 to ensure that natural had been reached.

The trenches were excavated through ploughsoil (L1, c 0.31-0.38m thick, friable/firm, very dry, medium grey/brown clayey-silt with <8% stone) onto natural (L2, firm, moist medium orange/grey clayey-silt).

There were no archaeological features in T1, T2, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10, T12, T13, T14, T15, T16, T17 or T18.

Trench 3 (T3): Undated tree-throw F2 (friable, moist, medium grey/brown/mottled orange silty-clay with charcoal flecks and occasional stone) was excavated.

Trench 11 (T11): Natural silt patch F1 (firm, dry medium grey silt) was excavated



Photograph 1 F2 sx – looking north



Photograph 2 F1 oblique view – looking southeast

6 Finds

by Laura Pooley

Seventeen finds were recovered from ploughsoil L1, sixteen of which were found with a metal detector. All are of post-medieval or modern date and are listed in Table 1 below. Fragments of peg-tile were also noted within L1 but not retained for post-excavation analysis. All of finds will be discarded once the report has been approved.

Description (All L1, metalwork finds no. 2, pottery finds no. 3)
Two farthings, both worn and completely illegible but both 20mm diameter, 2.5g and 2.8g, 19th-20th century.
Small, painted, flat lead soldier playing a drum, base missing, head missing, 26mm long, 19mm wide, 1mm thick, 3.2g.
Two fragments of lead sheet: 1) rectangular, 45mm long, 19mm wide, 1.5mm thick, 18.2g; 2) rectangular but with one curved edge, 38mm long, 13mm wide, curved edge 8mm thick which tapers away to 1mm thick, 17.9g.
Copper-alloy tag, rectangular with curved edges and rectangular 'hooked' edges on opposing short sides, four rivet holes (2mm diameter) in each corner, 25mm long, 18mm wide, 1mm thick, 1.9g.
Two pieces of iron, probably from farm machinery: 1) cross-shaped, arms 47mm and 43mm long, max thickness 7mm, 14g; 2) circular cap with central hole, 53mm diameter (hole 11mm diameter), 11mm thick, 65.4g
Copper-alloy cap, 18mm diameter, 7mm thick, 6.6g.
Three copper-alloy shot-gun caps, 18.6g; one bullet casing, 1.5g; one bullet fragment, 5.8g.
Two copper-alloy washers, 5.5g.
Rim sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (CAR 7, Fabric 40).

Table 1 Finds by context

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance, only two features – a tree-throw and a silt patch – were uncovered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stephen Williams of Hills Residential for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Tuffey and N Pryke. Figures are by S Carter, B Holloway and C Lister. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis and Teresa O'Connor.

9 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	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1257	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land north of Meadow Close, Elmstead Market, Essex: April 2018</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2018	<i>Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation on Land adjacent to Tye Road, Elmstead Market</i> , by R Havis
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.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	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	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
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

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1309)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1309)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

Survey data

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 Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM 2018.65.

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Distribution list:

Stephen Williams, Hills Residential

Teresa O'Connor and Richard Havis, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisors

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Date: 10.08.2018

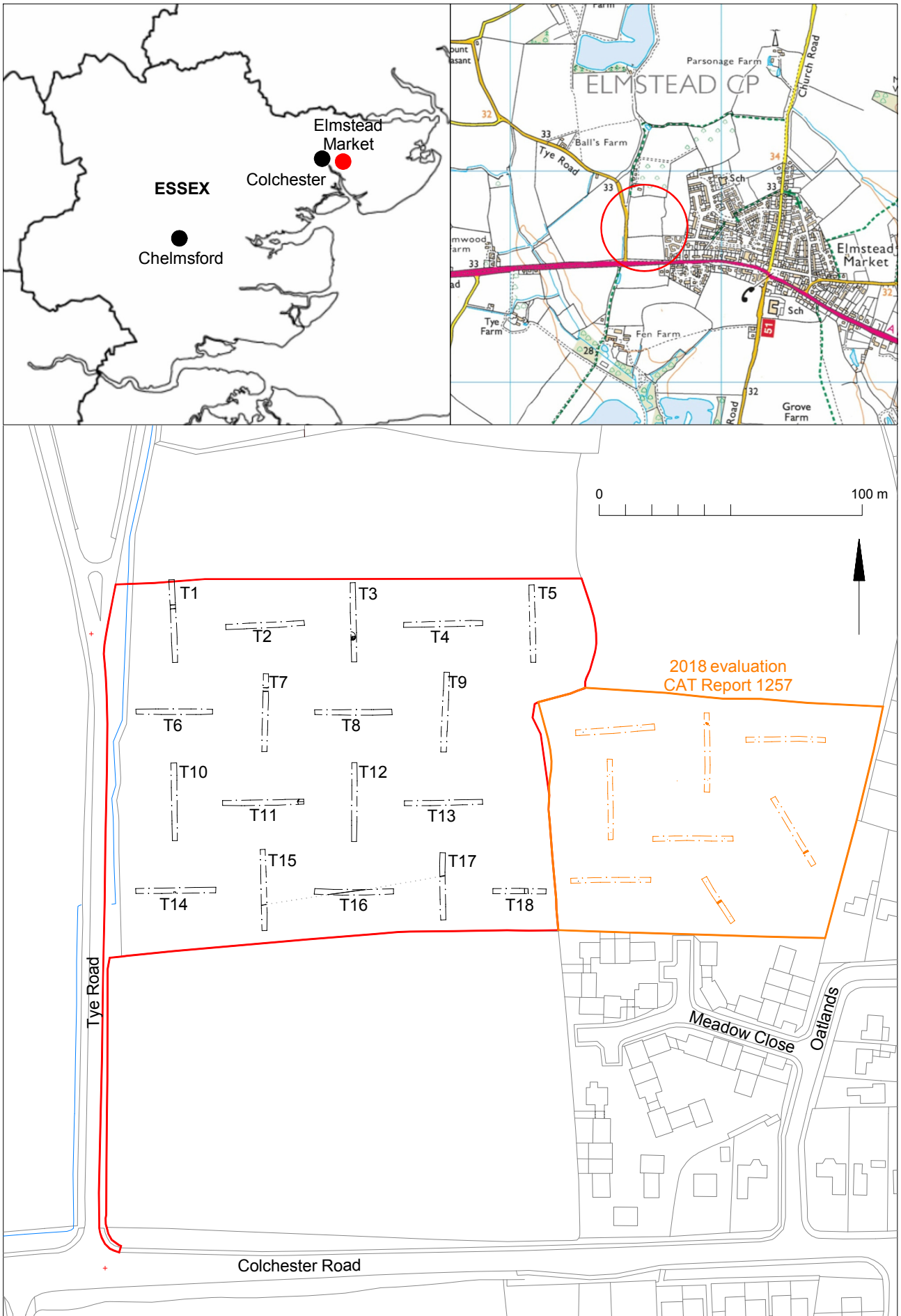


Fig 1 Site location

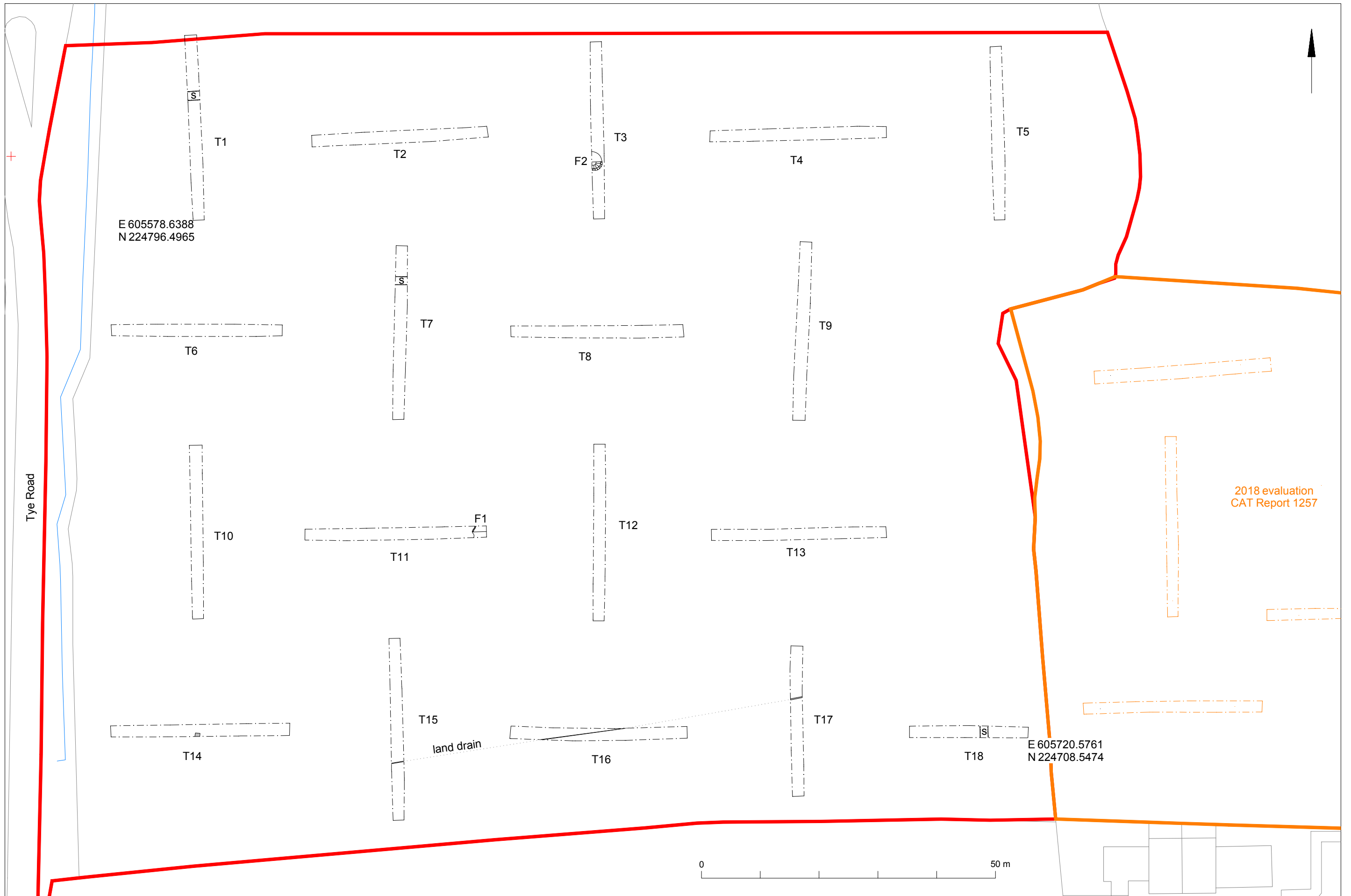


Fig 2 Results (modern features in grey, s = sondage)

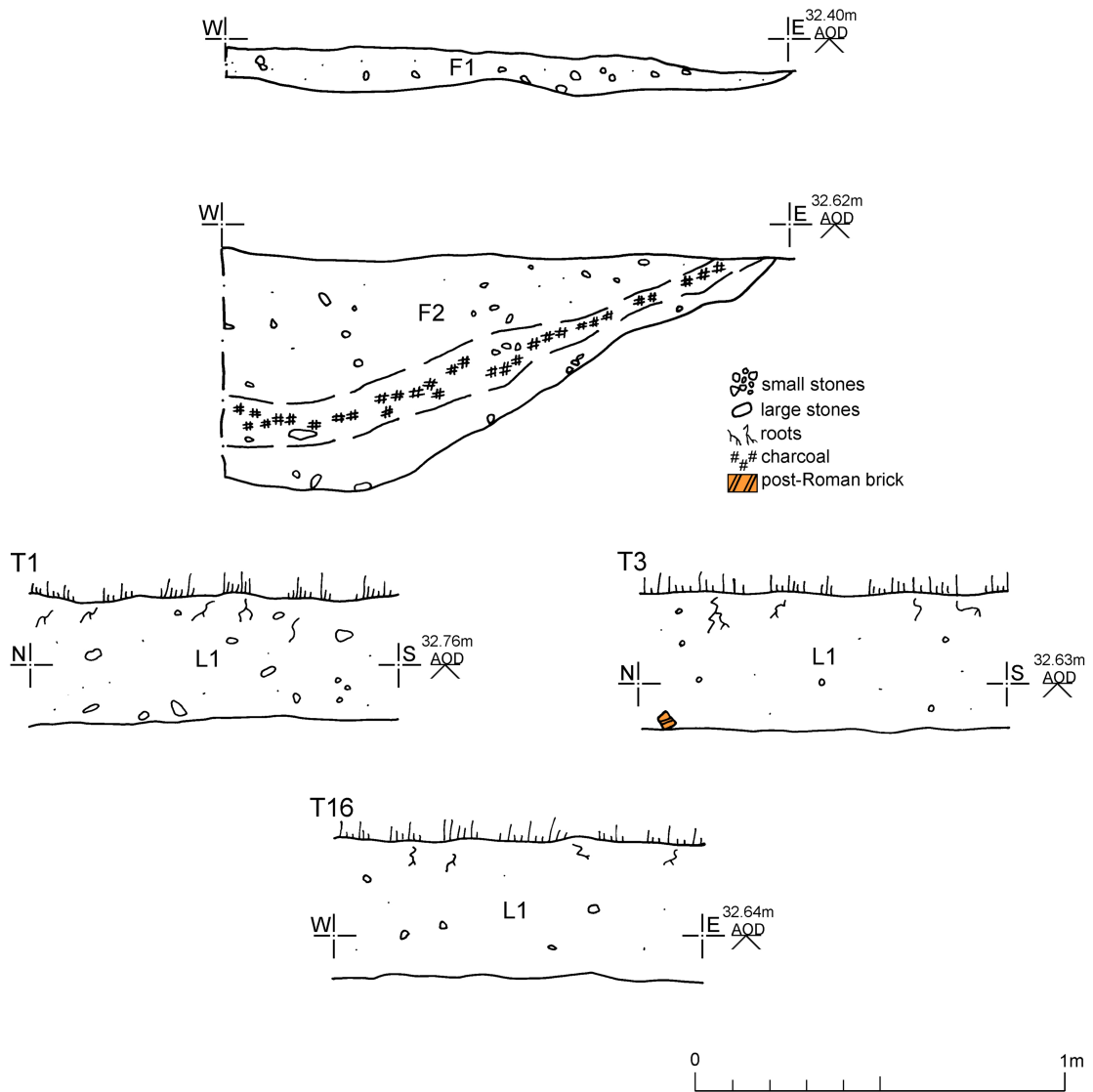


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections

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OASIS ID: colchest3-321768

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation on land adjacent to Tye Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7B
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of eighteen trial-trenches was carried out on land adjacent to Tye Road, Elmstead Market, Essex in advance of the construction of a new housing development. Although located to the north and east of a number of cropmark complexes, and to the north of a Roman road leading to Colchester, the only features present were a tree-throw and natural silt patch.
Project dates	Start: 07-08-2018 End: 08-08-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/05m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00219/OUT - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2018.65 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ESTR18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	SILT PATCH Uncertain
Monument type	TREE THROW Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING ELMSTEAD land adjacent to Tye Road

Postcode CO7 7BB
 Study area 3.78 Hectares
 Site coordinates TM 06357 24227 51.877827763753 0.998372275618 51 52 40 N 000 59 54 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 31.98m Max: 32.63m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID COLEM 2018.65
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID COLEM 2018.65
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Tye Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7BB: August 2018
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1309
 Date 2018
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Place of issue or publication Colchester
 Description A4 loose-leaf ringbound
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Entered by Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)

Entered on 10 August 2018

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