Middle Iron Age settlement: An archaeological strip, map and excavate on land east of Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1QN

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1 Summary

Archaeological strip, map and excavate was carried out on land east of Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Braintree, Essex during groundworks for a new housing development. The development site is located in close proximity to a number of kilns which reportedly existed here during the medieval and post-medieval periods, and within an area of cropmarks. Current work followed on from archaeological evaluation in February 2018 which revealed a small number of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and later features.

Excavation revealed a significant Middle Iron Age settlement/farmstead consisting of three roundhouses and one four-post structure, with some activity (possibly focussed to the north of the site) beginning in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The four-post structure likely functioned as a granary indicating that cereal crops or legumes were being grown on or near to the site. Faunal remains suggest that cattle and sheep/goat were being kept, fragments of possible loomweight indicates activities like weaving, and the pottery is probably from a domestic assemblage.

A medieval ditch, dated to c 11th to 12th centuries, was also excavated.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological strip, map and excavate on land east of Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Essex which was carried out 20th-29th June 2018. The work was commissioned by Stephen Sanderson of ADP Ltd on behalf of Nevill Developments Ltd during groundworks for a new housing development, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

An initial phase of archaeological evaluation was carried out in February 2018. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018). The current strip, map and excavate follows on from this early work.

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

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford and the Historic Towns Assessment Report for Coggeshall (1999).

Excavations within the town have revealed some evidence for prehistoric activity, with stray finds dating from the Mesolithic through to the Early Iron Age. Archaeological investigations at Barnetts Yard, Queen Street (EHER 17580) and at St Peter's School

(Clarke, 1988) both revealed a small number of prehistoric and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age features respectively.

The Roman road of Stane Street runs through Coggeshall to Colchester, and there may well have been a minor road on the southern side of the town linking Stane Street to Kelvedon. Excavations in 1984-5 in advance of the building of St Peter's School (Clarke, 1988) revealed two sides of what was interpreted as a substantial early Roman ditched enclosure, possibly a villa enclosure. Later excavations within the enclosed area in 1989-93 (Isserlin, 1995) revealed part of a robbed-out masonry structure, possibly a bath-house, and part of a timber structure. Evidence for the large Roman ditched enclosure was reassessed to suggest that the ditches represent a droveway, contemporary paddock and field boundaries, and a stretch of roadside ditch (Isserlin, 1995). Roman building debris has also been found in Crow Barns field, with a cremation cemetery found in Crow Barns and Garden Fields to the west of Highfield House (Dale, 1863).

At the beginning of the medieval period there was already a church, mills and sizeable community within the manors of Coggeshall. Coggeshall Abbey was founded by King Stephen and Queen Maud for monks of the order of Savigny around 1140. It became Cistercian in 1147. The abbey was gradually extended up until the 14th century and was dissolved in 1539.

A fair charter and a market charter were granted to the monks of Coggeshall Abbey in 1250 and 1256 respectively. The market was established at the junction of Stane Street, and settlement spread from that centre. It is possible that the area around the Church of St Peter-ad-Vincula, half a mile northeast of the market place, may have been an earlier nucleus, deserted in favour of the main roadside site either at the time of the market's establishment or earlier.

Tilkey is associated with the construction of the Abbey in the 12th century, and the monks are documented as building a kiln to the north of Coggeshall at a place named 'Tile Kiln' (Tilkey). The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) refers to cartographic evidence from around the 1600s which shows three kilns on the opposite side of Tilkey Road (EHER 8778) in the vicinity of the proposed development. According to a field report, "a tile kiln was found at Tilkey in Coggeshall in 1845, with moulded bricks like those of the Abbey". These kilns appear to have been in the area slightly to the north of the development site.

Archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) on the development site in February 2018 revealed a small number of ditches, pits and postholes of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and later date (CAT Report 1229). A number of unexcavated cropmarks have also been recorded in fields adjacent to the development site (EHER 8794) revealling further evidence of past historic activity.

4 Aim

Archaeological strip, map and excavate was undertaken to identify, excavate and record all archaeological features disturbed by groundworks associated with the new housing development.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The results of the February 2018 evaluation and the June 2018 excavation have been combined below. Twenty-one individual features were recorded ranging in date from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to medieval.

The area of the proposed new housing development was stripped of modern topsoil (L1, 0.26-0.35m thick) and occasional patches of subsoil (L2, 0.16-0.44m thick) onto

natural (L3). All of the features were cut into natural and sealed by either L1 or L2. Some of the features were relatively shallow suggesting truncation probably from ploughing, which is also apparent from the lack of subsoil over some of the site.

The strip was monitored by CAT archaeologists, and all features excavated and recorded (see Fig 2). However, with the agreement of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor, the far north of the development site was not monitored (see Fig 2).

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age
Three sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery were the only datable finds recovered from ditch F18 in the far north of the excavation area. The ditch was aligned NW/SE but turned almost 90 degrees to a NW/SW alignment, however it was not recorded in evaluation trench T1, so either terminated or altered alignment before this point. It measured on average 0.68m wide by 0.25m deep.

A sherd of residual Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from Middle Iron Age ditch F1. Another sherd of Late Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery came from Middle Iron Age ring-ditch F4 and may be associated with this early activity, but could equally be contemporary with the Middle Iron Age settlement.

Middle Iron Age
The majority of the features dated to the Middle Iron Age and included four structures, consisting of three roundhouses and a four-post structure. All of the roundhouses were defined by circular gullies or 'ring-ditches'.

Ring-ditch F3/F13: Most of ring-ditch F3/F13 was revealed during the excavation. It had in internal diameter of *c* 12m and an external diameter of *c* 13.5-14m. The ring-ditch itself measured on average 0.76m wide by 0.23m deep. The southern edge of the ring-ditch was located outside the excavation area and an entrance may have been located here. There were no internal postholes.

Recovered from the ring-ditch were 65 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery along with a quantity of animal bone and fragments of fired clay, some of which were possibly from loomweights. Post-medieval activity over the ring-ditch was evidenced by the occurrence of a small quantity of intrusive finds, including clay pipe, brick/tile and coal/coke.

Two pits were excavated inside the ring-ditch. Pit F11 measured 0.58m by 0.45m and 0.11m deep and contained a quantity of Middle Iron Age pottery sherds and animal bone. The assemblage also included three sherds of 1st-century AD pottery, suggesting the pit is later than the ring-ditch. Undated pit F12 measured 0.8m by 0.64m by 0.29m deep.

Ring-ditch F4: Only a small section of ring-ditch F4 was located within the excavation area. The ring-ditch measured 0.68m wide by 0.27m deep and included a single terminal, indicating an entrance to the south. Sixty sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from the ditch along with a quantity of animal bone.

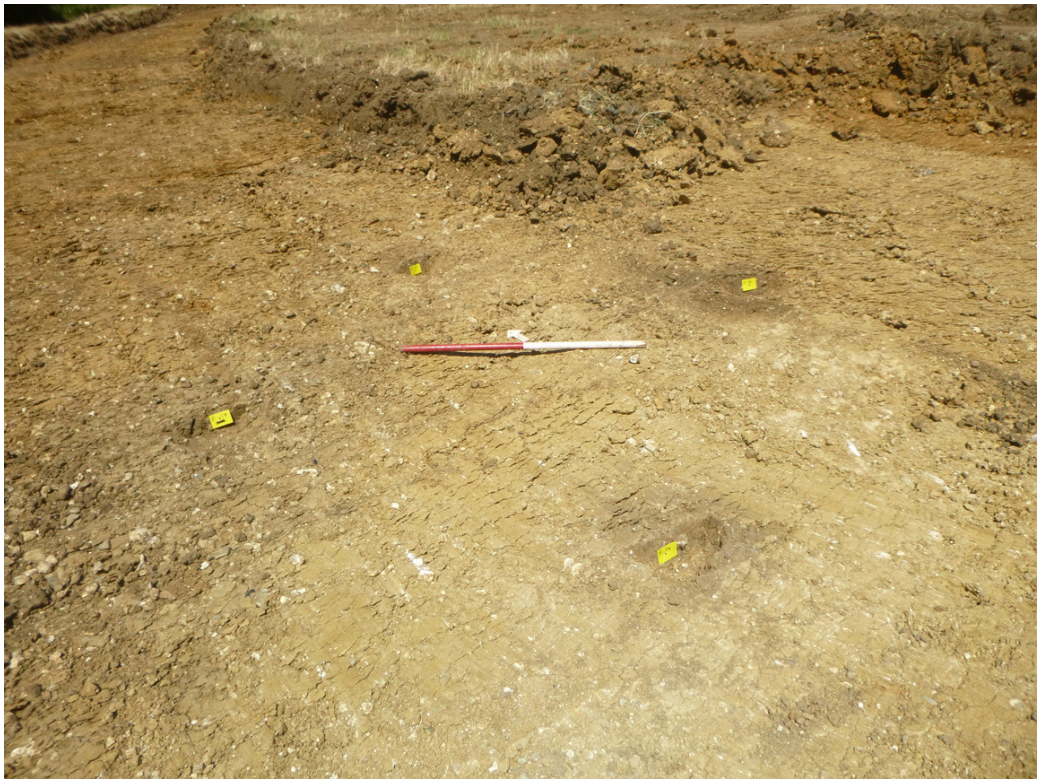
Ring-ditches F8 and F9: Only a small section of ring-ditch F8/F9 was located within the excavation area. Unlike to other two examples, this had an internal ring-ditch (F8) and an external ring-ditch (F9), possibly representing two separate phases of use. It is difficult to accurately determine the size of the ring-ditches with so little recorded, but it was probably similar in size to F3/F13. Ring-ditch F8 measured on average 0.53m wide by 0.17m deep and F9 0.36m wide by 0.13m deep. No internal postholes were identified within the small excavated area. Twenty-one sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from both ditches along with a quantity of animal bone and a single piece of burnt flint. Cut through F9 was Middle Iron Age pit F10.

Photograph 1 Ring-ditch F3, looking northeast.

Photograph 2 Ring-ditches F8 sx1 and F9 sx1, looking northwest

Four-post structure: To the northwest of ring-ditch F8/F9 was a four-post structure (postholes F14-F17). They were fairly shallow, oval-shaped postholes measuring on average 0.45m by 0.39m and 0.09m deep with flat bases. The structure measured approximately 1.7m by 1.7m (3.4m²), with posthole F16 slightly out of alignment with the rest.

Other features: In addition to the ring-ditches and four-post structure were a Middle Iron Age ditch aligned E/W (F1) measuring 0.74m wide by 0.29m deep and six pits of a Middle Iron Age/Iron Age date (F2, F7, F19, F20, F21, F22). A single undated pit (F5) which contained fragments of fired clay and a piece of animal bone is probably contemporary with this activity.



Photograph 3 Four-post structure (postholes F14-F17), looking northwest

Medieval
Medieval ditch F6 was recorded in evaluation trench T5 to the south of the site. Aligned N/S it measured 0.67m wide by 0.14m deep and contained *c* 11th-12th century pottery. This ditch was not present in the excavation area further to the north so must have either terminated or changed direction.

6 Finds (incorporating the finds from both the evaluation and excavation)
by Stephen Benfield (unless otherwise stated)

Introduction
Finds of a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age, medieval, post-medieval and modern date were recovered from the both the evaluation and excavation. All of the bulk finds are listed by find type in Table 1 and are listed and described by context and find number in the bulk finds catalogue (Appendix 2).

Finds type	No.	Wt/g.
Pottery	367	1909
Ceramic building material (CBM)	2	2
Fired clay	24	136
Heat-altered (burnt) stones	21	740
Flint (worked flint)	6	31.1
Quern (imported lava)	3	786
Clay tobacco pipe	1	4
Coal/coke	1	2
Animal bone	178	1318

Table 1 Types and quantities of bulk finds

Prehistoric

Pottery

In total 356 sherds of hand-made prehistoric pottery were recovered. The combined weight of this pottery is 1738g. The pottery was recorded by fabric and the fabric types referred to follow the fabric series initiated by Brown (1988) and which is commonly used in recording prehistoric pottery in Essex (Table 2). The quantity of each fabric type (sherd count and weight) is shown in Table 3.

Note on fabrics: The sand-tempered fabrics have been divided between three fabrics Fabric H, Fabric I and Fabric J. However, the fabrics are somewhat similar, with one being defined on the presence of burnt-out chaff (vegetable) material in the surface, the presence of which may vary over areas of the pot surface. Not every sherd has been examined in detail and the classification of the sand-tempered sherds here between these fabrics is somewhat arbitrary.

Fabric code	Fabric description
B	Mix of small-medium crushed flint (common-abundant)
C	Mix of small-medium crushed flint (common-abundant) with occasional larger pieces (*c* >2mm)
E	Flint & sand
H	Sand-tempered, small-medium sand, moderate-common
I	Sand-tempered, small-medium sand with some larger grains/small stones, sand common-very common
J	Sand-tempered, small-medium sand some larger grains, common-very common with some vegetable inclusions burnt out in surface

Table 2 Prehistoric pottery fabrics

Fabric code	Sherd no.	% sherds	Weight g	% weight
B	1	*0.2*	10	*0.6*
C	3	*0.8*	16	*0.9*
E	23	*6.5*	106	*6.1*
H	138	*38.8*	492	*28.3*
I	66	*18.5*	558	*32.1*
J	125	*35.1*	556	*31.9*

Table 3 Prehistoric pottery, quantity by fabric

Much of the Iron Age pottery is quite broken-up with few large sherds suggesting some time lapse between breakage and entering the contexts from which it was recovered. Overall, almost all of the prehistoric pottery from the site is typical of Middle Iron Age (MIA) assemblages from East Anglia (Sealey 2007, 62). The fabrics are dominated by handmade sand-tempered pottery, making up 92% of the assemblage both by sherd count and by weight. Some or all of the relatively small number of sherds with flint-temper (Fabric B, Fabric C and Fabric E), all of which are body sherds, might possibly

be residual from earlier activity; although the large MIA assemblage from Little Waltham, Essex, also contained a small quantity of flint-tempered pottery (Drury 1978, 57-58, Fabric C & Fabric J). However, the appearance of some of this pottery suggests that it is probably Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age rather than Middle Iron Age, notably sherds from ditches F1 (1) and F18 (13).

The forms represented are mostly plain, slack shouldered jars/bowls with generally simple, sightly flaring rims (Figs 4.1, 4.5, 4.6). There is one example of a bead rim (Fig 4.2) and one sherd from an open bowl form (Fig 4.7). It can be noted that bowls are present among the large MIA assemblage from Little Waltham, Essex (*ibid* 1978, Form 15) although it might better be compared with an open bowl among a large Late Iron Age assemblage of pottery at Stanstead, Essex (Going 2004, fig 98, no. 27). Decoration is almost entirely absent and where present is mostly confined to the tops of rims with four out of a total of ten rim sherds from different vessels carrying decoration. The single sherd from a base edge shows a flat base with a small foot (Fig 4.3). Pottery of this type is current from the 4th millennium to the 1st millennium BC (Sealey 2007, 55-56). It can be noted that in addition to a small number of radiocarbon (C14) dates for MIA pottery in Essex as discussed by Sealey, a date of 386-207 cal BC at 2-sigma (95.4% confidence) has been obtained from burnt residue on a pot at the former Fiveways Fruit Farm, Colchester (CAT Report 1070). The pot came from a significant group of MIA pottery recovered from a pit (F409) and among which were examples of typical slack profile, sand-tempered jars with smoothed or burnished surfaces.

An exception to the typical MIA pottery are two pots from pit F11. These are a bowl with a thickened rim and rounded cordoned below (Fig 4.8) and three shoulder sherds with scored decoration which appear typical of the jar form Cam 258 (Fig 4.10). A rim sherd recovered might be the rim of the latter pot (Fig 4.9). While the bowl form might be expected to be grog-tempered and the jar Cam 258 commonly appears as an early shell-tempered ware both are sand-tempered. A possible parallel for the bowl, also apparently sand-tempered (although the fabric is not listed) appears among the large assemblage at Stanstead, Essex (Going 2004, fig 110, no. 232). These two pots appear to represent forms broadly current in the late 1st century BC to early 1st century AD and 1st century AD respectively. The single example of a bead rim (Fig 4.2) might also be of late date. The pottery therefore indicates that occupation or activity here extended into the 1st century AD. However, there is a complete absence of grog-tempered pottery of Late Iron Age-type which is common on sites in Essex from the late 1st century BC until the mid 1st century AD and generally dominates assemblages dated to that period. Although the assemblage here is relatively small, on current understanding of Iron Age pottery in Essex this absence would tend to suggest significant activity here ending probably by the turn of the 1st century AD rather than later.

Fig 4.1 F1 (1) Rim sherd with finger-tip indentation in rim top (Fabric H). Middle Iron Age, *c* 4th century to 1st century BC.

Fig 4.2 F3 (17) Jar/bowl with small bead rim (Fabric I). Middle Iron Age, *c* 4th century to 1st century BC.

Fig 4.3 F3 (15) Small base edge sherd, flat base with a small foot (Fabric J). Middle Iron Age, *c* 4th century to 1st century BC.

Fig 4.4 F4 (5) Rim from an upright jar with finger-tip decorated top (Fabric I). Middle Iron Age, *c* 4th century to 1st century BC.

Fig 4.5 F4 (5) Shouldered jar rim with finger-tip decorated rim top (Fabric H). Middle Iron Age, *c* 4th century to 1st century BC.

Fig 4.6 F8 (7) Slack shouldered jar, finger-tipping around rim, lightly smoothed surface, some crazing on surface from heating/burning (Fabric I). Middle Iron Age, *c* 4th century to 1st century BC.

Fig 4.7 F10 (11) Bowl, plain-flat-top rim, orange surfaces, grey core, rim possibly in-curving (Fabric I). Middle Iron Age, *c* 4th century to 1st century BC.

Fig 4.8 F11 (4) Bowl rim, flat top, external slight bead, cordon effect on shoulder area, moderately coarse sand-temper, appears to be imitating a 'Belgic' form (Fabric I). Mid 1st century BC to early 1st century AD.

Fig 4.9 F11 (4) Rim from a jar without sloping neck, possibly of form Cam 258 (see Fig 4.10) (Fabric I)

Fig 4.10 F11 (4) Decorated shoulder sherd from a jar (cooking pot), probably of Form Cam 258 (Hawkes & Hull 1947), Thompson Form C4 (1982) (Fabric I). 1st century AD.

Fired Clay

Small pieces of fired clay were recovered from a number of features associated with finds of Middle Iron Age/Iron Age date. Most of the fired clay consists of nondescript pieces, possibly the fragmented remnants of clay-built hearths or ovens. However two pieces, from ditches F1 and F3 sx3, have surfaces and appear to be edge-pieces from objects, possibly small pieces of broken loomweights.

Heat-affected (burnt) stones

A number of pieces of heat-affected burnt stone was also found in Middle Iron Age/Iron Age features, and can be assumed to be detritus from prehistoric occupation. In prehistoric contexts, stones were often heated in a fire and transferred into vessels to heat water. In total, 21 pieces of heat-affected stone, weighing 740g, were recorded from features, the most significant quantity coming from ditch F1 (1) with 15 pieces (504g) of thermally shattered stone, all of flint. Other features produced only one or two pieces, but this included pieces of quartzite, sometimes selected for its better thermal properties (Crummy et al 2007, 18-21) which came from ring-ditch F9, and pits F19 and F22.

Flint *by Adam Wightman*

Six worked flints were recovered from four Middle Iron Age features (F4, F9, F13 and F17) and a pit of 1st century AD date (F11). Two of the flints, from F4 and F17, are likely to be residual within these contexts. Three flints from F9 and F13 could be contemporary with these Middle Iron Age features. For a long time the accepted archaeological view was that the regular use of flint tools did not continue beyond the Bronze Age. However, as Hazel Martingell explains in her report on the worked flints from the Iron Age enclosures at Stanway, Essex (Crummy *et al* 2007, 21), this view has been challenged in recent years and it has been suggested that there was a largely functional and utilitarian use of worked flints from the Middle Bronze Age into the Iron Age (Young and Humphrey, 1999). However, it is difficult to say conclusively whether these three flints represent the continuation of flint tool use into the Iron Age, or whether they are residual pieces.

Context no.	Eval finds no.	Exc finds no.	Description
F4	5		Small, ?soft hammer flake (secondary), possible platform preparation, patinated, almost certainly earlier than Middle Iron Age (1.2g)
F9		8	1) Thick hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform. 2) Thick hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform. (both together weight 9.2g)
F11		4	Squat, wide hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform, heavily patinated (4.9g)

F13		6	Thick hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform, slightly patinated, possible usewear/edge damage (9.8g)
F17		12	Hard hammer flake, tertiary, short and squat with possible rough retouch on left lateral (could be usewear/edge damage), probably residual (6g)

Table 4 Worked flint

Animal Bone *by Alec Wade*
The evaluation and excavation at Tilkey Road, Coggeshall produced a small animal bone assemblage of 178 pieces weighing 1.318kg. The material was generally in poor condition and quite fragmented.

Most of the bone was of Middle Iron Age date (154 pieces) and was produced by ditch F1 and ring-ditches F3 and F4. Cattle, pig and sheep or goat bone was present though much of the material was not closely identifiable. Signs of dog gnawing, cut marks associated with butchery (including dismemberment of the carcass) and deliberate breaking and burning were noted to affect a small amount of the MIA assemblage.

Both horse and cattle were identified amongst the animal bone (16 pieces) recovered from the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age ditch F18.

Pit F11 of 1st century AD date produced a very small amount of material (7 pieces), most of which was unidentifiable with the exception of a single piece of sheep or goat bone.

Medieval

Pottery
In total 11 sherds of medieval pottery with a combined weight of 126g were recovered. The medieval pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester post-Roman pottery fabric series (*CAR* **7**). The fabrics recorded and quantity of each fabric type are listed in Table 5.

Fabric	Description	Sherd No.	Weight g
12B	Slightly sandy shelly wares	1	6
12C	Sandy shelly wares	5	80
13S	Shell-dusted sandy ware	1	14
20	Medieval sandy greyware (general)	4	26

Table 5 Medieval pottery by fabric

All of the stratified medieval pottery was recovered from ditch F6 and a single small sherd of probable medieval date was also recovered from L2 (8).

Of this small group of pottery, most is shell-tempered (64% by sherd count & 73% by weight) (Fabrics 12B & 12C) with one shell-dusted sherd (Fabric 13S) and a few sherds in sandy greyware (Fabric 20). The sherds include a large rim sherd with a small bead that comes from a shouldered cooking pot (Fig 4.11) and a sherd from the rim of a bowl (Fig 4.12). The cooking pot rim is shell-tempered (Fabric 12C) and wheel-made. A few of the shell pieces in this can be seen to be from spiral shells such as whelk. The bowl rim is in a shell-dusted fabric (Fabric 13S) and is also wheel-made. The rim is of triangular form with a flat top. The sandy greyware sherds are all body sherds and all appear to be at least partly hand-made.

Overall the shell-tempered and shell-dusted wares are typical of the 11th-12th century and at Colchester particularly the 12th century (*CAR* **7**, 36). The greyware sherds probably do not date earlier than the late 12th century (*ibid* 40).

Fig 4.11 F6 (9) Cooking pot rim with slight bead defined by groove beneath, see *CAR* **7** fig 27 rim form C1/B1. Medieval, late 11th to early 12th century (Fabric 12C).

Fig 4.12 F6 (9) Bowl with expanded, pointed rim (Fabric 13S) (bowls of this period are comparatively uncommon among assemblages from Colchester accounting for 4% of pottery forms (by EVEs & weight) (*CAR* **7**, 52).

Quernstone
Three pieces of imported lava quernstone, almost without doubt from the Mayen quarries in Germany, were recovered from a soil layer (L2) in evaluation trench T5. These are quite abraded although one piece has a flat surface which is probably an original grinding surface. These lava quernstones were first imported in the Roman period during which time large numbers arrived in Britain. The trade began again in the later Saxon period and continued into the medieval period (*CAR* **2**, 75). Given the other finds from the site it would appear that the likelihood is that the quern here is medieval.

Other finds
A small piece/fragment of sandy, hard orange coloured ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered as a surface find from F1 (23).

Intrusive material from ring-ditch F3 sx1 (15) and sx2 (17) included a piece of clay tobacco pipe stem, and small fragments of CBM and coal/coke, showing post-medieval disturbance over the feature.

Finds discussion
The finds evidence shows that there was some activity on the development site in the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. However, the main period of activity dates to the Middle Iron Age, the pottery being typical of assemblages in Essex from *c* 400/350 to 50 BC. Other diagnostic finds are limited, although a couple of small pieces of fired clay appear to be from objects, possibly loomweights. A few sherds of pottery from one pit (F11) suggests that there was probably still settlement on or close to the site in the early 1st century AD, although balanced against this is the complete absence of Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery. The absence of this pottery would appear to point toward occupation having ended by about the turn of the 1st century AD rather than later. Overall, the assemblage is probably too limited to allow the clear resolution of this issue.

The Iron Age settlement here is of some interest in relation to the development of Coggeshall in the following Roman period. While previous excavations have recovered evidence of earlier prehistoric activity in the area of the Roman settlement, which was focused at the east end of the present town, no finds relating to occupation in the later part of the Iron Age have so far been found there (Isserlin 1995, 100). The lack of knowledge concerning the later Iron Age period meant that there was little context in which to place the establishment of the Roman settlement. The finds here show the existence of a farmstead, located northwest of the Roman settlement, which was occupied in the late 1st millennium BC and where activity may have continued into the early 1st century AD.

The finds of medieval pottery, including some that can be dated from the 11th to12th century appears significant in relation to the presumed exploitation of this area to produce bricks and tiles used in building Coggeshall Abbey. The Abbey was founded in *c* 1142 and located approximately a mile to the south, on the south side of the River Blackwater. In 1845 a brick and tile kiln was found at Tilkey, containing bricks similar to those used at the Abbey (ECC 1999, 12).

7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction – aims and objectives

Three samples (see Table 6) were taken from an excavation that revealed Middle Iron Age ring-ditches, pits and ditches. This assessment follows on from one by the author in March 2018 during the evaluation phase (CAT Report 1229).

Sample no.	Finds no.	Feature no.	Feature	Date	Sample volume (L)
1	21	F3 sx 3	Ring-ditch	Middle Iron Age	40
2	22	F3 sx 2	Ring-ditch	Middle Iron Age	40
3	5	F12	pit	Undated	20

Table 6 Sample details

Sampling and processing methods

All samples (totalling 100L of soil) were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. Samples were processed using a Siraf-type flotation device and flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

Results

***The plant remains* (Table 7)**

Charred and uncharred/dried waterlogged or intrusive plant macro-remains were present in each sample. Each sample contained low to abundant quantities of modern root/rhizome fragments and charcoal flecks. Low numbers of fragments of identifiable charcoal (>4mmØ) were found in samples two and three. No other charred plant macro-remains were present. Uncharred, possibly dried waterlogged or intrusive seeds were found in low numbers in each sample and consisted of seeds of the ruderal plants fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.), knotgrass type (*Polygonum* sp.) and black bind weed (*Fallopia convolvulus* L.).

Faunal remains

Low numbers of terrestrial mollusca were found in sample 2

Significant inorganic remains and artefacts

None were observed.

Sample	Finds no.	Feature number	Bulk sample size (L)	Flot volume (L)	Estimated density*	Charred			Uncharred			
						Charcoal >4mmØ	Charcoal <4mmØ	Twig fragment	Seeds			Root/rhizome fragments
						a	a	a	a	d	p	a
1	21	F3 sx3	40	0.015	0	-	3	-	1	1	3	3
2	22	F3 sx2	40	0.02	0.25	1	1	-	1	1	3	3
3	5	F12	30	0.015	0.6	1	3	1	1	1	3	3

Table 7 Plant macro-remains

Key to Table X:
*(charred plant macro-remains per litre of sample excluding charcoal flecks)
a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; and 3 = abundant >100]
d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high]
p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples. Uncharred root/rhizome fragments and terrestrial mollusca can indicate that bioturbation is possible.

Quality and type of preservation

Preservation was by charring and possibly waterlogged conditions that have since dried. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; Campbell *et al*. 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson and Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work

The deposition rates (density of plant remains per litre of sampled soil) of each sample was calculated by dividing the estimated number of charred plant macro-remains (excluding charcoal flecks) in a sample by the number of litres taken for that sample. At assessment stage charred plant macro-remains are not counted like they are at analysis level so estimated amounts were calculated by giving a value of 10 to an abundance of '1' and of 100 to an abundance of '2'. Although these are estimates they help give an idea of the productivity of the samples. The meaning of these densities here is based on the work of Kate Nicholson, who based her interpretations of Romano-British archaeobotanical assemblages from a villa site (Nicholson 2014) on the work of Professor Marijke Van der Veen and Professor Glynis Jones (Van der Veen & Jones 2006; Van der Veen 2007). (Nicholson 2014, 158). Nicholson's density value interpretations are given as follows below:

High density = >/ 21 items per litre of sampled soil = rapid/single event deposition
Low density = 3-13 items per litre of deposit = gradual accumulation in day to day activities

Very-low density = <3 items per litre of deposit = accidentally incorporated (e.g.wind-blown) into fills of features they no longer have association with.
(Nicholson, 2014, 157-158).

These samples from Tilkey Road all have very low estimated densities of charred plant macro-remains, so are likely to be present in the samples as wind-blown or accidentally incorporated items. This is like the results from the evaluation phase at Tilkey Road (Gray 2018) where charred plant remains were also present at very low densities. Charred plant remains are very durable and survive being moved about a site in backfill, re-working and bioturbation. A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record (Pelling *et al*. 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96). This means that the potential of most of these plant remains to provide useful information is low.

The charcoal in Middle Iron Age ring-ditch (F3 sx 2, sample 2) and undated pit (F12, sample 3) may contain taxa suitable for radiocarbon dating if identified, but as wind-blown or accidentally incorporated they may not be contemporary with these features.

8 Discussion

Archaeological investigations on land east of Tilkey Road, Coggeshall revealed a significant Middle Iron Age settlement or farmstead with evidence that occupation may have begun in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity appears to be concentrated to the north of the development site with pottery sherds from ditch F18 and a residual sherd from ditch F1. Archaeological investigations in Coggeshall have previously identified Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity 800m southeast of the development site at St Peter's School (Clarke 1988). Two small four-post structures and a number of pits, together with a quantity of residual pottery sherds in later features, was interpreted as evidence of a small unenclosed farming settlement. Other features of a prehistoric date were identified at Barnetts Yard (31 Queen Street, 670m SSE of the development site) (EHER 17580).

Middle Iron Age

A significant Middle Iron Age settlement or farmstead existed on the development site consisting of three roundhouses and one four-post structure. Ditch F1 may have acted as the northern boundary for the settlement, but this cannot be confirmed. The settlement does however, appear to continue beyond the boundaries of the development site to the east, west and south.

Due to the shape of the excavation area, only one of the roundhouses could be (almost) fully recorded. Measuring *c* 12m in diameter (internal diameter) it is similar in size and shape to nineteen Middle Iron Age roundhouses recorded at Lodge Farm, St Osyth, which had diameters measuring 6m to 13.6m, with widths of 0.21-1.6m and depths of 0.05-0.6m (Germany 2007, 53). Unusually, ring-ditch F4 appears to show an entrance on the southern edge of the roundhouse, as most roundhouses had entrances to the east to align with the rising sun. Unfortunately it was not possible to determine if ring-ditch F3/F13 also had a southern entrance or if the ring-ditch was unbroken. The double ring-ditch of F8/F9 may represent different phases of use, possible after a period of re-building. Ring-ditch F9 was certainly not in use by the time it was cut by Middle Iron Age pit F10.

The four-post structure likely functioned as a granary indicating that cereal crops or legumes were being grown on or near to the site. Faunal remains suggest that cattle and sheep/goat were being kept, fragments of possible loomweight indicates activities like weaving, and the pottery is probably from a domestic assemblage.

Aside from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement activity recorded at St Peter's School (see above), little evidence of prehistoric settlement has previously been identified in Coggeshall. There is now evidence of a significant Middle Iron Age settlement/farmstead on the development site in this period.

Medieval

Medieval activity in the immediate vicinity of the development site is known from references to tile kilns associated with the construction of the 12th-century Abbey (see archaeological background). It is possible the medieval ditch F6, dated to the 11th to 12th centuries, is associated with this phase of activity at Tilkey.

9 Acknowledgements

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11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from *c* AD 500 to 1066
Bronze Age	period from *c* 2500 to 700 BC
Late Bronze Age	period from *c* 1000 to 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Early Iron Age	period from *c* 600 to 400BC
Middle Iron Age	period from *c* 400 to 100BC
Late Iron Age	period from *c* 100 to 50 BC to Roman invasion of 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	**O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S**, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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

12 Contents of archive

Finds: one box (containing all retained finds from evaluation and excavation)

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1315)
Original site records (feature and layer sheets, finds records, sections/plans)
Photographic thumbails and log
Inked sections and illustrations

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1315)
Photographs, photographic thumbnails and log
Graphics files
Survey data

13 Archive deposition

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

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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 4.9.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
2018 evaluation (see CAT Report 1229)				
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-loam	Modern
L2	7	Subsoil / hillwash	Firm, moist medium orange/grey mottled silty-clay	?Medieval
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium orange/brown silty-clay	Post-glacial
F1	1, 2	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay silt with flecks of charcoal and daub	Middle Iron Age
F2	3, 4	Posthole	Soft/friable, dry/moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and daub	Middle Iron Age
F3 sx1	-	Ring-ditch	Firm, moist, medium yellow/grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks, >10% stone	Middle Iron Age (with intrusive post-medieval finds)
F4 sx1	5, 6	Ring-ditch	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with occasional charcoal and rare daub flecks, occasional stone	Middle Iron Age
F5	11, 12	Pit / posthole	Friable/firm, moist, medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with daub flecks, <2% gravel and <4% stone	Undated
F6	9, 10	Ditch	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with common charcoal flecks and rare stones	Medieval, *c* 11th-12th century
F7	13, 14	Pit / posthole	Friable, dry/moist, dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks, <1% gravel and >5% stone	Middle Iron Age
2018 strip, map and excavate				
L1	24, 25	Topsoil	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-loam	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil / hillwash	Firm, moist medium orange/grey mottled silty-clay	?Medieval
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium orange/brown silty-clay	Post-glacial
F1	23	Ditch	See above	Middle Iron Age
F3 sx2-3	3, 15, 17 21<> 22<>	Ring-ditch	See above	Middle Iron Age
F4 sx2	2	Ring-ditch	See above	Middle Iron Age
F8	7	Ring-ditch (inner)	Firm, dry grey/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and daub, <2% gravel	Middle Iron Age
F9	8, 9	Ring-ditch (outer)	Firm, dry, grey/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and daub, <4% gravel, <10% stone	Middle Iron Age
F10	10, 11	Pit	Firm, dry, greyish brown silty-clay, <5% stone	Middle Iron Age
F11	4	Pit	Firm, dry, medium-dark brown silty-clay, <4% stone	1st century AD
F12	5<>	Pit	Firm, dry, medium-dark grey/brownish-black silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and daub, <10% stone, 1% gravel	Undated

F13	6	Ring-ditch (part of F3)	Firm, dry, medium-dark, brownish-grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks, <7% stone	Middle Iron Age
F14-F17	12	Postholes	Firm, medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and daub, <7% stone.	Middle Iron Age
F18	13, 14	Ditch	Firm, dry, medium orangey-brown silty-clay	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F19	19	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Middle Iron Age
F20	18	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Middle Iron Age
F21	20	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Middle Iron Age
F22	16	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Iron Age (probably Middle Iron Age)
U/S	1	-	-	-

Appendix 2 Finds catalogue (combined evaluation and excavation catalogue)

Context	Find no.	Find type	Fabric	Description	No	Wt/g	Spot date
F1, ditch	1 (eval)	Pot	C	Shoulder sherd with finger-tip impressions, probably Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	1	8	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
		Pot	H	Rim sherd with finger-tip indentation in rim top	1	14	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	H		89	234	prehistoric
		Pot	I	Includes joining sherds with scored line decoration	11	162	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	J	Mostly smoothed surfaces	3	22	Middle Iron Age
		Burnt stone	-	Group of burnt stones probably affected by indirect heating; flint (14 at 380g), some very clearly heat-affected and discoloured, others heat shattered but with minimal alteration to the flint itself; sandstone/ quartzite (1 at 124g) appears heat affected but not dramatically so	15	504	?prehistoric
		Animal bone	-	Species present included cattle (5 pieces of bone) and sheep/goat (1). The unidentified material included large mammal bone (14 pieces) and medium sized mammal (3). Signs of dog gnawing (2 pieces) and deliberate breakage (1) was noted in the group	37	228	-
	23 (exc) (surface finds)	Pot	J	-	1	18	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	-	2	6	Middle Iron Age
		Fired clay	-	Hard fired piece with rounded edge, relatively fine sand fabric with some small stones – possibly from a loomweight?	1	38	Iron Age?
		Fired clay	-	Small pieces, orange & buff-orange, relatively fine sand fabric, abraded	2	8	-
		CBM	-	Very small hard fired piece from a brick or tile	1	1	Medieval/ post-medieval?
		Burnt stone	flint	Calcified, crazed (discarded)	1	34	?prehistoric
F2, posthole/ disturbance	3 (eval)	Pot	H	Base edge sherds (flat base)	2	18	Middle Iron Age
		Fired clay	-	Small recently broken pieces, edges abraded, brownish orange with grey core, sandy (clear rounded quartz) fabric	3	16	-
F3 sx1, ring-ditch	15 (eval) (mid fill)	Clay pipe	-	Plain stem piece, stem bore 3mm	1	4	Post-medieval
		Animal bone	-	Small quantity, the only identified piece was a fragment of a cattle radius. The remaining material was from large sized (5 pieces) and medium sized mammals (1)	7	114	-
F3 sx2	3 (exc)	Fired clay	-	Fine sand fabric, buff margins & surface dark core, one rounded surface one with flat surface – possibly part of a loomweight	2	30	?prehistoric
		Pot	I	Exterior surface missing	1	8	Middle Iron Age
	17 (exc)	Pot	J/I	Sherds in sandy fabric a number with some burnt-out chaff fragments in the surface (Fabric J & Fabric I) pottery very broken-up (average sherd weight 1.9g)	24	46	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Bead rim – jar/bowl	1	6	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Simple, slightly everted rim – jar/bowl	1	4	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Small bead rim (small sherds)	3	4	Middle Iron Age
		CBM	-	Very small hard fired piece from a brick or tile	1	1	Medieval/ post-medieval?
		Coal	-	Small piece of coke/coal – probably post-medieval/modern	1	2	Post-medieval/ modern

Context	Find no.	Find type	Fabric	Description	No	Wt/g	Spot date
		Animal bone	-	Unidentifiable pieces of large mammal bone, probably cattle.	10	52	-
F3 sx3	15 (exc)	Pot	J/I	Sherds in sandy fabric a number with some burnt-out chaff fragments in the surface (Fabric J & Fabric I) pottery very broken-up; includes very small, beaded rim sherd (average sherd weight 1.7g)	34	58	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	J	Small base edge sherd, sherd with base foot	1	4	Middle Iron Age
	15	Fired clay	-	Small pieces of fired clay some fragmented from larger object with rounded edge – possibly a loomweight	9	16	?prehistoric
	15	Animal bone	-	The only identifiable piece was a fragment of a cattle calcaneus. The remaining unidentifiable material was from large sized mammals, probably cattle. Three pieces had been dog gnawed.	18	94	-
F4 sx1, ring-ditch	5 (eval)	Pot	H	Includes base edge sherd	32	140	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	H	Shouldered jar rim with finger-tip decorated rim top	1	10	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Includes rim from an upright jar with finger-tip decorated top	6	46	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Rim from an upright jar with finger-tip decorated top	1	10	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	J	Most sherds dark in colour, some also smoothed burnished	19	310	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	J	Shoulder from S-profile jar (burnished surface)	1	-	Middle Iron Age
		Flint	-	Small, ?soft hammer flake (secondary), possible platform preparation, patinated, almost certainly earlier than Middle Iron Age	1	1.2	Prehistoric, ?pre-Middle Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	Small quantity. The only identifiable piece was a fragment of a cattle humerus. The remaining bone was either large sized mammal (10) or unidentified (19). Dog gnawing was noted on 1 piece of bone and 3 small pieces were burnt (either white or white/grey in colour)	30	56	-
		Stone	-	Natural unmodified irregular flint flake (discarded)	-	-	-
F4 sx2	2 (exc)	Stone	-	Piece of natural unmodified flint (discarded)	-	-	-
		Pot	E	Sand and some fine flint, oxidised surface	1	3	Late Bronze Age/ Iron Age
F5, pit/ posthole	11 (eval)	Fired clay	-	Small, recently broken pieces, edges abraded, brownish-orange with grey core, sandy fabric with some red pellet-like inclusions	4	10	-
		Animal bone	-	Fragment from a large-sized mammal femur, probably cattle/cow	1	4	-
		Stone	-	Natural irregular flint shatter piece with dull surfaces (discarded)	-	-	-
F6, ditch	9 (eval)	Pot	12B	Hand-made body sherd, dark fabric (*c* 11th-12th century)	1	6	Medieval, *c* 11th-12th century
		Pot	12C	Wheel-made, includes small rim sherd, base edge sherd (*c* 11th-12th century), some shell-temper fragments clearly from spiral shells	4	34	Medieval, *c* 11th-12th century
		Pot	12C	Cooking pot rim with slight bead	1	46	Medieval
		Pot	13S	Bowl rim (*c* 11th-12th century)	1	14	Medieval, *c* 11th-12th century
		Pot	20	Hand-made (*c* late 12th-14th century)	3	18	Medieval, *c* 12th-14th century
F7, pit / posthole	13 (eval)	Pot	H	Rim sherd, probably from an S-profile jar, flattened rim top, burnished/smoothed exterior	1	4	Middle Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	Pelvic fragment from a large mammal	1	10	-
		Stone	-	Natural irregular flint shatter piece with dull, patinated surfaces (discarded)	-	-	-
F8 sx1,	7 (exc)	Stones	-	Several pieces of natural flint (discarded)	-	-	-

Context	Find no.	Find type	Fabric	Description	No	Wt/g	Spot date
ring-ditch							
		Pot	I	Slack shouldered jar, finger-tipping around rim, lightly smoothed surface, some crazing on surface from heating/burning (joining sherds-fresh breaks)	2	38	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Jar or bowl rim, plain, simple slightly everted rim, sandy surfaces (not smoothed)	1	10	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Body sherds from typical MIA bag-like jar/bowl pots, some sherds smoothed, one sherd burnt?	10	120	Middle Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	Cattle and pig were identified (1 piece each) including part of a boar's mandible. The remaining material was from large sized mammals, probably cattle. Dog gnawing (3 pieces) and cut marks associated with butchery (3) was noted on some of the material.	19	266	-
F9 sx1, ring-ditch	8 (exc)	Pot	H	Dark surfaces, fabric (Fabric H/I)	6	22	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Oxidised brownish-red surface, neck sherd	1	10	Middle Iron Age
		Flint	-	1) Thick hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform. 2) Thick hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform.	2	9.2	Prehistoric, ?Middle Iron Age
F9 sx2	9 (exc)	Pot	J	Slightly abraded sherd	1	6	Middle Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	Unidentified material including large mammal bone, probably cattle.	2	22	-
		Burnt stone	S/Q	Quartzite, part of rounded stone – clearly burnt (discarded)	1	54	?prehistoric
F10, pit	11 (exc)	Pot	I	Sherd from a bowl, plain-flat-top rim, orange surfaces, grey core (rim appears to be real rather than a false rim or abraded break)	1	10	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Body sherds, dark grey/brown	5	22	Middle Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	Two pieces of cattle bone, including an astragalus with a chop mark. The remaining material was from large or medium sized mammals and included some skull fragments.	7	66	-
		Flint	-	Natural flake (discarded)	-	-	-
F11, pit	4 (exc)	Flint	-	Squat, wide hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform, heavily patinated.	1	4.9	prehistoric
		Pot	J/I	Sherds in sandy fabric a number with some burnt-out chaff fragments in the surface (Fabric J & Fabric I) pottery very broken-up (average sherd weight 2g)	40	88	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Bowl rim, flat top, external slight bead, cordon effect on shoulder area, moderately coarse sand-temper	1	22	Middle-Late Iron Age
		Pot	I	Three decorated sherds, stab row above angle, close set, incised lines. This appears to be from one (possibly two) pots Cam 258 -type, Thompson Type C4, commonly in shell-tempered ware the example here is sand-tempered	3	12	1st century AD
		Pot	I	Jar/bowl rim, flat-top, slack shoulder	1	8	Middle Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	The only identifiable fragment was of a sheep or goat's 1st phalange. The remaining material was from large or medium sized mammals.	7	10	-
F13, ring-ditch	6 (exc)	Pot	H	Mostly dark surfaces & fabric, fabric (Fabric H/I)	5	28	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Presumed pottery, two surface flakes, oxidised brownish-red surfaces, one with piece of incidental flint	2	6	Middle Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	Identified species included cattle (3 pieces) and pig (1). The remaining material was from large or medium sized mammals.	22	182	-
		Burnt stone	flint	Calcified, crazed (discarded)	2	94	prehistoric
		Fired clay	-	Orange, medium-coarse sand	1	6	-

Context	Find no.	Find type	Fabric	Description	No	Wt/g	Spot date
		Flint	-	Thick hard hammer flake, secondary, large platform, slightly patinated, possible usewear/edge damage.	1	9.8	Prehistoric, ?Middle Iron Age
F17, posthole	12 (exc)	Flint	-	Hard hammer flake, tertiary, short and squat with possible rough retouch on left lateral (could be usewear/edge damage), probably residual.	1	6	Prehistoric, ?pre-Middle Iron Age
F18 sx1, ditch	13 (exc)	Stone	-	Piece of natural flint (discarded)	-	-	-
		Pot	B	Dense flint on surface, mostly relatively fine flint, dark surfaces	1	10	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
		Pot	C	One sherd oxidised surface	2	8	Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
		Animal bone	-	Pieces of cattle radius and humerus (1 piece each). The radius fragment had a cut mark associated with butchery. The remaining fragments were of large sized mammal bone.	12	98	-
F18 sx2	14 (exc)	Animal bone	-	Three horse molars from the upper jaw and a fragment of large mammal bone.	4	154	-
F19, pit	19 (exc)	Pot	H	-	1	22	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	I	Includes rim sherds from slightly everted flat-topped rim, black body & surfaces, surfaces burnished	4	10	Middle Iron Age
		Burnt stone	S/Q	Quartzite, part of rounded stone – clearly burnt (discarded)	1	38	?prehistoric
		Animal bone	-	Unidentified fragment.	1	2	-
F20, ?pit	18 (exc)	Pot	E	Includes one small base edge sherd, defined footring to base (quite broken-up)	10	46	Iron Age
		Pot	E	Burnished surface	2	16	Iron Age
		Pot	I	Oxidised surface	2	6	Iron Age/ Middle Iron Age
F21, pit	20 (exc)	Pot	I	Includes sherd from shoulder of slack shouldered jar/bowl, pottery appears typical MIA	6	32	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	E	Flint-tempered sherds with some sand (small-medium flint, occasional larger piece Fabric C), most sherds with oxidised surface	11	44	Iron Age
F22, pit	16 (exc)	Pot	I	Coarse sand	1	6	Iron Age
	16	Burnt stone	S/Q	Quartzite, part of rounded stone – clearly burnt (discarded)	1	16	-
	16	Fired clay	-	Small, irregular pieces, slightly abraded, orange, sandy fabric (small-medium sand with occasional small stone)	2	12	-
L1, topsoil	24	Metal	-	Modern copper-alloy button, back of 'Sanders construction' from 1802 onwards (Peacock 1978) (discarded)	1	1	Modern, 19th century
	25	Metal	-	Modern copper-alloy lid, possibly from a pocket mirror or similar (discarded)	1	2	Modern
L2, subsoil	7 (eval)	Quern	lava	Imported Rhineland lava quernstone, quite abraded, part of a flat grinding surface on one piece (max thickness 50mm) (imported throughout the Roman period, trade begins again late Anglo-Saxon period and continues into the medieval period)	3	786	Roman/ medieval
	8 (eval)	Pot	J	-	1	4	Middle Iron Age
		Pot	20	Body/base sherd moderately hard sandy fabric, possibly medieval	1	8	Medieval
U/S	1 (exc)	Stones	-	Two pieces of natural flint (discarded)	-	-	-

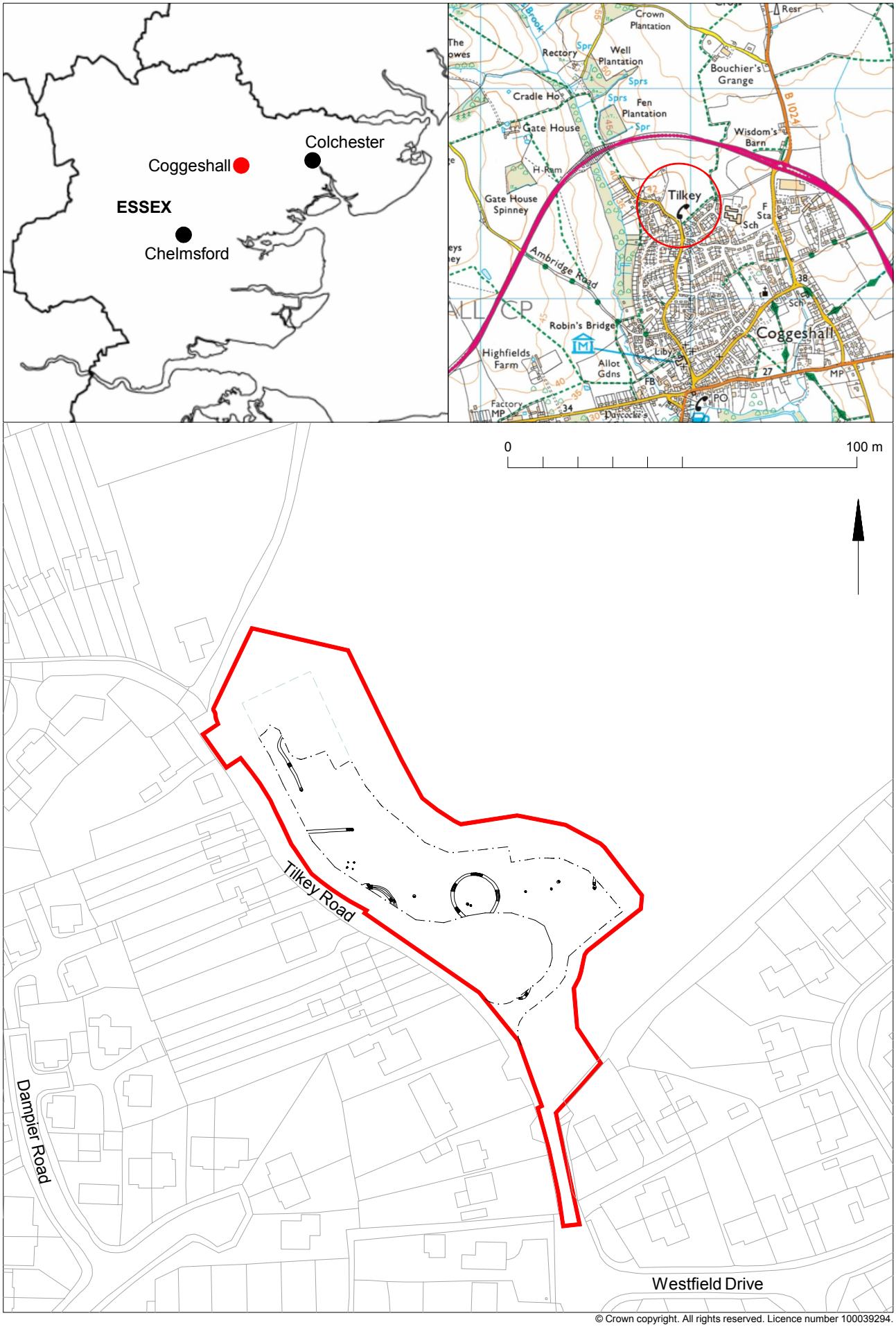

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Fig 1 Site location

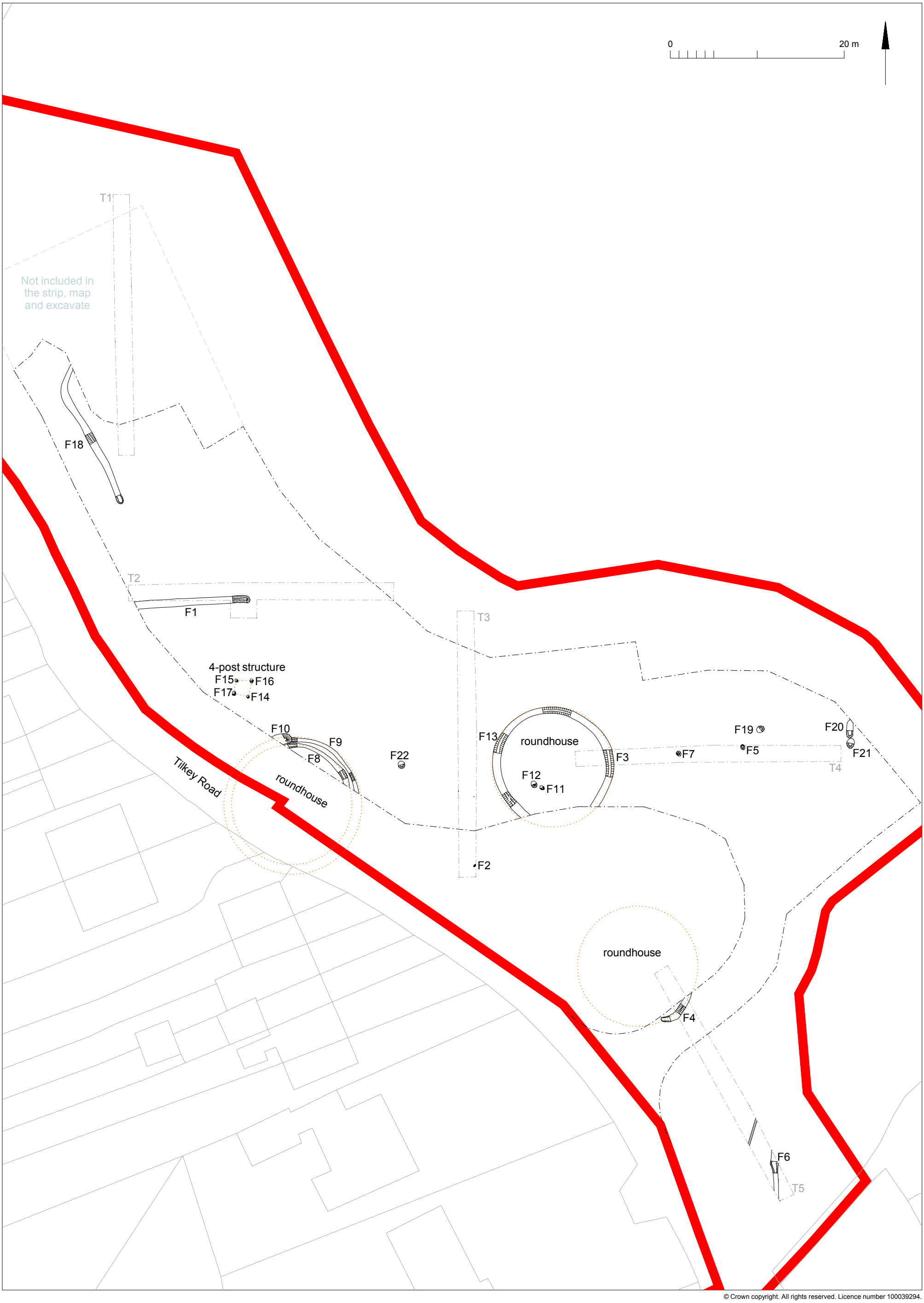

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Fig 2 Results

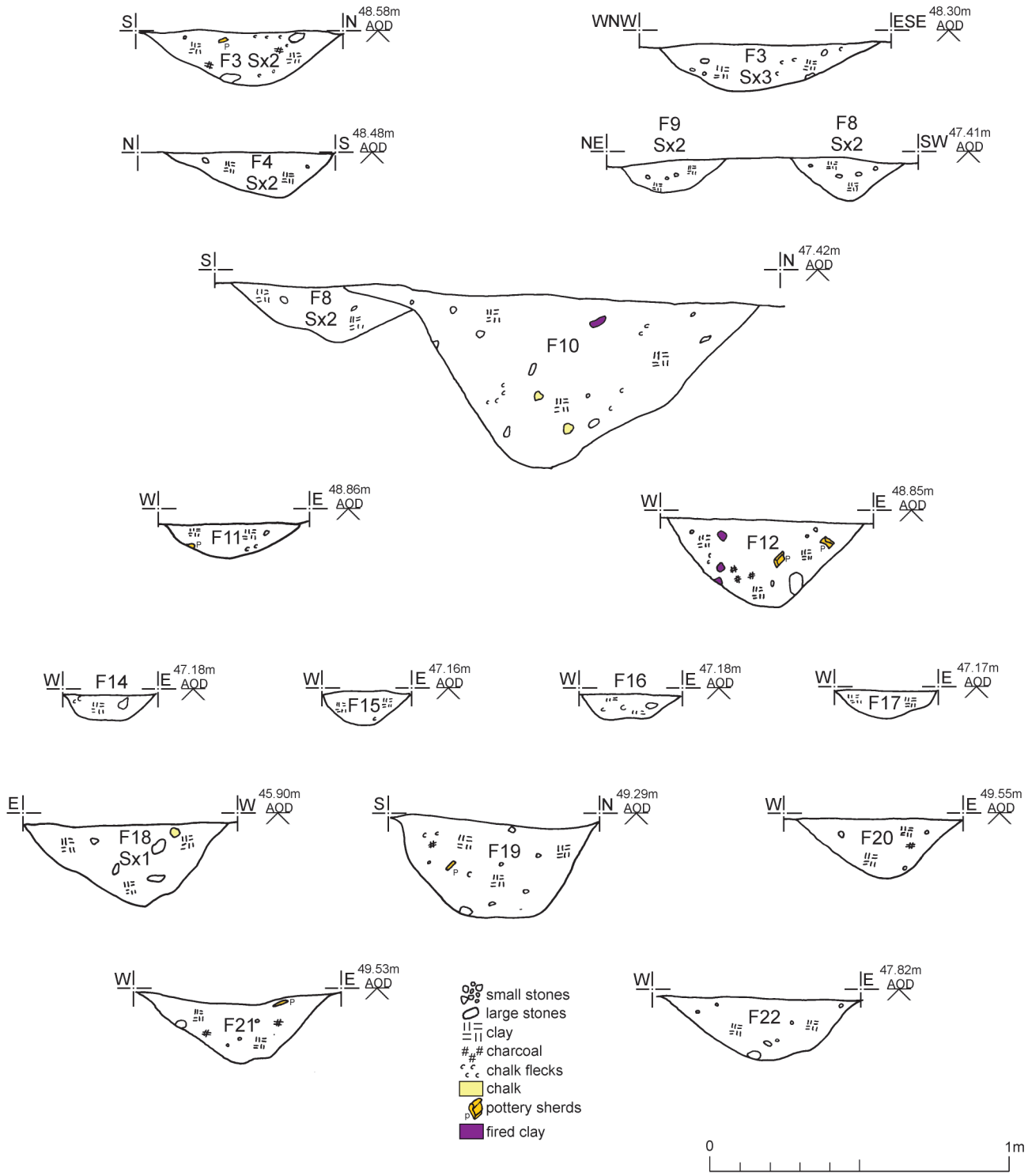

Fig 3 Feature sections

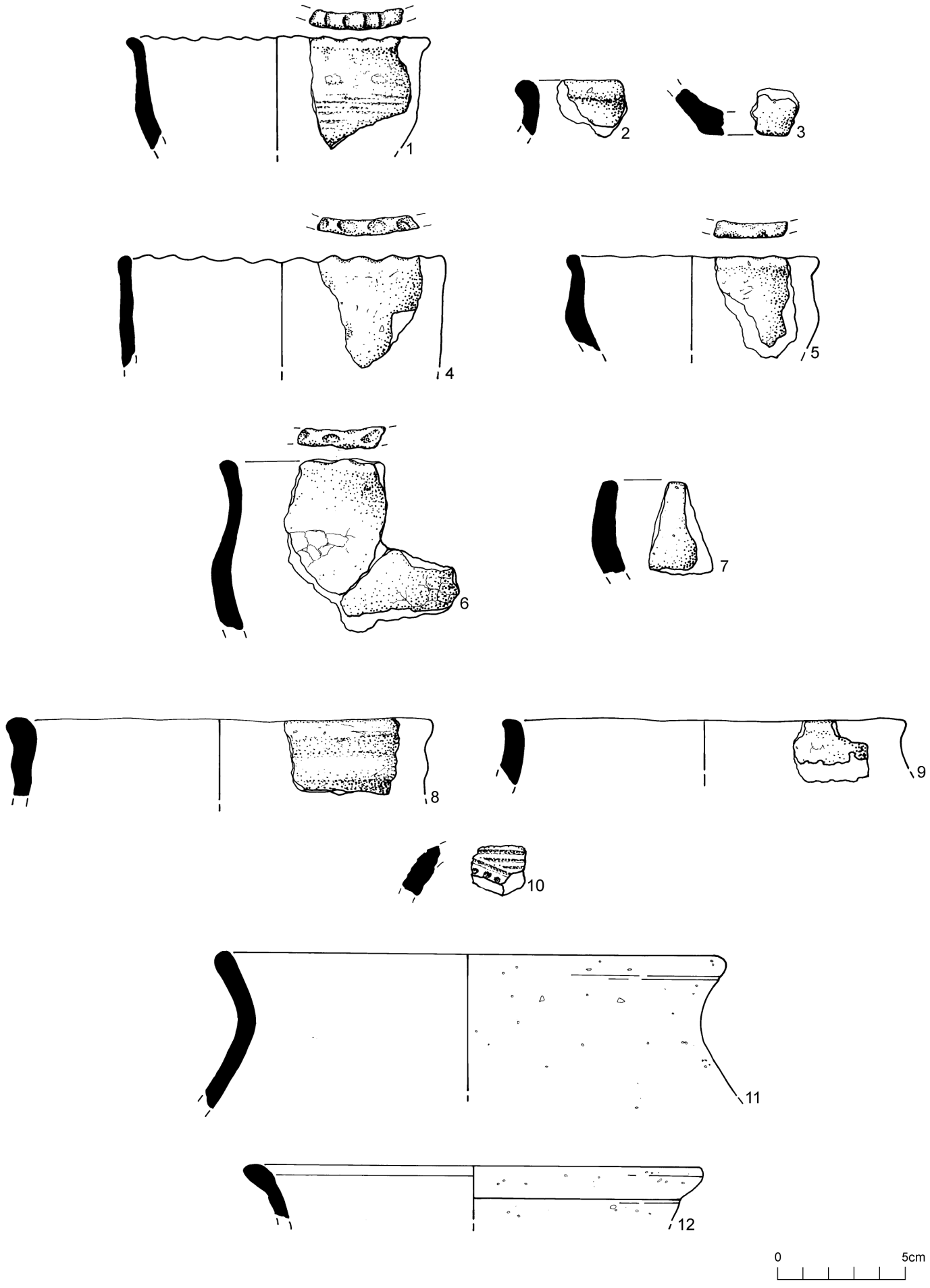

Fig 4 Prehistoric (1-10) and medieval pottery (11-12).

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: colchest3-327161

Project details

Project name	Archaeological strip, map and excavate on land east of Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1QN: June 2018
Short description of the project	Archaeological strip, map and excavate was carried out on land east of Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Braintree, Essex during groundworks for a new housing development. The development site is located in close proximity to a number of kilns which reportedly existed here during the medieval and post-medieval periods, and within an area of cropmarks. Current work followed on from archaeological evaluation in February 2018 which revealed a small number of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, Middle Iron Age and later features. Excavation revealed a significant Middle Iron Age settlement/farmstead consisting of three roundhouses and one four-post structure, with some activity (possibly focussed to the north of the site) beginning in the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The four-post structure likely functioned as a granary indicating that cereal crops or legumes were being grown on or near to the site. Faunal remains suggest that cattle and sheep/goat were being kept, fragments of possible loomweight indicates activities like weaving, and the pottery is probably from a domestic assemblage. A medieval ditch, dated to c 11th to 12th centuries, was also excavated.
Project dates	Start: 20-06-2018 End: 29-06-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	17/02190/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CGTR18 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	18/06e - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Middle Iron Age
Monument type	ROUNDHOUSE Middle Iron Age
Monument type	4-POST STRUCTURE Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PITS Middle Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Roman
Monument type	DITCH Late Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Investigation type	'"Part Excavation"'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE COGGESHALL land east of Tilkey Road
Postcode	CO6 1QN
Study area	0.65 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 84908 23426 51.878193138625 0.686679690447 51 52 41 N 000 41 12 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 44.65m Max: 49.35m

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
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Physical Archive ID	CGTR18
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics","Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	CGTR18
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	CGTR18
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Middle Iron Age settlement: An archaeological strip, map and excavate on land east of Tilkey Road, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1QN: June 2018
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