

Archaeological evaluation at Oakbourne, Hammond Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 7JN

January 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

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**commissioned by David Morris
on behalf of John Cutmore**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Oakbourne, Hammond Road, Hatfield Broad Oak in advance of the construction of six dwellings associated garaging, and an access road. A medieval ditch, a medieval pit, and a 19th- or 20th-century pit were uncovered, along with two undated pits, an undated ditch and a tree-throw.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Oakbourne, Hammond Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex which was carried out from 28th to the 29th January 2019. The work was commissioned by David Morris on behalf of John Cutmore in advance of the construction of six dwellings associated garaging, and an access road, 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* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial-trenching and excavation*, 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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the brief and Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (ECC codes below refer to SMR numbers).

The Historic Environment Record identifies the proposed development site as lying within the boundary of the medieval town of Hatfield Broad Oak (EHER 18744). The town thrived in the early medieval period, due to its important market and the presence of the priory, but a slow process of decline began during the 14th century. The proposed development site lies adjacent to the medieval green and is likely to have been used for settlement, commerce and recreation. Some of the remaining medieval buildings lie near to the site. Most notably, the church of St. Mary the Virgin lies approximately 350m to the west northwest (EHER 4333). The western part of the church was originally part of the Benedictine Priory of Hatfield Broad Oak, founded c 1135 as a cell of the Abbey of St Melaine at Rennes by Aubrey de Vere II, the Master Chamberlain and the Sheriff of Essex. The church was originally cruciform in plan with an aisleless nave and is constructed of mostly flint rubble with post-medieval brickwork and old ashlar. Extensive alterations were made during late 1310s and 1320s, including the extension of the presbytery toward the east. Towards the end of the 14th century the aisleless nave was removed. Excavations undertaken in 1897 were able to determine the whole plan of the church and priory (EHER 4323). The original priory is still preserved below ground as a Scheduled Monument (no. 1002148) and lies to the northwest of the development area.

4 Aims

The aim was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-6)

Six trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. T1 and T6 were 12m long and 1.8m wide; T2, T3 and T5 were 20m long and 1.8m wide; and T4 was 30m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.09-0.57m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.15-0.3m thick) onto natural clay (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.27-0.79m below current ground level).

No significant archaeological remains were identified in trenches T3 or T4.

Trench 1 (T1):

Undatable ditch F2 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 1.19m wide and 0.19m deep.

Trench 2 (T2):

Undatable ditch F8 represented a continuation of ditch F2 in T1 to the north. It lay on a NE-SW alignment and was 0.91m in width and 0.17m in depth.

Undatable pit F5 was 0.46m wide and 0.16m deep.



Photograph 1 T5 trench shot – looking west



Photograph 2 T6 trench shot – looking south southeast

Trench 5 (T5):

Three pits, F3, F4 and F7, were excavated. F3 was medieval or post-medieval (1400-1550) in date, and F7 was modern (19th century), while F4 was undatable. All of these features extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) and so their full dimensions could not be determined, but their exposed extents were 0.54-0.82m wide and 0.19-0.24m deep.

Tree-throw F6 was excavated.

Trench 6 (T6):

Medieval or post-medieval (1250-1550) ditch F1 was aligned N-S. The feature extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 0.69m wide and 0.42-0.62m deep.

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

There was a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 24 sherds with a weight of 689 g (Table 1). This material was recovered from four features: F1, F3, F6, and F7.

Ceramic material	No.	%	Weight (g)	%	MSW/g	No. rim	No. base	Rim EVE*	Rim EVREP**
Medieval/post-medieval	16	67	167	24	10	1	4	0.06	1
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	7	29	495	72	71	-	-	-	-
Baked clay?	1	4	24	4	24	-	-	-	-
All	24		689		29	1	4	0.06	1

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery. *Rim EVE: rim estimated vessel equivalent, ** Rim EVREP: rim estimated vessel representation.

Post-Roman pottery

The post-Roman pottery was recorded using the fabric groups from CAR 7 (2000) and Cunningham (1985). Three wares were represented (Table 2) with a total of 16 sherds with a weight of 689 g, and one vessel (rim EVREP) (Tables 2-3).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F20	Medieval sandy grey ware (general) – elsewhere medieval coarse ware	13th to 14/15th century
F21	Colchester-type ware	13th to mid-16th century
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	16th to 19th/20th century

Table 2 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded

The majority of the post-Roman pottery can be assigned to the Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21) with 14 sherds with a weight of 127 g (Table 3). Most of these sherds came from F1 (thirteen/116 g). These sherds all appear to be of late Colchester-type ware, which is dated to c 1400/1425-1550 AD on account of their harder fabric, reduced external sherd surfaces (one sherd is heavily reduced and is possibly overfired), and green speckled lead/copper glaze (CAR 7, 2000, 108-109). The feature F1 (1) also contained a medieval sandy grey ware (Fabric 20) rim from a later-style cooking pot with a blocked, neckless rim (H3, Group B form), which can be broadly dated to 1250/1275-1375/1400 (CAR 7, 2000, 94-5 fig. 59 no. 15, 107).

Fabric code	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/ g	Rim	Handle	Base	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
F20	Medieval sandy grey ware (general)	1	34	34	1	0	0	0.06	1
F21	Colchester-type ware	14	127	9	0	0	4	0.00	0
F40	Post-medieval red earthenware	1	6	6	0	0	0	0.00	0

Fabric code	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/ g	Rim	Handle	Base	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Total		16	167	10	1	0		0.06	1

Table 3 Details on the post-Roman pottery

Finally, from pit F7 (6) there was one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware with a thick green glaze on both the interior and exterior surfaces, which dates from the mid-15th until the 19th or early 20th century (CAR 7, 2000, 189-193). The all-over glaze might suggest that this sherd dates to the 19th or early 20th century (*ibid.*, 193).

Ceramic building material

All the CBM came from tree-throw F6 (3) which contained seven pieces of thin medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with a weight of 495 g, as well as one piece of baked clay (24 g). One peg-tile preserved a peg-hole with a diameter of 13 mm, although the opening on the upper surface has been covered with a layer of mortar. The earliest use of peg-tile dates to around the late 12th century; in southeastern England they broadly date from the 14th century onwards (Drury 1981, 130-131).

Conclusion

Most of the features with pottery and CBM (F1, F3, F6) can be dated to the late medieval and early post-medieval periods while the feature F7 is probably modern (Table 4).

Feature	Post-Roman Pottery	CBM	Overall date (approx.)
F1	F20 Medieval sandy grey ware (late) F21 Colchester-type ware (late)	-	1250/1275-1550
F3	F21 Colchester-type ware (late)	-	1400-1550
F6	-	Post-medieval	Post-medieval
F7	F40 Post-medieval red earthenwares (late?)	-	1800-1900?

Table 4 Dating summary

6.2 Non-ceramic finds

by Laura Pooley

A piece of oyster shell (10g) from F6 (finds no. 3) and an iron nail (10g) from F7 (finds no. 6) were the only non-ceramic finds found during the evaluation. The nail was complete, 71mm long, with square-sectioned shank and flat round head. A piece of natural flint from F1 (finds no. 1) was discarded.

6.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

Only six pieces of animal bone (weighing 106g) were recovered during the evaluation. These were all small fragments in poor condition. Although no reliable identification of species was possible it is likely that cattle, sheep or goat and pig were represented in the assemblage. No signs of butchery, bone working or gnawing by dogs were evident.

Feature	Finds no.	Quantity	Weight (g)	Animal bone
F1	1	1	20	Pelvic fragment, probably from a cow.
F4	5	2	22	A tibia fragment from a medium sized mammal (probably a sheep or goat) and a femur fragment (probably pig?).
F6	3	3	64	Limb bone fragments (humerus/femur) from a large sized mammal.

Table 5 Details on the animal bones

7 Conclusion

Several archaeological features were uncovered during the course of this evaluation, consisting of two ditches, four pits, and a tree-throw. A general paucity of finds in these features, however, means that most cannot be dated. An exception is ditch F1, located in T6 at the southern end of the site, which yielded a small assemblage of pottery (fourteen sherds) dating it to the 13th to the mid 16th century as did pit, F3, in T5 in the middle of the site, which also contained a single sherd of the same period. Taken together, these features indicate that domestic occupation or artisanal activity may have taken place on or close to the site at some point during this period.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David Morris and John Cutmore for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with J Keeble, R Mathieson and B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

9 References

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

Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Oakbourne, Hammonds Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 7JN</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Cunningham, CM	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, CM and Dury, PJ (eds.), <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750</i>
Drury, PJ	1981	'The production of brick and tile in medieval England', in Crossley, DW (ed.), <i>Medieval Industry</i>
ECCPS	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Oakbourne, Hammonds Road, Hatfield Broad Oak</i> , by R Havis
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011a	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services

EHER	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
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1378)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1378)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code: SAFWM 2019.8.

Distribution list:

David Morris
John Cutmore
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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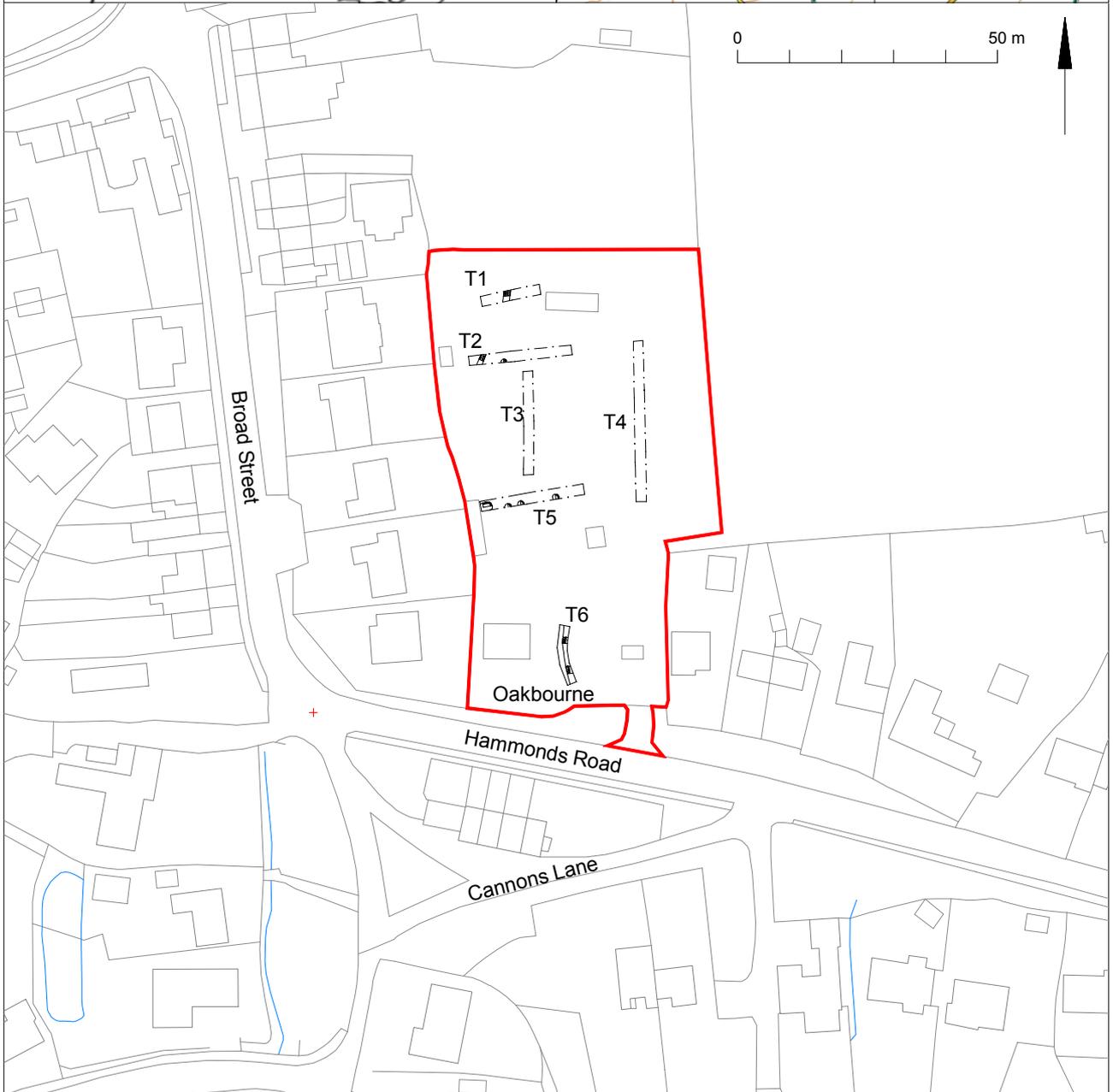
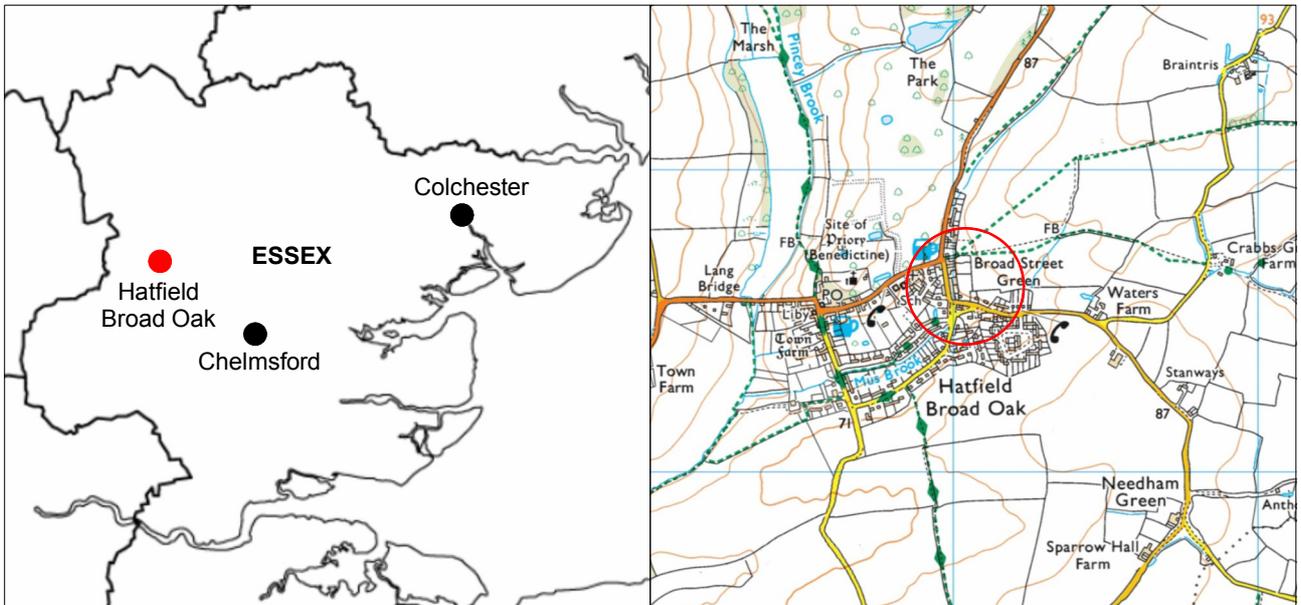
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 15.03.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Firm, dark grey/brown silty-loamy-clay	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Firm/hard, dry/moist dark grey/brown silty-loamy-clay	Undatable
L3	All	-	Natural	Hard, dry light yellow/grey clay	Post-glacial
F1	T6	1, 2	Ditch	Firm, dry medium grey/brown silty-clay with frequent chalk flecks	Medieval or post-medieval (1250-1550)
F2	T1	-	Ditch	Firm, dry/moist medium yellow/brown clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F3	T5	4	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Medieval or post-medieval (1400-1550)
F4	T5	5	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable
F5	T2	-	Tree-throw	Firm, dry/moist light/medium grey clay	Undatable
F6	T5	3	Tree-throw	Very hard, dry light/medium grey/brown clay with 15% chalk pieces	-
F7	T5	6	Pit	Friable, dry/moist medium grey/brown silty-clay	Modern (19th- or 20th century)
F8	T2	-	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable



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Fig 1 Site location

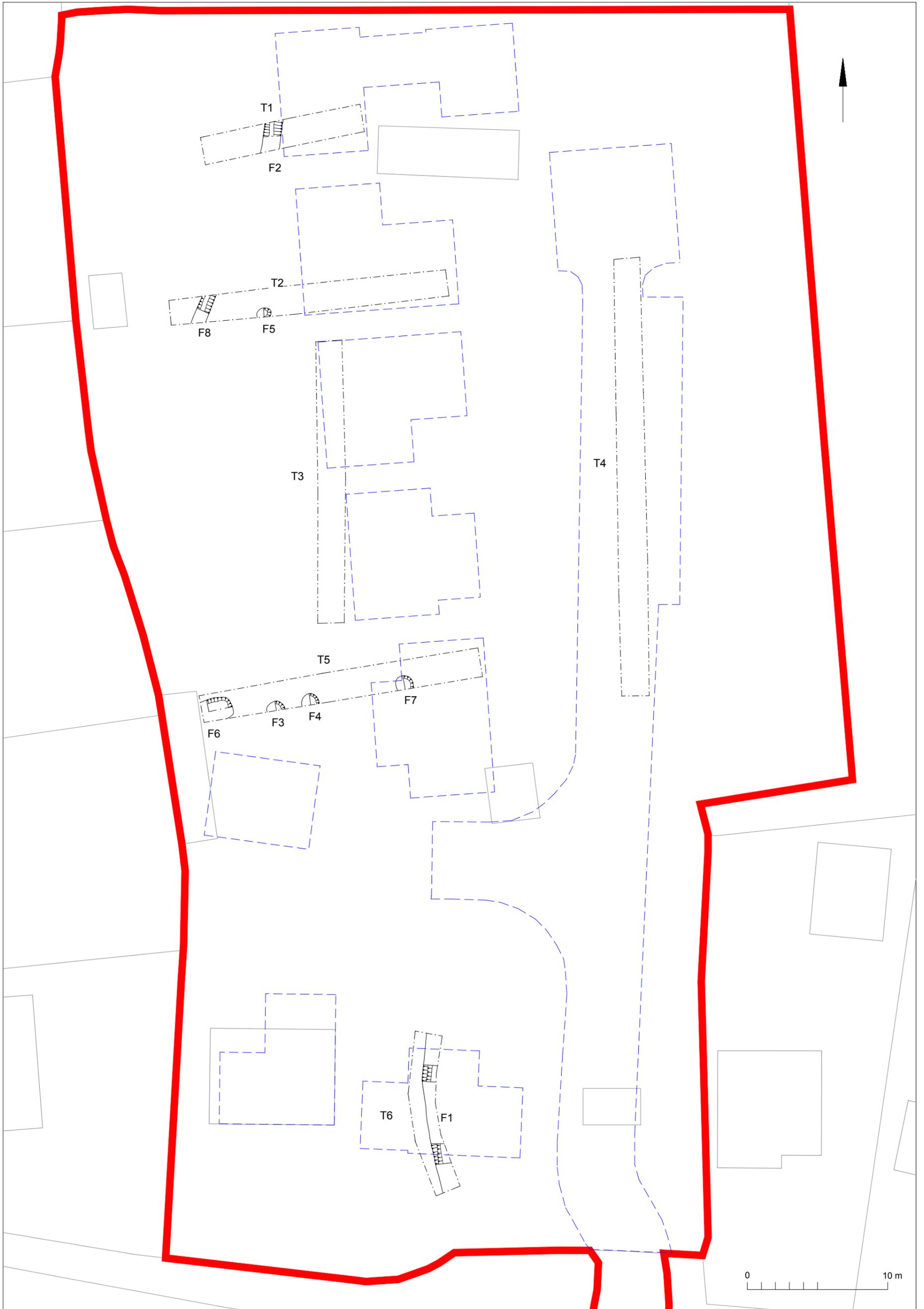


Fig 2 Results. Shown in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue).

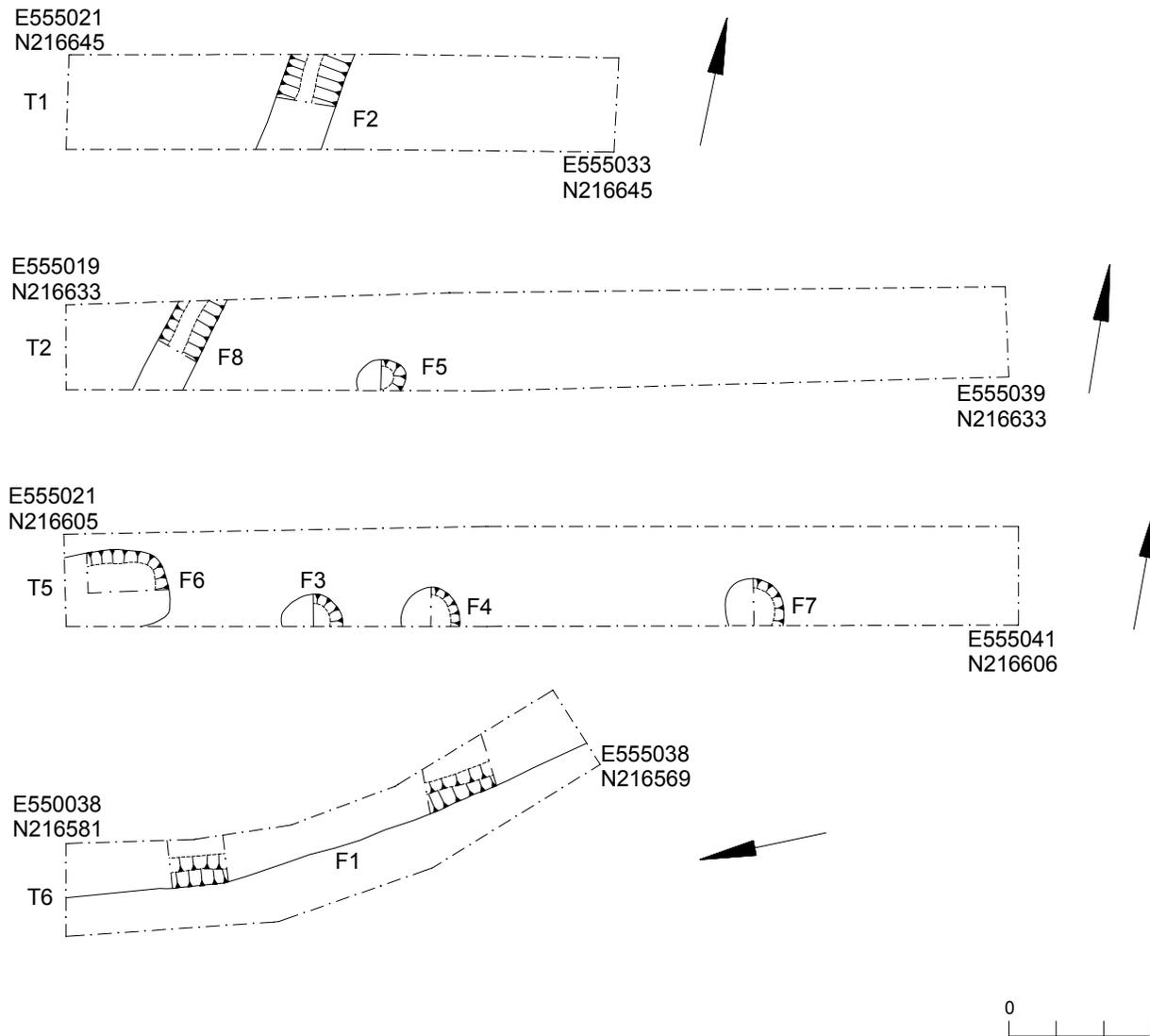


Fig 3 Trench plans

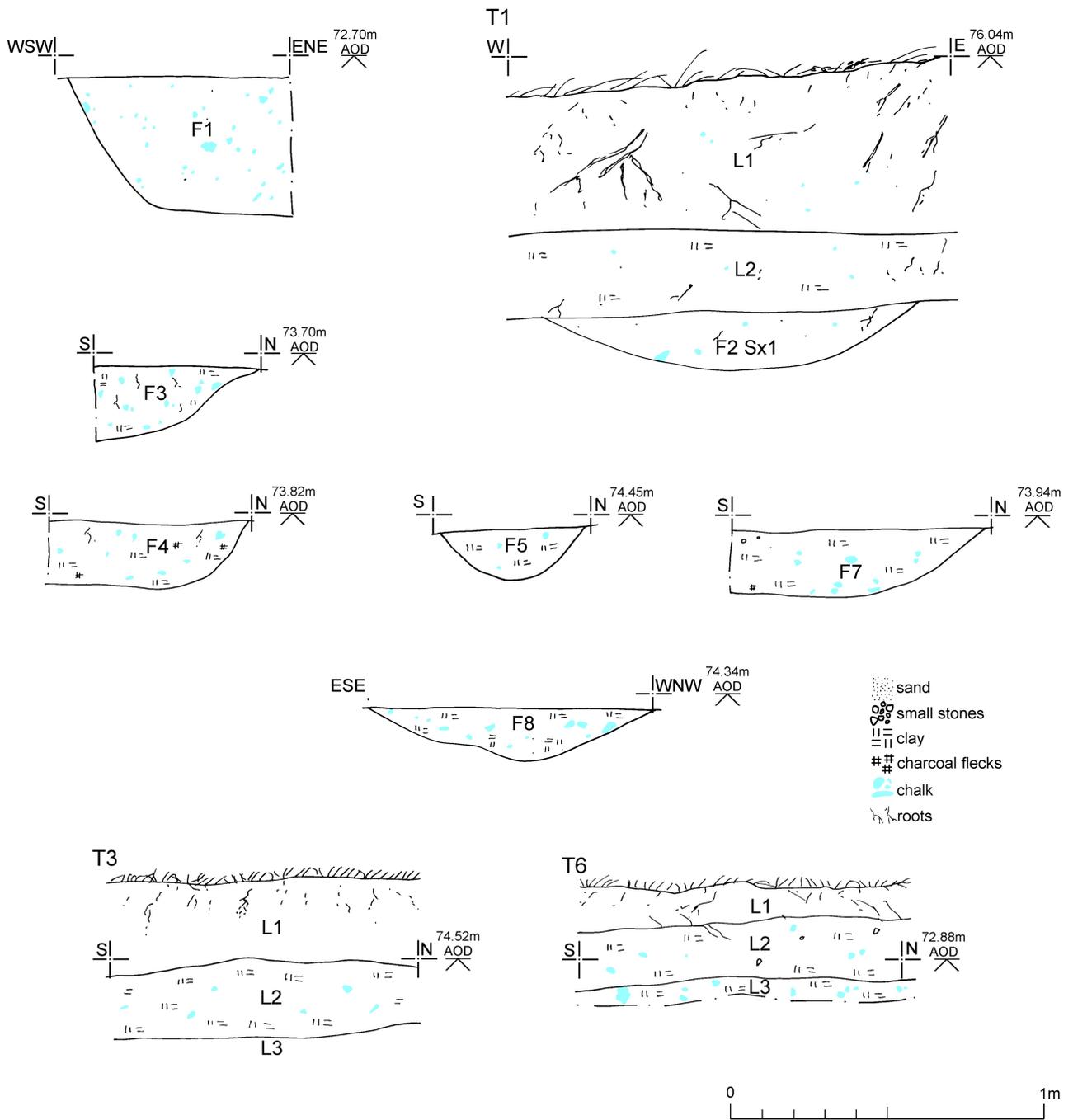


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-336523

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Oakbourne, Hammonds Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, CM22 7JN
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out at Oakbourne, Hammond Road, Hatfield Broad Oak in advance of the construction of six dwellings associated garaging, and an access road. A medieval ditch, a medieval pit, and a 19th- or 20th-century pit were uncovered, along with two undated pits, an undated ditch and a tree-throw.
Project dates	Start: 28-01-2019 End: 29-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/18/1704/OP - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM 2019.8 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	HBOHR18 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2018/12d - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	TREE-THROW Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Uncertain
Significant Finds	IRON NAIL Uncertain
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD HATFIELD BROAD OAK Oakbourne, Hammonds Road, Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex
Postcode	CM22 7JN
Study area	0.42 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 55040 16616 51.826142914236 0.250044285453 51 49 34 N 000 15 00 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 72.21m Max: 75.3m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM 2019.8
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM 2019.8
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

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