

Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land south of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PJ.

February 2019



by Emma Holloway

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with contributions from M Loughton and L Pooley

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Adam Tuffey and Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned James Emmerson (100 Acres Ltd)
on behalf of CJ New Homes Ltd**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of School Road, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex in advance of the construction of a new residential development of four pairs of semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks. The evaluation revealed two modern pits and two modern linear features.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Sunny View, south of School Road, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, which was carried out between 14-15th February 2019. The work was commissioned by James Emmerson of 100 Acres Ltd, on behalf of CJ New Homes Ltd, in advance of the construction of a new residential development of four pairs of demi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks. The work was carried out 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).

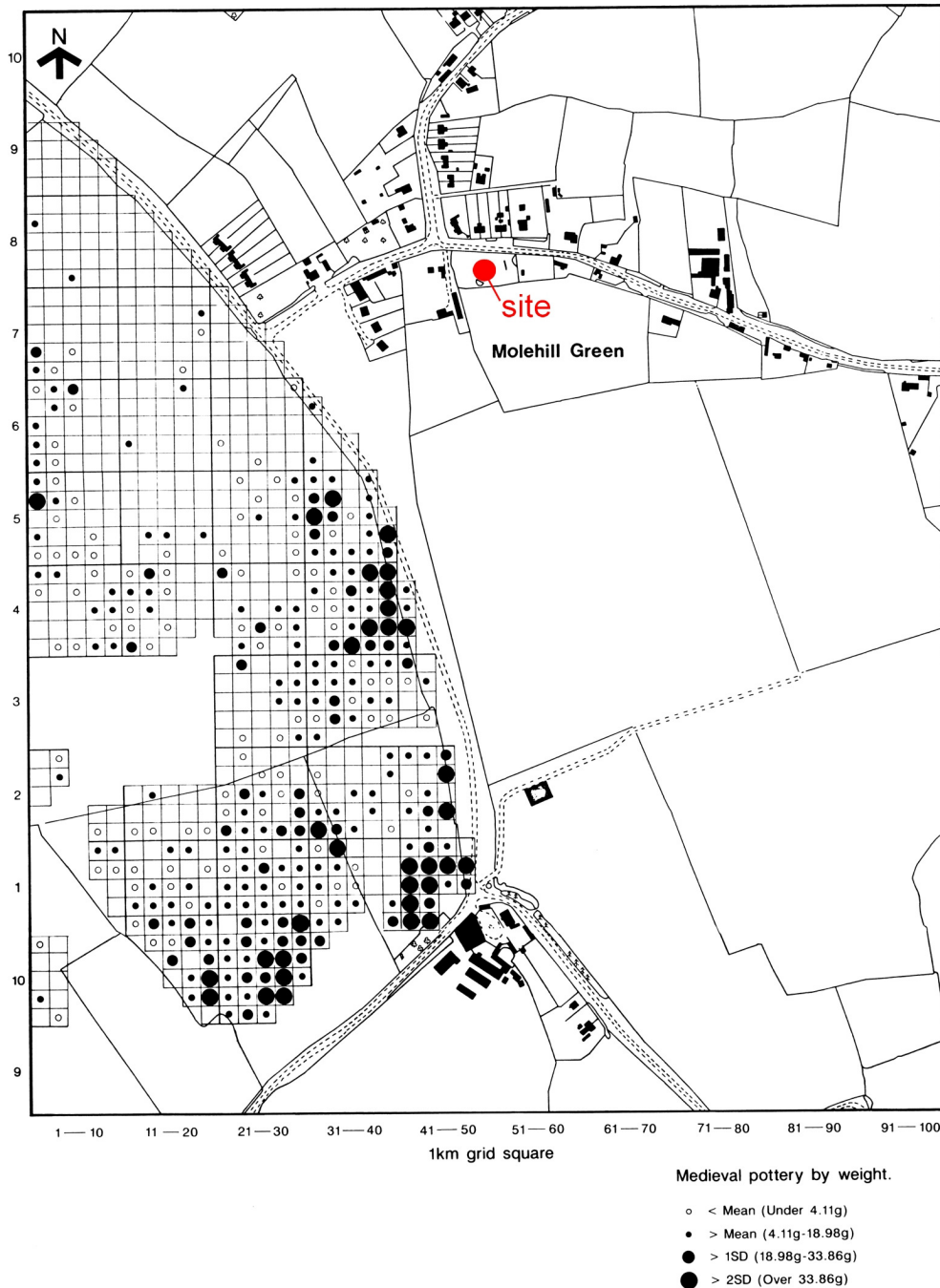
All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on Land south of school lane, Molehill Green, Takeley*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CifA 2014a) and *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. EHER numbers below relate to site SMR numbers accessible to view online at: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Molehill green is an historic hamlet. Of particular note are archaeological deposits found to the southwest at the site at Stansted airport. The airport has seen a number of phases of archaeological work as it has evolved and expanded. This primarily began in 1985 in response to Stansted becoming classed as a London airport. Between 1985 and 1991, a major fieldwalking programme followed by small to large-scale excavation work took place (EAA 107, 1-2). Of particular note in relation to our site is fieldwalking project Area X, located in the northeast corner of Stansted, along the edge of Molehill green. The plan below shows the distribution of pottery collected on the site.



Plan 1: EAA 107, 2, fig 235 showing the current site (in red) in relation to Stansted fieldwalking Area X.

Three small excavation areas were located to target areas with high concentrations of medieval pottery recorded by the fieldwalking. Closest to our site is MGS Area A, a 20 by 25m excavation area that revealed a small 'D'-shaped enclosure, defined by a series of rectilinear and curvilinear gullies. The gullies were quite shallow, (ranging from 0.1-0.3m in depth) and hard to interpret (EAA, 107, 2, 375-6; EHER no 6719). MGS Area B was initially a 20 by 15m area, but was later extended. The site was dominated by three linear gullies, two of which lay parallel. It was suggested that these may be the remains of a building with the gullies forming the foundation trenches of the structure. Other key features included two areas of burnt stones, interpreted as being the sites of

hearths (EAA, **107**, 2, 376; EHER no 6720). MGS Area C had evidence of a broader range of occupation, as identified by a series of linear gullies, pits and post-holes dating to the 12th-13th centuries, a series of linear gullies dating to the 14th-15th centuries and a backfilled moat dating to the 16th century. Although artefacts recovered from the moat date to the 16th century, this dates when it went out of use. The moat is thought to date back to the 13th century in origin (EAA **107**, 2, 379; EHER no 6721).

A trench excavated in 1979 by the Essex Field Archaeology Unit on land on the southern side of School Road found an area of burnt clay slabs, thought to be possibly part of a brick kiln, and two raised platforms formed by ditches parallel to the site boundary (EAH **11**, 70; EHER no 4711). These were interpreted as toft sites, abandoned in the 19th century when the hamlet may have downsized or moved sideways.

Also of note within the hamlet is the Three Horseshoes Public House, an English Heritage Grade II listed 15th-century timber-framed building incorporated into a 17th century house (EHER no 37458) and Yew Tree Cottage an English Heritage Grade II listed 18th-century timber-framed house (EHER no 37463).

4 Aim

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Four trial-trenches covering 144m² (equating to just over 5% of the 2,840m² site) were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

All the trenches, except T4, were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.13-0.28m, dry, soft, dark brown/black sandy silt) and subsoil (L2, c 0.09-0.24m thick, moist, firm to hard, dark grey-brown clay with common flecks of fired clay and chalk) onto post-glacial natural (L3, hard, dry, mid yellow-brown clay, encountered at a depth of 0.28-0.71m below current ground level). Natural was confirmed by the excavation of a sondage in T4. For detailed ground measurements, see the representative sections on Figure 4.

No significant archaeological remains were identified in T4.

Trench 1 (T1): 20m long by 1.8m wide

The southern end of T1 was offset slightly to avoid a modern service. T1 was excavated through three layers (L1-L3).

T1 revealed a pit and a linear feature at the northern end of the trench. Modern pit F3 was 1.31m in width and 0.16m deep. Modern linear feature F4 was aligned E-W and was 1.65m in width and 0.21m in depth. Both contained modern finds (see section 6).



Photograph 1 T1 representative section – looking east

Trench 2 (T2): 20m long by 1.8m wide

T2 was excavated through three layers (L1-L3) and revealed a large shallow pit. F3 was 9.74m in width and c 0.21m to 0.36m deep. Finds recovered date the pit as modern (see section 6).



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking west

Trench 3 (T3): 20m long by 1.8m wide

T1 was excavated through four layers (L1-L4). The northernmost end of the trench had a dump of modern made-ground above the topsoil (L4), ranging in depth from c 0.23m to 0.3m. This was not seen in any other area. T3 revealed a single shallow modern linear feature. F1 was aligned NE-SW and is c 0.54-0.65m in width and c 0.06m to 0.12m deep. Finds recovered date this feature as modern (see section 6).



Photograph 3 T3 trench shot – looking north

6 Finds

Ceramic and pottery finds

Dr. Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small quantity of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 25 sherds with a weight of 8.4kg (Table 1). The post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) and Cunningham (1985).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g.)	MSW/gr.
Medieval-Post Medieval	12	116	10
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	13	8,325	640
All	25	8,441	338

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Post-Roman pottery

Sherds from three post-Roman fabrics (Tables 2-3) were recognized and these came from the features F2 (large shallow pit), F3 (pit) and F4 (Linear feature). Most of this material is represented by sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric F48D) which dates to the 19th to early 20th century.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F40	Post-Medieval red earthenwares	c.1500-19/20th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-early 20th century
F48E	Yellow Ware	Late 18th-19th century

Table 2 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g.)	MSW/g.	Rim	Handle	Base	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
F40	Post-Medieval red earthenwares	2	28	14	1	0	0	0.04	1
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	9	57	6	1	0	0	0.08	1
F48E	Yellow Ware	1	31	31	0	0	1	0.00	0
Total		12	116	10	2	0	1	0.12	2

Table 3 Details on the post-Roman Pottery

F2: contained a rim from a large post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) dish with trace of green glaze on the interior surface and yellow slip decoration in the form of a wavy-line (Cotter 2000, 195 fig. 132 nos. 2, 7). The fabric of this sherd is hard, red coloured, with a reduced core and is typical of the 'standard' fabric produced from c 1550-1570/1800 (Cotter 2000, 192). The vessel form and fabric suggest a date during the 18th century AD for this sherd. There were also two sherds of modern (post AD 1750) Yellow ware (fabric F48E) and Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) (Cotter 2000, 253-254).

F3: three sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric F48D) dating to the 19th-early 20th century (Cotter 2000, 253-254).

F4: two sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) and Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D).

CBM

There was only a small collection of ceramic building material with 13 sherds with a weight of 8,325g (Table 4). All of this material is of post-medieval date and was recovered from the following features: F1 (linear feature), F2 (Large shallow pit), F3 (pit), and F4 (linear feature).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (gr.)	MSW/gr.
Post-Roman				
MT	Modern Tile?	1	166	166
BR	Modern brick	6	7,975	1,329
Mortar		1	20	20
Baked-clay		5	164	33
Total		13	8,325	640

Table 4 CBM by period and type

F1: three pieces of baked-clay/daub with a weight of 58g.

F2: one piece of post-medieval tile (?) and four pieces of brick with a weight of 4.3kg. There were two large fragments of unfrosted bricks with dimensions of 140+ x 110 x 60 mm and 180+ x 115 x 70 mm which probably date to the 19th century.
 F3: one piece of mortar with a weight of 20g. and two pieces of baked-clay/daub with a weight of 106g.
 F4: one small brick fragment with a weight of 4g.

Finally, L4 produced a complete (196 x 100 x 80mm) unfrosted, grey-coloured (concrete?) brick with four moulded, curved vertical ridges on the two outer faces of the brick long axis. Modern paver?

Summary

Table 5 provides a brief dating summary for the features which contained datable ceramic finds. As can be seen all of the features are of modern date (19th to early 20th century).

Feature	Feature type	Post-Roman Pottery	Date Approx.	CBM	Overall date Approx.
F2	Large shallow pit	F40	18th century	modern tile	modern
		F48D	19th-early 20th century	19th century Brick	
		F48E	Late 18th-19th century		
F3	Pit	F48D	19th-early 20th century	-	modern
F4	Linear	F40	1500-19/20th century	modern Brick?	modern
		F48D	19th-early 20th century		modern

Table 5 Approximate dates for the individual features

Other finds

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of glass, clay pipe, iron nails, an iron strip and the prong of a garden fork or similar tool came from three features and two layers. All are recorded in Table 6 below, are of post-medieval/modern date and will be discarded once this report has been approved.

Feature no.	Finds no.	Description	Date of finds
F1	5	Glass: Fragment (34g) of olive green bottle glass. Iron: Rectangular strip of iron, 8g, 55mm long, 11mm wide, 4mm thick. Iron nail, complete, round-sectioned shank clenched at 45°, small round head, 4g, 55mm long.	post-medieval/modern
F3	6	Glass: Fragment (6g) from the rim and body of a small clear glass vessel. Iron: Iron nail, complete, rectangular-sectioned shank clenched at tip, flat rectangular head, 46g, 122mm long	post-medieval/modern
F4	8	Glass: Two fragments (4g) of dark blue moulded vessel glass. Iron nails: A) Incomplete, tip missing, rectangular-sectioned shank clenched half way at 45°, flat oval head, 26g, 77mm long. B) Shank fragment, 2g, 28mm long.	modern

	9	Iron: Probably a prong from a garden fork or similar tool, 34g. Clay pipe: Stem fragment (4g).	post-medieval/ modern
L1	1	Glass: Fragment (34g) of olive green bottle glass	post-medieval/ modern
L2	2	Glass: Fragment (1g) of clear flat glass. Clay pipe: Stem fragment (2g).	post-medieval/ modern
	3	Glass: Fragment (36g) of light green bottle glass	post-medieval/ modern

Table 6 Other finds by context

7 Conclusion

The only archaeological features found during evaluation was a large pit, a small pit and two linear features, which were all shallow in depth. All the features can be dated as modern by the finds recorded. The linear features are probably agricultural in origin, either as former modern boundary ditches or hedgerows. Of note is the modern subsoil (L2) which contains an abundance of small fragments and flecks of fired clay. These could be from churned up, plough-scattered remains related to the clay slabs/brick kiln recorded in 1979. The lack of medieval evidence could suggest the focus of the settlement is further to the south than the current site.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks James Emmerson and CJ New Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with B Quinn and A Tuffey. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Essex County Council 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 |
| CAT | 2014 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land south of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PJ.</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> |
| Cotter, J P | 2000 | <i>CAR Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> |
| Cunningham, C M | 1985 | <i>A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex.</i> In Cunningham, C.M. and Dury, P.J. (eds.), <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750 (Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report no. 5/CBA Research report no. 54), 1-16</i> |
| EAA 107, 1 | 2004 | <i>Excavations at Stansted Airport, 1986-91 Volume 1: Prehistoric and Romano-British.</i> By R Havis and H Brooks |
| EAA 107, 2 | 2004 | <i>Excavations at Stansted Airport, 1986-91 Volume 2: Saxon, medieval and post-medieval; Discussion.</i> By R Havis and H |

EAH 11	1979	Brooks <i>Essex Archaeology and History Volume II. Section 29 p70 by C Crouchman</i>
ECCPS	2019	<i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at Land South of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley</i>
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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

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
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1800
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
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

11 Contents of archive

Finds: None retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1379)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets and section sheets)

Site digital photo archive and log

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:2019.9.

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Distribution list:

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Date: 25/02/2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context no	Finds nos	Interpretation	Soil description	Period
F1	5	Possible ditch/hedgerow	firm hard dry moist light medium yellow grey brown clayey clayey with charcoal flecks, daub flecks	Modern 19/20th c
F2	7	Large shallow pit	firm moist medium grey brown clayey clayey and inclusions of: tile/brick (1%)	modern
F3	6	Pit	firm moist medium grey brown silty clay clay with daub flecks,	modern
F4	8 (upper), 9 (lower)	Linear	firm moist light medium grey brown silty clay clay and inclusions of: gravel (1%)	modern
L1	1 (T4)	Topsoil	Loose, soft, dry, dark brown/black sandy silt	Modern 19/20th c
L2	2 (T2) & 3 (T3)	Subsoil	Moist firm to hard dark grey-brown clay with flecks of fired clay	modern
L3		Natural geology	Hard, dry, mid yellow-brown clay	Post-glacial
L4	4 (T3)	Build up (modern dump on top of topsoil)	Dry loose mid grey-brown silty loam	modern

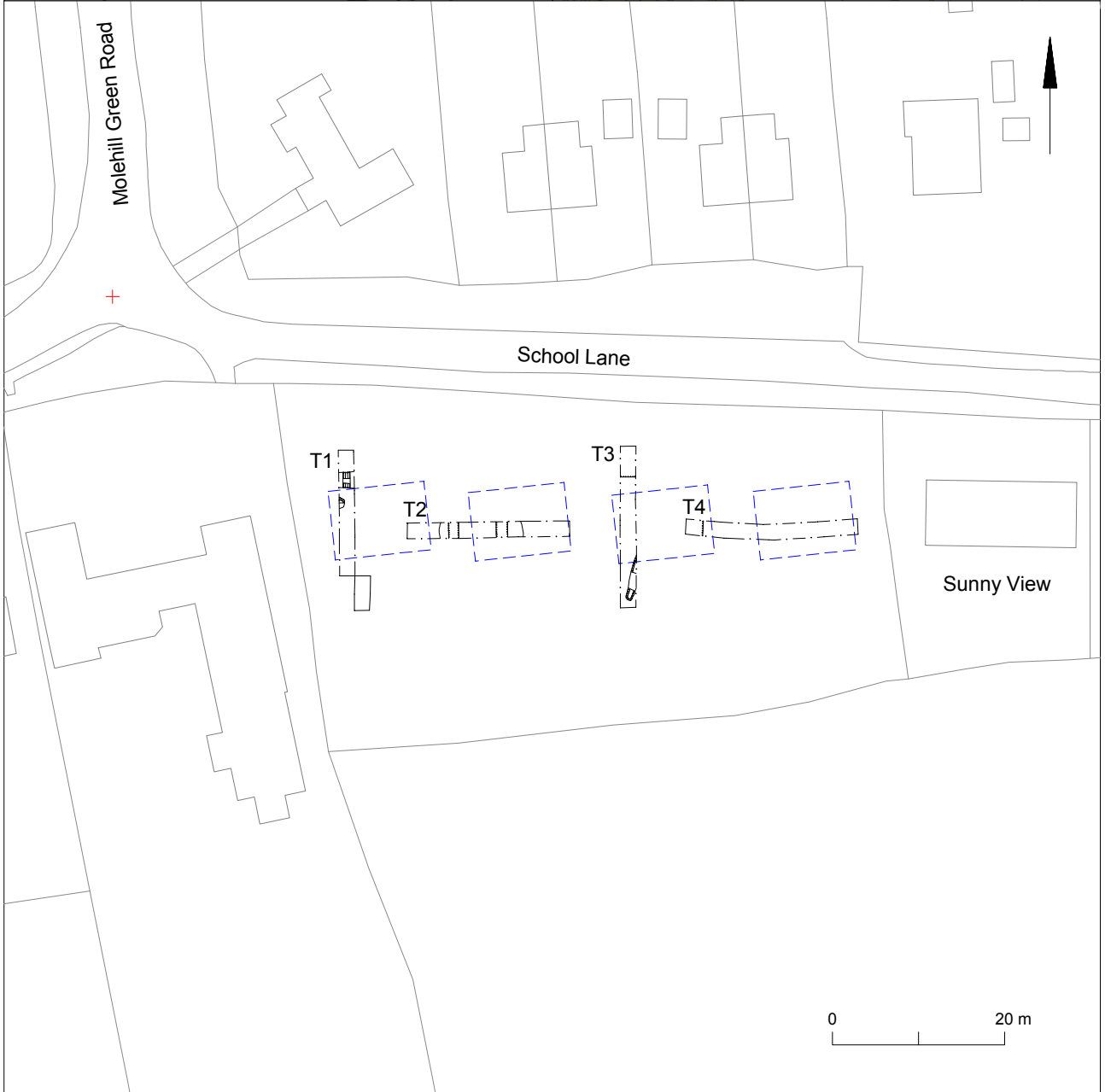
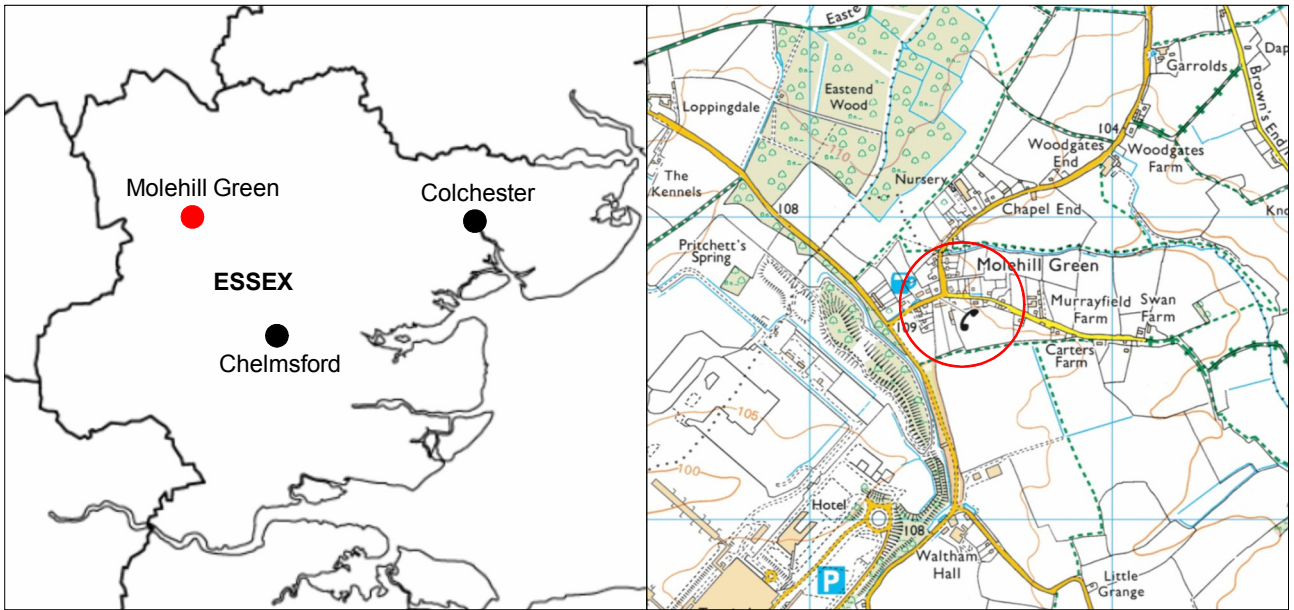


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (in blue).

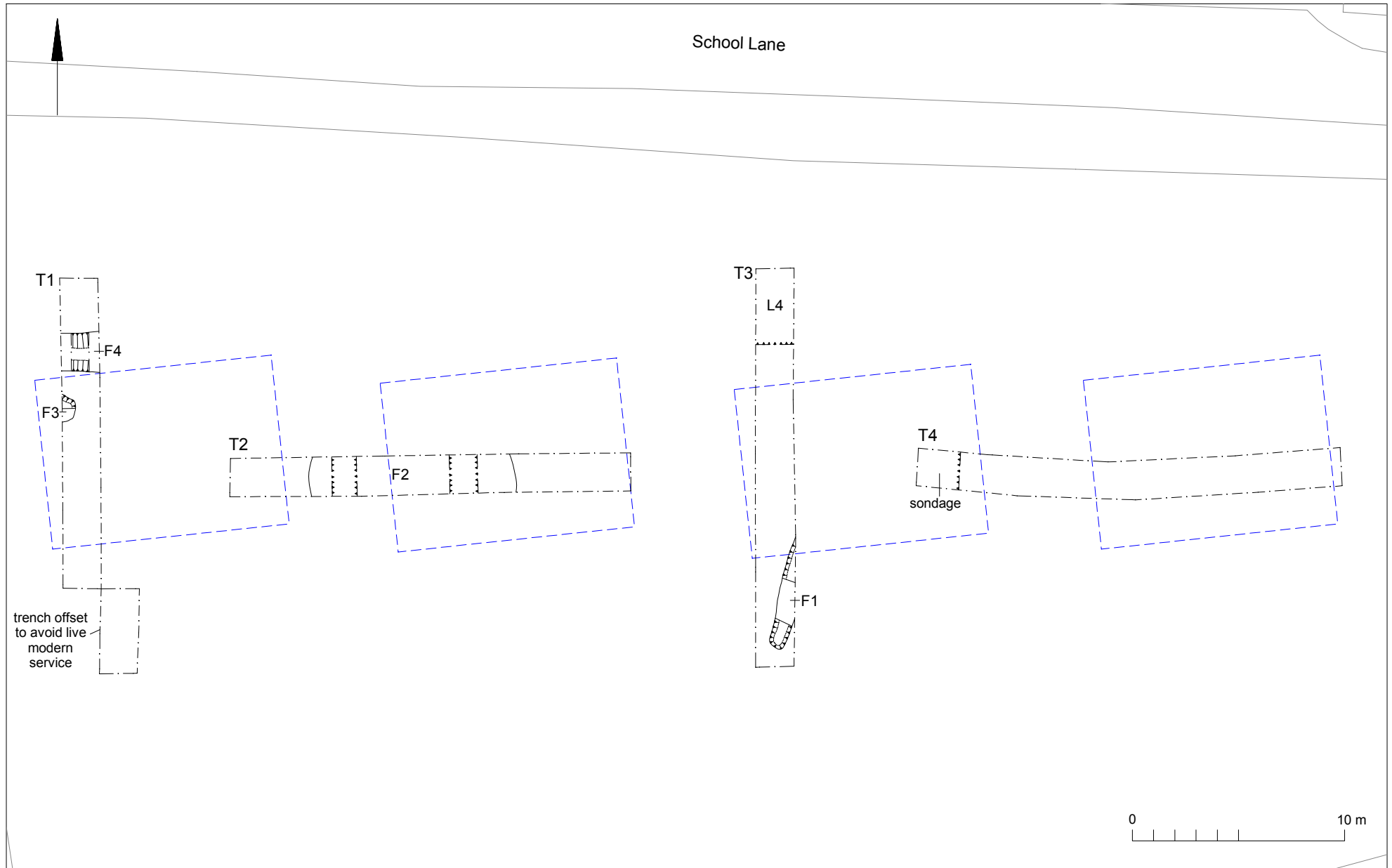


Fig 2 Evaluation results (proposed development shown in blue).

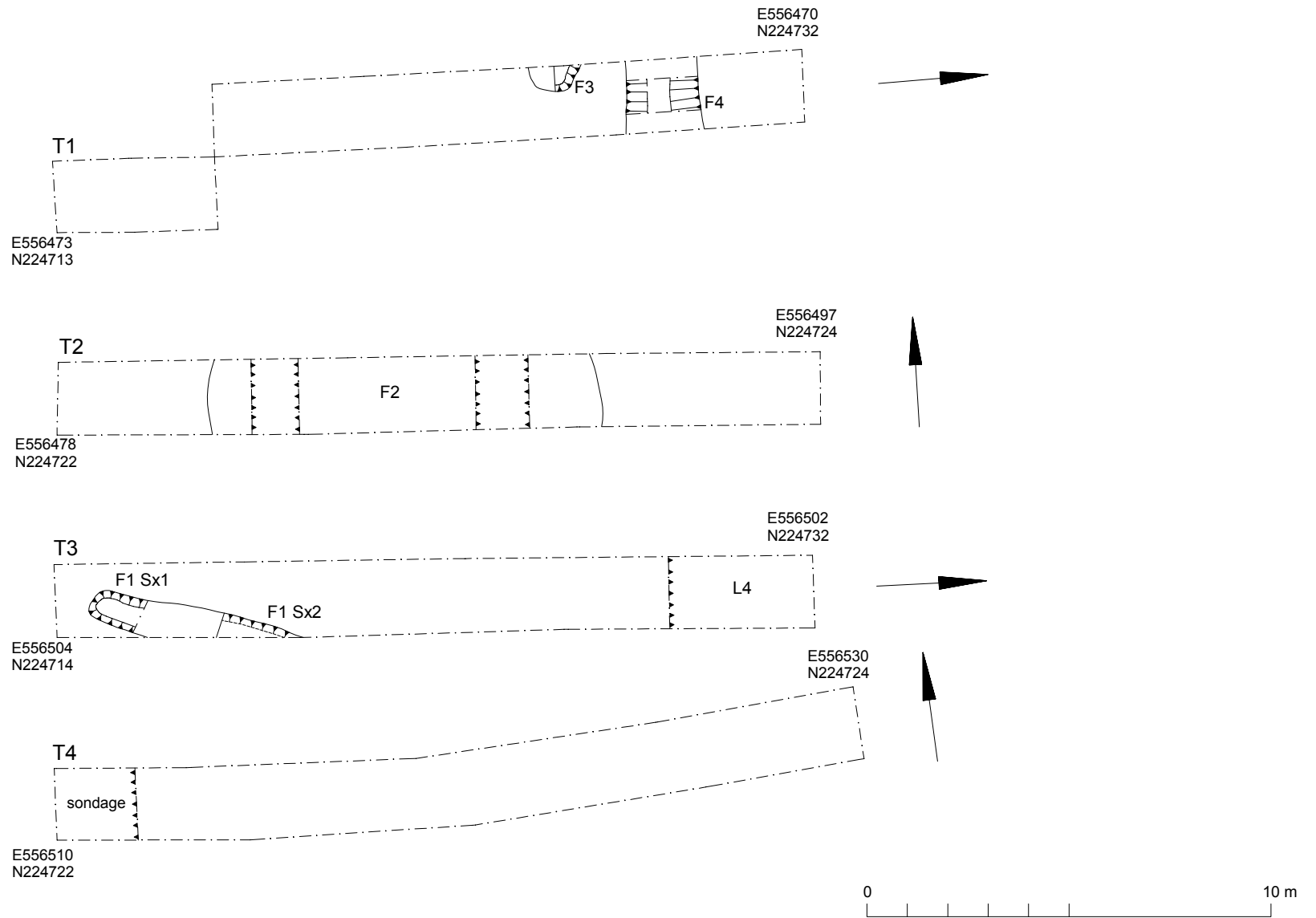


Fig 3 Trench results.

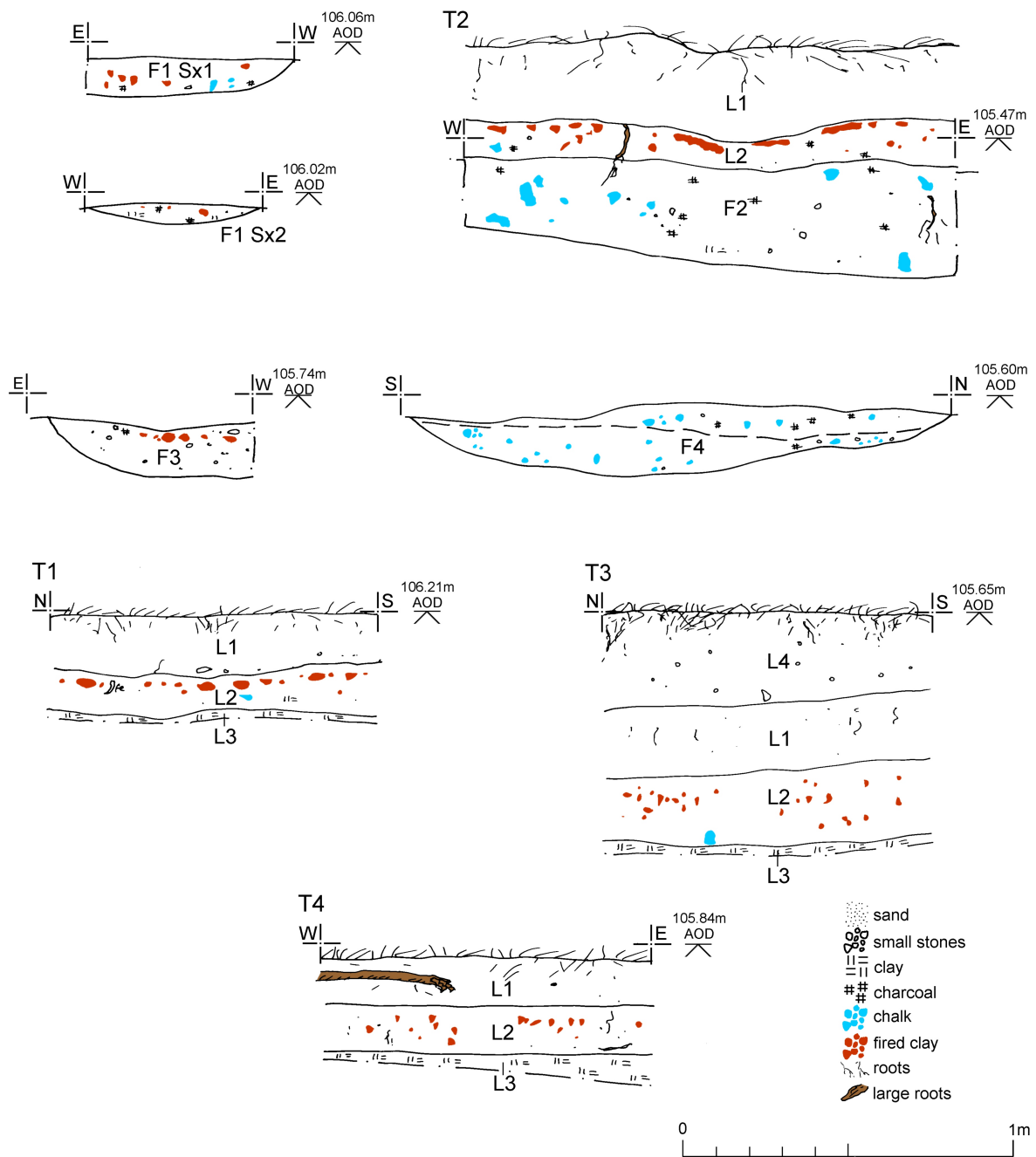


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-341228

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land south of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PJ.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of School Road, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex in advance of the construction of a new residential development of four pairs of semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks. The evaluation revealed two modern pits and two modern linear features. The linear features area probably old agricultural field boundaries.
Project dates	Start: 14-02-2019 End: 15-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2019/01L - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/18/0527/OP - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM:2019.9 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	LINEAR Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	IRON NAILS Modern
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY and south of School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex

Postcode CM22 6PJ

Study area 2840 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 56505 24718 51.898528389776 0.274958215218 51 53 54 N 000 16 29 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 105.84m Max: 106.21m

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 Mark Baister

Type of sponsor/funding body Owner

Name of sponsor/funding body CJ New Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Digital Archive ID SAFWM:2019.9

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Paper Archive ID SAFWM:2019.9

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

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