

Archaeological evaluation of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2) on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6NG

February 2019



by Laura Pooley

with contributions from M Loughton
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**commissioned Richard Havis, ECC
on behalf of Essex County Council**

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OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (L-shaped trench) was carried out on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex as part of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2). Located on the southwestern edge of the post-medieval Brickhouse Farm and close to Iron Age and Roman remains, evaluation revealed a modern pit, post-medieval drainage ditch and a spread of clayey-silt containing pebbles, gravel and peg-tile which could be a trackway associated with Brickhouse Farm but is perhaps more likely to represent the clearance of the drainage ditch.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex, which was carried out between 11-15th February 2019. The work was commissioned by Richard Havis of Essex County Council (ECC) on behalf of the ECC as part of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2). 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 at Maldon Central Flood Alleviation Scheme*, 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 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>.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies within an area of known archaeological remains. To the east and west of the proposal area, Iron Age remains have been excavated indicating a Late Iron Age farming settlement (EHER 48853 (see below for more information) and 9040). The site also lies in close proximity to the Roman road which entered Maldon from the southeast and a Roman field boundary exists immediately southwest (EHER 7824 and 14776). Cartographic evidence, the earliest being a survey of Brickhouse Farm from 1721 indicated that the farm, later named Brick House, existed partly within the site's boundaries. It is still extant on the 1938 4th edition Ordnance Survey map but was subsequently demolished. The development area is therefore likely to contain evidence of multi-period occupation, particularly of Iron Age and post-medieval remains.

To the east of the site Archaeology South East completed an evaluation of 43 trenches across a c 4.8hectare site. This was followed by an excavation. The site was located on land between Park Drive and Mundon Road in 2015 (EHER No. 48853, ASE report 8316). The evaluation revealed Roman and possibly earlier features as well as a scatter of largely-undated features to the east that included field boundary ditches, a drainage gully, pits and postholes. The excavation was targeted along the frontage of Mundon Road. A low density of below-ground archaeological remains was encountered. Very few features intercut each other and their artefactual content was sparse, which made their dating and phasing difficult. Prehistoric activity, spanning the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age, was represented by three probable pits and a stake hole, as well as by flint-tempered pottery and worked flint residual in later features.

Essex County Council Field archaeology unit carried out an evaluation in 2009 on land to the northeast at the Colchester Institute, Mundon Road (EHER 4718, FAU report 2036), in advance of the submission of a planning application for the construction of a vocational training centre. Seven trenches were excavated across the c 1.4 hectare site. A ditch of probable 19th- or 20th-century date was identified along with a similarly-dated brick and flint hardcore deposit perhaps used to firm up a boggy area or part of an area of hard standing.

4 Aim

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

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

An L-shaped trial-trench covering 135m² was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist through modern topsoil (L1) onto natural clay (L2).

Trench 1 (T1) (45m long by 1.8m wide): The only features present were a modern drainage trench and pit.



Photograph 1 Trench T1, looking south southeast

Trench 2 (T2) (30m long by 1.8m wide): A post-medieval pit (F1) and drainage ditch (F3) were excavated along with a loose spread of pebbles, gravel and some peg-tile mixed into a sandy-clay (F2).



Photograph 2 Trench T2, looking east northeast

6 Finds

Ceramic and pottery finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered five sherds of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material with a weight of 2,892g. This material came from F1 and F2.

F1 (2): One complete unfrosted brick (2,802g) with dimensions of 220 x 105 x 65 mm. The dimensions of this brick broadly corresponds to 'red bricks' of the 18th- to early 19th-century (210-230 x 110 x 65 mm) in Ryan's Essex brick typology (1996, 95).

F2 (1): Three sherds of peg-tile (67g) date from the mid 13th/14th century (McComish 2015, 33) and one base sherd (23g) of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) dates from AD 1500 until the 19th/20th century (CAR 7, 189-193).

Feature	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Finds spot date (approx.)
F1	-	Post-medieval	18th to early 19th century
F2	F40	Peg-tile	15th-19th century

Table 1 Ceramic and pottery finds from all contexts

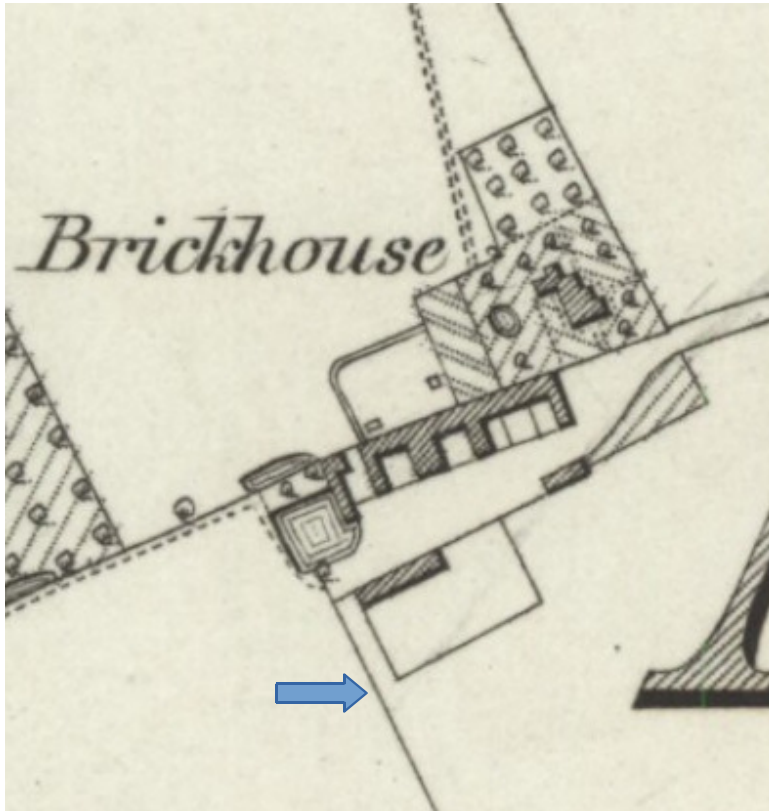
Other finds

by Laura Pooley

Three fragments of post-medieval/modern agricultural ironwork (398g) were found in F2 (1).

7 Conclusion

The only archaeological features found during the evaluation were a modern pit, post-medieval drainage ditch and a spread of clayey-silt containing gravel, pebbles and peg-tile. The drainage ditch appears on the 1st edition OS map of 1881 (Map 1) where it is associated with a pond located further to the north (beyond the edge of the evaluation trench) within the grounds of Brickhouse Farm. The spread of gravel, pebbles and peg-tile is parallel to the drainage ditch and may be part of a trackway associated with the farm complex with a possible wheel-rut on the eastern side of the feature. However, given the proximity of this spread to the drainage ditch, it is perhaps more likely to represent the excavated remains from a phase of ditch clearance. There was no trace of the parallel boundary wall shown on the OS map but trench T2 may have been slightly too far south to encounter this.



Map 1 1st edition 6-inch OS map of 1881
(drainage ditch indicated by the blue arrow)

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Richard Havis and Essex County Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson and J Keeble. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. 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>

ASE Report 8316	2015	<i>Archaeological evaluation and excavation land between Park Drive and Mundon Road, Maldon, Essex</i> , by K Clover
Bennett, A	2017	<i>Archaeological desk-based assessment of MAL2 Maldon Central Flood Alleviation Scheme</i> . ECC Place Services
Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J P Cotter
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an evaluation by trial-trenching of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2) on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6NG</i> .
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECCPS	2019	<i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching at Maldon Central Flood Alleviation Scheme</i>
FAU Report 2036	2009	<i>Colchester Institute site, Mundon Road, Maldon, Essex – Archaeological Evaluation</i> , by T Ennis
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
McComish, J M	2015	<i>A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials. An Insight Report</i> . York: York Archaeological Trust for Excavation and Research.
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation</i> . Chelmsford.

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
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 record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1389)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, feature and find sheets, section drawings)

Digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1379)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphic files

Digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM:2019.5.

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Distribution list:

Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



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Date: 11.2.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds nos.	Interpretation	Soil description	Period
F1	2	Pit	Soft, wet, medium grey clayey-silt	Post-medieval, 18th-early 19th century
F2	1	Spread	Medium to light grey sandy-clay with loosely packed pebbles and gravel and fragments of peg-tile	Post-medieval
F3	-	Drainage ditch	Firm, moist to wet, medium to dark grey/brown clayey-silt	Post-medieval
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Firm, wet, yellow grey clay	Post-glacial

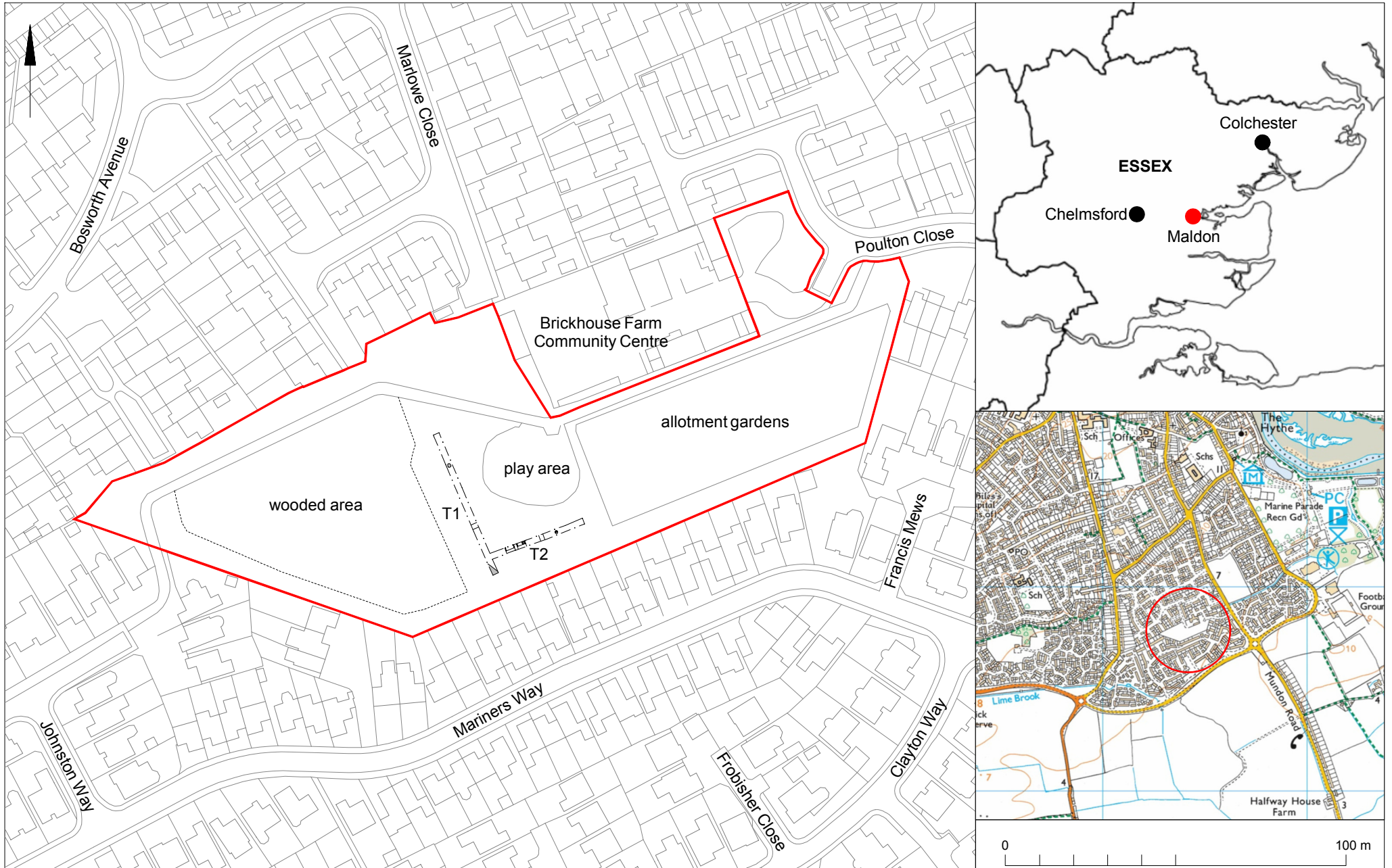


Fig 1 Site location

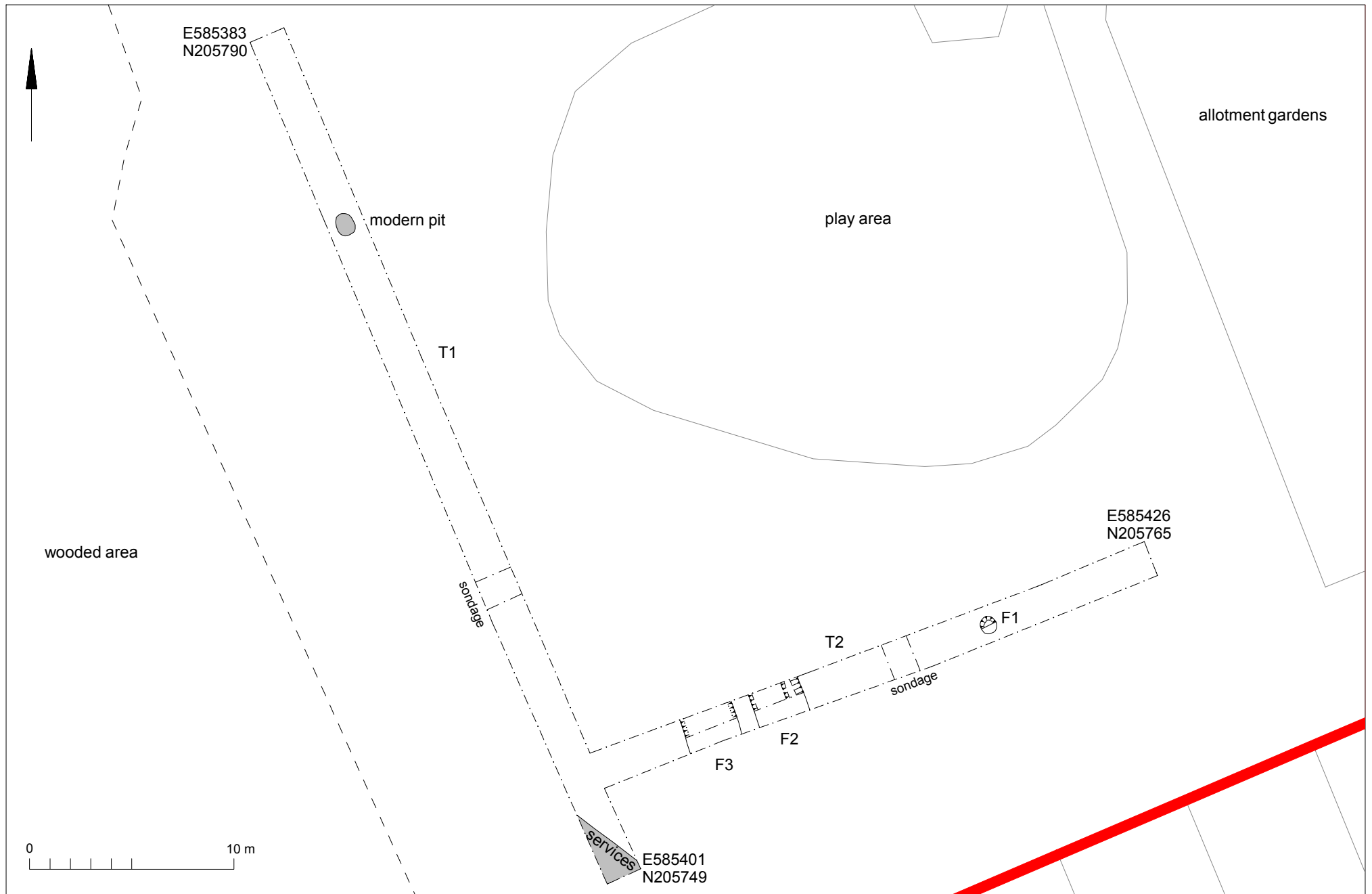


Fig 2 Results

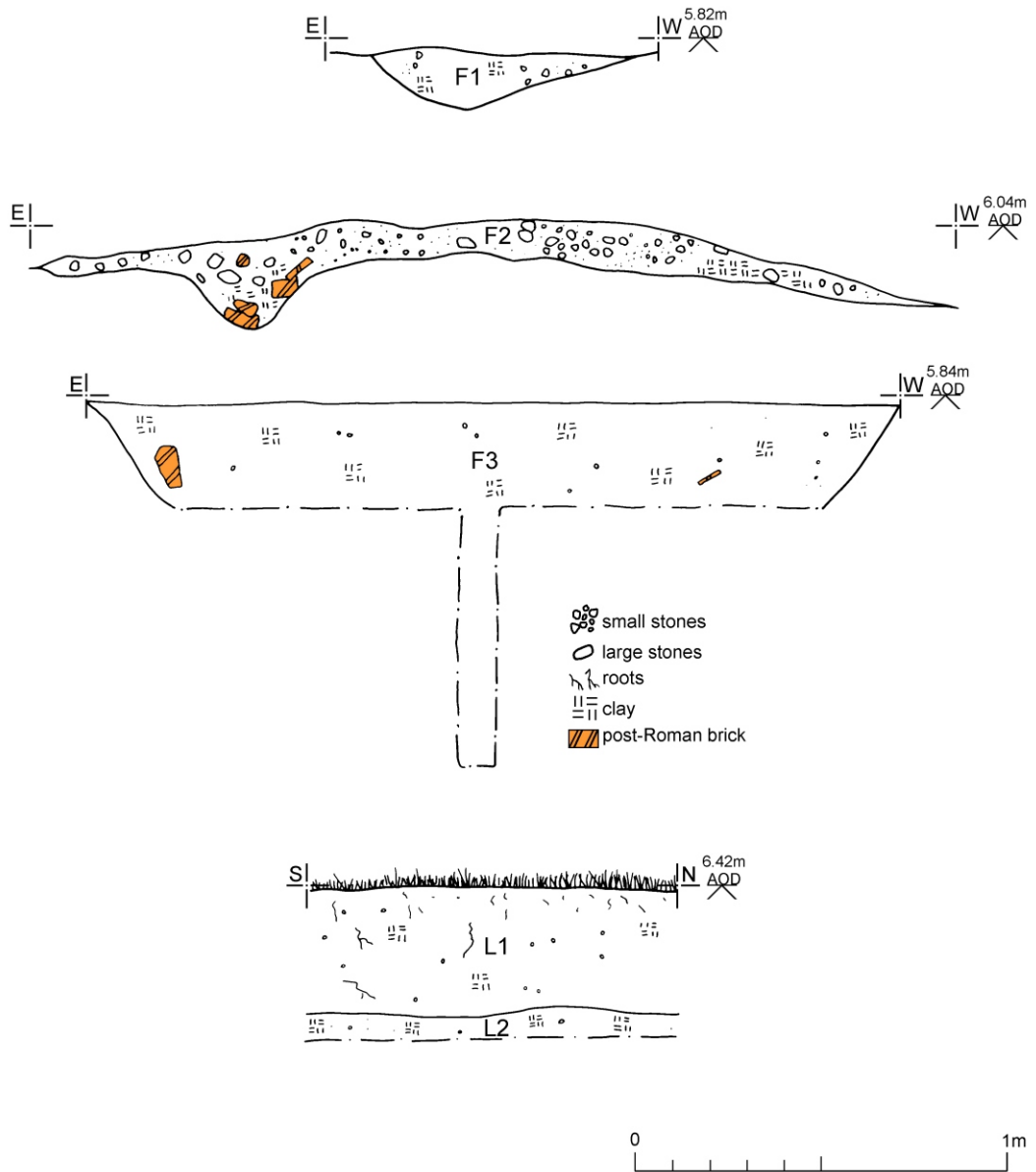


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-340613

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6NG
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (L-shaped trench) was carried out on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close, Maldon, Essex as part of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL 2). Located on the southwestern edge of the post-medieval Brickhouse Farm and close to Iron Age and Roman remains, evaluation revealed a modern pit, post-medieval drainage ditch and a spread of clayey-silt containing pebbles, gravel and peg-tile which could be a trackway associated with Brickhouse Farm but is perhaps more likely to represent the clearance of the drainage ditch.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2019 End: 15-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/01h - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	19/00062/ESS - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CC/MAL/01/19 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	MD63 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2019.5 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON MALDON Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL2), land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Pulton Close
Postcode	CM9 6NG
Study area	1.34 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 85407 05776 51.719493141035 0.684483401628 51 43 10 N 000 41 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 5.8m Max: 6.1m

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	County Council
Name of	Essex County Council

sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.5
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.5
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	Archaeological evaluation of Maldon's proposed Central Flood Alleviation Scheme (MAL2) on land adjacent to Brickhouse Farm Community Centre, Poulton Close, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6NG: February 2019
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