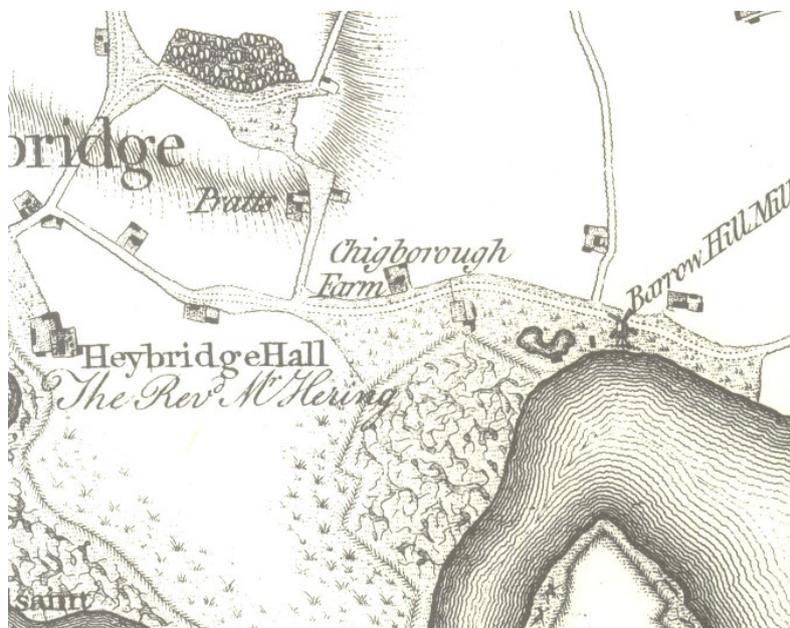


# Archaeological evaluation on land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham, Essex, CM9 4RE

March 2019



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Robin Mathieson and Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by Mr Andy Bilby  
on behalf of Lambton & Jackson**

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**CAT Report 1393**

March 2019

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham, in advance of the construction of a smokehouse. A single linear feature, which may be associated with a nearby cropmark complex, was uncovered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham, Essex which was carried out on 7th March 2019. The work was commissioned by Mr Andy Bilby on behalf of Lambton & Jackson in advance of the construction of a smokehouse and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott 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 Maria Medlycott (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 (which can be accessed online via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The site sits within the coastal landscape of the Blackwater estuary. The Blackwater river valleys cuts through a plateau of London boulder clay with superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel. Evidence recorded on the EHER tells us the area surrounding the Blackwater estuary contains a large amount of multi-period archaeology. Cropmarks have been recorded through aerial photography on land east of Slough House Farm to the northwest of the site (EHER 7905), south of Church Lane to the north (EHER 8906), northwest of Little London Farm (EHER 16438), Chappel Farm to the northeast (EHER 7909) and the Chigborough Farm area (EHER 7864). All of the cropmark plots include evidence interpreted as pits, ring-ditches, linear features and enclosures. Some of these cropmarks have been investigated by amateur groups, and others by Essex Field Archaeology Unit (FAU) in advance of mineral extraction. Key sites are summarised below.

Chigborough Farm is a Historic England Grade II listed building (HA 1146818) with a rear range dating to the 15th century (EHER 38933). The farmland surrounding the farm contains complex cropmarks including intersecting enclosures, linear features, trackways and post-holes (EHER 7864). A small excavation was carried out in 1981-2, and during 1988-90, FAU conducted monitoring and excavations on land scheduled for mineral extraction east of the farmhouse. These investigations revealed significant

archaeological remains from multiple periods of occupation. Key Neolithic features include a waterway, a gully of a hut and possible post-hole structures. Significant middle Neolithic pottery was retrieved. Bronze Age features included enclosed field systems, and some contained Deverel-Rimbury pottery. There were Iron Age ditches which were recut in Roman times, as well as Roman post-hole structures, pits, a well and field systems. Roman finds included fine ware and flue tile, which could suggest that the remains of a substantial building, such as a villa, lie nearby. A large post-hole building in the shape of a boat was recorded. Although no dating material was recovered, it was thought to be Anglo-Saxon based on the shape (EHER 7865-8). For summaries of fieldwork results and key finds, see EAH 15, 140, EAH 17, 147 and EAA 82, 59-109.

Rook Hall is a Historic England Grade II listed building (HA 1111024) with a rear range dating to the 16th century (EHER 38934). Although no cropmarks are present in the area around Rook Hall, archaeological monitoring in advance of mineral extraction revealed substantial remains. Subsequent excavations in two areas revealed multiple periods of occupation. Within the first area, most of the earlier features date from the Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age, with some Iron Age and Roman features including ditched trackways. Evidence of Anglo-Saxon domestic occupation and artisanal activity included hearths and six sunken-floored buildings (*Grubenhäuser*). At least three cremation burials were recorded and Deverel-Rimbury ware and Iron Age Darmsden-Linton ware pottery were recovered. The second excavation area contained a prehistoric causewayed boundary, substantial Late Iron Age-Roman boundary ditches, enclosures and trackways and Anglo-Saxon sunken-floored buildings (EHER 7916-9). For summaries of fieldwork results and key finds, see EAH 14, 140, EAH 15, 167, EAH 16, 94-99 and 131, EAH 17, 160.

To the northeast of the site on land south of Chappel Farm, monitoring of the topsoil strip revealed ditches, pits and post-holes. Excavations uncovered evidence of multi-period occupation from the upper Palaeolithic era to the Roman period, which included five Early or Middle Iron Age roundhouses. For summaries of fieldwork results see EAH 34, 241 and EAH 35, 145.

#### **4 Aim**

The aim of the archaeological evaluation 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)**

Two trial-trenches, one 12m long by 2m wide, the other 6m long by 2m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Three layers were recorded. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.15-0.23m thick, friable, dry dark grey/brown loam) sealed subsoil (L2, 0.26-0.41m thick, firm, dry medium/dark grey/brown silt), beneath which lay natural (hard, dry light grey/brown sandy-clay with 20% gravel and 15% stones).

No significant archaeological remains were identified in trench T1.

##### **Trench 2 (T2):**

Ditch F1 was 0.46m wide and 0.14m deep and lay on a N-S alignment.



**Photograph 1** T2 trench shot, looking north northeast (incorrectly designated T1 in photo)

## 6 Finds

There were no finds.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-significant area, only a single linear feature was uncovered during this evaluation. This feature corresponds with a N-S aligned cropmark located immediately to the northeast of the site (see EAA **82**, 1998, 60, fig. 47). No finds were recovered from this feature, however, and does not therefore give any indication as to the possible date of the cropmark complexes which surround the site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andy Bilby and Lambton & Jackson for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson and B Quinn. Figures are by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

## 9 References

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

- |                          |      |   |
|--------------------------|------|---|
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> ) |
| CAT                      | 2018 | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                      | 2019 | <i>Written Scheme Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham, Essex, CM9 4RE</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>
EAA 82	1998	'Excavations at Chigborough Farm' by M Waughman, from <i>Archaeology and the Landscape in the lower Blackwater Valley</i> , by S Wallis and M Waughman
EAH 14	1982	'Little Totham, Chigborough Farm' by P Adkins in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 14, 140
EAH 15	1983	'Little Totham, Rook Hall' by P Adkins in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 15, 167
EAH 16	1984-5	'Rook Hall' by P Atkins, N Brown, P Murphy and D Priddy in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 16, 94-99 'Great Totham/Little Totham/Goldhanger, Rook Hall' by P Adkins in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 16, 131
EAH 17	1986	'Goldhanger, not on loomweights from site 1 Chigborough Farm' by S Tyler in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 17, 147-8. 'Goldhanger, Rook Hall' by P Adkins in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 17, 160
EAH 34	2003	Little Totham, Chappel Farm by A Robertson in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 34, 241
EAH 35	2004	'Little Totham, Chappel Farm' by A Robertson in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i> 35, 145
ECCPS	2019	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham</i> , by M Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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
EHHER	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
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
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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:** n/a

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1393)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1386)

CBC 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2019.15.

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### **Distribution list:**

Mr Andy Bilby

Lambton & Jackson

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 29.03.2019

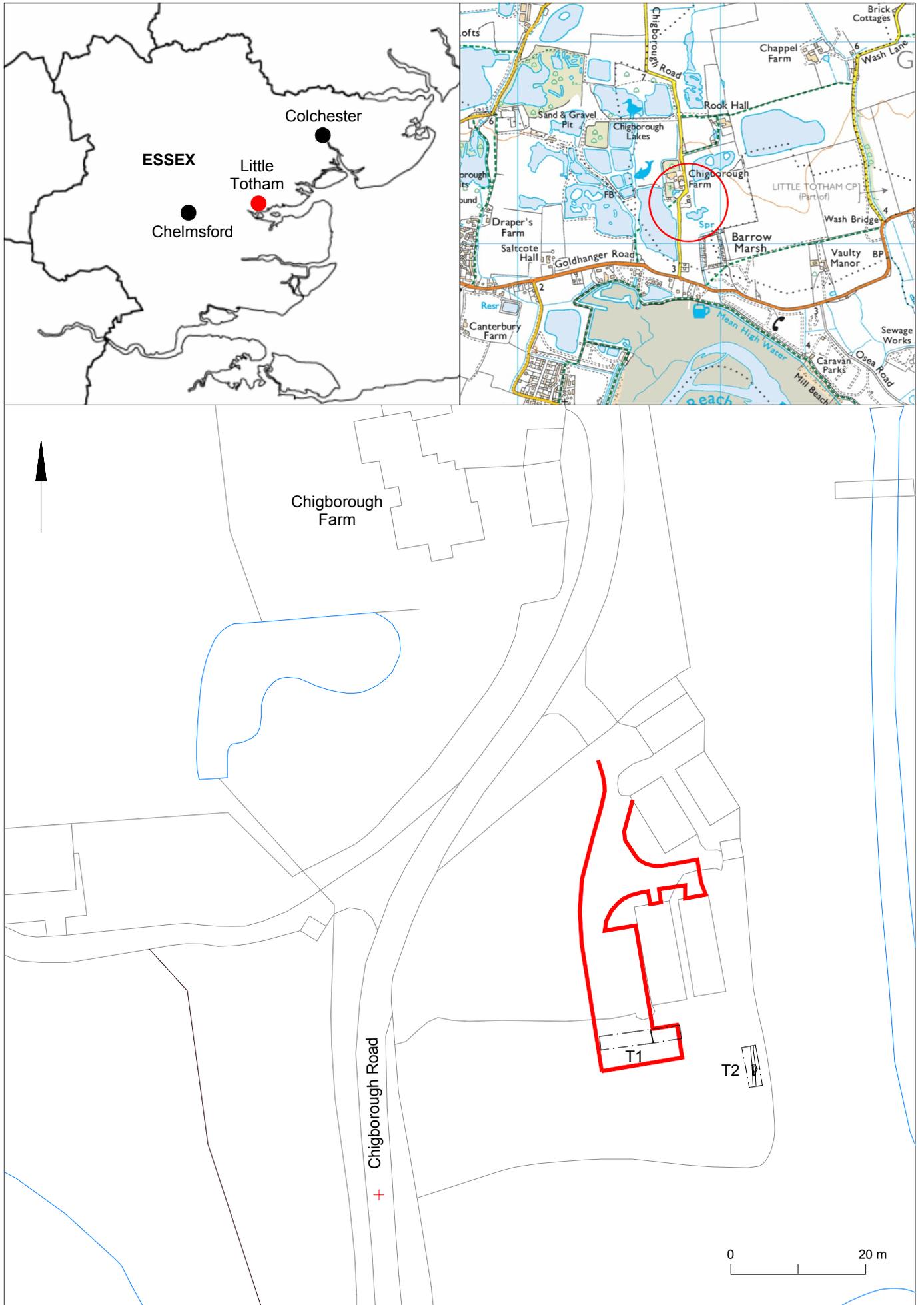


Fig 1 Site location

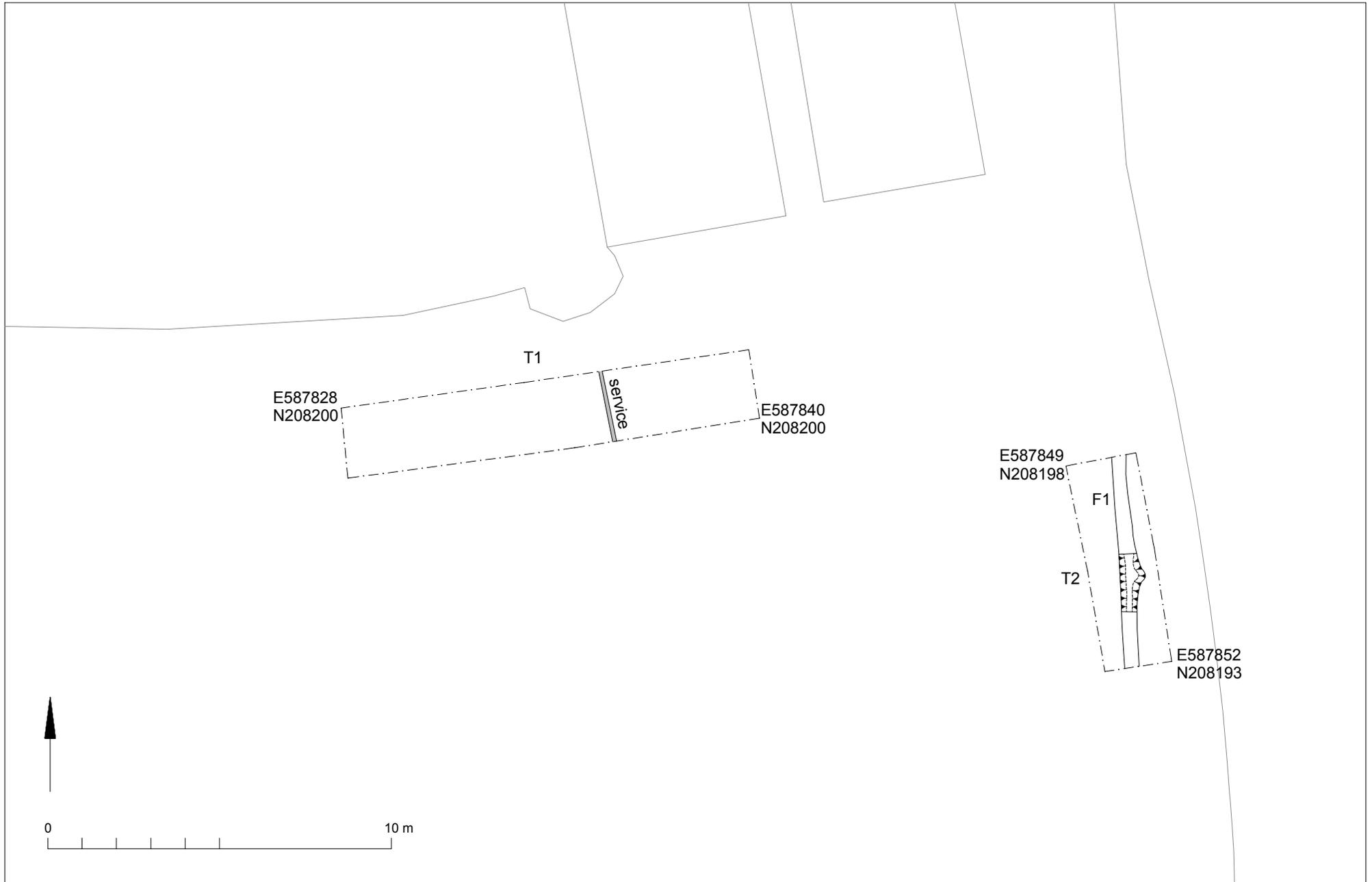


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

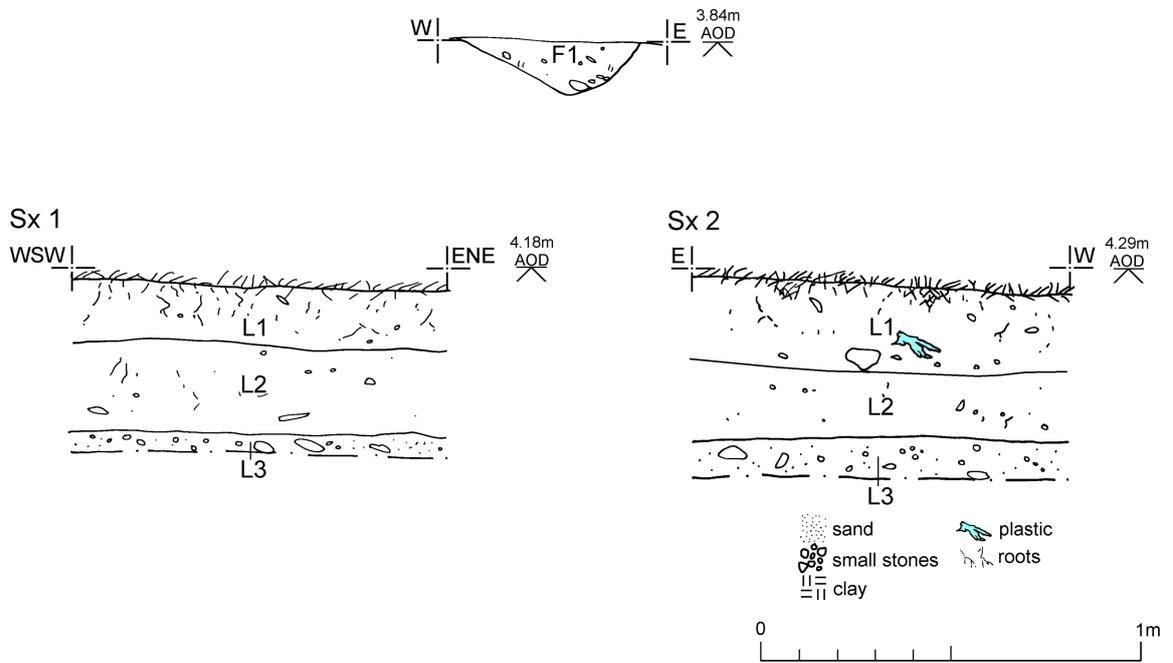


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-343896**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation at Land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham, Essex, CM9 4
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham, in advance of the construction of a smokehouse. A single linear feature, which may be associated with a nearby cropmark complex, was uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 07-03-2019 End: 07-03-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/01215/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/02L - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2019.15 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	LTCF19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON LITTLE TOTHAM Land at Chigborough Farm, Chigborough Road, Little Totham, Essex
Postcode	CM9 4RE
Study area	0.03 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 87833 08217 51.740607477763 0.7208838592 51 44 26 N 000 43 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 3.71m Max: 3.87m

### 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	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lambton & Jackson

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.15
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2019.15
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land at Chigborough Farm, Little Totham, Essex, CM9 4RE: March 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1393
Date	2019

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Place of issue or publication	Colchester
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