

# Archaeological evaluation at 6 Church Green, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1UD

May 2019



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

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**commissioned by Richard Horley (John Finch Partnership)  
on behalf of F. Nicholls**

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**CAT Report 1432**  
June 2019

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at 6 Church Green, Coggeshall, Essex in advance of the construction of a new single-storey dwelling with an associated car port. Three post-medieval pits were uncovered, as well as Roman material including a 1st-century brooch and a possible nummus, as well as a small amount of building material which suggests that the remains of a Roman building lie nearby.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 6 Church Green, Coggeshall, Essex which was carried out on 20th May 2019. The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Horley of John Finch Partnership on behalf of Mr F. Nicholls in advance of the construction of a new single-storey dwelling with an associated car port, 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* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for trial trenching evaluation on 6 Church Green, Coggeshall* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

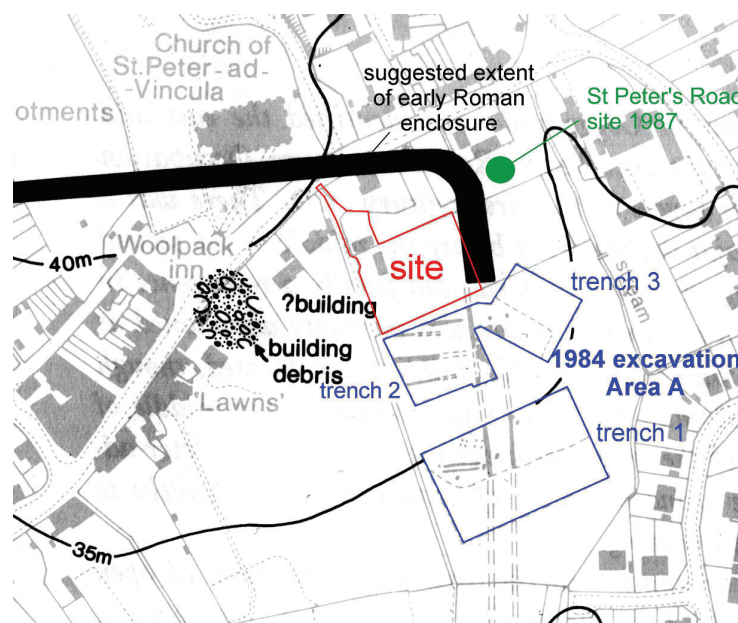
The following archaeological background largely draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible online at [www.heritagegateway.co.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.co.uk)).

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of Coggeshall. The monks of Coggeshall Abbey were granted a fair charter in 1250 and a market charter in 1256. The market was established at the junction of Stane Street and settlement spread from along the roads to the north and south. It is possible that the area around the church, half a mile northeast of the marketplace, may have been an earlier nucleus of settlement which was deserted in favour of the main roadside site, either at the time of the market's establishment or earlier. Coggeshall benefited from the prosperity of the late medieval East Anglian cloth industry and the town was known for a fine bay cloth named Coggeshall White. During this time, the Paycocke family were prominent within the community, and two important late medieval monuments are named for them: the church with its Paycocke Chapel (ECC 8712) and Paycocke's House in West Street. Coggeshall's textile industry continued to prosper during the 16th and 17th centuries, but died out by the end of the 19th century (ECC 8724). There are a large number of historic buildings in Coggeshall protected as heritage assets by Historic England.

The proposed site is located to the rear of the main house. 'Sheepcotes' is a 17th-century timber-framed house that was extended during the first decade of the 20th century (ECC 25199). The house is a Historic England Listed Building (no. 1337949).

To the immediate south and southeast is a site excavated by Essex County Council Archaeology Section in 1984 in advance of the construction of St Peter's Church of England School (Clarke 1988, 47-68). The site, Area A, contained trenches within the footprints of the new playing field, playground and school (see Map 1). The earliest features included Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age square four-post structures with adjacent pits (ECC 8728). The Roman remains evidenced four phases of Roman occupation. Key Roman features included a substantial north-south ditch with a parallel gully, gullies, trackways, a large irregular hollow that might have been the product of quarrying, burials and pits (ECC 8729). Artefacts recovered included Roman pottery, metalwork, stone, glass, painted wall plaster, burnt clay and daub as well as a substantial amount of Roman tile, which indicate that the remains of a substantial Roman building are located near to the site.

To the immediate northeast of the site an excavation was carried out on the corner of St Peter's Road and Church Green (Flook 1988, 272-275). The trenches had been to look for the early Roman enclosure. Shallow gullies, potentially a continuation of those found at St Peter's School were recorded and Roman pottery (ECC 8584). Post-medieval features included nearly 30 features from small stake-holes to large pits (ECC 8585).



**Map 1** Roman Coggeshall excavations 1984 Area A trenches (in blue), in association to the current site (in red) (Clarke 1988)

On the northern side of Church Green is the parish church of St Peter-ad-Vincula. The church is 15th century in origin but with modern restoration to repair damage sustained during the Second World War (ECC 25180). Graves sealed by a blanket of disturbed soil and a considerable amount of Roman material were uncovered during an evaluation conducted by CAT in 2000 (CAT Report 76). A watching brief undertaken by CAT at the church in 2001-2 recorded burials dating from the late 17th to the 19th century, some of which had been previously disturbed by bombing during the Second World War (CAT Report 151).

#### 4 Aims

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)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1 was 5m long and 1.8m wide; T2, an L-shaped trench, was 10m long and 1.8m wide; and T3, a horseshoe-shaped trench, was 30m long and 1.8m wide.

Seven layers were recorded. Trenches T2 and T3 were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.07-0.24m thick, soft, moist dark brown/black sandy-silt), post-medieval or modern ploughsoil (L2, c 0.1-0.3m thick, firm/hard, moist, medium/dark brown sandy-silty-clay) and subsoil (L3, c 0.05-0.15m thick, firm/hard, moist medium brown silty-clay) onto natural (L4, firm/hard, moist light yellow/brown silty-clay with chalk flecks). Trench T1 was excavated through a layer of modern concrete (L5, c 0.05m thick), a post-medieval or modern demolition layer (L6, c 0.25m thick, soft/friable, dark brown sandy-silt with frequent brick and tile pieces) and a basal layer (L7, c 0.1m thick, firm/hard, moist medium yellow/brown silty-clay with frequent brick and tile pieces) onto L4.

No significant archaeological remains were identified in trench T3.

##### **Trench 1 (T1): 5m long and 1.8m wide**

Pit F3, which was of 18th- to 20th-century date, extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) but its exposed extent was 0.51m in width and 0.22m in depth.



**Photograph 1** T1 trench shot, looking south southeast

##### **Trench 2 (T2): 10m long and 1.8m wide**

Pit F1, which was of 16th- to 19th-century date, extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 1.27m in width and 0.18m in depth.

Pit F2, which was of 16th- to early 18th-century date, was cut through both L3 and L4. The feature extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 0.67m in width and 0.4m in depth.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and CBM

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered 42 sherds of pottery, ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) and baked clay with a weight of just over 3kg and three vessels (rim EVREP) while the rim EVE is 0.21 (Table 1). The ceramic and pottery assemblage includes material of Roman (primarily CBM), later medieval and post-medieval date. The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (1999) and the post-Roman pottery using the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (2000) and Cunningham (1985).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
Roman	1	6	6	0.08	1
Medieval / post-medieval	6	68	11	0.13	2
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	34	3,261	96	-	-
Baked clay	1	1	1	-	-
<b>All</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3,336</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>3</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Sherds of pottery, CBM and baked clay were recovered from three features and two layers (Table 2).

Feature	Feature Type	Nr.	Weight g	MSW/g
F1	Pit	19	250	13
F2	Pit	10	416	42
F3	Pit	4	202	51
L2	Ploughsoil	7	189	27
L6	Demolition layer	2	2,279	1,140
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>3336</b>	-

**Table 2** Number and weight of pottery, CBM and baked-clay from features and other contexts

#### Roman Pottery

There was one sherd of Roman pottery with a weight of 6g which came from L2 (1). This rim sherd (EVE 0.08) is in a black, hard, handmade (?) fabric which is tempered with lots of fine shell (Fabric HD (B)). Shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares are notably common during the 4th century AD although they are found throughout the Roman period at Colchester (*CAR 10* 1999, 485). However, the possibility that this sherd could be of prehistoric or even Anglo-Saxon (?) date cannot be totally excluded. This sherd does not, however, appear to be of an early medieval shelly ware (Fabric 12) or St Neots-type ware (Fabric 10) (*CAR 7* 2000, 32-33, 34).

#### Post-Roman pottery

There was a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery with six sherds (68g) and two vessels (rim EVREP) while the rim EVE is 0.12 (Table 4). This material was recovered from pits F2 and F3, ploughsoil L2 and demolition layer L6. Pit F2 (3) contained two sherds (7g) of Border ware (fabric F42) which dates from the 16th to the

early 18th century AD (CAR 7 2000, 225, 228) (Table 5). A handle in fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenwares) came from pit F3. Ploughsoil L2 (1) contained a press-moulded dish in Staffordshire-type slipware (Fabric 50) with combed decoration and a piecrust decorated rim which is typical for the 18th century (CAR 7 2000, 248).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F21	Colchester-type ware	13th-14/15th century
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c.1500-19th/20th century
F42	Border ware	16th-early 18th century
F50	Staffordshire-type slipware	Mid 17th-19th century AD

**Table 3** Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim	Handle	Base	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
F21	Colchester-type ware	1	19	19	0	0	0	0.00	0
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	2	37	19	1	1	0	0.07	1
F42	Border ware	2	7	0	0	0	0	0.00	0
F50	Staffordshire-type slipware	1	5	1	1	0	0	0.06	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 4** Details on the post-Roman pottery

Cxt	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g	Rim	Base	Rim EVE	Rim EVREP
L2	Ploughsoil	2	14	7	2	0	0.13	2
L6	Demolition layer	1	19	19	0	0	0.00	0
F2	Pit	2	7	4	0	0	0.00	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>2</b>

**Table 5** Number and weight of post-Roman pottery from features and other contexts

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

There was a small collection of Roman and post-medieval CBM with 35 sherds with a weight of 3,336g and a mean sherd weight of 93g (Table 6). Most of this material is of Roman CBM including pieces of brick, *tegula*, and *imbrex* (Table 6). Demolition layer L6 (6) produced a complete, unfrogged London Stocks type brick with dimensions of 220 mm x 105 mm x 61 mm, which dates from the late 18th to the first half of the 20th century (Ryan 1996, 95).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW
Roman				
RT	Roman <i>tegula</i>	1	37	37
RI	Roman <i>imbrex</i>	4	188	47
RB	Roman brick	4	278	70
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	3	99	33
Post-Roman				
PT	Peg-tile	20	379	19
BR	Brick	2	2,280	1,140

Baked clay	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>93</b>

**Table 6** CBM by period and type

Feature	Feature Type	No.	Weight (gr.)	MSW/gr.
F1	Pit	19	250	13
F2	Pit	8	409	51
F3	Pit	3	174	58
L2	Ploughsoil	4	169	42
L6	Demolition layer	1	2,260	2,260
<b>Total</b>		<b>35</b>	<b>3,262</b>	<b>93</b>

**Table 7** Quantities of CBM by features and other contexts

### Summary

Table 8 provides a brief dating summary for the contexts which produced datable ceramic finds. These contexts contain a mixture of Roman, medieval, and post-medieval ceramic finds. Pits F1, F2, and F3 can all be dated to the post-medieval period. The assemblage of Roman CBM, even though there was only one sherd of Roman pottery, suggests the presence of a nearby Roman site and building(s). Previous archaeological investigations of the nearby Church of St Peter ad Vincula also produced Roman pottery, mostly of the early Roman period (1st-2nd century) and Roman CBM (CAT Report 76).

Feature/context	Roman pottery	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	-	-	RI PT	16th-19th century
F2	-	F42	RT RBR	16th-early 18th century
F3	-	F40	BR PT	18th-20th century
L2	HD(B)	F40 F50	RI RBR	1500-19th/20th century
L6	-	F21	BR	Late 18th-first half of 20th century

**Table 8** Approximate dates for the individual features and other contexts

## 6.2 Small finds, clay pipe and non-ceramic finds

by Laura Pooley

### Small finds

A Roman brooch (SF1) (see image below) and copper-alloy coin (SF2) were found with a metal-detector from the spoil, for full descriptions see Table 9. The brooch is of Langton Down type dating to the 1st century AD and, based on the size, the coin is probably a 3rd to 4th century nummus.





Photograph 2 Roman brooch

Small finds no.	Object	Description
1	Brooch	Incomplete copper-alloy brooch of Langton Down type. The head and upper bow survive. At the head of the brooch, sheet copper alloy has been rolled to form a cylindrical casing (22mm across, oval in cross-section 6mm by 5mm) with open ends to hold the spring. Three spring coils are visible inside the case, the rest of the spring is missing. The case is plain and has a central aperture on its underside to enable the now missing pin to exit. The bow projects from the head and immediately turns 90 degrees. It is flat, 8mm wide, with parallel sides, and is decorated with a series of parallel grooves of varying depth and width running down its length. Roman, 1st century. 5.1g. Similar to Hattatt 1982, No.31 (p81) and Bailey & Butcher 2004, Fig 113 T21.
2	Coin	Incomplete, small copper-alloy Roman coin, no original surface detail survives (worn smooth), probably a 3rd-4th century nummus, 16mm diameter, 1.3g.

Table 9 Small finds

#### Clay pipe and non-ceramic finds

All of the clay pipe and non-ceramic finds are catalogued in Table 10 below.

Context	Feature no.	Description
F2	3	<b>Oyster shell:</b> Four fragments, 45.1g. Discarded.
F3	5	<b>Glass:</b> Fragment of blue vessel glass, 6.1g, 19th-20th century. Discarded.
L2	1	<b>Glass:</b> Fragment from a blue/green glass bottle stopper, 16.7g, 19th-20th century. Discarded. <b>Oyster shell:</b> Fragment, 1.8g. Discarded.
L2	4	<b>Clay pipe:</b> Fragment of clay pipe stem, 6.5g, post-medieval. Discarded.

Table 10 Clay pipe and non-ceramic finds from all contexts

### 6.3 Animal bone by Alec Wade

Six small pieces of animal bone were recovered, all large mammal-sized (either cow or horse) and in very poor surface condition.

Context	Finds no.	No.	Weight (g)	Comments
L1	1	4	32	A fragment of a cow's calcaneus and three pieces of large mammal bone (probably cow or horse) including scapula and rib fragments
F3	5	2	20	Two large mammal (cow or horse) limb bone fragments

**Table 11** Animal bone by context

### 6.4 Flints by Adam Wightman

Four flints were recovered, providing evidence for activity at the site during the later prehistoric period (Mesolithic – Bronze Age).

Context	Finds no.	Description
L1	1	End scraper – made on a rounded secondary hand-hammer flake. Abrupt retouch. Neolithic – Bronze Age
L2	4	Broken tertiary blade (or possibly a narrow flake). Very thin and sharp. Some evidence of use wear / edge damage. ?Neolithic
F3	5	Broken secondary flake with patination on both faces. Hard Hammer flake. Broken ?blade. Proximal end. ?Soft hammer and possible platform preparation. ?Mesolithic – Early Neolithic

**Table 12** Flints by context

## 7 Conclusion

Three pits, all of post-medieval date, were uncovered during this evaluation. These are in keeping with the results of other archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site, which have uncovered considerable post-medieval remains in this, the historic core of Coggeshall.

More significant, perhaps, is the Roman material residually-present across the site. This included a 1st-century Roman brooch and possible nummus, as well as pieces of brick, *tegula* and *imbrex*. Substantial amounts of Roman building material were also recovered during excavations to the immediate south and southeast during the mid 1980s and together, the results of these investigations suggest that the remains of at least one Roman building lie nearby.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr Richard Horley of John Finch Partnership and Mr F Nicholls for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister with fieldwork carried out by A Wightman with Z Eksen. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

## 9 References

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

- |                          |       |   |
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## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
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
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
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>Online Access</b> to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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
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:** one box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1432)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photos and log

Site section drawings

Inked section drawings

### **Digital record**

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

The report (CAT Report 1432)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos 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 Braintree Museum.

**Distribution list:**

Mr Richard Horley, John Finch Partnership

Mr F Nicholls

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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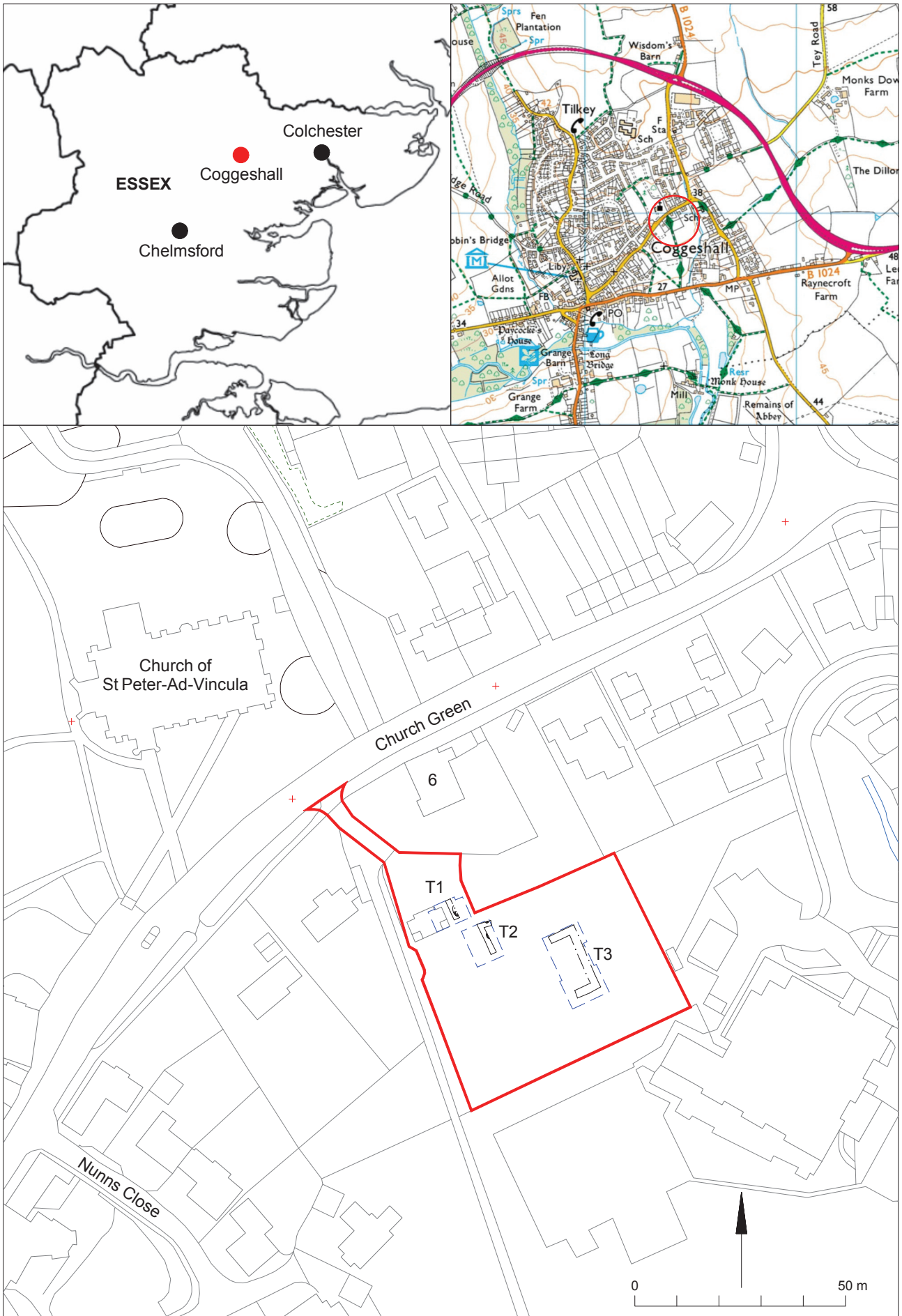
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 18.06.2019



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

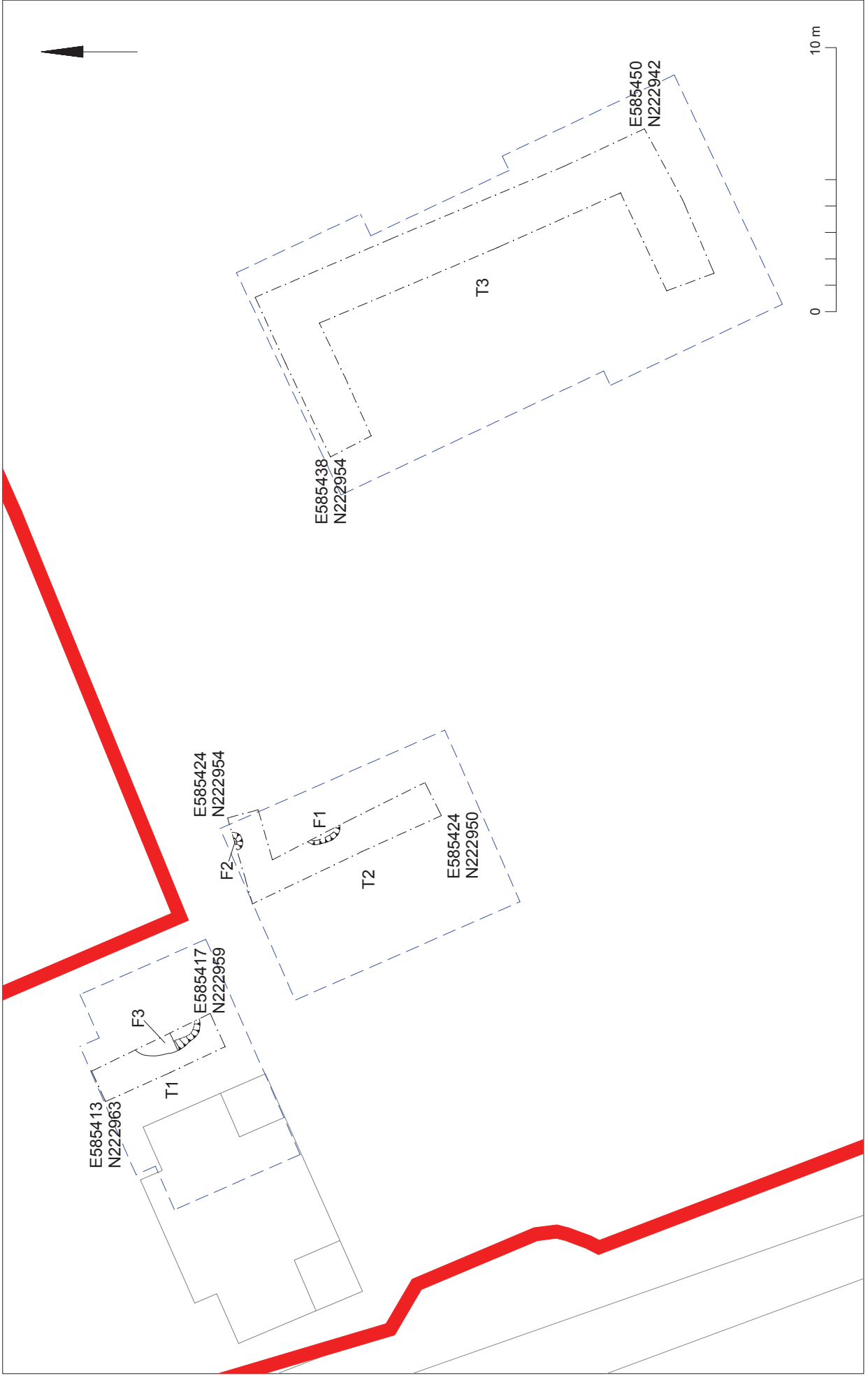


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

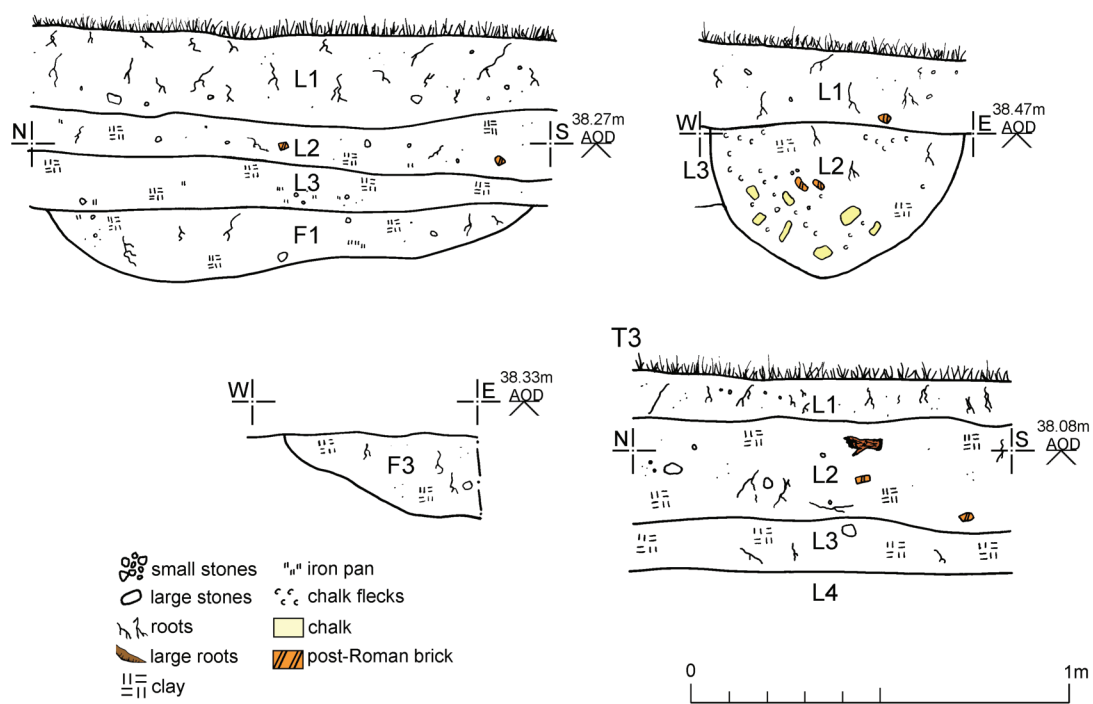


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.



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### Project details

Project name	Evaluation by trial-trenching at 6 Church Green, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1UD.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at 6 Church Green, Coggeshall, Essex in advance of the construction of a new single-storey dwelling with an associated car port. Three post-medieval pits were uncovered, as well as Roman material including a 1st-century brooch and a possible nummus, as well as a small amount of building material which suggests that the remains of a Roman building lie nearby.
Project dates	Start: 20-05-2019 End: 20-05-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/02193/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	18/02194/LBC - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CGCG19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval

Significant Finds	BAKED CLAY Uncertain
Significant Finds	BROOCH Roman
Significant Finds	COIN Roman
Significant Finds	OYSTER SHELL Uncertain
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT Bronze Age
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
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 BRAINTREE COGGESHALL 6 Church Green, Coggeshall, Essex
Postcode	CO6 1UD
Study area	0.26 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 85428 22946 51.873708441956 0.693968347425 51 52 25 N 000 41 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 37.77m Max: 38.3m

### 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	Adam Wightman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr F Nicholls

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	CGCG19
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	CGCG19
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at 6 Church Green, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1UD: May 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1432
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Entered on	30 July 2019

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](mailto:eh2@catuk.org) for OASIS help and advice

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