Archaeological evaluation Phase 2b and 2c at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0QR

December 2018 and June-July 2022

by Dr Elliott Hicks and Sarah Veasey

With contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Veasey

Phase 2b fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Jim Keeble, Adam Tuffey, Bronagh Quinn and Sarah Veasey
Phase 2c fieldwork by Sarah Veasey and Chris Lister with Ziya Eksen, Charlie Hodges, Matt Perou and Megan Seehra

commissioned by S Williams (Hills Group) and B Davies (Mersea Homes) on behalf of Hills Group and Mersea Homes

NGR: TL 9562 2350 (centre)
Planning ref.: 182220
CAT project ref.: 2018/12e
CHER code: ECC4289
Museum Accession Code: COLEM2018.127
OASIS ref.: colchest3-336406

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CAT Report 1480
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Contents

List of photographs and figures

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (22 trial-trenches) was undertaken at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Colchester, as part of a phased evaluation scheme in advance of the construction of up to 420 dwellings. This report details the results of Phases 2b and 2c. The site is located close to Gosbecks Archaeological Park and the nationally important Stanway elite burial site, and immediately to the north of two Middle Iron Age enclosures excavated at the Fruit Farm in 2015. These phases of evaluation revealed 33 features, one of which was prehistoric in date and the rest undated.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation (phase 2b and 2c) undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Colchester, Essex, on 11th-13th December 2018 and 27th June-1st July 2022. The work was commissioned by S Williams (Hills Group) and B Davies (Mersea Homes) on behalf of Hills Residential and Mersea Homes in advance of the construction of up to 420 residential units.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the CBCAA (CAT 2022).

Due to on going use of the site as a working farm, a phased approach to the trial-trenching has been agreed. The Phase 1 trenching and subsequent mitigation was completed prior to the determination of a separate planning application (planning ref. 180873; CAT Reports 1042 and 1221). An initial programme of trenching for Phase 2a was undertaken in November 2016 (Phase 2a, 1,360m of trenching) and detailed in CAT Report 1082. This report details Phases 2b and 2c.

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (*MoRPHE*) (Historic England 2016), 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 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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The proposed development site is in an area of high archaeological sensitivity, situated west of the late Iron Age and Roman Colchester Dykes and Gosbecks site, and only 600m north of the nationally important Stanway élite burial site. Recent excavations on the Fruit Farm immediately south of the site have also revealed two Iron Age enclosures of the type excavated at Stanway in the 1980s and 1990s (CAT Report 1070).

Immediately north-west, on the opposite side of Dyers Road, CAT undertook a 25 trench evaluation (CAT Report 1042) followed by a three area excavation (CAT Report 1221). Four features were recorded during the evaluation and a further 10 in the excavation. These were all tree-throws.

During the first phase of evaluation on the development site (Phase 2a, CAT Report 1082) 53 trial-trenches were excavated and 101 features recorded. Small, abraded sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from four pits with Roman finds recovered from an erosion hollow and a pit/ditch, and from later dated features. A small number of medieval pits and ditches and modern field boundaries were also excavated. The rest of the features were undated and probably associated with the fruit farm.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

All trench numbers, context numbers and finds numbers are a continuation from Phase 2a (CAT Report 1082).

Twenty-two trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Unless stated below, the trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide and were excavated through topsoil (L1, *c* 0.18-0.31m thick) and subsoil (L2, *c* 0.22-0.54 thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.46-1.52m below current ground level).

T55 and T57 were 20m long, T67 was 10m long and T70 was 13m long.

There were no archaeological features in T55, T57, T62, T67, T68, T69 and T70.

Trench 54 (T53)
T54 was cut through a layer of redeposited natural (L4, *c* 0.15-0.42m thick), a layer of bank material (L5, *c* 0.20-0.70m thick), L2 and into L3.

Ditch F108 was on an east-north-east/west-south-west alignment. It had a U-shaped profile and was undated.

Undated tree-throw F109 was also excavated in T54.

Trench 56 (T55)
Undated ?ditch terminus F107 was the only feature in T56. It was aligned north-east/south-west with a U-shaped profile.

Trench 59 (T58)
Prehistoric pit F105 was located in the north-west end of T59 and produced two sherds of possible Late Bronze Age pottery. It was the only feature in this phase of work that produced any dating evidence.

Undated tree-throw F106 was also excavated.

Trench 60 (T59)
Natural features F103 and F104 were located in T60.

Trench 61 (T60)
A single silt patch, F102, was excavated in T61.

Trench 62 (T62): 19m long by 1.8m wide (T-shaped)
T62 was excavated through a layer of concrete and crush (L7, *c* 0.26m thick), L2 and into L3.

Trench 63 (T63)
Four features were identified in T63: a ditch, two tree-throws and a tree-throw/silt patch.

Undated ditch F114 was on a north-east/south-west alignment and had a U-shaped profile.

Tree-throws F111 and F113 and tree-throw/silt patch F110 were all undated.

Trench 64 (T64): 30m long and 1.8m wide
Two undated tree-throws, F112 and F115, were in T64.

Trench 65 (T65)
Undated ?pit F123 was situated in the north-west end of T65, adjacent to natural feature F120. Undated tree-throw F122 was in the south-east end of T65.

Trench 66 (T66)
Five undated features were excavated in T66: three pit/tree-throws (F116, F117 and F121), a tree-throw (F118) and a natural feature (F119). The pit/tree-throws and natural feature were clustered towards the south-east end of the trench while tree-throw F118 was at the north-east end.

Trenches 68 and 69 (T68 and T69)
T68 and T69 were cut through a bank formed from the excavation of a small reservoir. They were excavated through L4, L5, L2 and into L3.

Trench 71 (T71): 38m long and 1.8m wide
T71 was dug through L1, a layer of gravel (L6, *c* 0.26-031m thick), L2 and into L3. Tree-throw F133 was in the north-east end and was undated.

Trench 72 (T72)
Undated pit/tree-throw F132 was located against the north-east baulk of T72.

Trench 73 (T73)
T73 was split into two 15m long trenches due a the location of a water pipe. Undated tree-throws were excavated in each half of the trench (F129 and F134).

Trench 74 (T74): 35m long and 1.8m wide
T74 was dug through L4, L5, L2 and into L3. A single tree-throw (F124) was located in T74.

Trench 75 (T75)
T75 was cut through L4, L5, L2 and into L3.

Six features were spread across T75: two ditches, a ditch/tree-throw, a tree-throw, a silt patch and a natural feature.

Ditch F126 was north-east/south-west aligned and has a U-shaped profile. Ditch F130 was on a north/south alignment and had an asymmetrical U-shape profile. Both were undated.

Possible ditch/tree throw-throw F131 was north-east/south-west aligned with a U-shaped profile and was also undated.

Undated tree-throw F125, silt patch F128 and natural feature F127 were also excavated.

Photograph 1 F105 sx – looking north.

Photograph 2 F108 sx – looking north-east.

Photograph 3 F114 sx – looking north-east.

Photograph 4 T57 trench shot – looking east-north-east.

Photograph 5 T66 trench shot – looking south-east.

Photograph 6 T69 trench shot – view south-west.

Photograph 7 Site shot.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Feature F105 (finds no. 30) produced two sherds (26g) of handmade flint-tempered pottery (HMF), possibly of Late Bronze Age date.

7 Conclusion

Despite the sites proximity to previous archaeological discoveries very little of archaeological significance was uncovered during these phases of evaluation work. One pit produced a small quantity of possible Late Bronze Age pottery while the other 32 features were undated.

The lack of datable archaeology mirrors the results from Phase 2a, during which 101 features were recorded in 53 trenches. Less than a quarter produced datable finds and most were attributed to the working of the fruit farm.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by S Veasey with Z Eksen, C Hodges, C Lister, M Perou and M Seehra. Figures are by C Lister and S Veasey. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

9 References

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

CAR Report **11**	1995	*Colchester Archaeological Report* **11**: *Camulodunum II*, by Hawkes and Crummy
CAT	2022	*Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation (Phase 2c) at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR* By C Lister
CAT Report 996	1996	*A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around a site at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Essex* by H Brooks
CAT Report 1042	2016	*Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016* by L Pooley
CAT Report 1070	2019	*Middle Iron Age Farmstead: Archaeological excavation on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: May-December 2015* By P Parmenter, A Wightman and L Pooley
CAT Report 1082	2017	*Archaeological evaluation on Phase 2 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016* by L Pooley
CAT Report 1221	2018	*Archaeological excavation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: January 2018* by L Pooley
CBCAA	2016	*Brief for an Archaeological Trial-Trenches Evaluation at Fiveways Friut Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway* by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation*
CIfA	2014b	*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*
CIfA	2014c	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
Gurney, D	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA **14**).
Historic England	2016	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Medlycott, M	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24)**
MHCLG	2019	*National Planning Policy Framework.* Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from *c* 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	**O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S**, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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 bag

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1480)
Site digital photos and log
Site data (section drawings)
Digital record
The report (CAT Report 1480)
CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Site data
Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 project accession code COLEM:2018.127 and with the Archaeological Data Service.

Distribution list:
Hills Residential
Mersea Homes
Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 25/08/22

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	T54-61, T63-7, T70-75	-	Topsoil	Soft, moist, dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-clay with frequent stones	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown sandy-silt and charcoal flecks	undated
L3	All	-	Natural	Natural sands/silty-sand	Post-glacial
L4	T68-69, T74-75	-	Redeposited natural	Hard, dry, medium orange sand	Modern
L5	T68-69, T74-75	-	Bank material	Hard, dry, medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L6	T71	-	Gravel band	Layer of 100% gravel	Modern
L7	T62	-	Concrete	Concrete surface	Modern
F102	T61	-	Silt patch	Loose, moist light grey/brown sandy-silt with <2% gravel and >8% stones 2.60m by 1.11m and 0.26m deep	Undated
F103	T60	-	Natural feature	Loose, moist light grey/brown silty-sand 2.55m by 0.88m and 0.12m deep	Undated
F104	T60	-	Natural feature	Loose, moist light grey/brown silty-sand 1.59m by 0.88m and 0.15m deep	Undated
F105	T59	30, 31	Pit	Soft, moist/wet light grey/brown sandy-silt with 2% gravel 0.98m by 0.78m and 0.21m deep	Prehistoric
F106	T59	-	Tree-throw	Friable, dry/moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with 12% gravel 1.34m by 0.70m and 0.31m deep	Undated
F107	T56	-	?Ditch terminus	Soft, moist light grey/brown sandy-silt 2.4m long, 1.16m wide and 0.27m deep	Undated
F108	T54	-	Ditch	Soft, light/medium grey/brown clayey-silt with 2% stones 0.99m wide and 0.24m deep	Undated
F109	T54	-	Tree-throw	Soft light grey/brown clayey-silt 1.04m in diameter and 0.26m deep	Undated
F110	T63	-	Tree-throw/ silt patch	Firm, dry, medium yellow/brown sandy silt0.57m in diameter and 0.14m deep	Undated
F111	T63	-	Tree-throw	Soft, moist, light/medium yellow/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks 1.36m by 0.72m and 0.26m deep	Undated
F112	T64	-	Tree-throw/ silt patch	Firm, dry, light grey/brown silt 0.44m by 0.76m and 0.14m deep	Undated
F113	T63	-	Tree-throw	Loose, soft, friable, dry, light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt with 20% stone 2.48m by 1.80m and 0.47m deep	Undated
F114	T63	-	Ditch	Soft, friable, dry, light/medium yellow/grey/brown sandy-silty with brick flecks 1.18m wide and 0.41m deep	Undated
F115	T64	-	Tree-throw/ silt patch	Firm, moist, medium grey sandy-silt 1.19m by 0.86m and 0.30m deep	Undated

F116	T66	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, mosit, medium orange/brown silt with 2% stone 0.78m by 0.84m and 0.18m deep	Undated
F117	T66	-	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, dry, light/medium grey silt 0.88m by 0.67m and 0.10m deep	Undated
F118	T66	-	Tree-throw	Soft, moist, light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt 1.79m by 0.80m and 0.33m deep	Undated
F119	T66	-	Natural feature	Firm, moist, medium grey sandy-silt with 3% stone 0.78m by 1.00m and 0.21m deep	Undated
F120	T65	-	Natural feature	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown silt 0.91m by 0.59m and 0.17m deep	Undated
F121	T66	-	Pit/Tree-throw	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silt 0.96m by 0.83m and 0.23m deep	Undated
F122	T65	-	Tree-throw	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silt 0.46m by 0.96m and 0.26m deep	Undated
F123	T65	-	?Pit	Firm, dry, light/medium grey/brown silt 0.89m by 0.63m and 0.24m deep	Undated
F124	T74	-	Tree-throw	Firm, moist, light grey sandy-silt 1.08m by 0.65m and 0.34m deep	Undated
F125	T75	-	Tree-throw	Soft, moist, light/medium silty-sand with <5% gravel 1.25m by 2.05m and 0.18m deep	Undated
F126	T75	-	Ditch	Friable, moist, light/medium grey/brown sandy silt with 5% stone 0.72m wide and 0.24m deep	Undated
F127	T75	-	Natural feature	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown clay-silt 0.68m by 0.55m and 0.27m deep	Undated
F128	T75	-	Silt patch	Firm, moist, medium grey sandy-silt with 20% stone 1.10m by 1.05m and 0.12m deep	Undated
F129	T75	-	Tree-throw	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silt with 1% stone 1.30m by 0.45m and 0.12m deep	Undated
F130	T75	-	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium orange/brown sandy-silt 0.87m wide and 0.29m deep	Undated
F131	T75	-	Ditch/tree-throw	Soft, moist, light/medium grey/brown clayey-silt with 1% stone 2.05m by 0.86m and 0.15m deep	Undated
F132	T72	-	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, moist, light/medium grey sandy-silt 1.23m by 0.85m and 0.31m deep	Undated
F133	T71	-	Tree-throw	Soft, friable, moist, medium grey/brown silt 0.92m by 0.84m and 0.20m deep	Undated
F134	T73	-	Tree-throw	Soft, moist, light grey/brown silt 3.95m by 0.81m and 0.28m	Undated

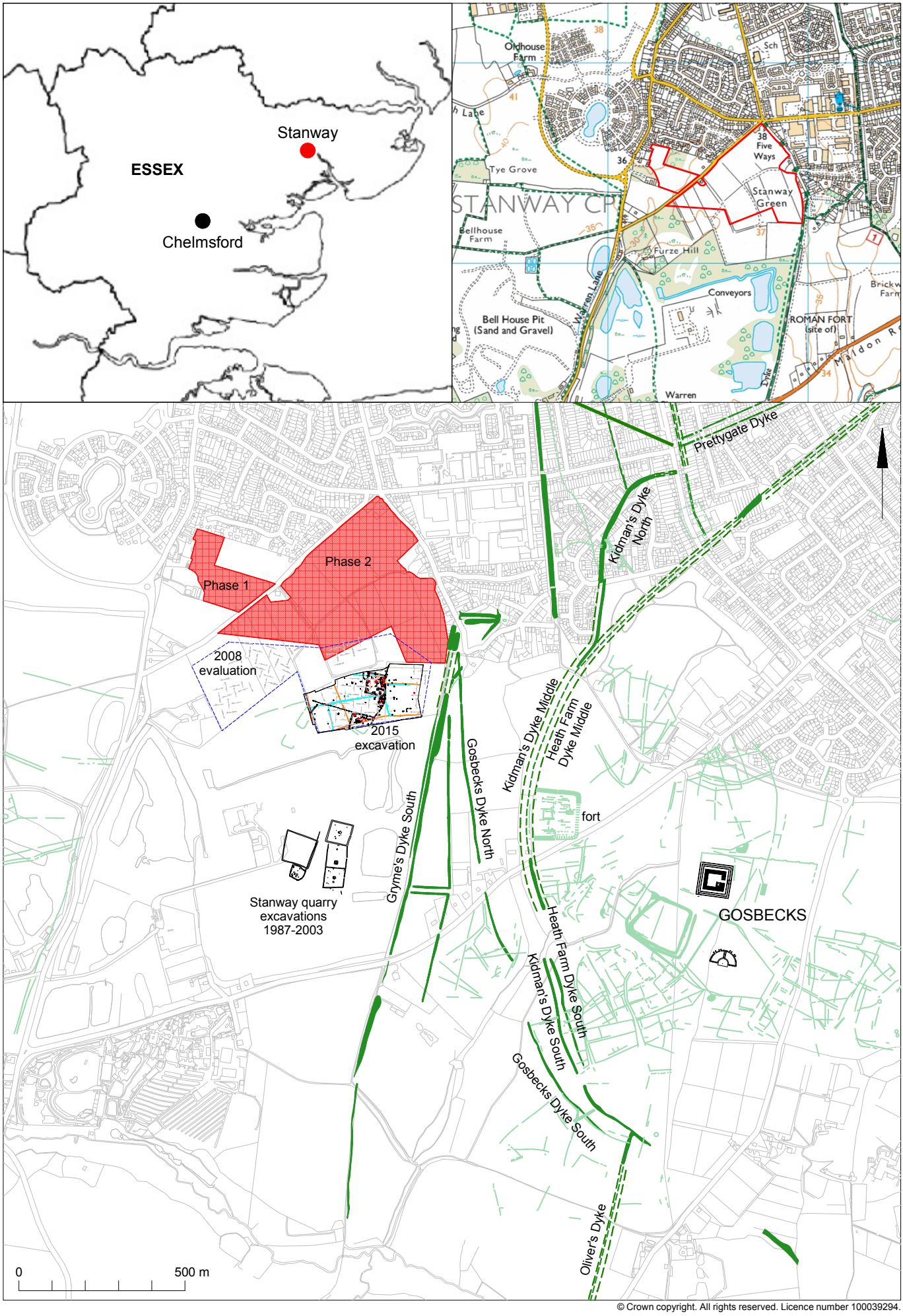


Fig 1 Site location, shown in relation to nearby archaeological sites

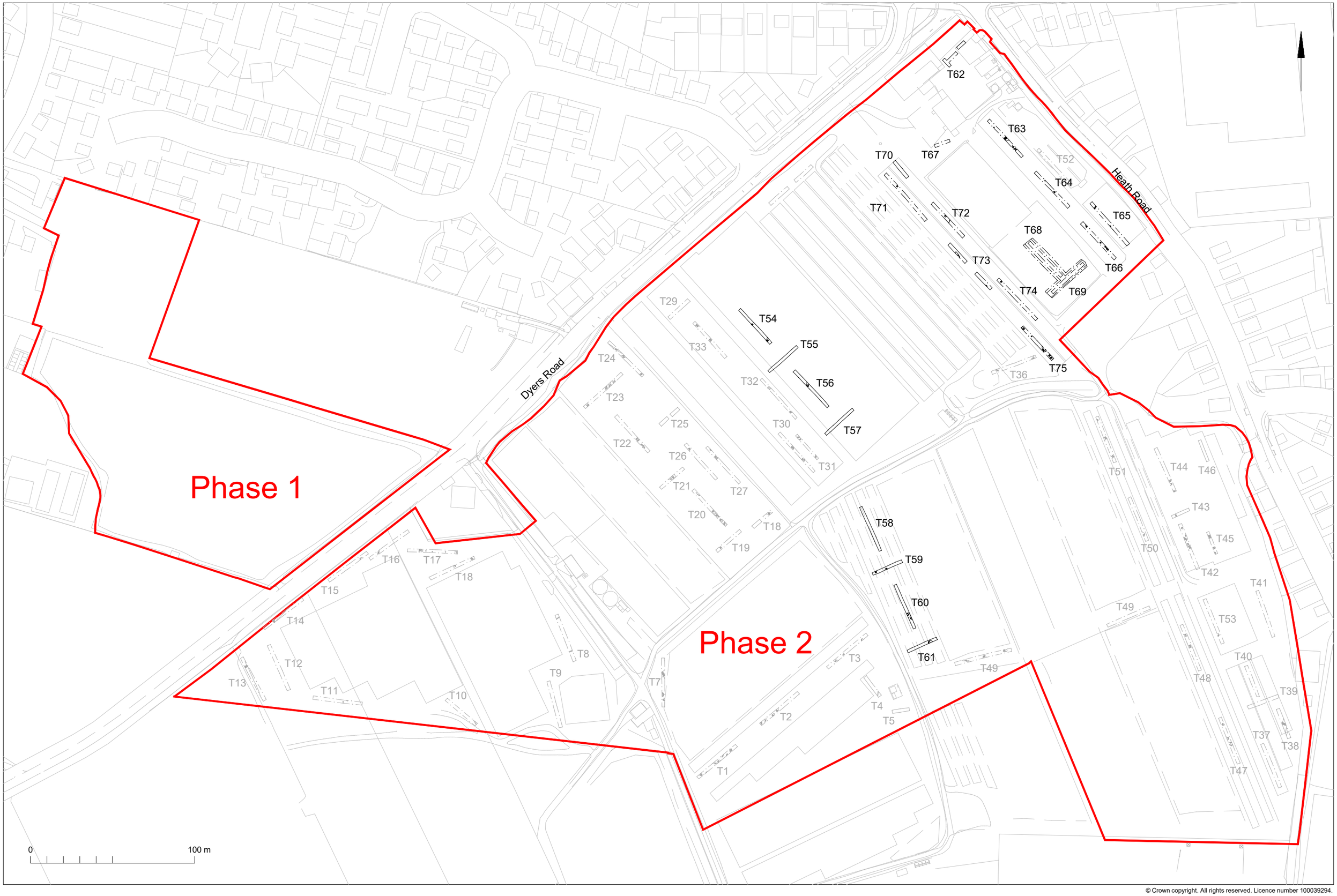


Fig 2 Trench locations. Phase 2a trenches in grey (CAT Report 1082).

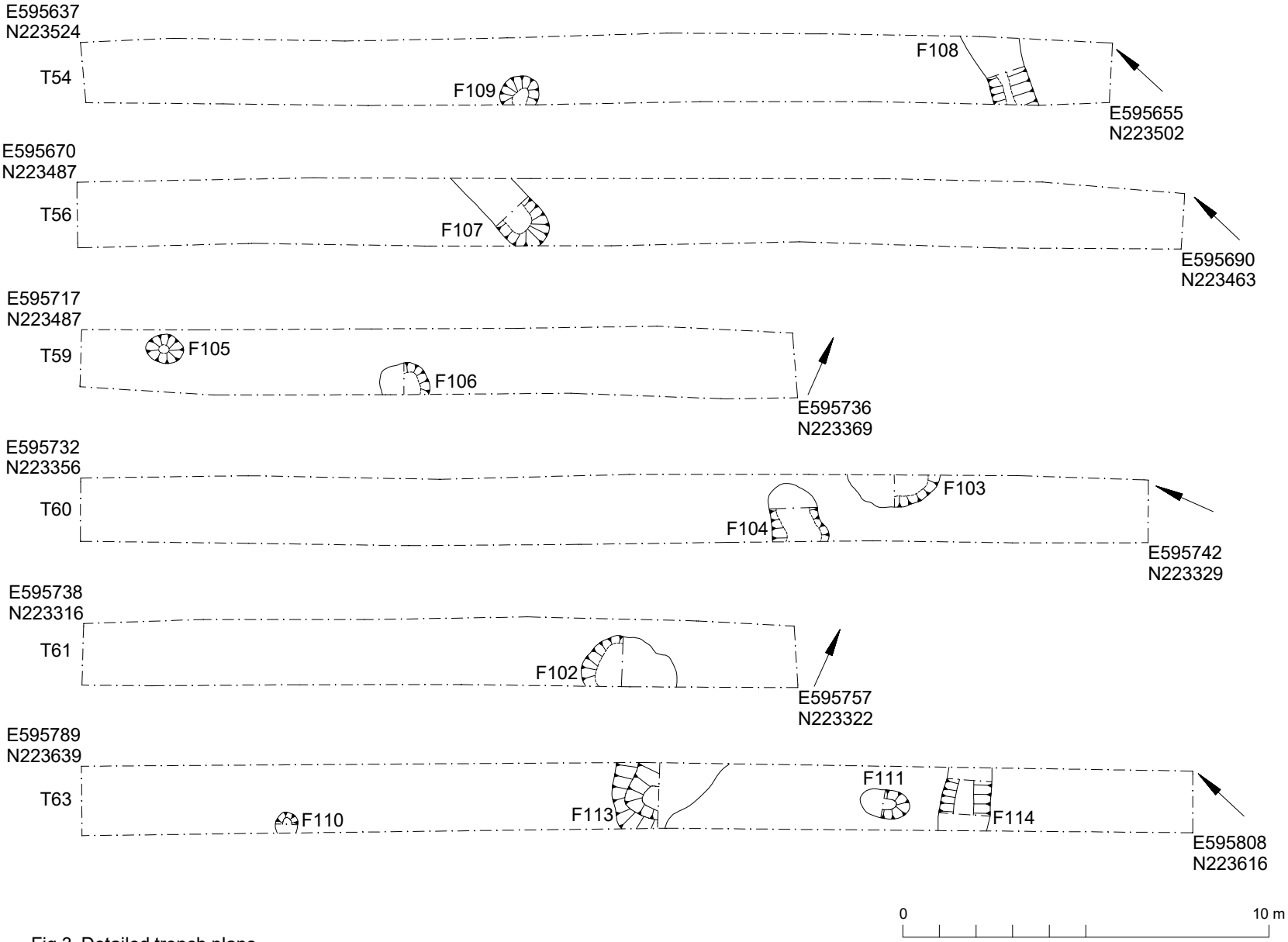


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans.

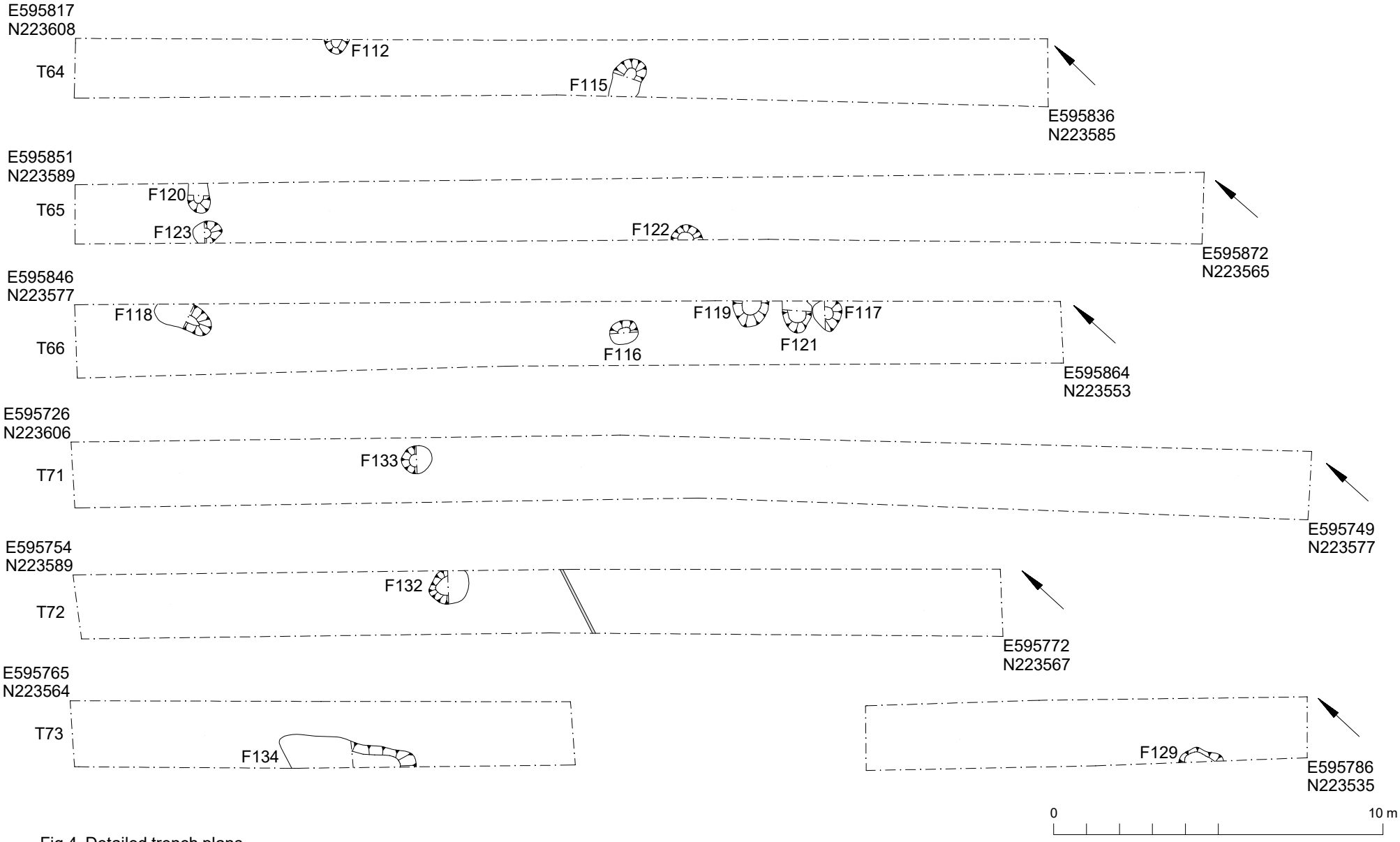


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans.

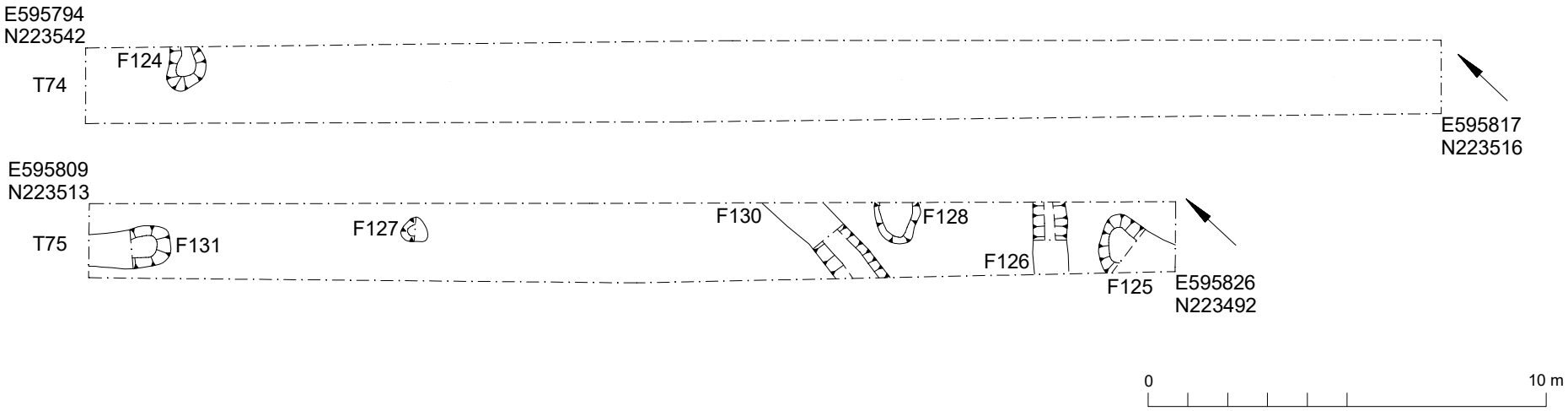


Fig 5 Detailed trench plans.

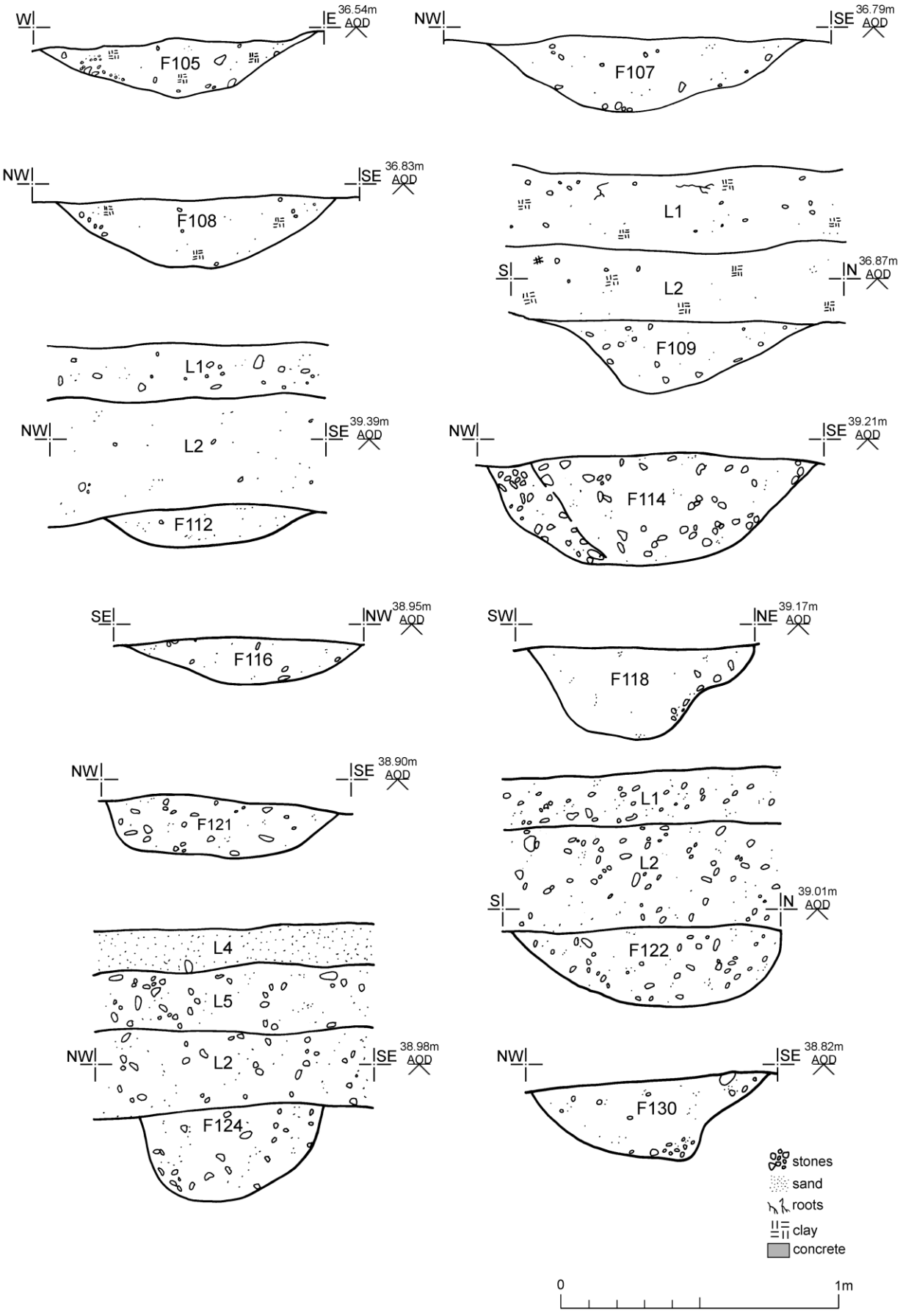
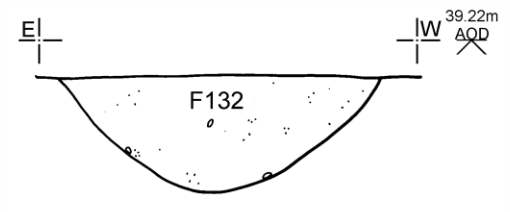
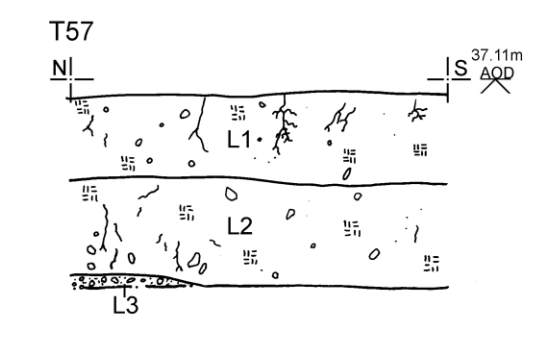
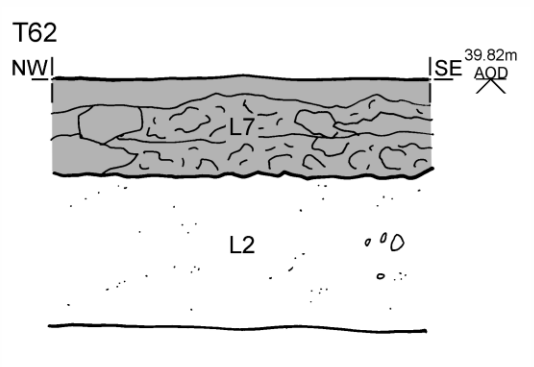
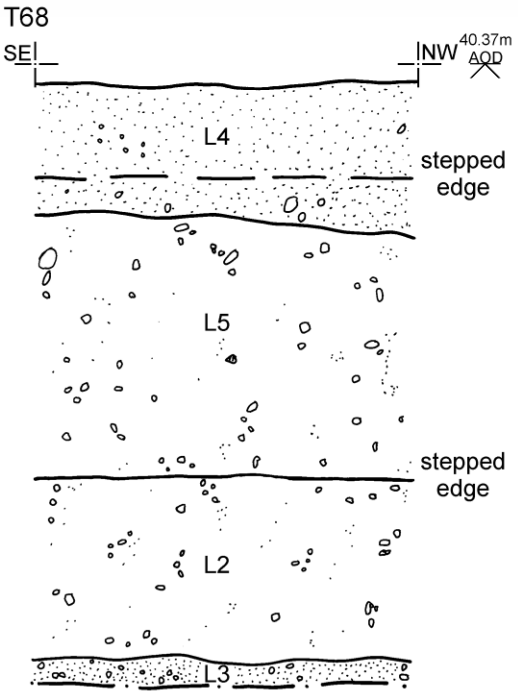


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.









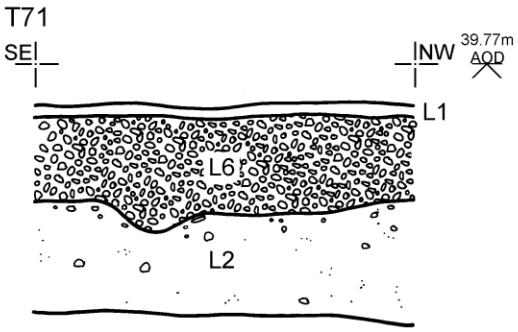


Fig 7 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: **Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0QR**	
Parish: Stanway	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 9562 2350 (centre)	***Site code:*** CAT project ref.: 2018/12e Museum accession code: COLEM:2018.127 CHER code: ECC4289 OASIS ref.: colchest3-336406
Type of work: Evaluation	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 14th July 2022	***Size of area investigated:*** 17ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester/Archaeological Data Service	**Funding source:** Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	***Related CHER/SMR number:*** -
Final report: CAT Report 1408	
Periods represented: Prehistoric	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (*22* trial-trenches) was *undertaken at Fiveway Fruit Farm, Stanway, Colchester, as part of a phased evaluation scheme in advance of the construction of up to 420 dwellings. This report details the results of Phases 2b and 2c. The site is located close to Gosbecks archaeological park and the nationally important Stanway elite burial site, and immediately to the north of two Middle Iron Age enclosures excavated at the Fruit Farm in 2015. These phases of evaluation revealed 33 features, one of which was prehistoric in date and the rest undated.*	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	***Significance:*** -
Author of summary: Sarah Veasey	***Date of summary:*** August 2022

Revised Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a trenched archaeological evaluation (Phase 2c) at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex CO3 0QR

NGR: TL 9562 2350 (centre)
District: Colchester
Parish: Stanway

Planning reference: 182220

Commissioned by: S Williams (Hills) & B Davies (Mersea Homes)
Client: Hills Residential & Mersea Homes

Curating Museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology
CHER number: ECC4289

CAT Project code: 18/12e
OASIS Project id: colchest3-336406

Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman
Post-excavation Manager: Laura Pooley

CBC Monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 15.06.2022

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
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email: cl@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site (19.05ha in total) lies approximately 3m southwest of Colchester town centre at the Fiveways Fruit Farm, Heath Road, Stanway (Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TL 9562 2350.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises part detailed/part outline planning permission for up to 420 residential units, with associated access, parking, servicing, open space and amenity space, landscaping, and utilities (details for means of vehicular access to the site only).

Archaeological background (Fig 1)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around the development site has already been completed (CAT Report 996, by Howard Brooks 2016).

The following general summary is taken from CAT Report 996 (1):

> *The proposed development site (PDS) is in an area of the highest archaeological sensitivity, situated west of the late Iron Age and Roman Colchester Dykes and Gosbecks site, and only 600m north of the nationally important Stanway élite burial site. Further, recent excavations on the Fruit Farm immediately south of the PDS have revealed two Iron Age enclosures of the type excavated at Stanway in the 1980s and 1990s.*
>
> *One of the Iron Age boundaries excavated in 2015 continues north towards the PDS. There is therefore a strong possibility that archaeological features will be present on the PDS – quite possibly an Iron Age enclosure similar to those excavated in 2015.*
>
> *Two previous surveys coincide partially with the PDS. First, a geophysical survey in 2008, produced no significant results in Field 5 of the 2008 evaluation site, which also forms part of the 2016 PDS. Second, the 2008 evaluation also covered part of the southern edge of the PDS. In fact, this evaluation revealed only seven significant archaeological features, all post-medieval and including at least three possible recent field boundaries.*

The following archaeological summary is also taken from CAT Report 996 (22-23):

> ***Prehistory and the Roman period***
> *The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, due to its location on the edge of the oppidum of Camulodunum, and close to the Colchester Dykes and the Stanway élite burial site.*
>
> *The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or oppidum in Latin) of Camulodunum. This was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43.*
>
> *There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: Camulodunum, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995). There is no need to repeat*

the detailed accounts which can be found in those volumes, but a brief summary is given here.

Camulodunum, as defined by the dykes, covers approximately 12 square miles of land around modern Colchester's town centre. The only above-ground traces of this oppidum are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dykes.

As presently understood, the oppidum had two centres of activity: one at modern Gosbecks Farm, which was a Late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead (and probably the home of Cunobelin); and a second at Sheepen (2km to the north-east of the search area), which was the industrial and trading centre.

Most of the land contained within the dykes was undoubtedly open farmland, pasture or woodland. Dotted around this landscape were other smaller farming sites such as the one at Kirkee & McMunn barracks (TL 987 231: Shimmin 1998) which developed into a Roman villa-type estate, but other similar sites may await discovery.

The potential for the existence of important, previously undiscovered archaeological sites within and close to Camulodunum has now been realised by the 2015 excavations on the Fruit Farm. The existence of important Iron Age remains to the south of the PDS is a strong indicator that important archaeological features may be present on the PDS, perhaps another Iron Age enclosure like the two excavated in 2015.

It should be noted that two previous surveys coincide with the PDS. First, a geophysical survey in 2008, produced no significant results in Field 5 of the 2008 evaluation site, which also forms part of the 2016 proposed development (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008, page 3 and fig 6). Second, the 2008 evaluation also covered part of the southern edge of the current site (specifically, Trenches 48-58 in Field 5). In fact, this evaluation revealed only seven real archaeological features, all post-medieval and including at least three possible recent field boundaries.

The eastern edge of the site adjoins Grymes Dyke. As this is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), English Heritage (EH) will have a view on this. To follow recent good practice (where the Colchester Garrison PFI development included land adjacent to Berechurch Dyke), EH may be satisfied if a corridor of undeveloped land is left between the dyke and the development. EH should be consulted on this point.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.
The evidence from Stanway for these periods is largely in the form of place-names such as the early 11th century reference to 'Stanwaegun' (i.e. Stanway), and the names of the Stanway manor house at the time of Domesday – Stanwega and Bertuna. The first almost certainly coincided with Stanway Hall, and the second probably with Olivers (outside our search area at TL 967 214).

The current site probably lay in the lands farmed from the Stanway Hall manor site in the centuries before and following Domesday.

The post-medieval period
The Chapman and André map of 1777 and the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1896 show that during the 18th and 19th centuries, Stanway was essentially a rural parish with isolated farms and settlement along the two principal roads – the London Road and the Maldon Road. The major change is the enclosure of Lexden Heath, which formed a substantial part of the parish in 1777. The only visible surviving fragment is the area immediately around Grymes Dyke where it doglegs through Stanway Green. The rest was apparently arable land in 1896. During these centuries, the current site lay in farmland.

Project background

Pre-application advice was sought from the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) in 2016 in relation to a propsed development of Fiveways Fruit Farm. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological recommendation was made by the CBCAA. This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012, subsequently revised in 2019).

A planning application was then made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2018 (application no. 182220) for *part detailed/part outline planning permission for up to 420 residential units, with associated access, parking, servicing, open space and amenity space, landscaping, and utilities (details for means of vehicular access to the site only).*

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically, a 5% systematic sample is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified:

Phase	Grid Reference	Size (ha)	Notes
Phase 1	TL 9531 2343	2.65	736m of trenching (at 1.8m wide)
Phase 2	TL 9562 2345	16.4	4,560m of trenching (at 1.8m wide)

Due to current ongoing use of the site as a working fruit farm, a staged approach to the trial-trenched evaluation has been agreed. The Phase 1 trenching and subsequent mitigation was completed prior to the determination of a separate planning application (180873; CAT Reports 1042 and 1221). For Phase 2, 1,975m of trial-trenching was required in advance of the granting of planning consent (followed by 2,585m of trenching post-consent, if planning permission was granted).

An initial programme of Phase 2 trenching was undertaken in November 2016, comprising 1,360m of trenching (Phase 2a CAT Report 1082). Due to site constraints it was not possible to complete all of the pre-consent trenching before the planning decision was made and it was agreed that the remaining pre-consent trenching could be completed as the farmer made new areas available. 200m of trenching (Phase 2b) was completed in December 2018 and a further 420m of trenching (Phase 2c) is intended for June/July 2022. This will complete the required pre-consent trenching. The Phase 2c trenching will comprise fourteen trenches, shown in blue on Fig 2, one 15m trench (T58), three 35m trenches (T56, T59, T65) and ten 30m trenches (T53-55, T57, T59-64, T66) all 1.8m wide. These have been located to provide the best coverage possible whilst avoiding existing buildings, services and access routes.

The remaining 2,580m of trenching will be undertaken in late 2022 / early 2023 once the developer takes possession of the site.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits.

If unusual, significant or unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and further archaeological work may be required, which would be the subject of an additional brief.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2016)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to the CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor and four archaeologists for 5 days.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Chris Lister/Sarah Veasey

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least a 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*.

Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of the evaluation trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough)

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged ‘organic’ features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science

(East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Human remains

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flints: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
project osteologist (human remains): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth
radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow
conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell
prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey
Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil
Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
small finds: Nina Crummy
other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

Results

Notification will be given to the CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the trenches will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale,
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011 and the recent review updates on https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to the CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (http://cat.essex.ac.uk/), both of which are publicly accessible.

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full *copy* of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

The CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to the CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

CAR Report **11**	1995	*Colchester Archaeological Report* **11**: *Camulodunum II*, by Hawkes and Crummy
CAT Report 996	1996	*A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around a site at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Essex* by H Brooks
CAT Report 1042	2016	*Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016* by L Pooley
CAT Report 1082	2017	*Archaeological evaluation on Phase 2 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016* by L Pooley
CAT Report 1221	2018	*Archaeological excavation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: January 2018* by L Pooley
CBCAA	2016	*Brief for an Archaeological Trial-Trenched Evaluation at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway* by J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation.* Revised Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	*Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.* Revised Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	*Code of Conduct.* Revised Oct 2020
DCLG	2012	*National Planning Policy Framework*
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	*Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0*
Gurney, D	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian

		Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA **14**).
Historic England	2015a	*Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.* By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Historic England	2018	*The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hawkes C F C & Hull M R	1995	*Camulodunum*, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume **14**
Medlycott, M	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24**)
MHCLG	2019	*National Planning Policy Framework.* Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Shimmin, D	1998	'A late Iron Age and Roman occupation site at Kirkee McMunn Barracks, Colchester, *Essex Archaeological and History* **29**, 260-269

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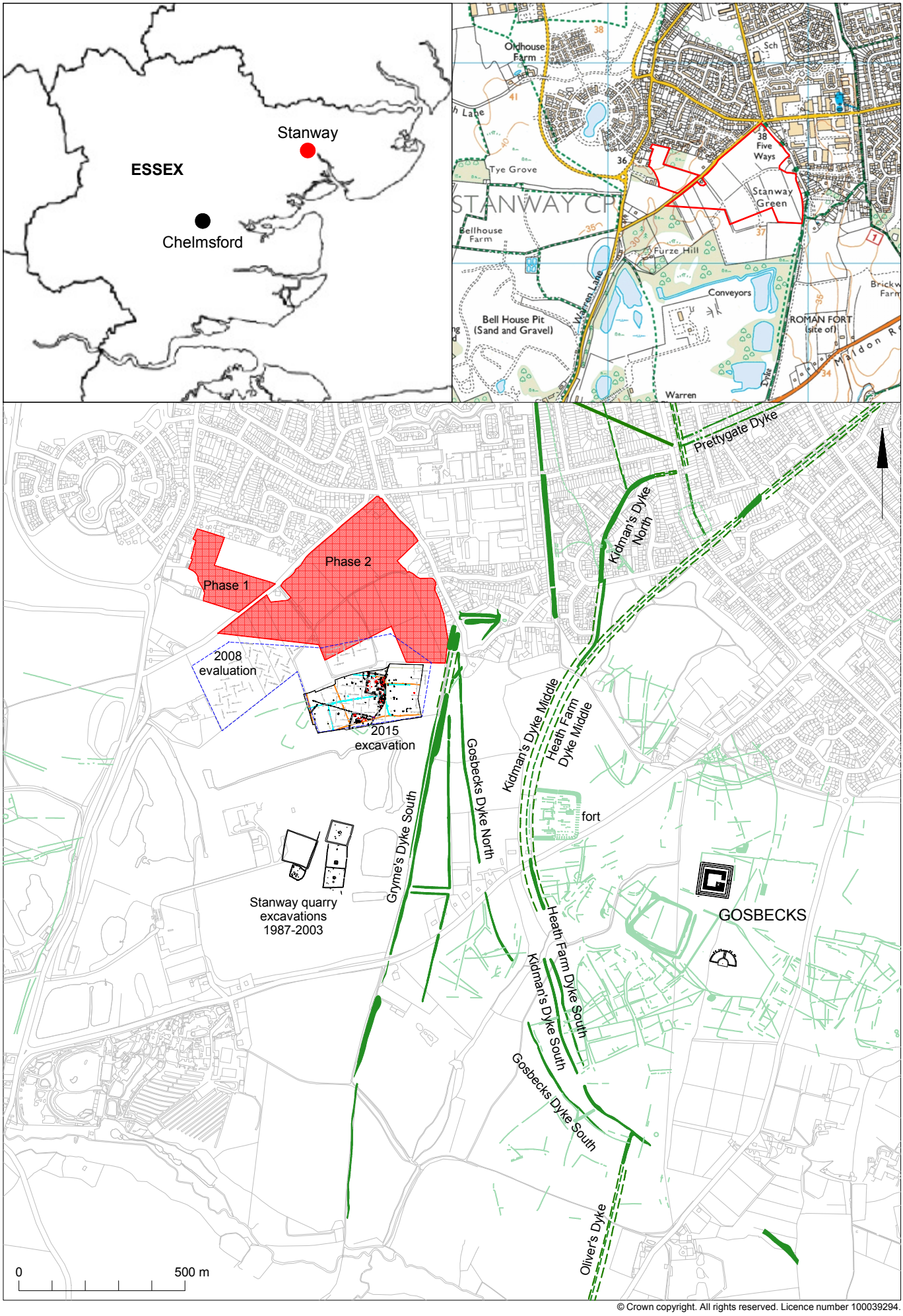

Fig 1 Site location, shown in relation to nearby archaeological sites

Fiveways Fruit Farm archaeological trenching

Phase 2 trenching: 5% requirement = 4,560m linear

Completed trenching (Phase 2a) = 1,360m linear (Nov 2016)

Completed trenching (Phase 2b) = 200m linear (Dec 2018)

Phase 2c trenching = 420m June/July 2022 (shown blue)

Remaining trenching requirement = 2,580m linear (shown pink)

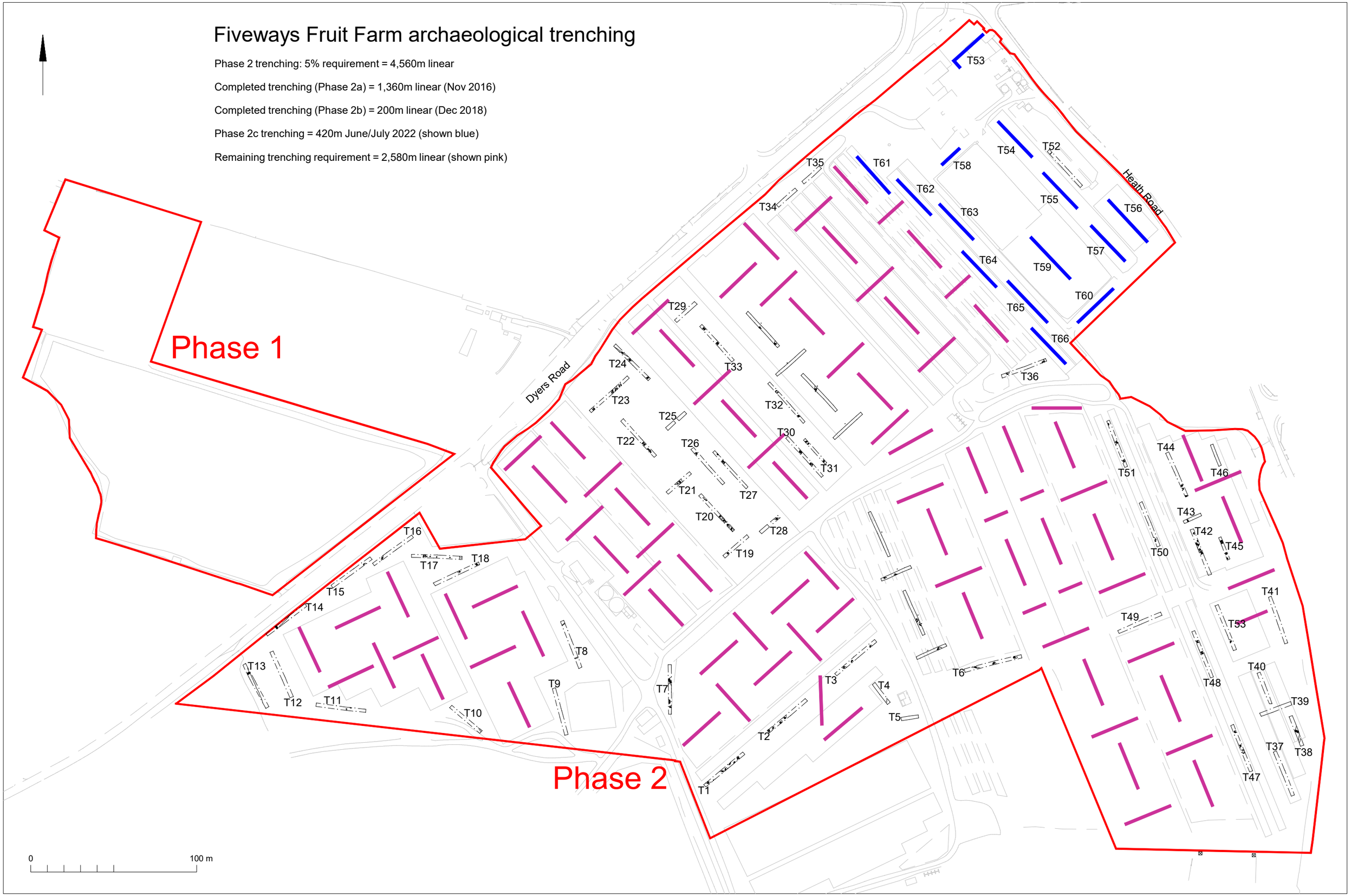

Fig 2 Phase 2c trench layout (blue) in relation to excavated trenches and remaining trenches (pink).

Summary for colchest3-285300

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-285300
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on Phase 2 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR
Sitename	Phase 2 land, Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road
Activity type	TRIAL TRENCH
Project Identifier(s)	16/10l, 18/12e
Planning Id	182220
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	07-Nov-2016 - 01-Jul-2022
Location	Phase 2 land, Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road NGR : TL 95310 22340 LL : 51.8654414777519, 0.835276611703725 12 Fig : 595310,222340
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Stanway
Project Methodology	Specifically, a 5% systematic sample is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified: PhaseGrid ReferenceSize (ha)Notes Phase 1TL 9531 23432.65736m of trenching (at 1.8m wide) Phase 2TL 9562 234516.44,560m of trenching (at 1.8m wide) Due to current ongoing use of the site as a working fruit farm, a staged approach to the trial-trenched evaluation was been agreed. The Phase 1 trenching and subsequent mitigation was completed prior to the determination of a separate planning application (180873; CAT Reports 1042 and 1221). For Phase 2, 1,975m of trial-trenching was required in advance of the granting of planning consent (followed by 2,585m of trenching post-consent, if planning permission was granted). An initial programme of Phase 2 trenching was undertaken in November 2016, comprising 1,360m of trenching (53 trenches, CAT Report 1082). Due to site constraints it was not possible to complete all of the pre-consent trenching before the planning decision was made and it was agreed that the remaining pre-consent trenching could be completed as the farmer made new areas available. 200m of trenching (Phase 2b) was completed in December 2018 and a further 420m of trenching (Phase 2c) in July 2022. This will complete the required pre-consent trenching. These phases combined consisted of 22 trenches (CAT Report 1480). The remaining 2,580m of trenching will be undertaken in late 2022 / early 2023 once the developer takes possession of the site.

Project Results	Phase 2a of the evaluation revealed a scatter of archaeological remains. Small, braded sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from four pits with Roman finds recovered from an erosion hollow and pit/ditch, and from later dated features. A medieval pit contained evidence of iron working in the centre of the site, with a small number of medieval ditches and pits in the southeast corner. Three modern field boundary ditches and the large number of undated irregular linears/agricultural features, tree-throws and pits are probably all associated with the business of the fruit farm. Phases 2b and 2c of the evaluation revealed 33 features, one of which was prehistoric in date and the rest undated.
Keywords	PIT - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - BRONZE AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	null, Pooley, L., S, Veasey, E, Hicks
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC3893, HER Event No - ECC4289
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Sevice (Colchester Collection); Accession Id(s): COLEM: 2016.106, COLEM: 2018.127