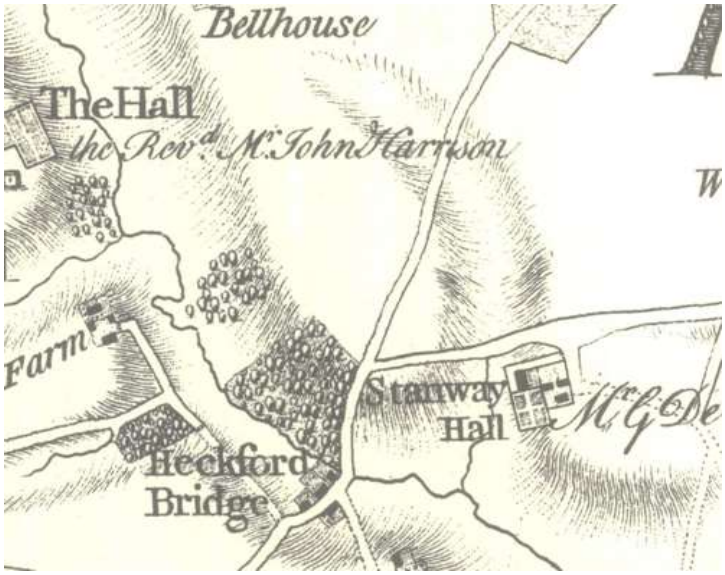
Archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW

August 2019-June 2020



by Dr Elliott Hicks & Laura Pooley
with contribution by Lisa Gray
figures by Chris Lister, Laura Pooley and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway, Nigel Rayner and Robin Mathieson

commissioned by Mr J Mead (Fiveways Fruit Farm)

NGR: TL 9470 2221 (centre)
Planning ref.: 180554
CAT project ref.: 19/08i
ECC code: ECC4367
OASIS ref.: colchest3-363745

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CAT Report 1485
September 2020

Contents

List of photographs and figures

Cover: extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777

1 Summary

An archaeological strip, map and record excavation was carried out on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a new agricultural building and protective structures for growing soft fruit. The site lies in an area of nationally-significant prehistoric and Roman remains, on the edge of the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and to the west of the Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks and the Stanway élite burial site. The groundworks revealed an undatable pit, but has also allowed the alignment of one of the cropmark features to be readjusted from that proposed during the evaluation, and for another feature to be reclassified as a probable elongated pit.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex which was carried out from 29th August 2019 to 24th June 2020. The work was commissioned by Mr J Mead in advance of the construction of a new agricultural building and protective structures for growing soft fruit and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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 excavation 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 Archaeological Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 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 excavation* (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: accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (https://colchesterheritage.co.uk).

CAT evaluated the site in 2018 (CAT Report 1289). Eleven trenches were excavated. A small quantity of finds meant that few features could be firmly dated. However, three possible prehistoric features, a ?Bronze Age pit, ?Iron Age ditch and ?prehistoric pit, were excavated as well as two ditches and a pit of Roman date. Undated features consisted of five ditches, three pits, a posthole, a ditch/pit, two pits/tree-throws and three tree-throws/natural features. Both Roman ditches may be aligned with cropmarks extending across the eastern side of the site.

Cropmarks within the development site have been recorded as possible roads/trackways, though they are fairly indistinct on the aerial photographs, these are plotted in green on Figs 2 and 5 (MCC7638).

The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential. CAT excavations in 1999-2001 at Abbotstone field (*c* 0.7km NW of the development site)

revealed a farmstead of Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age and Roman date, with round- and square-ditched enclosures, a roundhouse and droveways (CHER ECC3707, CAT Report 312). In 2015 excavations at Fiveways Fruit Farm (*c* 1.4km NE) revealed two Middle Iron Age (*c* 350 BC) farmsteads, the main components of which were two sub-square ditched enclosures containing roundhouses, two smaller enclosed areas between the main enclosures, and a series of discontinuous boundary ditches (CAT Report 1070).

The site lies on the edge of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, close to Colchester Dykes. It is located 2km to the west of the nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks (CHER MCC7470) and 1km west-south-west of the Stanway élite burial site.

The Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; CHER MCC7470), the site of multiple investigations including aerial photography, geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; *CAR* **11**, 95-105; CAT Reports 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (CHER MCC7044), possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin, King of the Trinovantes (CHER MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (CHER MCC7472); a Romano- British temple (CHER MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (CHER MCC7043); a Roman theatre (CHER MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (CHER MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (CHER MCC2529).

The Stanway élite burial site was excavated between 1987 and 2003 prior to the extraction of sands and gravel aggregates (CHER MCC8095). Five enclosures were recorded included an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high-status individuals of the Catuvellaunian family. The remains of two wooden chambers richly adorned with finds including pottery, weapons and game boards known as the 'Warriors burial' and the 'Doctor's burial' are nationally recognised for their significance (Crummy et al, 2007).

4 Aims

The aim of this this investigation was to excavate and record all archaeological horizons due to be destroyed during the proposed development.

5 Results (Figs 3-5)

Feature and layer numbers used during the current excavation follow on from numbers assigned during the evaluation stage of this investigation (CAT Report 1289).

The following groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist:

5.1 Area strip

An area measuring 0.57ha was stripped to accommodate the new development. For the most part, the area was stripped to a depth of 0.25m below current ground level (bcgl), but a small area measuring approximately 17m by 12.5m was accidentally stripped to a depth of 0.35-0.4m bcgl.

Excavations occurred through ploughsoil L1 (firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-loam with frequent stones). In the area stripped to a greater depth, natural L2 (loose, dry light/medium/dark yellow/brown sandy-slit with frequent gravel and stones) was revealed.

Photograph 1 Stripped area – looking northwest

Pit F24 was uncovered in the area stripped to L2. The feature was 0.6m in diameter and 0.25m deep. There was a concentration of charcoal in its mid to lower fill and some evidence of scorching around the northern edge of the cut. It was fully excavated but did not produce any finds, although a sample was taken.

Photograph 2 F24 sx – looking southwest

Ditch F13, uncovered during the evaluation (T8) should have been visible in this deeper area (see Fig 5). There are two possible explanations. As the feature was shallow (0.14m deep) it may have been accidentally machined away. Alternatively, the feature may not have been a ditch but an elongated feature that did not continue much further to the east than the edge of T8.

No other features or finds were present as most of the groundworks did not penetrate beyond L1.

5.2 Foundation pads and connecting footings

Twenty-six foundation pads were excavated to accommodate the new building. They were 1.2-1.7m² in size and 0.7-1.3m deep. These foundation pads were then connected by footings totalling 106.7m long, 0.7-1.3m deep and 0.6m wide. Four satellite pads were then dug to the southwest of the building footprint and two to the south. They were 1m² and 0.7m deep.

The northeasterly pads and footings were excavated through modern crush L4 (0.15m thick), imported onto the site following the strip, and the remnants of L1 (*c* 0.2m thick) into natural L2. All of the rest of the pads/footings were excavated through L4 (0.2m deep) into L2. This indicates that some of the topsoil originally left behind during the area strip had been subsequently removed.

Photograph 3 Foundation pads, west side of building – looking north

Photograph 4 Satellite pads, west side of building – looking south

Photograph 5 Site shot after concreting – looking northeast

No features were observed. Ditch F13 should have been visible in one of the foundation pads but it was not observed (see Fig 5). Again, the feature was shallow and may have been machined away, or else it was an elongated feature (pit?) that did not continue much further to the west than the edge of T8.

5.3 Drainage trenches

Drainage trenching totalling 178m long, 0.6m wide and 1m deep was excavated. The drainage trenching was connected by six manholes measuring 2m by 1.5-2m and 1m deep. The trenching and manholes were cut through L1 (*c* 0.15-0.2m thick) into L2.

Photograph 6 Drainage trench east of new building – looking west

A length of drainage trenching was also excavated to the east of Tank 1. It was 18m long, 1m wide and 1.2m deep. It was cut through L1 (*c* 0.24m thick) and a post-glacial cover loam (L4, c 0.54m thick, firm, dry medium brown sandy-silt) into L2.

Photograph 7 Drainage trench east of water tank 1 – looking south

No features were encountered. Ditch F11, uncovered during the evaluation (T10), should have been observed in one of the manholes within the northeastern part of the site (see Fig 5). The feature apparently stopped short of the manhole, however, and it was not seen.

5.4 Drainage trench under parking to front of building

An area measuring 24m by 6m was stripped to a depth of 0.4m. It was cut through L1 (*c* 0.25m) into L2.

Photograph 8 Strip for drainage trench under grasscrete parking – looking south

No features were encountered. Ditch F19, uncovered during the evaluation (T11) should have been visible in the stripped area but it was not seen (see Fig 5). It is

possible that this was not a ditch but an elongated feature/pit, meaning that F12, F20 and F21 from the evaluation are likely to be part of the same ditch feature (see Fig 5).

5.5 Drainage basin

An area measuring *c* 13.5 by 11.5m was stripped to a depth of 0.9m. It was excavated through L1 (*c* 0.25m) into L2.

Ditch F25 was observed in section. It was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep. It represented a continuation of F21 uncovered in T9 during the evaluation. This area was recorded after the groundworks had taken place which is why ditch F25 was only seen in section and was considerably narrower than it should have been, approximately 3.8m, as the top of the feature had been dug away and all that remained was the very bottom of it.

5.6 Buried waste water tank from butchery area

An area measuring 5m by 2m was stripped to a depth of 0.55m. It was cut through L1 (0.3-0.35m thick) and L5 (0.2-0.23m deep) into L2.

Photograph 9 Groundworks for waste water tank from butchery area – looking east

No archaeological remains were encountered.

5.7 Drainage trench to west of development

Drainage trenching totalling 40m long, 0.6m wide and 0.5-0.65m deep was excavated. It was cut through L1 (0.3-0.35m thick) and L5 (0.2-0.23m thick) into L2.

Photograph 10 Drainage trench to west of development site – looking northeast

No archaeological features were observed.

5.8 Drainage trench to rear of building and waste treatment plant and drainage
Further groundworks for a drainage trench under parking to the rear of the building and a waste treatment plant were undertaken without archaeological supervision, as CAT was not informed the work would be taking place.

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray

Introduction
Sample <1> from undated pit F24 produced only a small quantity of charcoal from an initial volume of 20L. Identification was requested to find out if any of the charcoal was suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Methodology
The sample was taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. The charcoal was collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried.

Identification was attempted using epi-luminating microscopy. It is difficult to make identifications of charcoal fragments that are smaller than 4mm Ø in size because the diagnostic features necessary for identification may not be visible in such small fragments (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Fragments smaller than this size were scanned to find any twigs or smaller roundwood fragments. When fragments have been broken to reveal anatomical features, they have been wrapped in foil to keep those fragments intact so they can be counted. Charcoal identifications were made using modern reference slides (author's own) and anatomical guides (Hather 2000; Schoch *et al* 2004).

Results and radiocarbon recommendations
This sample contained fifteen fragments of beach (Fagus sylvatica L.) charcoal. Beech wood is a fuel wood that burns at a high heat with little smoke (Taylor 1981, 46) and was the traditional fuel for bread ovens (Warren 2006, 46).

Unfortunately, these charcoal fragments come from a long-lived tree species and are not normally recommended for radiocarbon dating.

8 Discussion

Groundworks at this site revealed two features. Pit F24 was uncovered in the southern part of the area stripped to accommodate the new building. This feature yielded no artefactual evidence, but the results of environmental analysis sampling are pending. Ditch F25 was observed in section in the area stripped for the drainage basin. It represented a continuation of a ditch recorded during the evaluation. Originally, it was thought that F19, in T11, formed part of this ditch (see Fig 2), but during this stage of investigation it was determined that F19 is in fact a discrete feature, indicating that the features F20 (T11), F12 (T10), F21 (T9) and F25 indicate the true course of this ditch.

Two cropmarks pass through the eastern part of the site, and previously the easterly cropmark was believed to correspond to the abovementioned ditch. In view of the revised alignment of this ditch, however, the relationship is now less clear. It is possible that the cropmark indicates the past presence of a shallow ditch which did not reach the natural. Perhaps significantly in this regard, again, no features corresponding to the westerly cropmark were observed.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr J Mead for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner and R Mathieson. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

10 References

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

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CAT Report 30	1998	*Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area*, by S Benfield
CAT Report 45	1999	*Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999*, by C Austin
CAT Report 127	2008	*Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex 1995-1996*, by S Benfield
CAT Report 312	2005	*Excavations at Abbotstone field, Bell House Pit, Tarmac Colchester Quarry, Warren Lane, Stanway, Essex: 1999-2001*, by L Pooley
CAT Report 1070	2019	*Middle Iron Age farmsteads: Archaeological excavation on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: May-December 2015*, by P Parmenter, A Wightman & L Pooley
CAT Report 1289	2013	*Archaeological evaluation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW: June 2018*, by E Hicks
Crummy, P *et al*	2007	*Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum*, Britannia Monograph

		Series **24**
CBCAA	2019	*Brief for an archaeological excavation at Bellhouse Quarry and Landfill, Warren Lane, Stanway, CO3 0NN*
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation*
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*
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11 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from *c* 2500 to 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
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
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
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

12 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1485)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photos and log
Digital record
The report (CAT Report 1485)
CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Survey data

13 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.

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Distribution list:
Mr J Mead
Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 14.09.2020

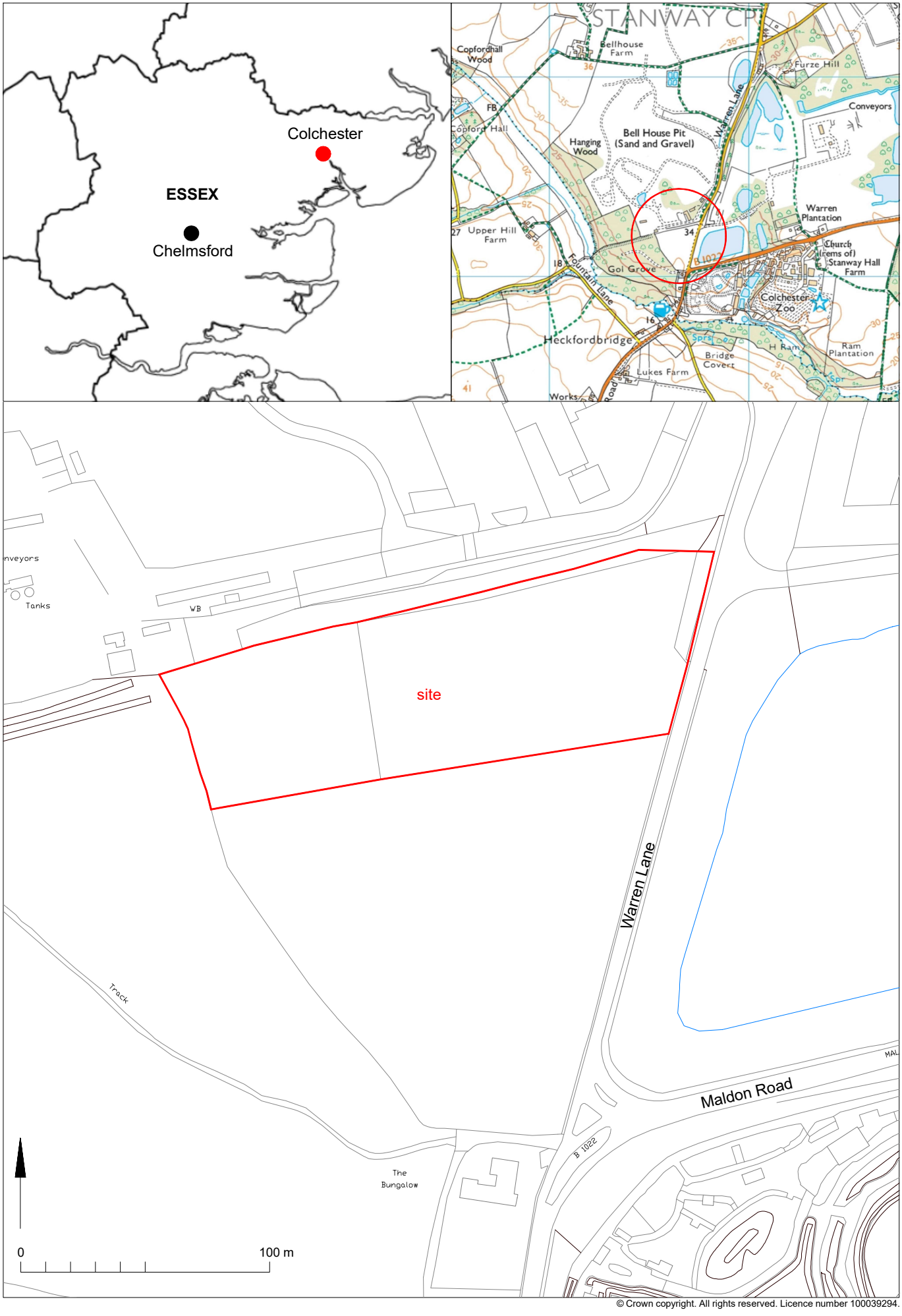

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Fig 1 Site location

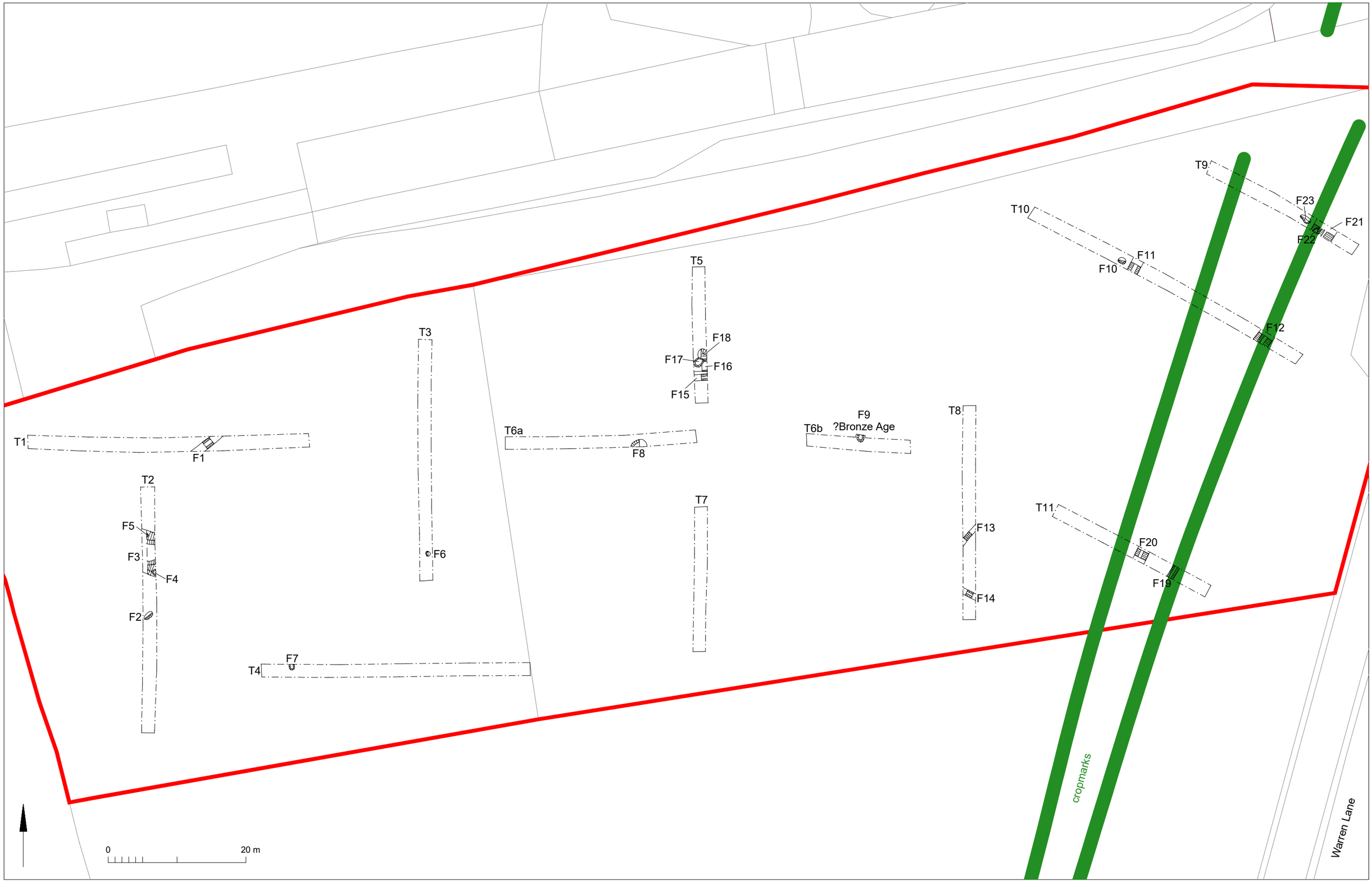

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Fig 2 Results of the 2018 evaluation with the cropmarks plotted in green

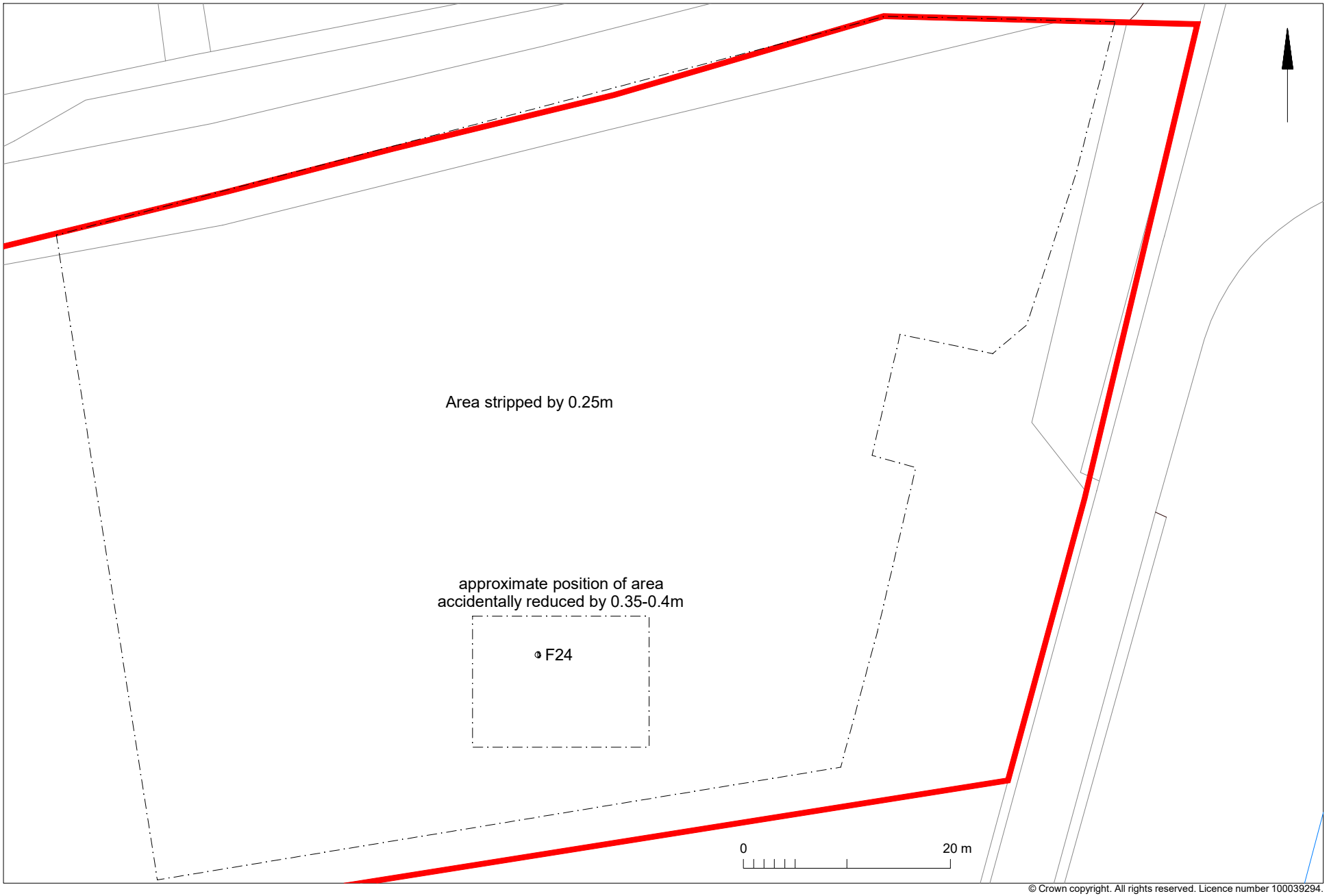

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Fig 3 Monitoring results August-September 2019

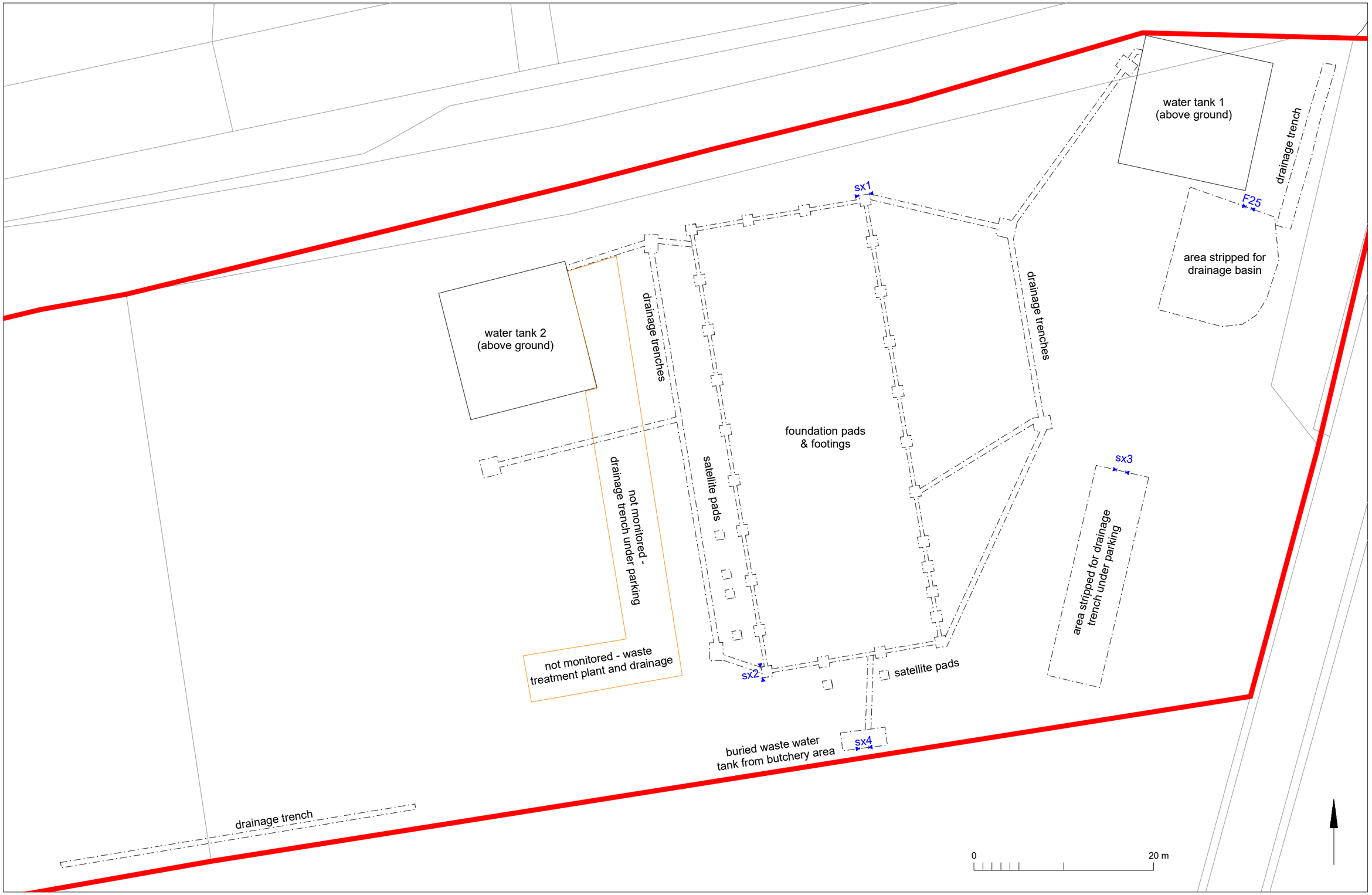

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Fig 4 Strip, map and record and monitoring results December 2019-June 2020

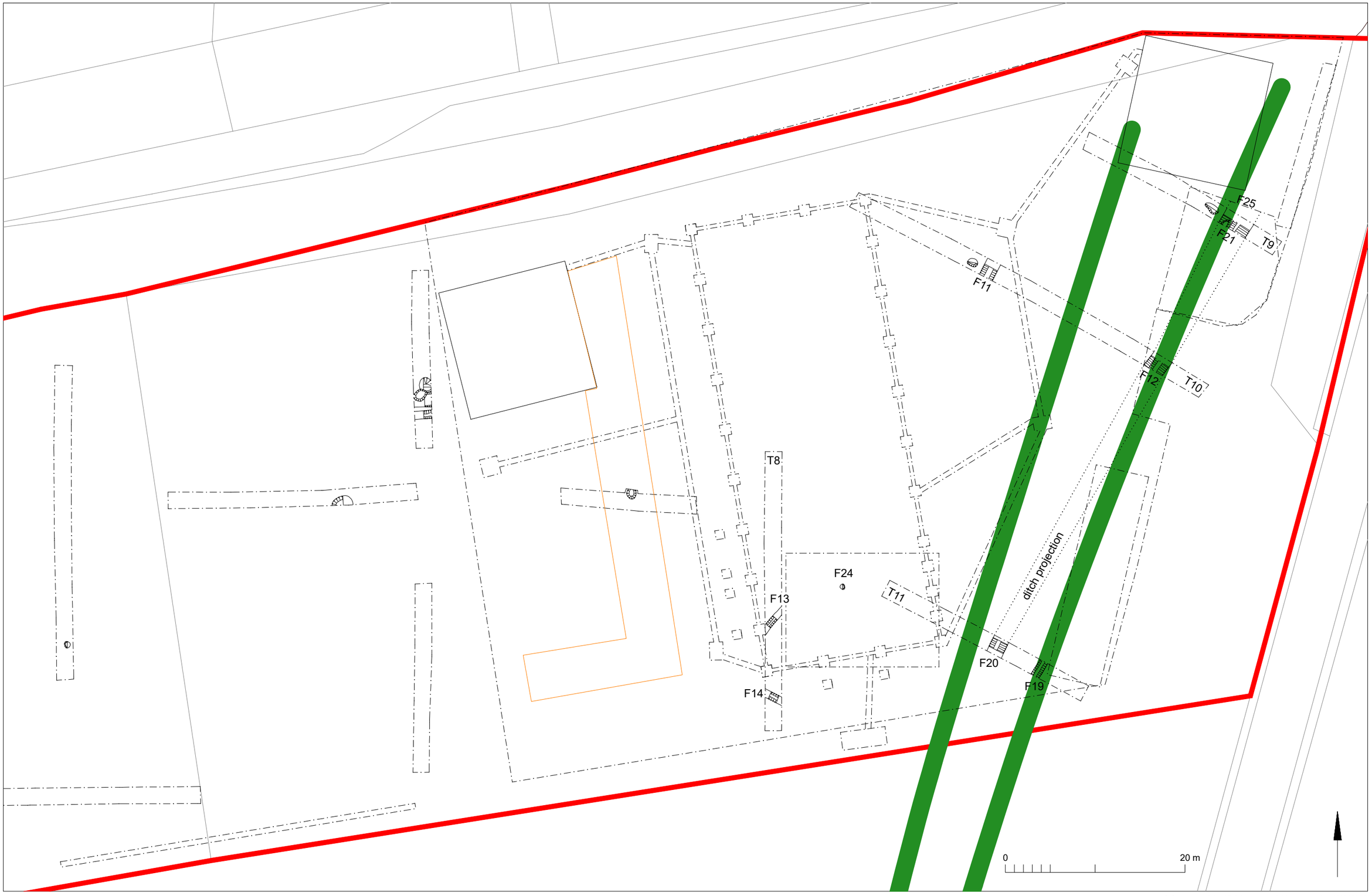

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Fig 5 Results of the 2019-20 strip, map and record and monitoring, shown in relation to the 2018 evaluation and the cropmarks (in green)

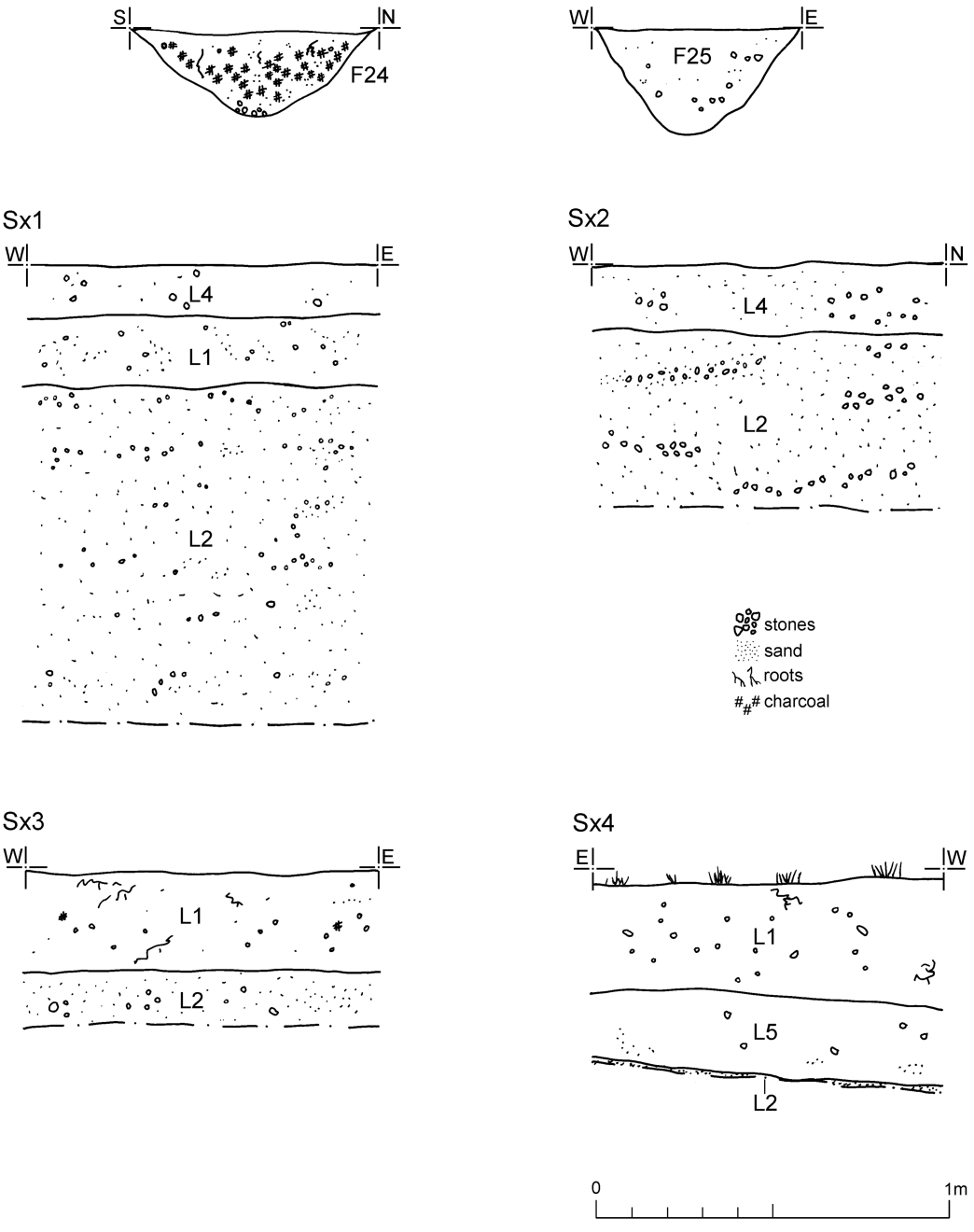

Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: **Land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW**	
Parish: Colchester	***District:*** Colchester
NGR: TL 9470 2221 (centre)	***Site code:*** CAT project ref.: 19/08i CHER ref: ECC4367 OASIS ref: colchest3-363745
Type of work: Strip, map and record excavation and monitoring	***Site director/group:*** Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 29th August 2019 to 24th June 2020	***Size of area investigated:*** 1.37 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	**Funding source:** Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	***Related CHER/SMR number:*** CHER MCC2529, MCC2831, MCC2849, MCC2903, MCC7043, MCC7044, MCC7470, MCC7472, MCC7638, MCC8095; ECC3707
Final report: CAT Report 1485	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: *An archaeological strip, map and record excavation was carried out on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a new agricultural building and protective structures for growing soft fruit. The site lies in an area of nationally-significant prehistoric and Roman remains, on the edge of the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and to the west of the Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks and the Stanway élite burial site. Twenty-three features were recorded during the previous evaluation, and while most contained no artefactual evidence, three were determined to be of possible Bronze Age, Iron Age and prehistoric date, respectively, and two ditches and a pit were found to be Roman. The groundworks revealed an undatable pit. A feature thought to form part of one of the ditches extending through the eastern part of the site was found to have in fact been a discrete feature, and the route of this feature has therefore been revised.*	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
CBC monitor: Dr Jess Tipper	
Keywords: –	***Significance:*** –
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	***Date of summary:*** September 2020

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, CO3 0NW.

NGR: TL 9470 2221 (centre)
Parish: Stanway

Planning reference: 180554

Commissioned by and on behalf of: Mr J Mead (Fiveways Fruit Farm)

Curating Museum: Colchester
CHER event number: tbc

CAT project code: 2019/08i
OASIS project id: colchest3-363745

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 14/08/2019

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tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 6km southwest of Colchester town centre on land off Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 9470 2221.

Proposed work

The development comprises of a new agricultural building (including packing warehouses, cold stores, secure stores, agricultural machinery stores with ancillary offices, welfare facilities and associated produce retail) and protective structure (greenhouses) for growing soft fruit and associated drainage and groundworks.

Archaeological background

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

CAT evaluated the site in 2018 (CAT Report 1289). Eleven trenches were excavated. A small quantity of finds meant that few features could be firmly dated. However, three possible prehistoric features, a ?Bronze Age pit, ?Iron Age ditch and ?prehistoric pit, were excavated as well as two ditches and a pit of Roman date. Undated features consisted of five ditches, three pits, a posthole, a ditch/pit, two pits/tree-throws and three tree-throws/natural features. Both Roman ditches may be aligned with cropmarks extending across the eastern side of the site.

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The site lies on the edge of the Late Iron Age *oppidum* of Camulodunum, close to Colchester Dykes. It is located 2km to the west of the nationally important Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks (CHER MCC7470) and 1km west-south-west of the Stanway élite burial site.

The Late Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks (Scheduled Monument NHLE no. 1002180; CHER MCC7470), the site of multiple investigations including aerial photography, geophysical surveys, evaluations and excavations (Hull 1958, 259-71; *CAR* **11**, 95-105; CAT Reports 30, 45 and 127). Archaeological remains at Gosbecks include: dykes, droveways and field systems; a large enclosure (CHER MCC7044), possibly the farmstead of Cunobelin, King of the Trinovantes (CHER MCC7044); a small Roman fort of probable Claudian date (CHER MCC7472); a Romano- British temple (CHER MCC2849), surrounded by a monumental portico (CHER MCC7043); a Roman theatre (CHER MCC2831); a Roman water-main, possibly leading to a bath-house (CHER MCC2903); and a road leading to the walled Roman town (CHER MCC2529).

The Stanway élite burial site was excavated between 1987 and 2003 prior to the extraction of sands and gravel aggregates (CHER MCC8095). Five enclosures were recorded included an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high status individuals of the Catuvellaunian family. The remains of two wooden chambers richly adorned with finds including pottery, weapons and game boards known as the ‘Warriors burial’ and the ‘Doctor’s

burial' are nationally recognised for their significance (Crummy *et al*, 2007).

Planning background

A planning application (180554) was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2018 proposing a *new agricultural building comprising packing warehouses, cold stores, secure stores, agricultural machinery stores with ancillary offices, welfare facilities and associated produce retail. Protective structure (greenhouses) for growing of soft fruit*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the 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 excavation and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work

Based on the results of the CAT 2018 evaluation of the site the CBCAA requested an amended brief requiring further archaeological investigation. This phase of archaeological work focuses on the eastern half of the area evaluated.. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (2019).

Specifically, the archaeological work will will comprise of a strip, map and record excavation divided into two parts:
1) Archaeological excavation of the areas highlighted yellow on Fig 1. This includes the foundation pads for the steel frames, drainage basin, drainage trenches, buried water tanks and waste treatment plant and associated drainage. These areas are due to stripped to between 0.5-1m deep.
2) Monitoring and recording of the of the rest of the site between the above-mentioned areas where the strip will not exceed 0.25m, this area is due to be covered with 0.15m of compacted hard core.

If unusual, significant or unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Amendments to the brief, and this WSI, may be required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

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)
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- The Project Brief issued by CBCAA (2019) and change to allow monitoring of shallower stripped areas by Dr J. Tipper, pers. Comm., 13th June 2019).

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 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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). 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 for the duration of the monitoring with additional archaeologists as required for excavation work.
In charge of day-to-day site work: Adam Wightman

Strip, map and excavate 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.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials 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, and only then after discussion with the ECCHEA, will it be removed.

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

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all areas of the strip and map both before and during excavation. All features and spoil heaps will be scanned and 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. A representative section will be drawn to include ground level and the depth of machining. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard “record” shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Site surveying

The excavation area and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, 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 excavation areas 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).

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. CAT staff will process samples (unless of a complex nature) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

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

Provision will be included (where necessary) for column or core samples to be taken, for the assessment and/or full analysis of those samples, and for absolute dating of the sequence.

Provision will also be made (where necessary) for the identification and absolute dating of suitable deposits of charred remains. Should VF/LG make a recommendation that suitable samples not datable by other means (ie associated finds) be submitted for absolute dating, then these samples will be sent to the SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory at Glasgow University for analysis.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/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.

Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

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

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). 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.

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 supplied as both a jpeg and in raw uncompressed format (TIFF), with metadata will be embedded into the raw file as per HE guidelines (HE 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.

Matthew Loughton (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman
flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
Project osteologist (human remains): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)
environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray
conservation of finds: staff at Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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

Roman ceramic building materials: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)
Roman glass: Hilary Cool
Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

Other: HE 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.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

Post-excavation assessment

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with CBCAA. This may include discussion as to whether there is a need for and extent of radiocarbon dating of appropriate contexts and/or further detailed scientific analysis of

other aspects of the project.

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA. It will be a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and will identify the research potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework. It will include an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Results

Notification will be given to 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* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the excavation area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the area 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 (if this can be safely done)
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- 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 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

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. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that 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).

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.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

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

Monitoring

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 CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

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

Brown, D	2011 (2nd Ed.	*Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*
CAR **11**	1995	*Colchester Archaeological Report **11**: Camulodunum 2, by* C F C Hawkes and P Crummy
CAT Report 30	1998	*Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester: an archaeological evaluation of the north-west area*. By S Benfield
CAT Report 45	1999	*Excavation at Gosbecks Archaeological Park: July-August 1999.* By C Austin
CAT Report 127	2008	*Excavations of Late Iron Age and Roman features and a Roman road north of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, Colchester, Essex 1995-1996*. By S Benfield
CAT Report 312	2005	*Excavations at Abbotstone field, Bell House Pit, Tarmac Colchester Quarry, Warren Lane, Stanway, Essex: 1999-2001.* By L Pooley
CAT Report 1070	2019	*Middle Iron Age farmsteads: Archaeological excavation on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR*: *May-December 2015.*
CAT Report 1289	2018	*Archaeological evaluation on land at Warren* Lane, Stanway, *Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW: June 2018.* By E Hicks
Crummy, C *et al*	2007	*Stanway: an elite burial site at Camulodunum. Britannia Monograph Series **24**.*
CBCAA	2019	*Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenched Evaluation at Colchester Zoo, Maldon Road, Stanway, CO3 0SL*
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for an 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 (HE)	2015a	*Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By*. S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Historic England (HE)	2018	*The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Hull, R	1958	*Roman Colchester*
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.*

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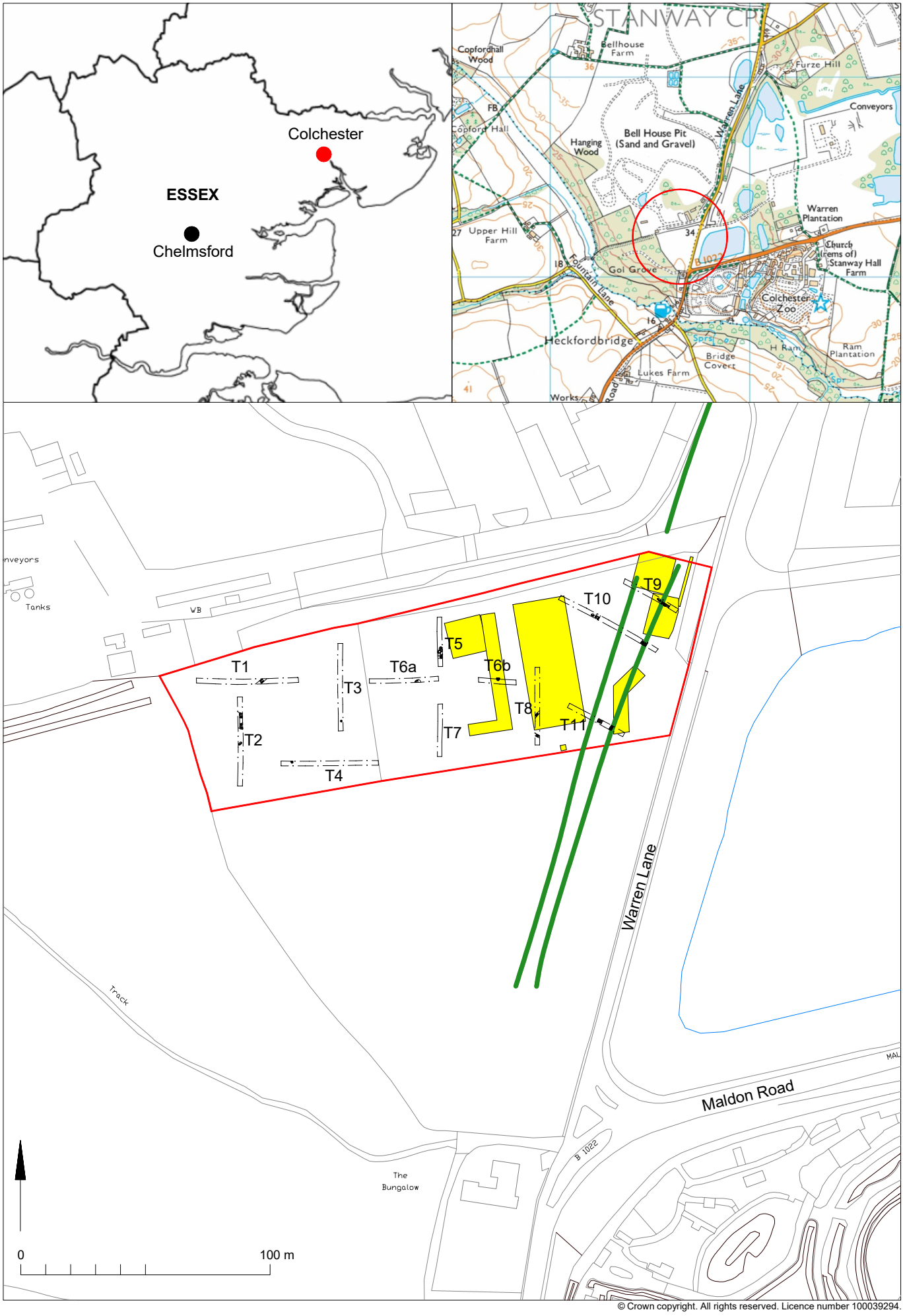

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Fig 1 Site location, showing evaluation results, proposed excavation areas (in yellow) and cropmarks (in green).

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: colchest3-363745

Project details

Project name	Archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, CO3 0NW.
Short description of the project	An archaeological strip, map and record excavation was carried out on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex during groundworks for a new agricultural building and protective structures for growing soft fruit. The site lies in an area of nationally-significant prehistoric and Roman remains, on the edge of the Late Iron Age oppidum of Camulodunum, and to the west of the Late Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks and the Stanway élite burial site. The groundworks revealed an undatable pit, but has also allowed the alignment of one of the cropmark features to be readjusted from that proposed during the evaluation, and for another feature to be reclassified as a probable elongated pit.
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2019 End: 24-06-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	180554 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/08i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4367 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-363745 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Investigation type	'"Part Excavation"',"'Watching Brief"'
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER STANWAY and at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester
Postcode	CO3 0NW
Study area	1.37 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9470 2221 51.863925379509 0.828087719171 51 51 50 N 000 49 41 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
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	Mr J Mead (Fiveways Fruit Farm)

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	ECC4367
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	ECC4367
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological strip, map and record excavation on land at Warren Lane, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0NW: August 2019-June 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1485
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Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf brass-stapled
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk

Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	15 September 2020

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