

Archaeological evaluation at Weston, Bannister Green, Felsted, Dunmow, Essex, CM6 3NH

January 2021



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commissioned by David Andrews, Andmor Holdings Ltd

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OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Weston, Bannister Green, Felsted, Dunmow, Essex, in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. The site lies within the historic Bannister Green, near to a number of medieval moated sites and to the southwest of cropmarks indicating the presence of an enclosure and a trackway. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area only a medieval/post-medieval pit, modern pit and undated pit were uncovered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Weston, Bannister Green, Felsted, Dunmow, Essex which was carried out on 29th January 2021. The work was commissioned by David Andrews of Andmor Holdings Ltd in advance of the construction of three new dwellings, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Katie Lee-Smith advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

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 2015), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

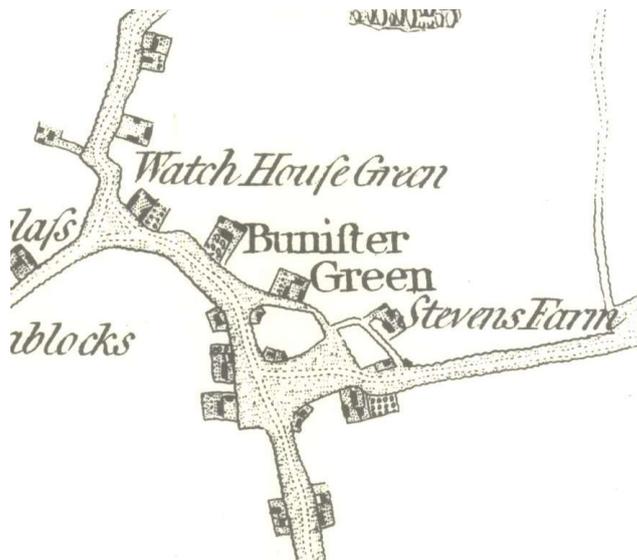
3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>)

The site is located within the historic green at Bannister's Green (EHER 36182) which is depicted on the Chapman and André's 1777 map of Essex as Bunister Green.

Within the vicinity of the proposed development are a number of medieval moated sites indicating the potential for medieval archaeological deposits. To the north of the site is Stevens Farm (EHER 1352), where part of the moat survives as earthworks to the west of the existing farm building. To the south is Woods Farm (EHER 1257) the site of a possible homestead moat.

Cropmarks also indicate the presence of a number of linear features to the northeast of the proposed development (EHER19791) and a square enclosure and possible double-ditched trackway (EHER 1356) to the southwest.



Map 1 Extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777.



Map 2 Extract of 1st edition OS map, 1842 (site marked in red).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench T1 was cut through modern made ground (L3, c 0.36-0.38m thick) and accumulation (L4, c 0.12-0.14m thick) onto L2 (encountered at a depth of c 0.43-0.5m below current ground level). Trenches T2 and T3 were cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.17-0.45m thick) onto natural (L2).

Trench 1 (T1): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Two pits were present within the trench, both sealed by accumulation L4. Modern pit F2 produced fragments of 19th- to 20th-century pottery and ceramic building material along with animal bone, slate and an iron nail, with a fragment of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and piece of iron from F3. Both pits were relatively shallow at 0.24m and 0.18m deep respectively, with F2 at least 2.2m long by 1.1m wide and F3 at least 0.64m long by 0.59m wide.

Trench 2 (T2): 8m long by 1.8m wide

There were no archaeological remains in trench T2.

Trench 3 (T3): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Five fragments of animal bone, mainly juvenile pig, came from pit F1 which was 0.76m in diameter by 0.18m deep.



Photograph 1 Trench T1 with F1 and F2 in foreground, looking southeast

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered 15 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 569g and 0.29 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 38g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Pottery	4	65	16	0.29
CBM	11	504	46	-
Total	15	569	38	0.29

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

This material was recovered from only two features and most of the material came from pit F2 (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	Pit	14	505	36
F3	Pit	1	64	64
Total		15	569	38

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM by features and layers

Post-Roman pottery

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (2000) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). There were only four sherds of post-Roman pottery with a weight of 65g and EVE of 0.29, which all came from pit F2. This material dates to the 19th-20th century and consists of a yellow ware (fabric F48E) bowl (EVE: 0.04), a modern English stoneware (fabric 45M) bottle (EVE: 0.25) and a sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) with a blue transfer willow pattern print.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

The CBM consists of 11 sherds with a weight of 504g (Table 3) which came from pit F2 and pit F3. This includes sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (F2, F3), brick, including a frogged example from pit F2, and a sherd from a modern pipe/drain pipe (F2).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
PT	Peg-tile	4	229	57
BR	Brick	4	152	38
BR	Frogged brick	2	100	50
Mod. Pipe/dr.	Modern pipe/drain pipe	1	23	23
Total		11	504	46

Table 3 Post-Roman building material

Conclusion

Table 4 summarizes the dating evidence for the two pits which produced dateable ceramic finds. Pit F2 is modern, dating to the 20th century. Pit 3 is less well dated and only a medieval/post-medieval date can be suggested.

Context	Feature type	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall date approx.
F2	Pit	F45M F48D F48E	PT BR BR frogged	20th century
F3	Pit	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval

Table 4 Approximate dates for the individual features

6.2 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced six pieces of animal bone weighing a total of 42g from two pits, F1 in trench T3 (undated) and F2 in trench T1 (modern). The bone was in fair condition.

All the animal bone, except one fragment, was identified as pig. Pit F1 produced a small selection of skeletal parts including elements of the head and rear legs. Though it is not certain, it is likely that these are the remains of a single juvenile animal of between four and nine months old. No signs of butchery or disease were noted.

Pit F2 produced a complete metapodial from a slightly older animal, between one and two years of age.

Context	Find no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F1 (T3) undated pit	1	4	40	Pig	Mandible fragment (1) with Dp4, erupted M1 and M2 in crypt. Approximate age between 4 and 9 months? Femur (1) complete with unfused distal and proximal metaphysis. Age less than 3.5 years old. Calcaneus (1). Unfused tuberositas calcanei Age less than 2.5 years old. Skull fragment (1).
		1	1	Unidentified	Unidentified fragment (1).
F2 (T1) modern pit	2	1	1	Pig	Metatarsus Mt V. Complete with fused proximal epiphysis and unfused distal metaphysis. Age between 1 and 2 years old.
Total		6	42		

Table 5 Animal bone by context

6.3 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of slate (40.7g) and a clenched iron nail shank (3.0) came from pit F2 (finds no. 2), and a fragment of iron (1.7g) with no distinguishing features came from pit F3 (finds no. 3).

7 Conclusion

Despite being located within an archaeologically significant area, only three pits were present within the evaluation trenches. Those in trench T1 to the north of the site produced finds of medieval/post-medieval and modern date. The pit in trench T3 to the south could not be dated but did contain fragments of pig bone.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David Andrews and Andmor Holdings Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with S Carter, N Pryke and M Perou. Figures are by C Lister and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
| Baker, P & Worley, F | 2019 | <i>Animal bones and archaeology: recovery to archive</i> |
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8) |
| CAR 7 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by J Cotter |
| CAT | 2020 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |

ECCPS	2020	<i>Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation at Weston, Bannister Green, Felsted, Dunmow</i> , by K Lee-Smith
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Schmid, E	1972	<i>Atlas of animal bones</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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 Index of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: None retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1634)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1634)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2021.2

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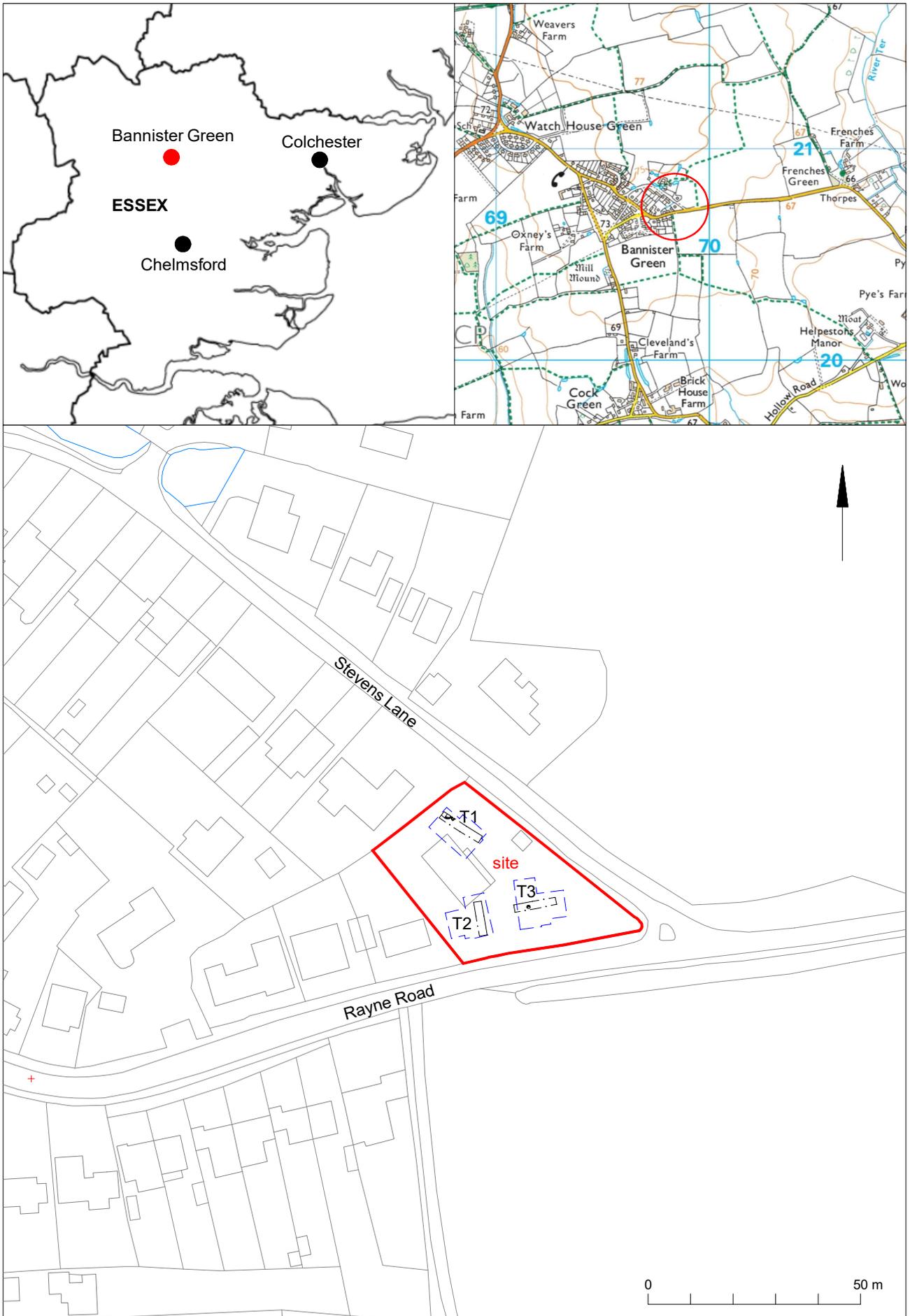
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 3.3.2021

Appendix 1 Context list

Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
T2, T3	L1	-	Topsoil	Firm moist dark grey/brown loamy and inclusions of: stone 7%	Modern
All	L2	-	Natural	Firm wet medium yellow/grey/brown clay	Post-glacial
T1	L3	-	Made ground underneath gravel driveway	Firm moist medium grey/brown clayey loam and inclusions of: stone 15% tile/brick 15%	Modern
T1	L4	-	Accumulation	Friable moist medium grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks	Modern
T3	F1	1	Pit	Firm wet medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and inclusions of: stone 3%	Undated
T1	F2	2	Pit	Firm moist grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks	Modern, 20th century
T1	F3	3	Pit	Firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks	Post-medieval/modern



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

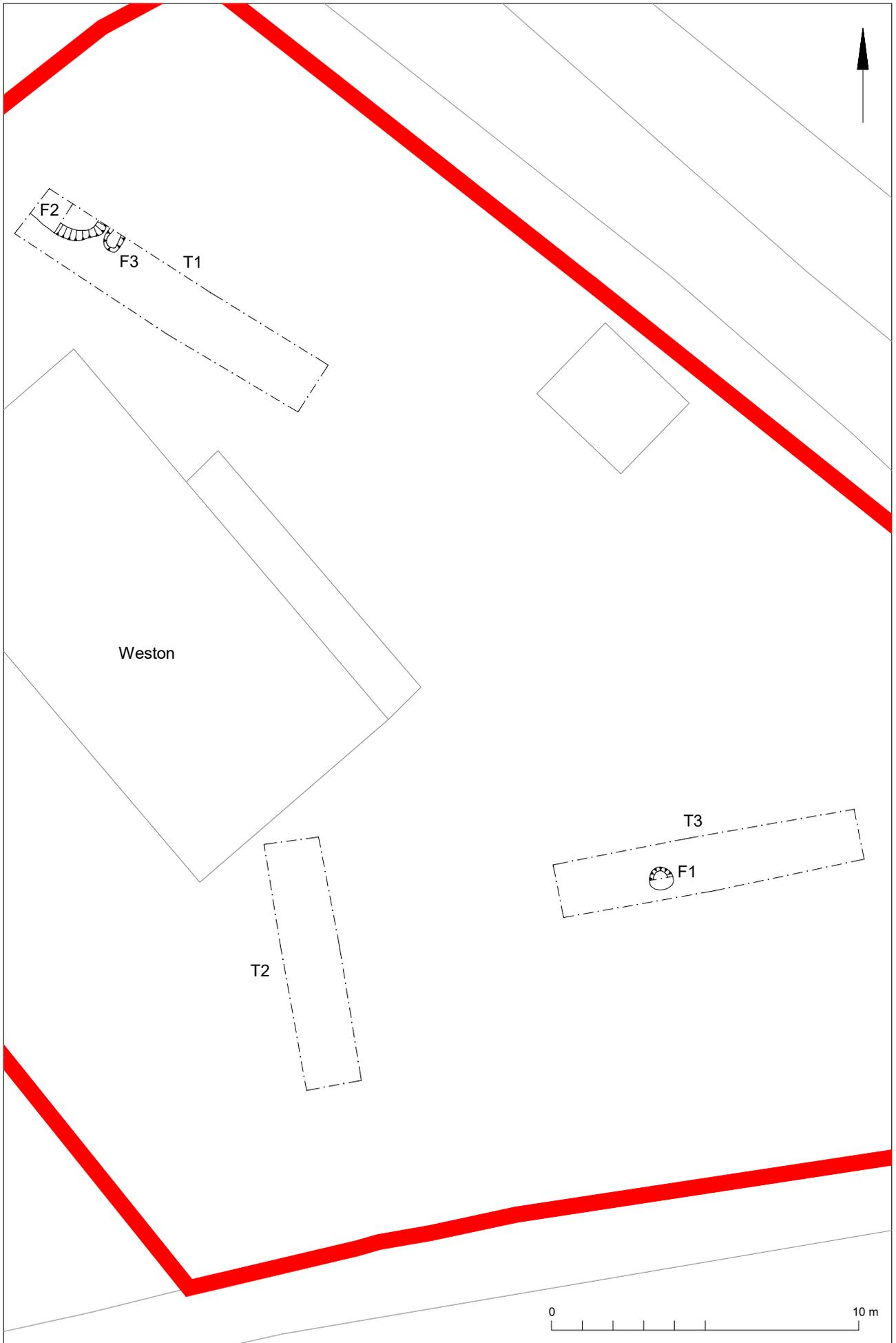


Fig 2 Results.

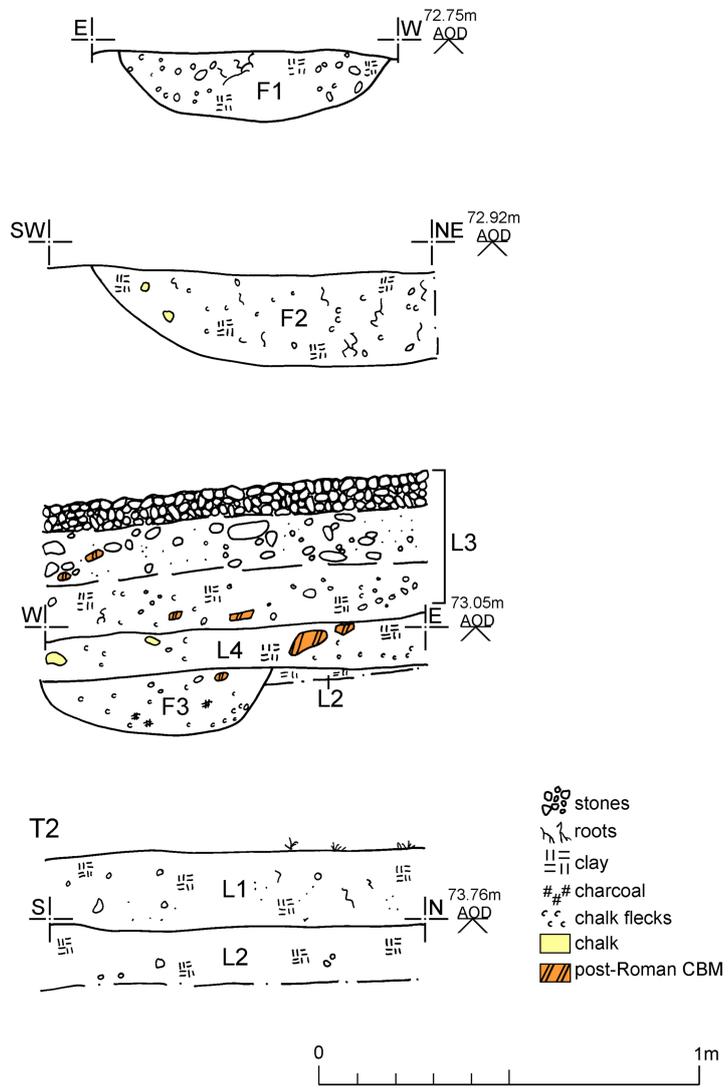


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-412900

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Weston, Bannister Green, Felsted, Dunmow, CM6 3NH
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Weston, Bannister Green, Felsted, Dunmow, Essex, in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. The site lies within the historic Bannister Green, near to a number of medieval moated sites and to the southwest of cropmarks indicating the presence of an enclosure and a trackway. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area only a medieval/post-medieval pit, modern pit and undated pit were uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 29-01-2021 End: 29-01-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2021/01e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WTBG21 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM:2021.2 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/19/2644/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD FELSTED Weston, Bannister Green
Postcode	CM3 6NH
Study area	0.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 69852 20720 51.858691332182 0.466816193807 51 51 31 N 000 28 00 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 72.57m Max: 73.12m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Sarah Carter
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM:2021.2
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM:2021.2
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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