

Archaeological monitoring on land at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kirby-Le-Soken, Essex, CO13 0EE

November 2021



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commissioned by Montessa Ltd

NGR: TM 220 220 (centre)
Planning ref.: 19/00120/FUL
CAT project ref.: 2021/10n
ECC code: FWTA21
OASIS ref.: colchest3-502542



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CAT Report 1741
November 2021

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kirby-Le-Soken, Essex in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings. The site is located immediately adjacent to St Michaels Church, which has origins in the 14th-century. Monitoring of a soakaway and a service trench revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kibre-Le-Soken, Essex from the 3rd to 11th November 2021. The work was commissioned by Montessa Ltd during the construction of eight new dwellings.

Following a phase of evaluation evaluation (CAT Report 1506), where one trench could not be excavated due to site constraints, the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) Teresa O'Connor advised a programme of archaeological monitoring to cover this area.

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 field excavation (ClfA 2014a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 2014b)*.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The proposed development site lies in the core of the historic settlement at Kirby le Soken, immediately adjacent to the Conservation Area and to St Michael's Church, a Grade II* listed building (no. 1111500). Only the 14th-century chancel and north aisle, and the apparently 15th-century west tower, survive from the medieval church (EHER 3572/34768), with the tower described as 'surprisingly big and important looking' (Bettley & Pevsner 2007, 514). The church is now, essentially, a 19th-century building following the complete rebuilding of the nave, south aisle and chapel (Rodwell & Rodwell 1977, 111; Pevsner & Bettley 2007, 515). The name 'Kirby' originates from two Scandinavian-derived words, 'Kirk' meaning church and 'by' meaning village. This is of great interest since it implies the existence of a church here by or during the Danish Viking period (9th or 10th century). The expectation, therefore, is that the 14th-/15th-century church was built on the site of a much earlier church, however, no evidence of an earlier church has yet been discovered. CAT carried out monitoring work at the church in 2007 when work was undertaken to repair large cracks caused by subsidence (CAT Report 441). Three water-logged wooden piles probably dating to the late 14th or early 15th century were exposed at the western end of the south aisle, below the tower. One or possibly two lead coffins were also found under the floor of the south aisle.

The site of Kirby Hall lies to the west of the Church. The red brick house dates to the late 17th to early 18th century (EHER 34771, Grade II listed no. 1111502). A timber-framed barn dating to the 18th century is located c 80m south of Kirby Hall (EHER 34772, Grade II listed no. 1337139), and buildings opposite the development site date from the 16th century, including the newly refurbished Red Lion public house (Graded II listed no. 119921).

Chance finds of prehistoric flint work have also been recovered in the area. This includes a Mesolithic microlith found to the immediate east of the church (EHER 47240).

In 2019 CAT undertook a ten-trench evaluation on the development site (CAT Report 1506). Ten features were identified – five ditches, two pits, a gully, tree-throw and a natural feature. Most of these features dated to the post-medieval period or later.

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A soakaway and service trench were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The soakaway measured 2.4m x 2.8m and was dug to a depth of 4m. It was excavated through four layers: made-ground (L1, c 0.30m thick, tarmac over firm/hard, dry, dark grey/brown/black silty clay with inclusions of brick), a layer of rubble (L2, c 0.20m thick, firm/hard, dry, medium/dark silty clay with 70% brick) and a layer of make-up (L3, c 0.40m thick, firm, moist, medium blue/grey clay with inclusions of brick) into the natural clay (L4, c 0.90m below current ground level [bcgl], firm, moist, medium yellow/brown clay). No archaeological finds or features were present in the soakaway.

23.6m of servicing trenching was excavated through the same layers at the soakaway except in one area where a layer of topsoil (L5, c 0.30m thick, soft dry dark grey/brown silt with brick flecks, tile flecks) followed by a layer of subsoil (L6, c 0.10m thick, friable dry medium grey/brown sandy silt with brick flecks and inclusions of: gravel 15%) was present.

In the service trench the cut for a modern drainage pipe (F1) was observed. No archaeological finds or features were revealed.



Photograph 1 Soakaway – view north-east



Photograph 2 Service trench – view south-west

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

Monitoring of groundworks at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kirby-Le-Soken revealed no archaeological remains.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Dave Spencer and Montessa Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Seehra and A Smith. Figures are by S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| 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) |
| CAT | 2021 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring on land at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex, CO13 0EE</i> by S Veasey |
| CAT Report 1506 | 2020 | <i>Archaeological evaluation on land at Tamarisk, The Street, Kirby le Soken, Essex, CO13 0EE</i> , by E Hicks |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CIfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England | 2016 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> |

		(MoRPHE)
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> , by S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
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.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from c 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	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
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:
 The report (CAT Report 1741)
 Original site records (notes and section drawing)
 Photographic thumbnails and log
 Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1741)
 Photographs, photographic thumbnails and log
 Graphics files
 Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under EHER code FWTA21.

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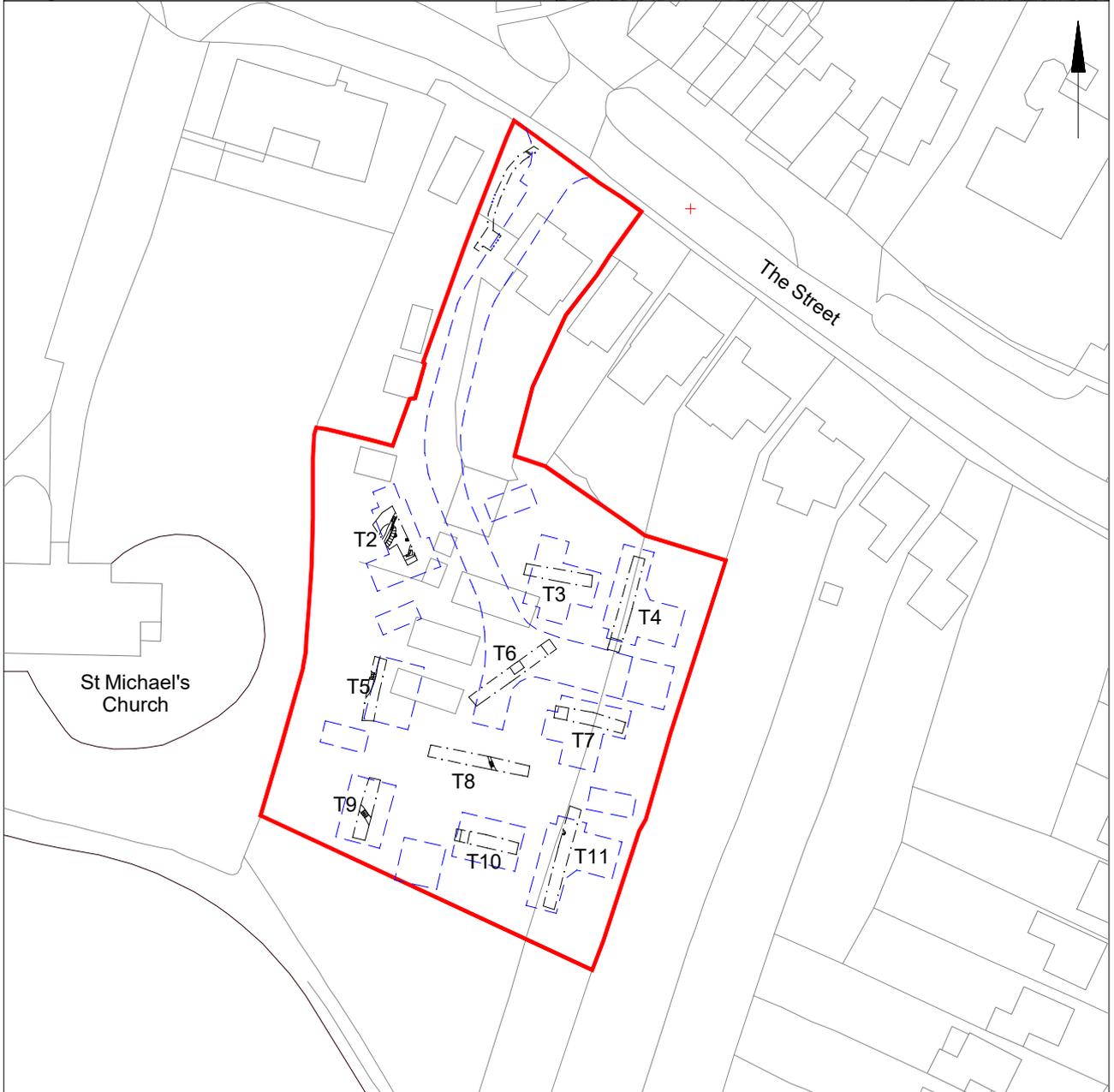
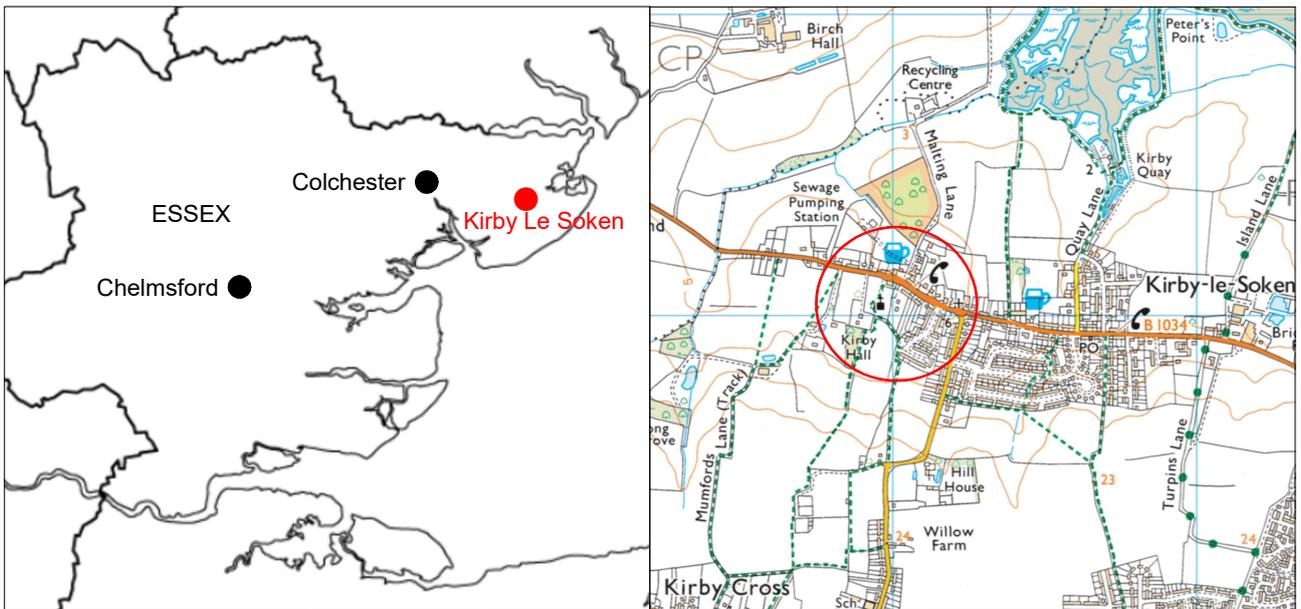
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Fig 1 Site location including 2019 evaluation results and the proposed development (dashed blue lines).



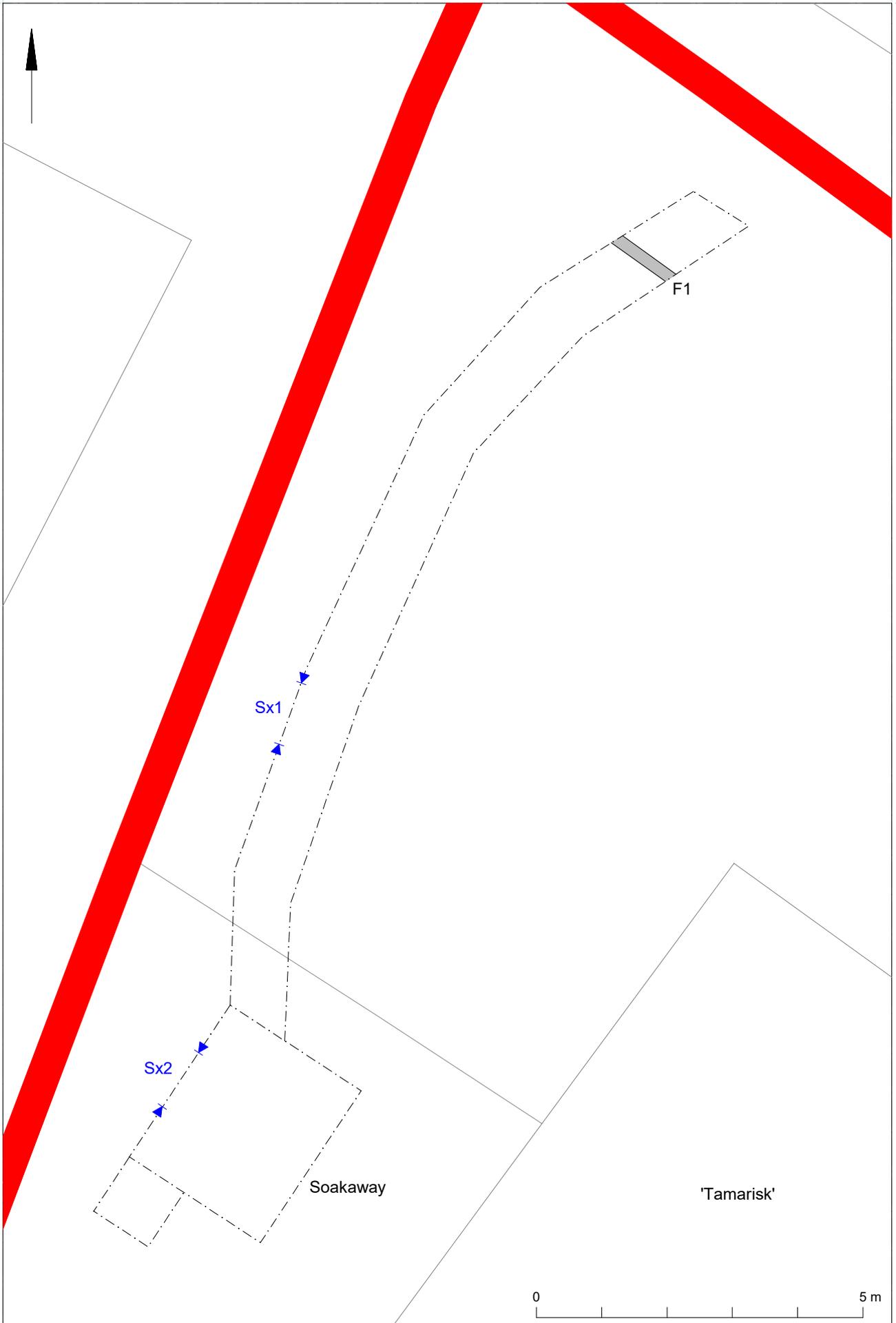


Fig 2 Results.

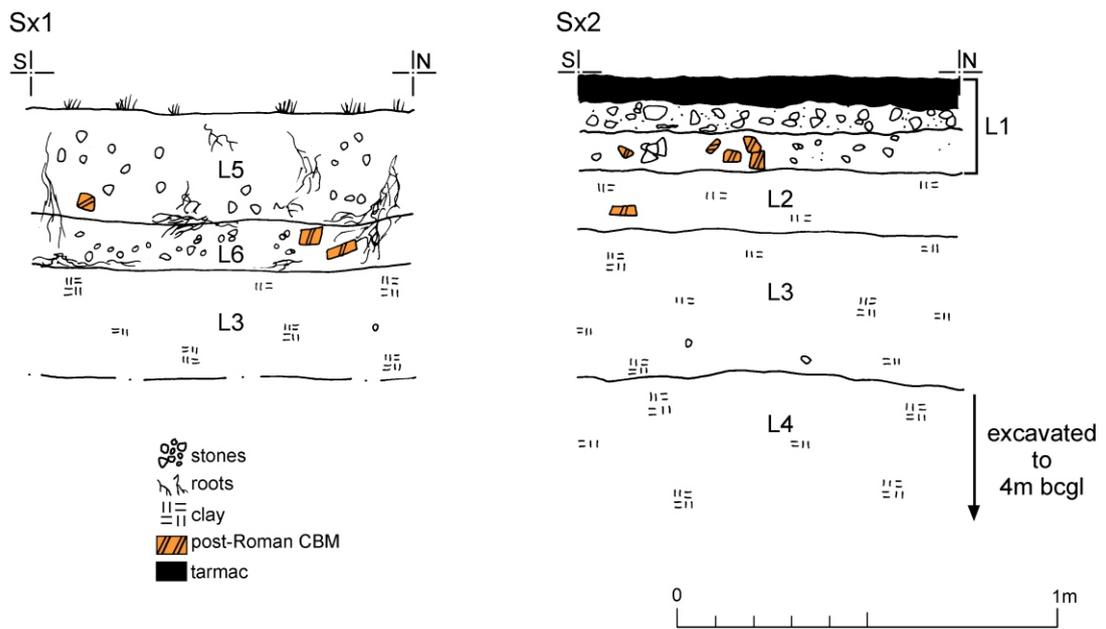


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-502542

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-502542
Project Name	Watching Brief at Land at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex, CO13 0EE
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	Land at Tamarisk, 19 The Streetm Kirby Le Soken, Essex, CO13 0EE
Planning Id	19/000120/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	03-Nov-2021 - 11-Nov-2021
Location	Land at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kirby Le Soken, Essex, CO13 0EE NGR : TM 22268 22122 LL : 51.8534078, 1.2260468 12 Fig : 622268,222122
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : Frinton and Walton
Project Methodology	A soakaway (2.4m x 2.8m) and service trench (23.6m) were mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land at Tamarisk, 19 The Street, Kirby-Le-Soken, Essex in advance of the construction of eight new dwellings. The site is located immediately adjacent to St Michaels Church, which has origins in the 14th-century. Monitoring of a soakaway and a service trench revealed nothing of archaeological significance.
Keywords	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Sevice (Colchester Collection) Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive