

# Archaeological evaluation at Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0QB

October 2021



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**commissioned by Nick East of Arbanorth Ltd  
on behalf of the Homeowner**

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**CAT Report 1748**

November 2021

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological evaluation was carried out at Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Essex in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. The development is located on the site of a medieval rectory associated with the Church of St Andrew to the north. A pit, a ditch and three post-holes were identified in the evaluation. The pit and ditch were dated to the medieval period and were probably associated with the rectory. The post-holes were post-medieval/modern in date

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological evaluation at Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Ongar which was carried out on the 23th October 2021. The work was commissioned by Nick East of Arbanorth Ltd on behalf of the homeowner in advance of the construction a single dwelling. The work 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 Archaeological trial trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2021), 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 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 evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background 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 EHER shows that the proposed development is located within a former moated site to the north of Willingale (EHER 4168). The site is recorded as a homestead moat, 150 yards south-east of the church with north and east arms extant. The northern arm is still waterfilled. There are no traces of the south and western arms. Early Ordnance Survey maps identify the proposed development site as the site of the old rectory indicating a relationship with the St Andrew and All Saints Church. There is therefore the potential for medieval archaeological remains relating to the origins of the early rectory being impacted on by the development.



**Map 1** Extract of the OS six-inch England and Wales, published 1881.

Approximately 128m northwest of the site are two Grade II\* listed churches, positioned adjacent to each other either side of parish border. The Church of St Andrew is Norman and later in date (EHER 4164), and was constructed from flint rubble with some freestone and puddingstone, and dressed in Roman brick (EHER 4163) and clunch. To the north of the Church of St Andrew is the Church of St Christopher. It dates to the 12th century and later (EHER 33134), with the fabric of the church including flint rubble with Roman brick dressed with limestone and clunch (EHER 4169-4170). Both churches were restored in the 19th century (EHER 4165 and 4171) and share a churchyard.

#### **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 ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### **5 Results** (Figs 2-3)

A single L-shaped trench, measuring 20m long and 1.8m wide, was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.09-0.21m thick) and a make-up layer (L2, c 0.22-0.32m thick) onto the natural clay (L3, c 0.40-0.45m below current ground level [bcgl]). A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

Five features were identified: a pit, a ditch and three post-holes.

Pit F1 produced a small quantity of medieval pottery sherds, along with a good quantity of oyster shell. The exposed area of the pit was 6.0m by 0.87m and 0.56m deep.

Ditch F2 (1.0m wide and 0.26m deep) was on an east/west alignment and also produced pottery dated to the medieval period.

Three post-holes, F3, F4 and F5, were excavated in the southern end of the trench. Post-holes F3 and F4 were not fully exposed but likely had a diameter of c 0.60-0.70m and post-hole F5 had a diameter of 0.53m. They were between 0.19-0.24m in depth and produced finds dating them to the post-medieval/modern period.



**Photograph 1** F1 plan – view north-west



**Photograph 2** F2 plan – view east



**Photograph 3** F5 sx – view east

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered 25 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 767g and EVE of 0.20 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 31g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	17	227	13	0.20
CBM	8	540	68	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0.20</b>

**Table 1** Summary of the ceramics.

This material was recovered from three features although post-hole F5 produced most of this material (Table 2). Most of the pottery dates to the medieval period with sherds of early medieval sandy wares (fabric F13) dating from the 11th to the early 13th century, and Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) dating to c 1200-1550 which included a cooking pot (EVE: 0.12). There was also a cooking pot (EVE: 0.08) in an early medieval shelly ware without sand (fabric F12A) dating from the 11th to the mid-12th century. Finally, there was one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) pottery. The CBM mostly consists of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with sherds from pit F1 and post-hole F5, and one fragment of 18th-20th century brick from post-hole F5. None of the finds were retained.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Pit	7	265	38
F2	Ditch	2	7	4
F5	Post-hole	16	495	31
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>31</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM by features and layers

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which produced dateable ceramic finds. The varied collection of medieval pottery which spans the 11th to the mid-16th century and the presence several cooking vessels suggests that a medieval settlement is to be found in the vicinity of the evaluation.

Context	Feature type	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	Pit	F13, F21	PT	c 1200-1550
F2	Ditch	F21	-	c 1200-1550
F5	Post hole	F12A (cooking pot), F13, F21 (cooking pot), F40	PT, BR	18th-20th century

**Table 3** Approximate dates for the individual features and layers

*Additional note from Laura Poole: An unspecified quantity of peg-tile from F4 (finds no.4) appears to have been lost during post-excavation processing.*

### 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of clear glass bottle (49g) dating from the 19th/20th century came from post-hole F3 (finds no. 3).

Twenty pieces of oyster shell (199.8g) came from pit F1 (finds no. 1), along with a fragment of oyster shell (1g) from ditch F2 (finds no.2).

### 6.3 Animal bone

By Adam Wightman

The evaluation produced two animal bone fragments: a medium-mammal rib fragment with two butchery (cut) marks from F2, and a medium-mammal vertebrae broken through the centre from F5.

## 7 Conclusion

The evaluation at Seattle Cottage revealed five features. Pit F1 and ditch F2 were both dated to the medieval period and are probably related to the lands use as rectory. Pit F1 produced a good quantity of oyster shell and an animal bone with butchery marks perhaps indicating it was used as rubbish pit. Ditch F2 could be a small boundary or drainage ditch.

The three-post holes were later in date, post-medieval/modern, and probably associated with the modern house and gardens on the site.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Nick East of Arbanorth Ltd and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by R Mathieson and S Veasey. Figures are by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by K Lee-Smith.

## 9 References

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

CAT	2020	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation and excavation at Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0QB</i> by E Holloway
CAR 10	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i>
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>
ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation at Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Ongar</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	2016	<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.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
evaluation	a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area. This may take the form of an intrusive investigation of a percentage of the site, geophysical or topographical survey. The results of this

feature (F)	investigation will establish the requirements for any further work. 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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1748)

ECCPS brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

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

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1748)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code (tbc).

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### **Distribution list:**

The Homeowner

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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### **Appendix 1 Context list**

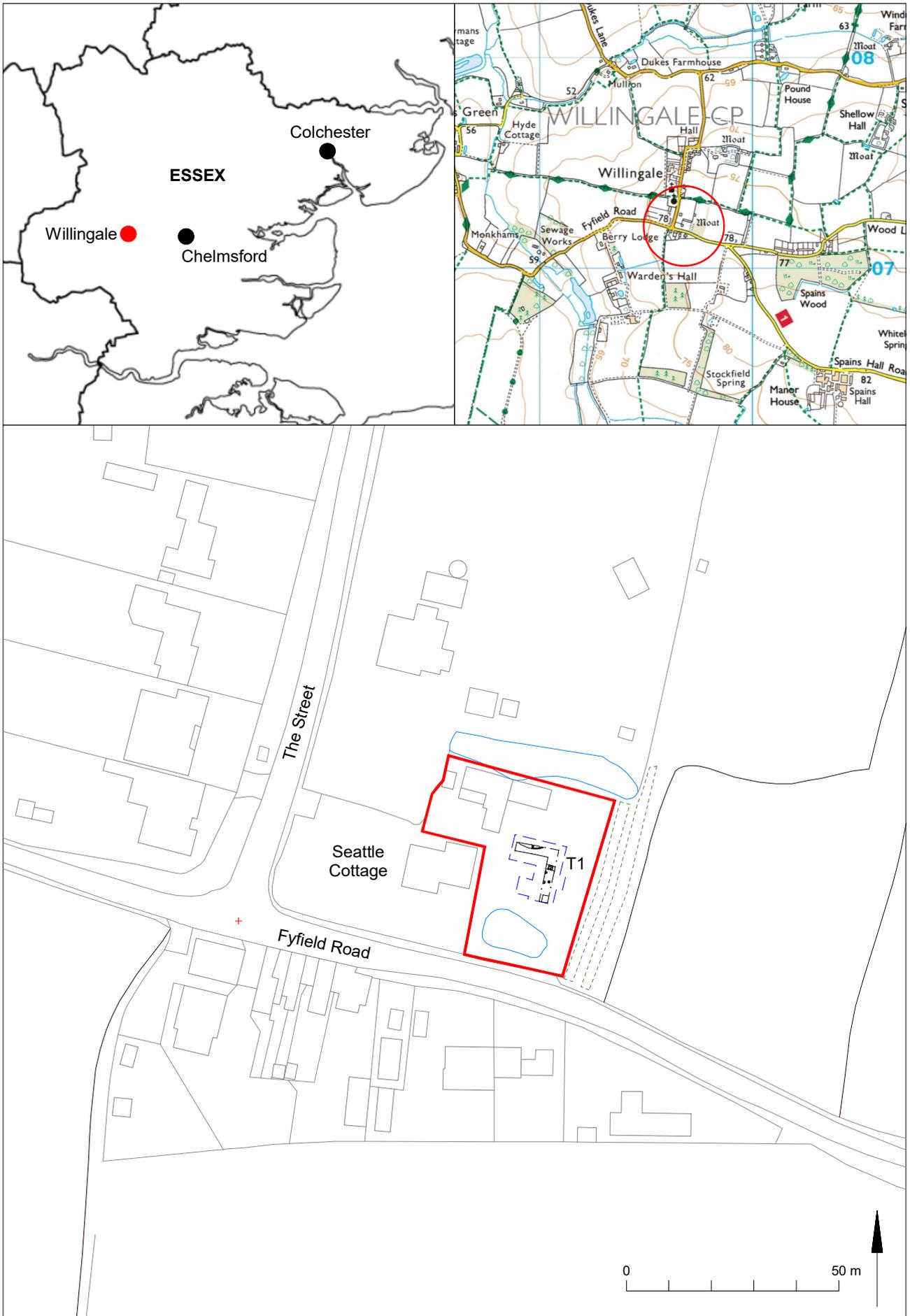
<b>Context</b>	<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1	-	Topsoil	friable/firm moist dark grey/brown silty clay silt	Modern
L2	-	Make-up	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks	Undated
L3	-	Natural	firm moist medium yellow/orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
F1	1	Pit	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 5%	c 1200-1550
F2	2	Ditch	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks	c 1200-1550
F3	3	Post-hole	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of: 4% stone	19th-20th century
F4	4	Post-hole	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of: 5% stone	medieval/post-medieval
F5	5	Post-hole	firm moist medium grey/brown silty clay with brick flecks and inclusions of: 3% stone	18th-20th century

Appendix 1 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wind	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin Lin.	Gritted	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Vessel H.	Comments	Date
F1	PIT	1	1	5	5	X																				F21						GLAZE	c.1200-1550
F1	PIT	1	1	63	63	X	0	0	1	X		X														F13							11TH-EARLY 13TH CENTURY
F2	DITCH	2	1	4	4	X																				F21						GLAZE	c.1200-1550
F2	DITCH	2	1	3	3	X								X												F21						GLAZE	c.1200-1550
F5	POST HOLE	5	1	8	8	X																				F21						SLIP PAINTED	c.1200-1550
F5	POST HOLE	5	1	6	6	X																				F40						GLAZE	c.1500-19TH/20TH CENTURY
F5	POST HOLE	5	4	38	10	X	0	0	1																	F13							11TH-EARLY 13TH CENTURY
F5	POST HOLE	5	3	30	10	X																				F21							c.1200-1550
F5	POST HOLE	5	1	14	14	X	1	0	0		X															F12A	COOKING POT	0.08	170				11TH-MID 12TH CENTURY
F5	POST HOLE	5	2	20	10	X	2	0	0				X													F21	COOKING POT	0.12	180				c.1200-1550
F5	POST HOLE	5	1	36	36	X	0	0	1																	F21						GLAZE	c.1200-1550

Appendix 2 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date
F1	PIT	1	5	197	39.4	X	PT		0																																	MEDIEVAL=POST MEDIEVAL
F5	POST HOLE	5	1	24	24	X	PT		0																																	MEDIEVAL=POST MEDIEVAL
F5	POST HOLE	5	1	25	25	X	PT		0																																	MEDIEVAL=POST MEDIEVAL
F5	POST HOLE	5	1	294	294	X	BR		0																								60									18TH-20TH CENTURY



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

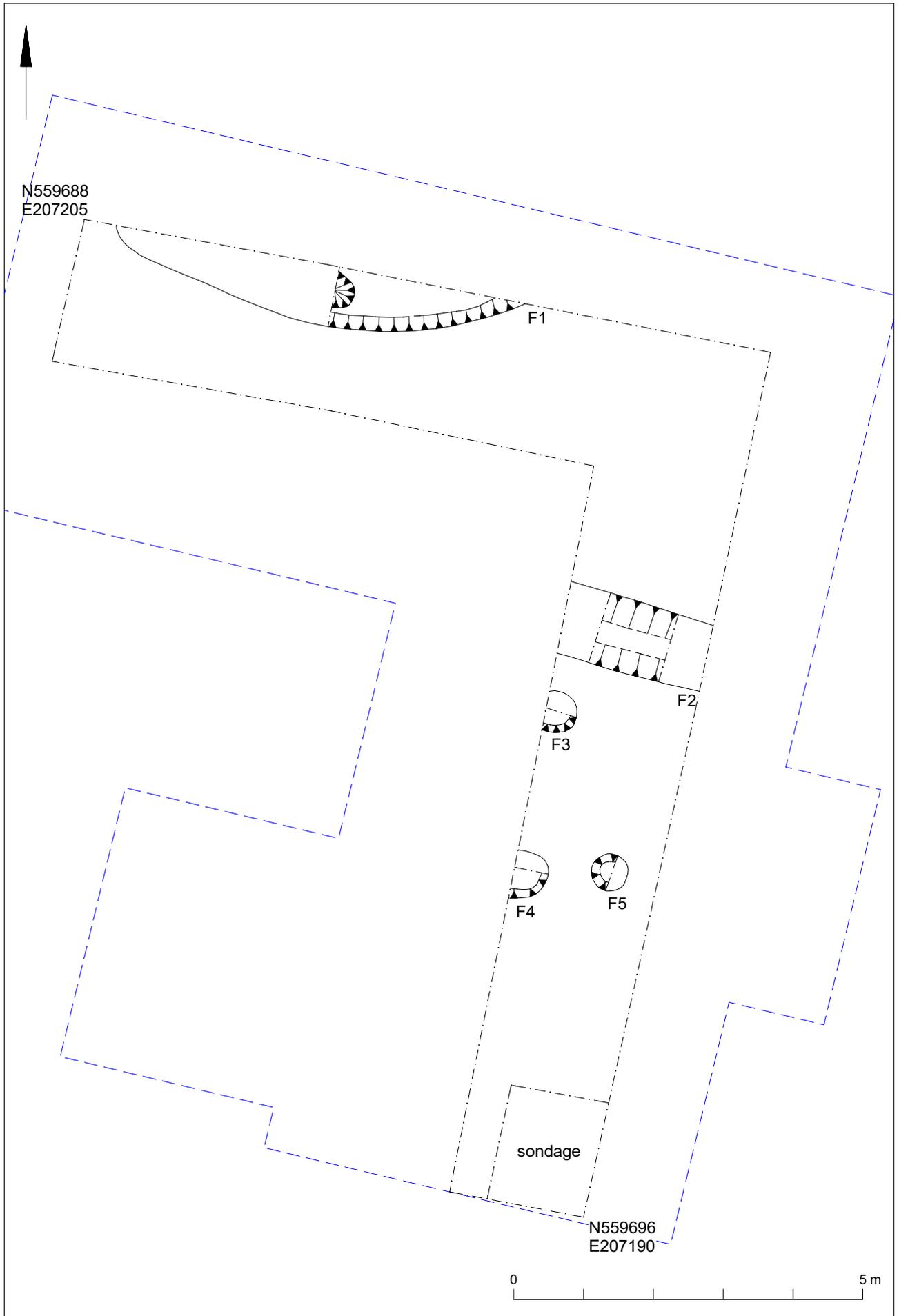


Fig 2 Results with proposed development (dashed blue).

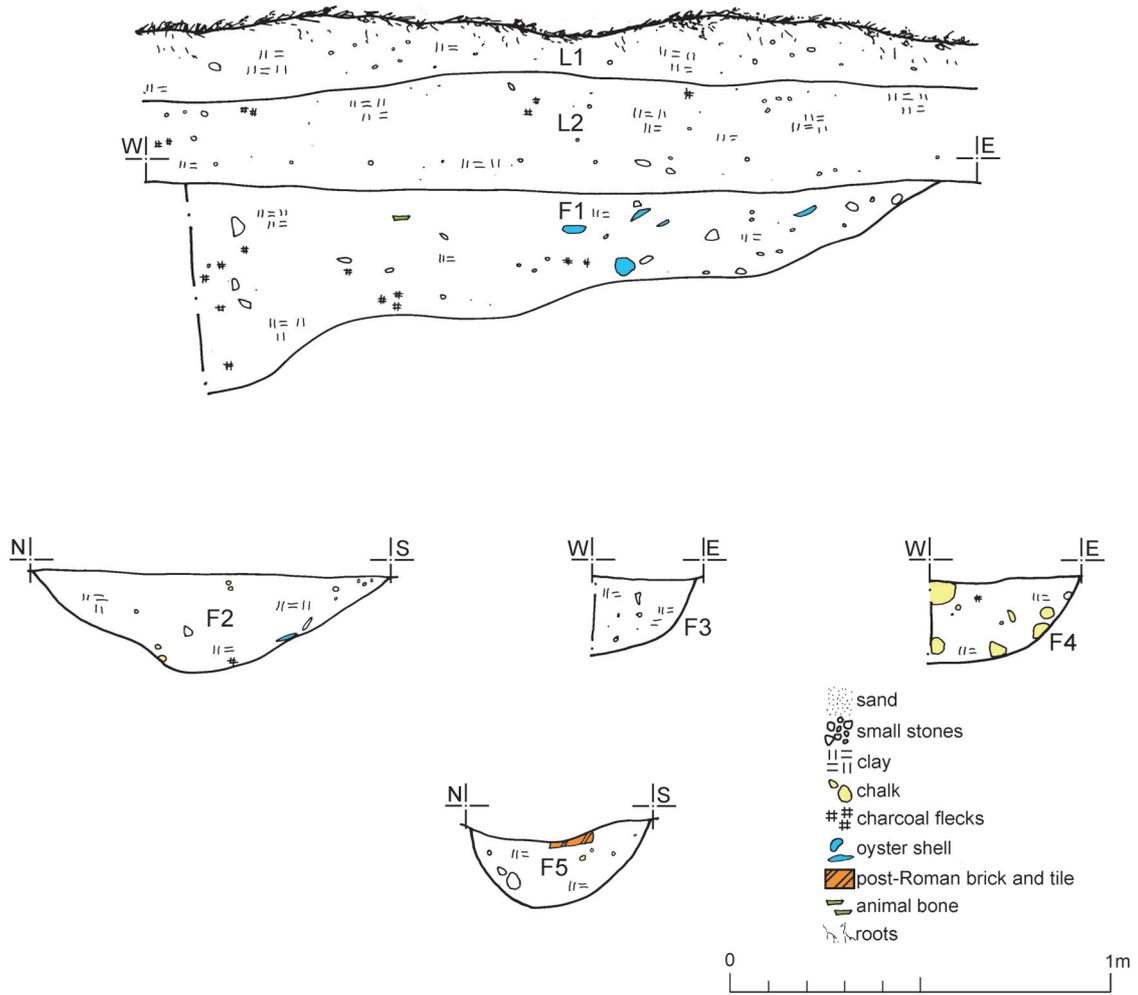


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-431164

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-431164
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Ongar, Essex, CM5 0QB
Activity type	TRIAL TRENCH
Project Identifier(s)	2021/09e
Planning Id	EPF/2684/19
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Oct-2021 - 23-Oct-2021
Location	Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Ongar, Essex NGR : TL 59669 07198 LL : 51.7407421961574, 0.311164546466666 12 Fig : 559669,207198
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Epping Forest Parish : Willingale
Project Methodology	A single L-shaped trench, measuring 20m long and 1.8m wide, was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.
Project Results	Archaeological evaluation was carried out at Seattle Cottage, Fyfield Road, Willingale, Essex in advance of the construction of a single dwelling. The development is located on the site of a medieval rectory associated with the Church of St Andrew to the north. A pit, a ditch and three post-holes were identified in the evaluation. The pit and ditch were dated to the medieval period and were probably associated with the rectory. The post-holes were post-medieval/modern in date.
Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Rubbish Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	SCWG21

Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Epping Forest District Museum
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