

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1979
issued September 2023**

**Archaeological monitoring at
85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea,
Essex, SS9 5DL: August 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/08b
ECC code: RLRAE23**

**Archaeological monitoring at
85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea,
Essex, SS9 5DL: August 2023**

NGR: TQ 82982 89822 (centre)

Planning ref.: 23/00266/FUL

**CAT project ref.: 2023/08b
CAT Report 1979**

**ECC code: RLRAE23
OASIS id: colchest3-517977**

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**commissioned by the Daniel Hilton,
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Issued:	27/09/2023	

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Fig 2 Results. The evaluation, with Bronze Age pit F6, is shown in grey.

Fig 3 Representative section.

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings with associated access and parking. An evaluation undertaken by CAT in July 2023 identified six archaeological features, most notably a Bronze Age pit. However, no further archaeological remains were noted during the monitoring.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex which was carried out on 21st to 30th August 2023. The work was commissioned by Daniel Hilton of Hilton Homes UK Ltd, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks for the construction of two detached, three bedroom bungalows with associated access and parking.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS). This recommendation was for an archaeological monitoring 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 Evaluation and Investigation at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Mark Baister (ECCPS 2023), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2023).

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

3 Geological and Archaeological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows that the bedrock geology of the site is Claygate Member (clay, silt and sand).

The proposed development lies in an area of archaeological potential for prehistoric remains (EHER 47641). A watching brief conducted by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd for the property development of 87 Rayleigh Avenue recorded a possible ditch and a pit of Late Bronze Age to Iron Age date to the east of the site. From the south of the site, a post-medieval pit was excavated which contained redeposited prehistoric finds alongside ceramic building material from the 18th to 19th century (Bazley 2010). However, a watching brief on the other side of the development at 89 Rayleigh Avenue completed by Archaeology South East Ltd revealed no archaeological features or finds (Germany 2019, EHER 49714).

Archaeological activity in the form of prehistoric evidence has also been found within the site's vicinity. An assemblage of Mesolithic flint flakes with fragments of a Neolithic polished flint axehead were revealed from the garden of Rosemary Cottage at Rayleigh Avenue approximately 180m away from the planned development site (EHER 9772, 9771). Further from

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

the site (NGR TQ 824 898) 950m away a damaged Mesolithic tranchet flint axehead was uncovered in a spoil heap in 1965 (NHLE 419023).

In July 2023, two archaeological trial-trenches were excavated on the proposed site (CAT Report 1962). Six features were identified across the trenches, the most notable being a Bronze Age pit in trench 1. The remaining features were either undated or modern.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify, excavate and further record any archaeological contexts revealed during previous phases of works.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 140m of foundation trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were c 0.45-0.60m wide, c 1.20m deep, and were cut through a hardcore/demolition layer (L1, c 0.28-0.40m thick) which sealed a buried soil layer (L2, c 0.08-0.24m thick) and into natural geology (L4). Natural was encountered at a depth of c 0.48-0.50m below current ground level. L3 was identified in the evaluation trenches but was not present in the foundation trenches. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 Foundation trenches, looking south-east.



Photograph 2 Foundation trenches, looking south-east.

As no archaeological remains were revealed during the groundworks, it was agreed with the ECC Historic Environment Advisor that the services would not be monitored.

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite archaeological features being uncovered during the July 2023 evaluation, no further features were identified during the monitoring.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Daniel Hilton of Hilton Homes UK Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, L Pooley and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by B Quinn and S Veasey. Figures are by B Quinn and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bazley, M | 2010 | <i>87 Rayleigh Avenue, Rayleigh, Essex, SS9 5DL – An Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . Brockley: Pre-Construct Archaeology Reports |
| 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 | 2023 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2023 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological monitoring &</i> |

		<i>recording at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 5DL</i>
CAT Report 1962	2023	<i>Archaeological evaluation at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex – July 2023</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECCPS	2023	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood by Mark Baister</i>
Germany, M	2019	<i>Archaeological Watching Brief, 89 Rayleigh Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea (SMR49714) Archaeology South East</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i>
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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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Distribution list:

Daniel Hilton, Hilton Homes UK Ltd
 Alison Bennett, Essex County Council Place Services
 Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds No.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Hardcore/ demolition layer	Friable/firm moist medium brown silty loam and inclusions of: stone 1%	Modern
L2	-	Buried soil layer	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
L3	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L4	-	Natural	Firm, moist medium orange sand	Post-glacial

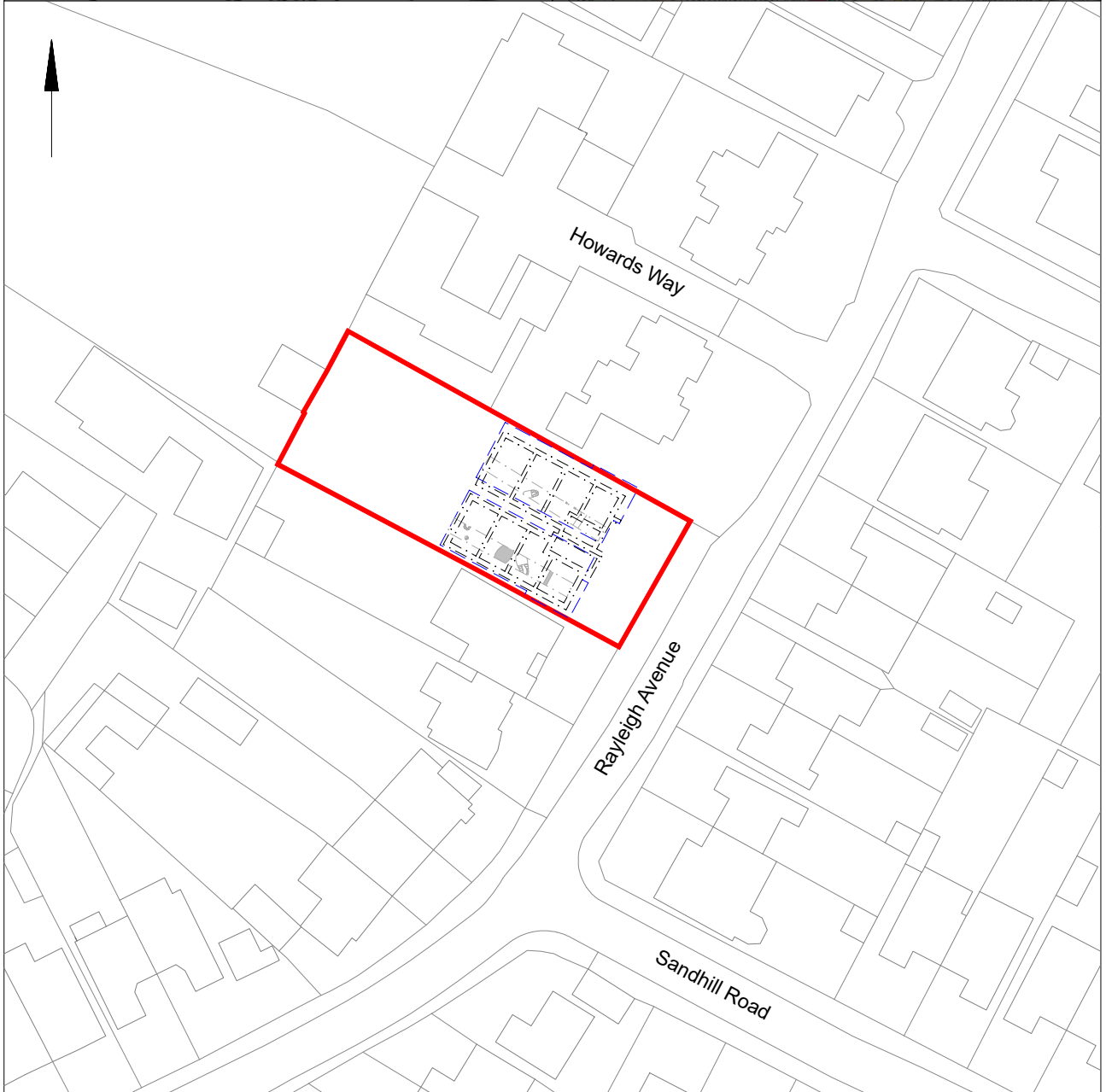
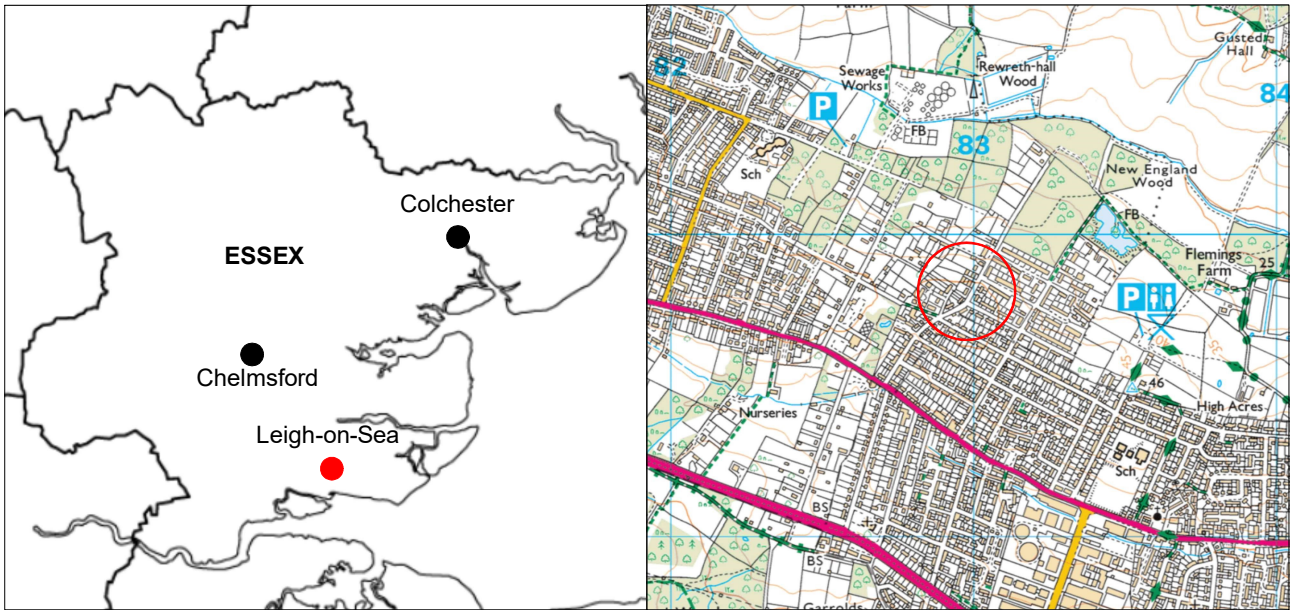


Fig 1 Monitoring and evaluation results in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).

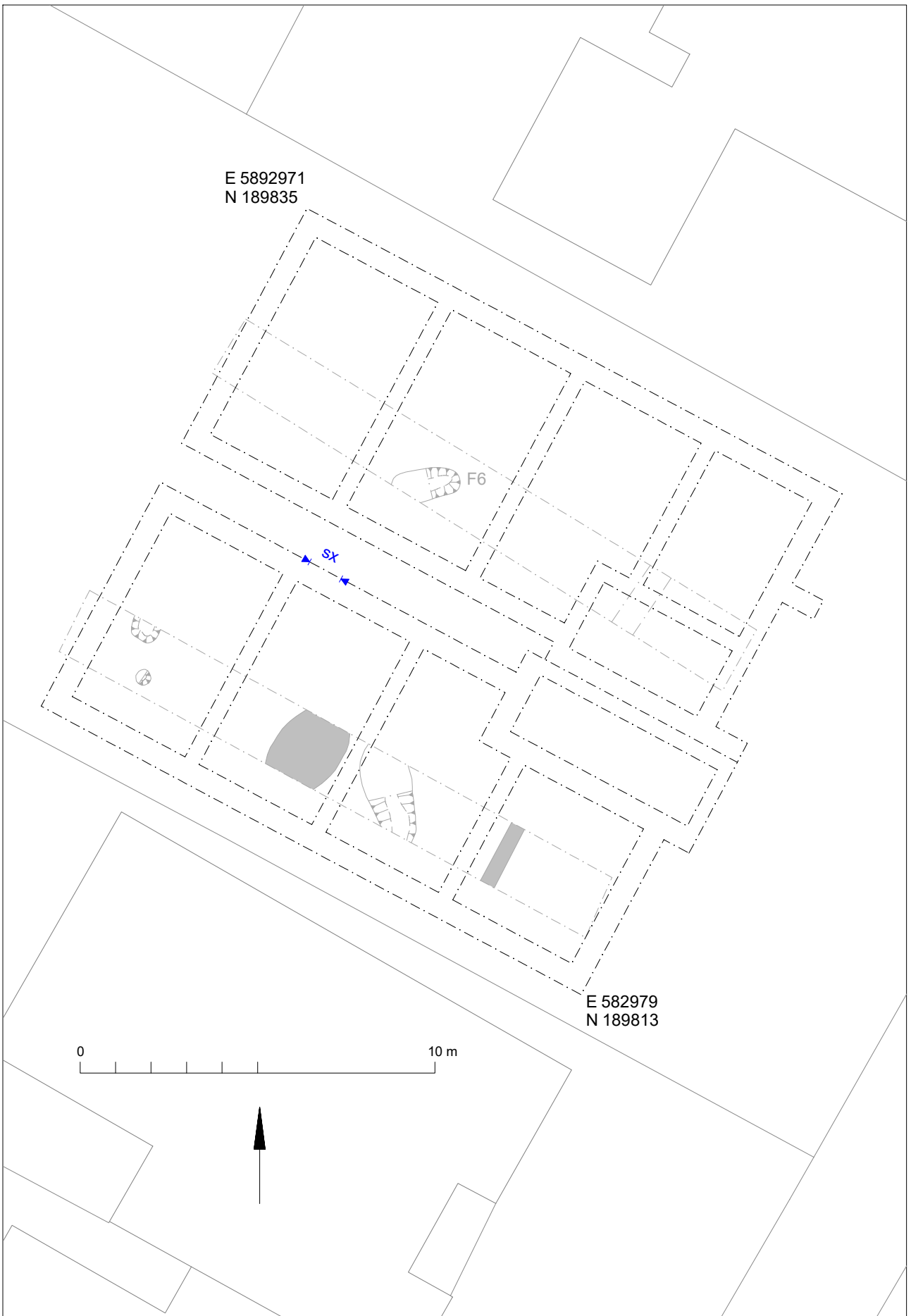


Fig 2 Results. Tthe evaluation, with Bronze Age pit F6, is shown in grey.

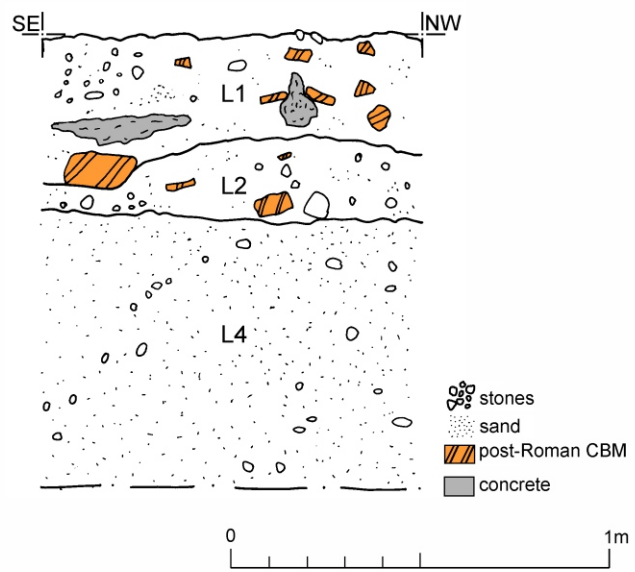


Fig 3 Representative section.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-517977

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-517977
Project Name	Watching Brief at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea
Sitename	85 Rayleigh Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2023/08b
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	23/00266/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	21-Aug-2023 - 30-Aug-2023
Location	85 Rayleigh Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea NGR : TQ 82981 89822 LL : 51.577557266957655, 0.63935358043312 12 Fig : 582981,189822
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Rochford Parish : Rayleigh
Project Methodology	All work was undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation and Brief.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 85 Rayleigh Avenue, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings with associated access and parking. An evaluation undertaken by CAT in July 2023 identified six archaeological features, most notably a Bronze Age pit. However, no further archaeological remains were noted during the monitoring.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation Hilton Homes Ltd.
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	C Lister, L Pooley, A Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - RLRAE23
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;