

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1999  
issued December 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the east of  
Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk,  
CO10 9DB: October 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/09f  
SCC parish code: LMD371**

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Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk,  
CO10 9DB: October 2023**

**NGR: TL8694 4702 (centre)**

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**commissioned by Steve Currie, GDE Services Ltd**

|                                  |               |                                 |
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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at 'Meadow View', High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk in advance of the construction of five new residential dwellings. The site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area, to the north-west of the historic settlement of Long Melford. The evaluation revealed seven ditches, four pits and a pit/pond. Possible Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from two of the pits and Late Iron Age pottery from a third. Five of the ditches were undated, with one producing finds of Roman date and another medieval. A post-medieval/modern pit and pit/pond were also present.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 26th-27th October 2023 at Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk. The work was commissioned by Steve Currie of GDE Services Ltd and took place in advance of the construction of new residential dwellings and associated amenity space.

In response to consultation with Matt Baker, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Advisor (SCCASA), it was advised that as the site lies within an area highlighted by the Suffolk HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended. The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Land to the east of Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford* written by Matt Baker and detailing the required archaeological work (SCCAS 2023a), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with SCCAS (CAT 2023a).

In addition to the brief and wsi, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>.
- Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service guidelines, including *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (SCCAS 2023b) and *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for Preparation and Deposition* (SCCAS 2022).
- CAT *Health and Safety Policy* (2023b)

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record ([archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)), SCC invoice number 9535515.

### Geology

The British Geological Survey geology viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the bedrock geology for the site is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (chalk), with superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation (an extensive sheet of chalky till, with outwash sand, gravel, silt and clay, characterised by its chalk and flint content).

### Historic landscape

The development site is located within an area defined as *rolling estate farmlands* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment<sup>2</sup>. The site is located in the middle Stour valley comprised of

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

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

gently sloping valley sides and plateau fringes of good agricultural land. This valley landscape with access to water attracted settlement from prehistoric times.

Within the Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map<sup>3</sup> it is defined as Landscape type 10.3, built-up area – village. The landscape immediately around the site includes:

- Landscape sub-type 9.2, post-medieval park and leisure – informal park.
- Landscape sub-group 3.4 post-1950 agricultural landscape – boundary loss from irregular co-axial fields.

#### **Archaeology<sup>4</sup>** (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

This background is focused on SHER search results within a 500m radius of the site.

Long Melford is an attractive village with a long High Street largely located along the eastern bank of the River Stour. Melford is derived from 'mill' and 'ford' a crossing of a tributary of the river.

The brief notes that photographs provided to the SCCAS show that a portion of the site (c 0.2ha of the south-west corner) has undergone topsoil strip in the recent past. The degree of truncation of the archaeological horizon is unknown.

Within the search area:

#### **Prehistoric**

Although the landscape is a favourable location for potential prehistoric occupation the only prehistoric finds within the search area are a few scatters of prehistoric flintwork around the southern edge of the site (LMD 300-302) and to the far east of the search area (LMD281, 445m WNW), alongside Roman pottery (LMD 280, 444m WSW) and a fragment of medieval millstone and some sherds of Early-Late Anglo-Saxon pottery (LMD 279, 467m W) which were recorded during the a fieldwalking assessment in the area of a proposed Long Melford bypass in 1988. A few Late Iron Age coins have also been found close to the site (LMD 303-306).

#### **Roman**

The centre of Long Melford has a substantial Roman settlement which is believed to have been established around the junction of two main Roman roads, the north/south Chelmsford to Pakenham road (SUF 098, 165m W) and the east/west Wixoe to Coddendam road. Although there are no recorded remains within the search area, there are a number of historic Roman find spots that are loosely plotted as being within the area of the site. These include evidence of disturbed or not recorded Roman burials such several cremation urns, human remains, decorated pottery, glass vessels, coins and tokens (LMD 307-310, LMD 312 and LMD 315-317). The site is close to the line of the Roman road and it is common to find burials along roadsides leading away from settlements.

#### **Anglo-Saxon and medieval**

In the Domesday survey of 1086 the manor of Melford is listed as an estate of over 600 hectares. There are numerous records of medieval features and finds on the HER for Long Melford which support the notion that the town was thriving at this time. It is largely defined from historic mapping and locations of listed buildings. Like many of the larger settlements in the medieval period Long Melford flourished from the production from the wool industry. The edge of the main medieval area starts c 85m west of the current site (LMD 183).

Holy Trinity Church (LMD 068) is located on a hill overlooking the main village c 514m to the south-west. The earliest surviving parts of the church date to the 14th century, with the main

<sup>3</sup> The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2012, Suffolk County Council

<sup>4</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER)

body of the church dating to 1460-1495. The church is Grade I listed for having outstanding architectural, historical and topographical value. The church itself is located just outside of the search area but the churchyard is within it.

Approximately 250m south of the site are the grounds and registered parkland of Melford Hall (LMD 058). The current Melford Hall (c 920m SSW of the current site) was built from c 1556-1559 by Sir William Cordell who purchased the manor at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. The hall is built on the site of a medieval moated house, which prior to the dissolution belonged to the Abbots of Bury St Edmunds. Fragments of the moat and fish ponds from the earlier manor still survive. Melford Hall has had a history of highs and lows. In 1674 Melford Hall was recognised as the second largest house in Suffolk. Famous visitors included Queen Elizabeth I and Beatrix Potter. However, the house was plundered during the English Civil War. In the 18th century it had substantial internal redevelopment. It was requisitioned and occupied by the army during World War II and had a substantial fire in 1942. The hall is set in a registered park of c 53 hectares with numerous outbuildings including a gatehouse flanked by lodges.

Potentially adjacent to the site but not accurately located find spots include a medieval brooch (LMD 313), tokens and coins (LMD 313-314).

The oldest listed buildings within the search area are Cordell Cottages. The timber-framed and plastered houses were originally a medieval hall house with cross-wings. Additions were added in the 16th and 17th centuries (278278, 414m SW).

#### **Post-medieval to modern**

To the immediate west of the High Street c 200m west of the site is the edge of Kentwell Park and Avenue (LMD 077). This is a large park which is visible on some early historic maps which surrounds Kentwell Hall, a Grade I listed mansion. An estate map from 1613 shows an area of pasture and ponds surrounded by pasture fields which may have been part of an earlier deer park. The gardens of the moated hall cover an area of c 6.5 hectares set into a park of approximately 52 hectares. Kentwell Hall is a fine moated mansion built in 16th century. The main house was built in three phases by successive members of the Clopton family. A manor has been recorded at this location since at least the Domesday Book when it was referred to by its Latin name *Kanewella*. 1287 rent rolls record that Sir William de Valence holds a manor here of some 360 acres, 4 meadow, 5 pasture, 17 wood and 1 windmill and that he holds a warren-in-chief from the King.

A map of Long Melford drawn by Israel Amyce in 1580 depicts the site of a row of four buildings to the north of Holy Trinity church (LMD 096, 376m SW); a row of 18 plots and 17 buildings along the eastern edge of Melford Green and road (LMD 102, 554m SW).

Early mapping such as the 1st OS map have helped the Suffolk Historic Environment Team with a project to record lost and existing farmsteads in Suffolk. Farming has been a major factor in the development of Suffolk's landscape, both physically and socially throughout time. The farm buildings can help us to understand the agricultural practices and their development since the medieval period (SCCAS 2019). Listed farmsteads within the search area are recorded on 19th-century mapping (but may be much earlier in date). This project recorded High Street Farm, which has a farmstead laid out in a regular U-plan courtyard with additional detached elements. All working buildings are now lost, replaced with large modern sheds (LMD 344).

An evaluation on the partial side garden of 42 High Street revealed post-medieval ditches, dated by pottery and residual medieval pottery (LMD 221, 394m NNW).

World War II remains in the search area include cropmarks in Melford Park which depict the location of a World War II search light battery (LMD 122, 452m SSW) and a spigot mortar base (LMD 207, 271m SW).

### Multi-period

Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery was recorded during test pitting carried out in 2013 to the north and south of Holy Trinity churchyard (LMD 227 & LMD 228, 572m SW)

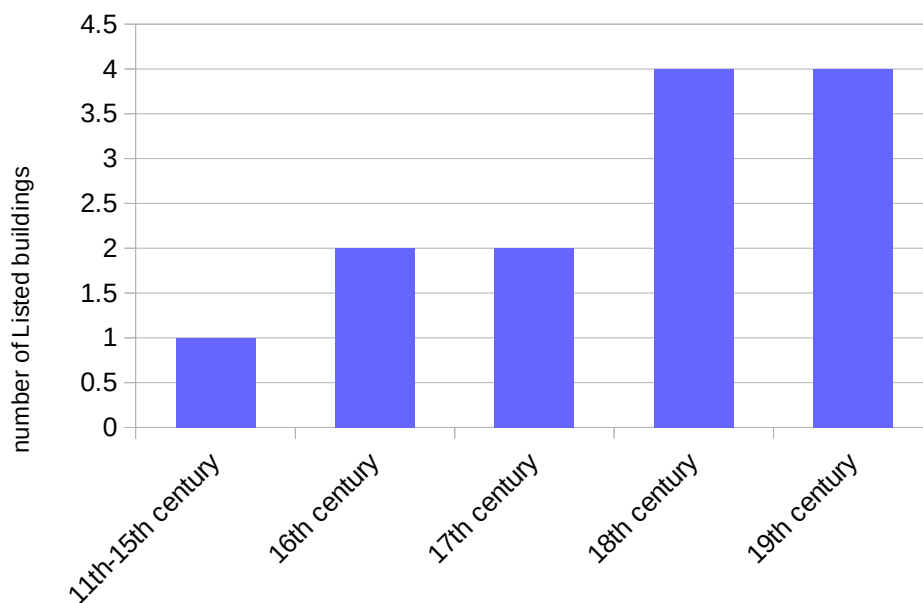
### Undated

Cropmarks to the east of Melford Hall show potential sub-rectangular fields, plots or garden features (LMD 058).

### Listed buildings<sup>5</sup>

There are 13 Grade II listed buildings within the search radius. They date from the 11th-19th centuries. Most of the listed buildings in the search area are post-medieval in date and are comprised of timber-framed and plastered houses.

- 16th century: High Street Farmhouse (278285, 391m N); The Wain House (278280, 373m SW).
- 17th century: 10-11 High Street (278290, 169m NW); Thatched Cottage (278284, 320m NNW).
- 18th century: 42 High Street (278288, 412m NNW); 57-60 High Street (278279, 176m SW); Chase Cottage (278279, 387m SW); The Hare Inn (278282, 291m SW).
- 19th century: Hill House (160m WSW); Kentwell Lodge (278286, 368m SW); Pink Cottage (278281, 362m SW); The Dower House (278289, 340m SW).



**Table 1** Number of listed buildings based on their approximate construction date.

### Registered parks and gardens<sup>6</sup>

Kentwell Hall manor house is surrounded by gardens dating to the mid-16th century onwards, sitting in a Grade II\* park of 17th-century origin. It was largely developed in the late 18th century (DSF113 see LMD 077 in the archaeology section). Melford Hall includes 16th-century Grade II\* listed moated gardens and fish ponds within the grounds of the moated hall (DSF9 see LMD 058 in the archaeology section). The grounds also include a mid 16th-century summer house and a serpentine wall built in 1793 set within the remains of a medieval deer park.

<sup>5</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

<sup>6</sup> This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

#### 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 SCCASA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Five trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide, with the exception of T5 which was located in an area of known disturbance and was only partially excavated to characterise its nature.

The trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.25-0.3m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.2-0.25m thick) which sealed natural geological deposits (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.4-0.5m below current ground level [bcgl]). In T5, topsoil sealed redeposited natural that was associated with the construction of 'Meadow View', this material (L4) was observed to a depth of 0.8m bcgl where it sealed L3.

##### Trench 1

Pit F1 was located in the west end of the trench. It was >0.65m wide, 0.55m long and 0.15m deep. It contained a small assemblage of 13 sherds of Late Iron Age pottery from a combed storage jar, along with several small fragments of baked clay and some animal bone. A small piece of residual worked flint was also present.



**Photograph 1** T1, looking east.

Ditch/gully F2 was located in the central part of T1. The feature formed a right angle continuing to the north beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) and to the east where it was truncated by pit F4. It was recorded for a distance of 4.5m, and was 0.5m wide by 0.25m deep. There was no datable material recovered from the feature.



Pit F3 was located at the eastern end of the trench. It was 1.1m in diameter, 0.3m deep, and contained a sherd of possible Middle Iron Age pottery along with fragments of animal bone.

Pit F4 was located in the central part of T1. It was 7.5m long by at least 1.8m wide and was 0.3m deep. The fill contained a fragment of Roman CBM, although this material may be residual as fragments of coal and clinker were also observed in the excavated fill. Fragments of animal bone were also recovered.

### **Trench 2**

Ditch F6 was located in the south end of T2, was aligned north-east to south-west, and was truncated by F8. It was recorded for a distance of 6.24m and was 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. There was no datable material recovered.

Pit/pond F8 was located in the centre of the trench, truncating ditches F6, F11 and F12. It measured 17m long and was at least 1.8m wide with a depth of 0.4m. Roman pottery in the pit may be residual, as like pit F4, fragments of coal and clinker were also observed in the excavated fill. A fragment of animal bone was also recovered.

Ditch F12 and recut F11 were located in the northern end of T2. Aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, the features measured 0.5m wide by 0.25m deep and 0.8m wide by 0.2m deep respectively. Two sherds of Roman pottery and a piece of oyster shell were recovered from F11, along with animal bone from both features.



**Photograph 2** T2, looking north.

### **Trench 3**

Pit F5 located at the north end of T3. It was 1.1m in diameter and 0.3m deep, and produced a sherd of possible Middle Iron Age pottery along with some animal bone.

Ditch F7 was located at the north end of the trench. Aligned north-west to south-east, it was 0.7m wide by 0.3m deep. No datable material was recovered from the ditch fill.

Ditch F10 was located in the south of the trench and was also aligned north-west to south-east. It was 0.8m wide by 0.2m deep. No datable material was recovered from the ditch fill.



**Photograph 3** T3, looking south.



**Photograph 4** T4, looking east.

#### **Trench 4**

Ditch F9 in the centre of the trench was recorded for a distance of 8m. It was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, was 0.65m wide by 0.15m deep, and contained two sherds of medieval pottery and a piece of peg-tile.

Redeposited natural (L4) was identified at the far east end of the trench.

### Trench 5

Trench 5 was located within an area of known modern disturbance associated with the construction of Meadow View. As such the trench was partially excavated to characterise the nature of the deposit which consisted of modern topsoil (L1) sealing redeposited natural (L4) which sealed glacial deposits (L3).



**Photograph 3** T5, looking north-west.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) totalling 33 sherds with a weight of 512g (Table 2). This material was recovered from seven features, although a large proportion came from pit F1 (Table 3).

| Ceramic material | No.       | Weight (g) | MSW (g)   | EVE         |
|------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Pottery          | 24        | 328        | 14        | 0.00        |
| CBM              | 9         | 184        | 20        | -           |
| <b>All</b>       | <b>33</b> | <b>512</b> | <b>16</b> | <b>0.00</b> |

**Table 2** Summary of the pottery and CBM.

| Context | Description | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) |
|---------|-------------|-----|------------|---------|
| F1      | Pit         | 20  | 316        | 16      |
| F3      | Pit         | 1   | 8          | 8       |
| F4      | Pit         | 1   | 30         | 30      |
| F5      | Pit         | 1   | 38         | 38      |
| F8      | Pond        | 5   | 25         | 5       |

| Context      | Description | No.       | Weight (g) | MSW (g)   |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| F9           | Ditch       | 3         | 89         | 30        |
| F11          | Ditch       | 2         | 6          | 3         |
| <b>Total</b> |             | <b>33</b> | <b>512</b> | <b>16</b> |

**Table 3** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features.

### Prehistoric pottery

Two sherds (46g) of handmade sand-tempered (fabric HMS) pottery, possibly dating to the Middle Iron Age, came from pits F3 and F5.

### Late Iron Age to Roman pottery

Pit F1 produced a small quantity of Late Iron Age grog-tempered pottery (GTW BG), at 13 sherds with a weight of 243g, from a combed storage jar. Small quantities of Roman pottery were recovered from pond F8 (5 sherds at 25g) and ditch F11 (2 at 6g). The Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999). None of the Roman pottery could be tightly-dated as there were no identifiable vessel forms although the assemblage included sherds of oxidised and related wares (fabric DJ), fine oxidised wares (fabric DZ), locally-produced grey wares (fabric GX) and silvery micaceous wares (fabric WA).

### Medieval pottery

Medieval pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups in *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000). Two sherds (8g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21), dating to c 1200-1550, came from ditch F9.

### Ceramic building material

There was a small quantity of CBM with a totalling nine fragments with a weight of 184g and MSW of 20g. This consists of one piece of Roman tile (30g) from pit F4, one piece of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (81g) from ditch F9, and seven pieces (76g) of baked clay from pit F1.

### Conclusion

Table 4 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and CBM. The evidence ranges from the Middle Iron Age through the Late Iron Age and Roman period and into the medieval period.

| Context | Description | Prehistoric pottery | Late Iron Age-Roman pottery | Medieval pottery | CBM | Date Approx.          |
|---------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| F1      | Pit         | -                   | GTW (BG)                    | -                | -   | Late Iron Age         |
| F3      | Pit         | HMS                 | -                           | -                | -   | Middle Iron Age       |
| F4      | Pit         | -                   | -                           | -                | RT  | Roman                 |
| F5      | Pit         | HMS                 | -                           | -                | -   | Middle Iron Age       |
| F8      | Pond        | -                   | DZ, DJ                      | -                | -   | Roman                 |
| F9      | Ditch       | -                   | -                           | F21              | PT  | Medieval, c 1200-1550 |
| F11     | Ditch       | -                   | GX, WA                      | -                | -   | Roman                 |

**Table 4** Approximate dates for the individual features.

## 6.2 Animal Bone by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of 37 pieces of hand-collected animal bone weighing a total of 834g. The earliest deposits were Middle Iron Age (MIA) and Late Iron Age pits and Roman, medieval and undated features including a pit, ditch and pond. A small amount of animal bone was also recovered from an environmental sample from the Late Iron Age pit. This material is briefly summarised at the end of the results section.

## Methodology

The hand-collected assemblage was recorded using a system based upon the rapid method devised by S.J.M. Davis (*Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92*). Briefly, all the bone and teeth fragments are examined but only a restricted suite of skeletal parts are recorded as a matter of course – these being chosen because they are relatively easy to identify and represent most regions of the mammalian body (head, girdles, limbs and feet). When these parts are present in sufficient numbers, they can provide the maximum useful information regarding sex, age, butchery practice and metrical data. These skeletal parts are referred to as the **parts of skeleton always counted** (POSAC). The remaining pieces of bone are referred to as **non-countable specimens** (NCS) and consist largely of undiagnostic fragments. Beyond a basic level of quantification these are of no further interest unless these are found to offer the only evidence for the presence of a species otherwise not represented amongst the POSACs.

## Results (Tables 5-)

Much of the animal was discoloured, generally by an orangish brown staining or dark brown speckling, often the result of having laid in waterlogged ground conditions. Four species were identified in the assemblage both by POSAC and amongst the NCS material. These were cattle (a total of nine pieces), sheep or goat (two), pig (two) and horse (one). Only sheep/goat bone was recovered from the Late Iron Age context and only cattle (or cattle sized) bone from post-medieval/modern deposits.

| Context                   | Finds no. | POSAC or NCS               | Taxon                         | No. of pieces | POSAC % <sup>7</sup> | Comments   |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--|
| F1<br>Pit<br>LIA          | 1         | Single mandibular tooth: i | Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)       | 1             | 100%                 |  |
|                           |           | Ischium                    | Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)       | 1             | 50%                  |  |
|                           |           | NCS                        | Sheep or goat sized           | 5             |                      | Rib, vertebrae and diaphysis fragments.  |
| F3<br>Pit<br>MIA          | 2         | Scapula - coracoid?        | Equus caballus (horse)        | 1             | 30%                  | Dog gnawed.  |
|                           |           | Calcaneum - tuber calcis F | Bos taurus (domestic cattle)  | 1             | 95%                  | Dark brown staining and dog gnawed. Age determination > 3 years.                                       |
|                           |           | Mandible                   | Sus domesticus (domestic pig) | 1             | 50%                  | Dark brown staining. May have been punctured by dog tooth?   |
|                           |           | NCS                        | Bos taurus (domestic cattle)  | 4             |                      | Irregular dark brown staining. Mandible fragments and a molar from the maxilla.                        |
|                           |           | NCS                        | Cattle or horse sized         | 7             |                      | Some mid/dark brown irregular staining. Mandible and scapula fragments?                                |
| F4<br>Pit<br>Post-med/mod | 7         | Metacarpal (distal) F      | Bos taurus (domestic cattle)  | 1             | 95%                  | Dark brownish irregular staining. Age determination > 2-2.5 years.                                     |
|                           |           | NCS                        | Bos taurus (domestic cattle)  | 2             |                      | Mid to dark brown irregular staining. Mandible and scapula (dog gnawed) fragments.                     |
|                           |           | NCS                        | Cattle or horse sized         | 4             |                      | Discoloured, one piece has very dark brown speckling. Rib, vertebrae, scapula and diaphysis fragments. |
| F5<br>Pit                 | 3         | NCS                        | Cattle or horse sized         | 1             |                      | Rib fragment with orangish brown staining.   |

<sup>7</sup> Each POSAC is given a percentage value based upon its estimated completeness with 100% representing a complete example of its type. For example, a femur rated 100% represents an entire intact femur, not just the complete distal lateral condyle that qualifies it as a POSAC. An exception to this is the ischium where a rating of 100% represents the complete acetabulum and not a complete pelvis consisting of ischium, pubis, and ilium.

|                             |   |                       |                               |   |     |  |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----|--|
| <b>MIA</b>                  |   | NCS                   | Sheep or goat sized           | 1 |     | Metapodial fragment, dog gnawed.   |
|                             |   | NCS                   | Sus domesticus (domestic pig) | 1 |     | Discoloured orangish brown. Scapula fragment.                                |
| <b>F8 Pond Post-med/mod</b> | 8 | NCS                   | Cattle or horse sized         | 1 |     | Tibia fragment?  |
| <b>F11 Ditch Roman</b>      | 5 | NCS                   | Cattle or horse sized         | 4 |     | Dark discoloration. Mandible, scapula and humerus/femur diaphysis fragments. |
| <b>F12 Ditch Undated</b>    | 6 | Metatarsal (distal) F | Bos taurus (domestic cattle)  | 1 | 40% | Age determination > 2-2.5 years.   |

**Table 5** Animal bone by context.

No cut marks associated with butchery or bone working were identified on the fragments. Evidence of dog gnawing was found on the animal bone from Middle Iron Age pit F5 and from Roman pit F4.

**Mensurable data** (Tables 6-7)

Two POSACs were complete enough to be measurable. These were a cattle metacarpal from Roman pit F4 and the mandibular dp4 of a pig from Middle Iron Age pit F3. Both features were in trench 1.

| GL | SD   | B at F | BFd  | BFDm (a) | 1    | 2 Ddm | 3    | BFdl (b) | 4    | 5 Ddl | 6    |
|----|------|--------|------|----------|------|-------|------|----------|------|-------|------|
| -  | 32.8 | 55.6   | 62.1 | 30.3     | 25.5 | -     | 28.7 | 28.8     | 23.9 | -     | 28.9 |

**Table 6** Cattle metacarpal measurements from pit F4 (finds no.7).

| L    | wlll | Notes                     |
|------|------|---------------------------|
| 16.6 | 7.4  | Measured in the mandible. |

**Table 7** Pig dp4 measurements from pit F3 (finds no.2).

**Tooth wear stage and mandible wear stage<sup>8</sup> (Table 8)**

TWS and MWS could be recorded for the same pig mandible with the dp4 measured above.

| dp4 | P4 | M1 | M2 | M3 |
|-----|----|----|----|----|
| d   |    | E  | -  | -  |

**Table 8** Tooth wear stage and mandible wear stage from pit F3 (finds no.2).

**Animal bone from the environmental samples** (Table 9)

An environmental sample from Late Iron Age pit F1 produced a small assemblage of very fragmentary sheep or goat bone. The small size of the bone and deciduous incisors suggest that most of the fragments were of a juvenile animal. A second phalanx was present with an unfused metaphysis giving an age of less than 0.75 years old.

| Fragment size | Total weight | No. of pieces | Comments   |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|--|
| 11-52mm       | 18g          | 9             | Sheep or goat skull, humerus, pelvis, phalanx and deciduous incisor fragments. |
|               |              | 28            | Rib and diaphysis fragments.   |

**Table 9** Animal bone from pit F1, sample <1>.

<sup>8</sup> These are assigned to the eruption and wear-stages of Grant (1982) for cattle, sheep/goat and pig. In the original methodology sheep/goats are assigned to the eruption and wear-stages of Payne (1987).

## Conclusion

The evaluation has produced a small collection of hand recovered animal bone that included the four main domestic species most often found in most archaeological bone assemblages – cattle (nine pieces), sheep or goat (two), pig (two) and horse (one). None of the material displayed cut marks associated with butchery or bone working. A small amount of the bone had been dog gnawed (Middle Iron Age pit F5 and Roman pit F4) indicating some residuality in the material deposited in these features. Though extremely unlikely to be of any significance (due to the very small size of the sample and its hand collection), only sheep/goat bone was recovered from the Late Iron Age contexts and only cattle (or cattle sized) bone from the Roman dated deposits. The Middle Iron Age features produced the broadest range of species with the addition of pig and horse.

### 6.3 Worked flint

by Adam Wightman

A small, thin worked flint was recovered from pit F1. It is either part of a broken flake or from the centre of a snapped blade (there are breaks at both the proximal and distal ends of the piece). There are at least five previous soft-hammer removals from the dorsal face and it is probable that the piece itself was detached from its parent core using a soft hammer. The piece retains some cortex on one of the lateral edges. Soft-hammer struck flakes and blades are more commonly found in Mesolithic or Neolithic assemblages.

### 6.4 Oyster shell

by Laura Pooley

A single fragment of oyster shell (32.2g) came from F11 (finds no. 5) and has been discarded.

## 7 Environmental assessment

by Bronagh Rae-Quinn

### Introduction

One sample was taken during the evaluation (Table 10), was floated by a trained member of CAT staff and analysed by the author. Nomenclature for all plant remains is taken from Stace (2010). All samples were processed using a serif-style flotation device which produced a flot and a larger residue, both of which were analysed by the author. Flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh and scanned using a microscope (magnification x10), while the larger residues were scanned by eye and any charcoal/charred wood removed by hand.

| Sample | Context | Feature Type | % Sampled | Provisional date | Sample Volume (L.) |
|--------|---------|--------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1      | F1      | Pit          | 100       | Late Iron Age    | 20                 |

**Table 10** Sample information.

### Results (Table 11)

The sample produced a low density of *Corylus avellana* (hazelnut) and charcoal in the larger residue only. The flot produced a high density of rootlets and snail shells, which are assumed to be modern.

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Sample No.                         | 1     |
| Context No.                        | F1    |
| <b>Tree/shrub macrofossils</b>     |       |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazelnut) | x     |
| <b>Other plant macrofossils</b>    |       |
| Charcoal 4-10mm                    | x     |
| Modern rootlets                    | xxxxx |

#### Key to Table 11

|       |        |
|-------|--------|
| x     | 0-10   |
| xx    | 10-25  |
| xxx   | 25-50  |
| xxxx  | 50-100 |
| xxxxx | 100+   |

|                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Modern snail shells            | xx             |
| <b>Sample volume (litres)</b>  | <b>20</b>      |
| <b>Volume of flot (litres)</b> | <b>&lt;0.1</b> |
| <b>% flot sorted</b>           | <b>100%</b>    |

**Table 10** Environmental remains.

### Potential, significance and recommendations

The sample produced a low density of environmental remains with minimal significance to the overall interpretation of the site. The presence of high densities of modern rootlets and snails is indicative of bioturbation on the site. Due to this, the likelihood of the environmental remains being intrusive is high. Although the environmental potential of the current assemblage is limited, further works on the site could produce additional plant macrofossil evidence. It is recommended that any future works continue to take soil samples in line with the CAT environmental policies outlined in the WSI.

## 8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land east of Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford revealed seven ditches and five pits. Significantly two of the pits produced a sherd each of possible Middle Iron Age pottery along with some animal bone, with another containing Late Iron Age pottery, fired clay and animal bone, indicating prehistoric activity on high ground to the north of the village. Five of the ditches were undated (F2, F6, F7, F10 and F12) with Roman pottery recovered from F11 and medieval pottery and peg-tile from F9. All of the ditches were aligned roughly north-west to south-east by north-east to south-west, forming part of a wider agricultural landscape probably aligned on the road to the west. If all the ditches are contemporary with each other then they date from the medieval period onwards, although ditch F12 with recut F11 could represent an earlier Roman phase of activity. Pit F4 and pit/pond F8 contained fragments of coal and clinker and are probably of post-medieval/modern date. Both features also produced residual fragments of Roman pottery and CBM, further indicating Roman activity in the area. Several modern drainage features covered the site, and a thick layer of redeposited natural in the south-east corner of the site known to be associated with the construction of Meadow View.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Steve Currie and GDE Services Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with M Beale, C Hill, A Smith and C Hodges. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and S Vasey. The project was monitored for SCCAS by Matt Baker & Vincent Monahan.

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

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|                    |       |   |
|--------------------|-------|---|
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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| CAT             | Colchester Archaeological Trust  |
| 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'  |
| Late Iron Age   | 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  |
| Mesolithic      | period from c 10,000 – 4000BC  |
| Middle Iron Age | period from c 400 – 100BC  |
| 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           | <b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> 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   |
| prehistoric     | pre-Roman  |
| residual        | something out of its original context, e.g a Roman coin in a modern pit  |
| Roman           | the period from AD 43 to c AD 410  |
| SCC             | Suffolk County Council   |
| SCCAS           | Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services   |
| SCHER           | Suffolk County Historic Environment Record   |
| section         | (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s  |
| WSI             | written scheme of investigation  |

## **12 Contents of archive**

**Finds:** Part of one box.

### **Digital record**

CAT Report 1999

SCCAS Brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs

Graphic files

Survey data

Site data

## **13 Archive deposition**

The 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 SCCAS (finds) and the Archaeology Data Service (digital).

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### **Distribution list:**

Steve Currie, GDE Services Ltd

Vincent Monahan, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Suffolk Historic Environment Record

### **Appendix 1 Context list**

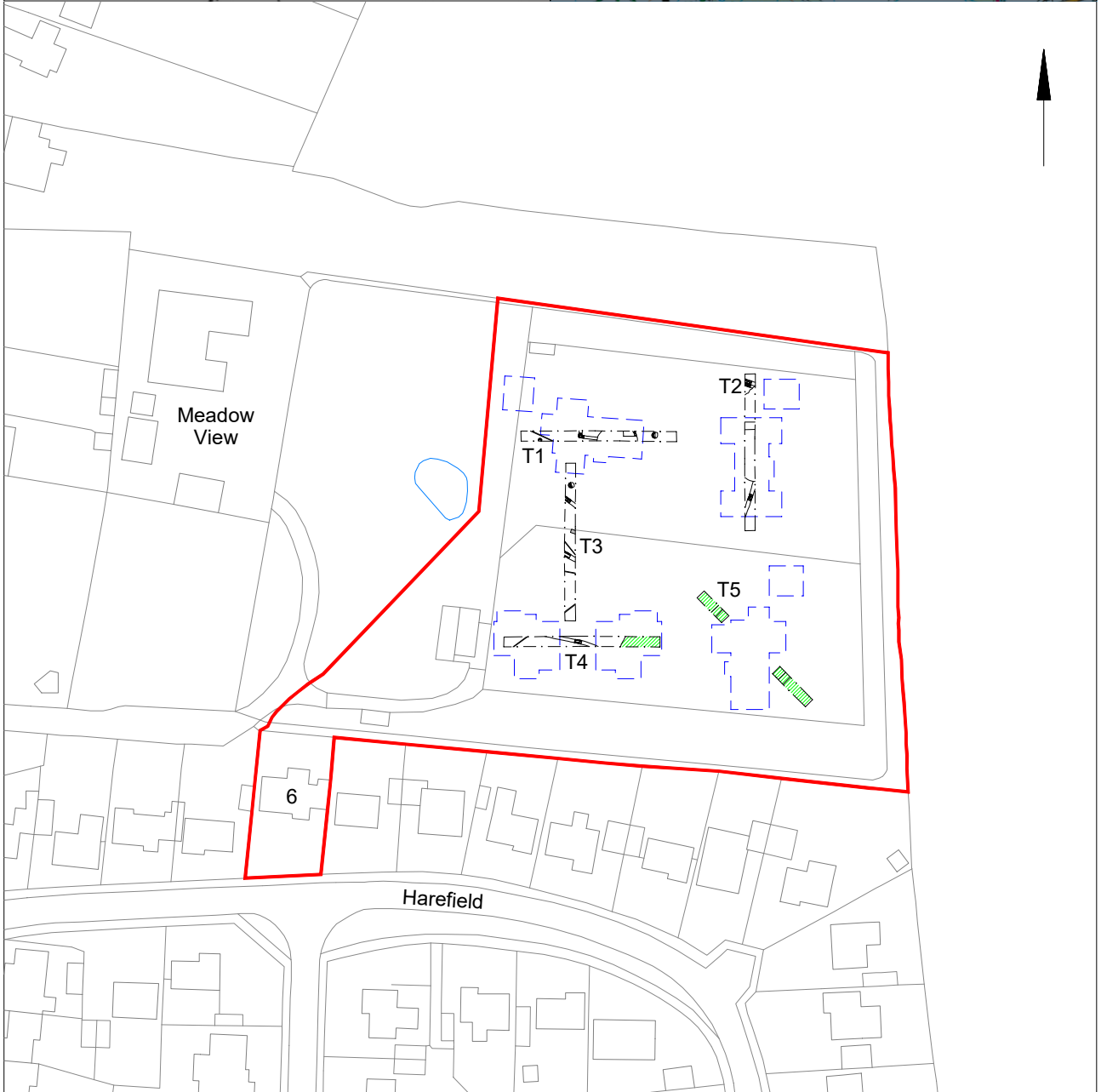
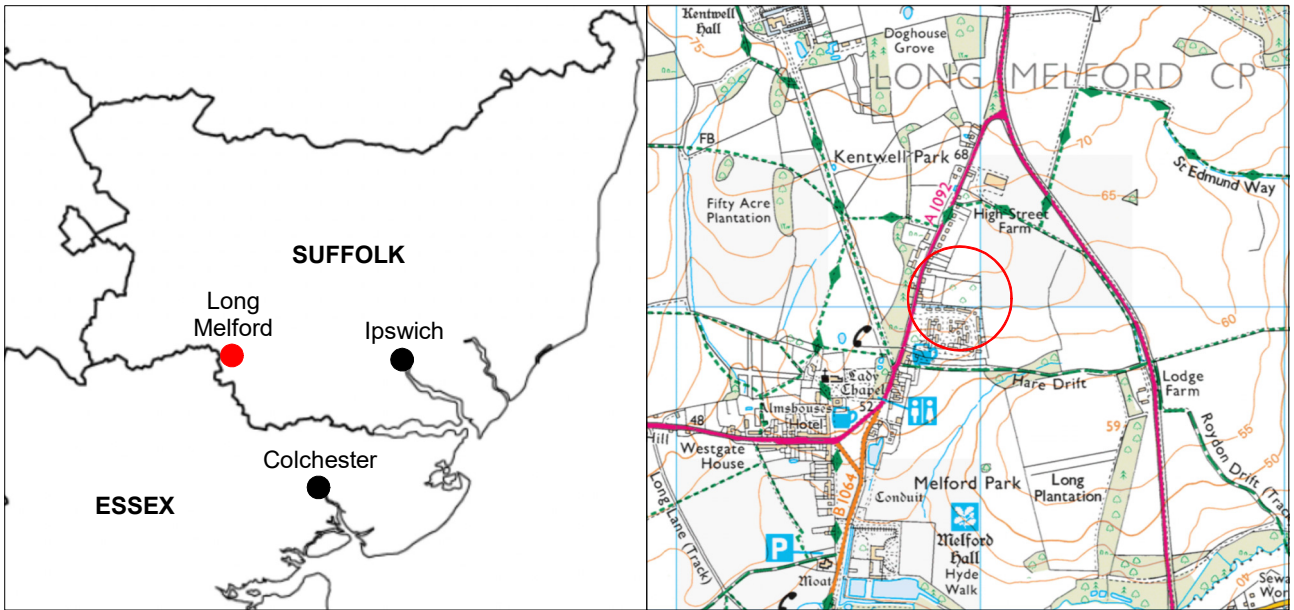
| <b>Context</b> | <b>Trench</b> | <b>Finds no.</b> | <b>Type</b>         | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Date</b>              |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
| L1             | T1-5          | -                | Topsoil             | Soft to firm, dry dark brownish-black silt with small stone inclusions.                       | Modern                   |
| L2             | T1-4          | -                | Subsoil             | Firm, dry mid to dark yellowish-brown silt with occasional gravel and small stone inclusions. | Undated                  |
| L3             | T1-5          | -                | Natural             | Soft, dry mid brownish-orange sandy gravel.   | Post-glacial             |
| L4             | T4-5          | -                | Redeposited natural | Soft to firm, moist mid brown silty clay  | Modern                   |
|                |               |                  |                     |   |                          |
| F1             | T1            | 1                | Pit                 | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | Late Iron Age            |
| F2             | T1            | -                | Ditch               | Firm moist mid brownish-grey silty clay.  | Undated                  |
| F3             | T1            | 2                | Pit                 | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | ?Middle Iron Age         |
| F4             | T1            | 7                | Pit                 | Firm moist, dark grey-brown silty clay.   | Post-medieval/<br>modern |
| F5             | T3            | 3                | Pit                 | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | ?Middle Iron Age         |
| F6             | T2            | -                | Ditch               | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | Undated                  |
| F7             | T3            | -                | Ditch               | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | Undated                  |
| F8             | T2            | 8                | Pit/pond            | Firm moist, dark grey-brown silty clay.   | Post-medieval/<br>modern |
| F9             | T4            | 4                | Ditch               | Firm moist, dark grey-brown silty clay.   | Medieval                 |
| F10            | T3            | -                | Ditch               | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | Undated                  |
| F11            | T2            | 5                | Ditch               | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | Roman                    |
| F12            | T2            | 6                | Ditch               | Firm moist, mid greyish-brown silty clay.   | Undated                  |

Appendix 2 Pottery list

| Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | NR | GR. | MSW | Discard | Rim | Handle | Base | Wmd | Sooting (ext.) | Sooting location | Charing (int.) | Charing location | Burning | Overfired | Org. Residue | Resin Lin. | Other deposit | Abrasion | Modif. | Mark | Hole | Hole diam. | Blind hole | Disc | Disc diam. | Spindle whorl | Polishing | Fabric Grp | EVE | Diam.                            | Comments | Start Date | End Date    |      |      |     |
|-----|--------------|----------|----|-----|-----|---------|-----|--------|------|-----|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------|-----------|--------------|------------|---------------|----------|--------|------|------|------------|------------|------|------------|---------------|-----------|------------|-----|----------------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|------|------|-----|
| F1  | PIT          | 1        | 13 | 243 | 19  |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               | GTW (BG)  |            |     | BLACK GROG, COMBED, STORAGE JAR? | -100     | 43         |             |      |      |     |
| F3  | PIT          | 2        | 1  | 8   | 8   |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               | HMS       |            |     |                                  | MIA      | MIA        |             |      |      |     |
| F5  | PIT          | 3        | 1  | 38  | 38  |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               | HMS       |            |     | BL, SMOOTH FINE SAND             | MIA      | MIA        |             |      |      |     |
| F8  | POND         | 8        | 1  | 10  | 10  |         | 0   | 0      | 1    |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               |           |            |     |                                  | 43       | 425        |             |      |      |     |
| F8  | POND         | 8        | 1  | 4   | 4   |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               |           |            |     |                                  | 43       | 425        |             |      |      |     |
| F8  | POND         | 8        | 3  | 11  | 4   |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               |           |            |     |                                  | 43       | 425        |             |      |      |     |
| F9  | DITCH        | 4        | 1  | 5   | 5   |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               |           |            |     |                                  | F21      |            | GREEN GLAZE | 1200 | 1550 |     |
| F9  | DITCH        | 4        | 1  | 3   | 3   |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               |           |            |     |                                  | F21      |            |             | 1200 | 1550 |     |
| F11 | DITCH        | 5        | 1  | 3   | 3   |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               |           |            |     |                                  |          | WA         |             |      | 43   | 425 |
| F11 | DITCH        | 5        | 1  | 3   | 3   |         |     |        |      |     |                |                  |                |                  |         |           |              |            |               |          |        |      |      |            |            |      |            |               |           |            |     |                                  |          | GX         |             |      | 43   | 425 |

Appendix 3 CBM list

| Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | NR | GR. | MSW | Discard | Typology   | FL CORN. | MNI | FL H. | FL W. | FL TH. | PH R | PH SQ | 2 Phis | Blind | PH diam. mm | L | BR. | TH. | Column BR type | Frog. L | Frog. Width | Mortar | Burnt | Overfired | Abraded | Modif. | Comments         | Date |  |  |  |       |                        |
|-----|--------------|----------|----|-----|-----|---------|------------|----------|-----|-------|-------|--------|------|-------|--------|-------|-------------|---|-----|-----|----------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|------------------|------|--|--|--|-------|------------------------|
| F1  | PIT          | 1        | 7  | 73  | 10  |         | Baked clay |          | 0   |       |       |        |      |       |        |       |             |   |     |     |                |         |             |        |       |           |         |        | CHALK NODS, OBJ? | ?    |  |  |  |       |                        |
| F4  | PIT          | 7        | 1  | 30  | 30  | X       | RT         |          | 0   |       |       |        |      |       |        |       |             |   |     |     |                |         |             |        |       |           |         |        |                  |      |  |  |  | ROMAN |                        |
| F9  | DITCH        | 4        | 1  | 81  | 81  | X       | PT         |          |     |       |       |        |      |       |        |       |             |   |     |     |                |         |             |        |       |           |         |        |                  |      |  |  |  |       | MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL |



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





Fig 2 Development site (red) in relation to archaeological data recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment records.

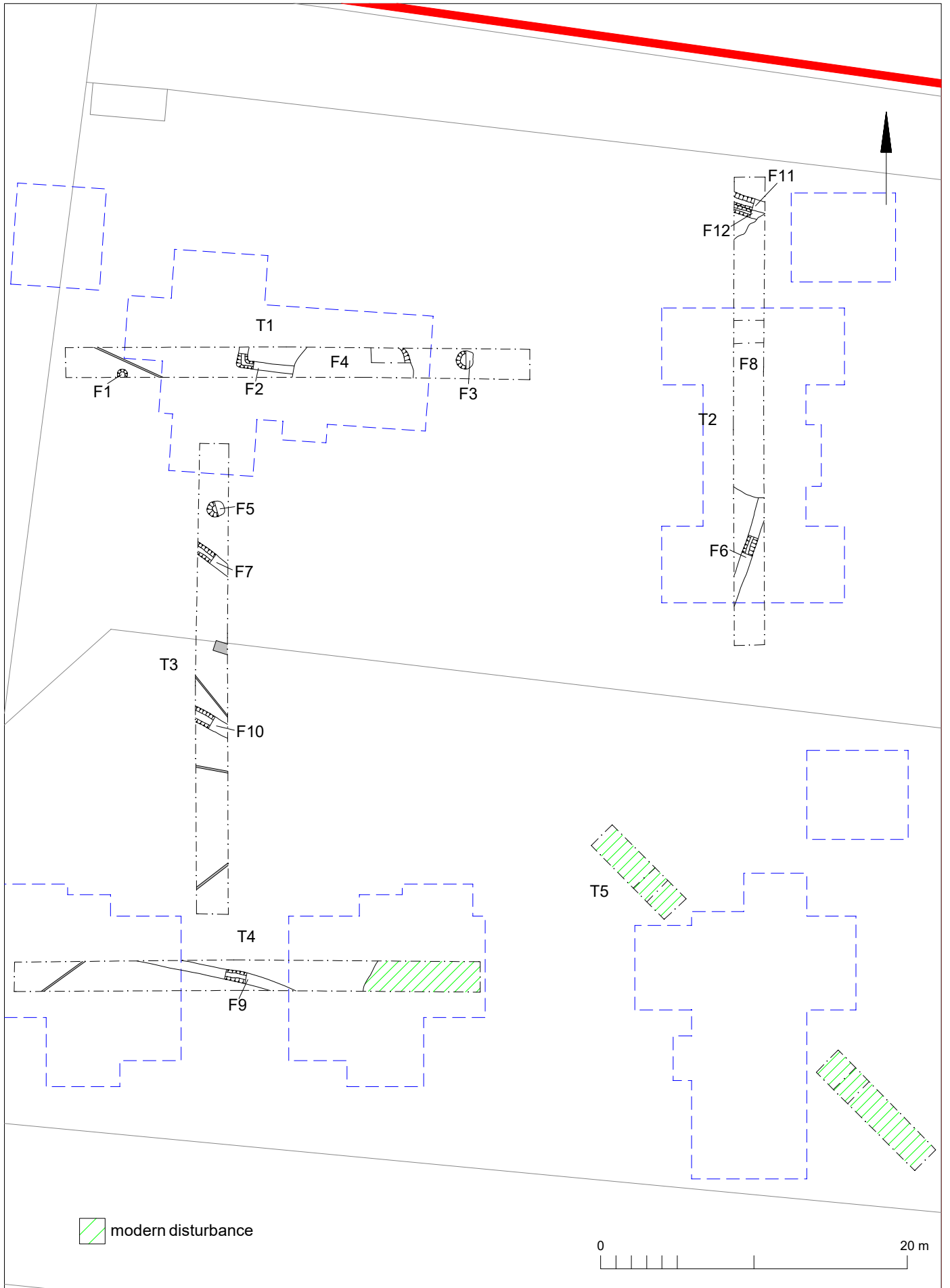


Fig 3 Evaluation results.

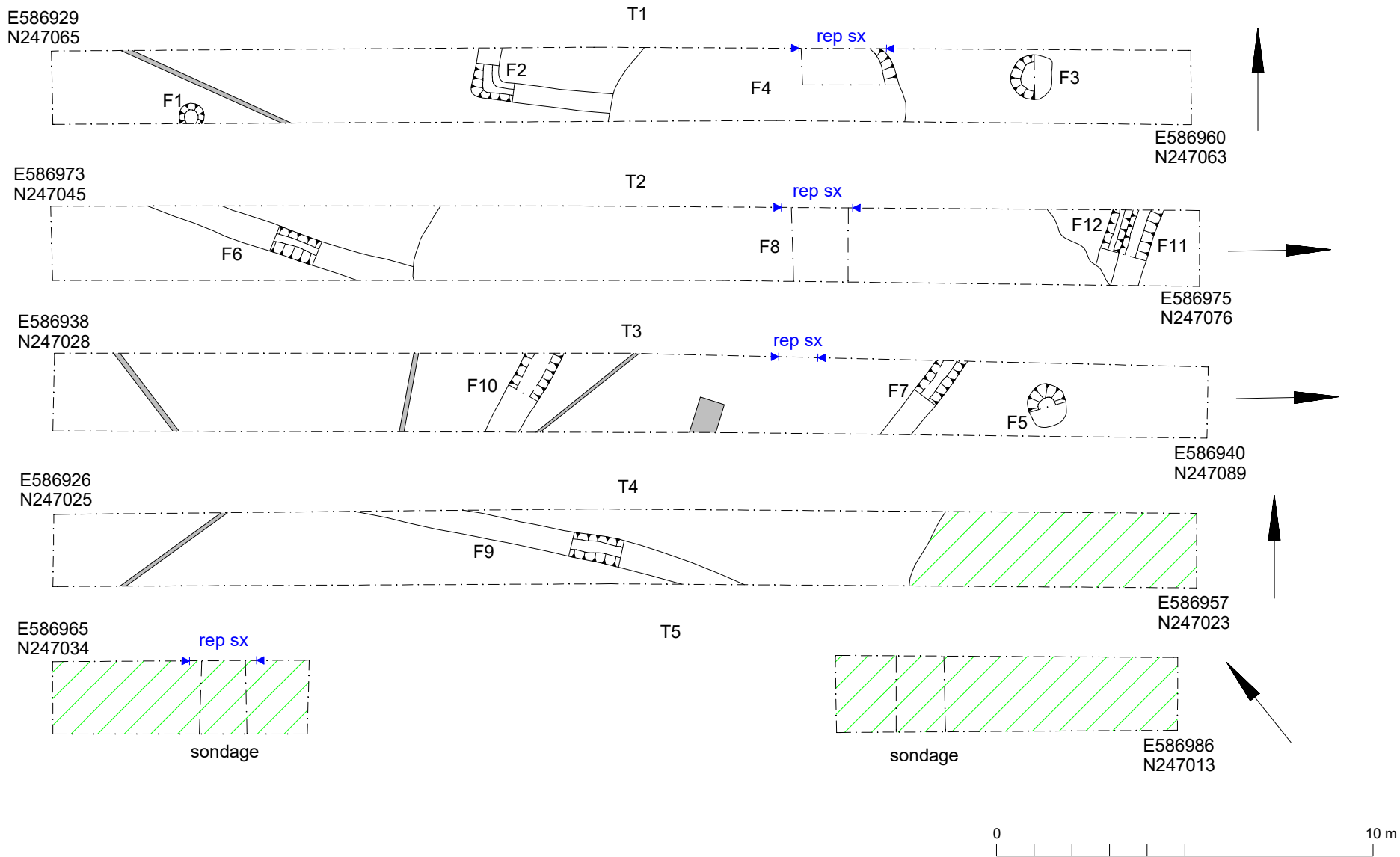


Fig 4 Trench results.



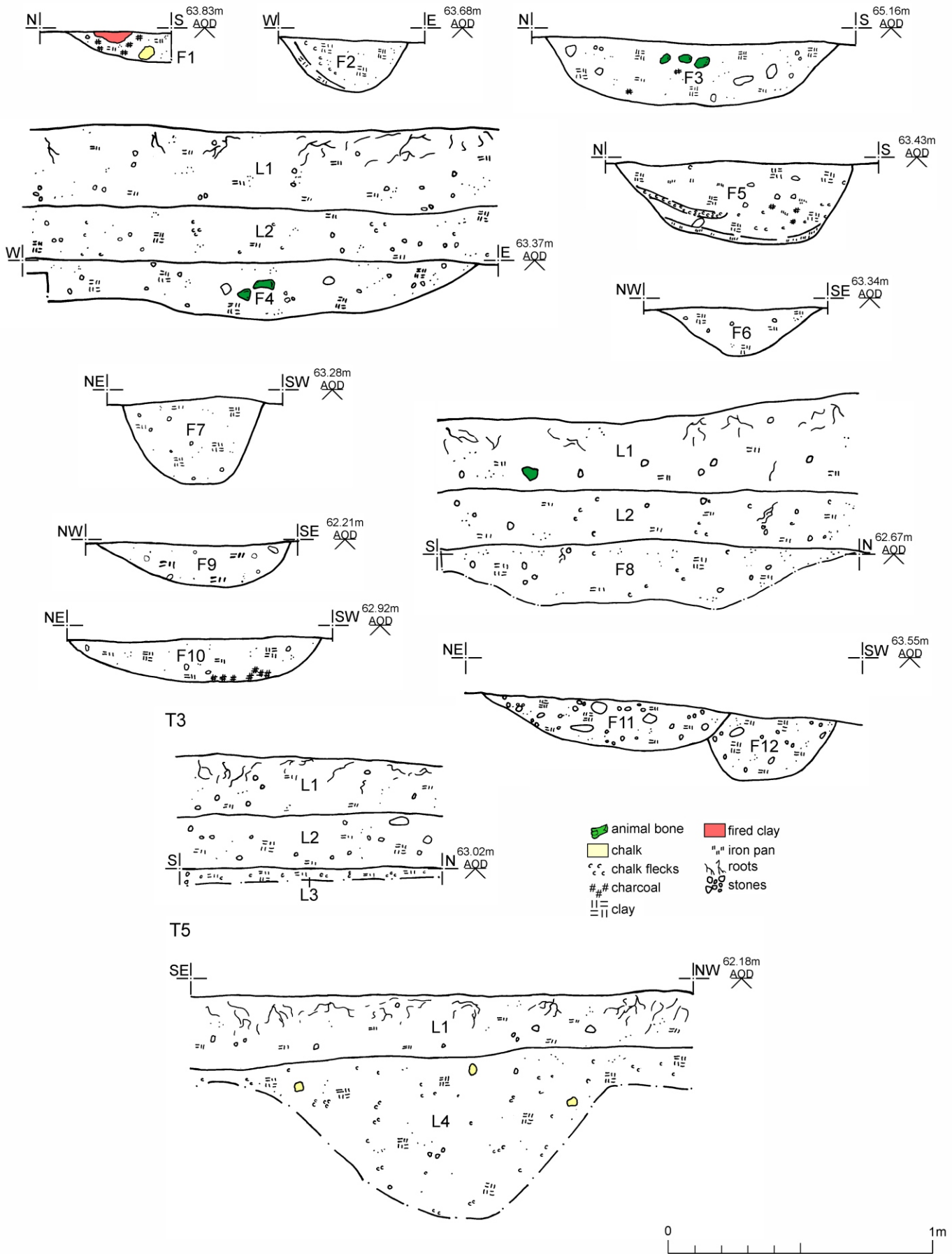


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-519079

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| OASIS ID (UID)                    | colchest3-519079  |
| Project Name                      | Archaeological evaluation at land to the east of Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9DB.   |
| Sitename                          | Land to the East of Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9DB.  |
| Sitecode                          | LMD 371   |
| Project Identifier(s)             | 2023/09f  |
| Activity type                     | Evaluation  |
| Planning Id                       | DC/20/05175/OUT   |
| Reason For Investigation          | Planning: Post determination  |
| Organisation Responsible for work | Colchester Archaeological Trust   |
| Project Dates                     | 26-Oct-2023 - 27-Oct-2023   |
| Location                          | Land to the East of Meadow View, High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk, CO10 9DB.<br>NGR : TL 86940 47020<br>LL : 52.08994731667573, 0.727295925459011<br>12 Fig : 586940,247020   |
| Administrative Areas              | Country : England<br>County/Local Authority : Suffolk<br>Local Authority District : Babergh<br>Parish : Long Melford  |
| Project Methodology               | Archaeological evaluation (5 trial trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.   |
| Project Results                   | An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at 'Meadow View', High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk in advance of the construction of five new residential dwellings. The site is located within an archaeologically sensitive area, to the north-west of the historic settlement of Long Melford. The evaluation revealed seven ditches, four pits and a pit/pond. Possible Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered from two of the pits and Late Iron Age pottery from a third. Five of the ditches were undated, with one producing finds of Roman date and another medieval. A post-medieval/modern pit and pit/pond were also present. |
| Keywords                          | Rubbish Pit - MIDDLE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Rubbish Pit - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Rubbish Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types<br>Vessel - MIDDLE IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus<br>Vessel - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus<br>Vessel - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus<br>Vessel - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus  |
| Funder                            | Private or public corporation developer   |
| HER                               | Suffolk HER - unRev - STANDARD  |

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Person Responsible for work | C Lister, L Pooley, A Wightman   |
| HER Identifiers             | HER Event No - LMD 371   |
| Archives                    | Physical Archive - to be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service;<br>Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service<br>Archive; |

Report generated on: 05 Dec 2023, 08:59