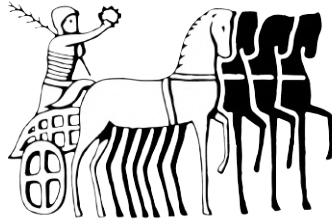


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2077
issued August 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation at The Larches,
Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8SR:
August 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/06d
CHER code: SMGH24**

**Archaeological evaluation at The Larches,
Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8SR:
August 2024**

NGR: TL 51665 25173 (centre)

**Planning district.: Uttlesford
Planning ref.: UTT/22/2400/DFO**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/06d
CAT Report 2077**

**CHER code: SMGH24
OASIS id: colchest3-526531**

**report prepared by Laura Pooley
with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton**

**fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Ziya Eksen
and Connor Wilkin**

commissioned by the landowner

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Reviewed and approved by:	Howard Brooks	Senior Associate
Issued:	22/08/24	

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Fig 1 Site location (proposed development dashed blue).

Fig 2 Results.

Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Despite being located close to Stansted Castle, the only features present were a post-medieval/modern quarry pit and undated gully.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex on 12th August 2024. The work was commissioned by the homeowner and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor advised that, 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 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological trial trench evaluation and excavation at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted* written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2024) and *written scheme of investigation* (WSI) prepared by CAT (2024a).

In addition to the project 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* (ClfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief (ECC 2024) and 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 development site is located just outside the historic settlement of Stansted and adjacent to Stansted Castle. The Castle is Grade II listed and a scheduled monument (NHLE 1238635 and 1009311 respectively). It was originally constructed in the 11th century, probably by Robert de Gernon, Duke of Bologne, who arrived with William the Conqueror. Robert de Gernon's son and heir changed his name to Mountfitchet which was used by his descendants. A ring and bailey type, the castle was destroyed in 1215. The market would have been located close to the castle in Lower Street and medieval occupation would have probably centred on the area of the castle. Evidence of Roman occupation has also been found to the east of the Castle where Roman coins were recovered and at a separate site in the south-west of the town (EHER 4552). There is therefore the potential for Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval deposits extending into the development area and being impacted on by the proposed development.

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)

Two trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench 1 was L-shaped and totalled 14m long, Trench 2 was 6m long, both were 1.8m wide. The trenches cut through a modern topsoil (L1, c 0.25-0.3m thick) onto natural (L2).

Large quarry pit F1 filled most of Trench 1. The size of the pit could not be determined, it was at least 8m by 3.7m, and a sondage in the corner of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1m without locating the base of the feature. Fragments of peg-tile and a piece of post-medieval red-earthenware were recovered for post-excavation analysis, but pieces of brick, coal and slate were also noted within the fill. Also in Trench 1 was small gully F2. It was a steep-sided and flat-bottomed gully aligned north-west/south-east that was only 0.31m wide and 0.2m deep. No finds were recovered but coal flecks in the fill may suggest a post-medieval/modern date.

There were no archaeological remains in Trench 2.

A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, F1 in foreground, looking east.



Photograph 2 Trench 1, F2 in foreground, looking north.



Photograph 3 Trench 2, looking north.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley

A small assemblage of material was recovered from quarry pit F1. This consisted of eight fragments (94g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile, a sherd of post-medieval red-earthenware (fabric F40) from a large bowl or pancheon (16g, EVE:0.03) dating to c 1575-1650/1725 (Cotter 2000), and a fragment of iron nail (5g). None of this material was retained.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted revealed a post-medieval/modern quarry pit and undated gully that may also be of post-medieval/modern date. Early OS maps of the area show two large gravel pits to the south-west of the development site (Map 1), and the discovery of quarry pit F1 may suggest that gravel extraction continued further to the north-east than shown on the mapping.



Map 1 25 inch OS map, 1892-1914, site marked with the orange circle.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with Z Eksen and O Windridge. Figures were compiled by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS Richard Havis.

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 | 2024a | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted,</i> |

		Essex, CM24 8SR, by Yulia Shevlyakova. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.
CAT	2024b	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.
CIfA	2020a	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
CIfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
CIfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.
CIfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
CIfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
Cotter, J P	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
ECC	2024	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trench evaluation and excavation at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted</i> , by R Havis.
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (MoRPHE).
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

10 Abbreviations and glossary

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
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, 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
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Digital:

CAT Report 2077

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Digital photographs

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

12 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 the Archaeology Data Service (digital archive).

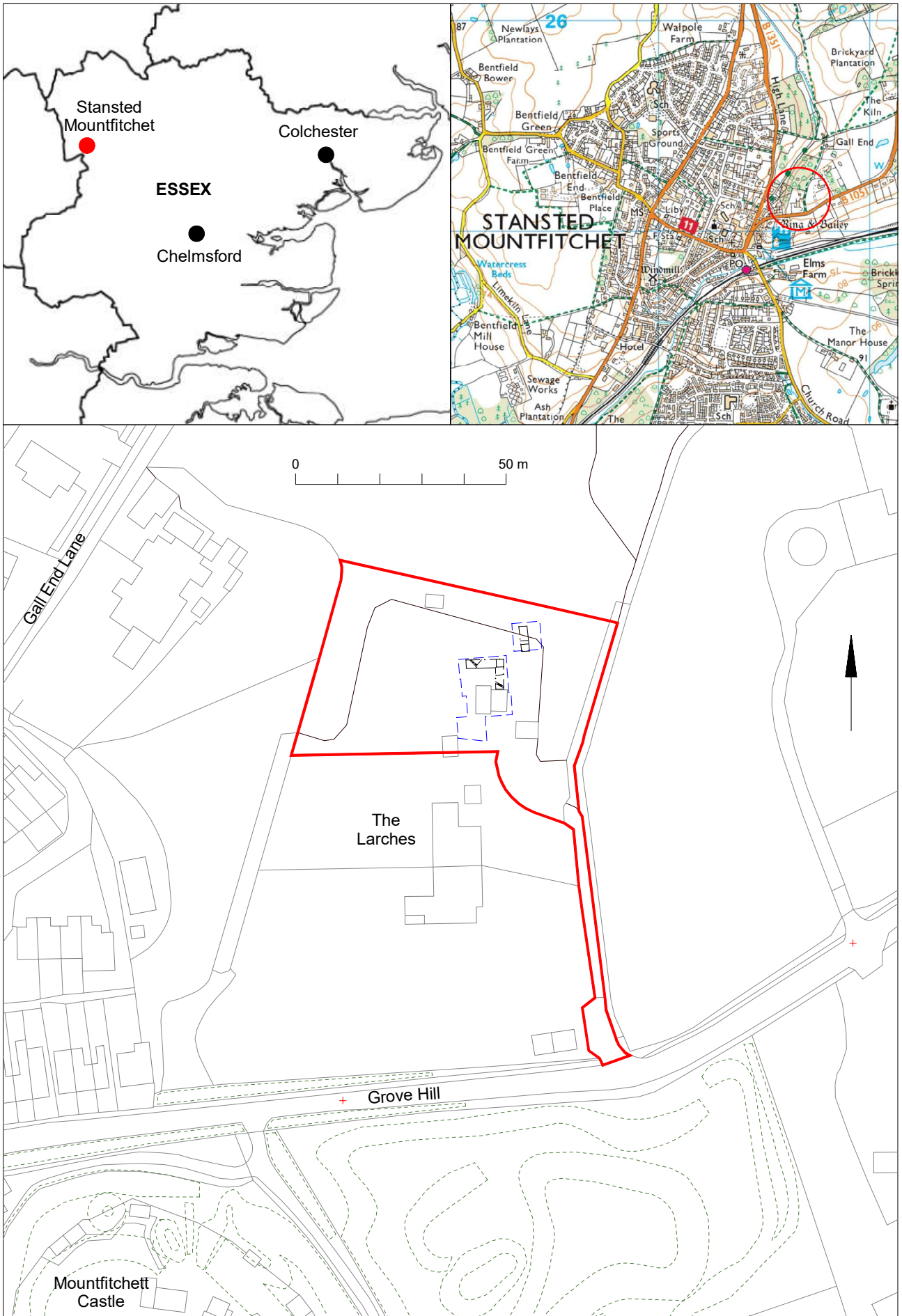
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Distribution list:

Landowner
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Loose/soft, dry, medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 20%. 0.25-0.3m thick.	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Natural sands and gravels	Post-glacial
F1	1	Quarry pit	Firm, dry, medium/dark yellow/orange/grey/ brown sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: gravel 10% stone 20%. >8m by >3.7m and >1m deep.	Post-medieval/ modern
F2	-	Gully	Loose/soft dry medium grey/brown sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 10%. Rare coal flecks noted in fill. 0.31m wide and 0.2m deep.	Undated, possibly post-medieval/ modern



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Fig 1 Site location (proposed development dashed blue).

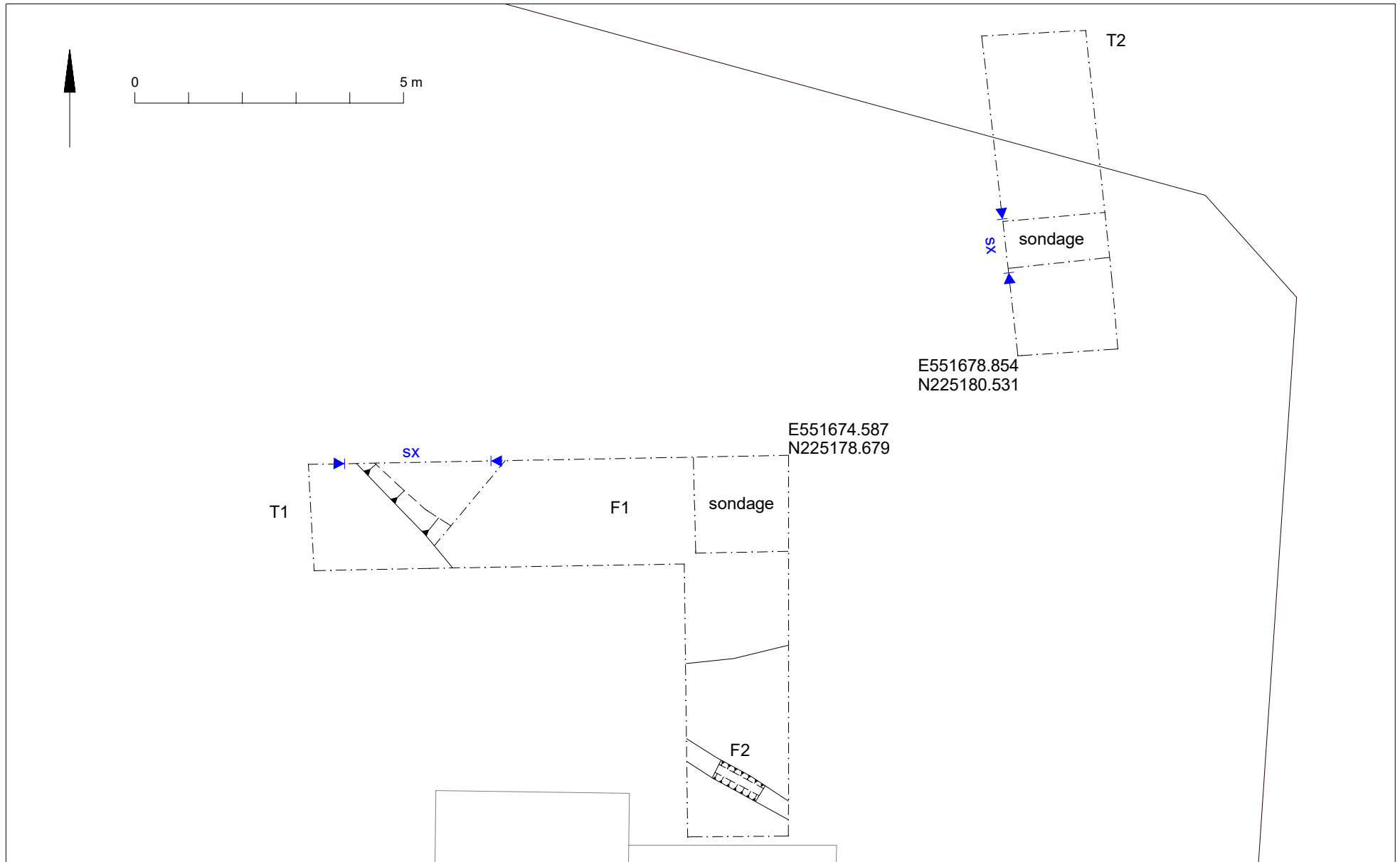


Fig 2 Results.



Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-526531

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-526531
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8SR: August 2024
Sitename	The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8SR
Sitecode	SMGH24
Project Identifier(s)	2024/06d
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	UTT/22/2400/DFO
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	12-Aug-2024 - 12-Aug-2024
Location	The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8SR NGR : TL 51665 25173 LL : 51.90445709510061, 0.203199491965777 12 Fig : 551665,225173
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Uttlesford Parish : Stansted Mountfitchet
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at The Larches, Grove Hill, Stansted, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Despite being located close to Stansted Castle, the only features present were a post-medieval/modern quarry pit and undated gully.
Keywords	Gravel Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private individual
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - SMGH24
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;