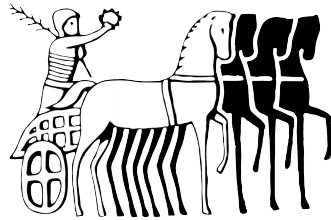


Colchester Archaeological Trust



CAT Report 2118
issued January 2025

Archaeological evaluation on land at The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, SG10 6BU: December 2024



CAT project code: 2024/10c
HCC event code: EHT9359

Archaeological evaluation on land at The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, SG10 6BU: December 2024

NGR: TL 42710 19337 (centre)

Planning ref.: 3/23/0030/FUL

**CAT project ref.: 2024/10c
CAT Report 2118**

**HCC event code: EHT9359
OASIS id: colchest3- 530496**

**report prepared by Dr Patrick Spencer
with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton,
Tabitha Lawrence and Adam Wightman**

**fieldwork by Nigel Rayner and Harvey Furniss with
Kathryn Anderson, Matt Perou and Darcy Spenner**

**commissioned by Jon Crisp, Arcady Architects
on behalf of Cordage Group**

Prepared by:	Laura Pooley	Post-Excavation Manager
Reviewed and approved by:	Howard Brooks	Senior Associate
Issued:	09/01/2025	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: services@catuk.org

web: www.catuk.org

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological and historic background	1
4	Aims	4
5	Methodology	5
6	Results	5
7	Finds	8
8	Conclusion	9
9	Acknowledgements	9
10	References	10
11	Abbreviations and glossary	11
12	Archive deposition	11

Figures after p11

HHER summary sheet

OASIS summary sheet

List of map, tables, photographs and figures

Cover: Trench 2, looking east.

Map 1	The 1838 Tithe Map lists the site (558) as the 'Bull Inn, outbuildings, garden and orchard'.	3
Map 2	The 1878 6-inch OS map, showing outbuildings to the north and west, a garden to the west and the orchard beyond.	3
Map 3	The 1946 6-inch OS map, showing little change from 1878.	3
Table 1	Context information.	5
Table 2	The worked flint from subsoil L3, finds no. 2.	9
Photograph 1	Trench 1, looking east.	6
Photograph 2	Trench 2, looking west.	6
Photograph 3	Trench 3, looking west.	7
Photograph 4	Trench 4, looking north-east.	7
Photograph 5	Trench 5, looking north.	8
Fig 1	Site location (proposed development dashed blue).	
Fig 2	Results (proposed development dashed blue).	
Fig 3	Representative sections.	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. Despite being located within the medieval core of Much Hadham, there were no archaeological remains within the trenches. Finds recovered from topsoil and buried topsoil consisted of two flint flakes, a fragment of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and two sherds of 19th- to 20th-century pottery.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire which was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 5th and 6th December 2024. The work was commissioned by Jon Crisp of Arcady Architects, on behalf of Cordage Group, and took place in advance of the construction of six dwellings and associated access and landscaping.

In response to consultation, Alison Tinniswood, the Senior Historic Environment Advisor to Hertfordshire County Council advised that, to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological evaluation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2023).

In response to this condition a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Heritage Collective UK Limited (HCUK Group 2024) and agreed with Historic Environment Advisor Peri Horsley.

In addition to the 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, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- CAT Health and Safety Policy (CAT 2024).

3 Archaeological and historic background

A full archaeological and historic background, based on a detailed HER search, can be found in the WSI (HCUK Group 2024). The following is a summary of that background.

Prehistoric and Roman evidence surrounding the development site is rare. It includes isolated find spots of Neolithic flint flakes (HHER 10055), a Bronze Age rapier (HHER 15645), Roman coins (HHER 20475 & 22265) and a Roman folding knife (HHER 27922).

The development site is located inside the medieval centre of the village of Much Hadham, a linear settlement which follows the course of the River Ash through a valley. The earliest written records associated with the village are the AD 943 will of Queen Aefleda/ Aethelflaeda, wife of King Edmund. It shows that the Queen, together with Elfrida, her sister, inherited the manor from their father, Alfred the Great. They then bequeathed the estate of Hadham to the Bishops of London who served as Overlords and Tenant-in-Chief. The manor remained in the ownership of the Bishops of London for 800 years. The original manor house for the estate, called 'The Lordship', is located approximately 550m to the north of the development site.

Listed buildings close to the development site include:

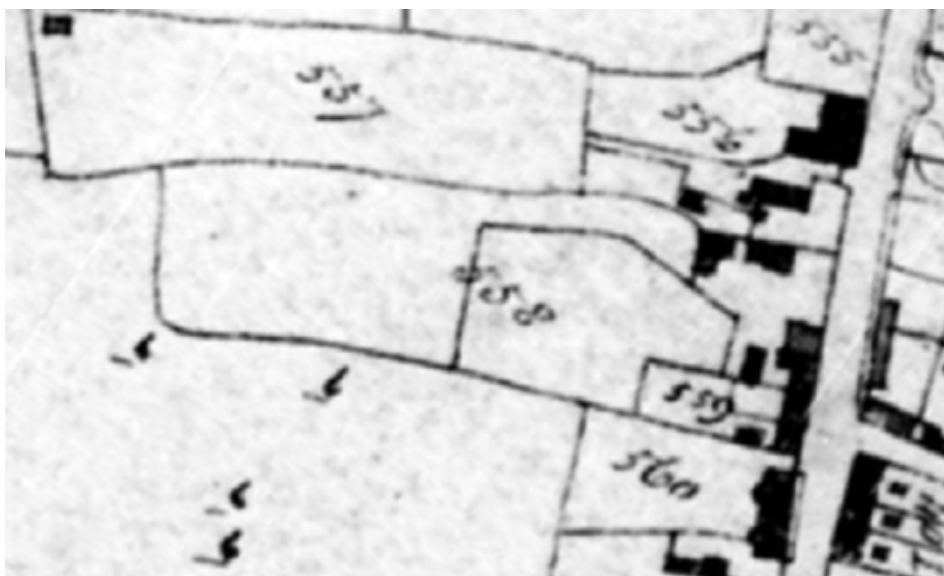
- Bull Cottage and Campden Cottage, a late medieval hall-house divided (HHER 12262);
- Vine Cottage, a late 15th- to early 16th-century Wealden Hall house (HHER 16372);
- The Forge, Forge Cottage and Horseshoe Cottage (HHER 13484) a late medieval house subdivided into three;
- The Red House, an early 18th-century brick town house with earlier timber-framed core (HHER 17700); and
- The White House, a 16th-century timber-framed house (HHER 16373).

The Bull Inn is a Grade II listed 16th-century timber-framed house (NHLE 1212968). The HHER (31481) states that:

The Bull is a 16th-century timber-framed house facing the street, two storeys high and three windows wide. In the 18th century the house was updated with a new frontage (now painted stucco and roughcast), and in the early 19th century transformed with two new doors into the public house, and new ground floor windows under a long fascia framed with slim pilasters, beneath a low-pitched slate roof. At about the same time a taller double-roofed wing in red brick with tiled roofs was added at the north end. Inside the original part of the house are the remains of a cross passage.

The north wing has the appearance of a house added when the older range was converted into a public house, which may date to the 1830s. The later 19th-century OS maps name it 'The Bull (P.H.)' and show the whole building with a short rear projection, an outbuilding in the yard with a pump between the outbuilding and the house, and a line of sheds and stables along the northern boundary of the yard. By 1898 a further outbuilding had been added behind the first. No change is shown on the 1923 map. Later in the 20th century the small buildings along the northern boundary were demolished, and the pub given a large rear extension joining it to the larger outbuildings.

In the 18th-century the development site was located with Moor Place Park (HHER 9590), a designed landscape associated with the Grade I listed country house of Moor Place, 600m to the south-west. Maps from the 19th and 20th centuries (see Maps 1-3) show that the development site, to the west of The Bull Inn, remained undeveloped, located within the gardens and orchards of the public house.



Map 1 The 1838 Tithe Map lists the site (558) as the 'Bull Inn, outbuildings, garden and orchard'.



Map 2 The 1878 6-inch OS map, showing outbuildings to the north and west, a garden to the west and the orchard beyond.



Map 3 The 1946 6-inch OS map, showing little change from 1878.

The British Geological Survey Geology Viewer shows the site has a bedrock geology that comprises the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation, deposited during the Turonian and Coniacian stages of the Late Cretaceous. The Chalk is overlain by superficial Head deposits in the east half of the site and chalky till mixed with outwash clays, silts and gravels of the Lowestoft Formation in the western half of the site.

4 Aims

General project aims:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains;
- To record the character, date, location, and preservation of any archaeological remains;
- To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological deposits or remains.

Specific project aims:

- To investigate the site for evidence for medieval backyard activity, such as craft working or cottage industry, along with waste disposal. This could be in the form of finds, deposits, pits, linears, middens, buried soils or structures;
- To investigate the site for any evidence of occupation which predates the medieval period;
- To analyse any remains with reference to the existing documentary evidence for historical development and land use.

Research aims and objectives

The first version of the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties was developed in the late 1990s and published in two parts. Part 1, the Resource Assessment, by Glazebrook (ed) was published in 1997. Part 2, the Research Agenda and Strategy, by Brown & Glazebrook (eds) was published in 2000. The Framework was extensively reviewed ten years later, and a revised version was published by Medlycott (ed) in 2011. The current revision of the Research Framework, published at <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>, augments and updates the previous versions of the Framework. The research agenda of this framework (see <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/research-agenda/>) identifies those areas in the county where there are gaps in our current understanding and key research questions that need to be addressed. Depending on the results of the archaeological evaluation of this site, those gaps and questions which may help to be answered include:

- *Med (Rural) 04: How can we improve our understanding of medieval rural industries?*
- *Med (Rural) 14: How can we characterise and explain medieval rural settlement change, evolution and abandonment?*
- *Med (Rural) 20: How can we increase our archaeological understanding of medieval rural houses?*

- *P-Med 05: How can we increase our understanding of post-medieval cottages and smaller houses?*
- *P-Med 12: How should we approach the excavation of post-medieval deposits?*

5 Methodology

See the WSI (HCUK Group 2024) for a full methodology.

6 Results (Figs 2-3)

Five trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 2.0m wide, Trenches 1-2 were 20m long, Trenches 3-4 were 21m long and Trench 5 was 10m long.

Trenches 1 and 5: Modern topsoil (L1, 0.25-0.40m thick) sealed natural (L2). Topsoil L1 in Trench 1 produced a fragment of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and a sherd of 19th- to 20th-century pottery. There were no archaeological features.

Trenches 2, 3 and 4: Modern topsoil (L1, 0.1-0.46m thick) sealed buried topsoil (L3, 0.15-0.45m thick) above natural (L2, identified at a depth of 0.52-0.66m below current ground level). Sondages were excavated in trenches 3 and 4 to confirm the identification of L2 as natural. Buried topsoil L3 in Trench 3 produced a sherd of 19th- to 20th-century pottery and two undatable flint flakes. There were no archaeological features.

Context	Finds no.	Interpretation	Description	Date
L1	1	Topsoil	Moist, soft, dark brown silty with occasional small stones, exhibiting root traces	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Firm, light orange-brown silty clay. Occasional small stones.	Post-glacial
L3	2	Buried topsoil	Friable. moist, grey-brown clayey silt with occasional small stones. Some rooting traces.	19th-20th century

Table 1 Context information.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking east.



Photograph 2 Trench 2, looking west.



Photograph 3 Trench 3, looking west.



Photograph 4 Trench 4, looking north-east.



Photograph 5 Trench 5, looking north.

7 Finds

7.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered two sherds of pottery and one fragment of ceramic building material (CBM).

Post-medieval/modern pottery

Pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000). Sherds of 19th to 20th century Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) pottery was recovered from topsoil L1 (1 sherd at 9g, EVE:0.07) and buried topsoil L3 (1 sherd at 1g).

Ceramic building material

One fragment (154g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile was recovered from topsoil L1.

Conclusion

Topsoil L1 and buried topsoil L3 both produced finds of 19th to 20th century date.

7.2 Lithic assemblage

by Tabitha Lawrence and Adam Wightman

Two worked pieces of flint were recovered from buried topsoil L3. Both exhibit areas of patination and edge-chatter on the lateral edges. One of the flakes has a clear hinge fracture and exhibits abrupt retouch at the distal end. Both flakes are chronologically undiagnostic.

Type	Cortex %	Hard/soft hammer	Platform preparation	Modification
Retouched flake	20	hard	no	abrupt retouch on distal end
Flake	10	hard	no	

Table 2 The worked flint from subsoil L3, finds no. 2.

The analysis of this assemblage has been completed in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2020b). The principal works cited include *Prehistoric Flintwork* (Butler 2005) and the *Classification of Lithic Artefacts from the British Late Glacial and Holocene Periods* (Ballin 2021). The measurement of flakes follows the methodology as devised by Saville (1980) and outlined by Butler (2005).

8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land to the west of the The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, did not reveal any archaeological features. The only finds recovered from modern topsoil L1 were a sherd of 19th- to 20th-century pottery and a piece of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile. Finds from buried topsoil L3 included another sherd of 19th- to 20th-century pottery and two flint flakes. The historic background (see above) shows that the development site has been open land (parkland then a garden and orchard) since at least the 18th century, and a lack of archaeological remains in this area confirms that very little activity has taken place here. The presence of two flint flakes is interesting and would indicate some prehistoric activity in the vicinity but both are residual and undatable.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Kingsford Homes Limited for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner and H Furniss with K Anderson, M Perou and D Spenner. Figures are by Z Eksen, L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Hertfordshire County Council by Peri Horsley.

10 References

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

Ballin, T. B. 2021. *Classification of Lithic Artefacts from British Late Glacial and Holocene Periods*. Oxford: Archaeopress Publishing Ltd.

Brown, N. & Glazebrook, J. 2000. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8** (EAA **8**).

Butler, C. 2005. *Prehistoric flintwork*. London: Tempus Publishing Ltd.

CAT. 2024. Health & Safety Policy. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.

CIfA. 2020a. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.

CIfA. 2020b. *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.

CIfA. 2022. *Code of Conduct*. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.

CIfA. 2023a. *Standard for archaeological field evaluation*. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

CIfA. 2023b. *Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Cotter, J.P. 2000. *Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85*. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Gurney, D. 2003. *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **14** (EAA **14**).

HCUK Group. 2024. *Written scheme of investigation: trial trench evaluation. The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire SG10 6BU* by Charlotte Vallance, HCUK Group.

Hertfordshire Museums. 2023. *Hertfordshire Archaeological Archive Standards*. Hertfordshire Association of Museums.

Historic England. 2015. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.

Medlycott, M. 2011. *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **24** (EAA **24**).

MHCLG. 2023. *National Planning Policy Framework*. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Saville, A. 1980. 'On the measurement of Struck Flakes and Flake Tools', *Lithics* 1, 16-20.

11 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	2600 BC to 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	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'
HHER	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	AD 1066 to 1540
modern	AD 1901 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	4000 BC to 2200 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	AD 1540 to 1901
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	AD 43 to AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 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).

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2025

Distribution list:

Kingsford Homes Limited
Peri Horsley, Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning
Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record

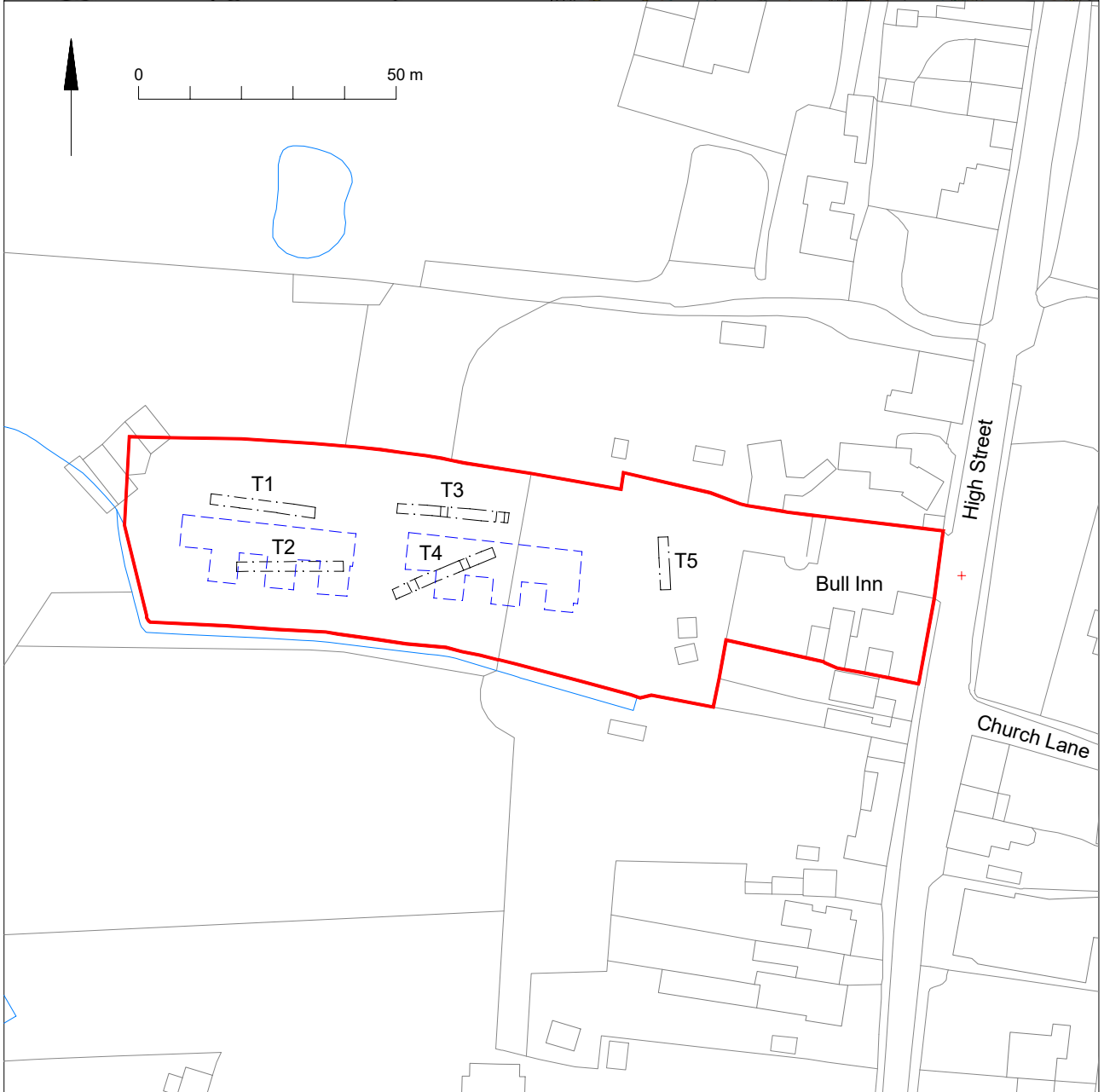
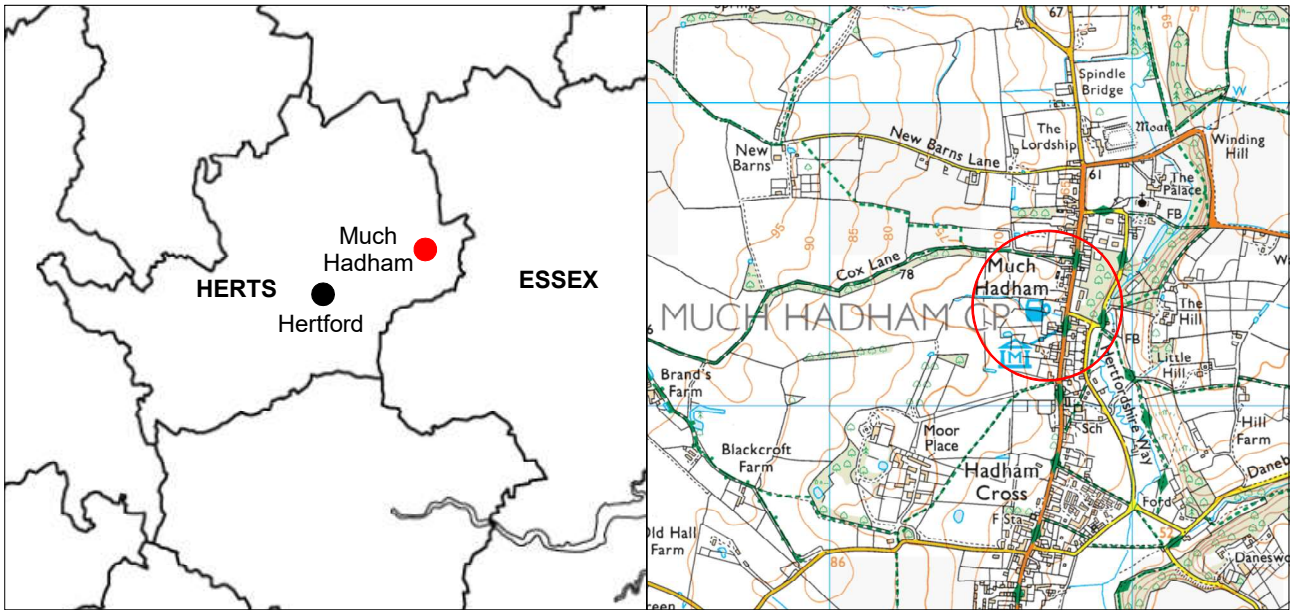


Fig 1 Site location (proposed development dashed blue).



Fig 2 Results (proposed development dashed blue).

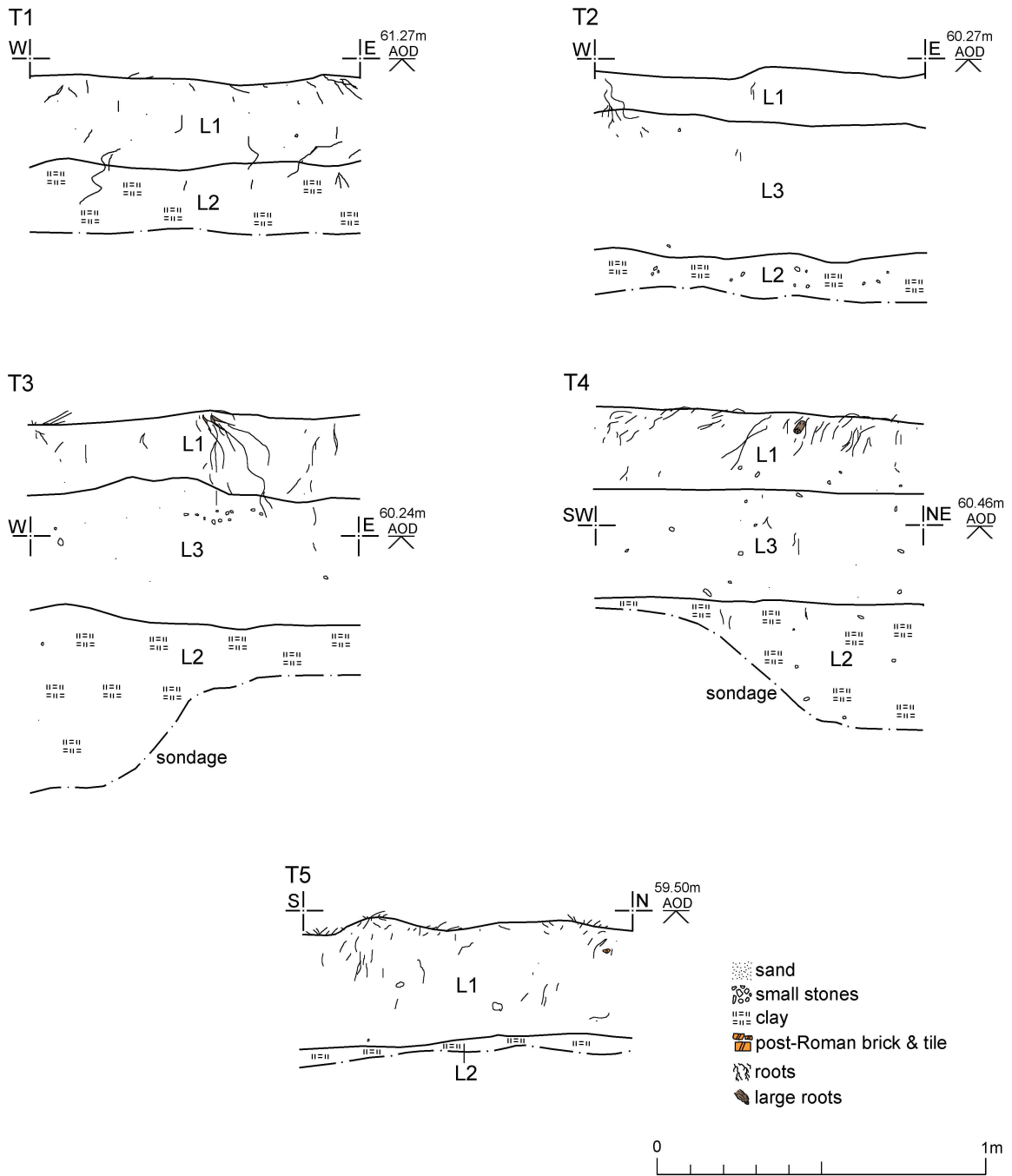


Fig 3 Representative sections.

APPENDIX

HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, SG10 6BU		
County: Hertfordshire	District: East Hertfordshire	
Village/Town: Much Hadham	Parish: Much Hadham	
Planning application reference: 3/23/0030/FUL		
HER enquiry reference: n/a (WSI and HER search completed by another company)		
Funding source: Developer		
Nature of application: Construction of new dwellings.		
Present land use: Rear gardens		
Size of application area: 0.55ha	Size of area investigated: 186m ²	
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 42710 19337 (centre)		
Site code (if applicable): CAT project code 2024/10c		
HER event number: EHT9359		
Site director/organisation: Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)		
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation		
Date of work: December 2024	Start: 5th December 2024	Finish: 6th December 2024
Location of finds & site archive/curating museum: Digital archive – Archaeology Data Service Finds archive – none retained		
Related HHER nos: 31481	Periods represented: Prehistoric, post-medieval/modern	
Relevant previous summaries/reports: n/a		
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. Despite being located within the medieval core of Much Hadham, there were no archaeological remains within the trenches. Finds recovered from topsoil and buried topsoil consisted of two chronologically undiagnostic flint flakes, a fragment of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and two sherds of 19th-20th century pottery.		
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: 08/01/2025	

OASIS Summary for colchest3-530496

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-530496
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land at The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, SG10 6BU: December 2024
Sitename	land at The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, SG10 6BU
Sitecode	2024/10c
Project Identifier(s)	2024/10c
Activity type	Evaluation, Trial Trench
Planning Id	3/23/0030/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	05-Dec-2024 - 06-Dec-2024
Location	land at The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, SG10 6BU NGR : TL 42710 19337 LL : 51.85438440236838, 0.070713116986788 12 Fig : 542710,219337
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Hertfordshire Local Authority District : East Hertfordshire Parish : Much Hadham
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the rear of The Bull Inn, High Street, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire, in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. Despite being located within the medieval core of Much Hadham, there were no archaeological remains within the trenches. Finds recovered from topsoil and buried topsoil consisted of two flint flakes, a fragment of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and two sherds of 19th- to 20th-century pottery.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation developer
HER	Hertfordshire HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	
Archives	