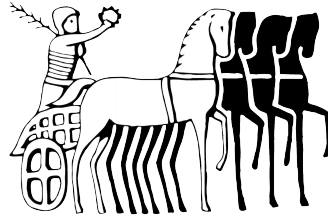


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2150
issued March 2025**

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of
The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex,
CO13 0JP: February 2025**



**CAT project ref.: 2025/01p
ECC code: EEX61325**

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of
The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex,
CO13 0JP: February 2025**

NGR: TM 21473 19331 (centre)

**Planning district: Tendring
Planning ref.: 23/00280/FUL**

**CAT Project: 2025/01p
CAT Report 2150**

**ECC code: EEX61325
OASIS id: colchest3-531555**

**report prepared by Dr Patrick Spencer
with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton**

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Josh Fierstone

commissioned by the Landowner

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Contents

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

Appendix 1	Context list	10
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Figures after p10

OASIS summary sheet

List of maps, photographs and figures

Cover: Working shot, looking north-west.

Map 1	The 1st edition six-inch OS map of 1874.	3
Map 2	Close-up of the 1st edition six-inch OS map of 1874. The development site is indicated by the blue arrow.	3
Photograph 1	The trench, looking south-east.	4
Photograph 2	Tree-throw F1, looking south-east (north arrow is incorrect).	5
Photograph 3	Ditch F2, looking south-east (north arrow is incorrect).	5
Fig 1	Site location.	
Fig 2	Results.	
Fig 3	Feature and representative sections.	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial trench) was carried out on land to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Located within the historic core of Great Holland, a village likely to have originated in the medieval or late medieval period, the evaluation revealed a post-medieval ditch and undated tree-throw. The ditch was on the same alignment as Rectory Road and may represent part of an historic boundary within the settlement.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 27th February 2025 on land to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex. Work was commissioned by the landowner and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

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 the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation and excavation to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland* (ECCPS 2024), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2025a).

In addition to the project 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/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2025b).

3 Archaeological and geological background

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

On land to the south of the village there are cropmarks recorded by aerial photography. Immediately south, cropmarks (EHER 2978 'South of Great Holland') show a number of geological features and some possible linear features and pits. To the south-south-west are cropmarks of a large ring-ditch with a trackway (EHER 3627). To the south-west cropmarks suggest a broad double-ditched trackway aligned almost north-south with possible penannular ditches, some formed out of pits in circular formation, with other pits scattered across the field (EHER 2975). A Bronze Age socketed axehead was recorded to the south of these cropmarks (EHER 51089). A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pot sherd was recovered to the north (EHER 51130) along with Late Iron Age, Roman and undated coins (EHER 52978 & 56387).

The proposed development lies within the core of the historic settlement of Great Holland. The church retains elements of a 15th-/16th-century tower, and the village is likely to have originated in the medieval or late medieval period. Historic maps reveal that the settlement was concentrated in two locations around the Church and around the junction with Church Lane, Rectory Road and Manor Road.

The site lies within the grounds of a house which is depicted on the 1st edition maps (and therefore predates c 1870) (Maps 1-2). It is also adjacent to an early 18th-century row of houses which are listed buildings. Historic mapping suggests there was a small building set forward along this stretch of road within a parcel of open land. Remains of this building may be preserved below ground within the development area, although map evidence would suggest that the building was probably located immediately north-west of the site boundary. There is also potential for evidence relating to earlier settlement within the area of the proposed house.

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be Thames Group, an Eocene lithostratigraphic group comprised mainly of silty clays and clays, some sandy or gravelly, with some intercalated silts, sands, gravels and calcareous mudstones. No superficial deposits are present, although Middle to Late Pleistocene drift deposits of Kesgrave Catchment Subgroup sand and gravel are exposed directly west of the site.

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



Map 1 The 1st edition six-inch OS map of 1874.



Map 2 Close-up of the 1st edition six-inch OS map of 1874. The development site is indicated by the blue arrow.

4 Aims

The aims of the 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. Specific project aims were to look for evidence related to the former historic building identified on historic mapping and for evidence relating to medieval settlement activity.

5 Results (Appendix 1; Figs 2-3)

A single trial trench (15m long and 1.8m wide) was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.3m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.3-0.35m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.55-0.60m below current ground level).



Photograph 1 The trench, looking south-east.



Photograph 2 Tree-throw F1, looking south-east (north arrow is incorrect).



Photograph 3 Ditch F2, looking south-east (north arrow is incorrect).

Feature F1 was sub-round, c 0.6m in diameter, and was 0.11m deep, with slightly irregular concave and shallow sides. No finds were recovered. Prominent rooting and the loose consistency of the fill suggests that the feature is a tree-throw from the removal of a shrub or small tree.

Ditch F2 extended along the entire length of the trench on a south-east/north-west alignment. It was over 0.5m wide and c 0.11m deep. A pot sherd was recovered from the ditch along with pieces of peg-tile and brick suggesting a post-medieval date for the backfill of the ditch.

A full context list with soil descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Ditch F2 produced one sherd (5g) of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) (Cotter 2000), two fragments (308g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and a small (79g) undiagnostic brick fragment. None of this material was retained.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex revealed a post-medieval ditch and an undated tree-throw. Interestingly, the ditch shares the same north-west/south-east alignment as Rectory Road and may represent an earlier boundary within this part of the historic settlement. There was no trace of the small building seen on early OS maps which was set forward along the stretch of road within a parcel of open land (see Maps 1-2), suggesting that it was probably located immediately north-west of the site boundary. It is however possible that the ditch is associated with this building.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway and J Fierstone. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and C Hill. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

9 References

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

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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
Early Iron Age	period from 800 BC to 300 BC

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'
Late Bronze Age	period from 1200 BC to 700 BC
Late Iron Age	period from 100 BC to AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1540
modern	period from AD 1901 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1540 to c 1901
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: Discarded

Digital record:

CAT Report 2150

ECC Brief, CAT WSI

Digital photographs

Site data (including scans of original sections)

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeology Data Service.

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Distribution list:

The 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	Firm, moist, dark grey-brown silty clay, with evident rooting traces, 0.3m thick. Inclusions included pieces of modern iron, plastic and brick.	Modern
L2		Subsoil	Firm, moist, medium grey silty clay, representing an accumulated deposit. Some minor traces of rooting, with occasional coal(?), chalk and CBM flecks. 0.3-0.35m in thickness.	Post-medieval/ modern
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow silty clay with some gravel lenses.	Post-glacial
F1	-	Tree-throw	Soft, wet, dark-brown silty clay with occasional small stones.	Undated
F2	1	Ditch	Soft, wet, light, grey-brown clay, containing charcoal flecks. Stones absent.	Post-medieval

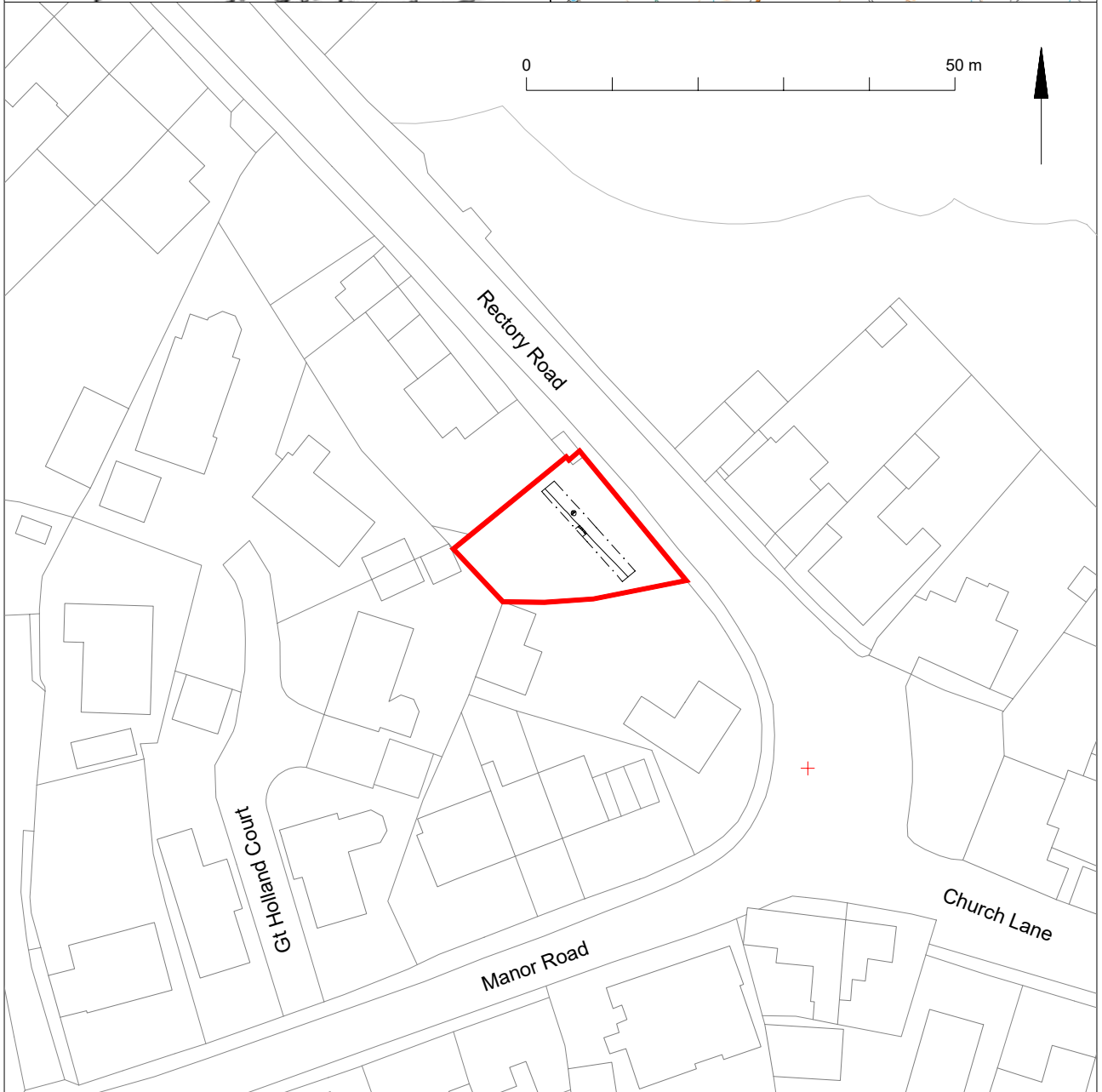
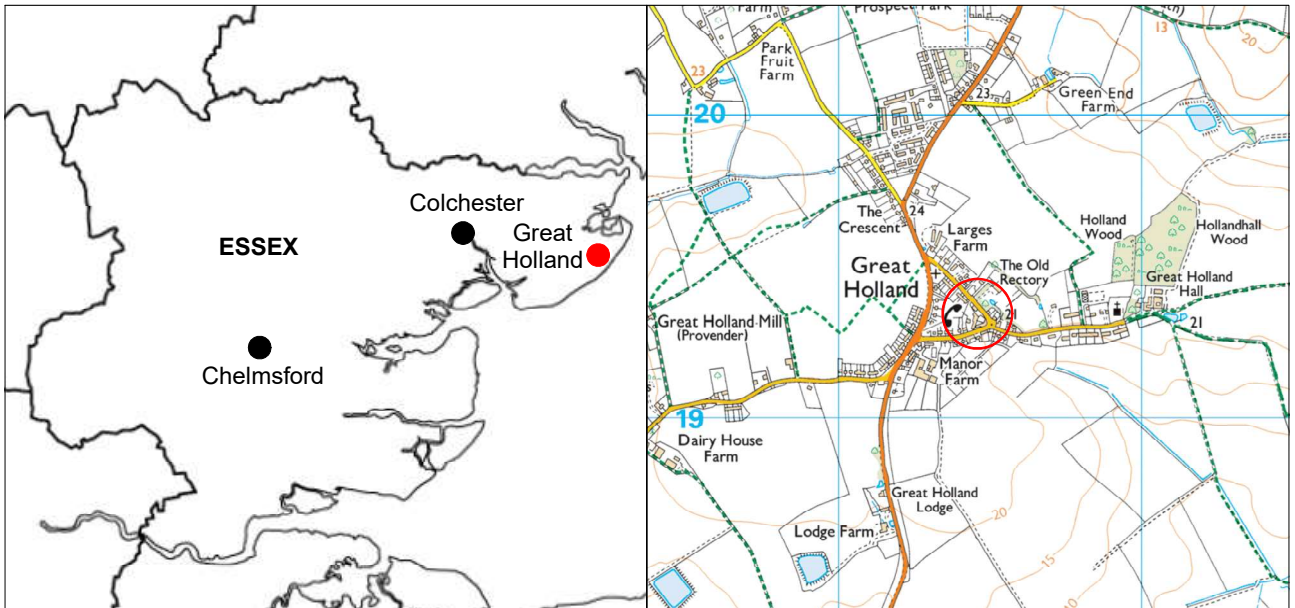
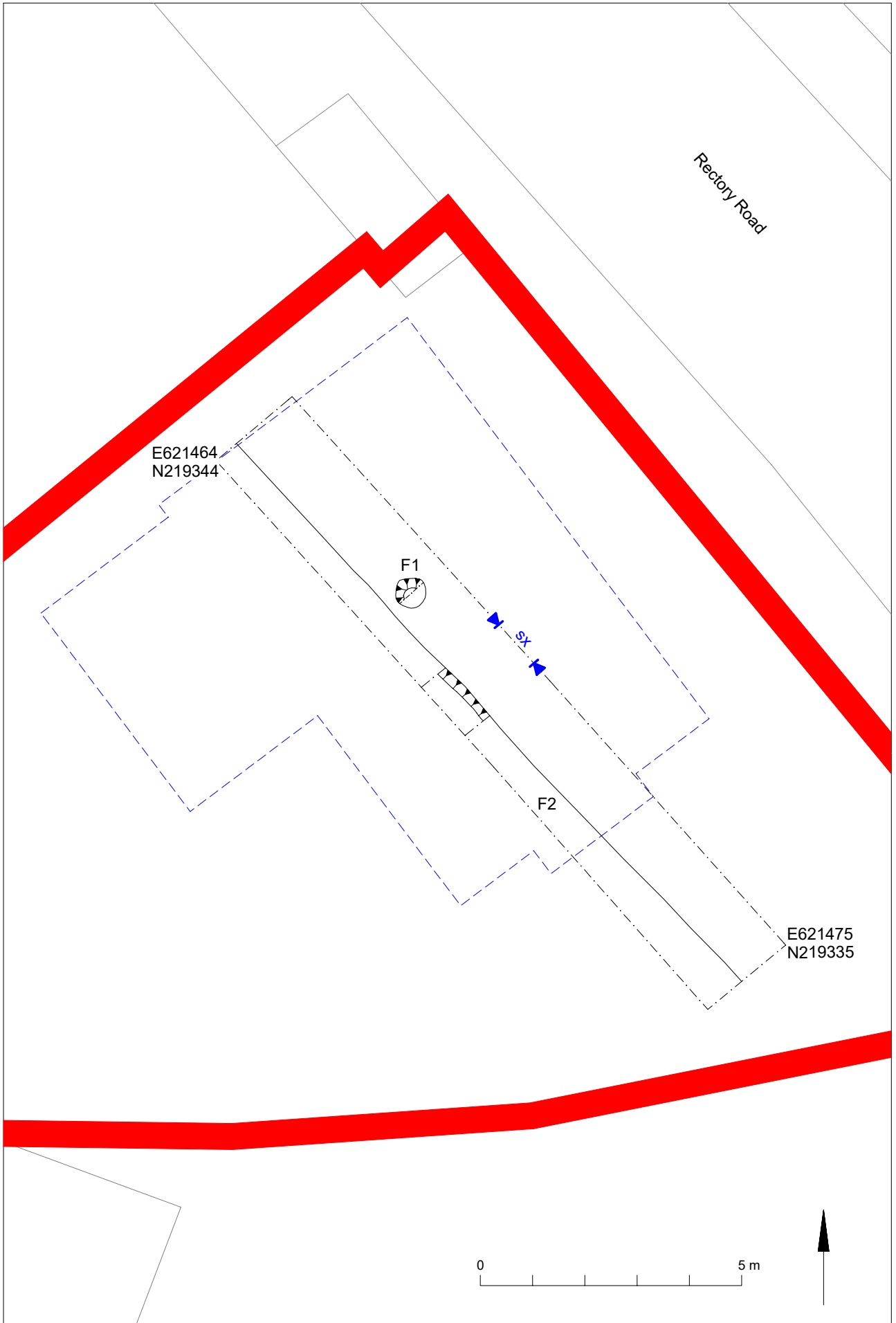


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Results. Proposed development dashed blue.

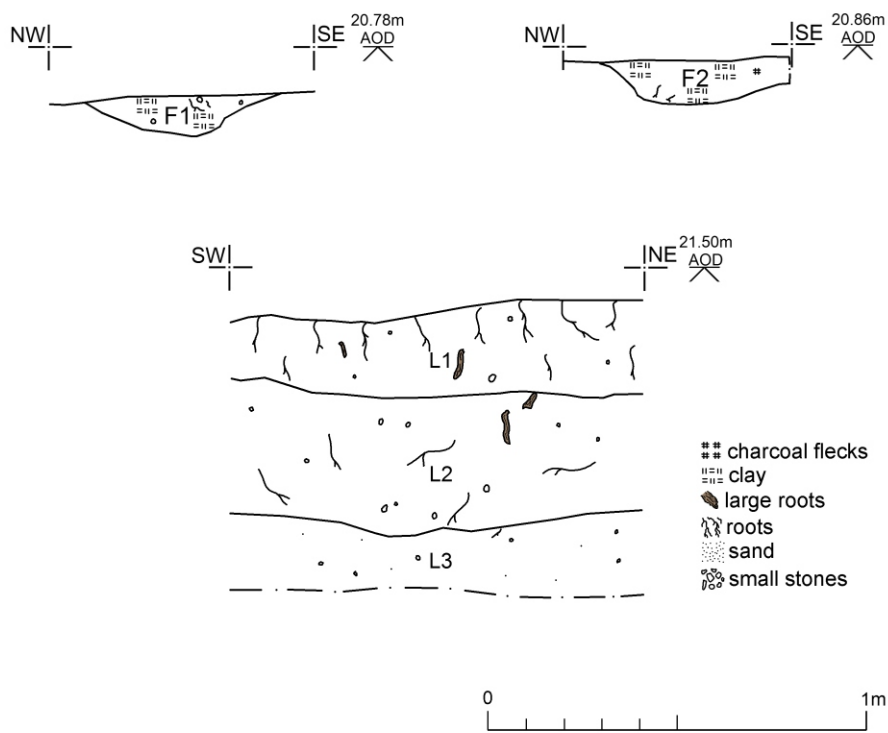


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-531555

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-531555
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at land to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex, CO13 0JP: February 2025
Sitename	land to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex, CO13 0JP
Sitecode	EEX61325
Project Identifier(s)	2025/01p
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	22/01421/FUL , 23/00280/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	27-Feb-2025 - 27-Feb-2025
Location	land to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex, CO13 0JP NGR : TM 21473 19331 LL : 51.82866800060983, 1.212735461035056 12 Fig : 621473,219331
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Tendring Parish : Frinton and Walton
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial trench) was carried out on land to the rear of The Old Bakehouse, Rectory Road, Great Holland, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. Located within the historic core of Great Holland, a village likely to have originated in the medieval or late medieval period, the evaluation revealed a post-medieval ditch and undated tree-throw. The ditch was on the same alignment as Rectory Road and may represent part of a historic boundary within the settlement.
Keywords	Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Tree Throw - UNCERTAIN - 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 - EEX61325
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;