

**Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at  
Sancta Maria Centre, Daiglan Drive,  
South Ockendon, RM15 5SZ**

**October 2015**



**by Laura Pooley**  
**illustrations by Chris Lister and Emma Holloway**

**on behalf of Dr Bellworthy,**  
**commissioned by Ray Bromage (agent)**

Planning reference: 15/00442/FUL  
CAT project ref.: 15/08f  
NGR: TQ 58620 81265 (centre)  
Thurrock Museum accession code: 4262  
ECC project code: THSM15  
OASIS reference: colchest3-225139



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**CAT Report 878**  
November 2015

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation undertaken in advance of the construction of nine new properties including road access and parking revealed no significant archaeological features or finds.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological trenched evaluation at the Sancta Maria Centre, Daiglan Drive, South Ockendon which was carried out on the 26th October 2015. The work was commissioned by Ray Bromage, the agent for Dr Bellworthy, in advance of the construction of nine new properties including road access and parking, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Historic England and Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trench and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development site lies within an area of known archaeological deposits. To the immediate south-east of the site aerial photography revealed a sequence of linear features, a possible enclosure and other discrete features (EHER 5106). Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation in 1998 in this area further identified medieval finds from the enclosure and field boundary features. Visible cropmarks in the school playing field to the east of the site are likely to form a continuation of this sequence.

## 4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Six trenches were excavated across the development site. Two layers were identified: modern topsoil, 340-680mm thick (L1), which sealed natural clay (L2).

### **Trench 1, 20m long by 1.8m wide**

Two undated pits, F1 and F2, had been cut into natural.

### **Trench 2, 20m long by 1.8m wide**

Two natural features, F3 and F4, were identified.



**Plate 1: Trench 1**



**Plate 2: Trench 2**

**Trench 3, 21m long by 1.8m wide**

One modern ditch, F5, had been cut into natural. It contained coal and brick fragments.

**Trench 4, 10m long by 1.8m wide**

No features or finds were identified.



**Plate 3: Trench 3**



**Plate 4: Trench 4**

**Trench 5, 20m long by 1.8m wide**

A small shallow post-medieval gully, F6, had been cut into natural. It contained brick fragments.

**Trench 6, 15m long by 1.8m wide**

A modern service was located at the north end of the trench.



Plate 5: Trench 5



Plate 6: Trench 6

## 5 Finds

By Steve Benfield

Trench 3, F5 (1), small piece of ceramic building material (brick or tile) in a fine orange-red fabric, slightly abraded (weight 10g). The fabric suggests a modern (late 18th-20th century) date. Not retained.

## 6 Discussion

Despite the site being in an area of archaeological importance, there were no archaeological discoveries here.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Dr Bellworthy for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed B Holloway and fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, E Sanford and R Mathieson. Site plans were prepared by C Lister. The project was monitored for ECC by Richard Havis.

## 8 References

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

CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and possible excavation at Sancta Maria Centre, Daiglan Drive, South Ockendon</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for an archaeological trial trench and excavation at Sancta</i>

English Heritage 2006 *Maria Centre, Daiglan Drive, South Ockendon.  
Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*  
(English Heritage)

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	brick/tile (ceramic building material)
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	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 of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD1800
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 10 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 878)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and 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 Thurrock Museum under accession code: 4262.

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Dr Bellworthy  
Ray Bromage  
Richard Havis, Essex County Council  
EHER



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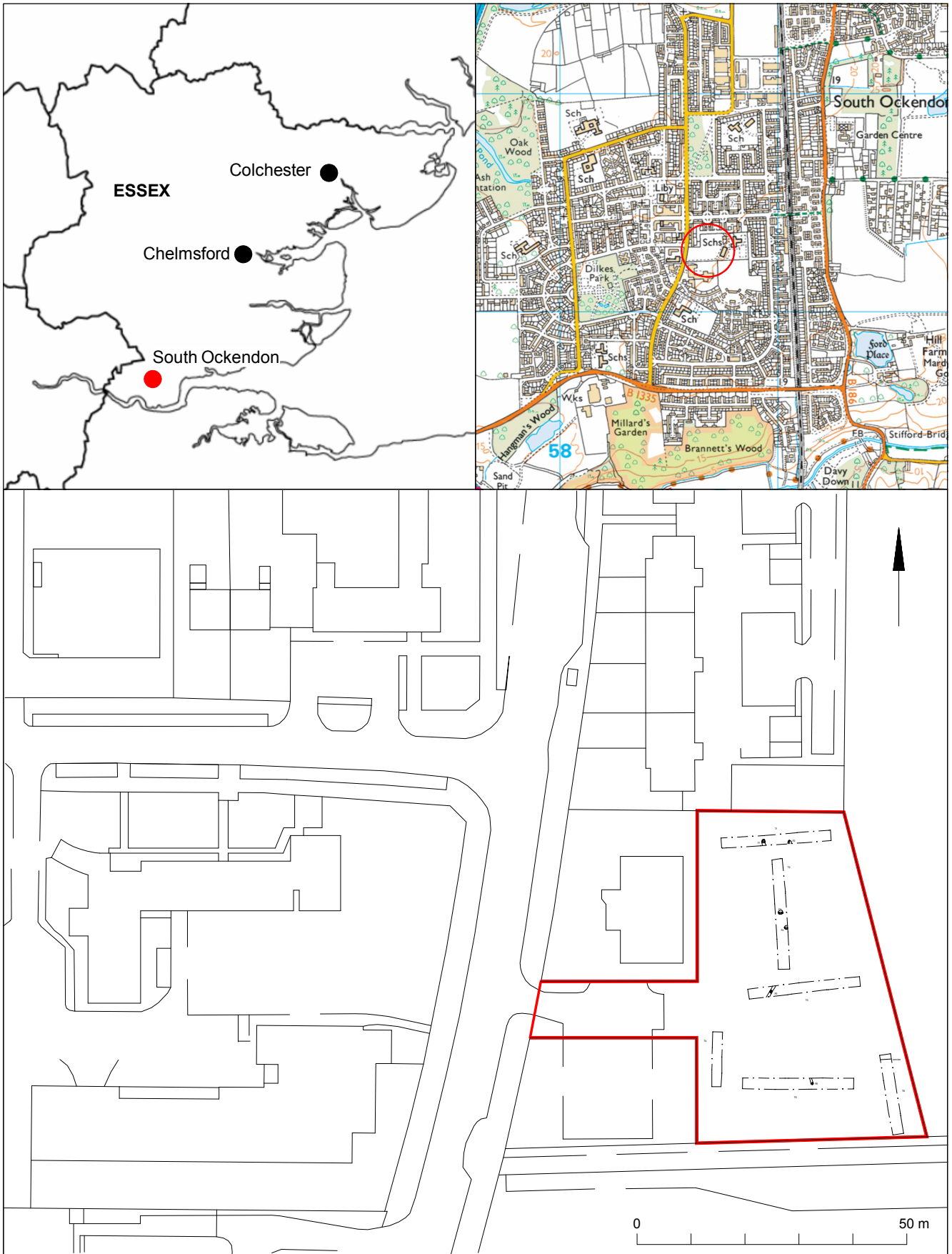
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Fig 1 Site location.



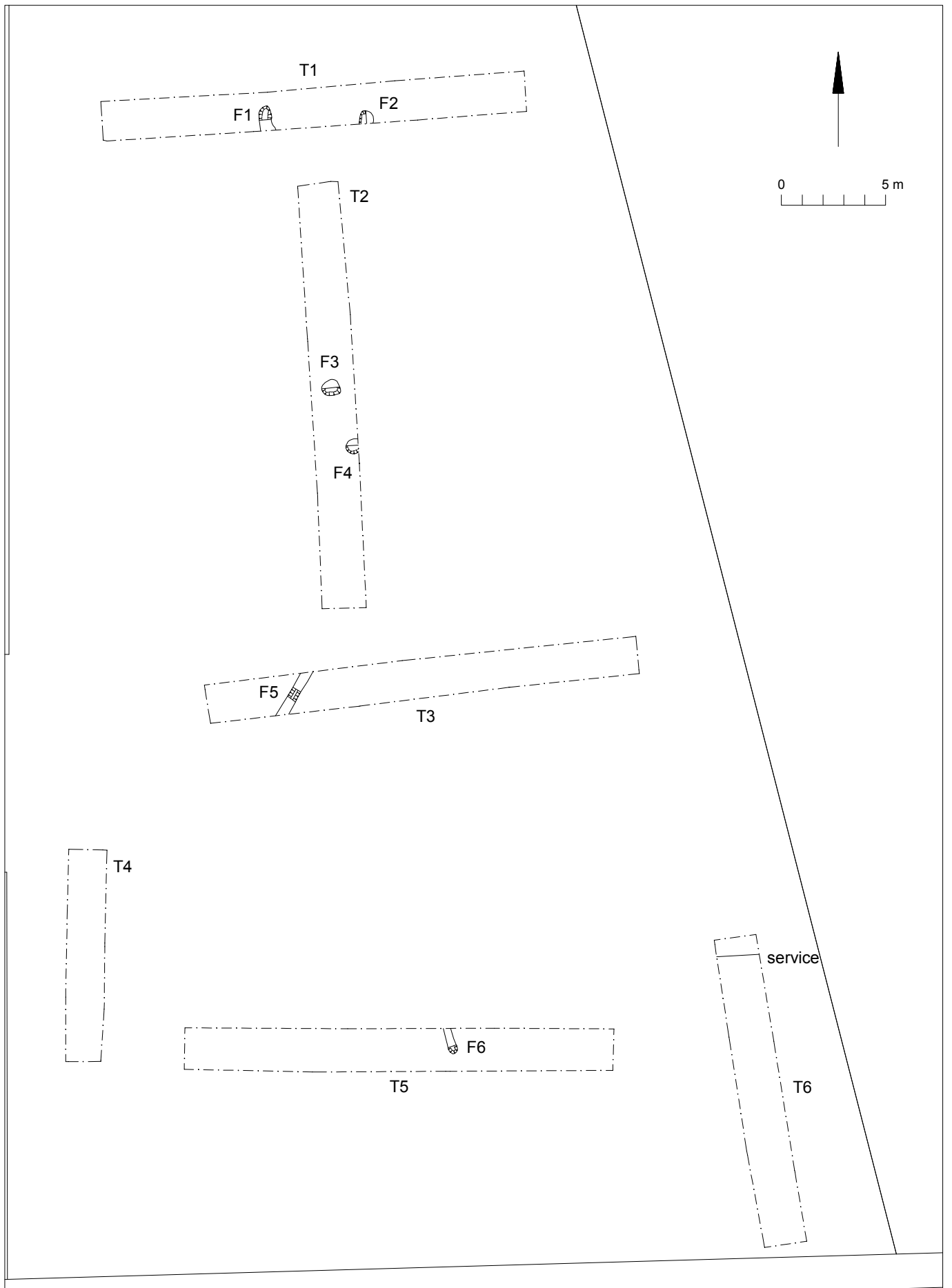


Fig 2 Results.

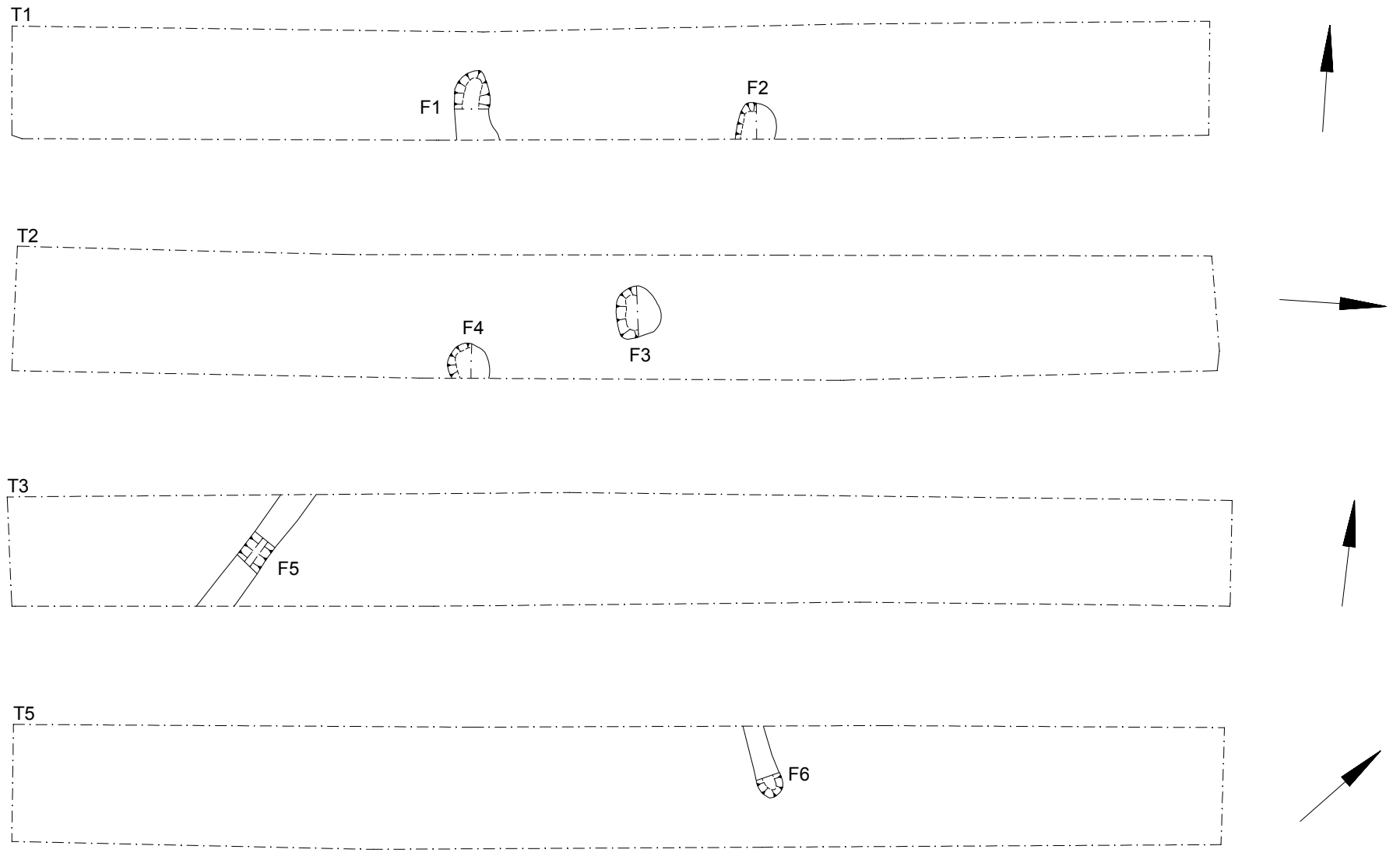


Fig 3 Trench results.



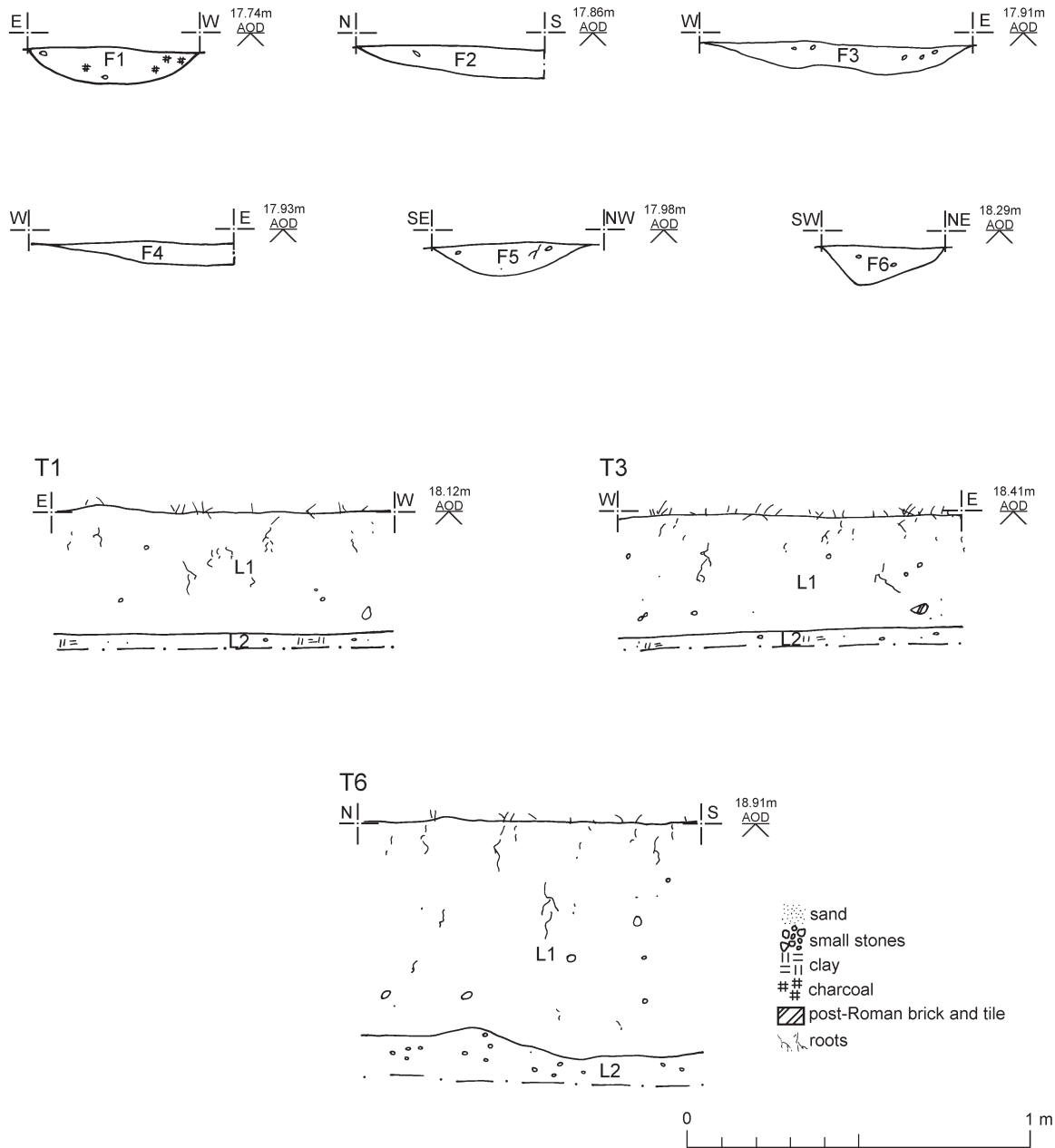


Fig 4 Feature sections (F1-6) and representative trench sections (T1, T3 and T6).

**Essex Historic Environment Record/  
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Sancta Maria Centre, Daiglan Drive, South Ockendon, Essex RM15 5SZ	
<b>Parish:</b> Thurrock	<b>District:</b> South Ockendon
<b>NGR:</b> TQ 58620 81265	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 15/08f ECC project code: THSM15 OASIS ref: colchest3-225139
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 26th October 2015	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> <i>6 trenches totalling 106m by 1.8m (190.8m<sup>2</sup>)</i>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Thurrock museum accession code: 4262	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related UAD/SMR number:</b> EHER 5106
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 878	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Post-Medieval, Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>An archaeological trial-trenching evaluation undertaken in advance of the construction of nine new properties including road access and parking revealed no significant archaeological features or finds.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Richard Havis	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> November 2015