

Archaeological evaluation at Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2RG

April 2016



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on behalf of **Colin Kelly, C&K Developments Ltd**

NGR: TL 8072 3474 (centre)
Planning reference: 15/00914/FUL
CAT project ref.: 16/03f
ECC Project code: GMCS16
Oasis project ID: colchest3-245932
Braintree Museum accession code: [requested](#)



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CAT Report 939
April 2016

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of three new dwellings at Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex. The development site is located close to St Giles' Church and in an area where Romano-British cremations and medieval occupation have been identified. No significant archaeological horizons were identified during the evaluation with only an undated linear and modern post-hole recorded. Natural was only identified in one of the trenches with the other two excavated to a safe working depth of 1.2m below current ground level.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trail-trenching at Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex which was carried out on 4th April 2016. The work was commissioned by Colin Kelly of C&K Developments Ltd in advance of the construction of three new dwellings with garages and associated infrastructure, and undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the 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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The EHER shows that an archaeological evaluation on the site of St Giles' School to the east recovered a small worked flint core of Neolithic/Bronze Age date (EHER 17288), Saxon pottery (EHER 17289) and several post-medieval metal surfaces probably associated with the school which was built in 1863 (EHER 17290) and is grade II listed building (NHLE no. 1233869).

Further to the southeast developments around the site of The Vicarage and St Giles' Church revealed Mesolithic flints (EHER 9330), a number of Romano-British cremation urns (EHER 9331), medieval occupation evidence (EHER 9332, 9335) including ditches, pits and postholes, and 19th century cess pits (EHER 9334). St Giles' Church is a grade I listed building (NHLE no. 1337989) dating from the 19th century.

Immediately to the southwest of the development are 19th century clay pits for nearby brick kilns (EHER 15349). Within this area metal detector finds include an Iron Age coin of Cunobelin c 1-43 AD (EHER 51923), a farthing of Charles I (EHER 55090) and a post-medieval buckle (EHER 55091).

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. They each measured 15m long by 1.8m wide (81m²).

Trench 1 (T1)

Three layers were identified in T1. Modern topsoil (L1, c 290-320mm thick) sealed an accumulated subsoil (L2, c 440-480mm thick) which in turn sealed natural silty-clay (L3). A single undated linear feature (F1) was identified and recorded. It was possibly a ditch aligned east-west.

Trench 2 (T2)

Four layers were identified in T2. Modern topsoil (L1, c 270mm thick) sealed a layer of modern build-up (L4, c 220-240mm thick). Beneath L4 was a layer of buried topsoil (L5, c 280-300mm) sealing subsoil L2. The trench was dug to a safe working depth of 1.2m below current ground level. A single modern post-hole (F2) was identified and recorded. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 1 T1, looking S



Photograph 2 T2, looking NW

Trench 3 (T3)

A modern service was identified across most of T3. A small sondage was excavated at the southeast end of the trench to avoid the service. Four layers were identified. Modern topsoil (L1, c 270mm thick) sealed a layer of modern build-up (L4, c 220-240mm thick). Beneath L4 was a layer of buried topsoil (L5, c 280-300mm) sealing subsoil L2. The sondage was dug to a safe working depth of 1.2m below current ground level. No significant archaeological horizons were identified.



Photograph 3 T3, looking NW

5 Finds

No archaeological finds were identified during the evaluation.

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological importance no significant archaeological horizons were identified during the evaluation. A single undated linear, possibly part of an east-west orientated ditch, was recorded cut into natural within T1. Trenches T2-T3 were excavated to a safe working depth of 1.2m below current ground level and did not reach natural.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Colin Kelly of C&K Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, N Rayner and A Wade. Figures are by M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

8 References

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

CAT	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2RG</i>
CifA	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CifA	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14. Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott

English
Heritage

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment
(English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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 of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
Section	(abbreviation sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
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 939)

CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

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

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register

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 Braintree Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

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Distribution list:

Colin Kelly, C&K Developments Ltd

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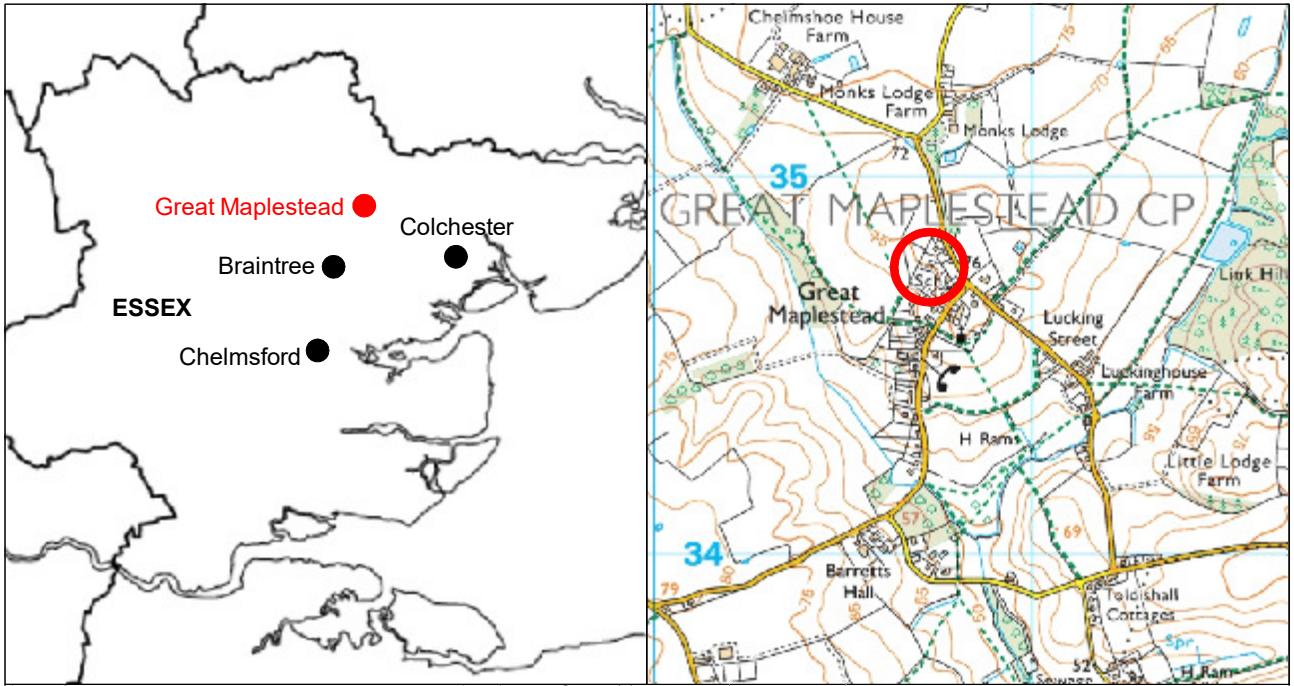
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Date: 20.04.2016



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Fig 1 Site location.



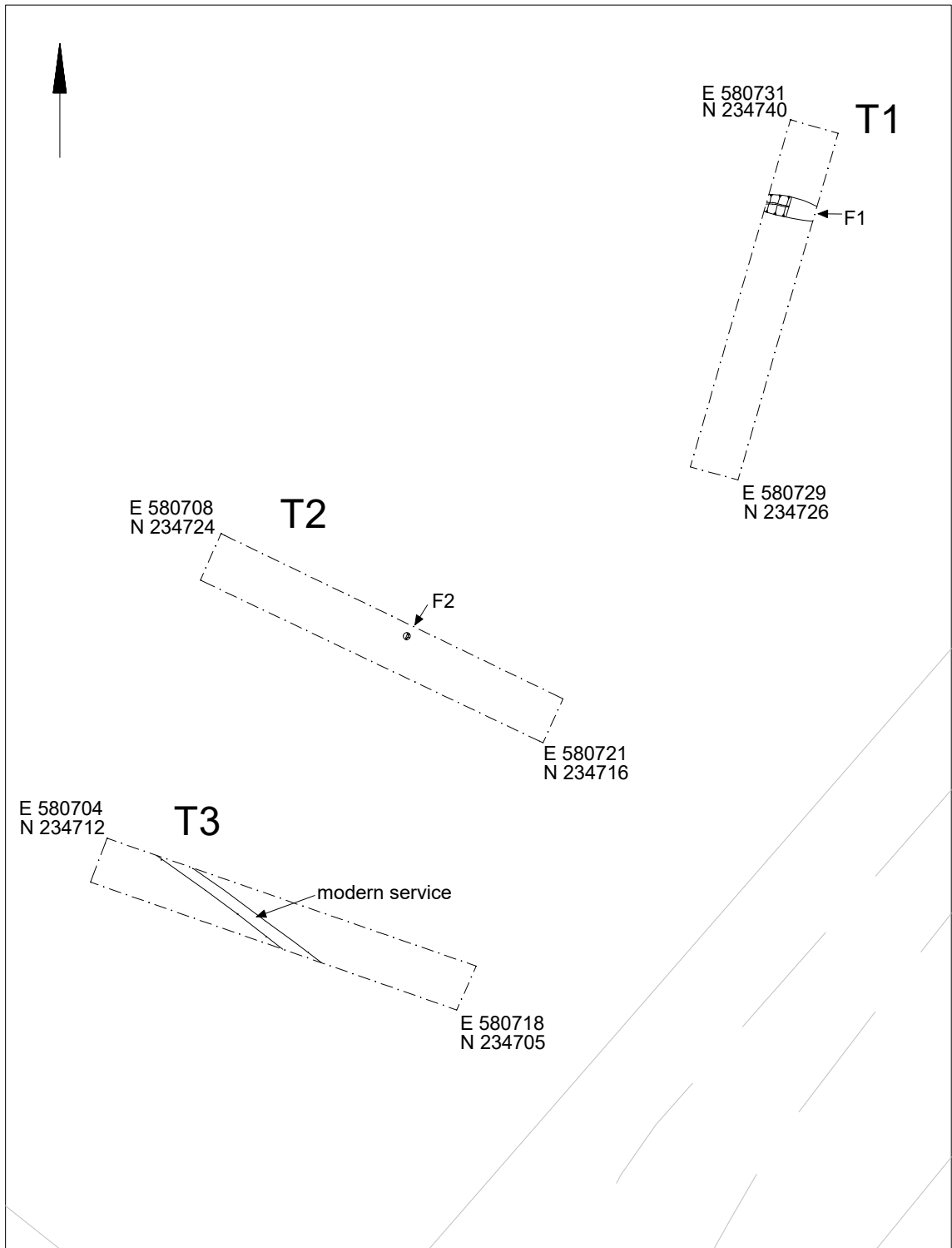


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

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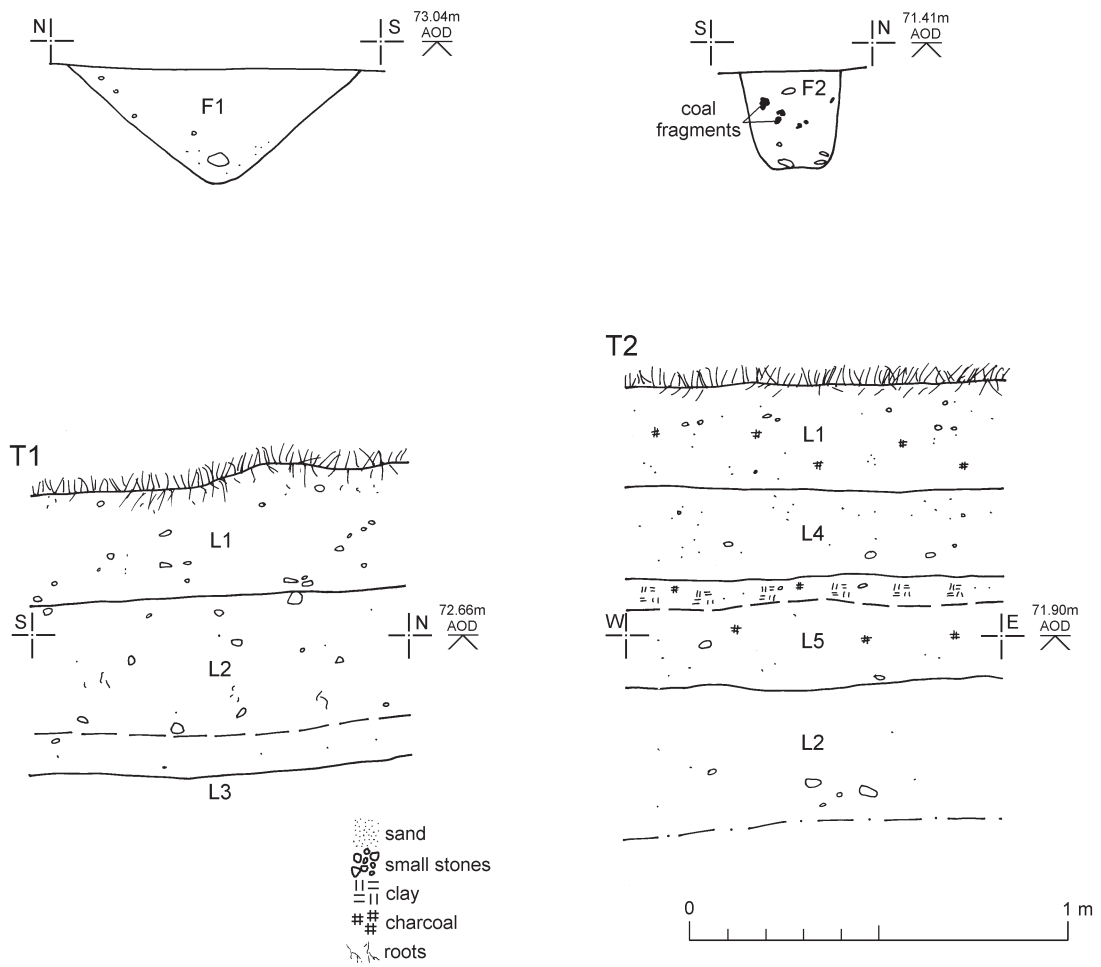


Fig 3 Feature sections (F1-2) and representative trench sections (T1-2).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2RG	
Parish: Great Maplestead	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 8072 3474 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 16/03f ECC project code: GMCS16 OASIS ref: colchest3-245932
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 4th April 2016	Size of area investigated: Three trenches each 15m long by 1.8m wide (81m ²)
Location of curating museum: Braintree museum accession code: requested	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? not known	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 9330-2, 9334-5, 15349, 17288-90, 51923, 55090-1
Final report: CAT Report 939	
Periods represented: Modern	
SS	Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out in advance of the construction of three new dwellings at Church Street, Great Maplestead, Halstead, Essex. The development site is located close to St Giles' Church and in an area where Romano-British cremations and medieval occupation have been identified. No significant archaeological horizons were identified during the evaluation with only an undated linear and modern post-hole recorded. Natural was only identified in one of the trenches with the other two excavated to a safe working depth of 1.2m below current ground level.
	Previous summaries/reports: None
ECC monitor: Teresa O'Connor	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2016