

# Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 60 Maldon Road, Goldhanger, Essex, CM9 8BG

May 2017



**by Dr Elliott Hicks**

with contributions by Stephen Benfield and Lisa Gray  
figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Adam Tuffey and Gareth Morgan

**commissioned by Steve Wheelhouse  
on behalf of Jenny Moody Properties Ltd**

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**CAT Report 1104**

June 2017

environmental report added August 2017

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at land to the rear of 60 Maldon Road, Goldhanger, Essex in advance of the change of use of land and proposed development of four 5-bedroom detached dwellings, with detached/attached garages, together with access drive from adjoining development. A number of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age archaeological features were found in the north east of the site. This echoed findings of prehistoric activity at this part of the site by a previous archaeological excavation by Archaeology South-East. By contrast, there was no confirmation of speculation that medieval land enclosures extended into this site.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching land to the rear of 60 Maldon Road, Goldhanger, Essex which was carried out on 2nd and 3rd May 2017. The work was commissioned by Steve Wheelhouse on behalf of Jenny Moody Properties Ltd in advance of the change of use of land and proposed development of four 5-bedroom detached dwellings, with detached/attached garages, together with access drive from an adjoining development, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott 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 *Brief for archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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* (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 draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the proposed development site lies in an area of archaeological importance on the northern edge of the medieval and post-medieval historic settlement of Goldhanger. Archaeological excavation has recently been undertaken on the land immediately to the northwest of the development site at the junction of Maldon Road and Church Street (Benham Close) (Archaeology South-East 2015; EHER 48755). These excavations revealed limited prehistoric and Late Iron Age/ Roman evidence suggestive of sparse activity at the time. The main period of occupation was the medieval period. A series of small enclosures adjacent to the road suggest that the medieval settlement extends into the proposed development site. Evidence of activity at this site during the post-medieval period comprised of one roadside ditch.

Cropmarks in the immediate vicinity include linear and rectilinear features and pits (EHER 12189) to the north, linear features and a sub-rectangular enclosure with linear and curvilinear features and a possible trackway (EHER 12118) to the southeast.

Historic maps including Chapman and André (1777) and the first edition 6-inch OS map (1895) show the development site as an open field.

#### **4 Results** (figs 2-3)

Five trial-trenches were excavated across the development site. Three layers were recorded. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.25-0.4m thick, dark grey-brown silty clay) sealed accumulated subsoil (L2, c 0.05-0.1m thick, medium grey-brown clay). This layer sealed a natural layer of light yellow-brown clay (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.35-0.45m below current ground level).

##### **Trench 1 (T1): 12m long by 1.8m wide**

A prehistoric ditch was aligned SW-NE along the northern end of the trench (F8). It measured approximately 1.7m across and 0.15m deep. The terminus of a Roman linear feature (F7), possibly a gully, aligned E-W, was uncovered mid-way along the western edge of the trench. It measured 0.68m across and 0.2m deep.

##### **Trench 2 (T2): 30m long by 1.8m wide**

The trench was cut by a modern land drain at its eastern end. A prehistoric pit was located midway along the southern side of the trench (F9). This pit was slightly uneven in profile, and measured 1m across and 0.32m deep.

##### **Trench 3 (T3): 10m long by 1.8m wide**

At the northern end of the trench, a linear feature (F1), aligned E-W and possibly formed naturally, was uncovered. It measured 1.3m across and 0.3m deep. An undated pit (F2) was also discovered at the northern end of the trench measuring 0.8m across and 1.7m deep. Mid-way along the eastern side of the trench a further naturally-formed undated/post-glacial pit (F3) was uncovered. It measured 0.5m across and 0.2m deep.



**Photograph 1** T3 – looking south

##### **Trench 4 (T4): 20m long by 1.8m wide**

An undated ditch (F6), aligned NE-SW, was uncovered at the western end of the trench, measuring 10.5m across and 0.38m deep.

##### **Trench 5 (T5): 20m long by 1.8m wide**

An undated ditch (F4), aligned NE-SW, was situated at the western end of the trench, measuring 0.9m across and 0.25m deep. A second undated ditch (F5) was located

mid-way along the trench. It was aligned NE-SW, running parallel to F4, suggesting a possible association between the two features, and measured 0.9m across and 0.17m deep.



**Photograph 2** T5 – looking north west

## 5 Finds

*By Stephen Benfield*

Some pottery finds of prehistoric and Roman date were recovered from three features (F7, F8 and F9). These features are located in two trenches (T1 and T2) on the north east part of the small evaluation area. All of the finds come from the upper part of the fill of the features. The finds are catalogued and described by feature in Table 1.

Ctxt	Ctxt type	Find no	Type/description	Finds spot date
F7	Linear feature/gully	2	<b>Pottery prehistoric</b> (4 sherds, 8g) small sherds, abraded sandy fabric tempered with sparse medium to large flint. Not confidently dated within the prehistoric period but probably Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. <b>Pottery Roman</b> (2 sherds, 6g) two joining, small abraded greyware rim sherds (Fabric 47 – see Going 1987) probably from the edge of a lid (dated Roman - ?early-mid Roman)	Roman (?early-mid Roman)
F8	Linear feature/ditch	3	<b>Pottery prehistoric</b> (2 sherds, 2g) small sherds/sherd fragments, sandy fabric tempered with sparse small-medium with large flint. Not confidently dated within the prehistoric period but probably Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F9	Pit	1	<b>Pottery prehistoric</b> (3 sherds, 24g) one medium sherd, two small sherds, abraded, fabric tempered with common small-medium flint with some medium-large & large coarse flint, common-abundant in two sherds (including the	Mid-late Bronze Age

			larger sherd), relatively sparse in the third, also significant amounts of sand visible in the fabric. Not confidently dated within the prehistoric period but probably mid-late Bronze Age	
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**Table 1** Finds by context

### Prehistoric

All three of the features that produced finds contained sherds of hand-made pottery which contain added flint-temper as well as sand. Two features, the linear/ditch F8 and the pit F9, produced only prehistoric pottery sherds; although, apart from one medium size sherd from F9, the sherds are all very small. In total the nine sherds recovered weigh 34g, giving a low average sherd weight of under 4g. Given the nature of these few sherds they are difficult to date within the general currency of the use of burnt crushed flint as a significant tempering material in Essex, broadly Neolithic-Early Iron Age. Sand commonly becomes a more significant component of fabrics from the Early Iron Age but the nature of the sand in the sherds here, either as an added temper or as a naturally sandy clay, is not clear from these few small sherds and flint is the more prominent temper in all of them. As plain body sherds, commonly with oxidised surfaces, the sherds have been dated as either probably mid-late Bronze Age or possibly Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, but a Neolithic date for some at least could not be excluded. Most of the pottery is quite fragmented and in general, the size and nature of the sherds suggests they have some previous history of deposition before entering these contexts. Apart possibly from pit F9 the pottery is probably all residual in these contexts.

### Roman

A small part of the rim of a greyware pot (broken into two sherds) was recovered from the upper fill of F7. The nature of these small sherds (weight 6g) suggests they are probably from the edge of a lid with a slight bead. Lids appear to have been generally more common in the early to mid-Roman period than later, but otherwise the sherds are not closely dated within the Roman era. As small and abraded sherds they suggest a probable residual relationship with the feature and in the absence of any other Roman material possibly represent off-site manure scatter.

## 6 Environmental results

*by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist*

### Introduction – aims and objectives

Two samples were presented for assessment. They were taken from one Roman ditch and one Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch.

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

### Sampling and processing methods

Forty litres of soil was sampled and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300-micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter.

At this stage, to allow comparison between samples, numbers have also been estimated but where only a very low number of items are present they have been counted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been separated from charcoal flecks. Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charcoal flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

## Results (Table 2)

### *The plant remains*

These two samples were very unproductive producing abundant uncharred/modern root rhizome fragments and low numbers of charcoal flecks too small to identify. Sample 2 (F8 Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch) contained low numbers of indeterminate charred plant tissue.

No waterlogged or mineralised plant remains were found.

### *Fauna*

No faunal remains were found in either sample.

### *Inorganic remains*

No inorganic artefactual remains were found in either sample.

Sample	Finds No.	Sample description	Bulk sample volume (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Indeterminate Plant Tissue			Charcoal <4mmØ	Modern root/rhizomes
					a	d	p	a	d
1	4	F7, Roman ditch	20	5	-	-	-	1	5
2	5	F8, Bronze Age/Early Iron Age ditch	20	10	1	1	1	1	5

**Table 2** Environmental results

Key: a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; 3 = abundant >100]  
 d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high]  
 p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

## Discussion

### *Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination*

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples. On microscopic examination it was clear that bioturbation was likely due to the presence of abundant root/rhizome fragments.

### **Quality and type of preservation**

Only charcoal flecks too small to identify and indeterminate plant tissue fragments were present as charred plant remains.

### **Significance of the samples and recommendations for further work**

Due to the lack of charred plant remains other than a low number of charcoal flecks and indeterminate plant tissue and the likelihood of bioturbation present in the form of abundant uncharred rot/rhizome fragments no further work is recommended on these samples.

## **7 Discussion**

Of the nine features uncovered during this evaluation, only three yielded any finds, making it difficult to date the features. At the north east of the site, however, sherds of prehistoric pottery were found in two ditches, leading us to speculatively date these features to the Bronze Age or Early Iron Age. Roman pottery uncovered in the upper fill of one of these ditches enabled us to ascertain that this feature was still extant during the period of Roman occupation. In addition, pottery sherds found in a pit, also located in the north east of the site, allowed us to date this feature to the mid to late Bronze Age. The findings of this evaluation were therefore consistent with those of a previous excavation undertaken at this site by Archaeology South-East, which also found evidence of prehistoric activity towards the north east of this site. Whilst this prior archaeological investigation of the area also suggested the possible presence of land enclosures during the medieval period, this evaluation uncovered no evidence of medieval occupation or enclosures at this site.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

CAT thanks Steve Wheelhouse and Jenny Moody Properties Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Tuffey and G Morgan. Figures are by B Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

## **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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| CAT                                       | 2017  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of the rear of 60 Maldon Road, Goldhanger, Essex, CM9 8BG</i>  |
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| ClfA                                      | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological 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>
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 60 Maldon Road, Goldhanger</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
English Heritage	2011	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods for Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation</i> . Swindon: English Heritage Publications.
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Stace, C	2010	<i>New Flora of the British Isles 3rd Edition</i> . Cambridge University Press, Cambridge

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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 sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** Less than one box  
**Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:  
The report (CAT Report 1104)  
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

## 12 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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM: 2017.57.

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### Distribution list:

Steve Wheelhouse  
Jenny Moody Properties Ltd  
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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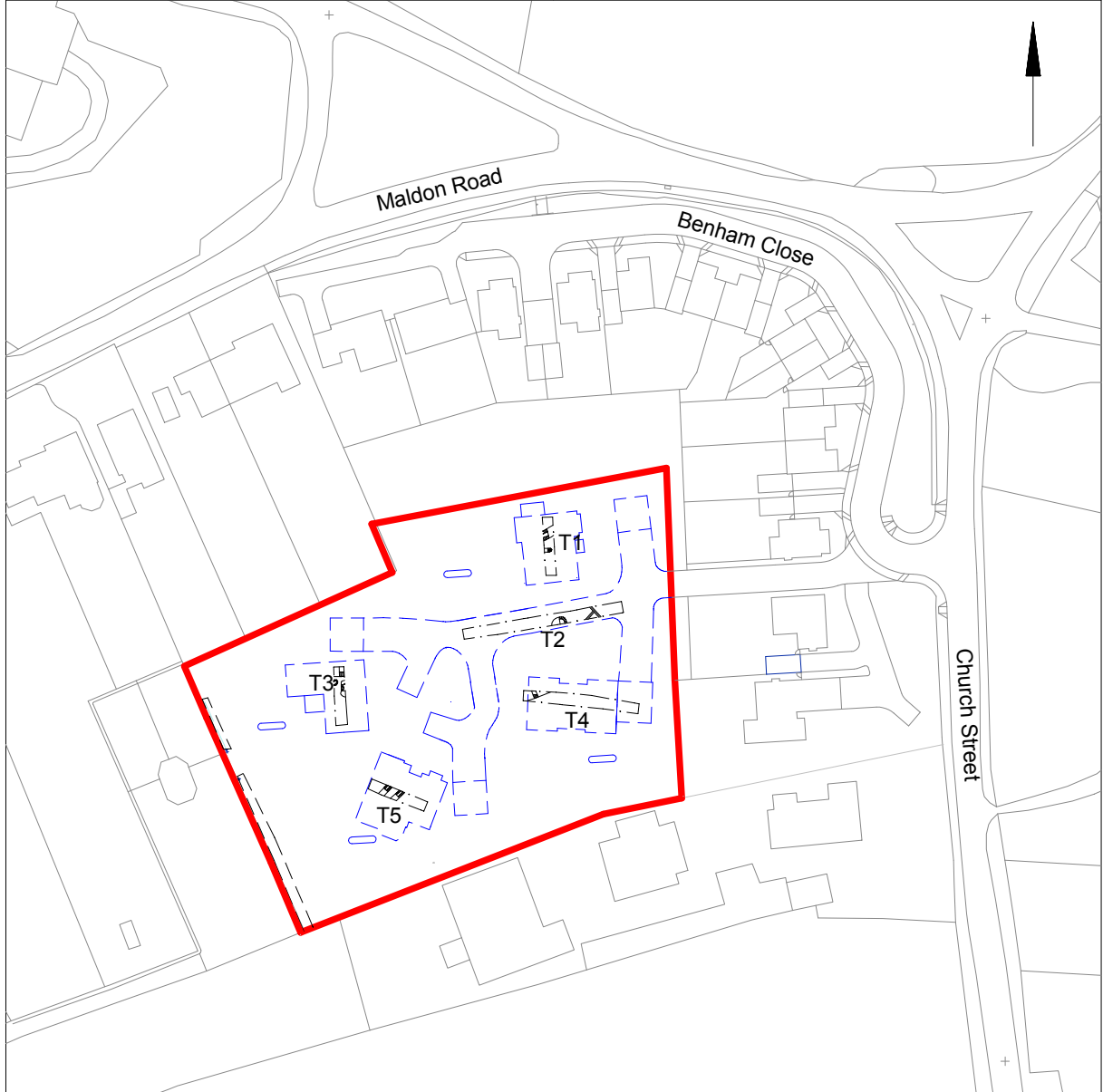
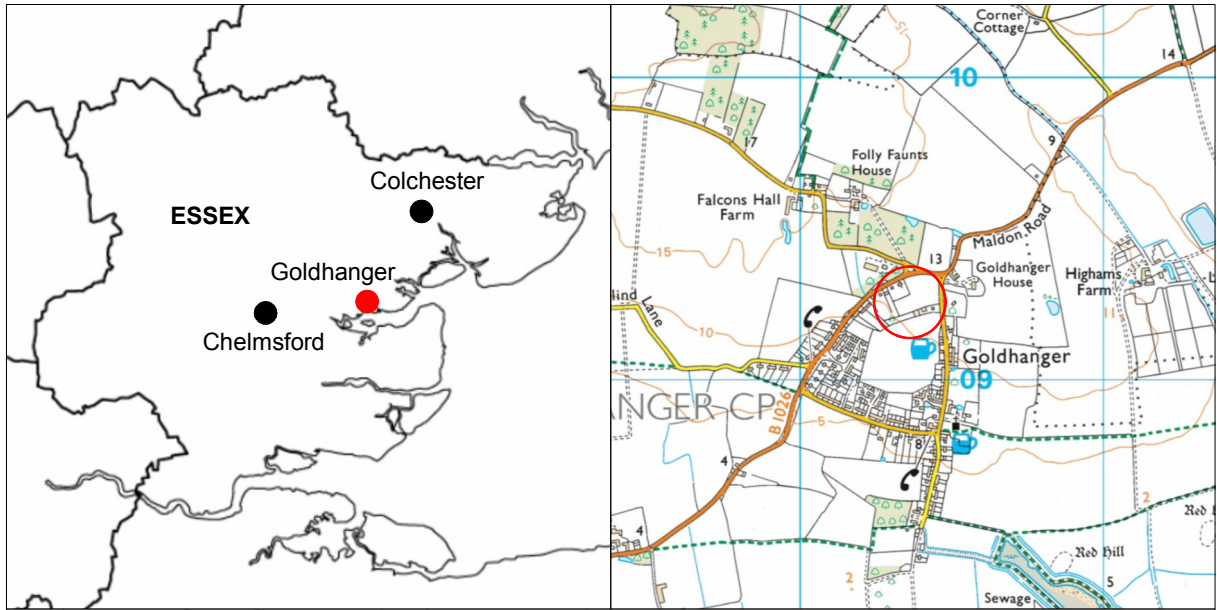
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 06.06.2017

**Appendix 1 Context list**

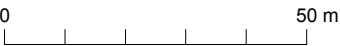
Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	-	Linear feature (ditch)	Firm, moist, medium brown silty clay	Undated
F2	-	Pit	Firm, moist, medium brown silty clay	Undated
F3	-	Pit (natural)	Firm, moist medium brown silty clay	Undated
F4	-	Linear feature (ditch)	Firm, moist, medium brown silty-clay	Undated
F5	-	Linear feature (ditch)	Firm, moist, medium brown silty-clay	Undated
F6	-	Linear feature (ditch)	Firm, moist medium brown silty-clay	Undated
F7	2, 4(s)	Linear feature (gully?)	Firm, moist, medium brown silty-clay	Roman (?early-mid Roman)
F8	3, 5(s)	Linear feature (ditch)	Firm, moist medium brown silty-clay	Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age
F9	1	Pit	Firm, moist, medium brown silty-clay	Mid-late Bronze Age
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist, dark grey-brown silty-clay	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Firm, moist, medium grey-brown clay	Undated
L3	-	Natural geological deposits	Firm, moist, medium yellow-brown clay	Post-glacial

(s) = environmental samples



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue).



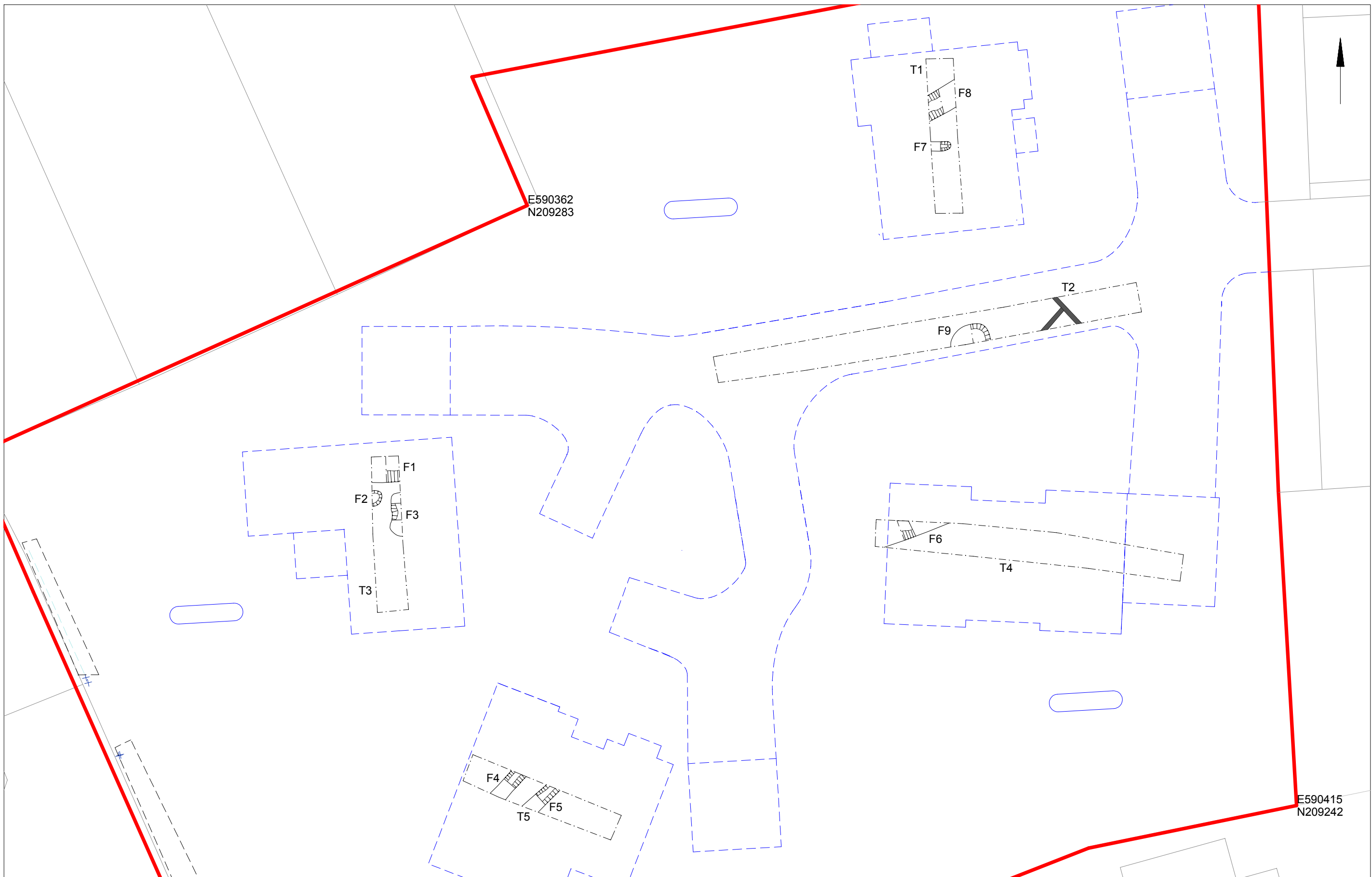
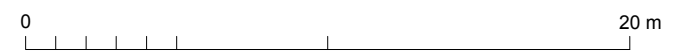


Fig 2 Results

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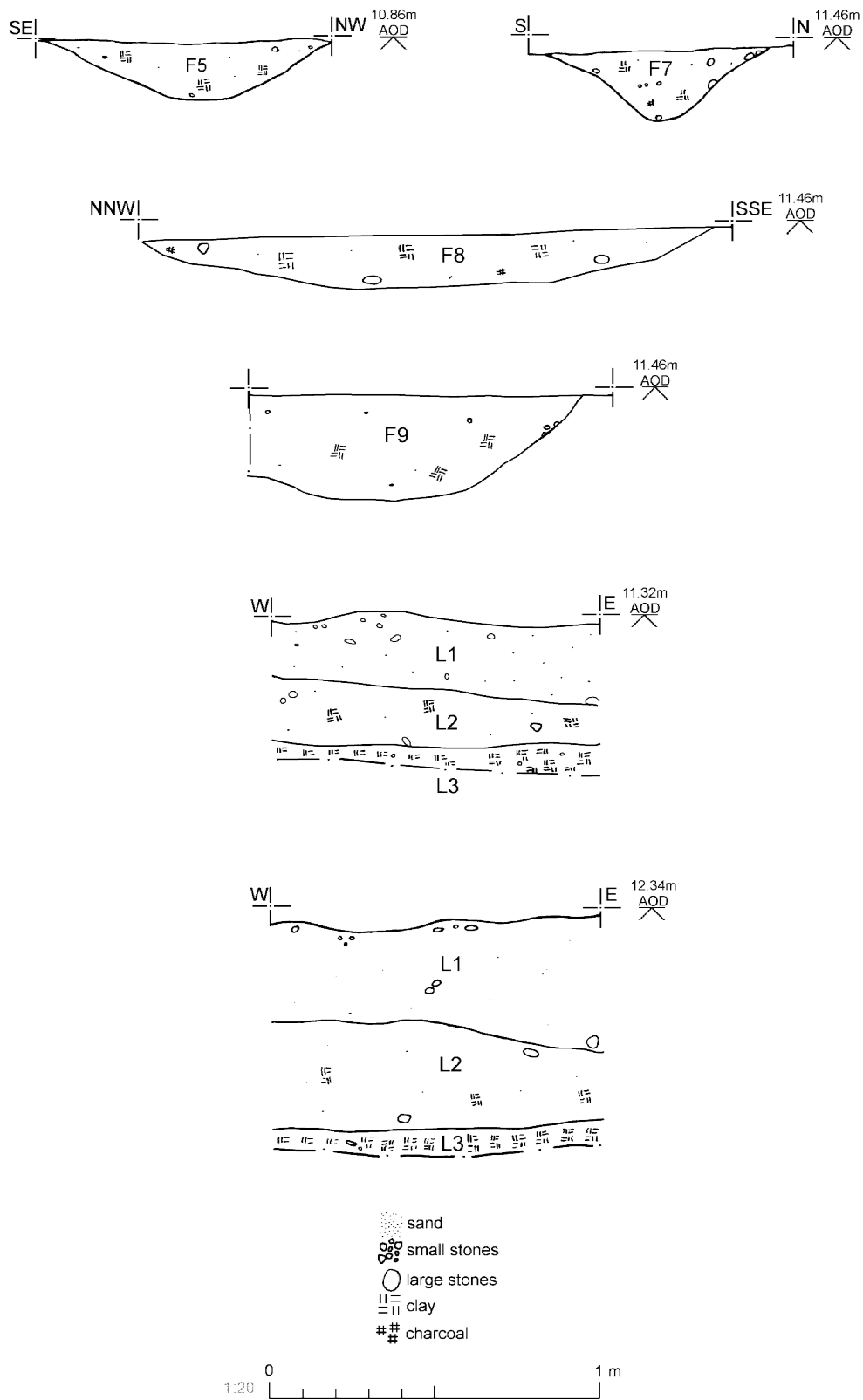
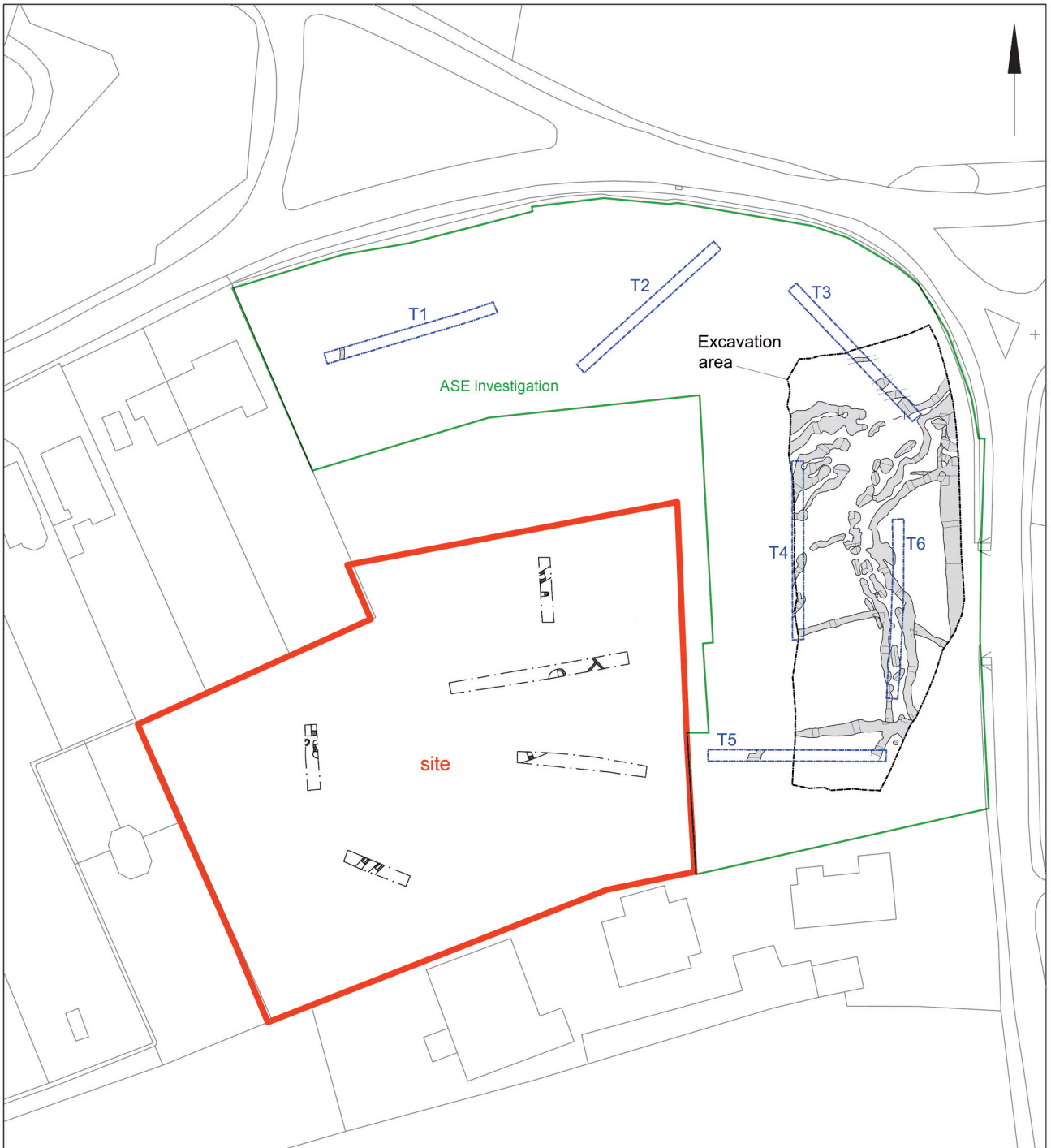


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections



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Fig 4 Evaluation trenches shown in relation to archaeological work by Archaeology South-East (2015).



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## Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land to the rear of 60 Maldon Road, Goldhanger, Essex, CM9 8BG
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at land to the rear of 60 Maldon Road, Goldhanger, Essex in advance of the change of use of land and proposed development of four 5-bedroom detached dwellings, with detached/attached garages, together with access drive from adjoining development. A number of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age archaeological features were found in the north east of the site. This echoed findings of prehistoric activity at this part of the site by a previous archaeological excavation by Archaeology South-East. By contrast, there was no confirmation of speculation that medieval land enclosures extended into this site.
Project dates	Start: 02-05-2017 End: 03-05-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/04d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00819/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.57 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	GOMR17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	PIT Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Bronze Age
Monument type	DITCH Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON GOLDHANGER land to the rear of 60 Maldon Road
Postcode	CM9 8BG
Study area	0.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 90365 09254 51.749063444353 0.758083629268 51 44 56 N 000 45 29 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 10.96m Max: 11.7m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer



## Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2017.57

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2017.57

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2017.57

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

## Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1104

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