

Archaeological evaluation and low level historic building recording at White Notley Hall, Church Hill, White Notley, Essex, CM8 1RX

July 2017



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commissioned by Andrew Stevenson

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CAT Report 1141

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Contents

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

Figures after p11

OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs, maps and figures

Cover: working shot

Photograph 1	T1 trench shot, looking northwest	3
Photograph 2	T2 trench shot, looking southwest	3
Photograph 3	Southeast elevation of outshot, showing large double doors, looking northwest	5
Photograph 4	Northeast elevation of outbuilding and outshot, looking west	6
Photograph 5	Detail of northeast elevation of outbuilding and outshot, showing window, scarring and hatch, looking west	6
Photograph 6	Detail of twelve-light window on southeast elevation of outshot, looking north	7
Photograph 7	Interior of building and outshot, looking north	7
Photograph 8	Interior of building and outshot, looking south	8
Photograph 9	Partially plastered over hatch from interior of building, looking east	8

Map 1	1874 6-inch OS map (Essex XXXIV)	2
Map 2	1895 OS map. Outbuilding highlighted in blue	9
Map 3	1919 OS map. Outbuilding highlighted in blue, outshot highlighted red	9

Fig 1	Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)	
Fig 2	Results in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)	
Fig 3	Representative sections	
Fig 4	Evaluation trenches overlaid on the 1919 6-inch OS map (with outbuilding highlighted).	
Fig 5	Outbuilding subject of Level 1 historic building recording. Original structure and later outshot highlighted.	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) and low level building recording was carried out at White Notley Hall, Church Hill, White Notley, Essex in advance of the construction of open garaging together with associated storage and workshop facilities, with alterations to a detached storage building/historic implement store and associated landscaping. The evaluation revealed three layers of modern soils which appear to be related to landscaping around the edge of the lake/millpond.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and low level historic building recording at White Notley Hall, Church Hill, White Notley, Essex which was carried out on 19th July 2017. The work was commissioned by Andrew Stevenson on behalf of John Player in advance of the construction of open garaging together with associated storage and workshop facilities, with alterations to a detached storage building/historic implement store and associated landscaping, and was carried out 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 *Brief for archaeological trial-trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2016), 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 and Historical background

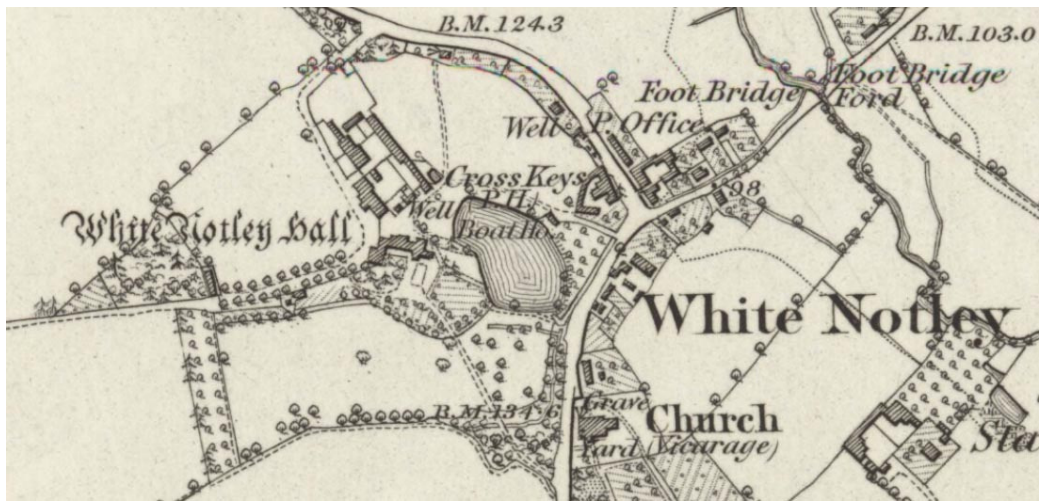
The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies within the historic extent of the manorial site at White Notley. White Notley Hall is a Grade II* listed building which dates from the c.1530's. The site is located along a slope to the north of the Hall which slopes down to a large pond. The slope is fairly steep in places and may have had previous landscaping. Historic mapping depicts a well in close proximity to the proposed outbuilding.

Excavations nearby have also revealed extensive evidence for Roman settlement and occupation within the vicinity and within the grounds of the Hall (EHER 5989 & 5993). There is the possibility that evidence for earlier settlement and activity may survive within the area of the proposed outbuilding, possibly associated with the historic manorial site or earlier Roman occupation.

The outbuilding proposed for alterations formed part of the historic curtilage of the Hall, situated between the Hall and the historic farmstead to the northwest. Parts of this farm

complex date from the 16th century. The Heritage Statement supplied with the application indicates the buildings are Victorian and they appear on the 1st edition OS maps.



Map 1 1874 6-inch OS map (Essex XXXIV)

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two trial-trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision.

Trench 1 measured 1.8m in width and a total of 7.3m in length. It was excavated in two sections as its course was impeded by two large tree stumps. Four layers were recorded. A layer of modern build-up (L1, c 0.6-0.85m thick, firm dry light to medium yellow/brown clayey-loam with chalk fleck inclusions and abundant gravel and stone containing pottery, CBM, slate, modern plastics, etc) covered the site to create a steeper bank leading from the driveway down to the lake/millpond. Underneath L1 were two layers of modern fill (L2, c 0.26m thick, soft wet dark brown/black sandy-silty-loam with occasional stones, overlaying L3, c 0.21-0.52m thick, friable moist medium-to-dark green/brown silty-clay with occasional stone inclusions). Both layers appear to have also been deposited to raise ground-level in this area, presumably to either reduce the size of the pond (as seen on OS maps, see discussion and Maps 1-2) or to stop the risk of flooding in the direction of the hall and outbuildings. Naturally-deposited green/grey/brown sandy-silts were identified beneath L3 (L4).

Trench 2 measured 1.5m in width and 7m in length. It was reduced in both width and length to avoid a large drainage pipe and manhole. It was excavated through L1 (c 0.62-0.86m thick) and L2 (c 0.25-0.63m thick) onto L4.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking northwest



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking southwest

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of finds of post-medieval and modern date were recovered from soil layers in the two trenches. Both of these contexts include finds dated to the modern era c late-18th or 19th to the early-20th century. The finds are briefly listed and described by context below. Pottery fabrics used in this report refer to *CAR 7*.

T1 Layer 2 (L2) finds no. 2 (spot date late 19th to early-20th century)

Pottery: Sherd of white Staffordshire-type stoneware from a preserve jar (Fabric 47) (late-19th to early-20th century), one other small rim from a factory made pottery vessel, Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D) (late 18th or 19th to early 20th century). Glass: Three complete clear glass bottles, all moulded glass, two with screw tops and a large body sherd from the front of a mineral water bottle in green glass, raised lettering **RATED WATERS** [running around edge of central motif (mostly missing) (dated early 20th century). Ceramic building material: one piece of peg-tile.

T2 Layer 1 (L1) finds no. 1 (spot date late 18th/19th-early 20th century)

Pottery: Sherd of Staffordshire-type modern factory ware (Fabric 48D) (late-18th or 19th to early-20th century). Ceramic building material: end of a brick in red sandy fabric, 120mm wide, 38 mm thick, regular shape with relatively sharp arises (not easily closely dated but probably post-medieval – possibly relating to the main house dating from the early 16th century, but appears likely to date slightly later c 17th to early 18th century), also one piece of peg-tile. Stone: one piece of moderately thin slate, almost certainly from a roofing slate (probably late 18th or 19th to early 20th century).

6 Archaeological discussion (Fig 4)

Archaeological evaluation at White Notley Hall revealed three layers of modern landscaping associated with the lake/millpond located to the southeast. Historic OS maps show that the lake/millpond was originally larger with a bank of trees on the northwestern edge (Fig 4). The evaluation trenches were located in this area. Layers L2 and L3 are likely to be layers of modern backfill, dumped onto the bank to either reduced to the size of the pond or to raise the bank to prevent flooding towards the hall/outbuilding. Layer L1 was later laid to create the current bank leading from the driveway to the lake/millpond.

7 Level 1 Building recording (Fig 5)

by Mark Baister

The outbuilding to the north of White Notley Hall is a brick and stone-built rectangular structure with a slate-covered gable-ended roof, measuring 9.5m x 4.5m in size. The corners of the building are made of brick, with the space between infilled with flint and mortar (Photograph 4). The building has two small four-light circular metal-framed windows, one on each gable (Photograph 5). The north-east elevation of the building also has a small wooden hatch framed in brick, which is partially plastered over on the interior (Photograph 9). This elevation also has scarring that suggests a building was built up against this elevation (Photograph 5).



Photograph 3 Southeast elevation of outshot, showing large double doors – looking northwest.

Projecting 3m from the south-east elevation of the outbuilding is an outshot (intended for demolition), covered by a slate-covered catslide roof. The offshoot is a timber-framed structure, supported on a red brick plinth of four courses. It is clad in horizontal weatherboarding. The south elevation of the outshot has four large double-width doors, arranged so as to make two large double door entrances into the structure (Photograph 3). These entrances (if not the doors themselves) seem to be original to the outshot, as does one twelve-light fixed window to on the same elevation (Photograph 6).

The interior of the building shows the roof, both in the main structure and the outshot, to be constructed of nailed together machine-cut timber, all similar in size and appearance (Photograph 7). This would suggest that the roof was entirely rebuilt when the outshot was added. No evidence remained of the south-eastern wall of the outbuilding, it appears to have been completely removed when the outshot was constructed. The interior brick and stone walls of the outbuilding are plastered over (Photograph 8).



Photograph 4 Northeast elevation of outbuilding and outshot – looking west.



Photograph 5 Detail of northeast elevation of outbuilding and outshot, showing window, scarring and hatch – looking west.



Photograph 6 Detail of twelve-light window on southeast elevation of outshot - looking north.



Photograph 7 Interior of outbuilding and outshot - looking north.



Photograph 8 Interior of outbuilding and outshot - looking south.

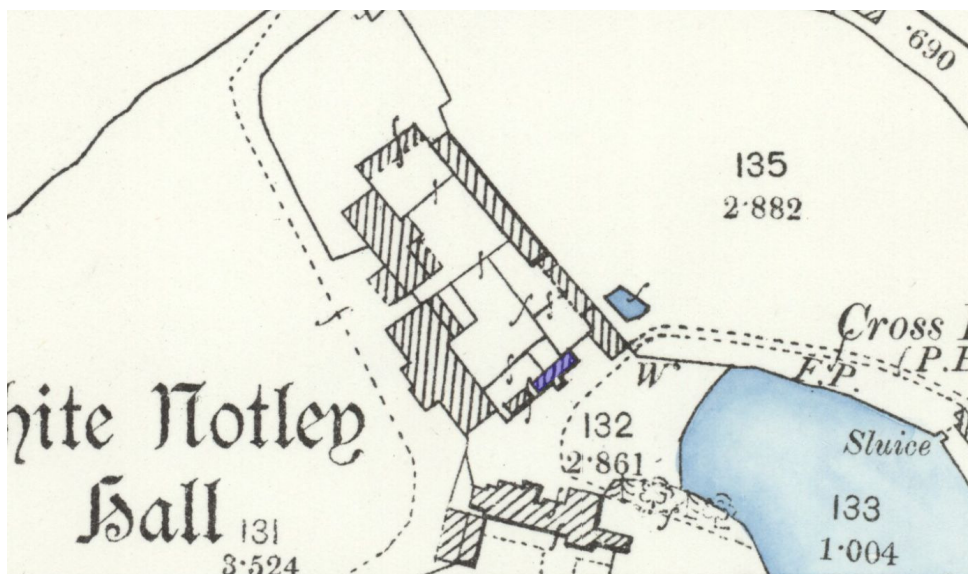


Photograph 9 Partially plastered over hatch from interior of building - looking east.

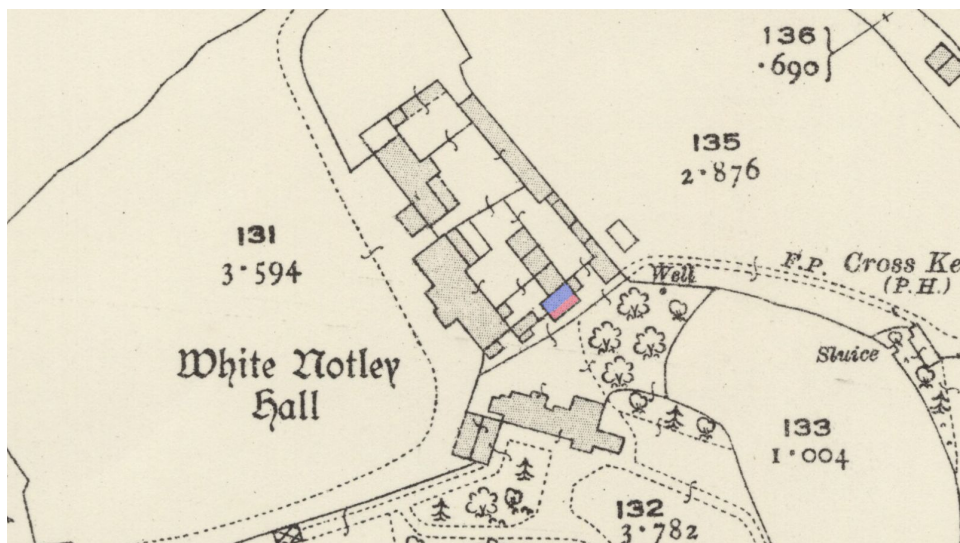
The outbuilding appears on the first edition 1874 OS map (Map 1). On the 1895 OS map, it is shown as having a small connected building (probably a lean-to), against its south-eastern elevation (Map 2). This small building has been demolished and the current outshot constructed by the time the 1919 OS map has been surveyed (Map 3).

The erection of the outshot was clearly intended to convert the building into a garage, hence the increase in the buildings width and the large double doors. Car manufacturing in Britain didn't begin on a large scale until after the World War I, when the rapid industrialisation encouraged during the war years was turned to more

commercial needs. This makes the construction of the outshot and the conversion of the outbuilding into a garage much more likely to be post-1918 (ie post-war).



Map 2 1895 OS map. Outbuilding highlighted in blue.



Map 3 1919 OS map. Outbuilding highlighted in blue, outshot highlighted red.

As specified in the brief (ECCPS 2017), a full photographic survey of the outbuilding was carried out on all elevations and the interior, a sample of which are included supporting the above text. The complete collection of photos will be deposited in the archive along with a photo log.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Stevenson and John Player for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister, H Furniss and N Rayner. Figures are by M Baister, S Carter and H Furniss. The project was monitored for Essex County Council 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>

Brown, N & Glazenbrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 7	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> Colchester Archaeological Report 7, by John Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
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>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching and a low level historic building record at White Notley Hall, Church Hill, White Notley,</i> by Teresa O'Connor, March 2017
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCEHA	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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 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
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared cAD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1141)
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: requested.

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Distribution list:

Andrew Stevenson

John Player

Essex County Council Place Services, Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record



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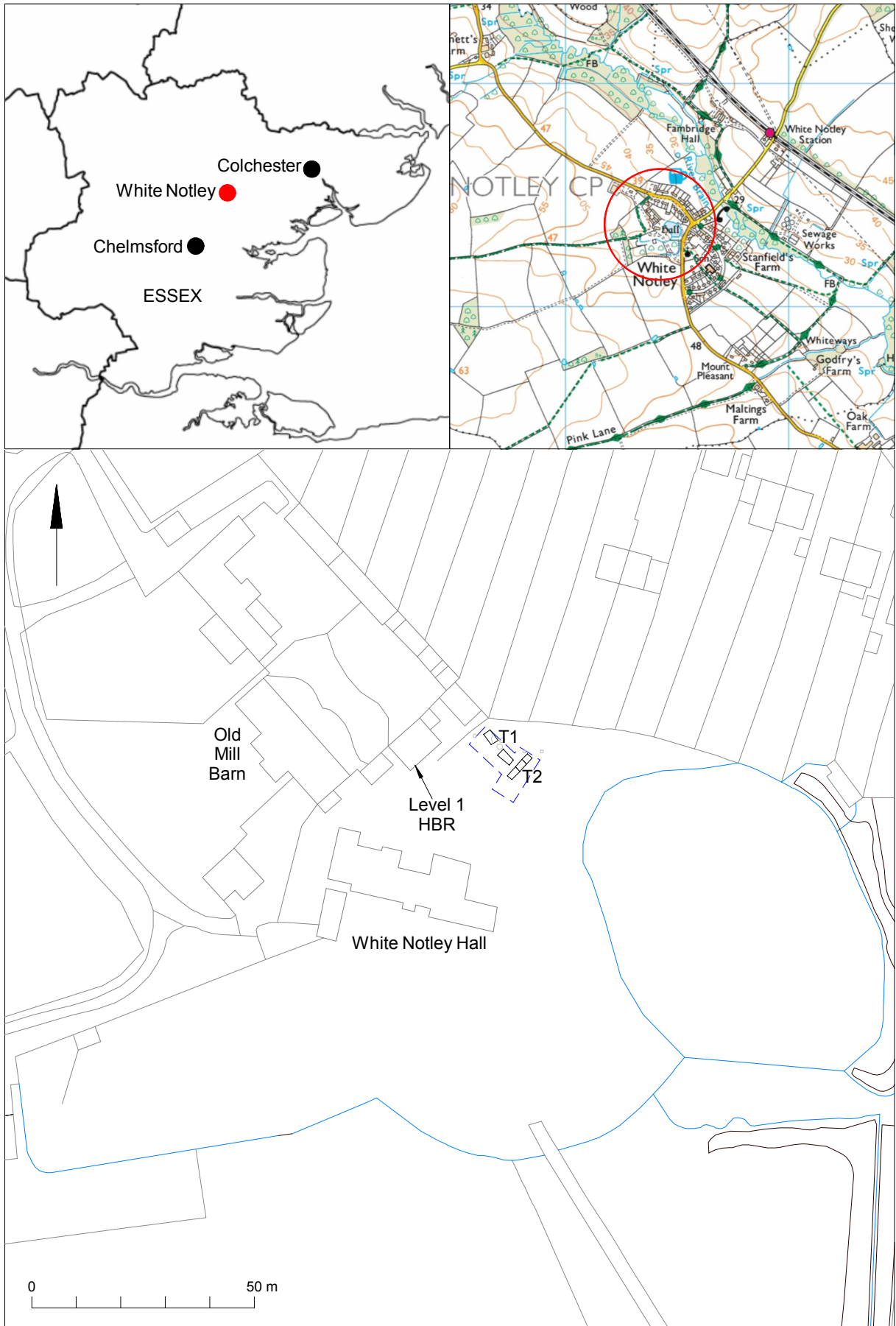
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 15.8.2017



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

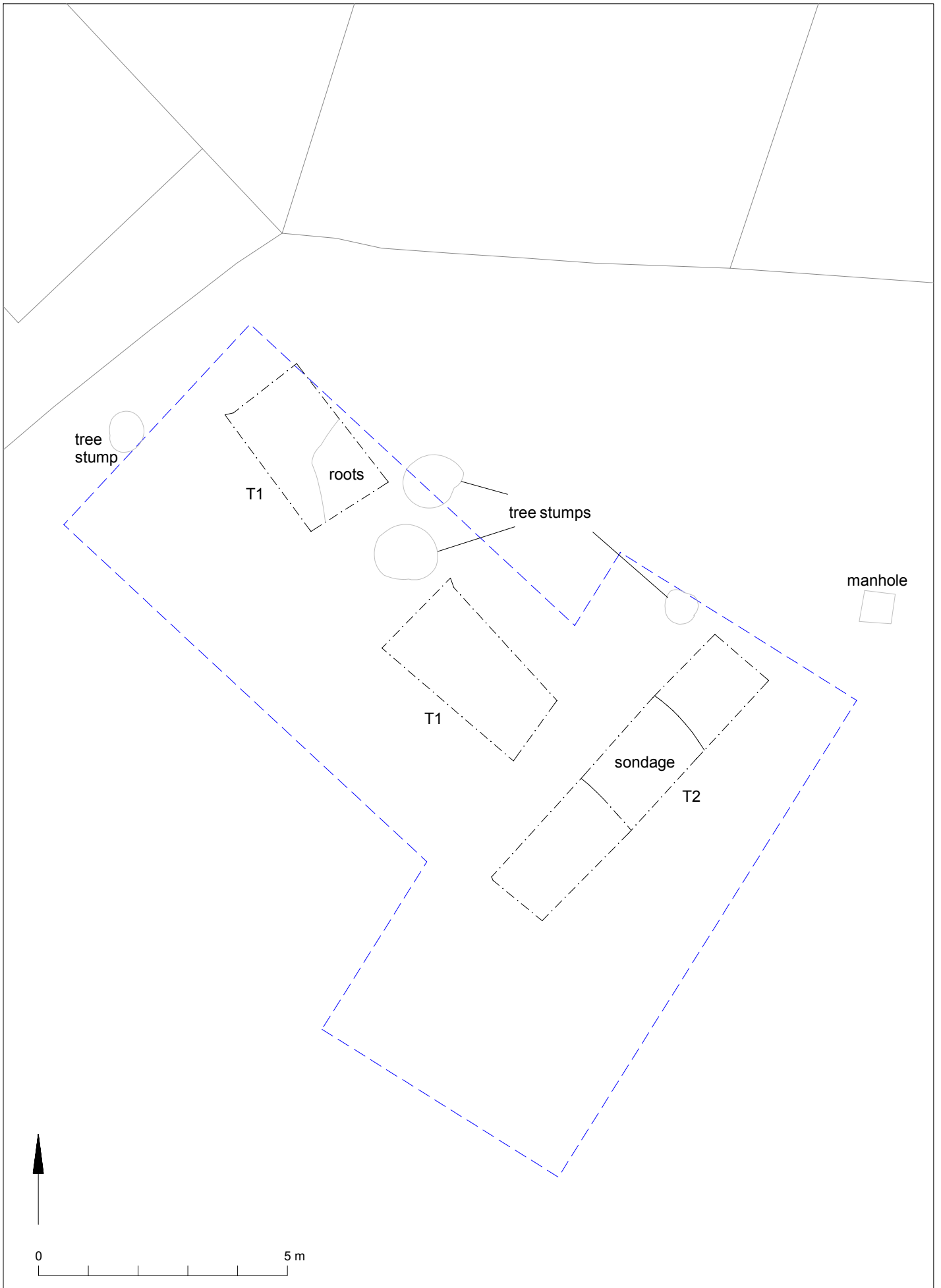
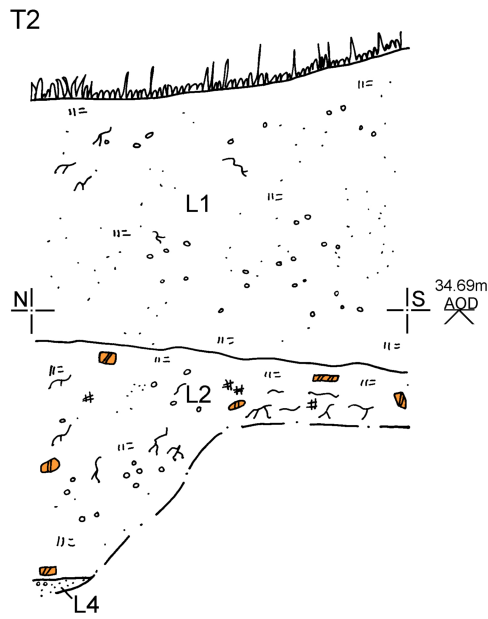
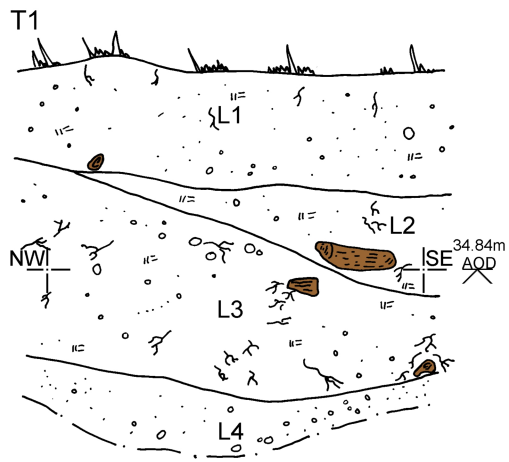


Fig 2 Results in relation to proposed development (dashed blue).











-  sand
-  small stones
-  large stones
-  roots
-  large roots
-  clay
-  charcoal
-  post-Roman brick or tile



Fig 3 Representative sections

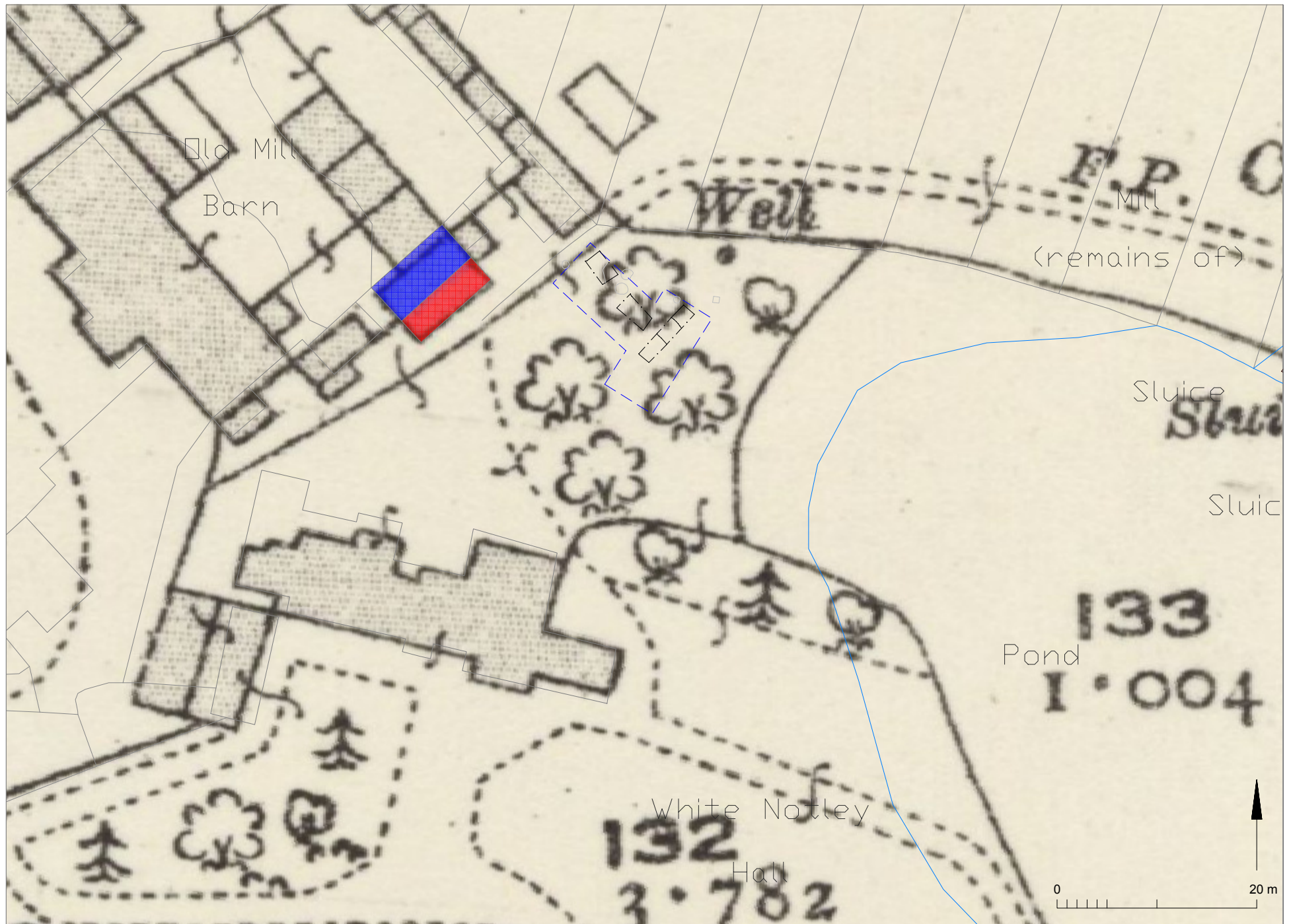


Fig 4 Evaluation trenches in overlaid on the 1919 6-inch OS map (with outbuilding highlighted).

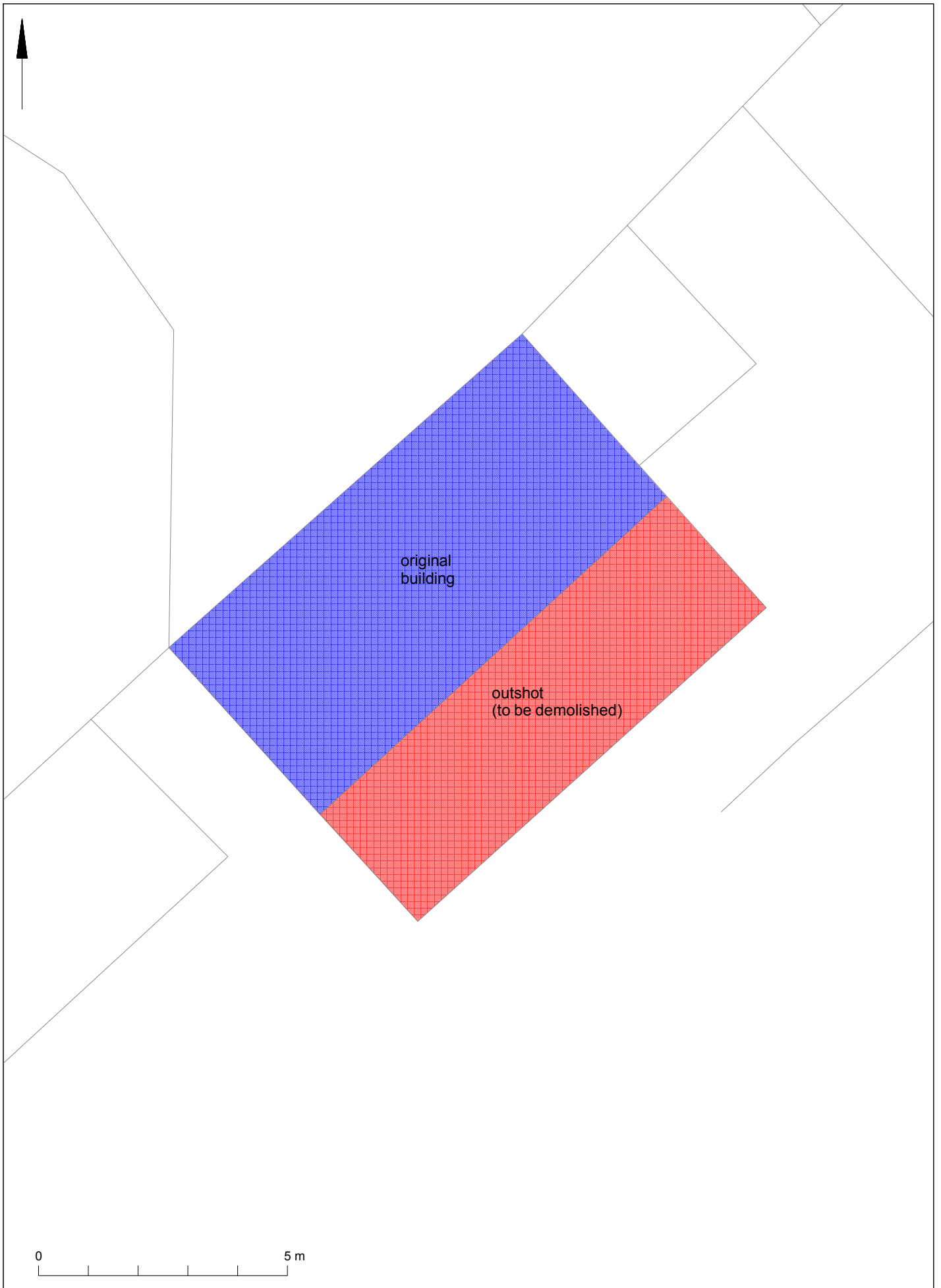


Fig 5 Outbuilding subject of Level 1 historic building recording. Original structure and later outshot highlighted.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-281863

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation and building recording at White Notley Hall, Church Hill, White Notley, Essex, CM8 1RX
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) and low level building recording was carried out at White Notley Hall, Church Hill, White Notley, Essex in advance of the construction of open garaging together with associated storage and workshop facilities, with alterations to a detached storage building/historic implement store and associated landscaping. The evaluation revealed three layers of modern soils which appear to be related to landscaping around the edge of the lake/millpond.
Project dates	Start: 19-07-2017 End: 19-07-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/04h - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/01153/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/01154/LBC - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	WNWN17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLES Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Significant Finds	SLATE Modern
Methods & techniques	"Photographic Survey", "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 BRAINTREE WHITE NOTLEY White Notley Hall, Church Hill
Postcode	CM8 1RX
Study area	0.12 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 78428 18344 51.834662509056 0.590008145465 51 50 04 N 000 35 24 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 34.38m Max: 34.52m

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	Nigel Rayner
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive	No
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Exists?
Digital Archive recipient Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID requested
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID requested
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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