

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 1 Pitt Cottages, Hall Road, Asheldam, Essex, CM0 7EA

October 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks

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fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Ziya Eksen, Jane Roberts and Sarah Carter

commissioned by Julie Brown, Grantchester Construction

NGR: TL 97333 01406 (centre)

Planning ref.: FUL/MAL/15/00755

CAT project ref.: 17/09m

EHER project code: AMPC17

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.130

OASIS ref.: colchest3-296593



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CAT Report 1179
October 2017

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to 1 Pitt Cottages, Hall Road, Asheldham, Essex in advance of the construction of two new houses with associated car-parking and services. The evaluation revealed two modern refuse pits.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to 1 Pitt Cottages, Hall Road, Asheldham, Essex which was carried out on 5th October 2017. The work was commissioned by Julie Brown on behalf of Grantchester Construction in advance of the construction of two new houses with associated car-parking and services, 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 trial-trenching and excavation*, 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* (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, Essex.

The proposed development site is located in the midst of a number of known sites of archaeological interest, including the Scheduled Monument of Asheldham Camp (EHER 12051-60, SM1014142). To the south of the proposed development is Asheldham Camp, a univallate hill-fort of Iron Age date, there is also evidence for multi-period activity on the site in the form of cropmarks and finds. To the east of the proposed development there is evidence for multi-period activity in the form of cropmarks of linear features, trackways, and enclosures. To the northeast is a Roman farmstead (EHER 12185). It is evident therefore that the proposed development lies within an area containing complex, multi-period deposits.

4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, to determine whether further investigations were required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two L-shaped trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench 1 (T1): 18m long by 1.8m wide

T1 was excavated through two layers. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.14-0.28m thick) sealed natural sands and gravels (L2).

Modern refuse pit F1 extended across most of the trench. The dimensions of the feature could not be determined but it measured at least 0.45m deep.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot - looking south southwest

Trench 2 (T2): 18m long by 1.8m wide

T2 was excavated through L1 (0.09-0.18m thick) onto L2.

Modern refuse pit F2 extended across most of the trench. The dimensions of the feature could not be determined but it measured at least 0.79m deep.

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Quantities of finds of modern date (late 19th to 20th century) were present in pit fill encountered in both evaluation trenches: T1 (F1) and T2 (F2). Finds from both F1 and F2 include pieces that can be dated to the mid-20th century. A selection of these finds was recovered during excavation and are briefly reported below. While some of the finds might date to the 19th century the impression from the more closely-dated finds is that the majority of the material dates to the early to mid-20th century.

Trench 1 F1 (1)

The latest dated find is a near complete cream plastic tea cup with faded blue swirl decoration of mid- to late-20th century date.

There are also several whole machine-made bottles in clear glass with visible moulding seams. The bottles with lettering advertising products or companies are described below.

The largest of the bottles are two drinks bottles:

- a Corona soft drink bottle with a collar rim. On neck: **CORONA THIS BOTTLE / MUST ONLY / BE USE FOR** . On lower body: **PURE DRINKS THIS BOTTLE IS THE PROPERTY / OF THOMAS & EVANS LTD** (the bottle can be dated to after 1920 and pre-1958).

The Corona firm was created by grocers William Thomas and William Evans when they saw a market for soft drinks caused by the growing influence of the temperance movement in south Wales. In the early 1920s Evans re-branded his soft drinks and chose the name Corona, and in 1958 the company was bought by The Beecham Group, who kept the Corona brand.

[[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_\(soft_drink\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_(soft_drink))]

- bottle with small five-pointed star in relief on the front lower part of the neck and the body is decorated with a regular, close set, repeating six-point star pattern with a blank (plain) area for the label (missing). Around underside of base **RECo No 818766 D**

There are two rectangular-bodied medicine bottles with raised lettering:

- one bottle **ELLIMAN'S / EMBROCIATION**

This embrociation was originally sold in 1847 as a rub for animals. By 1850 it was being sold for use by humans, as an aid for aching muscles and joints. It remained a family business until 1961, when it was taken over by Horlicks and the original factory was closed.

[Smoke, Steam and (Computer) Chips Elliman, Sons & Co.

[http://www.sloughhistoryonline.org.uk/ixbin/hixclient.exe?
a=query&p=slough&f=generic_theme.htm&IXFIRST=1&IXMAXHITS=1&
%3Dtheme_record_id=sl-sl-elliman\]](http://www.sloughhistoryonline.org.uk/ixbin/hixclient.exe?a=query&p=slough&f=generic_theme.htm&IXFIRST=1&IXMAXHITS=1&%3Dtheme_record_id=sl-sl-elliman)

- the other **LUNG TONIC**

Probably a bottle containing Owbridge's Lung Tonic

This was a cure-all preparation invented in 1874 by Hull pharmacist Walter Owbridge and advertised as a cough medicine, a remedy for bronchitis, asthma, consumption (tuberculosis) and all manner of other throat, chest and lung afflictions – its advertising claim was “It never fails”. Production ceased in 1971.

[Hullwebs History of Hull, THE COUGH MIXTURE FACTORY OWBRIDGE COURT
http://www.hullwebs.co.uk/content/k-victorian/factories/owbridge/owbridge_court.htm]

- a squat bottle carries the legend on the shoulder **Stemcol** and may also be medicinal.

Sauce bottle with square-shaped (cross section) body:

- on one face **HAZLEWOOD & Co** on the opposite face **(PRODUCTS) LTD** (dated to after 1930)

Originating at the turn of the 19th century, Hazlewood Foods was founded by brothers Arthur and William Hazlewood in Belper, Derbyshire. By the 1930s, the company had grown sufficiently to take a listing on the London Stock Exchange under the name Hazlewood (Products) Ltd. and Hazlewood moved to expanded facilities in Rowditch, Derby, where it maintained its headquarters through to the end of the century. The company's sauces found a ready market with one Hazlewood brand, Beetop Sauce, remaining a company staple until well into the 1980s when it was discontinued. During the 1930s, Hazlewood placed an increasing emphasis on self-sufficiency and in 1937 the company added its own glassworks, as well as a printing and labelling machine, enabling the company to control the entire production and packaging process with the exception of the caps for the bottles. This not only helped the company weather the lean Depression years, but also face up to the years of World War II, when rationing and supply shortages forced many of its competitors out of business.

[Hazlewood Foods plc History, <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/hazlewood-foods-plc-history/>]

Other finds from F1 include a whole clear glass ink bottle (slightly indistinct lettering **38750 C UGB 4** moulded on base), part of a ceramic tile teapot stand with a rounded knob foot and sherds of willow pattern earthenware. There is also a rim sherd with handle from a Royal Doulton stoneware cauldron vase (rim dia. c 120 mm) which were produced in the late 19th and early 20th century. This would originally have had three handles and three feet on the base. The body of the pot here is decorated with small combed swirls covered in gilt and is probably of early 20th-century date.

Trench 2 F2 (2)

A smaller number of finds were retained from F2 than from F1.

The latest closely-dated piece is a sherd from a round, upright, white stoneware jar which has a pottery mark in the underside printed in blue that consists of a diamond shape symbol \diamond followed below by **BOVEY POTTERY Co...LTD / 1942** The Bovey pottery was located in Devon (Godden 1991, 92).

There is also a sherd from a Canada Dry ginger beer bottle with a painted label of red lettering over white background. Canada Dry was first produced in 1904. The label appears to be a technique known as applied colour labelling or lettering (also known as ACL or pyroglazing) which was adopted in America from the early 1940s so that the bottle is not earlier than c mid-20th century.

[Bottle Dating <https://sha.org/bottle/machinemadedating.htm#Question13>]

Other finds from F2 include sherds of white (cream) glaze earthenware and a sherd from a large stoneware pot with a fragment of blue lettering.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at this site revealed two modern pits. These pits may have been the product of quarrying, and, following the cessation of these activities, were used as refuse pits which remained in use from around the late 19th century until at least the 1930s in the case of one pit and the early 1940s in the case of the other. It is possible that the name of the adjacent Pitt Cottages, extant from the late 19th century, contemporary with the features, derived from their proximity to them.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Julie Brown and Grantchester Construction for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with Z Eksen, J Roberts and S Carter. Figures are by S Carter and B Holloway. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Maria Medlycott.

9 References

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

Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology
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>

DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Archaeological trial trenching on land east of 78 Harwich Road, Little Oakley</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Godden, G	1991	<i>Encyclopaedia of British pottery and porcelain marks</i> , rev. ed.
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic Environment Branch	2008	<i>Maldon District Historic Environment Characterisation Project</i> , MDC/ECC Report
Medlycott, M	2011a	<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
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
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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
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 1179)

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: 2017.130.

Distribution list:

Julie Brown
Grantchester Construction
Maria Medlycott, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

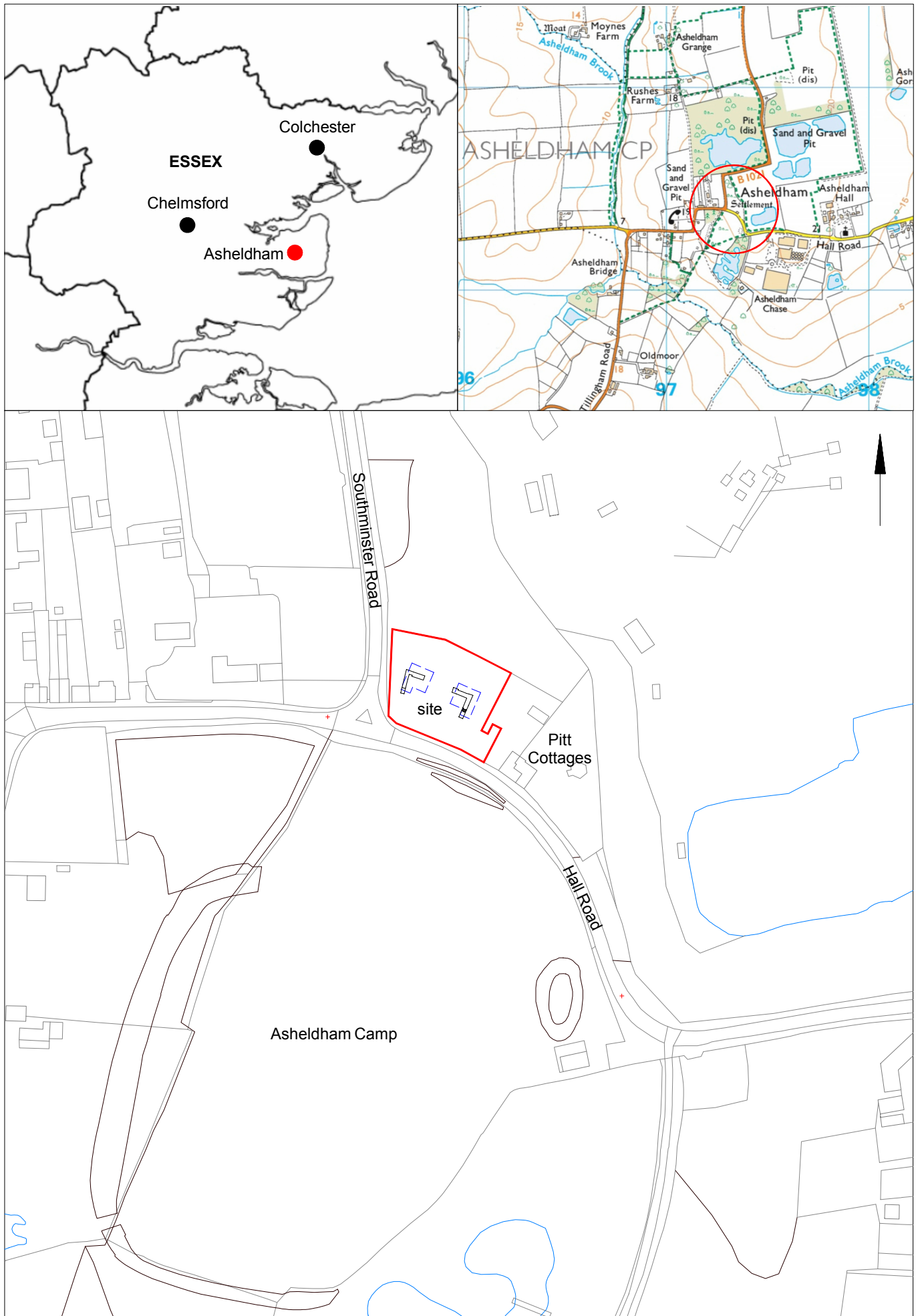
tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 18.10.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

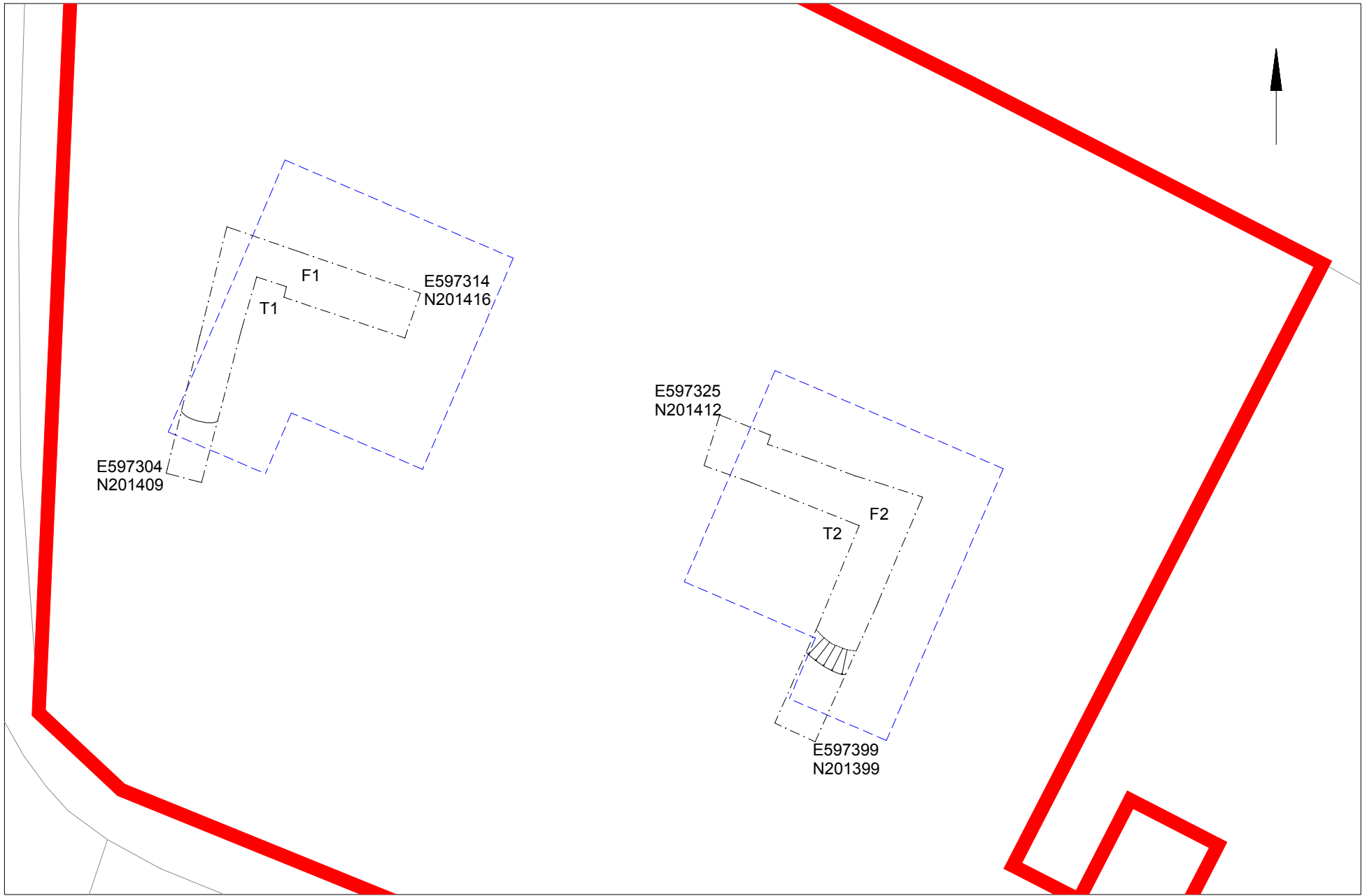
Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	1	Pit	Loose, dry to moist, light yellow/orange/grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
F2	2	Pit	Loose, dry to moist, light yellow/orange/grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L1	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-loam	Modern
L2	-	Natural geological deposits	Soft, moist yellow/orange sand with abundant gravel	Post-glacial



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Fig 1 Site location (proposed development dashed blue)

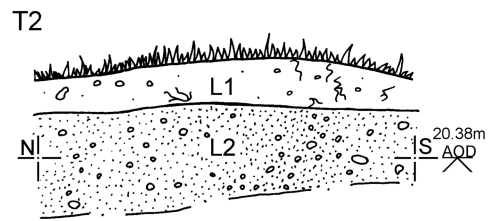
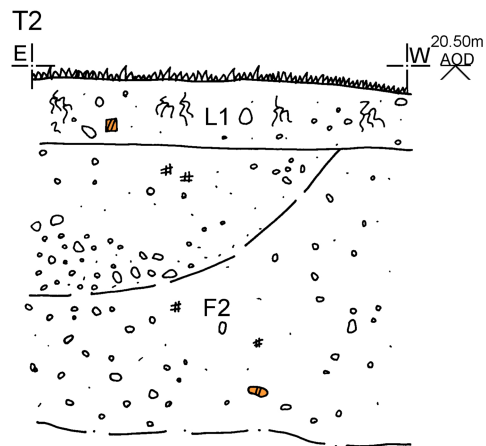
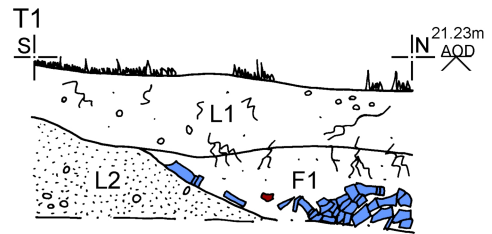
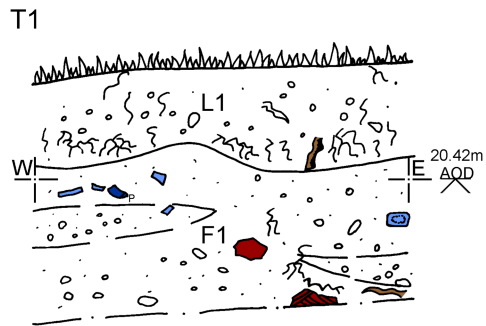




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Fig 2 Results (proposed development dashed blue)





- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- √ roots
- √ large roots
- ## charcoal
- ▨ post-Roman brick
- ▣ pottery sherds
- glass fragments
- scrap iron



Fig 3 Representative section

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OASIS ID: colchest3-296593

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 1 Pitt Cottages, Hall Road, Asheldham, Essex, CM0 7EA
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to 1 Pitt Cottages, Hall Road, Asheldham, Essex in advance of the construction of two new houses with associated car-parking and services. The evaluation revealed two modern refuse pits.
Project dates	Start: 05-10-2017 End: 05-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/09m - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	FUL/MAL/15/00755 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.130 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	AMPC17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	BOTTLES Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON ASHELDHAM land adjacent 1 Pitt Cottages, Hall Road
Postcode	CM0 7EA
Study area	0.16 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 97333 01406 51.676159537568 0.854461984357 51 40 34 N 000 51 16 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.49m Max: 21.07m

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
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.130
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.130
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 1 Pitt Cottages, Hall Road, Asheldham, Essex, CM0 7EA:
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1179
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust Colchester

Place of issue or
publication

Description A4 loose-leaf ring-bound

URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>

Entered by Elliott Hicks (lp@catuk.org)

Entered on 18 October 2017

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