

Archaeological monitoring at Tilty Hill Barn, Cherry Street, Duton Hill, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2EE

March 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks
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figures by Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Mark Baister

**commissioned by Patricia Wallbank
on behalf of Mrs Fi McGhee-Perkins**

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CAT Report 1261
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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Tilty Hill Barn, Cherry Street, Duton Hill during a single-storey side extension associated groundworks. Remains associated with the historic farmstead which previously stood at this site, a concrete yard surface and two bricks dating to the post-medieval or modern periods, were uncovered. Sherds of pottery with features characteristic of jars used to store oil used in the wool industry during the 18th and early 19th centuries were recovered, indicating that the farm may have been involved in these activities during this period.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Tilty Hill Barn, Cherry Street, Duton Hill, which was carried out on 5th March to 12th April 2018. The work was commissioned by Patricia Wallbank on behalf of Mrs Fi McGhee-Perkins Contracts during a single-storey side extension and associated groundworks and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation, Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for archaeological monitoring at Tilty Hill Barn, Great Dunmow* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCHEA (CAT 2018).

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 watching briefs* (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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) shows that the buildings associated with the proposed development are located on the site of an historic farm. Tilty Hill Barn itself is Grade II listed barn with origins in the 17th century. The Chapman and André map of Essex compiled in 1777 indicates that other buildings had been constructed in the area by the final decades of the following century. It is therefore likely that the remains of these buildings and evidence of activity associated with the development of the historic farmstead may be located in the vicinity of the current barn.



Map 1 Extract of Chapman and André map of Essex, 1777

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was primarily undertaken to ascertain the relationship of this site to the historic farmstead which previously stood here. More generally, monitoring was carried out to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on the site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

On 5th March 2018, a CAT archaeologist observed the excavation of approximately 24.2m of foundation trenching for the side extension. The foundation trenches measured 0.65m in width and 1m in depth.

The main body of the foundation trenching was excavated through three horizons. A layer of modern crush (L1, c 0.22-0.24m thick, loose/soft, dry medium orange/brown sandy-silt with 20% brick and tile piece inclusions) sat above a layer of modern topsoil (L2, c 0.13-0.15m thick, soft/friable, moist grey/black loamy-silt) which sealed natural (L3, friable, moist light/medium yellow/grey clay, encountered at a depth of c 0.37m below current ground level [bcgl]). At the western extremity of this area of trenching, excavation occurred through L2 (0.43m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.43m bcgl).

No significant archaeological remains were encountered, although a modern wall foundation was uncovered. The trenching was also cut by modern services.



Photograph 1 Site shot – looking south-west

On 12th March 2018, a CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of 63.4m of service trenching. This length of trenching measured 0.4-0.8m in depth and 0.3m in width. At the western end, excavation occurred through L1. Towards the eastern end, trenching was dug through a modern sub-base for a gravel path (L4, c 0.4m thick, crush and ?armac) which sealed L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.4m bcgl).

Post-medieval or modern concrete yard surface F1 was uncovered. It was sealed by L4 at a depth of 0.4m bcgl.



Photograph 2 F1 – looking north

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Finds of post-medieval and modern date were recovered during machining L1 (1). These consist of bases from two pots in a glazed red earthenware fabric and two complete bricks. The finds are described below.

Of the pottery recovered, one base is from a thick-walled pot indicating a very substantial vessel (Photograph 3). It can be noted that several other bases from similar pots were also seen to be present in L1 but were not recovered. While somewhat similar in appearance to post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware (CAR 7 Fabric 40) the surface wash or slip is very unusual as is the size of the pot itself. These suggest that it might come from an oil jar. Other possibilities might include a large decorative pot or garden pot, but both these seem unlikely given the presence of other examples (not recovered) and the internal glazing. Imported Italian oil jars from Colchester, although of different fabric, are noted for their size and commonly have a clear internal glaze and a light wash of clay or slip externally (*ibid* 300). The base from the second smaller pot (photograph 3) is (apart from its size) otherwise near identical and might also be an oil jar. At Colchester the oil was primarily imported for use in the wool industry and the oil jars there date from the early to mid 18th century into the early 19th century (*ibid* 301-305).



Photograph 3 (1) Base from a very substantial pottery vessel in red earthenware. Brick-red coloured fine sand fabric with few visible inclusions, white slip or wash externally and on base. Wall thickness close to base c 37 mm, 20 mm higher up on surviving piece (1878g). (2) Base from a large pot in red earthenware. Brick-red coloured fine sand fabric with few visible inclusions, internal glaze, white slip or wash externally and on base (420g).

The two bricks from L1 are of two different types. One, which has lime mortar on it and appears to have been built into a wall, is relatively thin, suggesting a possible late 17th- or early 18th-century date. The other is a modern, keyed Fletton brick and broadly of late 19th- or early 20th-century date.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at this site uncovered remains associated with the historic farmstead which previously stood at this site, consisting of a concrete yard surface containing a large amount of lime which probably dated to the 19th century, a brick of late 17th- to early 18th-century date and another originating from the late 19th or early 20th century. Together, these indicate that the farm was constructed over at least two phases during this period. In addition, bases from two pots identified as probably being used to store oil imported from Italy and used in the wool industry during the 18th and early 19th century, provide some evidence to indicate that such activity occurred at the farm during this period.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Patricia Wallbank and Mrs Fi McGhee-Perkins for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister. Figures were prepared by BH and S Carter. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Richard Havis.

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
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and recording at Tilty Hill Barn, Cherry Street, Duton Hill, Essex, CM6 2EE: March-April 2018</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	2018	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording at Tilty Hill Farm, Great Dunmow</i>
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
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'
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>

11 Contents of archive

Finds: one box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1261)

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2018.3.

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Distribution list

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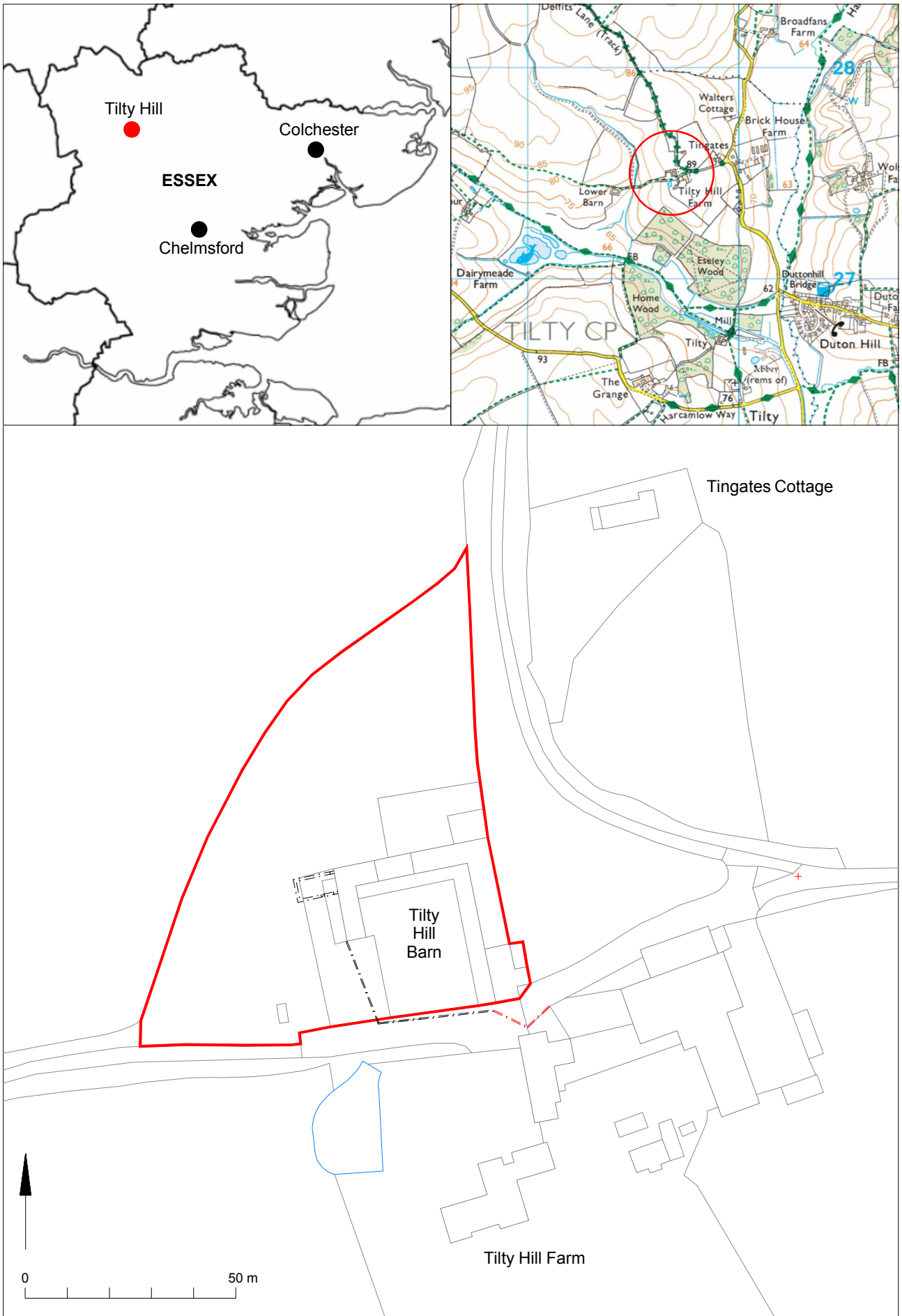


Fig 1 Site location.

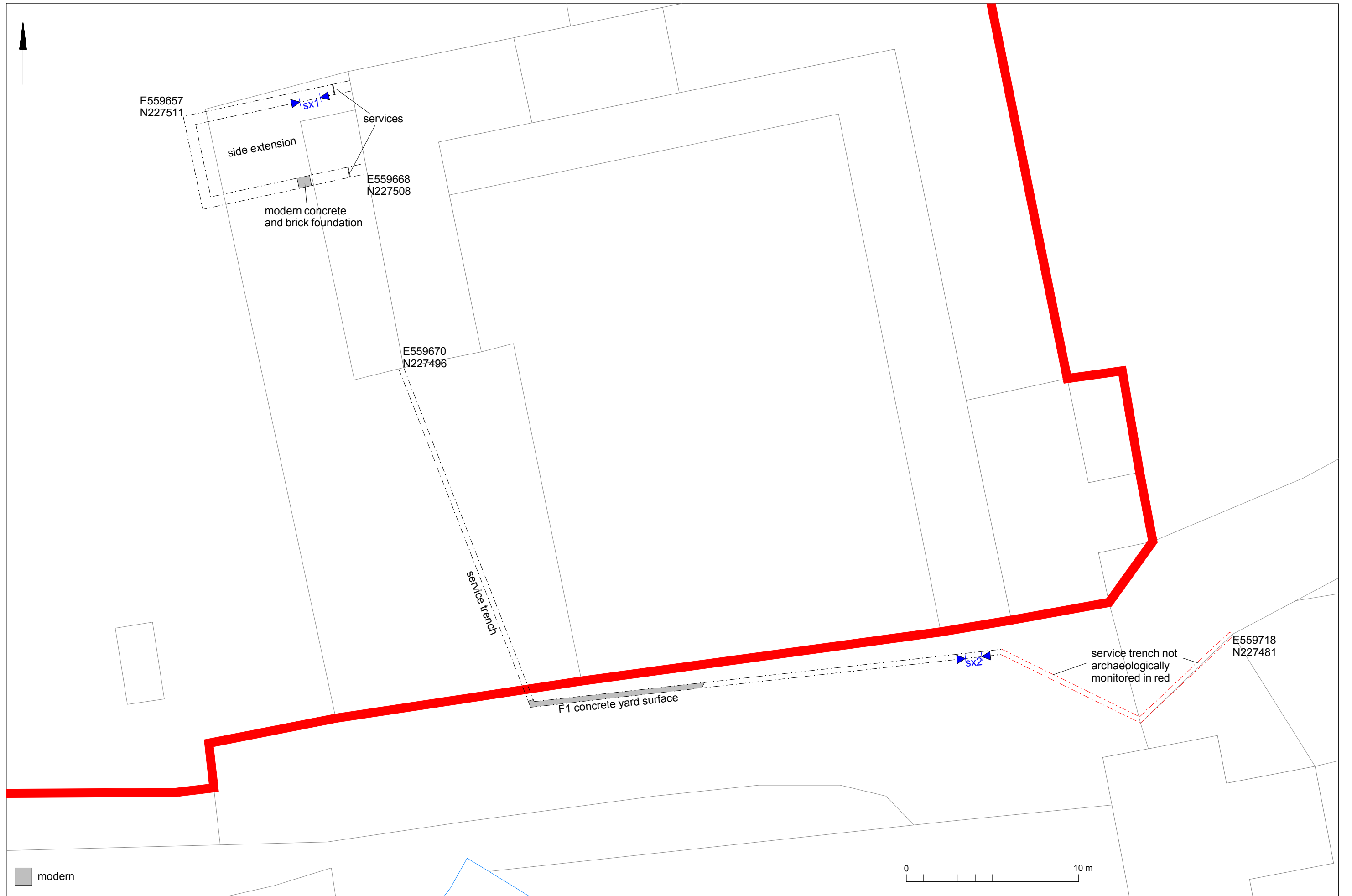


Fig 2 Monitoring results

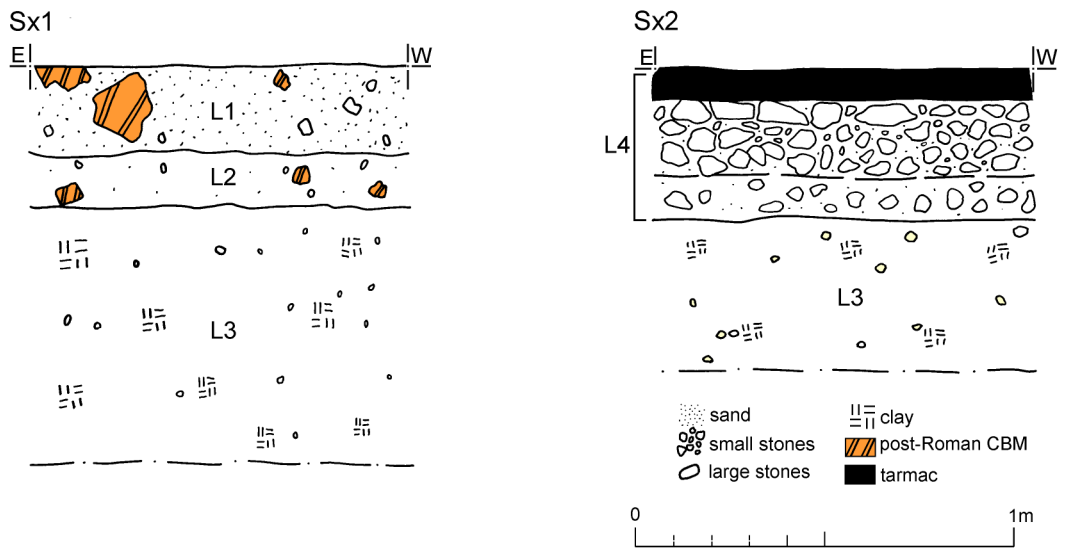


Fig 3 Representative sections

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: colchest3-308709

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Tilty Hill Barn, Cherry Hill, Great Dunmow, CM6 2EE: March 2018
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Tilty Hill Barn, Cherry Street, Duton Hill during a single-storey side extension associated groundworks. Remains associated with the historic farmstead which previously stood at this site, a concrete yard surface and two bricks dating to the post-medieval or modern periods, were uncovered. Sherds of pottery with features characteristic of jars used to store oil used in the wool industry during the 18th and early 19th centuries were recovered, indicating that the farm may have been involved in these activities during this period.
Project dates	Start: 05-03-2018 End: 12-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/02d - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/172246/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/07/2247/LB - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM 2018.3 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	TYTH18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	YARD SURFACE Post Medieval
Monument type	YARD SURFACE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT DUNMOW Tilty Farm Barn, Cherry Street, Duton Hill
Postcode	CM6 2EE
Study area	0.63 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 5967 2748 51.922442823351 0.322204602417 51 55 20 N 000 19 19 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Ms Fi McGhee-Perkins

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Physical Archive ID	SAFWM 2018.3
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM 2018.3
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM 2018.3
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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