

Archaeological evaluation on land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8NJ

November 2018



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Adam Tuffey, Sarah Carter and James Keeble

commissioned by R H Carpenters (UK) Ltd

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Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

CAT Report 1343

November 2018

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of nine trial-trenches was carried out on land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley, Essex in advance of the construction of seven dwellings with associated parking facilities, access and groundworks. Although the site is located on the edge of a village green of purportedly medieval origins, and in the midst of a series of cropmark complexes, the only features present were a natural silt patch and a natural hollow.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley, Essex, which was carried out 12th-13th November 2018. The work was commissioned by R H Carpenters (UK) Ltd in advance of the construction of seven dwellings with associated parking facilities, access and groundworks and was 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* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, 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)*, *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 brief and Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (ECC codes below refer to SMR numbers).

The site lies along one side of an historic triangular green considered to be medieval in origin and along which dispersed settlement would have been located. Modern settlement at Aingers Green began in the early to mid 20th century with the piecemeal construction of housing. The green is identified as Angel Heath on the Chapman and André map of 1777, with settlement clustered around the eastern projection (see map 1 below). The route of St Marys Road roughly follows the eastern edge of the green as seen on the 1777 map.

The site lies within a landscape surrounding Aingers Green containing potential features recorded as cropmarks through aerial photography. The closest site of archaeological significance is a field to the south of the site in which cropmarks suggest a possible ring-ditch and linear features (south of Carpenters Farm, ECC17028). Adjacent to this site are three areas of cropmarks including several linear features (north of South Heath ECC2963), linear features (north of Dial Road and south of Colles Brook ECC17027) and a double-ditched trackway, linear features, pits and three possible small ring-ditches (east of the Lodge ECC2982). To the west of Aingers Green

there are a series of linear features, pits, ditched trackways and possible enclosures (ECC3165 and ECC2955). To the north of Aingers Green there is a large area of cropmarks thought to include rectilinear field systems and a rectangular enclosure with some divisions (ECC3105). Essex County Council field archaeology unit carried out an evaluation and excavation within this area on land of St Marys Road (ECC47474). They found evidence of use of the site in use from the early medieval period through to the modern period, including 13th-century boundary ditches and pits and 15th-century gullies alongside a series of features dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. The cropmarks show there is the potential for earlier settlement evidence to survive within the site, especially for identifying earlier phases of field boundaries.



Map 1 Extract of Chapman and André map of 1777, Plate X

4 Aim

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken at this site to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Nine archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 10m long by 1.8m wide, aside from T8 and T9, which were 30m long and 1.8m wide, and were excavated to natural.

The trenches were excavated through ploughsoil (L1, c 0.29-0.42m thick, friable, dry/moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with 4% stone) onto natural (L2, soft, moist light/medium yellow/orange sandy-silt).

There were no archaeological features in T2, T3, T4, T6, T7, T8 or T9.

Trench 1 (T1): Natural silt patch F1 was excavated.

Trench 5 (T5): Natural hollow F2 was excavated.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking south southeast



Photograph 2 T5 trench shot – looking east southeast

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance, only two features, a silt patch and a hollow, which were both of natural origin, were found.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks R H Carpenters (UK) Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Tuffey, S Carter and J Keeble. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS 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 and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial-trenching at land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8NJ</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

ECCPS	2018	<i>Archaeological trial trenching at land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley. By T O'Connor</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011a	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>

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
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
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	O nline A ccess to the Index of Archaeological Investigation S , 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
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1343)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1343)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Graphics

Site digital photos and log

Survey data

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 2018.110.

Distribution list:

R.H. Carpenter (UK) Ltd

Teresa O'Connor, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisors

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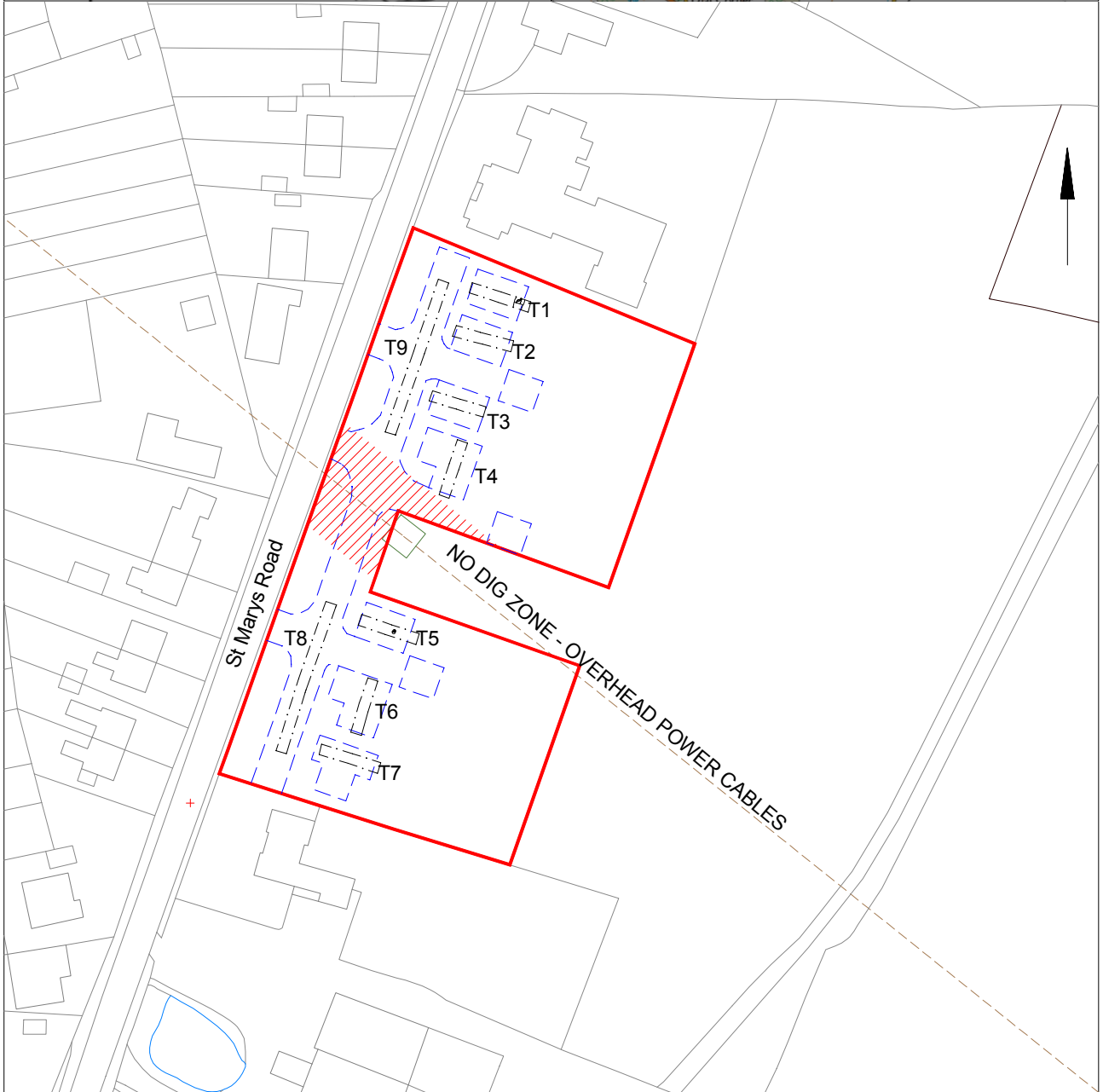
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 16.11.2018



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



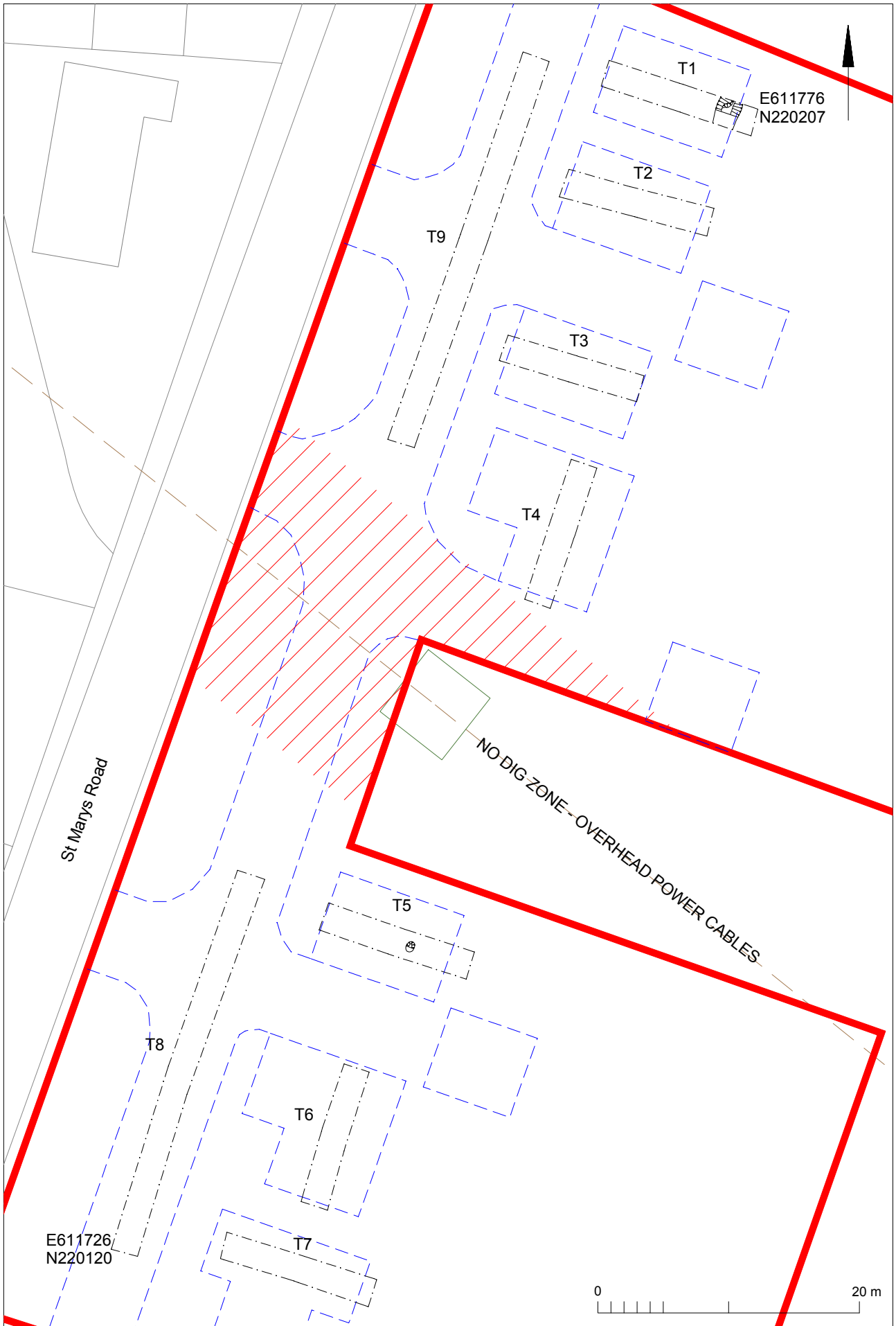


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

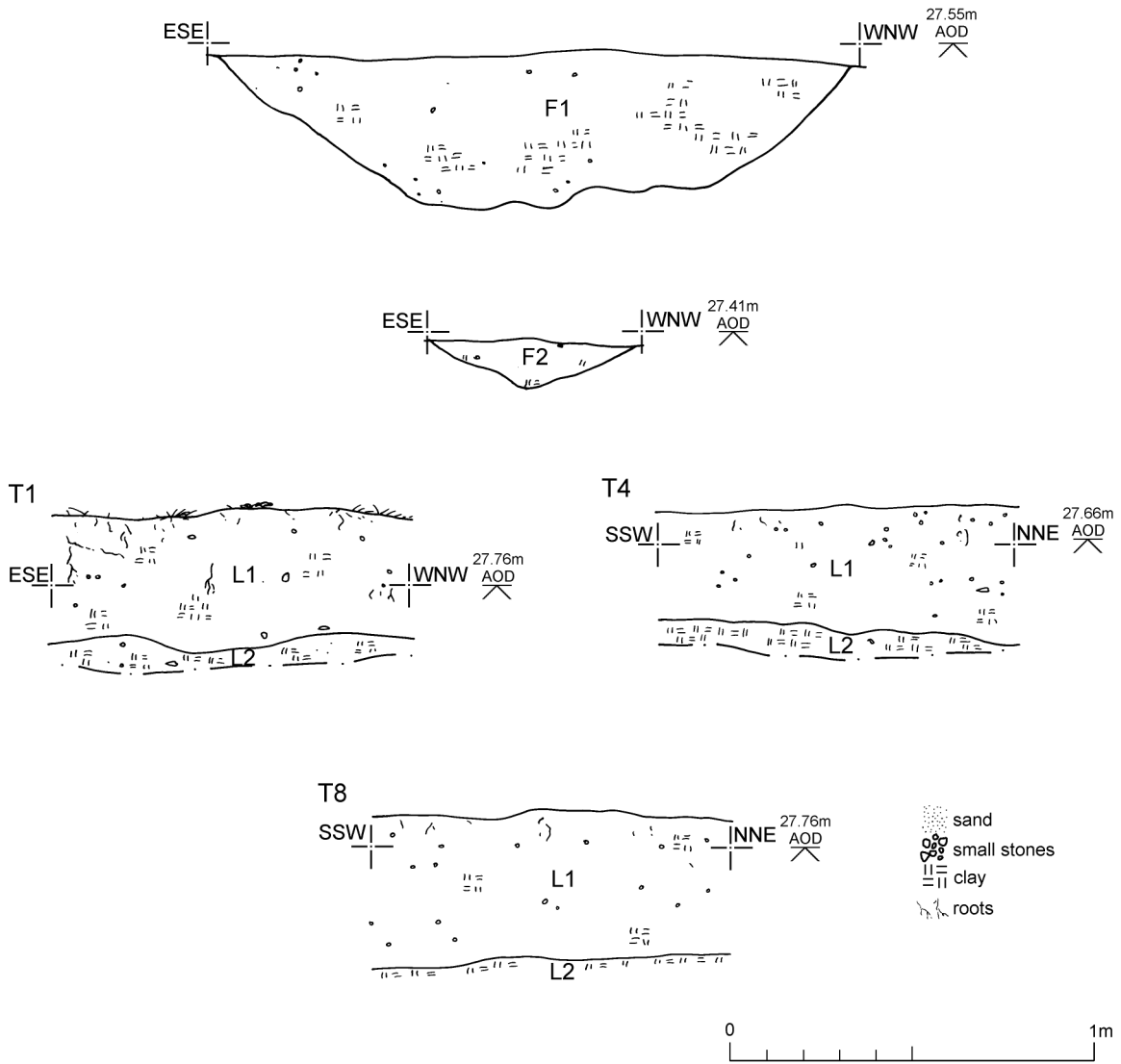


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-332447

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenching at land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley Essex, CO7 8NJ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of nine trial-trenches was carried out on land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley, Essex in advance of the construction of seven dwellings with associated parking facilities, access and groundworks. Although the site is located on the edge of a village green of purportedly medieval origins, and in the midst of a series of cropmark complexes, the only features present were a natural silt patch and a natural hollow.
Project dates	Start: 12-11-2018 End: 13-11-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2018/10o - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	18/01104/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2018.110 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	GBECF18 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	SILT PATCH Uncertain
Monument type	HOLLOW Uncertain
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Position in the
planning process

Project location

Country England
Site location ESSEX TENDRING GREAT BENTLEY land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley
Postcode CO7 8NJ
Study area 0.57 Hectares
Site coordinates TM 11856 20168 51.83930994719 1.075661755573 51 50 21 N 001 04 32 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 27.1m Max: 27.62m

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 Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body R H Carpenters (UK) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM 2018.110
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM 2018.110
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological evaluation on land north of Carpenters Farm, St Marys Road, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8NJ: November 2018

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