

Archaeological evaluation at Notcutts Garden Centre, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF

January 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

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**commissioned by Andrew Ingleton (Notcutts Limited)
on behalf of Notcutts Limited**

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CAT Report 1366
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was undertaken at Notcutts Garden Centre, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk in advance of the partial demolition of the garden centre retail areas and erection of new buildings, polytunnels with customer entrance, an extension to the restaurant/café, new stock buildings and alterations to car park and access. A Roman pit, a medieval ditch, a medieval or post-medieval gully and two modern ditches, along with several undated features – two pits, a posthole and a ditch – were uncovered. It is possible that the medieval features were associated with contemporaneous remains traced during an evaluation conducted on an adjacent plot of land, while the modern features appear to relate to a complex of greenhouses which previously stood on this part of the site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Notcutts Garden Centre, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk which was carried out on 7th-14th January 2019. The work was commissioned by Andrew Ingleton of Notcutts Limited, in advance of the partial demolition of garden centre retail areas and erection of new buildings, polytunnels with customer entrance, extension to restaurant/cafe, new stock buildings and alterations to car park and access and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Local Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal District Council: Planning reference DC/17/2699/FUL) was advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS) that this site lies in an area of high archaeological importance, and 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 a trenched archaeological evaluation at Notcutts Garden Centre, Woodbridge* detailing the required archaeological work written by Abby Antrobus (SCCAS 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the SCCAS brief and agreed with SCCAS (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 evaluation* (CIfA 2017a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2017b).

3 Archaeological and landscape background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on information from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk), SCC invoice number 9219846.

Geology

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site as 'Red Crag Formation – Sand', with superficial deposits of 'Head – Diamicton'.

Historic landscape

Woodbridge is in an area defined as *urban* in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment, but close to an area of *rolling valley farmlands and furze*². Within the

¹ British Geological Survey – <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html?>

² <http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk/>

Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map³ it is defined as landscape sub-type 10.2 (built up area – town). The landscape immediately around the development site is primarily characterised as sub-type 1.1 (pre-18th-century enclosure – random fields), sub-type 2.1 (18th-century and later enclosure – former common arable or heathland), sub-type 5.1 (meadow or managed wetland – meadow) and sub-type 8.4 or 8.5 (unimproved land – coastal marsh or intertidal land).

Archaeology⁴ (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

Notcutts Nursery

Previous finds attributed to the Notcutts Nursery site have included a Neolithic scraper (WBG 004) and a scatter of Roman pottery sherds (3rd to 4th centuries), flue and roof tiles (WBG 001). However, the grid references given for both (and therefore their positioning on the SHER) are 600m-1km further to the south. An Iron Age Icenian coin is also recorded as having been found at the nursery (WBG 013). Archaeological evaluation at Notcutts on land adjacent to the current development site in 2006 revealed no archaeological features or finds (WBG 061) but evaluation on land adjoining the garden centre in 2007 revealed a medieval ditch and three undated pits (WBG 067). The site has been a nursery since at least the late 19th century and has been subject to previous landscaping. Areas of wet and peaty deposits discovered during these earlier archaeological investigations have the potential to preserve organic remains which may hold information about previous activity on the site and wider environmental changes.

Prehistoric

Prehistoric finds within 1km of the development site were scarce but include a Mesolithic or Bronze Age blade or arrowhead (WBG 102, 671m SW), Bronze Age leaf-shaped spearhead (WBG 014, 815m S) and a possible prehistoric occupation site (WBG 090, 671m SW).

Romano-British

Scatters of Romano-British finds have been identified across Woodbridge (WBG 003, 445m NW; WBG 005, 830m S; WBG 010, 592m NE; WBG 011, 555m SSE; WBG 012, 961m NE; WBG 014, 840m S; WBG 015, 876m SW; WBG 096, 453m S; WBG 104, 898m S; and WBG 113, 964m NW). A Roman period clay floor and finds were also recorded during monitoring at Woodbridge School (WBG 029, 753m N).

Anglo-Saxon

A male skeleton and spearhead discovered at Woodbridge School are believed to be of Anglo-Saxon date (WBG 022, 877m N).

Medieval

The medieval town of Woodbridge lies less than 300m to the east of the development site (WBG 070) and includes an Augustinian Priory (WBG 002, 290m NE) and the Church of St Mary (WBG 021, 407m NE). Woodbridge Tide Mill is believed to have 12th-century origins (WBG 036, 760m E). Medieval pits and postholes have also been discovered during archaeological investigations in Woodbridge (WBG 098, 662m SW; WBG 079540m ENE) along with finds of medieval date (WBG 025, 642m ENE; WBG 026, 546m NE; WBG 085, 300m E; WBG 121, 524m NE; WBG 122, 326m E).

Medieval/post-medieval to modern

As well as the listed buildings described below, post-medieval buildings include Buttrums Mill (WBG 019 and 657m NW), Trickers Mill (WBG 020, 392m N), Nunn's Mill

³ The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3, 2008, Suffolk County Council

⁴ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

(WBG 112, 665m E), Bull Ride (WBG 116, 527m NE) and bonded stores on Tidemill Quay (WBG 081, 722m E). There is a post-medieval sea bank 900m SE (WBG 039). Woodbridge cemetery is a Grade II registered park (WBG 049, 320m W) and there is a 19th-century burial ground associated with the Quay United Reform Church (WBG 078, 550m E). Quay Church was erected in 1805 (WBG 086, 523m E).

The gas works were built in 1815 (WBG Misc, 718m E). The East Suffolk railway line between Ipswich and Lowestoft is located 600m E (SUF 067) with the passenger station, goods sheds, cattle pens and crane shown on the 1880s and 1900s OS maps (WBG 052).

Groundworks throughout the town have revealed post-medieval pits and a well (WBG 057, 586m NE), a 19th-century cellar and pits (WBG 062, 432m NE), a late post-medieval cellar floor (WBG 066, 670m NE), a late post-medieval wall (WBG 076, 707m E), post-medieval features (WBG 077, 678m ENE), a quarry pit (WBG 092, 870m N) and 19th-century workshop foundations (WBG 111, 491m NE).

Post-medieval finds have also been found across Woodbridge (WBG 068, 715m N; WBG 076, 707m E; WBG 103, 305m E; and WBG 105, 442m NE).

Undated

Three skeletons of unknown date were discovered 295m E (WBG 006).

Listed buildings⁵

Over 300 listed buildings (Grade I, II* and II) dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries are located within 1km of the development site, including the Shire Hall (WBG 009, 428m NE), Tide Mill (WBG 036, 775m E) and a cast-iron wheel-operated pump with limestone trough on Market Hill (WBG 080, 428m NE).

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- excavate and record any archaeological deposits that were identified within the development site.
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of costs.

5 Methodology

Three trial-trenches were laid out across the development site. Trench 1 (T1) was 9m long by 1.8m wide (totalling 16.2m²), T2 was 10m long and 1.8m wide (18m²), and T3 was 15m long and 1.8m wide (27m²).

The trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision. All archaeological horizons were excavated and recorded according to the WS

⁵ This is based on records held at the Suffolk County Historic Environment Record (SCHER).

6 Results (Appendix 1, Figs 3-8)

Trench 1 (T1): 9m long by 1.8m wide

T1 was excavated through a modern gravel surface (L1, c 0.07-0.14m thick), buried topsoil (L2, c 0.2-0.31m thick) and subsoil (L3, c 0.42-0.5m thick) onto natural (L4, encountered at a depth of 0.82-0.86m below current ground level [bcgl]).

Two undated pits, F1 and F3, were uncovered; the former was 0.44m wide and 0.08m deep, the latter 0.38m wide and 0.14m deep. A further post-medieval or modern (AD 1750 or later) posthole or pit, F4, extended beyond the limit of excavation, but its exposed extent was 0.11m wide and 0.09m deep. Situated amongst these pits, medieval or post-medieval (AD 1300-1600) gully F2 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 0.31m wide and 0.07m deep.

Modern ditches F5 and F6 were cut into both L3 and L4; the former was 0.66m wide and 0.42m deep, the latter was 0.67m wide and 0.53m deep. The two ditches were positioned directly next to, and ran parallel to one another on a SSW-NNE alignment, and were clearly related. Some residual sherds of medieval / post-medieval pottery were recovered from F5.

Trench 2 (T2): 10m long by 1.8m wide

T2 was excavated through L1, a modern layer of crush (L5, c 0.18-0.21m thick) and L3 (c 0.3-0.34m thick) onto L4 (encountered at a depth of c 0.64-0.69m bcgl). The trench was excavated in two sections due to the presence of a fence.

Medieval ditch F7 was aligned WSW-ENE and was 0.48m wide and 0.17m deep. Undated posthole F8, situated just next to F7, was 0.16m wide and 0.09m deep.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking SSE



Photograph 2 T3 trench shot – looking SSE

Trench 3 (T3): 15m long by 1.8m wide

T3 was excavated through a modern concrete/paving slab surface (L6, c 0.03-0.11m thick). Towards the northern end of the trench L6 sealed L2 (up to 0.13m thick); at the southern end, it sealed L3 (c 0.44-0.52m thick). Where L2 was present in T3, it was underlain by L3, which in turn sealed L4 (encountered at a depth of c 0.61-0.65m bcgl).

Roman pit F9 was 0.36m wide and 0.17m deep. Undated ditch F10 was aligned SSW-NNE and was 0.62m wide and 0.17m deep.

7 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small quantity of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) (Table 1) from the following features: gully F2, pit/posthole F4, ditch F5, ditch F7 and pit F9. The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds and Wade 1999) and the post-Roman pottery using the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (2000) and Cunningham (1985).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
Roman	1	5	5
Medieval/post-medieval pottery	3	36	12
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	3	59	20
All	7	100	14

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Roman Pottery

One sherd of a fine oxidised ware (fabric DZ) was recovered from the pit F9 (5). This is from a narrow, thin-walled beaker with rouletted decoration and, while the sherd surface is slightly abraded, there appears to be no traces of a colour-coating. A date from the mid-1st century until the end of the 2nd century AD can be suggested.

Post-Roman Pottery

The ditch F7 (4) contained one sherd, possibly two sherds, of medieval sandy greyware (fabric F20) that can be broadly dated to AD 1150/1175-1375/1400. A base from a modern (AD 1750+) miscellaneous earthenware (fabric F48X) with sandy yellow/cream fabric with a light yellow glaze (perhaps of fabric 48E?) was recovered from the pit/posthole F4.

Post-Roman CBM

Two sherds of medieval / post-medieval peg-tile were recovered from the gully F2 (1) while the ditch F5 (3) contained a very small abraded sherd of CBM which is also possibly from a peg-tile. The use of peg-tile only became widespread from the mid-13th century AD and they remained in use until the 16th century (McComish 2015, 33).

Summary

Table 2 provides a dating summary for the features uncovered during the evaluation. Given the small quantity of ceramic and CBM recovered from the features, all the dates must be seen as tentative. The earliest feature is the pit F9, which can be dated to the early Roman period (mid-1st / 2nd century AD) although this is based upon the presence of only one sherd. The ditch F7 dates to the late medieval period, while the gully F2 and ditch F5 are of medieval or post-medieval date (1300-1600). Finally, the pit or posthole F4 is modern and post-dates c 1750.

Feature	Feature Type	Roman Pottery	Post-Roman Pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F2	Gully	-	-	Medieval / post-medieval	1300-1600
F4	Pit/posthole	-	F48X?	-	1750>
F5	Ditch	-	-	Medieval / post-medieval	1300-1600?
F7	Ditch	-	F20	-	c 1150/1175-1375/1400
F9	Pit	AD c 50-200	-	-	AD c 50-200

Table 2 Feature dating summary

8 Discussion

A scatter of archaeological features was uncovered during the evaluation. A single pit of Roman date (c 1st century AD or later) indicates some level of activity at the site during this period. The medieval ditch, F7, and the medieval or post-medieval gully, F2, were perhaps related to the medieval archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation carried out on an adjacent patch of land in 2007. The broad date range given for these features means that although it is possible that they were contemporary with one another, they might equally be representative of distinct phases of activity. A single posthole or pit of post-medieval or modern date (AD 1750 or later) demonstrates that the site was in use during this later period too, while the modern ditches detected were almost certainly associated with a collection of greenhouses which previously stood at this part of the site (in the vicinity of Trench 1). An aerial photograph of the site in the archive collection of Notcutts Garden Centre (Fig 5) shows the location of these greenhouses and also provides an indication of the extent to which the layout of the garden Centre changed in the latter part of the 20th century, and it is possible that this activity may have truncated archaeological remains on the site. Finally, no masking colluvial/alluvial deposits were encountered.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to Andrew Ingleton of Notcutts Limited for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with S Carter, E Hicks and R Mathieson. Figures are by C Lister and M Baister. The project was monitored by Abby Antrobus for Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

10 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|
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| CifA | 2008b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
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		Essex
SCC	2008	<i>The Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation Map, version 3</i>
SCCAS	2017a	<i>Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation</i> (version 1.3)
SCCAS	2017b	<i>Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition</i>
SCCAS	2018	<i>Brief for a trenched archaeological evaluation at Notcutts Garden Centre, Woodbridge</i>

11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
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
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 AD 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
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 c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
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
SCC	Suffolk County Council
SCCAS	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
SCHER	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: part of a box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1366)

SCCAS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, trench record sheet, finds record)

Site digital photographic log

13 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with SCCAS under Parish Number WBG 128.

Distribution list:

Andrew Ingleton (Notcutts Limited)
Abby Antrobus, SCCAS
Suffolk County Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

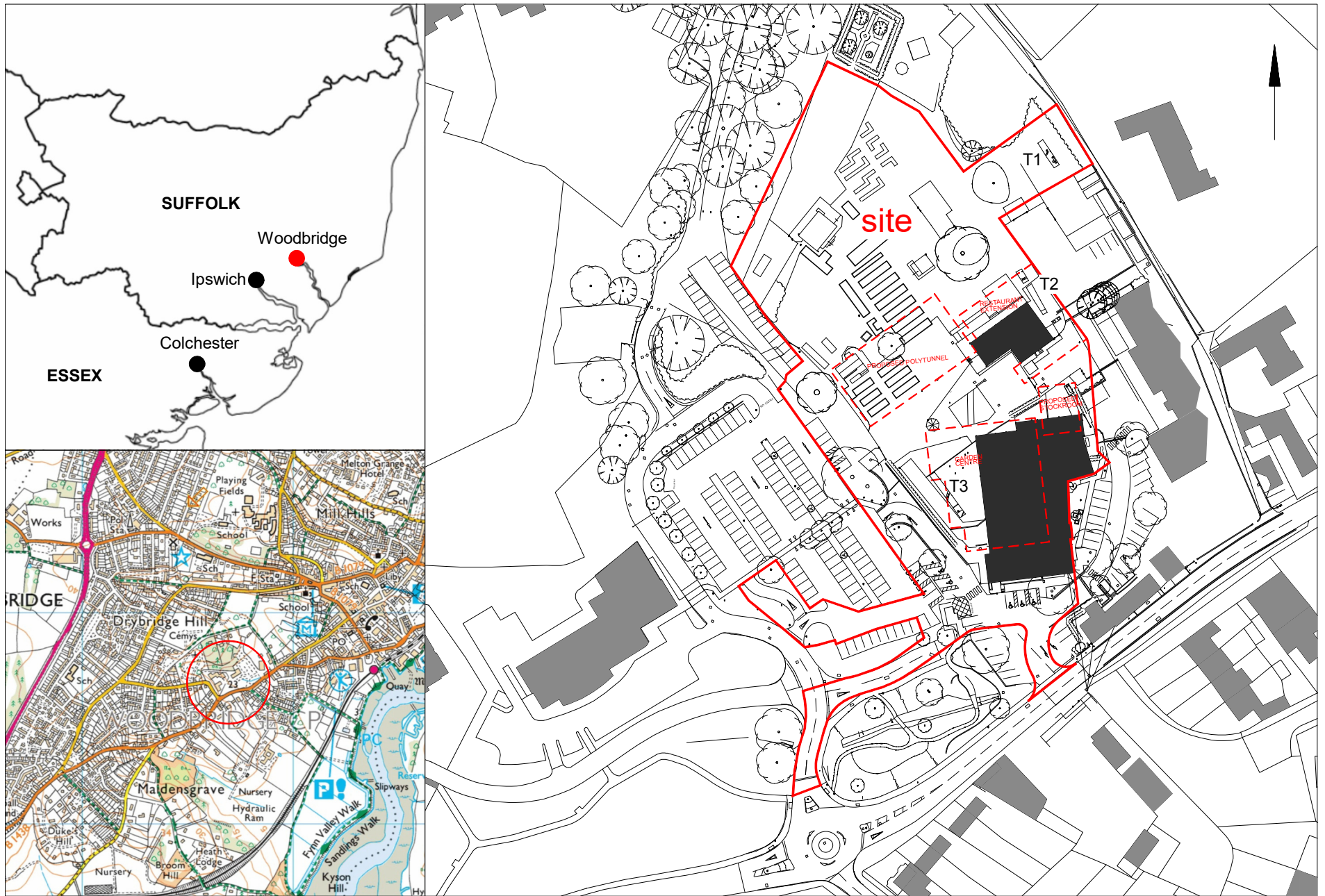
tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

checked by: Philip Crummy
date: 15.02.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	T1, T3	-	Gravel surface	Gravel yard surface	Modern
L2	T1, T3	-	Buried topsoil	Hard, moist, dark black silty-clay	Modern
L3	All	-	Subsoil	Soft, moist, medium green/grey/black silty-clay	Undated
L4	All	-	Natural	Soft, moist, medium yellow/orange sandy-clay	Post-glacial
L5	T2	-	Crush	Type 1 crush layer with overlying a plastic membrane	Modern
L6	T3	-	Concrete surface	Concrete/paving slab surface	Modern
F1	T1	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium light grey sandy-clay with charcoal flecks	Undated
F2	T1	1	Gully	Loose, dry, light/medium grey/brown silty-loam	Medieval / post-medieval (1300-1600)
F3	T1	-	Pit	Soft, dry, medium grey silty-loam	Undated
F4	T1	2	?Posthole/pit	Loose, dry, medium grey silty-loam	Post-medieval / modern (1750 or later)
F5	T1	3	Ditch	Very soft, moist, dark grey/brown clayey-sand	Modern with residual medieval / post-medieval
F6	T1	-	Ditch	Very soft, moist, dark grey clayey-sand	Modern
F7	T2	4	Ditch	Loos/soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Medieval (1150/75-1375/1400)
F8	T2	-	Posthole	Soft, dry, medium grey sandy-silt	Undated
F9	T3	5	Pit	Soft, moist, dark grey/black silty-clay	Roman (50-200 AD)
F10	T3	-	Ditch	Soft, moist/wet, dark grey/brown/black silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undated



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

0 100 m



Fig 2 Development site (outlined in red) in relation to nearby archaeological sites as plotted on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record

Imagery ©2018 Google, Map data ©2018 Google
 Historic environment data ©Suffolk Historic Environment Record



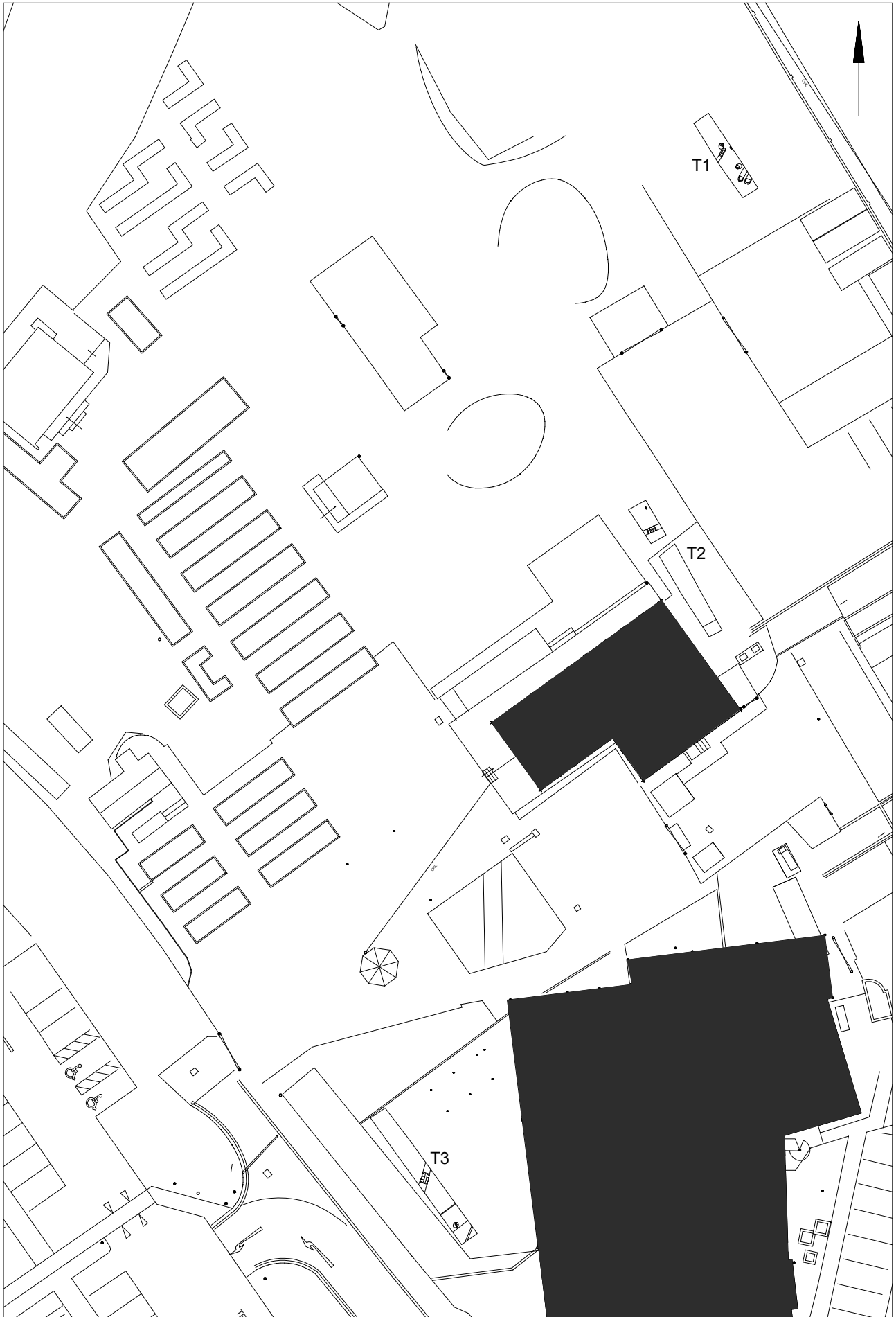


Fig 3 Results

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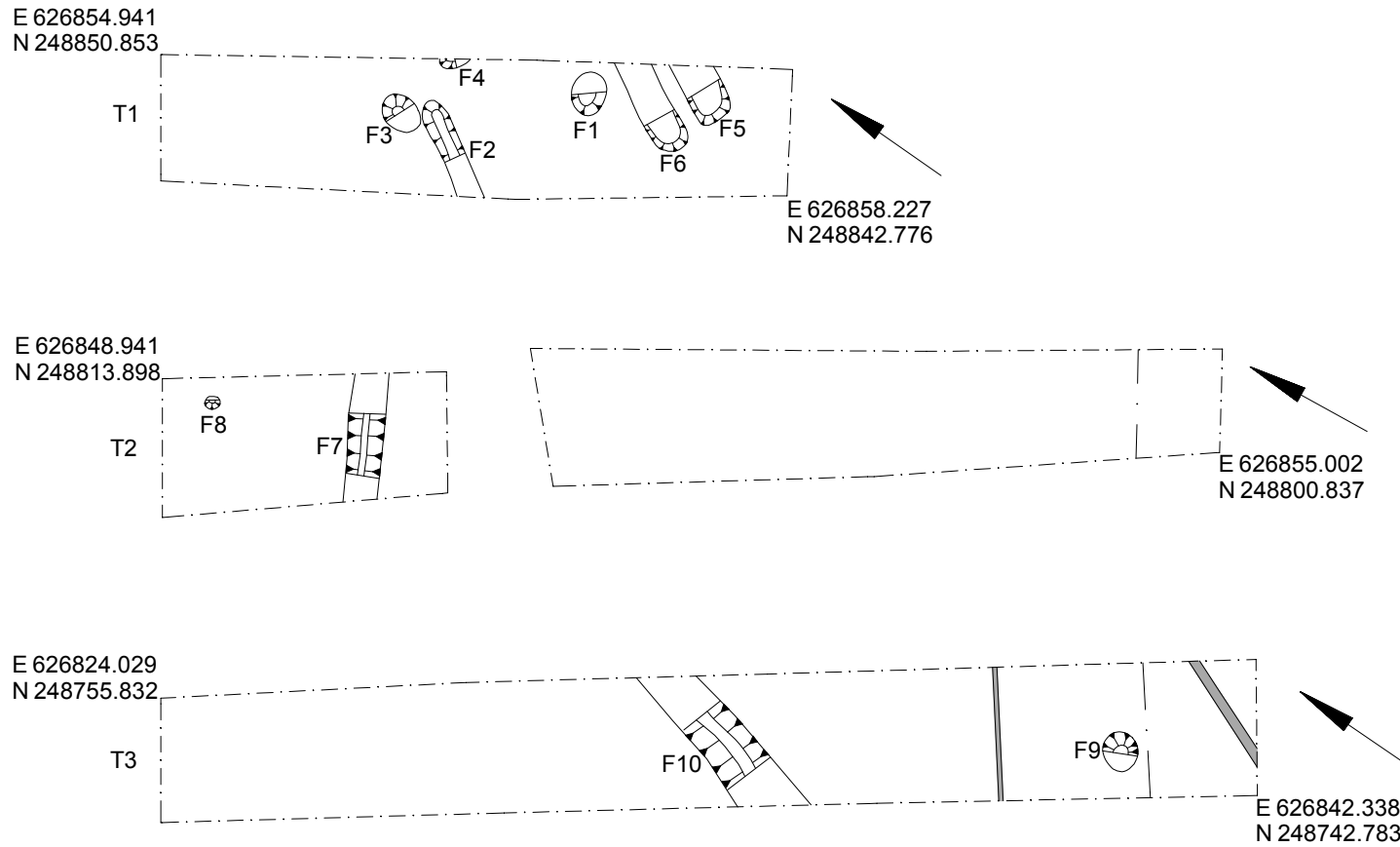


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans.



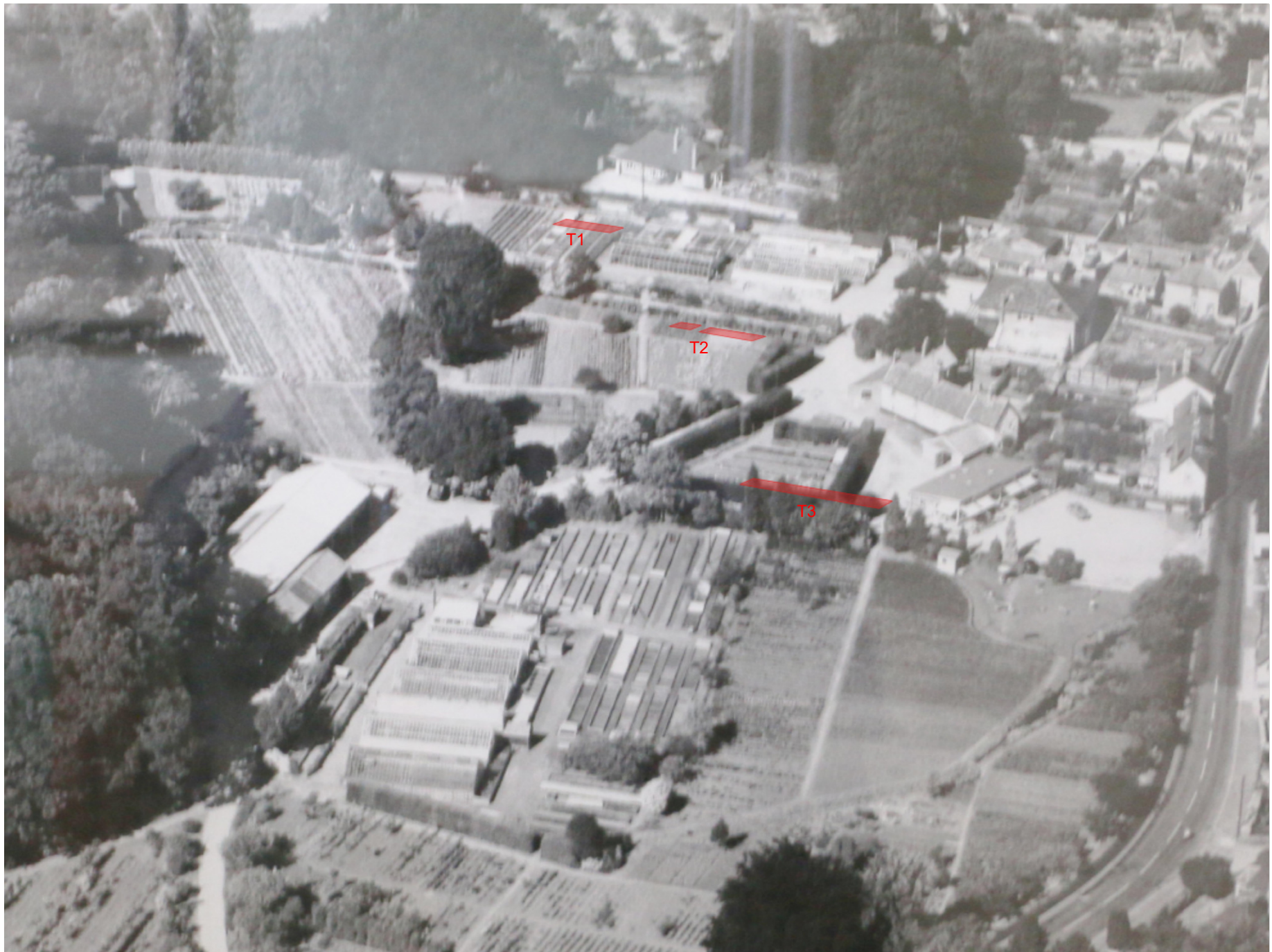


Fig 5 20th-century aerial photograph of site with approximate locations of trenches marked in red.

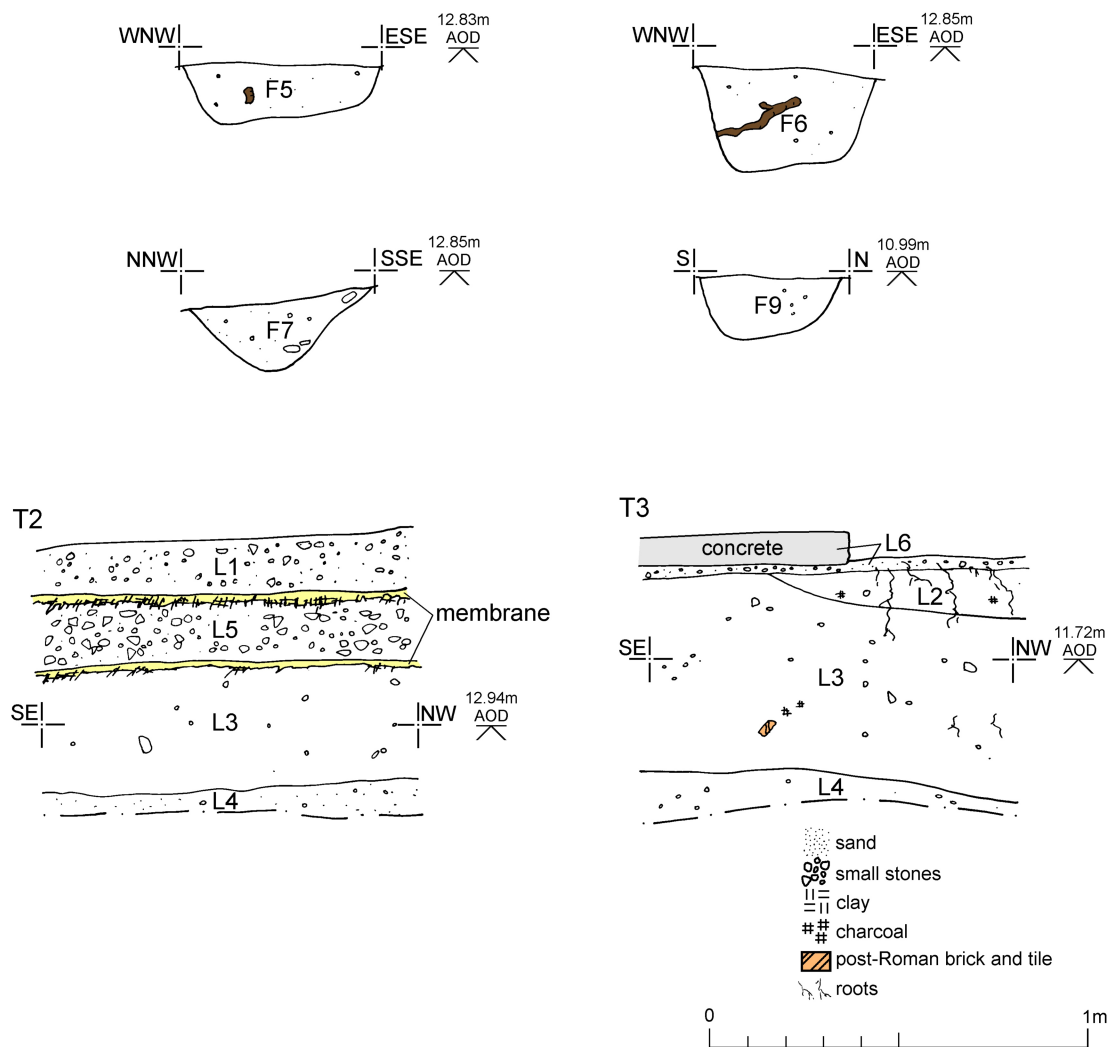


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-332338

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Notcutts Garden Centre, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was undertaken at Notcutts Garden Centre, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk in advance of the partial demolition of the garden centre retail areas and erection of new buildings, polytunnels with customer entrance, an extension to the restaurant/café, new stock buildings and alterations to car park and access. A Roman pit, a medieval ditch, a medieval or post-medieval gully and two modern ditches, along with several undated features - two pits, a posthole and a ditch - were uncovered. It is possible that the medieval features were associated with contemporaneous remains traced during an evaluation conducted on an adjacent plot of land, while the modern features appear to relate to a complex of greenhouses which previously stood on this part of the site.
Project dates	Start: 07-01-2019 End: 14-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/10p - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DC/17/2699/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Medieval
Monument type	PIT/POSTHOLE Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	PIT Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG TILE Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK SUFFOLK COASTAL WOODBRIDGE Notcutts Garden Centre, Ipswich Road
Postcode	IP12 4AF
Study area	12061 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 268 487 52.089531818856 1.31107879638 52 05 22 N 001 18 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.26m Max: 12.88m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, SCC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Notcutts Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Physical Archive ID	WBG 128
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Digital Archive ID	WBG 128
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service
Paper Archive ID	WBG 128
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Notcutts Garden Centre, Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E
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