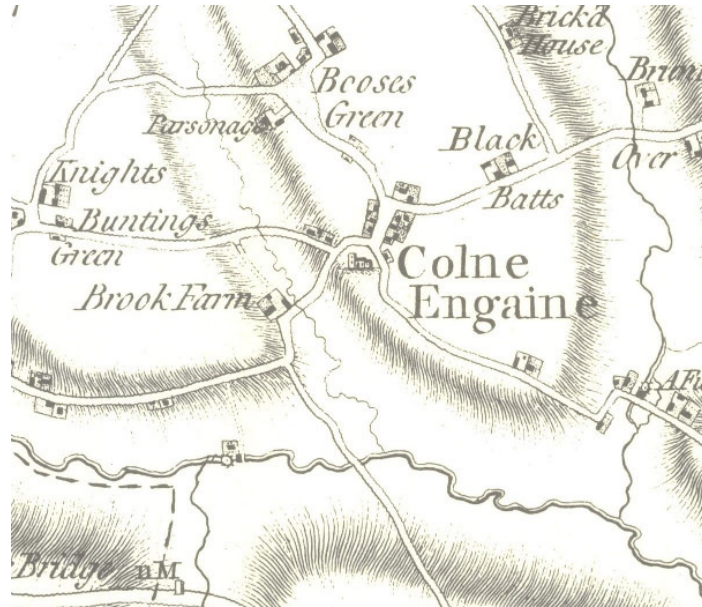


Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to St. Andrew's Church, Church Street, Colne Engaine, Essex, CO6 2EX

February 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Robin Mathieson and Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by Terry Hawthorn
on behalf of the PCC of St Andrew's Church**

NGR: TL 85053 30294 (centre)

Planning ref.: 17/02279/FUL

CAT project code: 19/02c

ECC code: CECS19

Braintree Museum accession code: [requested](#)

OASIS ref.: colchest3-342437



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CAT Report 1395
April 2019

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Colne Engaine, Essex in advance of the extension of the church graveyard. Excavations revealed a medieval or post-medieval pit, a medieval ?quarry pit and a post-medieval pit, along with an undated pit, demonstrating that this has periodically been a site of human activity through the medieval and post-medieval period.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Colne Engaine, Essex, which was carried out on 28th February 2019. The work was commissioned by Terry Hawthorn on behalf of the PCC of St Andrew's Church in advance of the extension of the church graveyard 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 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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 (CIfA 2014a)*, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 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 site is located just to the south of the Historic England Grade I listed medieval St Andrew's Church (NHLE no. 1123236, ECC28666 and ECC9414). The church is constructed from flint and stone mixed with Roman brick and tile (ECC9415), with a brick porch and upper storeys. The nave dates to the 12th century with later additions in the 13th to 16th centuries, and restoration work was undertaken in 1872 (ECC9416). A Roman burial was uncovered nearby (ECC9414), although its exact location is unknown. It is speculated that the church is located near to the site of a medieval manor house. Pottery dating to the 13th and 14th centuries, animal bone and indications of domestic occupation have been found (ECC9717). In 1950, medieval material was recorded as a possible finds scatter on the land to the south of the church (ECC9384). To the immediate west north-west of the church, late 2nd-century Roman pottery was discovered when the parish hall was constructed (ECC9365). A Roman iron anvil has been found approximately 300m south of the site (ECC9290). During geotechnical trial-pitting undertaken on the site to establish the depths of groundwater (Howland 2018), artefacts including fragments of brick and bone were recovered although the date and origin of these are unknown.

Little archaeological work has been undertaken within the area. In 2000, CAT carried out an evaluation at the former Crossways Garage site on northern side of Brook Street to the north-west of the site during which only a single post-medieval ditch/gully was revealed. It was noted, however, that modern foundations within the eastern part of the site may have truncated any archaeological remains which may have been present (CAT Report 114).

There are two main areas of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography in the vicinity of the site, one in a field on the northern edge of the main village, the other in a field to the south-west of the village. Both show lines identified as former agricultural boundaries, many of which are noted as visible on the first edition OS map (ECC47523 and ECC17187).

The village comprises of a number of historic listed properties. Burches Farm House (ECC28680), The Croft (ECC28681) and 38-40 Brook Street, (ECC28671) were constructed during the 16th century. The church hall dates to the 17th century (ECC28670). 2-8 Brook Street (ECC28669) date to the 18th century and The Old School House (ECC28672) dates to the 19th century. A 19th century brickworks was located to the north of the church (ECC15351).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Four archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches measured 12m long by 1.8m wide, aside from one (T4) which measured 9m long. All trenches were excavated to natural. A sondage was excavated in T1 to confirm that natural had been reached.

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.21-0.29m thick), and subsoil (L2, c 0.1-0.15m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.4-0.69m below current ground level). Within the area of T3, L3 was sealed by a layer of colluvial material (L4, c 0.32-0.35m thick).

There were no archaeological features in T4.

Trench 1 (T1):

Medieval (mid 12th- to 14th-century) quarry pit F3 extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) but its exposed extent was 1.48m wide and 0.84m deep.

Trench 2 (T2):

Two pits, F1 and F2, both extended beyond the limits of the trench, but their exposed dimensions were 1.12m wide and 0.34m deep and 0.79m wide and 0.58m deep, respectively. While the two features were related, it was not possible to determine which feature cut which. Artefactual evidence established F2 as medieval or post-medieval (15th- to mid 16th-century) in date, implying that F1 was of the same date.

Trench 3 (T3):

Post-medieval pit F4 extended beyond the LOE but its exposed extent was 0.7m wide and 0.39m deep.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot, looking west

6 Finds

Pottery and ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material including nine sherds with a weight of 147g. This material came from the following features:

F2: four sherds (76 g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric 21) from a bung-hole jar or cistern, dating to c 1400-1550/1575 (CAR 7 129-134). These vessels were used for the production and storage of beer (*ibid*, 134). There was also one piece of peg-tile. In south-eastern England the earliest use of peg-tile dates to the 14th century (Drury 130-131).

F3: one small sherd of medieval sandy greyware pottery (fabric 20) with a weight of 5g. This ware is dates from c 1150/1175 to 1375/1400 (CAR 7 91-92).

F4: three pieces of post-medieval or 19th-century brick with a weight of 25g. These pieces are under-fired and are friable.

Summary

Table 1 provides a brief dating summary for the features with datable ceramic finds.

Feature	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F2	Fabric 21	PT	c 1400-1550/1575
F3	Fabric 20	-	c 1150/1175-1375/1400
F4	-	BR	Post-medieval or 19th-century

Table 1 Approximate dates for the individual features

Animal bone

by Adam Wightman

Two fragments of animal bone from F2 (finds no. 1) consisted of a pig incisor (3g) and humerus from a medium mammal (28g) that has been gnawed at both ends. A rib fragment (26g) from a large mammal came from F4 (finds no. 4).

Other finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of iron was recovered from F3 (finds no. 2). It is roughly rectangular in shape, 46mm long by 25mm wide by 10mm thick and weighs 23.2g.

7 Conclusion

During the course of this evaluation, a medieval (mid 12th- to 14th-century) possible quarry pit, a medieval or post-medieval (15th to mid 16th-century) pit, and further post-medieval pit were uncovered, demonstrating that this has periodically formed a site of activity through much of the medieval and post-medieval periods.

Geotechnical investigations carried out prior to the trial-trenching revealed deposits of made ground, most likely deriving from the post-medieval pitting for the extraction of gravel and clay which the land owner indicated had been undertaken in the area.

The results of this evaluation correspond with previous investigations within this area, during which scatters of medieval pottery have been detected, and perhaps lend further weight to the hypothesis that a medieval manorial site may lie nearby. The lack of finds dating to the Roman period, considering the amount of Roman material contained within the fabric of St Andrew's Church itself, suggests that the Roman building(s) from which this derives are probably not located to the south of the church. Topographically this would make sense and the likely (although speculative location) for the Roman settlement is on the top of the hill near to the location of the church, supported by the finds recovered during the construction of the parish hall.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Terry Hawthorn and the PCC of St Andrew's Church for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson and B Quinn. 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, N & Glazebrook, 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>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by J Cotter
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 114	2000	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Crossways Garage, Colne Engaine, Essex, November 2000.</i> By H Brooks
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	2019	<i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching evaluation on land adjacent to St Andrews Church, Colne Engaine.</i> By T O'Connor

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).
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Howlett Associates Ltd	2018	<i>An investigation to establish the presence and relative depth of perched groundwater on land adjacent to St Andrew's Church PCC, Church Street, Colne Engaine</i> . By T E Bennett
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)
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
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'
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, 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
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: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1395)

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 1395)

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 Braintree Museum under accession code: [requested](#).

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Distribution list:

Terry Hawthorn

PCC of St Andrew's Church

Teresa O'Connor, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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tel.: 01206 501785

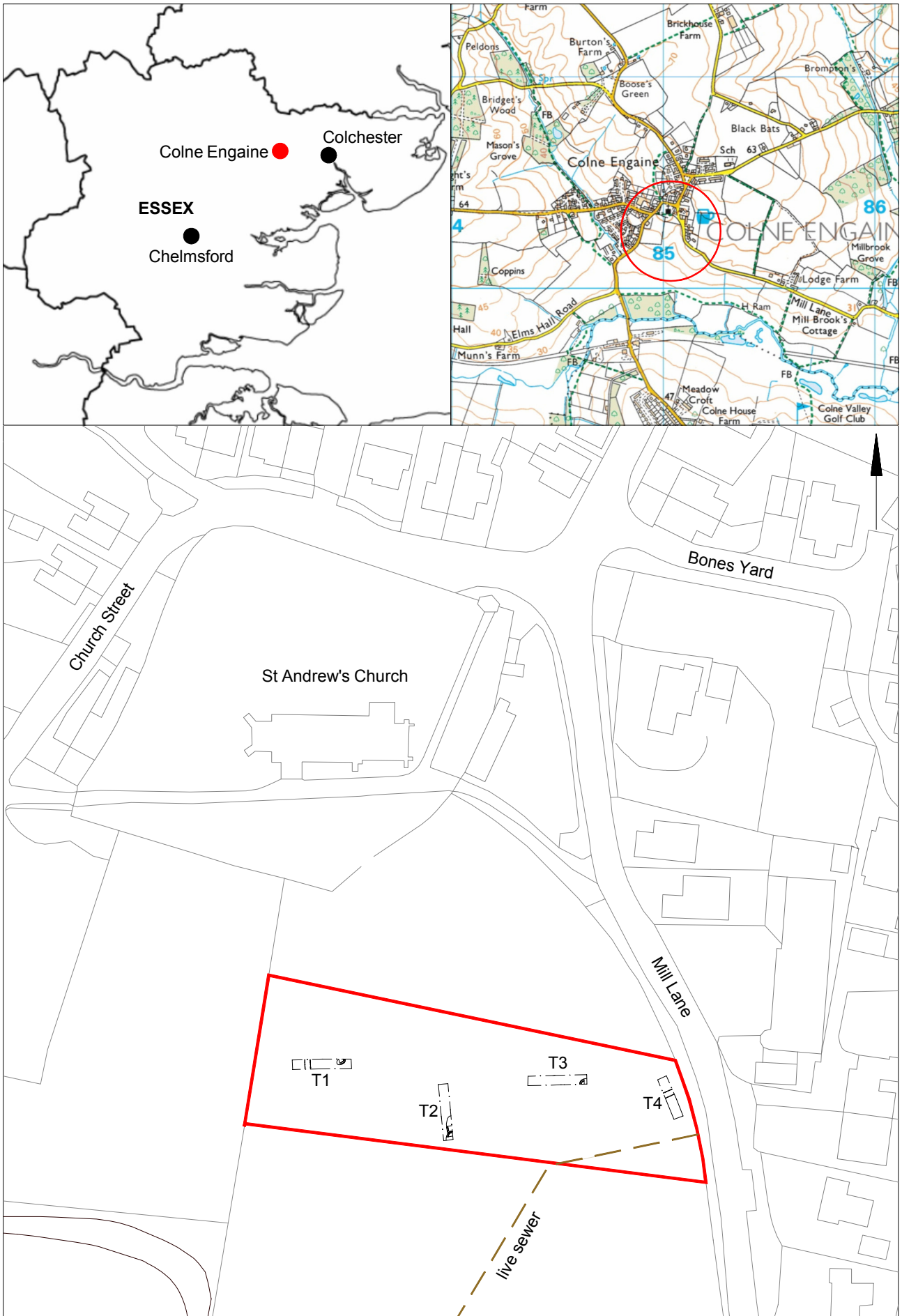
email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 01.04.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Firm, moist very dark grey silty-clay	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with 5% gravel	Undatable
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm/hard, moist medium orange/brown sandy-clay with charcoal flecks	Post-glacial
L4	T3	-	Colluvial layer	Friable/firm, moist medium red/brown sandy-clay	Undatable
F1	T2	-	Pit	Firm, moist light/medium grey/brown silty-sand	Undatable
F2	T2	1	Pit	Soft, dry light/medium grey/brown silty-sand	Medieval or post-medieval (c 1400-1550/1575)
F3	T1	2, 3	?Quarry pit	Firm, moist medium orange/brown clayey-sand with 5% stones	Medieval (c 1150/1175 to 1375/1400)
F4	T3	4	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Post-medieval



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Fig 1 Site location.



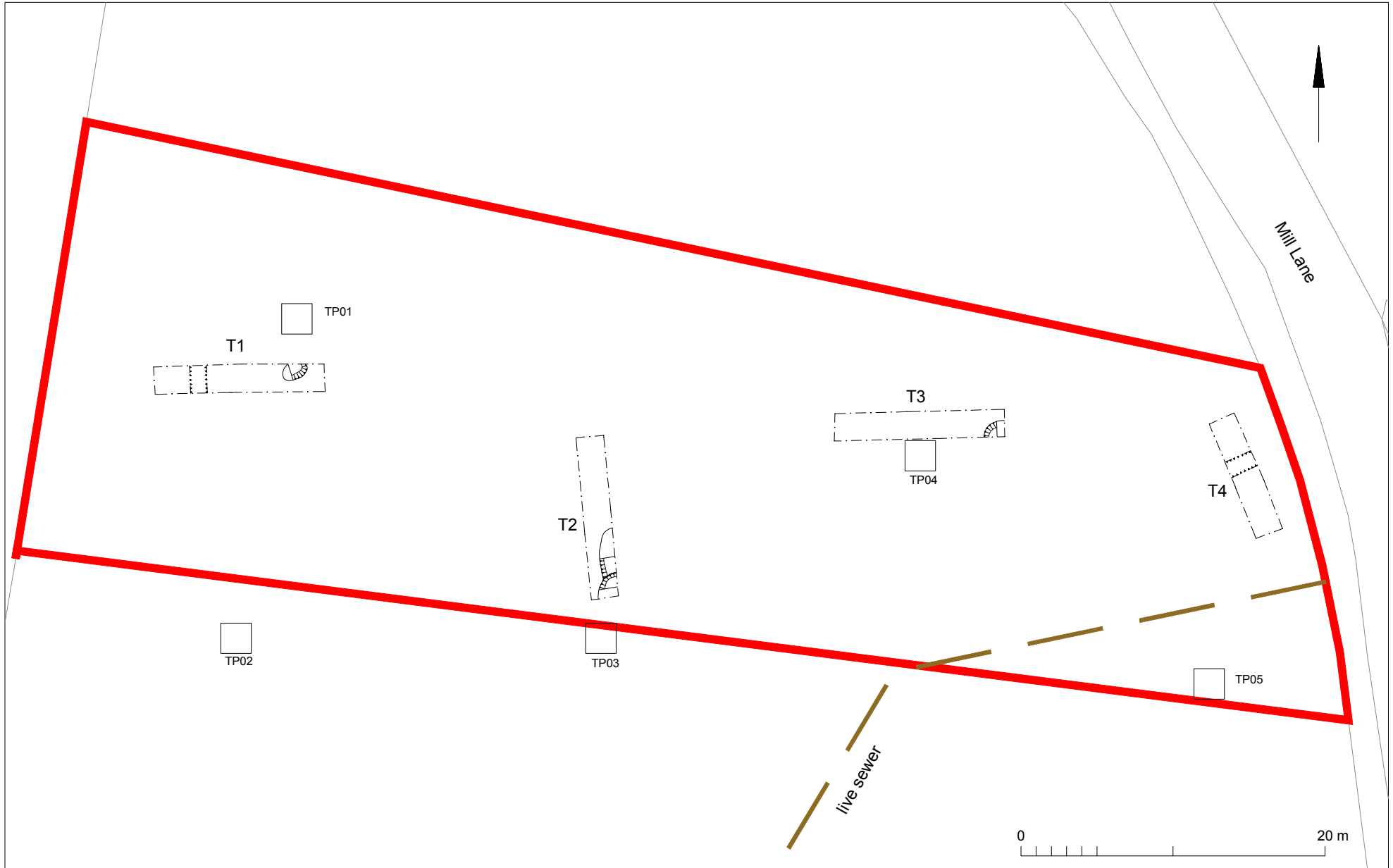


Fig 2 Evaluation results (including soil investigation locations TP01-05).

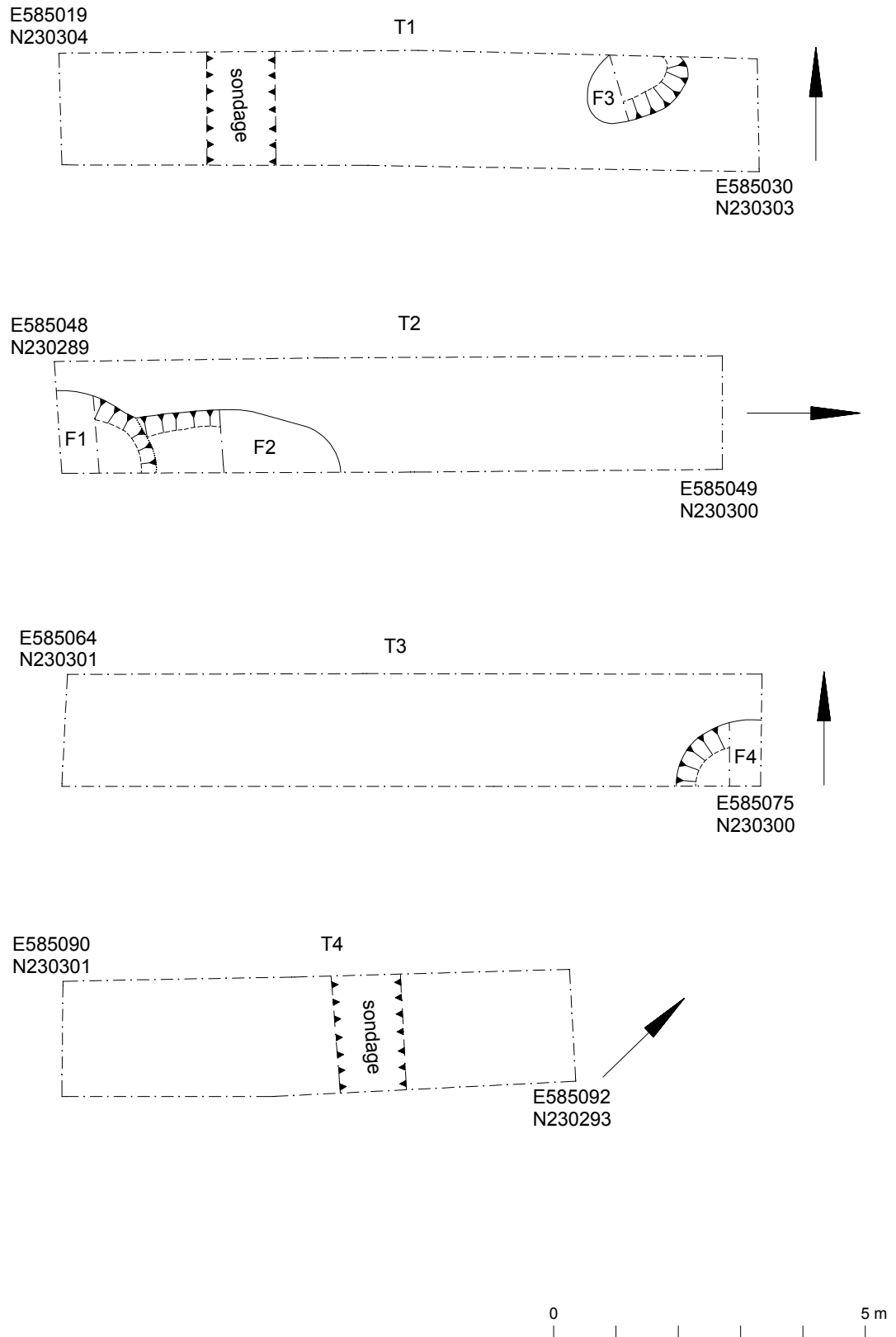


Fig 3 Trench plans.

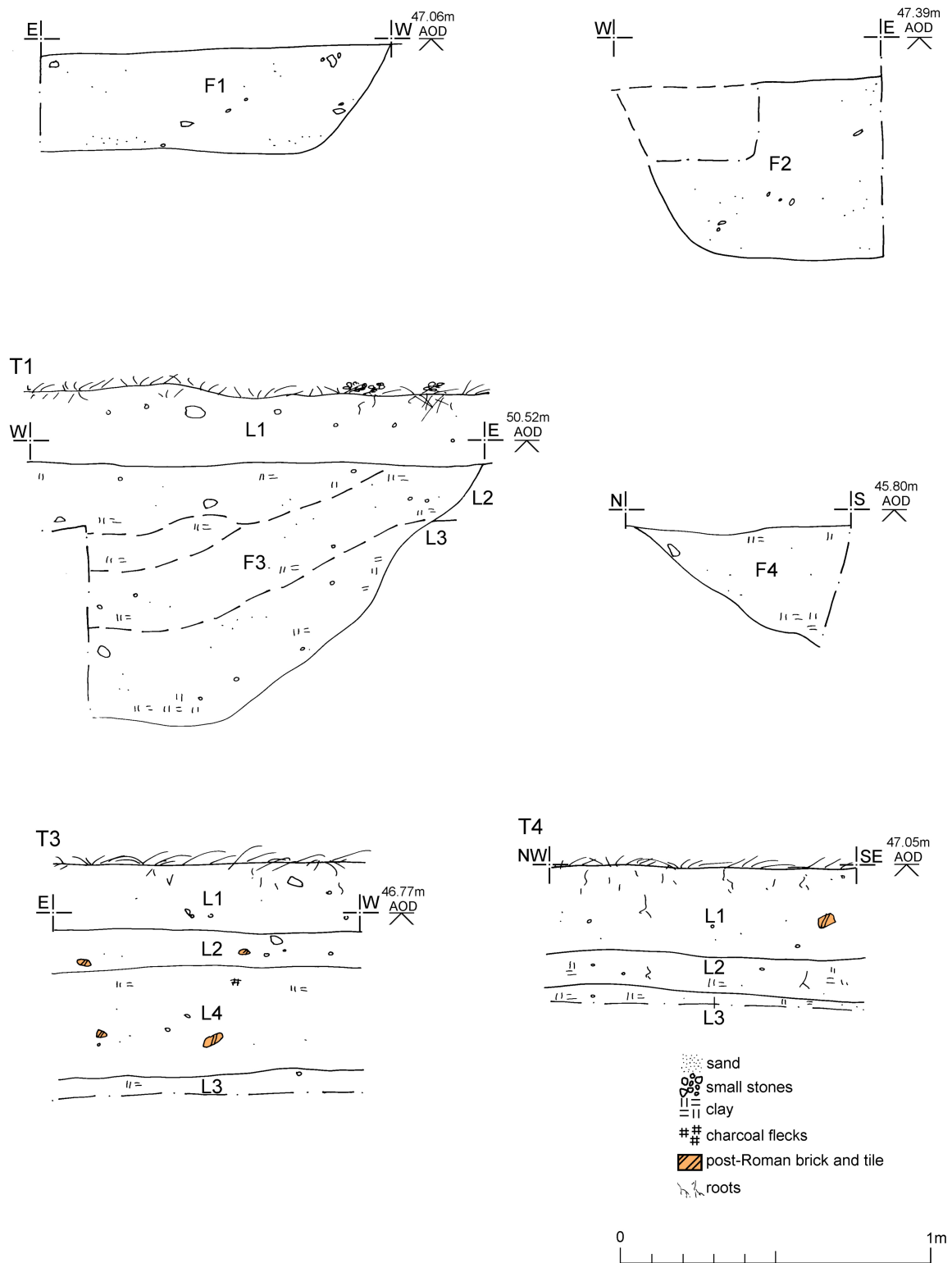


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-342437

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenching on land adjacent to St. Andrew's Church, Mill Lane, Colne Engaine, Essex, CO6 2EX
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Colne Engaine, Essex in advance of the extension of the church graveyard. Excavations revealed a medieval or post-medieval pit, a medieval ?quarry pit and a post-medieval pit, along with an undated pit, demonstrating that this has periodically been a site of human activity through the medieval and post-medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 28-02-2019 End: 28-02-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/02c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	17/02279/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Medieval
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE COLNE ENGAINE land adjacent to St. Andrew's Church, Mill Lane, Colne Engaine
Postcode	CO6 2EX
Study area	0.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 85053 30294 51.93983250566 0.69247306071 51 56 23 N 000 41 32 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.93m Max: 50.55m

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 Parochial Church Council
 Name of sponsor/funding body PCC of St Andrew's Church, Colne Engaine

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Braintree Museum
 Digital Archive ID requested
 Digital Contents "Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Braintree Museum
 Paper Archive ID requested
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Colne Engaine, Essex - February 2019
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1395
 Date 2019
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Place of issue or publication Colchester
 Description Comb-bound A4 report
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>
 Entered by Chris Lister (cl@catuk.org)
 Entered on 2 April 2019

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