

Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PJ.

May 2019



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with contributions from Laura Pooley

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**commissioned by Darren Callow on behalf of DJC Building
and Refurbishment Ltd**

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CAT Report 1417
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex in advance of the construction of four semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks. No archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, which was carried out on 22nd May 2019. The work was commissioned by Darren Callow on behalf of DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd in advance of the construction of four semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor 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* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Takeley*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (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 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).

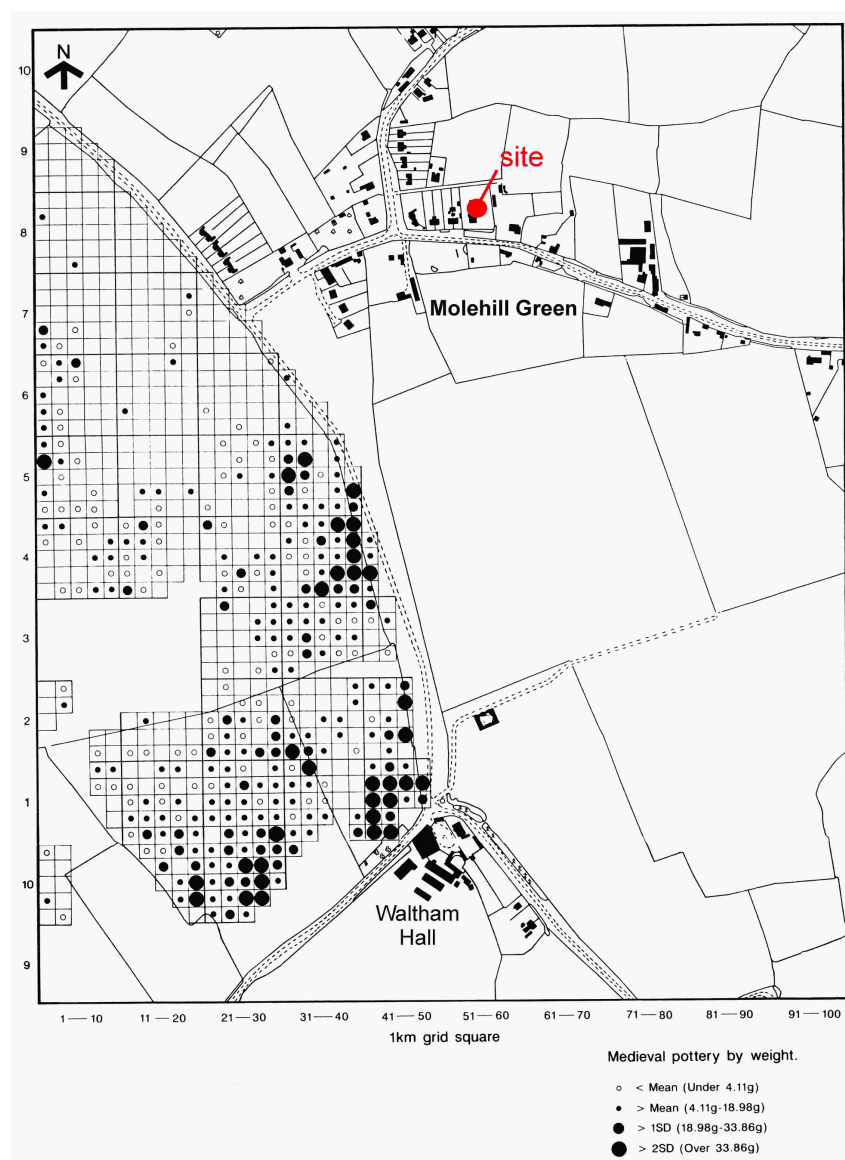
3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

Molehill green is an historic hamlet. Of particular note are archaeological deposits found to the southwest at the site at Stansted airport. The airport has seen a number of phases of archaeological work as it has evolved and expanded. This primarily began in 1985 once Stansted became classed as a London airport. Between 1985 and 1991, a major fieldwalking programme followed by small to large-scale excavation work took place (EAA 107,1-2). Of particular note in relation to our site is fieldwalking project Area X, located in the northeast corner of Stansted, along the edge of Molehill Green. Map 1 below shows the distribution of pottery collected on the site.

Three small excavation areas were located to target areas with high concentrations of medieval pottery recorded during the fieldwalking. Closest to our site is MGS Area A, a 20 by 25m excavation area that revealed a small 'D'-shaped enclosure, defined by a series of rectilinear and curvilinear gullies. The gullies were quite shallow (ranging from 0.1-0.3m in depth) and hard to interpret (EAA, 107, 2, 375-6; EHER no 6719)). MGS Area B was initially a 20 by 15m area, but was later extended. The site was dominated by three linear gullies, two of which lay parallel. It was suggested that these may be the remains of a building with the gullies forming the foundation trenches of the structure. Other key features included two areas of burnt stones, interpreted as being the sites of

hearths (EAA **107**, 2, 376; EHER no 6720). MGS Area C had evidence of a broader range of occupation, as identified by a series of linear gullies, pits and post-holes dating to the 12th-13th centuries, a series of linear gullies dating to the 14th-15th centuries and a backfilled moat dating to the 16th century. Although artefacts recovered from the moat date to the 16th century, this dates when it went out of use. The moat is thought to be 13th century in origin (EAA **107**, 2, 379; EHER no 6721).



Map 1 EAA **107**, 2, fig 235 showing the current site (in red) in relation to Stansted fieldwalking Area X and Waltham Hall

A trench excavated in 1979 by the Essex Field Archaeology Unit on land on the southern side of School Road found an area of burnt clay slabs, thought to be possibly part of a brick kiln, and two raised platforms formed by ditches parallel to the site boundary (EAH **11**, 70; EHER no 4711). These were interpreted as toft sites, abandoned in the 19th century when the hamlet may have downsized or moved sideways. However, an evaluation by CAT on land south of School Road in 2019 found no evidence of archaeology (CAT Report 1379).

Approximately 800m to the south of the site is the location of Waltham Hall (EHER no 4561). The hall is a 17th-century or earlier moated timber-framed house with

associated outbuildings (EHER no 37421). The site is a scheduled ancient monument (NHLE no. 1002161). Excavations on the western side of the road as part of the Stansted Airport development have identified medieval remains of 12th- to 13th-century date. Further deposits were identified during the Stansted G2 evaluation work around the development site. CAT carried out an evaluation on land to the immediate northeast of the hall area but did not find any archaeology (EHER no 48919, CAT Report 1040).

A recent evaluation on land at Croft End revealed a shallow pit containing Bronze Age pottery in the upper fill. Consequently the trench was extended to reveal the full extent of the feature (CAT Report 1405).

Also of note within the hamlet is the Three Horseshoes Public House, an English Heritage Grade II listed 15th-century timber-framed building incorporated into a 17th-century house (EHER no 37458) and Yew Tree Cottage an English Heritage Grade II listed 18th-century timber-framed house (EHER no 37463).

4 Aim

The aim 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 2-4)

Three trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1 was 13m long and 1.8m wide, T2 was 11m long and 1.8m wide and T3 was 10m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2-0.42m, hard, dry dark grey/brown silty-clay with chalk, charcoal and CBM flecks and 5% stones) and subsoil (L2, c 0.22-0.49m thick, hard, dry medium orange/brown silty-clay with 4% stones) onto natural (L3, hard, dry light/medium orange/brown clay, encountered at a depth of 0.54-0.72m below current ground level). A sondage was excavated in T1 to confirm that the natural had been reached.



Photograph 1 T2 trench shot – looking north

Modern services were present in trench T2, but otherwise no archaeological features were encountered.

6 Finds

by Laura Pooley

Found in L1 (finds no. 1) was a copper-alloy button of probable 18th-19th century date. The button is circular, flat and appears to be plain, although any decoration would be obscured by dirt and corrosion. The back of the button has been squashed flat but appears to be a simple loop soldered onto the flat reverse. 33mm diameter, 2mm thick, 6.6g.

7 Conclusion

In spite of being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant remains were encountered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Darren Callow and DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with B Quinn and A Tuffey. Figures are by C Lister, A Tuffey 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>

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|
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MHCLG 2019 *National Planning Policy Framework*. Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
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
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1800
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 I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1417)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photos and log

Site section drawings

Inked section drawings

Digital record

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

The report (CAT Report 1417)

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2019.24.

Distribution list:

Darren Callow
DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd
Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



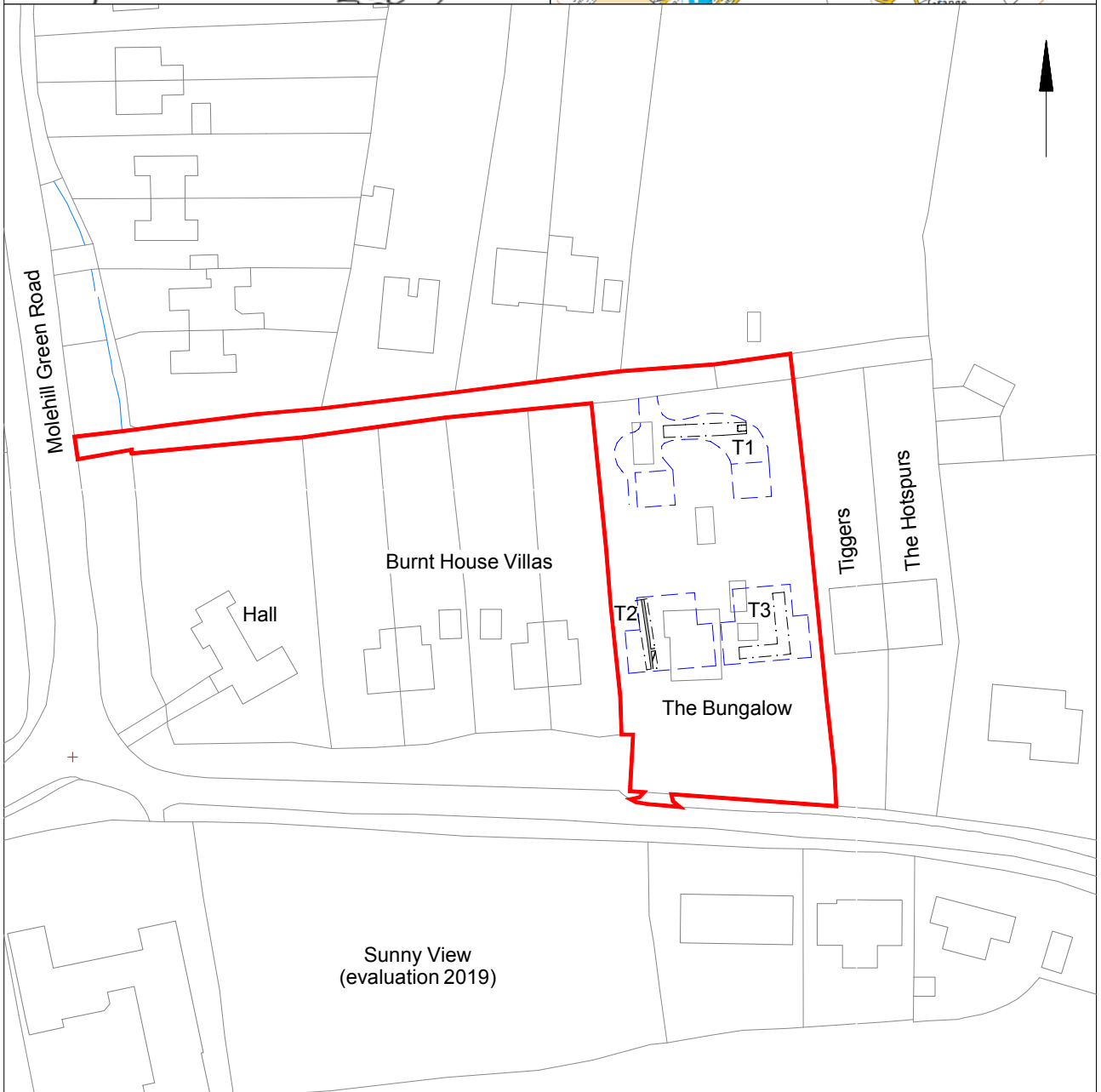
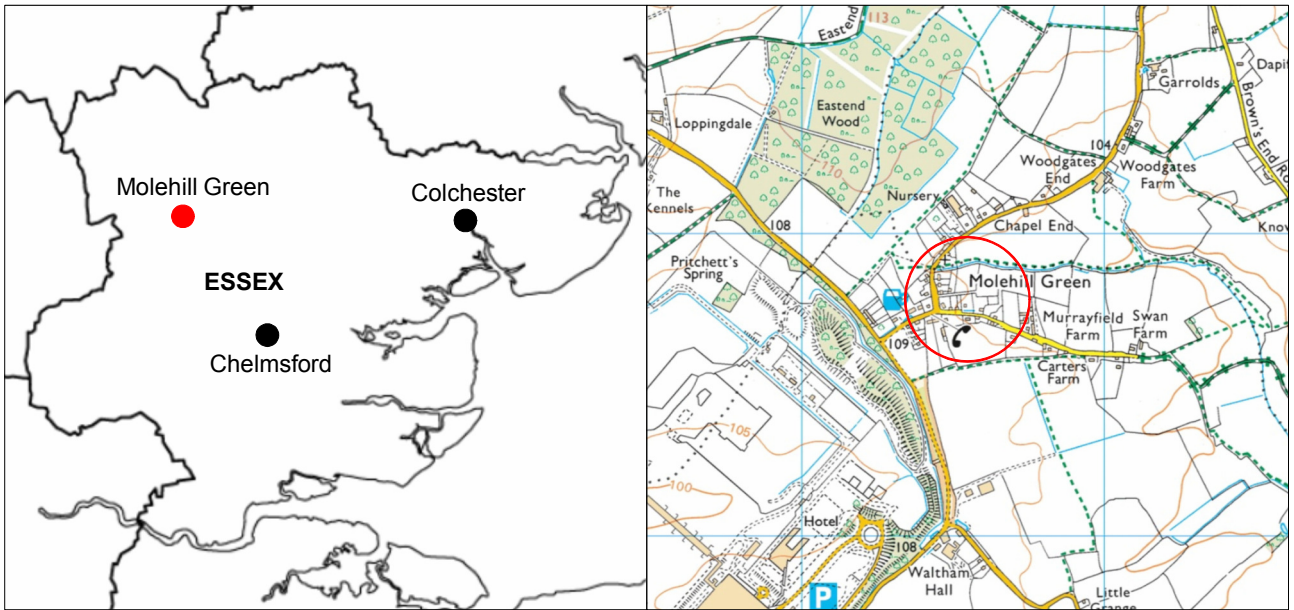
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 07.06.2019



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



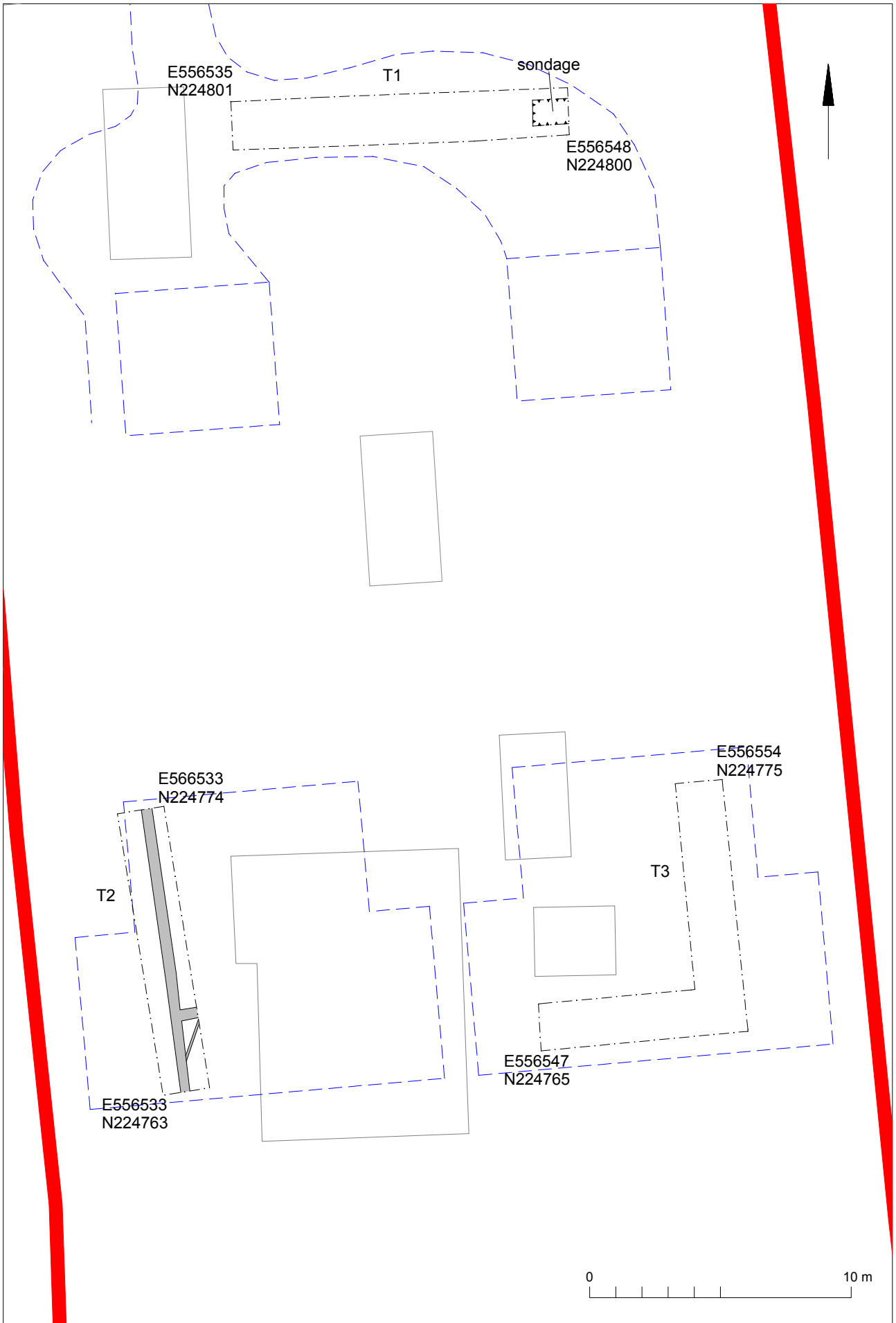


Fig 2 Evaluation results (proposed development shown in blue).

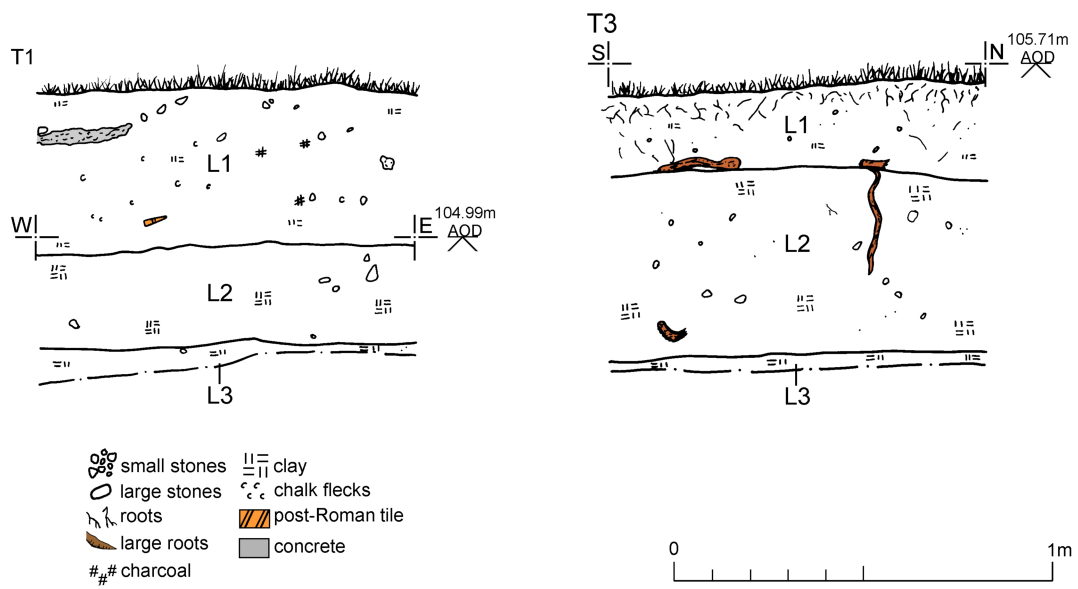


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-351210

Project details

Project name	Archaeological trial-trenching and excavation on land at The bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex, CM2
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land at The Bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex in advance of the construction of four semi-detached dwellings and associated groundworks. No archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 22-05-2019 End: 22-05-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2019.24 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	TBSL19 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-351210 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Significant Finds	COIN Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
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 UTTLESFORD TAKELEY land at The bungalow, School Lane, Molehill Green, Takeley, Essex
Postcode	CM22 6PJ
Study area	0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 56541 24767 51.898958500933 0.275503319246 51 53 56 N 000 16 31 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 104.7m Max: 104.99m

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	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	DJC Building and Refurbishment Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2019.24
Digital Media available	"Text", "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2019.24
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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