

Archaeological evaluation at Wash Brook Stud, land west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex, CO6 3LL

October 2020



by Dr Elliott Hicks

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

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Alec Wade, Alexander Smith and Bronagh Quinn

commissioned by Garry Williams (Verity Boys)

NGR: TL 91750 27170 (centre)
Planning ref.: 200160
CAT project ref.: 20/09f
ECC code: ECC4561
OASIS ref.: colchest3-404247



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CAT Report 1607
October 2020

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	3
7	Conclusion	4
8	Acknowledgements	4
9	References	4
10	Abbreviations and glossary	5
11	Contents of archive	5
12	Archive deposition	6
Appendix 1	Pottery list	7
Appendix 2	CBM list	8
Figures		after p8
CAT wsi		
OASIS summary sheet		

List of photographs, tables and figures

Cover: working shot

Photograph 1	T4 trench shot, looking north	2
Photograph 2	T7 trench shot, looking south	3
Table 1	Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery	3
Table 2	Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts	3
Table 3	Approximate dates for the individual features and contexts	4
Fig 1	Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development	
Fig 2	Evaluation results	
Fig 3	Evaluation trench results	
Fig 4	Feature and representative sections	

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (nine trial-trenches) was carried out at Wash Brook Stud, land west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex in advance of the development of an equestrian stud comprising the erection of a new stable building, sand school and the retrospective siting of a mobile home with associated groundworks. The site lies in the midst of several cropmark complexes and south of a brickworks which operated from the mid 19th century until the First World War. Excavations revealed a modern pit and a medieval or post-medieval ditch which were probably associated with activity at the farm.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation at Wash Brook Stud, land west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex which was carried out during 5th-6th October 2020. The work was commissioned by Garry Williams of Verity Boys in advance of the development of an equestrian stud comprising the erection of a new stable building, sand school and the retrospective siting of a mobile home with associated groundworks, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

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* (CIfA 2014a) and *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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the Ford Street area. Cropmarks on land to the east of Ford Street indicate the presence of five ring-ditches and one double ringditch, as well as linear features and a rectangular enclosure (MCC7711). Further cropmarks lie to the northwest of Fordham bridge, including a further ring-ditch (MCC8646). These cropmarks could suggest that these were sites of occupation during the prehistoric era. Significantly, a large Iron Age spearhead has been recovered in the Shoulder of Mutton area (CHER MCC7456).

Ford Street contains a large number of surviving historic timber-framed buildings, the earliest of which is The Shoulder of Mutton Public House approximately, some 240m to the southeast of the site, which dates to the 14th century (CHER MCC4139).

To the north is the site of a brickworks (MCC5195) and a brick kiln depicted on historic maps. The brickworks was in operation from c 1855 to 1915.

The site lies just to the north of the River Colne. During the Second World War a number of defences were built from the bridge over the Colne to the junction with New Road where there was originally a road barrier (CHER MCC5117). Defences included spigot mortar emplacements (CHER MCC5123), anti-tank pimples (CHER MCC5122), an anti-tank ditch (CHER MCC5116) and a number of pillboxes (MCC4789-4790).

A strip, map and excavation project undertaken by CAT at Old House, Ford Street in January 2019 uncovered three pits, two of which yielded material dating them from the 13th to the 16th century (CAT Report 1368). In July 2020, CAT carried out an evaluation at Brook Farm, approximately 230m to the northwest. Excavations revealed a large pit which was probably associated with activity at the aforementioned brickworks (CAT Report 1585).

A full archaeological background of the site is provided in the desk-based assessment compiled by Cotswold Archaeology (CA Report SU0146).

4 Aim

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Nine trial-trenches, 20m long by 1.8m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. They were cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.16-0.28m thick, soft medium grey/brown clayey-silt with occasional gravel), an accumulation layer (L2, c 0.07-0.4m thick, soft, light grey/brown clayey-silt with occasional gravel) onto natural (L3, medium yellow/orange clayey-silt, encountered at a depth of c 0.28-0.57m below current ground level). Sondages were excavated in trenches T4, T6, T8 and T9 to confirm the identification of L3 as natural.

There were no archaeological remains in trenches T1, T2, T3, T5, T6, T8 or T9.

Trench 4 (T4): 20m long by 1.8m wide

Medieval or post-medieval ditch F2 passed through the trench on a NW-SE alignment. It was 0.85m wide and 0.28m deep.



Photograph 1 T4 trench shot – looking north

Trench 7 (T7): 20m long by 1.8m wide
 Modern pit F1 was 4.35m wide and 0.58m deep.



Photograph 2 T7 trench shot – looking south

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered twenty sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 275g (Table 1). Pottery and CBM was recovered from two features and one layer (Table 2).

Ceramic material	no.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Pottery	2	31	16	0.00
CBM	18	244	14	-
All	20	275	14	0.00

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Cxt	Description	no.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Pit	13	212	16
F2	Ditch	5	34	7
L2	Accumulation layer	2	29	15
Total		35	340	10

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts

Post-Roman pottery

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (2000) and Cunningham (1985) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). The only post-Roman pottery represented in the assemblage consists of two sherds of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (F40) with a weight of 31g, dating from 1500 to the 19th/20th century. These sherds came from pit F1 and accumulation layer L2.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were eighteen sherds of CBM with a weight of 244g and post-Roman CBM accounts for all of this material. Thirteen sherds of peg-tile with a weight of 205g were recovered from pit F1 and ditch F2. Five sherds of 19th-20th century brick with a weight of 39g were recovered from pit F1 and accumulation layer L2.

Conclusion

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which produced dateable ceramic finds. Pit F1 and accumulation layer L2 can all be dated to the 19th-20th century while ditch F2 dates to the medieval or post-medieval period.

Cxt	Feature type	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	Pit	F40	BR PT	19th-20th century
F2	Ditch		PT	Medieval/post-medieval
L2	Accumulation layer	F40	BR	19th-20th century

Table 3 Approximate dates for the individual features and contexts

6.2 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of thin olive green glass (1.8g) came from F1 (finds no.1), probably from a 19th- to 20th-century vessel.

7 Conclusion

Only two features were uncovered during the course of this investigation, a medieval or post-medieval ditch and a modern pit. Both features are likely related to historic activity at the farm.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Garry Williams (Verity Boys) for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with A Wade, A Smith and B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Jess Tipper and Dr Richard Hoggett.

9 References

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAR 7	(2nd ed.) 2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CA Report SU0146	2020	<i>Washbrook Stud, Wash Farm, Fordham, Colchester: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment</i> , by T Brown
CAT	2019	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1368	2019	<i>Archaeological strip, map and record excavation at Old House, Ford Street, Aldham, Essex: January 2019</i> , by E Hicks
CAT Report 1585	2020	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Brook Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex, CO6 3LW: July 2020</i> , by E Hicks
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Wash Brook Stud, Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, CO6 3LL</i> , by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,</i>

Cunningham, C	1985	<i>conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> 'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in Cunningham, C & Drury, P (eds.), <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750</i> , 1-16
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)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
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	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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 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 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
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 1607)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheet, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1607)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

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 project ref. ECC4561.

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Distribution list:

Garry Williams (Verity Boys)

Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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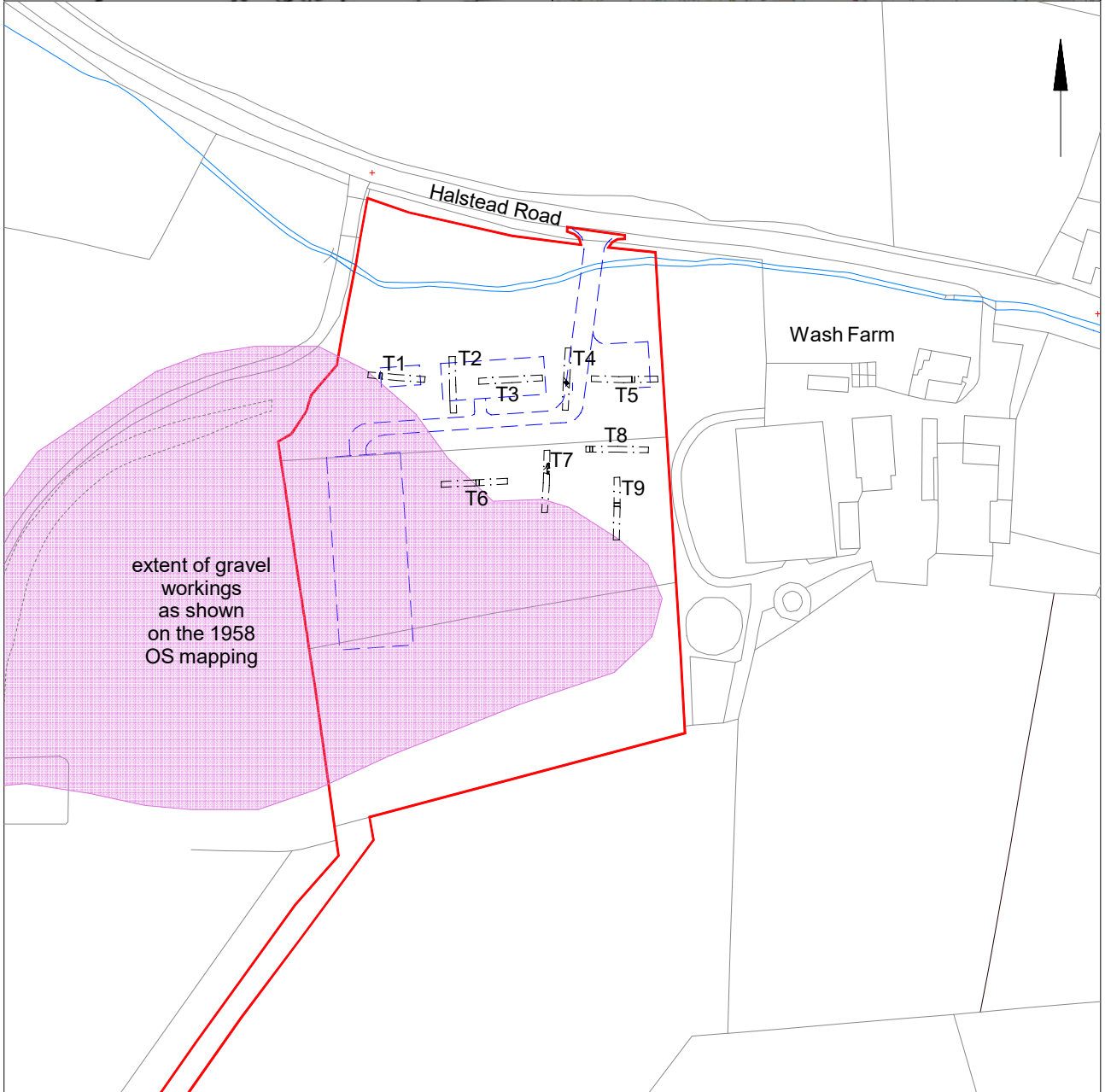
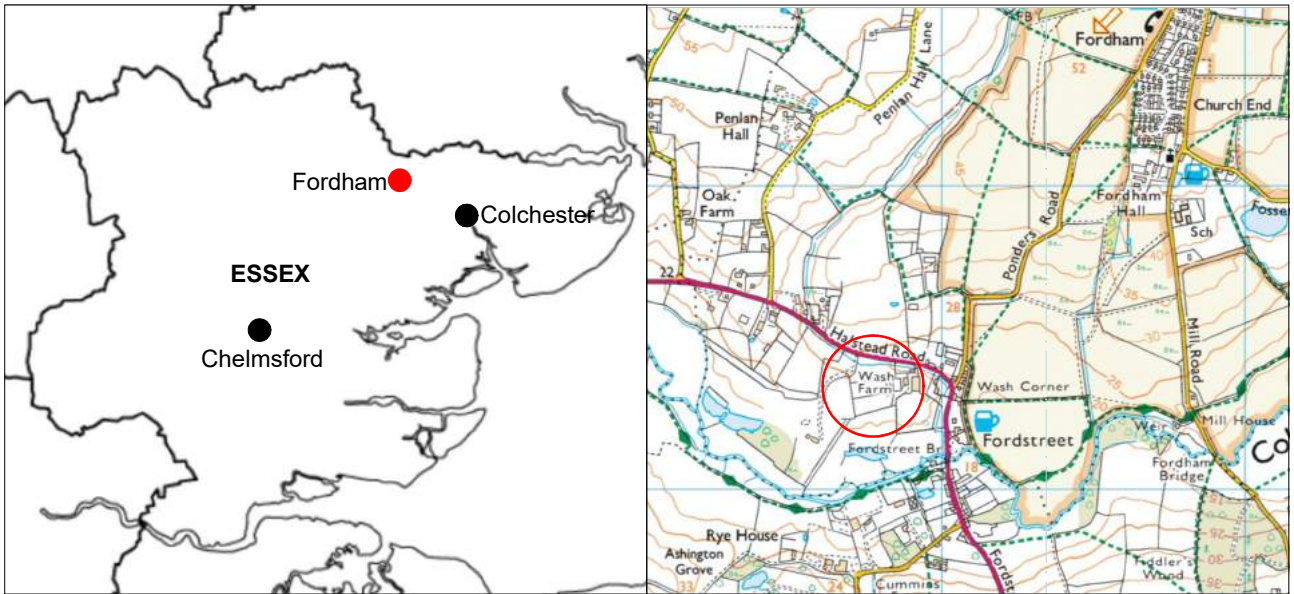
Date: 22.10.2020

Appendix 1 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	TR	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Dec.	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wred	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	Vessel function	EVE	Diam.	Vessel H.	Comments	Date
F01	Pit	1		1	7	7															X						F40								19th to 20th century
L02	Subsoil	3	1	1	24	24	X														X						F40								c.1500-19th/20th century

Appendix 2 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL CORN	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L	LCA	LCA L	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. VT.	Rect. VT.	Bl. vt.	PH R.	PH SQ.	2 Pits	Blind	L.	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date	
F01	Pit	1		8	171	21	X	PT			0																																MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL		
F01	Pit	1		3	24	8	X	BR			0																																		19th to 20th century
F01	Pit	1		1	10	10	X	BR			0																																	19th to 20th century	
F02	Linear	2		5	34	7	X	PT			0																																	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL	
L02	Subsoil	3	1	1	5	5	X	BR																																				19th to 20th century	



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



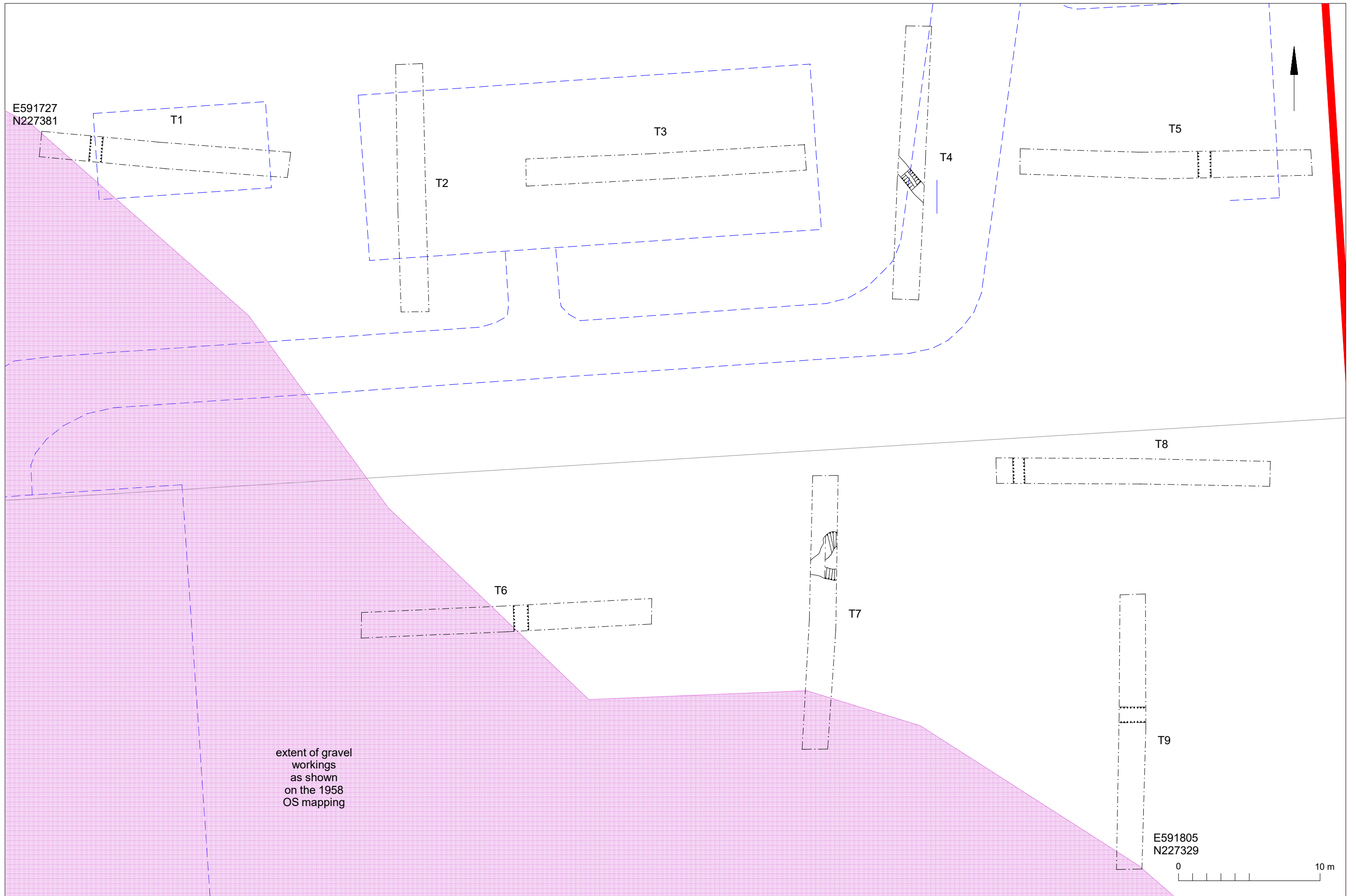


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

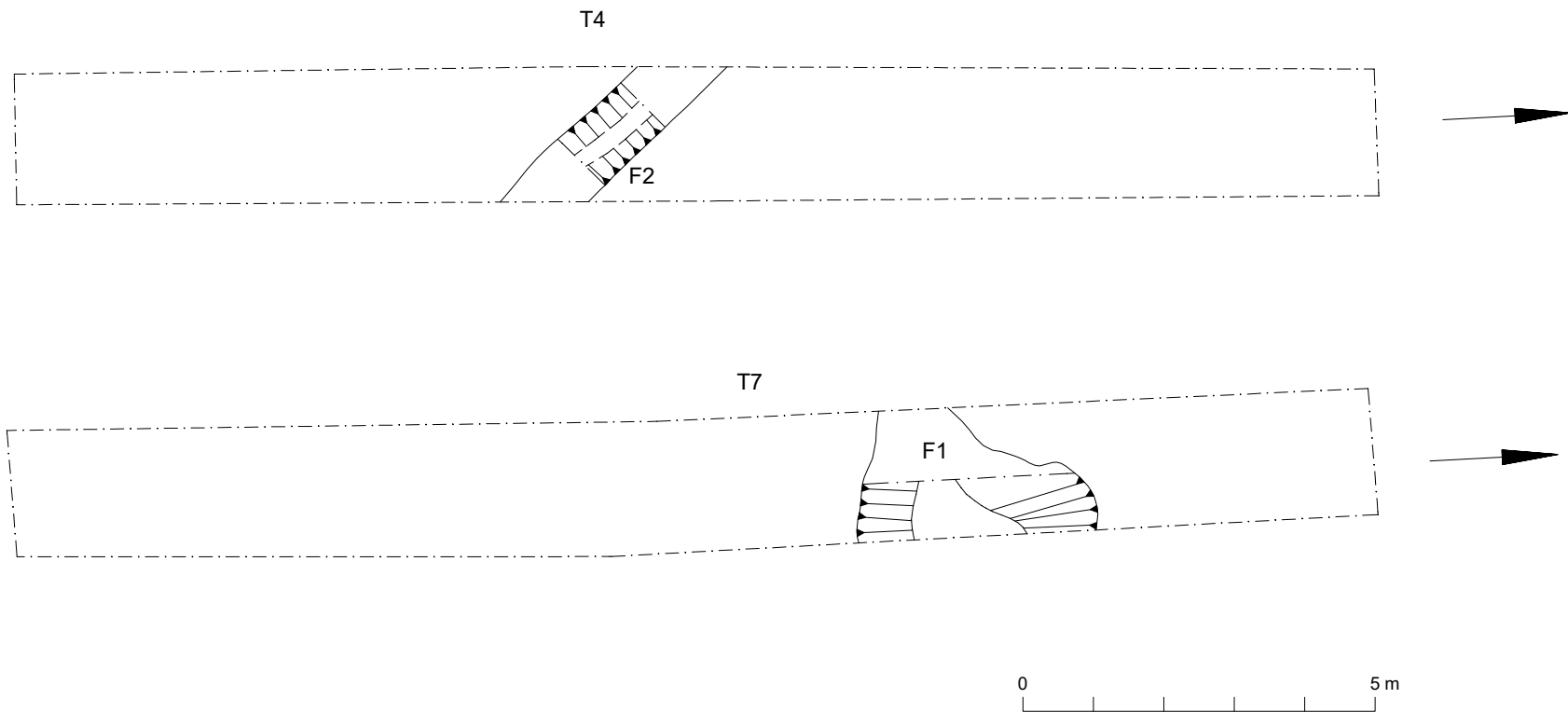


Fig 3 Evaluation trench results.

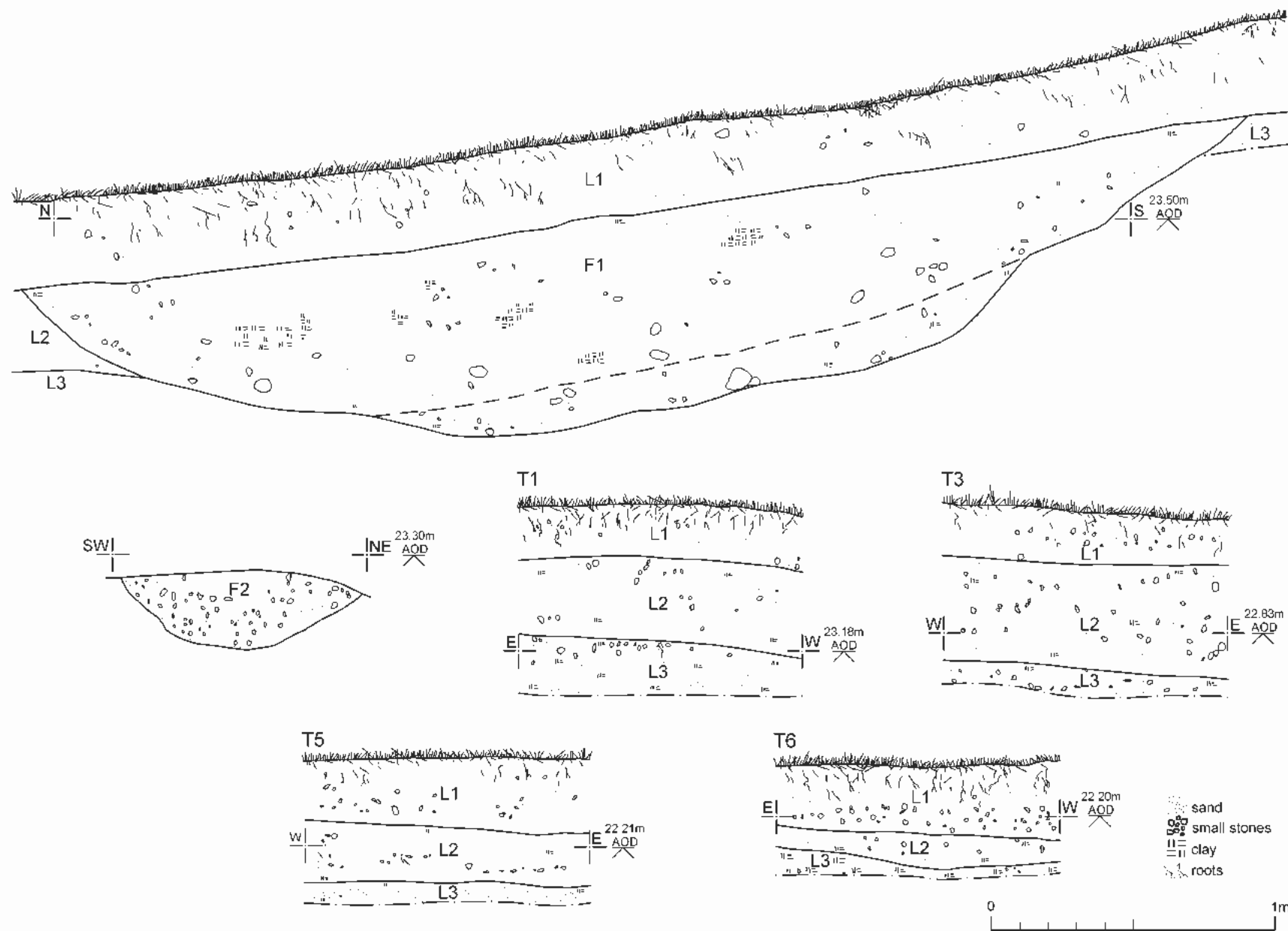


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Wash Brook Stud, on land to the west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex, CO6 3LL	
Parish: Colchester	District: Fordham
NGR: TL 91750 27170 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 20/09f CHER ref: ECC4561 OASIS ref: colchest3-404247
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 5th-6th October 2020	Size of area investigated: 2ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC4139, MCC4789, MCC4790, MCC5116, MCC5117, MCC5122, MCC5123, MCC5195, MCC7456, MCC7711, MCC8646
Final report: CAT Report 1607	
Periods represented: -	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (nine trial-trenches) was carried out at Wash Brook Stud, land west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex in advance of the development of an equestrian stud comprising the erection of a new stable building, sand school and the retrospective siting of a mobile home with associated groundworks. The site lies in the midst of several cropmark complexes and south of a brickworks which operated from the mid 19th century until the First World War. Excavations revealed a modern pit and a medieval or post-medieval ditch which were probably associated with activity at the farm.	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks	Date of summary: October 2020

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an
archaeological evaluation at Wash Brook Stud,
on land to the west of Wash Farm, Halstead
Road, Fordham, Essex, CO6 3LL.**

NGR: TL 91750 27170 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Fordham

Planning reference: 200160

Commissioned by: Garry Williams (Verity Boys)

Client: Verity Boys

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER project code: tbc

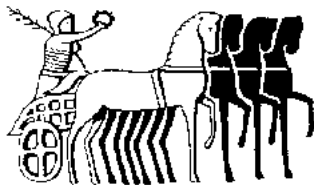
CAT project code: 2020/09f

Oasis project ID: colchest3-404247

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 24/08/2020 (revised)



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located approximately 200m north/northwest of the village of Ford Street and c 7.97m from the historic core of Colchester, on land west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 91750 27170. The northern area of the site is currently in use for equine pasture, sub-divided into paddocks. The southern half of the site is used for riding and training of horses but includes a former pond and areas of dense vegetation. Ordnance Surveys between 1925 and 1958 show areas of sand and gravel extraction within the northern part of the Site, extending further to the west.

Proposed work

The project involves the development of an equestrian stud comprising the erection of a new stable building, sand school and the retrospective siting of a mobile home and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on extracts of the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (search MCC/ECC numbers at www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The following archaeological background is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Records (ECC and MCC numbers) accessible via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

Little archaeological work appears to have taken place in the Ford Street area. On land East of Ford Street cropmarks recorded by aerial photography include five ring-ditches and one double ringditch, linear features and a rectangular enclosure (MCC7711). Cropmarks northwest of Fordham bridge include another ring-ditch (MCC8646). These cropmarks could suggest prehistoric occupation, potentially be supported by the finding of a large Iron Age spearhead in the Shoulder of Mutton area (CHER MCC7456).

Ford Street contains a large number of surviving historic timber framed buildings. The earliest being The Shoulder of Mutton Public House approximately 240m to the southeast. This dates to the 14th century (CHER MCC4139).

To the north is the site of a former 19th-century brickworks recorded in the Colchester Historic Environment Record (MCC5195) and on the site of a brick kiln marked on early mapping. The brickworks was in operation from c 1855 to 1915.

The site lies just to the north of the River Colne. During World War II there were a number of defences built, from the bridge over the Colne to the junction with New Road where there was originally a road barrier (CHER MCC5117). Defences between spigot mortar emplacements (CHER MCC5123), anti-tank pimples (CHER MCC5122), surrounding the concentration of housing, an anti-tank ditch (CHER MCC5116) and a number of pillboxes (MCC4789-4790).

A recent strip, map and excavate recording by CAT at Old House, Ford Street revealed three pits, two of which yielded material dating them from the 13th to the 16th century (CAT Report 1368).

For a full archaeological background see the Heritage desk-based assessment for the site by Cotswold Archaeology (CA Report SU0146).

Project background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2020 (application No. 200160) for the *development of an Equestrian Stud comprising the erection of Stable*

Building and Sand School and the retrospective siting of a Mobile Home (for a temporary period of 3 years) for an equestrian worker.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

The brief requires a series of linear trial-trenches to cover a 5% sample of the development area not previously quarried. The trenches shall each measure 20m long by 1.8m wide. This equates to 180m of trenching covering an area of 324m² (see Fig 1). The proposed trenches have been positioned by CAT to sample the new development with T1, T6, T7 and T9 located to straddle the quarry edge to confirm the extent of the gravel workings. The Trenches will be widened in localised areas to facilitate excavation of deep archaeological features if required.

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified, and will be completed prior to determination of the planning application. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, 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, condition and significance of environmental evidence
- Include a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2019)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of evaluation trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Human remains

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed.

If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,
Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum. If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

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

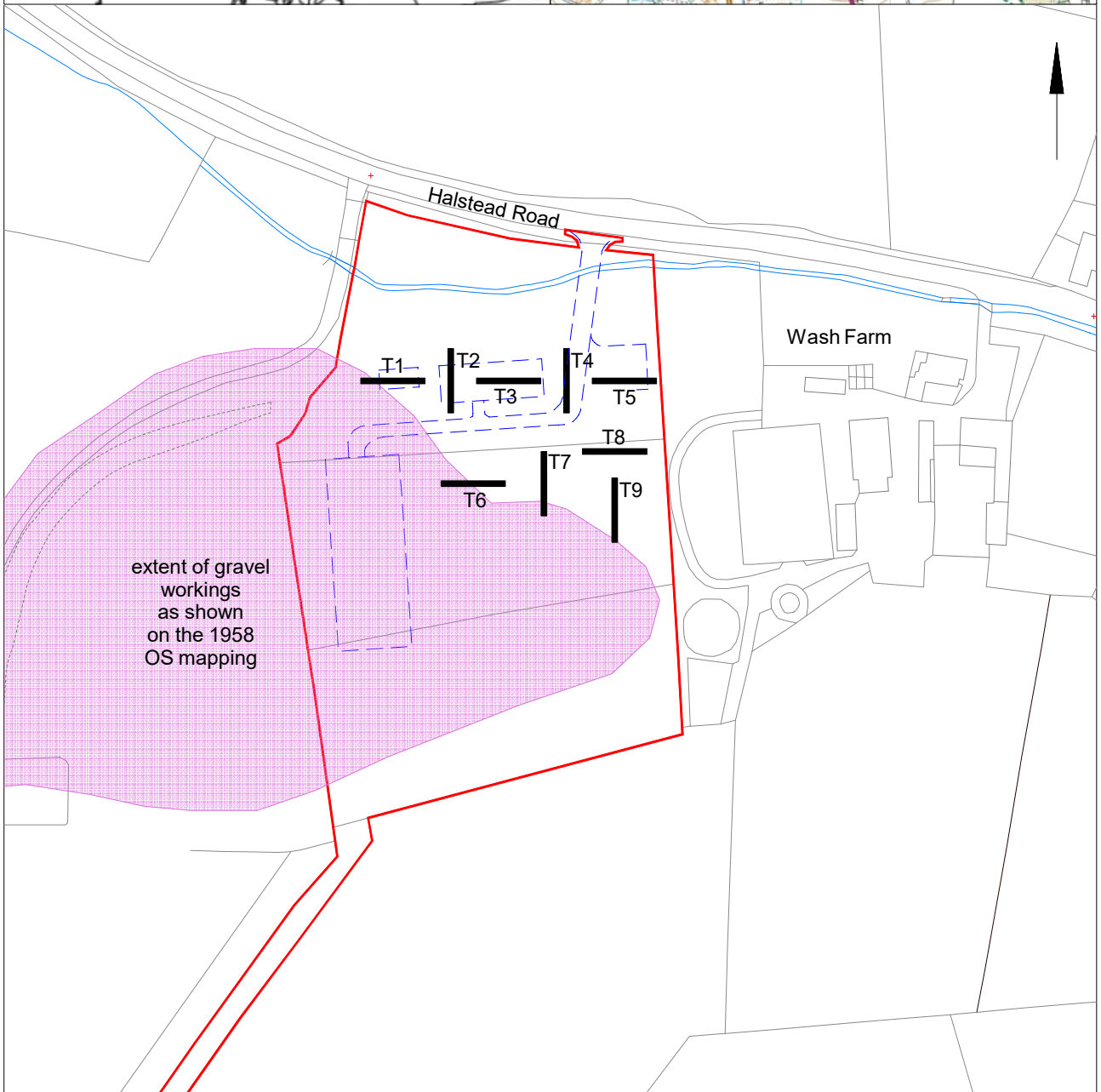
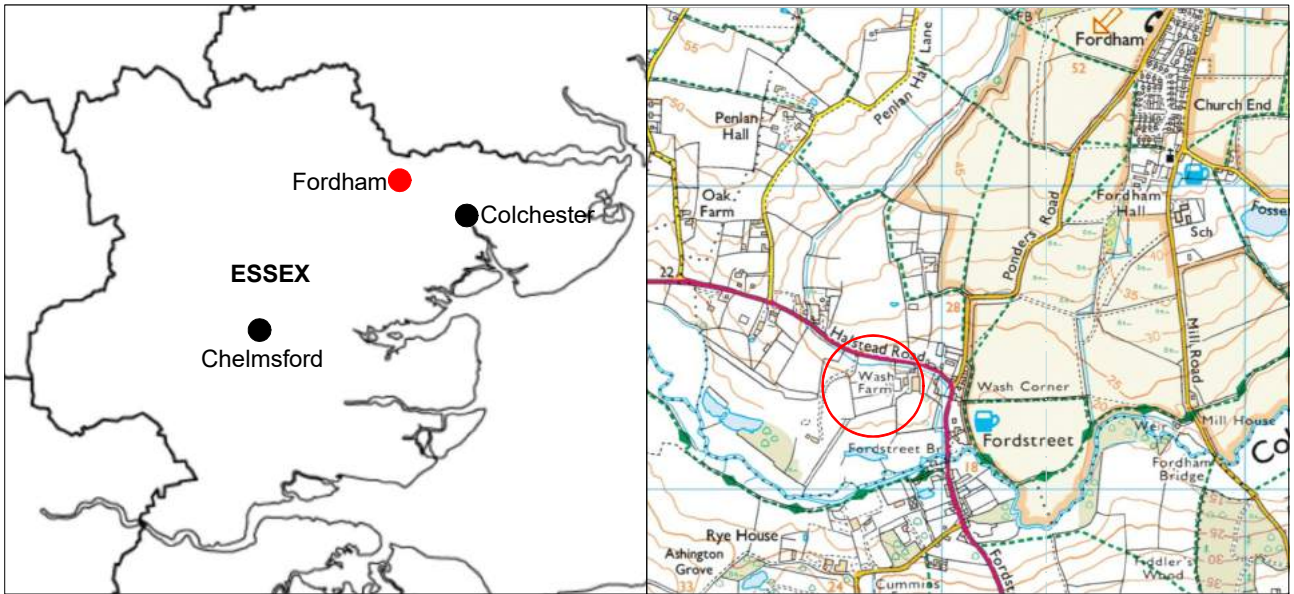
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|-------------------------------|-------|---|
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| CA Report SU0146 | 2020 | <i>Washbrook Stud, Wash Farm, Fordham, Colchester: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment</i> . By T Brown |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 1368 | 2019 | <i>Archaeological strip, map and record excavation at Old House, Ford Street, Aldham, Essex – January 2019</i> . By E Hicks |
| CBCAA | 2020 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Wash Brook Stud, Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, CO6 3LL</i> . By J Tipper |
| CiFA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
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| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013 | Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0 |
| 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) | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| 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 |
| 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 | 2019 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |

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



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OASIS ID: colchest3-404247

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Wash Brook Stud, on land to the west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex, CO6 3LL.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (nine trial-trenches) was carried out at Wash Brook Stud, land west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex in advance of the development of an equestrian stud comprising the erection of a new stable building, sand school and the retrospective siting of a mobile home with associated groundworks. The site lies in the midst of several cropmark complexes and south of a brickworks which operated from the mid 19th century until the First World War. Excavations revealed a modern pit and a medieval or post-medieval ditch which were probably associated with activity at the farm.
Project dates	Start: 05-10-2020 End: 06-10-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	200160 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/09f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4561 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-404247 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
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 COLCHESTER FORDHAM Wash Brook Stud, on land to the west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex
Postcode	CO6 3LL
Study area	2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 91750 27170 51.909498336576 0.788049997781 51 54 34 N 000 47 16 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 22.11m Max: 23.64m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
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 Verity Boys

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Archive ID ECC4561
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Archive ID ECC4561
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological evaluation at Wash Brook Stud, land west of Wash Farm, Halstead Road, Fordham, Essex: October 2020
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1607
 Date 2020
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Place of issue or publication Colchester
 Description A4 loose-leaf brass-stapled
 URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>
 Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
 Entered on 23 October 2020

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