

# Archaeological evaluation on land south of Frinton Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, CO16 0JF

December 2021 – January 2022



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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (thirty-six trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Frinton Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, in advance of an application to construct forty-nine new dwellings. Residual artefacts of Iron Age, Roman and medieval date were recovered during the excavations, including a medieval floor-tile which indicates the presence of a high-status medieval structure in the vicinity. The primary phase of activity at the site extended through the post-medieval and modern periods, when it formed part of a field adjoining Thorpe Hall.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land south of Frinton Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex which was carried out during 13th December 2021 to 5th January 2022. The work was commissioned by Oliver Burfoot of Burfoot Homes Ltd in advance of an application to construct forty-nine new dwellings with associated parking and associated groundworks including swales and surface water retention ponds 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 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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* (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 includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The area contains numerous cropmark complexes recorded by aerial photography, especially to the northeast of Thorpe-le-Soken (EHER 46798) and to the south (EHER 3153, 3154, 3157, 3172, 17242). Although a number of these represent modern field boundary loss, others are clearly indicative of earlier deposits. Features relating to Roman settlement have been identified at Thorpe Hall and more may be expected within the area (EHER 45462). Thorpe Hall includes a registered park and garden which abuts the site's western boundary.

Although the place names Thorpe-le-Soken and Kirby-le-Soken are Scandinavian in origin and notable within Essex, so far no archaeological evidence of Danish settlement has been found. Tendring and Great Holland also have their origins in the medieval period and all may retain archaeological deposits relating to their early development. Thorpe-le-Soken itself has a wealth of historic buildings.

Archaeological work along the line of the Little Clacton-Weeley Heath bypass which surveyed a significant swathe of landscape possibly indicates the kind of archaeological remains likely to be present in many parts of the area (EHER 17722). Investigation along the bypass revealed a range of well-preserved prehistoric, Roman and later deposits including a medieval moated site

at Gutteridge Hall (EHER 17726). The alluvium of the marshes and Holland Brook valley is likely to contain well-preserved environmental deposits.

As with much of the rest of the Tendring coast, this short section was heavily defended during the early stages of the Second World War. Some pillboxes survive although a number have now been demolished.

For a full background of the area, see the site desk-based assessment (CAT Report 1718) and the Tendring District Characterisation Project report (ECC 2008)

#### **4 Aims**

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 ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### **5 Results (Figs 2-9)**

Thirty-six trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All of the trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide except trench T22, which was 16m long and 1.8m wide.

Trenches T1-14 and T17-19 were cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.25-0.4m thick) onto natural clay (L2, encountered at a depth of 0.25-0.4m below current ground level [bcgl]). Trenches T15-16, T20-25 and T27-36 were cut through L1 (c 0.08-0.34m thick) and subsoil (L3, c 0.08-0.27m thick) onto L2 (encountered at a depth of 0.24-0.53m). Trench T26 was cut through L1 (c 0.22-0.25m thick) and a distinct subsoil (L4, c 0.12-0.15m thick) and a silt patch which lay at the centre of the trench (L5, c 0.08m thick) onto L2 (encountered at a depth of 0.39m bcgl).

Archaeological features were uncovered in trenches T1, T6, T8, T9, T13, T14, T15, T18, T25, T26, T28, T29, T31, T33 and T34.

##### **Trench 1 (T1)**

Two ditches – F9 and F39 – passed through the southern half of the trench on an E-W alignment, and were 1.27m wide and 0.17m deep and 1.1m wide and 0.29m deep, respectively. No dating evidence was recovered from the former feature but the latter produced a fragment of post-medieval or modern brick.

##### **Trench 6 (T6)**

A cluster of small pits was uncovered at the centre of the trench. Post-medieval/modern pit F12, which was 0.59m by 0.31m and 0.2m deep, was cut by pit F11, which was 0.54m by 0.25m and 0.19m deep. The latter feature produced no dating evidence but it must have been post-medieval in date at the earliest. Undatable pit F10 extended beyond the limit of excavation [LOE] and so its full dimensions could not be ascertained; its exposed extent was 0.38m by 0.47m and 0.15m deep.

A single post-hole, F8, was situated northwest of this cluster. It was 0.22m wide and 0.46m deep and contained a fragment of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile as well as a sherd of Roman pottery.

A pit or natural feature, F38, stood at the northern end of the trench. It was 0.44m by 0.94m and 0.09m deep.

Natural feature F7 was also excavated.

### **Trench 8 (T8)**

Ditch F22 passed through the northern half of the ditch on a NW-SE alignment and was 1.46m wide and 0.6m deep. It produced three fragments of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile.

Undatable pit F23 was uncovered at the northern end of the trench. It was 0.51m by 0.47m and 0.09m deep.

### **Trench 9 (T9)**

Substantial remains were uncovered in this trench. Ditch F16 passed through its eastern half on a NE-SW alignment. It was 0.42-0.6m wide and 0.14-0.2m deep and produced six fragments of CBM, some of which was closely-datable to the late 17th to the 18th or early 19th century. At its northern end, F16 was cut by pit F17, which was 0.6m wide by 0.48m and 0.2m deep, and post-holes F19 and F20, which were 0.2m in diameter and 0.08m deep and 0.3m in diameter and 0.13m deep, respectively. No finds were recovered from F17, F19 or F20, but they must have been late 17th-century in date at the earliest.

A series of eight pits were located to the west of F16. F13, F14, F15, F18, F21, F40, F41 and F42 were 0.3-0.2.13m by 0.33-1.19m and 0.05-0.45m deep. Only three – F13, F18 and F21 – yielded artefactual evidence, which dated all of these features to the post-medieval or modern periods. F41 cut F21 and so was post-medieval or modern in date.



**Photograph 1** T9 trench shot – looking west

### **Trench 13 (T13)**

Pit F1 lay at the western end of the trench was 0.22m by 1.61m and 0.2m deep. It produced two fragments of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile.

Undatable pit/natural feature F2 was located at the centre of the trench. It was 0.78m by 0.93m and 0.16m deep.

### **Trench 14 (T14)**

Undatable ditch F5 passed through the southern half of the trench on a ENE-WSW alignment, and was 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep. The feature extended on to trench T18, to the west southwest, where it was recorded as F6.

Undatable pits/natural features F3 and F4 were uncovered at the north and centre of the trench. They were 0.99m by 0.8m and 0.2m deep and 1.24m by 0.98m and 0.1m deep respectively.



**Photograph 2** T14 trench shot – looking north

**Trench 15 (T15)**

Undatable pits F24 and F25 were excavated. F24 was 1.8m by 0.76m and 0.36m deep. F25 extended beyond the LOE; its exposed extent was 0.79m by 1.38m and 0.2m deep.

**Trench 18 (T18)**

Undatable ditch F6 extended through the northern half of the trench on a NE-SW alignment and was 0.88m wide and 0.12m deep. It represented a continuation of F5 in T14, to the northeast.

**Trench 25 (T25)**

Ditch F31 passed through the northern end of the trench on an E-W alignment. It was 2.47m wide and 0.48m deep. It contained a single CBM sherd dating to the late 17th-18th/early 19th century.

**Trench 26 (T26)**

A small conglomeration of features was uncovered in the western half of the trench. Undatable pit F30 extended beyond the LOE; its exposed dimensions were 0.78m by 1m wide and 0.52m deep. It was cut by another undatable pit, F37, which similarly extended beyond the LOE. Its exposed extent was 0.85m by 0.68m and 0.52m deep. It, in turn, was cut by ditch F36 which was aligned N-S and was 0.8m wide and 0.42m deep. It contained a single fragment of medieval, post-medieval or modern CBM.

Ditch F34 was aligned N-S and was 0.94m wide and 0.1m deep. It produced one fragment of post-medieval or modern CBM, as well as one fragment of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile and one sherd of 11th- to early 13th-century pottery.



**Photograph 3** T26 trench shot – looking west

**Trench 28 (T28)**

Undatable ?post-hole F26 was located at the northern end of the trench. The feature extended beyond the LOE; its exposed extent was 0.41m in diameter and 0.37m deep.

**Trench 29 (T29)**

Ditch F27 passed through the western end of the trench on a N-S alignment and was 1.94m wide and 0.65m deep. It yielded a fragment of late 17th-18th/early 19th-century CBM as well as a fragment of medieval floor tile. The feature cut undatable ditch F28, which was oriented N-S and was 1.15m wide and 0.53m deep. One of these features appears to have extended to trench T31, to the south, where it was recorded as F35, although it is unclear which.

**Trench 31 (T31)**

Undatable pit F29 was located at the western end of the trench. It was 0.88m by 0.64m and 0.11m deep.

Ditch F35 passed through the eastern end of the trench on a NNE-SSW alignment. It was 0.93m wide and 0.43m deep and contained a sherd of Roman pottery, two fragments of peg-tile and a fragment of post-medieval or modern brick.

**Trench 33 (T33)**

Modern pit F32 was uncovered. A slot was machine-excavated into the feature but its depth was not established.

**Trench 34 (T34)**

Roman or 11th-12th century ditch F33 was oriented NNE-SSW. The feature extended beyond the LOE; its exposed extent was 0.64-0.79m wide and 0.11-0.2m deep. It cut undatable pit/natural feature F43, which was 0.65m by 1m and 0.2m deep.



**Photograph 4** T34 trench shot – looking east

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The excavation uncovered 44 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just over 4kg (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is high at 93g, which reflects the greater contribution of CBM to the assemblage.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	10	72	7	0.00
CBM	34	4,006	118	-
<b>All</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>0.00</b>

**Table 1** Summary of the pottery and CBM

Sherds of pottery and ceramics were recovered from fifteen features, although most produced small-sized assemblages. The largest, from ditch F16, comprises of only eight sherds with a weight of 1.5kg (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Ditch	2	35	18
F8	post-hole	2	49	25
F12	Pit	2	7	4
F13	Pit	1	138	138
F16	Ditch	8	1,522	190
F18	Pit	3	8	3
F21	Pit	5	29	6
F22	Ditch	3	2	1
F27	Ditch	2	1,738	869
F31	Ditch	1	217	217
F33	Ditch	4	101	25



Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F34	Ditch	3	16	5
F35	Ditch	5	203	41
F36	Ditch	2	9	5
F39	Ditch	1	4	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>4078</b>	<b>93</b>

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

### Pottery

The small assemblage of pottery which was recovered from six features (Table 3) includes material dating to the Late Iron Age, Roman, and medieval periods. The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (1999) and the post-Roman pottery according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (2000).

There was one sherd of Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware (GTW) which came from ditch F36. Roman pottery consisted of two sherds of greyware (fabric GX) with a weight of 13g from post-hole F8 and ditch F35. There was also a sherd (5g) of ?Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware, dating to AD 43-160, which came from ditch F35. Ditch F33 contained three sherds (13g) in either Roman shell-tempered and calcite-gritted ware (fabric HD) or more likely of St Neots-type ware (fabric F10) dating to the 11th-12th century. Medieval pottery included a sherd (8g) of early medieval sandy ware (fabric F13) dating to the 11th to the early 13th century which came from ditch F34 and two sherds (15g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) dating to c 1200-1550 from pit F21.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F8	Post-hole	1	4	4
F21	Pit	2	15	8
F33	Ditch	3	13	4
F34	Ditch	1	8	8
F35	Ditch	2	27	14
F36	Ditch	1	5	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>7</b>

**Table 3** Quantities of pottery from specific features

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were 34 sherds of CBM with a weight of just over 4kg and a mean sherd weight of 118g (Table 4). Small quantities of CBM were recovered from fifteen features (Table 5) and includes a variety of material (Table 4). Fragments of brick and peg-tile account for a substantial proportion of the CBM and were recovered from many of the features (F1, F8, F12, F13, F16, F18, F22, F27, F31, F34, F35, F36 and F39). The few larger brick fragments from ditches F16, F27 and F31 appear to be of unfrosted examples possibly dating from the late 17th to the 18th or early 19th century. Other CBM of note includes a fragment of heavily burnt ?Roman brick or tile (88g) which came from ditch F33 and a medieval floor tile (193g) with traces of glaze from ditch F27.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
<b>Roman</b>				
RBT	Roman brick or tile	1	88	88
<b>Post-Roman</b>				
PT	Peg-tile	10	120	12
BR	Brick	18	3,598	200
BR/PT	Brick or peg-tile	1	4	4
FT	Floor tile	1	193	193

<b>Undated</b>			
Baked clay	1	1	1
Unidentified CBM	2	2	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4,006</b>	<b>118</b>

**Table 4** Building material by period and type

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>MSW (g)</b>
F1	Ditch	2	35	18
F8	post-hole	1	45	45
F12	Pit	2	7	4
F13	Pit	1	138	138
F16	Ditch	8	1,522	190
F18	Pit	3	8	3
F21	Pit	3	14	5
F22	Ditch	3	2	1
F27	Ditch	2	1,738	869
F31	Ditch	1	217	217
F33	Ditch	1	88	88
F34	Ditch	2	8	4
F36	Ditch	1	4	4
F39	Ditch	1	4	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>34</b>	<b>4,006</b>	<b>118</b>

**Table 5** Quantities of CBM from specific features and contexts

### Conclusion

Table 6 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which produced dateable pottery and ceramics. Most of the features date from the post-medieval to the modern period.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Prehistoric &amp; Roman pottery</b>	<b>Post-Roman pottery</b>	<b>CBM</b>	<b>Date Approx.</b>
F1	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F8	GX	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F12	-	-	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F13	-	-	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F16	-	-	BR	Late 17th-18th/early 19th century
F18	-	-	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F21	-	F21	BR, PT	Post-medieval/modern
F22	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F27	-	-	BR, FT	Late 17th-18th/early 19th century
F31	-	-	BR	Late 17th-18th/early 19th century
F33	HD?	F10?	RBT?	Roman or 11th/12th century?
F34	-	F13	PT, BR	Post-medieval/modern
F35	GX, FJ	-	PT, BR	Post-medieval/modern
F36	GTW	-	BR/PT	Medieval/post-medieval/modern
F39	-	-	BR	Post-medieval/modern

**Table 6** Approximate dates for the individual features

## 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A fragment of animal bone came from the surface of ditch F22 and fragments of clinker/coke were recovered from ditch F16, pit F21 and ditch F39, all post-medieval/modern features. Two incomplete iron nails were also recovered from F21.

Context	Finds no.	Sample no.	Description
F16 sx1	5	-	<b>Clinker/coke:</b> Fragment, 2.7g.
F16 sx2	7	-	<b>Clinker/coke:</b> Fragment, 4.3g.
F21	-	<1>	<b>Iron nails:</b> 1) incomplete, square-sectioned shank, flat round head, 45.6mm long, 13.8g; 2) incomplete, square-sectioned shank, head largely obscured within corrosion, 23.5mm, 3.0g. <b>Clinker/coke:</b> Fragment, 0.9g.
F22	9	-	<b>Animal bone:</b> Fragment, 7.7g
F39	14	-	<b>Clinker/coke:</b> Fragment, 8.7g.

**Table 7** Miscellaneous finds listed by context (all discarded)

## 7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray

### Introduction

This report describes the archaeobotanical remains from three environmental samples taken during the evaluation. Samples presented for assessment were numbered 1, 5 and 6. Numbers 2-4 were not used.

Sample	Context	Feature Type	% sampled	Date	Sample Volume (L.)	Flot present?
1	F21	Pit	50	Post-medieval	30	Yes
5	F29	Pit	50	Undated	10	Yes
6	F26	Posthole	50	Undated	10	Yes

**Table 8** Samples presented for assessment

The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the sample and to consider its use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

### Sampling and processing methods

Samples were taken and processed by staff from Colchester Archaeological Trust. Once with the author, the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 45x. The whole flot was examined. The abundance, diversity, and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in the sample was recorded.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once, and the common names used thereafter. Quantities were estimated using the DAFOR scale (see below):

- D – Dominant – >200 (items)
- A – Abundant – 51-200 (items)
- F – Frequent – 16-50 (items)
- O – Occasional – 6-15 (items)

R – Rare – 5 or fewer (items)

The quantity of identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been noted separately from the quantity of charred wood flecks (<4mm in diameter). Fragments this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart & Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Charred wood flecks <4mm diameter have been quantified but not recommended for further analysis unless twigs or roundwood fragments larger than 2mmØ were present.

## Results (Table 2)

The plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman & Jones 1990, 2; Campbell *et al.* 2011, 17). The soil type is Soilscape 18, 'Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils' (Cranfield University 2020). This type of soil can provide preservation conditions suitable for the survival of charred and mineralised, plant remains, bones and mollusca (Campbell *et al.* 2011, 5-6).

Sample	1	5	6
Context	F21	F29	F26
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Post-hole
Provisional Date	Post-medieval	Undated	Undated
Sample volume (l)	30	10	10
Flot volume (ml)	125	10	100
General preservation*	Good	Good	Good
<b>Charred Cereal Remains</b>			
Hulled barley ( <i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.) – straight grains	F	-	-
Oat ( <i>Avena</i> sp.)	O	-	-
<b>Charred Miscellaneous</b>			
Charcoal >4mm, quantity	6-15	6-15	16-50
Charcoal <4mm	F	F	F
<b>Other Items</b>			
Modern roots	D	-	-

**Table 9** Flot contents

\*General Preservation: Good = species or genus identification possible; Moderate = family identification possible; Poor = too poorly preserved to identify.

Charcoal fragments were the most common plant macro-remain in these samples. Fragments of identifiable size were found in each sample.

A moderate assemblage of charred cereal grains was found in pit F21 (sample 1). Most of these grains were well-preserved hulled barley grains.

## Discussion

### **Biases in recovery, residuality and contamination**

No biases in recovery, residuality or contamination were reported during sampling. The only sample that contained evidence of possible bioturbation was pit F21 (sample 1) that was dominated by modern root fragments.

### **Potential, significance and recommendations**

Although full counts have not been done, the density of charred plant remains in most of these samples per litre of sampled soil is moderately high meaning that they could be present due to activities taking place near the features.

The sample from pit F21 (sample 1) is the most useful with frequent cereal grains and charcoal of identifiable size being present. If required, further analysis of charred plant remains from this sample could be carried out but the results would be limited coming from only one feature. The grains and charcoal, if of suitable taxa, may also be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

If further archaeological work is carried out, whole earth/bulk soil samples for flotation should continue to be taken because it is clear that charred plant remains are present at this site.

## 8 Conclusion

Forty-three features were uncovered during the course of this evaluation: twenty pits, thirteen ditches, four post-holes, five pits or natural features and one natural feature. Artefactual evidence across the site was quite sparse (only sixteen features produced dating evidence). Within the western half of the site, these remains were clustered towards the north-east while, in its eastern half, they were concentrated towards the east.

The earliest evidence of activity at the site came in the form of a single sherd of Late Iron Age pottery which was recovered from medieval, post-medieval or modern ditch F36 in trench T26. Several sherds of Roman pottery and a heavily-burnt fragment of Roman brick or tile were also residually present in a number of features of medieval, post-medieval or modern date.

Further finds of medieval date were recovered, and again this material was apparently residual. Three sherds of pottery which were likely 11th-12th century in date were retrieved from ditch F33, two sherds of pottery dating from the 13th to the mid 16th century came from post-medieval or modern pit F21, while late 17th- to 18th- or early 19th-century ditch F27 produced a medieval floor tile with traces of glaze. It is possible that this floor tile came from the nearby Thorpe Hall.

The main period of activity here, however, occurred during the post-medieval and modern periods, during which time the site formed part of a field adjoining Thorpe Hall. It is likely, therefore, that the features dating to this period were the product of agricultural activity. Several features produced fragments of peg-tile and brick, including some pieces of unfroged brick possibly dating from the late 17th to the 18th or early 19th centuries. These likely also derived from Thorpe Hall, its associated outbuildings or other nearby structures.

Trenches T30, T31, T32 and T35 were positioned to target cropmarks which pass through the site, but only one corresponding feature, post-medieval or modern ditch F35 in trench T31, was found. It is possible that the other cropmarks denoted the presence of land disturbances which did not reach the natural geology.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Oliver Burfoot and Burfoot Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by H Furniss and R Mathieson with N Pryke, M Seehra, B Quinn, Z Eksen, A Smith, W Bateson, T Lawrence and M Perou. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

## 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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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
Cifa	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'
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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
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 one box (pottery)

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1765)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheet, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1765)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

Site data

## 13 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 site code TSFR21 and with the Archaeological Data Service.

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### **Distribution list:**

Oliver Burfoot (Burfoot Homes Ltd)

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Hall



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.02.2022

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Friable, moist/wet medium/dark brown clayey-silt	Modern
L2	All	-	Natural	Firm/hard moist medium yellow/orange clay	Post-glacial
L3	9, 15, 16, 20 and 21	-	Subsoil	Firm, moist medium yellow/grey/brown sandy-silty-clay	Undatable
F1	13	1	Pit	Friable, moist dark grey/brown silt	Medieval/ post-medieval
F2	13	-	Pit / natural feature	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with frequent stones	Undatable
F3	14	-	Pit / natural feature	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with very frequent stones	Undatable
F4	14	-	Pit / natural feature	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable
F5	14	-	Ditch	Friable/firm, medium grey/brown clayey-silt	Undatable
F6	18	-	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt	Undatable
F7	6	-	Natural feature	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt	Post-glacial
F8	6	2	post-hole	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with frequent CBM pieces	Medieval/ post-medieval
F9	1	4	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt	Undatable
F10	6	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with CBM flecks and frequent stones	Undatable
F11	6	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt	Post-medieval/ modern
F12	6	3	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with very frequent stones	Post-medieval/ modern
F13	9	4	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with CBM flecks	Post-medieval/ modern
F14	9	6	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with frequent stones	Undatable
F15	9	-	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey sandy-silt	Undatable
F16	9	5, 7, 19	Ditch	Soft, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Late 17th-18th/ early 19th century
F17	9	-	Pit	Soft, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
F18	9	CBM*	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks *was recovered from this feature but not was assigned a finds number	Post-medieval/ modern
F19	9	-	post-hole	Friable, moist light grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
F20	9	-	post-hole	Friable/firm, moist light grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
F21	9	8, <1>	Pit	<b>Fill A:</b> firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-sand with charcoal flecks; <b>Fill B:</b> firm,	Post-medieval/ modern



				moist medium grey/brown clayey-silty-sand	
F22	8	9	Ditch	Soft, moist medium yellow/grey clayey-silt	Medieval/ post-medieval
F23	8	-	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey clayey-silt	Undatable
F24	15	-	Pit	Firm, moist light grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable
F25	15	-	Pit	Friable, moist very light grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable
F26	28	<5>	?post-hole	Soft, moist medium grey clayey-silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F27	29	10	Ditch	Friable, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Late 17th-18th/ early 19th century
F28	29	-	Ditch	Friable, moist light grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F29	31	<6>	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F30	26	-	Pit	Firm, moist light blue/grey clayey-silt	Undatable
F31	25	12, 13	Ditch	Firm, moist/wet medium grey/brown silty-clay	Late 17th-18th/early 19th century
F32	33	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Modern
F33	34	15, 20	Ditch	Firm, moist medium/dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Roman or 11th/ 12th century?
F34	26	11	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay	Post-medieval/ modern
F35	31	18	Ditch	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay	Post-medieval/ modern
F36	26	17	Ditch	Firm, dark grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Medieval/post- medieval/modern
F37	26	-	Pit	Firm, moist light grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F38	6	-	Pit / natural feature	Firm, moist medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay	Undatable
F39	1	14	Ditch	Firm, moist light grey/brown silty-clay	Post-medieval/ modern
F40	9	-	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks	Undatable
F41	9	-	Pit	Soft, moist grey/brown sandy-silt	Undatable
F42	9	-	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey sandy-silty-clay	Undatable
F43	34	-	Pit / natural feature	Firm, moist light/medium orange/grey silt	Undatable

**Appendix 2 Pottery list**

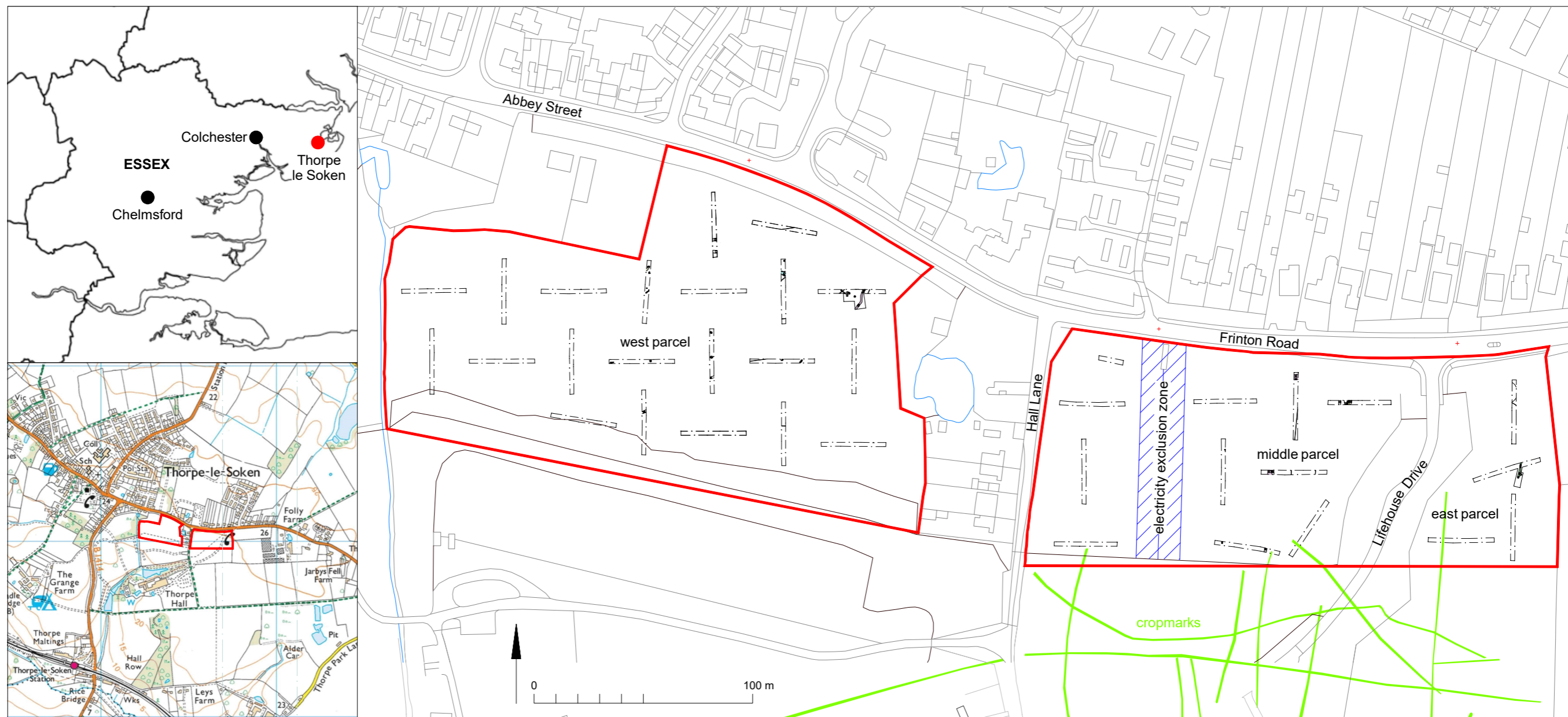
Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Rim	Handle	Base	Burn	Abraded	Fabric Grp	Comments	Date
F8	Post-hole	2		1	4	4				X		GX	?	Roman
F21	Pit	8		1	7	7						F21	GREEN GLAZE INT	c.1200-1550
F21	Pit		1	1	8	8						F21	GREEN GLAZE INT	c.1200-1550
F33	Ditch	20		3	13	4	0	0	3			HD/F10	WHEEL MADE, THIN-W,GREY,SHELL, VESICULATED, VERY SOFT	?
F34	Ditch	11		1	8	8						F13		11th-early 13th century
F35	Ditch	15		1	9	9						GX		Roman
F35	Ditch	15		1	18	18						FJ	? TH-W, GREY CORE, OR/PK, AB QUARTZ, BLACK IRON, RED GRAINS	AD 43-160
F36	Ditch	17		1	5	5					X	GTW		Late Iron Age

### Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	Section	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	L	BR.	TH.	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Date
F1	Pit	1			2	35	18	X	PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F8	Post-hole	2			1	45	45	X	PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F12	Pit	3			1	6	6	X	BR									Post-medieval/modern
F12	Pit	3			1	1	1	X	Unid CBM							X		?
F13	Pit	4			1	138	138		BR								BUFF,RARE C FL PEBBLES	Post-medieval/modern
F16	Ditch	5			2	11	6	X	BR									Post-medieval/modern
F16	Ditch	5			1	16	16	X	BR					X				Post-medieval/modern
F16	Ditch	7			1	61	61		BR								SLIGHTLY MARBLED, LIGHT OR	Post-medieval/modern
F16	Ditch	7			1	955	955		BR	UN-FROG	?	115	50				OR, MARBLED, LOTS YELLOW & RED NODS	Late 17th to 18th/early 19th century
F16	Ditch	19		3	1	373	373	X	BR							X		Post-medieval/modern
F16	Ditch	19		3	2	106	53	X	BR									Post-medieval/modern
F18	Pit	6			2	7	4	X	BR									Post-medieval/modern
F18	Pit	6			1	1	1	X	Baked clay									?
F21	Pit	8			1	6	6	X	PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F21	Pit	8			1	7	7	X	BR									Post-medieval/modern
F21	Pit		1		1	1	1	X	Unid CBM									?
F22	Ditch	9			3	2	1	X	PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F27	Ditch	10			1	193	193		Floor tile		?	?	30				TRACES COPPER GLAZE	Medieval
F27	Ditch	10			1	1545	1545		BR	UN-FROG	?	110	55	X	X		CRACKED, OR GREY SURF	Late 17th to 18th/early 19th century
F31	Ditch	13			1	217	217		BR		?	?	55				OR, POSS UN-FROGGED	Late 17th to 18th/early 19th century
F33	Ditch	20			1	88	88		RBT					X			?, VERY BURNT	Roman
F34	Ditch	11			1	4	4	X	PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F34	Ditch	11			1	4	4	X	BR									Post-medieval/modern

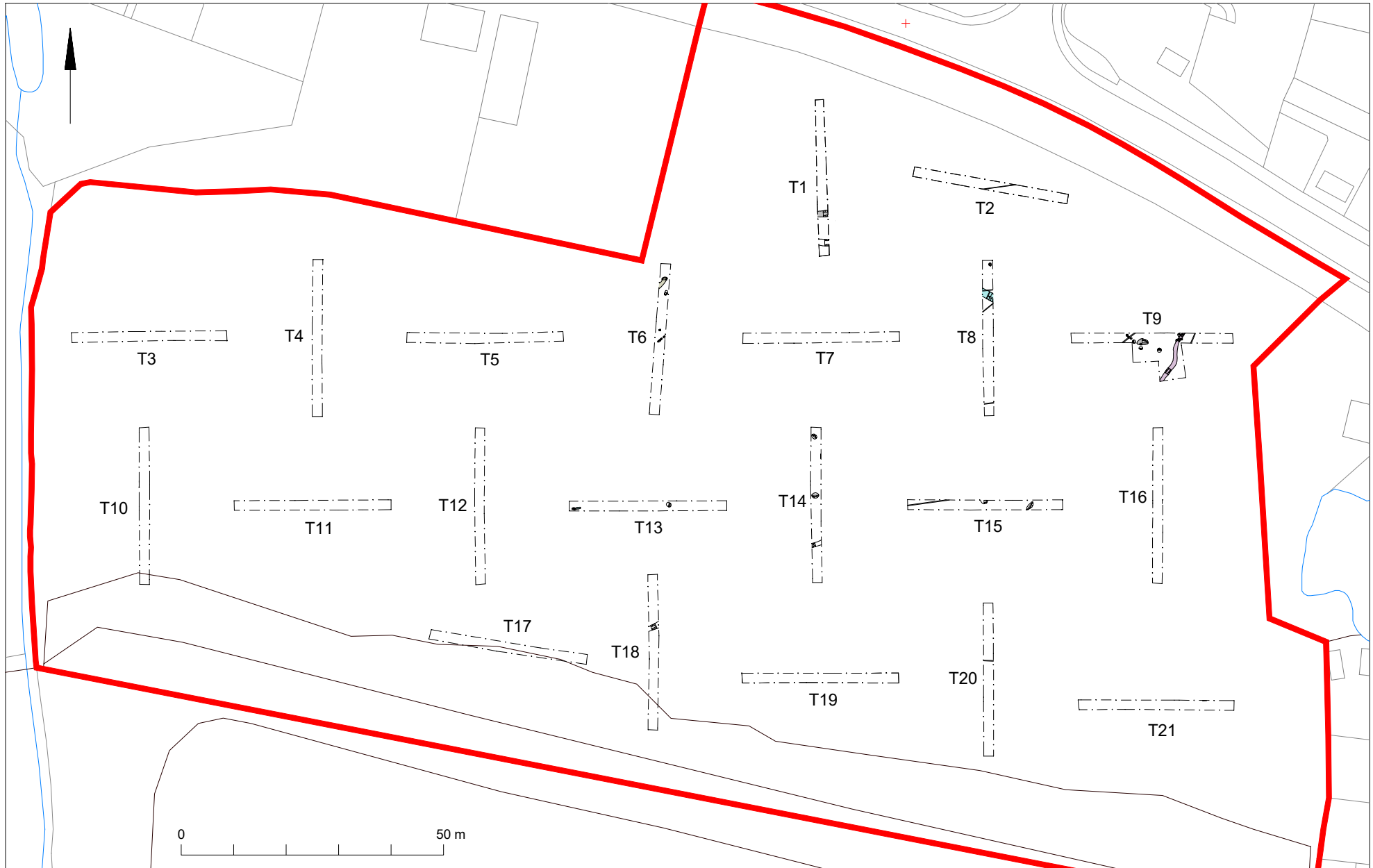
CAT Report 1765: Archaeological evaluation on land south of Frinton Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex –  
December 2021 – January 2022

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Soil S no.	Section	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	L	BR.	TH.	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Comments	Date
F35	Ditch	18			1	27	27	X	PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F35	Ditch	18			1	148	148		BR								BUFF RARE FL PEBBLES, RARE Y NODS	Post-medieval/modern
F35	Ditch	18			1	1	1	X	PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F36	Ditch	17			1	4	4	X	BR/PT									Medieval/post-medieval
F39	Ditch	14			1	4	4	X	BR									Post-medieval/modern



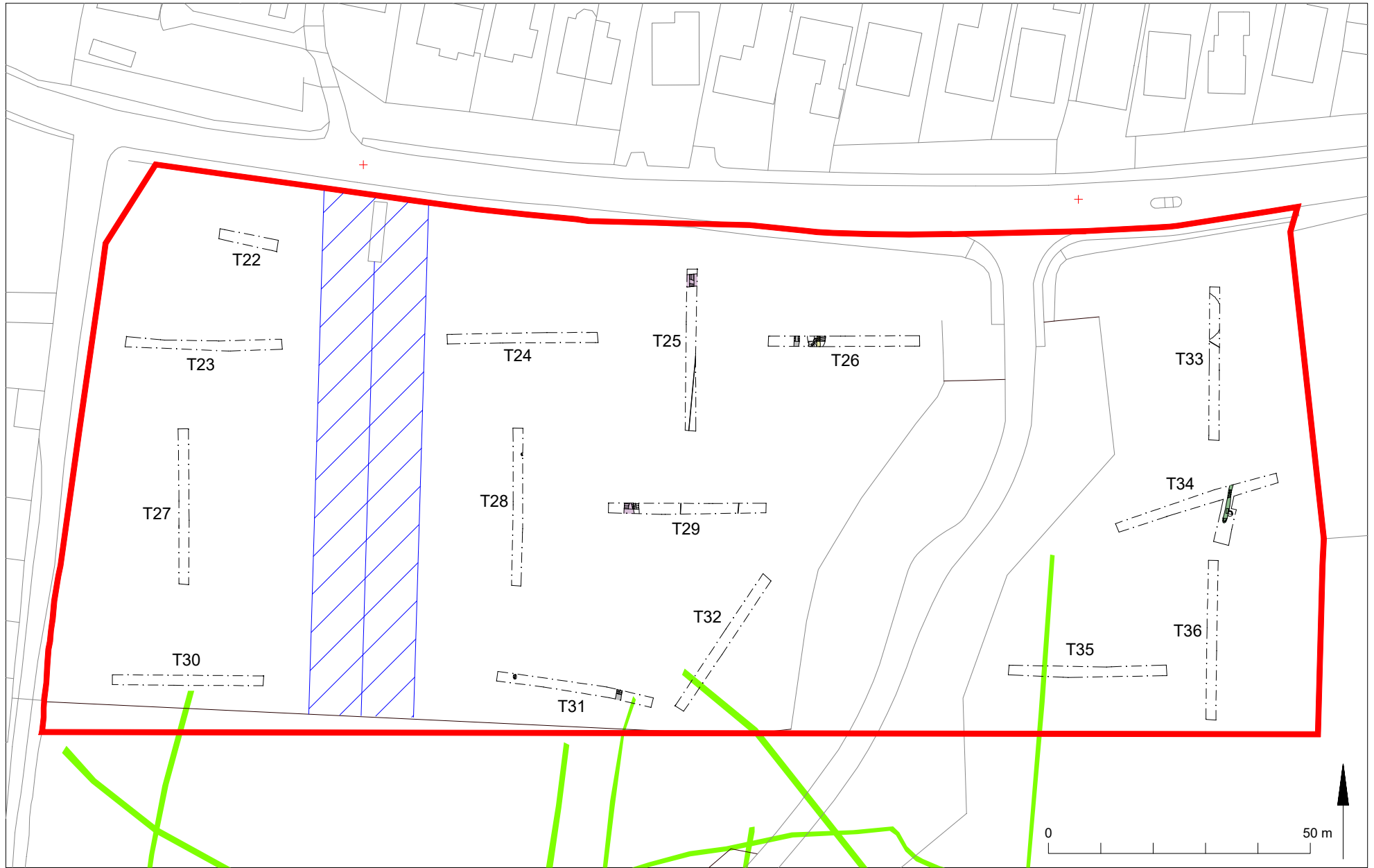
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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 West parcel trench results.



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Fig 3 Middle and east parcel trench results.

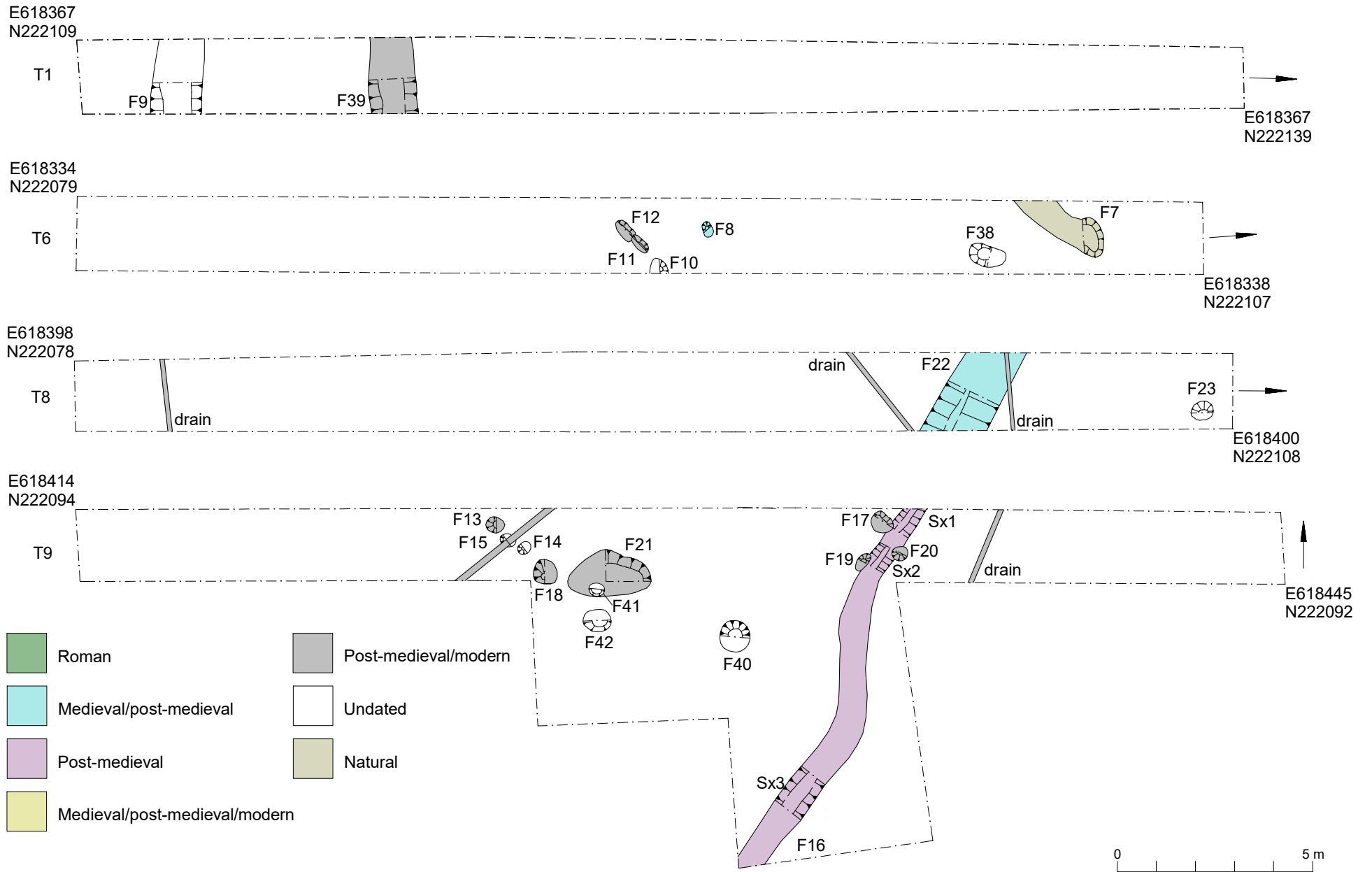


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans.



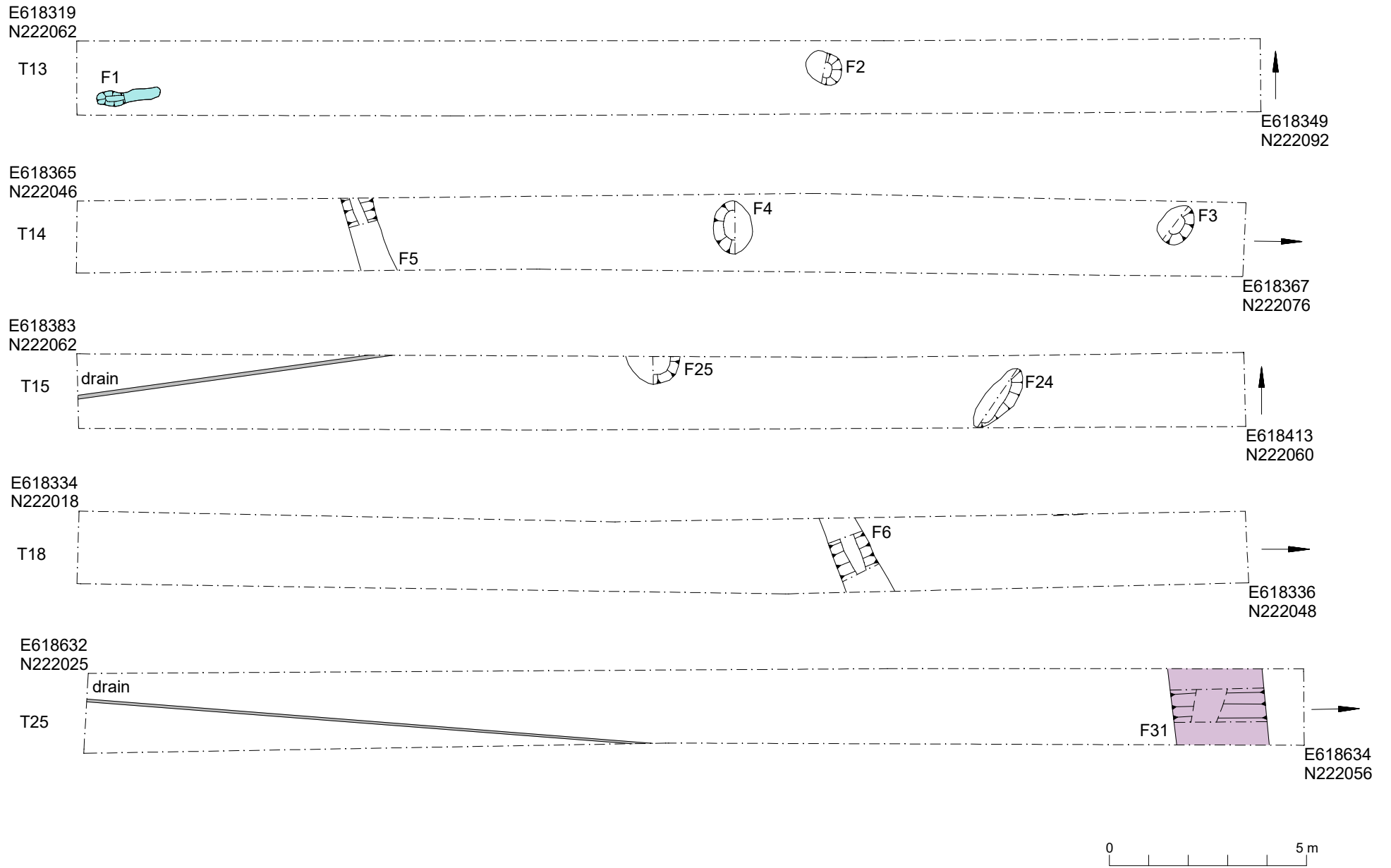


Fig 5 Detailed trench plans.

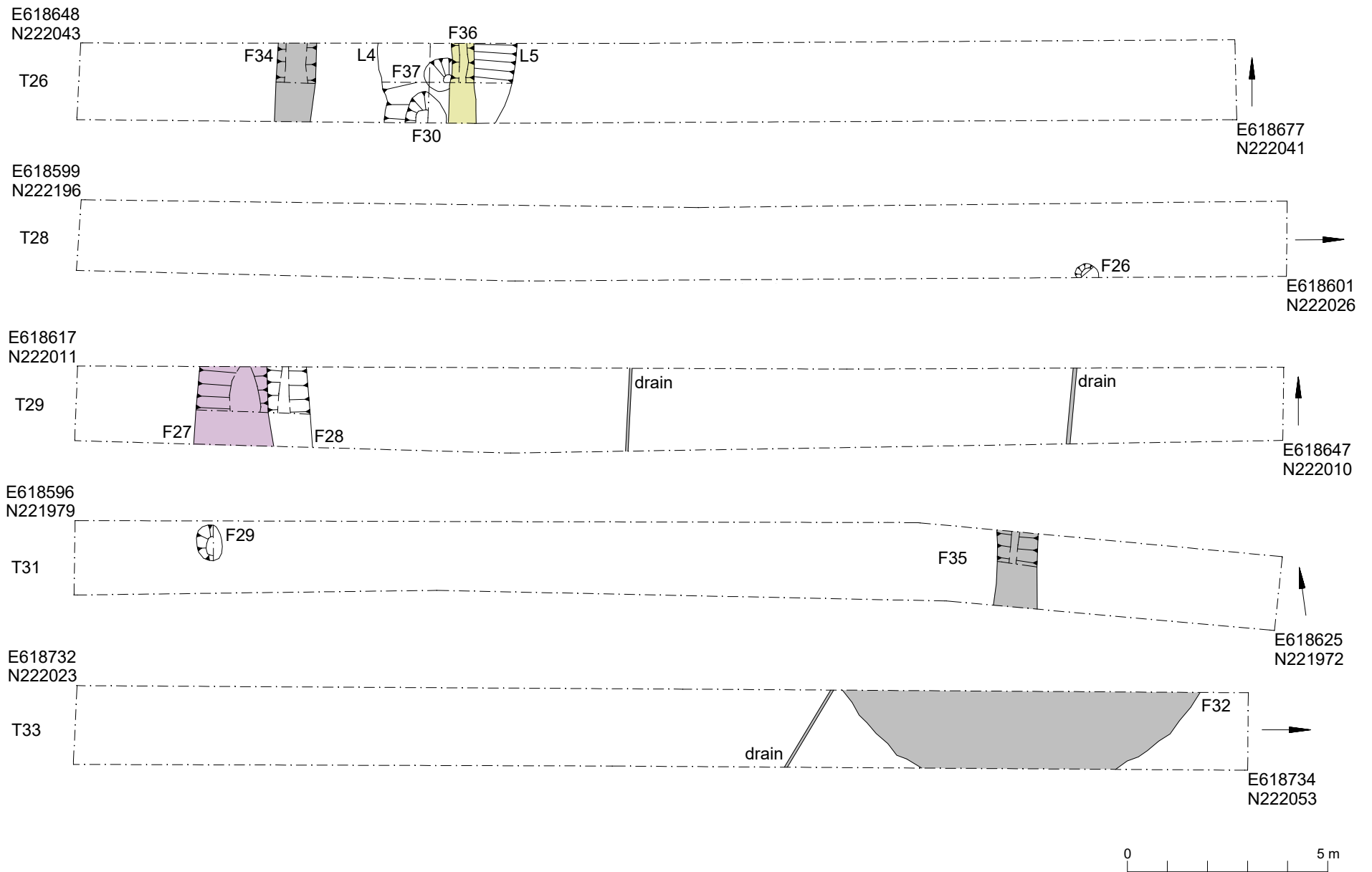


Fig 6 Detailed trench plans.

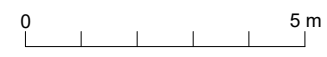
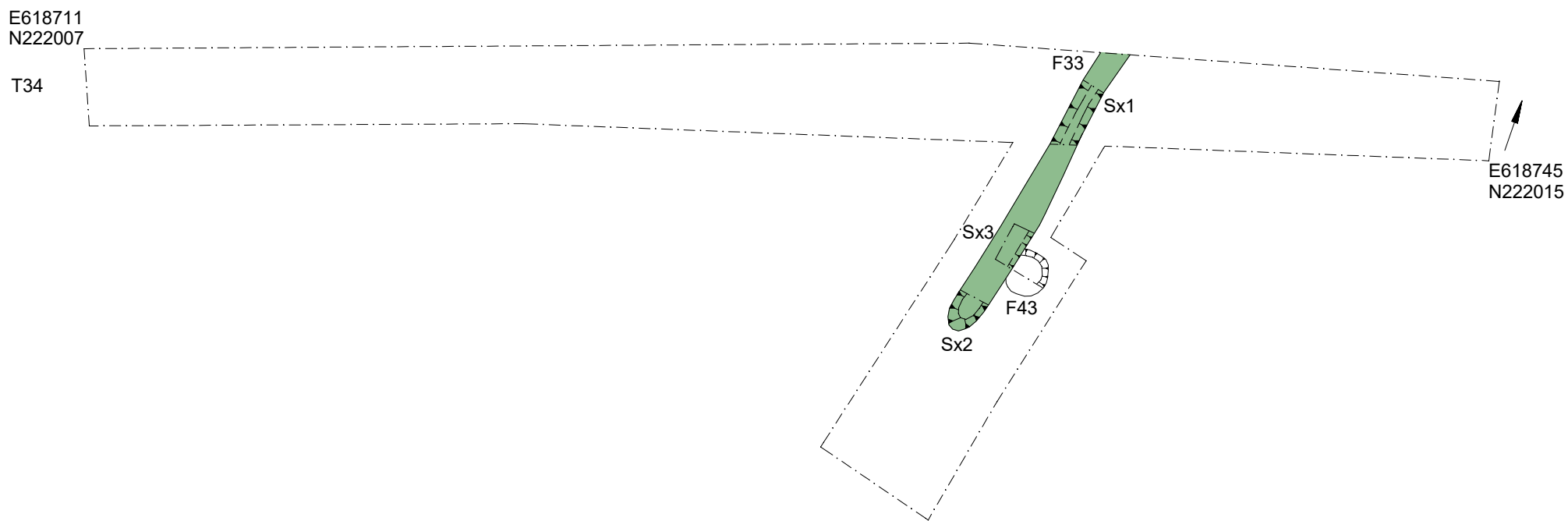


Fig 7 Detailed trench plans.

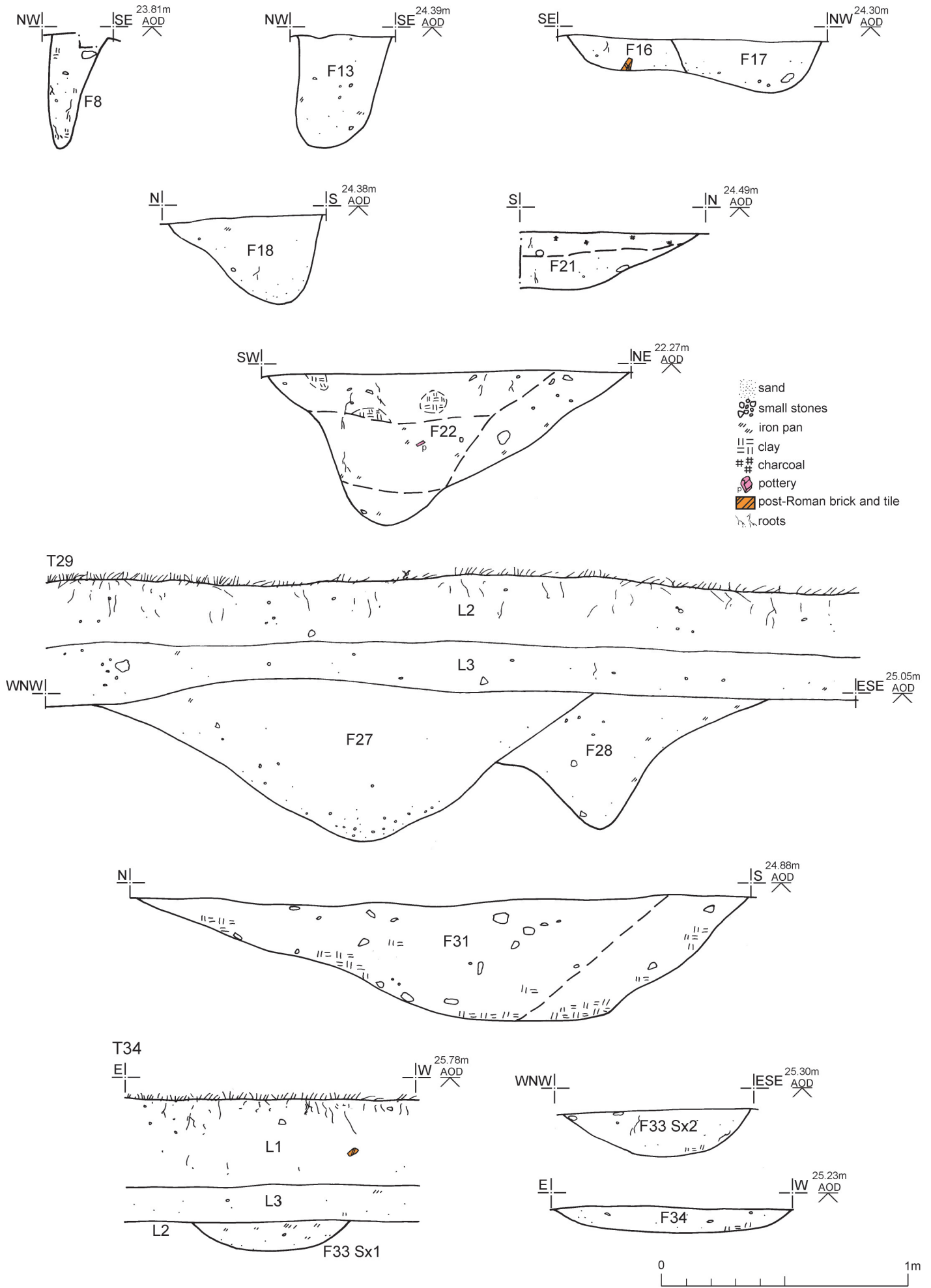


Fig 8 Feature sections.

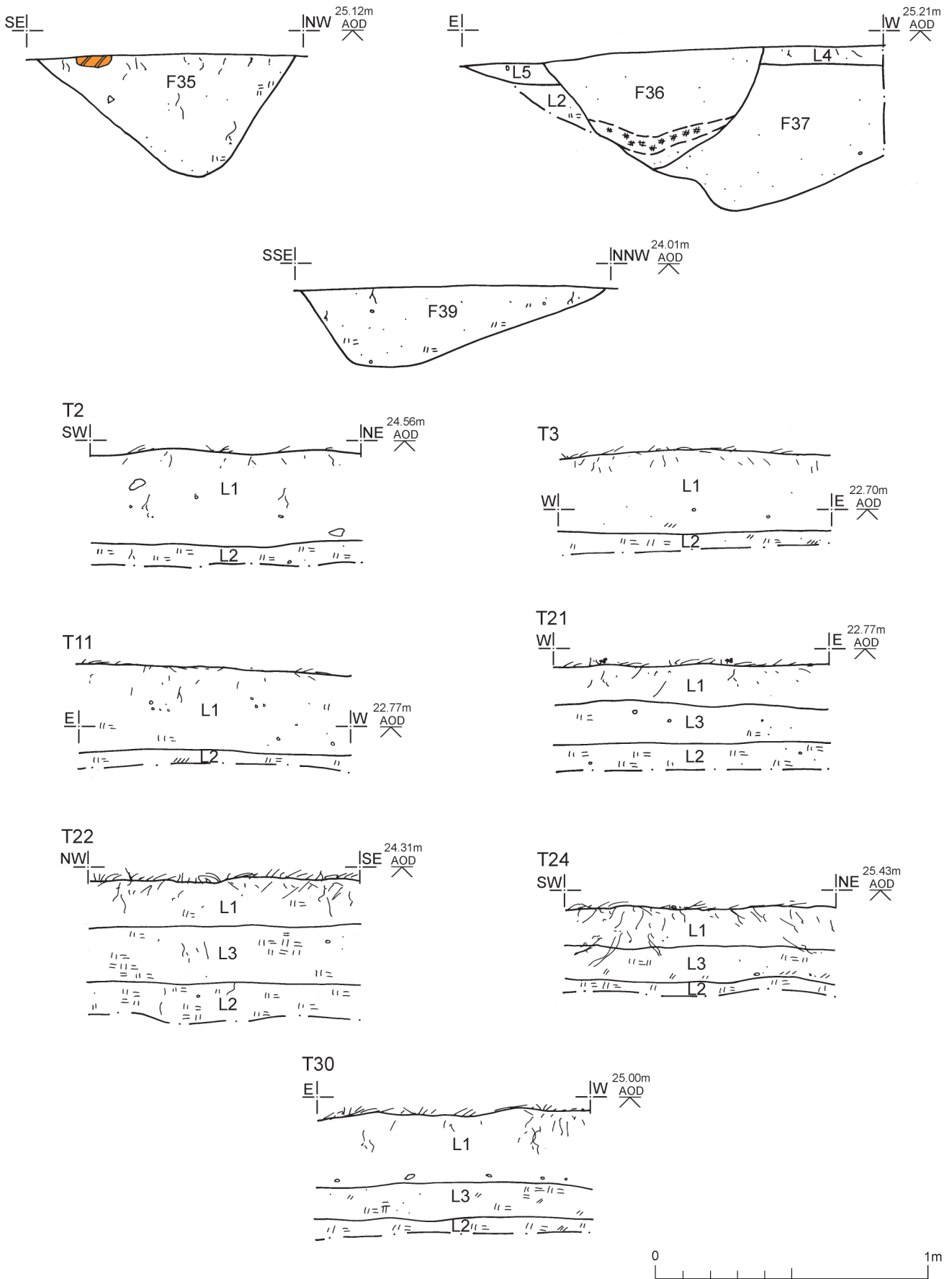


Fig 9 Feature and representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-502889

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-502889
Project Name	Evaluation at Land south of Frinton Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, CO16 OJF
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2021/10e
Planning Id	16/00838/OUT, Appeal Ref: APP/P1560/W/17/3166985
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	13-Dec-2021 - 05-Jan-2022
Location	Land south of Frinton Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, CO16 OJF NGR : TM 18353 22058 LL : 51.8543759430976, 1.16925153950578 12 Fig : 618353,222058
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : Thorpe-le-Soken
Project Methodology	Thirty-six trial-trenches were laid out across the development site. The trenches were 16m-30m long by 1.8m wide (totalling 1,918m <sup>2</sup> ), providing a 3% sample of the site. There was sufficient excavation to give evidence for the period, depth and nature of all archaeological deposits. For linear features 1m wide sections were excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, were 50% excavated. There were no complex archaeological structures.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (thirty-six trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Frinton Road, Thorpe-le-Soken, Essex, in advance of an application to construct forty-nine new dwellings. Residual artefacts of Iron Age, Roman and medieval date were recovered during the excavations, including a medieval floor-tile which indicates the presence of a high-status medieval structure in the vicinity. The primary phase of activity at the site extended through the post-medieval and modern periods, when it formed part of a field adjoining Thorp Hall.

Keywords	Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - ROMAN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Post Hole - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Natural Feature - None - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Sherd - LATE IRON AGE - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tile - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tile - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Brick - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Nail - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - TSFR21
Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Sevice (Colchester Collection)