

# Archaeological evaluation at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex, CO4 5SH

December 2021



**by Sarah Veasey**

figures by Chris Lister, Robin Mathieson and Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Robin Mathieson with Sarah Veasey and Oliver Windridge

**commissioned by Caroline Kay (Amphora Homes Ltd)  
on behalf of Amphora Homes Ltd**

NGR: TM 00764 32628 (centre)

Planning ref.: pre-planning

CAT project ref.: 2021/08g

CHER code: ECC4683

OASIS ref.: colchest3-428940



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1766**

January 2022

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (three trenches) was carried out at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex prior to residential redevelopment. Immediately north-west of the development site is a field containing cropmarks and 150m to the west the cropmark of a scheduled Neolithic henge monument. Four features were uncovered during the evaluation, three modern post-holes and an undated ditch.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex on 14th-15th December 2021. The work was commissioned by Caroline Kay on behalf of Amphora Homes Ltd prior to residential redevelopment.

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 Simon Wood (CBCAA 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 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 Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)).

Boxted Cross is located within a landscape surrounded by cropmarks recorded through aerial photography. To the immediate northwest of the site is a field containing cropmarks of linear features and large pits (MCC6939) and 150m to the west is a Scheduled Neolithic henge monument visible as a cropmark (National Heritage List for England Entry: Scheduled Monument 1019078). To the east of the henge monument is a large area of undated cropmarks interpreted as showing a double-ditched trackway, linear features, two ring-ditches and pits (MCC9097).

An evaluation at Carters Hill by CAT in 2002 revealed pits and ditches, two of which may be dated to the Iron Age, forming part of a field system which is visible from the air as cropmarks (CAT Report 175).

An archaeological evaluation by CAT at Hill Farm, Boxted Cross in 2016 revealed a possible prehistoric field boundary running NE/SW across the site, a possible medieval pit, a post-medieval (16th-17th century) ditch and brick foundation, a number of undated ditches, pits and postholes, and several modern features (CAT Report 1049, ECC3898). Subsequent excavation of the site in 2017 revealed fifteen archaeologically significant features consisting of ten ditches, three pits and two small pits/postholes. In addition to this were six tree-throws, two modern pits and a modern service. Although dating evidence was rare across the whole site,

most of the poorly-dated ditches are likely to be Roman field boundaries forming a complex field system most likely associated with a pastoral economy and stock management. One ditch containing 26 sherds of a Dressel 20 amphora can be more confidently dated to the early Roman period. A single possible medieval ditch was also identified (CAT Report 1085, ECC3971).

#### 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 CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Three trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide. A fourth trench could not be excavated due to site constraints, including polytunnels, fencing and a chicken coop.

T1 and T2 were cut through a layer of topsoil (L1, c 0.08-0.17 thick) and a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.22-0.25m thick) into natural (L3, c 0.32-0.44 below current ground level [bcgl]). T3 was cut through a layer of concrete and sub-base (L4, c 0.25-0.30m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.35-0.42m thick) into natural (L3, c 0.62-0.70m bcgl). A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.

Sondages were excavated in all three trenches to confirm the identification of natural. No archaeological features were uncovered in T3.



**Photograph 1** T3 trench shot – south-east facing



**Trench 1 (T1)**

Three modern post-holes were identified in T1, only one of which was excavated. Post-hole F1 had a diameter of c 0.30m and a depth of 0.34m. The post-holes were arranged in a straight line.



**Photograph 2** T1 trench shot – south-east facing

**Trench 2 (T2)**

Undated ditch F2 was located in the southern end of T2. The excavated section was 1.43m wide and 0.12m deep.



**Photograph 3** F2 plan – west facing

## 6 Finds

There were no finds.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite the location of the development site and the surrounding cropmarks, only modern post-holes and an undated ditch were uncovered during this evaluation.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Caroline Kay and Amphora Homes Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by R Mathieson with S Veasey and O Windridge. Figures are by C Lister, R Mathieson and S Veasey. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

## 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>
	(2nd ed.)	
CAT	2021	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex</i> By E Holloway
CAT Report 175	2002	<i>An archaeological evaluation at Carters Hill, Boxted Cross, near Colchester, Essex: February 2002</i>
CAT Report 1045	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Hill Farm, Boxted Cross, Essex – December 2016</i> , by L Pooley
CAT Report 1085	2017	<i>Archaeological excavation at Hill Farm, Boxted Cross, Essex – March 2017</i> , by L Pooley

CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Cross Cottages, Boxted</i> By R Hoggett
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Hull, M	1958	<i>Roman Colchester</i> , RRCSAL 20
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
EHER	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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1766)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1766)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The 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. ECC4683

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### Distribution list:

Amphora Homes Ltd  
Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 11/01/22



**Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Trench number</b>	<b>Finds number</b>	<b>Feature / layer type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1	T1, T2	-	Topsoil	soft moist medium/dark grey/brown silty loam and inclusions of: stone 6%	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	soft moist medium grey/brown silty loam and inclusions of: stone 9%	Undated
L3	All	-	Natural	soft moist light yellow/orange/brown loamy sand and inclusions of: stone 15%	Post-glacial
L4	T3	-	Concrete and sub-base	Layer of concrete with stoney sub-base	Modern
F1	T1	-	Post-hole	very loose dry medium grey/brown silt and inclusions of: stone 5%	Modern
F2	T2	-	Ditch	soft moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silt	Undated

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex, CO4 5SH	
<b>Parish:</b> Boxted Cross	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00764 3262 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2021/08g CHER ref: ECC4683 OASIS ref: colchest3-428940
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 14th-15th December 2021	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.45 acres
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1766	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation (three trenches) was carried out at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex prior to residential redevelopment. Immediately north-west of the development site is a field containing cropmarks and 150m to the west the cropmark of a scheduled Neolithic henge monument. Four features were uncovered during the evaluation, three modern post-holes and an undated ditch.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> n/a	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Simon Wood	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Sarah Veasey	<b>Date of summary:</b> 7th January 2022

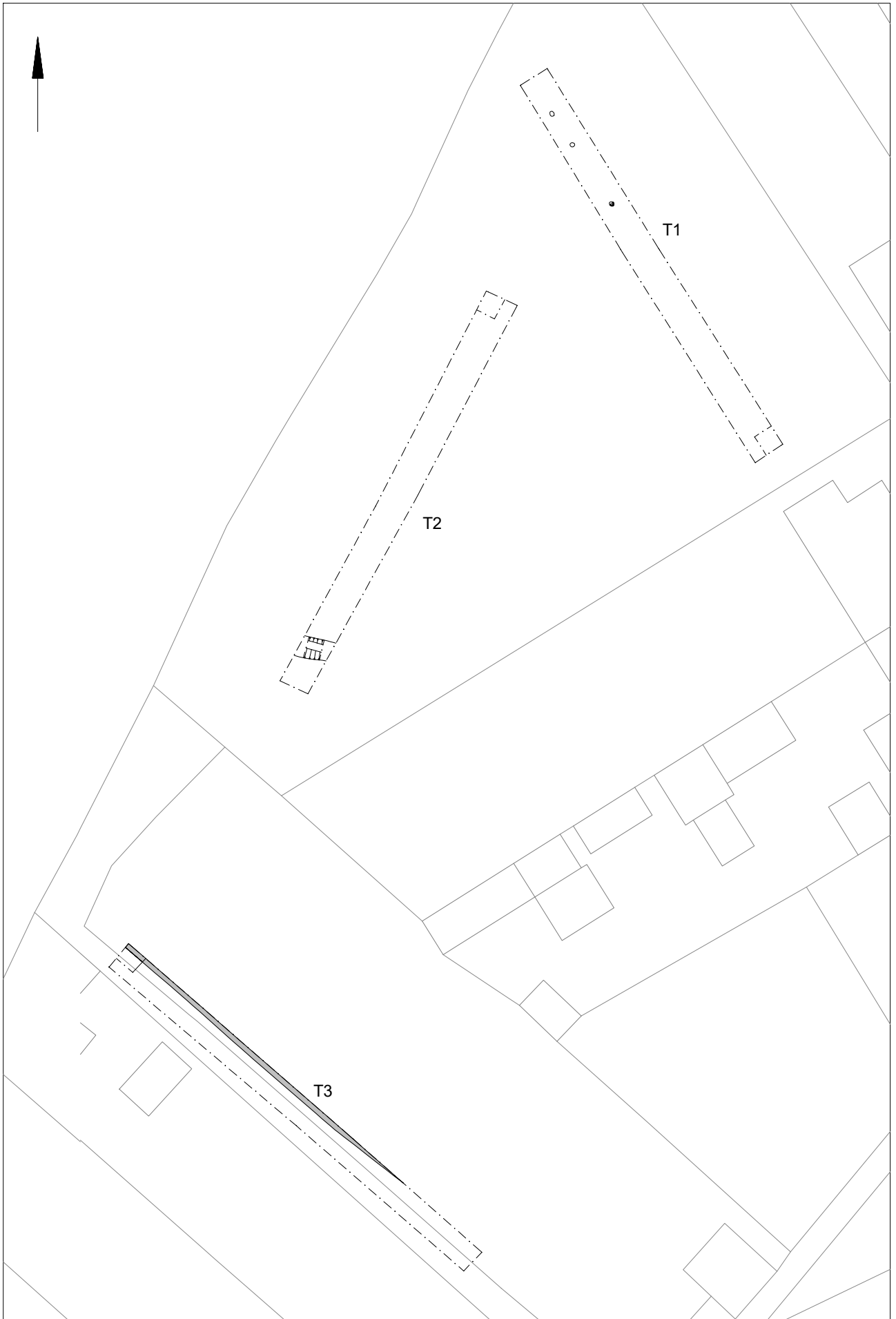


Fig 2 Results. Modern service in grey.

0 20 m

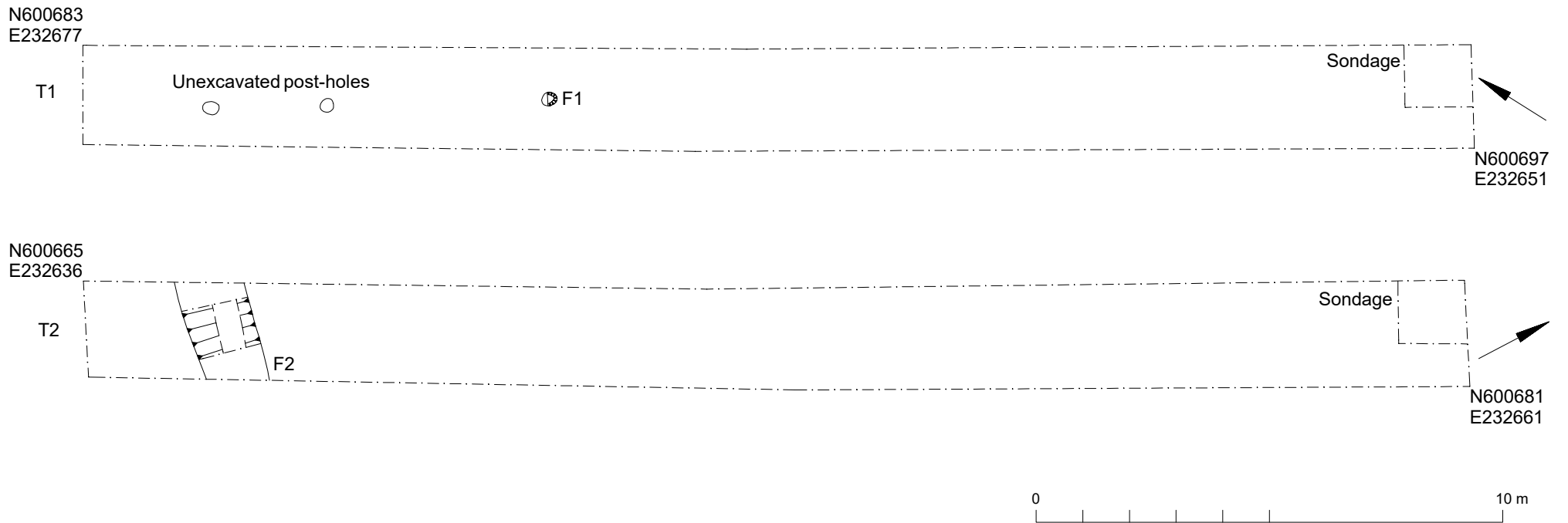


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans.



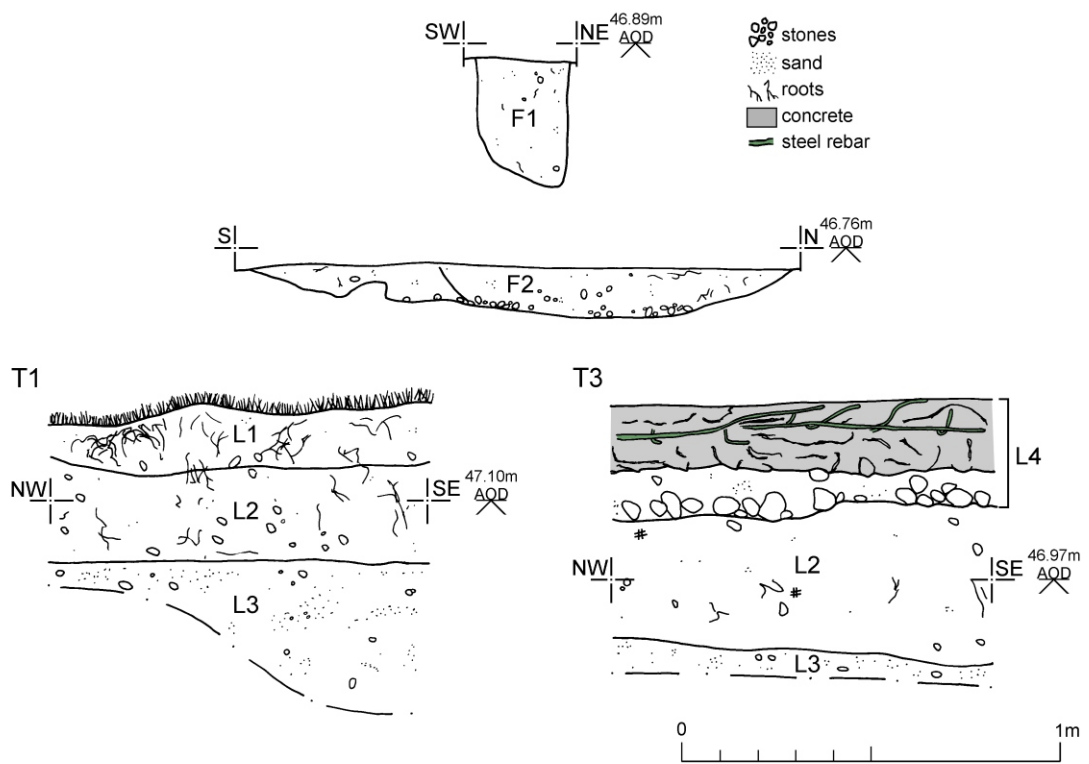
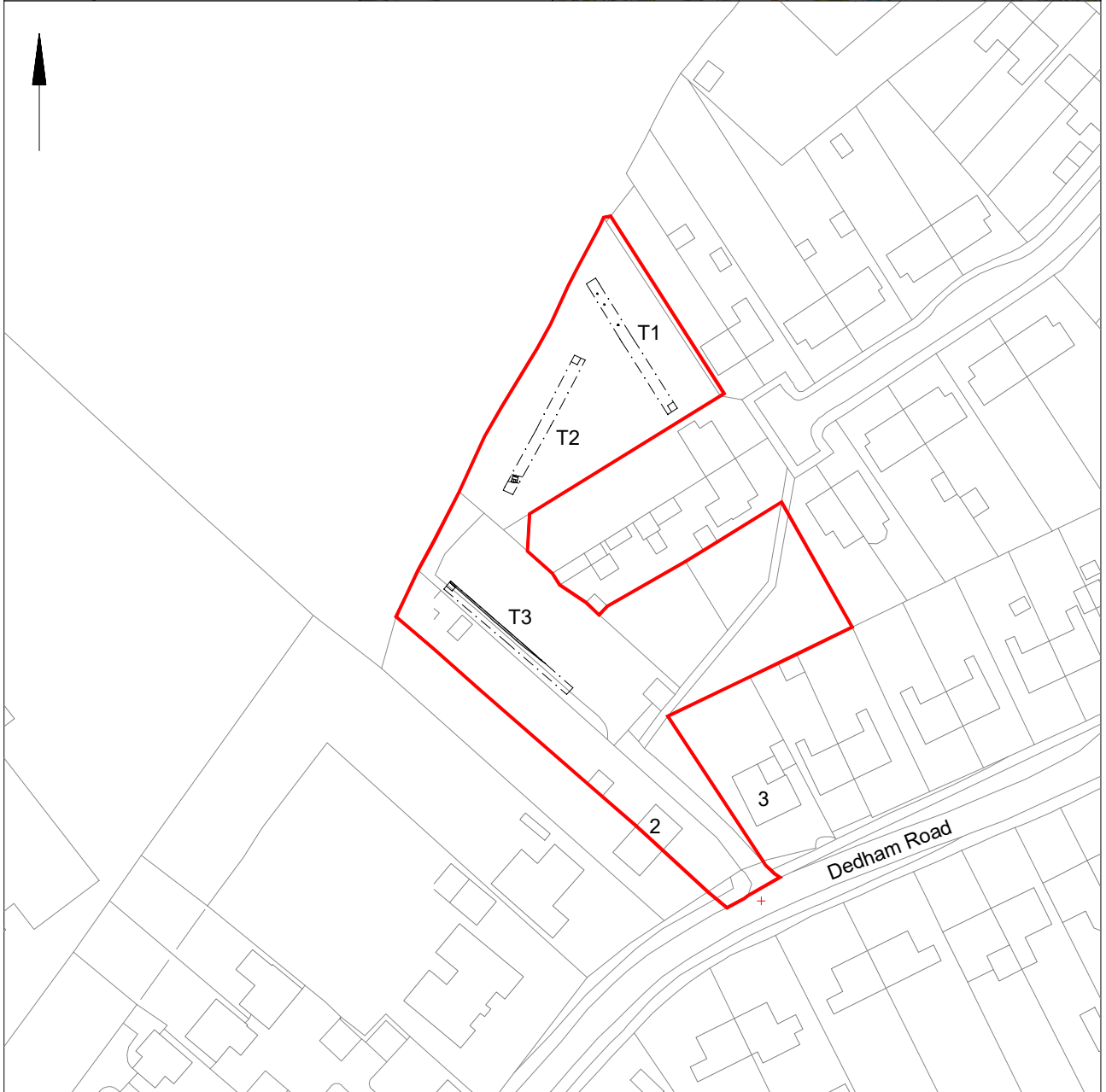
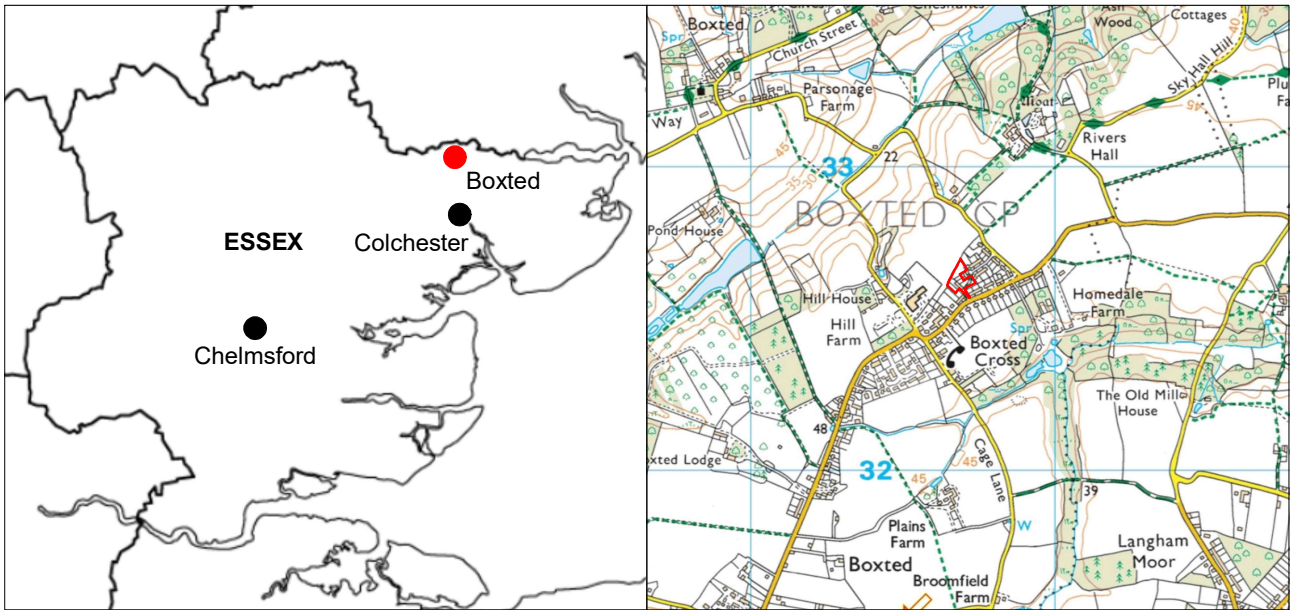


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.



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Fig 1 Site location.



# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex

**NGR:** TM 00764 32628 (centre)  
**District:** Colchester

**Planning references:** pre-application

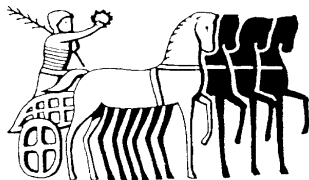
**Commissioned by:** Caroline Kay (Amphora Homes)  
**On behalf of:** Colchester Amphora Homes Ltd

**Curating museum:** Colchester  
**CHER number:** tbc

**CAT project code:** 2021/08g  
**OASIS project number:** colchest3-428940

**Site manager:** Chris Lister  
**CBC monitor:** Dr Simon Wood

**This WSI written:** 23.08.2021  
**Revised:** 02.12.2021



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel:* 01206 501785  
*email:* [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development is located in the centre of the village of Boxted Cross on the northern side of Dedham Road and the terminal of Cooks Hill (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 00764 32628.

## Proposed work

The project comprises of land currently in use as gardens and a hardstanding area for parking to be redeveloped for residential use.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)).

Boxted Cross is located within a landscape surrounded by cropmarks recorded through aerial photography. To the immediate northwest of the site is a field containing cropmarks of linear features and large pits (MCC6939) and 150m to the west of a Scheduled Neolithic henge monument visible as a cropmark (National Heritage List for England Entry: Scheduled Monument 1019078). To the east of the henge monument is a large area of undated cropmarks interpreted as showing a double-ditched trackway, linear features, two ring-ditches and pits (MCC9097).

An evaluation at Carters Hill by CAT in 2002 in advance of the construction of the Primary School revealed pits and ditches, two of which may be dated to the Iron Age forming part of a field system which is visible from the air as cropmarks (CAT Report 175).

An archaeological evaluation at Hill Farm, Boxted Cross by CAT in 2016 revealed a possible prehistoric field boundary running NE/SW across the site, a possible medieval pit, a post-medieval (16th-17th century) ditch and brick foundation, a number of undated ditches, pits and postholes, and several modern features (CAT report 1049, ECC3898). Subsequent excavation of the site in 2017 revealed fifteen archaeologically significant features consisting of ten ditches, three pits and two small pits/postholes. In addition to this were six tree-throws, two modern pits and a modern service. Although dating evidence was rare across the whole site, most of the poorly dated ditches are likely to be Roman field boundaries forming a complex field system most likely associated with a pastoral economy and stock management. One ditch containing 26 sherds of a Dressel 20 amphora can be more confidently dated to the early Roman period. A single possible medieval ditch was also identified (CAT Report 1085, ECC3971).

## Project background

Pre-application advice was sought from Colchester Borough Council in February 2021 for the *redevelopment as residential*.

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 as stated in the Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021) was for an archaeological evaluation.



Specifically, four linear trenches will be evaluated. T1 and T2 will be 30m long. T3 will be 40m long and T4 will be 25m long. All trenches will be 1.8m wide. This equates to 125m of trenching covering an area of 225m<sup>2</sup> which is a 5% sample of the development area.

The work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. 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 the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
- 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 investigation 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, c, d)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 two archaeologist for three days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Adam Wightman

## **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 excavation area 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 the 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 micromorphical 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 Historic England guidance (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 (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 Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). 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

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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 / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: 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* (Historic England 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible

### **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>

- |                               |       |   |
|-------------------------------|-------|---|
| Brown, D                      | 2011  | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition                                  |
| CAT                           | 2020  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT Report 175                | 2002  | <i>An archaeological evaluation at Carters Hill, Boxted Cross, near Colchester, Essex: February 2002</i>  |
| CAT Report 1045               | 2017  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Hill Farm, Boxted Cross, Essex – December 2016</i> , by L Pooley  |
| CAT Report 1085               | 2017  | <i>Archaeological excavation at Hill Farm, Boxted Cross, Essex – March 2017</i> , by L Pooley   |
| CBCAA                         | 2021  | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Cross Cottages, Boxted</i><br>By R Hoggett   |
| CIfA                          | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>  |
| CIfA                          | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                                   |
| 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 <b>14</b> ).                         |
| 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 <b>24</b> ) |
| MHCLG                         | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.  |

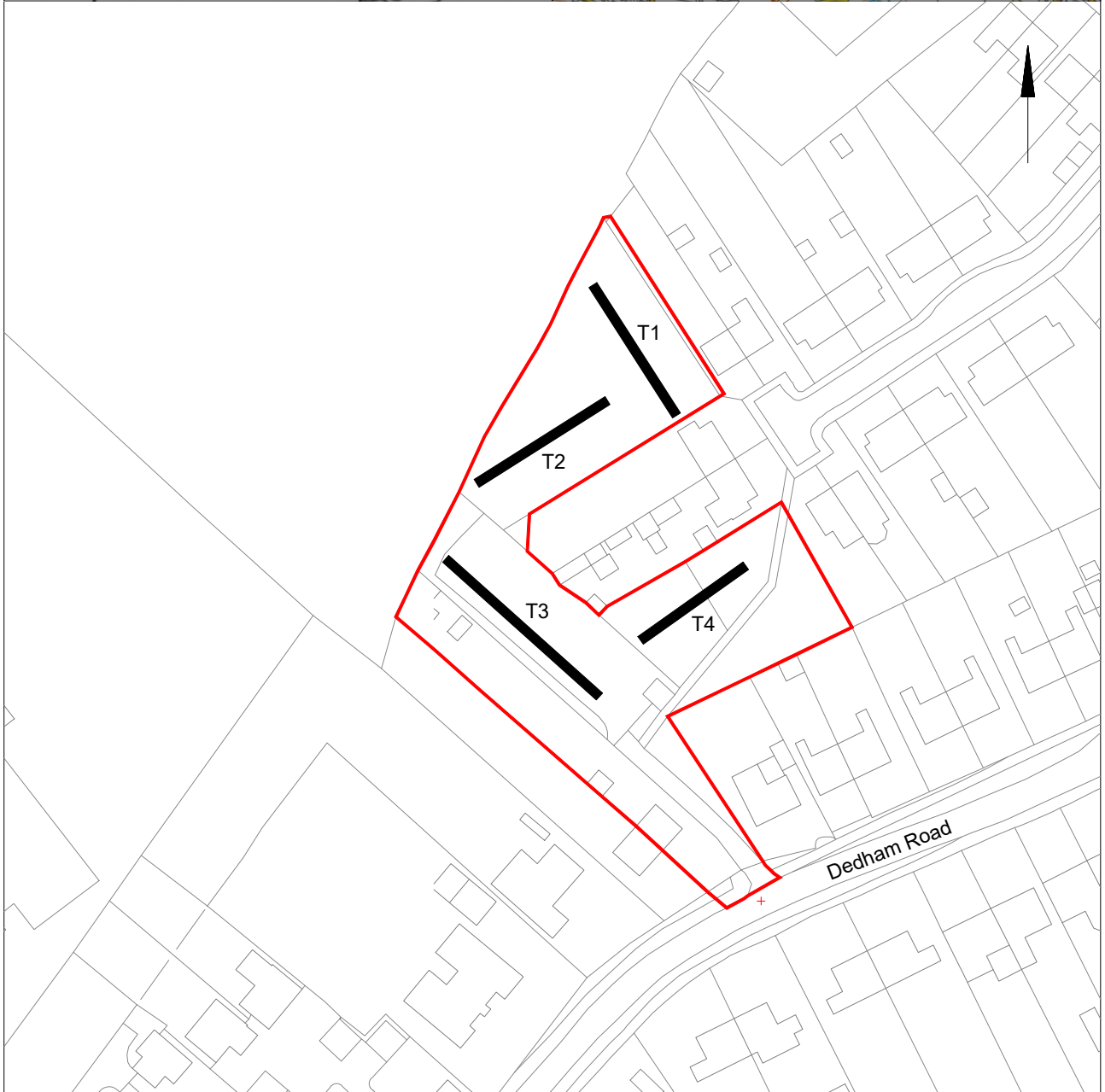
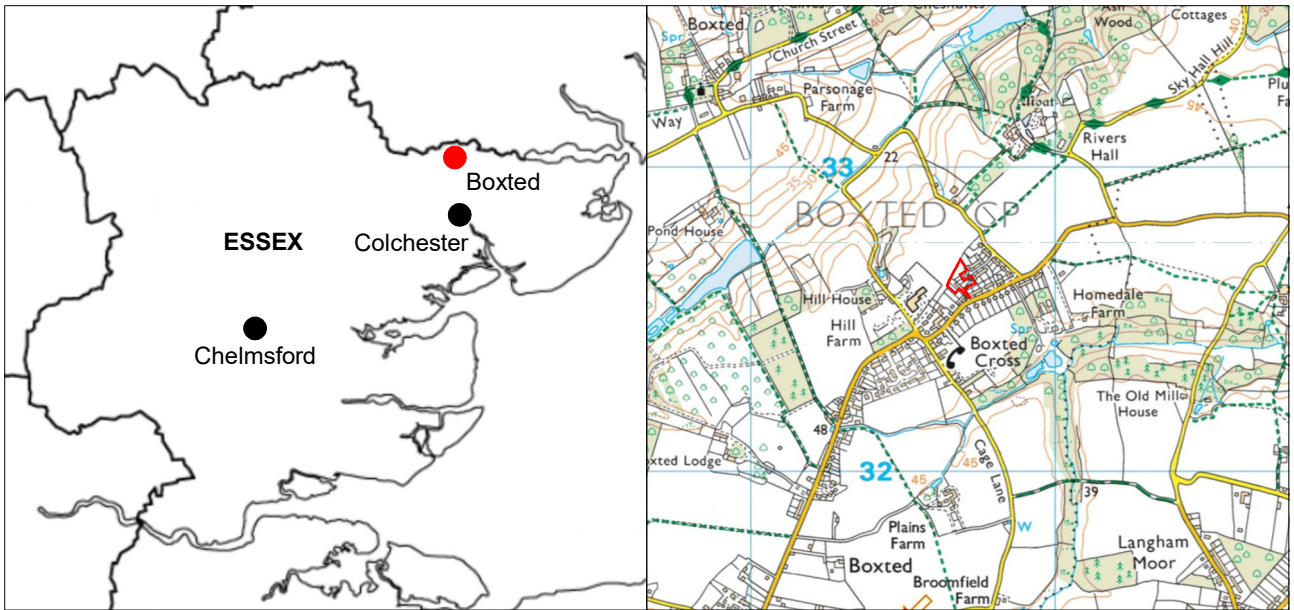
E Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785

email: [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)



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Fig 1 Site location and trench proposal.

0 50 m

## Summary for colchest3-428940

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-428940
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex, CO4 5SH
Activity type	TRIAL TRENCH
Project Identifier(s)	2021/08g
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Pre application
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	14-Dec-2021 - 15-Dec-2021
Location	Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross NGR : TM 00764 32628 LL : 51.9558849395344, 0.920371552289992 12 Fig : 600764,232628
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Boxted
Project Methodology	Three trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide. A fourth trench could not be excavated due to site constraints, including polytunnels, fencing and a chicken coop.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trenches) was carried out at Cross Cottages, Cooks Hill, Boxted Cross, Essex prior to residential redevelopment. Immediately north-west of the development site is a field containing cropmarks and 150m to the west the cropmark of a scheduled Neolithic henge monument. Four features were uncovered during the evaluation, three modern post-holes and an undated ditch.
Keywords	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Sevice (Colchester Collection)