

Archaeological evaluation on land south of Mary Lane North, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ

August 2022



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figures by Chris Lister and Sarah Veasey

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**commissioned by Kelly Biddle
on behalf of Orwell Housing Association Ltd**

NGR: TM 08600 25882 (centre)

Planning ref.: pre-application

CAT project ref.: 2021/09b

ECC code: GBYML22

OASIS ref.: colchest3-431841



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CAT Report 1839

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Mary Lane North, Great Bromley, Essex. The evaluation was undertaken pre-planning but the permission in principle proposes the construction of nine new dwellings. The site is located immediately east of previous archaeological investigations which revealed a series of medieval pits and ditches. This evaluation, however, did not uncover any archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land south of Mary Lane North, Great Bromley, Essex from the 10th August 2022. The work was commissioned by Kelly Bidwell on behalf of Orwell Housing Association in advance of the construction of a new mixed used building with associated access, parking, landscaping and groundworks.

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 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with *Programme of Archaeological trial trench 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 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 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>).

Great Bromley is a historic settlement that is likely to have originated in the medieval period. The parish church dates to the 14th-15th century and is located opposite Great Bromley Hall, a medieval manorial site. The development site lies at the northern limit of the former parkland surrounding Great Bromley Lodge (now Hamilton Lodge), located opposite the former Parsonage. The Parsonage is depicted on the Chapman and André map of 1777.

An archaeological evaluation (11 trial-trenches) was carried out by CAT immediately adjacent to the site (EHER 49517, CAT Report 1212). The evaluation revealed medieval features, including ditches and pits. Fragments of late 13th- or 14th-century decorated floor tiles from one of the ditches indicated the potential for a nearby high-status dwelling or religious building. A later excavation revealed further medieval features concentrated in the north-west corner of the site which contained finds dating from the 12th to the 14th centuries (EHER 49517, CAT 1416).

A number of cropmark complexes (EHER 17653) in the surrounding area include ring-ditches of probable Bronze Age date, settlement enclosures and trackways of later prehistoric or Roman date, and probable medieval field boundaries. Although none of these cropmarks are projected to cross the development site, Bronze Age, Roman, early medieval and medieval objects have been found in the vicinity (EHERs 56319, 51072, 52873, 52871, 52872, 53733, 56317, 57374).

Approximately 650m south-east of the site (Camp Road) lies the location of a probable medieval kiln site, evidenced by kiln waste (EHER 2465).

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 2-3)

Context and trench numbers continue from the earlier archaeological work on the land adjacent (see CAT Reports 1212 and 1416).

Three trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Each trench was 30m long by 1.8m wide and was stripped through topsoil (L4, c 0.25-0.41m thick, hard, dry, medium, grey/brown silty-clay) into the natural clay (L5, hard, dry, yellow/orange/brown clay).

Sondages were excavated in trenches T13 and T14 to confirm the identification of natural.

No archaeological features or finds were uncovered in any of the trenches.



Photograph 1 Trench 13 – view south-east.



Photograph 2 Trench 14 – view east.



Photograph 3 General site shot – view east.

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite the site's close proximity to previous archaeological discoveries, the trenches excavated on land south of Mary Land North revealed nothing of archaeological significance. The main concentration of archaeology in the previous phases of work was located to the north-west of the site, with limited remains to the south and east. This is reflected in the results from this evaluation.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Kelly Biddle and Orwell Housing Association Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with O Ruffles, S Veasey and G Williams. Figures were compiled by C Lister and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

9 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation on land south of Mary Land North, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ</i> by M Seehra
CAT Report 1212	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ: December 2017</i> by L Pooley
CAT Report 1416	2019	<i>Archaeological strip, map and excavate at Park 2 Badley Hall Farm, Badley Hall Road, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ: March-April 2019</i> by L Pooley
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	<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	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
evaluation	a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork, which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area. This may take the form of an intrusive investigation of a percentage of the site, geophysical or topographical survey. The results of this investigation will establish the requirements for any further work.
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500

NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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
wsis	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: None

Digital record:

The report (CAT Report 1839)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs and photographic log

Scans of original site data (section drawings)

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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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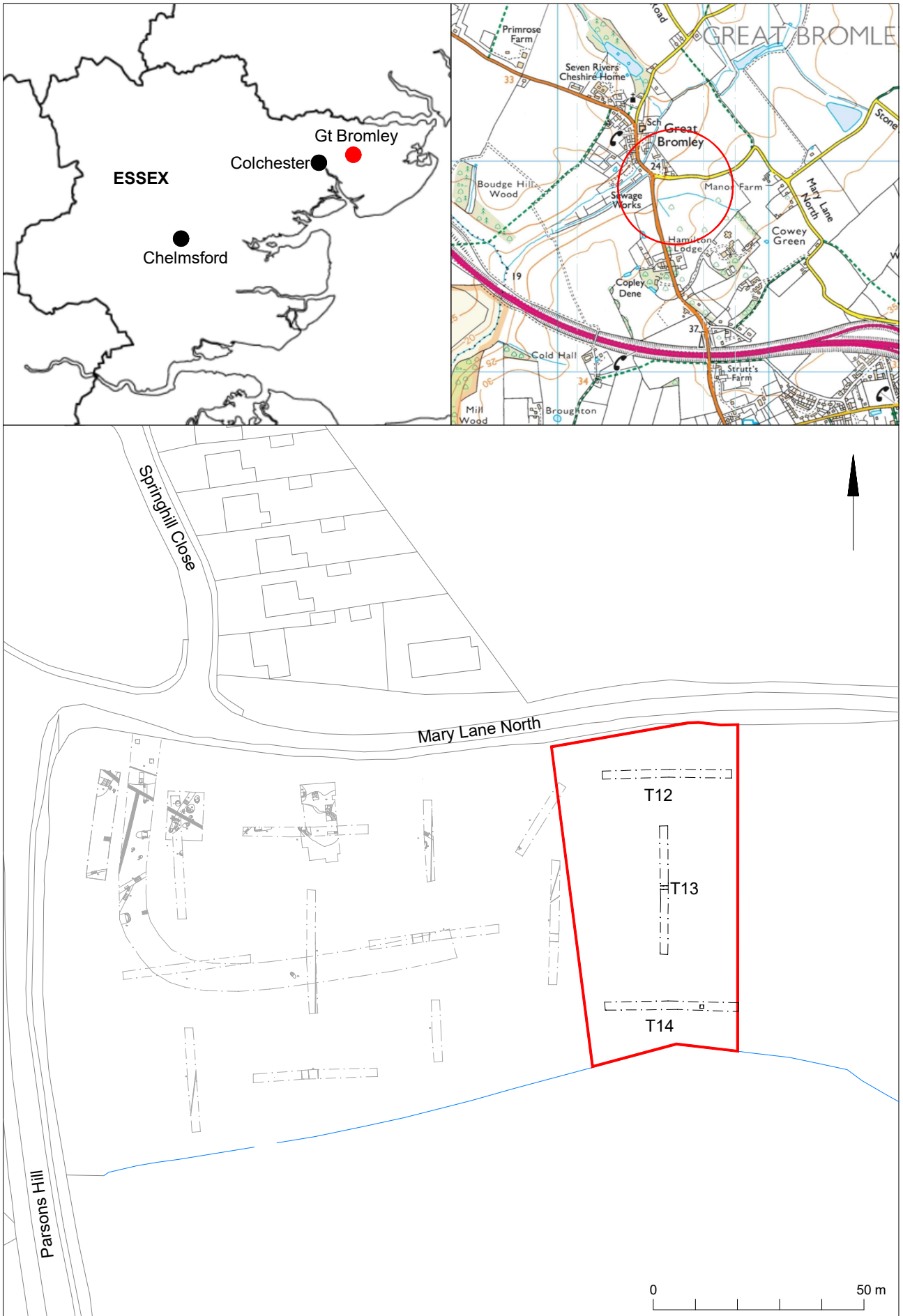
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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to previous archaeological work (trenching 2017 and monitoring 2018 in grey).

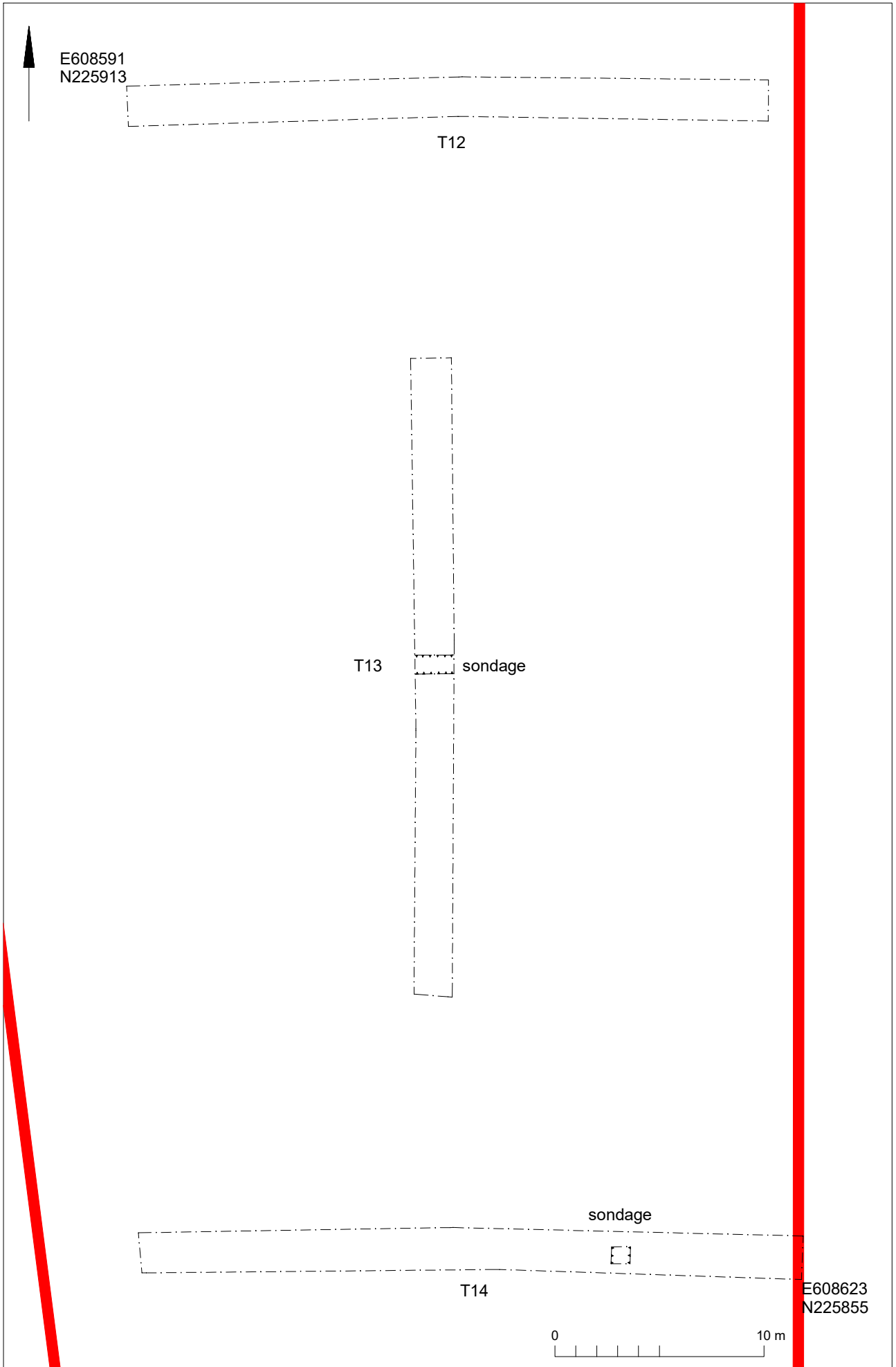


Fig 2 Trenching results.

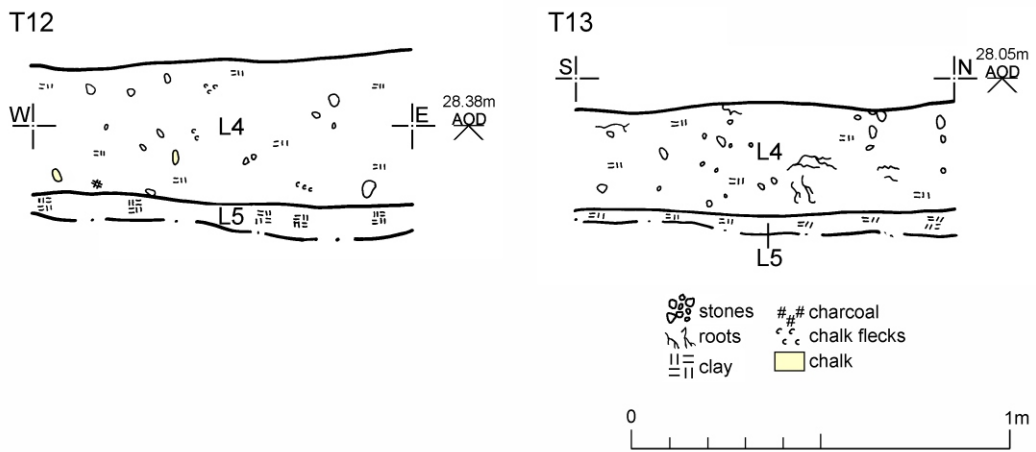


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-431841

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-431841
Project Name	Land south of Mary Lane North, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ
Sitename	Land south of Mary Lane North, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2021/09b
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement, Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	10-Aug-2022 - 10-Aug-2022
Location	Land south of Mary Lane North, Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TJ NGR : TM 08600 25882 LL : 51.8924364112645, 1.03015753407623 12 Fig : 608600,225882
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : Great Bromley
Project Methodology	<p>All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with Programme of Archaeological trial trench 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).</p> <p>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).</p> <p>Context and trench numbers continue from the earlier archaeological work on the land adjacent (see CAT Reports 1212 and 1416).</p> <p>Three trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Each trench was 30m long by 1.8m wide and was stripped through topsoil (L4, c 0.25-0.41m thick, hard, dry, medium, grey/brown silty-clay) into the natural clay (L5, hard, dry, yellow/orange/brown clay).</p> <p>Sondages were excavated in trenches T13 and T14 to confirm the identification of natural.</p>
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land south of Mary Lane North, Great Bromley, Essex. The evaluation was undertaken pre-planning but the permission in principle proposes the construction of nine new dwellings. The site is located immediately east of previous archaeological investigations which revealed a series of medieval pits and ditches. This evaluation, however, did not uncover any archaeological remains.
Keywords	

Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - GBYML22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;