

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1866  
November 2022**

**Archaeological evaluation at Old Builders Yard,  
Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex  
CM10 2QT**

**October 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/10a  
ECC code: LSBY22**

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Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex  
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**NGR: TL 64954 35101**

**Planning ref.: UTT/22/1841/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/10a  
CAT Report 1866**

**ECC code: LSBY22  
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**report prepared by  
Dr Elliott Hicks**

**fieldwork by Harvey Furniss with Elliott Hicks**

**commissioned by Michael Williams  
on behalf of MICRUS Properties Limited**

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within a historic green situated between the villages of Great Sampford and Little Sampford and in an area containing numerous listed buildings dating from the 17th to the 19th century. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex on 26th October 2022. The work was commissioned by Michael Williams on behalf of MICRUS Properties Limited, and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor 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 an *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford* written by Katie Lee-Smith and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022).

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>).

The site lies between the two villages of Great Sampford and Little Sampford, within a small, linear historic green. Historic mapping of the area shows that the plot of land proposed for development has previously contained buildings.

Chapman and André's map of Essex compiled in 1777 shows what appears to have been a single building standing roughly in the location of the development site (Map 1). By the time that the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 was drawn up, two long rectangular buildings were present on the plot (Map 2), the most southerly of which had been demolished by the time of the 1897 OS map (Map 3). By 1921, the other building had been demolished and the plot was empty, as indicated on that year's 25-inch OS Map (Map 4).

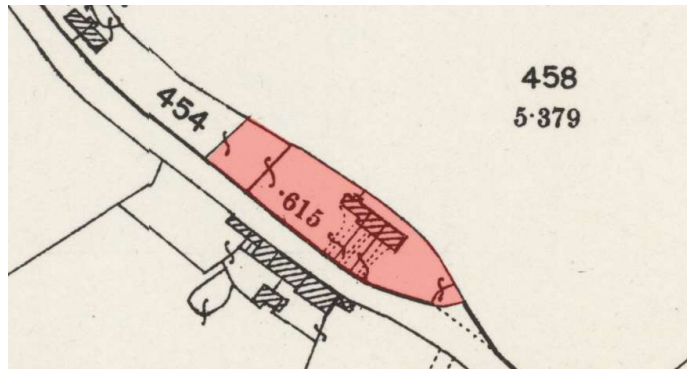


**Map 1** Extract of the 1777 Chapman and André map. The approximate location of the development site highlighted in red

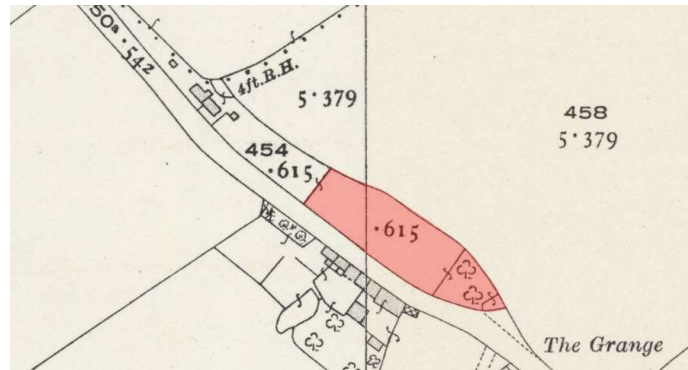
The site is also located in an area containing many listed buildings dating from the 17th to the 19th century. In the wider area there are also several known cropmarks (EHER 7430, 17202, 18997, 46591, 47974).



**Map 2** Extract of the 1880 6-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red



**Map 3** Extract of the 1897 25-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red



**Map 4** Extract of the 1921 25-inch OS Map. The site highlighted in red

#### 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)

A single T-shaped trial-trench, 21m long and 1.8m wide, was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The trench was cut through modern topsoil (L1, 0.15-0.23m thick, loose, moist dark grey/brown/black silty-loam with frequent CBM pieces and 1% stones) and a layer of made-ground (L2, 0.38-0.48m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown clayey-silt with CBM pieces, charcoal flecks and 1% stones) onto natural (L3, firm, moist medium yellow/brown silty-clay with 1% stones, encountered at a depth of 0.61-0.67m below current ground level).

No archaeological remains were encountered.



**Photograph 1** T1a trench shot – looking northwest

## 6 Finds

A few sherds of modern pottery were found in made-ground L2 but were not retained.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological remains were encountered.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Michael Williams and MICRUS Properties Limited for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by H Furniss with E Hicks. Figures were compiled by C Lister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

## 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 <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> )
CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
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
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation for Trial Trenching and excavation at Old Builders Yard, Little Sampford,</i> by K Lee-Smith
GeoEssex	2020	<i>Uttlesford District Council: Report on Local Geological Site,</i> by G Lucy & R Mercer
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
Historic England Medlycott, M	2015 2011	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

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
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from cAD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
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>
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## **11 Archive deposition**

This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, WSI, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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**Distribution list:**

Michael Williams  
MICRUS Properties Limited  
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



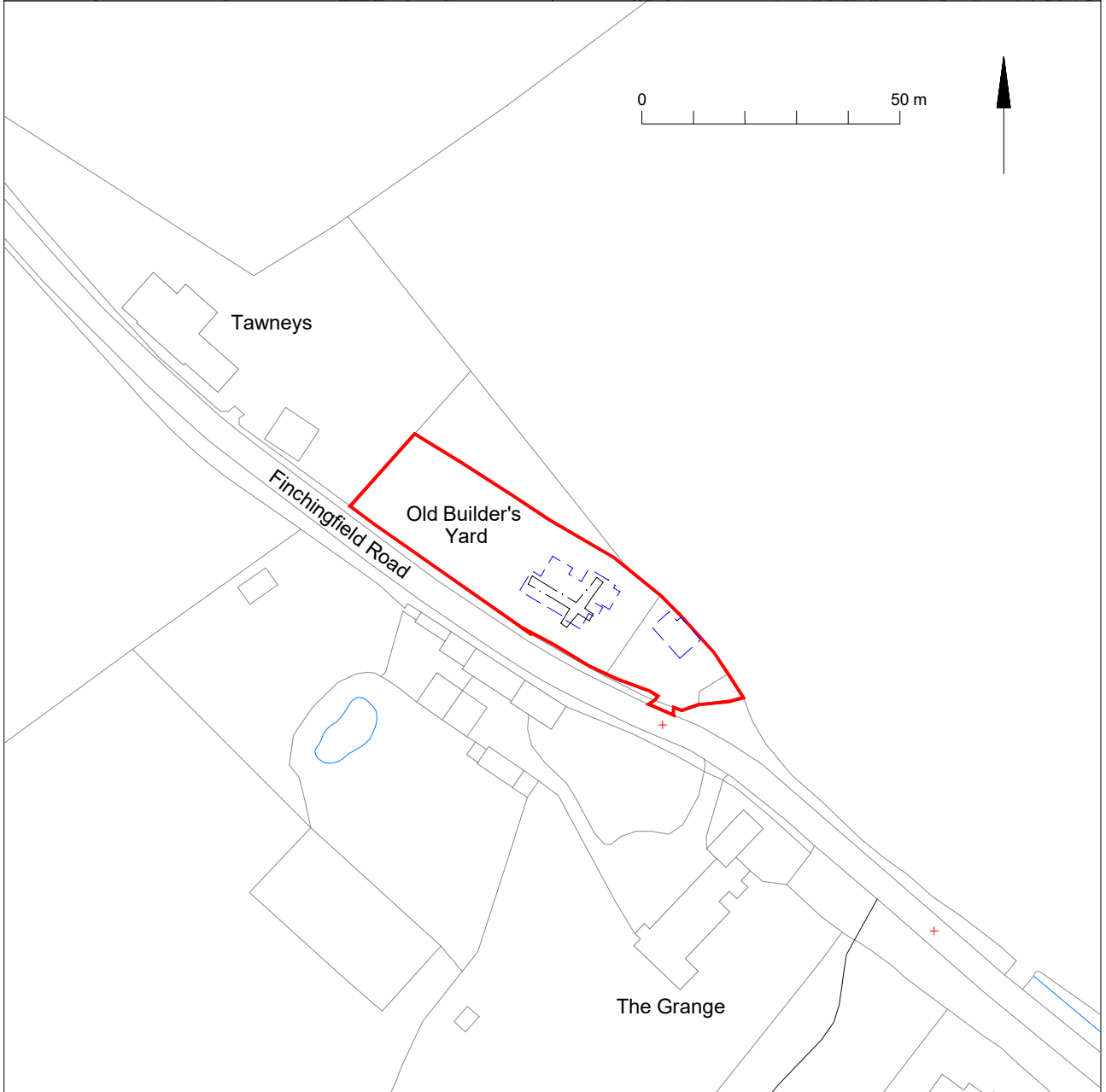
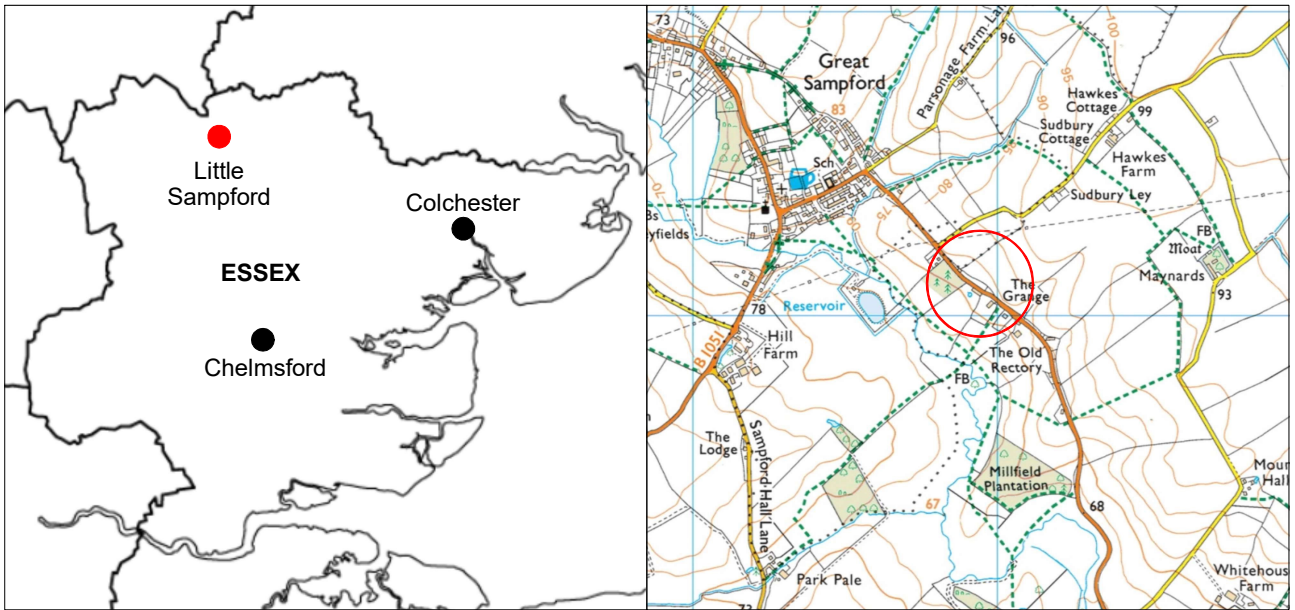


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

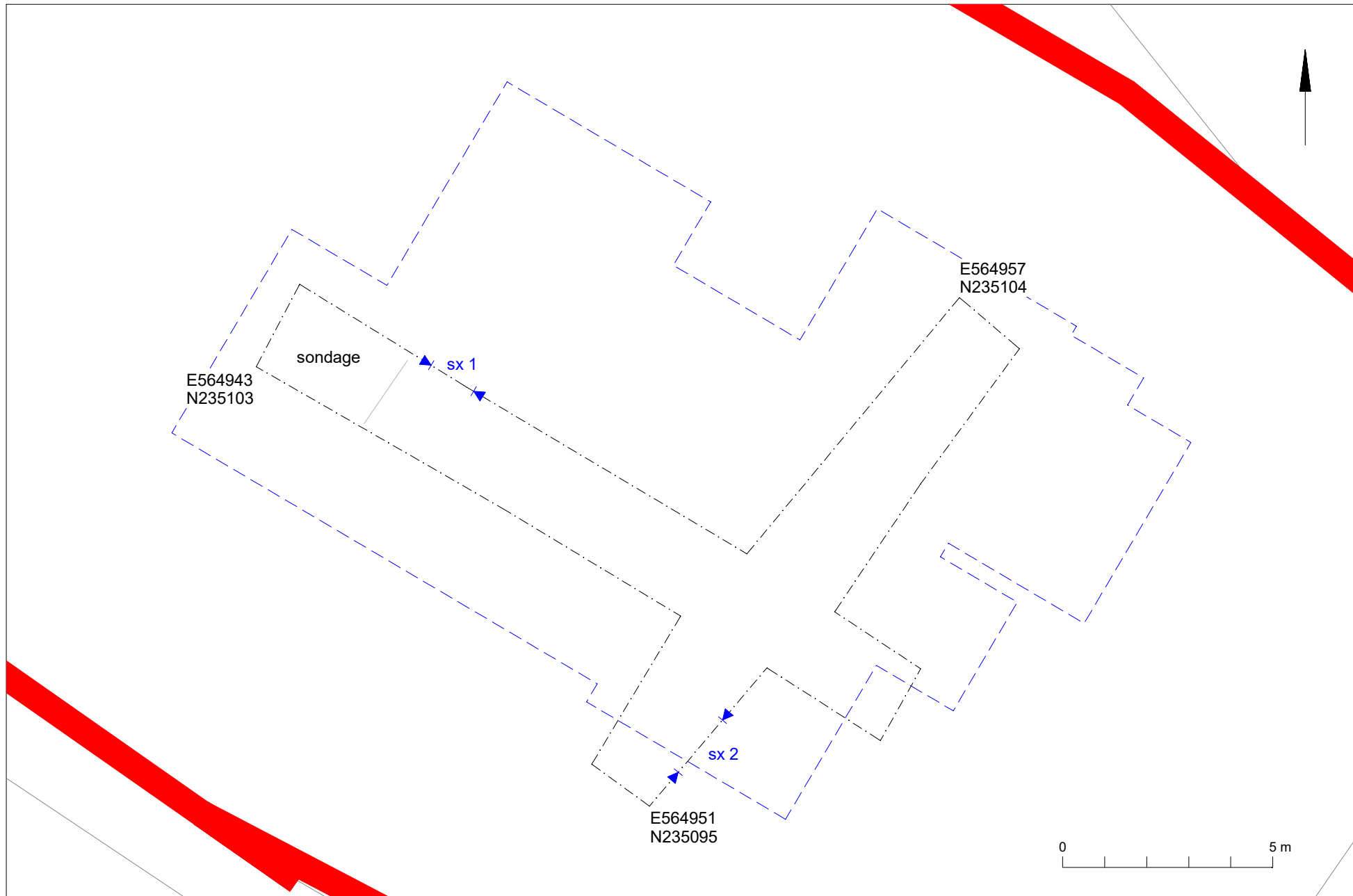


Fig 2 Results.

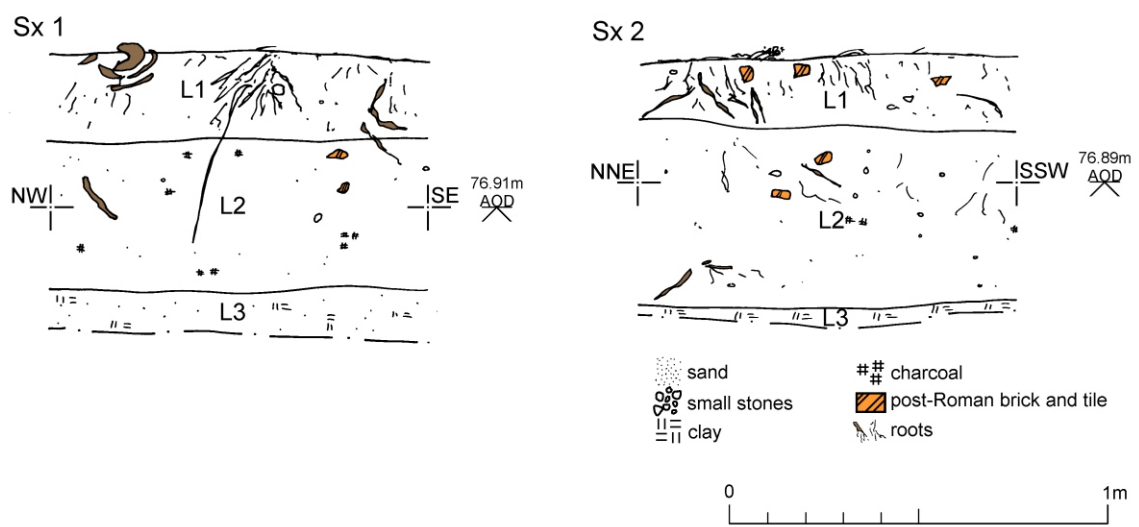


Fig 3 Representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-509906

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509906
Project Name	Evaluation at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex, CM10 2QT: October 2022
Sitename	Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/10a
Planning Id	UTT/22/1841/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	26-Oct-2022 - 26-Oct-2022
Location	Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford NGR : TL 64954 35101 LL : 51.989866805776, 0.400952859480707 12 Fig : 564954,235101
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Little Sampford
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation was carried out as per the brief and the WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Old Builders Yard, Finchingfield Road, Little Sampford, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within a historic green situated between the villages of Great Sampford and Little Sampford and in an area containing numerous listed buildings dating from the 17th to the 19th century. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	E, Hicks
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;