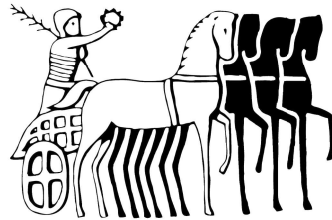


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1896
issued January 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land Moorlands Farm,
Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex,
C07 8RS: December 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/11j
ECC code: GBEMF22**

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NGR: TM 11589 22056

Planning ref.: 21/02176/FUL

**CAT project ref.: 2022/11j
CAT Report 1896**

**ECC code: GBEMF22
OASIS id: colchest3-511334**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (eleven trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Moorlands Farm, Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex in advance of the construction of 26 new dwellings. The site is located within the proximity of several previous archaeological investigations, including a large excavation that uncovered evidence of a Late Iron Age/early Roman settlement. A total of 30 features were uncovered: 12 ditches, three pits, five post-holes, three gullies, a tree-throw, a modern service trench and five natural features. Although only nine features produced any dating evidence, most of which was medieval/post-medieval in date, a possible medieval field system was identified.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land at Moorlands Farm, Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex between the 15th and 21st December 2022. The work was commissioned by Stephen Williams on behalf of Hills Residential, and took place in advance of the construction of 26 new dwellings.

As the site lies in an area of potential archaeological sensitivity, the Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) at Essex County Council Place Services recommended 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 the *Brief for archaeological evaluation on Land at Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley, Essex* written by Teresa O'Connor and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2022) in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS in advance of the work.

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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief (ECCPS 2022) and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be Thames Group (clay, silt and sand) with superficial deposits of cover sand (clay silt and sand). Cover sands are periglacial blanket deposits of lowland areas comprising fine- to very fine-grained sand.

Great Bentley is a large village, centred around the (reputably) largest village green in England (Medlycott 2008, 68). The site is located within an area dominated by multi-period cropmark complexes recorded through aerial photography. North of the site is the cropmark of a single ring-ditch with a few linear features (EHER 3176). To the north of the ring-ditch is evidence of a curvilinear enclosure, a possible rectilinear enclosure and probable field boundaries (EHER 17253). To the north-east of the development site, cropmarks indicate a field system with a rectangular enclosure, subdivided at the east end and a circular ditch abutting the northern end. There is an entrance on the southern side with a series of pits and linear features around the

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

enclosure (EHER 6559). North-east of the evaluation area, various linear features have been identified including a possible trackway and old field boundaries which correspond with the first edition OS map (EHER 46882). To the immediate east and east/north-east of the site is a small ring-ditch and series of ditches (EHER 3661).

To the immediate north of the site, at Admirals Farm, CAT carried out an evaluation in 2016. In total 34 trenches were excavated. Ten modern features, ten tree-throws, 18 undated pits and ditches and a medieval/post-medieval pit and ditch were recorded (CAT Report 1031, EHER 496000).

To the immediate north of the Admirals Farm site, on land east of Heckfords, CAT carried out a 13-trench evaluation, followed by an open area excavation, in 2021. A total of 287 features were uncovered. The main phase of activity on the site was centred around the Late Iron Age to early Roman period, with a small amount of medieval/post-medieval activity. Evidence points to a thriving settlement that produced both textiles and metalwork in an agricultural landscape. A series of irregular field boundaries, possibly delineating seven fields, were identified indicating an area in constant use over a few hundred years. The vast majority of the finds recovered were pottery sherds, although a rare pyramidal loomweight was also discovered. This site is the first in the Great Bentley area that provides evidence for a thriving settlement in the Late Iron Age to early Roman period (CAT Report 1740).

To the north-west of the site, an evaluation by CAT at Admirals Green revealed a small concentration of seven features (one pit, four tree throws and two ditches), most were undated but one produced two later prehistoric worked flints and another a sherd of Roman grey ware pottery (CAT Report 1829).

Approximately 600m west/north-west of the site at Sturrick Farm, a 20-trench evaluation revealed part of a possible drove-way and a possible prehistoric field system (CAT Report 794).

133m to the north/north-west is the site of Great Bentley Pumping Station (EHER 15580). Originally developed in 1903 by the Clacton-on-Sea Company, it was later acquired by Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co in 1962.

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 2-7)

Eleven trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide unless stated below. Most of the trenches were cut through a layer of topsoil (L1), a layer of subsoil (L2) and into the natural clay (L3), except T6 where L2 was not present. Sondages were excavated in T4, T5, T6, T10 and T11 to confirm the identification of the natural. A full context list, with soil descriptions and context dimensions, can be found in appendix 1.

There were no archaeological remains in T6 and a single natural feature was uncovered in T5.

Trench 1 (T1)

Two ditches, a gully, a pit and a post-hole were located in T1.

Ditches F4 and F6 were on a parallel north-south alignment and located in the west end of T1. Ditch F4 produced the sites largest finds assemblage, dating it to the 18th-19th century, while ditch F6 was undated. Ditch F4 cut ditch F6.

Located in the east end of T1 were undated gully F5, undated post-hole F2 and undated ?pit F19.

Natural features F1 and F3 were also excavated.

Trench 2 (T2)

The terminus of gully F8 was the only archaeological feature identified in T2. It was aligned roughly north/south and was undated.

Natural feature F13 was also in T2.

Trench 3 (T3)

An undated north/south ditch, F16, and an undated pit, F18, were uncovered in T3, as well as natural feature F27. Pit F18 was environmentally sampled due to the presence of charcoal in the fill.

Trench 4 (T4)

Medieval/post-medieval ditch F7 was aligned north/south and produced a single fragment of peg-tile.

Undated tree-throw F10 and undated ?post-hole F11 were also excavated.

Trench 7 (T7)

Two medieval ditches (F12 and F28), an undated pit (F21) and a modern service trench (F20) were recorded in T7. Ditch F12 produced two sherds of pottery while ditch F28 produced three sherds. A residual flint blade, dating to the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic period was recovered from pit F21.

Trench 8 (T8)

Three ditches and three post-holes were uncovered in T8.

Ditch F17 was the only feature in this trench to produced any dating evidence, namely three sherds of prehistoric pottery. The ditch was on a north-east/south-west alignment.

Undated post-holes F23, F24 and F25 were located in the northern end of the trench and were arranged in an L-shape. Post-hole F23 had obvious charcoal within the fill and was environmentally sampled.

Undated ditches F22 and F29 were both on a north/south alignment. Ditch F29 may represent the continuation of ditch F15 in T10.

Trench 9 (T9)

Undated north/south ditch F14 was the only feature present in T9. It is likely to be the continuation of ditch F7 in T7, which would give it a medieval/post-medieval date.

Trench 10 (T10)

Medieval/post-medieval ditch F15, dated by a single peg-tile fragment, and undated gully F26 were located in in T10. They were at opposite ends of the trench and on slightly different alignments. Ditch F15 may represent the continuation of ditch F29 in T8.

Trench 11 (T11): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Medieval/post-medieval ditch F9 produced the sites second largest assemblage of finds, which included medieval pottery sherds as well as fragments of peg-tile.



Photograph 1 F17 plan, view south-east.



Photograph 2 F23, F24 and F25 in plan, view south-east.



Photograph 3 F20 and F28 oblique section, view south-west.



Photograph 4 F29 section, view east.



Photograph 5 Trench 2, view south.



Photograph 6 Trench 11, view east.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered 59 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of 2.49kg and EVE of 0.08 (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is high at 45g and reflects the bias towards heavier CBM. This material was recovered from seven features although most of the pottery and CBM came from the ditch F4 and the linear F9 (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	16	128	8	0.08
CBM	43	2,361	55	-
Total	59	2,489	42	0.08

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F4	DITCH	28	1,776	63
F7	DITCH	1	10	10
F9	DITCH	20	616	31
F12	DITCH	2	10	5
F15	DITCH	1	17	17
F17	DITCH	3	32	11
F28	DITCH	4	28	7
	Total	59	2,489	42

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

Pottery

Ditch F17 produced a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery with two sherds of handmade flint-tempered pottery (HMF) with a weight of 14g, and one sherd of handmade grog-tempered (HMG) pottery with a weight of 18g.

A small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from ditches F4, F9, F12 and F28. Ditch F4 produced three sherds (13g) of Hedingham ware (fabric F22) dating to c 1140-1325/1350 and two sherds (38g) of medieval sandy greywares (fabric F20), dating to c 1150-1375/1400, including a cooking pot with a thickened flat-topped rim (B2) (EVE:0.03). It is worth noting that the fabric of this cooking pot is very over-fired and could be a waster.

Ditch F9 produced one sherd (2g) of early medieval sandy ware (fabric F13), dating to 1000-1225, and one sherd (5g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) dating to c 1200-1550. From ditch F12 there was one sherd (3g) of early medieval slightly sandy shelly wares (fabric F12B) dating from the late 11th to 12th century and one sherd (7g) of early medieval sandy wares (fabric F13) dating to 1000-1225.

Finally, ditch F28 produced three sherds (23g) of early medieval sandy ware (fabric F13), dating to 1000-1225, and one (5g) sherd from a Hedingham ware (fabric F22) jug (EVE:0.05) dating to c 1140-1325/1350.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Most of the CBM consists of sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (35 pieces at 1,318g) which was recovered from ditches F4, F7, F9 and F15. Ditch F4 produced four un-frogged brick fragments (1,030g) including a Suffolk white/Suffolk white-type brick dating from the late 18th to

the 19th century (Ryan 1996). Finally, from ditch F4 there were four sherds of baked clay with a weight of 13g.

Conclusion

Table 3 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. Ditch F17 is prehistoric, ditches F9, F12 and F28 are medieval, and two features date to the medieval/post-medieval period. Finally, the ditch F4 probably dates to the 18th-19th century although it also contains an assemblage of medieval pottery.

Context	Description	Prehistoric	Post-Roman	CBM	Date Approx.
F4	DITCH	-	F20 (Cooking pot B2), F22	PT, BR (un-frogged)	Late 18th-19th century
F7	DITCH	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F9	DITCH	-	F13, F21	PT	1200-1550
F12	DITCH	-	F12B, F13	-	1000-1225
F15	DITCH	-	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F17	DITCH	HMF, HMG	-	-	Prehistoric
F28	DITCH	-	F13, F22 (Jug)	-	1000-1225

Table 3 Approximate dates for the individual features.

6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A small fragment of iron sheet came from F29 (finds no. 9). It measured 27.4mm x 15.2mm x 6.4mm, and was 5.6g. It was not identifiable and has been discarded.

6.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced two small fragments of animal bone weighing a total of 4g. Both pieces were recovered from F4, a ditch of late 18th-19th century date. Neither fragment was positively identifiable to species level although one piece may have been from a medium sized mammal (sheep/goat sized).

Context	Finds no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F4	1	1	3	Medium-sized mammal	(1) Fragment of pelvis/acetabulum?
		1	1	Unidentified	(1) Unidentified fragment.
Total		2	4		

Table 4 Animal bone by context.

6.4 Lithics

by Adam Wightman

The distal end of a very thin and sharp blade was recovered from pit F21 (7) in Trench 7. The blade is 2mm thick and 13mm wide and the proximal end has either broken away or been intentionally snapped off. The lateral edges converge to form a point, and although there is no retouch around the edges of the piece, there is some edge damage which could be attributable to the use of the blade. The flint is a mottled light grey and no cortex is present on the dorsal face. It is likely that the piece dates to either the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic.

7 Environmental assessment

by Bronagh Quinn

Introduction

Two samples were taken during the evaluation, both were floated by a trained member of CAT staff and analysed by the author. Nomenclature for all plant remains is taken from Stace (2010).

Sample	Context No.	Feature Type	% Sampled	Provisional date	Sample volume (L.)
1	F18	Pit	100	-	20
2	F23	Post-hole	100	-	10

Table 5 Sample information.

Results

Both samples taken contained minimal environmental remains. Sample 1 produced a small amount of charcoal from the larger residue but nothing from the flot (Table 6). Sample 2 produced a small amount of charcoal from the residue and two grains of wheat (*Triticum sp*) from the flot. The grains were poorly preserved, leading to difficulties identifying the species within the genus. The small number of grains present indicates that they are likely residual and not part of a purposeful deposit.

Sample	Volume of flot (l)
1	-
2	<0.1

Table 6 Volume of flot.

Sample	Weight (g)
1	28.0
2	11.6

Table 7 Weights of charcoal recovered from residues.

Potential, significance and recommendations

The samples taken produced a very small amount of environmental remains with minimal significance to the overall interpretation of the site. Their presence could suggest further remains would be present if a later stage of excavation were to take place. It is recommended that further sampling should take place if more work is undertaken at this site.

8 Conclusion

The evaluation on land at Moorlands Farm, Great Bentley revealed 30 features across eleven trenches. Dating evidence was fairly sparse with only nine features producing datable material.

Evidence of activity prior to the medieval period was meagre. The earliest was in the form of a flint blade recovered from undated pit F21, which was Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date, while ditch F17 was more generally dated to the prehistoric period. Very small quantities of prehistoric worked flint (Mesolithic to Bronze Age) have also been found during previous archaeological investigations close to the development site (CAT Reports 794, 1031, 1740 and 1829), and flints from the current evaluation add to evidence for small-scale, temporary and sporadic use of the landscape over a long period of time.

Three ditches, F9, F12 and F28, were medieval in date and a further two ditches, F7 and F15, were medieval/post-medieval in date. As ditches F7 and F15 were only dated by fragments of peg-tile, it is probable they are medieval in date. A quantity of medieval pottery was also recovered from ditch F4, it is possible F4 is a later re-cut of ditch F6 and has origins in the medieval period. It seems likely, then, that together these ditches form an agricultural field system (see Fig 3).

The lack of finds evidence from this evaluation is indicative of a site located away from the main focus of occupation. This, coupled with the little medieval activity on the adjacent archaeological sites, points to a settlement located to the south. At the heart of the village of Great Bentley, roughly 400m south-west of Moorlands Farm, is a historic village green. It seems reasonable to assume the settlement associated with this agricultural activity was centred around the historic green.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Stephen Williams (Hills) and Hill Residential for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with K Davies, C Hodges, A Parker, A Ronn and X Smith. Figures were compiled by A Ronn and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

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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
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
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
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
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, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

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 reference number GBEMF22 and with the Archaeological Data Service.

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Distribution list:

Hills Residential
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context List

Trench no.	Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
All	L1	-	Top-soil	Soft moist dark grey/brown sandy loam with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks 0.32-0.42m thick	Modern
T1-T5, T7-T11	L2	-	Sub-soil	Soft moist medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks 0.05-0.24m thick	Post-glacial
All	L3	-	Natural	Soft moist medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silty clay Encountered 0.32-0.61m below current ground level	Post-glacial
T1	F1	-	Natural feature	Loose friable/firm dry light grey sandy loam Exposed size 0.78m by 2.11m and 0.22m deep	Post-glacial
T1	F2	-	Post-hole	Soft/friable dry light grey sandy loam with charcoal flecks 0.35m by 0.27m and 0.10m deep	Undated
T1	F3	-	Natural feature	Loose/soft dry light/medium grey silty clayey loam with charcoal flecks 0.75m by 0.88m and 0.10m deep	Post-glacial
T1	F4	1	Ditch	Firm dry medium grey sandy silt Exposed length 1.80m, 1.46m wide and 0.53m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	18th-19th century
T1	F5	-	Gully	Soft dry light grey silty clayey loam with charcoal flecks Exposed length 1.87m, 0.38m wide and 0.09m deep Aligned north north-east/south south-west U-shaped profile	Undated
T1	F6	-	Ditch	Firm dry light grey sandy silt Exposed length 1.80m, 1.05m wide and 0.63m deep Aligned north/south V-shape profile	Undated
T4	F7	3	Ditch	Soft dry light grey silt Exposed length 13.56m, 0.81m wide and 0.21-0.25m deep Aligned north-west/south-east U-shaped profile	Medieval/post-medieval
T2	F8	-	Gully	Soft light brown silty clay Exposed length 8.39m, 0.29m wide and 0.18m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	Undated

T11	F9	2	Ditch	Firm dry medium/dark grey/brown clayey sand with charcoal flecks Exposed length 1.80m, 1.58m wide and 0.71m deep Aligned north/south Steep U-shaped profile	1200-1550
T4	F10	-	Tree throw	Friable moist very light grey silt 0.84m by 1.33m and 0.10m deep	Undated
T4	F11	-	?Post-hole	Friable moist light grey silt c 0.31m in diameter and 0.10m deep	Undated
T7	F12	4	Ditch	Soft moist light/medium grey/brown silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed length 1.80m, 0.99m wide and 0.20m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	1000-1225
T2	F13	-	Natural feature	Soft light brown silty clay Exposed size 0.90m by 1.80m and 0.10m deep	Post-glacial
T9	F14	-	Ditch	Firm dry light grey/brown sandy silt Exposed length 1.80m, 0.94m wide and 0.45m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	Undated
T10	F15	5	Ditch	Friable dry light/medium grey/brown clayey silt Exposed length 1.80m, 1.05m wide and 0.13m deep Aligned east/west U-shaped profile	Medieval/post-medieval
T3	F16	-	Ditch	Soft moist light grey/brown silty sand Exposed length 1.80m, 0.59m wide and 0.17m deep Aligned north/south U-shaped profile	Undated
T8	F17	6, 10	Ditch	Friable moist light/medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks Exposed length 1.90m, 1.07m wide and 0.34m deep Aligned north-west/south-east Asymmetric U-shaped profile	Prehistoric
T3	F18	-	Pit	Soft light brown clay 0.76m by 0.80m and 0.18m deep	Undated
T1	F19	-	?Pit	Hard dry light dark yellow/grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed size 0.44m by 0.31m and 0.13m deep	Undated
T7	F20	-	Service trench	Loose/soft light dark yellow/grey/brown sandy silty loam Exposed length 30.00m, 0.65m wide and dug to 0.53m	Modern

T7	F21	7	Pit	soft moist medium yellow silty clay 0.50m by 0.36m and 0.08m deep	Undated
T8	F22	-	Ditch	Firm moist light grey/brown sandy silt Exposed length 1.04m, 0.74m wide and 0.24m deep Aligned east/west U-shape profile	Undated
T8	F23	-	Post-hole	Soft/friable moist dark grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks c 0.18m in diameter and 0.14m deep	Undated
T8	F24	-	Post-hole	Friable moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks c 0.21m in diameter and 0.06m deep	Undated
T8	F25	-	Post-hole	Friable moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks Exposed area c 0.20m in diameter and 0.04m deep	Undated
T10	F26	-	Gully	Soft moist medium yellow/orange sandy silt and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed length 1.97m, 0.39m wide and 0.13m deep Aligned north-east/south-west U-shaped profile	Undated
T3	F27	-	Natural feature	Soft moist light brown clayey Exposed area 1.01m by 0.79 and 0.22m deep	Post-glacial
T7	F28	8	Ditch	Soft medium yellow/grey/brown sandy silty loam with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1% Exposed length 2.01m, 3.49m wide and 0.53m deep Aligned north-east/south-west Asymmetric U-shaped profile	1000-1225
T8	F29	9	Ditch	Friable moist light grey/brown clayey silt Exposed length 1.80m, 0.72m wide and 0.15m deep Aligned east/west U-shaped profile	Undated
T5	F30	-	Natural feature	Soft moist light orange/grey sandy silty clay and inclusions of: stone 1% 1.00m by 1.32m and 0.14m deep	Post-glacial

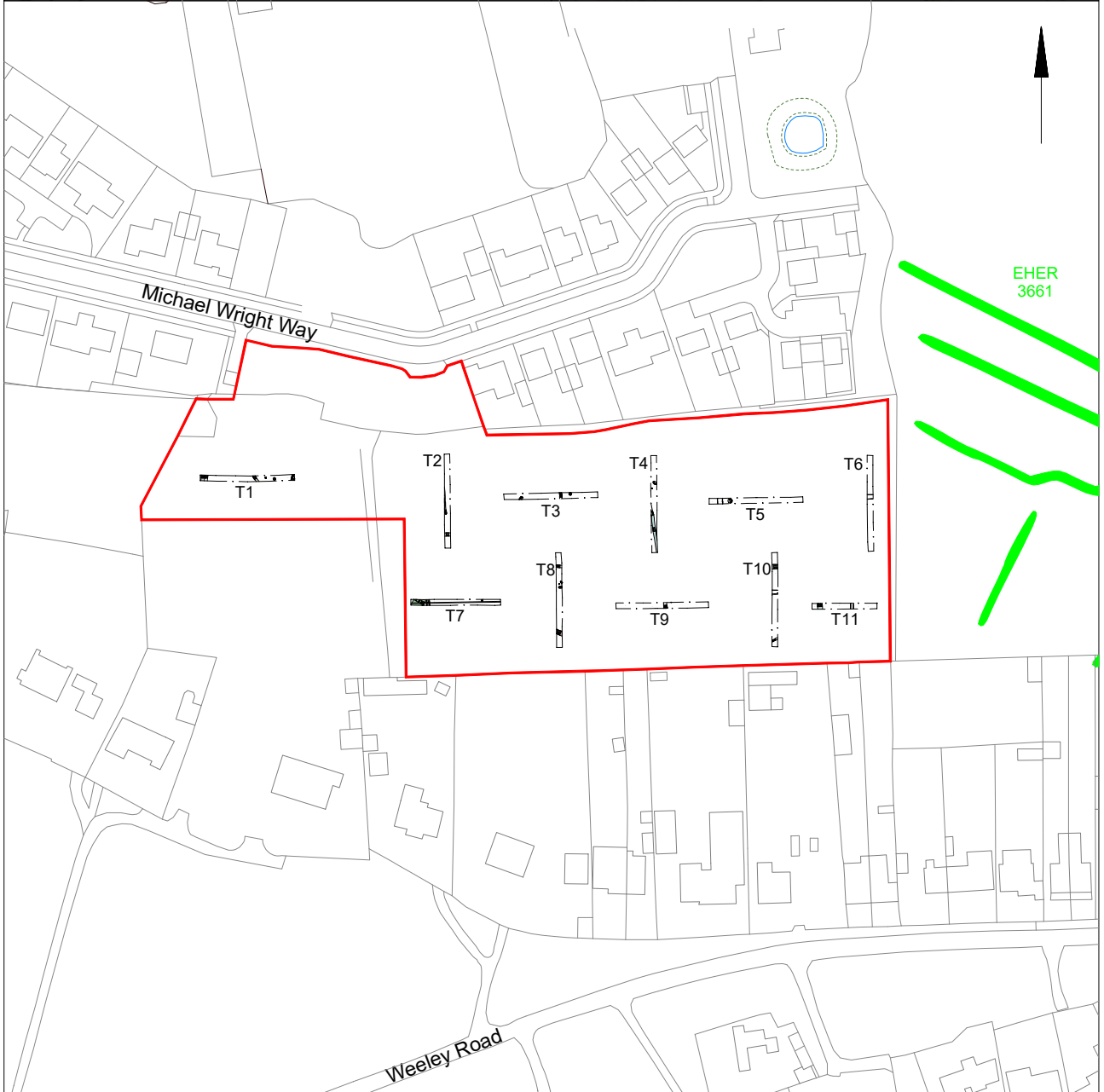
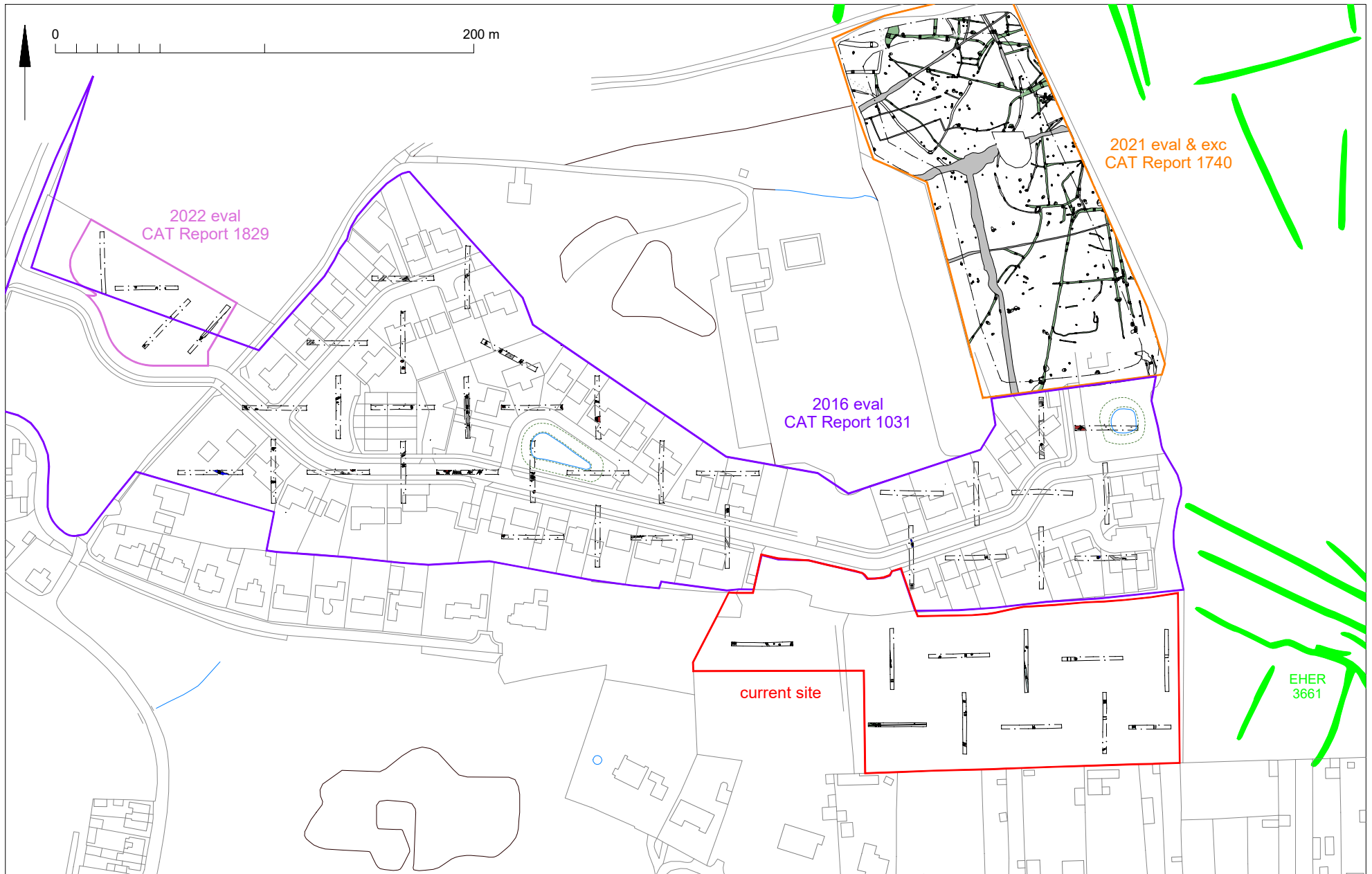


Fig 1 Site location with adjacent cropmarks (green).

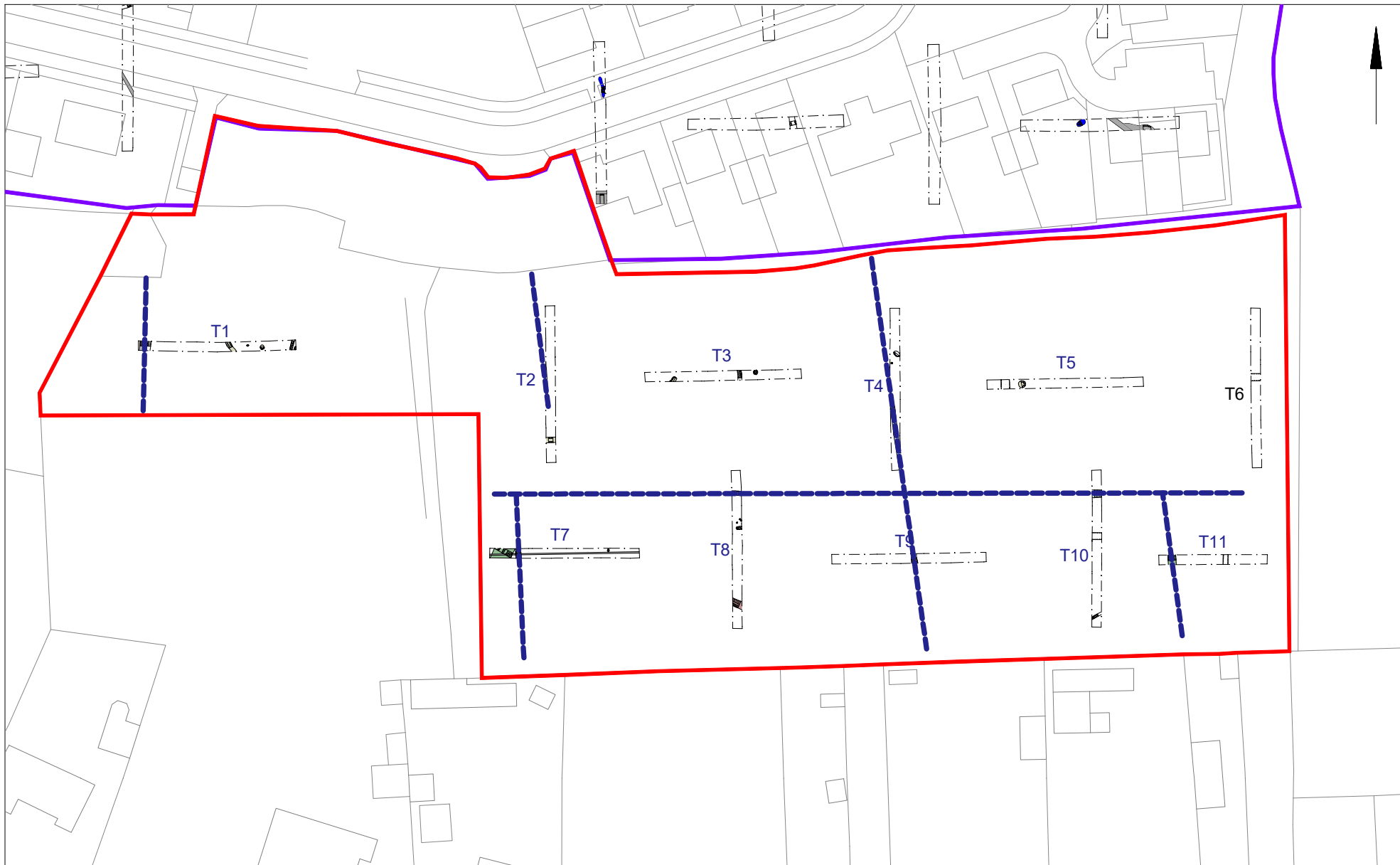
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Fig 2 Site in relation to nearby archaeological projects and cropmarks (green).



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Fig 3 Evaluation results. Ditch projections in blue.



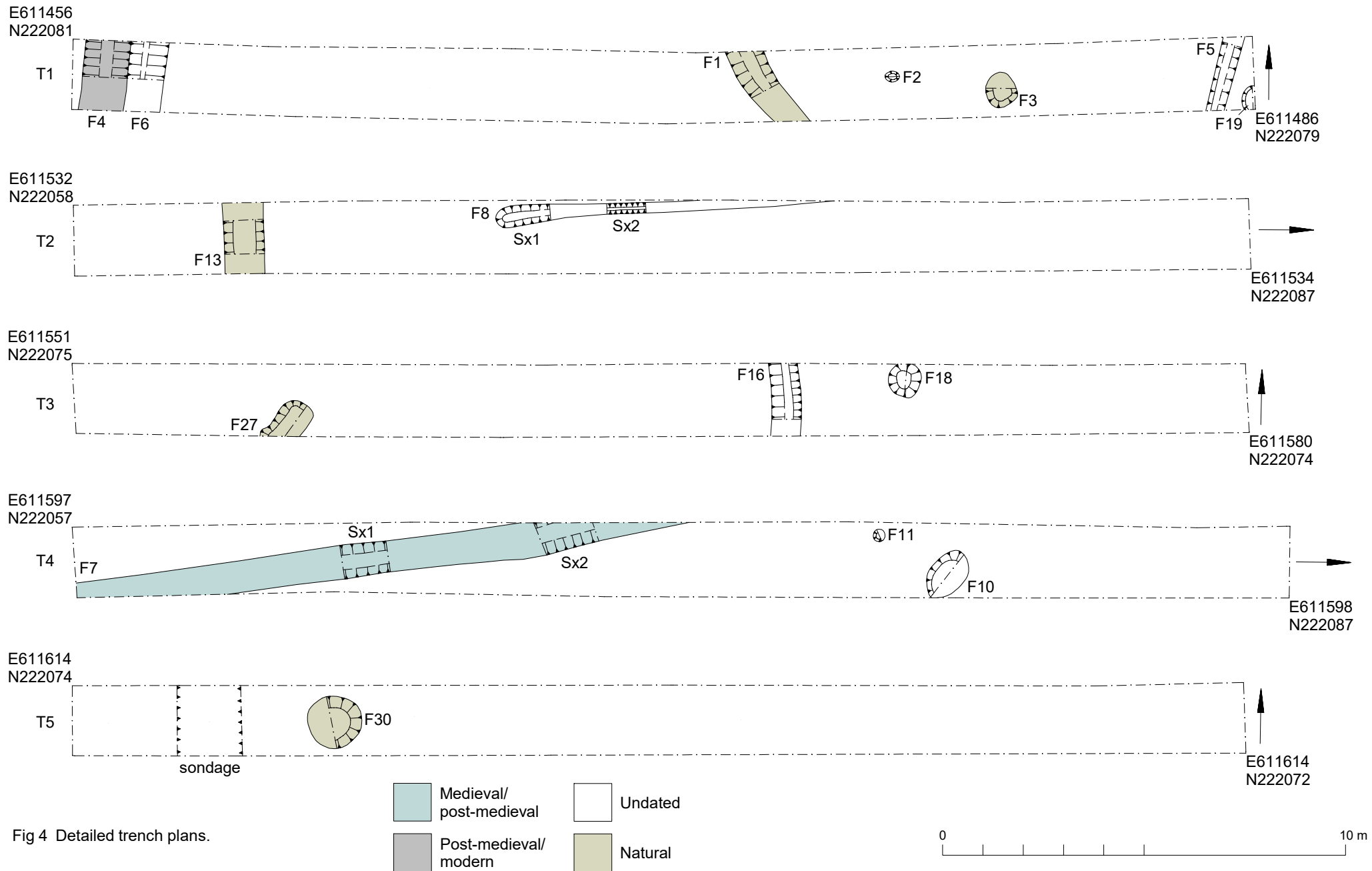


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans.

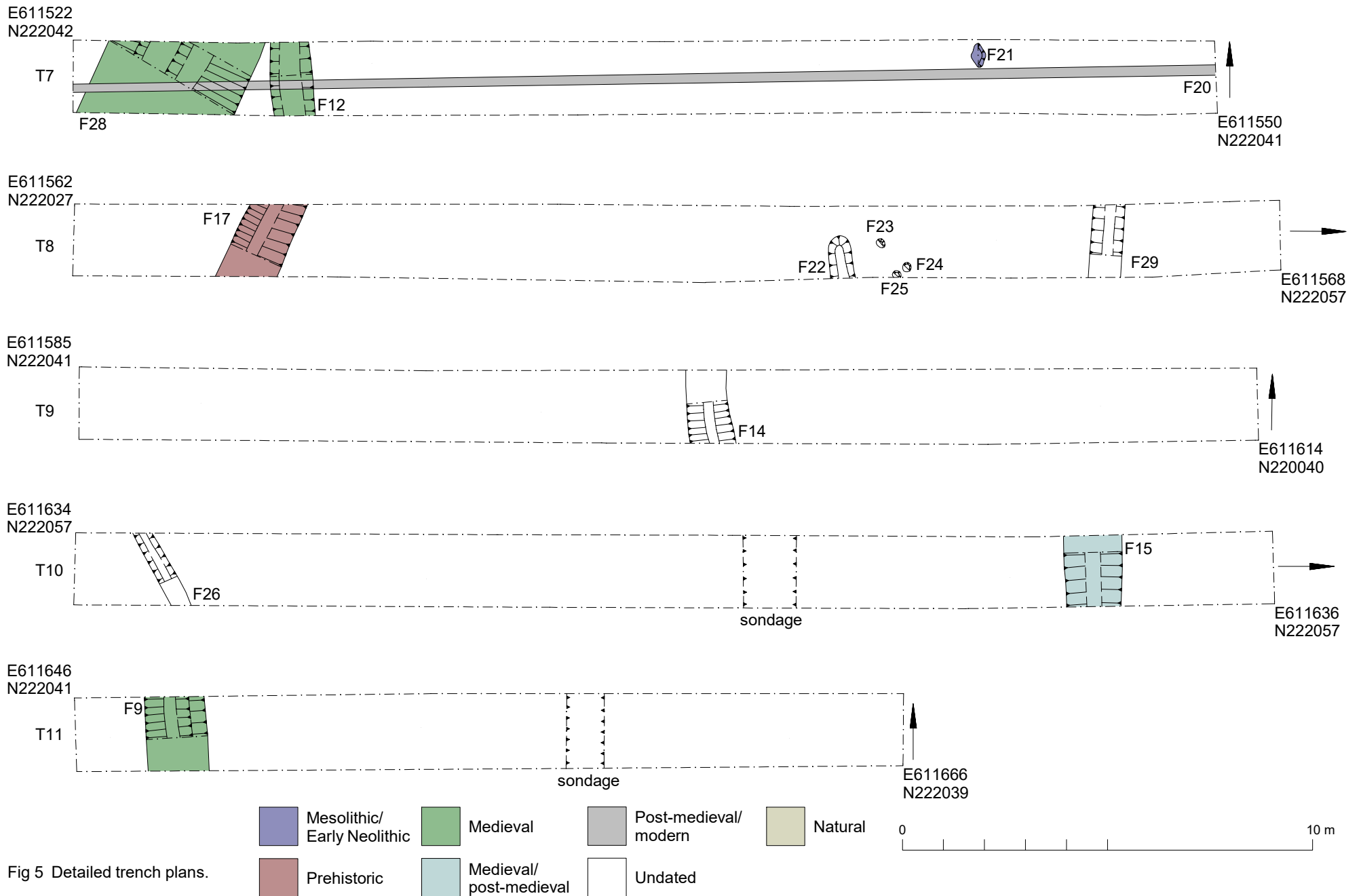


Fig 5 Detailed trench plans.

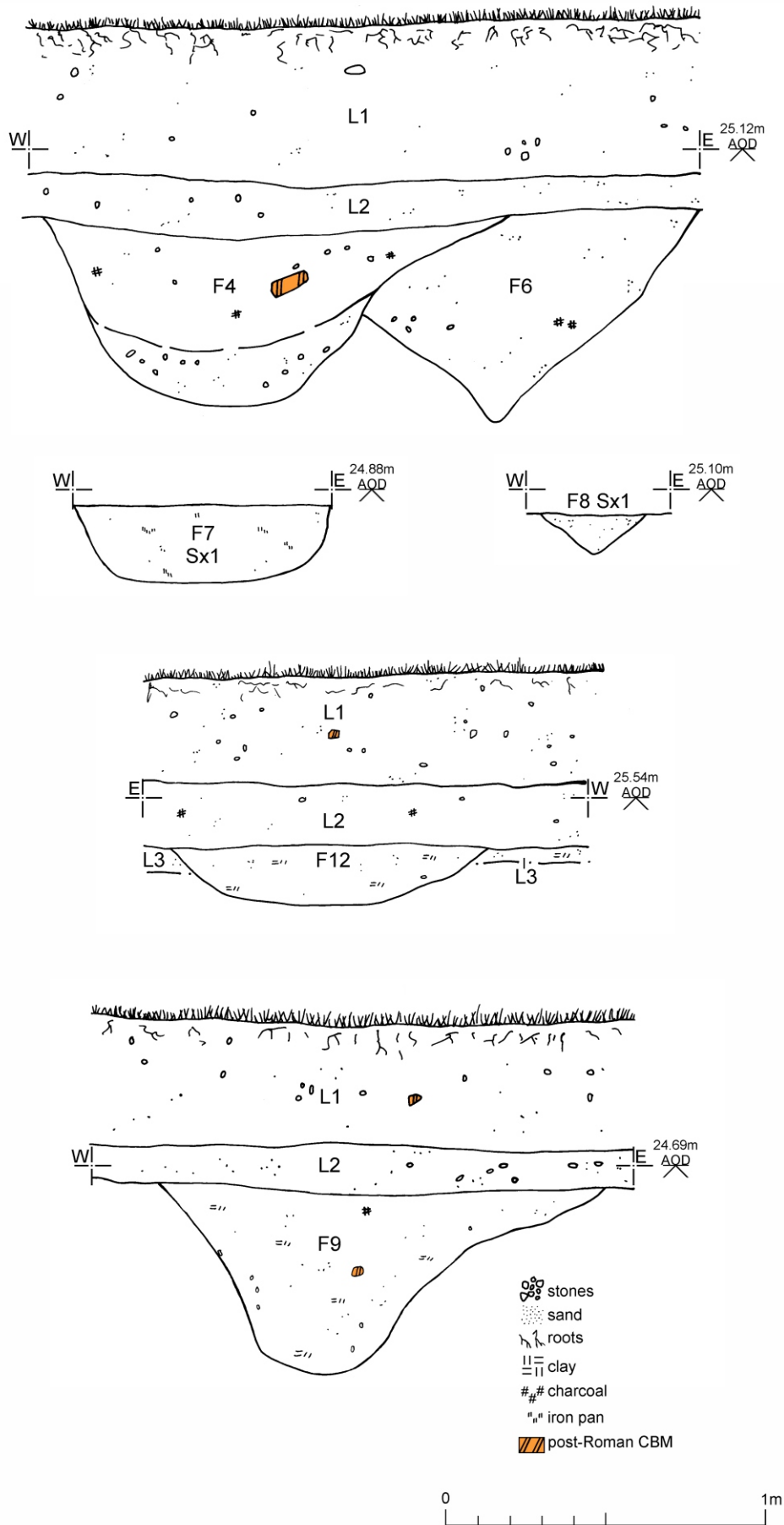


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

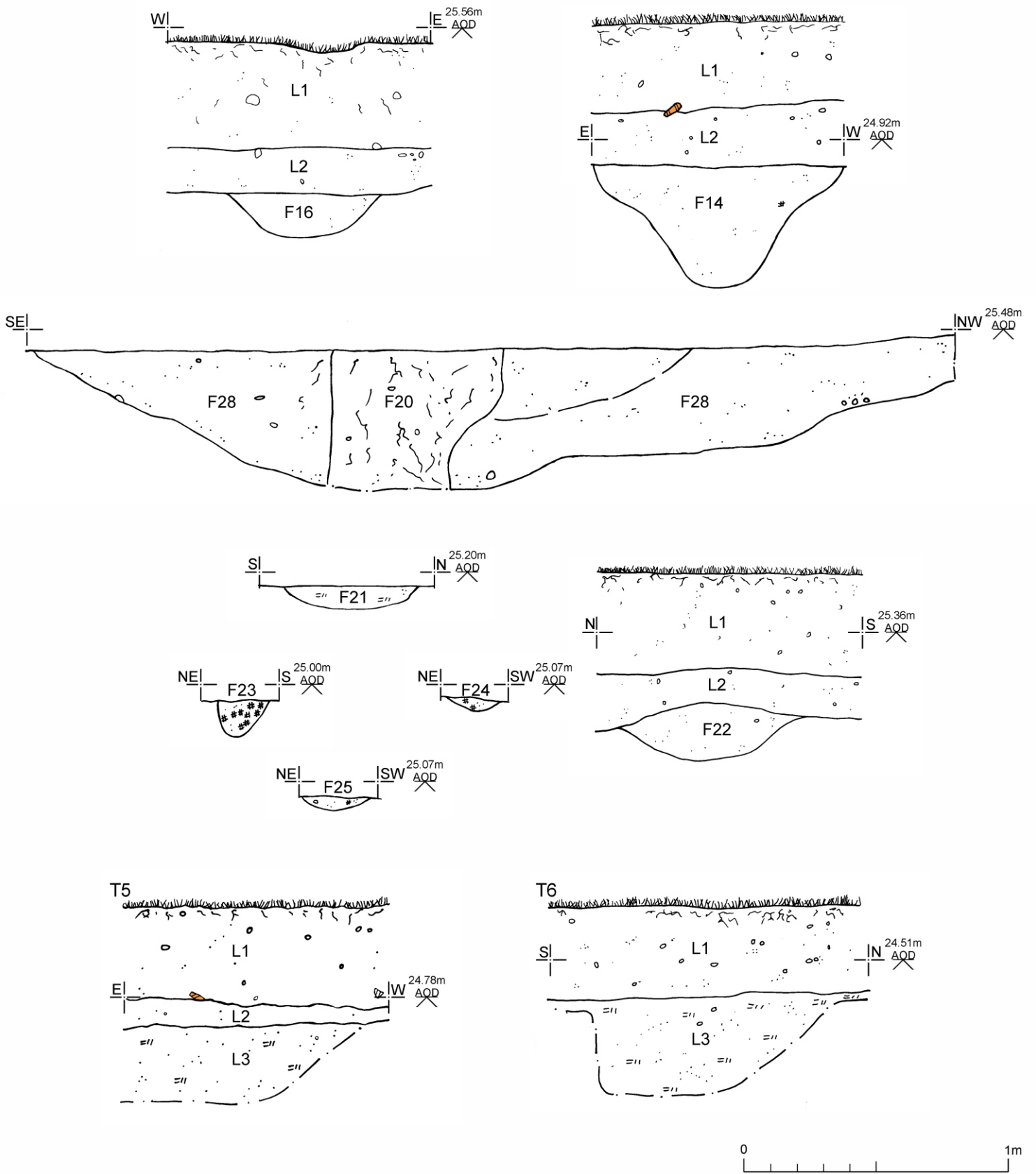


Fig 7 Feature and representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-511334

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-511334
Project Name	Evaluation at Land at Moorlands Farm, Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS.
Sitename	Land at Moorlands Farm, Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS.
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/11j
Planning Id	21/02176/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	15-Dec-2023 - 21-Dec-2023
Location	Land at Moorlands Farm, Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex, CO7 8RS. NGR : TM 11589 22056 LL : 51.8569610909277, 1.07118645427346 12 Fig : 611589,222056
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : Great Bentley
Project Methodology	Eleven trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide except T11 which was 10m long.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (eleven trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Moorlands Farm, Michael Wright Way, Great Bentley, Essex in advance of the construction of 26 new dwellings. The site is located within the proximity of several previous archaeological investigations, including a large excavation that uncovered evidence of a Late Iron Age/early Roman settlement. A total of 30 features were uncovered: 12 ditches, three pits, five post-holes, three gullies, a tree-throw, a modern service trench and five natural features. Although only nine features produced any dating evidence, most of which was medieval/post-medieval in date, a possible medieval field system was identified.
Keywords	Multiple Ditch System - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Lithic Implement - NEOLITHIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Pot - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Peg Tile - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Pot - LATER PREHISTORIC - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	S, Veasey

HER Identifiers	HER Event No - GBEMF22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection);