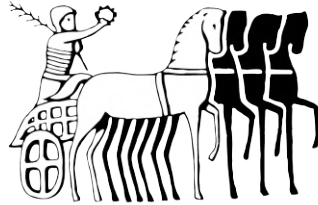


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2057
issued June 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to
'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow,
Essex, CM6 2AA: June 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/04e
ECC code: GDTC24**

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'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow,
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NGR: TL 62730 22690 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/23/1764/OP

**CAT project ref.: 2024/04e
CAT Report 2057**

**ECC code: GDTC24
OASIS id: colchest3-524597**

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with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton**

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Ziya Eksen

**commissioned by Graham Newman
on behalf of Birch Lodge Developments Ltd**

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Issued:	14/06/2024	

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The development site lies close to a Roman road and to the south of a site where the buried remains of three square barrows and a circular barrow, possibly of Roman date, are located. Evaluation revealed a post-medieval pit and a ditch which produced a sherd of Roman pottery.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex on 4th June 2024. The work was commissioned by Graham Newman on behalf of Birch Lodge Developments Ltd 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, 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 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation at 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow* written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2024) and *written scheme of investigation* (WSI) prepared by CAT (2024a) in response to the brief.

In addition to the project brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief (ECC 2024) and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The development area lies immediately adjacent to a Roman road which extends past Monk Street on a north/south alignment (EHER 1185). To the north of the site on land south-east of Parsonage Farm are the buried remains of three square barrows and a circular barrow. Although most square barrows date to the Iron Age, surface finds suggest that these examples may be of Roman date. Roman artefacts have been found in the field since the 1760s, when late 2nd-century coins were collected. A glass ointment jar recovered more recently dates to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD and is likely to derive from a disturbed grave. Groundworks during the construction of houses some 150m to the south-east during the 1930s revealed urned cremation burials dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD, suggesting that the barrows may have been part of a wider cemetery. The site is protected as a Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1017231; EHER 1278, 1277). Other Roman finds have been identified within the vicinity of the proposed development including a glass unguentarium (EHER 13873).

The first edition of the Ordnance Survey map published in 1875 identifies a sheepfold and other buildings within the proposed development. In other early maps structures are depicted along

the street edges and junction to the north of the existing house. The site also lies near the historic settlement of Church End.

The site is situated close to the Grade I-listed The Clock House (NHLE 1098272), a mid-16th- or early 17th-century timber-framed, plastered and part brick house with gabled peg-tile roof. The railings, gateway and walls surrounding the Clock House are Grade II-listed (1333679). The Limes (NHLE 1333678), a Grade II-listed 16th- to early 17th-century timber-framed and plastered house with gabled peg-tile roof also lies nearby.



Map 1 Extract of the OS Map of England and Wales, Sheet 222, published 1887, showing the site 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)

Two trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were 15m long and 1.8m wide, and cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.12-0.22m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.16-0.22m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.34-0.42m below current ground level). Medieval pottery and medieval/post-medieval peg-tile was recovered from subsoil L2 which sealed all archaeological features.

There were no archaeological remains in trench T1. Excavated in trench T2 were a pit (F1) and a ditch (F2) aligned north to south. The pit produced fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery, as well as pieces of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and an unidentifiable fragment of brick. As pit F1 is sealed by L2, subsoil L2 cannot be earlier than post-medieval in date. Ditch F2 produced a single sherd of Roman pottery.

A full context list with soil descriptions and dimensions can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking north.



Photograph 2 Trench 2, looking east.



Photograph 3 Trench 2, ditch F2, looking north.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 16 sherds with a weight of 705g and an EVE of 0.05. This material was recovered from two features and one layer.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	10	143	14	0.05
CBM	6	562	94	-
All	16	705	44	0.05

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Roman pottery

Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999) and vessel types according to the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (*CAR 10*, Bidwell & Croom 1999, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). One sherd (4g) of coarse oxidised and related ware (fabric DJ) from a Cam 108 beaker (EVE:0.05), dating to AD 43-130/140/200, came from ditch F2.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery

Medieval and post-medieval pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000). Pit F1 produced a small quantity of early medieval sandy wares (fabric F13) and medieval sandy grey wares (fabric F20) as well as a base from a German stoneware mug, possibly from Cologne or Frechen (fabric F45D/E), dating to c 1500-1700. Finally, five sherds of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) with a weight of 115g came from subsoil L2.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

The CBM consists of five sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with a weight of 560g from pit F1 and subsoil L2, and one small non-diagnostic brick? fragment (2g) from pit F1.

Conclusion

Table 2 summarizes the dating evidence for the contexts which produced dateable pottery and CBM. None of this material was retained. The finds indicate Roman and medieval to post-medieval activity in the vicinity.

Context	Roman pottery	Medieval/post-medieval pottery	CBM	Finds spot date
F1	-	F13, F20, F45D/E	BR?, PT	Post-medieval
F2	DJ (CAM 108)	-	-	Roman
L2	-	F21	PT	Medieval/post-medieval

Table 2 Approximate spot dates for the individual features and layers.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex revealed a post-medieval pit which produced fragments of medieval and post-medieval pottery, peg-tile and brick. Post-medieval activity in the area is evidenced by the 16th- and 17th-century listed buildings in the immediate vicinity of the site. Dating the ditch is more difficult. Roman remains are known close to the site and the ditch could be of Roman date, but the single small sherd of pottery could be residual in a later-dated feature.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with Z Eksen. Figures were compiled by C Lister, E Hicks and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS Katie Lee-Smith.

9 References

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

Bidwell, P & Croom, A	1999	'The <i>Camulodunum</i> /Colchester type series', in Symonds, R & Wade, S (eds.), <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , 468-487. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
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	2024a	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and excavation on land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2AA.</i>
CAT	2024b	<i>Health & Safety Policy.</i>
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CAR 10	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade (eds.). Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
CIfA	2020a	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
CIfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
CIfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published

		2014, revised 2022.
CIfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.</i>
CIfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation. CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.</i>
Cotter, J P	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
ECC	2024	<i>Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation at 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow,</i> by K Lee-Smith.
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</i> (MoRPHE).
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Symonds, R & Wade, S (eds.)	1999	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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 retained

Digital:

CAT Report 2057

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs

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 Archaeology Data Service (digital archive).

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Distribution list:

Graham Newman, Birch Lodge Developments Ltd
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

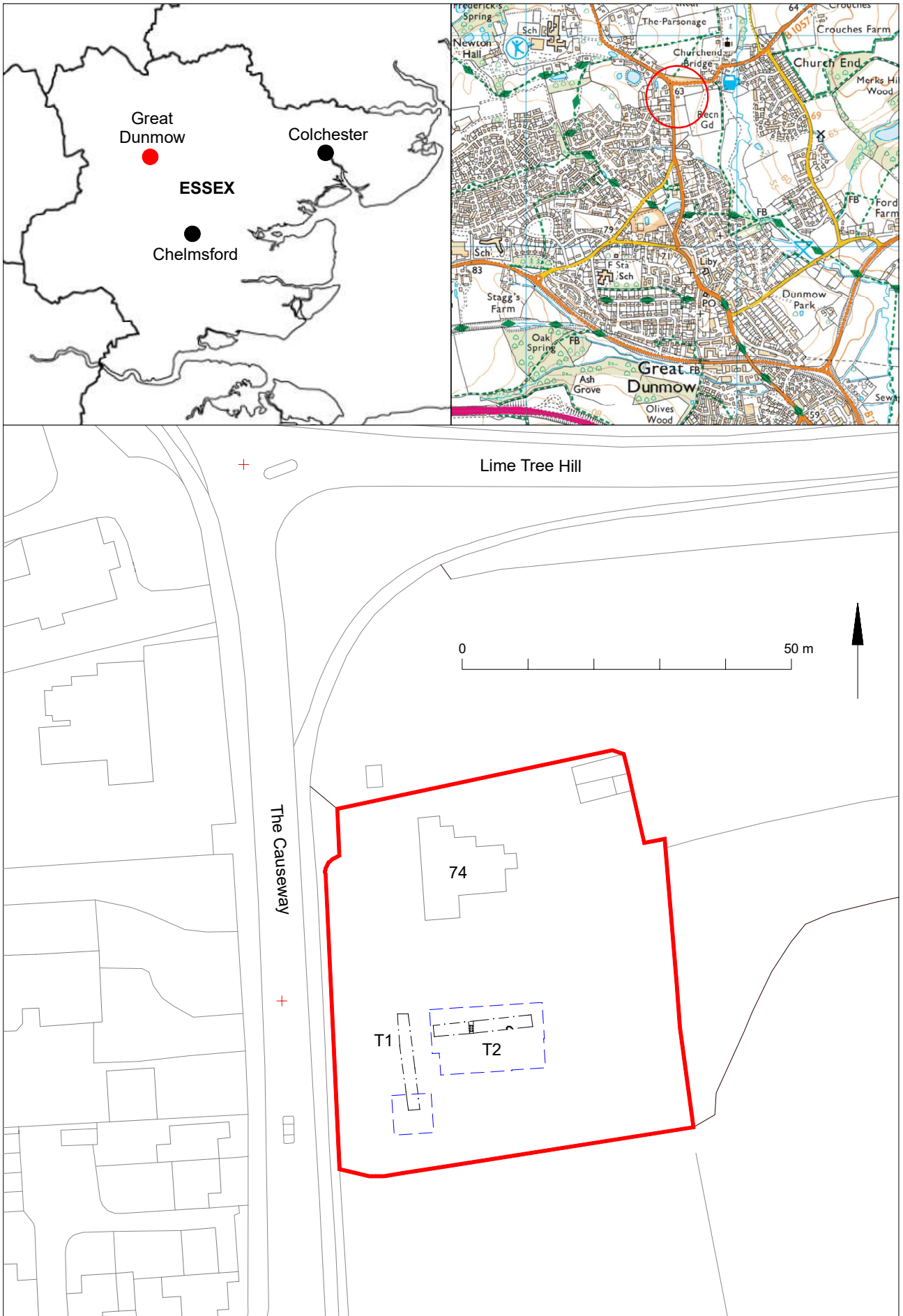
Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	1	Topsoil	Medium/dark grey brock silt.	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Post-medieval
L3	-	Natural	Mid orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
F1	2	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay Shallow pit with gentle sides and slightly concave base, 0.81m x 0.35m and 0.15m deep.	Post-medieval
F2	-	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay. Aligned north/south, steep edges with a round base, single fill, 0.65m wide and 0.2m deep.	?Roman or later

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Context	Feature type	Find number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wrd	Sooting (ext)	Charing (int)	Burning	Misfired	Organic Residue	Resin Lining	Other deposit	Mineral encrustation	Mortar encrustation	Gritted	Spout	Pedestalling	Abraision	Modified	Trimmed, cut-down	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F1	PIT	2	1	4	4	X																						F20						1150	1375/1400	
F1	PIT	2	2	11	6	X																						F13						1000	1225	
F1	PIT	2	1	9	9	X	0	0	1																			F45D/E						1500	1700	
F2	DITCH	3	1	4	4	X	1	0	0																			DJ	CAM 108	BEAKER	0.05	120		43	130/140/200	
L2	SUB SOIL	1	5	115	23	X	0	0	3																			F21						1200	1550	

Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Die	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phis	Blind	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Frog. L	Frog. Width	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Waster	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date	
F1	PIT	2	1	271	271	X	PT														X		X																MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
F1	PIT	2	1	2	2	X	BR																															?	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL-MODERN
L2	SUB SOIL	1	4	289	72	X	PT																																MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).

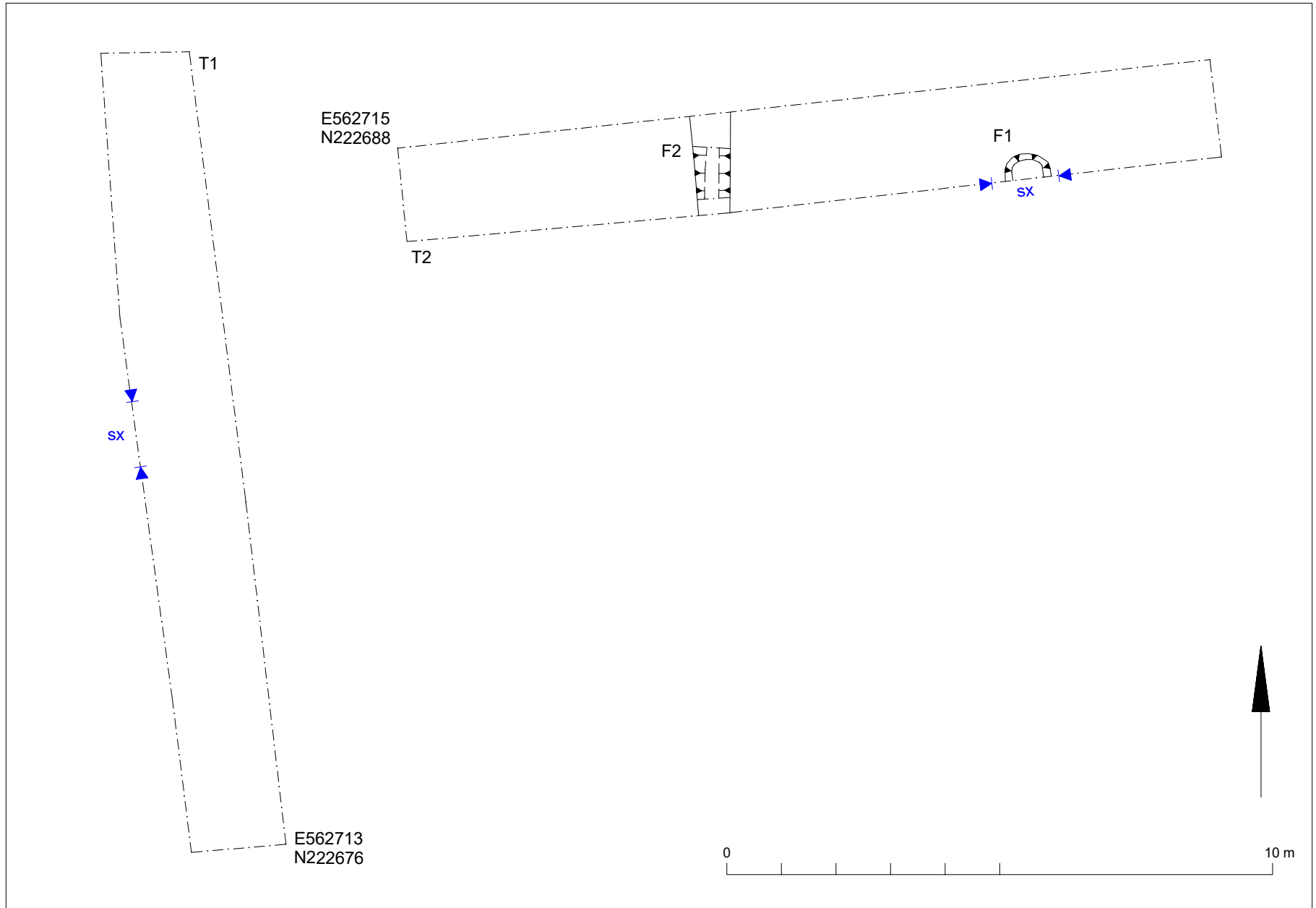


Fig 2 Results

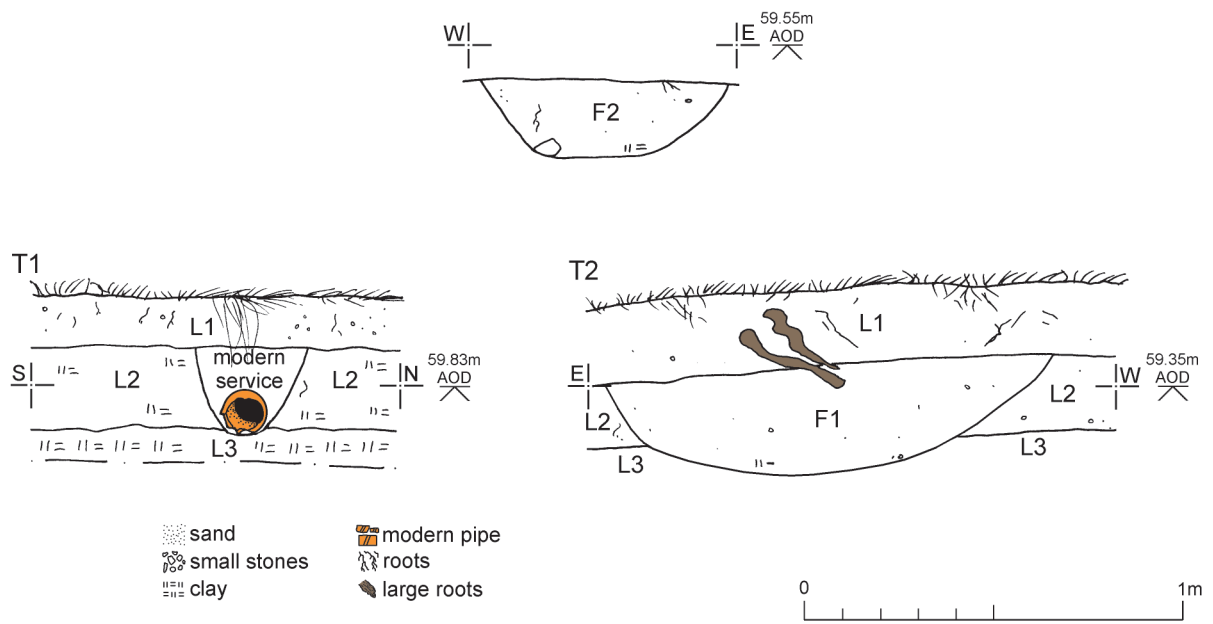


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-524597

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-524597
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2AA: June 2024
Sitename	Land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2AA.
Sitecode	GDTTC24
Project Identifier(s)	2024/04e
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	UTT/23/01764/OP
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	04-Jun-2024 - 04-Jun-2024
Location	Land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 2AA. NGR : TL 62730 22690 LL : 51.87903269693524, 0.36272734255303 12 Fig : 562730,222690
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Uttlesford Parish : Great Dunmow
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to 'Three Ways', 74 The Causeway, Great Dunmow, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The development site lies close to a Roman road and to the south of a site where the buried remains of three square barrows and a circular barrow, possibly of Roman date, are located. Evaluation revealed a post-medieval pit and a ditch which produced a sherd of Roman pottery.
Keywords	Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Beaker - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Sherd - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Mug - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Peg Tile - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation developer
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - GDTTC24
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

