

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2073  
issued August 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to  
Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, CO5 7PB:  
July 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/05a  
CHER code: ECC4855**

**Archaeological evaluation at land adjacent to  
Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, CO5 7PB:  
July 2024**

**NGR: TM 00492 18700 (centre)**

**Planning district.: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 213531**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/05a  
CAT Report 2073**

**CHER code: ECC4855  
OASIS id: colchest3-525179**

**report prepared by Laura Pooley**

**fieldwork by Sarah Veasey with Brugh Jenkins,  
Ollie Windridge and Connor Wilkin**

**commissioned by Nicole Elkins,  
Arcady Architects Ltd  
on behalf of Michaels Property Consultants Ltd**

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<b>Issued:</b>	08/08/2024	

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located south of the historic Abberton Green, the evaluation revealed a modern field boundary ditch and associated drainage feature, a spread of post-medieval/modern debris, three undated ditches and two undated tree-throws. The earliest finds from the site were three residual sherds of medieval pottery.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out on land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, which was carried out 17th-18th July 2024. The work was commissioned by Nicole Elkins of Arcady Architects Ltd, on behalf of Michaels Property Consultants Ltd, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust in advance of the construction of five new dwellings.

In response to consultation with the Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA), and as the site was highlighted by Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) as having a high archaeological potential, a scheme of archaeological evaluation was recommended in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Land adj, Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton CO5 7PB* written by Dr Richard Hoggett (CCCAA 2024). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and was agreed with the CCCAA (CAT 2024).

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 2024).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development site is located in an area that has been the subject of previous systematic archaeological investigations. It is situated immediately south of Abberton Green (MCC9757), a historic green present on the 1777 Chapman & André map. The Green is shown to be irregularly shaped with two thin linear sections following the roads to south. At this time, the Green extends south along Peldon Road, joining Peete-tye Common (MCC9156) to the south of it. The Green does not appear on the 1874 edition Ordnance Survey so must have been enclosed by this time. Peete-tye Common is also irregularly shaped, with linear sections following the roads; the main part of the common is still extant today. Within the area of Peete-tye Common is also a bank (MCC8912), around 5ft wide with a selection of finds dating from 16th to the 19th century.

The site is in the vicinity of several listed buildings including 16th- to 18th-century timber-framed houses: Pete Tye Hill (MCC3683, NHLE 1337390), Old Cottage (MCC3684, NHLE 1169960), and 2,3 and 4 Willow Cottages (MCC4259, NHLE 1223396). At 285m north-east is the site of a standing stone (MCC8238) known as the Deramy Stone. Dating to the early medieval period, it

is mentioned in a reputed charter from Edward the Confessor to the priory of St Ouen said to have been granted in 1046. South of the development (420m) is the site of a rectangular cropmark (MCC7245), local history research indicates the possibility of a Saxon settlement in the area, a find spot in this area includes an undated bronze or brass object (MCC7244).

Find spots around the site include a collection of flakes (MCC8805) dating from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age found 315m to the north-east, an early 19th-century cannon ball (MCC8782) 465m south-east, an undated deposit of oyster shell and tile found in a field with some burnt clay or brick on the surface (MCC8911) 915m to the south-west, an Iron Age silver coin of Epaticcus (MCC8239) 320m east and a flint dagger (MCC8804) 370m to the north.

In recent years, a fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out on land 50m west of the development site. The geophysical survey identified anomalies of a natural origin but nothing suggestive of anything of archaeological significance (Magnitude Surveys 2020). Modern interference was encountered but limited to the boundaries of the area and occasional ferrous debris (ECC4543). A subsequent archaeological evaluation on the site revealed sparse remains (CAT Report 1593). Fourteen features were uncovered, they were: a pit of possible prehistoric date; a medieval/post-medieval charcoal-rich pit and ditch; a post-medieval/modern gully and pit; a modern pit, ditch and pit/tree-throw; and undated features including two ditches, a pit/tree-throw, a pit and two tree-throws. These remains were evenly distributed across the site, although a concentration of features lay in trench T2, at the far north-east corner of the site. This part of the site previously lay within Peete-tye Common, and it is likely that the features uncovered here relate to historic activity within the green.

In 2008 a single-trench evaluation at Abberton Reservoir, 800m north-west of the proposed development identified a modern field drain and a post-medieval trackway (CAT Report 478).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale ) shows the site has a bedrock geology of Thames Group (silty clays and clays) with mainly silty clays and clays, some sandy or gravelly, with some silts, sands, gravels and calcareous mudstones.

#### **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 CCCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

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

Five trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Each trench was T-shaped and totalled 14m long by 1.8m wide.

The stratigraphy of the site was topsoil (L1, c 0.20-0.42m thick) sealing subsoil (L2, c 0.05-0.36m deep) with natural (L3) beneath. Natural was identified at 0.28-0.74m below modern ground level. All features were sealed by L2 and cut into L3.

##### **Trench 1**

Undated ditch F1, aligned north-west to south-east, was U-shaped and 0.5m wide by 0.12m deep. Covering most of the trench was a shallow spread of silty-clay within the undulating natural. Numbered F2 in T1, it continued into Trench 2 to the south where it was numbered F3. Irregular in plan, the spread was roughly 13.4m north/south by 7.6m east/west and 0.07-0.24m thick. Finds included post-medieval pottery, medieval/post-medieval peg-tile, post-medieval/modern brick and fragments of clinker/coke.

##### **Trench 2**

See F2/F3 above.



**Photograph 1** Trench 1 with spread F2/F3 in foreground, looking west.



**Photograph 2** Trench 2 with spread F2/F3 in foreground, looking south.



**Photograph 3** Trench 3 with ditch F5 in foreground, looking east.



**Photograph 4** Trench 4 with ditch F4, looking east.

### **Trench 3**

Undated ditch F5, aligned north to south, was U-shaped and 0.9m wide by 0.15m deep. It did not appear to continue into T4 to the south and may have either turned or terminated before this point.

### **Trench 4**

Undated ditch F4, aligned north-west to south-east, was U-shaped and 0.6m wide by 0.08m deep. Tree-throw F9 was also excavated.

### **Trench 5**

Modern boundary ditch F7 was aligned north-west to south-east with historic mapping of the area showing that this is a continuation of the boundary ditch to the south-east of the development site. Modern drainage ditch with metal pipe F8 runs close to and parallel with the boundary ditch and must be an associated feature. Neither feature was excavated. Also in trench was tree-throw F6.



**Photograph 5** Trench 5 with field boundary ditch F8 in foreground and drainage ditch F7 behind, looking east.

## **6 Finds**

### **6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material**

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

Evaluation uncovered four sherds of pottery at 31g and six pieces of ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 198g.

#### **Medieval and post-medieval pottery**

The medieval and post-medieval pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000). It consists of three sherds (16g) of medieval (c 1200-1550) Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) from F3 and one sherd (15g) of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) from F7.



### Ceramic building material (CBM)

Four pieces (120g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile came from F2, F3 and F7, while a small fragment of post-medieval/modern brick (8g) came from F2. Finally, there was one fragment of modern floor tile (39g) from F8.

## 6.2 Glass and clinker/coke

by Laura Pooley

The base (191.3g) of a green cylindrical wine bottle was recovered from F7 (finds no. 3). The base has a rounded heel with conical push-up and dates to the 19th-20th century. From F8 (finds no. 4) was a fragment (22.9g) of thick modern window glass. Also recovered from F2 (finds no.1) were two fragments of clinker/coke (3.9g).

## 6.3 Spot dating

Table 1 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable finds. All date to the post-medieval or modern periods. Once recorded all of this material was discarded.

Context	Approximate spot date
F2/F3	Post-medieval/modern
F7	Modern
F8	Modern

**Table 1** Approximate spot dates for the individual features.

## 7 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton revealed eight features. At the southern end of the site and on a north-west to south-east alignment was a modern field boundary ditch (F7) that is visible on the Tithe Map and 1st-edition 6-inch OS map of 1874 and is still in existence further to the south-east. The ditch was associated with a parallel drainage feature (F8). To the north was a spread of post-medieval/modern debris (F1) with medieval pottery sherds included amongst the finds. Also excavated were three undated ditches and two undated tree-throws. Ditches F1 and F4 are on the same north-west/south-east alignment as the modern field boundary ditch and may be associated. If so, they were backfilled before the historic maps were made. The earliest finds from the site were three residual sherds of medieval pottery.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Nicole Elkins of Arcady Architects Ltd and Michaels Property Consultants Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey with B Jenkins, O Windridge and C Wilken. Figures are by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CCCPS by Dr Richard Hoggett.

## 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                      | 2024a | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation at Land adjacent Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton CO5 7PB</i> , by Chloé Hill. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT                      | 2024b | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.   |
| CAT Report 478           | 2008  | <i>Investigation of Henry Laver's postulated route of the Roman road from Colchester to Mersea Island</i> , by B Holloway. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.                       |
| CAT Report 1593          | 2020  | <i>Archaeological evaluation on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex</i> ,   |

		CO5 7NX: August 2020, by Dr Elliott Hicks. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust.
CCC	2024	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Land adj. Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton CO5 7PB</i> , by R Hoggett.
ClfA	2020a	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
ClfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
ClfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.
ClfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
ClfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
Cotter, JP	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
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	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Magnitude Surveys	2020	<i>Geophysical Survey Report of a magnetometer survey at land West of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex</i> , by Leigh A. Garst.
Medlycott, M	2011	<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	2023	<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
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CCCPS	Colchester City Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
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>
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
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
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained  
**Digital record**  
 CAT Report 2073  
 CCC Brief  
 Digital photographs

Graphic files  
Survey data

## **12 Archive deposition**

The digital 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.

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### **Distribution list:**

Nicole Elkins of Arcady Architects Ltd  
Michaels Property Consultants Ltd  
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council Planning Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench	Finds No.	Context type	Description	Date
L1		-	Topsoil	Loose, hard, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay.	Modern
L2		-	Make-up layer	Firm, hard, damp, light-medium orange/grey clayey-silt, includes occasional pieces of peg-tile and other CBM.	Post-medieval/modern
L3		-	Natural	Hard, medium, orange/brown clay.	Post-glacial
F1		-	Ditch	Aligned north-west to south-east, U-shaped, 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep. Soft, moist, dark orange/brown/black silty-clay.	Undated
F2	T1	1	Spread	Shallow spread of silty-clay within undulating natural L3, includes sparse peg-tile fragments. Irregular in plan, roughly 13.4m north/south and 7.6m east/west, 0.07-0.24m thick. Friable, west, medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay.	Post-medieval/modern
F3	T2	2	Part of F2	See F2	See F2
F4	T4	-	Ditch	Aligned north-west to south-east, U-shaped, 0.6m wide by 0.08m deep. Friable, wet, dark grey/brown clayey silt with charcoal flecks. Uneven base, shallow sides.	Undated
F5	T3	-	Ditch	Aligned north to south, U-shaped, 0.9m wide by 0.15m deep. Hard, moist, medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks. U-shaped, shallow.	Undated
F6	T5	-	Tree-throw	Irregular base, gently sloping sides. At least 3.6m by 0.9m and 0.15m deep. Friable, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay.	Undated
F7	T5	3	Drainage feature	Water pipe	Modern
F8	T5	4	Field boundary ditch	Not excavated.	Modern
F9	T4	-	Tree-throw	Irregular base, gently sloping sides. At least 1.87m by 1.25m and 0.09m deep.	Undated

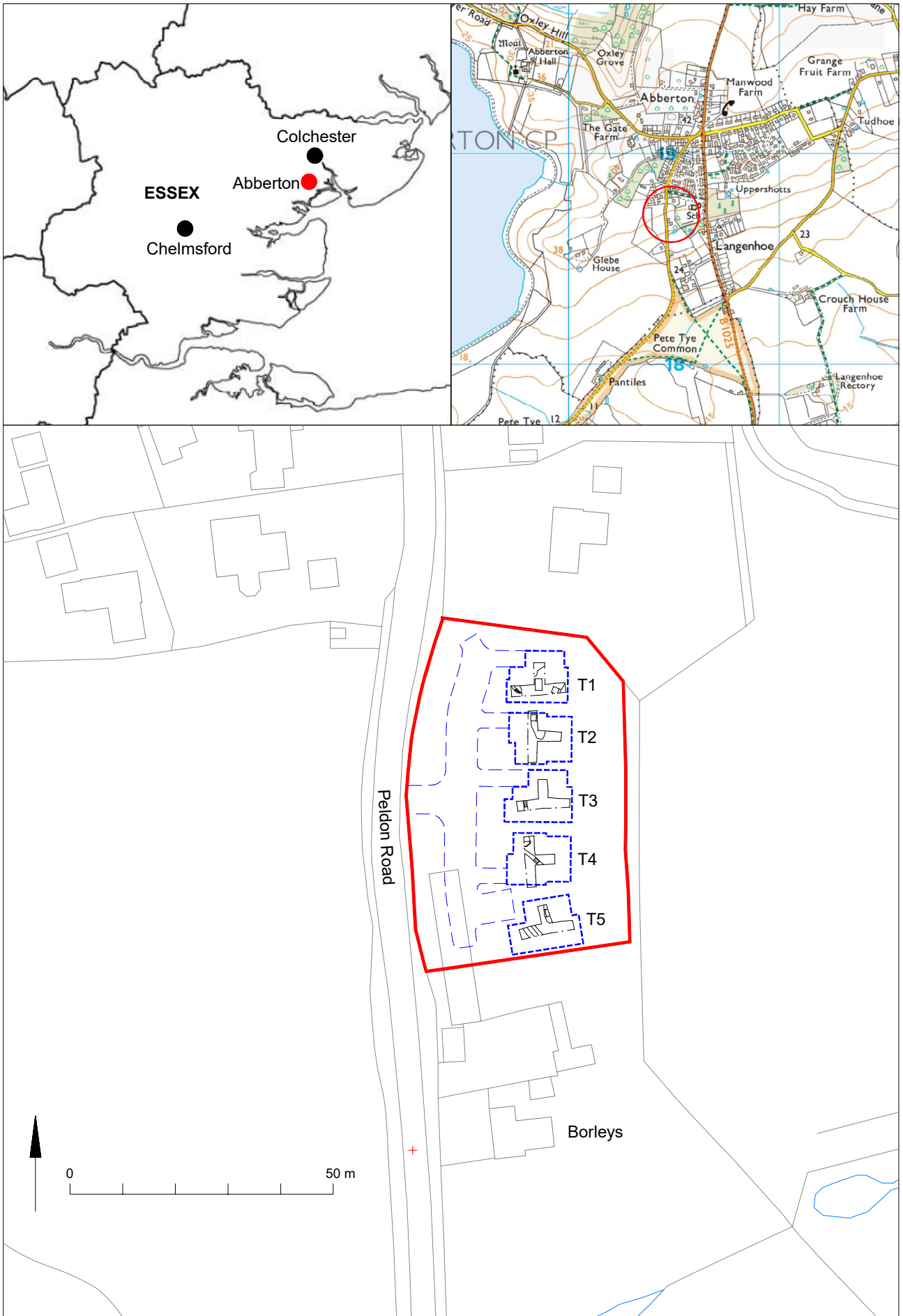


Fig 1 Site location and trenches in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).

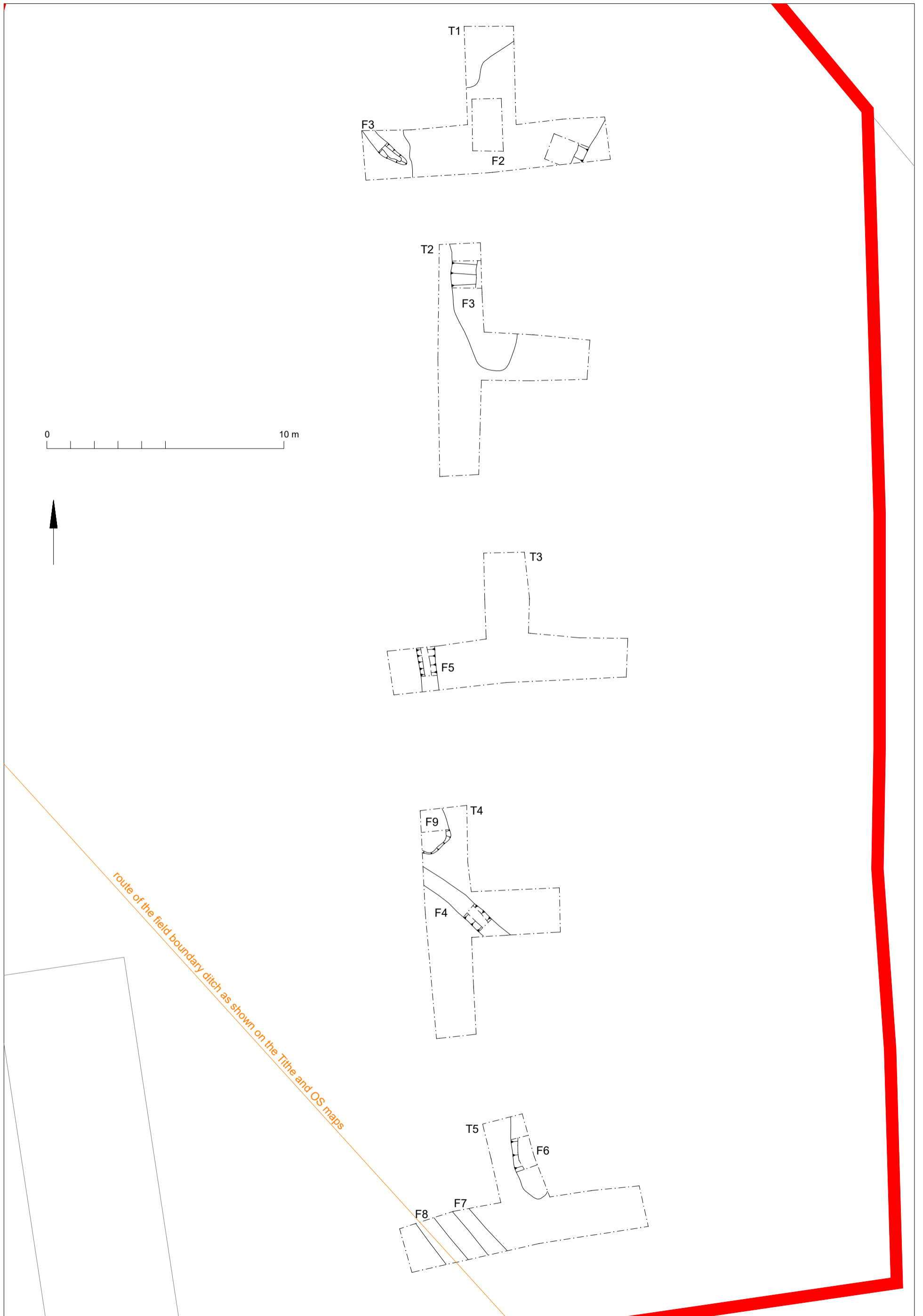


Fig 2 Results.

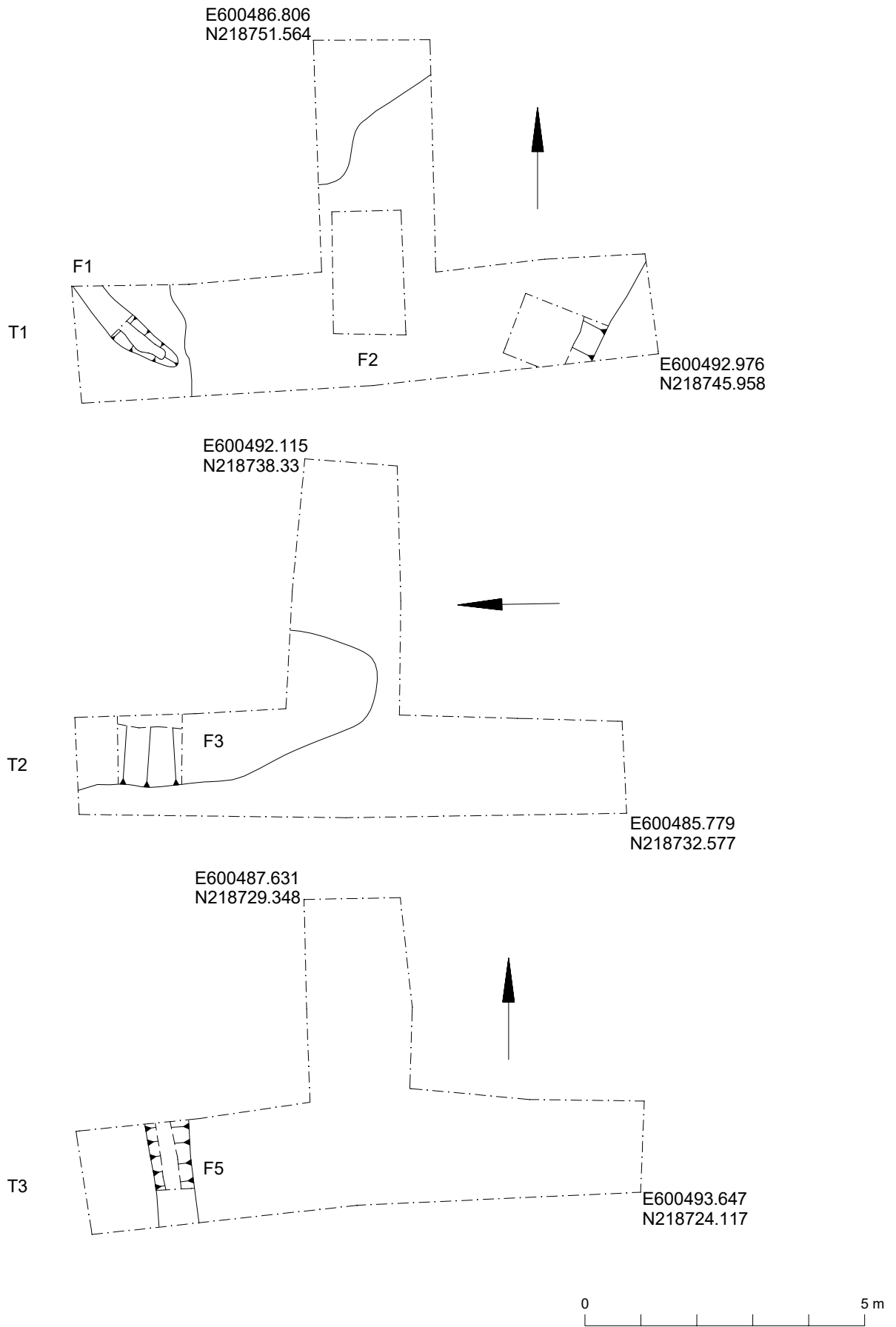


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans T1-T3.

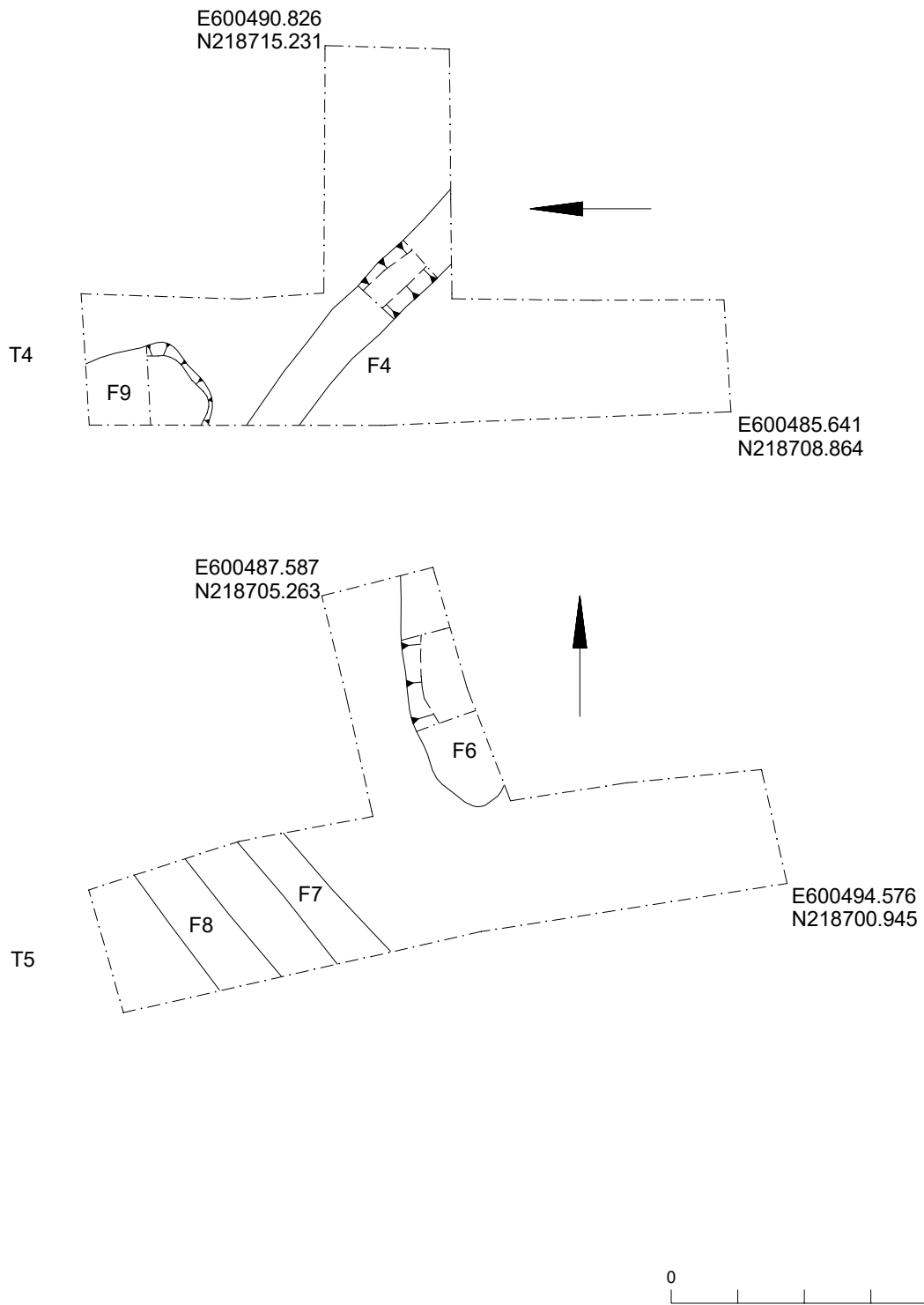


Fig 4 Detailed trench plans T4-T5.



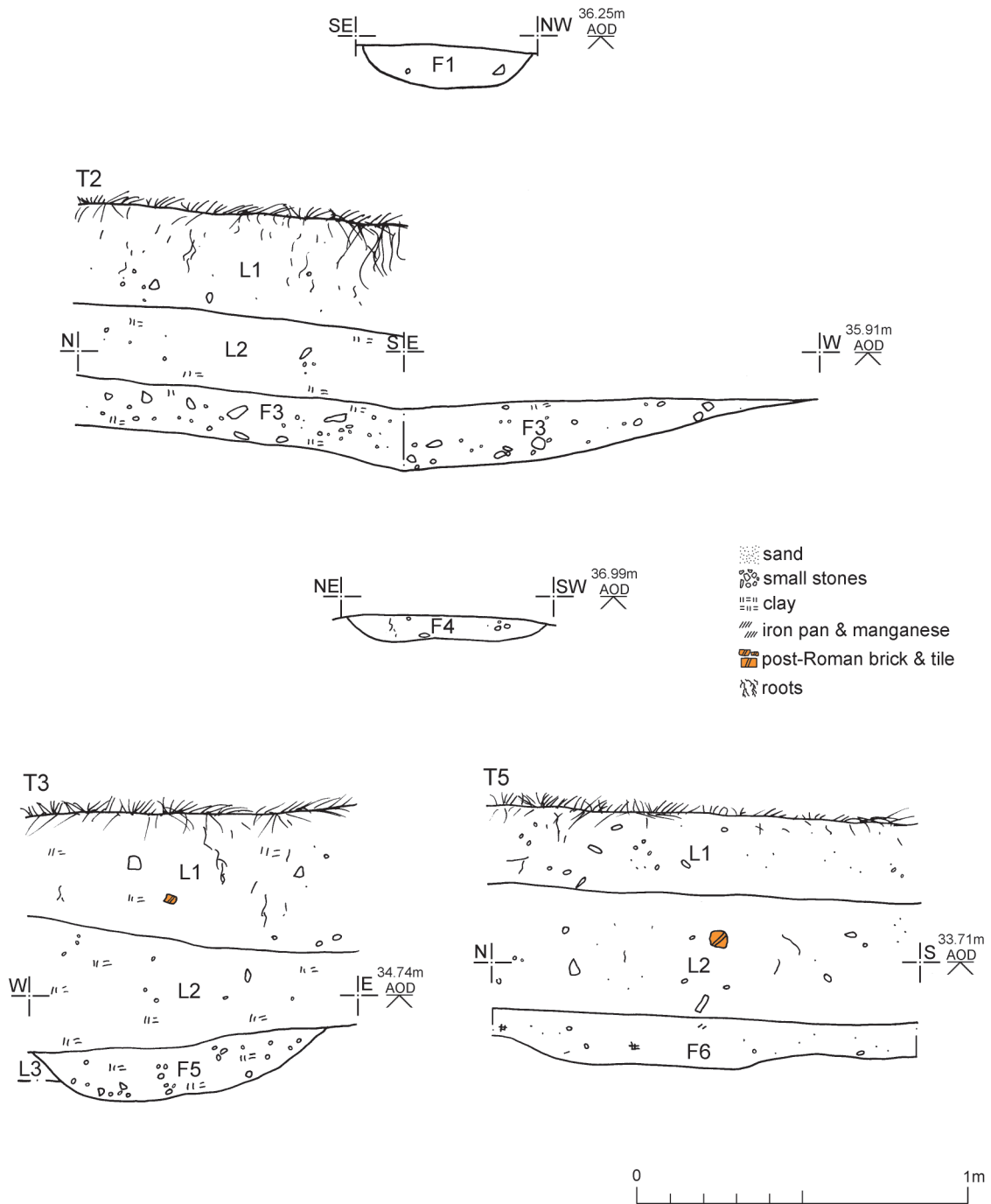


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, CO5 7PB	
<b>Parish:</b> Abberton	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00492 18700 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 2024/05a CHER ref.: ECC4855 OASIS ref.: colchest3-525179
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 17th-18th July 2024	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.245 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Archaeology Data Service	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 2073	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Medieval, post-medieval/modern & modern.	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at on land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located south of the historic Abberton Green, the evaluation revealed a modern field boundary ditch and associated drainage feature, a spread of post-medieval/modern debris, three undated ditches and two undated tree-throws. The earliest finds from the site were three residual sherds of medieval pottery.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> n/a	
<b>CCC monitor:</b> Dr Richard Hoggett	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Laura Pooley	<b>Date of summary:</b> 5th August 2024

# **Colchester Archaeological Trust**



**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for an archaeological evaluation at  
Land adjacent Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton CO5  
7PB**

**May 2024**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/05a  
CHER code: ECC4855**

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for an archaeological evaluation at  
Land adjacent Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton CO5  
7PB.**

**May 2024**

**NGR: TM 00492 18700**

**Planning district.: Colchester  
Planning ref.: 213531**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/05a**

**CHER code: ECC4855  
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett  
OASIS id: colchest3-525179**

**WSI prepared by: Chloé Hill  
Figure by: Chris Lister**

**commissioned by: Nicole Elkins (Arcady Architects  
Ltd)  
on behalf of: Michaels Property Consultants Ltd**

<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chloé Hill	Post Excavation/ Site Assistant
<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Chris Lister	Director, Business Operations
<b>Issued:</b>	24/05/2024	

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## **Site location and description** (Fig 1)

The site proposed for development is located at Land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 00492 18700.

## **Proposed work**

The proposed work comprises the erection of five dwellings.

## **Geological and Archaeological background** (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development site is located in an area that has been the subject of previous systematic archaeological investigations. It is situated immediately south of Abberton Green (MCC9757), a historic green present on the 1777 Chapman & André map. The Green is shown to be irregularly shaped with two thin linear sections following the roads to south. At this time, the Green extends south along Peldon Road, joining Peete-tye Common (MCC9156) to the south of it. The Green does not appear on the 1874 edition Ordnance Survey so must have been enclosed by this time. Peete-tye Common is also irregularly shaped, with linear sections following the roads; the main part of the common is still extant today. Within the area of Peete-tye Common is also a bank (MCC8912), around 5ft wide with a selection of finds dating from 16th to the 19th century.

The site is in the vicinity of several listed buildings including 16th- to 18th-century timber-framed houses: Pete Tye Hill (MCC3683, NHLE 1337390), Old Cottage (MCC3684, NHLE 1169960), 2,3 and 4 Willow Cottages (MCC4259, NHLE 1223396). 285m north-east is the site of a standing stone (MCC8238) known as the Deramy Stone. Dating to the early medieval period, it is mentioned in a reputed charter from Edward the Confessor to the priory of St Ouen said to have been granted in 1046. 420m south of the development is the site of a rectangular cropmark (MCC7245), local history research indicates the possibility of a Saxon settlement in the area, a find spot in this area includes an undated bronze or brass object (MCC7244).

Find spots around the site include a collection of flakes (MCC8805) dating from the Lower Palaeolithic to the Late Bronze Age found 315m to the north-east, an early 19th-century cannon ball (MCC8782) 465m south-east, an undated deposit of oyster shell and tile found in a field with some burnt clay or brick on the surface (MCC8911) 915m to the south-west, an Iron Age silver coin of Epaticcus (MCC8239) 320m east and a flint dagger (MCC8804) 370m to the north.

In more recent years, CAT carried out an archaeological evaluation on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex in 2020 (CAT Report 1593), 50m west to this proposed development. Fourteen trial-trenches were excavated in advance of the submission of a planning application for a residential development. The site was located immediately to the south of the historic Abberton Green. Fourteen features – five pits, four ditches, two pit/tree-throws, a gully and two tree throws – were uncovered. It is likely that these remains are the product of activity within the historic Peete-tye Common.

A fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out on the development area of land west of Peldon Road, Abberton by Magnitude Surveys prior to the evaluation work. The geophysical survey identified anomalies of a natural origin but nothing suggestive of anything archaeological significance (Magnitude Surveys 2020). Modern interference was encountered but limited to the boundaries of the area and occasional ferrous debris (ECC4543).

In 2008 CAT undertook a single-trench evaluation at Abberton Reservoir, 800m north-west of

the proposed development. This identified two features, a modern field drain and a post-medieval track way (CAT Report 478).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale<sup>1</sup>) shows the site has a bedrock geology of Thames Group (silty clays and clays) with mainly silty clays and clays, some sandy or gravelly, with some silts, sands, gravels and calcareous mudstones.

## **Project background**

A planning application (213531) was submitted to Colchester City Council in December 2021 proposing the erection of five dwellings.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains, an archaeological evaluation was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2023).

## **Requirement for work** (Fig 3)

The archaeological work will consist of a trial-trenched evaluation.

Specifically, CAT proposes to excavate 5 T-shaped trial-trenches. All trenches will be 14m long and 1.8m wide. This equates to a linear length of 69m covering an area 125m<sup>2</sup>.

The evaluation will be followed by a site meeting with the CCCAA. Should planning permission be granted, further archaeological excavation work may be required. This will be decided by the CCCAA.

## **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 2020, 2022 & 2023 a-b)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024)

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 the CCCAA 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

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

A project or site code will be sought from the CCCAA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows.

Archaeological evaluation: one CAT project officer and two archaeologists for two days.  
In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner.

## **Evaluation and excavation 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 geology 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.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth, and nature of any archaeological deposit. All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens 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 detrimentally affected by reburial, and only then after discussion with the CCCAA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, 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 the natural geology.

A representative section will be drawn of each evaluation trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and 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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the

case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Evaluation trenches will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the CCCAA.

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trenches 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 excavation areas 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 micromorphological 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.
- 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.

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or the CCCAA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, 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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). 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 CCCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.



## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photographic register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in the site archive.

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT staff under the supervision and direction of Howard Brooks (Interim 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/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)  
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley  
flint: Adam Wightman  
environmental processing: Bronagh Rae-Quinn  
osteology: (human remains): Megan Beale

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:  
Historic England 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 the CCCAA.

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

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

The report will be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated trench area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.

- 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.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet will be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the CCCAA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the *Essex Archaeology and History Journal* for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects ([paul.gilman@me.com](mailto:paul.gilman@me.com)).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork.

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**

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited with Colchester Museum unless otherwise agreed in advance. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, and analysis) as appropriate.

The digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service ([www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk](http://www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. 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. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the CCCAA at the time of their deposition.

The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

## **Monitoring**

The CCCAA 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 the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with the CCCAA prior to them being carried out.

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of the CCCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

## Events, activities, and social media

In addition, the CAT website ([www.catuk.org](http://www.catuk.org)) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on 01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

## 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	2024	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 478	2008	<i>Investigation of Henry Laver's postulated route of the Roman road from Colchester to Mersea Island</i> by B Holloway
CAT Report 1593	2020	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land west of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex</i> by Dr Elliott Hicks
CCC	2024	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Land adj. Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton CO5 7PB</i> by R Hoggett
CIfA	2020	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2020
CIfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Published 2014, revised October 2022
CIfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Published December 2023
CIfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Published December 2023
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>

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	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell
Magnitude Surveys	2020	<i>Geophysical Survey Report of a magnetometer survey at land West of Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex</i> . By Leigh A. Garst
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	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

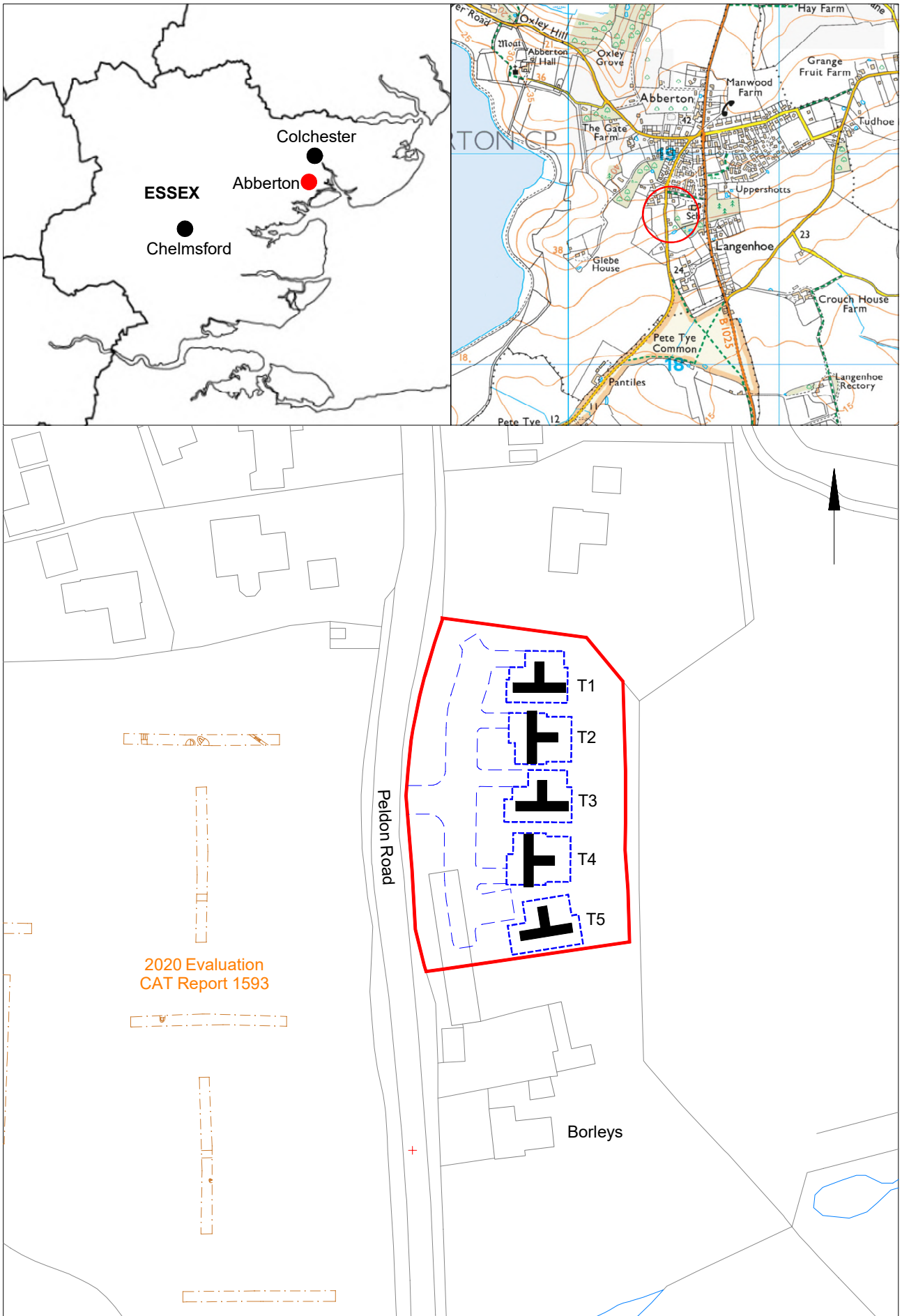


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (dashed blue lines).

# OASIS Summary for colchest3-525179

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-525179
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation on land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, CO5 7PB: July 2024
Sitename	Land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, CO5 7PB
Sitecode	ECC4855
Project Identifier(s)	2024/05a
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	213531
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	17-Jul-2024 - 18-Jul-2024
Location	Land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex, CO5 7PB NGR : TM 00492 18700 LL : 51.83092019033803, 0.908327708561249 12 Fig : 600492,218700
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Abberton
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out at on land adjacent to Borleys, Peldon Road, Abberton, Essex in advance of a new residential development. Located south of the historic Abberton Green, the evaluation revealed a modern field boundary ditch and associated drainage feature, a spread of post-medieval/modern debris, three undated ditches and two undated tree-throws. The earliest finds from the site were three residual sherds of medieval pottery.
Keywords	Field Boundary - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation developer
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4855
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;