

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2080
issued September 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation Phase 2d at
Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 0QR: July-August 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2018/12e
CHER code: ECC4866**

**Archaeological evaluation Phase 2d at
Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway,
Colchester, Essex, CO3 0QR: July-August 2024**

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**Report prepared by Laura Pooley
With contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton**

**Fieldwork by Sarah Veasey and Elliott Hicks with
Megan Beale, Ziya Eksen, Charlie Hodges,
Matt Perou, Bronagh Rae-Quinn and Erin Seed**

**Commissioned by Mersea Homes &
Hills Residential Ltd**

Prepared by:	Laura Pooley	Post-Excavation Manager
Reviewed and approved by:	Howard Brooks	Senior Associate
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Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: services@catuk.org

web: www.catuk.org

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (29 trial-trenches) was undertaken at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Colchester, as part of a phased evaluation scheme in advance of the construction of a new housing estate. This report details the results of Phase 2d of the evaluation. Located close to the nationally important Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks Archaeological Park, the development site is immediately north of three Iron Age enclosures and the Stanway élite burial site of four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures.

The Phase 2d evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. Of the 57 features excavated there were 23 ditches/gullies and 34 features identified as pits/tree-throws/silt patches, with another 29 silt patches that were not excavated. Finds were extremely rare with only one sherd of medieval pottery, three very small fragments of ceramic building material (peg-tile and post-medieval/modern brick) and a tiny piece of baked clay recovered. It is highly likely that most, if not all, of the features are associated with agricultural activity at the Fruit Farm.

2 Introduction (Fig 1-2)

This is the report for the Phase 2d archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Colchester, Essex from 22nd July to 1st August 2024. The evaluation was commissioned by Mersea Homes and Hills Residential Ltd and took place in advance of the construction of a new housing estate.

In 2016 pre-application advice was sought from the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) in relation to the proposed residential development of Fiveways Fruit Farm. As the site was in an area highlighted by the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was recommended based on guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012; current NPPF MCHLG 2023).

As the site was still in use as a working fruit farm, a staged approach to the trial-trenching evaluation was agreed. The Phase 1 evaluation and mitigation excavation was completed prior to the determination of a separate planning application (planning no. 180873; CAT Reports 1042 and 1221). For Phase 2, 1,975m of trial-trenching was required in advance of the granting of planning consent, followed by 2,585m of trenching post-consent, if planning permission was granted.

An initial programme of Phase 2 trenching (Phase 2a) was undertaken in November 2016, comprising 1,360m of trenching (CAT Report 1082). Due to site constraints, it was not possible to complete all the pre-consent trenching before the planning decision was made, and it was agreed that the remaining pre-consent trenching would be completed as the farmer made new areas available.

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2018 (application no. 182220) for part detailed/part outline planning permission for up to 420 residential units, with associated access, parking, servicing, open space and amenity space, landscaping, and utilities.

The Phase 2b evaluation (200m of trenching) was undertaken in December 2018 and the Phase 2c evaluation (420m of trenches) in June/July 2022 (CAT Report 1480). This completed the required pre-consent trenching.

The current Phase 2d evaluation represents 850m of post-consent trenching. The remaining 1,760m of trenching will be undertaken once more land is released to the developer.

All archaeological work is being carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Trial-Trenched Evaluation at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway* which was written by Dr Jess Tipper (CBCAA) in 2016. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) covering the Phase 2d evaluation was prepared by CAT in June 2024 and agreed with the current Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA) Dr Richard Hoggett in advance of work beginning.

In addition to the 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 (Fig 1-2)

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The proposed development site lies in an area of known archaeological potential. The site lies 1.45km to the north-west of Gosbecks Archaeological Park, which was the centre of the Iron Age *oppidum* of *Camulodunum*. The focus of Gosbecks was an enclosed farmstead connected to the corresponding field systems by a network of droveways and protected by a series of earthwork fortifications or dykes. The outermost of these defensive earthworks, Gryme's Dyke (EHER 11637) is located c 400m to the south-east of the site. Gosbecks is thought to contain a funerary enclosure, and after the Roman invasion saw the construction of a Romano-Celtic temple complex (EHER 11649), along with other large public buildings including a theatre (EHER 11646, 11647). Both Gosbecks and Gryme's Dyke are designated as scheduled monuments. Approximately 900m to the south of the development site, excavation work in advance of sand and gravel extraction recorded a series of five enclosures consisting of an Iron Age farmstead and four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures of high-status individuals (Crummy *et al* 2007; EHER 12552).

When the southern areas of Fiveways Fruit Farm were sold to Tarmac for mineral extraction, excavations uncovered the remains of two interlinked enclosed Middle Iron Age farmsteads as well as evidence of limited Neolithic, Bronze Age and Early Iron Age occupation, and also medieval, post-medieval and modern agricultural activity (CAT Reports 493, 1070, 1478, 2068).

On the current development site, Phase 1 archaeological evaluation and excavation took place in 2016 (CAT Report 1042) and 2018 (CAT Report 1221). Remains were scarce but included one prehistoric pit, a residual Mesolithic or early Neolithic flint blade, and 13 tree-throws.

Phase 2a, 2b and 2c archaeological evaluations took place in 2016 (CAT Report 1082), 2018 and 2022 (CAT Report 1480).

Summary results from Phase 2a – This evaluation revealed a sparse scatter of mostly residual archaeological finds including small, abraded sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery and some Roman remains. A medieval pit contained evidence of iron working in the centre of the site, with a small number of medieval ditches and pits in the south-east corner. Three modern field boundary ditches and the large number of undated irregular linears/agricultural features, tree-throws and pits were probably associated with activities at the fruit farm.

Summary results from Phase 2b and 2c – Evaluation revealed 33 features. One pit produced two sherds of possible Late Bronze Age pottery while the other features were undated.

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

5 Results (Figs 3-9)

All trench and context numbers continue from those assigned during the Phase 2a, 2b and 2c evaluations (CAT Reports 1082 and 1480). Twenty-nine trial-trenches (Trenches 76-104) were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide apart from two (Trenches 101 and 103) which were 20m long. The trenches cut through topsoil (L1, c 0.08-0.55m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.05-0.34 thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.26-0.64m below current ground level). Features were excavated in 20 of the 29 trenches and are discussed below. The only features present in Trenches 83, 85, 86, 87, 93, 100, 101 were silt patches that were planned but not excavated. Trenches 99 and 104 were empty.

Of the 57 features excavated as part of Phase 2d, there were 23 ditches/gullies and 34 features identified as a pit/tree-throw/silt patch. These 34 features were generally irregular in shape and had a largely sterile fill. They are unlikely to be natural (i.e., post-glacial) silt patches, as some showed evidence of rooting and rare traces of CBM and charcoal flecks in the fill and, given the results of previous evaluations on the site, it was determined that they were probably all associated with agricultural activities at the Fruit Farm. As such, with the agreement of the CCCAA, another 29 silt patches identified in later trenches (T81-T104) were planned but not excavated.

The ditches/gullies were generally U-shaped with three V-shaped. On average they were 0.91m wide and 0.27m deep, ranging from 0.41m to 1.5m wide and 0.12m to 0.7m deep. Unsurprisingly the widest ditch was also the deepest at 1.5m wide and 0.7m deep, most ranged from 0.41-1.0m wide and 0.11-0.35m deep.

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

Trench 76

There were three ditch/gullies. Ditch/gully F164 was an irregular feature, 1.16m wide and 0.2-0.32m deep, aligned north-east/south-west. Ditch/gully F165 was a U-shaped feature, 1.48m wide and 0.68m deep, aligned north-north-east/south-south-west. Ditch/gully F166 was also U-shaped, 0.95m wide and 0.19m deep, aligned north-east/south-west. Flecks of ceramic building material (CBM) were noted in F164 and F166, with a very small fragment of post-medieval/modern brick recovered from F165.

Trench 77

Ditch/gully F163 was U-shaped, 1.16m and 0.25m deep, and aligned north-north-west/south-south-east. Recovered from the fill was a very small fragment of baked clay. Pit/tree-throw/silt patches F160, F161 and F162 were also excavated.

Trench 78

Ditch/gully F153 was U-shaped, aligned roughly north/south and was 0.5m wide by 0.15m deep. Extensive rooting and some CBM flecks in the fill suggest it was associated with the Fruit Farm. Also excavated were pit/tree-throw/silt patches F154-F159.

Trench 79

Three ditches/gullies were located at the north-west end of the trench. All were U-shaped and on different alignments, F150 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, F151 north-west to south-east and F152 north-north-east to south-south-west aligned. They ranged between 0.58 and 0.75m wide and were quite shallow at 0.11-0.19m deep. Pit/tree-throw/silt patches F145, F146, F147, F148 and F149 were also excavated. The only find recovered was a small fragment of peg-tile from F149.



Photograph 1 Trench 78, looking north-west.



Photograph 2 Trench 78, pit/tree-throws/silt patches F155 and F156, looking west.



Photograph 3 Trench 79, ditch/gully F152, looking south-south-west.



Photograph 4 Trench 80, ditch/gully F136 and pit/tree-throw/silt patch F136, looking south-west.

Trench 80

Ditch/gully F136 was aligned north-east to south-west and was U-shaped at 0.6m wide by 0.12m deep. V-shaped ditch/gully F143, aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, was 0.72m wide by 0.19m deep. Also excavated were pit/tree-throw/silt patches F135, F137-142 and F144.

Trench 81

Pit/tree-throw/silt patch F167 was excavated. One silt patch was planned but not excavated.

Trench 82

Ditch/gully F168 was aligned north-east to south-west, U-shaped it was 0.9m wide by 0.22m deep. Two silt patches were planned but not excavated.

Trench 84

Ditch/gully F170 was U-shaped, 0.96m wide by 0.28m deep, and aligned north-west to south-east. Pit/tree-throw/silt patch F169 was also excavated.



Photograph 5 Trench 86, looking north-west.

Trench 88

Ditch/gully F180 was aligned north-south and was roughly V-shaped in profile, 0.8m wide by 0.22m deep. One silt patch was planned but not excavated.

Trench 89

Aligned west-north-west to east-south-east, ditch/gully F183 was U-shaped, 1m wide and 0.33m deep. Two silt patches were planned but not excavated.

Trench 90

Ditch/gully F179, 0.88m wide by 0.21m deep, was U-shaped and aligned north-north-east to south-southwest. Also excavated were pit/tree-throw/silt patch F178. One silt patch was planned but not excavated.



Photograph 6 Trench 90, looking north-west.



Photograph 7 Trench 92, ditch/gully F181 and pit/tree-throw/silt patch F182, looking south-west.

Trench 91

Feature F177 was slightly irregular but was probably a ditch/gully aligned north-south. It was 1.1m wide and 0.22m deep. Pit/tree-throw/silt patches F175 and F176 was also excavated. Two silt patches were planned but not excavated.

Trench 92

Ditch/gully F181 was U-shaped, aligned north-east to south-west, and was larger than most of the other features at 1.5m wide by 0.7m deep. A very small fragment of post-medieval/modern brick was recovered from the feature. Three pit/tree-throw/silt patches were also excavated, F171, F172 and F182. One silt patch was planned but not excavated with F182 cut into it.

Trench 94

Ditch/gully F173 was very steep sided with a flat base. Aligned north-north-east to south-south-west it was 0.41m wide and 0.3m deep. Charcoal flecks were noted within the fill of pit/tree-throw/silt patch F174. Two silt patches were planned but not excavated.



Photograph 8 Trench 94, pit/tree-throw/silt patch F174, looking south-east.

Trench 95

Pit/tree-throw/silt patch F184 was the only feature present. One silt patch was planned but not excavated.

Trench 96

Ditch/gully F186 was U-shaped, aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and was 0.65m wide by 0.14m deep. Pit/tree-throw/silt patch F185 was also excavated. One silt patch was planned but not excavated.

Trench 97

Ditch/gully F188 was the only feature to produce pottery, a sherd of medieval sandy greyware. Aligned north-west to south-east it was U-shaped and 0.74m wide by 0.2m deep. Also excavated was pit/tree-throw/silt patch F187. One silt patch was planned but not excavated.



Photograph 9 Trench 95, looking south-west.



Photograph 10 Trench 99, looking south-west.

Trench 98

Ditch/gully F189 had lots of large roots throughout the feature and was probably a former hedgerow or similar feature associated with the Fruit Farm. Aligned north-east to south-west it was U-shaped, 1.27m wide and 0.35m deep.



Photograph 11 Trench 102, looking south-east.



Photograph 12 Trench 102, ditch/gully F190, looking north-north-east.

Trench 102

Aligned north-north-east to south-south-west, ditch/gully F190 was V-shaped, 1.15m wide and 0.53m deep.

Trench 103

Ditch/gully F191 was U-shaped, aligned north-west to south-south-west and was 0.65m wide by 0.14m deep.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at only one sherd of pottery (21g with an EVE of 0.05) and four fragments of CBM (25g) (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	1	21	21	0.05
CBM	4	25	6	-
All	5	46	9	0.05

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Medieval pottery

A sandy greyware (fabric F20) cooking pot (H1), dating to 1150/1175-1375/1400, was recovered from F188.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Small post-medieval/modern brick fragments (2 at 5g) came from F165 and F181, with a fragment (19g) of peg-tile from F149 and a piece of baked clay (1g) from F163.

Conclusion

Table 2 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and CBM. None of the CBM was retained.

Context	Medieval pottery	CBM	Spot date
F149	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval/modern
F163	-	BAKED CLAY	Undated
F165	-	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F181	-	BR	Post-medieval/modern
F188	F20 (cooking pot H1)	-	Medieval

Table 2 Finds spot dates for the individual features.

7 Conclusion

Phase 2d archaeological evaluation at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. Of the 57 features excavated there were 23 ditches/gullies, 34 features identified as pits/tree-throws/silt patches that are highly likely to be associated with activity at the Fruit Farm and another 29 silt patches that were not excavated but are probably of similar origin.

None of the ditches/gullies from Phase 2d, or indeed any of the preceding evaluations, can be traced crossing the different evaluation trenches and appear to be relatively discrete features. It is possible that, if excavation were to take place, some of these features would resolve to be

pits/tree-throws/silt patches. Given the similarity of the fills between all the features on the site, it is also likely that most, if not all, of the ditches/gullies relate to activity at the Fruit Farm, be that drainage/irrigation trenches and former hedgerows or planting schemes.

A lack of material from these features would also seem to confirm that there was little archaeological activity in this area. The only finds were one medieval pottery sherd and four very small fragments of CBM (peg-tile, post-medieval/modern brick and baked clay).

The results of the Phase 2d evaluation are very similar to those of Phases 2a-2c. Of the 134 features previously excavated most have been attributed to activities at the Fruit Farm, with a very small scattering of Middle Iron Age and Roman material which was probably residual and originated from Middle Iron Age and Roman sites further to the south.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mersea Homes and Hills Residential Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey and E Hicks with M Beale, Z Eksen, C Hodges, M Perou, B Rae-Quinn and E Seed. 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>

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--|
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| CAR 7 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAT | 2024 | <i>Written scheme of investigation for an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2d) at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Colchester, CO3 0QR,</i> by C Hill. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT | 2024 | <i>Health & Safety Policy.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 493 | 2008 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex: September-October 2008,</i> by B Holloway & H Brooks. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 1042 | 2016 | <i>Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016,</i> by L Pooley. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 1070 | 2019 | <i>Middle Iron Age farmsteads: Archaeological excavation on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: May-December 2015,</i> by P Parmenter & A Wightman with L Pooley. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 1082 | 2017 | <i>Archaeological evaluation on Phase 2 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016,</i> by L Pooley. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 1221 | 2018 | <i>Archaeological excavation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: January 2018,</i> by L Pooley. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 1478 | 2021 | <i>Archaeological monitoring on land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex: September 2018-July 2021,</i> by E Hicks. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 1480 | 2022 | <i>Archaeological evaluation Phase 2b and 2c at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0QR: December 2018 and June-July 2022,</i> by E Hicks and S Veasey. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| CAT Report 2068 | 2024 | <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording on Phase 5 land of the Stanway Quarry expansion, Colchester, Essex: June 2024,</i> by E Hicks. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| 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. |

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, J P	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.
Crummy, P <i>et al</i>	2007	<i>Stanway: An élite burial site at Camulodunum.</i> Britannia Monograph Series 24 .
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Department of Communities and Local Government.
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24).
MHCLG	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
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
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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: Medieval pottery sherd retained, all other finds discarded.

Digital record

CAT Report 2080
Digital photographs
Graphic files
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 Colchester Museum (finds only) and the Archaeology Data Service (digital) under project ref. ECC4289.

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Distribution list:

Mersea Homes

Hills Residential 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	All	-	Topsoil	Soft, moist, dark yellow/grey/brown sandy-clay with frequent stones	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown sandy-silt and charcoal flecks	Undated
L3	All	-	Natural	Natural sands/silty-sand	Post-glacial
F135	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, dry, medium orange/grey/brown sandy silt. Gently sloping edges, 1.42m by 0.86m and 0.15m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F136	T80	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, medium orange/brown silty sand. NE/SW aligned, 0.6m wide by 0.12m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F137	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown silty sand. Gently sloping edges, >0.75m by 0.67m and 0.11m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F138	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, damp, light grey/brown silty sand. Sub-oval, 1.33m by 1.0m and 0.25m deep, irregular gentle and steeply sloping sides, slightly concave base.	Undated, probably modern
F139	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, damp, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 3%. Irregular, sub-circular feature, gradual sides and break of slope to an undulating base. 1.20m by 0.84m, 0.12m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F140	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, damp, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 5%. Irregular, sub-circular feature with undulating base and heavy rooting. 0.80m by 0.57m, 0.11m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F141	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 1%. Sub-oval pit with moderate sloping sides, gradual break of slope and slightly concave base. 1.12m by >0.78m and 0.19m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F142	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown silt with inclusions of: stone 1%. Moderate sides with gradual break of slope to flat base. Single fill. 1.64m by >0.81m and 0.28m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F143	T80	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, very light grey/brown silty sand. NNE/SSW aligned, narrow sloping edges, very slightly V-shaped. 0.72m wide and 0.19m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F144	T80	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Loose, damp, medium grey/brown silty sand with inclusions of: stone 2%. Sub-round pit, >1.35m by 0.84m and 0.09m deep, with gently sloping sides, gradual break of slope and uneven base.	Undated, probably modern
F145	T79	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silt with inclusions of: stone 3%. Sub-circular pit, moderate sides with gradual break of slope and concave base. Single fill. 0.82m by 0.57m and 0.14m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F146	T79	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 5%. Two fills. Moderate sides and break of slope with a flat base. >1.0 by 0.87m wide, 0.22m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F147	T79	-	Pit/tree-throw/silt patch	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Gentle slope on one edge, steep on the	Undated, probably modern

				other, rounded base. >0.64 by 0.48m, 0.14m deep.	
F148	T79	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, moist, medium orange grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. >1.13m by 0.89m wide and 0.28m deep, with moderate sloping sides, sharp break of slope on one side, irregular on the other, concave base.	Undated, probably modern
F149	T79	32	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. >1.18m by 0.78m wide and 0.28m deep, with moderate sloping sides, sharp break of slope, concave base.	Probably modern
F150	T79	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. NNW/SSE aligned, 0.58m wide and 0.11m deep, with gently sloping sides, gradual break of slope and even base.	Undated, probably modern
F151	T79	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, mid orange/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 10%. NW-SE aligned. Moderate sides with a gradual break of slope and concave base. Single fill. 0.75m wide and 0.19m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F152	T79	-	Ditch/gully	Loose, dry light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 5%. NNE-SSW aligned, 0.6m wide, 0.14m deep, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope and even base.	Undated, probably modern
F153	T78	-	Ditch/gully	Loose, moist, light yellow/brown silty sand with inclusions of: stone 2%. N-S aligned, with N terminal in trench. Moderate sides with gradual break of slope and flat base. Single fill. 0.50m wide, 0.13m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F154	T78	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, moist, medium orange/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 3%. Irregular sub-circular in plan, gradual sides and break of slope with uneven concave base. 1m by >0.73m, 0.10m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F155	T78	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 3%. 1.78m by 0.77m and 0.12m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F156	T78	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 3%. Irregular pit, 1.03m by 1.0m and 0.23m deep, with moderate sloping sides, gradual break of slope and slightly concave base.	Undated, probably modern
F157	T78	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, moist, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 5%. Sub-circular, moderate sides with a gradual break of slope and flat slightly undulating base. Single fill. 1.37m by >0.57m, 0.16m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F158	T78	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 1%. Sub-round pit with gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope and even base. 0.88m by >0.39m and 0.12m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F159	T78	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 1%. Sub-rounded pit with moderate sloping sides, sharp break of slope and even base. >0.89 by >0.64m and 0.29m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F160	T77	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Loose, moist, dark grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 5%.	Undated, probably modern

				Sub-circular pit, steep sides with sharp break of slope and flat base. Loose stony single fill. 0.67m by 0.54m and 0.18m deep.	
F161	T77	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Firm, moist, medium orange/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. Sub-circular, steep sides with sharp break of slope and concave/slightly undulating base. Single fill. 1.4m by > 0.83m and 0.21m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F162	T77	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, medium orange/brown silty sand with inclusions of: stone 2%. Sub-circular feature, gradual break of slope, uneven base. Single fill. 0.85m by >0.57m and 0.11m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F163	T77	33	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: brick, and stone 2%. NW-SE aligned, 1.18m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate sloping sides, sharp break of slope and even base.	Undated, probably modern
F164	T76	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light orange grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: brick and stone 1%. NE-SE aligned. Profile would suggest ditch had been recut. Single fill. 1.16m wide, 0.18m & 0.31m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F165	T76	34	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. NNE-SSW aligned, large feature at 1.5m wide and 0.68m deep with steep sloping sides and uneven base.	Post-medieval/ Modern, probably modern
F166	T76	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: brick, stone 4%. NE/SW aligned, gentle sloping sides with a flattish base. Single fill. 0.95m wide, 0.19m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F167	T81	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, damp, light grey/brown silty sand with inclusions of: stone 3%. Sterile fill. 2.09m by >1.19m and 0.32m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F168	T82	-	Ditch/gully	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt. NE/SW aligned, sloping edges. Signs of animal burrowing along western edge. 0.9m wide by 0.22m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F169	T84	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Dry, soft, light brown/grey sandy silt with occasional small stones. Moderate sides with a gentle break of slope and flat base. Single fill. 1.95m by 1m wide, 0.17m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F170	T84	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light grey sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 3%. NW-SE aligned, 0.96m wide and 0.28m deep, with gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope and even base.	Undated, probably modern
F171	T92	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, light orange/brown silty sand with inclusion of: stone 10%. Moderate sides with a gradual break of slope and concave base. >1.18m by 0.87m, 0.22m deep. Single fill.	Undated, probably modern
F172	T92	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, moist, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. Large, rounded feature, slightly irregular edges, sterile silty fill. >1.63m by 1.36m and 0.57m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F173	T94	-	Ditch/gully	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt with clay pockets; with inclusions of: stone 50%. NNE-SSW aligned, steep-sided with a very flat based. Single fill. 0.41m wide, 0.30m deep.	Undated, probably modern

F174	T94	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: charcoal flecks, stone 25%. Frequent charcoal staining, gentle sloping sides, gentle concave base. 0.74m by >0.67m, 0.14m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F175	T91	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, light grey/brown silt. Small, rounded feature with rounded base. 0.61m by >0.53m and 0.25m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F176	T91	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 3%. Sub-circular feature, steep western edge, gradual sloping eastern edge, undulating base. Single fill. 2.10m by 1.33m and 1.47m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F177	T91	-	Ditch/gully	Loose, dry, medium orange/grey/brown silty sand with inclusions of: gravel 3%. N/S aligned by with irregular concave edges and gradual break of slope with irregular/flat base, 1.10m wide and 0.22m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F178	T90	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Loose, dry, medium orange/brown sand. Single fill. Moderate steep, concave edges with sharp break of slope and uneven base. 1.0m by 0.84m and 0.22m.	Undated, probably modern
F179	T90	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 1%. Roughly NNE/SSW aligned. U-shaped profile, 0.88m wide and 0.21m deep. Sterile fill.	Undated, probably modern
F180	T88	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light-medium orange/grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: charcoal flecks and stone 1%. N/S aligned, roughly V-shaped profile. Lower fill is darker and orangey – possibly redeposited natural. 0.8m wide and 0.22m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F181	T92	36	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. NE-SW aligned, 1.5m wide and 0.70m deep, with steep sloping side to the NW and sharp break of slope, SW slope gentle, even base.	Post- medieval/ modern, probably modern
F182	T92	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. Sub-round pit in silt patch, 0.63m by 0.58m and 0.19m deep, with moderate sloping sides and concave base.	Undated, probably modern
F183	T89	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light orange grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. WNW/ESE aligned, steep sides with gradual break of slope and concave base. Single fill. 1m wide, 0.33m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F184	T95	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Loose-soft, damp, medium orange/brown sandy silt. Steep straight edges, sharp break of slope, flat base. 3.45m by >1.28m and 0.5m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F185	T96	-	Pit/tree-throw/ silt patch	Soft, dry, light-medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: charcoal, stone 2%. Sterile fill with minimal charcoal flecks. Concave with rounded base. >1.18m by 0.7m and 0.27m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F186	T96	-	Ditch/gully	Soft, dry, light grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. NNE/SSW aligned. Shallow U-Shaped profile. Sterile fill. 0.65m wide by 0.14m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F187	T97	-	Silt patch/	Soft, dry, very light grey silt.	Undated, probably

			tree-throw	Sub-circular silt patch/tree-throw. Uneven sides/edges with undulating base. Single fill. 1.27m by 1.14m and 0.18m deep.	modern
F188	T97	37	Ditch/gully	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 1%. NW-SE aligned, moderately shallow, concave edges, gradual break of slope and concave base. 0.74m wide and 0.2m deep.	Probably modern
F189	T98	-	Ditch/gully	Soft-friable, damp, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. NE-SW aligned. Steep concave edges, gradual break of slope and irregular base. Lots of large modern roots throughout, likely hedgerow. 1.27m wide and 0.35m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F190	T102	-	Ditch/gully	Friable, dry, orange/brown silty sand. NNE/SSW aligned, V-shaped, 1.15m wide and 0.53m deep.	Undated, probably modern
F191	T103	-	Ditch/gully	Friable, damp, medium grey/brown sandy silt with inclusions of: stone 2%. NW/SE aligned. Gently sloping sides, gentle break of slope and concave base, 1.0m wide, 0.2m deep.	Undated, probably modern

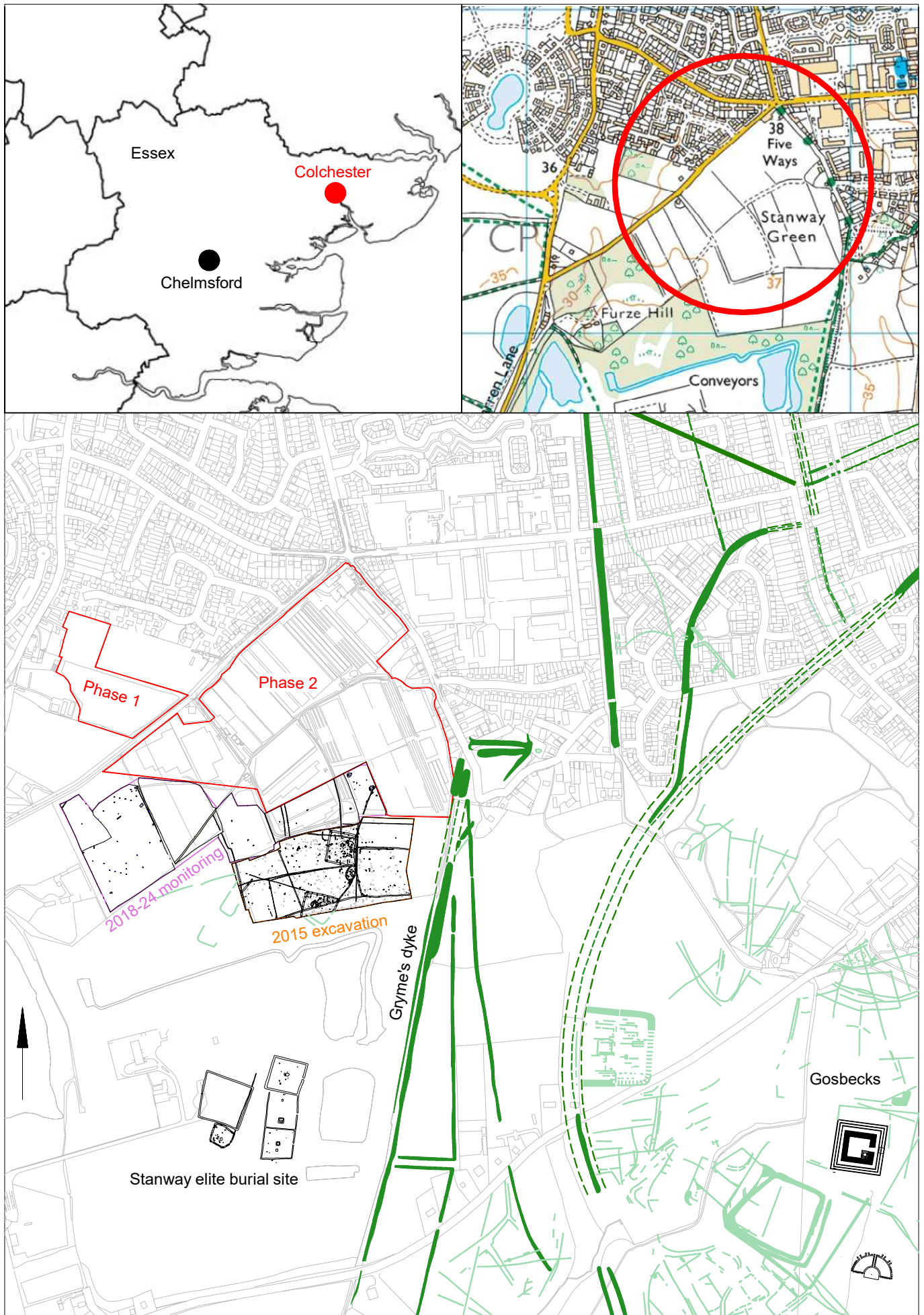


Fig 1 Site location (red outline) shown in relation to nearby cropmarks (light green), dykes (dark green) and other excavated sites.

Key

Phase 2a trenches in orange, CAT Report 1082

Phase 2b trenches in pink & 2c trenches in purple, CAT Report 1480.

Phase 2d trenches in black.

Remaining trenching requirement to be completed shown here in blue.

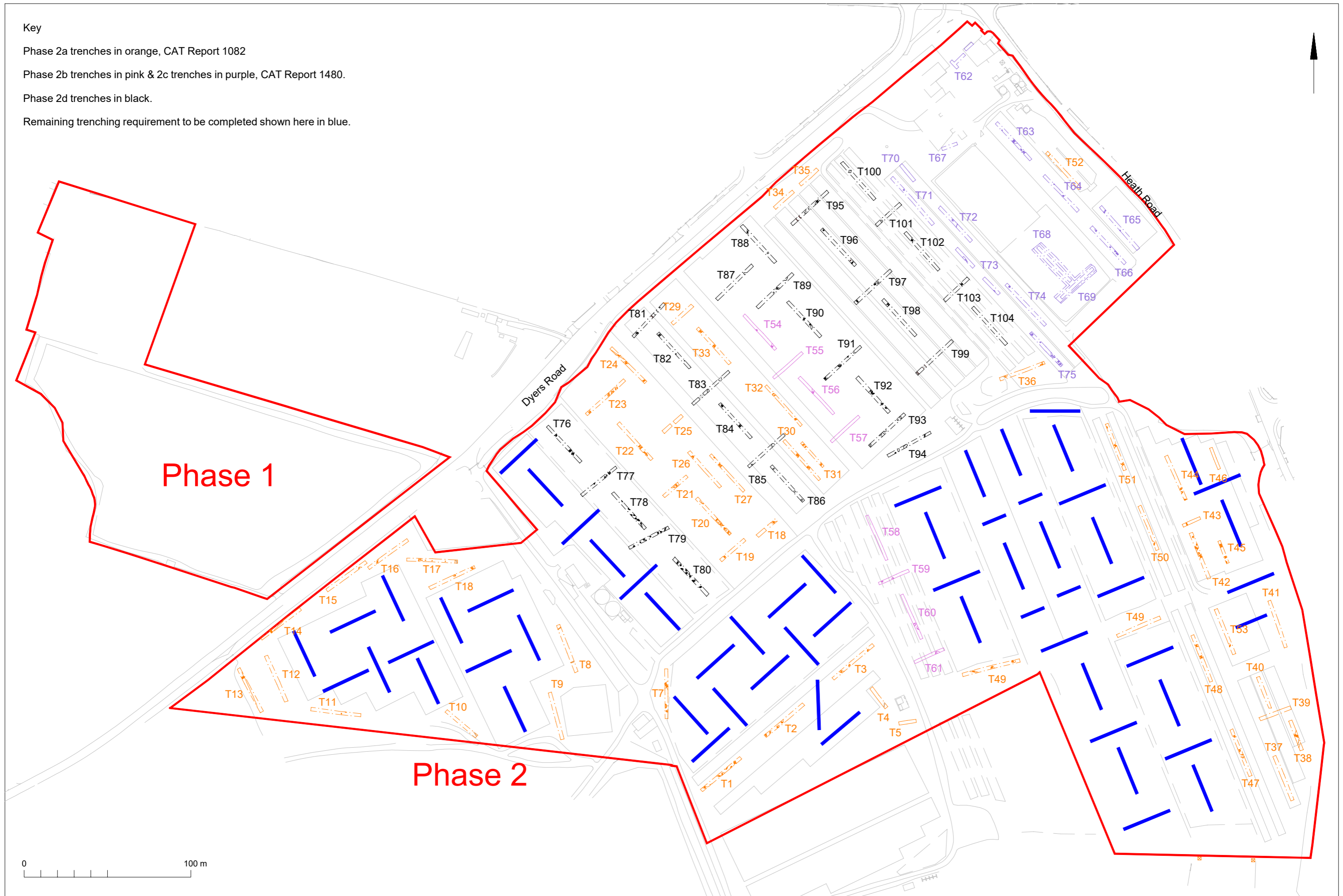


Fig 2 Extent of the Phase 2 evaluation, showing trenches completed (Phases 2a, 2b and 2c), the current trenches (Phase 2d) and the remaining trenches required to complete the evaluation (see key).

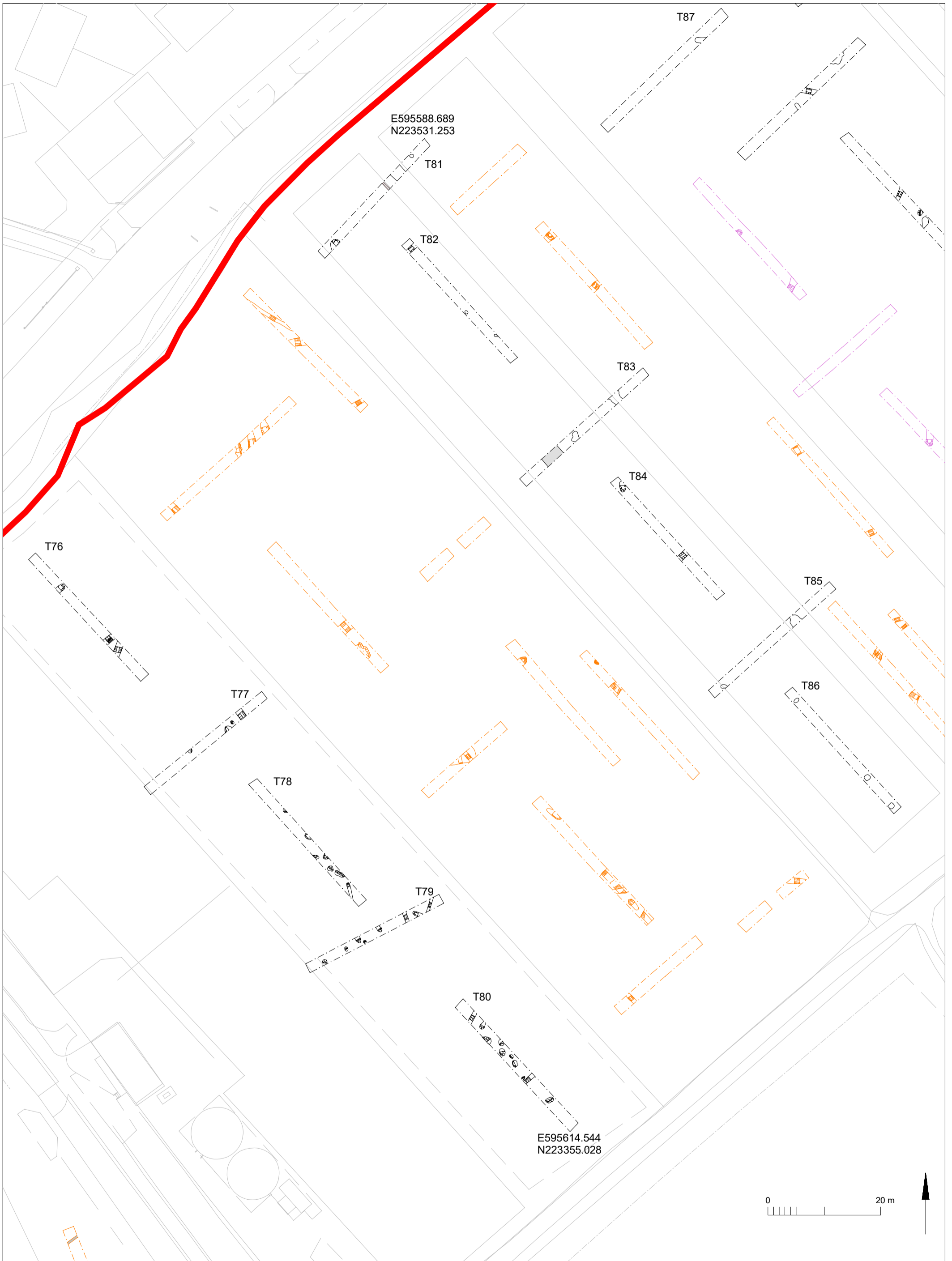


Fig 3 Results, Trenches 76-87 (modern services in grey).

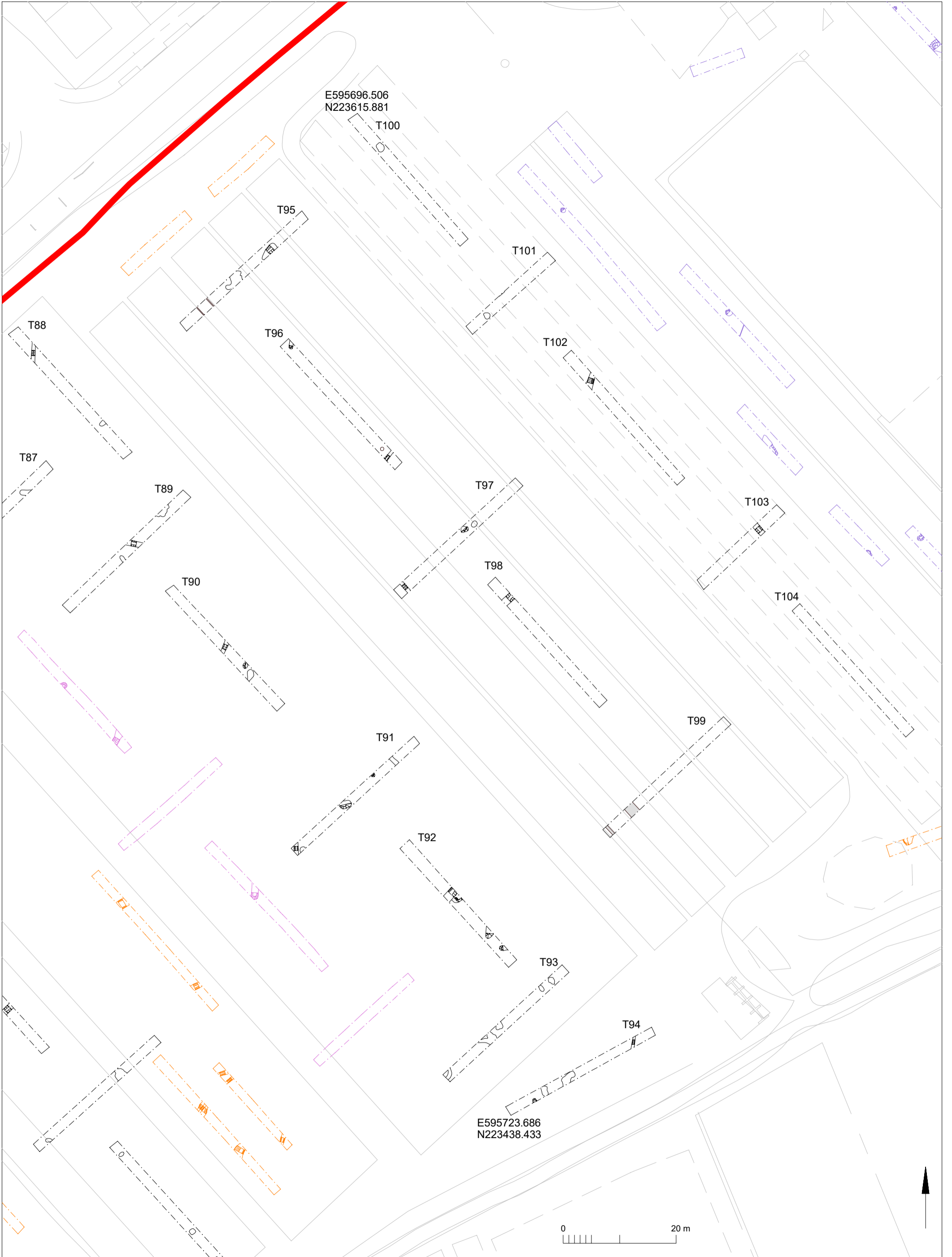


Fig 4 Results, Trenches 87-104 (modern services in grey).

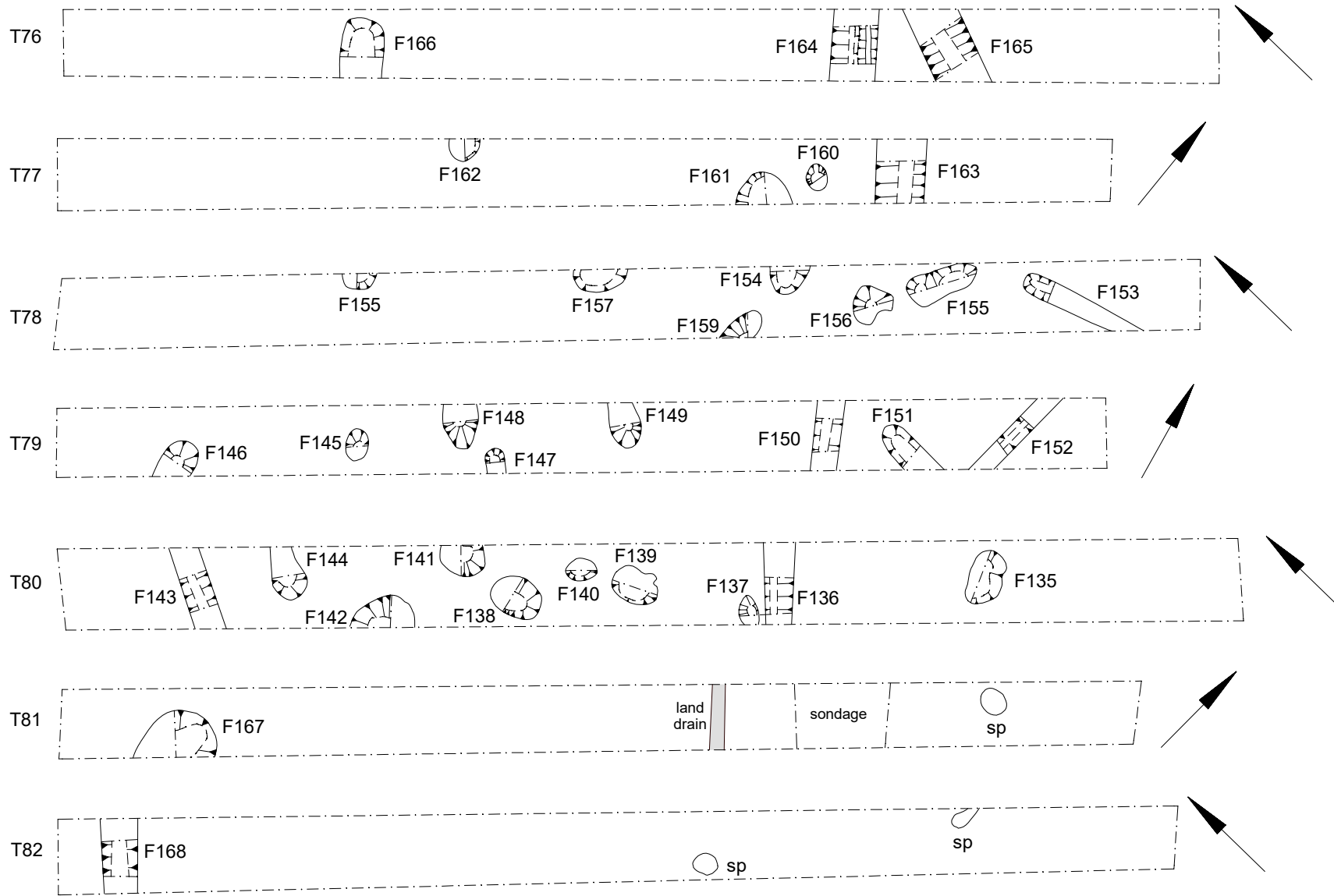


Fig 5 Detailed trench plans, T76, T77, T78, T79, T80, T81 & T82.
 (sp = unexcavated silt patch)



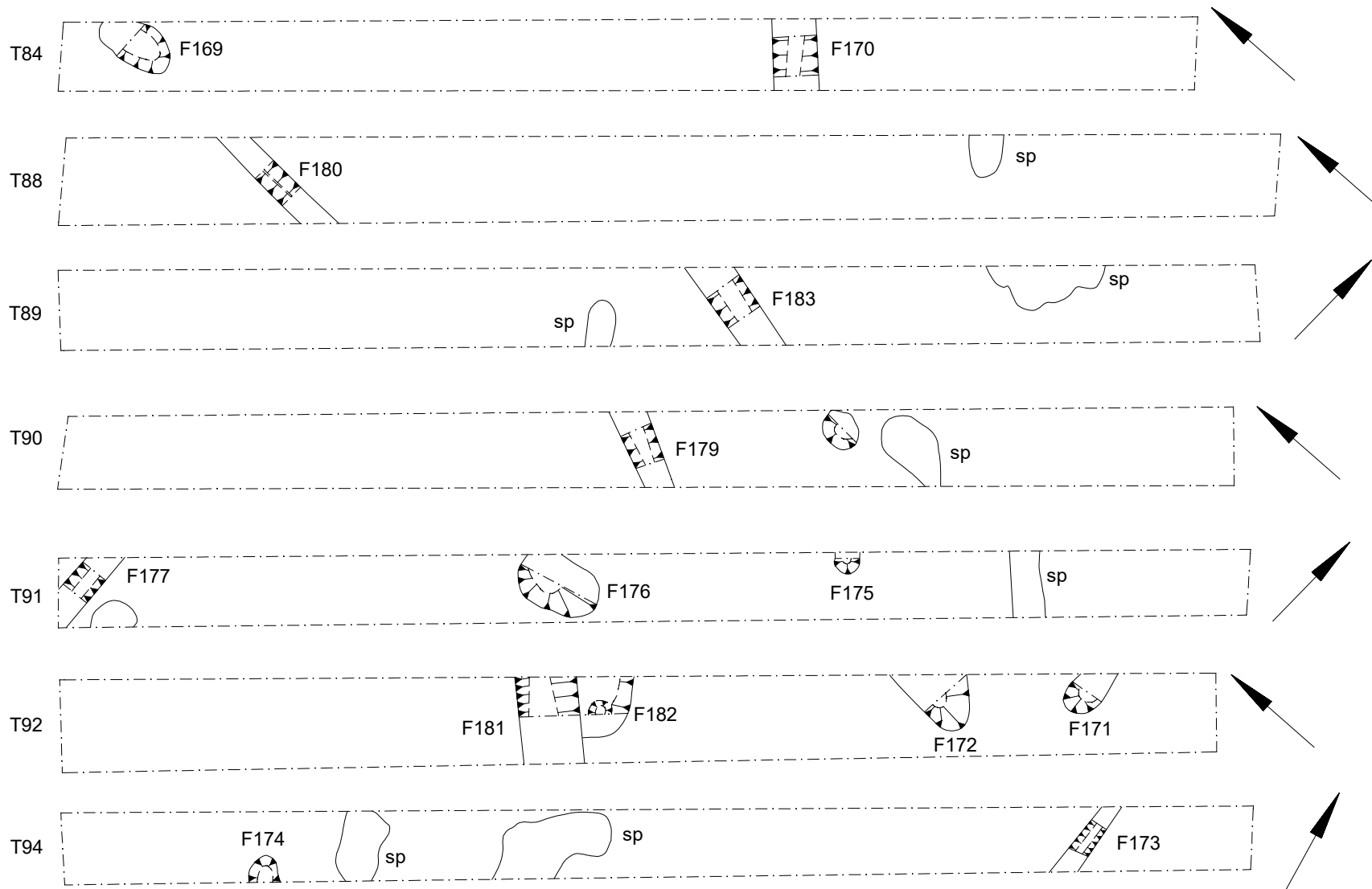


Fig 6 Detailed trench plans, T84, T88, T89, T90, T91, T92 & T94.
 (sp = unexcavated silt patch).

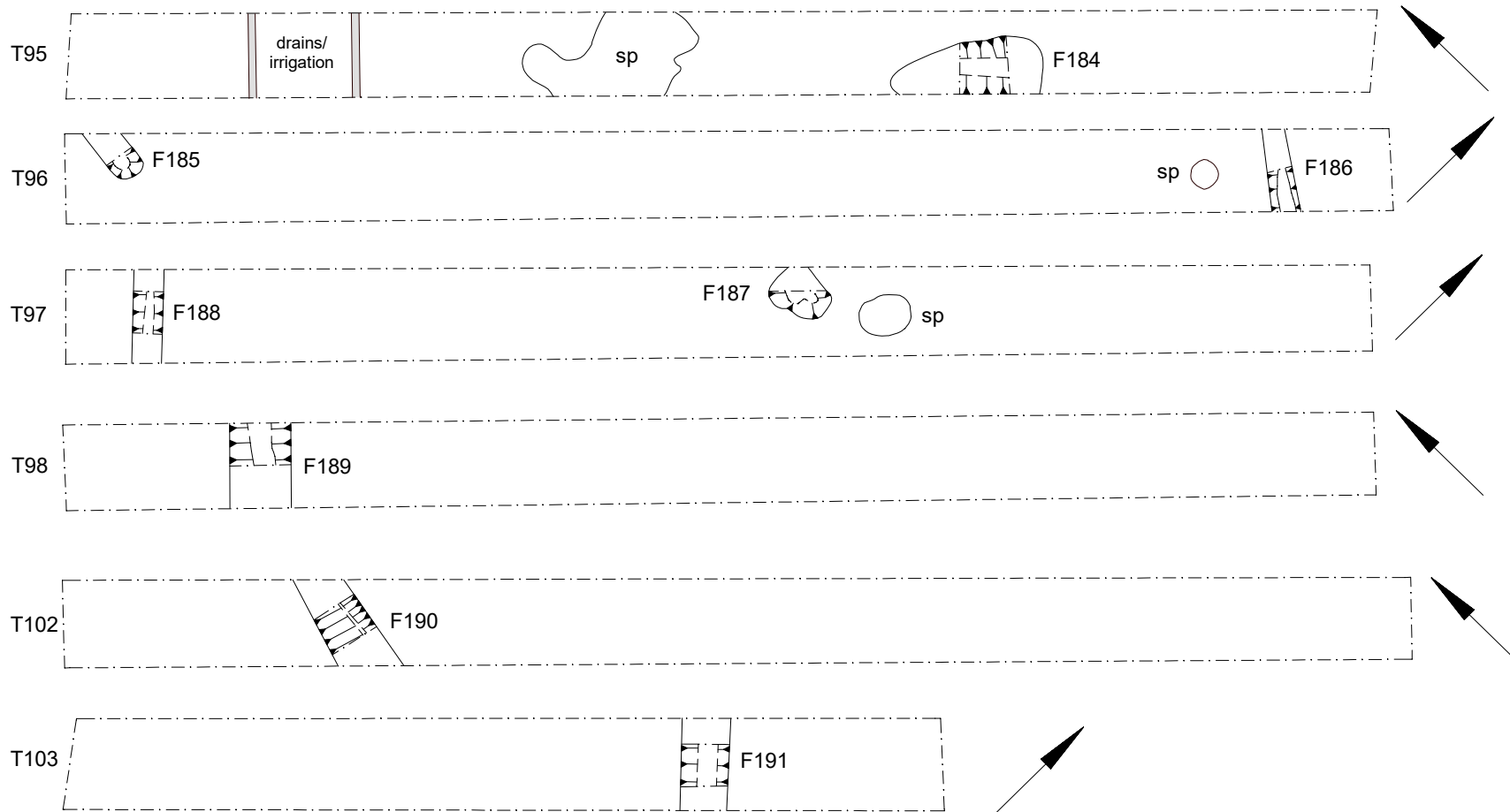


Fig 7 Detailed trench plans, T95, T96, T97, T98, T102 & T103.
 (sp = unexcavated silt patch).



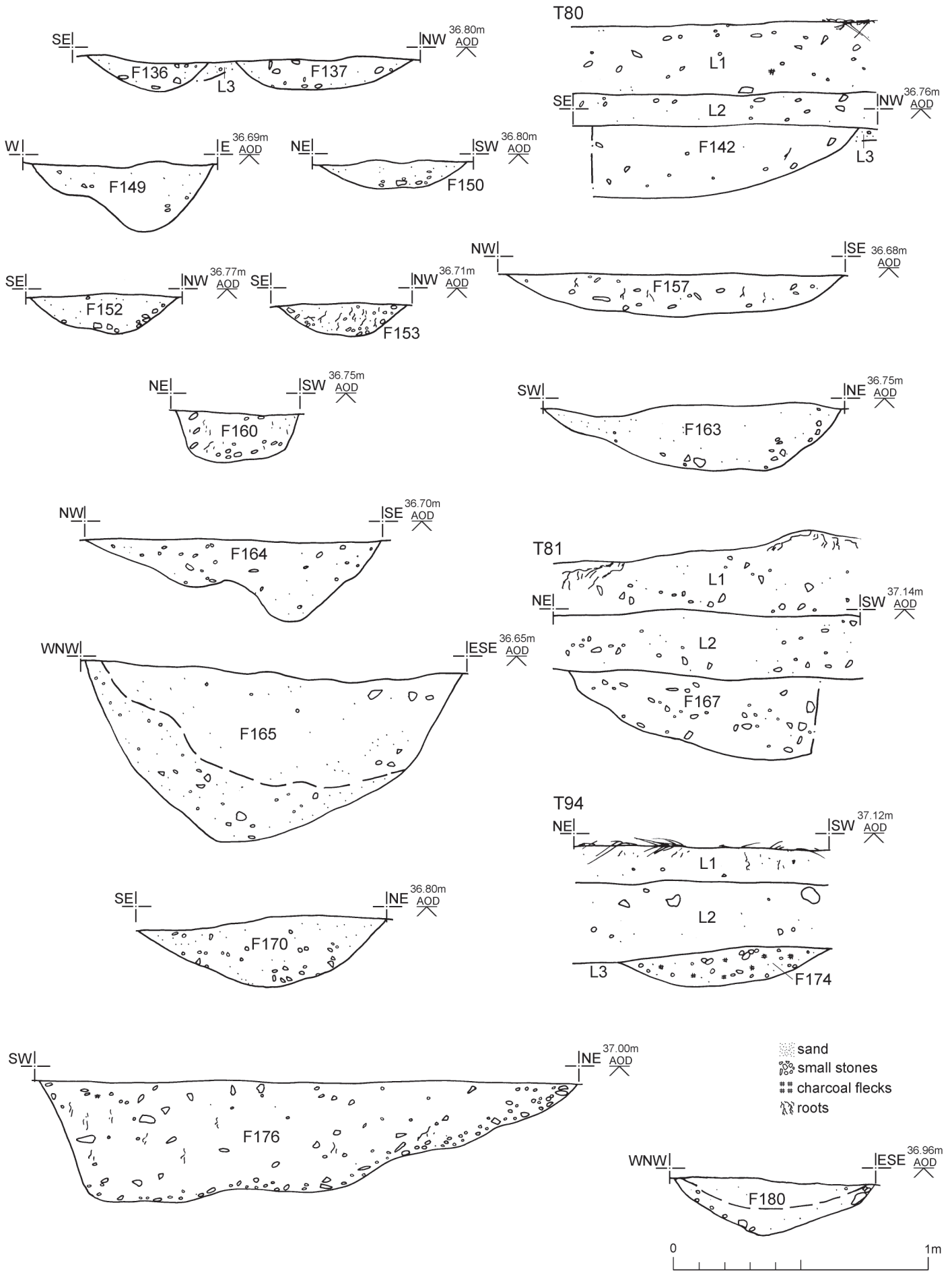


Fig 8 Feature and representative sections.

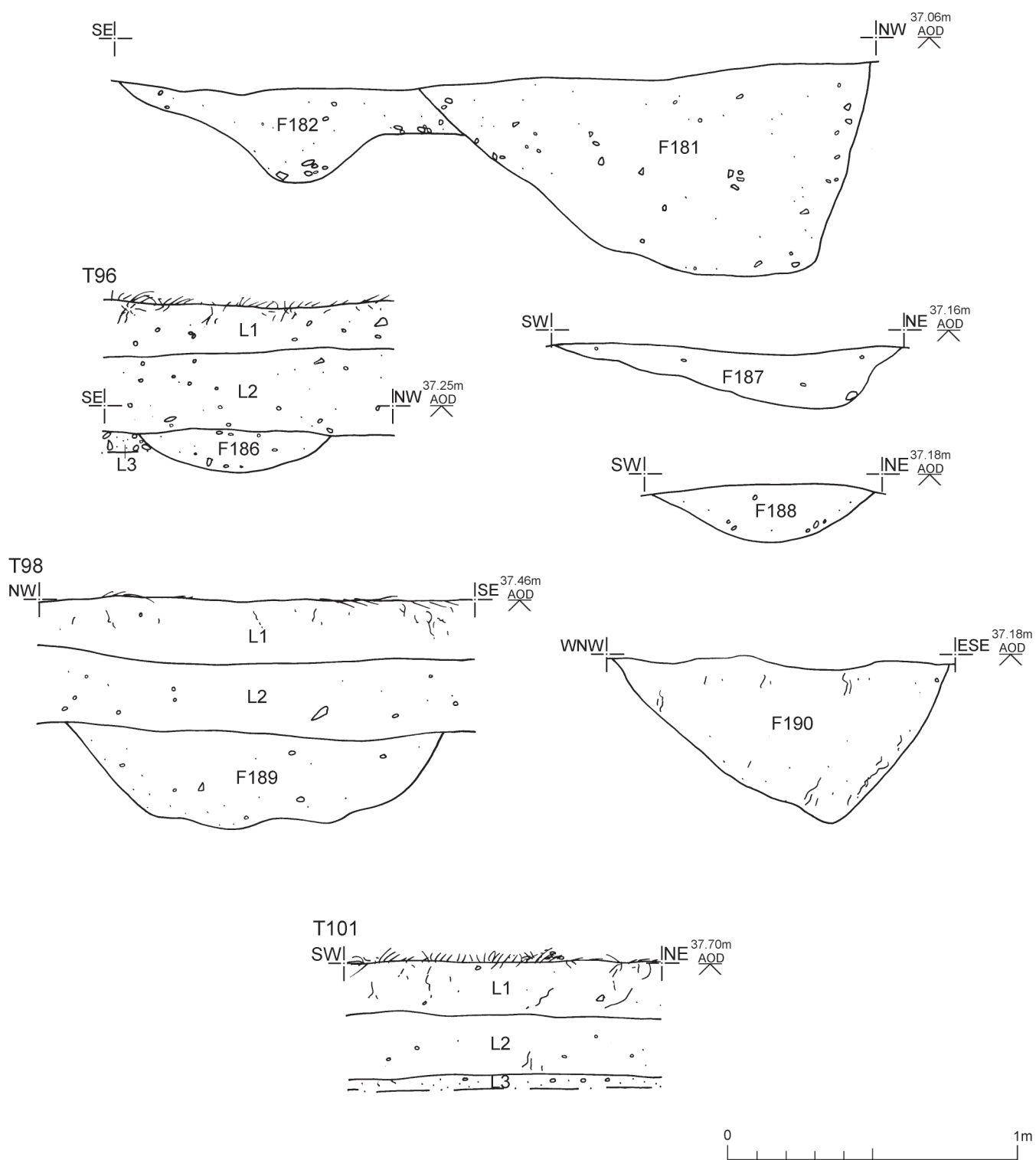


Fig 9 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Phase 2d, Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0QR	
Parish: Stanway	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9562 2350 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2018/12e CHER ref.: ECC4866 OASIS ref.: colchest3-526351
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 22nd July – 1st August 2024	Size of area investigated: 4.36ha (within a total area of 17 ha)
Location of curating museum: Archaeology Data Service Colchester Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number: Phase 1 – ECC3890, ECC4127 Phase 2 – ECC3893, ECC4829
Final report: CAT Report 2080	
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (29 trial-trenches) was undertaken at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Colchester, as part of a phased evaluation scheme in advance of the construction of a new housing estate. This report details the results of Phase 2d of the evaluation. Located close to the nationally important Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks Archaeological Park, the development site is immediately north of three Iron Age enclosures and the Stanway elite burial site of four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures.</p> <p>The Phase 2d evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. Of the 57 features excavated there were 23 ditches/gullies and 34 features identified as pits/tree-throws/silt patches, with another 29 silt patches that were not excavated. Finds were extremely rare with only one sherd of medieval pottery, three very small fragments of ceramic building material (peg-tile and post-medieval/modern brick) and a tiny piece of baked clay recovered. It is highly likely that most, if not all, of the features are associated with agricultural activity at the Fruit Farm.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Reports 1042, 1082, 1221, 1480	
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: 23rd August 2024

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written Scheme of Investigation
for an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2d) at
Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway,
Colchester, CO3 0QR**

June 2024

**CAT project ref.: 2018/12e
CHER code: ECC4866**

**Written Scheme of Investigation
for an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2d) at
Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway,
Colchester, CO3 0QR**

June 2024

NGR: TM 9562 2350

**Planning district.: Colchester
Planning ref.: 182220**

CAT project ref.: 2018/12e

**CHER code: ECC4866
CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett
OASIS id: colchest3- 526351**

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

**commissioned by: B Davies (Mersea Homes) &
S Williams (Hills)
on behalf of: Mersea Homes & Hills Residential Ltd**

Prepared by:	Chloé Hill	Senior Post Excavation Assistant
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Director, Business Operations
Issued:	26/06/2024	

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785
web: www.catuk.org
services@catuk.org

Site location and description (Fig 1)

The site proposed for development is located at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Colchester, CO3 0QR. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 9562 2350.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises part detailed/part outline planning permission for up to 420 residential units, with associated access, parking, servicing, open space and amenity space, landscaping and utilities (details for means of vehicular access to the site only).

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>)).

A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around the development site has already been completed (CAT Report 996, by Howard Brooks 2016).

The following general summary is taken from CAT Report 996 (1):

The proposed development site (PDS) is in an area of the highest archaeological sensitivity, situated west of the late Iron Age and Roman Colchester Dykes and Gosbecks site, and only 600m north of the nationally important Stanway elite burial site. Further, recent excavations on the Fruit Farm immediately south of the PDS have revealed two Iron Age enclosures of the type excavated at Stanway in the 1980s and 1990s.

One of the Iron Age boundaries excavated in 2015 continues north towards the PDS. There is therefore a strong possibility that archaeological features will be present on the PDS – quite possibly an Iron Age enclosure similar to those excavated in 2015.

Two previous surveys coincide partially with the PDS. First, a geophysical survey in 2008, produced no significant results in Field 5 of the 2008 evaluation site, which also forms part of the 2016 PDS. Second, the 2008 evaluation also covered part of the southern edge of the PDS. In fact, this evaluation revealed only seven significant archaeological features, all post-medieval and including at least three possible recent field boundaries.

The following archaeological summary is also taken from CAT Report 996 (22-23):

Prehistory and the Roman period

The proposed development site lies in an area of high archaeological potential, due to its location on the edge of the oppidum of Camulodunum, and close to the Colchester Dykes and the Stanway elite burial site.

The Colchester dykes are among the most important prehistoric monuments in Britain. They define the extent of the pre-Roman 'proto-town' (or oppidum in Latin) of Camulodunum. This was the capital and home of Cunobelin, who was arguably the most important leader in Britain in the decades leading up to the Roman invasion of AD 43.

There have been several studies of and excavations on the dykes, which are described fully in the two principal reference works: Camulodunum, by CFC Hawkes and MR Hull (1947), and Camulodunum 2, Colchester Archaeological Report 11, by CFC Hawkes and Philip Crummy (1995). There is no need to repeat

the detailed accounts which can be found in those volumes, but a brief summary is given here.

Camulodunum, as defined by the dykes, covers approximately 12 square miles of land around modern Colchester's town centre. The only above-ground traces of this oppidum are the linear banks and ditches of the defensive dykes.

As presently understood, the oppidum had two centres of activity: one at modern Gosbecks Farm, which was a Late Iron Age and Roman rural farmstead (and probably the home of Cunobelin); and a second at Sheepen (2km to the north-east of the search area), which was the industrial and trading centre.

Most of the land contained within the dykes was undoubtedly open farmland, pasture or woodland. Dotted around this landscape were other smaller farming sites such as the one at Kirkee & McMunn barracks (TL 987 231: Shimmin 1998) which developed into a Roman villa-type estate, but other similar sites may await discovery.

The potential for the existence of important, previously undiscovered archaeological sites within and close to Camulodunum has now been realised by the 2015 excavations on the Fruit Farm. The existence of important Iron Age remains to the south of the PDS is a strong indicator that important archaeological features may be present on the PDS, perhaps another Iron Age enclosure like the two excavated in 2015.

It should be noted that two previous surveys coincide with the PDS. First, a geophysical survey in 2008, produced no significant results in Field 5 of the 2008 evaluation site, which also forms part of the 2016 proposed development (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2008, page 3 and fig 6). Second, the 2008 evaluation also covered part of the southern edge of the current site (specifically, Trenches 48-58 in Field 5). In fact, this evaluation revealed only seven real archaeological features, all post-medieval and including at least three possible recent field boundaries.

The eastern edge of the site adjoins Grymes Dyke. As this is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), English Heritage (EH) will have a view on this. To follow recent good practice (where the Colchester Garrison PFI development included land adjacent to Berechurch Dyke), EH may be satisfied if a corridor of undeveloped land is left between the dyke and the development. EH should be consulted on this point.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods.

The evidence from Stanway for these periods is largely in the form of place-names such as the early 11th century reference to 'Stanwaegun' (i.e. Stanway), and the names of the Stanway manor house at the time of Domesday – Stanwega and Bertuna. The first almost certainly coincided with Stanway Hall, and the second probably with Olivers (outside our search area at TL 967 214).

The current site probably lay in the lands farmed from the Stanway Hall manor site in the centuries before and following Domesday.

The post-medieval period

The Chapman and André map of 1777 and the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of 1896 show that during the 18th and 19th centuries, Stanway was essentially a rural parish with isolated farms and settlement along the two principal roads – the London Road and the Maldon Road. The major change is the enclosure of Lexden Heath, which formed a substantial part of the parish in 1777. The only visible surviving fragment is the area immediately around Grymes Dyke where it doglegs through Stanway Green. The rest was apparently arable land in 1896. During these centuries, the current site lay in farmland.

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Fiveways Fruit Farm on 11th-13th December 2018 and 27th June- 1st July 2022.

The following summary is taken from CAT Report 1702 on this phase of work:

An archaeological evaluation (22 trial-trenches) was undertaken at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Colchester, as part of a phased evaluation scheme in advance of the construction of up to 420 dwellings. This report details the results of Phases 2b and 2c. The site is located close to Gosbecks Archaeological Park and the nationally important Stanway elite burial site, and immediately to the north of two Middle Iron Age enclosures excavated at the Fruit Farm in 2015. These phases of evaluation revealed 33 features, one of which was prehistoric in date and the rest undated.

The prehistoric feature found during the archaeological evaluation was a pit and contained two sherds of handmade flint-tempered pottery, possibly of Late Bronze Age.

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the site has a bedrock geology of The London Clay Formation which mainly comprises bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey-brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay. The superficial deposits comprises of coversands; periglacial aeolian blanket deposits of lowland areas comprising fine- to very fine-grained sand, usually horizontally bedded although they may form subaerial dunes with large-scale cross-bedding.

Project background

Pre-application advice was sought from the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) in 2016 in relation to a proposed development of Fiveways Fruit Farm. As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological recommendation was made by the CBCAA. This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012, subsequently revised in 2019).

A planning application was then made to Colchester Borough Council in September 2018 (application no. 182220) for *part detailed/part outline planning permission for up to 420 residential units, with associated access, parking, servicing, open space and amenity space, landscaping, and utilities (details for means of vehicular access to the site only)*.

Requirement for work (Fig 3)

Due to current ongoing use of the site as a working fruit farm, a staged approach to the trial-trenched evaluation has been agreed. The Phase 1 trenching and subsequent mitigation was completed prior to the determination of a separate planning application (180873; CAT Reports 1042 and 1221). For Phase 2, 1,975m of trial-trenching was required in advance of the granting of planning consent (followed by 2,585m of trenching post-consent, if planning permission was granted).

An initial programme of Phase 2 trenching was undertaken in November 2016, comprising 1,360m of trenching (Phase 2a CAT Report 1082). Due to site constraints it was not possible to complete all of the pre-consent trenching before the planning decision was made and it was agreed that the remaining pre-consent trenching could be completed as the farmer made new areas available. 200m of trenching (Phase 2b) was completed in December 2018 and a further 420m of trenching (Phase 2c) was completed in June/July 2022. This completed the required pre-consent trenching. The Phase 2c trenching comprised fourteen trenches, one

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

15m trench, three 35m trenches and ten 30m trenches, all 1.8m wide. These were located to provide the best coverage possible whilst avoiding existing buildings, services and access routes.

The archaeological work for Phase 2d will consist of a 5% sample trial-trenched evaluation.

Specifically, CAT proposes to excavate twenty-nine trenches. Twenty-seven trenches will measure 30m long and 1.8 wide, two trenches will measure 20m long and 1.8m wide. This equates to a linear length of 850m covering an area of 1,530m².

The remaining 1,760m of trenching will be undertaken once the developer takes possession of the site.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. If unusual, significant or unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and further archaeological work may be required, which would be the subject of an additional brief.

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.

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 three archaeologists for ten 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).

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) 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

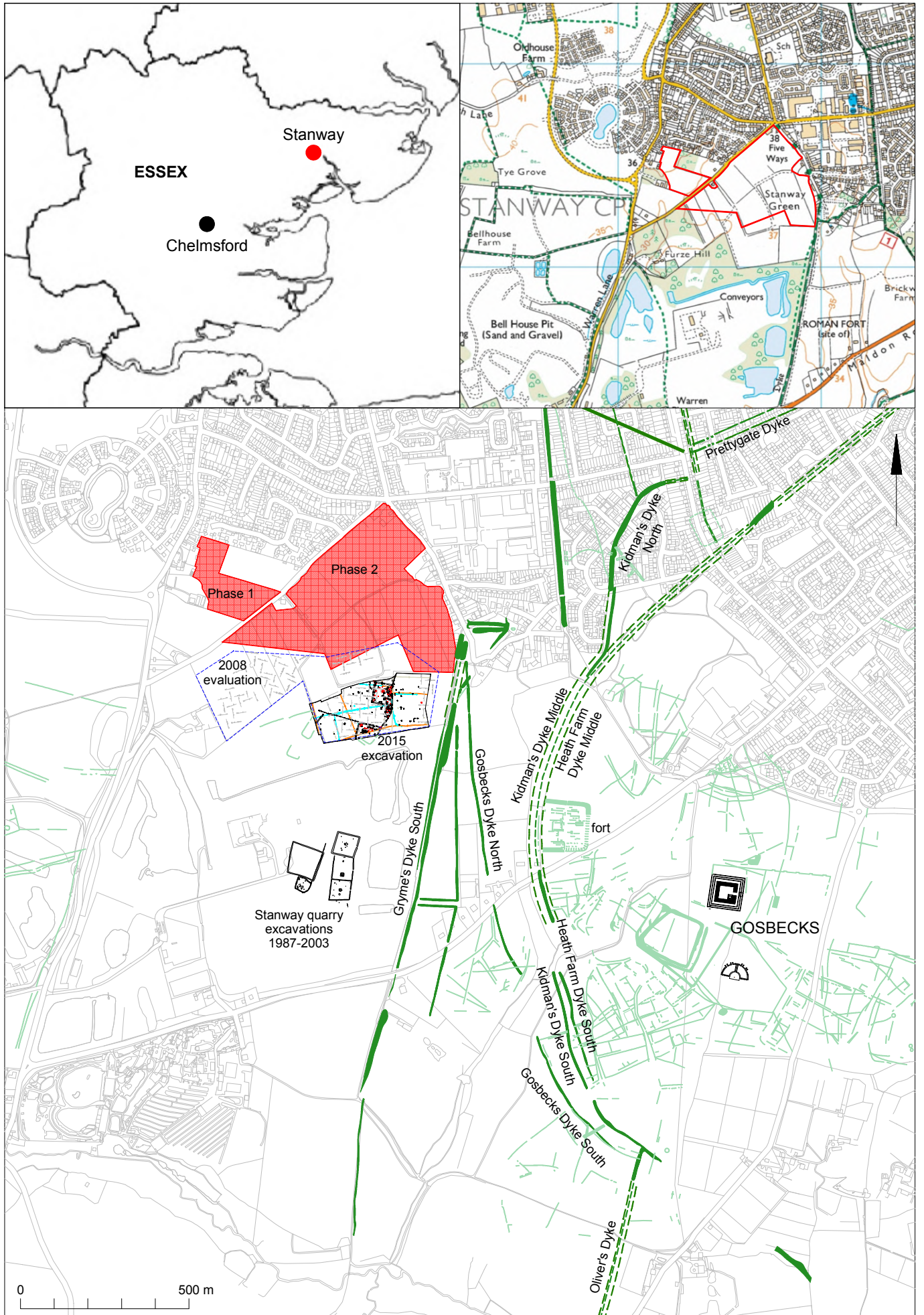
In addition, the CAT website (www.catuk.org) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information 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 & Safety Policy</i>
CAR Report 11	1995	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 11: Camulodunum II</i> , by Hawkes and Crummy
CAT Report 996	1996	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains on and around a site at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Essex</i> by H Brooks
CAT Report 1042	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016</i> by L Pooley
CAT Report 1082	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation on Phase 2 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: November 2016</i> by L Pooley
CAT Report 1221	2018	<i>Archaeological excavation on Phase 1 land at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: January 2018</i> by L Pooley
CAT Report 1702	2022	<i>Archaeological evaluation Phase 2b and 2c at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Essex, CO3 0QR: December 2018 and June-July 2022</i> by Dr Elliott Hicks and Sarah Veasey
CBCAA	2016	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Trial-Trenched Evaluation at Fiveways Fruit</i>

CIfA	2020	<i>Farm, Dyer's Road, Stanway</i> by J Tipper <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 14).
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<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
Hawkes C F C & Hull M R	1995	<i>Camulodunum</i> , Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Volume 14
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</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Shimmin, D	1998	'A late Iron Age and Roman occupation site at Kirkee McMunn Barracks, Colchester', <i>Essex Archaeological and History</i> 29 , 260-269



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Fig 1 Site location, shown in relation to nearby archaeological sites

Fiveways Fruit Farm archaeological trenching

Phase 2 trenching: 5% requirement = 4,560m linear

Completed trenching (Phase 2a) = 1,360m linear (Nov 2016)

Completed trenching (Phase 2b) = 200m linear (Dec 2018)

Completed trenching (Phase 2c) = 390m linear (June 2022)

Proposed trenching (Phase 2d) = 850m linear (shown blue July 2024)

Remaining trenching requirement = 1,760m linear (shown pink)



Fig 2 Colchester Fiveways Fruit Farm Phase 2d EVAL.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-526351

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-526351
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation Phase 2d at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 0QR: July-August 2024
Sitename	Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0BE, United Kingdom
Sitecode	ECC4866
Project Identifier(s)	2018/12e
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	182220
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	22-Jul-2024 - 01-Aug-2024
Location	Fiveways Fruit Farm, Dyers Road, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0BE, United Kingdom NGR : TL 95635 23457 LL : 51.875362, 0.840626 12 Fig : 595635,223457
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Colchester Parish : Stanway
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation Phase 2d (29 trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	<p>An archaeological evaluation (29 trial-trenches) was undertaken at Fiveways Fruit Farm, Stanway, Colchester, as part of a phased evaluation scheme in advance of the construction of a new housing estate. This report details the results of Phase 2d of the evaluation. Located close to the nationally important Iron Age and Roman site at Gosbecks Archaeological Park, the development site is immediately north of three Iron Age enclosures and the Stanway elite burial site of four Late Iron Age funerary enclosures.</p> <p>The Phase 2d evaluation did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. Of the 57 features excavated there were 23 ditches/gullies and 34 features identified as pits/tree-throws/silt patches, with another 29 silt patches that were not excavated. Finds were extremely rare with only one sherd of medieval pottery, three very small fragments of ceramic building material (peg-tile and post-medieval/modern brick) and a tiny piece of baked clay recovered. It is highly likely that most, if not all, of the features are associated with agricultural activity at the Fruit Farm.</p>
Keywords	
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 - ECC4866

Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection);
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