

Colchester Archaeological Trust



CAT Report 2119
issued January 2025

**Archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Thaxted
Road, Debden, Essex, CB11 3LS: December 2024**



CAT project ref.: 2024/11e
ECC code: EEX60791

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Road, Debden, Essex, CB11 3LS: December 2024**

NGR: TL 55882 33117 (centre)

**Planning district: Uttlesford
Planning ref.: UTT/20/0264/OP**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/11e
CAT Report 2119**

**ECC code: EEX60791
OASIS id: colchest3-529993**

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**commissioned by Adam Lewis
on behalf of Ford Homes Limited**

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Issued:	10/01/2025	

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden, Essex, in advance of a new residential development. The site is located immediately south-east of Debden, a medieval village that is centred on the Church of St Mary and All Saints. The evaluation revealed five ditches and three pits, five of which produced sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 11th to the 13th century alongside fragments of animal bone and a piece of lava quern suggesting habitation either on or close to the development site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden, Essex, which took place on the 11th-13th December 2024. The work was commissioned by Adam Lewis of Ford Homes Limited and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust in advance of the construction of 25 new dwellings.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Planning Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) advised that, to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden*, written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2024). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief (CAT 2024a) and approved by the HEA.

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

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

3 Archaeological background

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

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be the Late Cretaceous Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation with the Lowestoft Formation forming superficial deposits. The Lowestoft Formation is a till unit and associated outwash lithofacies and is comprised of chalky till together with sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till covers an extensive area and is distinguished by its chalk and flint content.

The site is located on the south-eastern edge of the historic village of Debden. The centre of the village is focused on the High Street with the prominent church slightly isolated to the west. The Church of St Mary and All Saints is a flint and stone church of c 13th century origin (EHER 333). Archaeological monitoring at the church revealed post-medieval graves and Roman artefacts, including tile and pottery (EHER 18538).

The Chapman and André map of 1777 (see Map 1) shows a linear green running along all the main roads around Debden, including the eastern edge of the site. Village greens usually originated in the medieval period to create areas to protect livestock at night and provide locations for marketplaces. As villages expanded the area of common land extended from the centre along roads. Therefore, dwellings may have potentially existed along the edge of the green.



Map 1 The site (highlighted in red) in relation to the Chapman and André map of 1777.

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

To the south of the development area lies the moated site of Broctons (EHER 47262). The moat is visible on early mapping.

Other developments outside the immediate area have shown that, frequently, occupation from the Middle Bronze Age through to the medieval period is found on rural sites such as this. For a full background of the site see the desk-based assessment (Ashworth 2018).

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-5)

Six trial-trenches, each 30m long and 1.8m wide, were machine excavated under the supervision of CAT archaeologist. Trenches T1 to T5 and the most of T6 cut through topsoil (L1, 0.2-0.3m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.2-0.3m below current ground level, bcgl). The south-eastern portion of trench T6 cut through topsoil (L1, 0.23-0.27m thick) and a subsoil/hillwash (L2, 0.30-0.34m thick) onto natural (L3, reached at a depth of 0.53m bcgl). To confirm that L3 had been correctly identified as natural, sondages were excavated to a depth of approximately 0.6m in T1, T4, T5 and T6. Most archaeological features were sealed by L1 and cut into L3, except for the ditches F5 and F8 in T6, that were sealed by L2. There were no archaeological remains in trenches T1 and T4. A full context list with soil descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 2

Ditch F3, aligned east-north-east/west-south-west, was uncovered close to the northern end of the trench and was 2.6m wide. It was excavated to a depth of 0.94m (due to safe working depths) but the base of the feature was not identified. The ditch had steep sloping sides, a wide flat base and contained multiple fills which may indicate the ditch had been re-cut at least once. Finds recovered included medieval pot sherds, animal bone and a fragment of lava quern.

Ditch F7 was on a similar orientation to F3, about 9m apart. The two ditches might be contemporary but at 1.2m wide and 0.39m deep, F3 is considerably smaller than F7. Ditch F7 had slightly irregular sloping edges and a concave base. It did not produce any finds.

Pit F6 was a sub-circular feature, 0.99m by 0.93m wide and 0.24m deep, with irregular edges and somewhat flattened base. The feature yielded medieval pottery.



Photograph 1 Ditch F3, looking west.



Photograph 2 Pit F6 and ditch F7, looking south-south-east.



Photograph 6 Pit F1, looking east.



Photograph 4 Ditch F4, looking north.

Trench 3

Undated pit F1 was located close to the centre of the trench. It was sub-oval in plan, 1.09m by 0.82m and 0.28m deep.

Trench 5

Ditch F4, on north/south alignment, was 2.7m wide by at least 0.43m in depth, but waterlogging meant the base of the feature was not established. The ditch contained medieval pottery and animal bone.

Trench 6

To the north, undated ditch F2 was 0.9m wide and 0.28m deep and was orientated north-east/south-west. Ditches F5 and F8 to the south were both aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and based on their location, probably represent successive phases of boundary ditch along the roadside. Ditch F5 was 1.6m wide by 0.55m deep. Ditch F8 extended beyond the limits of the evaluation trench, it was at least 0.8m wide and 0.35m deep. All three ditches produced medieval pottery, with animal bone also recovered from F5 and F8.



Photograph 5 Ditch F5, looking south.



Photograph 6 Ditch F8, looking south.



Photograph 7 Trench 4, looking east.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of medieval pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 106 pieces with a weight of 1.1kg, EVE of 1.13 and mean sherd weight of 10.8g (Table 1). This material was recovered from six features.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	101	993	9.8	1.13
CBM	5	153	30.6	-
All	106	1,146	10.8	1.13

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Medieval pottery (Fig 6)

Medieval pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) (Table 2).

The assemblage consists of 101 sherds with a weight of 993g, EVE of 1.13 and MSW of 9.8g (Table 3). This assemblage was recovered from six features (Table 4) and dates from the 11th into the 13th century.

Early medieval sandy wares (fabric F13) and related wares (fabrics F13S, F13T) account for the majority of the assemblage while medieval sandy greywares (fabric F20), dating to c 1150-1375/1400, are also well-represented (Table 3). Rare sherds of early medieval shelly wares without sand (fabric F12A), Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) and Hedingham ware (fabric F22) were also noted.

Medieval cooking pots account for the majority of the identifiable vessels and include examples of Cotter's types A4B, B2, B2A, C1 and H1 (Cotter 2000, 47-50 fig. 27) (Table 5). The latest cooking pots are those of types B2A and H1 which date from c 1150/1175 (Cotter 2000, fig. 27) and came from ditches F3 and F4. Finally, an early medieval sandy wares transitional (fabric F13T) jug was recovered from ditch F3. Early medieval jugs only become common during the course of the 12th century (Cotter 2000, 55).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F12A	Early medieval shelly wares without sand	1000-1225
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	1000-1225
F13S	Early Medieval sandy shell dusted wares	1000-1225
F13T	Early Medieval sandy wares transitional	1100-1225
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	c 1150-1375/1400
F21	Colchester-type ware	1200-1550

F22	Hedingham ware	c 1140-1325/1350
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Table 2 Pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F12A	Early medieval shelly wares without sand	1	6	6.0	0.00
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	61	316	5.2	0.53
F13S	Early Medieval sandy shell dusted wares	3	23	7.7	0.08
F13T	Early Medieval sandy wares transitional	9	396	44.0	0.52
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	25	237	9.5	0.00
F21	Colchester-type ware	1	10	10.0	0.00
F22	Hedingham ware	1	5	5.0	0.00
Total		101	993	9.8	1.13

Table 3 Summary of the medieval pottery.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F2	Pit	1	6	6.0	0.00
F3	Ditch	35	653	18.7	0.45
F4	Ditch	22	130	5.9	0.36
F5	Ditch	34	137	4.0	0.28
F6	Pit	4	24	6.0	0.00
F8	Ditch	5	43	8.6	0.04
Total		101	993	9.8	1.13

Table 4 Quantities of medieval pottery from specific features.

Fabric Group	Form	EVE
F13	All	0.53
	COOKING POT	0.05
	COOKING POT B2	0.04
	COOKING POT B2A	0.28
	COOKING POT C1	0.16
F13S	All	0.08
	COOKING POT A4B	0.08
F13T	All	0.52
	COOKING POT C1	0.18
	COOKING POT H1	0.08
	JUG	0.26
Total		1.13

Table 5 Medieval pottery quantification via vessel form.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

CBM consist of five fragments with a weight of 153g which was recovered from two features (Table 6). One piece of Roman tegula (147g) came from the ditch F3 while four sherds (6g) of baked clay came from ditch F5.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)
F3	Ditch	1	147	147
F5	Ditch	4	6	2
Total		5	153	30.6

Table 6 Quantities of CBM from specific features.

Conclusion

All features which produced datable ceramics date to the medieval period, specifically the 11th to the 13th century.

6.2 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of animal bone amounting to 45 pieces weighing a total of 292g. This material was recovered from four ditches of medieval date, F3, F4, F5 and F8. The condition of the bone varied between features. The material from ditches F3 and F4 was in poor to fair condition with a predominantly natural colour, whilst that from the other features was notably more degraded, and in the case of F6, also slightly discoloured, perhaps due to differing ground conditions. The usual domesticated species of horse, cattle, sheep/goat (no distinction being possible due to a lack of diagnostic features), and pig were all identified within the assemblage.

Perhaps slightly unusually, given the limited quantity of animal bone recovered by the evaluation, the wild species of Roe deer was represented by fragments of two left mandibles in the fill of ditch F5. Roe deer are one of the two deer species native to the British Isles (the other being Red deer).

Signs of dog gnawing were noted on three bone fragments from ditches F3 and F8. Only one possible cut or chop mark was identified in the assemblage, affecting a horse first phalange from ditch F3. It is however likely that this mark may be the result of excavation damage. A small diaphysis fragment from ditch F8 may have derived from a possible neonatal individual (indeterminate species) but the poor general condition of the bone makes this determination difficult.

Context	Find no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F3	3	1	28	Equus (horse)	1 first phalange fragment. Possible vertical chop on medial side of proximal articulation – may be excavation damage?
		1	6	Ovis/capra (sheep or goat)	1 distal tibia (fused epiphysis).
		2	82	Sus (pig)	2 mandible fragments (both from the right mandible, lightly dog gnawed). Roots of M1 and M2? are present but teeth are broken.
F3 Total		4	116		
F4	4	6	24	Cow or horse size	6 skull fragments.
		2	2	Unidentified	2 unidentified fragments.
F4 Total		8	26		
F5	7	4	6	Capreolus (Roe deer)	1 mandible (Left, P3, P4, M1, M2, M3 not in jaw). 1 mandible (Left, P4, M1). Both mandibles and teeth in very poor condition.
		1	10	Cow or horse size	1 fragment, very poor condition. Surface cracking.
		9	10	Sheep or goat size	1 atlas fragment. 1 mandible fragment. 3 diaphysis fragments. 4 undiagnostic fragments.
		3	4	Unidentified	3 fragments.
F5 Total		17	30		
F8	6	3	64	Bos (cattle)	2 ulna fragments (1 dog gnawed). 1 distal radius fragment (fused epiphysis).
		6	48	Cow or horse size	5 diaphysis fragments. 1 proximal metapodial fragment?
		7	8	Unidentified	6 undiagnostic fragments. 1 possible neo-natal diaphysis fragment – possible pig?
F8 Total		16	120		
Total		45	292		

Table 7 Animal bone listed by context.

6.3 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley and Patrick Spencer

A small fragment of lava quern stone (46.5g), with no original surfaces surviving, came from F3 (finds no.2).

Three fragments of presumably Upper-Chalk-derived belemnite guard were recovered from F3 (finds no. 3) and F4 (finds no. 4).

7 Conclusion

Trial-trenching on land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden, revealed five ditches and three pits. Medieval pottery was recovered from four of the ditches and a pit. Dating from the 11th to the 13th century, medieval cooking pots account for the majority of the identifiable vessels which also included a jug. Alongside the pottery, the assemblage of animal bone (horse, cattle, sheep/goat, pig and Roe deer) and fragment of lava quern show that people were living either on or very close to the development site.

Parallel ditches F3 and F7 could be contemporary and at 9m apart may represent a trackway or driveway. However, the ditches were considerably different in size and no finds were recovered from F7. The size, orientation and position of ditches F5 and F8 to the south of the site would suggest that they are successive phases of boundary ditch aligned along the medieval roadside.

All of the features and finds were located in the eastern half of the development site where you might expect to find roadside activity and/or habitation. Should further archaeological investigation of the site be required, it should aim to determine if this is a largely agricultural landscape with waste being dumped here from nearby, or if people were living and working on the site.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Adam Lewis and Ford Homes Limited for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner and H Furniss with S Kumar and M Perou. Figures are by Z Eksen and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECC by Katie Lee-Smith.

9 References

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

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to 1540
modern	period from AD 1901 to the present

natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from AD 1540 to 1900
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: part of one box

Digital record:

CAT Report 2119

ECC Brief, CAT WSI

Digital photographs

Site data

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 Saffron Walden Museum (the finds) and the Archaeology Data Service (digital archive).

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Distribution list:

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Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench no.	Finds no.	Interpretation	Context information	Period
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Friable, moist, dark, grey-brown clayey silt, with 2% stones.	Modern
L2	T6	-	Subsoil	Firm, dry, medium brown-black clayey silt, with 2% stones.	Undated
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm/hard light yellow/orange-brown clayey silt with 5% stones and frequent chalk inclusions.	Post-glacial
F1	T3	-	Pit	Firm, moist, light grey-brown silty-clay with rare small stones.	Undated
F2	T6	1	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey-brown silty-clay with 5% stones.	Undated
F3	T2	2, 3	Ditch	Fill 1: Mottled dark yellow/grey/brown clayey silt. Fill 2: Dark grey-brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and chalk fragment inclusions. Fill 3: Mottled dark yellow/grey/brown clayey silt. Common chalk fragments. Occasional charcoal flecking. Fill 4: Dark yellow-brown clay. Fill 5: Medium greyish-white clayey silt. Frequent chalk fragments. Occasional charcoal fragments. Fill 6: Dark yellow-brown clay.	Medieval
F4	T5	4	Ditch	Firm, wet, medium grey-brown silty-clay with 5% stones and charcoal inclusions.	Medieval
F5	T6	7, 8, 9	Ditch	Fill 1: Friable, wet, dark-grey clayey silt with infrequent small- to medium-sized stones. Occasional CBM. Fill 2: Wet, medium orange-brown clayey silt with charcoal, daub and CBM fragments. Some root traces.	Medieval
F6	T2	5	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey-brown silty-clay, with 2% stones and 5% charcoal fragments. Rare chalk fragment inclusions.	Medieval
F7	T2	-	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey-brown silty-clay with 3% stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.	Undated

F8	T6	6	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium brown-grey silty-clay with occasional small stones and chalk and charcoal fragment inclusions.	Medieval
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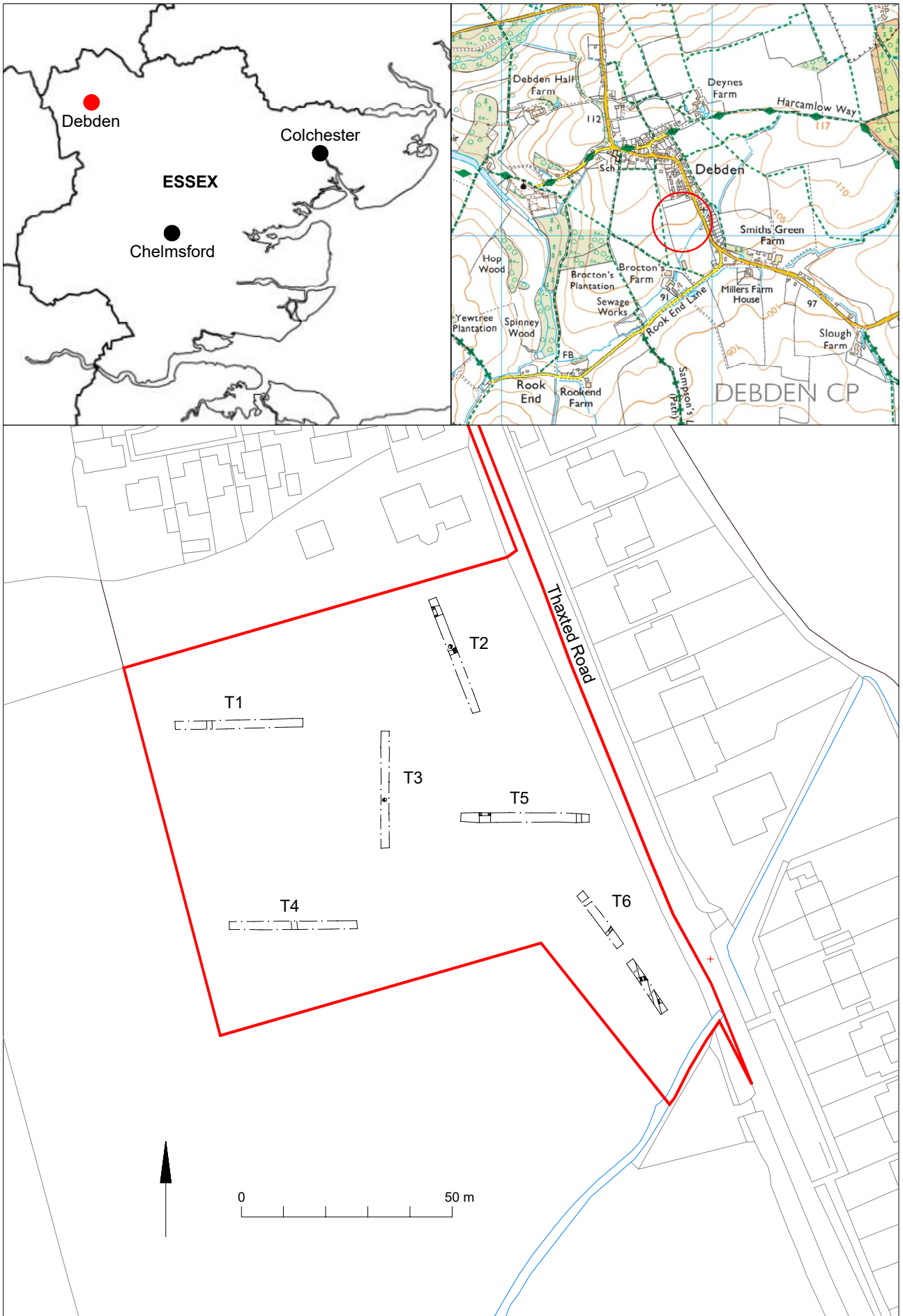
Appendix 2 Pottery list

Context	Feature type	F ind number	NR	GR	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wmd	Sooting (ext)	Charing (int)	Burning	Mistired	Sandwick fabric	Overfired	Fabric Group	Typology	Function	EVE	Diam	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F2	PIT	1	1	6	6												F20						1150	1375/1400
F3	DITCH	2	1	8	8												F20						1150	1375/1400
F3	DITCH	2	1	5	5												F22					? GREEN GLAZE. PALE OR, NOT MICACEOUS COARSER HED?	1140	1325/1350
F3	DITCH	2	4	35	9		0	0	3		X		X				F13						1000	1225
F3	DITCH	2	2	17	9		2	0	0								F13	COOKING POT C1	COOKING POT	0.06	230		1000	1225
F3	DITCH	2	2	67	34		1	0	0		X						F13T	COOKING POT H1	COOKING POT	0.08	210		1150/1175	1225
F3	DITCH	3	4	82	21		0	0	2	X							F20						1150	1375/1400
F3	DITCH	3	7	53	8		0	0	2		X						F20						1150	1375/1400
F3	DITCH	3	1	260	260		1	0	0								F13T	JUG	JUG	0.26	110	BUFF PALE BR	1125/1150	1225
F3	DITCH	3	1	12	12								X				F20						1150	1375/1400
F3	DITCH	3	1	7	7		0	0	1	X			X				F20						1150	1375/1400
F3	DITCH	3	1	7	7		0	0	1								F20						1150	1375/1400
F3	DITCH	3	2	37	19										X		F13T					GREY SURF, OR MARGIN, GREY CORE, OF F13?	1125	1225
F3	DITCH	3	2	13	7		1	0	0		X						F13	COOKING POT	COOKING POT	0.05	240		1000	1225
F3	DITCH	3	1	7	7												F13						1000	1225
F3	DITCH	3	1	4	4								X				F13						1000	1225
F3	DITCH	3	1	10	10												F21					? , MORE OR, HARDER, SPLASH GLAZE	1100/1200	1550
F3	DITCH	3	1	13	13												F13						1000	1225
F3	DITCH	3	1	5	5												F13					FINER SAND, SOME MICA	1000	1225
F3	DITCH	3	1	11	11					X			X				F13					F13i EMW INCLUSION FREE (WALKER 2004), FINE SAND SOME MICA	1000	1225
F4	DITCH	4	1	6	6												F12A						1000	1225
F4	DITCH	4	9	47	5		0	0	3		X		X				F13						1000	1225
F4	DITCH	4	3	23	8		1	0	0								F13S	COOKING POT A4B	COOKING POT	0.08	190	PLAIN INCIPIENT BEAD	1000	1200/1225

F4	DITCH	4	9	54	6		3	0	0	X				F13	COOKING POT B2A	COOKING POT	0.28	130	BURN TOP RIM SIM COTTER 1999 FIG.24.34	1150/1175	1225
F5	DITCH	7	3	8	3					X				F13					THIN-W, BR/OR GREY CORE, FINER TEMP	1000	1225
F5	DITCH	7	18	54	3					X				F13					THIN-W, BR/OR GREY CORE, FINER TEMP, BURNT INT	1000	1225
F5	DITCH	7	1	18	18		1	0	0					F13	COOKING POT C1	COOKING POT	0.10	180	BR, BR/BL CORE, FINER TEMPER, CABLED RIM	1000	1225
F5	DITCH	8	2	5	3					X				F13					F13i EMW INCLUSION FREE (WALKER 2004) OR/RED GR/BL CORE	1000	1225
F5	DITCH	9	2	6	3									F13						1000	1225
F5	DITCH	9	5	17	3									F20						1150	1375/1400
F5	DITCH	9	3	29	10		2	0	0	X	X			F13T	COOKING POT C1	COOKING POT	0.18	120		1100	1225
F6	PIT	5	3	21	7		0	0	2		X			F20						1150	1375/1400
F6	PIT	5	1	3	3									F13T					BUFF/PALE BR	1100	1225
F8	DITCH	6	1	24	24		0	0	1		X			F20						1150	1375/1400
F8	DITCH	6	4	19	5		1	0	0		X			F13	COOKING POT B2	COOKING POT	0.04	210		1075/1100	1225

Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	Animal	Shoe	Other	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	PH diam. mm	L.	BR.	TH.	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Start Date	End Date
F3	DITCH	3	1	147	147		RT			0	55	27	23																	43	425
F5	DITCH	7	4	6	2		BAKED CLAY			0																				?	?



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Fig 1 Site location.

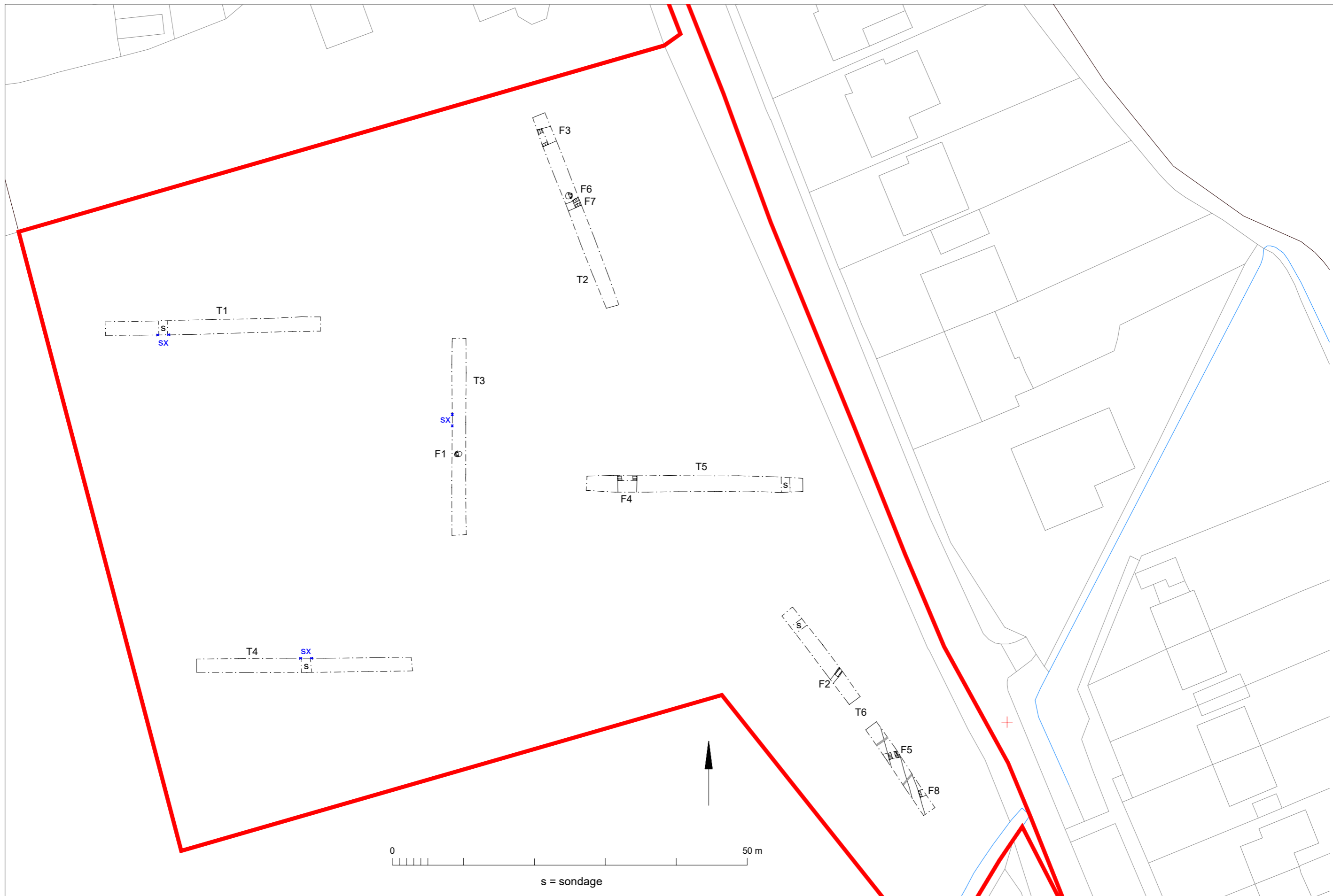


Fig 2 Results.

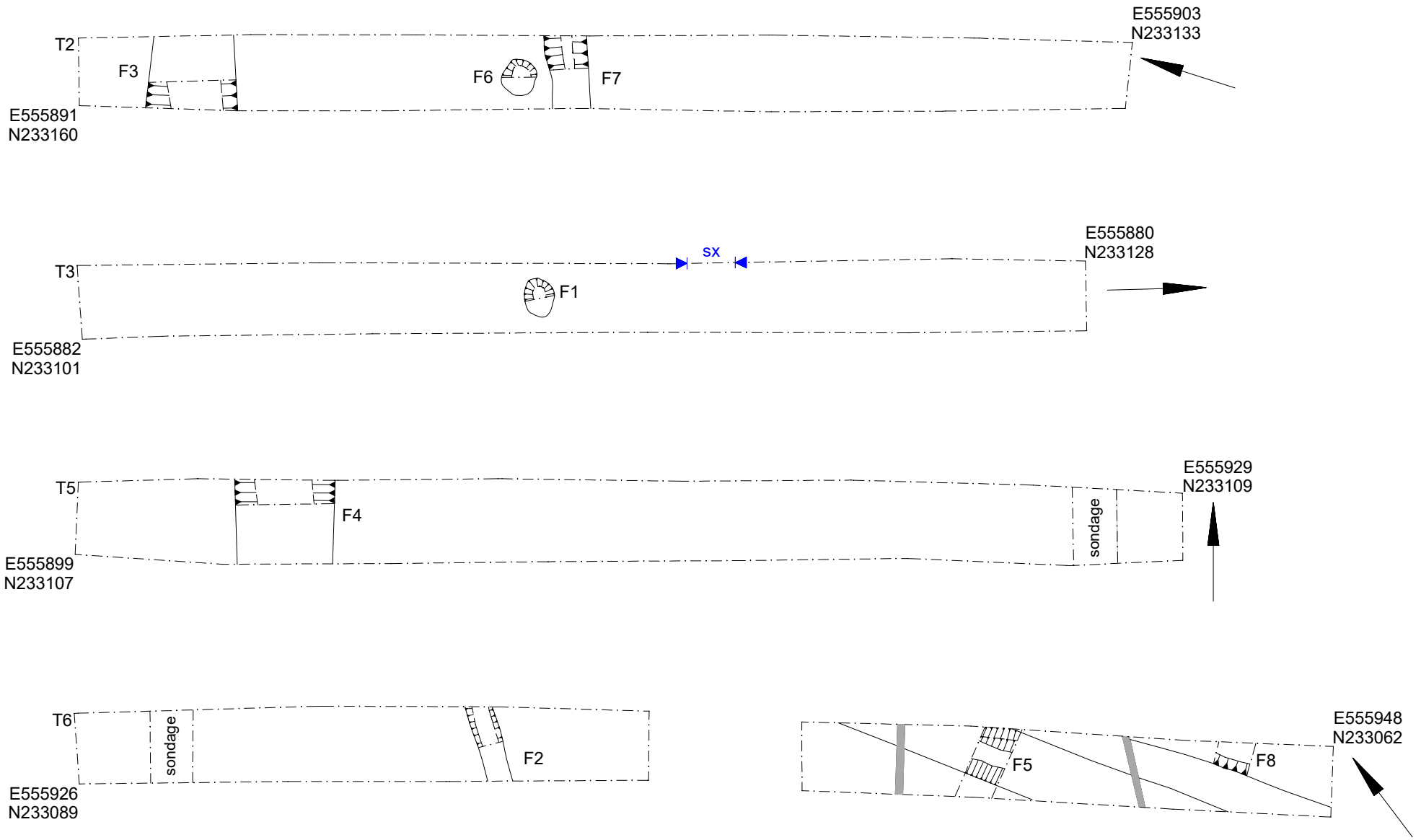


Fig 3 Trench results (modern services in grey).

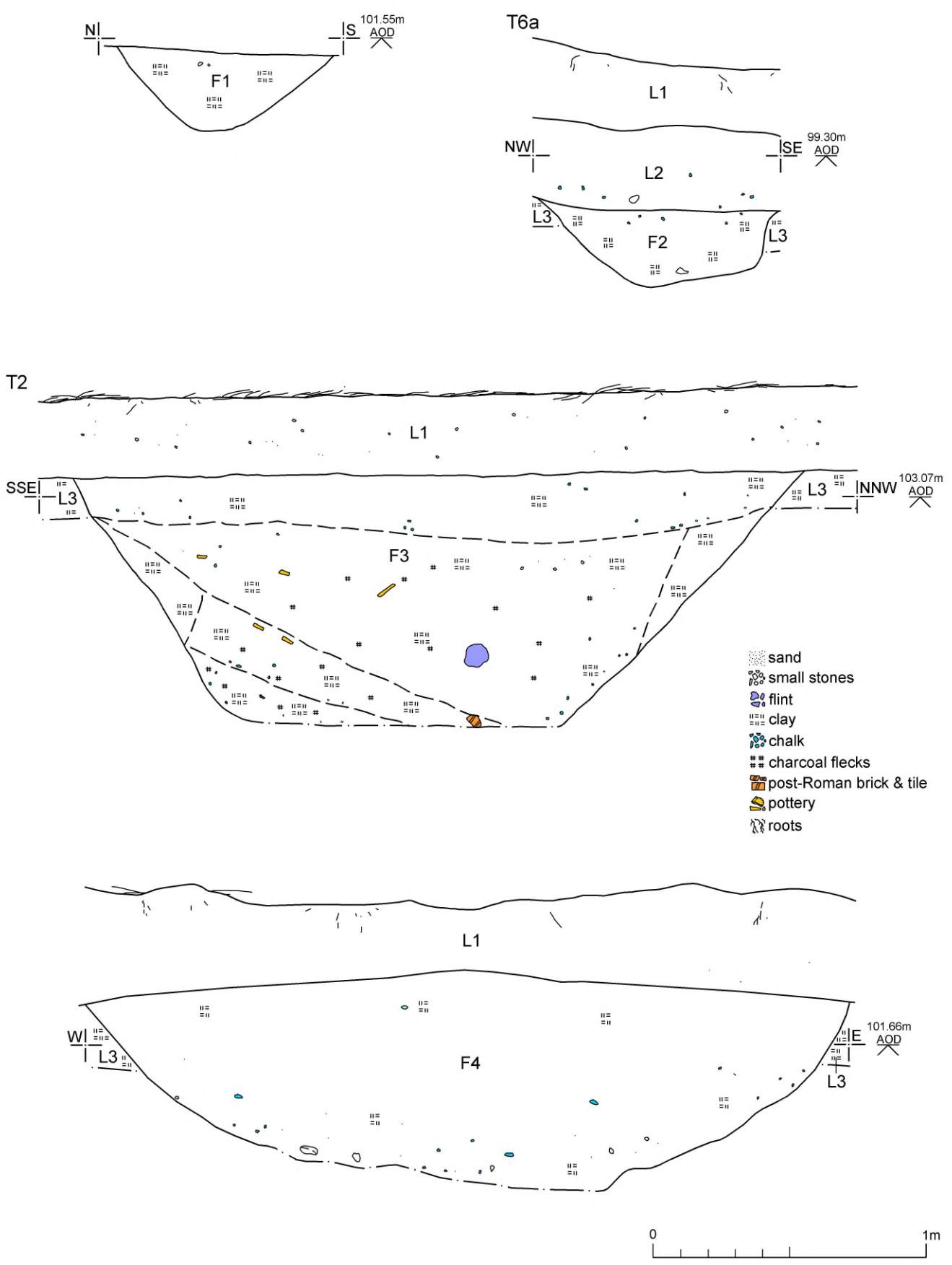


Fig 4 Feature sections.

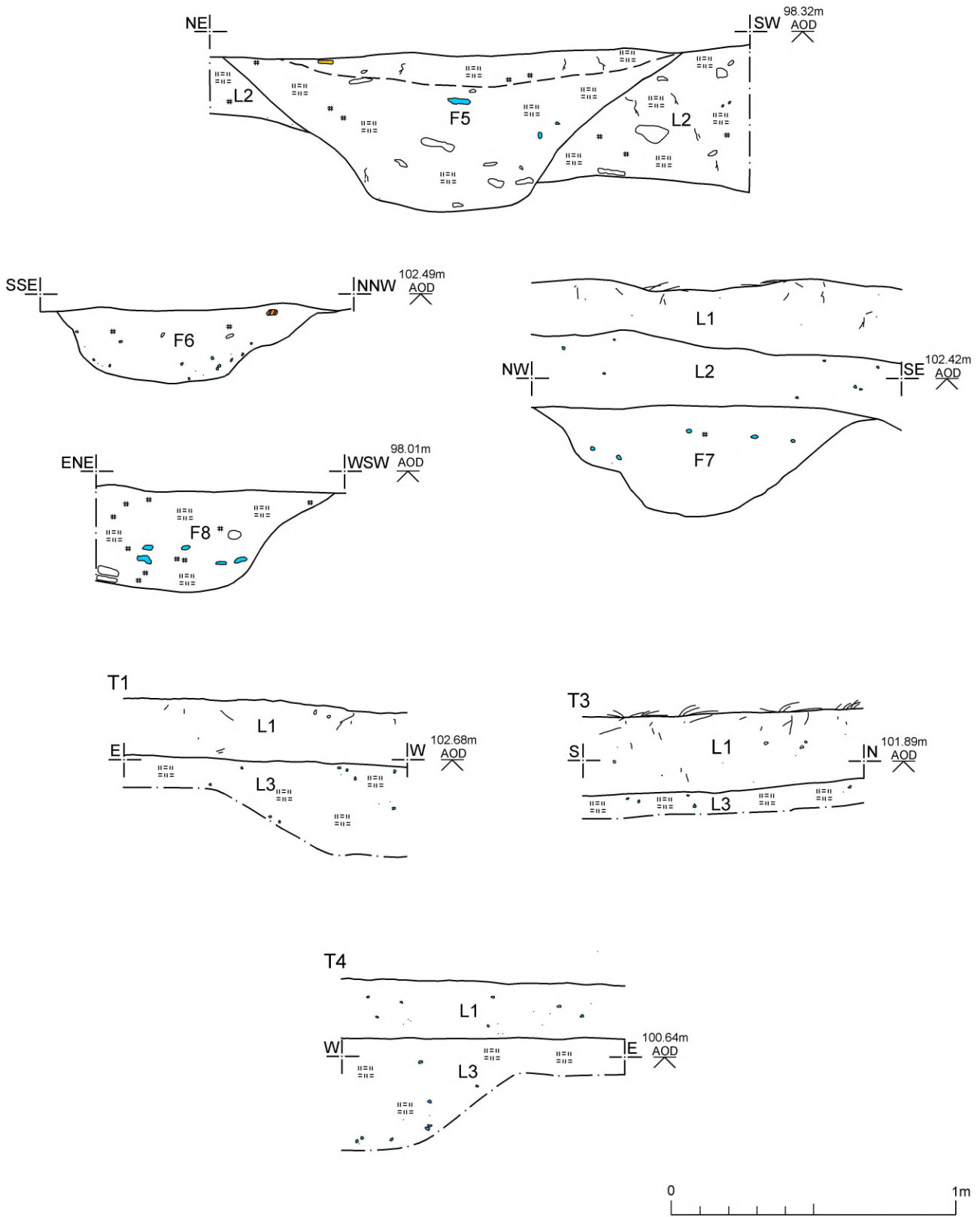


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

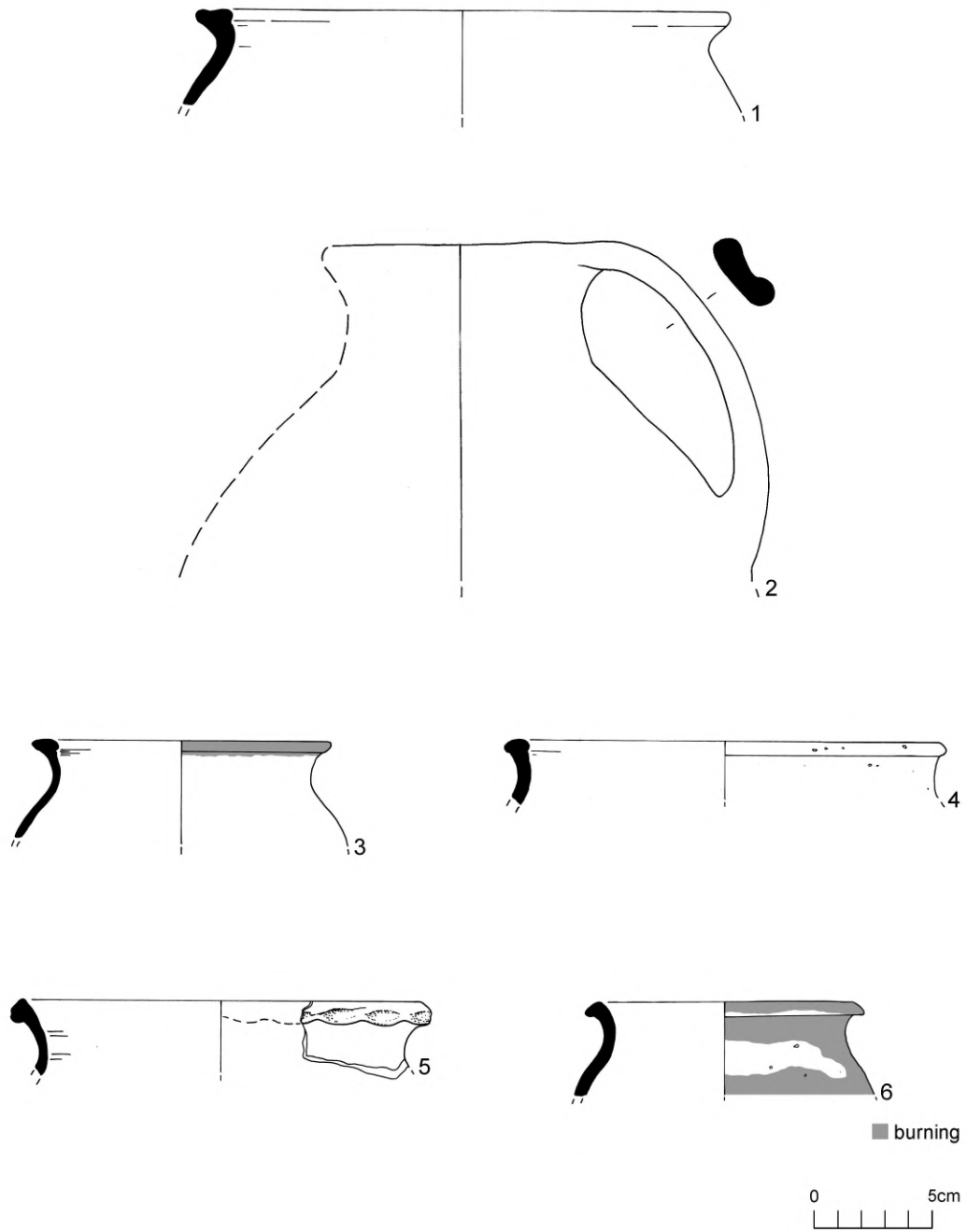


Fig 6 Medieval pottery from F3 (1-2), F4 (3-4) and F5 (5-6).

OASIS Summary for colchest3-529993

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-529993
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden, Essex, CB11 3LS: December 2024
Sitename	Land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden, Essex, CB11 3LS
Sitecode	EEX60791
Project Identifier(s)	2024/11e
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	UTT/20/0264/OP, UTT/23/0878/DFO
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	11-Dec-2024 - 13-Dec-2024
Location	Land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden, Essex, CB11 3LS NGR : TL 55882 33117 LL : 51.974661142979784, 0.268044250695869 12 Fig : 555882,233117
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Uttlesford Parish : Debden
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the west of Thaxted Road, Debden, Essex, in advance of a new residential development. The site is located immediately south-east of Debden, a medieval village that is centred on the Church of St Mary and All Saints. The evaluation revealed five ditches and three pits, five of which produced sherds of medieval pottery dating from the 11th to the 13th century alongside fragments of animal bone and a piece of lava quern suggesting habitation either on or close to the development site.
Keywords	Ditch - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Cooking Vessel - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Jug - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Animal Remains - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Vessel - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Tegula - ROMAN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Rotary Quern - MEDIEVAL - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation developer
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - EEX60791

Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive - to be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum;
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Report generated on: 11 Feb 2025, 13:53