

**Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation:
Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road,
Dedham, Essex**

May 2015



**report prepared by
Ben Holloway**

**on behalf of
Hills Building Group**

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CAT Report 842
June 2015

1 Summary

This site is on the eastern edge of the built-up area of Dedham, whose historic core lies approximately 400m to the NW. The site is an 'L' shaped area of open ground, currently a small holding and recently paddocks and buildings for livestock.

A significant area of cropmarks lies to the north and east of this site (ESSEX HER MEX9725 and MEX9645). Although mostly unexcavated, these include field systems and burial mounds. Those cropmark sites which have been excavated include a Late Iron Age / Roman enclosure, and a Bronze Age burial site.

Ten evaluation trenches (1.8m wide, and total length, 200m) positioned across the area of the proposed development identified eighteen archaeological features. These were a Middle Iron Age ditch, ten post-medieval pits and a ditch, and seven undated features (of which two may be prehistoric, and five may be post-medieval). One of the post-medieval ditches aligns with current property boundaries running south of Manningtree Road. This, along with a ditch in an adjacent trench, may be part of a farm trackway grubbed out before the 1870s (nothing shows here on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey).

The Middle Iron Age ditch may be part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east of this site. There is one plotted cropmark line which heads towards the eastern site boundary, but it would need to change direction to be on the same alignment as the ditch excavated at Hallfields. Two other (undated) features may be prehistoric, and part of the cropmark complex.

None of the exposed features is worthy of preservation in situ.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological evaluation at Hallfields Farm, Dedham, Essex, which was carried out by CAT on 13th-14th May 2015. The work was commissioned by Hills Building Group, in advance of residential development.

Site centre is TM 061 328.

A planning application has not yet been submitted to the LPA (there have been two previous applications on the site - 112426/131074). A discussion with Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) identified that this site is within an area of significant archaeological potential, and that archaeological work would be required prior to construction, in line with advice given in *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

A brief detailing the required archaeological work (an evaluation by trial-trenching) was written by CBCAA, Dr Jess Tipper (CBC 2015). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by CAT in response to the CBCAA brief and agreed with CBCAA (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

Post-excavation work was carried out in May and June 2015.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

A desk-based assessment of the site was commissioned by Hills Building Group and carried out by CAT in May 2014 (CAT Report 772). Below is a summary:

Approximately 400m to the NW of the site lies the medieval town of Dedham (and the 'ham' name suggests it has Anglo-Saxon origins). The medieval town of Dedham rose to prominence with the cloth trade, specialising in bay and say cloth. It contains a wealth of 14th century and later buildings, and retains its medieval street pattern and morphology. However, the proposed development will have no effect on the medieval town because it is too far away. Indeed, map evidence shows that Manningtree Road and the southern part of Brook Street were not built up until the late 18th or 19th century.

To the east of Dedham is an important 'cropmark' landscape. Most of the cropmarks are unexcavated and undated, but where excavation has taken place, Bronze Age (2,500-700 BC) and early Roman (1st century AD) material has come to light. The nearest significant cropmark sites (indicating the presence of enclosures and ring-ditches and therefore a Bronze Age barrow cemetery) are approximately 150m - 200m from the Application Site.

These crop marks are recorded in the National mapping programme (Essex HER: MEX9725 and MEX9645).

4 Results (Figs 2 - 3)

The site is currently open ground, recently used as a paddock to house livestock.

The evaluation trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator, through two layers: L1 - a modern topsoil 250-600mm thick, and L2 - an accumulation of silt/clay 340-400mm thick (L2). L2 sealed natural geological deposits (L3).

Eighteen archaeological features were uncovered - three post-medieval pits, one post-medieval ditch, and one Iron Age ditch. The other features were undated, but given the proximity of post-medieval structures (all around the edge and within the site) a post-medieval date may be suggested for these.

Below is a summary of the evaluation trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating.

Trench 1: summary

T1, located on the northern site edge as close to the existing street frontage as was practical, contained shallow post-medieval/modern pits (F1-2) and undated pit (F3). This trench was noticeably deeper than the other trenches (0.82m). The area around T1 had been used as a cattle yard in the past (tenant, pers comm). This may account for the build-up in ground as the yard was consolidated due to erosion by animal activity.

Trench1: contexts and dating

Context	description	dated finds	Date
F1	pit	peg-tile	post-medieval/modern
F2	pit	peg-tile	post-medieval/modern
F3	pit	-	undated, presumed post medieval/modern

Trench 2: summary

T2, located in the north-eastern part of the site, was split into two to avoid service runs. The northern part of the trench contained no archaeological features. The southern end contained an undated ditch (F5), and a modern service associated with the farm buildings to the south.

Trench 2: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F5	ditch	-	undated

Trench 3: summary

T3, located in the centre of the site, contained six post-medieval or modern features. At its south end were post-holes F12-F15. These are undoubtedly modern because they still contained traces of the wooded posts which once stood here. Only F14 was excavated - it had a regular square profile.

Pit F11 contained clinker and brick fragments (not recovered) and a post-medieval sherd. Give its position, it may also have been a post-pit.

Pit F16 contained a comparatively recent animal burial, a medium mammal (either pig or sheep). This was not fully excavated, for health reasons.

Trench 3: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F11	pit	post-medieval sherd (Fabric 40), 16th-18th century	post-medieval/modern
F12	post-hole	-	undated, but modern
F13	post-hole	-	undated, but modern
F14	post-hole	-	undated, but modern
F15	post-hole	-	undated, but modern
F16	animal burial	-	modern

Trench 4: summary

T4 was located on the western site edge. The trench contained no significant archaeological material, although the majority of the trench was filled with a modern midden deposit - large amounts of pottery glass and other material dating from the early-mid 20th century (not recovered). F4 was directly sealed by modern topsoil L1 and cut both the accumulation horizon L2 and natural geological deposits L3.

Trench 4: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F4	midden pit	-	modern

Trench 5: summary

T5, located in the north-eastern part of the site, contained an undated ditch, F10. Its NE/SW alignment is not in keeping with the post-medieval alignment of field boundaries here, so it is possible this is a Roman or prehistoric ditch .

Trench 5: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F10	ditch	-	undated (Roman or prehistoric)

Trench 6: summary

T6, located on the eastern site edge, contained a prehistoric ditch F17 and an undated pit F18. The ditch contained fragments of LBA/EIA and MIA sherds, and two prehistoric

worked flints. Though it is not closely aligned on the cropmarks in the adjacent fields, its dated finds make it a reasonable assumption that this ditch is part of the wider cropmark complex.

Pit F18 is undated, but did contain burnt material in its upper fill. The lack of scorching suggests this was dumped here. Although an early date cannot be ruled out, a post-medieval date is more likely, given that this was a farm paddock.

Trench 6: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F17	ditch	1 MIA sherd, 2 LBA-EIA sherds, 2 flints	MIA
F18	pit	-	undated

Trench 7: summary

T7 located in the centre of the site, contained no archaeological features. Accumulation horizon L2 was thicker at the north end of the trench than at the south. This is probably because of sloping ground allowing a build-up of material. Investigation at the northern end of the trench showed L2 was not masking any archaeological deposits.

Trench 8: summary

T8, located in the centre of the eastern part of the site, contained a shallow post-medieval ditch F8 and an undated pit F7. The ditch aligns with the property boundary to the north, and may therefore be a boundary feature. To qualify this slightly, T10 contains an undated ditch F6, which runs parallel to F8 here - the two may form a trackway aligned with the present properties along Manningtree Road, but one which was grubbed out before the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of the 1870s (which does not show it).

Pit F7 is undated. Although an early date cannot be ruled out, a post-medieval date is more likely, given that this was a farm paddock

Trench 8: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F7	pit	-	undated (pre-historic?)
F8	ditch	peg-tile and red brick	post-medieval

Trench 9: summary

T9, located on the southern edge of the site, contained an undated ditch F9. Its alignment is not in keeping with the post-medieval landscape, so this may be a prehistoric ditch and associated with the cropmark complex.

Trench 9: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F9	ditch	-	undated, possibly prehistoric

Trench 10: summary

T10, located in the south-eastern corner of the site, contained a shallow, undated ditch F6. T10 contains a post-medieval ditch F8, which runs parallel to F6 here - the two may form a trackway aligned with the present properties along Manningtree Road, but one which was grubbed out before the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey of the 1870s (which does not show it).

Trench 10: contexts and dating

Context	Description	dated finds	Date
F6	ditch	-	undated, but presumed post-medieval

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

Small quantities of finds of pottery, ceramic building material (CBM) and worked flints were recovered from five features (F1, F2, F8 F11 & F17) located in four of the evaluation trenches (T1, T3, T6 & T8). The closely dated finds are of prehistoric (earlier prehistoric and Iron Age), medieval and late medieval - post-medieval date. All of the finds are listed and described by finds number for each context in Table 1. The fabrics of the prehistoric pottery sherds are individually described, the post-Roman pottery fabrics refer to the Colchester post-Roman fabric series (*CAR 7*).

ctxt no.	T	find no	find type	finds description	fabric code	no	wt/g	period/spot date
F001	1	2	CBM	corner pieces from a peg-tile in red sandy fabric		1	165	med-p.med
F002	1	1	CBM	pieces from a peg-tiles in red sandy fabric, one grey with inclusions of translucent quartz		4	111	med-p.med
F008	8	3	CBM	piece from a peg-tile in red sandy fabric		1	24	med-p.med
F008	8	3	CBM	small piece from a red brick		1	61	late med-p.med
F011	3	5	pot	small sherd of glazed red earthenware (Fabric 40)	40	1	3	L16-18C
F011	3	5	flint	small, thin flake in grey flint, early flake removals, probably earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic-Neolithic/early Bronze Age) rather than later		1	2	
F017	6	6	pot	body sherd. dark-grey, hand-made sandy fabric (HMS), slightly abraded fabric and finish is typical of the Middle Iron Age (MIA) or slightly later - dated later Iron Age (IA) c 400/350-late 1C BC	HMS	1	16	later IA (MIA)
F017	6	6	pot	small hand-made, abraded flint-tempered sherd (HMF), flint generally small-medium size and well embedded in fabric, probably late bronze Age (LBA) or early - middle Iron Age - c 700- 350 BC or slightly later	HMF	2	3	LBA-earlier IA
F017	6	6	flint	flint core with flake removals from both end of piece, dark flint		1	36	
F017	6	6	flint	probable utilised piece (tool of convenience) - flake-like piece but with no indication of flake detachment but with retouched notch on one side and edge damage or retouch/ use wear on some areas of edges		1	10	

Table 1: Finds by context

Finds discussion

Prehistoric

Three worked or utilised flints were recovered, one of which is a core. A small, thin flake in grey or patinated flint was recovered from pit F11(3) in T3. This is most likely to date to the Mesolithic/Neolithic rather than later and is probably the earliest find from the evaluation. The flint core, which came from F17(6) and is associated with Iron Age pottery, is made on dark flint and flakes have been removed from both ends. It is probably residual in the context from which it was recovered. The third flint does not appear to be a struck flake but is rather a probable utilised piece with a notch on one side which has wear from use or has been retouched and edge damage/use wear or retouch on other parts of the edges. This is not closely-dated, but utilised pieces, or tools of convenience are considered to be more typical of the later prehistoric period than earlier.

A small quantity of hand-made, prehistoric pottery was recovered from ditch F17(6) in T6. The most closely dated is a slightly abraded sherd in sand-tempered fabric which is typical of the later Iron Age (c 350 BC-AD 50). In areas where grog-tempered 'Belgic' pottery is adopted in the Late Iron Age this pottery is most closely associated with the Middle Iron Age (c 350-25 BC) or slightly later and this date range is appropriate for the sherd here. Two other, smaller sherds in flint-tempered fabric were recovered from the same context. The nature of the flint inclusions suggests a later prehistoric date (Late Bronze Age-Iron Age) and flint-temper is most commonly in use prior to c 350 BC; although in some parts of East Anglia flint-temper may still be added to pottery after that date. While close dating is difficult, the flint-tempered sherds may be residual from Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age activity but for the present are probably best broadly dated as probably Iron Age. The sand-tempered pottery indicates a date after c 350 BC for the context from which the sherds were recovered.

Medieval- post-medieval

The most closely-dated find from this period is a sherd of glazed red earthenware pottery (Fabric 40) from pit F11(3) in T5. The fabric indicates that this sherd dates to the late 16th-18th century.

Pieces of relatively thin tile, identified as peg-tile, were recovered from three features - pits F1 (T1) & F2 (T1) & ditch F8 (T8). They probably date to after the 14th century as they were rare outside of churches or manorial buildings in Essex prior to that date (Ryan 1993), but are not closely-dated, other than as medieval- post-medieval. In addition to a piece of peg-tile, a small piece from a red-coloured brick of late medieval or post-medieval date was also recovered from ditch F8.

6 Assessment of the charred plant macrofossils and other plant remains

by Val Fryer, Environmental Archaeologist (October 2015)

Note - this is the combined report on the evaluation and excavation stages. This report is also given in the excavation stage report (CAT Report 848).

Introduction and method statement

Samples for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from both the evaluation (samples 1-5: Features 6-7, 10, 17-18) and the excavation phases (samples 6-11: F17, F19-20, F23, F41-3). All eleven were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by CAT and the flots collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also recorded.

Results

Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, other plant remains are exceedingly scarce comprising a single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain and individual seeds of fat hen type (Chenopodiaceae) and dock (*Rumex* sp). Small pieces of charred root/stem are also noted within five of the assemblages studied. The charcoal fragments are mostly small (i.e. <2mm), and some pieces are distinctly rounded and abraded, possibly indicating that they were exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to incorporation within the feature fills.

All eleven assemblages contain low to moderate densities of black porous and tarry residues and small pieces of coal, all which are probably intrusive within the feature fills. As the porous and tarry residues are distinctly hard and brittle, it is thought most likely that all are bi-products of the combustion of the coal. Such materials, probably derived from either the spreading of night soil or the use of steam implements on the land, are frequently recorded within features which have suffered some degree of post-depositional disturbance via the bioturbation of the soil column.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the recovered assemblages are all small (ie, 0.1 litres or less in volume) and exceedingly limited in composition. The material which is recorded is probably derived from scattered midden waste, but it offers few insights into the day-to-day functioning of the site or its component features. Post-depositional contamination appears to be an issue across the entire excavated area, with all of the current assemblages being severely compromised by the introduction of intrusive materials.

As plant macrofossils are so scarce and as none of the features are securely dated, no further analysis is recommended.

Sample no	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Feature no	10	17	18	6	7	6	8	19	20	17	41
Finds no	4	7	8	9	10	12	14	15	17	19	26
Feature type	ditch	ditch	pit	ditch	pit	ditch	ditch	pit	pit		pit
Date	preh?	Roman	preh?	post-medieval	preh?	post-med	post-med	preh	preh	Roman	preh?
Plant macrofossils											
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)											x

Chenopodiaceae indet									x		
<i>Rumex</i> sp.									x		
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx	xx	xx	x	xx	x	xx	xx	xxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	xxx	x	xx	x	x	x	xx	x	xx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	x	xxx	x		x	x	x	xx		x	x
Charcoal >10mm	x	x	x	x							
Charred root / stem						x	x	x	x	x	
Other remains											
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x	x	xx		x		x	
Black tarry material	x	x	x	x		xx	x	x	x	x	x
Small coal frags	xx	x	x	x	x	xx		x			
Sample volume (litres)											
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% of flot sorted	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 Preh = prehistoric ?LBA = ?Late Bronze Age

7 Discussion (Figs 1-5)

There are three aspects to discuss here: 1) the post-medieval features; 2) the post-medieval landscape; 3) features associated with the adjacent cropmark complex.

1) The majority of the features revealed by this evaluation are post-medieval features of limited archaeological interest (F1, F2, F4 F5). Given the fact that this was a farm paddock containing buildings now demolished, other undated features are probably post-medieval in date (F3, F7, F18). Four features revealed in T3 appear to be part of a fence line following a prominent property boundary on this site (the north-south line splitting the two halves of the site). These are post-holes F11-15. F11 was dated as post-medieval. The others are undated, but can be presumed modern if (as is probable) they are part of this fence line.

2) Ditch F8 in T8 is dated by peg-tile and post-medieval brick. Looking at modern property boundaries, this lines up reasonably well with a boundary running south of Manningtree Road (see Fig 1). It seems very likely, therefore, that this was a field boundary which was grubbed prior to the 1st edition Ordnance Survey, on which it is not shown. Further, ditch F6 in T10 is parallel to it, and may have been the ditch on the opposite side of a post-medieval trackway.

3) The main archaeological interest of this site is that it is adjacent to a significant group of cropmarks (Essex HER MEX9725 and MEX9645) containing field boundaries, trackways and groups of ring-ditches which are certainly prehistoric burial sites. The limited excavation which has taken place on this cropmark complex has confirmed that parts of it are Late Iron Age/Roman (an enclosure), and Bronze Age (burial sites: Blake 1960).

Ditch F17 in T6 is well dated to the prehistoric period, specifically to the MIA (with slightly residual LBA/EIA sherds). This ditch looks overwhelmingly likely to belong to the cropmark complex, although not strictly in alignment with adjacent cropmarks as shown on Fig 2 of this report (this is figure 2 of the Desk-based assessment - CAT Report 272). Two other ditches (F10 in T5 and F9 in T9) are undated, but do not match the post-medieval

landscape alignment. For that reason alone, it can be suggested that they are prehistoric, and part of the cropmark complex.

The finds are generally supportive of the above conclusions, although it should be noted that the residual flint flake from post-medieval pit F11 is dated Mesolithic/Neolithic. This would indicate some measure of activity on this site which comfortably predates the cropmarks. The flint core from F17 is also residual in that MIA context, but if it is BA in date, could be contemporary with some of the burial monuments appearing as ring-ditches in the cropmarks complex (see Fig 2). After the time of the MIA ditch, there is no sign of any activity on this site in the later Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods.

The slightly greater depth of accumulated L2 in T7 was noted above. This may indicate some colluvial movement of soil on this site, downslope to the south. This was tested by machine to ensure that no archaeological features were masked by it. There is no other sign of colluvium or alluvium on the site. None of the exposed features are worthy of preservation in situ.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Hills Building Group for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, and the fieldwork was carried out by BH, R Mathieson and E Sanford. Site plans by are by Mark Baister, and the sections are by Emma Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBC by Dr Jess Tipper.

9 References

- CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>
- | | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
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| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
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10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from circa AD 410 to AD 1066
BA	Bronze Age (2,000 - 700 BC)
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CIfA	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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
LBA	Late Bronze Age (1,000- 700 BC)
LIA	Late Iron Age (100 BC - AD 43)
MIA	Middle Iron Age (400-100 BC)
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, e.g. a Roman coin in a modern pit
ring-ditch	burial site defined by ditch around a central burial, often under a mound which has usually been flattened by ploughing.
Roman	period from AD 43 to <i>circa</i> AD 410/430
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds

1 museum box containing all finds (pottery, CBM, flints).

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 842)

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, Trench record sheet)

CBC Brief and CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD

Attendance register. Benchmark data. Risk assessment

12 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (accession code 2015.48).

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Distribution list:

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date: 10/06/2015

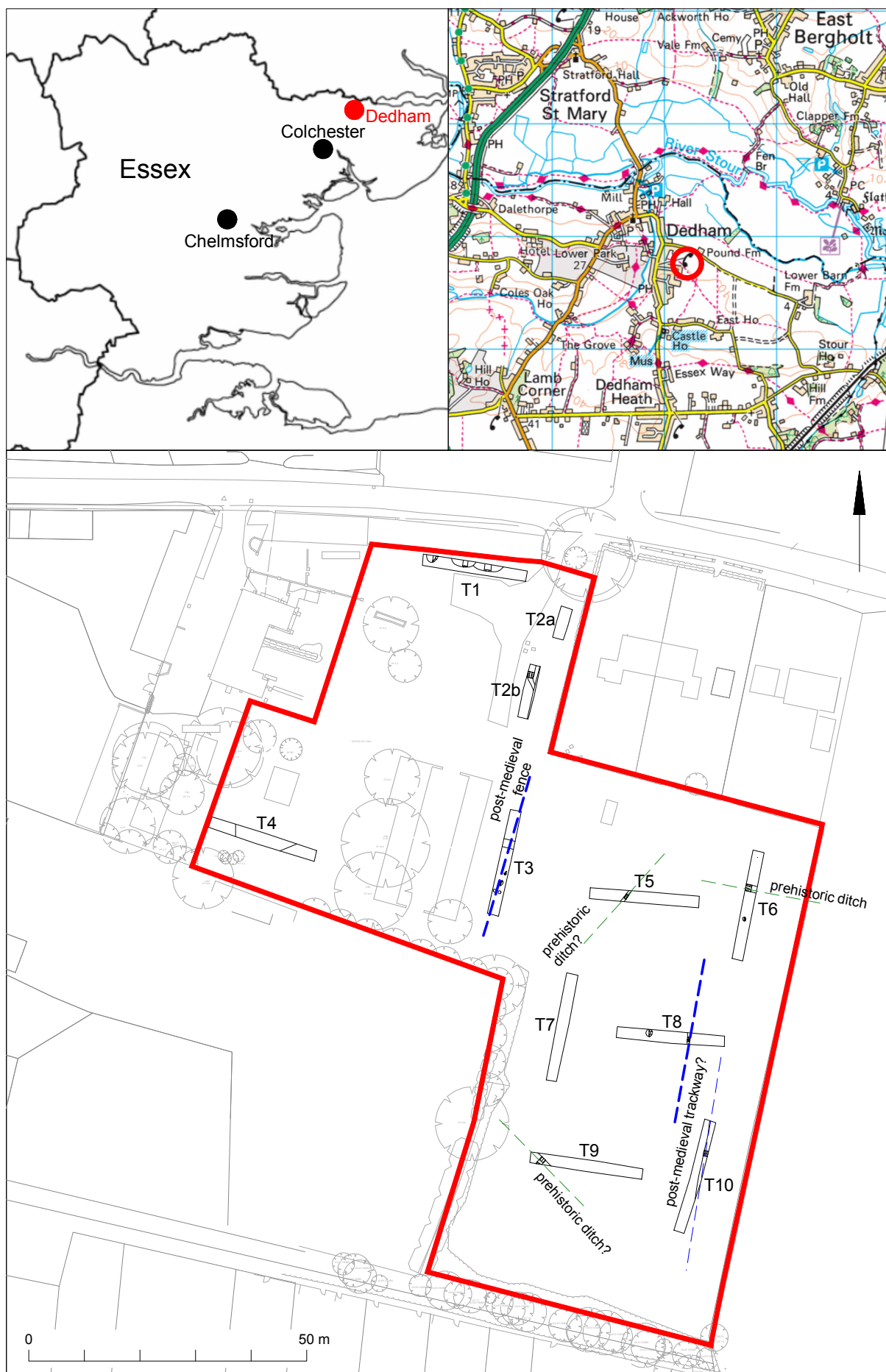
Following pages:

Appendix 1: CAT WSI

Appendix 2: OASIS summary

Figures

EHER summary sheet



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Fig 1 Site and trench location, with interpretation of prehistoric and post-medieval ditches and fence.

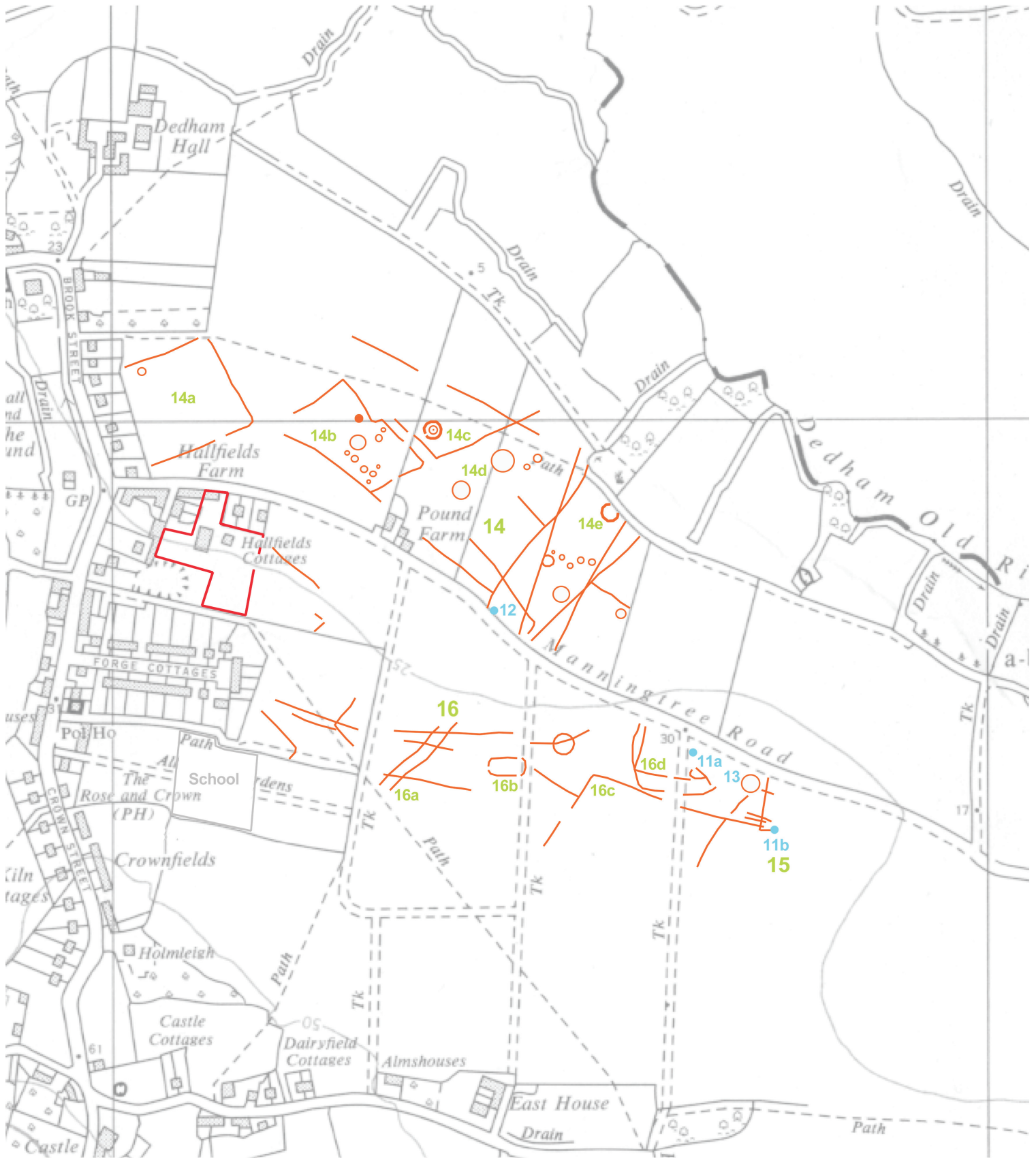


Fig 2 Excavations (11-13) and cropmark sites (14-16).

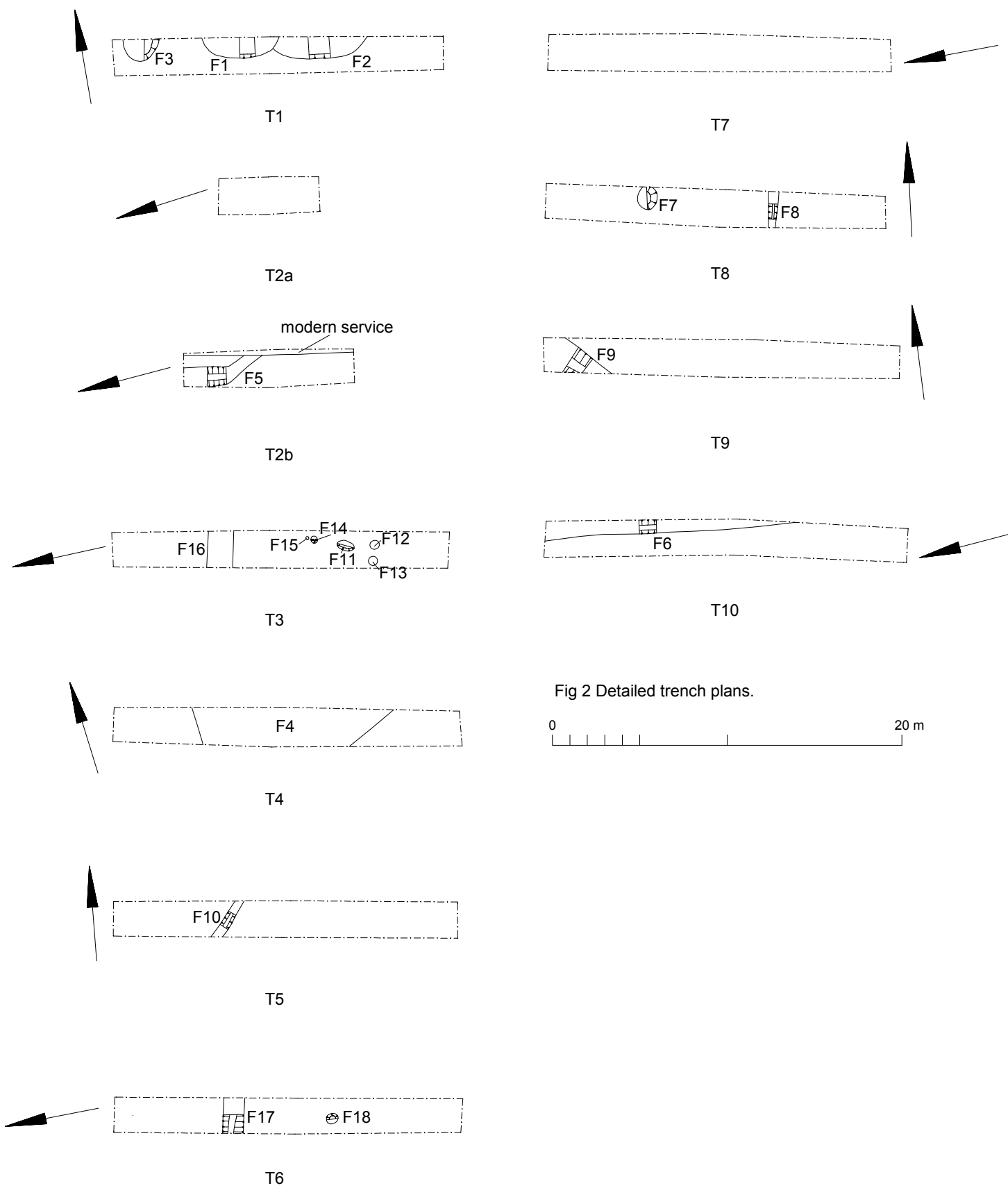


Fig 2 Detailed trench plans.

Figure 3 T1-10: Trench details

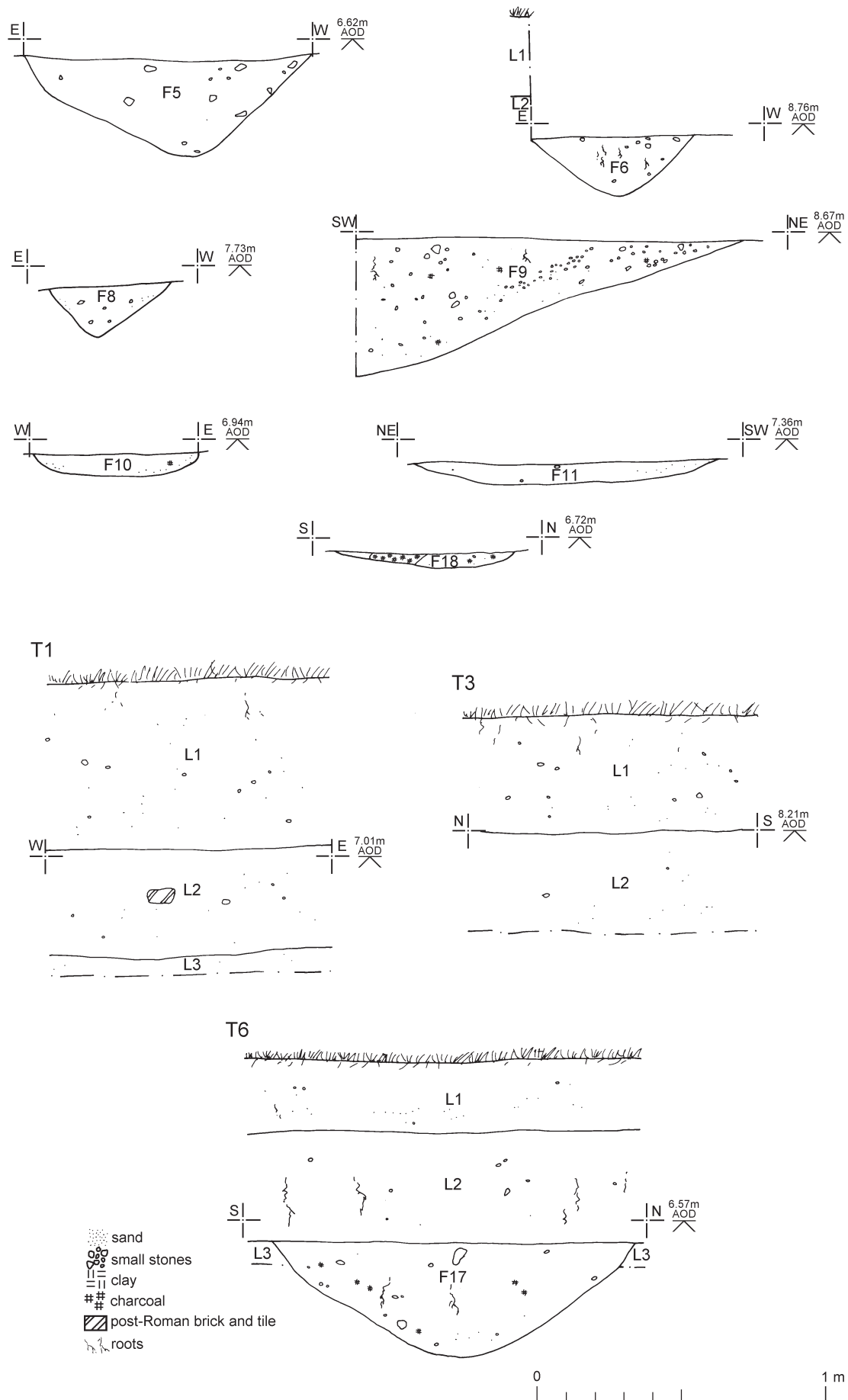


Fig 4 Feature sections (F5, F6, F8-11 and F18) and representative trench sections (T1, T3 and T6).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex	
Parish: Dedham	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 061 328	Site code: CAT project code – 15/04g
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 13-14th May 2015	Size of area investigated: 200m of trench 1.8m wide
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code : 2015.48	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Yes	Related EHER numbers: EHER MEX 9725 9645
Final report: CAT Report 842	
Periods represented: prehistoric (MIA), post-medieval and modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>This site is on the eastern edge of the built-up area of Dedham, whose historic core lies approximately 400m to the NW. The site is an 'L' shaped area of open ground, currently a small holding and recently paddocks and buildings for livestock.</p> <p>A significant area of cropmarks lies to the north and east of this site (ESSEX HER MEX9725 and MEX9645). Although mostly unexcavated, these include field systems and burial mounds. Those cropmark sites which have been excavated include a Late Iron Age / Roman enclosure, and a Bronze Age burial site.</p> <p>Ten evaluation trenches (1.8m wide, and total length, 200m) positioned across the area of the proposed development identified eighteen archaeological features. These were a Middle Iron Age ditch, ten post-medieval pits and a ditch, and seven undated features (of which two may be prehistoric, and five may be post-medieval). One of the post-medieval ditches aligns with current property boundaries running south of Manningtree Road. This, along with a ditch in an adjacent trench, may be part of a farm trackway grubbed out before the 1870s (nothing shows here on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey).</p> <p>The Middle Iron Age ditch may be part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east of this site. There is one plotted cropmark line which heads towards the eastern site boundary, but it would need to change direction to be on the same alignment as the ditch excavated at Hallfields. Two other (undated) features may be prehistoric, and part of the cropmark complex. None of the exposed features is worthy of preservation in situ.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: Desk-based assessment: CAT Report 772	
Keywords: prehistoric cropmark ditches	Significance: *
Author of summary: Ben Holloway and Howard Brooks	Date of summary: June 2015

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OASIS ID: colchest3-213703

Project details

Project name	Dedham, Hallfields Farm evaluation 2015
Short description of the project	<p>This site is on the eastern edge of the built-up area of Dedham, whose historic core lies approximately 400m to the NW. The site is an 'L' shaped area of open ground, currently a small holding and recently paddocks and buildings for livestock. A significant area of cropmarks lies to the north and east of this site (ESSEX HER MEX9725 and MEX9645). Although mostly unexcavated, these include field systems and burial mounds. Those cropmark sites which have been excavated include a Late Iron Age / Roman enclosure, and a Bronze Age burial site. Ten evaluation trenches (1.8m wide, and total length, 200m) positioned across the area of the proposed development identified eighteen archaeological features. These were a Middle Iron Age ditch, ten post-medieval pits and a ditch, and seven undated features (of which two may be prehistoric, and five may be post-medieval). One of the post-medieval ditches aligns with current property boundaries running south of Manningtree Road. This, along with a ditch in an adjacent trench, may be part of a farm trackway grubbed out before the 1870s (nothing shows here on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey). The Middle Iron Age ditch may be part of the extensive area of cropmarks to the north and east of this site. Two other (undated) features may be prehistoric, and part of the cropmark complex.</p>
Project dates	Start: 13-05-2015 End: 14-05-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	15/04g - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Middle Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Bronze Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	FLINT Mesolithic

Significant Finds FLINT Uncertain

Project location

Country England
 Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER DEDHAM Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham
 Postcode CO7 6AE
 Study area 0.77 Hectares
 Site coordinates TM 0612 3285 51.9553457327 1.00009470677 51 57 19 N 001 00 00 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 6.51m Max: 7.87m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
 Project design originator Chris Lister
 Project director/manager Chris Lister
 Project supervisor Ben Holloway
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
 Name of sponsor/funding body Hills Building Group

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
 Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Digital Contents "Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
 Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "other"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road,

	Dedham, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Holloway, B, and Brooks, H
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 842
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ring-bound
URL	http://cat.essex.ac.uk
Entered by	Howard Brooks (hb@catuk.org)
Entered on	10 June 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
for archaeological evaluation
at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham,
Colchester, Essex

NGR: TM 061 328 (centre)

Planning reference: 146334

Client: Hills Building Group

Agent:

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: TBC

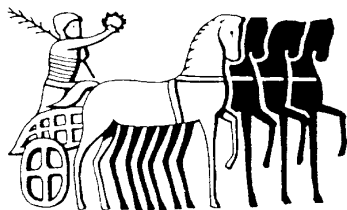
ECC Project code: n/a

CAT Project code: 15/04g

Site Manager: Ben Holloway

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 29.04.2015



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
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Site Location and Description

The site lies on the south side of Manningtree Road, Dedham, 100m east of its junction with Brook Street. The site is centred on NGR TM 061 328.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of farm outbuildings and the erection of 9 affordable homes, 8 market homes and associated works and access/parking amendments.

Archaeological Background

The following archaeological background draws on CAT Report 772, Colchester UAD and Essex HER:

Approximately 400m to the NW of the site lies the medieval town of Dedham (and the “-ham” name suggests it has Anglo-Saxon origins). The medieval town of Dedham which rose to prominence with the cloth trade, specialising in bay and say cloth. It contains a wealth of 14th century and later buildings and retains its medieval street pattern and morphology. However, the proposed development will have no effect on the medieval town because it is too far away. Indeed, map evidence shows that Manningtree Road and the southern part of Brook Street were not built up until the late 18th or 19th century.

To the east of Dedham is an important ‘cropmark’ landscape. Most of the cropmarks are unexcavated and undated, but where excavation has taken place, Bronze Age (2,500-700 BC) and early Roman (1st century AD) material has come to light. The nearest significant cropmark sites (indicating the presence of enclosures and ring-ditches and therefore a Bronze Age barrow cemetery) are approximately 150m - 200m from the Application Site. These crop marks are recorded in the National mapping programme (Essex HER: MEX9725 and MEX9645).

Planning Background

A planning application was submitted to Colchester Borough Council for the proposed work (above: Planning reference 146334). As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, a full archaeological condition was recommended by Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and states:

"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

Requirement for Work

The required archaeological work involves undertaking an evaluation of linear trial trenches covering 4% of the area of the site (360m²). The proposed trench layout includes 10 linear trenches 20m long and 1.8m wide (see Fig 1). The mechanical stripping of the trenches will involve using a flat-edged ditching bucket whilst under constant archaeological supervision. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAO (Brief for a trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree, Dedham, Colchester, Essex - CBC 2015). Once the strip is complete a meeting will be held on site with CBCAA, the developer and CAT to discuss what further work is needed.

It is anticipated that this work will comprise the complete excavation and recovery of any burials on the site and standard sample excavation of all other features.

Specific research aims are:

- Follow requirements as stated in section 3.2 of the Brief
- Look for evidence of Bronze Age occupation or burials to tie in with nearby cropmarks
- To preserve by record any archaeological remains that may be destroyed by the development.

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 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- required standards of fieldwork in Colchester Borough (CM 2008a, b)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by CBCAA (CBC 2015)

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 CBCAA 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.

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

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prior to start of work, a Written Scheme of Investigation will be submitted to CBCAA. The WSI will describe in appropriate detail how the *Brief* from CBCAA will be implemented in fieldwork, post-excavation, reporting and publication stages.

The WSI shall be submitted to CBCAA, and fieldwork will not commence prior to approval of WSI from CBCAA.

The WSI will include a location plan of the development site showing area of proposed excavation or trench layout.

OASIS Record

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to CBCAA and EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows – one archaeologist to continually monitor the strip with an additional two archaeologists for archaeological contexts that require excavation.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway.

Evaluation methodology

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground reduction, footings work, service trench digging, and all related works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction, which will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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

A metal detector will be used to examine the site, spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on pro-forma 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.

Site surveying

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 and trenches 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 micromorphical 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
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer (Loddon) whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Val Fryer will do any processing and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF and/or the English Heritage Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking monolith samples.

Human remains

Policy depends on the age of the burial. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the licence will be followed.

If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Allowance will be made in the budget and timetable to allow a human bone specialist to visit site to advise on recording and lifting human remains (inhumations), and for an experienced conservator to visit site and advise on recording and lifting of fragile grave goods.

Photographic record

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

Post-excavation assessment

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin. This is usually a PDF report available as hard copy, and also published on the CAT website and on the OASiS website.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

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

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Nina Crummy.

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

Other: EH 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 CBCAA.

End of Fieldwork, and Report

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate report will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

The draft report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork for approval by CBCAA.

Final report will normally be submitted to CBCAA as PDF, but printed copy can be provided on request.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methodology adopted in the course of the archaeological project
- Location plan of site and excavated area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each trench / excavated area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Detailed archaeologists results including list of sites resulting from an EHER/UAD search, and historic maps to show changes and development of site, with a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- As Appendices, the OASIS entry and the WSI.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and attached as Appendix to the site report, which will be emailed as PDF to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

Archive Deposition

A site archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards given in CM 2008, ClfA 2014b, and MoRPHE (EH 2006).

The requirements for archive storage shall 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.

The archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

A Drawing Interchange File (.dxf) will be supplied to for integration in the UAD/HER. AutoCAD files will also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo.

Monitoring

CBCAA 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 CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

CAT Report 772	2014	<i>A desk-based assessment of the archaeological remains around Hallfields Farm, Dedham Essex.</i> Unpublished CAT archive report, by H Brooks (May 2014)
CBCAA	2015	Brief for a trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex by J Tipper
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester</i>
CM	2008	<i>Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester & Ipswich Museums</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<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)

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