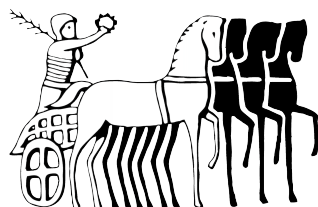


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2231
issued December 2025**

**Archaeological evaluation at Green Hollow,
Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1JG:
November 2025**



**CAT project ref.: 2025/11a
ECC code: EEX62484**

**Archaeological evaluation at Green Hollow,
Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6, 1JG:
November 2025**

NGR: TL 62652 20723 (centre)

**Planning district: Uttlesford
Planning ref.: UTT/23/1757/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2025/11a
CAT Report 2231**

**ECC code: EEX62484
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commissioned by HEA

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

Fig 2 Results.

Fig 3 Representative section.

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling. Despite being located close to sites where archaeological features have previously been found, the evaluation did not reveal any archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex on 28th November 2025. Work was commissioned by Alex Slater on behalf of HEA and was carried out in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling and associated groundworks.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains an archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2025).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching at Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow* (ECCPS 2025) and a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) prepared by CAT (2025a) in response to the brief.

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

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2025, 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 2025b).

3 Archaeological and geological background

The following archaeological background is based on a search of the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The development area lies to the south of the line of a known Roman Road, which leads from the

Rodings into the southern side of the Roman settlement at Great Dunmow (EHER 1234). Cropmark evidence also indicates former field boundaries within the proposed development area. CAT carried out an archaeological evaluation (six trial-trenches) followed by a small excavation on land east of Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane in 2018. The investigation revealed a series of undated postholes (presumably indicating a line of fencing), a late medieval/post-medieval ditch, a modern refuse pit and three undatable pits (CAT report 1306). At the same site, L-P Archaeology completed two trenches on additional footprints of new bungalows in 2022. No archaeological remains were uncovered as the majority of the site comprised modern made ground, rubbish deposits and modern services (EHER 49663) (L-P Archaeology 2022).

Approximately 300m north-east of the site, evaluations in 2019 at properties Oaklands and Tiggers at Ongar Road uncovered undated ditches, which may be associated with a Late Iron Age to Roman ladder field system recorded to the north (EHER 49245, 49558) (Archaeological Solutions 2019). Approximately 700m east of the site, Archaeology South-East undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Smith's Farm, Chelmsford Road in 2014. No evidence for Roman activity was recorded despite the proximity of the site to the Roman road and the nearby Roman town. Two phases of medieval activity were identified from the mid-12th to 16th century (EHER 48572) (Germany, 2014).

To the north of the proposed development site a large-scale fieldwalking survey and evaluation took place along the proposed route of the new A120 trunk-road (EHER 14488), located 275m north of the proposed site. The works found prehistoric to post-medieval remains (Medlycott, 1990 and 1992) (Oxford Archaeological Unit and Wessex Archaeology 2003).

Listed buildings dating to the 16th to 17th centuries include:

- the medieval manor complex at Shingle Hall (EHER 1232), dating from at least the 14th century (200m north-west).
- Clapton Hall (formerly called Clopton Hall) (EHER 1233, 37768, 37769, 37770), a scheduled complex of 16th to 17th century buildings including a house, granary, homestead moat and outbuildings (290m south)

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand), with superficial deposits of Head Group (clay, silt, sand and gravel).

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

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.

Specific areas of interest were:

- Features that are associated with the cropmarks.
- Former historic roadside settlement.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A single trial-trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The single trench was excavated through a layer of modern hardstanding made-ground (L1, >0.20m thick) into the natural geology (L2, encountered at a depth of c 0.40–0.5m below current ground level).

- L1: loose, wet medium/ dark brown sand with inclusions of modern gravel, stones, fragments of ceramic building material and an iron horseshoe.
- L2: firm, moist medium orange/ brown silty clay.

Patches of blue/grey staining were present throughout L2 (see photographs and Fig 3), potentially from L1 or due to severe waterlogging.

A shallow sondage was excavated into L2 at the northeastern end of the trench (Photograph 2) to confirm the identification of L2 as natural. For the same reason, a small square slot was excavated into the blue/grey staining of L2 at the southwestern end of the trench (Photograph 3). At the request of the monitor this slot was extended (Photograph 4).

There were no archaeological remains.



Photograph 1 The trench, looking south-west.



Photograph 2 Representative section, looking north-west.



Photograph 3 The trench, with hand excavated slot through staining in L2, looking north-east.



Photograph 4 Sondage through staining in L2, looking south-west.



Photograph 5 The trench, looking north-west.

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced five fragments (246g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and one modern blue glazed rectangular tile (25mm x 25mm, 7g) from L1. None of this material was retained.

6.2 Horseshoe

by Laura Pooley

A complete iron horseshoe (399g) was recovered from L1 (finds no.2). A lot of the detail is obscured by dirt and corrosion, but the horseshoe is large (160mm across by 140mm long) and has a distinctive toe-clip which dates from the early 19th century. It has been discarded.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of high potential, the evaluation at Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow revealed no archaeological remains.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Alex Slater and HEA for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with M Perou. Figures were compiled by L Pooley and C Hill. The project was monitored for ECCPS Katie Lee-Smith.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <https://catuk.org/online-reports/>

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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 present day
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	period from AD 1540 to 1901
Roman	period from AD 43 to AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

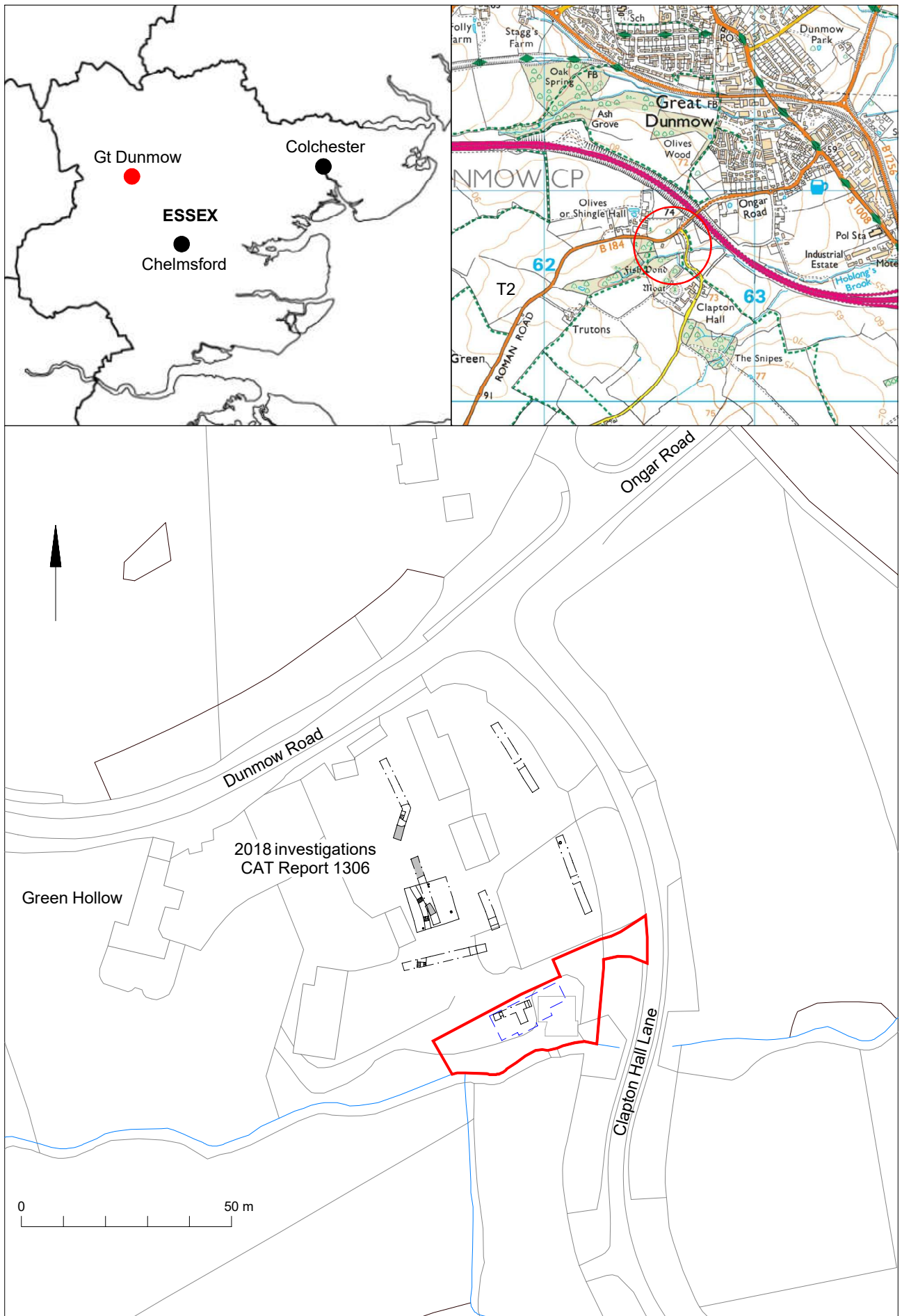
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HEA

Katie Lee-Smith, Essex County Council

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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

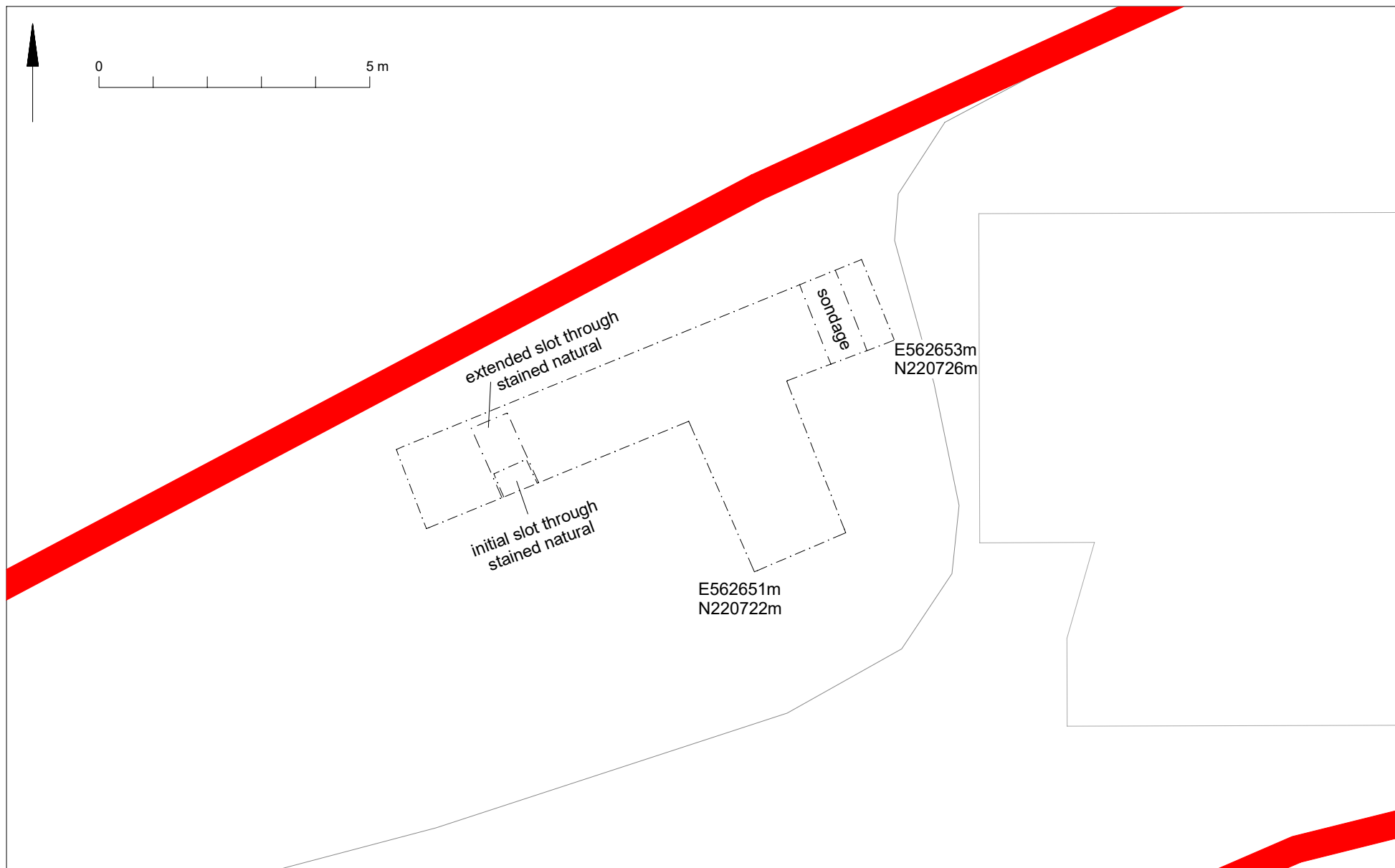


Fig 2 Results.

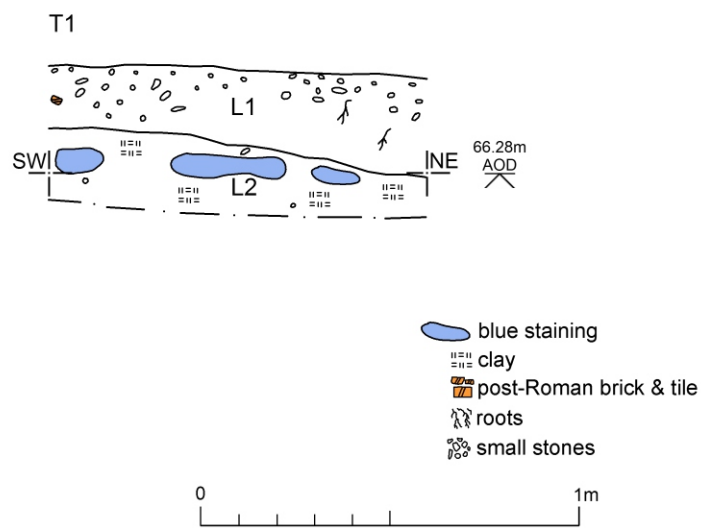


Fig 3 Representative section.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-538470

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-538470
Project Name	Evaluation at Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow
Sitename	Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow
Sitecode	EEX62484
Project Identifier(s)	2025/11a
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	UTT/23/1757/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	28-Nov-2025 - 28-Nov-2025
Location	Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow NGR : TL 63015 20724 LL : 51.861288518428886, 0.365936687836254 12 Fig : 563015,220724
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Uttlesford Parish : Great Dunmow
Project Methodology	An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Green Hollow, Clapton Hall Lane, Great Dunmow, Essex, in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling.
Project Results	A single trial-trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The single trench was excavated through a layer of modern hardstanding made-ground (L1, >0.20m thick) into the natural geology (L2, encountered at a depth of c 0.40–0.5m below current ground level). There were no archaeological remains.
Keywords	
Funder	Private or public corporation HEA
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - EEX62484
Archives	