

Site: Gosbecks Park car park
NGR: TL 9670 2288

Reason for Watching Brief: Car Park Alterations

Engineer: Paul Nice, CBC Highway & Engineering Services

Contractor: -

Owner: CBC

Fieldwork By: C. Crossan & S. Benfield

Fieldwork Date: Jan. & Feb. 2000

Report By: C. Crossan

Report Date: 17th April 2000

Summary:

Stripping in preparation for car park resurfacing proved to be too shallow to reveal any features of clear archaeological significance. A linear feature and two pits were noted, all indistinct and of indeterminate date.

Report:

The car park lies on the south-east side of Maldon Road, opposite Brickwall Farm. Alterations included stripping and resurfacing, new fencing and kerbing, constructional details of which may be found in the project archive (CBC engineers drawing no. S19/1/135-1B).

Prior to the general removal of the existing surface, a 1.5m wide test trench was cut along the line of the bridleway at the south-western side of the car park. Between 15cm and 30cm topsoil was removed, revealing a possible linear feature (Plan 2: F1) at the deepest point of stripping. The feature was indistinct, but appeared to be approximately 1.5m wide and filled with a sandy loam very slightly darker than the mid-brown material to either side. If a valid feature, it might be well be late and possibly associated with the bridleway since it seemed to line up with its west side. However, no bridleway ditch was found in a series of trenches previously dug in the area to the south of the car park (1998 Evaluation: CAT Report 30).

The overall machine stripping operation was watched continuously over a period of two days. Typically, from 20 to 25cm of topsoil (Plan 2: L1) was removed, which over much of the site was too shallow to reveal earlier material. At the reduced level (Plan 2), residual topsoil (L1) or modern tarmac and hardcore remained in place over about two-thirds of the area, with traces of an underlying mid-brown sandy loam/loamy sand (L2) beginning to appear in places in the south-eastern part of the site. Two pits of indeterminate date were noted in the south-eastern area (Plan 2): F1 contained a dark brown sandy loam fill with rare charcoal flecks; F2 held a similar fill but with no discernible charcoal content.

Most of the stripped soil was removed by lorry to the Killoughery yard in Stanway. The remainder was used to form a 60cm high bund around the eastern and northern sides of the car park.

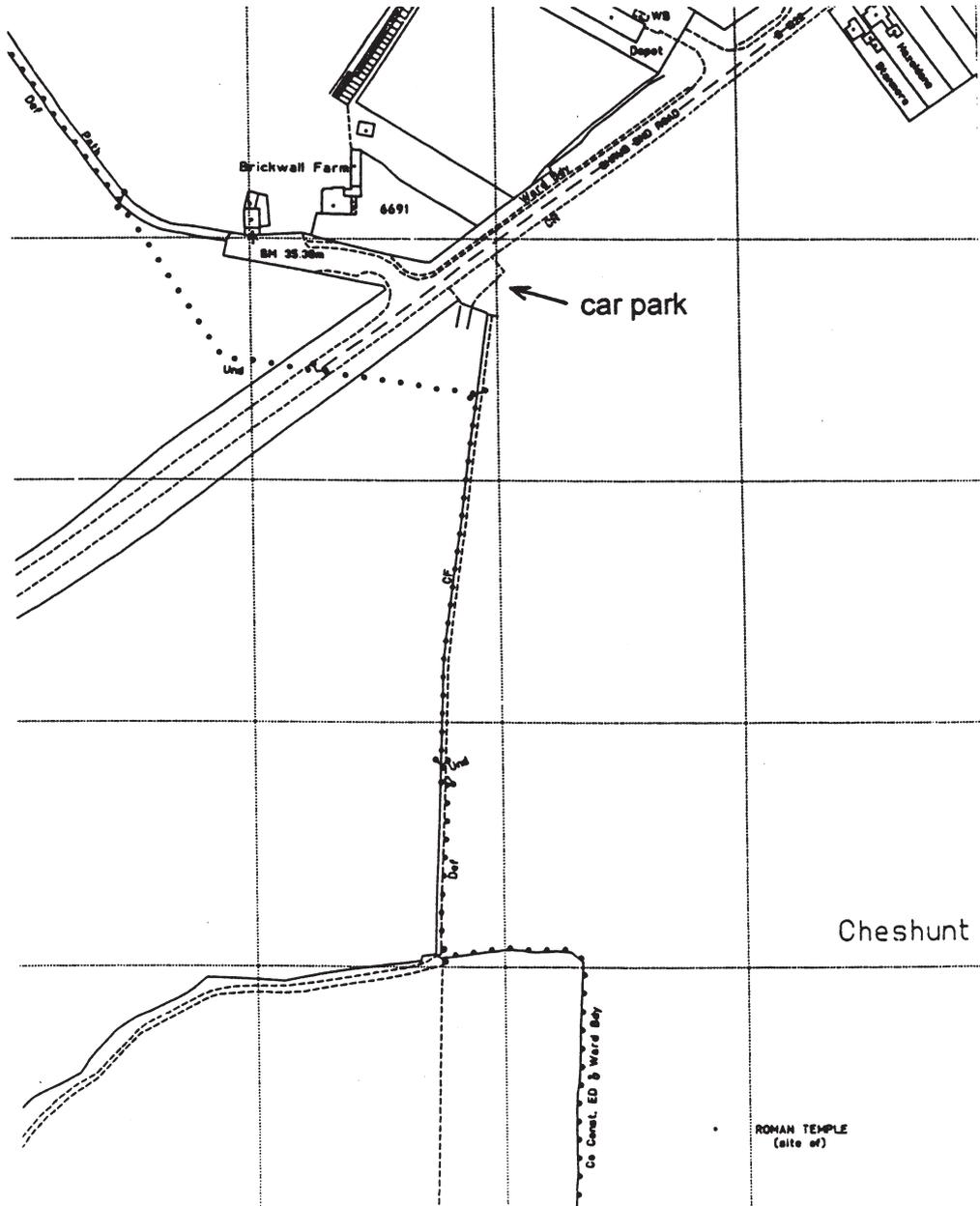
The contractor's small-scale excavations for kerbs and new fencing variously revealed either the L1-L2 sequence noted above, or recently disturbed ground.

Archive: this report, site notes, engineer's plan.

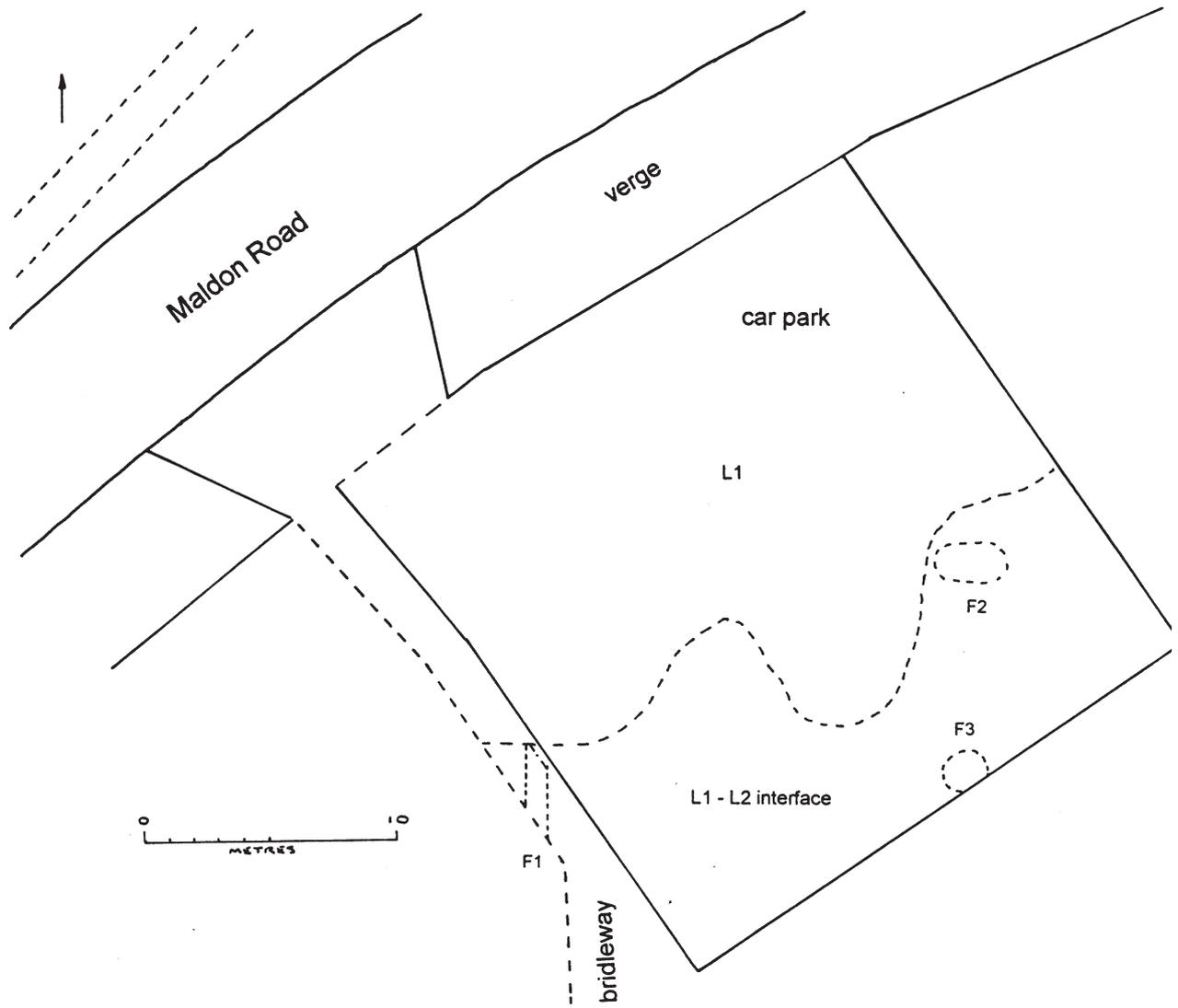
Finds: none.

*Photographs: gpc001.jpg F1
gpc002.jpg General view, site after stripping*

Further Work: none.



Plan 1: location



Plan 2. Gosbecks Park car park.