

A Watching Brief

at

22 West Lodge Road, Colchester

June 2000

on behalf of Colchester Borough Council

CAT Report 82

CAT Project Code: 00/5f

NGR: TL985248



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A watching brief at 22 West Lodge Road, Colchester (TL985248)
Colchester Archaeological Trust Report 82 (Internal code: 00/5f)

S. Benfield (14th June 2000)

Introduction

The site at 22 West Lodge Road is located within the extra-mural cemetery area of the Roman town, south of the presumed course of the main Roman road to the west (CAR 11 fig. 6.1). Recently a Roman cremation was recovered during an archaeological evaluation just to the south of the present site at 26 West Lodge Road (Colchester Archaeological Trust [CAT] Report 80)

The ground works involved foundation trenches and some reduction of ground levels for a small extension to the rear of the existing property, and two soak-aways were dug towards the rear of the garden area (Fig. 1). All of these were excavated by machine. Some of this work had already been completed before the visit was made: the two new soak-aways, approximately 1.0 m deep, had already been dug and partly backfilled, some of the area reduced by approximately 0.5 m on the south side of the garden had already been stripped, and three of the foundation trenches, each 1.0 m deep, for the extension to the north-west side of the property had been excavated. The remaining areas of ground reduction and the remaining footings for the extension were watched while they were excavated.

Archaeological recording and findings

The building workmen reported no finds at all from any of the work which had already been completed, and there were no finds of archaeologically significant material observed on the site, either in the spoil from this work or during the completion of the outstanding groundworks, except for one fragment of Roman tile (tegula) from existing spoil and which was not retained. No features were present in any of the exposed sections.

Of the two footings which were watched during excavation (the north and west footings of the extension) neither contained anything of archaeological significance, and much of the area where these intersected had been previously removed by the insertion of a large modern soak-away (Fig. 1). The area between all of these footings was reduced by approximately 0.2 m.

A representative section showing the soil layers on the site was recorded (Fig. 2) from one of the footing trenches. The soil layers comprise a modern dark brown sandy loam topsoil, about 0.3 m deep, over a medium brown sandy loam to approximately 0.65 m. Below this was a layer of dirty gravely sand about 0.15 m thick, probably disturbed natural, resting on clean natural sands and gravels which appear at approximately 0.8 m down.

Abbreviations

CAR 11 C F C Hawkes & P Crummy, *Camulodunum II* (1995)
 Archaeological Report 11

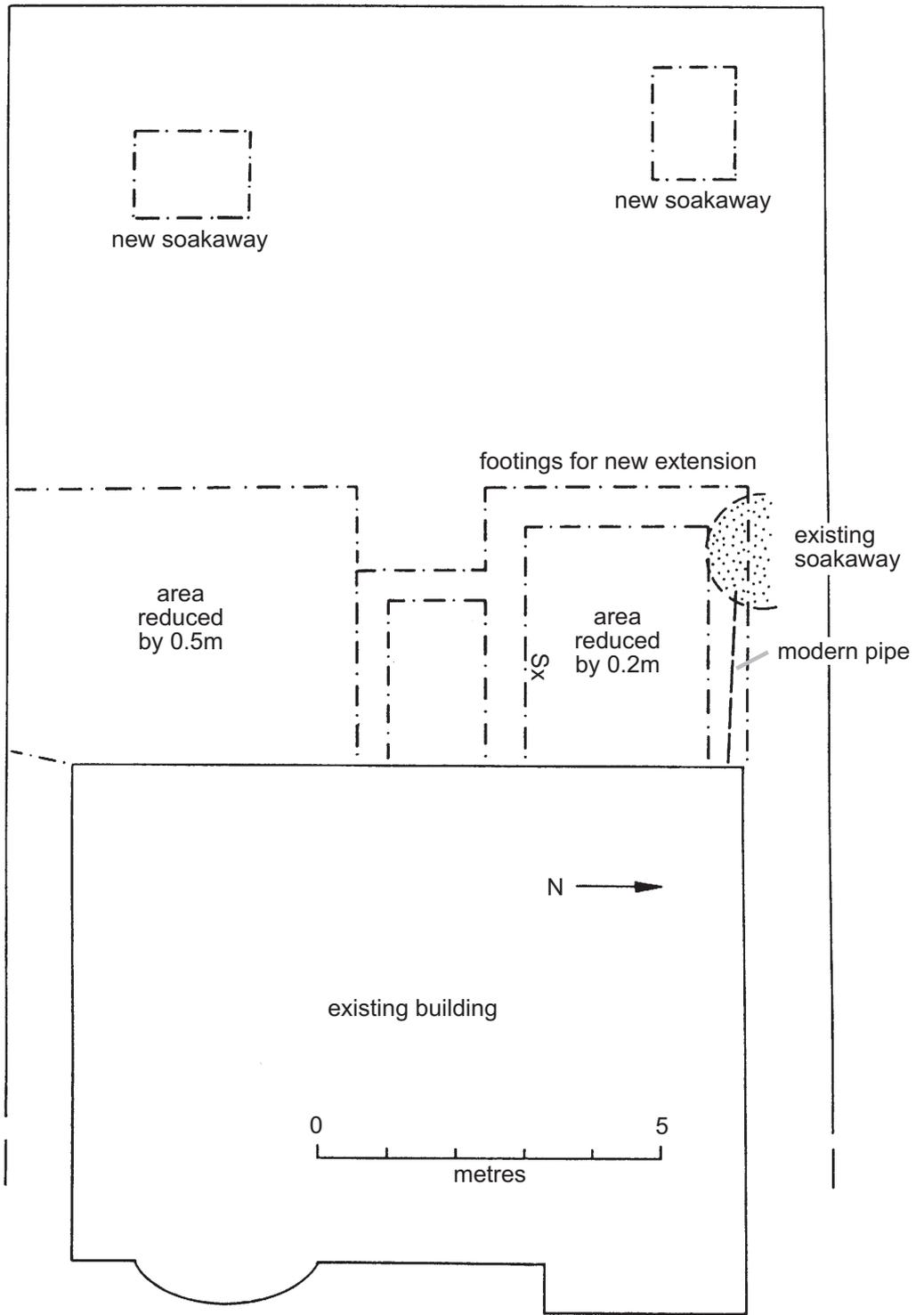


Fig 1 Plan.

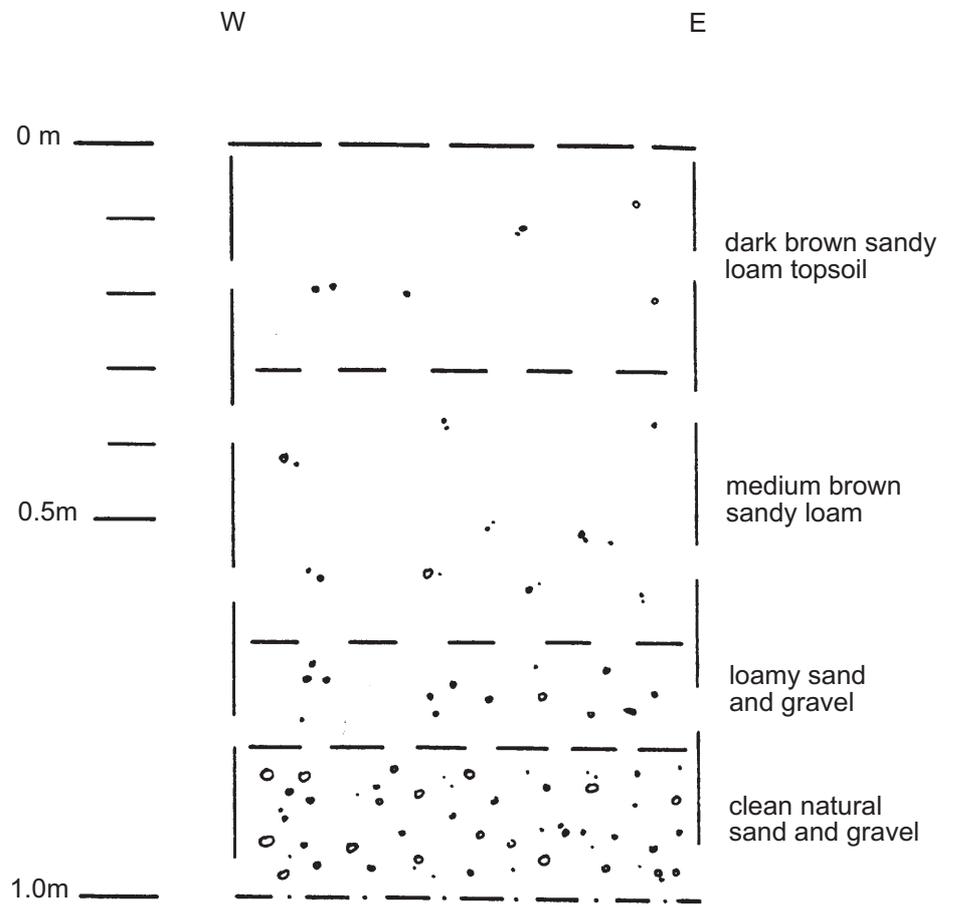


Fig 2 Section.