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**Site: 93-97 Straight Road**

NGR: TL 9642 2457

**Reason for Watching Brief: residential development**

Architect: David Butt Assoc. Contractor: Mersea Homes

Owner: Mersea Homes

Fieldwork By: CC

Report By: CC

Date: 31-10-00

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*Summary:*

*Negative, apart from an indeterminate feature, possible natural. Limited observation.*

**Report:**

The development involved construction of five houses on a backland plot at the west side of Straight Road, opposite the open stretch of the Triple Dyke. The initial visits took place during general topsoil stripping and the contractor's excavation of foundations for a row of garages.

Approximately 15 to 20 cm of topsoil was removed at the rear of the site, leaving a very dry and dusty pale brown silt loam which was obscured in places by redeposited material. A number of obviously modern post-holes were apparent, also three indistinct but slightly darker patches which appeared to be modern and are described in more detail in the archived notes.

A strip foundation for garages along the north side of the access way to the rear of the site (Fig.2) was briefly inspected prior to the arrival of concrete. The only discernible interruption of any possible antiquity (F4) is shown in Figure 3. This was a pit, ditch or possibly a natural feature with a fill of mid-to-pale greyish brown silty clay loam. The profile was mirrored in the opposite section of the 50cm wide trench. The overall stratigraphy in this area was as follows:

- L1. Topsoil. Stripped.
- L2. Mid to pale greyish brown silty clay loam subsoil. 30cm.
- L3. Reddish brown coarse sand with a high content of gravel and small stones.

Following the early visits in July the site closed down for an indeterminate time. No notification was received of the resumption of groundworks, which took place without inspection.

**Figures:**

Fig.1: Location plan

Fig.2: F4 location

Fig.3: F4 section

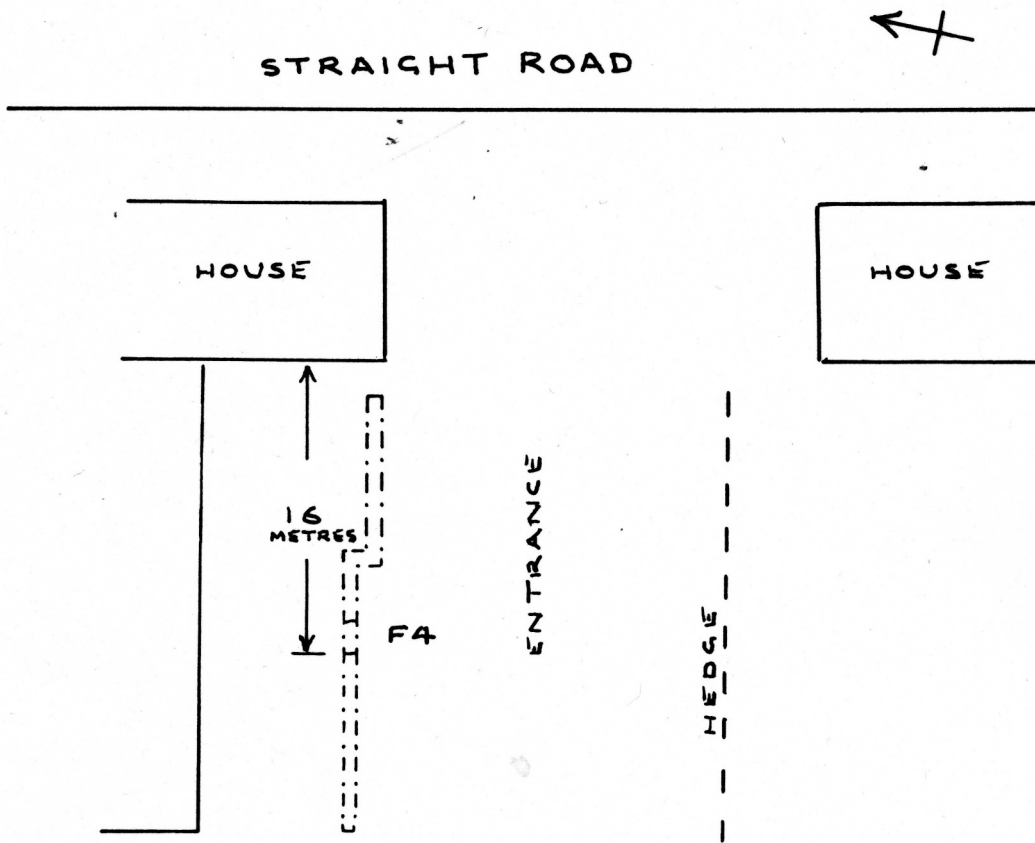
*Archive: notes and sketches*

*Finds: none*

*Photographs: none*



**Figure 1. Location plan**



NOT TO SCALE

FIGURE 2 . F4 LOCATION

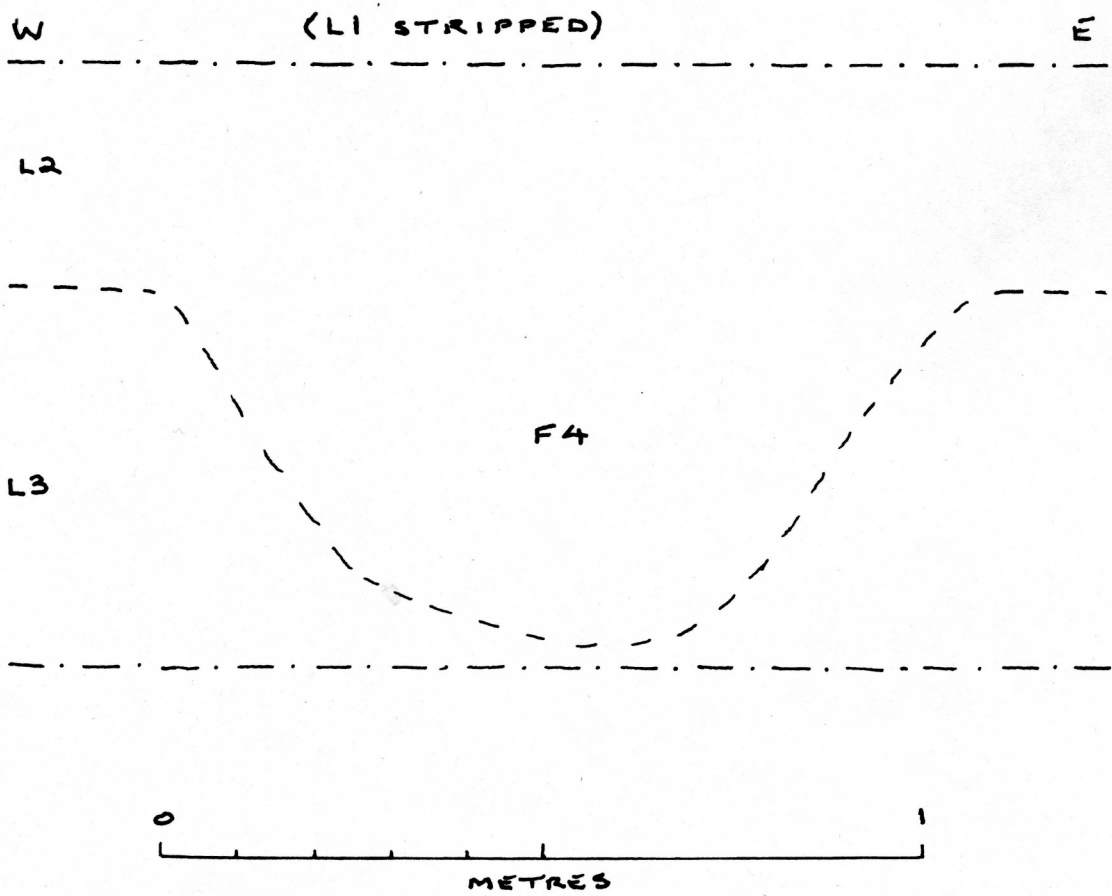


FIGURE 3. F4 SECTION