

**An archaeological watching brief and evaluation
at East Mill, East Street, Colchester, Essex
May 2003 and March-April 2005**

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**on behalf of
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1 Summary

A watching brief was carried out during groundworks on land to the rear of the former Mill Hotel in 2003 and a trial-trenching evaluation was carried out prior to residential development in the same area in 2005. The evaluation indicated that the millrace of East Mill was formerly through the western part of the development site, to the east of its current course. The evidence for this was river-borne silts and a timber revetment observed in one of the trenches, and a grille across the now back-filled millrace encountered in another. Three waterlogged timbers recorded in a pit dug for a manhole during the watching brief may represent part of a previous mill building. The evaluation confirmed the existence of a substantial depth of modern dumped material in the western and northern parts of the development site. Natural ground was not reached in all areas.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological watching brief carried out in May 2003 and a trial-trenching evaluation carried out in March-April 2005, by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at East Mill, Colchester, Essex.
- 2.2 The developer submitted a planning application to convert the Mill Hotel to apartments and construct 54 flats to the rear of the building (LPA number F/COL/01/1848).
- 2.3 East Mill is situated on the River Colne, on the east side of the town centre (Fig 1). When the mill was converted from an hotel to apartments, a watching brief was undertaken during this work which included monitoring a pit dug for a manhole to the east of the mill and a service-trench in the access road (National Grid Reference or NGR TM 00710 25355). The evaluation site, formerly a car park, adjoins the north side of the former Mill Hotel and is approximately 4700 sq metres in area (NGR TM 00722 25369 (c)). A 3% sample of the site was evaluated. The site is level at approximately 5m AOD.
- 2.4 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification submitted by CAT which followed a brief written by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeology Officer.
- 2.5 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines for the standards and practice of archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1996, revised 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996, revised 2003), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1994, revised 1999) and *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1994, revised 1999). Other sources are *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1* (EAA 3) and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 East Mill is situated to the east of the walled town centre of Colchester, by the River Colne. It is on the north side of East Street which was the major Roman and medieval road leading eastwards out of Colchester. In 1928, a trench was dug at the bottom of East Hill which exposed a section of undated cambered road 1m below ground-level, just to the north of the present road (Urban Archaeological Database or UAD no 586).
- 3.2 East Mill was in existence from at least 1311 when it was one of a series of watermills operating along the River Colne (VCH 9, 261). This area, by the East Bridge, was a flourishing suburb in medieval and later times, as shown by the buildings on John Speed's map of 1610. Several properties of the medieval period survive to this day (eg the Rose and Crown Inn and the Siege House). The river was used for industrial activities such as milling, tanning and fulling. The watermill was almost completely rebuilt between 1885 and 1893 and its warehousing was

- extended (VCH 9, 261), and this is confirmed by the 1898 2nd edition OS map which shows the current main building. The mill was converted into an hotel in 1979.
- 3.3** The site is low-lying and has the potential for preserving waterlogged wood and leather.

4 Aim

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological remains that were exposed during the groundworks for the conversion of the former Mill Hotel to flats and to assess the quality and extent of any archaeological remains that were encountered.

The aim of the evaluation was to record the extent, nature and complexity of any surviving archaeological remains within the development site to the rear of the former Mill Hotel.

5 Methods

- 5.1** The watching brief was carried out between the 19th and 28th May 2003, and the evaluation was carried out on the 29th, 30th and 31st March and the 1st and 6th April 2005. Five trial-trenches were excavated (Trenches 1-5 or T1-T5; Fig 2). The evaluation trenches had to be placed to avoid a large spoil heap. The concrete was broken out, after which a mechanical excavator removed soil in spits until archaeological features or natural ground were exposed. At times a toothed bucket was required, but where possible a toothless bucket was used.
- 5.2** Individual records of layers and features were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. All exposed subsoil features, archaeological deposits or negative features were manually cleaned (except in T1), drawn in section and plan and examined in sufficient detail to allow their nature, date and importance to be assessed.
- 5.3** Section drawings of features and layers were made at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20. Plans of features were made at 1:20.
- 5.4** A register was compiled of finds. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context.
- 5.5** Standard 'record' shots of contexts were taken with a digital camera. Colour transparencies were used for overall site shots.
- 5.6** T1 was deep and filled up with water very quickly, making it unsafe to enter.

6 Results

6.1 Watching brief (Fig 2)

The pit for a manhole was dug where the cycle shed currently stands, in the car park on the eastern side of the former mill. Six monitoring visits were made. The pit dug for the manhole measured 4m x 4m and was 5m deep. The soil profile was recorded as follows:

- L1 – 200mm of modern sand and gravel
- L2 – 300mm of modern concrete
- L3 – 500-600mm of modern building brick rubble
- L4 – between 500mm and 1.4m of dark brown loam with brick and mortar fragments
- L5 – 1.8m to 2.5m of grey silt progressing into clay
- L6 – at 4.3m below ground-level, natural ground and clay were encountered.

Layer or L5 may be river-borne silts, deposited by the river when the millrace flowed in this direction. Three waterlogged timber posts/stakes were removed by the mechanical excavator from the western side of the manhole pit, from 1.95m below ground-level (probably L5). Two of these posts were retained; the first measured 1m in length by 16cm width, and the second measured 0.77m in length by 16cm width. Because the timbers were removed by the machine, it was not possible to ascertain

whether they had been upright. The dates of the timbers can only be determined by radiocarbon-dating. Twelve sheep bones and three cattle bones were also removed by the machine, plus one piece of peg-tile and a fragment of clay pipe. It is not known where exactly within the manhole pit these finds came from or whether they had been stratified in an earlier feature.

A service-trench dug within the access road from East Street was also monitored, from which Roman brick and peg-tile were retrieved.

6.2 Evaluation (T1-T5; Fig 2)

6.2.1 Trench 1 (Figs 2-3)

T1 was located on the western side of the site, approximately 20m away from the east bank of the river. It was 23m long and between 1.2m and 2m wide. It was dug to a depth between 2.1m and 2.4m, except the extreme western end where the depth reached 2.8m. Natural sand and gravel was not encountered in the western end but it was reached at the eastern end of the trench (L26), at 2.3m below ground-level. The water table was 1.8m below ground-level.

The trench was divided in half by a brick wall (Feature or F4) which extended to the bottom of the trench. This wall is considered to be too deep to have been a building foundation. The overflow pipe which was built into it suggests that its function was as a retaining wall for the river bank. The soil profiles to the east and to the west of this wall vary. To the east of wall F4, the concrete and hogging car-park surface sealed a homogeneous layer, 1.3m deep, consisting of medium brown sandy silt containing occasional peg-tile (L24). L24 sealed natural sand and gravel (L26) and appears to be a medieval/post-medieval accumulation.

Cut into L24 was F6, a brick wall foundation, 750mm deep. F6 was shallower than F4, making it unlikely that they were part of a single building. It may be the remains of the west wall of a now-demolished weighbridge building, which would be consistent with what shows on OS maps. The bricks were unfrogged, as were those of F4.

To the west of wall F4, the concrete and hogging surface sealed L21, a deposit up to 1.4m deep and consisting of dark brown sandy silt with thick bands of yellow sand. Modern bricks, plastic sheeting, broken pipes, metal grilles, possible asbestos, modern glass and blocks of concrete within this layer indicate that it is landfill. At the western end of the trench, partly overlying L21 and adjacent to it, was a thick deposit of blueish grey ashy material (L11). This occurred just underneath the concrete car-park surface and varied from 100mm to 1.1m in thickness. L11 was extremely dense and hence difficult to dig through; it contained occasional modern brick, sheet metal and modern wood. At the bottom of the western half of the trench, starting at 2.3m below ground-level and sealed by L11 and L21, there was modern material that had been dredged from the river-bed (L13). At this level, the excavations had extended below the water table. L13 material was obviously very wet and consisted of sand and gravel mixed with twigs, pieces of modern-looking timber, modern brick and 20th-century material including the side of a shopping trolley. The trench was excavated to 2.8m depth at the extreme western side in order to reach natural ground. However, even at this level, this dredged modern detritus was still present and it was decided not to dig any deeper.

On this western side of the wall F4, a length of metal grille was exposed along the southern edge of the trench, which was still *in situ* (F2). This ran from the wall to near the western end of the trench. The grille was at least 9m long, but its full length could not be determined because it extended beyond the trench. The vertical bars were at least 2m long and probably extended beyond the base of the evaluation trench. F2 is considered to have been a grille across what was the millrace. Modern material had been dumped on either side of it when the millrace was filled in c 1970.

6.2.2 Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 4)

T2 was a 27.5m-long trench, placed in the middle of the site. It was 1.2m in width and was excavated to between 1.4m and 1.8m in depth. The water table was reached at 1.6m below ground-level. 600mm of concrete and made-up ground (L1-L4) sealed three strata containing mortar and charcoal flecks, peg-tile and oyster shell (L5-L7). Natural clay and natural sand with iron pan (L8) was encountered at 1.6m below ground-level. F1 was a shallow, 1.4m-wide linear with a slightly rounded profile. It was filled with crushed mortar and brown silty sand which included peg-tile,

a small amount of animal bone and oyster shell. F1 was cut into L6 and L7 and sealed by L5.

6.2.3 Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 5)

T3 was excavated in the north-western corner of the site, near the weir. The trench was 9m long and between 2m and 2.5m wide. Its depth varied between 2.4m and 2.5m. Natural ground was not reached and the water table was approximately 2.2m below ground-level. 700mm of concrete and sandy hogging overlaid layers of modern make-up consisting of blueish grey, moist, silty, clayey sand (L15 and L19). These layers contained modern unfrogged brick and peg-tile, and a dump of ceramic building material (in L19). This material was observed in the west-facing section only, 1.5m below ground-level. A thick layer of sand and gravel containing 19th-century material and some mortar (L16) was exposed beneath L15 at the northern end of the trench.

Between 1.6m and 2m below ground-level, an organic dark brown layer (L18), mainly consisting of decomposing wood, was revealed in the west-facing section only. It was sealed by L16. A single waterlogged timber stake was lying at a slight angle within the layer. L18 sealed a layer of wet blueish grey sandy silty clay (L17); its odour and the presence of rounded stones indicates that this was a riverine deposit. Within L17, in the north-eastern part of the trench, an upright waterlogged post was exposed and left *in situ* (F3). The uppermost part of the post had been broken off and was lying horizontally beside it; the surviving top of the upright was 1.9m below ground-level. The horizontal timber was 130mm in diameter and 700mm long, and it was retrieved for possible dating. L17 was stripped off more in order to expose further timbers. Between 1m and 1.5m to the north of the first timbers, further smaller pieces were exposed. Most were horizontal but one was upright with its top sheered off. These timbers and that within L18 may have formed part of a revetment to the millrace bank. Embedded within L17 was 19th-century glass and part of a 19th-century chimney pot, indicating that the timber structure was still upright in the 19th century. It was sealed by layers containing 19th-century material (L15, L16, L19). Beneath L17, at 2.4m depth, was a smelly black silty clay layer containing peg-tile, Roman tile, occasional oyster shell and a piece of post-medieval brick. No wood was observed in this layer. At this level it was decided to cease excavation.

6.2.4 Trench 4 (Fig 2)

T4 was located in the south-eastern part of the site, to the south of T5. It was 17.4m long and 1.5m wide. Its depth varied between 1.4m and 1.5m. Tarmac and concrete overlaid a thin layer of topsoil (L27). This in turn sealed a post-medieval sandy silt subsoil with charcoal flecks and peg-tile (L28). Roman brick or tile was observed at the southern end of the trench, within L28. In the centre of the trench, a square or rectangular structure was encountered and left *in situ*; it appeared to be holding water (F7). At the northern end of the trench, a 19th-century rubbish-pit (F8) was exposed; it was full of china, ceramic and glass bottles, frogged and unfrogged bricks, mortar and slate. No other archaeological features were observed. Natural sandy silt (clayey in some places) was reached at 1.2m below ground-level.

6.2.5 Trench 5 (Fig 2)

T5 was in the north-eastern part of the site. It was to be 17m long, but the north-western 4m could not be excavated because it was not accessible to the mechanical excavator. The trench was 1.8m wide and between 1.3m and 1.6m deep. Water filled the trench to a level approximately 1.5m below ground-level. The concrete car-park surface with rubble base sealed a layer of orange brown sand, 400mm thick (L22). No finds were retrieved from this layer. It may be subsoil or equally it could be modern material which was deliberately deposited. Natural sand and gravel was encountered at 900mm below ground-level (L23). No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed in this trench.

7 Finds

Prehistoric pottery was identified by Paul Sealey of Colchester Museums. Modern pottery and glass was identified by Howard Brooks of CAT. Pottery fabric numbers refer to *CAR 7*.

Table 1: list of finds from the watching brief by context.

Find no	Context	Description
1	Manhole pit	3 waterlogged timbers (2 retained)
2	Manhole pit	Sheep bones, tile and clay pipe
3	Service-trench	Roman brick and peg-tile
4	Manhole pit	Cow leg bones
6	Manhole pit	Cow bones

Table 2: list of finds from the evaluation by context.

Find no	Trench	Context	Qt	Wt (g)	Description	Date/ comments
1	T2	L6	1	4.0	Oyster shell	undated
1	T2	L6	4	182.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
2	T2	L5	5	71.0	Oyster shell	undated
2	T2	L5	1	156.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
3	T3	L16	3	122.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
3	T3	L16	2	126.0	Mortar	undated
3	T3	L16	1	16.0	Body sherd of modern stoneware bottle? (Fabric 45)	19th-20th century
4	T3	L17	3	460.0	Brick fragments	post-medieval
4	T3	L17	2	112.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
5	T3	F3	2	18.3	Wood	medieval to modern
6	T3	L19	1	127.0	Base of stoneware bottle; Cologne/Frechen product, overfired, and rather clumsy	17th-18th century
6	T3	L19	1	59.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
6	T3	L19	1	14.0	PMRE (post-medieval red earthenware) body sherd	17th-18th century
6	T3	L19	2	1773.0	Incomplete unfrogged, 45mm- and 50mm-thick bricks	post-medieval?
7	T2	F1	5	910.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
7	T2	F1		274.0	Animal bone	undated
7	T2	F1	2	11.0	Oyster shell	undated
7	T2	F1	1	39.0	Mortar	undated
8	T3	L17	1	268.0	Fragment of chimney pot, internally sooted: diameter around 26-	19th century

Find no	Trench	Context	Qt	Wt (g)	Description	Date/ comments
					27cm; fabric is PMRE (post-medieval red earthenware) in feel, but with pale brown surfaces	
8	T3	L17	5	527.2	Roman tile, very abraded	Roman
8	T3	L17	1	201.0	End of translucent green glass bottle for mineral water; embossed lettering LS or ES & Co. [WIL]TSHIRE. [ART]ESIAN [BOTTLE?][D WATERS	mid to late 19th century
9	T3	L16	1	145.0	Base of clear brown beer bottle; embossed lettering reads R822. S 40 S. UGB.	modern
11	T3	F3		133.0	Waterlogged wood	medieval to modern
12	T3	L25	1	54.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
12	T3	L25	1	12.0	Oyster shell	undated
12	T3	L25	1	404.0	Brick fragment	post-medieval
13	T4	L28	1	35.0	Peg-tile	medieval to modern
13	T4	L28	7	1227.0	Roman tile fragments	Roman
14	T4	F8	1	214.0	Wall and base fragment of large bowl (Fabric 48d)	19th-20th century
14	T4	F8	1	77.0	Fragmentary lid with Greek key decoration, and handle in form of bunch of grapes (Fabric 48d)	19th-20th century
14	T4	F8	1	45.0	Body sherd (Fabric 48d)	19th-20th century
14	T4	F8	1	564.0	Complete blacking bottle (Fabric 45m)	19th century
14	T4	F8	1	518.0	Complete ginger beer bottle, stamped STOPES & SON COLCHESTER. XXX. GINGER BEER REGISTERED - at base is maker's stamp JOHN CLIFF & C ^o LAMBETH The Stopes family, owners of the Eagle brewery on East Hill (established 1832), took over Cobbold's on North Hill in 1882.	between 1832 and 1886

Find no	Trench	Context	Qt	Wt (g)	Description	Date/ comments
					Those two breweries were merged in 1886 with the firm of Arthur T. Osborne to form the Colchester Brewing Co.	
15	T4	L29	1	3.8	Fragment of Late Bronze Age decorated pottery, flint-gritted; from carination of a bowl	800-600 BC

Online references

Stopes Ginger Beer: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=21987>

8 Discussion

- 8.1** Historic maps (the earliest being Speed's map of 1610) show a watermill on the site with a side channel looping round the mill to the west of it. The main course of the river is shown to flow through the evaluation area (ie to the east of its current course), and the side channel joins the main channel again to the north of East Bridge. The main course of the river was the millrace, the water being used to power the mill wheel. The side channel became progressively wider through time, and on maps from 1846 to 1966 it appears very much like a separate pond fed by a separate channel. This appears to have corresponded with the highest navigable point on the river and is thus likely to have been a turning area for boats. Between 1966 and 1971, the main channel was blocked off and the course of the river diverted so that the side channel became the main channel (hence the bend in the river between the weir and East Bridge). By 1898, the present mill building had been constructed, on the site of the previous watermill.
- 8.2** In T1, where natural sand and gravel was exposed, it was sealed by a medieval/post-medieval accumulated layer (L24), probably the previous river bank. The river bank had been revetted by a brick wall (F4). To the west of F4 was a metal grille (F2), constructed to prevent floating timbers and other debris from clogging up the mill wheel of the watermill. An unusual ashy deposit was present in the western half of the trench (L11). It sealed modern dry landfill material (L21) and the modern dredged wet material (L13). The deposit resembled industrial waste and it is suggested that a local engineering works, ie Paxmans (the engine manufacturers) could have dumped the material in order to help level out the site for use as a car park. The trench was dug to 2.8m at its deepest point near the river bank and 20th-century material from the river was still appearing in the bottom of the trench at that depth (L13). The eastern half of the trench exposed the previous bank of the river (F4 and L24), and the western half was millrace which had subsequently been filled in and levelled off in modern times.
- 8.3** In T2, a shallow linear filled with crushed mortar (F1) was recorded. It contained peg-tile, and a small amount of animal bone and oyster shell. Not enough of the feature was exposed to ascertain its function, but it was possibly a robbed-out post-medieval building foundation. Historic maps do show buildings to the east and north-east of the mill. The presence of animal bone indicates domestic activity in the vicinity, but this would normally be found in a robber trench.
- 8.4** In T3, there were at least two upright waterlogged timbers, plus one or possibly two on their sides; this may have been a revetment to the millrace (F3 and L18). They were in line with the eastern edge of the millrace as shown on historic maps. This structure must have been still standing during the 19th century because the river clays/silts surrounding the uprights (L17) contained 19th-century material. It is unlikely, therefore, that the timber structure was earlier than medieval in date; indeed, it is more likely to be post-medieval or modern. The deepest layer encountered in this trench (L25) contained post-medieval and Roman material and

- may represent partial silting-up of the river in the post-medieval period.
- 8.5** No archaeologically significant features were observed in T4. The presence of Roman brick within a later layer (L28) may indicate the site of a Roman building in the vicinity. East Street follows the line of a Roman road (section 3.1), and it is feasible that Roman shops and houses lined the street.
- 8.6** T5 was also apparently blank in archaeological terms. It is not clear whether it was undisturbed and absent of features, or if the subsoil had been stripped off at some point and the sandy layer (L22) was therefore a modern make-up layer.
- 8.7** The evaluation confirmed the historic cartographic evidence that the millrace used to run through the western part of the evaluation site, as river-borne silts and a timber revetment were seen in T3, and a large grille was encountered in T1. The three waterlogged timbers discovered in the manhole pit during the watching brief in 2003 (section 3.3) were not in line with the edge of the millrace and so are not considered to be river-bank revetments, but they are likely to be the remains of a structure behind the property immediately to the east of the mill.
- 8.8** There was no evidence for the presence of an earlier mill in the eastern half of the evaluation site.

9 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Roy Grimwade for commissioning the work, and Harding Homes for funding the work and for their assistance on site. The project was monitored by Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council. The watching brief was carried out by Karly Weller. The site work for the evaluation was carried out by Mariusz Gorniak, Chris Lister and Kate Orr.

10 References

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11 Glossary

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum, ie height above sea level
bgl	below ground-level
context	specific location on an archaeological site, usually a feature or layer
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'

iron pan	hard layer in sand or gravel in which iron salts from percolating water have precipitated, cementing grains of material together
medieval	the period from 1066 to c 1500
millrace	the channel of water that flows through a mill wheel, making it turn
modern	period from the mid 19th century to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to the mid 19th century
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, held by Colchester Museums

12 Archive deposition

The finds and the digital and paper archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2005.33.

13 Site data

Table 2: list of contexts.

Context	Trench	Description	Context date
F1	T2	Shallow linear, 1.4m wide, filled with brown silty sand and crushed mortar; contained peg-tile, animal bone and oyster shell - sealed by L5	medieval or later
F2	T1	Metal grille within former main course of river, to protect millrace from floating debris; the bars are at least 2m long/deep	modern
F3	T3	Upright and horizontal timbers within L17; probable revetment to former river bank	medieval to modern
F4	T1	Brick wall, 1.8m deep, made of unfrogged bricks, with a pipe built through it; retaining wall for former river bank?	modern
F5	T1	300mm-thick concrete raft between walls F4 and F6, possibly part of a building	modern
F6	T1	Brick wall foundation, 750mm deep, made of unfrogged bricks; the west end of a building connected with the mill, possibly a weighbridge	modern
L1	T2	Modern builder's debris over concrete, very loose silty sand	modern
L2	T2	Concrete car-park surface	present day
L3	T2	Brick and concrete rubble beneath concrete	modern
L4	T2	Blackish brown, wet silty sand with brick fragments and charcoal flecks	modern
L5	T2	Medium brown, wet silty sand with mortar and charcoal flecks and small fragments of brick and peg-tile, plus oyster shell	modern
L6	T2	Medium brown wet silty sand with mortar flecks, brick, peg-tile and charcoal	post-medieval?
L7	T2	Wet sand with common iron pan; flecks of charcoal, oyster shell, peg-tile and mortar	medieval?
L8	T2	Natural sand with iron pan	natural
L9	T2	Black contaminated material in southern half of trench; fuel seen and smelt	modern
L10	T1	Tarmac surface with sand hogging below	present day
L11	T1	Blueish grey ashy layer, between 100mm and 1.1m thick, possibly dumped on river bank; very hard and dense, contains modern debris	modern

L12	T1, T3 and T5 and T4	Concrete car-park surface	present day
L13	T1	Dredged material from the river, dumped on the former bank; contains twigs and modern wood, a plastic water pistol and part of a shopping trolley - very wet, below the water table; starts 2.3m bgl to at least 2.8m bgl	modern
L14	T3	Sand and gravel hogging	modern
L15	T3	Blueish grey clayey sandy silt, moist; contains modern brick and modern wood and peg-tile	modern
L16	T3	Seam of yellowish brown dry gravel containing modern brick (frogged), peg-tile and modern pottery	modern
L17	T3	Blueish grey clayey silty sand, river-borne, very moist; contains and surrounds waterlogged wooden timbers (F3), also contains 19th-century glass	modern – 19th century
L18	T3	Narrow band of dark brownish black decomposing wood; contains one complete horizontal waterlogged timber stake which may be part of F3 but moved out of its original position	modern or post medieval
L19	T3	Dark blueish grey wet silty sandy clay, a dumped layer; contains a layer of peg-tile and modern unfrogged brick fragments at 1.5m bgl - merges with L17 at 1.8m bgl	modern
L20	T3	Grey clay under L19 at southern end of trench	?
L21	T1	Landfill/rubbish dumped to fill in the river channel - millrace; dark brown sandy silt with yellow sand layers - contains modern rubbish and concrete (western side of trench)	modern
L22	T5	Orangey brown sand; subsoil or modern make-up layer - no finds were found	?
L23	T5	Natural sand and gravel	Glacial
L24	T1	Medium brown homogeneous sandy silt layer, 1.3m thick; contains occasional peg-tile and some stones - accumulation layer (previous river bank?)	medieval or post-medieval
L25	T3	Black, wet, smelly, clayey silt containing oyster shell, peg-tile, post-medieval brick and Roman tile; no wood was observed; at the base of the northern part of the trench - sealed by L17; may be partial silting-up of the river	post-medieval
L26	T1	Natural sand and gravel at eastern end of trench	Glacial
L27	T4	Thin layer of topsoil under the concrete; contains brick and tile	modern
L28	T4	Yellowy brown sandy silt subsoil containing peg-tile and also Roman brick in the south of the trench, plus charcoal flecks	post - medieval
L29	T4	Natural buff-coloured sandy silt mottled with orangey brown sand; clayey in places with large flint nodules	Glacial
L30	T1	Sandy sub-base to car park	modern

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Distribution list:

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Harding Homes
Martin Winter, Archaeology Officer for Colchester Borough Council
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



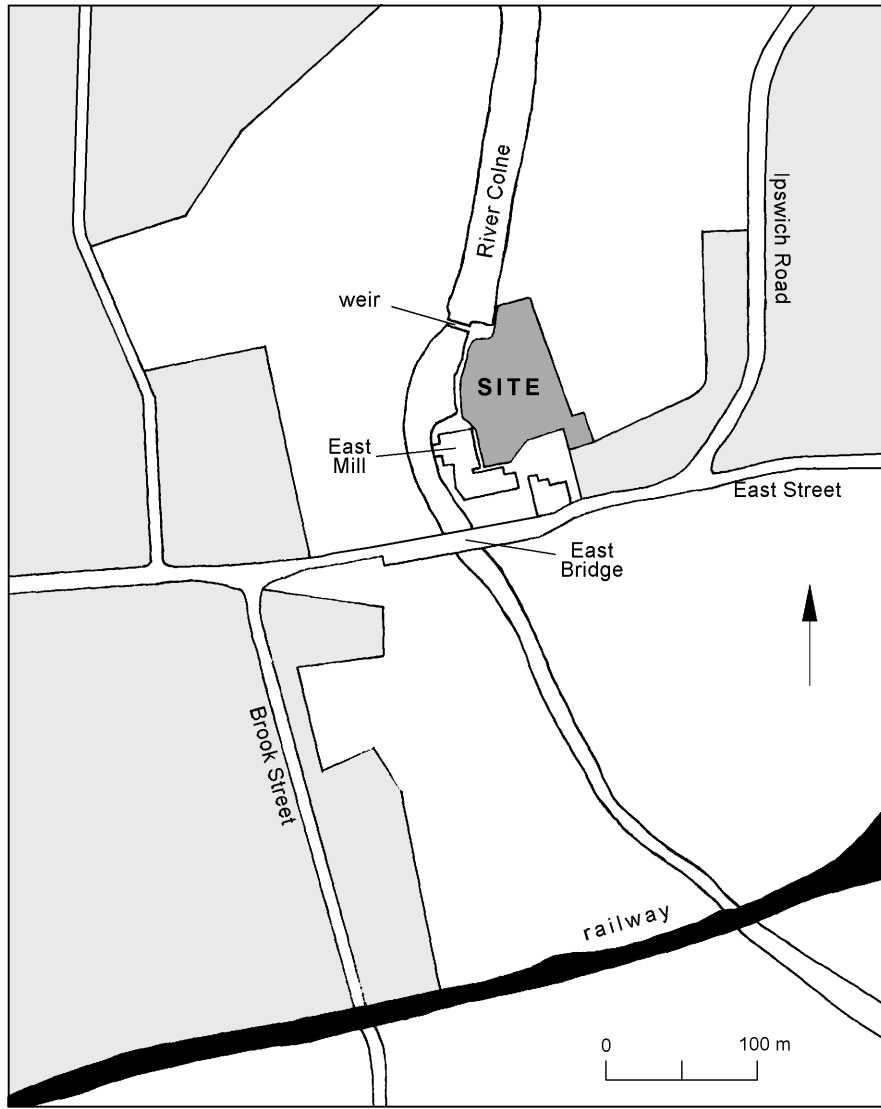
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Adams c:/reports05/east mill/report314.doc



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Fig 1 Site location.

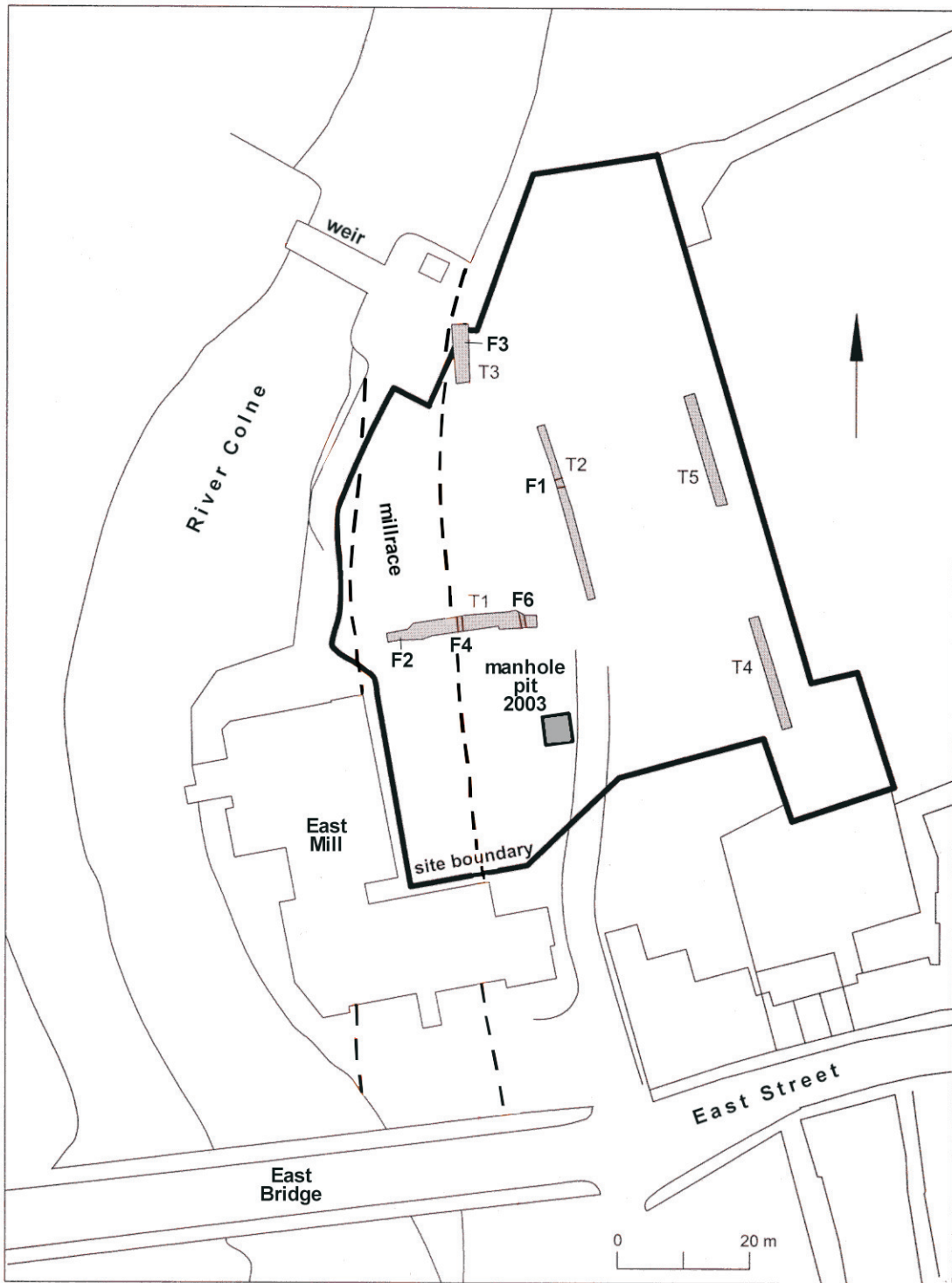


Fig 2 Evaluation trench location plan, showing features, the previous millrace and the 2003 watching brief area.

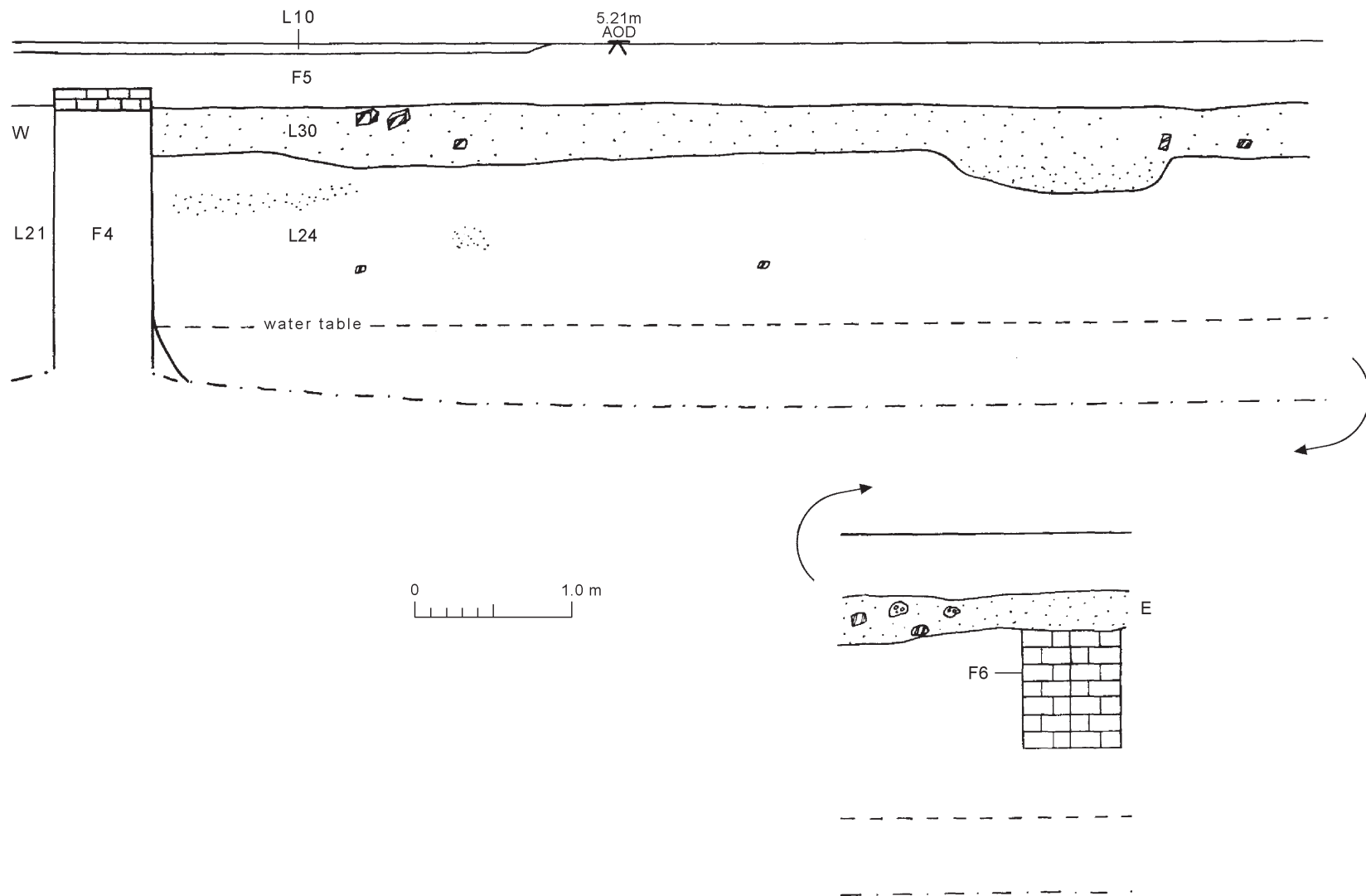


Fig 3 T1: part of the south-facing section.

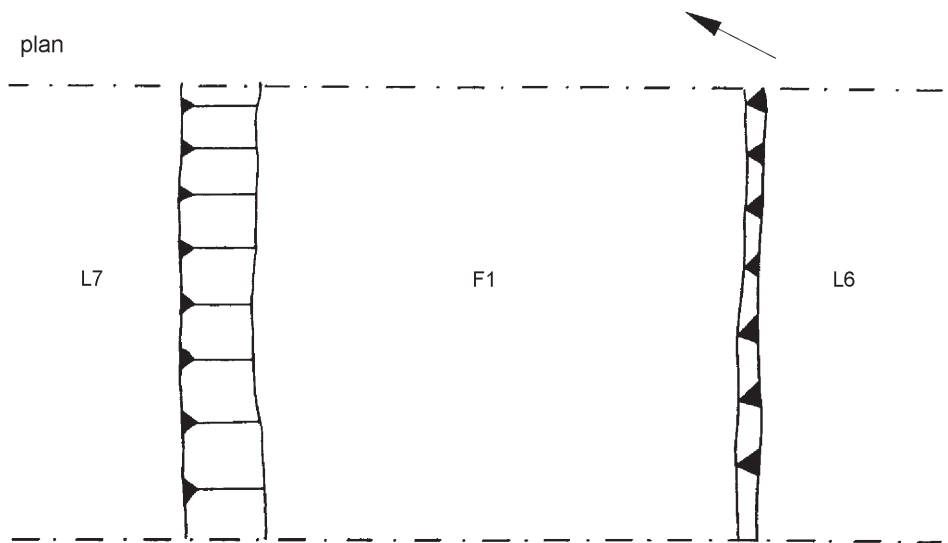
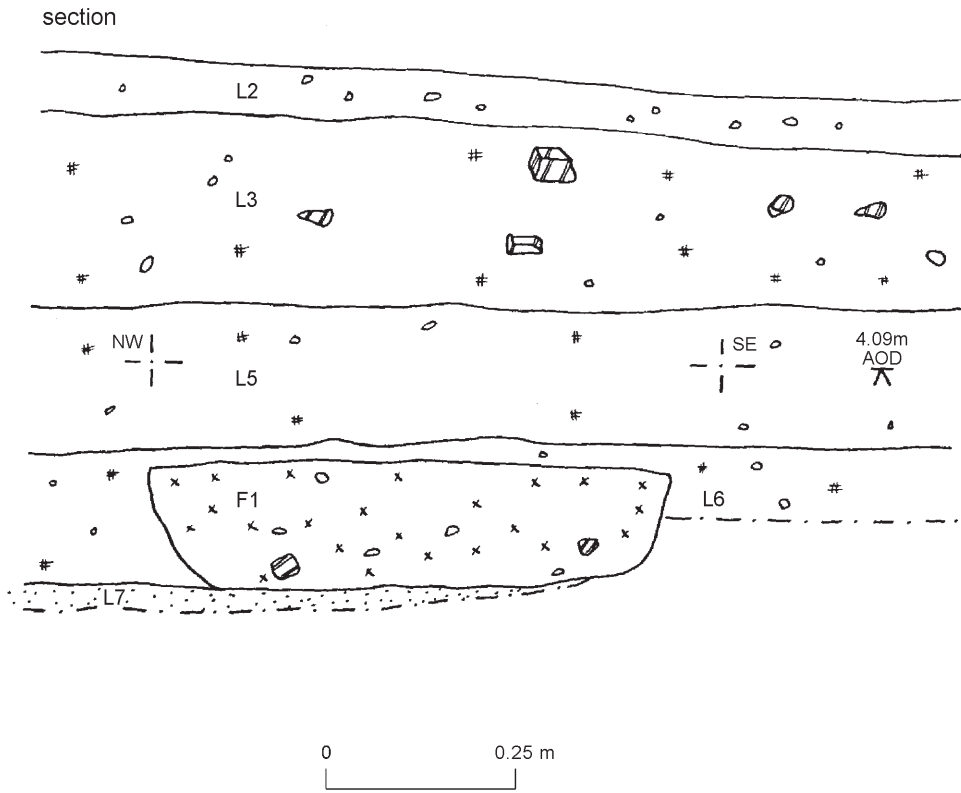
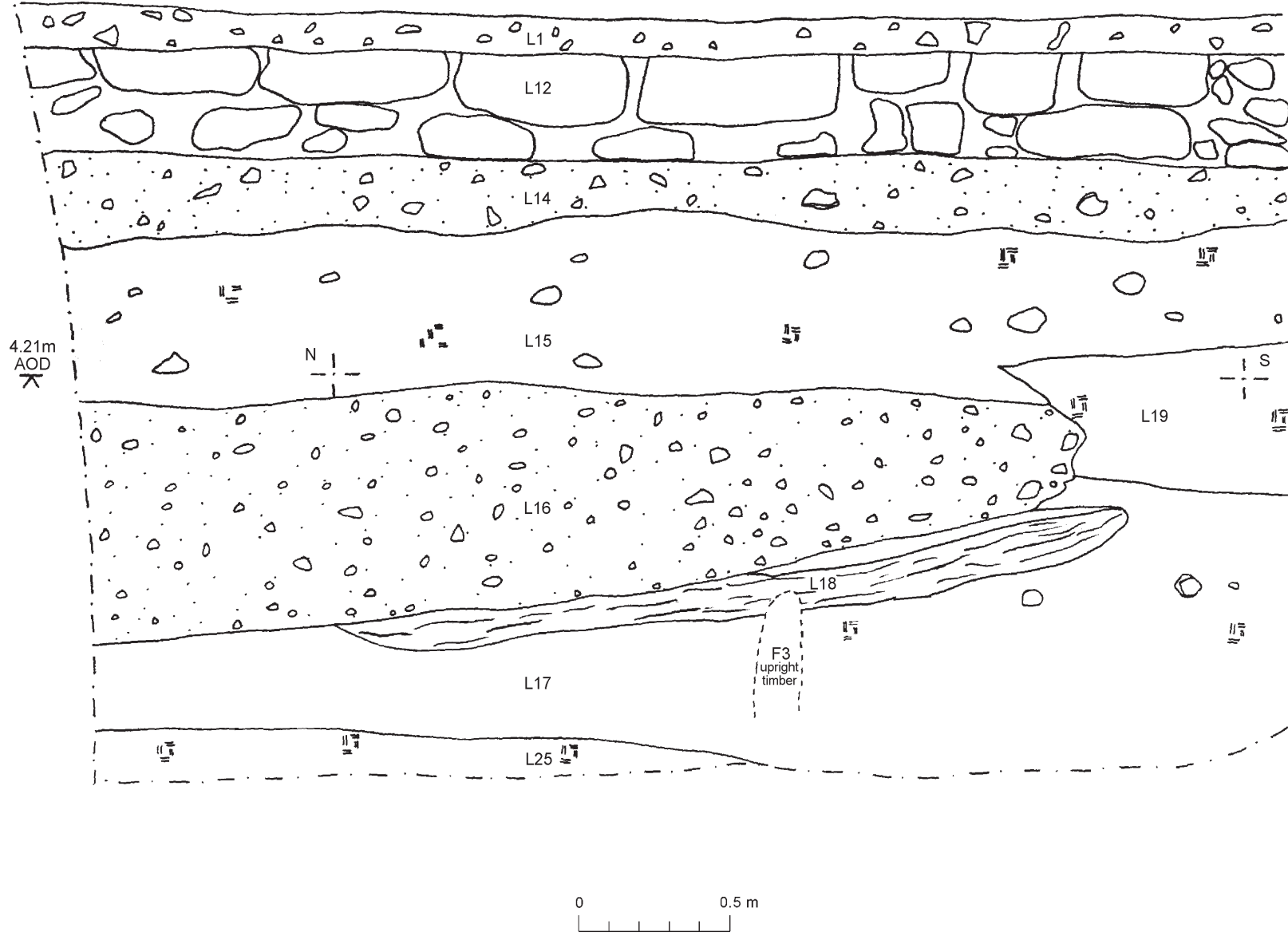


Fig 4 T2: F1; south-west-facing section and plan.

part of the west-facing section of T3



plan of F3

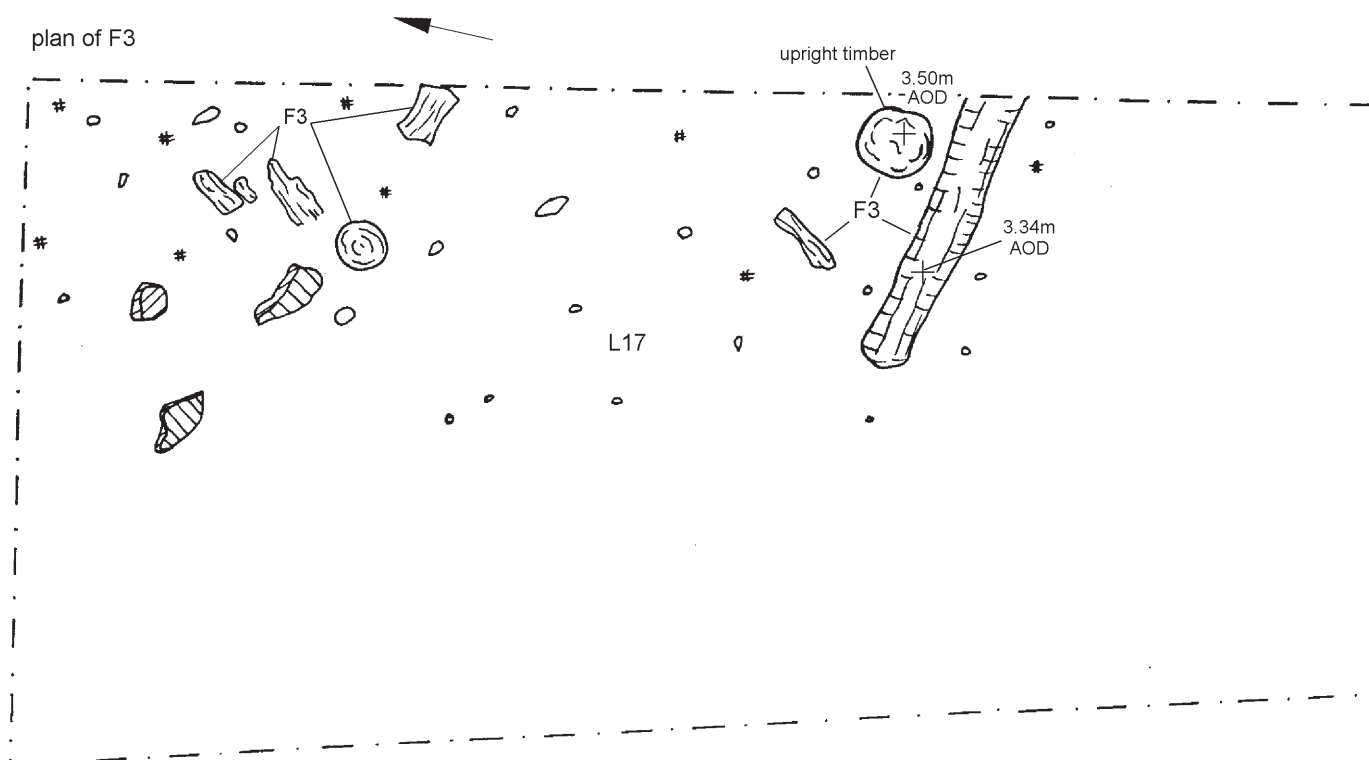


Fig 5 T3: part of the west-facing section of the trench and plan of F3.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

Summary sheet

Site address: East Mill, East Street, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 00710 25355 and TM 00722 25369 (c)	Site code: Museum accession code 2005.33
Type of work: Watching brief and evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May 2003 and March-April 2005	Size of area investigated: 5 trenches in 4700 sq m area, plus watching brief
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos:
Final report: CAT Report 314 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: medieval?, post-medieval and modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks on land to the rear of the former Mill Hotel in 2003. This was followed by an evaluation by trial-trenching in 2005 prior to residential development to the north-east. The evaluation indicated that the course of the millrace of East Mill was formerly through the western part of the development site, to the east of the river's present course. The evidence for this was river-borne silts and a timber revetment observed in one of the trenches, and the grille across the former millrace encountered in another trench. Three waterlogged timbers recorded in a pit dug for the manhole during the watching brief may be part of a building or other structure which stood behind the property immediately east of the mill. The evaluation confirmed the existence of a substantial depth of modern dumped material in the western and northern parts of the development site. Natural ground was not reached in all areas.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: Interim watching brief report, October 2004	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: June 2005