

**An archaeological evaluation
and watching brief
at Church Hill,
Earls Colne, Essex
July-September 2007**

**report prepared by
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**commissioned by
STN Developments Ltd**

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Fig 1 Site location.

Fig 2 Plan of T1 and the house site.

Fig 3 Plan of T2 and the garage site.

Fig 4 T1-T2: sections.

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation and a subsequent watching brief took place during the development of a site on Church Hill, Earls Colne, Essex. Evidence was uncovered for c 16th- to 17th-century occupation, including several ditches and gullies, pits and gravelled surfaces, as well as a ?stoke hole for an oven or kiln. A range of finds was recovered including evidence for antler-working.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 An archaeological evaluation was commissioned by STN Developments Ltd in advance of a proposed residential development on land adjacent to 3 Church Hill, Earls Colne, Essex (NGR: TL 8614 2881). The evaluation was undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in late July and early August 2007. It was followed by a watching brief during groundwork in September 2007.
- 2.2 The site is located on a vacant plot on the east side of Church Hill, Earls Colne, opposite St Andrew's Church. It lies to the north of an east-west trackway ('The Causeway') and immediately to the south of 3 Church Hill. The site covers an area of approximately 420 sq m and slopes from north-west to south-east, from approximately 42m AOD to 38m AOD.
- 2.3 The proposed development included the building of a house in the central part of the site and a double garage with vehicular access at the eastern end of the site.
- 2.4 The excavation and recording methods used were outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the site, which was produced by CAT in July 2007, and followed a brief written by the Historic Environment Management (HEM) team officer, Essex County Council. The WSI also set out proposals for post-excavation work, the production of a report, an archive and, if necessary, publication texts.
- 2.5 This report follows the standards set out in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 2001a), *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IFA 2001b), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001c). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of archaeological projects* (MAP 2), and *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource assessment* (EAA 3), *Research and archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy* (EAA 8), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 Medieval Earls Colne was a long, thin, straggling town, with two foci (Essex Historic Environment Record or EHER no 18469). The larger of these was centred on the market area in the High Street. The proposed development site lies at the eastern end of this focus of settlement, directly opposite the medieval parish church of St Andrew (EHER nos 28758 and 8721-8723).
- 3.2 A small Benedictine priory was founded in the 12th century between Earls Colne and White Colne (Medlycott 1998, 3-4). Excavations took place on the site of the priory in 1929-34 (Fairweather 1937). The site of the priory lies some 250m east of the development site. Traces of Roman settlement, possibly from a villa, were found there (*ibid*).
- 3.3 The development site lies in an area shown on the earliest map evidence for Earls Colne (the Israel Armyse survey of 1598) to have been developed by this date.

4 Aims

The aim of the evaluation was to establish and record the depth, extent, date, significance and condition of the archaeological remains surviving on the site. This

information could then be used to assess the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains.

The aim of the subsequent watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological deposits disturbed during building operations.

5 Methods

- 5.1** The evaluation consisted of two 10 m-long machine-dug trial-trenches (T1-T2; Fig 1). T1 was aligned approximately east-west in the middle of the site, within the footprint of the proposed house. T2 was aligned approximately north-south through the proposed double garage and its drive at the eastern end of the site.
- 5.2** The two trenches were dug on 26th July 2007 by a JCB with a toothless ditching bucket. They were machine-dug down to the uppermost surviving levels of archaeological significance. Where no archaeologically significant deposits were exposed, machine excavation was continued until natural subsoil was reached. This was followed by cleaning up and limited excavation by hand of the archaeological features and layers.
- 5.3** The watching brief consisted of intermittent site visits to monitor the digging of the trenches for the concrete foundations of both the house and the garage. These trenches were usually over 1m deep and 0.6-0.9m wide.
- 5.4** The excavation and recording methods used were outlined in the WSI, and further details can be found in the CAT document *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2006).

6 Evaluation trenches

6.1 Trench 1 (Figs 1-2, 4)

- 6.1.1** Natural subsoil (L4) was reached at a depth of 0.25m over much of T1 and was sealed by topsoil (L3). The natural subsoil was typically brownish-yellow sand and gravel, although there were some lighter, silty deposits.
- 6.1.2** Over parts of T1, notably at the western end, to the west of F1, the subsoil appeared to be sealed by a thin, patchy layer of gravel (L1). This was possibly a gravelled surface rather than a natural deposit, although no finds were recovered from it.
- 6.1.3** A ditch (F5) extended across the eastern part of the trench. It was aligned roughly north-west to south-east and was 1.25m wide and 0.45m deep, with a brownish fill. Among the finds from F5 were fragments of peg-tile and a pottery handle of 12th- to 15th-century date.
- 6.1.4** Another ditch (F1) extended parallel to F5, 3.2m to the west. It was some 1.25m wide and 0.35m deep, although its eastern edge was not well preserved. The fill was darker than that in F5. Peg-tile fragments were recovered from F1 as well as an unfrosted brick fragment from the upper backfill. These suggest that F1 was later in date than F5.
- 6.1.5** Between F1 and F5 was a pit (F3) which extended into the north section. It was 1.7m across and 0.55m deep. Finds from F3 included a sherd of 17th- to 18th-century pottery, and fragments of peg-tile, unfrosted brick and clay pipe. These suggest a date in the 18th century for F3, which, therefore, also probably post-dates F5.
- 6.1.6** A large pit (F2) extended into the south section. It measured 2.9m across and 0.7m deep, and cut both F1 and F3. The lower fill contained a large dump of unfrosted brick fragments. Other finds included peg-tile fragments, a small quantity of post-medieval/modern pottery sherds, and some fragments of post-medieval/modern glass. These suggest that F2 was modern; probably 19th or even early 20th century in date.
- 6.1.7** The features in T1 were all sealed by a layer of topsoil (L3) which was 0.2-0.3m thick. Local residents confirmed that in recent years the site had been used primarily for horticultural purposes.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figs 1, 3-4)

- 6.2.1** The depth of natural subsoil (L4) below the modern ground-level varied from 0.3m in the southern part of T2 to 0.6m in the northern part. The archaeological deposits

were mainly encountered over the middle and southern parts of the trench, although there was an undated, shallow pit (F6) towards the northern end of T2. This extended into the east section and was up to 1.15m across and 0.1m deep.

- 6.2.2** A feature (F7) extended east-west across the middle of T2 and was 1.4m wide. The dark greyish-brown backfill of F7 was sectioned. At a depth of 0.5m there was a hard, flat surface, 0.55m across, which appeared to be vitrified. Although not fully excavated, there did not appear to be evidence of intense *in situ* burning on the sides of F7. Perhaps it was part of the stoke hole of an oven or kiln. There were charcoal-rich, 'ashy' lenses with some small burnt stones in the lower part of the backfill.

Among the finds from the backfill of F7 were potsherds of probable 16th- to 17th-century date (see section 8.3) and fragments of window glass, peg-tile, unfrogged brick, and iron nails. Small finds included copper-alloy pins, a curtain ring, and a piece of worked bone (see section 8.2). Among the animal bone assemblage were fragments of fallow-deer antler, some of which had been worked (see sections 8.4 and 8.5; Plate 1). Fallow-deer antler is fairly weak compared to red deer (T Legge, pers comm). A small quantity of oyster shells was also recovered.

There were no fragments of clay pipe from F7. The finds indicate that F7 was probably backfilled in the 17th century.

- 6.2.3** An east-west slot or gully (F8) was sectioned 1.8m south of F7. It was 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep, and there were several large gravels as well as numerous smaller ones in the bottom of F8. The gravels were possibly natural but could have formed a bedding layer in the bottom of the feature. This feature was possibly a shallow ditch or gully. Alternatively it could have been a slot that housed a ground-plate for a timber-framed structure, although there were no surviving traces of wood. An iron nail fragment came from the backfill of F8. An irregularly-shaped feature, possibly an animal hole, extended into the east section immediately north of F8. A 17th-century sherd was recovered from F8, suggesting that it could have been contemporary with F7.

A thin gravelled surface (L2) extended to the north of F8 for at least 0.5m, and some gravels appeared to seal the northern part of the backfill of F8. It was probably therefore in use after F8 had been backfilled, although perhaps for a time L2 and F8 were in use together.

A brownish-yellow, clayey layer (L5) extended south from F8 into the south section. It remained unexcavated but appeared from the southern edge of F8 to be at least 0.2m thick. It was probably a natural deposit, although it was possibly the remains of a clay floor, perhaps associated with F8.

- 6.2.4** The features in T2 were sealed by a layer of topsoil (L3) which was 0.2-0.4m thick, and which had been truncated over the southern part of the trench as a result of modern activity. This included the dumping of a thick layer of brick and mortar rubble. A layer of mixed topsoil 0.2m thick had also been dumped over the northern part of the trench.

7 Watching brief

7.1 House site (Fig 2)

- 7.1.1** The natural subsoil (L4) over much of the site was sand and gravel and was typically 0.3m below the modern ground-level. However, in the foundation trenches in the south-east corner of the house site, a thick layer of brownish-yellow clay was encountered. This increases the likelihood that the clay layer (L5; see section 6.2.3) at the southern end of T2 was a natural deposit rather than a clay floor.

- 7.1.2** The probable gravelled surface (L1; see section 6.1.2) sealing L4 in T1 was also observed in the foundation trenches along the northern and western sides of the house site. It was approximately 0.15m thick and in places appeared well-defined, especially in the north-east corner.

- 7.1.3** The ditch F5 (see section 6.1.3) was observed in the foundation trench on the north side of the house site and also in a trench for an internal foundation in the northern half of the house. It was of broadly similar dimensions to where it was excavated in T1, although was slightly deeper, at 0.65m deep, by the north section. F5 was not observed in the foundation trench along the south side of the house site.

- 7.1.4** The ditch F1 (see section 6.1.4) was also visible in the foundation trench on the north

side of the house site and in a trench for an internal foundation in the northern half of the house. It was 0.6m deep in the north section. Further unfroged brick fragments and a 17th- to 18th-century potsherd were recovered from F1. F1 did not appear to extend into the foundation trench along the south side of the house site, although, due to the similarity of the fills of F1 and F4 (see section 7.1.5), this could not be confirmed conclusively.

- 7.1.5** A probable ditch (F4) was observed in foundation trenches in the southern half of the house site. It was aligned roughly south-west to north-east and was approximately 1m wide and up to 1m deep (ie the bottom was 1.3m below the modern ground-level). The feature was most clearly defined at the eastern edge of the house site. Further west, it was mainly visible as dark fills extending lengthwise down the sides of the foundation trench along the south side of the house site. It is assumed that this represented a single feature, although it was not possible to confirm this.

Finds from F4 included fragments of peg-tile and a post-medieval potsherd, as well as pieces of unfroged brick in the upper fill. A fragment of clay pipe came from the section after machining.

It seems likely that F4 is part of a ditch which extended down the slope from the west, and that one or both of F1 and F5 extended into it from the north. Further east, either F4 lay just beyond the south end of T2 or F8 was the truncated remains of F4.

- 7.1.6** Other features on the house site were sparse, although an undated feature, probably a shallow pit, was observed in the west section.

7.2 Garage site (Fig 3)

Archaeological deposits on the garage site were sparse, although an area of modern disturbance or a large modern pit was observed in the foundation trenches in the north-east corner.

8 Finds

- 8.1** A quantity of finds was recovered in the course of the evaluation and the watching brief. These have been processed as outlined in the WSI. They are listed in the appendix (Table 2; section 14 below), and the small finds and iron nails, the pottery and glass, the animal bone from F7, the antler-working debris from F7, and the fragments of clay pipe are described in sections 8.2- 8.6.

8.2 The small finds and bulk metalwork

by Nina Crummy

Most of the objects, some of which can be dated to the later medieval or early post-medieval period, come from F7. The exception is an undated fragment of a nail or smith's punch from F8.

SF 1. (20) F7 (T2). Tapering thick bone strip with sawn edges and one sawn end, the other end is broken; probably cut from a cattle scapula. The underside consists of rough cancellous tissue. Length 70 mm, maximum width 26 mm, 4 mm thick. This may be an offcut or unfinished piece from the manufacture of inlay or veneer. Date uncertain.

SF 2. (9) F7 (T2). Two small copper-alloy dress pins with globular wound-wire heads, Colchester Type 2 (CAR 5, 7-8). Lengths 36 and 31 mm. Simple pins of this sort were produced over many centuries, and these examples may date to the later medieval or early post-medieval period.

SF 3. (9) F7 (T2). Copper-alloy wire pin with hooked upper end; too delicate to be a brooch pin or buckle tongue but probably a dress accessory of some kind. Length 39 mm. Medieval or early post-medieval.

SF 4. (10) F7 (T2). Copper-alloy curtain ring of flattened elliptical section, with file marks on the surfaces. Diameter 22 mm. The section and file marks are typical of 14th-15th century curtain rings (Egan 1998, 62-4).

(8) F7 (T2). Two iron nails and one wire fragment. a) Complete clenched nail with oval head. Length 50 mm. b) Incomplete nail with oval head. Length 27 mm. c) Thin wire fragment. Length 39 mm.

(12) F7 (T2). Iron nail with flat ?oval head; the tip of the shank is missing. Length 60 mm.

(18) F8. (T2). Stout iron nail or perhaps the head of a smith's punch. Length 41 mm.

8.3 The post-Roman pottery and glass

by Howard Brooks

Comment

Fabrics present (after *CAR 7*) are: Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware) or 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 35 (Mill Green ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware – PMRE); and Fabric 48d (modern ironstone).

This is a medium-sized group (57 sherds, 1,547g), most of which is from F7, and most of which is either Fabric 21 or 21a, or Fabric 40. This would indicate that the main period of activity on this site was within the 15th/16th to the 17th centuries. The only features which seem to vary from this date are the potentially earlier ditch F5, which produced a sherd of Fabric 35 (Mill Green ware, 12th-14th century) and the definitely later F2, which contained sherds of 19th- to 20th-century Fabric 48d (ironstone).

The glass is unremarkable, except to say that the old window glass must be derived from the repair or demolition of a nearby post-medieval building.

Catalogue of post-medieval pottery and glass

T1

F2 (2)

3 sherds Fabric 40 (PMRE), including 1 rim. 63g. 17th-18th century.

1 sherds Fabric 48d modern ironstone. 20g. 19th-20th century.

2 sherds from a large Fabric 40 (PMRE) bowl. One sherd joins with a sherd from (7) below. 251g. 17th-18th century.

F2 (7)

1 sherd from a large Fabric 40 (PMRE) bowl; joins with a sherd from (2) above. 214g. 17th-18th century.

F2 (14)

3 sherds Fabric 40 (PMRE). 33g. 17th-18th century.

1 sherd Fabric 48d (modern ironstone). 8g. 19th-20th century.

F2 (16)

3 fragments of 17th- to 18th-century bottle glass. 31g.

2 sherds of glazed Fabric 40 (PMRE); one is a bowl or dish rim. 33g. 17th or 18th century.

F3 (13)

8 sherds Fabric 40 (PMRE) with lustrous brown glaze. 69g. 18th rather than 17th century.

F5 (11)

1 handle fragment in Fabric 35 (Mill Green ware); patchy green glaze over white slip. 53g. 12th-14th, possibly 15th century.

T2

F7 (4)

1 sherd from handle/body junction of a large vessel in Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware). 90g. 15th-16th century.

1 large fragment of base and wall of a cup in Fabric 40 (PMRE). The position of two handle scars shows that this was probably a three-handled cup. Internal clear (ie orange) glaze, external partial pale green glaze. 155g. Although it is smaller (70mm base width), it is a close match in shape to *CAR 7*, Figure 1476.157. Early 17th century.

1 sherd from rim of a small internally lid-seated pot in Fabric 40. Internal clear glaze. 17g. 17th-18th century

1 plain body sherd from large vessel in Fabric 40. 101g. 17th-18th century.

F7 (8)

3 sherds of Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware) or possibly Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware). 37g. One is handle fragment with tiny glaze splashes. 15th-16th century.

7 sherds of Fabric 40 (PMRE), patchily glazed and rather reminiscent of Fabric 21 or 21a. 118g. 16th/17th century?

3 plain unglazed body sherds in Fabric 40 (PMRE). 20g. 17th-18th century.

6 sherds of lustrous, dark grey-glazed Fabric 40 (PMRE) drinking cup, in imitation of a pewter vessel. 67g. John Cotter states that these are usually 17th century in date (CAR 7, 212).

1 highly lustrous orange-glazed sherd of Fabric 40 (PMRE). 5g. This looks recent, ie 18th or 19th century, and I wonder whether it is intrusive into this group.

F7 (12)

6 sherds of Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware) or possibly Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware). Some with glaze splashes. One is a flat-topped, large, bulbous jar. 116g. 15th-16th century.

F7 (15)

2 fragments of old window glass. 3mm thick. 8g. Originally pale green/clear, but now heavily weathered. Certainly pre-Victorian, probably 17th-18th century. This is presumably derived from the repair or demolition of a nearby post-medieval building.

F7 (22)

1 fragment from lid-seated jar in Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware) or Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware). 24g. 15th-16th century.

F8 (18)

1 sherd Fabric 40 (PMRE) with lustrous dark grey glaze. 10g. 17th century.

T2 Unstratified

(5)

Green glass bottle, 223mm high, 58mm diameter, 541g. Leather stopper has been pushed into interior of bottle. Stamped JOHNSON. GODALMING. Probably for a soft drink. Late 19th or early 20th century.

2 sherds Fabric 48d (modern ironstone). 10g. 19th-20th century.

Watching brief

F1? (25)

1 sherd Fabric 40 (PMRE). 6g. 17th-18th century.

F4 (23)

1 sherd plain unglazed Fabric 40 (PMRE). 33g. 17th-19th century.

8.4 The animal bone

by Julie Curl

Methodology

All of the bone was examined primarily to determine the range of species and elements present and the amount of material that could produce measurable, ageable bone; bone was scanned for evidence of bone-, horn- or antler-working in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and skinning, horn-working or other modifications was recorded. Where possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were taken and recorded for each context and counts taken for the number of bones for each species identified. Due to the small size of the assemblage, measurements were not taken as there would have been too little data for any meaningful interpretation. All information was input directly into an Excel database for analysis. The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A catalogue of the assemblage is included with this report (Table 1).

The assemblage

A total of 1.001kg of animal bone, consisting of 75 pieces, was recovered in T2 from a section across a 16th- to 17th-century feature (F7), which appeared to be a stoke hole for an oven or kiln.

The assemblage is in good condition, although fragmentary due to butchering and wear. No burnt remains were noted and no canid or rodent gnawing was seen on any of the bone.

Results and discussion

Four species were identified, with remains of sheep/goat the most common, and pig and cattle also recorded. Several pieces of fallow deer were also identified.

Six pieces of a fallow-deer antler, consisting of palm, branch and tine fragments, were excavated from the upper fill of F7. Three of the pieces of antler show sawing to remove the tips of tine. These pieces of antler are likely to be from one fallow-deer antler, with some of the pieces fitting together, and it has clearly been utilised (Plate 1).

A sheep horn-core was recovered from the upper fill of F7 during machining. This core shows no chop or cut marks that would be expected if the horn sheath had been removed for working, although this was found in association with probable antler-working waste.

Remains of pig and sheep/goat were also recovered from the upper fill. The sheep remains included a scapula that shows a hole for hanging; several knife cuts were also seen on the neck and blade of the other scapula where meat was removed.

Most of the remains had been butchered, with a range of primary butchering and working waste and secondary food waste disposed of together. The bone from the cattle and sheep/goat are derived from adult animals, which are likely to have had a range of uses prior to culling for meat. The pig remains are from juveniles; this is typical of porcine bone as these animals have little use other than for meat and fat so they tend to be culled at their prime time for meat.

It is possible that the antler was naturally shed; this happens in the spring and single antlers are often found in woodland. However, it is not certain with the antler in this assemblage, as the burr (base) of the antler is missing.

The bulk of the faunal assemblage is typical of remains found at other sites in and around Colchester, although fallow deer are noted as only occasional finds (CAR 12, 98). While red and roe deer are identified in many assemblages, fallow is relatively rare, although fallow bone was seen in a medieval/post-medieval deposit at Long Wyre Street, Colchester (Wade 2004). It is always possible that the fallow antler could have been traded as working material.

Table 1: catalogue of the faunal remains from F7, listed by finds number.

Finds no	F/L no	Trench	Total qty	Wt (g)	Species	Species qty	Butchering	Ages	Comments
4	F7	T2	5	245	cattle	2	chopped/cut	adult	rib fragments
4	F7	T2			sheep/goat	3	chopped/cut	adult	sheep horn-core, humerus, skull fragment
8	F7	T2	48	435	sheep/goat	8	chopped/cut	adult	metatarsal, 2 scapulas, pelvis, tibia, horn
8	F7	T2			pig	6	butchered	juv	radius, tibia, metapodial, phalanges
8	F7	T2			deer - fallow	6	sawn	adult	fallow antler pieces, palm and tines, sawn
8	F7	T2			mammal	28			small fragments of mammal bone
12	F7	T2	22	321	cattle	2	chopped/cut	adult	upper jaw - loose teeth +

									cut, axis vertebrae
12	F7	T2			sheep/ goat	5	chopped/cut	adult	jaw, scapula, tibia, radius
12	F7	T2			mammal	15			fragments

8.5 The antler-working debris

by Nina Crummy

A fallow-deer antler with the tips of three tines sawn off represents primary antler-working waste (see Plate 1). Such a small quantity of material is not evidence for a dedicated antler-working workshop, but probably demonstrates opportunistic use of an available material (Crummy 2001, 101). In the medieval period red-deer antler tines were used for the manufacture of a variety of objects, including pottery stamps and as simple pegs or wedges (MacGregor *et al* 1999, 1997-8). A similar use may be appropriate here, or perhaps something more complex, such as a bobbin or thread reel, but in the absence of the tines themselves it is impossible to be sure of the end product. The introduction of fallow deer to Britain in the 11th century is not matched by an appearance of primary or secondary antler waste from the species in the archaeological record, although availability rather than suitability was probably the cause. The use of red deer antler, a material much utilised for its strength in the Anglo-Saxon period, also declined after the Conquest, largely due to strict laws regarding hunting (*ibid*, 1906).

8.6 The clay tobacco pipe

by Nina Crummy

Only undatable plain stem fragments were recovered.

(13) F3 (T1). Stem fragment, length 36 mm, bore diameter 3.25 mm.

(24) F4? (T1). Stem fragment, length 31 mm, bore diameter 2.75 mm.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1** The evaluation confirmed that significant archaeological remains survive intact on the site fairly close to the modern ground-level. These deposits were 0.2-0.3m deep in T1 within the footprint of the proposed house and 0.3-0.6m deep in T2 on the site of the proposed garage and access route.
- 9.2** The remains were mainly early post-medieval in date and included gravelled surfaces (L1, L2), ditches (F1, F4, F5), a gully/slot (F8), and the ?stoke hole (F7) for an oven or kiln.
- 9.3** The finds from F7 included a worked bone strip and some worked antler fragments, indicating that antler-working and possibly bone-working had taken place on or near the site. There was also a quantity of c 16th- to 17th-century pottery, as well as some window glass and other post-medieval building materials.
- 9.4** The evidence suggests that there was a substantial 16th- or 17th-century building nearby. Although no building remains were positively identified, there was some evidence for a post-medieval structure in the south-east corner of the site.

10 Archive deposition

The site archive, including the context record sheets, photographs and finds, will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum under accession code BRNTM 2007.266.

11 Acknowledgements

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13 Glossary

- | | |
|---------|--|
| AOD | above Ordnance Survey datum point, based on mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall |
| context | specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made, usually a layer or a feature |
| EHHER | Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council, at County Hall, Chelmsford |

feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor
HEM	Historic Environment Management team, Essex County Council
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	period from c 1850 onwards to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
peg-tile	rectangular roof tile of medieval or later date
post-medieval	period from c 1500 to c 1850
Roman	the period from AD 43 to AD 410 approximately
U/S	unstratified, ie no context
WSI	written scheme of investigation

14 Appendix: list of finds by context

**Table 2: finds list (post-Roman pottery fabric codes follow those used in CAR7).
Key: wb = watching brief**

Con-text	Trench no/wb	Finds no	Qty	Finds description	Weight (g)	Group date
F1	T1	1	1	peg-tile fragment	21.7	post-medieval
			1	unfrogged brick fragment (115 mm wide x 42 mm thick, buff)	649.3	
		6	1	peg-tile fragment, with peg-hole	53.5	
F1?	wb	25	1	potsherd (Fabric 40), 17th-18th century	6.0	
F2	T1	2	6	potsherds (5 x Fabric 40; 1 x Fabric 48d), 17th-20th century	334.0	modern
			2	peg-tile fragments	270.0	
			2	animal bone fragments	4.5	
		7	1	potsherd (Fabric 40), 17th-18th century	214.0	
			2	unfrogged brick fragments (55 and 60 mm thick)	637.2	
			1	animal bone fragment	22.1	
			2	peg-tile fragments	195.4	
		14	1	miscellaneous ceramic building material	219.7	
			4	potsherds (3 x Fabric 40; 1 x Fabric 48d), 17th-20th century	41.0	
			3	peg-tile fragments, 1 with peg-hole	81.6	
			2	unfrogged brick fragments (1 x 50 mm thick, buff)	210.8	
			3	animal bone fragments	37.2	
		16	2	potsherds (Fabric 40), 17th-18th century	33.0	
			3	bottle glass, 17th-18th century	31.0	
			9	peg-tile fragments, 2 with peg-holes	284.6	
			4	animal bone fragments	117.2	
F3	T1	13	8	potsherds (Fabric 40), 18th century	69.0	18th century
			1	clay pipe stem fragment		
			2	animal bone fragments	9.8	
			4	peg-tile fragments, 1 with peg-hole	214.8	
			2	unfrogged brick fragments	399.1	
			2	unfrogged brick fragments	399.1	
F4	wb	23	1	potsherd (Fabric 40), 17th-19th century	33.0	post-medieval
			1	peg-tile fragment	34.5	
			1	unfrogged brick fragment (60 mm thick)	105.5	
			2	animal bone fragments	6.1	
?F4		24	1	floor tile?	147.2	
			1	clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment		
F5	T1	11	1	pottery handle (Fabric 35), 12th-15th century	53.0	late

			5	peg-tile fragments, 2 with peg-holes	249.2	medieval/ early post- medieval
			2	animal bone fragments	43.6	
			1	oyster shell	3.5	
F7	T2	4	4	potsherds (1 x Fabric 21a; 3 x Fabric 40), 15th-18th century	363.0	17th century
			5	animal bone fragments	245.0	
			3	peg-tile fragments	187.7	
		8	20	potsherds (3 x Fabric 21/21a; 17 x Fabric 40), 15th-18th century	247.0	
			48	animal bone fragments	435.0	
			2	iron nails		
			1	iron wire fragment		
			6	peg-tile fragments, 3 with peg-holes	479.5	
			2	unfrogged brick fragments (55 mm thick)	1,068.2	
			2	?floor tile fragment (20 mm thick)	105.5	
			5	shell fragments (4 oyster, 1 cockle)	43.5	
			9	3 copper-alloy pins		
			10	1 copper-alloy curtain ring		
		12	6	potsherds (Fabric 21/21a), 15th-16th century	116.0	
			22	animal bone fragments	321.0	
			1	iron nail fragment		
			6	peg-tile fragments, 1 with peg-hole	508.7	
			4	unfrogged brick fragments (45, 2 x 50, 55 mm thick)	1,148.3	
			2	fragments of white plaster	102.4	
			2	oyster shell fragments	10.2	
			15	2 window glass fragments, 17th-18th century	8.0	
			20	1 bone strip		
22	1 potsherd (Fabric 21/21a), 15th-16th century		24.0			
	1	peg-tile fragment	22.9			
F8	T2	18	1	potsherd (Fabric 40), 17th century	10.0	post- medieval
			1	iron nail/punch		
L2	T2	17	1	peg-tile	18.8	post- medieval
L5	T2	19	1	peg-tile fragment	20.9	post- medieval
u/s	T1	3	4	animal bone fragments	235.6	post- medieval
			3	peg-tile fragments, 1 with peg-hole	400.9	
			2	unfrogged brick fragments (40 mm thick, 1 buff)	699.0	
			1	?Roman brick fragment (36 mm thick)	618.9	
u/s	T2	5	1	glass bottle (stamped JOHNSON, GODALMING), 19th-20th century	541.2	modern
			2	potsherds (Fabric 48d), 19th-20th century	10.0	
			1	animal bone fragment	33.2	

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Distribution list:

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 Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



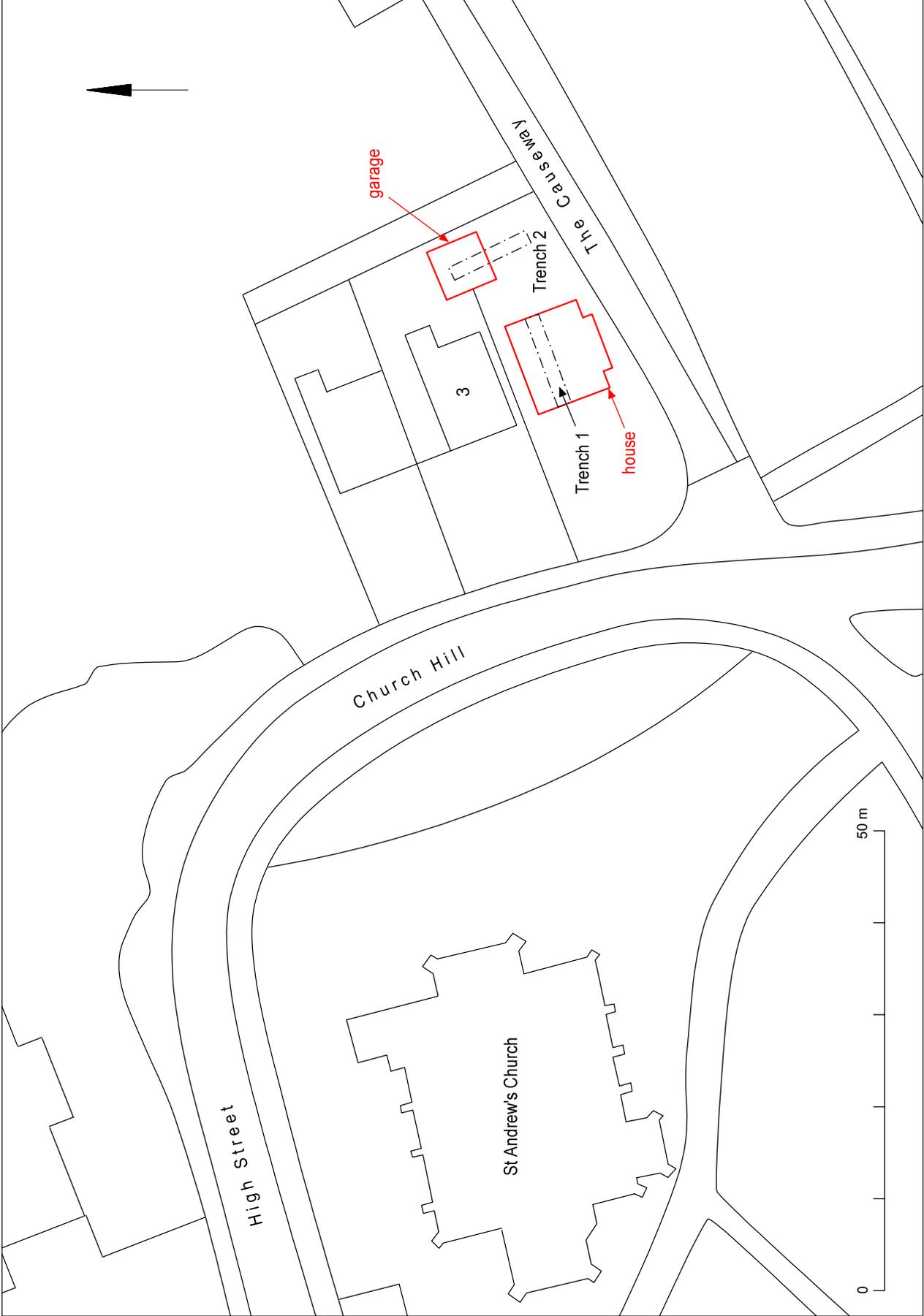
Plate 1: fallow-deer antler fragments from F7.



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Fig 1 Site location plan.

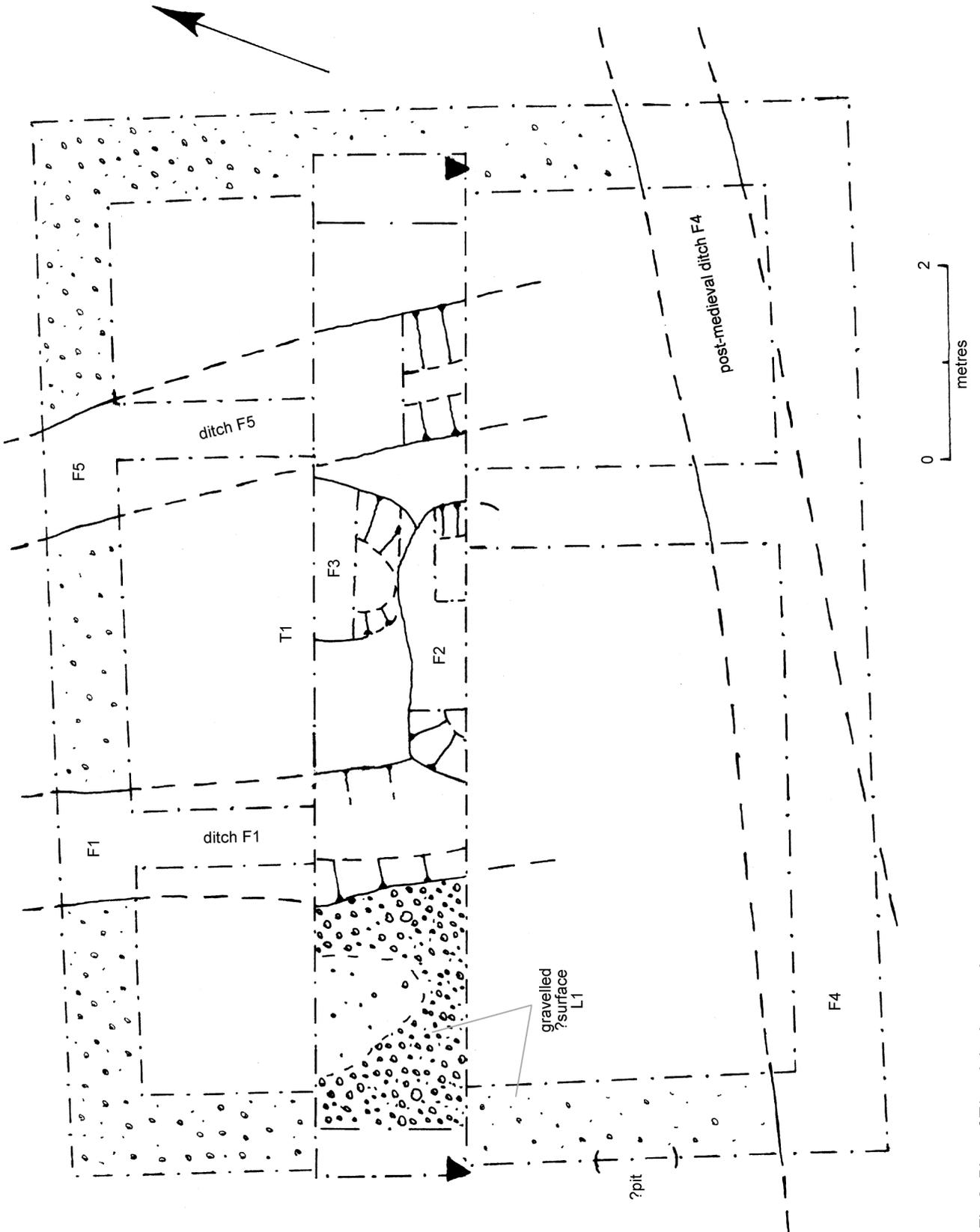


Fig 2 Plan of T1 and the house site.

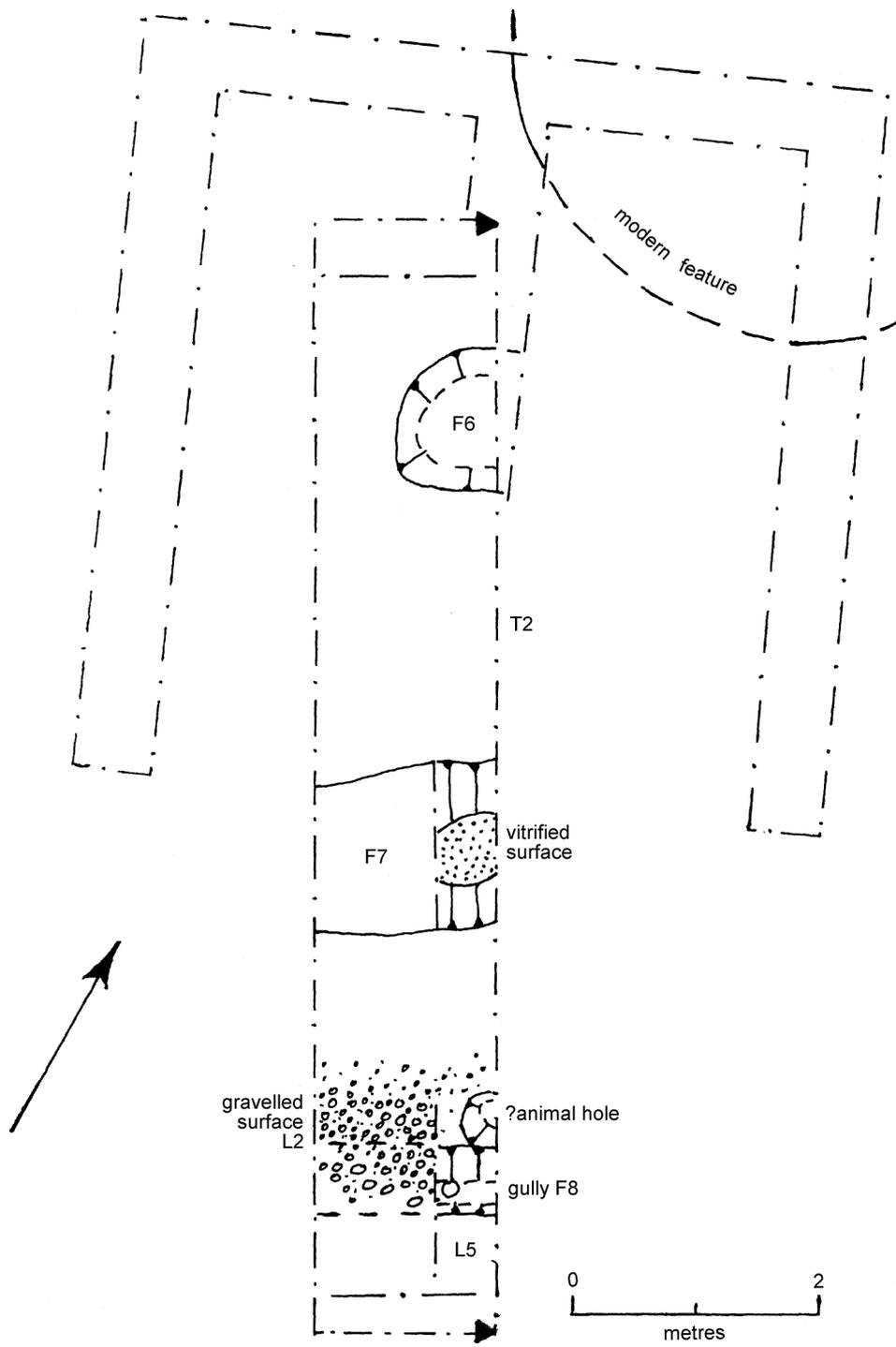


Fig 3 Plan of T2 and the garage site.

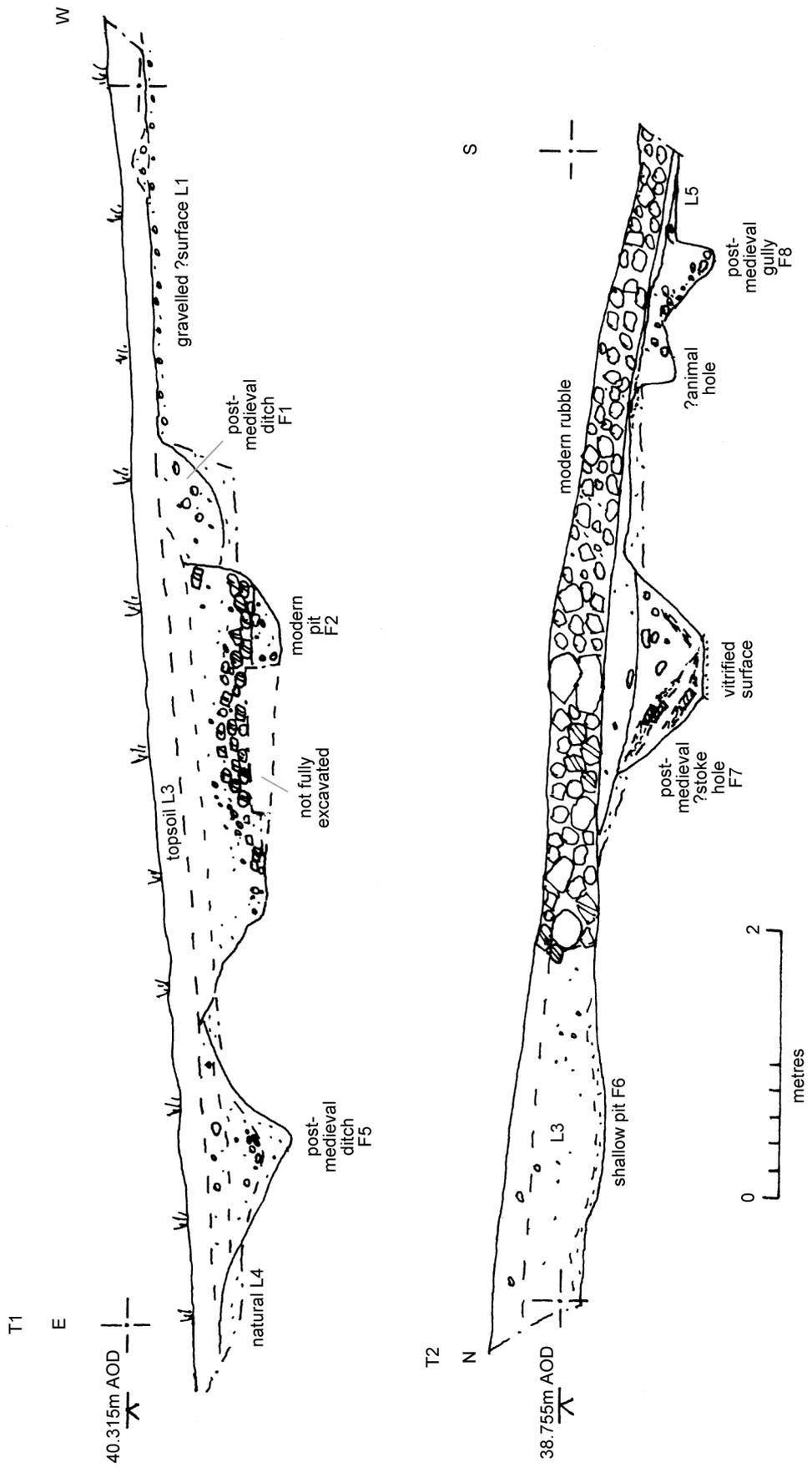


Fig 4 T1-T2: sections.

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

Site address: adjacent to 3 Church Hill, Earls Colne, Essex	
Parish: Earls Colne	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 8614 2881	Site codes: ECC code: ECCH 07 Museum accession code: BRNTM 2007.266
Type of work: Evaluation and watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: July-September 2007	Size of area investigated: 420 sq m
Location of finds/curating museum: Braintree Museum	Funding source: STN Developments Ltd
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER nos: -
Final report: CAT Report 435 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: post-medieval and modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation and a subsequent watching brief took place during the development of a site on Church Hill, Earls Colne, Essex. Evidence was uncovered for c 16th- to 17th-century occupation, including several ditches and gullies, pits and gravelled surfaces, as well as a ?stoke hole for an oven or kiln. A range of finds was recovered including evidence for antler-working.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
Author of summary: D Shimmin	Date of summary: April 2008