

**Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval
remains at Heybridge Hall,
Heybridge, Maldon, Essex:
evaluation September 2007**

**report prepared by
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**on behalf of
Grove Homes (Essex) Ltd**

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1 Summary

Heybridge Hall was a fine 13th-century and later listed building, which burnt down in 2004. An archaeological evaluation by ten trenches around the hall site in 2007 revealed evidence for occupation in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, and possibly in the Middle Iron Age.

An evaluation in 1991 had located an area of medieval activity to the east of the hall site, and beyond the eastern boundary of the 2007 evaluation. It is believed that this may have been the site of a timber building, either a predecessor of the now-destroyed 13th-century hall or an ancillary building. Trenching in 2007 also found a medieval ditch to the east of the site of the 13th-century hall, but no structural evidence such as post-holes or slots. Nevertheless, the few sherds of medieval pottery from this ditch and other (residual) contexts support a 12th- or 13th-century date for the foundation of the medieval hall complex.

Most of the excavated remains are associated with the hall in its post-medieval phase. These included a gravelled yard and the foundations of an ancillary building to the south of the hall site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Heybridge Hall, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex, carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in September 2007, on behalf of Mr Peter Adamson of Grove Homes (Essex) Ltd.
- 2.2 The site is located at the east end of Hall Lane, Heybridge, and between the River Blackwater and the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation.
- 2.3 Site centre is NGR TL 859 076.
- 2.4 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a specification agreed with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (HEM) team officer, who also monitored the project. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IFA 1999) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001), and Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CM 2002) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (CM 2003). Other sources used are *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).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

- 3.1 The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.
- 3.2 Heybridge Hall, listed Grade II* prior to its unfortunate destruction by fire, was a fine example of a medieval hall originating in the 13th century but containing major and well-preserved additions of the 15th and 17th centuries (EHER nos 9020-9022). The medieval hall is also likely to have been served by a range of ancillary buildings possibly including a kitchen, dairy, brew-house and chapel, remains of which may survive within the site.
- 3.3 An archaeological evaluation in 1991 demonstrated the survival of archaeological deposits of medieval date at approximately 0.70-1.0m below ground-level, and further excavations in the vicinity have discovered evidence of extensive occupation of the area during the Late Iron Age (Bryant 1992).
- 3.4 The site therefore had the potential for significant surviving archaeological remains of medieval and possibly earlier date.

4 Aims

The purpose of the evaluation, consisting of trial-trenching, was to determine the presence/absence and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits/features in the development area, and to confirm their date, significance and state of preservation.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

5.1 Trench 1: summary

T1 was located on the western edge of the site. It contained four modern, small, square post-holes (F10, F11, F12, F13), on a roughly north-south alignment. Two of them were excavated (F11, F13). Their fills contained large quantities of modern debris, ie brick and tile fragments. The finds and the alignment suggest a recent fence line, with the building debris used as packing material.

All the features in T1 were sealed by topsoil L1, and were cut through L2 into natural sands and gravels (L3). L2, which is dated by the presence of peg-tile and post-medieval brick fragments, is believed to be a layer of material spread over the site following repair or new building in the post-medieval period.

Trench 1 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F10	Post-hole (unexcavated)	Brick fragments in upper fill	modern
F11	Post-hole	Peg-tile, post-medieval brick	modern
F12	Post-hole (unexcavated)	Brick fragments in upper fill	modern
F13	Post-hole	Peg-tile, brick in fill	modern

5.2 Trench 2: summary

T2 was located in south-west corner of the site, cutting across the corner of the site of the proposed cart-lodge. It contained no archaeological features. Topsoil L1 was thicker here than elsewhere on the site, and may be redeposited. It was also noted in the report on the 1991 evaluation here that there was a deep topsoil cover south of the hall site (Bryant 1992). L1 sealed L2, which in turn sealed natural sand and gravel (L3).

5.3 Trench 3: summary

T3 was located along the southern edge of the site, cutting through the centre of the site of the proposed cart-lodge. The trench contained an east-west aligned ditch (F16) and a large pit (F20).

Material recovered from the ditch, including a penny of 1876, indicates a modern date.

Pit F20 was visible along half the length of the trench. Its fill consisted of interleaving deposits of natural sand, dark ashy soil, and deposits of oyster shell and animal bone. Associated pottery indicates a post-medieval date, and the size and nature of the pit (with its ash, shell and bone deposits) suggest a domestic dump probably associated with the post-medieval phase of Heybridge Hall.

Both F16 and F20 were sealed by modern topsoil (L1) and were cut through L2, into natural geological deposits (L3).

Trench 3 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F16	ditch	1876 penny, peg-tile	modern
F20	Pit	PMRE, peg-tile, residual Roman pottery	post-medieval

5.4 Trench 4: summary

T4 was located in the central area of the site, west of the hall foundations. It contained a single, north-south aligned ditch (F18). Associated pottery was Roman. Superficially, this ditch aligns well with the Late Iron Age/Roman ditch F25 in T10, but where this alignment would pass through T9, ditch F9 is on a different alignment.

This might suggest that all three of these were short, discrete lengths of ditch, rather than long runs of ditch.

F18 was sealed by L2, and cut into natural geological deposits (L3).

Trench 4 – context and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F18	ditch	Pottery, mid 3rd-4th century	Roman 3rd-4th century

5.5 Trench 5: summary

T5 was located immediately to the west of the hall foundations. It contained a single linear feature (F15) and a natural pit (F14).

The pit (probably a tree-throw) was small and irregular, with a highly-leached fill. The linear feature was east-west aligned. Its slightly irregular profile and slightly-leached fill suggest that it was a natural, periglacial channel.

All features were sealed by L2, and cut into natural geological deposits (L3).

Trench 5 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F14	Pit (natural)	-	undated
F15	periglacial channel?	-	undated

5.6 Trench 6: summary

T6 was located in the centre of the site, at its east end, south of the hall foundations. It contained a compacted gravel surface (F7), a ditch (F21), and a two wall foundations (F5 and F17).

The foundations were probably of two phases of construction. The earlier phase (F17 – large cobbles set in a white lime mortar, with a levelling course of peg-tile) was a right-angled foundation which appeared to define the north-west corner of a structure (Fig 3). A length of 5.8m of the north wall of this structure coincided with the trench position, and 1.8m of its west wall, though it is clear that both these walls continued to the east and south respectively. This structure would appear to be ancillary to the main hall building to the north.

The second phase saw the addition of unfrosted Tudor-brick structure F5 to the outer face of the earlier footing F17.

Foundation F17 sealed ditch F21, which contained post-medieval pottery and glass. This implies that both phases of wall foundation in T6 were post-medieval in date.

In the centre of T6, ie to the west of foundations F5/F17, there was a surface of compacted coarse gravel loosely consolidated over a deposit of crushed oyster shells (L4). This gravel surface contained post-medieval brick and peg-tile. It may represent the remains of a yard or track lying to the west of the hall, in its post-medieval phase. A large area of similar compacted gravel was revealed in T10 to the north. It may be connected with gravel surface F7 in T6.

Oyster shell deposit L4 sealed natural sand and gravel.

Trench 6 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F5	Wall foundation	Brick, peg-tile in structure	post-medieval
F7	Compacted surface	Peg-tile, brick in surface	post-medieval
F17	Wall foundation	(no brick cobbled mortar)	medieval
F21	Ditch	PMRE pot, post-medieval glass, residual LIA pottery	post-medieval

5.7 Trench 7: summary

T7 was located immediately to the south of the hall foundations. It contained a short length of wall foundation (F22) and a pit (F23).

The pit was medium-sized, contained a large quantity of modern pottery, and tile, and was cut close against wall foundation F22.

The wall foundation was constructed of unfroged Tudor-type brick. It extended parallel to both wall F5 (T6) and to the footprint of the hall building. For this reason, it is very likely that it was part of east wall of the structure whose north-western corner was revealed in T6. The fact that F22 was built of Tudor-type brick would indicate that it was contemporary with brick wall F5 in T6, rather than with cobbled wall foundation F17.

Both of the features were sealed by topsoil (L1), and cut through L2 into natural geological deposits (L3).

Trench 7 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F22	Wall foundation	Unfroged brick in structure	post-medieval?
F23	Pit	PMRE and Fabric 48d pottery, peg-tile	modern

5.8 Trench 8: summary

T8 was located immediately to the east edge of the hall foundations. It contained three ditches (F2, F3, F4) and two pits (F1 and F8).

Pits F1 and F8, and ditch F2, contained Late Iron Age pottery. Ditch F3 was dated by medieval pottery, but also contained residual prehistoric and Roman pottery. Ditch F4 was dated to the post-medieval period by peg-tile, but also contained residual Roman pottery. Ditches F3 and F4 therefore relate to the medieval and post-medieval phases of this site, but the presence of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery shows that there was considerable activity in those earlier periods too.

All features were sealed by L2.

Trench 8 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F1	Pit	LIA pottery	LIA
F2	Gully	LIA pottery	LIA
F3	Ditch	Medieval pottery – Fabric 13 or 20, plus residual Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon, LIA and Roman pottery	medieval
F4	Ditch	Roman pottery, mid 3rd-4th century (plus peg-tile in fill)	post-medieval
F8	Pit	LIA pottery	LIA

5.9 Trench 9: summary

T9 was located immediately to the north of the foundations of the hall. It contained two parallel ditches (F6 and F9), both aligned north-south, and both dated by Roman pottery.

It is possible that F9 was a narrower part of the ditch excavated as F25 in T10 (below).

Both features were sealed by accumulated L2, and cut into natural geological deposits (L3).

Trench 9 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F6	Ditch	Pottery, mid 3rd-4th century	later Roman
F9	Ditch	Pottery, early 2nd-mid 3rd century	mid Roman

5.10 Trench 10: summary

T10 was located on the northern edge of the site. It contained two ditches (F24 and F25) and a compacted gravel surface (F19). The ditches contained Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. F24 was similar in fill and profile to F6 in T9, but the two features were not in alignment.

F24 was subsequently sealed by the post-medieval compacted gravel surface F19, which was similar to and may be a continuation of F7 in T6 to the south. All features were sealed by L2, and cut into natural geological deposits (L3).

Trench 10 – contexts and dating.

Context	Feature	Dated finds	Period
F19	Compacted gravel surface	Pottery, peg-tile	Post-medieval
F24	Ditch	LIA pottery	Late Iron Age
F25	Ditch	Pottery, LIA and Roman plus peg-tile	Roman?

6 Finds

6.1 The prehistoric pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

The recording of the prehistoric pottery follows that devised for the recording of prehistoric pottery in Essex (Brown 1988; see Table 1 below).

Table 1: prehistoric pottery fabrics used in this report.

size of inclusions:

S – small (<1 mm)

M – medium (1-2 mm)

L – large (>2 mm)

density of inclusions:

1 = less than 6 per square cm

2 = 6 to 10 per square cm

3 = more than 10 per square cm.

Fabric G	sand S 3
Fabric O	quartz and flint with some sand S-L, poorly sorted 2

Discussion

Just two small sherds (13 g) of pottery was recovered that can be ascribed a prehistoric (pre-Belgic) date. Both came from T8 and both are residual in later-dated contexts. One sherd (5 g) is from F3 (finds no 3). As this sherd is relatively thick (7-8 mm) and is sand-tempered, it is most probably of Middle Iron Age date. The other sherd (8 g) came from F2 (finds no 2). The fabric contains white quartz sand, sand and occasional flint. This sherds is not closely datable.

Catalogue of prehistoric pottery

T8

F2, finds number 2

Fabric O, 1 sherd, 10-11 mm thick, red-brown interior and fabric margins, with dark grey-brown fabric and brown exterior surface, tempered with white quartz sand, sand and occasional flint.

F3, finds number 3

Fabric G, 1 sherd, 7-8 mm thick, dark-grey fine sandy fabric, dark-grey and brown exterior surface, dark-grey interior, ?Middle Iron Age.

6.2 The Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

by S Benfield

Introduction

The evaluation produced just under 1 kg (965 g) of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. The pottery has been recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type series devised for CAR 10 in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. These letter codes, together with the full fabric name, are set out in Table 2. Additional

codes for Late Iron Age grog-tempered wares (Fabric GTW) and for Romanising coarse wares (Fabric RCW) have been introduced. These fabrics are described below. Where appropriate, the fabric code for the national Roman fabric reference collection has been included (Tomber & Dore 1998). The pot forms were recorded, where possible, using the Camulodunum (Cam) Roman pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels forms were recorded using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers or other common form type references following those used in Webster 1996. The pottery present in each context were recorded by finds number. The number of sherds was recorded and the identifiable pottery forms present for each fabric type. The total weight of pottery and an overall spot date was recorded for each finds number. This information is set out in the catalogue of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery below.

Fabrics and descriptions additional to *CAR 10* fabrics used in this report:

Fabric GTW, grog-tempered wares

Generally rather thick sherds, with reddish-brown to dark brown surfaces which can be patchy. The fabric contains various quantities of crushed fired clay (grog) and can vary in colour from red-brown to grey-brown or dark-brown.

Fabric RCW, Romanising coarse ware

Sherd thickness is generally medium to thin. Surfaces are dark grey-brown. The fabric is grey-brown with red-brown margins and contains fragments of burnt organic matter and grog. The fabric sometimes has a tendency to laminate.

Table 2: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR 10* with additions).

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric
BA	plain samian forms	
EG	East Gaulish plain samian	
CH	oxidised Hadham wares	HAD OX
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LVN CC
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1
GTW	grog-tempered wares	SOB GT
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	
HZ	large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	
RCW	Romanising coarse wares	

Discussion

Of the small quantity of pottery recovered, approximately 740 g was from contexts dated as Late Iron Age or Roman, the remaining 220 g or so being either residual or unstratified.

The small number of contexts dated as Late Iron Age or Roman can be divided into two groups based on the more closely-datable pottery sherds. One group consists of features containing grog-tempered sherds, Fabric GTW and Fabric RCW. The other group is of features containing sherds that are entirely of Roman potting technique and predominantly sand-tempered. Some of these Roman sherds can be dated more closely to periods within the early 2nd-4th centuries. However, it should be noted that the quantity of pottery associated with the individual features is generally small.

Three contexts, ie F1 and F8 in T8 and F24 in T10, produced only grog-tempered sherds. F1 contained twenty sherds in Fabric GTW and a jar or bowl base in Fabric RCW. The other two features contained two sherds each, all attributed to Fabric GTW. The pottery from these features is of Late Iron Age and early Roman date. One feature, F25 in T10, produced sherds in Fabric RCW and Roman grey ware sherds (Fabric GX). These are nine sherds of Fabric RCW, containing some grog-

temper, and four sherds of Roman grey ware that cannot be closely dated. The pottery from this feature can only be dated as Roman. F2 in T8 contained one sherd in an organic-tempered fabric (Fabric HZ) and is dated as Late Iron Age or early Roman.

Two features, F6 and F9 in T9, contained only Roman sherds. Among five sherds from F6, one, of BB1: black-burnished ware category 1 (Fabric GA) can be dated to after the early 2nd century. Another sherd, with a brown colour-coat and off-white fabric, is probably Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Fabric EA) and is dated as early-mid 3rd to 4th century. From F9, a single sherd of East Gaulish samian (Fabric BA(EG)) can be dated to the early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century.

Of fourteen residual and unstratified sherds, two contain grog-temper, ie one Fabric GTW and one Fabric RCW. Eleven sherds are only datable as Roman or probably Roman, and there is one probable sherd of oxidised Hadham ware (Fabric CH) dated as mid-late 3rd to 4th century.

The date range of the pottery potentially spans the entire period from the introduction of wheel-thrown Late Iron Age 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares in Essex, c 50-25 BC (Sealey 2007, 27-31) to the end of the Roman period. The more closely-dated pottery could be interpreted as suggesting that there is one peak of activity in the Late Iron Age and early Roman period, represented by the grog-tempered wares, and another from the mid or late Roman period, represented by the single sherds of BB1, East Gaulish samian, probable Nene Valley and Hadham wares. However, the two latest-dated Roman sherds, the Nene Valley and Hadham wares, are not positively identified. Also, there are 22 sherds of Roman coarse wares that cannot be closely dated and could date anywhere within the Roman period. Leaving aside the two latest sherds, then the Roman pottery need not date later than the early-mid 2nd to mid 3rd century. In general, the grog-tempered Late Iron Age and early Roman sherds (Fabrics GTW and RCW) are larger than the sand-tempered Roman sherds, and some join together. This contrast could indicate that the main period of activity on the site was in the Late Iron Age and early Roman periods.

Catalogue of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery

T3

F20, finds number 12, (80 g)
Fabric GX, 5 sherds, Roman.

T4

F19

finds number 13, (15 g)
Fabric GX, 1 sherd, part of base and lower body of a small jar, Roman.

T6

F21, finds number 14, (9 g)
Fabric GTW, 1 sherd, rim, abraded, Late Iron Age.

T8

F1, finds number 1, (293 g)
Fabric GTW, 20 sherds, includes sherds from a cordoned bowl, Late Iron Age.
Fabric RCW, 1 sherd, jar or bowl base, early Roman.
Pottery dated: probably early Roman.

F2, finds number 2, (17 g)
Fabric HZ, 1 moderately thick sherd, dark grey surfaces and fabric, part burnished on ?neck area, ?1st century.
Pottery dated: Late Iron Age/early Roman.

F3, finds number 3, (15 g)
Fabric GTW, 1 sherd, Late Iron Age; Fabric GX, 2 sherds; 1 sherd Roman grey ware; other sherd Roman, or possibly of medieval date, with external sooty deposit.

F4, finds number 5, (50 g)
Fabric ?CH, 1 sherd, ?mid-late 3rd-4th/4th century.
Fabric GX, 2 small sherds, Roman.
Fabric HZ, 1 sherd from a large storage jar, 1st-2nd/3rd century.
Pottery dated: Roman, ?mid-late 3rd-4th century.

F8, finds number 6, (10 g)
Fabric GTW, 2 sherds, Late Iron Age.

T9

F6, finds number 4, (37 g)
Fabric ?EA, 1 sherd, rim from a jar or bowl with off white fabric and abraded brown slip, mid 3rd-4th century;
Fabric GA, 1 sherd, 2nd-4th century;
Fabric GX, 3 sherds.
Pottery dated: mid 3rd-4th century.

F9, finds number 7, (5 g)
Fabric BA(EG), 1 sherd, Dr 18/31 or 31, early 2nd to early-mid 3rd century.

T10

F24, finds number 16, (62 g)
Fabric GTW, 2 joining sherds from a bowl with footring base, burnished externally, Late Iron Age.

F25, finds number 15, (269 g)
Fabric GX, 4 sherds, 2 grey ware sherds, one from a storage jar, 2 other in partly oxidised coarse sandy fabric, Roman.
Fabric RCW, 9 sherds, 3 joining sherds from a large base, wheel-thrown and tempered with fine grog, abraded sherd from a cordoned bowl, one or two other of the sherds are abraded, ?Late Iron Age/early Roman.
Pottery dated: Roman, with residual ?Late Iron Age/early Roman.

Pottery from L2 and unstratified pottery:

L2, finds number 11, (30 g). Fabric HD, 2 sherds, probably from the same vessel, abraded, ?Roman shell-tempered ware.

U/S (32 g). Fabric GX, 1 sherd, base and lower body sherd from a jar, Roman.

6.3 The post-Roman pottery

by *Howard Brooks*

Introduction

This is the report on the post-Roman pottery from the 2007 evaluation.

The material

The material came from seven site contexts, all stratified. The pottery was classified according to *CAR 7*. Material from each bag was listed and weighed (catalogue below).

Fabrics present include: early medieval sandy ware (Fabric 13), medieval sandy grey ware (Fabric 20), Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a), Hedingham ware (Fabric 22), post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40: PMRE), Frechen stoneware (Fabric 45d), modern ironstone (Fabric 48d), and late slipped kitchenware (Fabric 51a).

Comment

This is a small group (37 sherds, 703g). Post-medieval fabrics slightly outweigh medieval and modern fabrics (303g, 221g, 179g respectively).

The medieval fabrics are not necessarily to be dated before the 13th century, which would support the 13th-century construction date for the hall (EHER no 9020). Further, the Fabric 13 was quite coarse, matching the description of the 'coarse domestic wares' from the 1991 evaluation trench to the east of the hall (EHER no 9022).

The post-medieval and modern sherds, clearly associated with the later phases of activity here, are not especially informative.

Catalogue of post-Roman pottery

L2, finds number 11

1 sherd Fabric 21?, 8g.

1 sherd Fabric 40 (PMRE), 52g.

T3

Ditch F16, finds number 8

4 sherds Fabric 48d, 19th-20th century, 68g.

Pit F20, finds number 12

5 sherds Fabric 40 (PMRE), 17th-18th century, 166g.
 3 sherds, Fabric 45d Frechen-type ware, heavily freckled, 16th-17th century, 36g.
 1 sherd Fabric 13 early medieval sandy ware, rim type H1, 12th century, 32g
 3 sherds Fabric 21; similar to Colchester-type ware, but a little finer; one sherd has overall white slip, which would be early in Colchester (ie 13th/14th century), 56g.

T6

Ditch F21, finds number 14

2 sherds Fabric 22 Heddingham fine ware, 13th-14th century, 24g.
 1 sherd Fabric 21a Colchester-type ware, 15th-16th century, 4g.
 3 sherds Fabric 21a Colchester-type ware?, 15th-16th century, 55g.
 1 sherd Fabric 13?, 13g.
 1 rim sherd in Fabric 13 with wavy decoration on inner face, 18g.

T7

Pit F23, finds number 18

1 sherd Fabric 40 (PMRE), 17th-18th century, 13g.
 2 sherds Fabric 51a late slipped kitchenware, 19th-20th century, 97g.
 6 sherds Fabric 48d, 19th-20th century, 14g.

T8

Ditch F03, finds number 3

1 rim sherd in medieval Fabric 13 or 20, 12th-13th century, 11g.

T10

?Trackway F19, finds number 17

1 Fabric 40 (PMRE) rim, 18th-19th century, 36g.

6.4 The faunal remains

by Julie Curl (NAU Archaeology)

Methodology

All of the bone was examined primarily to determine range of species and elements present and the amount of material that was measurable and ageable. Bone was scanned to determine if evidence of bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded. When 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 were 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 in the archive.

The assemblage

This is a small assemblage consisting of 36 pieces. Bone was recovered from five contexts, ranging in date from Late Iron Age to post-medieval, producing a total assemblage weight of 0.352kg (see Tables 3-4).

Table 3: weights in kg of faunal remains from each finds number and period.

Finds number	Late Iron Age	Late Iron Age/Roman	Roman	Post-medieval	Total
1		0.098			0.098
3	0.058				0.058
4		0.177			0.177
7			0.006		0.006
13				0.013	0.013
Total	0.058	0.275	0.006	0.013	0.352

The bone is generally in poor condition with eroded surfaces and evidence of weathering. The fill of pit F1 produced some reasonably complete elements, but overall the assemblage is fragmentary due to butchering and wear.

Species, butchering and uses

Three species were identified. Cattle remains were identified in Late Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval fills; their remains included skinning evidence in pit fill F1 in T8 (finds no 1), quality meat-bearing bones were noted in the ditch fill F6 in T9 (finds no 4). Fragments of sheep/goat tibias were recorded from F1 in T8 (finds no 1), which had been butchered. The shaft of a small equid metacarpal was produced from the ditch fill of F3 in T8 (finds no 3); no obvious butchering was seen on this bone due to the high level of wear on the surface.

Conclusions

This is a very small assemblage with species which would be expected in these periods. The scarcity of remains and poor condition of the bone meant that little faunal information was retrievable.

No further work is needed on this assemblage.

Table 4: catalogue of faunal remains listed in order of feature number.

Feature, trench, finds no	Total Qty	Wt (kg)	Species and species quantity	Age	Butchering	Comments
F1, T8, 1	17	0.098	cattle: 1	adult	cuts	talus, cuts from skinning
F1, T8, 1			sheep/goat: 2	adult	chopped/cut	tibia pieces
F1, T8, 1			mammal: 15			fragmentary and poor condition
F3, T3, 3	1	0.058	equid: 1		?butchered	metacarpal shaft
F6, T9, 4	8	0.177	cattle: 3		butchered	humerus fragments, scapula
F6, T9, 4			mammal: 5			fragments, poor condition
F9, T9, 7	7	0.006	cattle: 7			molar fragments
F19, T4, 13	2	0.013	cattle: 2	juvenile		premolar fragments

6.5 Other finds

by Howard Brooks

This list includes material not reported on above. (D = discarded.)

L2

finds number 11

5 peg-tile fragments, 641g, D (1 kept, with peg hole, 111g).

1 post-medieval brick fragment?, 310g.

1 sherd Fabric 21?, 8g.

1 piece of 'old' window glass, heavily discoloured, approx 2.25mm thick, 5g – from medieval hall?

T1

Post-hole F11, finds number 10

2 post-medieval brick fragments, 427g, D (1 kept, 280g).

12 Tudor brick fragments, 1,161g, D (1 kept, 215g).

2 unglazed floor-tile fragments, 152g; probably post-medieval.

T3

Ditch F16, finds number 8

2 unglazed floor-tile fragments, 327g.

6 peg-tile fragments, 556g, D.

Small find: 1876 penny.

Pit F20, finds number 12

43 peg-tile fragments, 1,672g, D (2 kept, with peg holes, 93g).

T6

Ditch F21, finds number 14

2 peg tile fragments, 21g.

1 fragment of post-medieval glass, 2g.

T7

Pit F23, finds number 18

1 peg-tile fragment 62g, D.

1 fragment of micaceous stone – from a building?, 29g.

1 glass fragment, from base of a ?medicine bottle, 19th-20th century, 14g.

1 post-medieval frogless brick half, 95 x 60 x ??, 734g; mortar with shape of frogged brick adheres to this lump.

T9

Ditch F06, finds number 4

2 oyster-shell fragments, 6g.

T10

?Trackway F19, finds number 17

46 peg-tile fragments, 1,490g, D (2 kept, with peg holes, 111g).

5 Tudor-type brick fragments, 465g, D (1 kept, 189g).

20 post-medieval brick fragments, 935g, D.

30 unclassified post-medieval brick/tile scraps, 216g, D.

1 residual Roman ?*imbrex* fragment, 37g.

1 iron nail, 15g.

1 oyster shell fragment, 10g.

3 small chalk bits, 6g, D.

Pit F25, finds number 15

1 ?peg-tile fragment (?intrusive).

1 unconvincing flint.

7 Discussion (Fig 1)

Prehistory

Apart from one unconvincing prehistoric flint, the earliest-dated material from the site is a sherd of pottery which may be of Middle Iron Age date. However, as Stephen Benfield points out in the pottery report (section 6.2), sandy Middle Iron Age fabrics are often difficult to distinguish from Anglo-Saxon pottery. It could be argued that Anglo-Saxon material would not be out of place on a site which was later occupied by a medieval hall, but it is not easy to come to a firm conclusion on the precise significance of this sherd.

Late Iron Age and Roman

Approximately one-third of all site features are dated to this period by stratified pottery, and more pottery of this period was found residually in later contexts. Most of these features were ditches, with only two pits.

An archaeological evaluation on and around this site in 1991 had two broad conclusions in relation to Iron Age and Roman material. First, that there was a ditched settlement of Late Iron Age date 150m north of the hall (on land now occupied by Freshwater Crescent and Swan Court; Bryant 1992). Second, on the site of the hall itself, Iron Age and Roman pottery was found in residual contexts (EHER no 18082). Given the 1991 results, the 2007 discovery of Late Iron Age and Roman pits and ditches is not unexpected.

However, the 2007 evaluation may have added useful detail to our previous understanding of the site and its immediate context, in the following respect. If the 2007 site had coincided with what was an area of open countryside in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, it might have been expected that we would find linear field ditches of the type excavated at the Elms Farm site, 1.50km to the north-west (Atkinson & Preston 2001, fig 2, p 44). In fact, none of the ditches intercepted by the 2007 trenches were seen in more than one trench, and ditches in adjacent trenches often ran at different angles. Clearly, it is difficult to make firm judgements from small trenches, but these ditches look more like component parts of small fields or paddocks close to a farm or settlement. There were no structural elements such as post-holes or slots, but the presence of two pits supports the idea of settlement somewhere nearby.

It can be argued that the small Roman town at Heybridge, 1.50km to the north, was the major component of the Late Iron Age and Roman landscape in this area, and both the enclosure identified in the 1991 evaluation (Bryant 1992) and the remains on the 2007 site can be seen as satellite settlements.

Anglo-Saxon

The difficulty of deciding whether one of the potsherds was Middle Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon in date has been discussed (above, in the Prehistory section of the discussion). Apart from that, there was no evidence of activity here in the Anglo-Saxon period.

Medieval

The context of this section is that an earlier evaluation, in 1991, showed evidence for foundation slots and post-holes dating to the 12th and 13th centuries. These were interpreted as having been parts of a timber building, either a predecessor of the 13th-century hall or an ancillary building. Specifically, this material came from a trench 18m to the east of the hall (EHER no 18082). This area was not part of the current application site, and was not trenched in 2007; in fact, a property on the south side of Freshwater Crescent now occupies this site.

The only medieval feature found in 2007 was a ditch in T8, which was excavated 15m west of the position of the 1991 trench in which the medieval structural remains were found. Elsewhere on the site, other medieval sherds of 12th- or 13th-century date were found in residual contexts. Generally speaking, the results of the 2007 evaluation support the 13th-century date for the foundation of the hall complex, but do not shed any light on the question of the location of the original timber hall (EHER no 9020).

Post-medieval

Most of the archaeological features date to this period. First, there was a compacted gravel surface to the west of the hall. This may have narrowed to a pathway as it headed south past the hall.

No excavated evidence related to the main hall building in either its medieval or post-medieval phases, but an ancillary structure has been identified to the immediate south of the hall. Its function is unknown, but it was probably one of the suite of ancillary buildings usually found on hall sites such as bake-house, brewery, etc. The original constructional phase of this ancillary building (cobbed mortar footings) appears to be early, ie potentially part of the medieval hall range, but it must be post-medieval in date because of a stratigraphical association with a nearby ditch. A second phase of the ancillary structure includes additions in Tudor-type bricks, probably in the 17th or 18th century.

One small piece of old window glass probably derives from the hall windows.

8 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLEM 2007.94.

9 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Mr Peter Adamson of Grove Homes (Essex) Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. Fieldwork was supervised by Ben Holloway, and undertaken by S Bax, L Driver, B Hurrell, C Lister, P Spencer and A Wightman. The project was monitored for the Essex County Council HEM team by HEM team officer Pat Connell.

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11 Abbreviations

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
ECC	Essex County Council
HEM	Historic Environment Management
LIA	Late Iron Age
MIA	Middle Iron Age
MoLAS	Museum of London Archaeology Service
NGR	National Grid Reference
RRC SAL	Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London
U/S	unstratified, ie without any context

12 Glossary

context	specific location (of finds) on an archaeological site
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, drain, or floor; can contain contexts
layer	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1500
modern	period from the 19th century to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
peg-tile	roofing tile, first appeared c AD 1200 and continued to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to around the end of the 18th century
Roman	period when Britain was part of the Roman Empire, c AD 43-410

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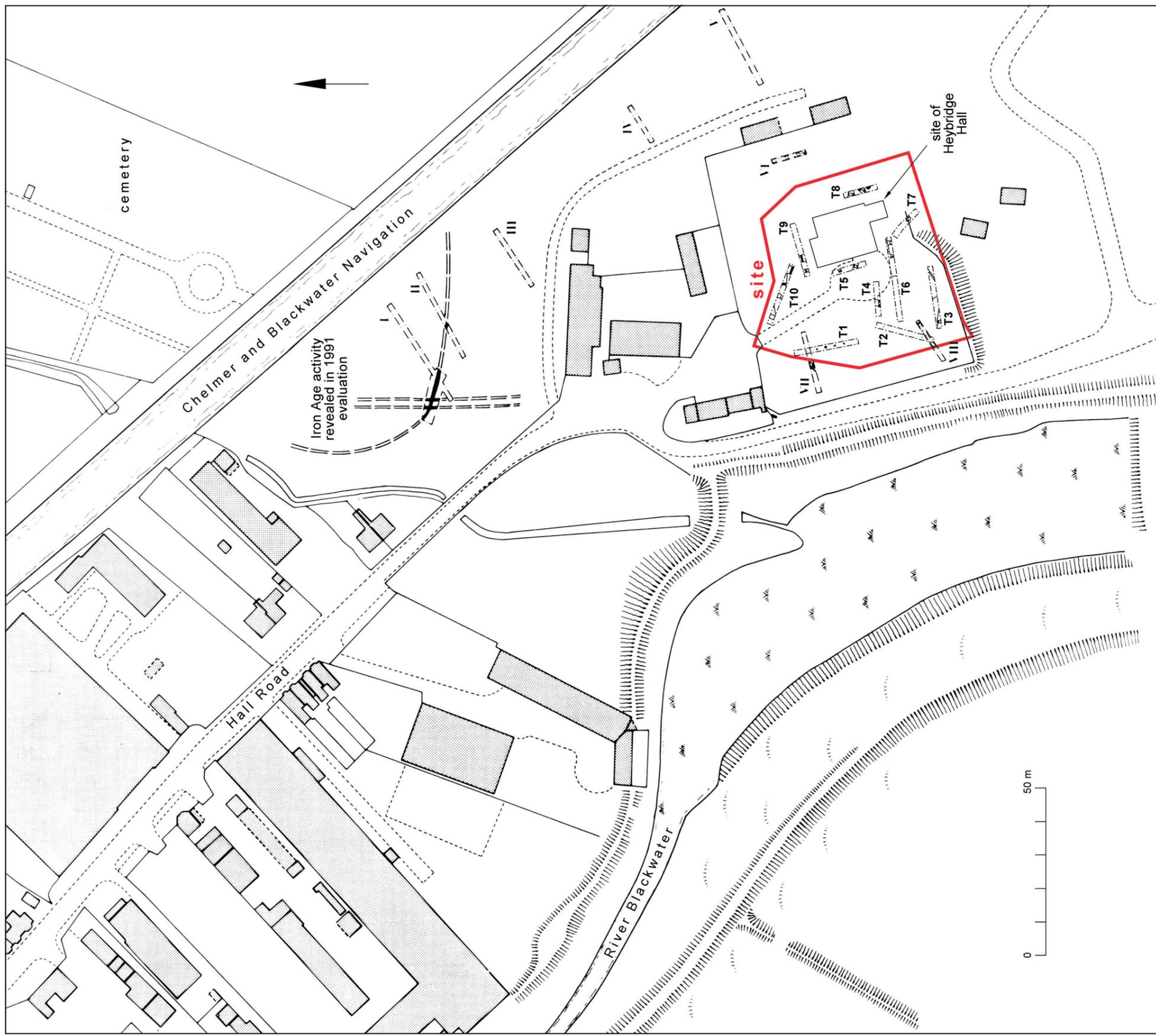
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Fig 1 2007 site location, with 1991 evaluation trenches (I-VIII). (After *Essex Archaeology and History* 23, p 101, fig 2.)

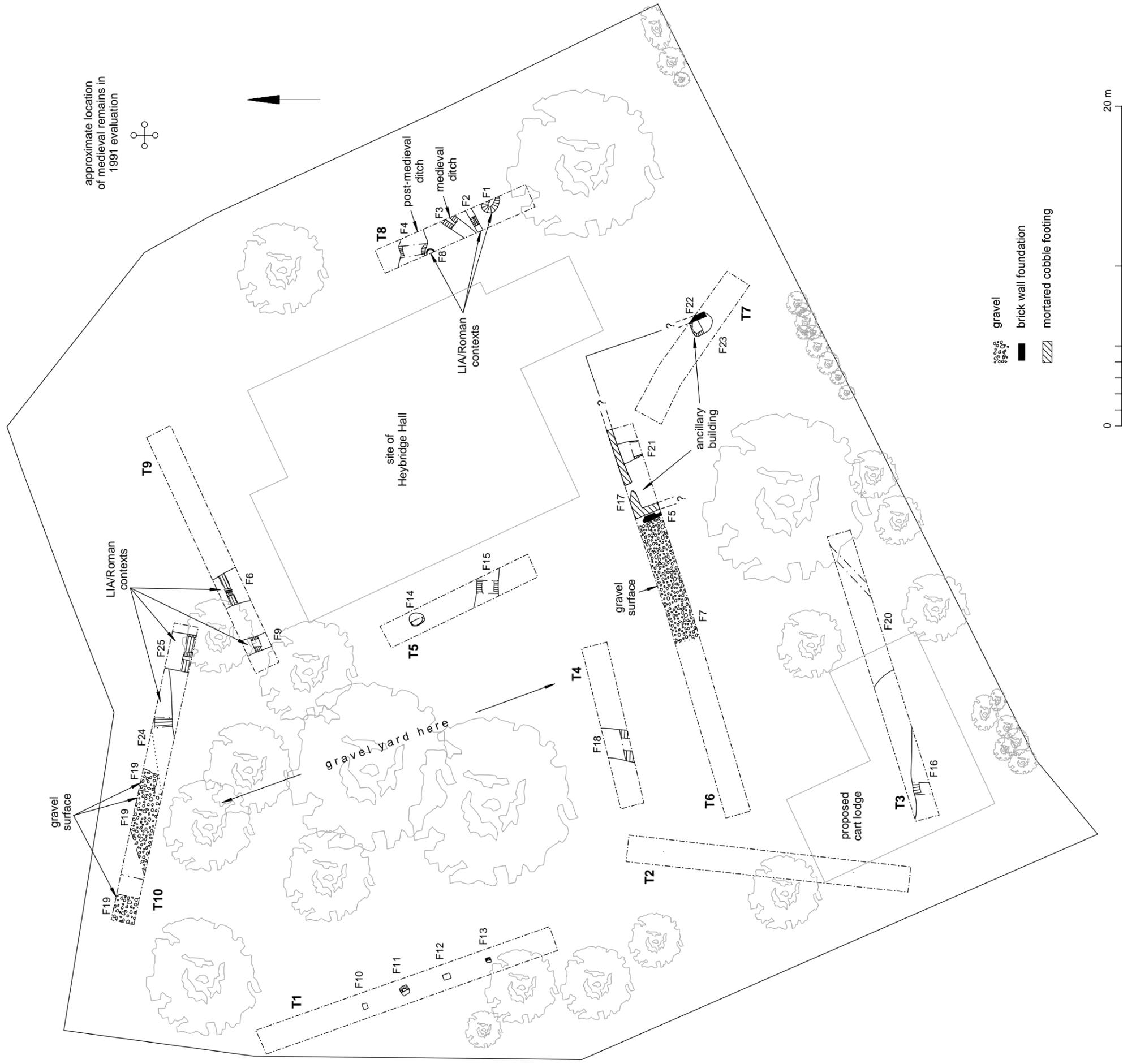


Fig 2 Site and trench plan.

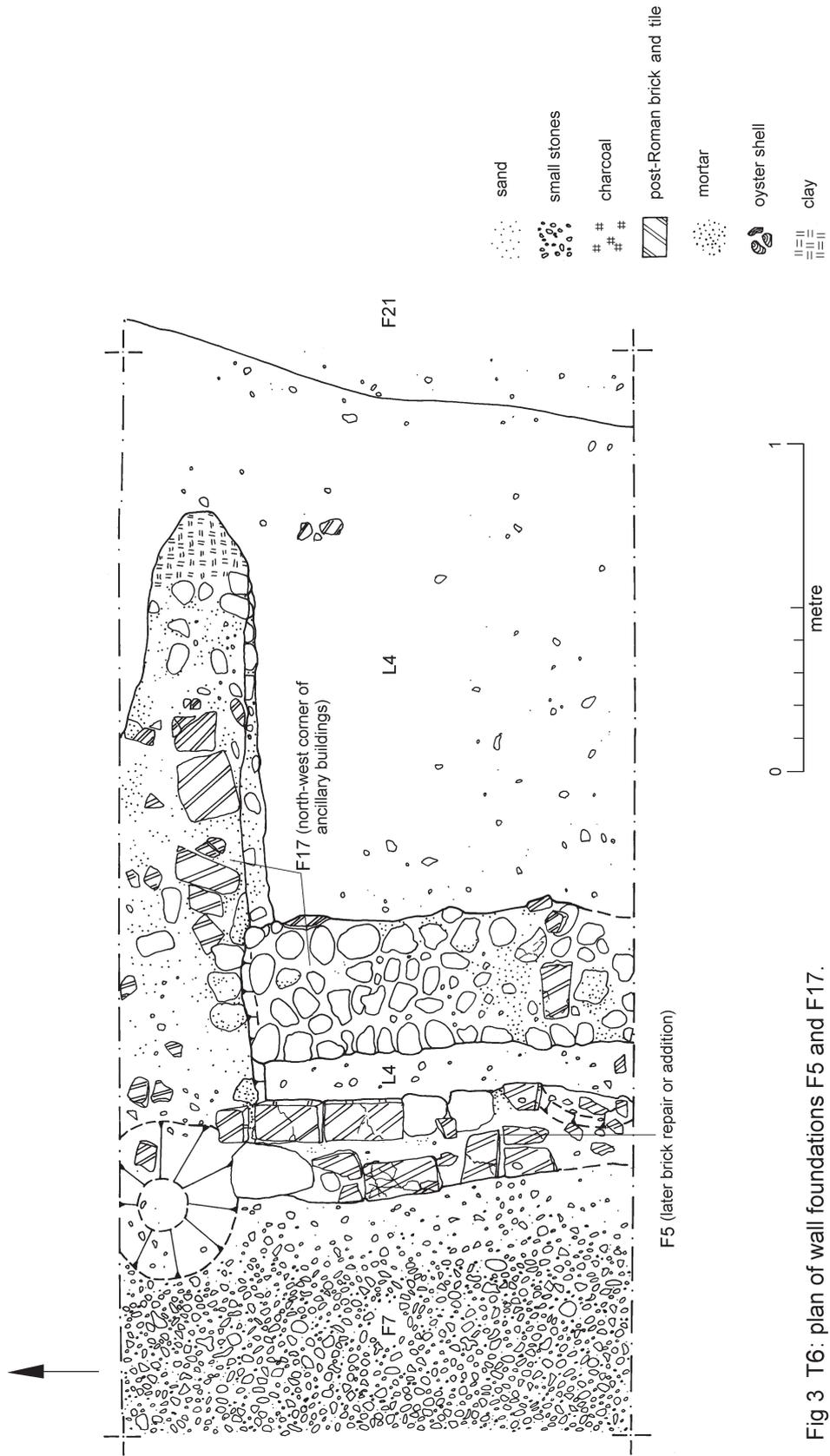


Fig 3 T6: plan of wall foundations F5 and F17.

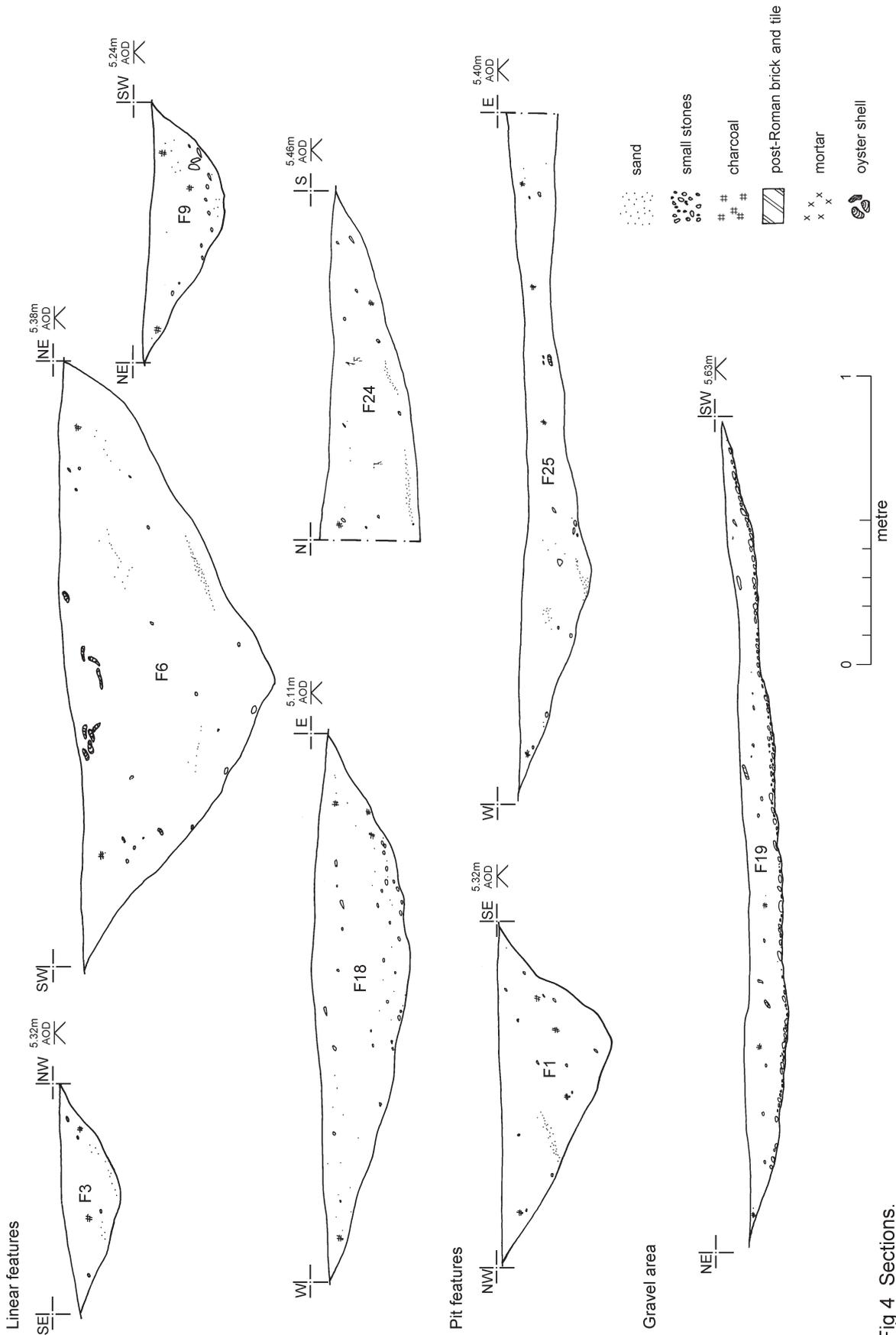


Fig 4 Sections.

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

Summary sheet

Site address: Heybridge Hall, Hall Road, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex	
Parish: Heybridge	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 859 076 (c)	HEM project code: HYHH 07 Museum accession code: COLEM 2007.94
Type of work: Trial-trenching evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 11th-17th September 2007	Size of area investigated: 10 trenches in a site of 0.32 ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related EHER nos: 9020-9022, 18082
Final report: CAT Report 439 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: ?Middle Iron Age, Late Iron Age, Roman, ?Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Heybridge Hall was a fine 13th-century and later listed building, which burnt down in 2004. An archaeological evaluation by ten trenches around the hall site in 2007 revealed evidence for occupation in the Late Iron Age and Roman periods, and possibly in the Middle Iron Age.</i></p> <p><i>An evaluation in 1991 had located an area of medieval activity to the east of the hall site, and beyond the eastern boundary of the 2007 evaluation. It is believed that this may have been the site of a timber building, either a predecessor of the now-destroyed 13th-century hall or an ancillary building. Trenching in 2007 also found a medieval ditch to the east of the site of the 13th-century hall, but no structural evidence such as post-holes or slots. Nevertheless, the few sherds of medieval pottery from this ditch and other (residual) contexts support a 12th- or 13th-century date for the foundation of the medieval hall complex.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Author of summary: Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway	Date of summary: December 2007