

**An archaeological evaluation  
on land rear of  
2-26 Goldlay Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex  
December 2007-January 2008**

**report prepared by  
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**on behalf of  
Knight Developments Ltd**

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## 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation on a site on the periphery of the Roman town of Chelmsford (*Caesaromagus*) revealed 25 archaeological features. Twelve of them were of post-medieval or modern date, and ten were of natural origin or created by modern gardening activity. Only three features were of archaeological significance. These were a north-south gully in the south-west corner of the site, a small Roman pit on the west side of the site, and a prehistoric pit at the extreme north edge of the site. Three prehistoric flints were found in residual contexts.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching carried out on behalf of Knight Developments Ltd by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the rear of 2-26 Goldlay Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, between the 16th December 2007 and the 4th January 2008.
- 2.2 The evaluation site covered an area of 5,200m<sup>2</sup>, and was situated on the southern side of the town of Chelmsford, centred at NGR TL 7130 0600. At the time of the evaluation, the site was made up of parcels of land taken out of the rear gardens of the surrounding properties.
- 2.3 All fieldwork was done in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) submitted by CAT which followed a brief which was supplied by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM) team for planning application number CHL/02247/04 (O'Connor 2007). The project was monitored by Teresa O'Connor of the ECC HEM team.
- 2.4 This report follows 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). Other sources used are *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).

## 3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The site lies close to the projected route of a Roman road on what is believed to be the periphery of the Roman town (*Caesaromagus*). Roman Chelmsford is thought to have developed from a fort constructed in the aftermath of the Boudican revolt of AD 61, and grew to its maximum extent in the mid 2nd century. By this time, the town included a *mansio* (an official government staging-post providing food and shelter for messengers, couriers and officials travelling around the province) and a bath-house within earthwork defences constructed in c AD 160-175. An extra-mural Romano-Celtic temple was constructed sometime in the 4th century, but the evidence suggests a general gradual decline and abandonment of the town at some point towards the end of the Roman period (Medlycott 1999).
- 3.2 Nearby sites at Lynmouth Gardens/Parkway and the Army and Navy site (EHER no 46183) produced evidence of a range of Roman activities including cremation burials and industrial waste. Water-logged deposits yielded part of a writing tablet and preserved environmental evidence.

## 4 Aim

The aim of the fieldwork was to establish and record the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by groundworks associated with the development of sixteen new residential buildings.

## **5 Methods**

- 5.1** Fourteen trenches (T1-T14), each 1.6m wide, were excavated by machine, approximating to 240m of trenching. This equated to 7% of the 5,200m<sup>2</sup> site. The trenches were located according to a plan agreed with the HEM team which ensured an even spread across the site. There was some deviation from the original trench layout to ensure that access to the site remained unobstructed and existing houses were not compromised.
- 5.2** A mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket was used for the evaluation trenches, excavating off the topsoil and subsoil to expose archaeological features. Work was carried out under archaeological supervision, and all exposed subsoil features were photographed and examined in sufficient detail to allow their nature, date and importance to be assessed.
- 5.3** Each trench and any features located within it were planned using a total station, and a plan of the trenches and the surrounding boundaries was also made in the same way.
- 5.4** Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits were entered on CAT pro-forma recording sheets. Section drawings of layers were made at a scale of 1:10 and plans at a scale of 1:20.
- 5.5** Finds were registered on CAT pro-forma record sheets and assigned finds numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked with the site code number and bagged according to context. Roman pottery was examined by Stephen Benfield of CAT. Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery was identified by Howard Brooks of CAT.
- 5.6** Colour photographs of the main features, sections and the site environs were taken with a digital camera.
- 5.7** The spoil heaps were metal-detected during the evaluation.

## **6 Results (Figs 2-3)**

### **6.1 The stratigraphy**

All fourteen of the trenches were excavated by machine down to the natural geological layer as no archaeological features or deposits were identifiable in the overlying topsoil or subsoil. The dark brown/grey sandy loam topsoil (L1) was 0.3m to 0.4m deep across the site, being slightly deeper in the northern part of the site. The topsoil contained the remains of modern pathways and outbuildings, and consequently frequent pieces of modern building debris were observed. The mid brown clayey/sandy silt subsoil (L2) was fairly homogeneous in character across the site and was between 0.3m and 0.45m in depth, again being slightly deeper in the north part of the site. Finds collected from L2 across the site ranged from modern building material to prehistoric flints.

The greater depth of topsoil and subsoil in the north part of the site meant that the trenches in this area had to be deeper than those elsewhere. The natural in T13 and T14 was at a depth of 0.9m and 0.8m respectively below ground-level, as opposed to 0.7m below ground-level in T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T8, T9, T11, T12), and 0.6m below ground-level in T6, T7 and T10 (the three trenches across the middle of the site).

Considerable variation was observed in the natural geology across the site. The western part of the site which contained T1, T2, T10, T11 and T13 had a soft orange clay natural which was slightly darker in the northern trenches and contained cream-coloured patches (with manganese) in the southern trenches. This clay did not contain any gravel and had a low stone frequency. Further east, in T13, gravel patches were observed in this soft orange clay, although gravels were also observed in a darker orange/brown slightly sandy clay in T14, T12, T9, T8, T7, T6, T4, and parts of T2 and T3. In T14, the extent and nature of one of the largest gravel patches were investigated to confirm that it was not a metallated surface. The gravel consisted of small- to medium-sized stones which were predominantly rounded, and in places the gravel was set into a dried orange clay which made it very hard. No finds were made associated with the gravel and its undulating surface, and its similarity to the other gravel patches on the site led to the

conclusion that it was indeed natural. The two trenches in the south-eastern corner of the site (T3 and T5) were again largely gravel-free, as on the eastern side of the site. Here the natural appeared to be a mid-light orange/brown clay which was notably more sandy than in the west. The varying character of the natural across the site seemed to follow a pattern which, in summary, consisted of a large band of darker gravelly natural extending north to south through the site with an occasionally sandy soft clay on either side. This may be connected to the proximity of the site to the River Chelmer, with the darker gravel band perhaps representing the remains of an old tributary or river course which was altered during the last Ice Age.

## **6.2 The post-medieval, modern and natural features**

Two of the largest of the excavated features were post-medieval or modern ditches (F2 and F4). F4 was aligned north to south and was intercepted by T13, T12 and T9. F2 extended east to west and was intercepted by T9 and T8. The two ditches appeared to head to a junction or crossing point slightly to the east of T9, although the different fills and profiles of the two ditches argue against their being of the same period. The finds suggest that F2 is post-medieval and F4 modern. The two ditches did not share an alignment with the modern housing estate which surrounds them. It may, therefore, be deduced that they are parts of an earlier field system. An undated post-hole F15 was cut by the northern side of F2 (in T8).

Other post-medieval or modern features were as follows (from south to north on the site). In T1 and T2, a modern gully or drain F1 shared an alignment with the layout of the modern housing plots, and may therefore be contemporary with them.

Also in T1, a shallow pit F5 contained a small piece of modern flowerpot (Fabric 51b). As this feature was in the former back garden of a property on Lady Lane. It was probably a modern garden refuse pit.

In T3, two modern post-holes (F25 and F26) were aligned with the former rear of the back gardens of properties on Van Dieman's Road, and for that reason may be interpreted as being part of an old fence line.

In T4, F17 was a large pit containing what appeared to be the remains of a recent, burnt outbuilding.

T5 included an unnumbered modern drain leading out from the modern garages.

In T6, a large modern rubbish-pit F16 was left unexcavated. It contained plastic and concrete.

In T9, a natural gully F3 and a natural pit F21 lay to the west of ditch F4.

In T10, a ditch F6 containing modern china and glass (not retained) was aligned quite closely on the projected course of F1 in T1 and T2. For that reason it may be the same or a similar modern ditch or gully.

In T10, eight other small, shallow circular features were excavated (F7-F14). No finds were retrieved from any of these features. Although the similarity of and proximity of these features to the Roman pit F22 in T11 may indicate a similar date, it appears more likely that they are natural features, or else the result of the removal of a modern garden feature such as a hedge line.

In T13, a small shallow pit F19 contained peg-tile and animal bone, and it could be modern rather than post-medieval because, in section, it appeared to have been cut from quite high up. Also in T13, another small pit F20 contained one iron nail, and its light-coloured fill indicates a potential early (ie Roman) date.

In T14, patches of gravel were investigated to determine if they were man-made. They turned out to be natural.

## **6.3 The Roman and earlier material and features**

The only significant archaeological features were a small Roman pit (F22) in T11, immediately rear of no 14 Goldlay Avenue, and a Roman gully (F23) in T1 and T2.

It is curious that F23 was so close in location and alignment to modern gully F1, but this must be a coincidence. There was also a residual Roman sherd in ditch F2.

Three possible prehistoric waste flakes were recovered from F22 in T1, and from the machine clearance of lower topsoil L2.

## 6.4 Summary table of contexts, by trench number

### T1

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/pottery/modern china	post-medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg-tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post-medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F1	North-south aligned drain, 'U'-shaped profile. Two sections excavated, in T1 and T2.	modern pottery, peg-tile, animal teeth, iron hammer head	modern
F5	Unusually-shaped pit with ambiguous edges, also shallow. A piece of Roman pottery was found in the upper fill.	modern pottery	modern
F23	Shallow linear feature with a light brown clayey silt fill running on a north-south alignment, through T1 and T2.	Roman pottery	Roman

### T2

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/pottery/modern china	post-medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg-tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post-medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F1	A north-south aligned gully with a 'U'-shaped profile. Two sections excavated, extending through T1 and T2.	modern pottery, animal teeth, iron hammer head	modern
F23	Shallow linear feature with a light brown clayey silt fill extending on a north-south alignment through T1 and T2.	Roman pottery	Roman

### T3

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/pottery/modern china	post-medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg-tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post-medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F24	Shallow post-hole with a fill similar to the topsoil.	post-medieval pottery and glass	post-medieval
F25	Shallow post-hole with a fill similar to the topsoil.	modern brick	modern

#### T4

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/ pottery/modern china	post- medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg- tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post- medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F17	Pit containing the burnt remains of a modern outbuilding.	no finds	modern

#### T5

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/ pottery/modern china	post- medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg- tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post- medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial

#### T6

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/ pottery/modern china	post- medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg- tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post- medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F16	Loose and dry greyish brown loam.	modern plastic, bricks and glass (not recovered)	modern

#### T7

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/ pottery/modern china	post- medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg- tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post- medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial

### T8

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/ pottery/modern china	post- medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg- tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post- medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F2	An east-west aligned ditch with a dark brown silty fill and a 'U'-shaped profile extending through T8 and T9.	peg-tile, post-medieval pottery and modern brick	post- medieval/ modern
F15	Post-hole located near the base of F2 Sx 2.	no finds	post- medieval/ modern

### T9

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/ pottery/modern china	post- medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg- tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post- medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F2	An east-west aligned ditch with a dark brown silty fill and a 'U'-shaped profile extending through T8 and T9.	peg-tile, post-medieval brick	post- medieval/ modern
F3	A shallow east-west aligned gully with a soft light-coloured silt fill. Gully extended into F23 with no distinction between fills.	no finds	natural
F4	Wide (1.9m) ditch extending north-south through T9, T12 and T13. Ditch had a mid orange/brown fill and a 'U'-shaped profile; likely to have joined east-west aligned ditch F2.	peg-tile, post-medieval brick, animal bone, asbestos (not kept)	modern
F21	Large pit with a light brown silt fill and no inclusions at all. It extended under the trench section and no evidence for a cut from further up was observed.	no finds	possibly glacial

### T10

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/ pottery/modern china	post- medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg- tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post- medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F6	Pit/linear feature located at end of T10 so back edge not seen. More likely a linear than a large pit.	modern glass, china, tile and brick	post medieval/ modern



Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
F7	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature
F8	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature
F9	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature
F10	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature
F11	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature
F12	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature
F13	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature
F14	One of a series of eight small shallow natural pits, light grey/brown fill.	no finds	natural, or modern garden feature

#### T11

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/pottery/modern china	post-medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg-tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post-medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F18	Large pit containing large iron objects, concrete, plastic and asbestos compound fragments.	no finds	modern
F22	Oval-shaped pit with a mid brown silt fill that contained finds.	1 piece of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, 1 flint	Late Iron Age/Roman

#### T12

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/pottery/modern china	post-medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg-tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post-medieval

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
F4 linear	Wide (1.9m) ditch extending north-south through T9, T12 and T13, with a mid orange/brown fill and a 'U'-shaped profile; likely to have joined east-west aligned F2.	peg-tile, animal bone, asbestos (not kept)	post-medieval

### T13

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/pottery/modern china	post-medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg-tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post-medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial
L4	Layer of light-coloured sandy silt subsoil only identified in T13.	-	prehistoric to post-medieval
F4	Wide (1.9m) ditch extending north-south through T9, T12 and T13. Ditch had a mid orange/brown fill and a 'U'-shaped profile; likely to have joined east-west aligned F2.	peg-tile, animal bone, asbestos (not kept)	post-medieval
F19	Small feature – pit or ditch linear terminal – extending into trench section. Cut for the feature came from quite high up the section.	peg-tile, animal bone	post-medieval
F20	Small, shallow oval-shaped pit with a light silty clay fill.	1 iron nail	Roman or later?

### T14

Context	Comments	Associated finds	Context dated as
L1	Dark brown/grey, loose sandy loam topsoil, about 0.35m thick; medium vegetable content.	post-medieval tile/pottery/modern china	post-medieval to modern
L2	Mid brown soft clayey/sandy silt subsoil with occasional stone inclusions.	prehistoric flints, peg-tile, post-medieval pottery, slate	post-medieval
L3	Orange/brown natural – clay and large gravel patches. Sand content varied across site.	-	glacial

## 7 Finds

### 7.1 Prehistoric and Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

#### Introduction

In total, there is one small sherd of prehistoric, pre-Belgic, pottery (weighing 4 g), and a small quantity, ie 11 sherds, of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery (weighing 432 g).

The prehistoric sherd is hand-made with inclusions of sparse flint-temper. The sherd is described in the catalogue of pottery below. The small quantity of Roman pottery was initially recorded using the Colchester Roman pottery fabric type series devised for *CAR 10* in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. The letter codes, together with the full fabric name, are set out in Table 1. For most Essex sites, the main reference for Roman pottery is usually Going (1987) which is based on assemblages from Chelmsford. Although correspondence between the Roman pottery fabric types described in these two reports is not always exact, they can be accommodated here for this small group of sherds. The corresponding Chelmsford fabric types are also given in Table 1. The number of sherds was recorded for each fabric and the total weight of pottery and a spot date was recorded for each finds number. This information is set out in the catalogue of Roman pottery below.

**Table 1: Roman pottery fabric codes and fabric names used in this report (after *CAR 10* and Going 1987).**

<b>CAR 10 fabric</b>	<b>Going 1987 fabric</b>
Fabric GX – other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	fabric 47 – sandy grey wares
Fabric HD – shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares	fabric 50 – ?South Essex shell-tempered ware
Fabric HZ – large storage jars and other vessels in heavily-tempered grey wares	fabric 44 – storage jar fabrics

#### Roman pottery discussion

The single hand-made flint-tempered sherd from F22 is not closely datable (Lavender 2007, 62) and can only be broadly dated as prehistoric to pre-Belgic, that is prior to the introduction of Late Iron Age grog-tempered ware c 50-25 BC (Sealey 2007, 31).

The quantity of Roman pottery is small and the sherds are all either abraded or have their surfaces degraded by the prevailing soil conditions. The pottery consists of sherds from five different pots which came from two features. There is one small sherd from F2. This is a sherd from the base of a jar or bowl, the fabric of which is probably ?South Essex shell-tempered ware (fabric 50), although the shell inclusions themselves have dissolved out of the fabric leaving only voids. This fabric appeared in the Late Iron Age and continued to be manufactured into the early Roman period until the late 1st or early 2nd century. The remainder of the pottery came from F23. There is a sherd from a large storage jar in a grey sandy fabric (fabric 44) which can only be dated as Roman (finds no 11). Also from F23 are three sherds in organic-tempered fabric, two from a large jar (finds no 14) and one from another smaller jar (finds no 11). Both these pots are probably also storage jars (fabric 44). The fabric of one of these jars (finds no 14) is rather soft and slightly silty, suggesting an early Roman date in the 1st-2nd century. The final pot is rather different to the others in that it is represented by more than one or two body sherds. The pot is in sandy grey ware (fabric 47) and consists of a whole base with five other sherds from the lower body. The pot is probably a jar and can only be dated as Roman. While the other pottery could represent dispersal of sherds away from a settlement, for example by the manuring of fields, this explanation is less likely to account for this jar, as the presence of a number of sherd shows that the lower part at least had been broken up close to where it was found. Part or all of the jar may have been thrown away on the site, or, rather more speculatively, possibly it had

been displaced and broken after deliberate burial, as a pot accompanying a burial, a votive pot or container.

### Catalogue of pottery

#### Prehistoric pottery

F22, finds number 10, weight 4 g. Small hand-made sherd with sparse flint-temper, 8 mm thick, grey-brown interior, red-brown exterior, small smooth groove or bead at one end of the sherd.

#### Roman pottery

F2, Sx 1, finds number 2, weight 9 g. Small abraded base sherd, edge beginning to bend to form pot wall, common voids from burnt-out or dissolved organic matter, probably shell, in surface and patchy dark areas of ?burnt organic matter in the fabric, Fabric HD (fabric 50).

F23, finds number 14, weight 376 g. A total of 8 sherds, all sherd surfaces abraded or degraded. 6 sherds of coarse reduced ware from same pot, 5 body sherds and whole base, red-brown sandy fabric with grey surfaces, Fabric GX (fabric 47); 1 sherd, abraded, some voids from burnt-out or dissolved organic matter in surface and patchy dark areas of ?burnt organic matter in the fabric, Fabric HZ (fabric 44); 1 sherd from a large storage jar in a grey sandy fabric with voids from burnt-out and dragged organic temper in the surface, Fabric HZ (fabric 44).

F23, Sx 2, finds number 47, weight 376 g. 2 sherds from a large jar, abraded and with interior surfaces flaked away, some voids from burnt-out or dissolved organic matter in surface and some dark burnt organic fragments in the fabric, Fabric HZ (fabric 50).

### 7.2 List of other finds, by context number

For post-Roman fabric types, see *CAR 7*, pages 12-13.

Finds no	Context	Trench	Description	Date
1	F1 Sx 1	T1	1 sherd modern stoneware (Fabric 45m), from a blacking bottle, 71g 1 peg-tile fragment, 127g 1 Tudor-type brick fragment, 258g, 57mm thick 2 animal teeth, 12g	19th-20th century
5	F1 Sx 2	T2	1 post-medieval brick fragment, 126g 1 peg-tile fragment, 277g 1 iron strip fragment (SF1) 1 iron hammer head, modern (SF2)	19th-20th century
2	F2 Sx 1	T9	1 peg-tile fragment, 111g 1 post-medieval brick fragment, no faces, 53g	post-medieval
6	F2 Sx 2	T8	1 peg-tile fragment with circular peg hole, 237g 3 animal bone fragments, unidentified, but from a long bone, 3g	post-medieval
3	F4 Sx 2	T12	1 peg-tile fragment, 23g 1 proximal femur fragment, <i>bos</i> , 125g	
12	F4 Sx 3/ Sx 4	T13	1 peg-tile fragment, 30g 1 post-medieval brick fragment, 55g 1 residual sherd medieval sandy grey ware (Fabric 20), 11g 1 iron nail shank fragment	modern
4	F5	T1	1 flowerpot fragment (Fabric 51b), 2g. 1 peg-tile fragment, 17g	19th-20th century
8	F19	T13	1 peg-tile fragment, 20g 2 unidentified animal vertebra fragments, 14g	post-medieval
7	F20	T13	1 whole iron nail	Roman or later
10	F22	T11	1 ?prehistoric flint waste flake, 1g	Roman
9	F24	T3	1 sherd from large vessel in post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), glazed both sides, 21g	18th-19th century

Finds no	Context	Trench	Description	Date
			1 fragment of glass from base of bottle, 7g	
13	L2	all across site	1 piece slate, 8g 1 peg-tile fragment, 12g 1 flowerpot (Fabric 51b), 39g 1 sherd post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 48g 1 medieval sherd, probably Fabric 13, 6g 1 sandy orange ware sherd (Fabric 21), 5g 1 sherd Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21a) or Mill Green ware?, 4g 1 very abraded sherd, possibly Fabric 21, 4g 1 very abraded peg-tile fragment, 11g 2 prehistoric flint waste flakes, 18g	group date, 19th-20th century

## 8 Discussion (Fig 2)

The different uses of this piece of land in recent times are reflected in the modern features identified across the site. The evidence of demolished outbuildings, modern burning pits and fence posts in the southern part of the site may be associated with the previous use of this land as a plant nursery. The drainage gully and series of small features in T10 may be the result of activities in the private gardens of properties on Goldlay Avenue, which the 1940 Ordnance Survey map shows once extended out into the area of the evaluation site. Such factors may also explain the varying depth of topsoil and subsoil across the site, although this may have resulted from the development of the inter-war residential properties by which it is bordered on all sides.

The east-west and north-south aligned post-medieval ditches excavated in the north of the site have the appearance of boundary ditches, although this is not confirmed by the 1881 or subsequent OS maps. The ditches are not in alignment with Lady Lane or Goldlay Avenue, both of which appear on the 1881 OS map. It seems probable, therefore, that if they were boundary ditches, then they pre-date the construction of these roads and the surrounding housing estate.

Evidence for Romano-British activity was found in the form of a shallow gully (F23) containing Romano-British pottery in the south-west part of the evaluation site. This was, however, the only convincing Romano-British feature on the site, and no evidence was found of the type of activity often found in the periphery of Roman towns, such as industrial activity or burials.

One small pit in the garden of 14 Goldlay Avenue contained evidence of prehistoric activity, and a couple of prehistoric worked flints were identified on the spoil heaps which came from the machine-clearance of L2.

Although not directly the subject matter of an archaeological investigation, the significant variation in the natural geology has been noted as a reference for any other archaeological work which may take place in the area.

## 9 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive and finds are currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Chelmsford and Essex Museum under accession code CHMER 2008.001.

## 10 Acknowledgements

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## 11 Abbreviations

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
EAA	East Anglian Archaeology
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
HEM	Historic Environment Management
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey

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- |              |      |  |
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### 13 Glossary

context	either a feature, layer or a complex of layers/features
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
Late Iron Age layer	the period immediately prior to the Roman invasion, ie c 70 BC- AD 43
medieval	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from AD 1066 to c AD 1530
natural	period from the 19th century onwards to the present
post-medieval	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Roman	after Henry VIII to around the late 18th century
U/S	period from AD 43 to c AD 410
	unstratified (without a clear archaeological context)

### 14 Context list

Trench number	Context	Description
T1, T2	F1	modern drain
T8, T9	F2	post-medieval ditch
T9	F3	gully – natural
T9, T12, T13	F4	post-medieval ditch
T1	F5	post-medieval pit
T10	F6	modern ditch
T10	F7-F14	natural pits or garden features
T8	F15	?medieval post-hole
T6	F16	modern rubbish-pit
T4	F17	modern rubbish-pit
T11	F18	modern rubbish-pit
T13	F19	post-medieval pit/ditch terminal
T13	F20	?Roman or later pit/ditch terminal
T9	F21	natural pit
T11	F22	small Late Iron Age/Roman pit
T1, T2	F23	Roman gully
T3	F24	modern post-hole
T3	F25	modern post-hole

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#### Distribution list:

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*Adamsx c:/reports 08/goldlay avenue/report458.doc*





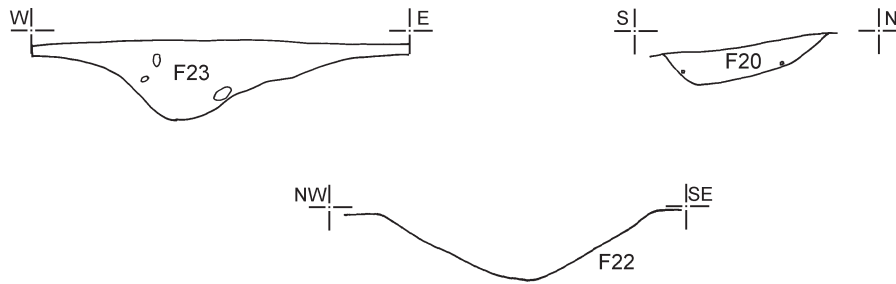
Fig 1 Site location plan.



Fig 2 Trench plan, with interpretative comments.

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Roman features



Post-medieval features

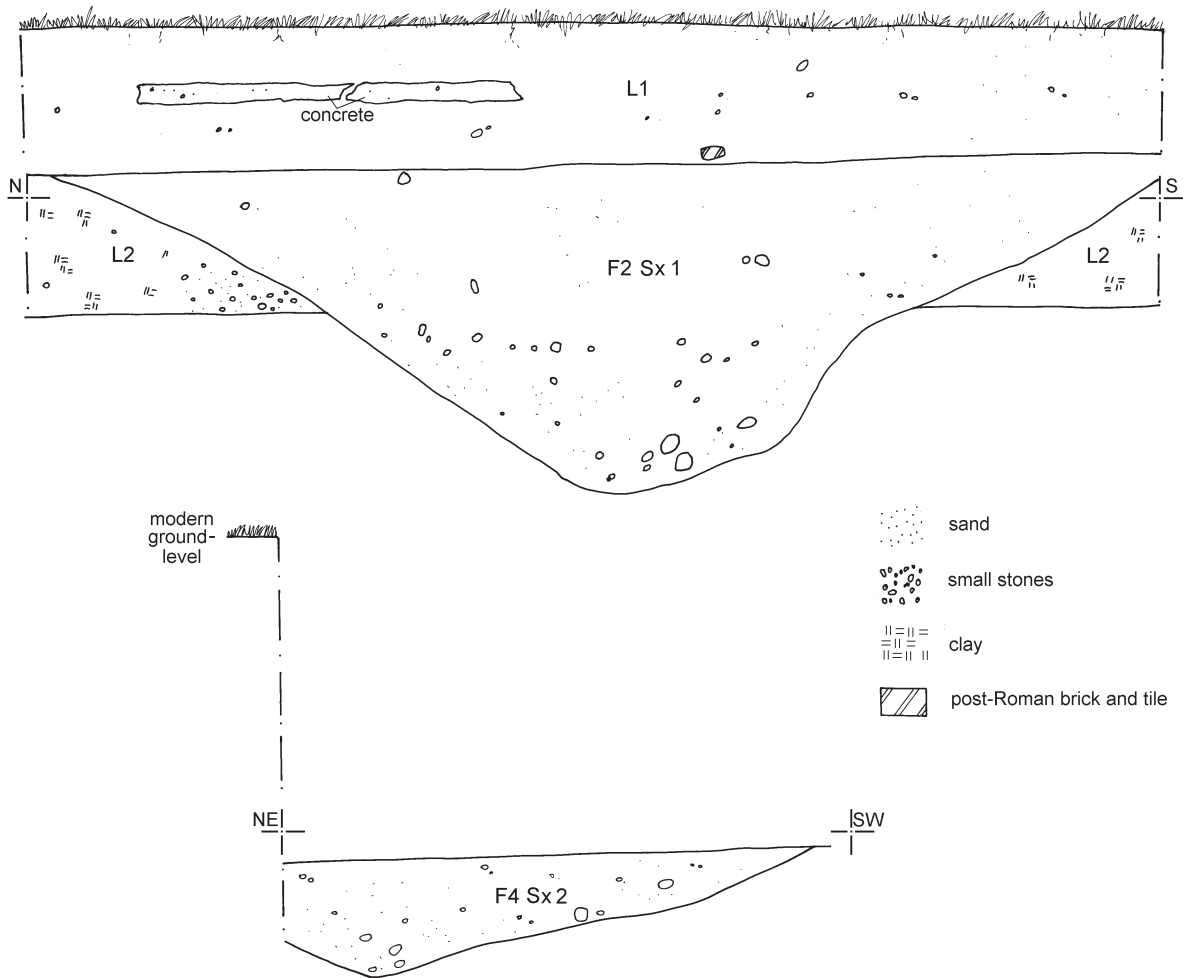


Fig 3 Sections.

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

## Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> land rear of 2-26 Goldlay Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Moulsham	<b>District:</b> Chelmsford
<b>NGR:</b> TL 7130 0600 (c)	<b>Museum accession code:</b> CHMER 2008.001
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> December 2007-January 2008	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 7% of 5,200m <sup>2</sup> = 364m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Chelmsford and Essex Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER no:</b> 46183
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 458 and summary in EAH	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Roman, post-medieval, modern	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>An archaeological evaluation on a site on the periphery of the Roman town of Chelmsford (Caesaromagus) revealed 25 archaeological features. Twelve of them were of post-medieval or modern date, and ten were of natural origin or created by modern gardening activities. Only three features were of archaeological significance. These were a north-south gully in the south-west corner of the site, a small Roman pit on the west side of the site, and a prehistoric pit at the extreme north edge of the site. Three prehistoric flints were found in residual contexts.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Adam Wightman and Howard Brooks	<b>Date of summary:</b> February 2008