

# **Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: land rear of 15 Crescent Road, Heybridge, Essex**

## **September 2015**



**commissioned by Andrew Pipe Associates  
on behalf of Benjamin James Developments**

**report prepared by Howard Brooks**

with contributions by Stephen Benfield, Chris Lister and Gillian Adams

Planning reference: FUL/MAL/15/00356

CAT project ref.: 15/09h

HER project code: HYCR15

NGR: TL 85061 08265

Colchester Museum accession code: 2015.100

OASIS: colchest3-224820



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**CAT Report 871**  
October 2015

## 1 Summary

The site is on the eastern edge of the Roman small town of Heybridge. An evaluation by two trenches found no significant archaeological remains. There were three modern features, and evidence of previous disturbance in the form of tooth-marks from an earth-moving machine.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological trial-trenching evaluation commissioned by Andrew Pipe Associates on behalf of Benjamin James Developments, and carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on 25th September 2015.

The site is to the rear of No 15 Crescent Road, but is accessed off Elizabeth Way. At the time of the evaluation, the site contained the floor slab of a demolished garage with a concrete driveway leading onto Elizabeth Way, and an area of garden. Proposed work is the construction of a new dwelling. Site centre is TL85061 08265.

A planning application (FUL/MAL/15/00356) was submitted to Maldon District Council in July 2015 for the construction of a single building. As the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential, archaeological conditions were recommended by ECC Historic Environment, in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012) and state:

### L1 Archaeological Assessment

*No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning authority and will inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.*

### L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme

*No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work.*

A brief detailing the required archaeological work (an evaluation by trial-trenching) was written by Place Services officer Maria Medlycott (ECC 2015). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT in response to the Place Services brief and agreed with the Place Services officer (CAT 2015). In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with standards as defined in CfA 2014a, b, EAA 14, and EAA 24).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development lies on the eastern edge of the Roman town of Elms Farm. Archaeological fieldwork next to the current site has established the survival of archaeological deposits and finds of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon date (EHER 7794-9, 17444, 18779), including the excavation of five Anglo-Saxon dwellings when Crescent Road was built in 1972. The site therefore has considerable potential for significant surviving archaeological remains of Anglo-Saxon, Roman and prehistoric date. Heybridge parish has a long and complex archaeological history, with evidence of occupation from the prehistoric period onwards. These include cropmark landscapes of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon date, comprising, fields, farmsteads, burial sites and trackways. However there has been some quarrying, both in the Roman and the post-medieval period (EHER 48697) to the west of the proposed development.

#### 4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record and establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any remains likely to be disturbed by the proposed works.



**Plate 1:** opening up the trench, view SW. Site was very tight - the foundations (foreground) are actually in the adjacent plot (rear of No 13 Crescent Road).

#### 5 Evaluation results (Figs 1-3)

The constrained site layout meant that the evaluation trenches had to consist of one right-angled trench immediately north of the garage floor slab, and a smaller trench to the north. The two trenches covered 10.7 m<sup>2</sup>, which equates to 5% of the site area actually available for evaluation.

The trenches (T1-2) were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator. The removal of modern ploughsoil (L1) revealed natural sandy gravel (L2).

At the southern edge of T1 was a large area of disturbed ground with parallel tooth-marks from the bucket of an earth-moving machine. This presumably dates from the time of construction of Elizabeth Way. Cutting this disturbed area was a shallow modern pit F3, which contained post-medieval peg-tile and willow-pattern sherds (ie, Essex fabric 48d). F3 was probably the base of a modern fence post. At the northern end of T1 was pit F2, whose clean topsoil fill contained a modern glass bottle. F2 cut down from quite high up the section, and was probably a pit resulting from the uprooting of a tree.

Trench 2 also contained a large pit (F1), probably the result of the uprooting of a tree.

#### 6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

There were modern finds from F1 and F3. A complete late 19th-20th century bottle in clear (faintly green) glass (F1) has moulded lettering ESSENCE'S COFFEE & CHICORY, and SHIELDHALL. From F2 are sherds from a 19th-20th century Staffordshire-type, transfer-printed, blue and white rectangular serving dish, and a small piece from a thin tile (12 mm) with a sharp angle/chamfer, also 19th-20th century.



**Plate 2** general site view looking north. Tooth-marks from earlier earth-moving can be seen centre bottom. Scale is 1m long.

## 7 Discussion

Despite the proximity of Roman small town at Heybridge and the Anglo-Saxon burials excavated on Crescent Road (1972), this evaluation revealed no significant archaeological features or finds. An area of disturbed ground indicates the site has been affected by previous earth-moving.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr Bob Penney (Benjamin James Developments) for commissioning and funding the work. Fieldwork was carried out by Chris Lister and HB. Site plans by CL, and sections by Jill Adams. The project was monitored for ECC by Maria Medlycott.

## 9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

- |        |       |   |
|--------|-------|---|
| CAT    | 2015  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial-trenching at 15 Crescent Road, Heybridge, Maldon, Essex.</i> By H Brooks  |
| ClfA   | 2014a | <i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>  |
| ClfA   | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>                 |
| DCLG   | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> (Dept of Communities and Local Government).   |
| EAA 14 | 2003  | Standards for field archaeology in the East of England, <i>East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers</i> , 14, ed by D Gurney       |
| EAA 24 | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , EAA Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott |
| ECC    | 2015  | <i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching at 15 Crescent Road, Heybridge.</i> By Maria Medlycott                                    |

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	after the Roman period, around AD 430 to AD 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from around AD 1530 to c AD1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period SAFD 43- around 430
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (accession 2015.100).

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### Distribution list:

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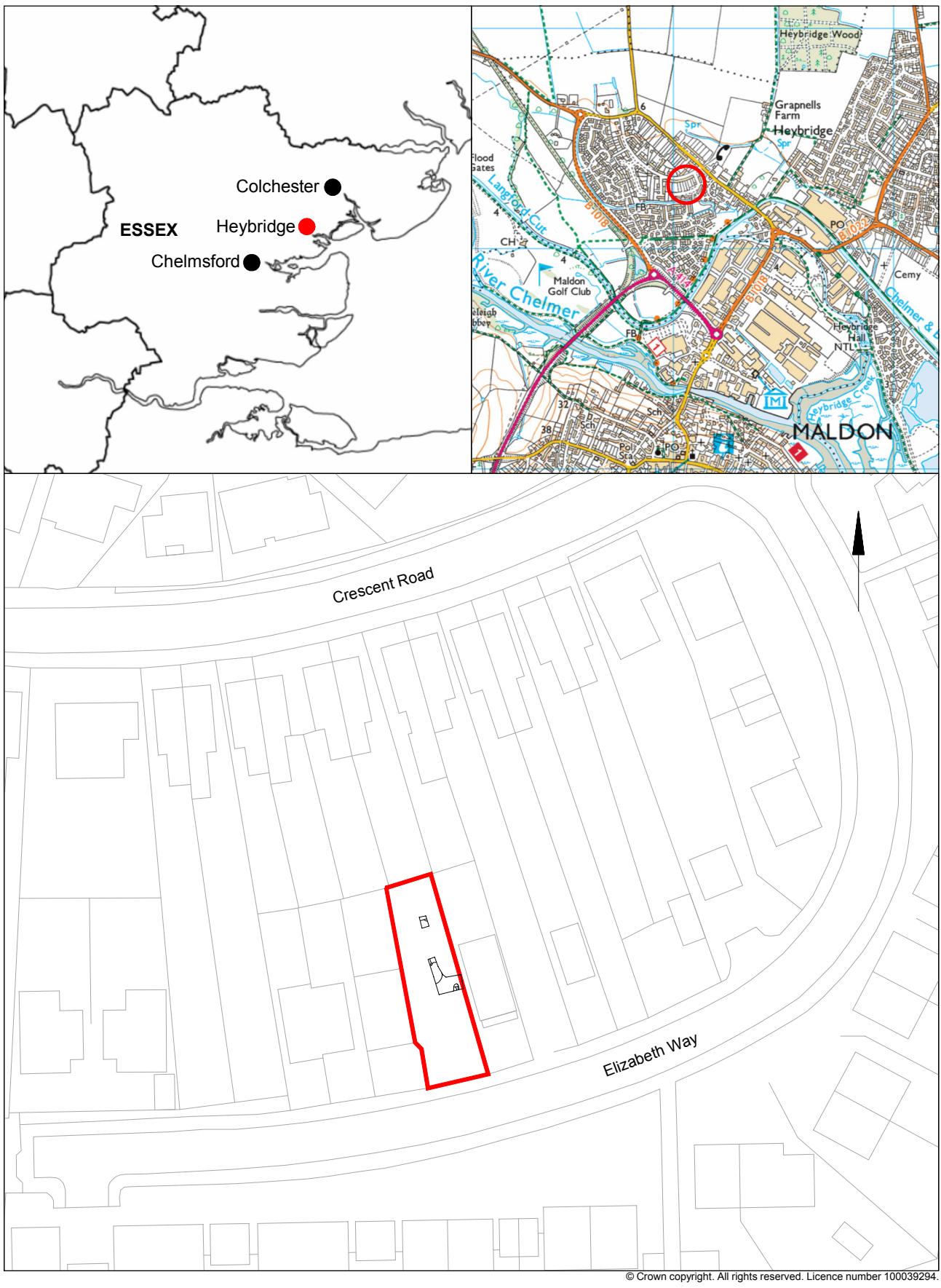


Fig 1 Site location.

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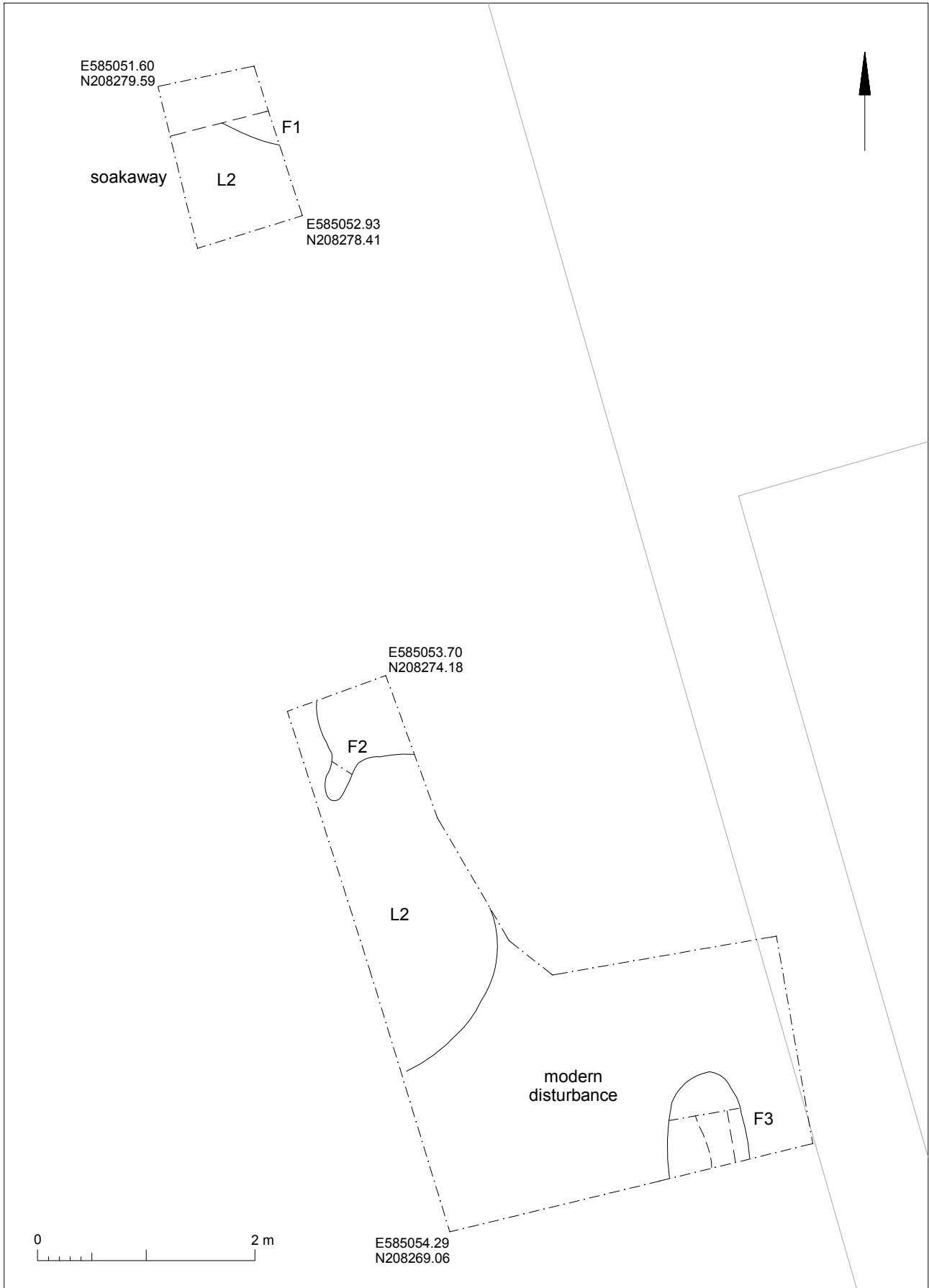
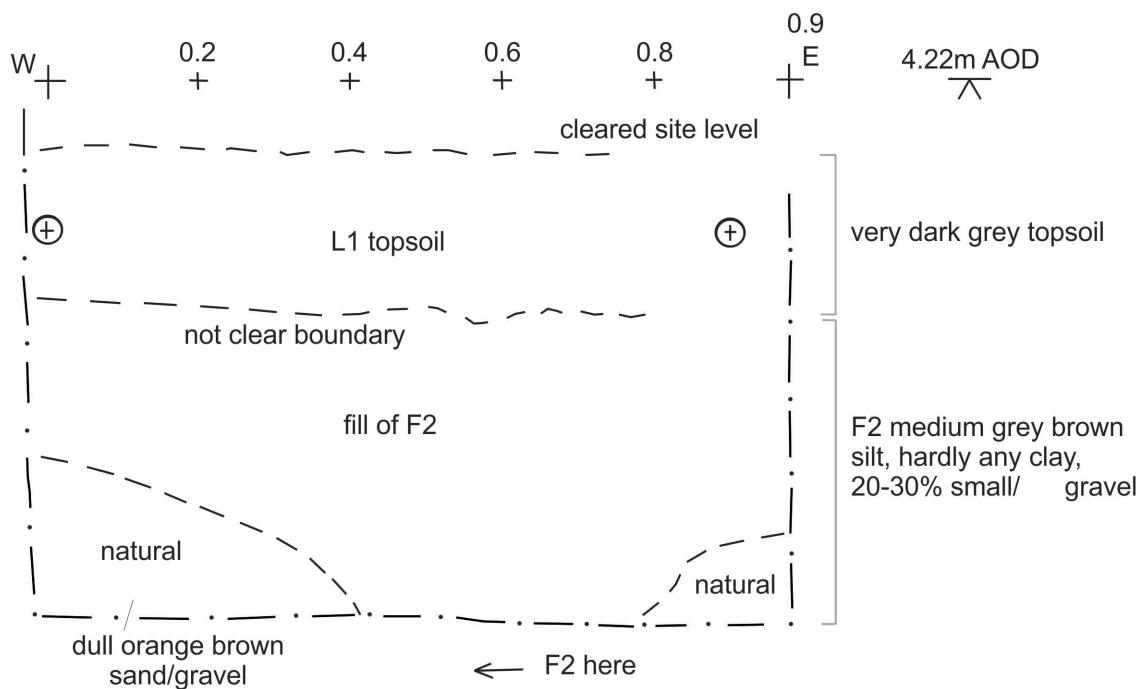
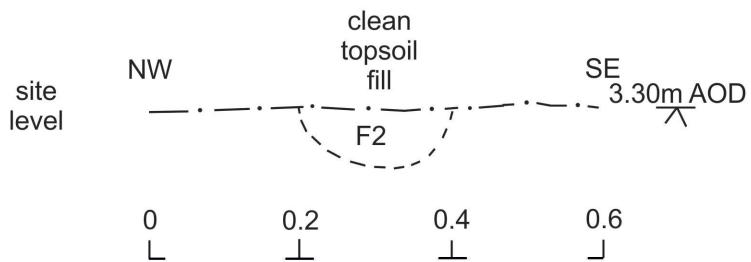


Fig 2 Results.

representative trench section



sketch profile of F2



section F3

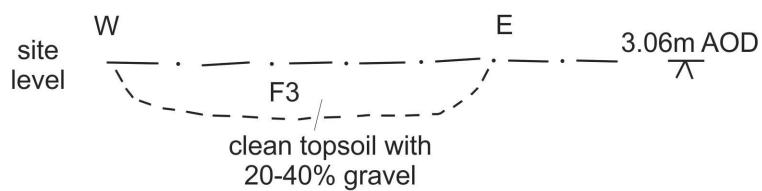


Fig 3 Sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> land rear of 15 Crescent Road, Heybridge, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Heybridge	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 85061 08265	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code – 15/09h HEM code - HYCR15 OASIS colchest3-224820
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 25th September 2015	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 10.7m <sup>2</sup> of trench in site of approx 135m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum accession 2015.100	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> no	<b>Related EH&amp;ER numbers:</b> 7794-9, 17444, 18779, 48697
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 871	
<b>Periods represented:</b> modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>The site is on the eastern edge of the Roman small town of Heybridge. An evaluation by two trenches found no significant archaeological remains. There were three modern features, and evidence of previous disturbance in the form of tooth-marks from an earth-moving machine.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>ECC monitor:</b> Maria Medlycott	
<b>Keywords:</b>	<b>Significance:</b> -
<b>Author of summary:</b> Howard Brooks	<b>Date of summary:</b> October 2015