

**Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching
at Foxtons, 23 The Street, Little Waltham,
Essex, CM3 3NS**

November 2015



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with contributions by Stephen Benfield
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on behalf of Plater Claiborne Architecture and Design

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Chelmsford Museum accession code CHMRE: 2015.191
ECC project code: LWFOX15
OASIS reference: colchest3-228181



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CAT Report 888

November 2015

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching, carried out in advance of the construction of a replacement car-port and workshop at Foxtons, 23 The Street, Little Waltham revealed three modern features consisting of a wall foundation and two pits. Despite lying within an area of known prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman occupation, no significant archaeological features or finds were identified.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Foxtons, 23 The Street, Essex carried out on the 5th November 2015. The work was commissioned by Plater Claiborne Architecture and Design, in advance of the construction of a new car port and workshop (after the demolition of an existing garage, workshop and associated hard-standing), and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Historic England and Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennet stated that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2015), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2015).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The EHER shows that the site lies just to the east of the area of Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval, and post-medieval finds and remains excavated in advance of the construction of the Little Waltham bypass in 1970-71 (EHER 6182-8). Large scale excavations were undertaken on this multi-period site, exposing a substantial Iron Age settlement with large numbers of roundhouses. Evidence for Roman occupation was identified, although it was thought to be on the periphery of a settlement outside the area of excavation.

4 Results (Fig 2-3)

Two trial-trenches were to be located within the footprint of the new workshop where it projected beyond the edge of the existing structure. Due to the presence of services which were to be retained for the new workshop and concerns raised by the arboreal officer, one of these trenches (T2) was moved 1m north of the proposed footprint.

Three layers were identified across the site. Modern topsoil (L1, 20-43mm thick) sealed post-medieval/modern subsoil (L2, 25mm thick), which in turn sealed a natural orange-grey sandy clay (L3).

Trench 1, 6m long by 1.8m wide

No archaeological features or finds were identified.

Trench 2, 15m long by 1.8m wide

Three modern features were identified. Pit F1 was located in the corner of the trench and contained fragments of concrete, brick and iron (not retained). Wall foundation F2 ran the entire length of the trench and cut through pit F3. The pit contained fragments of pot and peg tile.



Plate 1 Trench 1



Plate 2 Trench 2, F2 and F3

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

The archaeological work recovered a small quantity of finds from one feature (F3) located in Trench 2 (T2). The finds consist of two sherds of pottery and three pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) that are all from peg tiles. The pottery sherds date to the late post-medieval/modern and modern period, the more recent of the two dated to the period of the late 18th/19th-20th century. The peg tiles can only be broadly dated to the medieval-post-medieval/modern period. One piece has traces of mortar on the underside and extending onto the surviving original edge so that, while it may have been mortared into position on a roof, it might possibly have been used in wall construction. The finds are listed and described in Table 1.

Context	Find no.	Form/ description	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Spot date
F3	1	Pottery Nottingham/ Derbyshire-type stoneware	45G	1	17	Late 17th-19th century
F3	1	Staffordshire-type white earthenware	48D	1	3	Late 18th/19th -20th century
F3	1	CBM, peg-tile pieces, 12-13 mm thick, one with traces of white mortar on back and edge, part of a round peg-hole on another piece	orange/red with moderate sand inclusions	3	169	medieval - post-medieval

Table 1 Finds by context from Trench 2 (pottery fabrics refer to *CAR 7*)

6 Discussion

Two modern pits and a modern wall foundation relating to the demolished workshop were identified in the trial-trenches. Despite being in an area of archaeological importance no significant archaeological discoveries were made on the site.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Plater Claiborne Architecture and Design for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed B Holloway and fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and E Sanford. Site plans were prepared by M Baister and C Lister. The project was monitored for ECC by Alison Bennett.

8 References

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

<i>CAR 7</i>	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological trial trenching and excavation at Foxtons, 23 The Street, Little Waltham</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
CIfA	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	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14. Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24, by Maria Medlycott

ECCPS	2015	<i>Brief for Archaeological trial trenching and excavation at Foxtons, 23 The Street, Little Waltham</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: one small bag

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 888)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE: 2015.191.

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Plater Claiborne Architecture and Design
Alison Bennett, Essex County Council
EHER



Colchester Archaeological Trust

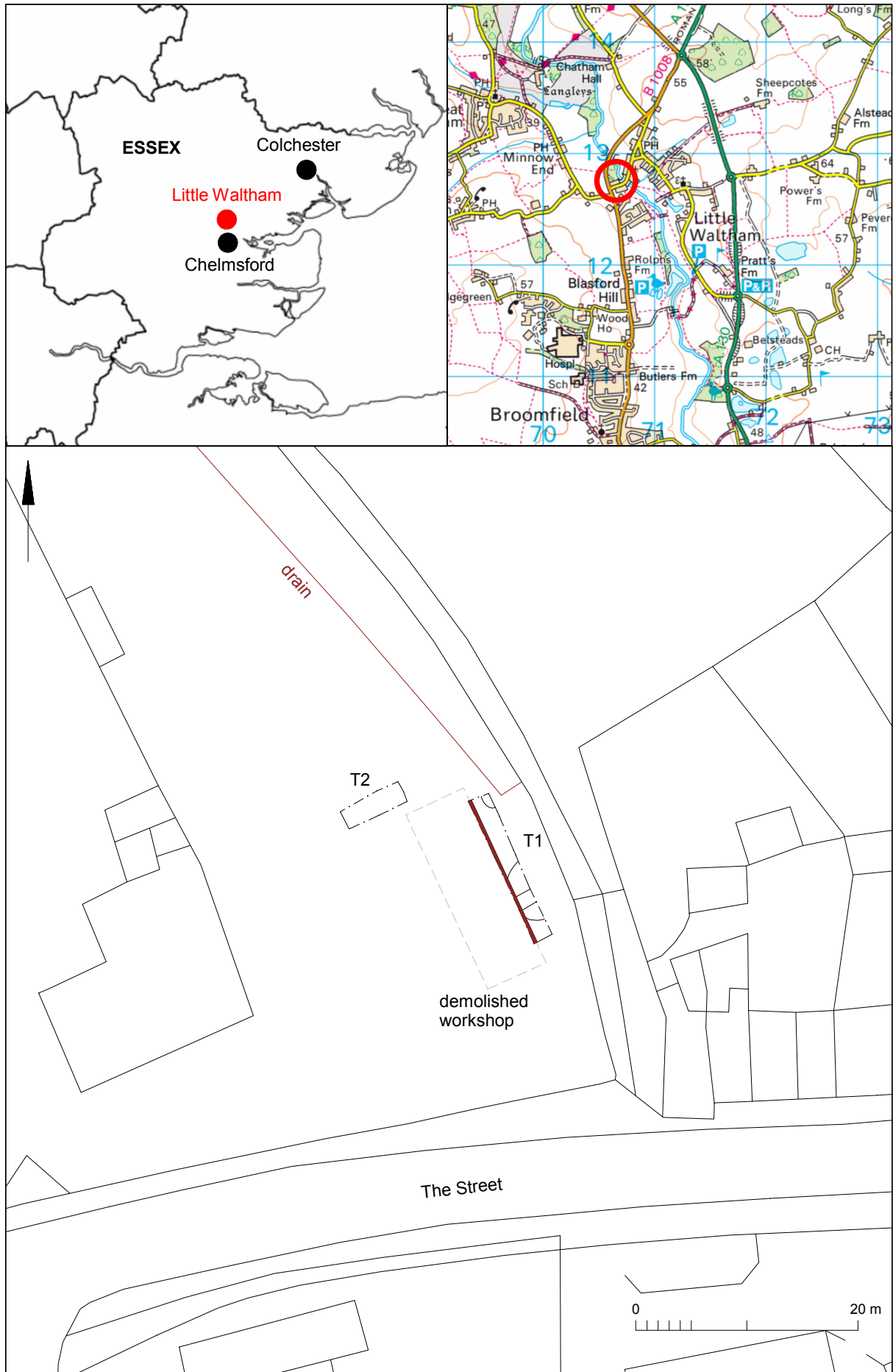
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Fig 1 Site location.

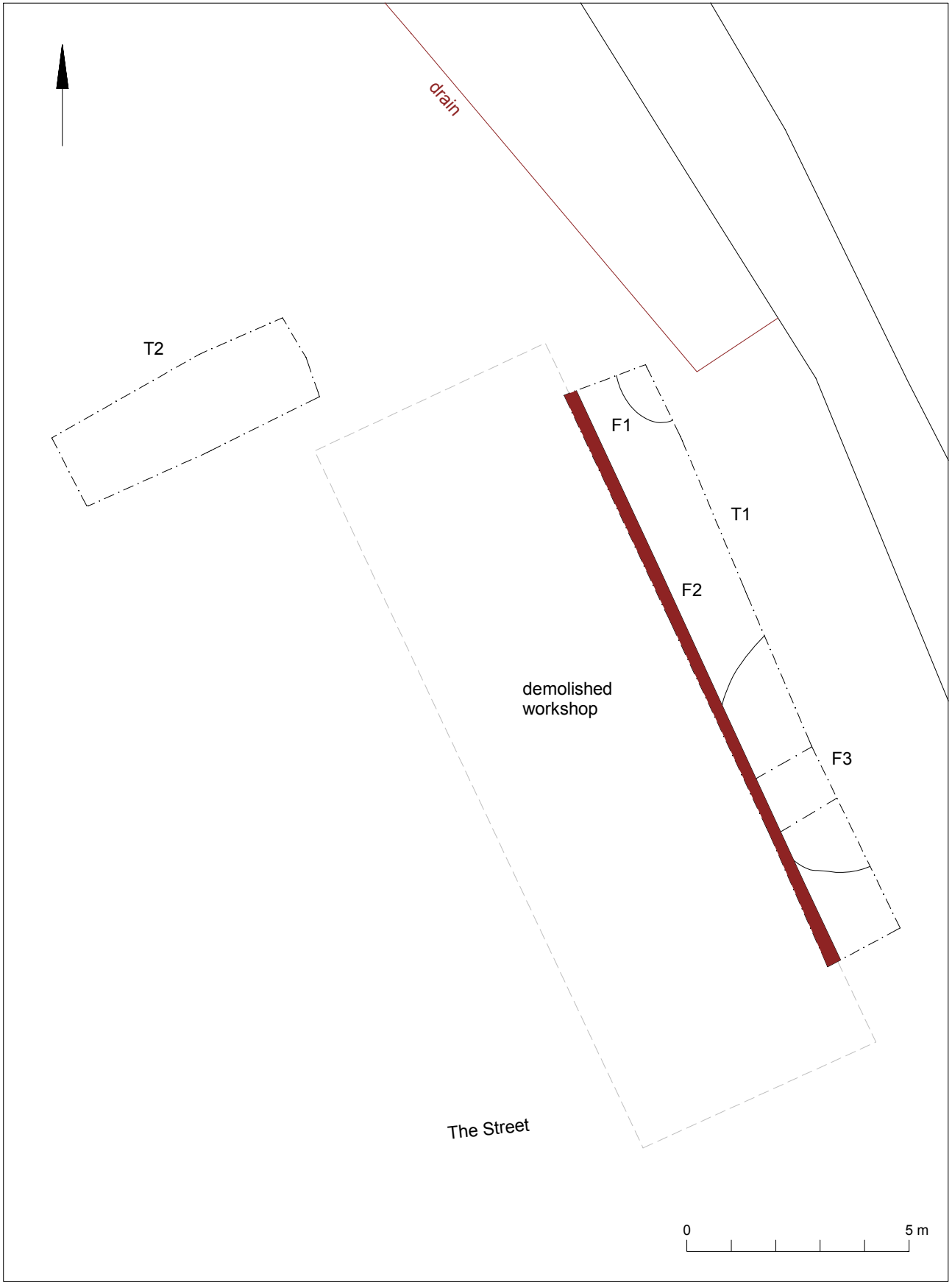
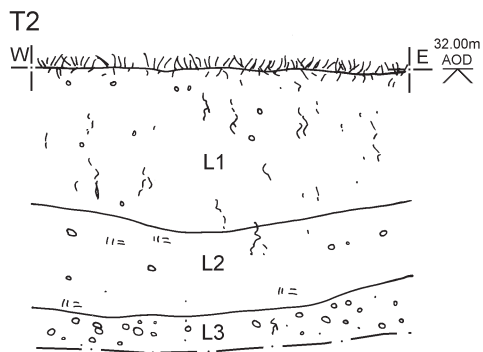
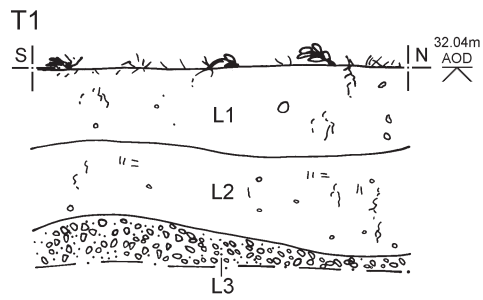
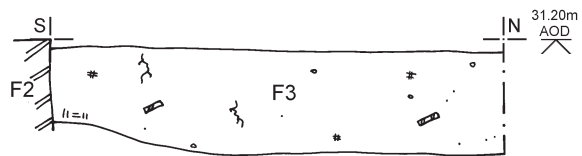


Fig 2 Trench results.



- sand
- small stones
- clay
- charcoal
- post-Roman brick and tile
- roots



Fig 3 Feature section (F3) and representative trench sections (T1-2).

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Foxtons, 23 The Street, Little Waltham, Essex, CM3 3NS	
Parish: Chelmsford	District: Little Waltham
NGR: TL 7060 1269 (c)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 15/08g ECC project code: LWFOX15 OASIS ref: colchest3-228181
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 5th November 2015	Size of area investigated: <i>2 trenches totalling 21m by 1.8m (37.8m²)</i>
Location of curating museum: Chelmsford museum accession code CHMRE: 2015.191	Funding source: Client
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related UAD/SMR number: EHER 6182-8
Final report: CAT Report 888	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching, carried out in advance of the construction of a replacement car-port and workshop at Foxtons, 23 The Street, Little Waltham revealed three modern features consisting of a wall foundation and two pits. Despite lying within an area of known prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman occupation, no significant archaeological features or finds were identified.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
CBC monitor: Alison Bennett	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: November 2015