

Geoarchaeological and archaeological  
monitoring and recording at  
Harwich Extra Care Centre,  
419 Main Road, Dovercourt, Essex  
September-December 2015



report prepared by  
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**on behalf of E.J. Taylor & Sons Ltd**

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**CAT Report 900**  
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## 1 Summary

*In September-December 2015, the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) carried out a geoarchaeological and archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for construction of two new buildings at 419 Main Road, Dovercourt, Essex for the Harwich Extra Care Scheme. The work was carried out on behalf of the builders E.J. Taylor & Sons.*

*The site lies to the south-east of the former Gants Pit gravel-pit (also known as Pounds Farm). This is situated on the Stour terrace deposits which cover the plateau at Dovercourt and is one of the richest sites for Palaeolithic artefacts in the region. The pit was located within the grounds of the present Spring Meadow School (north-west of the present site). It is the potential of this area for important Palaeolithic remains that was the reason for the archaeological condition and requirement for archaeological monitoring and which was the primary focus of the archaeological work carried out by CAT. Prior to the monitoring, an archaeological evaluation, consisting of eight test-pits distributed across the area of the development site, had been carried out by Archaeology Southeast (ASE). This revealed a remnant head (solifluxion) deposit on the south-east part of the site, but no artefacts or evidence of any Palaeolithic remains.*

*The geoarchaeological monitoring carried out by CAT involved the observation of footings and drainage works for the two new buildings. Examination of the exposed deposits of sands and gravels, including combing through excavated spoil, did not produce any significant archaeological finds. A bulk sample of a gravel deposit also proved negative in terms of any recognisable ancient (Palaeolithic) artefacts. The only finds recovered from it were a very small quantity of intrusive material consisting of glass and tile fragments (modern) and two small flint flakes of probable later prehistoric date. In terms of any significant Palaeolithic deposits located within the development boundary, the negative results seem to suggest that the potential of the site is low. A record of the nature of the deposits was made through the recording of exposed sections. These indicate a different sequence of deposits on the east side of the site to that on the west. As the sands and gravels are interpreted as primarily ancient waterborne deposits, this could suggest a north-south flow across the area of the site. Below the soil and sub-soil, consisting of grey-brown sandy silt, some indication of freeze-thaw disturbance was noted in the sand and gravels, while some mixed contexts might indicate solifluxion material. The remains of an air-raid shelter of covered trench type, dating to WW2, were located on the north-east part of the site. No other deposits or features of archaeological significance were encountered during the monitoring of the site.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief (geoarchaeological and archaeological monitoring) at the Harwich Extra Care Centre, 419 Main Road, Dovercourt (Harwich), Essex (NGR TM 24340 31190; Fig 1). The work was carried out by CAT between the 15th September and the 2nd December 2015. The work was commissioned by E.J. Taylor & Sons Ltd, in advance of the commencement of the groundworks.

The commission was in response to a requirement for archaeological monitoring issued by Essex County Council (ECC) Place Services that the applicant commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012). A *Brief for archaeological and geoarchaeological monitoring*, detailing the required archaeological work, was provided by Teresa O'Connor (ECC Place Services 2015). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECC (CAT 2015). All of the archaeological work was carried out in accordance the agreed WSI.

In addition to the brief and WSI, the fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with the documents *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 EAA 24). This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

### 3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

The potential archaeological significance of the site lies in its proximity to one of the most prolific Palaeolithic sites in the region (HER 3394). This is the former Gants Pit (also referred to as Pounds Farm), located within the grounds of the present Spring Meadow School situated to the north-west of the development site (Fig 1). In the early part of the 20th century, W. Underwood (in 1913) and - slightly later - S. Warren (aided by workmen) recovered large numbers of Palaeolithic hand-axes, together with flakes from their manufacture, from the quarried gravel. An important assemblage of faunal remains was also recovered which included extinct mammal species and some fish remains (Bridgeland *et al* 2014); the assemblage has since been destroyed. All the artefacts were reported as deriving from gravel deposits at between 0.6 m and 2.4 m below the surface (Wymer 1985), and the sequence of gravel deposits in the pit above the underlying London clay is briefly described by Underwood (Underwood 1913). What is known about the site relating to that time has been summarised by Roe (Roe 1968) and by Wymer (Wymer 1985; Wymer 1999).

More recently, archaeological assessment work - consisting of exploratory test-pits - has been undertaken in the school grounds close to the site of the former gravel-pit (Bridgeland 2006; Bridgeland *et al* 2014). This work produced further Palaeolithic remains from the north-east area of the grounds (Bridgeland 2006, trench 1), but also suggested that the gravel associated with Palaeolithic material thinned toward the south-east (Bridgeland 2006, trench 3). Overall, the deposits that produced Palaeolithic finds appear to lie primarily in the eastern half of the school grounds, and the concentration of this material may be focused toward the area of the original gravel-pit. This area is thought to be no larger than the area occupied by the existing school buildings and could indicate a particularly localised concentration of the artefactual remains (Bridgeland 2006). In terms of dating the Paleolithic activity, the unconfirmed identification of large fallow deer (*clactonia subspecies*) among the faunal assemblage and the nature of the hand-axe assemblage is considered to possibly indicate a broad Hoxnian date (marine isotope stage (MIS) 11) for the Palaeolithic material, but this remains speculative (Bridgeland *et al* 2014).

Prior to the monitoring, an evaluation of the development site was carried out by Archaeology Southeast (ASE) (Pope 2015). This involved the mechanical excavation of eight test-pits, distributed across the development site. ASE recorded deposits of sands and gravels considered to form 'a medium energy facies of the Stour terrace deposits which cover the plateau at Dovercourt' (Pope 2015, 5.2). A remnant deposit of grey-brown silty head (a solifluxion deposit of fragmented material) was recorded in test-pit 6 in the south-eastern part of the site, at between 0.3 m and 1.2 m. No artefacts were recovered during the evaluation.

### 4 The archaeological monitoring (Fig 2)

The monitoring of the site by CAT in 2015 consisted of a number of visits by an archaeologist between mid September and the beginning of December. In all, ten visits were made. The first visit was in response to the discovery of an air-raid shelter during the initial site clearance (Fig 2). Further visits related to the progress of the excavation of footing and deep drain trenches for the two new buildings (Building A and Building B). The footprint of Building A covers the northern half of the site and Building B is located at the southern end of the site

(Fig 2). The excavation of the pit for an attenuation tank on the central eastern part of the site was also monitored.

The excavation of the drain trenches and footings was carried out over relatively short lengths or on limited areas of the footprints of the new buildings at any one time. The nature of the deposits into which these were cut frequently require steel box shuttering (deep drains) and some wooden shoring of areas (footings) to help prevent collapse, while the footing trenches for Building A were commonly in excess of 1.10 m-1.20 m deep. These factors often made direct access to the exposed deposits difficult, so that some observation and some of the recording were carried out from the side of the footing trenches. It should be noted that the footings on Building B were less substantial at between 0.7 m and 0.8 m deep. Excavated spoil was loaded into dumpers and stock-piled on a heap although, on occasion, it was transferred directly into lorries for transport off-site. In general, lengths of footings could be examined once the lower 'dry-mix' concrete base had been put into the base and complete exposed sections could be closely examined at the ends of the box shuttering and at the end of the runs of concrete base fill in the footings. The most extensive area open for close observation was the large rectangular hole excavated for the attenuation tank, which allowed full access and observation of the mechanical excavation of deposits.

The nature of the deposits was observed on all areas of the site and records of these were made in the form of section drawings, sketches and notes as well as photographs. In total, ten sections were drawn or sketched. Where possible, the deposits were examined for artefacts, including faunal material, which involved trowelling through the available spoil. An attempt was made to broadly understand the sequence of the deposits across the whole of the site.

## 5 Results

### **Geoarchaeological observations** (Fig 2 & Sections 1-7)

Apart from patches of modern disturbance, immediately below the construction surface on the development is an extensive layer of grey-brown sandy silt and this was located across the site. The underlying deposits consist of sands and gravels. The stone content of the gravels appeared, generally, to be almost entirely of small-medium size with stones rarely exceeding 40 mm-50 mm. Occasionally, larger stones (predominantly flints) were encountered among the spoil but these seemed to be quite rare. Individual sections and recording are not reported in detail but have been used to form a broad description of the geology of the site relating to the deposits of sands and gravels exposed.

The observations made on different parts of the site showed that, while many of the deposits appear to be discontinuous, within some areas of the site there appears to be a broad division between the deposits on the eastern side of the site and those in the centre and on the western side.

The upper deposits on the eastern side of the site can be generally described as consisting of grey sandy silts (0.5 m-0.6 m thick) overlying orange-brown gritty sands with small stones and sandy gravels/gravel (0.3 m-0.5 m thick), at a depth of about 0.3 m (minimum top)-0.8 m (maximum base) from the surface. In a 12 m-long north-south section in the side of one of the footing trenches - the south-eastern part of the footprint of Building A - the orange-brown gravel could be seen in pockets below the upper silt (Sx 4). Apart from the overlying silts, this gravel/sandy gravel deposit appeared to be the most consistent deposit encountered on the site, and a bulk sample of this material was taken from a footing trench on the eastern side of the footprint of Building B (Photo. 3). Below this, the deposits on the eastern side of the site varied. On the north-eastern side of the site (within the footprint of Building A), these consisted of bands of yellow sands and gravels (Sx 1 & Photo. 1). On the south-eastern side of the site, the orange gravels overlie orange-brown sands which contain discontinuous bands of pale grey sandy silt. This deposit was recorded as extending to a depth of approximately 1.25 m in the base of the attenuation tank trench where it sealed a brownish-yellow sand (Sx 2 & Photo. 2). On the footings on the eastern side of

the footprint of Building B, the upper silt sealed a stony, mixed grey silt and sand deposit which directly overlay orange-brown sand common on the south-eastern part of the site (Sx 3, Photo. 3). This suggests a disturbed deposit, possibly through periglacial action, but might possibly have resulted from unidentified modern disturbance.



Photo. 1: Section of deposits in footing trench in the south-eastern part of the footprint of Building A, height of section 1.2 m (view south-west).



Photo. 2: Section of deposits in trench for attenuation tank, modern gravel spread in foreground (view south-west).



Photo. 3: Showing disturbance to gravel/silt interface and, below this, the orange-brown gravel from which a bulk sample was taken; from a footing on the eastern side of Building B, depth of section face approximately 0.85 m (view south).

In the central part and on the western side of the site, the deposits sealed by the overlying sandy silt (similar in depth to that on the eastern side of the site) were rather more mixed. Commonly these consisted of yellow and pale gritty sands and pale gravelly/stony sands, but some brownish sands were also present, together with grey sandy silts. The sands commonly occurred in horizontal banded layers between about 80 mm and 120 mm in thickness (Sx 6). In one area within the south-western part of the footprint of Building A, a band of yellow sand (0.7 m-1.0 m) contained fragments of orange-brown stony sand and was sealed by the upper silt layer, suggesting the break-up of an earlier layer redeposited within the yellow sand, presumably under periglacial conditions. This material sealed a narrow band of pale sand overlying other narrow bands of orange-brown sand (1.0 m-1.25 m), in which vertical interruptions suggest freezing and thawing under periglacial conditions (0.8 m-1.25 m; Sx 5 & Photo. 4).

A deep section in a drain trench in the north-west part of the site (Photo. 5) revealed predominantly pale, banded sands (below the overlying silt deposits) between 0.6 m and 1.0 m. These bands had localised vertical interruptions suggesting freezing and thawing under periglacial conditions (Sx 7). The lower part of the section, extending to the base of the trench at 1.8 m, exposed banded sands and gravelly sands, primarily brownish in colour, with one thin seam of pale sand at 1.25 m-1.3 m. It should be noted that a deposit of shelly, pale sand (crag) was exposed at depth in the drain trench close to the north-western corner of the site but could not be recorded other than to note its presence. This was the only occurrence of a crag sand.

During the monitoring and recording, no archaeologically significant man-made artefacts or faunal remains were observed or recovered from any of the sections or from the spoil.



Photo. 4: Section in south-western part of footprint of Building A with orange-brown stony sand patches intruding into yellow sand deposit, concrete dry-mix in base of trench to left, height of section face 1.3 m (view east).



Photo. 5: Deep section in drain trench in north-western part of the site, height of cleaned section approximately 1.8 m (view south-east).

## **Other archaeology** (Figs 2-3; Photos 6-7)

### *The air-raid shelter*

Apart from occasional modern pits and sections of brick footing from former modern buildings, the only feature of archaeological significance is an air-raid shelter located on the north-eastern part of the site (Photo. 6). This was revealed during machine site clearance by the contractors and the structure appears to have been intact until that time.

The shelter building consisted of a long, rectangular underground shelter area approximately 14.6 m in length and 1.6 m wide (Fig 3). The internal height was approximately 1.58 m measured from the top of the side to the floor. At the south-western corner there was a flight of steps forming the access which were set within a rectangular area approximately 3.0 m long, and 1.5 m wide with concrete (blast) walls at their sides. At the far north-western corner there were the remains of another (emergency) access in the roof of the shelter. This had a brick surround forming a roughly square opening approximately 850 mm by 940 mm.

The walls and roof of the shelter had been constructed from pre-cast, reinforced, interlocking concrete sections. The side pieces were 320 mm in width and 80 mm thick. The roof sections, which were of a similar width and thickness, had moulded slot pieces at the ends to fit over the wall top. There was an electrical system circuit-box mounted on the west wall just inside the main entrance and an electric heater mounted on the same wall approximately two-thirds of the way toward the northern end.

This is an example of a covered trench shelter and it is almost identical to an example in Brown *et al* (Brown *et al* 1996, 67 & fig 30.b).

After WW2, the shelter had been abandoned and partly filled with what is probably boiler waste (ash and clinker), including old bottles, paint-pots and a metal bed-pan, suggesting that this fill may have originated from a hospital (Photo. 7). The main entrance had been completely blocked by filling the stepped descent with the same waste material.

## **6 Finds**

No significant archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief. A small quantity of finds material which included two small flint flakes was recovered from a bulk sample of a gravel layer and this is described below (section 7).

A single, small flint flake was recovered as an unstratified surface find close to the trench for the attenuation tank during its excavation. Material adhering to the surface suggested that it came from the orange-brown stony sand deposits. This appeared to be a possible struck flake but, on close inspection, this proved to be a frost fracture (pot-lid) piece of natural origin.

Selected finds from the fill of the air-raid shelter are shown in Photo. 7. These were not retained.

## **7 Bulk sample and associated finds**

A bulk sample of 40 litres of the upper orange-brown gravel and gravelly sand was taken from a footing trench located on the eastern side of the footprint of Building B (Photo. 3). The sample was processed through a flotation system and a clean, heavy fraction recovered from a 3 mm (maximum) woven mesh. The sample produced almost no flot, and the small flot fraction recovered was made up of modern root fragments/fibres and contaminants consisting of a few polystyrene balls. The heavy fraction consisted of small, mostly irregular-shaped, rolled stones (1 mm/2 mm-50 mm in size), primarily of flint and quartz. It is dominated by small stone/sand particles with common small-medium stones (up to 20 mm in size) and moderate-occasional larger stones up to 50 mm in size. This was dried and hand-sorted for macro finds material, primarily faunal remains.



Photo. 6: Air-raid shelter, entrance in bottom left-hand corner; note: water is surface run ponding in base not groundwater (view north-west).



Photo. 7: Selected finds from the fill of the air-raid shelter.

A small quantity of finds was recovered from the sample heavy fraction. All appear to be contaminants to the gravel sampled. Most of these are of modern date and consist of a few small fragments of clear glass, a small piece of wall tile, and a small piece of ceramic drain, with a maximum length of up to 15 mm. There are also two small flint flakes (Photo. 8) that are, almost certainly, of the later prehistoric period (described below) and a small fragment from a whelk-like shell (20 mm long). These can almost certainly be regarded as relatively recent contaminants within the gravel sample, as no other shell fragments were present and as the flint flakes (although small) appear relatively fresh as they are not rolled or patinated. The flints were examined by Adam Wightman (CAT), whose comments have been incorporated here. Both of the flakes, although small, appear to derive from flint-working. They are most typical of flint-working in the later prehistoric period (Mesolithic-Bronze Age), with the thinner flake of the two suggesting a probable Mesolithic or Neolithic date rather than later.

Flints recovered from bulk sample (Photo. 8)

**Photo. 8 (left)** Small flint flake (15 mm long, 20 mm broad). Thin flake with small striking platform and probably produced with a soft hammer technique; earlier flake removal scars on dorsal face with small area of cortex. The flake is of fresh appearance with sharp edges and is not rolled or patinated. The condition and the working technique indicates that it is of late prehistoric date. It probably dates earlier than the Bronze Age and is likely to be of Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

**Photo. 8 (right)** Small flint flake (20 mm long, 15 mm broad). Probably produced with a soft hammer technique. Broken at distal end. Earlier flake removal scars on dorsal face with area of cortex. The flake is of fresh appearance with sharp edges and is not rolled or patinated.



Photo. 8: Flint flakes recovered from bulk sample (dorsal surfaces).

## 8 Discussion

The sand and gravel deposits observed as exposed in trench sections at depths of between 0.25 m-1.8 m suggest material laid down in a fluvial environment by riverine or meltwater flows and later blanketed by sandy silts, probably windborne in a periglacial landscape. The different nature of the deposits on the eastern and western sides of the site could suggest a north-south direction of flow when the upper sands and gravels (between 0.25 m-1.3 m) on the eastern side of the site were laid down. The upper orange gravel deposits on the eastern side of the site

might indicate a channel on that side with sand and grey sandy silts deposited in slow-flowing water, later overlaid by gravels more indicative of a faster current. A number of small, localised vertical disturbances and intrusive/disturbed material in or between the layers (most noted on the north-eastern and eastern side of the site) probably indicates freeze and thaw from glacial or periglacial conditions.

Despite the relative proximity of one of the most prolific Paleolithic sites in the area, at the former Gants Pit (Pounds Farm), situated beneath the present buildings of Spring Meadow School (located just to the north-west), there was no clear indication of any archaeologically significant Palaeolithic remains existing within the development site. This conclusion is based on observation of the excavated material (spoil) and exposed deposits available during site visits. The negative observations suggest that the likelihood that Paleolithic remains survive on the site is relatively low. The negative results from the earlier site evaluation (Pope 2015) would also tend to support this conclusion.

The only archaeological finds (other than material of modern date) are the two small flint flakes, recovered from a bulk sample taken from a gravel deposit. The sample was also found to include a small content of modern contaminants, including fragments of glass and tile. The flakes are relatively sharp and fresh and have not been rolled or abraded. They appear to be consistent with a later prehistoric date (Mesolithic-Bronze Age), most probably Mesolithic or Neolithic, and they are not typical of redeposited Paleolithic flint-working or waste found in river gravel or other glacial deposits. Both can almost certainly be regarded as part of the contaminant material accidentally incorporated in the sample. They suggest an otherwise undetected episode of activity on the site in the later prehistoric period, probably during the Mesolithic or Neolithic period, although no other worked flint was recovered from the site surface or in spoil and no features were located which would indicate a date other than modern.

An air-raid shelter located on the north-eastern side of the site is of covered trench type, made from pre-cast concrete panels. This can be firmly dated to WW2. It was probably back-filled soon after the war.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT is grateful to E.J. Taylor & Sons Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by Chris Lister and carried out by Stephen Benfield. Site plans were prepared by Chris Lister. The project was monitored for ECC Place Services by Teresa O'Connor.

## 10 References

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

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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Hoxnian	warm (interglacial) period within the major ice advances of the Ice Age, centring on 400,000 BC
hand axe	flint tool typical of the lower Paleolithic, commonly hand-sized and of flattened teardrop or ovate shape with flakes removed from both surfaces (biface), primarily a butchery tool
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 BP-4,000 BC
MIS	Marine isotope stage - record of climate change obtained from deep sea cores
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4,000-2,000 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
Palaeolithic	period from the earliest human occupation to the end of the major ice advances (Ice Age) - in Britain, approximately 800,000-10,000 BP
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** Small quantity of finds material recovered from bulk sample

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:  
The report (CAT Report 900)  
ECC Place Services Brief

CAT Written Scheme of Investigation  
Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, Copies of notes)  
Site digital photographic log  
Architectural Plans  
Attendance register  
Original Plans  
Risk assessment

### 13 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 Museums under accession code 2015.84.

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#### Distribution list:

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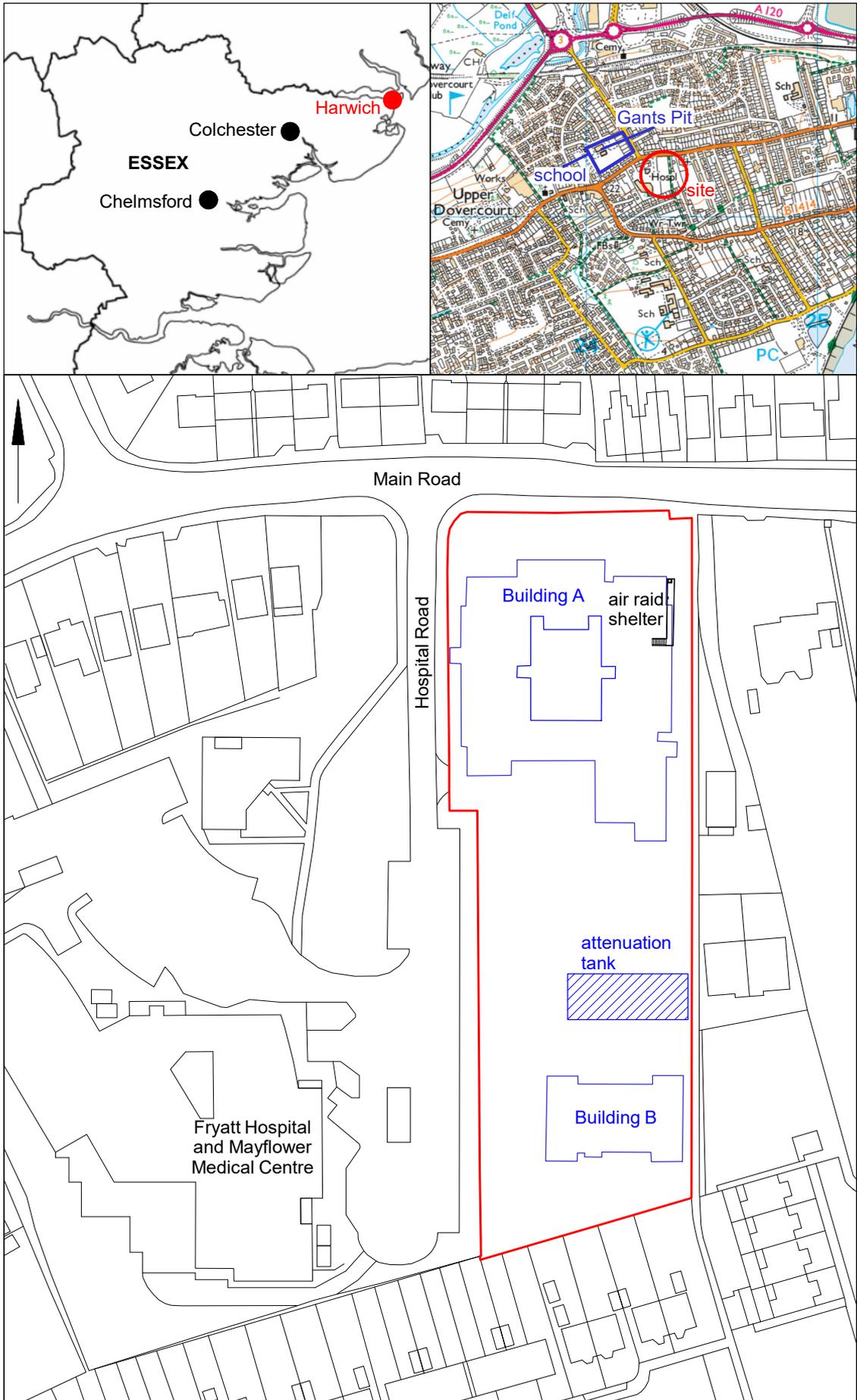
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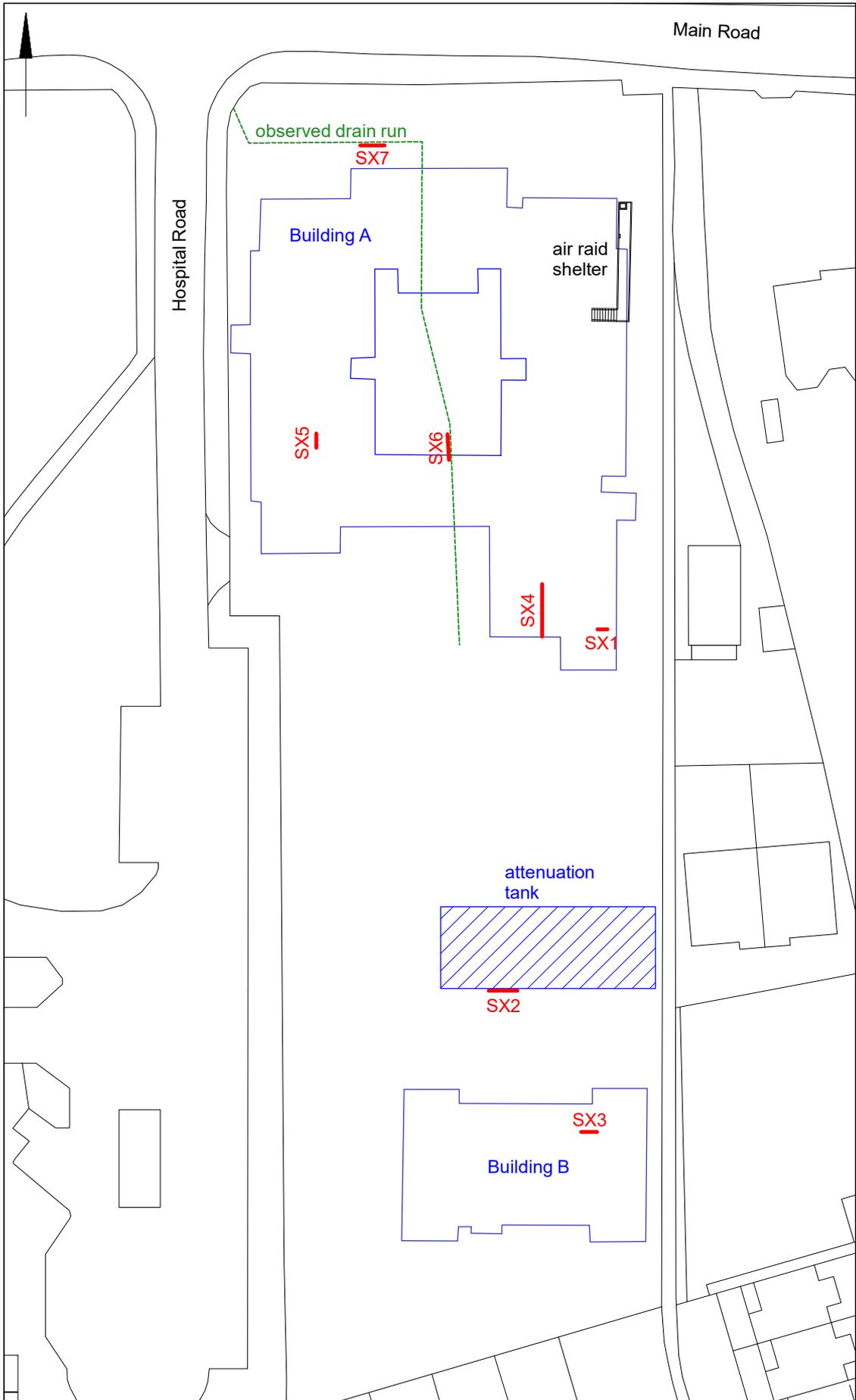
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Fig 1 Site location.

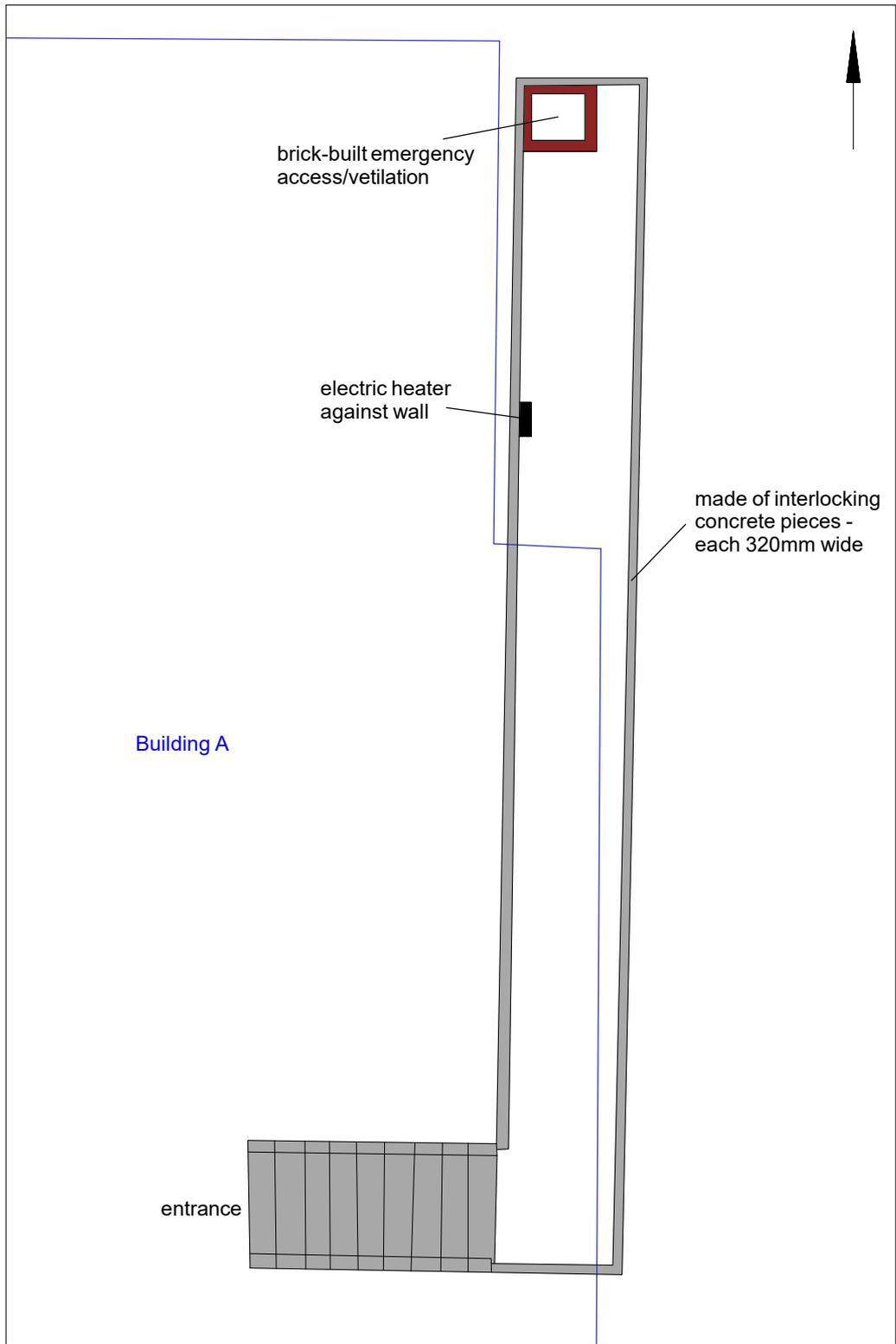




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Fig 2 Detailed site plan, with locations of sections marked.





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Fig 3 Detailed plan of air raid shelter.



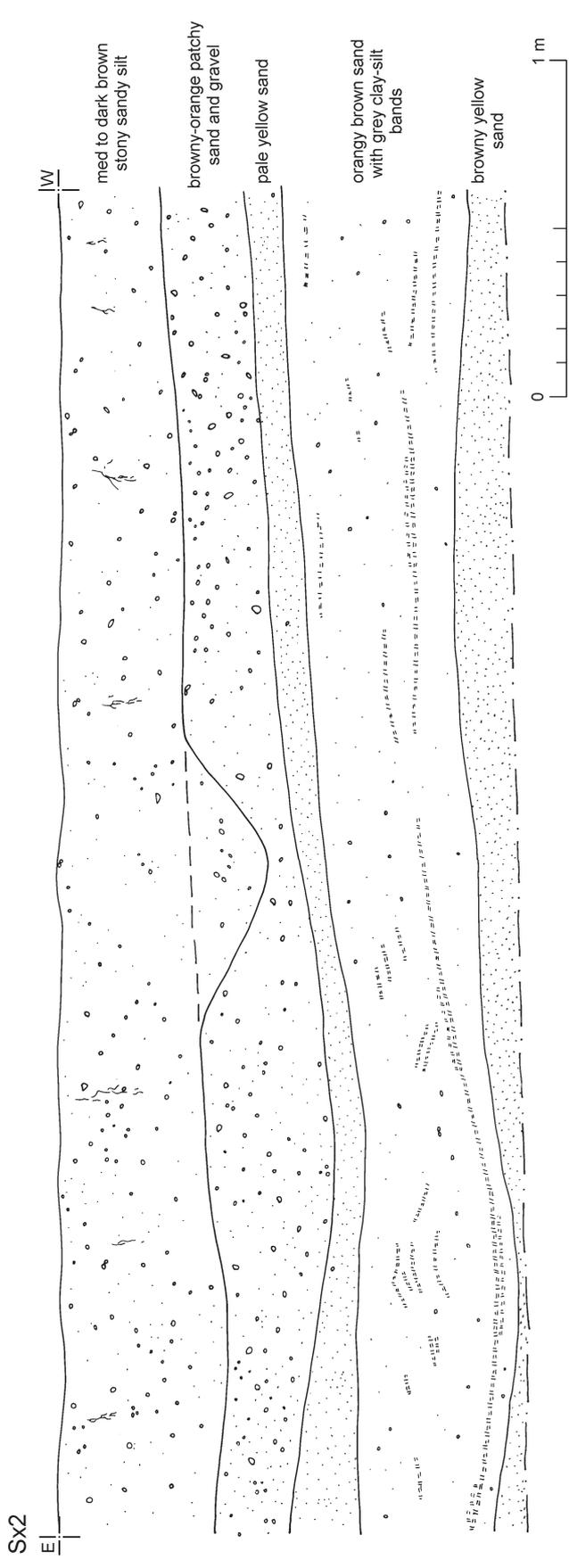
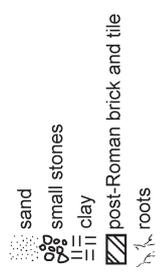
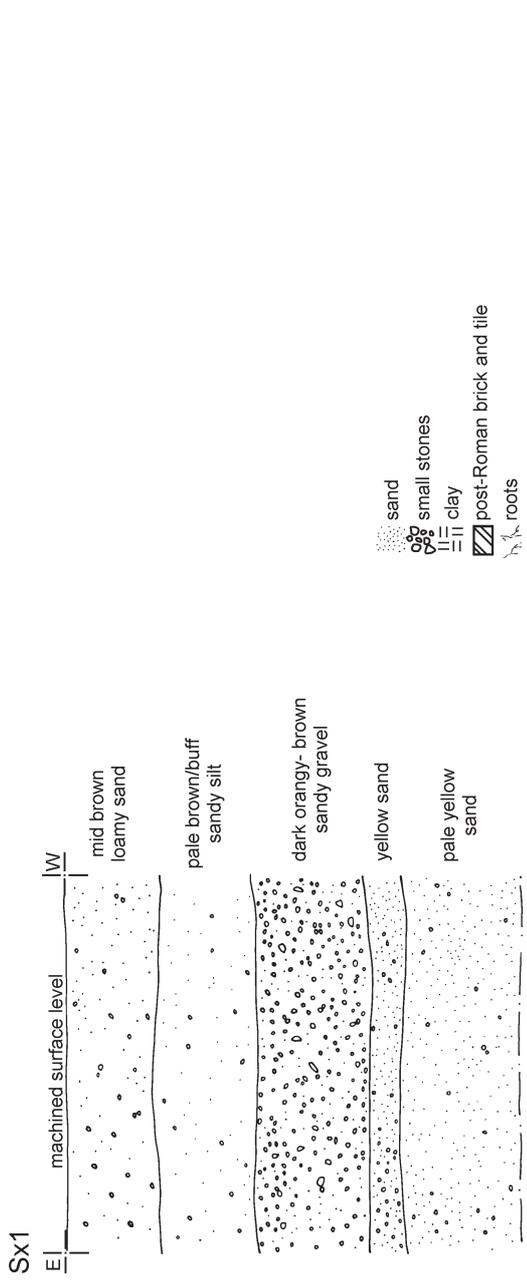


Fig 4 Sections.



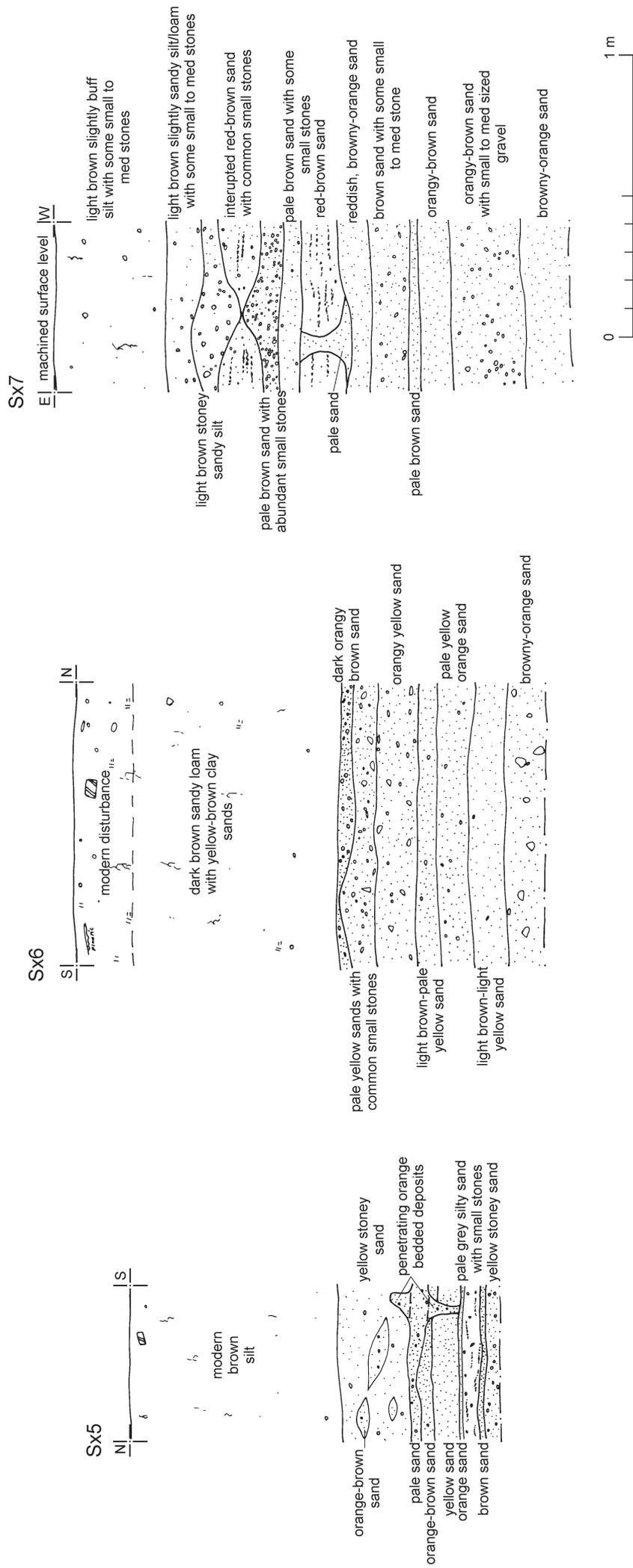


Fig 6 Sections.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/Essex Archaeology and History Summary sheet

Geoarchaeological and archaeological monitoring and recording at  
Harwich Extra Care Centre, 419 Main Road, Dovercourt, Essex

<b>Address:</b> Harwich Extra Care Centre, 419 Main Road, Dovercourt, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Harwich	<b>District:</b> Harwich
<b>NGR:</b> TM 24340 31190	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project code: 15/08e museum accession code: COLEM 2015.84
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief (geoarchaeological and archaeological monitoring and recording)	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> September-December 2015	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> approximately 0.8 hectares
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester & Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> 3394
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 900	
<b>Periods represented:</b> palaeolithic, later prehistoric (flints), modern (WW2)	
<p><b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b></p> <p><i>In September-December 2015, the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) carried out a geoarchaeological and archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for construction of two new buildings at 419 Main Road, Dovercourt, Essex for the Harwich Extra Care Scheme. The work was carried out on behalf of the builders E.J. Taylor &amp; Sons.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies to the south-east of the former Gants gravel-pit (also known as Pounds Farm). This is situated on the Stour terrace deposits which cover the plateau at Dovercourt and is one of the richest sites for Palaeolithic artefacts in the region. The pit was located within the grounds of the present Spring Meadow School (north-west of the present site). It is the potential of this area for important Palaeolithic remains that was the reason for the archaeological condition and requirement for archaeological monitoring and which was the primary focus of the archaeological work carried out by CAT. Prior to the monitoring, an archaeological evaluation, consisting of eight test-pits distributed across the area of the development site, had been carried out by Archaeology Southeast (ASE). This revealed a remnant head (solifluxion) deposit on the south-east part of the site, but no artefacts or evidence of any Palaeolithic remains.</i></p> <p><i>The geoarchaeological monitoring carried out by CAT involved the observation of footings and drainage works for the two new buildings. Examination of the exposed deposits of sands and gravels, including combing through excavated spoil, did not produce any significant archaeological finds. A bulk sample of a gravel deposit also proved negative in terms of any recognisable ancient (Palaeolithic) artefacts. The only finds recovered from it were a very small quantity of intrusive material consisting of glass and tile fragments (modern) and two small flint flakes of probable later prehistoric date. In terms of any</i></p>	

*significant Palaeolithic deposits located within the development boundary, the negative results seem to suggest that the potential of the site is low. A record of the nature of the deposits was made through the recording of exposed sections. These indicate a different sequence of deposits on the east side of the site to that on the west. As the sands and gravels are interpreted as primarily ancient waterborne deposits, this could suggest a north-south flow across the area of the site. Below the soil and sub-soil, consisting of grey-brown sandy silt, some indication of freeze-thaw disturbance was noted in the sand and gravels, while some mixed contexts might indicate solifluxion material. The remains of an air-raid shelter of covered trench type, dating to WW2, were located on the north-east part of the site. No other deposits or features of archaeological significance were encountered during the monitoring of the site.*

**Previous summaries/reports:** none

**Keywords:** palaeolithic, later prehistoric, air-raid shelter

**Significance:** low

**Author of summary:**  
Stephen Benfield

**Date of summary:**  
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**ECC Place services monitor:**  
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