

Archaeological evaluation, excavation and monitoring at the former Delfords Factory, 606 Main Road, Harwich, Essex, CO12 4LP

June 2017 – November 2018



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1 Summary

Archaeological evaluation (nine trial-trenches), area excavation and monitoring was carried out at the former Delfords Factory, 606 Main Road, Harwich, Essex in advance of and during the construction of 66 new dwellings with associated highways, infrastructure and landscaping works. Archaeological investigations revealed Early Iron pits and possibly a couple of ditches, a Romano-British rectilinear field-system, medieval field boundaries, an 18th century pit and a number of modern features.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological (trial-trenching) and geoarchaeological (test-pit) evaluation, area excavation and monitoring at the former Delfords Factory, 606 Main Road, Harwich, Essex which was carried out in June 2017 to November 2018. The work was commissioned by Justin French of Rose Builders in advance of the construction of 66 new dwellings with associated highways, infrastructure and landscaping works, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor advised 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 geoarchaeological evaluation at former Delfords factory site, 606 Main Road, Harwich*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017a). A further WSI was issued by CAT and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017b) in relation to the archaeological monitoring of the site.

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), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2014b), *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (ClfA 2014c) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014d).

3 Archaeological background

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

The EHER shows the development area to lie in a highly sensitive archaeological and geoarchaeological area. It lies along a flat-topped ridge which was formed by sediments which represent the bed of the former course of the Thames when it flowed across Essex towards Suffolk, c 575,000 years ago, before the end of the Anglian glacial stage. The sands and gravels were deposited under cold-climate and high energy conditions. The deposits survive at the northern end of the ridge at c 20m OD and along the gentle north-east facing slope above 15m OD. Cut into the north side of the ridge is a channel infilled with post-Anglian sand and gravel which has yielded a large number of handaxes of Palaeolithic date and various species of Pleistocene fauna. These were found within a former quarry pit. Gant's Pit (HER 3394) has been recorded as one of the richest Palaeolithic handaxe sites in the country. The site is

now levelled and occupied by Spring Meadow Primary School and playing field. In 2001 and 2006 an assessment was undertaken in the grounds of the Spring Meadow Primary school by Bridgland, D, Schreve, D and Allen, P (unpublished). In 2008 Palaeolithic artefacts and mammalian remains were found within an *in situ* layer of sandy gravel at depths of c 1-1.5m below the general level of the site.

More recently along Main Road, at Pound Farm, a geoarchaeological evaluation revealed thick laminated, potentially estuarine sequence and bedded sands of gravels that represent remnants of the Upper Dovercourt terrace of the River Stour, the latter being the context for the Lower Palaeolithic archaeology at the locality (Bridgland et al 2014). The find of a further Palaeolithic artefact from the gravels within one test pit has added to the picture of a definite, although low-density human presence within the deposit. It was unclear from the analysis carried out whether they are part of the terrace gravel (Upper Dovercourt Gravel) or the pre-diversion Thames Oakley Gravel.

Mesolithic finds have also been recorded from Gants Pit quarry (HER 3393). To the east of the site at Clarkes Road finds of a Roman date indicating a rural settlement have been recovered along with later Saxon remains suggestive of burials (HER 3400-2). The finds were located close to the medieval church of All Saints which lies immediately adjacent to the site. The Second World War defence line, known as the Stanier Line, runs through the development site. Any upstanding structures associated with this have been demolished.

The evidence from around the development site indicates the potential for multi-period archaeological deposits as well as important macrofossil and geological deposits to be present.

4 Aims

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological and geoarchaeological remains.

5 Methodology

Archaeological fieldwork on the development site was carried out in three phases.

Phase 1: Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation and geoarchaeological investigation

Phase 1 took place in June and July 2017. Initially 13 trial-trenches were proposed. However, with the agreement of the ECCPS, trenches T1, T11, T12 and T13 were not excavated. The area around T1 was monitored as part of the Phase 3 investigations. T11 was abandoned due to asbestos contamination and, as the basement of the former factory had been excavated deep into natural, T12 and T13 were also abandoned.

Geoarchaeological investigation took place in five of the evaluation trenches.

Phase 2: Archaeological excavation

In response to archaeological remains identified in evaluation trenches T4-T6, an area excavation took place in July and August 2018. The excavation area measured 970 square meters.

Phase 3: Monitoring

Monitoring of contractor groundworks took place in a number of areas as agreed with ECCPS (see Figs 5-6 and results section below) between August 2017 and November 2018.

6 Results (Appendix 1 & 3)

See Appendix 1 for a full context list of all phases of archaeological investigation.

6.1 Phase 1: Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation and geoarchaeological investigation

Geoarchaeological investigation

See Appendix 3 at the back of this report for the results of the geoarchaeological investigation carried out by P Allen.

Evaluation (Figs 2-3 and 7-11)

Nine trial-trenches (T2-T10) were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench 2 (T2): 20m long by 1.8m wide

Modern concrete demolition (L1, c 0.1m thick) and a thick layer of modern made-ground (L4, c 0.6m thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 0.3-0.32m thick). Natural sand and gravel (L3) was encountered at a depth of c 1-1.04m below current ground level (bcgl).

There were no significant archaeological remains.

Trench 3 (T3): 18m long by 1.8m wide

Demolition (L1, c 0.3m thick), made-ground (L4, c 0.35m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.3-0.36m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 0.95-1m bcgl.

Roman ditch F24, 1.06m wide by 0.55m deep, was aligned NE-SW and contained six pieces of Roman brick/tile along with some shell, slag and stone.



Photograph 1 T3, looking southwest.

Trench 4 (T4): 27m long by 1.8m wide

Subsoil (L2, c 0.56-0.58m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 0.56-0.58m bcgl.

Ditches F14 and F18 both contained fragments of Roman brick/tile, with finds from F14 also including residual prehistoric pottery, animal bone and septaria. Ditch F14 was 1.09m wide by 0.38m deep and aligned NNW-SSE, and ditch F18 1.33m wide by 0.41m deep, and aligned ENE-WSW.

Three postholes (F15-F17) are probably of a post-medieval date.

Trench 5 (T5): 26m long by 1.8m wide

Demolition (L1, c 0.3m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.3-0.36m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 0.95-1m bcgl.

Roman ditch F3/F5 was aligned NE/SE but curved slightly to a NNW/SSE direction. Where it was possible to excavate a section across the full width of the ditch, it was 1.47m wide and 0.64m deep. Containing fragments of Roman brick/tile and animal bone, it cut ditches F1 (later renumbered F40) and F2. Ditch F1 was aligned NE/SW and ditch F2 WNW/ESE. Ditch F2 was recorded at 0.55m wide by 0.17m deep.

Modern lime pit F4 was recorded but not excavated.

Trench 6 (T6): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Subsoil (L2, c 1.2m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 1.2m bcgl. The trench had been truncated by modern services.

Ditch F8, 1.4m wide by 0.6m deep, was aligned NNW-SSE.

Four modern pits/tree-throws (F6, F7, F9 and F11) and three undated (but probably modern) pits/tree-throws (F10, F12 and F13) were also excavated.



Photograph 2 T6, looking northeast

Trench 7 (T7): 29m long by 1.8m wide

Modern demolition (L1, c 0.26-0.29m thick), made-ground (L4 c 0.21-0.25m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.11-0.24m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 1-1.1m bcgl.

Three features contained a few, abraded sherds of prehistoric (Early Iron Age) pottery. Ditches F27 and F28 were aligned E/W and N/S respectively, with F27 cutting F28. Ditch F27 measured 1.29m wide by 0.46m deep and F28 0.6m wide by 0.58m deep. Prehistoric pit/silt patch F21 was also excavated.

Trench 8 (T8): 35m long by 1.8m wide

Modern demolition/made-ground (L1/L4, c 0.55-0.63m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.36-0.52m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 1-1.07m bcgl.

Medieval boundary ditches F22 and F23 were aligned NNW/SSE and NE/SW respectively. Ditch F22 was 0.99m wide by 0.31m deep and ditch F23 1.72m wide by 0.49m deep. Another boundary ditch of similar date, F35, was located further to the northwest. Aligned WSW-ENE it was 0.95m wide and 0.3m deep. Pit F33 contained finds of a similar date but, as it cut through F22, these finds could be residual.

Modern pit F34 and undated pit/postholes F26, F32 and F36 were also excavated.



Photograph 3 T8, looking southeast

Trench 9 (T9): 25m long by 1.8m wide

Modern demolition (L1, c 0.1m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 0.1m bcgl.

18th-century pit F20 could not be fully excavated as doing so would have exceeded safe-working depths. It was at least 2.8m across and 1.7m deep.

An undated pit or possibly a ditch terminal aligned N/S (F19) was also excavated.



Photograph 4 Pit F20, T9, looking east.

Trench 10 (T10): 30m long by 1.8m wide

Modern made-ground (L4, c 0.08-0.16m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.28-0.30m thick) sealed natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at a depth of c 0.37m bcgl.

Three pits were excavated containing small quantities of animal bone and shell. Pit F25 contained a single sherd of abraded prehistoric pottery and pits F29 and F30 both contained small fragments of Roman brick/tile.

6.2 Phase 2: Archaeological excavation (Figs 4 and 7-11)

An area measuring 970 square meters was excavated by machine under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The excavation area was located in the southwest corner of the development site to further investigate the archaeological remains identified in evaluation trenches T4-T6.

Modern demolition (L1, c 0.1-0.3m thick) and subsoil (L2, 0.3-1.2m thick) was stripped onto natural sand and gravel (L3), which was encountered at depths of c 0.56-1.2m below current ground level. All archaeological features were sealed by L2 and cut into L3.

Prehistoric

Three prehistoric pits were excavated. Pits F76 and F81 both contained a quantity of Early Iron Age pottery but F57 only contained a single sherd. A small number of residual prehistoric pottery sherds were also recovered from later dated features.

Romano-British

Four ditches formed a rectilinear field-system across the excavation area. Aligned NNW/SSE and c 25m apart were ditches F3/F5/F63 and F8/F14/F53/F54, with ditches F1/F40 and F18/F78 aligned ENE/WSW and c 22m apart. The ditches were wide at between 1.1-1.93m across but were relatively shallow at 0.13-0.58m deep, suggesting they had been truncated. A small quantity of Roman brick/tile was recovered from most of these ditches, along with residual prehistoric (Early Iron Age) pottery sherds and some intrusive modern material. Small gully F68 also contained one piece of possibly Roman brick/tile and pit F39 a sherd of prehistoric pottery, Roman pottery and fragment of septaria. All of these Roman period finds were generally in a poor condition and may have arrived on the site incidentally from either agricultural manuring or localised activity away from the main centre of habitation (see finds report below). However, as no later finds were recovered from these features (other than intrusive modern material), it seems probable that they are of a Roman period date.

Feature no.	Finds no.	Description	Finds date
F3	2	Two very small fragments (20g) of very abraded piece of ceramic building material, possibly of a Roman date.	Roman?
F5	4	Two fragments of Roman brick/tile (780g), abraded. Thirty pieces of animal bone (104g).	Roman Undatable
F63	56	Two pieces of modern brick (756g). Two sherds of Early Iron Age (EIA) pottery (26g).	Modern Early Iron Age
F8	7	One piece of septaria (36g). Five pieces of animal bone (75g).	Undatable
	8	One fragment (4g) of fired clay, abraded. One sheep/goat tooth.	Undatable
F14	15	One fragment of Roman brick (622g). One sherd of prehistoric (EIA?) pottery (6g). One piece of septaria. Eleven pieces of animal bone (428g).	Roman Prehistoric Undatable Undatable
	65	One fragment of Roman brick (350g). One sherd of EIA pottery (10g).	Roman Early Iron Age
	72	One fragment of Roman tegula (350g). One piece of septaria (140g).	Roman Undatable
	73	One sherd of prehistoric pottery (1g).	Prehistoric
F53	71	One fragment of Roman brick (166g). One sherd of EIA pottery (10g). One piece of animal bone (40g).	Roman Early Iron Age Undatable
F54	-	-	-
F1	1	Two sherds of EIA pottery (24g). Two piece of animal tooth (22g).	Early Iron Age Undatable
F40	43	One piece of septaria.	Undatable
	45	Two sherds of EIA pottery (8g). One sherd of prehistoric pottery (2g).	Early Iron Age Prehistoric
F18	64	One fragment of Roman tile (610g).	Roman
F78	63	Two fragments of coal (10g), probably intrusive as they	Post-medieval/

		came from sx1 which was located on the edge of the limit of excavation and may have come out of the section edge.	modern
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Table 1 Summary of finds recovered from the rectilinear field system.

Modern

Modern field boundary ditch F73 is present on the 1875 6-inch OS map where it forms the boundary to a small orchard/woodland. It was a U-shaped ditch, 0.8m wide by 0.6m deep. To the southwest of this ditch were sixteen features containing modern finds: posthole F37 and pits/tree-throws F6, F7, F9, F11, F45, F46, F47, F52, F58, F59, F62, F65, F83, F84 and F85 (recorded during the evaluation and excavation). The pits/tree-throws are all likely to be tree-throws associated with the orchard/woodland, as are a further thirteen undated pits/tree-throws (F10, F12, F13, F41, F42, F43, F44, F49, F50, F55, F60, F61 and F66) located in this part of the excavation area.

Undated

Eighteen undated features were excavated in the northeastern half of the site. These were a gully (F77), nine pits (F56, F67, F69, F70, F72, F80, F82, F87, F88), four postholes (F64, F74, F75, F86) and four tree-throws (F48, F51, F71 and F79).



Photograph 5 Excavation area, looking west.

6.3 Phase 3: monitoring (Figs 5-7)

Based on the results of Phases 1-2, the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor specified that archaeological monitoring of groundworks should take place within specific locations across the development site (see Figs 5-6 for locations).

a) Foundation trenches for the new buildings (0.6m wide by 1-1.5m deep)

Roman ditches F3/F5/F63 and F18/F78 were identified in foundation trenches to the north and east (respectively) of the excavation area with medieval ditch F35 identified

in foundation trenches surrounding evaluation trench T8. Roman pit F89 was excavated in a foundation trench to the north of evaluation trench T9.



Photograph 6 Foundation trenches in the eastern corner of the development site, looking south



Photograph 7 Access road strip with F90 of the left-hand site, looking south

b) Access road

The footprint of the new access road was stripped to formation level. Approximately 36m of the far northeastern spur of road was stripped to natural. Undated pit F90 was excavated in the northeastern corner of the road and contained a small quantity of animal bone, oyster shell and fired clay. The remaining access road was stripped of topsoil only.

c) Attenuation tank

A large attenuation tank was excavated in the northwestern corner of the development site. There were no significant archaeological remains in this part of the site.



Photograph 8 Groundworks for the attenuation tank, looking northwest.

7 Finds

7.1 Finds from Phases 2 and 3: evaluation and excavation

7.1.1 Bulk finds (Appendix 2) *by Stephen Benfield*

Prehistoric

Pottery

A modest but significant assemblage of prehistoric pottery was recovered, consisting of 84 sherds with a combined weight of 721g, most of which came from pits F76 and F81. The pottery was quantified by fabric (Table 2), broadly based on the prehistoric fabric series for Essex compiled by Brown (1988).

The pottery appears to belong to the decorated phase of the post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery tradition, dated to the Early Iron Age (c 700-400 BC). It can be noted that previously there has been little evidence for any activity in the Iron Age at either

Harwich or Dovercourt, although a group of Late Bronze Age axe heads was found in Upper Dovercourt in 1911 (Medlycott 1998, 5.1.1).

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	%no	Wt/g.	%wt
A	Flint-tempered, moderate-common fine flint	1	1	14	2
B	Flint-tempered, generally sparse, small-medium flint	44	52	298	41
C	Flint-tempered, generally common small-medium flint with occasional large piece	16	19	166	23
E	Flint & sand-temper	18	21	198	27
G/H	Sand-temper (generally sparse) small (fine) sand	1	1	1	1
I	Sand-temper common small-medium sand	3	4	18	2
O	Some quartz with flint and /or some sand	1	1	26	4
Total		84	99	721	100

Table 2 Prehistoric pottery by fabric

Pottery from pits F76 and F81

Fifty-seven sherds of pottery (523g) were recovered from pits F76 and F81, catalogued by fabric type in Table 3. In total, these two features produced about two-thirds of all the prehistoric pottery from the site (68% by sherd count and 72% by weight).

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g.
A	Flint-tempered, moderate-common fine flint	1	14
B	Flint-tempered, generally sparse, small-medium flint	34	263
C	Flint-tempered, generally common small-medium flint with occasional large piece	12	124
E	Flint & sand-temper	10	122

Table 3 Pits F76 and F81: prehistoric pottery by fabric

Rim sherds indicate that a minimum of ten pots are represented. At least three of these rims are from carinated jars, two decorated (Fig 12.1 & Fig 12.5) and one undecorated (Fig 12.4), with another decorated sherd from a carinated jar/bowl (Fig 12.2). A plain, upright rim (Fig 12.7) and bead rim (Fig 12.6) also appear to be from jars, with a single example of a rim from a plain bowl (Fig 12.8). Decoration is restricted to finger-tip impressions on the edge of rims and around body carinations, apart from one body sherd (Fig 12.3) which, in addition to finger-tip impressions around the carination, has an angle row of finger-tip impressions on the lower body. Overall, at least three of the pots are decorated, all of which are carinated jars. One vessel has an upright rim of a bowl with plain but smoothed surfaces. There is also a large body sherd (14g) with a burnished surface, presumably from a fine ware pot (Fabric A) and a base sherd (24g) that is gritted on the underside (both from F76).

All of the sherds are in fabrics that have some element of burnt flint-temper, although this is mostly fine-medium (Fabric A and Fabric B) or with occasional larger pieces (Fabric C). Sand is generally not clearly visible as a part of the fabric and, apart from flint, most of the sherds do not have any significant admixture of tempering material. However, a number of sherds have a slightly sandy feel and some are considered to have both sand- and flint-temper (Fabric E).

The group is quite small but can be seen as belonging to the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. Four decorated jars can be shown to be present among the assemblage. This suggests the group can be placed in the later, decorated phase, of the post-Deverel-Rimbury tradition considered to belong to the Early Iron Age. The decorated phase itself appears possibly to emerge as early as the late 9th or 8th century BC (Brudenell 2012, 194) and this type of decoration on shoulders and rim edges can be seen among pottery dated as Late Bronze Age from the enclosure ditch at Springfield Lyons where radiocarbon dating indicates an end to the Late Bronze Age enclosure c 840-690 BC (Brown 2013, 110-111). Overall, based on present understanding of post-Deverel-Rimbury pottery, an attribution as Early Iron Age, generally dated as c 700-400 BC, appears appropriate here. The presence of a gritted base together with an absence of pedestal bases or carinated bowls of

Darmsden-Linton tradition suggests an early date within this post-Deverel-Rimbury decorated phase. That could allow a potential date range of c 800-500 BC, but the assemblage itself is quite small to permit detailed discussion.

The pots include fine ware jar and bowl forms, but there is little to suggest that they represent anything other than a domestic assemblage (as opposed to a feasting service) as almost all of the pots appear to be jars.

Other prehistoric pottery

The remainder of the prehistoric pottery was recovered as single or just a couple of sherds from another fourteen features. Almost all of this consists of small plain sherds, most of which are likely to be residual although, in several instances these provide the only dating evidence for the features concerned. The nature of the sherds suggests they are likely to be broadly contemporary with pits F76 and F81. Only one significant sherd was recovered among them. This is a decorated rim from a jar which is residual in the fill of ditch F63 (56) (Fig 12.9)

Illustrated pottery from pits F76 and F81

Fig 12.1 F76 (61) Carinated jar. Rim and shoulder sherd. Decorated on edge of rim with finger-tip indentations. Sparse fine to medium flint-temper in a fine sand fabric, dark grey core, grey interior, orange-brown (oxidised) surface (30g), Fabric E/B (see 76.6).

Fig 12.2 F76 (61) Decorated carination from a bowl/jar, spaced small indentations on carination edge. Sparse fine-medium flint-temper in a fine sandy fabric, dark grey core, grey interior, orange-brown (part oxidised) surface 912g), Fabric E (possibly part of 76.1).

Fig 12.3 F76 (61) Decorated body sherd, horizontal? finger-tip row and another row joining this at an angle, indications that it is possibly from body below a carination, sparse fine-medium flint-temper in a fine sand fabric, dark grey core, grey surfaces (18g), Fabric E/B.

Fig 12.4 F76 (74) Carinated jar. Rim and shoulder sherd. Edge of carination broken away, smoothed surfaces (16g), Fabric B.

Fig 12.5 F76 (74) Carinated jar. Joining sherds from the rim and shoulder, rim edge decorated with finger-tip indentations with spaced circular finger-tip indentions along carination. Grey fabric and interior, part oxidised surface interior (54g), Fabric C.

Fig 12.6 F76 (74) Rim with slight external swelling/bead, moderate small-medium flint in a fine sand fabric (6g), Fabric E.

Fig 12.7 F81 (62) Rim from a jar, flat topped, small-medium flint-temper in fine sand fabric (10g), Fabric B.

Fig 12.8 F81 (62) Rim from a bowl, flat topped, small-medium flint-temper in fine sand fabric (6g), Fabric B.

Illustrated pottery from ditch F63

Fig 12.9 F63 (56) Decorated rim from a jar, external undercut bead, decorated on rim edge with spaced finger-tip impressions (18g), moderate flint-temper Fabric C.

Worked flints

There are two prehistoric flakes. One flake, from pit/tree-throw F58, has secondary working along one edge toward distal end, culminating in a small retouched notch area close to distal end. The other napped piece comes from pit F20. This is a broad secondary flake with previous flake removal scars on dorsal face and some edge damage, especially along broad distal end. None of the flints are closely dated but are probably likely to belong to the later prehistoric period (Neolithic to Bronze Age).

Roman

The Roman finds are limited in quantity but consist of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM). The majority of the identified Roman material consists of CBM with only a few sherds of pottery being recovered. Roman settlement is known from the Dovercourt area, south of the site (Medlycott 1988, 5.1.2) and the finds here suggest that the area of the current site is relatively peripheral within the Roman settlement pattern. The difference in quantity between the few Roman pottery sherds and the much larger amount of tile and brick is notable. The small quantity of pottery could suggest agricultural manuring while some or all of the CBM could also possibly have arrived on the site incidentally in a similar way, although these finds could be associated with a localised focus of some kind, such as a grain dryer.

Pottery

The pottery was quantified according to the Colchester Roman pottery fabric series (CAR 10) supplemented by the fabric BSW (black surface ware). Fabrics are listed in Table 4.

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	Wt/g.	EVE
BSW	Black surface wares	1	6	
GX	Other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares	5	110	0.15
<i>Total</i>		6	116	0.15

Table 4 Roman pottery by fabric

All of the Roman pottery consists of single coarseware sherds, each representing a different pot in reduced fabrics. Almost all was recovered from contexts as single sherds. Most if not all of these finds are residual. The only pottery pieces other than plain body sherds are from the base of a large greyware jar from F39 (find no 46) and an unstratified rim from a necked bowl (find no 24).

Ceramic building material (CBM)

In total 27 pieces of tile or brick, together weighing 5514g, can be identified as of Roman or probably Roman date. This was recorded by type and fabric, the latter based on visible characteristics. The majority of the tile pieces can be described as orange-red with common-abundant small-medium sand inclusions (OR FMS) and overall the fabric is visibly sandy. A few pieces have rather more dense clay fabric with little visible sand (OR FS), while a couple of pieces in the sandy fabric also have some small stone inclusions. One or two pieces in both the sandy fabric and relatively sand-free fabric have fired a brownish orange-buff. There is also a single *tegula* piece from ditch F18 (64) in a pinkish-red coloured, sandy fabric with some small buff clay bands, red and dark brown inclusions.

Two pieces (124g) could be identified as combed flue tile (RFT), both from F24 (find no 27). One has wavy bands of keying made with a narrow comb with close-set fine teeth. The other has broad combing as keying. Five pieces (1582g) could be identified as Roman brick (RB) and range from 25 to 50mm in thickness, although only one is less than 35mm thick. The Roman roof tile consists of three pieces of flanged *tegula* (1376g) and three pieces of *imbrex* (1014g). Two of the tile bases of the *tegula* (RT) are quite thick at 30mm. These are not part of the same tile as each has a different fabric. One of the pieces of *imbrex* (RI) is also noticeably thick and heavy. The remainder of the CBM was catalogued as Roman brick or tile (RBT) although a few of the small pieces, notably from F20, F35, F47 and F68, might not date to the Roman period.

Much of the Roman CBM was recovered as one or two pieces from any feature. The largest single group comes from ditch F24 consisting of six pieces weighing 924g. This is the main dated material recovered from this ditch, the only other closely-dated material being a small piece of plaster that is almost certainly modern but is possibly intrusive. There is a mix of CBM types including combed flue tiles that would be used in

a relatively high-status building, but much, if not all, of this was probably not used on site but brought in from elsewhere. While only a small assemblage, the differences noted in the fabrics would appear to suggest the possibility of two or more different clay sources or different manufacture sites for the Roman tile and brick. That the two pieces of flue tile are in visually different fabrics suggests the fabrics are not related to the types of tile or brick being produced.

Late medieval, early post-medieval and modern

Quantities of late medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered, although most of this is associated with one pit (F20) which also produced a worked limestone block that has lines scored into the surface. There is also a small assemblage of clay pipe, three with pipe-makers initials, and of post-Roman CBM although much of this poorly dated. The absence of earlier pottery suggests this area may have been peripheral to the town until the late medieval or early post-medieval period, and even during that period activity or occupation on and around the site was not intensive.

Pottery

In total there are 41 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery. Much of this is made up of a small assemblage recovered from the part excavated pit F20. This was recorded using the Colchester (Essex) fabric series (Cunningham 1985 & CAR 7) augmented in one instance by the Suffolk post-Roman pottery fabric series. This pottery is listed by fabric in Table 5. A small quantity of modern pottery, broadly dating to the late 18th to early 20th century, was noted by fabric with an overall weight for each context, but was not recorded in detail. Two small sherds from the fill of F20 might possibly be Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) but are considered more likely to be Roman greyware (Fabric GX). Otherwise the earliest post-Roman pottery present on the site is Colchester-type ware (Fabric 20) most, if not all of which, is of 15th to mid-16th century date.

Fabric	Fabric description	No.	%no	Wt/g.	%wt	EVE
21A	Colchester-type ware	28	68	1278	88	0.35
31	Low countries red earthenware	2	5	32	2	0.09
40	Posts-medieval (glazed) red earthenwares	5	12	48	3	0.09
45	Stoneware (English & modern)	2	5	10	0.5	
45C	Raeren stoneware	1	2	36	2.5	
SPEC	Speckle-glazed ware	1	2	24	2	
98	Miscellaneous unidentified wares	2	5	30	2	
<i>Total</i>		<i>41</i>	<i>99</i>	<i>1458</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.53</i>

Table 5 Medieval and post-medieval pottery by fabric

Pottery from pit F20

The pottery from this pit consists of 32 sherds with a combined weight of 1320g. This makes up approximately 78% by sherd count and 90% by weight of all of the medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered. Sherds of late Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21A) broadly dating to the 15th to mid-16th century make up almost all of the pottery from this feature (Table 6). There is a single sherd of Colchester-type ware with an all-over white slip which is possibly not later in date than the 14th century. Other sherds include low countries red earthenware (Fabric 31) and speckle-glazed ware (Fabric SPEC).

F20 context	Find no.	Fabric 21A	Fabric 31	Fabric SPEC	Fabric 98 (unident)
Upper fill	21	18 (538g)	2 (32g)		1 (28g)
Mid fill	22	8 (265g)		1 (24g)	1 (2g)
Lower fill	23	1 (400g)			
<i>Total</i>		<i>27 sherds / 1203g</i>	<i>2 sherds / 32g</i>	<i>1 sherd / 24g</i>	<i>2 sherds / 30g</i>

Table 6 Pit F20: pottery by fabric and fill

Most of the pottery comes from the mid and upper fill with just a single large sherd from a cistern (Fabric 21A) attributed to the lower fill. This cistern (finds no. 23) has a plain, simple bung surround and this suggests it is almost certainly of late 15th to 16th century date (CAR 7, 134). The pottery from the mid fill (finds no. 22) consist mostly of sherds of late Colchester-type ware, including a sherd from another cistern with a plain bung surround. Other sherds in this fabric come from pots with oxidised and reduced surfaces that have white-slip painted foliate designs and there is one handle that is probably from a jug. A sherd of speckled glazed ware (SPEC) current during the period of the late 17th to 18th century is also attributed to this fill. This appears rather late in date among the sherds of late Colchester-type ware. Pottery from the upper fill (finds no. 21) is also dominated by Colchester-type ware and includes a slip-painted pot with a sagging base, a lid-seated rim sherd from a cooking pot or pipkin, and a small section from a jug handle decorated with spaced, circular indentations along the mid-line. The single sherd of Colchester-type ware in all-over white slip also comes from this fill (see above). Other pottery includes single sherds from two pots in an orange earthenware with a bright orange glaze. These appear to be imported low countries glazed red earthenware (Fabric 31) broadly dating to the 15th to 17th century, but might be a regional late medieval transitional ware of 16th- to 17th-century date. Of note are two sherds in a sandy grey fabric with an internal clear glaze. These have not been closely identified and are recorded under Fabric 98 (miscellaneous unclassified wares).

Although dominated by pottery of late 15th- to 16th-century date, overall the pottery from F20 suggests that the upper fill is probably no earlier than the 16th century or possibly 17th century. A sherd of speckled glazed ware, attributed to the mid fill (find no 22), is current in the late 17th to 18th century. Taken at face value, this suggests that the upper fill and possibly the pit itself dates no earlier than the late 17th century, although that the sherd has lightly scored decoration probably indicates an early rather than a late date. However, the presence of this sherd would suggest that the Colchester-type ware dominating the pottery recovered from the pit is all residual and this appears unlikely.

Other medieval to post-medieval pottery

Almost all of the other pottery of medieval or post-medieval date was recovered as just a few or single sherds from a small number of contexts. A sherd of Colchester-type ware (Fabric 21A) comes from the ditch F22 (find no. 29) and a sherd from a Raeren stoneware jug/mug of late 15th- to 16th-century date was recovered from ditch F23 (find no. 33). Also a sherd of stone ware from pit/tree throw F59 (finds no 54) from the base edge of a jug or mug is possibly 16th to 17th century date. Otherwise the most prominent of the pottery is a small quantity of post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware (Fabric 40), broadly dating to the period of the late 16th-/17th- to 18th-century associated with F7 and F11. A few sherds of Fabric 40, mostly if not entirely residual, were also recorded from features with modern pottery.

Modern pottery

Pottery of modern date from several features was not fully catalogued other than to note the pottery quantity and the fabrics present (F6, F34, F47, F52, F58, F62, F65, F73, F83, F84 and F85). This pottery is listed in the finds catalogue (Appendix 3). It includes Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (Fabric 48D), yellow ware (Fabric 48E), modern stoneware (Fabric 45) and late slipped kitchen ware (Fabric 51A). A few sherds of post-medieval (glazed) red earthenware (Fabric 40) were also noted from these features.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Approximately 66 pieces of post-Roman brick and tile were recovered. These have a combined weight of 4491g. They include peg-tile, pantile, brick, floor brick and pieces of ceramic drain. The largest quantity of any one type is peg-tile pieces (31 pieces, 1338g), with a few pieces of brick (7 pieces, 1624g) and pantile (2 pieces, 522g). In

terms of dating, peg-tile is not in common use in Harwich until the 14th century (Ryan & Andrews 1993, 97) and pantiles are introduced into Britain in the 17th century.

The largest quantity of CBM from any one feature comes from the part-excavated pit F20. This produced 26 pieces of peg-tile (1216g) in two fabrics, one fabric a fine-medium dense sand and the other a denser fine sand/silt fabric. Three pieces had round peg-holes. Some of the tiles had been used as broken pieces as there was white, lime-based mortar on several pieces and on three this mortar extended over the tile break. Almost all of this came from the upper fill. The only other CBM from this feature was an abraded piece of brick (170g) in a sandy red coloured fabric. Pottery from the feature suggests that the upper fill dates to the late 17th to early 18th century, although otherwise almost all of the pottery from the pit is of late 15th- to 16th-century date.

Most of the CBM was recovered as single or just a few pieces from any feature, although small quantities of peg-tile pieces come from pit F47 (13 pieces, weight 68g) and F52 (8 pieces, weight 266g). The two pantile pieces come from the fill of pit/tree-throw F58 and pit F84. Other than from pit F20, where the brick pieces could be closely-dated (F62 and F63) they are of 19th- to early-20th-century date.

Also, pieces from a horseshoe-type field drain made with machine extruded clay were recovered from pit group F83 together with a peg-tile and post-medieval/modern brick.

Clay tobacco pipes

A small quantity of pieces from pipe bowls and pipe stems were recovered. In total there are 26 pieces with a combined weight of 76g. The great majority of the pieces are stem pieces and there are just three parts of pipe bowls, one of which is almost certainly from a plain bowl (F7), and two from fluted bowls with leaf patterning along the bowl seams (F47 and F83). Three pipe foot spurs have makers initials and these occur on the foot of the plain bowl and one of the fluted bowls (F83). The initials suggest that these initialled pipes may have come from Colchester. Dating of the fluted pipe bowls follows that of *CAR 5*. Overall it can be suggested that most, if not all of the clay pipes recovered, probably date to the period of the mid-18th to 19th century. The two fluted bowls have narrow fluting and can be dated to the late 19th century (*CAR 5*, 57). The plain pipe bowl has a small spur, indicating a date of mid-18th century or later, and all of the stem pieces have a relatively narrow bore (c 1.5-2mm) also suggesting a relatively late date. The three pipe foot spurs with pipe-makers' initials are listed and described below:

F7 (6) Clay-pipe spur with part of plain pipe bowl, makers initials on spur foot **C** on one side, initial on other side badly smudged.

F9 (9) Clay-pipe spur initials on spur foot **E L** or possibly **F L** (letter L or E slightly smudged). *Possibly Elizabeth Lowthrop (Lowthroup) of Colchester, recorded on pipe bowls dated c 1780-45 & 1823-45 census records her as aged 65 in 1841 (CAR 5, 64).*

F83 (67) Clay tobacco pipe bowl, damage to front of bowl, fluted on sides (narrow flutes) with repeating leaf/ wreath pattern along seams front & back (dated c 1820-1860), pipe makers initials on bowl spur **S R**. *Possibly Stephen Chamberlain Rand (SR) pipe maker of Colchester, initials recorded on pipe bowls dated c 1780-1820, 1810-40 & 1820-60 (retired 1881, ibid 64) (CAR 5, 64).*

Worked stone

Of particular interest is a broken, single piece of limestone from the lower-mid fill of pit F20 (finds no. 28). This is 58mm thick with smooth, well-finished surfaces on the top, edge and base; its most striking aspect is that the upper surface has a rough, obtuse lattice pattern of crudely-scored lines with one set running parallel to the surviving edge and several other irregular incised lines crossing these. The stone is clearly an architectural or monument piece and the scoring would appear to be a later addition, although to what purpose is not known.

F20 (28) Worked limestone (surfaces 90+mm, thickness 52mm), one large edge piece and other (joining) pieces broken from it, pale yellow-buff limestone with smooth, well finished surfaces on top, side and base. Lower surface has parallel fine tooling from a toothed chisel running parallel to the surviving edge. Upper face crudely scored with pattern of irregular incised lines broadly running parallel to surviving edge, several other irregular incised lines crossing these at an obtuse angle.

Glass

A few pieces of bottle glass of probable 18th- to 19th-century date was recovered from pits F83 and F84, and from ditch F73. This is mostly in thick dark green glass and includes two bottle bases, probably from wine bottles, from F83. All of these features are associated with other finds dating to the period of the late 18th to early 20th century.

Nails (iron)

Corroded iron nails were recovered from post-medieval pit F20 and modern features F37, F52, F62 and F73. These include whole nails and pieces of nail shafts.

Wall plaster

There is a single piece of wall plaster from ditch F24. This was recovered from processing a bulk soil sample (find no 28). The piece (6g) has a grey coloured, coarse skim backing with a fine pink plaster and appears to be very firmly of modern, probably 20th century, date.

Coal

A small piece of coal (10g) was recovered from F78 (finds no. 63). This is presumed to be of post-medieval or modern date.

Tar/bitumen

A small piece of this material (34g) was recovered from F35 (finds no. 41) and is presumed to be modern (20th) century.

Other finds

Marine shell

Oyster and whelk shells were recovered from several contexts. There is a total of 35 oyster shells (607g) and 11 whelk shells (74g). The only context that produced these shells in any quantity is pit F20 from which there are 19 oyster shells (310g) and 9 whelk shells (52g). These are associated with pottery of late medieval and early post-medieval date. Other shells were only recovered from features in small amounts of half a dozen or less. The majority of these are primarily associated with finds of Roman date (pottery, CBM) in ditch F24 and pit F30.

Fired clay

There are 3 pieces of fired clay. These were recovered as single pieces from three features (F8, F20 and F24). The largest of these (72g) comes from ditch F24 (finds no. 27). The small piece from F20 is structural as it has the impression of the edge corner part of a square post or wattle.

Slag

A single, small, irregular piece of light, glassy slag (28g) was recovered from ditch F24 (finds no. 27).

7.1.2 Animal Bone (Appendix 2) by Alec Wade

The evaluation and excavation produced 252 pieces of animal bone weighing 7.29kg, deriving from features of prehistoric to modern date. See Appendix 2 for a catalogue.

The majority of the material (167 pieces or 66.3%) was from Roman contexts and included the greatest diversity of species, including both wild and domesticated. Ditch F24 was particularly prolific and yielded 95 pieces of bone. Cattle, horse, pig, sheep and goat were all found to be present with cut marks associated with butchery being noted on a small amount of the cattle bone.

A small piece of deer antler was also present in F24 (as well as the tip of a goat horn) suggesting the possibility that some bone working may have taken place, though no clear indications of this were found.

Other than deer, wild species in the Roman assemblage were possibly represented by a small amount of bird bone (11 pieces) which was not readily identifiable as chicken – in most cases the bone appeared to be from larger species.

Features of medieval and post-medieval date produced the next largest group of material, amounting to 73 pieces (29% of the assemblage). Pit F20 contained much of the animal bone from this group, including most of a cow skull as well as other cattle skull fragments. Sheep or goat was also identified as being present as well as chicken. Cut marks associated with butchery and dog gnawed bone (usually a good indicator of residuality within a context) were also noted. The unidentified material included a very small amount of both fish and bird bone (one piece each).

Only one piece of bone was recovered from a prehistoric deposit, linear feature (F27). This was a fragment of a large mammal (probably cattle) long bone in poor condition and was otherwise undiagnostic.

7.1.3 Metal small finds by Laura Pooley

Ten small finds were recovered from post-medieval pit F20 and modern pits/tree-throws F45, F52, F59 and F83. Nine were made of iron and one of tombac.

Five iron objects came from pit F20. These were primarily agricultural and household items consisting of a sickle (SF1), hearth spatula (SF2), handle (SF4), rake tooth (SF5) and binding strip (SF6). Being long-lived forms they are difficult to date and could range from the later medieval period through to the post-medieval period, although most comparable hearth spatulas appear to be of 18th-century date.

SF1, finds no. 20. Complete tanged iron sickle. Comparatively narrow blade curves sharply away from the end of the square-sectioned tang before straightening out. 440mm long, 26mm wide, 5mm thick, 492g. Later medieval/post-medieval. Similar to Goodall type 1 sickles (2011, 81-82, F70-F82).

SF2, finds no. 19. Iron hearth spatula with large flat ovoid-shaped head and long, flat tapering handle (broken at end). 263mm long, bowl 87mm long by 70mm wide, tang 176mm long by 15mm wide tapering to 12mm, 5mm thick, 186g. Post-medieval, 18th century. (site accessed 18.12.2017: <https://www.scribd.com/document/240441961/Food-Food-Preparation-Kitchen-Implements>).

SF4, finds no. 21. Long, tapering iron strip, probably a handle, broken at both ends. Has rectangular cross-section and is flexed along half of its length. 170mm long, 11-15mm wide, 4.5mm thick, 20g.

SF5, finds no. 21. Iron rake tooth. Tapering rectangular-sectioned tooth, smaller rectangular-sectioned clenched tang. 150.1mm long, 15mm, 11mm thick, 105g. Similar to Goodall 2011, F30-F34 and Duncan 2013, 47.01/385-47.01/386.

SF6, finds no. 22. Slightly curved iron band with four iron nails/rivets spaced 32-35mm apart, probably part of a binding strip. 130mm long, 30mm wide, 10mm thick, 117g.

Other small finds were a post-medieval two-pronged fork (SF10) from F45, an 18th-/early 19th-century button (SF3) from F59 (Peacock 1978) and fragments of modern iron sheet and wire mesh (SF7-SF9) from F52 and F83.

SF3, F59, finds no. 53. Zinc and copper-alloy (tombac) button (virtually complete) with plain domed surface and cone shank. 27mm diameter, 11mm depth, 8g. 18th-early 19th century.

SF7, F83, finds no. 67. Large fragment of iron wire mesh, 120mm long, 55m wide, 10mm thick, 102g. Three fragments of iron sheet, 39g, largest 45mm long, 28mm wide, 8mm thick. Modern.

SF8-SF9, F52, finds no. 50. Two joining fragments (new brake) of iron sheet, 68mm long, 40mm wide, 5mm thick, 55g. Modern.

SF10, F45, finds no. 47. Incomplete iron two-pronged table fork. Long iron rod with expanded central shoulder, whittle tang (probably for a bone handle) on one side of shoulder, on other tapering stem to a two-pronged fork end (broken). 122mm long, maximum 23mm wide, 10mm thick, 46g. Post-medieval (c 1500-1800). For similar examples, see the Portable Antiquities Scheme database, see NLM-ECE7A7 and LIN-F73588.

7.2 Finds from Phase 3: monitoring

7.2.1 Pottery

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The F89 (75) produced seven sherds of Roman pottery with a weight of 56g. Most of the assemblage consists of locally-produced coarse grey wares (Fabric GX) including rims from the Cam 218B/C and Cam 268 (?) (*CAR 10*). The Cam 218B/C dates from the Claudian-Neronian to early 2nd century AD while the Cam 268 is later, dating from the early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century AD. Finally, there was one sherd of plain Lezoux Samian which can be broadly dated to the 2nd century AD. A date during the 2nd century AD for this assemblage is likely.

7.2.2 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

Six fragments of animal bone (158g) came from pit F90 (76). It consisted of cattle maxilla and mandible fragments plus an upper molar, a pig maxilla fragment and part of a boars tusk, and an unidentified limb bone fragment from a large mammal (probably a tibia from a cow).

7.2.3 Other finds

by Laura Pooley

Finds from F90 (76) also included four fragments of oyster shell (19g) and one fragment of fired clay (<1g).

8 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction – aims and objectives

Eights samples were presented for assessment. The aims of this assessment are to determine the significance and potential of the plant macro-remains in the samples, consider their use in providing information about diet, craft, medicine, crop-husbandry, feature function and environment.

Sample	Finds No.	Feature No.	Feature	Date	Volume (L)
7	28	F24	ditch	Roman	40
8	32	F25	pit	Undated	20
9	36	F30	pit	Undated	40
10	39	F28	ditch	Prehistoric/Early Iron Age	20
11	45	F40	ditch	Roman	20
12	62	F76	pit	Prehistoric/Early Iron Age	40
13	63	F78	ditch	Roman	20
14	66	F81	pit	Prehistoric/Early Iron Age	40

Table 7 Sample information

Sampling and processing methods

Samples were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. All samples were completely processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using uncharred reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

At this stage numbers given are estimates but where only one item is present that has been noted. Identifiable charred wood >4mm in diameter has been described as that. Charred wood <4mm diameter are described as 'flecks'. Samples this size are easier to break to reveal the cross-sections and diagnostic features necessary for identification and are less likely to be blown or unintentionally moved around the site (Asouti 2006, 31; Smart and Hoffman, 1988, 178-179). Fragments smaller than this and larger than 2mmØ were scanned incase any fragments of twig or roundwood survived.

Results (Table 8)

The plant remains

Fragments of charcoal of identifiable size were found in samples 7, 9 and 12. Charred cereal grains were found in samples 7, 8, 9, and 13. One hulled straight barely (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) grain and a poorly preserved indeterminate grain was found in sample 7. One bread/club/rivet wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) grain was found in samples 8 and 13. One less well-preserved barley/wheat grain was found in sample 9. No charred cereal chaff or seeds were found. Uncharred seeds of the ruderal and hedgerow plant blackberry/raspberry (*Rubus fruticosus/idaeus*) were found

in samples 9, 12 and 14. Uncharred seeds of ruderal and cultivated ground plant fat hen (*Chenopodium album* L.) were found in samples 12 and 13.

Fauna

Sample 9 contained a fragment of oyster (*Ostrea edulis* L.) shell, low numbers of uncharred bone fragments and terrestrial mollusc shells. Samples 8 and 12 also contained shells of terrestrial mollusca. Shells of the terrestrial snail *Ceciliodes acicula* (Müller) were found in sample 9.

Inorganic remains

One fragment of spherical hammer scale was found in sample 14.

Sample	Finds no.	Feature number	Bulk sample size (L)	Flot volume (L)	Estimated density*	Charred			Uncharred			Fauna					
						Grains			Charcoal >4mmØ	Charcoal <4mmØ	Seeds			Root/rhizome fragments	Oyster shell	Uncharred bone fragment	Terrestrial mollusca
						a	d	p	a	a	a	d	p	a	a	a	a
7	28	F24	40	0.005	<1	1	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	32	F25	20	0.002	<1	1	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
9	36	F30/ F31	40	0.005	<1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	-	1	1	3
10	39	F28	20	0.002	<1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	45	F40	20	0.002	<1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	62	F76	40	0.005	1	-	-	-	1	2	2	1	3	-	-	-	1
13	63	F78	20	0.002	<1	1	1	2	-	1	1	1	3	1	-	-	-
14	66	F81	40	0.002	<1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-

Table 8 Contents of flots.

Key to Table 8:

* = estimated charred plant macro-remains per litre of sample excluding charcoal flecks

a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; and 3 = abundant >100];

d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high];

p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples at the time of writing. Terrestrial mollusca shells, particularly those of *Ceciliodes acicula* (Müller) can indicate that bioturbation. This snail burrows well below the ground surface (Kerney & Cameron 1979, 149).

Quality and type of preservation

The plant remains in these samples were preserved by charring and waterlogging. The waterlogged plant remains were dried and of the type of seed with robust testas able to withstand changing levels of moisture in the soil. Preservation by waterlogging occurs when plant remains are in anoxic conditions such as sealed pits or layers or a high water-tables (Campbell *et al.* 2011, 13). Charring of plant macrofossils occurs when plant material is heated under '...reducing conditions...' where oxygen is largely excluded (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2) leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to

biological and chemical decay (Campbell *et al.* 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson and Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

Potential and significance

The possible deposition rates (density of plant remains per litre of sampled soil) of each sample was calculated by dividing the estimated number of charred plant macro-remains (excluding charcoal flecks) in a sample by the number of litres taken for that sample. At assessment stage charred plant macro-remains are not counted like they are at analysis level so estimated amounts were calculated by giving a value of 10 to an abundance of '1', 100 to an abundance of '2' and 200 to an abundance of '3' unless actual numbers were known. Although these are estimates, they help give an idea of the productivity of the samples. The meaning of these densities here is based on the work of Kate Nicholson, who based her interpretations of Romano-British archaeobotanical assemblages from a villa site (Nicholson 2014) on the work of Professor Marijke Van der Veen and Professor Glynis Jones (Van der Veen & Jones 2006; Van der Veen 2007). (Nicholson 2014, 158). Nicholson's density value interpretations are given as follows below:

High density = > 21 items per litre of sampled soil = rapid/single event deposition.

Low density = 3-13 items per litre of deposit = gradual accumulation in day to day activities.

Very-low density = < 3 items per litre of deposit = accidentally incorporated (e.g. wind-blown) into fills of features they no longer have association with. (Nicholson, 2014, 157-158)

The estimated densities for all of these samples are low suggesting that they arrived in the sampled contexts accidentally into the fills of features they no longer have any association with.

Any significance such low numbers of charred plant remains may have is limited by the fact that these durable charred plant remains survive being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

Recommendations

The non-charcoal charred plant remains have been identified and counted so no further work is necessary on these. The charcoal in samples 7, 9 and 12 contain fragments of identifiable size but are present in such low numbers they might be accidental inclusions.

9 Discussion

Geoarchaeological assessment on the site of the former Delfords Factory, Harwich established a basic sequence of sandy gravel overlaying horizontally bedded interbeds of sand, silt and clay. No Palaeolithic material was found (see Allen, Appendix 2).

Archaeological investigations at the site revealed at least two Early Iron Age pits (F76 and F81) containing a quantity of domestic pottery. Pits F25 and F81, pit/silt patch F21 and ditches F27 and F28 also contained a small number (one to four) of prehistoric pottery sherds and may also date to the Early Iron Age but, as most of these sherds were very small and/or abraded, they may be residual in these contexts. Residual sherds of prehistoric pottery were recorded from later-dated features, as were two pieces of later prehistoric worked flint. There has previously been little evidence of Iron

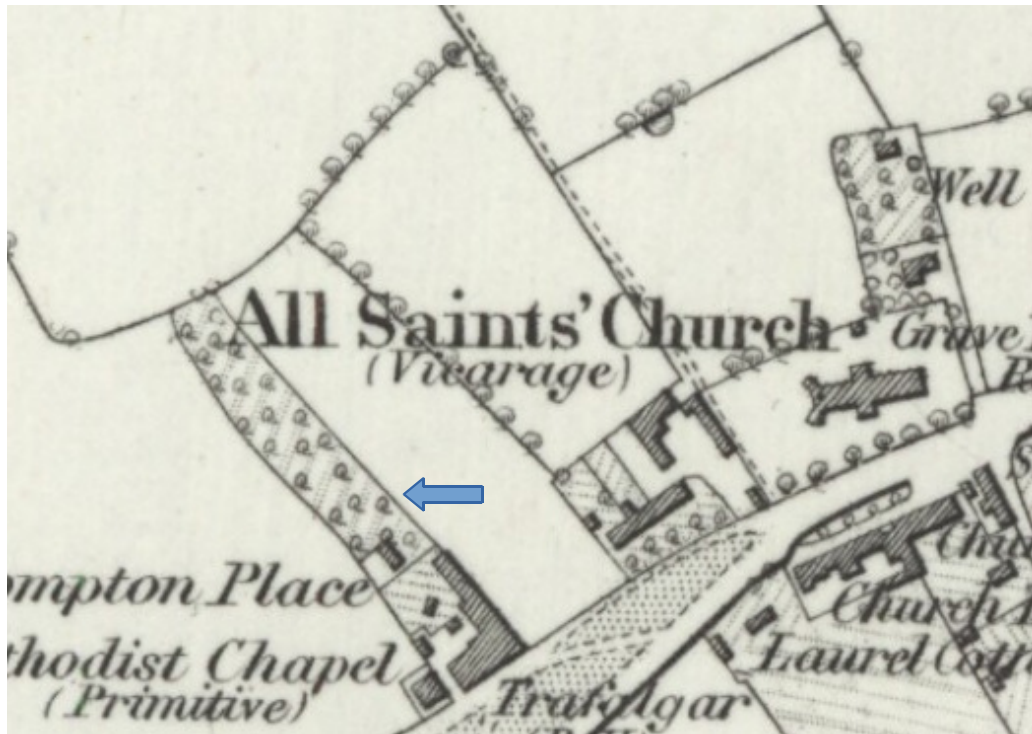
Age activity at either Harwich or Dovercourt (Medlycott 1988) so this discovery is significant, and Early Iron Age pottery recovered in 1958 170m to the southeast (EHER 7471/2) is likely to be associated with the Early Iron Age features and finds recorded on the development site.

A probable Romano-British rectilinear field-system was identified within the excavation area in the southwest corner of the development site. Ditches F3/F5/F63 and F8/F14/F53/F54 both continue to the north (where it is likely that Roman period ditch F24 (in T3) is also a part of this field-system) and to the south. Similarly, ditches F1/F40 and F18/F78 were both recorded continuing to the east, although neither were positively identified in the evaluation trenches or monitoring in this area. A small gully and at least four pits (in the excavation area, in trench T10 and identified during monitoring) also contained Roman period finds. Finds from these features were sparse but included a small quantity of Roman brick/tile, pottery, animal bone and shell, suggesting that this field-system was likely located on the periphery of a settlement. Ditch F24 did contain a quantity of animal bone, from both domestic and wild species, including a piece of deer antler and goat horn which may be indicative of bone working although no clear indications of this were found. A fragment of slag and a number of shells from the same feature may indicate more focussed activity around the northwest corner of the development site, although no other significant remains were found in this area. Archaeological investigations in the 1950s had previously revealed Roman pottery in a back garden 170m southeast of the development site (EHER 7471/2) and Roman features (ditches and a hearth) and finds (pottery and ceramic building material) 160m to the east-northeast (EHER 3400). Roman pottery had also been found while digging graves in the adjacent churchyard (EHER 7469).

Pottery of 15th- to early 16th- century date came from two ditches (F22 and F23) with peg-tile recovered from a third (F35). These ditches are likely to be field boundaries associated with the medieval settlement of Dovercourt, with All Saints' Church (established in the 12th century, EHER 3399) located immediately to the east. A quantity of 15th- to early 16th-century pottery was also recovered from pit F20 but was found associated with post-medieval pottery and metalwork. The finds from F20 are suggestive of a large 18th-century rubbish pit.

Post-medieval/modern features include a field boundary ditch (F73) present on the 1875 OS map of Harwich (Map 1). This ditch bounded an orchard/woodland and many of the modern and undated pits/tree-throws to the southwest are probably associated with the clearance of trees from this area.

The Stanier Line (EHER 10659), a defence line built to guard Harwich against attack from its landward side during World War II, ran through the eastern half of the site. This line consisted of anti-tank blocks, anti-tank ditches, pillboxes and gun emplacements. The evaluation trenches and excavation area were located away from the route of the Stanier Line, and no trace of it was identified during monitoring of the foundation trenches or ground reduction for the new access road. This might indicate that only above ground defences existed along this particular length, the last traces of which would probably have been removed by the construction of the Delfords factory. Some of the modern features identified on the development site might be associated with activity here during World War II, such as the clearance of the orchard/woodland to create a better line-of-sight, but this cannot be confirmed.



Map 1 6-inch 1875 OS map, field boundary ditch F73 indicated by the blue arrow.

10 Acknowledgements

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12 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
Early Iron Age	period from c 600 – 400BC
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman/Romano-British	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

13 Contents of archive

Finds: Three boxes

Paper record

One A4 document box containing:

The report (CAT Report 1185)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, sections)
Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1185)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log
Graphic files
Survey data

14 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 under accession code COLEM: 2017.47.

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Date: 22/1/2019

Appendix 1 Context List

* finds missing; < > soil sample

Trench no.	Context no.	Finds no.	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
All	L1		Concrete demolition layer	Concrete layer	Modern
All	L2	68	Subsoil	Friable, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt	-
All	L3		Natural	Firm, medium yellow/orange/brown sand with occasional stone piece inclusions	Post-glacial
T2	L4		Made ground	Brick, timber, concrete debris	Modern
Evaluation					
T5	F1	1 <11>	Ditch Part of F1/F40	Soft, dry, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Roman
T5	F2	-	Ditch	Loose to soft, moist, medium mottled orange/brown sandy-silt with occasional gravel and stone piece inclusions	Undated
T5	F3	2, 3* <12>	Ditch Part of F3/F5/F63	Soft to friable, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Roman
T5	F4	-	Pit	Soft to friable, dark grey sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Post-medieval / modern
T5	F5	4	Ditch Part of F3/F5/F63	Friable, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Roman
T6	F6	5	Pit/tree-throw	Loose to soft, dark grey sandy-silt	Modern
T6	F7	6	Pit/tree-throw	Loose to soft, dark grey sandy-silt	Modern
T6	F8	7, 8 <13>	Ditch Part of F8/F14/ F53/F54	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Roman
T6	F9	9	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Modern
T6	F10	-	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Probably modern
T6	F11	10	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Modern
T6	F12	-	Pit/tree-throw	Loose to soft, medium to dark grey sandy-silt	Probably modern
T6	F13	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, light to medium mottled grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Probably modern
T4	F14	15, 65, 72, 73 <14>	Ditch Part of F8/F14/ F53/F54	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silty with charcoal fleck inclusions	Roman
T4	F15	-	Posthole	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
T4	F16	-	Posthole	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
T4	F17	16	Posthole	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Post-Roman
T4	F18	64	Ditch Part of F18/F78	Firm, moist dark grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Roman
T9	F19	-	Pit/Ditch	Friable, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Undated

T9	F20	19, 20, 21, 22, 23 <17> <18>	Pit	Soft, moist, medium, grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal, oyster and tile fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Post-medieval
T7	F21	26	Pit/silt patch	Very soft medium yellow/grey/brown sand with occasional stone piece inclusions	Prehistoric / Early Iron Age
T8	F22	29	Field boundary ditch	Friable, moist, medium to dark grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone and gravel piece inclusions	Late medieval
T8	F23	33, 34	Ditch	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay with common stone piece inclusions	Late medieval
T3	F24	27 <28>	Ditch	Soft, dry, dark brown/black silt with charcoal, oyster and CBM fleck inclusions and stone and CBM piece inclusions	Roman
T10	F25	31 <32>	Pit	Loose to soft, dry, medium brown silty-sand with charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Prehistoric
T8	F26	-	Posthole	Firm, medium to dark grey sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Undated
T7	F27	30	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Prehistoric
T7	F28	<39>	Ditch	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Prehistoric / Early Iron Age
T10	F29	35	Pit	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with oyster fleck inclusions	Roman
T10	F30	37 <36>	Pit	Soft, dark grey/brown silty-sand with oyster fleck inclusions	Roman
-	F31	-	-	VOID	-
T8	F32	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated
T8	F33	38	Pit	Soft, moist, dark brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Late medieval+
T8	F34	40	Pit	Soft medium grey/brown silty-sand with occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern
T8	F35	41	Ditch	Friable medium grey/brown silty-sand with charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Late medieval
T8	F36	-	Pit	Friable medium grey/brown silty-sand with charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Undated
Excavation					
	F37	42	Posthole	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
	F38	-	-	VOID	-
	F39	46	Pit	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silt	Roman
	F40	43 <45>	Ditch Part of F1/F40	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Roman
	F41	-	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Probably modern
	F42	-	Pit/tree-throw	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Probably modern
	F43	44	Tree-throw	Medium grey/brown silty-sand	Probably

					modern
F44	-	Pit/tree-throw	Medium grey/brown silty-sand with small stone piece inclusions	Probably modern	
F45	47*	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, dark brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern	
F46	48*	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, dark brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern	
F47	49	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, dark brown/grey sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern	
F48	-	Tree-throw	Soft, medium grey sandy-silt with occasional small stones	Undated	
F49	-	Tree-throw	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Probably modern	
F50	-	Tree throw	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Probably modern	
F51	-	Tree-throw	Light grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated	
F52	50	Pit/tree-throw	Dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern	
F53	71	Ditch Part of F8/F14/ F53/F54	Soft, medium grey/brown silty-sand	Roman	
F54	-	Ditch Part of F8/F14/ F53/F54	Soft, medium grey/brown silty-sand	Roman	
F55	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, medium grey/brown silty-sand	Probably modern	
F56	-	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated	
F57	51	Pit	Soft medium grey/brown silty-sand with occasional stone piece inclusions	Prehistoric / Early Iron Age	
F58	52	Pit/tree throw	Soft, moist, light to medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern	
F59	53, 54	Pit/tree throw	Friable to firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with rare daub fleck inclusions and rare stone piece inclusions	Modern	
F60	-	Pit/tree throw	Friable to firm, moist, medium to dark grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Probably modern	
F61	-	Pit/tree throw	Soft, moist, medium to dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Probably modern	
F62	55	Pit/tree throw	Soft, moist, medium to dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern	
F63	56	Ditch Part of F3/F5/F63	Soft, medium grey/brown silty-sand with occasional stone piece inclusions	Roman	
F64	-	Posthole	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated	
F65	57	Pit/tree-throw	Soft to friable, moist, dark grey/black slightly sandy silt with very occasional charcoal and rare oyster and tile fleck inclusions and rare stone piece inclusions	Modern	
F66	-	Pit/tree throw	Loose, dry, light to medium mottled yellow/grey/brown sandy-silt with gravel and occasional large stone piece inclusions	Probably modern	
F67	-	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated	

	F68	58	Gully	Soft, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Roman
	F69	-	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated
	F70	-	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated
	F71	-	Tree-throw	Loose to soft, moist, light to medium mottled grey/brown silt with occasional small, medium, large and very large stone piece inclusions	Undated
	F72	60	Pit	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional charcoal and CBM fleck inclusions	Undated
	F73	59	Ditch	Soft, moist, light grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
	F74	-	Posthole	Soft, dry, light to medium mottled yellow/brown loamy-sandy-silt	Undated
	F75	-	Posthole	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown loamy-sandy-silt with rare stone piece inclusions	Undated
	F76	61, 74 <62a>	Pit	Firm, dry, dark brown/black sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions and rare stone piece inclusions	Prehistoric / Early Iron Age
	F77	-	Gully	Loose to soft, moist sandy-silt	Undated
	F78	<63>	Ditch Part of F18/F78	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal fleck inclusions	Roman
	F79	-	Tree-throw	Firm, moist, medium grey sandy-silt	Undated
	F80	-	Pit	Firm, dry, medium to dark brown/black sandy-silt with rare stone piece inclusions	Undated
	F81	62b <66>	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with rare charcoal and daub fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Prehistoric / Early Iron Age
	F82	-	Pit	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with rare stone piece inclusions	Undated
	F83	67	Pits/tree-throws	Soft medium grey silty-sand with charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern
	F84	69	Pits/tree-throws	Soft, moist, medium to dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
	F85	70	Pit/tree-throw	Soft, moist, light to medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
	F86	-	Posthole	Soft, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with rare charcoal fleck inclusions and occasional stone piece inclusions	Undated
	F87	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with rare charcoal and daub fleck inclusions and rare stone piece inclusions	Undated
	F88	-	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with rare charcoal and daub fleck inclusions and rare stone piece inclusions	Undated
Monitoring					
	F89	75	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Roman
	F90	76	Pit	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	Undated

Appendix 2 Bulk finds catalogue

<> = recovered from bulk sample processing

CBM fabrics: OR FS = denser less sandy fabric; OR FMS2 = dense sand; PR FMS3 = similar to 2 but pinkish with some buff firing clay inclusions + red & black inclusions; OR FMS V = dense sand fabric with voids – modern brick fabric

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date
F1 (T5)	Ditch, Roman	1	Pot	B		2	24	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Animal bone		Cattle tooth	1	22	
F3 (T5)	Ditch, Roman	2	CBM	OR FMS	Rounded very abraded pieces, old/ residual in this context (not closely dated, possibly Roman)	2	20	(Roman?)
F5 (T5)	Ditch, Roman	4	CBM	OR FMS2	Roman brick/tile, abraded	1	256	Roman
		4	CBM	OR FMS	Roman brick/tile, 30mm thick, grey fabric core, surfaces abraded, broken & the broken edges abraded/worn down (reused & residual?)	1	524	Roman
		4	Animal bone		Identified species included cattle (2 pieces), pig (1) and sheep/goat (1). Most of the remaining bone was unidentifiable small fragments or large mammal long bone pieces	30	104	
F6 (T6)	Pit/tree-throw, modern	5	Pot	40, 45	Piece of modern stoneware & small sherd of post-medieval fabric 40	2	22	Modern, 19-early 20th century
F7 (T6)	Pit/tree-throw, modern	6	CBM		Tile flake, probably from a peg-tile	1	6	Medieval to post-medieval
			Clay pipe		Clay pipe spur, initials on spur foot, C on one side other initial badly smudged, part of plain bowl surviving, pipe bore c 2mm	1	4	Post-medieval
			Clay pipe		Stem pieces, bores c 1.5mm & 2mm	3	8	Post-medieval
			Pot	40		1	6	Post-medieval, c late 16th/17th to 18th century
F8 (T6)	Ditch, Roman	7	Stone		Small piece of septaria (discarded)	1	36	
			Animal bone		Cattle bone (1 piece), medium (1) and large sized mammal (1)	5	75	
		8	Fired clay		Small piece, curving surface, fabric dark with brown surface, abraded	1	4	
F9 (T6)	Pit/tree-throw, modern	9	Animal bone		Sheep/goat tooth	1	4	
			Clay pipe		Clay pipe spur, initials on spur foot L F or possibly L E	1	4	Post-medieval/ modern, c 18th to 19th century
F11 (T6)	Pit/tree-throw, modern	10	Clay pipe		Stem pieces, bores c 1.5mm & 2mm	4	8	Post-medieval
			Pot	40	2 pots	2	16	Post-medieval, c 17th to 18th century
F14 (T4)	Ditch, Roman sx1	15	CBM	OR FS2	Roman brick, c 45-50mm thick	1	622	Roman
			Pot	B (B/C)	Small sherd	1	6	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age?)
			Stone		Piece of septaria (discarded)	1	1714	
			Animal bone		The only identified species was cattle (4 pieces) which included pieces with butchery marks (2). The remaining pieces were either large mammal (2) or unidentifiable (5).	11	428	
		65	Pot	C	Sparse-moderate flint-temper in fine sand fabric	1	10	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
	CBM	OR FS St	Roman brick, 35mm thick, fabric includes common small stones	1	350	Roman		

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date
	Ditch, Roman sx2	72	CBM	OR FS	Roman tile, thin flange (possibly part of a lower cut away?), tile base c 18mm thick	1	228	Roman
			Stone		Small piece of septaria (discarded)	1	140	
		73	Pot	G/H	Small, abraded, thick sand-tempered sherd	1	1	Prehistoric
F17 (T4)	Posthole, post-Roman	16	CBM	OR FS2	Abraded thin piece, 13mm thick, possibly peg-tile	1	62	Medieval +
F18 (T4)	Ditch, Roman	64	CBM	PR FMS3	Roman tile, large piece from an edge, base 30mm thick. Fabric pinkish-red, fine-medium dense sand with some small buff clay bands, red and dark brown inclusions	1	610	Roman
F20 (T9)	Pit, post-medieval	21 upper fill	CBM	OR S	Peg-tile, three pieces with round peg-holes, mix fabrics with fine-medium dense sand and denser fine sand/silt fabric, common white mortar on one surface, three pieces with mortar clearly over break (reused)	23	1140	Medieval to post-medieval
			CBM	OR FMS2	Small piece of Roman brick/tile	1		(Roman)
			Pot	21A	Large storage jar with handle (see CAR 7 fig 88 no 96), all joining sherds (EVE = 14), other fresh breaks, dark grey (reduced surface with white slip painted foliate design), thumbled strip around neck, spaced white slip dots on interior around neck (dated L15/E-M16C, see CAR 7 134)	3	146	Medieval, late 15th/early 16th to mid 16th century
			Pot	21A	Late Colchester-type ware jugs/jars, dark grey reduced surface, some with white slip painted foliate design (not part of the large storage jar)	5	92	Medieval, c 15th to early 16th century
			Pot	21A	Late Colchester-type ware, orange (oxidised) surface, some with white slip painted foliate design, includes sagging base from large pot	7	220	Medieval, c 15th to early 16th century
			Pot	21A	Cooking pot or pipkin with lid-seated rim, EVE = 10.	1	34	Medieval, c 15th to 16th century
			Pot	21A	Early Colchester-type ware jug, sherd with all over white slip and mottled green spotted glaze on over	1	12	Medieval, c 13th to 14th century
			Pot	21A	Handle (sherd) decorated with circular indentions on midline (see CAR 7 fig 79 no 40)	1	34	Medieval, c 15th to 16th century
			Pot	31	Bowl rim sherd (abraded) with bright orange glaze, indications of a handle or spout (dating see CAR 7, 267), Low countries or local transitional, EVE = 9	1	16	Medieval, c 14th/15th to 17th century
			Pot	98	Sandy greyware with part internal clear glaze – not identified	1	28	(Late medieval to post-medieval)
			Pot	31?	Body sherd with part, external, bright orange glaze (dating see CAR 7, 267) Low countries or local transitional	1	16	Medieval, c 14th/15th to 17th century
			Shell		19 oyster shells	19	310	
			Shell		9 whelk shells	9	52	
			Stone		Pieces of septaria (discarded)	7	1536	
			Flint		Broad secondary flake with previous flake removal scars on dorsal face, some edge damage, especially along broad distal end	1		Prehistoric
Iron		Small nail & small rectangular shaft piece	2					
Animal bone		Identified species included cattle (5 pieces) and sheep/goat	57	1409				

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/ type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date
					(2). The cattle bone included most of a cow skull. The remaining fragments were large mammal (41), medium mammal (7), large bird (1) and a piece of fish bone. Some of the large and medium sized mammal bone had butchery marks (8 pieces) and dog gnawed pieces (8) were also noted			
		22 mid fill	Pot	21A	Rim with upper part of handle from a jug (EVE = 11), slip paint design on exterior with slip paint around inside of rim, pulled, squared-oval handle	1	66	Medieval, c 15th to early 16th century
			Pot	21A	Late Colchester-type ware, orange (oxidised) surface, most sherds with white slip painted foliate design, includes sagging base from large pot, including two joining sherds, possibly from a jug	5	124	Medieval, c 15th to early 16th century
			Pot	21A	Late Colchester-type ware, dark grey reduced surface, white slip painted foliate design	1	14	Medieval, c 15th to early 16th century
			Pot	21A	Sherd from a cistern, dull brown oxidised surface, simple (undecorated) round bung hole surround – late type (dating see CAR 7, 134)	1	52	Medieval, c late 15th to 16th century
			Pot	SPEC	Decorated sherd, orange-red fabric with clear, orange-brown glaze with common dark speckles, wavy comb line on body and bands of fine grooves (SPEC – speckled-glaze ware, Suffolk fabric type dated L17-18C)	1	24	Post-medieval, c late 17th to 18th century
			Pot	GX/20	Two small sherds, both abraded, probably Roman, but possibly medieval greyware	2	6	Roman? (residual greyware)
			Pot	98	Small sherd of sandy greyware with part internal clear glaze – not identified	1	2	(Late medieval to post-medieval)
			Animal bone		Sheep/goat (2 pieces including 1 piece which had been dog gnawed), large mammal (4) and medium mammal (1). Cut marks were noted on 2 pieces of the large mammal bone.	85	4187	
		23 lower fill	Pot	21A	Large base sherd from a cistern, dark (reduced) surface, simple (undecorated) round bung hole surround – late type (dating see CAR 7, 134), spaced thumbing around base edge, sagging base with glaze internal to base	1	440	Medieval, c late 15th to 16th century
		28	CBM	OR FS	Brick/tile pieces including piece of peg-tile	3	76	Medieval to post-medieval?
			CBM	OR FS2	Brick piece, abraded	1	170	Late medieval to post-medieval
			CBM		Brick piece, 35mm thick	1	76	Roman?
			CBM		Tile piece, 16-17mm thick	1	30	Roman?
			Fired clay		Small piece of fired clay, square (right angled) post or wattle groove along one edge	1	2	
			Stone		One large edge piece and other pieces broken from it, part of a rudely decorated limestone block (90+mm x 52mm) – pale yellow-buff limestone with smooth, well finished surfaces top side & base. Upper surface has parallel fine tooling from a toothed chisel running parallel to the surviving edge. Upper face decorated with pattern of irregular incised lines broadly	4	772	

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/ type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date
					running parallel to surviving edge, several other irregular incised lines crossing these			
			Animal bone		Cattle (1 piece), deer (1 small piece of antler), goat (1 small piece of horn core). The unidentified material included both large (1 piece) and medium sized (3) mammal bone.	10	149	
F21 (T7)	Pit/silt patch, prehistoric	26	Pot	B	Small sherds	2	3	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age?)
			Flint		Angular, irregular shatter piece	1		
F22 (T8)	Ditch, post-medieval / modern	29	Pot	21A	Base from the handle of a jug	1	44	Medieval, c 15th to early 16th century
F23 (T8)	Ditch, post-medieval / modern	33	Clay pipe		Pipe bores 2mm & 3mm	2	2	Post-medieval
			Pot	I	Moderately thick hand-made sand-tempered sherd, smoothed/ burnished surface	1	8	Prehistoric (Middle Iron Age?)
			Pot	GX		1	6	Roman
			Pot	45C	Jug/mug body sherd (Raeren stoneware)	1	36	Medieval, late 15th to 16th century
			Flint		Part of a broad broken flake / shatter piece with hinge fracture scar along top edge	1		
		34	CBM	OR FMS V	Small piece from a brick with vesicular fabric	1	10	Post-medieval to modern
			Pot	BSW	Body sherd	1	6	Roman
F24 (T3)	Ditch, Roman	27	CBM	OR FS2	Roman flue tile, dense fine sand fabric, close set fine comb, wavy band keying	1	76	Roman
			CBM	OR/B FS2	Plain, possibly from a Roman <i>imbrex</i>	1	72	Roman
			CBM	OR FS2	Roman imbrex	1	284	Roman
			CBM	OR/B	Roman flue tile, dense fine sand fabric, broad teeth comb keying	1	48	Roman
			CBM	OR FS2	Roman brick, thickness 34mm	1	244	Roman
			CBM	OR FS	Roman brick, thickness 250mm, discoloured (heat affected?)	1	200	Roman
			Fired clay	F-MS	Orange-red, dense fine-medium sand, abraded (discarded)	1	72	Roman
			Shell		4 oyster shells	4	125	
			Slag		Small piece of irregular, glassy, light slag	1	28	
			Stone		Pieces of septaria*	3	948	
			Stone	S/Q	Irregular piece of sandstone/quartzite (discarded)	1	320	
		28 <>	CBM		Misc pieces of small-medium size CBM	4	104	Not closely dated
			Plaster		Small piece of pink plaster over grey plaster/ mortar skim, intrusive	1	6	Modern (intrusive?)
			Shell		Piece of oyster shell	1	4	
			Shell		Single periwinkle shell	1	2	
F25 (T10)	Pit, prehistoric	31	Shell		2 oyster shells	2	20	
			Animal bone		Large mammal mandible fragment			
		32 <>	Pot	E	abraded	1	4	Prehistoric
			Shell		2 small pieces of oyster shell	2	6	
			Animal bone		Large bird metacarpus and unidentified fragments	4	9	
F27 (T7)	Ditch, prehistoric	30	Pot	B	Moderate fine and some medium flint-temper in a fine sand fabric, abraded	1	12	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/ type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date
			Animal bone		Large mammal long bone fragment	1	28	
F28 (T7)	Ditch, prehistoric	<39>	Pot	E (A/B)	sparse flint-temper in a fine sand fabric, abraded	2	10	Prehistoric
			Pot	B	Small sheds	2	3	Prehistoric
F29 (T10)	Pit, Roman	35	CBM	OR FMS	Roman brick/tile	1	84	Roman
			Animal bone		Identified species included cattle (1 piece) and sheep/goat (1 piece). The other material was mostly large mammal (5) and medium mammal (1). A large bird clavícula was also present	9	403	
F30 (T10)	Pit, Roman	36/37	CBM	OR FMS	Roman brick/tile, abraded	2	62	Roman
			Shell		Six oyster shells	6	140	
			Shell		Two whole whelk shells	2	22	
			Animal bone		36: Identified species included cattle (3 pieces) and pig (1). The remaining material included 4 pieces of large bird bone (chicken sized or similar) and both large (6) and medium sized mammal (2) 37: The only identified species from this context was chicken (2 pieces) but other bird bone was also present (3). The unidentified material included medium mammal (1).	16	189	
F33 (T8)	Pit, medieval/post-medieval	38 (upper-mid fill)	Pot	C		1	10	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			CBM	OR FMS2	Large piece from a thick Roman <i>imbrex</i>	1	658	Roman
			CBM	OR FMS2	Piece from a thick based Roman <i>tegula</i> , 30mm thick	1	538	Roman
			Stone	sep	Pieces of septaria (discarded)	2	724	
F34 (T8)	Pit, modern	40	Pot	48E	Kitchen bowl	1	32	Modern, late 19th to early 20th century
F35 (T8)	Ditch, post-medieval/modern	41	CBM	G FS	Peg-tile, grey fabric	1	26	Medieval to post-medieval
			CBM	OR FS2	Small sandy piece of brick/tile	1	26	Roman?
			Animal bone		Cattle teeth (2).	2	58	
			Tar		Piece of tar/ bitumen, presumed modern	1	34	Modern
F37	Posthole, modern	42	Iron		Nail, rectangular shaft piece	1		
F39	Pit, Roman	46	Pot	E	Common small-medium flint	1	12	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	GX	Base from a large greyware jar	1	70	Roman
			Stone		Small lump of septaria (discarded)	1	108	
F40	Ditch, Roman	43	Stone		Pieces of septaria (discarded)	5	772	
			45 <>	Pot	B	Small sherd from a rim, rim top broken away	1	6
			Pot	E	Sparse s-m flint	1	2	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	I	Hand made?	1	2	Prehistoric
F43	Tree-throw, probably modern	44	CBM	OR FMS2	Probably Roman, piece from the edge of a brick	1	70	Roman?
F47	Pit/tree-throw, modern	49	CBM		Abraded brick piece, small broken-up pieces of peg-tile & pantile. Quite broken-up and probably residual (not recorded in detail)	13	608	Post-medieval to modern, late 17th century+ (latest c 18th to 19th century)
			CBM	OR FMS2	Piece of thick Roman <i>imbrex</i>	1	254	Roman
			Clay pipe		Front of clay pipe bowl, fluted sides (narrow flutes) with	8	16	Modern, 19th century

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/ type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date
					repeating leaf/ wreath pattern along seams (different pipe to F83 (67)). Also 7 stem pieces.			
			Pot	45, 48D	19-E20C pottery sherds (not recorded in detail)	4	32	Modern, late 19th to early 20th century
			Animal bone		Large mammal rib fragment, probably sawn through transversely.	1	20	
F52	Pit/tree-throw, modern	50	Pot	40, 45, 48D	L18-19/E20C pottery sherds (not recorded in detail)	6	58	Modern, late 18th/19th to early 20th century
			CBM		Small broken-up pieces of peg-tile and brick (not recorded in detail)	8	266	Post-medieval/ modern
			Iron		Two nail shaft pieces & piece of wire	3		Post-medieval/ modern
F53 sx2	Ditch, Roman	71 mid fill	CBM	OR FMS2	Roman brick, 35mm thick	1	166	Roman
			Pot	O	Some opaque/white quartz & small-medium flint (moderate-common)	1	26	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Animal bone		Cattle metacarpal (1)	1	40	
F57	Pit, prehistoric	51	Pot	E	Common small-medium flint	1	6	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
F58	Pit/tree-throw, modern	52	CBM		Nibbed, curving tile, possibly a pantile	1	238	Post-medieval, late 17th century +
			Clay pipe		Plain stem piece (bore c 1.5–2mm) (discarded)	1	2	Modern, c 19th century?
			Pot	51A	19-E20C pottery sherds from same pot (not recorded in detail)	4	78	Modern, late 19th to early 20th century
			Pot	40	Rim, abraded, worn internal glaze, EVE = 9	1	18	Post-medieval, c 17th to 18th century
			Pot	C (C/D)	Sparse but rather ill-sorted flint	1	4	Prehistoric (Neolithic-Bronze Age)
			Flint		Flake, secondary, retouch along one edge toward distal end, culminating in a small retouched notch area close to distal end	1		Prehistoric
F59	Pit/tree-throw, modern	54	Pot	45	Jug/mug base sherd (small sherd)	1	8	Post-medieval, c 16th to 17th century?
F62	Pit/tree-throw, modern	45	Pot	45, 48D	19-E20C pottery sherds (not recorded in detail)	4	30	Modern, late 19th to early 20th century
		55	CBM	C	End from a buff/cream coloured brick (112mm x 50mm) worn on upper surface – white flooring brick 19th century (Ryan 1996 Brick in Essex)	1	418	Modern, 19th century
			Iron		Small nail & long rectangular shaft piece			Modern
			Animal bone		Medium sized mammal, 2 rib fragments.	2	4	
F63	Ditch, Roman	56 mid fill	CBM		Thick brick (50mm thick), both sides smooth, coarse mod-like brick fabric, likely intrusive	2	756	Modern (19 to early 20th century?)
			Pot	C (B/C)	Jar rim with thickened/ bead rim, rim decorated with finger-tip indentations around outside, moderate flint-temper	1	18	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	B	Body sherd, moderate-common flint-temper	1	8	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
F65	Pit/tree-throw, modern	57	CBM	OR FS2	Peg-tile, one piece with grey core, different tile type?	2	54	Medieval to post-medieval
			Clay pipe		Pipe bores c 2mm	2	8	Post-medieval
			Pot	45	Small plain sherd	1	2	Modern, c 18th to 19th century
			Pot	40	Glazed both sides	1	8	Post-medieval, c 17th to 18th century
F68	Gully, Roman	58	CBM	OR/B	Small piece of brick/tile not closely dated, possibly Roman	1	16	Roman? (not closely dated)

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/ type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date		
				FMS2						
F72	Pit, undated	60	CBM	OR FS2	Abraded small piece of brick/tile	1	3	Not closely dated		
F73	Ditch, modern	59	CBM	OR FS2	Piece from a narrow brick, 50mm x 55mm thick, also small piece of brick/tile	2	270	Post-medieval/ modern		
			Clay pipe		Pipe bore 3mm	1	4	Post-medieval		
			Pot	45, 48E	19-E20C pottery sherds from two pots (not recorded in detail) (note: 48E down market table ware mocha design)	5	50	Modern, late 19th to early 20th century		
			Glass		Medium-dark green, sherd from a bottle	1	8	Post-medieval/ modern, c late 18th to 19th century		
			Iron		Small nail & long rectangular shaft piece	2		?modern		
			Animal bone		Medium sized mammal, single fragment from a radius.	1	26			
F76	Pit, prehistoric	61	Pot	E (B)	Carinated jar, rim & shoulder, single sherd, decorated on edge of rim with finger-tip indentations. Sparse fine-medium flint-temper in a fine sand fabric, dark grey core, grey interior, orange-brown (oxidised) surface	1	30	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	E (B)	Jar rim decorated on edge of rim with finger-tip indentations, orange-brown fabric and surfaces Two sherds one from find 74 (included here), not joining	2	10	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	B	Small sherd jar rim, plain, flat top, slightly flaring, burnished surface	1	6	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	B	Small sherd jar rim, plain, flat top, burnished surface does not appear to be part of pot 76.3	1	4	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	E (B)	Decorated body sherd, horizontal? finger-tip row and another row joining this at an angle, indications that it is possibly from body below a carination, sparse fine-medium flint-temper in a fine sand fabric, dark grey core, grey surfaces	1	18	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	E	Decorated carination from a bowl/jar, spaced small indentations on carination edge Sparse fine-medium flint-temper in a fine sandy fabric, dark grey core, grey interior, orange-brown (part oxidised) surface	1	12	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	E	Body sherds	3	42	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	B	Body sherd	1	2	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	C	Body sherd, oxidised surfaces	1	6	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	B	Base sherd, more heavily gritted on underside, fine-medium flint-temper in a fine sand fabric, grey fabric & surfaces	1	24	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
			Pot	A	Fineware body sherd, fine, burnished surface, smooth interior, fine flint in fine sand fabric, some small dark inclusions also in fabric	1	14	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)		
					74 mid fill	Pot	B	Carinated jar, rim & shoulder, single sherd, edge of carination broken away, smoothed surfaces	1	16
				Pot		C	Carinated jar, rim & shoulder, joining sherds, rim edge decorated with finger-tip indentations and also spaced circular finger-tip indentions along carination, grey fabric and interior, part oxidised surface interior	3	54	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)

Context	Context type	Find no	Find type	Fabric/ type	Description	No	Wt/g	Finds Spot date
			Pot	E	Rim with slight external swelling/bead, moderate small-medium flint in a fine sand fabric	1	6	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	B	Body sherds, common fine-with some medium flint	5	50	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	B	Body sherds, common fine-medium flint, slightly coarse	5	76	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	C	Body sherd, some fine burnt out voids from vegetable matter in the surfaces	1	32	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
F78	Ditch, Roman	63 <>	Coal		Presumed post-medieval or modern, intrusive (discarded)	2	10	Post-medieval/ modern
F81	Pit, prehistoric	62b	Pot	B (B/C)	Sherd from bulk sample	1	5	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	B	Rim from a jar, flat topped, small-medium flint-temper in fine sand fabric	2	10	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	E	Rim, flat topped, sparse s-m flint	1	4	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	B	Rim from a bowl, flat topped, small-medium flint-temper in fine sand fabric	1	6	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	B (A/B)	Misc sherds, mostly fine flint, some sparse flint possibly fabric E	15	64	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
			Pot	C (B/C)	Slightly coarse flint	7	32	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
F83	Pits/tree-throws, modern	67	CBM		Pieces from a horseshoe-type field drain (extruded clay), peg-tile & p-med brick 50mm thick (not recoded in detail)			Modern, late 19th century
			Clay pipe		Bowl, damage to front, fluted sides (narrow flutes) with repeating leaf/ wreath pattern along seams from & back (different pipe to F47 (49)), initials on bowl spur S R (<i>CAR 5 – 57</i> fluted bowls, narrow flutes dated, c 1820-1860) <i>Note: Stephen Chamberlain Rand (SR) pipe maker of Colchester (retired 1881, ibid 64)</i>	1	10	Modern, late 19th century (c 1820-60)
			Clay pipe		Stem piece, bore c 2mm	1	4	Post-medieval
			Glass		Bases from two wine-type bottles in dark brown glass	3	350	Modern, 19th century
			Pot	45, 48D, 51A	19-E20C pottery sherds from two pots (not recorded in detail) (includes sherd from jug with rural scene including moulded hunter on horseback)	6	134	Modern, late 19 to early 20th century
			Iron		Thick nail, expanded head end	1		
F84	Pits/tree-throws, modern	69	Clay pipe		Stem piece, bore c 2mm	1	6	Post-medieval/ modern
			Glass		Base from a wine-type bottle in dark green glass	1	92	Modern, 19th century?
			Pot	45, 48E	19-E20C pottery sherds (not recorded in detail) (note: 48E down market table ware mocha design)	3	98	Modern, late 19th to early 20th century
			CBM	OR FS2		1	284	Post-medieval/modern, late 17 century +
			Iron		Thick nail, expanded head end	1		Modern
F85	Pit/tree-throw, modern	70	Pot	48D	Blue & white pattern (not recorded in detail)	1	10	Modern, 19th to early 20th century
			Iron		Rectangular nail shaft piece	1		
L2	Subsoil	68	Pot	E	Body sherds, probably SV, sand fabric with sparse small and some medium size flint	2	42	Prehistoric (Early Iron Age)
U/S		24	Pot	GX	Rim from a bowl, moderately fine greyware, necked bowl with undercut rim, EVE = 15	1	28	Roman

**REPORT ON THE QUATERNARY GEOARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE FORMER DELFORD FACTORY SITE,
DOVERCOURT, ESSEX**

Site Visit 27 JUNE 2017

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Delford Factory Site, Dovercourt, Essex

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DELFord FACTORY SITE, DOVERCOURT

SITE INVESTIGATION

Summary

A geoarchaeological assessment was carried out on 27 June 2017 at the site of the former Delford Factory at Dovercourt. A basic sequence of sandy gravel overlying horizontally bedded interbeds of sand, silt and clay was established which can be linked with the geology of earlier work at Spring Meadow School and the former Pounds Farm.

Local Geology and Geomorphology

A flat-topped ridge of higher ground runs SW – NE in the Dovercourt area (Figure 1). The ridge is underlain by London Clay, overlain by Red Crag on its south-eastern flank (Figure 2).

On the ridge two sets of gravels occur, the older (Oakley Gravel) is cut into by the younger (Upper Dovercourt 'Palaeolithic' Gravel) (Figure 3). The Oakley Gravels, part of the Kesgrave Sands and Gravels, represent the bed of the former course of the Thames when it flowed across Essex towards Suffolk. c.575,000 years ago (Figure 4). The sands and gravels were deposited under cold-climate and high energy conditions. The Oakley Gravel infills a channel cut into the northern end of the ridge at c.20 mOD and along the gentle north-east facing slope above 15 mOD, forming a terrace of the Stour. The Gravel, of post-Anglian (post – 480,000 years ago) age, has yielded a large number of handaxes of Palaeolithic date and various species of Pleistocene fauna.

Local Palaeolithic Archaeology

A former quarry in the Upper Dovercourt Gravel, Gants Farm Pit (also known as Pound Farm Pit) has been claimed as the richest hand-axe locality in Essex (e.g., Roe, 1968a; Wymer, 1985, 1999). In addition to over 200 well-made bifacial implements (hand-axes), the deposits here are a particularly rich source of hand-axe finishing flakes, as was noted by S.H. Warren (in Wymer, 1985; cf. Warren, 1926). There was also a significant vertebrate fauna, including extinct rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus kirchbergensis*) large fallow deer (*Dama dama ?clactoniana*), horse (*Equus* sp.), halibut (*Hippoglossus* sp.) and indeterminate elephant (Underwood, 1913; Warren 1933; Sutcliffe *et al.* 1979; Wymer 1985). Later trenching, in 2006, suggested that the quarry might have covered only a small area, making the prolific finds the more significant.

The Gants Farm/Pound Farm site lies approximately 0.5 km from the Delford Factory site and is now occupied by Spring Meadow Primary School and a remnant of Pound Farm (Figure 5).

Relationship of the Delford Factory Site to the Spring Meadow School and Pound Farm Sites.

Spring Meadow Primary School (SMPS)

Archaeological trenching in 2001 and 2006 (Bridgland *et al.*, 2001; Bridgland, 2006) showed that in the eastern part of the site there was *in situ* sandy gravel within which a number of artefacts and mammalian fossil fragments were found, the first to be discovered since the original gravel pit was in operation and confirming the archaeological richness of the site. To the west the gravels give way to finer-grained sediments which might well prove informative in terms of a palaeoenvironmental context for the archaeology. To the south, the gravel thins significantly, implying that the reserve of archaeological useful deposit is localised.

The finer grained sediments found in the western part of the site appear to continue through the Pound Farm site to the Delford Factory site.

Pound Farm

A later investigation was carried out on land adjacent to Spring Meadow Primary School in 2014 (Bridgland et al., 2014). To distinguish this work, the site is referred to as Pound Farm. The sediments were mostly clayey sands, sands or gravelly sands. One trial pit (TP 12A) showed sands and a thin gravel bed overlying laminated sands, silts and clays. Sieving of the gravel yielded a clear hard hammer flake and a further, but less-convincing, hard hammer flake. Two further flakes were found during a watching brief during the groundworks stage of the development of the site, but they were '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' (Benfield, 2016).

The laminated sands, silts and clays are an extension of those found in western part of Spring Meadow School. The overlying sands and gravel add to the stratigraphic sequence, and continue through to the Delford Factory site.

Delford Factory Site Investigations

Methodology

Five test pits were sunk with a view to reaching bedrock (Red Crag or London Clay) but ingress of water causing sidewall collapse was such that Test Pits 4, 5, 6 and 9 had to be abandoned at 2.0 or 3.0 m.

Red Crag is thought to have been reached in Test Pits 4 and 9 on the basis of colour, texture and structure, but shells were not recovered to confirm the identification.

London Clay was reached in Test Pit 2 at a depth of 2.4 m but this Pit was on the valley slope of Ramsey Creek and had a ground surface height c.3 metres lower than the other Pits.

Site Topography

The site lies mostly at c.22.0 mOD. For the majority of the site, the ground surface slopes gently to the northwest, where Trial Pits 4, 5, 6 and 9 are situated. However

the slope increases markedly in the northwest corner, forming the valley side of the Ramsey Creek. Trial Pit 2 lies in this area. The location of the trial pits is shown in Figure 6.

Site geology

From the Gants Farm/Spring Meadow Primary School/Pound Farm investigations, there appear to be three stratigraphic horizons:

- A. Gravels, yielding artefacts and environmental information (top)
- B. Sands, silts and clays with minor gravel beds have the potential to yield environmental information, with some possibility of artefacts,
- C. The Red Crag, with no archaeological or environmental interest (base).

The trial pit logs (Figures 6 – 17) confirm this.

Horizon A – Units	2.2, 4.2, 4.3, 5.2, 6.2, 6.3, ?6.4, 9.2, 9.3	c.21.6 – 20.8
Horizon B – Units	?2.3, 4.4, 5.3, 5.4, 6.5, 9.4	c.20.8 – 19.5
Horizon C – Units	?4.5, ?9.5	> 19.5 mOD

Horizon C.

The Red Crag was not identified positively as no shell material was found but was designated on basis of a textural change to medium to coarse sand and a colour change to strong brown. The sand acted as an aquifer and quickly yielded running water during the trial pitting, causing sidewall collapse. Although no shells were seen in this exercise, shells were noted in the groundworks WS5 (at c.18.0 mOD) and possibly TP5 (at c.19.7 mOD). The latter is ambiguous in that it suggests that 'gravel is fine shell fragments', which is not in keeping with descriptions of the Red Crag.

Horizon B.

This unit comprises horizontally bedded sands, silts and clays. These textures, the horizontality of the bedding and the lack of gravel excludes these beds as being part of the Oakley Gravels (Kesgrave Sands and Gravels). The characteristics are in

keeping with an estuarine depositional environment as suggested in the site report for Pound Farm, and form part of the terrace sequence of the Stour.

Horizon A.

The sands and gravels of Unit A have pebbles of sub-angular and rounded flint, vein quartz and quartzite, consistent with the lithologies found in the Oakley Gravels, but their position above the Stour Terrace (estuarine) deposits suggests that they are derived from, rather than part of, the Oakley Gravels. However, the Oakley Gravels are at a comparable altitude at Little Oakley, so this stratigraphic relationship may need to be revised. No Palaeolithic archaeological material was found.

Test Pits

Details of the test pits are given in Tables 1 – 5 and Figures 6 – 18.

Test Pit 2.

This Pit lies on a north-facing slope down to Ramsey Creek. It has a ground surface height of c.18.7 mOD whereas the others are at c.22.0 mOD. It is the only Pit to reach the London Clay (Unit 2.4) and it is notable that the Red Crag is not present.

Test Pit 4

A full sequence of Horizons A to C occurs and detail of the breakage pattern of the Red Crag is shown in Figure 10).

Test Pit 5.

Only Horizons A and B occur. An appraisal of the pebbles present is presented (Table 3) and is taken to be typical of Horizon A throughout the site.

Test Pit 6

Only Horizons A and B occur. A plan view of the patterning in Horizon A is presented (Figure 15).

Test Pit 9

Horizons A and B are shown. Sidewall collapse at the base was taken to indicate the presence of Red Crag. The machining was stopped at this point, so the Red Crag forms the base of the pit.

Potential for artefacts

No Palaeolithic material was found, but the sediments present may yield material of environmental value.

Recommendation:

I suggest a watching brief is kept during the groundworks stage.

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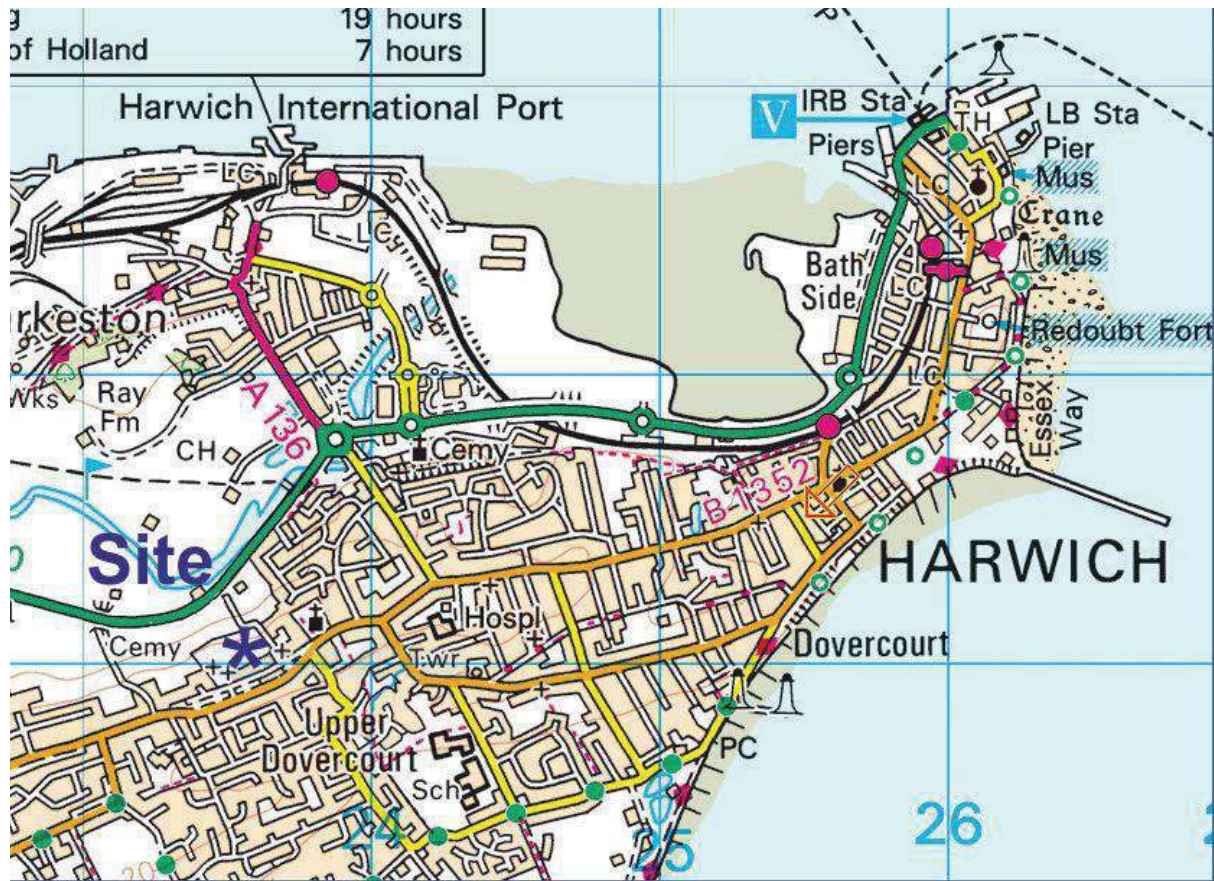
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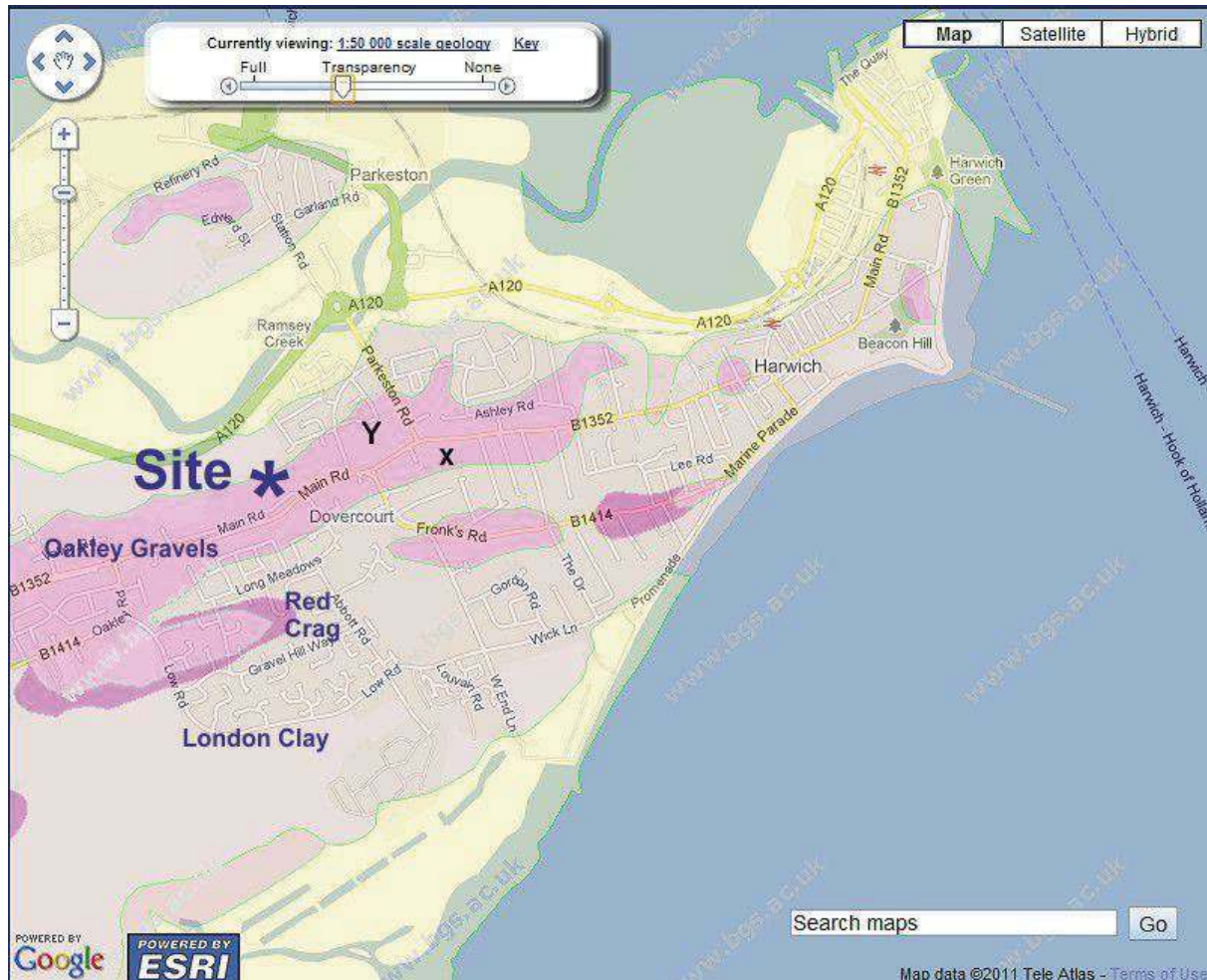
Figure 1

Location of the Delford Factory Site



(Map: Ordnance Survey)

Figure 2
Geology of the Dovercourt and Harwich area



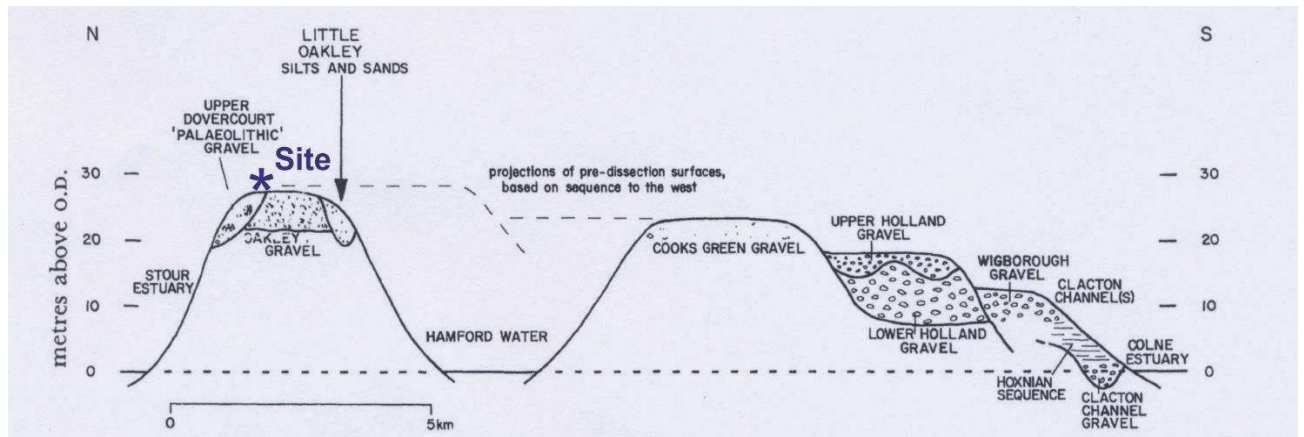
(British Geological Survey)

Y – site of Gants Farm/Pound Farm

X – Fryatt Hospital site

Figure 3

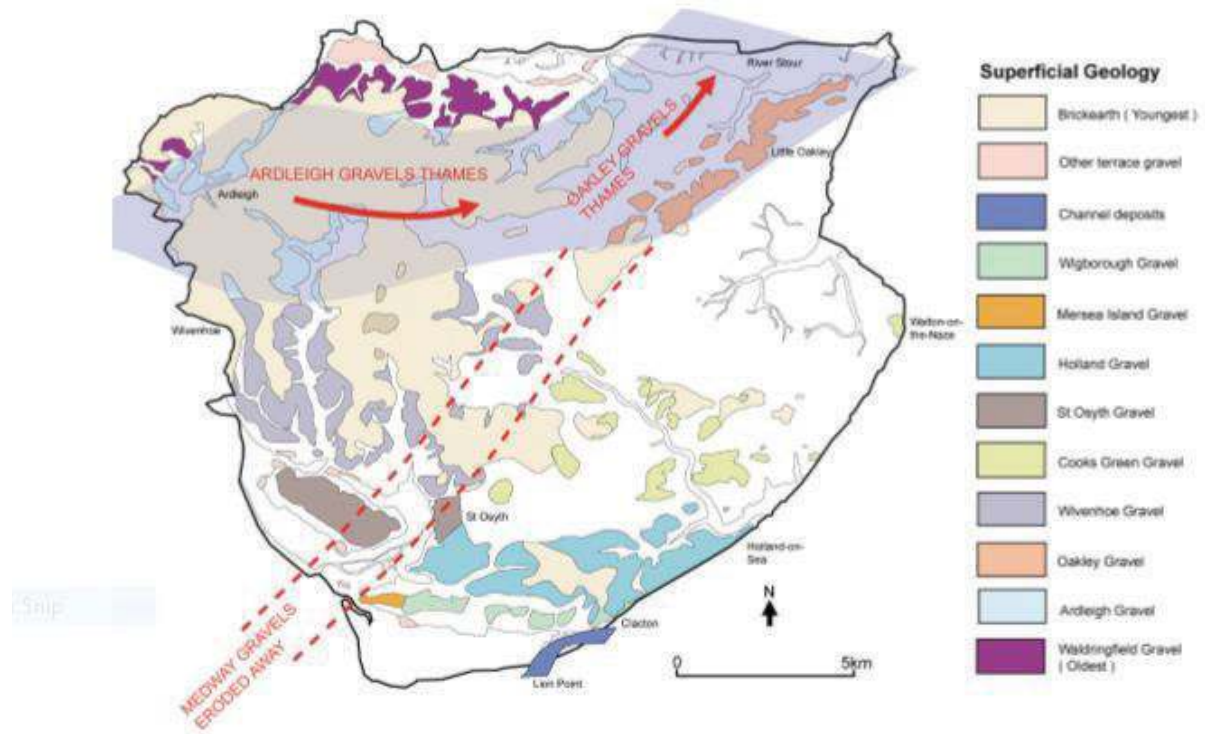
Transverse Section Through the Terraces and Gravel Deposits of the Tendring Plateau.



(Bridgland et al., 1990)

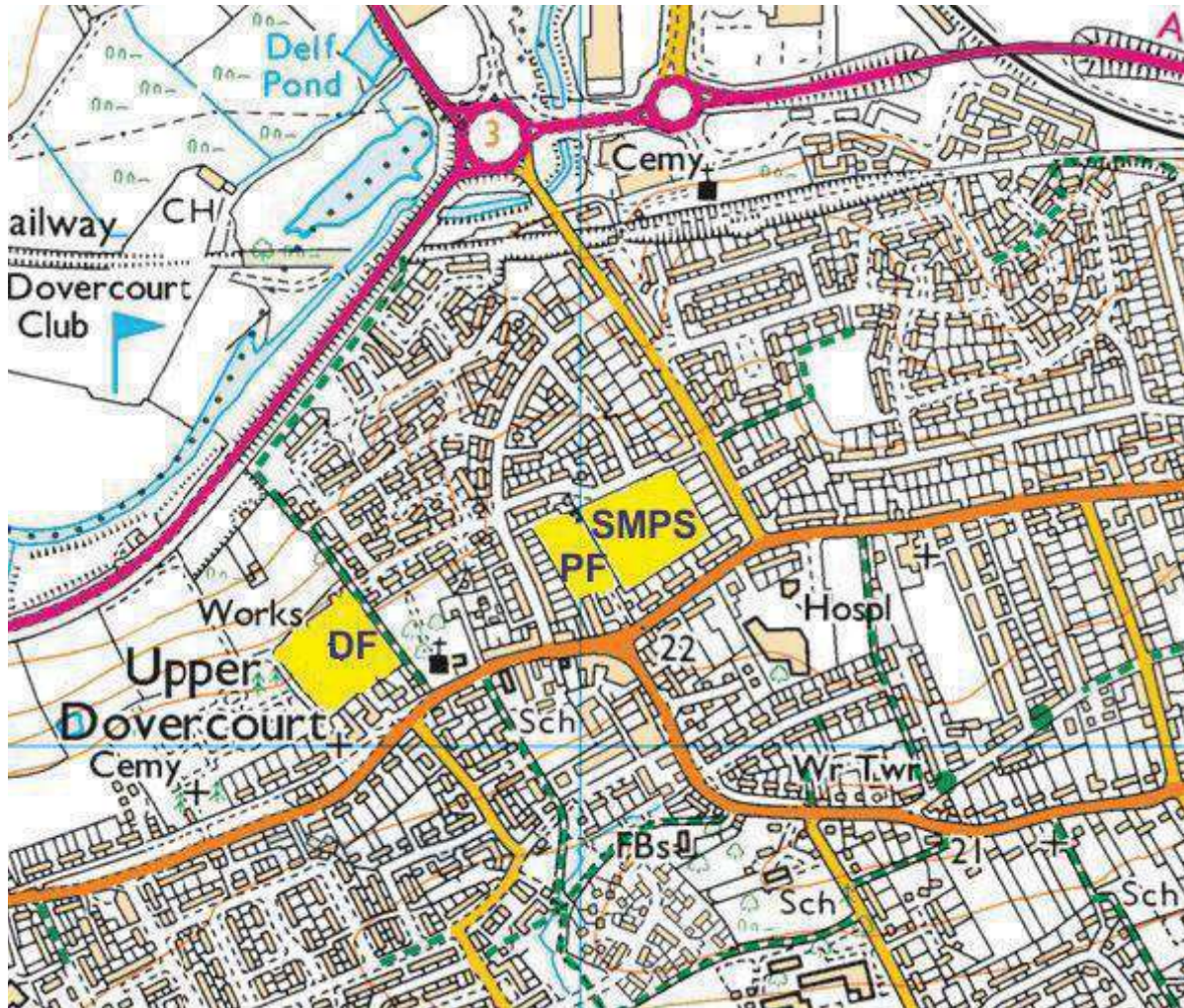
Figure 4

Reconstruction of Pre-Anglian Drainage During Deposition of the Oakley Gravels.



(Map: Essex Council Council)

Figure 5
Palaeolithic Archaeological Sites at Dovercourt



(Base map: Ordnance Survey)

DF – Delford Factory site

PF – Pounds Farm

SMPS – Spring Meadow Primary School

Figure 6
Delford Factory Site; Location of Test Pits

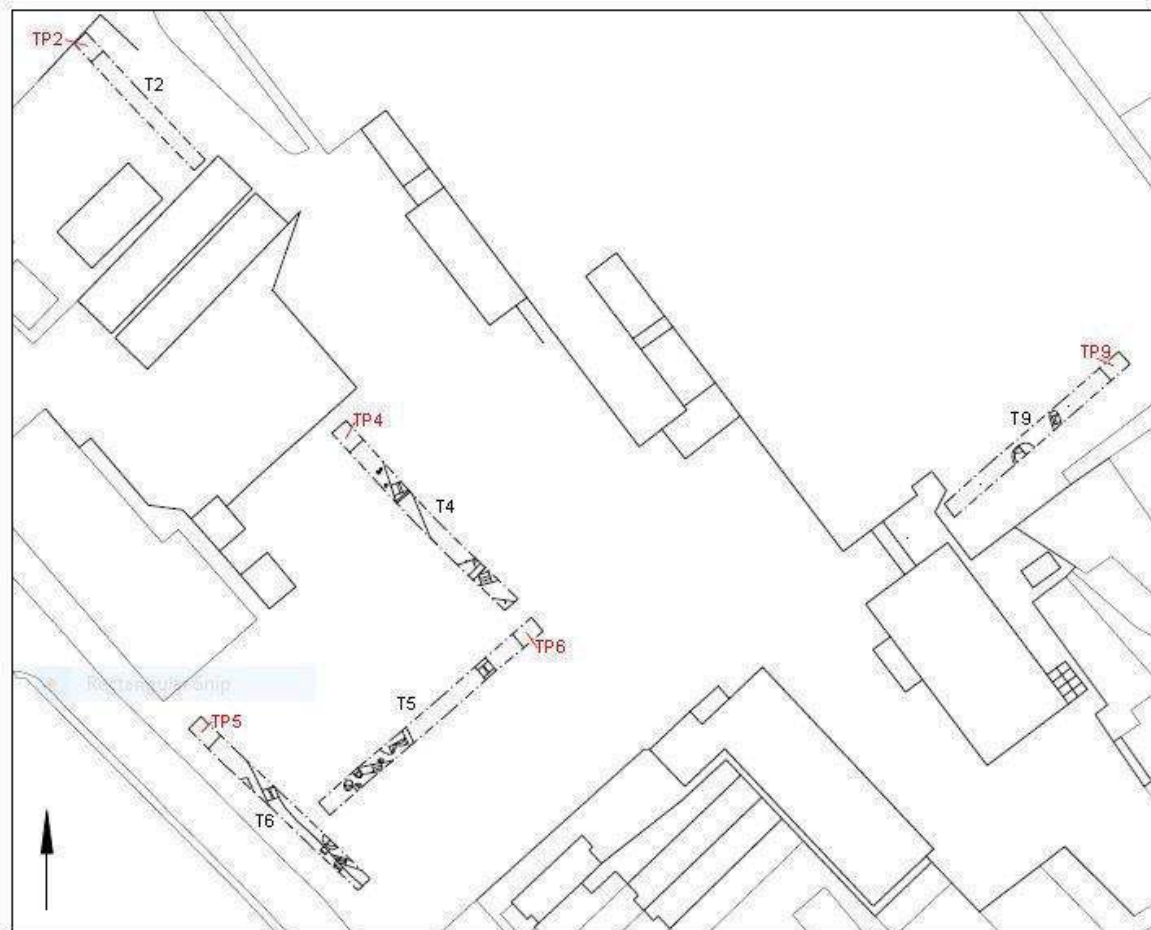


Fig 4. Location of georchaerological test pits.



Table 1

Test Pit 2, Stratigraphic Log

Ground Surface c.18.7 mOD

Beds horizontal but of variable thickness

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Horizon
2.1	0.0 – 1.7	18.7 – 17.0	1.7	Spoil	
2.2	1.7 – 2.2	17.0 – 16.5	0.5	Gravelly sand Heavily contaminated by diesel fuel	A
2.3	2.2 – 2.4	16.5 – 16.3	0.2	Clayey-silty sand with flint granules	?B
2.4	2.4 – 2.8	16.3 – 15.9	0.4	London Clay Weathered brown and brecciated	

m bgs – metres below ground surface

OD – Ordnance Datum

L - litres

Figure 7

Test Pit 2, Descriptive Log

**Dovercourt
Delford Factory Site**

Trial Pit 2

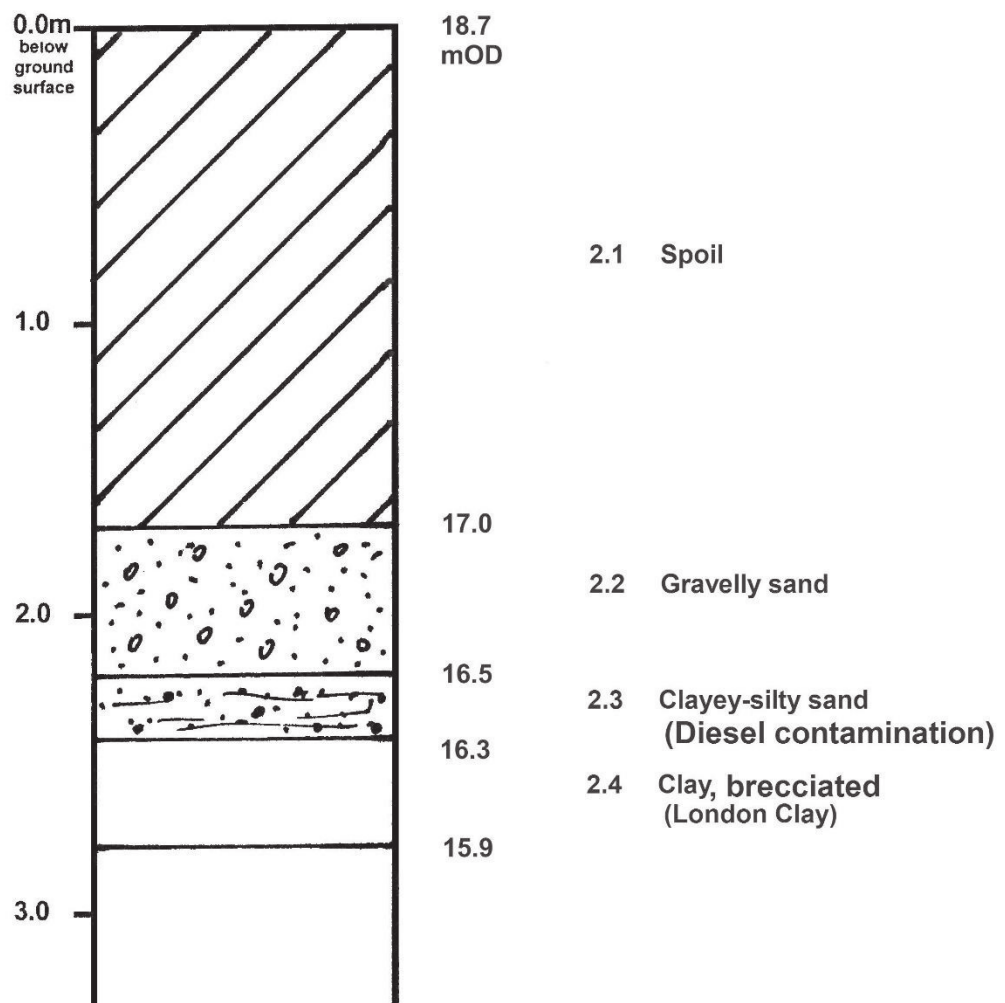


Figure 8

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 2, Photographic Log

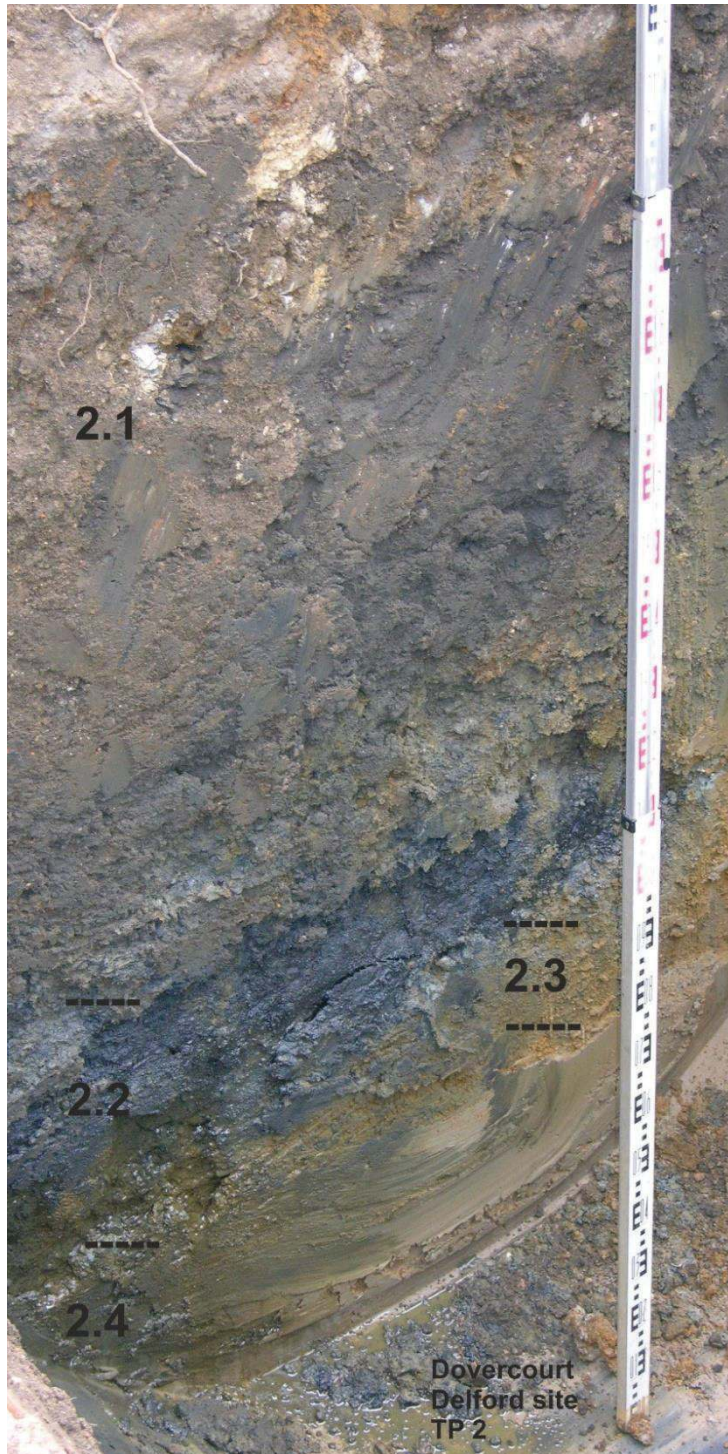


Table 2

Test Pit 4 Stratigraphic Log

Ground Surface c.21.8- mOD

Beds horizontal but of variable thickness

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Horizon
4.1	0.0 – 0.7	21.8 – 21.1	0.7	Spoil (crushed concrete)	
4.2	0.7 – 1.1	21.1 – 20.7	0.4	Sandy gravel	A
4.3	1.1 – 1.2	20.7 – 20.6	0.1	Gravelly sand	A
4.4	1.2 – 2.5	20.6 – 19.3	1.3	Medium sand with clayey or silty interbeds. Horizontal bedding indicated by colour and texture changes	B
4.5	2.5 – 2.8	19.3 – 19.0	0.3	?Red Crag Medium to coarse sand with horizontal bedding indicated by breakage patterns where collapse occurred at bottom of face. (Figure 10)	?C

m bgs – metres below ground surface

OD – Ordnance Datum

L - litres

Figure 9

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 4, Descriptive Log

Dovercourt
Delford Factory Site

Trial Pit 4

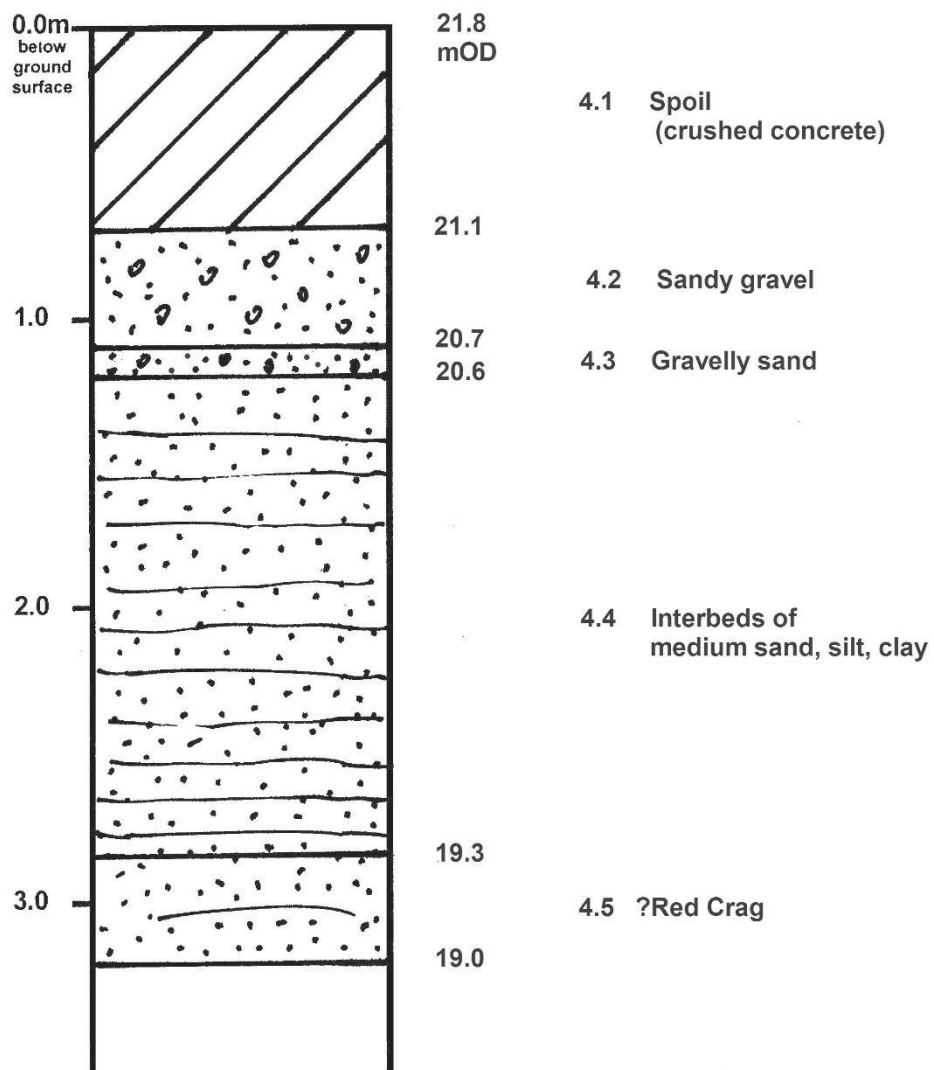


Figure 10

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 4, Photographic Log

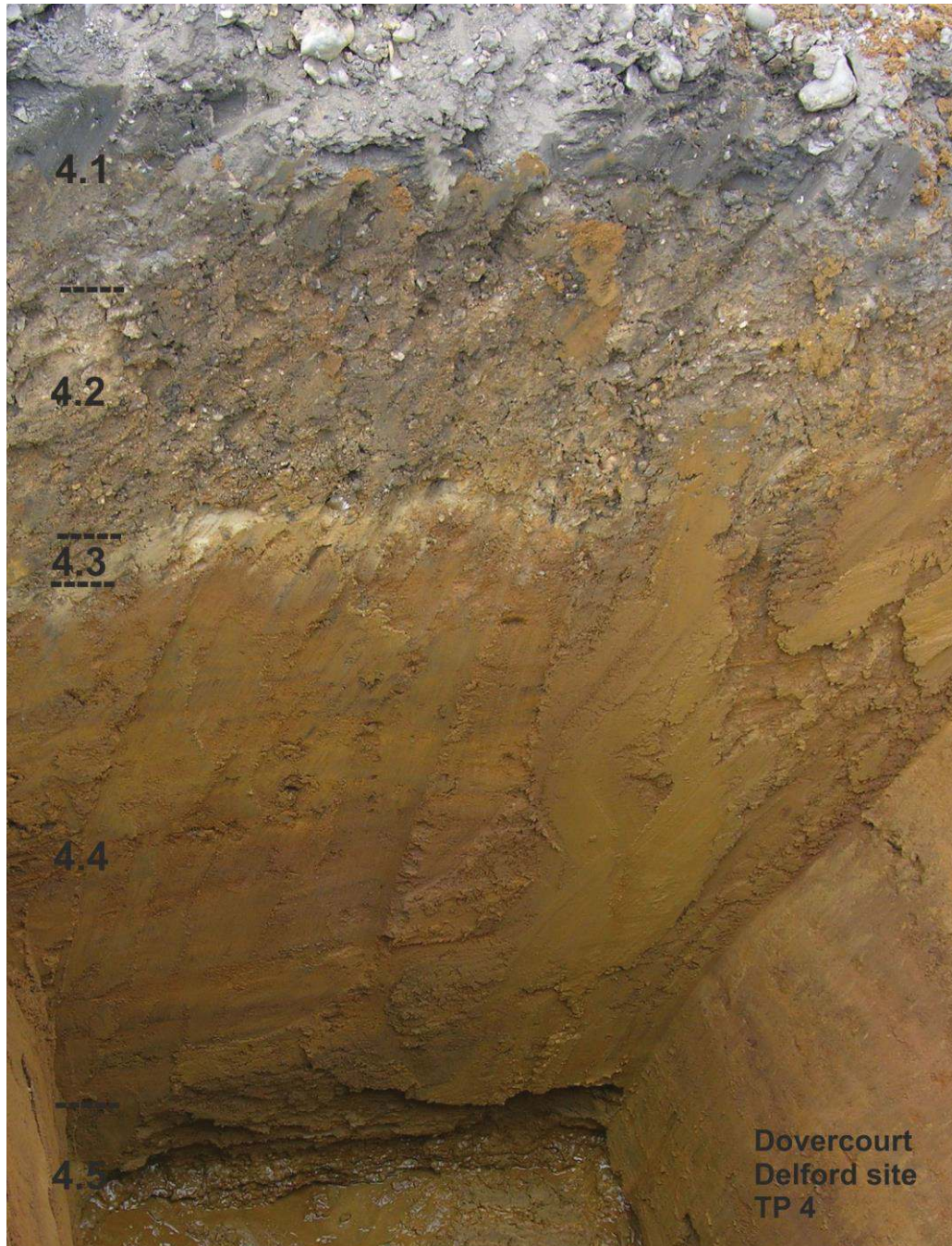


Figure 11

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 2, Photographic Detail Unit 5



Table 3

TP 5 Stratigraphic Log

Ground Surface c.22.0 mOD

Beds horizontal but of variable thickness

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Horizon
5.1	0.0 - 0.6	22.0 – 21.4	0.6	Spoil (?modern soil)	
5.2	0.6 – 1.2	21.4 – 20.8	0.6	Gravelly sand	A
5.3	1.2 – 1.4	20.8 – 20.6	0.2	Silt/clay	B
5.4	1.4 – 2.2	20.6 – 19.8	0.8	Medium sand Top 0.25 m slightly gravelly, no overt bedding but curved patterns noted in plan during machining indicate irregular bedding, due deformation, probably by ice (cryoturbation)	B

m bgs – metres below ground surface

OD – Ordnance Datum

L - litres

Pebble characteristics (from Unit 5.2)

	Mode	Maximum	
Flint, sub-angular	1.5 – 2.5 cm	6.0 cm	Dominant
Flint, rounded	1.0 – 2.0	4.0	
Vein quartz	0.5 – 1.0	3.0	
Quartzite	3.0		Few
Ironstone			Occasional

Figure 12

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 5, Descriptive Log

**Dovercourt
Delford Factory Site**

TP 5

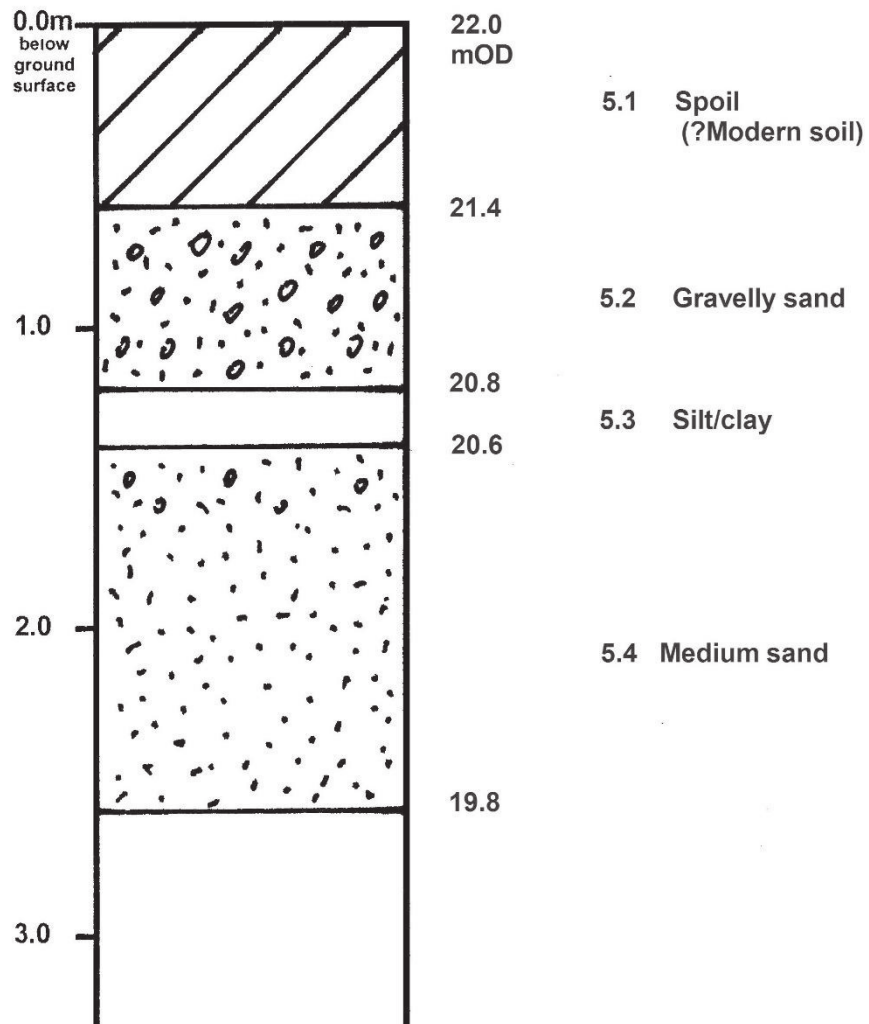


Figure 13

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 5, Photographic log

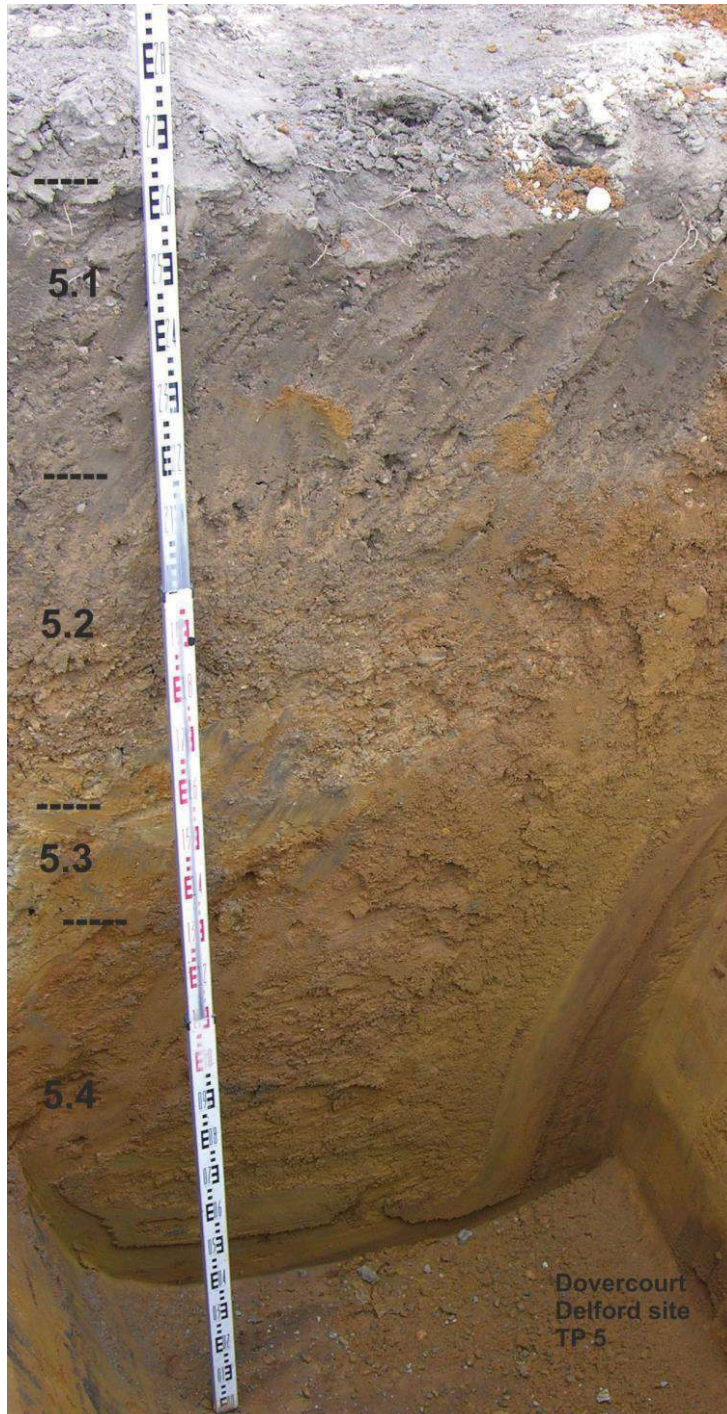


Table 4

Test Pit 6 Stratigraphic Log

Ground Surface c.22.2 mOD

Beds horizontal but of variable thickness

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Zone
6.1	0.0 – 0.6	22.2 – 21.6	0.6	Spoil (crushed concrete + modern soil)	
6.2	0.6 – 1.0	21.6 – 21.2	0.4	Medium sand with minor amounts of gravel. No overt bedding seen but patterning was seen in plan view during machining, indicating irregular bedding due to post-depositional bedding, possibly due to ice action (cryoturbation). (Figure 15).	A
6.3	1.0 – 1.1	21.2 – 21.1	0.1	Gravelly sand	A
6.4	1.1 – 1.5	21.1- 20.7	0.4	Medium sand, occasional pebbles, no overt primary bedding structures, but several sub-vertical irregular features, possibly of biological origin (e.g. roots, worm channels)	?A
6.5	1.5 – 3.0	20.7- 19.2	1.5	Medium sand, no overt bedding, stoneless	B

m bgs – metres below ground surface

OD – Ordnance Datum

L - litres

Figure 14

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 6, Descriptive Log

**Dovercourt
Delford Factory Site**

TP 6

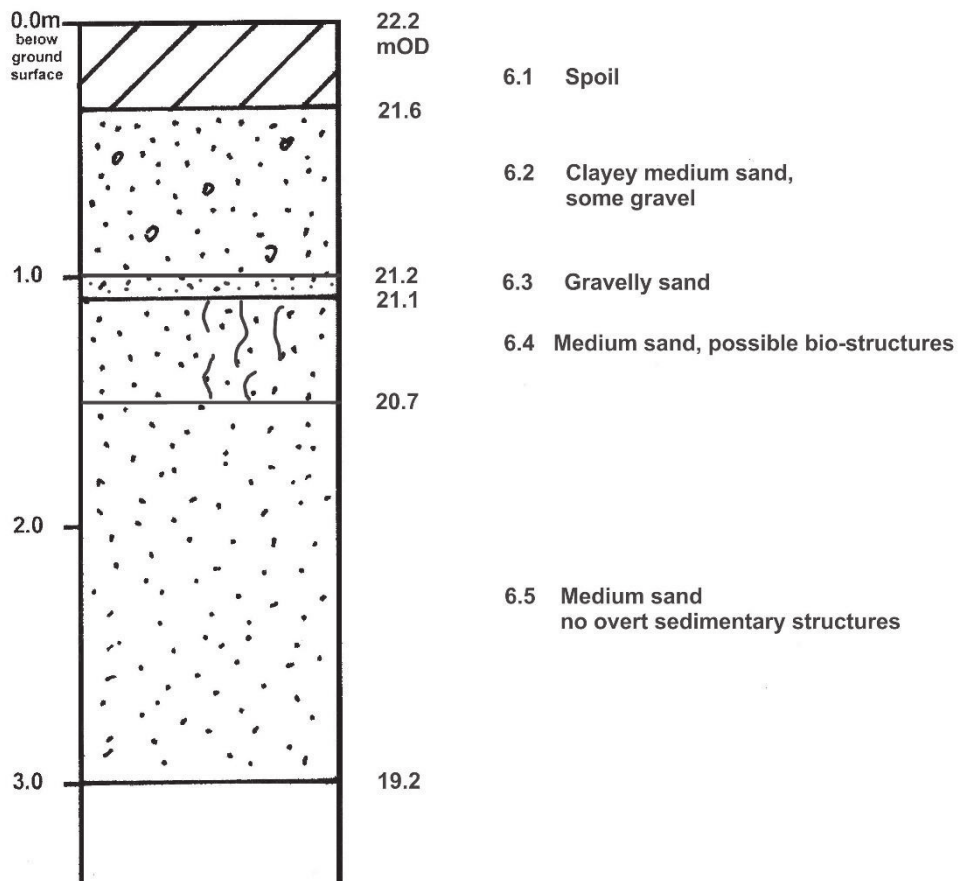


Figure 15

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 6, Photographic Log



Figure 16

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 6, Plan View of Structures in Unit 6.2



Table 5

Test Pit 9 Stratigraphic Log

Ground Surface c.22.6 mOD

Beds horizontal but of variable thickness

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Horizon
9.1	0.0 – 0.5	22.6 – 22.1	0.5	Spoil (crushed concrete)	
Step				Floor of archaeological trench	
9.2	0.5 – 0.7	22.1 - 21.9	0.2	Clayey, sandy gravel. Floor of archaeological trench showed patterns in plan indicating deformation of unit, probably by ice (cryoturbation).	A
9.3	0.7 – 1.3	21.9 – 21.3	0.6	Medium sand, occasional gravel. No overt bedding	A
9.4	1.3 – 3.1	21.3 – 19.5	1.8	Medium sand, horizontally bedded with interbeds of clay/silt or gravel e.g. gravel stringer at 20.75 mOD	B
9.5	>3.1	19.5		?Red Crag Type of sidewall collapse at base similar to that seen in trial pits cut into Red Crag elsewhere	C

m bgs – metres below ground surface

OD – Ordnance Datum

L - litres

Figure 17

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 9, Descriptive Log

**DOVERCOURT
DELFDORD FACTORY SITE**

Trial Pit 9

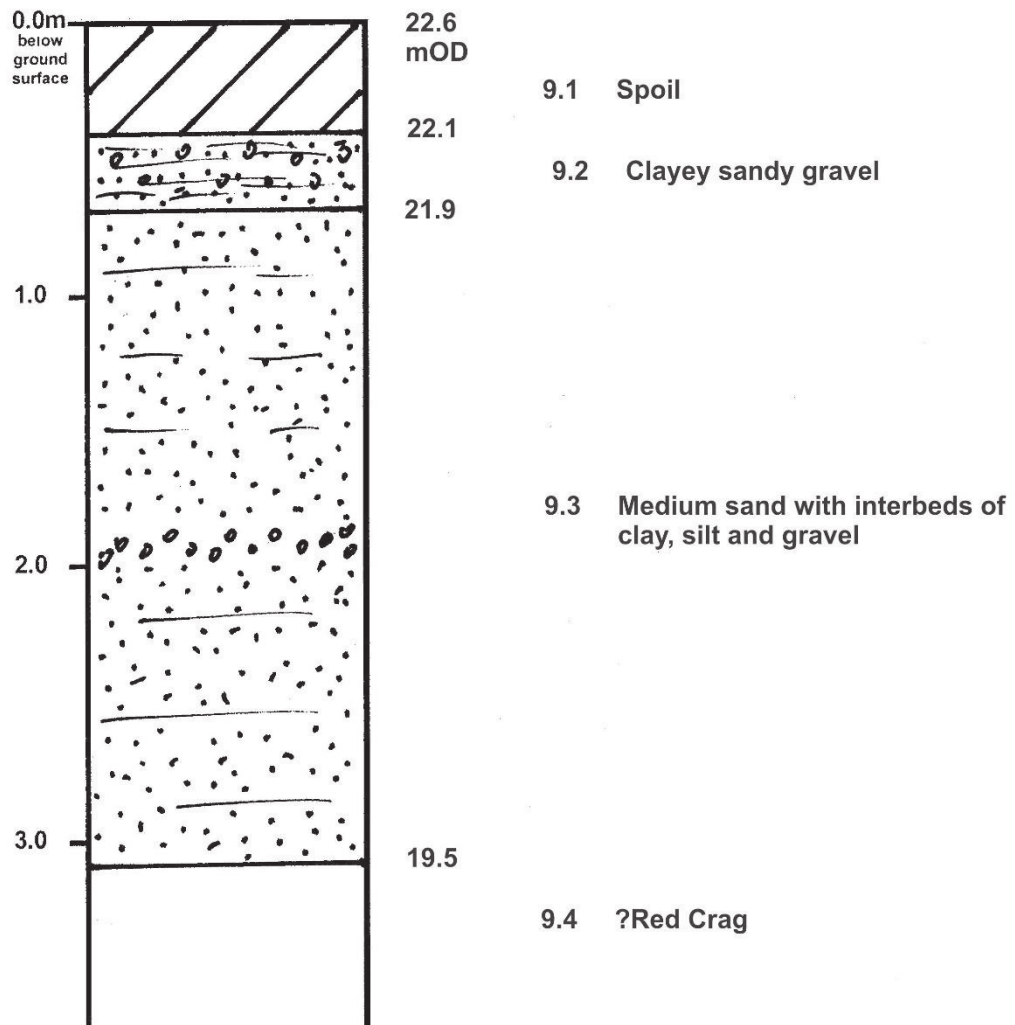
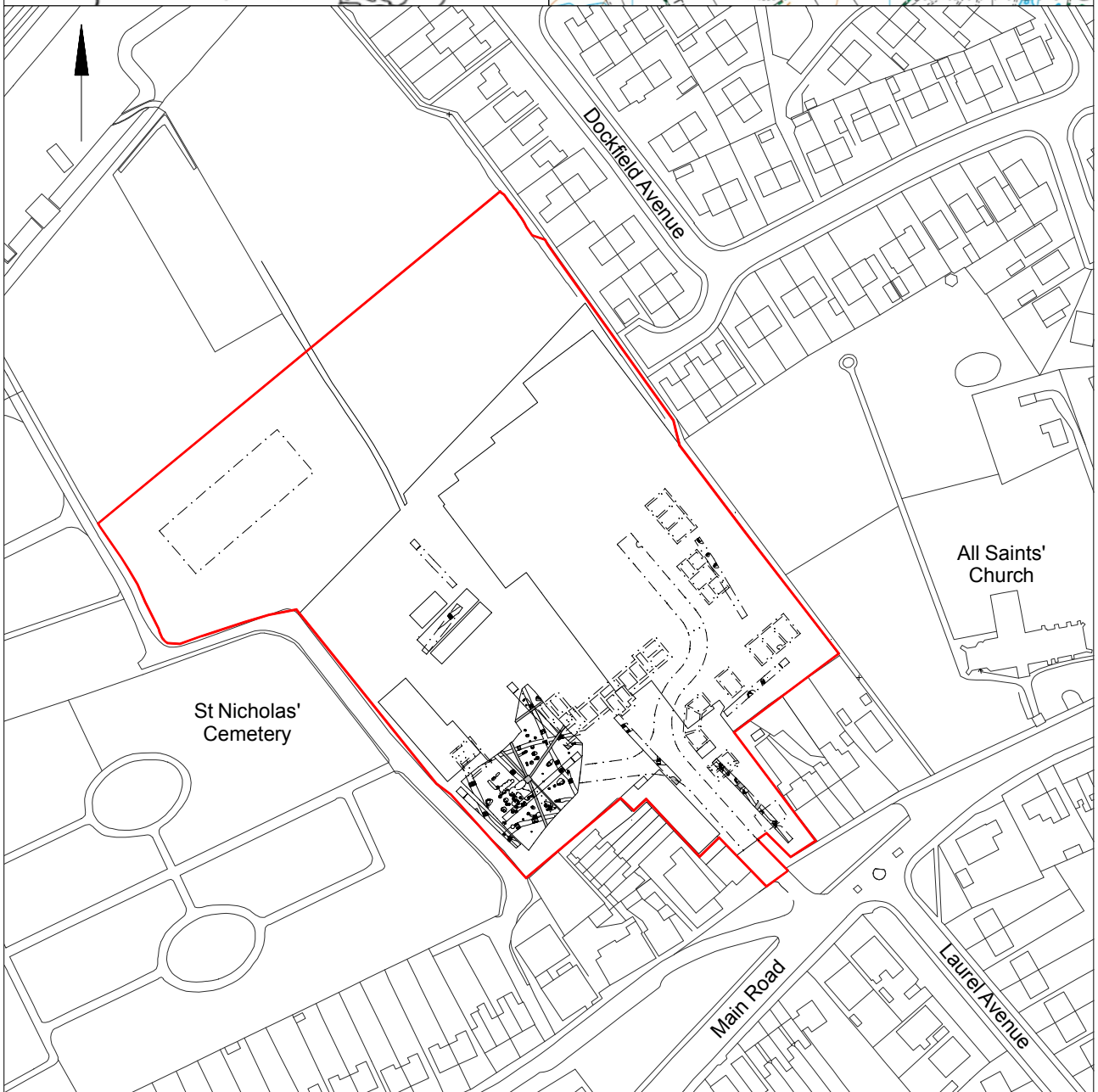
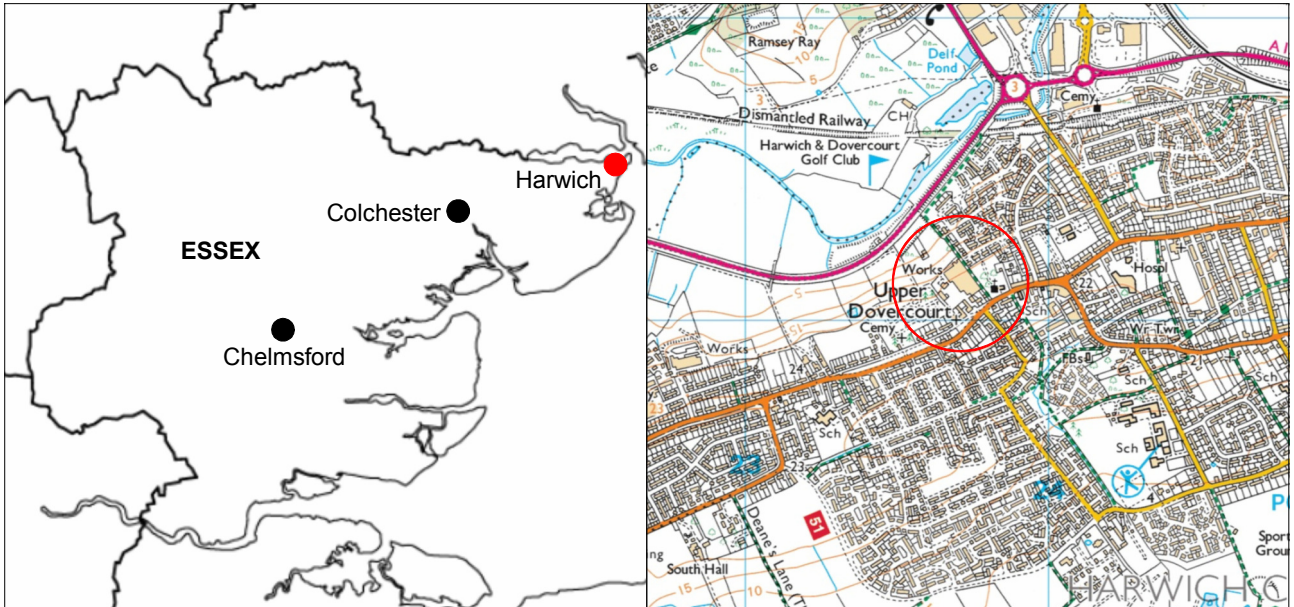


Figure 18

Delford Factory site; Test Pit 9, Photographic Log





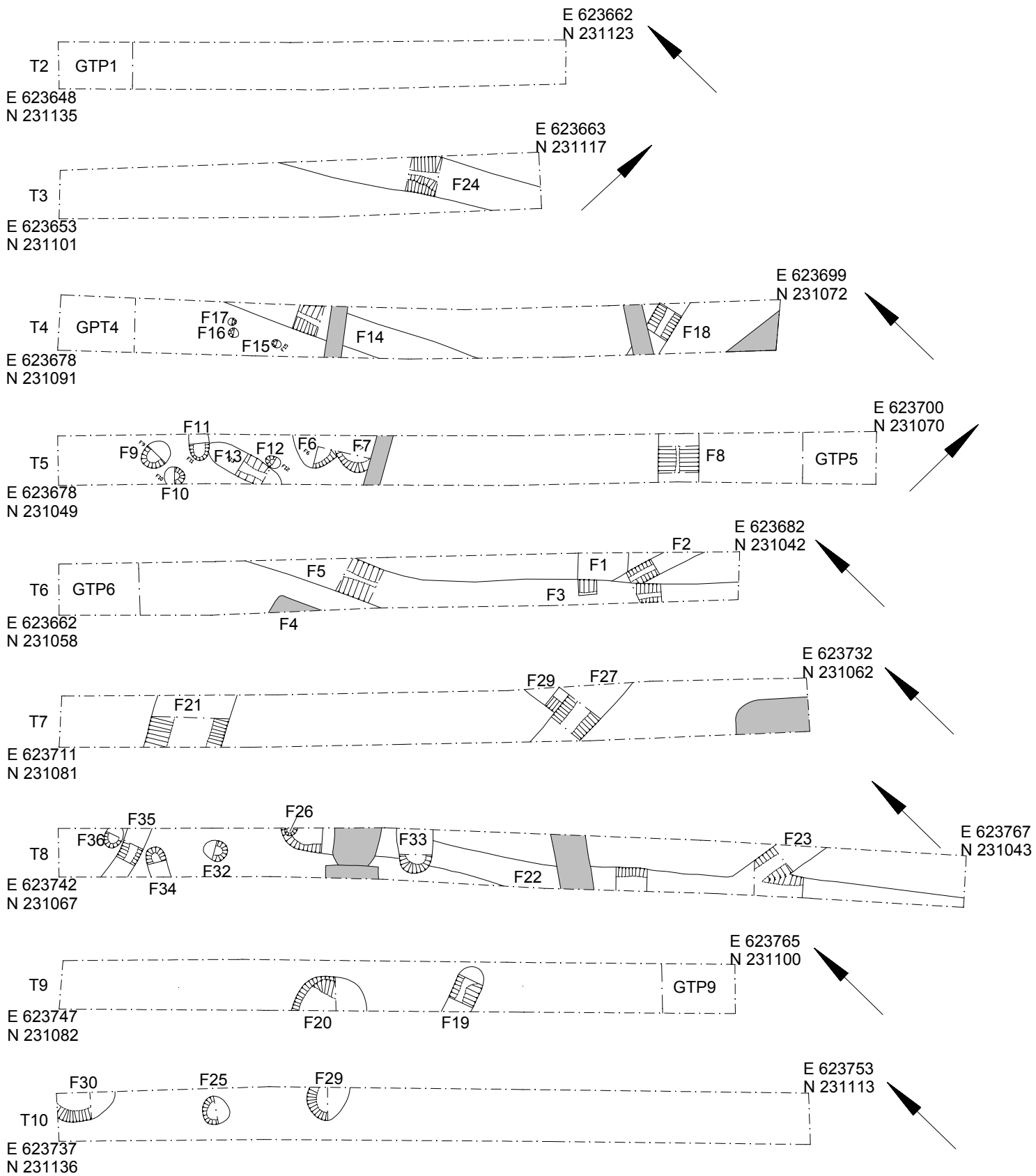
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Fig 1 Site location





Fig 2 Evaluation results, showing position of the subsequent excavation area (blue) and the four unexcavated trenches (T1, T11-T13).



GTP = Geoarchaeology test-pit



Fig 3 Trench plans (modern services in grey)

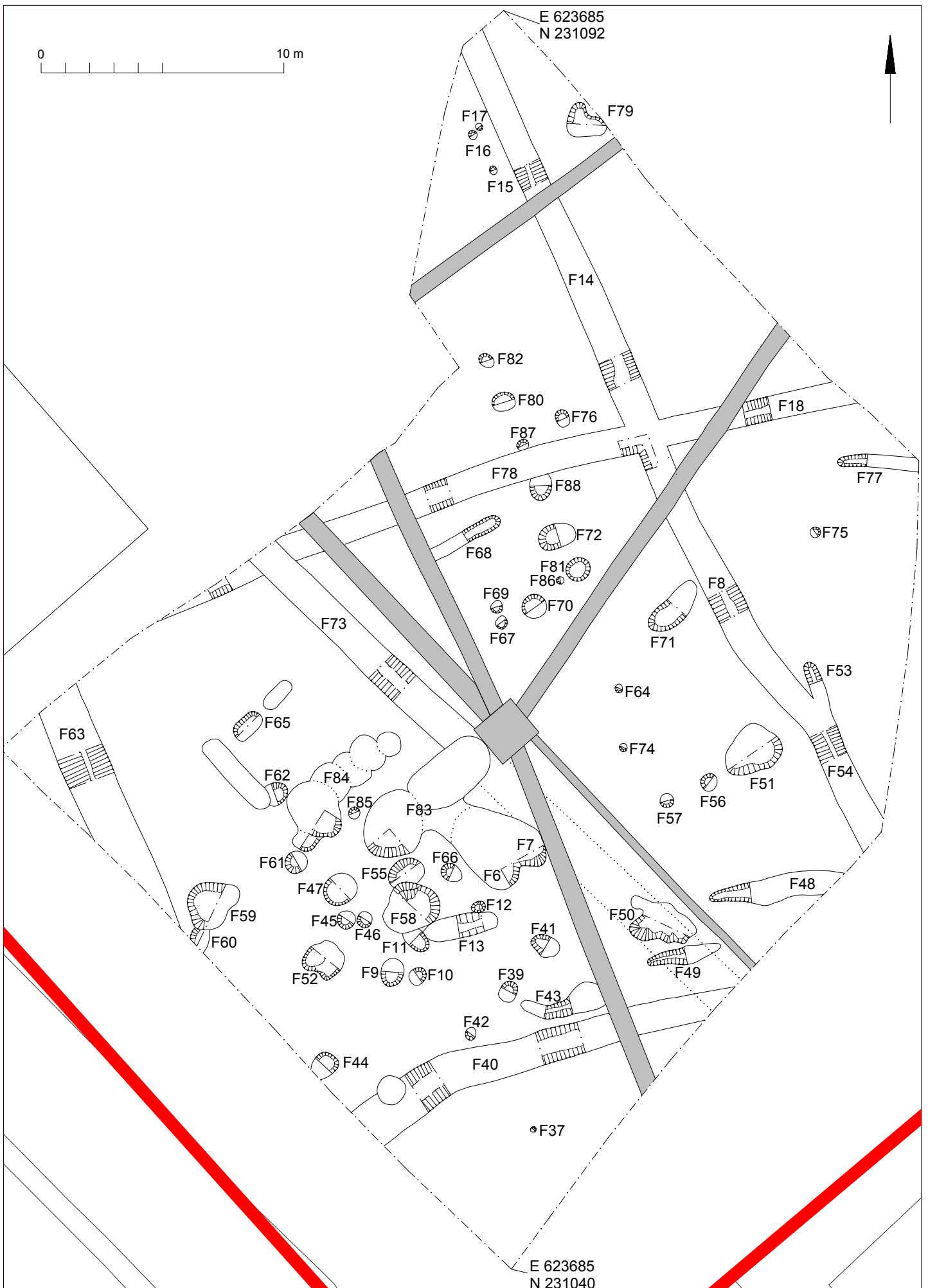


Fig 4 Excavation results



Fig 5 Monitoring results, shown in relation to the results of the evaluation and excavation.



Fig 6 Monitoring results, shown in relation to the results of the evaluation and excavation.



Fig 7 Phased results for the evaluation, excavation and monitoring.

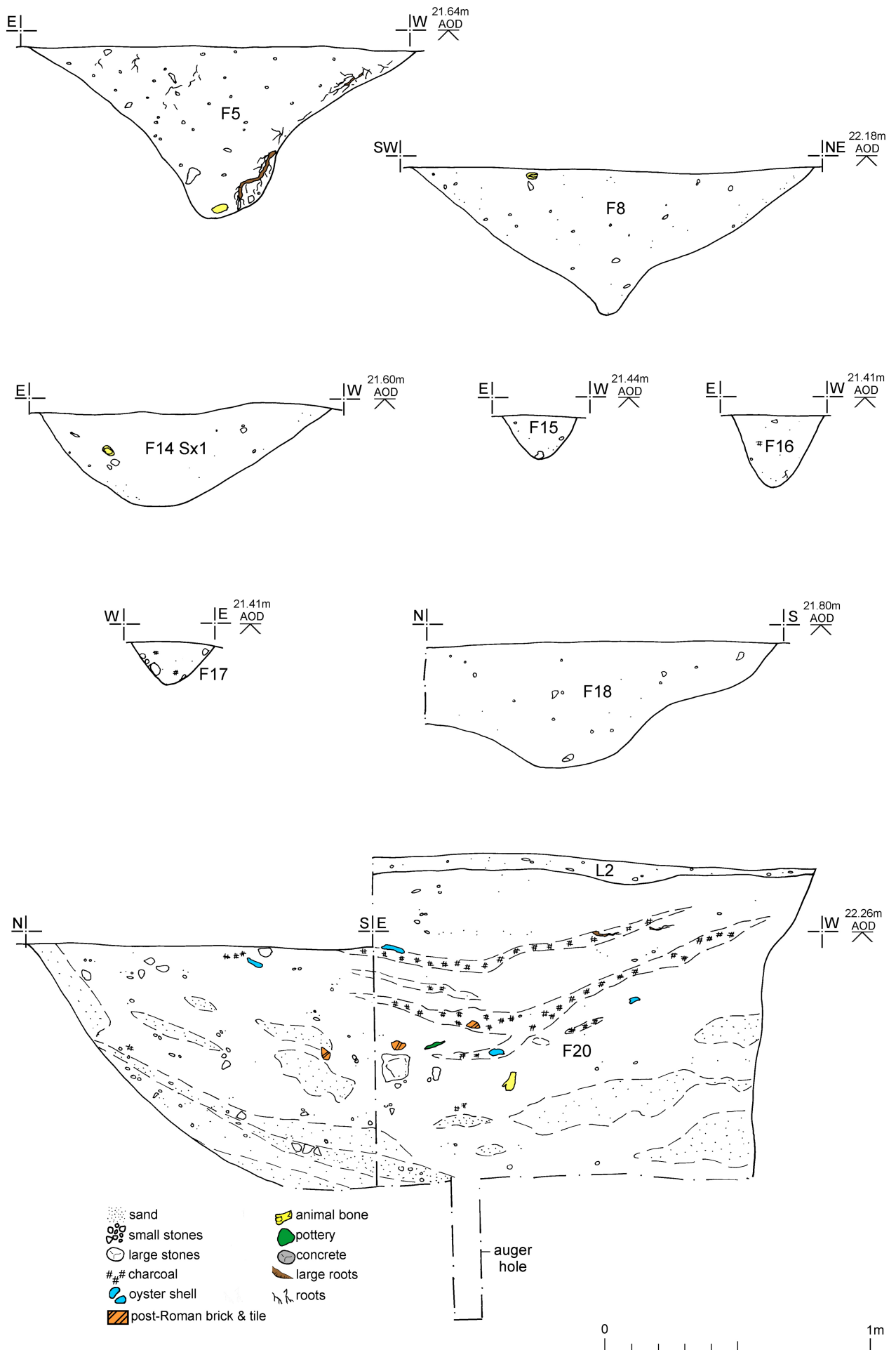


Fig 8 Feature sections.

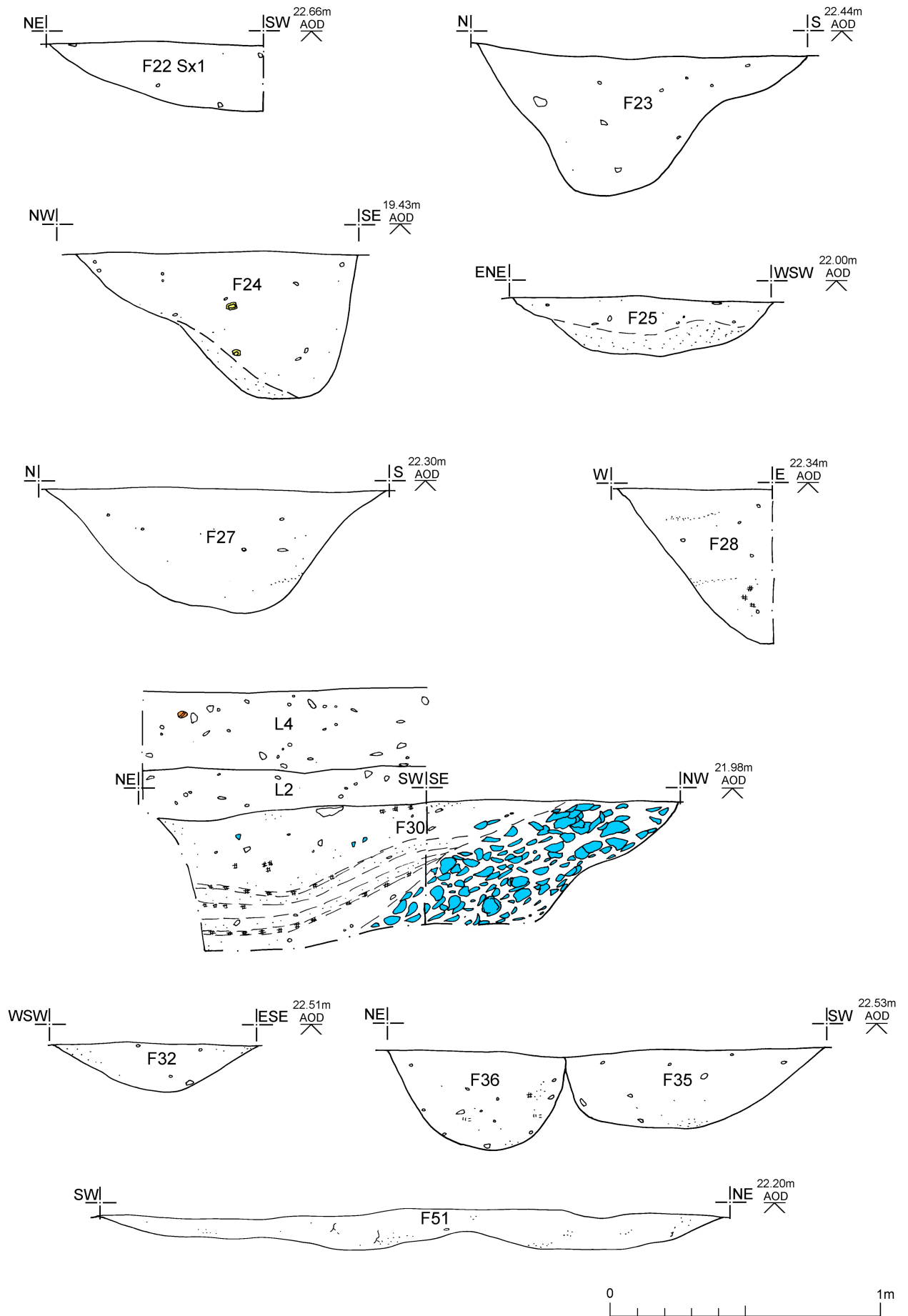


Fig 9 Feature sections.

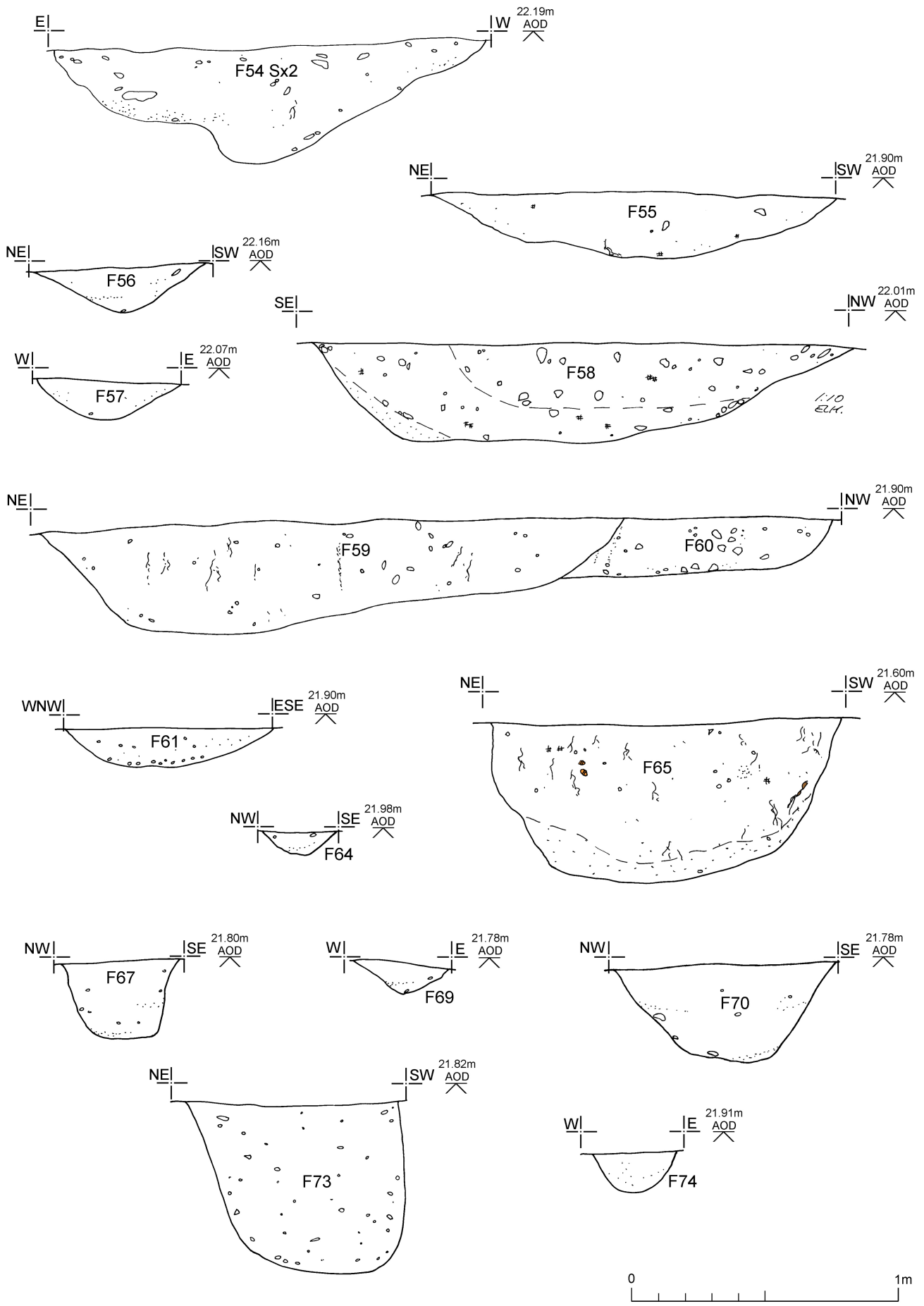


Fig 10 Feature sections.

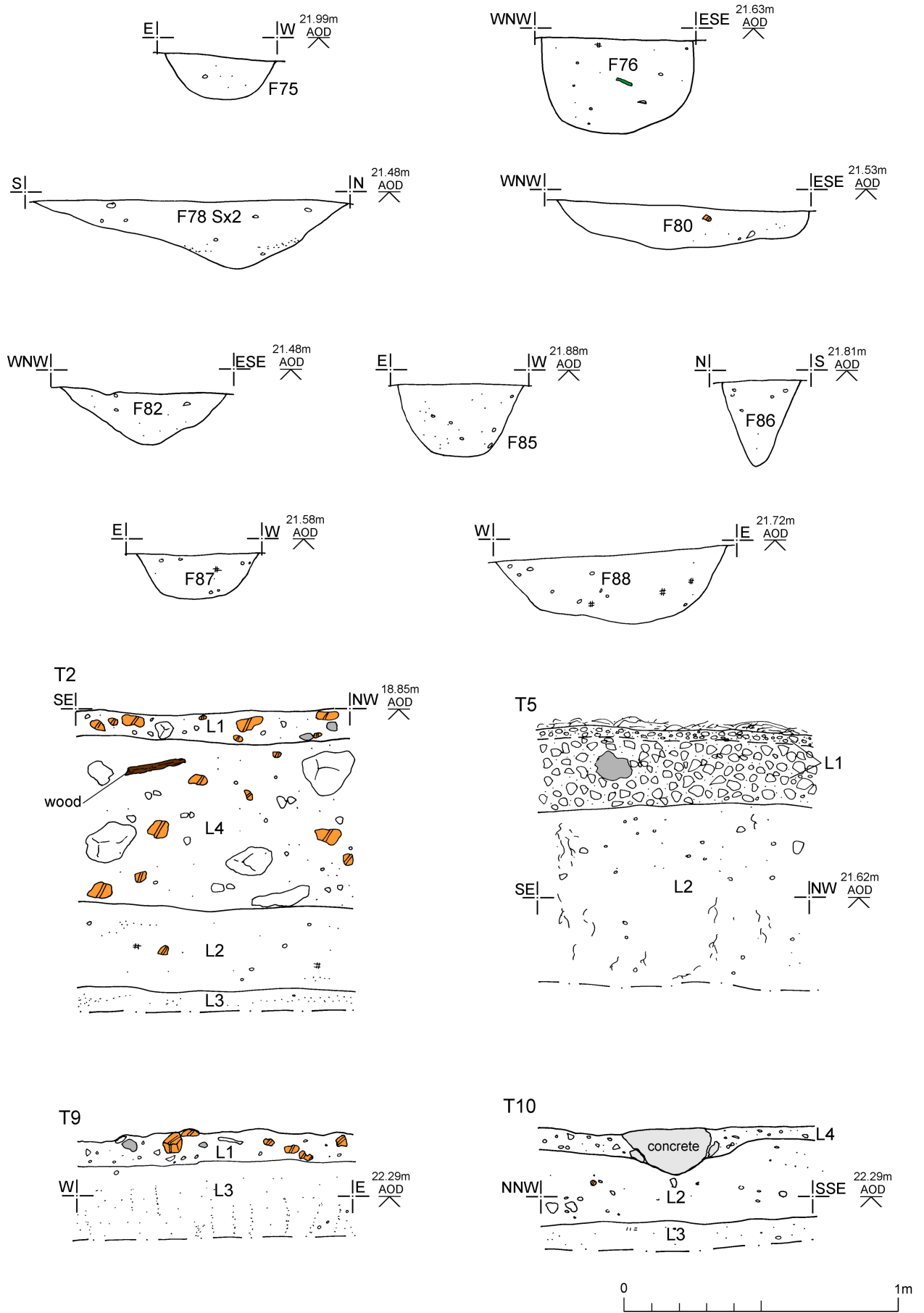


Fig 11 Feature and representative sections.

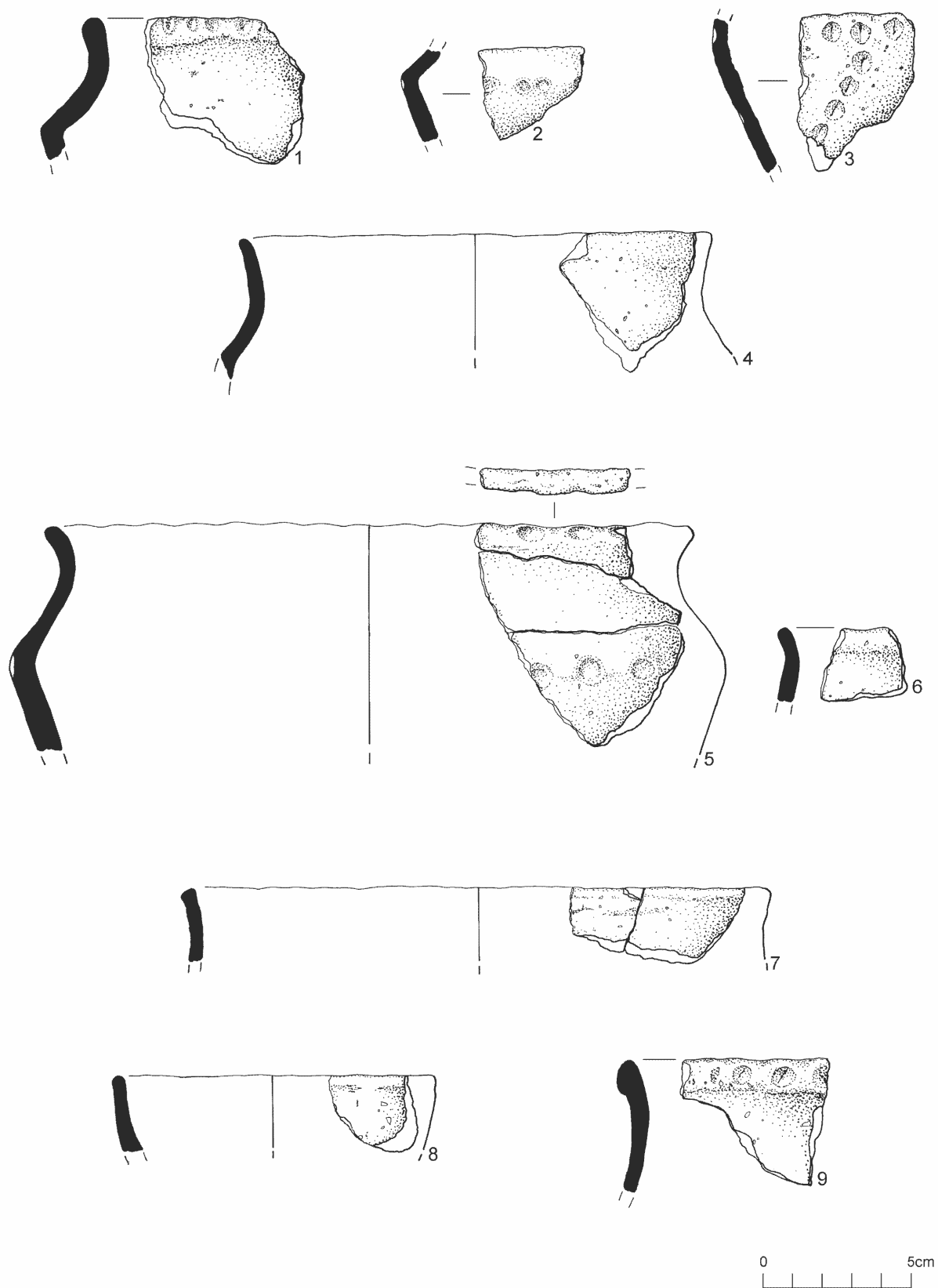


Fig 12 Prehistoric pottery from pit F76 (1-6), pit F81 (7-8) and ditch F63 (9).

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OASIS ID: colchest3-280805

Project details

Project name	Archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluations at the former Delfords Factory, 606 Main Road, Harwich, Essex, CO12 4L
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation (nine trial-trenches), area excavation and monitoring was carried out at the former Delfords Factory, 606 Main Road, Harwich, Essex in advance of and during the construction of 66 new dwellings with associated highways, infrastructure and landscaping works. Archaeological investigations revealed Early Iron pits and possibly a couple of ditches, a Romano-British rectilinear field-system, medieval field boundaries, an 18th century pit and a number of modern features.
Project dates	Start: 26-06-2017 End: 23-11-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/03c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00729 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PITS Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCHES Roman
Monument type	PITS Roman
Monument type	DITCHES Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	IRON OBJECTS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Investigation type	"Part Excavation","Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING HARWICH former Delfords Factory, 606 Main Road
Postcode	CO12 4LP
Study area	2.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 23690 31100 51.932809560276 1.254261284326 51 55 58 N 001 15 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 21.36m Max: 22.32m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2017.47

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2017.47

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2017.47

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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