

# Archaeological excavation on land at the former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7AB

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological excavation was carried out on land at the former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market in advance of the construction of a residential development of two dwellings. The development site is located in the historic core of the town of Elmstead Market and the former delivery office was a Grade II listed building (before it was demolished after fire-damage). The site also lies directly south of a Roman road with a number of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography nearby.*

*As recorded in the June 2018 evaluation (CAT Report 1285), the excavation revealed a number of features and building remains associated with the delivery office dating from the 17th to the late 20th centuries. These remains included the rear wall of the former delivery office and two outbuildings, one of which was possibly a scullery dated to the late 18th to early 19th century with the other of early 20th-century date. A small number of pits/postholes of post-medieval and modern date were also excavated.*

*No evidence of any features or finds pre-dating the 17th century was recorded during the excavation, aside from a single sherd of residual medieval pottery.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological excavation on land at the former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, which was carried out 29th August to 3rd September 2018. The work was commissioned by Simon Bartholomew of Bartsons Development in advance of the construction of a residential development of two new dwellings with associated car parking, driveway, landscaping and external works. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

An earlier phase of archaeological evaluation exposed surviving archaeological deposits across the development site (CAT Report 1285). Due to the shallow depth of some of these deposits, a subsequent programme of area excavation was recommended by the ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA). This recommendation was made in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2018).

A brief was not issued by the ECCHEA but a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the requirements laid out by the ECCHEA (pers comm) and agreed with them in advance of the investigation beginning (CAT 2018). It was later decided by the ECCHEA that the monitoring phase of the project would not take place.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, 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 (CIfA 2014a)* and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b)*.

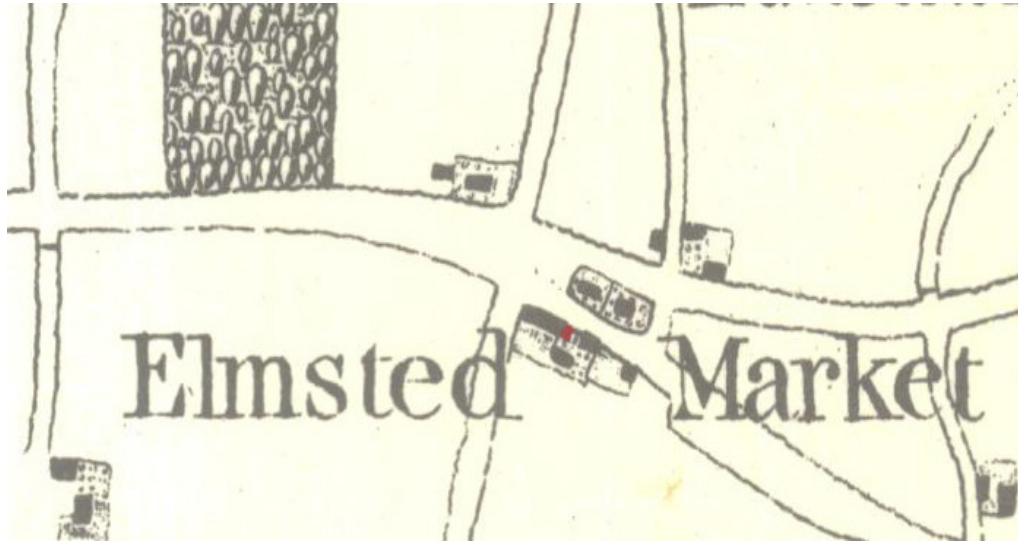
## 3 Archaeological background

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

The proposed development site lies within the historic settlement of Elmstead Market which centred around a small green. Surviving buildings, many of which are listed, reveal there was a settlement here from at least the 15th century, with the village expanding along Colchester Road and Clacton Road in the 17th and 18th centuries.

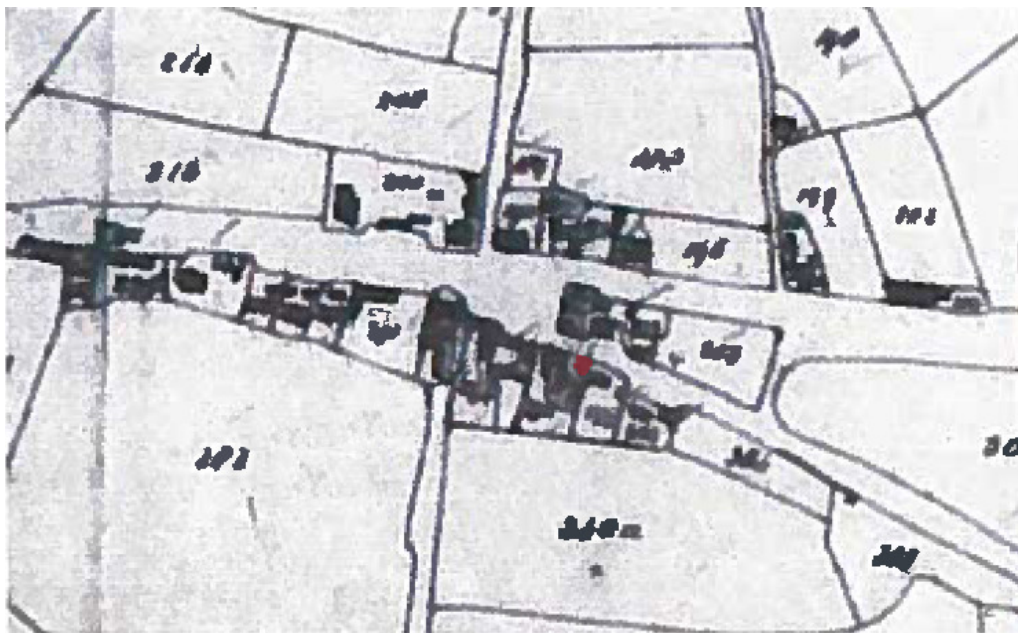
The former Elmstead Delivery Office was a Grade II listed building demolished in 2015 following fire damage. It was described in the listing as 17th/18th century and possibly replaced an earlier building on the site.

The 1777 Chapman and André map shows buildings in the location of the delivery office, but the scale is too small to identify any specific structures (Map 1).



**Map 1** 1777 Chapman and André map of Essex. A row of buildings is visible in the location of the delivery office (highlighted in red).

The 1844 tithe map is more detailed and shows a building in the location of the delivery office (Map 2). The tithe award lists this plot as a house and garden belonging to Thurston Breadry and occupied by Lawrence and others (Hillman-Crouch 2015).



**Map 2** 1844 tithe map of Elmstead Market (ERO D/CT 129B). Location of delivery office highlighted in red.

The 1874 first edition 6-inch OS map (Map 3) clearly shows the recently-demolished delivery office. Interestingly it labels both it and the still-standing adjacent listed building to the west ('The Old House' List no. 1111471) as 'Post Office'. Subsequent maps label just the recently-demolished building as a 'Post Office', so this may be an error. Also visible on this map is a small outbuilding to the south of the delivery office.



**Map 3** The 1874 1st edition 6-inch OS map, with the recently demolished delivery office highlighted.

There appears to have been a structure present on the site during its entire cartographic history. However, whether the structure visible on the 1777 map (Map 1) is the same one that was demolished after fire damage in 2015 is uncertain.

A historic building survey carried out on the structure dated it to the mid 19th century (Hillman-Crouch 2015), although the building was heavily fire-damaged when the survey was undertaken.

An archaeological evaluation carried out on the site in June 2018 (CAT Report 1285) exposed a large number of features and building remains dating from the late 17th to the early 20th century. These included brick foundations and floors related to the demolished delivery office, a possible gravel surface and several pits and ditches within the footprint of the proposed development (Fig 2).

The EHER also shows that the development site lies within an area which has substantial archaeological evidence in the form of cropmarks, recorded by aerial photography. These include settlement enclosures of probable prehistoric date, a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, isolated ring-ditches, multi-period trackways and field-systems, and possible Roman farmsteads. Colchester Road, to the north of the site, was a Roman road leading directly to the Roman town of Colchester to the west.

#### 4 Aims

The main aims of the archaeological excavation were to:

- identify remains associated with the former delivery office as seen on historic mapping and observed during the previous evaluation.
- re-expose archaeology observed during the evaluation and further examine its extent and nature within the footprint of the proposed dwelling.

In addition, subsidiary aims were to:

- identify earlier evidence associated with the settlement of Elmstead
- identify evidence for the continuation of surrounding cropmark features into the development area
- identify evidence of activity associated with the postulated Roman road.

## 5 Results (Figs 2-6)

An area measuring 115 square metres was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was excavated through topsoil (L1, c 0.36-0.4m thick). Where structural remains were encountered (see below), machining ceased at this depth. Around the structural remains, machining continued through accumulation layers (L2/L4, 0.35-0.4m thick) onto natural (L3). With the agreement of the ECCHEA, the area underneath the buildings was not investigated and some features were not excavated.

### The delivery office (for a plan see Fig 3)

Along the far northern edge of the excavation area, the rear wall foundation (F24) of the delivery office was excavated. Made of red brick, the foundation consisted of three courses of unmortared brick set on edge, capped by a course of bricks laid flat. Foundation F24 was set into construction trench F25 which contained a sherd of post-medieval red earthenware, two small fragments of post-medieval brick/tile, a clay pipe stem and iron bolt, suggesting that the construction trench and therefore the wall could date to anywhere between the late 16th to the 18th century. This would appear to confirm evidence from the earlier phase of evaluation where evidence from trench T1 suggested that 'some elements of the structure may indeed have originated in the 17th or 18th centuries' (CAT Report 1285).



**Photograph 1** Rear wall foundation F24, construction trench F25 and occupation layers L7 and L8, looking northeast

Associated with F24/F25 were two internal occupation layers. Floor L7 was a compacted layer of clay sealing an earlier sandy-silt with cassy inclusions, L8. Most of the pottery sherds from L8 (15 sherds) date from the 17th to the 18th centuries, which

would suggest that these layers may be associated with an earlier phase of the building. However, two sherds of 19th- to 20th-century pottery were also recovered, which may or may not be intrusive from L1, which makes firmly dating these layers difficult.

**The late 20th-century extension to the delivery office** (for a plan see Fig 3)  
Approximately 4.4m to the south of wall foundation F24 was the remains of the concrete foundations for the late 20th-century rear extension (these were recorded and then pulled out by the machine).

Six earlier features sealed by the late 20th-century extension were excavated. They consisted of pits/postholes F28, F29, F30, F34 and F35, and possible stakehole F31. Finds were recovered from F28, F30 and F34 dated from the 18th to early 19th, late 17th to early 18th and 19th to 20th centuries respectively, indicating a post-medieval to modern date for these features, with activity probably beginning when the delivery office was first built.

The remains of two outbuildings lay along the eastern edge of the development site. See Fig 3 for a general plan of these outbuildings and Figs 4-5 for close-up plans.



**Photograph 2** Site shot with Outbuilding 1 (F21) in foreground and Outbuilding 2 (F1/F22) in background, looking south

**Outbuilding 1 (F21)** (Figs 3, 4 & 6, see Fig 4 for a close-up plan of the outbuilding)  
The southwestern corner of this outbuilding was the only element revealed during the excavation. The wall foundations were made of at least four courses of red brick set in a lime mortar. The bricks were unfrogged and measured 225mm x 110mm x 55mm. Only one room was in evidence, containing the a brick fireplace with the remains of a curved structure adjacent. This could possibly have been used to hold a tank or copper for heating water.

The floor of the room was laid in yellow paviors with the base of the fireplace of vitrified red brick. Beneath the paviors in the western part of the room was part of a collapsed wall, possibly used as hardcore. An internal cross-wall had then been built on top of it.

Probably built in the late 18th or early 19th century, the presence of the fireplace and possible water tank/copper might suggest that this was a scullery.



**Photograph 3** Close-up of Outbuilding 1 (F21) showing wall foundations, floor, fireplace and beginning of curved structure (on edge of excavation) with F23 in foreground, looking north

**Outbuilding 2 (F1/F22)** (Figs 3, 5 & 6, see Fig 5 for a close-up plan of the outbuilding) Immediately to the south of Outbuilding 1 was a second structure (F1). It measured 3.36m by 2.5m with the wall foundations made of only one course of red bricks set on a mortar base (F1) in a U-shaped construction trench (see section in Fig 6). The bricks were unfroged, individually measured 230 mm x 115 mm x 70 mm, and were bonded with lime mortar. Red bricks covered in a thin layer of mortar had also been laid to form the floor of the building. The materials used and method of construction would appear to suggest that this structure was of a similar date to Outbuilding 1. However map evidence shows it is early 20th century (see discussion below).

To the north of Outbuilding 2, edging bricks/tiles had been laid out in a rectangular shape 1.67m by 0.45m (F22) (Photograph 5). Half of this was laid with yellow bricks probably to form a step/entrance into the outbuilding, with the other half including a curved brick feature of uncertain function (perhaps a garden feature). A stone slab had been used as a manhole and a metal drain ran towards the old delivery office to the north and underneath the outbuilding to the south.

Also located between Outbuildings 1 and 2 was a narrow trench (F23) which contained a row of upturned glass Colchester codd-bottles (dated c 1851-1920) (Photographs 3 & 5).



To the south of Outbuilding 2 was a ceramic drain leading to a small square soakaway. This is likely to be a continuation of the metal drain identified further to the north which passed underneath the outbuilding.



**Photograph 4** Close-up of Outbuilding 2 (F1) showing wall foundations, floor and ceramic drain, looking north-east



**Photograph 5** Close-up of Outbuilding 2 (features numbered as F22) with metal drain and F23 (row of Codd-bottles) in foreground, looking south

**Other features** (Figs 3 & 6)

The excavation area around Outbuildings 1 and 2 was stripped to natural. To the east, pits F2, F26 and F27 dated from the late 17th to 18th century, late 16th to 18th century

and 1964 respectively. Two patches of dark earth and a linear feature (possibly a ditch or drain) were not excavated.

In the area to the west of Outbuilding 2, were a further four sections of late 18th- to 19th-century segmented ceramic drain (F15) set into construction trench (F33). The trench (F33) appears to have been contaminated though as it contained finds of 19th- to 20th-century date. Also in this area was modern pit F32 and a small number of dark patches of earth were planned but not excavated. F12, identified as a linear during the evaluation, was probably actually a pit.

## 6 Finds

*by Laura Pooley, pottery identified by Howard Brooks, flint and animal bone identified by Adam Wightman*

All of the finds are listed and described by finds number for each context in Table 1 with a spot date provided for each context. The pottery fabrics recorded below and in the table refer to the Colchester post-Roman pottery fabric series (*CAR 7*). The brick dating broadly follows that compiled by Ryan (1996) for brick in Essex.

Aside from a single sherd of medieval sandy greyware (Fabric 20) from post-medieval pit/posthole F34 (29), all of the finds from the excavation were of post-medieval or modern date, with none necessarily dating to before the 17th century. Thus indicating little or no activity on the site before the delivery office was constructed.

Sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), modern stoneware (Fabric 45M) and Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D) were the most common pottery finds, but sherds of imported German slipware (Fabric 44), Frechen stoneware (Fabric 45D) and Westerwald stoneware (Fabric 45F) were found in L8.

Twenty-two fragments of ceramic building material from nine contexts included fragments of peg-tile, tile and brick. Three complete 19th- to 20th-century glass bottles, and fragments of three others, were found in F22 (20) and F23 (33). The codd-bottle from F23 was made by C Nicholl & co of Colchester between 1851 and 1920 (Photograph 7). Only one out of at least eight codd-bottles placed upside down in a row were excavated from F23, but site records do state that the other bottles all appeared to be of Colchester make.

Five clay tobacco pipe bowls were found in three contexts, F28 (28), F34 (29) and F34 (35) along with a number of stem fragments. Typologically, three were of Crummy Type 7 (c 1670-1740), one of Type 7 or 9 (c 1670-1740) and one of Type 8 (c 1680-1710) (*CAR 3*). Only one (F34 (35)) included initial marks in relief on either side of the heel. On the left-hand side was a **W** and on the right a **P** or more likely an **R**, both letters were surmounted by a crown (Photograph 6). No examples of the initial marks WP or WR were recorded by Nina Crummy in *CAR 3* (1983). There were four examples of clay pipe bowls from Colchester with the crowned initials W B, all of Type 8, attributed to William Battly. However, the right-hand letter on the clay pipe from this excavation does not appear to be a B.

Modern finds from the excavation included a small fragment of slate pencil, the copper alloy base of an oil lamp, the reflector from an old bicycle and a 1964 penny.

The only finds selected for retention and archiving are the three complete glass vessels and the five clay pipe bowls. The remaining finds will be discarded once the report has been approved.



**Photograph 6** Clay tobacco pipe bowls from F34 (35), including the initial mark WP or WR.



**Photograph 7** Colchester codd-bottle of C Nicholl & co

Context and finds no.	Description of finds
F1, 23	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 18g, late 16th-18th century; one sherd of modern stoneware (Fabric 45M), 110g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Ceramic building material (CBM):</b> Fragment of peg-tile, 26g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Clay pipe:</b> Fragment of clay pipe stem, &lt;1g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Slate pencil:</b> Fragment of a slate pencil, tip missing, 2g, 19th century + (discarded).</p> <p><b>Metal:</b> 1) Small copper-alloy button with four central fixing holes, 2g; 2) iron fixing with screw attachment, 22g; 19th/20th century (discarded).</p> <p><b>Slag:</b> Fragment of slag, 20g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Context spot date = 19th to 20th century</b></p>
F22, 20	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 8g, late 16th-18th century; ten sherds of modern stoneware (Fabric 45M) including nine sherds probably from the same vessel, 168g, 19th-20th century; three sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), 24g, 19th-20th century; one sherd of flower pot (Fabric 51B), 38g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).</p> <p><b>CBM:</b> one fragment of peg-tile, 40g; one fragment of cream tile, 116mm wide, 20mm thick, 170g, post-medieval/modern; one fragment of glazed wall tile 48g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Glass bottles:</b> Two complete glass bottles (retained and archived)</p> <p>1) Square clear glass bottle, embossed with PATERSON'S / ESS CAMP COFFEE &amp; CHICORY / GLASGOW on three sides. Camp Coffee is a concentrated coffee-flavoured syrup, which was first produced in 1876 by Paterson &amp; Sons Ltd., in a plant on Charlotte Street, Glasgow. 167mm high, max 42mm square, 228g. Late 19th/20th century.</p> <p>2) Rectangular plain glass bottle with chamfered corners, three embossed vertical lines on one of the wide sides. 154mm high, 55mm wide, 35mm deep, 214g. Late 19th/20th century.</p> <p><b>Metal:</b> 1) Damaged copper alloy base of an oil lamp consisting of a lidded bowl for the oil (decorated with a central strip of floral motif) and the burner, 220g, 19th to 20th century; 2) Reflector (red glass set into a steel rim) probably from a bicycle, early 20th century, 28g (both discarded).</p> <p><b>Context spot date = late 19th to 20th century</b></p>
F22, 21	<p><b>Pottery:</b> Two sherds of modern stoneware (Fabric 45M), 26g, 19th-20th century; one sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), 6g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Glass bottles:</b> The fragmentary remains of at least three separate glass bottles, all of 19th or 20th century date (all discarded).</p> <p>1) Neck and flared rim of a clear glass bottle, 37mm high, 27mm diameter, 20g.</p> <p>2) Half of the base, side and part of the shoulder of a small, round, clear glass bottle, probably an ink bottle, 38mm high, 42mm diameter, 22g, 19th-20th century.</p> <p>3) Five sherds from a small square, pale green/blue, glass bottle. The base is almost complete and measure 43mm by 42mm, three of the four sides are ribbed. Probably an ink bottle, 19th-20th century. All five fragments weigh 60g.</p> <p><b>Animal bone:</b> One large mammal rib, gnawed by a canid, 14g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Metal:</b> Modern steel bracket, rectangular, with three fixing holes (central screw hole and two nail holes either side), 45mm long, 15mm wide, 8mm thick, 16g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Context spot date = 19th to 20th century</b></p>
F23, 33	<p><b>Glass bottle:</b> Complete pale green codd-neck bottle with marble ,used for carbonated drinks and embossed with NICHOLL &amp; CO / COLCHESTER between which is an embossed circle with TRADEMARK along the top and the Colchester coat of arms below. C. Nicholl &amp; Co – 'Charrington Nicholl' – were based at the East Hill Brewery in Colchester and traded from before 1851 until about 1920, although they also, for some time, manufactured mineral water at a factory in William's Walk in the Dutch Quarter. 220m high, 65mm diameter, 632g. Mid 19th-early 20th century (1851-1920). (retained and archived)</p> <p><b>Context spot date = mid 19th to 20th century</b></p>
F25, 28	<p><b>Pottery:</b> Two sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 36g, late 16th-18th</p>

	<p>century (discarded).  <b>CBM:</b> Fragment of brick, 42g and fragment of tile, 30g, 11mm thick, post-medieval (all discarded).  <b>Clay pipe:</b> Fragment of tapering clay pipe stem, 6g (discarded).  <b>Iron:</b> Very large iron bolt, 135mm long, max. diameter c 40mm, 240g (discarded).  <b>Context spot date = late 16th to 18th century</b></p>
F26, 24	<p><b>Pottery:</b> Two sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 24g, late 16th-18th century (discarded).  <b>CBM:</b> three fragments of peg-tile, 176g and one fragment of mortar, 42g (all discarded)  <b>Clay pipe:</b> Fragment of clay pipe stem, 2g (discarded).  <b>Context spot date = late 16th to 18th century</b></p>
F27, 25	<p><b>Coin:</b> Penny of Elizabeth II, 1964 (discarded).  <b>Context spot date = 20th century, 1964+</b></p>
F27, 30	<p><b>Clay pipe:</b> Fragment of clay pipe stem, 4g (discarded).  <b>Animal bone:</b> one heavily burnt fragment of large mammal long bone, 4g (discarded).  <b>Context spot date = 20th century</b></p>
F28, 28	<p><b>Clay pipe:</b> Stem fragment (12g) and two bowls (retained and archived).          Bowl 1) bowl complete aside from a small chip in the rim, most of stem missing, 30g. Bowl has slight rouletting around rim but is otherwise plain and is of Crummy (1983) Type 7 (ref. Nos. 2635-2636), c 1670-1740.          Bowl 2) bowl complete but all of stem missing, 20g. Bowl is rouletted around the rim, this is very pronounced to the back of the bowl but fades and disappears towards the front. Also of Crummy (1983) Type 7 (ref. Nos. 2635-2636), c 1670-1740.  <b>Context spot date = late 17th to early 18th century, c 1670 to 1740</b></p>
F28, 36	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 4g, late 16th-18th century (discarded)  <b>CBM:</b> Fragment of brick, 196g, probably 18th/early 19th century (discarded).  <b>Animal bone:</b> One cattle phalanx and three small skull/mandible fragments probably from a medium to large mammal, 22g (discarded).  <b>Context spot date = 18th/early 19th century</b></p>
F29, 30	<p>Lost</p>
F30, 31	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 4g, late 16th-18th century (discarded).  <b>CBM:</b> Fragment of peg-tile, 12mm thick, 66g; three fragments of brick, 230g, one tiny vitrified fragment, one small abraded fragment, one large fragment 50mm thick possibly of late 17th to early 18th century date (dark orange fabric with blue-grey glaze) (Ryan 1996) (all discarded).  <b>Context spot date = late 17th to early 18th century</b></p>
F32, 26	<p><b>Pottery:</b> Five sherds of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40) from the same large vessel/bowl with pouring lip, 314g, late 16th-18th century; one sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40) in imitation of Metropolitan slipware, 104g, late 16th-18th century; two sherds of modern stoneware (Fabric 45M), 92g, 19th-20th century; four sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), 38g, 19th-20th century; and one sherd of late slipped kitchenware (Fabric 51A), 2g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).  <b>CBM:</b> Fragment of tile, 68g, 15mm thick (discarded).  <b>Clay pipe:</b> Two fragments of clay pipe stem, 4g (discarded).  <b>Nail:</b> Fragment of iron nail (head missing), 39mm long, 8g (discarded).  <b>Slag:</b> Fragment of slag, 38g (discarded).  <b>Context spot date = 19th to 20th century</b></p>
F33, 27	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), 2g, 19th-20th century; one sherd of late slipped kitchenware (Fabric 51A), 46g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).  <b>CBM:</b> One fragment of peg-tile with peg-hole in corner (7mm diameter hole), 10mm thick, 198g; one fragment of curved roof tile, 15mm thick, 224g; two fragments of cream wall tile (no surviving glaze), 10mm thick, 120g; one fragment of brick, 47mm thick, 168g, late 17th to early 18th century (Ryan 1996); one fragment of brick, 34g; all post-medieval/modern (all discarded).  <b>Glass bottle:</b> Fragment from the base of an olive green glass wine bottle, 30g, post-medieval (discarded).</p>

	<b>Context spot date = 19th to 20th century</b>
F34, 29	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of medieval sandy greyware (Fabric 20), 12g, 1175-1500; one sherd of Stock-type black glazed ware (Fabric 40B), 28g, 17th century; one sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), 4g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).</p> <p><b>CBM:</b> Fragment of brick, 60mm thick, 434g, possibly a 'stock' brick of late 16th-early 17th (Ryan 1996) (discarded).</p> <p><b>Clay pipe:</b> Most of a clay pipe bowl (plain) with heel/spur and stem missing, similar to bowls of Crummy (1983) Type 7 and 9 (ref nos. 2635 and 2796), dating from c 1670 to 1740, but difficult to properly date without the heel/spur, 18g (retained and archived).</p> <p><b>Animal bone:</b> one cattle radius, proximal end, with a deep chop mark, 88g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Iron:</b> Large iron rivet, 123mm long, max. diameter c 50mm, 152g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Context spot date = 19th to 20th century</b></p>
F34, 35	<p><b>Clay pipe:</b> Two incomplete clay pipe bowls (retained and archived).  1) most of a bowl with fragment of rim missing, most of straight stem missing (2mm bore), the bowl is undecorated with a heel, of Crummy (1983) Type 7 (ref. Nos. 2635-2636), c 1670-1740, 22g.  2) incomplete bowl with heel and straight stem (2mm bore), tip of stem and part of bowl missing, remainder now broken into four separate pieces, 22g. The bowl is plain and of Crummy (1983) Type 8 (ref nos 2774) dating from c 1680-1710. On the left-hand side of the heel <b>W</b> in relief (clear) and on the right-hand side either a <b>P</b> or an <b>R</b> (obscured by wear and a small chip), both letters are surmounted by a crown. Crummy 1983 lists four examples of pipes marked with WB crowned, all Type 8, and attributed to William Battly (p63), but this example does not appear to be an obvious B.  <b>Context spot date = late 17th to early 18th century, c 1680-1710</b></p>
F35, 34	Lost
L1, 22	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40), 126g, late 16th-18th century; one sherd of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), 14g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Animal bone:</b> Avis femur (probably a domestic fowl), 2g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Coal/clinker:</b> one fragment, 16g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Context spot date = 19th to 20th century</b></p>
L2, 37	<p><b>Animal bone:</b> Cattle humerus, sawn at both ends with cut marks, 76g, modern (discarded).</p> <p><b>Flint:</b> natural piece of flint (discarded).</p> <p><b>Context spot date = undated</b></p>
L8, 32	<p><b>Pottery:</b> One sherd of post-medieval red earthenware (Fabric 40) in imitation of Metropolitan slipware, 30g, late 16th-18th century; one sherd of German slipware (Fabric 44), 16g, late 16th to early 17th century; four sherds of Frechen stoneware (Fabric 45D), 124g, mid 18th-mid 18th century; one sherd of Westerwald stoneware (Fabric 45F), 2g, 17th-18th century; eight sherds of Staffordshire-type slipware (Fabric 50), 38g, late 17th-18th century; and two sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (Fabric 48D), 14g, 19th-20th century (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Clay pipe:</b> Two fragments of clay pipe stem, 2g (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Animal bone:</b> Cattle tibia fragment (with possible cut marks), two medium mammal incisors and one bird bone, 40g (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Shell:</b> Four fragments of oyster shell (14g) and a whelk (4g) (all discarded).</p> <p><b>Slag:</b> Fragment of slag, 146g (discarded).</p> <p><b>Context spot date = 19th to 20th century</b></p>

**Table 1** All finds by context

## 7 Discussion

Archaeological excavation on land at the former Elmstead delivery office revealed a number of features and finds of post-medieval and modern date. Aside from one sherd of medieval pottery, none of these features or finds date to earlier than the 17th century and all appear to be directly related to the former delivery office building. Therefore, there was no evidence for either the earlier settlement of Elmstead, surrounding cropmark features or activity associated with the postulated Roman road.

The original Grade II listing for the former delivery office described it as 'C17/C18 or earlier with later additions and alterations'. The building recording by Barry Hillman-Crouch (2015), carried out after the building had burnt down, indicated that the building began as two late 18th- to 19th-century stables which were connected to the main house once it was built sometime between 1874 and 1897. However, the earlier archaeological evaluation did produce evidence suggesting that some elements of the main structure dated from the late 17th or 18th centuries. Similar evidence was recovered from our 2018 excavation as construction trench F25 (for rear wall foundation F24) contained material dating to between the late 16th to the 18th century. Unfortunately map evidence for this period cannot be of help. The 6-inch OS map of 1874 shows the delivery office building in existence by this date (see Map 1). However, the 25-inch OS map for the same year shows a vacant plot to the west of the two stables (Hillman-Crouch 2015, p25). Is this an accidental omission on the 25-inch OS map?

Both the 6-inch (Map 1) and 25-inch OS maps of 1874 show a rectangular outbuilding to the rear of the delivery office. This is likely to be Outbuilding 1 which appears to date from the late 18th or early 19th century. The presence of a fireplace with adjacent tank/copper for heating water suggests that this structure might have been a scullery. This structure is shown on 25-inch OS maps as late as at least 1923. During excavation, no trace was found of the small 'annexe' shown on the southern edge of the outbuilding on all of the 25-inch OS maps.

During the excavation of Outbuilding 2, it was thought that the two outbuildings were contemporary, being made of similar materials in a similar style. However, Outbuilding 2 does not appear on the 25-inch OS maps until 1923 (surviving until at least the 1970s). This might suggest that the unfrogged bricks used during construction had been reused.

Photograph 8 (below) shows the results of the excavation overlaid on a trace of buildings (in purple) shown on the 1923 25-inch OS map.

Overall, evidence from the building recording, evaluation and excavation phases of investigation indicates that:

- 1) The delivery office probably originated in the 17th or 18th centuries, with significant later 19th- and 20th-century rebuilding and alterations.
- 2) A late 18th- to early 19th-century outbuilding, possibly a scullery, existed to the rear of the property. It survived until at least 1923.
- 3) According to the 25-inch OS maps, the second outbuilding (of unknown function) was built sometime between 1897 to 1923. It is present on OS maps until at least the 1970s.
- 4) A late 20th-century extension was constructed to the rear of the delivery office with associated lean-to structures of a similar date.



**Photograph 8** Results of the excavation overlaid on a trace of buildings (in purple) shown on the 1923 25-inch OS map (brick wall foundations recorded during the excavation are in pink).

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Simon Bartholomew of Bartsons Development for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with R Mathieson, N Pryke and A Tuffey. Figures are by Mark Baister, Emma Holloway and Laura Pooley. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor and Richard Havis.

## 9 References

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

- |                       |      |  |
|-----------------------|------|--|
| Brown and Glazenbrook | 2000 | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology |
|-----------------------|------|--|



CAR 5	1983	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The Post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by Nina Crummy
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2015	<i>Colchester Archaeological Trust finds retention policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological excavation and monitoring on land at Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7AB</i>
CAT Report 1285	2018	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land at the former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7AB: June 2018.</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching on land at Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead, Colchester</i> by Teresa O'Connor
Hillman-Crouch, B	2015	<i>Post Office. 7. A133, Elmstead, Elmstead Market, Essex CO7 7AB. Description and analysis of the burnt down Post Office. Surveyed 06.02.2015.</i>
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
Ryan, P	1999	<i>Brick in Essex, From the Roman conquest to the Reformation</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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'
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** part of a box (complete glass vessels and clay pipe bowls only, all other finds discarded as per the CAT retention policy)

### Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1334)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, section drawings)

Inked section drawings  
Site digital photographic thumbnails and log  
**Digital record**  
The report (CAT Report 1334)  
CAT written scheme of investigation  
Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log  
Graphics  
Survey data

## 12 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: 2018.45.

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### Distribution list:

Simon Bartholomew, Bartsons Development  
Teresa O'Connor, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



### Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)

Checked by: Philip Crummy

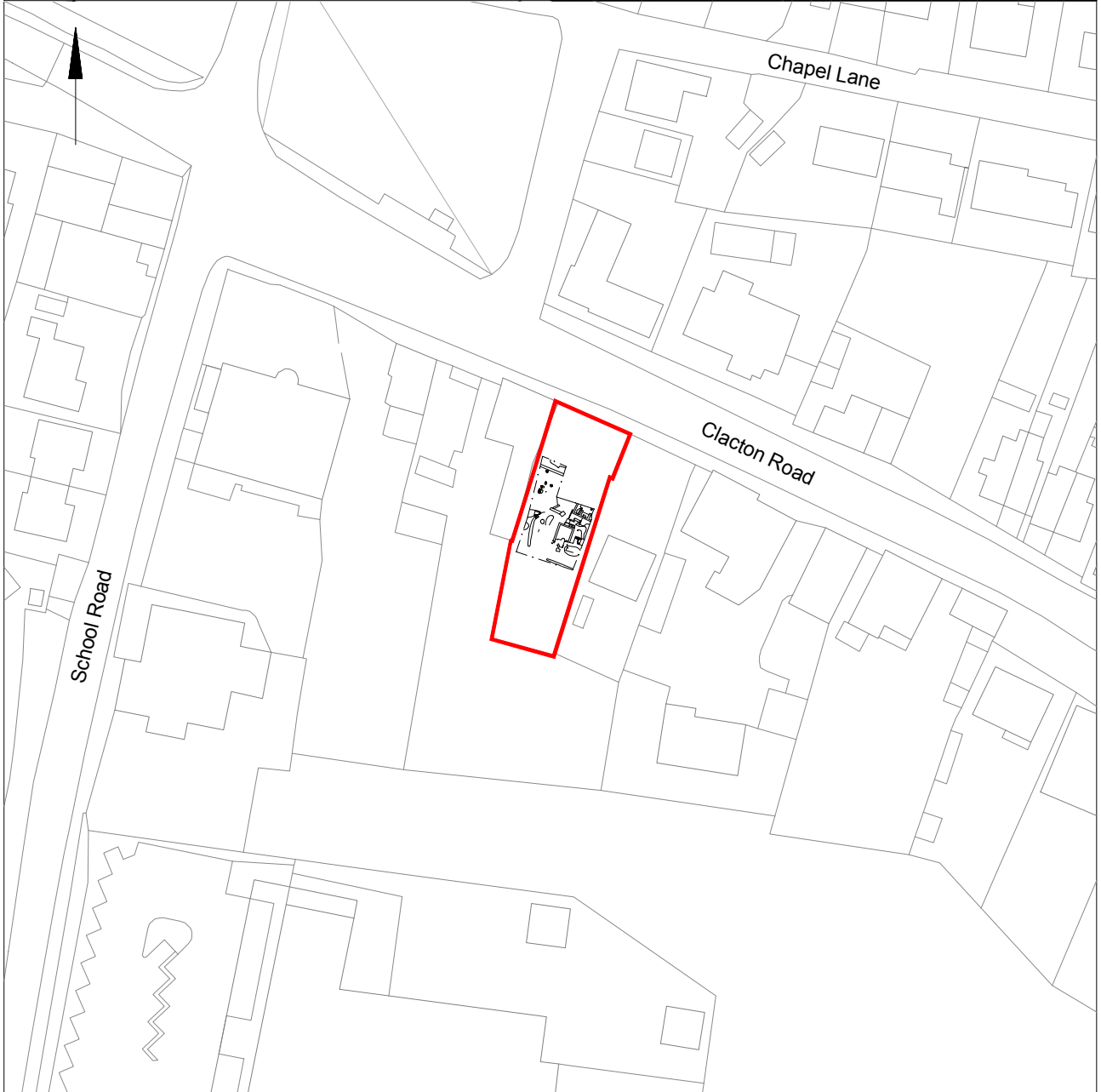
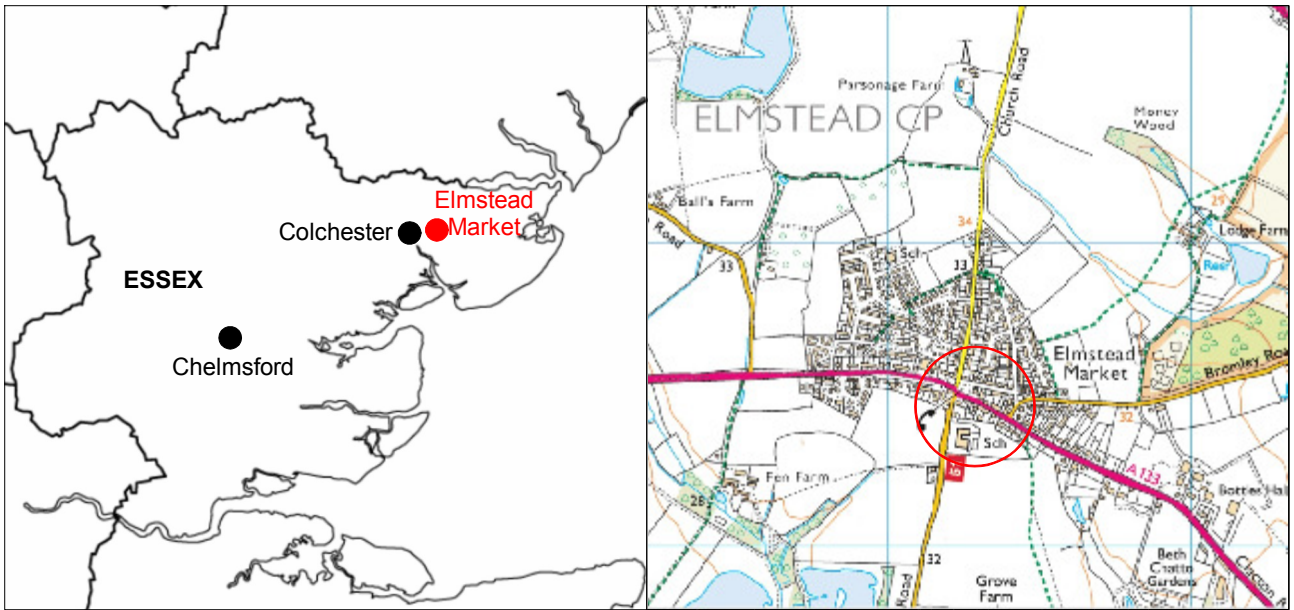
Date: 23.10.2018

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
Evaluation (CAT Report 1285) feature types in bold represent a change in interpretation from that recorded during the evaluation				
L1	12	Topsoil	Friable, dry dark black/grey sandy-loam	Modern
L2	-	<b>Accumulation layer</b>	Firm, moist dark grey/brown/black silty-loam with brick flecks	19th/late 19th to early 20th century
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow/orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
L4	9	<b>Accumulation layer</b>	Same as L2 in east of T2, but with significantly more brick and tile, as well as pottery	19th/late 19th to early 20th century
L5	-	Concrete and sub-base	Covering footprint of recently demolished building. Sub-base contains large amounts of reused CBM	Modern
L6	-	Subsoil / occupation layer	Similar to L2 and L4 in T2, but thinner and more truncated by concrete and sub-base above	19th/late 19th to early 20th century
F1	3, 4	Outbuilding 2	Built of red unfrogged brick foundations bonded in lime mortar and supported on mortar base	Late 18th to early 19th century
F2	2	<b>Pit</b>	Firm, moist, dark grey/brown/black loamy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F3	5	Ditch	Soft, dry/moist, medium grey/brown loamy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F4	14	Brick foundation	Red unfrogged brick wall, bonded in cement	Late 19th to 20th century
F5	6, 7	?Surface	Firm, dry, medium/dark grey loamy-silt with very common gravel inclusions	Late 17th to 18th century
F6	-	Posthole	Very loose, moist, dark grey/black sandy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F7	-	Posthole	Very loose, moist, dark grey/black sandy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F8	-	Posthole	Very loose, moist, dark grey/black sandy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F9	-	Posthole	Very loose, moist, dark grey/black sandy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F10	-	Posthole	Very loose, moist, dark grey/black sandy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F11	-	Posthole	Very loose, moist, dark grey/black sandy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F12	8	<b>Pit</b>	Firm, moist, medium yellow/grey/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal, oyster, brick and tile	Late 19th to 20th century
F13	10	Small pit	Soft, dry, dark brown/black loamy-silt with some rooting	Late 18th to 19th century
F14	11	Small pit	Soft, dry, dark brown/black loamy-silt	Late 17th to 18th century
F15	-	Ceramic drain	Red ceramic drain run with five sections	Late 18th to 19th

			in trench	century
F16	13	Pit	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown loamy-silt with flecks of charcoal and brick	Late 18th to 19th century
F17	19	Brick foundation	Red unfrogged brick foundation bonded in cement	Late 19th to 20th century
F18	16	Brick foundation	Red unfrogged brick foundation bonded in lime mortar	Late 18th to 19th century
F19	15	Rotted timber (corner-post?)	Heavily degraded base of a timber with nail and metal object retrieved from wood	Late 18th to 19th century
F20	18	Brick floor	Stock unfrogged pavior bricks	19th century
Excavation				
L1	22	Topsoil	Friable, dry dark black/grey sandy-loam	Modern
L2	37	Accumulation layer	Firm, moist dark grey/brown/black silty-loam with brick flecks	19th/late 19th to early 20th century
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow/orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
L4	-	Accumulation layer	Firm, moist dark grey/brown/black silty-loam with brick flecks	19th/late 19th to early 20th century
L7	-	Clay floor	Firm, damp, medium yellow/brown clay with chalk inclusions	Post-medieval/ modern
L8	32	Silt with cassy material	Firm, damp, dark green/grey/brown sandy-silt with flecks of charcoal, CBM & oyster shell	Post-medieval/ modern
F1	23	Outbuilding 2	Built of red unfrogged brick foundations bonded in lime mortar and supported on mortar base	Late 18th to early 19th century
F21	-	Outbuilding 1	Built of red unfrogged brick foundations bonded in lime mortar, with chimney and pavior floor	Late 18th to early 19th century
F22	20, 21	Later additions to Outbuilding 2	Assorted brickwork/structural remains associated with later additions to outbuilding 2	Late 19th to 20th century
F23	33	?Linear	Modern linear feature filled with mortar and Colchester codd-bottles	Mid 19th to mid 20th century
F24	-	Wall foundation	Rear wall foundation of the old delivery office	Late 16th to 18th century
F25	-	Construction trench	Construction trench for wall foundation F24.	Late 16th to 18th century
F26	24	Pit	Friable, damp, medium-dark grey/brown loam	Late 16th to 18th century
F27	25	Pit	Soft, dry, dark black loam	Modern, 1964+
F28	28, 36	Pit/posthole	Friable/firm, damp, dark brown/black silty-clay	18th/early 19th century
F29	30	Pit/posthole	Friable/firm, damp, dark brown/black silty-clay	Undated
F30	31	Pit/posthole	Friable/firm, damp, dark brown/black silty-clay	Late 17th to early 18th century
F31	-	Stakehole	Friable/firm, damp, dark brown/black silty-clay	Undated
F32	26	Shallow	Loose, moist, medium brown silty-clay,	19th to 20th century

		scoop/ pit	inclusions of brick/tile	
F33	27	Construction trench for F15	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-clay, inclusions of brick/tile	Late 18th to 19th century
F34	35	Pit	Soft/friable, moist, dark grey/brown/black and mottled yellow/orange clayey-silt, with inclusions of brick/tile	19th to 20th century
F35	34	Pit	Soft, damp, medium grey/brown sandy-silt, with inclusions of brick/tile	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location.





Fig 2 Results of the excavation in relation to former delivery office and the evaluation trenches.

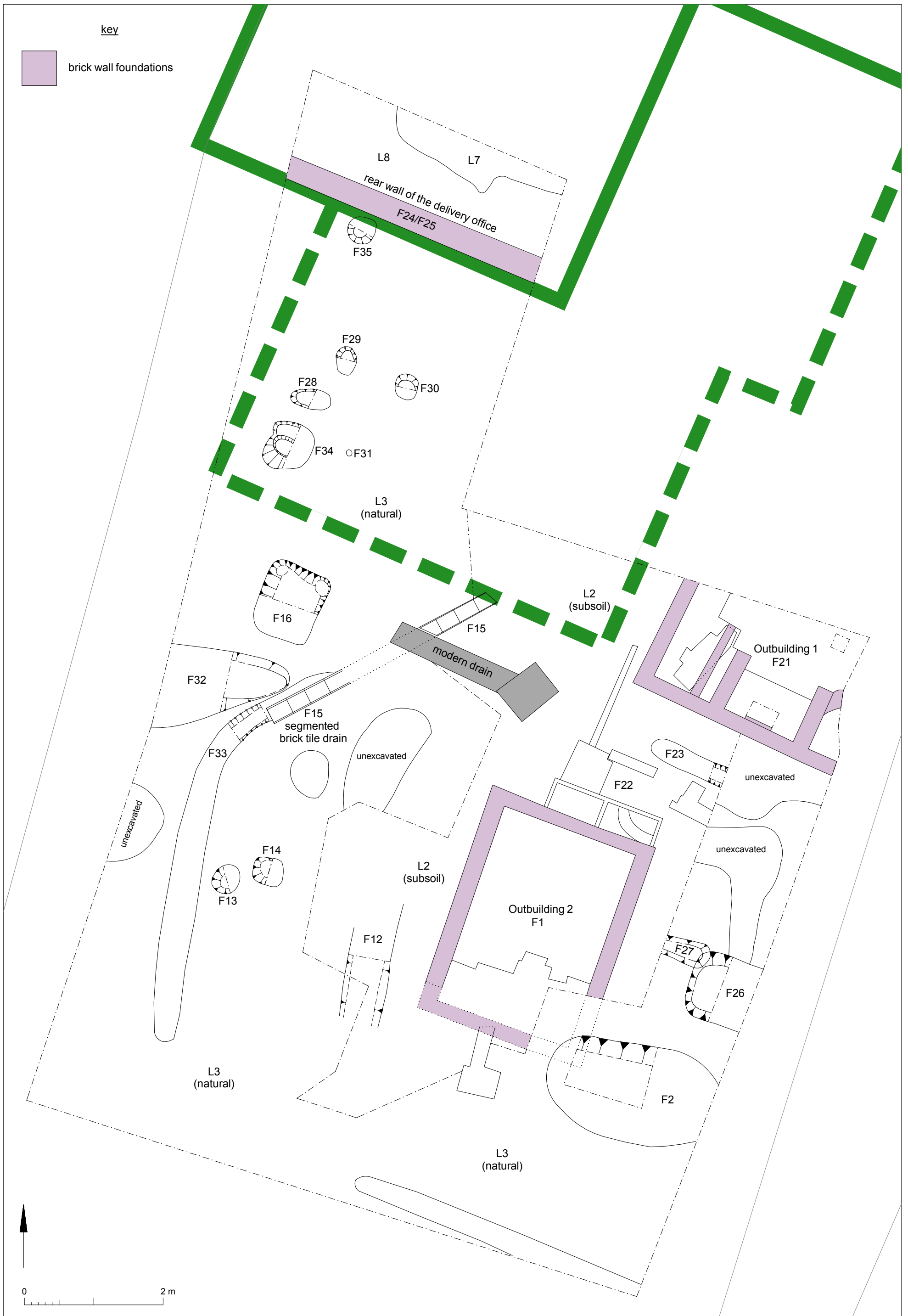
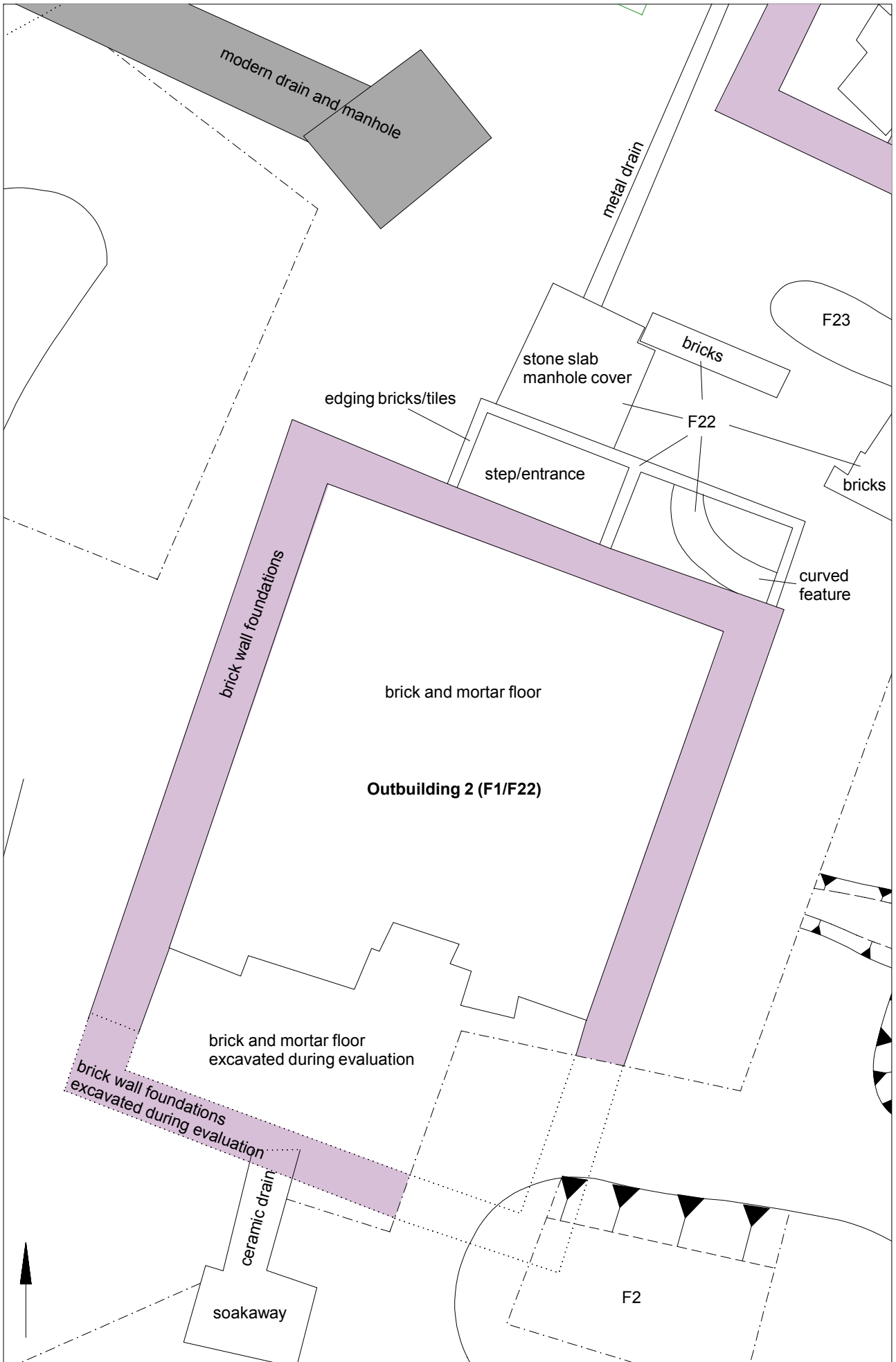


Fig 3 Site plan





Fig 4 Close-up of Outbuilding 1 (F21)



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Fig 5 Close-up of Outbuilding 2 (F1/F22)

0 2 m

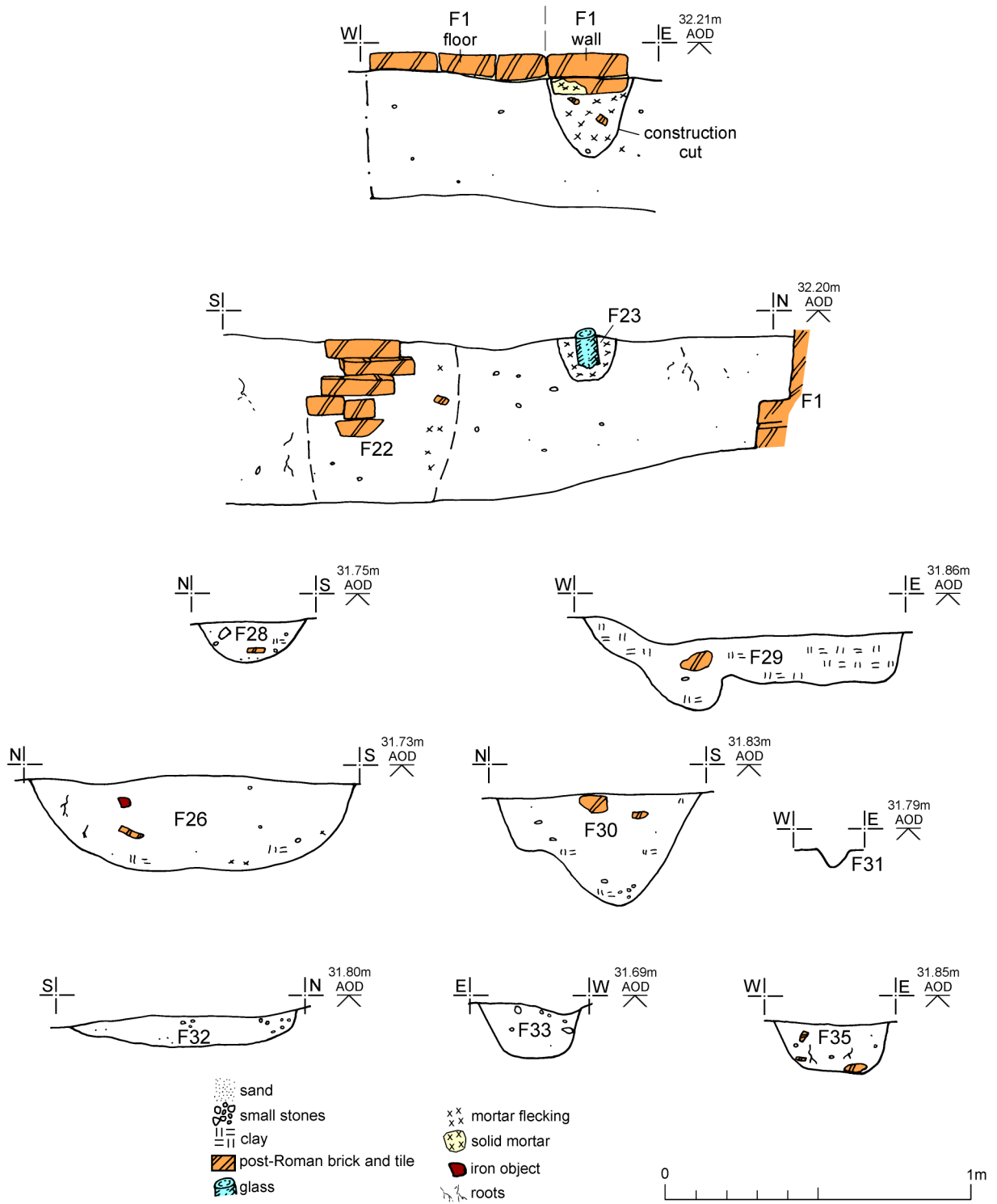


Fig 6 Sections.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-326097**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation on land at the former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7AB
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was carried out on land at the former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market in advance of the construction of a residential development of two dwellings. The development site is located in the historic core of the town of Elmstead Market and the former delivery office was a Grade II listed building (before it was demolished after fire-damage). The site also lies directly south of a Roman road with a number of cropmarks recorded by aerial photography nearby. As recorded in the June 2018 evaluation (CAT Report 1285), the excavation revealed a number of features and building remains associated with the delivery office dating from the 17th to the late 20th centuries. These remains included the rear wall of the former delivery office and two outbuildings, one of which was possibly a scullery dated to the late 18th to early 19th century with the other of early 20th-century date. A small number of pits/postholes of post-medieval and modern date were also excavated. No evidence of any features or finds pre-dating the 17th century was recorded during the excavation, aside from a single sherd of residual medieval pottery.
Project dates	Start: 29-08-2018 End: 03-09-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	18/05d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESCR18 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	17/01484/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.45 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PITS/POSTHOLES Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK WALL FOUNDATIONS Modern
Monument type	BRICK FLOORS Modern
Monument type	OUTBUILDING Modern
Monument type	PITS/POSTHOLES Modern
Monument type	BRICK WALL FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Monument type	BRICK FLOORS Post Medieval
Monument type	OUTBUILDING Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLES Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METAL OBJECTS Modern
Investigation type	"Part Excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING ELMSTEAD former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road
Postcode	CO7 7AB
Study area	0.04 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 06280 24473 51.880065356696 0.997402141241 51 52 48 N 000 59 50 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31.63m Max: 31.84m

## Project creators

Name of	Colchester Archaeological Trust
---------	---------------------------------

Organisation  
Project brief originator none  
Project design originator Mark Baister  
Project director/manager Chris Lister  
Project supervisor Mark Baister  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

#### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2018.45  
Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Glass"  
Physical Archive notes Complete glass bottles and clay pipe bowls only (all other finds recorded and discarded)  
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2018.45  
Digital Contents "other"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"  
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2018.45  
Paper Contents "other"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological excavation on land at the former Elmstead Delivery Office, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Essex, CO7 7AB: August-September 2018  
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