

Archaeological monitoring at 34a London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HD

April 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley
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fieldwork by Robin Mathieson

**commissioned by Simon Patten
on behalf of Peter Patten**

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OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 34a London Road, Maldon, Essex during groundworks for a rear extension and new entrance porch. The groundworks exposed three wells and an associated pipe structure, all of which dated to the period from the mid 19th century to the 20th century.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at 34a London Road, Maldon, Essex which was carried out during 24th-25th April 2019. The work was commissioned by Simon Patten on behalf of Peter Patten in advance of groundworks for a new a rear extension and new entrance porch, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott 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 monitoring*, detailing the requisite archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (ECCPS 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

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 watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The EHER shows that the proposed development is located in an archaeologically-sensitive area where groundworks might potentially impact on remains relating to the origins and development of Maldon.

Most notably, the development site is located within the site of a Saxon *burh* and area of late Saxon settlement on the top of the ridge to the south of the river (EHER 7718, 7766 and 18787). Archaeological fieldwork at 9 London Road in the 1980s identified the possible ditch of the 10th-century Saxon burh, which is thought to run along the length of the property plot. However, monitoring at the same site in 2016 did not reveal any traces of this ditch, but patches of compacted dirty gravel were recorded possibly forming a metalled yard or street surface which had been cut by three post-medieval pits (EHER 16858) (CAT Report 993).

Excavations to the northwest of the development at the former Youth Hostel site revealed evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement, perhaps relating to an earlier defensive structure on the hill-top (EHER 7768-7771). Prehistoric features were also identified at 20-22 London Road (EHER 47134) along with medieval and modern remains. Excavations to the north around Gate Street similarly revealed features and finds from the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods

(EHER 14547-9). However, no significant archaeological remains were encountered during monitoring at 40 London Road (EHER 48091).

34A London Road is also a Grade II listed house of early 19th-century date.

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

A CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of foundation trenching to accommodate a new rear extension approximately 30.5m long, 0.5m wide and 1.1m deep, and foundation trenching for a new garage, approximately 26.5m long, 0.5m wide and 0.35m deep.

Five layers were recorded. The trenching for the extension was excavated through a modern make-up layer (L1, c 0.36m thick), a compaction layer (L2, c 0.11-0.13m thick) and subsoil (L3, c 0.42-0.48m thick) onto natural (L4, encountered at a depth of 0.92-0.98m below current ground level). The trenching for the garage was excavated through a layer of topsoil (L5).

Well F1, which was of 19th or 20th century date, was uncovered in the easternmost N-S branch of the rear extension foundation trenching. It was a circular structure composed of bonded unfrogged red bricks. A lead pipe fed into the structure.



Photograph 1 19th or 20th century well F1, looking south southeast

Another well, F2, which also had its origins in the 19th or 20th century, was located in the westernmost N-S branch of the rear extension foundation trenching. Like F1, it was a circular structure constructed from bonded unfrogged red bricks and was externally lined with clay. It contained a large deposit of ash and coal.



Photograph 2 19th or 20th century well F2, looking west northwest

A pipe structure, F3, of 19th or 20th century date, was uncovered in the most northerly E-W branch of the rear extension foundation trenching. It was composed of bonded red brick and appeared to lead into soakaway F4.

A further well of 19th- or 20th-century date, F4, lay adjacent to F3. Like F1 and F3, it too was a circular structure of bonded unfrosted red brick, and, like F2, it contained a deposit of ash and coal.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and CBM

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief produced a small assemblage of post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) (Table 1). The material was recovered from two features (F2, F4) and one layer (L5) (Table 2) while all of the pottery came from the layer L5.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW/g
Medieval / post-medieval	17	8,196	228
Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	19	6,985	368
All	36	8,196	368

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Feature	No.	Weight g	MSW g
F2	6	4,177	696
F4	1	2,782	2,782
L5	29	1,237	43

Table 2 Number and weight of pottery and CBM from features and other contexts

Post-Roman Pottery

This material was classified using the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (2000) and consisted of 17 sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric 48D) pottery with a weight of 8,196g. There were three vessels including a large part of single-handled spouted jug (rim EVE 0.71) and a blue transfer printed 'Willow Pattern' dish (Rim EVE 0.15) and bowl (Rim EVE 9.5). All of this material came from the layer L5 (2) and can be dated from the late 18th to the 19th/20th century (*CAR 7* 2000, 253-254).

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There was a small collection of CBM, mostly of modern machine-made sewer/drain pipes (Table 3) which came from F2 and F4. Feature F4 (3) contained one large piece of machine-made drain/sewer pipe, with traces of mortar, which dates from the mid 19th to the 20th century and a similar looking example is illustrated by McComish (2015, 49 plate 46 left). From F2 there was a complete unfrosted brick with dimensions of 225-230 mm x 112 mm x 67 mm which is possibly a 19th to 20th century 'Soft Red' brick according to Ryan's Essex brick typology (Ryan 1996, 95-96). Other sherds of note include a fragment of peg tile with two peg-holes and a piece of pan tile from F2. Pan-tile dates from the 17th century onwards (McComish 2015, 40-41) while peg-tile only became widespread from the mid 13th century AD onwards and remained in use until the 16th century at least (McComish 2015, 33). Both of these tile sherds are residual. Finally, from L5 (2) there were three small fragments of mortar with a weight of 8g and nine pieces of heavily burnt roofing slate (9g).

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW
Post-Roman				
PT	Peg tile	1	215	215
PANT	Pan tile	1	119	119
BR	Brick	1	3,194	3,194
MPIPE	Modern sewer/drain pipe	4	3,431	858
Mortar		3	8	3
Slate		9	18	6
Total		19	6,985	368

Table 3 CBM by period and type

Summary

Table 4 provides a brief dating summary for the features and layers with datable ceramic finds. All of the features are modern and can be dated from the mid 19th century onwards.

Feature	Post-Roman Pottery	CBM	Overall date Approx.
F2	-	PT PANT BR PIPE	Mid 19th-20th century
F4	-	PIPE	Mid 19th-20th century
L5	F48D	Mortar Slate	Late 18th-19th/20th century

Table 4 Approximate dates for the individual features

6.2 Glass

by Laura Pooley

Two complete glass bottles were found in L5 (finds no. 2).

1) Brown glass bottle with oblong body and cylindrical neck, inscription reads BRANSON LTD / COFFEE EXTRACT, 180mm high, 43mm wide, 43mm deep, 223.9g, late 19th/early 20th century.

2) Clear glass medicinal bottle, rectangular body with indented panels and cylindrical neck, plain, 157mm high, 47mm wide, 30mm deep, 161.8g, 19th/20th century.

7 Discussion

Groundworks at this property exposed three wells and a pipe structure, all of which date to the period from the mid 19th to the early 20th century. These presumably formed the water supply for the property prior to the provision of a piped water supply to the area.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Simon Patten and Peter Patten for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by R Mathieson. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

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 Occasional Papers 8 (EAA 8).
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECCPS	2018	<i>Brief for archaeological monitoring at 34A London Road, Maldon</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
McComish, J	2015	<i>A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials: An Insight Report</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24).
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c AD 500 to 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 to 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
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.
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
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
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	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

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1418)

Original site records (feature and layer sheets, finds records, sections/plans)

Photographic thumbnails and log

Inked sections and illustrations

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1418)

Photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics files

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 2018.94.

Distribution list:

Simon Patten

Peter Patten

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,

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Colchester,

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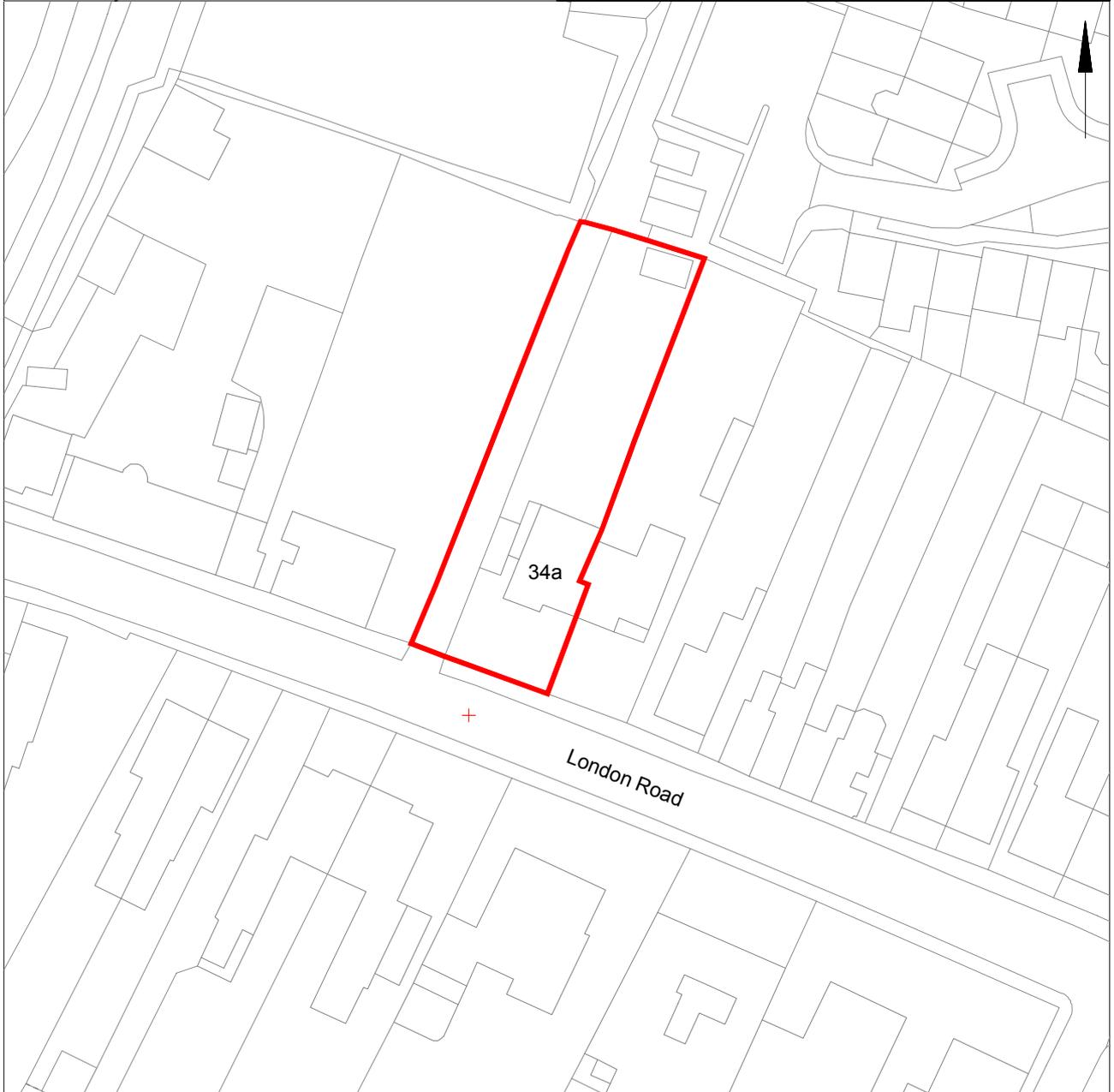
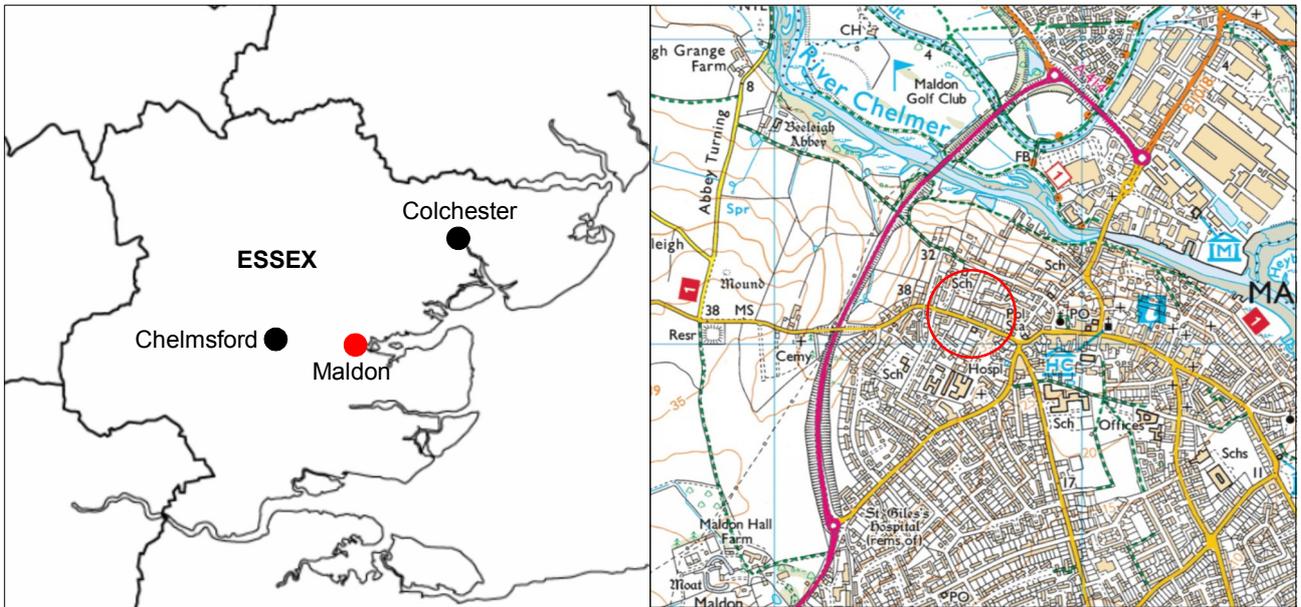
email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 31.05.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

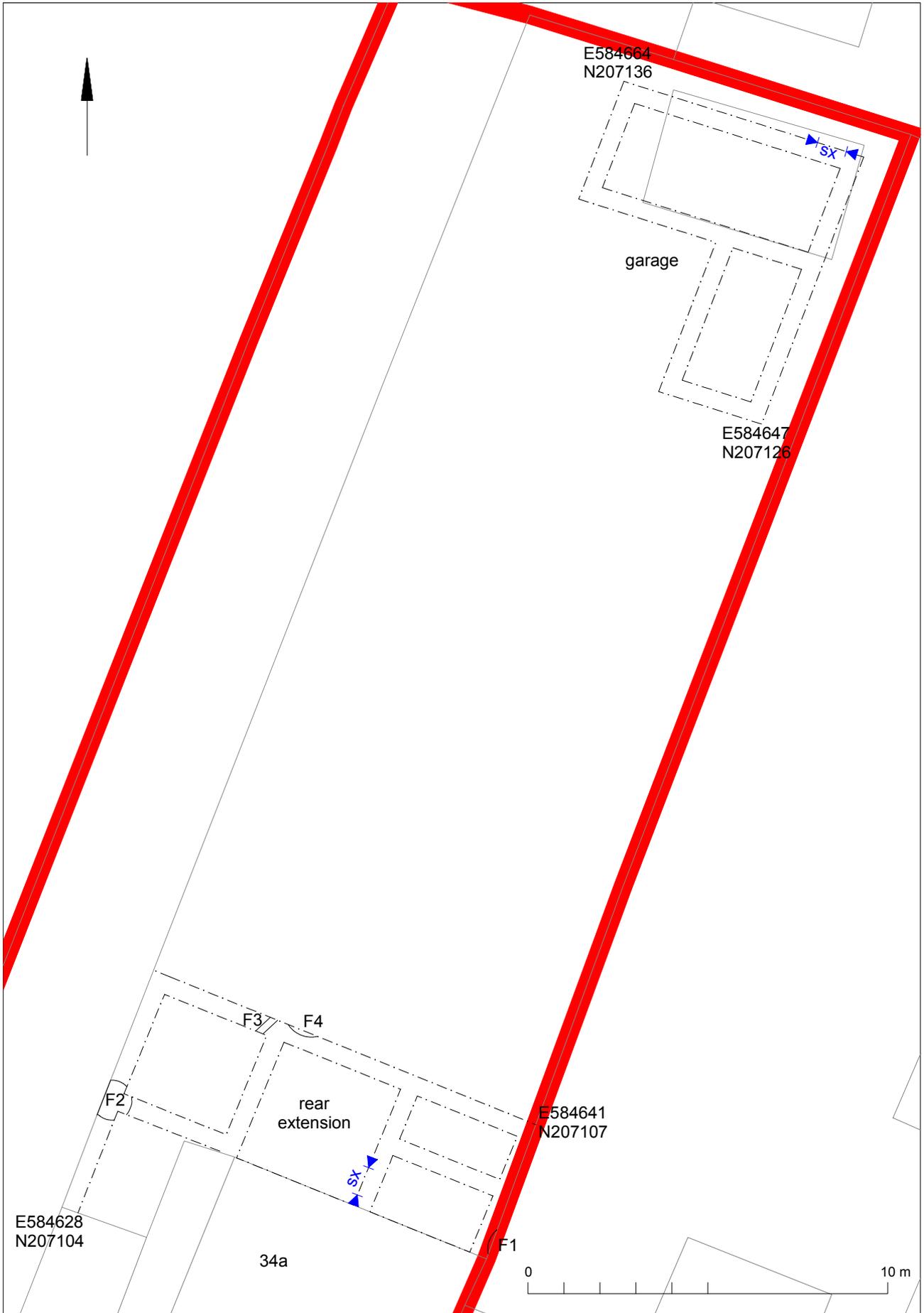
Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
L1	-	Make-up layer	Firm/hard, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown loamy-silt	Modern
L2	-	Compaction layer	Hard, dry medium orange sand	Modern
L3	-	Subsoil	Friable/firm, dry/moist, medium grey/brown loamy-silt	Undatable
L4	-	Natural	Firm, moist medium yellow/brown clay	Post-glacial
L5	2	Topsoil	Friable, dry dark brown loam with 1% stones	Modern
F1	-	Well	Composed of bonded unfrogged red bricks	Mid 19th to 20th century
F2	1	Well	Composed of bonded unfrogged red bricks with external clay lining	Mid 19th to 20th century
F3	-	Pipe structure	Composed of bonded unfrogged red bricks	Mid 19th to 20th century
F4	3	Well	Composed of bonded unfrogged red bricks	Mid 19th to 20th century



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Fig 1 Site location.

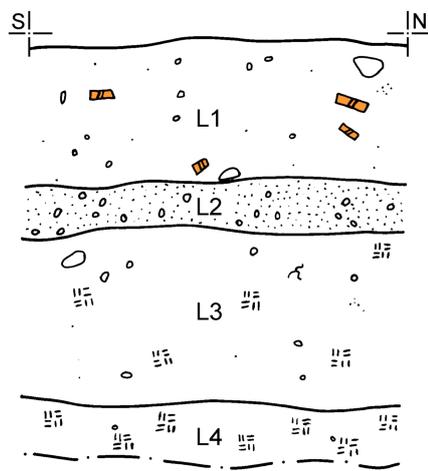
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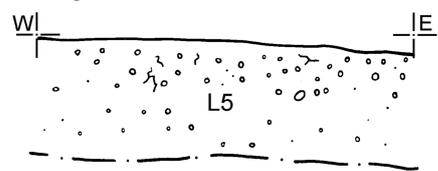
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Fig 2 Monitoring results.

Eastern Foundations



Garage foundations



- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- √ roots
- || clay
- ▨ post-Roman brick



Fig 3 Representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-329967

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 34A London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HD
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 34a London Road, Maldon, Essex during groundworks for a rear extension and new entrance porch. The groundworks exposed three wells and an associated pipe structure, all of which dated to the period from the period from the mid 19th century to the 20th century.
Project dates	Start: 24-04-2019 End: 25-04-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/10a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	MAL/18/00829 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM 2018.94 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	MD61 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WELL Post Medieval
Monument type	WELL Modern
Monument type	PIPE STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Monument type	PIPE STRUCTURE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	DRAIN PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	DRAIN PIPE Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern

Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Modern
Significant Finds	PAN-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PAN-TILE Modern
Significant Finds	MORTAR Uncertain
Significant Finds	SLATE Uncertain
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS BOTTLE Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON MALDON 34A London Road
Postcode	CM9 6HD
Study area	0.08 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 84757 07013 51.730819619808 0.675739546754 51 43 50 N 000 40 32 E Point

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	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.94
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.94
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography

1

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