

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1891**  
**issued January 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation on land at  
Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford,  
Essex CM2 9AH: December 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/11o**  
**ECC code: CFMG22**

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Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford,  
Essex CM2 9AH: December 2022**

**NGR: TL 69950 05496**

**Planning ref.: 21/02354/FUL**

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**ECC code: CFMG22  
OASIS id: colchest3-511197**

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**fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Robin Mathieson  
and Gabrielle Smith**

**Commissioned by Andrew Josephs,  
Andrew Josephs Associates**

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex in advance of the construction of a residential building. Moulsham Grange is a locally-listed Edwardian villa located in area of Roman remains with both Napoleonic and WWII defensive features nearby. Stratigraphy of the site showed modern concrete sealing natural ground level, and the only archaeological feature present was a 19th-/20th-century pit.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex between the 19th and 21st December 2022. The work was commissioned by Andy Josephs on behalf of Andrew Josephs Associates, and took place in advance of the construction of a new apartment building and associated landscaping.

As the site lies in an area of potential archaeological sensitivity, the Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) at Essex County Council Place Services recommended 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* (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the *Brief for archaeological evaluation and Excavation at Land at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford* written by Mark Baister and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2022) in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS in advance of the work.

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief (ECCPS 2022) and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Moulsham was a separate hamlet until it was subsumed into Chelmsford during the Victorian expansion of the city. Significant occupation of Moulsham can be traced back to Roman times. Moulsham Street was the main road south of the Roman settlement of *Caesaromagus*. The Roman town developed from a fort dated to post 60 AD. The core of the Roman town was surrounded by a defensive ditch and earth rampart. Excavations within the Roman core have revealed substantial remains of a mansio and its associated bathhouse (Bennett 2006, 47). Roman burials recorded along Moulsham Street indicate the presence of extra-mural cemeteries (Bennett 2006, 8).

Moulsham Grange is a substantial detached Edwardian villa which is locally-listed. Historic maps show that Moulsham Grange replaced an earlier villa on the site. South of the site is the location of the Star Battery and Old Barracks, part of Chelmsford's Napoleonic defences. The Star Battery was constructed in 1803 and described as a 'field fort' designed to accommodate 600 men (EHER 849). A number of WWII defences were located in the road immediately outside the site including a road barrier (EHER 20921), a spigot mortar (EHER 20924), a tette turret (EHER 20925) and anti-tank pimples (EHER 20922). Immediately north-west of the site

was the location of a now-destroyed ammunition shelter (EHER 20926). Find spots near the site include a doublet sleeve recorded on Walker's map 1591 (EHER 819).

Archaeological investigations in the area include evaluations:

- at 200 New London Road which revealed three undated ditches (EHER 48263);
- on land adjacent to the Miami Motel which revealed two prehistoric features and a 17th-century ditch (EHER 14544-5);
- at 116-114 Moulsham Street where a post-hole and three pits were found alongside a number of Roman finds (EHER 49302); and
- at Laurel Grove two residual worked flint flakes were found with the remains of a substantial 19th-century brick building (EHER 16098-16100; Wilkinson 1994, 9).

For more background information, see the Chelmsford Historic Town Assessment Report (Medlycott 1999).

#### 4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three trial-trenches (11m, 11.5m & 14m long by 1.8m wide) were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Across all of the trenches, modern tarmac (L1, 0.25m thick) sealed a layer of crushed concrete (L2, 0.35-0.4m thick) which overlay natural clay (L3, at a depth of c 0.45-0.6m below current ground level). The only feature present was pit F1, which contained post-medieval and modern pottery along with pieces of peg-tile, glass and slate and is dated to the 19th/20th century.



**Photograph 1** Pit F1, looking north-east.



**Photograph 2** Trench 3, looking north.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

#### Post-Roman pottery

The post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) (Table 1) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). There was only 24 sherds of post-Roman pottery with a weight of 256g and EVE of 0.27 (Table 2). Ten were of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40, 187g), 11 were Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric F48D, 42g) including a bowl (EVE:0.06), and three (27g) were from a modern flowerpot (fabric 51B, EVE:0.21).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century
F51B	Flowerpot	19th-20th century

**Table 2** Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	10	187	19	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	11	42	4	0.06
F51B	Flowerpot	3	27	9	0.21
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0.27</b>

**Table 3** Summary of the post-Roman pottery listed by fabric.

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were six sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile weighing 322g.

### Conclusion

The pottery and CBM from pit F1 suggests that this feature dates to the 19th/20th century. None of this material was retained.

## 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Two pieces of slate (140g), two fragments of modern window glass from something like a greenhouse (11g), one fragment of olive green bottle glass (6g), and a fragment of iron nail (21g).

## 7 Conclusion

Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, the only feature of archaeological interest was a 19th-/20th-century pit probably associated with Moulsham Grange. Stratigraphy also revealed that the site has been stripped to natural in the recent past.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Andy Josephs for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by B Holloway with R Mathieson and G Smith. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Mark Baister.

## 9 References

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

- |                          |       |   |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| Bennett, A               | 2006  | <i>Chelmsford Borough Historic Land Characterisation Project</i> . Essex County Council Historic Environment Branch   |
| Brown, N & Glazebrook, J | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)             |
| CAR 7                    | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAT                      | 2022a | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                      | 2022b | <i>Written scheme of investigation for an evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9AH</i>                     |
| CIfA                     | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> . Revised October 2020.  |
| CIfA                     | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Revised October 2020.                           |
| CIfA                     | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised October 2021 .   |
| Cotter, J P              | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.                |
| ECCPS                    | 2022  | <i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation at Land At Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , by M Baister  |

Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Chelmsford Historic Town Assessment Report</i> . Essex County Council
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Wilkinson, K	1994	<i>Laurel Grove, Chelmsford, Essex Archaeological Evaluation Report</i> . Cotswold Archaeological Trust Report no. 93151

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from cAD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from cAD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Archive deposition

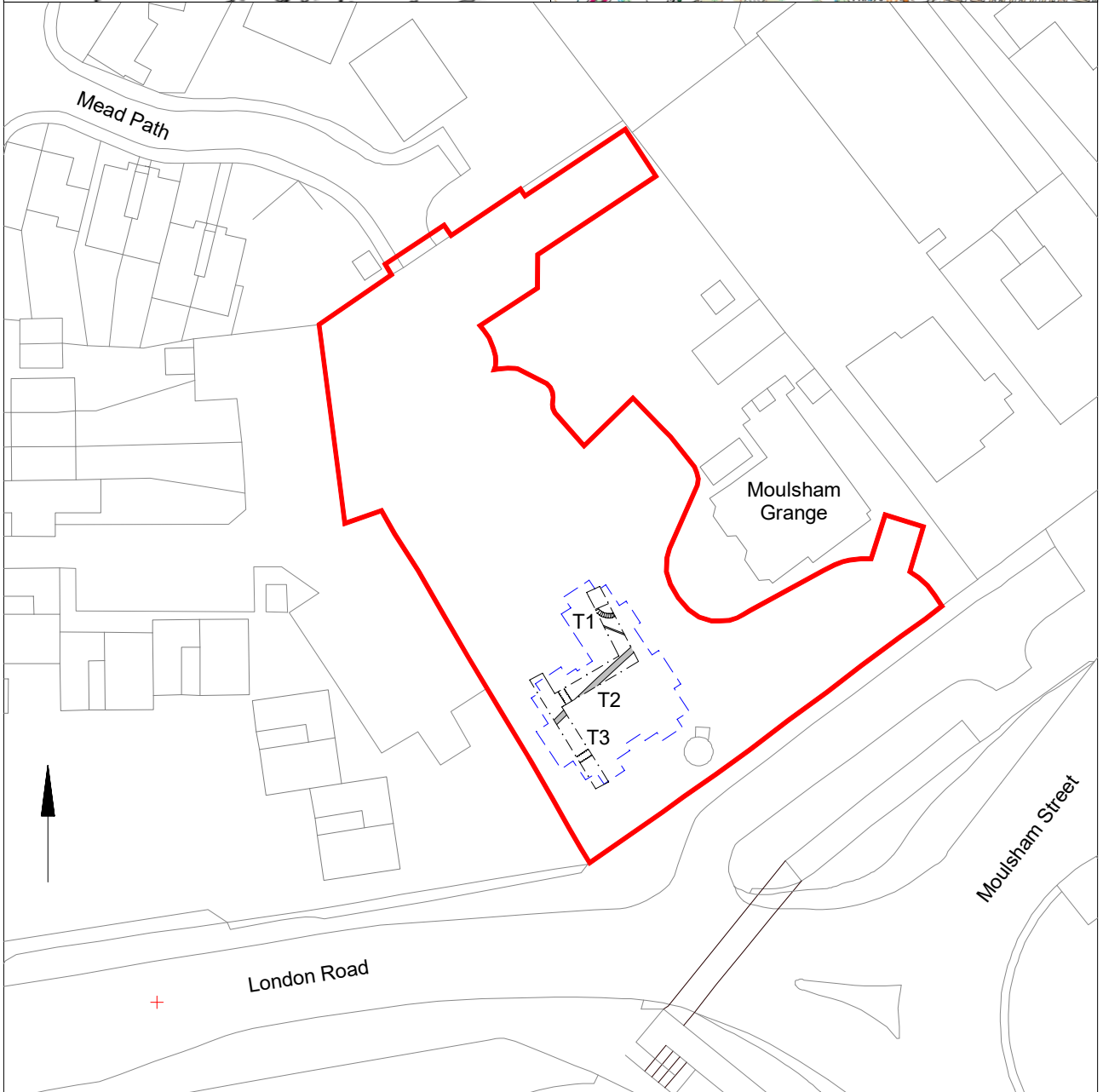
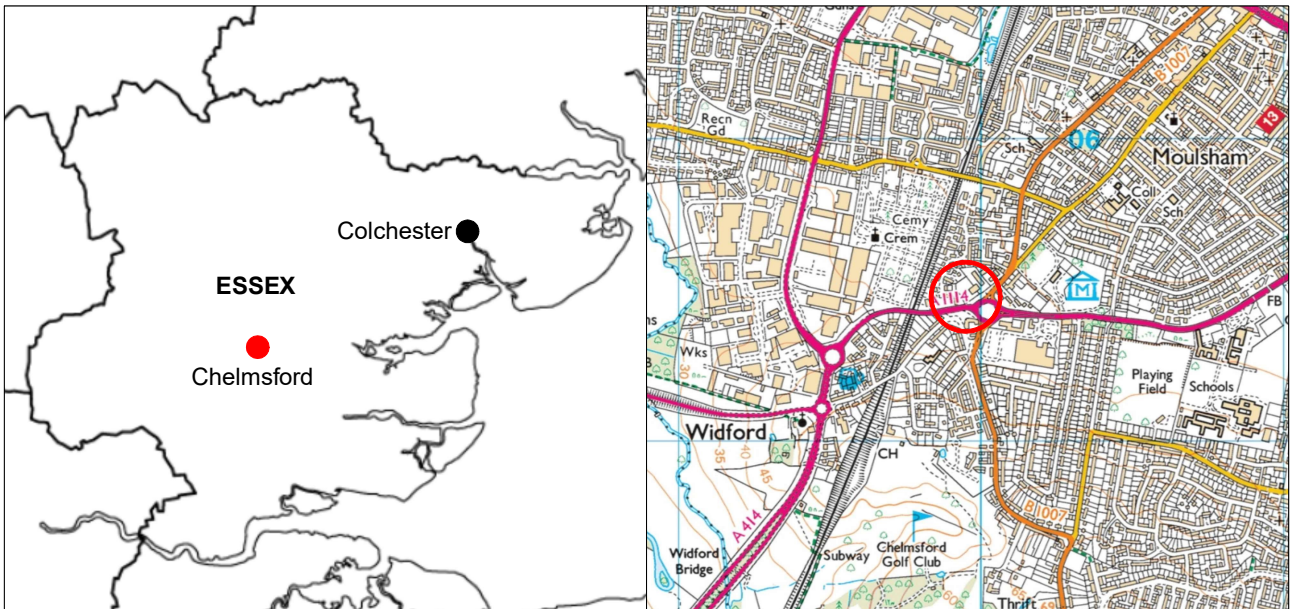
This project falls within the CIfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, WSI, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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### Distribution list:

Andrew Josephs, Andrew Josephs Associates  
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Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

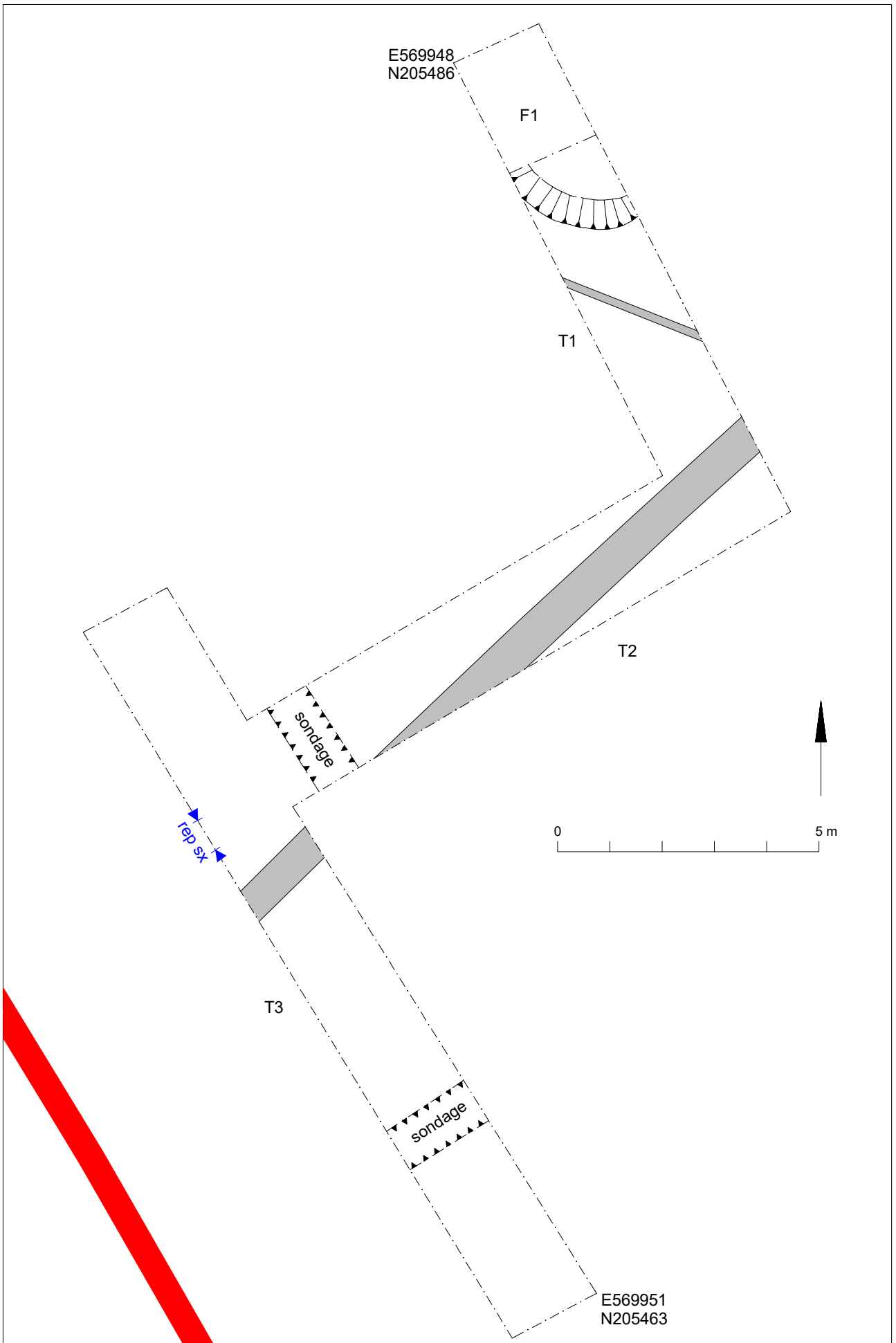




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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).





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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

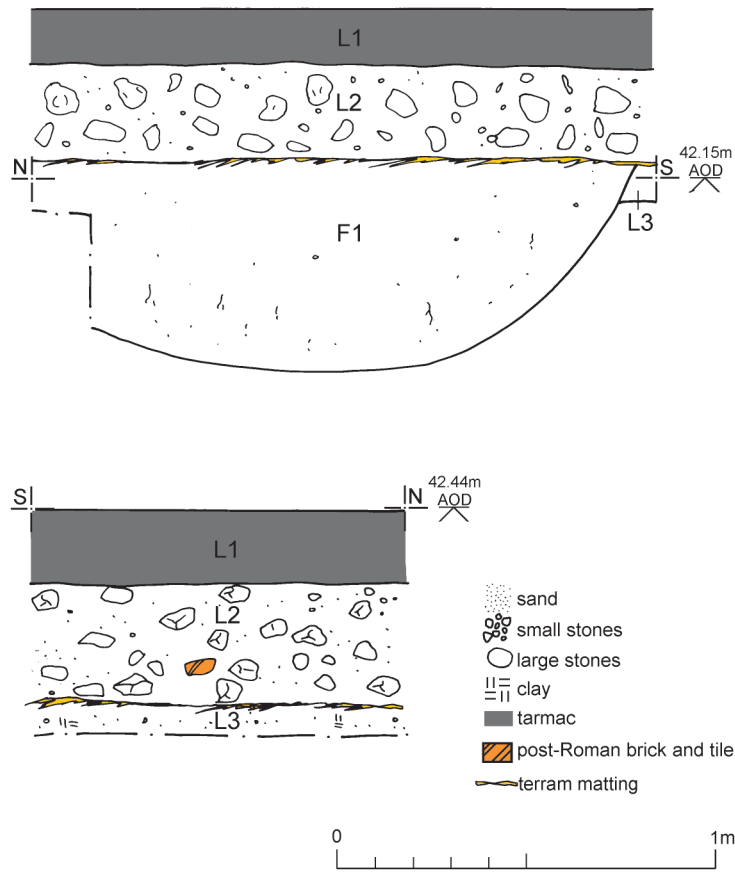


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

# Summary for colchest3-511197

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-511197
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation on land at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9AH.
Sitename	Land at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9AH.
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/11o
Planning Id	21/02354/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	19-Dec-2022 - 21-Dec-2022
Location	Land at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9AH. NGR : TL 69950 05496 LL : 51.722432669411, 0.459095725359942 12 Fig : 569950,205496
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Chelmsford Parish : Chelmsford, unparished area
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation of three trial-trenches as per conditions specified in the Project Brief and WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at Moulsham Grange, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex in advance of the construction of a residential building. Moulsham Grange is a locally-listed Edwardian villa located in area of Roman remains with both Napoleonic and WWII defensive features nearby. Stratigraphy of the site showed modern concrete sealing natural ground level, and the only archaeological feature present was a 19th-/20th-century pit.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Holloway
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - CFMG22
Archives	