

An archaeological watching brief at 10 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex

May 2001

**on behalf of
Colchester Borough Council**

NGR: TL 9830 2515
Scheduled Ancient Monument: Essex SAM no 46
CAT project reference: 01/5H
Colchester Museum accession code: 2001.101



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CAT Report 140

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1 Summary

Observations were made during groundworks for a new sun-lounge at 10 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex. The foundations for the new sun-lounge were dug on an area that had been raised above the garden and had previously been used for a smaller sun-lounge, a patio and steps. Therefore only concrete, made-up ground and natural sand were encountered.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 This is the report on an archaeological watching brief carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on the 30th and 31st May 2001. The work was necessitated by the construction of a small sun-lounge. Planning permission and Scheduled Ancient Monument consent were given with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be carried out (Essex SAM no 46).
- 2.2 The site is located to the west of Colchester town centre just off Lexden Road, on the southern side of Endsleigh Court. The site is located at National Grid Reference TL 9830 2515 (Fig 1). The new sun-lounge is to be built to the rear of no 10, partly on the site of a demolished smaller sun-lounge and partly in an area of patio. The whole site covers an area of 4.25m x 4.95m. The area of the new sun-lounge and existing patio is raised above the level of the rest of the garden by 750mm. At the time that the patio was laid (probably in the 1970s), the area was terraced and a wall was built (Fig 2). The garden itself slopes down towards a stream.
- 2.3 This report follows the standards set out in the Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (1999) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester Museums* (1996b), and the IFA's *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (1999).

3 Archaeological background

- 3.1 The site occupies an area of Roman pottery- and tile-making as is shown by the numerous kilns found. In 1877, Joslin excavated five kilns just to the north of the site (Essex Heritage Conservation Record or EHCR 11693; Hull 1963, 2-9). A kiln has also been found at Kingswode Hoe School just opposite the site.
- 3.2 Occasional Roman burials have been found in this area. A burial in a lead coffin was found in 1973 at 55 Endsleigh Court, under the porch (EHCR 12530; Crummy 1992, 790).
- 3.3 The site lies just to the west of Sheepen, a late Iron Age settlement and industrial centre established by the Trinovantes tribe and maintained in the years after the Roman conquest. It is within the Scheduled Ancient Monument area no 46. Extensive excavations in the 1930s and smaller-scale work in 1970 and later have produced evidence of workshops engaged in a range of industrial activities including metal-working, enamelling, pottery-making and leatherworking in the areas to the west of the site (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Niblett 1985).

4 Aims and objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features, finds or deposits revealed by the groundworks. Particular attention was paid to possible Roman inhumations and kilns.

5 Methods

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out by Kate Orr. The size of the area excavated was 4.25m x 4.93m. Foundations were excavated with a mini-digger to a width of 560mm and depth varying between 950mm and 1.35m. The depth of the foundations was specified by Anglian Water due to the presence of a main sewer running east to west along the edge of the site.
- 5.2 A record of the position of the site excavations was made which has been reproduced as Figure 2. Soil types were noted. Section drawings were made of the layers in two areas, one of which has been reproduced as Figure 3.

6 Results

30th May - a visit was made to monitor the first foundation trench (north) which was dug to 950mm. This was dug through the area of the previous sun-lounge. All made-up ground with natural sand appearing at the bottom of the trench.

31st May - a second visit was made to monitor the remaining foundation trenches. These had been dug through the patio and, on the eastern and southern side, through some steps. Therefore 500mm of concrete was the first layer encountered on the eastern and southern sides. Below this was 350mm of mid-brown sandy silt make-up with small stones. This came down onto natural red/brown sand of 500mm thickness.

There were no features or finds of archaeological interest.

7 Discussion

The new sun-lounge was built on an area that had been artificially raised above the garden and used for a smaller sun-lounge and a patio with steps. Therefore only concrete, made-up ground and natural sand were encountered. There was not any topsoil remaining within the foundation trenches, which indicates that soil-stripping had taken place in the past, probably at the time of the laying of the patio and steps. If archaeological remains existed on the site, then it is likely that they were removed during this phase; however, there have been no reports of any archaeological finds made from this address.

8 Archive deposition

A copy of this report will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museum under accession code 2001.101.

9 References

- Crummy, P, 1992 Colchester Archaeological Report 6, *Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, 790
- Hawkes, C F C, & Hull, M R, 1947 *Camulodunum, first report on the excavations at Colchester 1930-39*, Report of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, London, 14
- Hull, M R, 1963 *The Roman potters' kilns of Colchester*, 2-9
- Niblett, R, 1985 *Sheepen: an early Roman industrial site at Camulodunum*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report, 57

10 Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to the following for their help and co-operation: Deborah Priddy, English Heritage Inspector; Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council; and G Hill Builders.

Kate Orr, June 2001

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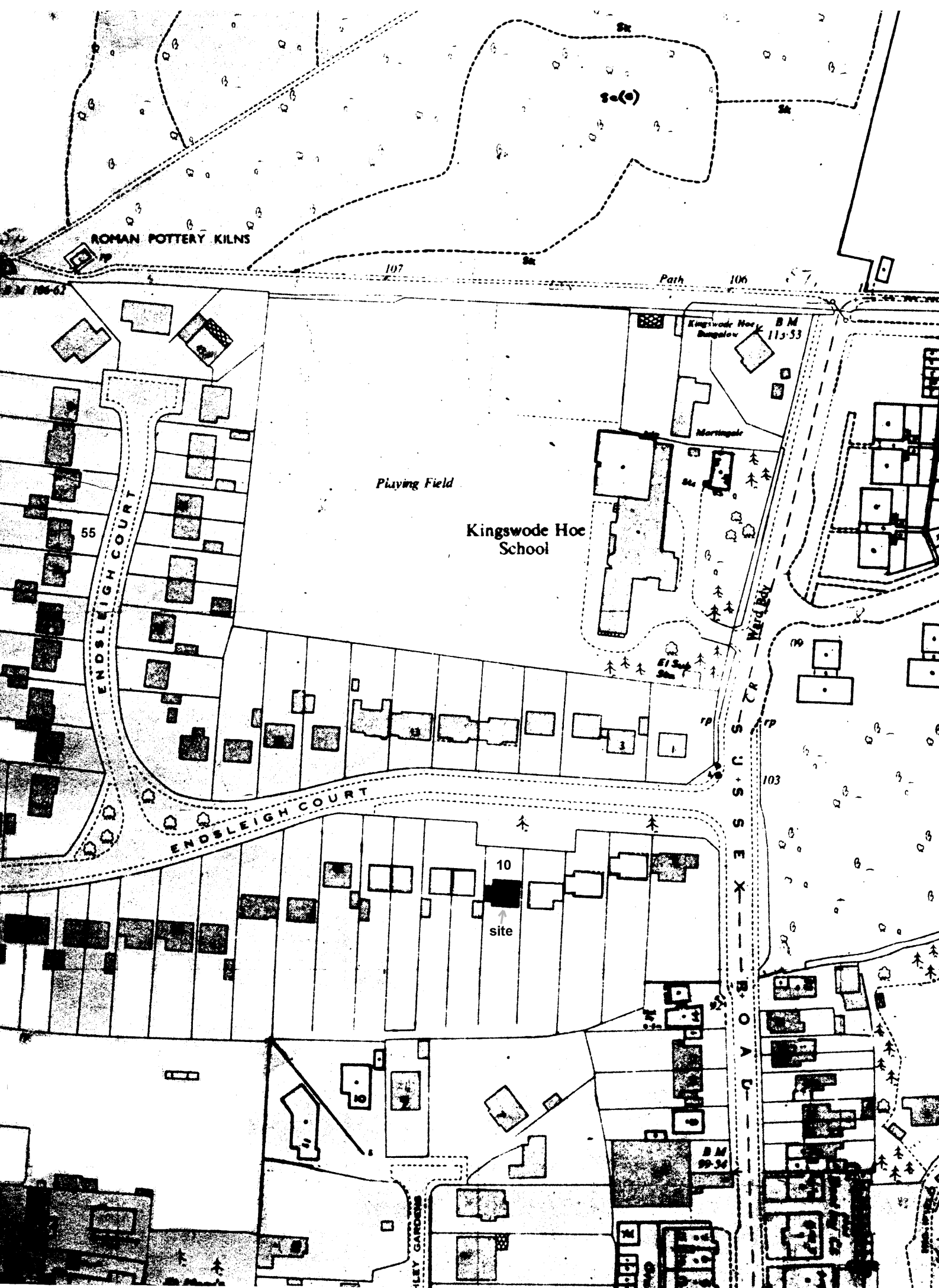


Fig 1 Site location, scale 1:1250.

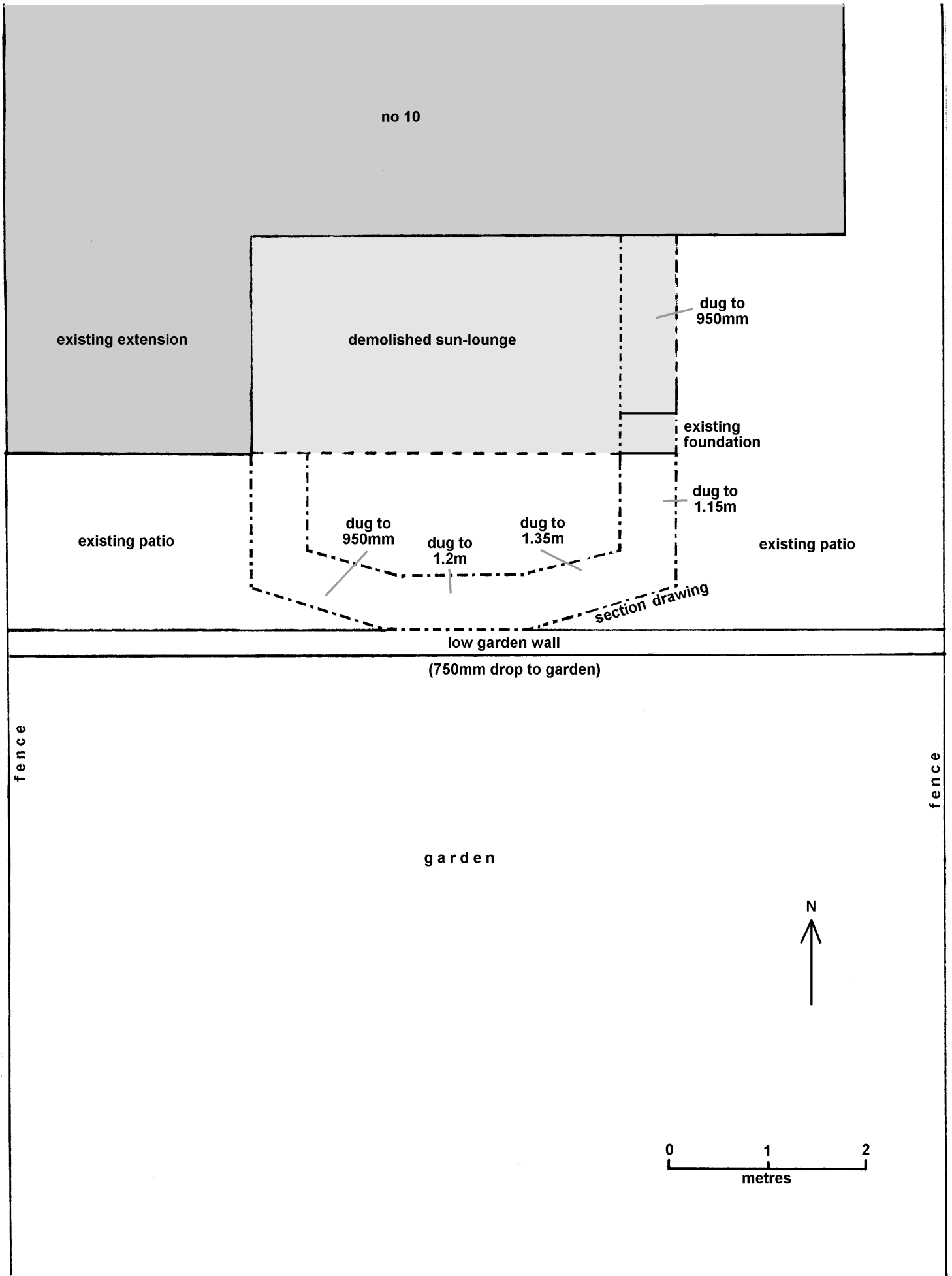


Fig 2 Site plan, scale 1:50.

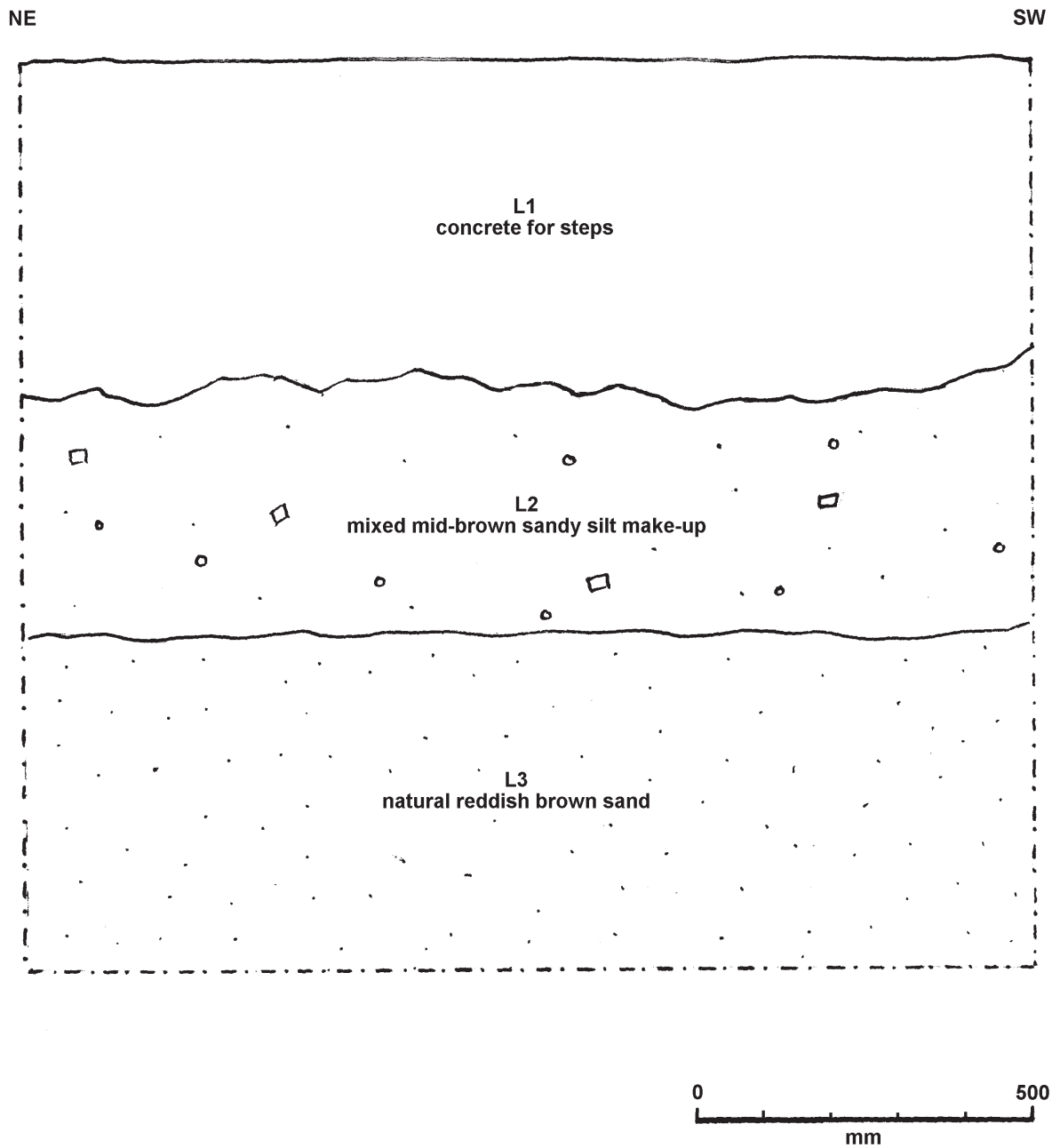


Fig 3 Drawing of south-eastern section of foundation trench, scale 1:10.

ESSEX HERITAGE CONSERVATION RECORD

SUMMARY SHEET

Site name/address: 10 Endsleigh Court, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester Borough
NGR: TL 9830 2521	Site code: 2001.101
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: May 2001	Size of area investigated: 4.25m x.4.9m
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Colchester Borough Council
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHCR nos: 12530 & 11693
Final report: CAT Report 140 and summary in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i>	
Periods Represented: Modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: Observations were made during the groundworks for the construction of a sun-lounge at 10 Endsleigh Court. The new sun-lounge was built on an area that had been artificially raised above the garden and used for a smaller sun-lounge and a patio with steps. Therefore only concrete, made-up ground and natural sand were encountered. There was not any topsoil remaining within the foundation trenches, which indicates that soil-stripping had taken place in the past, probably at the time of the laying of the patio and steps. If archaeological remains existed on the site, then it is likely that they were removed during this phase; however, there have been no reports of any archaeological finds made from this address.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: June 2001