

**An archaeological  
watching brief at  
10 East Hill (rear of),  
Colchester, Essex**

**November 2001**

**on behalf of  
East Hill Developments Ltd**

NGR: TM 0026 2522  
Archive code: 2001.220  
CAT project ref.: 01-11b



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**CAT Report 168**  
January 2002

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## 1 Summary

Observations were made as building footing trenches were dug at the rear of 10 East Hill, Colchester, Essex. No archaeologically significant features were observed. The site had previously been levelled, and as a result it has been stripped to an approximate depth of 3m, leaving redeposited material sitting on the natural yellow/orange sand.

## 2 Introduction and background

- 2.1 This report summarises the results from an archaeological watching brief on redevelopment at the rear of 10 East Hill, Colchester, Essex.
- 2.2 The watching brief was commissioned by East Hill Developments Ltd and was carried out in accordance with the requirements detailed in Colchester 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* (1996).
- 2.3 The development area lies on rising ground, approximately 50m from the East Hill frontage and 40m to the east of Priory Street (Fig1). Archaeologically, this area is of interest since it is located just beyond Colchester's Roman town wall and lies only 100m from the site of the main east gate to the Roman and medieval town.

## 3 Results

The site was inspected on four occasions for the purpose of recording any archaeological information that became apparent as groups of building foundation trenches were dug. The trench locations are shown in Figure 2.

### 7th November

#### *Group 1 footings*

Footing trenches 1500mm wide and 2000mm deep were cut into natural yellow/orange sand. The top 200mm contained a disturbed dark brown layer where modern building debris had been compacted into the ground, and further disturbance had been caused by constant movement of plant across the site.

### 8th November

No new footings had been dug due to the poor weather conditions.

### 16th November

#### *Group 2 footings*

Footing trenches 1500mm wide and 2000mm deep were cut into the same yellow/orange natural sand. There was the same dark brown layer of disturbance, 200mm thick, containing modern brick and concrete and sitting on the natural sand.

### 19th November

#### *Group 2 footings*

Footing trenches were cut in natural yellow/orange sand. The sand contained a natural coarse gravel deposit and some root action. There was also what appeared to be the remains of a tree stump with adhering dark brown soil containing bottle glass and post-medieval red earthenware of 17th- to 19th-century date. The compacted layer was also present, although among the modern building debris there were again post-medieval pottery fragments, clay-pipe stems and some animal bone. There was, however, no visible feature to which they appeared to belong.

#### **4 Discussion**

No archaeologically significant features were observed. However, it should be noted that the site had previously been levelled, and as a result it has been stripped to an approximate depth of 3m, leaving just a thin 200mm-deep compressed layer of disturbed material sitting on the natural yellow/orange sand.

#### **5 Archive**

A copy of this report, together with the original site records, will be deposited permanently with Colchester Museum under cover of museum accession code 2001-220.

#### **6 Acknowledgements**

The Colchester Archaeological Trust is grateful to Robert Beard of East Hill Developments Ltd for commissioning the work, and to Robert Beard and Martin Winter (Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council) for their co-operation during the course of the watching brief:

*Ben Holloway, January 2002*

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#### **Distribution list:**

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Martin Winter, Archaeological Officer for Colchester Borough Council  
Essex Heritage Conservation Record, Essex County Council



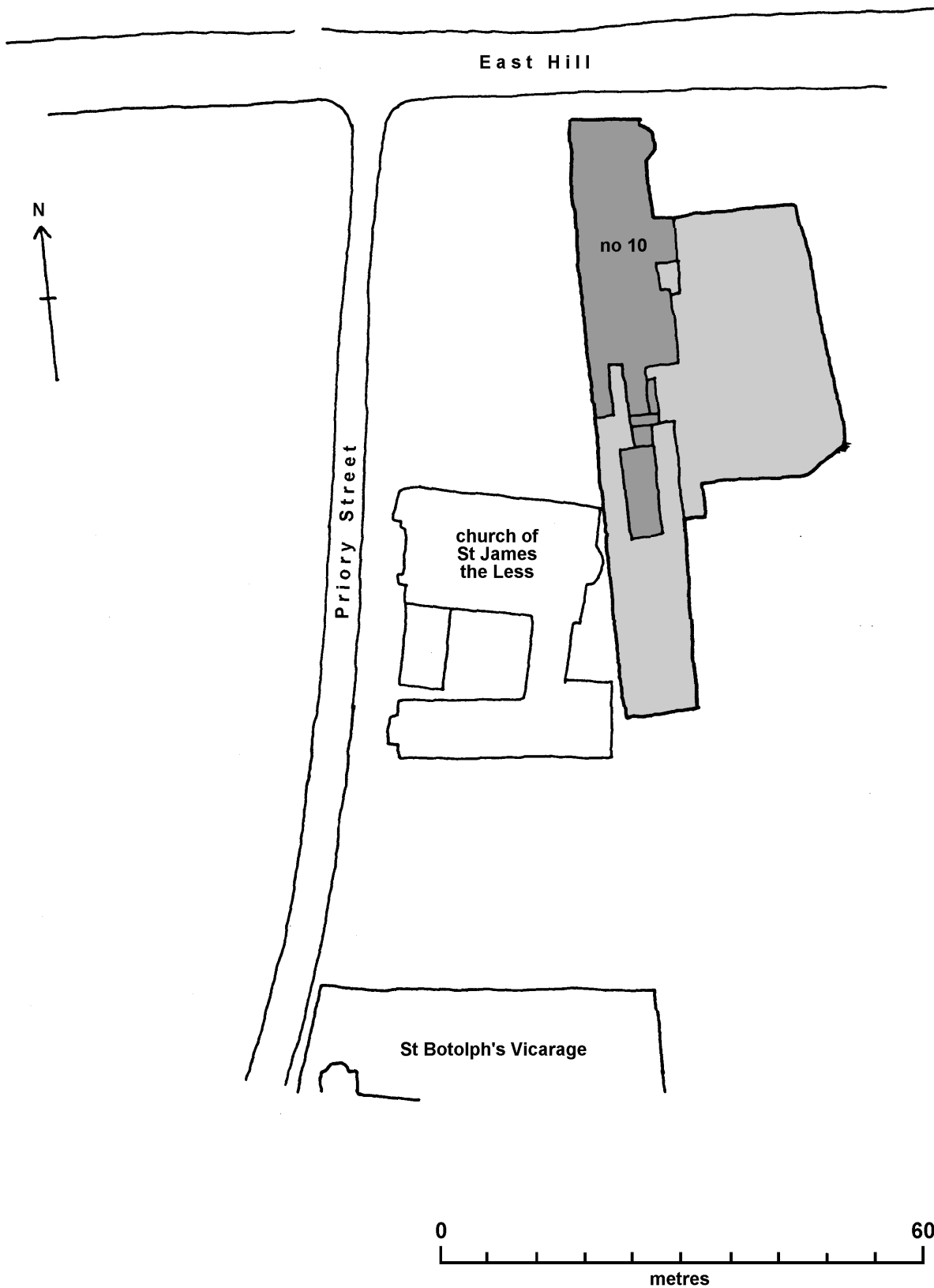
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**Fig 1 Site location plan.**

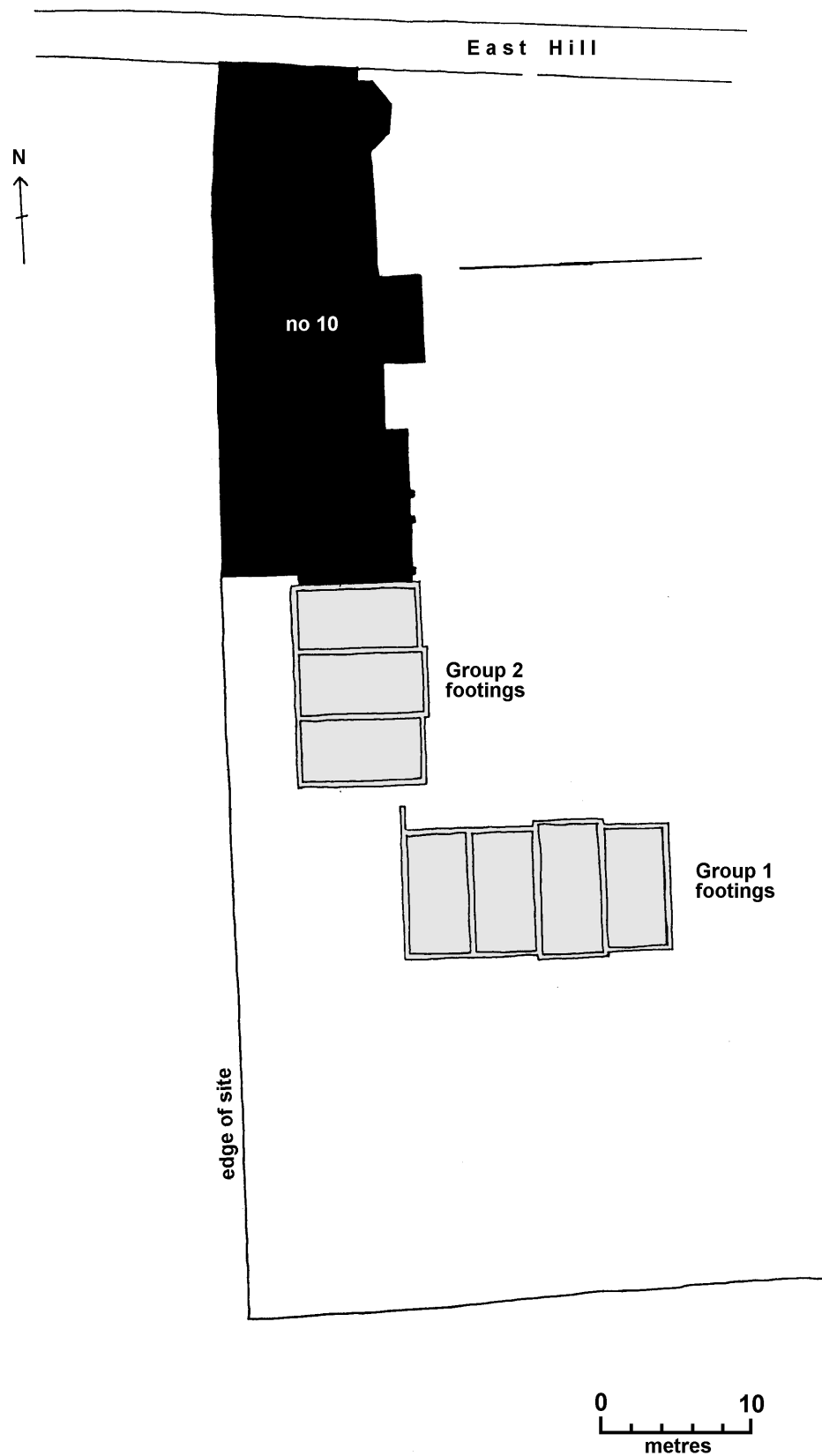


Fig 2 Trench plan.

**Essex Sites and Monuments Record/  
Essex Archaeology and History**

**Summary sheet**

<b>Site name/address:</b> 10 East Hill (rear of), Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b>	<b>District:</b> Colchester Borough
<b>NGR:</b> TM 0026 2522	<b>Site code:</b> 2001.220
<b>Type of work:</b> Watching brief	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> November 2001	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 26m x 15m
<b>Location of finds/curating museum:</b> Colchester Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> East Hill Developments Ltd
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related SMR nos:</b>
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 168 and summary in <i>Essex Archaeology and History</i>	
<b>Periods represented:</b> Modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> Observations were made as building footing trenches were dug. No archaeologically significant features were observed. The site had previously been levelled, and as a result it has been stripped to an approximate depth of 3m, leaving redeposited material sitting on the natural yellow/orange sand.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Ben Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> January 2002