

An archaeological evaluation at land east of Brook Street, Colchester, Essex July 2004

report prepared by Kate Orr

**commissioned by Stanley Bragg Partnership Ltd
on behalf of Mersea Homes**

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1 Summary

Eleven trial trenches were excavated at land to the east of Brook Street, prior to a planning application for residential development being determined. The evaluation resulted in several pits and a ditch of 14th to 16th century date being recorded near the corner of Brook Street and Barrack Street, on the higher ground. These resembled domestic rubbish pits and they probably relate to a property fronting Barrack Street to the south.

Evidence of sand quarrying was found on the higher ground, and clay quarrying on the lower ground to the east. Some archaeological features may have been destroyed by this quarrying activity as well as by the landfill pit and the car park, both south of the Co-op warehouse. Modern pits are probably a reflection of the gradual encroachment of the Victorian suburbs onto open land.

The Civil War Siege ditch was not definitely identified. However it is proposed that when 144 Brook Street is demolished one more trench will be excavated, by Brook Street, to attempt to reveal it.

2 Introduction (figs 1 and 2)

- 2.1** This is the report on an archaeological evaluation by trial excavation at land to the east of Brook Street, Colchester, Essex. The site is located to the rear of Brook Street and the north of Barrack Street, approximately 0.5km south-east of Colchester town centre. It covers an area of 2.8 hectares and is centred on National Grid Reference TM 0075 2487.
- 2.2** The evaluation was carried out prior to a planning permission being determined for a residential development (F/COL/03/2164). The proposed development incorporates open space and a shoppers car park. Existing buildings are to be demolished. The requirement for a minimum 3% sample of the 2.8 ha area was agreed between the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Officer (CBCAO). It was agreed that the trial trenching should only be carried out on the western half of the application area (1.4ha) which has the most archaeological potential. The eastern half has been made up with tipped material, making it problematic to evaluate.
- 2.3** The evaluated area is made up of derelict houses fronting Brook Street, scrubland plus an area used for storage and car parking. The area to the east of the houses on Brook Street and their gardens occupies an east-facing slope.
- 2.4** The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Stanley Bragg Architects Ltd on behalf of Mersea Homes and was carried out by CAT in July 2004. The project was monitored by the CBCAO.
- 2.5** The drift geology of the area is predominantly sands and gravels.
- 2.6** The investigation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CAT, and agreed CBCAO. The WSI was produced in accordance with a brief issued by CBCAO. This report mirrors the standards and practices contained in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the standards and practice for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (2002); *Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester Museums* (2002) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (1999).

3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1** The aims and objectives of the archaeological evaluation were to assess the location, extent, date, character, condition, interpretation, quality and importance of any surviving archaeological features or deposits which may be impacted by the development.
- 3.2** This will inform any mitigation strategies that may be required ahead of or during development.

4 Archaeological Background,

- 4.1** The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed in a CAT desk-based assessment (McDonald 2003). An 1889 find spot of Iron Age urns is shown on the 1952 OS 1:2500 map, in the middle of the road, opposite 24 Brook Street (since renumbered 124). No Iron Age remains were recovered during excavations by CAT at St Mary Magdalen's hospital on the opposite side of Brook Street, so if there is an Iron Age site here then it most probably extends into the development site. There is the possibility that these pots may have been mis-classified and may actually be Anglo-Saxon in date.
- 4.2** The EHCR (no 2534) states that there is a Roman road following the line of Barrack Street/ Magdalen Street. Traces of a road have been identified on aerial photographs.
- 4.3** The development site lies east of the historic town and within a medieval suburb. The earliest maps of Colchester (1610 and 1648, see fig 3) show houses fronting Barrack Street and possibly fronting the southern end of Brook Street. A medieval leper hospital and graveyard of St Mary Magdalen was situated on the other side of Brook Street (UAD Event nos. 3157 and 3176). This site has been excavated by CAT in 1989, 1991 and 1995. The hospital and evidence of its transition to a post-medieval almshouse was recorded. The hospital chapel and many human burials were excavated (Crossan 1997).
- 4.4** The Siege Map of 1648 shows the line of the siege ditch passing through this area from north to south (fig 3). This defensive feature and a series of forts were constructed by the Parliamentarians besieging the town during the Civil War (VCH 9, 73-6). The Siege Map however is not drawn to scale and the location of the ditch cannot be fixed definitely.
- 4.5** The whole of the eastern half of the development site is named as a 'Brick Field' on the 1840 Tithe Map for the parish of St Botolph's and was probably a brick-manufacturing site. It was also variously known as 'Sand Field' and 'Brick Kiln Field' (Reynolds 1984) and therefore may also have been a sand quarry (Macdonald 2003, 5). However no brick works are shown here on any maps from 1610 onwards.
- 4.6** Part of the western side of the development site has been cut away to create level ground which would affect the survival of any archaeological remains. The area also contains a hollow of unknown origin which may be a clay-extraction pit associated with the probable brickworks to the north east (see 5.5).

5 Methods

- 5.1** Eleven trenches (T1-T7 and T9-T12) were excavated equating to 233m of trenching. It was not possible to excavate the full 280m required due to obstructions and difficulties with access. All trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket. Most trenches were 1.5m wide but some were widened in order to make up the square area of trenching required.
- 5.2** Individual records of layers and features were entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets.
- 5.3** Section drawings of features and layers were made at a scale of 1:10. Most features were planned using a total station. More complicated features were manually planned at a scale of 1:20. A plan of all the trenches was made with the total station.
- 5.4** Finds were registered on CAT record sheets and assigned find numbers according to context. Finds were washed, marked and bagged according to context.
- 5.5** Colour photographs of were taken with a digital camera and a 35mm slide camera.

6 Results (fig 2)

6.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the overgrown area to the rear of 142 Brook Street. It measured 20m in length and between 800mm and 1.15m in depth. 10m of the trench was excavated at double width (3m). The trench was blank apart from a modern pit with a mixed fill (F3).

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F3	Square sided pit with a very mixed fill – bands of sand. Not fully excavated	Peg tile, modern pottery	modern
L11	Topsoil – dark brown silty loam with rare small stones. Seals L16	Roman pottery and CBM	modern
L16	Medium brown silty loam subsoil with rare small stones and tile. Seals L17	Post-med and modern pottery	modern
L17	Yellowy brown slightly sandy silt with common medium sized angular stones. Seals L21	-	?
L21	Natural orange sand and gravel, more silty to the north east. Starts 0.85m- 1m below ground level (bgl)	-	glacial

6.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the overgrown garden of no 128 Brook Street. It was 25m long, 3m wide and 1m in depth. There were no features.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
L1	Topsoil-dark brown loam with occasional small stones. Seals L2	Peg tile	modern
L2	Mid brown sandy loam subsoil. Seals L3	Peg tile and med-early post-med pottery	post-med
L3	Natural brownish yellow sand at 900mm bgl	-	glacial

6.3 Trench 3

This trench was located in the Hills Compound to the rear of Brook Street. It was 30m in length and between 0.7m and 1.1m in depth. Natural ground was nearer to the surface in this trench because the area had already been stripped in order to level out the slope. Two scoops were taken out of the bottom of the trench with the machine in order to test natural ground. The only feature was F19 – a large modern pit extending beyond the north eastern limit of the trench. This may be part of the landfill site recorded in T4 (F9). The area had clearly been very disturbed and material had been dumped to level out the ground and provide a surface for heavy vehicles.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F19	Large pit at NE end of trench, at least 10 wide. Filled by dark brown silty sand with abundant stones of all sizes. Pockets of reddish sand. Cut into L43.	-	modern
L38	No L38	-	
L39	No L39	-	
L40	No L40	-	
L41	Hogging – sand and gravel surface. Seals L42 at NE end and L43 at SW end	-	modern
L42	NE end of trench. Dark grey brown silty sand with occasional stones. Dumped to level out the ground. Seals F19	-	modern
L43	Natural orange sand, gravely where deeper. Starts at 500mm bgl	-	glacial

6.4 Trench 4

The trench was located at the edge of a car park, which is to the south of a modern warehouse used by the Co-op. It was 21m long with 2m of double width at the western

end. The depth was 1m except at the western end where a scoop was taken out to 1.7m bgl. The trench was dug through a landfill pit (F9) which had been filled very recently. It contained plastic, textile and frogged bricks.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F9	Landfill pit filled by 650mm of hogging and, below that, black polluted silty clay. Extends to 1.7m bgl and takes up entire length of trench. Cuts L22	Frogged bricks, textiles, plastic	modern
L22	Natural greyish clay cut by F9. Starts at 1.6m bgl.	-	?

6.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in an overgrown area near the boundary with Wilson Marriage Centre. It was dug in a hollow where the ground is 1.6m lower than the ground to the north (fig 2). The trench was 30m long and between 1m and 1.15m deep except where two deeper scoops were taken with the machine at the eastern end of the trench (to 1.4m bgl). Natural ground was not reached throughout the trench apart from in these two deeper areas. The eastern part of the trench was cut through the hollow which, on investigation, appeared to be a large back-filled pit, probably a clay pit (F1). It was filled by dark grey silty clay, with two concentrations of Roman brick. This feature cut natural yellowish clay halfway up the trench. The bottom of the trench filled with groundwater after a few hours. The fill and the layer sealing it (L5) were very moist and dark which suggests they had been in anaerobic conditions eg. a pond. It is possible that this clay pit was dug in the Roman period and gradually filled in, hence the Roman tile. Alternatively it may have been dug later and the Roman tile is residual. At some point it may have held water.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F1	Eastern (lower) end of trench. Possible back-filled clay pit (= L6). Starts between 600mm and 900mm bgl. Filled by dark grey silty clay, mixed with orange sandy clay. The feature was only bottomed in one area. Cuts yellowish clay natural L9 and L10	Roman brick and tile in one concentration. No later finds	Roman?
F2	Square pit cut from high up, filled with lumps of yellow clay. N-facing section only	-	modern
L4	Topsoil-dark brown clayey loam with abundant roots, merges with L5	-	modern
L5	Hillwash-homogenous dark brown clay loam, 650mm thick, similar to L4 above, but moister. Occasional small stones and oyster shell. At eastern end of trench L5 is darker brown and appears to have once been in anaerobic conditions. Seals L6 and L8.	Roman brick and tile and peg tile, clay pipe	Roman to post-medieval?
L6 see F1			
L7	No L7		
L8	Yellowy brown layer sealed by L5 and overlying natural L10 in the central part of the trench. Presumably F1 cuts this layer but it was not obvious in the section	Roman CBM	Roman
L9	Natural yellow sandy clay, cut by F1. Starts 1m bgl.	-	?
L10	Natural yellowish grey clay, probably same as L9. Cut by F1. Starts 1.2m bgl.	-	?

6.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was located in an area of rough ground on the southern side of the development area. This area slopes down to the east. It was 20m long and 1.1m deep. Apart from a very modern pit (F6) the trench was devoid of features.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F6	Square or rectangular pit filled by yellow sand and stone. Cut from high up	-	modern
L12	Topsoil – dark brown silty loam with occasional small to med rounded or sub-angular stones. Seals L13	Roman CBM	modern
L13	Dark brown silty loam with occasional small to med rounded or sub-angular stones. Lime and tile flecks. Similar to L12. Seals L14	Coal, glass, slate, roman, med and post-med pottery, peg tile, Roman CBM	modern
L14	Accumulation of mid brown silty loam with rare charcoal/manganese flecks. Seals L15	Roman tile and Roman pottery	Roman to post-med?
L15	Natural mid brown silty clay starting at 950mm bgl. Alluvial?	-	post glacial?
L36	Western (higher) end of trench. Natural gravel consisting of rounded and angular stones ranging from 0.5 cm to 8cm in size, within a mid brown sandy silt . Continues into T11.	-	glacial

6.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was located on the northern side of the detached property – no 144 Brook Street. It was 7.3m long and 950mm deep. One north to south aligned ditch was recorded starting at 750mm bgl (F11). It was cut into natural sand and contained an Fe nail, a small amount of animal bone, Roman tile, peg tile, rare charcoal and rare coal. The pottery dates from the 14th-16th centuries. The feature may be a field ditch.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F11	N-S ditch, 0.85m – 1m wide, filled by mid brown sandy loam with rare small stones. Rare coal in upper and lower fill, rare mortar and charcoal. Rare animal bone and one Fe nail. Sandier fill at south end of feature. Narrower than F8 but may be a continuation. Fully excavated	Peg tile, 14th –16th century pottery	early post-med?
L32	Dark brown sandy loam topsoil. Seals L33	-	modern
L33	Yellowish brown silty sand subsoil. Contains animal bone. Seals L34 and F11	-	post-med
L34	Natural orange sand starting at 850mm bgl. Cut by F11	-	glacial

6.8 Trench 9

Trench 9 was located in the garden to the south of no 144. It was excavated to 13m in length and 1.15m in depth. The earliest feature, judging from the 14th-16th century pottery within it, was F12/F17. This was a wide ditch containing animal bone, Fe nails and peg tile. F12/17 was cut by F8 - a ditch on a north west to south east alignment. This 1.6m wide ditch started 900mm bgl and had a similar fill to F11 in Trench 7. F8 also contained similar finds of peg tile, Roman pottery, animal bone, charcoal, plus 14th-17th century pottery. There is a possibility that this feature may be the Civil War siege ditch and it could join up with F11, although it is on a slightly different alignment. Alternatively it could be a rubbish pit. Two other post-medieval pits were recorded (F20/21 and F13).

The fill of F20/21 contained a copper alloy finger ring dating from the post-medieval or early modern period. Four modern features were recorded: F7 was a small pit, cut from high up and removed to expose features beneath, F22 was small pit cutting F21/22, F23 was a pit with a mixed fill cutting F12/17, and F5 was a north-south aligned ditch, which had partly removed F20/21 and F23.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F5	N-S ditch filled by dark brown sandy silt. Contains Fe nails. Cuts F21-23	Modern pottery	modern
F7	Small pit Upper fill- dark yellowish brown sand Lower fill – mid brown sandy silt. Cuts L19	Modern pottery, Peg tile, Roman pottery	modern
F8	Linear feature. Filled by mid light brown sandy loam with small to medium sub-rounded stones. Sandy lenses. Contains animal bone. Continuation of F11? Cuts F12/17.	Late 16th/17th century pottery, peg tile, Roman pottery	17th C?
F12/F17	Originally thought to be two features, now all part of same large ditch. Cut by F8. Filled by mid light brown sandy loam with small to medium sub-rounded stones. Sandy lenses. Animal bone and Fe nails	14th –16th century Pottery, peg tile	med or early post-med
F13	Pit filled by pale brown sandy loam, rare small to medium stones. Root action. Animal bone	Peg tile, 16th century pottery	early post-med?
F20/F21	Pit originally thought to be two features. Filled by grey brown sandy loam. Contains an Fe nail, animal bone, and rare plaster. Cut by F22. Partially cut away by F5.	Peg tile, coal, 16th century pottery, post-medieval to early modern Cu alloy finger ring	early post-med
F22	Small pit cutting F20/21. Filled by dark brown sandy loam. Animal bone.	Peg tile and modern pottery, Roman CBM	modern
F23	Pit with a mixed fill of pale yellow sandy loam with a band of grey brown sandy loam. At least 600mm wide. Animal bone and Fe objects in upper and lower fills. Cuts F12/F17. Partially cut away by F5	Peg tile, modern pottery	modern
L18	Dark brown topsoil. Seals L19	-	modern
L19	Dark brown sandy loam subsoil with common small to medium sub-rounded stones. Seals L20	-	later post-med?
L20	Dark brown sandy loam with sand inclusions. Seals F8 and L45	Peg tile	post-med?
L45	Natural yellow sand starting at 950mm bgl	-	glacial

6.9 Trench 10

Trench 10 was located in the garden to the rear of no 144 Brook Street. It was 14m long and between 1.3m and 1.4m deep. There was a 1m thick layer of subsoil sealing two irregular shaped pits (F14 and F15/18). These were cut into natural sand (L31) and appeared to be cut from low down and sealed by a thick layer of subsoil (L30). The likely interpretation for these features is that they are medieval or early post-medieval quarry pits. Roman tile found on the spoil heap may have derived from L30 and have been residual. A modern brick footing at the north end of the trench (F24) (next to the brick

wall) is all that remains of a probable former outhouse but there are no buildings showing on any maps at this location.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F14	Irregular shaped large pit filled by dark brown sandy loam with abundant small stones. Animal bone	Peg tile, 13th century pottery	med or early post-med
F15/18	Possible sand quarry pit incorporating 3 parallel N-S cuts. A (east) filled by very light brown sandy loam; B (middle) filled by very dark brown sandy loam with rare tile and rare small stones and animal bone; C (west) filled by very dark brown sandy loam with rare large stones and animal bone.	14th -16th century pottery, peg tile	med or early post-med?
F24	Brick and concrete footing in east and south-facing sections at N end of trench. Demolition debris to the North and South. Probable outhouse.	Frogged bricks	modern
L29	Dark brown sandy silt loam topsoil with common small stones. Seals L30 and F24 and includes demolition rubble	Brick rubble	modern
L30	Dark brown silty sand subsoil 1m thick. Becomes more yellowy further down. Common medium and large stones. 1m thick. Cut by F24. Seals L31, F14 and F15/18	Roman CBM from spoil heap may have derived from this layer	post-med?
L31	Natural yellowish sand starting between 1.2m and 1.4m bgl	-	glacial

6.10 Trench 11

Trench 11 was located in an overgrown area in the south of the site, just north of trench 6. This area slopes down to the east. The trench was 27m long and between 1.2m and 1.4m deep. Natural clay was only reached where a scoop was machine dug to 1.7m below ground level. No features were recorded.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
L23	Dark brown clayey loam topsoil with occasional small and medium stones. Seals L24 and L35	Modern pottery	modern
L24	Yellowish brown silty loam hillwash with occasional small and medium stones. Seals L36 and L37	Peg tile, Roman brick	medieval to post-med
L25	Natural greyish silty clay. Starts 1.3m bgl. Sealed by L36 or L37	-	?
L35	East end of trench. Thin layer of slate, china and brick under L23	Slate, china, brick	modern
L36	Western (higher) end of trench. Natural gravel consisting of rounded and angular stones spread over approx 6m on western side of trench. Stones 0.5cm – 8cm in size. Sealed by L37?	-	glacial

L37	Natural yellowish brown silt with manganese or rotted roots. Either seals L36 and L25 or laps up against them	-	?
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6.11 Trench 12

Trench 12 was located in the overgrown rear garden of no 136 Brook Street. It measured 13m in length and was dug to a depth of between 1.2m and 1.5m. The ground had been severely disturbed by a large pit (F16) which took up most of the trench. It had been filled in with rubbish including mortar and bricks, possibly debris from the building of the house. The only likely explanation for such a deep and large pit would be a sand quarry pit. The eastern end of the trench, which was beyond the extent of F16, was undisturbed. Here the soil profile was very much like trench 2 and natural sand occurred at 1m below ground level.

Feature or layer no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F16	Large sand quarry pit? 1.15m deep. Extends nearly the whole length of the trench. Topsoil-type material with a diagonal tip line of sand. Mortar and plaster	Coal, brick, milk bottle, clay pipe, glass	modern
L26	Dark brown sandy silt topsoil with common small to medium stones. Seals L27 and F16.	-	modern
L27	Eastern end of trench. Mid brown sandy silt subsoil with lenses of orangey sand – garden soil. Cut by F16. Seals L28	-	post-med?
L28	Natural yellow sand cut by F16. Seen in eastern end of trench only. Starts at 1.5m bgl. Starts at 1m at eastern end.	-	glacial

7 Discussion

7.1 The evaluation resulted in several features of medieval and early post-medieval date being recorded near Brook Street, on the higher ground. The Parliamentary siege ditch was not definitely identified, however two possible connecting ditches in Trenches 7 and 9 contain pottery of the correct date. There was nothing within the fill of these ditches e.g. musket balls that would confirm their association with the siege and one of them was somewhat small for a defensive ditch. Therefore a more likely interpretation may be that the ditch in Trench 7 is a field ditch and the 'ditch' in Trench 9 is rubbish pit. Colchester's siege ditch has never been excavated and therefore it is not known what shape or size of feature to expect. One would expect the ditch to pass through the western side of the development site, on the higher ground. There is only one area which was left unevaluated where the ditch might run and this is in front of no 144 Brook Street. It is proposed that when the house is demolished it will be possible to test this area as well. After this trench has been dug another report will be produced.

7.2 The medieval and late medieval pottery report (Appendix 4) highlights the lack of any early medieval pottery from the site, indicating very limited activity here in the 12th-13th centuries. However there was much more activity on this site in the 14th-16th centuries, especially in the area around no 144 Brook Street. Features here resemble domestic rubbish pits, probably to the rear of properties fronting Barrack Street (fig 3). Two possible sand quarry pits from this period were also recorded in trench 10, to the east of no 144. The pottery report also states that there is much less German stoneware and post-medieval red earthenware here than on a typical town-centre site:

“this indicates that there was little activity here in the 17th and 18th centuries. The 19th-20th century material is probably a reflection of the gradual encroachment of the Victorian suburbs onto land shown as open (sometimes orchard) from the 17th to the mid 19th centuries.”

- 7.3** Roman brick and tile was in evidence within some of the layers and features as was a reasonably large amount of Roman pottery. This was nearly all found residually in later contexts. As stated in appendix 4:

“Taken with the Roman material recovered from Hythe Hill and from the adjacent St Mary Magdalen’s Church site, an area of Roman activity is indicated, although it is too far from the Roman town to be considered a suburb.”

- There are no known substantial Roman buildings in the vicinity. However the development site is thought to lie close to a Roman road and there may well have been Roman buildings along the road that have yet to be discovered.
- 7.4** In Trench 5 a large pit with silty clay fill was found to contain Roman brick and no later finds. The most logical interpretation for this feature is a clay extraction pit. We know from place name evidence that the adjacent field was occupied by a brickworks at one point (section 4.5) and it would make sense that clay would be extracted next to the place of manufacture. After the Roman period bricks were not commonly used until the 16th century (McDonald 2003, 5). It was not possible to establish whether the clay pit is post-medieval, with the Roman bricks being residual, or if it started to be used in the Roman period.
- 7.5** Trench 12, to the rear of Brook Street, contained a large pit, filled with modern rubbish. It may have been a sand quarry pit which was filled in at the time that houses on Brook Street were constructed.
- 7.6** The two trenches in the Hills compound and the car park (T3 and T4) were dug through heavily disturbed ground where any archaeological remains would not have survived. What had been a natural slope had been cut into and leveled out to create a flat area for the compound. Modern hogging overlays natural sand here. One modern pit (F19) was recorded at the north eastern end of the trench. The car park was formally a landfill site (F9) which may have extended west into the compound (F19).
- 7.7** No medieval burials or any features definitely associated with St Mary Magdalen’s Hospital was revealed during the evaluation. Neither was any Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon pottery retrieved.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Stanley Bragg Architects for commissioning the work and allowing access and Mersea Homes for funding the work. The fieldwork was carried out by Paul Finbow, Chris Lister and Emma Sandford and supervised by Kate Orr. The project was monitored by Martin Winter (CBCAO).

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10 Glossary

Bgl	below ground level
BP	'before present' i.e. before 1950
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
EHCR	Essex Heritage Conservation Record, maintained by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain, a floor; can contain contexts'
glacial	deposits laid down by the action of glaciers c 470, 000 BP – 10,000 BP
Iron Age	the period from c 700 BC to AD 43
medieval	period from AD 1066 to approximately AD 1500
modern	period from c 1850 to the present
NGR	national grid reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	approximately AD 1500 to c 1850
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 410
SF	small find i.e. a find requiring special treatment
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database, maintained by Colchester Museums

11 Archive deposition

The finds and paper archive are held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but both will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museums under accession code 2004.274.

12 Finds List

Trench 1

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight in g
F3	30	5	glass	10.2
F3	30	3	medieval, post-med and modern pottery	13.3
F3	30	10	pottery	56.1
F3	30	6	shell	12.4
F3	30	15	peg tile	433.0
F3	30	4	coal/coke	7.4
F3	30	4	Roman CBM	62.2
F3	30	2	fragments of clay tobacco pipe	
F3	30		animal bone	
F3	30	1	slate	12.5
F3	30	1	glass	2.5k
L11	12	1	Roman pottery	19.5
L11	12	2	Roman CBM	257.3
L16	13	3	post-med and modern pottery	105.7
L16	13	7	modern brick + peg tile	1133.3
U/S	11	1	modern White-metal-alloy button, SF4	
U/s	29	2	peg tile	129.0

Trench 2

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight g
L1	1	1	shell	20.0
L1	1	5	peg tile	267.4
L1	1	1	slate	9.4
L1	1	1	Roman CBM	112.0
L2	2	2	14th –16th century pottery	23.1
L2	2		animal bone	
L2	2	5	peg tile	180.7
L2	36	1	Roman CBM	257.2
U/s	3	1	Roman pottery	23.5
U/s	9	3	Roman and modern pottery	7.4
U/s	9	2	Roman CBM	394.0
U/s	9	1	shell	1.0
U/s	9	1	glass	0.2
U/s	9	1	slate	5.0
U/s	9	2	peg tile	70.1

Trench 3

No finds

Trench 4

No finds

Trench 5

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight g
L8	5	5	Roman CBM	980.3
L8	5		animal bone	
F1	7	3	Roman CBM	272.4
L5	8	1	clay tobacco pipe	
L5	8	2	Roman CBM	763.6
L5	8	3	peg tile	200.5
L5	10	1	mortar	5.1

L5	10	6	Roman CBM	2076.9
U/S	6	1	modern Cu alloy obj, SF6	
U/S	20	1	George V coin SF2, 1921	
U/S	20	1	slate pencil SF3, 17th –20th century	

Trench 6

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight g
L12	30	1	Roman CBM	57.4
L13	31	1	glass	4.1
L13	31	1	slate	6.0
L13	31	2	mortar	14.0
L13	31	1	charcoal	10.7
L13	31	5	Roman med, post-med and modern pottery	40.2
L13	31	15	peg tile	276.0
L13	31	1	Roman CBM	225.5
L14	32	1	Roman pottery	2
L14	32	17	Roman CBM	1348,0

Trench 7

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight g
F11	50	1	shell	5.3
F11	50	2	fe bar fragment and Fe nail	
F11	50	2	Roman and 14th –16 century pottery	6.3
F11	50	2	animal bone	
F11	50	5	charcoal	8.1
F11	50	1	Roman CBM	225.7
F11	50	7	peg tile	201.4

Trench 9

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight g
F5	19	1	shell	11.4
F5	19	2	coal	27.0
F5	19	10	peg tile	184.0
F5	19	1	fe nail	
F5	19	6	modern pottery	30.0
F5	19	1	Roman CBM	30.0
F5	19	1	glass	0.3
F5	19	1	slate	3.4
F5	19	1	charcoal	10.0
F5	19		animal bone	
F5 Lower fill	56	1	slate	2.6
F5 Lower fill	56	8	fe nails	
F5 lower	56	3	coke	6.5
F5 Lower fill	56	3	Roman CBM	116.8
F5 Lower Fill	56	27	peg tile	568.1

F5 lower fill	56	10	modern pottery	61.8
F5 Lower fill	56	1	clay tobacco pipe stem fragment	
F5 Lower fill	56	5	glass	44.7
F5 lower fill	56	1	lead object SF 5	
F5 Lower fill	56		animal bone	
F7	22	1	fe fragment	
F7	22	4	modern and Roman pottery	8.9
F7	22	7	peg tile	203.4
F7	22	1	charcoal	1.7
F8 Lower fill	15	13	14th-16th century pottery and Roman pottery	68.8
F8 Lower fill	15		animal bone	
F8 Lower fill	15		fe nail	
F8 Lower fill	15	19	peg tile	473.5
F8 Middle fill	16	1	fe nail	
F8 Middle fill	16	1	chalk	1.4
F8 Middle fill	16		animal bone	
F8 Middle fill	16	10	14th-15 th pottery and Roman pottery	71.0
F8 Middle fill	16	24	peg tile	542.7
F8 Middle fill	16	2	charcoal	1.0
F8 Upper fill	17		animal bone	
F8 Upper fill	17	6	late 16th or 17th century pottery	39.8
F8 Upper fill	17	10	peg tile	169.3
F8 Upper fill	17	1	charcoal	6.6

F12	18		animal bone	
F12	18	1	13th –15 th Pottery	7.9
F12	18	2	peg tile	39.3
F12	25	1	14th –16th century pottery	3.7
F12	25	1	fe nail	
F12	25	1	peg tile	35.4
F13 Upper fill	27		animal bone	
F13 Upper fill	27	4	16th century pottery and Roman pottery	27.9
F13 Upper fill	27	12	peg tile	255.9
F13 Upper fill	27	1	Roman CBM	75.6
F13 Upper fill	27	3	charcoal	0.4
F13 Upper fill	27	1	shell	2.3
F13 Lower fill	28	1	fe cleat or strip fragment	
F13 lower fill	28	2	14th –16 th pottery	7.5
F13 lower fill	28	2	CBM fragments	5.4
F17 Base or F12	33	5	14th-16th century pottery	28.7
F17 Base or F12	33		animal bone	
F17 Base or F12	33	1	charcoal	6.5
F17 Base or F12	33	3	fe nails	
F17 Base or F12	33	13	peg tile	294.0
F17 Middle or F12	34	2	14th –16th century pottery	16.2
F17 Middle or F12	34		animal bone	
F17 Middle or F12	34	3	peg tile	89.1
F17 Top or F12	35	4	14th –16th century pottery and Roman pottery	26.4
F17 Top or F12	35	4	peg tile	200.3

F17 Top or F12	35	4	Roman CBM	68.6
L20	24		animal bone	
L20	24	16	peg tile	501.4
F20	49		animal bone	
F20	49	1	fe nail	
F20	49	6	14th –16th century pottery	49.2
F20	49	8	peg tile	298.2
F20	49	1	Roman CBM	54.0
F20	49	1	coke	4.9
F21? top	41	1	13th –16th century pottery	19.6
F21? top	41		animal bone	
F21? top	41	14	peg tile	300.4
F21? top	41	1	Roman CBM	67.2
F21? top	41	1	mortar	13.5
F21? top	41	1	charcoal	3.1
F21	42		late medieval or early modern Cu alloy finger ring SF no 1	
F21	43	1	14th-16th century pottery	4.9
F21	43	1	stone	303.2
F21	43		fe object	
F21	43	3	peg tile	36.3
F21	43		animal bone	
F21	43	1	coke	2.3
F21 or F22- base	44	7	14th –16th century pottery	48.2
F21 or F22- base	44	1	charcoal	2.3
F21 or F22- base	44	2	Roman CBM	184.3
F21 or F22- base	44	1	stone	227.1
F21 or F22- base	44	1	fe nail	
F21 or F22- base	44	5	peg tile	155.2
F21 lower	51	1	coke	2.7
F21 lower	51	5	14th –16th century pottery	53.0
F21 lower	51	16	peg tile	356.8
F21 or F22 middle	45	2	16th century pottery	26.7
F21 or F22 mid	45	2	Roman CBM	312.6

F21 or F22 middle	45	10	peg tile	341.7
F22 middle	52	1	modern pottery	10.4
F22 middle	52	2	peg tile	38.5
F22 base	53		animal bone	
F22 base	53	2	14th –16th century pottery	6.7
F22 base	53	2	fe nail shank fragments	
F22 base	53	4	peg tile	50.8
F23 Upper 10cm	53		animal bone	
F23 Upper 10cm	46	1	peg tile	19.1
F23 Upper 10cm	46	3	coke	7.5
F23 Middle-next 10cm	47	5	modern pottery	43.4
F23 middle	47	6	peg tile	157.6
F23 middle	54	11	peg tile	225.5
F23 middle	54	1	charcoal	0.9
F23 lower	48		animal bone	
F23 lower	48	1	fe nail	
F23 lower	48	10	16th –17th century pottery	149.0
F23 lower	48	18	peg tile	391.7
F23 lower	48	4	mortar	40.0
F23 lower	54		animal bone	
F23 lower	55	6	14th –16th century pottery	30.7
F23 lower	55		animal bone	
F23 lower	55	1	coke	3.8
F23 lower	55	12	peg tile	330.3

Trench 10

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight g
F14	26	2	13th century pottery	8.1
F14	26	2	peg tile	130.0
F14	26		animal bone	
F15/18 Fill a	37	1	14th – 16th century pottery	7.8
F15/18 fill b	38	1	14th –16th century pottery	2.1
F15/18 fill b	38	3	peg tile	35.0
F15/18	38		animal bone	
15/18 fill d	40	1	Roman CBM	7.0
F15/18 Fill d	40	1	14th –16th century pottery	4.8
U/s	29	5	Roman CBM	426.4
U/S	29	4	Roman CBM	482.0
U/S	29	1	oyster shell	33.0
U/S	21	2	Roman CBM	328.0

Trench 11

Context	Finds no	Quantity	Finds type	Weight g
L23	23	2	modern pottery	25.5
L24	14	2	peg tile	137.0
L24	14	1	Roman CBM	200.4

Trench 12

No finds

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Appendix 1: The faunal remains

By Julie Curl

Summary

A total of 1.052g, consisting of 110 pieces, was recovered from 2004.296 Brook Street, Colchester. The assemblage largely comprised of the butchered remains of the main domesticated species, cattle and sheep goat in particular and pig in much smaller numbers. Other species were represented, with Roe deer, hare, cat and bird bones being identified.

Methodology

All of the bone was briefly scanned primarily to determine range of species and elements present and the amount of material that could produce measurable, ageable bone; bone was briefly scanned to determine if bone, horn or antler working was present in the assemblage. A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context. No measurements were taken with this assemblage due to the lack of much suitable material. All information was recorded on the faunal remains recording sheets and inputted into an Excel database for analysis. The scan and assessment were carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis, 1992). A table giving a summary of the assemblage is included with this report.

Results and conclusions

Bone was recovered from seven trenches, 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10; with just over seventy-five per cent of the assemblage produced from Trench 9. In general, the assemblage was in quite poor condition and highly fragmented, with few complete or near complete elements being recorded. The whole assemblage appears to derive from both primary and secondary butchering and food waste. Most of the remains were from the main domesticated mammals, cattle, sheep/goat and pig. Utilisation of the wild animals is indicated by the presence of hare and Roe deer, although it appears they did not contribute a great deal to the economy at Brook Street. Bird bone was only found in small numbers. This may be due to a recovery bias or they may not have been used in great numbers at this site. No fish or human bone was identified in this assemblage.

Trench 1

This trench produced less than one per cent of the assemblage, consisting of five grams of bone. The remains could only be identified as 'mammal' and are thought to be of a modern date.

Trench 2

Just over three per cent of the remains were retrieved from Trench 2, totalling thirty-three grams. The bone, a fragment of cattle tibia and part of a Roe deer metatarsal, both butchered, are of a post-medieval date.

Trench 5

A single proximal phalange from a large robust cow was produced from Trench 5, L5 (8); this bone could range from Roman to post-medieval in date and weighs thirty grams.

Trench 6

This trench only produced three grams of bone that could only be attributed to 'mammal' rib and shaft fragments; the pieces had been butchered, but are undated.

Trench 7

Bone was recovered from two contexts in Trench 7. The bone included an unfused, chopped cattle femur in L33 (58). Remains totalled seventy-five grams and represented seven per cent of the whole assemblage.

Trench 9

Just over seventy-five per cent of the assemblage was produced from Trench 9, with all of the bone recovered from contexts of a probable medieval, post-medieval or later date. Most of the remains from this trench consisted of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, much of which bore butchering marks. The bone from these main domestic species was derived from both primary and secondary butchering and food waste. The ages varied considerably; much of the sheep/goat bone was from adults, suggesting a varied range of uses for this species, including wool production, breeding, milk and eventually meat. The cattle consisted of both adults and juveniles, suggesting the cull of younger animals and a move towards keeping animals for meat rather than for traction and to allow milking once the young had been removed and killed. Pigs were primarily juveniles, which is consistent with the primary use of these animals for meat.

Other species were recovered from Trench 9, including a rabbit/cat vertebrae in F20, a hare tibia in F5, a cat scapula and humerus in F5 which bore cuts suggesting the cats use for its pelt and possibly the meat. Two galliforme (chicken/pheasant) foot bones were found unstratified (57), one of these phalanges showed signs of an arthritic disease. Canine gnawing was observed in F5 (56), which may suggest waste left open for scavengers or simply the remains of a domestic dogs meal.

Trench 10

Trench 10 produced a total of one-hundred and five grams of bone and represents ten per cent of the whole assemblage, all of which is dated to the medieval/post-medieval period. Cattle and sheep/goat meat waste bones were recovered from F15/F18 and a sub-adult cat femur was found in F14.

Recommendations for further work

This is a small assemblage in quite poor condition and no further work is recommended on this assemblage. However, bone from any further excavations on this site should at least be assessed.

Summary of the faunal remains. Listed in order of trench number first.

Feature /Layer Number	Trench No	Find No	Date?	Total Qty	Wt (g)	Species	Sp.Qty	Measure	Count	Age	Butchering	Comments
F3	1	30	modern	3	5	mammal	3					
L2	2	2	post-med	2	33	cattle	1				chopped	tibia
L2	2	2	post-med			deer - Roe	1				chopped	fragment of metatarsal
L5	5	8	Rom /PM	1	30	cattle	1	1	0.5	adult		proximal phalange, robust
L13	6	31		3	7	mammal	3				butchered	rib and shaft fragments
F11	7	50	17th C?	2	7	mammal	2					
L33	7	58	post-med	2	68	cattle	2		1	juv	chopped	unfused femur, distal
F12	9	18	Med/post-med	2	12	mammal	2				butchered	
F13	9	27	post-med	11	59	pig	1		1	adult	cut/chop	fibula
F13	9	27	post-med			bird	1				chopped	shaft fragment
F13	9	27	post-med			mammal	9				butchered	vertebrae, rib & shaft frags
F17	9	33	med/post-med	8	79	cattle	2					proximal tibia (juv), cuboid

Feature /Layer Number	Trench No	Find No	Date?	Total Qty	Wt (g)	Species	Sp.Qty	Measure	Count	Age	Butchering	Comments
F17	9	33	med/po st-med			Sheep /goat	1					molar
F17	9	33	med/po st-med			mammal	5					rib and other fragments
F17/12	9	34	med/po st-med	2	32	Sheep /goat	1		1	adult	chopped	radius
F17/12	9	34	med/po st-med			mammal	1				chopped	vertebrae, probably cattle
F17/12	9		med/po st-med	1	11	cattle	1		1	juv	chopped	mandible fragment
F20	9	49	post-med	4	7	pig	1		0.5	juv		proximal phalange
F20	9	49	post-med			Rabbit /cat	1			juv		vertebrae
F21	9	41	post-med	17	122	cattle	2		1	juv	cut	metapodial condyles
F21	9	41	post-med			Sheep /goat	1	1	1	adult	chopped	metacarpal, canid gnawing
F21	9	41	post-med			galliformes	1			adult	cut	synsacrum
F21	9	41	post-med			mammal	113				butchered	skull, rib and other fragments
F21	9	43	post-med	2	19	Sheep /goat	1		1	adult	chopped	metatarsal
F21	9	43	post-med			mammal	1					
F21/22	9	44	post-med	1	2	mammal	1					
F21/22	9	45	post-med	5	24	pig	1		0.5	juv		phalange, proximal
F22	9	53	modern	1	13	Sheep /goat	1		1	adult	chopped	tibia
F22	9	53	modern	1	3	mammal	1					burnt and some copper stains
F23	9	46	modern			mammal	2					
F23	9	48	modrn	3	22	Sheep /goat	1		1	adult	chopped	femur, proximal
F23	9	48	modern			mammal	2					
F23	9	54	modern	2	2	mammal	2					
F23	9	55	modern	3	141	cattle	1		1	juv	chopped	humerus, unfused
F23	9	55	modern			mammal	2					fragments
F5	9	19	modern	3	11	hare	1		1	adult		tibia
F5	9	19	modern			mammal	2	1	2	adult + juv	chopped	
F5	9	56	modern	4	32	feline	2	1	2	sub-adult	cut	scapula and humerus
F5	9	56	modern			mammal	2					canid gnawing
F8	9	15	17th C?	3	139	cattle	2	1	1	adult	chopped	calcaeneus, vertebrae
F8	9	15	17th C?			Sheep /goat	1	1	1	adult	chopped	humerus
F8	9	16	17th C?	8	14	mammal	8				butcherd	small fragments
F8	9	17	17th C?	5	29	Sheep /goat	1		1	adult	chopped	tibia
F8	9	17	17th C?			mammal						
L20	9	24	post-med	2	23	Sheep /goat	2		1	adult	chopped	humerus and vertebrae
u/s	9	57		2	1	galliformes	2			adult		phalanges, 1 arthritic

Feature /Layer Number	Trench No	Find No	Date?	Total Qty	Wt (g)	Species	Sp.Qty	Measure	Count	Age	Butchering	Comments
F14	10	26	med/PM	4	65	feline	1		1	sub-adult		femur, proximal
F14	10	26	med/PM			mammal	3				chopped	humerus frag and other pieces
F15/18	10	38	med/PM	2	7	Sheep goat	1		1	adult	chopped	pelvis fragment
F15/18	10	38	med/PM			mammal	1					
F15/18	10	39	med/PM	1	33	cattle	1			juv		proximal tibia, unfused

Appendix 2: The small finds and clay tobacco pipes

By Nina Crummy

This small assemblage consists mainly of metalwork, the exceptions being a fragment of a slate pencil and four fragments of clay tobacco pipes. Two of the latter are bowls that date to the late 17th and early 18th centuries respectively. The only other item that can be closely dated is a 1921 penny of George V.

The largest group of metal objects consists of iron nails, including at least one modern wire nail. It is not possible to date most of the nails.

Copper-alloy and white-metal-alloy objects

SF 2. (20), unstratified, trench 5. George V copper-alloy penny, dated 1921. Diameter 31 mm.

SF 1. (42) F21. Post-medieval pit. Copper-alloy finger-ring with narrow marginal mouldings and broader central moulding crossed by carelessly-applied transverse grooves. Maximum internal diameter 21 mm, height 4 mm, thickness 1.5 mm. Post-medieval to early modern.

SF 8. (6), unstratified, Trench 5. Copper-alloy sheet metal sheath, probably from wooden object. Maximum dimensions 101 by 41 by 20 mm. Modern.

SF 4. (11), unstratified, Trench 1 White-metal-alloy button with four-hole countersunk centre and vegetal decoration on the flange. Diameter 13 mm. 19th to early 20th century.

SF 5. (56) F5. Modern ditch. Roughly-cut double-pointed lead staple with the tip of one short arm missing. In form and size this object is similar to copper-alloy double-pointed dress fasteners (CAR 5, 10-11; Margeson 1993, 19, fig 9) but the metal is too soft for such frequent use and it is probably more likely to be a small structural tie. Length 37 mm.

Iron objects

(19) F5. Modern ditch. Complete wire nail with flat round head; shank bent. Length 66 mm. Modern.

(56) F5. Modern ditch. Eight nails and two shank fragments. The heads are mainly round and flat or slightly convex, but one is rectangular and only slightly larger than the shank. The tips of the shanks are all missing. Lengths 89, 69, 66, 65, 63, 29, 27, 21 mm; shanks 34 and 12 mm.

(22) F7. Modern Pit. Amorphous fragment, maximum dimensions 19 by 14 by 12 mm.

(15) F8. Post-medieval ditch. Nail with slightly convex round head; shank clenched, tip missing. Length 22 mm.

(16) F8. Post-medieval ditch. Nail with slightly convex round head; shank slightly bent, tip missing. Length 30 mm.

(50) F11. Post-medieval ditch. Bar fragment, maximum dimensions 45 by 26 by 22 mm.

(50) F11. Post-medieval ditch. Nail with small ?rectangular head; tip of shank missing. Length 36 mm.

(25) F12. Medieval/ post-medieval pit. Nail with flat round head; tip of shank missing. Length 23 mm.

- (28) F13. Post-medieval pit. Cleat or strip fragment. Length 36 mm.
- (33) F17. Medieval/ post-medieval pit. Three iron nails with convex round heads; the tip of each shank is missing. Lengths 52, 37, and 34 mm.
- (49) F20. Post-medieval pit. Nail and shank fragment. The nail has a flat subcircular head; tip of shank missing. Length 69 mm. Shank fragment length 12 mm.
- (43) F21. Post-medieval pit. Bar, tool head, or handle of rectangular section with one end lying in the opposite plane to the other. Length 87 mm, section 17 by 12 at one end, 17 by 8 at the other.
- (44) F21 or F22. Post-medieval pit. Nail with small round flat head; tip of shank missing. Length 16 mm.
- (53) F22. Modern small pit. Two crossed nail shank fragments, lengths 20 and 14 mm.
- (48) F23. Modern pit. Nail with flat round head; shank bent, tip missing. Length 39 mm.

Stone object

SF 3. (20), unstratified, trench 5. Fragment of a slate pencil, the tip is missing. Length 44 mm, diameter 6 mm. Slate pencils were mainly used in the 18th and 19th centuries, but there are possible examples from the end of the 17th century and some usage in the early 20th century (Rhodes 1984, 120).

Clay tobacco pipes

- (8) L5. Hill wash. Two fragments of a Type 7 bowl, with rouletting round the rim. Date range: c 1670-1700 (CAR 5, 49).
- (30) F3. Modern pit. Type 9 bowl, unmarked. Date range: c 1700-40 (CAR 5, 51-2).
- (30) F3. Modern pit. Stem fragment, bore diameter 2.5 mm.
- (56) F5. Modern ditch. Stem fragment, bore diameter 2 mm.

Appendix 3: The Roman pottery

By Stephen Benfield of CAT (see table in Appendix 4 below)

Roman pottery fabrics follow those used in CAR 10, and pottery forms refer to the Camulodunum (Cam) type series (Hawkes and Hull 1947 & Hull 1958).

There was only a small quantity of Roman pottery from the Brook Street evaluation (11 sherds weighing 76 g) and all was residual in later contexts. Almost all of the sherds were of local grey wares (fabric GX – other coarse wares, principally locally produced grey wares) and can only be dated as Roman. There was one sherd from a Black Burnished ware category 2 bowl, (fabric GB) of 2nd-3rd century date, and one base sherd from a small beaker in abraded fine grey ware (fabric GP – fine grey wares) of 1st-2nd century date from Trench 9 (F7 find no. 22). The only pottery form which could be recognised was an abraded rim, probably from a Cam 266 jar, dated 1st-early 2nd century.

It can be noted that a small quantity of residual Roman pottery (approximately 30 sherds) was also recovered from the excavations on the site of the St Mary Magdalen Hospital just to the West of the Brook Street evaluation (Crossan 1997).

Appendix 4: The medieval and post-medieval pottery

By Howard Brooks of CAT

Source

The material is from Trenches 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11.

Description of pottery

A total weight of 1.206kg (149 sherds) was excavated. Fabrics present are as follows (after Cotter 2000): Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); fabric 22 (Hedingham fine ware); fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware); fabric 45 (German stoneware); fabric 46 (tin-glazed earthenware); fabric 48d (modern ironstone); fabric 51a (late slipped kitchen ware); and fabric 51b (flowerpot). Fabrics are summarised by trench in the Tables below (full details in archive). There were also a number of residual Roman sherds. Fabric numbers refer to Cotter 2000.

Discussion

This is a very small collection of material with no significantly large groups. Most of the pottery is locally-made Colchester-type ware (fabric 21a: 717g = 58% of the group by weight). There are smaller weights of post-medieval red earthenware (fabric 40: 107g = 8%), and of modern ironstone (fabric 48d: 90g = 7%). Roman sherds amounted to 5% of the collection by weight.

Three points can be made. First, there is a reasonably large amount of Roman pottery here, all from residual contexts. Taken with the Roman material recovered from Hythe Hill and from the adjacent St Mary Magdalen's Church site, an area of Roman activity is indicated although it is too far from the Roman town to be considered a suburb. Second, there is hardly any early medieval pottery here (Fabrics 13 and 20), but Fabric 21a is quite common. Therefore, the 12th-13th centuries saw very limited activity here, but there was much more activity on this site in the 14th-16th centuries. Third, there is much less German stoneware and post-medieval red earthenware here than on a typical town-centre site. This indicates that there was little activity here in the 17th and 18th centuries. The 19th-20th century material is probably a reflection of the gradual encroachment of the Victorian suburbs onto land shown as open (sometimes orchard) from the 17th to the mid 19th centuries (McDonald 2003).

fabrics

Bag	Cont	Rom GB qt	Rom GB wt	21a qt	21a wt	22	22 wt	40 qt	40 wt	45 qt	45 wt	48d qt	48d wt	51a qt	51a wt	Group date
12	L11	1	19													Roman only
13	L16							1	70	1	10	1	27			19th-20th
30	F3			2	5	1	8	2	37			7	8	1	8	19th-20th
Totals		1	19	2	5	1	8	3	107	1	10	8	35	1	8	

Trench 1 - weight of fabric types per bag and context

Bag	Cont	Rom GX qt	Rom GX wt	21a qt	21a wt	48d qt	48d wt	Group date
2	L2			2	33			14th-16th
3	U/S	1	23					Roman?
9	U/S	1	1			2	6	19th-20th
Totals		2	24	2	33	2	6	

Trench 2- weight of fabric types per bag and context

Bag	Cont	Rom GX qt	Rom GX wt	21a qt	21a wt	48d qt	48d wt	51b qt	51b wt	Group date
31	L13	1	5	2	9	2	2	1	23	19th-20th
32	L14	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	Roman only
Totals		2	7	2	9	2	2	1	23	

Trench 6- weight of fabric types per bag and context

Bag	Cont	Rom GX qt	Rom GX wt	21a qt	21a wt	Group date
50	F11	1	5	1	2	14th-16th
Totals		1	5	1	2	

Trench 7- weight of fabric types per bag and context

Bag	Cont	Rom GX qt	Rom GX wt	20qt	20 wt	21a qt	21a wt	35 qt	35 wt	45 qt	45 wt	46qt	46wt	48d qt	48d wt	51a qt	51a wt	51b qt	51b wt	Group date
15	F8	1	4	4	10	8	54													14th-16th
16	F8	1	4	3	32	5	31			1	4									14th-15th
17	F8	0	0	0	0	4	23			0	0	1	11							Late 16th or 17th
18	F12	0	0	1	9	0	0			0	0									13th-15th
19	F5	0	0	0	0	2	6			0	0			2	7	2	17			19th-20th
22	F7	2	6	0	0	1	2			0	0			1	1					19th-20th
25	F12	0	0	0	0	1	3			0	0			0	0					14th-16th
27	F13	1	2	0	0	2	8	1	17	0	0			0	0					16th
28	F13	0	0	0	0	2	7			0	0			0	0					14th-16th
33	F17/F12	0	0	0	0	4	15			0	0			0	0					14th-16th
34	F17/F12	0	0	0	0	2	16			0	0			0	0					14th-16th
35	F17/F12	1	5	0	0	3	22			0	0			0	0					14th-16th
41	F21			1	19	0	0			0	0			0	0					13th-16th
43	F21			0	0	1	5			0	0			0	0					14th-16th
44	F21 or F22			0	0	7	47			0	0			0	0					14th-16th
45	F21 or F22			0	0	1	6			0	0			0	0					16th
47	F23			1	7	3	19			0	0			0	0			1	16	19th-20th
48	F23					10	147			1	2			0	0			0	0	16th-17th
49	F20					6	49							0	0			0	0	14th-16th
51	F21					5	53							0	0			0	0	14th-16th
52	F22					0	0							1	10			0	0	19th-20th
53	F22					2	6							0	0			0	0	14th-16th
55	F23					5	28							0	0			0	0	14th-16th
56	F5					4	37							4	14			2	9	19th-20th
Totals		6	21	10	77	78	584	1	17	2	6	1	11	8	32	2	17	3	25	

Trench 9- weight of fabric types per bag and context

		20qt	20 wt	21a qt	21a wt	Group date
Bag	Context					
26	F14	1	6			13th
37	F18/F15			1	77	14-16th
38	F18/F15			1	2	14-16th
40	F18/F15			1	5	14-16th
Totals		1	6	3	84	

Trench 10- weight of fabric types per bag and context

		48d qt	48d wt	Group date
Bag	Cont			
23	L23	2	25	19-20th
Totals		2	25	

Trench 11- weight of fabric types per bag and context

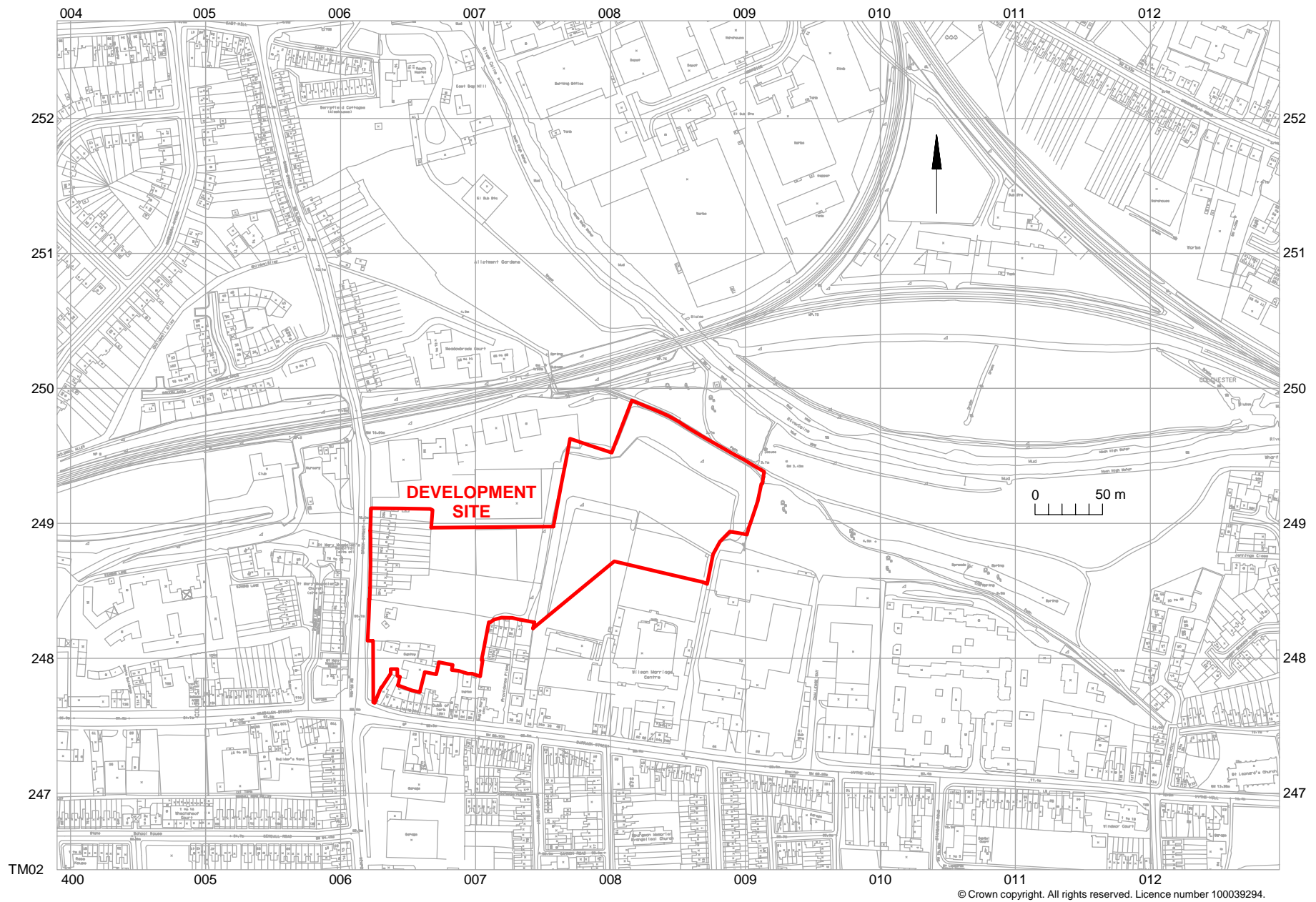
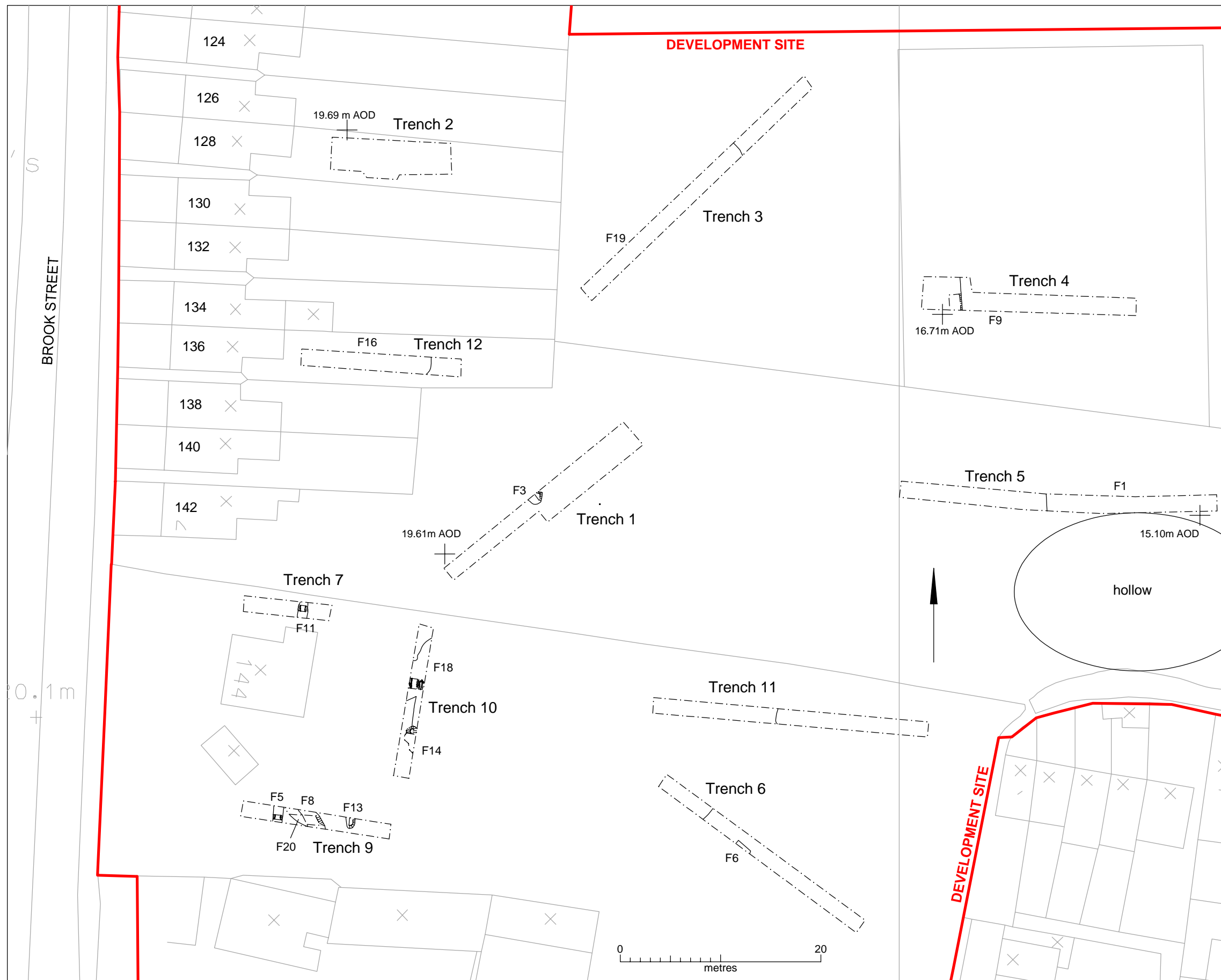


Fig 1 Development site location plan.



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Fig 2 Location of trenches.

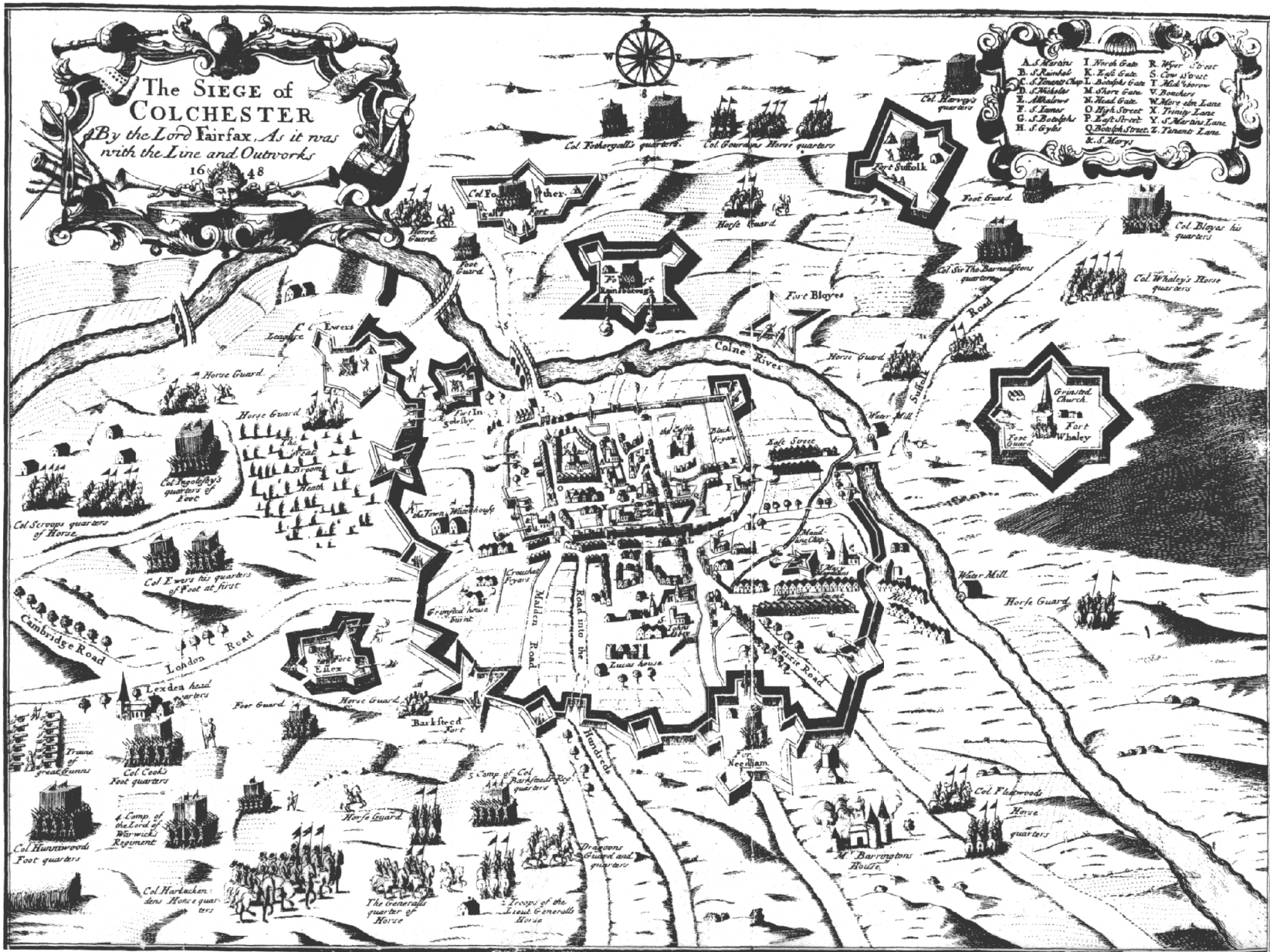


Fig 6 Map of 1648 seige of Colchester. (Not to scale.)

Essex Heritage Conservation Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

Summary sheet

Site address: Archaeological Evaluation at land to the east of Brook Street, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 0075 2487	Site code: 2004.274
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: July 2004	Size of area investigated: 1.4 hectares
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? yes	Related EHCR nos: 2534
Final report: CAT Report 281 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Roman? medieval, post medieval and modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: Eleven trial trenches were excavated at land to the east of Brook Street, prior to a planning application for residential development being determined. The evaluation resulted in several pits and a ditch of 14th to 16th date being recorded near the corner of Brook Street and Barrack Street, on the higher ground. These resembled domestic rubbish pits and they probably relate to a property fronting Barrack Street to the south. Evidence of sand quarrying was found on the higher ground, and clay quarrying on the lower ground to the east. Some archaeological features may have been destroyed by this quarrying activity as well as by the landfill pit and the car park, both south of the Co-op warehouse. Modern pits are probably a reflection of the gradual encroachment of the Victorian suburbs onto open land. The Civil War Siege ditch was not definitely identified, however it is proposed that when 144 Brook Street is demolished one more trench will be excavated by Brook Street to attempt to reveal it.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: Desk-based assessment. CAT report 233	
Author of summary: Kate Orr	Date of summary: August 2004