

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

CAT Report 516
An archaeological watching brief
at the nursery and ranger station,
Upper Castle Park, Colchester, Essex

Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 9994 2555 (c)	Site code: Accession code - COLEM 2009.30 CAT - 09/5c
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 18th-27th May 2009	Size of area investigated: Approximately 10m ² of levelling; 10m of drainage trenching @ 300mm wide; 15 post-holes for fencing, each 300mm wide x 600mm deep
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: CBC
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER/UAD nos: -
Periods represented: modern	
Final report: CAT Report 516 (summary sheet only)	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: <i>The site is located in the northern edge of Upper Castle Park to the west of Duncan's Gate, within Insula 7 of the Roman walled town (Figs 1-2). The site is protected as part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Essex SAM no 1). As a consequence of the site's location, a watching brief was undertaken and observations made at the site during levelling, drainage and associated fencing work to create a formal garden and seating area outside the ranger station for public access. The first phase of work involved the excavation of a French drain and the reduction and levelling of ground to the east of the ranger station between it and some workshops further east. The second phase required the monitoring of fencing designed to separate the public from the nursery yard. The excavation of post-holes for the fencing was carried out through a thin layer of rough patchy tarmac (L1) into modern topsoil (L2). The depth of excavation carried out in all instances was highly limited. Maximum depth for the drainage was 400mm, and for the post-holes 600mm. Levelling reduction was limited to between 400mm on the east edge of the site and 30mm on the west. None of the</i></p>	

groundworks impacted upon archaeological deposits, which previous archaeological investigations have indicated lie at a depth of approximately 1m below the ground surface. Modern material was observed during the excavation, ie peg-tile and brick fragments, but this was not retained.

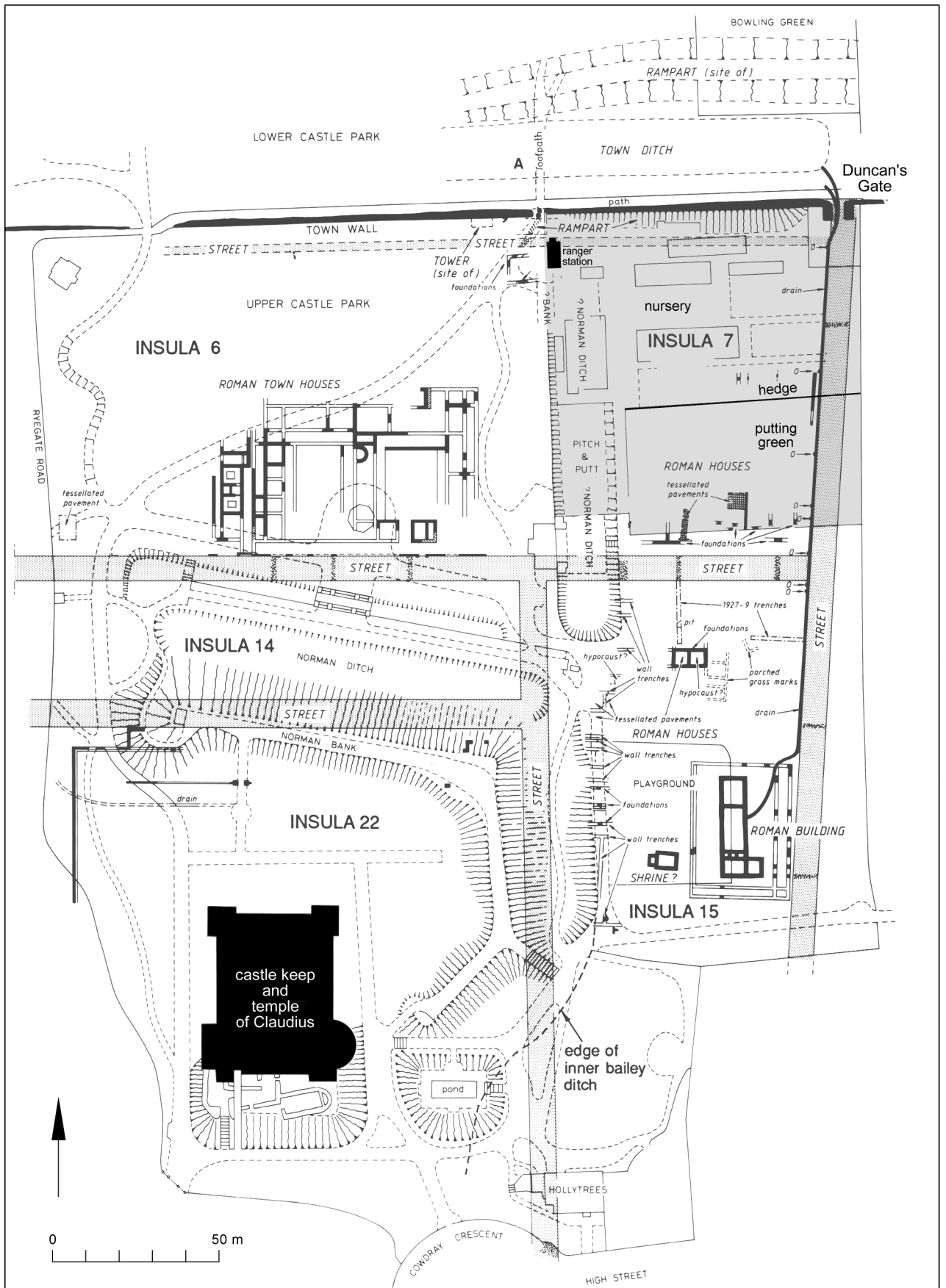
Previous summaries/reports: CAT Report 422

Keywords: -

Significance: neg

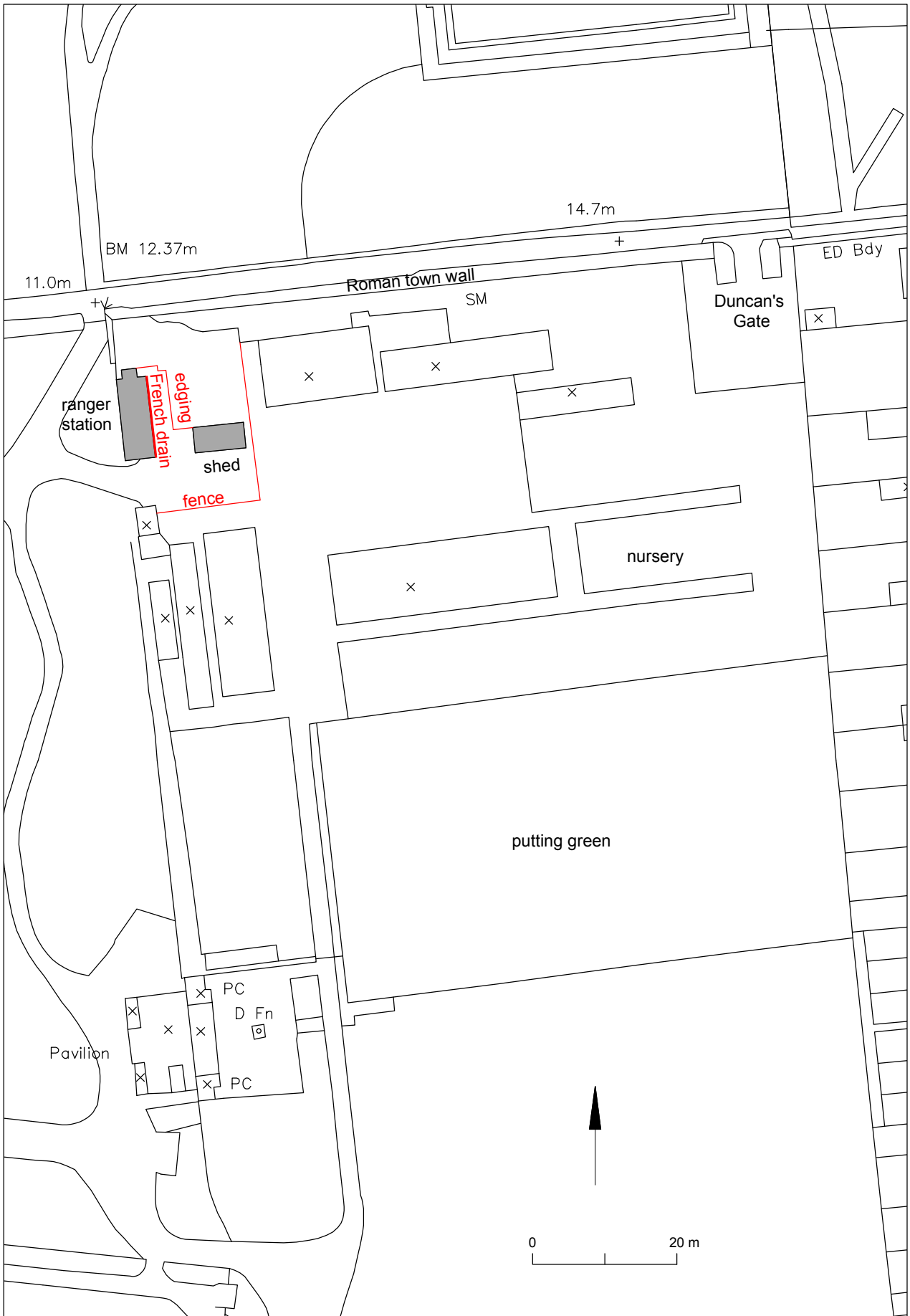
Author of summary: Ben Holloway

Date of summary: June 2009



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Fig 1 Site location plan (adapted from CAR 6, fig 13.225).



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Fig 2 Site plan.

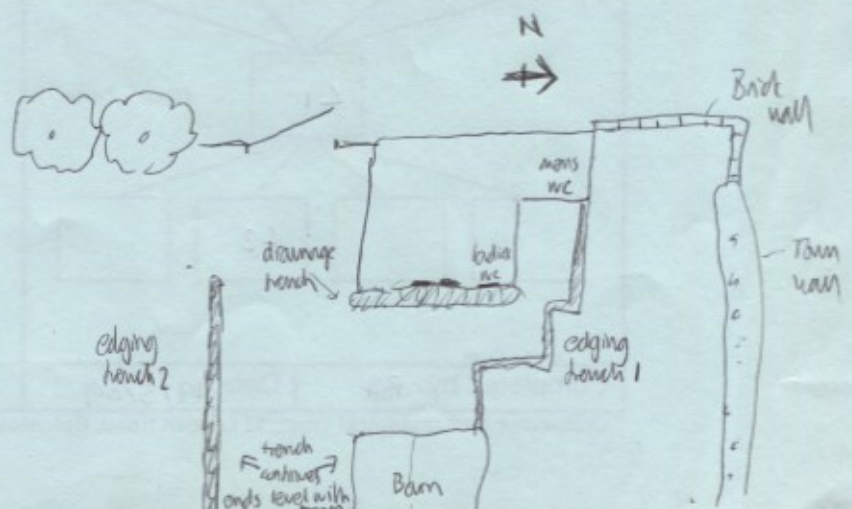
Site name: <i>Castle park nursing w/s</i>	Site code:
Interpretation <i>hard standing</i>	Layer No. <i>L1</i>
Period <i>modern</i>	
Location /grid ref <i>w/ in drainage trench - across w/s area</i>	
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)	
Consistence:	very loose soft friable <u>firm</u> hard dry <u>moist</u> wet
Colour:	very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown <u>black</u>
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR 7.5YR 10YR
Soil type:	sand silt clay loam clay silt sand
Inclusions:flecks	charcoal oyster daub brick tile
Inclusions:pieces	gravel %, stone %, tile/brick %, pot %, %
Recording	
Plan nos.	
sx/profile nos.	
Photos taken	pre-ex ex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> post-ex
Finds <i>N/A</i>	
Bag nos.	-
Small find nos.	-
Sample nos.	-
Notes: (can be continued overleaf) <i>asphalt surfacing, Cooshy compacted, material some asphalt concrete Paving + type 1. seals modern topsoil L2.</i>	
Matrix	Location and detail sketch
	<p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"><i>P.T.O</i></p>
Completed by: <i>BH</i>	Date: <i>19/5/09</i>
tick here if continued overleaf <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

(for plan see back of L2)

Excavation of trench nearest to building for drainage was undertaken using a mechanical excavator down to a maximum depth of 450mm. Only modern layers were disturbed and modern material was observed throughout.

For the construction of the wooden edging the tarmac (L1) was broken out along the desired line using a kango hammer ^(in one place). The trench for the wooden edging was then hand excavated to a depth of around 200mm (max!) (including the 100mm of compacted tarmac L1) and wooden board 100mm thick was then laid on its side in the trench to form the edging (around 30mm of the board is left protruding the surface - testament to how shallow the trench excavated was!). Only modern material was observed in the edging trench.

A similar technique was employed for edging trench 2.



Site name: <i>Castle pnt nursing wb</i>		Site code:							
Interpretation <i>topsoil</i>			Layer No. <i>L2</i>						
Period <i>modern</i>									
Location /grid ref <i>drainage trench - wb over.</i>									
Soil Description (circle or delete as necessary, and add other details)									
Consistence:	very loose	soft	friable <u>firm</u> hard	dry	moist	<u>wet</u>			
Colour:	very light	medium	<u>dark</u> yellow	orange	green	grey <u>brown</u> <u>black</u>			
Munsell (if used):	2.5YR	7.5YR	10YR						
Soil type:	sand	<u>silt</u>	<u>clay</u>	loam	clay	silt	sand		
Inclusions: flecks	<u>charcoal</u>	oyster	daub	brick	tile				
Inclusions: pieces	gravel	%	stone	%	tile/brick	%	pot	%	%
Recording									
Plan nos.									
sx/profile nos.									
Photos taken	pre-ex	ex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	post-ex					
Finds	<i>peytilite - mod kerite fragments (not returned)</i>								
Bag nos.	-								
Small find nos.	-								
Sample nos.	-								
Notes: (can be continued overleaf)									
<i>modern topsoil very dark fill. some small stems no plant matter. wet stony material some minor tile inclusions - observed to 400mm depth of drainage trench.</i>									
Matrix		Location and detail sketch							
<pre> graph TD L1_1[] --- L2[L2 (this context)] L1_2[L1] --- L2 L1_3[] --- L2 L1_4[] --- L2 L2 --- L3_1[] L2 --- L3_2[] L2 --- L3_3[] L2 --- L3_4[] </pre>		<i>See sketch plan</i> <i>L2</i> 							
Completed by: <i>BSH</i>	Date: <i>19/5/09</i>	tick here if continued overleaf		<input type="checkbox"/>					



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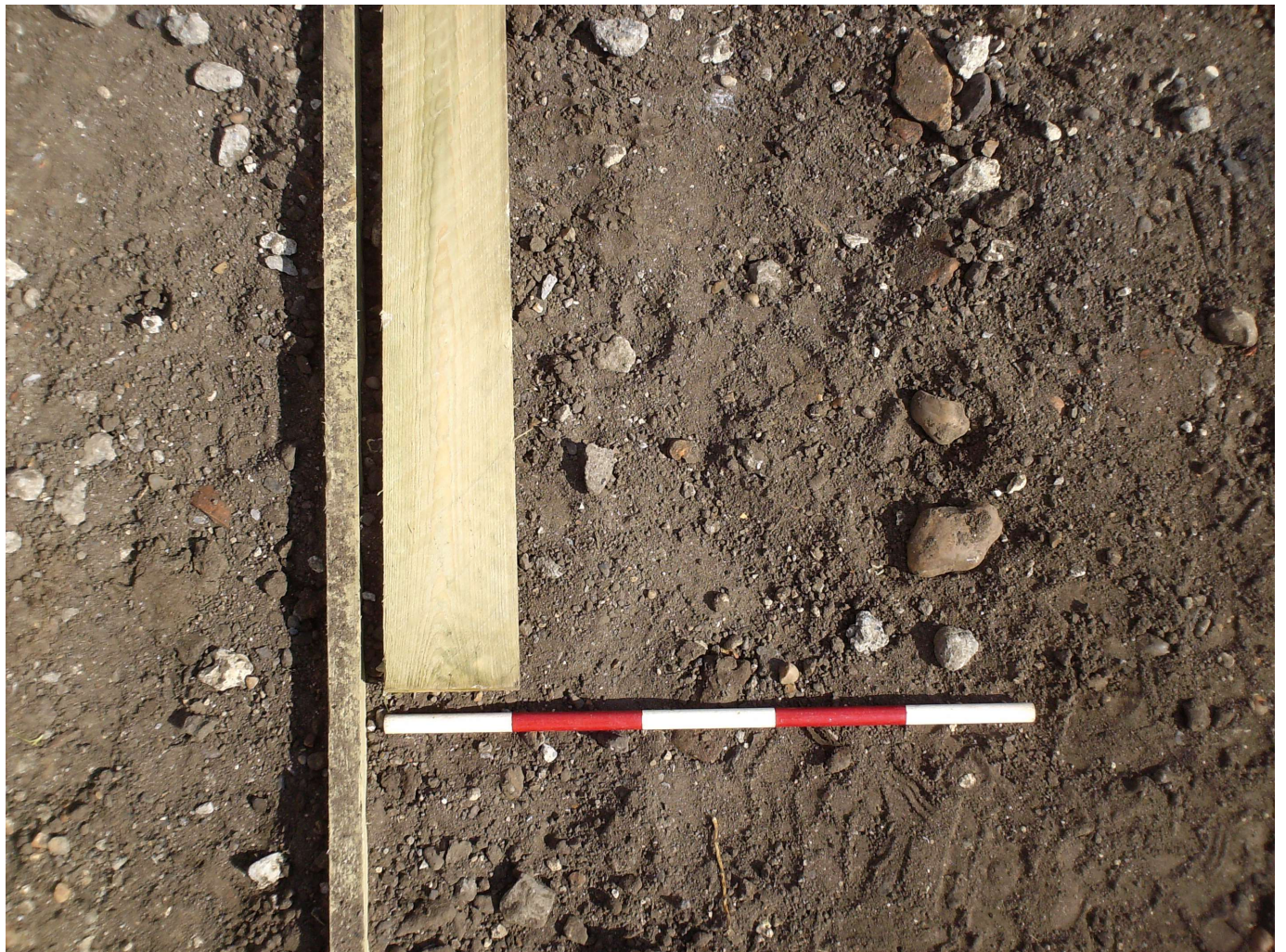
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Photographic log for Colchester Castle Park Nursery WB

Filename	Description
09.05c_PhotoGraph_01.jpg	Trench shot section view east
09.05c_PhotoGraph_02.jpg	Working shot, facing south
09.05c_PhotoGraph_03.jpg	General site shot, facing south-east
09.05c_PhotoGraph_04.jpg	Roman wall line, facing east
09.05c_PhotoGraph_05.jpg	Cleared area, facing south
09.05c_PhotoGraph_06.jpg	Drainage trench view north
09.05c_PhotoGraph_07.jpg	Drainage trench, facing north
09.05c_PhotoGraph_08.jpg	End of drainage trench (L1/L2) facing north
09.05c_PhotoGraph_09.jpg	Working shot, facing north-east
09.05c_PhotoGraph_10.jpg	Edging (tarmac in flight) facing north
09.05c_PhotoGraph_11.jpg	Line of new road edging view south-east
09.05c_PhotoGraph_12.jpg	Detail of edging, facing north
09.05c_PhotoGraph_13.jpg	Detail of edging, facing north
09.05c_PhotoGraph_14.jpg	Detail of edging, facing south
09.05c_PhotoGraph_15.jpg	Detail of edging, facing north
09.05c_PhotoGraph_16.jpg	Site shot, facing north-west
09.05c_PhotoGraph_17.jpg	Removal of tarmac for 2 nd edging stretch, facing west
09.05c_PhotoGraph_18.jpg	Edging boards total depth overhead view
09.05c_PhotoGraph_19.jpg	Posthole 1 fully excavated view south
09.05c_PhotoGraph_20.jpg	Posthole 1 fully excavated view south
09.05c_PhotoGraph_21.jpg	Posthole 1 fully excavated view south
09.05c_PhotoGraph_22.jpg	Posthole 3 fully excavated view south
09.05c_PhotoGraph_23.jpg	General shot fenceline view west
09.05c_PhotoGraph_24.jpg	General shot fenceline view west