

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

CAT Report 573

Address: Land Adjacent to M11, Great Chesterford, Essex	
Parish: Gt Chesterford	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 500 438 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code – 10/9a ECC site code – GCLF10
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 21st September 2010	Size of area investigated: 5 trenches (total length 90m): site area 260m ²
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession code – requested 21/9/10	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 4925, 4944
Final report: CAT Report 573 and summary in <i>EAH</i>	
Periods represented: Modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The site lies to the N of the 4th-century walled Roman town and the 1st century Roman fort at Great Chesterford (EHER 4925, 4944: both Scheduled Ancient Monuments), and in an area of significant archaeological potential as established by antiquarian observations and amateur and professional investigations from the mid-18th century onwards. Excavations to the east of the site (Sewage Treatment Plant) revealed evidence of Mesolithic and Neolithic occupation. On the S boundary of the site, material connected with the walled Roman town was found during work on the M11.</p> <p>Following a Brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Management team (<i>Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the M11</i>, August 2009) an evaluation was commissioned by D.K Symes Associates and carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust. Because parts of the site were clearly already disturbed or infilled, five evaluation trenches (total length of 90m) were excavated in the centre of the site where original ground level could still be observed (Fig 1). The trenches were cut through a modern ploughsoil L1, and accumulation horizon L2, revealing natural L3. This sequence was observed on the E and S sides of the site (T2-3, T5). However on the W side (T1, T4-5), topsoil sealed a large infilled area (F1) of redeposited natural, mixed with topsoil, and containing modern brick, metal and asphalt. The site owner (Mr Clive Onslow) says the site was used as a borrow-pit during the construction of the M11 to the E, after which it was backfilled and sealed with topsoil before being returned to agriculture. The size and fill of F1 appear to confirm this.</p> <p>The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. This may be due to the quarrying/infill described above, or to that caused by the removal of a bank carrying a railway spur which previously crossed the site (visible on aerial photographs).</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: None	
Keywords: -	Significance: negative
Author of summary: Howard Brooks and Ben Holloway	Date of summary: November 2010

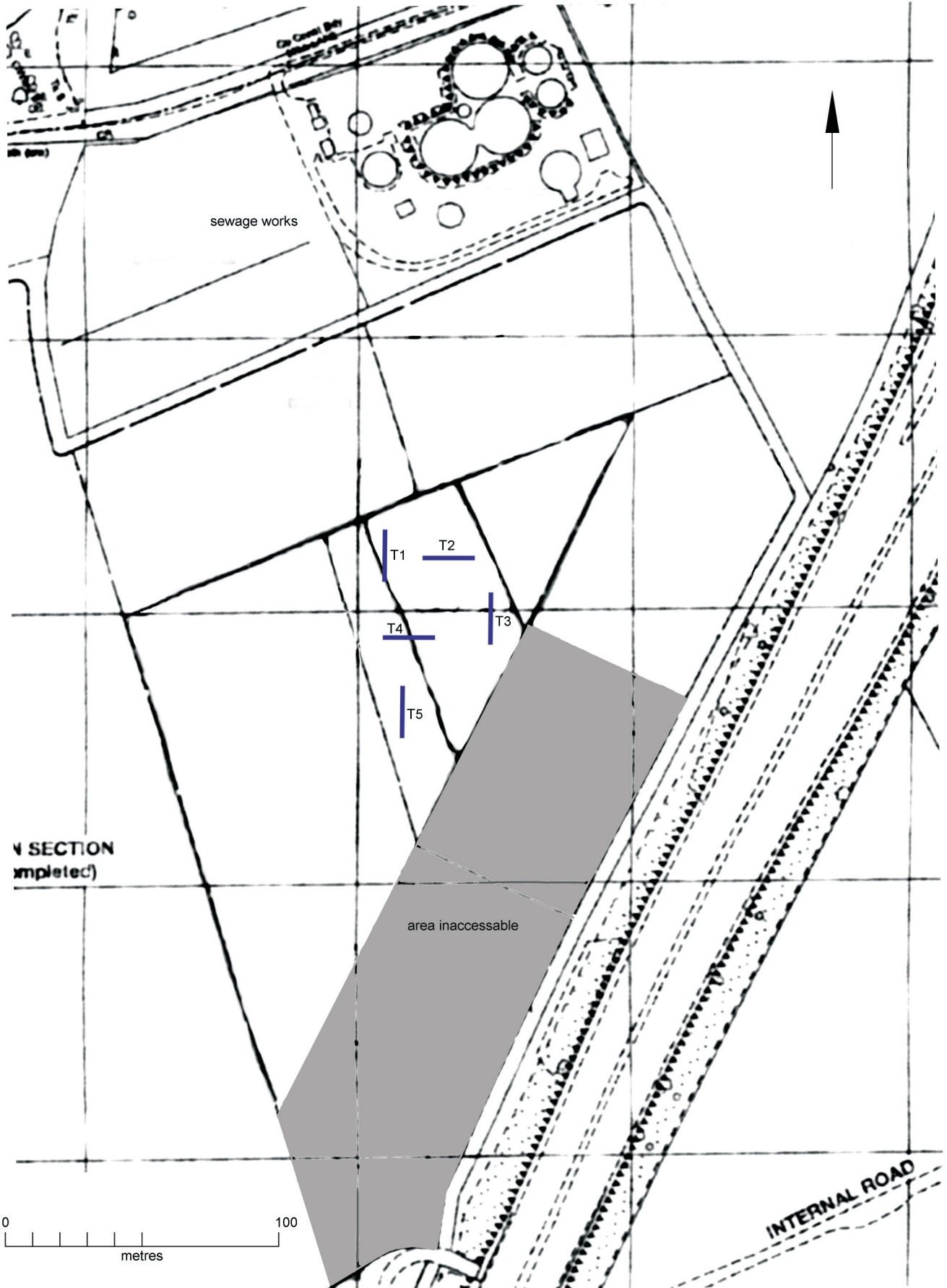


Fig 1 Site plan (scale 1:2000).

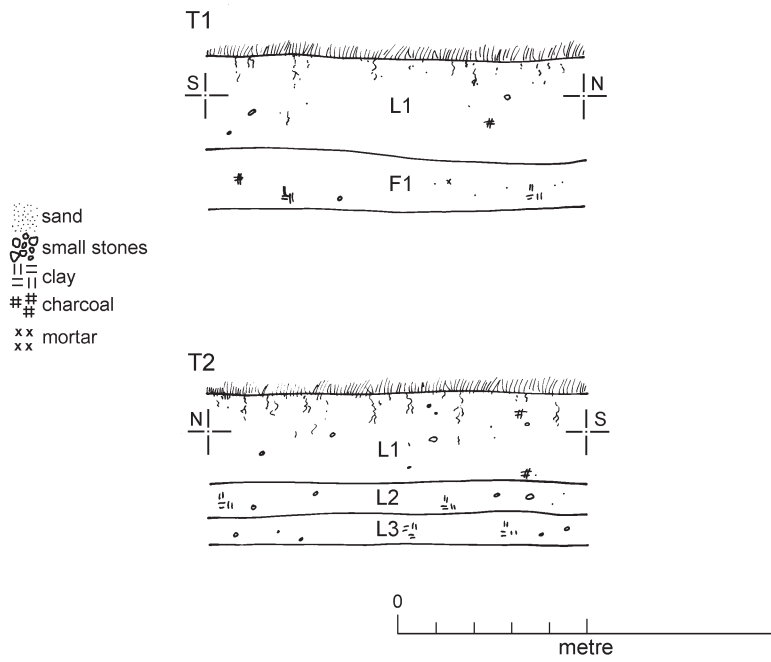
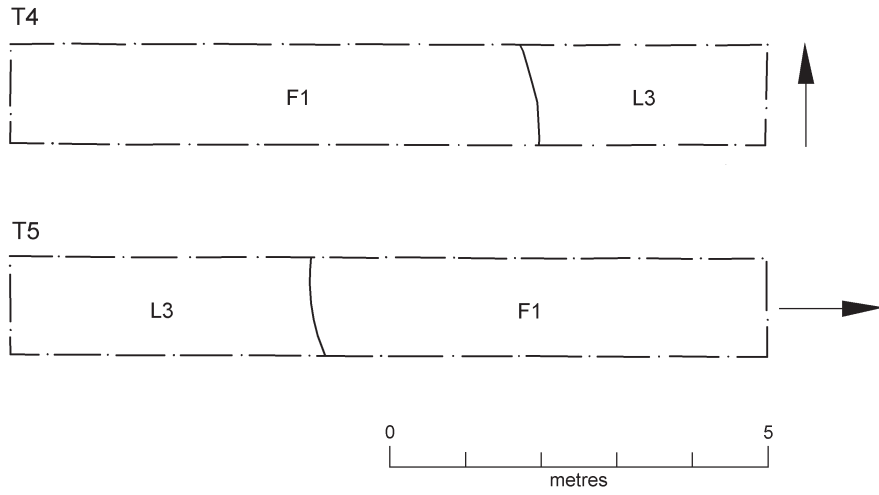


Fig 2 Trench detail (T4-5), representative sections (T1-2).