

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

CAT Report 593

Summary sheet

Address: 63-65 High Street, Brentwood, Essex	
Parish: Brentwood	District: Brentwood
NGR: TQ 59467 93816	Site codes: CAT project – 11/4c ECC HEM – BW20 Museum accession - 2011.020
Type of work: Archaeological trial-trenching	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 21st April 2011	Size of area investigated: 66m ² plot, one 7.5m x 1.6m trench (12m ²)
Location of finds/curating museum: Chelmsford Museum	Funding source: Developer/landowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 525, 25944
Final report: CAT Report 593	
Periods represented: Roman, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>The site is located to the rear of no 63-65 on the northern side of the High Street in the Brentwood High Street Conservation Area (Fig 1). A planning application (BRW/58/2011) for a single-storey rear extension onto the back of an existing 1970s' extension was submitted to Brentwood Council in January 2011. The site is an open yard area currently used for car-parking by the employees of the commercial properties fronting the High Street.</i></p> <p><i>A single archaeological trial-trench was excavated on a diagonal axis within the footprint of the proposed extension (Fig 1). The trench was required to identify the extent and importance of any surviving archaeological deposits and whether any further excavation would be required to mitigate the destructive effects of development. The trench was 7.5 m long and 1.6 m wide, and it was excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench was excavated to a depth of 500 mm below modern ground-level, the maximum depth of the foundation and raft to be constructed, where the absence of modern services permitted (Fig 2). The whole excavation area was covered with tarmac and an orange sand hoggin (L1). Beneath the sand, a dark grey clayey silt with frequent fragments of modern brick, tile and stones was encountered (L2). In the east end of the trench, L2 was roughly 260 mm thick (Fig 3 upper).</i></p>	

Towards the western end of the trench, L2 was 390 mm thick and contained a greater quantity of building material (Fig 3 lower). This layer may have been deposited when the 1970s' extension was constructed or it may be demolition material from the destruction of an outbuilding that once stood on the site. One pottery sherd (7g) from the base of a small vessel with a fine hard red fabric and brown all-over glaze (18th-19th century) and a small piece of peg-tile (43 g) were recovered from L2.

In the south-east corner of the trench, a brick structure (F3) was encountered in L2 (Fig 2). It was constructed of frogged soft red bricks and was overlaid by the tarmac and hoggin. The brickwork was probably the edge of an inspection chamber, the manhole cover for which was located 450 mm to the south.

Beneath L2, a dark greenish grey silty clay was uncovered (L3; Plate 1). This layer was cleaned by hand. Charcoal and daub inclusions were noted and pottery peg-tile fragments were recovered. There are six grey ware body sherds (26g) and a body sherd from a buff-surfaced vessel (20 g) that can be dated to the Roman period, and a body sherd in a fine sandy orange-red fabric (15 g) which is either a late medieval red ware or a post-medieval red earthenware of 16th-/17th- to 18th-century date. None of the pottery is abraded and all appears to be in similar good condition. There is one piece from a peg-tile (105 g) and a tile flake which is probably also from a peg-tile (20 g). The Roman finds are interpreted as residual in a medieval/post-medieval deposit, suggesting that Roman deposits may be stratified below. L3 was heavily disturbed. Two pits containing slate and red brick fragments cut the layer in the east end of the trench (F1, F2) and a modern surface water drain cut the layer in the west end of the trench (Plates 1-2). In the eastern end of the trench, L3 was encountered at a depth of 470mm below modern ground-level (Fig 3a). Further west, the top of L3 was 630 mm below modern ground-level with the 19th-/20th-century building rubble in L2 continuing below the construction level of 500 mm (Fig 3b). As such, the only potentially significant archaeological layer (L3) is located at or below the level of the raft and foundation and, therefore, will be preserved in situ below the modern extension.

Previous summaries/reports: None

Keywords: -

Significance: neg

Author of summary:
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(with finds identification by Stephen Benfield)

Date of summary:
May 2011



Plate 1: The east end of the trench, view south-east.



Plate 2: The west end of the trench, view north-west.

Appendix 1: contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

1 Introduction

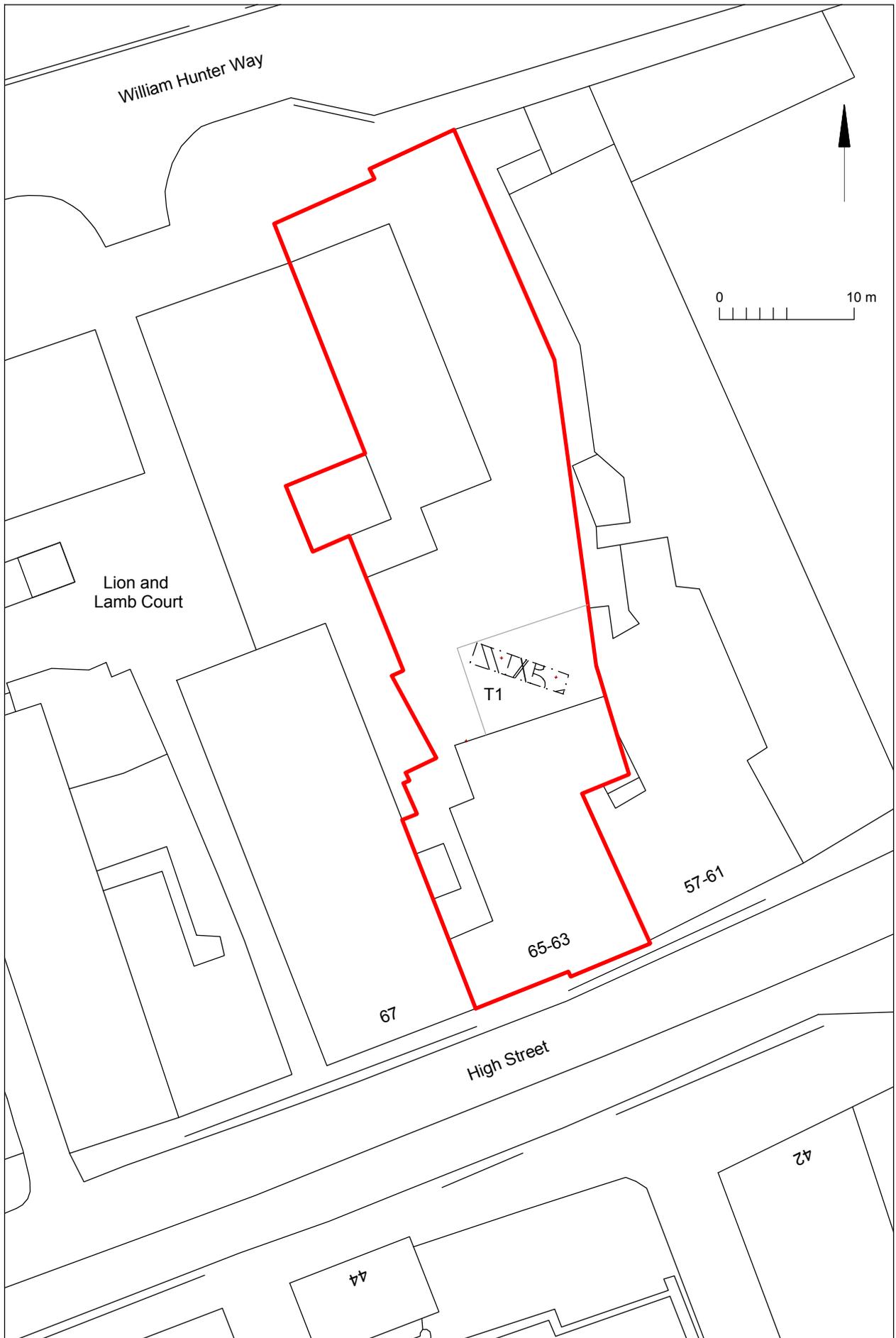
- 1.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by the ECC HEM team
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment
- 1.4 1 x A4 site plan and 3 x A3 site plans provided by the developer

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photo. record
- 2.2 Context sheets (L1-L3, F1-F3, 1 trench sketch sheet)
- 2.3 Attendance register
- 2.4 Finds register
- 2.5 Site photographic record on CD
- 2.6 1 x A4 sheet with two representative section drawings

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring (client) report



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Fig 1 Site location plan, showing evaluation trench T1.

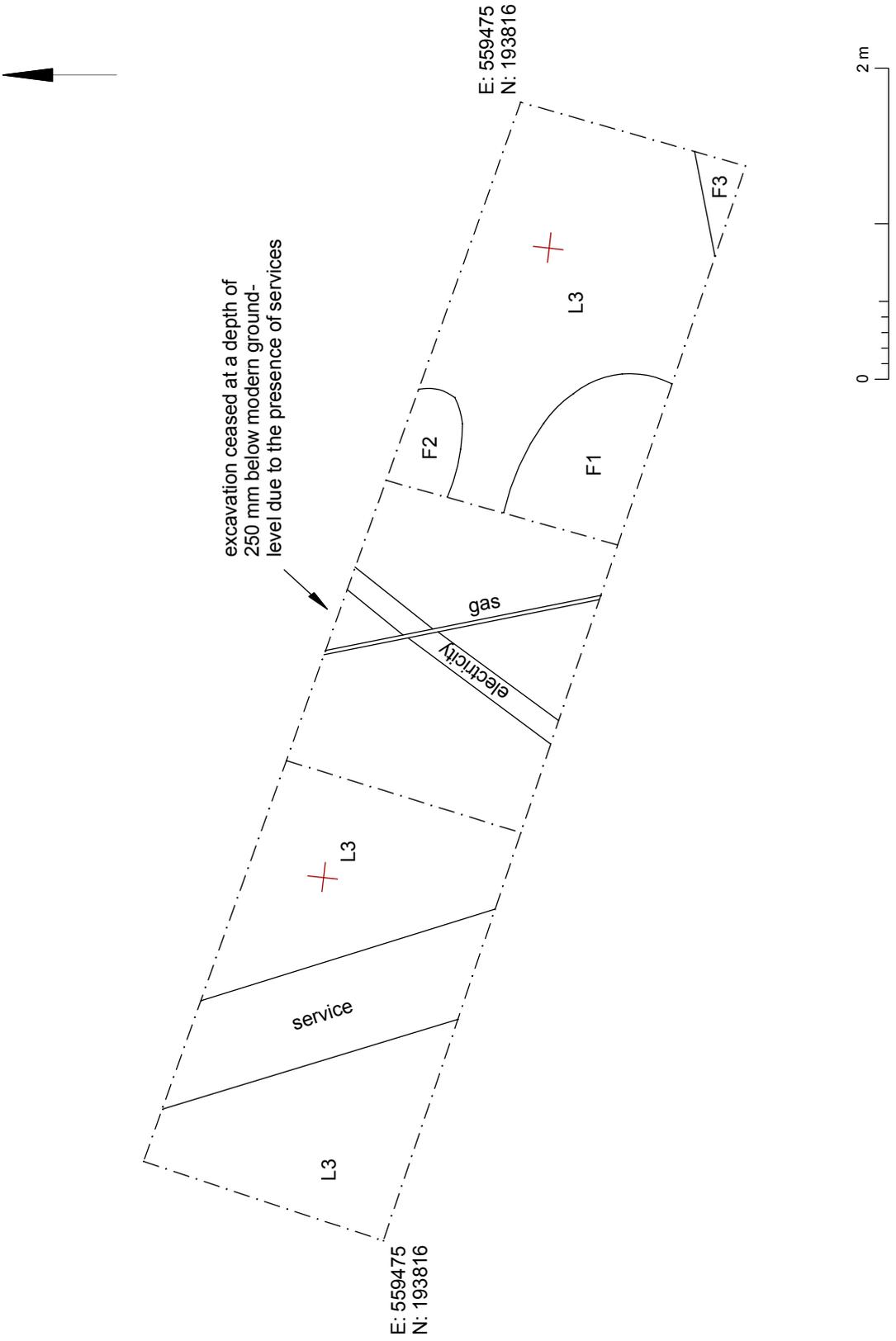
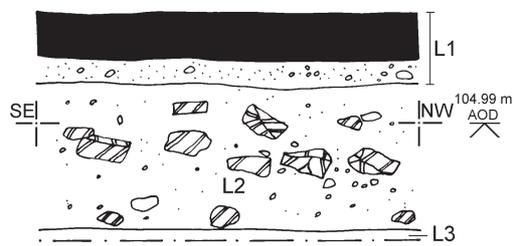
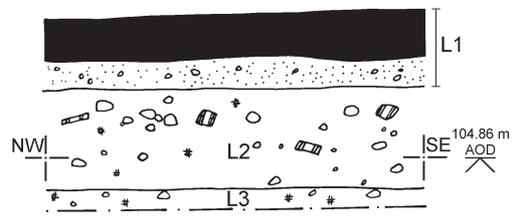


Fig 2 Evaluation results.



- tarmac
- ⋯ sand
- small stones
- ## charcoal
- ▨ peg-tile

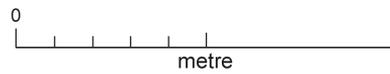


Fig 3 Representative trench sections.