

Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to 'Tulyars', Cambridge Road Newport

July 2012



report prepared by
Ben Holloway

on behalf of
Easton Building Services

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CAT Report 657
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1 Summary

Located on the northern edge of historic Newport, the site consists of a rectangular area of open ground on the west side of Cambridge Road. Two evaluation trenches (total length 30m) were positioned within the footprint of a proposed new build and along the line of its access road.

There was no evidence relating to the medieval hospital of St Leonard, which lies to the north. However, two medieval features were identified: a ditch and pit. The ditch was on top of the well-defined bank whose presence seems to have influenced the alignment of Cambridge Road. This ditch may be part of the boundary of the green shown along the western side of Cambridge Road by early OS mapping, and still present today.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land adjacent to 'Tulyars' Cambridge Road, Newport, Essex. The site is rectangular, open, disused and overgrown ground (formerly allotments) on the western side of Cambridge Road (NGR TL 5204 3477 centre).

The Historic Environment Management (HEM) team of Essex County Council (ECC) was consulted by Uttlesford District Council in January 2010 for a planning application (UTT/0074/10) for the construction of a new dwelling and access road.

In response to consultation, HEM made the following recommendation to the LPA, in line with advice given in *Planning Policy Statement 5*:

"No development, or preliminary groundworks, of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."

A brief detailing the required archaeological work (an evaluation by trial-trenching) was written by the HEM team officer (Richard Havis: HEM 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in response to the HEM brief, and agreed with HEM (CAT 2012).

The archaeological work was commissioned by Mr Kevin Whitmore, and was carried out by CAT on July 11th 2012. Post-excavation work was carried out in July 2012.

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Colchester Archaeological Trust's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE: English Heritage 2006), *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14), and *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24) were also followed.

3 Archaeological and historical background

This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The proposed development lies immediately adjacent the site of the Hospital of St Leonard's at Newport (EHER 172), which was founded in the reign of King John (1199-1216) in honour of St Mary and St Leonard by Richard de Newport. Richard de Newport granted lands and rents to sustain the brethren, priests and laymen.

Since the 1860s, the hospital has been described as a leper hospital, although the original documentation does not refer to it as such. The site may have been partially incorporated into the later Hospital Farm, which was demolished in 1907. The only surviving traces consist of thirteenth century high quality moulded stone originating from an arch incorporated into the boundary wall.

Three trial pits excavated in 1985 on the eastern side of Cambridge Road identified various archaeological deposits, and human burials were discovered when the new houses were constructed. (Six burials were recovered from the foundations, but when the bones were examined remains of at least 15 individuals were found (Andrews and Nurse 1989)). There was a possibility that burials would be found on the current site.

The bank between the present pavement and the development site is possibly the boundary of the green along the Cambridge Road, as shown on the 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map (1877).

4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record and establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any remains and deposits likely to be disturbed by the proposed works. Specific attention was paid to evidence for the medieval hospital, and for the medieval and post-medieval development of Newport.

5 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-3)

This section gives an archaeological summary of the evaluation trenches (T1, T2) with context and finds dating information. The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator through two layers: modern topsoil L1 (250mm thick), sealing an accumulated horizon of silt/clay L2 (350mm thick). L2 sealed natural L3, a boulder clay with occasional patches of gravel and flint nodules. Two medieval features were identified: pit F1 and ditch F2. An archaeological summary of each evaluation trench with a tabulation of context and finds dating information follows below.

Trench 1: summary

T1 was positioned on the eastern side of the site along the line of the new access road, and was cut across the large bank which appears to define the route of Cambridge Road and form the boundary of a green on its western side. The bank drops away steeply to the east.

T1 contained ditch F2, finds from which consisted of medieval pottery and CMB flecks.

Trench 1 – context and dating

Feature no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F2	ditch	medieval pottery	medieval

Trench 2: summary

T2 was positioned in the centre of the site in the footprint of the new build. It contained a medieval pit, whose date at least may indicate a connection with ditch F2 in T1.

Trench 2 – context and dating

Feature no	Type	Dated finds	Phase
F1	pit	medieval pottery	medieval



Plate 1: T1, excavating ditch F2 (view SW, up bank)



Plate 2: T1, ditch F2 (view N)



Plate 3: T2, view SW (pit F1 in foreground)

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The small quantity of finds (pottery, fired clay and peg-tile) from F1, F2 and L2 in T1 and T2 are listed by context in Table 2. The pottery was recorded using the Essex medieval & post medieval pottery fabric series (Cunningham & Drury 1985) and the fabrics recorded are listed in Table 1.

A sherd of medieval pottery (Fabric 21) from pit F1 can be dated to the 13th-15/16th century. Medieval pottery sherds (Fabrics 20 and 21) dated to the late 12th-14th century and 13th-15/16th century respectively were also recovered from the ditch F2, and a sherd of post-medieval pottery (Fabric 40) dated to the dated to late 16th-18th century was found on the surface of the ditch. A small number of fragments of fired clay was also recovered from F1, and a fragment of brick came from F2 (surface). A single piece from a peg-tile from the subsoil layer L2 is not closely dated as these tiles are current from the medieval to post-medieval period and into the modern era.

Fabric code	Fabric name
20	Medieval coarsewares (general)
21	Medieval sandy orange wares (general)
40	Post-medieval red earthenware

Table 1. List of pottery fabrics

Trench	ctxt	Find no.	ctxt type	finds	finds spot date
T1	F002	003	Ditch (surface)	Pottery medieval: Fabric 21 1@3g, abraded, brown-grey with oxidised internal surface; Post-medieval: Fabric 40 1@18 g, sherd with external splashes of a brownish (clear) glaze CBM 1@3 g abraded fragment from a soft (?degraded) brick; red, sandy fabric	post-medieval (L16-18C)
T1	F002	004	Ditch (fill)	Pottery medieval: Fabric 20 1@3 g, small sherd, abraded; Fabric 21 3@7 g, two small sherds and a small fragment, sherds include a squared rim Fired clay 3@1 g abraded fragments, two pieces red, one piece pale red/cream	medieval (13-15/16C)
T2	L002	001	subsoil	CBM Peg-tile 1@17 g (13 mm thick), red, fine sand fabric, slightly abraded	Medieval-post-medieval/modern
T2	F001	002	Pit (fill)	Pottery Medieval: Fabric 21 1@2 g, abraded, oxidised surfaces Fired clay 1@<1 g, abraded fragment, pale red/pale grey	Medieval (13-15/16C)

Table 2 List of finds by context (ctxt) (CBM = ceramic building material)

Discussion

The post-medieval pottery sherd and a small fragment of brick from the surface of ditch F2 suggest a possible post-medieval date for the upper fill of the ditch. The lower fill and the fill of pit F1 produced only medieval pottery together with small fragments of fired clay. All the medieval pottery sherds are very small and abraded (average weight 2.6 g) and are as small as can be easily broken without undue force. Given the condition of these finds, they may represent surface scatter, possibly from manuring, which has become incorporated into the features. While indicating that this area was probably farmed in the medieval period from a nearby settlement, in terms of dating the features they only suggest a *terminus post quem* for the digging of the ditch, although a medieval date may be likely.

7 Discussion

This evaluation has not produced any evidence relating to the medieval hospital of St Leonard. Nevertheless, the two medieval features demonstrate some activity of that date. Ditch F2 runs along the eastern side of the bank which appears to define the route of what is now Cambridge Road, and may also define the western side of the green shown on early edition OS maps on either side of Cambridge Road.

The position of the ditch on top of the bank would indicate that the route now represented by the modern Cambridge road is ancient. The pit may be contemporary and possible associated with the boundary ditch although, as Stephen Benfield points out, the pottery may have been spread by manuring activity.

That the current site remained as open ground is an exception to the general pattern whereby the plots along the Cambridge Road were gradually built up in the post-medieval and modern periods (no doubt latterly influenced by the creation of the railway).

8 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Mr Kevin Whitmore of Easton Building Services for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by B Holloway, fieldwork carried out by BH and C Lister. The project was monitored for the ECC HEM team by Richard Havis.

9 References

Andrews, D and Nurse, B	1989	The hospital of St Leonard's at Newport, <i>Essex Archaeol Hist</i> , 20 , 84-92
CAT	2012	<i>Written scheme of investigation for archaeological trial-trenching on land adjacent to 'Tulyars', Cambridge Road, Newport, Essex</i>
CAT	2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
Cunningham, C M	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , by C M Cunningham and P J Drury, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust Report 5 and Council for British Archaeology Research Report 54 , 1-16
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (MoRPHE)
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 (EAA 14)
HEM	2012	<i>Archaeological trenching and potential excavation on land at 'Tulyars', Cambridge Road Newport</i> . Essex County Council Brief (Richard Havis)
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Newport Historic Town Assessment</i> , Essex County Council
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeological Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

AOD	above Ordnance Datum
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HEM	Historic Environment Management
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
Roman	the period from AD 43 to around AD 430

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM 2012.68.

12 Contents of archive

1 x A4 wallet containing:

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Copy of the excavation brief issued by HEM
- 1.2 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.3 Risk assessment

2 Site archive

- 2.1 Original site records (features, layers, finds)
- 2.2 2 x trench sheets
- 2.3 Site digital photographic record on CD
- 2.4 Digital photo. log
- 2.5 1 x A3 sheet of section drawings
- 2.6 Attendance register

3 Research archive

- 3.1 Copy of excavation report (CAT Report 657)

Finds

1 x museum box of finds

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Distribution list:

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Richard Havis Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



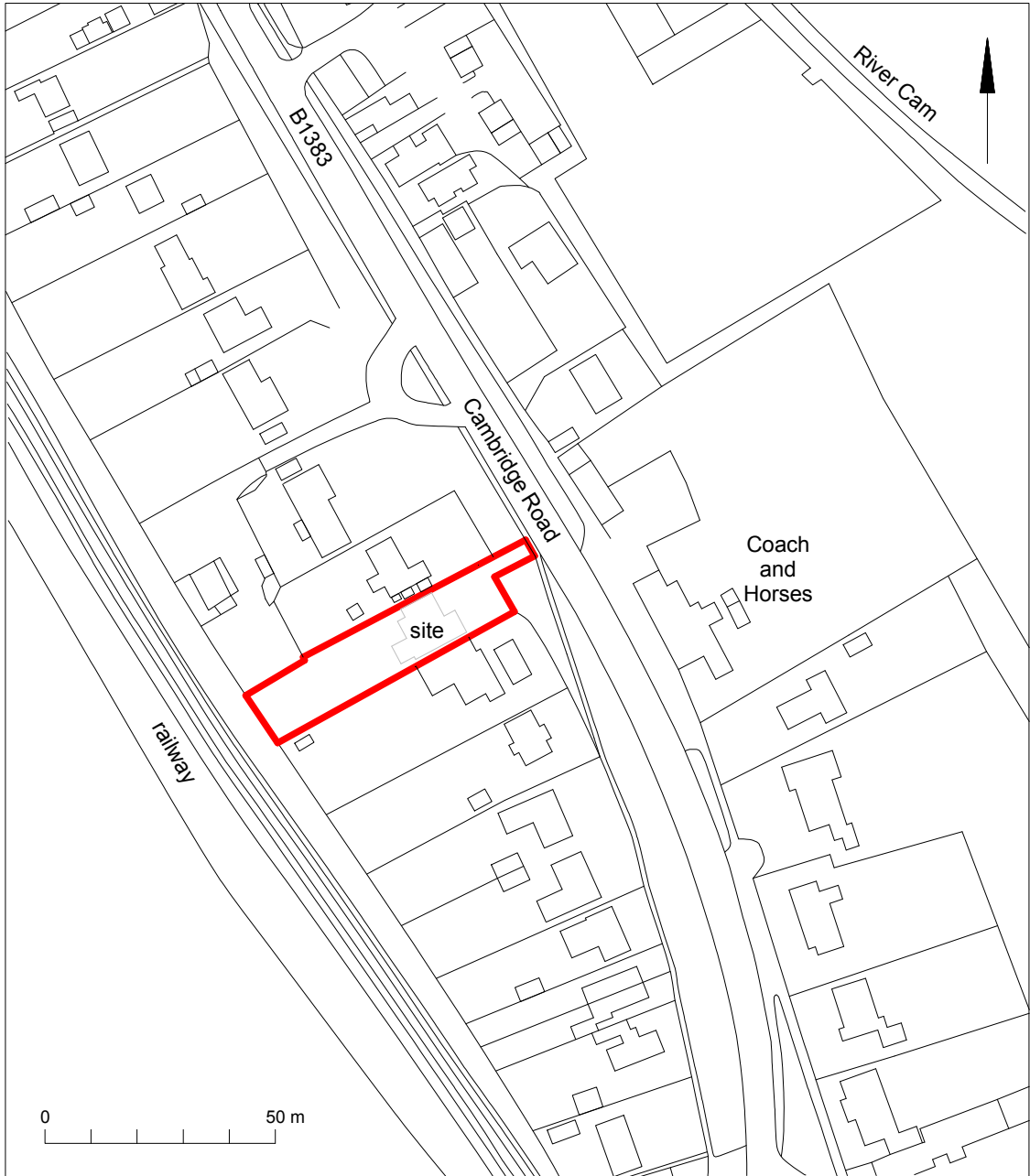
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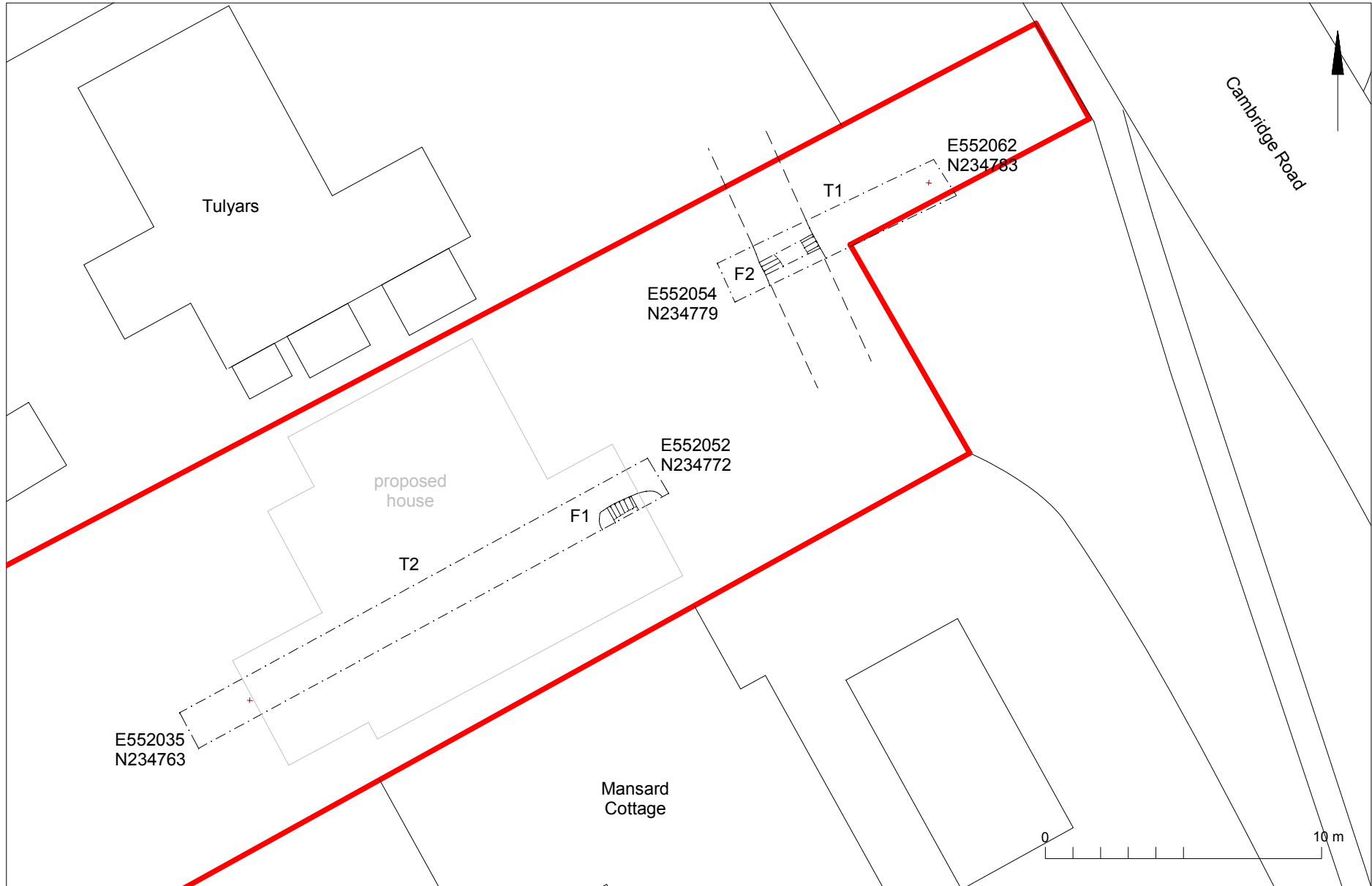
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Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

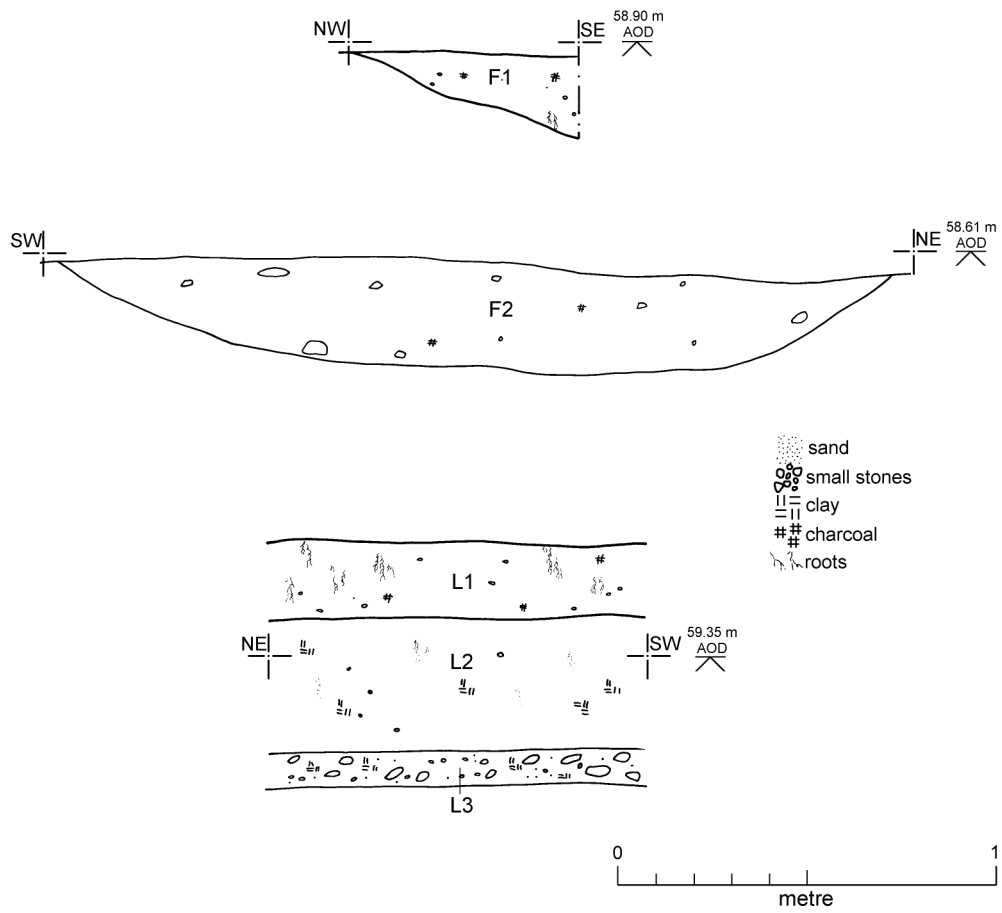


Fig 3 F1 and F2: sections. T2: representative section.

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

**Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching
on land adjacent to 'Tulyars',
Cambridge Road, Newport**

Summary sheet

Address: Land adjacent to 'Tulyars', Cambridge Road, Newport	
Parish: Newport	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 5204 3477 (centre)	Site codes: CAT project code – 12/7a HEM code: NP 18
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 11th July 2012	Size of area investigated: 30m x1.6m trenching
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden: accession 2012.68	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: EHER 172
Final report: CAT Report 657	
Periods represented: medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>Located on the northern edge of historic Newport, the site consists of a rectangular area of open ground on the west side of Cambridge Road. Two evaluation trenches (total length 30m) were positioned within the footprint of a proposed new build and along the line of its access road.</i></p> <p><i>There was no evidence relating to the medieval hospital of St Leonard, which lies to the north. However, two medieval features were identified: a ditch and pit. The ditch was on top of the well-defined bank whose presence seems to have influenced the alignment of Cambridge Road. This ditch may be part of the boundary of the green shown along the western side of Cambridge Road by early OS mapping, and still present today.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: medieval	Significance: **
Author of summary: Ben Holloway	Date of summary: July 2012
ECC HEM Monitor: Richard Havis	