

Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to The Griffin Public House, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2JT

July 2016



by **Laura Pooley**

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
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**commissioned by Richard Horley, John Finch Partnership
on behalf of Darren Lingley**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land adjacent to The Griffin public house, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex in advance of the construction of a single dwelling with garage. A Grade II listed building of early 18th-century date, The Griffin is shown on early OS maps alongside a number of buildings on the development site that may have been associated with the pub. The evaluation revealed three sections of wall foundations made from 19th-20th century red bricks, and a contemporary yard surface. These appear to be the remains of the buildings shown on the OS maps.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land adjacent to The Griffin Public House, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex which was carried out on 19th July 2016. The work was commissioned by Richard Horley of John Finch Partnership on behalf of Darren Lingley in advance of the construction of a single dwelling with garage. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial trench evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The development site is located in an area of archaeological potential. The Griffin public house is a Grade II listed building of early 18th century date (EHER 28866). Historic cartographic evidence (for 1777 and 1881) shows that adjacent to the public house were a number of buildings set back from the road in a group which may be associated with the public house (Fig 2). The buildings fronting Parsonage Street relate to the post-medieval expansion of Halstead and may have been demolished at the time of the creation of Gardeners Row. Most of these structures are no longer extant, but there is potential for the survival of below-ground remains within the proposed development site. Any development within this area is likely to disturb potential archaeological deposits.

4 Results (Figs 2-4)

Two trial-trenches were located within the footprint of the new dwelling and garage, and were positioned to locate the historic buildings seen on the OS maps. The trenches

were both dug by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision. They measured 10m and 8m long by 1.8m wide (32.4m²).

Trench 1 (T1) – 8m long by 1.8m wide

Five layers were identified. Modern turf and topsoil (L1, c 250mm thick) sealed a layer of modern make-up (L2, c 300mm thick) which sealed a layer of 19th-20th century accumulation (L3, c 200mm thick). Beneath L3 was a thin post-medieval yard surface consisting of small-medium rounded stones with occasional brick fragments (L4, c 50mm thick). Natural sandy-clay (L5) was sealed by L4.

A series of 19th-20th century brick wall foundations were identified within the trench (F1). The walls were 240mm wide and were made of soft unfrosted red bricks measuring 230mm long by 110mm wide by 70mm thick. The foundations were sealed beneath L3 and appeared to be contemporary with L4.

Trench 2 (T2) – 10m long by 1.8m wide

Two layers were identified. A thick build-up of modern topsoil (L1, c 900mm thick) sealed natural sandy-clay (L5). Modern services were identified in the centre of the trench with 19th-20th century brick-wall foundations at the north end (F2-F3). Both were made from the same soft unfrosted red bricks as F1, and all of the wall foundations are probably contemporary.



Photograph 1 T1 with wall foundations F1, looking NE



Photograph 2 T1 with wall foundations F1 and yard surface L4, looking NE



Photograph 3 T2 with wall foundations F2-F3, looking N

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Finds of modern date (c 18th/19th-20th century) consisting primarily of pottery, glass and ceramic building material (CBM) (brick & tile) were recovered from features (F) and layers (L) in two archaeological trenches (T1 & T2). Samples of whole bricks from three wall features (F1 (3), F2 (6) & F3 (7)) can all be dated to the period of the 19th-20th century. All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2, and an overall spot date for the finds from each context is also provided. The pottery fabrics referred to follow the Essex post-Roman fabric series (Cunningham 1985 & CAR 7) and are listed in Table 1. Dating of the pieces of brick ceramic building material (CBM) recovered broadly follows Ryan (1996).

Fabric code	Fabric name
40	Post-medieval (glazed) red earthenwares
45M	Modern English stoneware
48B	Porcelain (general)
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenware
48E	Yellow ware

Table 1 Pottery fabrics

Context	Find no	Form/ description	Finds spot date
T1, F1	2	Modern pottery: (SQ) Fabric 45M (3) joining sherds from a stoneware vessel with flattened side, also shoulder sherd from a bottle form (Fabric 45M) (dated 18-19/E20C); Fabric 48E (4) (dated L18/19-E20C); Fabric 48D (4) (blue & white Chinese inspired pattern) (dated 18/19-M20C). CBM: (1) peg-tile corner piece, surfaces covered in white/cream lime mortar (probably post-medieval-early modern). Slate: small piece (3-4 mm thick) probably from a roofing slate (dated 18/19-E/M20C). Metal Finds: Large (serving) spoon (280 mm long), iron/steel, corroded (dated 18/19-E20C); one other small piece of iron sheet.	Modern (L18/19-E20C)
T1, F1	3	CBM (Brick): (1) complete red brick (dimensions 230 x 109 x 67 mm) not frogged, sandy lime mortar, on surfaces (dated 18/19-20C – almost certainly 19-20C)	Modern (19-20C)
T1, L3	1	Post-medieval & modern pottery: (1) Fabric 48D small sherd (M/L18-L19/E20C). Glass: (2) bottle glass, clear, one with moulder letters close to break edge O or U , below this R (M) below this (B) (dated 19-20C). CBM: (1) piece from a peg-tile (dated med-post-medieval/modern). Coal: (2) (dated probably post-med-modern). Metal Find: Copper-alloy round button/button cover, corroded but appears plain, small internal scar central to the button is probably where the fixing loop was attached (dated 18-19/E20C)	Modern (c L19-E/M20C)
T1, L4	4	CBM: (1) small piece from a brick in red sandy fabric, single dimension (presumed thickness) 65 mm, hard mortar over break (dated 18-20C)	Modern (18-E20C)
T2, F2	6	CBM (Brick): (1) complete red brick (dimensions 230 x 105 x 67 mm) not frogged, sandy lime mortar, on surfaces (dated 19-20C)	Modern (19-20C)
T2, F3	7	CBM (Brick): (1) complete red brick (dimensions 229 x 114 x 65 mm) frogged, sandy lime mortar, concrete render on one face (dated 19-20C)	Modern (19-20C)
T2, L6	5	Post-medieval & modern pottery: (SQ) Fabric 40 (2)	Modern

Context	Find no	Form/ description	Finds spot date
		internal & external glaze (dated 16/17-18/19 C); Fabric 45M (1) English stoneware preserve jar (dated 18-E19C); Fabric 48D (3) (dated 18-19/E20C); Fabric 48B (1) porcelain (dated 18-19/20C). Glass: (2) small sherds of bottle glass, one dark green the other clear (dated 18/19-E20C). CBM: (1) small piece from a peg-tile (fine fabric – probably post-medieval-early modern).	(L18/19-E20C)

Table 2 Finds by context

6 Discussion

An evaluation on land adjacent to The Griffin revealed three sections of brick wall foundations and a yard surface dating from the 19th-20th century. These foundations certainly appear to be from the buildings identified on the 1876 six-inch OS map (Fig 3). However, they are of a later construction than The Griffin, which was built in the early 18th century. No evidence was found to indicate what these buildings were used for and we do not know if they were associated with The Griffin.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Richard Horley (John Finch Partnership) and Darren Lingley for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway, Nigel Rayner and Jane Roberts. Figures are by C Lister. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

8 References

CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to The Griffin Public House, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2JT</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Cunningham, C	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex' in Cunningham, C., & Drury, P., <i>Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham Street, Chelmsford</i> , CBA Research Report 54
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to the Griffin Public House, Parsonage Street, Halstead</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex, from the Roman conquest to the reformation</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services

EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 986)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register, Risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Braintree Museum under accession code: [requested](#)

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Distribution list:

Richard Horley, John Finch Partnership

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Teresa O'Connor, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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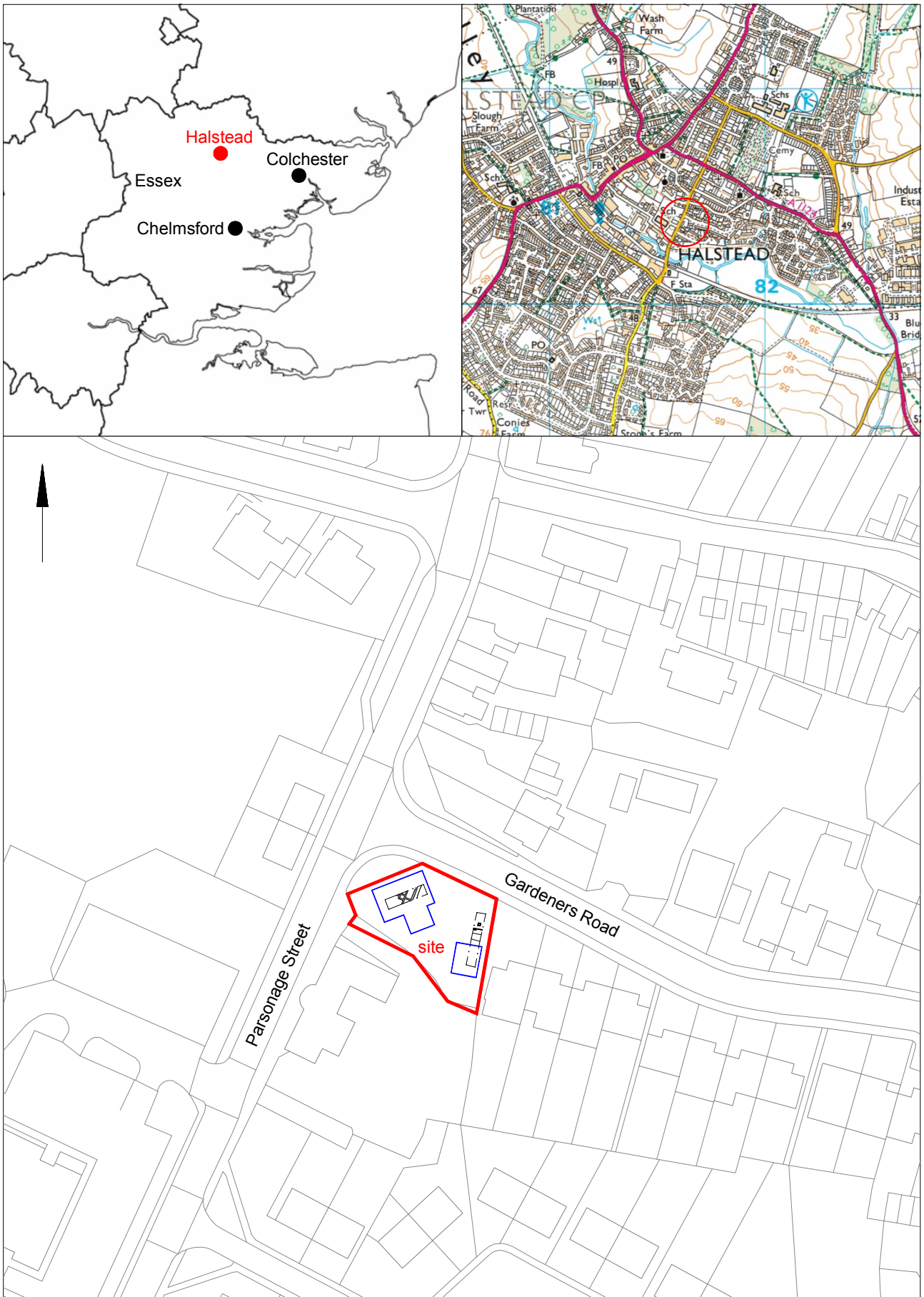
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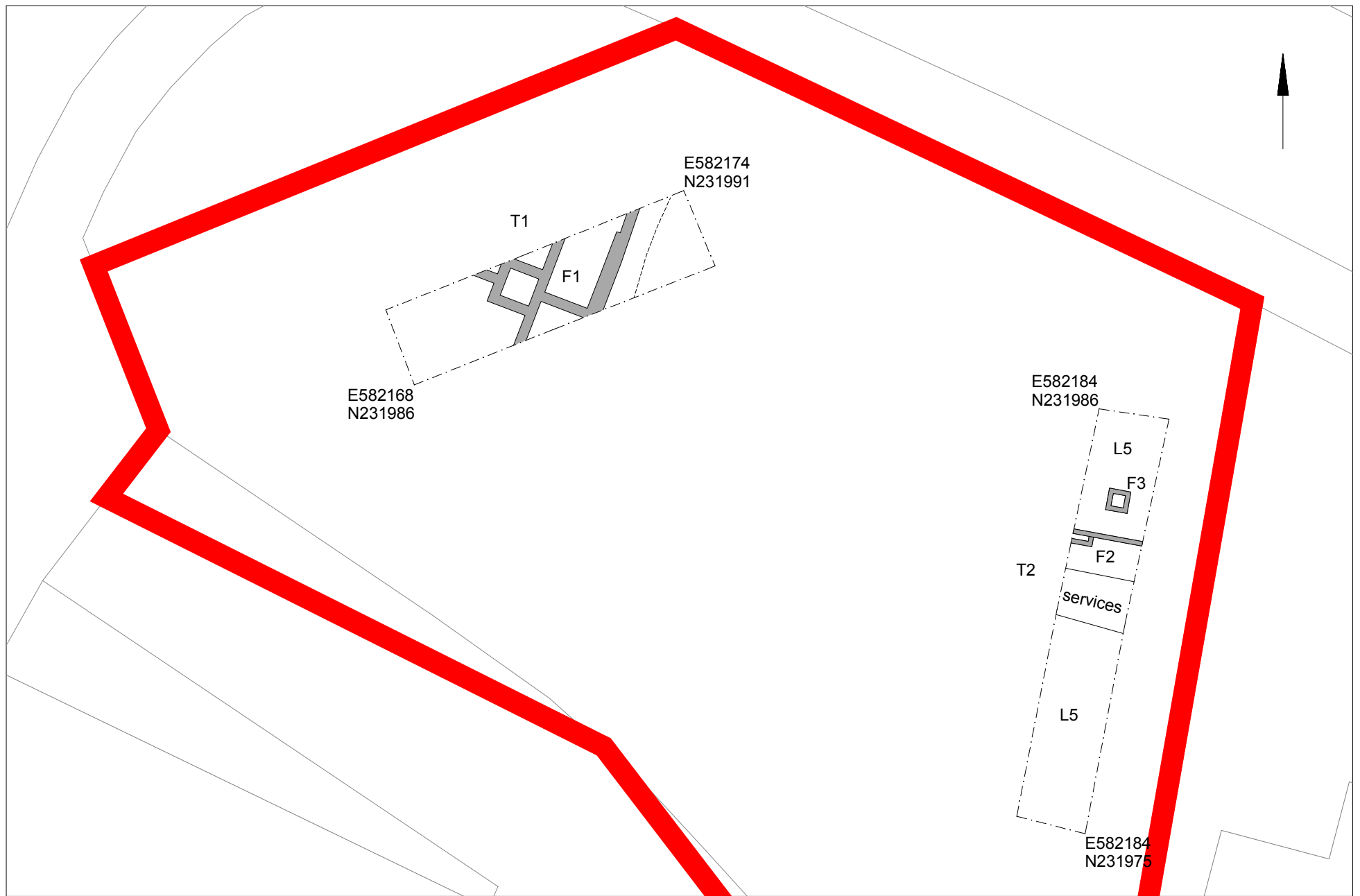
Date: 13.08.2016



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Fig 1 Site location, proposed development shown in blue.

0 50 m



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Fig 2 Trench results.

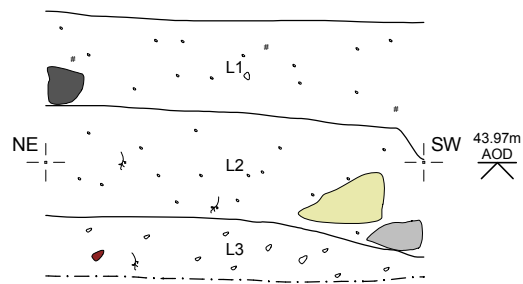




Fig 3 Site overlaid on 1876 six inch OS map.

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0 50 m








-  concrete
-  clay block
-  silicon block
-  modern brick
-  small stones
-  roots



Fig 4 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Land adjacent to The Griffin Public House, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2JT	
Parish: Halstead	District: Braintree
NGR: TL 81638 30389 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 16/06h ECC project code: HS7 OASIS project ID: colchest3-255719
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 19th July 2016	Size of area investigated: Two trenches – 10m and 8m long by 1.8m wide (32.4m ²)
Location of curating museum: Braintree Museum accession code: requested	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related EHER number: EHER 28866
Final report: CAT Report 986	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was carried out on land adjacent to The Griffin public house, Parsonage Street, Halstead, Essex in advance of the construction of a single dwelling with garage. A Grade II listed building of early 18th-century date, The Griffin is shown on early OS maps alongside a number of buildings on the development site that may have been associated with the pub. The evaluation revealed three sections of wall foundations made from 19th-20th century red bricks, and a contemporary yard surface. These appear to be the remains of the buildings shown on the OS maps.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
Keywords: –	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: August 2016