

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HD

July – August 2016



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
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on behalf of Toby Britton

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CAT Report 993

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 9 London Road, Maldon, Essex in advance of the construction of a rear extension. The development site is located within the 10th century Saxon burh and the burh ditch is thought to run along the length of the property. Monitoring revealed patches of compacted dirty gravel, possibly forming a metalled yard or street surface, cut by three post-medieval pits. No trace of the burh ditch was identified.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological monitoring and recording carried out at 9 London Road, Maldon, Essex which was carried out between 28th July – 5th August 2016. The work was commissioned by Toby Britton in advance of the construction of a rear extension. The work was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott 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 monitoring*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (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 watching brief* (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 EHER shows that the proposed development is located in an archaeologically sensitive area. The development site is most notably located within the site of a Saxon *burh* and area of late Saxon settlement on the top of the ridge to the south of the river (EHER 7718, 7766 and 18787).

Previous archaeological fieldwork on the site in the 1980s (EHER 16858; Brown 1986) identified the possible ditch of the 10th century Saxon *burh*, which is thought to run along the length of the property plot. A number of early medieval sherds were also recovered.

There are also several listed buildings nearby. West Cottage (11 London Road) is Grade II listed and early 17th century in origin (NHLE no. 1256584), 13-17 London Road is Grade II listed and 15th century in origin (NHLE no. 1256589), and Talbots (3-7 London Road) is Grade II* listed and also of 15th century origin (NHLE no.1256578).

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Before groundworks began, a modern patio set into a concrete base (c 250mm thick) was removed from the rear of the house. Approximately 12m of foundation trenches

were dug by the contractors using both a mechanical excavator and by hand. All groundworks were undertaken under archaeological supervision. The trenches measured 0.5m wide by 1.1-1.2m deep.

Beneath the patio and concrete base was a layer of dark grey/very dark brown sandy silt which became increasingly more gravelly towards the southwest end of the trench (L1). This layer had been cut by a modern brick-built wall foundation and drainage trench.

Sealed beneath L1 were patches of redeposited (dirty) gravels/a metalled surface (L2 and F1) which, where identified, sealed natural orange brown sands and gravels (L3). Three large pits (F2, F3 and F4) cut through F1/L2 and L3, none were fully excavated but each was filled with the same dark grey/very dark brown sandy silt as L1.



Photograph 1 Compacted gravel F1 (L2) at NW end of trench, looking NW



Photograph 2 Pits F2 and F3 cutting through F1/L2, looking NW



Photograph 3 Pits F3 and F4 cutting through F1/L2, looking SW

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A small quantity of finds, including pottery of medieval, post-medieval and modern date, was recovered from machine excavation and hand digging of dark soil (L1) and redeposited (dirty) gravels/metalled surfaces (F1/L2) in the footing trenches. 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.

Fabric code	Fabric name
9	Thetford-type wares
13	Early medieval sandy wares (general)
20	Medieval sandy greywares (general)
21	Medieval sandy orange wares (general)
40B	Stock-type black glazed ware
45D	Frechen stoneware

Table 1 Pottery fabrics

Ctxt	Find no	Form/ description	Finds spot date
L1 (west end)	1	Medieval pottery: Fabric 20 (1) (L12-14C) Post-medieval pottery: Fabric 4D (1) (16-17/E18C); Fabric 40B (1) handle (17-18C). CBM: peg-tile (PT) (3) (med-post-med); brick (1) (post-med). Slate: (1) roofing slate piece with small nail/fixing hole (post-med(?)-mod). Flint: (1) thick flake, dorsal surface all cortex, large platform and very prominent bulb of percussion, no usewear or modification to edges (not closely dated). Animal bone: (1) complete cow metatarsal with scratches and cut marks on one side/edge surface only.	Post-medieval /modern (16/17-18/19C) with some medieval
L1 (centre)	2	Late Saxon/Medieval pottery: Fabric 9 (1) small sherd, wheel-thrown, ridged surface, possibly Thetford ware (c 9/10-12C). Medieval pottery: Fabric 13 (1) (11-12C), Fabric13/20 (3) medium size sherds (12/13-14C), Fabric 20 (1) (13-14C), Fabric 21 (2) base sherd with footing decorated with close-set indentations on base edge and some splash glaze on interior (13/14-15C), body sherd with dark-grey surface (15-E16C). Animal bone: (5 pieces) includes degraded antler tine piece, cow long-bone (radius), pig jaw, sheep humerus and medium-size mammal rib.	Late medieval with some late Saxon/early medieval & medieval
L2 (east end, disturbed by modern services)	3	Post-medieval pottery: (1) Fabric 40 (broken sherd), base sherd, internal glaze (M16/17-E18C). CBM: Peg-tile (PT) (3) (med-post-med); Brick (2) (post-med). Animal bone: (1) cattle long bone piece, sawn through (butchered) at both ends. Shell: (3) oyster shell pieces.	Post-medieval
L1/US (west end)	4	Medieval pottery: Fabric 21 (1) base edge sherd, red fabric, reduced surface (C 15-M16C). Animal bone: (4) includes cattle mandible, cattle metatarsal split in half length ways, sheep scapula & radius.	Medieval (c 15-M16C).

Table 2 Finds by context (CBM=ceramic building material)

6 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation at 9 London Road, Maldon revealed what appears to be the remains of a metalled yard/street surface (F1/L2) cut by later, probably post-medieval, pits. No trace of the *burh* ditch was identified.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Toby Britton for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Benfield. Figures are by CL and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

8 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, P N	1986	<i>The Maldon Burh Jigsaw.</i>
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 monitoring at 9 London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HD</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	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 monitoring at 9 London Road, Maldon</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c AD 500–1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	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 993)
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 Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2016.80

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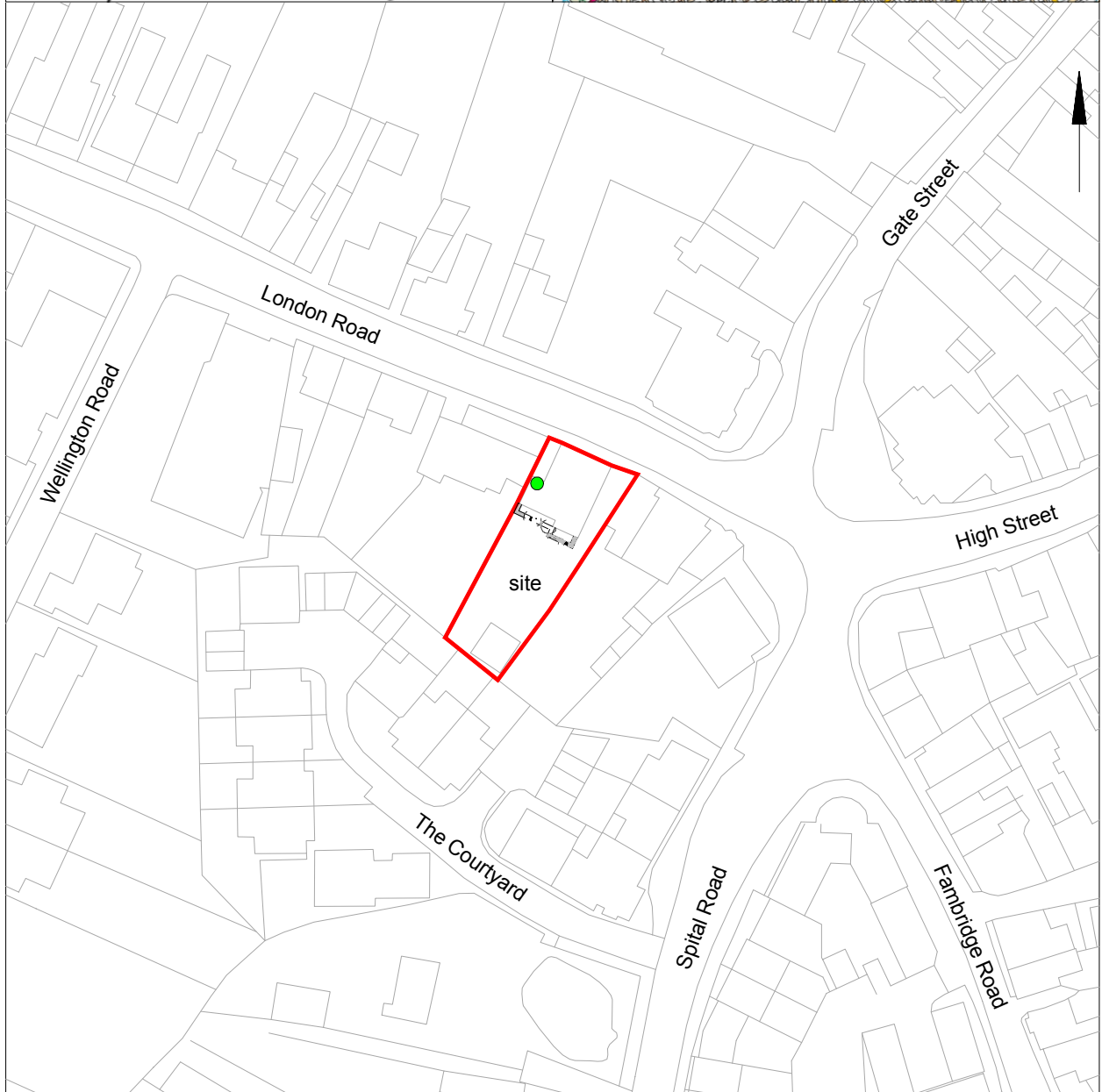
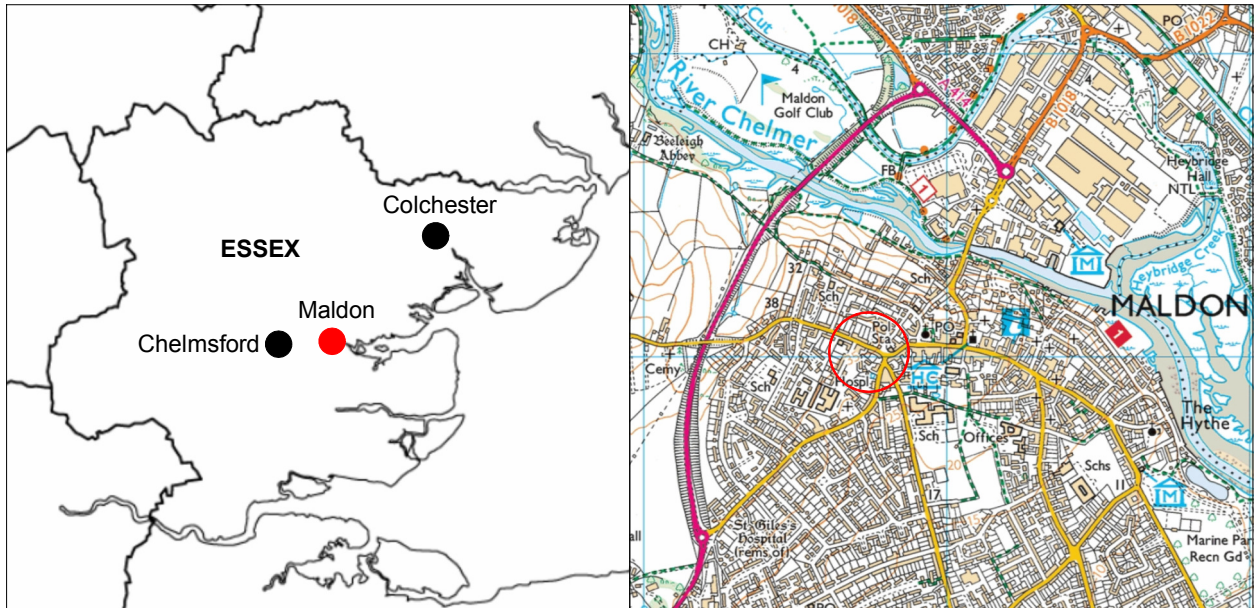
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Fig 1 Site location (1980s excavation site shown in green)



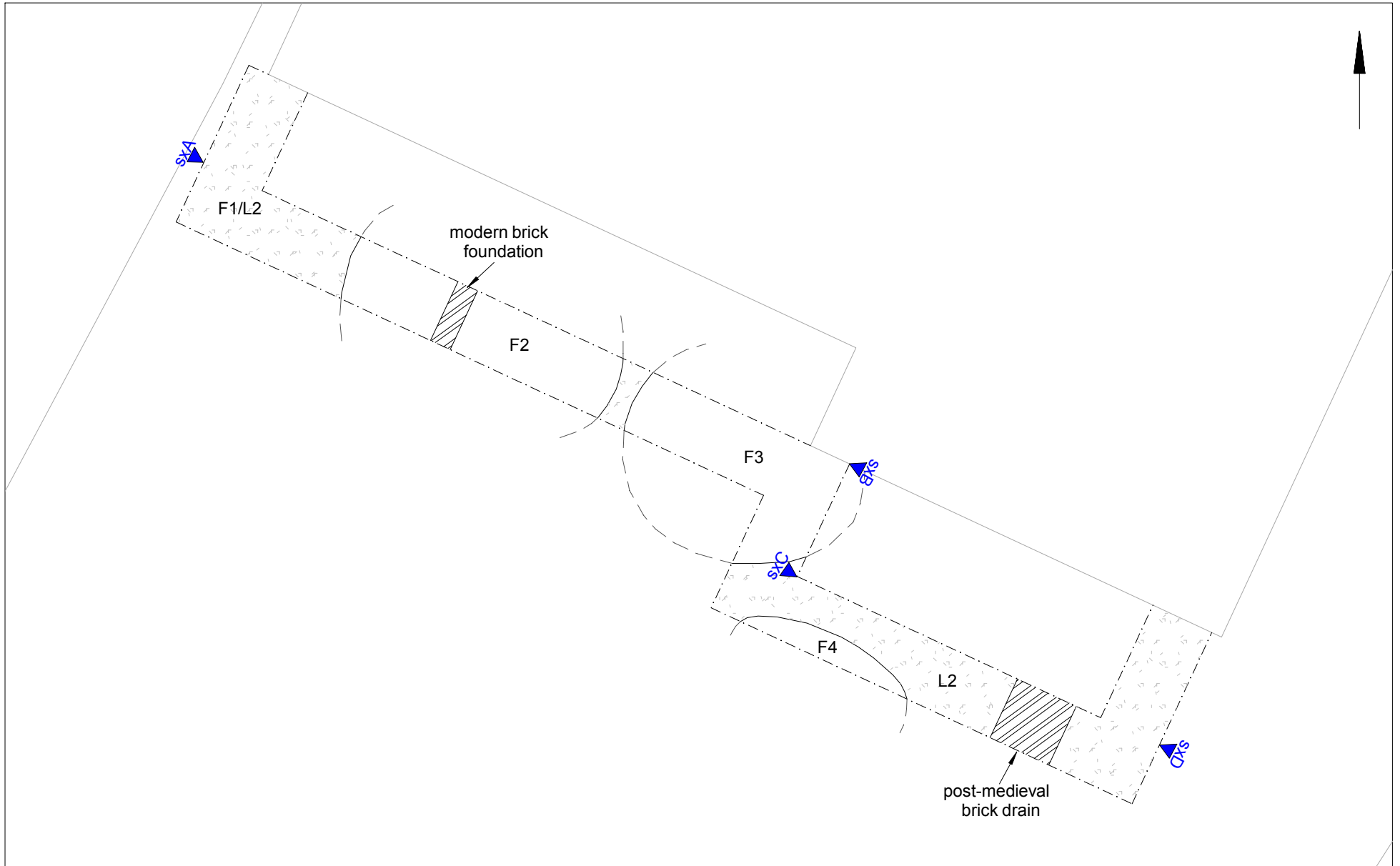


Fig 2 Results.

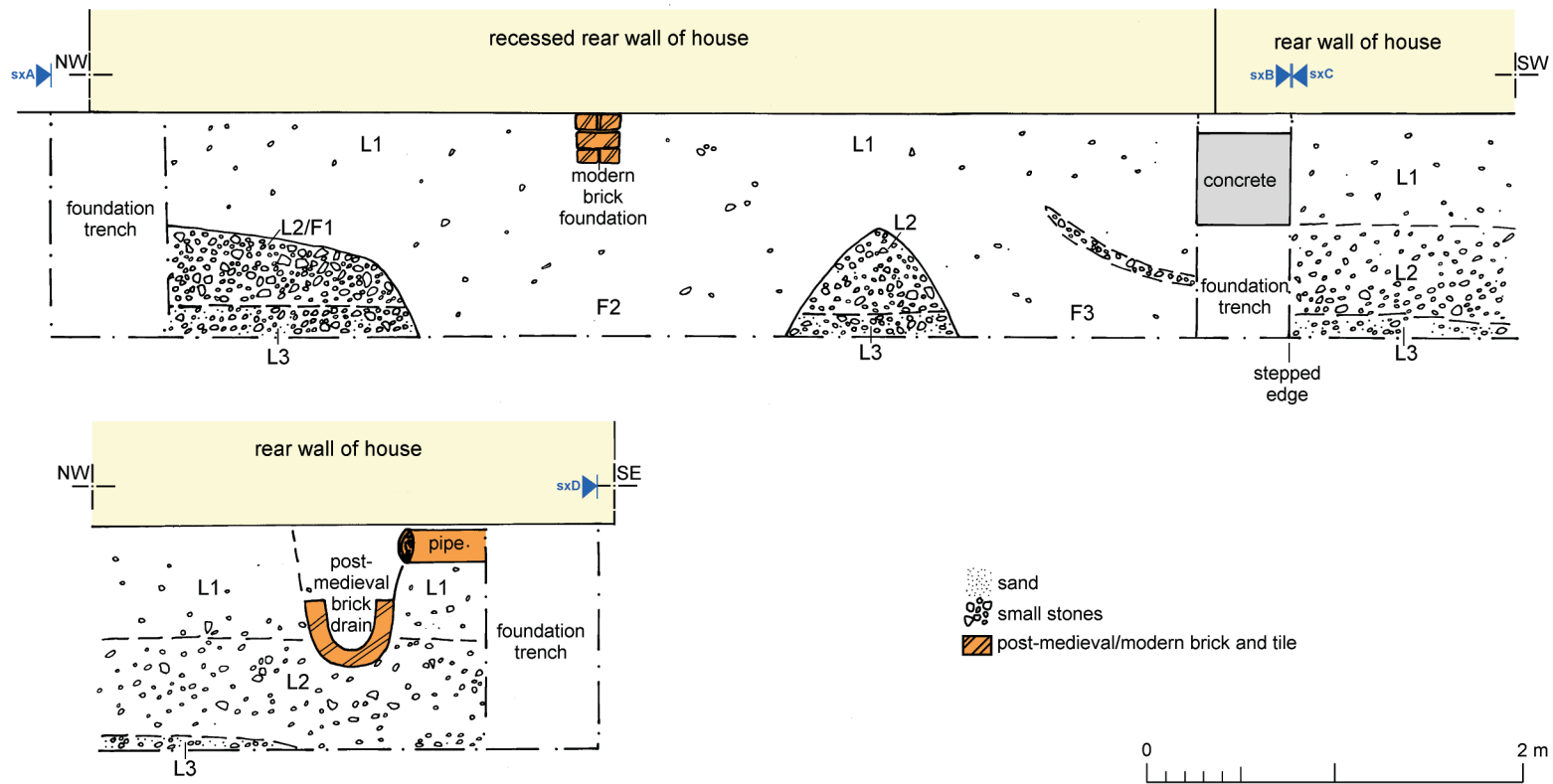


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 9 London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HD	
Parish: Tendring	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 84757 07013 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 16/07m ECC project code: MD55 OASIS project ID: colchest3-258009
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 28th July – 5th August 2016	Size of area investigated: Foundation trenches totalling 12m long by 0.5m wide (6m ²)
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2016.80	Funding source: owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: EHER 7718, 7766, 16858 and 18787
Final report: CAT Report 993	
Periods represented: post-medieval	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 9 London Road, Maldon, Essex in advance of the construction of a rear extension. The development site is located within the 10th century Saxon <i>burh</i> and the <i>burh</i> ditch is thought to run along the length of the property. Monitoring revealed patches of compacted dirty gravel, possibly forming a metallated yard or street surface, cut by three post-medieval pits. No trace of the <i>burh</i> ditch was identified.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
Keywords: –	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: September 2016