

Archaeological monitoring and recording on land to the rear of Tillbrooks Garage, High Street, Wethersfield, Essex, CM7 4BY

March 2017



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Laura Pooley and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Harvey Furniss

**commissioned by Steven Grayston
on behalf of Saxon Ridge Properties Ltd**

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CAT project ref.: 17/02e

ECC code: WFTG17

Braintree Museum accession code: [tbc](#)

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CAT Report 1083

May 2017

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on land at Tillbrooks Garage, High Street, Wethersfield, Essex during groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings. Located in the centre of the historic medieval settlement, groundworks revealed two red-brick wall foundations and a red-brick soakaway of post-medieval/modern or modern date. These are likely associated with a range of buildings shown on the 1896 OS map fronting onto the High Street and continuing on a SE/NW alignment into the development site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological monitoring and recording at Tillbrooks Garage, High Street, Wethersfield, Essex which was carried out on 1st-9th March 2017. The work was commissioned by Steven Grayston, on behalf of Saxon Ridge Properties Ltd, in advance of the construction of two new dwellings. 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 written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to an archaeological 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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

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

The proposed development site lies within the historic medieval settlement of Wethersfield. It is situated to the rear of the High Street and fronted by a number of listed buildings dating from the 15th century onwards, many of relatively high status. It lies immediately adjacent to a Grade II* listed building, St George's House, and within the Conservation Area. The historic OS maps show there to have been a number of outbuildings to the rear of the High Street houses which are likely to have been associated with domestic or industrial activities. These no longer survive, however the foundations may be preserved below ground.



Map 1 Chapman and André map of 1777



Map 2 Six-inch 1896 OS map (ESSEX XV.SE) overlaid on modern street map (site indicated by blue arrow) showing range of buildings on the development site fronting onto the high street

NLS Historic Maps
Subscription API layer ©
Getmapping plc ©
2017 GeoEye ©
2017 Intermap ©
2017 Microsoft Corporation ©
2017 HERE ©

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

All groundworks were carried out by the contractor using a mechanical excavator under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

An inspection pit, measuring approximately 6m long, 1.7m wide by 1.1m deep was excavated on the SE edge of the development site. A red-brick wall (F1) aligned SE/NW was recorded on the same alignment as the SE/NW walls of the existing garage complex. Construction rubble associated with this wall was dated to post-1910.

Approximately 74m linear of foundation trenches were excavated measuring c 0.6-0.7m wide by 0.8-1.45m deep. The foundations were excavated through modern demolition debris associated with site clearance works (L1, 0.14-0.35m thick) and a dark grey/brown sandy-silt subsoil (L2, 0.25-1.2m thick) onto natural sands (L3).

A second red-brick wall foundation (F3) dated to the late 18th – early 20th century was also aligned SE/NW. This is possibly a continuation of wall foundation F1 to the NW. To the NNE was a soakaway made of red-bricks dated to the late 17th – 19th century. It was a circular structure approximately 1.15m in diameter. A modern service trench was also recorded.



Photograph 1 Wall foundation F1, looking SE



Photograph 2 Soakaway F2, looking SW



Photograph 3 Wall foundation F3, looking SSE



Photograph 3 Foundation trenches, looking NNE

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Only a small quantity of finds were retained all are of post-medieval/modern or modern date. The finds consist of a few selected whole or interesting pieces from F1 and brick samples from F2 and F3. One of the finds (glass bottle) from F1 shows that the feature post-dates 1910.

F1 (1)

A few modern finds were retained from F1. These are listed and described below. A Foster Clark fruit juice bottle among these finds post-dates 1910.

Pottery:

Sherd from a white stoneware preserve jar.

D]UNDEE / MARMALADE / P]RIZE MEDAL FOR MARMA[LADE / LONDON, 1862

Glass:

Camp coffee bottle, complete.

One face **PATERSON'S** one face **CAMP / COFFEE / & CHICORY** one face
GLASGOW

Camp coffee was started by Paterson's in 1876. The product is still available today.

Bottle complete (pale blue/green tint to glass).

On base **ANGER / ...3 / EMULSION**

Although emulsions are used orally to treat a number of conditions the word anger could suggest inflammation and redness. The product here might possibly have been an emulsion bath additive to help treat sub-acute or chronic plaque psoriasis (this type of psoriasis involves areas of raised, red, sometimes itchy, patches of skin, covered with silvery scales but without any blistering or tenderness). The patches often occur on

the elbows, knees, lower back and scalp. The treatment is added to water when bathing.

Small square bodied drink (juice) bottle (pale blue/green tint to glass, height of bottle 105mm)

One face **FOSTER CLARK LTD / MAIDSTONE** opposing face **EIFFEL TOWER / FRUIT JUICES**

Foster Clarke began trading in 1891 and became a limited company after 1910. Although sold to OXO in 1965 it appears that the company name is still used today on some fruit juice products.

Metal:

Pressed metal cover/flap with convex face, and raised word **LETTERS**, possibly a letter box flap or flap/cover for posting box, riveted attachment at one end (broken off at other) and small horizontal projection for attachment on middle of bottom edge, length of pressed curving plaque 115mm (135mm with surviving rivet attachment), width 28mm (weight 30g).

F2 (2)

Complete brick (sample), not frogged, orange sandy fabric, relatively sharp edges, 210mm x 105mm x 62mm, some white lime mortar on one corner (weight 2474g). Broadly dated as late 17th-19th century.

F3 (3)

Complete brick (sample), not frogged, relatively sharp edges with creasing in edge faces, red/red-brown sandy fabric with occasional small stone, black firing marks (vertical stripes) on one edge, 213mm x 110mm x 61mm, sandy white lime mortar on faces and ends but not on sides (weight 2734g). Probably a stock-type brick. Dated late 18th-early 20th century.

6 Discussion

Archaeological monitoring at Tillbrooks Garage, Wethersfield revealed two red-brick wall foundations (F1 and F3) and a red-brick soakaway (F2) of post-medieval/modern and modern date. The 1896 OS map (Map 2) shows a range of buildings on the development site which fronted onto the High Street. Parts of these buildings are probably still standing as garages on the far SE edge of the site. Wall foundations F1 and F3 show that this range of buildings continued for approximately 12m onto the development site, and soakaway F2 was probably associated with them.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Steven Grayston and Saxon Ridge Properties Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and H Furniss. Figures are by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

8 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring on land to the rear of Tillbrooks Garage, High Street, Wethersfield, Essex, CM7 4BY</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>

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 M Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> , MoRPHE (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	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
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 (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: not retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1083)

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: [tbc](#)

Distribution list:

Steven Grayston, Saxon Ridge Properties Ltd
Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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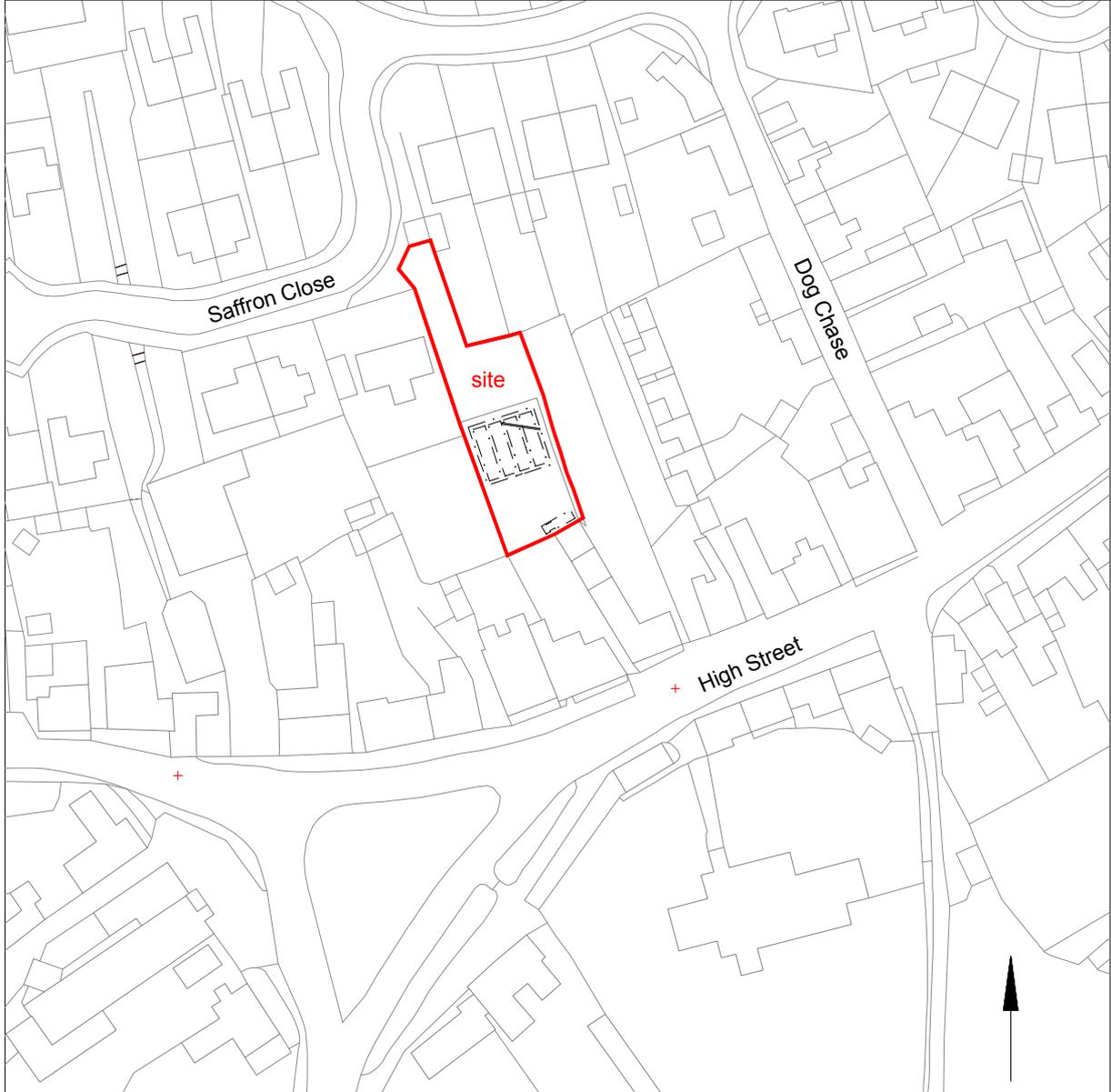
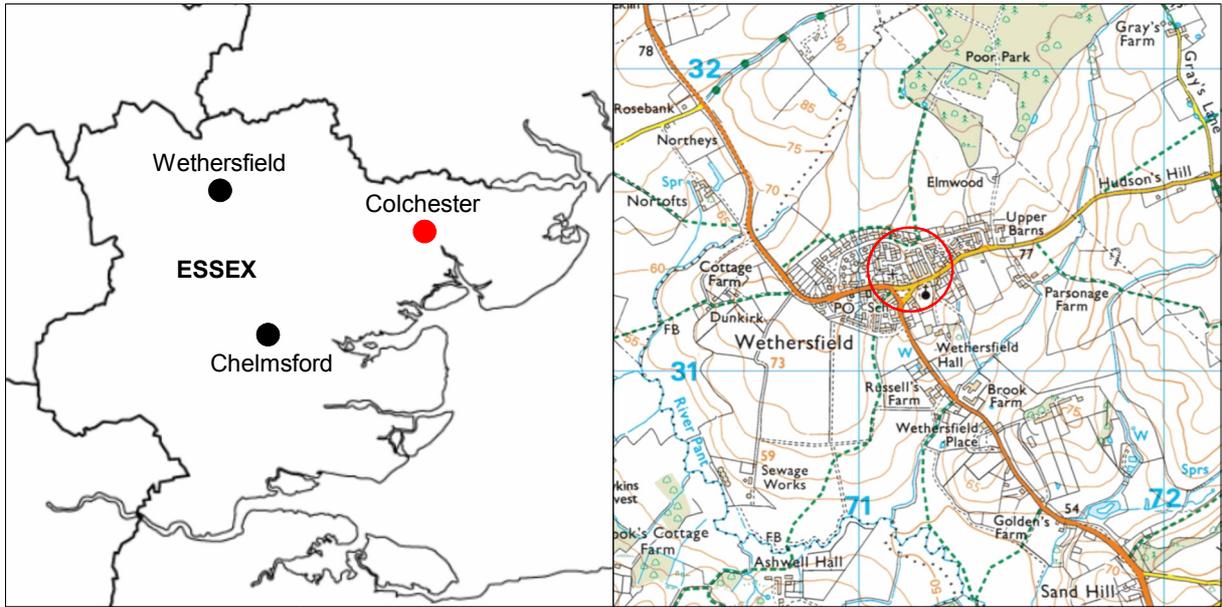
email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 24.5.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds No.	Type	Description	Date
F1	1	Wall foundation	Friable, dry, dark brown/black sandy-silt, 75% brick/tile	Post-1910
F2	2	Soakaway	Firm, dry, dark grey/brown sandy-silt with 25% brick/tile	Late 17th-19th century
F3	3	Wall foundation	Firm, yellow/orange/brown silty-sand with 90% brick	Late 18th-early 20th century
L1	-	Topsoil	Friable, dry, medium-dark grey/black sandy-silt, 10% stone, 10% gravel and 20% brick/tile; originally sealed by a thick layer of concrete	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Friable, dry, dark grey/black sandy-silt, 5% stone, 5% gravel and 2% brick/tile	-
L3	-	Natural	Natural yellow-orange sands	-



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Fig 1 Site location.



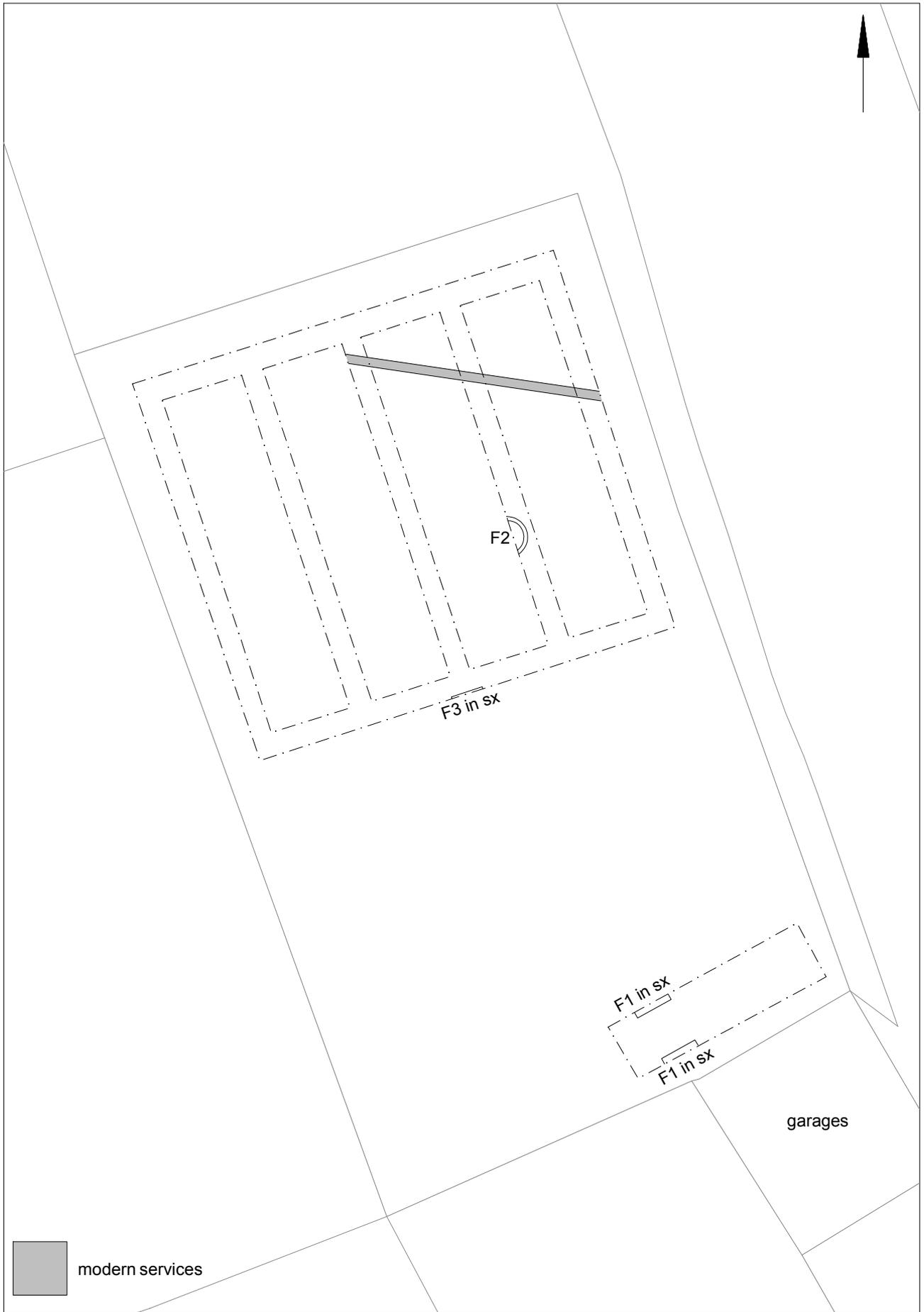


Fig 2 Results

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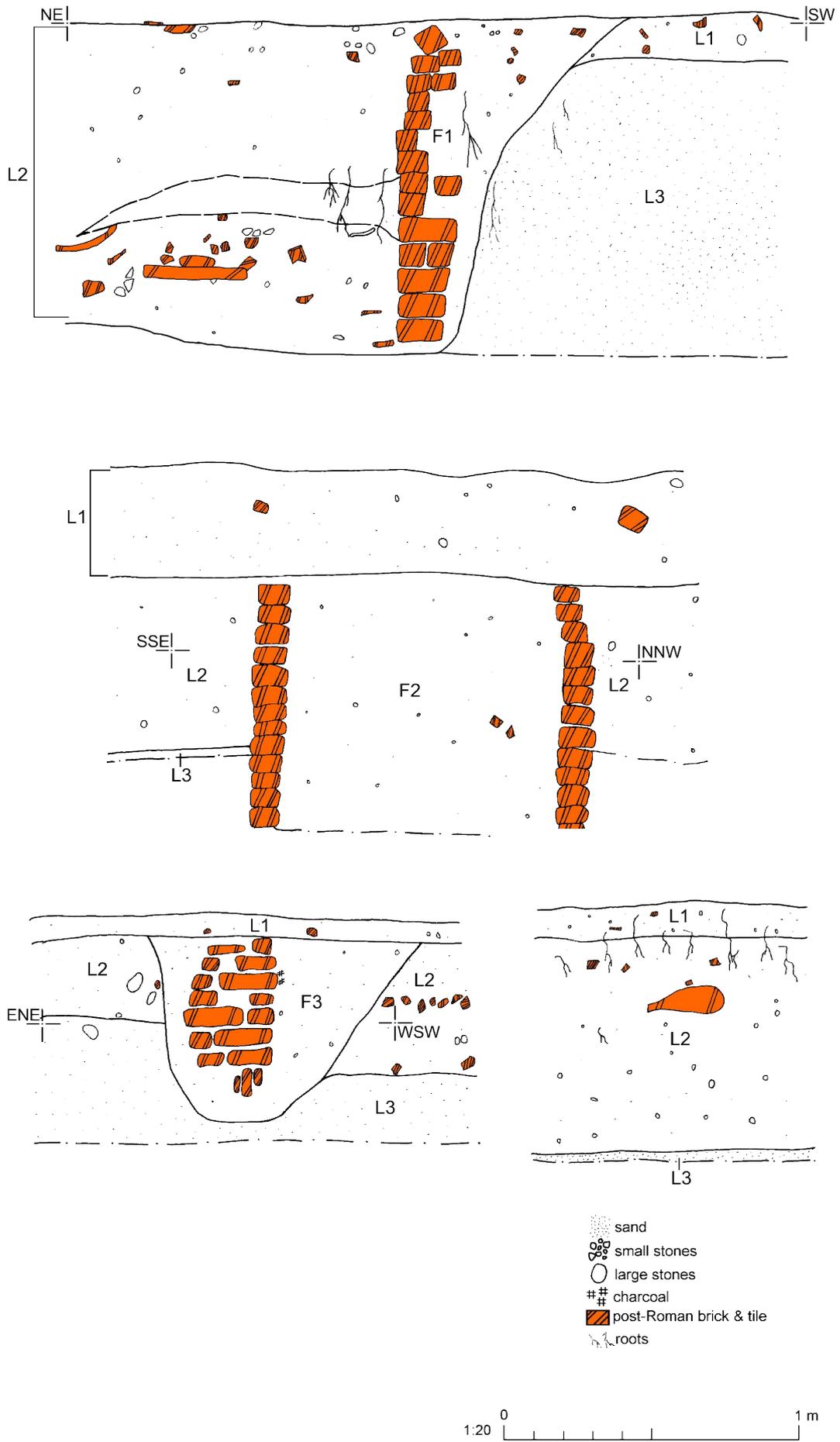


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections

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OASIS ID: colchest3-275768

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring on land to the rear of Tillbrooks Garage, High Street, Wethersfield, Essex, CM7 4BY
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on land at Tillbrooks Garage, High Street, Wethersfield, Essex during groundworks for the construction of two new dwellings. Located in the centre of the historic medieval settlement, groundworks revealed two red-brick wall foundations and a red-brick soakaway of post-medieval/modern or modern date. These are likely associated with a range of buildings shown on the 1896 OS map fronting onto the High Street and continuing on a SE/NW alignment into the development site.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2017 End: 09-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/02e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/01917/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	WFTG17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Modern
Monument type	SOAKAWAY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE WETHERSFIELD land to the rear of Tillbrooks Garage, High Street
Postcode	CM7 4BY
Study area	0.07 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 1178 1321 51.80588431752 -0.378549524458 51 48 21 N 000 22 42 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Tillbrooks Garage, Wethersfield, Essex, CM7 4BY: March 2017
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