

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2112
issued December 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation of land to the east of
9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1DB:
November 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/11c
ECC code: RF23**

**Archaeological evaluation of land to the east of
9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1DB:
November 2024**

NGR: TQ 87724 90580 (centre)

**Planning district: Rochford
Planning ref.: 21/00502/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/11c
CAT Report 2112**

**ECC code: RF23
OASIS id: colchest3-529565**

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with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton
and Laura Pooley**

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Matt Perou

**commissioned by Samuel Oppenheimer,
My Property Survey Ltd
on behalf of Easy Estates Group Ltd**

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Issued:	06/12/2024	

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the east of 9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new building. The development site is located within the historic market town of Rochford, close to the medieval marketplace. The evaluation revealed 19th-20th century building remains, including brick floors, brick walls and a backfilled cellar.

2 Introduction

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the east of 9 East Street, Rochford, Essex on 20th November 2024. The work was commissioned by Samuel Oppenheimer of My Property Survey Ltd on behalf of Easy Estates Group Ltd, and took place ahead of the construction of a new detached building.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Planning Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor advised that, 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* (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation 9 East Street, Rochford*, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2022). The written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by Moles Archaeology (2022).

In addition to the project brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000; Gurney 2003; Medlycott 2011) and the recent 2021 review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2024).

3 Archaeological and geological background

The following archaeological background utilises extracts of the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The proposed development site is located within the historic market town of Rochford. It is first mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086 and it is likely that it centred on the church and the manor. Rochford received a market charter and fair in 1257, and its development as a town probably began at this point. The original medieval marketplace is thought to have consisted of the area of Horner's Corner (bounded by East Street, North Street, South Street and Old Ship Lane) and the current rectangular marketplace on the north-eastern end of West Street (c 150m east of the development site). Horner's Corner and the eastern end of the rectangular marketplace have been infilled. The Market Hall (c 1707-1861) is reported to have once stood in what is now the market square.

In 1998 an evaluation at 3 East Street revealed one post-medieval feature infilled in the 18th/19th century (EHER 18177). In 1997, a test pit excavated on the site of the medieval marketplace at 6 North Street revealed evidence for the post-medieval redevelopment of the site as well as non-structural evidence for the earlier development phase (EHER 17863).

In 2013, an evaluation at 14 North Street revealed undated linear features, pits and a deposit containing post-medieval and early-modern pottery. These features are likely to have been associated with back plots of post-medieval housing on the adjacent street fronts (EHER 48275).

In 2014, an evaluation took place within a small infilled triangular marketplace at the junction of East Street and North Street, approximately 60m south-west of the development site (EHER 48676). Two trial trenches along road frontages revealed a possible medieval pit (11th-14th century), an undated ditch, and undated domestic hearth material.

Within the buildings on Horner's Corner (EHER 16379), limited excavation and a watching brief revealed gravel surfaces dated to the 13th-14th century that probably represent the original market-place surface.

The Historic Town Assessment Report of Rochford (Medlycott 1999) indicates that there is a Roman settlement in the vicinity of the town, probably located under the hospital, north-east of the development site.

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand) with superficial River Terrace deposits (sand and gravel).

4 Aims

The aims of the evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One cross-shaped trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The east-north-east (ENE)/west-south-west (WSW) trench was 14m long and the north-north-west (NNW)/south-south-east (SSE) trench 8m long, both at 1.5m wide.

A modern deposit of tarmac, concrete and crush covered the site (L1, 0.2-0.4m thick) and sealed modern building remains. To the ENE and the NNW were brick floors F1. The bricks were orientated NNW/SSE and arranged in stretcher bond without mortar. Brick samples taken from F1 dated from the late 17th to early 18th century (Table 6), but the floor had been laid on a modern levelling layer (L6, c 0.2m thick). The remains of a plaster or concrete veneer that covered the floor may be a later addition or represent original finishing of the floor surface.

To the ENE, floor F1 was bordered by two brick wall foundations (not separately numbered, aligned ENE/WSE and NNW/SSE). Only two courses of the wall foundation remained. The NNW/SSE foundation was formed of un-mortared header bricks, the ENE/WSE wall also incorporated brick pairs in a stretcher orientation.

Post-hole F4 had been chiselled into brick floor F1. The feature was sub-oval in plan, c 0.18m by 0.15m, with vertical sides to a depth of 0.08m.

Levelling layer L6 was identified across the rest of the site, but it was generally thinner (c 0.05-0.1m deep) than underneath floor F1, consisting of a single layer of grey/brown sand. To the WSW, and cut into L6, was L-shaped wall foundation F3. The frogged yellow bricks were in header orientation and placed in the 'stacked horizontal' pattern. A thin concrete veneer/floor was bounded by the wall.

Four sondages were excavated to identify archaeological remains beneath L6 (see Fig 2).

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>

In sondages 1 and 3, L6 sealed L2, a thick layer of post-medieval accumulation. In sondage 1 this was over 0.9m thick. In sondage 3 it was 0.75m thick and sealed natural (L3, identified at a depth of 1.22m below current ground level).

In sondage 2, L6 sealed a thick layer of modern backfill (L3, over 1m thick), interpreted as a backfilled cellar.

In sondage 4, L6 sealed an ENE/WSW oriented lime-washed red brick wall, F2, built in a stretcher bond pattern. Brick samples from F2 were frogged and at least eight courses of bricks were preserved. A row of header bricks, arranged end-to-end, extended perpendicularly from the base of the wall. Feature F2 is interpreted as a cellar wall and part of its floor (floor support?). To the NNW of F2 was accumulation L2, to the SSE a thick layer of modern cellar backfill (L4, equivalent to L3).

A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 Brick floor and walls F1 with sondage 1, looking WSW.



Photograph 2 Brick wall F3 with sondage 3, looking ENE.



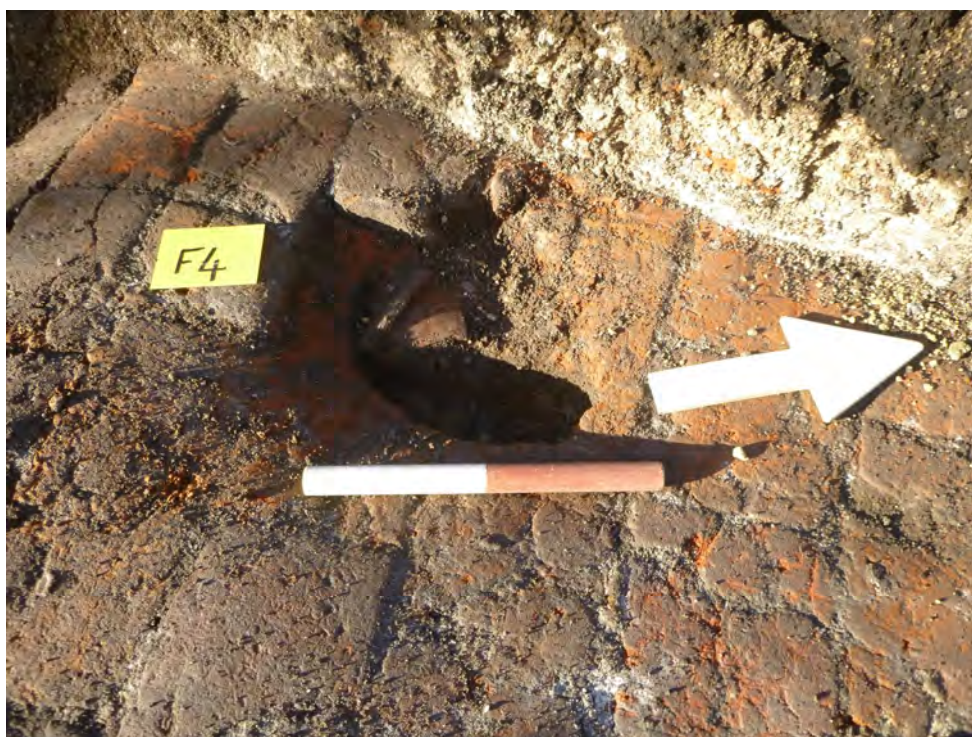
Photograph 3 Sondage 4 with brick foundation F2, looking WSW.



Photograph 4 Sondage 2, looking NNE.



Photograph 5 Sondage 1, looking NNW.



Photograph 6 Post-hole F4 in brick floor F1, looking W.

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The monitoring uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) with 29 sherds with a weight of 13.5kg, estimated vessel equivalent (EVE) of 0.52 and mean sherd weight (MSW) of 468g (Table 1). This material was recovered from feature and layers (Table 6).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	23	557	24	0.52
CBM	6	13,026	2,171	-
All	29	13,583	468	0.52

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Roman pottery

Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (Symonds & Wade 1999). An abraded sherd from a black-burnished (fabric GB) Cam 305 bowl (EVE:0.05), dating to AD 275-300, came from accumulation L2.

Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery

Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) (Table 2). The assemblage consists of 22 sherds with a weight of 544g and EVE of 0.47 (Table 3). The MSW is 25g. This material was recovered from one feature and four layers (Table 4).

A small quantity of medieval pottery (fabrics F13, F21) came from accumulation L2, otherwise the assemblage consists of a variety of post-medieval and primarily modern material.

Noteworthy material from post-hole F4 included a glazed conical jar or bowl (EVE:0.10) in post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40), which is similar to an example from Colchester which is dated to the late 17th century (Cotter 2000, 210). Also of interest was a sherd from a Westerwald stoneware (fabric F45F) mug from accumulation L2.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	1000-1225
F21	Colchester-type ware	1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-1800/1900
F45D	Frechen stonewares	c 1500-1700
F45F	Westerwald stoneware	1600-1800
F45G	Nottingham/Derbyshire stoneware	1675-1800
F45M	Modern English stoneware	1800-2000
F46	Netherlands, Anglo-Netherlands and English tin-glazed earthenwares	1550-1800
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	1800-2000
F48E	Yellow ware	1775-2000
F48J	Jackfield ware	1740-1800

Table 2 Pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric code	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F13	Early Medieval sandy wares	1	2	2	0.00
F21	Colchester-type ware	3	12	4	0.07
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	4	272	68	0.16
F45D	Frechen stonewares	2	14	7	0.00
F45F	Westerwald stoneware	1	15	15	0.00
F45G	Nottingham/Derbyshire stoneware	1	37	37	0.00
F45M	Modern English stoneware	2	34	17	0.00
F46	Netherlands, Anglo-Netherlands and English tin-glazed earthenwares	1	25	25	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	5	95	19	0.24
F48E	Yellow ware	1	30	30	0.00
F48J	Jackfield ware	1	8	8	0.00
Total		22	544	25	0.47

Table 3 Summary of the medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F4	Post-hole	2	57	29	0.10
L2	Accumulation	9	76	8	0.07
L3	Backfill	1	6	6	0.08
L4	Backfill	6	146	24	0.16
L6	Levelling layer	4	259	65	0.06
Total		22	544	25	0.47

Table 4 Quantities of medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery from specific contexts.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

CBM consist of six fragments with a weight of 13kg and MSW of 2,171g which was recovered from four features (Table 5). Frogged bricks were recovered from walls F2 and F3, while floor F1 produced late 17th-early 18th century bricks.

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F1	Floor	2	5,025	2,513
F2	Wall	2	5,309	2,655
F3	Wall	1	2,690	2,690
F4	Post-hole	1	2	2
Total		6	13,026	2,171

Table 5 Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

Conclusion

Table 6 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which contained dateable pottery and CBM. The finds date from the late 17th/early 18th century to the 20th century. None of the pottery and CBM finds were retained.

Context	Description	Roman pottery	Medieval, post-medieval & modern pottery	CBM	Finds spot dates
F1	Floor	-	-	BR UN-FROGGED	Late 17th-early 18th century
F2	Wall	-	-	BR FROGGED	Modern
F3	Wall	-	-	BR FROGGED	Modern
F4	Post-hole	-	F40 (conical jar/bowl)	PT	Post-medieval
L2	Accumulation	GB (CAM 305B)	F13 F21 (storage jar) F45D F45F (tankard) F46 F48J	-	Mid-18th century
L3	Backfill	-	F48D (jug)	-	Modern
L4	Backfill	-	F45M F48D (bowl) F48E	-	Modern
L6	Levelling layer	-	F40 (large bowl/ pancheon) F45G F48D	-	Modern

Table 6 Ceramic spot dates for the individual contexts.

6.2 Glass and clay tobacco pipe

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of post-medieval/modern wine bottles came from L3. Layer L4 produced two complete late 19th-century Codd Bottles, both embossed J F Harrington of Southend-on-Sea, a mineral water company. One of the bottles was made by Sykes Macvay & Co of Castleford and the other by Dan Rylands of Barnsley. From the same context were two incomplete cylindrical bottles with tapering sides, which also date from the 19th-20th century.

Fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from F4, L2, L3 and L4. Most were either stem fragments or unidentifiable body fragments. However, two stem fragments were stamped in relief. Both read PEPPER on one side and MALDON of the other. John Pepper is a Maldon pipe maker who probably operated between 1810 and 1830, but very little is known about him (Simpson 1982).

Context	Finds no.	Description
F4	4	Clay tobacco pipe: Two bowl fragments (1.0g) and five stem fragments (5.6g). Discarded.
L2	5	Clay tobacco pipe: One bowl fragment (8.4g) but not enough has survived to determine type and stem fragment (3.5g). Discarded.
L3	1	Clay tobacco pipe: Five stem fragments, 18.1g. Two are stamped in relief. The stamps read PEPPER on one side and MALDON on the other. John Pepper is a Maldon pipe maker who probably operated between 1810 and 1830, but very little is known about him. Three discarded, stamped fragments retained. Glass: Seven fragments of wine bottle. Four from push-up bases, two body fragments, and a neck and rim fragment. All olive green, totalling 479.7g. Post-medieval/modern. Discarded.
L4	7	Glass Codd bottles, late 19th century: 1) Complete, pale blue/green, with pronounced shoulders. Embossed on front: J.F. HARRINGTON / TRADE JF MARK / SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. Embossed on back (top): THE / CODD BOTTLE. Embossed on back (bottom): MAKERS / SYKES MACVAY & CO / CASTLEFORD. Embossed on base: 2552. Made at the Albion Glass Works, Castleford. 2) Complete, pale blue/green. Embossed on front: J.F. HARRINGTON / TRADE JF MARK / SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. Embossed on back (top): CODD'S BOTTLE / SOLE MAKERS / DAN RYLANDS / BARNESLEY. Made at the Hope Glass Works, Barnsley. Glass bottles, green, machine-made, cylindrical with tapering sides and a small round base, 19th-20th century: 1) Broken at neck with rim missing, 550mm high, body is 83mm diameter tapering to 67mm diameter, base is 65mm diameter, neck is 30mm diameter. 2) Base and neck missing. Discarded. Clay tobacco pipe: Clay pipe bowl with most of stem missing, small bowl with no base or spur and very slight leaf decoration in relief on both seams, 9.0g.

Table 7 Glass and clay tobacco pipe listed by context.

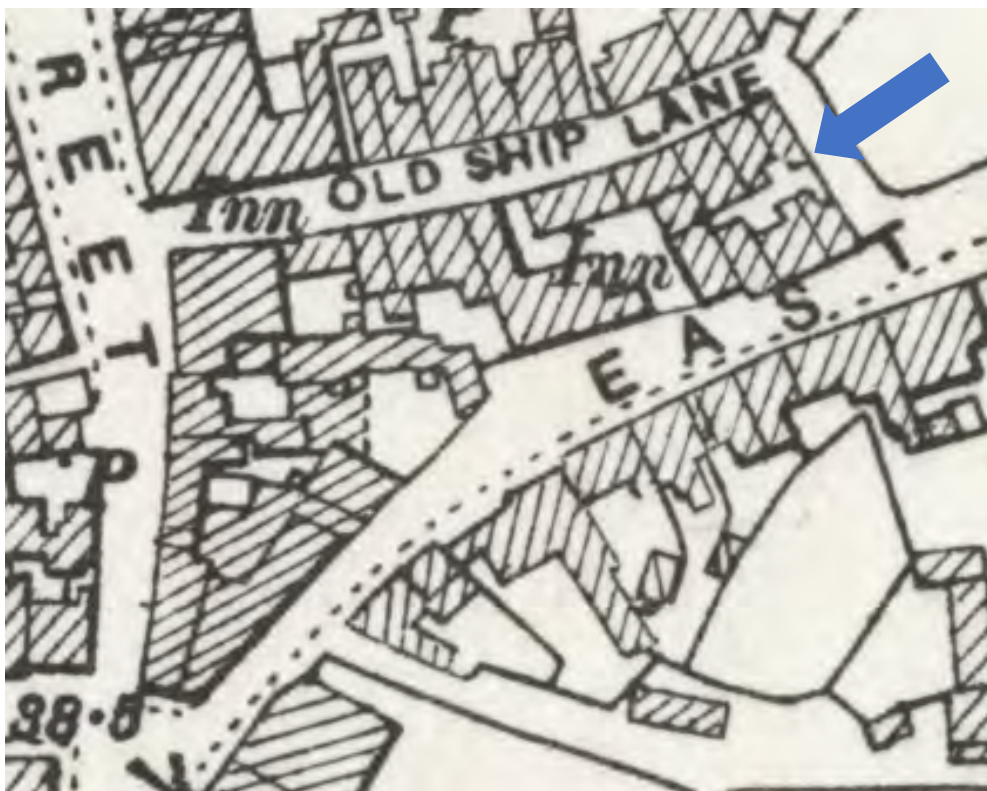
7 Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at 9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, revealed structural remains from one or more buildings, including red brick floors with associated wall foundations (F1), a yellow brick wall foundation associated with a concrete floor/veneer (F3), and a backfilled cellar (L3/L4) with cellar wall (F2). All of the remains date to the 19th/20th century.

Bricks from F1 were not frogged and date from the late 17th to early 18th century. However, modern finds (post-1800) were recovered from L6 which is sealed by F1. So earlier bricks were used or reused in a later floor. In contrast, the bricks from both F2 and F3 were frogged and date from c 1850 onwards. The Codd bottles from L4 indicate that the cellar was not backfilled before the late 19th century. Map regression shows buildings on the development site from 1838 onwards (see Maps 1-2). Accumulation layer L2 which was sealed/cut by the structural remains appears to date from the mid-18th century.



Map 1 1838 Tithe map.



Map 2 1895 6-inch OS map.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Samuel Oppenheimer of My Property Survey Ltd and Easy Estates Group Ltd for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with Matt Perou. Figures were compiled by A Smith and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Robin Mathieson.

9 References

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

- | | | |
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| CAR 10 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by R Symonds & S Wade. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
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| CIfA | 2020b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020. |
| CIfA | 2022 | <i>Code of Conduct.</i> CIfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022. |
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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECC	Essex County Council
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 (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	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: Codd bottles and stamped clay pipe only.

Digital:

CAT Report 2112

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Digital photographs

Site data

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 Southend Museum (finds) and the Archaeology Data Service (digital archive).

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Distribution list:

Samuel Oppenheimer, My Property Survey Ltd

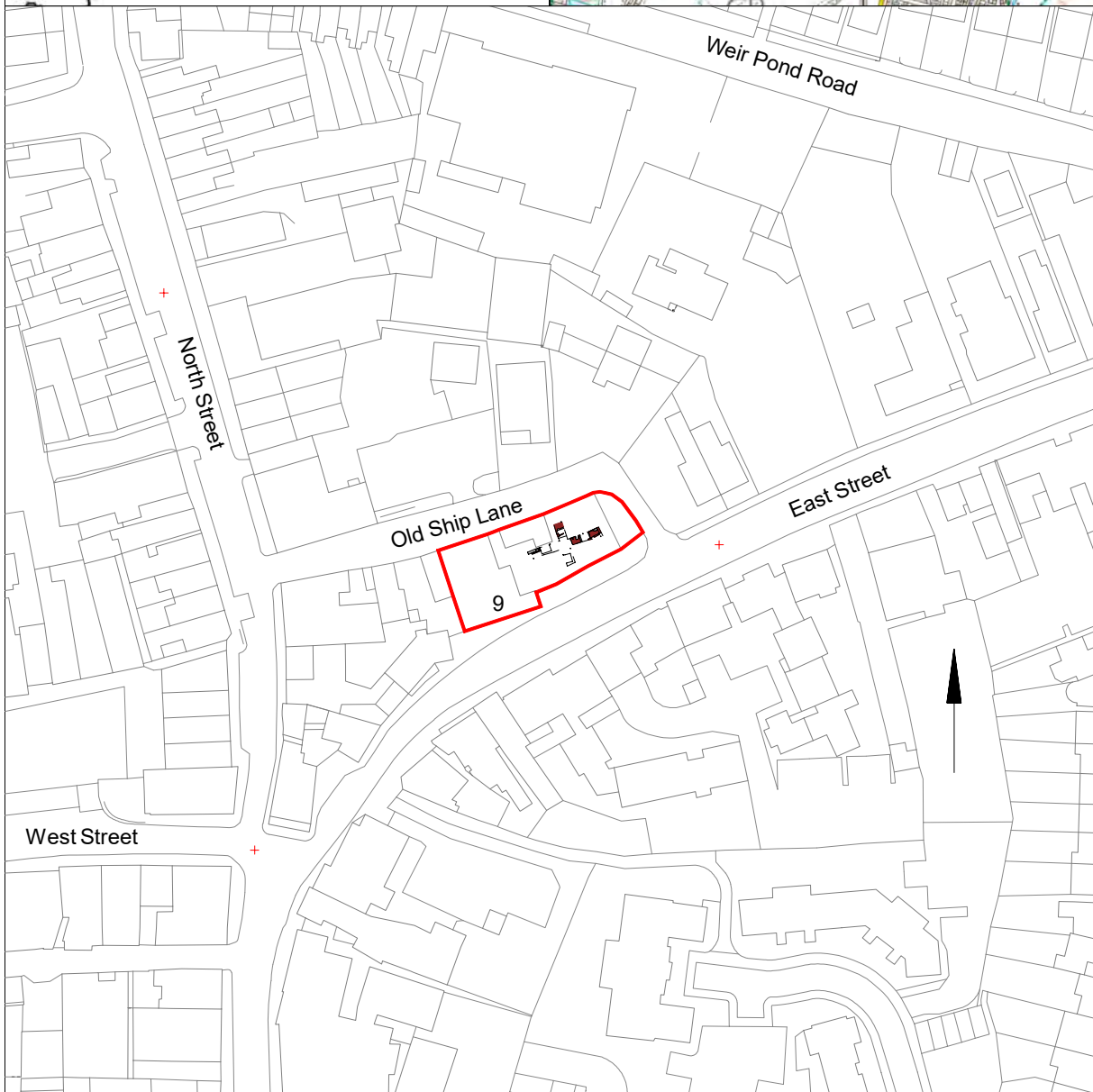
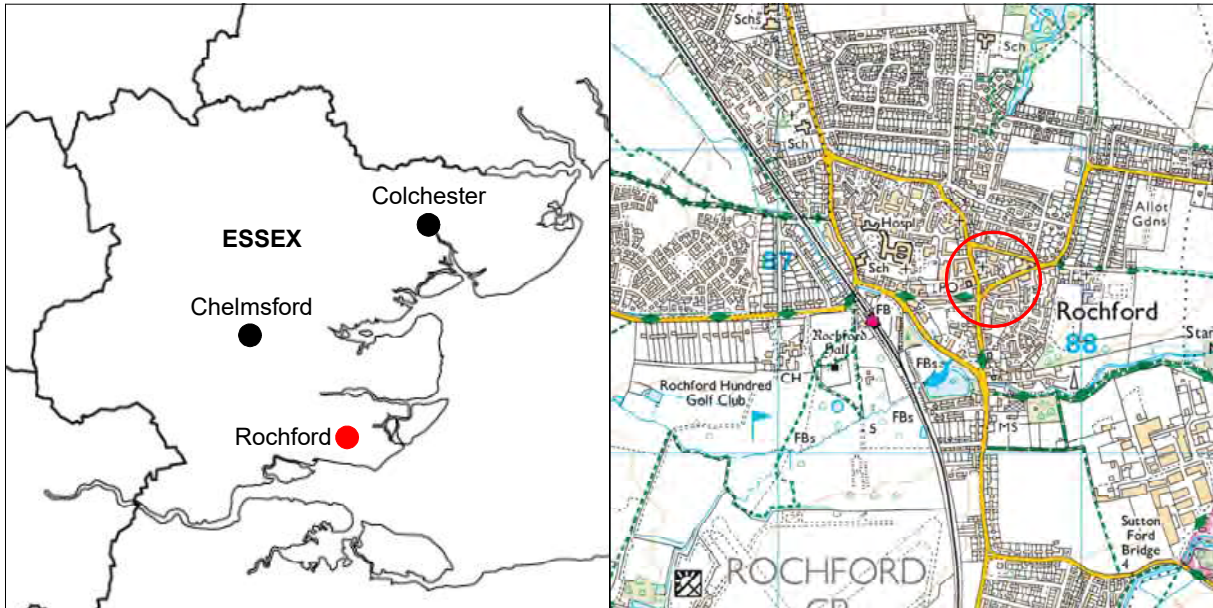
Easy Estates Group Ltd

ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Identification	Description	Date
L1	-	Concrete/ tarmac/ crush	Layers of concrete crush, sand, tarmac/tarmac crush, mortar/brick crush.	Modern
L2	3, 5	Accumulation	Thick accumulation layer. Mid to dark-grey-brown slightly sandy loam with occasional small stones. Inclusions of oyster shell, brick fragments and chalk. Seen in sondages 1, 3 & 4.	Post-medieval
L3	1	Cellar backfill	Loose loam mixed with mortar, peg-tile, brick pieces. Sondage 2.	Modern
L4	7	Cellar backfill	Loose loam, mixed with mortar, peg-tile, brick pieces, equivalent to L3. Sondage 4.	Modern
L5	5	Natural	Only seen in sondage 3. Grey-yellow silty sand with numerous small stone inclusions.	Post-glacial
L6	6	Levelling layer	Dark yellow grey sandy silt with common small stones and occasional charcoal inclusions. Thicker underneath F1 in sondage 1, and including coal, brick fragments, peg-tile, mortar and sand.	Modern
F1	9	Brick floor and walls	Brick floor, surface worn smooth in places, brick size 22x11x5cm. Bricks bedded into L6. Brick joints not mortared.	Modern
F2	8	Wall	Brick wall, probably the back wall of an infilled cellar (L3/L4).	Modern
F3	2	Wall foundation	Yellow brick wall foundation, L-shaped, two courses wide.	Modern
F4	4	Post-hole	Oval, 0.18m by 0.15m and 0.08m deep, vertical sides flat base. Mid grey-brown silt.	Modern



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Fig 1 Site location.



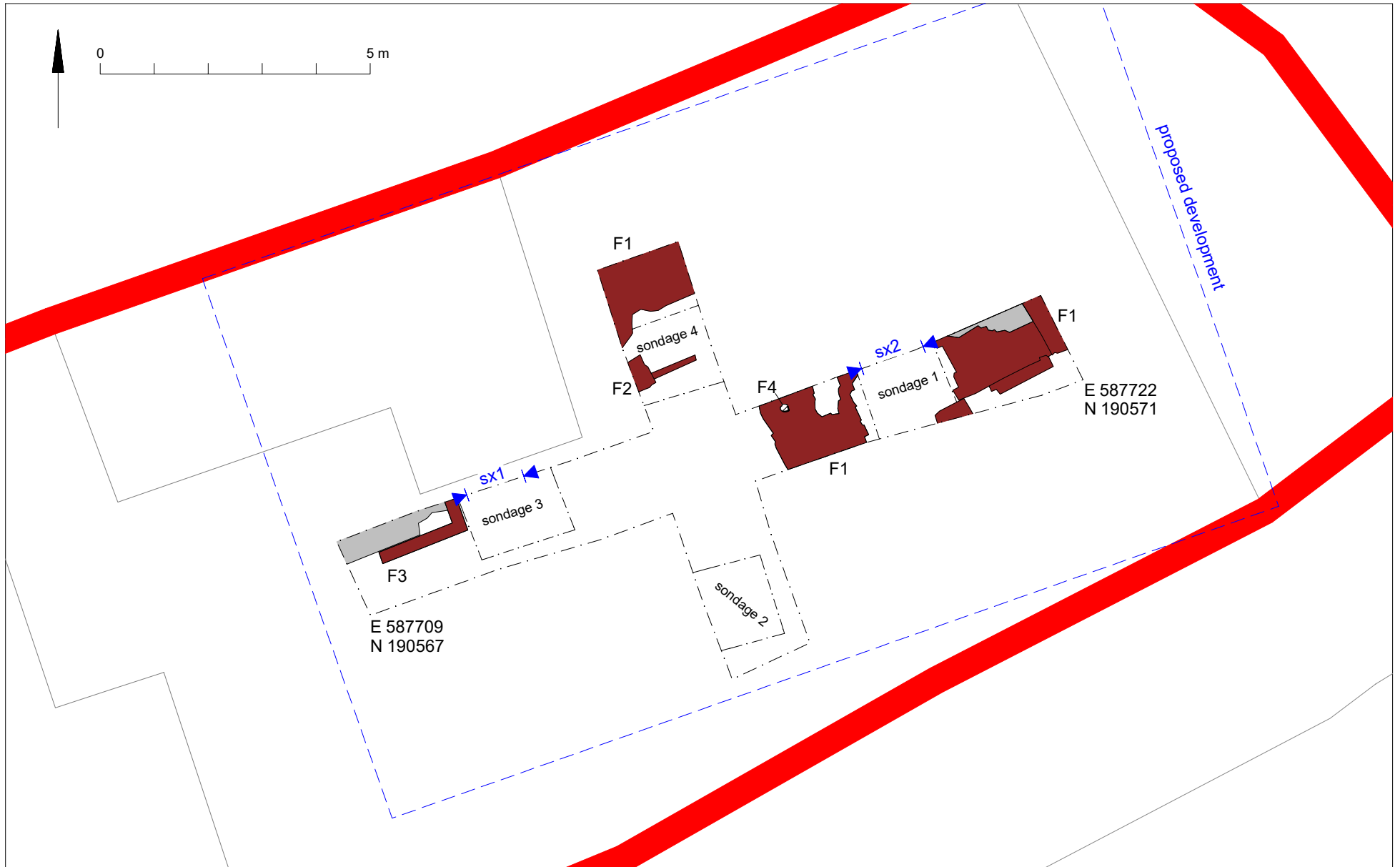


Fig 2 Results, brick walls and floor in brown, concrete in grey.

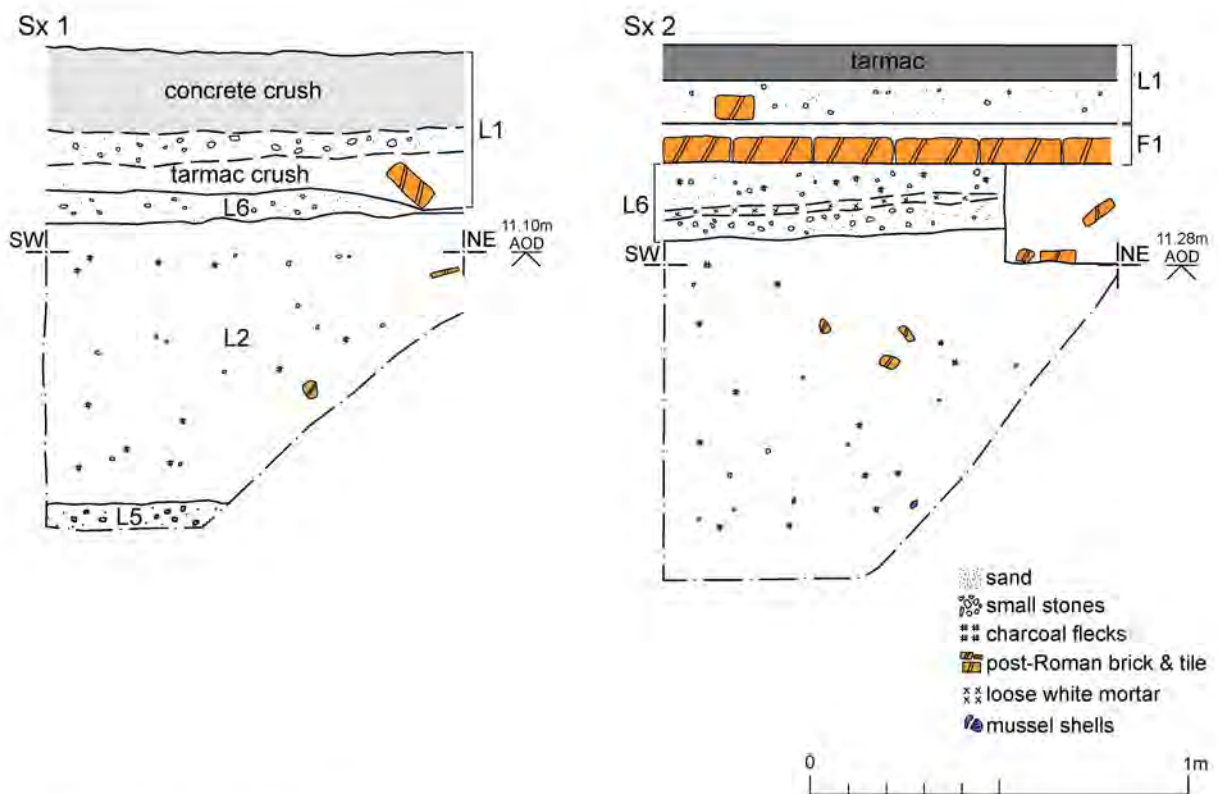


Fig 3 Representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-529565

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-529565
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation of land to the east of 9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1DB: November 2024
Sitename	land to the east of 9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1DB
Sitecode	RF23
Project Identifier(s)	
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	21/00502/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Between application and determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	20-Nov-2024 - 20-Nov-2024
Location	land to the east of 9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1DB NGR : TQ 87724 90580 LL : 51.582806809022415, 0.708127329258913 12 Fig : 587724,190580
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Rochford Parish : Rochford
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation carried out as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land to the east of 9 East Street, Rochford, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new building. The development site is located within the historic market town of Rochford close to the medieval marketplace. The evaluation revealed 19th-20th century building remains, including brick floors, brick walls and a backfilled cellar.
Keywords	Building - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Building - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Floor - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Floor - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Wall - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Wall - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Cellar - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Cellar - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Private or public corporation developer
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Chris Lister, Adam Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - RF23
Archives	Physical Archive - to be deposited with Southend-on-Sea Museums Service; Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

