Archaeology South-East

ASE

Residential conversion of Friary East and new build development to accommodate 30 new dwellings

Friary East, Carmelite Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 5FJ

Archaeological Evaluation

ASE Project no: 161080
Site Code: MD56
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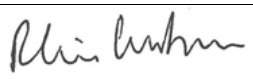
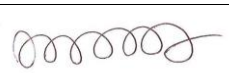
Prepared by:	**Robin Wroe-Brown**	**Senior Archaeologist**	
Reviewed and approved by:	**Dan Swift**	**Project Manager**	
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Essex Housing, Essex County Council, to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching to the rear of Friary East, Carmelite Way, Maldon, Essex, in advance of the residential conversion of Friary East itself and new build development to accommodate 30 new dwellings.

The site is located within the precinct of the medieval Carmelite Friary at Maldon. The potential for archaeological remains of the friary was considered to be high. Previous excavations in the vicinity have located the wall foundations of the friary church and cloister, a stable block and other outbuildings.

Three trenches were excavated across the site. Archaeological features were recorded in two trenches, comprising three pits and six linear cuts. It is considered that two of the linear cuts are post-medieval and the remainder of the features are early Iron Age, dated from pottery. No evidence for the friary was found.

The potential for prehistoric remains to survive on the site is considered high. The potential for remains of the medieval friary is judged to be high in the northern part of the site.

CONTENTS

TABLES

FIGURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Essex Housing, Essex County Council (ECC) to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Friary East, Carmelite Way, Maldon, Essex (NGR: TL 85032 06875; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site consists of an "L" shaped piece of land situated in the centre of Maldon town, and comprises the Grade II listed Friary East building and its associated garden to the rear (Figure 2). The site is bounded by a car park to the north, an adult learning centre and school within a modern extension to the north-east, a public footpath known as Chequers Lane to the east, another path and a park to the south and an adjoining private property to the west. The eastern boundary and south-east corner of the site is formed by the stone, brick and tile precinct wall to the friary (Front cover and Figure 5). It is Listed Grade II and comprises stone or brick courses at the base with brick and tile above. It is dated to the 17th or 18th century, and at least some of the stone is likely to have been re-used from the friary site. A number of the stones show indications of moulding. The southern boundary is hedged and includes chain-link fencing, and the western boundary is a brick wall. The trial trenching was conducted within the garden area to the south of the existing buildings.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016a) was compiled, setting out the scope of work, methodology and research aims for the programme of archaeological evaluation trenching at the site, in response to a brief from ECC Place Services (2016b). The work was undertaken in accordance with this document, Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003) and the relevant standards and guidance of CIfA (2014).

1.1.4 Two evaluation trenches were initially planned. Trench 1 was an L-shaped trench on the west side of the site and Trench 2 was a T-shaped trench towards the east. In the event, Trench 2 was shortened to the south because of the presence of shrubbery and a third short trench was excavated further south to compensate.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British geological Survey (BGS 2017) the bedrock formation beneath the site comprises London Clay Formation (clay, silt and sand). No superficial deposits are recorded within this area, but less than 100m to the west are glaciofluvial deposits of sands and gravels capping the London Clay.

1.2.2 The historic core of Maldon runs along a ridge which falls towards the east. The Friary site lies on the southern side of the ridge. Ground level varied across the site, with the highest land to the front of the property at c 29m OD. From there the ground sloped down fairly consistently to the rear property boundary at c. 25.5m OD.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The archaeological evaluation of the development site has been undertaken prior to submission of planning application.

1.3.2 The proposed development will comprise the residential conversion of Friary East, demolition of attached annex building and construction of new build residential development to accommodate a total of 30 new dwellings with associated access, parking and hard and soft landscaping.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of three archaeological evaluation trenches excavated on the site between the 15th and the 17th February 2017. It describes the archaeological remains encountered, considers their significance and assesses the potential for further remains to be present across the wider site.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological background is set out in the desk-based assessment (ECC Place Services 2016a) previously prepared for the site, which considers known heritage assets within a 300m radius of the site. The results of the DBA are summarised below. The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) was widely consulted for the DBA and the EHER numbers quoted below are referenced on Figure 1.

2.2 Historic Environment Characterisation

2.2.1 The Historic Environment Characterisation report for Maldon (ECC 2008) shows the site is located within zone HECZ 5 Saxon and medieval Town of Maldon. This zone comprises the historic town of Maldon situated on the top of the hill. A defensive Burh was built at Maldon by Edward the Elder in the 10th century (Figure 1). The layout of the medieval built-up area was established in the Saxon period. The medieval town developed along the present High Street with archaeological work finding considerable occupation in the rear plots behind the frontage buildings.

2.3 Prehistoric

2.3.1 The earliest occupation of the hill top at Maldon appears to date to the early Iron Age when there seems to have been an extensive settlement on the crest of the hill. An evaluation at Tenterfield Road (EHER 16761, adjacent to the east of the Friary site) found an early Iron Age ditch and a pit. Evidence of early Iron Age pottery has also been recovered from ditch sections of the later Saxon Burh, suggesting there may well have been an early Iron Age hillfort located on the top of Maldon Hill. In the late Iron Age the hill-top appears to have been abandoned and a new settlement established on the low-lying ground between Heybridge and Maldon, focused on Elms Farm.

2.4 Roman

2.4.1 Roman evidence has been found in Maldon, comprising a pit at Tenterfield Road (EHER 16762) and a fragment of Roman floor tile found in All Saints Church (EHER 7734) indicating occupation in the vicinity, although the main settlement was in the valley at Heybridge.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon and Early Medieval

2.5.1 Recent excavations have shown early Saxon occupation in Maldon is located on the high ground above the river. Excavations in the Hythe area have uncovered quantities of Saxon loom weights indicating occupation in the 5th and 6th centuries AD.

2.5.2 In 916 King Edward the Elder ordered a burh to be built at Maldon, as part of his campaign to recover eastern England from Danish control. A substantial earthwork enclosure has been located on the top of Maldon hill (EHER 7766, and 18787). Although the dating for the enclosure is uncertain, the presumption is that it represents the Saxon burh. Evidence of a large ditched enclosure have

been excavated in several places around the town. Evidence of the Saxon town has come from excavations at the top of the High Street (EHER 7722, 7725, 7732, 13777, 46097), and there has been a find of worked gold dating to the Saxon period (EHER 19971, not located on Figure 1).

2.5.3 The Saxon town continued to develop around the east gate of the burh, along the main road that led from the burh down to the Hythe. There was a small market-place, a church and at least two main phases of late Saxon timber buildings on the south side of the High Street. There may well have been a quay at the Hythe and the church of St Mary is of Saxon origin. There was a royal mint in Maldon, one of only three in the county, from as early as 925 AD.

2.6 Later Medieval

2.6.1 The town expanded eastwards during the medieval period, and a number of buildings survive which date from that time. A large number of listed buildings line the High Street including All Saints Church and St Peter's Church Tower, the Moot Hall, the Kings Head Hotel, the Swan Hotel, the Blue Boar Hotel, and various houses and shops. Excavations have revealed medieval house remains and rubbish pits (EHER 7723, 7726, 7733, 7744, 13778, 14755, 14782, 16763, 46097, 46220, 48078).

2.6.2 The Carmelite Friary (EHER 7728-9) was located to the rear of the buildings fronting the south side of the High Street, suggesting that all the High Street plots had already been occupied by the date of its foundation in 1292. Access was through a gate and lane from the High Street, and traces of possible foundations for the gate were uncovered behind 40, High Street in 1985 (EHER 7722-3). Excavations in 1990-1 uncovered the robbed-out foundations of stone buildings, including a square cloister with a number of rooms arranged around it, including potentially the church on the north side (Isserlin 1999, Fig 39). A deed drawn up when the land and buildings were sold in 1543 mentions a range of structures on the site, including a church, a belltower, lofts, outhouses, gardens, courtyards, lodgings and storage places (ibid, 130-3). Within the cloister there were several burials, all of elderly males, probably the abbots of the friary. The Friary was noted for its learning, but does not seem to have been a wealthy establishment as the written sources frequently refer to its poverty and the excavated buildings show signs of neglect. Architectural fragments of stone have been recorded within The Friary grounds and have been reused in the 17th/18th century boundary wall to The Friary.

2.6.3 Excavation has shown that to the south-west of the cloister was a large rectangular structure, probably a stable block (ibid, Figs 39 and 40). The results of the excavation showed this to be of a similar date of construction to the cloister.

2.7 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.7.1 In 1538 the Friary grounds and buildings were formally received back by the king and the house was closed and stripped of everything portable. The buildings and grounds were rented out to a succession of tenants over the next thirty years. In the mid-16th century there are records of religious plays being held on the Friary site, and the use of explosives in these performances, combined with the removal of stone for building purposes reduced the buildings

to ruins. In 1572 Vincent Harris, who had bought the land in 1563, built a mansion known as the `Fryers' on the site (EHER 7729). This was demolished in 1805 and the current buildings of The Friary (East), its outbuildings, and The Friary (West) (EHER 38229, 38230, 38232) were built soon after. An archaeological evaluation carried out in the grounds of the Friary (West) found no evidence of the medieval friary, nor any features pre-dating the 18th century (Touchstone Archaeology 2014).

2.8 Project aims and objectives

2.8.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were set out in the WSI (ASE 2016a) as follows:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To enable the ECC Archaeological Advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work.

2.8.2 With reference to Brown & Glazebrook, (2008) and Medleycott (2011), the WSI also set out the following site-specific research questions:

- Is there evidence of the Carmelite friary within the site?
- If so, is there any evidence for the double cloister layout hypothesised in Isserlin, 1999?
- Is there evidence of multiple phases of occupation/changes in use within any friary remains? (Medleycott 2011, 70)
- Can any potential friary remains aid to our understanding of the organisation of parochial life or the ecclesiastical development of the site (Brown & Glazebrook, 2008, 31)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 There were a number of constraints on the location of the trenches within the friary garden, including a known gas main, sewers, trees and shrubs. The trenches were planned with these in mind, and Trench 1 was located in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2016a, Figure 2). However, Trench 2, a T-shaped trench, was originally planned to be 14m long north to south, but the presence of dense vegetation necessitated it being shortened to 7m. In order to mitigate this, and in discussion with the ECC Archaeological Advisor, a further 6m long Trench 3 was excavated 8m to the south where it could be accommodated in open ground.

3.1.2 Excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the WSI and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

3.1.3 All trenches were scanned for services prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches were excavated using a 3-tonne tracked 360^0 excavator with a toothless bucket. The topsoil and post-medieval make-up deposits were stripped under archaeological supervision down to the top of geological deposits and cleaned using hand tools where appropriate.

3.1.4 The trenches were recorded onto standard ASE trench sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets. Discrete archaeological features were half-sectioned and slots were excavated across linear features, with their sections drawn on drawing film sheets. All exposed remains were planned and levelled from the site survey using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).

3.1.5 A full photographic record comprising colour digital images was made. All trenches were photographed from each end of each arm (trench shots) and all excavated contexts were photographed (context shots). In addition, a number of representative photographs of the general work on site were taken (working shots). The photographic register includes the shot number, location of shot, direction of shot and a brief description of the subject photographed.

3.1.6 All finds were bagged and labelled with the context number and site code. A single environmental sample of 40 litres was retrieved, in accordance with ASE standards, and labelled with the sample number, context number and site code.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 Guidelines contained in the CIfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014d) and the Guidelines on the Preparation and Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Colchester Museums will be followed for the preparation of the archive for museum deposition.

3.2.2 Subject to agreement with the legal landowner ASE will arrange with the Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service for the deposition of the archive. No artefacts or environmental evidence were retrieved. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

3.2.3 A digital vector plan will be included with the report which will be compatible with MapInfo GIS software so that it can be integrated with the Colchester Urban Archaeological Database. AutoCAD files will also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (e.g. as .dxf or .TAB files).

3.2.4 The primary site archive comprises the following:

Item	**Quantity**
Context sheets	19
Section sheets	1
Plan sheets	0
Environmental sample sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photographs	0
Digital photographs	44
Context register	0
Drawing register	1
Photographic register	1
Environmental sample register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	1
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Three trenches were excavated, two of which contained archaeological features (Trench 1 and Trench 2). The trench locations are illustrated on Figure 2. The archaeological remains comprised pits and linear features only. All were hand dug and recorded according to ASE standards and the WSI (ASE 2016a). Figure 3 and 4 show the plan, section drawings and photographs of features in Trenches 1 and 2 respectively.

4.2 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.12	27.38 (N) 26.56 (S)
1/002	Layer	Make-up	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.60	27.26 max
1/003	Layer	Make-up	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.43	26.66 max
1/004	Fill	Fill of linear cut [1/005]	5.80	0.20	0.08	25.65
1/005	Cut	NNW-SSE shallow gully cut	5.80	0.20	0.08	25.65
1/006	Fill	Fill of pit [1/007]	1.50	0.95	0.32	25.75
1/007	Cut	Pit truncated by [1/005].	1.50	0.95	0.32	25.75
1/008	Fill	Fill of linear cut [1/009]	1.30	0.52	0.13	25.60
1/009	Cut	N-S shallow gully	1.30	0.52	0.13	25.60
1/010	Layer	Natural	Trench wide	Trench wide	n/a	26.25 (N) 25.63 (S)

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 1 (Figure 3) was located towards the west side of the site and was 'L'-shaped, measuring 21m along the N-S arm and 10m along the E-W arm, and 1.30m wide. The natural deposits [1/010] were composed of pale tan clay with gravel and sand in places. Two layers overlay the natural; [1/003], a 0.4m thick mid grey brown silty clay with gravel and [1/002], a thicker dark brown make-up deposit of horticultural soil. These were capped by the modern turf and topsoil [1/001]. Context [1/003] contained three joining sherds from the rim and handle of a Raeren stoneware drinking jug, datable to c.1475 to 1550.

4.2.2 Three features were recorded in the trench below the make-up deposits. The earliest was a pit situated towards the SW corner of the trench, cut [1/007], which measured 1.50m N-S and 0.95m E-W to the west edge of the trench. It was 0.32m deep and possessed moderately sloping sides and a flat base. The fill [1/006] was a mid-grey brown silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks, which contained a single pottery sherd dating to the early Iron Age. It also yielded a struck flint flake, which was prehistoric but not closely dated.

4.2.3 The pit [1/007] was cut by an undated linear feature [1/005] to the west, which was mostly outside the western edge of Trench 1. It ran for 5.80m N-S and only 0.20m of its width remained within the trench. Its full depth is unknown

and only 0.08m, the depth of the excavated side, was observed. The fill [1/004] was similar to [1/006] but slightly darker and the relationship between the features was relatively clear in section.

4.2.4 A second N-S linear cut [1/009] was found approximately 4m to the east of pit [1/007] in the eastern arm of the trench. It was 1.30m long, extending beyond both trench edges, 0.52m wide and 0.13m deep, with fairly shallow sides and a rounded base. The fill [1/008] was a mid-brownish grey silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and CBM flecks. It yielded three roof tile fragments which were not closely dateable but were post-medieval, probably from the 16th-18th centuries. An oyster shell was also recovered.

4.2.5 The functions of these features was not apparent but it may be assumed that the two linear features were associated with drainage. They are judged to be post-medieval in date based on the finds from cut [1/009] and the north-south orientation of both features. The pit [1/007] is considered to be early Iron Age from the artefacts it produced and its proximity to the discoveries in Trench 2.

4.3 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.3	26.74 (N) 26.32 (S)
2/002	Layer	Make up	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.70	26.44 max
2/003	Layer	Make up	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.22	25.75 max
2/004	Layer	Natural	Trench wide	Trench wide	n/a	25.73 (N) 25.31 (S)
2/005	Fill	Fill, single	1.90	0.80	0.19	25.52
2/006	Cut	Gully	1.90	0.80	0.19	25.52
2/007	Fill	Fill, single	0.70	0.47	0.06	25.63
2/008	Cut	Pit	0.70	0.47	0.06	25.63
2/009	Fill	Fill, single	0.90	0.53	0.06	25.59
2/010	Cut	Gully	0.90	0.53	0.06	25.59
2/011	Fill	Fill, single	1.80	0.75	0.20	25.59
2/012	Cut	Gully	1.80	0.75	0.20	25.59
2/013	Fill	Fill, single	0.75	0.40	0.07	25.54
2/014	Cut	Pit	0.75	0.40	0.07	25.54
2/015	Fill	Fill, single	1.75	0.33	0.12	25.30
2/016	Cut	Gully	1.75	0.33	0.12	25.30

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 2 (Figure 4) was 'T'-shaped with an E-W arm 9m long and a N-S extension southward, 7m long. Both elements were 1.30m wide. There were some logistical difficulties with the excavation of the trench, due to limited space and the presence of shrubs, and the N-S arm was shortened from the planned 15m.

4.3.2 The natural deposits [2/004], at the base of the trench, comprised a pale tan clay with patches of hard brown gravelly clay and occasional chalk flecks. As with Trench 1 there were two make-up layers over the natural. A relatively thin

deposit [2/003] overlay the natural, 0.22m thick, mid-light grey silty clay with frequent flint pebbles and occasional CBM flecks. Above this was [2/002], a 0.70m thick dark brown deposit of horticultural soil very similar to [1/002]. This was overlain by turf and topsoil [2/001].

4.3.3 A total of six features were recorded in Trench 2, none of which was intercut, although two were considered to be parts of the same linear feature. The legibility of the features cut into the pale natural deposits was good. Cut [2/006] ran NW-SE across the south arm of the trench, extending beyond both excavation limits. It was 1.9m long within the trench and 0.80m wide, with a depth of 0.19m. The sides were shallow, with a gradual slope and the cut had a rounded base which was deeper to the NE side. It was filled with [2/005], a light grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks. Fill [2/005] contained three large sherds of pottery dating to the early Iron Age.

4.3.4 In the E-W arm of the trench a linear feature [2/010], ending in a rounded terminus, was a NW continuation of [2/006]. It measured 0.90m long to the S trench edge and 0.53m wide, but was a mere 0.06m deep. Its shallow and rounded shape and its NW-SE orientation matched [2/006] and the fill [2/009] was identical to fill [2/005]. It was interpreted as a gully terminal.

4.3.5 A second SE-NW linear cut [2/012] lay immediately adjacent to [2/010] to the east. It also possessed a rounded terminus on its SE end, from where it ran 1.80m NW to the trench edge. It was 0.75m wide and 0.20m deep with a rounded and slightly uneven base. The fill [2/011] was a mid-light brown sandy silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional charcoal fragments and flecks, again very similar to the fills of the adjacent gully. Finds included seven small sherds of early Iron Age pottery, a struck flint core of Mesolithic or Neolithic date and a very small quantity of hammerscale which may indicate iron smithing in the locality. Small granules of coal also recovered are likely to be intrusive (see 5.6 below)

4.3.6 An environmental sample <1> was taken from fill [2/011] (see 5.11). It did not produce any charred plant remains and only a small amount of undiagnostic charcoal. It was therefore not possible to glean information about the environment of the period in which it was deposited. However, processing the sample did lead to the recovery of the finds.

4.3.7 Another linear cut [2/016] was recorded in the N-S arm of the trench, to the south of [2/006]. It ran for 1.75m across the trench, on the same NW-SE orientation as the linear features to the north. It was slightly smaller than its counterparts, at 0.33m wide and 0.12m deep, but possessed similar characteristics with shallowly sloping sides and a rounded base. The fill [2/015] was a compact mid grey brown silty clay with frequent flint pebbles. A single sherd of pottery recovered from [2/015] was early Iron Age in date.

4.3.8 A small pit was discovered at the western end of the E-W arm of Trench 2. Cut [2/008] was oval in plan, measuring 0.70m x 0.47m, and was 0.06m deep. It was shallow with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. The fill [2/007] was firm mid grey brown sandy silty clay with moderate inclusions of flint pebbles, easily distinguished from the natural clay [2/004]. No finds were retrieved but the similarity of its fill to the linear features in the trench, coupled

with the NW-SE orientation of its long axis, suggests a contemporary date.

4.3.9 A second pit was recorded towards the eastern end of Trench 2 E-W arm. Cut [2/014] was also oval in plan, measuring 0.75m x 0.40m but its long axis was more directly N-S. It was 0.07m deep, with shallowly sloping sides and a rounded base. The fill [2/013] was a firm mid-light grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional flint pebbles and charcoal flecks. Three small corroded fragments of copper alloy plate were recovered from the fill but were undiagnostic of form or function.

4.3.10 It is likely, given the orientation of the gullies and the similarity of the fills and depths of all of the features, that the discoveries in Trench 2 are all more or less contemporary. Pottery dates those features which contained it to the early Iron Age (800-500 BC). The function of the features is not clear but they may have had an agricultural purpose, with the gullies being for drainage or field boundaries and the pits perhaps associated with vegetation clearance. The shallow nature of all of the cuts suggests that they have been truncated from above, potentially by much later ploughing or landscaping.

4.4 Trench 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.35	25.94 (N) 25.86 (S)
3/002	Layer	Make-up	Trench wide	Trench wide	0.30	25.59 max
3/003	Layer	Natural	Trench wide	Trench wide	n/a	25.21

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 3 (photo, Figure 5) was 6m long and 1.30m wide, positioned at the bottom of the natural slope at the south end of the site, orientated NNE-SSW. The exposed natural deposits [3/003] comprised light orange/brown clay at the northern end changing at an abrupt interface to hard mid-light brown clay with frequent flint gravel inclusions and chalk flecks. The natural was covered by [3/002], a mixed make-up dump of grey brown silty clay and with frequent fragments of CBM, mortar, oyster shell and occasional charcoal. It was unlike the material beneath the topsoil in Trenches 1 and 2 but probably performed a similar landscaping function of raising the ground level. Turf and topsoil [3/001] completed the sequence. No archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were recovered from Trench 3.

5.0 FINDS & ENVIRONMENTAL MATERIAL

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation. All hand-collected finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 6). In addition to the hand-collected material, a small number of finds were recovered from the residues of environmental samples (see Table 7). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Shell	Weight (g)
1/003			3	16								
1/006	1	8	1	4								
1/008					3	598			5	30	1	10
2/005			3	70								
2/013							3	<2				
2/015			1	2								
Total	*1*	*8*	*8*	*92*	*3*	*598*	*3*	*0*	*5*	*30*	*1*	*10*

Table 6: Finds quantification

5.2 **Flintwork** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The evaluation produced two pieces of worked flint weighing 25g. Context [1/006] produced a small but wide flake made on a stained orange flint with a thin abraded cortex. The piece isn't closely datable. Sample <01> extracted from context [2/011] contained a fragmentary core. The core fragment was used to remove narrow blades and thin flakes, and it is likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date. Both pieces display moderate edge damage, suggesting negligible post-depositional movement.

5.3 **Prehistoric Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.3.1 A total of five sherds of probable earlier Iron Age pottery, weighing 76g, were hand-collected from contexts [1/006], [2/005] and [2/015] during the evaluation. In addition, seven small sherds were recovered from the residue of environmental sample <1>, taken from context [2/011]. Although the assemblage is of small size, fill [2/005] of gully [2/006] contained some fairly large unabraded conjoining sherds, suggesting that they are likely to be contemporary with the feature.

5.3.2 All of the fragments are featureless bodysherds in similar, fairly hard-fired, flint-tempered, sandy fabrics. The flint is mostly sparse in frequency but sometimes relatively coarse and ill-sorted, with a few inclusions of up to 3-4mm. In the absence of any diagnostic traits, the sherds cannot be dated with absolute certainty but assemblages entirely made up by well-fired sandy flint-tempered fabrics are fairly characteristic of the earliest Iron Age (c.800-500BC). Before

this period flint-tempered fabrics tend to be coarser and less sandy whereas, by the 2nd half of the 1st millennium, similar wares tend to be found alongside some non-flint-tempered sandy wares.

5.4 Post Roman pottery by Helen Walker

5.4.1 Pottery was recovered from a single context, (1/003), the single fill of a pit, and comprises three joining sherds (wt 16g) from the rim and handle of a Raeren stoneware drinking jug datable to c.1475 to 1550 (cf. Hurst et al. 1986, fig.94.301). Raeren stoneware jugs were made in Rhineland Germany and exported to England in large numbers, hence they are a common find in all early post-medieval assemblages and do not reflect Maldon's status as a port. This single find is of little significance and no further work is required on this pottery.

5.5 Ceramic building material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.5.1 Three pieces of roof tile were the only ceramic building material (CBM) recovered from site. All of the tile was collected from [1/008], and comprised of two larger fragments of peg tile in a sandy red fabric (T2), and a single small piece of tile in a clean, micaceous fabric (T1). The T2 tile pieces each still had a coarse sandy lime mortar attached to their upper and lower surfaces, and the larger piece also had two round peg holed places irregularly and not aligned with one another. This same fragment had an intact width and thickness (respectively 168mm and 12mm) but both the upper and lower portion of the tile were broken off. All the tile pieces were moulded using a coarse moulding sand. Peg tile does not lend itself well to dating, but an early-mid post-medieval is most likely for this assemblage, c.16th- 18th century.

5.6 Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.6.1 The residue from context [2/011] produced five tiny granules of coal (<1g). Although probably of post-medieval period, an earlier date cannot be ruled out. Whatever the case, the pieces are so small they could easily be intrusive in this deposit.

5.7 Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

5.7.1 The residue from context [2/011] contained a very small quantity of magnetic fines. These mainly consists of sub-rounded granules of ferruginous stone, but there are some pieces of burnt flint too – all have been magnetised through heating but are not diagnostic of any particular process. However, two hammerscale flakes (to 3mm) were also present, suggesting iron smithing in the vicinity but not in close proximity to the evaluation.

5.8 Bulk Metalwork by Trista Clifford

5.8.1 Three small corroded fragments of copper alloy plate weighing <1g and measuring <10mm² were recovered from context [2/013]. The fragments are undiagnostic of form or function and therefore not identifiable. The fragments are recommended for discard.

5.9 **Animal Bone** by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.9.1 A small assemblage of animal bone consisting of 3 fragments weighing 30g was recovered from the evaluation excavation. The bones were hand-collected from one context [1/008] and are in a moderate state of preservation with some signs of surface erosion evident. No complete bones are present. Context [1/008] contained a medium mammal scapula fragment, a large mammal vertebra fragment and a sheep/goat metacarpal fragment. No evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing, non-metric traits or pathology have been recorded.

5.10 **Shell** by Trista Clifford

5.10.1 A single upper oyster valve fragment was recovered from context [1/008] which also contained post medieval roof tile. The shell is recommended for discard.

5.11 **Environmental Samples** by Mariangela Vitolo

5.11.1 One bulk soil sample was taken from the fill of gully [2/012] for the recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and Mollusca as well as to assist with finds recovery. The following report details the preservation of the charred plant material and discusses its potential to inform on the diet, arable economy and local environment of the site as well as fuel selection and use.

Methods

5.11.2 The 40 L sample was processed in its entirety by flotation with a 250µm mesh for retention of the flot and a 500µm mesh for the heavy residue, before being air dried. The heavy residue was passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 7). Artefacts recovered from the sample were distributed to specialists, and are incorporated in the relevant sections of this volume where they add further information to the existing finds assemblage. The flot was scanned, in its entirety, under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and its contents recorded (Table 8). Provisional identification of the macroplant remains was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and quantification was based on approximate number of individuals. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

Results: Sample <1> [2/011]

5.11.3 The sample produced a rather small flot, dominated by uncharred vegetative material, such as rootlets and seeds of goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), elder (Sambucus sp.), bramble (*Rubus* sp.) and sedges (*Carex* sp.). This material is likely to represent modern contaminants that infiltrated the deposit through root action. No charred plant remains were recorded. The flot also contained a small amount of coal.

5.11.4 Finds from the residue included fire cracked flint, pottery, coal and magnetic material. Small charcoal fragments were present both in the flot and the residue; however their amount and size was not considered to be enough to warrant identification work. The charcoal fragments showed evidence of

sediment encrustation and percolation, probably due to fluctuations in the ground water level.

Discussion

5.11.5 The environmental sample from the site has yielded no charred plant macroremains and a small amount of charcoal. Whilst the absence of archaoebotanical remains could be due to different factors, it is likely that the nature of the sampled feature and/or the circumstances of deposition affected their recovery. If future fieldwork is carried out at the site, it is recommended that soil samples are taken from well-sealed primary deposits in order to maximise the potential for the recovery of charred plant macrofossils and charcoal.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	2/011	Gully	40	*	<1	FCF ** 74g/ Mag Mat <2mm *** <1g/ Coal * <1g/ Pot * 15g/ Flint * 16g/ Mag Mat >2mm ** 2g

Table 7: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal <2mm
1	2/011	1	10	10	80	10	**Rubus* sp., *Sambucus* sp., *Carex* sp., *Chenopodium* sp	*

Table 8: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250). Preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

6.1.1 Natural superficial geology was encountered at between 26.25m OD at the north end of Trench 1 and 25.21m OD at the south end of Trench 3. It manifests as pale tan clay across much of the site with areas of gravel in places. The south end of Trench 3 was particularly gravelly and hard. Natural deposits were typically found up to 1m below the modern ground surface.

6.1.2 The natural clay was overlain in Trenches 1 and 2 by a relatively thin deposit of silty clay with frequent pebbles above which was a thicker silty clay soil which had the appearance of a mixed horticultural material. In Trench 3 the make-up was less organic and contained more building material including late post-medieval frogged brick. These were all make-up layers, at least partly deliberately dumped to raise the ground surface. Clay tobacco pipe, brick and late post-medieval pottery was discovered in all layers (not retained) indicating a post-medieval date for the deposition event. In the case of Trench 1 pottery from 1475-1550 was recovered from the deeper thinner deposit ([1/003]) overlying the natural. Turf and topsoil covering the site was modern in origin.

6.1.3 A total of nine archaeological features were recorded, cut into the natural deposit at the bases of Trenches 1 and 2. Two gullies and a pit were found in Trench 1. The pit [1/007] was the earliest feature, both stratigraphically and by the date of the artefacts, which included pottery from the early Iron Age (800-500 BC) and a prehistoric struck flint. It was cut by gully [1/005], which did not produce any dating evidence. The gully to the east, [1/009], contained post-medieval tile and was orientated with the medieval and modern north-south alignment. Since gully [1/005] was also on this alignment. It may be argued that it was also medieval or post-medieval.

6.1.4 Four gullies and two pits were revealed in Trench 2, but two of the gullies, [2/006] and [2/010], are interpreted as parts of the same feature, separated by the trench baulk. The gullies were all orientated on the same SE-NW alignment and were likely to be closely related in chronology and function. The alignment was notably different from the N-S orientation of the later linear features in Trench 1. Pottery was recovered from gullies [2/006], [2/012] and [2/016], all of the early Iron Age (800-500 BC), the same date as pit [1/007].

6.1.5 Trench 3 did not contain any archaeological features, possibly indicating that the focus of prehistoric activity did not extend to the bottom of the slope on the site.

6.1.4 The methodology for the trial trenching was effective in demonstrating a moderate density of features across the site, their date and the depth at which they occur. The feature legibility was moderate to good in all cases.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 The presence of c. 1m of post-medieval make-up deposits across the site indicates that a substantial degree of landscaping has taken place in the past. The extent to which such landscaping has affected the natural ground surface and the features cut into it is not clear, but the shallowness of the features, particularly in Trench 2, and the sharp interface between the natural clay and the make-up deposits, does suggest that truncation has occurred. Since it was anticipated that remains associated with the medieval friary would be present, it may be the case that a large portion of the site has been levelled, with the medieval material being completely removed. The stone walls of the ruined buildings would have been a useful source of building materials.

6.2.2 The deposits that do survive are mainly prehistoric, and more specifically from the earliest Iron Age period (800-500 BC). There is therefore a high probability that further prehistoric remains are present elsewhere on the site. The absence of features in Trench 3 suggests that the activity may not continue to the south.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

6.3.1 The features in Trench 2 and the early pit in Trench 1 are considered to be generally contemporary, with an established NW-SE orientation of the linear features at a diagonal to the E-W and N-S medieval alignment of the known friary remains to the north. The finds from the features are early Iron Age (800-500 BC) and seems that there is occupation of that period in the vicinity. At Tenterfield Road (EHER 16761) a similar early Iron Age ditch was found, and the Saxon burh defences have produced residual finds of the same date (see 2.3).

6.3.2 The nature of the activity at The Friary is not clear, due to the limited scale of the evaluation, but it may have been associated with agriculture. On a wider scale it is clear there was an Iron Age settlement at Maldon, possibly a hillfort, to which the finds at The Friary site are related.

6.3.3 The later linear features in Trench 1, one of which truncates the prehistoric pit, are considered to be post-medieval drainage.

6.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

6.4.1 Where present, the archaeological remains underlie 0.70–1.00m of made ground. Survival across the site is generally moderate with higher potential for survival in the vicinity of Trench 2 and the south end of Trench 1. Development groundworks, such as ground reduction, landscaping, the digging of foundation trenches and service runs have the potential to impact upon any such remains present only if they are sufficiently deep. Any works which do extend to such a depth have a high potential to impinge upon surviving archaeological remains.

6.4.2 It is also considered likely that medieval material associated with the friary does survive further to the north, closer to the known friary location. It was not possible to assess this part of the site by trial trenching due to the presence of services, in particular sewer runs and a known active gas main.

6.5 Consideration of research aims

6.5.1 The general and site-specific research aims listed in the WSI (ASE 2016a) are set out in section 2.8 above, and are addressed here in the light of the evaluation results.

6.5.2 General aims:

To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.

The early Iron Age features discovered on site have been securely located and recorded according to the methodology established in the WSI. Post-medieval gullies were also recorded in Trench 1.

To enable the ECC Archaeological Advisor to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further work.

The archaeological advisor visited the site and is aware of the presence and character of the archaeological remains.

6.5.3 Site-specific aims:

Is there evidence of the Carmelite Friary within the site? If so, is there any evidence for the double cloister layout hypothesised in Isserlin 1999 (fig 40)? Is there evidence of multiple phases of occupation/changes in use within any friary remains? (Medlycott 2011, 70)

Can any potential friary remains aid to our understanding of the organisation of parochial life or the ecclesiastical development of the site (Brown & Glazebrook, 2008, 31)?

No evidence of the friary or any other medieval activity was found during this evaluation, and therefore these questions can be answered together. Figure 6 shows the excavated friary remains in relation to the trench locations. It may be surmised that the lack of wall foundations or any other structural features, particularly in the north end of Trench 1, is negative evidence supporting the single cloister hypothesis (Isserlin 1999, Fig. 39) as, in the case of a double cloister (ibid, Fig. 40), the south cloister walls would be expected to extend into the trench. However, it is possible that the remains were truncated in a landscaping episode over this part of the site. Alternatively, the trenches may have been unfortunately located, missing possible remains surviving elsewhere. The late medieval vessel fragments, residual in the make-up layer above natural in Trench 1, is only generally indicative of a very late medieval presence in the vicinity and may have no bearing on the friary.

6.5.4 The evaluation results therefore do not contribute to the understanding of the friary, except in a negative sense. However, they do unexpectedly demonstrate occupation of the site during the early Iron Age, enhancing knowledge of an earlier period in Maldon's past.

6.6 Updated Research Agenda

6.6.1 The presence of earliest Iron Age features at the site adds to the corpus of prehistoric discoveries in Maldon. A prehistoric ditch was identified in the north of the Tenterfield Road site together with a pit in the west. These were tentatively dated to the early Iron Age from the pottery (Garwood 1997), matching the date of the features at Maldon Friary. The Tenterfield Road site is less than 100m to the north-east of the friary evaluation.

6.6.2 Further research questions can therefore be postulated in the event of future fieldwork on the site, complementing the original research questions regarding the friary, which are still relevant:

- What is the extent of prehistoric activity on the site?
- What is the function of the ditches found in Trench 2? Are they boundary features or associated with agriculture and drainage?
- Is the early Iron Age activity associated with substantial occupation at Maldon, for example a hilltop settlement? Can it be related by date to other known Iron Age settlements in the vicinity?

6.7 Conclusions

6.7.1 A moderate density of archaeological remains relating to the prehistoric land use has been found within the site. These remains comprise five linear features (gullies) and three pits within Trenches 1 and 2. Three of the gullies and one of the pits contained pottery from the earliest Iron Age (800-500 BC), and the two remaining pits in Trench 2 are believed to be the same date on stylistic and proximity grounds. The prehistoric linear features on the site are orientated at 45^0 to the medieval and modern N-S and E-W alignment.

6.7.2 No remains of the Carmelite friary were discovered. Two linear features, orientated N-S, were found in Trench 1, one of which yielded post-medieval tile. These are considered to be later than the dissolution of the friary.

6.7.3 It is judged that there is high potential for significant early Iron Age remains, which are known to exist up to 1m below modern ground level, to be present elsewhere within the site. The impact of proposed development on the surviving heritage resource therefore depends largely on the depth of the proposed groundworks. There is also potential for surviving remains of the friary to be present to the north of the evaluation trenches.

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Appendix 1: HER Summary

Site name/Address: *Friary East, Carmelite Way, Maldon, Essex CM9 5FJ*	
Parish: *Maldon*	***District:*** *Maldon*
NGR: *TL 85032 06875*	***Site Code:*** *MD56*
Type of Work: *Archaeological Evaluation*	***Site Director/Group:*** *Robin Wroe-Brown, Archaeology South-East*
Date of Work: *15/02/2017 to 17/02/2017*	***Size of Area Investigated:*** *0.5ha*
Location of Finds/Curating Museum: *Colchester and Ipswich Museums*	***Funding source:*** *Landowner/developer*
Further Seasons Anticipated?: *Not known*	***Related HER Nos:*** *EHER 7728, 7729*
Final Report: *EAH roundup*	***OASIS No:*** *278117*
Periods Represented: *Earliest Iron Age (800-500 BC), post-medieval*	
SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS: *An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted to the rear of Friary East, in advance of the potential conversion of the existing building into apartments and the construction of further apartment blocks. The site is located within the precinct of the Carmelite Friary at Maldon.* *The potential for archaeological remains of the medieval friary was considered to be high. Previous excavations in the vicinity have located the wall foundations of the friary church and cloister, a stable block and other outbuildings.* *Three trenches were excavated across the south of the site. Archaeological features were recorded in two trenches, comprising three pits and six linear cuts. It is considered that two of the linear cuts are post-medieval and the remainder of the features are early Iron Age, dated from pottery. No evidence of the friary was found.*	
Previous Summaries/Reports: *None*	
Author of Summary: *Robin Wroe-Brown*	***Date of Summary:*** *July 2017*

Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS no: archaeol6-278117

Project details

Project name	Maldon Friary East
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted to the rear of Friary East, Maldon, in advance of the potential conversion of the existing building into apartments and the construction of further apartment blocks. The site is located within the precinct of the Carmelite Friary at Maldon. The potential for archaeological remains of the medieval friary was considered to be high. Previous excavations in the vicinity have located the wall foundations of the friary church and cloister, a stable block and other outbuildings. Three trenches were excavated across the south of the site. Archaeological features were recorded in two trenches, comprising three pits and six linear cuts. It is considered that two of the linear cuts are post-medieval and the remainder of the features are early Iron Age, dated from pottery. No evidence of the friary was found.
Project dates	Start: 15-02-2017 End: 17-02-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MD56 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	161080 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Early Iron Age
Monument type	PIT Early Iron Age
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Iron Age
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning agreement (Section 106 or 52)
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX MALDON MALDON The Friary (East), White Horse Lane, Maldon

Postcode	CM9 5FJ
Study area	0.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 85032 06875 51.729489001056 0.67964418943 51 43 46 N 000 40 46 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 25.21m Max: 26.25m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project design originator	Essex County Council Place Services
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project director/manager	Sarah Ritchie
Project supervisor	Robin Wroe-Brown
Type of sponsor/funding body	Essex County Council

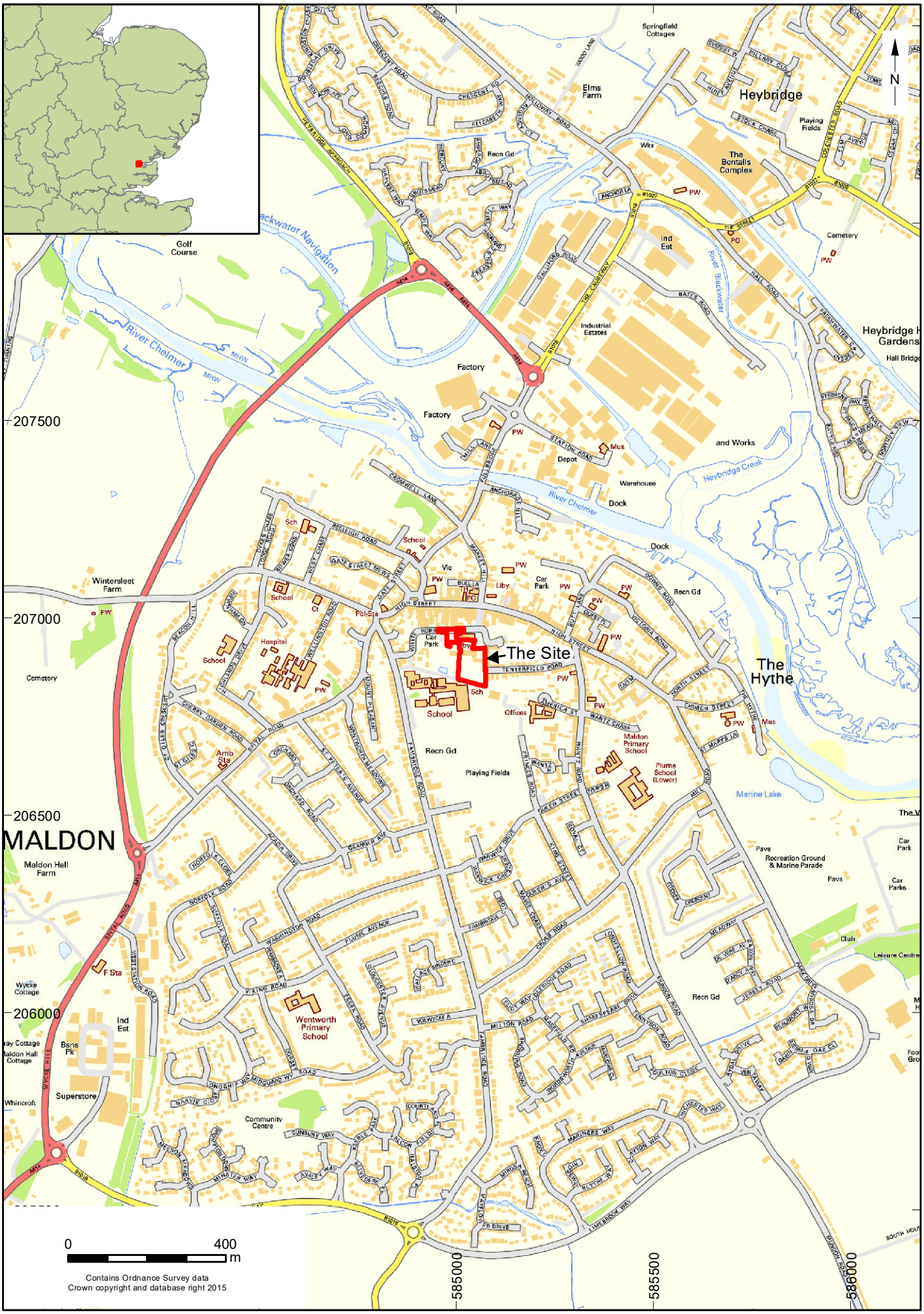
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Environmental","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Plan","Section","Survey "

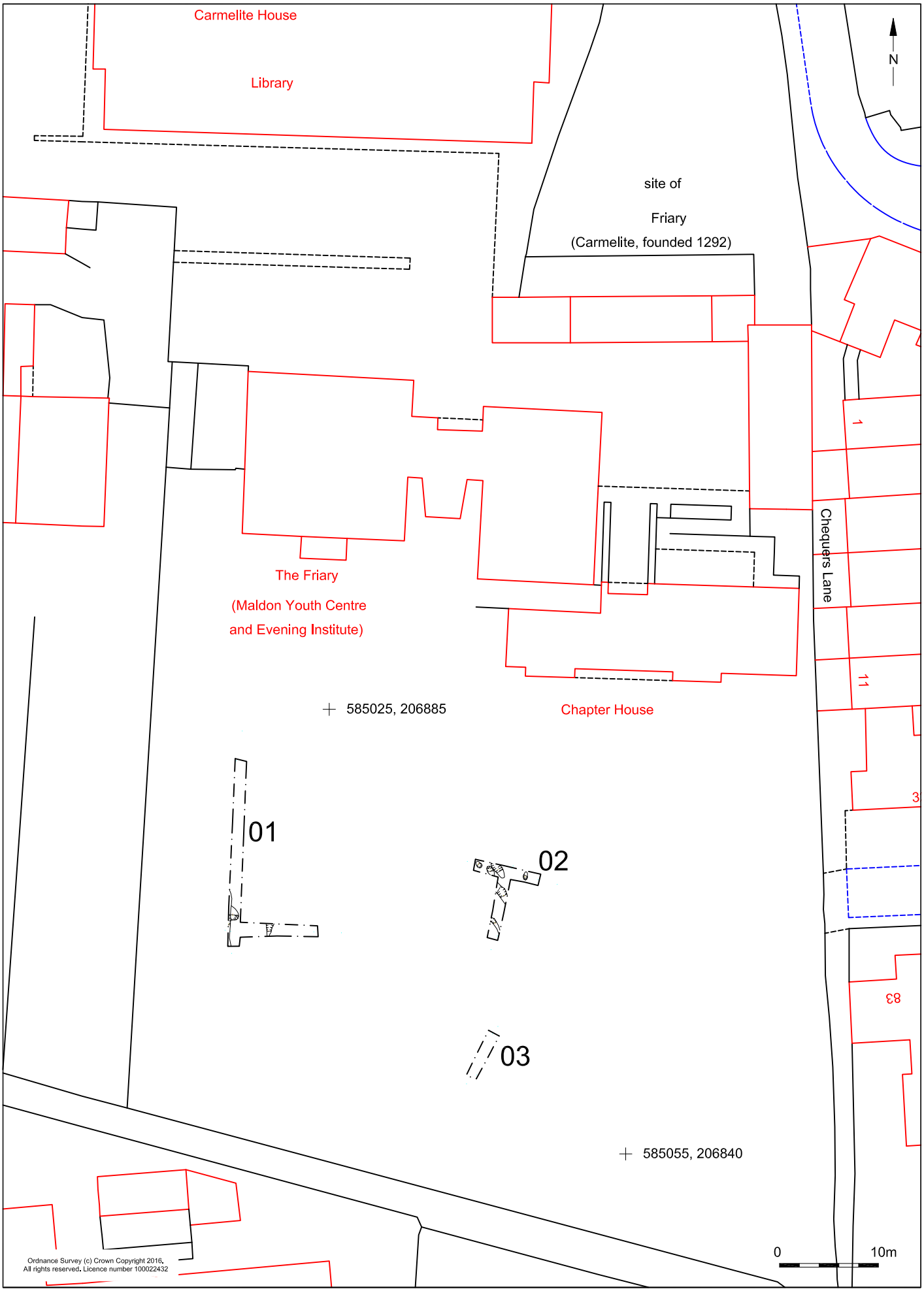
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological evaluation at Maldon Friary (east), White Horse Lane, Maldon, Essex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Wroe-Brown, R.
Other bibliographic details	ASE report no 2017072
Date	2017

Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Witham
Description	A4 report
Entered by	Robin Wroe-Brown (r.wroe-brown@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	2 March 2017



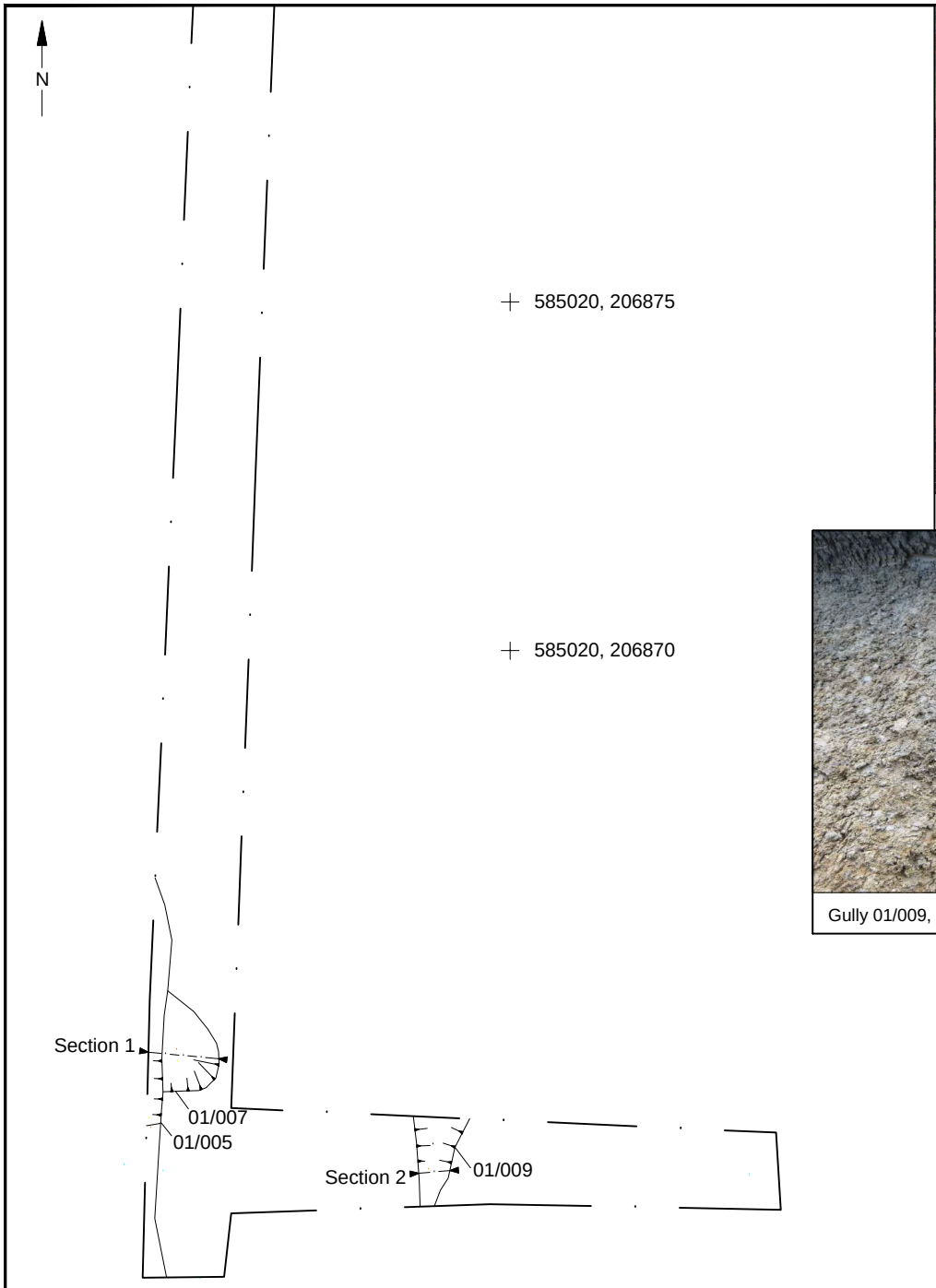
© Archaeology South-East		Friary East, Carmelite Way, Maldon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 161080	July 2017	Site location	
Report No: 2017072	Drawn by: APL		



© Archaeology South-East		Friary East, Carmelite Way, Maldon	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 161080	July 2017	Trench Locations	
Report Ref: 2017072	Drawn by: NG		

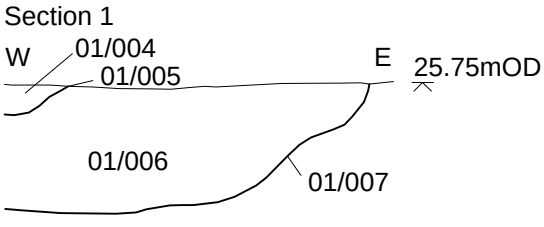
Trench 1, looking north

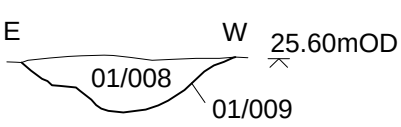
Gully 01/009, looking south



Trench 1, looking east

Gully 01/005 and pit 01/007, looking north





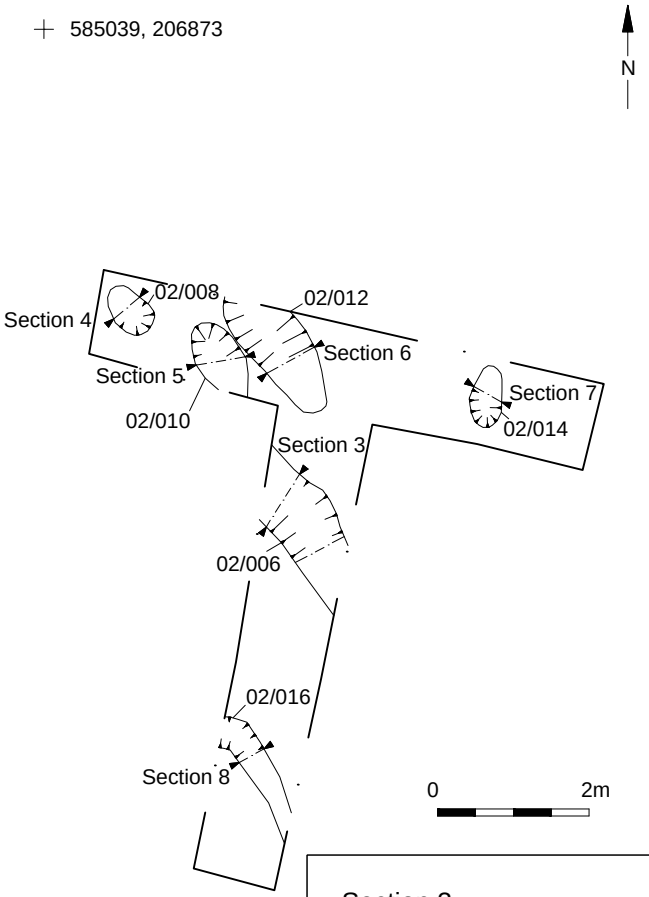
© Archaeology South-East		Friary East, Carmelite Way, Maldon	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 161080	July 2017	Trench 1 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017072	Drawn by: NG		

Trench 2, looking west

Trench 2, looking north

585039, 206873

585037, 206857

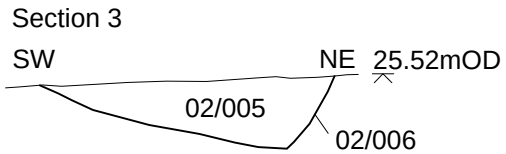


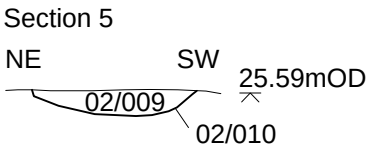
Pit 02/008, looking north east

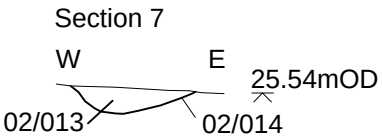
Gully 0/006, looking north east

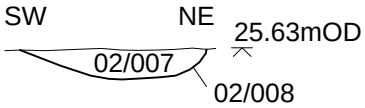
Gully terminus 02/010, looking south

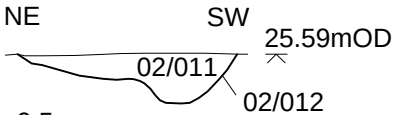
Gully 02/016, looking east

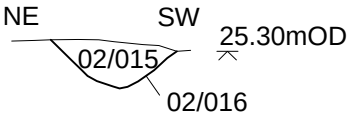












0
0.5m

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Project Ref: 161080	July 2017	Trench 2 : plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017072	Drawn by: NG		

Trench 3 looking north, 1m scale

The extant precinct wall, exterioir looking south-west

The extant precinct wall, interior loking north-east

The extant precinct wall, interior looking south-east

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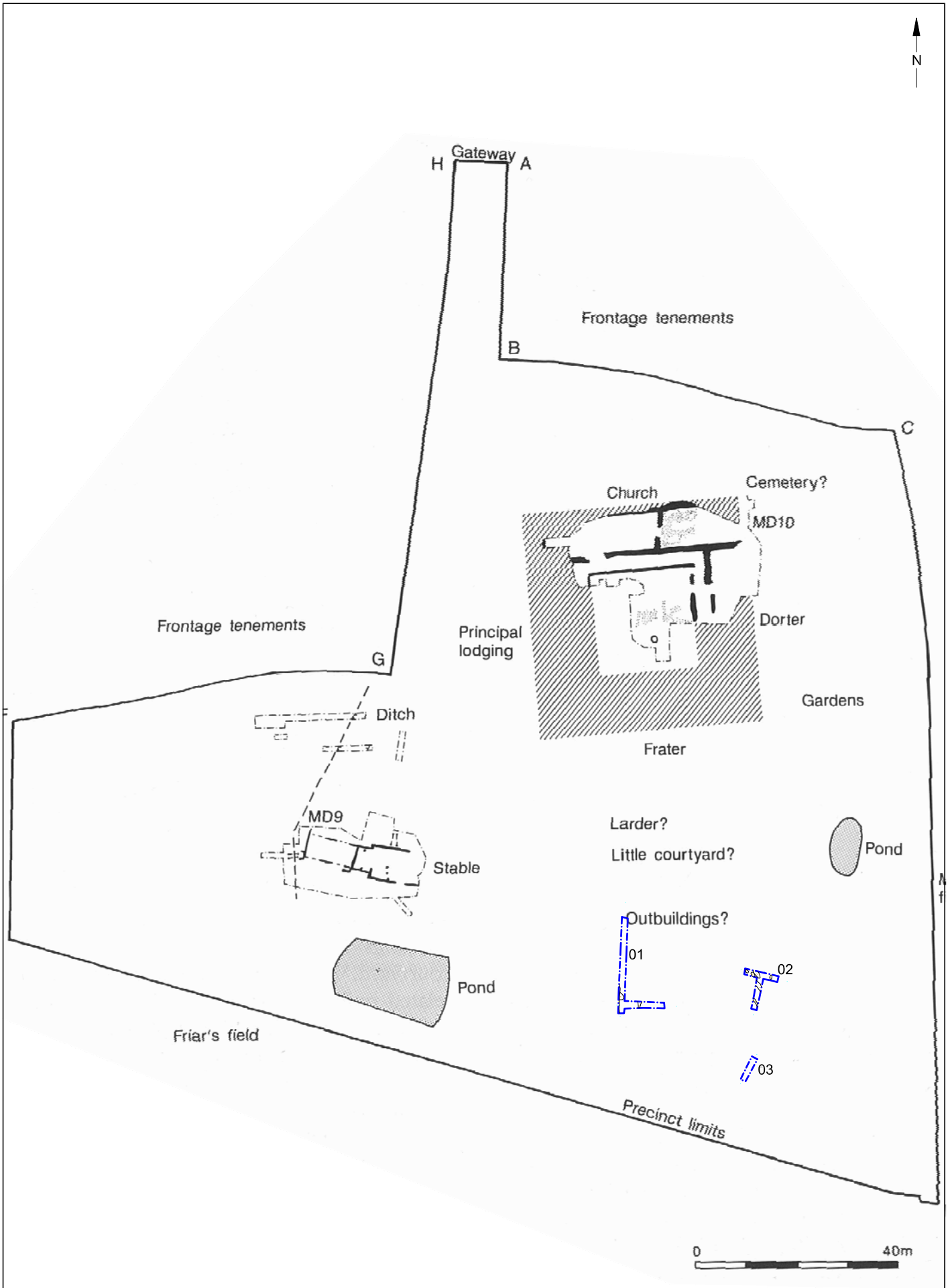
Project Ref: 161080	July 2017	Photographs of Trench 3 and the extant precinct wall	
Report Ref: 2017072	Drawn by: APL		



Background drawing from Isserlin, 1999, Fig.39

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Project Ref: 161080	July 2017	Location of the trenches within the friary precinct	
Report Ref: 2017072	Drawn by: APL		

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