

# Archaeological evaluation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex, CB10 2LF

June 2022



**by Bronagh Quinn**

figures by Sarah Veasey

fieldwork by Sarah Veasey with Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by the Homeowner**

NGR: TL 5700 3815 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/19/0466/HFF

CAT project ref.: 2022/06a

HER code: WRSW22

OASIS ref.: colchest3-507256

Saffron Walden Museum accession number, SAFWM:2022.31



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [bq@catuk.org](mailto:bq@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 1817**

June 2022

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	4
7	Conclusion	4
8	Acknowledgements	4
9	References	4
10	Abbreviations and glossary	4
11	Contents of archive	5
12	Archive deposition	5
	Appendix 1 Context list	6
	Figures	after p6

CAT wsi  
OASIS summary sheet

## List of maps, photographs and figures

Cover: Site shot, looking north-east

Map 1	Extract of the 1881 OS map. 61 Walden Road highlighted in red.	2
Map 2	Extract of the 1897 OS map, showing 61 Walden Road (red) in relation to the moated sites to the north and south (blue).	2
Photograph 1	Trench 1, looking west	3
Photograph 2	Trench 2, looking west	3
Fig 1	Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)	
Fig 2	Evaluation results. Modern service in grey.	
Fig 3	Representative sections	

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension, swimming pool and pool house. Despite being located within the grounds of a late 18th-/early 19th-century timber-framed cottage, there were no archaeological remains in either evaluation trench.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex which was carried out on 23rd June 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner in advance of a single-storey rear extension, swimming pool and pool house.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS) Historical Environment Advisor Katie Lee-Smith. This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End* written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2022) and detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14 and 24). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

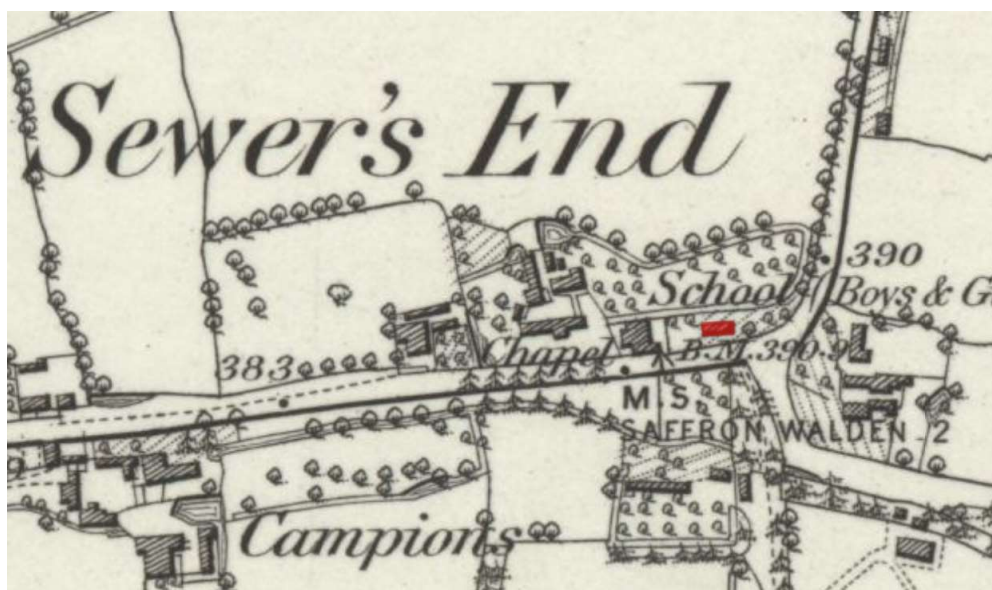
## 3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

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

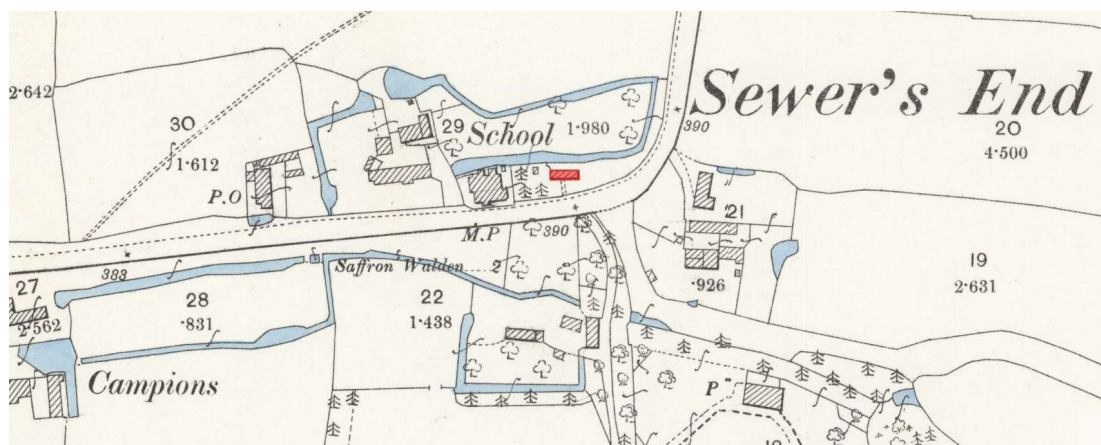
The development site is located within the historic settlement of Swards End. Prior to the early 16th century, Swards End did not exist as a defined community, instead it was four small communities which would eventually merge to become Swards End. The name Swards End is present on OS maps until 1924, when it became Swards End.

61 Walden Road is a late 18th-/early 19th-century timber-framed cottage with a thatched roof (NHLE No. 1196255). It is located within a former moated site (EHER267) with a second moated site to the south (EHER272). Both moats were rectangular in shape and are present on the 1st edition OS map (Map 1).

The geology of the Uttlesford district is boulder clay (or till), which was laid down during the coldest period of the last ice age when the Anglian ice sheet spread south into Essex. Below this is a layer of Kesgrave sands and gravels which were deposited by the Thames when it flowed across central Essex.



**Map 1** Extract of the 1881 OS map. 61 Walden Road highlighted in red.



**Map 2** Extract of the 1897 OS map, showing 61 Walden Road (red) in relation to the moated sites to the north and south (blue).

#### **4 Aims**

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

#### **5 Results** (Figs 3-4)

Two trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench 1 was 10m long by 1.8m wide and was cut through a layer of modern hard core from the driveway (L1, c 0.32m thick) which sealed natural geology (L2).

Trench two was 7m long by 1.8m wide and was cut through a layer of modern topsoil (L3, c 0.25m thick) over a layer of post-medieval made-ground (L4, c 0.2m thick) which sealed natural (L2).

There were no archaeological remains in either trench.



**Photograph 1** Trench 1, looking west



**Photograph 2** Trench 2, looking west

## 6 Finds

Fragments of post-medieval brick/tile from L4 were not retained for post-excavation analysis.

## 7 Conclusion

No significant archaeological remains were present in either trench. Sealing natural was modern hardcore in Trench 1 with a post-medieval made-ground in Trench 2.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey with B Quinn. Figures are by S Veasey. The project was monitored for Essex County Council Place Services by Katie Lee-Smith.

## 9 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End,</i> by K Lee-Smith
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Lucy, G & Mercer, R	2020	<i>Uttlesford District Council Report on Geological Sites</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800

section (abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s  
wsi written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** N/A

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1817)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Scans of original site records (sections)

Graphic files

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 but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2022

### **Distribution list:**

Homeowner

Katie Lee-Smith, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: [bq@catuk.org](mailto:bq@catuk.org)

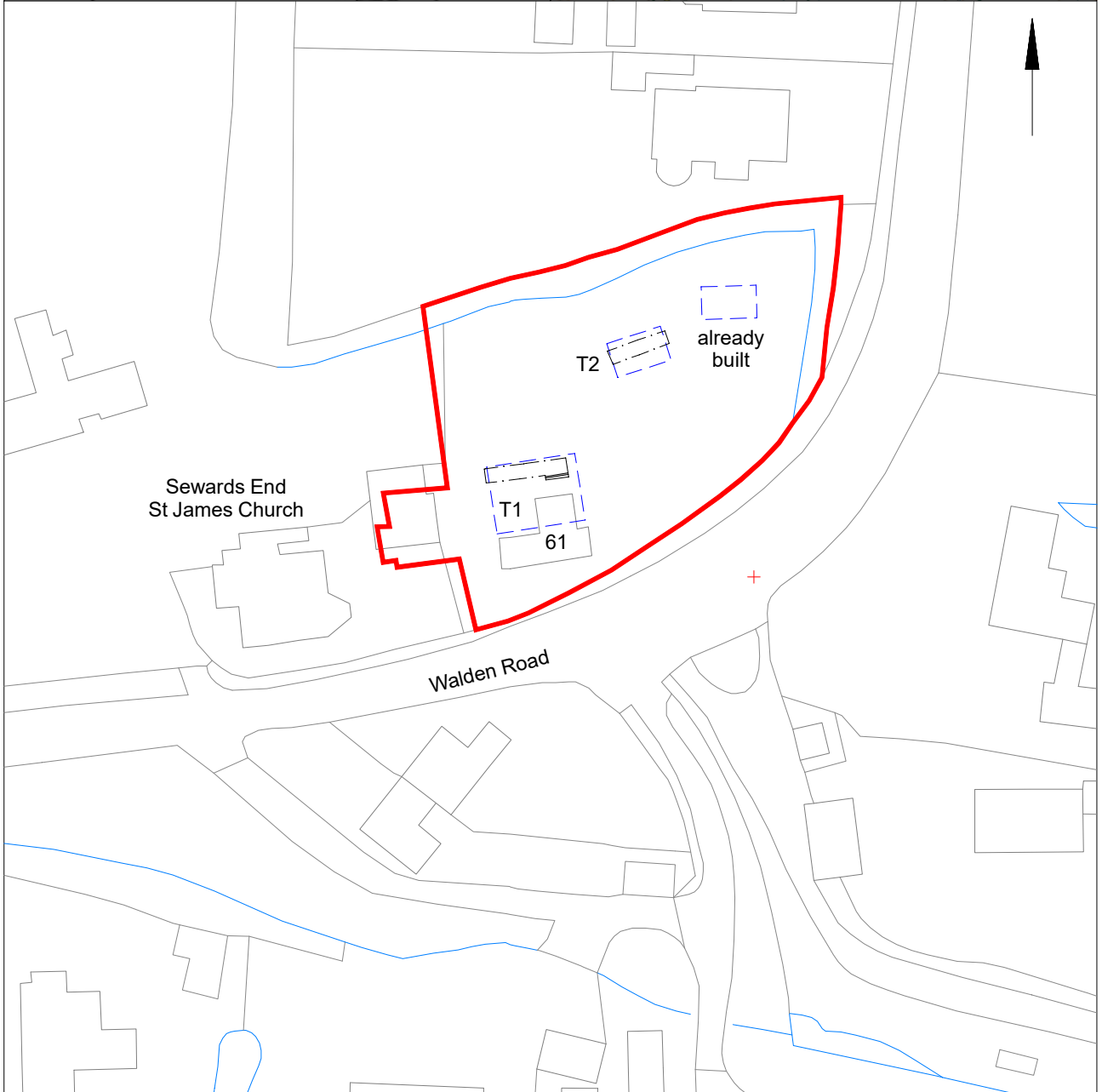
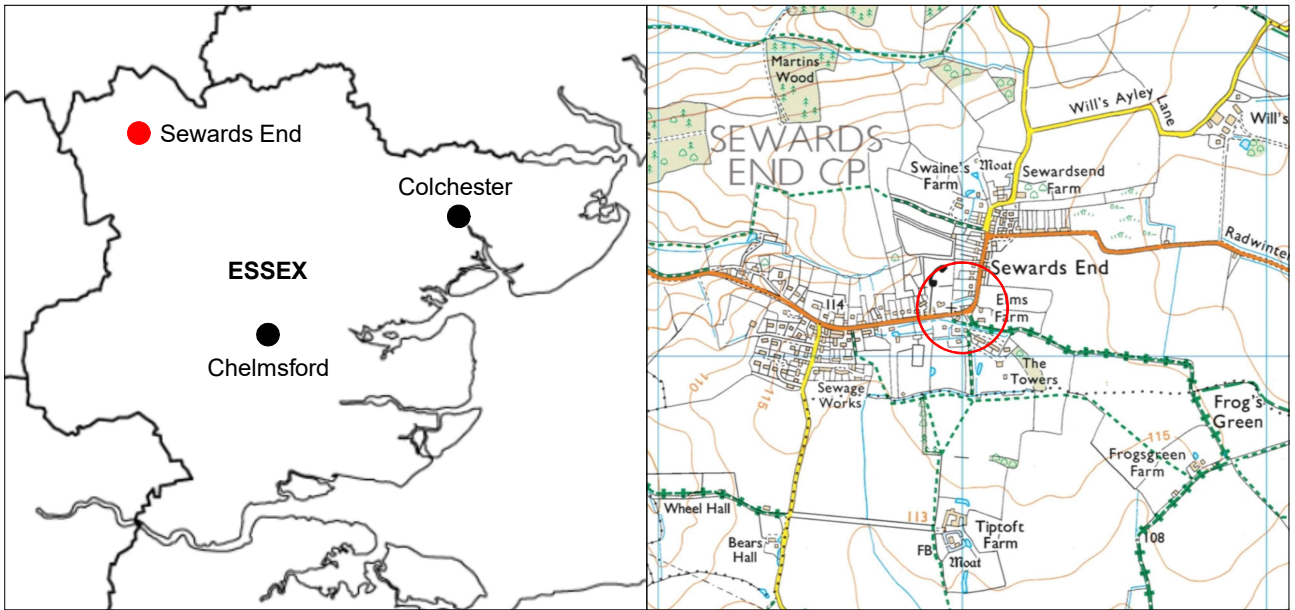
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 28/06/22

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Hardcore	Rubble	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Moist medium yellow-brown clay, with inclusions of chalk	Post-glacial
L3	-	Topsoil	Dry dark grey-brown clay silt	Modern
L4	-	Made-ground	Dry medium yellow-grey-brown silty clay, with inclusions of brick and tile	Post-medieval





© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



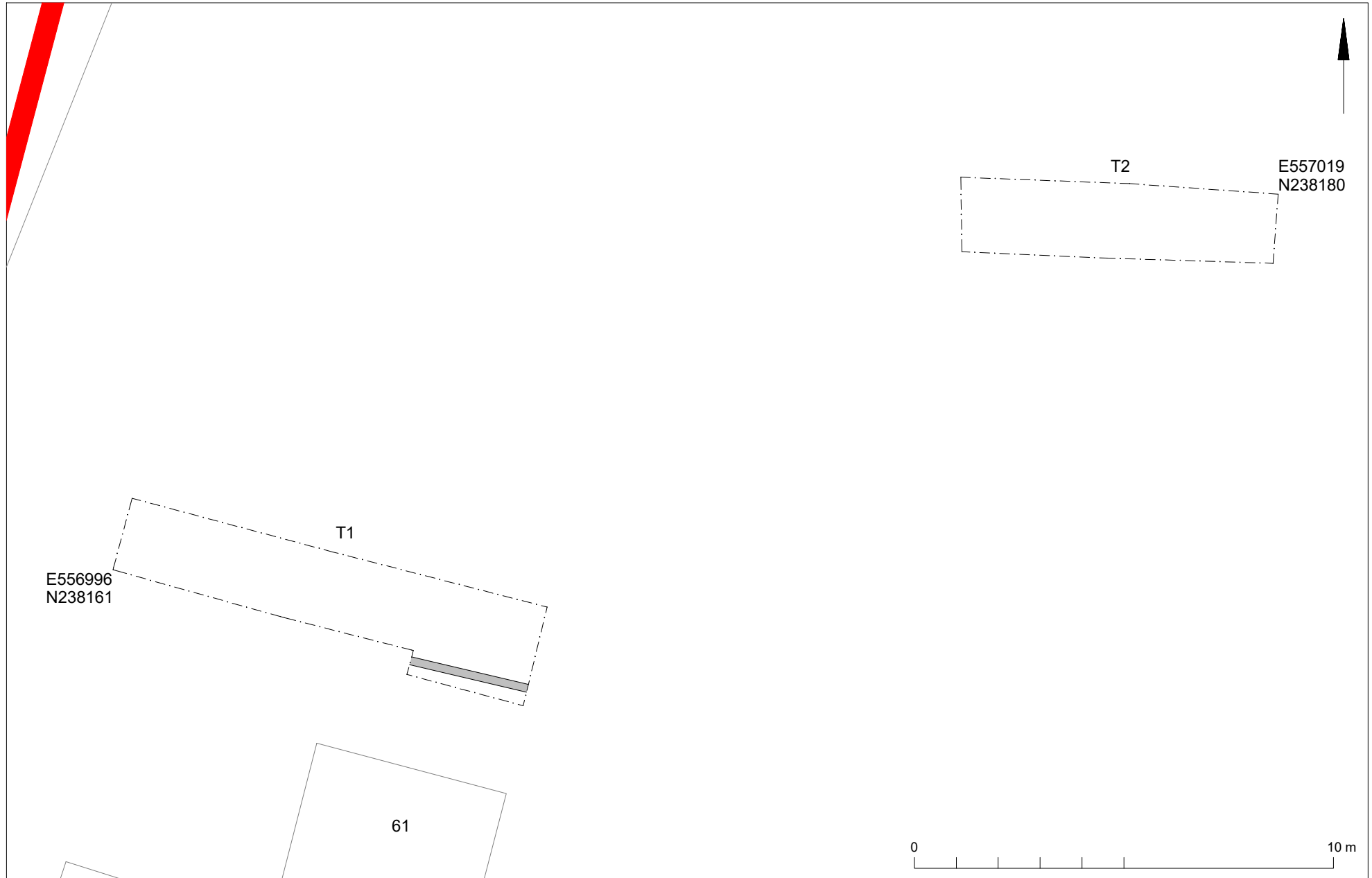


Fig 2 Evaluation results. Modern service in grey

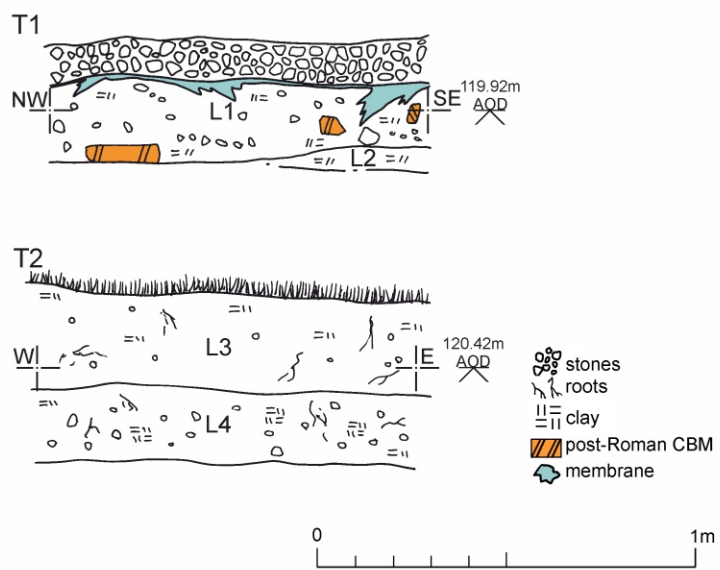


Fig 3 Representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-507256

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-507256
Project Name	Evaluation at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF
Sitename	61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/06a
Planning Id	UTT/19/0466/HHF
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Jun-2022 - 23-Jun-2022
Location	61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF NGR : TL 57000 38150 LL : 52.0195608748831, 0.286610240225716 12 Fig : 557000,238150
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Sewards End
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension, swimming pool and pool house. Despite being located within the grounds of a late 18th-/ early 19th-century timber-framed cottage there were no archaeological remains in either evaluation trench.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;

# Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation At 61 Walden Road, Swards End



**Date:** 7th June 2022





**Title:** Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation at 61 Walden Road, Swards  
End

**Agent:** Chris Lister <[cl@catuk.org](mailto:cl@catuk.org)>

**Planning Reference:** UTT/19/0466/HHF

**Date issued:** 7/06/22

**Historic Environment Advisor:** Katie Lee-Smith | [katie.lee-smith@essex.gov.uk](mailto:katie.lee-smith@essex.gov.uk) |

03330 133338

**Museum:** Saffron Walden 01799 510333

***This archaeological brief is only valid for six months. After this period the Historic Environment Advisor should be contacted to assess whether changes are required to the brief. Any written scheme of investigation resulting from this brief shall only be considered for the same period.***

*The contractor is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their written scheme of investigation as there may be implications for accurately costing the project.*

## **Introduction**

The Historic Environment Advisor has prepared this brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation for the erection of single storey rear extension and detached swimming pool and poolroom/workshop and the erection of new pedestrian and vehicular gates. The archaeological trial trenching will target the extensions footprint and swimming pool. The trial trenching will form the first stage of the archaeological work with excavation to follow if archaeological deposits are identified.

This document forms the basis for any Written Scheme of Investigation submitted by an archaeological contractor for approval by this office. It is recommended that an individual or organisation with membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists is instructed for this work. Details of CIfA registered organisations can be found at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/ro>.

## **Site Location and Description**

The proposed development site lies within an area of potentially significant archaeological in the centre of Swards End (TL5707138171). The development comprises the erection of a single storey rear extension and detached swimming pool and poolroom/workshop and a new pedestrian and vehicular gates. Plans of the proposed development can be obtained from Uttlesford District Council web site under the planning application number.

## **Planning Background**

A full planning application was validated by Uttlesford District Council in February 2019 (UTT/19/0466/HHF) for the proposed erection of a single storey rear extension and detached swimming pool and poolroom/workshop and of new pedestrian and vehicular gates. The planning application was identified as being located within a potentially archaeologically

sensitive area. Therefore, a full archaeological condition was recommended to the local Planning Authority.

The archaeological condition that was recommended is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework under paragraph 205 and states:

**RECOMMENDATION: Trial trenching and excavation**

**"No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured and undertaken a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."**

**Archaeological Background**

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford. Prospective archaeological contractors should obtain the HER prior to the completion of their WSI.

The Essex Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies in a sensitive area of archaeological remains within a former moated site at Swards End (EHER267). The Site lies within the historic centre of Swards End adjacent to a second moated site in close proximity to the south (EHER272). Both moated sites are visible on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1875 and appear substantially preserved. The extension and the office/workshop are both likely to affect the below ground archaeological remains.

**Requirement for Work**

The archaeological programme will initially comprise the excavation of a trench in both the extension and swimming pool spanning the proposed groundworks. A trench plan will be provided with the WSI.

Specific areas of interest will be:

- Medieval features associated with the moated site
- Any evidence of earlier phases of buildings within the moat

The initial work will comprise the trial trenching which will be followed by a summary report with spot dating of all features. This will lead to further archaeological work, comprising open



area excavation of those significant deposits identified. If no archaeological deposits are identified a report on the trial trenching alone will be required.

## **General Methodology**

- 1.1 A professional team of field archaeologists shall undertake the archaeological work.
- 1.2 The number of staff involved and the structure of the team shall be stated in the written scheme of investigation. Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name for the project shall be provided to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of commencement of work.
- 1.3 The archaeological contractor is expected to follow the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 1.4 The contractor shall ensure detailed study of all mains' service locations and avoid damage to these.
- 1.5 All Health and Safety guidelines must be followed on site.
- 1.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the HER. This should include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

## **Trial Trenching Methodology**

- 1.7 Machine stripping shall be undertaken to an agreed standard, using a toothless ditching bucket, and under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. The exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon will be cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping, if required and any archaeological deposits or negative features planned.
- 1.8 Machine stripping will only be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon unless agreement is obtained from the Historic Environment Advisor to deepen the trenches by this method.

- 1.9 The contractor shall provide details of the site surveying, excavation and finds recovery policy in the written scheme of investigation. The site grid shall be tied into the National Grid.
- 1.10 Details of the site planning policy shall be given in the written scheme of investigation. The normal preferred policy for the scale of archaeological site plans is 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.
- 1.11 The contractor shall provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses). Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from the Historic England Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).
- 1.12 Should human remains be discovered the coroner will be informed and a licence from the Home Office sought immediately; both the client and the monitoring officer will also be informed. Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are anticipated, or where analysis of the remains are considered to be a necessary requirement for satisfactory evaluation of the site.
- 1.13 The photographic record shall include both general and feature specific photographs, a photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. The photographic record shall be accompanied by a photographic register detailing as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.
- 1.14 The site and spoil heaps shall be checked by metal detector, with any finds recovered.
- 1.15 The CIFA's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*, and the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the Eastern Region* document should be used for additional guidance in the production of the written scheme of investigation, the content of the report, and the general execution of the project.
- 1.16 A meeting will be held on site once the trial trenching has been completed to discuss requirements for further open area excavation. A summary of the results and a plan of the findings with a completed spot-dating report of all finds will be available at the meeting.**

## **Post Excavation Assessment**

- 1.17 An updated post excavation assessment shall be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time to the Historic Environment Advisor.
- 1.18 Where archaeological results do not warrant a post excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the Historic Environment Advisor to proceed straight to grey literature /publication.

## **Finds**

- 1.19 All finds, where appropriate, shall be washed.
- 1.20 All pottery and other finds where appropriate, shall be marked with the site code and context number.
- 1.21 The written scheme of investigation shall include an agreed list of specialist consultants, who might be required to conserve and/or report on finds, and advise or report on other aspects of the investigation.
- 1.22 The requirements for conservation and storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to the Historic Environment Advisor.

## **Results**

- 1.23 The report shall be submitted within a length of time (but not exceeding 4 months) from the end of the fieldwork, to be agreed between the developer and archaeological contractor, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.
- 1.24 This report must contain:
  - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the trial trenching and any further excavation.
  - Location plan of excavated areas in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each of the excavated area shall be given 10 figure grid references.
  - A section/s drawing showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
  - Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion. Appropriate discussion and result section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011, EAA 2021).
  - All specialist reports
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

- 1.25 An OASIS sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor. A copy should also be e-mailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects in the Journal [paul.gilman@me.com](mailto:paul.gilman@me.com)
- 1.26 Publication of the results, at least to a summary level (i.e. round up of archaeology in Essex in *Essex Archaeology and History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance shall be made within the costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

### **Archive Deposition**

- 1.27 The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the appropriate museum.
- 1.28 If the finds are to remain with the landowner a full copy of the archive shall be housed with the appropriate museum.
- 1.29 The archive shall be deposited with the appropriate museum within 1 months of the completion of the final publication report with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor

### **Monitoring**

- 1.30 The Historic Environment Advisor will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. This will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 1.31 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Historic Environment Advisor one week in advance of its commencement.
- 1.32 All trial trenches must be inspected by the Historic Environment Advisor prior to their backfilling.
- 1.33 Any variations of the written scheme of investigation shall be agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor prior to them being carried out.

### **Contractors Written Scheme of Investigation**

- 1.34 In accordance with Standards and Guidance produced by the CIFA this design brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A WSI is required therefore in order to provide *the basis for a measurable standard* and for submission by the developer to the Local Planning Authority for approval.

- 1.35 Archaeological contractors shall forward a WSI to the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council for validation prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.36 The involvement of the Historic Environment Advisor shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* 2. Research agenda and strategy East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap.
- Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 14
- Medlycott, M. 2011 *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap. 24

Katie Lee-Smith  
Historic Environment Advisor  
Place Services  
County Hall  
Chelmsford  
CM1 1QH

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex, CB10 2LF

**NGR:** TL 5700 3815 (centre)

**District:** Uttlesford

**Parish:** Swards End

**Planning reference:** UTT/19/0466/HFF

**Client:** landowner

**Curating museum:** Saffron Walden/ADS Archaeology

**ECC project code:** [tbc](#)

**Museum accession code:** [tbc](#)

**CAT project code:** 2022/06a

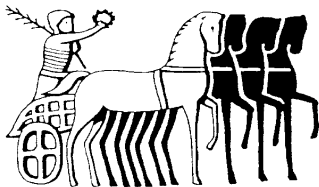
**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-507256

**Fieldwork Manager:** Adam Wightman

**Contracts Manager:** Chris Lister

**ECC monitor:** Katie Lee-Smith

**This WSI written:** 09/06/2022



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel:* 01206 501785 (option 1)

*email:* [services@catuk.org](mailto:services@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located in the historic settlement of Swards End at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex (Fig 1). Site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 5700 3815.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of a single storey rear extension, swimming pool and poolroom/workshop.

## Archaeological background

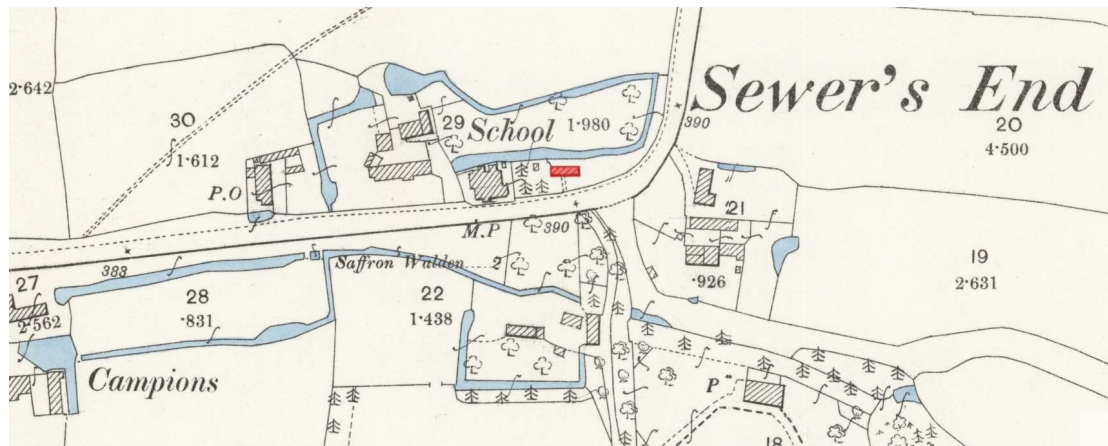
The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The development site is located within the historic settlement of Swards End. Prior to the early 16th century Swards End did not exist as a defined community, instead it was four small communities which would eventually merge to become 'Sewers End'. The name 'Sewers End' is present on maps until the 1924 OS map, where it became Swards end.

61 Walden Road is a late 18th/early 19th century timber framed cottage with a thatched roof (NHLE No. 1196255). It is located within a former moated site (EHER267) with a second moated site to the south (EHER272). Both moats were rectangular in shape and are present on the 1st edition OS map (Map 1).



**Map 1** Extract of the 1881 OS map. 61 Walden Road highlighted in red.



Map 2 Extract of the 1897 OS map, showing 61 Walden Road (red) in relation to the moated sites to the north and south (blue).

The geology of the Uttlesford district is boulder clay (or till), which was laid down during the coldest period of the last ice age when the Anglian ice sheet spread south into Essex. Below this is a layer of Kesgrave sands and gravels which were deposited by the Thames when it flowed across central Essex.

### Planning background

A planning application (UTT/19/0466/HHF) was submitted to Uttlesford District Council in February 2019 proposing the *erection of a single storey rear extension and detached swimming pool and poolroom/workshop. Erection of new pedestrian and vehicular gates.*

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological remains a phased full archaeological condition was recommended. This follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

### Requirement for work (Fig 2)

The required archaeological work will consist of an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by ECCPS (*Brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End – ECC 2022*).

It is proposed that two trenches are to be evaluated within the site, only targeting the extension and swimming pool as the poolroom/workshop has already been constructed. Trench 1 (T1) will measure 10m long and 1.8m wide and trench 2 (T2) will measure 7m long and 1.8m wide. This covers an area of 30.6m<sup>2</sup> and a linear length of 17m.

Specific areas of interest are:

- medieval features associated with the moated site
- any evidence of earlier phases of buildings within the moat

Further area excavation may be required should significant archaeological deposits/features be identified that cannot be preserved *in situ*. This will be decided by the ECCHEA on completion of the evaluation and report.

### General methodology

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>



- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by ECC Historic Environment Advisor (ECCPS 2022)

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to ECCHEA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A project or site code will be sought from ECCHEA and/or the curating museum, as appropriate to the project. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT project officer and one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furniss

## **Evaluation methodology**

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the ECCHEA, will it be removed.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits will be established. Therefore, a sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench

has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all trenches both before and during excavation. All spoil heaps will also be scanned and finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

The trench will not be backfilled until they have been signed off by the ECCHEA.

### **Site surveying**

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## Human remains

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or ECCHEA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the evaluation, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following Historic England guidance (2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the ECCHEA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,  
Conservation and Design Services

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to ECCHEA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

### **Post-excavation assessment**

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

### **Results**

Notification will be given to ECCHEA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (Historic England 2015).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to the Historic Environment Advisor as a single PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet shall be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the ECCHEA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects ([paul.gilman@me.com](mailto:paul.gilman@me.com)).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

## Archive deposition

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum unless otherwise agreed in advance. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

**By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Saffron Walden Museum.**

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service ([www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk](http://www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the ECCHEA at the time of their deposition.

The ECCHEA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

## Monitoring

ECCHEA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given ECCHEA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with ECCHEA prior to them being carried out.

ECCHEA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of ECCHEA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2021
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End,</i> by K Lee-Smith

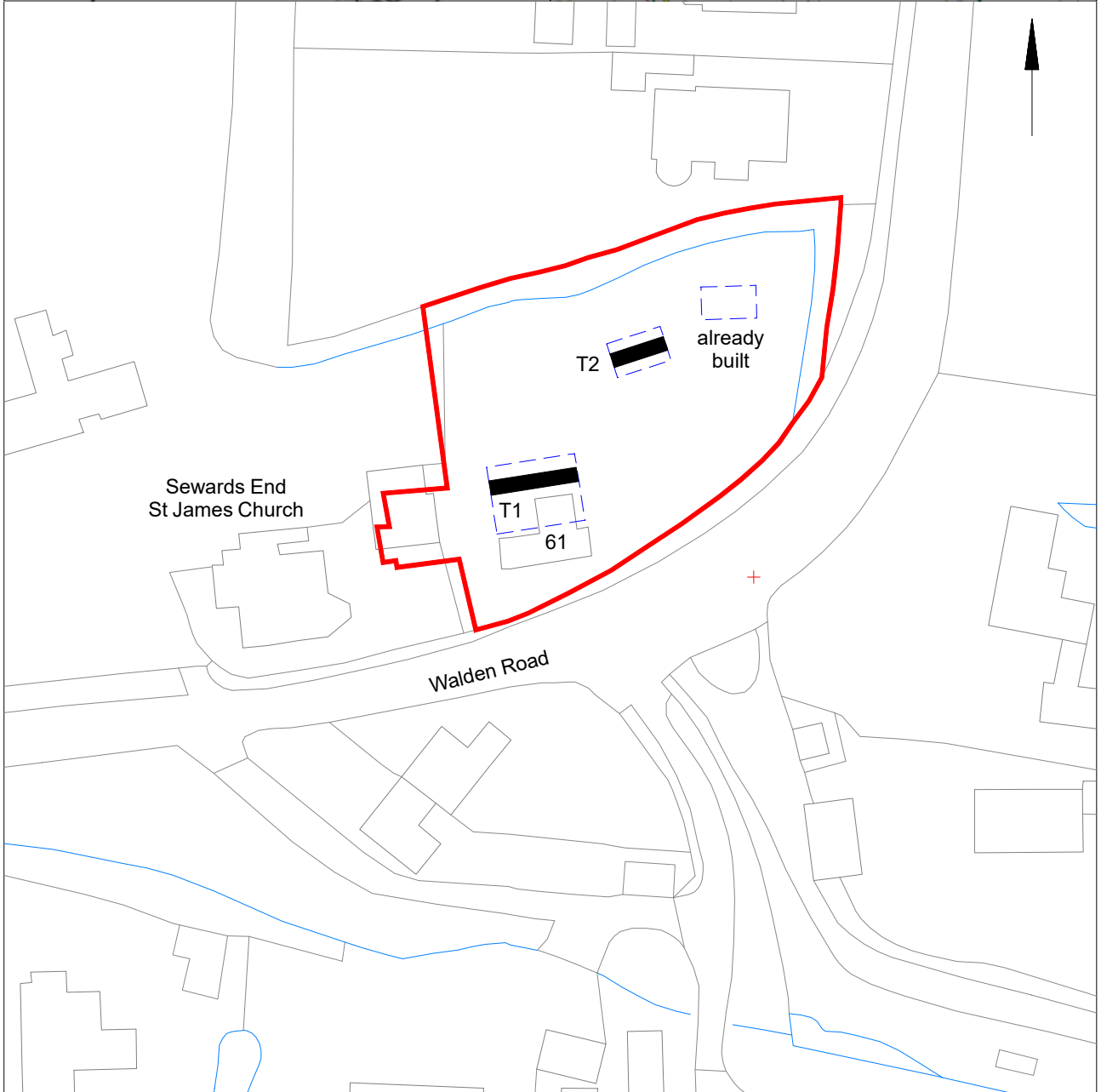
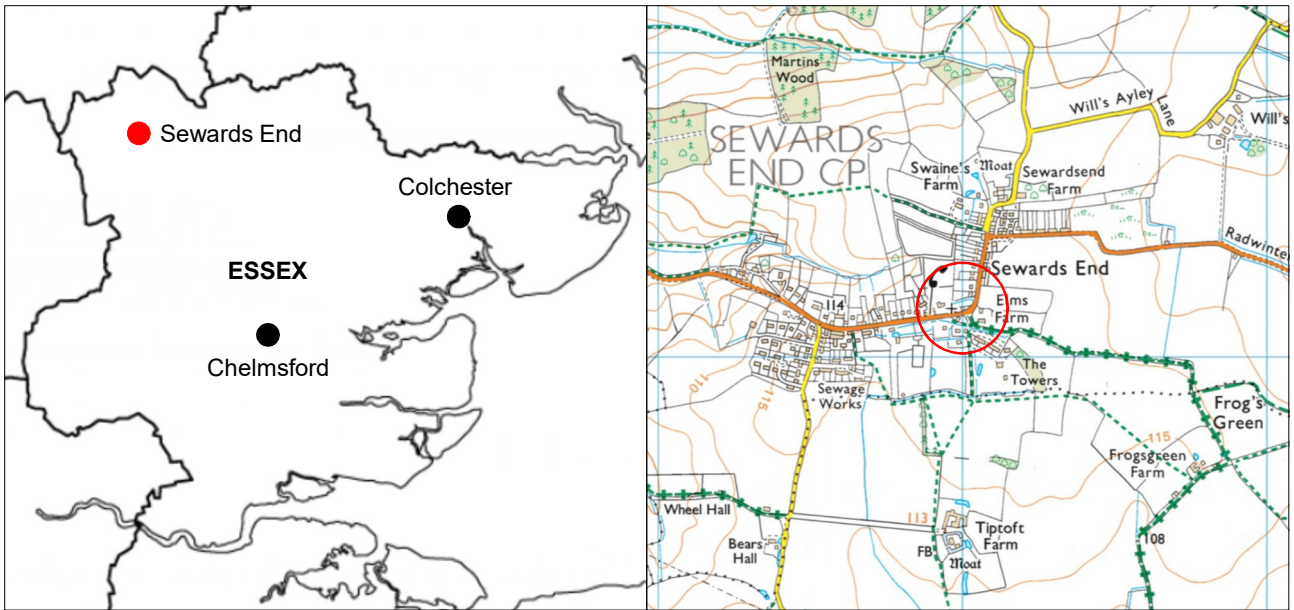
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley & J Sidell
Lucy G and Mercer R	2020	<i>Uttlesford District Council Report on Geological Sites</i>
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex - Kelvedon- Historic Towns Assessment Report</i> . Essex County Council
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Sarah Veasey



Colchester Archaeological Trust,  
Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785 option 4  
email: [sv@catuk.org](mailto:sv@catuk.org)



© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.

Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



Site: Swards End 61 Walden Rd EVAL

Site code: WRSW22

Layer No.

Interpretation Modern Hardcore

Period Modern

Location T1

1

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

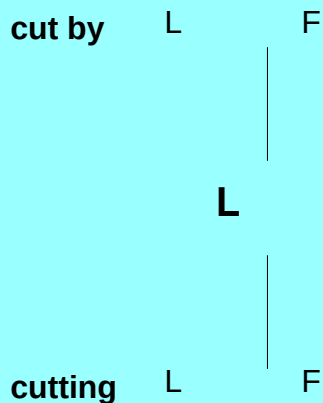
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Modern hardcore layer associated with driveway, only in T1.



By Date



Site: Swards End 61 Walden Rd EVAL

Site code: WRSW22

Layer No.

Interpretation Natural geology

Period Post-glacial

2

Location

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

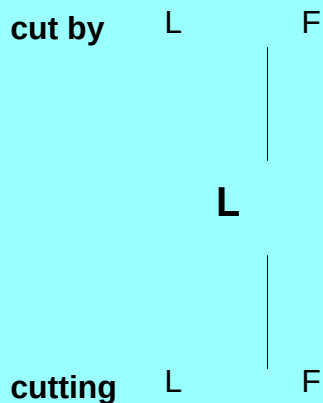
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Natural geology



By

Date

Site: Swards End 61 Walden Rd EVAL

Site code: WRSW22

Layer No.

Interpretation Topsoil

Period

**3**

Location

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
✓ ✓  
charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

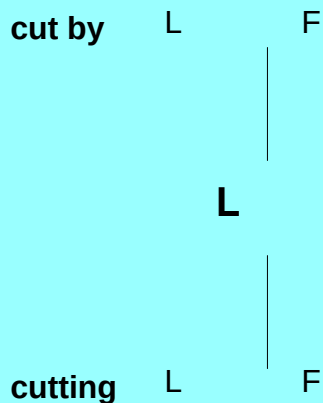
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Topsoil across site (not seen in T1). Very dry and hard due to intense root activity.



By

Date

Site: Swards End 61 Walden Rd EVAL

Site code: WRSW22

Layer No.

Interpretation Made ground

Period

4

Location

**SOIL DESCRIPTION**

Consistence very loose soft friable firm hard dry moist wet  
✓ ✓

Colour very light medium dark yellow orange green grey brown black  
✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Soil Type sand silt clay loam clay silt sand  
✓ ✓

charcoal oyster daub brick tile

Inclusions: flecks

gravel % stone % tile/brick % pot %

Inclusions: pieces

**RECORDING**

Plan nos

Section nos

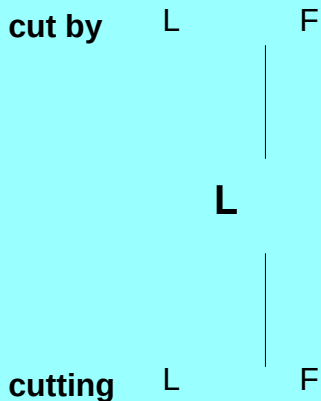
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

**FINDS**

Find Nos:

**NOTES** Made ground across site (not seen in T1). Similar to L2 (natural) but slightly darker and has post-medieval ceramic building material throughout (not retained). Hard and dry due to intense rooting.



By Date



01



02  
1/



03



04  
2/



05



06  
3/



07



08  
4/



09



10  
5/



Listing

WRSW22_Photo	graph_001.jpg	Site shot
WRSW22_Photo	graph_002.jpg	TR1 trench shot looking east
WRSW22_Photo	graph_003.jpg	TR1 trench shot looking west
WRSW22_Photo	graph_004.jpg	TR2 trench shot looking north-east
WRSW22_Photo	graph_005.jpg	TR2 trench shot looking south-west
WRSW22_Photo	graph_006.jpg	TR1 rep sx looking north north-west
WRSW22_Photo	graph_007.jpg	TR1 rep sx looking north north-west
WRSW22_Photo	graph_008.jpg	Site shot
WRSW22_Photo	graph_009.jpg	TR2 rep sx looking north
WRSW22_Photo	graph_010.jpg	TR2 rep sx looking north