

Archaeological Evaluation by trail-trenching at 100, Colchester Road, St Osyth

CAT Report 621

Essex Historic Environment Record/ *Essex Archaeology and History*

Summary sheet

Address: 100, Colchester Road, St Osyth, Essex	
Parish: St Osyth	District: Tendring
NGR: TM 1239 1623	Site code: CAT project code – 11/11b ECC site code – STOCR 11
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 22nd November 2011	Size of area investigated: 37m (linear)
Location of curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museum accession code – 2011.91	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER number: EHER 4, 18340
Final report: CAT Report 621	
Periods represented: modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>The development lies within an area of archaeological potential in the northern part of the historic town of St Osyth. Located to the west of the development site, the major feature of St Osyth is the priory (EHER 4) founded in the 1120s for the Austin Canons by the Bishop of London. It is widely thought that the historic town was founded by the priory, and was centred on a crossroads of which Colchester Road forms the north to south axis. The Chapman & Andre map of 1777 clearly shows settlement along Colchester Road (on the development site) in the later 18th century, as does the 1st edition OS map (<i>circa</i> 1876) in the mid-19th century. Previous excavation and archaeological work in the historic town has demonstrated the existence of well-preserved medieval and post-medieval stratigraphy (EHER 18340), and it was considered likely that such occupation deposits would survive on the current site.</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2011, in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Officer. Three evaluation trenches (T1-T3) at a total length of 37m x 1.8m were excavated across the footprints of each the proposed new builds. Trench positions are shown on Fig 1.</p> <p>The evaluation trenches were excavated through a humic topsoil (L1) 300mm thick, and an accumulation horizon (L2) 500mm thick, revealing natural geological deposits of coarse sand and gravel. In T3 in particular, L2 and L3 were dry and compacted, most likely as a</p>	

result of the proximity of a stand of sycamore and holly. Archaeological activity was extremely limited. Of the three features exposed, two (F2, F3) were natural in origin and had fills and profiles indicative of tree-throws. F1, a small square-cut feature containing modern brick fragments (not retained), appears to be the base of a post perhaps relating to an earlier western boundary associated with 100 Colchester Road (to the west of the site). In addition to the archaeological features, a modern service run (a dark linear stain in L3 within which was a modern salt-glazed pipe) noted in T2 and T3 appeared to be a drain associated with a manhole on the eastern side of the development site.

No significant archaeological material or features were identified by this evaluation. The significant depth of topsoil and accumulation material shows that there has been little activity here, and the only features were modern or natural. The lack of archaeological material is probably a result of the site being located to the far north of both the priory and the main settlement focus in St Osyth. In addition, the site was set well back from the street frontage, in the rear grounds of number 100 Colchester Road.

Previous summaries/reports: None

Keywords: -

Significance: neg

Author of summary:

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Date of summary:

December 2011

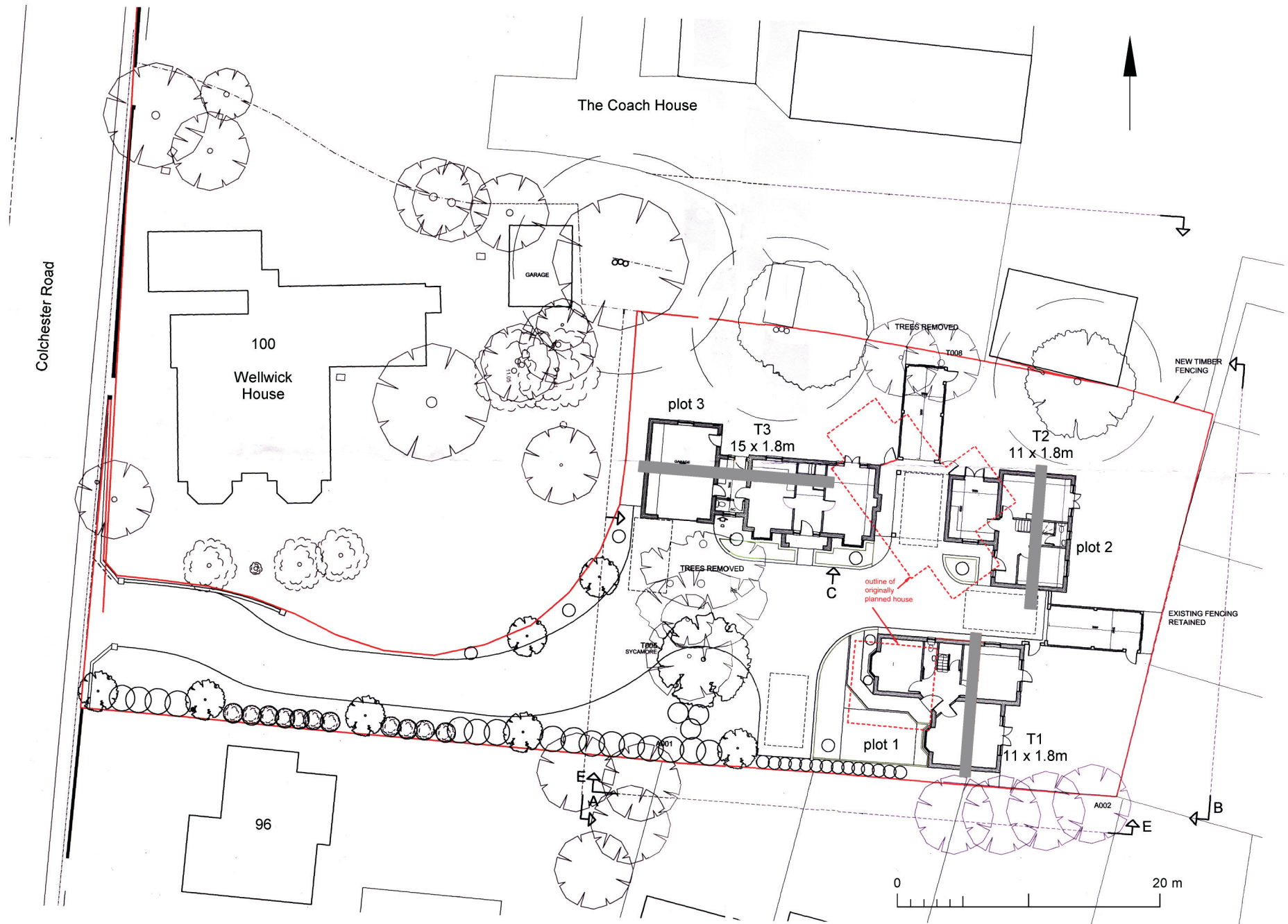


Fig 1 Trench location plan (scale 1:400).

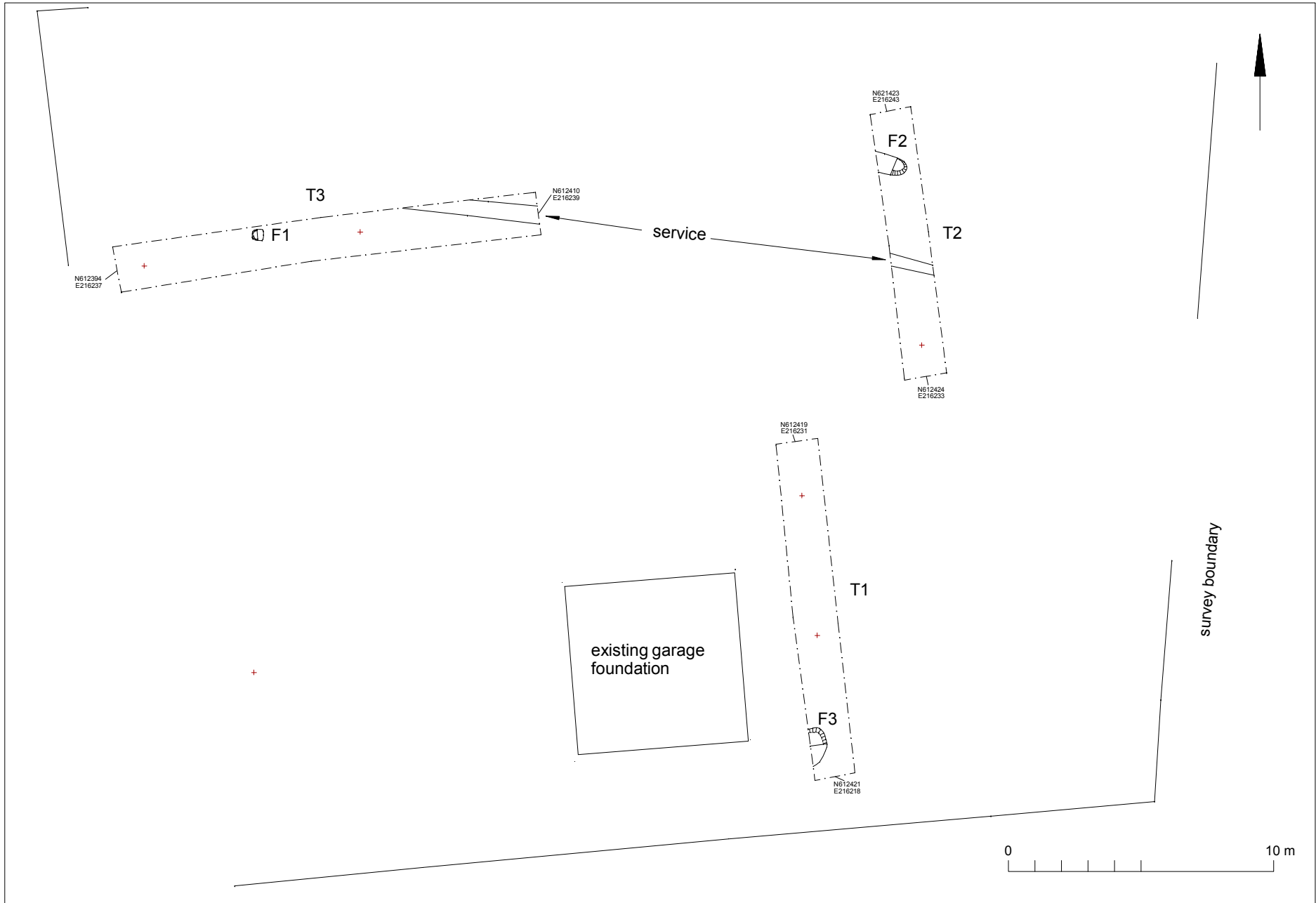


Fig 2 Trench plans.

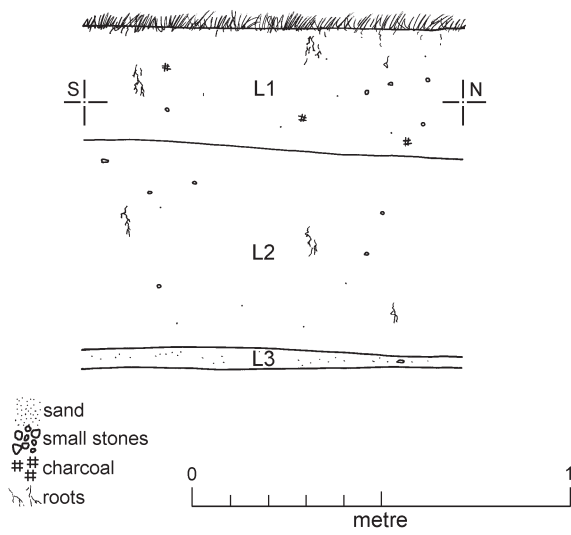


Fig 3 T2: representative section.