

# Archaeological excavation on land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1DG

May 2021



by **Laura Pooley**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton and Alec Wade  
figures by Emma Holloway, Chris Lister and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Nigel Rayner with Harvey Furniss, Nicholas Pryke and Adam Ronn

**on behalf of Audley End Estate**

NGR: TL 5340 3835 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/17/3540/FUL

CAT project ref.: 21/05c

ECC code: HPSW21

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM: 2021.26

OASIS ref.: colchest3-421535



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

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

**CAT Report 1684**

July 2021

## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	4
7	Discussion	9
8	Acknowledgements	11
9	References	11
10	Abbreviations and glossary	12
11	Contents of archive	12
12	Archive deposition	12
Appendix 1 Context list		14
Appendix 2 Pottery list		15
Appendix 3 CBM list		16
Appendix 4 Animal bone		17

Figures after p17

OASIS summary sheet

## List of photographs, tables, maps and figures

Cover: working shot

Photograph 1	Slot through F7, looking southeast	3
Photograph 2	Ditch or infill layer F5, looking northwest	4
Table 1	Details on the main types of ceramics	4
Table 2	Quantities of pottery and CBM by features and layers	5
Table 3	Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded	5
Table 4	Details on the post-Roman pottery	5
Table 5	Quantities of post-Roman pottery by features and layers	6
Table 6	Building material by period and type	6
Table 7	Quantities of building material by features and layers	6
Table 8	Approximate dates for the individual features and layers	7
Table 9	Miscellaneous finds listed by context	7
Table 10	Animal bone by context, parts of skeleton always counted or POSAC	8
Map 1	Chapman and André, 1777, site indicated by a blue arrow	9
Map 2	1896 OS map, site indicated by a blue arrow	10
Map 3	1919 OS map, site indicated by a blue arrow	10

Fig 1	Site location	
Fig 2	Detail of excavation area in relation to 2001 evaluation results	
Fig 3	Results	
Fig 4	Feature and representative sections	

## 1 Summary

*An archaeological excavation was carried out on land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex in advance of groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling. Located between the Audley End Estate and a small stream, archaeological evaluation on the site in 2001 had previously revealed one side of a large post-medieval ditch along with three postholes, two pits and two gullies/ditches which produced material of 17th/18th century date.*

*One of the aims of the current project was to excavate a complete section across the width of the large post-medieval ditch identified in 2001. Excavation at the site has, however, proved that the ditch is in fact a series of infill layers, c 2m thick, dating from the late 17th to the 18th centuries. To the west of the projected edge of these infill layers was another possible ditch feature, however this feature could potentially also be a soil layer within the infill.*

*Modern pits, postholes and service trenches were the only other features present on the site.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological excavation on land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex which was carried out from the 25th to 28th May 2021. The work was commissioned by Tom White of the Audley End Estate in advance of the construction of a new dwelling, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Katie Lee-Smith advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

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 excavation* (ClfA 2014a), and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on publications by Petchy (1982) and Vaughan (2001), and on the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER 408, 418-423) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via Heritage Gateway, <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area on the western side of the historic town of Saffron Walden (EHER 408).

Excavations off Abbey Lane in 1876 revealed a cemetery largely dating from the late Saxon period along with extensive evidence of domestic occupation (EHER 418). It is therefore likely that one of the centres of pre-urban settlement in Walden was in the Abbey Lane area with other centres at Brook Walden (now Audley End) and Little Walden. The centre at Abbey Lane would have declined after the new town was established around the church in the castle bailey to the north-east (EHER 418; Vaughan 2001).

In 1976/7 excavations took place to the north of Abbey Lane (south of the development site) in advance of the Hanover Place development (EHER 418, 419, 421; Petchy 1982; Vaughan 2001). Settlement activity dated to the 10th-12th centuries included a series of enclosure boundaries and postholes. The earliest feature, a boundary ditch, was superseded after silting by a series of palisade trenches. There was little direct evidence of structures, although cob (mud brick) was found in the upper fills of the boundary ditch. The Saxo-Norman features probably represent the boundary of a toft within the village, first demarcated by a ditch then by a series of fences.

Cutting across the Saxo-Norman pattern of palisade trenches was a shallow ditch or palisade trench interpreted as a phase of re-enclosure after the abandonment of domestic occupation in favour of the new town around de Mandevilles' castle (EHER 423; Petchy 1982; Vaughan 2001). In turn a large north-south aligned ditch cut this feature. This latter ditch was similar in size and fill to the Battle Ditches section excavated in 1959, with which it is parallel. It has been variously interpreted as an agricultural field boundary, or as the eastern boundary of Abbey Park which was laid out with the early 13th century 'magnum fossatum' (Battle Ditches) which it closely resembles (*ibid*).

Post-mediaeval features from the 1976/7 excavations comprised three successive ditches (one a roadside ditch along Abbey Lane), rubbish pits, a brick built drain and flint-filled soakaway of the mid 19th century (EHER 424). Alongside the medieval and post-medieval remains prehistoric activity was also identified primarily in the form of struck flints characteristic of the Mesolithic to late Neolithic (EHER 425-7). Early Iron Age pottery (EHER 420) along with Roman pottery and ceramic building material (EHER 422) was also recorded.

In 2001 five evaluation trenches were excavated on the development site (Vaughan 2001) (see Fig 2). The main feature was a large ditch aligned NNW/SSE in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, which was at least 8m wide (only one side was identified) and 2.2m deep. The backfill contained artefacts ranging in date from the 15th/16th century to the mid 19th century, with the lowest fills possibly representing collapsed bank material. The ditch was on a similar alignment to the 13th-century 'magnum fossatum' to the south, but was of a different character and did not contain any comparable medieval material. The ditch is not indicated on any of the town maps, and its purpose and origin remain unclear.

Other post-medieval features excavated in 2001 included three postholes, two pits and two gullies/ditches which produced material of 17th/18th century date. An undated ditch aligned NNW/SSE was also present. No features pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified during the evaluation with an overburden of mixed topsoil and building rubble (from the 1970s development to the south) overlying the natural clay. It was concluded that although the site clearly lies in the vicinity of Saxo-Norman settlement (see above), the lack of subsoil and earlier features were probably the result of truncation and disturbance in the post-medieval period.

#### **4 Aims**

Archaeological excavation was carried out on the site to record any archaeological remains due to be destroyed by the proposed development, and specifically to excavate a full section across the large ditch identified in 2001.

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

An area measuring 180 square metres was stripped by a mechanical excavator through layers of modern topsoil (L1, c 0.35-0.5), occasionally modern rubble in-fill (L2, c 0.1-0.15m thick) and buried topsoil (L3, c 0.2m thick) into a thick layer of cover loam (L4). Natural clay (L5) was only identified at the very base of F7 at a depth of c 2.85m below current ground level. Layers L1 and L2 probably date to the late 1970s and the construction of Hanover Place to the south.

In 2001 the archaeological evaluation revealed what was interpreted as a large ditch aligned NNW/SSE that was at least 8m wide and 2.2m deep, and one of the aims of this current project

was to excavate a complete section across that ditch. A large slot, over 10.6m long and 3m wide was, with the approval of the ECCHEA, excavated partially by machine and by hand. Recorded as F7, it was sealed by L3 and seemingly cut into L4, but the fill of the feature was highly irregular with varied deposits and no clear edges on either side (see Fig 4). The upper fills consisted of yellow/brown slightly clayey-silt, the mid fills of light to mid grey silts and grit, with the mid to lower fills of wet water-logged deposits interspersed with lenses of silt, grit and gravel with water-worn pebbles throughout. Natural clay was identified in the base of this feature at a depth of 2m (c 46.12m AOD, 2.85m below current ground level).

Finds were recovered from six different depths through the slot: finds numbers 3-4 came from the upper fills; 5-6 the mid fills; and 7-8 lower fills. An undated piece of iron sheet came from the lowest fill (finds no.8), but from above it (finds no. 7) were fragments of post-medieval vessel glass and clay tobacco pipe stems. One of the stems had the initial mark W on the right side of the foot. Unfortunately the initial mark on the left side of the foot had been damaged, but maker's marks of this type were not used until c 1670s becoming common by 1700 (Higgins 2017, section 5.4). Dating evidence from the mid fills (finds nos. 5-6) were largely confined to pottery sherds of Fabric 40 dating from the c 1500 to 19th/20th century but did include sherds dating from the 17th to the 18th century, as well as one sherd of 19th/20th century date. Finds from the upper fills (finds no.3-4) appear to date to the 18th to 20th century with some earlier material mixed amongst it. Dating evidence would therefore suggest that the soils largely date from the late 17th/18th century, with some infill still occurring in the 19th/20th century.

Excavation has therefore proved that this feature is not a ditch, but appears to be a succession of post-medieval/modern infill layers which considerably built-up ground level over this part of the site.



**Photograph 1** Slot through F7, looking southeast

Possible ditch F5 was located immediately to the west of F7 and was aligned NNW to SSE. Measuring 2.32m wide and 1.05m deep, it had a V-shaped profile and single silty-clay fill, and had been cut into L4. Producing only fragments of peg-tile along with snail and oyster shell, it appears to be the same ditch identified in FAU trench 4 of the 2001 evaluation (Vaughan 2001).

Interestingly, the feature was not present to the south of the excavation area and neither was it located in FAU trench 3, suggesting that if a ditch it either terminates close to the excavated section or curves sharply to the west. It is though, perhaps more likely that this feature is simply a deposit of material within L4, and that both F5 and L4 are infill layers too. Indicating that this infill material likely covers much, if not all, of the excavation area.



**Photograph 2** Ditch or infill layer F5, looking northwest

Undated postholes F2 and F3 were sealed by L3 and cut into the backfill of F5, they are presumably of relatively modern date.

Two modern service trenches (F1 and F4) were sealed by L2 and are probably associated with the 1970s development. Two modern pits cut into the top of F7 were unexcavated.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Ceramic finds

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

The excavation uncovered 81 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a combined weight of 7.9kg and 0.90 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is high at 98g.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Pottery	42	1,300	31	0.90
CBM	39	6,598	169	-
<b>All</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>7,898</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>0.90</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics

This material was recovered from two features and one layer although most of this material came from F7 (Table 2).

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F5	Ditch	4	253	63
F7	Land infill	62	6,351	102
L3	Topsoil/Subsoil	15	1,114	74
<b>Total</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>7,898</b>	<b>98</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM by features and layers

### Post-Roman pottery

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) (Table 3). The assemblage consists of 42 sherds with a weight of 1,300g and 0.90 vessels (Table 4) which was recovered from two features and one layer although most of this material came from F7 (Table 5).

There is a variety of post-medieval and modern pottery (Table 4), although sherds of post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40) account for the bulk of this material and included a dish (EVE: 0.09), large bowls or pancheons (EVE: 0.10), a small-medium handled bowl (EVE 0.09) and a large storage jar (EVE: 0.07). Other notable sherds included a Metropolitan slipware dish (fabric F40A) with trailed white slip decoration dating to the 17th-18th century, and a Staffordshire-type slipware press-moulded dish with combed slip decoration (EVE: 0.08) dating to 1650-1800. There was also a small quantity of 19th-20th century Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric F48D) including a bowl (EVE: 0.10).

Medieval pottery is quasi-absent except for three sherds of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) from a Cheam copy jug (EVE: 0.29). Finally, a possible sherd of Anglo-Saxon handmade brickearth pottery (fabric F97) came from the top soil/sub soil L3.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F21	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F40A	Metropolitan slipware	17th-18th century
F42	Border ware	16th-17th century
F45E	Cologne stoneware	16th-17th century
F45M	Modern English stoneware	19th-20th century
F46	Netherlands, Anglo-Netherlands and English tin-glazed earthenwares	Mid-16th-18th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century
F50	Staffordshire-type slipware	1650-1800
F51A	Late slipped kitchenware	19th-20th century
F97	Saxon 'brickearth fabrics'	5th-7th century

**Table 3** Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F21	Colchester-type ware	3	138	46	0.29
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	24	733	31	0.35

F40A	Metropolitan slipware	2	62	31	0.00
F42	Border ware	3	212	71	0.08
F45E	Cologne stoneware	1	12	12	0.00
F45M	Modern English stoneware	1	42	42	0.00
F46	Netherlands, Anglo-Netherlands and English tin-glazed earthenwares	1	40	40	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	3	11	4	0.10
F50	Staffordshire-type slipware	2	23	12	0.08
F51A	Late slipped kitchenware	1	16	16	0.00
F97	Saxon 'brickearth fabrics'	1	11	11	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0.90</b>

**Table 4** Details on the post-Roman pottery

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F7	Infill	40	1,287	32	0.90
L3	Top soil/Sub soil	2	13	7	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0.90</b>

**Table 5** Quantities of post-Roman pottery by features and layers

#### Ceramic building material (CBM)

CBM consist of 39 sherds with a weight of just under 6.6kg (Table 6) and most of this material was recovered from the infill F7 and from topsoil/subsoil L3 (Table 7). Most of the ceramic building material (CBM) consists of un-frogged brick fragments dating to the 18th-19th century and sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (Table 6). One piece of Roman imbrex with a weight of 202g was also recovered from F7. The only identifiable and dateable CBM from ditch F5 was two sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with a weight of 243g.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
<b>Roman</b>				
RI	Imbrex	1	202	202
<b>Post-Roman</b>				
PT	Peg-tile	15	1,096	73
BR	Brick	21	5,290	252
<b>Undated</b>				
Unidentified CBM		1	4	4
Baked clay		1	6	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>6,598</b>	<b>169</b>

**Table 6** Building material by period and type

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F5	Ditch	4	253	63
F7	Infill	22	5,244	238
L3	Topsoil/subsoil	13	1,101	85
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>6,598</b>	<b>169</b>

**Table 7** Quantities of building material by features and layers



## Conclusion

Table 8 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which produced dateable ceramic finds. Infill F7 contains a large quantity of post-medieval pottery with 19th-20th century material from the upper layers. Ditch F5 can only be dated to the medieval/post-medieval period.

Context	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall date approx.
F5	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
F7	F21 (cheam copy jug), F40 (chafing dish?, dish, large bowl/pancheon, large storage jar, small-medium handled bowl), F40A (dish), F42 (large bowl/pancheon), F45E, F45M, F46, F48D (bowl), F50 (press-moulded dish), F51A	RI, PT, BR UN-FROGGED	Post-medieval to 19th-20th century
L3	F97, F48D	PT, BR	19th-20th century

**Table 8** Approximate dates for the individual features and layers

## 6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Miscellaneous finds from the site included an undated iron sheet, fragments of post-medieval glass and clay tobacco pipe stem, and pieces of both oyster and snail shell which came from contexts F5 and F7. The only item which could be closely-dated was a fragment of clay pipe stem which included an initial mark on one side of the foot (the other side was damaged). Initial marks of this type were not used until around the 1670s and were very common by 1700 (Higgins 2017, section 5.4).

Context	Finds no.	Description
F5	1	<b>Snail shell:</b> Five complete and almost complete, 29.8g. <b>Oyster shell:</b> Fragment, 7.1g
F7	3	<b>Glass:</b> Neck and mouth (with strip rim) of a post-medieval wine bottle, olive green and covered in thick iridescence, 141.7g. <b>Clay tobacco pipe:</b> Two fragments of stem, 10.0g, post-medieval. <b>Oyster shell:</b> Two fragments, 12.6g.
F7	4	<b>Oyster shell:</b> Fragment, 6.2g
F7	7	<b>Glass:</b> Five fragments of post-medieval wine bottle, including a neck/mouth (with strip rim) and parts of a push-up base, olive green and covered in thick iridescence, 285.0g; five fragments of window glass, pale green and covered in thick iridescence, 26g. <b>Clay tobacco pipe:</b> Six fragments of stem, one of which has a W in raised relief on the right side of the foot (the left side has been damaged), 35.6g. Generally of post-medieval date, initial marks were not used until around the 1670s and were very common by 1700. <b>Oyster shell:</b> Fragments, 15.7g.
F7	8	<b>Iron sheet:</b> Two joining fragments of iron sheet, highly corroded and covered in small grits, impossible to determine original or broken edges, 114.7mm long, 59.3mm wide (max.), 7.1mm thick, 68g.

**Table 9** Miscellaneous finds listed by context

## 6.4 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

### Summary

The excavation produced a small assemblage of 42 pieces of animal bone from three contexts, F5, F7 and L3. The material was all hand collected and ranged in condition from poor to fair.

Three species were identified in the assemblage – cattle, sheep or goat (no distinction being possible due to a lack of diagnostic features) and horse.

### Methodology

The assemblage was recorded using a system based upon the rapid method devised by S.J.M. Davis (*Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92*). Briefly, all the bone and teeth fragments are examined but only a restricted suite of skeletal parts are recorded as a matter of course – these being chosen because they are relatively easy to identify and represent most regions of the mammalian body (head, girdles, limbs, and feet). When these parts are present in sufficient numbers, they can provide the maximum useful information regarding sex, age, butchery practice and metrical data. These skeletal parts are referred to here as the **parts of skeleton always counted** or POSAC for short.

The remaining pieces of bone are referred to as **non-countable specimens** (NCS) and consist largely of undiagnostic fragments. Beyond a basic level of quantification (see **non-countable specimens** table in appendix) these are generally of no further interest unless these are found to offer the only evidence for the presence of a species otherwise not represented amongst the POSACs.

The '**minimum number of individuals**' value (MNI) is calculated from the most numerous skeletal and dental parts with reference to the epiphysial fusion state of any joints *etc.* It is calculated from the aggregate totals derived from each main site period or phase and is presented here as a further means of gauging the relative numerical value of a species within the recovered material.

Where possible, tooth wear-stage is recorded for sheep/goat, pig and cow mandibles with present dentition. These are assigned to the eruption and wear-stages of Grant (1982). Only one sheep/goat mandible was complete enough for a full **mandible wear stage** (M.W.S) calculation and a single cattle metatarsal for measurement (both pieces from F7). The recorded data is presented in tabular form in the appendix of this report.

### Results

Eleven POSACs were identified amongst the assemblage, all recovered from F5 and F7. The most numerous species was cattle (6 POSACs), followed by sheep or goat (3) and horse (2). Dog gnawing was noted on several pieces indicating a level of residuality within the finds from the contexts. Three POSACs had either chop marks or had been deliberately broken and further evidence of butchery was noted amongst the NCS material.

Context	Finds no.	Taxon	Skeletal part	Skeletal part completeness (%)	Notes
F5	1	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	Scapula – Coracoid	55	Dog gnawed
F7	3	Equus caballus (horse)	Tibia (distal) F	35	Single chop mark
F7	5	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Mandible	40	Dog gnawed
F7	5	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	Mandible	80	-
F7	5	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Metatarsal (distal) metaphysis U	95	Dog gnawed
F7	6	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Metatarsal (distal) F	20	Split or broken deliberately
F7	6	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Metatarsal (distal) F	30	Split or broken deliberately
F7	7	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	Mandible	30	-
F7	7	Bos taurus	Metatarsal (distal) F	100	GL 197mm

		(domestic cattle)			
F7	7	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	Radius (distal) metaphysis U	40	-
F7	7	Equus caballus (horse)	Tibia (distal) F	95	GL 355mm

**Table 10** Animal bone by context, parts of skeleton always counted or POSAC

The MNI calculation for the assemblage is two cattle and one each for sheep/goat and horse.

### Conclusion

The hand collection of material will have favoured the more robust bones of the larger species and cause the smaller species to be under-represented in the assemblage. The assemblage represents an unremarkable collection of post-medieval butchery waste including bone from the main domestic species of cattle, and sheep or goat. Most of the material was recovered from infill F7 where it was likely to have been dumped waste.

## 7 Discussion

Excavation on land north of Hanover Place, Saffron Walden has proved that the feature initially identified as a ditch in the 2001 evaluation is actually a series of infill layers, approximately 2m deep, which were laid down in the post-medieval period no earlier than the late 17th century. Given the evidence, it would also seem likely that both F5 and L4 are layers either within infill F7 or very similar to it, and that this infill is present across the excavation area. The infill layers appear to have effectively raised ground level between the boundary of the Audley End Estate to the west and what is now a small stream to the east.



**Map 1** Chapman and André, 1777, site indicated by a blue arrow

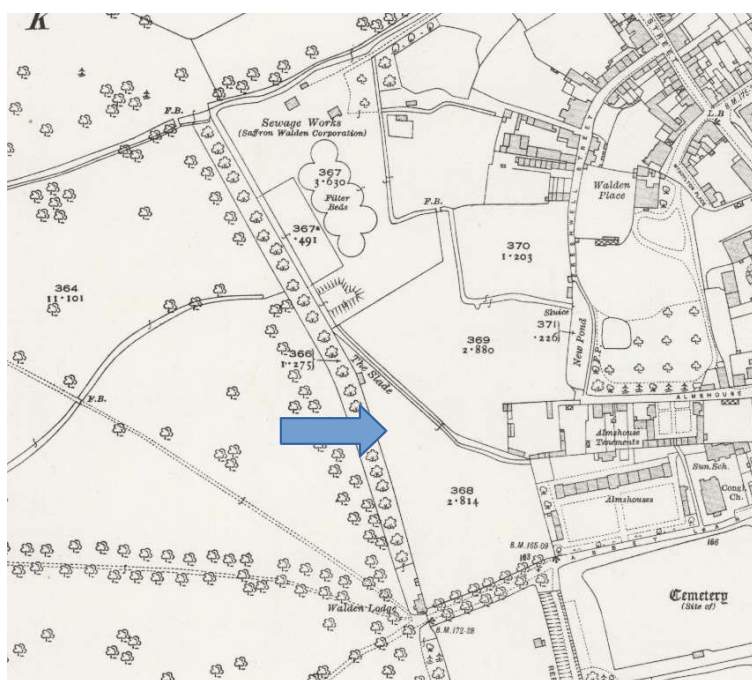
The interpretation of these infill layers requires some thought. It was originally postulated that the stream bed to the east of the site was originally much wider, incorporating much of the site which was then raised in the post-medieval period. The subsequent infill could have: 1) been a deliberate act to reclaim useable land between the Audley End estate and the stream; 2) laid to mitigate a flood risk; or 3) occurred gradually over time as a result of natural silting and waste being dumped onto the site from the nearby town. The Chapman and André map of 1777 (Map 1) certainly shows a narrow stream, but it may have been wider earlier in the post-medieval period. If not a wider stream bed, the relatively flat base of the slot through F7, may indicate that the site was quarried for sand and gravel extraction which ceased when natural clay layers

were reached. The subsequent infill could again have been a deliberate act to raise ground level/backfill the site after quarrying or a more gradual process.

The irregular layers of infill appear to show that the deposits had been churned up, perhaps by periods of high water and flooding, and the occurrence of a single piece of 19th/20th century pottery in the mid fill of these layers is probably intrusive. Dating evidence therefore suggests that the mid to lower infill layers of F7 likely date from the late 17th to the 18th century. The upper layers in contrast date from the 19th/20th century and comparison of the 1896 (Map 2) and 1919 (Map 3) OS maps may help explain this. The maps show that between these two dates the stream was redirected further to the southwest due to the expansion of the sewage works to the north, and material associated with these groundworks was likely deposited on the site at the time.



**Map 2** 1896 OS map, site indicated by a blue arrow



**Map 3** 1919 OS map, site indicated by a blue arrow

We know from excavations in the 1970s in advance of the Hanover Place development, c 115m to the south of the development site, that evidence of medieval settlement activity was discovered (Petchy 1982). No medieval activity was recorded during the current excavation. However, as approximately 2m of post-medieval soils cover the site, any medieval activity on the development site is either sealed underneath this material or has been truncated by quarrying activities.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Audley End Estate for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister & A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with H Furniss, N Pryke and A Ronn. Figures are by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS 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>

- |                           |       |  |
|---------------------------|-------|--|
| Baker, P & Worley, F      | 2019  | <i>Animal bones and archaeology: recovery to archive</i> . Swindon: Historic England.  |
| Binford, L R              | 1981  | <i>Bones: ancient men and modern myths</i> . New York: Academic Press.   |
| Brown, N & Glazenbrook, J | 2000  | <i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological occasional papers <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> )   |
| CAR 7                     | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.  |
| CAT                       | 2021  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| ClfA                      | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation</i> . Updated October 2020  |
| ClfA                      | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated October 2020   |
| ClfA                      | 2014c | <i>Code of Conduct</i> . Rev. October 2019   |
| Cohen, A & Serjeantson, D | 1996  | <i>A manual for the identification of bird bones from archaeological sites</i> . Revised edition. London: Archetype Publications.  |
| Cotter, J P               | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.   |
| Davis, S J M              | 1992  | <i>A rapid method for recording information about mammal bones from archaeological sites</i> . Ancient Monuments Laboratory Report 19/92. London: English Heritage.  |
| Driesch von den, A        | 1976  | <i>A guide to the measurement of animal bones from archaeological sites</i> . Peabody Museum Bulletin 1. Massachusetts: Harvard University..   |
| Grant, A                  | 1982  | 'The use of tooth wear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates', in Wilson, B, Grigson, C & Payne, S (eds) <i>Ageing and sexing animal bones from archaeological sites</i> . Oxford: BAR British series <b>109</b> , 91-108. |
| Gurney, D                 | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )  |
| Higgins, D                | 2017  | <i>Guidelines for the Recovery and Processing of Clay Tobacco Pipes from Archaeological Projects</i> . National Pipe Archive, University of Liverpool & Historic England   |
| Hillson, S                | 2016  | <i>Mammal bones and teeth: an introductory guide to methods of identification</i> . Abingdon: Routledge.   |
| Historic England          | 2015  | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>  |
| Medlycott, M              | 2011  | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )   |
| MHCLG                     | 2019  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.   |
| Payne, S                  | 1987  | 'Reference codes for wear-stages in the mandibular cheek teeth of sheep and goats', in <i>Journal of Archaeological Science</i> <b>14</b> , 609-614.   |
| Petchy, M R               | 1982  | 'Section 5 Excavations in Abbey Lane', in Bassett, S R <i>Saffron Walden: excavations and research 1972-80</i> . CBA Research Report   |

Schmid, E	1972	<b>45/Chelmsford Archaeological Report 2</b> , 87-94. <i>Atlas of animal bones: for pre-historians, archaeologists and quaternary geologists</i> . London: Elsevier Publishing Company.
Vaughan, T	2001	<i>Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex. Archaeological Evaluation</i> . Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit, FAU project number 839.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> cces <b>S</b> to the Index of Archaeological Investigation <b>S</b> , <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
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** Part of one box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1684)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (section drawings)

Inked section drawings

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1684)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics

Site data

Survey data

## 13 Archive deposition

The archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2021.26.

© Colchester Archaeological Trust 2021

**Distribution list:**

Tom White, Audley End Estate  
Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

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

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 2.7.2021

## Appendix 1 Context lists

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Soil description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft moist dark grey/brown sandy silty loam clay with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Modern
L2	-	Build up	Loose firm dry medium/dark grey/brown/black sandy loam with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Modern
L3	2	Buried topsoil	Soil description not recorded	Modern
L4	-	Cover loam or infill layer	Soil description not recorded	Undated or post-medieval
L5	-	Natural	Firm/hard wet medium orange/brown clay	Post-glacial
F1	-	Service trench	<i>Not excavated</i>	Modern
F2	-	Posthole	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Modern
F3	-	Posthole	Soft medium/dark grey/brown silt	Modern
F4	-	Service trench	<i>Not excavated</i>	Modern
F5	1	Ditch or infill layer	Friable dry medium/dark grey/brown silty clay with daub flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: tile/brick 15%	Post-medieval/modern
F6	-	Two pits	<i>Not excavated</i>	Modern
F7	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Infill	Upper fill – yellow brown slightly clayey silt. Mid fill – light to mid grey silts and grits. Mid to lower fill – wet waterlogged lenses of silts, grits, small gravels.	Post-medieval to modern



## Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wmd	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin Lin.	Griffed	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Comments	Date
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	42	42		0	0	1																				F45M				19th-20th		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	12	12	X																							F45E				16th-17th		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	2	9	4.5		1	0	0																				F48D	BOWL	0.10	130		19th-20th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	74	74		0	0	1																				F40	CHAFING DISH?			ORANGE GLAZE INT.	c.1500-19th/20th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	3	138	46		1	1	1																				F21	CHEAM COPY JUG	0.29	100		c.1200-1550	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	94	94		1	0	0																				F42	LARGE BOWL/PANCHEON	0.08	300		16th-17th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	4	1	20	20	X																							F40				c.1500-19th/20th		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	4	1	11	11		1	0	0																				F50	PRESS-MOULDED DISH	0.08	160	COMBED DEC	1650-1800	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	1	40	40		0	0	1																				F46				Mid-16th-18th		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	2	62	31																								F40A	DISH			TRAILED SLIP DED	17th-18th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	20	611	31		5	1	4																				F40	LARGE BOWL/PANCHEON	0.06	250		c.1500-19th/20th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5																											F40	LARGE BOWL/PANCHEON	0.04	520		c.1500-19th/20th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5																											F40	SMALL-MED HANDLED BOWL	0.09	200		c.1500-19th/20th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5																											F40	DISH	0.09	200		c.1500-19th/20th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5																											F40	LARGE STORAGE JAR	0.07	230		c.1500-19th/20th	
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	1	16	16																								F51A				19th-20th		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	1	12	12		0	0	1																				F50				1650-1800		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	2	118	59		0	0	2																				F42			? BROWN GLAZE INT.	16th-17th		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	1	15	15	X																							F40				c.1500-19th/20th		
F7	DITCH/STREAM	6	1	13	13	X																							F40				c.1500-19th/20th		
L3	TOP SOIL/SUB SOIL	2	1	2	2	X																							F48D				19th-20th		
L3	TOP SOIL/SUB SOIL	2	1	11	11																								F97			DENSE, BLACK, HM, BURNISHED, FINE SAND	ANGLO-SAXON		

**Appendix 3 CBM list**

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL CORN.	MNI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phis	Blind	L.	BR.	TH.	Wall Pl. Col.	cm2	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date													
F5	DITCH	1	2	243	122	X	PT		0																																								MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL									
F5	DITCH	1	1	6	6	X	Baked clay		0																																										?							
F5	DITCH	1	1	4	4	X	Unid CBM		0																																										?							
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	246	246	X	PT		0																																											MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL						
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	1454	1454	X	BR	UN-FROGGED	0																								?	110	65														ORANGE SANDY	18th-19th								
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	584	584	X	BR	UN-FROGGED	0																								?	?	60														OFF WHITE	18th-19th								
F7	DITCH/STREAM	3	1	200	200	X	BR	UN-FROGGED	0																								?	105	60														ORANGE SANDY	18th-19th								
F7	DITCH/STREAM	4	1	33	33	X	PT		0																																									MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL								
F7	DITCH/STREAM	4	1	999	999	X	BR	UN-FROGGED	0																								?	?	65													ORANGE, ROUGH SANDY	18th-19th									
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	2	256	128	X	PT		0																																									15 MM DIAM.	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL							
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	2	211	106	X	BR		0																																										MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL							
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	1	202	202	X	RI		0																																									ROMAN								
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	2	428	214	X	BR		0																									?	?	100			X	X											WHITE MORTAR, ORANGE	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL						
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	1	340	340	X	BR		0																										?	?	40														YELLOW, SANDY (FLOOR BR?)	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL						
F7	DITCH/STREAM	5	2	43	22	X	PT		0																																										MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL							
F7	DITCH/STREAM	6	5	198	39.6	X	PT		0																																											10 MM DIAM.	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL					
F7	DITCH/STREAM	6	1	50	50	X	BR		0																																											MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL						
L3	TOP SOIL/SUB SOIL	2	2	77	39	X	PT		0																																												MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL					
L3	TOP SOIL/SUB SOIL	2	4	130	33	X	BR		0																																												MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL					
L3	TOP SOIL/SUB SOIL	2	1	352	352	X	BR		0																																												OR, PEBBLES, WHITE NODS	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL				
L3	TOP SOIL/SUB SOIL	2	5	507	101	X	BR		0																																														BUFF	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL		
L3	TOP SOIL/SUB SOIL	2	1	35	35	X	BR		0																																																CREAM, DENSE	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL

## Appendix 4 Animal bone

### NCS (non-countable specimens)

Context	Finds no.	Taxon	NCS species total	Comments
F5	1	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	6	Femur (proximal fused), upper molars/premolars and a pelvic fragment.
F5	1	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	1	Metatarsal, proximal fused.
F5	1	Large mammal	6	Skull and vertebrae fragments.
F5	1	Medium mammal	2	Mandible fragments.
F7	3	Large mammal	1	
F7	4	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	2	Horn core and a tibia diaphysis fragment (dog gnawed and chopped).
F7	5	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	1	Tibia with unfused proximal metaphysis.
F7	6	Large mammal	4	Tibia and femur fragments. Probably cattle?
F7	7	Large mammal	1	
F7	7	Equus caballus (horse)	1	Proximal radius fragment (fused).
F7	7	Bos taurus (domestic cattle)	3	Upper molar, metacarpal, and skull fragments (occipital condyles).
F7	7	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	2	Mandible and metacarpal fragments.
L3	2	Medium mammal	1	Vertebrae fragment.

The large and medium mammal categories include bone fragments that were not closely identifiable to species level. Large mammal includes cattle, horse, and possibly larger deer species. Medium mammal is likely to be sheep/goat but could also include smaller deer species.

### Measurement data

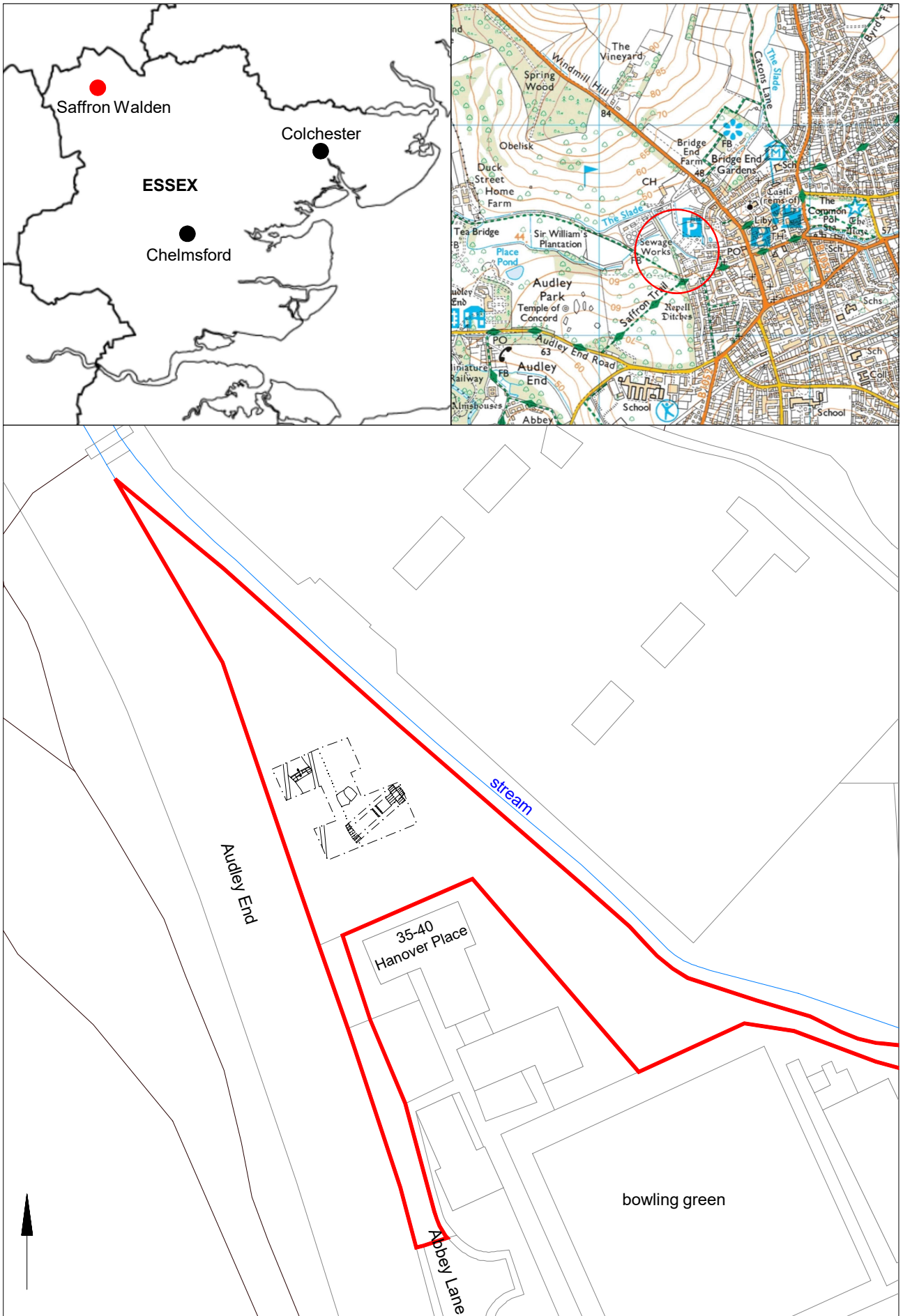
Bos taurus (domestic cattle) metatarsal

Context	Finds no.	GL	SD	B at F	BFd	BFdm	a1	Ddm	a3	BFdl	b4	Ddl	b6
F7	7	197	21.8	44.4	49.3 a	24.1 a	21.1 a	27.8 a	24.6 a	22.1	19 a	27.1	24.9

a = Surface of bone abraded where measurement taken.

### M.W.S data

Context	Finds no.	Skeletal part	Taxon	M1	M2	M3	M.W. S
F7	5	Mandible	Ovis/Capra (sheep/goat)	m	g	g	41



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

Fig 1 Site location.



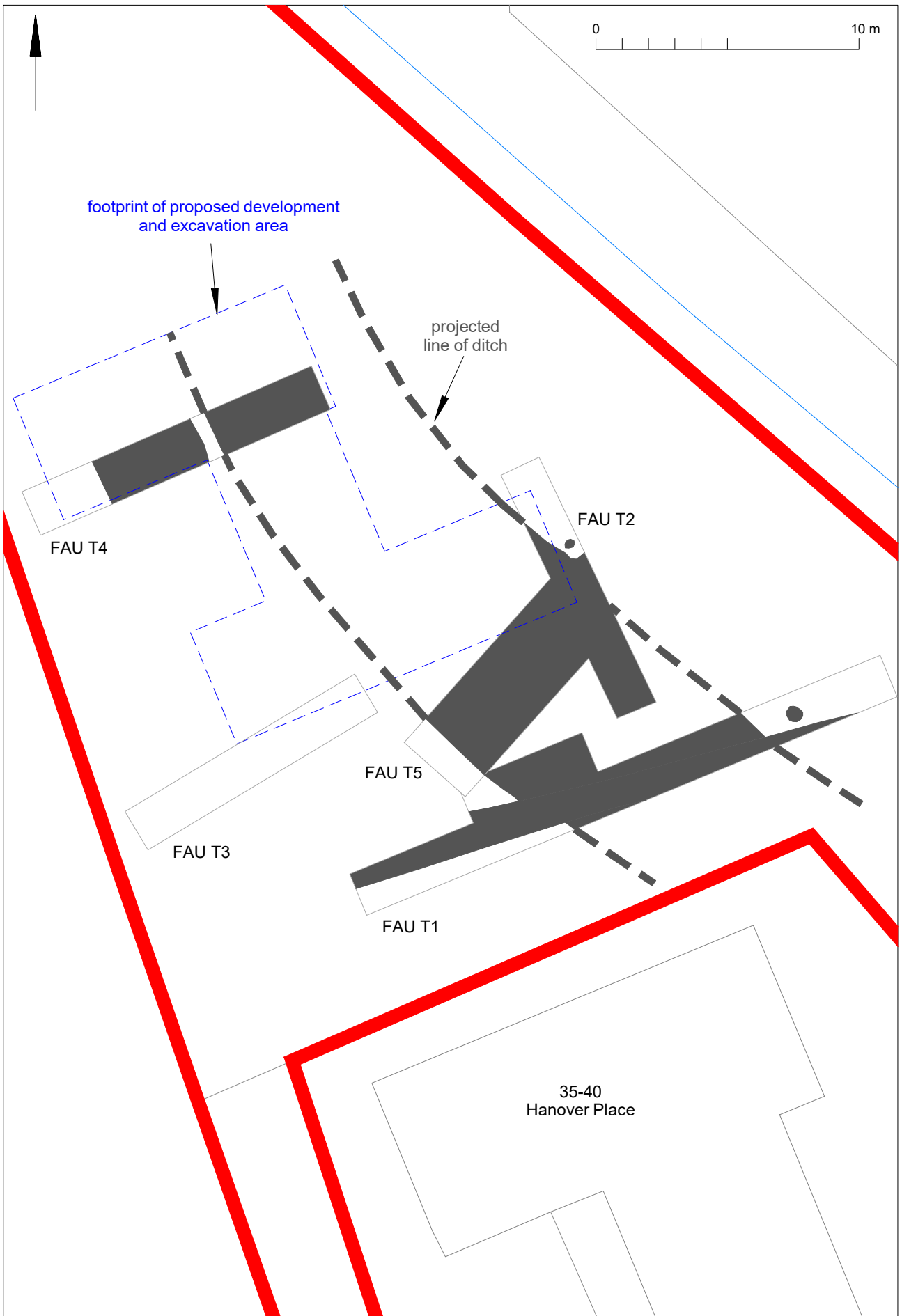


Fig 2 Detail of excavation area in relation to 2001 evaluation results.

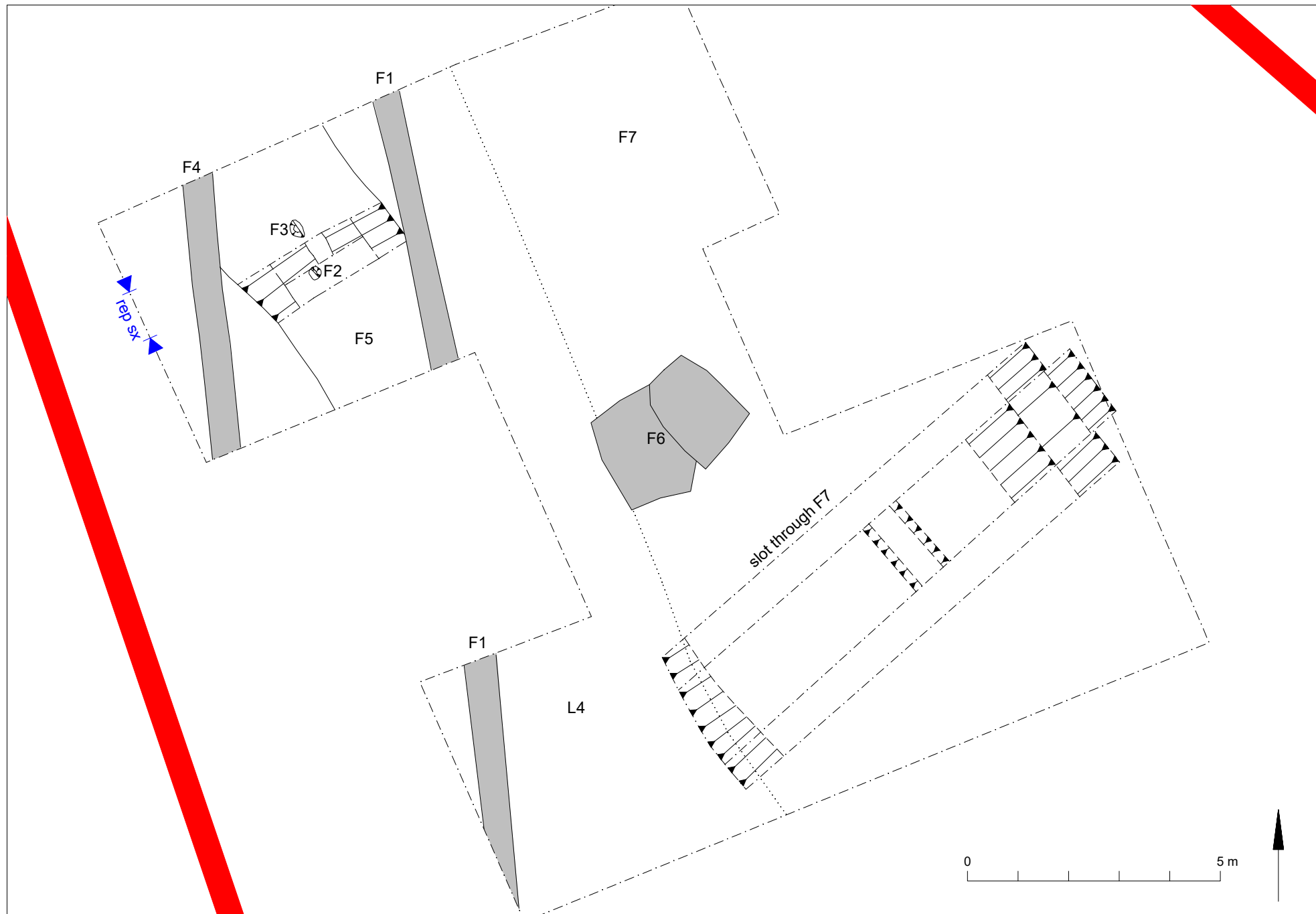


Fig 3 Results

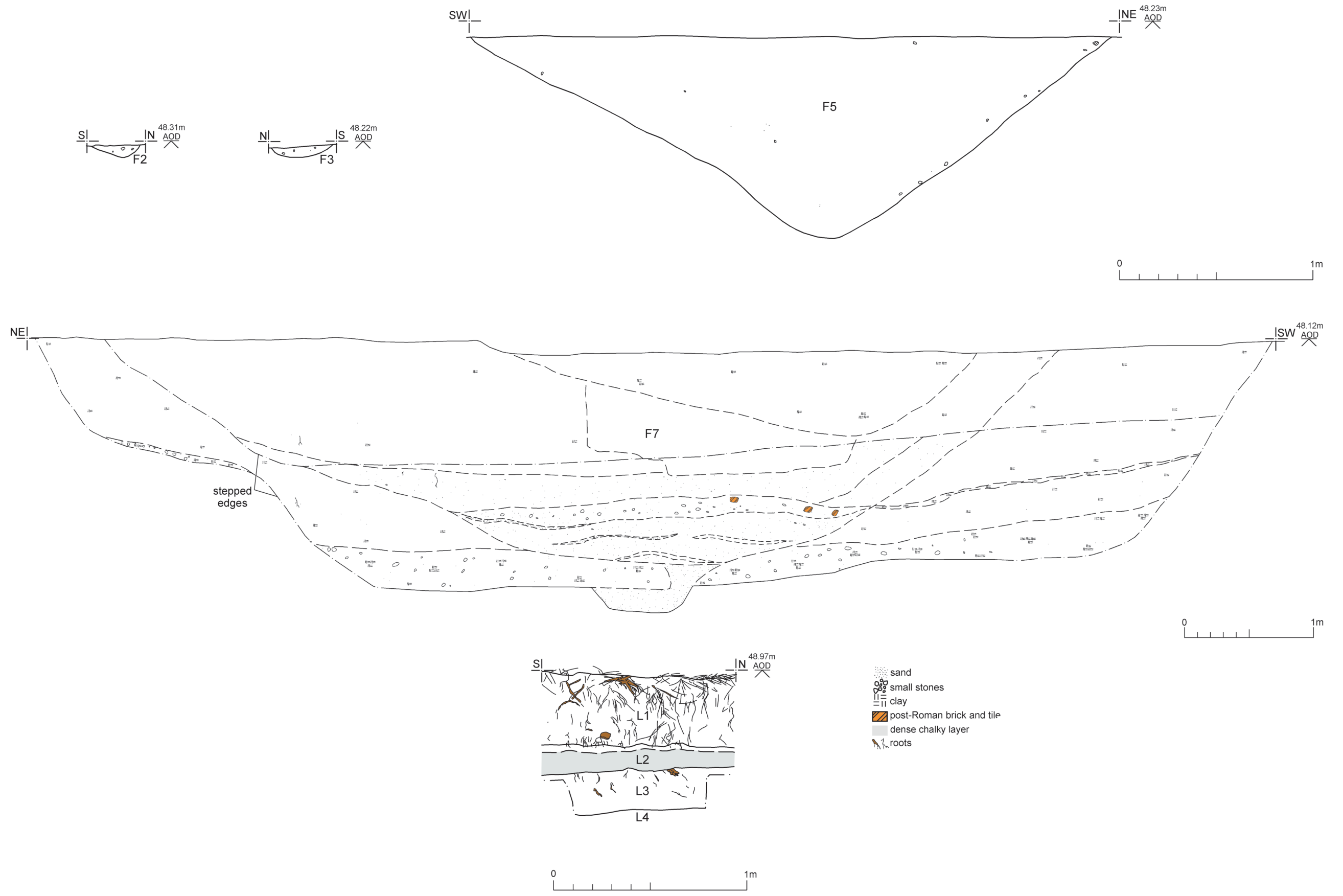


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

**OASIS ID: colchest3-421535**

## Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation on land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1DG
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was carried out on land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex in advance of groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling. Located between the Audley End Estate and a small stream, archaeological evaluation on the site in 2001 had previously revealed one side of a large post-medieval ditch along with three postholes, two pits and two gullies/ditches which produced material of 17th/18th century date. One of the aims of the current project was to excavate a complete section across the width of the large post-medieval ditch identified in 2001. Excavation at the site has, however, proved that the ditch is in fact a series of infill layers, c 2m thick, dating from the late 17th to the 18th centuries. To the west of the projected edge of these infill layers was another possible ditch feature, however this feature could potentially also be a soil layer within the infill. Modern pits, postholes and service trenches were the only other features present on the site.
Project dates	Start: 25-05-2021 End: 28-05-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2021/05c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/17/3540 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	HPSW21 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2021.26 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	INFILL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Open-area excavation""
Prompt	Planning condition

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD SAFFRON WALDEN land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane
Postcode	CB10 1DG
Study area	0.22 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 5340 3835 52.021877034118 0.235949716788 52 01 18 N 000 14 09 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.92m Max: 46.2m

## Project creators

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

## Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
----------------------------	-----------------------



Physical Archive ID	SAFWM: 2021.26
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Glass","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2021.26
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2021.26
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological excavation on land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1DG: May 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1684
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html</a>
Entered by	Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on	5 July 2021

**OASIS:**

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice  
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012  
Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=425364> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological excavation on land to the north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1DG**

**NGR:** TL 5340 3835 (centre)

**District:** Uttlesford

**Parish:** Saffron Walden

**Planning reference:** UTT/17/3540/FUL

**Commissioned by:** Tom White, Audley End Estate

**Client:** Audley End Estate

**Curating museum:** Saffron Walden

**Museum accession number:** SAFWM: 2021.26

**ECC project code:** HPSW21

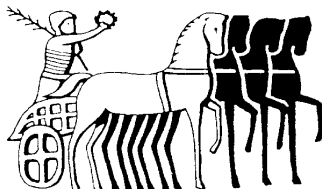
**CAT project code:** 2021/05c

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-421535

**Site managers:** Chris Lister & Adam Wightman

**ECC monitor:** Katie Lee-Smith

**This WSI written:** 17/05/2021



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

*tel:* 01206 501785

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

## **Site location and description** (Fig 1)

The proposed development site is a plot of open land to the north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 5340 3835.

## **Proposed work**

The planning application proposes the construction of a new dwelling.

## **Planning background**

Essex County Council were initially consulted on a planning application for proposed development on land adjacent Hanover Place in 2000 (UTT/1380/00). Further planning applications for the site were made in 2001 (UTT/0270/01) and 2016 (UTT/16/1596), with the current application (UTT/17/3540) for a single dwelling submitted in 2017.

As the site is in an archaeologically sensitive area a recommendation was made that archaeological deposits should be assessed to identify the nature, importance and extent of the surviving deposits. This recommendation was initially for a trial-trenching evaluation which was undertaken in 2001. As the evaluation identified significant archaeological remains on the development site, a further phase of archaeological excavation is now required. This recommendation follows the guidelines given in National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

## **Archaeological background** (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background is based on publications by Petchy (1982) and Vaughan (2001), and on the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER 408, 418-423) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via Heritage Gateway, <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area on the western side of the historic town of Saffron Walden (EHER 408).

Excavations off Abbey Lane in 1876 revealed a cemetery largely dating from the late Saxon period along with extensive evidence of domestic occupation (EHER 418). It is therefore likely that one of the centres of pre-urban settlement in Walden was in the Abbey Lane area with other centres at Brook Walden (now Audley End) and Little Walden. The centre at Abbey Lane would have declined after the new town was established around the church in the castle bailey to the north-east (EHER 418; Vaughan 2001).

In 1976/7 excavations took place to the north of Abbey Lane (south of the development site) in advance of the Hanover Place development (EHER 418, 419, 421; Petchy 1982; Vaughan 2001). The main evidence was of settlement activity dated to the 10th-12th centuries, with a series of enclosure boundaries and postholes. The earliest feature, a boundary ditch, was superseded after silting by a series of palisade trenches. There was little direct evidence of structures, although cob (mud brick) was found in the upper fills of the boundary ditch. The Saxo-Norman features probably represent the boundary of a toft within the village, first demarcated by a ditch then by a series of fences.

Cutting across the Saxo-Norman pattern of palisade trenches was a shallow ditch or palisade trench interpreted as a phase of re-enclosure after the abandonment of domestic occupation in favour of the new town around de Mandevilles' castle (EHER 423; Petchy 1982; Vaughan 2001). In turn a large north-south aligned ditch cut this feature. This latter ditch was similar in size and fill to the Battle Ditches section excavated in 1959, with which it is parallel. It has been variously interpreted as an agricultural field boundary, or as the eastern boundary of Abbey Park which was laid out with the early 13th century 'magnum fossatum' (Battle Ditches) which it closely resembles (*ibid*).

Post-mediaeval features from the 1976/7 excavations comprised three successive ditches (one a roadside ditch along Abbey Lane), rubbish pits, a brick built drain and flint-filled soakaway of the mid 19th century (EHER 424). Alongside the medieval and post-medieval remains prehistoric activity was also identified primarily in the form of struck flints characteristic of the Mesolithic to late Neolithic (EHER 425-7). Early Iron Age pottery (EHER 420) along with Roman pottery and ceramic building material (EHER 422) was also recorded.

In 2001 five evaluation trenches were excavated on the development site (Vaughan 2001) (see Fig 2). The main feature was a large ditch aligned NNW/SSE in Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5, which was at least 8m wide and 2.2m deep. The backfill contained artefacts ranging in date from the 15th/16th century to the mid 19th century, with the lowest fills possibly representing collapsed bank material. The ditch was on a similar alignment to the 13th-century 'magnum fossatum' to the south, but was of a different character and did not contain any comparable medieval material. The ditch is not indicated on any of the town maps, and its purpose and origin remain unclear.

Other post-medieval features excavated in 2001 included three postholes, two pits and two gullies/ditches which produced material of 17th/18th century date. An undated ditch aligned NNW/SSE was also present. No features pre-dating the post-medieval period were identified during the evaluation with an overburden of mixed topsoil and building rubble (from the 1970s development to the south) overlying the natural clay. It was concluded that although the site clearly lies in the vicinity of Saxo-Norman settlement (see above), the lack of subsoil and earlier features were probably the result of truncation and disturbance in the post-medieval period.

### **Requirement for work (Fig 2)**

The required archaeological work is for an open area excavation of the entire footprint of the dwelling (452m<sup>2</sup>) in order to enable a full profile across the 8m wide ditch and to record any other archaeology present.

Specific areas of interest will be evidence for:

- The relationship to the archaeological deposits identified in previous excavations
- The range of objects and stratigraphy within the ditch itself

### **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, b, c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2021)
- the archaeological brief issued by the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) (ECCPS 2021)

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 the 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 the 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 two archaeologists for four days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Mark Baister/Ben Holloway/Nigel Rayner.

## **Excavation 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.

Where archaeological features or deposits are uncovered these will 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.

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan the excavation area 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 excavation will not be backfilled until it has been signed off by the ECCHEA.

## **Site surveying**

The excavation area 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 excavated 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).. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the 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 excavation, 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 HE guidance (HE 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.

### **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 of Archaeology) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). 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  
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* (HE 2015).

The report will be submitted within 2 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 the excavation area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- Section 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).
- 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 a site 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.

The paper archive will be deposited with the appropriate museum within two months of the completion of the final publication report and confirmed in writing to the ECCHEA.

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.

## 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                           | 2021  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>  |
| CIfA                          | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.</i> Updated Oct 2020   |
| CIfA                          | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020                    |
| Digital Curation Centre (DCC) | 2013  | <i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>   |



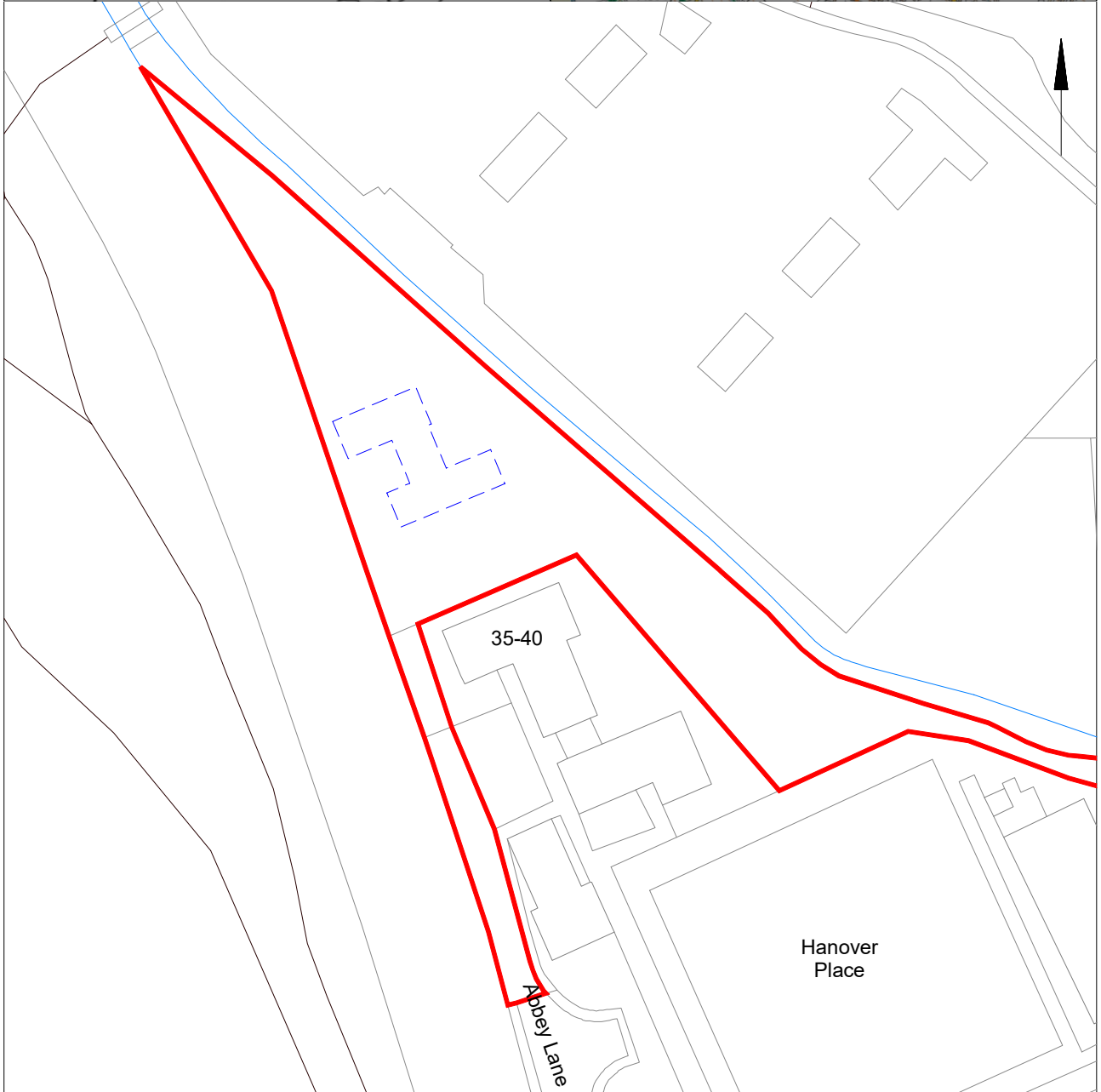
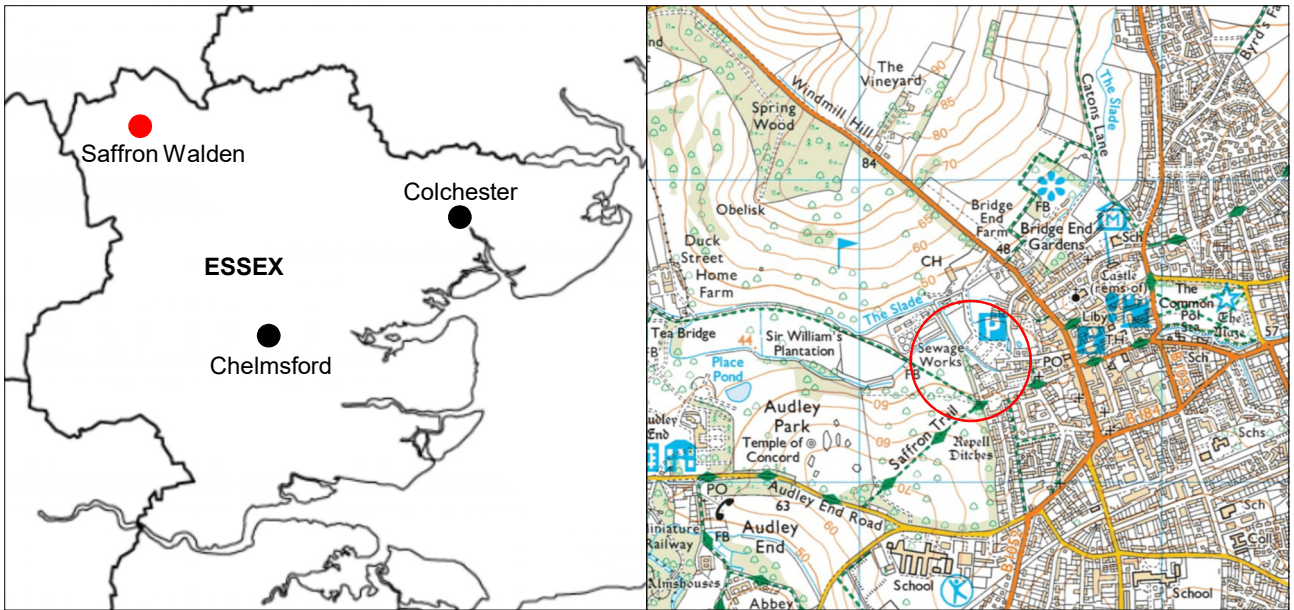
ECCPS	2021	Brief for archaeological excavation on land north of 35-40 Hanover Place, Saffron Walden
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
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.
Petchy, M R	1982	'Section 5 Excavations in Abbey Lane', in Bassett, S R <i>Saffron Walden: excavations and research 1972-80</i> . CBA Research Report 45/Chelmsford Archaeological Report 2, 87-94.
Vaughan, T	2001	<i>Hanover Place, Abbey Lane, Saffron Walden, Essex. Archaeological Evaluation</i> . Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit, FAU project number 839.

Laura Pooley



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

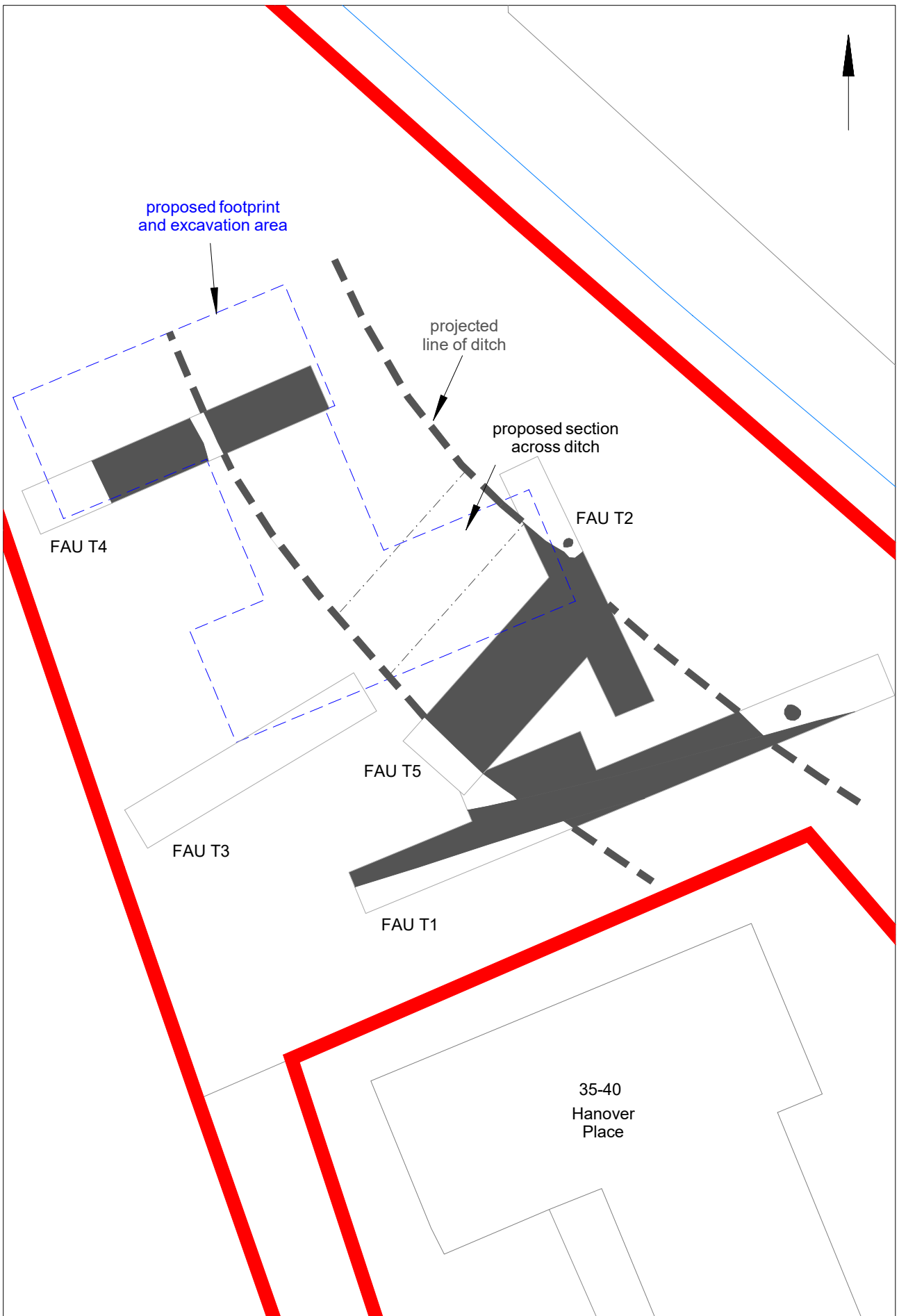
tel: 01206 501785  
 email: [lp@catuk.org](mailto:lp@catuk.org)



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

Fig 1 Site location.





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

Fig 2 Detail of excavation area in relation to 2001 evaluation results.

0 10 m