

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1855
issued October 2022**

**An archaeological evaluation at
Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham,
Essex CO4 5WR: October 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/08e
ECC code: ECC4747**

**An archaeological evaluation
at Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham,
Essex, CO4 5WR: October 2022**

NGR: TM 02181 31135

Planning ref.: 213130

**CAT project ref.: 2022/08e
CAT Report 1855**

**ECC code: ECC4747
OASIS id: colchest3-508771**

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and Emma Holloway**

**fieldwork by Harvey Furniss, Alexander Smith and
Matt Perou**

**commissioned by Guy Williamson,
Park Lane Business Centre**

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Issued:	October 2022	

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Contents

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

Appendix 1	Context List	7
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Figures	after p7
---------	----------

EHER summary sheet
WSI
OASIS data collection form

List of photographs and figures

Cover: Site shot.

Photograph 1	Trench 1 – view south.	3
Photograph 2	Trench 2 – view north north-east	3
Photograph 3	Trench 3 – view north north-east	4
Photograph 4	F1 – view north north-east	4

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

Fig 2 Results

Fig 3 Trench plans.

Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the east of Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, in advance of the extension of the business park. The development site is located in the village of Langham within an archaeologically-rich landscape. Aside from signs of modern backfilling and landscaping, there was an undatable tree-throw and a modern rubbish pit identified on site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on land to the east of Park Lane Business Centre (PLBC), Park Lane, Langham, Essex on the 4th of October 2022. The work was commissioned by Guy Williamson (PLBC) in advance of the construction of three new single storey Class 3 units along with associated parking, landscaping, and groundworks.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). 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 a *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCAA 2022), 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* (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 draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The development site is located within a landscape of cropmarks revealed by aerial photography. Photographs of land to the east of Boxted airfield show undated ditches to the north and south-east of the current site (MCC9123-4). Cropmarks of two small ring-ditches and many linear features are recorded to the south-east as Blue Barns Farm (MCC9070), linear features and pits to the west of Blue Barns Farm (MCC9061). To the west of the site a ditched enclosure is recorded near Langham Moor (MCC9120) as well as a large enclosure defined by LIDAR survey to the west of Langham Moor (MCC10206).

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the Langham area. A few sporadic find spots close to the site suggest prehistoric activity including a polished Neolithic flint axe-head (MCC8241), a neolithic flint adze (MCC9050), a perforated prehistoric stone mace-head (MCC9054) and prehistoric narrow flint axe-head (MCC9053).

Scatters of Roman tiles, noted over three fields to the west of Langham Hall, could suggest a Roman building in the vicinity, with tiles brought to the surface and spread by ploughing (MCC8242).

South and west of the site is the northern boundary of the former Boxted World War II

American air base, but located well away from plotted buildings and structures (MCC7126).

Approximately 280m west/north-west of the site at Appleby's Farm, an archaeological evaluation by CAT revealed undated ditches and a large feature of indeterminate function. Further excavation revealed little of archaeological significance but included a post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch and land drain, and modern service trenches likely associated with the Boxted World War II airbase. A number of pits/tree-throws were also present but only two produced finds, of post-medieval/modern date, and some might actually be of natural origin (CAT Report 1697, ECC4640).

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 the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three L-shaped trial-trenches (one 21m x 1.8m and two 23m x 1.8m trenches) were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

All three trenches were excavated through a layer of topsoil (L1, c 0.07-0.34m thick) and a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.15-0.46m thick) onto natural (L3). A layer of modern backfilling (L4) was observed irregularly across all three trenches (c 0.11-0.24m thick) containing building materials and backfilled soil.

F1 was a modern service and trench recorded in Trench 1. The feature measured 1.17m in width and 0.2m in depth on a north south alignment. F1 was shallow sided with a concave base. The feature most likely continued into Trench 2 although it was not excavated due to not wanting to disturb any service pipes under the guidance of the developer (Fig 2).

F2 was a treethrow recorded in Trench 2. There were no finds from the feature and it measured at 1.91m wide and 0.11m in depth. F2 was shallow sided with an uneven base.

The other significant activity seen on site was an unexcavated modern rubbish pit in Trench 3 similar to L4.



Photograph 1 Trench 1 – view south



Photograph 2 Trench 2 – view north north-east



Photograph 3 Trench 3 – view north north-east



Photograph 4 F1 – view north north-east

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at Langham revealed an extent of modern backfilling and landscaping, a modern rubbish pit and services along with an undatable treethrow. In recent years the development plot was used as an orchard which has since been cleared and landscaped by the current landowner within the last ten years or so (landowner pers comm). The uneven nature of the geology, as well as waste material deposition and removal of the trees from the orchard, explain the 'activity' uncovered within the trenches and the overall condition of the development area.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Guy Williamson of Park Lane Business Centre for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman, and fieldwork was carried out by H Furniss with A Smith and M Perou. Figures are by C Lister, H Furniss and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

9 References

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

CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1697	2021	<i>Archaeological excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Colchester, Essex: August 2021</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at "Langham Cottage", 9 High Street, Langham, Colchester, by S Wood</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.</i> Updated June 2020.
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> Updated June 2020.
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated October 2020.
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised Oct 2021
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>
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	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigati S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1855)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

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 CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

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Distribution list:

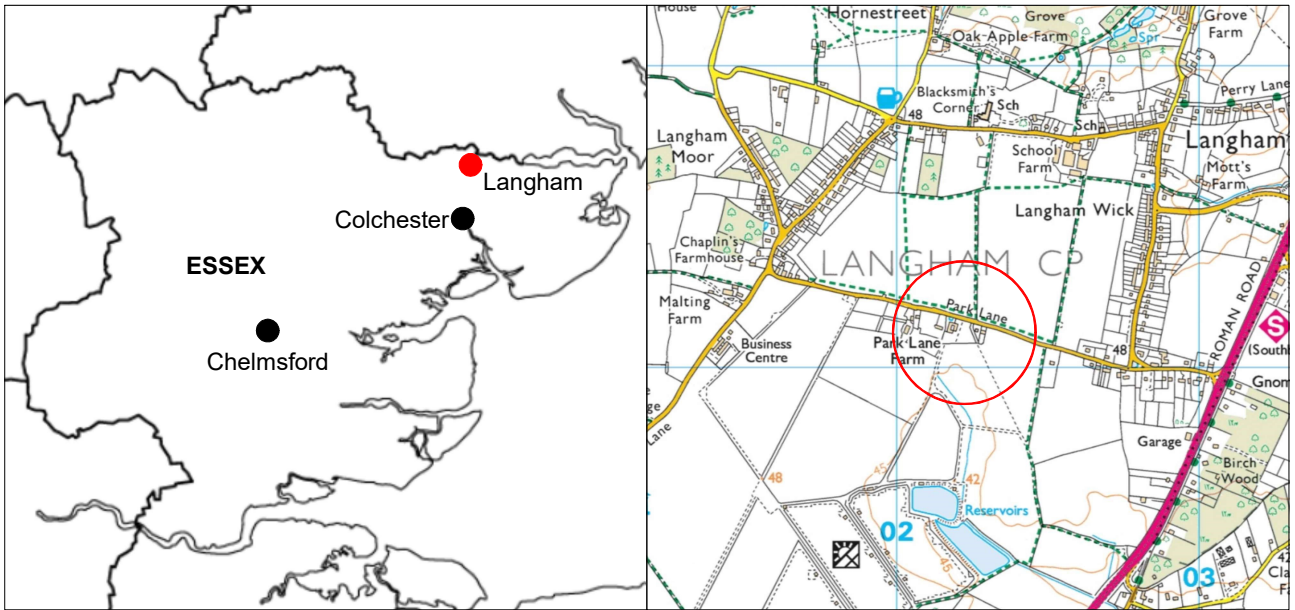
Guy Williamson, Park Lane Business Centre

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context number	Trench number	Finds number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Soft, dark brownish-grey sandy silt with considerable rooting.	Modern
L2	All	-	Subsoil	Firm, mid greyish-brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions.	Undated
L3	All	-	Natural	Compact, mid brownish-orange gravelly clay with regular angular stone inclusions.	Post-glacial
L4		-	Backfill	Layer of modern waste material and ground levelling soils.	Modern
F1	T1	-	Service	Firm, dry, light mid grey-brown silty-sand with frequent stones and gravel inclusions	Modern
F2	T2	-	Treethrow	Compact, mid grey-brown silty-sand with occasional stone inclusions	Undated



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

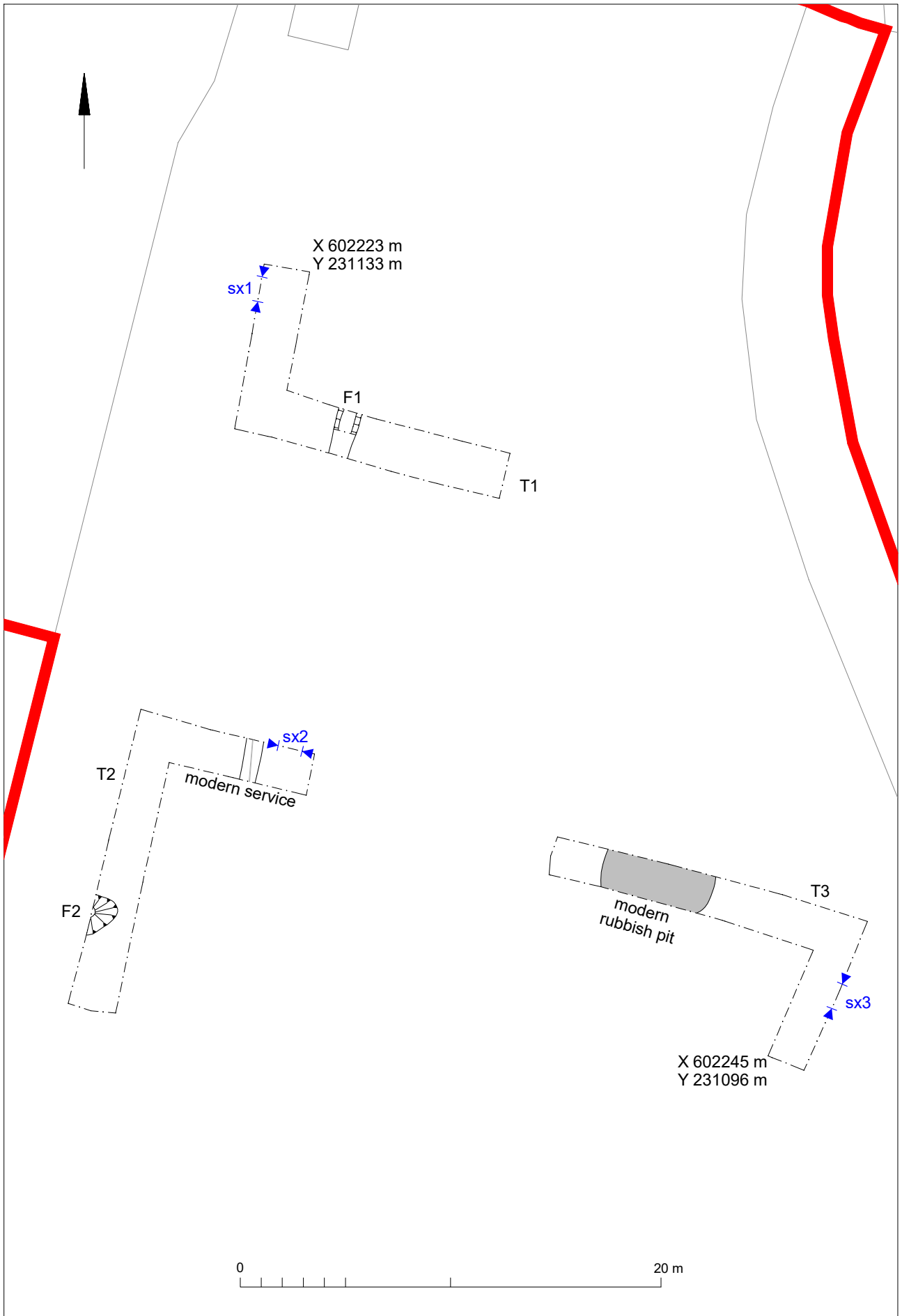


Fig 2 Results

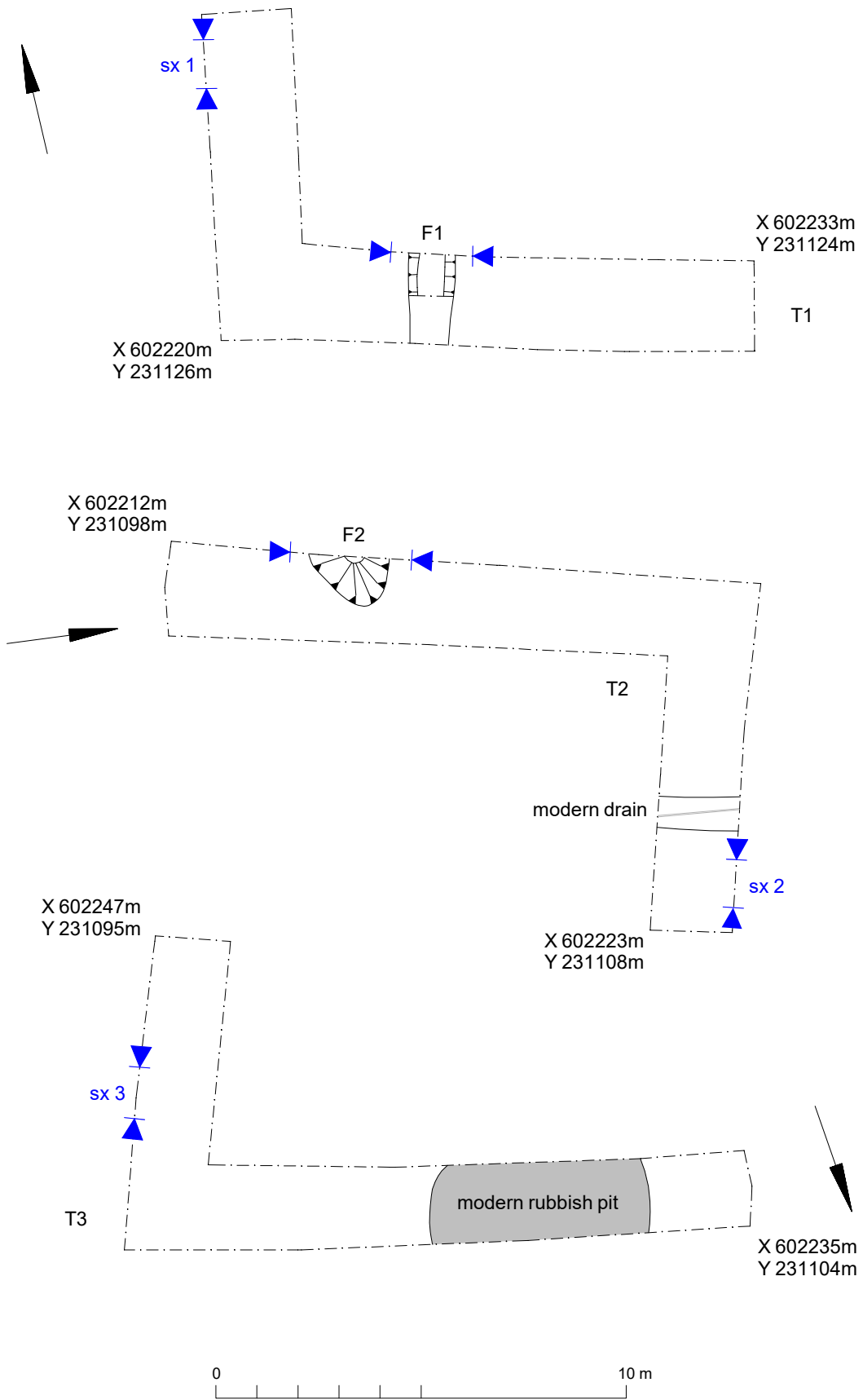


Fig 3 Trench plans

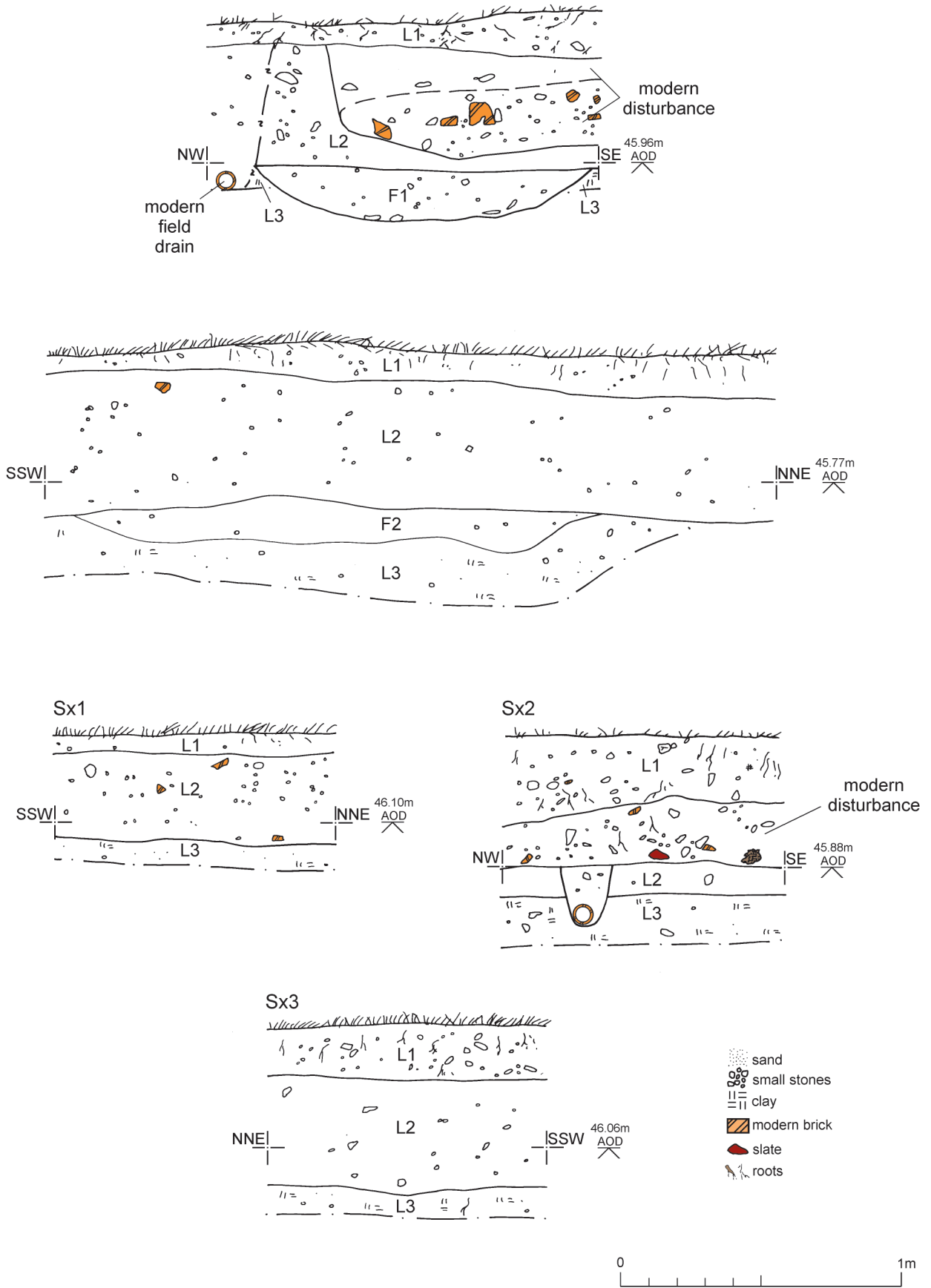


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Park Lane Business Centre, Langham, Essex, CO4 5WR	
Parish: Langham	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 02181 31135 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/08e CHER ref: ECC4747 OASIS ref: colchest3-508771
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 4th October 2022	Size of area investigated: 65 linear metres of trenching
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC9123-4, MCC9070, MCC9061, MCC9120, MCC10206, MCC8241, MCC9050, MCC9054, MCC9053, MCC8242, MCC7126, ECC4640
Final report: CAT Report 1855	
Periods represented: Post-medieval/modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Modern and undated features.	
Previous summaries/reports: n/a	
CBC monitor: Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Harvey Furniss	Date of summary: 18th October 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5WR.

NGR: TM 02181 31135 (centre)
District: Colchester
Parish: Langham

Planning references: 213130

Commissioned by: Guy Williamson (PLBC)
Client: Park Lane Business Centre

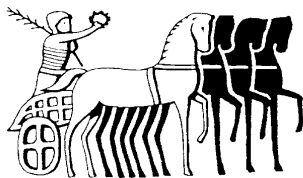
Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology
CHER number: [tbc](#)

CAT project code: 2022/08e
OASIS project number: colchest3-508771

Contracts Manager: Chris Lister
Fieldwork Manager: Adam Wightman
Post-excavation Manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 14/09/2022 (revised)



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
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email: services@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 6.5km northeast of the historic core of Colchester City Centre and on the south side of the village of Langham, at Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex. The site is centred on national grid reference (NGR) TM 02181 31135. The site is a 0.3 hectare plot of former agricultural land which is currently laid to grass.

Proposed work

The development comprises the extension of the business park to include three new single storey Class 3 units with associated parking, landscaping and groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts from CAT Report 1811 and draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The development site is located within a landscape of cropmarks revealed by aerial photography. Photographs of land to the east of Boxted airfield show undated ditches to the north and southeast of the current site (MCC9123-4). Cropmarks of two small ring-ditches and many linear features are recorded to the southeast as Blue Barns Farm (MCC9070), linear features and pits to the west of Blue Barns Farm (MCC9061). To the west of the site a ditched enclosure is recorded near Langham Moor (MCC9120) as well as a large enclosure defined by LIDAR survey to the west of Langham Moor (MCC10206).

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the Langham area. A few sporadic find spots close to the site suggest the potential for prehistoric activity including a polished Neolithic flint axe-head (MCC8241), a neolithic flint adze (MCC9050), a perforated prehistoric stone mace-head (MCC9054) and prehistoric narrow flint axe-head (MCC9053).

Scatters of Roman tiles have been noted over three fields to the west of Langham Hall could suggest a Roman building such as a villa may be in the vicinity, with tiles brought to the surface and spread by ploughing (MCC8242).

South and west of the site is the northern boundary of the former Boxted World War II American air base, but located well away from plotted buildings and structures (MCC7126).

Approximately 280m west/northwest of the site at Appleby's Farm CAT carried out an archaeological evaluation in 2020, in advance of h revealed undated ditches and a large feature of indeterminate function. Further excavation revealed little of archaeological significance. Features included a postmedieval/modern field boundary ditch and land drain, and modern service trenches likely associated with the Boxted World War II airbase. A number of pits/tree-throws were also present but only two produced finds, of post-medieval/modern date, and some might actually be of natural origin (CAT Report 1697, ECC4640).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in November 2021 (application number 213130) for the *extension of Business Centre and erection of 3no Class buildings with parking*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

Specifically,

As per the brief, three 'L-shaped' trenches, each 20m long by 1.8m wide will be excavated within the footprint of the new buildings. This equates to 60m of trenching covering an area of 108m².

The work is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. It is also required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival, condition and significance of environmental evidence.
- Establish the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
- Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Contingencies will be included for scientific analysis of significant deposits such as absolute dating, soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits.

Further archaeological investigation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of a brief and WSI.

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) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 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 CBCAA 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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). 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 unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus three archaeologists for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Harvey Furness/Sarah Veasey

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.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), at least a 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns or ovens 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 will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible (see human remains section below).

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

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.

A metal detector will be used to examine the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the 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.

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 the evaluation trenches 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.

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.

Human remains

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following Historic England guidance (2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, 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. 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 CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating.

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. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (2015a).

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/Pip Parmenter - 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): Megan 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: Tom Lawrence
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 CBCAA.

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.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA 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 2015b).

The report will be submitted within three months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which will be given 10 figure grid references.
- 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 and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. 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

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *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 Colchester & Ipswich 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 archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

CBCAA 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 to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785 (option 1).

References

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

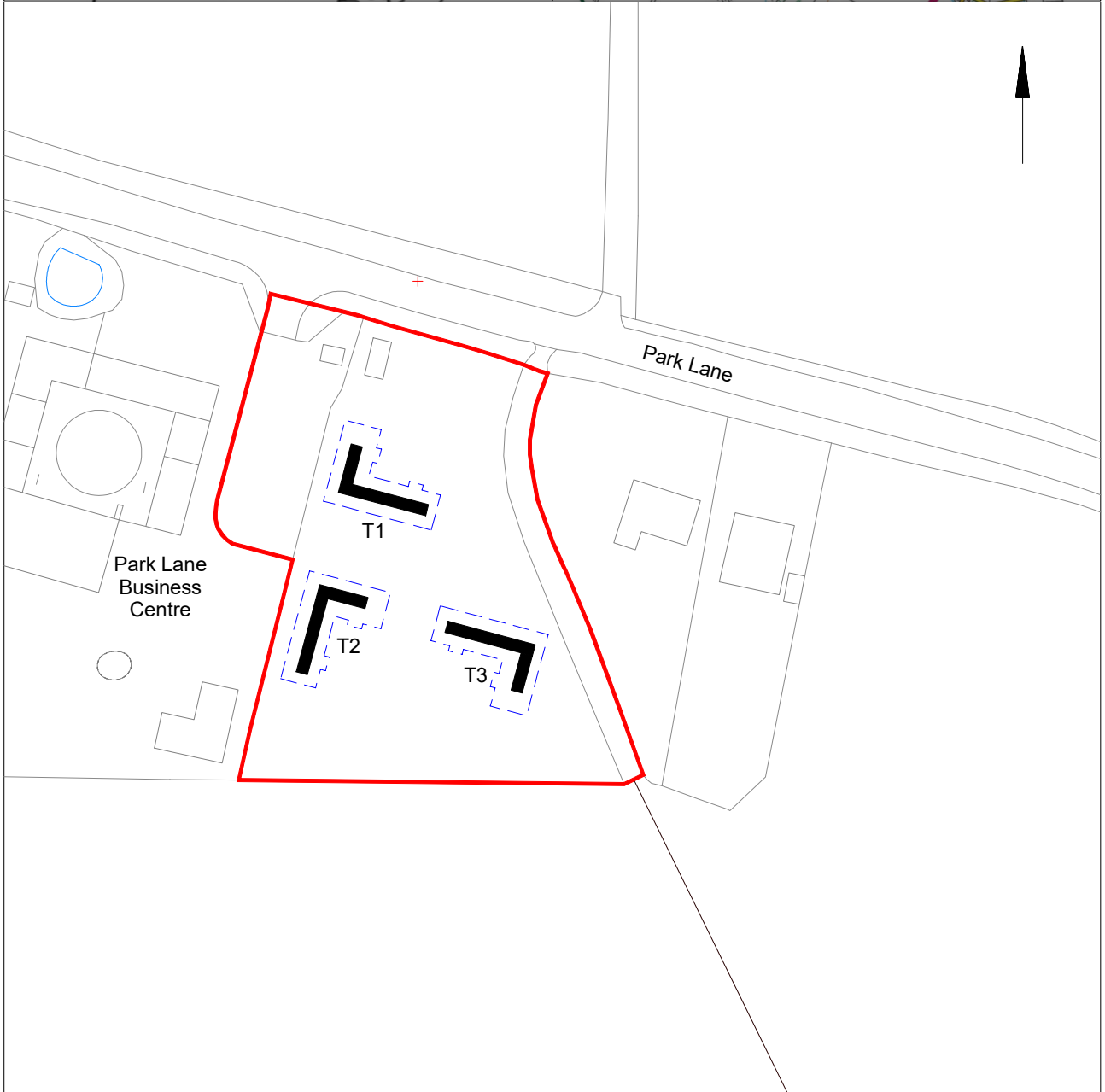
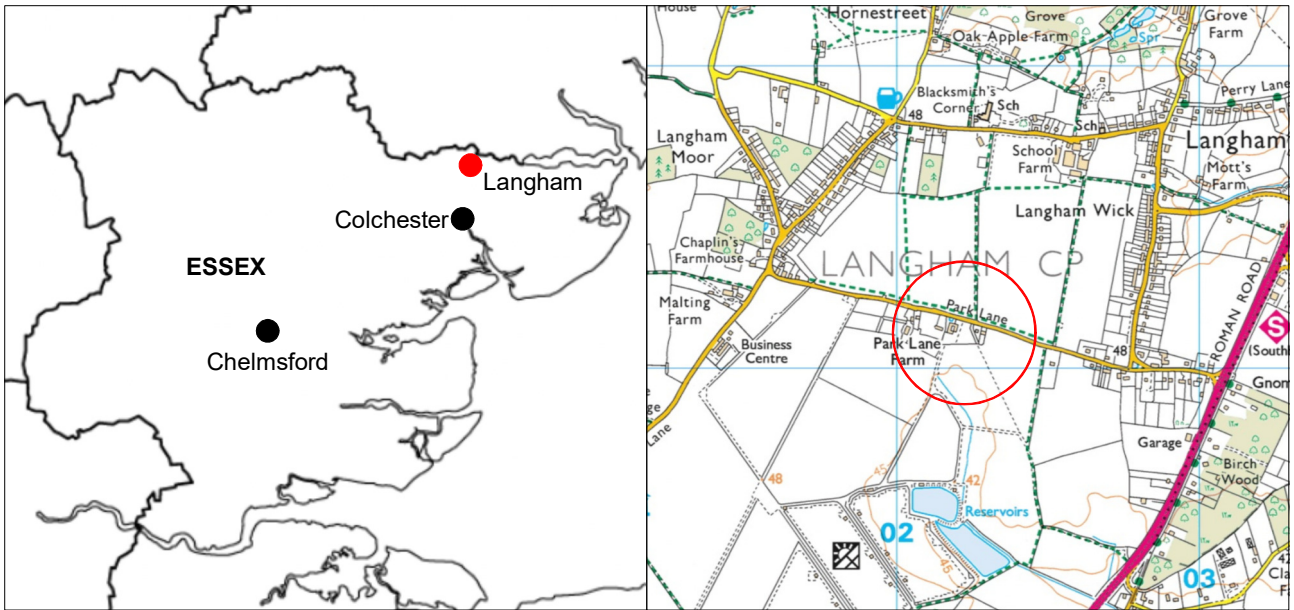
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1697	2021	<i>Archaeological excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Colchester, Essex – August 2021</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham</i> . By S Wood
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i> . Revised Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2021
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England	2015b	<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 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.

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



Summary for colchest3-508771

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-508771
Project Name	Evaluation at Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5WR
Sitename	Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5WR
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/08e
Planning Id	202207
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	04-Oct-2022 - 04-Oct-2022
Location	Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5WR NGR : TM 02181 31135 LL : 51.9419664863939, 0.940086927500581 12 Fig : 602181,231135
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Langham
Project Methodology	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out as per in the conditions laid out in the WSI and brief.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out on land to the east of Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, in advance of the extension of the business park. The development site is located in the village of Langham within an archaeologically-rich landscape. Aside from signs of modern backfilling and landscaping, there was an undatable tree-throw and a modern rubbish pit identified on site.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Harvey, Furniss
HER Identifiers	
Archives	

Brief for Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Park Lane Business Centre, Park Lane, Langham

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:	213130
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 02181 31135
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Extension of Business Centre and erection of 3no Class buildings with parking.
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:	Simon Wood Archaeological Advisor Tel: 01206 282913 E-mail: simon.wood@colchester.gov.uk
Date:	6 July 2022

Archaeological Background

- 1.1 The proposed development is relatively sizeable and circa 50m away from the grade II listed 17th century timber framed Park Lane farmhouse (Colchester Historic Environment Record no. 4284). From an archaeological perspective it is surrounded to north, south and east by cropmarks indicative of linear ditches and pits that are likely archaeological, and representative of historic enclosures and field systems (CHER nos. 9124 & 10401). This development therefore has potential to impact on archaeological remains of significance.

Planning Background

- 2.1 In accordance with paragraph 205 of the National Planning Policy Framework, the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority has recommended the following planning condition relating to archaeological investigation, should planning consent be granted:

No works shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been previously submitted to and approved, in writing, by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and:

- a. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording.
- b. The programme for post investigation assessment.

- c. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording.
- d. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation.
- e. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works.
- f. The site investigation shall thereafter be completed as agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to any groundworks associated with the development scheme and to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development, in accordance Adopted Development Policy DP14 (2010, Revised 2014) and the Colchester Borough Adopted Guidance titled Managing Archaeology in Development (2015).

- 2.2 In order to comply with this condition the archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council (CBC/AA).
- 2.3 Following acceptance by the Archaeological Advisor, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA.
- 2.4 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 2.5 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition (if planning consent is granted) will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 2.6 The trial trenched evaluation, and any subsequent archaeological mitigation, must be completed before any below-ground works on the site, unless agreed in writing by the LPA.
- 2.7 Please note that further stages of archaeological work may be needed. A decision on the need for any further archaeological investigation will be based on the results of the evaluation.

Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Trial-trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 The following archaeological evaluation work is required prior to development commencing to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- 3.2 Trial trenched evaluation is required to:
 - Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide

for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating (radiocarbon and/or archaeomagnetic dating).

- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits. The WSI should provide for a contingency for soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floor and dark earth deposits. In addition, particular attention should be given to the collection of micro-remains preserved within and/or directly over floors.
 - Establish the potential for the survival and condition of environmental evidence.
 - Establish an archaeological deposit model for below-ground archaeological remains across the site.
 - Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 3.3 3 x 20m trenches (at 1.8m wide), or an equivalent array covering the same area, should be positioned to provide an appropriate sample of the proposed development area, and excavated under archaeological control with a flat-bladed, back acting ditching bucket. The trenches may need to be widened in localised areas to facilitate excavation of deep archaeological features (if encountered).
- 3.4 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed design must be approved by CBC before fieldwork begins.
- 3.5 Further archaeological investigation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered; if so, this would be the subject of an additional brief.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by CBC, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences
- 4.2 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.
- 4.4 Notification of the start of work shall be given to the Archaeological Officer one week in advance of its commencement, to ensure the scheme of archaeological investigation can

be adequately monitored. Monitoring will include the fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 The project manager must obtain a Colchester HER Event number from CBC's Archaeological Officer for the fieldwork; this will be the unique reference number for the work in the Colchester HER.
- 5.2 The report should present the results of the investigation in the spatial and temporal context, relating the site to the information recorded on historic maps held in the Essex Record Office. The WSI should also provide for a contingency in the event of the need for scientific analysis, including environmental studies, absolute dating and conservation of artefacts.
- 5.3 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository (Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service; collections@colchester.gov.uk) before the WSI is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition; agreement in principle for deposition should be obtained prior to approval of the WSI. The intended depository must be prepared to accept the entire archive resulting from the project (both finds and written archive) in order to create a complete record of the project. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI. The WSI should include a Selection Strategy (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit>). An inventory of the site archive should be included in the report.
- 5.4 It is a policy of CBC that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Colchester and Ipswich Museum Service, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON). CBC's Archaeological Advisor should be notified when the archive has been deposited Colchester and Ipswich Museums Service.
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository with expertise in curating digital archaeological archives, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>). CBC's Archaeological Advisor should be notified when the archive has been deposited with the preferred digital archive repository. The WSI should also include a Data Management Plan.
- 5.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011). Reporting should be commensurate with results. Where positive results are drawn from

the project, the results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Colchester Historic Environment Record. When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient with the following information: location (grid ref., parish, ward, address), planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in relation to ground disturbance/proposed development (a digital vector plan when possible), depth of ground disturbance and soil profile in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation, etc.), recorder and organisation, date of report.

- 5.7 A copy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to CBC for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a .pdf digital copy (in PDF/A or PDF/Archive format) should be presented to the Colchester HER.
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Colchester HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).
- 5.9 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. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version (in PDF/A or PDF/Archive format) of the entire report should be uploaded.
- 5.10 A copy of the WSI should be appended to the report.
- 5.11 This brief remains valid for six months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2014) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Chartered Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 378 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in Colchester Borough and the archaeological advisor will provide advice on request. CBC does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

Site: Langham Park Ln Business Centre EVAL

Site Code: ECC4747

Feature No.

Interpretation Linear
Period Undated
Location T2

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 10

RECORDING 1:10 Rep sx drawing and photo

Plan nos

Section nos

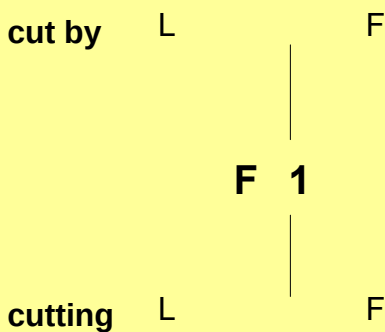
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS No

Find Nos

NOTES Undated linear running roughly n-s through trench 2. Unclear purpose, undulating base suggests pos. natural feature (hedge). No dating evidence, single fill.



By MP Date 04/10/22

Site: Langham Park Ln Business Centre EVAL

Site Code: ECC4747

Feature No.

Interpretation

Period Undated

Location

2

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

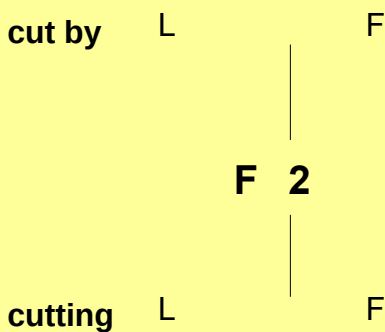
pre-exc ex post-ex

Photos taken

FINDS

Find Nos

NOTES Undated tree throw, sub ovular in plan, uneven flatish base, no finds recovered. Covered by L2.



By Date 04/10/22



001



002



003



004



005



006



007



008



009



010



011



012



013



014



015



016



017



018



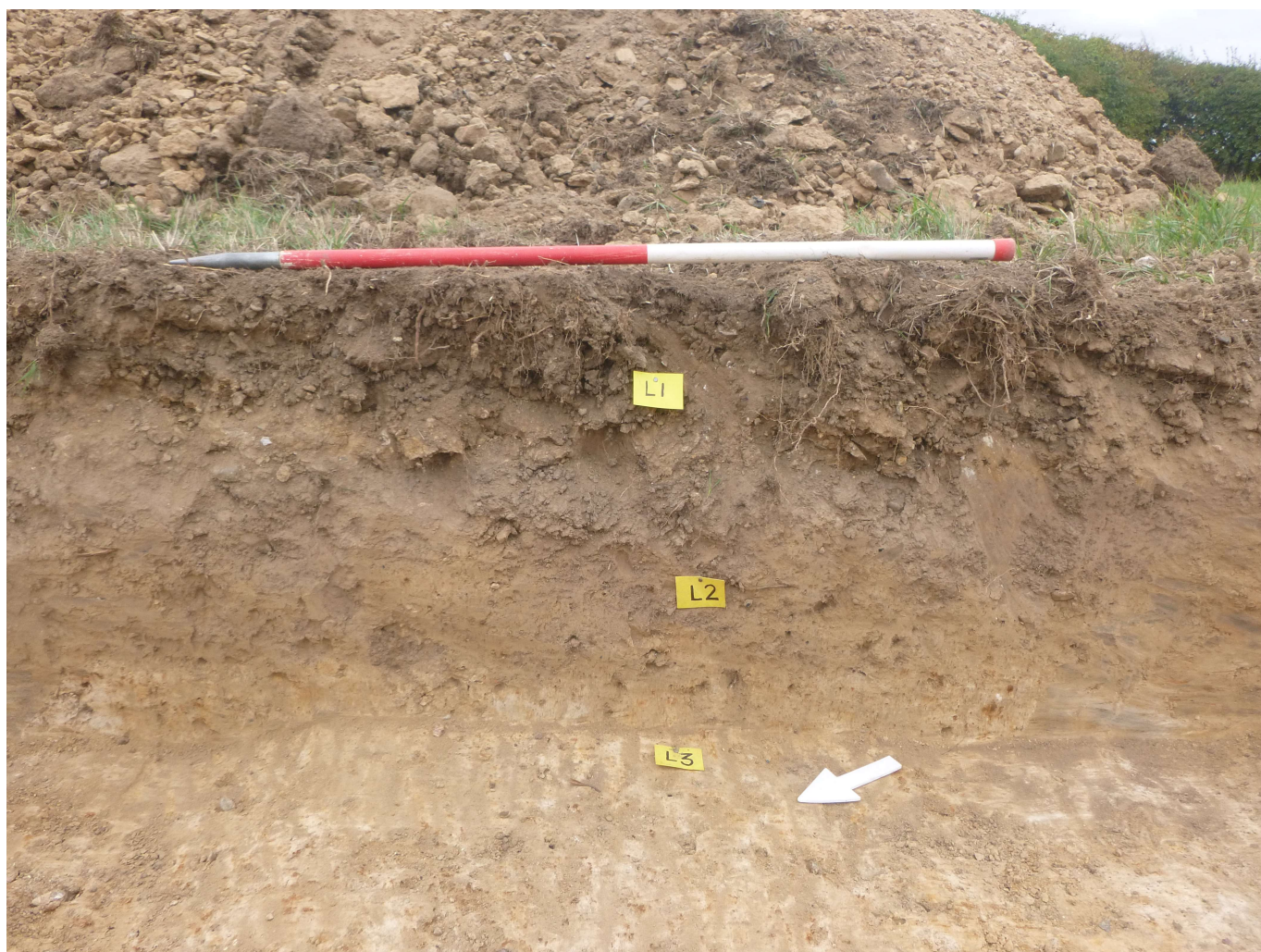
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020



021



022



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024



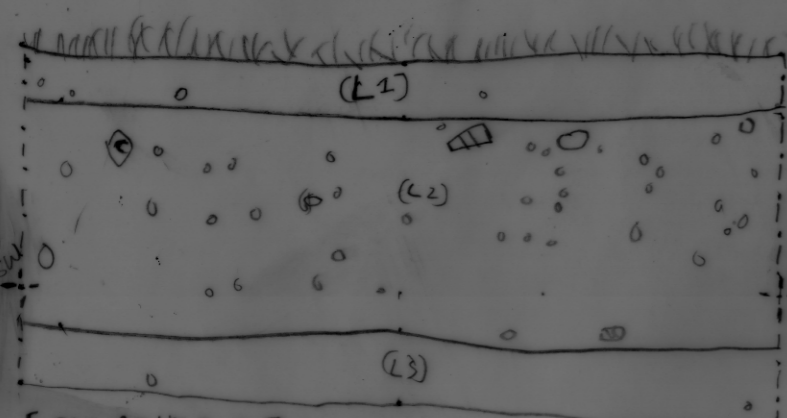
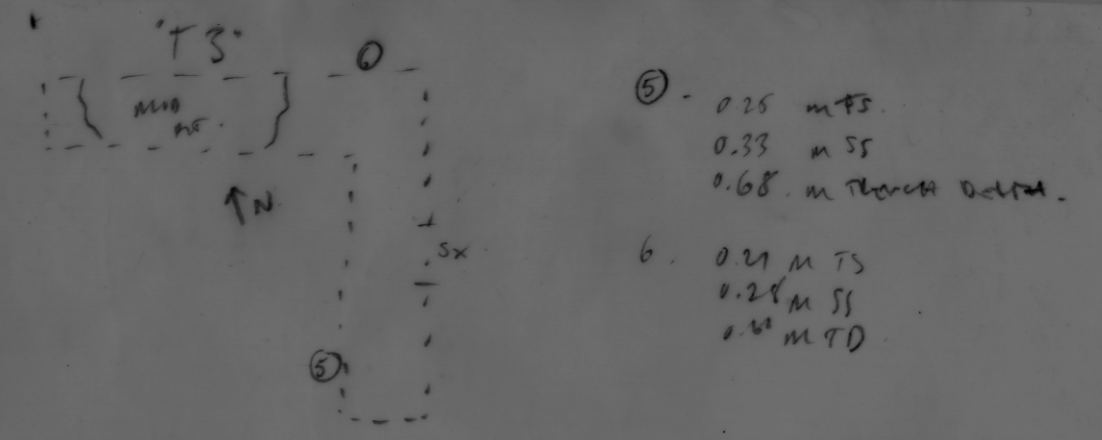
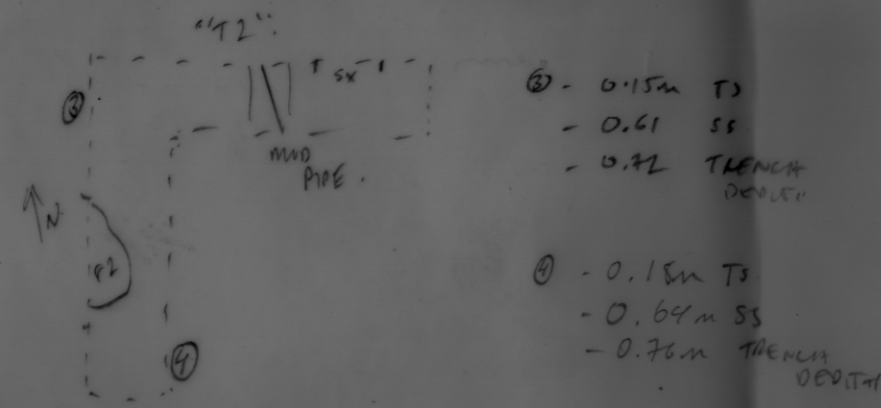
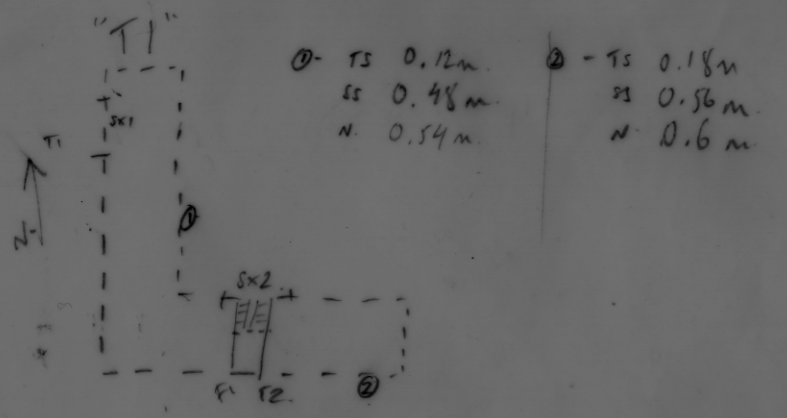
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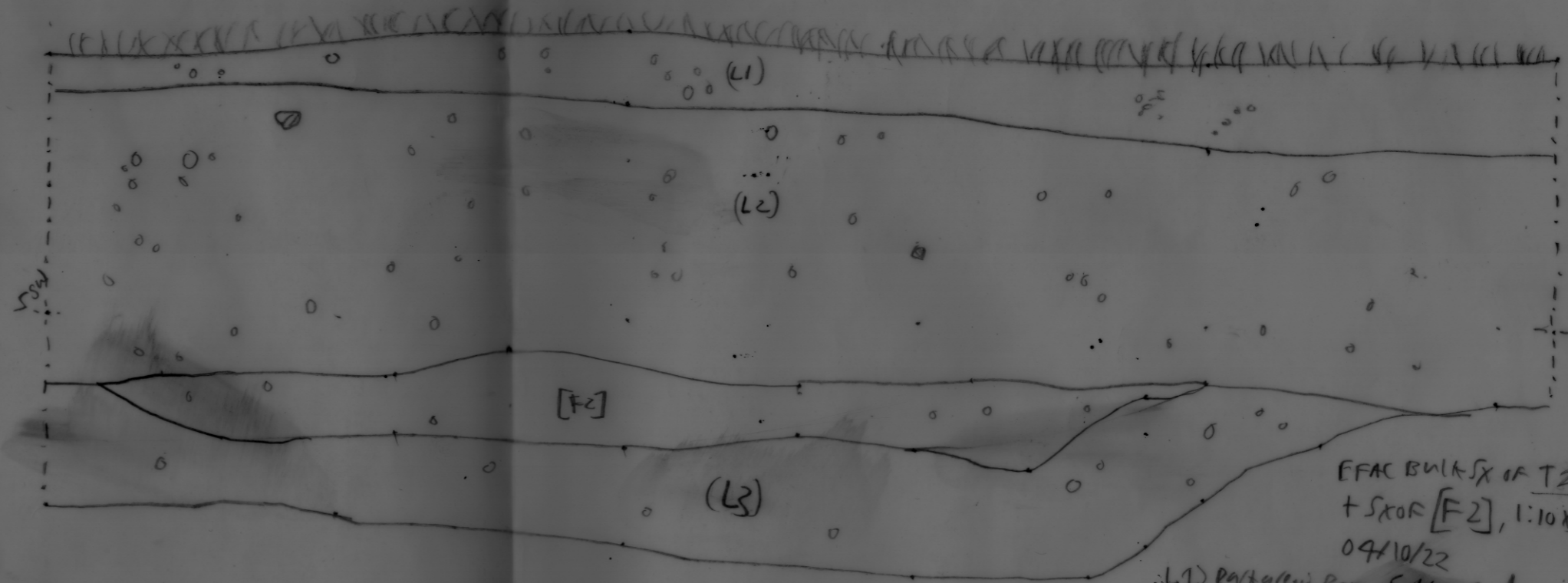
026

Listing

ECC4747_Photo graph_001.JPG Trench 1 view south-west
ECC4747_Photo graph_002.JPG Trench 1 view north-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_003.JPG Trench 1 rep sx1 view north-west
ECC4747_Photo graph_004.JPG F1 view north
ECC4747_Photo graph_005.JPG F1 view north
ECC4747_Photo graph_006.JPG Trench 1 view east south-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_007.JPG Trench 1 view west north-west
ECC4747_Photo graph_008.JPG F2 view west
ECC4747_Photo graph_009.JPG Trench 2 rep sx 2 view north
ECC4747_Photo graph_010.JPG Trench 2 view north-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_011.JPG Trench 2 view south
ECC4747_Photo graph_012.JPG Trench 3 view east south-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_013.JPG Trench 3 view east south-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_014.JPG Trench 3 view east south-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_015.JPG Trench 3 view east
ECC4747_Photo graph_016.JPG Trench 3 view north north-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_017.JPG Trench 3 view north north-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_018.JPG Trench 2 view west north-west
ECC4747_Photo graph_019.JPG Trench 2 view east
ECC4747_Photo graph_020.JPG Site shot view north-west
ECC4747_Photo graph_021.JPG Site shot view north-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_022.JPG Trench 3 rep sx 3 view east south-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_023.JPG Trench 3 rep sx 3 view east south-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_024.JPG Trench 3 modern rubbish pit view north-
east
ECC4747_Photo graph_025.JPG Trench 3 modern rubbish pit view north
north-east
ECC4747_Photo graph_026.JPG Trench 3 modern rubbish pit view north
north-west



EFAC BULK SX OF T1 1:10 VS 04/10/22
 (L1) Dark grey brown silty sand
 occ stones
 (L2) MID Dark grey brown silty sand
 greenish stain occ mod cBm
 occ concrete
 (L3) MID brownish grey v. occ stones
 silty clay



EFAC BULK SX OF T2
 + SX OF [F2], 1:10 VS
 04/10/22

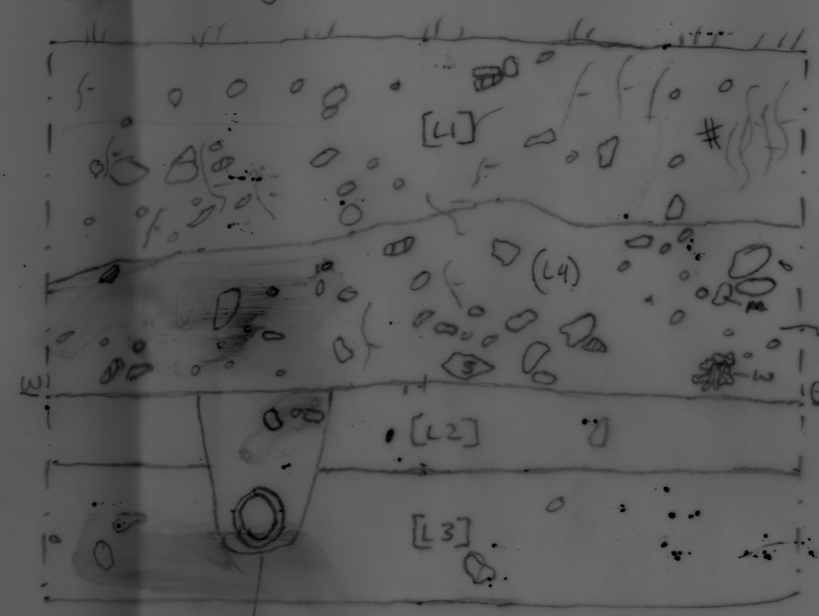
(L1) Dark grey brown silty sand
 occ stones
 (L2) light mid greyish brown silty sand
 fragment stones occ mod cBm
 (L3) mid orangey grey brown - light
 grey brown with trace HMs
 clay natural
 [F2] MID grey brown silty sand
 v. occ stones

T2 Rep SX + F1 SX, 1:10 IMP, 4/10/22 (5 facing)



Key - \odot - Post Roman
 cBm
 Mod. Disturbance in L2
 IE 45.92m AOD
 [F1] - firm dry, light /
 mid grey brown silty sand
 w/ frag. stones + gravel

T2, 5 facing Rep SX, 1:10 IMP, 4/10/22

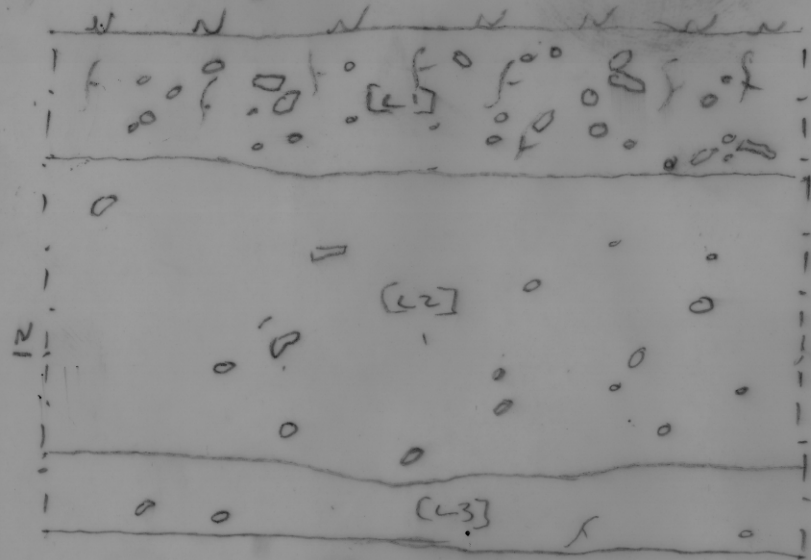


modern Disturbance (Dark brown silty sand).
 IE 45.88m AOD
 L1 - Dark grey brown silty sand w/
 frag. stones, rare charcoal + occ. mod cBm
 L2 - mid orangey grey brown silty sand
 w/ rare cBm flecks + occ. small stones.
 L3 - mid orangey grey brown w/ pale
 patches. Sand/clay (crust).

Key - w - wood
 # charcoal
 m - mod. mortar
 \odot - Post Roman (mod) cBm
 \bullet - cBm fleck
 F - Root
 S - slate

LANGHAM BUSINESS PARK EVAL #2

TS, w facing Rep sk, 1:10, MP, 4/10/22



- L1 - Topsoil soft mid brown
silty sand w/ freq. small stones.
- L2 - mid grey brown silty sand / silt w/
occ. small stones.
- L3 - Nat.

4606m
AOD

from trench 3