

**An archaeological evaluation at
1-3 Friars Lane, Maldon, Essex
February 2010**

**report prepared by
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on behalf of Parkfield House Developments Ltd

CAT project ref.: 10/1a
NGR TL 84850 06985 (c)
HEM project code: MD 45
Museum accession code: COLIM 2010.7



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CAT Report 539
March 2010

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds, <i>by H Brooks</i>	6
7	Discussion	11
8	Acknowledgements	12
9	References	13
10	Abbreviations and glossary	13
11	Archive deposition	14

Figures after p 15

EHER summary sheet

Figures

- 1 Site location
- 2 Site plan
- 3 T1: plan
- 4 T2: plan
- 5 Sections

Plates

- Plate 1 Extract from Chapman and André map of 1777
Plate 2 Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st edition of 1881

1 Summary

This site is within the historic medieval core of Maldon, and 80m to the east of the site traditionally identified as the 9th-century burh.

An evaluation by two trial trenches on a site rear of High Street and Fambridge Road has revealed areas of clay and gravel cut by post-medieval and modern pits. The gravel is identified as a metalled yard. The clay may have been the floor of a previously unidentified late medieval or early post-medieval structure, or may have been demolition debris resulting from repairs to or demolition of adjacent properties.

The absence of Anglo-Saxon pottery may reflect an absence of occupation in that period. However, it is possible that Anglo-Saxon settlement was focussed on the street frontages to the north and west of the trench positions.

No certain medieval features were revealed by this evaluation. However, a quantity of residual medieval pottery was found in later features. This is probably the result of domestic rubbish being dumped into back gardens of medieval properties on the street frontages.

2 Introduction (Figs 1-2)

- 2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation carried out on behalf of Parkfield House Developments Ltd by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Friars Lane, Maldon, Essex, in February 2010.
- 2.2 The proposed development site lies in an area of significant archaeological potential within the medieval and post-medieval town of Maldon. The site is currently occupied by a mid-19th century two-storey yellow stock-brick building and associated hardstanding.
- 2.3 Site centre is at NGR TL 84850 06985.
- 2.4 A planning application (MAL/00816/09) for the demolition of 1-3 The Friary, and the erection of 14 two bedroom apartments in two building blocks was submitted to Maldon District Council in 2009. Given the archaeological potential of the site, the HEM Team advised that a full archaeological condition be attached to any planning consent. This advice followed the guidance given in *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (DoE 1990). The recommendation made to the District stated:

"No development, or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant, and approved by the planning authority."
- 2.5 The HEM Team of the Historic Environment Branch of Essex County Council prepared a brief (HEM 2009) detailing the required archaeological work.
- 2.6 The evaluation, by two trial-trenches (T1-T2), was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CAT (CAT 2009) in response to the HEM team brief (HEM 2009), and agreed with the HEM team.
- 2.7 In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was consistent with standards and practices contained in CAT's *Policies and procedures* (CAT 2008), Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008), the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). The guidance contained in the documents *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE) and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) was also followed.

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held by Essex County Council, and on Medlycott 1999.

The area around the proposed development is one of significant archaeological potential, lying close to the known focus of medieval settlement around the church of

All Saints. The Chapman and André map of 1777 (plate 1) clearly shows development around the site at that date, and it is probable that this occupation was at least medieval and possibly Saxon in origin. The proposed development is also immediately north of the site of the medieval and post-medieval town midden (Medlycott 1999, figure captioned 'Medieval interpretation').

Similarly-located sites on the outskirts of the medieval town such as those at the former Dovercourt Motors and on London Road have been recently shown to contain well-preserved medieval deposits (HEM 2009). The bore-hole logs undertaken as part of the ground contamination survey for 1-3 Friars Lane (Murray Rix 2007) have identified made ground in all four locations sampled, this ranged in depth from 0.9m in BH3 to 3.7m in WS1 (this latter sample may well have come from either a well or cess-pit judging by the presence of organic material and a green colouration). What is evident is that archaeological deposits, of unknown date, are present on both areas.

4 Aim

The archaeological trial trenching was designed to identify the extent and importance of surviving archaeological deposits, and any further excavation required to mitigate the potentially destructive effects of development on site. Specific attention was to be paid to the potential for the archaeological remains mentioned in section 3 above.

5 Results

Two evaluation trenches at a total length of 37m were excavated under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket.

An archaeological summary of each evaluation trench with a tabulation of context and finds-dating information follows below.

T1: summary (Figs 3, 5)

Trench 1 was located within the footprint of proposed buildings on the eastern edge of the site, but, for reasons of safety, was kept a safe distance from surrounding walls.

A breaker was used to remove Layer 1 (thick layer of concrete) which covered the whole of Trench 1. The following horizons were then removed by machine: L2, L3, L8. L2, a compact layer of broken brick rubble was the hardcore base for L1. L3 was a homogenous dark grey-brown post-medieval topsoil layer with finds of slate, modern ironstone, and peg-tile. L8 was a medium grey-brown silty demolition layer which contained fragments of peg-tile, sometimes in dense pockets.

The removal of L8 revealed L4, the highest significant archaeological horizon. L4 was an area of clay heavily cut by later pits. It varied in colour (cream, yellow, olive green) and had inclusions of peg-tile fragments, mortar, and daub.

There are two possible interpretations of L4. Was it a demolition deposit, or the a clay floor of an ancillary building associated with the medieval buildings on the High Street frontage? No buildings are shown in the relevant position on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1881 (plate 2 here). This must count against the idea of a clay floor. Therefore, without entirely discounting the possibility that L4 was a clay floor, it seems more likely that it was a deposit of clay associated with repairs to or demolition of adjacent properties.

Dark patches L7 and L9 are places where L4 was absent, or has been truncated.

At the south-western end of T1 the highest significant archaeological horizon was a compact metal surface (L6) constructed from small-medium size stones. Post-medieval finds were recovered from its surface. L6 is interpreted as a yard surface outside and rear of one or more of the buildings on the High Street frontage.

The gravel surface and clay floor were broadly comparable in height, and it is therefore possible that they were respectively a yard and floor associated with the same building, if so, then a wall separating the two may have been destroyed by the service run which cut F2 and F6.

Modern pit F1 and post-medieval pit F19 both cut the clay layer L4 in the northern part of T1. It was possible to see the underlying stratification beneath the clay in both features. The clay was present to a depth of around 130mm to the north-west of F1. The solid clay deposit visible in F19 was only 30mm thick, with smaller pieces of clay visible to a depth of 95mm. Beneath the clay deposit in both sections was another layer of homogenous dark grey/brown topsoil (L5) which was very similar in character to L3. Layer 5 was approximately 300mm thick, and contained medieval pottery and peg-tile which date it to the late medieval or early post-medieval periods. Layer 5 directly overlay dense and highly compacted gravels in a clay matrix (L16). Based on the borehole survey (Murray Rix 2007), L16 is interpreted as a natural alluvial deposit.

A section was also excavated through the post-medieval pit F9, which was found beneath F28 (the construction cut for post-medieval brick foundation F13), and also beneath drainage gully F8. In the edge of this feature, 100mm-thick metallised surface L6 could be seen to seal topsoil L5. However, natural gravel L16 was not found at the deepest safe excavation limit (1.3m below modern ground level – bgl). Instead, a green/brown sandy silt deposit with frequent stones and charcoal was exposed at that depth. This is interpreted as the fill of an earlier feature, F12, which presumably cuts natural L16 below the excavated trench bottom. The upper edge of F12 had been truncated by pit F9, and none of its edges were discernable.

At the north-eastern end of T1, a sondage was excavated through pits F10 and F11. Pit F10 was of post-medieval date, and had a fill similar to dark sandy silts of L3 and L5. Pit F11 had a soft, pale grey ashy silt fill with charcoal. Finds indicate that it may date to the early post-medieval period, slightly earlier than F10. The section also exposed topsoil L5 and natural alluvial gravel L16.

Also in T1, the following features were sampled for finds: pits F2, F4, F6, F7, F20, F21, F23, F24, F25, F26, F27), post-holes F3, F5, F14, F15, F16, F18, F22, and linear F17. Of these, only post-holes F3, F5, F18 and F22 failed to produce dated finds.

Although a structural use could be argued for some of these features (for instance, postholes F14-16, and perhaps linear F17) and therefore an association with the postulated clay-floor building, it seems much more likely that the majority of these features are later pits and other features cutting L4 and L6. This is supported by the finds evidence, which indicates that all of these features are of post-medieval date. (the exception is F12 which contained only medieval pottery, but is more likely to be of post-medieval date). They are likely to be domestic rubbish pits cut in the back yards or gardens of the street frontage properties, and the proximity of the town midden shows that rubbish disposal was a common feature of this part of town.

Wall foundation F13 was located just below the brick rubble layer. It was constructed of large, unfrogged, bricks. The cement bonding of F13 did not appear to be Portland cement.

East of F13, a crude floor had been constructed using more recent frogged bricks (F29). F13 and F29 may be the remains of a building shown close to this spot on the 1st edition OS (plate 2 here). The brick floor was not continuous west of F13. Instead, a dark soil which looked like L3 was noted in the north-western angle of F13.

T1 – archaeological contexts with finds dates.

context	description	finds date	period
F01	large pit	19th-21st centuries	modern
F02	large pit, possibly the same as F6	medieval	post-medieval
F03	post hole		post-medieval?
F04	pit (or group of pits)	post-medieval	post-medieval
F05	post hole		post-medieval?
F06	large pit, possibly the same as F2	19th-21st centuries	post-medieval

F07	pit	post-medieval	post-medieval
F08	drainage gully full of building debris	19th-21st centuries	post-medieval
F09	pit	post-medieval	post-medieval
F10	large pit (or group of pits)	post-medieval	post-medieval
F11	pit	late 16th century	post-medieval
F12	pit?	Roman or medieval?	late medieval or early post-med
F13	wall foundation built with large unfrogged bricks.	(bricks are post-med)	post-medieval
F14	post hole (group with F15-F16)	19th-21st centuries	modern
F15	post hole, (group with F14, F16)	post-medieval	post-medieval
F16	post hole, (group with F14-F15)	early 18th century	post-medieval
F17	linear	post-medieval	post-medieval?
F18	post hole		post-medieval?
F19	pit		post-medieval?
F20	small pit	medieval	post-medieval
F21	pit	post-medieval	post-medieval
F22	post hole		post-medieval?
F23	pit	post-medieval	post-medieval?
F24	pit	post-medieval	post-medieval?
F25	pit	post-medieval	post-medieval
F26	pit		post-medieval?
F27	pit		post-medieval?
F28	construction cut for foundation F13		post-medieval
F29	brick floor associate with F13		post-medieval
L01	concrete		modern
L02	brick hardcore beneath concrete		modern
L03	topsoil	19th-21st centuries	post-medieval / modern
L04	area of clay (floor?)	16th or 17th century	post-medieval
L05	topsoil	late medieval or early post-medieval??	early post-medieval?
L06	metalled surface (yard?)	post-medieval	post-medieval
L07	heavily disturbed clay floor	post-medieval	post-medieval
L08	demolition layer overlying clay floor L4/L7. Lots of peg tile.	early-mid 17th century	post-medieval
L09	area of clay (floor?)		post-medieval
L16	natural gravel		natural

Trench 2 (Figs 4, 5)

The following horizons were removed using the mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket: L10 (a thin layer of tarmac), and topsoil L11 (a homogenous layer of dark grey-brown sandy silt).

Layer 11 was broadly similar to topsoils L3 and L5 in Trench 1, and contained modern ironstone pottery and peg-tile (not retained). It may be interpreted as the old topsoil layer, predating the modern tarmac and (in T1, concrete) surfaces. L11 sealed clay floor L15, a soft yellow/brown clay with frequent daub flecks and cut by post-medieval pits F41, F38, and F39, and post-hole F40. The pits had very similar fills, which made distinguishing between them very difficult.

Clay layer L15 was also present in the southern NE-SW trench edge, showing that it originally extended farther to the south and possibly south-west. The clay layer butted up to an area of metalled surface (L12) directly to its south. L12 was actually 20mm below the level of the clay floor, and so their relationship is not entirely clear (is the clay later than, and unconnected with, the gravel L12?).

The remainder of T2 contained gravel surface L12/L16, cut by large post-medieval pits F30-F36 (or, in the case of F30, groups of pits?). Although probably cut from higher up in L11 (but not discernable due to the similar fill outlined above) the pits were not discernable until quite a considerable depth (around 750mm bgl) when their

edges could be seen against a more stony horizon in L11. This stony horizon was either a less compact continuation of the metalled surface L12 (perhaps as a yard surface that became less compact and well constructed the greater the distance from the High Street), or natural gravel L16.

Natural took two forms here – gravel and clay, and the clay natural was found in the southern end of the T2. Here the stony horizon was less distinct, so the trench was deepened in an attempt to reach natural ground and thereby determine the thickness of the archaeological deposits. By going an extra 30cm deeper through what was thought to be L11/L12 a green/brown sandy clay (L13) was reached. This deposit was undoubtedly natural and was situated at a depth of 1.1m bgl. In the small area taken down to this depth four large pits were identified, cutting into the natural. Again they were almost certainly cut from higher up but were not previously discernable. It is possible in fact that F32 and F33 were the same pits as the pit 'complex' labelled F31 identified higher up to the north.

In the north-west corner of the trench clay L14 was uncovered, cut by large post-medieval features F36 and west F37. This was barely 50mm thick, and overlay a compact gravel/clay which was almost certainly natural L16. Clay L14 was also 210mm below the level of clay floor L15 located 5m to the north-east.

T2 – archaeological contexts and finds.

context	description	finds date	period
F30	large pit (or group of pits)	post-medieval	post-medieval
F31	large pit		post-medieval?
F32	pit, cut into natural		post-medieval?
F33	pit, cut into natural	post-medieval	post-medieval
F34	pit, cut into natural	post-medieval	post-medieval
F35	pit, cut into natural		post-medieval?
F36	large pit	post-medieval	post-medieval
F37	pit?	1780-1820	post-medieval
F38	large pit, cut through clay L15 and into natural	post-medieval	post-medieval
F39	pit/linear?	medieval (residual)	post-medieval or modern
F40	post hole cut into clay floor L15		post-medieval or modern
F41	pit		post-medieval or modern
L10	Tarmac		modern
L11	topsoil	medieval	post-medieval / modern
L12	metalled yard surface, or top of natural?		post-medieval
L13	natural clay		-
L14	natural clay, or clay floor?		-
L15	clay (floor?)	post-medieval	post-medieval
L16	natural gravel		natural

6 Finds

by H Brooks

Introduction

This is a brief discussion of the pottery, followed by a catalogue of all the finds from the evaluation, listed by trench and then context (the date of each finds group is given in bold after each context). Clay-tobacco pipe descriptions are after *CAR 5*.

Discussion of pottery

Pottery fabric descriptions are after *CAR 7*. This is a group of 155 sherds at a total weight of 2335g. The Fabrics present include:

Medieval - Fabric 12 (early medieval shelly ware); Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware); Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 22 (Hedingham-type ware); Fabric 35 (Mill Green-type ware); Fabric 36 (London-type ware).

Post-medieval - Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE); Fabric 45d (Frechen ware); Frechen 45f (Westerwald ware).

Modern - Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), Fabric 45m (modern stoneware); Fabric 51b (flowerpot); Fabric 49 (Basalt ware).

The largest groups of pottery are as follows: Fabric 40 (PMRE) 766g - 33% of the pottery assemblage (counted by weight of sherds); Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware) 569g - 24% of the assemblage; Fabric 21 (sandy orange ware) 487g - 21% of assemblage.

Finds catalogue

T1 contexts

F1

Finds number 01

- 2 peg-tile fragments, 429g
- 1 post-medieval brick fragment, 376g
- 13 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds, 98g
- 2 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherds, glazed, 11g
- 13 Fabric 40 PMRE sherds, 415g
- 3 Fabric 42 Border Ware sherds, 22g
- 3 Fabric 48d sherds, 16g
- 1 Fabric 45d Frechen ware sherd, 2g
- 1 clay pipe stem fragment, 3mm bore, 1g

19th-21st centuries

F2

Finds number 04

- 1 Fabric 12 early medieval shelly ware sherd, 10g
- 1 Fabric 21 sherd sandy orange ware, 1g

Medieval

F4

Finds number 03

- 1 peg-tile fragment, 15mm thick, 95g.
- 1 Fabric 12 early medieval shelly ware sherd, 4g
- 1 greyware sherd, Roman or medieval, 4g

Post-medieval

F6

Finds number 25

- 1 peg-tile fragment, 60g

1 Fabric 35 base sherd, 27g
1 Fabric 51b flowerpot, 7g

19th-21st centuries

F7

Finds number 24

1 peg-tile fragment, 202g
1 Fabric 40 PMRE sherd with external brown glaze, 15 g

Post-medieval

F8

Finds number 40

1 peg-tile fragment, 38g
2 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherds, 42g
1 Fabric 40 PMRE sherds, 46g
1 fragment from a blacking bottle, Fabric 45m, 103g.

19th-21st centuries

F9 (lower)

Finds number 41

3 peg-tile fragments, 142g
1 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherd, 7g
1 Fabric 35 mill Green ware sherd, external striped slip, 26g. 15th/16th??
2 animal bone fragments, 6g.
1 fragment from glass goblet foot? 3g

Post-medieval

F10

Finds number 06

1 peg-tile fragment, 24g
8 Fabric 35 sherds, some slip painted, 142g
22 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherds, some slip-painted, 201g
1 Fabric 40? PMRE sherd, glazed, 14g
1 Fabric 45f Westerwald ware, 3g
1 animal bone fragments, 297g
1 fe nail, 13g

F11

Finds number 07

5 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds, inc 2 rims, one lid-seated, 74g
1 animal bone fragment, 46g.
1 fe nail, 12g

Finds number 26

1 Fabric 42 Border ware sherd, 4g

F12

Finds number 43

1 greyware sherd, Roman or medieval, 2g
1 animal bone fragment, 53g
1 oyster shell, 19g

F14

Finds number 09

1 modern peg-tile fragment with 6mm wide *nail* holes, 128g
2 peg-tile scraps, 17g

19th-21st centuries

F15

Finds number 10

1 Fabric 40 PMRE sherd, glazed, 7g

Post-medieval

F16

Finds number 11

1 Fabric 40 PMRE handle fragment, 52g
1 Fabric 50 Staffs slipware sherd, 6g. Early 18th century

early 18th century

F17

Finds number 12

2 peg-tile fragments, one with large round peg hole, 267g

1 Fabric 45d Frechen ware sherd, 11g

Post-medieval

F20

Finds number 15

1 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherd, 6g

1 Fabric 22 Hedingham fine ware sherd, 3g. Green glaze, with applied clay pellets

Medieval

F21

Finds number 14

1 peg-tile fragment, 70g

Post-medieval

F23

Finds number 17

1 post-medieval brick fragment, 25g

1 Fabric 40 PMRE sherd, 17g

Post-medieval

F24

Finds number 21

1 peg-tile fragment, 53g

Post-medieval

F25

Finds number 27

1 Fabric 40 PMRE sherd, 39g

1 clay tobacco-pipe stem fragment, 3g. 2mm bore.

Post-medieval

L3/F10

Finds number 42

1 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherd, 37g

1 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherd, 71g

1 Fabric 40 PMRE sherd, 8g

2 Fabric 45 Frechen or Raeren ware sherds, 16g

1 Fabric 49? Basalt Ware sherd, 3g

2 Fabric 51b flowerpot sherds, 14g

1 Victorian window glass fragment, 1g

1 post-medieval glass bottle fragment, 14g

19th-21st centuries

L4

Finds number 02

4 Fabric 35 Mill Green ware sherds, 40g. One has speckly green glaze. One has white slip under yellow glaze with green spots.

1 fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherd, glazed, 2g

Finds number 16

1 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherd, 7g

1 tiny fine-ware sherd, white slip with green glaze, probably Fabric 22 Hedingham, 1g

Finds number 23

1 buff brick fragment, 100 x 45 x ?? mm, crinkly bottom, 528g. Later 16th or 17th century

Post-medieval

L5

Finds number 05

4 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds, inc a good H1 rim, 47g

1 CBM lump, 91g.

1 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware glazed jug neck, 20g.

1 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware handle with green/brown glaze over partial white slip. 53g

Finds number 08

2 peg-tile fragments, one with circular peg-hole, 293g

2 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds inc 1 rim, 35g

1 animal bone fragment, 3g.

1 grey fabric sherd, white slip with green glaze. Is this London Ware (Fabric 36)? 33g.

Post-medieval

L6

Finds number 45

3 Fabric 40 PMRE sherds, one glazed, 34g

Post-medieval

L7

Finds number 19

1 peg-tile fragment, 48g

1 CBM lump, post-medieval, 21g

1 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherd, 6g

1 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherd, 3g

1 Fabric 40 PMRE sherd, glazed 11g

2 animal bone fragments, 39g.

Finds number 48

1 Fabric 35 or 40 PMRE cistern wall with bung-hole, 108g. Surface has marks from pallet knife, giving a rather home-made appearance.

Post-medieval

L8

Finds number 20

1 peg-tile fragment, 191g, 12mm thick

1 sherd in Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware), 62g. Cutaways. Probably not a louver.

1 tiny clay-pipe bowl, 6g. CAR 5 type 2: dated 1600-1640.

Early-mid 17th century

L9

Finds number 22

3 CBM lumps, 78g

T2 contexts

F30

Finds number 28

1 peg-tile fragment, 141g.

6 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds, 31g

1 jug fragment in Fabric 20 or 21 sandy orange ware. White slip in bars between vertical ridges, with occasional green glaze, 10g.

Post-medieval

F30

Finds number 29

1 Fe lump, 355g. Δ

F31

Finds number 30

2 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherds, glazed, 14g

1 complete glass ?medicine bottle. Hand-made. Pre- mass-produced. 31g.

F33

Finds number 31

1 peg-tile fragment, 104g

Post-medieval

F34

Finds number 39

- 1 peg-tile fragment with circular peg hole, 74g
- 1 Fabric 12 early medieval shelly ware sherd, 8g.

Post-medieval

F36

Finds number 33

- 1 peg-tile fragment, 72g
- 1 Fabric 20 medieval sandy greyware sherd, 6g
- 1 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherd, 33g
- 1 Fabric 21/21a sandy orange ware/Colchester-type ware sherd, 3g. Slipped and glazed.

Post-medieval

F37

Finds number 35

- 1 clay tobacco-pipe bowl, 9g. Type 12, dated 1780-1820. AB stamped on foot.
- 1 peg-tile fragment, 9g
- 1 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherd, 13g
- 1 lump of mortar, 228g.
- 2 post-medieval glass fragments, 16g. 18th-19th century

1780-1820

F38

Finds number 36

- 1 peg-tile fragment, with circular hole, 161g
- 9 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds, 56g
- 1 Fabric 21? flat-topped rim sandy orange ware, 12g. 13th century.
- 1 Fabric 21 sandy orange ware sherd with white slip and green glaze, 11g. 13th-14th century?
- 1 animal bone fragment, 29g.

Post-medieval

F39

Finds number 37

- 3 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds, inc a flat-topped rim, 39g

Finds number 47

- 2 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherds, 33g

Medieval

L11

Finds number 32

- 1 undated greyware rim, Roman or medieval, 9g
- 1 Fabric 12 early medieval shelly ware sherd from flat-topped bowl rim, 11g

Medieval

L15

Finds number 38

- 1 thick peg-tile fragment, overfired, 98g

Finds number 49

- 1 Fabric 20 (medieval sandy greyware) sherd, 45g

Post-medieval

7 Discussion

The Anglo-Saxon period

The current site is in the 'built-up' area of the Anglo-Saxon (AS) town, as plotted by Medlycott (1999, Figure captioned 'Saxon Interpretation'). However, no AS features or finds were revealed by this evaluation. There may be two reasons for this. First, the site may be too far away from the High Street frontage, where AS occupation may be focused. Second, the evaluation trenches may not have been deep enough to penetrate to the AS levels. Having said that, if there were AS settlement here, a few residual AS sherds might have been expected among the 155 potsherds recovered.

The medieval period

Although there was no evidence for AS settlement on this site, the presence of medieval potsherds in considerable quantities supports the idea that there was medieval activity here. This is entirely to be expected, given the number of listed buildings on the High Street frontage (many of which will have medieval origins), and the inclusion of this area in the 'built-up' area of Maldon as plotted by Medlycott (1999 Fig captioned 'Medieval Interpretation').

The question is - what form did the medieval activity take? The simplest explanation is that the area cut by the evaluation trenches was the back gardens of medieval properties on the street frontages, and that pottery was dumped out in the back gardens of these properties (along with other domestic material which has since rotted away). The town midden or rubbish dump was immediately to the south of the current site (Medlycott 1999, Figure captioned 'Medieval Interpretation'). This shows that the dumping of rubbish as postulated here was a common occurrence in this part of town.

Post-medieval

The majority of the excavated features were of post-medieval origin, and were rubbish pits cut into the back yards and gardens of the properties on the street frontages. These pits cut two horizons: first, a gravel layer intercepted by the east side of T1 and most of T2 (this was undoubtedly a gravelled yard rear of the properties on the High Street and Fambridge Road frontages); second, a layer of clay. It is difficult to be certain of the origin of this clay. Historic map coverage such as the Chapman and André map of 1777 (Plate 1) shows that this part of Maldon was built-up at that time. This being so, it is quite likely that pressure on land may have been sufficient for properties to be built in the back-plots or back yards of existing street-frontage properties. This may be the context in which the gravel and clay were laid down. If they represent parts of a structure, it must have been demolished and removed before 1881, because the 1st edition OS map of that date (plate 2) does not show any structures in the areas where the clay was found (ie, on the western and eastern edges of the site). Rather, the OS map shows a predecessor of the building now occupying the centre of the site. Judging by the difference in the east-west length of this structure, and the fact that a disused brick foundation was found in the eastern end of T1, it is clear that this structure has been reduced and/or remodeled. It is perhaps in the context of this remodeling/demolition that the clay found in T1 and T2 was deposited .



Plate 1: Extract from Chapman and Andre map of 1777.

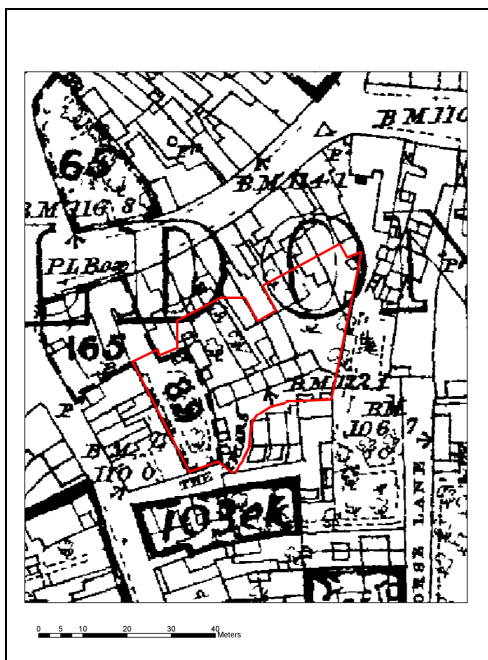


Plate 2: Ordnance Survey coverage of site.

Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:10,560 map of 1881 (courtesy ECC HEM team). Site is outlined in red.

Modern

One of the pits (F1) may be of modern date. Other modern features consist of service runs, concrete slabs, and tarmac surface of no archaeological interest.

8 Acknowledgements

The Trust would like to thank Parkfield House Developments for commissioning and funding the work via Mr Will Hodgson.

Site work was by A Wightman, C Lister and N Rayner. Digital survey by C Lister. Figures by C Lister and Emma Spurgeon.

The project was monitored for the ECC HEM team by Maria Medlycott.

9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except DBAs (desk-based assessments) are available online at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk> in .pdf format.

CAR 5	1988	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by Nina Crummy
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter
CAT	2008	<i>Policies and procedures</i>
CAT	2009	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial-trenching at Friars Lane, Maldon, Essex, October 2009</i>
Chapman, John, and André, Peter	1777	<i>Map of Essex</i>
CIMS	2008	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i> , CBC
DoE	1990	<i>Planning Policy Guidance 16: archaeology and planning</i> , Department of the Environment
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14, ed by D Gurney
HEM	2009	Archaeological fieldwork at Friars Lane, Maldon. October 2009, HEM brief by Maria Medlycott
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
IfA	2008b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Maldon: historic town assessment report</i> , Essex County Council Planning Department, Archaeology Section
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> , English Heritage
Murray Rix	2007	<i>Report on a desk study, ground investigation and preliminary contamination assessment at Friars Lane, Maldon, Essex</i> . Murray Rix Ltd Civil and Geotechnical Engineers. Report reference Vsjob/07-1677r. August 2007.
OS	1881	<i>1st edition map, 1:10,560 scale</i>

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	the period from the 5th century to AD 1066
AOD	above Ordnance Datum
bgl	below (modern) ground level
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, held by Essex County Council
feature	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a floor; can contain 'contexts'
fill	the soil filling up a hole such as a pit or ditch
HEM	Historic Environment Management team
medieval	after AD 1066 and up to c 1530
modern	the 19th-21st centuries
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OS	Ordnance Survey
post-medieval	after c 1530 and up to c 1800

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3NF, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLIM 2010.7.

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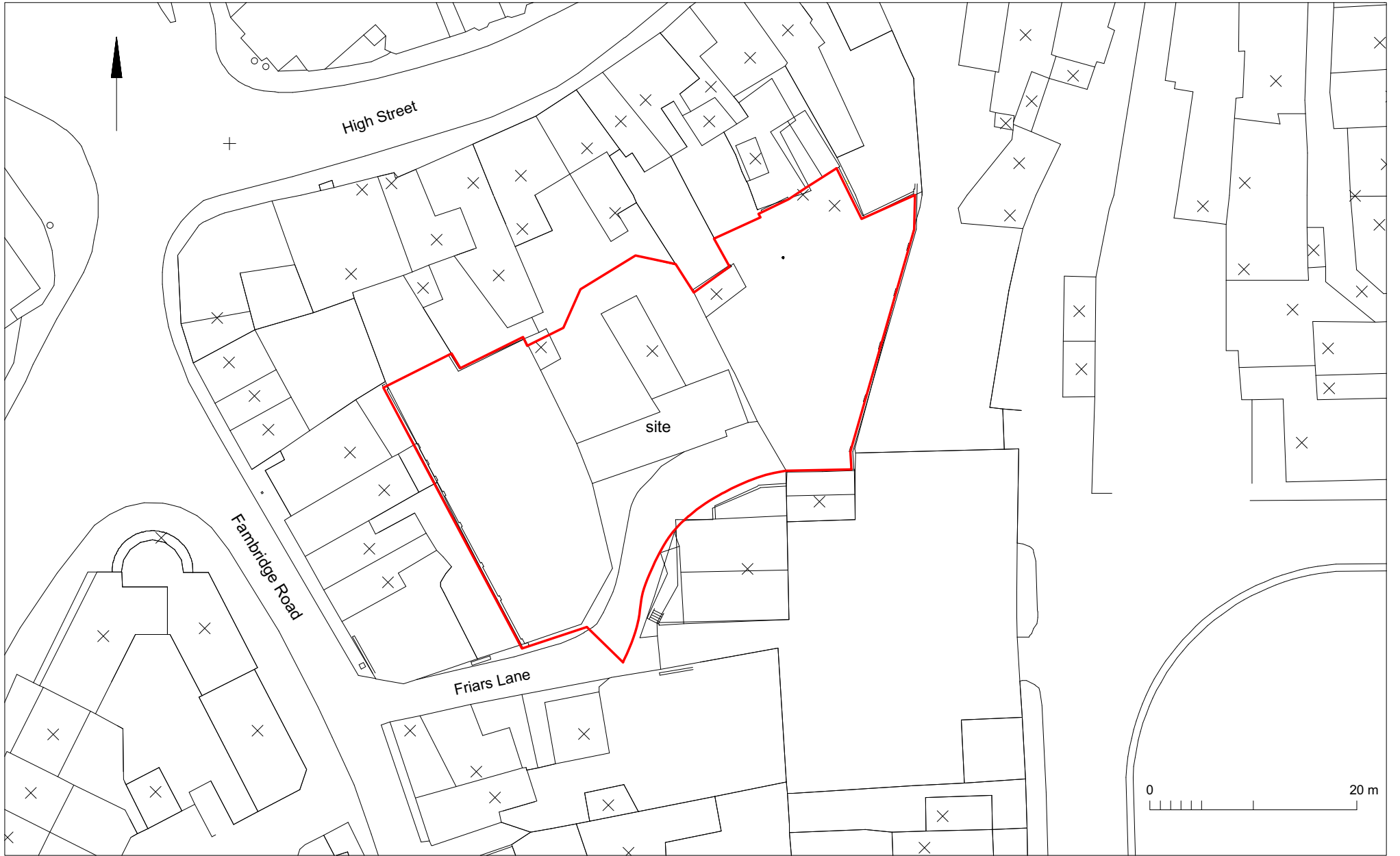


Fig 1 Site location.

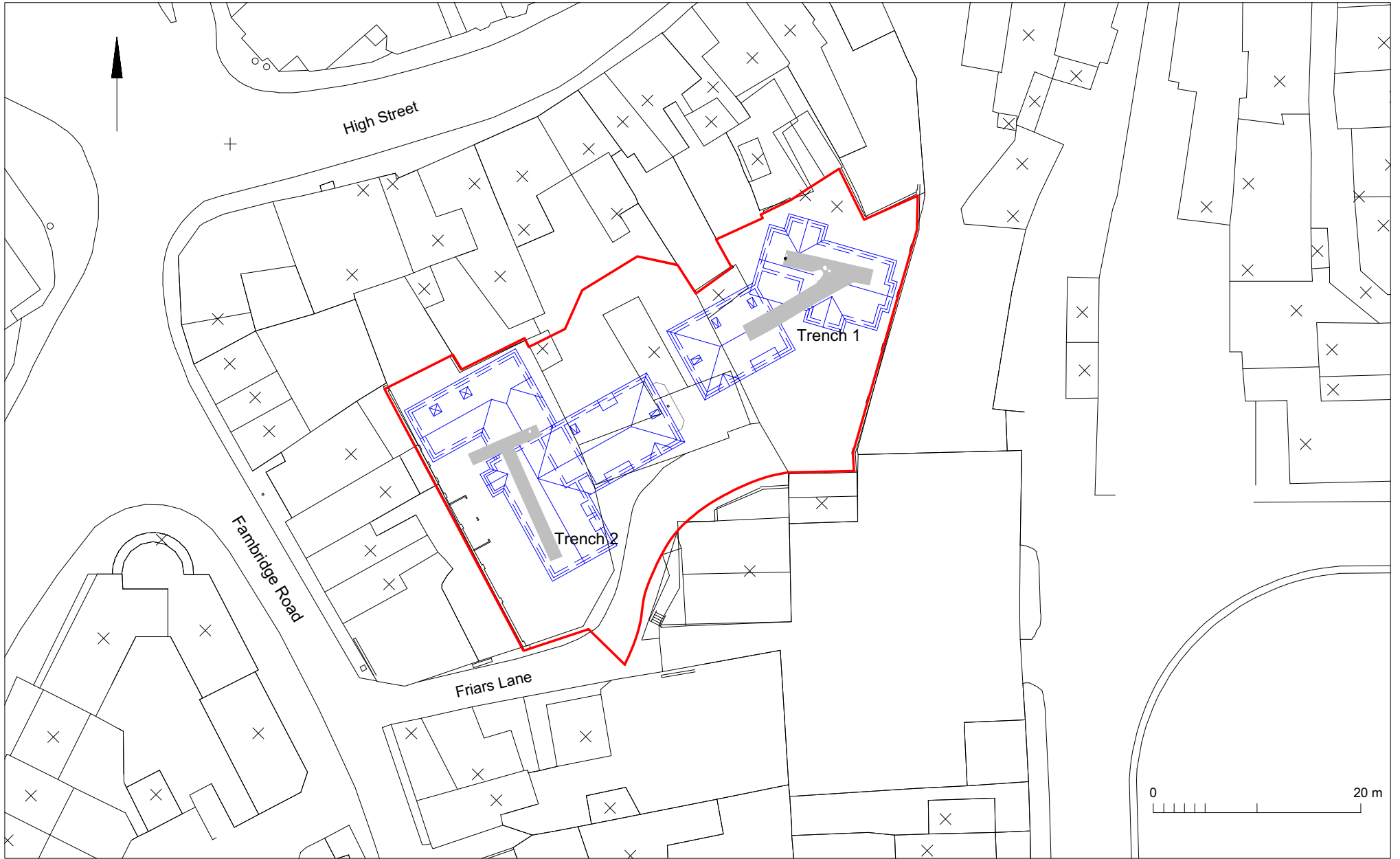


Fig 2 Proposed development showing evaluation trenches.

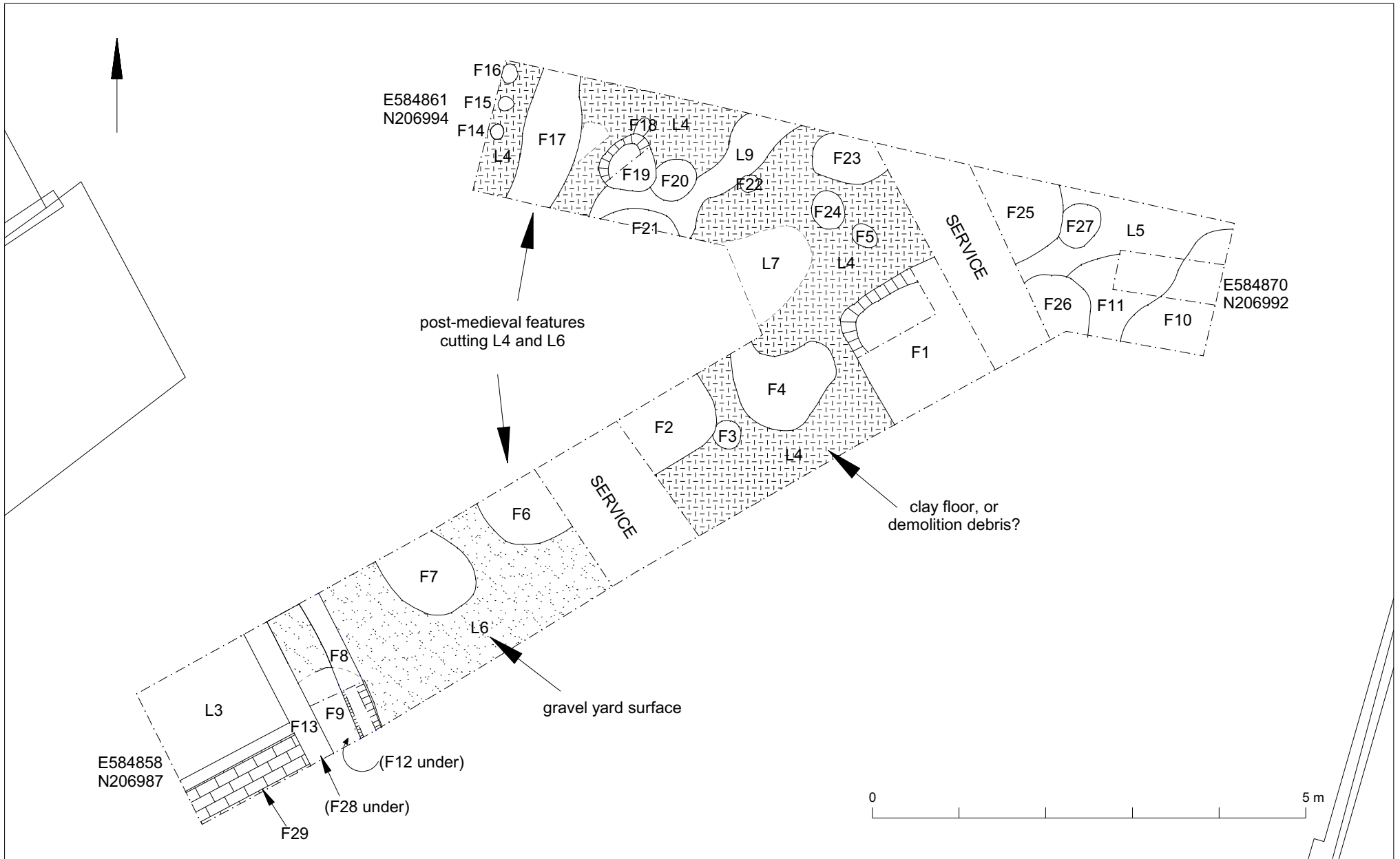


Fig 3 Trench 1.

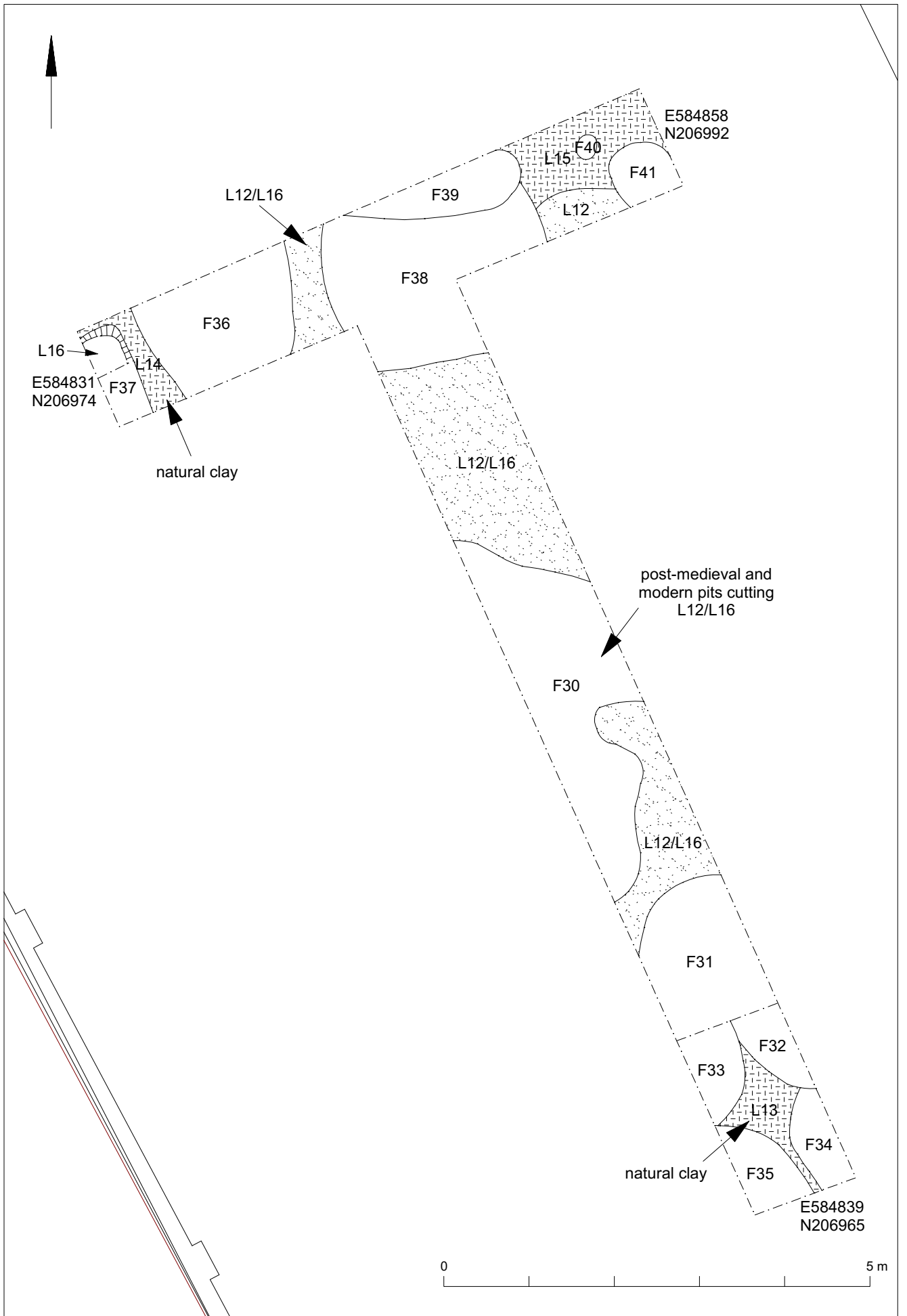
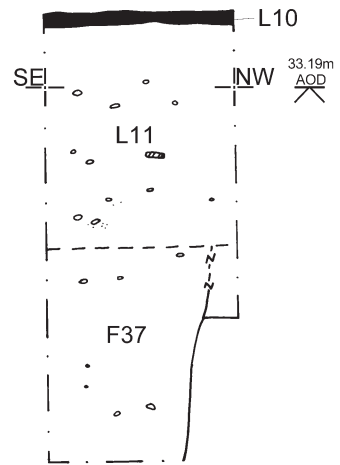
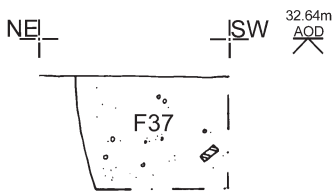
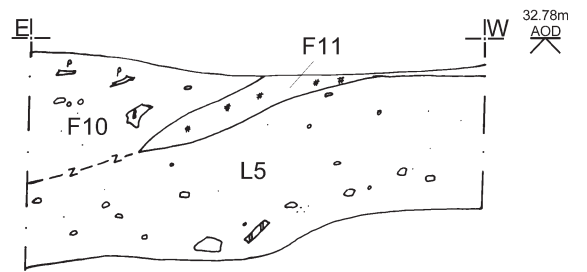
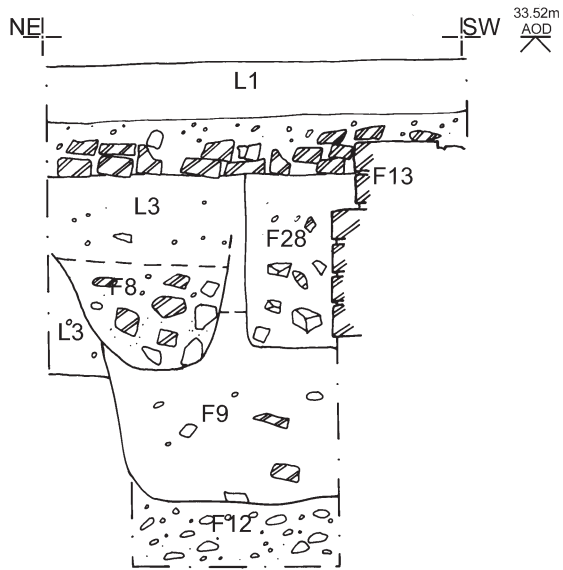
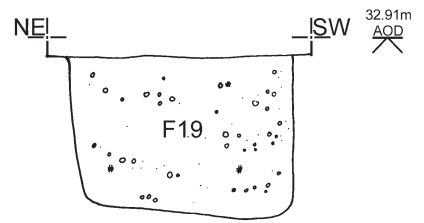
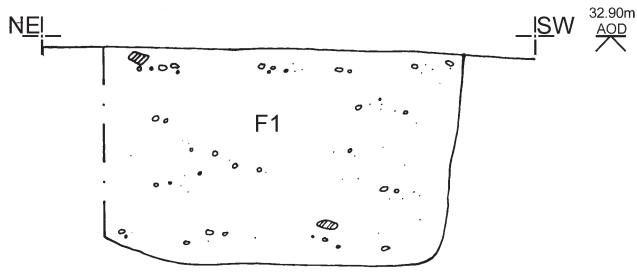


Fig 4 Trench 2.



- x x x mortar
- o o o small stones
- · · sand
- ▨ post-Roman brick or tile
- # # # charcoal
- ≡ ≡ ≡ clay

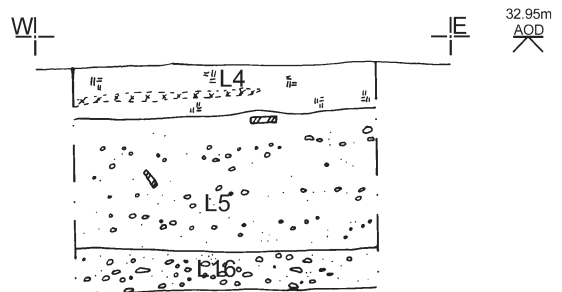
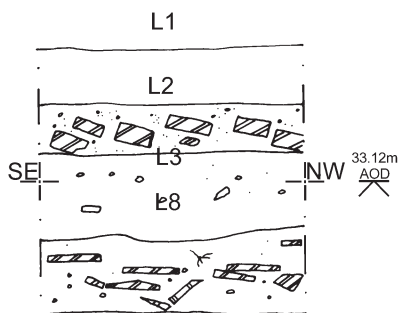


Fig 5 Sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Site address: 1-3 Friars Lane, Maldon, Essex	
Parish: Maldon	District: Maldon
NGR: NGR TL 84850 06985 (c)	Site codes: CAT: 10/1a HEM: MD 45
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: February 2010	Size of area investigated: 2 trenches, total length 37m in a site of approximately 950m ²
Location of curating museum: Colchester & Ipswich Museums accession 2010.7	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? yes	Related EHER no:
Final report:	CAT Report 533 and summary in <i>EAH</i>
Periods represented: medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p><i>This site is within the historic medieval core of Maldon, and 80m to the east of the site traditionally identified as the 9th-century burh.</i></p> <p><i>An evaluation by two trial trenches on a site rear of High Street and Fambridge Road has revealed areas of clay and gravel cut by post-medieval and modern pits. The gravel is identified as a metalled yard. The clay may have been the floor of a previously unidentified late medieval or early post-medieval structure, or may have been demolition debris resulting from repairs to or demolition of adjacent properties.</i></p> <p><i>The absence of Anglo-Saxon pottery may reflect an absence of occupation in that period. However, it is possible that Anglo-Saxon settlement was focussed on the street frontages to the north and west of the trench positions.</i></p> <p><i>No certain medieval features were revealed by this evaluation. However, a quantity of residual medieval pottery was found in later features. This is probably the result of domestic rubbish being dumped into back gardens of medieval properties on the street frontages.</i></p>	
Previous summaries/reports: none	
Keywords: post-medieval pits, gravel surface, clay ?floors	Significance: *
Author of summary: Howard Brooks	Date of summary: March 2010