

**Essex Historic Environment Record/
Essex Archaeology and History**

Summary sheet

CAT Report 513

Address: 'Halwin', Anchor Lane, Heybridge, Essex	
Parish: Heybridge	District: Maldon
NGR: TL 8538 0805 (centre)	Site code: CAT project code – 08/9e Museum accession code – 2008.139 ECC site code – HYAL 08a
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 20th April 2009	Size of area investigated: 1.6 x 23m trench
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related EHER numbers: 7796, 7802-7803, 7830, 17444-17446, 18773-18776, 18799
Final report: CAT Report 513	
Periods represented: modern (Victorian)	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results: An evaluation trench was excavated by CAT archaeologists on the 20th April 2009 across the proposed footprint of a block of three houses and associated garages on the former site of 'Halwin', Anchor Lane, Heybridge, Essex (Fig 1). The fieldwork was carried out as required in a brief issued by Essex County Council and in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CAT, and was monitored by Maria Medlycott.</p> <p>The modern topsoil (150mm-200mm deep) and underlying layer of mixed topsoil, hogging and modern building material (L2), were stripped using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. At a depth of 0.6-0.8m below modern ground-level, an orange/brown coarse sand (L3) was exposed in the eastern half of the trench, and a yellow/grey clay (L5) was exposed in the western half of the trench. Both deposits were homogeneous, contained no inclusions, and appeared geological in character. The deposits were cleaned by hand and two features were identified cut into the coarse sand (L3). F1 (Fig 3) was a modern ditch or drainage channel, possibly associated with the draining of the site or to carry water away from Anchor Lane. The fill was mottled and contained animal bone (cow metacarpal, rib and tibia, all of which exhibited butchery marks), post-medieval earthenware and Victorian pot fragments, and a plain clay-pipe stem fragment (length 41.2mm; bore diameter 1.9mm). F2 was a sub-square pit or post-hole containing modern artefacts (20th century) and was probably associated with the buildings that previously occupied the site.</p> <p>Modern and post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the layer into which the</p>	

features were cut (L3). These included animal bone (a cow incisor), Victorian pot and flowerpot fragments, and modern brick fragments. The discovery of a dark grey/black organic silty clay (L4) below the coarse sand, also containing artefacts, confirmed that the deposits into which the features were cut were not geological.

The coarse sand (L3) was subsequently excavated using the mechanical excavator to expose L4 at a depth of roughly 1m below modern ground-level. The homogeneous sand layer was 0.3-0.4m thick with few inclusions other than occasional fragments of modern building material. A hand-excavated sondage in the western half of the trench showed the yellow/grey clay (L5) to be roughly 0.1m thick and sealing a sand layer (L6) similar to L3. L6 was 0.3-0.4m thick and sealed the dark grey/black silty clay (L4) observed in the eastern half of the trench. L4 was at a depth of 1.25m below modern ground-level. Peg-tile and two plain clay-pipe stem fragments (length 67.9mm; bore diameter 2.0mm, length 56mm; bore diameter 1.2mm) were found in L5. A large fragment of Roman jar or amphora with a cream-coloured wash and broad rilling or corrugated effect on the external surface was also recovered from L5. The pot was probably a product of the Brockley Hill/Verulamium region kilns (CAR 10, Fabrics AU and FJ) and can be dated as 1st to early-mid 2nd century. Peg-tile and post-medieval brick was recovered from L6.

The location of the site at the confluence of two streams (Fig 2), the presence of modern material throughout the 1m-1.3m of deposits overlying the dark grey/black silty clay (L4), and the highly organic nature of L4, all suggest that the excavated material was modern make-up overlying what was originally marshland/flood plain. A comparison of heights taken on L4 across the trench shows a slope towards the confluence supporting this hypothesis. L2-L6 would have been imported to the site to consolidate and flatten the land, possibly for the construction of the previous dwelling 'Halwin' which is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map from 1881. The finds from these layers support a Victorian date for the importing of the material, and the presence of a fragment of Roman pot implies that the material may have been sourced locally. The infrequent artefactual evidence observed in the top few centimetres of the organic silty clay (a Victorian teacup handle and post-medieval pot, the earliest fragment dating to the 17th/18th century) were probably discarded into the stream/marshland before the make-up layers were deposited. The construction of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation in 1797 diverted water away from the water course at the southern boundary of the site, and it is likely that this allowed the land to be reclaimed, shrinking the area of the confluence of the two streams to the size that it is today.

The depth of the modern make-up suggests that any surviving archaeology below the modern material would be unlikely to be impacted by the proposed development. Moreover, the land is unlikely to have been utilised in antiquity as it would most likely have been marshland if not a part of the riverbed when the water course to the south of the site was substantially larger before the construction of the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation.

Further details can be found in the site archive, which will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums.

CAR 10: Colchester Archaeological Report 10 - Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-85, by R P Symonds & S Wade, ed by P Bidwell and A Croom, 1999

Previous summaries/reports: None

Keywords: -

Significance: neg

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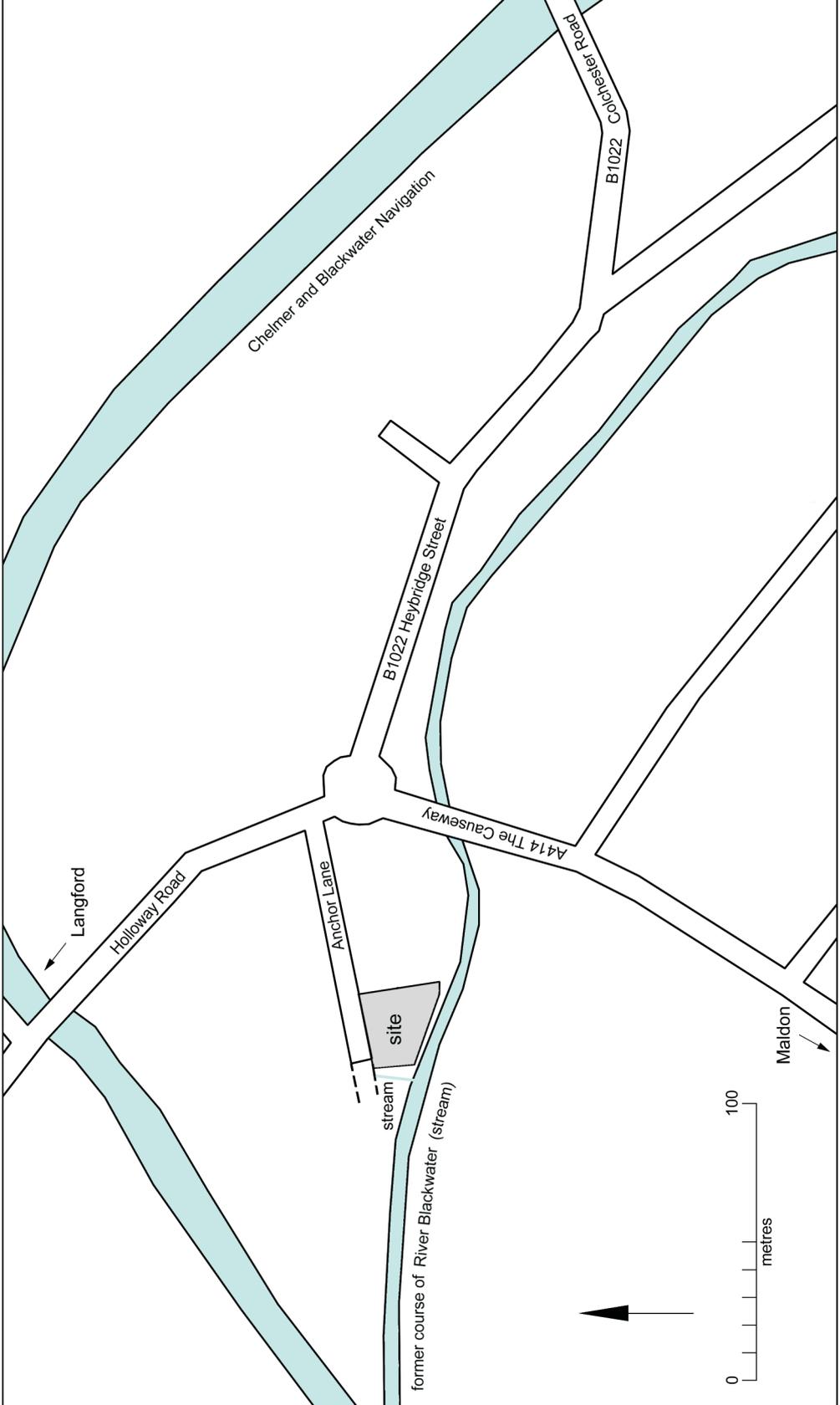
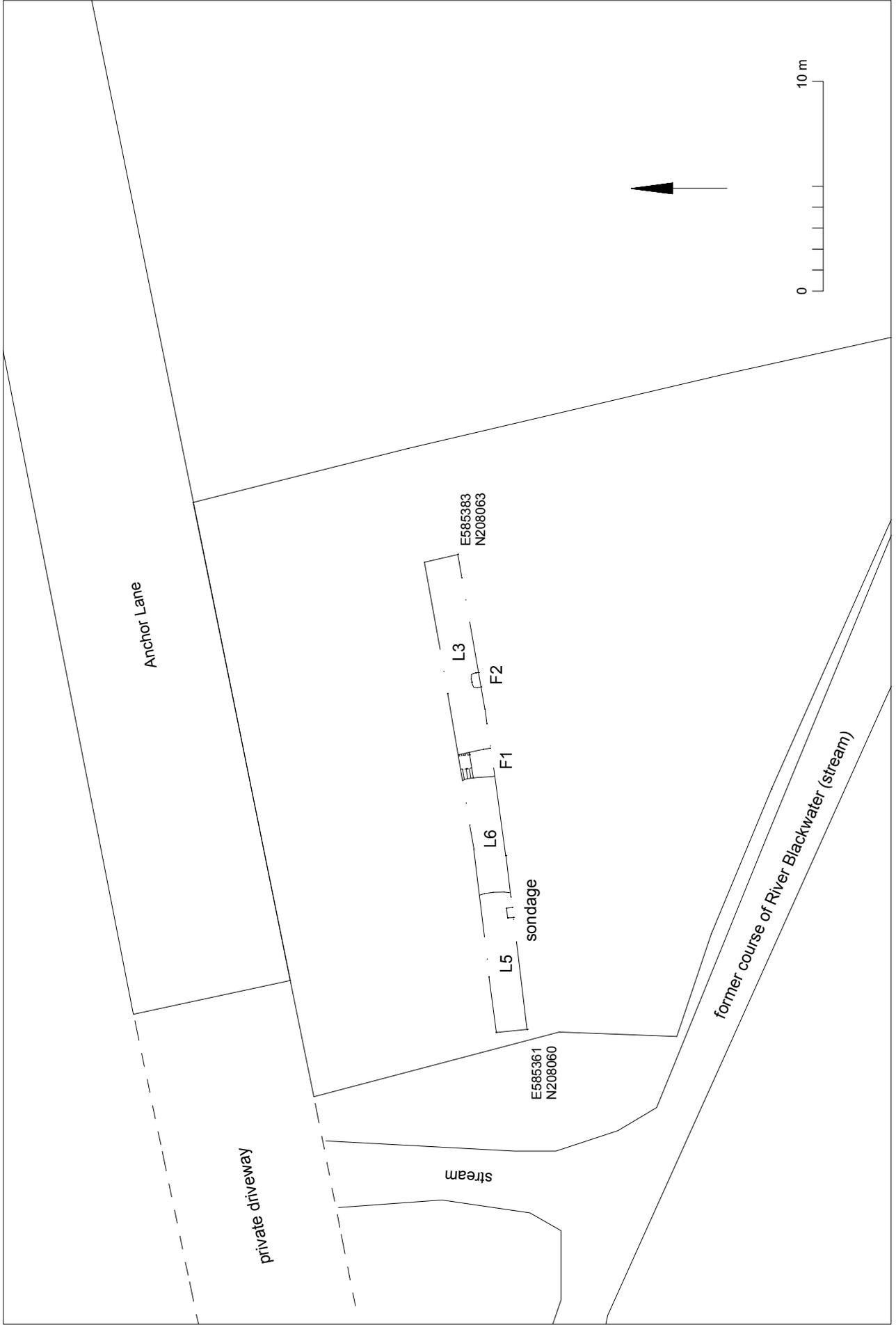


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Trench location plan.

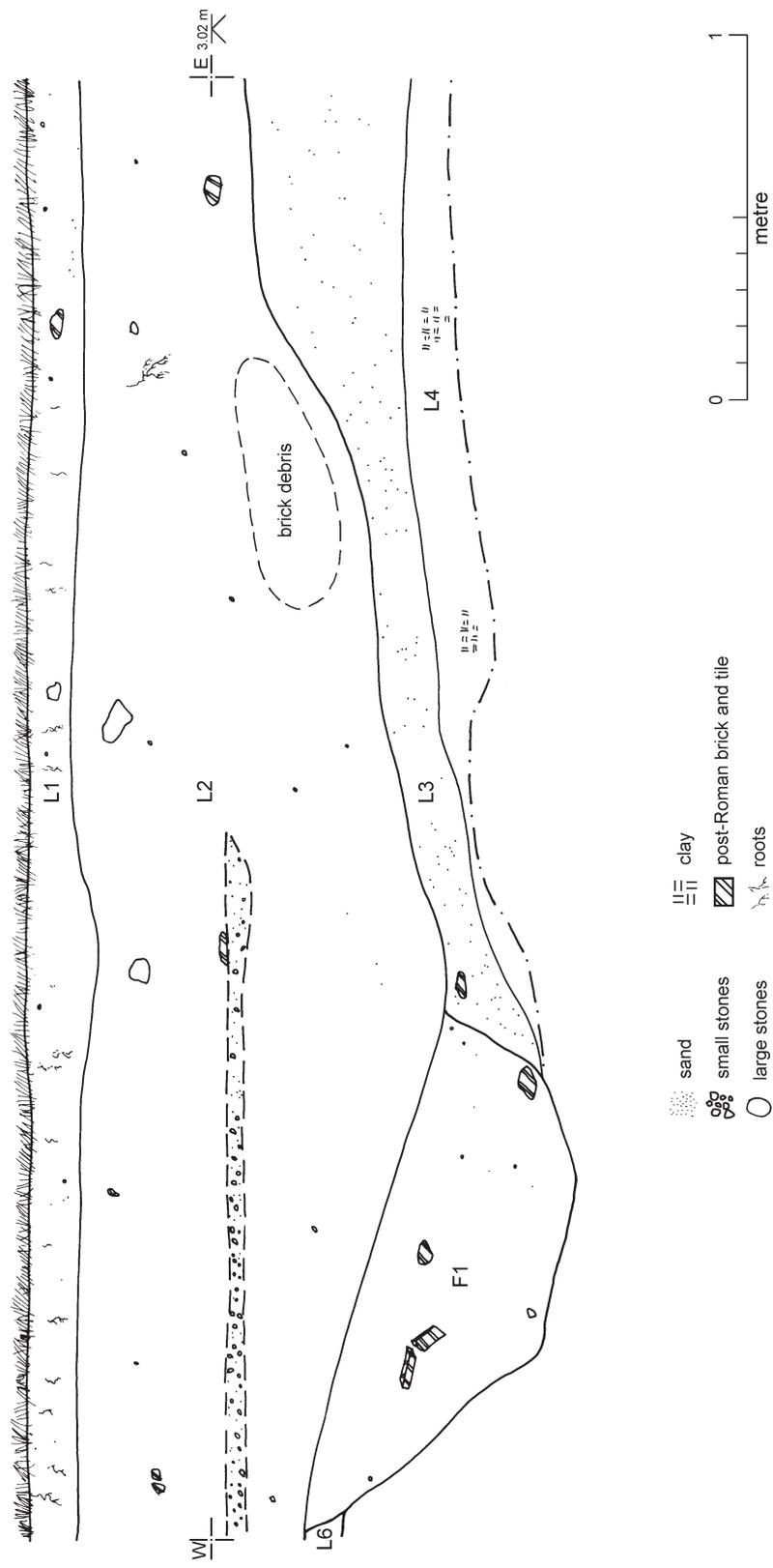


Fig 3 South-facing representative section.