

Archaeological evaluation at New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3HS

December 2016



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on behalf of Nigel Floyd, New Hall School Trust

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CAT Report 1053
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1 Summary

Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) took place at New Hall School, Boreham, Essex in advance of the construction of new Rugby changing rooms. New Hall School is located on the site of a medieval manor and later Tudor palace (Beaulieu) built by Henry VIII in 1517. Part of the palace survives and is still used by the school (Grade I listed, NHLE no. 1000207) with the surviving north wing located to the south of the development site. No significant archaeological features or horizons were present.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation at New Hall School, Boreham, Essex which was carried out on 20th December 2016. The work was commissioned by Nigel Floyd, New Hall School Trust, in advance of the construction of new Rugby changing rooms and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Monitoring*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The school is a Grade I listed building (NHLE no. 1000207; EHER 30269) built as a 'palace' for Henry VIII on the site of an earlier medieval manor (EHER 6040-1). New Hall was one of the six manors of Boreham parish granted in 1062 by Earl Howard to the Dean and Secular Canons of the College he founded in Waltham. New Hall became the summer residence of the Lord Abbot in 1177. The Canons moved closer to Waltham in 1350 and New Hall was held by a series of wealthy secular landowners until 1450 when it became Crown property under Henry VI. Henry VIII acquired New Hall from the father of Anne Boleyn in 1517. After considerable rebuilding he renamed it Beaulieu. Part of the palace was demolished in 1737 and the building turned into a more modest residence. This became a nunnery in 1798. Since 1799, the site has been used as a Catholic School and nunnery, there have been numerous extensions and developments. Modern extensions to the school have uncovered remains of both the medieval manor and Tudor palace (Burgess & Rance (eds) 1988).

The gardens surrounding the school are part of a registered park and garden (Ref:1114). The gardens were improved significantly when the Duke of Buckingham bought the house and employed John Tradescant the Elder to supervise and possibly design the grounds. There are references to the fish ponds (to the east of the

development area) from at least 1628 with a later phase of garden activity in the 18th century. Parts of the moats and ponds survive. Some of the outbuildings and walls in the east of the gardens may be as early as 16th/17th century (EHER 8572).

To the northwest of the proposed development site (approx 625m to the NW) recent excavations prior to the Countryside Zest development (Oxford Archaeology East Report No. 1309) revealed a concentration of archaeological remains indicating settlement and/or industrial activities from the Late Bronze Age through to the end of the Roman period, with early Roman coins and brooches found in ploughsoil. The same development also revealed archaeological features contemporary with New Hall, possibly associated with deer management and hunting activity, 540m to the west (Oxford Archaeology East Report No. 1770)

The proposed development also lies close to an area which contains prehistoric remains. To the north and west are cropmarks of undated and prehistoric enclosures and other features (EHER 5763, 5796). The Boreham to Springfield Link Main revealed three undated ditches. Along the line of this link main Early Neolithic and Late Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flints were found (EHER 47632). To the west and south-west of the school, recent excavations prior to the Countryside Zest development have revealed new archaeological features contemporary with New Hall, and remains of Iron Age settlement (EHER 47635).

CAT has recently undertaken two archaeological evaluations at the school. The first in 2015 was located 925m to the southwest within the easement for a new access road across arable land to the south of the school and northwest of the A12 Boreham Interchange (CAT Report 851). The second in 2016 was located 130m to the northwest of the development site in advance of the construction of all-weather sports pitches (CAT Report 1003). No significant archaeological features or horizons were revealed in either evaluation. However, monitoring in 2016 (CAT Report 952) for developments in the north quad courtyard (95m to the SSE) revealed five post-medieval brick walls and a brick floor, all probably associated with the Tudor palace. Two walls and the floor dated from the 15th to the early 17th century. One wall was possibly part of a boundary. The other wall and associated floor were probably part of a previously unknown room or set of rooms to the north of the surviving north wing. A third wall dating from the 17th to the early 18th century, along with two other later post-medieval walls, may represent later additions or repairs.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

A single trial-trench measuring 35m long by 1.8m wide was excavated under archaeological supervision within the footprint of the changing rooms.

The trench was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 240-370mm thick) onto a post-medieval/modern accumulation horizon (L2, c 250mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3). Layer L2 was not present in the centre of the trench, instead of which was a layer of post-medieval brick, tile and mortar (L4, c 330-400mm thick) that was not associated with any specific cut but was probably just a dump of material onto the site.

A single modern pit (F1) containing concrete and brick (not retained) and six service trenches were the only features present in the trench.



Photograph 1 Trench shot, looking W

5 Finds

All of the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2. The pottery fabrics referred to follow *CAR 7*.

Context	Description	Date
L2, (1)	Pottery: one sherd (4g) of late post-medieval factory ware (Fabric 48), late 18th/19th – 20th century	late 18th/19th – 20th century
L4, (2)	CBM: five fragments of brick (1.014kg), largest piece 56mm thick and heat affected; one fragment of peg-tile (38g), 11mm thick	post-medieval/ modern

Table 1 All finds by context

6 Discussion

No significant archaeological features or horizons were identified during the evaluation, with considerable modern disturbance in the eastern half of the trench. It is likely that the trench was located within the gardens of Beaulieu Palace to the north of the palace buildings.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Nigel Floyd of New Hall School Trust for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with J Roberts and A Wade. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

8 References

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

Burgess, E & Rance, M	1988	<i>Boreham: History, Tales and Memories of an Essex Village</i>
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2016	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation and monitoring at New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Essex, CM3 3HS</i>
CAT Report 851	2015	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Essex: July 2015.</i>
CAT Report 952	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Essex, CM3 3HS: February 2016.</i>
CAT Report 1003	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation at New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Essex, CM3 3HS: August 2016</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
ECC	2016	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Monitoring at New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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)
Oxford Archaeology East Report 1309	2011	<i>Prehistoric and Roman remains at Beaulieu Park, Chelmsford</i>
Oxford Archaeology East Report 1770	2015	<i>Late Medieval Remains at Zone G, Beaulieu, Chelmsford</i>

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to c AD 1800
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1053)

ECC Evaluation Brief, CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Original site record (Feature and layer sheets, Finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, Architectural plans, Attendance register

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMRE: 2016.140.

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Distribution list:

Nigel Floyd, New Hall School Trust
Historic Environment Monitor, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



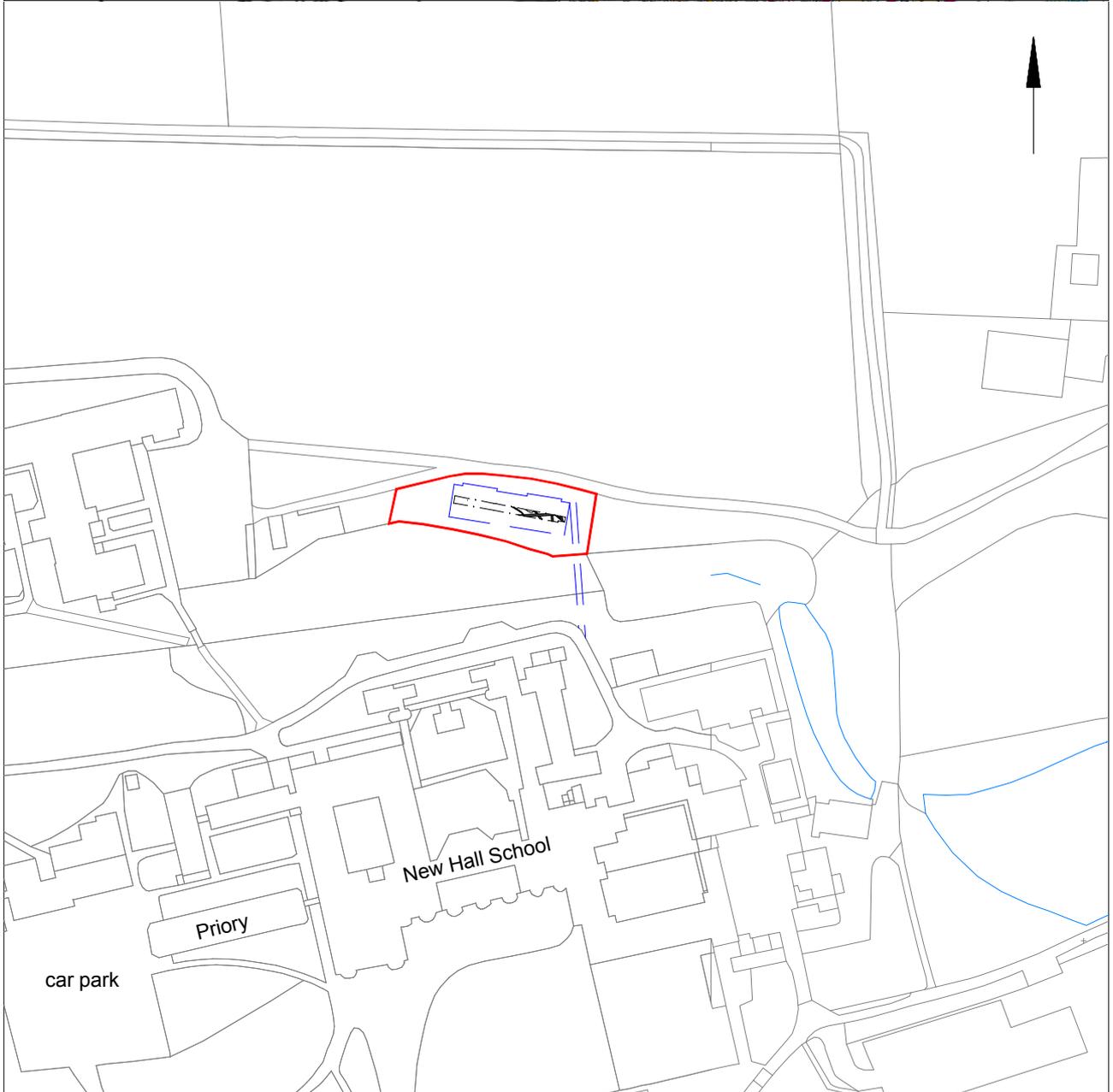
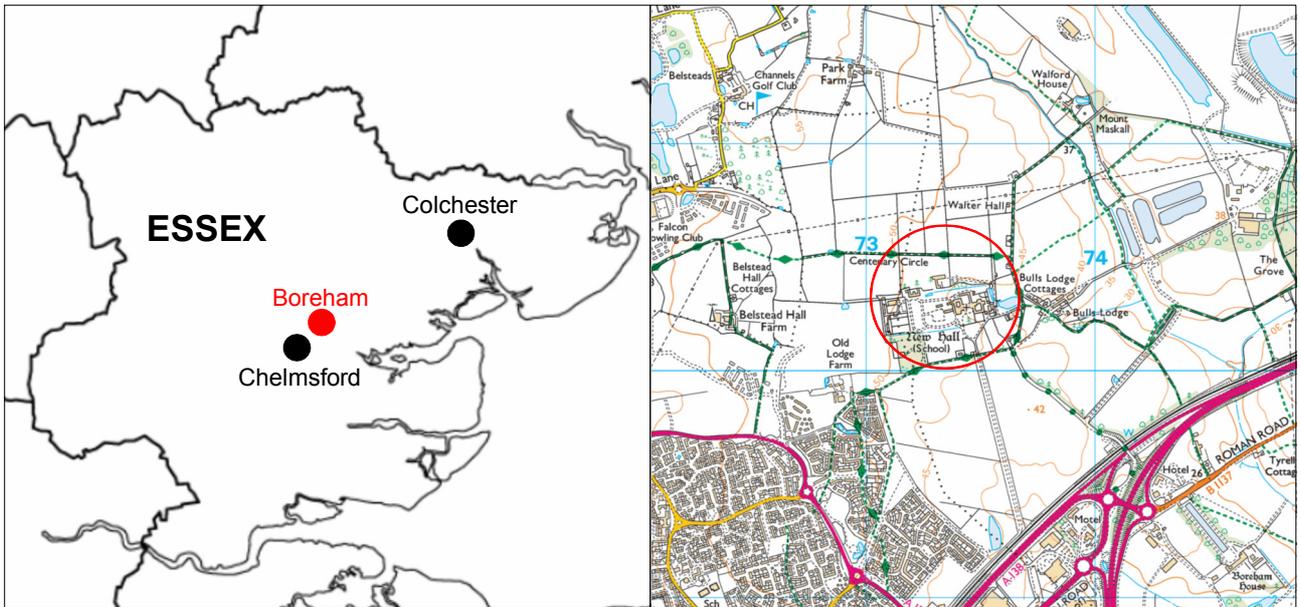
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Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 4/1/2017



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Fig 1 Site location (proposed development dashed blue)



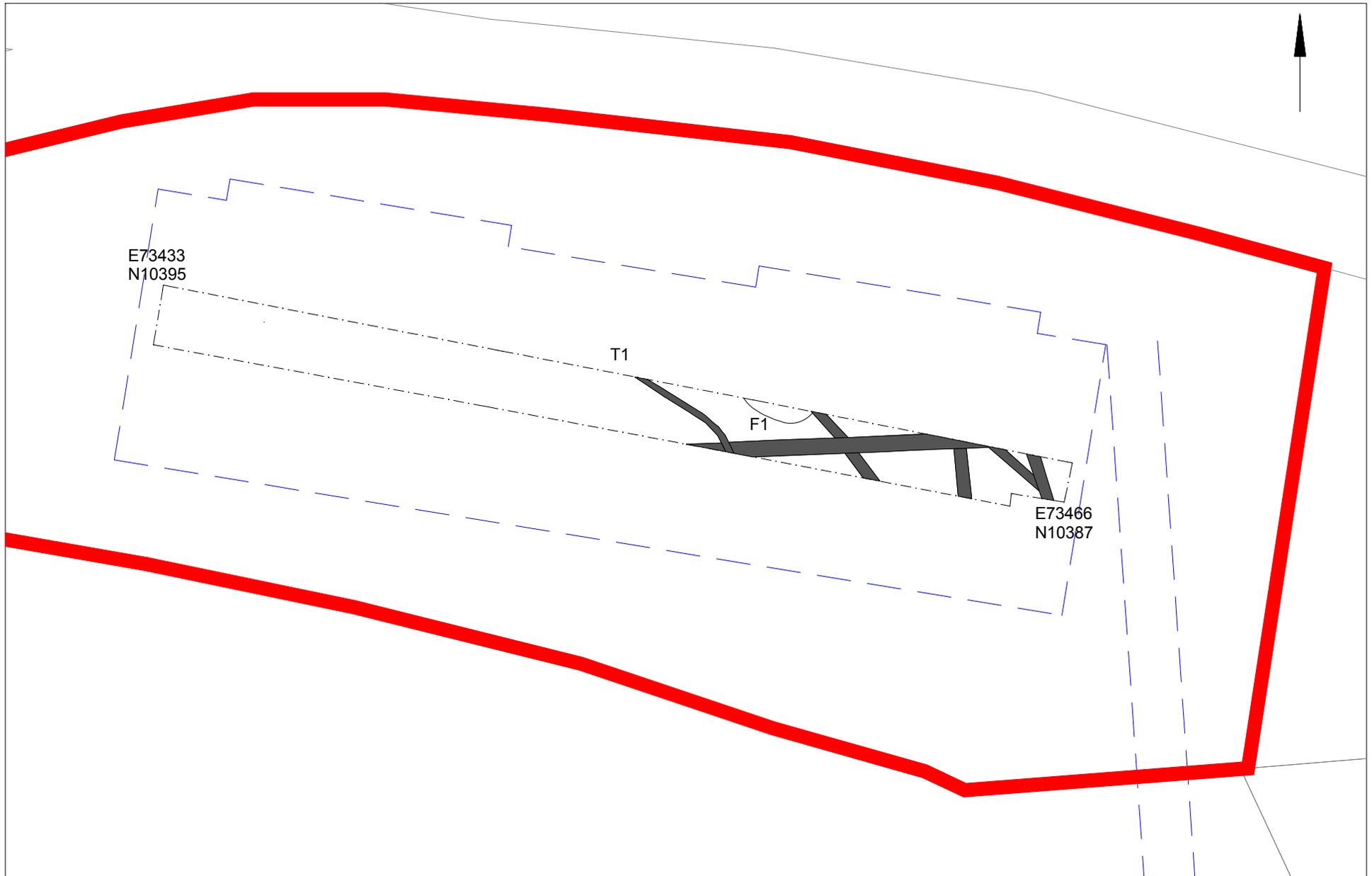


Fig 2 Results (proposed development dashed blue)

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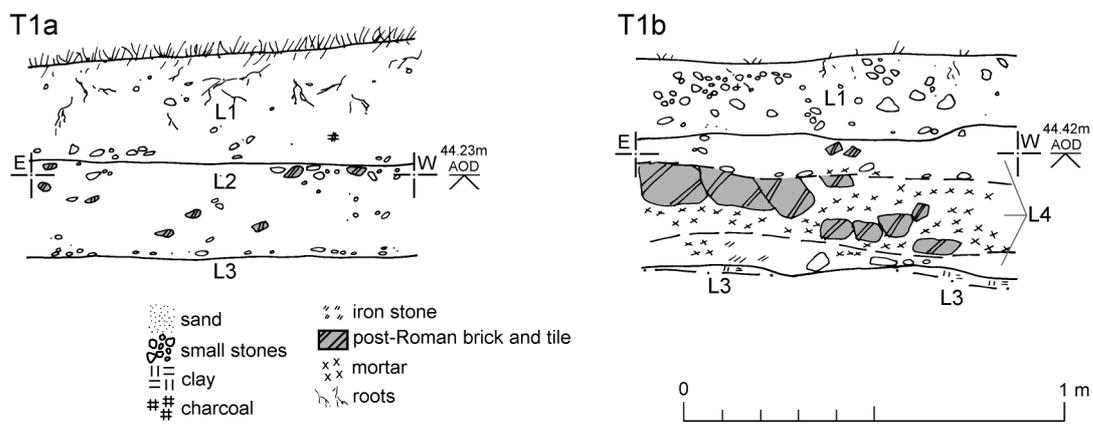


Fig 3 Representative trench sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-270247

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at New Hall School, The Avenue, Boreham, Essex, CM3 3HS
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) took place at New Hall School, Boreham, Essex in advance of the construction of new Rugby changing rooms. New Hall School is located on the site of a medieval manor and later Tudor palace (Beaulieu) built by Henry VIII in 1517. Part of the palace survives and is still used by the school (Grade I listed, NHLE no. 1000207) with the surviving north wing located to the south of the development site. No significant archaeological features or horizons were present.
Project dates	Start: 20-01-2017 End: 20-01-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	16/12a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00058/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/00059/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	BONHSCR16 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMRE: 2016.140 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Public building (e.g. school, church, hospital, medical centre, law courts etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country England
Site location ESSEX CHELMSFORD BOREHAM New Hall School, The Avenue
Postcode CM3 3HS
Study area 0.11 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 7344 1039 51.764786265057 0.513700999779 51 45 53 N 000 30 49 E Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 44.02m Max: 44.1m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID CHMRE: 2016.140
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID CHMRE: 2016.140
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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