

# Archaeological evaluation at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TR

July 2017



**by Mark Baister**

figures by Mark Baister and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Harvey Furniss  
and Gareth Morgan

**on behalf of**

**Phelan Construction Ltd**

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**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785

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

**CAT Report 1147**  
August 2017

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OASIS Summary sheet

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (consisting of one 'T-shaped' trial-trench) was carried out at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. The trench contained a large amount of modern disturbance, as well as a modern service. Also uncovered was a modern ditch, aligned north/south and visible on earlier OS mapping as part of an enclosure around a series of allotments.*

*Two residual finds, a sherd of 12th-14th century pottery and a prehistoric worked flint, were recovered from the topsoil.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex which was carried out on the 31st June 2017. The work was commissioned by Phelan Construction Ltd in advance of the construction of a new school building, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

The Essex County Council (ECC) Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Trial-Trenching and Excavation at the Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex* detailing the required archaeological work, written by the HEA (ECC 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with the HEA (CAT 2017).

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)* (Historic England 2015), 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* (CIfA 2014a), *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2014b) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014c).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies in an archaeologically sensitive area just outside the suggested limits of the medieval town of Newport (EHER 376-7) and there is documentary evidence of a castle being in the vicinity (EHER 234). Initially thought to be in the area of the school, excavations here have failed to identify any remains of the castle. To the north is a medieval leper hospital where excavations have identified a number of structures and human burials related to the hospital (EHER 1937).

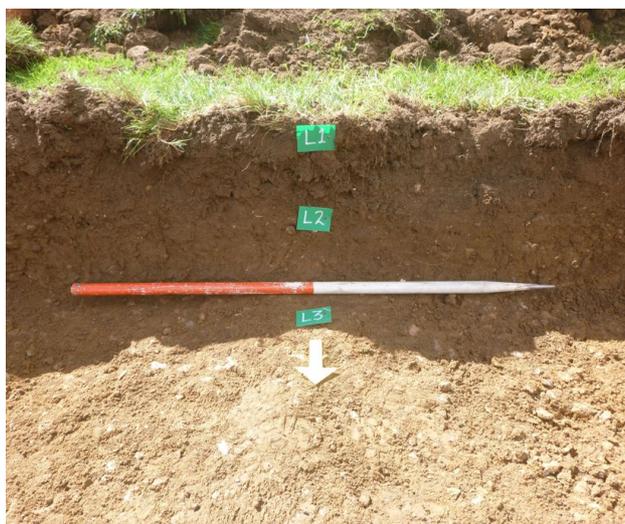
An evaluation to the west of the proposed site revealed two areas of activity with multiple pits, two small ditches and pottery dating to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age (EHER 48597). However, recent evaluations to the west off Bury Water Lane (CAT Report 1081) and the northwest on land off Whiteditch Lane have found no significant archaeological remains (CAT Reports 1020 and 1115).

#### 4 Results (Figs 2-4)

One 'T-shaped' trial-trench was mechanically excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

##### **Trench 1 (T1): 17.5m long north-south, 7.5m long east-west. 1.8m wide.**

Trench 1 was to be a long 30m trench aligned across the footprint of the proposed school building. Due to the presence of live services and tree canopies, the trench had to be moved further east and adjusted to be 'T-shaped'.



**Photograph 1** Representative section of T1.  
Photograph taken facing south.

T1 was excavated through a layer of modern topsoil (L1, c 90mm thick), covering a layer of subsoil (L2, c 280mm thick), which sealed a compact stony sand (L3). The topsoil (L1) contained a single, small, abraded sherd of Hedingham ware, dating from the late 12th – 14th century. It also contained a large hard hammer secondary flint flake, with multiple areas of retouch, including a retouched notch, which probably dates from the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age. Both of these finds are residual and were recovered during machining.

Most of the trench was taken up by a large patch of modern disturbance to the south (Photograph 2) and a modern service aligned north-west/south-east. The modern service cut a shallow north/south aligned modern ditch F1 (containing a fragment of



**Photograph 2** T1. Large modern disturbance visible in foreground. Photograph taken facing north.

peg-tile and a brick), with a U-shaped profile and rounded base (Photograph 3). This ditch itself was cut through the subsoil layer L2. Adjacent to this ditch was irregular feature F2, which was probably the result of animal activity or rooting when the ditch was open.



**Photograph 3** Ditch F1. Photograph taken facing south.

## **5 Discussion**

When the evaluation trench is overlaid onto an earlier OS map (Fig 3), it shows that ditch F1 was part of an enclosure around a series of allotment gardens. This enclosure is visible on the first edition OS map in 1876 and continues to appear on mapping until at least the 1960s.

The only evidence of historical activity on the site came in the form of a sherd of medieval pottery and a late prehistoric worked flint, both recovered from the topsoil (L2). No evidence was uncovered that could suggest the location of the castle indicated by historical sources.

## 6 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Phelan Construction Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister with H Furniss and G Morgan. Figures were prepared by M Baister and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECC by Richard Havis.

## 7 References

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

CAT	2017	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation at the Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TR</i>
CAT Report 1020	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Bury Grove, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD September 2016</i> by L Pooley
CAT Report 1081	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Redbank, Bury Water Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TZ March 2017</i> by L Pooley
CAT Report 1115	2017	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land south of Tudhope Farm, Whiteditch Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3UD June 2017</i> by Dr E Hicks
ECC	2017	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at the Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex</i> by R Havis
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives</i>
CIfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</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	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

## 8 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
HEA	Historic Environment Advisor
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	<b>W</b> ritten <b>S</b> cheme of <b>I</b> nvestigation

## 9 Contents of archive

**Finds:** none retained

### **Paper and digital record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1147)

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, risk assessment

## 10 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 Saffron Walden Museum (an accession code has been requested).

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### **Distribution list**

Phelan Construction Ltd

Richard Havis, Historic Environment Advisor Essex County Council

Essex Historic Environment Record



### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

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

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 08.08.2017

### **Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Finds no.</b>	<b>Context type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
F1	1	Ditch	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stones	Modern
F2	-	Tree rooting/animal disturbance	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L1	2	Topsoil	Loose, dry, medium brown sandy-silt	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Soft, dry, medium grey/brown sandy-silt	pre-modern
L3	-	Natural	Friable, dry, light/medium yellow/brown sand with common stones and flint	Post-glacial

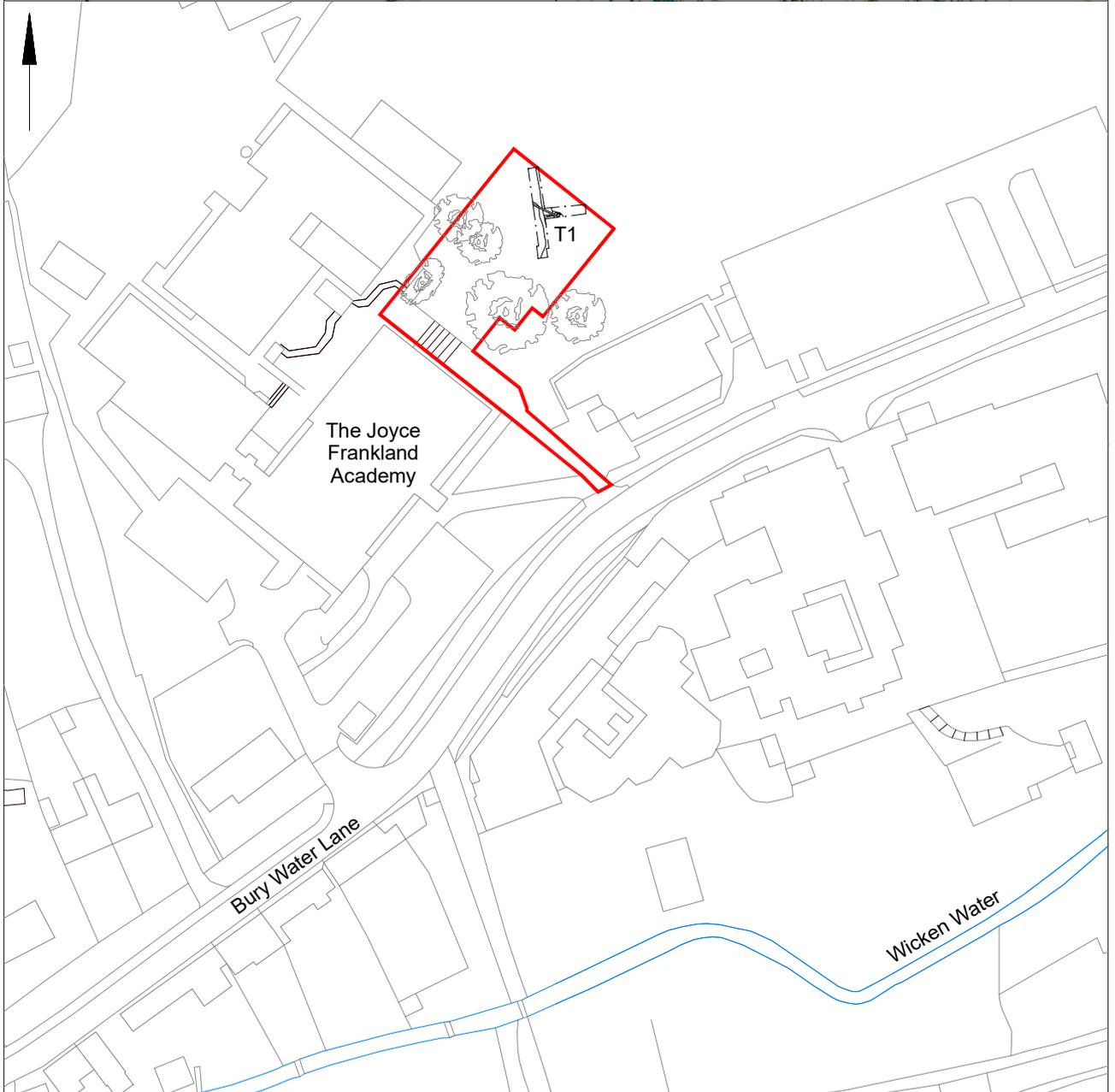
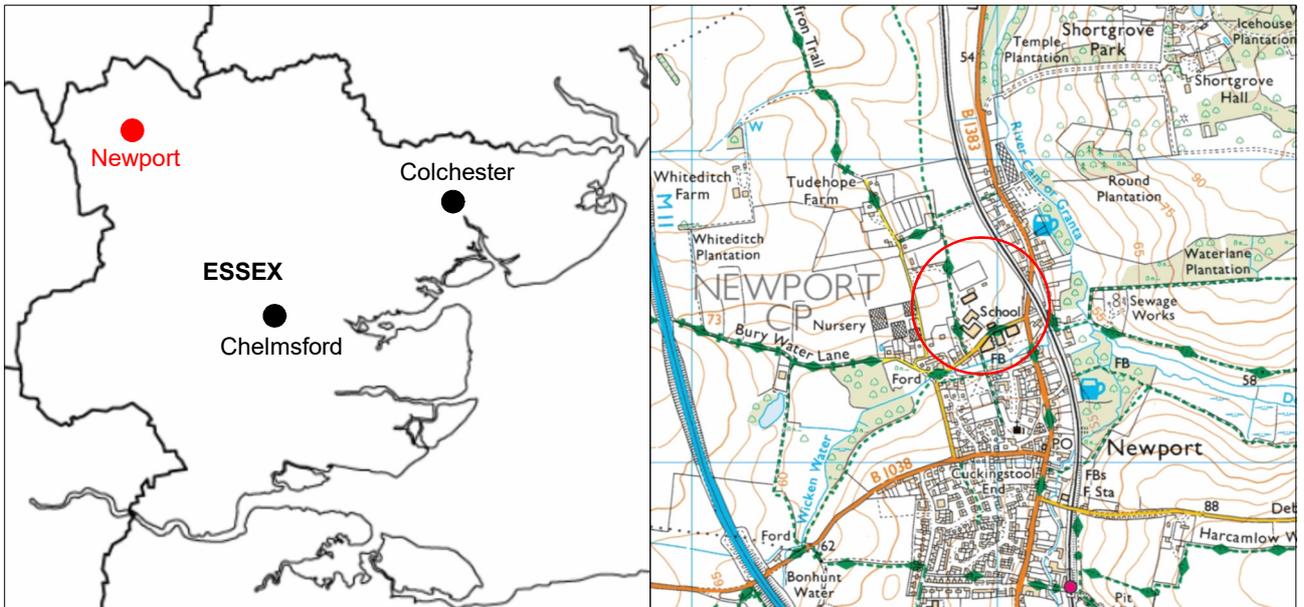


Fig 1 Site location. Proposed new school building in red.

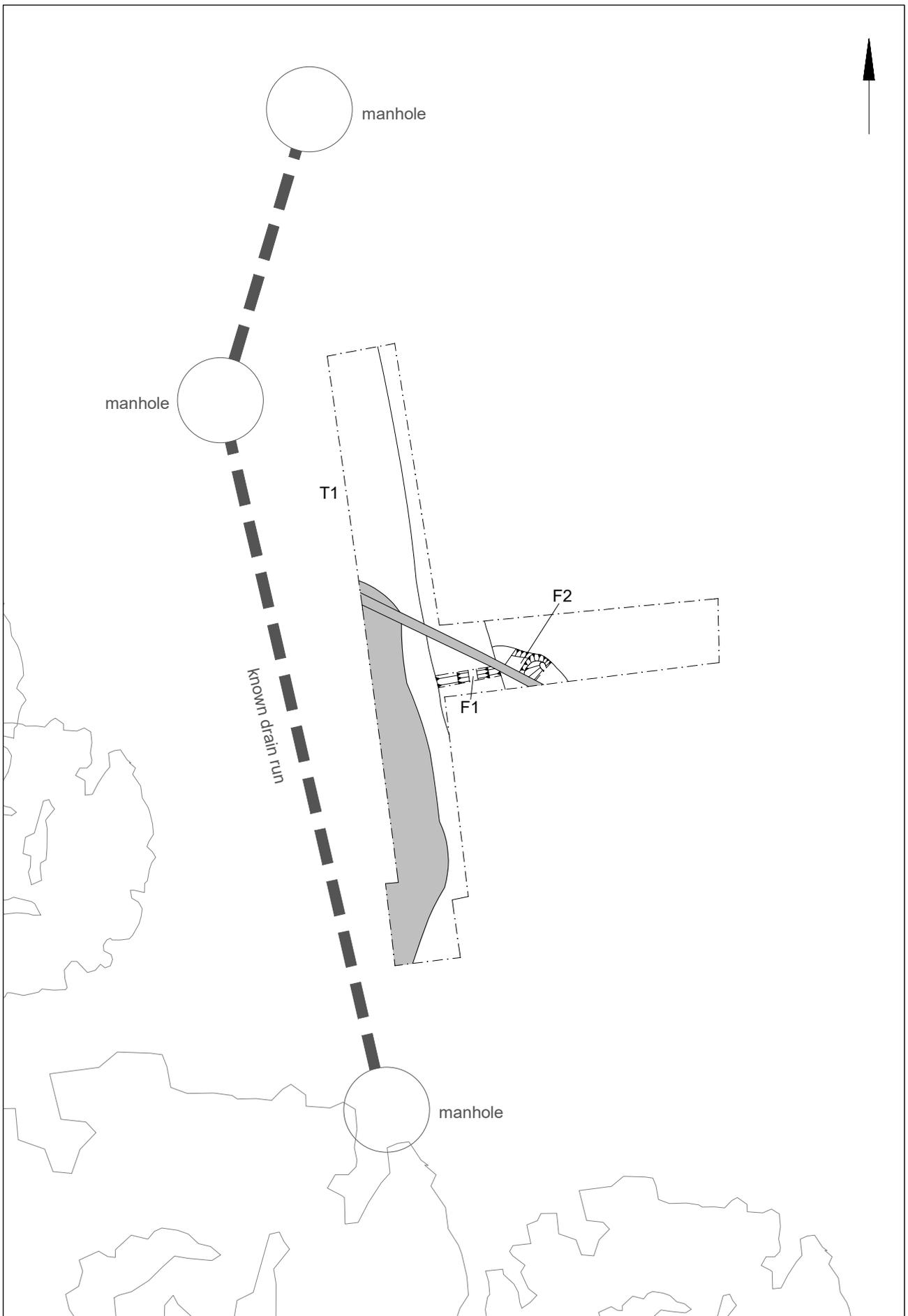


Fig 2 Detailed plan of T1 and known service runs.  
Modern disturbance in trench shown in grey.

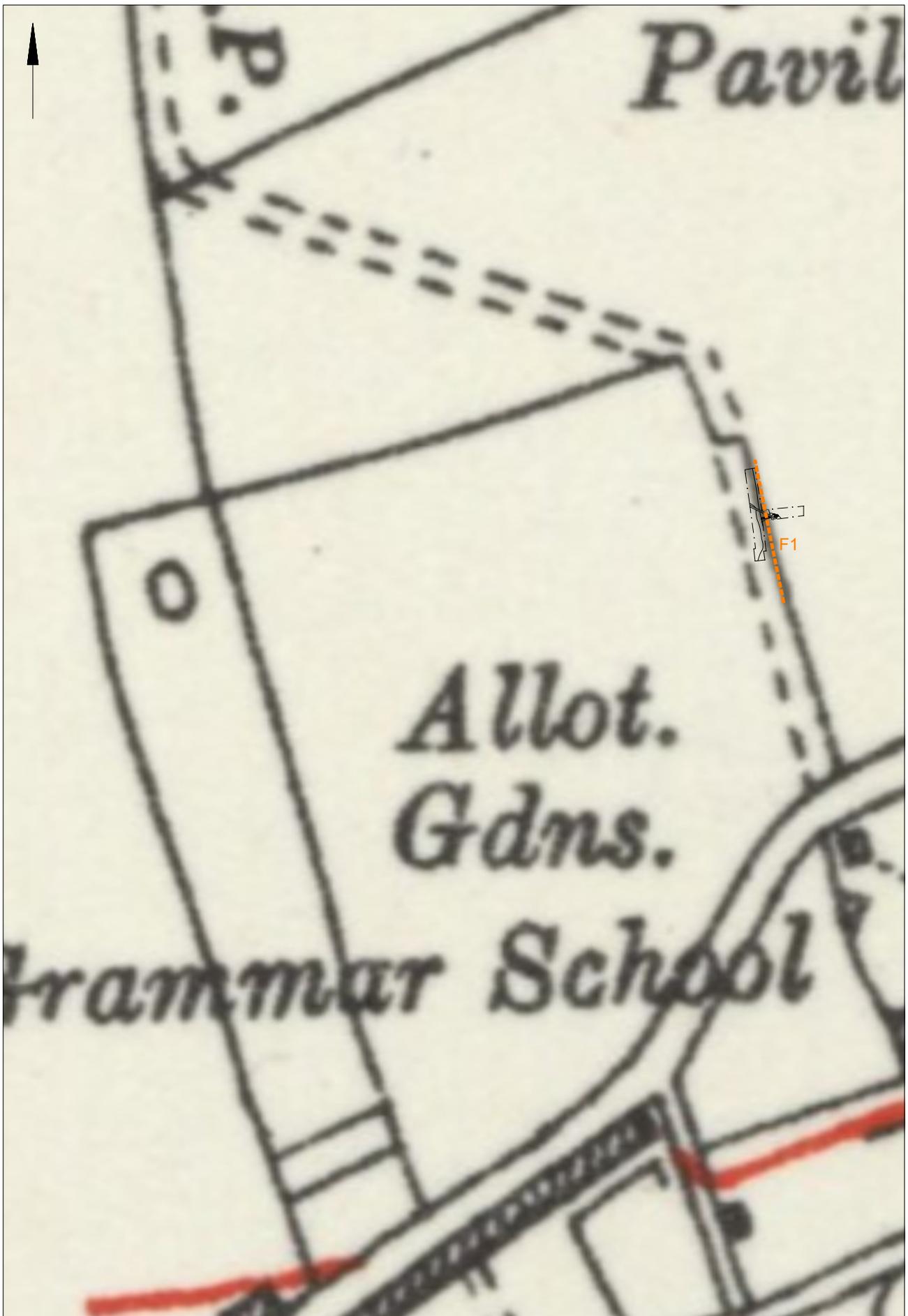
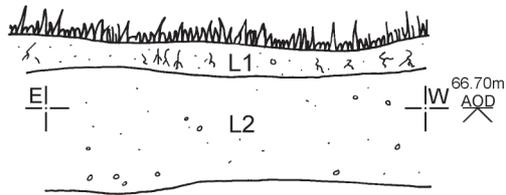
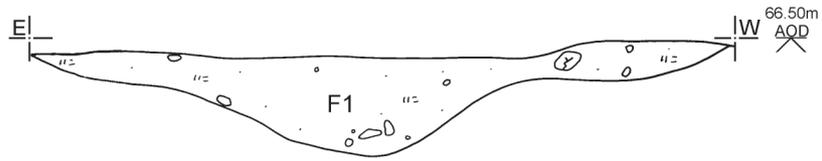


Fig 3 Trench overlaid on 1938 OS map, with F1 extrapolated.

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0 50 m



-  small stones
-  large stones
-  roots
-  clay



Fig 4 Feature F1 and representative section.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-290476**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at the Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TR
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (consisting of one 'T-shaped' trial-trench) was carried out at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex in advance of the construction of a new school building. The trench contained a large amount of modern disturbance, as well as a modern service. Also uncovered was a modern ditch, aligned north/south and visible on earlier OS mapping as part of an enclosure around a series of allotments. Two residual finds, a sherd of 12th-14th century pottery and a prehistoric worked flint, were recovered from the topsoil.
Project dates	Start: 31-07-2017 End: 09-08-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/07g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CC/UTT/12/16/PRE - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CC/UTT/04/17 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	SHERD Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD NEWPORT Joyce Frankland Academy
Postcode	CB11 3TR
Study area	45 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 51918 34425 51.98701992991 0.212625114694 51 59 13 N 000 12 45 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 66.27m Max: 66.7m

### 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	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	2017.63
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	2017.63
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey", "other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, Essex, CB11 3TR July 2017
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Baister, M.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1147
Date	2017

Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
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URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk/summaries/CAT-1147.html">http://cat.essex.ac.uk/summaries/CAT-1147.html</a>
Entered by	Mark Baister (mb@catuk.org)
Entered on	9 August 2017

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