

Archaeological monitoring on land northeast of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex, CB10 1NS

September 2017



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Mark Baister and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Mark Baister

commissioned by Mr Van Kooten and Ms Townsend

NGR: TL 50446 42806 (centre)

Planning reference: UTT/17/0186/FUL (revised from UTT/16/0199/FUL)

CAT project ref.: 17/07d

Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2015.52

ECC code: GC66

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on land northeast of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford during the construction of a residential dwelling with associated access and landscaping. Monitoring was specifically carried out on all groundworks within the scheduled 4th-century Roman walled town. No significant archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording on land northeast of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, which was carried out during 11th-15th September 2017. The work was commissioned by Mr Van Kooten and Ms Townsend during groundworks for the construction of a residential dwelling together with associated access and landscaping, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). Monitoring was specifically carried out on all groundworks within the scheduled 4th-century Roman walled town.

In response to consultation with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) and the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (EHAM) they 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 scheduled monument consent, the *Brief for archaeological monitoring at land northeast of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCHEA/EHAM (CAT 2016).

In addition to the scheduled monument consent, 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 watching briefs* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

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 proposed development site lies on the southern edge of the scheduled area of the 4th-century walled Roman town (SM 24871). Within the recently published '*The Roman Town of Great Chesterford*' (Medlycott 2011) the town wall is shown directly bisecting Granta Cottages. The town wall has been identified on the eastern side of the town off Newmarket Road as a large robbed-out foundation trench. On the southern side of Newmarket Road evidence of Roman coffins are recorded (EHER 4941) as well as further masonry foundations, which may be either part of the walled town or more likely part of the second walled enclosure located around the church (EHER 13922). For further details of the archaeology of Great Chesterford see the Historic Town survey (Medlycott, 1999) and the recent publication on the town (Medlycott, 2011).

In the immediate vicinity of the development site, archaeological evaluations undertaken at 3 and 4 Granta Cottages found evidence of masonry walls. That at no. 3 found evidence of a substantial wall thought to represent the original town wall, with

that at no. 4 finding the remains of a masonry structure inside the walled town area (EHER 48223; Miciak 2013). An evaluation in 2015 to the east of 6 Granta Cottages did not identify any trace of the town wall (CAT Report 864). On land to the west of Granta Cottages and evaluation in 2016 revealed the remains of a large, 2m wide, robber trench aligned SW to NE (CAT Report 988). Probably the remains of the 4th-century Roman town wall, the robber trench appeared to be on the same alignment as part of a wall foundation identified at 4 Granta Cottages. Three Roman pits, two undated pits and an undated linear, possibly a ditch, were also excavated.

In 2015 an archaeological evaluation was carried out on the development site itself (CAT Report 864). Four trial-trenches were laid out across the site revealing a single modern pit of 19th/20th century date and a natural feature. There were no significant archaeological remains.

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on the site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

On 11th September 2017, a CAT archaeologist observed the machine-excitation of three pits to remove tree stumps.

Pit 1 measured 4m by 2m and approximately 1m in depth. Excavation occurred through modern topsoil and concrete surfacing (L1, c 0.65m thick, dark brown sandy-silt) onto natural sands (L2, medium yellow/brown sand with frequent gravel piece inclusions). No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.



Photograph 1 Tree removal pit 1 – looking west southwest

Pit 2 measured 3.1m by 3.6m and approximately 0.9m in depth. Excavation occurred through L1 (c 0.5m thick) onto buried topsoil (L3, c 0.25m thick, medium grey/brown sandy-silt) which sealed L2. No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.

Pit 3 measured 3.8m by 2.5m and 1.45m in depth. Excavation occurred through L1 (c 0.6m thick) onto L2. No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.



Photograph 2 Tree removal pit 2 – looking southwest

On 15th September, a CAT archaeologist attended the excavation of a soakaway. It measured approximately 1m by 0.7m and 0.5m in depth. Excavation occurred through L1 only. No significant archaeological horizons were encountered.

6 Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of significant archaeological interest, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mr Van Kooten and Ms Townsend for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by M Baister and A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by L Pooley and S Carter. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Richard Havis.

9 References

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

Brown and Glazenbrook	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring on land northeast of Granta Cottages, Market Road, Great Chesterford, Essex, CB10 1NS</i>
CAT Report 864	2015	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation at Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex: August 2015</i>
CAT Report 988	2016	<i>Archaeological evaluation on land to the west of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex, CB10 1PE: July 2016</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</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	1999	<i>Great Chesterford Historic Town Assessment Report ECC</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)
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>The Roman Town of Great Chesterford</i> East Anglian Archaeology 137
Miciak, L	2013	<i>Numbers 3 and 4 Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, Essex: Archaeological Evaluation</i> (FAU Report 2644)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
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 ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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 sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1172)

CBCPS 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

12 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 under accession code SAFWM: 2015.52

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Distribution list

Mr Van Kooten and Ms Townsend
Richard Havis, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

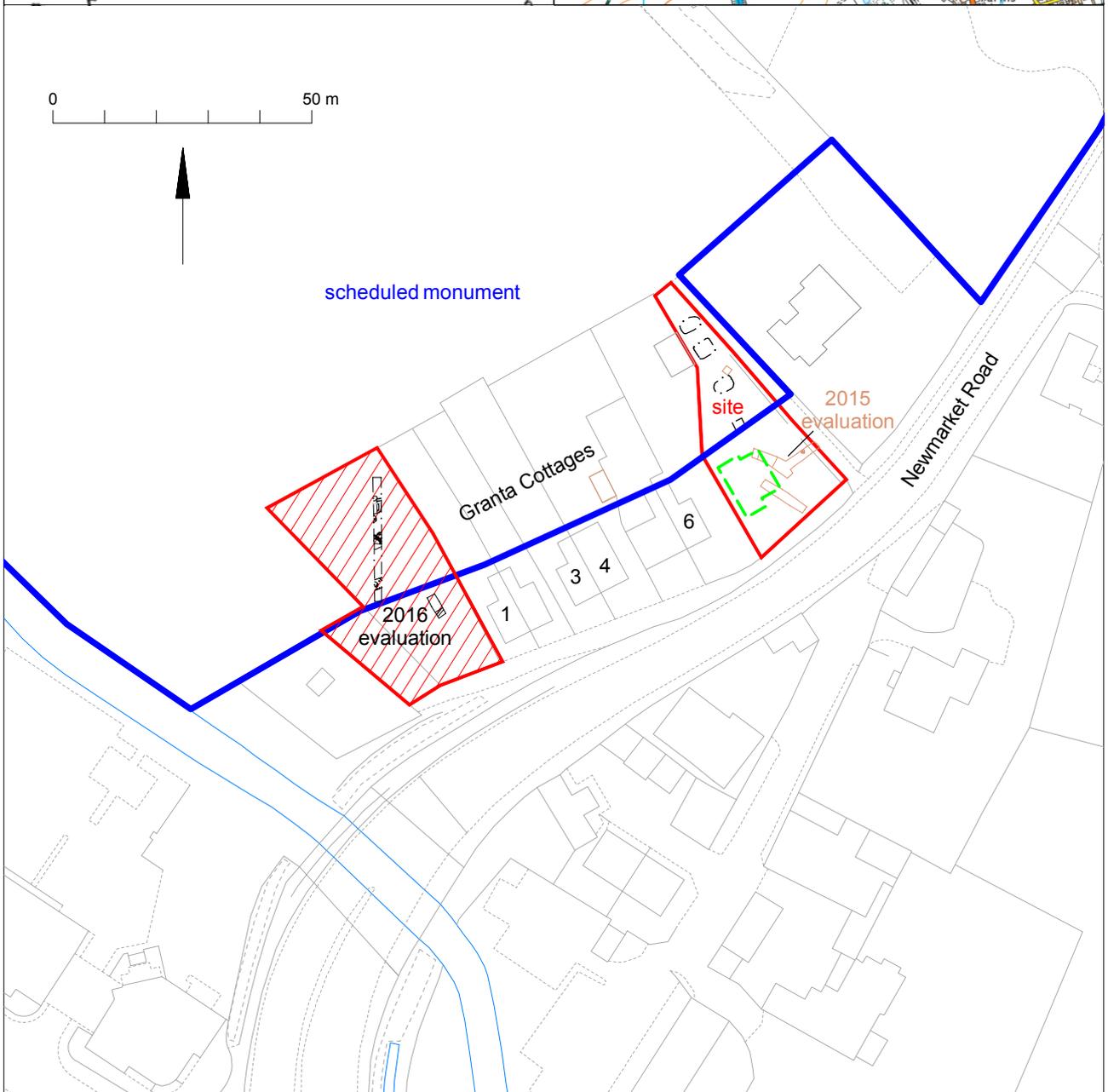
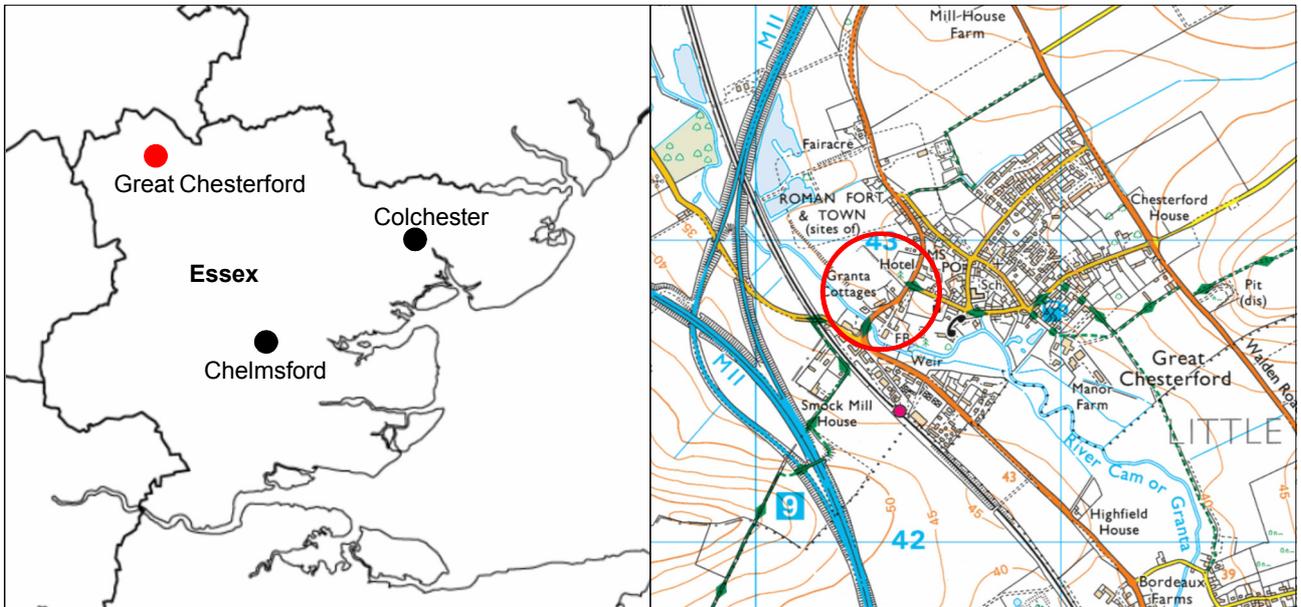
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Fig 1 Site location, proposed new dwelling dashed green

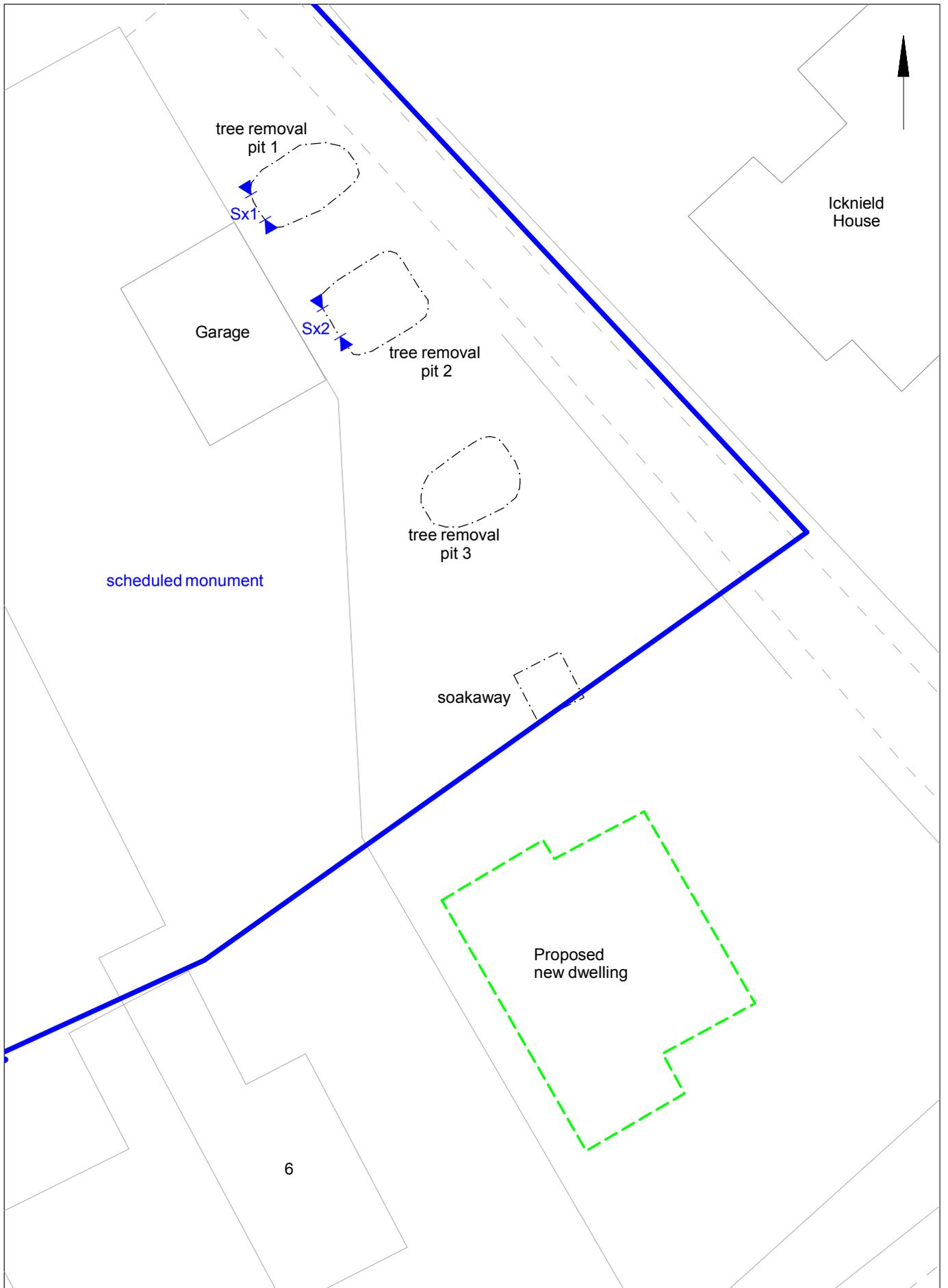
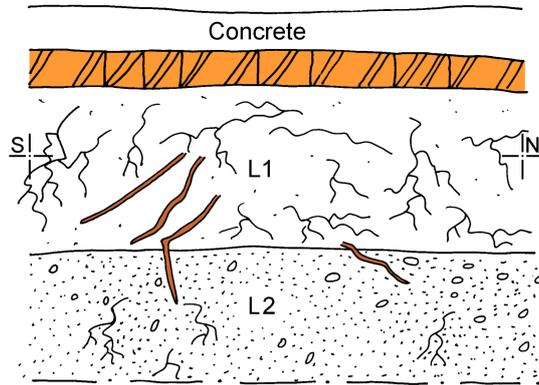
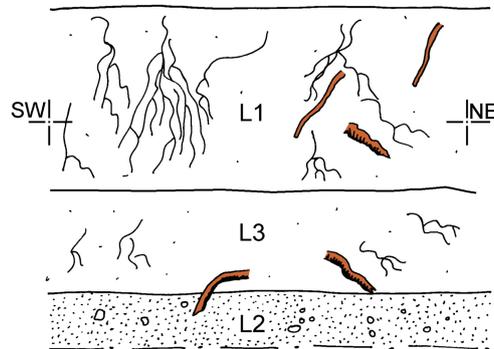


Fig 2 Results

Sx 1



Sx 2



- sand
- small stones
- large stones
- roots
- large roots
- post-Roman brick



Fig 3 Representative sections

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OASIS ID: colchest3-290282

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording northeast of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford, CB10 1NS
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on land northeast of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford during the construction of a residential dwelling with associated access and landscaping. Monitoring was specifically carried out on all groundworks within the scheduled 4th-century Roman walled town. No significant archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 11-09-2017 End: 15-09-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/07d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/17/0186/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2015.52 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CG66 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD GREAT CHESTERFORD land northeast of Granta Cottages, Newmarket Road
Postcode	CB10 1NS
Study area	0.07 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 50446 42806 52.06272567642 0.194888031234 52 03 45 N 000 11 41 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	none
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Digital Archive ID	SAFWM: 2015.52
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID	SAFWM: 2015.52

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"; "Survey"
Paper Media available "Context sheet"; "Miscellaneous Material"; "Photograph"; "Plan"; "Report"; "Section"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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