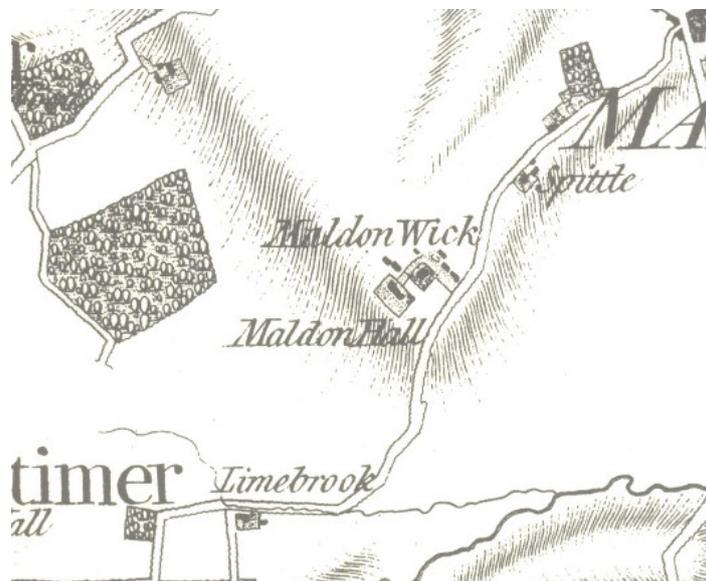


Archaeological evaluation at Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6SQ

March 2019



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman
figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Bronagh Quinn

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CAT Report 1397

March 2019

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. Despite being located next to a medieval manorial site and although previous archaeological work at Maldon Farm has revealed significant archaeological remains dating to the 1st century AD, this investigation instead revealed relatively limited archaeological remains. These dated to the 19th century and consisted of a ditch, a posthole and a culvert.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, which was carried out during 19th-20th March 2019. The work was commissioned by E&M Design in advance of the construction of three dwellings and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Maria Medlycott 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* (MHCLG 2018).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological trial trenching*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Maria Medlycott (ECCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*, 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 field evaluation (ClfA 2014a)*, *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (ClfA 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 and the archaeological brief (ECCPS 2019).

The site lies within the historic farmyard associated with the medieval and post-medieval manorial complex of Maldon Hall, which occupies a medieval moated site (EHER 7778, 7779). The adjoining barn and granary in the former farmyard are both listed (EHER 38491 and 38494). Within the grounds of Maldon Hall Farm, there is record of a possible Roman villa (EHER 7777) and a reputed Roman road approximately 250m southwest of the site (EHER 7940).

In the 1980s an archaeological excavation carried out at Maldon Hall Farm recorded a small enclosed cemetery, dated to the second half of the 1st century AD (EHER 14778). Three of the nine pits excavated contained cremation burials, and a selection of pedestal urns and bowls was recovered (Lavender, 1991). Metal finds included a silver brooch, an iron disc and fragments of copper alloy (EHER 14779).

Approximately 80m to the south of the site lies a listed timber-framed building, Maldon Wyckes (EHER 38493). Approximately 200m to the south-west of the site, a gold stater of the Bellovaci dated to the Late Iron Age was found (EHER 7780).

4 Aim

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were a) to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and b) to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two archaeological trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. One trench, T1, 12m long by 1.8m wide. The other, T2, was 29m long by 1.8m wide. T2 was dug in two sections.

Five layers were encountered. A modern concrete barn floor (L1, c 0.06-0.21m thick) was present across the site. Within the area of Trench 2 (T2), L1 sealed a further possible concrete floor (L2, c 0.03-0.05m thick) beneath which was a layer of crush (L3). L3, in turn, sealed natural (L4). In the area of T1, L1 sealed a layer of remnant topsoil (L5, c 0.09-0.12m thick), which overlay L4.

Trench 1 (T1):

Post-medieval (19th century) ditch F3 lay on a NNW-SSE alignment and was 0.89m wide and 0.15m deep.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot, looking west northwest

Trench 2 (T2):

Post-medieval (19th century) culvert F1 was excavated. It was composed of unbonded unfrosted bricks laid in a single course and was positioned adjacent to an area of grey/blue clay which may have been an old pond.

Posthole F2 was 0.3m wide and 0.21m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature but fragments of the wooden post were still present within it, implying that it was fairly recent in date.



Photograph 2 T2b trench shot, looking north northeast

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered four sherds of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material with a weight of 4015g. This material came from the features F1 and F3.

F1 (2): One complete unfrosted brick (2805g) with dimensions of 216 x 105 x 64 mm, slightly-creased faces, sanded sides, and orange coloured. The dimensions of this brick broadly correspond to 'red bricks' of the 18th to early 19th centuries (210-230 x 110 x 65 mm) in Ryan's Essex brick typology (1996, 95). This brick is remarkably similar to the one recently recovered from the Maldon Central Flood Scheme (F1, 2) (CAT report 1389).

F3 (1): One sherd of peg-tile with a weight of 108g dating from the mid 13th/14th century until the 16th century (McComish 2015, 33). However, as the upper and lower surfaces, and also some of the sides, are covered with mortar this suggests that the sherd was reused as a 'brick' in some form of construction. One unfrosted brick fragment (1,085g) with dimensions of ? x 105 x 67, sanded surfaces, orange coloured with darker reduced (overfired) surfaces in places. This brick is similar to the example from F1 (2). One base sherd, with a weight of 17 gr., of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) dating to the 19th-20th centuries (Cotter 2000, 253-254).

Summary

Table 1 provides a brief dating summary for the features with datable ceramic finds.

Feature/Layer	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	-	Post-medieval brick	19th century
F3	Fabric 48D	PT	19th century
		Post-Medieval Brick	

Table 1 Approximate dates for the features

6.2 Iron horseshoe and other finds

by Laura Pooley

A large and complete 19th-to 20th-century iron horseshoe was recovered from L3 (3). The horseshoe is a 'toe-clip rim shoe' (Sparkes 1976) and is unfulled with no calkins, 175mm long, 190mm wide, c 12mm thick, 715g.

A single piece of clinker (7g) was recovered from F3 (1).

6.3 Animal bone

by Adam Wightman

A single fragment (6g) of mandible (hinge) from a juvenile medium mammal (sheep or pig) was recovered from F3 (1).

7 Conclusion

While previous archaeological investigations at Maldon Hall Farm have uncovered substantial archaeological remains dating to around the 1st century AD, and despite its proximity to the moated medieval manorial site of Maldon Hall, during this evaluation excavations revealed only a ditch and a culvert, both dating to the 19th century, and an undatable posthole. OS mapping conducted during the latter part of that century indicates that the area in which all of these features were located was an enclosed area of land to the rear of the farm buildings, either a yard or garden. Both the culvert and the single posthole were positioned adjacent to an area of discoloured ground which may be a backfilled pond, while the ditch appears to have been used for drainage purposes.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks E&M Design for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with B Quinn. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

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 Occasional Paper 8
CAR 7	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Steel Barn, Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6SQ</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>

CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
ECCPS	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching and Excavation at Steel Barn, Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon</i> , by M Medlycott
English Heritage	2006	<i>Recording historic buildings, a descriptive specification</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14.
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Lavender, NJ	1991	'A Late Iron Age Burial Enclosure at Maldon Hall Farm, Essex: Excavations 1989', <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> 57 , 203-9.
McComish, JM	2015	<i>A Guide to Ceramic Building Materials: An Insight Report</i>
Medlycott, M	2011a	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24.
MHCLG	2018	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
RCHME	1996	<i>Recording historic buildings, a descriptive specification</i>
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation</i>
Sparkes, I G	1976	<i>Old Horseshoes</i> . Shire Album 19, Shire Publications Ltd.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
clinker	the stony residue from burnt coal or from a furnace
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
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'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1397)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked section drawings

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1397)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Graphics
Site digital photos and log
Survey data

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 Colchester Museum under accession code COLEM 2019.20.

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Distribution list:

E&M Design

Maria Medlycott, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

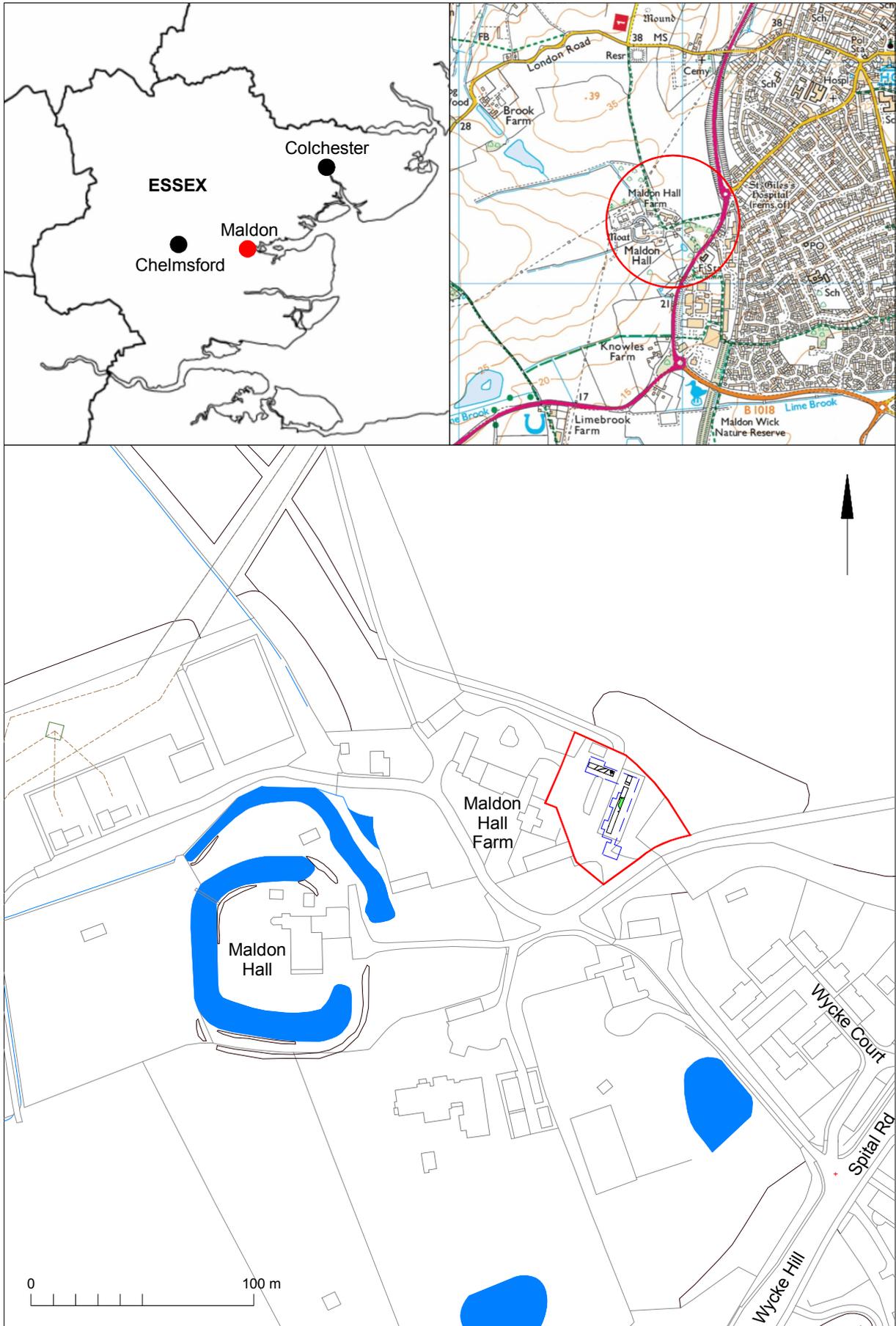
tel.: 01206 501785

email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy
Date: 10.04.2019

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench Number	Finds Number	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Concrete floor	-	Modern
L2	T2	-	?Concrete floor	-	Modern
L3	T2	3	Crush	Mix of CBM, stone and ?tarmac	Modern
L4	All	-	Natural	Firm, moist yellow/grey clay	Post-glacial
L5	T1		Remnant topsoil	Firm, moist medium grey silty-clay	Undatable
F1	T2	2	Culvert	Constructed from a single course of unfrogged bricks	Post-medieval (19th-century)
F2	T2	-	Posthole	Firm, moist medium/dark grey/blue clay	Undatable
F3	T1	1	Ditch	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Post-medieval (19th-century)



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Fig 1 Site location.

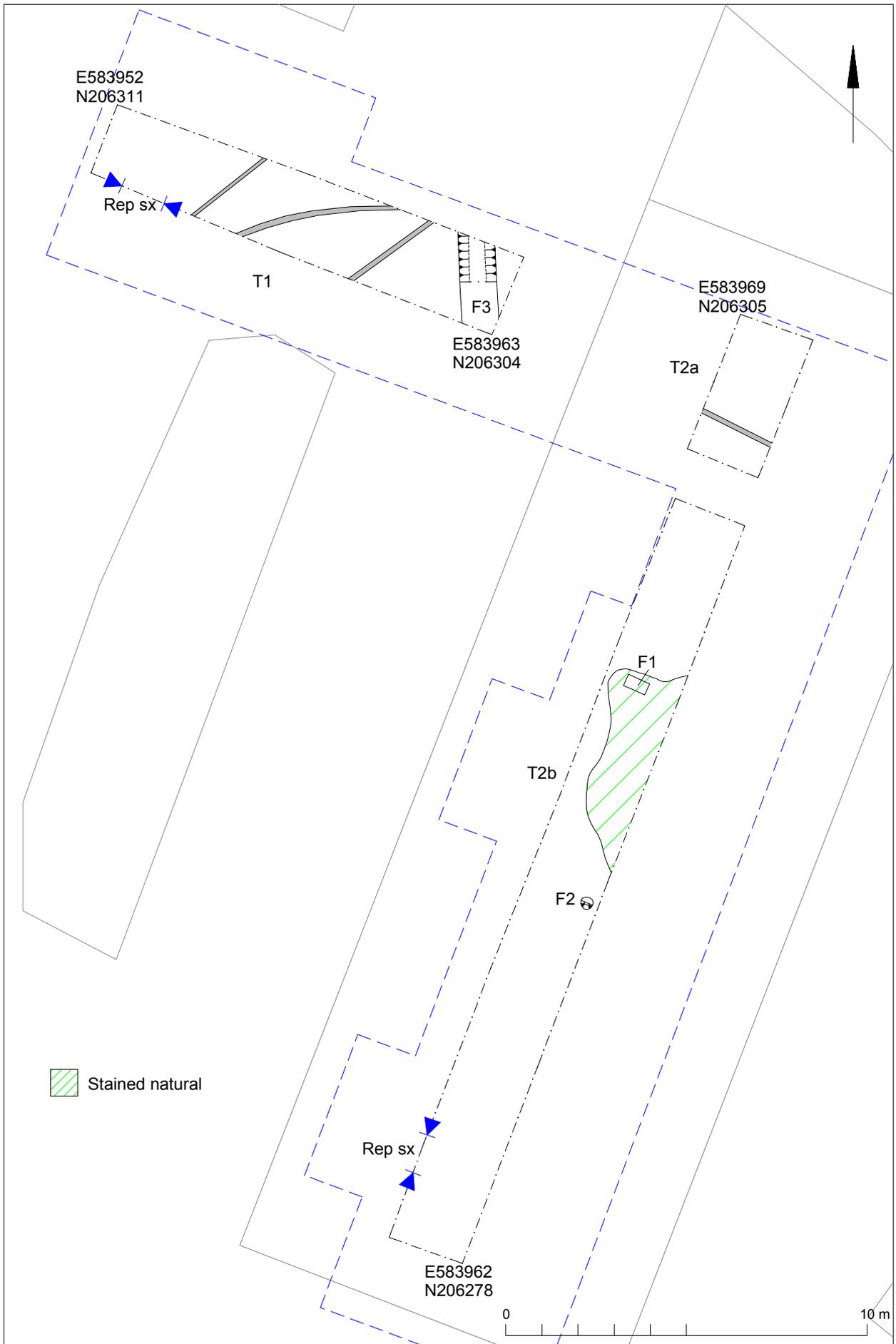


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

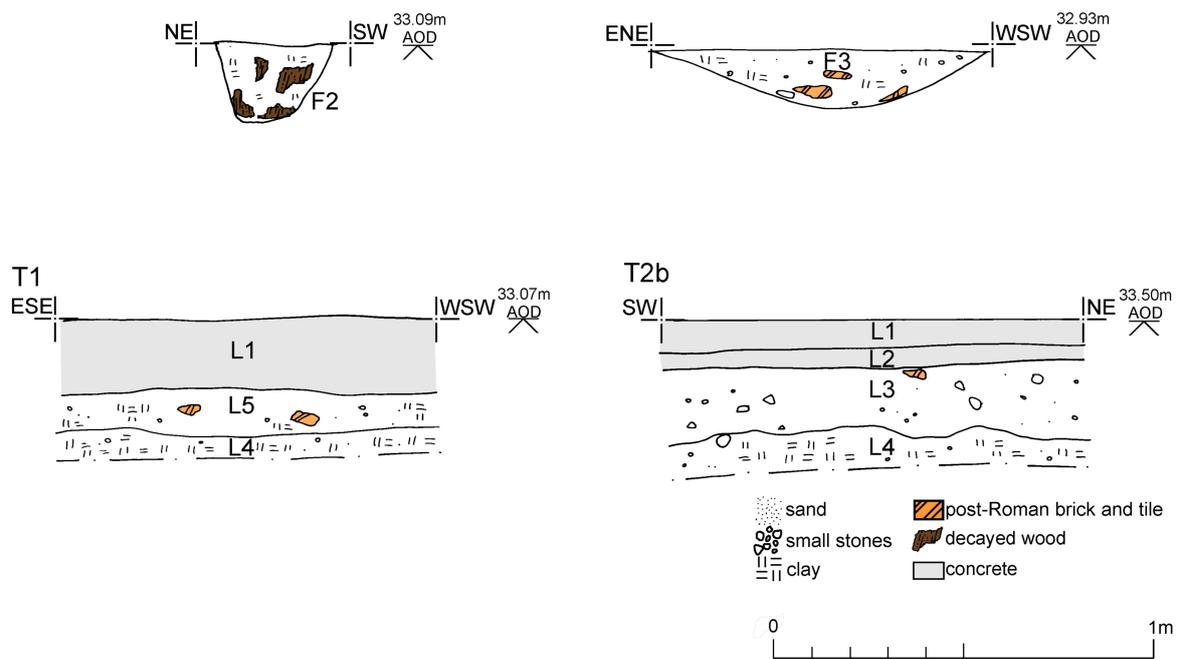


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-345233

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evalutation at Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6SQ: March 2019
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches was carried out at Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex in advance of the construction of three new dwellings. Despite being located next to a medieval manorial site and although previous archaeological work at Maldon Farm has revealed significant archaeological remains dating to the 1st century AD, this investigation instead revealed relatively limited archaeological remains. These dated to the 19th century and consisted of a ditch, a posthole and a culvert.
Project dates	Start: 19-03-2019 End: 20-03-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	19/03d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	MD64 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2019.20 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-345233 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	CULVERT Post Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds POTTERY Modern

Project location

Country England
Site location ESSEX MALDON MALDON Maldon Hall Farm, Spital Road, Maldon, Essex
Postcode CM6 9SQ
Study area 0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates TL 83964 06288 51.724569245594 0.663885255905 51 43 28 N 000 39 49 E
Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 32.76m Max: 33.22m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2019.20
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2019.20
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

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