

# Archaeological monitoring at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HZ

April 2018



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Ben Holloway

**commissioned by Barry Eldridge, Tendring District Council**

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OASIS reference: colchest3-367950



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**CAT Report 1476**  
September 2019

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OASIS Summary

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, Essex during the removal of part of the historic sea wall prior to the construction of ten new dwellings and the installation of an electricity substation. The removal of the sea wall yielded no evidence with which to date the feature, and nor did its removal expose any other features.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, which was carried out during 24th-25th April 2018. The work was commissioned by Barry Eldridge of Tendring District Council prior to the removal of part of the sea wall and the construction of ten new dwellings and the installation of an electricity substation at the site, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation, Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) Teresa O'Connor 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 the *Brief for archaeological monitoring* detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2018), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCHEA (CAT 2018).

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 watching briefs* (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 draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The Historic Environment Record shows that the proposed development lies within a region of very high potential for both Palaeolithic archaeological remains and early prehistoric archaeological remains. Sediments from a former river channel laid down by the ancestral Thames before it was diverted have yielded internationally significant Palaeolithic remains and Pleistocene faunal remains within the area. In addition find-spots from along the foreshore, to the immediate south of the development areas, have yielded Mesolithic and Neolithic remains which suggest early prehistoric settlement and activity within the area. There is the potential for significant Pleistocene sediments to be present below the surface geology which may contain Palaeolithic archaeological remains as well as buried prehistoric land-surfaces which may be impacted by the proposed development. The site investigation report also records that peat deposits have been recorded at the site, these deposits hold significant palaeo-environmental evidence.

The site also contains the historic remains of a former sea wall which is depicted on the 1st edition map OS and so must predate c 1870. This was later re-used as a trackway carrying passengers from the newly erected residential development along the coast back inland to Jaywick. The embankment that survives is historic in origin and

preservation of the feature is recommended. Many of these relic sea walls have their origins in the medieval period.

#### 4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

During 23rd-24th April 2018, a CAT archaeologist observed the removal of a section of the sea wall measuring approximately 635.8m<sup>2</sup>.

Excavations occurred through three layers.<sup>1</sup> A layer of modern topsoil (L5, up to 0.46m thick, medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay) overlay mixed clay and soil (L6, up to approximately 0.42m thick, medium/dark orange/grey clay) which in turn sealed redeposited natural clay (L7, up to approximately 0.62m thick, medium orange clay). Beneath L7 was natural clay (L4, firm, medium grey/brown/blue clay).

No significant archaeological remains were encountered.



**Photograph 1** Sea wall sx oblique view - looking southwest

#### 6 Finds

There were no finds.

#### 7 Conclusion

Monitoring at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, revealed little that was new. Further excavation of the historic sea wall revealed an identical stratigraphy to that recorded during the evaluation carried out at the site in 2017 (CAT Report 1217). As in this earlier phase of work, there was no layer of buried topsoil or any underlying features which would permit the dating of the sea wall.

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<sup>1</sup>Layer numbers are those assigned to contexts recorded during the evaluation conducted by CAT at the site in November 2017 (CAT Report 1217).

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Barry Eldridge of Tendring District Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway. Figures were prepared by BH and S Carter. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Teresa O'Connor.

## 9 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 Report 1217	2017	<i>An archaeological (trial-trenching) and geoarchaeological (test-pitting) evaluation at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HZ</i> , by Elliott Hicks
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for 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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
English Heritage	2006	<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)

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
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'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
Palaeolithic	period c 800,000 BC to c 10,000BC
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:  
 The report (CAT Report 1476)  
 CAT written scheme of investigation  
 Original site record (layer sheets, sections)  
 Site digital photos and log  
 Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1476)  
CAT written scheme of investigation  
Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log  
Graphic files  
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: 2017.151.

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### **Distribution list**

Barry Eldridge, Tendring District Council  
Teresa O'Connor, Essex County Council Place Services  
Essex Historic Environment Record

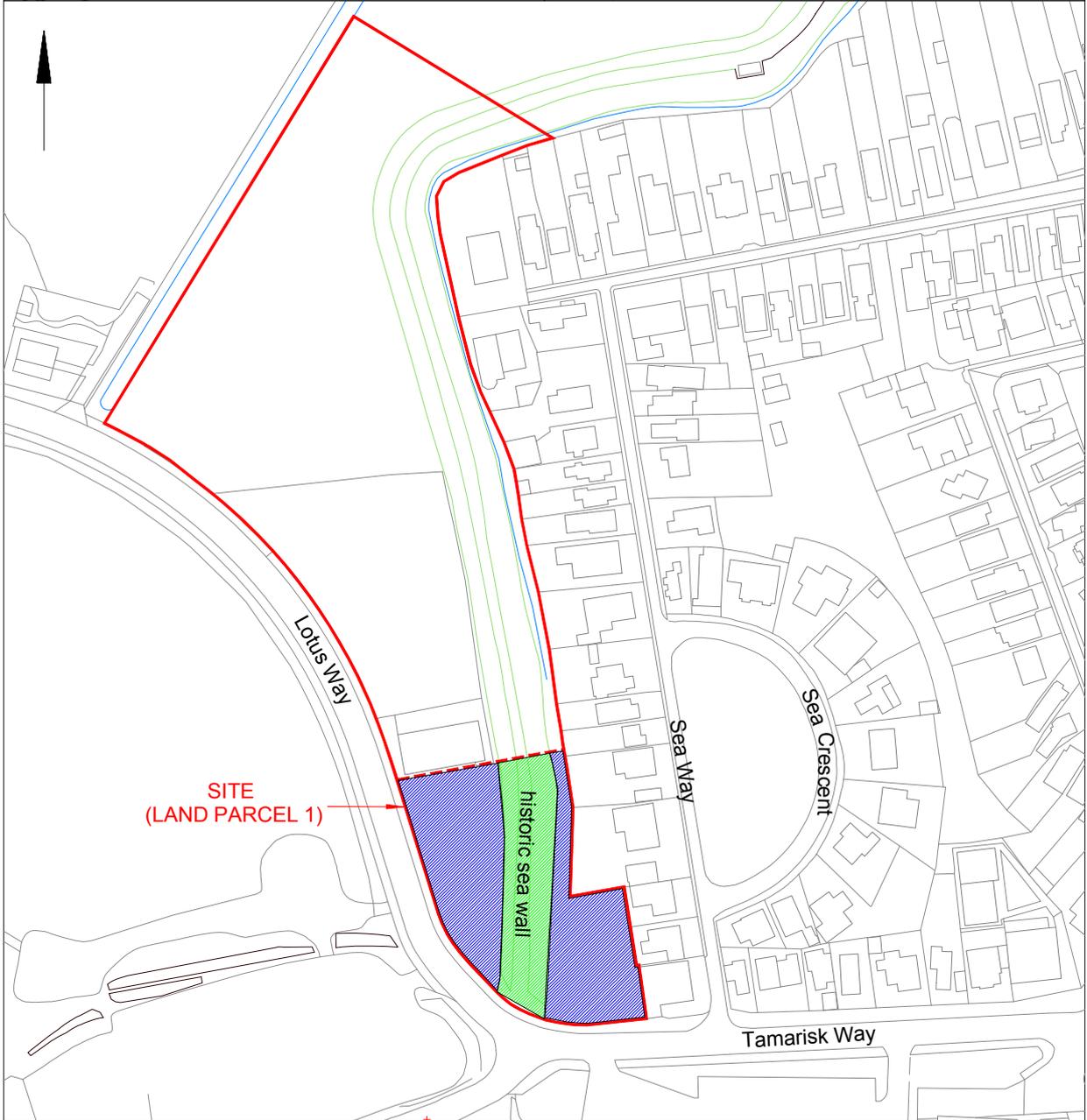
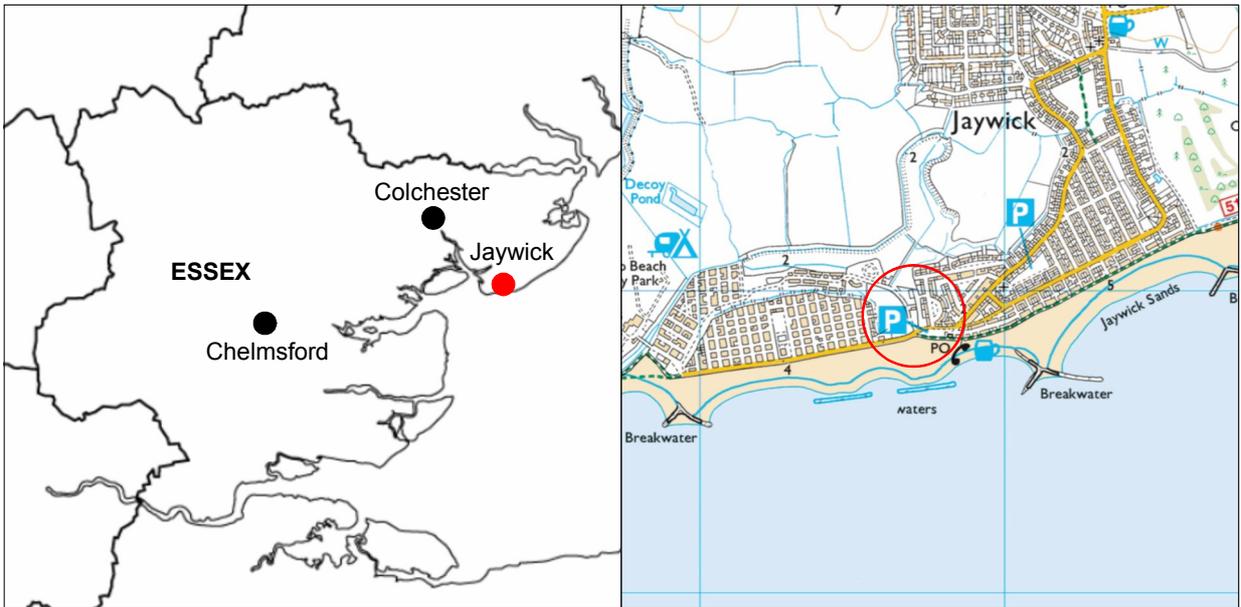


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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 24.09.2019



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Fig 1 Site location.



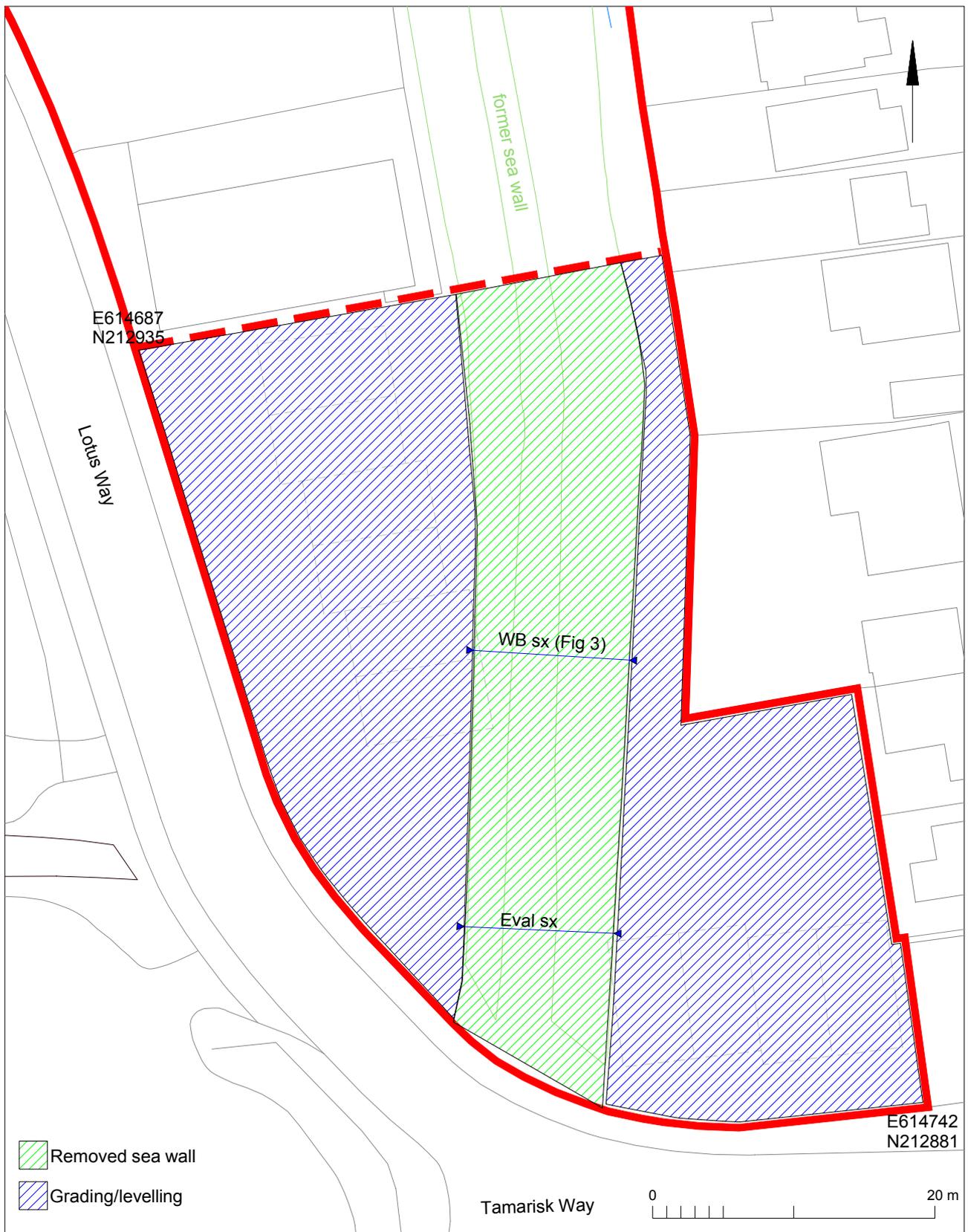
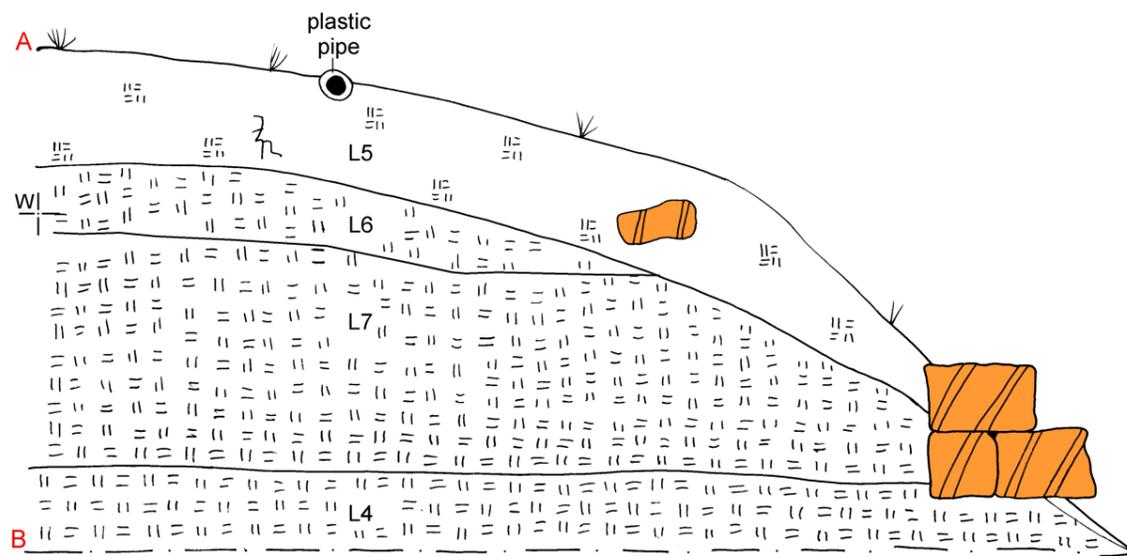
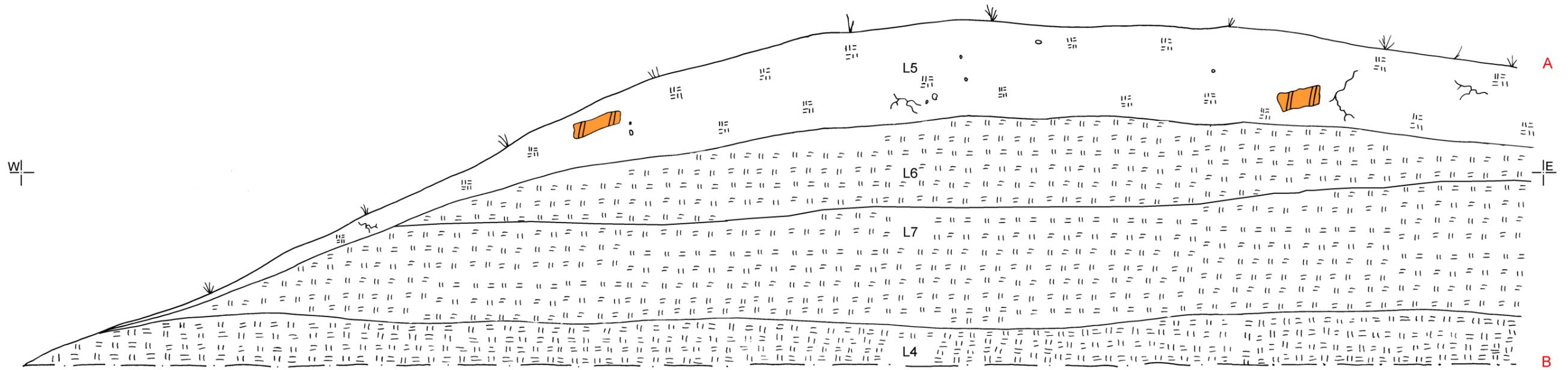


Fig 2 Removal of seawall, grading/levelling results.



- small stones
- large stones
- || clay
- ~ roots
- ▨ modern brick



Fig 3 Representative section

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-367950**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HZ: April 2018
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, Essex during the removal of part of the historic sea wall prior to the construction of ten new dwellings and the installation of an electricity substation. The removal of the sea wall yielded no evidence with which to date the feature, and nor did its removal expose any other features.
Project dates	Start: 24-04-2018 End: 25-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/04d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.151 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CSLW17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-367950 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING CLACTON ON SEA Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, Essex
Postcode	CO15 2HZ
Study area	1.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 14718 12918 51.77311592952 1.11265448836 51 46 23 N 001 06 45 E Point

### Project creators

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

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.151
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.151
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at Lotus Way and Tamarisk Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HZ: April 2018
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