

# Archaeological excavation on land at the former car park off Ravensdale, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 4QH

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological excavation (following an evaluation) was carried out on land at the former car park off Ravensdale, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex in advance of the construction of nine almshouses together with associated groundworks. The site is located immediately to the north of the mid 12th-century church of St John the Baptist and to the south of the former site of Great Clacton Hall.*

*This investigation has determined that historic activity on the development site dates to the medieval period, c 12th to 14th century. The predominant features revealed by the excavations were a series of stone foundations. In 2004, another stone wall foundation was uncovered just to the northeast of the church, and was interpreted as the southern external wall of a private chapel dating to the 12th-15th century. The foundations uncovered during this investigation appear to form part of this same structure. Artefactual evidence was recovered from some of these foundations, permitting a more accurate dating to the period from the mid 12th to the 13th century, broadly contemporary with the construction of the existing church.*

*The excavations also revealed evidence of earlier activity at the site. The foundations overlaid a number of pits dating to around the 12th century. These pits contained material indicative of domestic activity and were probably the product of settlement in the vicinity of the church prior to the construction of the putative chapel. Residual Roman brick and tile was also recovered across the site.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological excavation on land at the former car park off Ravensdale, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex which was carried out during 7th to 9th October 2019 by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT). The work was commissioned by Steve Norman of Benferri Developments Ltd in advance of the construction of nine almshouse-type two-bed dwellings, together with associated access, surface water drainage and other associated groundworks.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor 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* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Excavation (strip, map and record)*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (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 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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 excavation* (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 proposed development is situated within the grounds of the former Great Clacton Hall (EHER 2884), which is depicted on the Chapman and André maps and must predate 1777. The current hall, which dates to the 18th century, lies to the southwest. Cartographic evidence shows a number of buildings in this location, likely the historic farm buildings and ranges associated with the hall, evidence of which may be preserved below ground and which may

provide information on the date, function and use of the buildings as well as possible earlier remains for the manorial site.



**Map 1** Extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex (1777) depicting Great Clacton Hall

The 12th-century parish church of St John the Baptist lies directly to the south of the development (EHER 2846). Parts of the church building itself contain examples of Roman brick and tile, although much of the church exterior has been remodelled.

Further Roman remains have been discovered in the form of a denarius of Septimus Severus, unearthed 162m southwest of the site. To the east (180m) are cropmarks of undated square enclosures (EHER 1914) and excavations during the 19th century to the west (120m) uncovered the remnants of an Anglo-Saxon barrow and an associated inhumation. However, an excavation conducted by the Essex Field Archaeology Unit in 2010 in an area adjacent to the site yielded little in the way of significant archaeological remains.

In January 2004, groundworks for a soakaway and drain to the northeast of the church revealed the remains of an east-west aligned wall foundation of probable 12th- to 15th-century date (Andrews 2004). Constructed of septaria blocks it was c 0.9m wide and 1.2m high with a layer of clay flooring material to the north implying the existence of a building to the north and within the modern-day car park. Geophysics in this location indicated a large anomaly that followed the alignment of the wall and church, but its exact nature was not clear (Andrews 2004).

#### 4 Aim

The aim of this this investigation was to excavate and record all archaeological horizons due to be destroyed during the proposed development.

## 5 Results (Figs 2-5)

This excavation follows on from an evaluation conducted within the footprint of the proposed new buildings in 2018. Two evaluation trenches were excavated. In Trench T1 to the west, there was considerable disturbance caused by modern service trenches but an undated pit was excavated. Trench T2 to the east produced some significant remains. Three burials, probably of medieval date, were clustered together at the southern end of the trench. As per the WSI, the burials were left in situ. To the north of the burials was an undated east-west aligned wall foundation, 0.47m wide, constructed out of septaria blocks set into mortar (similar to that identified in 2004). At the northern end of the trench was another east-west wall foundation, constructed of unfrosted bricks and of post-medieval date. It was associated with a ?post-medieval cobbled yard surface. Two post-medieval pits, a modern pit/posthole, two undated pits and a tree-throw/natural feature were also present. The burials indicate that the graveyard for the church of St John the Baptist previously extended further to the north and that burials are still present underneath the car park. The wall foundations and yard surface are all likely to be associated with Great Clacton Hall and the pits, predominantly post-medieval date, are likely the product of domestic activity linked to the Hall (CAT Report 1338). All feature, layer and finds numbers used during the current excavation follow on from numbers assigned to contexts recorded during this evaluation.

An excavation area measuring 212.7m<sup>2</sup>, located in the area of evaluation trench T1, was reduced through a modern make-up layer (L1, c 0.27-0.35m thick) onto natural (L2). Modern services were present in several places within the excavation area.

### Roman

A number of Roman artefacts were present in later contexts: a fragment of Roman brick and a sherd of Roman tile were recovered from 11th-13th century foundation pad F19; a sherd of flue tile was found in mid 12th- to late 14th-century wall foundation F20; and three fragments of brick and two sherds of brick or tile were retrieved from 12th-14th century pit F24. All of this material probably comes from the church of St John the Baptist as Roman building material was used in its construction.

### Medieval, 12th-14th century

The primary phase of activity at this site occurred during the 12th to the 14th centuries, most likely from the 12th to the 13th century. The interrelation of the features suggest that this activity can be divided into two phases.

The first phase of activity at the site is represented by two pits which yielded artefactual evidence dating them to the period from the 12th to the 14th century. Given their relationship with subsequent features, however, their origins probably lay in the early part of this date range.

Pit F25 was located at the southern boundary of the excavation area. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) and so its full dimensions could not be ascertained, but its exposed extent was 1.15m wide and 0.61m deep.

Pit F25 was cut pit F24. Pit F24 also extended beyond the LOE, but its exposed extent was 2.09m wide. The feature was excavated to a depth of 0.71m and then augured for a further 0.2m to its base.

The second phase of activity during this period was primarily represented by a series of foundations which were uncovered within the southern half of the excavation area. Foundation F19 contained three sherds of 11th- to 13th-century pottery, and a pottery sherd of mid 12th- to late 14th-century date was recovered from F20. These foundations were therefore likely constructed during the period from the mid 12th to the 13th century.

Wall foundation F26 was exposed in profile in the southern LOE, and cut pits F24 and F25. It was constructed from septaria and mortar and lay on an E-W alignment. The LOE was cut back in order to establish the width of the foundation, which was determined to be approximately 1m.



**Photograph 1** Pit F24, looking south-west



**Photograph 2** Wall foundation F26, looking south



**Photograph 3** Wall foundation F20, looking north-west

Foundation F20 extended north from F26, cutting pit F24, and was cut by a modern service trench. The upper part of the foundation had been robbed-out, and only the base – composed of septaria and mortar – remained. The foundation trench was 0.78m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.24-0.3m until the base of the foundation was exposed.

Foundation F21 extended east from the above mentioned service trench, and clearly represents a continuation of F20. Again, the upper part of the foundation had been robbed-out, and only the septaria and mortar base survived. The foundation trench was 0.78m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.12-0.17m until the base of the foundation was reached.

Two foundation pads were also uncovered: F19, on the western side of the excavation area, and F22, on the eastern side. F19 was 1.38m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.02-0.11m, and F22 was 0.87m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.11-0.16m to expose the base of the robbed-out foundation trench.

A further pit, F17, was uncovered within the western half of the excavation area. It was 1.23m wide and 0.52m deep, and cut undated ditch F16. It yielded a fragment of peg-tile as well as twelve sherds of 11th-13th century pottery, indicating that it was of mid 13th-century date at the earliest. It is possible, therefore, that it is the product of a separate, subsequent phase of activity at the site during this period.

Two medieval or post-medieval post-holes – F15 and F18 – were uncovered in the western half of the excavation area. F15 was 0.39m in diameter and 0.11m deep, and F18 was 0.48m in diameter and 0.3m deep. The two features could only be dated broadly to the medieval or post-medieval periods, although F18 cut F19, indicating that it post-dated the demolition of this structure. It is possible that the two features formed part of a posted structure.



**Photograph 4** Post-hole F18 and foundation pad F19, looking south south-east



**Photograph 5** Ditch F16 sx2 and pit F17, looking north

## Undated

Two undated features were also excavated. Ditch F16 was 1.58m wide and 0.41m deep. It extended on a north/south alignment through the western half of the excavation area, turning east at the southern LOE and terminating. While no dating evidence was recovered, it was cut by 11th-13th century pit F17 and 12th-14th century pit F25, so is earlier than these features.

Pit F23 was 0.59m wide and 0.2m deep. Again, the feature yielded no dating evidence but it was cut by foundation F21, indicating that it predated the 12th- to 13th-century structural remains uncovered. It contained a considerable quantity of oyster shells.

## 6 Finds

### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The excavation uncovered 48 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just over 4kg (Table 1). This material was recovered from seven features although pit F17 and posthole/pit F18 yielded the largest quantities (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight/g	MSW/g
Pottery	18	127	7
CBM	30	4,160	139
<b>All</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4,287</b>	<b>89</b>

**Table 1** Summary of the ceramics

Feature	Feature Type	No.	Weight/g	MSW/g
F15	Posthole/pit	3	102	34
F17	Pit	19	1,800	95
F18	Posthole/pit	10	894	89
F19	Foundation pad	5	567	113
F20	Wall foundation	2	148	74
F24	Pit	7	772	110
F25	Pit	2	4	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>	<b>4,287</b>	<b>89</b>

**Table 2** Number and weight of pottery and CBM from features

### Post-Roman pottery

There was a small assemblage of medieval pottery (Table 3) which was recovered from pit F17, foundation pad F19, wall foundation F20 and pit F25. Most of the material consists of early medieval sandy wares (fabric F13) including some shell-dusted sherds (fabric F13S), which date from the 11th to the 13th century AD (CAR 7, 39-41). There were also two possible sherds of medieval sandy greywares (fabric 20), which can be dated from to c AD 1150 to 1375/1400 (*ibid*, 91-92).

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight g	MSW/g
F13	Early medieval sandy wares	10	75	8
F13S	Early medieval sandy wares shell dusted	6	48	8
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	2	4	2

<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>7</b>
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**Table 3** Details on the post-Roman pottery

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

The CBM contains material of Roman and post-Roman date and consists of 30 sherds with a weight of just over 4kg (Table 4). This material was recovered from six features although most came from pit F17 and posthole/pit F18 (Table 5).

The Roman CBM, recovered from foundation pad F19, wall foundation F20 and pit F24, consists of fragments of brick, tile, and combed box flue tile (Table 4). Presumably, this material had been reused in construction of the medieval church

Post-Roman CBM consists of peg-tile, brick, and mortar (Table 4). Peg-tile was recovered from posthole/pit F15, pit F17 and posthole/pit F18.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW
<i>Roman</i>				
RT	Roman <i>tegula</i>	1	237	237
RB	Roman brick	6	1,069	178
RFT	Roman flue tile	1	146	146
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)			
<i>Post-Roman</i>				
PT	Peg-tile	12	569	47
BR	Brick	2	224	112
Mortar		6	1,907	318
<b>Total</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>4152</b>	<b>173</b>

**Table 4** CBM by period and type

Feature	Feature Type	No.	Weight/g	MSW/g
F15	Post hole/pit	3	102	34
F17	Pit	7	1,704	24
F18	Post hole/pit	10	894	9
F19	Foundation pad	2	542	271
F20	Wall foundation	1	146	146
F24	Pit	7	772	110
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>4,160</b>	<b>99</b>

**Table 5** Number and weight of pottery and CBM from features

### Summary

Table 6 provides a brief dating summary for the features which produced datable ceramic finds. Most of the features can be dated to the medieval period.

Feature	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
F15	-	PT, mortar	Medieval / post-medieval
F17	F13, F13S	PT, mortar	?13th-14th century
F18	-	PT, BR, Mortar	Post-medieval
F19	F13, F13S	RB, RT	11th-13th century

F20	F20	RFT	c 1150-1375/1400
F24	-	RB, RBT	Post-Roman
F25	F13S, F20	-	12th-14th century

**Table 6** Approximate dates for the individual features

## 6.2 Non-ceramic finds

by Laura Pooley

Three pieces of limestone (1.75kg) and five of septaria (1.34kg) came from F17, F23, F24 and F25. None appear to have to been worked, but were probably originally used as building stone. A large quantity of oyster shell came from pit F23 (1.63kg) with additional oyster shell from F17 (31.9g), and whelk (3.5g) and cockle (1.2g) shell from F23 and F19 respectively. An iron nail (5.9g) came from F16 sx3.

Context	Finds number	Description
F16 sx 3	13	<b>Iron:</b> Incomplete iron nail with tip missing, size of head and shank obscured within corrosion, 5.9g. Discarded.
F17	6	<b>Stone:</b> Small fragment of limestone, 162.6g. Discarded. <b>Shell:</b> Two oyster shells, 31.9g. Discarded.
F19	8	<b>Shell:</b> Fragment of cockle shell, 1.2g. Discarded.
F23	10	<b>Shell:</b> 119 oyster shells and fragments of oyster shells, 1.63kg. Incomplete whelk shell, 3.5g. Discarded. <b>Stone:</b> Four of septaria, 404g.
F24	11	<b>Stone:</b> Small fragment of limestone, 88.7g. Large fragment of septaria, 1.3kg. Discarded.
F25	12	<b>Stone:</b> Large fragment of limestone, 1.5kg. Discarded.

**Table 7** Non-ceramic finds by context

## 6.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The excavation produced 11 pieces of animal and bird bone, generally in very poor condition. Most of the material derived from pits and a wall foundation of medieval date. The domestic species of cow, sheep or goat (no distinction being possible due to similarities in the skeletal anatomy of these species), pig and domestic fowl were identified in the assemblage. Some of the material from pits F17 and F24 had been gnawed by dogs – often a good indication of residuailty within the finds from a context.

Feature	Type	Finds no.	No. of pieces	Comments
F16	Ditch	13	3	Two pieces of large sized mammal bone, one perhaps a radius fragment likely to be cow. The remaining piece is a fragment of a sheep or goat's femur.
F17	Pit	6	3	A cow's upper molar, sheep or goat radius fragment (dog gnawed), a domestic fowl's tibio-tarsus and an unidentified piece of large mammal bone.
F20	Wall foundation	9	1	Part of the distal articulation of a sheep or goat's femur- it may have been chopped obliquely through the joint.
F24	Pit	11	4	Fragments of a cow's tibia, a sheep or goat's radius and tibia (all dog gnawed), and a small piece of a boar's canine tooth.

**Table 8** Animal bone listed by context

## 7 Environmental assessment

by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

### Introduction and methodology

A single 10L sample (<1>) from undated pit F23 was taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust. It was completely processed using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flot was scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flot was examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers et al. 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

### Results

This 10L sample produced a 0.040L flot dominated by terrestrial mollusca and charcoal fragments. The charcoal fragments were >4mm Ø so of identifiable size. The rest of the sample produced a small but interesting charred assemblage consisting of low numbers (<10 items) of grains of bread/club/rivet wheat (*Triticum aestivum/durum/ turgidum*), oat (*Avena* sp) and seeds of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula* L.) and small-seeded legumes (*Vicia/Lathyrus/Pisum* sp.).

Low numbers of uncharred, dried waterlogged seeds of ruderal plants elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L.) and maple-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium hybridum* L.) were also present.

## 8 Discussion

Significant remains were uncovered during excavations at this site, the most notable of which were a series of stone foundations. Other such remains have previously been uncovered in the vicinity. The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments reported that in 1921, stone foundations were revealed during excavations in the garden of the church hall, to the north of the church (RCHM 1922). In 2004, too, the remains of a stone wall were revealed during groundworks for a new soakaway for the church. The wall was located approximately 7m from the northeast corner of the church and lay on an east/west alignment, passing beneath the vestry. On the north side of the wall lay an imported clay deposit which appeared to be a floor surface. It was thought that this wall formed the southern wall of a private chapel associated with the church, and that it dated to the period from the 12th to the 15th century. Geophysical surveying of the area detected a large anomaly following the course of this wall, but its nature was unclear (Andrews 2004).

It is clear that the foundations recorded during this excavation are part of the same structure as those uncovered near the church in 2004. During this investigation, artefactual evidence was recovered from some of these remains, permitting a more accurate dating which located their origins to the period from the mid 12th to the 13th century, broadly contemporary to the foundation of the church. The suggestion that these foundations form the remains of a private chapel attached to the church therefore appears to be correct. Unfortunately, these excavations only exposed the outer face of the northern wall of this structure, as well as the foundations of possible external columns and a possible annexe, and so these investigations have not cast any light on its internal features or layout.

A further wall foundation was uncovered during the evaluation stage of this investigation. This foundation was interpreted either as the remains of a medieval boundary wall or as part of the post-medieval manorial complex. At first appearances, this foundation would seem to form part of the east/west aligned foundation recorded during this excavation. While both of these foundations lay on the same alignment, however, the foundation revealed during the evaluation lay slightly to the north of that uncovered during this phase (see Fig 3). While it is possible that this wall kinked to the north before continuing eastward, it is more likely that the foundation recorded during the evaluation represents the remains of a separate but related building. It should be added that there was no evidence of an imported clay surface to the south of the foundation uncovered during the evaluation.

This investigation also revealed evidence of an earlier phase of activity at the site, represented by two large pits. As both pits were overlain by a foundation dating from the mid 12th to the 13th century, it is likely that their origins lay in the 12th century. One of these pits contained animal bone. A further pit containing a considerable amount of oyster shell was also uncovered. It yielded no dating evidence, but was also overlain by a foundation, and probably formed part of this earlier phase of activity at the site. Together, these features appear to be the product of domestic activity in the vicinity of the church in the period prior to the construction of the putative chapel.

An undated ditch was also uncovered. While this feature may have also formed part of the earlier phase of activity described above, it was cut by one of the two aforementioned pits, and may therefore instead form part of a still earlier phase of activity. The residual presence of Roman brick and tile in a number of features provides some evidence of activity within the area during this period. Roman building materials were also extensively used in the construction of the church. It is likely, therefore, that a Roman villa stood in the vicinity, possibly at the site of the later manorial complex.

Finally, it should be noted that while extensive post-medieval deposits were uncovered during the evaluation, including a cobbled surface and a wall which presumably formed part of the remains of Great Clacton Hall, the only features encountered in this present stage of investigation which dated to this period were two postholes. The focus of post-medieval activity at the site therefore apparently lies to the east.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Steve Norman of Benferri Developments Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with S Carter and E Hicks. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Teresa O'Connor.

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

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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECC	Essex County Council
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
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> cces <b>S</b> to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigations <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 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
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** part of a box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1488)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (sections)

Site digital photos and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1488)

CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

### 13 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.

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#### Distribution list:

Steve Norman, Benferri Developments Ltd  
Teresa O'Connor, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record



#### Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,  
Roman Circus Walk,  
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tel.: 01206 501785  
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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 04.11.2021

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Trench number	Finds Number <sup>1</sup>	Feature / layer type	Description	Date
Layers					
L1	All	-	Make-up layer	Loose/firm, dry medium/dark yellow/orange//brown/black sandy-silty-clay with 15% stones	Modern
L2	All	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium yellow/orange sandy-clay	Post-glacial
Evaluation					
F1	1	-	Pit	Soft, moist, light yellow/beige silty-clay	Undatable
F2	2	-	Yard surface	Granite/mudstone cobbled yard surface	?Post-medieval
F3	2	1	Pit	Firm, dry/moist, medium grey sandy-silt with charcoal and oyster flecks and 3% stones	Post-medieval
F4	2	3	Tree throw	Soft, moist light grey/black silty-clay	Undatable
F5	2	2	Foundation wall	Unfrogged, mortared brick wall; soft, moist, medium green/grey silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Post-medieval
F6	2	-	?Posthole	Loose/soft, moist, dark brown/black sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks and 3% stones	Modern
F7	2	4	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey silty-clay with charcoal and CBM flecks	Post-medieval
F8	2	-	Pit	Firm, dry/moist, dark grey silty-sand with CBM flecks	Post-medieval
F9	2	5	?Robbing cut / demolition layer	Firm, moist, medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal flecks	?Post-medieval
F10	2	-	Wall foundation	Septaria and mortar wall	Undatable
F11	2	-	Posthole	Firm, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt	?Post-medieval?
F12	2	-	Burial	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	?Medieval
F13	2	-	Burial	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	?Medieval
F14	2	-	Burial	Firm, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt	?Medieval
Excavation					
F15	-	5	Posthole / pit	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks	Medieval / post-medieval
F16	-	13	Ditch	Firm, dry light yellow/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal, oyster and CBM flecks and 1% stones	Undatable

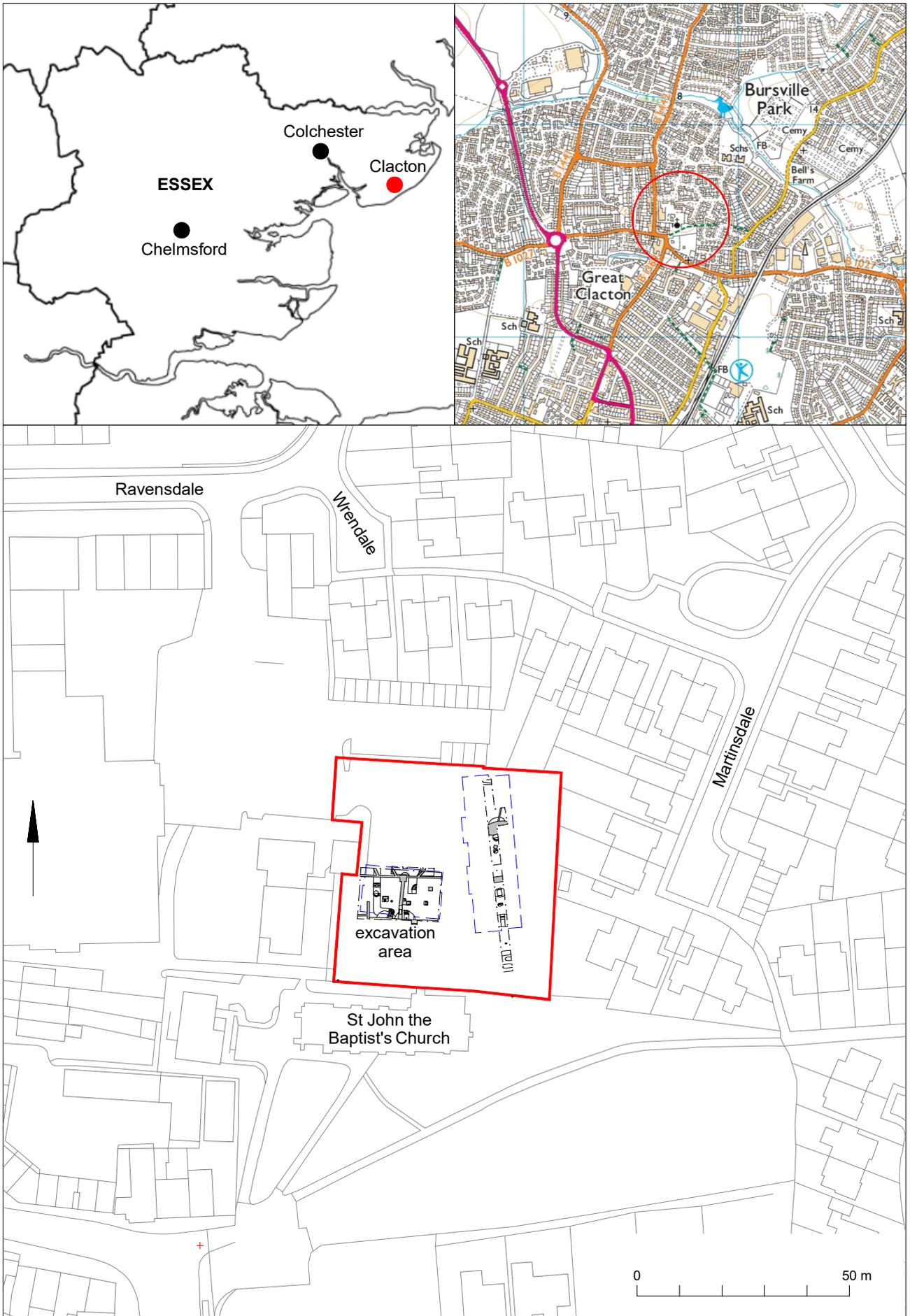
<sup>1</sup> The finds retrieved from F4 were lost. Finds no. 5 was mistakenly assigned to two contexts.

F17	-	6	Pit	Soft, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and CBMflecks and 15% stones	?13th-14th century
F18	-	7	Posthole / pit	Hard, moist dark grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal and oyster flecks	Post-medieval
F19	-	8	Foundation pad	Septaria and mortar foundation with overlying hard, dry medium yellow/grey sandy-silt	11th-13th century
F20	-	9	Wall foundation	Septaria and mortar foundation with overlying firm, dry light yellow/grey sand	c 1150-1375/1400
F21	-		Foundation	Septaria and mortar foundation with overlying firm, moist yellow/brown sand	Undatable
F22	-		Foundation pad	Septaria and mortar foundation with overlying firm, moist light yellow/grey sand	Undatable
F23	-	10	Pit	Firm, moist dark grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, oyster flecks	Undatable
F24	-	11	Pit	<b>Upper fill:</b> firm, moist medium orange/grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks and 1% stones; <b>lower fill:</b> firm, moist medium brown/grey silty-clay	12th-14th century
F25	-	12	Pit	<b>Upper fill:</b> yellow/brown clay with frequent stones; <b>lower fill:</b> light grey silty-clay with common stones	12th-14th century
F26	-		Wall foundation	Septaria and mortar foundation	Undatable

**Appendix 2 Pottery and CBM list**

Context	Feature type	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	Discard	No.	Weight/g	Rim	Handle	Base	Other	Form	Comments	Date
F15	Post hole/pit	5	CBM	-	X	3	102					PT		Medieval / post-medieval
F17	Pit	6	CBM	-	X	4	1566					Mortar	Brown, sandy, pebbles & shells	?
F17	Pit	6	CBM	-	X	3	138					PT		Medieval / post-medieval
F17	Pit	6	Pottery	F13		9	71	0	0	2	sooting ext.			11th-13th century
F17	Pit	6	Pottery	F13S		3	25				sooting ext.		rare shells	11th-13th century
F18	Post hole/pit	7	CBM	-	X	6	329					PT		Medieval / post-medieval
F18	Post hole/pit	7	CBM	-	X	1	201					BR	53 mm thick	Medieval / post-medieval
F18	Post hole/pit	7	CBM	-	X	1	23					BR		Medieval / post-medieval
F18	Post hole/pit	7	CBM	-	X	2	341					Mortar		?
F19	Foundation pad	8	CBM	-		1	305					RB	36 mm thick	Roman
F19	Foundation pad	8	CBM	-		1	237					RT	27 mm thick	Roman
F19	Foundation pad	8	Pottery	F13S		1	16	0	0	1				11th-13th century
F19	Foundation pad	8	Pottery	F13		1	4				sooting ext.			11th-13th century
F19	Foundation pad	8	Pottery	F13S		1	5				sooting ext.			11th-13th century
F20	Wall foundation	9	CBM	-		1	146					RFT	Combed, 16 mm thick	Roman
F20	Wall foundation	9	Pottery	F20		1	2						?	c 1150-1375/1400
F24	Pit	11	CBM	-		2	190					RB	33 mm thick	Roman

F24	Pit	11	CBM	-		1	468					RB	38 mm thick	Roman
F24	Pit	11	CBM	-		2	106			burnt		RB		Roman
F24	Pit	11	CBM	-		1	7					RBT		Roman
F24	Pit	11	CBM	-		1	1					RBT	plus some mortar	Roman
F25	Pit	12	Pottery	F13S		1	2							11th-13th century
F25	Pit	12	Pottery	F20		1	2						?	c 1150-1375/1400



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Fig 1 Site location and excavation area, proposed development dashed blue

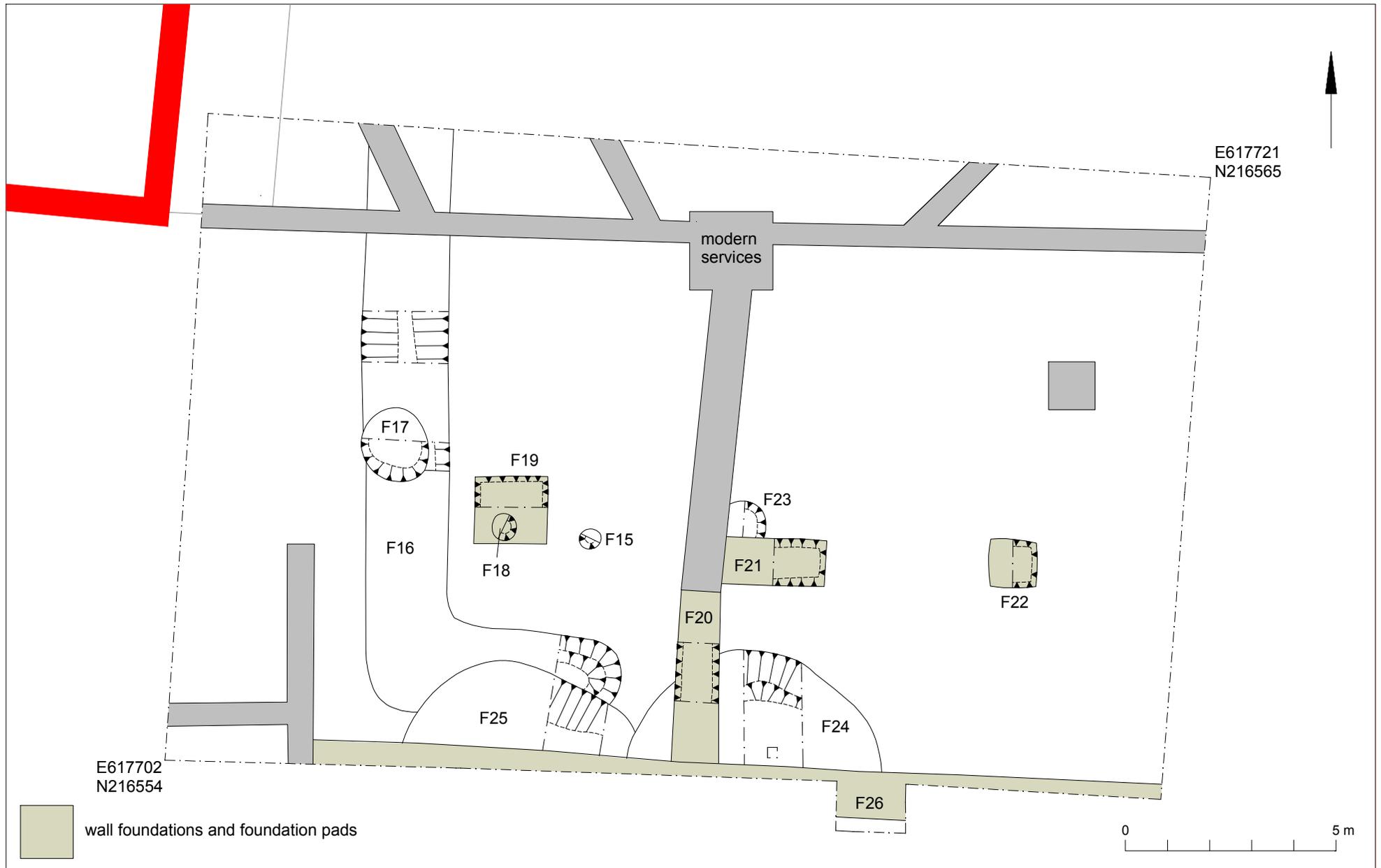


Fig 2 Excavation results.



Fig 3 Results of the 2018 evaluation and 2019 excavation

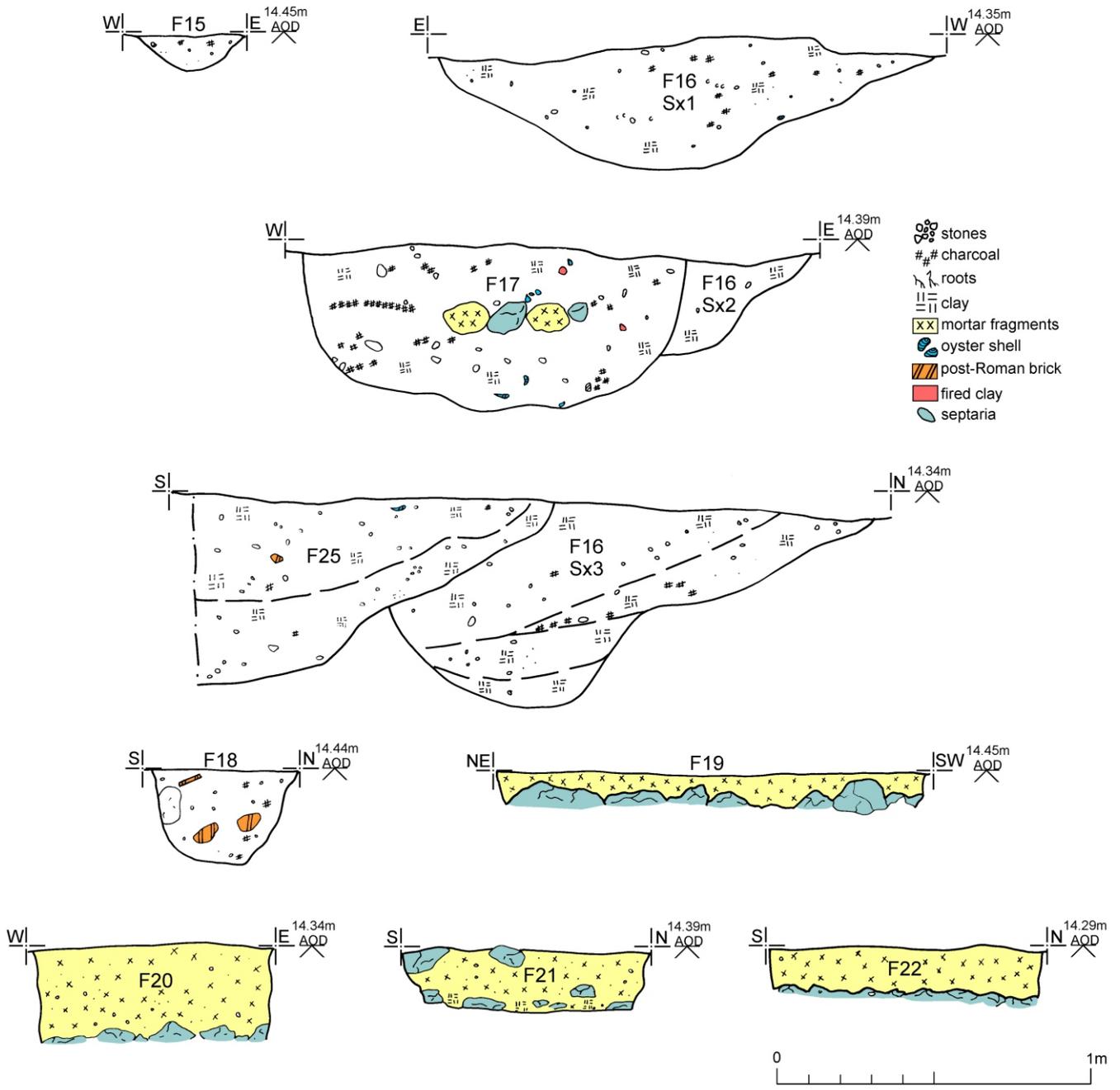


Fig 4 Feature sections.

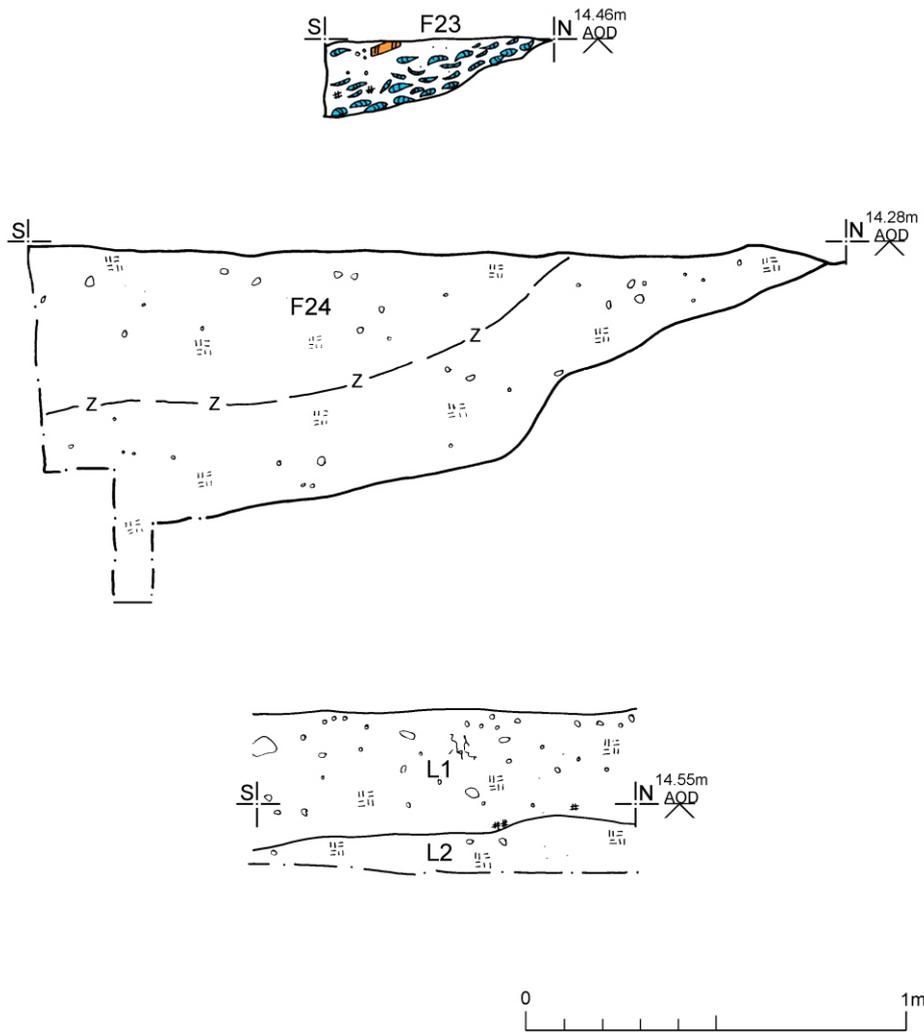


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

## Summary for colchest3-367396

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-367396
Project Name	Archaeological excavation and monitoring at the former car park off Ravensdale, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 4QH
Activity type	EXCAVATION, WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2019/09i
Planning Id	17/01708/FUL, 19/00920/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	07-Oct-2019 - 09-Oct-2019
Location	land at the former Ravensdale Car Park NGR : TM 17729 16572 LL : 51.8053701172263, 1.15675738034025 12 Fig : 617729,216572
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Tendring Parish : Tendring, unparished area
Project Methodology	All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief for Archaeological Excavation (strip, map and record), detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS.  In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), and with Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.
Project Results	This was not collected in OASIS IV when this record was originally created
Keywords	

HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	