

Archaeological evaluation at Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 6DZ

March 2021



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton
figures by Laura Pooley and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Harvey Furniss

**commissioned by Matthew Mackenzie
on behalf of Morgan Sindall**

NGR: TM 18128 15724 (centre)

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CAT project ref.: 2021/02e

ECC code: CSCC21

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CAT Report 1637

March 2021

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new teaching block and sports hall. There were no significant archaeological remains.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex which was carried out on 1st and 2nd March 2021. The work was commissioned by Matthew Mackenzie on behalf of Morgan Sindall in advance of the construction of a new teaching block and sports hall, together with associated access, services and landscaping. The evaluation was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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 *Programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Clacton County High School*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2021).

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 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 field evaluation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>)

Little archaeological investigation has been undertaken within the immediate vicinity of the school, although the location would have been a preferred site for settlement and activity since the prehistoric period, lying as it does close to the sea and the former Gunfleet estuary. In the area around Clacton generally, archaeological evidence has been found dating back as far as the Palaeolithic.

The 12th-century church of St Johns (EHER 2846) lies approximately 910m to the north-west, and would have presumably served as the focal point for medieval settlement at Clacton.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and 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 trial-trenches, both 18m long by 1.8m wide, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist within the footprint of the proposed new building.

The trenches were cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.19-0.32m thick, dark grey/black sandy silt) and layers of accumulation (L2, c 0.2-0.25m thick, dark grey/brown sandy silt) and subsoil (L3, c 0.13-0.17m thick, light/medium brown silt) onto natural clay (L4, encountered at a depth of c 0.55-0.6m below current ground level).

The only features recorded were concrete posts, land drains and a natural feature.

Trench 1 (T1): Two modern concrete posts (part of the school sports pitch) and two land drains.

Trench 2 (T2): An irregular natural feature (F1) and two land drains.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking west-north-west



Photograph 2 Trench 2, looking south-south-west

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Two fragments of Roman ceramic building material (435g) and a piece of modern glass (55g) came from the topsoil L1 (1). The finds have been discarded.

7 Conclusion

There were no features of archaeological significance within the evaluation trenches.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Matthew Mackenzie and Morgan Sindall for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with H Furniss. Figures are by L Pooley and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS 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>

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional

		Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2020	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 6DZ</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	2021	<i>Programme of archaeological evaluation on land at Clacton County High School, Walton Rd, Clacton on Sea</i> , by T O'Connor
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)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

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
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
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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 1637)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1637)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 reference CSCC21.

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Distribution list:

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



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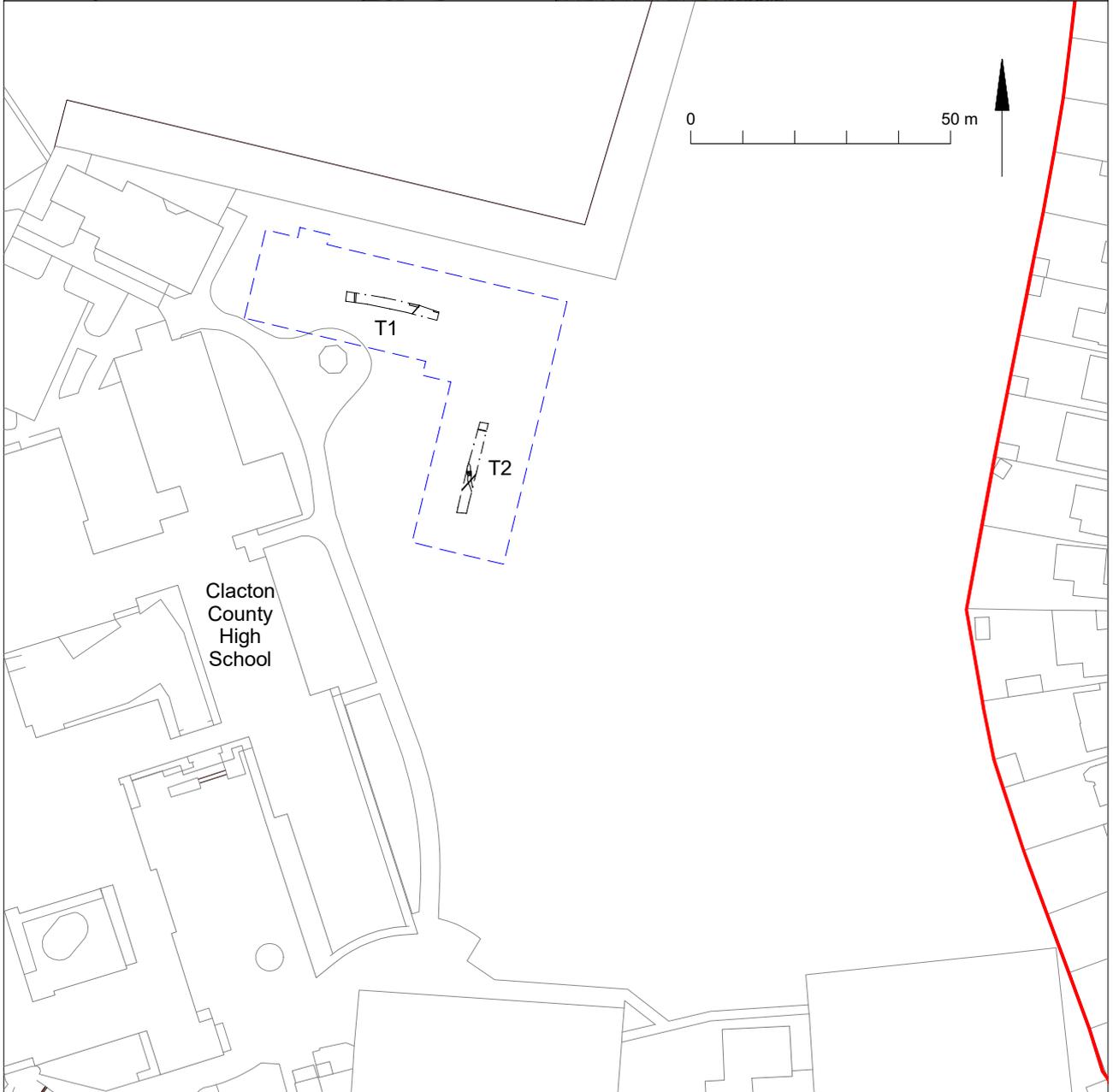
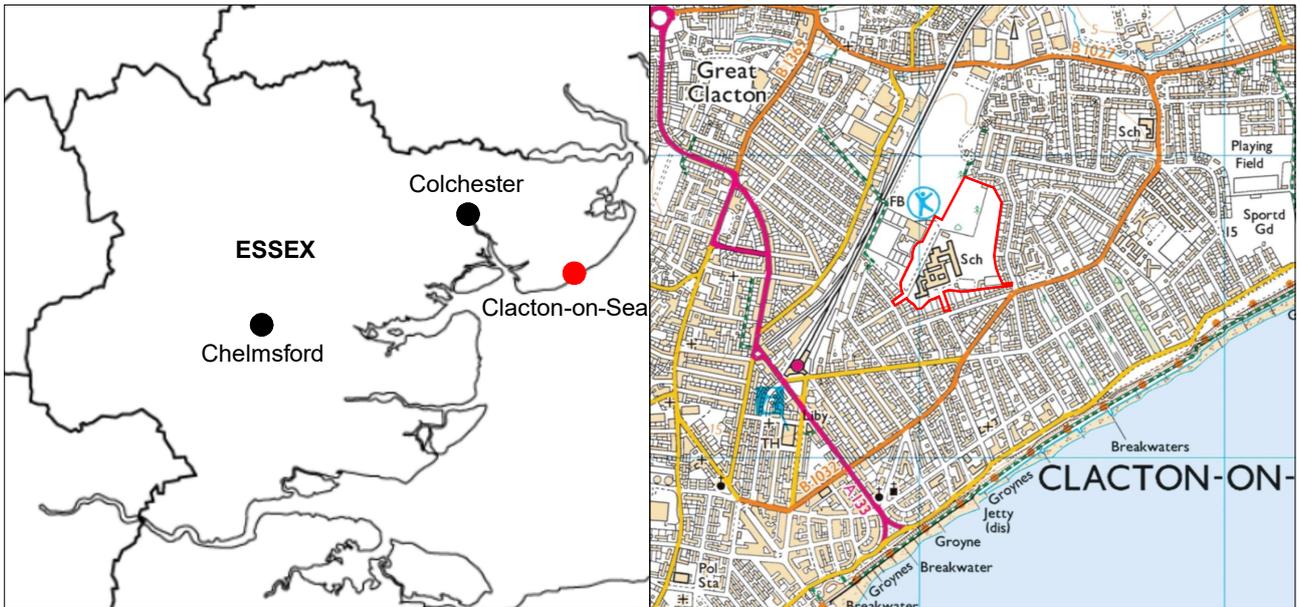


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue).

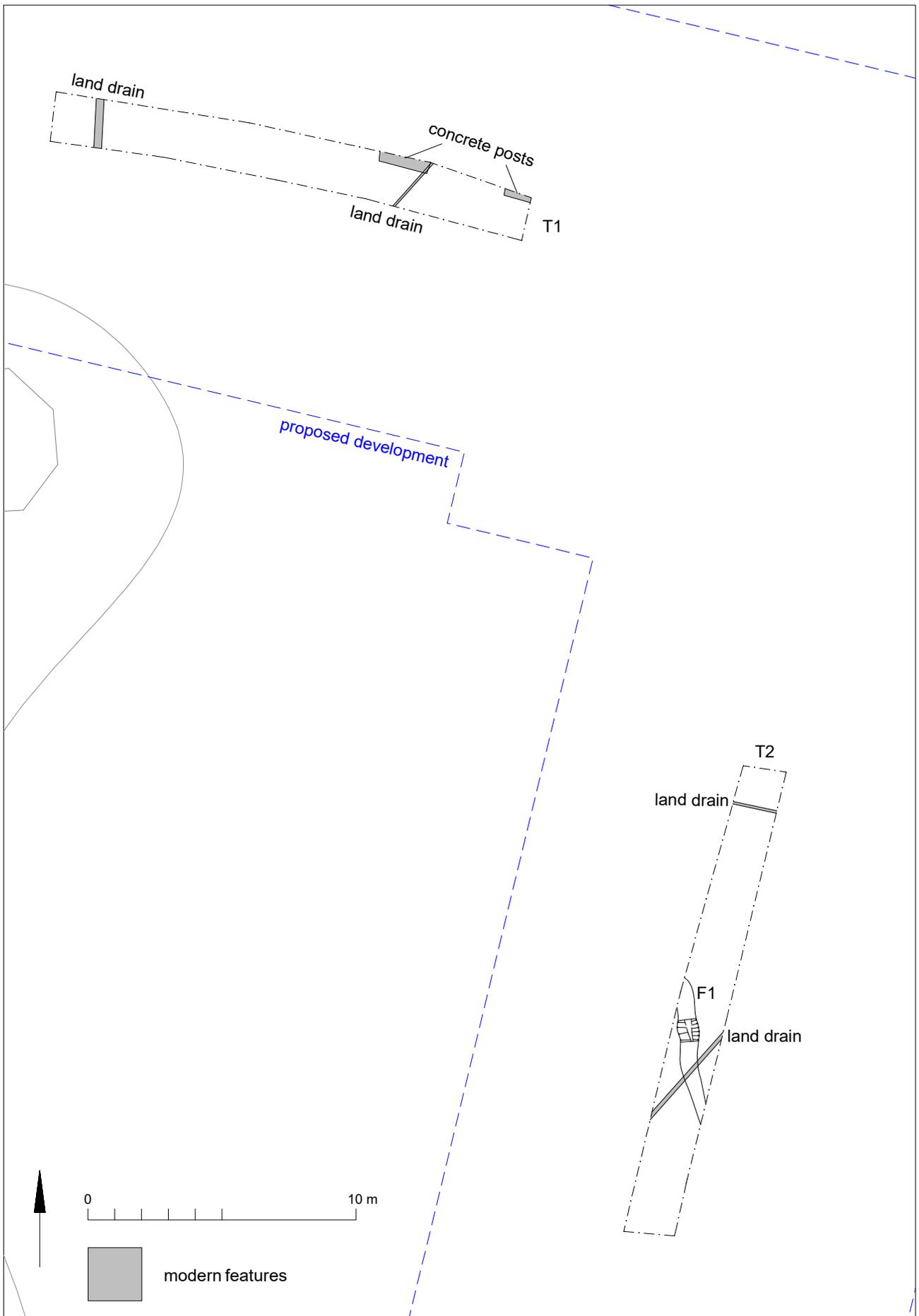


Fig 2 Results

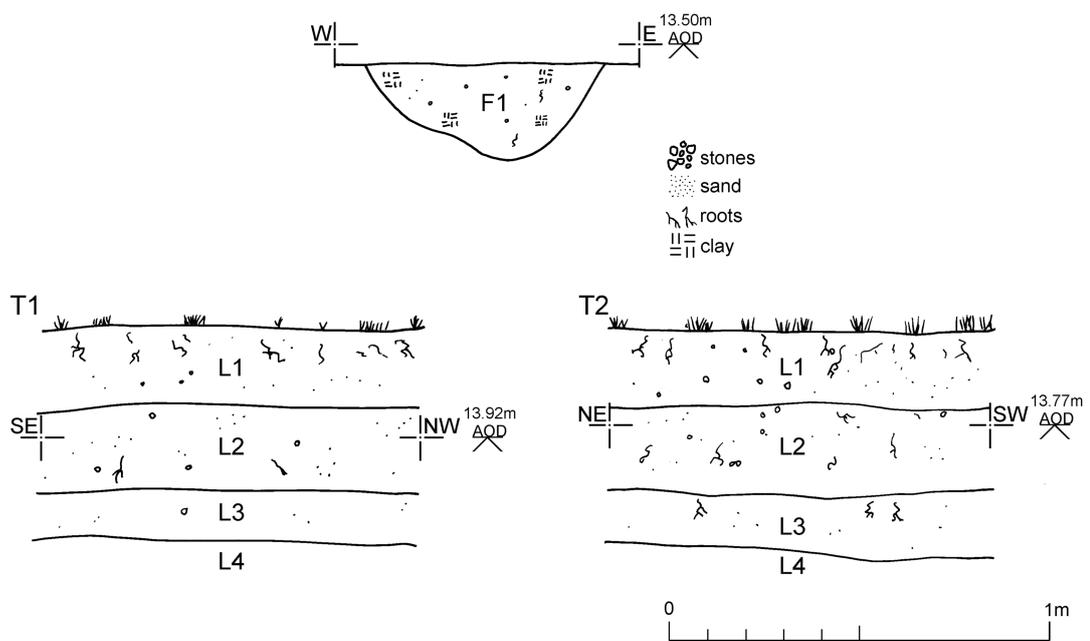


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-415472

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 6DZ
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, in advance of the construction of a new teaching block and sports hall. There were no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2021 End: 02-03-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CC/TEN/111/20 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/02e - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CSCC21 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING CLACTON ON SEA Clacton County High School, Walton Road
Postcode	CO15 6DZ
Study area	0.36 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 18128 15724 51.796983237975 1.1637706015 51 47 49 N 001 09 49 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 13.46m Max: 13.57m

Project creators

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

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	CSCC21
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	CSCC21
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological evaluation at Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, CO15 6DZ March 2021
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