

Archaeological evaluation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex, CB10 2LF

June 2022



by Bronagh Quinn

figures by Sarah Veasey

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commissioned by the Homeowner

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Planning ref.: UTT/19/0466/HFF

CAT project ref.: 2022/06a

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CAT Report 1817

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CAT wsi
OASIS summary sheet

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension, swimming pool and pool house. Despite being located within the grounds of a late 18th-/early 19th-century timber-framed cottage, there were no archaeological remains in either evaluation trench.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End, Essex which was carried out on 23rd June 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner in advance of a single-storey rear extension, swimming pool and pool house.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS) Historical Environment Advisor Katie Lee-Smith. This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and Excavation at 61 Walden Road, Swards End* written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2022) and detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022).

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

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background 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>).

The development site is located within the historic settlement of Swards End. Prior to the early 16th century, Swards End did not exist as a defined community, instead it was four small communities which would eventually merge to become Swards End. The name Swards End is present on OS maps until 1924, when it became Swards End.

61 Walden Road is a late 18th-/early 19th-century timber-framed cottage with a thatched roof (NHLE No. 1196255). It is located within a former moated site (EHER267) with a second moated site to the south (EHER272). Both moats were rectangular in shape and are present on the 1st edition OS map (Map 1).

The geology of the Uttlesford district is boulder clay (or till), which was laid down during the coldest period of the last ice age when the Anglian ice sheet spread south into Essex. Below this is a layer of Kesgrave sands and gravels which were deposited by the Thames when it flowed across central Essex.



Map 1 Extract of the 1881 OS map. 61 Walden Road highlighted in red.



Map 2 Extract of the 1897 OS map, showing 61 Walden Road (red) in relation to the moated sites to the north and south (blue).

4 Aims

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

5 Results (Figs 3-4)

Two trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Trench 1 was 10m long by 1.8m wide and was cut through a layer of modern hard core from the driveway (L1, c 0.32m thick) which sealed natural geology (L2).

Trench two was 7m long by 1.8m wide and was cut through a layer of modern topsoil (L3, c 0.25m thick) over a layer of post-medieval made-ground (L4, c 0.2m thick) which sealed natural (L2).

There were no archaeological remains in either trench.



Photograph 1 Trench 1, looking west



Photograph 2 Trench 2, looking west

6 Finds

Fragments of post-medieval brick/tile from L4 were not retained for post-excavation analysis.

7 Conclusion

No significant archaeological remains were present in either trench. Sealing natural was modern hardcore in Trench 1 with a post-medieval made-ground in Trench 2.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey with B Quinn. Figures are by S Veasey. The project was monitored for Essex County Council Place Services by Katie Lee-Smith.

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	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF</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	2022	<i>Brief for archaeological trial trenching and excavation at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End,</i> by K Lee-Smith
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Lucy, G & Mercer, R	2020	<i>Uttlesford District Council Report on Geological Sites</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
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	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
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
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800

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

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1817)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Scans of original site records (sections)

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 but will be permanently deposited with the Archaeological Data Service.

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Distribution list:

Homeowner

Katie Lee-Smith, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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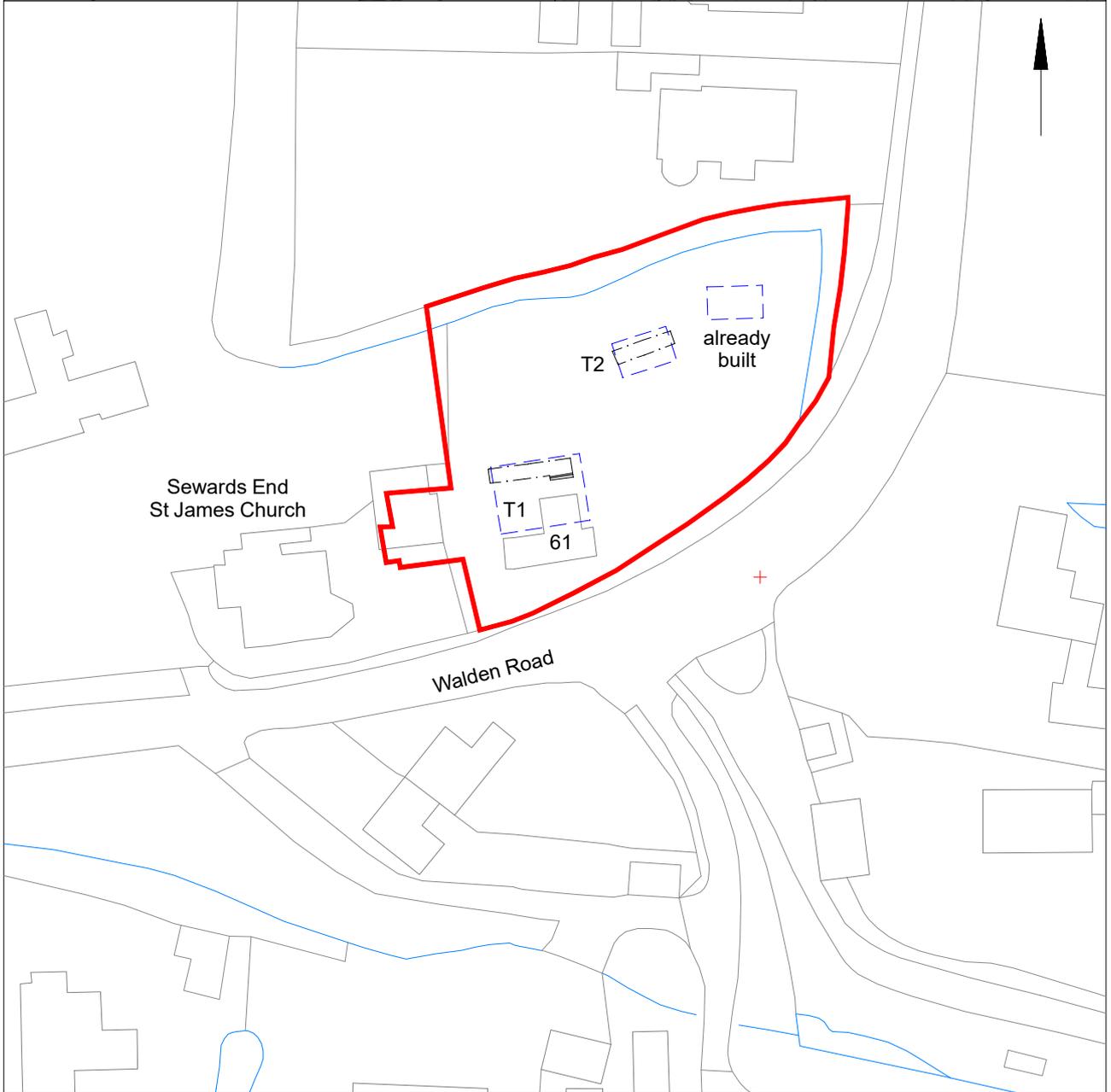
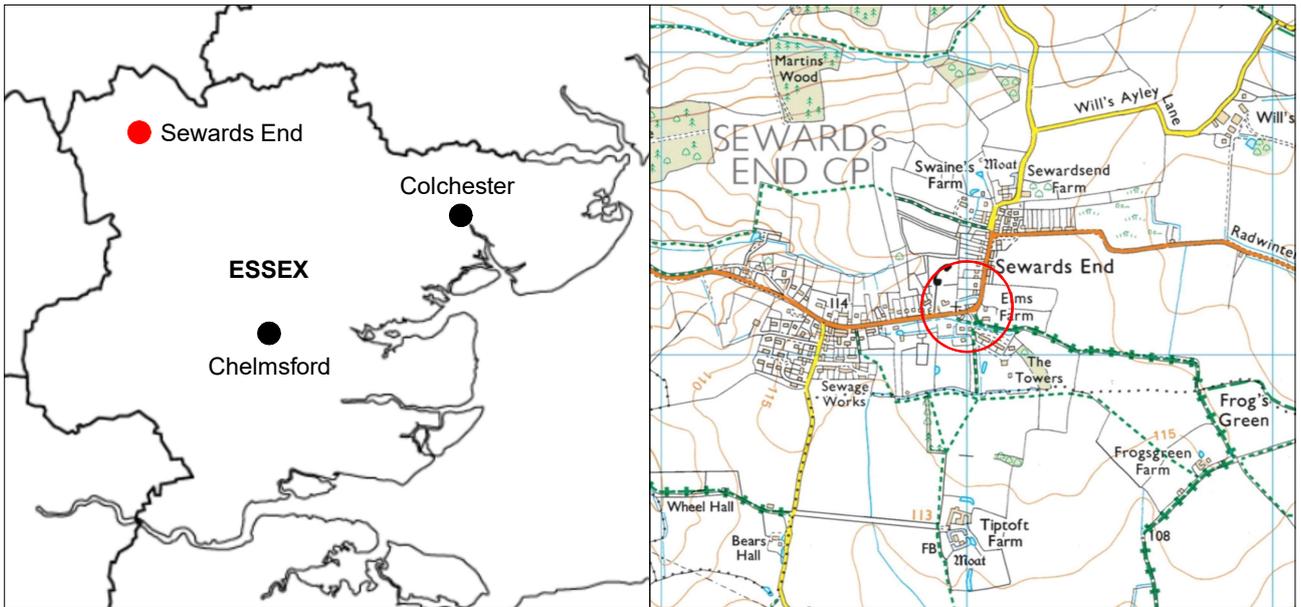
email: bq@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 28/06/22

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Hardcore	Rubble	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Moist medium yellow-brown clay, with inclusions of chalk	Post-glacial
L3	-	Topsoil	Dry dark grey-brown clay silt	Modern
L4	-	Made-ground	Dry medium yellow-grey-brown silty clay, with inclusions of brick and tile	Post-medieval



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



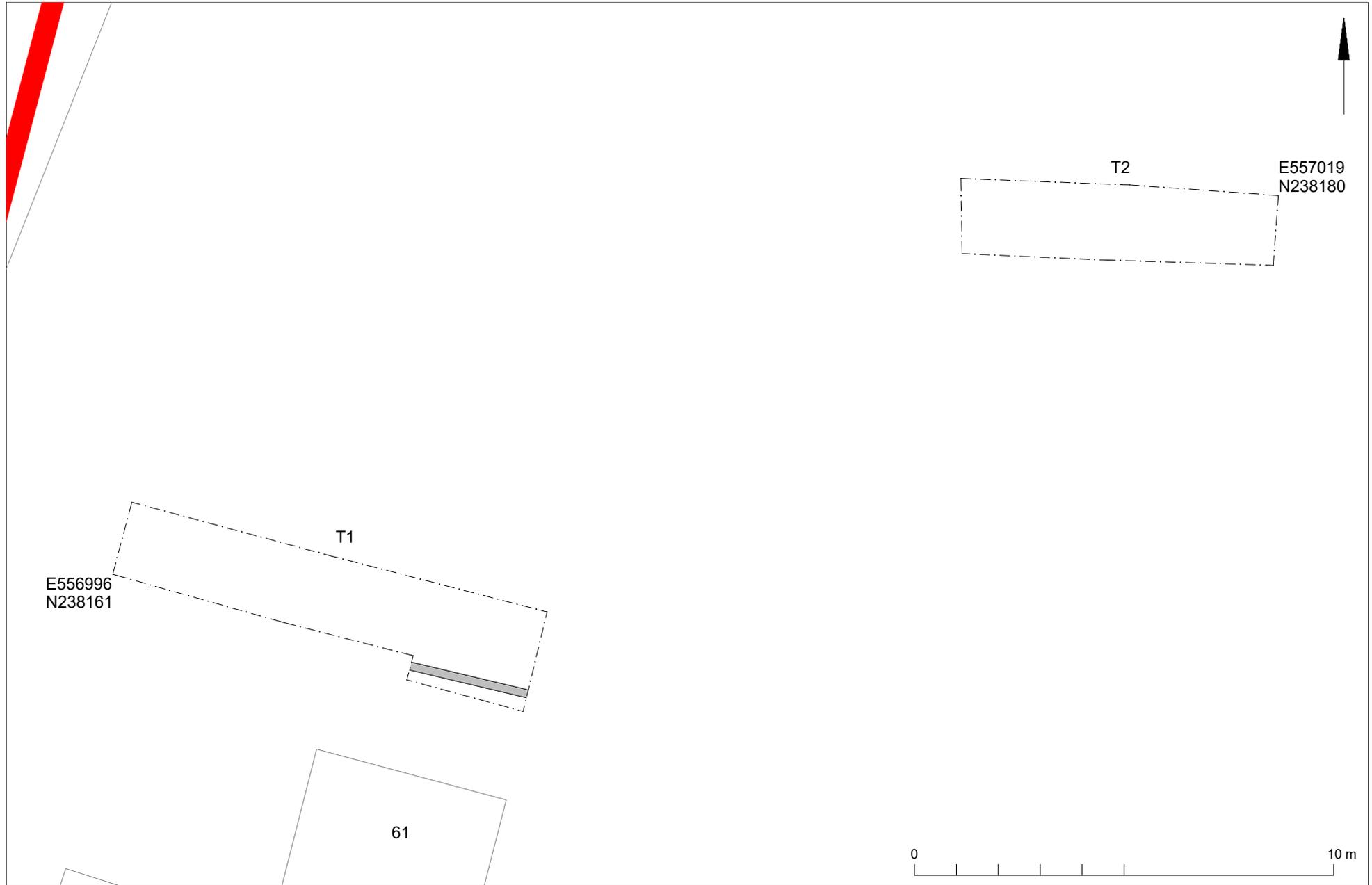


Fig 2 Evaluation results. Modern service in grey

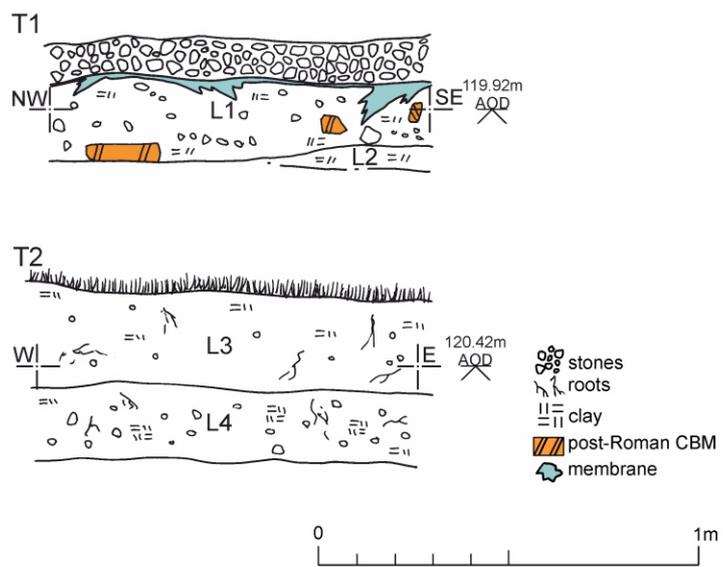


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-507256

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-507256
Project Name	Evaluation at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF
Sitename	61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF
Activity type	Evaluation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/06a
Planning Id	UTT/19/0466/HHF
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Jun-2022 - 23-Jun-2022
Location	61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex, CB10 2LF NGR : TL 57000 38150 LL : 52.0195608748831, 0.286610240225716 12 Fig : 557000,238150
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Sewards End
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation of two trial-trenches
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at 61 Walden Road, Sewards End, Essex in advance of the construction of a single-storey rear extension, swimming pool and pool house. Despite being located within the grounds of a late 18th-/ early 19th-century timber-framed cottage there were no archaeological remains in either evaluation trench.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;