

# Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1876**  
**issued January 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation and excavation at  
Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo,  
Essex, CB11 4JT: November 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/09k**  
**ECC code: BGWA22**

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Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex  
CB11 4JT: November 2022**

**NGR: TL 51117 35841**

**Planning ref.: UTT/22/0477/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/09k  
CAT Report 1876**

**ECC code: BGWA22  
OASIS id: colchest3-509915**

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**commissioned by the landowner**

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<b>Issued:</b>	16/12/2022	
<b>Revised and reissued:</b>	19/01/2023	

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) and subsequent excavation were carried out at Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within the village of Wendens Ambo, which purportedly has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period, and on the former historic farmstead of Bulse Farm references to which can be found as far back as the late 13th century.*

*Archaeological investigations uncovered the remains of three phases of the historic farmstead, consisting of a medieval wall plinth (Building 1), a post-medieval brick plinth, wall foundation and floor surface (Building 2), and a 19th-20th century outbuilding (Building 3) with at least four separate rooms including one cobbled floor and another of brick, perhaps indicative of a cow shed and milking area. Archaeological investigations also revealed a small scatter of prehistoric flint and a Roman ditch.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation and excavation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex from 4th-17th November 2022. The work was commissioned by the landowner, and took place in advance of the construction of a new dwelling.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), the Historic Environment Advisor 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 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation At Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo* written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2022) which detailed the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was then prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022). Due to the high concentration of archaeological remains uncovered during the evaluation, the ECC archaeological monitor directed that an excavation be immediately undertaken at the site.

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 *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 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>).

Cartographic and documentary evidence indicate that the proposed development site, located just south of Wendens Ambo settlement in Norton End, lies within an archaeologically-sensitive area. Bulse Farm itself appears in the historical record in 1299, when it was documented as a tenement belonging to one Roger Bulle. The farmstead is first cartographically depicted on Chapman and André's map of Essex, published in 1777 (Map 1), showing a complex of three buildings. Three buildings are also shown on later ordnance Survey mapping of the area first compiled in the 1870s (Map 2). Now the building to the west, presumably the farmhouse itself, is considerably larger with extensions and wings added, and there is a smaller L-shaped structure present within the current development site. Bulse Farmhouse is purported to have been burnt down in the 1960s.



**Map 1** Chapman and André's map of Essex, published in 1777, showing three buildings. It is the building to the far right that is likely to have been located within the current development site.



**Map 2** Extract of the 1st edition OS map of England and Wales, Essex Sheet VIII, surveyed 1876-1877, with the site outline in red.

The origins of the present-day village of Wendens Ambo date back to at least the Late Anglo-Saxon period. The settlement is recorded in the Domesday book (1086) and St Mary's Church, located within the village, has its origins in the 11th century (EHER 217). The name 'Wendens Ambo' is derived both from the old English word '*Wendena*', which has been interpreted as meaning 'winding valley' (Reaney 1969, 542), and the Latin '*Ambo*', meaning 'both', which refers to the amalgamation of Great Wenden and Little Wenden in 1662 during a period of increasing local development. Duck Street, which defines the western border of the village and lies to the northwest of the development site, is a lane of possible medieval provenance which survives as a hollow-way.

The site lies within an area with significant archaeological potential. Excavations undertaken during works associated with the construction and widening of the M11 uncovered deposits near to the site spanning the prehistoric and Roman periods (EHER 169-170). The most notable archaeological remains uncovered in the vicinity are those of a double-corridor Roman villa complex at Chinnel Barn, located c 400m to the northeast of the site (Hodder 1982). Initially discovered in 1853, when the stone footings of a large building were found, the site was more comprehensively investigated during the early 1970s ahead of the construction of the M11. These excavations uncovered evidence for both Iron Age and Roman occupation at the site, including the remains of a round-house and further building foundations. More recently, other parts of the site and the surrounding area have been investigated by the ECC FAU as part of proposals for widening of the M11 (Atkinson & Wade 1992; Atkinson 1993; Gilman 1994, 243-5). This included a geophysical survey and trial-trenching to establish the northern and southern limits of the villa complex.

During an archaeological evaluation carried out at Chinnel Barn, an extensive flint assemblage was recovered (EHER 16957). The flints ranged in date from the Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age and indicated that the manufacture of flint tools was taking place in the area during these periods.

A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out along Duck Street, to the northwest of the site. These include 1) an evaluation at 1 Bulse Farm Cottages which revealed a medieval ditch (EHER 49561); 2) an evaluation and an excavation on the junction between Duck Street and Rookery Lane revealing Roman pits, a shallow linear feature and medieval gullies, ditches, large pits and a cobbled trackway (CAT Report 518, EHER 46001); and 3) an evaluation at Cranford Cottage during which Roman ditches and pits (one of which contained a large quantity of pottery) were uncovered. Archaeological monitoring has also been carried out at Arley House but no features or artefacts were observed (EHER 48068).

## 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 the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required. The aim of the subsequent excavation was to record all archaeological remains due to be destroyed by the development.

## 5 Methodology

Two trial-trenches were initially machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Trench T1, which was arranged in an L-shape, was 24m long and 1.8m wide, while trench T2 was 8m long and 1.8m wide. To avoid an oil pipe, the position of Trench T2 was slightly different to that proposed in the WSI. Due to the concentration of significant remains uncovered in trench T1, an area measuring 51.4m<sup>2</sup> located over the southern half of this trench was excavated. The combined results are discussed below.

## 6 Results (Figs 2-6)

Across the site, modern topsoil (L1, 0.22-0.35m thick) sealed significant archaeological remains. Natural was encountered in Trench T2 (c 57.16m AOD) but it was only exposed in a couple of

places in the excavation area (c 56.48m AOD), showing natural ground level slopes away slightly to the north.

#### 6.1 Prehistoric

No features dating to the prehistoric period were present, but eight worked flints were recovered from later contexts F3, F12 and L7. One of the flints retrieved from L7 likely dates to the Early Neolithic, the rest were only broadly datable as later prehistoric (Neolithic to Bronze Age).

#### 6.2 Roman (Figs 2 & 6)

Roman ditch F12 passed through the western half of trench T2. Precise orientation was difficult to determine, but it was probably on either a north/south or perhaps more likely a NNE/SSW alignment. It was 2.64m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.85m but not bottomed. Modern CBM was found in the upper fill of the feature, which presumably derived from the incorporation of later material into the feature as it settled over time. Sherds of Roman pottery and CBM were recovered from the mid to lower fill, as well as two fragments of human bone from the lower fill, indicating Roman burial activity on or close to the site. Three sherds of Roman pottery was also recovered from later contexts L4 and L11.



**Photograph 1** Roman ditch F12, looking south-south-west.

#### 6.3 Anglo-Saxon to early medieval

A single sherd of pottery dating from the mid 9th to the mid 12th century was retrieved from later context L3.

#### 6.4 Building 1, medieval (Figs 3 & 6)

Cut into natural (L8) were pits F21 and F22, these were not excavated but were sealed by a medieval plinth, so pre-date this structure. The plinth was aligned NNE/SSW and was constructed on a base of peg-tile (F4) which consisted of whole or part-pieces laid flat on a loose lime mortar. On top of the peg-tile base was the partially collapsed wall plinth (F3/F19) constructed of flint nodules and dressed chalk blocks set in a loose lime mortar. The plinth would have likely supported a timber-framed building but, as no other feature associated with

this plinth was identified, little more can be said about the building. Pottery from F3 was dated from AD 1200-1400, but it is uncertain if the pottery came from the construction phase or from the later collapse/demolition.



**Photograph 2** Medieval wall plinth F3/F19 on peg-tile base F4 (Building 1), looking south-east.

### 6.5 Building 2, medieval/post-medieval (Figs 4-6)

Layer L7/L11 covers most of the excavation area and, post-dating Building 1, is likely associated with its demolition and levelling of the surrounding area. On the northern edge of the excavation area, L7/L11 is cut by 17th- to 18th-century pit F20 and sealed by metalling F17, which may have been laid to consolidate the site before the construction of Building 3.

On the southern edge of the excavation area, plinth F23 cut L7/L11 and was made of mid-sized flint nodules sealing late 17th- to 18th-century unfrogged bricks set in a loose lime mortar. At 1m long, only a small section of this plinth was present making interpretation difficult. In the south-west corner, L7/L11 was sealed by make-up/levelling layer L10. Cut into L10 was a narrow (c 0.26m) east/west foundation, F18, made of small to medium flint nodules in a loose lime mortar, which appeared to be associated with possible chalk floor L9.

Structural features F18, F23 and L9 could possibly be part of the later Building 3 (see below), especially as F18 appears to be on the correct alignment to the building as shown on OS maps. However, although the stratigraphy was not altogether clear, F18 and F23 appear to be sealed by a layer of demolition/make-up (L3) which is subsequently sealed by the later building. Therefore, they either represent the scant remains of a second building on the development site (Building 2) or an earlier phase of Building 3.



**Photograph 3** Medieval wall plinth F3/F9 with brick plinth F2 in the foreground, looking north-west.



**Photograph 4** Foundation F18 with chalk floor L9 beyond, looking west.

## 6.6 Building 3, 19th to 20th century (Figs 5-6)

Present on the 1st edition OS map of 1876-7 is an L-shaped out-building. The remains of at least four separate rooms had survived on the development site, both located in the north/south wing.

**Room A** – On the far northern edge of the north/south wing was Room A. Two phases of plinth were identified on the northern edge of the out-building. Plinth F11 was constructed of flint nodules set in lime mortar, which was repaired/replaced with plinth F10 made out of unfrogged 19th-century red bricks bonded with lime mortar. The room was c 6.1m long but the width could not be established; although it was presumably the same as Room B. The floor (F7) was made of small, medium and large rounded cobbles set in a loose sandy-silty loam (L4/L5) with at least one drainage channel running through it. At some later date the cobbled floor had been covered in concrete (c 0.1m thick). The cobbled floor had not survived to the south of Room A, where it had been cut by later drains (F8) leading to a manhole (F14) with the impression of a toilet pedestal just beyond. A small section of a brick ?floor/plinth (F16) was located on the southern edge of Room A to the south of manhole F14.



**Photograph 5** Evaluation trench T1, showing Room A. Plinths F10/F11 are in the bottom left corner, in the centre is cobbled floor F7 (partially covered in concrete with a drainage channel along the eastern edge of the trench), drains F8 are just visible to the south with Room B in the distance, looking south-east.

**Room B** – To the south of Room A was Room B. It was c 3.5m north/south by 4.7m east/west and had a floor (F6) of frogged red bricks bonded with a mix of lime mortar and sand, and laid on a base of crushed CBM. The floor was bordered by plinths F5 (to the south and east) and F9 (to the north and west), also constructed out of red bricks set in lime mortar on a base of crushed CBM. Brick floor F6 had not survived in the north-west corner of Room B, where the partial remains of a peg-tile floor (F15, 0.3m by 0.35m) were present instead. It is possible that this was associated with the addition of the toilet in south-west corner of Room A.



**Photograph 6** Room B showing brick plinths (F5 & F9) and brick floor (F6), looking north.



**Photograph 7** Close-up of changes to Rooms A & B (F14, F15 and F16) for the addition of a toilet (impression of toilet base can be seen).

**Room C & D** – The only remains to the south of Room B were plinths F2 and F3. Made of unmortared frogged red bricks, plinth F2 was in alignment with the rest of the building, and probably represents an internal subdivision. A gap between F2 and Room B may even represent a doorway. Plinth F3 was aligned at a slight angle to F2, and was made of frogged red bricks bonded in lime mortar and laid on a base of crushed CBM. The relationship between plinths F2 and F3 is uncertain. No floor layers had survived.



**Photograph 8** General site shot from the south-west corner of the excavation area towards Room B, looking north-east, plinths F2 and F3 can be seen to the right.

## 6.7 Modern

A large modern pit (F1), at least 1.2m deep and full of modern finds including concrete and nylon string, had truncated any earlier remains in the northern third of Trench 1, and had partially truncated the northern wall foundation of Building 3.

## 7 Finds

### 7.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

*by Dr Matthew Loughton*

Some 181 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just over 19kg (Table 1) were recovered during the excavation. The mean sherd weight is high at 108g. There were rim sherds from 1.93 vessels (EVE) (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	144	3,799	27	1.93
CBM	37	15,526	420	-

<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>19,276</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>1.93</b>
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**Table 1** Summary of the pottery and CBM

Sherds of pottery and CBM were recovered from nine features and six layers (Table 2). A significant proportion of this material came from F12, F17 and L3. Altogether these three features produced 73% of the total assemblage by sherd count and 21% of the total sherd weight.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	Brick plinth	13	2,757	212
F3	Wall plinth	4	86	22
F4	Part of wall plinth F3	2	1,628	814
F6	Brick floor	1	2,879	2,879
F10	Brick plinth	2	4,078	2,039
F12	Ditch	63	1,452	23
F17	Metalling	41	1,040	25
F20	Pit	5	230	46
F23	Brick plinth	3	2,374	791
L3	Demolition/make-up layer	27	1,527	57
L4	Demolition/make-up layer	3	197	66
L5	Demolition/make-up layer	2	99	50
L6	Accumulation layer	2	735	368
L10	Demolition/levelling layer	2	11	6
L11	Demolition/levelling layer	11	232	21
<b>Total</b>		<b>181</b>	<b>19,276</b>	<b>108</b>

**Table 2** Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific contexts

### Roman pottery

The Roman pottery was classified according to the fabric groups outlined in *CAR 10* (1999) (Table 3) and vessel types were classified via the Colchester (*Camulodunum*), henceforth Cam, type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958; *CAR 10*, 468-487). The pottery was recorded by sherd count, the number of rims, handles, and bases, and weight, for each fabric group. The number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

There is a small-sized Roman pottery assemblage of 61 sherds with a weight of 1.1 kg and EVE of 0.05 (Table 4). The majority of the Roman pottery came from ditch F12 with rare residual sherds from two post-Roman contexts (L4 and L11). Most of the Roman pottery consists of local greywares which, apart from a sherd possibly from the Cam 231-232 flask (AD 43-150/180), cannot be tightly dated. However, there are rare sherds of Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware (fabric FJ) and Colchester Pompeian red ware (fabric CS C) dating from the Claudian period until around the mid-2nd century AD. Finally, there is a late Roman Cam 317 dish (EVE:0.05) in Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware (fabric MP) dating to AD 280-400, although this came from later context L11.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
<b>CS (C)</b>	Colchester Pompeian red ware	AD 43-150
<b>DJ</b>	Coarse oxidised and related wares	Roman
<b>FJ</b>	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware	AD 43-160
<b>GX</b>	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	Roman

<b>MP</b>	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware	AD 275-425
<b>WA</b>	Silvery micaceous wares	Roman

**Table 3** Roman pottery fabrics recorded

<b>Fabric Group</b>	<b>Fabric description</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>MSW (g)</b>	<b>EVE</b>
<b>CS (C)</b>	Colchester Pompeian red ware	4	54	14	0.00
<b>DJ</b>	Coarse oxidised and related wares	1	7	7	0.00
<b>FJ</b>	Brockley Hill/Verulamium region oxidised ware	1	38	38	0.00
<b>GX</b>	Other coarse, principally locally-produced grey wares	52	1,023	20	0.00
<b>MP</b>	Oxfordshire-type red colour-coated ware	1	34	34	0.05
<b>WA</b>	Silvery micaceous wares	2	28	14	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.05</b>

**Table 4** Summary of the Roman pottery

<b>Context</b>	<b>Feature type</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>MSW (g)</b>	<b>EVE</b>
F12	Ditch	58	1,135	20	0.00
L4	Demolition/make-up layer	1	7	7	0.00
L11	Demolition/levelling layer	2	42	21	0.05
<b>Total</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0.05</b>

**Table 5** Quantities of Roman pottery from specific contexts

### Post-Roman pottery

The post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (2000) (Table 6) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent). There was a modest-sized assemblage of post-Roman pottery consisting of 83 sherds with a weight of 2.6kg and EVE of 1.88 (Table 7). This pottery was recovered from four features and four layers although the majority of this material came from metalling F17 and demolition/make-up layer L3 (Table 8). There is a variety of material ranging in date from the late Anglo-Saxon/early medieval period to the 19th or 20th century. A Thetford-type ware jar (EVE:0.12), dating to c 850-1150 (*ibid*, 28-32 fig. 9 nos. 1-7), came from L3. There was also a small quantity of early medieval sandy wares and related fabrics (fabrics F13, F13S, F13T) dating from the 11th to the early 13th century. This material was recovered from wall plinth F3, metalling F17, pit F20 and demolition/levelling layer L11. The only identifiable vessel was a cooking pot (EVE:0.03) with a thickened flat-topped rim (B2) in fabric F13T, dating to c 1125-1225, from L11. There is also a small quantity of medieval sandy greyware pottery (fabric F20) dating to c 1150-1375/1400, including a cooking pot with a thickened flat-topped rim (B2) (EVE:0.05) and a bowl (EVE:0.06). There was also a small quantity of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21) dating to c 1200-1500, although there was little in the way of identifiable vessels except for a body sherd from a jug.

Sherds of post-medieval red earthenwares and related wares (fabrics F40, F40A) account for a significant proportion of the post-Roman pottery assemblage and most of this material came from metalling F17 and demolition/make-up layer L3. A Metropolitan slipware (F40A) dish (EVE:0.23), dating to the 17th century, came from L3. The post-medieval red earthenwares (fabric F40) include large bowls/pancheons (EVE: 0.53), plain dishes (EVE:0.29), small handled jars/chamberpots (EVE:0.21), small straight sided bowls (EVE:0.11) and small storage jars (EVE:0.09). Other pottery of interest from L3 included a Netherlands, Anglo-Netherlands and English tin-glazed earthenware (fabric F46) jar (EVE:0.13) and a sherd of Westerwald stoneware (fabric F45F).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F9	Thetford-type ware	c 850-1150
F13	Early medieval sandy wares	11th to early 13th century
F13S	Early medieval sandy shell dusted wares	11th to early 13th century
F13T	Early medieval sandy wares transitional	Early 12th to early 13th century
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	c 1150-1375/1400
F21	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F40A	Metropolitan slipware	c 1600-1725/1750
F45	Unid. Stoneware	17th-20th century
F45F	Westerwald stoneware	17th-18th century
F46	Netherlands, Anglo-Netherlands and English tin-glazed earthenwares	Mid 16th to 18th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century

**Table 6** Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Fabric Group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
<b>F9</b>	Thetford-type ware	1	17	17	0.12
<b>F13</b>	Early medieval sandy wares	2	19	10	0.00
<b>F13S</b>	Early medieval sandy shell dusted wares	1	13	13	0.00
<b>F13T</b>	Early medieval sandy wares transitional	2	23	12	0.03
<b>F20</b>	Medieval sandy greywares	12	165	14	0.11
<b>F21</b>	Colchester-type ware	9	267	30	0.00
<b>F40</b>	Post-medieval red earthenwares	44	1,709	39	1.23
<b>F40A</b>	Metropolitan slipware	7	362	52	0.23
<b>F45</b>	Unid. Stoneware	1	4	4	0.00
<b>F45F</b>	Westerwald stoneware	2	20	10	0.00
<b>F46</b>	Netherlands, Anglo-Netherlands and English tin-glazed earthenwares	1	15	15	0.13
<b>F48D</b>	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	1	1	1	0.03
<b>Total</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1.88</b>

**Table 7** Summary of the post-Roman pottery

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F3	Wall plinth	3	62	21	0.05
F17	Metalling	38	819	22	0.84
F20	Pit	4	44	11	0.08
F23	Wall plinth	2	73	37	0.00
L3	Demolition/make-up layer	24	1,390	58	0.82
L5	Demolition/make-up layer	1	26	26	0.00
L10	Demolition/levelling layer	2	11	6	0.00

L11	Demolition/levelling layer	9	190	21	0.09
<b>Total</b>		<b>83</b>	<b>2,615</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1.88</b>

**Table 8** Quantities of post-Roman pottery from specific contexts

### Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were 37 sherds of CBM totalling 15.5kg with a mean sherd weight of 420g (Table 9). CBM was recovered from nine features and four layers (Table 10). Rare sherds of Roman CBM were recovered from wall plinth F3 and ditch F12. Most of the CBM consists of sherds of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (F4, upper fill of F12, F17, F20, L3, L4, L5 and L6) and brick fragments (F2, F6, F10, F23 and L6). Frogged bricks, dating from around the mid 19th century onwards, were recovered from plinth F2 and floor F6. Unfrogged bricks were recovered from wall plinth F23 and accumulation layer L6, including one complete example from the former feature with dimensions of 230mm x 108mm x 55mm which possibly dates to the late 17th or early 18th century.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Roman				
RB	Roman brick	1	173	173
RI	Roman imbrex	1	24	24
RBT	Roman brick or tile (general)	1	4	4
Post Roman				
PT	Peg-tile	14	2,554	184
BR	Brick	18	12,659	703
Un-dated				
Unid. CBM		2	112	56
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>15,526</b>	<b>420</b>

**Table 9** Building material by period and type

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F2	Brick plinth	13	2,757	212
F3	Wall plinth	1	24	24
F4	Base of wall plinth F3	2	1,628	814
F6	Brick floor	1	2,879	2,879
F10	Brick plinth	2	4,078	2,039
F12	Ditch	5	317	63
F17	Metalling	3	221	74
F20	Pit	1	186	186
F23	Wall plinth	1	2,301	2,301
L3	Demolition/make-up layer	3	137	46
L4	Demolition/make-up layer	2	190	95
L5	Demolition/make-up layer	1	73	73
L6	Accumulation layer	2	735	368
<b>Total</b>		<b>37</b>	<b>15,526</b>	<b>420</b>

**Table 10** Quantities of CBM from specific contexts

## Conclusion

Table 11 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. Many of the features and layers date to the post-medieval period and particularly to the 17th-18th century. However, there is also evidence for occupation in the vicinity dating from the late Saxon-early Medieval period onwards. Finally, there is evidence for nearby Roman occupation spanning from the early to late Roman period. The lower and middle fills of the ditch F12 date to c AD 43-150/160, although the upper fills contain some post-Roman CBM.

Context	Description	Roman	Post-Roman	CBM	Date approx.
F2	Brick plinth	-	-	BR (frogged)	19th-20th century
F3	Wall plinth	-	F13, F21 (jug), F20 (cooking-pot B2)	RI	1200-1400
F4	Base of wall plinth F3	-	-	PT	Medieval
F6	Brick floor	-	-	BR (frogged)	19th-20th century
F10	Wall plinth	-	-	BR	19th century
F12	Ditch	CS (C),FJ, GX (Cam 231-232?), WA	-	BR (upper), PT (upper), RBT (lower)	Lower-mid fills: Roman (AD 43-150/160) Upper fill: modern
F17	Metalling	-	F13, F13S, F20, F21, F40 (dish, small storage jar, small handled jar/chamberpot, large bowl/pancheon), F40A, F48D (cup)	PT	19th-20th century
F20	Pit	-	F13T, F20, F40 (dish)	PT	17th-18th century
F23	Wall plinth	-	F21	BR (unfrogged)	Late 17th-18th century
L3	Demolition/make-up layer	-	F9 (jar), F20, F21, F40 (large bowl/pancheon, small straight sided bowl), F40a, F45F, F46 (jar)	PT, Unid. CBM	17th century
L4	Demolition/make-up layer	DJ	-	PT	Medieval/post-medieval
L5	Demolition/make-up layer	-	F40	PT	Post-medieval
L6	Accumulation layer	-	-	BR (un-frogged), PT	17th-18th century
L10	Demolition/levelling layer	-	F21	-	1200-1550
L11	Demolition/levelling layer	GX, MP (Cam 317)	F13T, F20, F21	-	1200-1550

**Table 11** Approximate dates for the individual features and layers

## 7.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Fragments of post-medieval/modern glass came from demolition/make-up layers L4 and L5 and accumulation layer L6, with an iron nail, iron strip and fragment of oyster shell being recovered from demolition/levelling layer L11.

An unidentified iron fitting or fixture and fragments of oyster shell came from wall plinth F3, with wall plinth F10 producing a piece of burnt flint and metalling F17 a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem and two iron nails. Roman ditch F12 produced a fragment of intrusive coal/coke from the mid/upper fill.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L4	4	<b>Glass:</b> 1) Fragment of bottle glass, olive green, 5.0g. 2) Fragment of bottle glass, pale green but covered in thick luminescence, from the deep push-up base of a wine bottle, 56.3g. Post-medieval/modern.
L5	6	<b>Glass:</b> Fragment, green but covered in thick luminescence, 9.1g. Post-medieval/modern.
L6	7	<b>Glass:</b> Fragment, green but covered in thick luminescence, 2.9g. Post-medieval/modern.
L11	20	<b>Iron nail:</b> Most of a shank, head missing, 20.1g. <b>Iron strip:</b> Fragment of iron strip, rectangular in cross-section, broken at one end, other end covered in corrosion, 45.4mm long, 27.5mm wide, 8.6mm thick, 20.0g. <b>Shell:</b> Fragment of oyster shell, 8g (discarded).
F3	16	<b>Iron nail:</b> Fragment of shank, 3.7g. <b>Shell:</b> Four fragments of oyster shell, 9.3g.
	17	<b>Iron object:</b> Unidentified iron fitting or fixture, probably agricultural, consisting of a flat D-shaped fitting (124mm long, 99mm wide, 9.8mm thick) with socketed attachment (102mm long, 23mm wide, 27mm thick), total c 169mm long, 541.4g.
F10	10	<b>Burnt flint:</b> One, cracked and crazed, burnt various shades of white and grey, 43.0g (discarded).
F12	9	<b>Coal/coke:</b> Fragment, 5.7g (discarded).
F17	12	<b>Clay tobacco pipe:</b> Stem fragment, 2.0g, post-medieval. <b>Iron nails:</b> Two incomplete nails with lower shanks missing and damage to the heads, 10.1g.

**Table 12** Miscellaneous finds listed by context

### 7.3 Building stone

by Gabrielle Smith & Laura Pooley

Sixteen fragments of chalk were recovered from wall plinth F3 (finds no.21). Twelve of the fragments were small (<40mm) but four larger blocks were recovered measuring:

- 270mm long, 160mm wide and 100mm thick,
- 120mm long, 80mm wide, 50mm thick,
- 240mm long, 210mm wide, 130mm thick and
- 280mm long, 230mm wide, 140mm thick.

Although now slightly irregular, these fragments were probably ashlar building blocks.

### 7.4 Flints

by Adam Wightman

Eight worked flints were recovered from three contexts. One flint was recovered from the remains of a medieval wall plinth (F3), four were recovered from the fill of the Roman ditch (F12) and the other three came from a demolition/levelling layer (L7). All eight flints are prehistoric in date, but came from later-dated contexts and are therefore residual. The raw material used to produce all of the pieces was a mottled, dark grey nodular flint. All of the worked flints have been catalogued and described in a spreadsheet available in the digital site archive.

The worked flint from F3 was a prehistoric flake with a short length of abrupt retouch on the left lateral edge (ventral face). A possible retouch notch on the left lateral edge is probably just post-depositional damage. The four worked flints recovered from F12 were a side scraper with retouch around the distal end and left lateral edge forming a 'nose', an ovate-shaped core or core fragment with two short lengths of retouch, a flake with a retouched notch on the left lateral

edge and a thick flake with a short length of retouch on the left lateral edge. A retouched flake with rough, abrupt retouch on the right lateral edge, a waste flake and a blade core with two opposing platforms, were collected from L7.

The blade core from L7 is most likely to date to the Early Neolithic as it lacks the characteristics of the cylindrical or pyramidal cores usually associated with Mesolithic blade/bladelet production. The rest of the worked flints are not typologically dateable, but exhibit knapping characteristics most commonly evident on pieces from the later prehistoric period (Neolithic-Bronze Age).

Context	Find no.	Artefact type	Cortex %	Soft/hard hammer	Retouch
F3	16	Retouched flake	15		Abrupt retouched on the right and left lateral edges (ventral face)
F12	10	Scraper	0	Hard	Abrupt retouch on the left lateral edge and distal end forming a 'nose' shape (dorsal face)
		Retouched core	5		
F12	8	Retouched flake	0	?Hard	Abrupt retouch on left lateral edge (dorsal face)
F12	9	Retouched flake	15	Hard	Semi-abrupt retouch on the right lateral edge (ventral face)
L7	11	Retouched flake	5	?Soft	Abrupt retouch on the left lateral edge (dorsal face)
		Flake	45	Hard	
		Blade core	30	?Soft	

**Table 13** Worked flints by context

## 7.5 Human bone by Megan Seehra

### Introduction

Two fragments of disarticulated human bone were recovered from the lower fill of ditch F12 which is dated to the Roman period.

### Methodology

Age and sex estimations were carried out using methods outlined by Ubelaker & Buikstra (1994) and Schaefer *et al* (2009). When possible, stature was estimated using a combination of methods by Pearson (1899), Dupertius & Hadden (1951) and Trotter & Gleser (1952). Pathologies and congenital defects were identified using Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994) and Roberts & Manchester (2010).

Preservation of bone was carried out using a graded system of 1-5 (1 being very poor, 5 being very good) (table 14).

Grade	Description
1	Very poor condition; extensive wear of bone cortex and heavy fragmentation
2	Poor condition; extensive wear of bone cortex and some fragmentation
3	Average condition; slight wear of bone cortex with minimal fragmentation
4	Good condition; slight wear of bone cortex or minimal fragmentation
5	Very good condition; no wear of bone cortex or fragmentation

**Table 14** Scoring system used to grade bone condition

### Results

#### **Quantification and preservation**

One fragment was a partial left ulna head and proximal shaft, plus one fragment of a possible unfused humerus medial epicondyle, mostly complete. Both fragments weighed a total of 32g.

The epicondyle fragment was in a good condition (grade 4-5), however the ulna head is slightly bleached in appearance, with significant wear to the bone cortex (grade 2). This condition is indicative of disturbed bone.

**Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI)**

One left ulna gives an MNI of one individual.

**Age-at-death**

Although in a poor condition, the ulna head appears to be from an individual of adult age (18 years+ old).

The medial epicondyle of the humerus fuses between the ages of 13-18 years old. As this epiphysis is completely unfused it likely belongs to an individual under the age of 18 years old.

**Sex estimation**

The remains were too fragmented for sex estimation to be completed.

**Stature**

Stature was unable to be estimated.

**Pathologies and congenital defects**

No pathologies or congenital defects were identified.

**7.6 Animal bone**

*by Alec Wade*

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of animal bone amounting to 46 pieces and weighing a total of 0.89kg. The material derived from Roman ditch F12, demolition around medieval wall plinth F3, medieval demolition/levelling layer L11, post-medieval pit F20 and modern metalling F17. The surface condition of the bone was generally poor and often discoloured with darker brown patches.

Four species were identified in the assemblage including cattle (four pieces), pig (three), dog (one) and horse (one). These species were all present in the medieval, post-medieval and modern contexts but only cow could be positively identified amongst the bones recovered from Roman/modern ditch F12 (although sheep or goat may also have been present amongst the otherwise unidentifiable medium-sized mammal bone).

**Medieval, post-medieval and modern contexts**

The medieval, post-medieval and modern deposits yielded just 14 pieces of animal and bird bone likely to represent residual domestic waste. Although, as noted, the condition of the material was generally poor the bone fragments from the metalling layer F17 were particularly abraded. Four fragments displayed signs of having been dog-gnawed (three of them from demolition/levelling layer L11) and a rib fragment from pit F20 had a chop mark associated with butchery. As well as the previously mentioned species of cattle, pig, dog and horse, chicken may also have been present amongst the demolition material from wall plinth F3.

**Roman ditch F12**

The bone from Roman ditch F12 was in notably poor condition, being discoloured with dark brown patches and with much loss of surface detail. Thirty-two fragments were recovered, most of which were not closely identifiable beyond pertaining to either large- or medium-sized mammals (such as cow/horse and sheep/goat respectively). The only skeletal elements that could be positively identified to species level were the main body of a cattle right mandible (forward part of jaw with incisors missing) from an adult animal and a small part of the skull. One piece of large-sized mammal bone from the mid fill of the ditch had been dog-gnawed.

Context	Find number	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F3 medieval wall plinth	16	1	24	Canis (dog)	(1) Scapula fragment
		1	2	Bird (indeterminate species)	(1) Tibio-tarsus – (in poor condition with an unfused distal metaphysis?) from a large sized bird such as a domestic fowl?
F12 Roman ditch	9 Mid fill	4	24	Large-sized mammal	(4) Unidentified diaphysis fragments in poor condition. One piece may have been dog gnawed?
		2	6	Medium-sized mammal	(1) Skull fragment (1) Radius diaphysis fragment
		1	1	Unidentified	(1) Small unidentified fragment
	10 Lower fill	2	482	Bos (cattle)	(1) Main body of right mandible (no incisors) with permanent dentition – only P2 is missing. Tooth wear stages P4 (g) M1-M3 (all k) (Grant, A. 1982). (1) Skull fragment
		4	52	Large-sized mammal	(4) Rib fragments
		3	14	Medium-sized mammal	(2) Skull fragments (1) Diaphysis (tibia?) fragment
		16	28	Unidentified	(8) Skull fragments (2) Rib fragments (6) Unidentified fragments
F17 modern metalling	12	2	24	Sus (pig)	(1) Boar tusk fragment (1) Calcaneus (incomplete – possibly with an unfused distal metaphysis and also dog gnawed)
		3	28	Large-sized mammal	(1) Scapula fragmentary (1) Diaphysis fragmentary (1) Rib fragment
F20 post-medieval pit	19	1	50	Equus (horse)	(1) Astragalus fragment
		1	8	Large-sized mammal	(1) Rib fragment (chop mark)
		1	1	Unidentified	(1) Small unidentified fragment
L11 medieval demolition/ levelling	20	2	104	Bos (cattle)	(1) Metatarsal diaphysis (dog gnawed) (1) Humerus fragment (possibly dog gnawed)
		1	22	Sus (pig)	(1) Tibia fragment (distal, with an unfused metaphysis)
		1	16	Large-sized mammal	(1) Diaphysis fragment (dog gnawed?)
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>886</b>		

**Table 15** Animal bone by context

## 8 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation and excavation at Bulse Grange revealed significant archaeological remains from a range of different periods. Evidence of human activity on the site dates back to the later prehistoric period, with one Early Neolithic flint recovered alongside seven others dating from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age. Previous archaeological work at Chinnel Barn, c 450m NW, had identified an extensive flint assemblage ranging in date from the Mesolithic period to the Bronze Age, which indicated the manufacture of flint tools in the area during these

periods (EHER 16957), and the evidence from Bulse Grange would seem to be of a similar nature.

Also located at Chinnel Barn are the scheduled remains of an Iron Age farmstead and a Roman villa complex (NHLE no. 1008894). Although no Iron Age remains were found at Bulse Grange, the Roman ditch could well be associated with the wider villa complex to the north-west, and Roman remains have also been recorded between Chinnel Barn and the development site at several properties along Duck Lane. The Roman ditch at Bulse Grange uncovered a reasonably substantial assemblage of pottery dating from the mid 1st to mid 2nd centuries along with fragments of animal bone, both indicative of domestic occupation on or close to the development site. The presence of two fragments of human bone, one derived from an adult and another from a juvenile, would also imply burials in the vicinity.

Small quantities of pottery dating from c 850-1150 and the 11th to the early 13th century might indicate some degree of activity at the development site during the late Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods, although this pottery could simply be associated with the earliest structural remains found here.

The earliest structural remains on the development site are a medieval wall plinth which would have supported a timber-framed building (Building 1). Aligned NNW to SSE the plinth was made of flint nodules and dressed chalk blocks. Pottery recovered from the plinth was dated from AD 1200-1400, with pottery from later demolition/levelling layers (L7/L11 and L10) sealing the plinth dated from AD 1200 to 1550, suggesting a later medieval date for the building. Historical records of Bulse Farm date back to 1299, when it was documented as a tenement belonging to one Roger Bulle. It is possible that the building associated with this plinth dates to this period, but as no other contexts relating to the building were identified during excavations little more can be said about it.

There does appear to be some post-medieval activity on the development site. Demolition/levelling layers L3 and L4/L5 all produced material of post-medieval date (c 17th century), with 17th-18th century pit F20 also present. A later 17th- to 18th-century brick plinth, wall foundation and chalk floor to the south-west of the excavation area may be all that remains of a post-medieval building (Building 2), possibly that shown on Chapman and André's map of 1777 (see Map 1).

Early OS maps show that by the late 19th century there was an L-shaped out-building on the development site, and the 19th- to 20th-century remains of this building (Building 3) had survived below ground. Excavation has shown that the north/south wing was narrower than the OS map would suggest at 4.7m wide, with brick plinths likely supporting a timber-framed building. The north/south wing was subdivided into four rooms. Room A to the north had a cobbled floor with what appeared to be a drainage channel running down the edge of the evaluation trench, suggesting that the room might have been used to house animals that needed mucking out. The brick floor of Room B was in good condition and represented quite a change from the adjacent cobbles. The bricks would certainly have been easier to keep clean and perhaps we are looking at some kind of processing area. Two wall plinths to the south of Room B would suggest further internal subdivisions, but the external brick plinths of Room A do not appear to continue to the south. The absence of a plinth in the angle between the north/south and east/west wings may imply an entrance here, but that does not explain the absence in the south-east corner. Does the presence of foundation F18 in fact indicate that the timber-frame of the east/west range was constructed on top of this narrow flint and mortar foundation, which raises the possibility that Building 2 at least partially continued in use into the 19th/20th century, with the brick plinths on the north/south range a later addition/modification.

A document from 1897 detailing the 'sale particulars of the Bulse Farm' states that the farmhouse included five bedrooms, a dining room, entrance hall, drawing room, breakfast room, kitchen, scullery, and cellar and dairy combined<sup>1</sup>. It is this last that is significant as cows must have been kept and milked on site to operate a dairy. The cobbled floor of Room A and brick

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<sup>1</sup> Details given in the 'Design and Access Statement' submitted with the planning application, author not known.

floor of Room B could therefore be interpreted as a small cattle shed and milking area. The late 19th century saw a rising urban demand for milk at a time when many of the eastern region's arable farms were failing (due to poor weather, failed harvests and the collapse of grain prices), and many diversified into small-scale dairy farming (Harvey 1984).

Later truncation of the floors in Room A and Room B, seemingly caused by the addition of a toilet and associated drainage, and the covering of the cobbles in Room A with cement, show that the building was being modified over time. There is no evidence of fire damage in the out-building that is purported to have destroyed the farmhouse in the 1960s.

## 9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank the landowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner and B Holloway with R Mathieson, S Veasey, K Davies and Z Eksen. Figures were compiled by C Lister, S Veasey and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

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## 11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
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
cortex	the outer layer found on long bones
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
epiphysis/ epiphyses	the end part of long bones
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
humerus	upper arm bone
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
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1900 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
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>
pathologies	disease or condition
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 1899
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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
ulna	one of two lower arm bones
ws	written scheme of investigation

## 12 Contents of archive

**Finds:** one box (all retained finds)

### Paper record

CAT Report 1876

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (sections)

Printed digital photographic thumbnails and log

### Digital record

CAT Report 1876  
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation  
Digital photographs  
Survey data  
Site data

### **13 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 Saffron Walden Museum under project ref. BGWA22 and with the Archaeological Data Service.

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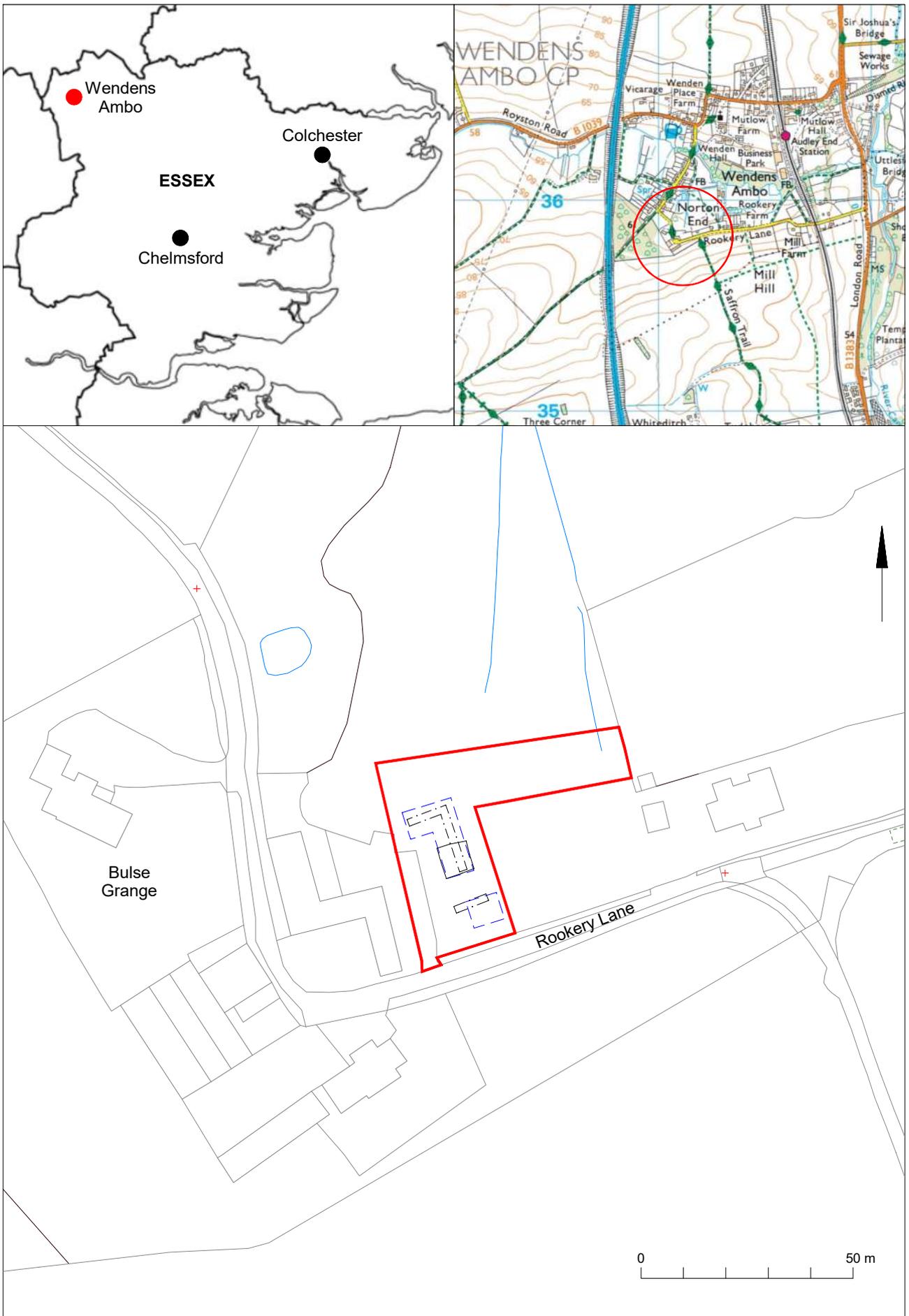
**Distribution list:**

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

## Appendix 1 Context list

Context no.	Trench no.	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Soft, moist dark grey/brown/black sandy-silty-loam with charcoal and CBM flecks	Modern
L2	All	-	?Made ground	Soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt. Sealed by L3.	Undatable
L3	T1	13, 15, 18	Demolition/make-up layer	Loose, moist medium grey silty-clay with frequent CBM pieces and 1% stones. Sealed by L1 & Building 3, seals L7/L11, L10, F17.	17th century
L4	T1	4	Demolition/make-up layer, same as L5	Loose/soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-loam with frequent CBM pieces, glass, iron objects, and charcoal and CBM flecks. Sealed by F7.	Post-medieval
L5	T1	6	Demolition/make-up layer, same as L4	Loose/soft, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silty-loam with frequent CBM pieces, glass, iron objects, and charcoal and CBM flecks. Sealed by F7, seals L6.	Post-medieval
L6	T1	7	?Made-ground	Friable, moist medium/dark yellow/grey sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks. Sealed by L5.	17th-18th century
L7	T1	11	Demolition/levelling layer, same as L11	Soft, moist, medium orange/grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal and CBM flecks. Sealed by L3, L10 and F17, ?seals L8.	Medieval
L8	All	-	Natural	Soft, moist light/medium yellow/orange/brown silty-clay	Post-glacial
L9	-	-	?Chalk floor	Chalk mixed with firm, dry, light yellow/grey silty-clay. Sealed by L1, seals L10.	?Post-medieval/modern
L10	-	14	Demolition/levelling layer	Firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay with charcoal flecks. Seals L7/L11, sealed by L3.	Medieval/post-medieval
L11	-	20	Demolition/levelling layer, same as L7	Soft, moist, medium/dark green/grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal and CBM flecks. Sealed by L3, L10 and F17, ?seals L8.	Medieval
F1	T1	-	Pit	Loose/soft, light/medium/dark yellow/orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks	Modern
F2	T1	2	Brick plinth	Constructed out of unmortared frogged bricks, one course thick, 0.20m wide and 0.11m deep.	19th-20th century
F3	T1	16, 17, 21, 23	Wall plinth and partial collapse, same as F19	Flint nodules and dressed chalk blocks in a loose lime mortar, some collapse, associated with F19. Debris over the plinth is a loose/soft moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal, oyster shell and CBM flecks	13th to 14th century
F4	T1	1	Peg-tile base for wall plinth F3	Whole and part pieces of peg-tile laid flat on a loose lime mortar.	Medieval
F5	T1	-	Brick plinth, same as F9	Constructed out of two courses of red brick bonded with lime mortar, 0.22m wide, on a compact crushed peg-tile base.	19th-20th century

F6	T1	3	Brick floor	Brick floor associated with foundations F5 & F9. Frogged bricks are 0.22x0.11x0.06m, laid flat and bedded on a weak lime and sand mix which in turn is laid on a compacted crushed brick/peg-tile base. Total thickness 0.25m.	19th-20th century
F7	T1	-	Cobbled floor	Small, medium and large smooth rounded cobbles, unmortared, bedded on a loose soil layer L4/L5. At a later date covered with a concrete, thickness up to 0.10m. A concrete kerb on the eastern edge appears to be part of a drainage channel.	19th-20th century
F8	T1	-	Drains	Two parallel glazed ceramic drain pipes	20th century
F9	T1	-	Brick plinth, same as F5	Constructed out of two courses of red brick bonded with lime mortar, 0.22m wide, on a compact crushed peg-tile base.	19th-20th century
F10	T1	5	Brick plinth	Constructed out of red bricks bonded with lime mortar	19th-20th century
F11	T1	-	Wall plinth	Constructed out of flint nodules bonded with lime mortar, 0.35m wide	19th-20th century
F12	T2	8, 9, 10	Ditch	<b>Fill A:</b> Soft, moist dark brown silty-clay; <b>Fill B:</b> Firm, moist medium brown silty-clay; <b>Fill C:</b> Firm, moist dark orange/brown silty-clay	Roman (lower fill)/ Modern (upper fill)
F13	-	-	Brick plinth	Constructed out of frogged red bricks bonded with lime mortar and laid on a base of crushed peg-tile/brick. Brick size 0.22x0.11x0.06m, with possible step entrance to far south, see photo.	19th-20th century
F14	-	-	Manhole	Constructed out of unmortared red bricks	19th-20th century
F15	-	-	Peg-tile floor	Constructed out of peg-tile bonded with lime mortar	19th-20th century
F16	-	-	Brick ?floor/wall plinth	Constructed out of red bricks	19th-20th century
F17	-	12	Metalling	Loose, moist medium grey/brown sandy-silt with charcoal and CBM flecks and 80% stones	19th-20th century
F18	-	-	Foundation	Loose lime mortar with small-medium angular/rounded flint nodules	?Post-medieval
F19	-	-	Partial collapse of wall plinth F3	Short section of flint nodules bonded with lime mortar, partial collapse away from the east side of wall plinth F3.	Medieval
F20	-	19	Pit	Soft/friable, moist light/medium yellow/grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal flecks and CBM flecks	17th-18th century
F21	-	-	Pit	Unexcavated, soft, moist medium brown sandy-silty-clay with charcoal and CBM flecks	Undated
F22	-	-	Pit	Unexcavated, soft, moist medium/dark orange/grey/brown sandy-silt	Undated
F23	-	22	Brick plinth	Constructed out of flint nodules bonded with lime mortar laid on a base of unfrogged bricks	Late 17th-18th century



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Fig 1 Site location showing evaluation and excavation areas with proposed development dashed blue.

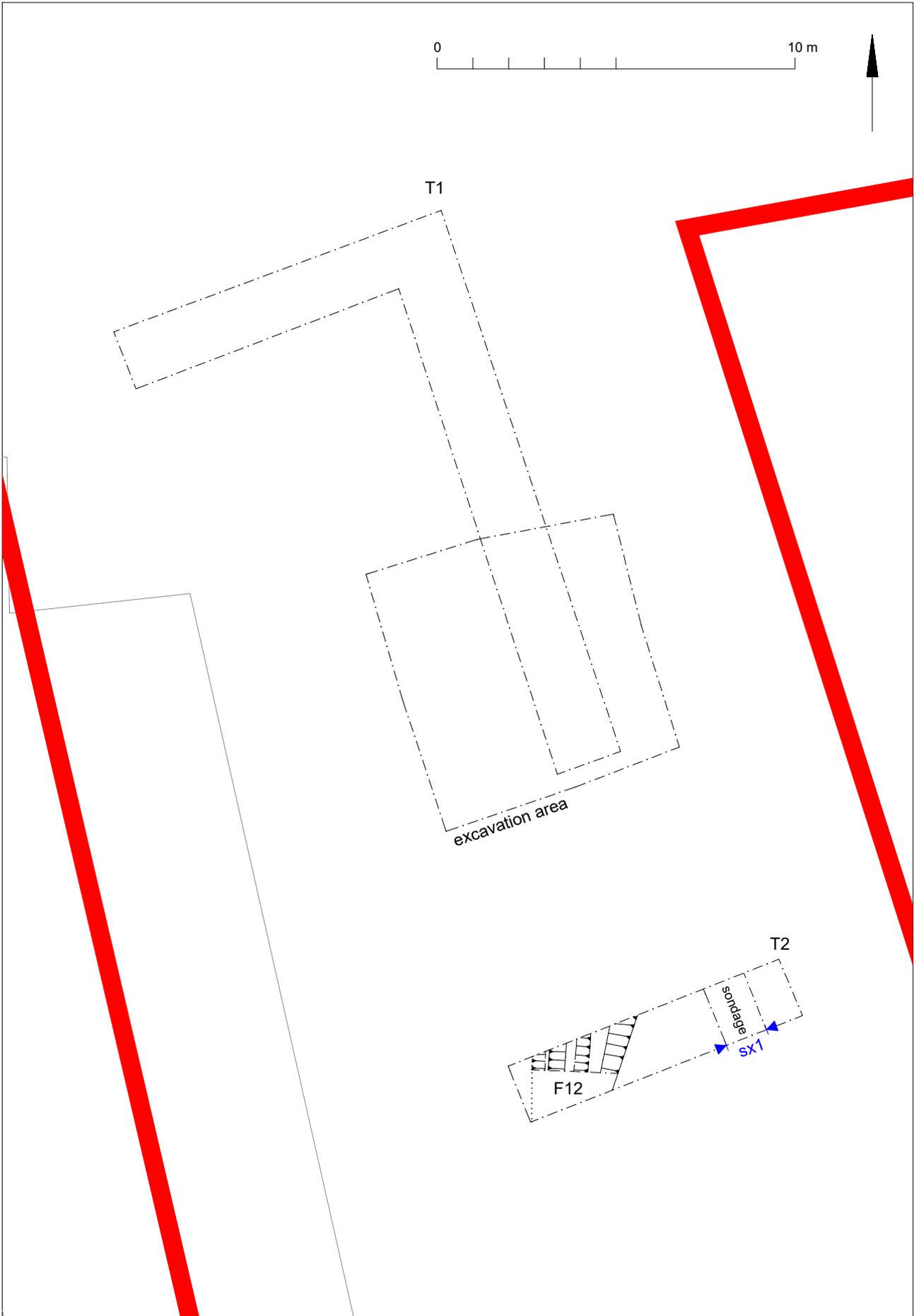


Fig 2 Results - Roman period.

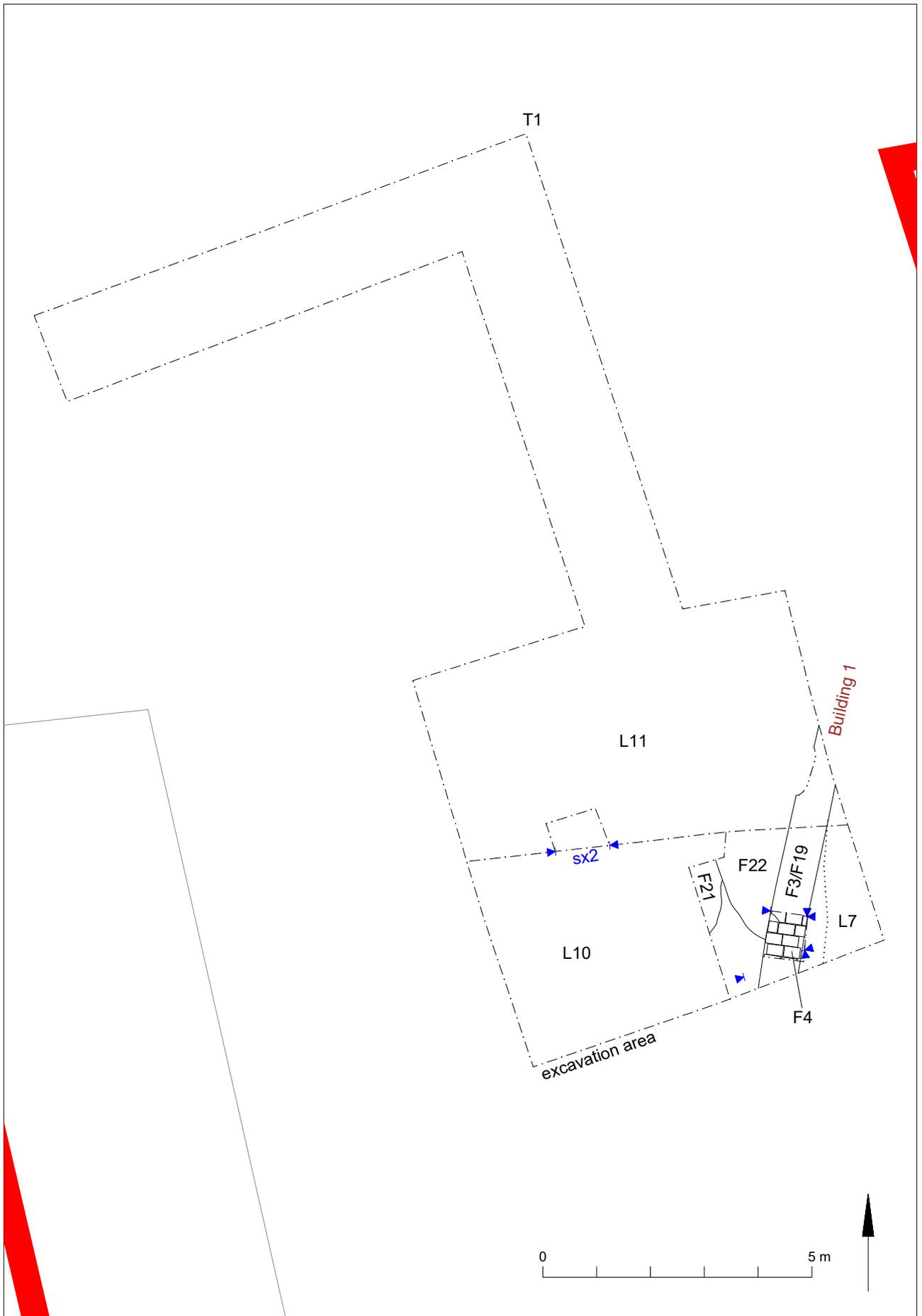


Fig 3 Results - medieval period (Building 1).

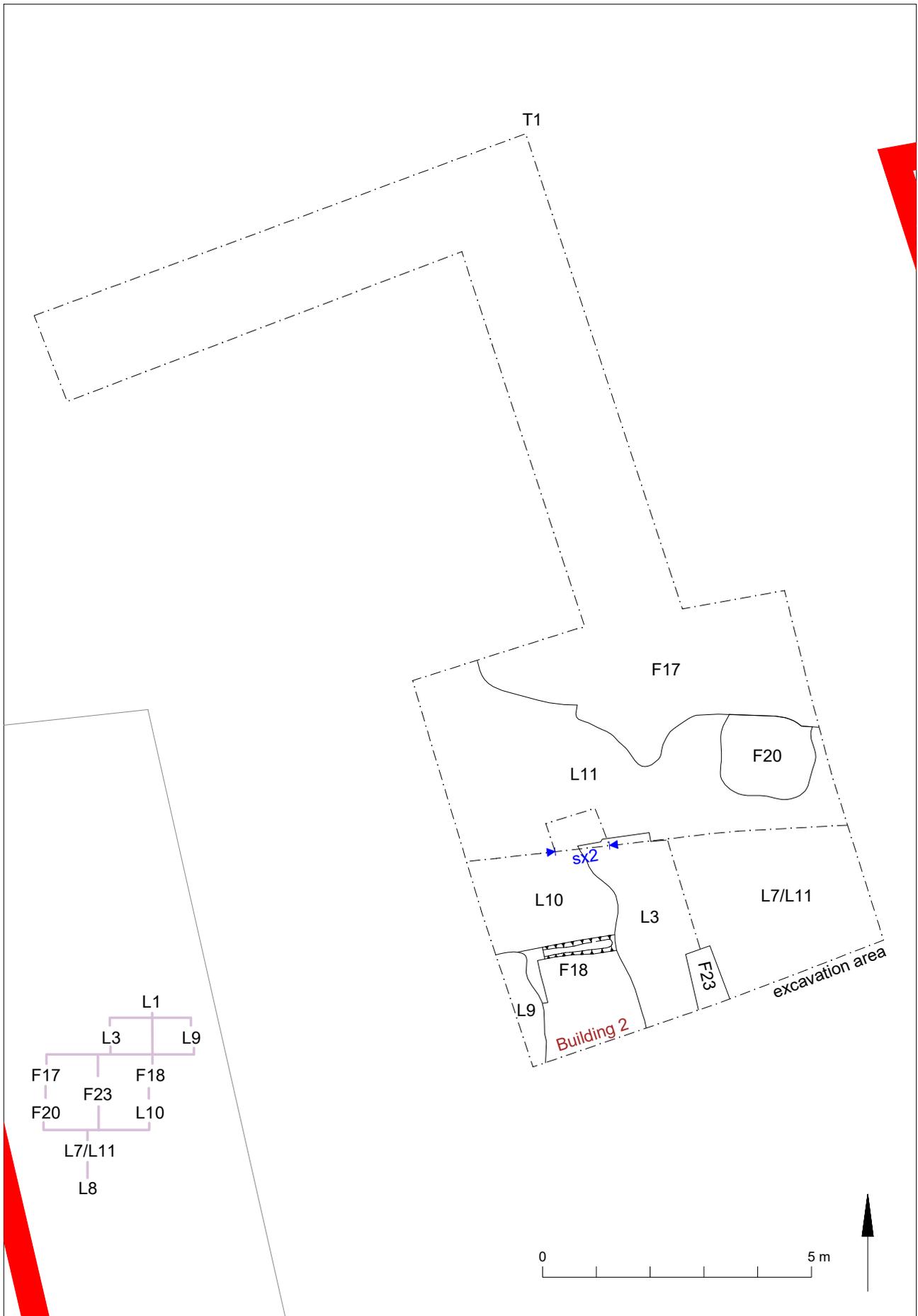


Fig 4 Results - medieval/post-medieval period (Building 2).

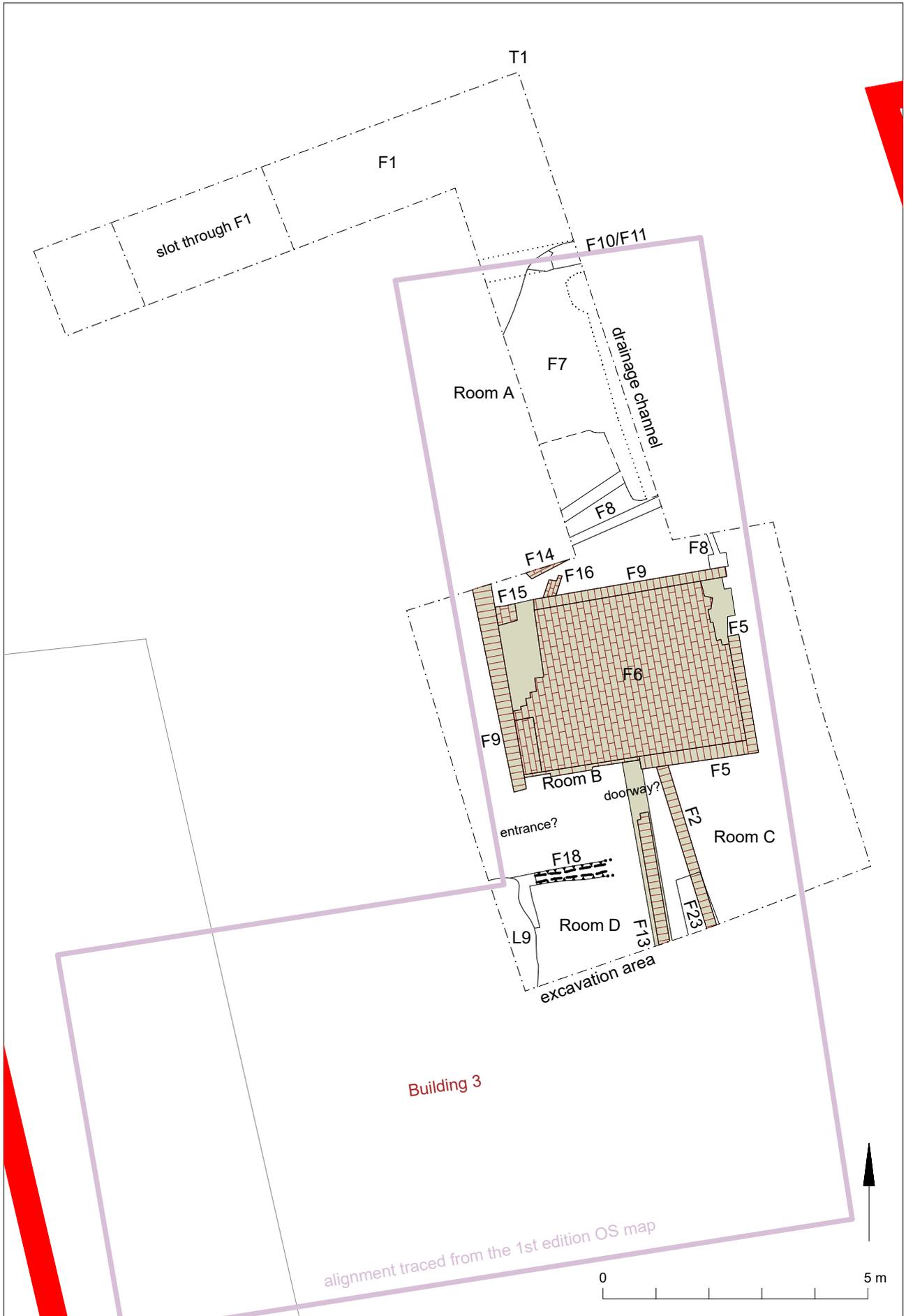


Fig 5 Results - 19th-20th century (Building 3).

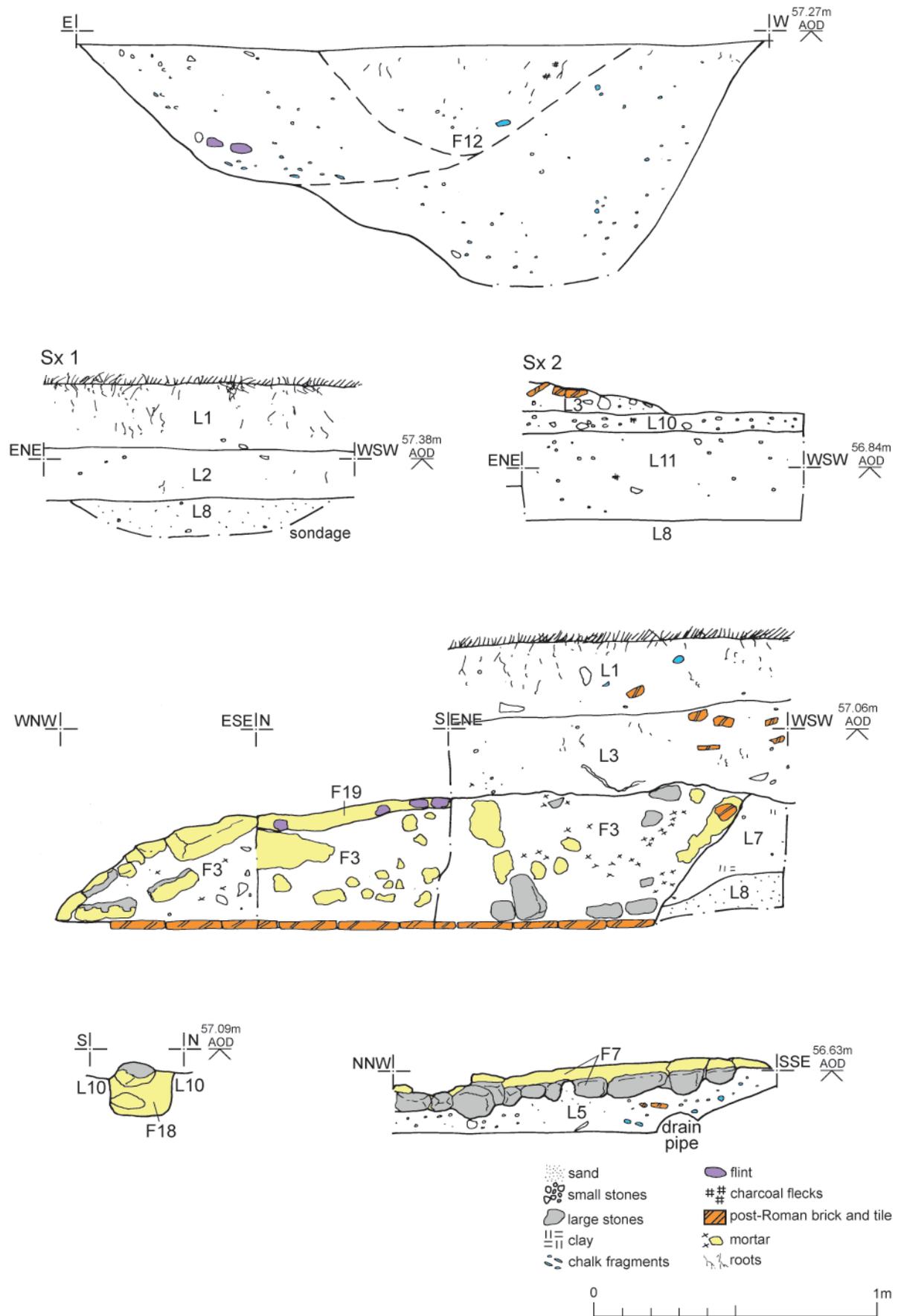


Fig 6 Feature and representative sections.

# Summary for colchest3-509915

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509915
Project Name	Archaeological evaluation and excavation at Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex, CB11 4JT
Sitename	Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex, CB11 4JT
Activity type	Trial Trench, Open Area Excavation
Project Identifier(s)	2022/09k
Planning Id	UTT/22/0477/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	04-Nov-2022 - 17-Nov-2022
Location	Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex, CB11 4JT NGR : TL 51117 35841 LL : 52.0004487796582, 0.199926864666289 12 Fig : 551117,235841
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Wendens Ambo
Project Methodology	Archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) carried out as per the conditions laid out in the brief and WSI, followed by a partial excavation of the site as per conditions stipulated by the Historic Environment Advisor for Essex County Council.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) and subsequent excavation were carried out at Bulse Grange, Rookery Lane, Wendens Ambo, Essex in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The site lies within the village of Wendens Ambo, which purportedly has its origins in the Anglo-Saxon period, and on the former historic farmstead of Bulse Farm references to which can be found as far back as the late 13th century.  Archaeological investigations uncovered the remains of three phases of the historic farmstead, consisting of a medieval wall plinth (Building 1), a post-medieval brick plinth, wall foundation and floor surface (Building 2), and a 19th-20th century outbuilding (Building 3) with at least four separate rooms including one with cobbled floor and another with a brick floor, perhaps indicative of a cow shed and milking parlour. Archaeological investigations also revealed a small scatter of prehistoric flint and a Roman ditch.
Keywords	Farmstead - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Farmstead - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Farmstead - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	E, Hicks, L, Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - BGWA22

Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive; Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Saffron Walden Museum;
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