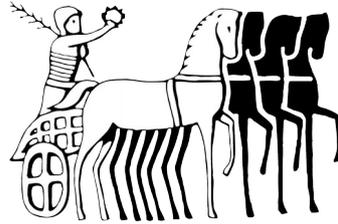


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1878
issued December 2022**

**Archaeological monitoring at 26 St James Street,
Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3EW:
November 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/05j
ECC code: CH13**

**Archaeological monitoring at 26 St James Street,
Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3EWL:
November 2022**

NGR: TL 78655 35546 (centre)

Planning ref.: 22/00053/HH

**CAT project ref.: 2022/05j
CAT Report 1878**

**ECC code: CH13
OASIS id: colchest3-506893**

report prepared by Megan Seehra

fieldwork by Megan Seehra

**commissioned by Barry Whymark,
Whymark & Moulton
on behalf of the homeowner**

Prepared by:	Megan Seehra	Senior Site Assistant
Reviewed by:	Laura Pooley	Post Excavation Manager
Approved by	Philip Crummy	Director of Archaeology
Issued:	04/01/2023	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: ms@catuk.org

web: www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aims	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	6
7	Conclusion	6
8	Acknowledgements	6
9	References	6
10	Abbreviations and glossary	7
11	Archive deposition	7
Appendix 1 Context information		9
Figures		after p10
OASIS summary sheet		

List of photographs and figures

Cover: General view of 26 St James Street from the pavement, looking south-west

Photograph 1	Initial reduction of area, looking north-west	2
Photograph 2	Excavation of trenches after initial reduction, looking north-west	3
Photograph 3	Plan of F1 and F2	4
Photograph 4	Plan of F3	4
Photograph 5	General shot of F1 in section during excavation of trenches, looking west	5
Photograph 6	Approximate spread of L3 during excavation, looking west	5
Photograph 7	General shot of trenches from south-west corner, looking north-east	6
Figure 1	Site location	
Figure 2	Results	
Figure 3	Representative sections	

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring took place at 26 St James Street, Castle Hedingham ahead of the construction of a cart lodge. The development site is within the grounds of a Grade II listed building in the centre of the medieval village of Castle Hedingham, with Hedingham Castle Keep and the Church of St Nicholas nearby. However, only three modern pits/tree throws were impacted by the groundworks.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 26 St James Street, Castle Hedingham on 29th November 2022. The work was commissioned by Barry Whymark of Whymark & Moulton on behalf of the homeowner, and took place during groundworks for a two-bay cart lodge.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Planning Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Consultant 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 Monitoring*, written by Teresa O'Connor and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2022) 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)* (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 watching brief* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background (Fig 2)

The following archaeological background includes extracts from the Brief, CAT Report 1664 and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The proposed cartlodge is within the curtilage and setting of the Grade II listed building formerly known as 'Saddlers' (EHER 25324, NHLE no. 1338071). The house is a traditional timber-frame, externally rendered under a tiled roof, and dates to the 16th century or earlier.

Castle Hedingham is sited on the northern slope of the valley of the River Colne. There was a settlement of some size there by the end of the Anglo-Saxon period. However, it owes its development as a town to the presence of Hedingham Castle and the subsequent patronage by the lords of the manor (Medlycott 1999, 3). Historically Castle Hedingham was classed as a borough town but it is now a village.

The medieval town of Castle Hedingham is sited on the south-western side of the outer bailey. It was roughly hemispherical in plan, with the outer bailey forming the limit of the town on one side and the town defensive ditch on the other sides. In the centre was the church with a triangular market-place immediately to the east of it. There is no town charter, but a market was however in existence by 1216 (Medlycott 1999, 4), the 16th-century Guildhall of Corpus Christi, now Hedingham House (EHER 25267), built by John de Vere close to the Moot Hall (now known as The Old Moot House (EHER 25310)).

Approximately 300m north-north-east of the site, Hedingham Castle keep is the most visible element of the village. It can be seen when approaching the village from all directions. The

castle is a Norman ringwork castle built by the de Veres, the Earls of Oxford, in the late 11th to early 12th centuries (NHLE no 1002218, EHER 6787). The manor of Hedingham was granted to Aubrey de Vere in 1066 and the earthworks on which the keep now stands were likely erected in very short order after he was confirmed in his new lands. Sculpted out of a natural spur of land overlooking the northern bank of the River Colne, the earthworks are extremely impressive even today. By excavating a deep ditch across the spur and scarping the natural slopes, the Normans enhanced an already very commanding location. CAT have recently carried out a programme of archaeological investigations at Hedingham Castle during extensive restoration and modernising works (CAT Reports 849 and 1664).

The current site is located within the core of the medieval town, along the eastern edge of the market place (EHER 18248) and c 155m south-east of the Church of St Nicholas (EHER 6785). The medieval inner town defensive ditch crosses the southern end of the garden of the current site. According to the EHER, the owner of the adjacent property in 1995 said that they had filled in the ditch and that it had been approximately 14m wide and 3m deep (EHER 16076).

For more information on the history of Castle Hedingham, see the Essex County Council historic town assessment report, Historic Towns in Essex – Castle Hedingham (Medlycott 1999).

4 Aims

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

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

An area measuring approximately 30m² was machine stripped under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist (Photograph 1). The area was then reduced by 0.2m after a layer of modern crush had been removed prior to arrival. After this area was stripped, a trench for the cart lodge footings (Photograph 2), measuring about 14m in length and 0.45m wide, was machine excavated. This trench was 0.15m deep. The total depth from start to finish – excavated from the initial ground level - was 0.6m.

Five horizons were noted during monitoring. The material removed prior to arrival was a modern crush hard core layer (L1, c 0.3m thick) that covered over 90% of the development area. The remaining 10% was a tarmac and concrete driveway (L2, 0.3m thick) along the western edge of the reduction area. Covered by L1 and L2, a modern possible levelling area with a dark fill (L3, 0.15m thick) was concentrated to the northern side of the site; no clear edges were seen so could not be confirmed as a feature. Under L1 and L2 was a subsoil (L4, c 0.1m thick), which covered an orange, sandy natural (L5, from c 0.4m below current ground level (bcgl)).

Three features were identified to the eastern side of the site. All three were small, ovoid pit-like features with dark fills and modern detritus on the surface. They were not excavated as they were considered modern. However, during the excavation of the foundation trench, F1 was seen in section and was approximately 0.1m deep, with steep edges and a rounded base. In plan, F1 was 0.6 x 0.35m, F2 was 0.7 x 0.4m, and F3 was 0.3 x 0.3m.

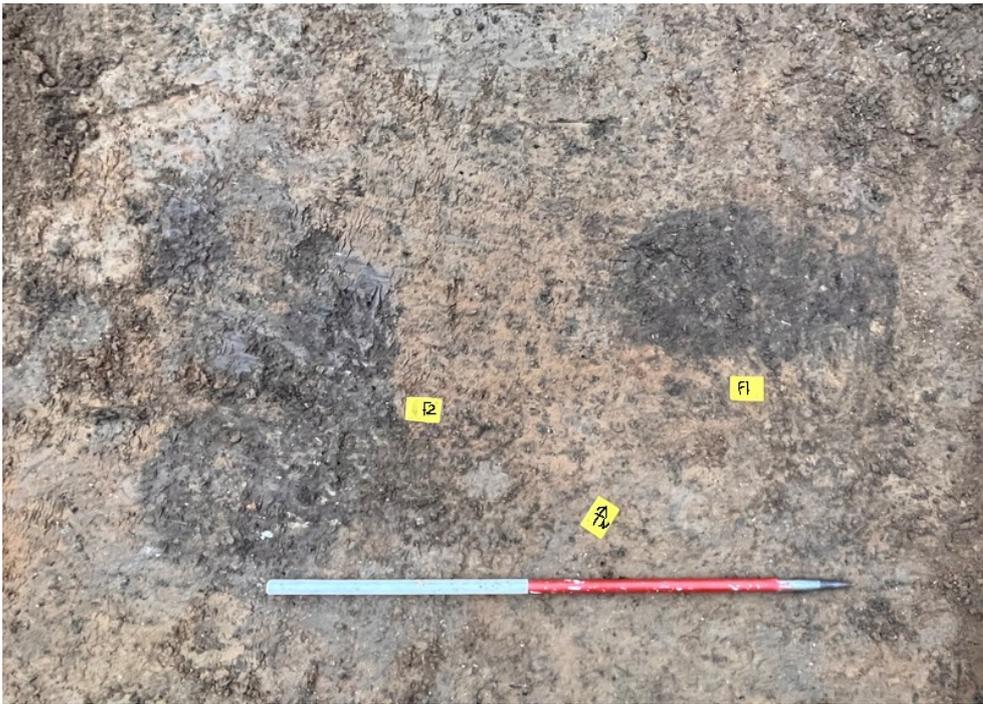
A full list of context information can be seen in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 Initial reduction of area, looking north-west



Photograph 2 Excavation of trenches after initial reduction, looking north-west



Photograph 3 Pits F1 and F2, looking north



Photograph 4 Pit F3, looking south-west



Photograph 5 General shot of F1 in section during excavation of trenches, looking west



Photograph 6 Approximate spread of L3 during excavation, looking west



Photograph 7 General shot of trenches, looking north-east

6 Finds

No finds were recovered during monitoring.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at 26 St James Street, Castle Hedingham revealed three modern pits, in an approximate line suggesting these may represent tree throws that may have been present in these locations prior to the laying of the concrete driveway.

The spread of L3 is likely a levelling layer as the south of the property (the garden) is a lot higher than the area to the north north (current development area). This layer may have been laid down at the time of laying the concrete.

The house itself (“Saddlers”) is at least 500 years old (NHLE 1338071). Evidence for earlier Saxon and medieval activity is seen in the village of Castle Hedingham, mainly due to the patronage by the de Veres, Earls of Oxford from 1066 (Medlycott, 1999, 3). No remains from these dates were encountered during monitoring.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Barry Whymark of Whymark & Moulton and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman. Fieldwork was carried out by M Seehra. Figures were prepared by E Holloway. 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>

- | | | |
|-----------------|------|--|
| CAT Report 849 | 2015 | <i>Archaeological monitoring, test pits and building recording at Hedingham Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex June 2014 – December 2015</i> , by M Baister |
| CAT Report 1664 | 2021 | <i>Archaeological monitoring and historic building recording at Hedingham</i> |

		Castle, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3DG: March-April 2021, by M Baister
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i> . Revised December 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Revised October 2020
ECCPS	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 26 St James Street Castle Hedingham</i> , by Teresa 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 (HE)	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Medlycott, M	1999	<i>Historic Towns in Essex: Castle Hedingham</i> . Historic Towns Assessment Report by ECC
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c 500 – 1066
bailey	the outer wall of a castle
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
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
Norman	a group of people of Frankish and Scandinavian origin who settled in Normandy, France from c AD 912, and conquered England in AD 1066
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
wsj	written scheme of investigation

11 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the CIfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

Distribution list

The homeowner

Barry Whymark, Whymark & Moulton

Teresa O'Connor, Essex County Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Context type	Description	Date
L1	Crush surface	brown-grey sandy clay with inclusions of: stone 50% associated with the former parking area	modern
L2	Tarmac	tarmac covering concrete associated with the current driveway	modern
L3	?Levelling layer	soft/friable dark grey/brown clayey silt sand with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 2% tile/brick 5%	modern
L4	?Subsoil	soft moist medium orange/brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks	undated
L5	Natural	soft dry/moist light/medium orange/brown clayey sand	post-glacial
F1	?Pit/tree throw	friable dark grey/brown sandy silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks	modern
F2	?Tree throw	soft/friable dark grey/brown sandy silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks	modern
F3	?Tree throw	friable dark grey/brown sandy silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%	modern

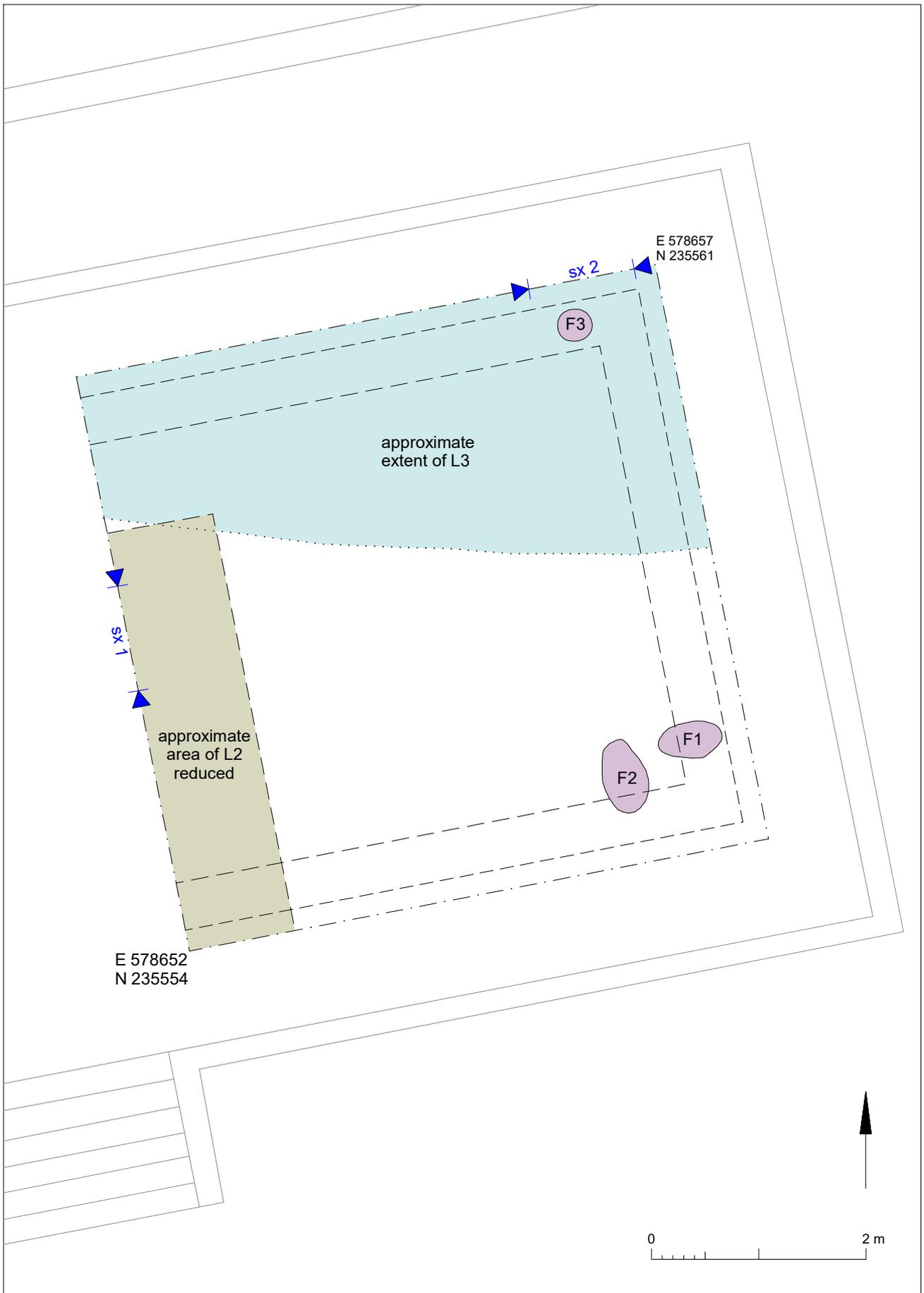


Fig 2 Results (modern features in mauve).

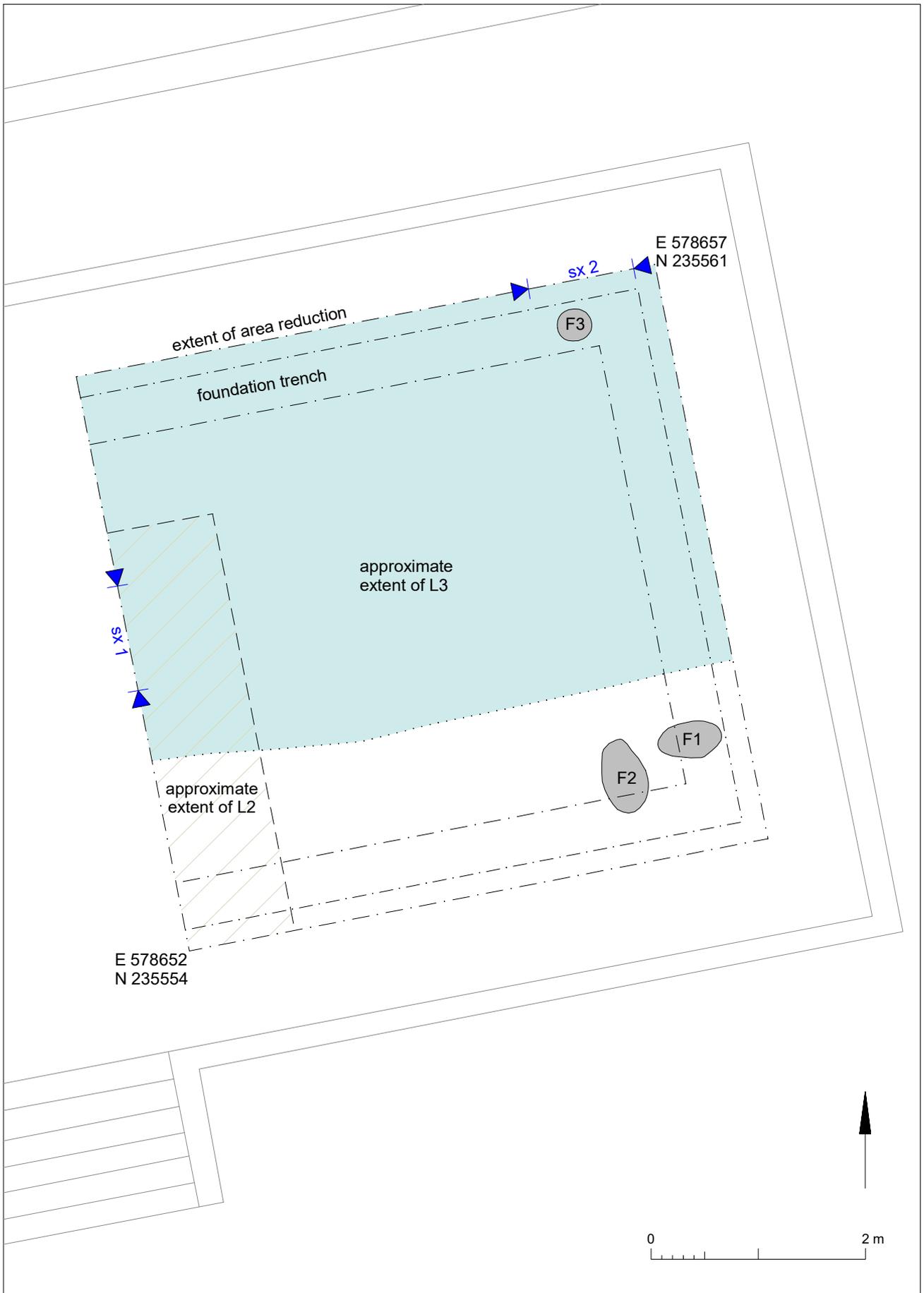


Fig 2 Results (modern features in grey).

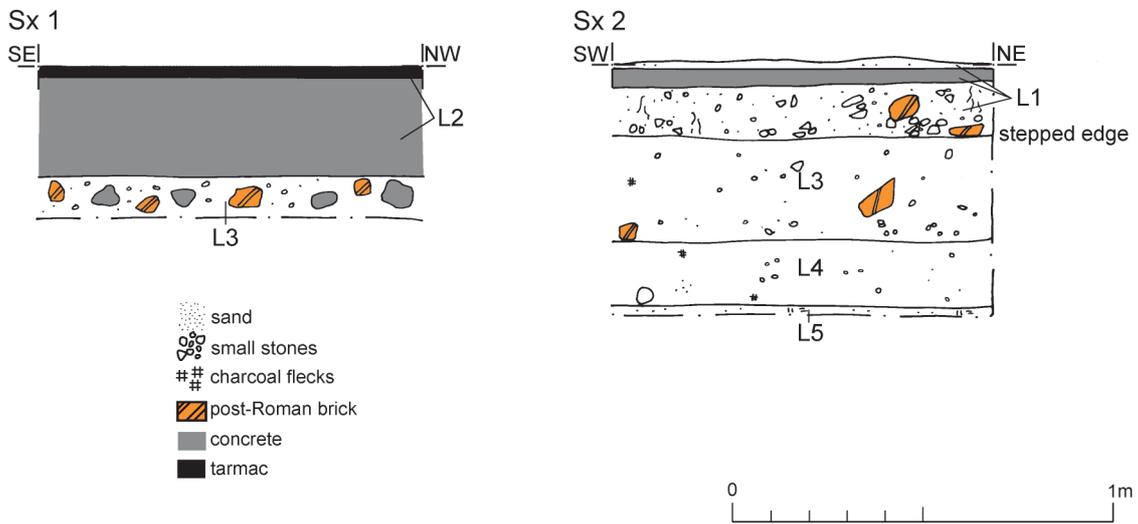


Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-506893

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-506893
Project Name	Watching Brief at 26 St James Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3EW
Sitename	26 St James Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3EW
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/05j
Planning Id	22/00053/HH
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	29-Nov-2022 - 29-Nov-2022
Location	26 St James Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex, CO9 3EW NGR : TL 78655 35546 LL : 51.9896296125848, 0.600510007105856 12 Fig : 578655,235546
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Braintree Parish : Castle Hedingham
Project Methodology	All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a Brief for Archaeological Monitoring, written by Teresa O'Connor and detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT (2022) in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS. An area measuring approximately 30m ² was machine stripped under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The area was then reduced by 0.2m after a layer of modern crush had been removed prior to arrival. After this area was stripped, a trench for the cart lodge footings, measuring about 14m in length and 0.45m wide, was machine excavated. This trench was 0.15m deep. The total depth from start to finish – excavated from the initial ground level - was 0.6m.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring took place at 26 St James Street, Castle Hedingham ahead of the construction of a cart lodge. The development site is within the grounds of a Grade II listed building in the centre of the medieval village of Castle Hedingham, with Hedingham Castle Keep and the Church of St Nicholas nearby. However, only three modern pits/tree throws were impacted by the groundworks.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Seehra
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;