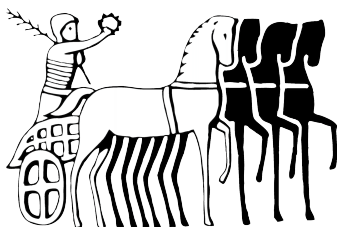


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2194
issued July 2025**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
37d London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HG: July 2025**



**CAT project ref.: 2025/01g
ECC code: EEX61782**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
37d London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HG: July 2025**

NGR: TL 84497 07096 (centre)

**Planning district: Maldon
Planning refs.: MAL/24/00862**

**CAT project ref.: 2025/01g
CAT Report 2194**

**ECC code: EEX61782
ECC monitors: Maria Medlycott
OASIS id: colchest3-530922**

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fieldwork by Sarah Veasey

commissioned by Homeowner

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Issued:	30/07/2025	

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 37d London Road, Maldon, Essex in advance of the construction of a side extension. Despite lying within the bounds of Maldon Burh, an area associated with Anglo-Saxon settlement, archaeological monitoring revealed only a single undated pit.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording at 37d London Road, Maldon, Essex which was carried out on the 22nd July 2025. Work was commissioned by the homeowner and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks for the construction of a side extension.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS). The recommended archaeological condition was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological monitoring and recording at 37D London Road, Maldon* by Maria Medlycott (ECCPS 2024), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared in response to the brief (CAT 2025a) and agreed with ECCPS in advance of the groundworks.

In addition to the project Brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was undertaken in accordance with:

- *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015),
- Professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- East of England standards and frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- Relevant health and safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2025b).

3 Archaeological and geological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the ECC Brief (ECCPS 2024) and Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>)

The EHER shows that the proposed development site is located within the Maldon Burh, an Anglo-Saxon settlement located on the western side of the current town on the top of the ridge to the south of the river (EHER 7718, 7766 & 18787). Archaeological investigation carried out to the immediate west of the proposed development, at Elmcroft, uncovered a substantial ditch corresponding with the boundary of the Burh (EHER 8029), as well as a group of sunken-featured buildings (EHER 8028). Therefore, it is likely that archaeological activity associated with the historic settlement extends into the proposed development site and may be impacted by the groundworks associated with the proposals (ECCPS 2024).

Archaeological fieldwork at 9 London Road, Maldon in the 1980s identified the possible ditch of the 10th-century Saxon Burh, which is thought to run along the length of the property plot. However, monitoring at the same site in 2016 did not reveal any traces of this ditch, but patches of compacted dirty gravel were recorded possibly forming a metalled yard or street surface which had been cut by three post-medieval pits (EHER 16858, CAT Report 993).

Excavation to the northwest of the development at the former Youth Hostel site revealed evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age settlement, perhaps relating to an earlier defensive structure on the hill-top (EHER 7768-7771). Prehistoric features were also identified at 20-22 London Road (EHER 47134) along with medieval and modern remains. Excavations to the north around Gate Street similarly revealed features and finds from the Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods (EHER 14547-9, ECC FAU). However, no significant archaeological remains were encountered during monitoring at 40 London Road (EHER 48091, CAT Report 615).

An archaeological excavation at 42 London Road (SMR 18777) revealed one wall of a substantial timber building, alongside Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (EAH 1986).

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 34a London Road, Maldon, Essex, a Grade II listed house of early 19th-century date. Groundworks exposed three wells and an associated pipe structure, all of which dated to the period from the mid-19th-century to the 20th-century (SMR 38413, CAT Report 1418).

CAT undertook an archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) on land to the rear of 1-3 Gate Street, Maldon, Essex just off London Road. Maldon's Anglo-Saxon burh ditch was projected to cross the site, but no trace of this was present within the evaluation trench. The evaluation did, however, reveal a prehistoric ditch, that may relate to the earlier settlement of Maldon, and an undated post-hole (CAT Report 1910).

The proposed development is located in the vicinity of listed buildings, 38 London Road and 40 Reeds House (SMR 38416) early 19th-century timber-framed houses previously a grammar school. The

Bower (SMR 38418) an early 19th-century timber framed house, 27 and 29 London Road a pair of mid 19th-century semi-detached houses (SMR 38411).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site to be London clay formation (clay, silt and sand).

4 Aim

The aim of archaeological monitoring was to identify and record any archaeological contexts revealed during the groundworks.

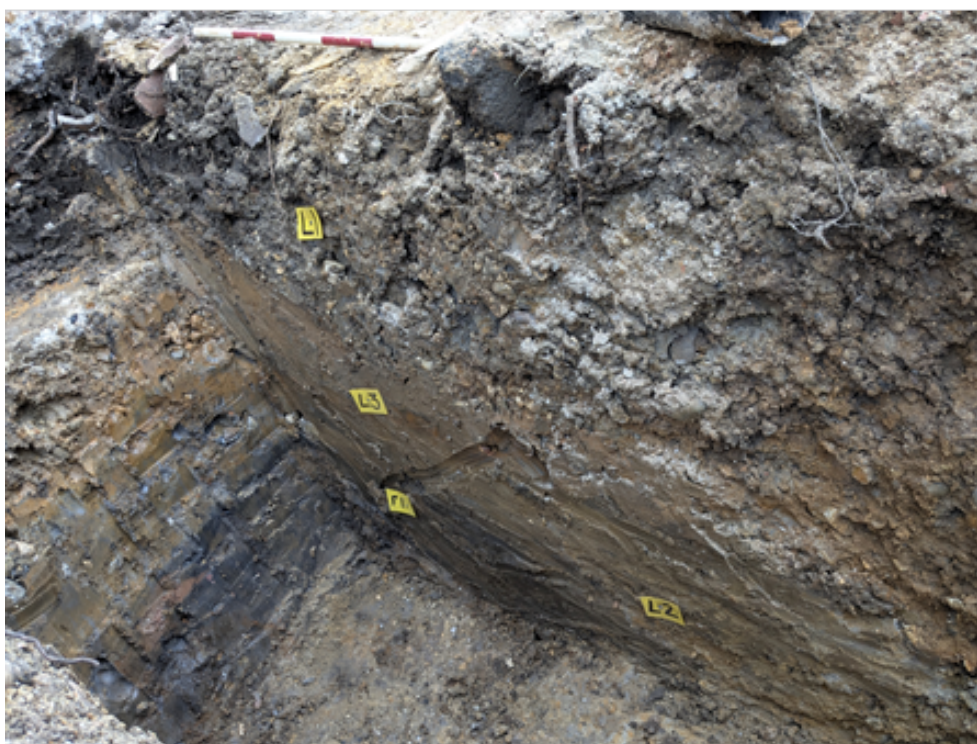
5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 25m of foundation trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench measured 0.65m in width and c 1.10-1.30m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised modern made ground (L1, c 0.15-0.50m thick) sealing the natural (L2), except of the southern end of the trench that cut through a layer of re-deposited natural (L3, c 0.35-0.45m thick). Probable pit F1, was identified on the eastern edge of the foundation trench. No archaeological finds were recovered.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench, view south-east.

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?>



Photograph 2 Pit F1 and the representative section, view south-east.

6 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of high archaeological potential, monitoring at 37d Maldon Road only revealed an undated pit.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by S Veasey. Figures are by E Hicks and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Maria Medlycott.

8 References

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

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9 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from AD 410 to 1066
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHF	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, or a drain: can contain 'contexts'
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 1540
modern	period from AD 1901 to the present

natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of Archaeological Investigation S , http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	period from AD 1540 to 1900
Roman	period from AD 43 to AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

10 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA 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).

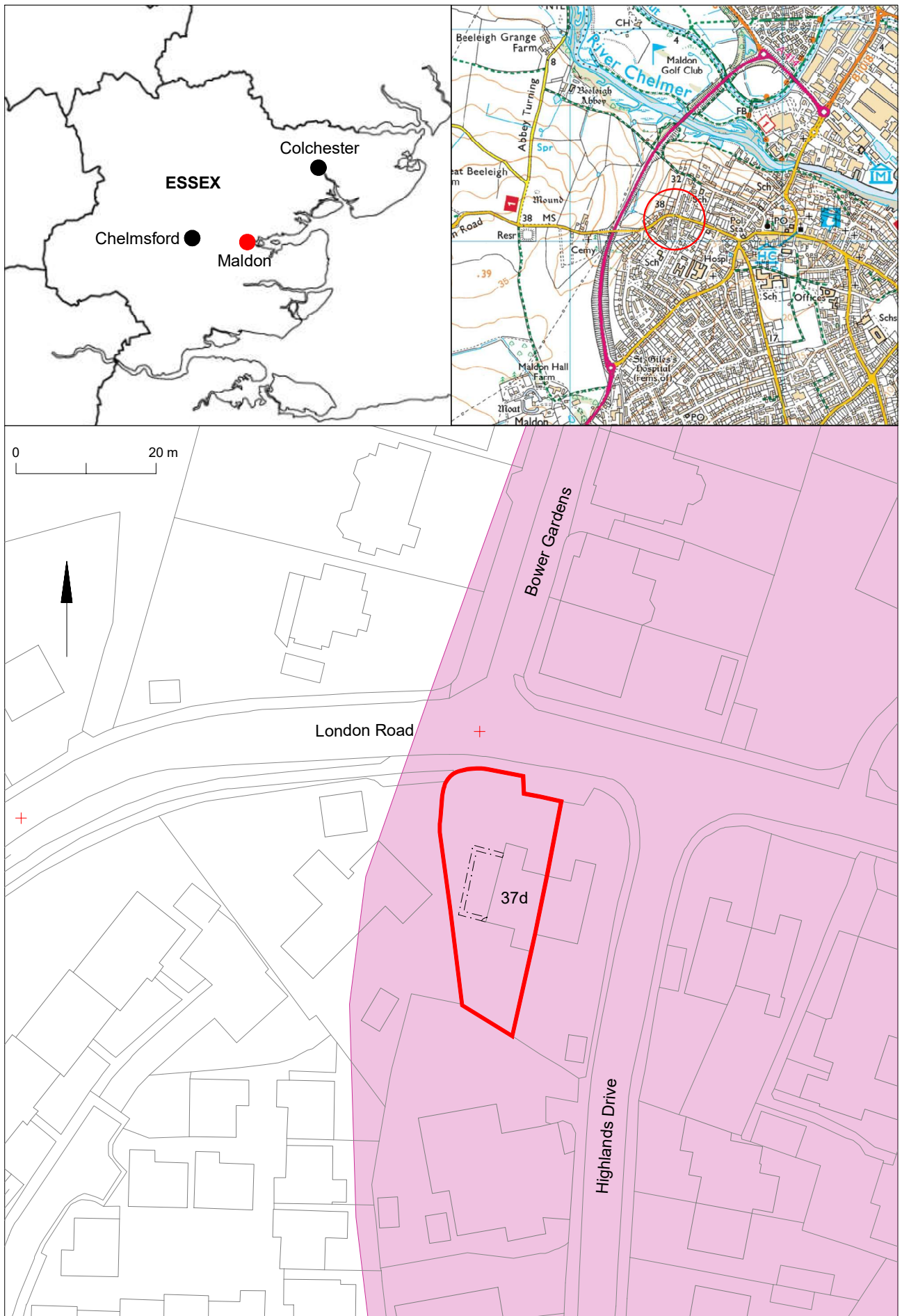
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Distribution list:

Homeowner
Maria Medlycott, ECCPS
Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Interpretation	Description	Date
L1	-	Modern made ground	Dry, soft, medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 5%.	Modern
L2	-	Natural	Firm, moist, mid orange-brown silty clay, containing occasional gravel.	Post-glacial
L3	-	Re-deposited natural	Firm, moist, mid grey-orange silty clay.	Undated
F1	-	Pit	Firm, moist, dark brown silty clay.	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to the Burgh as plotted in the Maldon Historic Town Assessment.

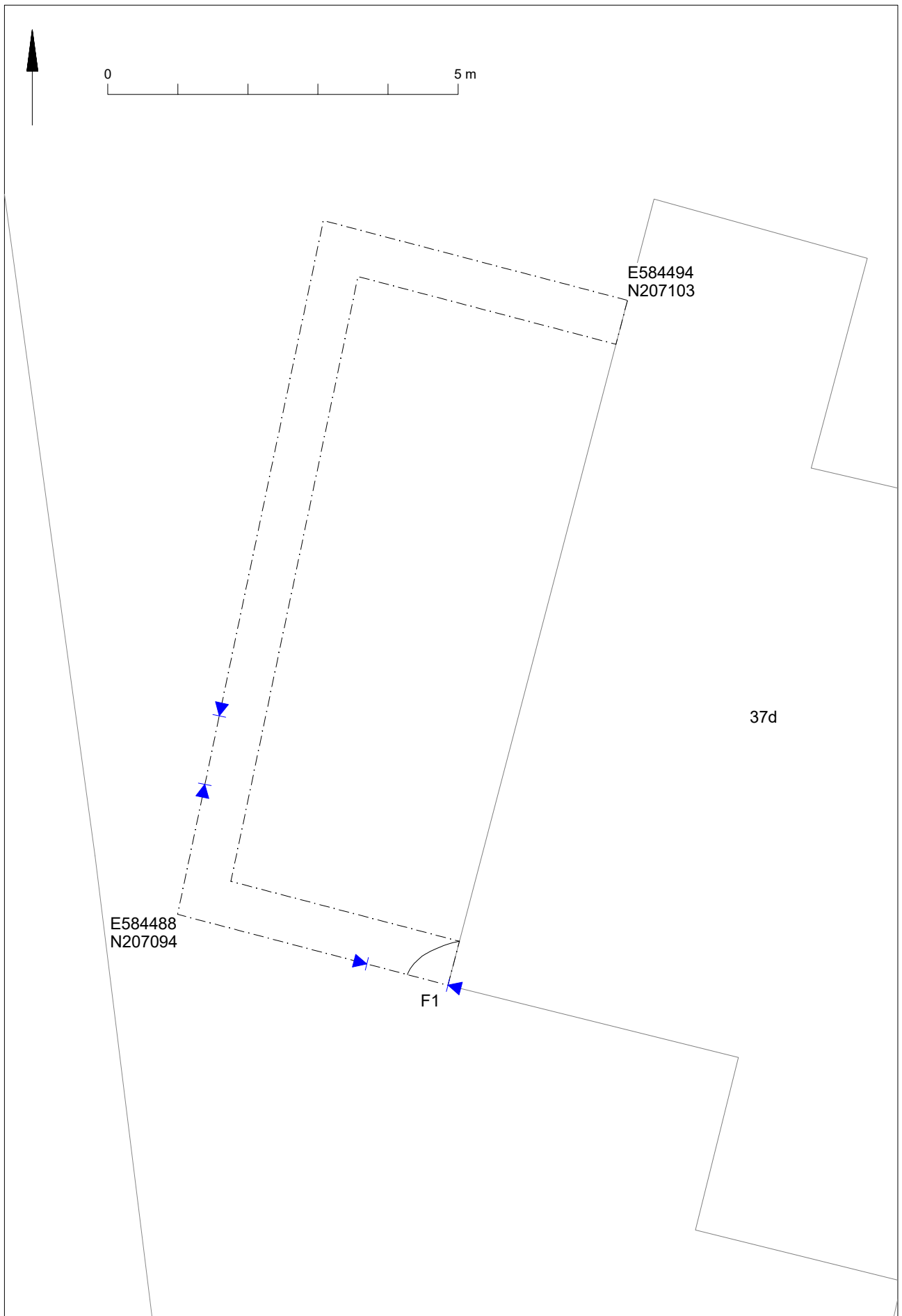


Fig 2 Results.

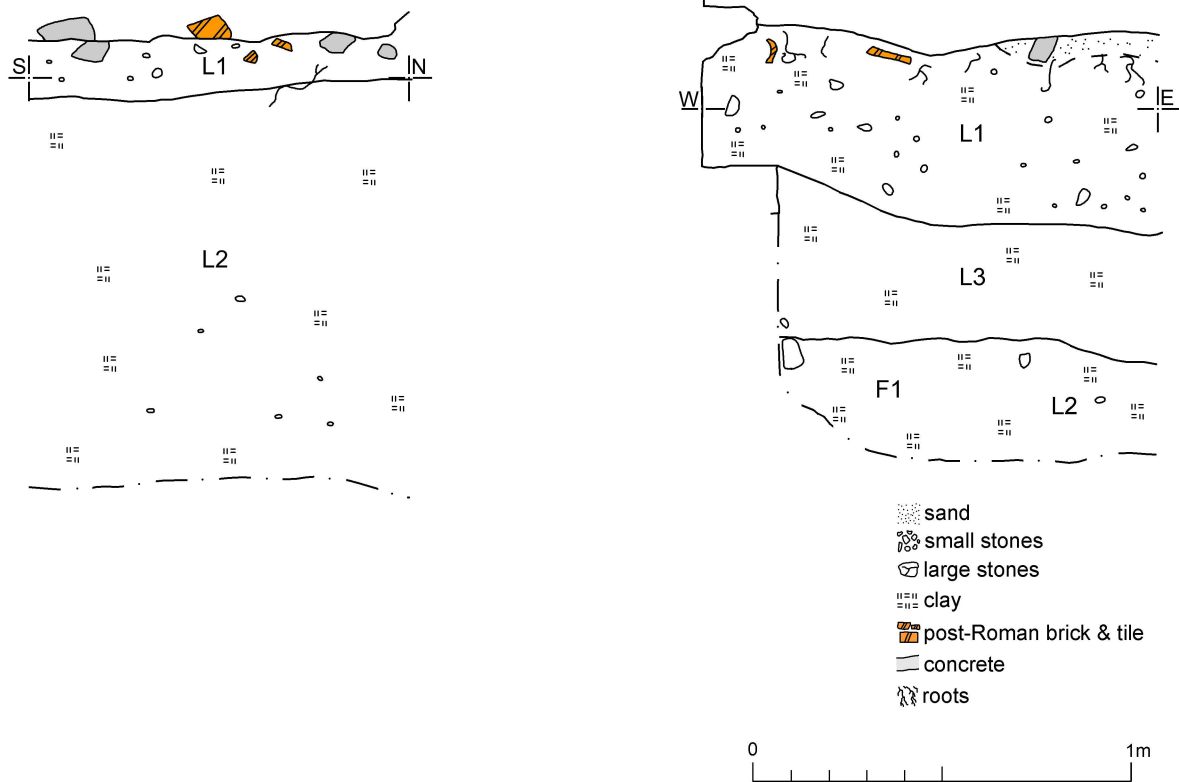


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-530922

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-530922
Project Name	Watching Brief at 37D London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HG
Sitename	37D London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HG
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2025/01g
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	MAL/24/00862
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	22-Jul-2025 - 22-Jul-2025
Location	37D London Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6HG NGR : TL 84503 07093 LL : 51.73218, 0.670399 12 Fig : 584503,207093
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Maldon Parish : Maldon
Project Methodology	Approximately 25m of foundation trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench measured 0.65m in width and c 1.10-1.30m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised modern made ground (L1, c 0.15-0.50m thick) sealing the natural (L2), except of the southern end of the trench that cut through a layer of re-deposited natural (L3, c 0.35-0.45m thick).
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 37d London Road, Maldon, Essex in advance of the construction of a side extension. Despite lying within the bounds of Maldon Burh, an area associated with Anglo-Saxo settlement, archaeological monitoring revealed only a single undated pit.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman, C Lister, L Pooley
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - EEX61782
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;