

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

CAT Report 548

Summary sheet

Address: 33, St John's Green, Colchester, Essex	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 599745 224762 (centre)	Site codes: CAT project – 10/3e Museum accession – COLIM 2010.15
Type of work: Watching brief	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT)
Date of work: 16th February 2010	Size of area investigated: 22.5m ²
Location of finds/curating museum: Colchester and Ipswich Museums	Related EHER numbers: 12356, 12360
Further seasons anticipated? No	Final report: CAT Archive Report 548
Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) were called to observe the excavated footings for an extension to 33 St John's Green in Colchester, Essex, on the afternoon of Friday the 16th of February 2010 (Fig 1). The area of the proposed extension and much of the remaining garden area had been stripped of topsoil (L1). Most of the topsoil had been mucked away in lorries, having been periodically scanned with a metal detector by an enthusiast living nearby. The discovery of a Roman coin and a Charles II ?farthing was reported to CAT. These finds were to be reported to the finds liaison officer by the gentlemen in question. The site had been stripped down to the light yellow/orange natural sand (L2).</p> <p>The foundation trenches for the extension had been excavated to a depth of around 600mm into the natural orange sand. Within the footings five probable archaeological features were identified, as well as modern services (Fig 2). The features were observed in section, with the exception of F4 which could also be seen in plan (Fig 2). Feature 1 was cut to the east by a modern service. However, the rectangular profile of the rest of the cut resembled that of an inhumation (Fig 3). During the cleaning of F1 a rim sherd from a Roman grey ware vessel (wide-mouthed bowl, possibly Camulodunum 299, 24g) and the complete left ulna of a dog (6.7g) were recovered. A probable post hole (F2) was identified to the west of F1 (Fig 2). Features F1 and F2 both had medium grey/brown sandy-silt fills with rare stone and oyster shell inclusions (Fig 3). Three large pits were also recorded (F3, F4 & F5). During the cleaning of these features post-medieval building materials (peg-tile and brick fragments) were observed along with numerous oyster shell fragments. The pits each had a darker, sandier fill than F1 and F2. The large pits F4 and F5 were both steep-sided and were not bottomed in the foundation trench. Pit F3 was smaller, and was probably a rubbish pit (Fig 3). Two pottery fragments were recovered from what remained of the dark grey/brown garden soil (L1), a rim</p>	

sherd of medieval sandy grey ware (C12th/13th, 16.5g), and a body sherd of Roman grey ware (9.4g).

The removal of the garden soil to the west of the extension exposed the base of the brick wall at the southern boundary of the property. Beneath the brick wall the remains of the precinct wall of the former Benedictine abbey of St John were identified. Photos were taken of the wall in the fading light (Plates 1 and 2).

Previous summaries/reports: None

Author of summary:
Adam Wightman

Date of summary:
March 2010



Plate 1: Exposed section of St John's abbey precinct wall.



Plate 2: Close up showing the constituent parts of the abbey precinct wall.



Fig 1 Site location

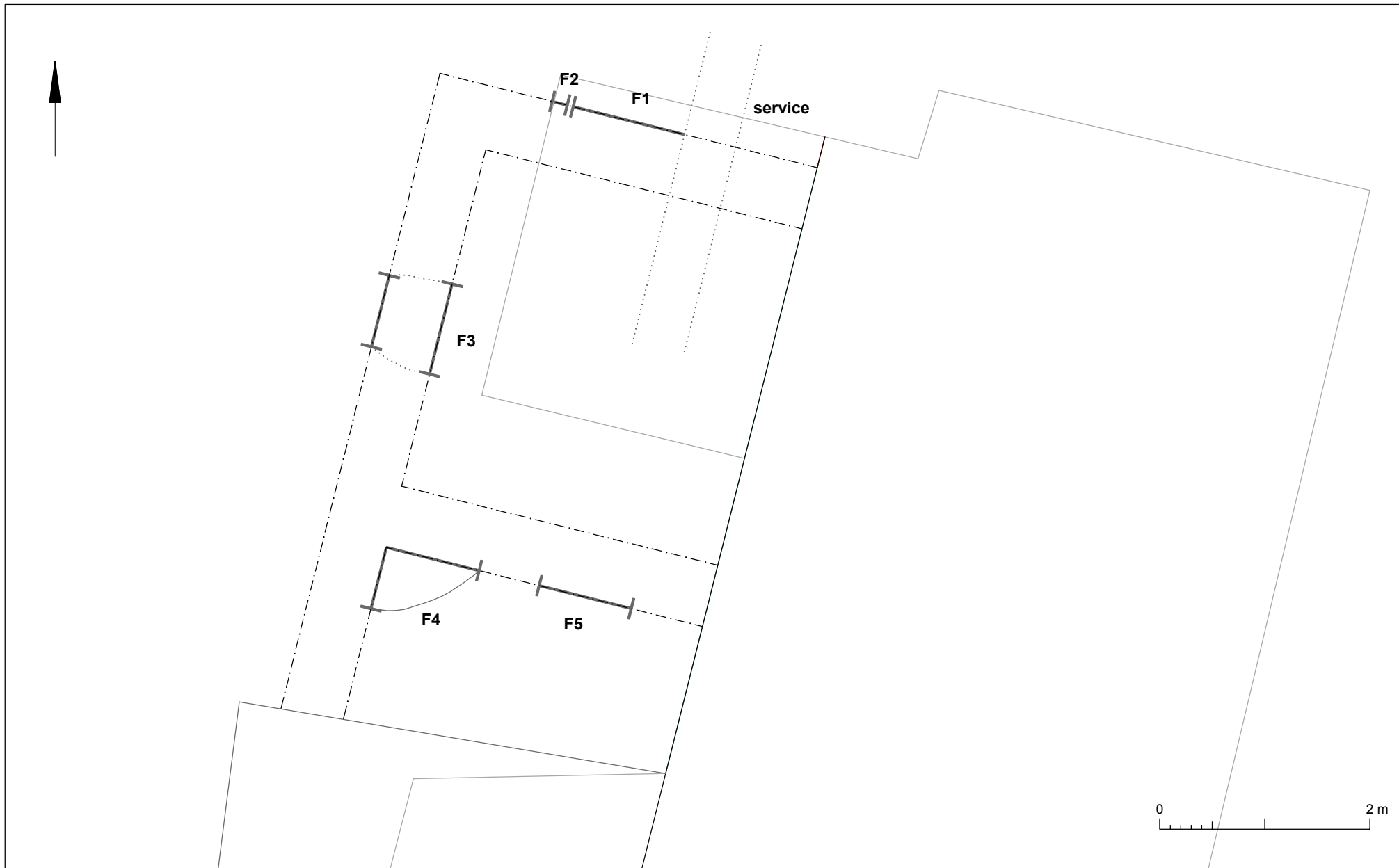
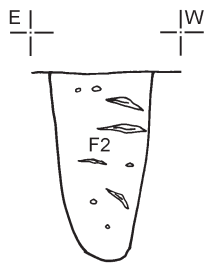
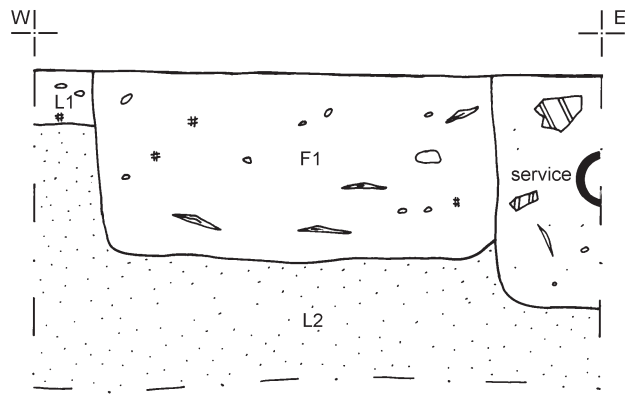






Fig 2 Foundation trenches with features observed in plan



-  small stones
-  sand
-  post-Roman brick or tile
-  oyster shell

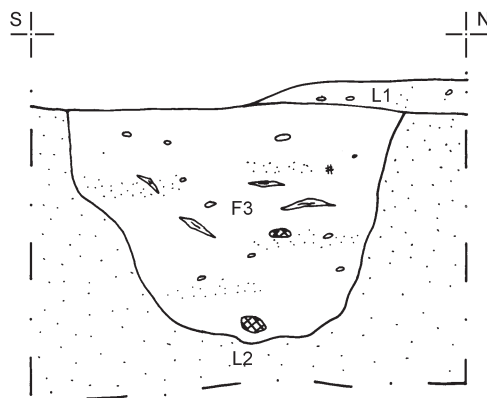


Fig 3 Sections.

