

# Archaeological evaluation at the Ship and Anchor, High Street, Maldon, Essex, CM9 5BX

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**on behalf of Catherine Cowley**

Planning references: FUL/MAL/15/00377a , LBC/MAL/00378

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## EHER summary sheet

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## 1 Summary

*An evaluation by a cross-shaped trench on a site in Maldon's historic core revealed a medieval pit and four post-medieval/modern pits. The medieval pit indicates an earlier origin for the site now occupied by the 15th/16th-century pub, and the later pits are probably associated with the dumping of domestic waste to the rear of the property.*

## 2 Introduction and planning background (Fig 1)

This is the report on the archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at the Ship and Anchor, High Street, Maldon, Essex, CM9 5BX, carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust in August 2015, on behalf of Catherine Cowley. Proposed work is the construction of a new single-storey community/family room in the car park at the rear of the pub (site centre: TL 8552 0678).

Following consultation by Maldon District Council (June 2015) for planning application FUL/MAL/15/00377a and LBC/MAL/00378, ECC Historic Environment Branch made the following recommendation, in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012):

### **L1 Archaeological Assessment**

*No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has submitted an archaeological assessment by an accredited archaeological consultant to establish the archaeological significance of the site. Such archaeological assessment shall be approved by the local planning authority and will inform the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates such approved programme of archaeological work.*

### **L2 Implementation of Archaeological Fieldwork Programme**

*No development including any site clearance or groundworks of any kind shall take place within the site until the applicant or their agents; the owner of the site or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work from an accredited archaeological contractor in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in a manner that accommodates the approved programme of archaeological work*

A brief detailing the required archaeological work (as reported here) was written by the ECC Historic Environment Officer Maria Medlycott (ECC 2015). All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a CAT *WSI (Written Scheme of Investigation)* produced by CAT in response to the Brief and agreed with ECC (CAT 2015).

In addition to the WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with normal industry standards as detailed in ClfA 2014a, ClfA 2014b, EAA 14, and EAA 24.

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The proposed development had the potential to impact on archaeological remains. HER shows that the Ship & Anchor is located in Maldon's historic core. The Grade-II-listed Ship & Anchor is 15th/16th century in origin, with later additions and amendments (HER 38371). The historic cartographic evidence shows a number of structures in the area of the proposed extension. The historic town has its origin in the late Anglo-Saxon period (HER 7718), expanding in the medieval period to be the second most important town in Essex. Excavations to the north of the proposed development at 168-170 High Street (HER 14753-4) and to the north-east on the Quest Motors site, 127-129 High Street (HER 46747-8) have both produced extensive archaeological remains dating to

the medieval and post-medieval period. Recent fieldwork on the extension to the Rose and Crown Public House, farther up the High Street, has revealed considerable archaeological evidence relating to the early history and development of the public house. There was therefore a high probability that the proposed extension would impact on archaeological remains relating to the origins and development of Maldon.

#### 4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to record and establish the character, extent, date, significance, of any remains and deposits likely to be disturbed or damaged by the proposed works.

#### 5 Results of the evaluation (Figs 2-3)

The cross-shaped evaluation trench T1/T2 was excavated under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator, through three layers: modern tarmac hard-standing and associated sub-base 200mm thick (L1). L1 sealed a remnant topsoil (L2) 150mm thick. L2 sealed an accumulation of silty clay (L3). L3 sealed natural boulder clay (L4) in whose surface the archaeological features were visible.

The excavated remains consisted of one medieval (F2) and four post-medieval or modern pits (F1, F3-F5).. Some oyster shell was observed in the fills (not retained).

Context no	type	finds dating	phase
F1	pit	19/20th century pottery, residual medieval pottery	modern
F2	pit	13/14th century pottery	medieval
F3	pit	19/20th century, peg-tile	modern
F4	pit	19/20th century pottery, clay pipe, peg-tile	modern
F5	large pit	17/18th century pottery, coal	post-medieval

#### 6 Finds

*by Stephen Benfield*

##### Introduction

Bulk finds of pottery, clay pipe, ceramic building material (CBM), glass, coal, animal bone and oyster shell came from features F1-F5. A metal button was recovered from the fill of pit F3. The more closely-dated finds span the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods. All the finds are listed and described by context in Table 2.

##### Pottery

In total there are 17 sherds of pottery, weighing 565g. The pottery was recorded using the Colchester post-Roman fabric series (*CAR 7*). The pottery fabrics recorded are listed in Table 1. All of the pottery is listed by context with a spot date in Table 2.

Fabric	Fabric description	No	Wt/g
21A	Colchester ware	2	31
40	Post-medieval red earthenwares (general)	6	240
45	Stoneware (general)	1	12
45M	Modern English stoneware	2	244
48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	6	38
	<i>Total</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>565</i>

*Table 1 Pottery fabrics and quantity*

Small quantities of pottery were recovered from all of the pits. The earliest dated pottery is two sherds of medieval Colchester ware (21A), from F1 & F2. These are in a sandy orange fabric and decorated with white (cream) paint. One has an area of external glaze. They are dated to the 13th-14th century. One sherd (F1) is clearly residual, being associated with stoneware pottery of 19th-20th century. The other sherd was the only closely-datable find from the feature, which otherwise only contained two pieces of animal bone. The remainder of the pottery dates to the post-medieval or modern period, and almost all to the 19th-20th century. Apart from one sherd dated to the post-medieval period (F4) the glazed red earthenwares (40) are clearly of modern date.

### Other bulk finds

A small quantity of peg-tile pieces, recovered from F4 & F5, is not closely dated, but most probably dates to after the 13th or 14th century. Two pieces from pit F5 at 15 mm thick are slightly thicker than most peg-tiles.

The remainder of the finds can be closely dated to the post-medieval or modern periods, and most are clearly of 19th-20th century date.

### Metal finds

A metal button of post-medieval or modern date was recovered from F3 and is described below.

F3 (4) Round copper-alloy button (diameter 17 mm, weight 2 g). Slightly domed face, concave back, central (integral) fastener on back probably soldered onto body, loop of fastener broken, surfaces corroded but appear plain. Dated post-medieval -modern.

### Discussion

Medieval occupation or activity in the area is attested by two sherds of white-painted, oxidised Colchester ware, dating to the 13th-14th century. One is clearly residual in a later dated pit (F1), the other was the only closely-dated find associated with pit F2.

A number of finds, notably pieces of peg-tile, are not closely dated. However, finds dated as modern (19th-20th century) were recovered from all of the features except F2 and the majority of the more closely dated finds are of modern date. With such a late (recent) dating these finds are of limited archaeological significance.

Ctxt	Find no	find type	Fabric(s)	no	wt/g	Form/ description	Period	spot date
F001	1	pottery	21A	1	15	orange fabric with white painted line, part glazed (early fabric type)	medieval	13-14C
F001	1	pottery	45M	1	161	rim section from a large vessel or drainage pipe	modern	19-20C
F001	1	animal bone		2	97	frag of pelvis (large size mammal), also a metatarsal from a sheep or a small deer		
F002	2	pottery	21A	1	16	sherd from neck of pot, orange fabric with grey core, white painted lines (early fabric type)	medieval	13-14C
F002	2	animal bone		2	15	ulna pieces, joining (medium size mammal)		
F003	3	pottery	48D	2	13	plate rim and tea cup handle	modern	19-20C
F003	3	pottery	45M	1	83	complete, small, cylindrical bottle (height 63 mm,	modern	19-20C

Ctxt	Find no	find type	Fabric(s)	no	wt/g	Form/ description	Period	spot date
						diameter 35 mm)		
F003	3	pottery	40	5	232	late vessel forms, sherd from bowl (red fabric with lustrous external brown glaze and yellow interior) and sherds from a flat-rimmed bowl (red fabric, shiny brown glaze with thin with yellow banding on exterior and rim edge)	modern	19-20C
F003	3	clay pipe		2	5	stem pieces	post-medieval	18-19C
F003	3	glass		1	16	dark green glass bottle frag	modern	19-20C
F003	3	animal bone		3	30	maxilla from a sheep skull with two other skull pieces		
F003	4	button	copper-alloy	1	2	round, convex button with part of back fixing, corroded	post-medieval	
F004	5	pottery	48D	4	25	sherds from a cup and a handles bowl/jug	modern	19-20C
F004	5	pottery	40	1	8	sherd from open bowl, orange coloured glaze on internal surface and rim top only, standard fabric	post-medieval	L16-17C
F004	5	clay pipe		2	4	stem pieces	post-medieval	18-19C
F004	5	glass		2	12	1 medium green (bottle base with moulded numbers), 1 other small clear glass piece	modern	19-20C
F004	5	CBM	red, sandy	1	65	peg-tile frag, slightly abraded	medieval-post-medieval	
F004	5	coal		2	11	small pieces	post-medieval-modern	
F004	5	shell		1	2	small oyster shell		
F005	6	pottery	45	1	12	handle piece, probably late stoneware	post-medieval-modern	18-19C(?)
F005	6	clay pipe		3	10	stem pieces	post-medieval	18-19C
F005	6	CBM		4	381	2 peg-tile frags 14-15mm, 2 pieces 10 mm thick)	medieval-post-medieval	
F005	6	coal/shale		1	7	small grey coloured piece	post-medieval-modern	
F005	6	animal bone		1	34	pig radius		

Table 2: all finds by context

## 7 Discussion

Despite this site's location in Maldon's historic core, this evaluation has produced results of limited archaeological significance. Five pits were found, one medieval and four post-medieval / modern. The medieval pit (with 13th-14th century pottery) is an indication that the present Ship & Anchor (dated 15th/16th century), is almost certainly on an older site. Most of the pits are post-medieval/modern in date, and are to be associated with the disposal of domestic waste to the rear of the pub. The small quantity of peg-tile may represent the demolition of outbuildings or repair to roofs.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Catherine Cowley for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by Ben Holloway, with fieldwork carried out by BH and E Sanford. Figures by Mark Baister and Emma Holloway. The project was monitored for ECC by Maria Medlycott.

## 9 References

- |                  |       |   |
|------------------|-------|---|
| CAR 7            | 2000  | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7, Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by John Cotter  |
| CAT              | 2015  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological trial-trenching evaluation at the Ship and Anchor Public House, High Street, Maldon</i> , by E Holloway. |
| CIfA             | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>  |
| CIfA             | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>   |
| DCLG             | 2012  | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>   |
| ECC              | 2015  | <i>Brief for archaeological trial-trenching at the Ship and Anchor Public House, High Street, Maldon</i> . Maria Medlycott  |
| Gurney, D (ed)   | 2003  | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).   |
| Medlycott, Maria | 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	after the Roman period, dating <i>circa</i> AD 430 to 1066.
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
HER	(Essex) Historic Environment Record
medieval	period from AD 1066 to <i>circa</i> 1500/1530
modern	period from <i>c</i> AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
post-medieval	from Henry VIII to <i>c</i> AD1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

### Finds

1 museum box containing all finds.

### Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

This report (CAT Report 863)

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, trench record sheet)

ECC Brief and CAT Written Scheme of Investigation

Site digital photographic log, site photographic record on CD

Attendance register, Benchmark data, Risk assessment

## 12 Archive deposition

The paper archive and finds are currently held by CAT at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum (accession code 2015.78).

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### Distribution list:

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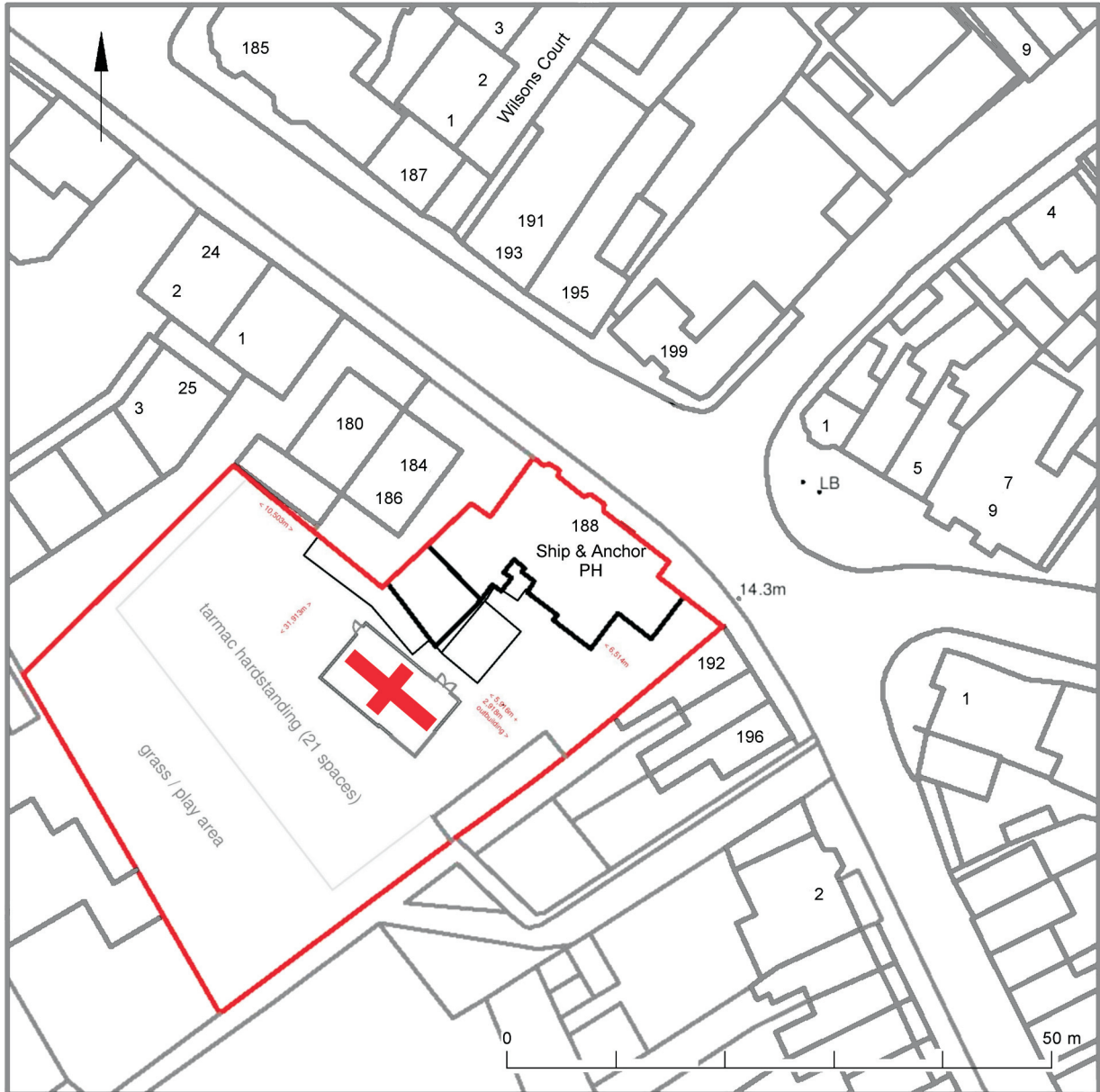
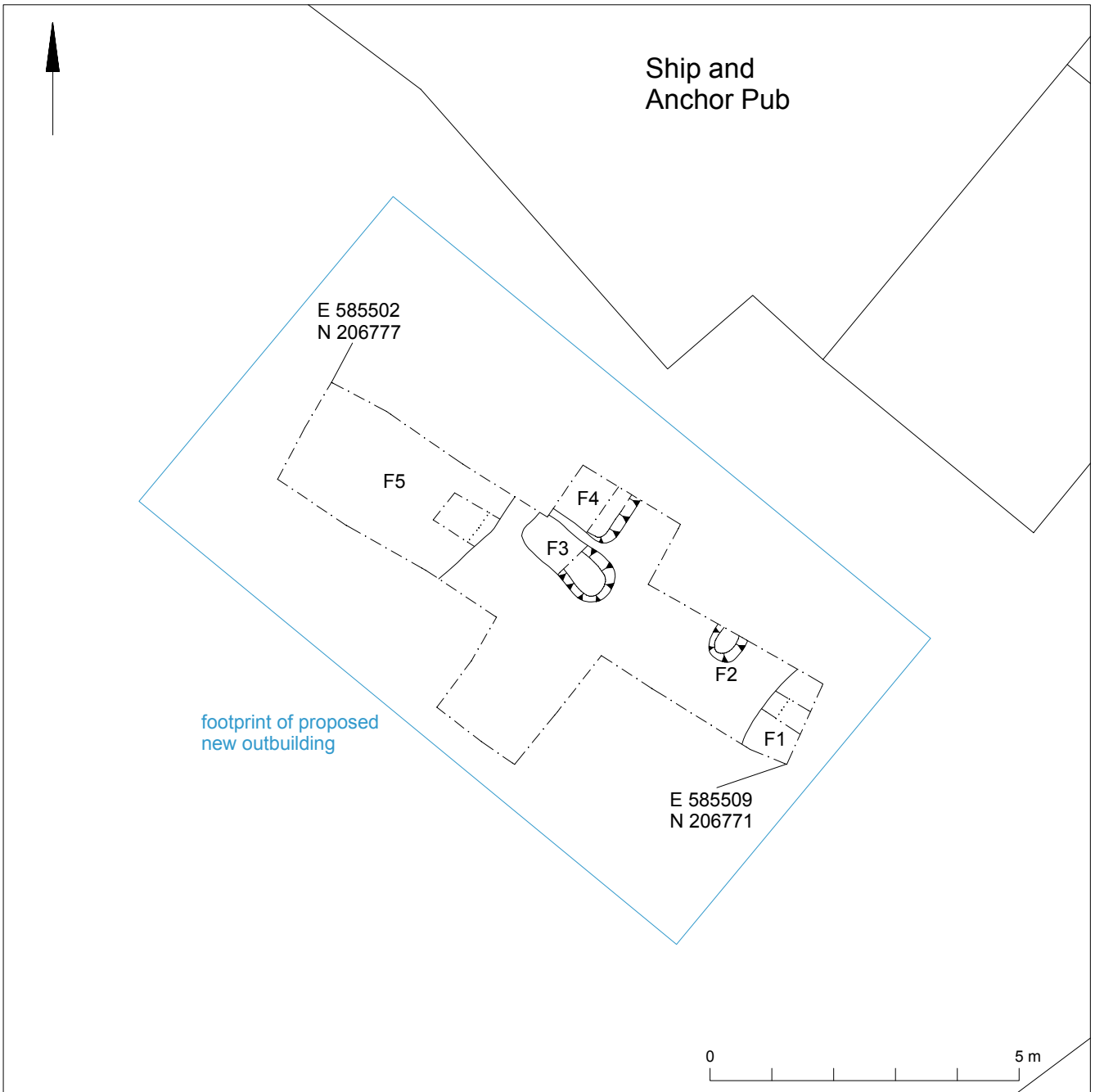


Fig 1 Site location with proposed trenches shown in red.



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Fig 2 Evaluation results.

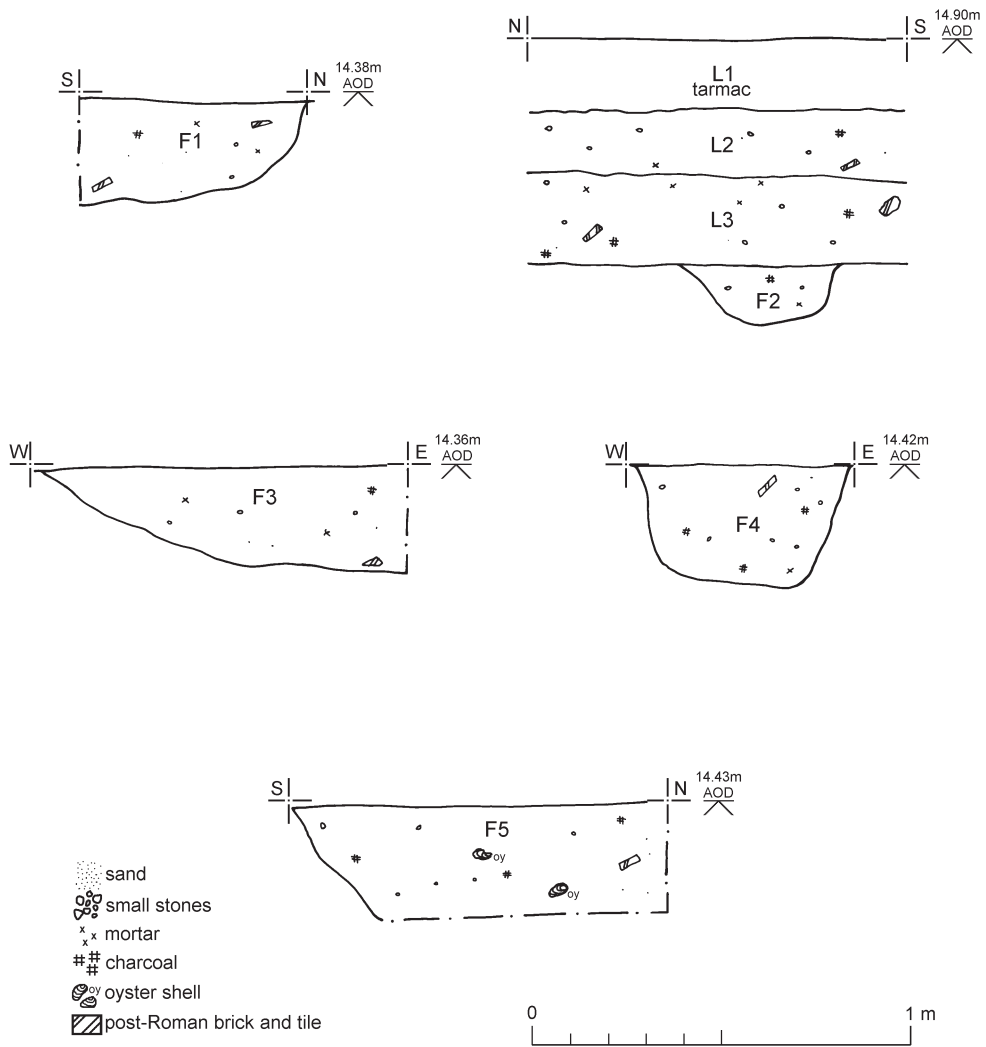


Fig 3 Sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record

## Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Ship and Anchor, High Street, Maldon, Essex, CM9 5BX	
<b>Parish:</b> Maldon	<b>District:</b> Maldon
<b>NGR:</b> TL 8401 0895	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project code – 15/7k HET Code – MD51 OASIS colchest3-219373
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 18th August 2015	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> Eval:15m (linear)
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester & Ipswich Museum accession: 2015.78	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Yes	<b>Related EHER number:</b> 7718, 14753-4, 38371, 46747-8
<b>Final report:</b>	CAT Report 863
<b>Periods represented:</b> medieval, post-medieval, modern	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> <i>An evaluation by a cross-shaped trench on a site in Maldon's historic core revealed a medieval pit and four post-medieval/modern pits. The medieval pit indicates an earlier origin for the site now occupied by the 15th/16th-century pub, and the later pits are probably associated with the dumping of domestic waste to the rear of the property.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> --	
<b>ECC Monitor:</b> Maria Medlycott	
<b>Keywords:</b> --	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Ben Holloway	<b>Date of summary:</b> August 2015