

Archaeological evaluation at Lanham Manor Farm, Cressing, Essex, CM77 8FF

September 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by Jane Roberts, Laura Pooley and Sarah Carter

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Harvey Furniss and Jane Roberts

**commissioned by Andrea Savill,
Athena Architectural Services
on behalf of Simon Dixon-Smith**

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1 Summary

Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Lanham Manor Farm, Cressing, Essex in advance of a commercial development involving the erection of new build and conversion of present buildings due to the presence of a medieval moat at the site. Evaluation uncovered the remains of this moat.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Lanham Manor Farm, Cressing, Essex which was carried out on 20th and 21st September 2017. The work was commissioned by Andrea Savill, Athena Architectural Services on behalf of Simon Dixon-Smith in advance of a commercial development involving the erection of new build and conversion of present buildings, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor 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* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 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 draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex.

The EHER shows that the development site will potentially affect a sensitive heritage asset. Cartographic evidence indicates that the proposed access road, car parking and new building (Building F) lies on and across the line of the northern arm of a medieval moat that surrounded Lanham Farm (HER 6437-8). Many of the moats in northwest Essex have their origins in the 12th- and 13th-centuries. A large part of this moated circuit is no longer visible having been backfilled. The access road, new building and landscaping needs to be assessed as it is probable that this aspect of the development will disturb or destroy archaeological deposits of medieval and post-medieval date.



Map 1 6-inch OS map of 1895 showing the moat overlaid on modern mapping, development site indicated by a blue arrow.

4 Results (figs 2-3)

One trial-trench was excavated within the development site. It measured 23m in length and 1.8m in width and was positioned to capture the northwest branch of the moat. Five layers were recorded. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.02-0.06m thick) sealed subsoil (L2, c 0.25-0.54m thick). L2 sealed a layer of backfill (L3, up to c 0.24m thick), beneath which was mixed backfill and crush (L4, up to c 0.06m thick). L4 sealed natural clay (L5). Layers L2-L4 had slumped into moat F1.



Photograph 1 F1 oblique view – looking west northwest

Medieval moat F1 was uncovered. It was aligned NE-SW and measured at least 6.5m in width although the NW edge was not identified during the evaluation. The moat was dug to a depth of 1.4m below current ground level but was not bottomed. Excavations ceased due to safe working depths and waterlogging in the base of the feature.

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

A quantity of finds was recovered from the middle fill of the moat F1 (1). All are of modern date (c 19th- to late 19th- or early 20th-century) and none is of any particular archaeological significance. They are briefly listed and described below. The pottery fabrics refer to the post-Roman pottery fabric series referencing CAR 7.

Pottery: there is a quantity of pottery from several different vessels consisting of Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (Fabric 40D), including sherds from transfer decorated plates, a sherds from a Yellow ware mixing bowl (Fabric 48E) and a sherds from a white stoneware preserve jar with vertical grooved/ridged exterior (Fabric 47).

Ceramic building material: there is a single piece from a red brick. *Glass:* the glass consists of a sherd from the neck of a mould-blown bottle (medium green glass) and the body of a carbonated mineral water bottle (cod bottle) in frosted pale green glass with moulded raised lettering – **P H Jordan / Braintree** (surrounding a crest made up from initials PHJ) and with letter **J** on bottle base underside. *Metal:* the metal objects consist of the body of an enamelled saucepan (blue exterior), the iron handle from a hob kettle and a spring-tine from an agricultural cultivator.

6 Discussion

Archaeological evaluation uncovered the remains of the medieval moat indicated on the late 19th-century OS map of the site. Finds from the fill of F1 show that the moat was visible until the early 20th-century, confirmed in later editions of OS maps issued in 1919 and 1938. Unfortunately, as the feature could not be bottomed no dating evidence was retrieved to indicate when the moat was dug. Evaluation has also shown that the side of the moat extended approximately 2m further to the SE than the OS maps suggest.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrea Savill of Athena Architectural Services and Simon Dixon-Smith for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with G Morgan, Z Eksen, H Furniss and J Roberts. Figures are by JR, L Pooley and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

8 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 7	2000	<i>Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by John Cotter
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation and monitoring at Lanham Manor Farm, Cressing, Essex, CM77 8FF</i>
Cifa	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological 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>
ECCPS	2016	<i>Brief for trial trenching and excavation at land to west of Church Road, Elmstead Market</i>

English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
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)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	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
OASIS	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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
wsi	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1172)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital 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 Braintree Museum under accession code: requested.

Distribution list:

Andrea Savill, Athena Architectural Services
Simon Dixon-Smith
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Date: 03.10.2017

Appendix 1 Context list

Context Number	Finds Number	Feature Type	Description	Date
F1	1, 2	Moat	Firm, wet, medium green/grey/brown silty-clay	Backfilled c early 20th-century
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft, dry to moist, dark grey/brown sandy-silt	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Friable, moist, dark orange/grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern
L3a	-	Backfill	Friable, medium yellow/orange silty-clay with occasional stone piece inclusions	Modern
L3b	-	Backfill	Friable, moist, light to medium brown/grey silty-clay	Modern
L4	-	Backfill / crush	Very light grey silty gravel with brick fleck inclusions and occasional tile/brick piece inclusions	Modern
L5	-	Natural	Firm, moist, medium orange clay with frequent stone piece inclusions	Post-glacial

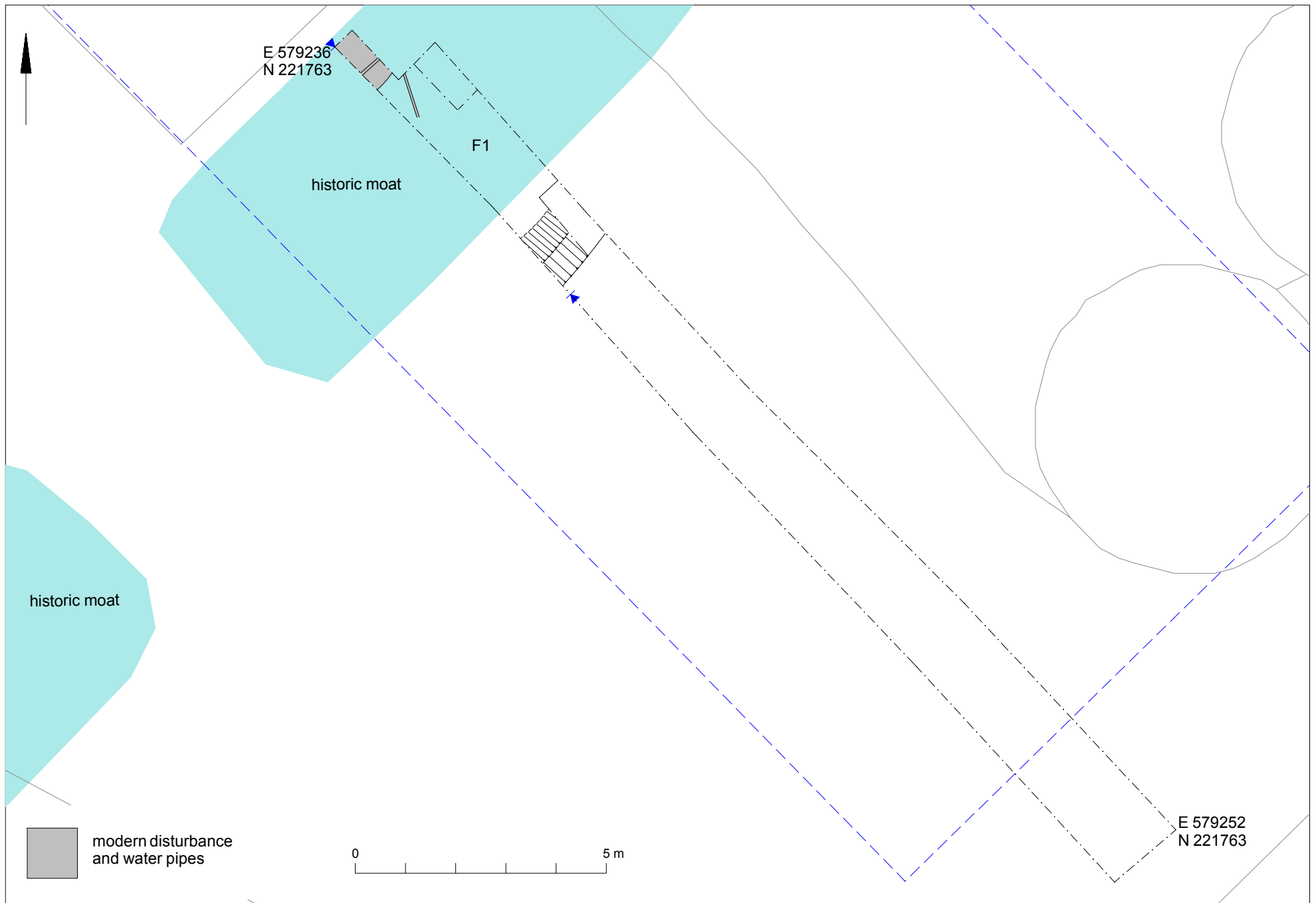


Fig 2 Results

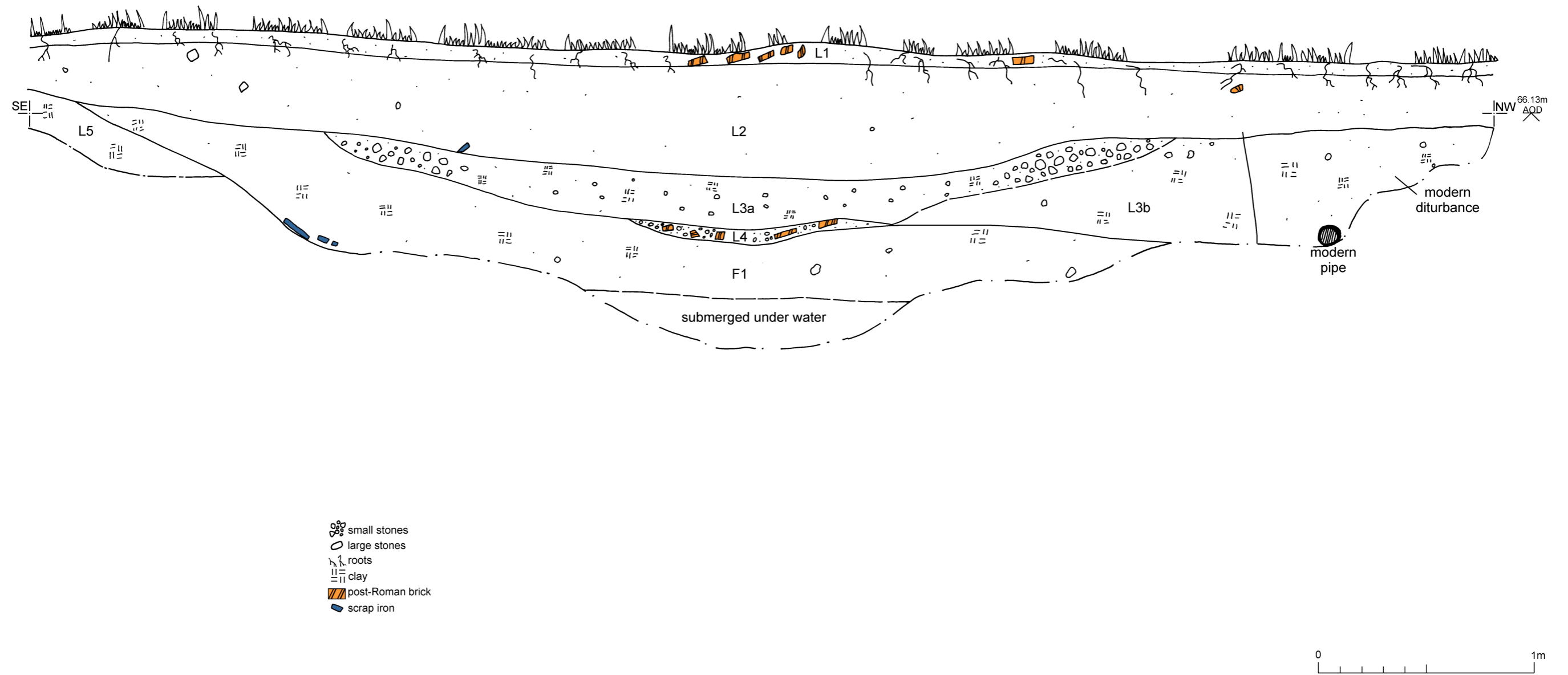


Fig 3 Feature and representative section

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OASIS ID: colchest3-294439

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Lanham Manor Farm, Cressing, Essex, CM77 8FF
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Lanham Manor Farm, Cressing, Essex in advance of a commercial development involving the erection of new build and conversion of present buildings due to the presence of a medieval moat at the site. Evaluation uncovered the remains of this moat.
Project dates	Start: 20-09-2017 End: 21-09-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/08r - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	15/01515/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CRLM17 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	MOAT Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	METAL OBJECTS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	METAL OBJECTS Modern
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BRAINTREE CRESSING Lanham Manor Farm
Postcode	CM77 8FF
Study area	1.16 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 79299 21798 51.865408495375 0.604428744586 51 51 55 N 000 36 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 65.87m Max: 66.23m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Digital Archive ID	CRLM17

Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Braintree Museum
Paper Archive ID	CRLM17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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