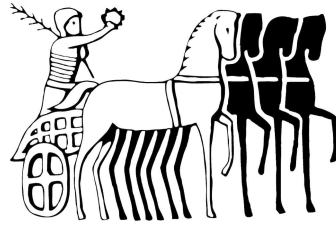


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1952
issued July 2023**

**Archaeological monitoring at
Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Cressing,
Essex, CM77 8PD: June 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/09h
Scheduled monument consent: S00242649**

**Archaeological monitoring at
Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Cressing,
Essex, CM77 8PD: June 2023**

NGR: TL 79935 18584 (centre)

**Scheduled monument: 1002122
Scheduled monument consent: S00242649**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/09h
CAT Report 1952**

**ECC code: CT36
OASIS id: colchest3-516658**

**report prepared by
Bronagh Quinn**

fieldwork by Robin Mathieson with Madison Ellis

**commissioned by Mitie
on behalf of Essex County Council**

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Issued:	13/07/2023	

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Fig 1 Site location.

Fig 2 Results. Modern services in grey.

Fig 3 Representative section.

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Cressing, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a new ramped access. Cressing Temple Barns is the site of three Grade I listed timber-framed buildings; the Wheat Barn (NHLE no 1123866), the Barley Barn (NHLE no 1123865) and a later Granary/Stable block (NHLE no 1123867). The monitoring uncovered nothing of archaeological significance.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Cressing on 8th June 2023. The work was commissioned by Mitie on behalf of Essex County Council, and was carried out by during groundworks for the construction of a new ramped access.

As the site lies within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Cressing Temple Barns (NHLE 1002122), Scheduled Monument consent was acquired for the works (consent number S00242649).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, written by Mark Baister of Essex County Council (ECCPS 2023), and the Scheduled Monument consent (ref: S00242649) given by Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments Dr Jess Tipper.

In addition to the 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 briefs* (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 includes extracts of the ECCPS WSI and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>)

Cressing Temple Barns consists of three Grade I listed timber-framed buildings, the 13th-century Barley Barn (NHLE no 1123865) and Wheat Barn (NHLE no 1123866), and the late 16th-century Granary/Stable block (NHLE no 1123867). The Barley Barn is thought to be the oldest standing timber-framed barn in the world.

A Grade II listed Tudor farmhouse (NHLE no 1168891) and its associated walled garden, and a Grade II listed 18th-century Waggon Lodge (NHLE no 1169011) are also present on the grounds of Cressing Temple Barns.

In advance of the construction of the Visitor's Centre in 1996-7, a programme of archaeological evaluation and excavation was undertaken (Garwood 1997). This identified the remains of two previously unknown buildings and a brick culvert. The earlier building was tentatively dated to the 13th century and is likely to have been broadly contemporary with the standing barns. The later building belonged to the Tudor phase of activity on the site. Two ditches were also identified that may have belonged to a Roman field system.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify, excavate and record any archaeological contexts revealed during groundworks while mitigating any damage to the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 19m of foundation trench was mechanically-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were 0.6m wide and excavated to a depth of c 0.65-1m below current ground level (bcgl), cut through topsoil (L1, c 0.33m), subsoil (L2, c 0.19m) and onto natural (L3, identified at c 0.52m bcgl). Two modern services and concrete pads were revealed by the groundworks, but no archaeological features were uncovered. A full context list can be found in Appendix 1.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench, looking south-east.



Photograph 2 Foundation trench, looking south-west.



Photograph 3 General shot of completed works, looking east-south-east.

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered three fragments (326g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and one piece of modern frogged brick (872g). This material all came from the topsoil L1 and has not been retained.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological potential, no archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Mitie and Essex County Council for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, fieldwork was carried out by R Mathieson with M Ellis. Figures are by B Quinn and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor. CAT would also like to acknowledge Madison Ellis, who took part in both the fieldwork and report writing as part of her university work placement.

9 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) |
| CAT | 2023 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| ECCPS | 2023 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording</i> , by M Baister |
| Garwood | 1997 | <i>The Visitor Centre, Cressing Temple, Witham, Essex, Archaeological Excavation</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14) |
| Historic England | 2015 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| 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

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Digital record:

CAT Report 1952
ECC WSI, Scheduled Monument consent
Digital photographs
Site data
Survey data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 Archaeology Data Services.

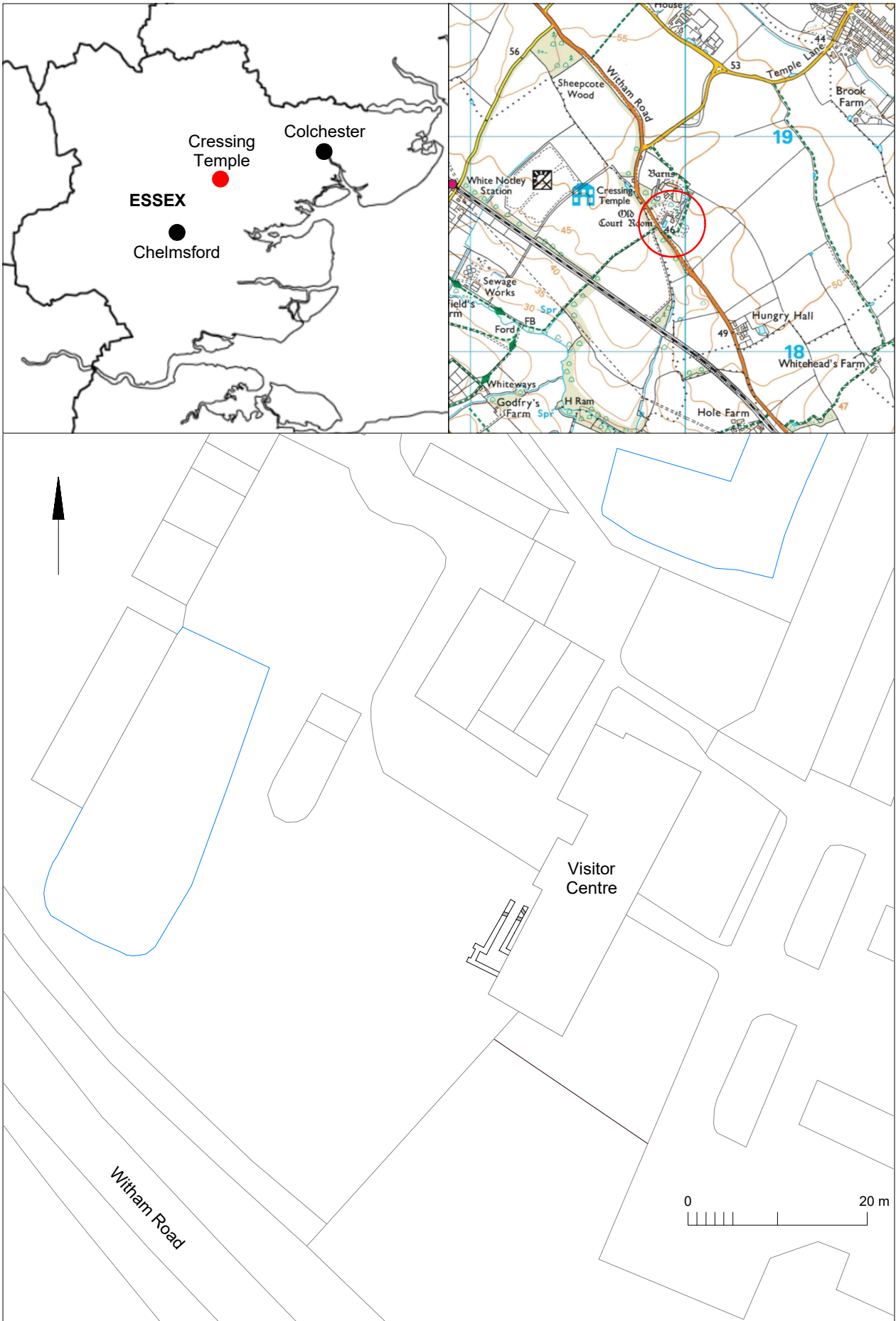
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Distribution list:

Mitie
Mark Baister, Essex County Council Place Services
Dr Jess Tipper, Historic England
Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds No.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	1	Topsoil	Firm, mostly dry, medium-dark grey-brown silty clay with inclusions of stones and post medieval CBM	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Firm, slightly moist, medium-light brown-yellow silty clay with inclusions of occasional CBM flecks.	Undated
L3	-	Natural	Firm, slightly moist, medium yellow/brown clay with inclusions of frequent chalk flecks,	Post-glacial



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Fig 1 Site location.

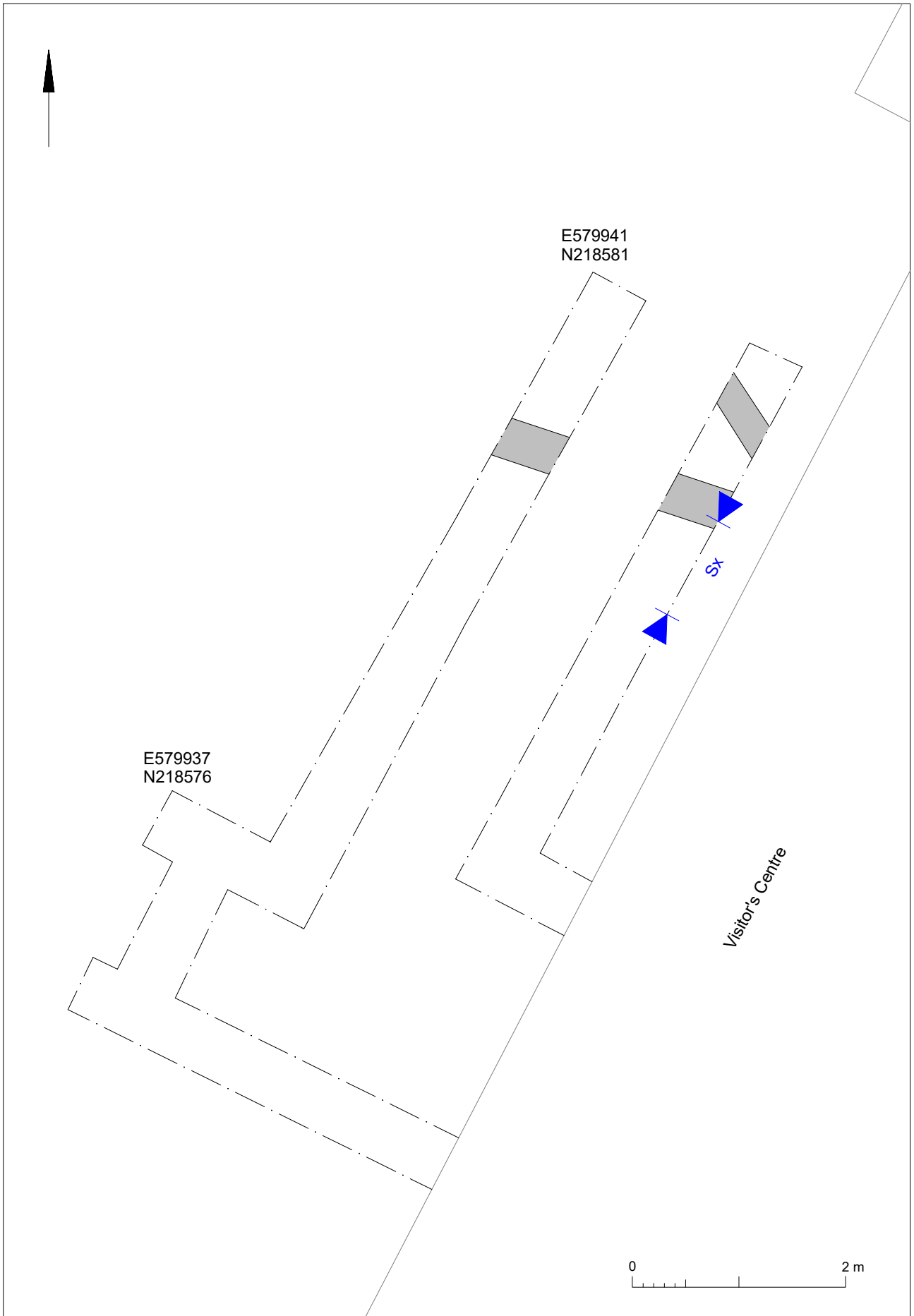


Fig 2 Results. Modern services in grey.

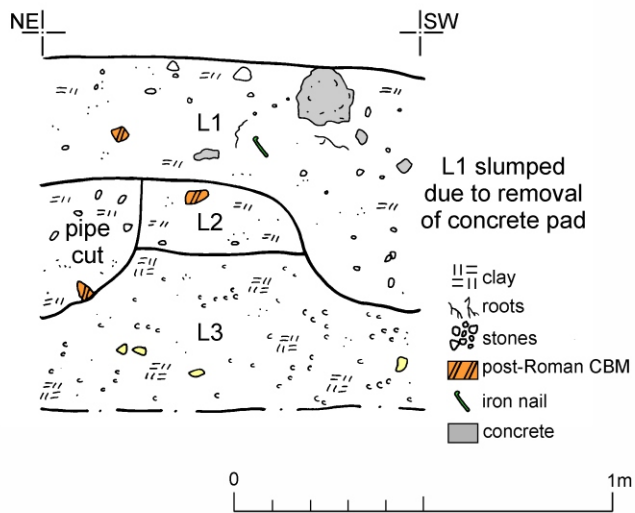


Fig 3 Representative section.

Summary for colchest3-516658

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-516658
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Cressing
Sitename	Cressing Temple Barns
Activity type	Field Observation (Monitoring)
Project Identifier(s)	22/09h
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	08-Jun-2023 - 08-Jun-2023
Location	Cressing Temple Barns NGR : TL 79935 18584 LL : 51.83687326931873, 0.610277728368552 12 Fig : 579935,218584
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Braintree Parish : Cressing
Project Methodology	The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in line with the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Cressing Temple Barns, Witham Road, Cressing, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a new ramped access. Cressing Temple Barns is the site of three Grade I listed timber-framed buildings; the Wheat Barn (NHLE no 1123866), the Barley Barn (NHLE no 1123865) and a later Granary/Stable block (NHLE no 1123867). The monitoring uncovered nothing of archaeological significance.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Historic England review - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;