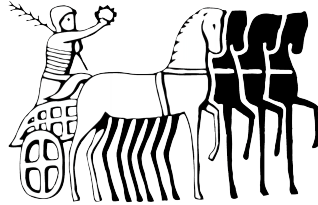


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2048
issued May 2024**

**Archaeological evaluation at St Mary's Church,
Rivenhall, Essex, CM8 3PQ: April 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/03d
ECC code: RHSM24**

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NGR: TL 82908 17780 (centre)

**CAT project ref.: 2024/03d
CAT Report 2048**

**ECC code: RHSM24
OASIS id: colchest3-524017**

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at St Mary's Church, Rivenhall in advance of re-opening an area of the churchyard for new burials. A Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1013831) to the north of the church includes a Roman villa, as well as the remains of an Anglo-Saxon church and cemetery, and church itself has its origins in the medieval period. Some 24 burials – mostly of children and infants and likely dating to the medieval or post-medieval period – were recorded during the evaluation and left in situ.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at St Mary's Church, Rivenhall during 17th-19th April 2024. The work was commissioned by Oliver Clarke on behalf of Rivenhall & Silver End PCC as part of an investigation to define and record any surviving burials in a specified area, ahead of opening up the area for new burials.

In response to consultation with the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser (DAA) for the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches) it was advised that, to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation to safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary.

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to consultation with and agreed with the DAA (CAT 2024a).

In addition to the 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 (CIfA), including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- The Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) guidelines on excavating human remains in Christian burial grounds (Mays 2017),
- 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 2024b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of CAT Report 128 and information from the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The archaeological landscape of Rivenhall is dominated by St Mary and All Saints Church and the underlying Roman villa (EHER 19117). The villa, which is a scheduled ancient monument (NHLE 1013821), consists of at least four major Roman buildings and a variety of associated structures and features, the only surface trace of which is the platform upon which the east end of the church is built. The site has been known for some years from crop, soil and parchmarks and various investigations. The Roman Essex Society undertook fieldwalking and archaeological excavations there in 1950 and 1951, and the Essex Society for Archaeology and History excavated part of the site in advance of a sewer trench in 1971. However, the villa and church site are synonymous with Warwick and Kirsty Rodwell, who conducted excavations there in 1972-3, publishing the results in two volumes of CBA Research.

The Rodwell's excavations indicated that the main villa building measured approximately 60m by 25m, that it lay on the west side of the complex and that it is aligned north to south with its southern rooms underlying the church. To the north-east is a building which was possibly

domestic in use, arranged around a courtyard and leading to a bath complex. Another building to the south-east of the main villa building was probably a timber-aisled barn. Between these buildings and surrounding them are several metalled areas and an east-west road. Smaller details include a T-shaped 'corn drier' (i.e. a malting oven) and a possible mill (Rodwell & Rodwell 1986 & 1993).

Mesolithic, Neolithic, and Bronze Age material has also been encountered at this site. This includes *in situ* material from a buried soil horizon (EHER 8080). Cropmarks indicate the presence of field systems associated with a Late Iron Age farmstead located to the south of the villa, which may be the original location of this farmstead.

A post-built hall located at the centre of the site dates to the Anglo-Saxon period. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was also located on the villa site, and this is undoubtedly connected with a small timber church which was the precursor of the medieval church of St Mary and All Saints (EHER 8085).

In 1873, a large number of tesserae were uncovered during the construction of an extension at the adjacent Rivenhall Church of England Primary School (EHCR 19100). However, no archaeological deposits were observed during a watching brief carried out at the school in 1995 (Heppell 1995). In 2001, CAT carried out an evaluation, followed by a watching brief, at the school. The excavations revealed no structural remains associated with the adjacent Roman villa site, although Roman brick, tile and pottery were found in later contexts (CAT Reports 128 & 150).

For a general background of the Rivenhall area see the *Braintree Historic Environment Characterisation project* (ECC 2010, 164-166).

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent, depth and character of any graves and other archaeological remains.

5 Results (Figs 2-4)

Three trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. All trenches were 5m long and 1m wide.

Trench 1 was cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.28-0.3m thick) and a post-medieval accumulation layer (L4, c 0.39-0.41m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of c 0.69-0.7m below current ground level [bcgl]). Trenches T2 and T3 were cut through topsoil (L1, c 0.19-0.39m thick) and subsoil (L2, c 0.11-0.26m thick) onto natural (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.38-0.57m bcgl).

A full context list with soil descriptions can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

From north to south, graves F24, F23, F22, F17, F21, F18, F19 and F20 were uncovered. All were aligned east/west. The graves were cut through L3 and sealed by L1 and L4. None appeared to intercut. The graves were encountered at a depth of 37.18m AOD. F17 and F24 were excavated, revealing human remains. All human remains were recorded *in situ* and left, and all disarticulated remains were immediately reburied on site.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking south

Trench 2

Six graves, cut into L2 and L3 and sealed by L1, were uncovered in this trench. The graves started to be encountered at 37.70m AOD. Graves F3 and F4 lay at the northern end of the trench. Both were aligned east/west.

Two further east/west oriented graves, F5 and F6, were situated slightly to the south of the two abovementioned features, the former cutting the latter. Both were excavated, revealing human remains.

Graves F1 and F2 were located at the southern end of the trench. Both features were oriented east/west. Neither feature was excavated, but a small section of a right femoral shaft was exposed during surface cleaning of F1.



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking south

Trench 3

Ten graves were uncovered in this trench, all cut into L2 and L3 and sealed by L1. Graves were encountered starting at a depth of 37.32m AOD. At the northern end of the trench were graves F11 and F10. The southern edge of F10 was cut by grave F16, which cut the northern edge of grave F9. Both F9 and F16 were excavated. All four graves were orientated east-west.

The southern edge of F9 cut the northern edge of grave F12, which was cut at its southern edge by grave F8. The southern edge of F8 cut grave F14. To the east, both F8 and F12 were cut by grave F13, which may also have cut F14. All of the graves were orientated east-west.

At the southern end of the trench, east/west oriented graves F7 and F15 were uncovered. The two features interacted but their relationship was unclear. Both features were cut by F14.

Graves F8, F9, F13 and F16 were excavated, but no human remains were revealed.



Photograph 3 T3 trench shot – looking south

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) consisting of only six sherds with a weight of 164g (Table 1).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
Pottery	4	28	7
CBM	2	136	68
All	6	164	27

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM

Roman pottery

Two sherds (18g) of Roman oxidised (fabric DJ) and shell-tempered (fabric HD) pottery were recovered from graves F19 and F22.

Medieval pottery

One sherd (6g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21), dating to AD 1200-1550, was retrieved from grave F21.

Modern pottery

Grave F17 produced one sherd (4g) of modern Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D).

Ceramic building material (CBM)

The CBM consists of a fragment (71g) of Roman imbrex from grave F16 and a fragment (65g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile from grave F17.

6.2 Flints

by Tabitha Lawrence

One worked flint was recovered from grave F9. In what follows, the attributes of the flint will be described and discussed. The analysis of this flint has been completed in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2020b). The principal works cited include *Prehistoric Flintwork* (Butler 2005) and the *Classification of Lithic Artefacts from the British Late Glacial and Holocene Periods* (Ballin 2021). The worked flint was collected during hand-excavation. The measurement of flakes follows the methodology as devised by Saville (1980) and outlined by Butler (2005).

The piece is a retouched flake produced on dark grey flint. The flake exhibits semi-abrupt retouch on the ventral face. The bulb of percussion also exhibits damage on the ventral face, most likely from the knapping process itself. The flake is not closely datable and was a residual find within post-medieval grave F9.

Context	Find no.	Context type	Flint type	Cortex %	Hard/ soft hammer	Platform prep	Modification
F9	1	Grave	Retouched flake	10	Hard	No	Semi-abrupt retouch on left lateral edge of the ventral face

Table 2 Worked flint by context

7 Human Bone

by Megan Beale

Introduction

Excavations at this site revealed 24 likely inhumations, seven of which were partially excavated to confirm they were graves. Of these seven, bone had not survived in three (F9, F13, F16). A small quantity of disarticulated bone was also recovered from L4.

Methods

Osteological assessment followed guidelines by ClfA (Mitchell & Brickley 2018) and the APABE (2017) and was conducted on-site. Inhumations were assessed *in situ*, and disarticulated remains reburied during the backfill of the trench after assessment. Age assessment was made according to bone length and epiphyseal fusion, using methods in Schaefer *et al* (2009) and Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994). Bones were measured *in situ*. Where possible, sex estimation was carried out according to femoral and humeral head diameters (Milner & Boldsen 2012).

Disarticulated remains were weighed in a finds bag on site and were not washed. Skeletal elements were noted and the above methodologies for sex and age estimates were conducted. All remains were scanned for any notable pathologies, but poor bone preservation made this difficult.

Bone was graded according to its condition. The grades have been given as per Table 3.

Grade	Description
1	Very poor condition; extensive wear of bone cortex and heavy fragmentation
2	Poor condition; extensive wear of bone cortex and some fragmentation
3	Average condition; slight wear of bone cortex with minimal fragmentation
4	Good condition; slight wear of bone cortex or minimal fragmentation
5	Very good condition; no wear of bone cortex or fragmentation

Table 3 Grades of condition of human bone.

Where exact age ranges could not be made, age groups were given, as in Table 4, which gives a broader age range

Age group	Age range
Foetal	<birth
Infant	birth-3 years old
Child	3-12 years old
Adolescent	12-20 years old
Young Adult	20-35 years old
Middle Adult	35-50 years old
Old Adult	50+ years old
Adult	18+ years old

Table 4 Age groups

Results

Grave F1 was not excavated, but a small section of the right femoral shaft was exposed during cleaning. The bone is incomplete and measured approximately 200mm long. No assessment can be made based on this small fragment alone. The surviving fragment had a condition grade of 2.

Excavation of grave F5 revealed partial femurs, which were both at least 200mm long. The lower third did not survive and was cut by F6. Based on the minimum length of the femurs, the individual was at least 3 years old. The size of the grave indicates a child or adolescent. The surviving bone had a condition grade of 1 and would be unlikely to survive lifting.

Partial skull fragments were exposed in the section of grave F6, but an assessment could not be made as the exposed section of bone was far too fragmented. The size of the grave indicates an infant or child. The fragments that could be seen had a condition grade of 1-2.

Excavation of grave F17 revealed a partial left femoral head and second left metacarpal. The epiphyses appeared fully fused on both bones, meaning the individual is at least 16 years old. The diameter of the femoral head was 47mm. This individual may have been an adolescent/adult male. The surviving bone fragments had a condition grade of 2.

Grave F24 appeared to be the most complete inhumation excavated, revealing a right ilium, femur and both tibiae and fibulae. Some tarsals were noted (i.e., at least both tali), but were in the trench section, and therefore continued beyond the limit of excavation (LOE). The measurement of the limbs estimates the individual to be between 5-7 years old. The surviving bone fragments had a condition grade of 2-3.

Disarticulated remains (finds no. 7) from L4 weighed a total of 1320g. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was estimated to be two due to the inclusion of juvenile and adult remains. Table 5 summarises the elements noted. A small quantity of bone within this was too fragmented to be identified and is therefore not included in the table. Bone condition across this context was 2-3.

Element	Number of fragments
Skull	2
Vertebrae (lumbar)	1
Ribs	2
Humerus	1
Ulna/radius	2
Metacarpals	1
Pelvis	2
Femurs	3
Femurs, juvenile	1
Tibias	3
Tibias, juvenile	1
Fibulas	1
Tarsals	3
Metatarsals	1

Table 5 Summary of skeletal elements from the disarticulated remains

Assessment of the remains estimates there is one child or adolescent (under 16 years old), and one adult (over 18 years old). The diameter of a humeral head indicates there is a female or adolescent of indeterminate sex from this context, which may be one of the two individuals mentioned.

No pathologies were noted in this assemblage.

Conclusion

The select burials excavated during trial-trenching at St Mary's Church, Rivenhall revealed the remains of five inhumed individuals, as well as at least two individuals from disarticulated remains. Bone preservation was generally poor, with only one burial with average bone preservation. Where bone could be assessed, all appeared to be children or adolescents. The size of 'empty' (no bone survival) or unexcavated burials typically also implied child burials. This may mean this area of the graveyard was at one point reserved for children.

Context	MNI	Age group	Age range	Sex
F1	1	I	I	I
F5	1	?child	3+ years	I
F6	1	?infant-child	0-12 years	I
F17	1	adolescent- y adult	12+ years	I or M
F24	1	child	5-7 years	I
L4 (7)	2	child-adolescent/adult	<16 years/18+ years	I/I or F

Table 6 Summary of osteological assessment (I=indeterminate)

8 Conclusion

Excavations at this site revealed 24 inhumation burials, seven of which were partially excavated to determine whether they were graves with all human remains left *in situ*. F5 was found to contain the partial remains of a child or adolescent, F17 contained the remains of an adolescent or adult male and F24 contained the remains of a child aged 5-7 years. The excavation of F6 revealed parts of a skull in section; the condition of bone prevented assessment but size of

grave implied they were the remains of an infant or child. Neither of the three other graves contained any human remains, but their size too implied that they were child burials. All of the graves likely dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods, during which time this section of the cemetery was apparently given over to infant and child burials.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Oliver Clarke and Rivenhall & Silver End PCC for commissioning and funding the project. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner and M Beale. Figures were compiled by C Lister and M Beale. The project was monitored for the DAC by David Andrews.

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

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11 Abbreviations and glossary

Anglo-Saxon	period from c AD 500 – 1066
APABE	Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England
articulate	two or more sections of bone connected at a joint location
BABAO	British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology
Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CifA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
DAA	Diocesan Advisory Committee
DAC	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor
disarticulate	the separation of bone at the joint location
epiphyseal fusion	fusion of the epiphyses (end sections of long bones) that occur during specific points of childhood
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
inhumation	a burial or buried individual
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
long bones	the leg and arm bones; femur, tibia, fibula, humerus, radius and ulna
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from c 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
pathology	the study of disease
PCC	Parochial Church Council
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
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

12 Contents of archive

Finds: All human remains were either left *in situ* or (if disarticulated) reburied on site. All other finds were discarded.

Digital:

CAT Report 2048
 CAT written scheme of investigation
 Digital photographs
 Site data
 Survey data

13 Archive deposition

The 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 the Archaeology Data Service (digital archive).

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Distribution list:

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Rivenhall & Silver End PCC

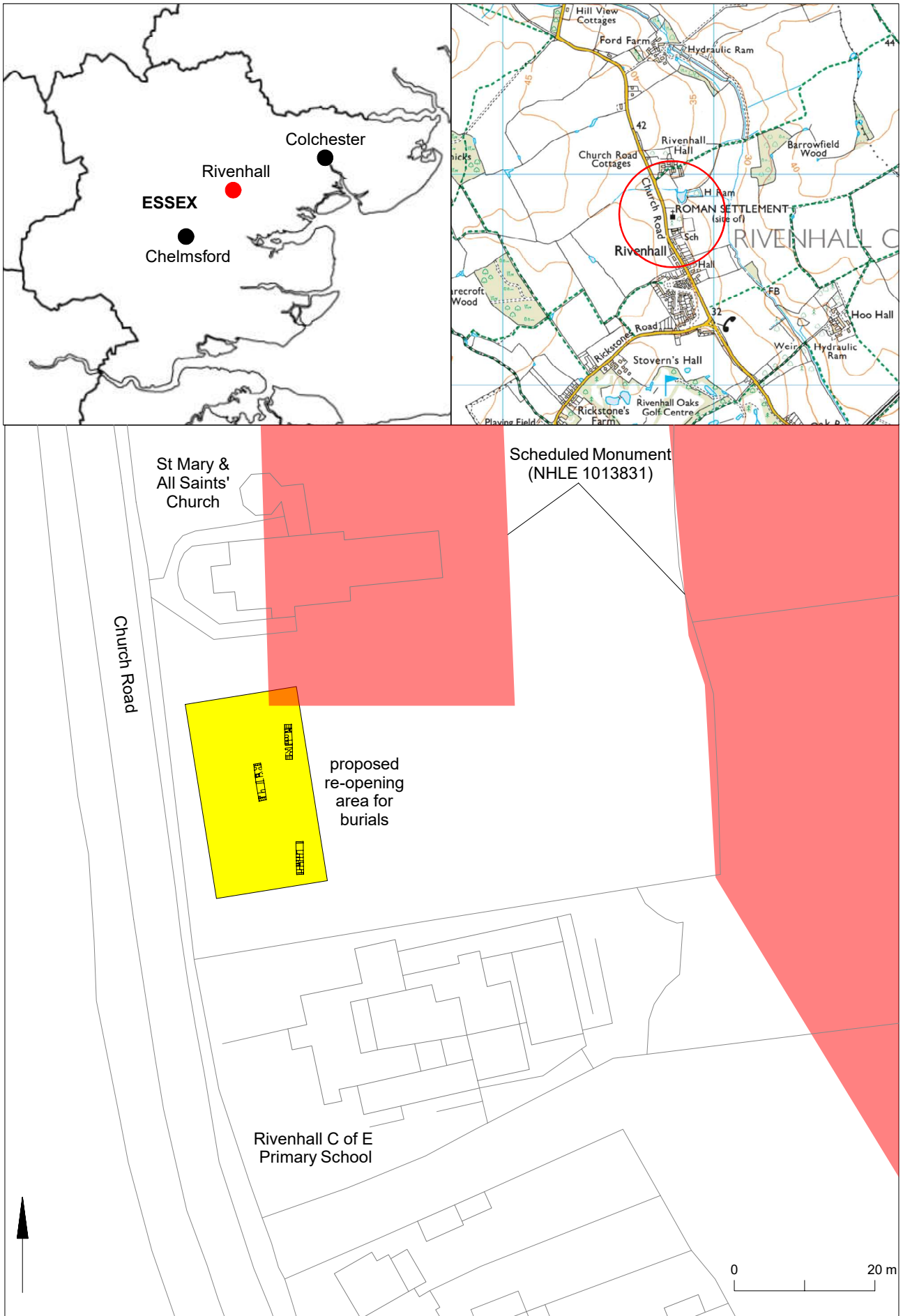
David Andrews, Diocesan Archaeological Advisor for the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches).

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Trench no.	Finds no.	Interpretation	Context information	Period
L1	All	-	Topsoil	Firm, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with CBM pieces and 5% stones. 0.19-0.39m thick.	Modern
L2	T2 & T3	-	Subsoil	Friable/firm, dry medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt and 15% stones. 0.11-0.26m thick.	Undated
L3	All	-	Natural	Firm, dry medium orange clay with 20% stones. 0.38-0.7m bctl.	Post-glacial
L4	T1	7	Accumulation	Soft, moist medium/dark yellow/grey/brown clayey-loam with CBM flecks and 5% stones. 0.39-0.41m thick.	Post-medieval
F1	2	-	Grave	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 5% stones. Exposed extent 0.64m by 1.08m; excavated to a depth of 0.6m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F2	2	-	Grave	Friable dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 5% stones. Exposed extent 0.61m by 0.39m; excavated to a depth of 0.6m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F3	2	-	Grave	Soft, medium/dark grey/brown sandy-clayey-loam. Exposed extent 0.38m by 0.35m; excavated to a depth of 0.45m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F4	2	-	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark orange/grey/brown sandy-clayey-loam. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.4m by 0.4m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F5	2	-	Grave	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 5% stones. Exposed extent 0.59m by 0.48m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F6	2	-	Grave	Soft/friable, dry/moist dark grey/brown clayey-silt. Exposed extent 0.64m by 0.57m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F7	3	-	Grave	Friable, dry medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 10% stones. Exposed extent 0.57m by 0.7m; excavated to a depth of 0.3m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F8	3	-	Grave	Soft/friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 10% stones. Exposed extent 0.7m by 0.39m; 0.55m deep.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F9	3	1	Grave	Soft/friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown loamy-clayey-silt. Exposed extent 0.45m by 1m; 0.64m deep.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F10	3	-	Grave	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 10% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.52m by 1m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F11	3	2	Grave	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 10% stones. Exposed extent 1m by 1.07m; excavated to a depth of 0.33m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F12	3	-	Grave	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown loamy-clayey-silt. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.4m by 1m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F13	3	-	Grave	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 10% stones. Exposed extent 0.61m by 0.54m; excavated to a depth of 0.3m..	Medieval/ post-medieval
F14	3	-	Grave	Friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown	Medieval/

				clayey-silt with 10% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.55m by 0.51m.	post-medieval
F15	3	-	Grave	Soft/friable, dry medium/dark grey/brown clayey-silt with 10% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.38m by 0.3m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F16	3	3	Grave	Soft/friable, dry/moist medium/dark grey/brown loamy-clayey-silt with 10% stones. Exposed extent 0.49m by 1m; 0.84m deep.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F17	1	4	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark yellow-orange/ grey-brown clayey-loam with 20% stones. Exposed extent 0.55m by 1m; 0.25m deep.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F18	1	-	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-loam with 10% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.4m by 0.41m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F19	1	-	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-loam. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.5m by 0.41m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F20	1	-	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-loam with 10% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.47m by 0.43m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F21	1	5	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey loam with 20% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.37m by 1m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F22	1	6	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-loam with 20% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.34m by 0.5m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F23	1	-	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-loam with 20% stones. Not excavated. Exposed extent 0.35m by 0.54m.	Medieval/ post-medieval
F24	1	-	Grave	Soft, moist medium/dark grey/brown clayey-loam. Exposed extent 0.46m by 1m; 0.2m deep.	Medieval/ post-medieval



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Fig 1 Site location and trench plan.

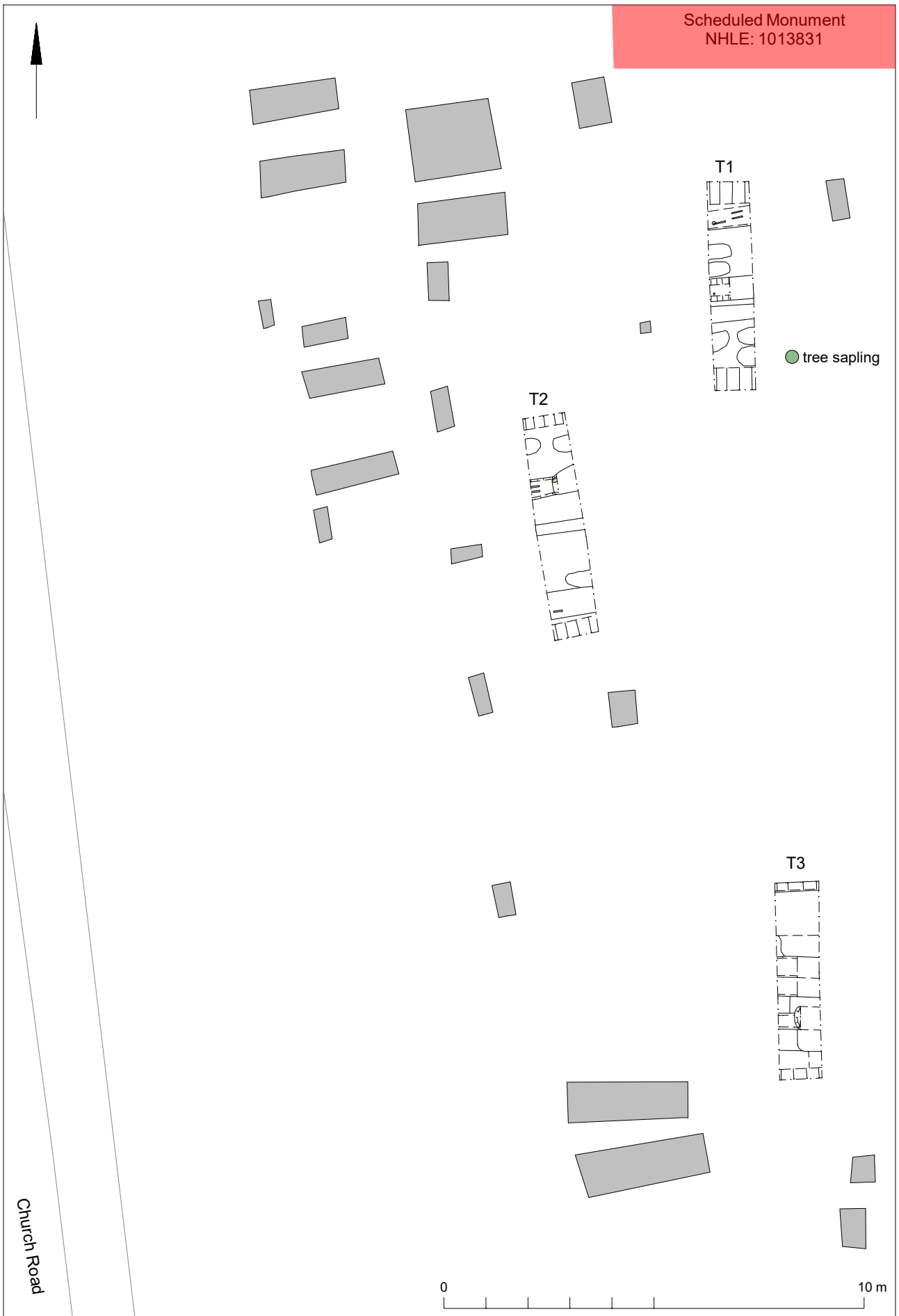


Fig 2 Evaluation results.
 Grey indicates select gravestones/grave markers.

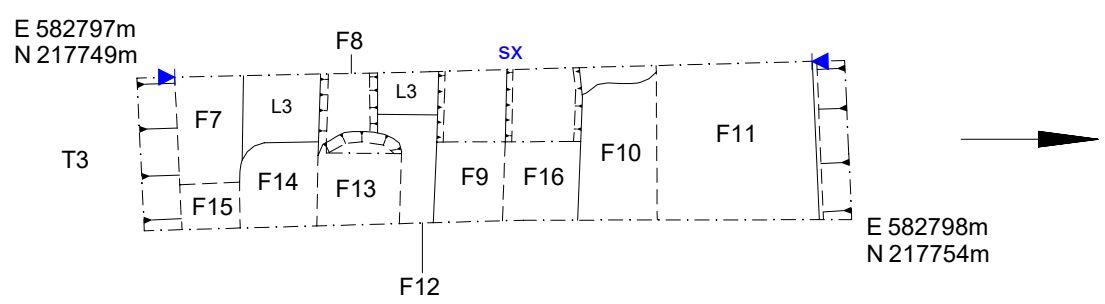
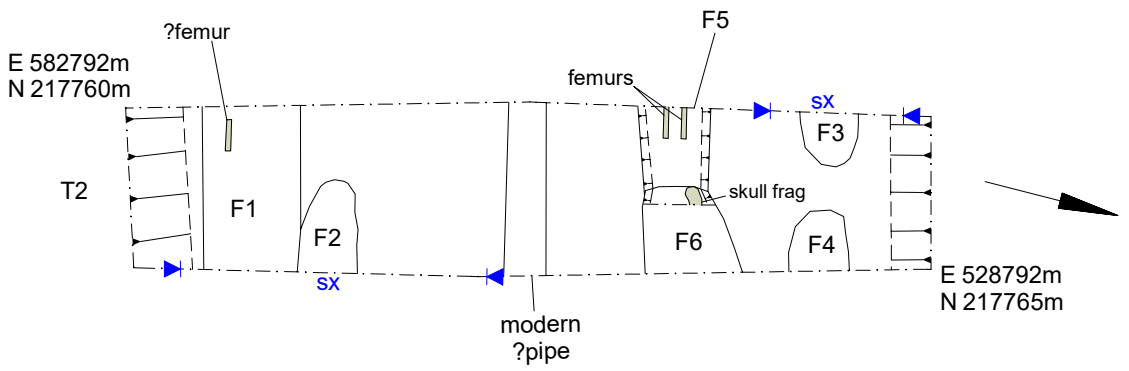
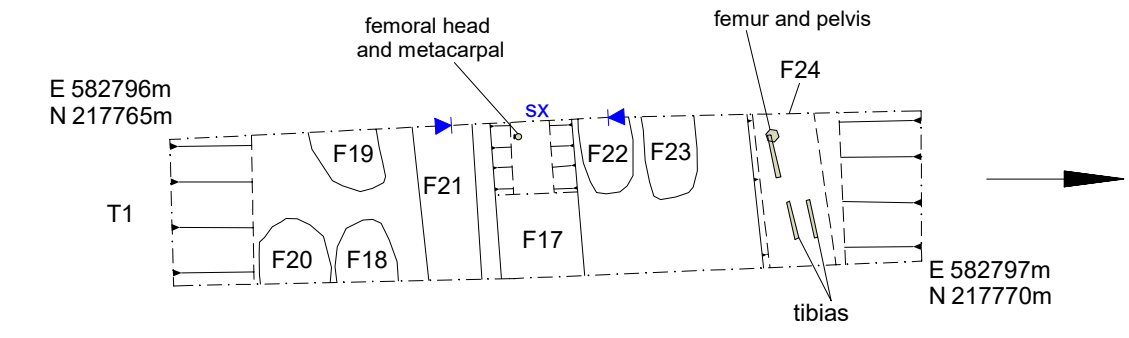


Fig 3 Trench results in detail.
Beige indicates human bone exposed.

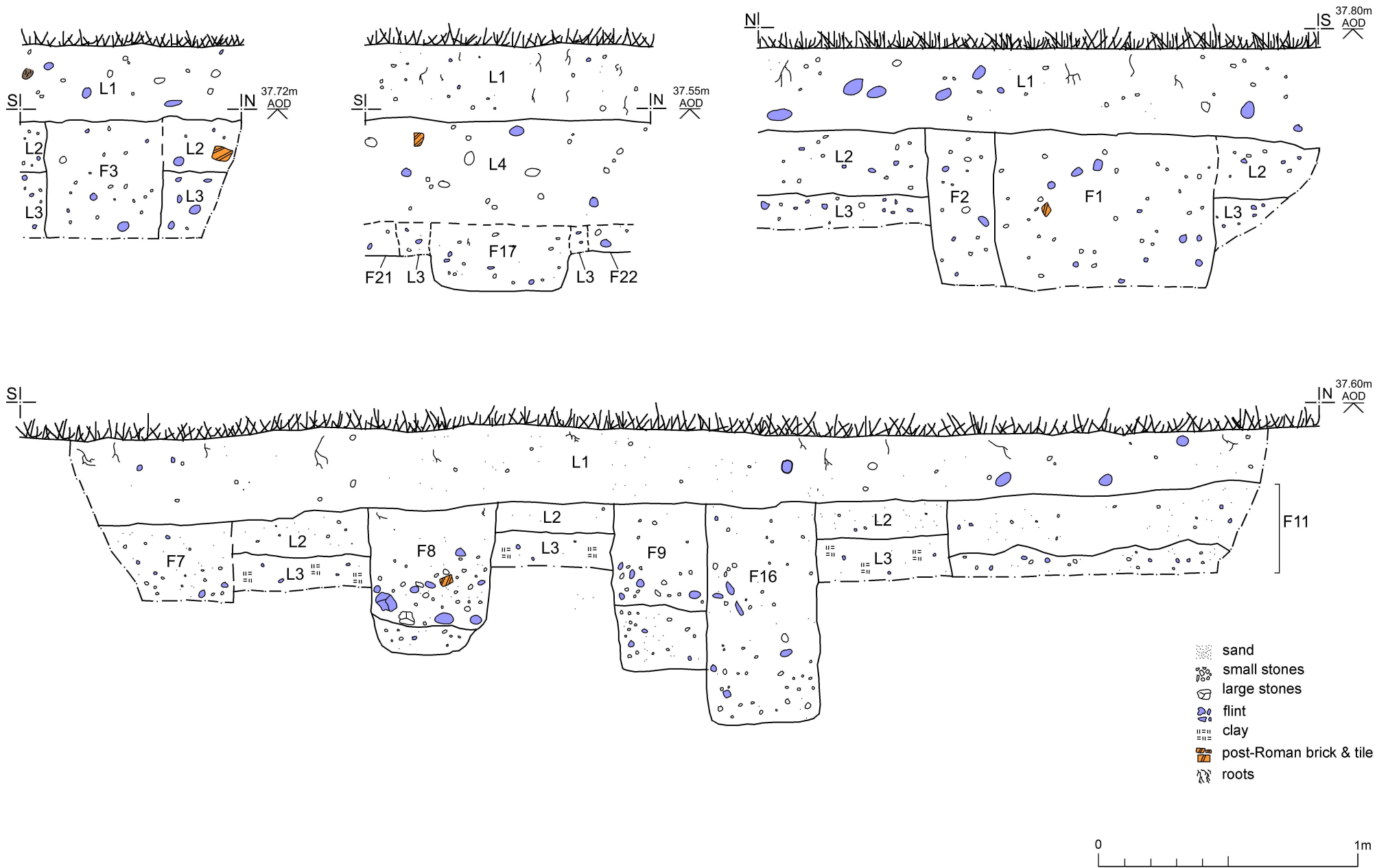


Fig 4 Feature and representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-524017

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-524017
Project Name	Evaluation at St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rivenhall, Essex, CM8 3PQ
Sitename	St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rivenhall, Essex, CM8 3PQ
Sitecode	RHSM24
Project Identifier(s)	2024/03d
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Ecclesiastical consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	17-Apr-2024 - 19-Apr-2024
Location	St Mary's Church, Church Road, Rivenhall, Essex, CM8 3PQ NGR : TL 82908 17780 LL : 51.828687367646424, 0.652955488991462 12 Fig : 582908,217780
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Braintree Parish : Rivenhall
Project Methodology	An archaeological evaluation was carried out under conditions specified by the Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee and a WSI produced by CAT.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (three trial-trenches) was carried out at St Mary's Church, Rivenhall in advance of re-opening an area of the churchyard for new burials. A Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1013831) to the north of the church includes a Roman villa, as well as the remains of an Anglo-Saxon church and cemetery, and church itself has its origins in the medieval period. Some 24 burials – mostly of children and infants and likely dating to the medieval or post-medieval period – were recorded during the evaluation and left in situ.
Keywords	Cemetery - MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Cemetery - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Religious body Rivenhall and Silver End PCC
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - RHSM24
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;