

Colchester Archaeological Trust



CAT Report 2049
issued May 2024

Archaeological monitoring and recording at
16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1TZ:
April-May 2024



CAT project ref.: 2024/04d
ECC code: CGAP24

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1TZ:
April-May 2024**

NGR: TL 85259 22739 (centre)

**Planning district.: Braintree
Planning ref.: 24/00082/FUL**

**CAT project ref.: 2024/04d
CAT Report 2049**

**ECC code: CGAP24
OASIS id: colchest3-524484**

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**Commissioned by: Brian Kavanagh
On behalf of: KMC4Management**

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Issued:	08/05/2024	

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling with car port and associated services. A modern soakaway was identified during the works, but no archaeological remains were noted.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at 16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex which was carried out on 29th April to 1st May 2024. The work was commissioned by Brian Kavanagh on behalf of KMC4Management, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks for the demolition of an existing bungalow and the construction of a new three-bedroom detached dwelling with car port and associated services.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS). This recommendation was for an archaeological monitoring and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2023).

No archaeological brief was produced, but in consultation with Teresa O'Conner of ECCPS a written scheme of investigation (WSI) (CAT 2024) was prepared by CAT in response to her recommendation and agreed before groundworks began.

In addition to the project Brief and 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, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2020a-b, 2022, 2023a-b),
- 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 2024).

3 Geological and Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the archaeological Brief, Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER numbers, which are accessible via the Heritage Gateway website (www.heritagegateway.org.uk)).

The Geology of Britain viewer (1:50,000 scale¹) shows the bedrock geology of the site is comprised of London clay formation (bioturbated or poorly laminated, blue-grey or grey- brown, slightly calcareous, silty to very silty clay, clayey silt and sometimes silt, with some layers of sandy clay). There are no superficial deposits across the north-western half of the site, but the south-eastern half has superficial deposits of Head (poorly sorted and poorly stratified, angular rock debris and/or clayey hillwash and soil creep, mantling a hillslope and deposited by solifluction and gelifluction processes).

The site lies within the medieval and post-medieval town of Coggeshall. The monks of Coggeshall Abbey were granted charters for a fair in 1250, and a market in 1256. The market was established at the junction of Stane Street with local roads to the south and north, and settlement spread from that centre along the roads. It is possible that the area around the church, half a mile north-east of the marketplace, may have been an earlier nucleus, deserted in favour of the main roadside site, either at the time of the market's establishment or earlier. Coggeshall benefited from the late medieval prosperity of the East Anglian cloth industry and was known for a fine bay cloth known as Coggeshall White. The leading family was that of

¹ British Geological Survey – <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/?>

Paycocke and they, and the late medieval prosperity, have left two main monuments, the church with its Paycocke Chapel (ECC 8712) and Paycocke's House in West Street. The cloth trade continued to prosper during the 16th and 17th centuries, with decline in the wool trade by the end of the 17th century. The mid-19th century saw the establishment of luxury textile industries tambour lace and silk. This industry ended in 1890 (ECC 8724). There are a large number of historic buildings surviving in Coggeshall protected as heritage assets by Historic England.

In 1984 Essex County Council's Archaeology Section carried out archaeological work prior to the construction of St Peter's Church of England School (Clarke, C.P. 1988). Area A involved trenches within the areas of the new playing field, playground, and the school itself. Earliest features included Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age square four-post structures with adjacent pits (ECC 8728). The Roman remains recorded have been interpreted as four phases of Roman occupation within the eastern edge of a sizeable settlement. Key Roman features included a substantial north-south ditch with a parallel gully, gullies, trackways, a large irregular hollow that may represent quarrying, burials, and pits (ECC 8729). Artefacts recovered included Roman pottery, metalwork, stone, glass, painted wall plaster, burnt clay and daub as well as a substantial amount of Roman tile, which indicate that a substantial Roman building is located near to the site. Further activity has been investigated to the south of the site (EHER 8729, Flook, R 1988), close to East Street, which was the line of Stane Street, a Roman road leading to Colchester (EHER 8646).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify, excavate and record any archaeological contexts revealed during the works.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 63m of foundation trench was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were c 0.45-0.60m wide, c 1.20-1.80m deep, and were cut through a topsoil (L1, c 0.21m thick) which sealed a subsoil layer (L2, c 0.34m thick) and into natural geology (L3). Natural was encountered at a depth of c 0.55m below current ground level. The site had been stripped down c 0.3m prior to the foundations being excavated, although only L1 and the footings of the former bungalow were removed.

A modern ?soakaway (F1) was identified in the north-western extent of the foundation trenches. F1 had been backfilled with modern terracotta flowerpots and glass bottles, these were not retained for post-excavation analysis. The edges of the feature were not visible in either section of the foundation trench.



Photograph 1 Foundation trenches with F1, looking south-west



Photograph 2 Foundation trenches, looking south-east



Photograph 3 Foundation trenches, looking east-north-east, showing depth of topsoil stripped prior to work starting.

The foundation for the car port would not be dug any deeper than the horizon of topsoil (B Kavanagh, pers comm), so it was not monitored.

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an area of archaeological potential, only a modern ?soakaway was identified during the monitoring.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Brian Kavanagh and KMC4Management for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, L Pooley and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by B Rae-Quinn. Figures are by B Rae-Quinn and S Veasey. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

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 | 2024 | <i>Health & Safety Policy.</i> Colchester Archaeological Trust. |
| ClfA | 2020a | <i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020. |
| ClfA | 2020b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> ClfA Chartered Institute for |

		Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.
ClfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.
ClfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
ClfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording</i> . ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
Clarke, C.P.	1988	Roman Coggeshall: excavations 1984-85. <i>Essex Archaeology and History, Volume 19, 47-90</i> . By C. P. Clarke
Flook, R	1988	The old St Peter's School site, Coggeshall excavations 1987. <i>Essex Archaeology and History, Volume 19, 272-4</i> . By R Flook
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).
MHCLG	2023	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

10 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
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
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

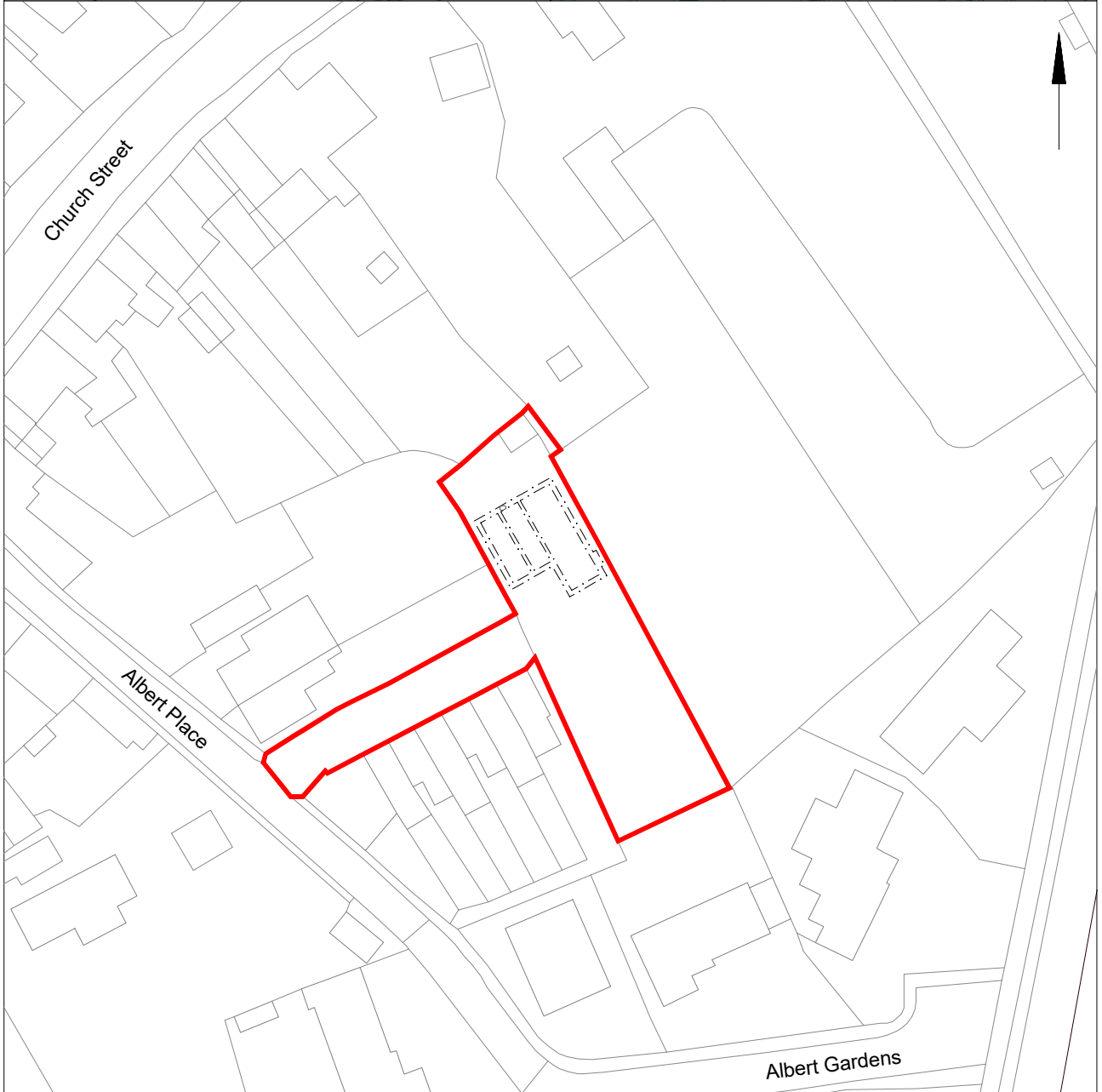
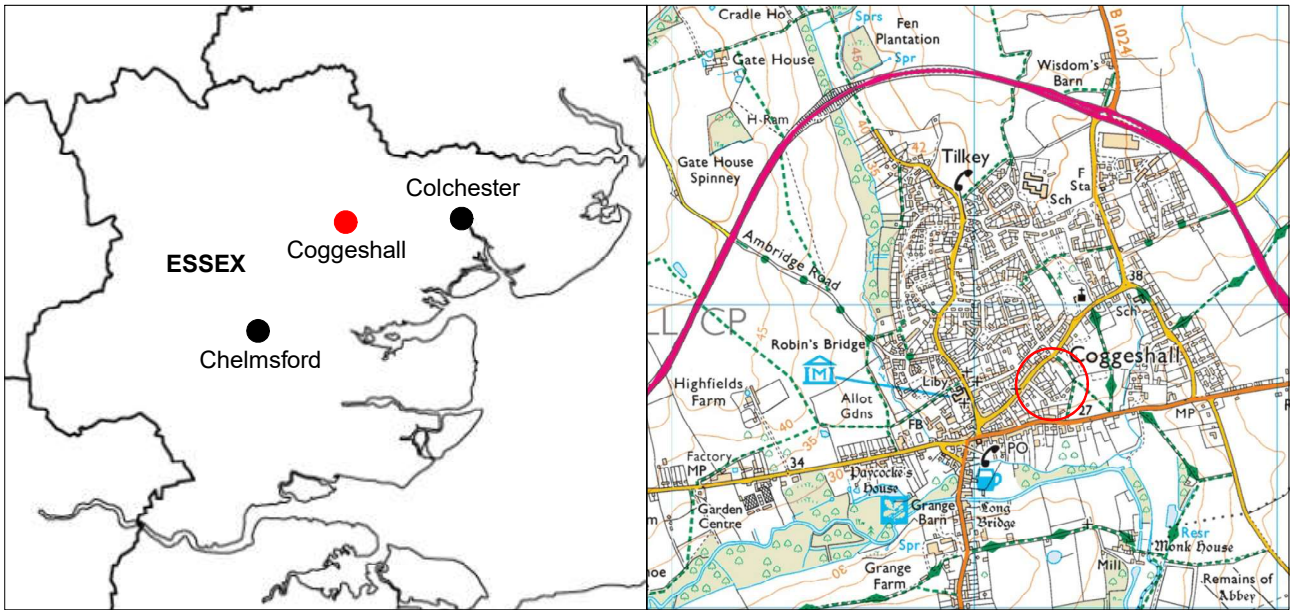
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Distribution list:

KMC4Management
Teresa O'Connor, Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

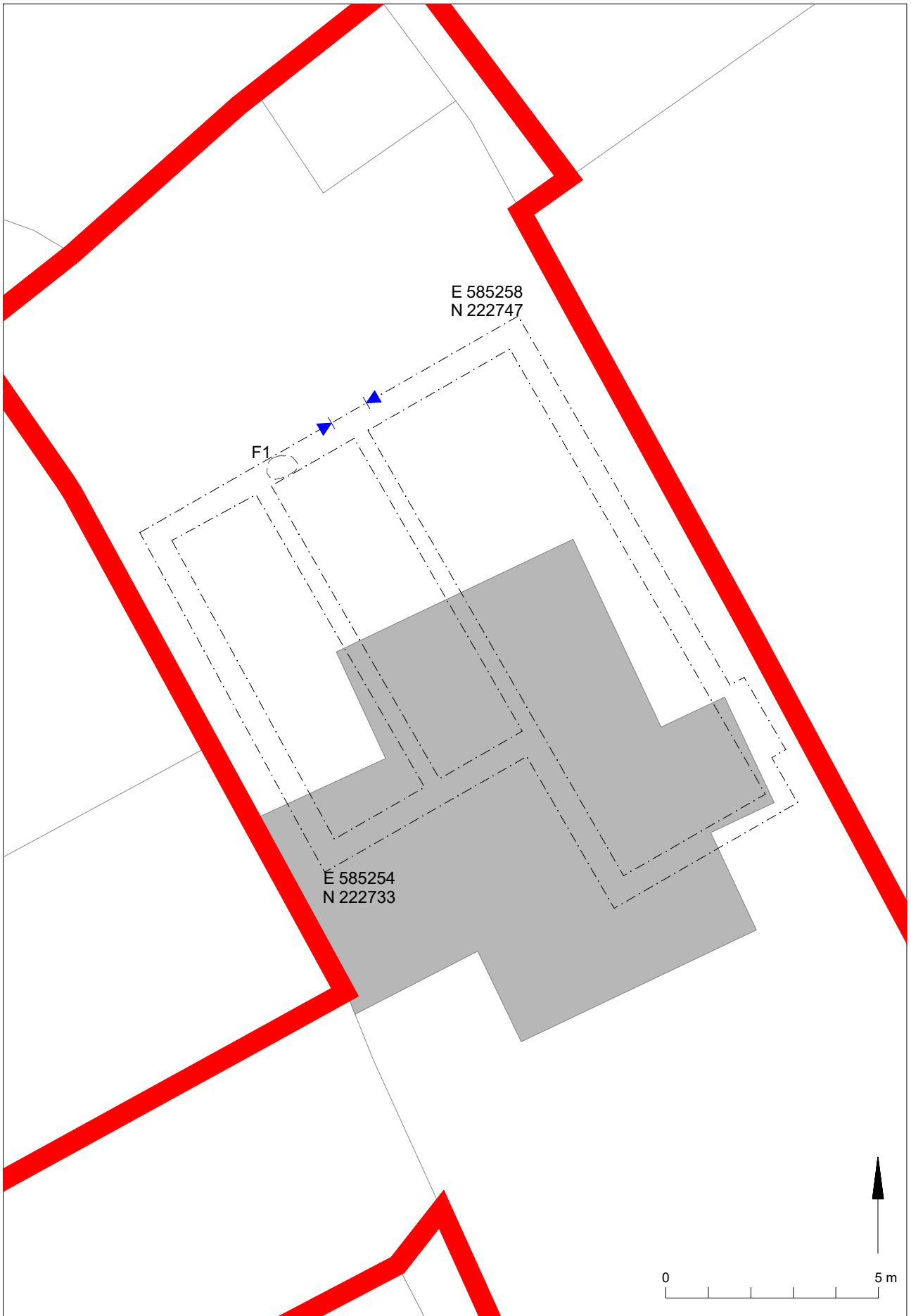
Context	Finds No.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Moist/wet, friable, dark grey/brown sandy clay with inclusions of modern brick and tile, glass and metal	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Moist, friable, mid brown/grey silty clay with some inclusions of modern brick and tile	Modern
L3	-	Natural	Firm, moist medium orange sands and gravels overlying chalk rich boulder clay	Post-glacial
F1	-	?Soakaway	Soft, mid brown/grey silty clay with frequent modern pottery and glass	Modern



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Fig 1 Site location.





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Fig 2 Results. Footprint of demolished bungalow in grey.

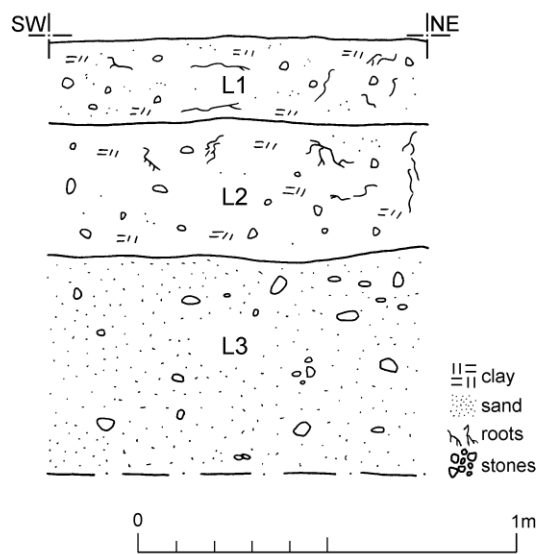


Fig 3 Representative section.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-524484

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-524484
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1TZ.
Sitename	16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1TZ.
Sitecode	
Project Identifier(s)	2024/04d
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	24/00082/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	29-Apr-2024 - 01-May-2024
Location	16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex, CO6 1TZ. NGR : TL 85259 22739 LL : 51.87245022252584, 0.689688139661664 12 Fig : 585259,222739
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Braintree Parish : Coggeshall
Project Methodology	All work was undertaken in accordance with the ECC Brief and CAT's WSI.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 16 Albert Place, Coggeshall, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a new dwelling with car port and associated services. A modern soakaway was identified during the works, but no archaeological remains were noted.
Keywords	
Funder	Private individual
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	L Pooley, C Lister, A Wightman
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - CGAP24
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;