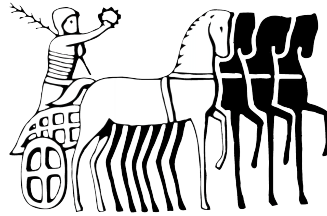


Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 2114
issued December 2024**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford,
Essex, CO11 2JX: November 2024**



**CAT project ref.: 2024/091
ECC code: EEX60292**

**Archaeological monitoring and recording at
St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford,
Essex, CO11 2JX: November 2024**

NGR: TM 08896 31569 (centre)

**CAT project ref.: 2024/09I
CAT Report 2114
OASIS id: colchest3-528388**

**Diocese: Chelmsford
Diocesan Archaeological Advisor: David Andrews**

**Planning reference: 23/00821/FUL & 24/01445/NMA
ECC monitor: Teresa O'Connor
ECC code: EEX60292**

**report prepared by Xander Smith,
with contributions from Megan Beale,
Dr Matthew Loughton and Laura Pooley**

fieldwork by Xander Smith

**commissioned by Tony Auger of Rose Builders
on behalf of Rose Builders**

Prepared by:	Xander Smith	Senior Site Assistant
Reviewed by:	Laura Pooley	Post-excavation Manager
Reviewed and approved by:	Howard Brooks	Senior Associate
Issued:	12/12/2024	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: services@catuk.org

web: www.catuk.org

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Mary The Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Essex in advance of the construction of a new heating plant for the church. Approximately 84m of trenching was excavated along with a small pit. No in situ burials or archaeological features were impacted by the groundworks, but some disarticulated human bone was recovered and left on site for reburial.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Essex between 18th-22nd November 2024. The work was commissioned by Tony Auger of Rose Builders in advance of a proposed new heating plant on the south side of the churchyard.

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 the applicant would 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 *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at St Marys Church, Lawford*, written by the DAA (Andrews 2024). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (2024a) in response to the brief and approved by the DAA in advance of the groundworks.

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* (CIfA 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 2024b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of the Brief (Andrews 2024), CAT Report 510 and information from the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

St Mary's Church (EHER 17695-6 & EHER 34603) is a Grade I listed building (NHLE 1261462) which has a notable chancel of largely 14th-century work in the Decorated style with rich carvings (RCHME 1922, 151-2). Parts of the nave, south porch and tower also date from the 14th century (*ibid*). The tower was rebuilt in the 16th and 17th centuries following partial collapse. A north aisle was added to the nave in 1826 (*ibid*). This had a gallery which has since been removed. The interior, the church walls and the roof were restored later in the 19th century. A large extension was built on the northern side of the church in 1991. During construction work for the extension six coins were recorded including a probable 16th-century Nuremburg-type jeton (EHER 17695).

A watching brief at the church in February 2009 was carried out by CAT during the installation of a new under-floor heating system (CAT Report 510). The archaeological investigation was limited as excavation did not exceed 0.35m below floor level. Despite this, significant archaeological remains were uncovered. In the north arcade an east-west foundation was comprised of unmortared septaria blocks in brownish-yellow sand and gravel. This was thought to be part of the medieval foundation for the north wall of the nave, which was demolished when

the north aisle was added in 1826. Similar deposits of gravelly sand and unmortared septaria blocks were also observed in several holes dug by the contractors on the southern and western walls within the nave, and probably represent the lower part of the nave foundations. Finds recovered from the site included some glazed tile fragments, animal bone and disarticulated human bone.

Adjacent to the church is Lawford Hall, the site of a possible deserted village. Cropmarks of linear features have been recorded (EHER 17785). Banks and ditches were visible in 1977, and part of the graveyard is thought to encroach into the site (EHER 2713). Near Lawford Hall, a Romano-British enamelled harness/belt fitting was found in 1988 (EHER 17692).

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits exposed during the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

All groundworks were carried out under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Approximately 84m of trenching was excavated, ranging from 0.4-0.5m wide and 0.5-0.9m deep, and including a pit 2.2m by 1.5m and 0.9m deep (see Table 1).

	Northern trench	Eastern trench	Eastern pit	Central trench	Southern trench	Southwestern trench
Depth	0.5m	0.75-0.85m	0.9m	0.6 - 0.9m	0.5m	0.5m
Width	0.4m	0.5m	2.2 x 1.5m	0.5m	0.5m	0.4m

Table 1 Depths and widths of excavated trenches.

Across the site modern topsoil (L1, c 0.4 – 0.64m thick) sealed a post-medieval burial soil (numbered L2 in the southern and southwestern trenching and recorded at over 0.1m thick; numbered L3 in the central and eastern trenching and recorded at over 0.24m thick).

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	1, 2, 5, 6	Topsoil	Firm moist dark grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks and inclusions of: stone 1%. 0.4-0.64m thick.	Modern
L2	3	Burial soil	Same as L3. Friable moist medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks. >0.1m thick.	Post-medieval
L3	4, 7	Burial soil	Same as L2. Friable moist very dark grey/brown sandy silt with brick flecks, tile flecks. >0.24m thick.	Post-medieval

Table 2 Context information.

No archaeological features or burials were impacted by the groundworks, but some disarticulated human bone was recovered from the northern and central section of trenching.

Various modern services were also encountered across the site, most cutting L1 with one cutting L3.



Photograph 1 The northern trench, view west.



Photograph 2 The northern trench, view west.



Photograph 3 The northern trench, view south.



Photograph 4 The southern trench, view north-west.



Photograph 5 The eastern pit and trench, view west.



Photograph 6 The central and northern trench, view north.



Photograph 7 The central trench, view east.



Photograph 8 The southwestern trench, view east.

6 Human remains

by Megan Beale

Disarticulated human bone was recovered from two contexts during monitoring at St Mary's Church. All bone was left on site to be reburied and the following assessment is based on photographs only.

Age was estimated using a combination of methods as per Schaefer *et al* (2009) and general size for estimating adults from juveniles. Sex could not be estimated from photos alone, and no pathologies were noted as the bone was too muddy.

L1 (finds no. 6)

A total of 91 fragments were recovered from L1 (Table 3). The minimum number of individuals (MNI) is estimated to be four individuals. At least one adult, one child, one infant and one foetus were identified.

Element	Fragment count
Cranium	26
Vertebrae	3
Ribs	17
Humerii	2
Femurs	5
Tibias	5
Fibulas	1
Metatarsals	2
Lower Limb	1
Unknown	29

Table 3 Human bone elements identified from L1 (finds no. 6).

L3 (finds no. 7)

A total of 41 fragments were recovered from L3 (Table 4). The MNI is estimated to be four individuals. At least one adult, two children (2-4 years and 3-6 years old), and one infant (1-3 years) were identified in this context. Sex could not be estimated for the adult.

Element	Fragment count
Cranium	16
Mandible	2
Clavicle	1
Ribs	5
Humerii	4
Radii	1
Metacarpals	2
Femurs	3
Tibias	1
Metatarsals	1
Unknown	5

Table 4 Human bone elements identified from L3 (finds no. 7).

7 Finds

7.1 Pottery and ceramic building material

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Monitoring uncovered a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 21 sherds with a weight of 2.3kg, EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) of 0.47 and mean sherd weight (MSW) of 110g (Table 5). None of this material has been retained.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	13	795	61	0.47
CBM	8	1,514	189	-
All	21	2,309	110	0.47

Table 5 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Post-medieval and modern pottery

Post-medieval and modern pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR 7* (Cotter 2000) (Table 6). The assemblage consisted of 13 sherds with a weight of 795g, EVE of 0.47 and MSW of 61g, all of which came from L1 (Table 7).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-1800/1900
F40A	Metropolitan slipware	1600-1800
F45M	Modern English stoneware	1800-2000
F48B	English porcelain	1800-2000
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	1800-2000
F51A	Late slipped kitchenware	1800-2000

Table 6 The pottery fabrics recorded from L1.

Fabric code	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	1	63	63	0.00
F40A	Metropolitan slipware	1	56	56	0.00
F45M	Modern English stoneware	3	363	121	0.33
F48B	English porcelain	1	7	7	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	6	141	24	0.14
F51A	Late slipped kitchenware	1	165	165	0.00
Total		13	795	61	0.47

Table 7 Summary of the post-medieval and modern pottery from L1.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

CBM consisted of seven fragments of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile with a weight of 883g and one brick fragment (631g). This material was recovered from three layers (Table 8).

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)
L1	Topsoil	4	711	178
L2	Burial soil	1	88	88

Context	Feature type	No.	Weight(g)	MSW (g)
L3	Burial soil	3	715	238
Total		8	1,514	189

Table 8 Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

7.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Finds from L1 included fragments of bottle glass, animal bone and an iron nail. They have been recorded in Table 9 and discarded.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L1	1	Animal bone: Cow tooth, 16.9g. Nail: Iron nail shank, round-sectioned, 4.1g.
L1	5	Glass: 1) Large base/body sherd from an olive-green wine bottle, 444.0g, post-medieval. 2) Neck with rubber stopper with 'A' on it, brown glass, 104.8g, modern. 3) Base and partial body of a straight-sided clear bottle, embossed on base W & A GILBEY L^D , 282.6g, modern.

Table 9 Miscellaneous finds from L1.

8 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at St Mary The Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Essex encountered a small assemblage of disarticulated human bone but no *in situ* burials or any other archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Tony Auger of Rose Builders for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by A Wightman and C Lister, with fieldwork carried out by X Smith. Figures were compiled by X Smith and C Hill. The project was monitored for the DAC by David Andrews and for ECC by Teresa O'Connor.

10 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
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| 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>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85,</i> by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAT | 2024a | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation for evaluation at archaeological monitoring and recording at St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford,</i> by E Holloway |
| CAT | 2024b | <i>Health & Safety Policy.</i> Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAT Report 510 | 2009 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at St Mary's Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Tendring, Essex: February 2009,</i> by D Shimmin. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |

ClfA	2020a	<i>Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.</i>
ClfA	2020b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2020.</i>
ClfA	2022	<i>Code of Conduct. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists; published 2014, revised 2022.</i>
ClfA	2023a	<i>Standard for archaeological monitoring and recording. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.</i>
ClfA	2023b	<i>Universal guidance for archaeological monitoring and recording. ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.</i>
Cotter, J P	2000	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.</i>
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Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE).</i>
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Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex from the Roman conquest to the Reformation. Chelmsford: Pat Ryan.</i>

11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
DAA	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor
DAC	Diocesan Advisory Committee
ECC	Essex County Council
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
EHHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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.
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
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 bone was reburied on site. All finds have been discarded.

Digital record:

CAT Report 2114

DAA brief; CAT WSI

Digital photographs

Survey data

Site data

13 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 the Archaeological Data Service (digital record).

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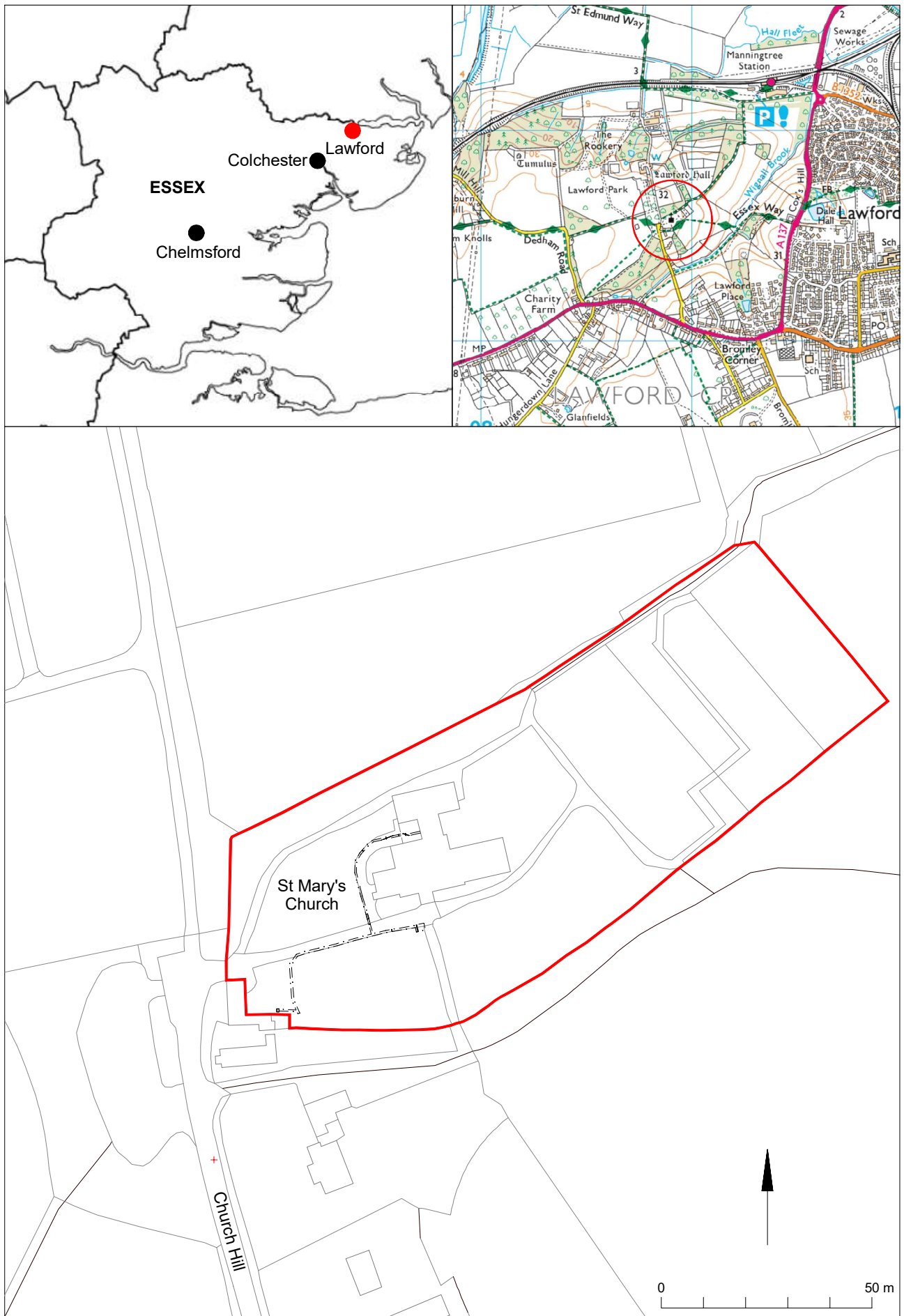
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Tony Auger, Rose Builders

David Andrews, Diocesan Archaeological Advisor

Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Fig 1 Site location.

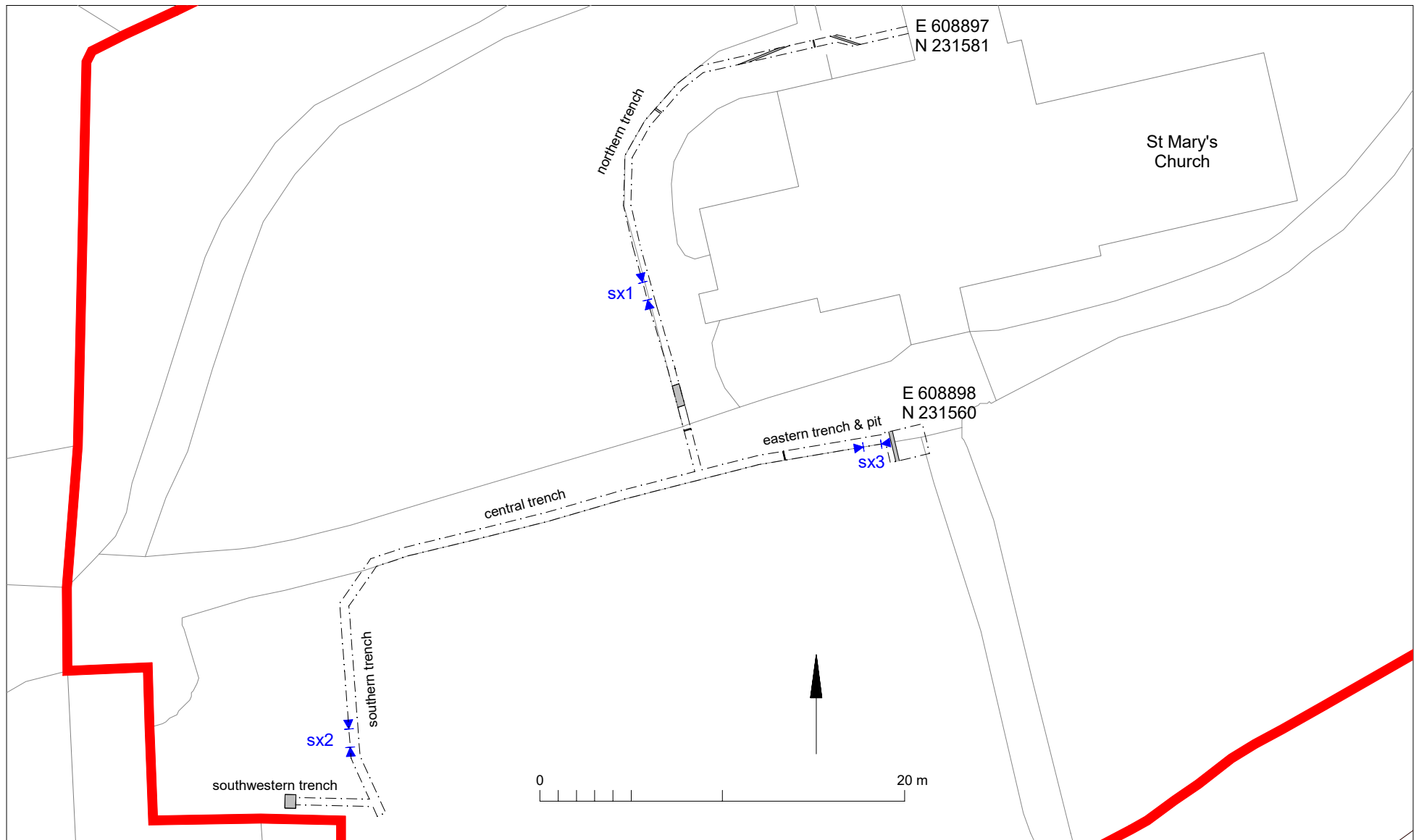


Fig 2 Results. All modern services in grey.

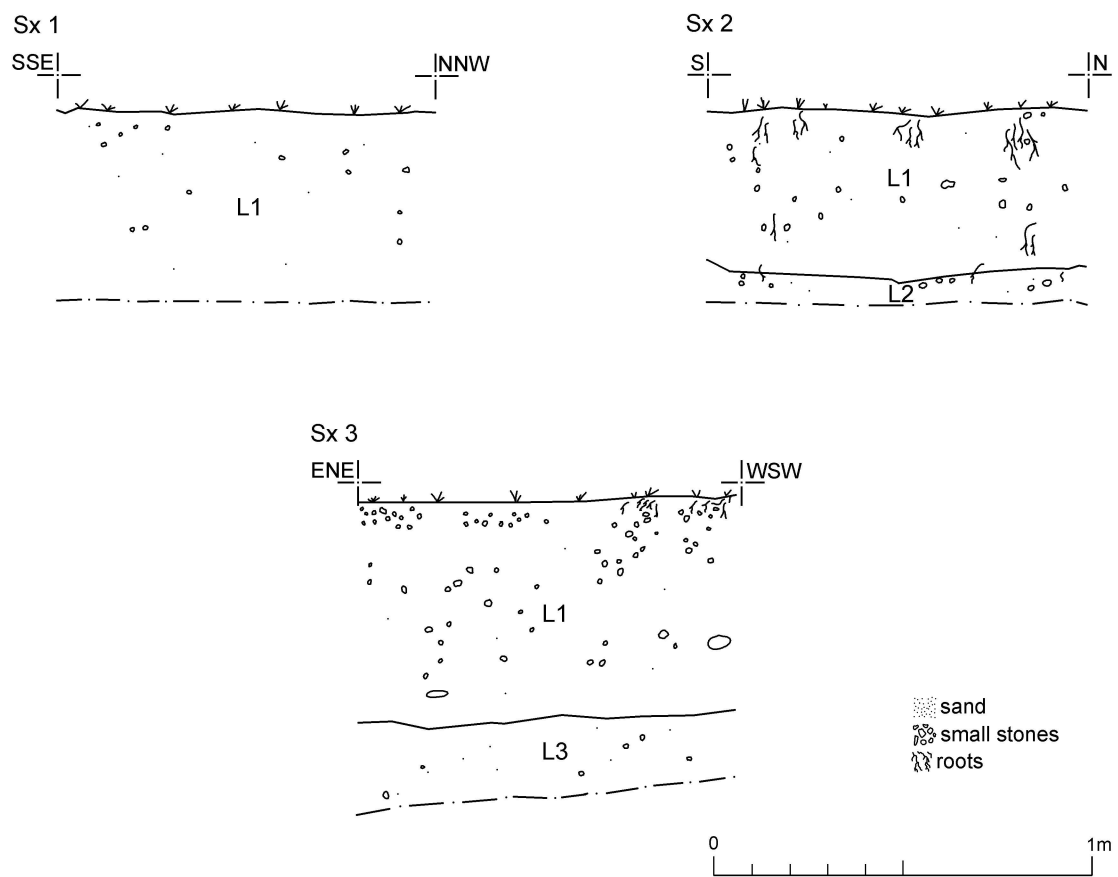


Fig 3 Representative sections.

OASIS Summary for colchest3-528388

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-528388
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2JX: November 2024
Sitename	St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2JX
Sitecode	EEX60292
Project Identifier(s)	2024/09L
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	23/00821/FUL, 24/01445/NMA
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	18-Nov-2024 - 22-Nov-2024
Location	St Mary the Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Essex, CO11 2JX NGR : TM 08896 31569 LL : 51.943384600104515, 1.037899785660832 12 Fig : 608896,231569
Administrative Areas	Country : England County/Local Authority : Essex Local Authority District : Tendring Parish : Lawford
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks as specified by the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at St Mary The Virgin Church, Church Hill, Lawford, Essex in advance of the construction of a new heating plant for the church. Approximately 84m of trenching was excavated along with a small pit. No in situ burials or archaeological features were impacted by the groundworks, but some disarticulated human bone was recovered and left on site for reburial.
Keywords	Human Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	Private or public corporation builders
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Adam Wightman, Chris Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - EEX60292
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;