

Archaeological evaluation on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF

November 2016



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figures by Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Jane Roberts and Alec Wade

on behalf of Tarry Moore, Alun Design

NGR: TL 56624 24179 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/16/2180/FUL

CAT project ref.: 16/10i

ECC code: TAWH16

Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2016.30

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CAT Report 1040
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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex in advance of an extension to the existing unit. Despite being located close to Waltham Hall and in an area of medieval remains, no significant archaeological features or horizons were present.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex carried out 22nd November 2016. The work was commissioned by Tarry Moore, Alun Design, in advance of the construction of an extension to the existing unit, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Richard Havis 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 an *Archaeological brief for trial trenching and excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Richard Havis (ECCPS 2016), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2016).

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 utilises the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford.

The EHER shows that the proposed development lies in a highly sensitive area close to the scheduled monument of Waltham Hall (EHER 4561). The scheduled monument comprises the remains of a medieval moated site containing the earlier hall associated with the complex at Waltham Hall. Excavations on the western side of the road as part of the Stansted Airport development have identified medieval remains of a 12th to 13th century date. Further deposits were identified during the Stansted G2 evaluation work around the development site. Any groundwork in this area is likely to destroy important archaeological deposits.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

The development site has previously been used as a dump for soil imported from the surrounding area. This dumped material was 1.5-2m thick and had been planted with trees, all of which had been removed prior to the evaluation.

Two trial-trenches were laid out in a T-shape within the footprint of the new extension, measuring 45m and 20m long by 1.8m wide. Both were machine excavated under archaeological supervision.

The trenches were excavated through the remnant of dumped material (L1, c 100-250mm thick, sand and silty-clay) onto a modern silty-clay buried topsoil/subsoil (L2, c 200-350mm thick) which sealed natural clay (L3).

No significant archaeological features or horizons were present. Modern disturbance and a drain were identified at the NW end of the trench. This disturbance was caused by the removal of a concrete road built by the US Air Force during WW2 around the perimeter of RAF Stansted Mountfitchet (now London Stansted).



Photograph 1 Trial-trench, looking NNW

5 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

6 Discussion

Despite being located close to Waltham Hall and in an area of medieval remains no significant archaeological features or horizons were present. The occurrence of modern topsoil/subsoil (L2) sealing natural may suggest that the site had been stripped in the recent past, possibly during works associated with the WW2 airfield (now London Stansted).

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Tarry Moore, Alun Design for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with J Roberts and A Wade. Figures are by BH and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Richard Havis.

8 References

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

CAT	2014	<i>Health and Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2015	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological evaluation on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Dept of Communities and Local Government.
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, 14 . Ed. D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 , by Maria Medlycott
ECCPS	2015	<i>Archaeological Brief for Trial Trenching and excavation on Land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment</i> (English Heritage)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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 of soil
medieval	period from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
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 Henry VIII to c AD 1800
residual	something out of its original context, eg a Roman coin in a modern pit
Section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1040)

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession code SAFWM: 2016.30

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Distribution list:

Tarry Moore, Alun Design

Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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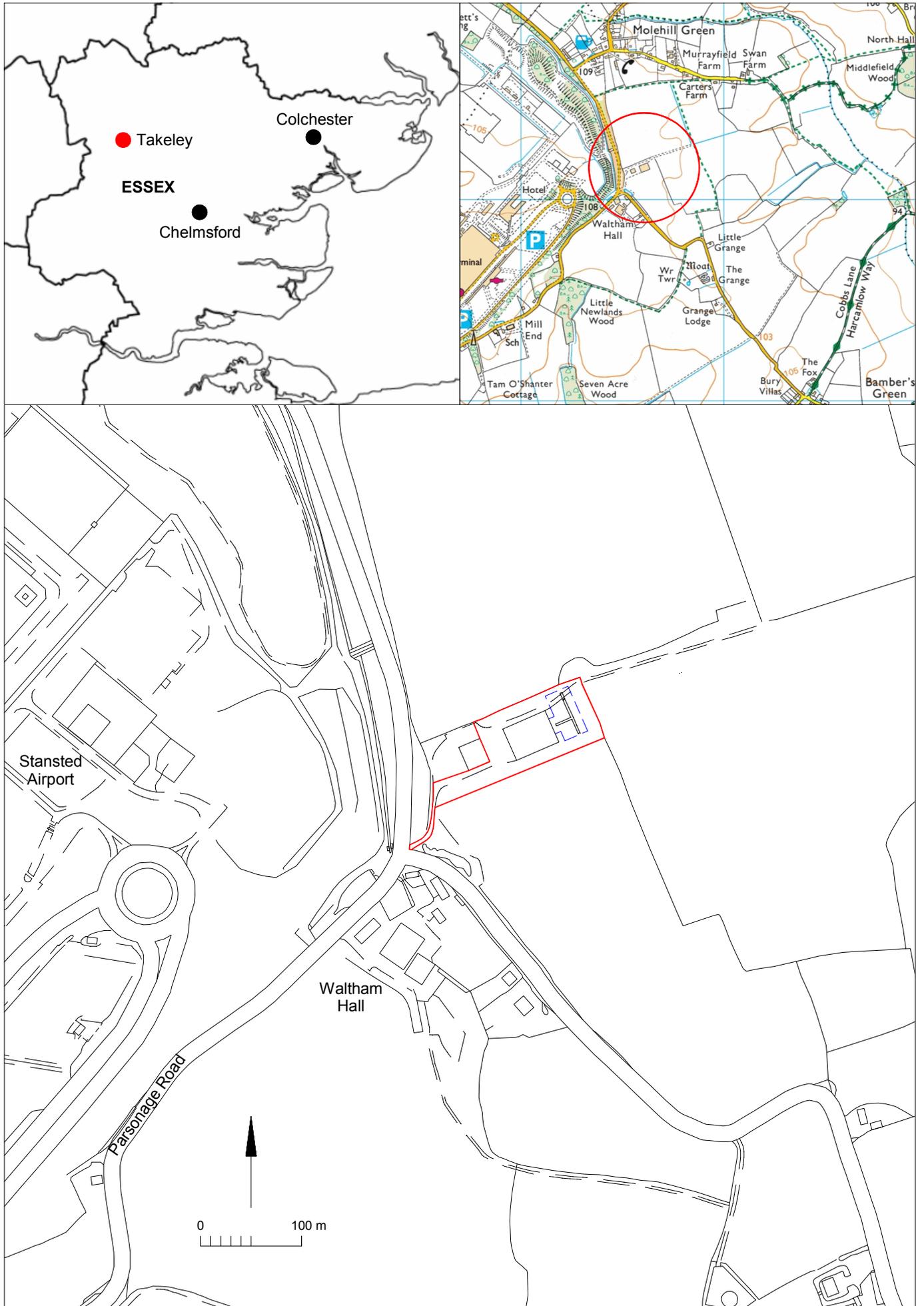


Fig 1 Site location.

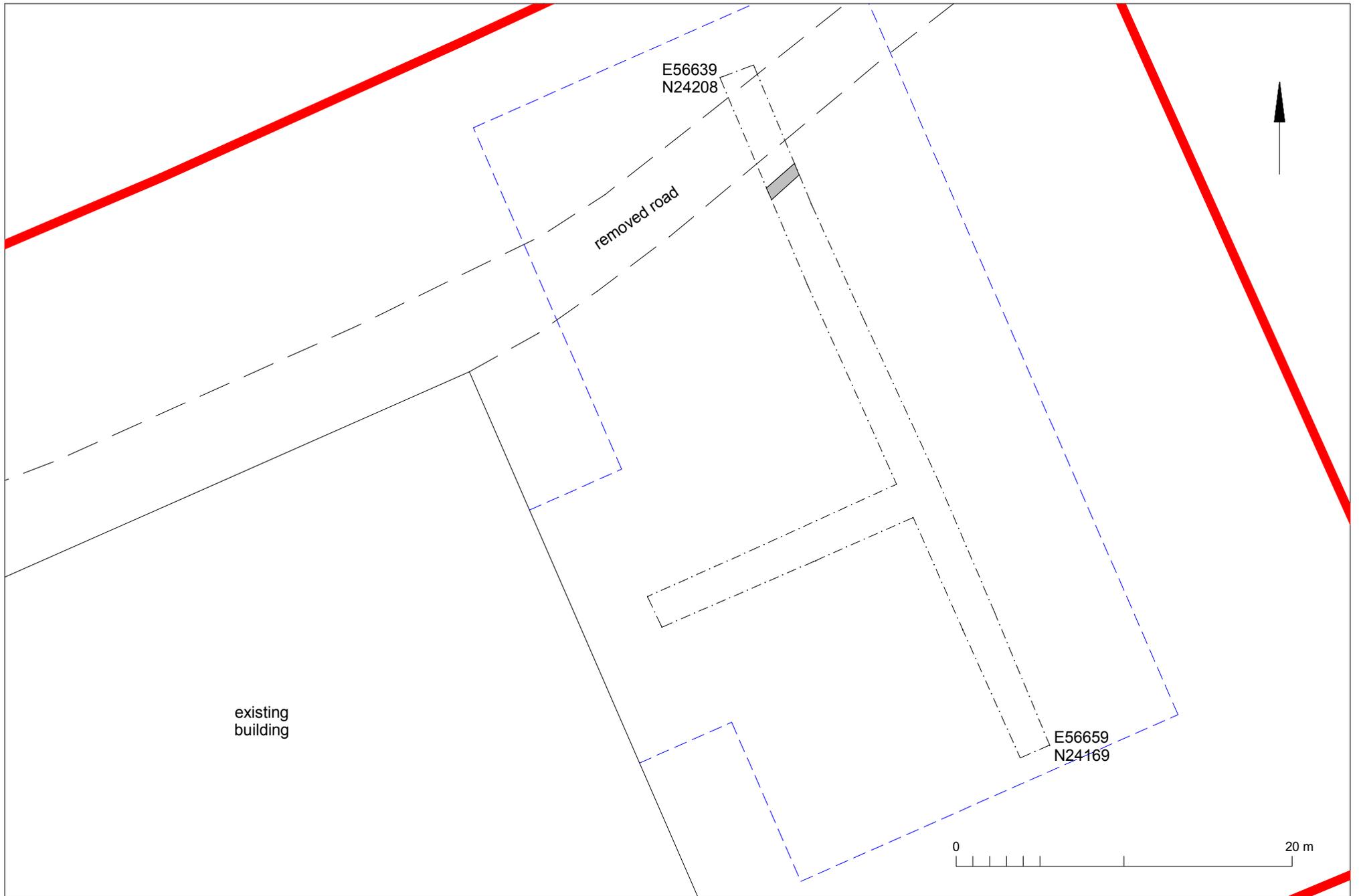


Fig 2 Results in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)

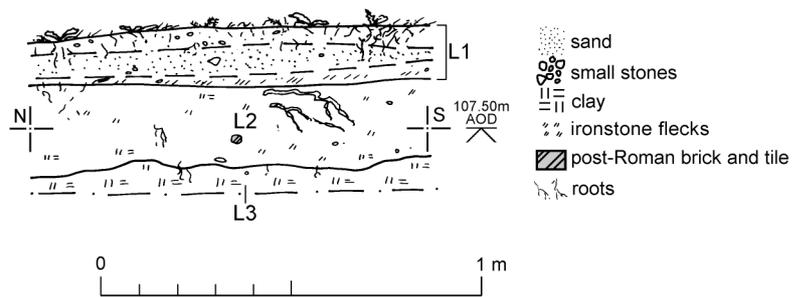


Fig 3 Representative trench section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF	
Parish: Takeley	District: Uttlesford
NGR: TL 56624 24179(centre)	Site code: CAT project code: 16/10i ECC project code: TAWH16 OASIS project ID: colchest3-266779
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 22nd November 2016	Size of area investigated: two trial-trenches totalling 65m linear by 1.8m wide (117m ²)
Location of curating museum: Saffron Walden Museum accession code SAFWM: 2016.30	Funding source: developer
Further seasons anticipated? no	Related EHER number: EHER 4561
Final report: CAT Report 1040	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out on land at Unit 1, Waltham Hall, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex in advance of an extension to the existing unit. Despite being located close to Waltham Hall and in an area of medieval remains, no significant archaeological features or horizons were present.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
Keywords: –	Significance: –
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