

Archaeological evaluation on land west of Gubbions Hall Farm, BanTERS Lane, Great Leighs, Essex, CM3 1NT

July 2017



by Dr Elliott Hicks

with contributions by Stephen Benfield
figures by S Carter and B Holloway

fieldwork by B Holloway with H Furness

**Commissioned by Adrian Burton, Barn Development Ltd
on behalf of Mr and Mrs Stevens**

NGR: TL 7358 1781 (centre)
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ECC code: GLGH17
CAT project ref.: 17/06g
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CAT Report 1130
July 2017

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CAT WSI

OASIS summary

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (two trenches) was undertaken on land west of Gubbions Hall Farm, Banters Lane, Great Leighs, Essex in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling and garage. The site is located nearby to Gubbions Hall, a 17th-century Grade II listed house situated within a Medieval moated enclosure. The evaluation uncovered a modern wall.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land west of Gubbions Hall Farm, Banters Lane, Great Leighs, which was carried out on 4th July 2017. The work was commissioned by Adrian Burton of Barn Development on behalf of Mr and Mrs Stevens in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling and garage, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett 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 a *Brief for archaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2017).

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* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway.

The EHER shows that the development site is located 85m to the north of Gubbions Hall, a 17th century timber-framed house within a medieval rectangular moated enclosure. The house is Grade II listed (NHLE no. 1122127) and the moat is a scheduled monument (NHLE no. 1016802).

The Historic England listing for Gubbions Hall states that the hall is:
A C17 timber-framed and plastered house surrounded by a moat. 2 storeys and attics. 2 window range, C20 casements with lattice leaded lights. The ground storey has 2 modern bay windows and a gabled porch. there is an addition on the west side. Roof tiled, with 2 gabled dormers.

The Historic England listing for the moated enclosure states that:
The moated site includes a rectangular island measuring a maximum of 32m north-south and 45m east-west. This is contained by a water-filled moat or ditch fed by an underground spring. The moat measures up to 18m wide and at least 2m deep, and is revetted on both the inner and outer faces with faced stone,

occasionally repaired in concrete. Modern footbridges provide access to the island.

The local antiquarian, P Morant, writing in 1768, stated that the 'manor of Gobions' was named after Sir Thomas Gobyon, who was in possession of the manor from 1332 until 1349.

The moated site at Gubbion's Hall survives well. The island remains largely undisturbed and will retain buried evidence for further structures, as well as other features relating to the development and character of the site throughout the periods of occupation. The buried silts in the base of the ditches will contain both artefacts relating to the period of occupation and environmental evidence for the appearance of the landscape in which the monument was set.

The monument lies in an area where moated sites are comparatively numerous, with further examples situated 3km to the south, at Whitehouse Farm, Great and Little Leighs, and 2km to the east at Dines Hall in Great Notley.

It is likely that evidence of medieval farming activity survives within the vicinity of the Hall and moat.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two trial-trenches were excavated within the development site.

Trench 1 (T1): 13m long by 1.8m wide

T1 was excavated through a layer of clinker (L3, 0.04-0.1m thick, friable dry dark brown/black silty-clay) onto a layer of natural clay (L2, encountered at a depth of 0.04-0.1m). Due to the presence of a slurry pit nearby, the trench was offset slightly.

The trench was cut by a modern wall, aligned SW-NE.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking west southwest

Trench 2 (T2): 6m long by 1.8m wide

T2 was excavated through accumulated subsoil (L1, 0.04-0.08m thick, friable dry medium to dark grey/brown sandy-silty-clay with very occasional stone and CBM inclusions), which sealed L2 (encountered at a depth of 0.04-0.08m).

A brick was retrieved from L1.



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking south southeast

5 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

One modern unfroged brick piece (brick end) was retrieved from L1 in T1. It is composed of buff fabric with hard brownish-red ferrous inclusions, and measures 110 mm by 50 mm. There is a pale grey concrete based mortar adhering to the brick surface. Part of the maker's stamp, reading 'RBRIDGE' can be discerned on the surface. The brick can be dated to c late 19th-early 20th century.

6 Discussion

Evaluation trenching on land to the west of Gubbions Hall Farm uncovered the remains of a modern brick wall.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Adrian Burton of Barn Development Ltd and Mr and Mrs Stevens for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with H Furniss. Figures are by S Carter and B Holloway. The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Alison Bennett.

8 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 Papers 8 (EAA 8).
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological 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>
ECCPS	2017	<i>Brief for archaeological evaluation and excavation at land west of Gubbions Hall Farm, Banters Lane, Great Leighs</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i>

Medlycott, M 2011 East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework
for the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology
Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

9 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
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHF	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
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1130)

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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code: CHMRE: 2017.067

Distribution list:

Adrian Burton, Barn Development Ltd

Mr and Mrs Stevens

Alison Bennett, Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

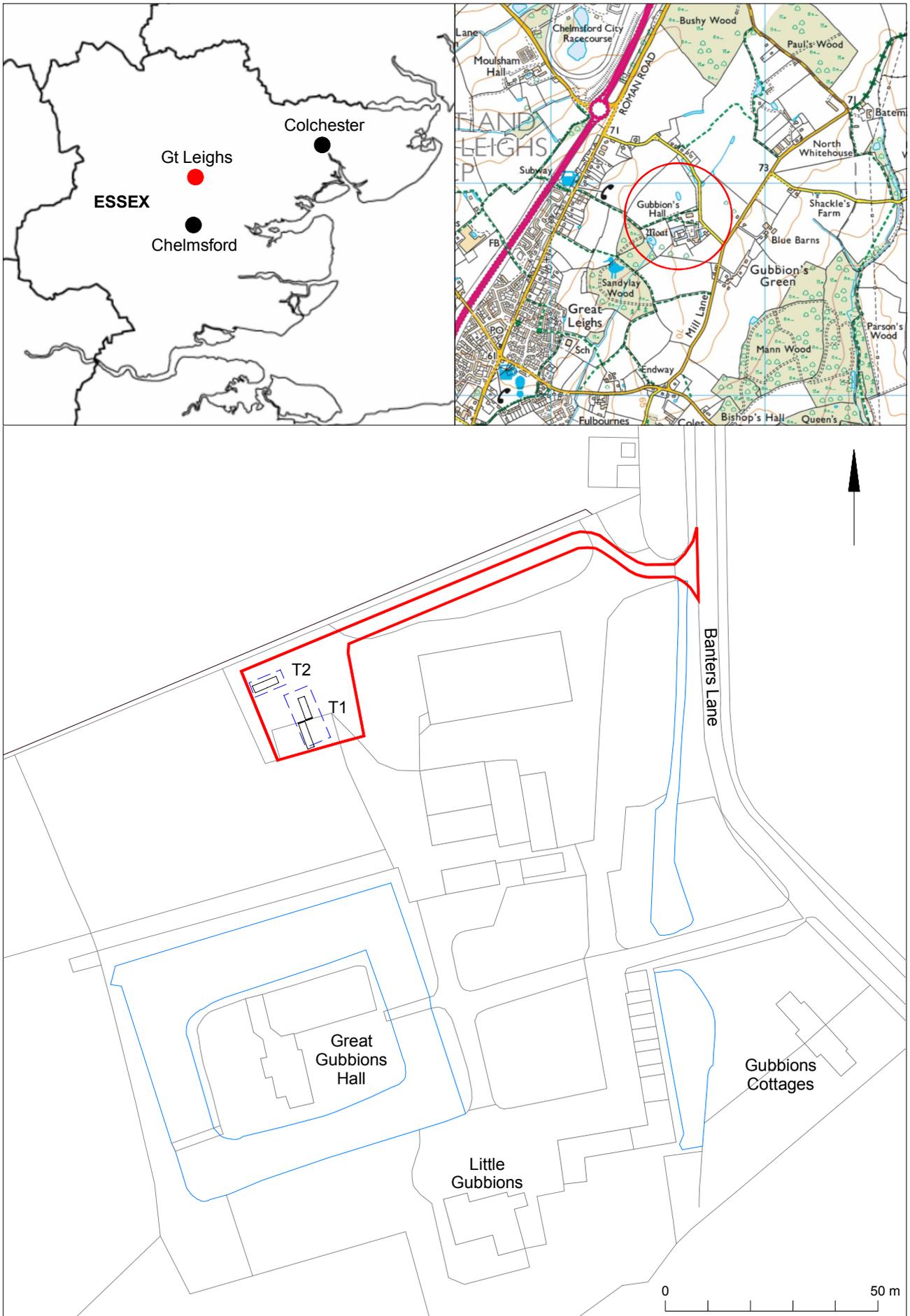
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Date: 14.7.2017



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)

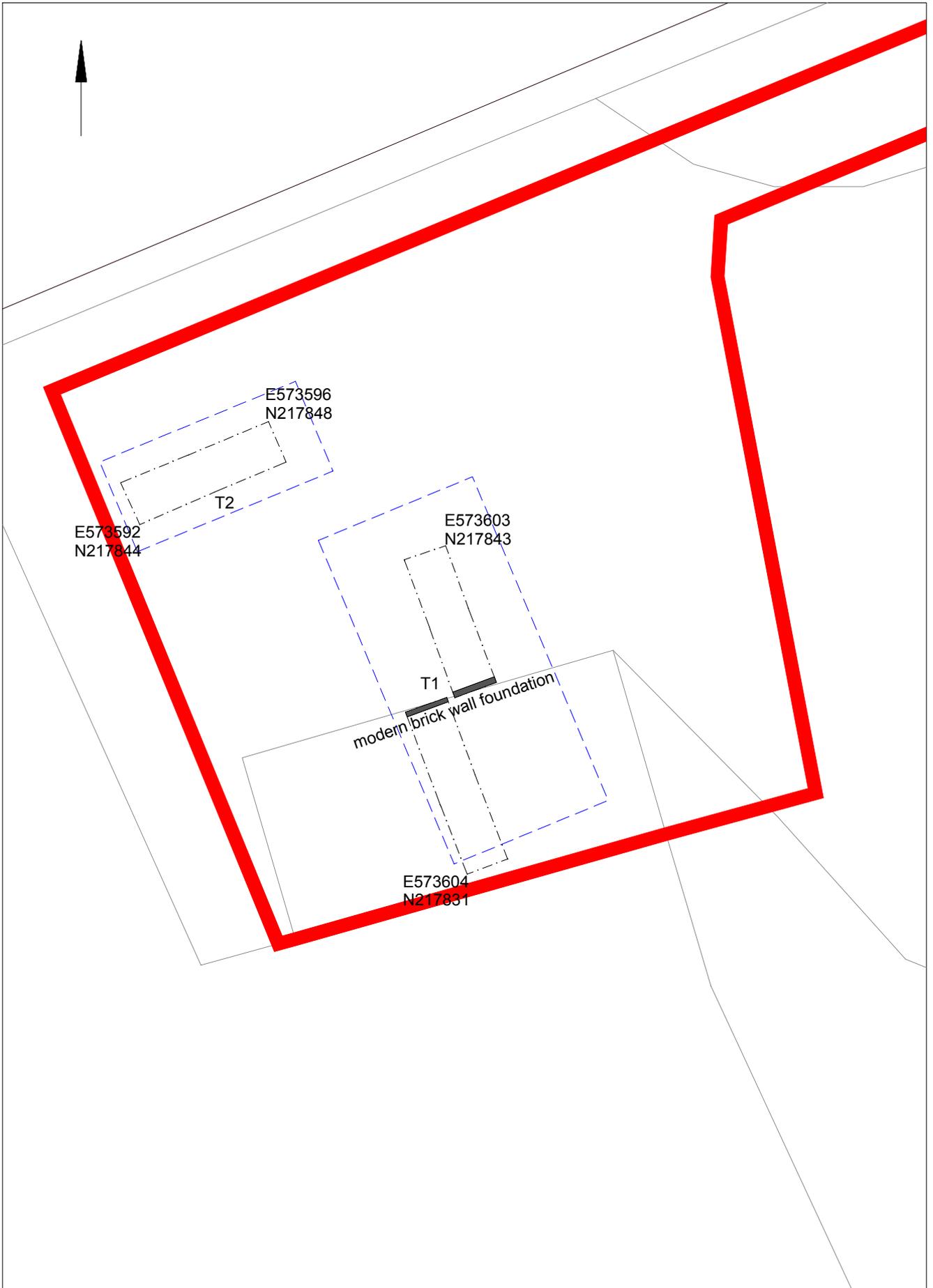
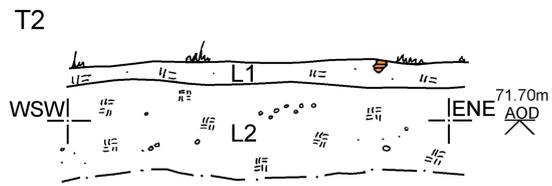
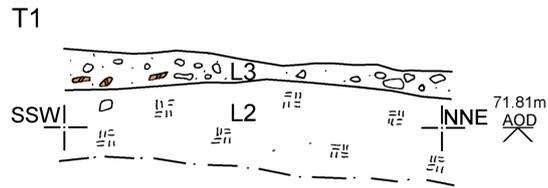


Fig 2 Results



- sand
- small stones
- ▨ post-Medieval/Modern brick/tile
- ||| clay
- large stones



Fig 3 Representative sections

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OASIS ID: colchest3-287387

Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation on land west of Gubbions Hall Farm, Banters Lane, Great Leighs, Essex, CM3 1NT
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (two trenches) was undertaken on land west of Gubbions Hall Farm, Banters Lane, Great Leighs, Essex in advance of the construction of a detached dwelling and garage. The site is located nearby to Gubbions Hall, a 17th-century Grade II listed house situated within a Medieval moated enclosure. The evaluation uncovered a modern wall.
Project dates	Start: 04-07-2017 End: 04-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/06g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHL 16/01961/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	GLGH17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMRE: 2017.067 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	WALL Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Modern
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD GREAT AND LITTLE LEIGHS land west of Gubbions Hall Farm, Banters Lane
Postcode	CM3 1NT
Study area	0.09 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7358 1781 51.831398923607 0.519442523023 51 49 53 N 000 31 09 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 71.71m Max: 71.86m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMRE 2017.067
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"

Paper Archive recipient Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID CHMRE 2017.067
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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