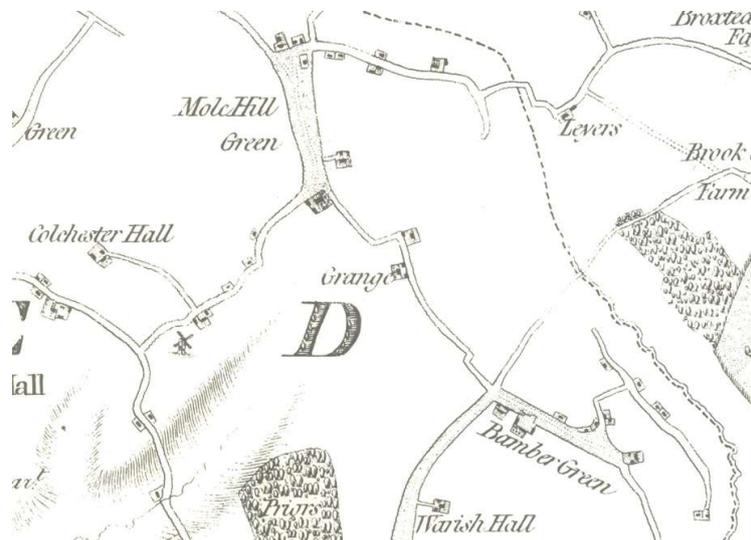


Archaeological evaluation at Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF

August 2020



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway
fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Ziya Eksen

commissioned by David Morgan

NGR: TL 56954 23619 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/20/1087/LB

CAT project ref.: 20/071

ECC code: FHTK20

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM: 2020.56

OASIS ref.: colchest3-400086



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CAT Report 1590
August 2020

Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	3
7	Conclusion	3
8	Acknowledgements	3
9	References	3
10	Abbreviations and glossary	4
11	Contents of archive	4
12	Archive deposition	5

Figures after p5

OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs and figures

Cover: extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777

Photograph 1	T1 trench shot, looking east	3
Photograph 2	T2 trench shot, looking west	3

Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development

Fig 2 Evaluation results

Fig 3 Representative sections

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road, Essex, in advance of the conversion and extension of the existing cartlodge into an annexe and the construction of a new cartlodge-style double bay garage. Fantasia House is a 17th-century timber-framed house, and the accompanying timber-framed cartlodge dates to the following century. The site also lies to the south of The Grange, another 17th-century timber-framed house set in a medieval moated site, which is a scheduled ancient monument. Despite being situated in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex which was carried out on 5th August 2020. The work was commissioned by Davis Morgan in advance of the conversion and extension of the existing cartlodge into an annexe and the construction of a new cartlodge-style double bay garage, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Katie Lee-Smith 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* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Katie Lee-Smith (ECCPS 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

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 draws on the Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

Fantasia House is a Grade II listed late 17th-century timber-framed granary with early 19th-century midstrey to the south (Listed building 1306860; EHER 37429). The late 18th-century timber-framed and brick cartlodge is also Grade II listed (Listed building 1322566; EHER 37430).

The development site is also located immediately south of The Grange, a scheduled ancient monument (Monument no. 1011467) and Grade II listed 17th-century timber-framed house (Listed building no. 1112235). The scheduled monument comprises of the house, the rectangular moated site in which it is set, and a fishpond situated on the flood plain of the River Chelmer some 550m southeast of Waltham Hall (EHER 4568). The moated site measures 40m SW-NE and 30m NW-SE. The arms are water-filled and between 5m and 12m in width. They have been partly revetted with concrete. A causeway, 9m wide, gives access to the island across the eastern arm whilst a brick and concrete footbridge gives access across the western arm. An old beam, thought to

be the remains of an earlier footbridge, is visible alongside the modern bridge. The island is occupied by a Grade II listed 17th-century timber-framed house with later additions to the rear (EHER 4569 & 37428), which is thought to be the original house on the site. Approximately 60m west of the moat is a water-filled fishpond which measures 20m NE-SW by a maximum of 13m NW-SE. The pond is linked to the moat by a channel which is approximately 2m wide and is water-filled.

Around six thousand moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partially or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites formed prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as an indicator of status rather than an actual defensive feature. The period from 1250 to 1350 represented the peak of moated site building in England, and by far the greatest concentration lie in central and eastern parts of the country. Moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, however, and are widely scattered throughout England, exhibiting a high level of diversity in form and dimensions. They form a significant category of medieval monument and are important in understanding the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

There is therefore potential for medieval and post-medieval deposits to extend into the development area, and for archaeological information pertaining to the historic occupation of the site to be present.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the ECCHEA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Two trial-trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. They were both 8m long and 1.8m wide.

The trenches were cut through a modern yard surface (L1, c 0.03-0.09m thick, soft/friable dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt) and a modern build-up layer (L2, c 0.35-0.47m thick, firm/hard light/medium yellow/brown sandy silty clay) onto natural clay (L3, light yellow/grey/brown clay, encountered at a depth of 0.42-0.51m below current ground level).

No archaeological remains or material were encountered.



Photograph 1 T1 trench shot – looking east



Photograph 2 T2 trench shot – looking west

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no archaeological remains or material were encountered.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks David Morgan for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with Z Eksen. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Katie Lee-Smith.

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	2020	<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>
ECCPS	2020	<i>Brief for Trial Trenching & Excavation on Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road, Takeley,</i> by Katie Lee-Smith
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England (HE)	2016	<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	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
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’
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
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
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1590)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheets, sections)

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1590)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

12 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: 2020.56

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Distribution list:

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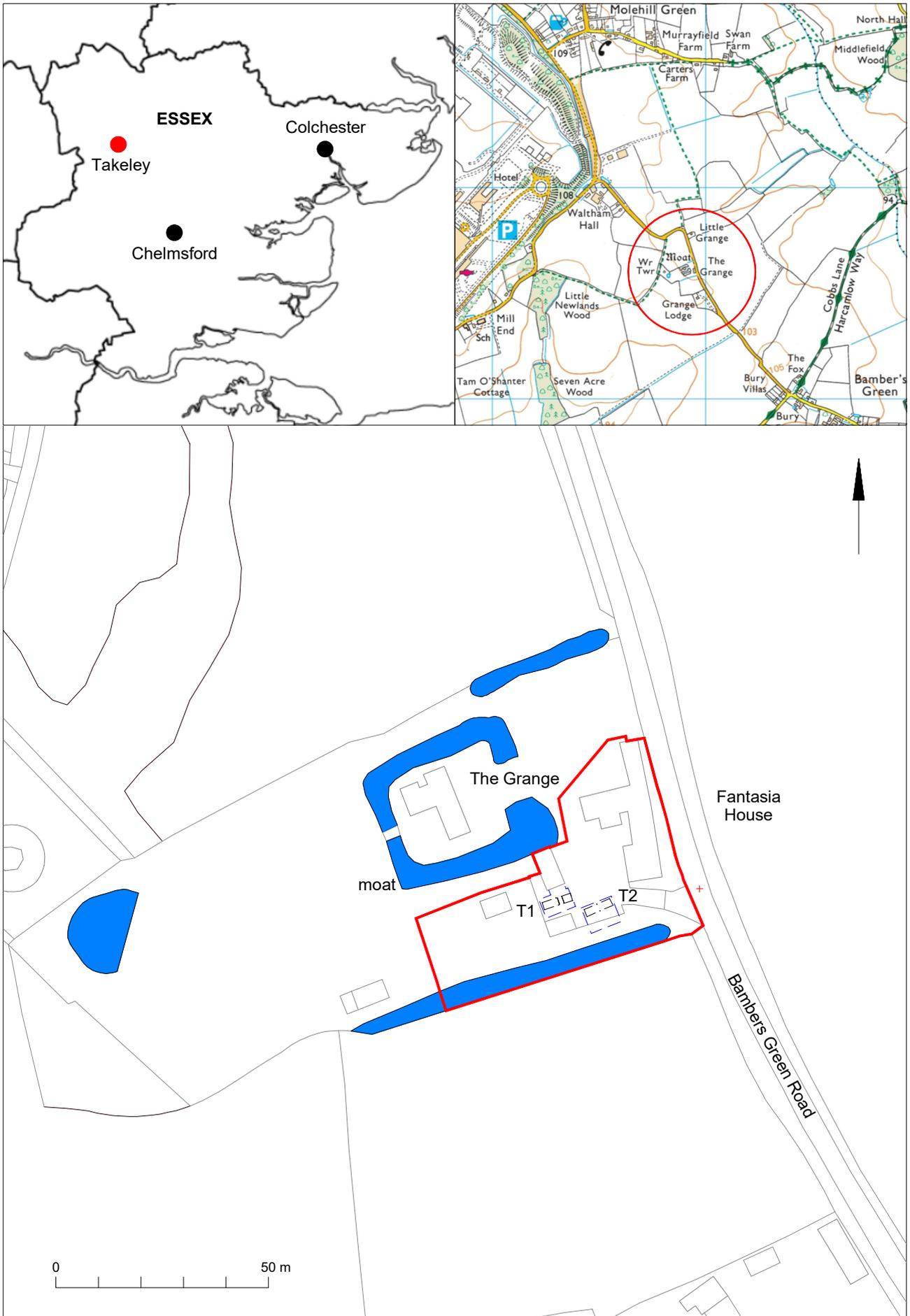


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Date: 19.08.2020



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).

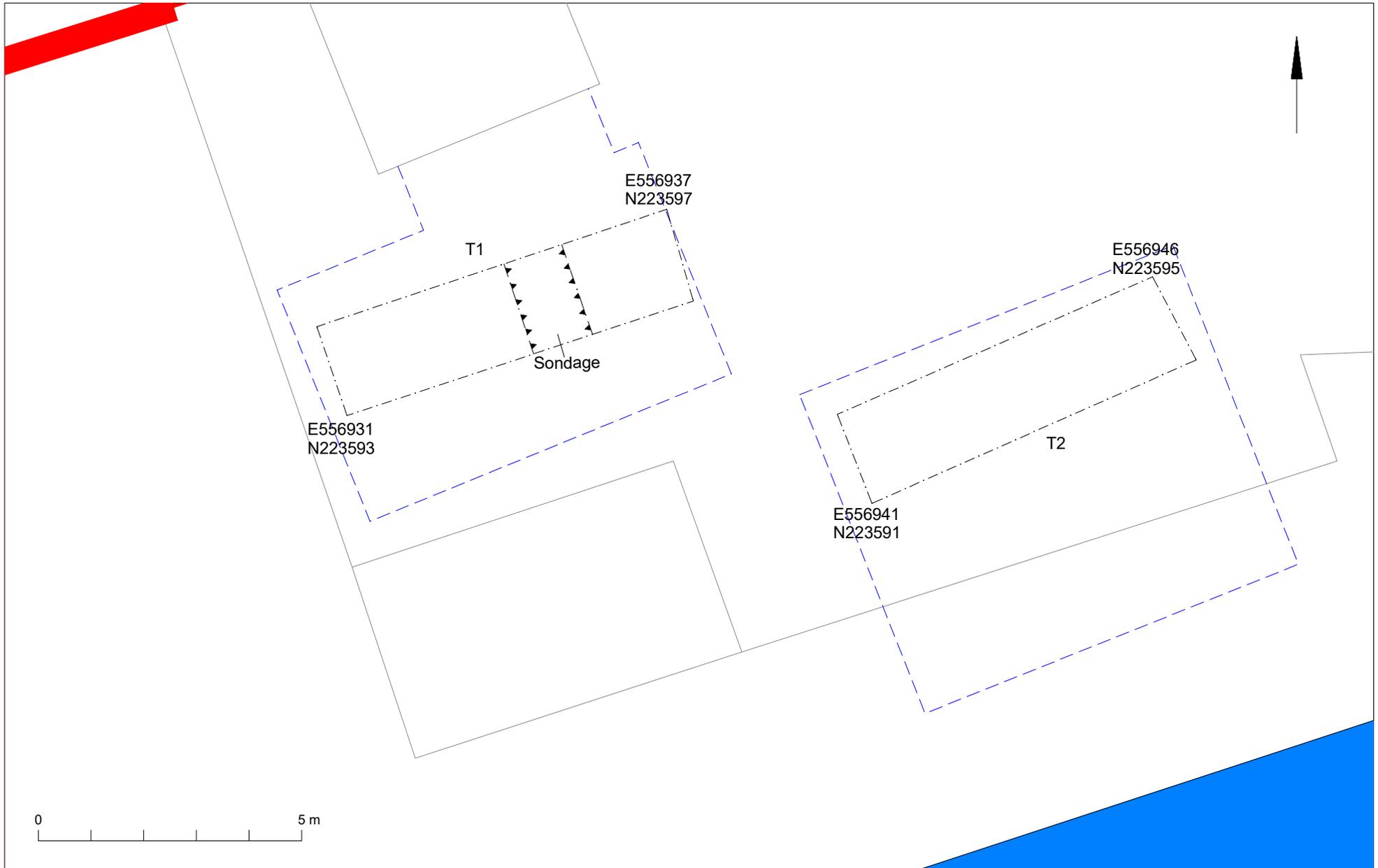


Fig 2 Evaluation results.

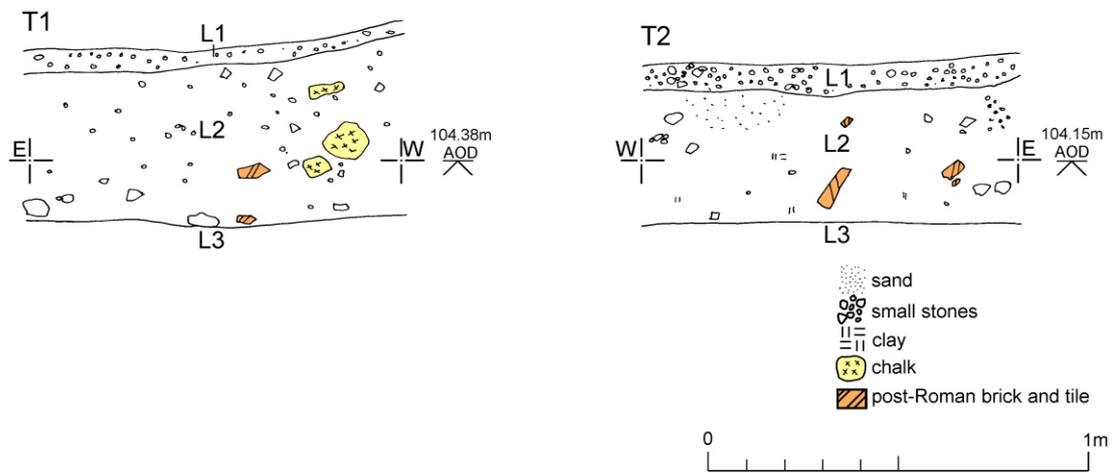


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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Project details

Project name	Archaeological evaluation at Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (two trial-trenches) was carried out at Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road, Essex, in advance of the conversion and extension of the existing cartlodge into an annexe and the construction of a new cartlodge-style double bay garage. Fantasia House is a 17th-century timber-framed house, and the accompanying timber-framed cartlodge dates to the following century. The site also lies to the south of The Grange, another 17th-century timber-framed house set in a medieval moated site, which is a scheduled ancient monument. Despite being situated in an archaeologically-sensitive area, however, no archaeological remains were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 05-08-2020 End: 05-08-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2020/071 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/20/1087/LB - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2020.56 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	FHTK20 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Listed Building Consent
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road
Postcode	CM22 6PF
Study area	0.2 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 56954 23619 51.888527495611 0.28097904486 51 53 18 N 000 16 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 103.97m Max: 104.23m

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	Owner

sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Digital Archive ID SAFWM: 2020.56

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum

Paper Archive ID SAFWM: 2020.56

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation at Fantasia House, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF: August 2020

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.

Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1590

Date 2020

Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust

Place of issue or publication Colchester

Description A4 loose-leaf brass-stapled

URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)

Entered on 19 August 2020

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