

# Archaeological monitoring at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ

March 2022



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figures by Chris Lister, Laura Pooley and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Megan Seehra

**commissioned by Ramona Bergland of Gigaclear**

NGR: TL 4930 1798 (centre)

Scheduled monument number: EX 16, 1002190

Scheduled monument consent number: S00242071

CAT project ref.: 2021/10m

ECC code: WLHL21

OASIS ref.: colchest3-433261



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**CAT Report 1788**

July 2021

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## 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex during the excavation of a cable trench within the Iron Age oppidum (hillfort) of Wallbury Camp (NHLE 1002190). The trench was cut through modern layers into natural and no archaeological horizons were encountered, but the narrowness of the cable trench meant conditions were not ideal for observation.

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust on land at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex from 8th-14th March 2022. The work was commissioned by Ramona Bergland of Gigaclear and was carried out during the excavation of a cable trench.

As the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM EX 16, NHLE 1002190), the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEIAM) recommended that archaeological monitoring be undertaken on the groundworks to mitigate any potential damage to the monument. In consultation with the HEIAM Dr Jess Tipper, a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (2020) and agreed with Dr Tipper in advance of the groundworks.

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), 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 excavation (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>).

The development site is located within the highly-sensitive scheduled monument of Wallbury Camp (NHLE 1002190, SM EX 16). Wallbury Camp is an Iron Age *oppidum* (hillfort) located on the Essex/Hertfordshire border. Roughly pear-shaped, it occupies an area of 31 acres enclosed in a double rampart. The outer earthworks survive in good condition and it is thought that the interior should also contain well-preserved archaeological deposits. It was originally occupied in the Iron Age and a range of pottery vessels dating to this period has been recovered.

Two Grade II listed buildings are also located close to the development site. The first is Wallbury Dells Farmhouse, a late 16th- or early 17th-century timber-framed house (NHLE 1147617; EHER 37908). The second is a 17th- to 18th-century aisled barn (NHLE 1112000; EHER 37907).

Recently, an archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Wallbury Lodge in advance of the construction of the new driveway (Scheduled Monument consent no. S00194211). The evaluation (CAT Report 1310) revealed a small number of residual worked flints indicative of prehistoric activity in the area in the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic, and Bronze Age or Iron Age. A possible Late Iron Age ditch may be associated with the hillfort of Wallbury Camp, and finds were identified indicative of continued activity into the Roman period. Eleven medieval features show extensive use of the site in the 12th to 13th centuries possibly associated with agriculture or horticulture. Domestic evidence recovered from these contexts suggests a medieval settlement or farmstead is located nearby. Three layers were recorded. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.18-0.24m thick) sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.09-0.2m thick) which overlaid natural sandy-clay (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.34-0.4m below current ground level). All of the features recorded were of fairly shallow depth (0.25-0.33m deep).

#### 4 Aim

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

#### 5 Results (Figs 2-3)

The cable trench was approximately 542m long, 0.15-0.25m wide and 0.3-0.4m deep was excavated through and alongside the access road.

The stratigraphy was:

- topsoil (L1, 0.1m thick, dark grey/brown clayey silt) sealing
- made-ground (L4, 0.25-3m thick, medium orange/brown silty-sand with common flint and rare fragments of modern CBM) over
- natural (L2, medium orange/brown silty/sandy-clay).

or

- tarmac (L3, 0.08-0.1m thick) overlaying
- made-ground (L4, 0.15m thick) sealing
- natural (L2, c 0.24m below ground level).

No archaeological features or finds were encountered.



**Photograph 1** Cable trench, looking south-west



**Photograph 2** Cable trench, looking west



**Photograph 3** Cable trench, looking east



**Photograph 4** Cable trench, looking west



**Photograph 5** Cable trench, looking west



**Photograph 6** Cable trench, looking south-east



**Photograph 7** Backfilled cable trench, looking south



**Photograph 8** Cable trench, looking south-east

## 6 Conclusion

Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains were encountered with trenching cut through modern layers into natural. However, the narrowness of the cable trench meant conditions were not ideal for observation. This meant that it was not possible to determine if any of the features present within the 2018 evaluation trench extended into the cable trench.

## 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ramona Berglund and Gigaclear for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Seehra. Figures are by C Lister, L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Historic England by Dr Jess Tipper.

## 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 Paper 8 (EAA 8)                              |
| CAT                      | 2022  | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                      | 2022  | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring of a Gigaclear cable trench at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ,</i> by E Holloway |
| CAT Report 1310          | 2018  | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ,</i> by L Pooley   |
| ClfA                     | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological monitoring.</i> Updated Oct 2020  |

CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated Oct 2020
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> )
Historic England Medlycott, M	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
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
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	<b>O</b> nline <b>A</b> ccess to the <b>I</b> ndex of <b>A</b> rchaeological <b>I</b> nvestigation <b>S</b> , <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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

## 10 Contents of digital archive

The report (CAT Report 1788)  
 CAT WSI  
 Digital photographs and log  
 Graphic files

## 11 Archive deposition

The 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 the Archaeological Data Service

**Distribution list:**

Ramona Berglund, Gigaclear  
Dr Jess Tipper, Historic England  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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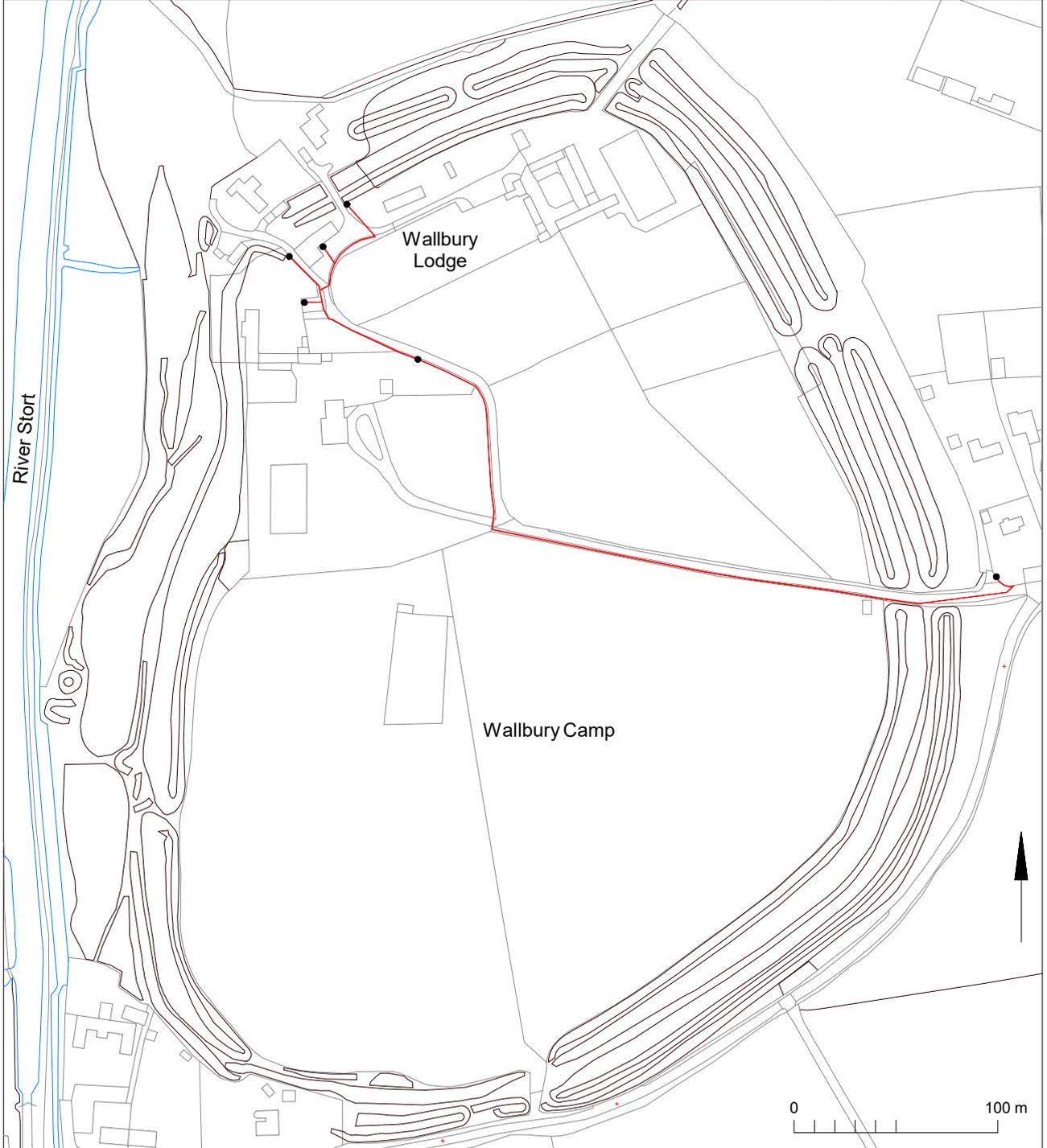
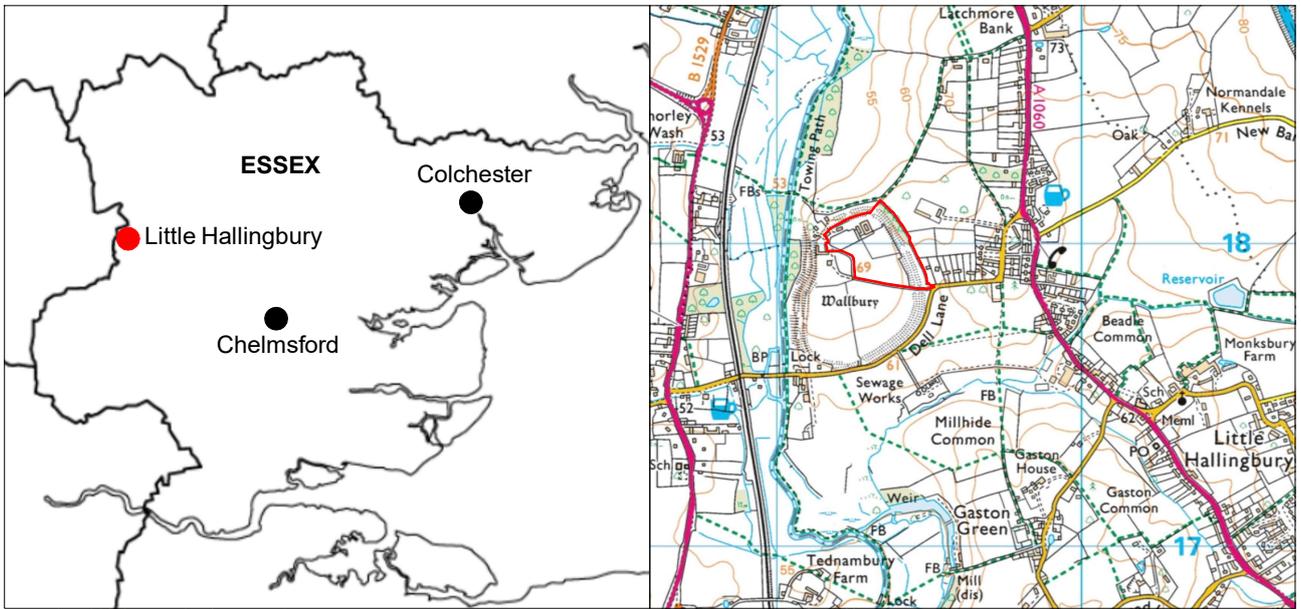


Fig 1 Site location with cable trench in red

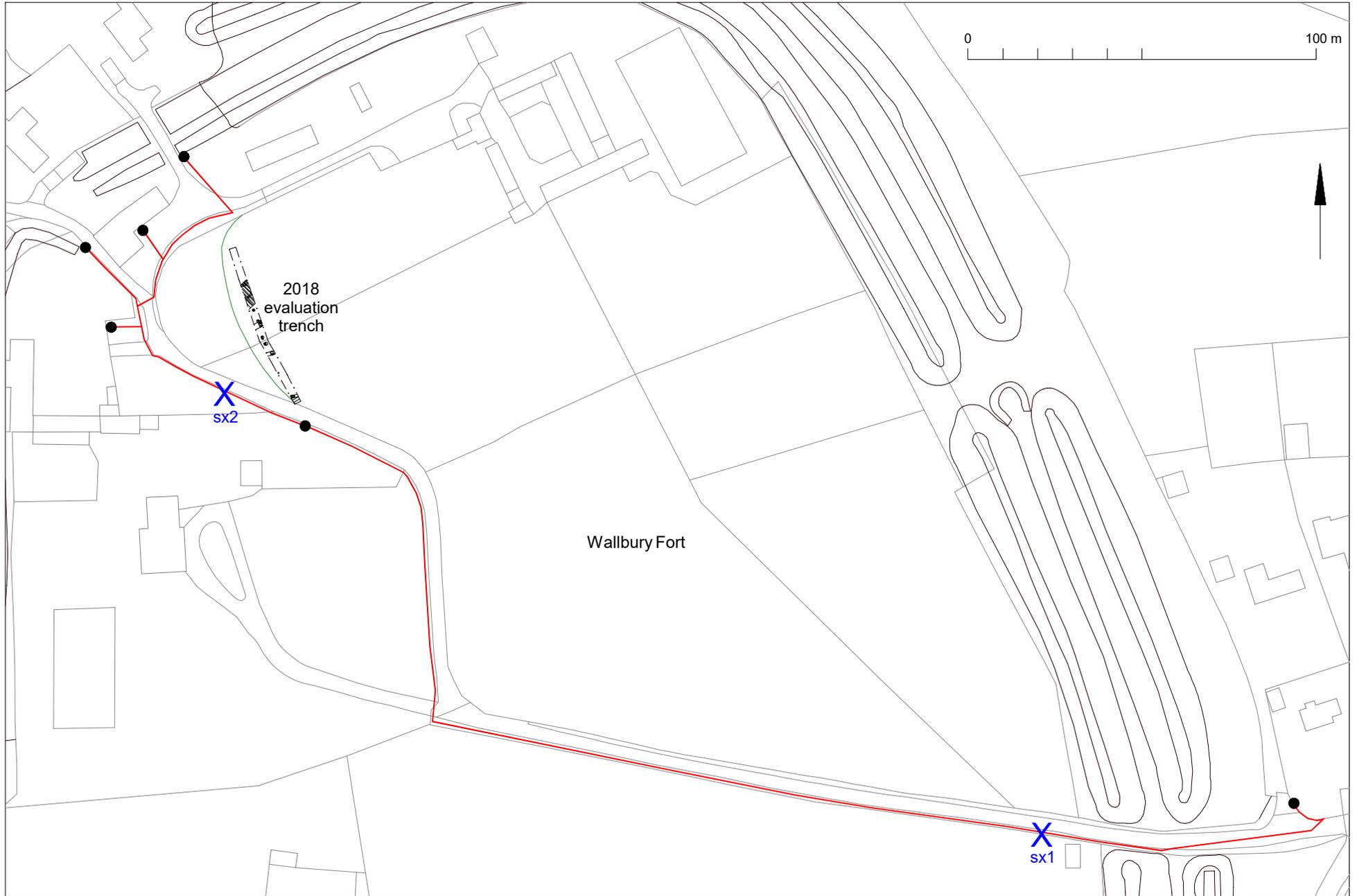


Fig 2 Close-up plan of cable trench

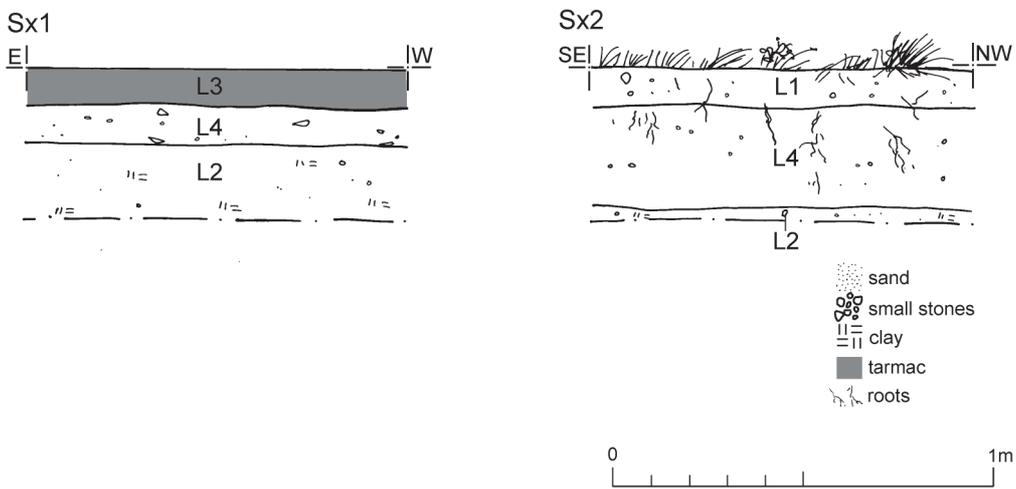


Fig 3 Representative sections.

# Summary for colchest3-433261

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-433261
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ
Sitename	Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2021/10m
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	08-Mar-2022 - 14-Mar-2022
Location	Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex NGR : TL 49300 17980 LL : 51.8404701533798, 0.165740861987225 12 Fig : 549300,217980
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Little Hallingbury
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks for a cable trench, carried out as per the scheduled monument consent and the CAT WSI.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex during the excavation of a cable trench within the Iron Age oppidum (hillfort) of Wallbury Camp (NHLE 1002190). The trench was cut through modern layers into natural and no archaeological horizons were encountered, but the narrowness of the cable trench meant conditions were not ideal for observation.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	L, Pooley
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;