

Archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bamber's Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF

October 2018-January 2019



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**Commissioned by Ben Hughes
on behalf of Richard Jackson Ltd**

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Grange, Bamber's Green, Takeley, Essex during groundworks to underpin a later extension of the Grade II 17th-century listed house which is situated on a moated platform. Some later adaptations to the building were uncovered including four wall foundations and a clay floor.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bamber's Green, Takeley, which was carried out from October 2018 till January 2019. The work was commissioned by Ben Hughes on behalf of Richard Jackson Ltd and conducted by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks to underpin a rear single-storey extension to the property.

As a scheduled monument and Grade II listed building, an application for scheduled monument consent was made to Historic England (HE) relating to the proposed work. The Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the East of England, Deborah Priddy, produced a *Brief for archaeological monitoring* (2016) defining the requirements for archaeological monitoring by which the applicants would meet the conditions attached to the scheduled monument consent. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the brief and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with HE (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 watching briefs* (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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex and

The development site lies within a scheduled ancient monument (NHLE no. 1011467) and Grade II listed 17th-century timber-framed house (NHLE no. 1112235). The scheduled monuments consists of a rectangular moated site and fishpond situated on the flood plain of the River Chelmer 550m southeast of Waltham Hall (EHER 4568). The moated site measures 40m SW-NE by 30m NW-SE. The arms are water-filled and are between 5m and 12m in width and 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, considered 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. 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 joined to the moat by a channel which is approximately 2m wide and is water-filled.

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly 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 served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies

in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

The Grange moated site is well preserved and will retain archaeological information pertaining to the occupation of the site while the water-filled ditches will also retain environmental evidence relating to the economy of its inhabitants and the landscape in which they lived.

4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may be impacted, particularly evidence of earlier occupation at the site.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

During groundworks an area measuring approximately 16 square meters was excavated to underpin the rear northwest extension of the property with groundbeams. All groundworks were carried out by the contractors under archaeological supervision.

Initially the modern concrete and hardcore floor inside the extension was removed. Sealed beneath were a series of 18th-century brick wall foundations (F1), formed of unfrogged bricks regularly-coursed in English and then Flemish bond with mortar (Photograph 1). Wall foundations F1, and their construction cut F2, had been cut into a beaten clay floor (L1, c 0.21-0.32m thick, containing frequent flint nodules and pieces of chalk) which sealed natural (L3) (Photographs 1-2). Layer L1 was not present in the far northwest corner of the room where levelling layer L2 (c 0.21m thick) sealed natural L3.

Once recorded, all of the archaeological horizons inside the building were removed by the contractors to reduce ground level (Photograph 3). All of the subsequent internal groundworks occurred through L3.

Once the piles had been positioned, inside and out, slots for the groundbeams were excavated by the contractor by hand. These slots undermined the standing walls to allow the groundbeams to be positioned to underpin the extension (Photographs 6-7).

Externally these slots were excavated through modern topsoil (L4, c 0.21m thick) or sand (L6, c 0.12m thick) which sealed layers of demolition debris (L5 & L7, c 0.33-0.38m thick) above natural (L3) (Photograph 5).

The groundbeam excavations revealed brick plinth/foundation F3, aligned northeast/southwest, which was sealed by L1, F1 and the existing extension. It was formed of regularly-coursed bricks in stretcher bond (Photograph 4). In the northeast corner of the extension, groundworks also revealed part of the wall foundation of the current extension, F4, which was formed of loosely-bonded crushed brick/tile, stone and mortar (Photograph 5; Fig 3, Sx 3). There was no corresponding foundation underneath the rest of the extension.



Photograph 1 Wall foundations F1 with clay floor L1, looking north



Photograph 2 Wall foundation F1 with construction cut F2, looking north



Photograph 3 Ground reduction within the extension, looking southwest



Photograph 4 Wall foundation F3, looking north



Photograph 5 Groundbeam 1, showing F4 on right-hand side, looking northeast



Photograph 6 Excavation of groundbeam slots beneath the extension with temporary props holding up the walls, looking southwest



Photograph 7 Excavation of groundbeam slots to underpin the chimney, looking north

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Monitoring uncovered five sherds of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material with a weight of 2,469g. One complete unfrogged brick with dimensions of 220 x 102 x 50-55 mm was recovered from F1 (1). The dimensions of this brick broadly corresponds to bricks of the late 17th to early 18th century (210-230 x 100 x 45-50 mm) in Ryan's Essex brick typology (1996, 95). Alternatively, it might possibly be an 18th-/early 19th-century red brick (210-230 x 110 x 65 mm). At the very least an 18th-century date for this brick is likely.

Finally, four sherds of Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) with a weight of 183g were recovered from L1 (3) and L4 (2). There were rim sherds from three vessels (rim EVREP) while the rim EVE is 0.51. Two shallow dishes or plates came from L4 (2) and one deep large dish from L1 (3). These three vessels can all be dated to the 19th and 20th centuries (CAR 7, 253-254).

Feature/Layer	Post-Roman pottery	CBM	Overall finds spot date
F1	-	Post-Medieval	18th century
L1	Fabric48D	-	19th-20th century
L4	Fabric48D	-	19th-20th century

Table 1 Finds dating summary

7 Discussion

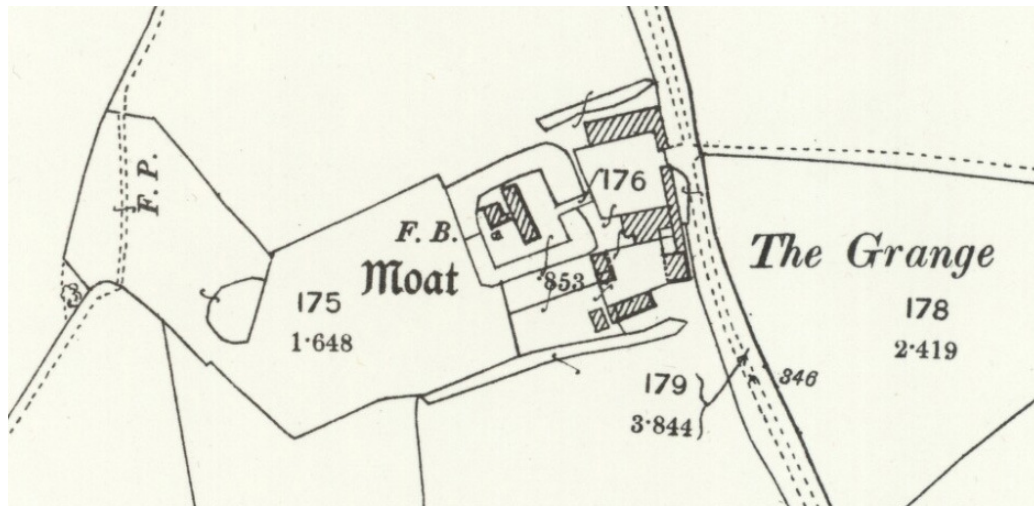
Archaeological monitoring carried out at The Grange revealed evidence for later additions to the original 17th-century property, including four wall foundations and a clay floor, which attest to the rich heritage and development of the moated manor.

The earliest structural evidence appears to be wall foundation F4, the partial foundation of the current extension. This foundation was only present in the northeastern corner of the extension and was formed of loosely-bonded crushed brick/tile, stone and mortar. The ephemeral nature of these foundations may have contributed to the current instability of the extension. Clay floor layer L1 is also likely to be associated with the extension.

Brick plinth/foundation F3 is sealed by both the current extension and wall foundation F1 and has a separate style of bond to both, although a portion of this plinth was recorded overlying F4. It is possible that F3 may have been an earlier attempt to underpin and stabilise the extension, perhaps when the brick structure associated with F1 was constructed.

The latest structural evidence was an 18th-century brick wall foundation (F1) which cut into the clay floor (L1) and ran along the back wall of the extension. It was likely some sort of internal subdivision. Some of the finds recovered from L1 post-date the 18th-century structure but as the floor surface will have been open for some time, it seems likely that they are intrusive. It is curious that the northernmost length of this wall foundation abutted the extension wall (Fig 2), which would have reduced the room in size by c 0.35m. This raises questions as to the purpose of the structure, as a simple subdivision could easily be tied-in to the existing wall. Owing to the physical limitations of the excavation, it seems speculative to suggest any firm function for this structure. However, the added wall thickness and north facing location could point towards a pantry.

All the features encountered at the site are contemporary with or later than the extension. It seems reasonable to suggest that the extension was erected between the 1770s and 1890s as it is absent on the Chapman and André map of 1777 but present on the 1st edition OS map of 1895 (Map 1). It must also be earlier than wall foundations F1 which were a later addition to the structure.



Map 1 1st edition, 6-inch OS map, revised 1895, published 1897 (ESSEX XXIII.10 (Takeley)), showing the extension.

No evidence for structures predating the current extension or original 17th-century building were discernible. It seems reasonable to suggest that if any earlier structures exist they may well lie underneath the footprint of the original building, which may explain why they were not encountered during the current monitoring.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ben Hughes and Richard Jackson Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Tuffey. Figures were prepared by A Tuffey and S Carter. The project was monitored for Historic England by Deborah Priddy.

9 References

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

Brown, N & Glazenbrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2 – Research Agenda and Strategy</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8
CAR 7	2000	Colchester Archaeological Report 7: <i>Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J Cotter
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</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> . East Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper 14
CAT	2018	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2017	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bamber's Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Priddy, D	2016	<i>The Grange, Bamber's Green: Brief for archaeological monitoring</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England</i> , E. Anglian Archaeology. Occ. Paper 24
Ryan, P	1996	<i>Brick in Essex from the Roman Conquest to the Reformation</i> . Chelmsford: Pat Ryan.

10 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.
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
HE	Historic England
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 sc or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1365)

Historic England brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans, sections)

Inked sections

Site digital photographic thumbnails and log.

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1365)
Historic England brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Graphic files
Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log
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 Waldon Museum under the accession code: SAFWM:2017.1

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Distribution list

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Appendix 1 Context list

Con- text	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	3	Beaten clay floor	Friable-firm, very dry, light-medium, yellowish-grey clay with <6% stone inclusions	19th-20th century
L2		Levelling layer	Soft-friable, dry, medium grey silt with >36% non-diagnostic brick fragments	Undated
L3		Natural	Firm, dry, medium yellowish-brown clay	Post-Glacial
L4	2	Topsoil	Friable-firm, dry-moist, medium-dark brown silty-clay with <2% brick fragments	19th-20th century
L5		Demolition	Friable-firm, dry, medium greyish-brown silty-sandy-clay, with pockets of >20% fragments of tile/brick, >5% stones, <2% gravels	Undated
L6		Sand	Soft, medium, yellowish-orange sand	Modern
L7		Demolition	Firm, dry-moist, medium-dark greyish-brown silty-clay with <4% charcoal flecks and >6% stones, >2% gravels and >6% brick	Undated
F1	1	Brick wall foundation	Unfrogged brick and mortar, regularly-coursed in English and Flemish bond	18th century
F2		Construction cut for F1	Soft-friable, dry, medium greyish-brown silt with <16% tile/brick	18th century
F3		Brick wall foundation/plinth	Unfrogged brick and mortar, regularly-coursed in stretcher bond	Undated
F4		Extension wall foundations	Hard sand with >60% degraded mortar, mortar flecks, brick/tile fragments and stone	Undated

Appendix 2 Pottery and ceramic catalogue

Con text	Find no.	Find Type	Fabric Group	Qt	Wt g	Rim	Form	Comments	Date
F1	1	CBM	-	1	2286	-	BR	220 x 102 x 50/55mm, no frog	18th century
L1	3	Pot	F48D	1	101	1	Deep wide dish	Bosses on rim upper surface	19th-20th century
L4	2	Pot	F48D	3	82	3	Shallow dishes or plates	Transfer printed design	19th-20th century

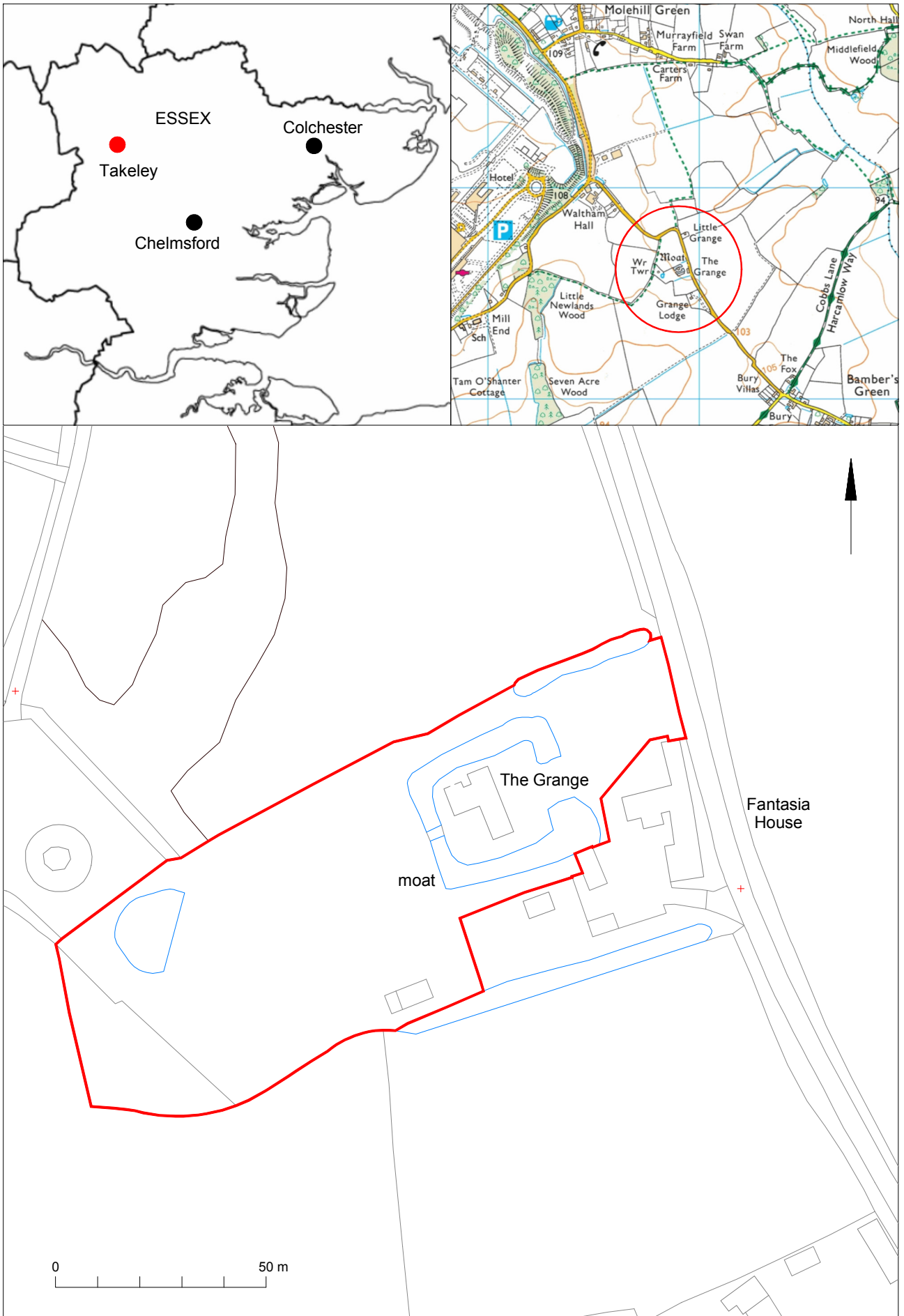


Fig 1 Site location.

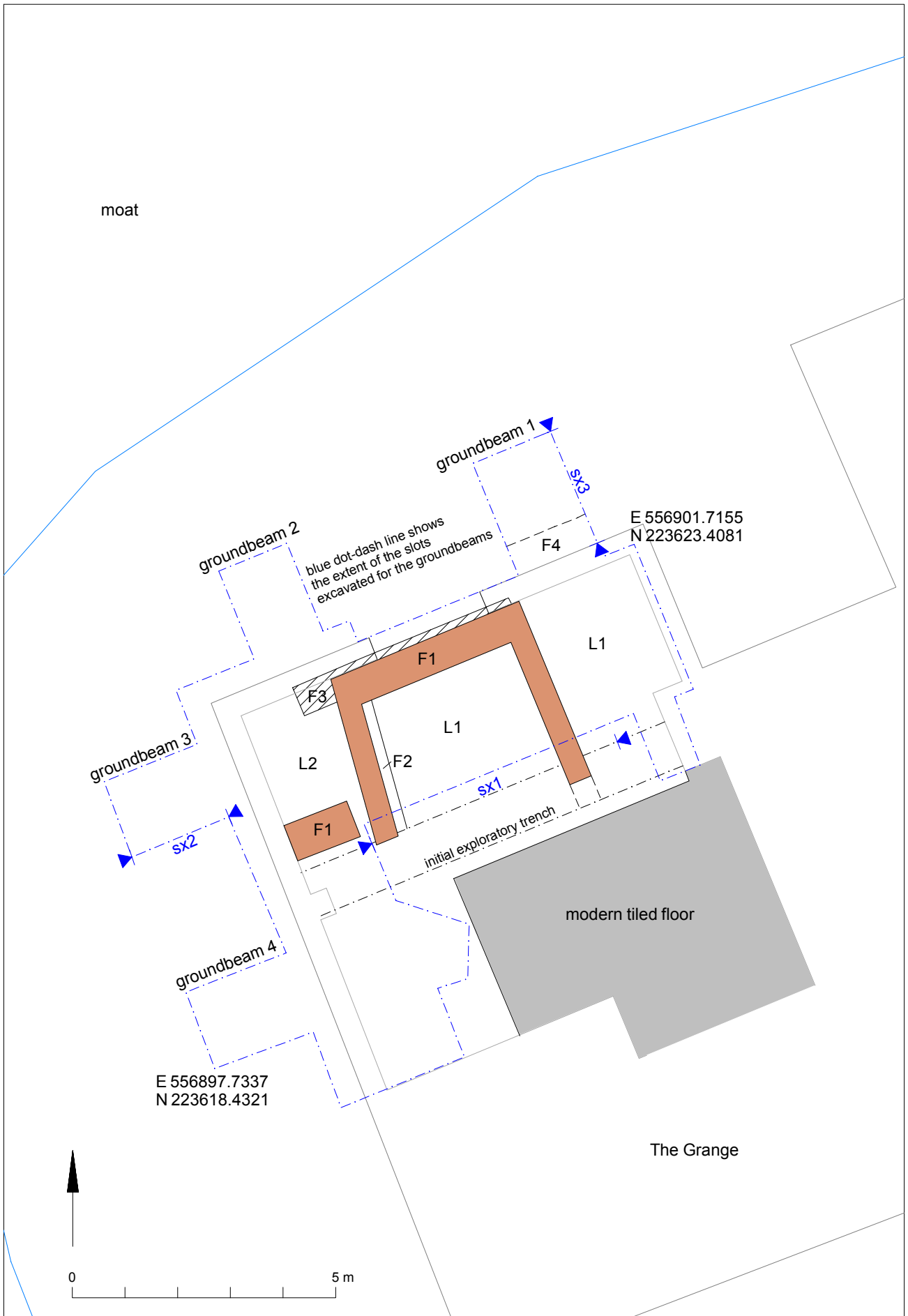


Fig 2 Results

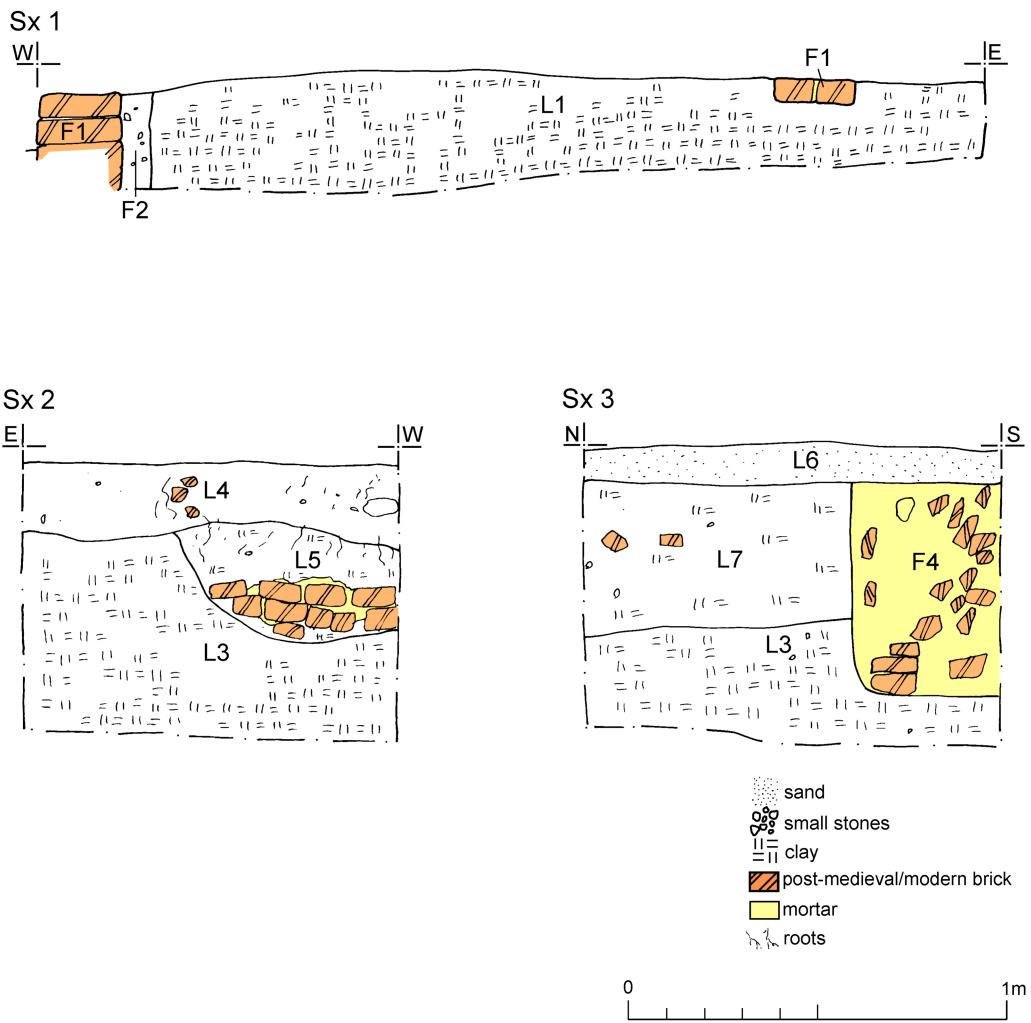


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-272861

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bamber's Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Grange, Bamber's Green, Takeley, Essex during groundworks to underpin a later extension of the Grade II 17th-century listed house which is situated on a moated platform. Some later adaptations to the building were uncovered including four wall foundations and a clay floor.
Project dates	Start: 19-10-2018 End: 28-01-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/01c - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	20719 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/17/0113/LB - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	TATG17 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM:2017.1 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Monument type	CONSTRUCTION CUT Post Medieval
Monument type	CLAY FLOOR Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY The Grange, Bamber's Green
Postcode	CM22 6PF
Study area	0.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 5690 2370 51.889270508194 0.280231793639 51 53 21 N 000 16 48 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HISTORIC ENGLAND
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Adam Tuffey
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive	Saffron Walden Museum

recipient
Digital Archive ID SAFWM: 2017.1
Digital Contents "other"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum
Paper Archive ID SAFWM: 2017.1
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

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