# Archaeological evaluation on land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM23 4AY

# September 2020



**by Dr Elliott Hicks** with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton, Adam Wightman, Alec Wade and Laura Pooley figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway with Nicholas Pryke and Matthew Perou

# commissioned by Joshua Poulton on behalf of Andrew Poulton

NGR: TL 485 174 (centre) (centre) Planning ref.: 3/19/1409/FUL CAT project ref.: 20/06a OASIS ref.: colchest3-395811



**Colchester Archaeological Trust** Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785 email: <u>eh2@catuk.org</u>

CAT Report 1604 October 2020

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### 1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire in advance of the construction of two new dwellings with associated garages, landscaping, and associated groundworks. The site lies partially within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 162, which defines the extent of the medieval core of Spellbrook. A number of features dating from the 11th to the 13th century were uncovered within this area, and yielded evidence suggesting domestic activity in the vicinity. A post-medieval posthole, a modern pit or posthole and an undated pit were also excavated.

#### 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching on land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire which was carried out during 22nd-23rd September 2020. The work was commissioned by Joshua Poulton on behalf of Andrew Poulton in advance of the construction of two new dwellings with associated garages, landscaping, and associated groundworks, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning (HCCERP), Historic Environment Advisor Simon Wood 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).

In response to this condition a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (CAT 2020) and agreed with the Historic Environment Advisor. All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI.

In addition to the 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 Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER), request number 41/20 and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) HER numbers are available for viewing online via <a href="http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk">http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk</a>.

The proposed development site is located within the historic core of the village of Spellbrook and partially within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 162, as identified in the Local Plan. This delineates the historic core of the medieval settlement of Spellbrook. The place name means 'speech brook' and it has been suggested that Spellbrook is an ancient meeting place (S Wood to B O'Brian, 30th July 2019). The 750m HER search area also includes part of Area of Archaeological significance No. 164.

#### **Historic landscape**

The Hertfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation map (HLC) shows that the development site is located within an area characterised as a built-up area – urban development (code ba). The area to the south of the site is characterised as boundary loss - post 1950s boundary loss (bl).

#### Archaeology (Fig 2)

(All measurements are taken from the centre point of the development site to the centre point of the archaeological site).

#### Prehistoric

Approximately 560m to the northeast of the site is Wallbury Camp, a scheduled monument (SM 1002190; EHER 16). Wallbury Camp is an Iron Age oppidum (hillfort) located on the Essex/Hertfordshire border. It occupies an area of thirty-one 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. The hillfort is likely to have been a defensive site on the boundary between the Trinovantes and the Catavallunian tribes during the Late Iron Age. CAT carried out an evaluation within the hillfort in 2018, an a number of residual worked flints were recovered (CAT Report 1310, 560m NE).

#### Roman

Evidence of Roman occupation and activity includes a cropmark of rectangular structure thought to be a Roman villa (MHT15790, 350m SSW). A fragment of a stone Roman tombstone depicting a portion of a clothed figure dating to the 3rd century was found near Spellbrook Farm (MHT11813, 60m N). Roman building material, pottery and coins (predominantly dating from 300-330AD) have also been recovered near Spellbrook Farm (MHT6581, 300m SW).

#### Medieval to post-medieval

The evaluation undertaken by CAT at Wallbury Camp in 2018 revealed eleven medieval features evidencing extensive activity at the site in the 12th to 13th centuries, possibly associated with agriculture or horticulture. Domestic evidence recovered from these contexts suggests that medieval settlement or farmstead stood nearby (CAT Report 1310, 560m NE).

One of the earliest known houses in the village is the The Three Horseshoes, a Historic England Grade II Listed timber-framed building with thatched roof. The building is reputed to date from 1446 with 16th- and 17th-century extensions. Originally used as a house with a blacksmiths workshop, it later became a public house (MHT31114, DHT3154, 200m ENE).

Cropmarks recorded through aerial photography reveal a series of historic field complexes, including medieval ridge and furrow systems (MHT17576) and historic boundaries removed during the late 19th century (MHT17577, 725m NNW).

#### Post-medieval to modern

Spellbrook Farm, a Historic England Listed farmstead and outbuildings (MHT12297, DHT4793 and DHT5000) lies approximately 40m to the north. The rear range of the farmhouse is thought to date to *c* 1700 and a parallel front range to the early 18th century. Approximately 100m northeast of the site was a group of post-medieval cottages, a public house and milestone which were demolished in the mid 20th century during road widening works (MHT31431). Adjacent to the current site is The Old Cottage a Historic England Grade II dwelling thought to have its origins in the 17th century (DHT4302, 35m E). To the northeast of the site was the location of Spellbrook railway station, built in the late 1830s but only in use from late 1841 to mid 1842 (MHT18772, 450m NE). Remains of a post-medieval well with pumping gear is thought to be associated with the adjacent railway line (MHT18774, 580m NNE). Other post-medieval structures within the search area include the 19th century bridge over the River Stort (MHT5134, 400m ENE) and the road bridge carrying the access track to Tednambury Farm over the railway line (MHT5135, 640m SE).

#### Undated

Cropmarks recorded through aerial photography show evidence of a ditched enclosure with signs of internal features (MHT17575, 525m N). Another area of cropmarks are located to the south of Wallbury Camp, approximately 530m east of the current site cropmarks show two circular enclosures (EHER 3629)

#### Listed buildings

The search area includes four Historic England listed buildings within the 750m radius of the site (all Grade II). They all date from the medieval period to 18th century and are described in the medieval and post-medieval sections above.

#### 4 Aims

Archaeological evaluation was undertaken to ascertain the extent of any existing archaeological deposits which exist at the site, and to determine whether further investigations are necessary.

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

Five trial trenches were excavated within the development site. They measured 10m in length and 1.8m in width apart from trench T5, which was 25m long and 1.8m wide. They were excavated through topsoil (L1, 0.11-0.23m thick, firm, moist medium grey/brown silty-clay) on to natural clays (L2, firm, moist medium yellow/brown clay). Sondages were excavated in trenches T2, T3 and T5 to confirm the identification of L2 as natural.

There were no archaeological remains in trench T2.

#### Trench 1 (T1): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Medieval (11th-13th century) pit F1 was uncovered at the northern end of the trench. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) but its exposed extent was 0.39m wide and 0.04m deep.

Post-medieval posthole F2 was situated in the southern half of the trench. It too extended beyond the LOE but its exposed dimensions were 0.36m wide and 0.23m deep.



**Photograph 1** T1 trench shot – looking north

#### Trench 3 (T3): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Medieval (11th-13th century) pit F3 lay at the mid-point of the trench. The feature extended beyond the LOE; its exposed extent was 1.09m wide and 0.1m deep.

Medieval (11th-13th century) ditch F4 was uncovered at the western end of the trench. It was aligned NW-SE and was 0.41m wide and 0.09m deep.



Photograph 2 T3 trench shot – looking northeast

#### Trench 4 (T4): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Medieval (13th century) pit F5 lay at the northern end of the trench. The feature extended beyond the LOE but it was at least 2.75m across. An exploratory slot was excavated to a depth of 0.85m.

#### Trench 5 (T3): 25m long by 1.8m wide

Undatable pit F6 was uncovered within the western half of the trench. The pit extended beyond the LOE; it exposed dimensions were 0.85m wide and 0.08m deep. It was possibly natural in origin.

Modern pit/posthole F7 lay within the eastern half of the trench. The feature was not excavated.

## 6 Finds

#### 6.1 Pottery and ceramic building material by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of mostly post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 81 sherds with a weight of 595g and 0.48 vessels according to the rim EVE (Table 1).

Ceramic material	no.	weight/g	MSW/g	Rim EVE		
Pottery	77	586	8	0.48		
СВМ	4	9	2	-		
All	81	595	7	0.48		

 Table 1
 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Small quantities of pottery and CBM was recovered from five features although most of the material came from the linear F4 (Table 2).

Cxt	Description	no.	weight/g	MSW/g
F1	Pit	9	40	4
F2	Posthole	1	1	1
F3	Pit	1	6	6
F4	Ditch	62	532	9
F5	Pit	8	16	2
	Total	81	595	7

 Table 2
 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features and contexts

#### Roman Pottery

There were two slightly abraded sherds of Roman coarse, principally locally-produced grey ware (fabric GX) pottery with a weight of 15g which came from pit F1. These sherds are from a possible Cam 266 (0.08 EVE) cooking pot which dates from the preconquest to the late 1st century AD (*CAR* **10**, 479).

#### **Post-Roman pottery**

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from *CAR* **7** (2000) and Cunningham (1985) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) (Table 4). There were 75 sherds with a weight of 571g and 0.40 vessels (EVE) (Table 4). The majority of the post-Roman pottery consists of early medieval sandy wares (fabrics F13, F13S, F13T) which date from the early/mid-11th to the early-13th century AD (*CAR* **7**, 39-71) (Tables 3-4). Ditch F4 contained most of this material including two heavily sooted cooking pots of type A1a (plain everted rim) and A4a (plain incipient bead) (*ibid*, 50 fig. 27). Pit F5 contained a small sherd (2g) of Colchester-type ware (fabric F21A) dating to *c* 1200-1550 while posthole F2 produced a small (1g) sherd of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (fabric F40) dating to *c* 1500-19th/20th century.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F13	Early medieval sandy wares	11th-early 13th century
F13S	Early medieval sandy shell dusted wares	11th-early 13th century
F13T	Early medieval sandy wares transitional	Early 12th-early 13th century
F21A	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century

 Table 3 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded

Fabric Group	Fabric description	no.	weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim	Handle	Base	EVE
F13	Early medieval sandy wares	68	545	8	10	0	1	0.40
F13S	Early medieval sandy shell dusted wares	2	13	7	0	0	1	0.00
F13T	Early medieval sandy wares transitional	3	10	3	0	0	0	0.00
F21A	Colchester-type ware	1	2	2	0	0	0	0.00
F40	Post-medieval red earthen- wares	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.00
	Total	75	571	8	10	0	2	0.40

 Table 4
 Details on the post-medieval pottery

#### Ceramic building material (CBM)

This consists of four pieces of baked clay with chalk nodules (9g) which were recovered from pits F1 and F5.

#### Conclusion

Table 5 summarizes the dating evidence for the features and layers which produced dateable ceramic finds. Most of the material and features date to the early medieval period (c 11th-13th century).

Cxt	Feature type	Roman	Post-Roman	CBM	Overall date approx.
F1	Pit	GX (Cam 266?)	F13	Baked clay	11th-13th century
F2	Posthole	-	F40	-	Post-medieval
F3	Pit	-	F13	-	11th-13th century
F4	Ditch	-	F13 (cooking pot A1a, A4b) F13S F13T	-	11th-13th century
F5	Pit	-	F13 F21	Baked clay	13th century

**Table 5** Approximate dates for the individual features and contexts

#### 6.2 Flints

by Adam Wightman

F1 T1 (1) A small, thin, broken blade/bladelet. Detached from the blade core using a soft hammer or punch from a well-prepared striking platform. Evidence of use-wear or edge-damage on the right lateral edge. Likely to date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic.

#### 6.3 Animal bone

by Alec Wade

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of seven pieces of bone (total weight 64g) from three features of medieval or early medieval date. The material was in poor condition with some loss of surface detail.

The only species positively identified in the assemblage was horse, with other fragments being from another large sized mammal (either horse or cow) and probably a sheep or goat.

Context	Find number	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments				
Pit F3	3	1	4	Large sized mammal	Proximal radius fragment (left).				
Ditch F4	4	1	2	Medium sized mammal	Probably sheep or goat, radius diaphysis fragment?				
Pit F5	5	5	58	Horse	Astragalus broken into five fragments.				
Total		7	64						

 Table 6
 Animal bone by context

#### 6.4 Metal-detected finds

by Laura Pooley

Seven pieces of 19th-/20th-century agricultural ironwork were recovered as unstratified finds using a metal-detector. All of the objects have been recorded below and discarded.

1) Large Y-shaped bar which tapers to a point at one end, 490mm long, 40mm wide, 26mm deep, 947g.

2) Hollow tube, 317mm long, 14mm diameter, 84g.

3) Strip, broken at both ends, 75mm long, 15mm wide, 12mm think, 43g.
4) Screw, 102mm long, 33g.
5-7) Nails, round-sectioned with small, flat round heads, 33mm, 39mm and 51mm long, total 11g.

## 7 Conclusion

Seven features were uncovered during this evaluation: three medieval pits, a medieval ditch, a post-medieval posthole, a modern pit or posthole and an undated pit.

The most significant remains were a cluster of 11th- to 13th-century features concentrated in the northeastern corner of site, in a section largely lying within Area of Archaeological Significance no. 162 – which defines the extent of the medieval core of settlement – and close to the street frontage. Three of these features produced pieces of animal bone, and one yielded two sheds of heavily-sooted cooking pot. The results of the investigation suggests that this was indeed a site of domestic occupation during this period.

Evidence hinting at activity at the site during other periods too. Two residual sherds of Roman pottery were found in a medieval pit. A posthole suggests the presence of a posted structure here during the post-medieval period. More interestingly, however, a flint dating to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic era was also recovered.

#### 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Joshua Poulton and Andrew Poulton for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway with N Pryke and M Perou. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Hertfordshire County Council by Simon Wood.

#### 9 References

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

Brown, D	2011 (2nd ed.)	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAR 7	2000	Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85, by J Cotter
CAR 10	1999	Colchester Archaeological Report <b>10</b> : Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86, by R Symonds & S Wade
CAT	2018	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report	2018	Archaeological evaluation at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little
1310		Hallingbury, Essex: August 2018, by L Pooley
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,
		conservation and research of archaeological materials
Cunningham, C	1985	'A typology for post-Roman pottery in Essex', in C Cunningham &
· · · ·		P Drury (eds.), Post-medieval sites and their pottery: Moulsham
		Street, Chelmsford AD 1450-1750, 1-16
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East
<b>_j</b> , _		Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic	2015	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment
England (HE)	2010	(MoRPHE)
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the
Woory oott, W	2011	<i>East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing,

		Communities and Local Government.
Schmid, E	1972	Atlas of Animal Bones

#### 10 Abbreviations and glossary

	9
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
HCCERP	Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning
HHER	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (Ľ)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
Mesolithic	period from <i>c</i> 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from <i>c</i> AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from c 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS,
	http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main_
post-medieval	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
prehistoric	pre-Roman
Roman	the period from AD 43 to <i>c</i> AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation
	5

#### **11** Contents of archive

Finds: part of one box (flint, pottery, animal bone) Paper record One A4 document wallet containing: The report (CAT Report 1604) CAT written scheme of investigation Original site record (trench sheets, sections) Site digital photos and log Inked sections Digital record The report (CAT Report 1604) HCC 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 Bishop Stortford Museum under project ref. EHT8266.

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#### **Distribution list:**

Joshua Poulton Andrew Poulton Simon Wood, Hertfordshire County Council Environmental Resource Planning Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785 email: <u>eh2@catuk.org</u>

*Checked by:* Philip Crummy *Date:* 09.10.2020

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#### Appendix 1 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	TR	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Dec.	stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wmd	soot	Pitting	Burn	Overifred	Residue	Abraded	Modif.	Repair hole	Hole	0180	Polisning	Fabric Grp	Typology	Vessel function	EVE	Diam	Vessel H	Comments	Date
F01	Pit	- 23		6	2	<b>e</b> 32	4	0	0	1						×										1	F13							1025/1050-1200/1225 AD
F01	Pit	- 31		2	18	8	1	1	6	0										T)	x						GX	CAM 266		0.08	160			ROMAN
F02	Past hale	2		1		2	1				]								J į								F40	an de la del de la composition de la co La composition de la c					COPPER GLAZE	c.1500-19th/20th century
F03	Pit	3		1			0		10 N		Į					x								. ),			F13	2	16					1025/1050-1200/1225 AD
F04	Lines	-34	3	2	- 31	s s	7	0	0	1						×										-	F13S							1000-1225 AD
F04	Linear	- 34		57	505		p	10	0	0						x							0				F13		COOKING POT A1A	0.26	22		PLAIN EVERTED RIM	1025/1050-1200/1225 AD
F04	Linear	4	6 3								1	. I.							Į.				Į.,				F13	2	COOKING POT A48	0.14	24		PLAIN INCIPIENT BEAD	1025/1050-1200/1225 AD
F04	Lines	-34		্য	- 30	8	3									×											F13T							1125-1225 AD
F05	Pit	5		14			2				1					L.				ĊŰ.			1				F13		4.5					1025/1050-1200/1225 AD
F05	Pit.	5	4			1	2				1																F21						GREEN GLAZE	c.1200-1550 AD

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#### Appendix 2 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	R	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL CORN	ININ	FL.H.	FL.W.	R. TH.	LCAL	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Cire. Vt	Kect. Vt. Bl. vt.	PH R	PH 5Q	2 Phs	Blind	1	BR.	H.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date
F01	Pit	1	1	1	4			Baked clay	6																					1							3.0		4	ORANGE, CHALK LUMPS	7
F05	Pit	5	4	3	5	- 84	2	Baked clay																																ORANGE, CHALK LUMPS	2

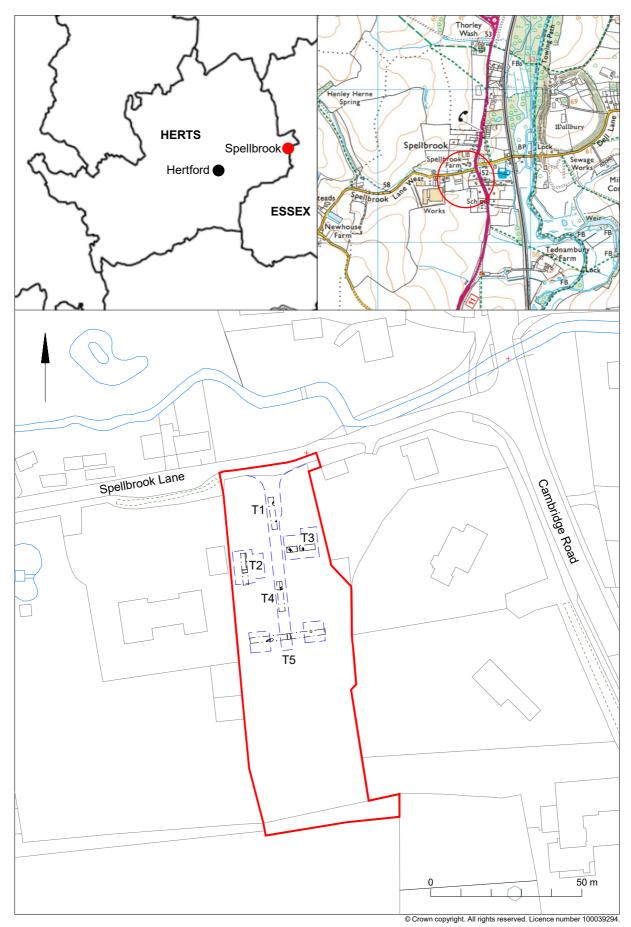


Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to the proposed development (indicated by the dashed blue lines).



Fig 2 Development site (in red) shown in relation to archaeological and historic sites recorded on the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (pink) and Essex Historic Environment Record (orange).

Imagery ©2020 Bluesky, Getmapping plc Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky, Maxar Technologies, The GeoInformation Group, Map data ©2020 HER data © Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record



Fig 3 Evaluation results.

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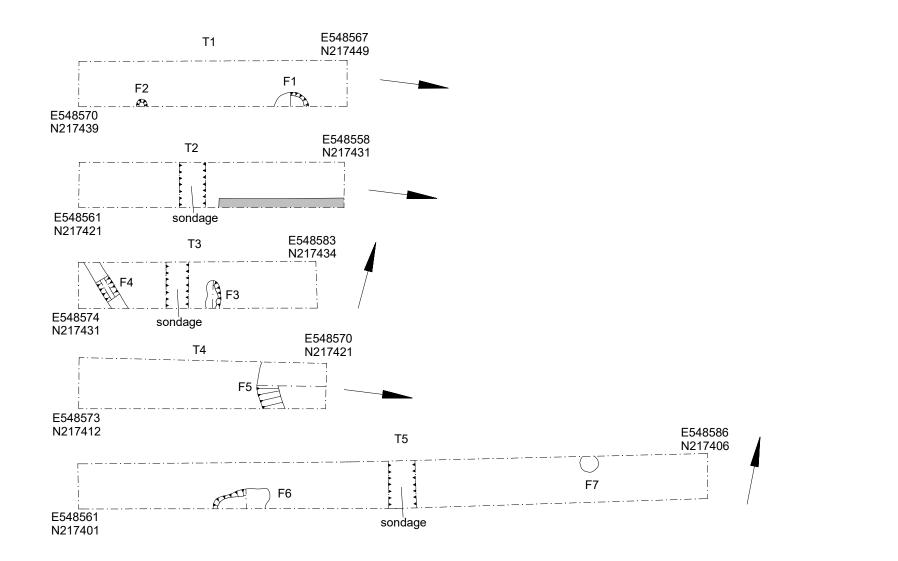


Fig 4 Trench results.

0 10 m

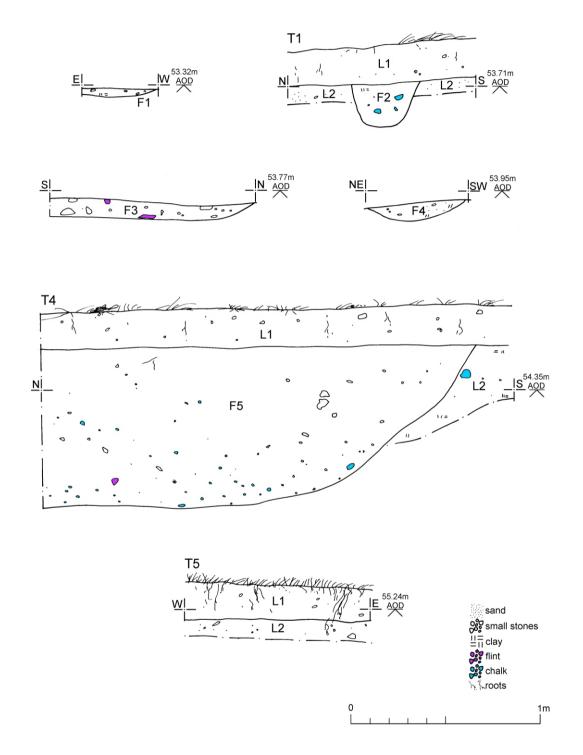


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

# APPENDIX

# HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Land off Spellbrook Lane, Wes CM23 4AY	st Spellb	prook, Sawbr	ridgeworth, Hertfordshire,							
County: Hertfordshire		District: East Hertfordshire								
Village/Town: Sawbridgeworth		Parish: West Spellbrook								
Planning application reference: 3	·									
HER Enguiry reference: 41/20										
Funding source: Developer										
Nature of application: Erection of two new dwelling with associated access.										
Present land use: uncultivated la	nd									
Size of application area: 0.44ha		Size of area	investigated: 117m <sup>2</sup>							
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL	485 174	(centre)								
Site code (if applicable): CAT pro	oject cod	e 20/06a								
Site director/organisation: Colche	ster Arch	haeological T	rust (CAT)							
Type of work: Archaeological evaluation										
Date of work: Start			Finish:							
September 2020 22nd	Septem	ber 2020	23rd September 2020							
Location of finds & site archive/cu										
Related EHER/HER nos: EHER EHER 3629; DHT3154, DHT430 DHT4793, DHT5000; MHT5134, MHT5135, MHT6581, MHT11813 MHT12297, MHT15790, MHT175 MHT17576, MHT17577, MHT187 MHT18774, MHT31114, MHT314	2, 3, 575, 72,	Periods represented: Mesolithic, Neolithic, medieval, post- medieval, modern								
Relevant previous summaries/reports: n/a										
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire in advance of the construction of two new dwellings with associated garages, landscaping, and associated groundworks. The site lies partially within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 162, which defines the extent of the medieval core of Spellbrook. A number of features dating from the 11th to the 13th century were uncovered within this area, and yielded evidence suggesting domestic activity in the vicinity. A post-medieval posthole, a modern pit or posthole and an undated pit were also excavated. Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks Date of summary: 08.10.2020										

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#### OASIS ID: colchest3-395811

#### **Project details**

Archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire Project name Short description An archaeological evaluation (five trial-trenches) was carried out on land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire in advance of the construction of two new dwellings with associated garages, landscaping, and associated groundworks. The site lies partially within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 162, which defines the extent of the medieval core of Spellbrook. A number of the project of features dating from the 11th to the 13th century were uncovered within this area, and yielded evidence suggesting domestic activity in the vicinity. A post-medieval posthole, a modern pit or posthole and an undated pit were also excavated. Start: 22-09-2020 End: 23-09-2020 Project dates No / Not known Previous/future work Any associated 3/19/1409/FUL - Planning Application No. project reference codes Any associated 2020/06a - Contracting Unit No. project reference codes Any associated EHT8266 - Sitecode project reference codes Field evaluation Type of project Site status None Monument type PIT Medieval POSTHOLE Post Medieval Monument type Monument type DITCH Medieval PIT Uncertain Monument type PIT/POSTHOLE Modern Monument type POTTERY Roman Significant Finds Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval BAKED CLAY Uncertain Significant Finds Significant Finds FLINT Mesolithic Significant Finds FLINT Neolithic Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Medieval Significant Finds IRON OBJECT Post Medieval Significant Finds IRON OBJECT Modern Methods & "Targeted Trenches" techniques Development type Rural residential Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF Position in the After full determination (eg. As a condition) planning process

#### **Project location**

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE EAST HERTFORDSHIRE SAWBRIDGEWORTH Land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire
Postcode	CM23 4AY
Study area	0.44 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 485 174 51.834969349774 0.155541863615 51 50 05 N 000 09 19 E Point
Height OD / Depth	1 Min: 53.27m Max: 55.12m

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, HCC
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project	Chris Lister

#### 09/10/2020

director/manager	
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Andrew Poulton

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford Museum
Physical Archive ID	EHT8266
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford Museum
Digital Archive ID	EHT8266
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Bishop's Stortford Museum
Paper Archive ID	EHT8266
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

#### Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) Publication type Title Archaeological evaluation on land off Spellbrook Lane, West Spellbrook, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, CM23 4AY: September 2020 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E. Other CAT Report 1604 bibliographic details Date 2020 ssuer or Colchester Archaeological Trust publisher Place of issue or Colchester publication Description A4 loose-leaf broass-stapled URL http://cat.essex.ac.uk Entered by Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org) Entered on 9 October 2020



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