

# Archaeological monitoring at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3DT

February 2021



by **Laura Pooley**

figures by Laura Pooley and Sarah Carter

fieldwork by Megan Seehra

on behalf of **Gerry Dobbs**

NGR: TL 6780 0624 (centre)

Planning ref.: CHL/19/01794 with revision CHL/20/01532

CAT project ref.: 2020/04a

ECC code: WRTTG20

Chelmsford Museum accession code: CHMER: 2021.001

OASIS ref.: colchest3-390849



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**CAT Report 1643**

April 2021

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, Essex during groundworks for the construction a rear extension. Despite being located in the historic settlement area of Writtle there were no significant archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, Essex which was carried out on 23rd February 2021. The work was commissioned by Gerry Dobbs, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks for a rear extension.

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* (MHCLG 2019).

*A Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle*, was produced by Alison Bennett detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS in advance of the groundworks (CAT 2020). Both of these documents were based on the original planning application (CHL/19/01794) that included the monitoring of groundworks associated with a proposed replacement garage. Revisions to the planning application (CHL/20/01532) however, meant that the original garage would be retained and there would be no new groundworks requiring archaeological monitoring.

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2015), 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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

## 3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological includes extracts of the ECC brief and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>)

The proposed development site is located within the historic settlement area of Writtle. The settlement has its origins in the late Anglo-Saxon period when it was a royal manor, with lands belonging to the church and to a priest mentioned in Domesday book of 1086.

On The Green are a number of listed buildings (EHER 30926, 30933) reflecting its historic location. A series of test-pits dug between 2009-2013 by Cambridge Access East recovered evidence for medieval and post-medieval occupation around the site (EHER 48702, 48703, 48810, 48826, 48827, 48828, 48831, 48892).

The property also lies to the northeast of the All Saints Church (EHER 705). The church was built in the late 12th to 13th century with substantial repairs and restorations in the 19th century, including rebuilding the tower in 1802 after it collapsed. The fabric of the church includes some Roman bricks, and excavations within the east of the churchyard in 1953 recovered Roman brick and pottery. Roman brick has also encountered in the make-up of the floor of the chancel (EHER 707).

#### 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)

Approximately 24.5m of foundation trenches were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trenches were c 0.4m wide by c 1m deep, with the footprint of the extension being reduced by 0.2m.

Over most of the site the trenches were cut through either a thin layer of concrete from the demolished patio (L5) or a layer of gravel on membrane on a bed of sand (L6, c 0.2-0.3m thick). Beneath this was a modern accumulation/make-up layer layer (L7, c 0.4m thick, mid grey/brown sandy-silty-clay) which sealed a dark blue/grey clay (L8, c 0.1m thick) which had modern inclusions within it. Natural clay (L4) was encountered at a depth of c 0.7-0.8m below current ground level.

In the far southwestern corner of the site the trenches cut through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.12m thick, dark brown sandy-silt) and two layers of modern accumulation/make-up (L2, c 0.37m thick, mid grey/brown sandy-silt and L3, c 0.21m thick, a stony yellow silty-clay). Natural clay (L4) was encountered at a depth of c 0.70m below current ground level.

No archaeological features were revealed within the foundation trenches.



**Photograph 1** The foundation trenches, looking southwest



**Photograph 2** The foundation trenches, looking northwest

## 6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

## 7 Conclusion

Despite being located within the historic settlement area of Writtle, no remains of archaeological significance were encountered during the monitoring. The modern accumulation/make-up layers probably date to the 1960s when the property (originally an outbuilding) was rebuilt and enlarged to form the current dwelling.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Gerry Dobbs for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Seehra. Figures are by L Pooley and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

## 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 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)

CAT	2021	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT	2020	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3DT.</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>
ECCPS	2020	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, by A Bennett</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i>
Historic England	2015	<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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government</i>

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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'
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
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 1643)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1643)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Survey data

## 12 Archive deposition

The 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 number CHMER: 2021.001, WRTTG20.

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**Distribution list:**

Gerry Dobbs  
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

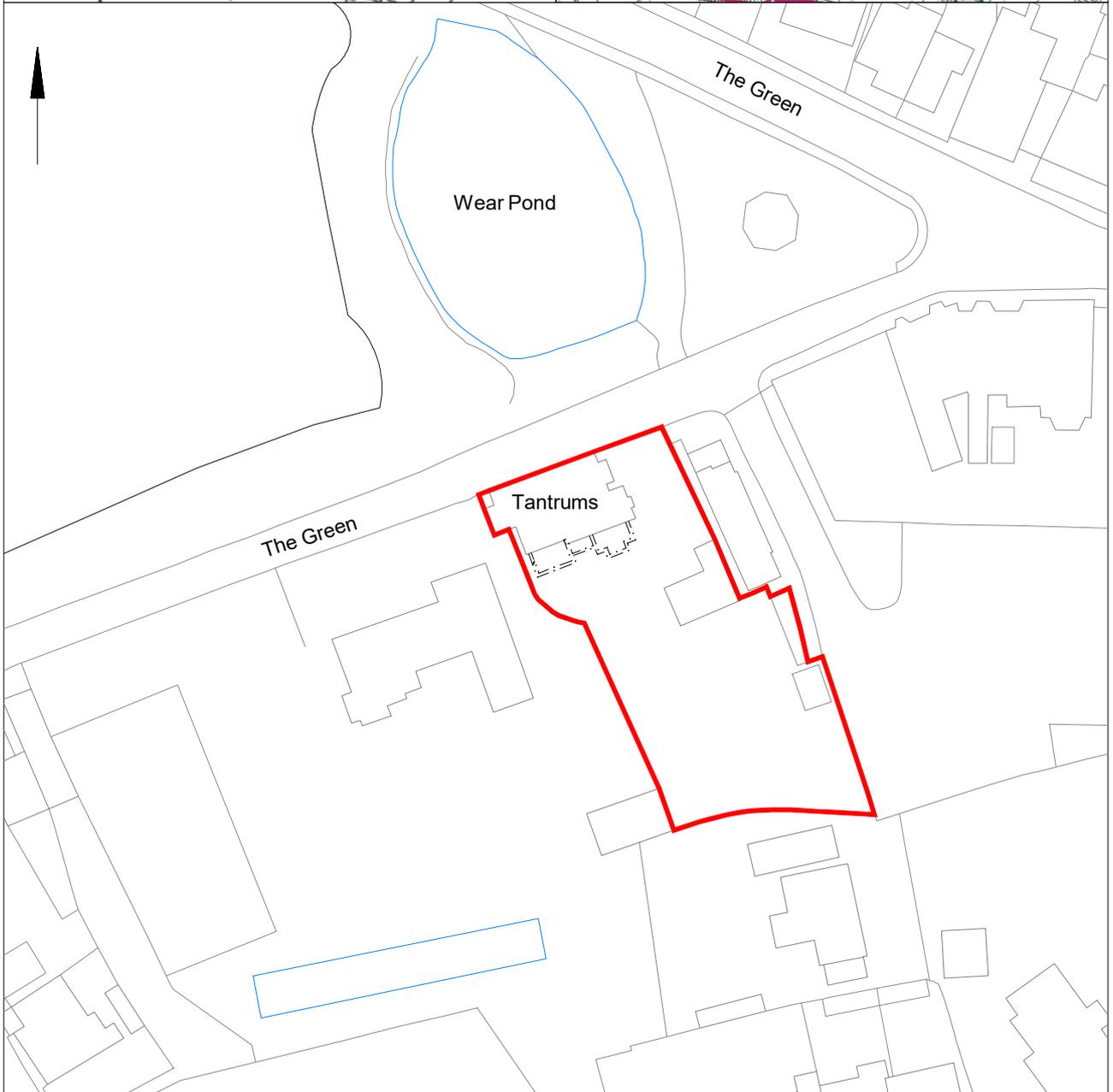
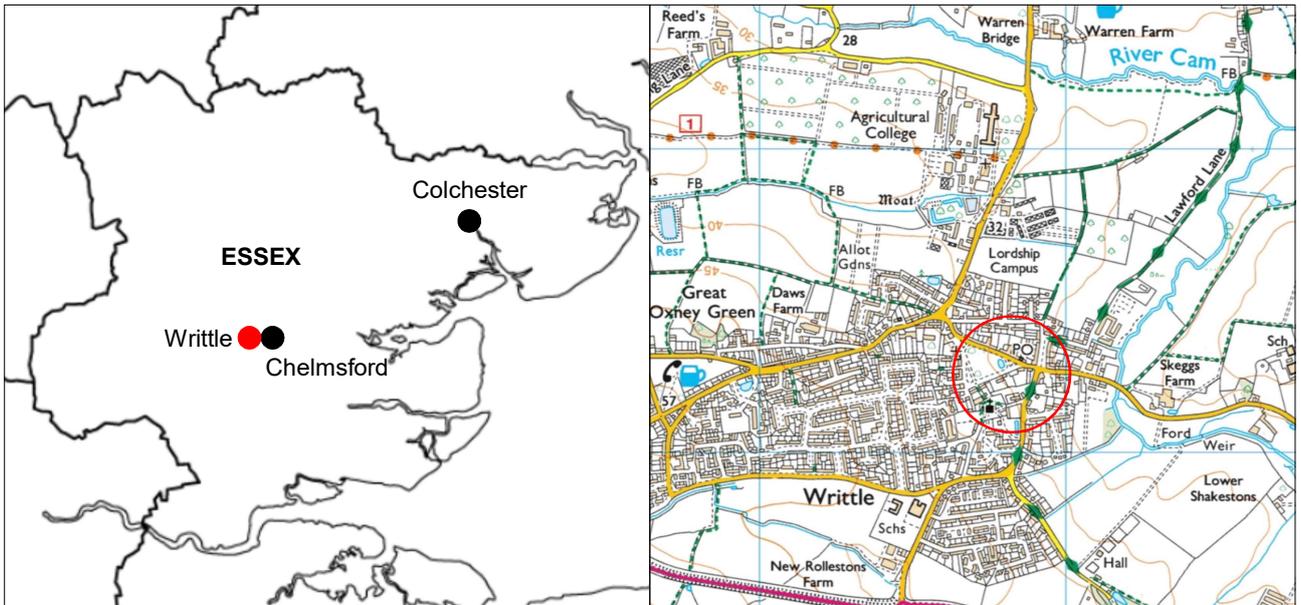


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Checked by: Philip Crummy  
Date: 7.4.2021



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Fig 1 Site location.



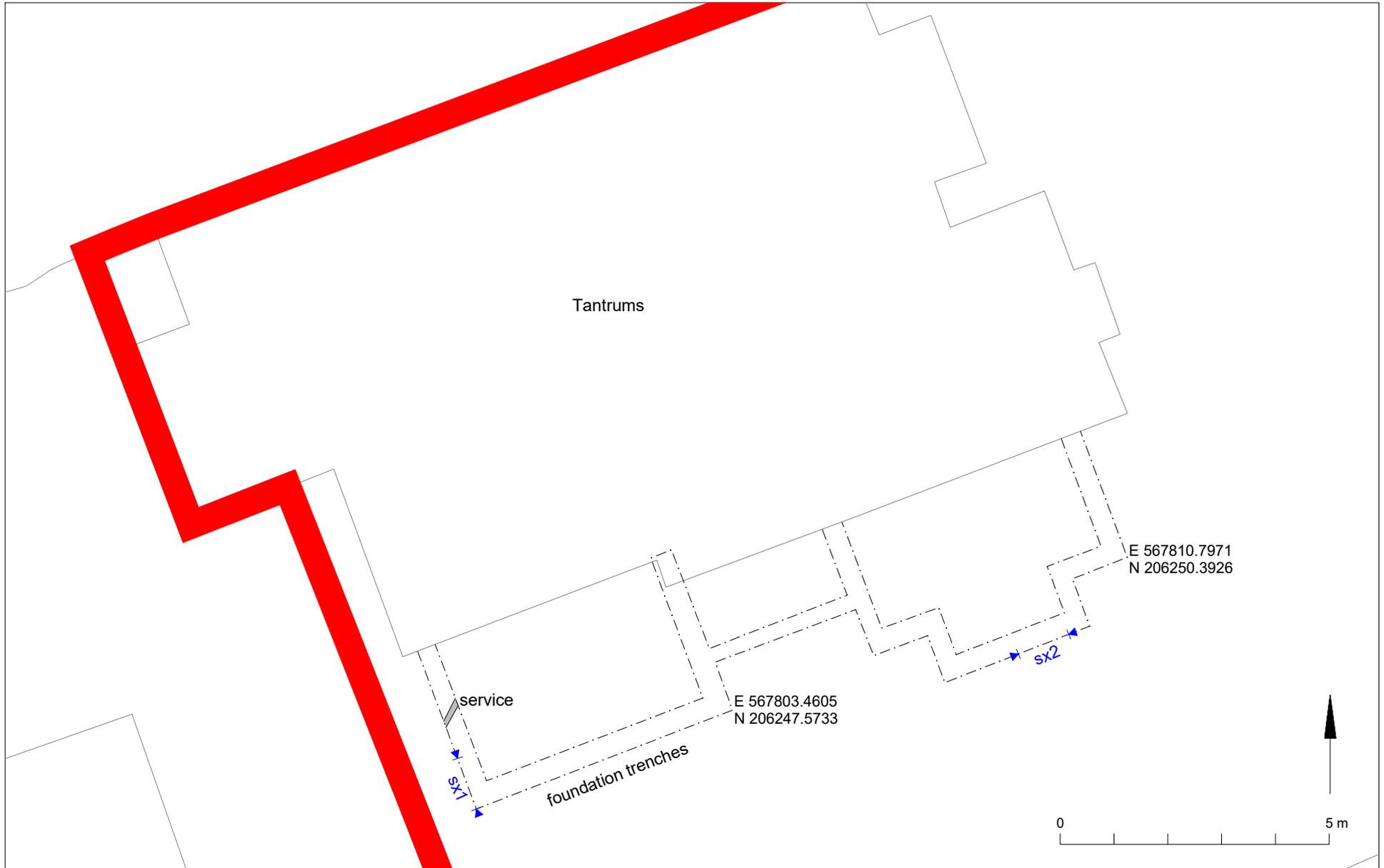


Fig 2 Results

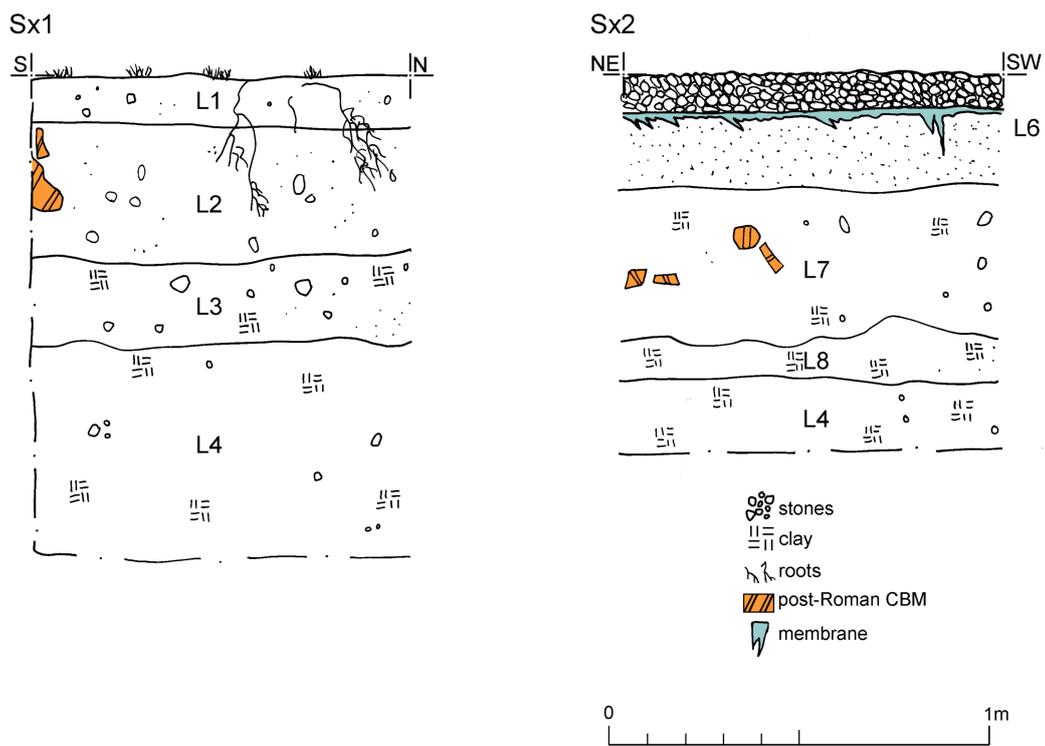


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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## Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3DT
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, Essex during groundworks for the construction a rear extension. Despite being located in the historic settlement area of Writtle there were no significant archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 23-02-2021 End: 23-02-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	CHL/19/01794 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHL/20/01532 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/04a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMER: 2021.001 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	WRTTG20 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD WRITTLE Tantrums, The Green
Postcode	CM1 3DT
Study area	0.12 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6780 0624 51.729227450926 0.430037436725 51 43 45 N 000 25 48 E Point

## Project creators

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

## Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMER: 2021.001
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive	Chelmsford Museum

recipient  
Paper Archive ID CHMER: 2021.001  
Paper Contents "other"  
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Section"

**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological monitoring at Tantrums, The Green, Writtle, Essex, CM1 3DT: February 2021  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.  
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1643  
Date 2021  
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
Place of issue or publication Colchester  
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf  
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>  
  
Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)  
Entered on 16 April 2021

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