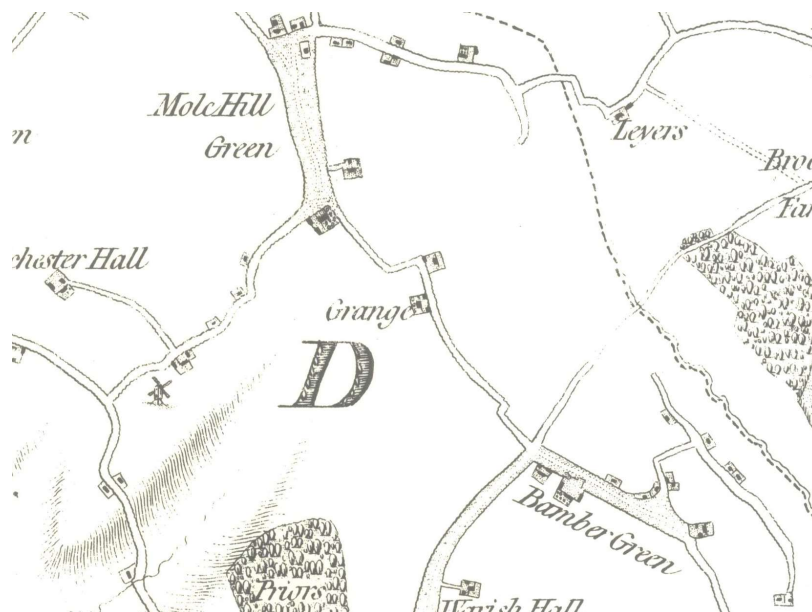


Archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF

September 2021



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Robin Mathieson and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ziya Eksen

**commissioned by Ben Hughes (Richard Jackson Ltd)
on behalf of Stansted Airport Ltd**

NGR: TL 56875 23602 (centre)

Planning ref.: UTT/20/3135/HHF

CAT project ref.: 2021/03w

ECC code: TGTK21

Saffron Walden Museum accession code: SAFWM: 2021.24

OASIS ref.: colchest3-419197



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CAT Report 1722

October 2021

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	3
11	Contents of archive	4
12	Archive deposition	4

Figures after p4

OASIS summary sheet

List of photographs and figures

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

Photograph 1 Site shot 2

Fig 1 Site location

Fig 2 Results

Fig 3 Representative sections

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Grange, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex during groundworks for a new sewage treatment plant. The Grange is a 17th-century Grade II listed house which occupies a medieval moated site. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no remains were observed, although it should be noted that only a limited area was uncovered by the groundworks.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex which was carried out during 22nd-23rd September 2021. The work was commissioned by Ben Hughes (Richard Jackson Ltd) on behalf of Stansted Airport Ltd, and was carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) during groundworks for a new sewage treatment plant.

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Katie Lee-Smith and the Historic England Inspector Dr Jess Tipper 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 Programme of Archaeological Monitoring* was produced by Katie Lee-Smith detailing the required archaeological work (ECCPS 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the requirement for archaeological monitoring (CAT 2021), and was approved by ECCHEA in advance of the groundworks.

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 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 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 background includes extracts of the ECCPS brief (2021) and the Essex Historic Environment Records (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessed via <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The development site includes a rectangular moated site situated on the flood plain of the River Chelmer, some 550m southeast of Waltham Hall, which is a scheduled ancient monument (SM 20719; NHLE 1011467). The moated site measures approximately 40m from northeast to southwest and 30m from northwest to southeast. The arms of the moat are waterfilled; they measure between 5m and 12m in width and have been partly revetted with concrete. A causeway which extends across the moat's eastern arm gives access to the island whilst a brick and concrete footbridge gives access across the western arm. An old beam which is thought to represent the remains of an earlier footbridge is visible alongside the modern bridge (EHER4658). The island is occupied by a Grade II listed house constructed in the 17th century with later additions. It is thought to be the original house located at the site (NHLE 1112235; EHER 4569, 37428). A waterfilled fishpond lies some 60m west of the moat. It measures approximately 20m from northeast to southwest and 13m from northwest to southeast. The pond is joined to the moat by a channel which is roughly 2m wide.

Around 6,000 known moated sites exist in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, which partly or completely enclose one or more islands on which stood domestic or religious buildings, though in some cases they 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 defensive feature. The peak

period of the moated site in England was between around 1250 and 1350, and by far the greatest concentration lies in the central and eastern parts of the country. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high degree of morphological diversity. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in medieval rural society. 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 waterfilled ditches will also retain environmental evidence relating to the economy of its inhabitants and the landscape in which they lived.

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the development site in 2018-19 during groundworks to underpin an extension to the house. Archaeological remains recorded during monitoring included four wall foundations and a clay floor (CAT Report 1365).

4 Aim

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

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 61.4m of service trenching, c 0.5m wide by c 0.5m deep, and a pit, 2.1m by 2.1m and 0.4m deep, were machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

Six layers were recorded. Within the western half of the site, the trenching was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.1-0.35m thick, firm, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay) and a further layer of soil (L2, c 0.2m thick, firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silty-clay) onto natural clay (L3, firm, moist medium brown clay, encountered at a depth of 0.45-0.5m below current ground level). At the northwestern part of the site, the trenching was cut through L1 and L2 onto both L3 and a layer of concrete (L4, encountered at a depth of 0.5m bcgl). Within the eastern part of the site, the trenching was cut through L1 (0.1-0.21m thick) and a modern build-up/levelling layer (L5, c 0.26-0.39m thick, composed of CBM, concrete, mortar etc) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.46-0.5m bcgl).

No archaeological features or material was observed.



Photograph 1 Site shot

6 Finds

There were no finds.

7 Conclusion

Despite being located within an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant remains were encountered during the monitoring. It should be noted, however, that only a limited area was uncovered by the groundworks. The negative results of this investigation do not, therefore, preclude the possibility that substantial and potentially significant archaeological deposits are present at this site

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Ben Hughes of Richard Jackson Ltd and Stansted Airport Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by Z Eksen. Figures are by C Lister, R Mathieson 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	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1365	2019	<i>Archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bamber's Green, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF: October 2018-January 2019</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>
CIfA	2019	<i>Code of conduct.</i> Pub. 2014, rev. 2019.
ECCPS	2021	<i>Brief for Programme of Archaeological Monitoring The Grange, Bamber's Green Road, Takeley</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	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

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
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
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 section wsi from c AD 1500 to c 1800
(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1722)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photos and log

Inked sections

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1722)

ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

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 Saffron Walden Museum under accession number SAFWM: 2021.24.

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Distribution list:

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Date: 13.10.2021

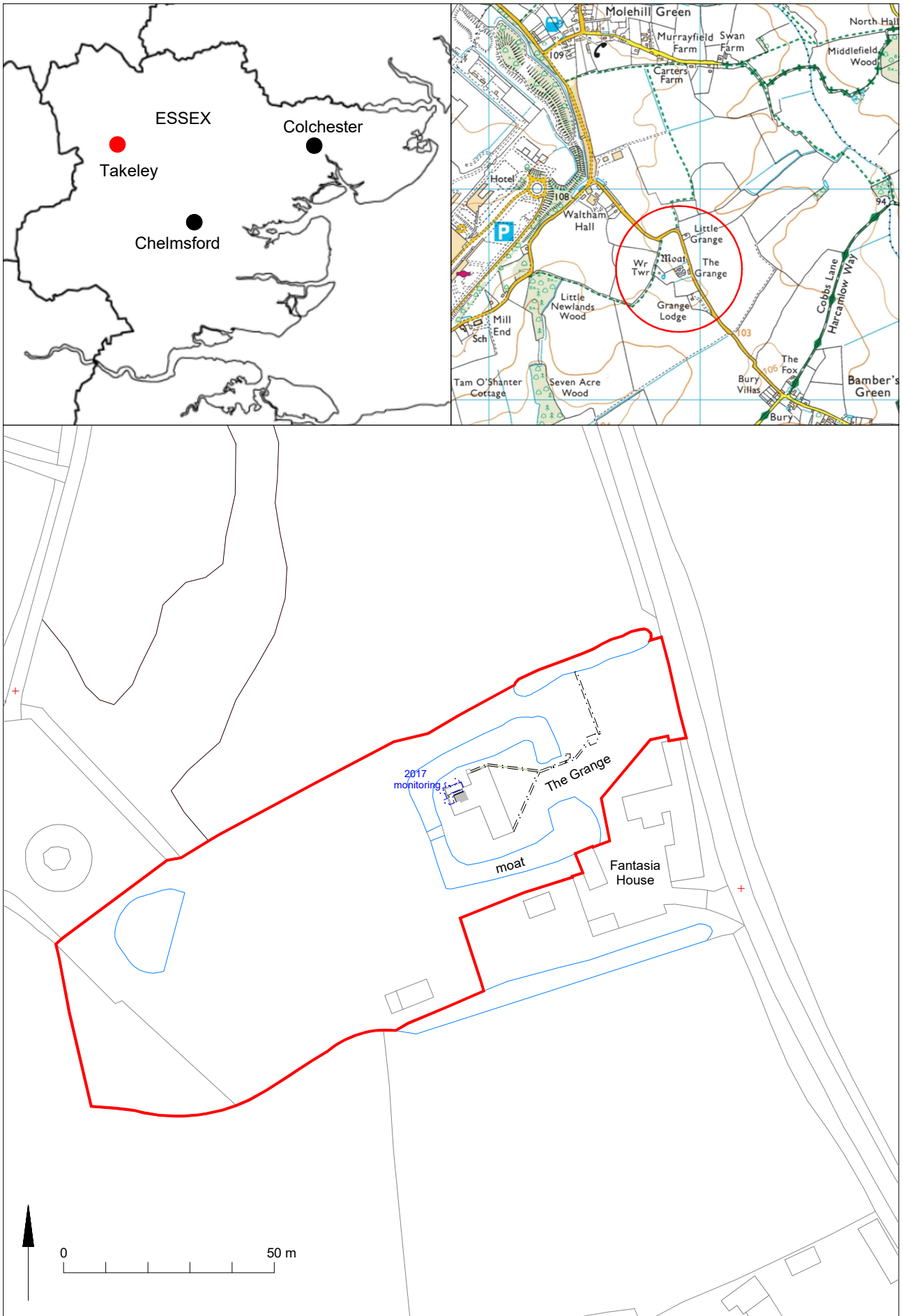


Fig 1 Site location.

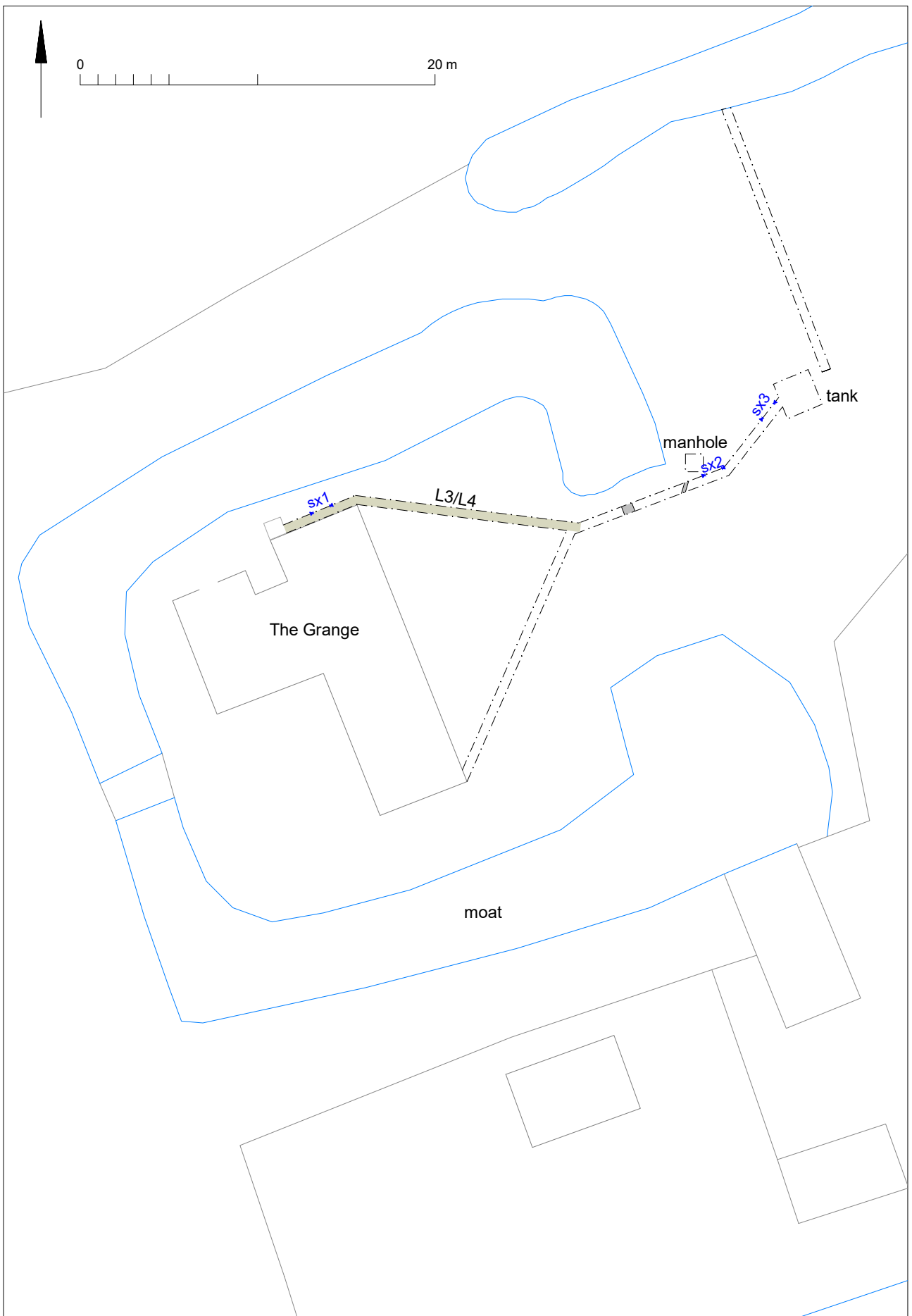


Fig 2 Results (modern services in grey)

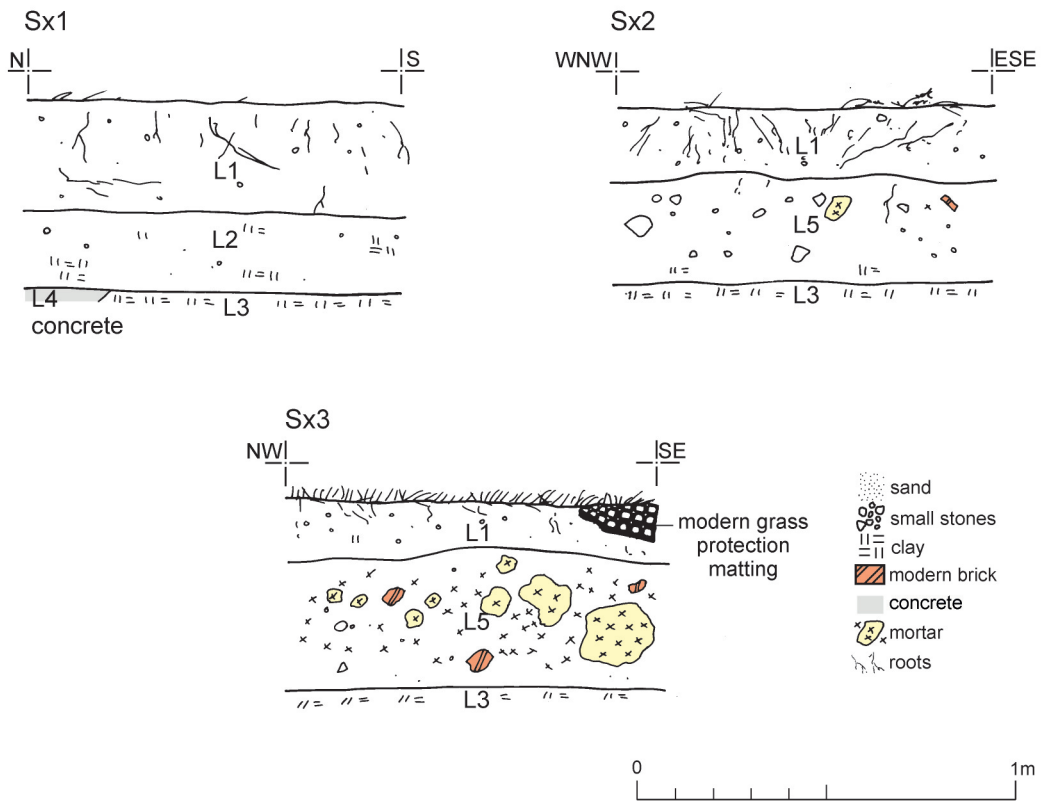


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-419197

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at The Grange, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex, CM22 6PF
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at The Grange, Bambers Green Road, Takeley, Essex during groundworks for a new sewage treatment plant. The Grange is a 17th-century Grade II listed house which occupies a medieval moated site. Despite lying in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no remains were observed, although it should be noted that only a limited area was uncovered by the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 22-09-2021 End: 23-09-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	UTT/20/3135/HHF - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/03w - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SAFWM: 2021.24 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	TGTK21 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD TAKELEY The Grange, Bambers Green Road
Postcode	CM22 6PF
Study area	0.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 56875 23602 51.888397059729 0.279824203247 51 53 18 N 000 16 47 E Point

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 Ziya Eksen
 Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum
 Digital Archive ID SAFWM: 2021.24
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Saffron Walden Museum
 Paper Archive ID SAFWM: 2021.24
 Paper Media available "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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 Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1722
 Date 2021
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
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