

**Archaeological monitoring and recording  
at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness,  
Tendring  
September 2011**

**report by  
Chris Lister**

**commissioned by John Acton**

CAT project ref.: 11/09a  
Colchester and Ipswich Museum  
accession code: COLEM 2011.58  
NGR: TL 1748 3186 (c)  
OASIS ref.: colchest3-219100



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**CAT Report 855**  
July 2015

## Summary

*The Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook archaeological monitoring and recording on the excavation of foundations for a new Estate Office at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring in September 2011.*

*Two wall foundations and a possible quarry pit were recorded during the scope of the monitoring.*

## Introduction

This is the archive report on the archaeological monitoring and recording carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) on behalf of Mr John Acton at Wrabness Hall in September 2011. The development lies adjacent to All Saints Church, Wrabness (TL 1748 3186) on Church Road, to the east of Mistley and 680m inland from the Stour Estuary (Fig 1).

The site includes a Grade II listed barn (Essex Historic Environment Record 34425) and an area of former post-medieval farm buildings that were damaged in the 1987 gales and have since been demolished. The proposed development comprised new outbuildings adjacent to the barn on the approximate footprint of the demolished structures.

The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in response to a brief written by the then Historic Environment Management Team of Essex County Council, now Place Services (Gascoyne 2011) and carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CAT (Baister 2011). The aim of the monitoring was to:

- identify and record any buried archaeological deposits likely to be disturbed or destroyed by groundworks associated with the development
- identify evidence of earlier phases of buildings
- identify evidence for domestic and agricultural/industrial activities

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b). The guidance contained in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE 2006) and in the documents *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revised: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (EAA 24) was also followed, as was the advice in Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008)

## Results

The archaeological monitoring took place on the afternoon of 21st September 2011 and consisted of one site visit. The foundation trenches for the Estate Office were machined to depth prior to the attendance of the CAT archaeologist and the recording was limited to an inspection of the exposed sides of the foundation trenches. The foundations covered an

area 14m long by 7.25m wide and were 0.6m wide (Fig 2). They were excavated to an approximate depth of 0.8m (Fig 3).

A c.160mm thick deposit of demolished brick and mortar (L1) was observed across the site. This derives from the demolition of those buildings destroyed in the 1987 gale. L1 sealed a thin band of mid brown sandy silt loam, c.70mm thick (L2) which in turn overlay a 50mm thick deposit of slightly darker sandy silt loam (L3). These are interpreted as accumulation layers in the farmyard dating to the 19th/20th centuries. At the south end of the foundations, L2 and L3 were cut by a brick footing (F1), one corner of a 19th/20th-century building. F1 cut a large pit in the south-west corner of the foundations, the backfill of which was a greyish brown sandy loam. This is interpreted as a quarry pit. At the north end of the foundations L2 and L3 overlay a second demolition layer (L4), c.40mm thick and more compact than L1. This contained frogged brick dating to the 19th/20th centuries. Below this was a 40mm thick layer of compacted gravel in a dark brown sandy clay (L5), interpreted as a yard surface, undated but presumably 19th century in origin. Below this there was a thin bedding layer of brownish yellow sandy clay (L6) which sealed L7, a mottled yellowish brown sandy clay, interpreted as natural. A wall foundation of red frogged brick (F3), aligned approximately east-west, cut L2-5 and may represent a 19th/20th-century yard wall.

Subsequent groundworks were not monitored by CAT but the author was informed that this included the removal of post-medieval brick footings to a depth of c.1m in some areas. These bricks were retained for use in the new building in accordance with a stipulation from Tendring District Council.

## References

**Note: all CAT fieldwork reports are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>**

Baister, M	2011	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological monitoring and excavation At Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
CIMS	2008	<i>Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>14</b> , ed by D Gurney
EAA 24	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: a revised framework for the Eastern Counties. Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers, <b>24</b> , ed by M Medlycott
Gascoyne, A	2011	<i>Brief for detailed monitoring/excavation at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring</i>
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage)

## Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Mr John Acton for commissioning and funding the project.

The site work was undertaken by Steve Benfield.

The project was monitored for Essex County Council by Adrian Gascoyne.

## Contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Risk assessment
- 1.2 Copy of the brief issued by ECC HEM Team
- 1.3 Copy of the WSI produced by CAT
- 1.4 1 x A0 folded site plan, 2 x A3 site plans

### 2 Site archive

- 2.1 Attendance register
- 2.2 Context sheets (L1-7, F1-3)

### 3 Research archive

- 3.1 Monitoring report

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### Distribution list:

Mr John Acton

Adrian Gascoyne, ECC

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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checked by: HB

date: 29/07/2015

*Following pages:*

***Appendix 1: WSI***

***Appendix 2: OASIS summary***

***Figures***

***EHER summary sheet***

**Written Scheme of Investigation  
for archaeological monitoring and excavation  
at Wrabness Hall, Church Road,  
Wrabness, Tendring**

September 2011



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## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring and excavation at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring.
- 1.2 The proposed development lies adjacent to All Saints Church, Wrabness (TL 1748 3186) on Church Road, to the east of Mistley and 680m inland from the Stour Estuary (see Fig 1).
- 1.3 The site includes a Listed barn (grade 11) and area of former post medieval farm buildings that were damaged in the 1987 gales and have since been demolished. The proposed work comprises the construction of new outbuildings adjacent to the barn on the approximate footprint of the demolished structures.
- 1.4 A planning application for the construction of an extension was submitted to Tendring District Council in November 2010 (10/01320/FUL).
- 1.5 Given the potential impact of these works on any surviving below ground remains associated with the historic farm complex, the following recommendation was made in line with Department for Communities and Local Government Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5):

**‘No demolition or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority’**

- 1.6 A brief describing the required archaeological work was prepared by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEM) of Essex County Council (HEM 2011).
- 1.7 This WSI has been written following the HEM Brief, and sets out details of how that archaeological monitoring and excavation will be carried out. The fieldwork will be followed by post-excavation work and the production of an archive and (if necessary) publication text.
- 1.8 Any variations in this WSI will be agreed beforehand with the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Officer (HEM).

## 2 Archaeological background

- 2.1 This section is based on records held by The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).
- 2.2 The Essex Historic Environment Record shows that the listed, timber framed barn (EHER 34425) is dated to the 18th century or earlier and historic mapping indicates that further ranges of buildings were located to the south of this. The farm buildings form part of a complex belonging to Wrabness Hall (EHER 34427) which is late medieval in origin.

## 3 Aim

- 3.1 The purpose of archaeological work is to identify and record any buried archaeological deposits that are likely to be disturbed or destroyed by groundworks associated with the scheme. These are likely to comprise new foundation and service trenches which potentially will impact upon features and structures related to any earlier post medieval or medieval use of the site.

Particular attention is required on assessing:

- Evidence of earlier phases of buildings
- Evidence of domestic and agricultural/industrial activities

## 4 General Methodology

- 4.1 All works will be undertaken by professional archaeologist(s) employed by CAT. The field officer(s) will have a level of experience appropriate to the work.

- 4.2 CAT is not carrying out the groundworks. The location and avoidance of existing services is the job of the developer (who are carrying out the groundworks themselves).
- 4.3 All the latest Health and Safety guidelines will be followed on site. CAT has a standard health and safety policy, which will be adhered to (CAT 1999 updated 2004).
- 4.4 A site code will be obtained from HEM. All codes will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.
- 4.5 For purposes of deposition of the archive, a museum accession code will be obtained through Colchester and Ipswich Museums. All codes will be quoted in any reports arising from the work.
- 4.5 The relevant document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) will be followed, i.e. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a), including its 'code of conduct'. Other guidelines followed are those published in EAA **3**, EAA **8** and EAA **14**.
- 4.6 At the start of the work an OASIS online record will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

## 5 Monitor and strip methodology

- 5.1 Machine stripping will be undertaken to the top of the archaeological horizon under archaeological supervision. Any archaeological features observed will be planned, excavated and recorded.
- 5.2 A CAT archaeologist will be present during topsoil strip and ground reduction, which will be done with a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. A CAT archaeologist will also be present to monitor other intrusive groundworks (e.g., services), unless it is clear that they will not penetrate the topsoil cover.
- 5.3 Because the developer is undertaking the groundworks directly, should the need arise for the detailed recording of any uncovered walls (relating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings) this will be discussed with the developer on site and time allocated accordingly.
- 5.4 Extra hand cleaning will be done if necessary.
- 5.5 All archaeological features or deposits which would be destroyed by proposed works will be excavated.
- 5.6 Fast excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.
- 5.7 Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on CAT pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds and samples.
- 5.8 The normal recording scale will be feature plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10.
- 5.9 A metal detector will be used to check spoil heaps and any suitable strata, and the finds recovered. This will not normally be done on demonstrably modern strata.
- 5.10 The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits taken on a digital camera. A Photo log will be compiled showing direction and subject of all shots.
- 5.11 The site boundary and features and site levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

## 6 Finds

- 6.1 Environmental sampling policy.  
The policy for environmental sampling will be as follows: any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by Val Fryer. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered VF will be asked onto site to advise. Rachel Ballantyne of EH is available for further advice.
- 6.2 The policy with regard to human remains depends on how old they are. If it is clear, from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Home Office (Department of Constitutional Affairs) for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the licence will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and HEM will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed. **Note: As the relevant legislation is currently in a state of flux, advice will be sought from HEM and DCA on best practice.**



- 6.3 All finds of archaeological relevance will be retained. Policies for later disposal of any finds will be agreed with HEM officer and the site owner.
- 6.4 All finds, where appropriate, will be washed.
- 6.5 A policy of marking for pottery and other finds will be agreed with Colchester and Ipswich Museums. Marking will include the site code and context number.
- 6.6 The site archive will be presented to Colchester and Ipswich Museums in accordance with their requirements
- 6.7 All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.
- 6.8 Finds work will be to accepted professional standards as presented in *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b).
- 6.9 A list of specialists available for consultation is given at the end of this WSI.

## 7 Results

- 7.1 Notification will be given to HEM officer when the fieldwork has been completed.
- 7.2 An HER summary sheet shall be completed within four weeks and supplied to the HEM Team officer. This shall be completed in digital form.
- 7.3 An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of archaeological projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) will be submitted to the HEM officer within a length of time not exceeding 3 months from the end of fieldwork, with one copy supplied to EHER (with a digital copy) and one to Colchester and Ipswich Museums with the archive.
- 7.4 This report will include:
  - The aims and methods adopted in the course of the monitor/strip.
  - Location plan of the stripped area, with 10-figure grid references at two points.
  - A section drawing showing the depth of deposits including present ground-level.
  - The excavation methodology and results with a suitable conclusion and discussion.
  - All specialist reports and assessments. Recommendations for further work will be kept separate from the results.
  - A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- 7.4 If, after discussion with HEM, the results are considered worthy of publication, a report (at least at a summary level), will be submitted to *Essex Archaeology and History*. An Oasis online form will be completed for submission to the EHER which will include an uploaded .pdf version of the report.

## 8 Archive deposition

- 8.1 The full archive will be deposited at Colchester and Ipswich Museums within 6 months of completion of final publication report on the project, and confirmed to HEM. All requirements for archive storage as required by Colchester and Ipswich Museums.
- 8.2 Finds (and other retained materials) will be bagged and boxed in the manner recommended by Colchester and Ipswich Museums.
- 8.3 Plans will be presented on hanging strips to fit Colchester and Ipswich Museums storage systems.
- 8.4 The photographic archive is to be presented as follows: original digital data on disk and hard copies of selected digital photos on high-quality paper, or as otherwise requested by Colchester and Ipswich Museums.
- 8.5 A summary of the contents of the archive shall be supplied to HEM at the time of deposition at the museum.

## 9 Monitoring

- 9.1 HEM will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.
- 9.2 Notification of the start of work will be given to HEM officer one week in advance of its commencement.
- 9.3 Any variations of the WSI shall be agreed with HEM officer in writing prior to them being carried out.
- 9.4 HEM will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.
- 9.5 The involvement of HEM shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## 10 References

Brown N. and Glazebrook J. 2000 *Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (**EAA8**)

Colchester Archaeological Trust 1999 (updated 2004) *Policies and procedures*

ECC HEM 2011 *Brief For Detailed Monitoring/Excavation at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring*

English Heritage 1991. *Management of archaeological projects, 2nd edition* (MAP 2)

Glazebrook J. 1997 *Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 1 resource assessment*, East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 3 (**EAA3**)

Gurney D. 2003 *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 14 (**EAA14**)

IfA 2008a. *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological field evaluation*.

IfA 2008b. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

Mark Baister 05/09/11

## **APPENDIX: TEAM STRUCTURE**

### **List of team members**

#### **Site supervision and Recording**

Ben Holloway, Adam Wightman

#### **Assistants**

TBC

#### **Finds consultants**

Stephen Benfield (CAT): LIA/Roman pottery

Francesca Boghi (NAU): Human bone

Howard Brooks (CAT): medieval and later pottery

Nina Crummy (Colchester): small finds, clay pipe, daub, etc

Julie Curl (freelance, Norwich): animal bone

Val Fryer (UEA/Loddon): environmental

Hazel Martingell (Braintree): lithics

Adam Wightman (CAT): animal bone and lithics

#### **Graphics**

E Spurgeon

#### **Report writing**

Adam Wightman, Ben Holloway, Howard Brooks

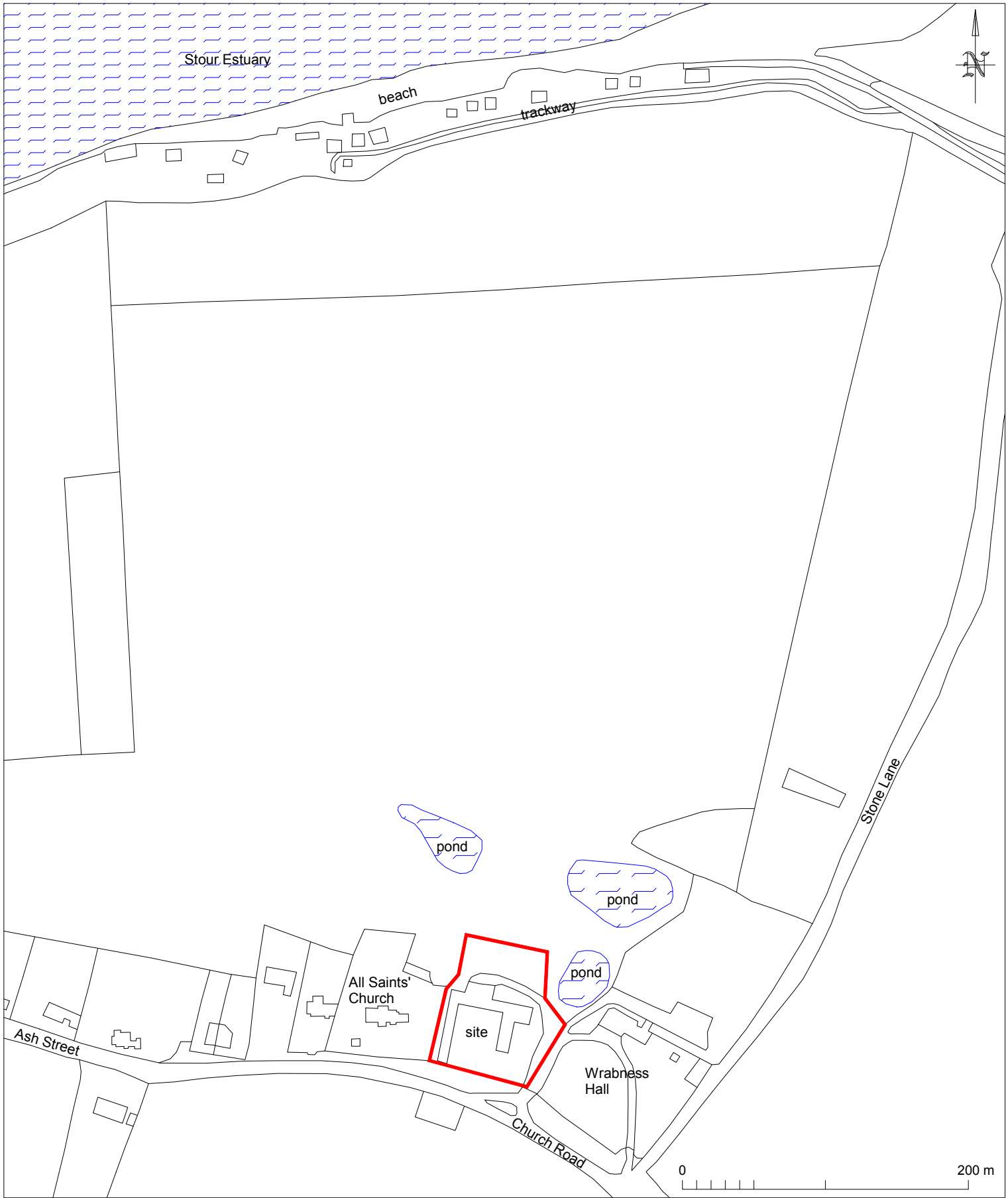


Fig 1 Site location

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-219100**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring September 2011
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out on the foundations for an estate office at Wrabness Hall
Project dates	Start: 21-09-2011 End: 29-07-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	11/09a - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	WALL FOOTING Post Medieval
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING WRABNESS Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness
Postcode	CO11 2TQ
Study area	101.50 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 1748 3186 51.9723380886 -0.289552210568 51 58 20 N 000 17 22 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Mark Baister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Stephen Benfield
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr John Acton

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	colem 2011.58
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images vector", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	colem 2011.58
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring, September 2011
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Lister, C
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 855
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	Comb-bound A4 report
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>
Entered by	Chris Lister (cl@catuk.org)
Entered on	29 July 2015

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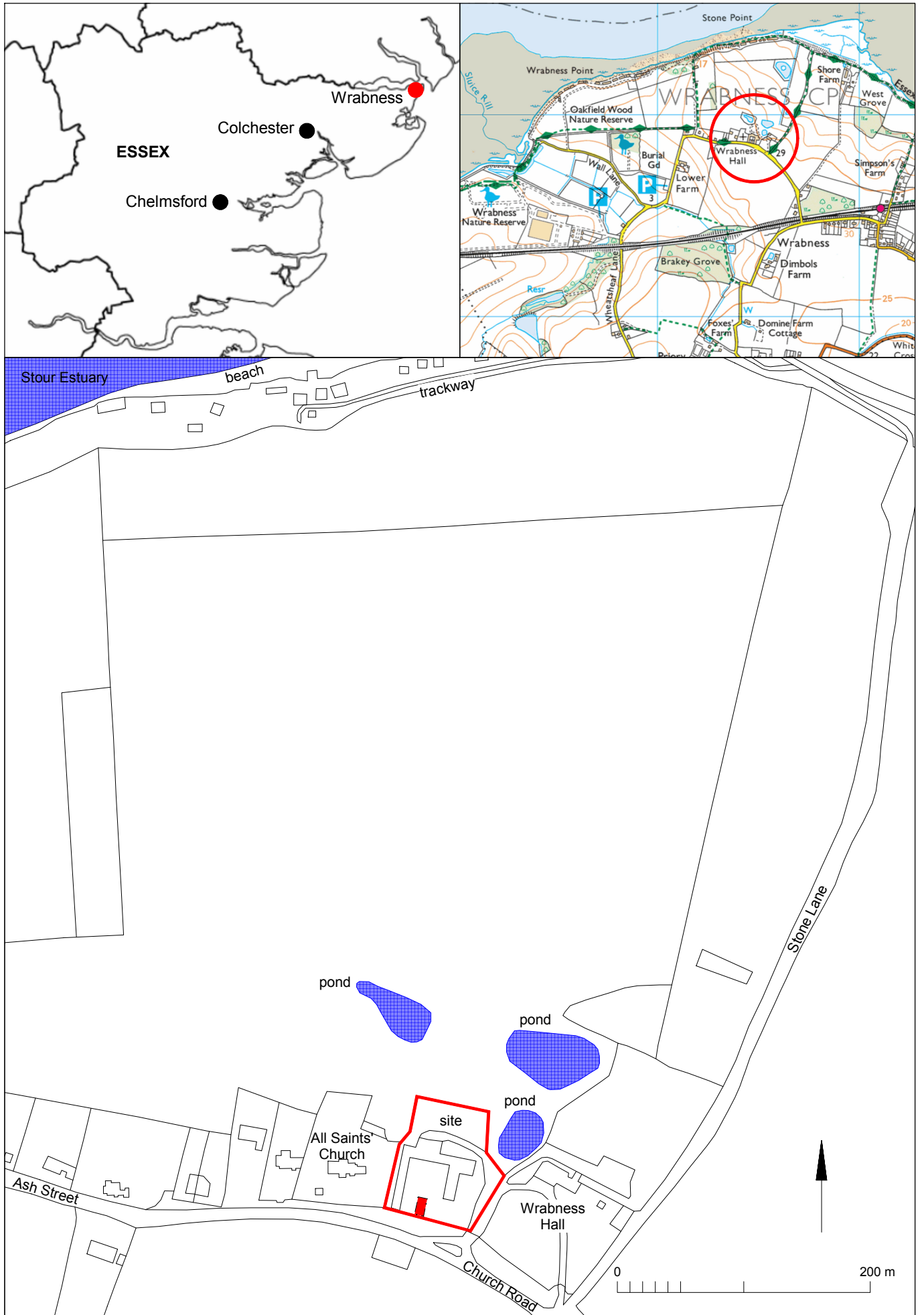


Fig 1 Site location with the position of the Estate Office shown as a red rectangle.



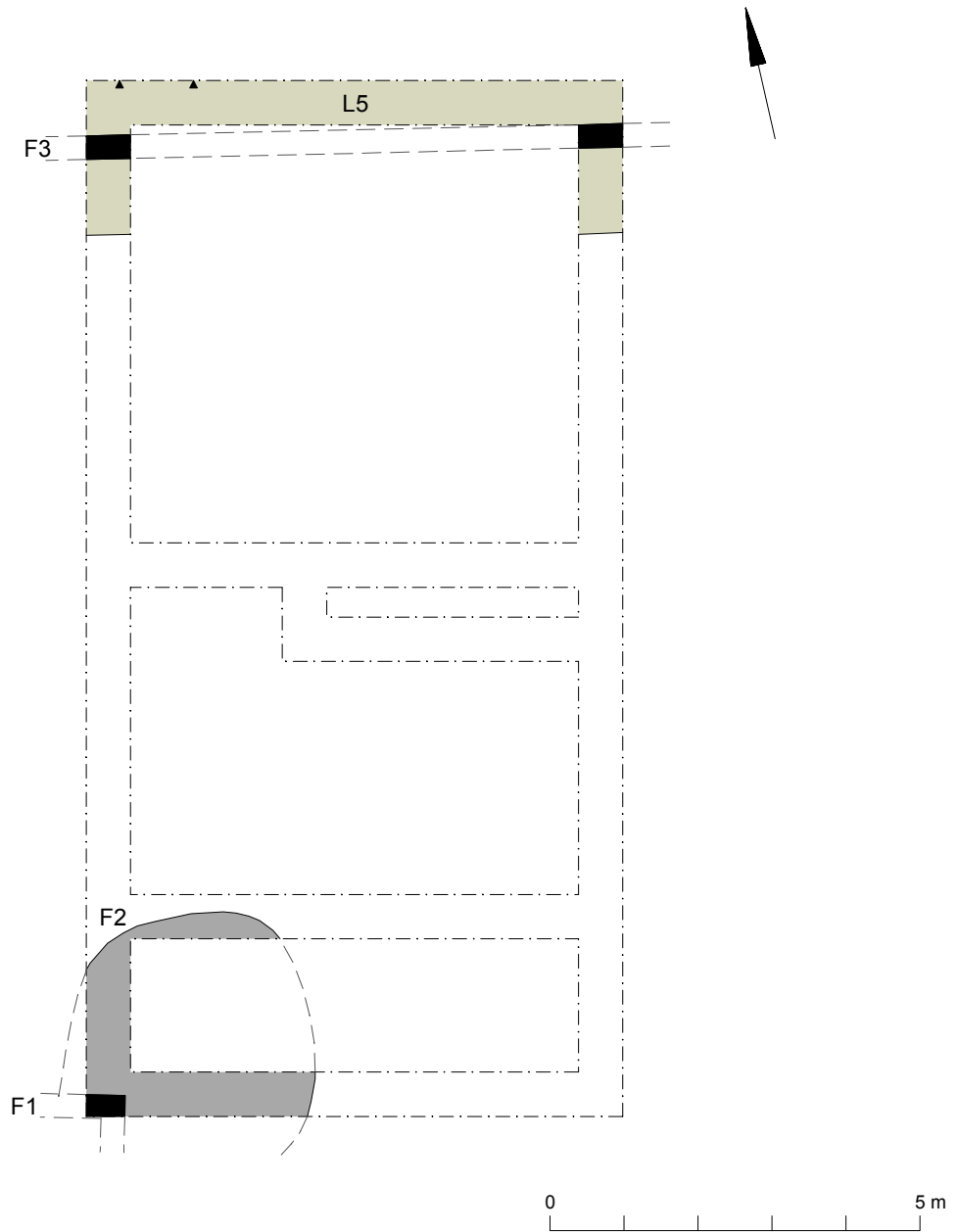


Fig 2 Plan of footings showing archaeological features.

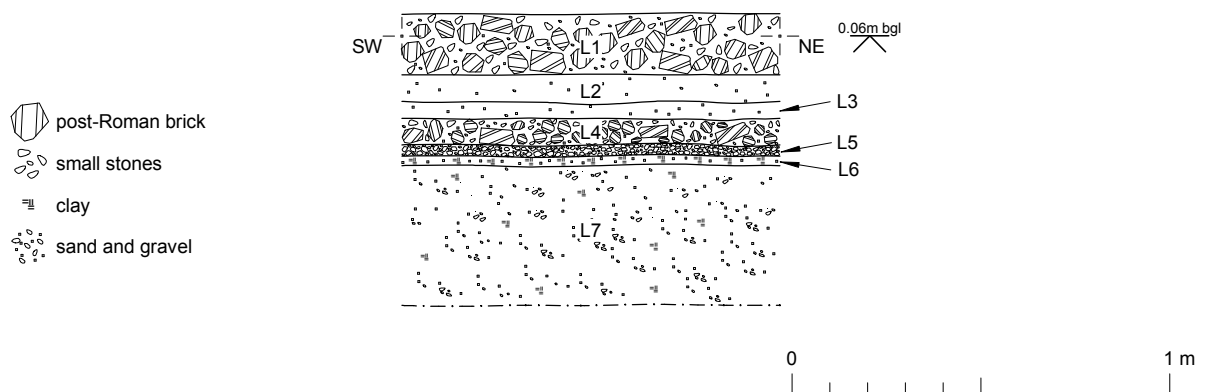


Fig 3 Representative section.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Site address:</b> <i>Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring, Essex</i>	
<b>Parish:</b> Wrabness	<b>District:</b> Tendring
<b>NGR:</b> TL 1748 3186 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT Project – 11/09a Museum accession - COLEM 2011.58
<b>Type of work:</b> Archaeological monitoring	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 21st September 2011	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 101.5m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester & Ipswich Museums	<b>Funding source:</b> Owner
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related UAD/ EHER nos:</b> EHER 34425, 34427
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 855	
<b>Periods represented:</b> mod	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>  <i>The Colchester Archaeological Trust undertook archaeological monitoring and recording on the excavation of foundations for a new Estate Office at Wrabness Hall, Church Road, Wrabness, Tendring in September 2011. Two wall foundations and a possible quarry pit were recorded during the scope of the monitoring.</i>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> None	
<b>Author of summary:</b> Chris Lister	<b>Date of summary:</b> July 2015