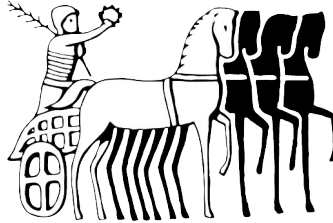# Colchester Archaeological Trust

**CAT Report 1835
issued November 2022**

**Archaeological monitoring at the old turkey shed
Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury,
Essex, CM22 7SQ: July 2022**

**CAT project ref.: 2022/06c
ECC code: WLLH22**

Archaeological monitoring at the old turkey shed Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ: July 2022

NGR: TL 49208 18049 (centre)

Scheduled monument number: SM EX 16, HA 1002190
Scheduled monument consent number: S00242698
Planning reference: UTT/22/0424/HHF

CAT project ref.: 2022/06c
CAT Report 1835

ECC code: WLLH22
OASIS ref.: colchest3-507191

report prepared by Megan Seehra

with contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton

fieldwork by Megan Seehra

commissioned by the homeowner

Prepared by:	Megan Seehra	Senior Site Assistant
Reviewed by:	Laura Pooley	Post Excavation Manager
Reviewed and approved by	Philip Crummy	Director of Archaeology
Issued:	03/11/2022	

Contents

List of photographs and figures

Cover: sign from original turkey shed building, kept by homeowner

1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the old turkey shed, Wallbury Lodge, Little Hallingbury, Essex ahead of the erection of a new garage. The site is located within the scheduled monument of Wallbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, with 16th- to 18th- century Grade II listed buildings also nearby. No archaeological deposits were impacted during the works.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust on land at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex on the 6th July 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner and was carried out during the excavation of footings for a new garage.

As the site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM EX 16, NHLE 1002190), the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HEIAM) and the Historic Environment Advisor (HEA) at Essex County Council Place Services recommended that archaeological monitoring be undertaken on the groundworks to mitigate any potential damage to the monument. In consultation with both Dr Jess Tipper (HEIAM) and Katie Lee-Smith (HEA), a written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT (2022) and agreed with them in advance of the groundworks.

All fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with the WSI as well as the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (*MoRPHE*) (Historic England 2016) 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 excavation* (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 WSI and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

The development site is located within the highly-sensitive scheduled monument of Wallbury Camp (NHLE 1002190, SM EX 16). Wallbury Camp is an Iron Age *oppidum* (hillfort) located on the Essex/Hertfordshire border. Roughly pear-shaped, it occupies an area of 31 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 sherds of pottery vessels dating to this period have been recovered.

Two Grade II listed buildings are also located close to the development site. The first is Wallbury Dells Farmhouse, a late 16th- or early 17th-century timber-framed house (NHLE 1147617; EHER 37908). The second, a 17th- to 18th-century aisled barn (NHLE 1112000; EHER 37907).

Recently, an archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was carried out at Wallbury Lodge in advance of the construction of the new driveway (Scheduled Monument consent no. S00194211). The evaluation (CAT Report 1310) revealed a small number of residual worked flints indicative of prehistoric activity in the area in the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic, and Bronze Age or Iron Age. A possible Late Iron Age ditch may be associated with the hillfort of Wallbury Camp, and finds were identified indicative of continued activity into the Roman period. Eleven medieval features show extensive use of the site in the 12th to 13th centuries, possibly associated with agriculture or horticulture. Domestic evidence recovered from these contexts suggests a medieval settlement or farmstead is located nearby. Three layers were recorded. Modern topsoil (L1, *c* 0.18-0.24m thick) sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, *c* 0.09-0.2m thick) which overlaid natural sandy-clay (L3, encountered at a depth of 0.34-0.4m below current ground level (bcgl)). All of the features recorded were of fairly shallow depth (0.25-0.33m).

4   Aims
The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to identify, excavate and record any archaeological contexts revealed during groundworks.

5   Results (Figs 2-3)
Footings measuring 23m x 6m were excavated to a depth of 0.6-0.7m, and were between 0.6-0.8m wide. The concrete base of the original outbuilding was retained, and concrete footings at least 0.3m wide were noted surrounding the base (Photograph 3). The excavation area was also disturbed by rooting from large trees nearby, as well as modern water pipes running roughly east-west at a shallow depth across the southern end of the footings.

The concrete slab consisted of:
- modern concrete floor of original outbuilding (L1, *c* 0.11m thick)
- modern made ground relating to the levelling of construction of outbuilding (L2, firm medium/dark grey/brown loamy silt, *c* 0.13cm thick)
- modern concrete foundation for outbuilding (L3, *c* 0.16m thick)

Which had been cut through:
- turfed topsoil (L4, soft/friable dark grey/brown loamy silt and inclusions of: stone 2%, *c* 32cm thick)
- post-medieval-modern make up layer, containing occasional CBM fragments consistently throughout (L5, soft/friable medium/dark orange/brown silty clay and inclusions of: tile/brick 5%, 0.3m thick).
- firm orange clay to stony and silty natural (L6, medium orange/brown clay silt, from *c* 0.6m below current ground level (bcgl))

Natural (L6) soil was only seen in small patches throughout the excavation. No archaeological features or remains were noted.

Photograph 1 View of south end of footings, looking north-east.

Photograph 2 View of north end of footings, looking south-west.

Photograph 3 North end of footings, showing concrete from former outbuilding, looking north-east.

Photograph 4 Section of footings showing modern pipes and significant rooting.
Looking roughly north-west.

6   Finds
by Dr. Matthew Loughton

The watching brief uncovered one sherd (12g) of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (fabric
F40) dating to *c* 1550-19th/20th century, and eight sherds (225g) of medieval/post-medieval
peg-tile. All of this material came from the layer L5 and was discarded.

7   Conclusion
Groundworks at the former turkey shed were excavated to a depth of 0.6-0.7m through post-
medieval/ modern layers revealing natural ground level in places. No archaeological remains
were impacted by the groundworks.

8   Acknowledgements
CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed
by Chris Lister and Adam Wightman. Fieldwork was carried out by Megan Seehra. Figures are
by Emma Holloway and Sarah Veasey. The project was monitored for Historic England by Dr
Jess Tipper and for Essex County Council 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	*Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **8** (EAA **8**)
CAR Report **7**	2000	*Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd*, by J P Cotter
CAT	2022	*Health & Safety Policy*
CAT	2022	*Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring of a*

		Gigaclear cable trench at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ, by E Holloway
CAT Report 1310	2018	*Archaeological evaluation at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ,* by L Pooley
CIfA	2014a	*Standard and Guidance for archaeological monitoring.* Updated Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	*Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.* Updated Oct 2020
Gurney, D	2003	*Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers **14** (EAA **14**)
Historic England	2016	*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
Medlycott, M	2011	*Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA **24**)
MHCLG	2019	*National Planning Policy Framework.* Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

10   Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from *c* 2000 – 875 BC
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'
Iron Age	period from *c* 875 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
Iron Age (Late)	Late Iron Age (LIA), period from *c* 100 – 50 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to *c* 1500
Mesolithic	period from *c* 10,000 – 4000BC
modern	period from *c* AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
Neolithic	period from *c* 4000 – 2500 BC
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	**O**nline **A**cces**S** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**S**, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
peg-tile	rectangular thin tile with peg-hole(s) used mainly for roofing, first appeared c AD1200 and continued in use to present day, but commonly post-medieval to modern
post-medieval	from *c* AD 1500 to *c* 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to *c* AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

11   Archive deposition

This project falls within the CIfA definition of a sterile project (https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

6

Distribution list:
The homeowner
Dr Jess Tipper, Historic England
Historic Environment Advisor, Essex County Council Place Services
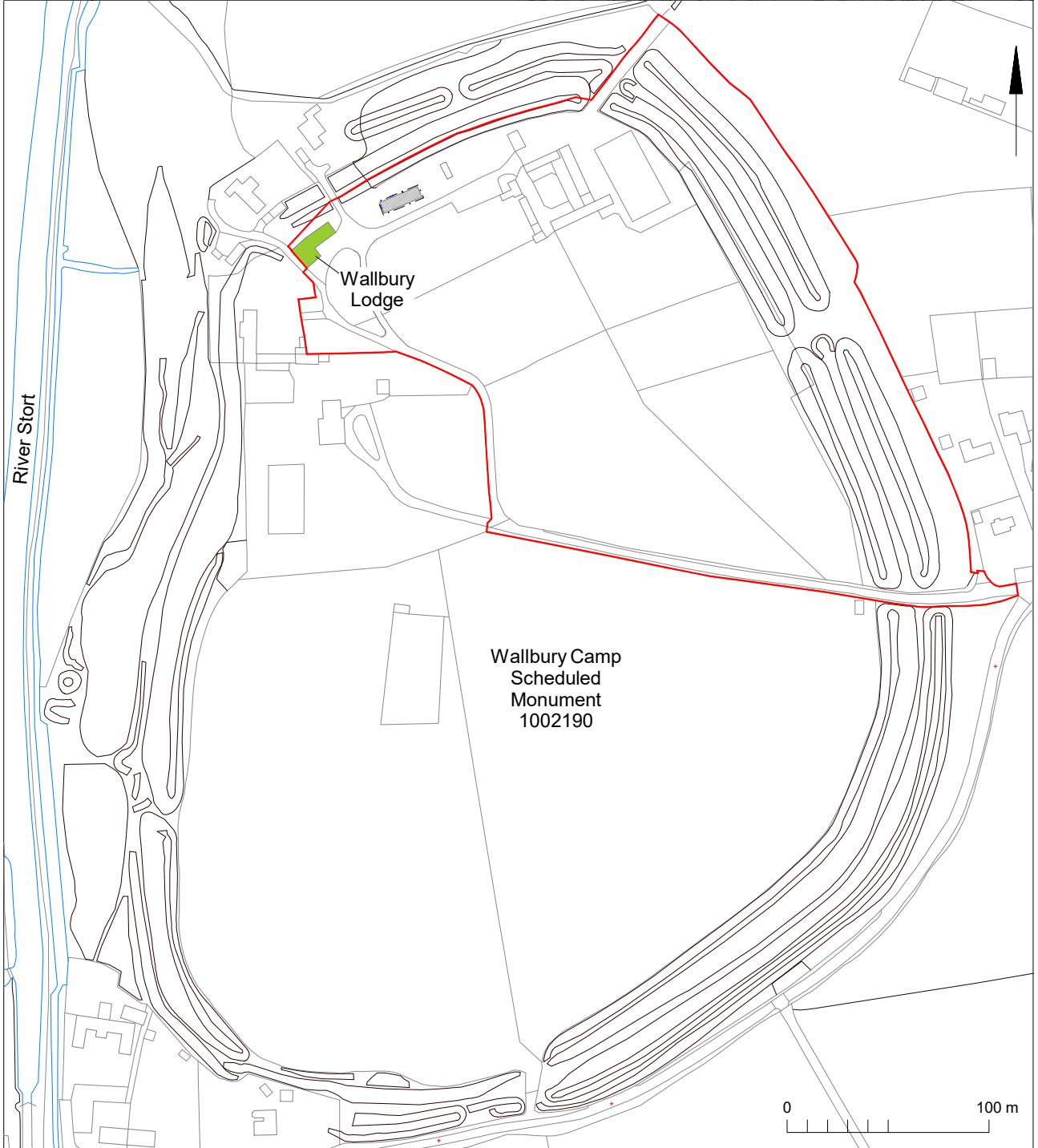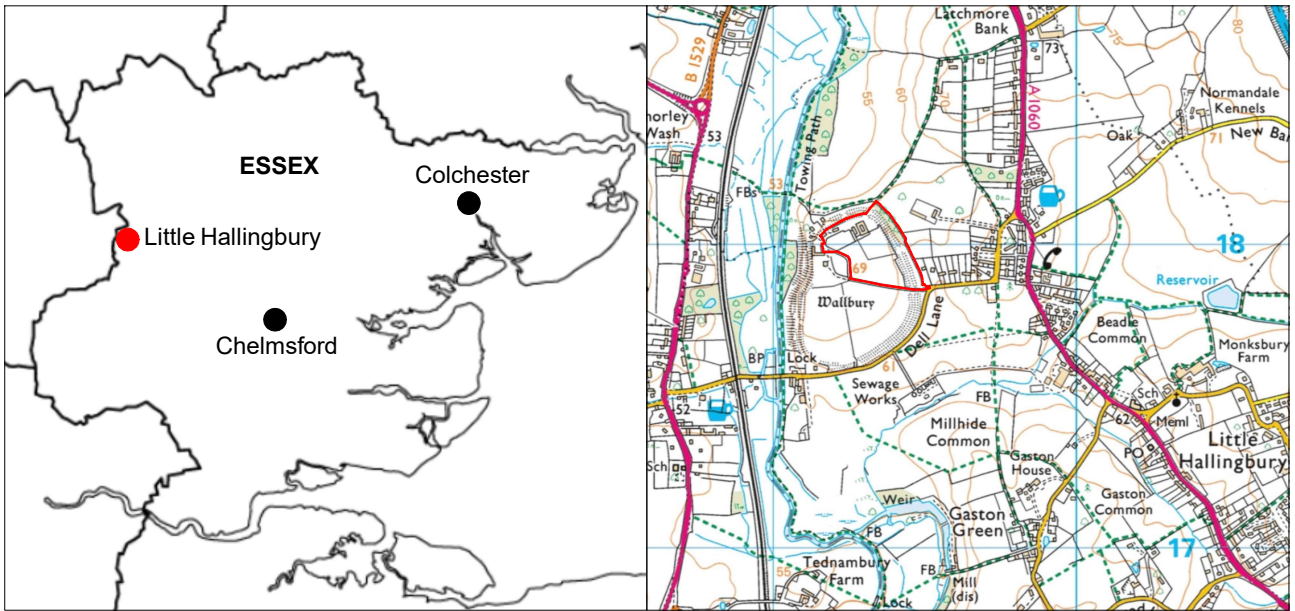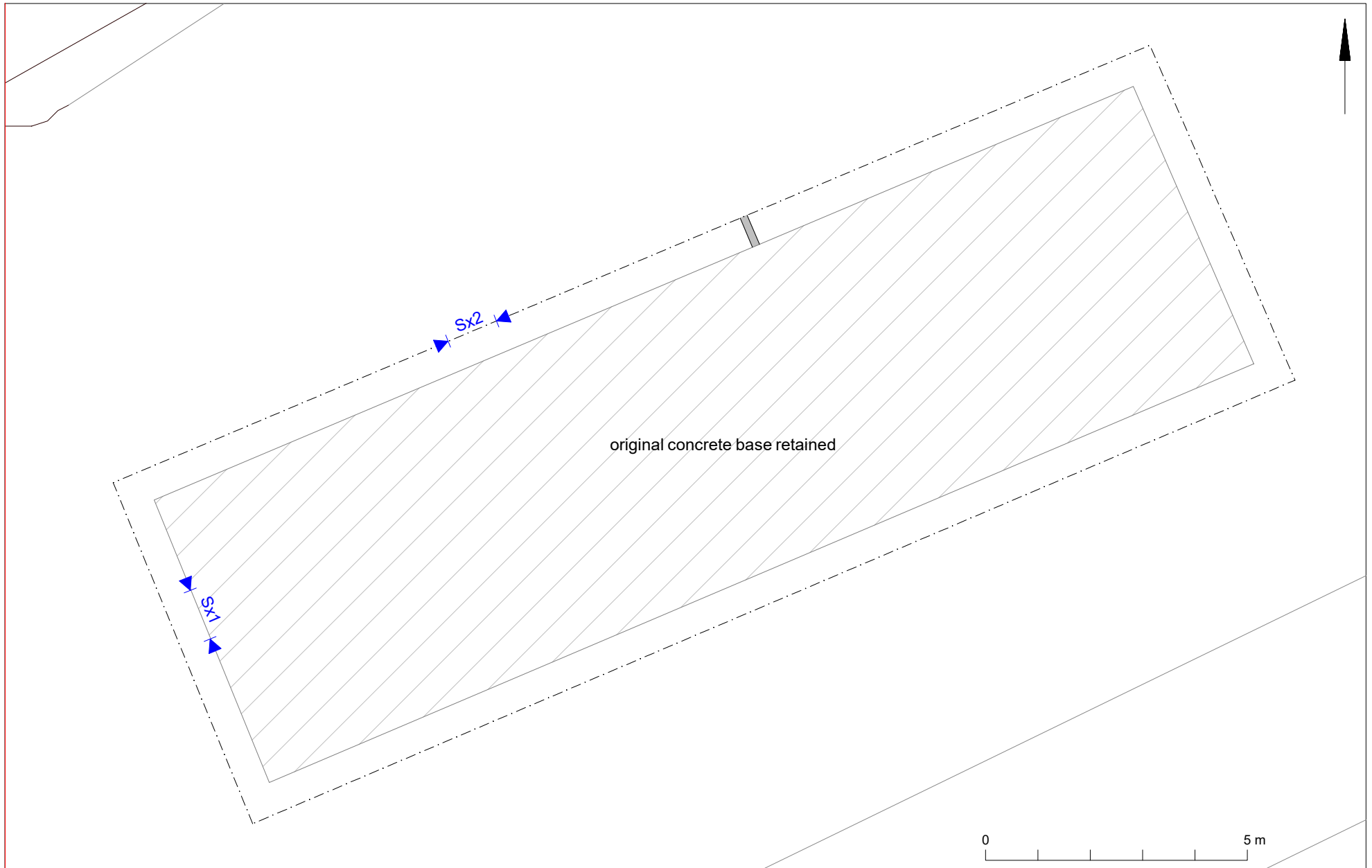Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

ESSEX

Colchester

Little Hallingbury

Chelmsford

River Stort

Wallbury Lodge

Wallbury Camp
Scheduled
Monument
1002190

0   100 m

Fig 1 Site location.

original concrete base retained

Sx2

Sx1

0   5 m

Fig 2 Monitoring results. Modern service in grey.
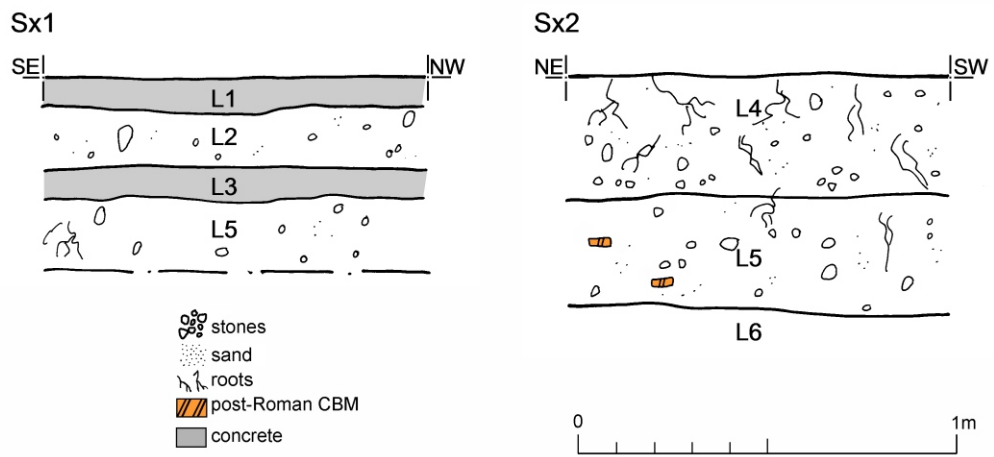
Fig 3 Representative sections.

Summary for colchest3-507191

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-507191
Project Name	Watching Brief at Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ
Sitename	Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/06c
Planning Id	UTT/22/0424/HHF
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	06-Jul-2022 - 06-Jul-2022
Location	Wallbury Lodge, Dell Lane, Little Hallingbury, Essex, CM22 7SQ NGR : TL 49184 17999 LL : 51.8406718337467, 0.164066562223742 12 Fig : 549184,217999
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Uttlesford Parish : Little Hallingbury
Project Methodology	Excavations were monitored by a CAT Archaeologist. Footings measuring 23m x 6m were excavated to a depth of 0.6-0.7m, and were between 0.6-0.8m wide. The concrete base of the original outbuilding was retained, and concrete footings measuring at least 0.3m wide were noted surrounding the base.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the old turkey shed, Wallbury Lodge, Little Hallingbury, Essex ahead of the erection of a new garage. The site is located within the scheduled monument of Wallbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, with 16th-18th century Grade II listed buildings also nearby. No archaeological deposits were impacted during the works.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Scheduled Monument Casework - unRev - STANDARD Essex HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	M, Seehra
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;