



Colchester  
Archaeological  
Trust

<b>CAT Report 1445</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Weeley
<b>Archaeological monitoring at the church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9AT: July 2019</b>	<b>Planning reference:</b> -
	<b>CHER Event no.:</b> WESA19
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-350781
	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TM 15418 21528
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 1
	<b>Date of visit:</b> 5th July 2019

**Nature of the work:** Observation of groundworks for the installation of a compostable toilet in a detached shed in the courtyard.

**Reason for condition:** The site is located within the grounds of the 15th- or 16th-century church of St Andrew, which is possibly constructed on the site of an earlier church. It also lies adjacent to two cropmark complexes, one of which is thought to represent the remains of a deserted medieval settlement, and south of a findspot of early prehistoric flints.

**% of total seen:** 100% of the groundworks.

**Results:** The excavation of a pit to accommodate the compostable toilet, 5.95m<sup>2</sup> in area and 0.8m deep, was archaeologically monitored in response to a brief set by Diocesan Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper.

Groundworks penetrated two layers. Modern topsoil (L1, c 0.27m thick, friable, dry dark brown sandy-silt) overlay a ?post-medieval build-up layer (L2, thick, firm/hard, dry medium/dark orange/brown sandy-silt).



**Photograph 1** Excavated pit – looking north northwest

No significant archaeological deposits or material were encountered.

**Recorded by:** Dr Elliott Hicks

**Date:** 9th July 2019



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

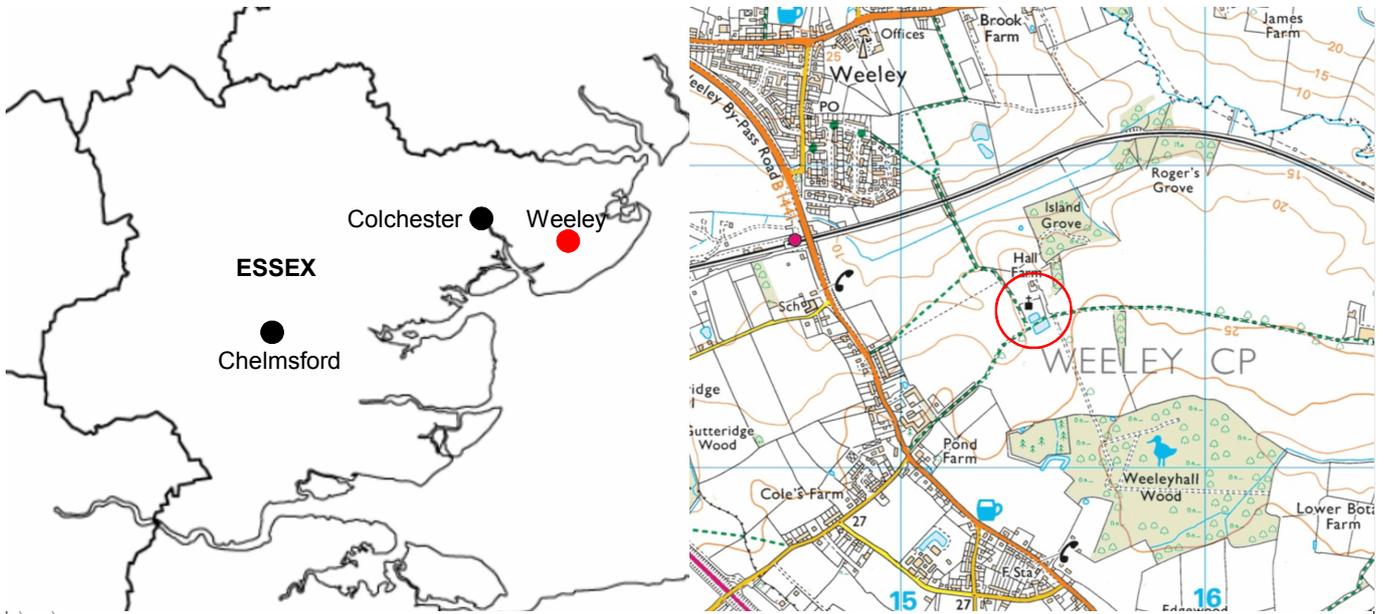
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*Checked by:* Philip Crummy

*Date:* 10.07.2019



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Fig 1 Site location, (monitoring area shown blue).

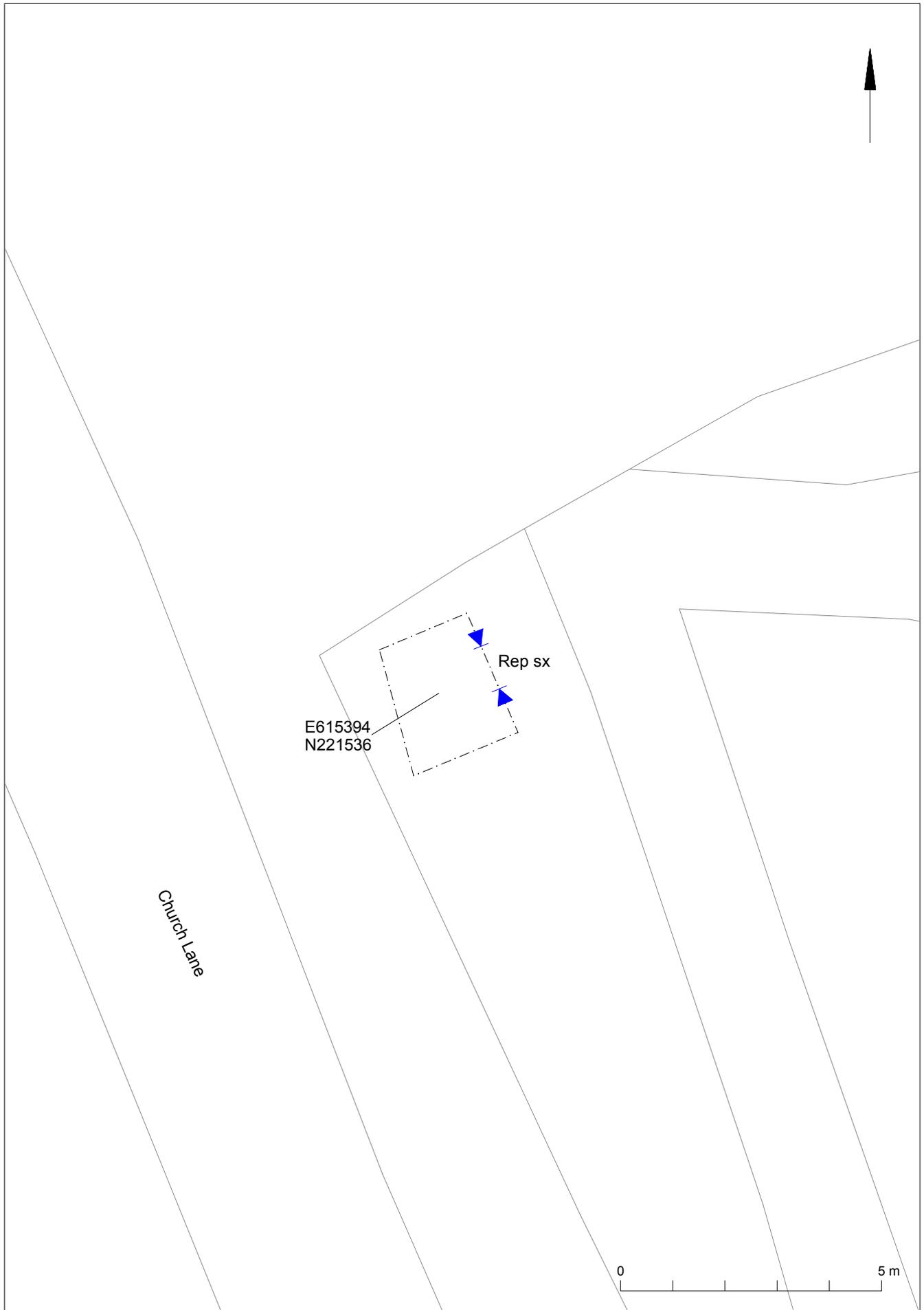


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

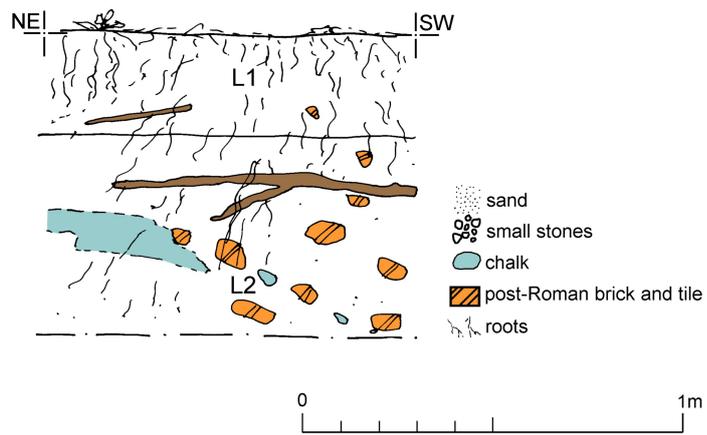


Fig 3 Representative section.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for archaeological monitoring and recording at  
the church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Weeley,  
Essex, CO16 9AT.**

**NGR:** TM 15418 21528 (centre)

**Parish:** Tendring

**Commissioned by:** Derrick Byford (St Andrew's PCC)

**On behalf of:** St Andrews Parochial Church Council

**Diocese:** Colchester Archdeaconry, Diocese of Chelmsford

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**ECC project code:** tbc

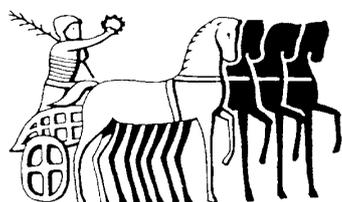
**CAT project code:** 2019/05d

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-350781

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**Diocesan Archaeological Advisor:** Jess Tipper (CBC)

**This WSI written:** 04/06/2019 (revised)



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 1km southeast of the main concentration of the village of Weeley at the Church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9AT (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 15418 21528.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the installation of a compostable toilet in a detached shed in the courtyard and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex. The EHER is accessible online via [www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk).

St Andrews church is a Historic England Grade II\* Listed Building (no. 1265107). The current church was originally built in the 15th-16th century, but was rebuilt in 1880 by EC Robins. The 16<sup>th</sup> century west tower was retained and many of the original fittings were reused (ECC3029 and ECC34315). The HER tells us that a church at Weeley was mentioned in a writ of 1096, potentially this earlier church could be on the same location as the existing one.

An early 19<sup>th</sup> century tombstone c 1m south of the south wall of the church is a Historic England Grade II Listed Building (no. 1265154).

The churchyard is located immediately adjacent an area of cropmarks of a number of rectilinear features and pits, which the HER interpret as being evidence of a possible deserted medieval settlement (ECC3028).

Early prehistoric Clactonian flints have been recorded on the HER as having been found on land north of Hall Farm, north of the church (ECC3086).

The church is located to the west of a large area of cropmarks, recorded through aerial photography. Features have been interpreted as consisting of linear features, ditched trackways and field boundaries, a ring ditch, a penannular ditch and a large 'parched' mark centred on a track east of Weeley Lodge may be a recent military installation (ECC 3056).

To the northeast is the site of the former Gunfleet estuary on the Tendring peninsula between Frinton and Clacton. Documents and maps from the 16th century describe the Gunfleet estuary as a 'haven', implying its use for shipping. The channel between the coast and the Gunfleet Sands also provided a safe anchorage for larger ships, including the opposing British and Dutch fleets during the Dutch Wars of the later 17th century. Within the estuary a number of landing-places have been identified, these were linked by lanes to the farms and villages on the higher land (ECC48658).

## Project background

The Archaeological Advisor to the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAA) advised the PCC that as the proposed work lies in an area of high archaeological significance that a programme of archaeological work was secured, in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation to be approved by the DAC. This is to safeguard archaeological assets within the approved development boundary from impacts relating to groundworks associated with the development scheme, to ensure the proper and timely investigation, recording, reporting and presentation of archaeological assets affected by this development.

## Requirement for work

The required work is for an archaeological monitoring and recording to be carried out in advance of any groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by DAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site. The proposed new toilet measures 1.9m by 1.9m in area to a maximum depth of 1m.

Opportunity must be given to allow time to hand excavate and record any features which appear during the earth moving operations. Adequate time is to be allowed for hand excavation and recording of archaeological deposits revealed during excavation (before infilling) and also for the sifting of spoil for finds.

If unexpected remains are encountered the DAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2018)
- the Project Brief issued by the DAA (CBC 2019).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to DAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER site code will be obtained from the district Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECCHEA) prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

## **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one archaeologist for duration.

## **Monitoring methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, time will be allowed for these to be planned and recorded.

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time

will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc.) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

### **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby 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 VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist (see finds section for appointed osteologist) or DAA.

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; 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 Diocese for a Faculty to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist.

Following HE guidance (HE 2017 and HE 2018) if remains need to be lifted, they will be removed from the site for analysis, including scientific analysis (absolute dating) and reporting, before they will be returned to the site and re-interment. If the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the Faculty will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the DAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

If *in situ* burials are encountered that extend beyond the limits of the trench, it may be necessary to extend the area of the trench to ensure the full excavation of articulated human remains (whilst keeping disturbance to a minimum); a decision will be made in a case by case basis.

Any human remains disturbed by the project will be presented to the parish authorities for re-interment within the churchyard.

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Matthew Loughton (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Alec Wade / Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups): Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

human remains project osteologist: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

Other specialists whose opinion can be sought on large or complex groups include:

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Nigel Brown

Other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

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.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to DAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating).

## Results

Notification will be given to DAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to DAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.

- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to DAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

## Archive deposition

Any human remains excavated are to be reburied within the churchyard upon completion of the report. The rest of the archive (paper and digital) will be archived to the curating museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum. If the finds are to remain with the church, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM, and DAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to DAA.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given as part of the archive for integration into the Essex HER.

## Monitoring

DAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to DAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with DAA prior to them being carried out.

DAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of DAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

## References

Note: all CAT reports, except for desk based assessments, are available online in PDF format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CBC	2019	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Weeley, Colchester Archdeaconry, Diocese of Chelmsford.</i> By J Tipper
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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse

Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2017	<i>Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
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.

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Fig 1 Site location.

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**OASIS ID: colchest3-350781**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at the church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9AT.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at the church of St Andrew, Weeley, Essex, during groundworks for the installation of a compostable toilet. Despite being located in an archaeologically-sensitive area, no significant archaeological remains or material were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 05-07-2019 End: 05-07-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2019/05d - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WESA19 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	colchest3-350781 - OASIS form ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 4 - Churchyard
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Faculty jurisdiction

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING WEELEY Church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Weeley, Essex
Postcode	CO16 9AT
Study area	5.95 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 15418 21528 51.85015066079 1.128138523291 51 51 00 N 001 07 41 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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Project brief originator	Diocesan Archaeological Advisor (CBC Archaeological Officer)
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Parochial Church Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	St Andrews Parochial Church Council

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	WESA19
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	WESA19
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report"

### Project bibliography

1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring at the church of St Andrew, Church Lane, Weeley, Essex, CO16 9AT: July 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1445
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	11 July 2019

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