

Archaeological excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5NL

July 2021



by Laura Pooley

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton
figures by Mark Baister, Emma Holloway and Laura Pooley

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Ziya Eksen, Nicholas Pryke and Sarah Veasey

commissioned by the landowner

NGR: TM 0197 3120 (centre)
Planning ref.: 201123
CAT project ref.: 2021/06a
ECC code: ECC4640
OASIS ref.: colchest3-424234



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785
email: lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1697
August 2021

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1 Summary

An archaeological excavation was carried out at Applebys, Park Lane, Colchester, Essex in advance of the creation of a private fishing and wildlife pond. Located within an area of known cropmarks and isolated prehistoric find spots, an evaluation carried out in 2020 revealed undated ditches and a large feature of indeterminate function.

Excavation revealed little of archaeological significance. Features included a post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch and land drain, and modern service trenches likely associated with the Boxted World War II airbase. A number of pits/tree-throws were also present but only two produced finds, of post-medieval/modern date, and some might actually be of natural origin.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological excavation carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Applebys, Park Lane, Colchester, Essex on 21st-23rd July 2021. The work was commissioned by the homeowner in advance of the creation of a private fishing and wildlife pond with associated landscaping.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological excavation and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an Archaeological Excavation* (CBCAA 2021) written by Dr Richard Hoggett and detailing the required archaeological work, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCAA in advance of the project (CAT 2021a).

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 field evaluation* (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 CBC brief (CBCAA 2021), the Colchester Essex Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the Langham area. A few sporadic find spots close to the site suggest the potential for prehistoric activity including a polished Neolithic flint axe-head (MCC8241), a neolithic flint adze (MCC9050), a perforated prehistoric stone mace-head (MCC9054) and prehistoric narrow flint axe-head (MCC9053).

The CHER records show an area of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography on land opposite the site. These show a number of ditches or historic field boundaries of indeterminate date (MCC9124).

The site is also located within the northern boundary of the former Boxted World War II American air base, but located well away from plotted buildings and structures (MCC7126).

A pre-determination trial trench across the centre of the proposed pond area demonstrated the presence of archaeological features including several ditches and a large feature of indeterminate function (Archaeological Solutions 2020). As these ditches run north-south they probably join the cropmark linears to the north of Park Lane.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological excavation was to record any archaeological remains due to be destroyed by the proposed development.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

An area measuring 0.22h was stripped of 0.12-0.2m of modern topsoil (L1) and 0.2-0.27m of subsoil (L2) onto natural (L3).



Photograph 1 East side of the excavation area, looking north

Forty-eight features were present within the excavation area. With the agreement of the CBCAA, 30 were excavated and 18 were not. Of the 30 excavated features there were 14 tree-throws/natural features, five pits/tree-throws and one pit/tree-throw/natural feature. None of these features produced finds and therefore cannot be dated.

Post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch F29 on the western edge of the site was aligned northeast to southwest and cut pit F30. Both contained fragments of 19th- to 20th-century brick, and the field boundary ditch is plotted on late 19th-century OS maps of the area. Also producing 19th- to 20th-century brick fragments, along with pieces of clay pipe and glass, was drainage ditch F5. The ditch initially contained one land drain but had been recut with a second land drain added. Also of post-medieval/modern date was pit F25.

Modern linear features F9 and F14 both had straight-sides and a flat base and were probably associated with the WWII airbase. Linear F24 is probably also modern and associated with an unexcavated service trench to the north. No finds were recovered from posthole F16, or large pits F28 and F31, and their precise function is uncertain.

Finds were rare, with pottery, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe and glass found in only four features – F5, F9, F29 and F30. A fragment of modern ceramic building material was also recorded in the section of F25 but was not collected for post-excavation analysis.



Photograph 2 West side of the excavation area with pit F31 in the bottom right corner, looking north



Photograph 3 Post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch F29 and pit F30, looking southwest

None of the eighteen unexcavated features were numbered but they included service trenches, modern linear features similar to F9 and F14, a large silt patch and several smaller patches similar to the excavated pits/tree-throws/natural features.



Photograph 4 Modern linear F14 sx1 and pit/tree-throw/natural feature F15, looking southwest



Photograph 5 Pit F28, looking northwest

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic finds

by Matthew Loughton

The excavation produced a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 26 sherds with a weight of just over 4.6kg and 0.27 vessels (EVE) (Table 1). This material was recovered from just four features (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	6	66	11	0.27
CBM	20	4,574	229	-
All	26	4,640	178	0.27

Table 1 Summary of the ceramics assemblage

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F5	Ditch	6	70	12
F9	Ditch	2	2,756	1,378
F29	Ditch	8	137	17
F30	Pit	10	1,677	168
Total		26	4,640	178

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features

Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery

The small assemblage of pottery dates to the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods and was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000) (Table 3) while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent).

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F21A	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F45M	Modern stoneware	19th-20th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century

Table 3 Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery fabrics in the assemblage

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F21	Colchester-type ware	1	16	16	0.00
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	2	31	16	0.03
F45M	Modern stoneware	1	15	15	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	2	4	2	0.24
Total		6	66	11	0.27

Table 4 The medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery assemblage

The pottery assemblage included one sherd of Colchester-type ware (fabric 21) dating to c 1200-1550 which came from pit F30. Pit F30 also contained a post-medieval red earthenware (fabric F40) small storage jar (EVE: 0.03) which dates to c 1650-1725 (CAR 7, 245 fig.141 no. 96). The remaining pottery dates to the 19th-20th century and includes

part of a saucer (EVE:0.24) in Staffordshire-type white earthenwares (fabric F48D) which came from ditch F5.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

There were 20 sherds of medieval, post-medieval and modern CBM with a weight of 4,574g which came from four features (Table 5). The CBM consist of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile (12 fragments at 222g) and 19th-20th century brick (8 fragments at 4,352g). Peg-tile was recovered from ditches F5 and F29, and pit F30. Fragments of brick including several frogged examples were recovered from ditches F5 and F9, and pit F30.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
F5	Ditch	5	67	13
F9	Ditch	2	2,756	1,378
F29	Ditch	5	111	22
F30	Pit	8	1,640	205
Total		20	4,574	

Table 5 Quantities of CBM from specific features

Conclusion

Table 6 summarizes the dating evidence for features F5, F9, F29 and F30, all of which date to the 19th to 20th century.

Context	Medieval, post-medieval and modern pottery	CBM	Date
F5	F48D (Saucer)	PT, BR	19th-20th century
F9	-	BR (FROGGED)	19th-20th century
F29	F40, F45M, F48D	PT	19th-20th century
F30	F21, F40 (Small storage jar)	PT, BR (FROGGED)	19th-20th century

Table 6 Approximate dates for the individual features

6.2 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Thirty-five fragments of clay tobacco pipe came from F5 and F30. Only one was identifiable and came from a 19th-century plain bowl with relief-decorated seam (*CAR 5*, 56-7, ref. 2920). A fragment of 19th to 20th century glass bottle was also recovered from F29.

Context	Finds no.	Description
F5	1	Clay tobacco pipe: Five fragments of bowl (18.0g) and 28 fragments of stem including one with an oval foot (121.8g). Four of the bowl fragments are too fragmentary to allow for an identification but two do include an oval-shaped foot. The fifth fragment comes from a plain bowl with relief-decorated seam which has a rib on a slight 'platform' on the outer seam, dated to the 19th century (<i>CAR 5</i> , 56-7, ref. 2920).
F29	3	Glass: Fragment of olive green glass bottle, 19th-20th century, 5.4g.
F30	4	Clay tobacco pipe: Two fragments of clay pipe stem, 5.3g.

Table 7 Miscellaneous finds listed by context

7 Conclusion

A large number of features were present within the excavation area but are of little archaeological significance. There is one field boundary ditch on the western edge of the site that is present on late 19th-century OS maps of the area, and the land drain is probably broadly contemporary. Most of the remaining linear features appear to be service trenches associated with the WWII airbase, with historic maps showing that the eastern side of the development site is located across the perimeter road of the airbase (for an outline see Fig 2). It is likely that the numerous pits/tree-throws are also associated with either agricultural activity or the airbase, but many may actually prove to be natural features.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and A Wightman, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with Z Eksen, N Pryke and S Veasey. Figures are by M Baister, L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Dr Simon Wood.

9 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Archaeological solutions | 2020 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Essex.</i> Archaeological Solutions Project P8619 |
| Brown, D | 2011
(2nd ed.) | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAR 5 | 1988 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 5: The post-Roman small finds from excavations in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by Nina Crummy. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAR 7 | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> , by J P Cotter. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| CAT | 2021a | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5NL</i> |
| CAT | 2021b | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CBCAA | 2021 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Colchester, CO4 5NL</i> , by R Hoggett |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| CIfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Cotter, J P | 2000 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85</i> . Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd. |
| 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
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
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
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1697)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (sections)

Site digital photos and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1697)

CBC 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 Colchester Museum under project ref. ECC4640.

Distribution list:

Homeowner

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 17.8.2021

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1		Topsoil	Mid grey/brown clayey-silt	Modern
L2		Subsoil	Mid grey/brown silty-clay	Undated
L3		Natural	Orange/yellow clay	Post-glacial
F1	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft dry dark grey/black silt with charcoal fill at base	Undated
F2	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry light grey/brown silt	Undated
F3	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft dry medium grey/brown sandy silt, with darker brown silt towards at base	Undated
F4	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft dry medium grey/brown sandy silt, with darker brown silt towards at base	Undated
F5	1	Drainage ditch with land drains	Hard dry medium orange/grey/brown silty clay with charcoal flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 2%	Post-medieval
F6	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F7	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry light grey/brown sandy silt	Undated
F8	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry light grey/brown silt	Undated
F9	2	Linear	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Modern
F10	-	-	-	-
F11	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown sandy silt	Undated
F12	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft dry medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
F13	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry light grey/brown silt	Undated
F14	-	Linear	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Post-medieval/ modern
F15	-	Pit/tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F16	-	Pit/tree-throw	Soft dry/moist medium grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
F17	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F18	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry light grey/brown silt	Undated
F19	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown sandy silt	Undated
F20	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry dark grey/brown silt with charcoal flecks	Undated
F21	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft moist medium grey/brown silt	Undated

F22	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F23	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F24	-	Linear	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Modern
F25	-	Pit	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt, very small charcoal and CBM fragments in fill	Post-medieval/ modern
F26	-	?Posthole	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Post-medieval/ modern
F27	-	Tree-throw/ natural feature	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Undated
F28	-	Pit	Soft dry medium grey/brown silt	Post-medieval/ modern
F29	3	Field boundary ditch	Soft mid grey/brown silt	Post-medieval/ modern
F30	4	Pit	Soft mid grey/brown silt	Post-medieval/ modern
F31	-	Pit	Soft mid brown silt	Post-medieval/ modern

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Stamp	Graf Pre-F	Graf Post-F	Wmd	Soot	Pitting	Burn	Overfired	Kiln second	Residue	Resin l.in.	Gritted	Abraded	Modif.	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Disc diam.	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diam.	Vessel H.	Comments	Date
F5	DITCH	1	1	3	3	X	1	0	0																				F48D	SAUCER?	0.24	80			19TH-20TH CENTURY	
F29	DITCH	3	1	1	1	X																							F48D						19TH-20TH CENTURY	
F29	DITCH	3	1	10	10	X																							F40						c.1500-19TH/20TH CENTURY	
F29	DITCH	3	1	15	15	X																							F45M						19TH-20TH CENTURY	
F30	PIT	4	1	16	16	X																							F21						c.1200-1550	
F30	PIT	4	1	21	21	X	1	0	0																				F40	SMALL STORAGE JAR	0.03	300	CAR 7, 245 fig.141.96	1650-1725		

Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Sub-type	FL CORN.	INI	FL H.	FL W.	FL TH.	LCA	LCA L.	UCA	UCA L.	Stamp	Sign.	Tally	Graf PF	Animal	Shoe	Scored	Comb.	Roller	Circ. Vt.	Rect. Vt.	Bl. vt.	PH R	PH SQ	2 Pts	Blind	L	BR.	TH.	Mortar	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date	
F5	DITCH	1	4	31	8	X	PT		0																																			MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
F5	DITCH	1	1	36	36	X	BR		0																																			19TH-20TH CENTURY
F9	LINEAR	2	1	1313	1313	X	BR	FROGGED	0									X															?	115	66						WHITE/CREAM STAMP:/S	19TH-20TH CENTURY		
F9	LINEAR	2	1	1443	1443	X	BR	FROGGED	0																								?	110	68	X						OR FINE Y & Y NODS	19TH-20TH CENTURY	
F29	DITCH	3	5	111	22	X	PT		0																																	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL		
F30	PIT	4	3	80	27	X	PT		0																																	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL		
F30	PIT	4	3	177	59	X	BR		0																																	19TH-20TH CENTURY		
F30	PIT	4	1	207	207	X	BR		0																																ORANGE	19TH-20TH CENTURY		
F30	PIT	4	1	1176	1176	X	BR	FROGGED	0																								?	110	60	X							19TH-20TH CENTURY	

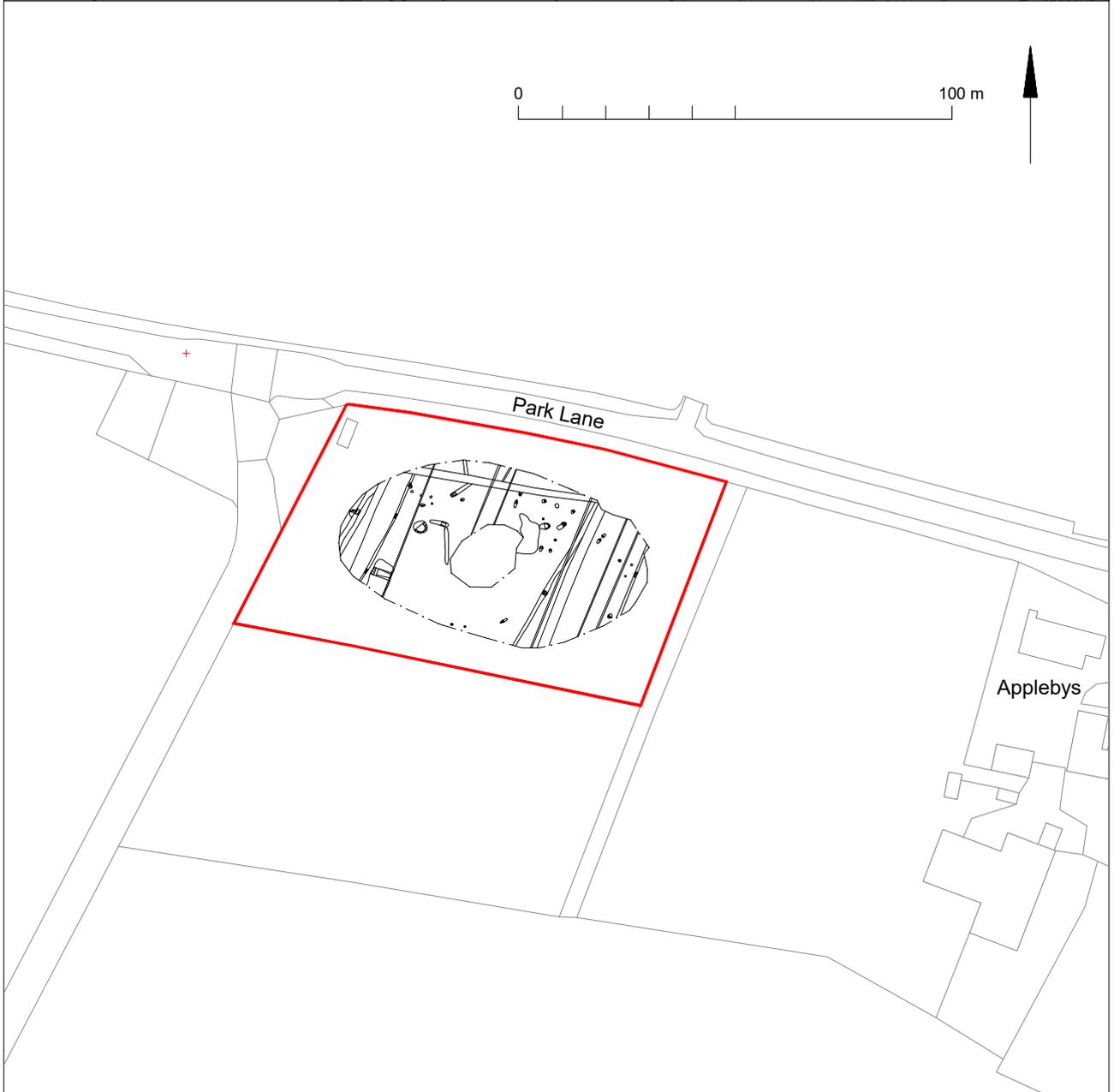
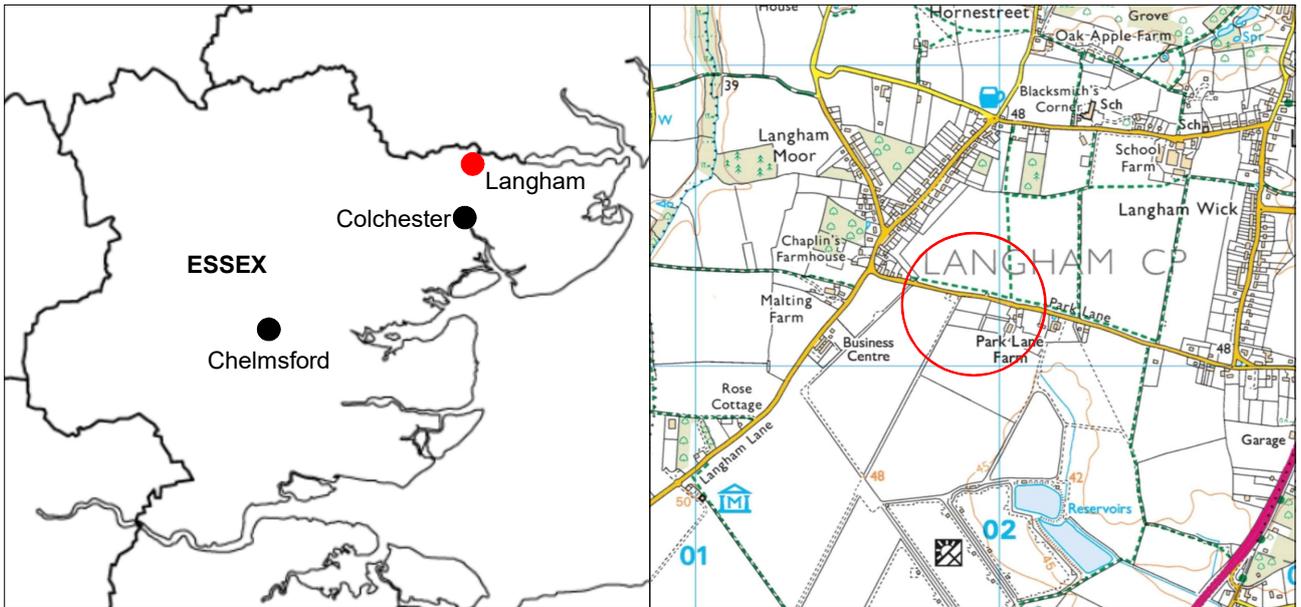


Fig 1 Site location



Fig 2 Results

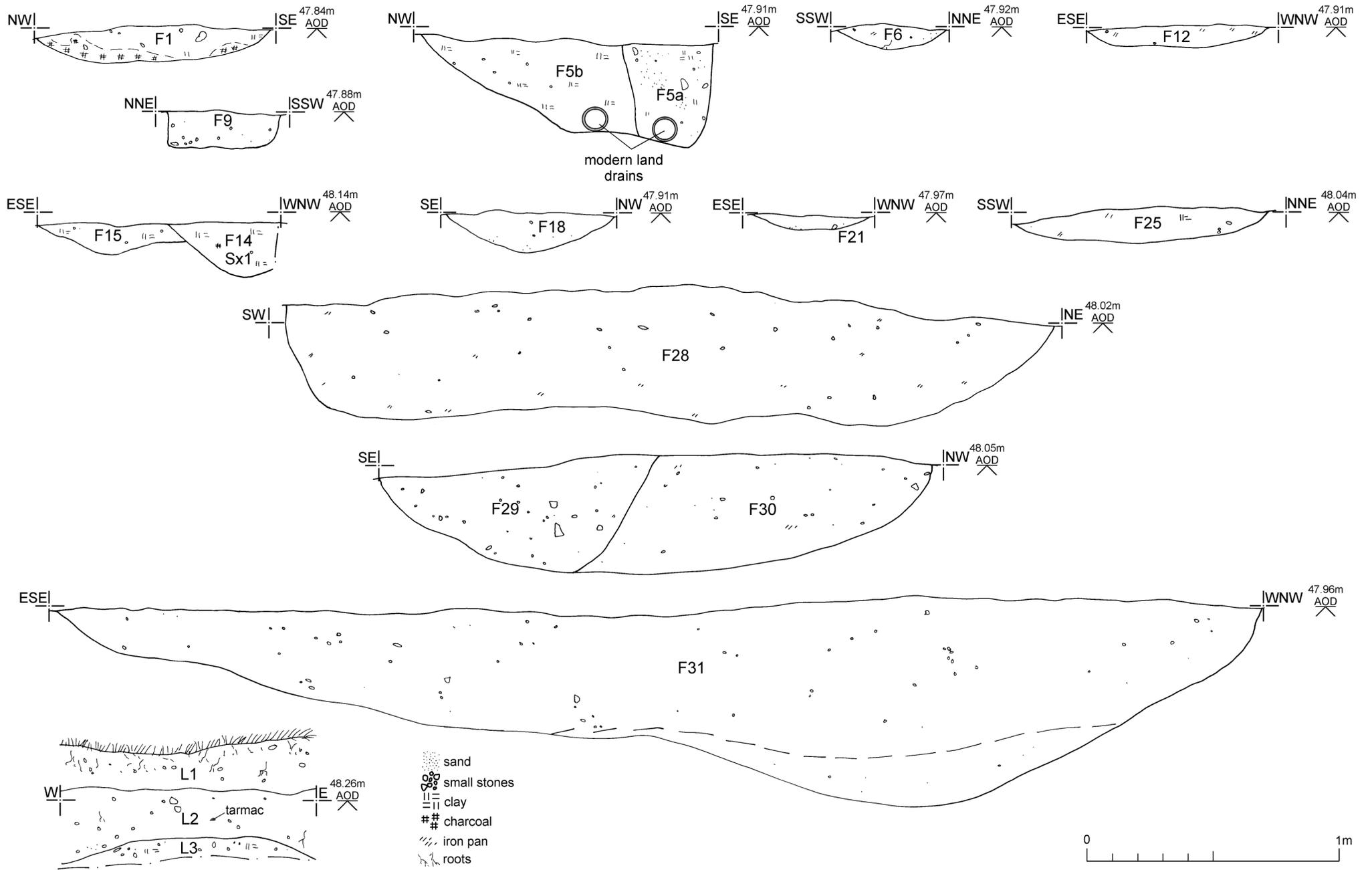


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5NL	
Parish: Langham	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 0197 3120 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2021/06a CHER ref: ECC4640 OASIS ref: colchest3-424234
Type of work: Excavation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 21st-23rd July 2021	Size of area investigated: 0.22ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum	Funding source: Landowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC7126, MCC9124
Final report: CAT Report 1697	
Periods represented: Post-medieval & modern	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological excavation was carried out at Applebys, Park Lane, Colchester, Essex in advance of the creation of a private fishing and wildlife pond. Located within an area of known cropmarks and isolated prehistoric find spots, an evaluation carried out in 2020 revealed undated ditches and a large feature of indeterminate function.</p> <p>Excavation revealed little of archaeological significance. Features included a post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch and land drain, and modern service trenches likely associated with the Bosted World War II airbase. A number of pits/tree-throws were also present but only two produced finds, of post-medieval/modern date, and some might actually be of natural origin.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: August 2021

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5NL.

NGR: TM 0197 3120 (centre)
District: Colchester
Parish: Langham

Planning reference: 201123

Client: Homeowner

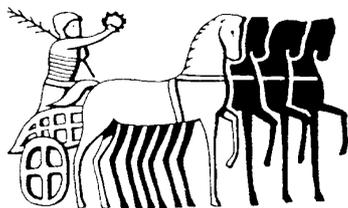
Curating Museum: Colchester

CHER event number: tbc
CAT project code: 2021/06a
OASIS project id: colchest3-424234

Contracts Manager: Chris Lister
Site Manager: Adam Wightman

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 18/06/2021



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2km NW of the outskirts of Colchester at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Colchester, Essex (Fig 1). The site is currently a rectangular paddock of permanent pasture bordered by a 4m high hawthorn hedgerow to the northeastern edge and a tree lined trackway on the north western side. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 0197 3120.

Proposed work

The proposed work comprises the creation of a private fishing and wildlife pond with associated landscaping. The pond is due to have a maximum water depth of 2m.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the CBC brief (CBC, 2001) Colchester Essex Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record accessed via the Heritage Gateway:

Little archaeological work has been undertaken in the Langham area. A few sporadic find spots close to the site suggest the potential for prehistoric activity including a polished Neolithic flint axe-head (MCC8241), a neolithic flint adze (MCC9050), a perforated prehistoric stone mace-head (MCC9054) and prehistoric narrow flint axe-head (MCC9053).

The CHER records show an area of cropmarks recorded through aerial photography on land opposite the site. These show a number of ditches or historic field boundaries of indeterminate date (MCC9124).

The site is also located within the northern boundary of the former Boxted World War II American air base, but located well away from plotted buildings and structures (MCC7126).

A pre-determination trial trench across the centre of the proposed pond area demonstrated the presence of archaeological features including several ditches and a large feature of indeterminate function (AS, 2020). As these ditches run north-south they probably join the cropmark linears to the north of Park Lane.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 2020 (application No. 201123) for the *creation of a fishing and wildlife pond and associated landscape*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work as stated in the Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021) was for an archaeological excavation.

Specifically, a controlled strip, map and record excavation will be carried out of the entire area of the new pond.

If unusual, significant or unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. Amendments to the brief, and this WSI, may be 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* (CIfA 2014a, b, c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 CBCAA 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 CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: one supervisor plus four archaeologists for 5-7 days

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Nigel Rayner

Excavation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

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

There will be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. For linear features 1m wide sections will be excavated across their width to a total of 10% of the overall length. Discrete features, such as pits, will have 50% of their fills excavated, although certain features may be fully excavated. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks, and only then after discussion with the CBCAA, will it be removed.

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

Trained CAT staff will use a metal detector to scan all areas of the strip and map both before and during excavation. All features and spoil heaps will be scanned and finds recovered.

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

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. A representative section will be drawn to include ground level and the depth of machining. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

The photographic record will consist of general site shots, and shots of all archaeological features and deposits. A photographic scale (including north arrow) shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Standard "record" shots of contexts will be taken on a digital camera. A photographic register will accompany the photographic record. This will detail as a minimum feature number, location, and direction of shot.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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 will be located by NGR coordinates.

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming context is large enough).

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. CAT staff will process samples (unless of a complex nature) and the flots will be sent to VF/LG for reporting.

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged) and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

Provision will be included (where necessary) for column or core samples to be taken, for the assessment and/or full analysis of those samples, and for absolute dating of the sequence.

Provision will also be made (where necessary) for the identification and absolute dating of suitable deposits of charred remains. Should VF/LG make a recommendation that suitable samples not datable by other means (ie associated finds) be submitted for absolute dating, then these samples will be sent to the SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory at Glasgow University for analysis.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

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 or CBCAA. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, 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 Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) 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 DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

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 Post-excavation Manager with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Advisor 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 CBCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

Post-excavation assessment

Once fieldwork has finished the need for a post-excavation assessment will be discussed and agreed with CBCAA.

If a post-excavation assessment is required by CBCAA, it will be normally be submitted within 2 months of the end of fieldwork, or as quickly as is reasonably practicable and at a time agreed with CBCAA. It will be a clear and concise assessment of the archaeological value and significance of the results, and will identify the research potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework. It will include an Updated Project Design, with a timetable, for analysis, dissemination and archive deposition.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment, preparation of the normal site report will begin.

Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA 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 CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the archaeological project.
- Location plan of the excavation area in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the area will be given 10 figure grid references.
- A section drawing showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale (if this can be safely done)
- 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 CBCAA.

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

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible

Archive deposition

It is a policy of Colchester Borough Council that the integrity of the site archive be maintained (i.e. all finds and records should be properly curated by a single organisation), with the archive available for public consultation. To achieve this desired aim it is assumed that the full archive will be deposited in Colchester Museums *unless otherwise agreed in advance*. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited).

By accepting this WSI, the client agrees to deposit the archive, including all artefacts, at Colchester & Ipswich Museum.

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum. If the finds are to remain with the landowner, 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 CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

CBCAA 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 CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

References

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

AS	2020	<i>Archaeological evaluation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Essex</i> . Archaeological Solutions Project P8619
Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> . 2nd Edition
Brown, N and Glazenbrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: a frame work for the Eastern Counties 2 Research agenda and strategy</i> , East Anglian Archaeological, occasional papers 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2020	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Colchester, CO4 5NL</i> . By Dr R Hoggett
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological excavation</i> . Revised Oct 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> . Updated

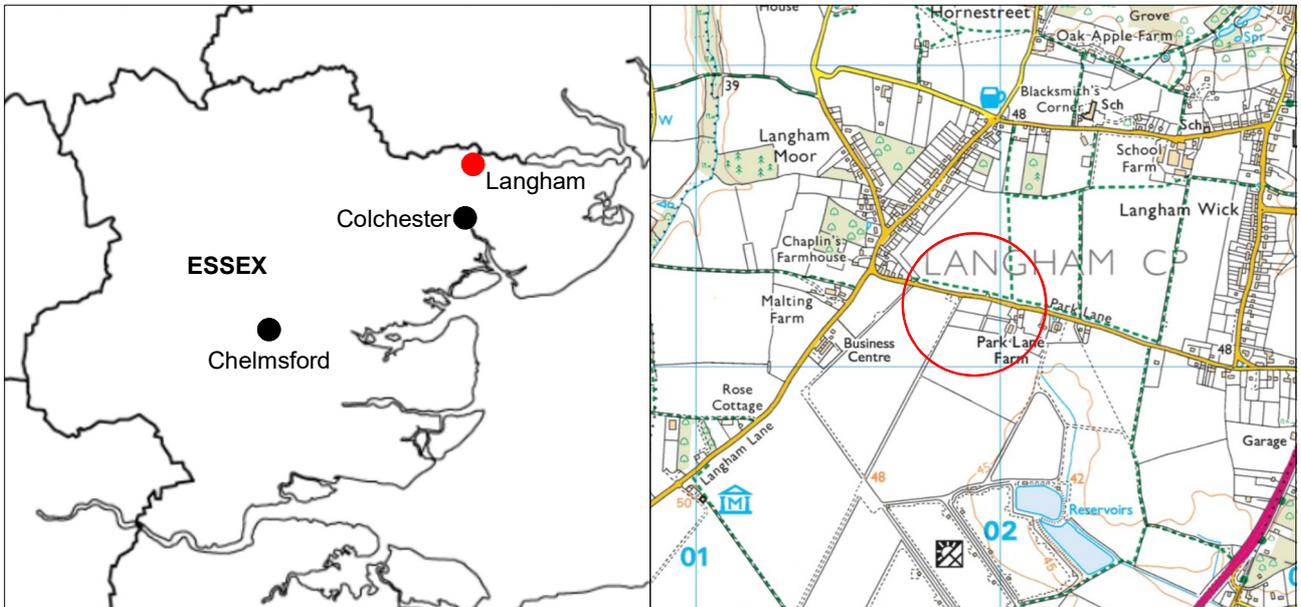
		Oct 2020	
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019	
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0	
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).	
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<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)	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.	

Emma Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust
Roman Circus House
Roman Circus Walk
Colchester
Essex
CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org



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Fig 1 Site location with excavation area indicated by the dashed blue line.

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OASIS ID: colchest3-424234

Project details

Project name	Archaeological excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Lanham, Colchester, CO4 5NL
Short description of the project	An archaeological excavation was carried out at Applebys, Park Lane, Colchester, Essex in advance of the creation of a private fishing and wildlife pond. Located within an area of known cropmarks and isolated prehistoric find spots, an evaluation carried out in 2020 revealed undated ditches and a large feature of indeterminate function. Excavation revealed little of archaeological significance. Features included a post-medieval/modern field boundary ditch and land drain, and modern service trenches likely associated with the Boxted World War II airbase. A number of pits/tree-throws were also present but only two produced finds, of post-medieval/modern date, and some might actually be of natural origin.
Project dates	Start: 21-07-2021 End: 23-07-2021
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	201123 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2021/06a - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4640 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 4 - Regularly improved
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCHES Modern
Monument type	PITS/TREE-THROWS Uncertain
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Open-area excavation""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER LANGHAM Applebys, Park Lane
Postcode	CO4 5NL
Study area	0.22 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 0197 3120 51.942059186964 0.938808284314 51 56 31 N 000 56 19 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 47.74m Max: 48.06m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Adam Wightman
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	ECC4640
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

available

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID ECC4640
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological excavation at Applebys, Park Lane, Langham, Colchester, Essex, CO4 5NL: July 2021
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1697
Date 2021
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 loose leaf stapled
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

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