

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1850
Issued September 2022**

**Archaeological Monitoring at
28 Melrose Road, West Mersea,
Essex, CO5 8JB: September 2022**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/07d
ECC code: ECC4741**

**Archaeological Monitoring at
28 Melrose Road, West Mersea,
Essex, CO5 8JB: September 2022**

NGR: Tm01201 12705 (centre)

Planning ref.: 221116

**CAT project ref.: 2022/07d
CAT Report 1850**

**ECC code: ECC4741
OASIS id: colchest3-5078929**

**report prepared by
Bronagh Quinn**

fieldwork by Bronagh Quinn and Adam Wightman

commissioned by the homeowner

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Issued:	4/10/2022	

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1 Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a front and side extension to the existing property and a new car lodge to the north. The site is in an area of rich Roman and prehistoric archaeology, but the only remains uncovered were a well used to provide water to the house in the early 20th century and a modern soakaway.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex which was carried out on the 6th and 13-15th September 2022. The work was commissioned by the homeowner in advance of the construction of a front and side extension to the current house and a new car lodge at the front of the property.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER/CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for archaeological monitoring 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 Archaeological Monitoring at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCAA 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2022).

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* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) (MCC/ECC numbers are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

Archaeological monitoring in 2014 at 26 Melrose Road revealed one probable pit containing a worked flint within the foundation trenches. The feature did not contain any later dated finds or inclusions and was presumed to be prehistoric in date (CAT Report 805, MCC3142).

The CHER notes that in 1946 a small assemblage of Roman pottery was found in a feature that may have been a grave to the south of Melrose Road (MCC8859).

CAT carried out a series of archaeological investigations approximately 230m southwest of the site at 20 Yorick Road. The rear of the property includes the location of a Roman wheel-shaped *mausoleum* (MCC8355 Scheduled Monument no. 1002195). The mausoleum was originally discovered in 1896 and initially thought to be the remains of a Roman lighthouse. The structure is 20m in diameter with a hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls. These walls meet the 1m-thick encircling wall and project beyond it for over a metre as external buttresses. Between each pair of walls there is an extra buttress, making twelve in all. The structure is made of tile on foundations of mortar and Kentish ragstone. Dressed stone and roof tiles have also been

found. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by English Heritage in 1989. An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the *mausoleum* (CAT Report 255, MCC2973). Followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (CAT Report 330, MCC5406).

Although the exact location is uncertain the CHER has records of a brick tomb found a few yards east of the wheel tomb on a property off Beach Road. The tomb contained a glass urn with a lead lid and inside was cremated bone of a child and a small clay lamp (MCC8786).

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 68m of trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 0.6m wide and excavated to a depth of c1-1.1m below current ground level (bcgl).

Three horizons were identified. Layer L1 was a modern topsoil (c 0.2-0.4m thick) which was present throughout most of the foundation trenches except for in the area of the new car lodge. This is due to the construction of a garage and lobby which have since been demolished. L1 sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.22m thick) which seals natural geology (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.4m bcgl).

The foundations contained a single large pit feature which is likely to have been a soakaway (F1). F1 had steep, straight edges and had a loose fill which contained a large amount of modern froged bricks and rubbish (none retained).

In the south-eastern corner trench, a brick-lined well was identified (F2). F2 was c 2m in diameter and c 4m deep with water still present in the base. Associated with F2 was a manhole inspection chamber with a ceramic pipe running between them and two service pipes, one of which connected to a pump at the base of the well and another which bought water up and into the house. The associated manhole inspection chamber would have acted as overflow drainage for the well.

F2 was likely constructed at around the same time as the houses on Melrose Road in the early 20th century (Map 1) and acted as the water supply to the house before West Mersea was connected to the mainland water supply in 1965 (Mersea Life 2020). Before this the main water supply for the island was St Peters well on Coast Road (Karbacz 2012). Many of the houses on Melrose Road, West Mersea are colloquially known to have their own personal wells on site (Adam Wightman, pers comms), suggesting that the initial owners of the houses had substantial wealth. It is likely that the well was taken out of use and covered with a concrete slab after West Mersea became connected to the mainland water supply.

The southern foundation trench had multiple services running through it consisting of live electric and water. The south-western corner of the trench also had a second manhole inspection chamber. Multiple ceramic pipes were found around the manholes and well F2.



Map 1 Ordnance Survey, 25 inch map, 1923. The site is outlined in red.



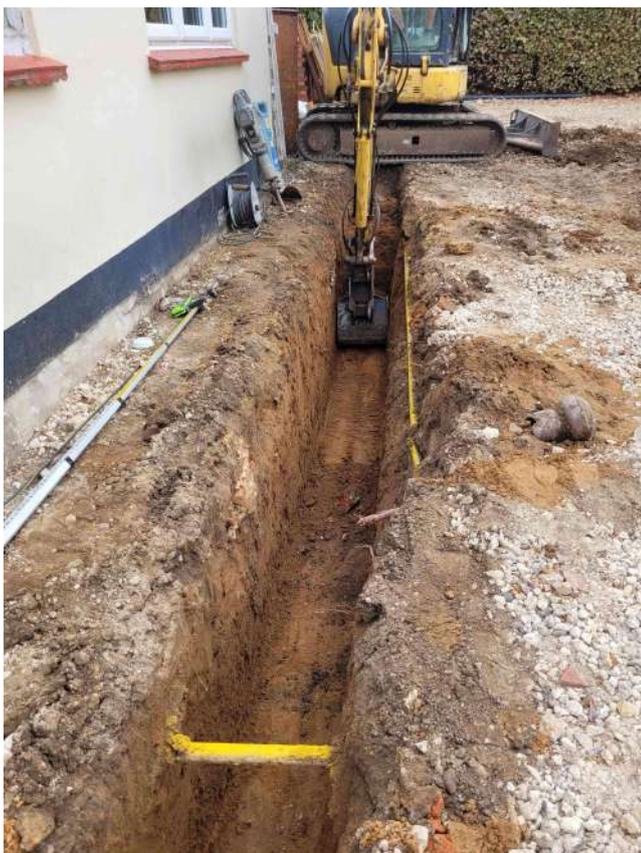
Photograph 1 Representative section F1, looking east



Photograph 2 Trench shot, looking west



Photograph 3 Trench shot, looking north



Photograph 4 Trench shot, looking west



Photograph 5 Trench shot, looking east



Photograph 6 Partially exposed top of well in relation to existing property



Photograph 7 Top of well with cap removed to show internal services



Photograph 8 Partially exposed top of well showing brick outer edges and services



Photograph 9 General site shot showing well in relation to manhole inspection chambers and extent of existing house, looking south-east

6 Finds

No finds were recovered from the monitoring.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea uncovered an early well associated with the construction of the house in the early 20th century before Mersea Island was connected to the mainland water supply in 1965. This provides an interesting glimpse into the development of the island. A modern soakaway was the only other feature uncovered during the monitoring.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, fieldwork was carried out by B Quinn and A Wightman. Figures are by S Veasey. 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>

CAT	2022	<i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological monitoring at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8JB</i>
CAT Report 255	2004	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2003</i>
CAT Report 330	2006	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: July 2005</i>
CAT Report 805	2014	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 26 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2014</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Monitoring at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex by S Wood</i>
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>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i>
Historic England	2016	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Karbacz, EM	2012	<i>A Short History of Mersea (5th Edition)</i>
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
Mersea Life	2020	<i>Mersea Water (Page 75)</i>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>

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
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
Iron Age	period from 700 BC to Roman invasion of AD 43
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	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

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1850)

CBC monitoring brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, thumbnails and log

Graphic files

Site data

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 the Archaeological Data Service.

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Distribution list:

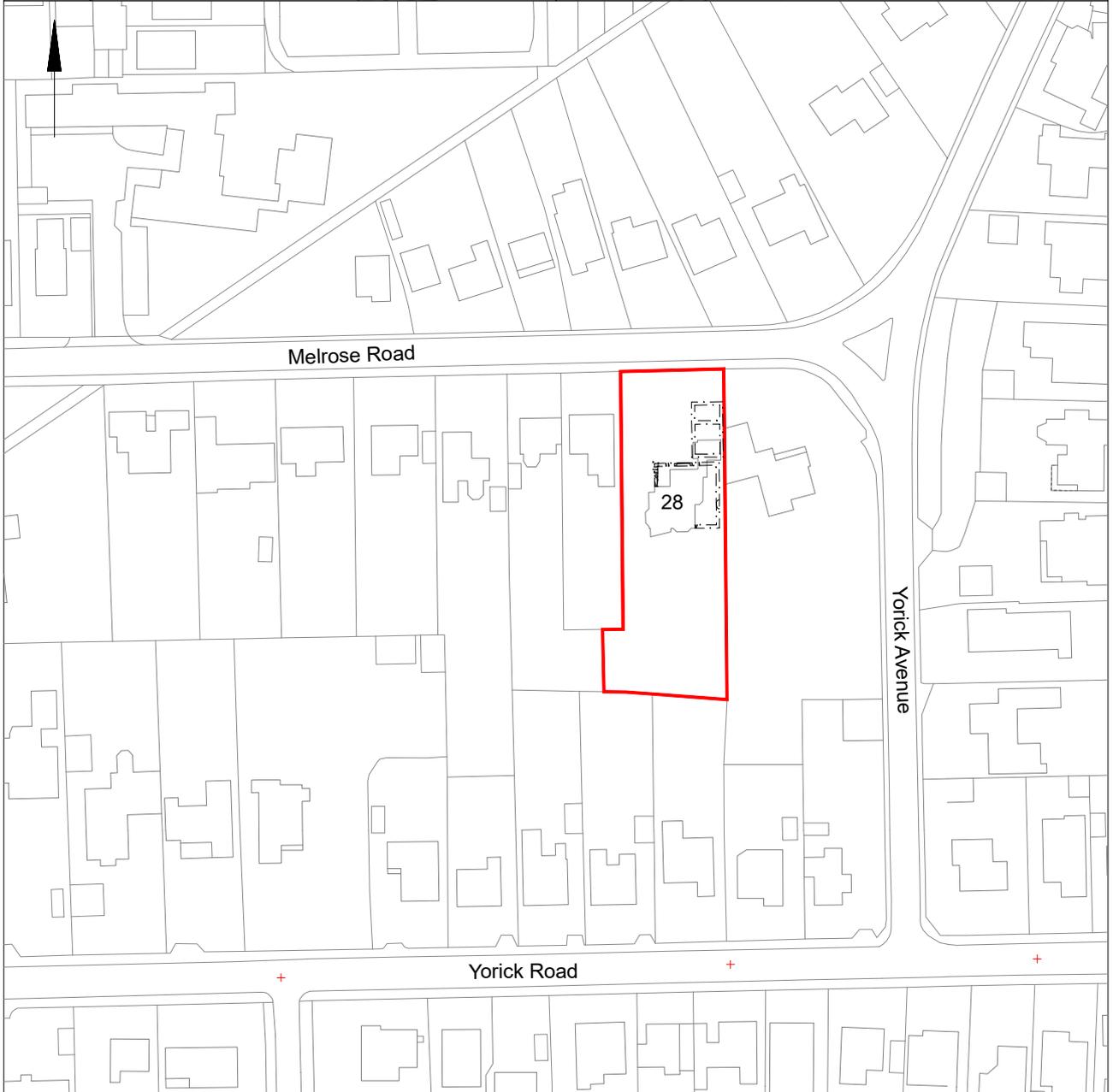
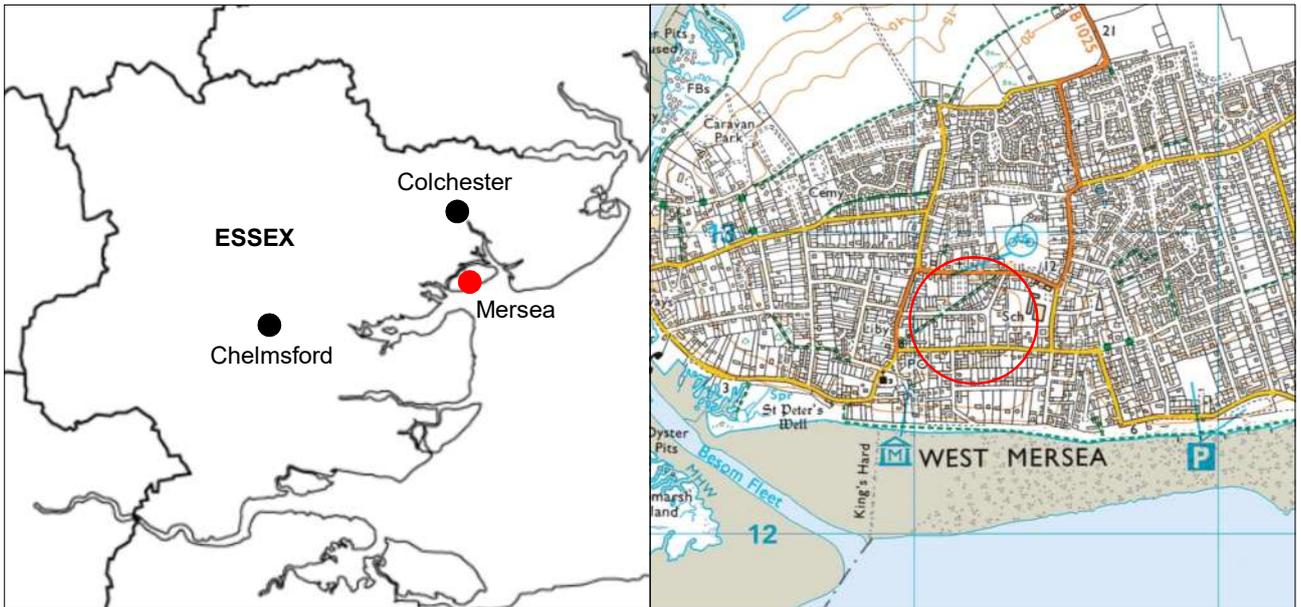
Homeowner

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Dark grey-brown clayey sand with occasional small stones	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Mid yellow-brown clayey sand with occasional small stones	Modern
L3	-	Natural geology	Mid yellow-orange sands and gravels	Post-glacial
F1	-	Soakaway	Light-mid grey clayey sand with frequent modern brick	Modern
F2	-	Well	Brick lined well with associated services	Modern



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Fig 1 Site location.



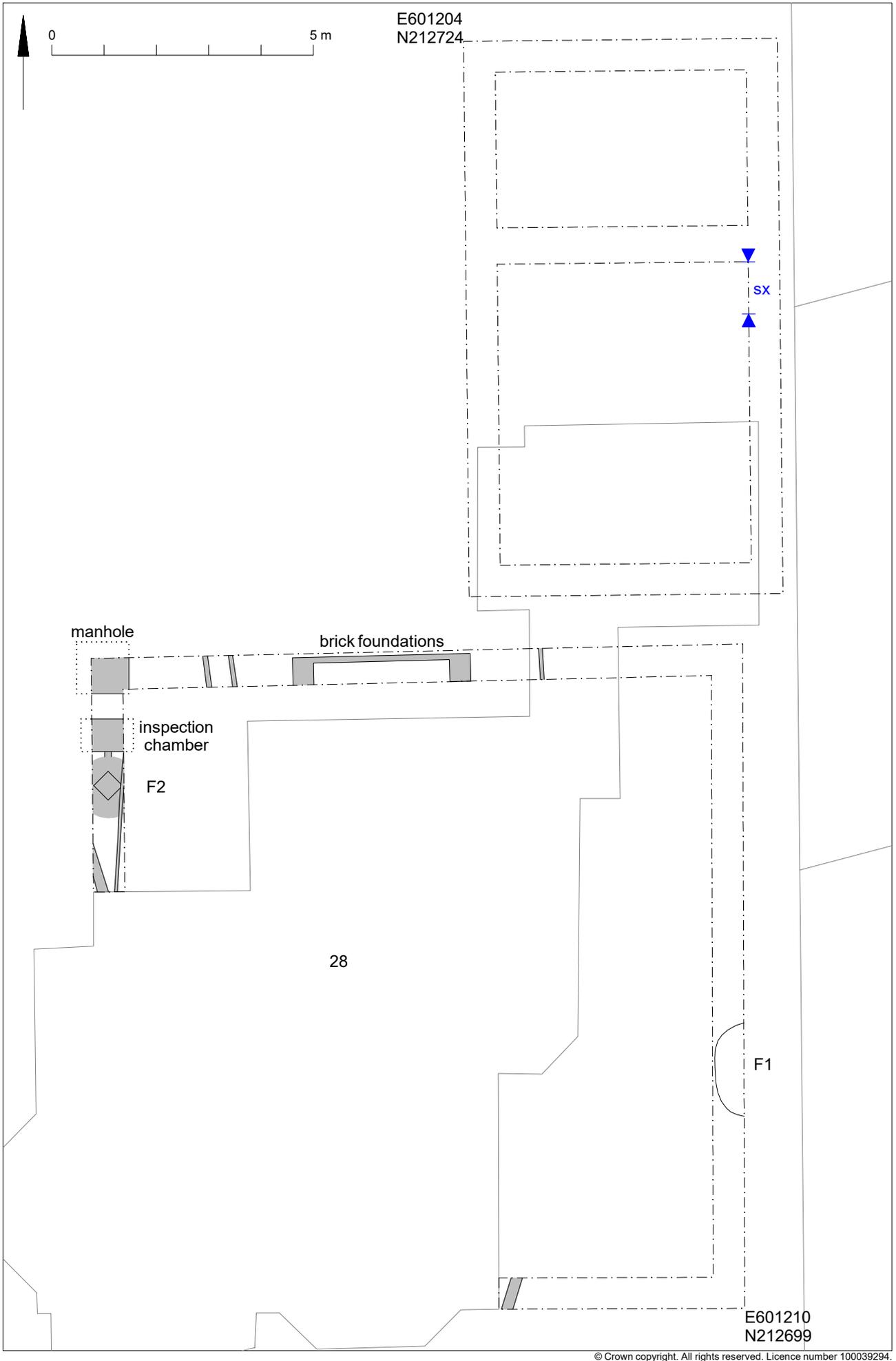


Fig 2 Monitoring results. Modern features and services in grey.

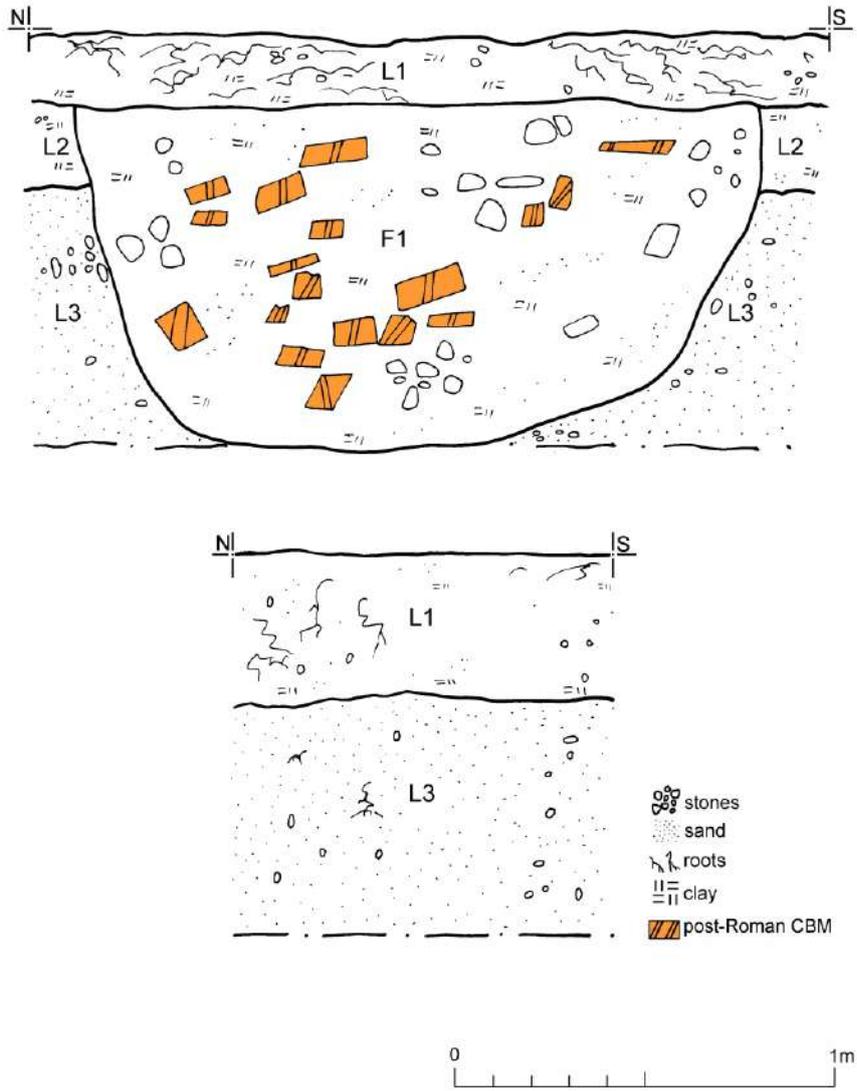


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8JB	
Parish: West Mersea	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 01201 12705 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/07d CHER ref: ECC4741 OASIS ref: colchest3-5078929
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 6th-15th September 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.13ha
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: -
Final report: CAT Report 1850	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a front and side extension to the existing property and a new car lodge to the north. The site is in an area of rich Roman and prehistoric archaeology, but the only remains uncovered were a well used to provide water to the house in the early 20th century and a modern soakaway.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Bronagh Quinn	Date of summary: September 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8JB

NGR: TM 01201 12705 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: West Mersea

Planning reference: 221116

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/07d

OASIS project number: colchest3-5078929

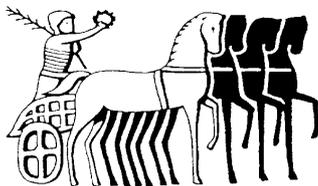
Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 08/07/2022



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 01201 12705.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the construction of a two storey extension to the front and a single storey extension to the rear of the current dwelling, a new cart lodge and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (MCC/ECC numbers are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

Archaeological monitoring in 2014 at 26 Melrose Road revealed one probable pit containing a worked flint within the foundation trenches. The pit did not contain any later dated finds or inclusions and was presumed to be prehistoric in date (CAT Report 805, MCC3142).

The CHER notes that in 1946 a small assemblage of Roman pottery was found in a feature that may have been a grave to the south of Melrose Road (MCC8859).

CAT carried out a series of archaeological investigations approximately 230m southwest of the site at 20 Yorick Road. The rear of the property includes the location of a Roman wheel-shaped *mausoleum* (MCC8355 Scheduled Monument no. 1002195). The mausoleum was originally discovered in 1896 and initially thought to be the remains of a Roman lighthouse. The structure is 20m in diameter with a hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls. These walls meet the 1m-thick encircling wall and project beyond it for over a metre as external buttresses. Between each pair of walls there is an extra buttress, making twelve in all. The structure is made of tile on foundations of mortar and Kentish ragstone. Dressed stone and roof tiles have also been found. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by English Heritage in 1989. An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the *mausoleum* (CAT Report 255, MCC2973). Followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (CAT Report 330, MCC5406).

Although the exact location is uncertain the CHER has records of a brick tomb found a few yards east of the wheel tomb on a property off Beach Road. The tomb contained a glass urn with a lead lid and inside was cremated bone of a child and a small clay lamp (MCC8786).

Planning background

A planning application (220295) was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2022, which was subsequently resubmitted in April 2022 (221116), proposing a *two storey front and single storey side extensions together with new cart lodge*.

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 is for an archaeological monitoring of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2022).

Specifically:

The monitoring is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

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

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

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-c)
- East of England Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2022)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2022).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). 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 CAT Officer for the duration of the groundworks.

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. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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 pro-forma 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

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to investigate 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). Samples will be collected for potential micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming the context is large enough).

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

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. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

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/LG 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.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the monitoring.

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 Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following Historic England guidance (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 the 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 (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.

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): Megan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth

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: Tom Lawrence

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 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 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.

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* (Historic England 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:

- 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 and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- 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.

If finds are retained from the site 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). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

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.

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
	2nd ed	
CAT	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 255	2004	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2003</i>
CAT Report 330	2006	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: July 2005</i>
CAT Report 805		<i>An archaeological evaluation at 26 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2014</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea. By S Wood</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Revised June 2020</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials. Updated Oct 2020</i>
CifA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct. Revised Oct 2021</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).</i>
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice. By S Cole & P Backhouse</i>

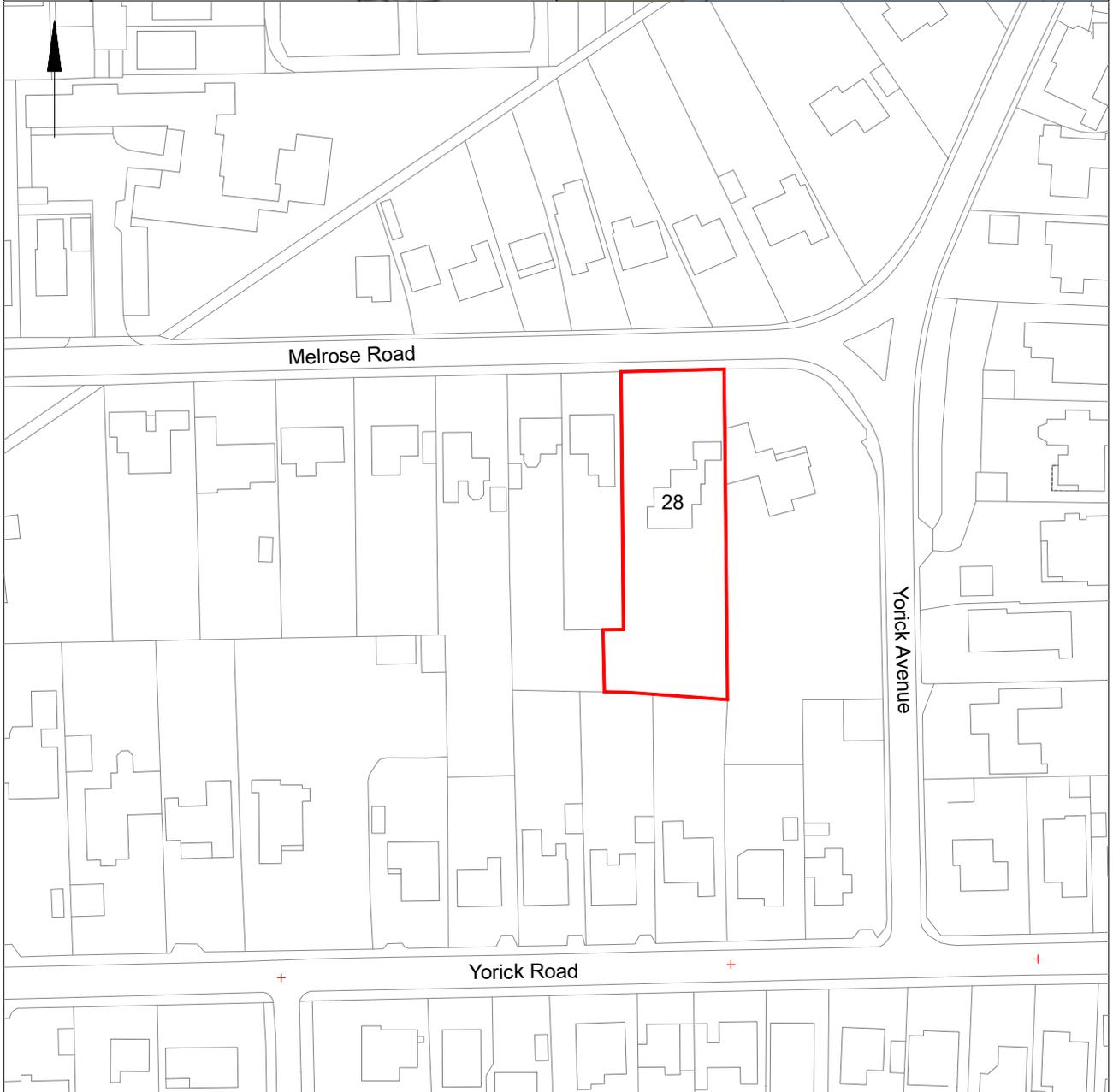
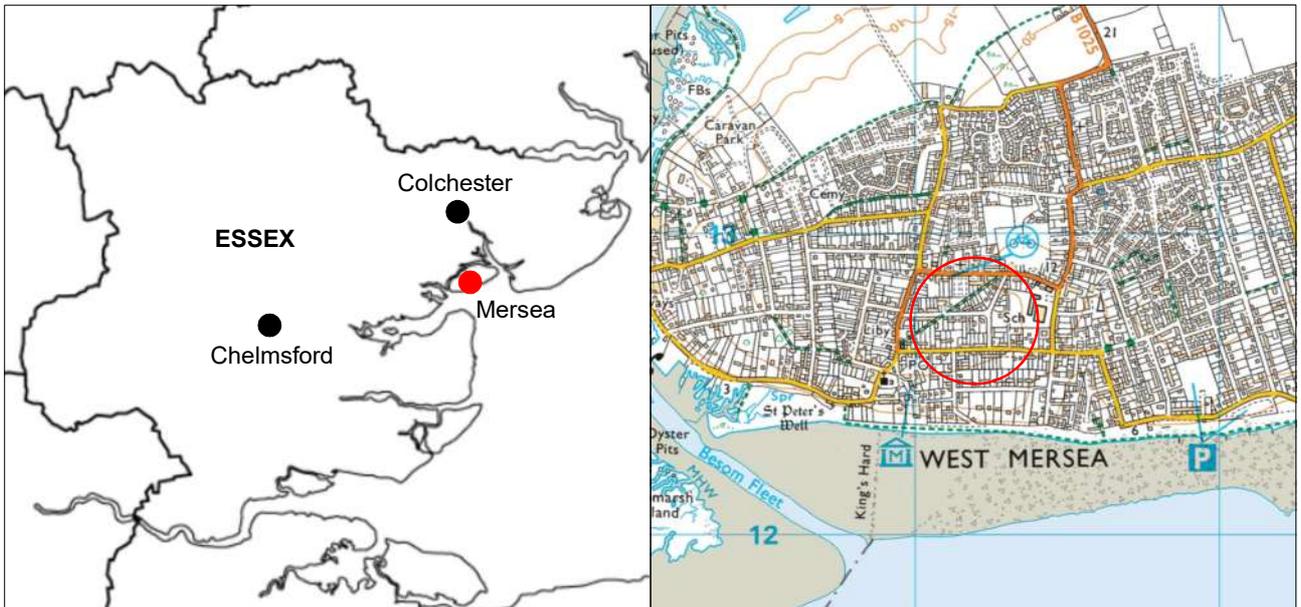
Historic England	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised 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.



Summary for colchest3-507929

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-507929
Project Name	Watching Brief at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8JB
Sitename	28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8JB
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/07d
Planning Id	221116
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	06-Sep-2022 - 06-Sep-2022
Location	28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8JB NGR : TM 01201 12705 LL : 51.7768343676419, 0.915126252024366 12 Fig : 601201,212705
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : West Mersea
Project Methodology	An archaeological monitoring was carried out at 28 Melrose Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a front and side extension to the existing property and a new car lodge to the north. The site is in an area of rich Roman and prehistoric archaeology, but the only remains uncovered were a well used to provide water to the house in the early 20th century and a modern soakaway.

Project Results	<p>Approximately 68m of trench was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. The trench was 0.6m wide and excavated to a depth of c1-1.1m below current ground level (bcgl).</p> <p>Three horizons were identified. Layer L1 was a modern topsoil (c 0.2-0.4m thick) which was present throughout most of the foundation trenches except for in the area of the new car lodge. This is due to the construction of a garage and lobby which have since been demolished. L1 sealed a layer of subsoil (L2, c 0.22m thick) which seals natural geology (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.4m bcgl).</p> <p>The foundations contained a single large pit feature which is likely to have been a soakaway (F1). F1 had steep, straight edges and had a loose fill which contained a large amount of modern frogged bricks and rubbish (none retained).</p> <p>In the south-eastern corner trench, a brick-lined well was identified (F2). F2 was c 2m in diameter and c 4m deep with water still present in the base. Associated with F2 was a manhole inspection chamber with a ceramic pipe running between them and two service pipes, one of which connected to a pump at the base of the well and another which brought water up and into the house. The associated manhole inspection chamber would have acted as overflow drainage for the well.</p> <p>F2 was likely constructed at around the same time as the houses on Melrose Road in the early 20th century (Map 1) and acted as the water supply to the house before West Mersea was connected to the mainland water supply in 1965 (Mersea Life 2020). Before this the main water supply for the island was St Peters well on Coast Road (Karbacz 2012). Many of the houses on Melrose Road, West Mersea are colloquially known to have their own personal wells on site (Adam Wightman, pers comms), suggesting that the initial owners of the houses had substantial wealth. It is likely that the well was taken out of use and covered with a concrete slab after West Mersea became connected to the mainland water supply.</p> <p>The southern foundation trench had multiple services running through it consisting of live electric and water. The south-western corner of the trench also had a second manhole inspection chamber. Multiple ceramic pipes were found around the manholes and well F2.</p>
Keywords	Well - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Soakaway - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4741
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;