

Colchester Archaeological Trust



Report 1852
issued October 2022



**Archaeological monitoring at Church House, Church
Road, Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AZ:
June – September 2022**

CAT project ref.: 21/081
ECC code: ECC4728

**Archaeological monitoring at Church House, Church
Road, Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AZ:
June – September 2022**

NGR: TL 93385 32248 (centre)

Planning ref.: 210847

**CAT project ref.: 2021/08L
CAT Report 1852**

**ECC code: ECC4728
OASIS id: colchest3-429422**

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**with contributions from Dr Matthew Loughton and
Laura Pooley**

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**commissioned by Karen Fardell,
Plater Claiborne Architecture & Design
on behalf of the homeowner**

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Issued:	11/10/2022	

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Church House, Church Road Wormingford, Essex during groundworks for a new garage, the conversion of an outbuilding and the creation of an extension to the outbuilding. Church House itself is a Grade II Listed Building, and dates to the 17th century. The Church of St Andrew, which is Norman in origin, is also close to the development site. The monitoring uncovered a small amount of disarticulated human bone – likely associated with the church, as well as several areas of post-medieval dumping/rubbish disposal.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring undertaken by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at Church House, Church Road, Wormingford from the 6th June to 14th September 2022. The work was commissioned by Karen Fardell from Plater Claiborne Architecture and Design and took place during groundworks for the conversion of an existing outbuilding, a new extension to create a dwelling, a new garage, new driveway and the installation of various services.

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA) Dr Simon Wood advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Dr Simon Wood (CBCAA 2021), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2021).

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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (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/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

There are a few finds spots around the site that could suggest potential early occupation. These include a Neolithic flint scraper found west of the Church of St Andrew (MCC7131), a flint awl to the south-west of the church (MCC7134) and a Saxon/Viking axe found to the north-west of the church (MCC7220).

The site is located directly opposite the Church of St Andrew (MCC7181-3 and MCC10038). The church is Norman in origin (MCC7182) and is built of coarse rubble quoins constructed from reused Roman brick (MCC7181). In the 14th century a northern aisle was added and the chancel was rebuilt. A southern porch was added in the 15th century. The church was restored in 1869-70 (MCC7183).

Surrounding the Church of St Andrew is a small cluster of historic timber-framed buildings. These range in date from the 16th to 17th centuries (The Dell MCC4706, Church House MCC4711, Nether Robbimet MCC4702 and Dormers MCC4704) to 18th to 19th century

(Church Hall MCC4707, Church Cottages MCC4703). It is likely that there may have been earlier buildings in the area contemporary with the construction of the church.

To the north-west of the site is a large area where cropmarks recorded through aerial photography have revealed possible archaeological features. The cropmarks show a large rectangular black mark and linear ditches (MCC7235).

In 1998 CAT carried out a watching brief at the current site prior to the creation of the swimming pool. A pit containing modern building material was noted in the north-west corner of the site (CAT Report 1000, project 98/6b)

In 1993 CAT observed an Anglian Water main being laid through Wormingford (CAT Report 1000, project 93/3d). The route followed Church Road for approximately 1.3km. A possible ditch was noted c 30m south of the churchyard boundary. Stratigraphy primarily included road layers sealing 0.3m of thick deposits of gravel and small stones. From ploughsoil two prehistoric flint cores, a few fragments of medieval pottery and post-medieval coins were recovered.

4 Aims

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Four areas were monitored: the outbuilding extension, the garage; the outbuilding underpinning, and a new driveway with new services. Most of these areas were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. A small trench for services related to a telegraph pole on the northernmost edge of site was hand excavated. Six layers and four features were noted across these areas. A full list of context information is given in Appendix 1.

Outbuilding extension

A large area measuring approximately 20m x 16m was stripped for the extension and decking. The depth varied from 0.5m to at least 1m. There were three layers, topsoil (L1, c 0.15m thick) sealed a make-up layer (L2, c 0.35m thick), which sealed a natural clayey-sand (L3, visible from c 0.5m below current ground level (bcgl)).

Two features were noted. First, a post-medieval ditch (F1) roughly aligned east-west, and c 0.4m deep. The ditch was 11m long and 0.8m wide and contained coal, clinker and peg-tile.

The second feature was a pit (F2), likely a modern rubbish pit/bottle dump due to the abundance of bottles present. The full extent of F2 is unknown but could be related to L4 to the north. The area between them was not monitored so this cannot be definitively stated. F2 was not excavated due to the required depth being reached.



Photograph 1 View of the extension strip, looking south-south-east



Photograph 2 View of the extension strip, looking west



Photograph 3 F1 section, looking east



Photograph 4 F2 unexcavated, looking south-east

Garage

Footings for the double garage, which totalled 6.3m x 11.7m, were 0.7m wide and between 0.45-1.4m deep. Topsoil (L1, c 0.1m thick) sealed make-up (L2 c 0.25m thick) which covered clayey natural (L3, visible from c 0.4m bcgl).

A large pit or ditch (F3) was seen in section on the eastern side of the footings. It is at least 1.6m wide and 0.35m deep.

An extensive layer (L4) at the western end of the garage footings contained post-medieval bricks and bottles (not retained). This layer is thought to be either the same as or contemporary to F2 to the south.



Photograph 5 Garage footings, looking south-east



Photograph 6 F3 in section, looking north-north-east



Photograph 7 Foundation trench with L4 visible, looking east

Outbuilding underpinning

The underpinning and amendments to the existing outbuilding involved digging trenches around it, as well as stripping through the internal floors. The trenching was c 0.6m wide and between 0.5-0.75m deep. Concrete and rubble (L6) covered made-ground (L5). Underneath this was sandy natural (L3). A similar feature to F2 and F3, F4 was discovered in the central section of the outbuilding. F4 is at least 4m long, and 2m wide. The feature was not excavated as the required depth was reached as per the watching brief. It appeared to be modern due to surface finds (not retained). F4 is likely a modern refuse pit. Most notably, disarticulated human bone was recovered from L5 at 0.3-0.6m deep (see Section 6.1 for analysis and Fig 2 for location).



Photograph 8 One of the underpinning trenches around the centre of the outbuilding, looking east-south-east



Photograph 9 Underpinning trenches across the central section of the outbuilding, where the majority of human bone was found, looking east-south-east



Photograph 10 View inside the middle section of the outbuilding, showing F4 on the left of the picture, looking east-south-east



Photograph 11 View inside the northernmost outbuilding, looking north-north-east

New driveway

The driveway was between 3-6m wide and was reduced to a depth of between 0.4-0.6m. The driveway was cut through both the topsoil and subsoil (L1 and L2). The dig got more shallow towards the north-east so only L1 was removed. A length of the road measuring c 17m was not monitored for archaeological deposits.

L4 was identified towards the centre of the driveway, measuring 5.1m long and 0.7m wide. As previously mentioned, the full extent of L4 is not known due to an area of site not being monitored (see Fig 2). This was originally believed to be F2 as it contained similar post-medieval material, but is now thought to be a different but similar feature.



Photograph 12 View of the new driveway, looking south-west



Photograph 13 General shot of L4 along the edge of the driveway strip, looking north-east



Photograph 14 Working shot of the driveway strip, looking north-north-east

Services

A number of service trenches were excavated to the south-west, close to the area in which the disarticulated human bone was recovered. These were monitored for further human remains but none were found.



Photograph 15 General shot of service trench, looking east



Photograph 16 General shot of service trench excavation, looking west

A small service trench connecting to a telegraph pole along the northern boundary of the site was hand excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was cut through L1, L2 and L3.



Photograph 17 Completed service trench by the telegraph pole, looking north-north-west

The strip for the new septic tank, 2m² and 1.45m deep, cut layers of hardstanding (c 0.3m) and made-ground layer (L5, c 0.25m thick) which overlay natural deposits (L3). L5 contained 19th-20th century material including bricks and concrete (none retained).



Photograph 18 Working shot of septic tank excavation

A proposed cartlodge in the western area of the site was not carried out.

6 Finds

6.1 Human bone

by Megan Seehra

Introduction

A small quantity of disarticulated human bone was found during groundworks. All bone was in a good condition and was not excessively fragmented.

Methodology

Due to time constraints, the human bone was not washed after recovery. Excess soil was removed from each bone during analysis. It was weighed and counted by skeletal element followed by an estimation of the minimum number of individuals (MNI). Estimations of sex and age were then applied to identifiable fragments, and any complete long bones were measured for estimation of stature. Each bone was then assessed for any distinctive pathologies.

MNI was determined using the most common sided element present (e.g. left femurs).

Estimation of sex and age were determined using guidelines by Buikstra & Ubelaker (1994) and Brothwell (1981). Stature was estimated using a combination of three methods: Pearson (1899); Trotter & Gleser (1958); and Dupertuis & Hadden (1951).

Results

Weight and quantification

A total of 104 fragments weighed 2199g.

Elements present

The most prevalent elements present are the femur (by weight) and the skull (by fragment count). The majority of the skull fragments likely belong to one individual, as a cranium was found in situ during groundworks, but fragmented as it was lifted. Table 1 shows all elements present by weight and fragment count.

Skull	Ribs	Humerus	Radius	Ulna	Meta-carpals	Phalanges, Hand	Pelvis	Sacrum	Femur	Patella	Tibia	Misc.													
389.29	26	23.86	8	236.17	3	89.58	5	110.54	5	3.00	1	1.34	1	52.31	1	92.19	1	863.71	9	13.71	1	178	1	130.88	42

Table 1 Weight and fragment count organised by skeletal element (Key: **Weight (g)**. **Fragment count**)

Minimum number of individuals (MNI)

Based on the inclusion of two left ulna heads and two occipital bone fragments (both containing near complete internal occipital protuberances), there is an MNI of two people.

Estimation of sex

Both nuchal crests of the occipital bone were used for sex estimation. One scored low (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994, 20) and indicates a female. The second scored slightly higher and indicates a possible male.

One complete femoral head and one complete humeral head measured 44.6mm and 41.1mm, respectively. These indicate a female individual(s). These may belong to the identified female above.

Therefore the remains are likely of one female and one possible male.

Estimation of age

All remains recovered appeared complete in relation to epiphyseal fusion. The skull fragments belonging to the identified female all appeared open. This indicates a young adult (20-35 years old) (Buikstra & Ubelaker 1994, 36). No signs of arthritis were seen in remains, apart from the one patella. This may be related to injury or mechanical wear, rather than age, though. It is unclear if this belongs to the young adult.

Therefore the remains likely contain the remains of one 20-35 year old adult and one adult (18+ years old).

Estimation of stature

Stature was only able to be estimated using a complete left radius and complete right ulna. The radius was estimated to belong to an individual between 157.73-171.88cm (mean: 165.93cm). The ulna was estimated to belong to an individual between 160.55-169.97cm (mean: 165.26cm). The equations for each bone can be seen in Appendix 2.

It cannot be determined which individuals identified above these statures can be matched to, if either.

Pathologies

At least three small, irregular endocranial lesions were noted in fragments of the frontal and parietal bones of the cranium belonging to the young female. A diagnosis by themselves is difficult, but may be an indication of inflammation or carcinoma (cancer).

A osteophyte measuring 8mm long was noted extending laterally from lateral facet of a right patella. Although osteophytes are most commonly associated with being a sign of arthritis, this patella showed no other signs of arthritis (e.g. porous lesions, light in weight, eburnation other

osteophytes on the bone). It is likely, therefore, that this osteophyte is the result of an injury or trauma at this location.

Conclusion

The disarticulated remains recovered from Church House were determined to be those of at least two individuals but likely more. The identified individuals are estimated to be one young adult female and one adult male. Although some post-mortem damage was seen, which was likely caused by the disarticulation and movement of the bones over time, they were all in a good condition, and representative of younger adults who were not suffering from age-related osteological degradation.

6.2 Ceramic and Pottery finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Monitoring uncovered 11 pieces of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) at 1,652g with a pottery EVE of 3.00 (Table 2). This material was recovered from two features and one layer.

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	4	802	201	3.00
CBM	7	850	121	-
All	11	1,652	150	3.00

Table 2 Summary of the pottery and CBM.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F1	Ditch	3	65	22	0.00
F2	Pit	5	1,578	316	3.00
L5	Made-ground	3	9	3	0.00
Total		11	1,652	150	3.00

Table 3 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific features.

Post-Roman pottery

Pit F2 produced three complete modern English stoneware (fabric F45M) vessels including one cylindrical bottle impressed with a stamp of DOULTON LAMBETH from London, and two small jars with stamps of YEOVIL, MARSTON & WESTBURY/WESTERN COUNTIES CREAMERIES/APLIN BARRETT LD. One sherd (5g) of Border ware (fabric F42) pottery dating to the 16th-17th century came from the made-ground L5.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

Two fragments (370g) of medieval/post-medieval peg-tile and three fragments (476g) of brick (476g) came from ditch F1 and pit F2, with two pieces (4g) of modern drain/pipe from the made-ground L5.

Conclusion

The two features and one layer are all modern dating to the 19th-20th century.

Context	Description	Post-Roman	CBM	Date Approx.
F1	Ditch	-	PT, BR	19th-20th century
F2	Pit	F45M	PT, BR	19th-20th century
L5	Made-ground	F42	MOD PIPE	20th century

Table 4 Approximate dates for the individual features and layer.

6.3 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

Two fragments (3.8g) of coal, clinker or coke were recovered from F1 (finds no. 1).

Found in F2 were two complete 19th-/20th-century glass vessels (finds no. 2). The first is made of clear glass, sub-rectangular in profile, and embossed on the base with C 7 / UGB. It is 132mm high, 55mm wide, 30mm deep, and weighs 126.2g. The second is also clear glass but square with a round neck and octagonal rim. It is 58mm high, 35mm wide/deep, and weighs 94.1g.

7 Conclusion

Several layers and features were noted during monitoring, all dating to the 19th-20th century. During the monitoring it was established that a post-medieval bottle dump was located underneath the area of the swimming pool which was “moved” to a different area of the garden (homeowner, pers comm). It is unknown where this material was moved to but is unlikely to be either F2 or L4. This suggests a third rubbish pit/bottle dump in the area. This may have served the whole of Wormingford in the 19th-20th century.

Most notable, however, is the recovery of disarticulated human bone around the outbuilding. The remains are highly likely to originate from St Andrews Church (approximately 70m west of the site), which dates from the 12th century. Church House itself dates from the 17th century (Listed 1225424), replacing a building there originating from c 1400AD. Therefore, it is likely the remains found date from between 1100-1400/1600AD, having originally been buried in the churchyard. Over time due to soil movement of varying origins (landscaping, construction, etc.) the original burials were disturbed and the mix of bones have ended up within the ground of Church House.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Karen Fardell of Plater Claiborne Architecture & Design and the homeowner for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by Chris Lister and Adam Wightman, and fieldwork was carried out by Ben Holloway, Bronagh Quinn, Megan Seehra and Sarah Veasey,. Figures were prepared by Emma Holloway. The project was monitored for CBCPS 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>

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--|
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MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Pearson, K	1899	<i>IV. Mathematical contributions to the theory of evolution.—V. On the reconstruction of the stature of prehistoric races</i> . Philosophical Transactions Royal Society A. 192 (193): 169–244
Trotter, M & Gleser, G C	1958	<i>A re-evaluation of estimation of stature based on measurements of stature taken during life and of long bones after death</i> . <i>American Journal of Physical Anthropology</i> 16 (1): 79–123

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	O nline A cces S to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, 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
ws	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: none retained

Digital record:

CAT Report 1852

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs, photographic thumbnails and log

Scans of original site records (plan/sections)

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

Karen Fardell, Plater Claiborne Architecture & Design

Dr Simon Wood, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context information

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Soft moist medium grey/brown sandy silty loam and inclusions of: stone 5%	Modern
L2	-	Makeup	Soft dry/moist light grey/brown silty loam with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 4%	Modern
L3	-	Natural	Firm moist medium yellow/orange sandy clay and inclusions of: stone 25%	Post-glacial
L4	-	Rubbish dump	Soft medium/dark grey/brown silty loam with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 5%	Modern
L5	3, 4	Made-ground	Soft dry medium grey/brown loamy silt with brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 10%	Modern
L6	-	Concrete	Concrete floor of existing outbuilding; rubble directly underneath	Modern
F1	1	Ditch	Soft moist medium grey/brown loamy silt with charcoal flecks, daub flecks, brick flecks and inclusions of: stone 3%	Modern
F2	2	Rubbish pit	Soft moist medium/dark grey/brown/black sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Modern
F3	-	Ditch/pit	Friable dry medium/dark grey/brown sandy silt with charcoal flecks, brick flecks, tile flecks	Modern
F4	-	Pit	Friable dry medium grey/brown sandy silt	Modern

Appendix 2 Stature Estimations

Ulna, left

Length: 24.6cm

T&G

$3.77 \times 24.6 + 79.13 = 165.26\text{cm}$ ($\pm 4.71 = 160.55\text{-}169.97\text{cm}$) (white)

Radius, right

Length: 23cm

Pearson:

$85.925 + 3.721 \times 23 = 171.51\text{cm}$ ($\pm 0.3728 = 171.14\text{-}171.88\text{cm}$) (male)

$81.224 + 3.343 \times 23 = 158.11\text{cm}$ ($\pm 0.3816 = 157.73\text{-}158.49\text{cm}$) (female)

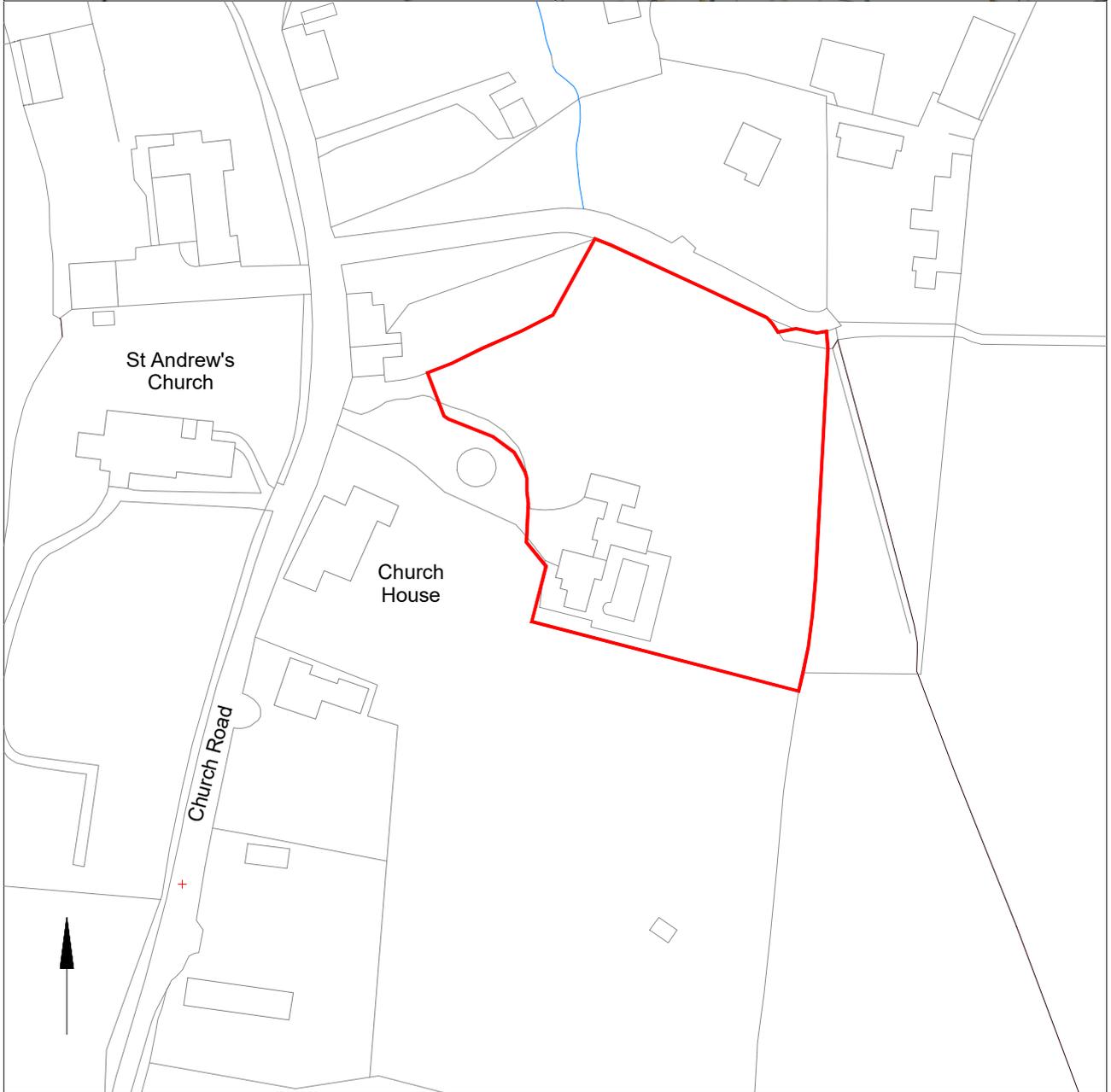
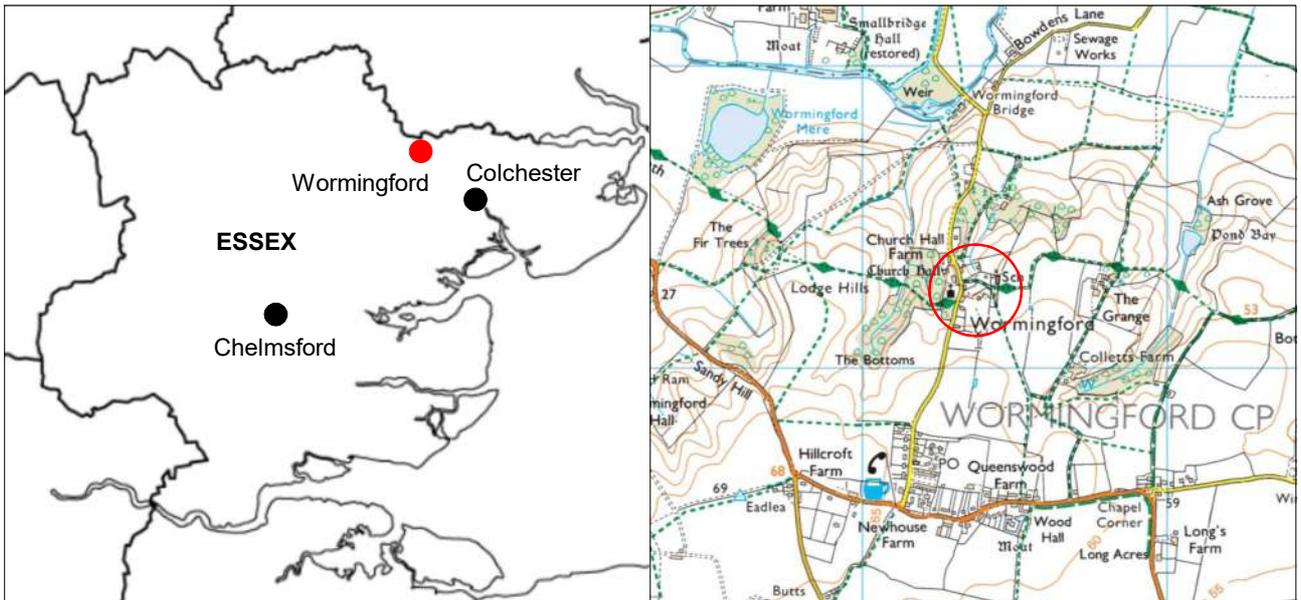
T&G:

$3.73 \times 23 + 80.62 = 166.41\text{cm}$ ($\pm 4.59 = 161.82\text{-}171.00$) (white)

D&H:

$88.881 + 3.449 \times 23 = 168.21\text{cm}$ ($\pm 0.2907 = 167.92\text{-}168.50$) (male)

$68.238 + 4.248 \times 23 = 165.94\text{cm}$ ($\pm 0.2963 = 165.65\text{-}166.24$) (female)



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Fig 1 Site location.



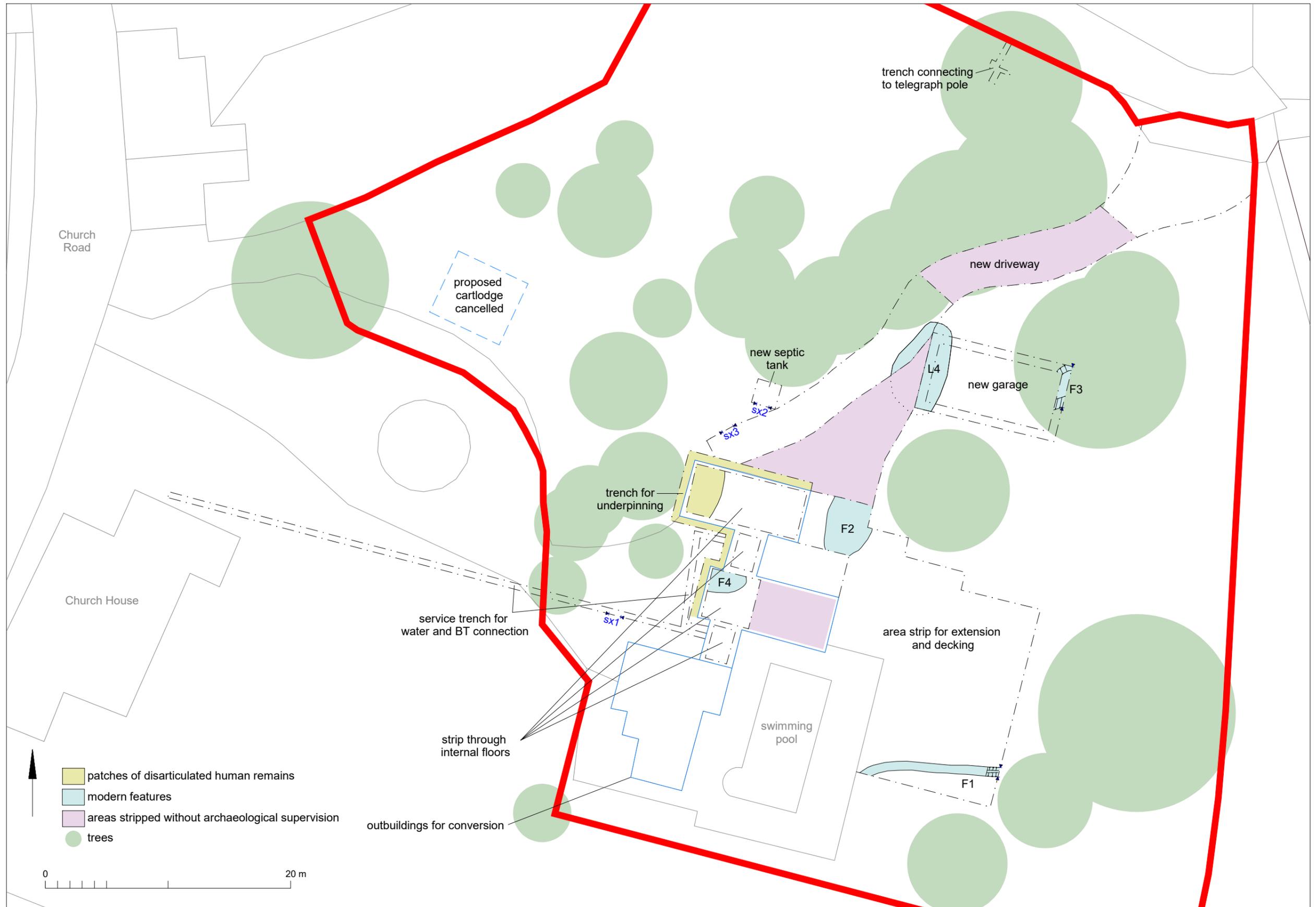


Fig 2 Results.

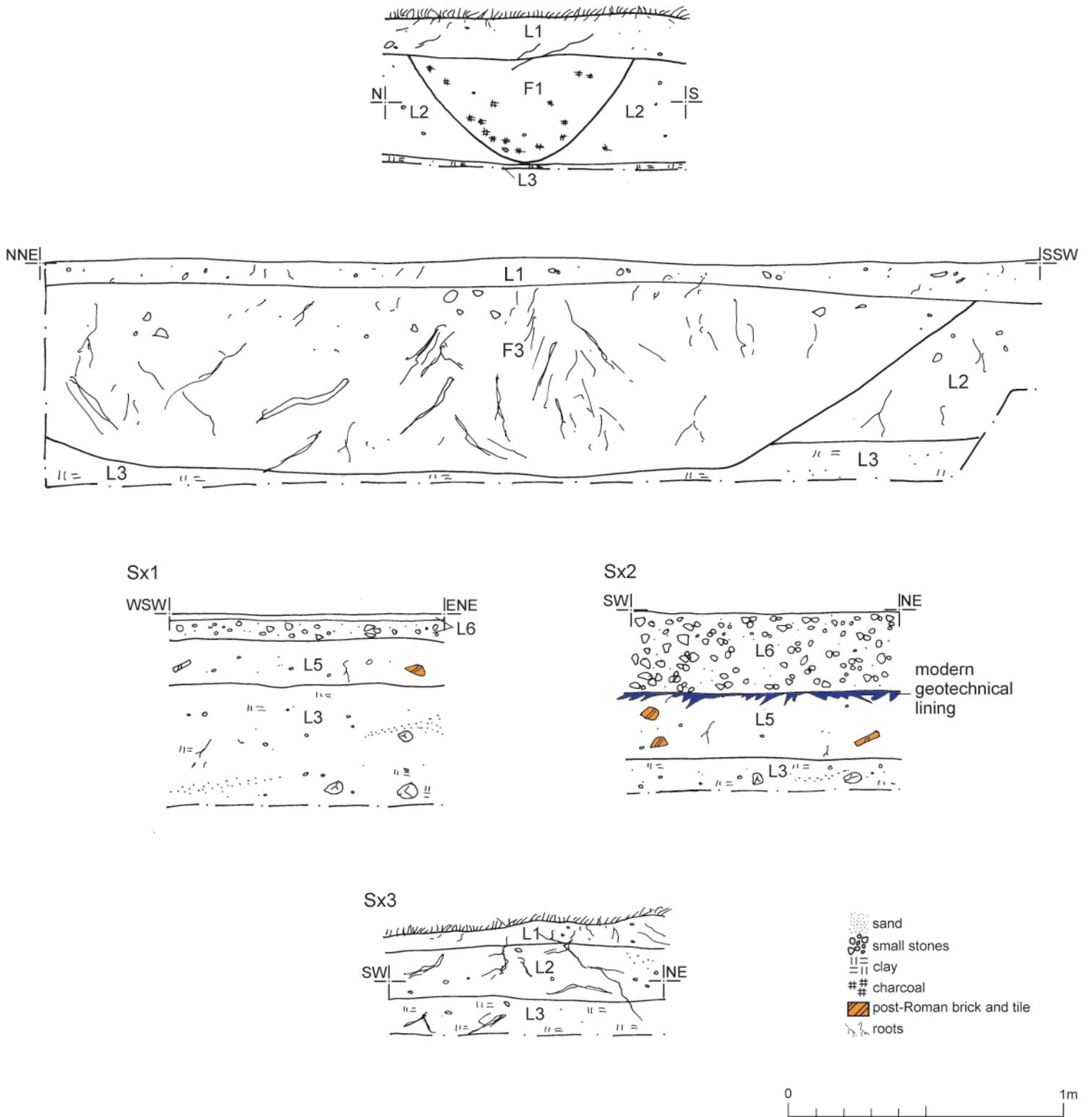


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Church House, Church Road, Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AZ	
Parish: Wormingford	District: Colchester
NGR: TL 93386 32248 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 21/08l CHER ref: ECC4728 OASIS ref: colchest3-429422
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 6 th June - 14 th September	Size of area investigated: 0.4ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: CHER: MCC4702, MCC4703, MCC4704, MCC4706, MCC4707 MCC4711, MCC7131, MCC7134, MCC7181, MCC7182, MCC7183, MCC7235 MCC7720, MCC10038
Final report: CAT Report 1852	
Periods represented: Medieval, post-medieval/modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: <i>Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Church House, Wormingford, Essex during groundworks for a new garage, conversion of an outbuilding and the creation of an extension to the outbuilding. Church House itself is a Grade II Listed Building, and dates to the 17th century. The Church of St Andrew, which is Norman in origin, is also close to the development site. The monitoring uncovered a small amount of disarticulated human bone – likely associated with the church, as well as several areas of post-medieval dumping/rubbish disposal.</i>	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Bronagh Quinn	Date of summary: October 2022

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at Church House, Church Lane, Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AZ

NGR: TL 93386 32248 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: Wormingford

Planning reference: 210847

Commissioned by: Karen Fardell, Plater Claiborne Architecture & Design

Client: homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2021/8L

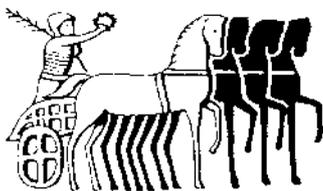
OASIS project number: colchest3-429422

Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 07.09.2021



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located c 668m north-northeast of the main occupied concentration of the village of Wormingford and comprises of a group of outbuildings to the northeast of Church House, Church Road, Wormingford, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 93386 32248.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the conversion of existing outbuildings and a new extension to create a three-bedroom dwelling, a new cartlodge, parking areas and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

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

There are a few finds spots around the site that could suggest potential early occupation. These include a neolithic flint scraper found the west of the Church of St Andrew (MCC7131), a flint awl to the southwest of the church (MCC7134) and a Saxon/Viking axe found to the northwest of the church (MCC7220).

The site is located directly opposite the Church of St Andrew (MCC7181-3 and MCC10038). The church is Norman in origin (MCC7182) constructed with coarse rubble and quoins constructed with reused Roman brick (MCC7181). In the 14th century the northern aisle was added and the chancel was rebuilt. A southern porch was added in the 15th century. The church was restored in 1869-70 (MCC7183).

Surrounding the Church of St Andrew is a small cluster of historic timber framed buildings. These range in date from the 16th to 17th centuries (The Dell MCC4706, Church House MCC4711, Nether Robbimet MCC4702 and Dormers MCC4704) to 18th to 19th century (Church Hall MCC4707, Church Cottages MCC4703). It is likely that there may have been earlier buildings in the area contemporary with the construction of the church.

To the northwest of the site is a large area where cropmarks recorded through aerial photography have revealed potential archaeological features. The cropmarks show a large rectangular black mark and linear ditches (MCC7235).

In 1998 CAT carried out a watching brief at the current site prior to the creation of the swimming pool. A pit containing modern building material was noted in the northwest corner of the pool area (CAT Report 1000, project 98/6b)

In 1993 CAT observed an Anglian Water main being laid through Wormingford (CAT Report 1000, project 93/3d). The route followed Church Road for approximately 1.3km. Only one possible ditch was noted c 30m south of the churchyard boundary. Stratigraphy primarily included road layers sealing 0.3m of thick deposits of gravel and small stones. From ploughsoil-stripped areas two prehistoric flint cores, a few fragments of medieval pottery and post-medieval coins were recovered.

Planning background

A planning application (210847) was made to Colchester Borough Council in March 2021 proposing the *conversion and extension of an existing single storey outbuilding range to form a single three bedroom dwelling*.

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 investigation of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 2021)
- 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 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): Meghan 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: 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 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).
- 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 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 2nd ed	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2021	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 1000	forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997). By H Brooks</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at Church house, Church Road, Wormingford. 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 2019</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</i>

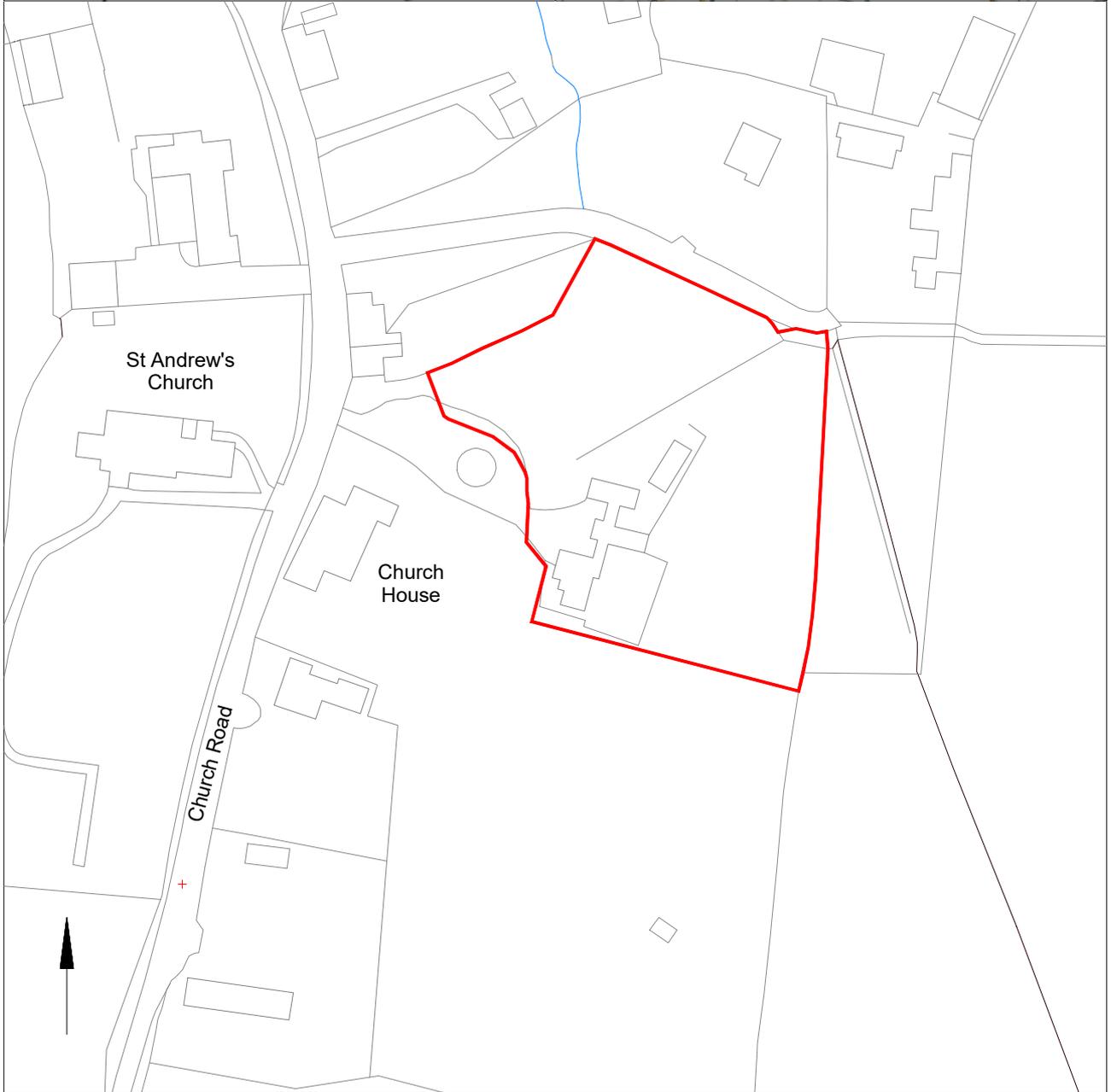
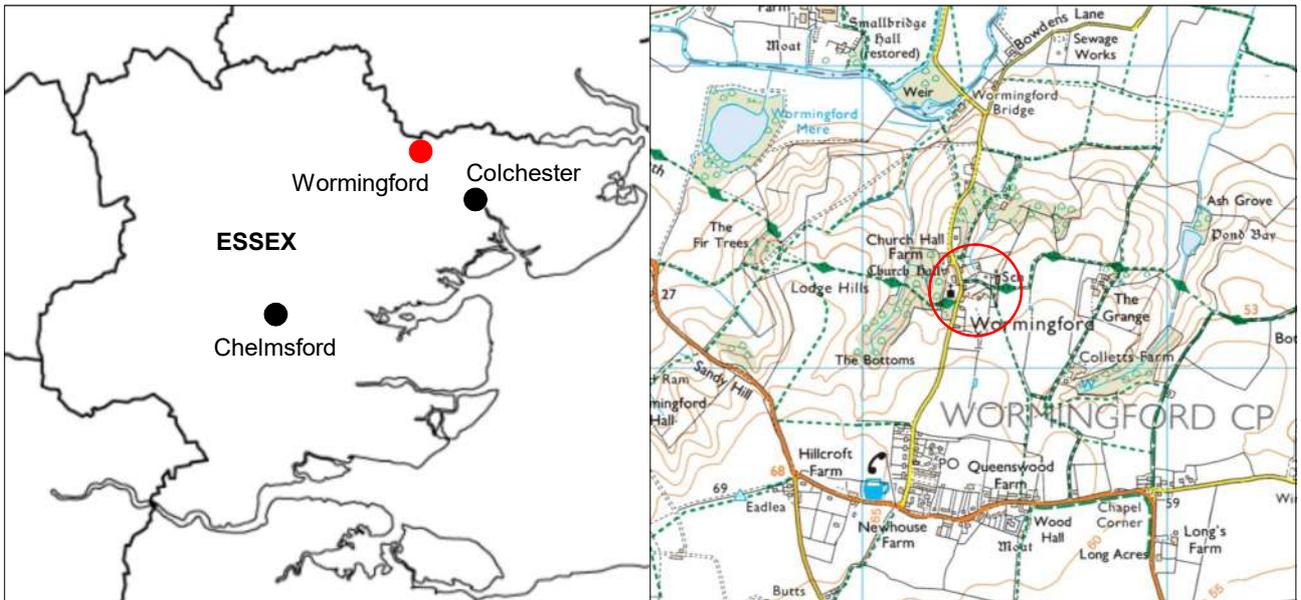
Historic England	2015b	<i>practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project</i> . By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research 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 colchest3-429422

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-429422
Project Name	Archaeological monitoring at Church House, Church Lane, Wormingford, Essex, CO6 3AZ
Sitename	Church House, Church Lane, Wormingford, Essex
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2021/8L
Planning Id	210847
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	06-Jun-2022 - 14-Sep-2022
Location	Church House, Church Lane, Wormingford, Essex NGR : TL 93386 32248 LL : 51.9550850808163, 0.812926030935394 12 Fig : 593386,232248
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Wormingford
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Church House, Church Road, Wormingford, Essex, CO6, 3AZ. The work was undertaken in accordance with a brief from Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS) and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) from Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Church House, Church Road Wormingford, Essex during groundworks for a new garage, the conversion of an outbuilding and the creation of an extension to the outbuilding. Church House itself is a Grade II Listed Building, and dates to the 17th century. The Church of St Andrew, which is Norman in origin, is also close to the development site. The monitoring uncovered a small amount of disarticulated human bone – likely associated with the church, as well as several areas of post-medieval dumping/rubbish disposal.
Keywords	Rubbish Pit - 20TH CENTURY - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Human Remains - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - HUML22
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;