

Colchester Archaeological Trust



CAT Report 1856
Issued November 2022

**Archaeological monitoring at
East Mersea Hall, Church Lane,
Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ: October 2022**



CAT project ref.: 2022/07b
ECC code: ECC4750

**Archaeological Monitoring at
East Mersea Hall, Church Lane,
Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ: October 2022**

NGR: TM 05148 14195 (centre)

Planning ref.: 220910

**CAT project ref.: 2022/07b
CAT Report 1856**

**ECC code: ECC4750
OASIS id: colchest3-507959**

report prepared by Bronagh Quinn

fieldwork by Bronagh Quinn

**commissioned by Jonathan Green (Laurie Wood
Associates) on behalf of the homeowner**

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Issued:	10/11/2022	

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1 Summary

An archaeological monitoring was carried out at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a two-storey annexe. East Mersea Hall is 16th century in date, Grade II listed and surrounded by a possible medieval moated enclosure. Despite the potential for archaeological remains from as early as the medieval period, only modern deposits were identified including the burial of a dog.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex out on the 3rd October 2022. The work was commissioned by Jonathan Green of Laurie Wood Associated on behalf of the homeowner in advance of the construction of a two-storey annexe to 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 East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, East 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 (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site is located approximately 620m north-west of the seafront in an area with bedrock geology of Thames Group – clay, silt and sand.

East Mersea Hall is a 16th-century timber-framed Grade II listed (NHLE 1239684), 2-storey detached hall house set back from Church Lane (MCC8793). The hall is located 30m north-east of St Edmund's Church (MCC8793) and the grounds of the hall adjoin the churchyard. Both are surrounded by a moated enclosure thought to be at least medieval in origin (MCC8792). The moat is irregular in shape with the south side (assuming there was one) missing on historic mapping (see Map 1). The moated area is thought to be one of the possible locations for a Danish encampment of 894 AD, as mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, or the location of a deserted medieval village.



Map 1 Extract of the OS Six-inch map of England and Wales, Essex Sheet XLVII.NW published 1898 showing the moat highlighted blue.

The adjacent parish church of St Edmund King and Martyr, which is Grade I listed (NHLE 1239659). The earliest masonry within the church dates from the 12th-13th centuries, but much of the structure dates from the 14th to 16th centuries. Much of the external stonework is weathered and there is some surviving painted decoration internally. There are fragments of Roman brick and tile in the fabric of the church. More have been found during grave digging. Rodwell notes a reference to a possible Roman villa under or near the church (1977, 113).

Archaeology South-East carried out an archaeological evaluation to the south-east at Coopers Beach Holiday Park. Nine trenches were excavated but no archaeological finds or features were present (Clover 2015, ECC2853).

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)

An area measuring c 60 square metres was machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. It was excavated to a depth of c 0.62-0.65m below current ground level (bcgl) through:

- modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2m thick), which was present across most of the site except where the previous double garage sat, sealing
- subsoil (L2, c 0.3m thick) which overlay
- natural geology (L3, identified at a depth of c 0.5m bcgl).

Disturbance along the eastern side of the excavation area (F2, c 14.7m²) produced a large amount of clinker/coke, modern pottery, frogged bricks and a dog burial (F1, finds no. 1). The remains of two dogs were present on the site, which could have been pets of

a previous resident of the Hall. Two services – a lead water pipe and a modern plastic drainage pipe – also cut across the site.



Photograph 1 Working shot of the dog skeleton (F1) being exposed.



Photograph 2 General site post-excitation shot, F2 can be seen in the foreground, looking west

6 Finds

6.1 Pottery

by Dr Matthew Loughton

Sixteen pottery sherds (745g, with an EVE of 0.23) were recovered from F2. This material consisted of a sherd (147g) of 19th/20th century flowerpot (fabric F51B) and 15 sherds (598g) from a 19th/20th century Staffordshire-type white earthenware large plate (EVE:0.23).

6.2 Animal Bone

by Alec Wade

The remains of at least two adult dogs were recovered during monitoring. One of these individuals was the subject of an articulated burial (F1) and the other was represented by a single piece of disarticulated bone recovered from a surrounding area (F2). Both features are of 19th/20th century date.

Context	Find no.	No. of pieces	Weight (g)	Species	Comments
F1	1	170	490	Canis familiaris	Articulated dog burial. See following section for details.
F2	2	1	4	Canis familiaris	The distal end of a dog's right radius (epiphysis fused). Presumed to originate from the disturbance of dog burial F1.
		1	8	Canis familiaris	The proximal end of a dog's right femur (epiphysis fused). Slightly larger than those recovered from the dog burial F1.
Total		172	502		

Table 1 Summary of the distribution of animal bone by feature
Dog burial F1

The burial contained the near complete skeletal remains of a medium-sized male adult dog of at least two years of age. It was buried with its spine curving around to the right so as its back legs and tail were to the north of its head. Part of the left humerus was missing, and a fragment of its right radius was later recovered from F2. Table 2 summarises the recovered skeletal parts. Basic length measurements were taken of the long bones where they were complete enough to do so (GL). No abnormal pathology was noted.

Skeletal part (head to feet)	No. complete	No. fragments	Weight (g)	Notes	GL
Skull	1	0	110	All teeth intact, very light signs of wear.	-
Mandibles	2	0	44	All teeth intact except missing P1 from left mandible, light wearing.	-
Atlas	1	0	6		-
Axis	1	0	6		-
Scapulae	2	0	18		-
Vertebrae (all types including caudal)	36	0	80		-
Sacrum	1	0	8		-
Ribs	24	12	32		-
Humeruses	1	1	22	Right humerus is complete, only proximal part of left humerus is present – damaged during machining?	124mm
Ulnae	2	0	16	Distal end of right ulna is missing.	-
Radiuses	1	0	10	Right radius is missing (distal end recovered from F2).	124mm
Pelvis	1	0	26		-
Baculum	1	0	1		-
Femurs	2	0	34	Right femur not measured as proximal end is abraded.	138mm
Patellas	1	0	1		-
Tibias	2	0	28		140mm
Fibulas	2	0	1		-
Calcaneums	2	0	4		-
Tali	2	0	4		-
Misc carpals and tarsals	12	0	6		-
Metapodials (I – V)	16	0	20		-
Phalanges (I, II and III)	36	0	12		-
Other	8	0	1		-
Totals	157	13	490		-

7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex uncovered an area of modern (19th-20th century) disturbance including the buried remains of a dog. The dog burial (F1) likely post-dates the F2 disturbance. No other archaeological deposits were identified.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Jonathan Green of Laurie Wood Associates and 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. 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>

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--|
| Baker, P & Worley, F | 2019 | <i>Animal bones and archaeology: recovery to archive</i> . Swindon: Historic England |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT | 2022 | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological monitoring at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ</i> |
| CBCAA | 2022 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Monitoring at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, East Mersea by S Wood</i> |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| Clover, K | 2015 | <i>Archaeological Evaluation Report Coopers Beach Holiday Park Church Lane, East Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8TN</i> . ASE Report no. 2015353 |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14) |
| Hillson, S | 2016 | <i>Mammal bones and teeth: an introductory guide to methods of identification</i> . Abingdon: Routledge. |
| 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. |
| Rodwell, W & Rodwell, K | 1977 | <i>Historic Churches – a wasting asset</i> . CBA Research Report 19. |
| Schmid, E | 1972 | <i>Atlas of animal bones</i> . Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing Company, 1972. |

10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigati S , 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: Returned to landowner

Digital record

CAT Report 1856

CBC monitoring brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Site digital photographs and photographic 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

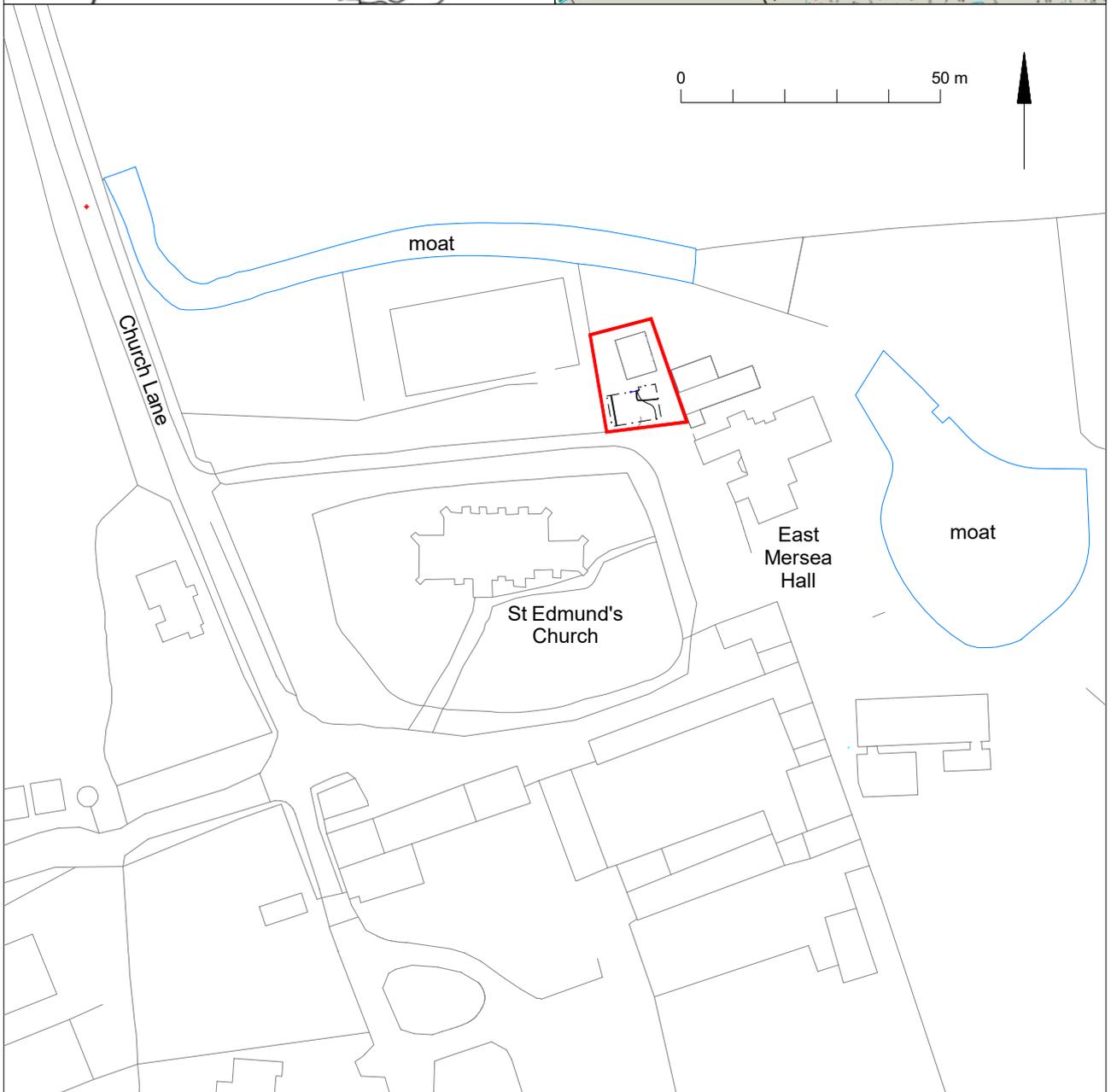
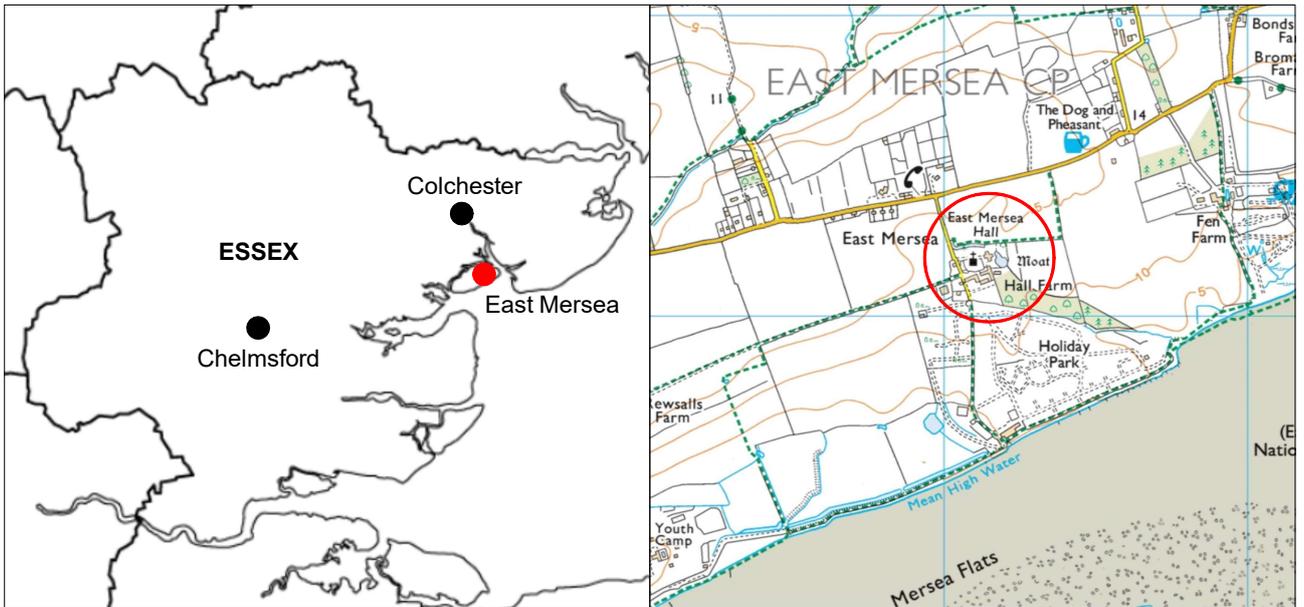
Jonathan Green, Laurie Wood Associates

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	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown sandy silt	Modern
L2	-	Subsoil	Firm, dry, medium orange/brown with brick flecks	Undated
L3	-	Natural geology	Firm dry medium orange sandy clay	Post-glacial
F1	1	Dog burial	Firm, dry, medium grey sandy clay with complete articulated dog skeleton	Modern
F2	2	Trunaction	Firm, dry, medium/dark orange/grey/brown sandy clay	Modern



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Fig 1 Site location.

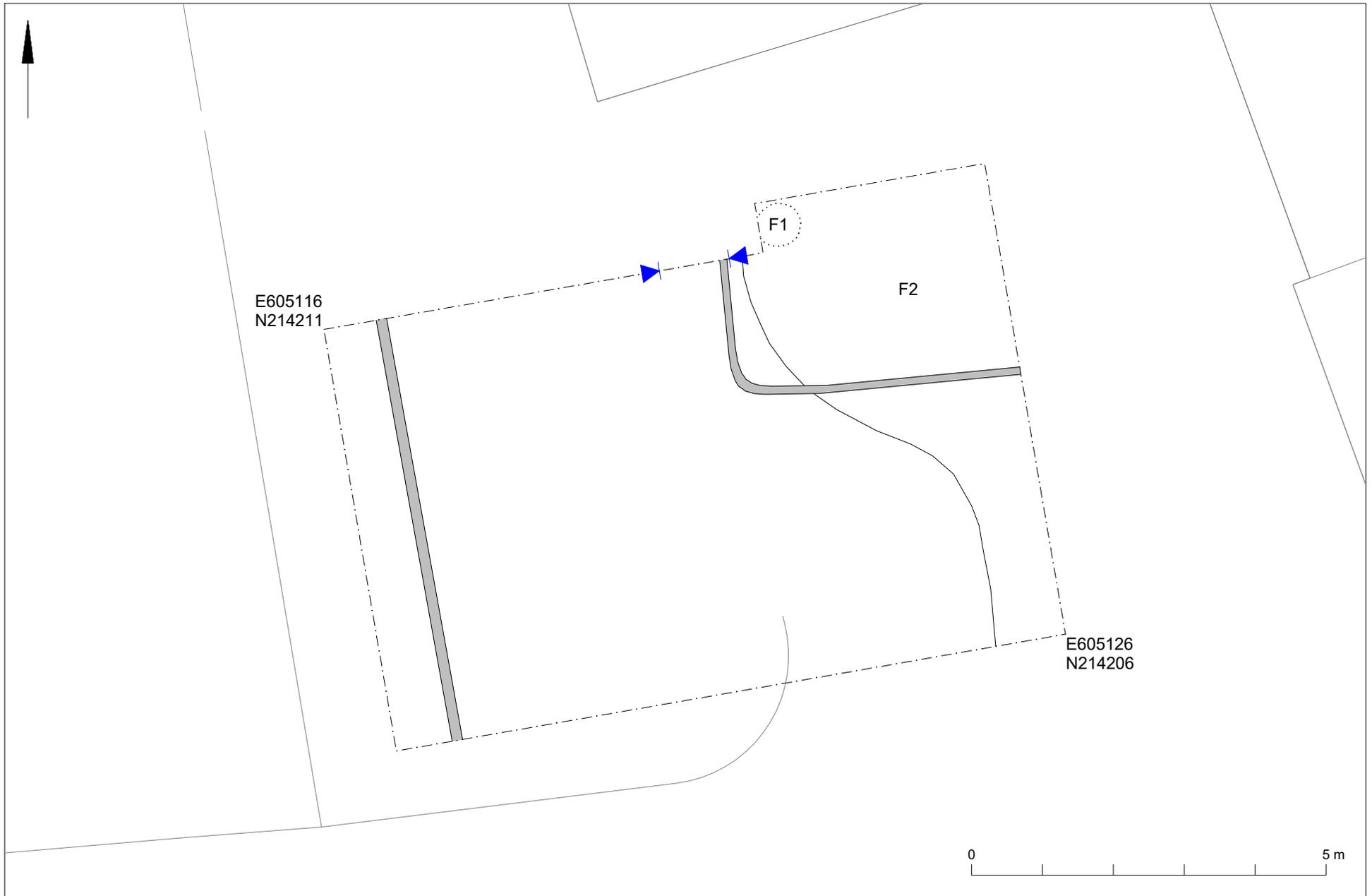


Fig 2 Results (modern services in grey).

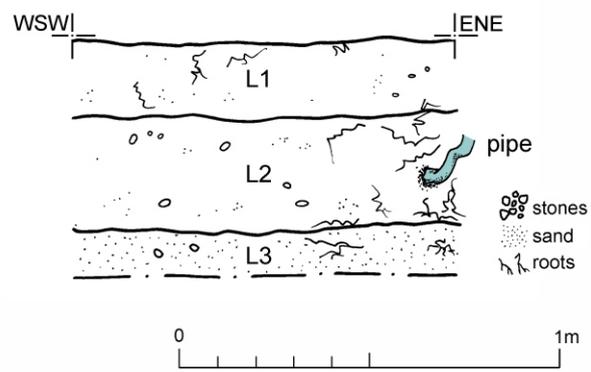


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ	
Parish: East Mersea	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 05148 14195(centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/07b CHER ref: ECC4750 OASIS ref: colchest3-507959
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 3rd October 2022	Size of area investigated: 0.027ha
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: ECC2853, MCC8792, MCC8793
Final report: CAT Report 1856	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological monitoring was carried out at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a two-storey annexe. East Mersea Hall is 16th century in date, Grade II listed and surrounded by a possible medieval moated enclosure. Despite the potential for archaeological remains from as early as the medieval period, only modern deposits were identified including the burial of a dog.	
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 East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ

NGR: TM 05148 14195 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: East Mersea

Planning reference: 220910

Commissioned by: Jonathan Green (Laurie Wood Associates)

Client: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/07b

OASIS project number: colchest3-507959

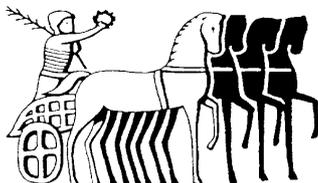
Contracts manager: Chris Lister

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 East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, East Mersea, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 05148 14195.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the demolition of an existing double garage to be replaced with a unique two storey annexe and any associated groundworks. The upper floor will be set within the vaulted roof space, so the proposal will read as a single storey outbuilding when viewed from the hall. The annexe is to create an open-plan office and amenity area. Existing power cables running overhead from an electricity pole to the north-west corner of the hall are to be diverted to run underground and the pole relocated.

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>)).

The site is located approximately 620m northwest of the seafront in an area with bedrock geology of Thames Group - clay, silt and sand.

East Mersea Hall is a 16th century timber-framed Grade II Listed (no. 1239684), 2-storey, detached hall house set back from Church Lane, East Mersea (MCC8793). The hall is located 30m northeast of St Edmund's Church (MCC8793).

The grounds of the hall adjoin the churchyard of the church. Both are surrounded by a moated enclosure thought to be at least medieval in origin (MCC8792). The moat is irregular in shape. The southern side of the moat (assuming there was one) does not appear on historic mapping.



Map 1 Extract of the OS Six-inch map of England and Wales, Essex Sheet XLVII.NW published 1898 showing the moat highlighted blue.

The moated area is thought to be one of the possible locations for a Danish encampment in 894AD as mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle or the location of a deserted medieval village.

The adjacent parish church of St Edmund King and Martyr, which is Grade I Listed (no. 1239659). Earliest masonry within the church dates from the 12th-13th centuries but much of the structure dates from the 14th to 16th centuries. Some of the early painted decoration survives but much of the external stonework is weathered. There are fragments of Roman brick and tile in the fabric of the church and have found during grave digging. Rodwell notes a reference to a possible Roman villa under or near the church (1977, 113).

Archaeology South-East carried out an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching to the southeast at Coopers Beach Holiday Park in 2015. Nine trenches were excavated within the area of the proposed roads. No archaeological finds or features were recorded but some modern dumping was noted in two of the trenches (Clover, 2015, ECC2853).

Planning background

A planning application (220910) was made to Colchester Borough Council in April 2022 proposing the *demolition of an existing detached double garage and erection of a two storey outbuilding with the purpose group: Sui Generis*.

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>
CAT	2nd ed	
CBCAA	2022	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, East 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>
Clover, K	2015	<i>Archaeological Evaluation Report Coopers Beach Holiday Park Church Lane, East Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8TN. ASE Report no. 2015353</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. By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell</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>
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>
Rodwell, W and Rodwell, K	1977	<i>Historic Churches - a wasting asset. CBA Research Report 19</i>

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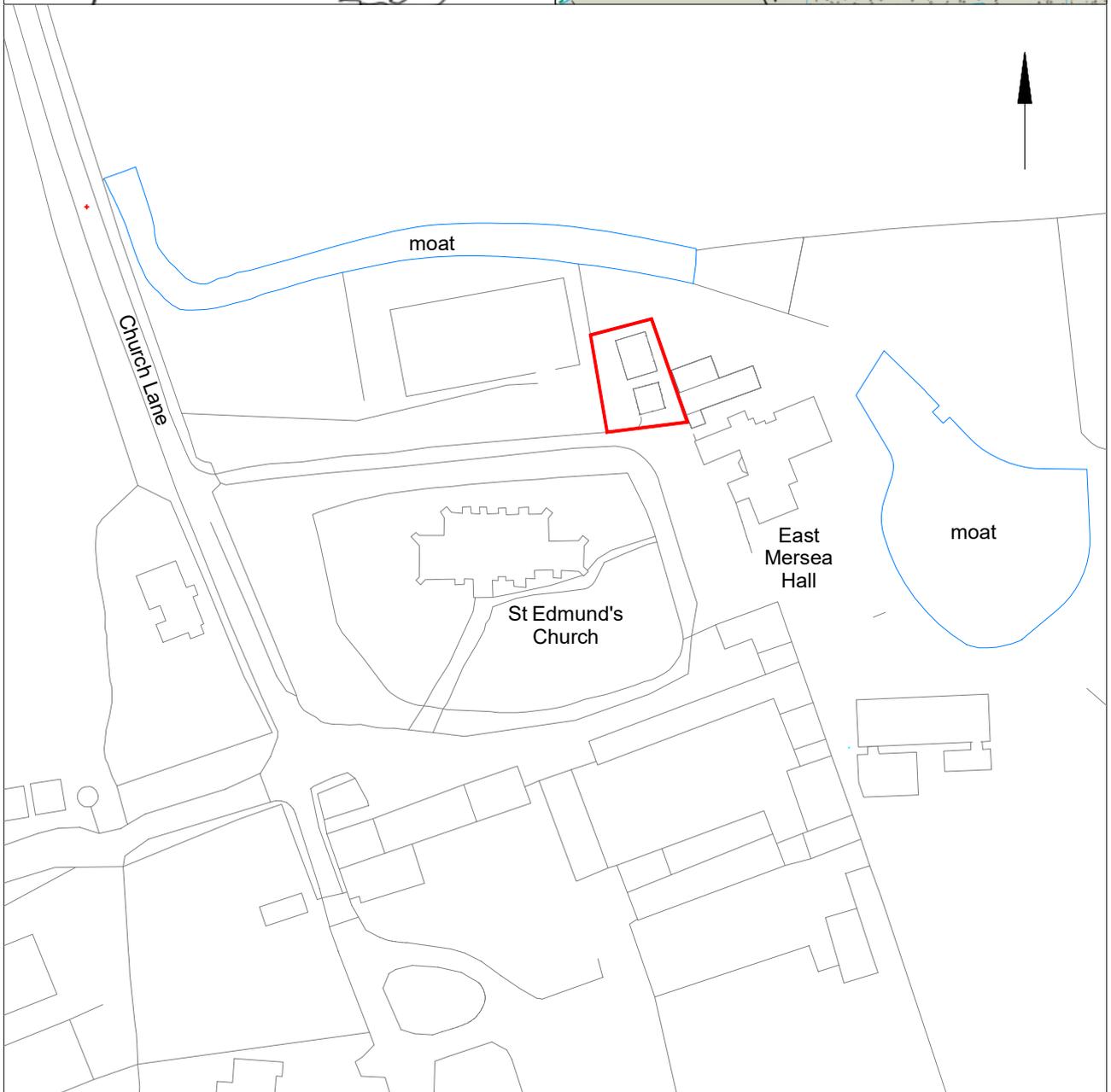
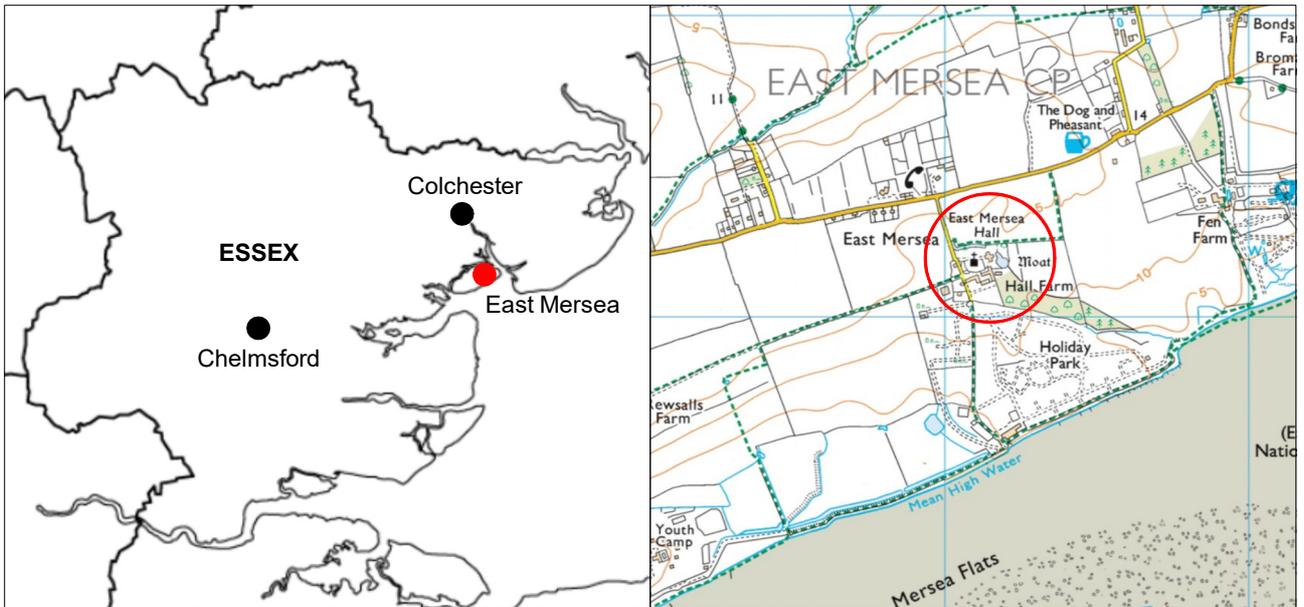


Fig 1 Site location.

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Summary for colchest3-507959

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-507959
Project Name	Archaeological Monitoring at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ
Sitename	East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/07b
Planning Id	220910
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	03-Oct-2022 - 03-Oct-2022
Location	East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex, CO5 8TJ NGR : TM 05148 14195 LL : 51.7887813799136, 0.973138099205363 12 Fig : 605148,214195
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : East Mersea
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex in accordance with the archaeological brief and WSI.
Project Results	An archaeological monitoring was carried out at East Mersea Hall, Church Lane, Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a two-storey annexe. East Mersea Hall is 16th century in date, Grade II listed and surrounded by a possible medieval moated enclosure. Despite the potential for archaeological remains from as early as the medieval period, only modern deposits were identified including the burial of a dog.
Keywords	Animal Burial - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	B, Quinn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4750
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;