

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1903
issued April 2023**

**Archaeological monitoring at 6 High Street,
West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD: January 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2022/09i
ECC code: CFMS23**

**Archaeological monitoring at 6 High Street,
West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD: January 2023**

NGR: TM 00973 12453 (centre)

Planning reference: 220891

**CAT project ref.: 2022/09i
CAT Report 1903**

**ECC code: ECC4768
OASIS ref.: colchest3-509678**

report prepared by Adam Ronn

fieldwork by Adam Ronn

commissioned by the homeowner

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Issued:	25/04/2023	

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of an extension. Despite being located close to the Church of St Peter & St Paul and in an area of known Roman remains, no significant archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks. The only features present were two undated pits, both probably tree-throws or similar.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for archaeological monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) at 6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex from 23rd January to 1st February 2023. The work was commissioned by the homeowner, and took place during groundworks for the construction of an extension to the rear of the property.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was set by the Archaeological Advisor for Colchester Borough Council (CBCAA). This condition was for an archaeologist to monitor the groundworks 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* detailing the required archaeological work (CBC 2022), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCAA (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/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The proposed development is located within an area of archaeological importance, specifically an area of Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains. Archaeological investigations along the High Street have included a small excavation at Bonheur in 1922, which revealed a Roman stone wall set in *opus signinum* (CHER MCC8837). Further work by Hull in 1927 revealed Roman pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (CHER ECC3540, **VCH** vol 3 p161). A possible Roman wall was also found on land from the High Street to Captains Lane (CHER MCC8860). Adjacent to this in 2016, a Roman ditch was recorded during a watching brief by Britannia Archaeology (CHER MCC10065).

To the rear of 20 Yorick Road, a Roman wheel-shaped mausoleum is located (Scheduled Monument 1002195, CHER MCC8355). 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. An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the mausoleum (CAT Report 255, CHER MCC2973). Followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (CAT Report 330, CHER 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 (CHER MCC8786).

The site lies adjacent to West Mersea parish church, the Church of St Peter and St Paul (NHLE No. 1225167, CHER MCC8909). The church walls are constructed of re-used Roman Kentish ragstone with Roman and later brick. The lower part of the tower appears to be the earliest phase of building, probably originating in the 11th century. The church also has later additions dating from the 14th to the 17th century and the modern day.

Around the churchyard, Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (**VCH** vol 3 p158-9). In 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). CAT also excavated three trial pits in 1991 prior to extensions to the church, but only residual Roman finds were recorded (CAT Report 1000, vol 3).

Documentary evidence suggest that to the west of the church is thought to be the location of a medieval priory. Although the exact location is uncertain, it is recorded to have been established in 1046 (CHER MCC8835). On the southern side of Coast Road, a well is located which is thought to relate to the priory (CHER MCC9356). On land to the north of Church Road, CAT was called out by the curator of Mersea Museum to record human remains in a service trench for a new bungalow. Although the workmen had removed all the bone (?3 partial skulls, some limb and vertebrae bones) before the first visit, on the second visit the location of a human skull was recorded. The skeletal remains were interpreted as medieval in date. It was also noted that fragments of daub, as well as Roman tile/brick fragments, were seen in the backfill (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). Within this area, Roman pavement and tesserae have also been noted on more than one occasion (CHER MCC8858 & MCC8909).

West Mersea Hall (NHLE No. 1225196, CHER MCC4667), a 16th-century timber-framed building, is located immediately north of the development area. Early OS mapping shows a range that possibly extends as far as the development site (Map 1). What remains of the hall now houses the local museum.



Map 1 Extract of the 1881 6-inch OS Map. The approximate location of the site highlighted in red.

4 Aims

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

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Approximately 67m of foundation trenching was machine-stripped and hand-dug under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. A large amount of concrete had been removed from the foundation area prior to monitoring, which appeared to be the base for an old patio. The foundation trenches were c 0.6m wide and varied between c 0.8-1.5m in depth. As the site was on a slope, to the south topsoil (L1) was c 0.7m thick, whereas to the north it was c 0.5m thick. Topsoil sealed natural geology (L2).

Numerous services crossed the site, including a large live drain which had to be dismantled and moved during the groundworks, and the trenching also cut through the backfill of an old basement. Pit F2 (0.63m wide by 0.34m deep) was identified in section but produced no finds or other dating evidence. In the soakaway, pit F1 (1.75m wide by 0.54m deep) was identified in the western section. No finds were present, and it may have been a tree-throw or other garden feature.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench to front of house, looking south-west.



Photograph 2 Excavations around the drain, looking south-east.



Photograph 3 Foundation trenches, looking north-east.



Photograph 4 Foundation trenches, looking south.



Photograph 5 Foundation trenches, looking west.



Photograph 6 The soakaway, looking south-west.



Photograph 7 The soakaway and pit F1, looking west.

6 Finds

No finds were uncovered during monitoring.

7 Conclusion

Archaeological monitoring at 6 High Street, West Mersea revealed no significant archaeological remains, the only features being two undated pits, both possibly tree-throws or similar garden features.

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 A Ronn. Figures are by A Ronn. The project was monitored by Dr Simon Wood and Dr Richard Hoggett.

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 archaeological monitoring at 6 High Street, West Mersea, CO5 8QD</i>
CAT	2023	<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 1000	2017	<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): Volume 3: Projects beyond Colchester Borough (including X Series list). Archive report by H Brooks</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 6 High Street, 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	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. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>
MHCLG	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.</i>
Powell, WR	1963	<i>Victoria County History, Essex, Vol III (VCH). Vol 3, p161.</i>

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
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
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 Archive deposition

Digital record: This project falls within the ClfA definition of a sterile project (<https://www.archaeologists.net/selection-toolkit/sterile-projects>), and as such the preserved archaeological archive will take the form of a single digital document that incorporates all the relevant elements from the project archive. This document will be uploaded to OASIS and released into the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) library, from where it will be curated by the ADS. The single digital document will include the report, brief, wsi, photographs, and original site data (for example context sheets, section drawings).

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Distribution list:

Homeowner

Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council

Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council

Appendix 1 Context list

Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Topsoil	Friable/soft, mid/dark brown silt	Modern
L2	-	Natural clay	Loose, light/mid sandy orange	Post-glacial
F1	-	Pit/tree-throw	Loose mid grey silty clay	Undated
F2	-	Pit/tree-throw	Loose/soft mid brownish grey silty clay	Undated

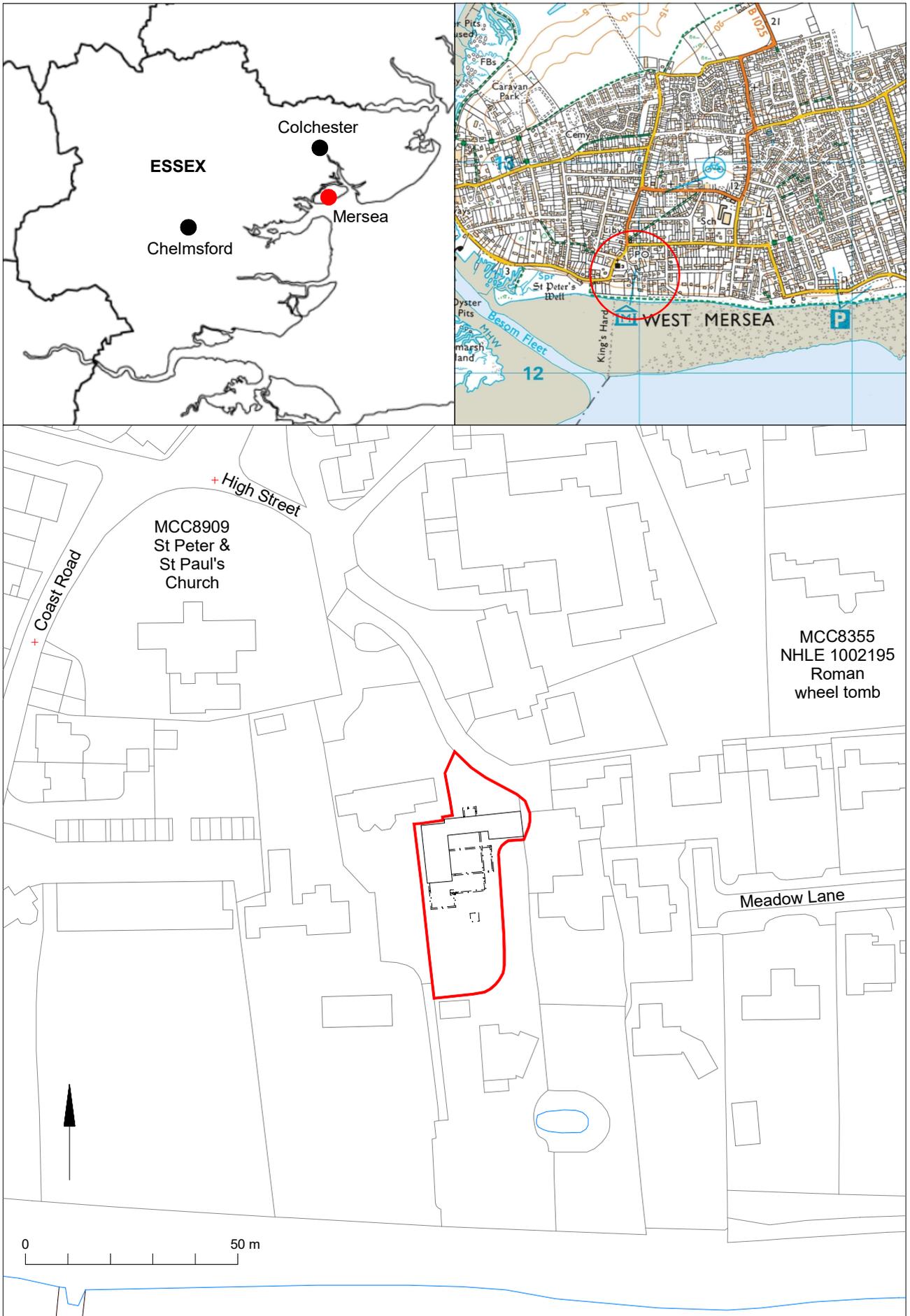
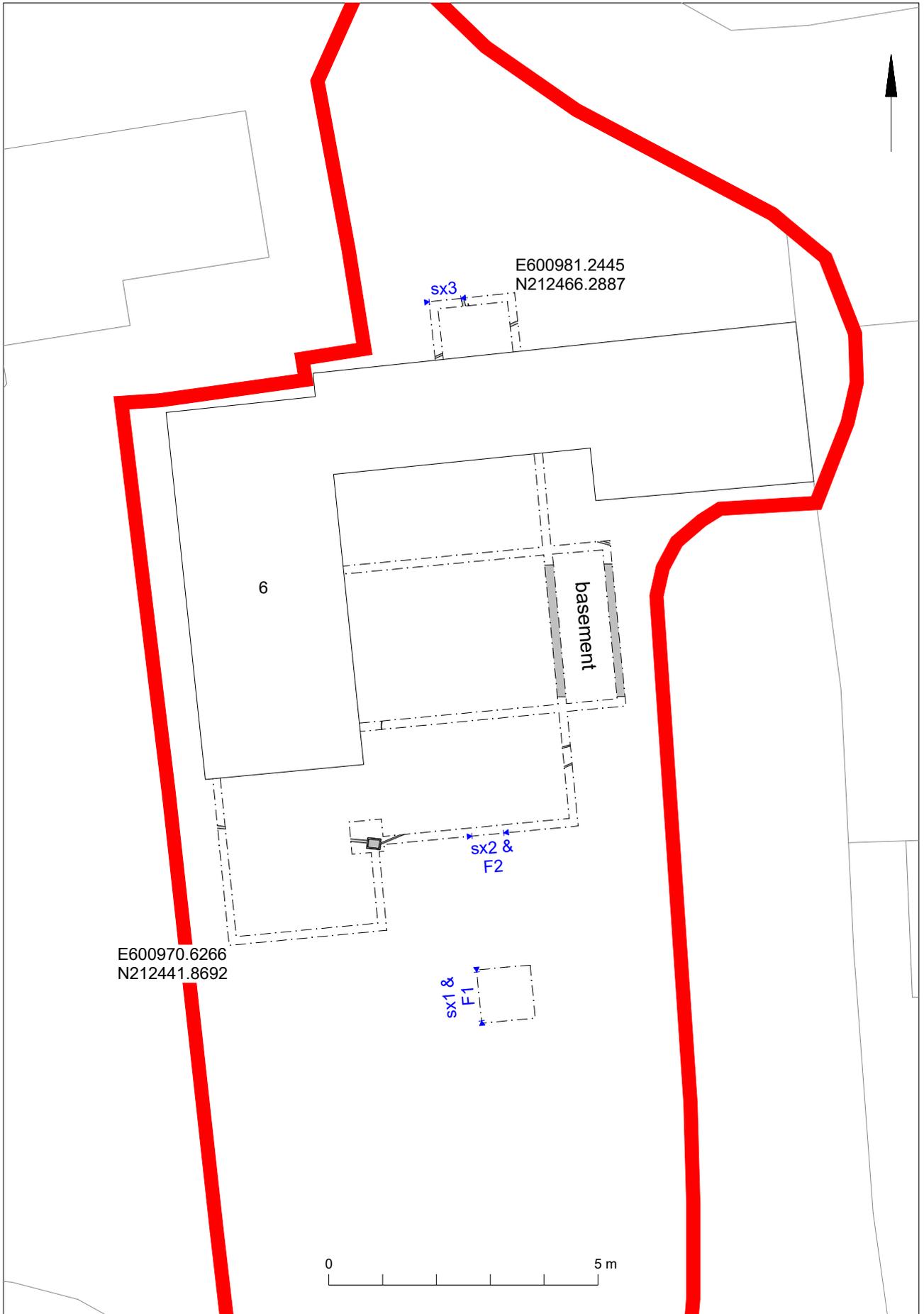


Fig 1 Site location.



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Fig 2 Results (modern services/truncation in grey).

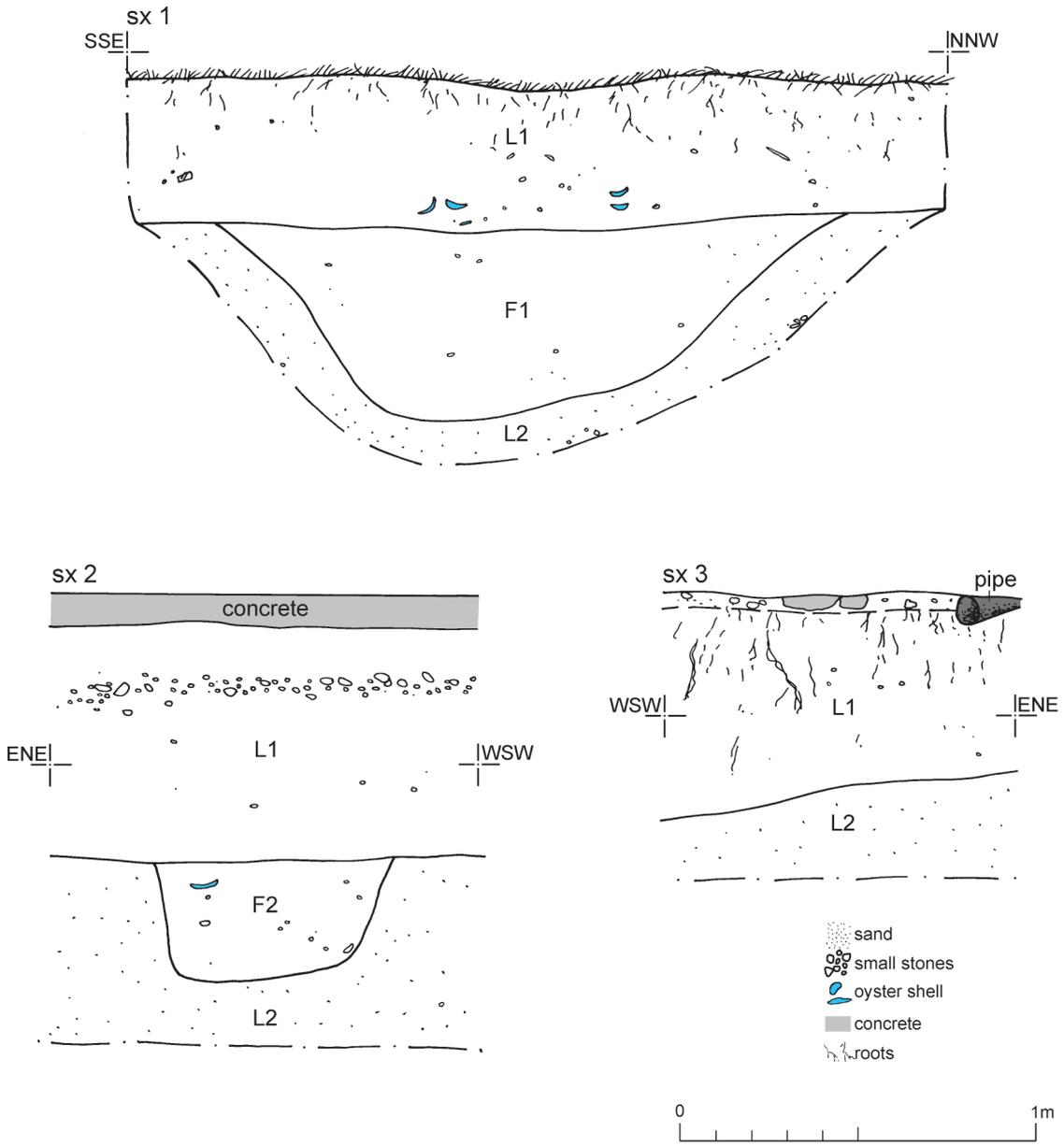


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD	
Parish: Mersea	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 00973 12453 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2022/09i CHER ref.: ECC4768 OASIS ref.: colchest3-509678
Type of work: Monitoring	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 23rd January – 1st February 2023	Size of area investigated: 0.09ha
Location of curating museum: Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Homeowner
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1903	
Periods represented: Modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of an extension. Despite being located close to the Church of St Peter & St Paul and in an area of known Roman remains, no significant archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks. The only features present were two undated pits, both probably tree-throws or similar.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CCC monitor: Dr Simon Wood and Dr Richard Hoggett	
Keywords: -	Significance: -
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: March 2023

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological monitoring at 6 High Street, West Mersea, CO5 8QD

NGR: TM 00973 12453 (centre)

District: Colchester

Parish: West Mersea

Planning reference: 220891

Commissioned by: Chris Marshall (DCB Architects)

On behalf of: Homeowner

Curating museum: Colchester/ADS Archaeology

CHER number: tbc

CAT project code: 2022/09i

OASIS project number: colchest3-509678

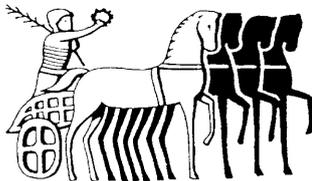
Contracts manager: Chris Lister

Fieldwork manager: Adam Wightman

Post-excavation manager: Laura Pooley

CBC monitor: Dr Simon Wood

This WSI written: 27/09/2022



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Site location and description

The proposed development site is located near the southern coast of Mersea Island at 6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex. (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 00973 12453.

Proposed work

The development comprises of single and two-storey extensions to the existing building.

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>)).

The proposed development is located within an area of archaeological importance, specifically an area of Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains. Archaeological investigations along the High Street have included a small excavation at Bonheur in 1922, which revealed a Roman stone wall set in *opus signinum* (CHER MCC8837). Further work by Hull in 1927 revealed Roman pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (CHER ECC3540, **VCH** vol 3 p161). A possible Roman wall was also found on land from the High Street to Captains Lane (CHER MCC8860). Adjacent to this in 2016, a Roman ditch was recorded during a watching brief by Britannia Archaeology (CHER MCC10065).

To the rear of 20 Yorick Road a Roman wheel-shaped mausoleum is located (Scheduled Monument no. 1002195, CHER MCC8355). 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. An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the mausoleum (CAT Report 255, CHER MCC2973). Followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (CAT Report 330, CHER 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 (CHER MCC8786).

The site lies adjacent to West Mersea parish church, the Church of St Peter and St Paul (NHLE No. 1225167, CHER MCC8909). The church walls are constructed of re-used Roman Kentish ragstone with Roman and later brick. The lower part of the tower appears to be the earliest phase of building, probably originating in the 11th century. The church also has later additions dating from the 14th to the 17th century and the modern day.

Around the churchyard, Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (**VCH** vol 3 p158-9). In 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). CAT also excavated three trial pits in 1991 prior to extensions to the church, but only residual Roman finds were recorded (CAT Report 1000, vol 3).

Documentary evidence suggest that to the west of the church is thought to be the location of a medieval priory. Although the exact location is uncertain, it is recorded to have been established in 1046 (CHER MCC8835). On the southern side of Coast Road, a well is located which is thought to relate to the priory (CHER MCC9356). On land to the north of Church Road, CAT was called out by the curator of Mersea Museum to record human remains in a service trench for a new bungalow. Although the workmen had removed all the bone (?3 partial skulls, some limb and vertebrae bones) before the first visit, on the second visit the

location of a human skull was recorded. The skeletal remains were interpreted as medieval in date. It was also noted that fragments of daub, as well as Roman tile/brick fragments, were seen in the backfill (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). Within this area, Roman pavement and tesserae have also been noted on more than one occasion (CHER MCC8858 & MCC8909).

West Mersea Hall (NHLE No. 1225196, CHER MCC4667), a 16th-century timber-framed building, is located immediately north of the development area. Early OS mapping shows a range that possibly extends as far as the development site (Map 1). What remains of the hall now houses the local museum.



Map 1 Extract of the 1881 6-inch OS Map. The approximate location of the site highlighted in red.

Planning background

A planning application (220891) was made to Colchester Borough Council in April 2022 for *Alterations, single and two storey extension to the existing building (Resubmission of 212625)*.

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 2021).

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 the project (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to 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.

Education and outreach

The CAT website (www.thecolchesterarchaeologist.co.uk) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on current sites. Copies of our reports (grey literature) can be viewed on the website and downloaded for free. Staff regularly give lectures to groups, societies and schools (a fee may apply). CAT also works in partnership with Colchester Archaeological Group (providing a venue for their lectures and library) and the local Young Archaeologists Club.

CAT archaeologists can be booked for lectures and information on fees can be obtained by contacting the office on 01206 501785 (option 1).

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 1000	2017	<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): Volume 3: Projects beyond Colchester Borough (including X Series list). Archive report by H Brooks</i>
CBCAA	2022	<i>Brief for Archaeological Monitoring at 6 High Street, West Mersea.</i> By S Wood
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised June 2020
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Updated Oct 2020

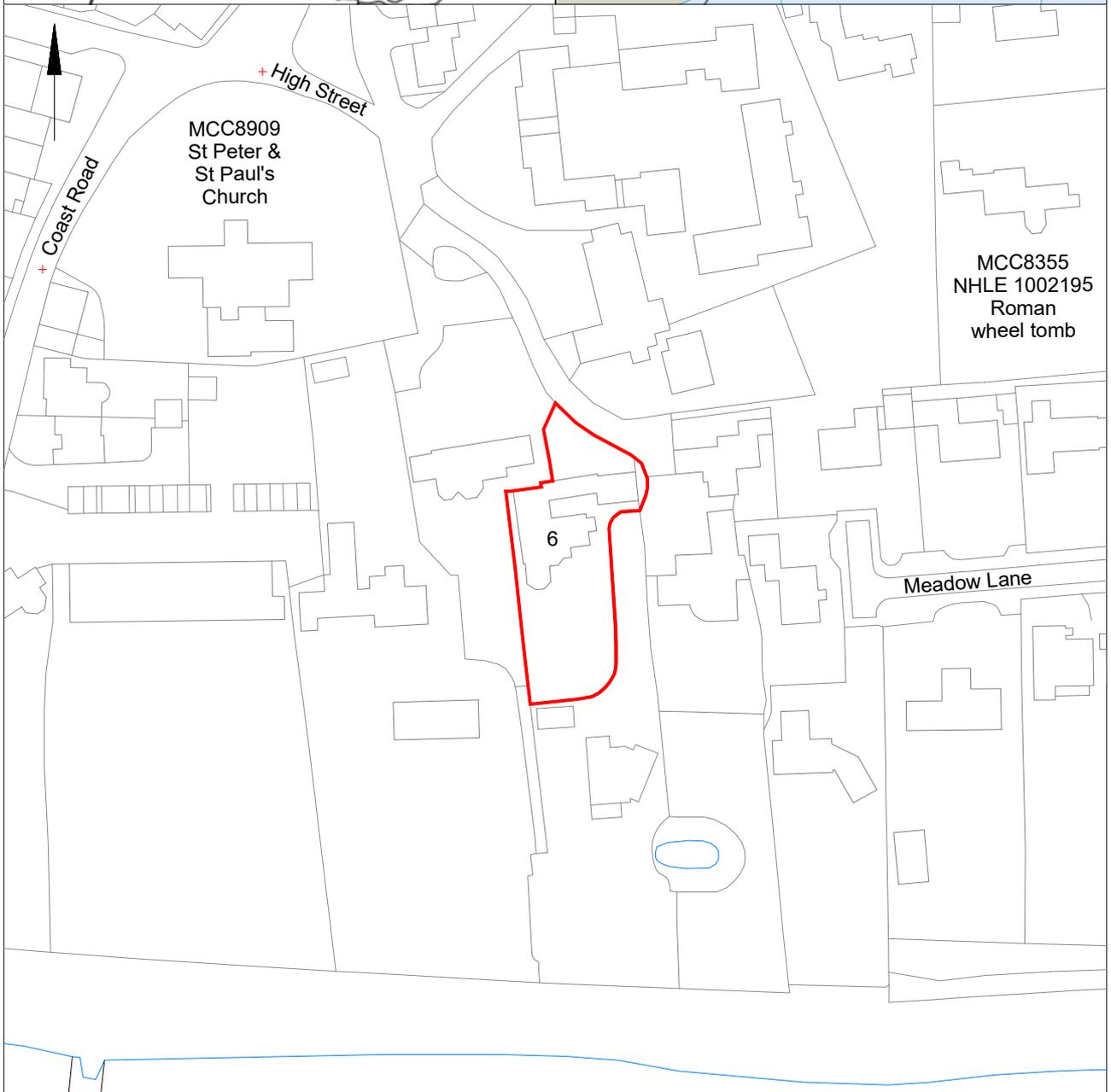
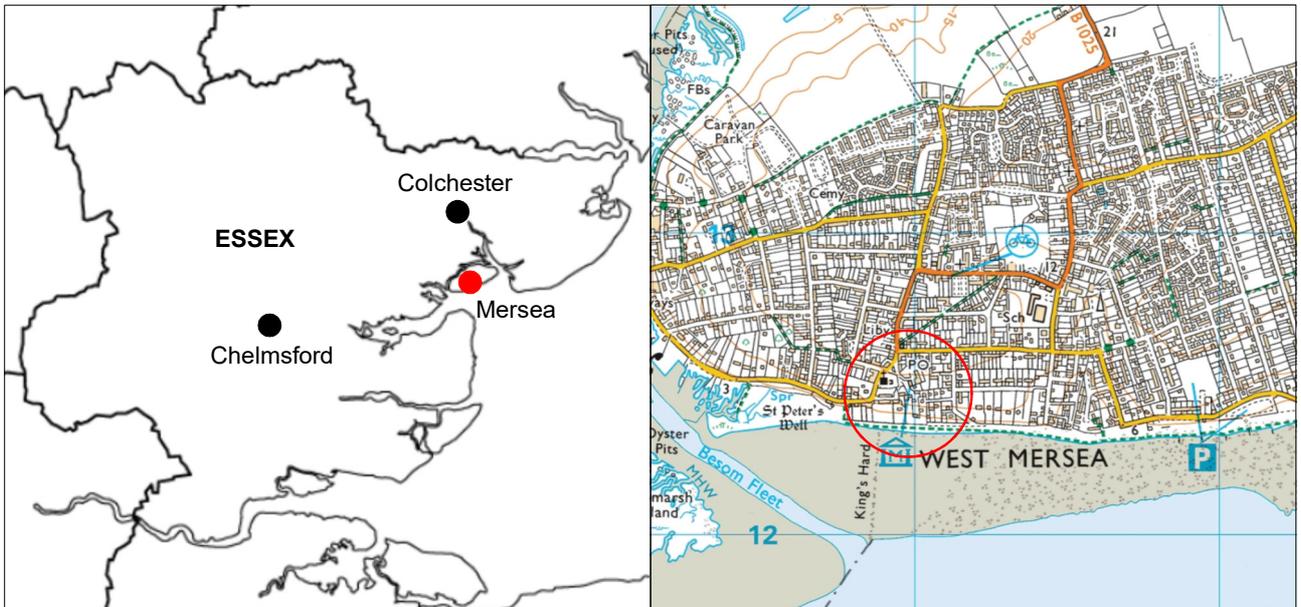
ClfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2021
Digital Curation Centre (DCC)	2013	<i>Checklist for Data Management Plan v. 4.0</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice</i> . By S Cole & P Backhouse
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	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Powell, WR	1963	Victoria County History, Essex, Vol III (VCH). Vol 3, p161.

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Fig 1 Site location.



Summary for colchest3-509678

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-509678
Project Name	Watching Brief at 6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8QD
Sitename	6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex
Activity type	Watching Brief
Project Identifier(s)	2022/09i
Planning Id	220891
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	23-Jan-2023 - 01-Feb-2023
Location	6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex NGR : TM 00973 12453 LL : 51.7746534019177, 0.911680119324048 12 Fig : 600973,212453
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : West Mersea
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks as specified in the project brief and wsi.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 6 High Street, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of an extension. Despite being located close to the Church of St Peter & St Paul and in an area of known Roman remains, no significant archaeological remains were impacted by the groundworks. The only features present were two undated pits, both probably tree-throws or similar.
Keywords	
Funder	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A, Ronn
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4768
Archives	