

Archaeological monitoring and recording at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LH

April 2017



by Laura Pooley

figures by Laura Pooley and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Ben Holloway

**commissioned by Peter Johnson
on behalf of Mr & Mrs T Cross**

NGR: TM 00686 12492 (centre)

Planning reference: 162567

CAT project ref.: 17/01i

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.5

CHER ref: ECC3938

OASIS reference: colchest3-272975



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CAT Report 1089

April 2017

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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey side extension. Despite being located in an area of known Roman and medieval archaeological remains and close to the medieval church and priory, there were no significant archaeological remains on the development site.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex which was carried out 11th-12th April 2017. The work was commissioned by Peter Johnson (The Johnson Dennehy Planning Partnership) on behalf of Mr & Mrs T Cross, during groundworks for a single-storey side extension, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper 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 paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2016), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), 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 watching briefs* (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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The EHER shows that the development site lies to the west of the medieval Church of St Peter and St Paul (EHER 2274; NHLE no. 1225167) built with ragstone walls containing Roman and later brick. It is thought that a small medieval Benedictine priory existed to the west of the church and within the area of this development (EHER 2187), but little is known about it. Brick rubbish and burnt tile was seen by PG Laver in the area by 1906 (EHER 2188) and Roman pavements, tesserae, walls and pottery have also been found around the church (EHER 2122, 2191, 2214, 12501).

Groundworks near to the development site at 16 Church Road (Hallybone 2006), Yew Tree House (18th century listed building, NHLE no. 1266512) (CAR 6; microfiche 6/1992/1030, site code 1/84C), the Blackwater Hotel (CAT Report 223, EHER 45870) and 20 St Peter's Road (CAT Report 1038) did not reveal any significant archaeological features or horizons. However, an inhumation recorded on Church Road (EHER 12546) may be associated with the priory.

4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Monitoring and recording took place during groundworks for the single-storey side extension. All groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. Before groundworks began the patio slabs were removed.

The foundation trenches for the extension measured 9.2m linear by 0.45m wide and 1m deep. They were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.28-0.3m thick) onto a medium grey/brown sandy-silty subsoil (L2, c 0.27-0.3m thick) which sealed natural sands (L3). Three modern service trenches had been cut into L2 and were sealed by L1.

Ground level within the area of the foundation trenches was reduced by c 0.3m through L1.



Photograph 1 Foundation trenches, looking SW

5 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

6 Discussion

Despite being located in an area of known Roman and medieval archaeological remains and close to the medieval church and priory, there were no significant archaeological remains on the development site.

7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Peter Johnson and Mr & Mrs T Cross for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by B Holloway. Figures were prepared by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

8 References

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

CAR 6	1992	<i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy
CAT	2014	<i>Health & Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 223	2003	<i>An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003</i>
CAT Report 1038	2016	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 20 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: November 2016</i>
CBCPS	2016	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8LH</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hallybone, C	2006	<i>Land to the rear of 16 Coast Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: Archaeological monitoring and recording</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)

9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	specific location of finds on an archaeological site
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
medieval	period from AD 1066 to c 1500
modern	period from c AD 1800 to the present
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
NGR	National Grid Reference
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or SX) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s

wsj written scheme of investigation

10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1089)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2017.5.

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Distribution list

Peter Johnson, The Johnson Dennehy Planning Partnership

Mr & Mrs T Cross

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

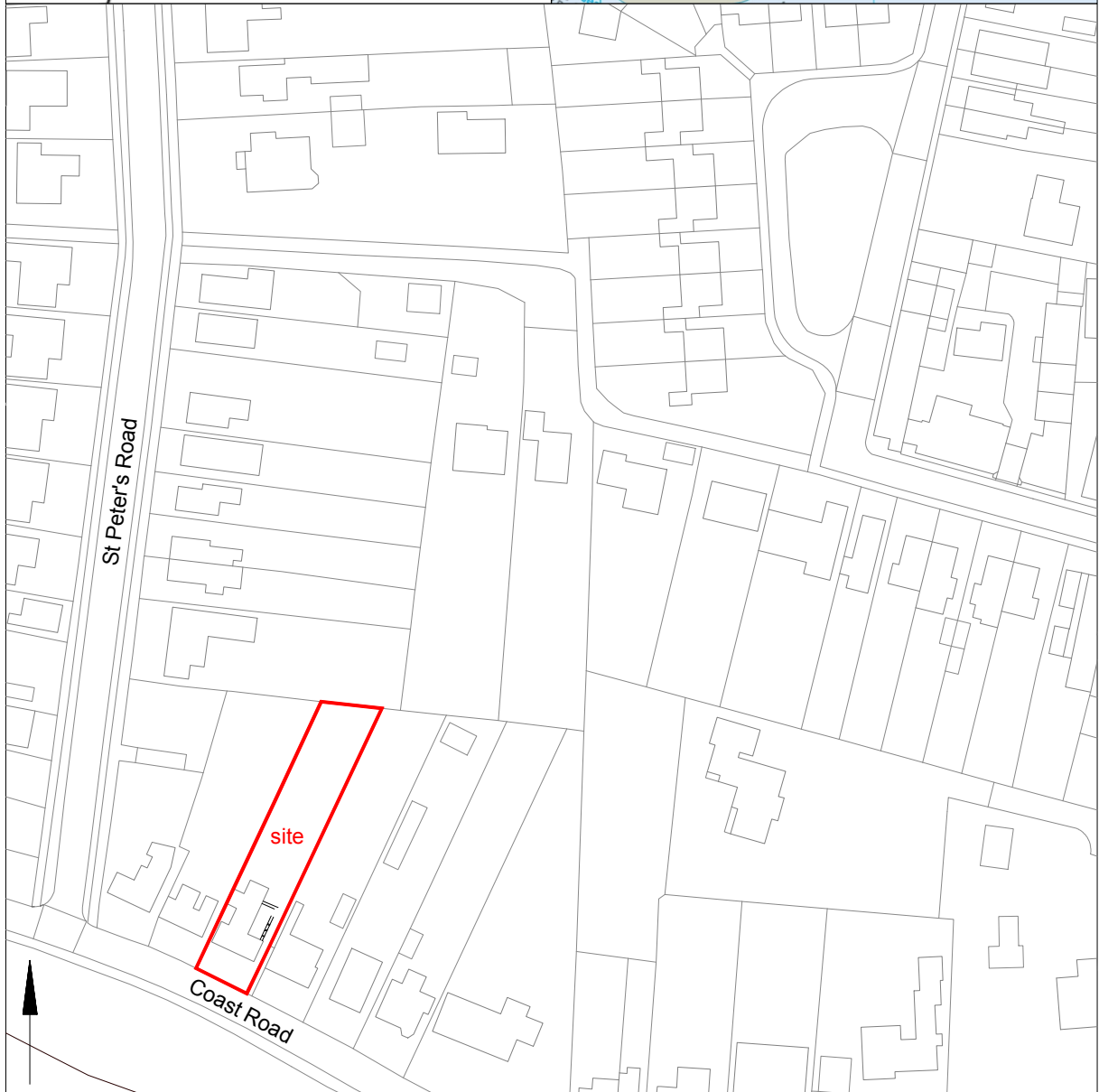
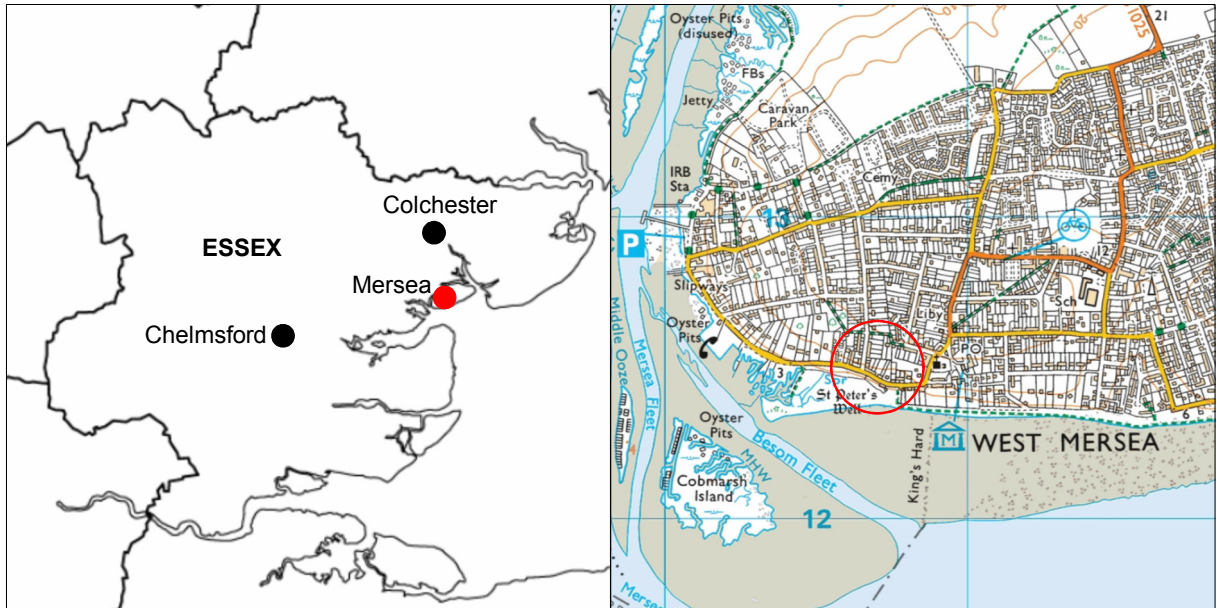
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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 25.4.2017



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Fig 1 Site location.



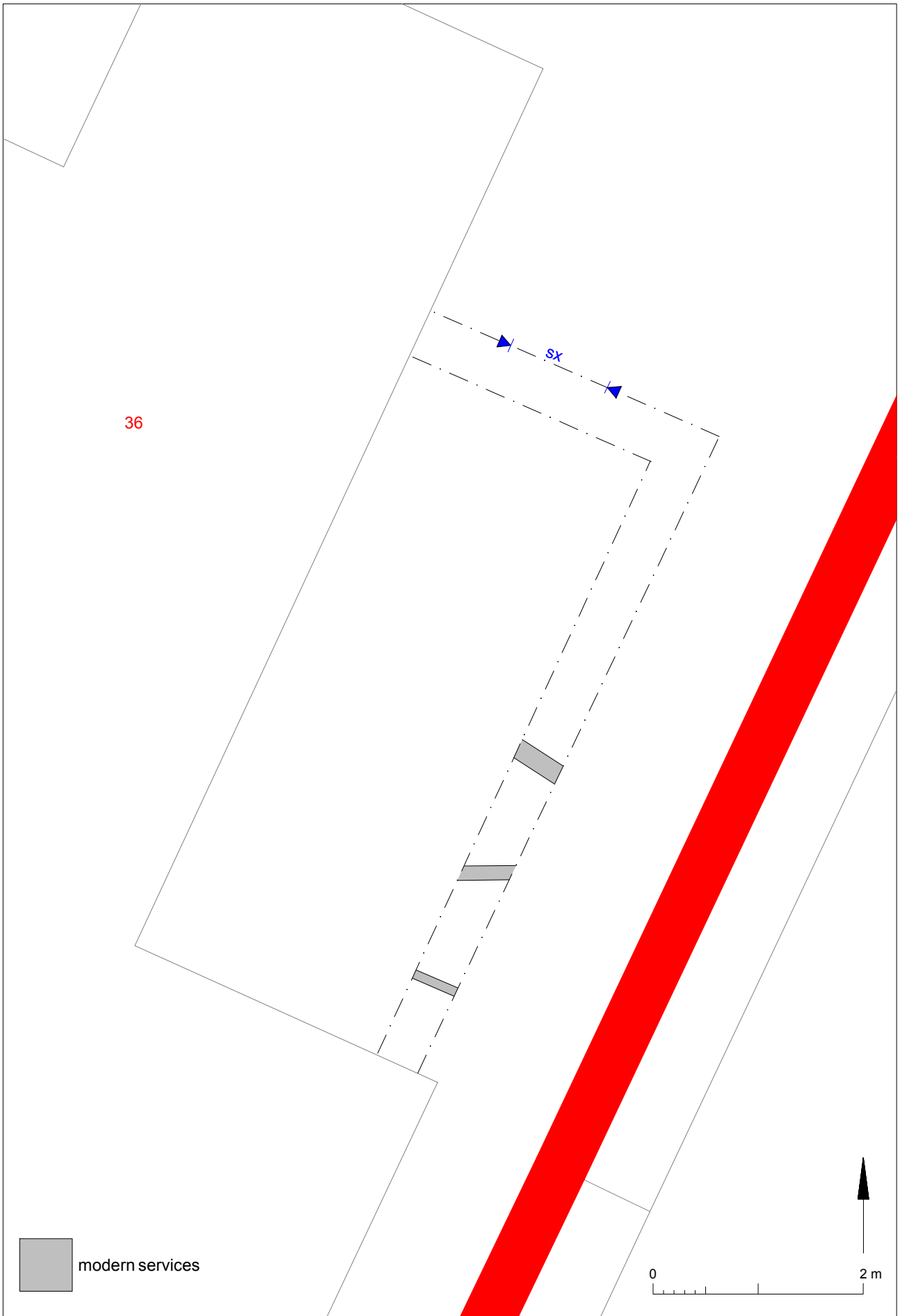


Fig 2 Results

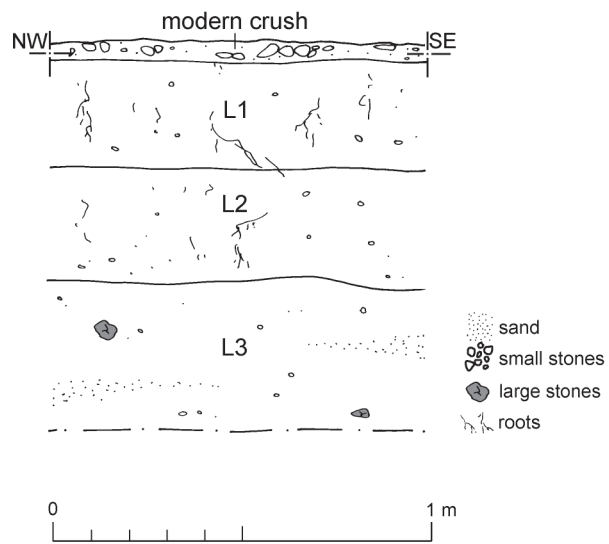


Fig 3 Representative section.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LH	
Parish: West Mersea	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 00686 12492 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/01i CHER ref: ECC3938 OASIS ref: colchest3-272975
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 11th-12th April 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.06ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.5	Funding source: Owner
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related EHER/SMR numbers: EHER 2122, 2187-8, 2191, 2214, 2274, 12501, 12546, 45870
Final report: CAT Report 1089	
Periods represented: modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey side extension. Despite being located in an area of known Roman and medieval archaeological remains and close to the medieval church and priory, there were no significant archaeological remains on the development site.	
Previous summaries/reports: –	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: –	Significance: none
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2017

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LH

NGR: TM 00686 12492 (centre)

Planning reference: 162567

Agent: Peter Johnson, The Johnson Dennehy Planning Partnership

Client: Mr & Mrs T Cross

Curating Museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: COLEM: 2017.5

CHER Project code: ECC3938

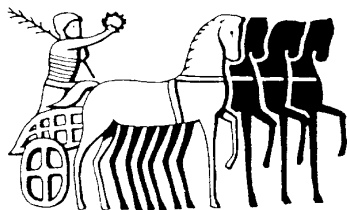
CAT Project code: 17/01i

OASIS ref.: colchest3-272975

Site Manager: Chris Lister

CBC Monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 10.1.2017



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Site location and description

The development site is located at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Colchester (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 99688 12491.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises a single-storey rear side extension.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The EHER shows that the development site lies to the west of the medieval Church of St Peter and St Paul (EHER 2274; NHLE no. 1225167) built with ragstone walls containing Roman and later brick. It is thought that a small medieval Benedictine priory existed to the west of the church and within the area of this development (EHER 2187), but little is known about it. Brick rubbish and burnt tile was seen by PG Laver in the area by 1906 (EHER 2188) and Roman pavements, tesserae, walls and pottery have also been found around the church (EHER 2122, 2191, 2214, 12501).

Groundworks near to the development site at 16 Church Road (Hallybone 2006), Yew Tree House (18th century listed building, NHLE no. 1266512) (*CAR 6*; microfiche 6/1992/1030, site code 1/84C), the Blackwater Hotel (CAT Report 223, EHER 45870) and 20 St Peter's Road (CAT Report 1038) did not reveal any significant archaeological features or horizons. However, a inhumation recorded on Church Road (EHER 12546) may be associated with the priory.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2016 (application No. 162567) proposing a single-storey rear side extension and first floor rear extension to existing ground floor snug.

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). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording 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. The CBCAA may decide that amendments to the brief are required to ensure that adequate provision is made for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

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* (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2016).

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

A project or site code will be sought from the curating museum. This code will be used to identify the project archive when it is deposited at the curating museum.

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.

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) and 10% of linear features (ditches, etc).

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.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

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

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, but only if they are datable. Processing will be carried out by trained CAT staff and analysis and reporting by Val Fryer / Lisa Gray. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

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. 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. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive.

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number.

Stephen Benfield (CAT) normally writes our finds reports. Some categories of finds are automatically referred to other CAT specialists:

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter

animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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.

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* (English Heritage 2006).

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 groundworks. At least two corners of which 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

Archive deposition

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

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

The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the curating museum.

If the finds are to remain with the landowner, a full copy of the archive will be housed with the curating museum.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

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

- Brown, D 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*
- CAR 6 1992 *Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85*, by P Crummy
- CAT 2014 *Health & Safety Policy*
- CAT Report 2003 *An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003*
- CAT Report 2016 *Archaeological monitoring and recording at 20 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: November 2016*
- 1038
- CBCPS 2016 *Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 20 St. Peters Road, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8LJ*
- ClfA 2014a *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*
- ClfA 2014b *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- DCLG 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- English 2006 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*
- Heritage
- Gurney, D 2003 *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).*
- Hallybone, 2006 *Land to the rear of 16 Coast Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: Archaeological monitoring and recording*
- C
- Medlycott, 2011 *Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)*
- M

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Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-272975

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LH
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for a single-storey side extension. Despite being located in an area of known Roman and medieval archaeological remains and close to the medieval church and priory, there were no significant archaeological remains on the development site.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2017 End: 12-04-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	17/01i - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	162567 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC3938 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2017.5 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER WEST MERSEA 36 Coast Road
Postcode	CO5 8LH
Study area	0.06 Square metres
Site coordinates	TM 00686 12492 51.774523928037 0.909286157751 51 46 28 N 000 54 33 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Laura Pooley
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.5
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	COLEM: 2017.5
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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