

Archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JB

April 2018



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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (five trenches) was undertaken at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex during the pre-determination stage of planning, to inform a planning application for the proposed construction of new residential dwellings. The Hythe has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. There were no significant archaeological remains in two trenches (T2-T3). Three medieval pits were excavated in trench T1 with a medieval pit and linear in trench T4, dating from the late 11th to the 13th/14th century. Also present in trench T4 was a medieval (late 12th to 14th century) wall foundation of medium to large compacted stones. Looser patches of compacted medium stones and chalk may represent a second later wall foundation (15th to 17th century) but could also be the remains of either a plinth or surface. These structural remains are possibly associated with medieval activity at Hythe Quay.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, which was carried out on 4th to 5th April 2018. The work was commissioned by Clare Richmond (of Duncan, Clark & Beckett) on behalf of Square Sail Ltd, during the pre-determination stage of planning, to inform a planning application for the proposed construction of 12 new residential dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and groundworks, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

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). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching and was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2018), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2018).

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

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer.

The Hythe has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. The name derives from an Old English word for landing place, and the area was originally known as 'New Hythe'. The earlier landing place, with New Hythe superseded was at Old Heath (*Ealdehythe* – the old landing place), located closer to the mouth of the River Colne. The earliest reference to Old Heath, implying the existence of the New Hythe, is in 1272. The nearby Hythe parish church of St Leonard's (MCC24, MCC3402 and MCC9031) is referenced in 1237, and the earliest reference to the Hythe itself appears to date from 1276 (CAR 1, 47). There are numerous references to private quays, wharfs and warehouses from the 14th century onwards, and by 1823 the quays

at the Hythe extended along both sides of the river (CAT Report 232, 21). There are numerous records for current or demolished historic houses and shops within close proximity of the development site, including the 15th to 16th century former Perseverance Inn (MCC27), the late 17th century house at 106 Hythe Hill (MCC3404) to the 18th century brick house at 100 Hythe Hill (MCC3400).

There is also the possibility of a Roman quay or bridge in this area, as a Roman road can be traced to within half a mile of the Hythe, from the direction of Mistley. The projected line of this road suggests a crossing point on the river close to the bottom of Hythe Hill.

Most of the archaeological investigations within the Hythe have been small sites away from the present river frontage, including 79 Hythe Hill (Brooks 2000), 64-76 Hythe Hill evaluation (ECC2627 and MCC2663-6, Shimmin 2004) and subsequent excavation (ECC2590, Benfield 2004) and 9-11 Hythe Quay evaluation (MCC5310, MCC5311 and MCC5312, CAT Report 100). However, no trace of the medieval quay or any Roman structures has been located at the Hythe.

In 2006, CAT monitored four test-pits at 28 Hythe Quay (CAT Report 388), next to the retaining quay wall. They were mostly dug through 18th- to 19th-century brick rubble with some post-medieval pottery. There was no evidence of Roman or medieval activity but a large timber located at the base of one of the concrete structures is thought to have possibly have been part of an earlier quay.

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site, particularly those relating to the medieval quay or any earlier structures, and to assess its archaeological potential, so that the CBCAA can determine if further archaeological investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Five trial-trenches were machine excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist. They were located to provide a 5% sample of the development site, specifically within footprints of the proposed new dwellings and areas of tree planting.

Trench 1 (T1): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Layers of modern tarmac and crush (L9, c 0.4-0.6m thick) sealed accumulation (L10, c 0.15-0.35m thick, possibly post-medieval in date) which overlay natural (L8, encountered at a depth of 0.8-0.9m below current ground level (bcgl)). A small sondage was excavated into natural.

Three medieval pits (F12-F14) and a posthole (F15) were excavated, all approximately 0.11-0.14m deep and cut into natural. All three produced very small quantities (1-2 sherds) of medieval pottery dating from the late 11th to 12th century (F12), mid to late 12th century (F13) and 13th or 14th century (F14).

Trench 2 (T2): 10m long by 1.8m wide

In the centre of the trench, modern crush (L11, 0.5-0.8m thick) sealed probable post-medieval accumulation (L12, 0.1-0.4m thick) which overlay natural (L8, encountered at a depth of 0.8-0.9m bcgl).

At either end of the trench, modern crush (L11) was recorded cutting into natural. Excavation ceased at 0.8-0.9m bcgl and the depth of L11 at these locations was not established. The remains of a modern brick foundation were recorded in section.

Trench 3 (T3): 10m long by 1.8m wide

Modern crush (L11) sealed natural (L8). In two small patches, at the western end of the trench, natural was encountered at a depth of 0.9-1m bcgl. However, over the rest of the trench excavation ceased at 0.9-1m bcgl, and the full depth of L11 at the eastern end of the trench was not established.



Photograph 1 Trench T1, looking E



Photograph 2 Trench T2, looking S

Trench 4 (T4) (and Trench 5): 23m long by 1.8m wide

Trenches 4-5 were dug as a single 23m long trench, which has been referred to in all original site notes as Trench 4.

The northern 13.8m of the trench was excavated through a modern surface layer consisting of compacted demolition debris (L1, c 0.23m thick) into a medium to dark grey/brown silty-clay containing modern debris such as brick rubble, concrete, mortar, slate and iron (F6). This debris was at least c 0.8m thick but, as excavation of the trench ceased at 1m bcgl, the base of the feature was not revealed. It probably cut into natural, but this was not confirmed. As the full extent of this feature could not be determined, it is difficult to ascertain what it is, but it is likely to be associated with the demolition of buildings which used to stand on the site. Feature F6 had also cut through most of post-medieval pit F1.

The southern 5.5m of the trench was excavated through six layers. Modern surface layer (L1, c 0.23m thick) sealed three post-medieval layers consisting of buried soil (L2, c 0.05-0.1m thick), sealing demolition debris (L3, c 0.1m thick) which overlaid a layer of levelling (L4, c 0.1-0.16m thick). Beneath L4 was a deposit of oyster shells in a mid greyish-brown silt (L5, c 0.15m thick) which sealed another possible levelling layer (L6, c 0.3m thick). Pottery from L6 was dated from the late 12th to the early 13th century. Natural clay (L8) was encountered at a depth of 0.95-1.05m bcgl, sealed by L6.

Sealed by L6 and cut into natural L8, was a very shallow linear feature (F5), 0.45m wide by 0.06m deep, aligned roughly east-west and dated c 13th to 14th century. To the south of this linear were a medieval posthole (F3) dated to the late 12th to 13th/14th century and an undated pit/posthole (F4)

In the remaining 3.7m of trenching were some possible structural remains (see Figs 4-5). These were recorded beneath L1 (0.25-0.45m thick) and sealed/cut by post-medieval/modern disturbance (L15, L16, F11 and F18), a post-medieval/modern pit (F2) and the disturbed remains of a post-medieval brick foundation with sand base (F10).

The first set of structural remains consisted of: F17, a compacted layer of irregularly-shaped chalk nodules/fragments, containing a single brick fragment dating from the 15th to the 17th century; F16, a spread of small to medium rounded stones; and F8, a large stone and several smaller stones, probably disturbed from their original setting. These features were overlaid by a silty-clay (L14) and a layer of dump (L7) containing decayed wood (F9), possibly suggesting a wooden floor or surface. Medieval finds were recovered from L7, but as it sealed F17 it is probably of a post-medieval date.

Approximately 1.7m to the south were the second set of structural remains. Feature F7 consisted of a spread of small to medium rounded stones, similar to F8/F16. Pottery from F7 was dated from the late 12th to the 14th century, but also included intrusive modern tile.

The dating evidence from F7 and F15 would seem to suggest that the structural remains are not contemporary with each other, but there was a considerable amount of disturbance over each feature. Furthermore, none of the structural remains were excavated, they were cleaned and recorded but left *in situ*.

All of these remains (F7-F8, F16-F17) were set into accumulation layer (L13) or levelling layer L6. Accumulation L13 contained pottery sherds dating from the 13th to the 14th century and (as already mentioned above), L6 dated from the late 12th to the early 13th century. However, a thin layer of charcoal/coal (L17) was identified beneath F16.

Stones F7 appear to possibly represent the remains of a L-shaped foundation, aligned east-west with possibly a north-south return. The remains of post-medieval foundation F10, recorded sealing F7, would appear to represent a later phase of rebuilding or repair. The stone and chalk to the north (F8, F16 and F17) may represent a similar east-west foundation. However, as they are far less substantial than F7 perhaps this is the remains of a floor/surface or plinth.



Photograph 3 Structural remains in Trench T4, looking NE



Photograph 4 Close-up of F8, F16 and F17, looking E



Photograph 5 Close-up of F7, looking E

6 Finds

by Stephen Benfield

Introduction

The evaluation produced finds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date, of which the majority consists of medieval pottery which can be dated to the period c 12th to 14th century. The finds were recovered from pits, surfaces and soil layers located in three trenches (T1, T2 & T4). All of the finds are listed and described in Table 2. The pottery fabrics recorded are listed and described in Table 1 together with the quantity of each fabric type. The post-Roman fabrics refer to the Colchester post-Roman fabric series (*CAR 7*) and the rim forms refer to descriptions of vessels in the same publication.

Fabric code	Fabric description	no.	wt./g
<i>Roman:</i>			
AJ	Amphorae (Dressel 20)	1	96
<i>Post-Roman:</i>			
13	Early medieval sandy wares (general)	23	236
13T	Early medieval sandy wares (transitional)	2	20
13/13T	(Early medieval/transitional sandy wares)	19	432
20	Medieval sandy greyware (general)	34	354
21	Medieval sandy orange wares (general)	2	8
21C	Sgraffito ware (Cambridge style)	2	10
22	Heddingham ware	5	56
98	Unidentified medieval/post-medieval wares	1	34

Table 1 Pottery fabrics with fabric quantities

Roman

Finds of Roman date consist of a single sherd from a Dressel 20 amphora (fabric code AJ, *CAR 10*) and a few pieces of Roman brick or flat tile. The small quantity of Roman finds do not suggest any significant activity here during that period. The amphora sherd is quite thick and robust and might be seen alongside the brick/tile pieces as useful

building/surfacing material which could have been brought onto the site at a much later date.

Medieval

The finds that can be closely-dated to the medieval period consist of pottery sherds, totalling 87 sherds with a combined weight of 1116g. These include finewares, with several sherds from glazed jugs that can be identified as Hedingham ware (Fabric 22), although the majority consists of coarsewares, almost certainly of local origin and mostly representing cooking pots.

Medieval coarsewares at Colchester are dominated by two fabrics, Fabric 13 and Fabric 20. Fabric 13 is current on the period of the late 11th to 12th century, while Fabric 20 is typical of the 13th to 14th/early 15th century. There are differences in the form types, but relatively undiagnostic body sherds have to be classified based primarily on the sand content of the fabric, which in broad terms becomes less coarse during the late medieval period while the pots also become more consistently grey. Fabric 13T is seen as being transitional between these two main fabric types, with traits of both being sandy and moderately hard. The pottery and sherds here are commonly distinctly sandy. The majority (44 sherds, 688g) can be classified as early medieval sandyware (Fabric 13) or transitional ware (Fabric 13T), although much of the pottery classified as Fabric 20 (34 sherds, 354g) also retains significant coarse sand suggesting a relatively early date.

The coarseware vessel forms are primarily necked cooking pots with thickened flat-topped rims, which can be classified as variants of form B2 (CAR 7 fig 27), which appear from the 12th century and continue into the 13th, while gradually being superseded by neckless forms from the late 13th or early 14th century (*ibid* 94). Overall the fabrics and the cooking pot forms indicate that the majority of the pottery is of early/mid 12th- to 13th-century date. One other vessel can also be fairly closely dated, and this is a tubular handled bowl from L13 (8) in T4. These appear in assemblages at Colchester dated between the late 11th and 12th/early 13th century. The finewares include a twisted/barley-twist jug handle in Hedingham ware, typical of stamped strip jugs (CAR 7 81; Walker 2012 43-44 & fig 15 no 29). At Colchester these are typical of the period of the early/mid 13th to early 14th century (CAR 7 fig 52).

Pottery is associated with pieces of peg-tiles in two contexts F17 and L13, both located in T4. Peg-tiles were not commonly used in Essex buildings prior to the late 13th or early 14th century (Ryan & Andrews 1993). There are also two sherds that are almost certainly from a fine Sgraffito ware jug from one of these contexts (L13), which is typical of the 14th century at Colchester. However, the general rarity of peg-tile among the finds also supports a 12th to 13th/early 14th century date for most of the pottery. One sherd from subsoil (L12) in T2 may be of post-medieval date, but this is not clear.

The latest-dated material consists of pieces of brick which come from foundation F10 (10) and surface F17 (15), both in T4, and a tile from foundation plinth F7 in T4. While difficult to date, the bricks are probably of 15th to 17th century date (F17) and late 17th to early 18th century (F10). One brick from F10 is sooted on one side and may have come from a chimney. In both cases these are the only finds from these contexts. The tile (F7) is also difficult to date closely but is very hard and smooth on both faces. It appears likely to be at least post-medieval and more probably modern and may be intrusive.

The only other bulk find is very small quantities of animal bone. A few pieces of bone were associated with posthole F3, linear F5, foundation plinth F7 and soil accumulation L13, all in T4. Most of the bone pieces, including one or two medium size pieces, come from contexts that probably date to at least the 14th century (F7 & L13). The only clearly identified pieces are pig and sheep bones from L13, although one from F7 is probably sheep and has clearly been gnawed at one end, almost certainly by a dog.

Context	Find no	Type/ description	Finds spot date
Trench 1			
F12, pit	4	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13 (1 sherd, 4g), late 11th-12th century	Medieval, late 11th to 12th century
F13, pit	5	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13 (2 sherds, 20g), joining rim sherds (EVE 0.05) form B2 (CAR 7, fig 27) (c mid-late 12th century)	Medieval, mid-late 12th century
F14, pit	6	Roman pottery: Fabric AJ (1 sherd, 96g), Dressel 20 Spanish oil amphora, slightly abraded (mid 1st-early 3rd century). Medieval pottery: Fabric 20 (1 sherd, 8g), sandy greyware, probably medieval (c 13th-14th century); Fabric 22 (1 sherd, 2g), probably Hedingham, pale grey sandy fabric, fine mica orange appearing clear glaze (c 13th century).	Medieval, c 13th or 14th century
Trench 2			
L12, accumulation	7	Medieval/post-medieval pottery: Fabric 13 (1 sherd, 42g), cooking pot rim, form B2 (CAR 7 fig 27) (c mid-late 12th century); Fabric 98 (1 sherd, 3g), wheel-made, hard fired dark grey fabric with extensive, slightly pimply feeling, green glaze, moderately thick vessel wall so probably from a large pot (medieval or more probably post-medieval)	Probably post-medieval
Trench 4			
F3, posthole	1	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13T (1 sherd, 4g); Fabric 20 (1 sherd, 2g). Roman CBM: (2 pieces, 20g), small pieces from Roman brick or tile. Animal bone: (2 pieces, 16g), medium or large mammal axial fragment.	Medieval, late 12th to 13th/14th century
F5, linear	2	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13T (1 sherd, 16g); Fabric 20 (3 sherds, 42g). Animal bone: (2 pieces, 12g), from a medium size mammal scapula.	Medieval, c 13th-14th century
F7, foundation	11	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13/13T (9 sherds, 110g), includes weakly shouldered cooking pot with thickened, flat topped rim (see CAR 7 fig 27 form B2), sooted externally from use (c 12th/late 12th-early 13th century). Roman CBM: (1 piece, 26g). Post-Roman CBM: (2 pieces, 112g), one piece peg-tile (74g) (c 14th century+); one piece hard, thin (10mm) and smooth on both sides, probably a relatively recent piece of tile (38g). Animal bone: (2 pieces, 36g), tibia from a medium size mammal, probably sheep, with dog gnawed end; large mammal scapula. Iron: Iron bar, rectangular in cross-section, appears to have one flat end and one rounded end, 117mm long, 20mm wide, 15mm thick, 100g.	Medieval, late 12th-14th century (with intrusive modern)
F10, foundation	10	Late medieval/post-medieval CBM: Orange brick (115mm x 45mm, 630g), fabric includes pale clay pellets and some stones, moderately sharp moulding; Brick end (110mm x 50mm, 1318g), dense, fine brownish-red fabric, some small voids, blackened surface with some thin glaze on one face, moderately sharp moulding, sooted on one side, possibly from a chimney although not otherwise heat damaged (probably late 17th-early 18th century brick types)	Post-medieval, late 17th-early 18th century
F17, structural remains	15	Late medieval/post-medieval CBM: (1 piece, 1142g), large corner piece from a brick c 50mm thick, irregular in form, dense fine-medium sand fabric, surfaces	15th-17th century

Context	Find no	Type/ description	Finds spot date
		blackened from firing, brownish-grey core, knife or implement trimmed/smoothed underside? probably Tudor-type, c 15th-17th century.	
L6, levelling	16	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13 (6 sherds, 38g), includes rim and base edge from a shallow bowl (EVE 0.06) (see CAR 7 fig 30 no 58) (late 11th-early 12th century); Fabric 20 (3 sherds, 34g), includes shoulder from cooking pot; Fabric 21 (1 sherd, 6g), small rim sherd probably from a jug, sandy slightly micaceous fabric (c 13th-15th century). Roman CBM: (1 piece, 270g) almost certainly Roman brick (35mm thick).	Medieval, c late 12th-early 13th century
L7, dump	9	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13 (1 sherd, 6g); Fabric 20 (6 sherds, 38g) (c late 11th-12th century); Fabric 22 (2 sherds, 26g) (c 13th-14th century), one with pale orange fabric and abraded patchy green glaze, the other pale grey with greenish-brown glaze (see Walker 2012, 32 Fabric 2) (c 13th-14th century). Roman CBM: (1 piece, 44 g). Post-Roman CBM: (3 pieces, 122g), peg-tile (probably c 14th century+).	Medieval, late 13th-14th century
L13, accumulation	8	Medieval pottery: Fabric 13 (4 sherds, 42g) includes abraded rim from a bowl; Fabric 13/13T (10 sherds, 322g), grey sandy sherds with sooted exterior, includes part of a tubular handled shallow bowl, complete profile (EVE 0.11) (see CAR 7, fig 30 nos 60 & 61), c 12th century (<i>ibid</i> 54); Fabric 20 (20 sherds, 212g), sherds from cooking pots, rims from necked three pots with thickened flat-topped rims (EVE 0.15) (c late 12th-13th century); Fabric 21 (1 sherd, 2g); Fabric 21C (2 sherds, 10g), thin-walled fine orange fabric with mottled green glaze over a cream slip, light comb/coarse brush marks, no sgraffito decoration on these sherds but the fine fabric and glaze are typical of sgraffito pots (commonly c 14th-15th century at Colchester, CAR 7, 170); Fabric 22 (8 sherds, 84g) includes barley twist handle from a jug, some sherds with grey/part grey fabric others fine and micaceous (fine mica), most with green glaze, some with dark olive glaze (c 13th century); Fabric 22 (2 sherds, 28g), possibly also Heddingham ware, base edge sherds (flat base?) with pale orange fabric and orange-brown wash surface. Post-Roman CBM: small peg-tile piece (1 piece, 12g) (c14th century+). Animal bone: (5 pieces, 5 g), pig metacarpal (unfused) & ulna piece, sheep metatarsal, other-rib piece & large mammal tibia fragment	Medieval, 13th-14th century

Table 2 Finds by context

7 Environmental assessment by Lisa Gray MSc MA ACIfA Archaeobotanist

Introduction

Six samples were taken from: medieval ditch F5, sample <1>; post-medieval dump L7, sample <2>; medieval levelling L6, sample <3>; medieval accumulation, sample <4>; medieval pit F12, sample <5>; and medieval pit F14, sample <6>.

Sampling and processing methods

Six samples (totalling 200 litres of soil) were taken and processed by Colchester Archaeological Trust using a Siraf-type flotation device. Flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve then dried.

Once with the author the flots were scanned under a low powered stereo-microscope with a magnification range of 10 to 40x. The whole flots were examined. The abundance, diversity and state of preservation of eco- and artefacts in each sample were recorded. A magnet was passed across each flot to record the presence or absence of magnetised material or hammerscale.

Identifications were made using modern reference material (author's own and the Northern European Seed Reference Collection at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) and reference manuals (such as Beijerinck 1947; Cappers *et al.* 2006; Charles 1984; Fuller 2007; Hillman 1976; Jacomet 2006). Nomenclature for plants is taken from Stace (Stace 2010). Latin names are given once and the common names used thereafter. Low numbers of non-charcoal charred plant macro-remains were counted. Uncharred plant remains, fauna and magnetic fragments were given estimated levels of abundance unless, in the case of seeds, numbers are very low in which case they were counted.

Results (Table 3)

The plant remains

Uncharred, probably recent, root/rhizome fragments were present in every sample. The charred plant remains consisted of grains, seeds and charcoal. Charred grains were found in samples <1> and <4>. Sample <4> contained three bread/club/rivet (*Triticum aestivum/durum/turgidum*) grains and <1> one Bread/club/rivet wheat grain fragment. Charred seeds were also found in these samples. Sample <1> contained a poorly preserved grass (Poaceae) seed and <3> contained a thistle type (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.) seed. Charcoal of identifiable size was found in <1>, <2>, <3> and <4>. No cereal chaff was recovered. No dried waterlogged plant remains were found.

Sample no.	Finds no.	Sample description	Bulk sample vol. (L.)	Flot vol. (ml)	Charred plant remains								Dried waterlogged plant remains			
					Grains			Seeds			Charcoal <4mmØ	Charcoal >4mmØ	Seeds			Root/rhizomes
					a	d	p	a	d	p	a	a	a	d	p	a
1	3	F5 Medieval linear (ditch)	20	5	1	1	3	1	1	3	2	2	-	-	-	3
2	12	L7 Post-Medieval dump	40	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
3	13	L6 Medieval levelling	40	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
4	14	L13 Medieval accumulation	20	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	2
5	17	F12 Medieval pit	40	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
6	18	F14 Medieval pit	40	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1

Table 3 Plant remains in samples

Key for Table 3:

a = abundance [1 = occasional 1-10; 2 = moderate 11-100; and 3 = abundant >100]

d = diversity [1 = low 1-4 taxa types; 2 = moderate 5-10; 3 = high]

p = preservation [1 = poor (family level only); 2 = moderate (genus); 3 = good (species identification possible)]

Faunal remains

Faunal remains consisted of low numbers of earthworm cocoons in <3> and moderate numbers of edible marine mollusc shell fragments in <2>.

Artefacts and significant inorganic remains

No artefacts or significant inorganic remains were observed.

Discussion

Biases in recovery, residuality, contamination

Nothing with regards biases in recovery, residuality or contamination was highlighted for any of these samples. Uncharred root/rhizome fragments, terrestrial mollusca and earthworm cocoons can indicate that bioturbation is possible. Worm action can carry small items such as seeds and small stones up to a metre down into the soil (Canti 2003, 143).

Quality and type of preservation

Preservation was by charring. Charring occurs when plant material is heated under reducing conditions where oxygen is largely excluded leaving a carbon skeleton resistant to decay (Boardman and Jones 1990, 2; English Heritage 2011, 17). These conditions can occur in a charcoal clamp, the centre of a bonfire or pit or in an oven or when a building burns down with the roof excluding the oxygen from the fire (Reynolds, 1979, 57).

No plant remains were preserved by mineralisation (Green 1979, 281) or silicification (Robinson and Straker 1990), which means that there is no archaeobotanical evidence for the cess disposal or slow-burning aerated fires.

Significance and potential of the samples and recommendations for further work

The plant remains, aside from the uncharred root/rhizome fragments, were present in low numbers relative to sample size. These are small and durable enough to have been moved about the site in backfill, re-working and bioturbation so cannot be guaranteed to be the same date as or originate from the sampled feature or context unless the excavators are sure the sampled contexts were stratigraphically secure.

A recent study of intrusion and residuality in the archaeobotanical record for southern England (Pelling *et al.* 2015) has highlighted the problem of assigning charred plant remains such as these to the dated contexts they were taken from because it is possible that these durable charred plant remains survived being moved between contexts by human action and bioturbation so cannot be properly interpreted unless radiocarbon dates are gained from the plant macro-remains themselves. That is the only way to secure a genuine date for the charred plant macro-remains like these (Pelling *et al.* 2015, 96).

If the stratigraphic integrity of the sampled contexts containing charred plant remains are secure then they are evidence of cereals consumed and associated crop weeds. But they are very low in number relative to the volume of sampled soil.

Due to the low number of charred items per litre of sampled soil and that fact that this report records all the items seen. No further work is recommended on these samples unless it is for radiocarbon dating. Items that may be suitable for radiocarbon dating were found in <1>, <4>, and if the charcoal taxa are suitable <1>, <2>, <3> and <4>.

Preservation conditions appear to support charred and mineralised plant macro-remains so bulk/whole-earth sampling in any future investigations will be a suitable method of sampling.

8 Conclusion

Archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay revealed that the site was covered in demolition material with some significant modern disturbance in places, particularly in the area of trenches T2, T3 and the northern half of T4. Both the demolition material and disturbance is likely to be from the demolition of previous quayside warehouses/buildings along the street frontage, which can be seen on old OS maps. Some of this disturbance dates from 2011 when a front row of warehouses and an office building were burnt down and the site subsequently cleared.

Despite this modern disturbance, the evaluation revealed that a number of medieval remains have survived. The first cluster of remains is located in the area of trench T1, where three medieval pits were excavated dating from the late 11th to the 13th or 14th century. Old OS maps show that the warehouses/buildings previously located on the development site were built along the road frontage on the eastern half of the site (see Fig 2), so there is a good chance for survival of medieval remains to the rear of the site.

A second cluster of medieval activity is located in the southern half of T4. As old OS maps show that this part of the development site had previously been built on, pockets of medieval archaeology have obviously survived. A medieval pit and linear at the southern end of the trench date from the late 12th to the 13th/14th century, making them broadly contemporary with the pits from trench T1.

Significantly, medieval/early post-medieval structural remains were also identified in trench T4. There is at least one medieval wall foundation made of medium to large compacted stones, which may have been built over at a later date by a post-medieval brick wall. Parallel to this is a looser patch of compacted medium stones and a patch of compacted chalk. This may be part of a wall foundation but could also be part of a plinth or surface.

Dating evidence from these structural remains appear to show that they are not contemporary, dating from the late 12th to the 14th century and the 15th to 17th century. However, these remains were only cleaned and recorded, and not fully excavated. Further excavation of these structural remains may reveal more information about their extent and purpose, and provide more dating evidence. It is likely that these structural remains are associated with medieval activity at Hythe Quay. Being located at the north end of Hythe Quay on the road frontage adjacent to the Old Hythe Bridge, it is also possible that this structure is associated with trade routes into/out of Colchester.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Clare Richmond (of Duncan, Clark & Beckett) and Square Sail Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by N Rayner with R Mathieson and A Wade. Figures are by B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

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

- | | | |
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ClfA	2014c	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
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11 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBCPS	Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find.
feature (F)	an identifiable thing like a pit, a wall, a drain: can contain 'contexts'
layer (L)	distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
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	period from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

12 Contents of archive

Finds: one box

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1264)

CBC 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

13 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: 2018.23.

Distribution list:

Clare Richmond, Duncan, Clark & Beckett

Square Sail Ltd

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,

Roman Circus Walk,

Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ

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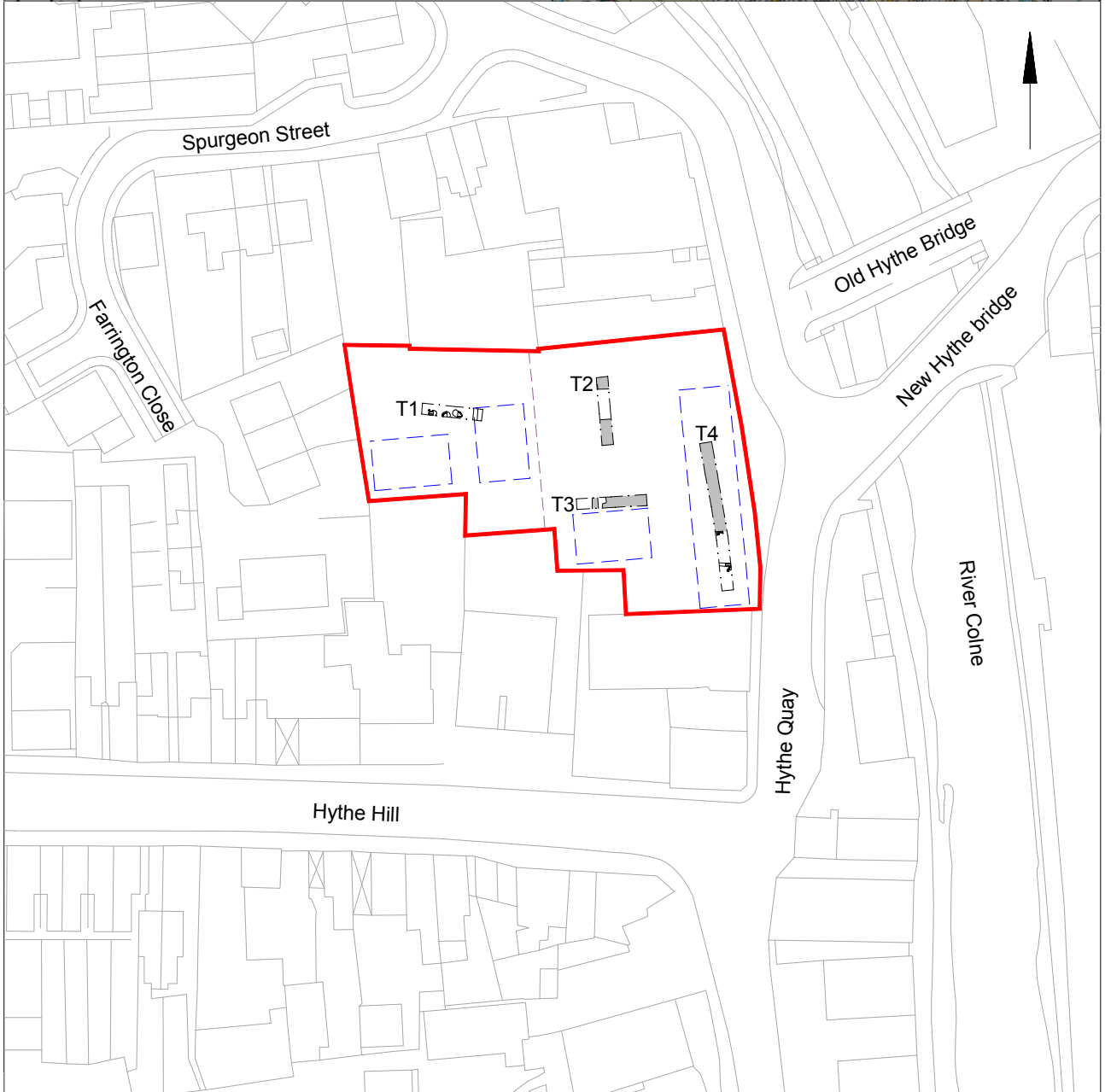
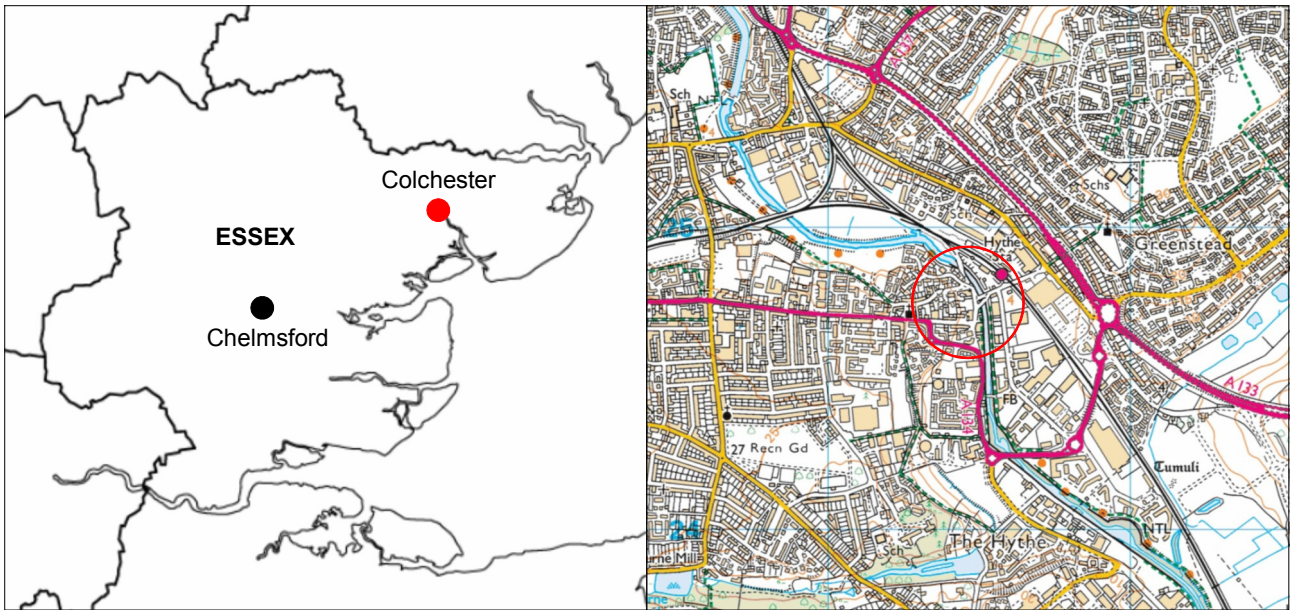
Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 30.5.2018

Appendix 1 Context list

Context no.	Finds no.	Context	Description	Date
F1 (T4)	-	Pit	Loose/soft, moist, medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay, with flecks of post-medieval brick/tile, oyster shell and charcoal, 5% stone. Unfrogged brick fragments, glazed pottery sherds and glass noted in the pit but not retained for post-excavation analysis.	Post-medieval
F2 (T4)	-	Pit	Loose/soft, moist, mixed light-medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay, with inclusions of post-medieval brick/tile, mortar and charcoal, 5% stone. Unfrogged brick rubble and glass noted in the pit but not retained for post-excavation analysis.	Post-medieval/modern
F3 (T4)	1	Posthole	Friable, dry-moist, medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay.	Medieval, late 12th-13th/14th century
F4 (T4)	-	Small pit / posthole	Firm, dry, medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay, 1% stone.	Undated
F5 (T4)	2 3 <1>	Linear	Friable, dry-moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay, 2% stone.	Medieval, c 13th-14th century
F6 (T4)	-	Debris	Firm, moist, medium-dark grey/brown silty-clay with inclusions of post-medieval/modern brick/tile and charcoal, 2% stone. Post-medieval/modern debris/rubble noted but not retained for post-excavation analysis.	Modern
F7 (T4)	11	Structural remains (?foundation)	Unmortared, compacted group of medium to large stones.	Medieval, late 12th-14th century
F8 (T4)	-	Structural remains	Group of stones probably disturbed stones, associated with F16 and F17	Undated
F9 (T4)	-	Wood	Decayed wood fragments, possibly from a wooden floor, set into L7	?Post-medieval
F10 (T4)	10	Foundation	Row of bricks set on a soft, moist, medium orange/brown sand.	Post-medieval
F11 (T4)	-	Disturbance	Soft, moist, medium-dark grey/brown slightly sandy silty-clay, with flecks of brick/tile, charcoal, stone. Probably the same feature as F18.	Post-medieval/modern
F12 (T1)	4 17<5>	Pit	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and oyster shell, rare stones.	Medieval, late 11th-12th century
F13 (T1)	5	Pit	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and oyster shell, rare stones.	Medieval, mid-late 12th century
F14 (T1)	6 18<6>	Pit	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown silty-clay with flecks of charcoal and oyster shell, rare stones.	Medieval, c 13th or 14th century
F15 (T1)	-	Posthole	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown silty-clay with inclusions of charcoal and oyster shell.	Undated
F16 (T4)	-	Structural remains	A group of small-medium rounded stone, associated with F8 and F17	Undated
F17 (T4)	15	Structural remains	Irregular shaped small chalk nodules tightly packed together, associated with F8 and F16	Tudor, 15th-17th century

F18 (T4)	-	Disturbance	Probably the same feature as F11 (see above)	Post-medieval/ modern
L1 (T4)	-	Surface	Compacted brick rubble, other debris and stone within a dark grey silty-clay (finds noted but not retained for post-excavation analysis).	Modern
L2 (T4)	-	Buried soil	Soft, moist, dark grey slightly-sandy silty-clay, with flecks of CBM flecks and charcoal, <1% stone	Post-medieval/ modern
L3 (T4)	-	Demolition debris	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay and orange sand, with inclusions of frequent grey/white mortar, occasional tile and charcoal (noted but not retained for post-excavation analysis), <1% stone.	Post-medieval
L4 (T4)	-	Levelling	Soft, friable, moist, medium grey/brown slightly-sandy silty-clay, with including occasional CBM, and flecks of oyster shell and charcoal (none retained for post-excavation analysis), 2% stone.	Post-medieval
L5 (T4)	-	Oyster shell	Layer of oyster shells (none retained) in a soft, friable, moist, medium grey/brown slightly-sandy silty-clay, with flecks of charcoal, <1% stone.	Undated
L6 (T4)	13<3> 16	Levelling	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown slightly-sandy silty-clay with flecks of occasional CBM, oyster shell and charcoal, <1% stone	Medieval, late 12th-early 13th century
L7 (T4)	9 12<2>	Dump	Soft, friable, moist, medium grey/brown slightly-sandy silty-clay with flecks of common oyster shell, rare CBM and charcoal flecks, 3% stone.	?Post-medieval
L8 (All)	-	Natural	Natural silty-clay	Post-glacial
L9 (T1)	-	Tarmac & crush	Layers of modern tarmac and crush	Modern
L10 (T1)	-	Accumulation	Soft, moist, medium yellow, mottled grey/brown sandy, slightly-clayey silt with flecks of CBM, oyster shell, charcoal, common stones.	?Post-medieval
L11 (T2-T3)	-	Crush	Hard, moist, dark grey/brown sandy-clay with fragments of concrete, mortar, CBM, slate, charcoal, coal and iron	Modern
L12 (T2)	7	Accumulation	Soft, moist, medium yellow/brown silty-clay with common flecks of charcoal and oyster shell.	?Post-medieval
L13 (T4)	8 14<4>	Accumulation	Soft, friable, moist, dark grey slightly-sandy silty-clay with frequent flecks of charcoal and oyster shell, 1% stone.	Medieval, 13th- 14th century
L14 (T4)	-	Silty-clay	Firm, dry, medium grey/brown silty-clay	Undated
L15 (T4)	-	Disturbance	Medium grey/brown silty-clay with inclusions of CBM and mortar	Modern
L16 (T4)	-	Disturbance	Medium grey silty-clay with inclusions of CBM, mortar and charcoal.	Modern
L17 (T4)	-	Coal/charcoal	Soft, moist, medium grey/brown silty-clay with common coal and charcoal flecks, oyster shell flecks, rare stone.	Undated



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Fig 1 Site location in relation to proposed development (dashed blue)

0 50 m



Fig 2 Results, modern features/layers in grey.
Proposed development dashed blue.

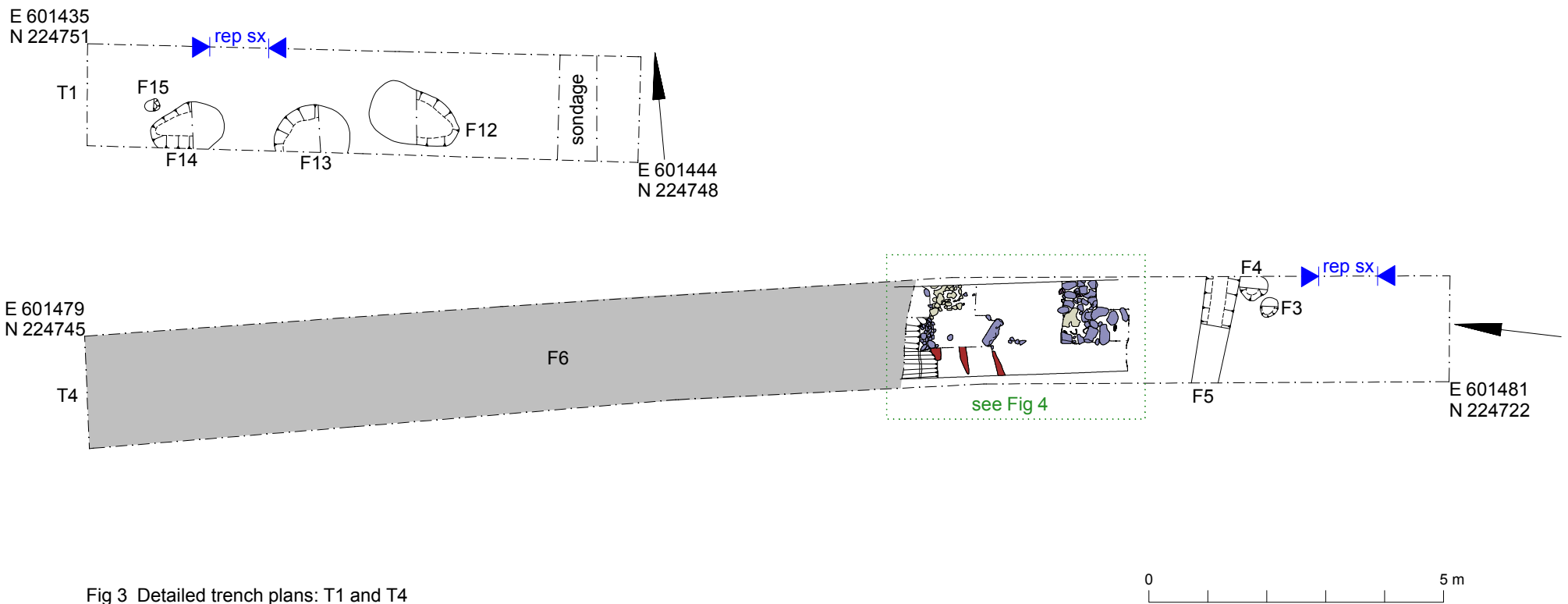


Fig 3 Detailed trench plans: T1 and T4

F7 = 2.75m AOD
 F8 = 2.94m AOD
 F16 = 2.66m AOD
 F17 = 2.82m AOD

 L7 = 2.83m AOD
 L8 = 2.4m AOD
 L17 = 2.79m AOD

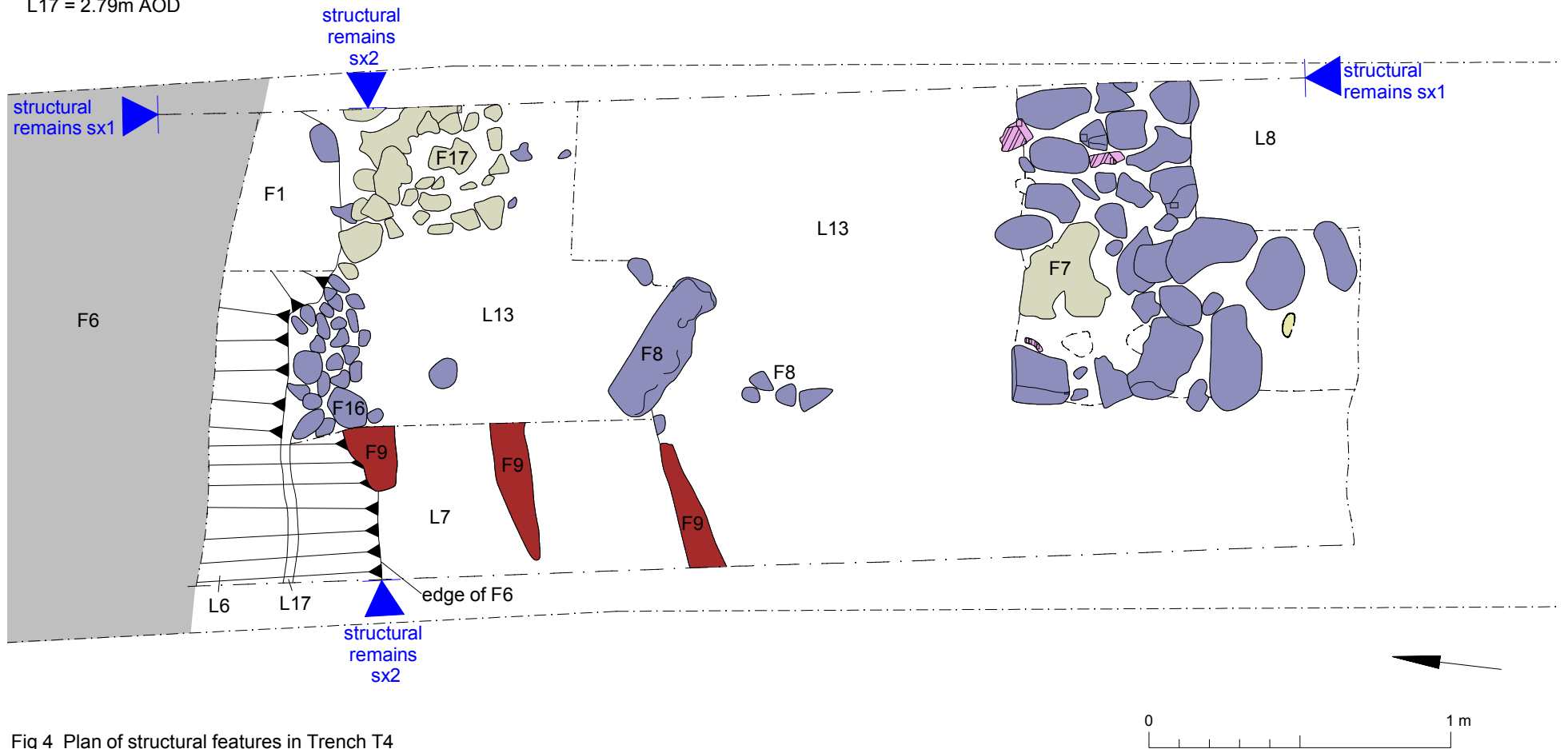
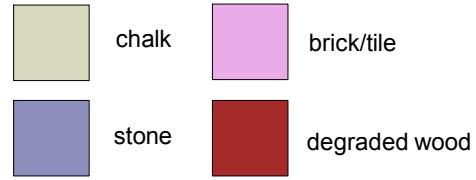
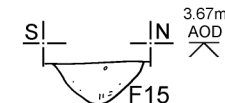
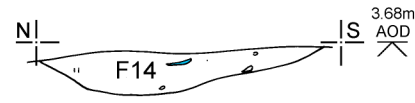
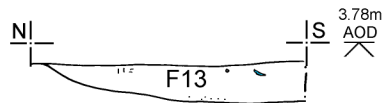
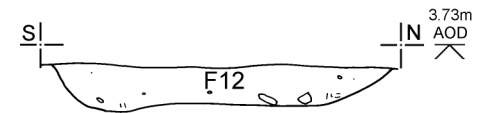
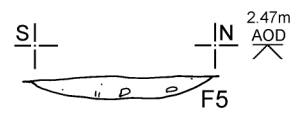
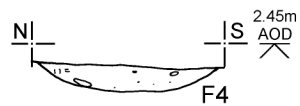
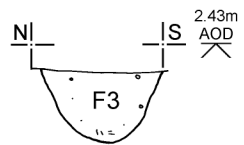
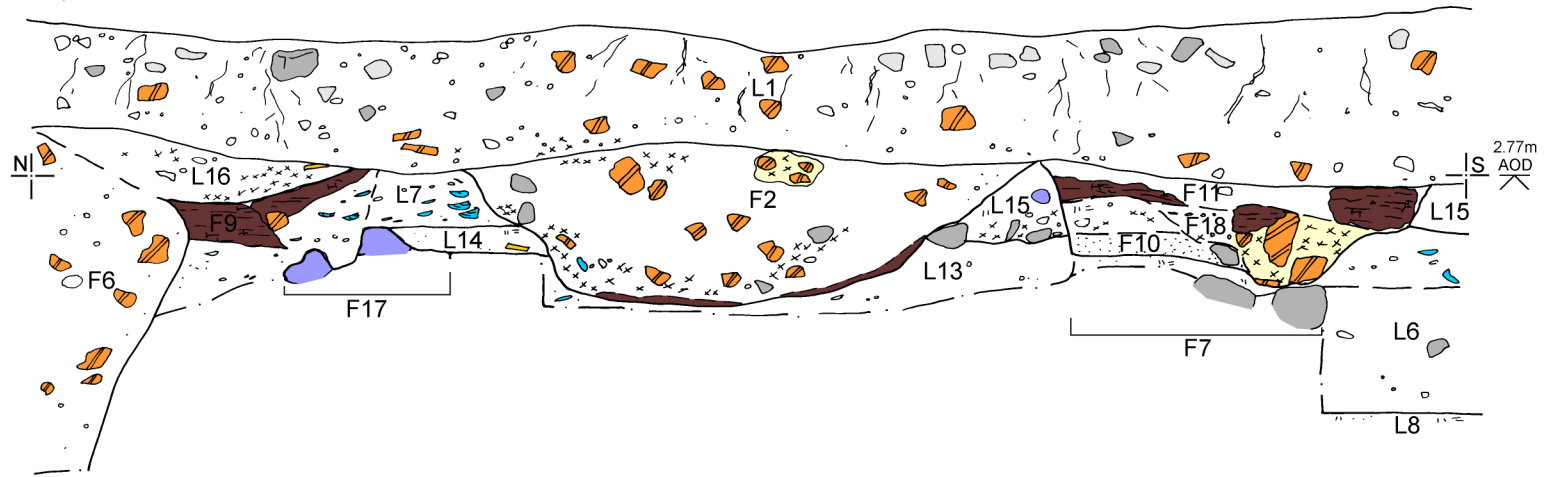
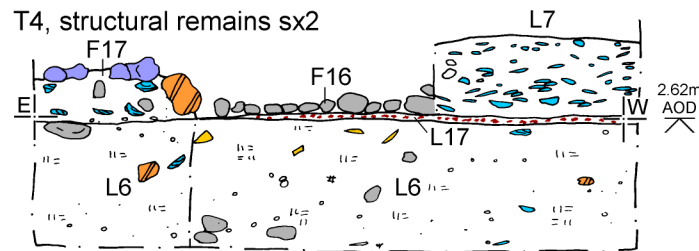


Fig 4 Plan of structural features in Trench T4

T4, structural remains sx1



T4, structural remains sx2



- sand
- small stones
- ||| clay
- ## charcoal
- coal/charcoal fragments
- decayed wood
- oyster shell
- pottery sherds
- large stones
- chalk nodules
- post-Roman brick and tile
- xx mortar flecks
- xx mortar fragments
- concrete
- tarmac
- roots

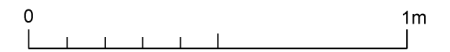


Fig 5 Feature and representative sections.

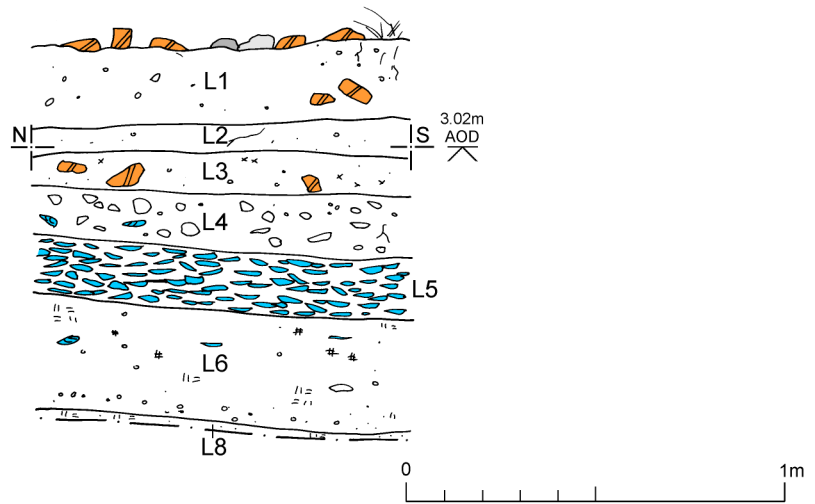
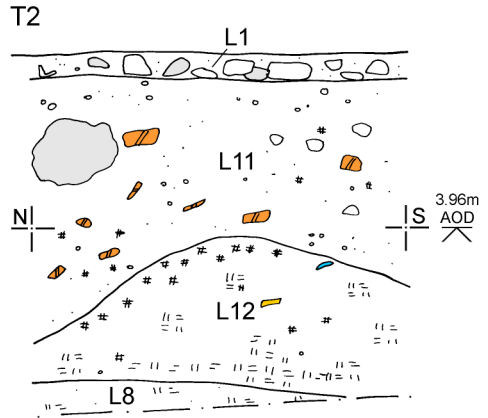
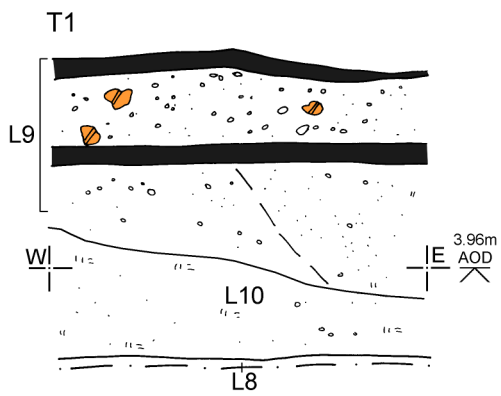


Fig 6 Representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JB	
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester
NGR: TM 0145 2474 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 18/03f CHER ref: ECC4153 OASIS ref: colchest3-311844
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 4th-5th April 2018	Size of area investigated: 0.2ha
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2018.23	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related CHER/SMR number:
Final report: CAT Report 1264	
Periods represented: medieval, post-medieval, modern	
Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (five trenches) was undertaken at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex during the pre-determination stage of planning, to inform a planning application for the proposed construction of new residential dwellings. The Hythe has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. There were no significant archaeological remains in two trenches (T2-T3). Three medieval pits were excavated in trench T1 with a medieval pit and linear in trench T4, dating from the late 11th to the 13th/14th century. Also present in trench T4 was a medieval (late 12th to 14th century) wall foundation of medium to large compacted stones. Looser patches of compacted medium stones and chalk may represent a second later wall foundation (15th to 17th century) but could also be the remains of either a plinth or surface. These structural remains are possibly associated with medieval activity at Hythe Quay.	
Previous summaries/reports: -	
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper	
Keywords: Hythe Quay	Significance: *
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: May 2018

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial- trenching at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JB

NGR: TM 0145 2474 (centre)

Planning reference: 180161

Commissioned by: Clare Richmond, Duncan, Clark & Beckett

Client: Square Sail Ltd

Curating museum: Colchester

Museum accession code: 2018.23

CHER number: ECC4153

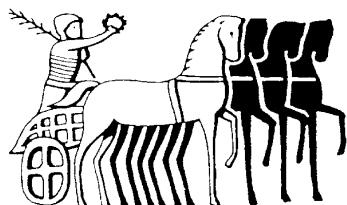
CAT project code: 18/03f

OASIS project id: colchest3-311844

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 20.03.2018 (revised)



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785

email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site lies approximately 2.2km west-southwest of Colchester town centre at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, CO2 8JB (Fig 1). The site is currently a vacant plot adjacent to the River Colne. Previously the plot contained offices and light industrial buildings that became derelict. The site is centred on NGR TM 0145 2474.

Proposed work

The development comprises the construction of two 2 bedroomed dwellings and ten 3 bedroomed dwellings and associated parking, landscaping and groundworks including a soakaway.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk), and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed by Heritage Gateway. The background largely draws on CAT Report 388.

The Hythe area has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. The name derives from an Old English word for landing place, and the area was originally known as 'New Hythe'. This appears to be with reference to an earlier landing place at Old Heath (*Ealdehythe* – the old landing place), located closer to the mouth of the River Colne, which New Hythe superseded. The earliest reference to Old Heath, implying the existence of the New Hythe, is in 1272. The nearby Hythe parish church of St Leonard's (MCC24, MCC3402 and MCC9031) is referenced in 1237, and the earliest reference to the Hythe itself appears to date from 1276 (CAR 1, 47). There are numerous references to private quays, wharfs and warehouses from the 14th century onwards, and by 1823 the quays at the Hythe extended along both sides of the river (CAT Report 232, 21). There are numerous records of current or demolished historic houses and shops within close proximity of the site including the 15th-16th century former Perseverance Inn (MCC27), the late 17th century house at 106 Hythe Hill (MCC3404) to the 18th century brick house at 100 Hythe Hill (MCC3400).

There is also the possibility of a Roman quay or bridge in this area, as a Roman road can be traced to within half a mile of the Hythe, from the direction of Mistley. The projected line of this road suggests a crossing point on the river close to the bottom of Hythe Hill.

So far most of the archaeological investigations within the Hythe area have been small sites and carried out on areas some way back from the present river frontage including 79 Hythe Hill (Brooks 2000); 64-76 Hythe Hill evaluation (ECC2627 and MCC2663-6, Shimmin 2004) and subsequent excavation (ECC2590, Benfield 2004); 9-11 Hythe Quay evaluation (MCC5310, MCC5311 and MCC5312, CAT Report 100), and no trace of the medieval quay or any Roman structures has yet been located at the Hythe.

In 2006 CAT watched four test pits being machine dug at 28 Hythe Quay (CAT Report 388), next to the retaining quay wall. They were mostly dug through 18th-19th century brick rubble with some post-medieval pottery. There was no evidence of Roman or medieval activity but a large timber located at the base of one of the concrete structures is thought to have possibly have been part of an earlier quay.

Planning background

A planning application (180161) was made to Colchester Borough Council in January 2018 proposing the creation of twelve 2 and 3 bedroomed town houses with integral parking.

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* (DCLG 2012).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a 5% sample of the development site, which equates to 53m of trenching. Specifically, this will comprise of the excavation of four trial-trenches (T1-3 and T5) 10m long by 1.8m wide, and one trench (T4) 13m long by 1.8m wide, located across the footprints of the proposed dwellings and areas of key tree planting. The purpose of the trenches is to assess the archaeological potential of the site and to determine if further archaeological investigation is required. Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks will be made by the CBCAA on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

The trial-trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation. The WSI should provide for a contingency in the event of the need for absolute dating.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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, 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 2018).

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 supervisor plus two archaeologists for two days.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Ben Holloway

Evaluation methodology

Where appropriate, modern overburden and any topsoil stripping/levelling will be performed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision and to the satisfaction of a professional archaeologist. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, machine excavation will continue until natural subsoil is reached.

As the site is located within close proximity to the River Colne there is a higher possibility of potential palaeoenvironmental remains (waterlogged archaeological deposits). If this is the case trenches may need to be widened to allow safe access to deep deposits.

Where necessary, areas will be cleaned by hand to ensure the visibility of archaeological deposits.

If archaeological features or deposits are uncovered time will be allowed for these to be excavated, planned and recorded.

All features or deposits will be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) in 1m wide sections, and 100% of complex structures/features. Complex archaeological structures such as walls, kilns, ovens or burials will be carefully cleaned, planned and fully recorded, but where possible left *in situ*. Only if it can be demonstrated that the complex structure/feature is likely to be destroyed by groundworks will it be removed, or on the rare occasion where full excavation (or exhumation in the case of burials) is necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated in each trench to test the stratigraphy of the site. This will occur in every trench unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular trench has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each trench, to include ground level, the depth of machining within the trench and the depth of any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine trenches, contexts and 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 determine the potential of 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), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological 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. 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: Laura Pooley

animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman

flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

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

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum / Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation)

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts

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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An EHER summary sheet will also be completed within four weeks and supplied to CBCAA.

Results will be published, to at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in *Essex Archaeology & History*) in the year following the archaeological field work. An allowance will be made in the project costs for the report to be published in an adequately peer reviewed journal or monograph series

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

- | | | |
|------------------|-------|---|
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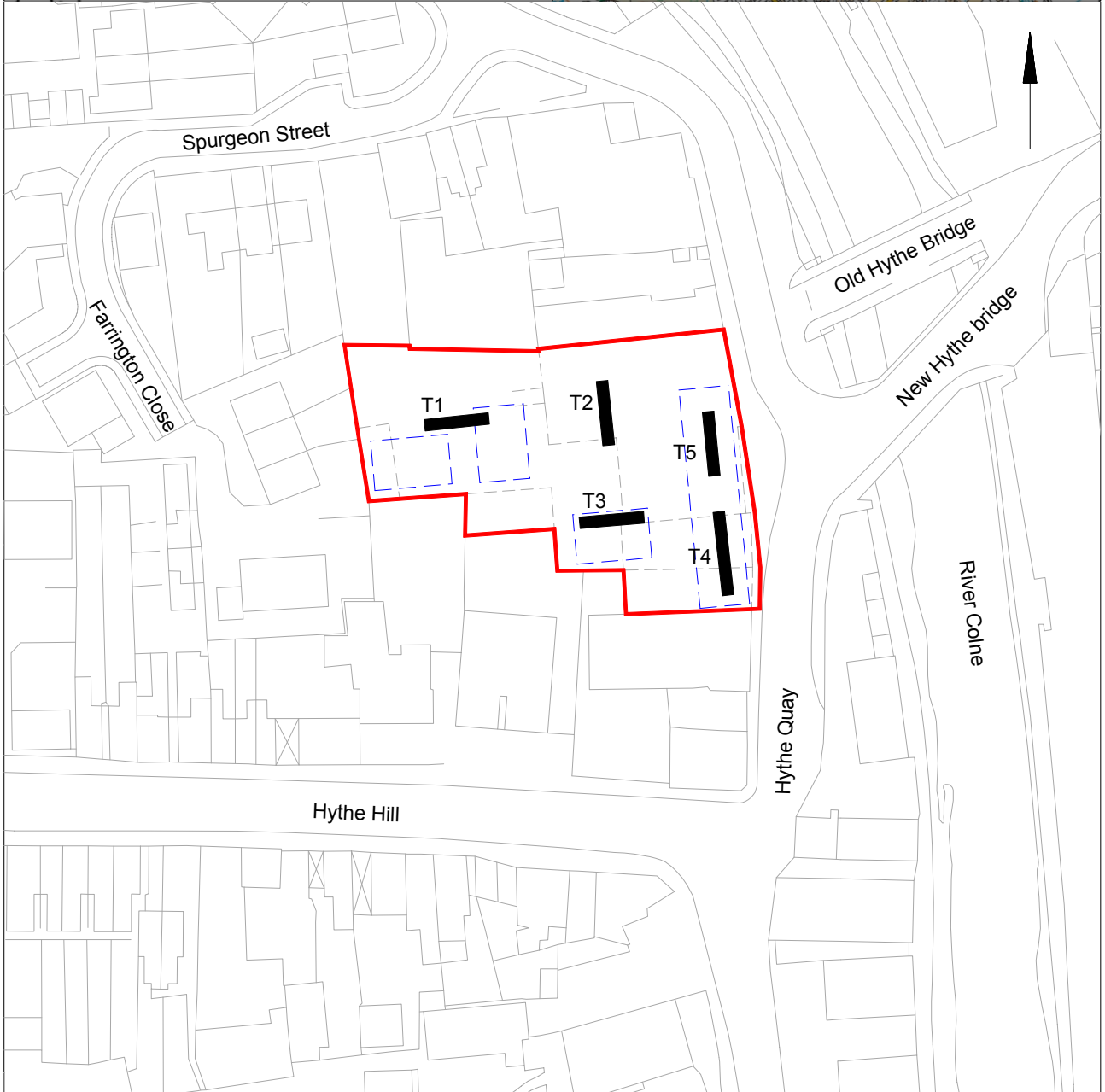
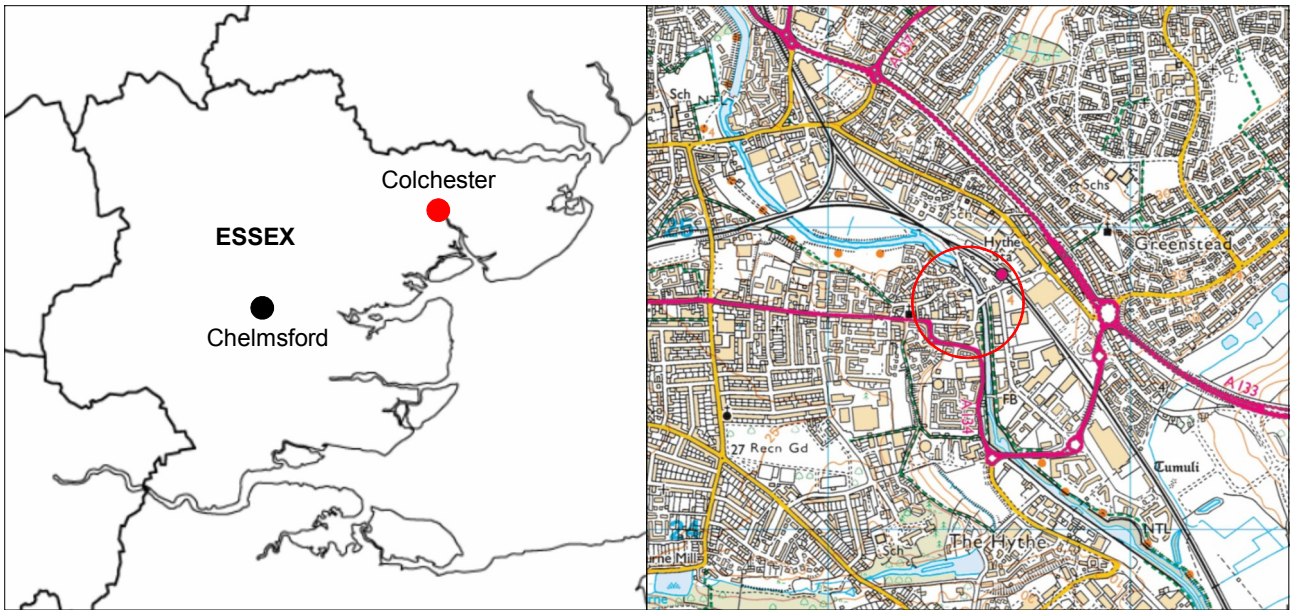
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Fig 1 Site location with trench layout in relation to proposed development (dashed blue lines).



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OASIS ID: colchest3-311844

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JB
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching (five trenches) was undertaken at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex during the pre-determination stage of planning, to inform a planning application for the proposed construction of new residential dwellings. The Hythe has been the port for Colchester probably since the Norman period. There were no significant archaeological remains in two trenches (T2-T3). Three medieval pits were excavated in trench T1 with a medieval pit and linear in trench T4, dating from the late 11th to the 13th/14th century. Also present in trench T4 was a medieval (late 12th to 14th century) wall foundation of medium to large compacted stones. Looser patches of compacted medium stones and chalk may represent a second later wall foundation (15th to 17th century) but could also be the remains of either a plinth or surface. These structural remains are possibly associated with medieval activity at Hythe Quay.
Project dates	Start: 04-04-2018 End: 05-04-2018
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/03f - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	180161 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4153 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.23 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURAL REMAINS Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Medieval
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATIONS Post Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURAL REMAINS Post Medieval
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester
Postcode	CO2 8JB
Study area	0.19 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 0145 2474 51.884237652076 0.927474514339 51 53 03 N 000 55 38 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2.4m Max: 3.6m

Project creators

Name of	Colchester Archaeological Trust
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Organisation
Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator Emma Holloway
Project director/manager Chris Lister
Project supervisor Nigel Rayner
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Physical Archive ID COLEM: 2018.23
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID COLEM: 2018.23
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","other"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2018.23
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Publication type
Title Archaeological evaluation at Bridge House, Hythe Quay, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JB: April 2018
Author(s)/Editor(s) Pooley, L.
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Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

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Entered on 8 June 2018