

Archaeological evaluation at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8HT

February 2020



by Dr Elliott Hicks

figures by Chris Lister, Mark Baister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Sarah Carter

commissioned by Vaughan & Blythe

NGR: TM 01028 12635 (centre)

Planning ref.: 192570

CHER project: ECC4417

CAT project ref.: 19/12e

OASIS ref.: colchest3-378367



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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CAT Report 1518
February 2020

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1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was undertaken at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a three bedroom detached bungalow. The site is located in an area of known Roman settlement and of medieval archaeological deposits associated with the nearby church. A ditch containing a small quantity of Bronze Age pottery was excavated, suggesting that a site of Bronze Age settlement is located in the vicinity. A Roman or post-Roman ditch, a modern pit and an undatable ditch and gully were also recorded.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 5 Yorick Road, Colchester, which was carried out on 3rd February 2020. The work was commissioned by Vaughan & Blythe, in advance of the construction of a three bedroom detached bungalow, 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* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an archaeological trial trench evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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* (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 is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC and MCC numbers) accessible via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically, within an area of Roman occupation evidenced by multiple sightings of wall foundations and floors, and medieval remains related to the nearby church and priory.

Yorick Road area

CAT have carried out several of archaeological investigations at 20 Yorick Road. A Roman wheel-shaped mausoleum lies to the rear of the property (MCC8355 Scheduled Monument no. 1002195). The mausoleum was originally discovered in 1896 and was initially thought to be the remains of a Roman lighthouse. The structure is 20m in diameter with a hexagonal chamber in the centre from which six walls radiate. These walls meet the 1m-thick encircling wall and project beyond it for over a metre as external buttresses. Between each pair of walls there is an extra buttress, making twelve in all. The structure is made of tile on foundations of mortar and Kentish ragstone. Dressed stone and roof tiles have also been found. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by English Heritage in 1989. In 2003, an exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the mausoleum (MCC2973,

CAT Report 255). This was followed by a watching brief on trenching for an extension to the garage, which exposed part of a Roman wall foundation (MCC5406, CAT Report 330).

A brick tomb has also been found a few yards east of the wheel tomb on a property off Beach Road, although its exact location is uncertain. The tomb contained a glass urn with a lead lid which contained cremated bone of a child and a small clay lamp (MCC8786).

High Street area

Archaeological deposits along the High Street include a Roman stone wall set in opus signinum revealed during a small excavation at Bonheur in 1922 (MCC8837). Further work at the site conducted by Hull in 1927 revealed Roman pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (CHER ECC3540; *VCH* vol. 3, 161). A possible Roman wall was also found on land at the corner of the High Street and Captains Lane (MCC8860). A Roman ditch was recorded adjacent to this during a watching brief carried out by Britannia Archaeology in 2016 (MCC10065).

Church Road area

The site lies adjacent to West Mersea parish church (Church of St Peter and St Paul). The church is constructed from re-used Roman Kentish ragstone walls with Roman and post-Roman brick. The earliest element of the church, the lower part of the tower, appears to be 11th-century in date (MCC8909 & MCC4666). Notable deposits have been sighted in the area around the churchyard. Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (*VCH* vol. 3, 158-9) and in 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). In 1991, CAT excavated three trial pits prior to extensions to the church but only residual Roman finds were recorded (CAT Report 1000 vol. 3).

A medieval priory is thought to have once stood to the west of the church. Although its exact location is uncertain, it was established around 1046 (MCC8835). Roman pavement and tesserae have been observed within this area on multiple occasions (MCC8858 & MCC8909). A well found on the southern side of Coast Road is thought to relate to the priory (MCC9356).

CAT have also conducted investigations on land to the north of Church Road, where trenching for drainage exposed human remains which were thought to be medieval in date. Fragments of daub and pieces of Roman brick and tile were observed in the up-turned soil (CAT Report 1000 vol. 3).

CAT has undertaken a number of negative watching briefs in the area, including at 6 High Street (CAT Report 576), 4 Meadow Lane (MCC5553, CAT Report 420), 6 Meadow Lane (CAT Report 629), The Blackwater Hotel Church Road (MCC5291, CAT Report 223), and at Howard's Cottage, 12a Church Road (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). As has been noted in some of these reports, the land in this area appears to comprise of made-up ground thought to date to the 1960s (8 High Street, CAT Report 118).

4 Aim

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

One trial-trench, 10m long by 1.8m wide, was machine-excavated under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The trench was excavated through a modern demolition layer (L1, c 0.1-0.17m thick, medium grey silt with common stones and tarmac pieces) and subsoil (L2, 0.13-0.18m thick, light grey/brown sandy-silt with occasional stones and rare charcoal pieces) onto natural sands and gravels (L3, brown/orange sand with frequent gravels, encountered at a depth of 0.27-0.3m below current ground level).

A series of linear features extended through the trench on a N-S alignment. Ditch F1 was 0.86m wide and 0.31m deep. It yielded pottery sherds dating to the Middle Bronze Age. F1 cut tree throw F2. A small fragment of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile found on the surface of this feature was either intrusive or had been disturbed during the excavation of the trench.

No dating evidence was recovered from the other N-S aligned linear features, gully F5, which was 0.54m wide and 0.05m deep, or ditch F6, 1.06m wide and 0.48m deep.

Ditch F4, which was of Roman or post-Roman date, lay on an E-W alignment. It extended beyond the limit of excavation (LOE) but its exposed extent was 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep.

Pit F3 was also uncovered. Debris including CBM, concrete and tarmac were observed on its surface, indicating that it was modern, and so it was not excavated.



Photograph 1 Trench shot, looking east

6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 31 sherds with a weight of 472g (Table 1).

| Ceramic material | No. | Weight (g) | MSW (g) | Rim EVE |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| Prehistoric Pottery | 18 | 228 | 13 | 0.09 |
| CBM | 13 | 199 | 15 | - |
| All | 31 | 472 | 14 | 0.09 |

Table 1 Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

This material came from three features:

Ditch F1: this contained a small assemblage of handmade prehistoric pottery with 18 sherds with a weight of 228g and a small quantity of baked clay (9 sherds at 52g). The pottery is tempered with varying quantities of fine- to coarse-sized flint and rare grog, although some sherds contain very little flint and are nearly temperless. The sherds are orange to dark brown in colour with darker cores. There were rims from two urns (EVE: 0.09), one of which is decorated with fingernail/tip impressions along the top of the rim and a row of pre-firing perforations (c 0.5 mm diameter) about 1 cm below the top of the rim. Vessels with rows of perforations are known from the Bronze Age cemetery at Ardleigh, Essex, which produced Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury pottery (Brown 1999, 97 fig. 62 nos. 73-76, 78-80, 99 fig. 64 nos. 84-88, 100 fig. 5 no. 90-91, 115 fig. 80 no. 182). It has been suggested that the perforations allowed for the securing of a leather or fabric cover (Brown 1999, 78, 80-81). Several urns with rows of perforations were recovered from the Ardleigh ring 3, which is dated towards the end of the Ardleigh pottery sequence and the end of the 2nd millennium BC (Brown 1999, 81, 172).

Tree throw F2: one small piece of peg-tile with a weight of 4g.

Ditch F4: three sherds of very abraded Roman tile with a weight of 143g.

Conclusion

Ditch F1 can be dated to the Middle Bronze Age and perhaps to the later part of this period (c 1200-1000 BC). Ditch F4 could be Roman although the abraded nature of the tile suggests that the finds are residual and the feature is post-Roman in date. Finally, while the fragment of peg-tile found on the surface of tree throw F2 dates to the medieval/post-medieval period, the feature was cut by Middle Bronze Age ditch F1, indicating that this find was intrusive in an earlier context.

7 Environmental assessment

Samples were taken from two features, but neither yielded sufficient material for further analysis.

8 Conclusion

Six features were uncovered in the course of the evaluation. Of these, the most noteworthy was ditch F1, which produced a small assemblage of pottery sherds dating to the Middle Bronze Age. The presence of this material suggests that a site of Bronze Age settlement is located within the vicinity of the site. A Roman or post-Roman ditch was also recorded. This is in keeping with the results of other archaeological investigations undertaken within the area more broadly, which have revealed considerable evidence of Roman settlement. A modern pit and two undatable features – a gully and a ditch – were also recorded.

9 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Vaughan & Blythe for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with S Carter. Figures

are by C Lister, M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

10 References

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

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| Brown, N R | 1999 | <i>The Archaeology of Ardleigh, Essex: Excavations 1955-1980</i> |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 118 | 2001 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 8 High Street, West Mersea, Essex: December 2000</i> , by K Orr |
| CAT Report 223 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003</i> , by L Pooley |
| CAT Report 255 | 2004 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2003</i> , by B Holloway |
| CAT Report 330 | 2005 | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: July 2005</i> , by B Holloway |
| CAT Report 596 | 2010 | <i>An archaeological watching brief on land to the south of 'Serenity' 6 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester: July 2010</i> , by A Wightman |
| CAT Report 629 | 2012 | <i>Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) At 6 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex September 2011 – February 2012</i> , by B Holloway |
| CAT Report 1000 | forth-coming | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997)</i> , by H Brooks |
| CBCAA | 2019 | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8HT</i> , by J Tipper |
| ClfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> |
| ClfA | 2014b | <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> |
| East Anglian Archaeology | 2015 | <i>Advice note for Post Excavation Assessment</i> |
| Gurney, D | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i> |
| Historic England | 2015 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Medlycott, M | 2011 | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i> |
| MHCLG | 2019 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government |
| Powell, W R | 1963 | <i>Victoria County History: Essex, Vol. 3</i> |

11 Abbreviations and glossary

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Bronze Age | period from c 2500 – 700 BC |
| CAT | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| CBC | Colchester Borough Council |
| CBCAA | Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor |
| CBM | ceramic building material, ie brick/tile |
| 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 | from c AD 1500 to c 1800 |
| prehistoric | pre-Roman |
| 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: part of one box

Paper record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1518)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheet, sections)

Digital photographic thumbnails and log

Digital record

The report (CAT Report 1518)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Digital photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics

Survey data

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 project reference no. ECC4417.

Distribution list:

Vaughan & Blythe

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel.: 01206 501785

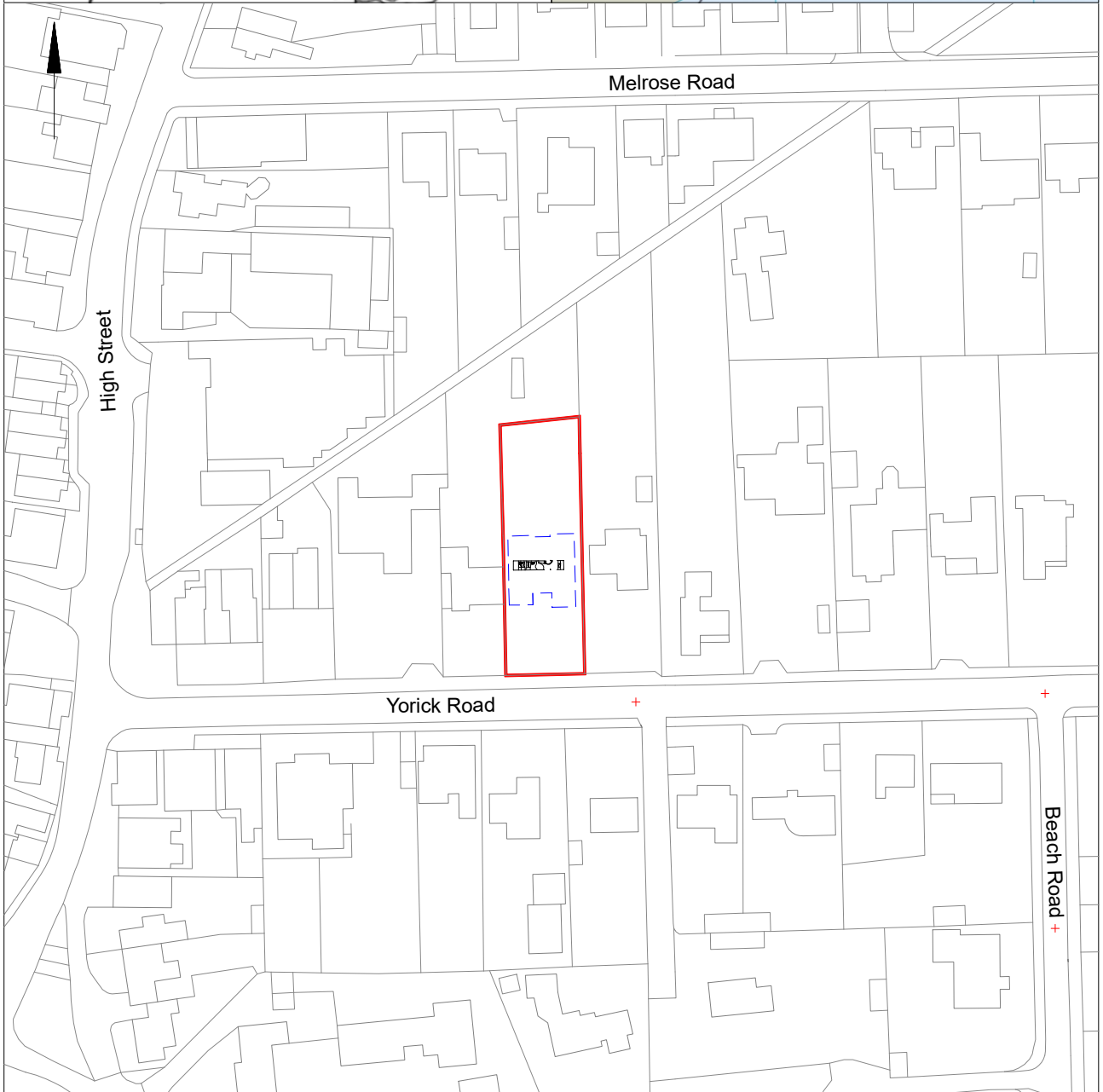
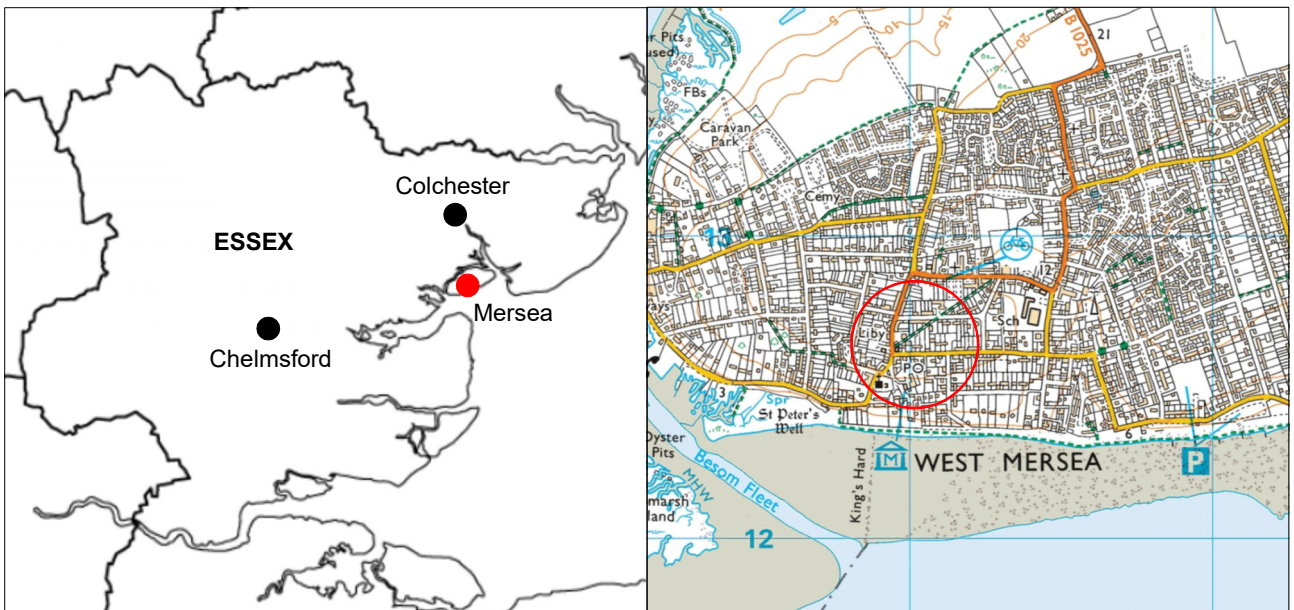
email: eh2@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 18.02.2020

Appendix 1 Pottery list

| Site | Name | Site Code | Country | Cxt | Feature type | Find no. | Trench/Test-pit | Nr | Wg | MSW | Discard | Rim | Handle | Base | Decoration | STAMP | GRAFF Pre-F | GRAFF Post-F | Wind Int | Wind Ex | Soot Int | Soot Ex | Burn Int | Burn Ext | Overfired | Residue | Abraded | Wear (modifi) | Impact/cut mark | Repair hole | Hole | Disc | Polishing | Fabric Grp | Typology | Vessel function | EYE | Diam. | Vessel Height | Comments | Date |
|--------|----------------|-----------|---------|-----|--------------|----------|-----------------|----|-----|-----|---------|-----|--------|------|------------|-------|-------------|--------------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|------|------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------------|---|---|-------------------|----------|------|
| Mersea | 5 Yorrick Road | ECC4417 | Essex | F01 | Ditch | 1 | | 6 | 150 | 25 | | 1 | 0 | 1 | FINGN | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 250 | | Brown to orange coloured fabric, mod. coarse flint & rare grog. Finger nail/tip impression along rim top. row of perforated holes (5 mm diam.) below rim. | Middle Bronze Age | | |
| Mersea | 5 Yorrick Road | ECC4417 | Essex | F01 | Ditch | 1 | | 6 | 41 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Orange, black core, smoothed surface, rare fine to medium flint & rare grog | Middle Bronze Age | | | |
| Mersea | 5 Yorrick Road | ECC4417 | Essex | F01 | Ditch | 1 | | 1 | 7 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Orange, fine to medium flint | Middle Bronze Age | | | |
| Mersea | 5 Yorrick Road | ECC4417 | Essex | F01 | Ditch | 1 | | 1 | 9 | 9 | | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 140 | | Orange, nearly temperless fabric | Middle Bronze Age | | | |
| Mersea | 5 Yorrick Road | ECC4417 | Essex | F01 | Ditch | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Orange, very rare flint | Middle Bronze Age | | | |
| Mersea | 5 Yorrick Road | ECC4417 | Essex | F01 | Ditch | 1 | | 3 | 18 | 5 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Dark brown, black core, rare fine to medium flint | Middle Bronze Age | | | |



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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (indicated by the dashed blue lines).



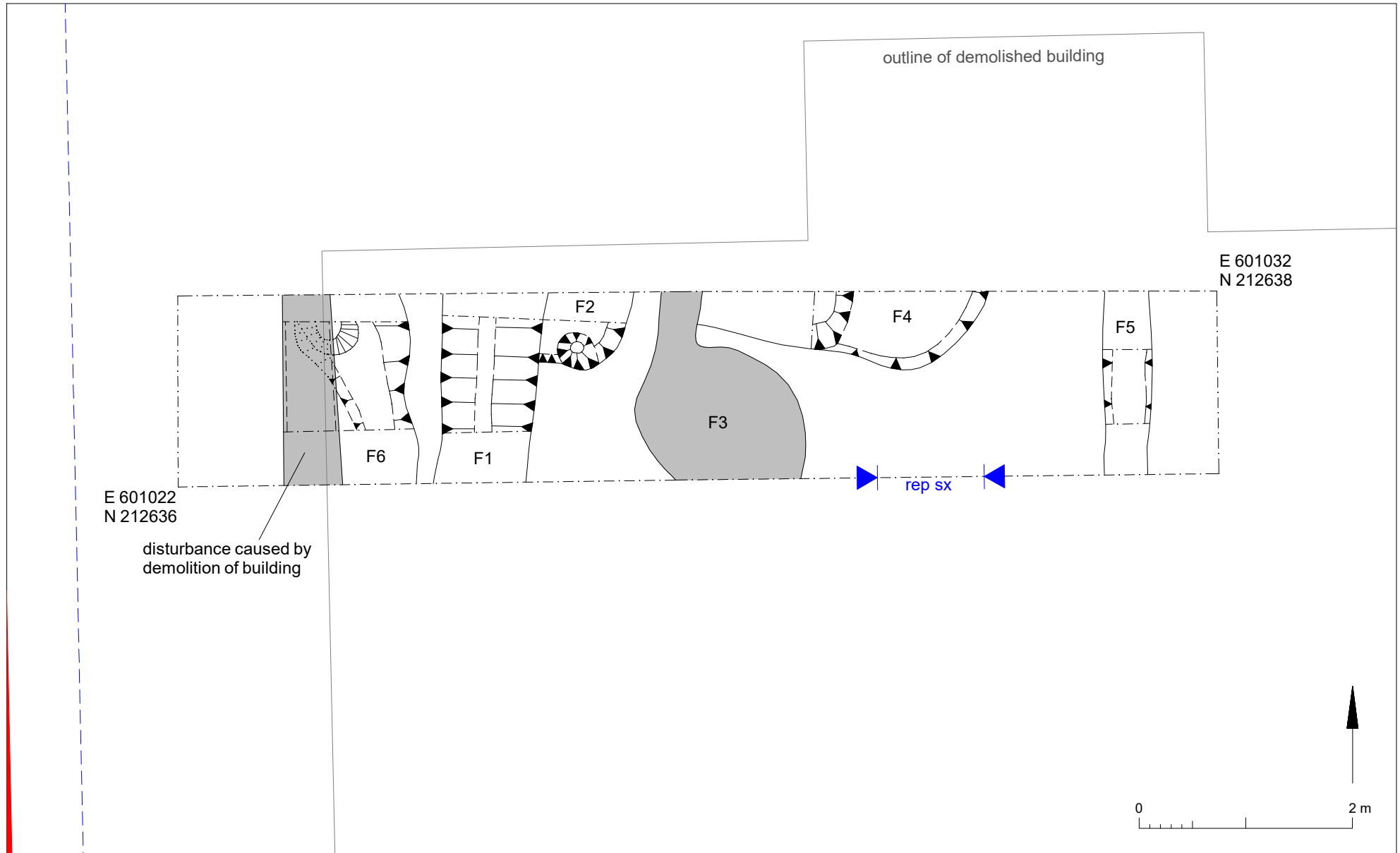


Fig 2 Evaluation results. Modern features highlighted in grey.

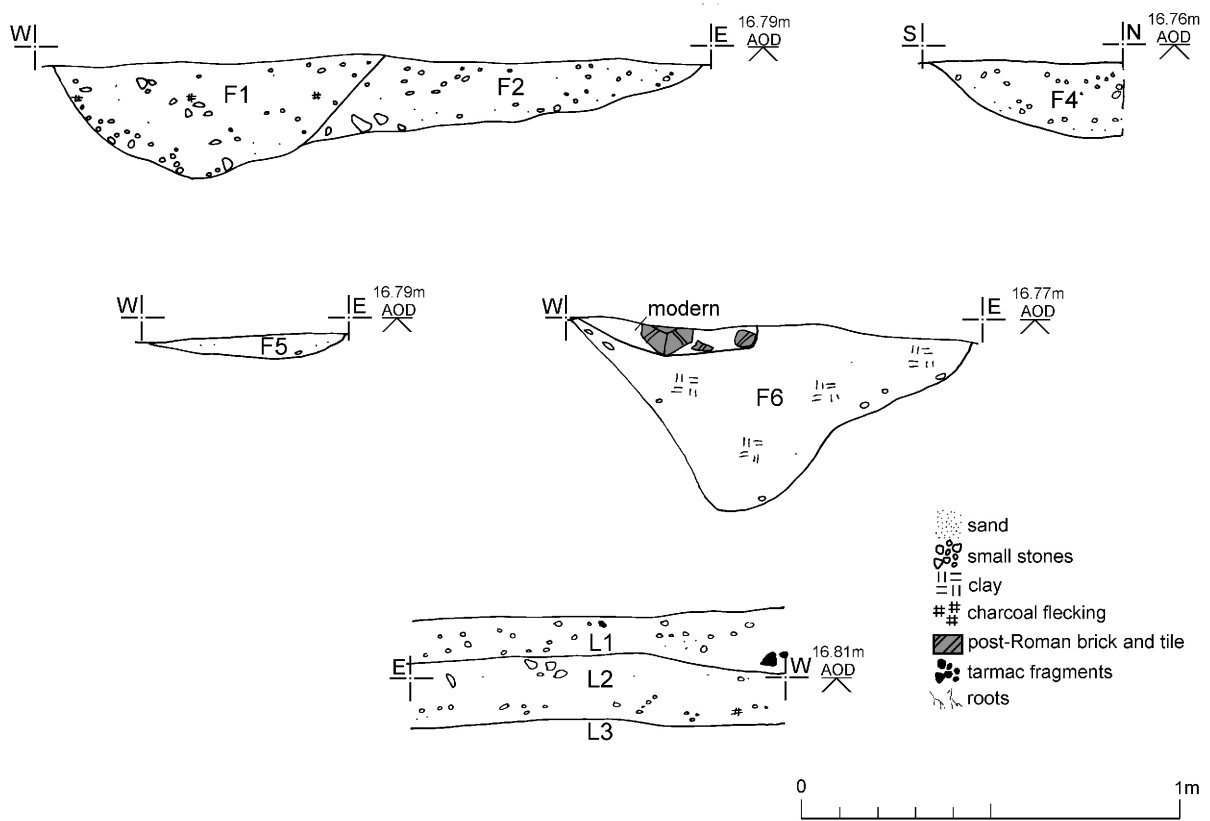


Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

| | |
|--|---|
| Address: 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8HT | |
| Parish: Colchester | District: Colchester |
| NGR: TM 01028 12635 (centre) | Site code: CAT project ref.: 19/12e CHER ref: ECC4417 OASIS ref: colchest3-378367 |
| Type of work: Evaluation | Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Date of work: 3rd February 2020 | Size of area investigated: 0.22ha |
| Location of curating museum: Colchester museum | Funding source: Developer |
| Further seasons anticipated? Not known | Related CHER/SMR number: CHER MCC2973, MCC4666, MCC5291, MCC5406, MCC5553, MCC8355, MCC8786, MCC8837, MCC8858, MCC8860, MCC8909, MCC9356, MCC10065 |
| Final report: CAT Report 1518 | |
| Periods represented: - | |
| Summary of fieldwork results: An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was undertaken at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a three bedroom detached bungalow. The site is located in an area of known Roman settlement and of medieval archaeological deposits associated with the nearby church. A ditch containing a small quantity of Bronze Age pottery was excavated, suggesting that a site of Bronze Age settlement is located in the vicinity. A Roman or post-Roman ditch, a modern pit and an undatable ditch and gully were also recorded. | |
| Previous summaries/reports: - | |
| CBC monitor: Dr Jess Tipper | |
| Keywords: - | Significance: * |
| Author of summary: Dr Elliott Hicks | Date of summary: February 2020 |

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8HT.

NGR: TM 01028 12635 (centre)
District: Colchester

Planning reference: 192570

Commissioned by and on behalf of: Vaughan & Blythe

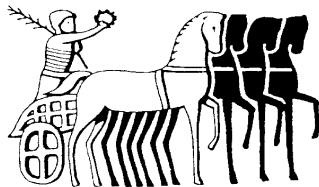
Curating museum: Colchester
CHER project code: ECC4417

CAT project code: 2019/12e
Oasis project ID: colchest3-378367

Site manager: Chris Lister

CBC monitor: Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 18/12/2019



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Roman Circus Walk,
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tel: 01206 501785
email: eh@catuk.org

Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8HT (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 01028 12635.

Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of an existing dwelling to be replaced with a new three bedroom detached bungalow and any associated groundworks.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC and MCC numbers) accessible via the Colchester Heritage Explorer (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk):

The proposed development lies within an area of high archaeological potential, specifically, within an area of Roman occupation revealed by multiple sightings of wall foundations and floors and mediaeval remains related to the nearby church and priory.

Yorick Road area

CAT carried out a series of archaeological investigations at 20 Yorick Road. The rear of the property includes the location of a Roman wheel-shaped *mausoleum* (MCC8355 Scheduled Monument no. 1002195). The mausoleum was originally discovered in 1896 and initially thought to be the remains of a Roman lighthouse. The structure is 20m in diameter with a hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls. These walls meet the 1m-thick encircling wall and project beyond it for over a metre as external buttresses. Between each pair of walls there is an extra buttress, making twelve in all. The structure is made of tile on foundations of mortar and Kentish ragstone. Dressed stone and roof tiles have also been found. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by English Heritage in 1989. An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the *mausoleum* (MCC2973, CAT Report 255). Followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (MCC5406, CAT Report 330).

Although the exact location is uncertain the CHER has records of a brick tomb found a few yards east of the wheel tomb on a property off Beach Road. The tomb contained a glass urn with a lead lid and inside was cremated bone of a child and a small clay lamp (MCC8786).

High Street area

Development along the High Street have included a small excavation at Bonheur in 1922, which revealed a Roman stone wall set in *opus signinum* (MCC8837). Further work by Hull in 1927 revealed Roman pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (CHER ECC3540, **VCH** vol 3 p161). A possible Roman wall was also found near the land from the High Street to Captains Lane (MCC8860). Adjacent to this in 2016 a Roman ditch was recorded during a watching brief by Britannia Archaeology (MCC10065). CAT carried out a photographic survey of Hall Barn in 1985 prior to conversion into a country club (CAT Report 1000 vol 3).

Church Road area

The site lies adjacent to West Mersea parish church (Church of St Peter and St Paul). The church is constructed of re-used Roman Kentish ragstone walls with Roman, and later, brick. The earliest evidence (the lower part of the tower) appears to be 11th century in date (MCC8909 & MCC4666). The area around the churchyard has had a number of sitings of finds. Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (**VCH** vol 3 p158-9). In 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). And CAT excavated three trial pits in 1991 prior to extensions to the church. Only some residual Roman finds were recorded (CAT Report 1000 vol 3).

To the west of the church is thought to be the location of a medieval priory. Although the exact location is uncertain, it was recorded to have been established in 1046 (MCC8835). Within this area Roman pavement and tesserae have been noted on more than one occasion

(MCC8858 & MCC8909). On the southern side of Coast Road a well is thought to relate to the priory (MCC9356).

On land to the north of Church Road CAT was called out by the Curator of West Mersea Museum to record where workmen had uncovered human remains in trenches for a sewerage trench for a new bungalow. Although the workmen had removed all the bone (?3 partial skulls, some limb and vertebrae bones) before the first visit, on the second visit the location of a human skull was recorded. The skeletal remains were interpreted as medieval in date. It was also noted fragments of daub as well as Roman tile/brick fragments were seen in the backfill (CAT Report 1000 vol 3).

Several sites CAT have overseen during watching briefs in the area have proven devoid of any archaeological features or finds, including 6 High Street (CAT Report 576), 4 Meadow Lane (MCC5553, CAT Report 420), 6 Meadow Lane (CAT Report 629), The Blackwater Hotel Church Road (MCC5291, CAT Report 223), Howard's Cottage, 12a Church Road (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). It has been noted in some of these reports however that the land appeared to have comprised of made-up ground thought to be dated to the 1960s (8 High Street, CAT Report 118).

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2019 (application No. 192570) for the *demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a 3 bedroom detached bungalow*.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

Requirement for work (Fig 1)

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological trial-trenched evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2019).

Specifically, one linear trench (T1), 10m long and 1.8m wide to be located within the proposed new dwelling (see Fig 1). The trench will be excavated once the existing dwelling has been demolished to ground level, to ensure removal of existing foundations does not damage any potential archaeology. The trench may need to be widened in localised areas to facilitate the excavation of deep archaeological features (if encountered)

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. To:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 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.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

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 2019)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2019).

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

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Nigel Rayner/Mark Baister

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.

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.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage with an on site human bone specialist available to record as much information as possible.

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 the trench, contexts and spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

Individual records of excavated contexts, layers, features or deposits will be entered on proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Site surveying

The evaluation trench and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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 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 micromorphical and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming 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 process the samples and the flots will be sent to Val Fryer or Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF or 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

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the evaluation.

Burials, if encountered, will be left *in situ* at this evaluation stage. Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site, 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. Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

Human remains removed from site for analysis may be sent for radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,
Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

other: EH Regional Adviser in Archaeological Science (East of England).

All finds of potential treasure will be removed to a safe place, and the coroner informed immediately, in accordance with the rules of the Treasure Act 1996. The definition of treasure is given in pages 3-5 of the Code of Practice of the above act. This refers primarily to gold or silver objects.

Requirements for conservation and storage of finds will be agreed with the appropriate museum prior to the start of work, and confirmed to CBCAA.

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment, absolute dating in the event that archaeomagnetic and/or (more probably) radiocarbon dating is required, if burning is encountered or human remains (in which case it might be necessary to lift a small sample for absolute dating). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice on this.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment (PXA) will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the ECCHEA. Post-excavation assessments and updated project designs will be prepared in accordance with Historic England principals of MoRPHE (HE 2006) and East Anglian Archaeology notes (2015). PXAs will include an assessment of the archaeological value of the results, and include a statement of significance for retention of artefacts, based on specialist advice, for retention or discard agreed with the depositing museum.

Where archaeological results do not warrant a post-excavation assessment then agreement will be sought from the ECCHEA to proceed straight to grey literature / publication.

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* (HE 2015b).

The report will be submitted within 6 months of the end of fieldwork, with a copy supplied to CBCAA as a PDF.

The report will contain:

- Location plan of the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site will be given 10 figure grid references.
- Section/s drawings showing depth of deposits from present ground level with Ordnance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
- Archaeological methodology and detailed results including a suitable conclusion and discussion and results referring to Regional Research Frameworks (Medlycott 2011).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
- An inventory of the archive and any statement of retention and discard strategy based on specialist advice. CAT has a non-site specific finds retention strategy approved by Colchester Museum (CAT 2016).

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 or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. Prior to deposition CAT's data management plan (based on the official guidelines from the Digital Curation Centre [DCC 2013]) will ensure the integrity of the digital archive.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

Monitoring

CBCAA will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project, and will be kept regularly informed during fieldwork, post-excavation and publication stages.

Notification of the start of work will be given to CBCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

Any variations in this WSI will be agreed with CBCAA prior to them being carried out.

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

The involvement of CBCAA shall be acknowledged in any report or publication generated by this project.

References

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

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---|
| Brown, D | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i> |
| CAT | 2016 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Trust Finds Retention Policy</i> . By S Benfield |
| CAT | 2019 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 118 | 2001 | An archaeological watching brief at 8 High Street, West Mersea, Essex: December 2000. By K Orr |
| CAT Report 223 | 2003 | An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003. By L Pooley |
| CAT Report 255 | 2004 | An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2003. By B Holloway |
| CAT Report 330 | 2005 | An archaeological watching brief at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: July 2005. By B Holloway |
| CAT Report 596 | 2010 | An archaeological watching brief on land to the south of 'Serentity' 6 High Street, West Mersea, Colchester: July 2010. By A Wightman |
| CAT Report 629 | 2012 | Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) At 6 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex September 2011 – February 2012. By B Holloway |
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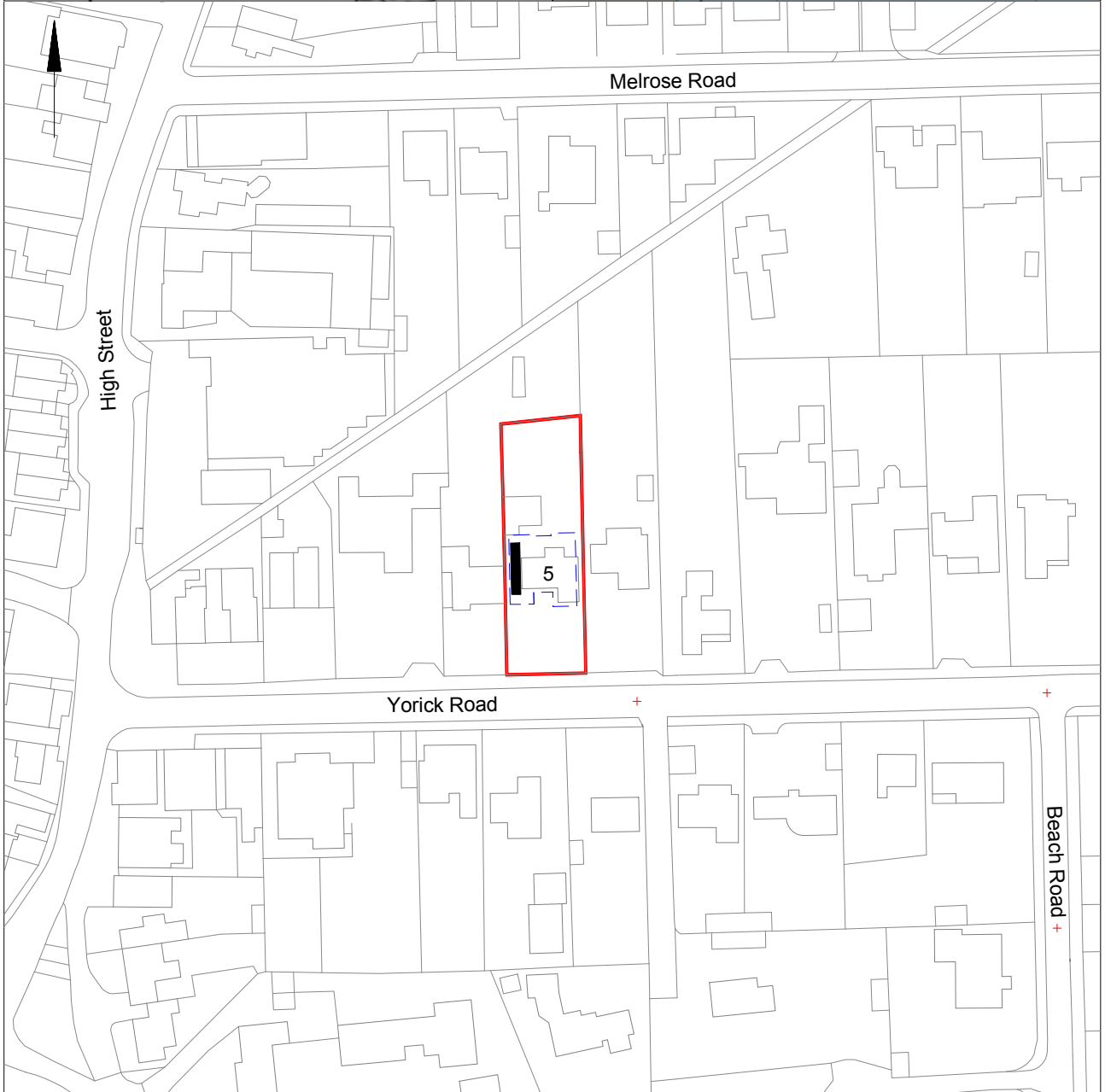
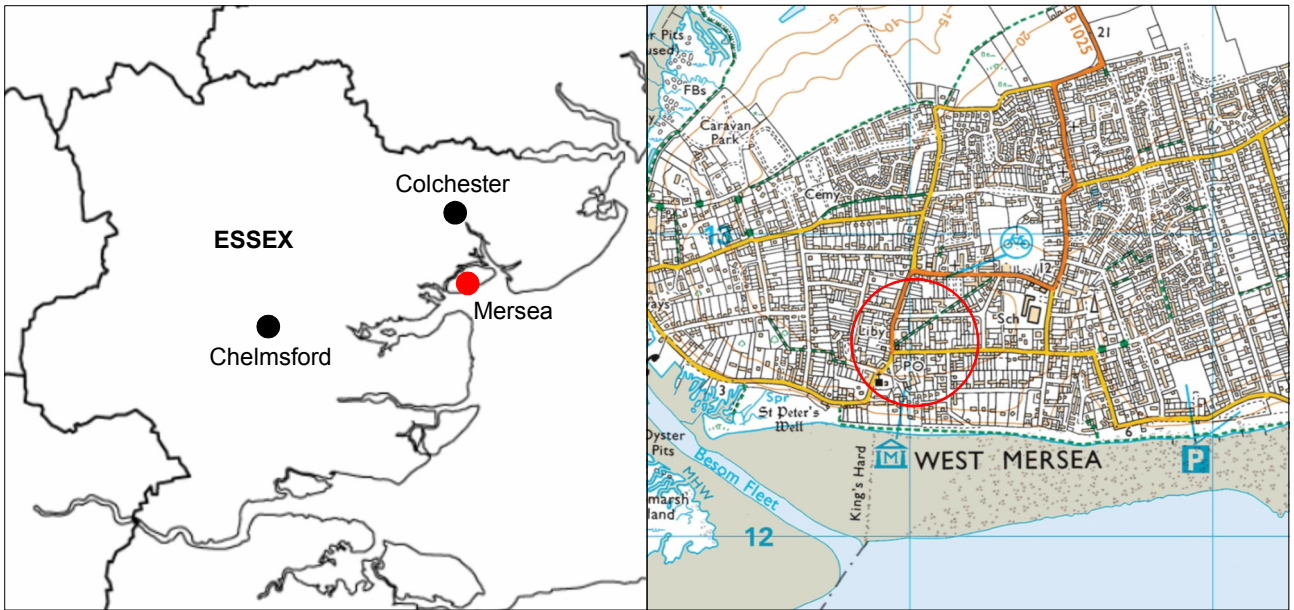
| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--|
| CBCAA | 2019 | 2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in <i>the CAT Report Series from 1997</i>) by H Brooks <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8HT.</i> By J Tipper |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i> <i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i> <i>Advice note for Post Excavation Assessment</i> |
| CIfA | 2014b | |
| East Anglian Archaeology Gurney, D | 2015 | |
| | 2003 | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14). |
| Historic England (HE) | 2006 | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoPHE)</i> |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015a | <i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse |
| Historic England (HE) | 2015b | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i> |
| Historic England (HE) | 2018 | <i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell |
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| MHCLG | 2019 | <i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. |
| Powell, WR | 1963 | Victoria County History, Essex, Vol III (VCH). Vol 3, p161. |

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Fig 1 Site location and trench layout in relation to proposed development (indicated by the dashed blue lines).



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OASIS ID: colchest3-378367

Project details

| | |
|--|--|
| Project name | An archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8HT. |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological evaluation (one trial-trench) was undertaken at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex in advance of the construction of a three bedroom detached bungalow. The site is located in an area of known Roman settlement and of medieval archaeological deposits associated with the nearby church. A ditch containing a small quantity of Bronze Age pottery was excavated, suggesting that a site of Bronze Age settlement is located in the vicinity. A Roman or post-Roman ditch, a modern pit and an undatable ditch and gully were also recorded. |
| Project dates | Start: 03-02-2020 End: 03-02-2020 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 192570 - Planning Application No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | 2019/12e - Contracting Unit No. |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECC4417 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Residential 1 - General Residential |
| Monument type | DITCH Middle Bronze Age |
| Monument type | TREE THROW Uncertain |
| Monument type | GULLY Uncertain |
| Monument type | PIT Uncertain |
| Monument type | PIT Roman |
| Monument type | PIT Early Medieval |
| Monument type | PIT Modern |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Middle Bronze Age |
| Significant Finds | PEG-TILE Medieval |

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Significant Finds | PEG-TILE Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Roman |
| Methods & techniques | ""Targeted Trenches"" |
| Development type | Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.) |
| Prompt | National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | ESSEX COLCHESTER WEST MERSEA 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea |
| Postcode | CO5 8HT |
| Study area | 0.22 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TM 01028 12635 51.775684808936 0.914319918306 51 46 32 N 000 54 51 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 16.26m Max: 16.76m |

Project creators

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Project brief originator | CBC Archaeological Officer |
| Project design originator | Emma Holloway |
| Project director/manager | Chris Lister |
| Project supervisor | Mark Baister |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Developer |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Vaughan & Blythe |

Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Physical Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Physical Archive ID | ECC4417 |
| Physical Contents | "Ceramics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | Colchester Museum |
| Digital Archive ID | ECC4417 |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography", "Text" |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Report", "Section" |

**Project
bibliography 1**

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | Archaeological evaluation at 5 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8HT: February 2020 |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Hicks, E. |
| Other bibliographic details | CAT Report 1518 |
| Date | 2020 |
| Issuer or publisher | Colchester Archaeological Trust |
| Place of issue or publication | Colchester |
| Description | A4 loose-leaf ring-bound |
| URL | http://cat.essex.ac.uk |
| Entered by | Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org) |
| Entered on | 19 February 2020 |

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