

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

**CAT Report 1556**

**Archaeological monitoring at West End Garage, High Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HL**

**Planning reference:** 171172

**CHER Event no.:** ECC4144

**OASIS ref.:** colchest3-309935

**Grid Reference:** TM 05451 33012 (centre)

**Number of site visits:** n/a

**Dates of visits:** n/a

**Nature of the work:** See below.

**Reason for condition:** The site lies within the medieval town of Dedham, and 440m west of a complex of cropmarks, some of which yielded Bronze Age and early Roman material when excavated.

**% of total seen:** See below.

**Results:** The demolition of a car repair garage was due to be monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

During the removal of several below-ground petrol tanks, associated fuel lines and vent pipes from beneath the driveway to the property, it became clear that the site was heavily contaminated. Analysis of soil samples determined that a number of hazardous substances were present, most notably dibenz(a,h)anthracene, benzo(a)pyrene, petroleum hydrocarbons and asbestos. In order to remove these contaminants, the entire length and width of the driveway was excavated to a depth of 2.7-3m. These groundworks took place without archaeological supervision, although the client provided photographs.

Stratigraphy on the site consisted of a modern layer of made ground (up to c 0.65m thick, light brown silty-sand with frequent concrete, CBM, tarmac and glass) overlying natural (light brown/yellow/blue natural silty-sandy-clay).



**Photograph 1** Petrol tanks and pump



**Photograph 2** Site shot following the removal of the petrol tanks

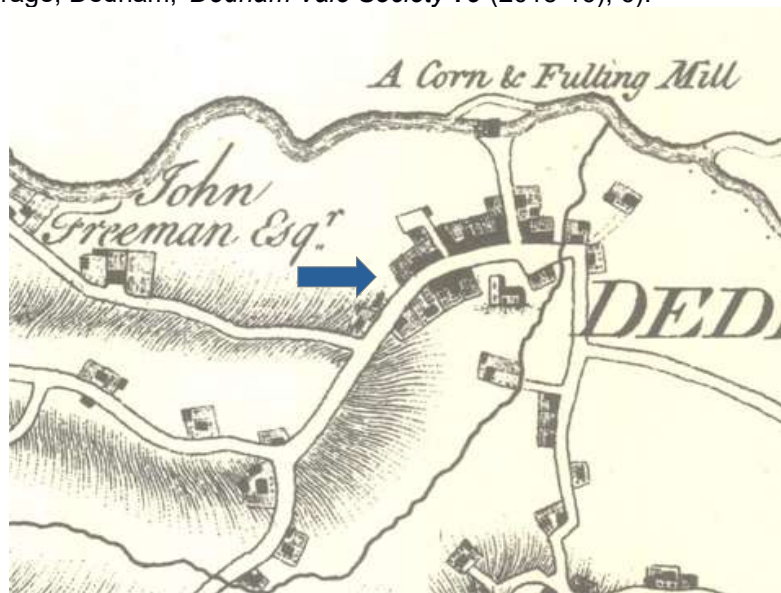


**Photograph 3** Site shot following the removal of the petrol tanks



**Photograph 4** Natural clay in side of pit

Historic mapping of the area indicates that it was unoccupied from the late 18th century until the interwar period, when the bungalows which currently line that section of the road were built. The garage was originally located in a smithy just to the north of the present site, now demolished, which is visible on late 19th-century OS mapping of the area. The garage moved to its present location following the acquisition of the bungalow in the mid 1930s (Georgina Cottee, 'A brief history of West End Garage, Dedham,' *Dedham Vale Society* 79 (2015-16), 6).



**Map 1** Extract from Chapman and André's map of Essex, 1777. The site is indicated by the blue arrow.



**Map 2** Extract from OS map, 1897. The smithy is indicated by the blue arrow.



**Map 3** Extract from OS map, 1955. The current site of the garage is indicated by the blue arrow.

Additional soil analysis following the demolition of the garage indicated that that part of the site was also highly-contaminated and would similarly require remediation. Following consultation with Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Dr Jess Tipper it was agreed that monitoring of these groundworks would not be possible due to the extent of the work required and the potential risk to health posed by the contaminants.

Although it is not possible to say whether any archaeological deposits were present on the site, the level of disturbance associated with the construction of the garage suggests that any deposits would likely have been truncated.

**Recorded by:** Dr Elliott Hicks ([eh2@catuk.org](mailto:eh2@catuk.org))

**Date:** 09.06.2020

**Checked by:** Philip Crummy ([pc@catuk.org](mailto:pc@catuk.org))

**Date:** 11.06.2020

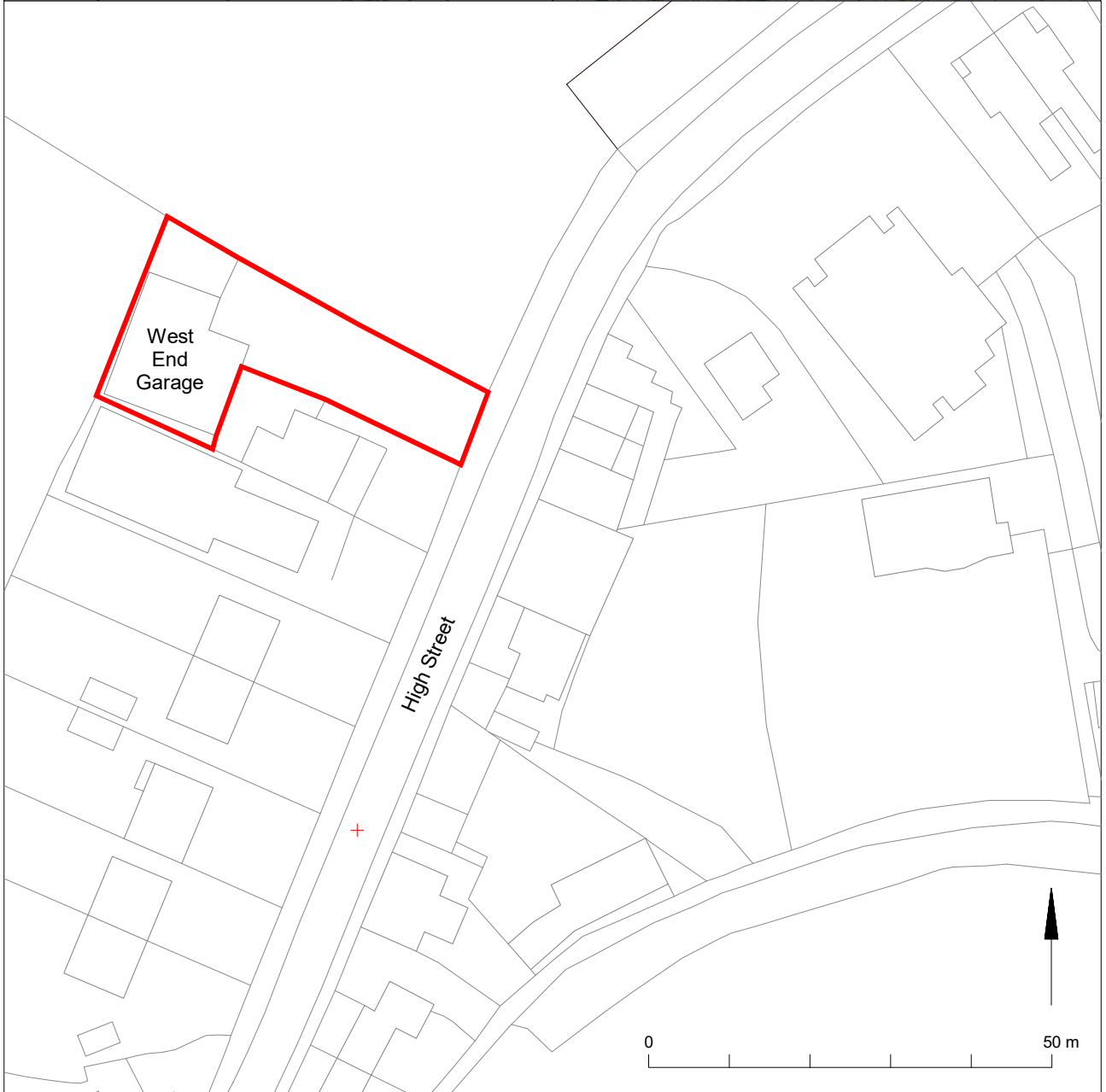
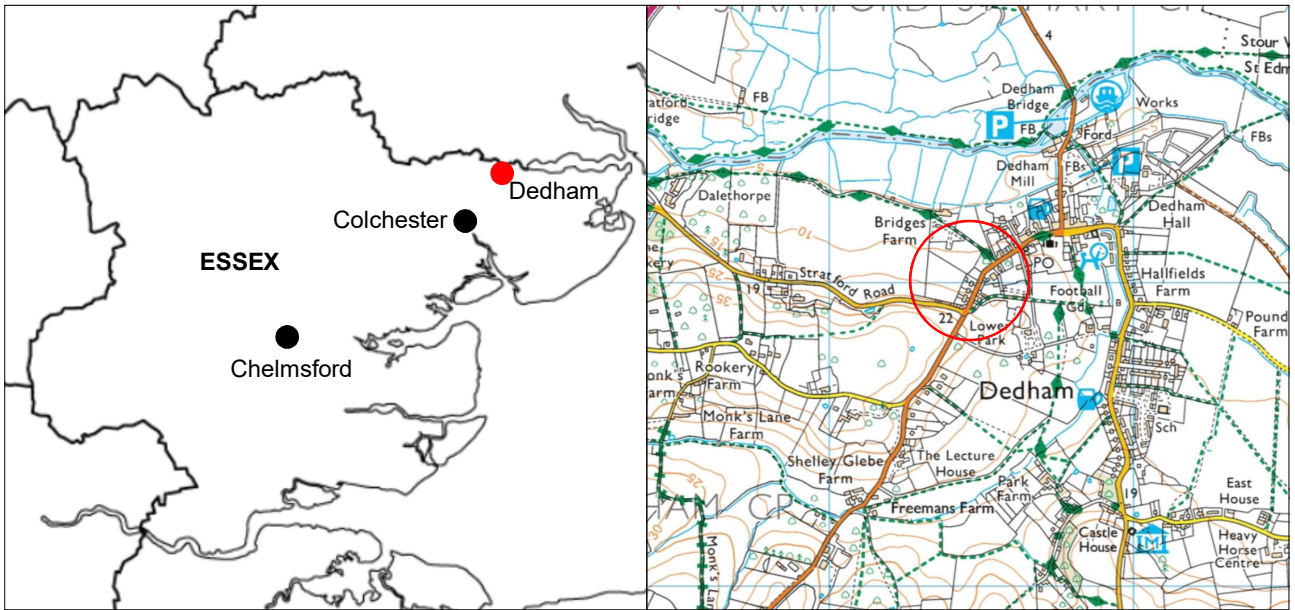


Fig 1 Site location.

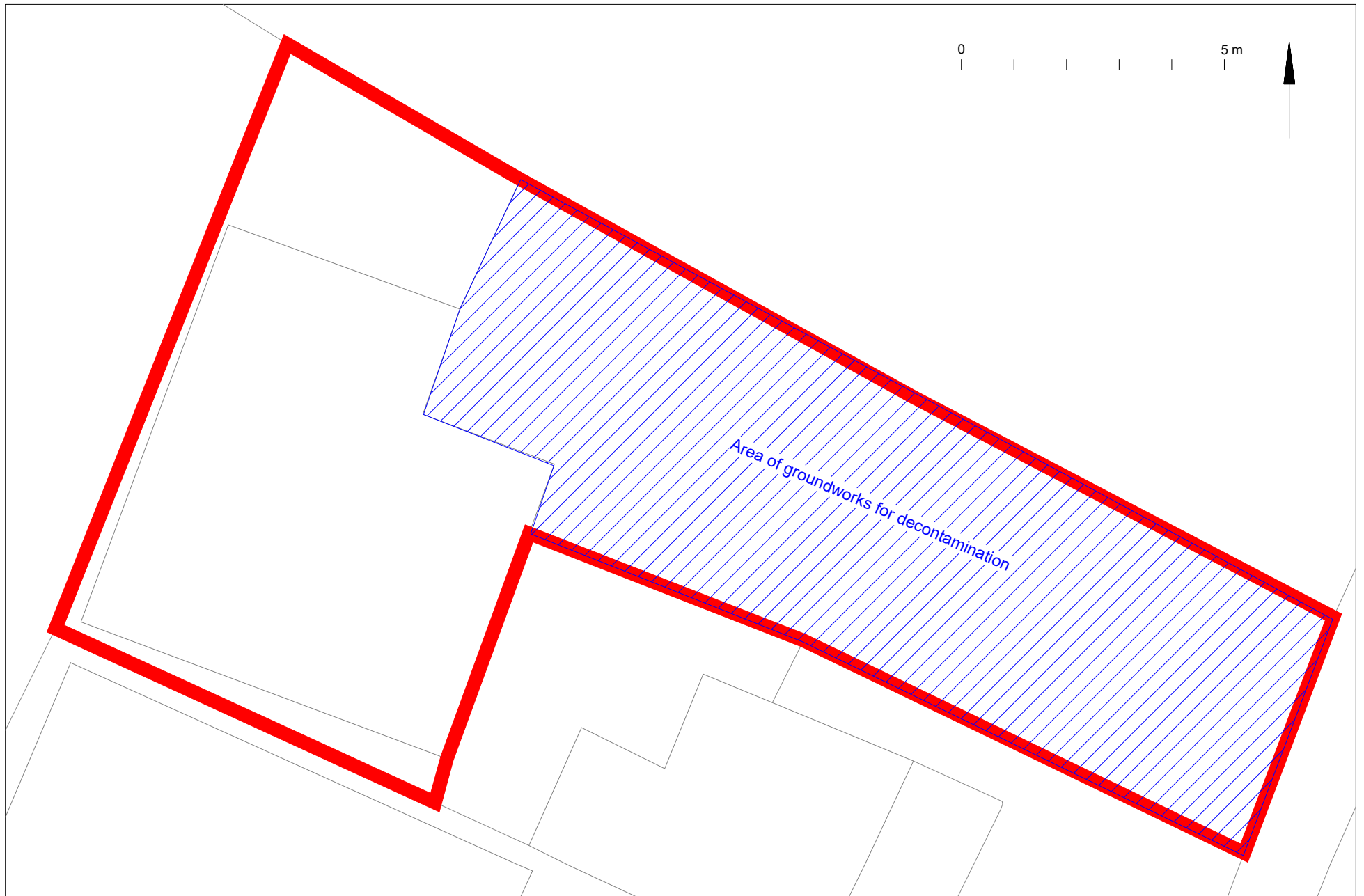


Fig 2 Results

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for continuous archaeological recording at  
West End Garage, High Street, Dedham, Essex,  
CO7 6HL.**

**NGR:** TM 05451 33012

**Planning references:** 171172

**Commisioned by:** Peter Johnson, Johnson Dennehy Planning Partnership

**Client:** Colborn Ltd

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**Museum accession code:** tbc

**CHER number:** tbc

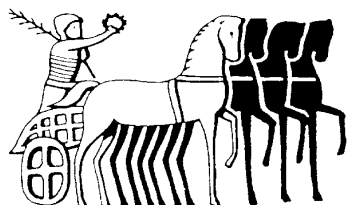
**CAT project code:** 18/02j

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-309935

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 21.02.2018



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located at West End Garage, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HL which is approximately 0.3km west/southwest of the main centre of the village(Fig 1). The site is centred on NGR TM 15451 33012.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the demolition of the existing car repair garage to be replaced with a new two-storey dwelling any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below) and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, formerly the UAD (Urban Archaeological Database). CHER records are accessible via <https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/>.

The CHER shows that the proposed development site is located within the medieval town of Dedham. Although the 'ham' name suggests it has Anglo-Saxon origins, the medieval town rose to prominence with the cloth trade, specialising in bay and say cloth. It contains a wealth of 14th century and later buildings, and retains its medieval street pattern and morphology.

The CHER also shows that to the east of Dedham is an important 'cropmark' landscape. Most of the cropmarks are unexcavated and undated, but where excavation has taken place, Bronze Age (2,500- 700 BC) and early Roman (1st century AD) material has come to light. Approximately 650m-1.10km E/ESE of the development site at Hallfields Farm and Pound Farm to the north Manningtree Road (CHER MCC9073 and MCC9066) cropmarks show trackways, rectilinear enclosures, groups of ring-ditches within a sub-rectangular enclosure and part of a second ?enclosure lying to the northeast containing a double-ditched ring-ditch with a dark central area. Cropmarks showing rectilinear enclosures have also been identified 720m-1.75km ESE/SE, to the south of Manningtree Road (CHER MCC6923 and MCC9072). 430km to the west/northwest of the site at Bridges Farm cropmarks suggest a rectilinear enclosure (CHER MCC8745).

In May 2015 CAT carried out an evaluation by trial-trenching at Hallfields Farm, Mannintree Road (CAT Report 842) on a 360m<sup>2</sup> plot in advance of the construction of nine affordable homes and eight market homes. Eighteen archaeological features were identified including a middle Iron Age ditch, ten post-medieval pits and a ditch, and seven undated features.

Following on from the evaluation in June-September 2015 CAT went back to Hallfields Farm (CAT report 848, CHER MCC9150) to undertake a small excavation of the plots of the proposed dwellings. Twenty-nine archaeological features were excavated including prehistoric ditches, pits and post-holes, a Roman ditch and a large post-medieval / modern pit probably associated with gravel extraction. A single trench (T11) located to intercept a possible ring-ditch showed that it was in fact a modern pit. Monitoring of the digging of footings trenches for three house plots on the southern edge of the site revealed four undated pits (probably post-medieval).

Almost opposite the proposed site, CAT undertook an archaeological monitoring and recording at The White House in July 2017(CAT Report 1129). The work covered the construction of a garden room on the rear of the property but no archaeological features or finds were seen.

Therefore is high potential for encountering below-ground archaeological remains on the development site.

## Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in May 217 (application No. 171172) proposing the Demolition of the existing car repair garage and its replacement with a new two storey dwelling house and proposed the change of use to category C.



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 continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2018).

Specifically:

The monitoring and recording is being undertaken to identify and record any surviving archaeological deposits that may exist on site.

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

### **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 2017).

Professional CAT field archaeologists will undertake all specified archaeological work, for which they will be suitably experienced and qualified.

Notification of the supervisor/project manager's name and the start date for the project will be provided to CBCAA one week before start of work.

Unless it is the responsibility of other site contractors, CAT will study mains service locations and avoid damage to these.

At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. At the end of the project all parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to EHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

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

### **Staffing**

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

### **Monitoring methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits.

All topsoil removal and ground reduction will be done with a toothless bucket.

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

If any features or deposits uncovered are to be destroyed by the proposed development, time will be allowed for these features to be excavated by hand. This includes a 50% sample of discrete features (pits, etc), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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

A metal detector will be used to examine spoil heaps, and the finds recovered.

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

### **Site surveying**

Normal scale for archaeological site plans and sections is 1:20 and 1:10 respectively, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be more appropriate.

The site grid will be tied into the National Grid. Corners of excavation areas and trenches will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer/Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course, but only if they are datable. Any processing and reporting will be done by VF/LG. If any complex or outstanding deposits are encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. EH Regional Adviser is available for further advice.

### **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure. If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them. In that case, conditions laid down by the license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

### **Photographic record**

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

### **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

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

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley  
animal bones (small groups): Adam Wightman  
flints: Adam Wightman

External 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)

External specialists available for consultation on large or complex groups include:

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

A HER 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

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

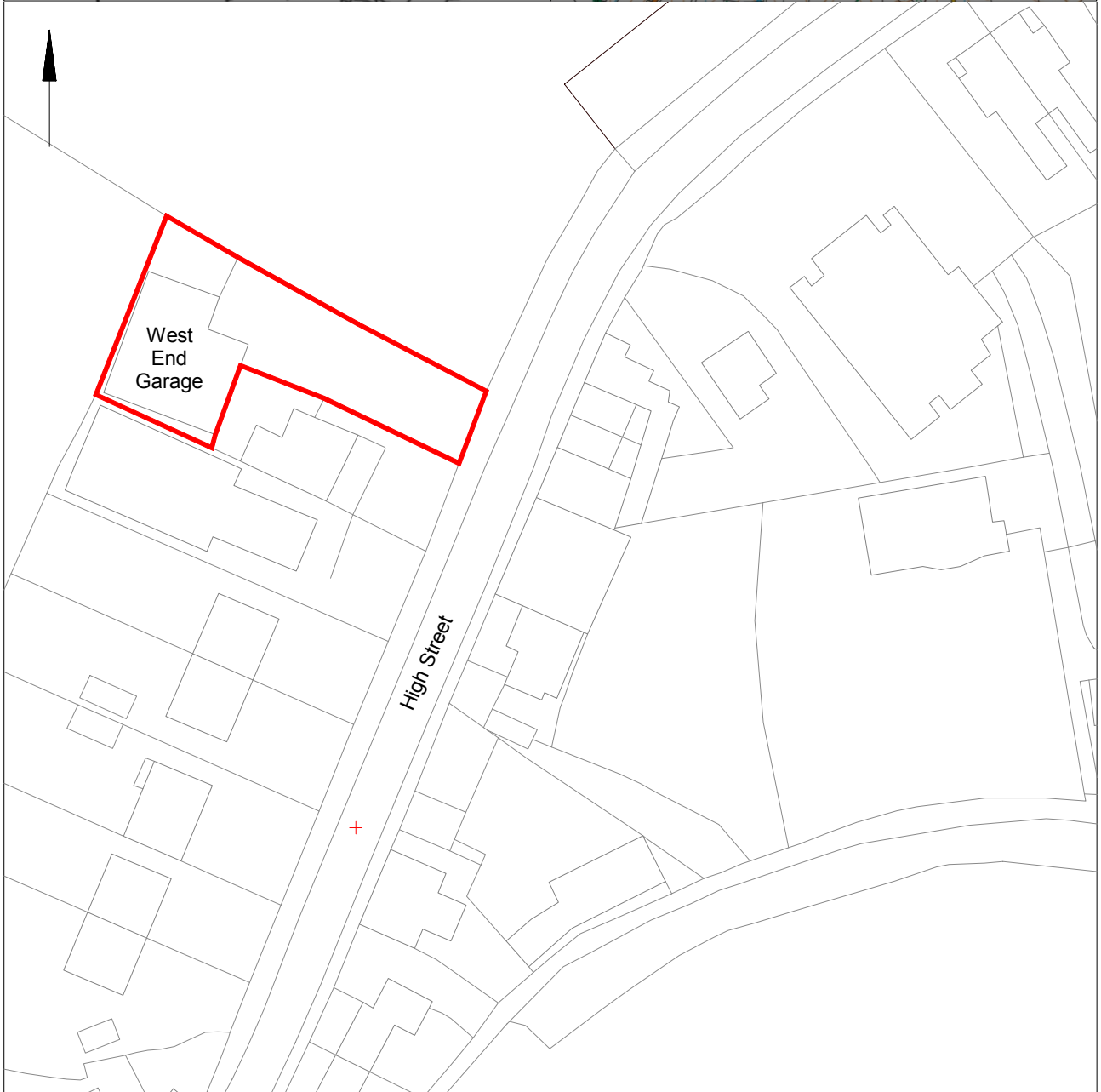
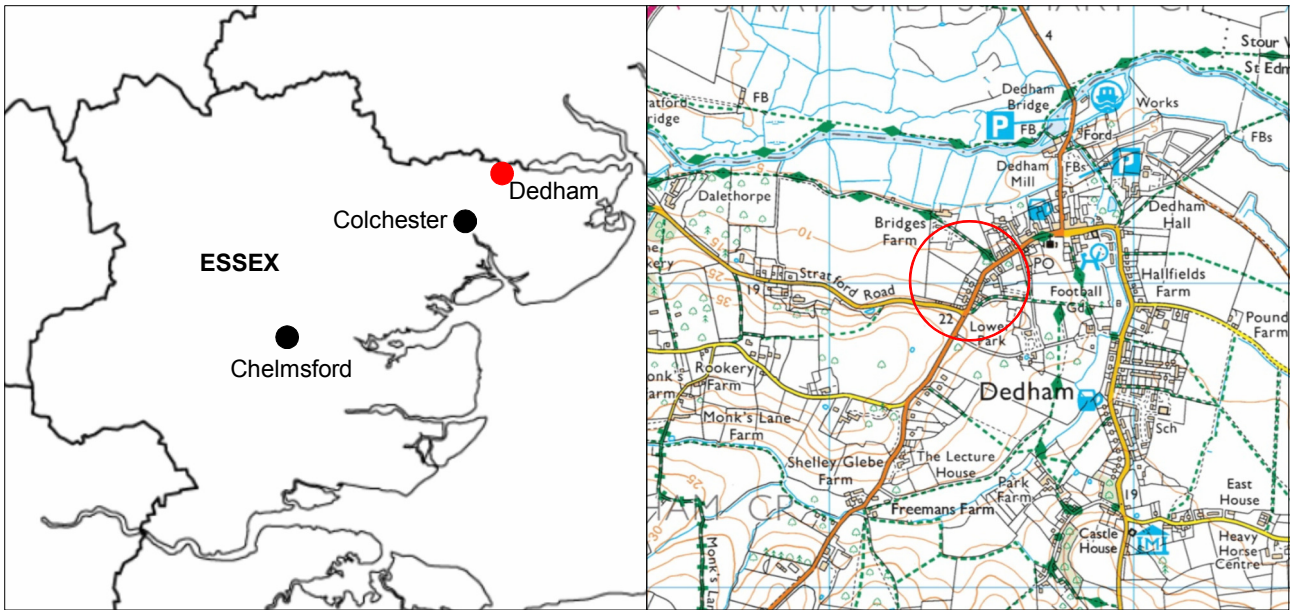
Brown, D	2007	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2014	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 842	2015	<i>Archaeological trial-trenching evaluation: Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex - May 2015.</i> B Holloway
CAT Report 842	2015	Archaeological excavation and monitoring at Hallfields Farm, Manningtree Road, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6AE - June-September 2015. B Holloway and H Brooks
CAT Report 1129	2017	<i>Archaeological recording at White House, High Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HL – July 2017.</i> E Hicks
CBCPS	2018	<i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at West End Garage, High Street Dedham, CO7 6HL.</i> J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Crummy, P	1997	<i>City of Victory. The Story of Colchester – Britain's first Roman town</i>
DCLG	2012	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>
English Heritage	2006	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

E Holloway



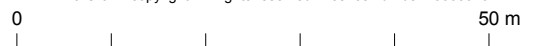
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Fig 1 Site location.



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-309935**

### Project details

Project name	Continuous archaeological recording at West End Garage, High Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HL.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was due to be carried out at West End Garage, High Street, Dedham, Essex, during the demolition of the building and its associated infrastructure. During the removal of several petrol tanks, fuel lines and vent pipes, and the demolition of the garage, it was found that the site was heavily contaminated and required remediation which precluded archaeological investigation. It was unclear whether there were any archaeological remains at the site, but the level of disturbance associated with the garage suggests it is likely that they would have been heavily truncated.
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2020 End: 11-06-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	18/02j - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	171172 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	COLEM: 2018.18 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4144 - HER event no.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER DEDHAM West End Garage, High Street
Postcode	CO7 6HL
Study area	0.06 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 05451 33012 51.957049210409 0.990468560939 51 57 25 N 000 59 25 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBCAO
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Colborn Ltd

### Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	COLEM: 2018.18
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID COLEM: 2018.18  
Paper Contents "other"  
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report"

### Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Archaeological monitoring at West End Garage, High Street, Dedham, Essex, CO7 6HL  
Author(s)/Editor(s) Hicks, E.  
Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1556  
Date 2020  
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
Place of issue or publication Colchester  
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Entered on 11 June 2020

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