



Colchester  
Archaeological  
Trust

<b>CAT Report 1599</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Great Horkesley
<b>Archaeological monitoring at Altyre House, The Causeway, Great Horkesley, CO6 4AB : September 2020</b>	<b>Planning reference:</b> -
	<b>CHER Event no.:</b> ECC4558
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-397290
	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TL 97768 31203
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 1
	<b>Dates of visit:</b> 16th September 2020

**Nature of the work:** Observation of test-pitting and auguring within the Great Hall and Sitting Room of Altyre House to determine the extent of Kerosene contamination caused by a leak from the feed line to the boiler.

**Reason for condition:** The house is a Grade II\* listed building with its origins in the 15th century with a 19th-century range.

**% of total seen:** 100% of the groundworks.

**Results:** The excavation of a series of test-pits and auger holes were archaeologically monitored in response to advice from Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services.

A CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of 10 test-pits and auger holes in the floors of the Grand Hall and the Sitting Room. The test pits were excavated to a depth of between 0.2-0.45m and then augered down a further 0.55-1.77m.

A total of seven layers were recorded. In the Grand Hall a concrete floor (L1, c 0.1m thick) sealed a layer of yellow builders sand (L2, c 0.1m thick). Beneath L2 lay a natural sandy-clay (L3, soft, moist light/medium grey/brown sandy-clay). Test-pits 1-4 were excavated in the Sitting Room.



**Photograph 1** Test-pit 5 fully excavated

On the eastern side of the Sitting Room another concrete floor (L4, c 0.15m thick) sealed a layer of

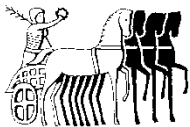
red brick crush (L5, a mixture of frogged and unfrogged bricks with occasional fragments of pegtile c 0.1-0.3m thick) followed by L3. The western side of the Sitting Room had wooden floor boards (L6, c 0.03m thick) which overlaid L7, a layer of bitumen (c 0.2m thick), in turn sealing L5 and then L3. Test-pits 5,6 and 9 were excavated through L4, L5 and L3, test-pits 7, 8 and 10 were excavated through L6, L7, L5 and L3.

In both instances of concrete flooring a layer of asbestos floor tiles had been removed prior to the attendance of an archaeologist.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered, and there were no finds.

**Recorded by:** Sarah Carter

**Date:** September 2020



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

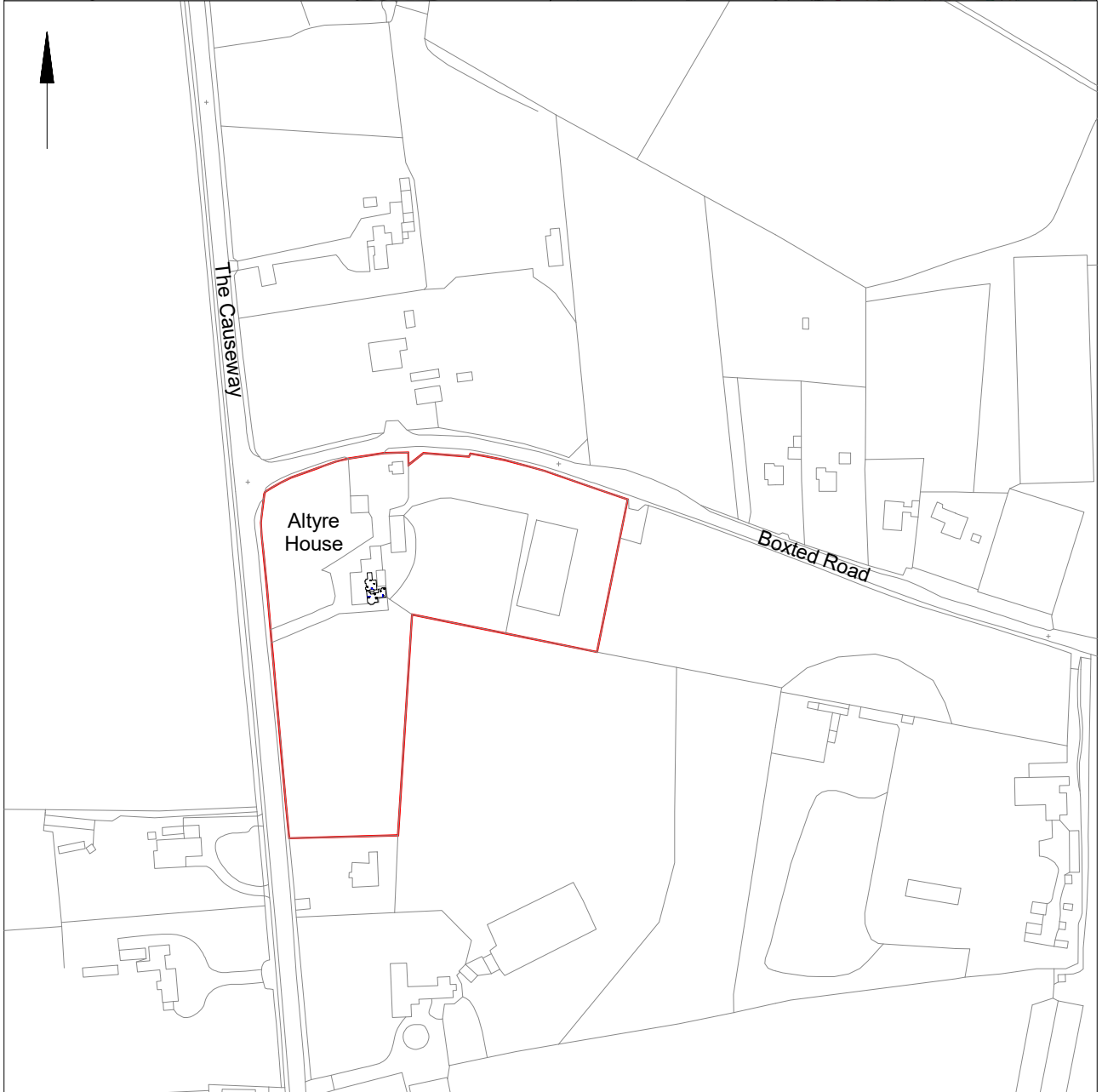
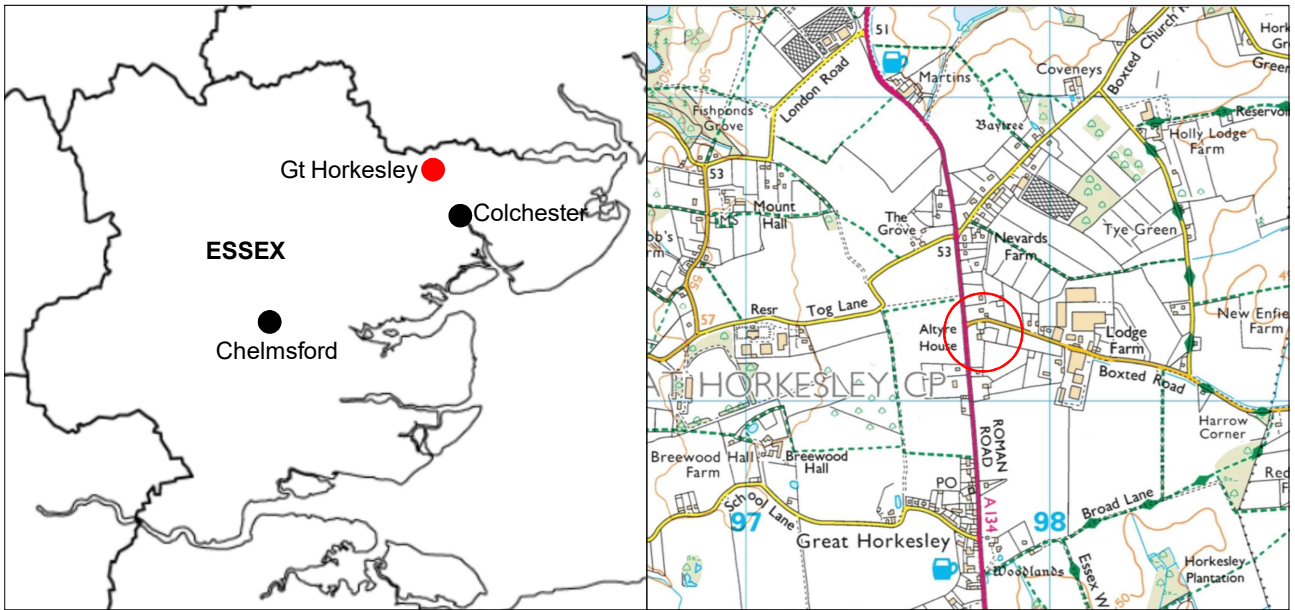
Roman Circus House,  
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*Checked by:* Philip Crummy

*Date:* 23/09/2020



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Fig 1 Site location.

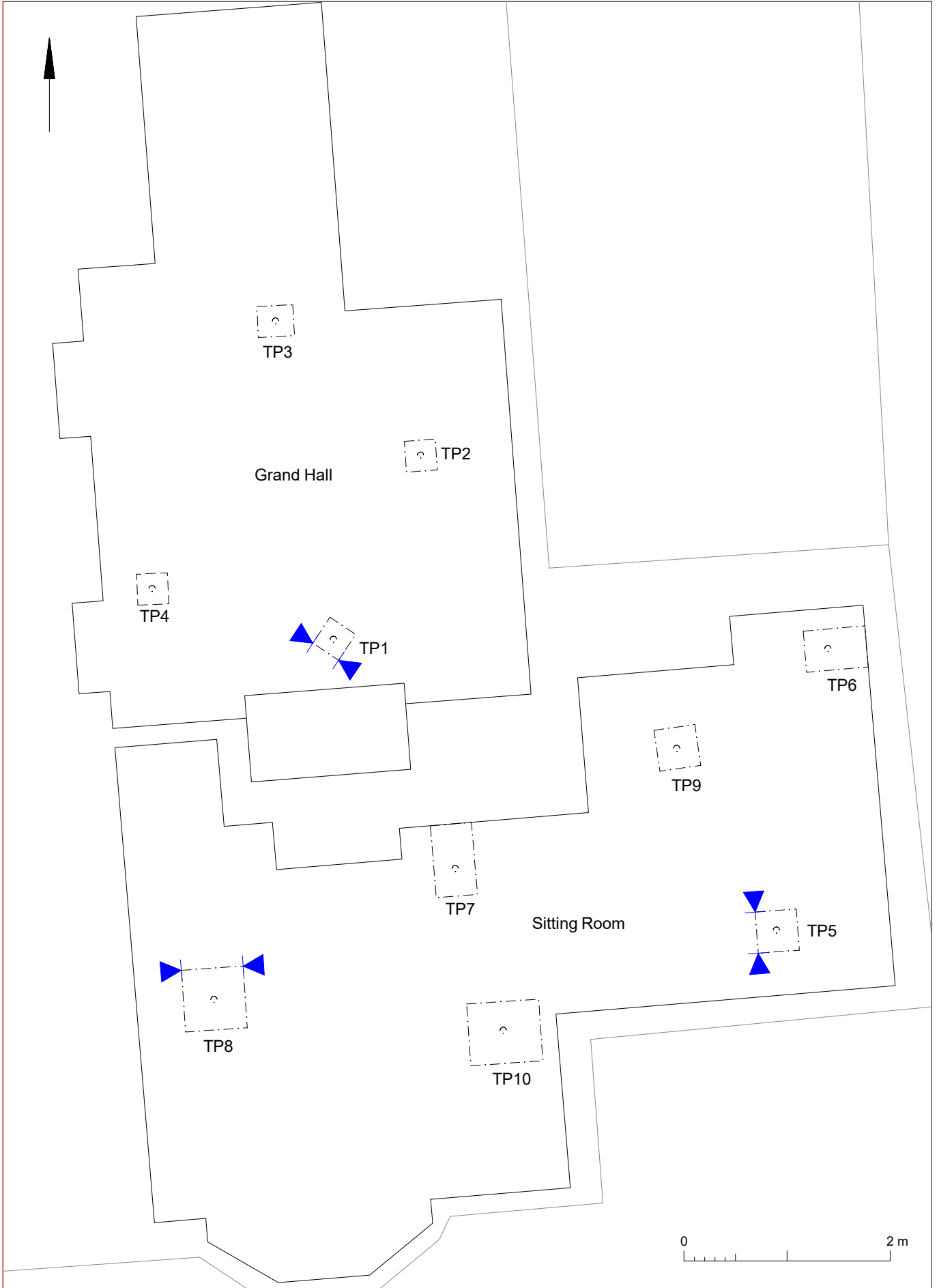


Fig 2 Results.

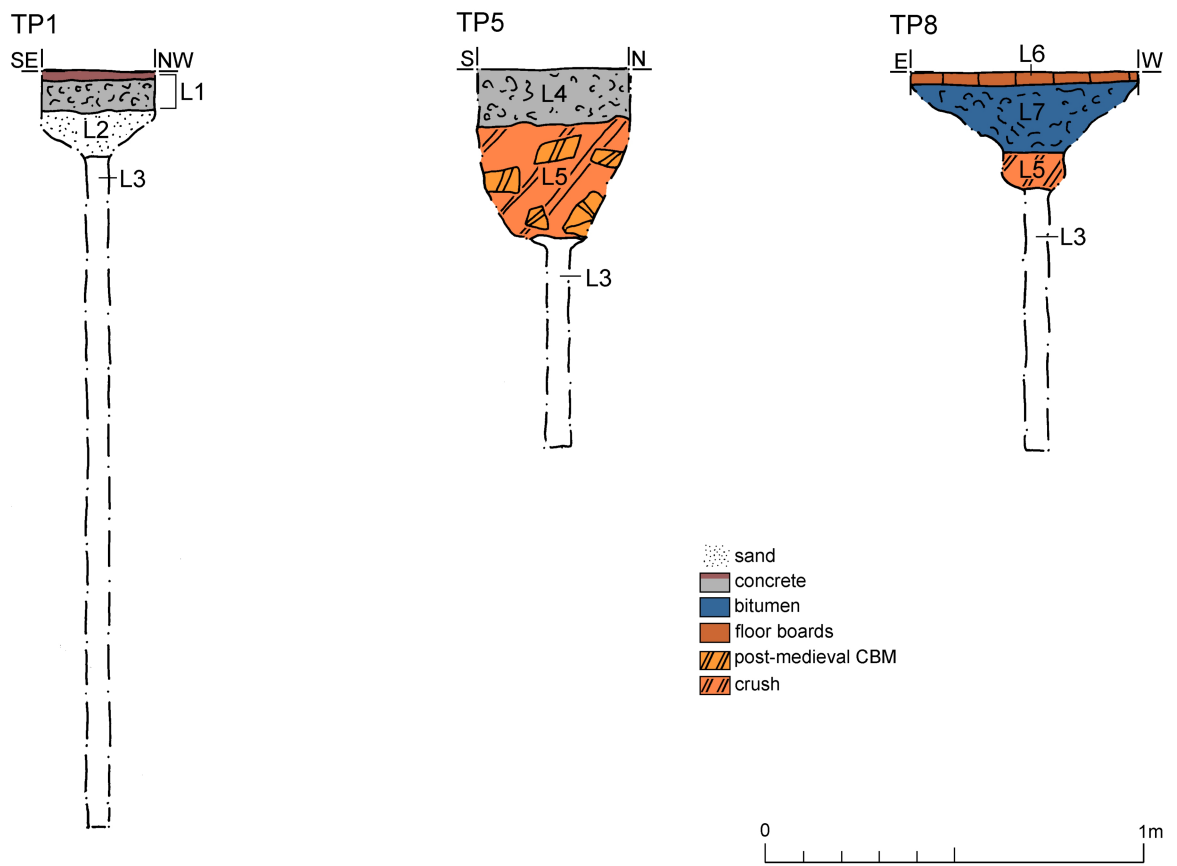


Fig 3 Representative sections.

**Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)  
for an archaeological investigation at  
Altire House, The Causeway, Great Horkesley,  
Essex, CO6 4AB.**

**NGR:** TL 97768 31203 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Planning references:** n/a

**Commissioned by:** Ben Taplin (OHES)

**Client:** OHES Environmental Ltd

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** tbc

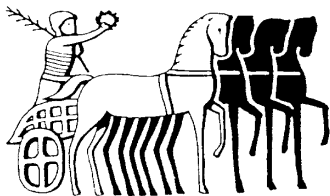
**CAT project code:** 2020/06i

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-397290

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 24/06/2020



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,  
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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on the junction where Boxted Road meets The Causeway at Altire House, The Causeway, Great Horkesley, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 97768 31203.

## Proposed work

The work involves the investigation of a loss of kerosene at the Grade II Listed property.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECC/MCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk))

Altire House is a Historic England Grade II Listed house dating to the 15th-century with a 19th century range ((no. 1222604, MCC4165).

The site is located within an area surrounded by cropmark complexes plotted using aerial photography. To the immediate northeast is a large field which contains the cropmarks of a ring-ditch and trackway (CHER MCC8663). To the immediate south is an area of cropmarks showing numerous linear features interpreted as infilled enclosure ditches or historic field boundaries. An archaeological investigation during construction of an Anglian Water pipeline defined ditches and pits, one of which was dated to early 1st-century (Rees 2016). Slightly further east are cropmark complexes that include enclosures, ditches, pits and possible ring-ditches (MCC7233, MCC7176 and MCC7125).

Britannia Archaeology Ltd undertook an evaluation the east of the site at Lodge Farm In May 2018 (Britannia Report 1201). This work identified archaeological features dating to the late prehistoric and medieval periods (HER Event no. ECC4211). Archaeological features were defined in trenches T3, T5, T6, T8 and T9 (Fig 2). Of particular interest is a pit (1002) from T6 with a charcoal-rich fill. There was also a small undated gully (1004) in T6. Three pits (1009, 1011 and 1013) in T9 also had charcoal-rich fills. The fill of 1013 contained 6 small sherds (11g) of pottery dated from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age. Accretions of burnt sandy sediment in 1011 suggested in situ burning. In T8, a solution hollow (1015) contained 11 sherds (60g) of early Iron Age pottery. A ditch (1006A), aligned NW to SE, was defined in T3, T5 and T7 (and relates to a cropmark recorded by aerial photography). In T3, the ditch contained a single sherd of medieval coarseware, dated from the mid 12th to 14th century (possibly late 12th to mid/late 13th), as well as a fragment of roof tile.

The shallow pits containing charcoal and burnt material recorded during the evaluation phase seem similar in character to a series of pits containing burnt material CAT excavated during Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub (plots 2-3) evaluation in November-December 2017 (CAT Report 1219). Amongst the 120 trenches twenty-four pits thought to be related to charcoal production were excavated. These were sub-round or sub-oval charcoal-rich features with occasional evidence of in situ burning. Dating evidence was mostly lacking but two of the pits contained artefacts dated to the Roman and post-Roman periods. Radiocarbon dates from charcoal in a further two pits dated to the Middle Iron Age and Late Anglo- Saxon/ early medieval periods. This discovery prompted a review of other archaeological site work in the northern Colchester area, resulting in a further 77 charcoal-rich pits identified from previous archaeological investigations (see CAT Report 1219 pp. 28-32 for a full discussion). They indicate that charcoal production was occurring in this part of northern Colchester from at least the Early Iron Age through to the medieval period. Although the Northern Gateway Sports Hub site is 2.4km to the south-east of Lodge Farm it is plausible that the charcoal-rich features identified by Britannia Archaeology during the evaluation are part of this industry. A subsequent strip, map and excavation of the site at Lodge Farm, by CAT, revealed that historic activity on the development site dates from the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age to the 19th/20th century. Twenty-eight charcoal-rich pits ranging in date from the Early Iron Age to the post-medieval or modern periods (late 15th to 19th/20th century) were uncovered, as well

as a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit, an Early Iron Age pit, a late medieval pit and two medieval or post-medieval ditches (CAT Report 1337, ECC4256).

## **Project background**

After consultation with the CBCAA about the Environmental project the CBCAA recommended archaeological monitoring during the environmental investigation.

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 archaeological recommendation is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2019).

## **Requirement for work**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation during work to explore the loss of kerosene. Primarily this comprises of ensuring that no floors and other features, e.g. hearths, are damaged / disturbed by the work, without archaeological investigation and recording.

Specifically:

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

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

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and/or exceptional burnt remains related to the Boudiccan destruction of AD 60/61, and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

## **General methodology**

All work carried out by CAT will be in accordance with:

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

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

## **Staffing**

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

## **Investigation methodology**

There will be sufficient on-site attendance by CAT staff to maintain a watch on all contractors' ground works to record, excavate or sample (as necessary) any archaeological features or deposits. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Site surveying**

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

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

## **Environmental sampling policy**

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to 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 the context is large enough).

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will do any processing and the flots passed to Val Fryer / Lisa Gray for analysis and reporting.

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/LG will be asked onto site to advise. Waterlogged 'organic' features will always be sampled. In all cases, the advice of VF/LG and/or the Historic England Regional Advisor in Archaeological Science (East of England) on sampling strategies for complex or waterlogged deposits will be followed, including the taking of monolith samples.

## **Human remains**

CAT follows the policy of leaving human remains *in situ* unless there is a clear indication that the remains are in danger of being compromised as a result of their exposure or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

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

If circumstances indicated it were prudent or necessary to remove remains from the site during the monitoring, the following criteria would be applied; if it is clear from their position, context, depth, or other factors that the remains are ancient, then normal procedure is to apply to the Department of Justice for a licence to remove them and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

Following HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist should be available to record the human remain *in situ* (i.e. a site visit). Conditions laid down by the DoJ license will be followed. If it seems that the remains are not ancient, then the coroner, the client, and the CBCAA will be informed, and any advice and/or instruction from the coroner will be followed.

## **Photographic record**

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (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: 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 if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## Results

Notification will be given to CBCAA when the fieldwork has been completed.

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (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 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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records.

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

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

### **Monitoring**

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

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

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

### **References**

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

- |                       |      |   |
|-----------------------|------|---|
| Britannia Report 1201 | 2018 | <i>Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley archaeological evaluation – June 2018. by M Baker</i>   |
| Brown, D              | 2011 | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>                                      |
| CAT                   | 2019 | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT Report 1219       | 2018 | <i>Archaeological evaluation at Colchester Northern Gateway Sports Hub Plots 2-3, Colchester, Essex – November-December 2017. By L Pooley</i> |

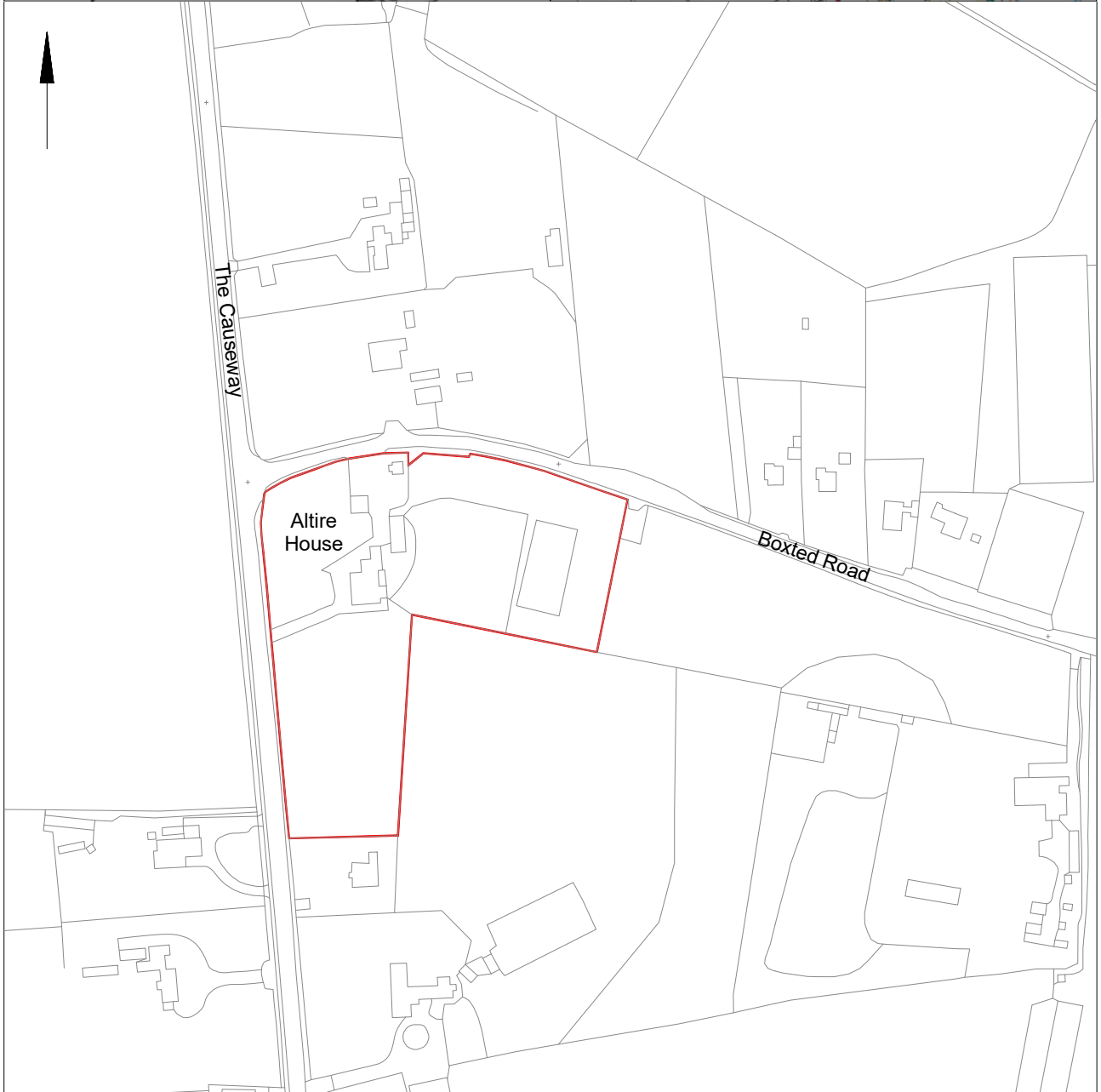
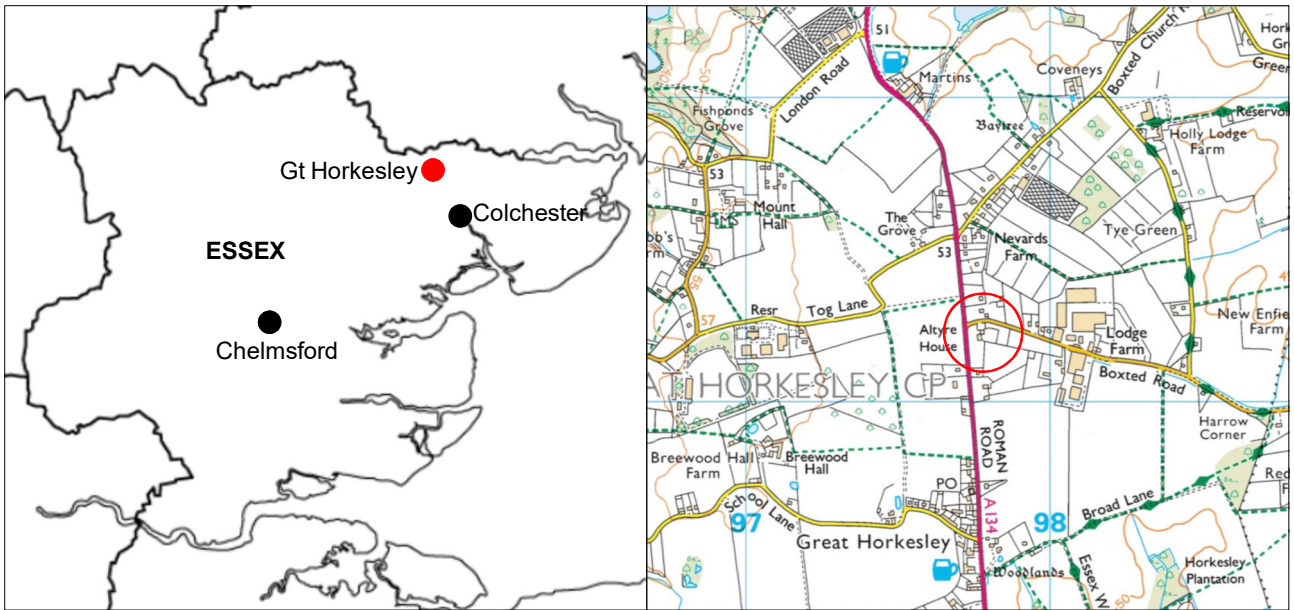
CAT Report 1337	2019	<i>Archaeological strip, map and record project at Lodge Farm, Boxted Road, Great Horkesley – September 2018.</i> By L Pooley
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (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
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Rees, G	2016	<i>Braintree PZ Supply Demand Balance: Great Horkesley to Ardleigh, Essex. Archaeological Strip, Map and Monitoring.</i> OAE Report 1685.

Emma Holloway



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Fig 1 Site location.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-397290**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological investigation at Altyre House, The Causeway, Great Horkeley, Essex, CO6 4AB.
Short description of the project	The excavation of a series of test-pits and auger holes were archaeologically monitored in response to advice from Jess Tipper of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services. A CAT archaeologist supervised the excavation of 10 test-pits and auger holes in the floors of the Grand Hall and the Sitting Room. The test pits were excavated to a depth of between 0.2-0.45m and then augered down a further 0.55-1.77m.
Project dates	Start: 16-09-2020 End: 16-09-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4558 - Related HER No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/06i - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Environmental (unspecified schedule)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER GREAT HORKELEY Altyre House, The Causeway, Great Horkeley, Essex
Postcode	CO6 4AB
Study area	52 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 97768 31203 51.943602849173 0.877752025393 51 56 36 N 000 52 39 E Point

### Project creators

Name of	Colchester Archaeological Trust
---------	---------------------------------

Organisation  
 Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer  
 Project design originator Emma Holloway  
 Project director/manager Chris Lister  
 Project supervisor Chris Lister  
 Type of sponsor/funding body Environmental Consultant  
 Name of sponsor/funding body OHES Environmental Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient Archaeological Data Service  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Drawing", "Notebook - Excavation", ' Research', ' General Notes', "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological monitoring at Altyre House, The Causeway, Great Horkesley, CO6 4AB: September 2020  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Carter, S  
 Other bibliographic details CAT Report 1599  
 Date 2020  
 Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust  
 Place of issue or publication Colchester  
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 URL cat.essex.ac.uk  
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 Entered on 23 September 2020



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