

**Colchester Archaeological Trust**

Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ  
 Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

<b>CAT Report 1774</b>  <b>Archaeological investigation at Cherry Tree Cottage, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5NN: January-February 2022.</b>	<b>Planning reference:</b> 210300
	<b>CHER Event no.:</b> ECC4628
	<b>OASIS ref.:</b> colchest3-422063
	<b>Grid Reference:</b> TM 01646 31307 (centre)
	<b>Number of site visits:</b> 2
<b>Dates of visits:</b> 31st January 2022 and 2nd February 2022	
<b>Nature of the work:</b> Observation of groundworks for a replacement of a single storey extension.	
<b>Reason for condition:</b> The development site is located within a small cluster of historic buildings, including five Grade II listed buildings. There is map evidence for a 19th-century well present at the site, and it is also within the northern boundary of the Boxted World War II American air base.	
<b>% of total seen:</b> 100% of the groundworks.	
<b>Results:</b> The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Richard Hoggett of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services in May 2021.	
<p>Approximately 46m of trenches were machine excavated to depths of between 1.6 and 1.8m below current ground level (bcgl). A baulk running through the middle of excavations was left in, only being reduced by 0.5m. It was approximately 9.5m long and c 0.6m wide, with two spaces 0.8m long. Trenches excavated north-east of this baulk were 0.6m wide, totalling c 28m in length. South-west of the baulk, a larger area was stripped to 1.6m-1.8m bcgl, totalling an area of 34.9m<sup>2</sup>. During excavations, many footings' edges collapsed, which affected the south end. Due to this, many edges were boarded as soon as the area was excavated (see Photograph 1).</p>	
<p>Three layers were identified. Turfed topsoil (L1, soft, moist medium grey-brown clayey silt, c 0.15m thick) was only seen on the north-eastern half of the foundations due to the former extension on the south-western side nearer the house. Modern makeup (L2, soft, wet medium grey-brown sandy clay with inclusions of brick: 15%, c.0.40-0.6m thick) was present throughout, which was sealed by L1, where present. Underneath was a light orange and/or light blue/grey clay natural (L3, from c.0.6m bcgl), which had rare yellow/orange sand patches throughout.</p>	
	
<b>Photograph 1</b> View from SE corner of site, looking roughly NW.	



**Photograph 2** West corner of footings, looking east.



**Photograph 3** View from north corner of site, looking SE.



**Photograph 4** Remains of possible modern wall in north corner of footings.

Remains of a possible modern brick wall of at least three courses thick were seen in the north corner of the development site (Photograph 4), with a high concentration of brick rubble near to it. This wall was not seen on any old maps of Cherry Tree Cottage, but may be a former boundary or garden feature.

Monitoring of groundworks at Cherry Tree Cottage revealed no archaeological remains.

**Recorded by:** Megan Seehra ([ms@catuk.org](mailto:ms@catuk.org))

**Date:** 10/02/2022

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

**Date:** 21/02/2022

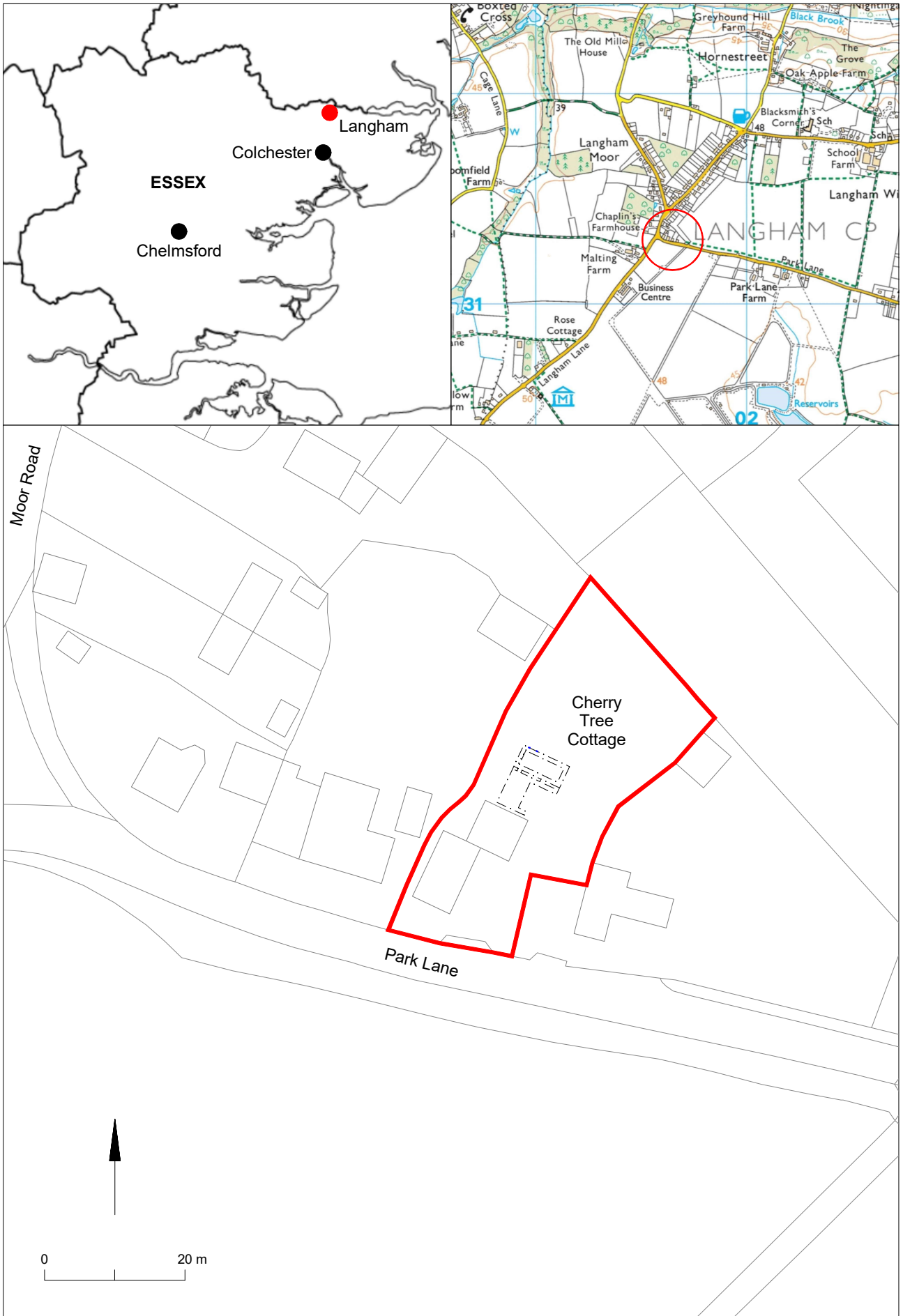


Fig 1 Site location.

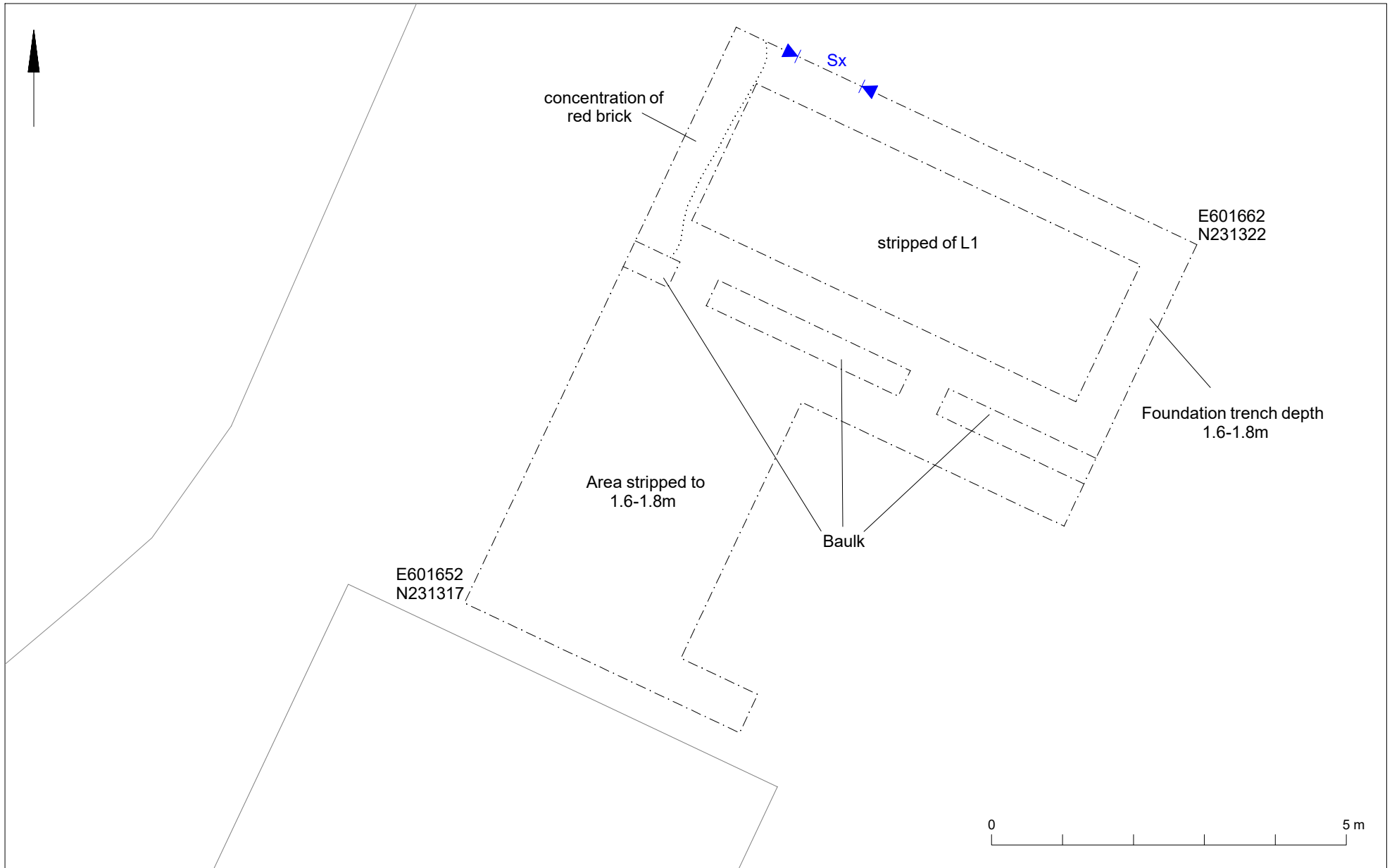


Fig 2 Results.

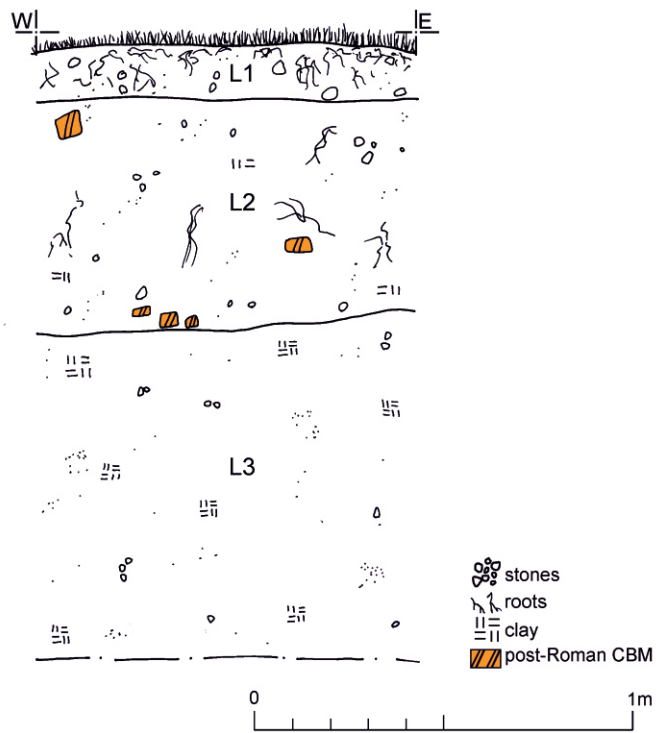


Fig 3 Representative section.

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at Cherry Tree Cottage, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5NN.**

**NGR:** TM 01646 31307 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Parish:** Langham

**Planning reference:** 210300

**Commissioned by:** Mark Polley (MP Associates)

**Client:** Mr R Daff

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER number:** ECC4628

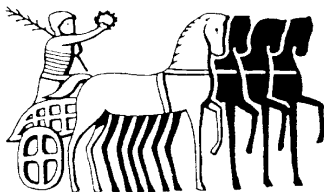
**CAT project code:** 2021/04h

**OASIS project number:** colchest3-422063

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Dr Richard Hoggett

**This WSI written:** 21/05/2021



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

*tel:* 01206 501785

*email:* [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)

## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located to the north of Langham Moor, approximately 6.4km northeast of the main centre of Colchester at Cherry Tree Cottage, Park Lane, Langham, Essex (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 01646 31307.

## Proposed work

The proposed development comprises of replacing two dormer windows and replacement of a single storey rear extension, including any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background includes extracts of CAT Report 1180 and draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER/ECC numbers; accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The site is located within a small cluster of historic buildings centred around the junction of Langham Lane, Moor Road and Park Lane. Within less than 150m to the north, east and southwest are five Historic England Grade II Listed buildings: 17th-century Floral Dene (MCC4286); 15th-Century Moor Cottage (MCC4283); 17th-century Munsons Cottage (MCC4280); 16th-century and earlier Chaplins House (MCC4281); 17th-century Maltings farmhouse (MCC4278). As the current site features on historic mapping is likely a previously undesignated historic asset. It is also worth noting that on the early mapping a W for a well was located within the grounds of the property (see Map 1 below).



**Map 1** Extract of the 1880 6-inch OS map of England and Wales showing site location.

The site is also located within the northern boundary of the Boxted World War II American air base, but located well away from plotted buildings and structures (MCC7126).



## **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in February 2021 (planning ref. 210300) proposing a *re-submission of 200897: Proposed dormer two and single storey rear extension (replacing existing) and including other alterations.*

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**

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2021).

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 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* (ClfA 2014a-c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020) and subsequent changes by personal communication (R Hoggett, personal communication, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021).

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  
archaeometallurgy: David Dungworth  
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: 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

### **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>

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2020	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CBCAA	2021	<i>Brief for Archaeological Investigation at Cherry Tree Cottage, Park lane, Langham, CO4 5NN. By R Hoggett</i>
CifA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. Revised June 2020</i>
CifA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i>

		Updated Oct 2020
CIFA Gurney, D	2014c 2003	<i>Code of Conduct</i> . Revised Oct 2019 <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> . East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA <b>14</b> ).
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 <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

E Holloway



Colchester Archaeological Trust  
Roman Circus House  
Roman Circus Walk  
Colchester  
Essex  
CO2 2GZ

tel: 01206 501785  
email: [eh@catuk.org](mailto:eh@catuk.org)

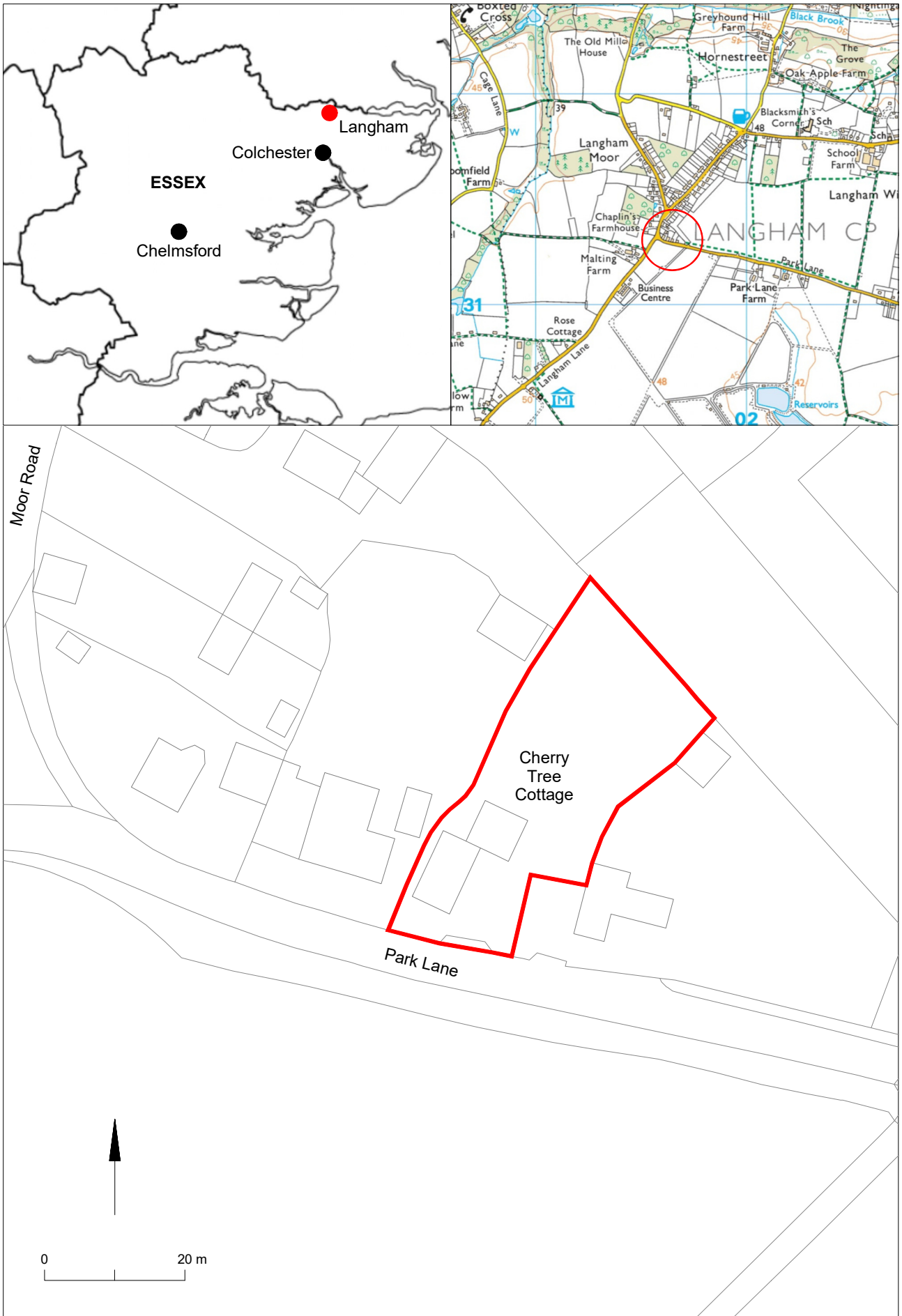


Fig 1 Site location.

## Summary for colchest3-422063

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-422063
Project Name	Archaeological investigation at Cherry Tree Cottage, Park Lane, Langham, Essex, CO4 5NN.
Activity type	WATCHING BRIEF
Project Identifier(s)	2021/04h
Planning Id	210300
Reason For Investigation	Planning requirement
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	31-Jan-2022 - 02-Feb-2022
Location	Cherry Tree Cottage, Park Lane, Langham, Essex NGR : TM 01646 31307 LL : 51.9437048606989, 0.932415115127607 12 Fig : 601646,231307
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Langham
Project Methodology	Archaeological monitoring of all groundworks. Machine-excavated.
Project Results	Archaeological monitoring was carried out at Cherry Tree Cottage, Park Lane, Langham during groundworks for a replacement single storey extension. The development site is surrounded by several Grade II listed buildings, with evidence for a 19th century well on site. No archaeological remains were noted during monitoring.
Keywords	
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
HER Identifiers	
Archives	Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive Physical Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection)