

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**CAT Report 1958
issued July 2023**

**Archaeological evaluation and monitoring at the
Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Street,
Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex, CM9 8HW: June 2023**



**CAT project ref.: 2023/01k
CHER code: ECC4800**

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Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Street,
Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex, CM9 8HW: June 2023**

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**CAT project ref.: 2023/01k
CAT Report 1958**

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**CCC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett
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**fieldwork by Alec Wade with Nigel Rayner,
George Williams and Matt Perou**

**commissioned by Sorcha Prime, Inkpen Downie
on behalf of the PCC of the Church of St Mary
the Virgin, Salcott-cum-Virley**

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

Fig 2 Evaluation results. Proposed development in blue, modern services in grey.

Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

1 Summary

An archaeological evaluation (two test-pits) and monitoring of a geotechnical survey was carried out at the Church of St Mary The Virgin, The Street, Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex in advance of the construction of a new annex to the existing parish church. The development site is located within the churchyard, adjacent to the north wall of the building, in an area that has potential for inhumations and earlier structures relating to the church.

Although subject to significant truncation by modern services, one inhumation burial and three possible inhumation burials were encountered during the evaluation. The upper fill of these deposits were encountered at between 0.34m and 0.63m below current ground level. In addition, a small assemblage of disarticulated human bone was recovered, which was photographed and reburied in the churchyard.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation and monitoring carried out by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between 26th-28th June 2023 at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Street, Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex. The work was commissioned by Sorcha Prime of Inkpen Downie in advance of a proposed new annexe on the north side of the church.

Simon Wood (subsequently Richard Hoggett), Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA), was approached for advice about the potential development. As the site lies within an area highlighted in the Colchester HER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an evaluation scheme was recommended. The archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an evaluation at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Street, Salcott-cum-Virley* written by Simon Wood and detailing the required archaeological work (CCCAA 2023). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CCCAA (CAT 2023).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2016), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England (EAA 14 and 24)*. This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

3 Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC/MCC numbers), which are accessible via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>).

The Church of St Mary the Virgin has its origins in the 14th century. It is constructed out of flint rubble and septaria with limestone dressings, and also incorporates some Roman brick. The church retains some features dating from the 14th to the 16th century, although it was extensively rebuilt following damage sustained during an earthquake in 1884 (MCC4511, MCC7406).

During the 19th century, the foundations of a Roman building were uncovered south of Marsh Farm, 240m south-east of the site (MCC7388). Roman pottery and fire bars were recovered and a 'red hill' has been observed east of Marsh Farm, some 365m east south-east of the site (MCC7358, MCC7359).

A number of medieval and post-medieval buildings are situated neat the development site, within the core of Salcott-cum-Virley. These include:

- the grade II-listed Virley Hall, an early 18th-century brick house (MCC4586, 195m north-west of the site)
- a grade II-listed 16th-century aisled barn at Green Farm (MCC4512, 75m west south-west of the site)
- 'The Rosses', a grade II-listed 17th-century timber-framed house (MCC4513, 55m west north-west of the site)
- 'The Old School House', a pair of grade II-listed late 18th-century brick cottages (MCC4514, 100m west of the site)
- 'Cob Cottage', a grade II-listed late 18th-century brick cottage (MCC4515, 125m west south-west of the site)
- 'The Sun Inn', a grade II-listed 18th-century brick building (MCC4516, 175m west north-west of the site)
- 'Gable House', a grade II-listed 14th-century timber-framed house (MCC4517, 185m west north-west of the site)
- 'Orchard Cottage', a grade II-listed 17th-century timber-framed house (MCC4518, 215m west north-west of the site)
- 'Salcott Post-Office', a grade II-listed 16th-century timber-framed (MCC4519, 245m west north-west of the site)
- nos. 1 and 2 Salcott Cottages, a grade II-listed 18th-century timber-framed house (MCC4522, 290m west north-west of the site)
- 'Horn Farmhouse', a grade II-listed 15th-century jettied timber-framed house, with a crosswing (MCC4520, 305m west north-west of the site) and accompanying grade II-listed early 14th-century aisled barn west of Horn Farmhouse (MCC4521, 325m west north-west of the site).

4 Aims

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CCCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Monitoring was initially carried out by a CAT archaeologist during a geotechnical survey. Two trial-pits (0.6m x 0.4m) were excavated to a depth of 1m, against the foundation of the north wall of the church. In addition, two borehole samples were excavated to depth of 1.5m below current ground level (bcgl).

After the geotechnical investigation, the evaluation consisted of two test-pits, hand-excavated by CAT archaeologists. The test-pits were 1.5m x 1.5m and excavated to a depth of between 1.1m and 1.2m bcgl.

A full context list, with context descriptions and dimensions, can be found in Appendix 1.

Geotechnical monitoring (WB1-4)

The geotechnical trial-pits (WB1 and WB2) were excavated through a modern brick path with associated sub-base (L1, c 0.20m thick) into a modern levelling or make-up layer (L3, c >0.65m thick).

The geotechnical bore-holes (WB3 and WB4) were excavated through a layer of modern topsoil (L2, c 0.13m thick), L3 (c >0.12m thick) and into the natural clay (L4, encountered c 1.20m bcgl).

Although no archaeological features were identified during the geotechnical monitoring, a small quantity of disarticulated human bone was recovered.



Photograph 1 Geotechnical trial-pit (WB1), looking west.

Test-pit 1 (TP1)

TP1 was excavated through L2 (c 0.05-0.07m thick), levelling or make-up layer L5 (c 0.07-0.12m thick), possible metallised surface or cobbled pathway L6 (c 0.10-0.12m thick) and L3 (0.12-0.17m thick). Natural clay (L4) was encountered in a small area of TP1. Three features were identified in TP1. Modern drain F5 truncated two undated features, inhumation burial F7 and possible inhumation burial F6.

Possible inhumation burial F6 was east/west aligned and uncovered at a depth of 0.41m bcgl. The full extent of the feature was not exposed and the full depth could not be ascertained within the confines of the test-pit. Whilst no human remains were recovered from the fill, the orientation and dimensions of the feature are indicative of an inhumation burial.

Inhumation burial F7 was also east/west aligned and encountered at a depth of 0.61m bcgl. The full extent of the possible grave was not exposed but it was approximately 0.5m deep. Human bone fragments were observed in the base of the grave and were left *in-situ*.



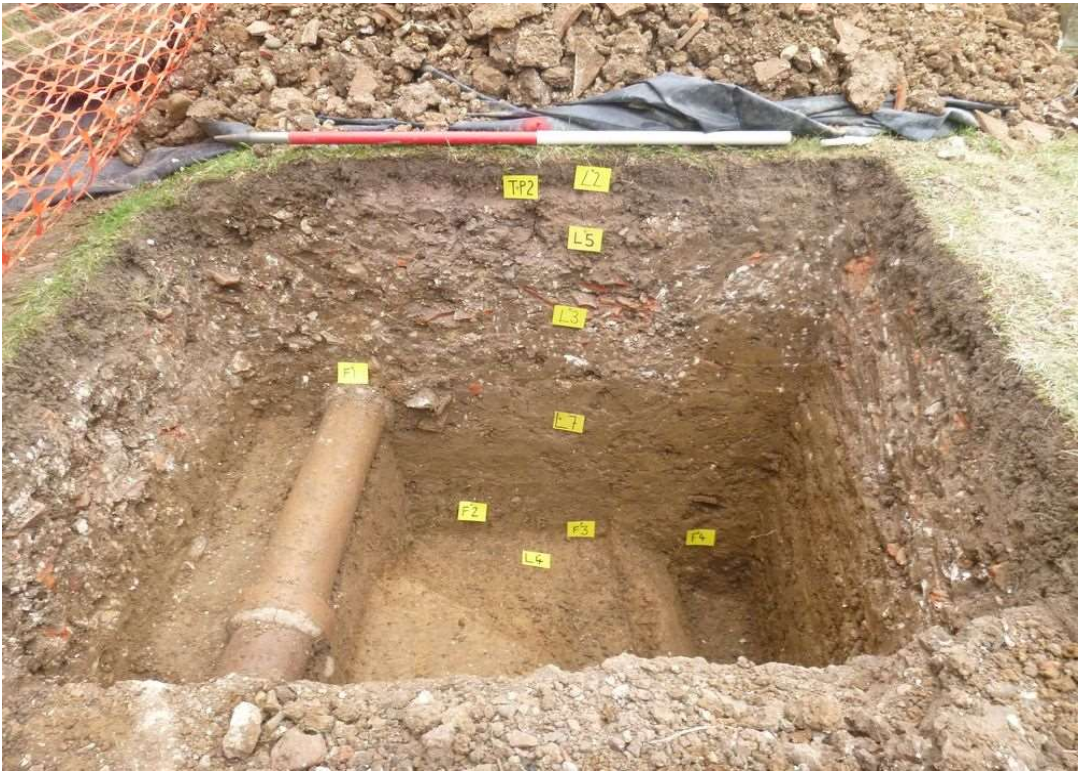
Photograph 2 Possible metallated surface L6, looking north.



Photograph 3 Test-pit 1, looking north-east.



Photograph 4 Northern section of test-pit 1, looking north.



Photograph 5 Western section of test-pit 2, looking west.

Test-pit 2 (TP2)

TP2 was excavated through L2 (c 0.05-0.12m thick), L5 (c 0.04-0.20m thick), L3 (c 0.20-0.35m thick), and another levelling/make-up later (L7, c 0.35m thick) onto L4. Four features were identified, modern service F1, undated tree-throw F2 and undated possible inhumation burials F3 and F4.

Possible inhumation burial F3 was east/west aligned and uncovered at a depth of 0.63m bcgl. F3 was truncated by F4 and sealed by L7. Possible inhumation burial F4 was also east/west aligned and encountered at a depth of 0.34m bcgl. The full dimensions of the features were not ascertained. Whilst neither feature produced any human remains, both were on the correct alignment for the assumption to be made that they are inhumation burials.

Asbestos was identified in the eastern part of TP2, preventing any further ground reduction in this area. The asbestos has been linked to a probable asbestos-roofed structure (likely a shed) in this area, which was demolished prior to 2000.



Photograph 6 Test-pit 2, looking south-west.

6 Finds

6.1 Ceramic and Pottery finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The excavation uncovered 27 sherds of pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with a weight of just over 2kg (Table 1). The mean sherd weight is 76g and this material came from one feature and four layers (Table 2).

Ceramic material	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
Pottery	10	116	12	0.15

CBM	17	1,928	113	-
Total	27	2,044	76	0.15

Table 1 Summary of the pottery and CBM

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F5	Service	2	21	11	0.00
L2	Topsoil	1	22	22	0.00
L5	Levelling/make-up layer	8	525	66	0.15
L6	?Metalled surface	3	340	113	0.00
L7	Levelling/make-up layer	13	1,136	87	0.00
Total		27	2,044	76	0.15

Table 2 Quantities of pottery and CBM from specific contexts.

Post-Roman pottery

Post-Roman pottery was recorded according to the fabric groups from CAR 7 (Cotter 2000), while the number of vessels was determined by rim EVE (estimated vessel equivalent) (Table 3). There were 10 sherds of post-Roman pottery with a weight of 116g and EVE of 0.15 (Table 4). This material was recovered from one feature and two layers (Table 5). The assemblage includes pottery dateable to the medieval (fabrics F20, F21), post-medieval (fabric F40) and modern (fabrics F45M, F48D, F48J) periods. The only diagnostic sherd came from a modern Staffordshire-type white earthenware (fabric F48D) cup (EVE:0.15) from levelling/make-up layer L5.

Fabric code	Fabric description	Fabric date range guide
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	c 1150-1375/1400
F21	Colchester-type ware	c 1200-1550
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	c 1500-19th/20th century
F45M	Modern English stoneware	19th-20th century
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	19th-20th century
F48J	Jackfield ware	1740-1800

Table 3 Post-Roman pottery fabrics recorded.

Fabric group	Fabric description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F20	Medieval sandy greywares	1	8	8	0.00
F21	Colchester-type ware	3	37	12	0.00
F40	Post-medieval red earthenwares	3	37	12	0.00
F45M	Modern English stoneware	1	22	22	0.00
F48D	Staffordshire-type white earthenwares	1	5	5	0.15
F48J	Jackfield ware	1	7	7	0.00
Total		10	116	12	0.15

Table 4 Details of the post-Roman pottery.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	EVE
F5	Drain	2	21	11	0.00
L2	Topsoil	1	22	22	0.00
L5	Levelling/make-up layer	2	12	6	0.15
L7	Levelling/make-up layer	5	61	12	0.00
Total		10	116	12	0.15

Table 5 Quantities of pottery from specific contexts.

Ceramic building material (CBM)

The CBM consists of 17 fragments with a weight of 1,928g which was recovered from three layers (Table 5). Medieval/post-medieval peg-tile accounts for a substantial proportion of the

CBM alongside sherds of brick and floor tile (Table 7). One sherd of peg-tile was marked with a print from a hoofed animal.

Context	Description	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
L5	Levelling/make-up layer	6	513	86
L6	?Metalled surface	3	340	113
L7	Levelling/make-up layer	8	1,075	134
Total		17	1,928	113

Table 6 Quantities of CBM from specific contexts.

CBM code	CBM type	No.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)
PT	Peg-tile	8	1,619	202
BR	Brick	1	83	83
Floor tile		1	108	109
Unid. CBM		3	75	25
Mortar		4	42	11
Total		17	1,928	113

Table 7 Post-Roman building material by type.

Conclusion

Table 8 summarizes the dating evidence for the features which contained dateable pottery and ceramics. Most of the contexts are Post-Medieval and Modern. None of the finds were retained except for the peg-tile with the animal footprint.

Context	Description	Post-Roman	CBM	Date Approx.
F5	Service	F20, F40	-	Post-medieval
L2	Topsoil	F45M	-	Modern
L5	Levelling/make-up layer	F48D, F48J	UNID CBM, PT	Modern
L6	?Metalled surface	-	BR, FLOOR TILE, PT	Modern
L7	Levelling/make-up layer	F21, F40	PT, MORTAR	Post-medieval/ modern

Table 8 Approximate dates for the individual features and layers.

6.2 Worked flints

by Adam Wightman

Five hard-hammer-struck flint flakes were recovered from L5 in TP1 (finds numbers 1 and 3). One small flake is light grey/brown in colour (find number 3) and the four larger flakes (finds number 1) are all mottled grey. The light grey/brown secondary flake has two small, shallow removals from the distal end (ventral face) and some water-worn cortex on the striking platform (suggesting that the flint was collected from a local secondary source). The cortex on the mottled grey flints is also water-worn. None of the flakes have been retouched, although all of the mottled grey flakes exhibit evidence of edge-damage.

The layer from which the worked flints were collected (L5) contained fragments of peg-tile, mortar and small flint nodules and was the only layer from which worked flints were recovered. The church itself has a peg-tile roof and both flint and mortar in its walls. Therefore, it is likely that the worked flints derive from either the shaping of flint for incorporation into the walls, or from damage to the walls themselves. It is not possible to rule out the possibility that the flints may be prehistoric and residual in this context, although the weight of evidence would suggest that this is unlikely to be the case.

6.3 Miscellaneous finds

by Laura Pooley

A small assemblage of miscellaneous finds were recovered from layers L2, L5 and L7. Most are probably fragments of building waste from the church and demolished outbuilding (window came, stone/slate, iron objects and clinker), with three fragments of 19th- to 20th-century glass also recovered from L7. All of the finds have been recorded in Table 9 below and discarded.

Context	Finds no.	Description
L2	2	Iron objects: round washer, 6.1g; square plate with small central hole, 11.7g; nail, 57.4g; screw, 33.7g. Clinker: 25 fragments, 345.4g.
L5	3	Slate: One fragment, 1.2g.
L7	4	Glass: Three fragments (one of olive green bottle glass, two of clear bottle glass), 32.8g, 19th-20th century. Lead: One fragment of lead window came, 7.7g. Iron objects: Three nails, 32.3g, two square-sectioned, one round-sectioned. Slate: Three fragments, 71.5g. Stone: Two small fragments of unworked stone, 135.7g. Coal/coke: One fragment, 1.5g.

Table 9 Miscellaneous finds listed by context.

6.4 Human Remains

by Megan Beale

A small quantity of unstratified disarticulated human remains were recovered during excavations at Salcott-cum-Virley. As per guidelines, all remains were kept on site, photographed, then reburied immediately. Assessment of human bone has been made from photographs only. Identification of remains was aided using White & Folkens (2005).

Test Pit 1 (TP1)

Nineteen fragments were recovered from TP1. One fragment was an adult tibial head, and at least four other fragments were either femur or tibia fragments. Seven fragments either belonged to the upper limb or fibula. One fragment was either a partial humeral or femoral head, but was fused and therefore of an individual over 18 years old.

A right talus of adult size was also noted, as well as a ?third metatarsal. The head of the metatarsal is missing, and although it appears of adult size, the third metatarsal head fuses between 11-16 years old (Schaefer *et al* 2009, 335). The remaining fragments were too small to identify.

It is estimated there is an MNI of one individual. It cannot be confirmed from photographs if the metatarsal is that of an adolescent or adult. The individual represented is likely an adult, however. No further information could be gathered due to limited nature of assessment.

Some of the bone recovered from TP1 may have originally come from possible inhumation burial, F7, as there is clearly human bone (likely legs) seen in section. This feature is cut by F5, a modern pipe. Further human bone was seen in the section of F5 but not recovered. When the pipe was originally put in, it may have disturbed the original remains in F7, especially as leg and foot fragments were mostly found in TP1. The bone seen in the section of F7 appears to be femurs, however it is unclear if they belong to an adult or adolescent.

Test Pit 2 (TP2)

Seventeen fragments of bone were recovered from TP2, two of which appear to be animal bone. Fragments include: a partial femoral or humeral head, an incomplete tarsal, likely a talus, the shaft of a humerus, the lateral end of a clavicle, two partial tibia shafts and a possible partial skull fragment. The remaining fragments were too small to identify.

It is estimated there is an MNI of one individual. The size of the remains imply that of an adult. No further information could be gathered due to limited nature of assessment.

In conclusion, the disarticulated remains from TP1 and TP2 appear to belong to at least two adult individuals.

7 Conclusion

Evaluation by test-pitting at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Salcott-cum-Virley revealed six features, which included one inhumation burial and three possible inhumation burials. These features were identified at a depth of between 0.34m and 0.63m bcgl, meaning that any further groundworks below these depths would negatively impact these burials. A small assemblage of disarticulated human bone was also recovered from layers sealing the features, with assessment indicating the remains at least two individuals. To avoid any potential disturbance to *in-situ* human remains, any future groundworks should endeavour to penetrate no further than 0.30m bcgl.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT would like to thank Sorcha Prine of Inkpen Downie on behalf of the PCC of the Church of St Mary the Virgin for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, A Wightman and L Pooley, with fieldwork carried out by N Rayner with A Wade, M Beale and G Williams. Figures were compiled by B Holloway and E Holloway. The project was monitored for CCC by Dr Richard Hoggett.

9 References

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

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10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CCC	Colchester City Council
CCCAA	Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
clinker	the stony residue from burnt coal or from a furnace
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	O nline A ccess to the I ndex of A rchaeological I nvestigations, http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
Roman	the period from AD 43 to c AD 410
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
WSI	written scheme of investigation

11 Contents of archive

Finds: One bag
Digital record
CAT Report 1958
CCC brief
Digital photographs
Survey data
Site data

12 Archive deposition

The 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 (finds) and the Archaeological Data Service (digital record).

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Distribution list:

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St Mary the Virgin Salcott-cum-Virley PCC
Dr Richard Hoggett, Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor
Colchester Historic Environment Record

Appendix 1 Context list

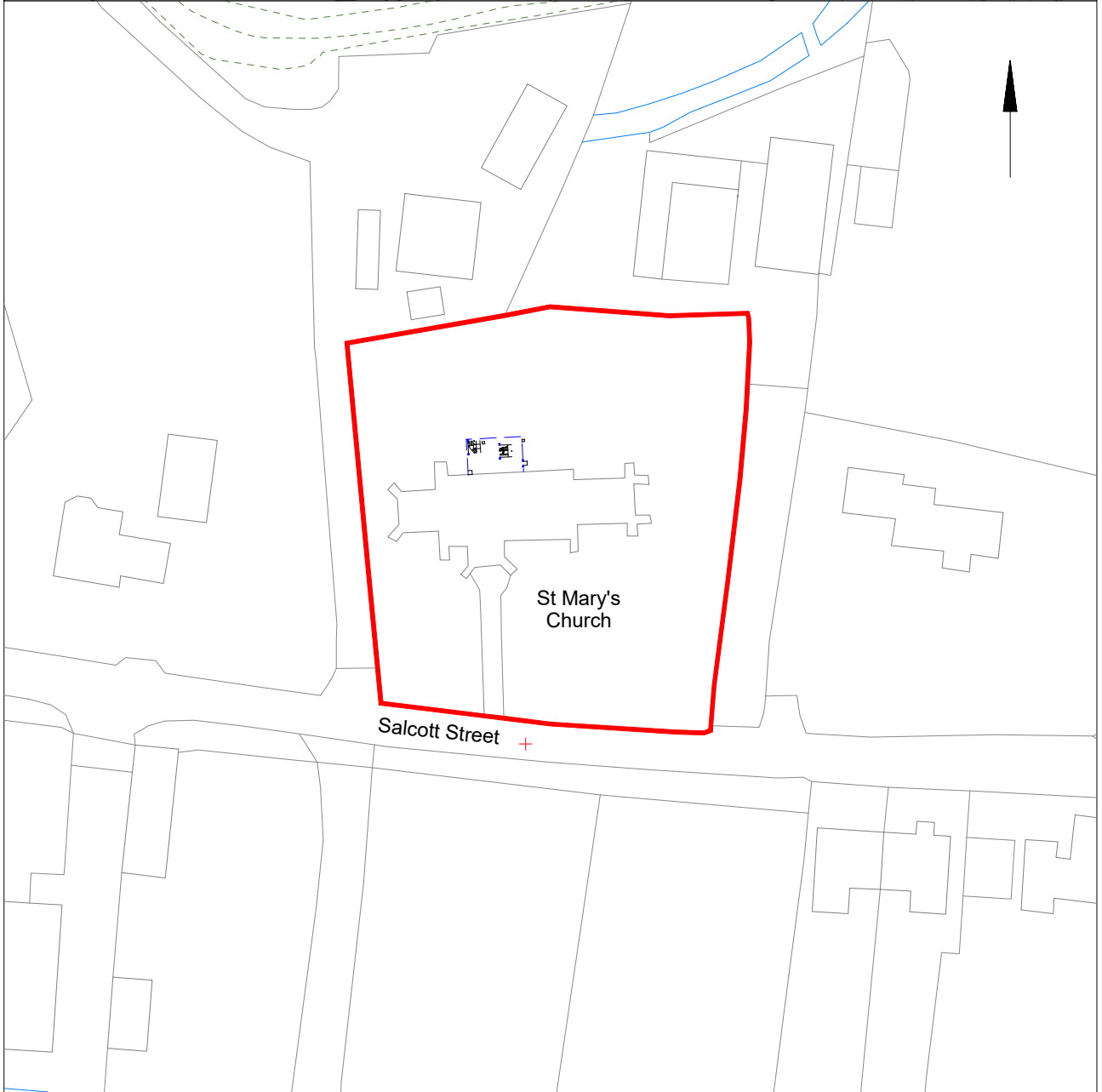
Context	Finds no.	Context type	Description	Date
L1	-	Brick path	Brick set onto thin base of sand and dry lean mix, 0.20m thick	Modern
L2	2	Topsoil	Firm, dry mid to dark grey brown clay, 0.06-0.13m thick	Modern
L3	-	Levelling/make-up layer	Firm moist medium grey- brown silty clay, 0.11-0.65m thick	Post-medieval/modern
L4	-	Natural	Firm moist medium grey clay, encountered at 0.45-1.20m bcgl	Post glacial
L5	1, 3	Levelling/make-up deposit	Firm moist medium grey brown silty clay, 0.05-0.20m thick.	Post-medieval/modern
L6	5	Metalled surface	Firm compact medium stones and pebbles in a chalky clay matrix, 0.10-0.15m thick.	Modern
L7	5	Levelling/make-up layer	Firm moist grey brown clay, 0.13-0.35m thick	Post-medieval/modern
F1	-	Service	Firm moist mid dark brown black silt.	Modern
F2	-	Tree-throw	Firm moist mid brownish-grey silty clay Truncated by both F1 and F3 >0.40m by >0.45m and 0.35m deep.	Undated
F3	-	Possible inhumation burial	Firm moist mid brownish-grey silty clay Truncated by F4 >1.03m by >0.30m and 0.40m deep.	Undated
F4	-	Possible inhumation burial	Firm moist mid brownish-grey silty clay Truncated by F4 >1.03m x >0.46m and >0.70m deep.	Undated
F5	6	Service	Firm moist mid dark brown black silt	Modern
F6	-	Possible inhumation burial	Firm moist mid brownish-grey silty clay truncated by F5 Truncated by F5 >0.80m by >0.50m and >0.50m deep.	Undated
F7	-	Inhumation burial	Firm moist mid brownish-grey silty clay Truncated by F5 >0.20m by >0.55m and 0.55m deep.	Undated

Appendix 2 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MS W	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Wind	Sooting (ext.)	Sooting location	Charing (int.)	Charing location	Burning	Overfired	Wasters	Kiln second	Fabric Grp	Typo- logy	EVE	Diam.	Start Date	End Date
F5	SERVICE	6	1	13	13	X													F40				1500	1800/1900
F5	SERVICE	6	1	8	8	X													F20				1150	1375/1400
L2	TOPSOIL	2	1	22	22	X													F45M				1800	2000
L5	LEVELLING/ MAKE-UP	1	1	5	5	X	1	0	0										F48D	CUP	0.1 5	85	1800	2000
L5	LEVELLING/ MAKE-UP	1	1	7	7	X													F48J				1740	1800
L7	LEVELLING/ MAKE-UP	4	1	7	7	X													F40				1500	1800/1900
L7	LEVELLING/ MAKE-UP	4	3	37	12	X													F21				1200	1550
L7	LEVELLING/ MAKE-UP	4	1	17	17	X													F40				1500	1800/1900

Appendix 3 CBM list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Typology	Animal	Shoe	PH R	PH SQ	2 Phs	Blind	PH diam. mm	L	BR.	TH.	Frog. L	Frog. Width	Burnt	Overfired	Abraded	Modif.	Comments	Date
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	1	2	125	63	X	PT			X				13											MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	3	1	313	313	X	PT			X				18											MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
L5	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	3	3	75	25	X	Unid CBM																		MODERN
L6	?METALLED SURFACE	5	1	148	148		PT	X																SMALL 2- HOVED	MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
L6	?METALLED SURFACE	5	1	109	109	X	Floor tile																		POST-MEDIEVAL
L6	?METALLED SURFACE	5	1	83	83	X	BR																		POST-MEDIEVAL-MODERN
L7	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4	4	42	11	X	Mortar																		?
L7	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4	4	1033	258	X	PT			X				14											MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
L7	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4				X	PT			X				15											MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL
L7	LEVELLING/MAKE-UP	4				X	PT			X		X		22											MEDIEVAL-POST MEDIEVAL



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



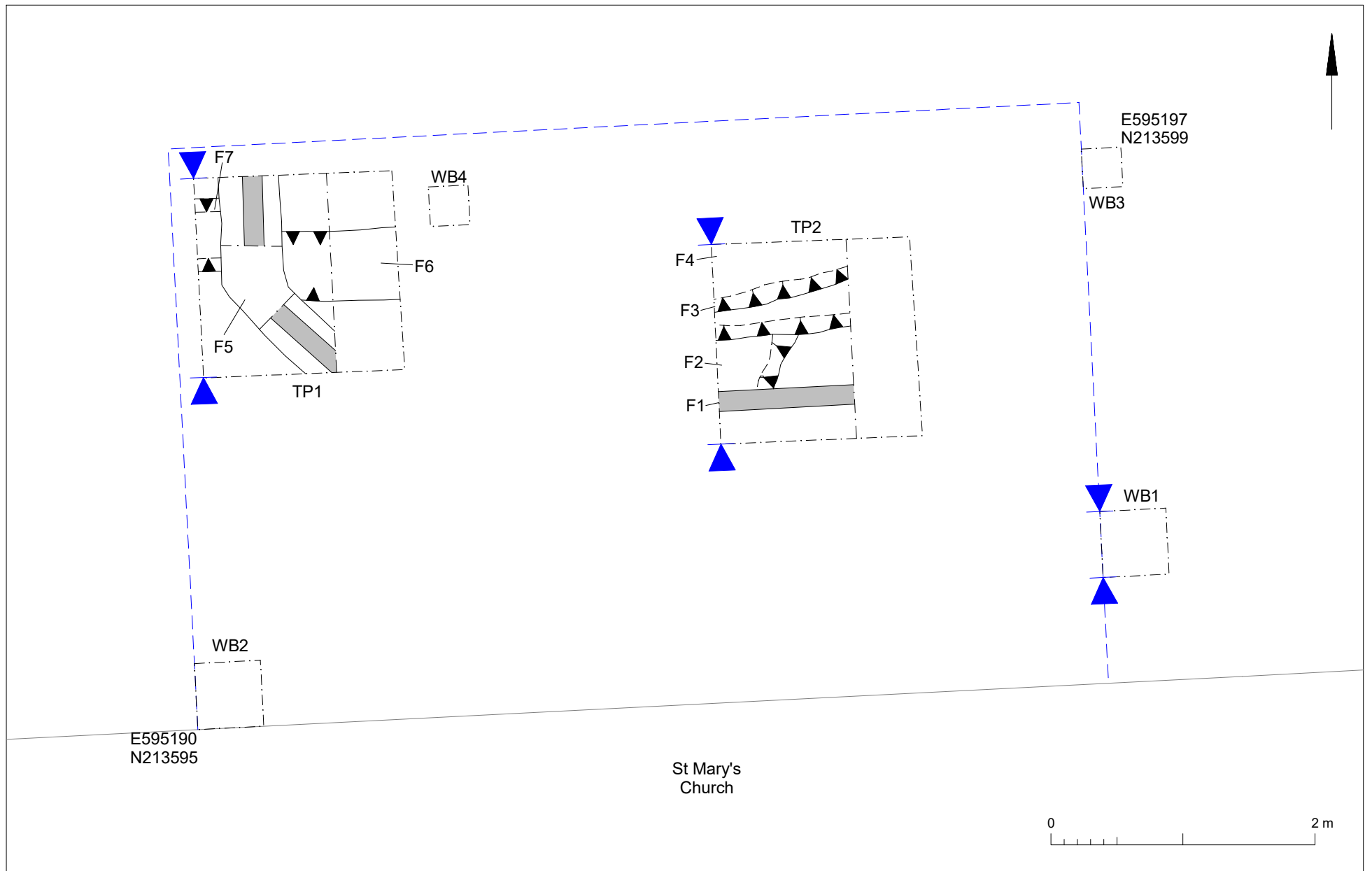


Fig 2 Evaluation results. Proposed development in blue, modern services in grey.

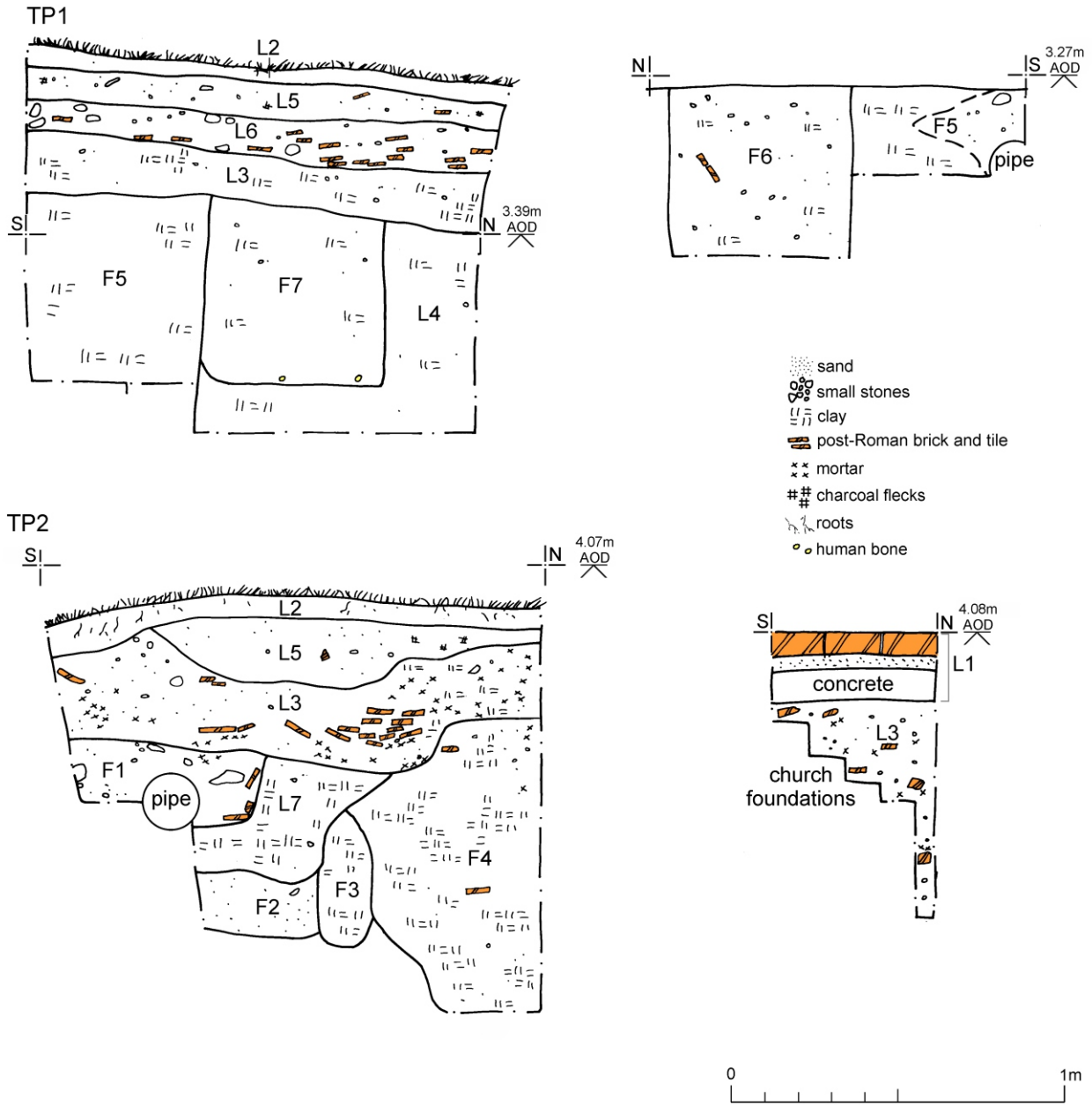


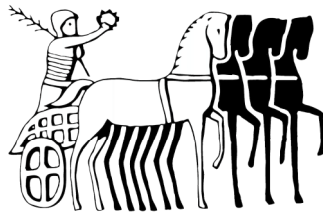
Fig 3 Feature and representative sections.

Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

Summary sheet

Address: Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Street, Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex, CM9 HW	
Parish: Colchester	Diocese: Witham
NGR: TL 95196 13591 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 2023/01k CHER ref.: ECC4800 OASIS ref.: colchest3-516795
Type of work: Evaluation	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust
Date of work: 26th-28th June 2023	Size of area investigated: 0.003 hectares
Location of curating museum: Colchester Museum & Archaeological Data Service	Funding source: Developer
Further seasons anticipated? No	Related CHER/SMR number: MCC4511, MCC7406
Final report: CAT Report 1958	
Periods represented: Modern, post-medieval	
<p>Summary of fieldwork results:</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation (two test-pits) and monitoring of a geotechnical survey was carried out at the Church of St Mary The Virgin, The Street, Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex in advance of the construction of a new annex to the existing parish church. The development site is located within the church yard, adjacent to the north wall of the building, in an area that has potential for inhumation burials and earlier structures relating to the church.</p> <p>Although subject to significant truncation by modern services, one inhumation burial and three possible inhumation burials were encountered during the evaluation. The upper fill of these deposits were encountered at between 0.34m and 0.63m below current ground level. In addition, a small assemblage of disarticulated human bone was recovered, which was photographed and reburied in the churchyard.</p>	
Previous summaries/reports: N/A	
CBC monitor: Richard Hoggett	
Keywords:	Significance: *
Author of summary: Sarah Veasey	Date of summary: July 2023

Colchester Archaeological Trust



**Written scheme of investigation
for archaeological evaluation at the
Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Street,
Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex, CM9 8HW**

June 2023

**CAT project ref.: 2023/01k
CHER code: pending**

**Written scheme of investigation
for archaeological evaluation at the
Church of St Mary the Virgin, The Street,
Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex, CM9 8HW**

June 2023

NGR: TL 95196 13591

Diocese: Witham

CAT project ref.: 2023/01k

**CHER code: pending
Colchester City Council Archaeological Advisor:
Richard Hoggett
OASIS id: colchest3-516795**

**WSI prepared by: Dr Elliott Hicks
Figures by: Chris Lister**

**Commissioned by: Sorcha Prime (Inkpen Downie) on
behalf of the PCC of the Church of St Mary the Virgin,
Salcott-cum-Virley**

Prepared by:	Dr Elliott Hicks	Junior Project Officer
Reviewed and approved by:	Chris Lister	Contracts Manager
Issued:	21/6/2023	

Colchester Archaeological Trust

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Site location and description

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is located east of the historic core of Salcott-cum-Virley, at the eastern end of The Street, Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex, CM9 8HW (Fig 1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 95196 13591.

Proposed work

The development comprises of the construction of a new annexe to the existing parish church.

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (EHER) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer website (www.colchesterheritage.co.uk).

The Church of St Mary the Virgin has its origins in the 14th century. It is constructed out of flint rubble and septaria with limestone dressings, and also incorporates some Roman brick. The church retains some features dating from the 14th to the 16th century, although it was extensively rebuilt following damage sustained during an earthquake in 1884 (MCC4511, MCC7406). There is high potential for encountering burials at this location.

During the 19th century, the foundations of a Roman building were uncovered south of Marsh Farm, 240m southeast of the site (MCC7388), while Roman pottery and fire bars were recovered and a 'red hill' has been observed east of Marsh Farm, some 365m east southeast of the site (MCC7358, MCC7359).

A number of medieval and post-medieval buildings are situated north and west of the site, within the core of Salcott-cum-Virley. These include the grade II-listed Virley Hall, an early 18th-century brick house (MCC4586, 195m northwest of the site); the grade II-listed 16th-century aisled barn at Green Farm (MCC4512, 75m west southwest of the site); 'The Rosses', a grade II-listed 17th-century timber-framed house (MCC4513, 55m west northwest of the site); 'The Old School House', a pair of grade II-listed late 18th-century brick cottages (MCC4514, 100m west of the site); 'Cob Cottage', a grade II-listed brick cottage built in the late 18th century (MCC4515, 125m west southwest of the site); 'The Sun Inn', a grade II-listed 18th-century brick building (MCC4516, 175m west northwest of the site); 'Gable House', a grade II-listed timber-framed house built in the 14th century (MCC4517, 185m west northwest of the site); 'Orchard Cottage', a grade II-listed 17th-century timber-framed house (MCC4518, 215m west northwest of the site); the grade II-listed 16th-century timber-framed Salcott Post Office (MCC4519, 245m west northwest of the site); nos. 1 and 2 Salcott Cottages, a grade II-listed 18th-century timber-framed house (MCC4522, 290m west northwest of the site); and the grade II-listed 15th-century timber-framed jettied crosswing Horn Farmhouse and accompanying grade II-listed early 14th-century aisled barn west of Horn Farmhouse, now converted to a separate dwelling, some 305m and 325m west northwest of the site, respectively (MCC4520, MCC4521).

Project background

A planning application was made to Colchester City Council in May 2020 (application no. 200918) for a *new annexe to existing parish church*. 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 City Council Archaeological Advisor (CCCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by the CCCAA (CCCAA 2023).

Specifically, two test-pits measuring 1.5m by 1.5m will be excavated in the footprint of the proposed annexe to identify the date, form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its extent, depth and quality of preservation, most likely, in this instance to be articulated human burials. The test-pits will be excavated either to the natural geology or to the articulated human remains.

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, b & c)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011) and the recent review updates on <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2023)

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 the CCCAA 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 (when the WSI is written) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and key fields completed (Activity type, Location and Reviewers/Admin areas). 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 unique HER event number will be obtained from the CCCAA 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 project officer and two archaeologists for three days.

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

Evaluation methodology

Test pits will be hand-excavated by archaeologists to the top of articulated human remains, or until natural geology 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 geology.

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

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

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

Environmental sampling policy

The number and range of samples collected will be adequate to determine the potential of the site, with particular focus on palaeoenvironmental remains including both biological remains (e.g. plants, small vertebrates) and small-sized artefacts (e.g. smithing debris), and to provide information for sampling strategies on any future excavation. Samples will be collected for potential micromorphological and other pedological sedimentological analysis. Environmental bulk samples will be 40 litres in size (assuming 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.
- 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

The CCCAA 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 Historic England guidance (2017 & 2018), if the human remains are not to be lifted the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains in the ground.

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 CCCAA 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.

Photographic record

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

Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

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

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Laura Pooley (Post-excavation Manager). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton
animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman/Pip Parmenter - small groups only)
small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley
non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley
flint: Adam Wightman
environmental processing: Bronagh Quinn
osteology: (human remains): Megan 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:

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 the CCCAA.

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.

Post-excavation assessment

An updated post-excavation assessment will be submitted within 2 months or at an alternatively agreed time with the CCCAA.

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

Results

Notification will be given to the CCCAA 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 (Historic England 2015).

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

The report will contain:

- Location plan of trenches in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of each excavated area will be given a 10 figure grid reference.
- 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.
- Appropriate discussion and results section assessing the site in relation to the Regional Research Frameworks (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011. <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- All specialist reports or assessments
- A concise non-technical summary of the project results.

An OASIS summary sheet will be completed at the end of the project and supplied to the CCCAA. This will be completed in digital form with a paper copy included with the archive. A copy (with trench plan) will also be emailed to the Hon. Editor of the Essex Archaeology and History Journal for inclusion in the annual round-up of projects (paul.gilman@me.com).

Publication of the results at least a summary level (i.e. round-up in Essex Archaeology & History) shall be undertaken in the year following the archaeological fieldwork. 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

The requirements for archive storage shall be agreed with the Curating museum.

If finds are retained from the site the full archive will be deposited with Colchester Museum unless otherwise agreed in advance. (A full copy of the archive shall in any case be deposited). If there are no finds a full digital archive will be deposited with ADS Archaeology.

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 digital archive resulting from the work will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (www.archaeologydataservice.ac.uk) to safeguard the long-term curation of the digital records. The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited. 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. A summary of the contents of the archives shall be supplied to the CCCAA at the time of their deposition.

The CCCAA will be notified when the digital archive has been deposited.

Monitoring

The CCCAA 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 the CCCAA one week in advance of its commencement.

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

The CCCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

Public outreach

As part of CAT's public outreach programme, CAT is committed to engaging our local community with their archaeological resource. Among other activities, CAT regularly invites volunteers to engage in finds processing tasks at our office, such as washing, marking, sorting and packing bulk archaeological finds from commercial archaeological projects. Our volunteer programme is not designed to replace the work of paid archaeologists but to complement it, and to provide greater public benefit by means of community engagement and participation.

CAT volunteers are fully trained in all tasks they are engaged in and are fully supervised by a CAT employee at all times. Finds processing volunteers are managed and supervised by a Senior Post-Excavation Assistant, whose role is to ensure that all volunteer processing is carried out to the highest possible standard and within professional guidelines. This is overseen by the Post-Excavation Manager and Director.

CAT will never use volunteers in place of employees when funding is agreed for the latter, or if doing so would disadvantageously affect the timetable of works agreed between CAT and our clients.

CAT's liability insurance policies cover the activities of volunteers and liability towards them. All activities are carried out according to CAT's 'Volunteer and work experience policy' and 'Outreach, public relations and publicity policy'.

Events, activities and social media

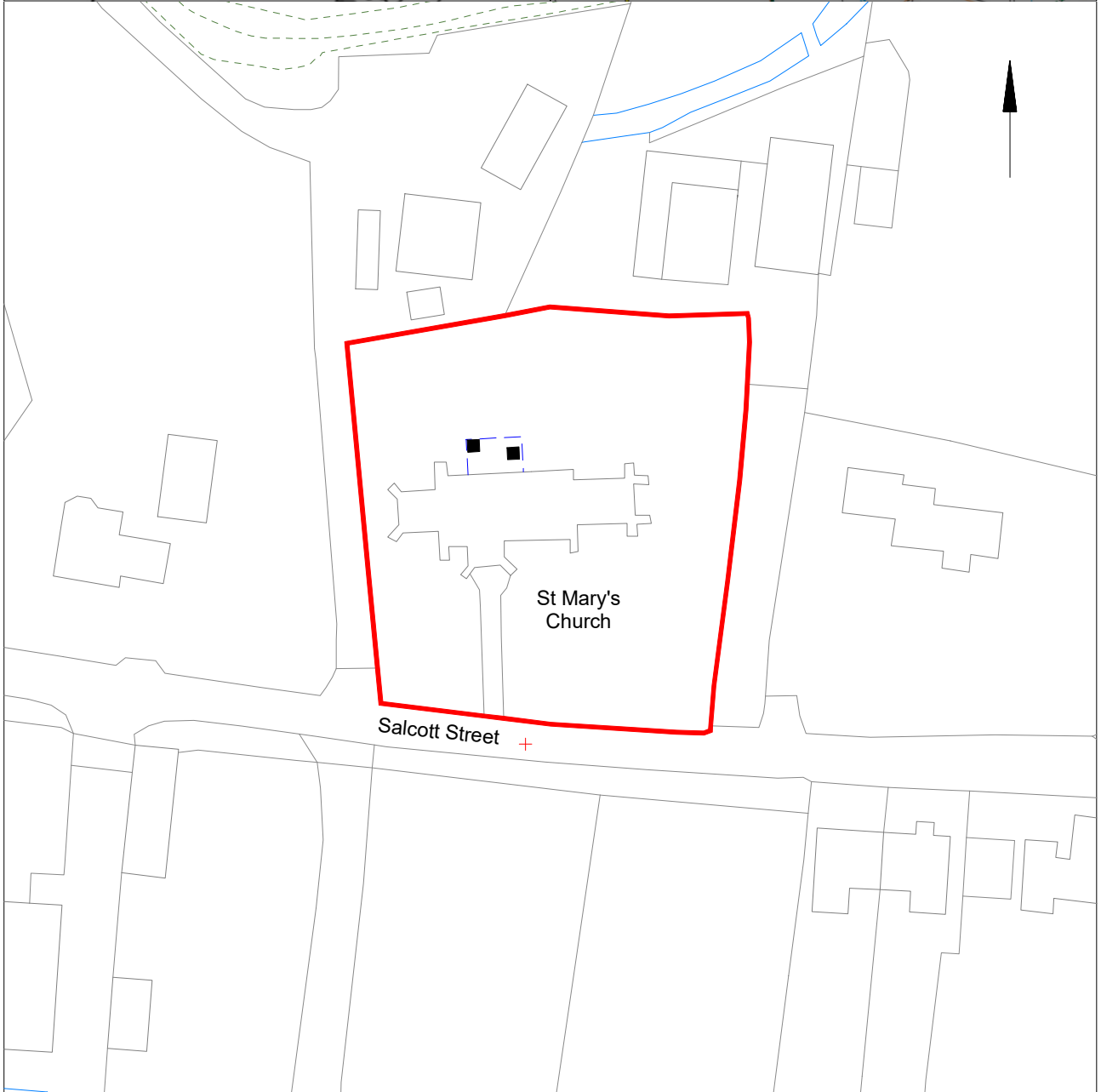
In addition, the CAT website (<https://catuk.org/>) and social media sites are updated regularly with information on our events and activities, with copies of our archaeological reports freely available at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>. Staff regularly give talks/lectures to groups, societies and schools, information on which (including any fees) is available by contacting the office on

01206 501785. CAT also works in partnership with both the Colchester Archaeological Group and Young Archaeologists Club providing venues for their meetings, advice and assistance.

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>
Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT CCCAA	2023	<i>Health & Safety Policy Brief for Archaeological Evaluation at St Mary's Church, The Street, Salcot, CM9 8HW, by S Wood</i>
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.</i> Revised June 2020
CIfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.</i> Revised October 2020
CIfA	2014c	<i>Code of Conduct.</i> Revised October 2022
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2017	<i>Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England</i>
Historic England	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	2021	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government



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



OASIS Summary for colchest3-516795

OASIS ID (UID)	colchest3-516795
Project Name	Evaluation at St Mary's Church, The Street, Salcott, Essex, CM9 8HW
Sitename	St Mary's Church, The Street, Salcott, Essex, CM9 8HW
Sitecode	2023/01k
Project Identifier(s)	2023/01k
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	200918
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project Dates	26-Jun-2023 - 28-Jun-2023
Location	St Mary's Church, The Street, Salcott, Essex, CM9 8HW NGR : TL 95196 13591 LL : 51.78691550989274, 0.828694244766878 12 Fig : 595196,213591
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Essex District : Colchester Parish : Salcott
Project Methodology	Monitoring was initially carried out by a CAT archaeologist during a geotechnical survey. Two trial-pits (0.6m x 0.4m) were excavated to a depth of 1m, against the foundation of the north wall of the church. In addition, two borehole samples were excavated to depth of 1.5m below current ground level (bcgl). After the geotechnical investigation, the evaluation consisted of two test-pits, hand-excavated by CAT archaeologists. The test-pits were 1.5m x 1.5m and excavated to a depth of between 1.1m and 1.2m bcgl.
Project Results	An archaeological evaluation (two test-pits) and monitoring of a geotechnical survey was carried out at the Church of St Mary The Virgin, The Street, Salcott-cum-Virley, Essex in advance of the construction of a new annex to the existing parish church. The development site is located within the churchyard, adjacent to the north wall of the building, in an area that has potential for inhumation burials and earlier structures relating to the church. Although subject to significant truncation by modern services, one inhumation burial and three possible inhumation burials were encountered during the evaluation. The upper fill of these deposits were encountered at between 0.34m and 0.63m below current ground level. In addition, a small assemblage of disarticulated human bone was recovered, which was photographed and reburied in the churchyard.
Keywords	Inhumation Cemetery - POST MEDIEVAL - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types
Funder	Religious body PCC of the Church of St Mary the Virgin
HER	Colchester Borough Council - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	A Wightman, L Pooley, C Lister
HER Identifiers	HER Event No - ECC4800

Archives	Physical Archive, Documentary Archive - to be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum Service (Colchester Collection); Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archaeology Data Service Archive;
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Report generated on: 16 Aug 2023, 13:53