# Archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AA

### **April 2017**



#### by Laura Pooley

figures by Laura Pooley and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Alec Wade

# commissioned by Philip Hall on behalf of Mr K Walker

NGR: TM 01149 12538 (centre)
Planning reference: 162669
CAT project ref.: 17/01k

Colchester Museum accession code: COLEM 2017.8

CHER ref: ECC3943

OASIS reference: colchest3-274110



**Colchester Archaeological Trust** 

Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester,

Essex, CO2 7GZ *tel.:* 01206 501785 *email:* lp@catuk.org

CAT Report 1090 April 2017

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#### 1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey garden room. Despite being located close to a Roman tomb/mausoleum and the medieval church and priory, there were no significant archaeological remains on the development site.

#### 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Essex which was carried out 19th April 2017. The work was commissioned by Philip Hall, Hall Brothers of Colchester on behalf of Mr K Walker, during groundworks for the constructions of a single-storey garden room, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Colchester Borough Council Planning Services (CBCPS), Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor Jess Tipper advised that in order to establish the archaeological implications of this application, the applicant should be required to commission a scheme of archaeological investigation in accordance with paragraphs 128, 129 and 132 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCPS 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with CBCPS (CAT 2017).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (English Heritage 2006), and with *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA **14** and **24**). This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs* (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 major published sources for Colchester archaeology, the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER).

The EHER shows that the development site lies 220m to the east of the medieval Church of St Peter and St Paul (EHER 2274; NHLE no. 1225167) built with ragstone walls containing Roman and later brick. It is thought that a small medieval Benedictine priory existed to the west of the church (EHER 2187), but little is known about it. Brick rubbish and burnt tile was seen by PG Laver in the area by 1906 (EHER 2188) and Roman pavements, tesserae, walls and pottery have also been found around the church (EHER 2122, 2191, 2214, 12501).

Groundworks to the north and west of the Church at 16 Church Road (Hallybone 2006), Yew Tree House (18th century listed building, NHLE no. 1266512) (*CAR* **6**; microfiche 6/1992/1030, site code 1/84C), the Blackwater Hotel (CAT Report 223, EHER 45870), 20 St Peter's Road (CAT Report 1038) and 36 Coast Road (CAT Report 1089) did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. However, a inhumation recorded on Church Road (EHER 12546) may be associated with the priory and a Roman wall was recorded on the corner of the High Street and Melrose Road (EHER 2189).

Approximately 35-40m west of the development site is a Roman tomb/mausoleum (EHER 38, NHLE no. 1002195). Wheel tomb was found in 1896 and consisted of a

65ft diameter with a small hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls which meet the 3ft thick encircling wall and project beyond it for 4ft as external buttresses. Between each pair of these is an extra buttress, making 12 buttresses in all. The structure was made of tile on foundation of mortar and ragstone, although there was no sign of either a doorway or floor. A second Roman brick tomb was found in 1923 a few yards to the east of Wheel tomb (EHER 2109). The cremated remains of a child were discovered inside the tomb buried in a glass urn with lead lid. The urn had been placed in a flue tile with the teeth of a 12-15 month old child and above the urn was a lamp stamped 'IEGIDI'.

A watching brief to the southwest of the development site at 4 Meadow Lane did not reveal any significant archaeological remains (CAT Report 420) but Roman pottery was identified to the northwest (EHER 2215).

#### 4 Results (Figs 2-3)

Monitoring and recording took place during groundworks for the single-storey garden room. All groundworks were carried out by the contractors under the supervision of a CAT archaeologist.

The foundation trenches for the garden room measured 11.5m linear by 0.5-0.6m wide and 0.8-1.4m deep. They were excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.2-0.3m thick) onto a medium greyish brown/orange sandy-silty subsoil (L2, c 0.2m thick) which sealed natural sands (L3). A substantial amount of modern disturbance was associated with two modern service trenches. They were recorded in a layer of an orange/grey slightly sandy-silty clay (L4, c 0.7-0.8m thick) that was sealed by L1 and cut through L2-L3.



Photograph 1 Foundation trench, looking N



Photograph 2 Foundation trench, looking NE

#### 5 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

#### 6 Discussion

Despite being located close to a Roman tomb/mausoleum and the medieval church and priory, there were no significant archaeological remains on the development site.

#### 7 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Philip Hall and Mr K Walker for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister and carried out by A Wade. Figures were prepared by L Pooley and E Holloway. The project was monitored for the CBCPS by Jess Tipper.

#### 8 References

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

CAR 6	1992	Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, by P Crummy
CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report 223	2003	An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church

Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003

CAT Report 420	2007	Report of a negative watching brief at 4 Meadow Lane, West Mersea. Essex: April 2007
CAT Report 1038	2016	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 20 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: November 2016
CAT Report 1089	2017	Archaeological monitoring and recording at 36 Coast Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LH: April 2017
CBCPS	2016	Brief for continuous archaeological recording at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8AA
CIfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief
ClfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Hallybone, C	2006	Land to the rear of 16 Coast Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: Archaeological monitoring and recording
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)

#### 9 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT Colchester Archaeological Trust

CBCPS Colchester Borough Council Planning Services
CHER Colchester Historic Environment Record
ClfA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

context specific location of finds on an archaeological site layer (L) distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material

medieval period from AD 1066 to c 1500 modern period from c AD 1800 to the present

natural geological deposit undisturbed by human activity

NGR National Grid Reference

OASIS Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS,

http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main

post-medieval from c AD 1500 to c 1800

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

#### 10 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper and digital record

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1090)

CBCPS evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation Original site record (feature and layer sheets, finds record, plans)

Site digital photos and log, architectural plans, attendance register, risk assessment

#### 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester Museum under accession code: COLEM 2017.8.

#### © Colchester Archaeological Trust 2017

#### **Distribution list**

Philip Hall, Hall Brothers of Colchester Mr K Walker Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services Essex Historic Environment Record

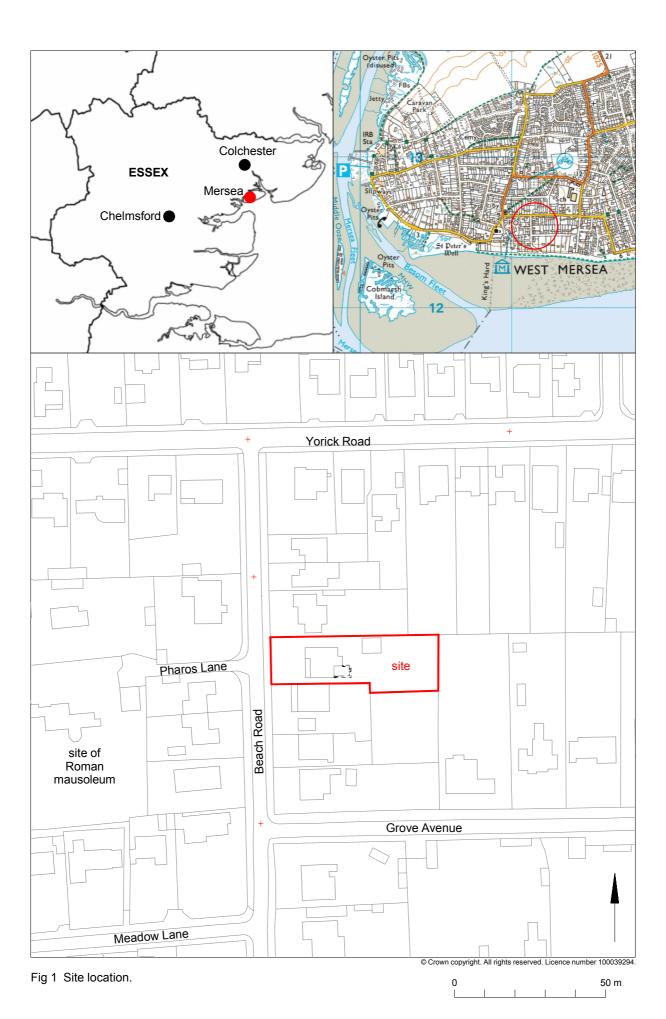


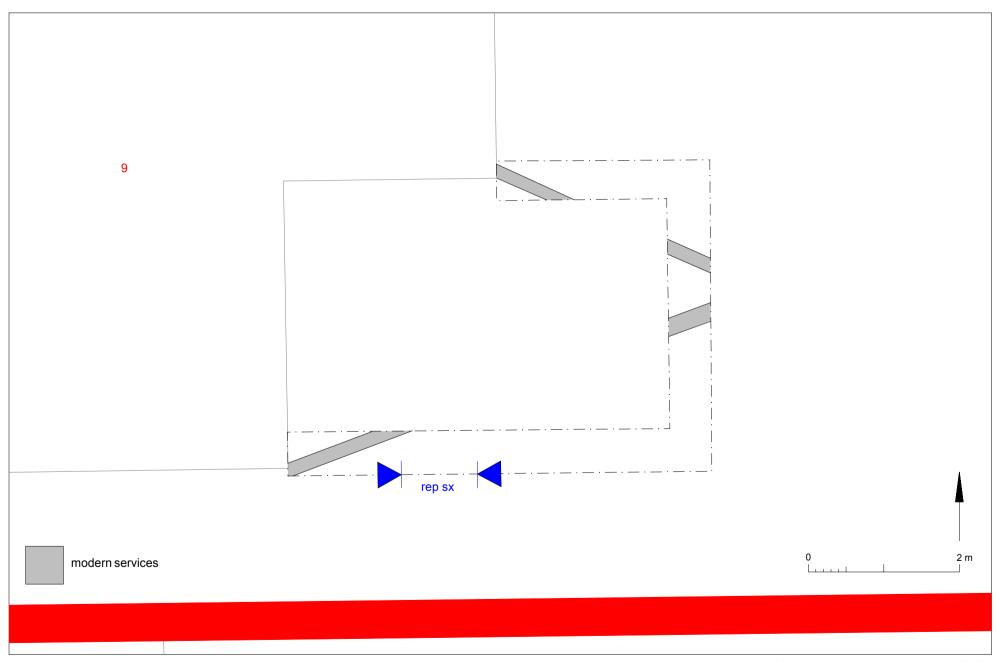
#### **Colchester Archaeological Trust**

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

tel.: 01206 501785 email: lp@catuk.org

Checked by: Philip Crummy Date: 25.4.2017





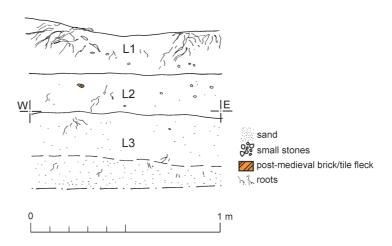


Fig 3 Representative section.

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

#### **Summary sheet**

Address: 9 Beach Road, West	Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AA	
Parish: West Mersea	District: Colchester	
NGR: TM 01149 12538 (centre)	Site code: CAT project ref.: 17/01k CHER ref: ECC3943 OASIS ref: colchest3-274110	
Type of work: Monitoring and recording	Site director/group: Colchester Archaeological Trust	
Date of work: 19th April 2017	Size of area investigated: 0.09ha	
Location of curating museum: Colchester museum accession code COLEM: 2017.8	Funding source: Owner	
Further seasons anticipated? Not known	Related EHER/SMR numbers: EHER 38, 2109, 2122, 2187-9, 2191, 2214- 5, 2274, 12501, 12546, 45870	
Final report: CAT Report 1090		
Periods represented: modern		
Mersea, Essex during groundworks for	ng was carried out at 9 Beach Road, West the construction of a single-storey garden a Roman tomb/mausoleum and the medieval cant archaeological remains on the	
Previous summaries/reports: -		
CBC monitor: Jess Tipper		
Keywords: –	Significance: none	
Author of summary: Laura Pooley	Date of summary: April 2017	

# Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for continuous archaeological recording at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AA

**NGR:** TM 01149 12538 (centre)

Planning reference: 162669

Agent: Philip Hall, Hall Brothers of Colchester

Client: Mr K Walker

**Curating Museum:** Colchester

Museum accession code: requested

CHER Project code: ECC3943 CAT Project code: 17/01k OASIS ref.: colchest3-274110

Site Manager: Chris Lister

**CBC Monitor:** Jess Tipper

This WSI written: 31.1.2017



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST, Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, Essex, CO2 7GZ tel: 01206 501785

email: lp@catuk.org

#### Site location and description

The development site is located at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Colchester (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 01149 12538.

#### **Proposed work**

The proposed development comprises a single-storey rear extension.

#### Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology (listed below), and also on the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER) and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER), accessed via Heritage Gateway.

The EHER shows that the development site lies 220m to the east of the medieval Church of St Peter and St Paul (EHER 2274; NHLE no. 1225167) built with ragstone walls containing Roman and later brick. It is thought that a small medieval Benedictine priory existed to the west of the church (EHER 2187), but little is known about it. Brick rubbish and burnt tile was seen by PG Laver in the area by 1906 (EHER 2188) and Roman pavements, tesserae, walls and pottery have also been found around the church (EHER 2122, 2191, 2214, 12501).

Groundworks to the north and west of the Church at 16 Church Road (Hallybone 2006), Yew Tree House (18th century listed building, NHLE no. 1266512) (*CAR* **6**; microfiche 6/1992/1030, site code 1/84C), the Blackwater Hotel (CAT Report 223, EHER 45870) and 20 St Peter's Road (CAT Report 1038) did not reveal any significant archaeological remains. However, a inhumation recorded on Church Road (EHER 12546) may be associated with the priory and a Roman wall was recorded on the corner of the High Street and Melrose Road (EHER 2189).

Approximately 35-40m west of the development site is a Roman tomb/mausoleum (EHER 38, NHLE no. 1002195). Wheel tomb was found in 1896 and consisted of a 65ft diameter with a small hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls which meet the 3ft thick encircling wall and project beyond it for 4ft as external buttresses. Between each pair of these is an extra buttress, making 12 buttresses in all. The structure was made of tile on foundation of mortar and ragstone, although there was no sign of either a doorway or floor. A second Roman brick tomb was found in 1923 a few yards to the east of Wheel tomb (EHER 2109). The cremated remains of a child were discovered inside the tomb buried in a glass urn with lead lid. The urn had been placed in a flue tile with the teeth of a 12-15 month old child and above the urn was a lamp stamped 'IEGIDI'.

A watching brief to the southwest of the development site at 4 Meadow Lane did not reveal any significant archaeological remains (CAT Report 420) but Roman pottery was identified to the northwest (EHER 2215).

#### Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in October 2016 (application No. 162669) proposing a single-storey glazed garden room extension.

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the EHER / CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

#### Requirement for work

The required archaeological work is for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

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

If unexpected remains are encountered the CBCAA will be informed immediately. The CBCAA may decide that amendments to the brief are required to ensure that adequate provision is made for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

#### General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2014)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Staffing**

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

#### Monitoring methodology

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

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

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

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

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 proforma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

All features and layers or other significant deposits will be planned, and their profiles or sections recorded. The normal scale will be site plans at 1:20 and sections at 1:10, unless circumstances indicate that other scales would be appropriate.

#### Site surveying

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

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

#### **Environmental sampling policy**

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

#### **Human remains**

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

#### Photographic record

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

#### **Finds**

All significant finds will be retained.

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

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

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Pip Parmenter animal bones (small groups): Pip Parmenter flints: Adam Wightman

or to outside specialists:

animal bones (large groups) and human remains: Julie Curl (Sylvanus)

environmental processing and reporting: Val Fryer (Loddon)

conservation of finds: staff at Colchester Museum

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

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black Roman glass: Hilary Cool

Prehistoric pottery: Paul Sealey

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

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

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

#### Results

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

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2006).

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

The report will contain:

- Location plan of groundworks. At least two corners of which 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.

The archive will be deposited with Colchester & Ipswich Museum within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA.

#### **Monitoring**

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

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

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

#### References

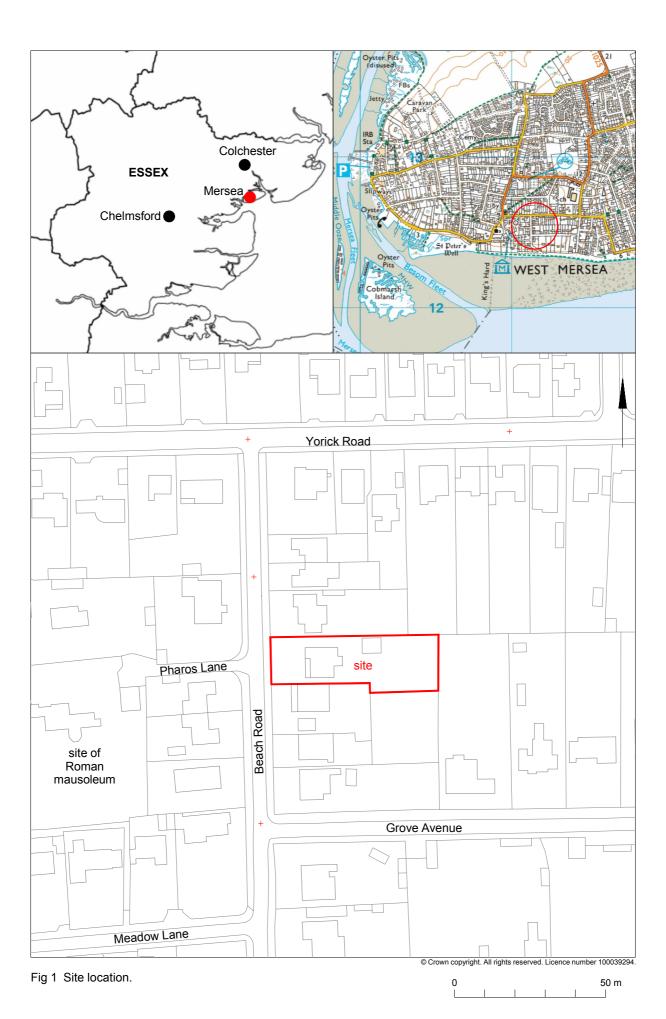
11010101100	9	
Brown, D	2007	Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation
CAR 6	1992	Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilberd School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85, by P Crummy
CAT	2014	Health & Safety Policy
CAT Report 223	2003	An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003
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DCLG	2012	National Planning Policy Framework
English Heritage	2006	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)
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#### L Pooley



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

tel: 01206 501785 email: <u>lp@catuk.org</u>



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#### **Printable version**

OASIS ID: colchest3-274110

**Project details** 

Project name Archaeological monitoring and recording at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5

8AA

Short description of the project

Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out at 9 Beach Road, West Mersea, Essex during groundworks for the construction of a single-storey garden room. Despite

being located close to a Roman tomb/mausoleum and the medieval church and priory,

there were no significant archaeological remains on the development site.

Project dates Start: 19-04-2017 End: 19-04-2017

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated

project reference

codes

17/01k - Contracting Unit No.

162669 - Planning Application No.

Any associated project reference

codes

Any associated project reference

codes

ECC3943 - HER event no.

Any associated project reference

codes

COLEM: 2017.8 - Museum accession ID

Type of project

Recording project

Site status

None

Current Land use

Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type

N/A None

Significant Finds

N/A None

Investigation type

"""Watching Brief"""

**Prompt** 

Planning condition

#### **Project location**

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER WEST MERSEA 9 Beach Road

Postcode **CO5 8AA** 

Study area 0.09 Hectares

TM 01149 12538 51.774770035308 0.916015424954 51 46 29 N 000 54 57 E Point Site coordinates

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator

CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design

originator

Laura Pooley

Project

Chris Lister

director/manager

Project supervisor Alec Wade Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Owner

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive

Exists?

No

Digital Archive recipient

Colchester Museum

Digital Archive ID

**Digital Contents** 

COLEM: 2017.8 "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media

"Images raster / digital photography"

available

Colchester Museum

Paper Archive recipient

Paper Archive ID

COLEM: 2017.8

**Paper Contents** 

"Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

#### **Project** bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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8AA: April 2017

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