Geoarchaeological investigation at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HQ

September 2019



by Peter Allen, Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman

fieldwork by Peter Allen, Adam Wightman and Ziya Eksen

commissioned by Laura Nicholls, APS Design Associates Ltd on behalf of Mr Robert Culff

NGR: TM 15115 12951 (centre) Planning ref.: 16/01358/FUL CAT project code: 2019/07g ECC code: CSSW19 OASIS ref.: colchest3-361147



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CAT Report 1487 October 2019

PART 1

REPORT ON THE QUATERNARY GEOARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SITE AT 7 SEA PINK WAY, JAYWICK, ESSEX

Site Visit: 2 September 2019

P. Allen

With contributions by B.A. Haggart, A. Snelling, D. Bridgland

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Location

The site lies in the centre of Jaywick on the south side of Sea Pink Way, immediately inland of the seawall at Lion Point (Figure 1).

Topography, Geology, Archaeology

The site lies within the mapped footprint of the Clacton Channel interglacial deposits (Figures 2, 3), which form one of the most important interglacial sites in Britain and has international standing in Palaeolithic archaeological research. Clacton has given its name to a particular type of Stone Age flint tool-making internationally known as the Clactonian flint industry.

The Clacton Channel deposits at Jaywick have been less well researched than other parts of the Channel complex (Golf Course, the former Butlin's site and West Cliff). At Jaywick the artefacts were mostly surface finds from the foreshore in the region of Lion Point. Hence any temporary sections are of particular value (Bridgland 1994, 1999; Essex County Council, 2009). The basal part of the channel sequence comprises freshwater beds within which the internationally important Clactonian Industry occurs, yielding flint artefacts and also the 'Clacton Spear', the oldest known wooden artefact in Britain, dating to around 420,000 years ago (Marine Isotope Stage 11). There is transition from fluvial to estuarine conditions within the Clacton Channel sequence, recorded at about OD or slightly below on the foreshore adjacent to the site (Warren, 1955). Within Channel complex, the site lies on an island of London Clay immediately adjacent to Channel IV (Figure 3). However, by the very nature of geological mapping, its accuracy at any one point cannot be guaranteed. It is possible that the channel deposits and their contents spread out laterally from their mapped extent, especially as the Geological Survey has a 1 m thickness threshold for showing superficial ('drift') sediments.

The site lies at c.+2.0 m OD. From investigations at the former Butlin's site (Bridgland, 1999), there is a significant transition, from fluvial to estuarine conditions within the Clacton Channel sequence. This is at about OD or slightly below on the foreshore adjacent to the site (Warren, 1955).

On the foreshore at Jaywick, close to the low-tide mark, Warren (1912, 1919, 1933, 1935, 1936) recognised an old land surface, the 'Lyonesse Surface' overlain by younger Holocene marine deposits. More recently these deposits have been recorded by Wilkinson and Murphy (1995) and charcoal from organic clay at TM 1563 1312 radiocarbon-dated, uncalibrated, to 1420 +/-80 BP (1 sd) (HAR-8368).

Two problems arise from this. Warren (1955) appears to suggest that the channels on the foreshore at Lion Point were infilled by a sequence of horizontal beds in super-position, implying that, if the site is within the footprint of a Channel,IV, the Clacton Channel deposits should be encountered at around 0.0 mOD (Figure 4). However, the Holocene marine sediments also occur at this altitude and if they occurred further inland than Warren observed, now covered with recent sediments, the two could be confused.

Secondly, in an earlier paper, Warren (1933) suggested that the MIS 11 interglacial deposits did not infill Channel IV in a horizontal sequence, but lined the sides of the Channel (Figure 5). Thus a site could lie within the footprint of a Channel, but not overlie the interglacial deposits. The sediments involved are not necessarily readily assigned to the Clacton Channel deposits or to the

The sediments involved are not necessarily readily assigned to the Clacton Channel deposits or to the Holocene sequence, so biological, archaeological or dating evidence is needed to classify them.

Site investigation

Trial Pits

Three archaeological trenches were machine dug (Figure 6). The intention was to log any deposits overlying the local bedrock, London Clay. For safety reasons the pits were not entered beyond a depth of 1.2 m and the deeper parts of the trial pits were recorded from ground level by geological and photographic logging, with a surveying staff as a scale. The trial pits were logged at a scale of 1:25 (4 cm = 1 m).

Initially only two pits were to be sunk, at either end of the site, but an organic horizon seen in TP1 was not present in TP2, so an additional pit, TP3, was sunk in a central position, to determine the extent of the organic horizon.

Sampling

Samples were retained from the organic, humic clays in TP1 and TP3, to ascertain whether they are of freshwater or marine origin and whether they can be ascribed to the Clacton Channel deposits or are Holocene in age, and to obtain environmental information.

Field results

Descriptive logs of the 3 trial pits are given in Tables 1 to 3 and stratigraphic and photographic logs in Figures 7 to 15.

A full description of the analyses of the samples from Units 1.3 and 3.3 is presented as an appendix.

Sediment Interpretation

London Clay (Units 1.4, 2.3, 3.4)

Trial Pits 1, 2 and 3 showed London Clay, identified by its brown colour (10YR5/4), clay texture and characteristic brecciation and slickensiding, typical of near-surface outcrops of the Clay. The Clay, when fresh, has a dark grey colour, due to the presence of iron in its ferrous reduced state, but this is replaced by brown as the iron becomes ferric when it weathers. The brecciation (break-up into small fragments) is due fragmentation as the clay shrinks and swells, due to repeated drying and wetting. As the clay shrinks and swells, clusters of the clay move relative to one another, leaving scour marks (slickensides).

Organic clay (Units 1.3, 3.3)

Overlying this is a black clay rich in organic plant material (Units 1.3, 3.3), associated with a surrounding grey and dark grey (2.5Y3/0) clay. This is interpreted as salt marsh, built up with reworked London Clay, stained dark grey by the humic organic matter or coloured grey due the presence of reduced iron. In Trial Pit 3, the organic clay occupies only part of the south-east and south-west faces, suggesting it occurs either as a lens or reaches its local inland extent there. It does not occur in Trial Pit 2. Within the clay, there are more silty clayey lenses or inclusions, possibly remnants of minor channels.

Samples were taken from Units 1.3 and 3.3 and assessed for the presence of diatoms by Dr B.A. Haggart (report attached). The sample from Unit 1.3 was dominated by *Tryblionella navicularis*, indicative of brackish tidal mudflats. Also present was *Navicula peregrina*, associated with marsh environments. Unit 3.3 yielded only a fragment of *Nitzschia* sp. Which was not sufficient to determine environmental conditions. Overall the results suggest a Holocene tidal flat and saltmarsh environment.

A second sample, from Unit 1.3, was examined by Mr A. Snelling, who found a single unidentified Foraminifera (a marine indicator), in keeping with the above. No Ostracoda, which could have pointed to a freshwater, brackish water or marine environment, were found.

Reworked London Clay (Units 1.2, 2.2, 3.2)

A deposit with many of the characteristics of London Clay (texture, colour, brecciation and slickensiding) London Clay, occurred all three Trial Pits. Its stratigraphic position above the organic clay and the frequent occurrence of small pebbles, c.1 cm or less, indicated that it was not in situ London Clay. It is interpreted as redeposited London Clay.

Summary

The London Clay noted in all three Trial Pits shows the site to be on an inter-channel high overlain by Holocene sediments and reworked London Clay, so the interglacial Clacton Channel deposits were not identified.

Potential for Artefacts

The site has no potential for recovering Palaeolithic artefacts, but the Lyonesse Surface below the Holocene marine clays has the potential to recover Mesolithic to Bronze Age artefacts.

Recommendations

No further archaeological investigation of this site for Palaeolithic artefactual or environmental information is recommended but future development on land in the area should be considered seriously for further investigation.

References

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Figure 1 Site location





Figure 2 Geological setting of the site

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Figure 3 Archaeological and geomorphological setting of the site of the area

© D. Bridgland.





FIG. 1.—Diagrammatic section of Pleistocene channels i-vi, Clacton-on-Sea. Length of section about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. a-b, surface soil and trail; *i*, estuarine sand with shells; *k*, estuarine "peaty shale"; Fw, freshwater sediments; HGr., Holland Gravel; LC, London Clay.

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Figure 5 Map of foreshore deposits at Lion Point (Warren, 1933)



Figure 6 Trial pit locations

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Notes
1.1	0.0 - 0.6	+2.4 – +1.8	0.6	Spoil (building demolition debris).	Spoil.
1.2	0.6 – 1.2	+1.8 – + 1.2	0.6	'London Clay' with small stones. Brown (10YR5/4).	Reworked London Clay.
1.3	1.2 – 1.7/1.9	+1.2 – +0.7/0.5	0.5 – 0.7	Organic, humic clay with plant material and silty clay inclusions. Associated with dark grey clay (2.5Y3.0). Irregular base.	Tidal flat/salt marsh Sample of humic clay taken.
1.4	1.7/1.9 – 2.5	+0.7/0.5 – -1.0		London Clay, blocky with slickensided surfaces and brecciated. Brown (10YR5/4).	London Clay, disturbed by surface processes such as wetting and drying.
bgs – metres below ground surface				OD – Ordnance Datum	

Table 1 Trial Pit 1 (south-east face), descriptive log, ground surface level 2.41 mOD.

Figure 7 Trial Pit 1 (south-east face), stratigraphic log.

Jaywick Sea Pink Way

Trial Pit 1





Figure 8 Trial Pit 1 (south-east face), photographic log.



Figure 9 Trial Pit 1, detail at 1.4 m bgs of silty clay inclusion.

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Notes
2.1	0.0-0.2	+2.2 – +2.0	0.2	Spoil.	
2.2	0.2 – 0.6	+2.0 – +1.6	0.4 (max)	'London Clay' with small stones. Curved base, occupies only north- western part of face. Brown (10YR5/4).	London Clay, reworked by colluvial or marine processes.
2.3	0.2 – 3.3	+2.0 – -1.1	3.1 (max)	London Clay, blocky with slickensided surfaces and brecciated. Brown (10YR5/4).	London Clay, disturbed by surface processes such as wetting and drying.

Table 2 Trial Pit 2 (north-west face), descriptive log, ground surface level2.21 mOD.

bgs – metres below ground surface

OD – Ordnance Datum

Figure 10 Trial Pit 2 (north-west face), stratigraphic log.

Jaywick Sea Pink Way

Trial Pit 2





Figure 11 Trial Pit 2 (north-west face), photographic log.

Unit	m bgs	mOD	Thick (m)	Description	Notes
3.1	0.0 0.5	+2.3 – +1.8	0.5	Spoil.	
3.2	0.5 – 0.75	+1.8 – +1.55	0.25	'London Clay' with small stones. Brown (10YR5/4).	London Clay, reworked by colluvial or marine processes.
3.3	0.75 – 0.45/1.50	+1.55 – +1.25/0.80	0.3/0.75 (max)	Organic, humic clay with plant material and silty clay inclusions. Irregular base.	?Salt marsh. Sample of humic clay taken.
3.4	0.45/1.50 - 2.3	+1.25/0.80 - 0.0	0.8	London Clay, blocky with slickensided surfaces and brecciated. Grey mottling starts c.1.0 mBGS (1%), becoming more extensive with depth (c.10%).	London Clay, disturbed by surface processes such as wetting and drying.

Table 3 Trial Pit 3 (south-east face), descriptive log, ground surface level 2.29 mOD.

bgs – metres below ground surface

OD – Ordnance Datum

Figure 12 Trial Pit 3 (south-east face), stratigraphic log.

Jaywick Sea Pink Way

Trial Pit 3





Figure 13 Trial Pit 3 (south-east face), photographic log.

Figure 14 Trial Pit 3 (south-west face).







APPENDIX

ASSESSMENT OF DIATOMS

Introduction

Two samples taken during the September trial-pit excavations from TP1 and TP3 were made available for assessment. The samples from TP1 and TP3 were taken from the organic, humic clay units 1.3 and 3.3 respectively (Tables 1 and 3).

Methodology

Hydrogen peroxide (30%) was added to cover 1g of fresh sediment in a 500 mL beaker. The sample was heated on a hot plate set at 90°C in a fume cupboard until all organic material had been oxidised (1-3 hours) and then left to cool. The material was transferred to 50 mL centrifuge tubes and topped up with distilled water if necessary. The sample was then centrifuged at 1200 rpm for 4 minutes and the supernatant liquid decanted. This washing process was repeated three times, with a few drops of 1% ammonia solution added to the last wash to remove clay. A random sample was transferred using a pipette to a coverslip and allowed to settle and dry on a hot plate set to 30°C. The coverslip was then fixed onto a microscope slide using Naphrax diatom mountant. The slides were scanned using an Olympus BX40 microscope under oil immersion at a magnification of 1000x. Identifications were made with reference to Cleve-Euler (1951-55), Hendey (1964), Hartley (1996) and van der Werff and Huls (1957-64) with nomenclature following Hartley (1996).

Results and Interpretation

Overall preservation of diatoms was very poor in both samples, only parts of the more robust frustules and fragments of sponge spicules were observed. The sample from TP1 was dominated by *Tryblionella navicularis* which is a widespread and common form around the British coasts favouring brackish tidal mudflat environments (Zong and Horton, 1998). In some cases both valves were present, so the poor preservation is probably due to *in situ* post-depositional dissolution rather than physical damage. Also present was *Navicula peregrina*, again a common brackish form in low marsh environments (Zong and Horton, 1998). Only a fragment of *Nitzschia* sp. was observed in the sample from TP3 which is insufficient to inform on environmental conditions. However, the presence here of more robust siliceous sponge spicules may suggest that dissolution of diatoms has proceeded further than in the TP1 sample. It seems likely therefore that both samples indicate deposition in a Holocene tidal flat and saltmarsh environment.

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PART 2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT 7 SEA PINK WAY, JAYWICK, ESSEX, CO15 2HQ

September 2019

By Laura Pooley and Adam Wightman



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1 Summary

Archaeological monitoring was carried out at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, Essex during a geoarchaeological investigation consisting of three trial pits. The site has high potential for both Palaeolithic and early prehistoric archaeological remains, but no significant archaeological remains were encountered.

2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological monitoring carried out at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, Essex on 2nd September 2019. The work was commissioned by Laura Nicholls of APS Design Associates Ltd, on behalf of Mr Robert Culff, during the excavation of three geoarchaeological trial pits which was carried out in advance of the construction of a new block of flats. The archaeological monitoring was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Teresa O'Connor 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 the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for geoarchaeological evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Teresa O'Connor (ECCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

In addition to the brief and WSI, all fieldwork and reporting was done in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (*MoRPHE*), 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 monitoring* (CIfA 2014a), *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 Brief and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex (accessible to the public via <u>http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk</u>).

The site is located within an area that the HER highlights as a region of very high potential for both Palaeolithic archaeological remains and early prehistoric archaeological remains. Sediments from a former river channel laid down by the ancestral Thames before it was diverted have yielded internationally significant Palaeolithic remains and Pleistocene faunal remains within the area. In addition, find spots from along the foreshore, to the immediate south of the development area, have yielded Mesolithic and Neolithic remains which suggest early prehistoric settlement and activity within the area. There is the potential for significant Pleistocene sediments to be present below the surface geology which may contain Palaeolithic archaeological remains as well as buried prehistoric land-surfaces which may be impacted by the proposed development. The location and survival of the Clacton Channel deposits within the immediate area is unclear as a recent geoarchaeological assessment at Lotus way *c* 400m to the west did not locate the mapped Clacton channel deposit (CAT Report 1217). The deposits may not be continuous across the area or they may have been truncated or removed through later erosive events.

4 Aims

The aims of the monitoring was to identify and assess any prehistoric or later archaeological remains exposed by the geoarchaeological trial pits.

5 Results (Figs 2-3)

Three trial pits were mechanically excavated under the supervision of CAT archaeologist Adam Wightman and geoarchaeologist Peter Allen.

- Trial pit 1 (TP1): 1.8m square.
- Trial pit 2 (TP2): 1.5m long by 0.5m wide.
- Trial pit 3 (TP3): 1.8m long by 0.9m wide.

As per the brief, a CAT archaeologist was present to record any archaeological deposits and retrieve any finds from the upper horizons of the geoarchaeological trial pits.

TP1 & TP3: 0.45m of modern topsoil (L1, full of modern rubbish) sealed the natural clay (L2).

TP2: 0.5m of modern hardcore (L3, from demolished building) sealed natural clay (L2).

No archaeological deposits or finds were observed in any of the trial pits.

6 Finds

There were no archaeological finds.

7 Conclusion

No significant archaeological deposits or finds were observed in the geoarchaeological trial pits with modern made ground sealing natural.

8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Laura Nicholls (APS Design Associates Ltd) and Mr Robert Culff for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, geoarchaeological fieldwork and reporting was carried out by Peter Allen, archaeological monitoring was carried out by A Wightman and Z Eksen. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Teresa O'Connor.

9 References

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

Brown, N & Glazebrook, J	2000	Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 8 (EAA 8)
CAT	2018	Health & Safety Policy
CAT	2019	Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for geoarchaeological investigation at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HQ
ClfA	2014a	Standard and Guidance for archaeological monitoring
CIfA	2014b	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials
ECCPS	2019	Brief for geoarchaeological evaluation at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, by Teresa O'Connor
Gurney, D	2003	Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England	2015	Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

		(MoRPHE)
Medlycott, M	2011	Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the
•		East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	National Planning Policy Framework. Ministry of Housing,
		Communities and Local Government.

8 Abbreviations and glossary

Colchester Archaeological Trust
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Essex County Council
Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
Essex County Council Place Services
Essex Historic Environment Record
distinct or distinguishable deposit (layer) of material
period from <i>c</i> 10,000 – 4000BC
period from <i>c</i> AD 1800 to the present
geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
period from <i>c</i> 4000 – 2500 BC
National Grid Reference
Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS,
http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main
period <i>c</i> 800,000 BC to <i>c</i> 10,000BC
Geological epoch which lasted from about 2,580,000 to 11,700 years ago,
spanning the world's most recent period of repeated glaciations.
pre-Roman
(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
written scheme of investigation

9 Contents of archive

Finds: n/a

Paper recordOne A4 document wallet containing:
The report (CAT Report 1487)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Site digital photos and logDigital record
The report (CAT Report 1487)
ECC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation
Graphics
Site digital photos and log
Survey data

10 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 the reference number CSSW19.

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Distribution list: Laura Nicholls, APS Design Associates Ltd Mr Robert Culff Teresa O'Connor, ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisors Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy Date: 11.10.19





Fig 2 Location of trial pits

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: colchest3-361147

Project details

Project name Geoarchaeological investigation at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HQ

Short description of the project Geoarchaeological investigation was carried out at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, Essex in advance of the construction of a new block of flats. The site has high potential for both Palaeolithic and early prehistoric archaeological remains. Three trial pits were excavated during the geoarchaeological investigation with the excavation also being monitored for later archaeological remains. Geoarchaeological investigation: The London Clay noted in all three trial pits shows the site to be on an inter-channel high overlain by Holocene sediments and reworked London Clay, so the interglacial Clacton Channel deposits were not identified. Archaeological monitoring: No significant archaeological remains were encountered with modern made ground sealing natural.

Project dates	Start: 02-09-2019 End: 02-09-2019
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	19/07g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	16/01358/FUL - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	CSSW19 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	N/A None
Significant Finds	N/A None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

planning process

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX TENDRING CLACTON ON SEA 7 Sea Pink Way
Postcode	CO15 2HQ
Study area	0.02 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 15115 12951 51.773258972791 1.118420854996 51 46 23 N 001 07 06 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 1.8m Max: 2m

After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project creators

Position in the

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HEM Team Officer, ECC
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Peter Allen
Project supervisor	Adam Wightman
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Robert Culff

Project archives

Physical Archive No Exists?

Digital Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Digital Archive ID	CSSW19
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum
Paper Archive ID	CSSW19
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Geoarchaeological investigation at 7 Sea Pink Way, Jaywick, Essex, CO15 2HQ: September 2019
Allen, P.
Pooley, L.
Wightman, A.
CAT Report 1487
2019
Colchester Archaeological Trust
Colchester
A4 ring-bound loose leaf
http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html
Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
11 October 2019



 OASIS:
 Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice

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