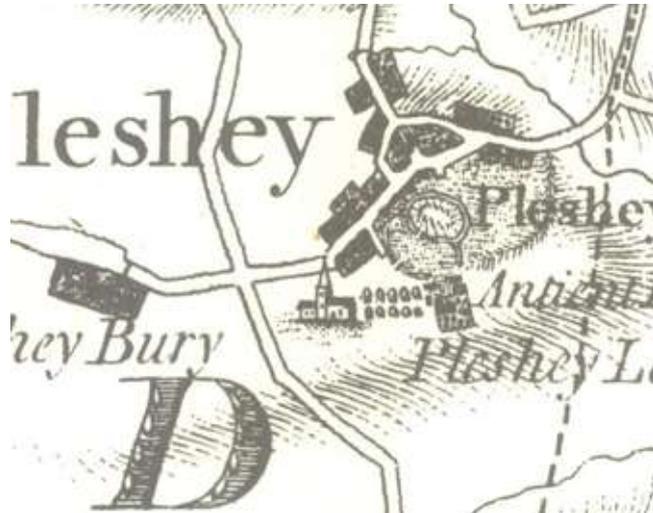


# Archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to the Old White Horse Inn, The Street, Pleshey, Essex, CM3 1HA

October 2019



by **Dr Elliott Hicks**

figures by Chris Lister, Ben Holloway and Sarah Carter  
fieldwork by Ben Holloway and Mark Baister

**commissioned by John Grounds (Stormport)  
on behalf of Stormport Professional Services Ltd**

NGR: TL 6632 1438 (centre)

CAT project ref.: 19/09r

ECC code: PY33

Chelmsford Museum accession code: CHMER: 2019.057

OASIS ref.: colchest3-368909



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**CAT Report 1492**

October 2019

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## 1 Summary

*Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to the Old White Horse Inn, The Street, Pleshey, Essex during the relocation of a low voltage power network involving the erection of a new pole and excavation of a cable trench. A post-medieval pit was uncovered. This feature was presumably the product of activity at the series of historic cottages where the public house is located.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report for archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to the Old White Horse Inn, The Street, Pleshey, Essex which was carried out during 1st to 7th October 2019. The work was commissioned by Stormport Professional Services Ltd during the relocation of a low voltage power network involving the erection of a new pole and excavation of a cable trench, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

In response to consultation with Essex County Council Place Services (ECCPS), Historic Environment Advisor Alison Bennett 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 Archaeological Monitoring*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Alison Bennett (ECCPS 2019), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2019).

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 field excavation* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 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 <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>).

The site is located along the western boundary of the former Old White Horse Inn, on land currently a car park and garden area. The land is adjacent to the enclosure earthwork of the scheduled area of Pleshey Castle and town enclosure (SM EX22 HA 1002191 EHER 1126). Pleshey Castle is a good example of a motte and bailey type of earthwork built in the 12th century with an unusually well-preserved town enclosure. The castle was slighted in 1157-8 but refortified in 1167. Only a short length of the north bailey remains, its line possibly marked by Back Lane. As the site lies within the medieval town enclosure, there is a high potential for archaeological finds and features relating to the medieval and post-medieval settlement.

The White Horse Inn is an 18th-century timber-framed and plastered Historic England Grade II listed building with later additions and alterations (Listed building no. 1235459). The inn forms a group of several historic cottages.

#### 4 Aim

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken to record any archaeological deposits which were revealed by the groundworks.

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

During 1st to 7th October 2019, a CAT archaeologist monitored the following groundworks:

- a) trenching 34.1m long and 0.65-0.8m deep to accommodate cable and a new pole;
- b) a pit, 1m by 1.5m and 0.6m deep, for a new junction box.

Six layers were recorded. The northern part of the trenching was excavated through modern topsoil (L1, c 0.14-0.15m thick) and a layer of sandy silt with frequent CBM inclusions (L2, c 0.27m thick) into natural subsoil (L3, encountered at a depth of c 0.4-0.42m below current ground level [bcgl]). The southern part of the trenching was excavated through L1 (c 0.14-0.15m thick), a build-up layer (L4, c 0.12-0.21m thick) and a layer of ?redeposited natural (L5, c 0.24-0.3m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.59-0.64m bcgl). The pit for the junction box was dug through a modern layer of tarmac (L6, c 0.09-0.12m thick), L4 (c 0.18-0.22m thick) and L5 (c 0.17-0.25m thick) onto L3 (encountered at a depth of 0.51-0.55m bcgl).

Post-medieval pit F1 was revealed in the northern half of the trench. The feature extended beyond the limit of excavation and so its full dimensions could not be ascertained, but its exposed extent was approximately 3.4m wide.



**Photograph 1** Northern part of trench showing extent of F1 - looking north

#### 6 Finds

A piece of post-medieval clay pipe stem and brick fragments came from F1 but were not retained for post-excavation analysis.

## 7 Discussion

Groundworks at this site revealed a post-medieval pit, which was presumably related to activity at the post-medieval cottages.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Stormport Professional Services Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by B Holloway and M Baister. Figures are by C Lister, B Holloway and S Carter. The project was monitored for ECCPS by Alison Bennett.

## 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	<i>Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2. Research agenda and strategy.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper <b>8</b> (EAA <b>8</b> )
CAT	2018	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
ClfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
ClfA	2014b	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
Gurney, D	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>14</b> (EAA <b>14</b> ).
Historic England	2015	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England	2018a	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works. Application for Scheduled Monument Consent: Pleshey Castle and town enclosure, Pleshey, Essex, by S Poppy
Medlycott, M	2011a	<i>Pleshey Historic Town Assessment Report</i>
Medlycott, M	2011b	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers <b>24</b> (EAA <b>24</b> )
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
ClfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
context	a single unit of excavation, which is often referred to numerically, and can be any feature, layer or find
ECCHEA	Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor
ECCPS	Essex County Council Place Services
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record
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	Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations, <a href="http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main">http://oasis.ac.uk/pages/wiki/Main</a>
post-medieval	from c AD 1500 to c 1800
section	(abbreviation sx or Sx) vertical slice through feature/s or layer/s
wsi	written scheme of investigation

## 11 Contents of archive

**Finds:** n/a

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:  
The report (CAT Report 1492)  
Original site records (sections/plans)  
Photographic thumbnails and log  
Inked sections

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1492)  
Photographs, photographic thumbnails and log  
Graphics files  
Survey data

## 12 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 Chelmsford Museum under accession code CHMER: 2019.057

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### **Distribution list:**

Stormport Professional Services Ltd  
ECC Place Services Historic Environment Advisor  
Essex Historic Environment Record, Essex County Council



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 30.10.2019

**Appendix 1 Context list**

<b>Context number</b>	<b>Finds number</b>	<b>Feature / layer type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
L1	-	Topsoil	Loose/soft, dry dark grey/black sandy-silt	Modern
L2	-	?Accumulation	Firm, dry medium grey/brown sandy-silt with CBM flecks and 10% CBM pieces	Post-medieval
L3	-	Natural subsoil	Firm, dry light yellow clay with frequent chalk flecks	Undatable
L4	-	Build-up layer	Medium brown sandy-silt with frequent CBM pieces	Modern
L5	-	?Redeposited natural	Dark brown/black clay with charcoal, chalk and CBM pieces	Post-medieval
L6	-	Tarmac	Tarmac hard top surface with underlying hoggin	Modern
F1	-	Pit	Friable, dry dark grey loam	Post-medieval



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Fig 1 Site location with the area of the monitoring indicated by the dashed red rectangle.

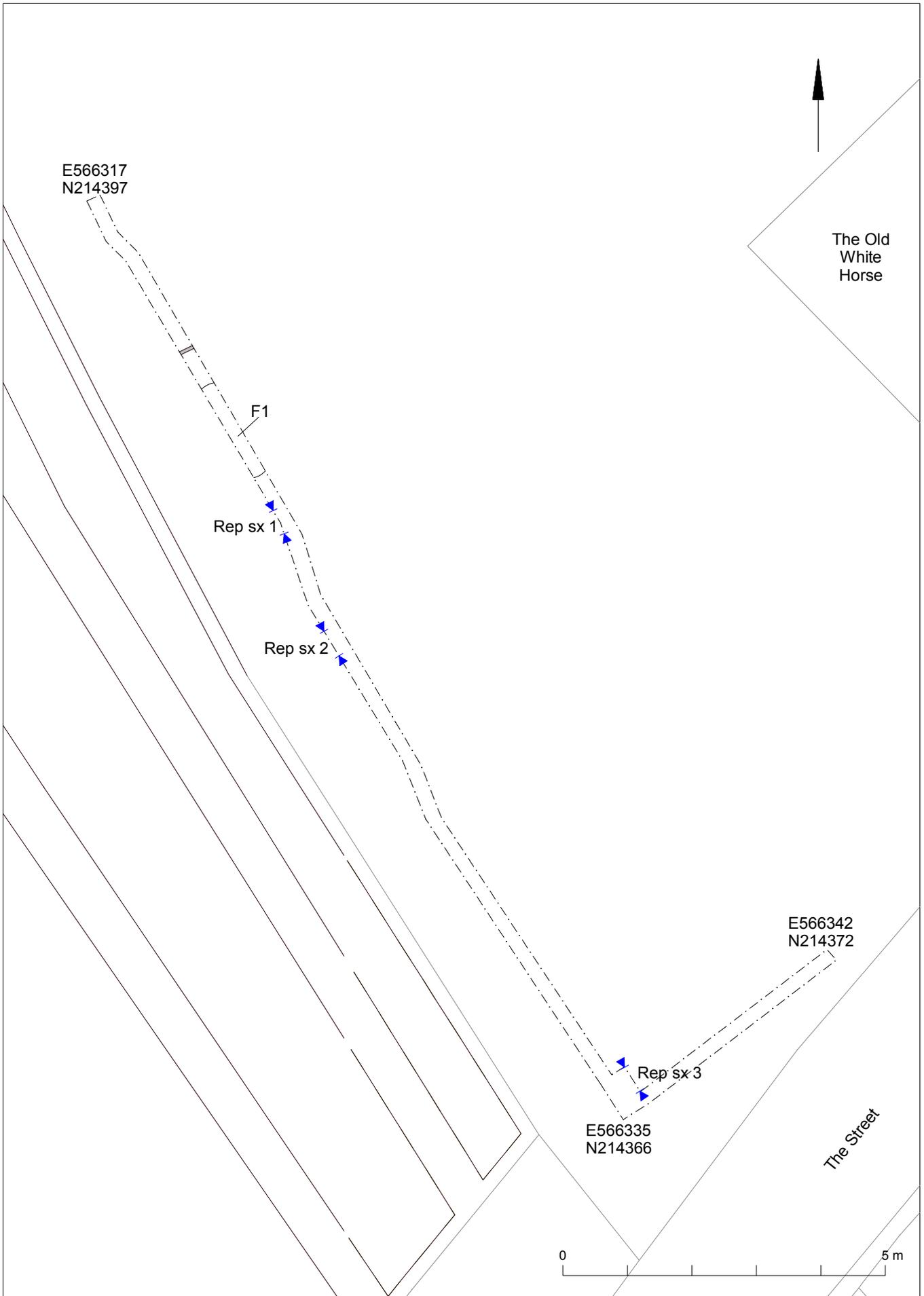


Fig 2 Monitoring results.

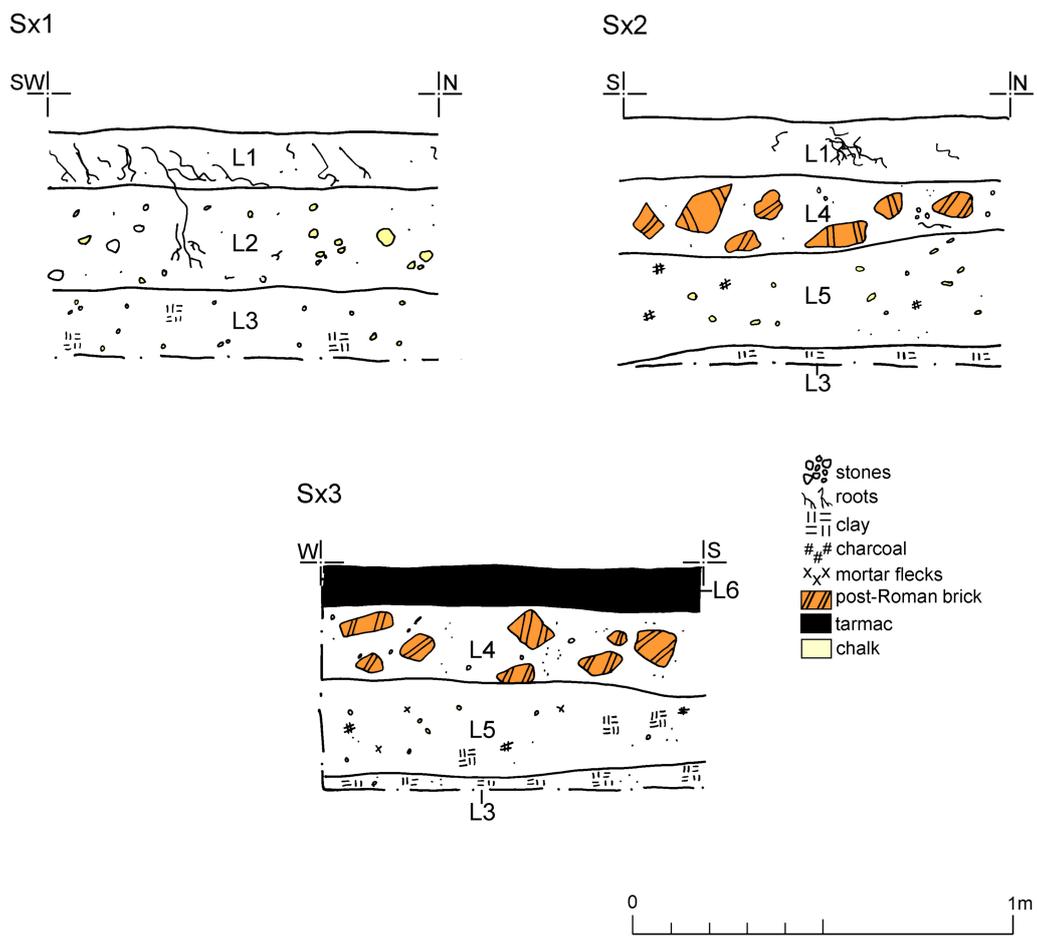


Fig 3 Representative sections.

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-368909**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to the Old White Horse Inn, The Street, Pleshey, Essex, CM3 1HA.
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring was carried out on land adjacent to the Old White Horse Inn, The Street, Pleshey, Essex during the relocation of a low voltage power network involving the erection of a new pole and excavation of a cable trench. A post-medieval pit was uncovered. This feature was presumably the product of activity at the series of historic cottages where the public house is located.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2019 End: 07-10-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	SM EX 22, HA 1002191 - SM No.
Any associated project reference codes	2019/09r - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	PY33 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	CHMER: 2019.057 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

### Project location

Country England

Site location	ESSEX CHELMSFORD PLESHEY land adjacent to the Old White Horse Inn, The Street, Pleshey, Essex
Postcode	CM3 1HA
Study area	0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 6632 1438 51.802800487396 0.412522403746 51 48 10 N 000 24 45 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	HISTORIC ENGLAND
Project design originator	Emma Holloway
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Mark Baister
Project supervisor	Ben Holloway
Type of sponsor/funding body	Electricity Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Stormport Professional Services Limited

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Digital Archive ID	CHMER: 2019.057
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chelmsford Museum
Paper Archive ID	CHMER: 2019.057
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Drawing","Photograph","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring on land adjacent to the Old White Horse Inn, The Street, Pleshey, Essex, CM3 1HA: October 2019
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hicks, E.

Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1492
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication	Colchester
Description	A4 loose-leaf ring-bound
URL	<a href="http://cat.essex.ac.uk">http://cat.essex.ac.uk</a>
Entered by	Dr Elliott Hicks (eh2@catuk.org)
Entered on	30 October 2019

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