

# Archaeological evaluation at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AB

February 2020



**by Dr Pip Parmenter**

with contributions by Dr Matthew Loughton  
figures by Chris Lister, Mark Baister and Emma Holloway

fieldwork by Mark Baister with Nicholas Pryke and Matthew Perou

**commissioned by Andrew Ransome (ADP Ltd)**

NGR: TM 0107 1242 (centre)

Planning ref.: 192769

CAT project ref.: 20/01g

ECC code: ECC4429

OASIS ref.: colchest3-382198



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**CAT Report 1523**

February 2020

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## 1 Summary

*An archaeological evaluation (four test-pits) was undertaken at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex in advance of the modification and extension of the existing dwelling. The site is located in an area of known Roman settlement and adjacent to a known archaeological site of a possible Roman villa (MCC8835). One of the test-pits revealed Roman material. Three of the four test pits were devoid of any archaeological remains.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the report for an archaeological evaluation by test-pitting at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Colchester, which was carried out on 10th and 11th February 2020. The work was commissioned by ADP Ltd, in advance of the modification and extension of the existing dwelling, and was undertaken by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). This recommendation was for an archaeological evaluation, but due to constraints on access to the site and the terraced nature of the garden, it was agreed that four test-pits would be hand-dug. Advice was based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with a *Brief for an archaeological trial trench evaluation*, detailing the required archaeological work, written by Jess Tipper (CBCAA 2020), and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) prepared by CAT in response to the brief and agreed with ECCPS (CAT 2020).

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 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 is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (ECC and MCC numbers) accessible via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

### Meadow Lane

CAT have carried out two previous watching briefs at Meadow Lane (CAT Report 420, MCC2740 and 629). Although no archaeological features were identified during either site, at 6 Meadow Lane it was noted that the ground level seemed substantially lower than the land to the immediate north, with further terracing to the south of the site towards the sea front (CAT Report 629).

### Yorick Road/Beach Road area

CAT carried out a series of archaeological investigations at 20 Yorick Road. The rear of the property includes the location of a Roman wheel-shaped *mausoleum* (MCC8355 Scheduled Monument no. 1002195). The mausoleum was discovered in 1896 and initially thought to be the remains of a Roman lighthouse. The structure is 20m in diameter with a hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls. These walls meet the 1m-thick encircling wall and project beyond it for over a metre as external buttresses. Between each pair of walls there is an extra buttress, making twelve in all. The structure is made of tile on foundations of mortar and Kentish

ragstone. Dressed stone and roof tiles have also been found. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by English Heritage in 1989. An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the *mausoleum* (MCC2973, CAT Report 255) followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (MCC5406, CAT Report 330). Although the exact location is uncertain the CHER has records of a brick tomb found a few yards east of the wheel tomb on a property off Beach Road. The tomb contained a glass urn with a lead lid and inside was cremated bone of a child and a small clay lamp (MCC8786).

#### **Church Road area**

The site lies to the east of West Mersea parish church (Church of St Peter and St Paul). The church is constructed of re-used Roman Kentish ragstone with Roman, and later, brick. The earliest evidence (the lower part of the tower) appears to be 11th century in date (CHER MCC8909 & MCC4666). The area around the churchyard has had a number of sightings of finds. Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (Powell 1963, 3, 158-9). In 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). And CAT excavated three trial pits in 1991 prior to extensions to the church. Only residual Roman finds were found (CAT Report 1000 vol 3). To the west of the church is thought to be the location of a medieval priory. Although the exact location is uncertain, it was recorded to have been established in 1046 (CHER MCC8835). Within this area Roman pavement and tesserae have been noted on more than one occasion and could suggest there was a Roman villa nearby (CHER MCC8858 & MCC8909). On the southern side of Coast Road a well is thought to relate to the priory (CHER MCC9356).

#### **4 Aim**

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to record the extent of any surviving archaeological deposits, and to assess the archaeological potential of the site to allow the CBCAA to determine if further investigation is required.

#### **5 Results (Figs 1-2)**

Four test-pits were hand-excavated by CAT archaeologists. All contained five layers comprising a thin dark modern topsoil (L1), which overlay a layer of modern build up (L2, c 0.2-0.4m thick) and a layer of buried topsoil (L3, c 0.18-0.3m thick). In all the trenches, L3 sealed an accumulation layer which was flecked with CBM and contained some medieval to modern material including a sherd of pottery and CBM (L4, 0.7-1m thick). In test-pits 2, 3 and 4 this accumulation layer overlay natural light brown sand and gravel, which was observed to start at roughly 1.7m below ground level (L5). In test-pit 1, there was an a further accumulation layer (L6) between L4 and L5. This comprised a medium/dark grey soft, friable sand silt approximately 0.5m thick. Within the constraints of the test-pit it was impossible to judge whether this was in fact part of a feature, a lens of material within L4, or a separate layer. It contained a number of Roman finds including pottery fragments and Roman tile. These are discussed in section 6 below.



**Photograph 1** Test-pit 1 (L6 in base), looking north

## 6 Finds

by Dr Matthew Loughton

The test-pitting produced a small assemblage of Roman and post-Roman pottery and ceramic building material (henceforth CBM) with 18 sherds with a weight of 1,056g (Table 1). This material came from accumulations layers L4 and L6 (Table 2).

Ceramic material	no.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
Pottery	13	265	20	0.12
CBM	5	791	158	-
<b>All</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0.12</b>

**Table 1** Details on the main types of ceramics and pottery

Feature	Feature Type	no.	Weight (g)	MSW (g)	Rim EVE
L4	Accumulation	5	110	22	0.00
L6	Accumulation	13	946	73	0.12
<b>Total</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>0.12</b>

**Table 2** Number and weight of pottery and CBM from layers

Accumulation layer L6 contained a small assemblage of Roman pottery, including a rim from a Cam 273 storage vessel (fabric HZ) dating to AD 44-200/300, and Roman CBM. Medieval and post-medieval material was recovered from Accumulation layer L4, including a sherd of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (fabric 40) dating from c 1500 until the 19th/20th century as well as peg-tile and brick.

### Summary

Accumulation layer L6 dates to the Roman period while accumulation layer L4 is post-medieval (Table 3).

Feature	Feature Type	Pottery	CBM	Overall date approx.
L4	Subsoil	HD?	BR	Post-medieval

		F40	PT	
L6	Subsoil	GX HZ (Cam 273)	RT RBT	Roman

**Table 3** Feature dating summary

## 7 Conclusion

Only one of the four test-pits contained archaeological remains. Test-pit 1 contained a layer at its base which was relatively rich in Roman material including a rim-sherd and CBM. Within the constraints of the test-pit it was unclear whether this layer was from within a discrete feature which lay largely outside of the bounds of the test-pit or whether it was part of a lens of material within L4, possibly deposited by tidal activity. L4 contained disturbed material including pottery sherds and CBM potentially dating from the medieval to modern periods.

## 8 Acknowledgements

CAT thanks Andrew Ransome of ADP Ltd for commissioning and funding the work. The project was managed by C Lister, fieldwork was carried out by M Baister with N Prike and M Perou. Figures are by C Lister, M Baister and E Holloway. The project was monitored for Colchester Borough Council by Jess Tipper.

## 9 References

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

- |                          |              |   |
|--------------------------|--------------|---|
| Brown, D                 | 2011         | <i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>  |
| CAT                      | 2019         | <i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>   |
| CAT                      | 2020         | <i>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AB</i>   |
| CAT Report 255           | 2004         | <i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: November 2003</i> , by B Holloway  |
| CAT Report 330           | 2005         | <i>An archaeological watching brief at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex: July 2005</i> , by B Holloway  |
| CAT Report 420           | 2007         | Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) at 4 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex: April 2007. By K Orr   |
| CAT Report 629           | 2012         | <i>Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) At 6 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex September 2011 – February 2012</i> , by B Holloway   |
| CAT Report 1000          | forth-coming | <i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997)</i> , by H Brooks |
| CBCAA                    | 2019         | <i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Colchester</i> , by J Tipper   |
| 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>   |
| Cotter, J.P.             | 2000         | <i>CAR Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.</i>   |
| East Anglian Archaeology | 2015         | <i>Advice note for Post Excavation Assessment</i>   |
| Gurney, D                | 2003         | <i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14 (EAA 14)</i>   |
| Historic England         | 2015         | <i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>   |
| Medlycott, M             | 2011         | <i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)</i>  |



MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework</i> . Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Symonds, R. and Wade, S. (eds.)	1999	<i>CAR 10: Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-86</i> , 120-136. Colchester: Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

Bronze Age	period from c 2500 – 700 BC
CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBCAA	Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor
CBM	ceramic building material, ie brick/tile
CHER	Colchester Historic Environment Record
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.
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	<b>Online Access to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS</b> , <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
prehistoric	pre-Roman
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:** part of one box

### **Paper record**

One A4 document wallet containing:

The report (CAT Report 1523)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Original site record (trench sheet, sections)

Digital photographic thumbnails and log

### **Digital record**

The report (CAT Report 1523)

CBC evaluation brief, CAT written scheme of investigation

Digital photographic thumbnails and log

Graphics

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 Colchester Museum under project reference no. ECC4429.

**Distribution list:**

Andrew Ransome, ADP Ltd

Jess Tipper, Colchester Borough Council Planning Services

Essex Historic Environment Record



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Checked by: Philip Crummy

Date: 27.02.2020



Appendix 1 Pottery list

Cxt	Feature type	Find no.	Trench	NR	GR.	MSW	Discard	Rim	Handle	Base	Dec.	STAMP	GRAFF Pre-F	GRAFF Post-F	Wind Int	Wind Ex	Soot Int	Soot Ex	Burn Int	Burn Ext	Overfired	Residue	Abraded	Modif	Mark	Repair hole	Hole	Disc	Polishing	Fabric Grp	Typology	EVE	Diarn.	Vessel Height	Comments	Date
L4	subsoil	1	3	1	20	20														X								F40						c.1500-19th/20th century		
L4	subsoil	1	3	1	2	2																						HD					?, lots of shell	Late Roman		
L6	subsoil	2	1	10	78	7.8		0	0	4																		GX						Roman		
L6	subsoil	2	1	1	165	165		1	0	0																		HZ	Cam 273	12	280			AD 44-200/300		



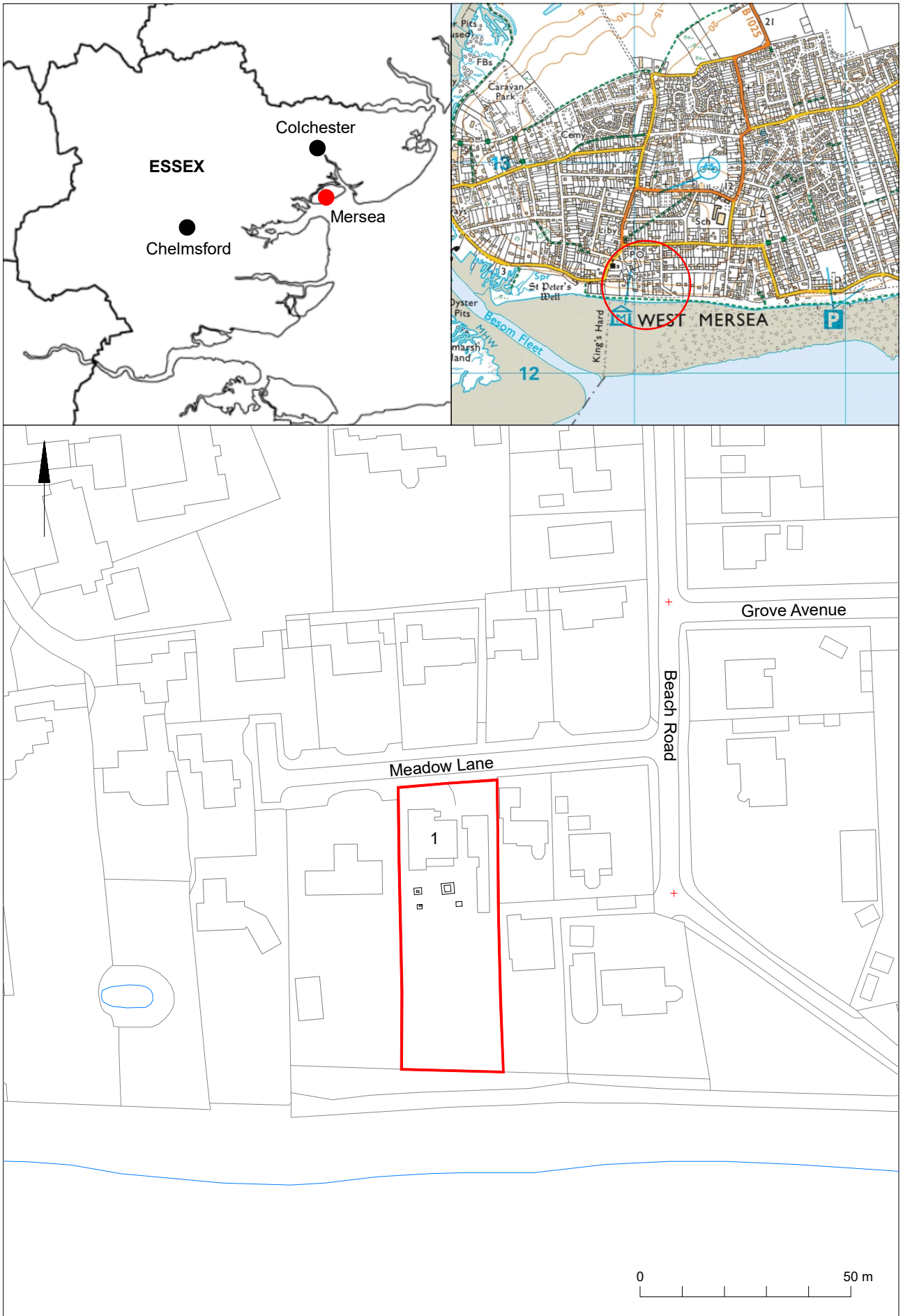


Fig 1 Site location.

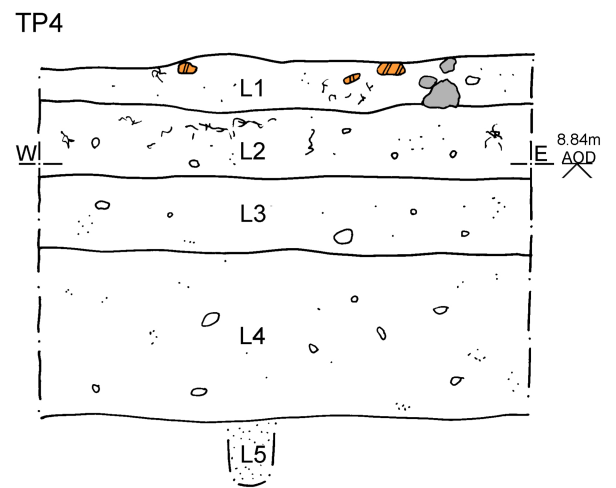
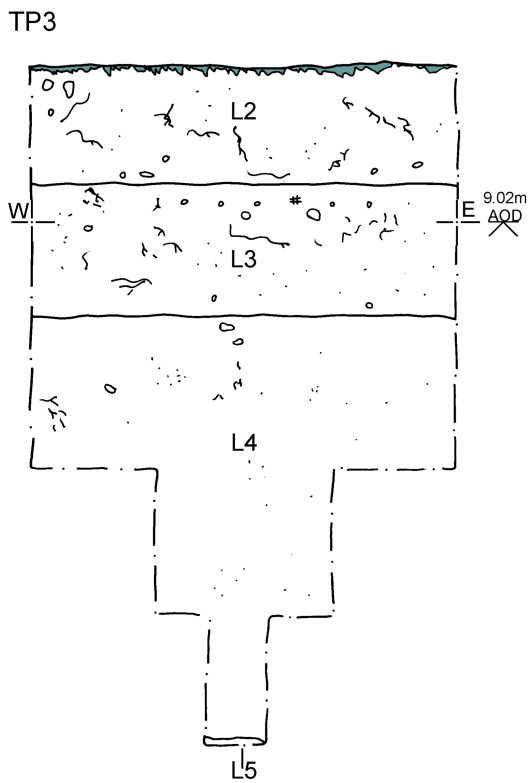
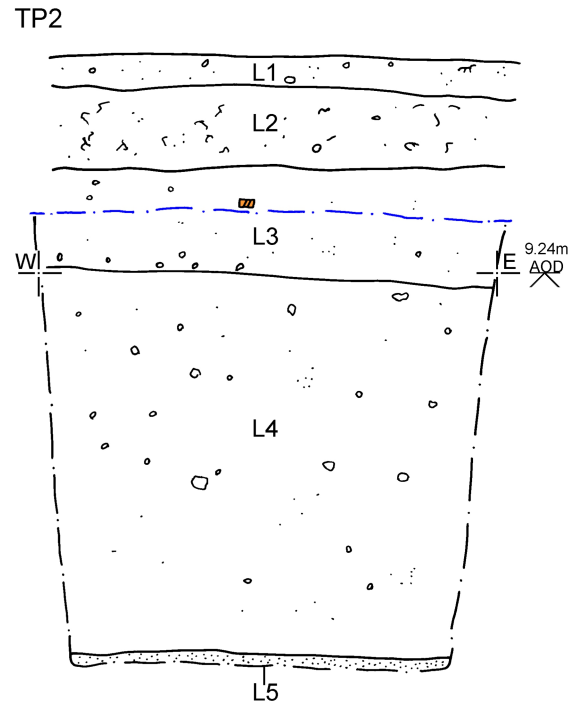
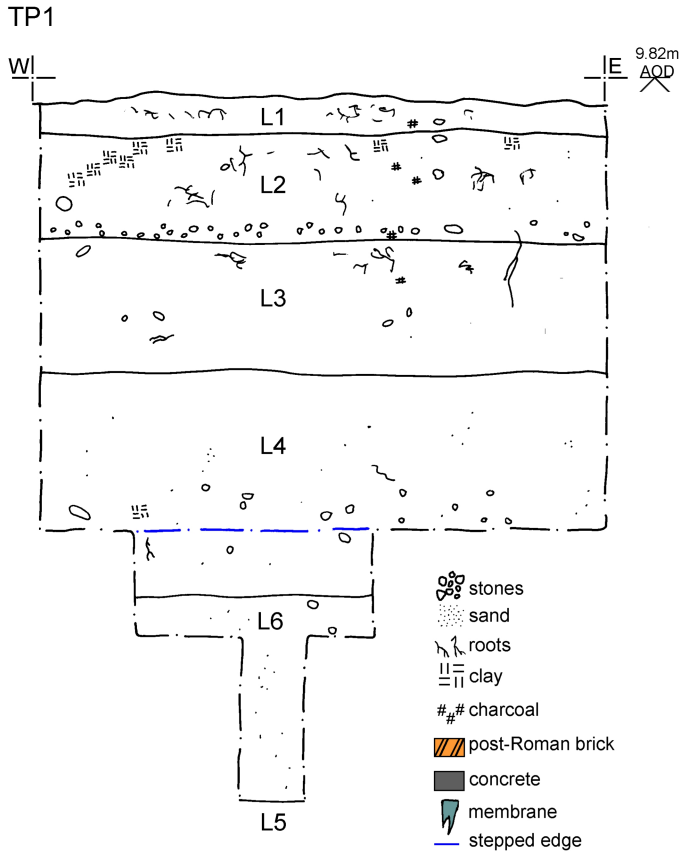


Fig 2 Test pit sections.

# Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

<b>Address: 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, CO5 8AB</b>	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TM 0107 1242 (centre)	<b>Site code:</b> CAT project ref.: 20/01g CHER ref: ECC4429 OASIS ref: colchest3-378367
<b>Type of work:</b> Evaluation by test-pitting	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> 10th & 11th February 2020	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> 0.16 ha
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Developer
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> Not known	<b>Related CHER/SMR number:</b> CHER MCC2740, MCC2973, MCC4666, MCC5406, MCC8355, MCC8786, MCC8835, MCC8858, MCC8909, MCC9356
<b>Final report:</b> CAT Report 1523	
<b>Periods represented:</b> -	
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b> An archaeological evaluation (four test-pits) was undertaken at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex in advance of the modification and extension of the existing dwelling. The site is located in an area of known Roman settlement and adjacent to a known archaeological site of a possible Roman villa (MCC8835). One of the test-pits revealed Roman material including a rim-herd and CBM. Three of the four test pits were devoid of any archaeological remains.	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> -	
<b>CBC monitor:</b> Dr Jess Tipper	
<b>Keywords:</b> -	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Dr Pip Parmenter	<b>Date of summary:</b> February 2020

# **Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AB.**

**NGR:** TM 0107 1242 (centre)

**District:** Colchester

**Planning reference:** 192769

**Commissioned by:** Andrew Ransome (ADP)

**On behalf of:** Mr & Mrs L Tyler

**Curating museum:** Colchester

**CHER project code:** ECC4429

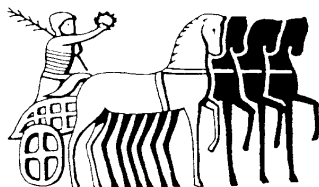
**CAT project code:** 2020/01g

**Oasis project ID:** colchest3-382198

**Site manager:** Chris Lister

**CBC monitor:** Jess Tipper

**This WSI written:** 23/01/2020



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## Site location and description

The proposed development site is located on the southern edge of central West Mersea, approximately 128m north of the sea, at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AB (Fig 1). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TM 0107 1242.

## Proposed work

The development comprises the modification and extension to the existing dwelling and garage, replacement of an outbuilding, landscaping and any associated groundworks.

## Archaeological background

The following archaeological background is based on the Colchester Archaeological Trust report archive and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (CHER, ECCMCC numbers) accessed via the Colchester Heritage Explorer ([www.colchesterheritage.co.uk](http://www.colchesterheritage.co.uk)):

### Meadow Lane

CAT have carried out two previous watching briefs at Meadow Lane (CAT Reports 420, MCC2740 and 629). Although no archaeological features were identified during either site, at 6 Meadow Lane it was noted that the ground level seemed substantially lower than the land to the immediate north, with further terracing to the south of the site towards the sea front (CAT Report 629).

### Yorick Road/Beach Road area

CAT carried out a series of archaeological investigations at 20 Yorick Road. The rear of the property includes the location of a Roman wheel-shaped *mausoleum* (MCC8355 Scheduled Monument no. 1002195). The mausoleum was originally discovered in 1896 and initially thought to be the remains of a Roman lighthouse. The structure is 20m in diameter with a hexagonal chamber in the centre from which radiate six walls. These walls meet the 1m-thick encircling wall and project beyond it for over a metre as external buttresses. Between each pair of walls there is an extra buttress, making twelve in all. The structure is made of tile on foundations of mortar and Kentish ragstone. Dressed stone and roof tiles have also been found. A geophysical survey of the site was carried out by English Heritage in 1989. An exploratory trench was undertaken to assess the exact location and condition of the *mausoleum* (MCC2973, CAT Report 255). Followed by a watching brief exposing part of a Roman wall foundation (MCC5406, CAT Report 330).

Although the exact location is uncertain the CHER has records of a brick tomb found a few yards east of the wheel tomb on a property off Beach Road. The tomb contained a glass urn with a lead lid and inside was cremated bone of a child and a small clay lamp (MCC8786).

### Church Road area

The site lies to the east of West Mersea parish church (Church of St Peter and St Paul). The church is constructed of re-used Roman Kentish ragstone walls with Roman, and later, brick. The earliest evidence (the lower part of the tower) appears to be 11th century in date (CHER MCC8909 & MCC4666). The area around the churchyard has had a number of sightings of finds. Cromwell Mortimer recorded seeing a mosaic and Roman remains in 1730 (Powell 1963, 3, 158-9). In 1896 Henry Laver observed a Roman wall (CHER MCC8858). And CAT excavated three trial pits in 1991 prior to extensions to the church. Only some residual Roman finds were recorded (CAT Report 1000 vol 3).

To the west of the church is thought to be the location of a medieval priory. Although the exact location is uncertain, it was recorded to have been established in 1046 (CHER MCC8835). Within this area Roman pavement and tesserae have been noted on more than one occasion and could suggest there was a Roman villa nearby (CHER MCC8858 & MCC8909). On the southern side of Coast Road a well is thought to relate to the priory (CHER MCC9356).



On land to the north of Church Road CAT was called out by the Curator of West Mersea Museum to record where workmen had uncovered human remains in trenches for a sewerage trench for a new bungalow. Although the workmen had removed all the bone (?3 partial skulls, some limb and vertebrae bones) before the first visit, on the second visit the location of a human skull was recorded. The skeletal remains were interpreted as medieval in date. It was also noted fragments of daub as well as Roman tile/brick fragments were seen in the backfill (CAT Report 1000 vol 3).

### **High Street area**

Roman occupation around the High Street area has been recorded through multiple sightings of wall foundations and floors and medieval remains related to the adjacent church and priory. Development along the High Street have included a small excavation at Bonheur in 1922, which revealed a Roman stone wall set in *opus signinum* (CHER MCC8837). Further work by Hull in 1927 revealed Roman pottery, a bone pin and an iron knife (CHER ECC3540, Powell 1963, 3, 161). A possible Roman wall was also found near the land from the High Street to Captains Lane (CHER MCC8860). Adjacent to this in 2016 a Roman ditch was recorded during a watching brief by Britannia Archaeology (CHER MCC10065).

### **Planning background**

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in November 2019 (application No. 192769) for the *proposed modification and extension to the existing dwelling including creation of lower level floor; partial demolition of garage to provide covered parking area; replacement of outbuilding; provision of new outbuilding; associated landscaping works*).

As the site lies within an area highlighted by the CHER as having a high potential for archaeological deposits, an archaeological condition was recommended by the Colchester Borough Council Archaeological Advisor (CBCAA). The recommended archaeological condition is based on the guidance given in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).

### **Requirement for work** (Fig 1-2)

The required archaeological work was for an archaeological evaluation. Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2020).

Specifically, the brief requested one linear evaluation trench, measuring 8m long by 1.8m wide located to cover the area of the proposed development. Due to the site being inaccessible by a machine, and after consultation with the CBCAA, it was agreed this could be altered to four test pits, two 1.5m<sup>2</sup> and two 1m<sup>2</sup> (see Fig 2 for proposed location plan).

The test pits may need to be widened in localised areas to facilitate the excavation of deep archaeological features (if encountered)

The evaluation is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. To:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Further archaeological evaluation could be required if unusual deposits or other archaeological finds of significance are recovered, this decision will be made by the CBCAA and will be the subject of an additional brief and WSI.

## 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 2019)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2020).

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 CHER. This will include an uploaded .PDF version of the entire report.

A unique HER event number will be obtained from the CBCAA prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The curating museum will be notified of the details of the project and the event code, which will be used to identify the project archive when depositing at the end of the project.

## Staffing

The number of field staff for this project is estimated as follows: One supervisor plus one archaeologist for one day.

In charge of day-to-day site work: Ben Holloway/Mark Baister

## Evaluation methodology

Due to access problems on the site the test pits will be hand dug. If no archaeologically significant deposits are exposed, excavation will continue until natural subsoil 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 (see Human remains section below).

Fast hand-excavation techniques involving (for instance) picks, forks and mattocks will not be used on complex stratigraphy.

A sondage will be excavated where possible in the test pits to test the stratigraphy of the site, unless it can be demonstrated that a feature excavated within a particular test pit has clearly penetrated into natural.

A representative section will be drawn of each test pit, to include ground level, the depth of excavation and any sondages.

A metal detector will be used to examine the test pits, 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**

The test pit locations and any features will be surveyed by Total Station or GPS, unless the particulars of the features indicate that manual planning techniques should be employed. 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 test pits will be located by NGR coordinates.

### **Environmental sampling policy**

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

Sampling strategies will address questions of:

- the range of preservation types (charred, mineral-replaced, waterlogged), and their quality
- concentrations of macro-remains
- and differences in remains from undated and dated features
- variation between different feature types and areas of site

CAT has an arrangement with Val Fryer / Lisa Gray whereby any potentially rich environmental layers or features will be appropriately sampled as a matter of course. Trained CAT staff will 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

CBCAA 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 HE guidance (HE 2018) if the human remains are not to be lifted, the project osteologist will be available to record the human remains *in situ* (i.e. a site visit).

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 CBCAA 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 (see finds section).

## Photographic record

Will include both general and feature-specific photographs, the latter with scale and north arrow. A photo register giving context number, details, and direction of shot will be prepared on site, and included in site archive. Digital site photographs will be taken and archived as per Historic England guidelines (HE 2015a).

## Finds

All significant finds will be retained.

All finds, where appropriate, will be washed and marked with site code and context number. CAT may use local volunteers to assist the CAT Finds Officer with this task.

Most of our finds reports are written internally by CAT Staff under the supervision and direction of Philip Crummy (Director) and Howard Brooks (Deputy Director). This includes specialist subjects such as:

ceramic finds (pottery and ceramic building material): Matthew Loughton

animal bones: Alec Wade (or Adam Wightman, small groups only)

small finds, metalwork, coins, etc: Laura Pooley

non-ceramic bulk finds: Laura Pooley

flints: Adam Wightman

environmental processing: Robin Mathieson/Bronagh Quinn

project osteologist (human remains): Meghan Seehra

or to outside specialists:

animal and human bone: Julie Curl (*Sylvanus*)

environmental assessment and analysis: Val Fryer / Lisa Gray

radiocarbon dating: SUERC Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Glasgow

conservation/x-ray: Laura Ratcliffe (LR Conservation) / Norfolk Museums Service,  
Conservation and Design Services

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

flint: Hazel Martingell

prehistoric pottery: Stephen Benfield / Nigel Brown / Paul Sealey

Roman pottery: Stephen Benfield / Paul Sealey / Jo Mills / Val Rigby /  
Gwladys Monteil

Roman brick/tile: Ernest Black / Ian Betts (MOLA)

Roman glass: Hilary Cool

small finds: Nina Crummy

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

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

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

A contingency will be made in the budget for scientific assessment/analysis. This can include soil micromorphological assessment and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon) if suitable deposits are identified. The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

## **Results**

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

An appropriate archive will be prepared to minimum acceptable standards outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015b).

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

The report will contain:

- Location plan of 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 or an alternate repository (approved by COLEM and CBCAA) within 3 months of the completion of the final publication report, with a summary of the contents of the archive supplied to CBCAA. Digital archives will

be curated with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar accredited digital archive repository, that safeguard the long-term curation of digital records. 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.

The CBCAA will be notified of the archiving timetable throughout the project and once deposition has occurred.

A digital / vector drawing of the site be given to the CBCAA for integration into the HER.

## Monitoring

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

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

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

CBCAA will be notified when the fieldwork is complete.

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

## References

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

Brown, D	2011	<i>Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation</i>
CAT	2019	<i>Health &amp; Safety Policy</i>
CAT Report 255	2004	<i>An archaeological evaluation at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex November 2003.</i> By B Holloway
CAT Report 330	2005	<i>An archaeological watching brief at 20 Yorick Road, West Mersea, Essex July 2005.</i> By B Holloway
CAT Report 420	2007	<i>Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) at 4 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex: April 2007.</i> By K Orr
CAT Report 629	2012	<i>Archaeological monitoring (watching brief) at 6 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex: September 2011 – February 2012.</i> By B Holloway
CAT Report 1000	Forthcoming	<i>A miscellany of unpublished Colchester and Essex sites: 1984-2000 (sites not published in any Colchester Archaeological Report, or in the CAT Report Series from 1997).</i> By H Brooks
CBCAA	2020	<i>Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, CO5 8AB.</i> By J Tipper
CIfA	2014a	<i>Standard and Guidance for archaeological evaluation</i>
CIfA	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 14 (EAA 14).
Historic England (HE)	2015a	<i>Digital Image capture and File Storage: Guidelines for best practice.</i> By S Cole & P Backhouse
Historic England (HE)	2015b	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)</i>
Historic England (HE)	2018	<i>The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project.</i> By S Mays, M Brickley and J Sidell
Medlycott, M	2011	<i>Research and archaeology revisited: A revised framework for the East of England.</i> East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24 (EAA 24)
MHCLG	2019	<i>National Planning Policy Framework.</i> Ministry of Housing,

Powell, WR

1963

Communities and Local Government.  
Victoria County History, Essex, Vol III (**VCH**). Vol 3, p161.

E Holloway



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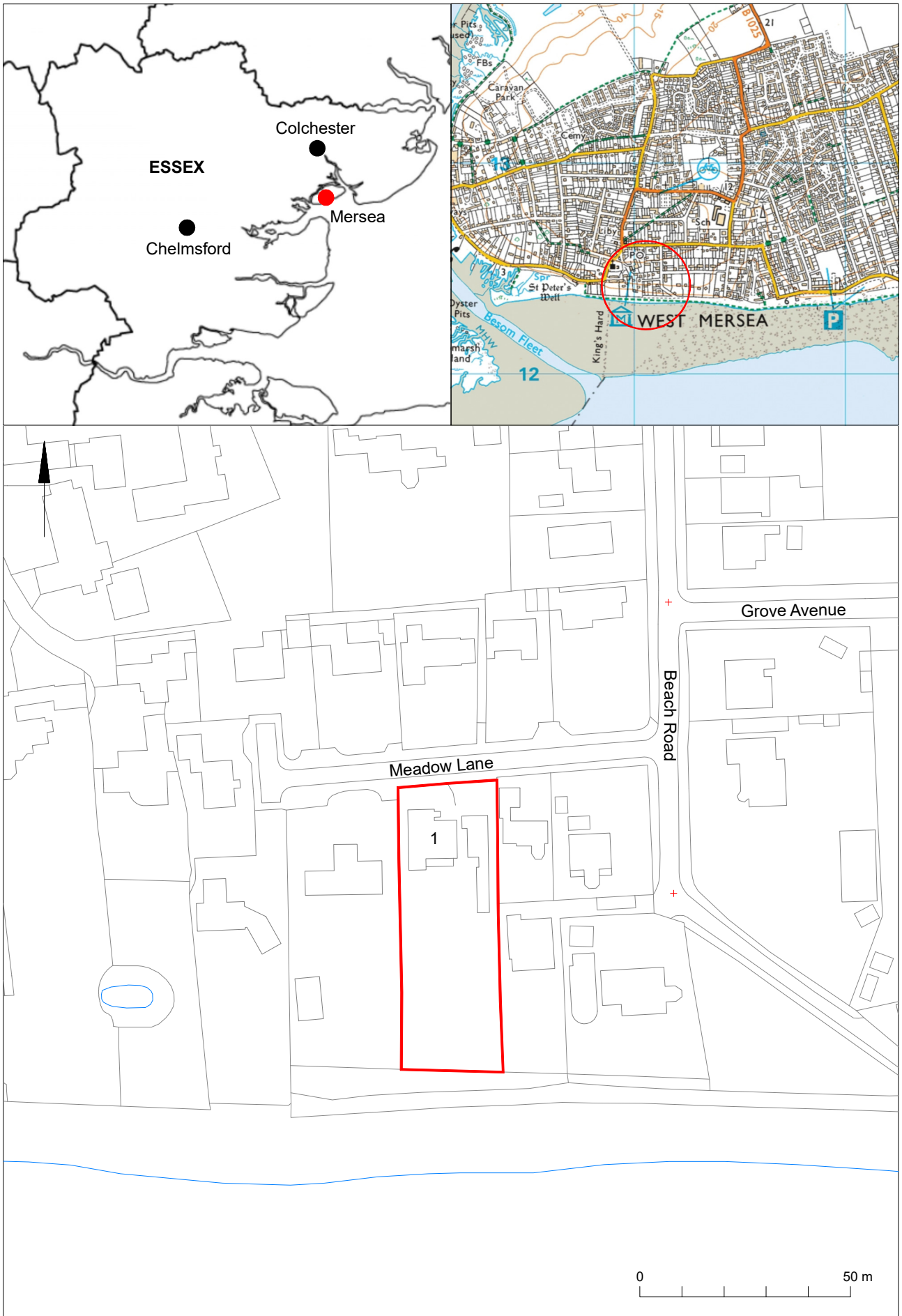


Fig 1 Site location.

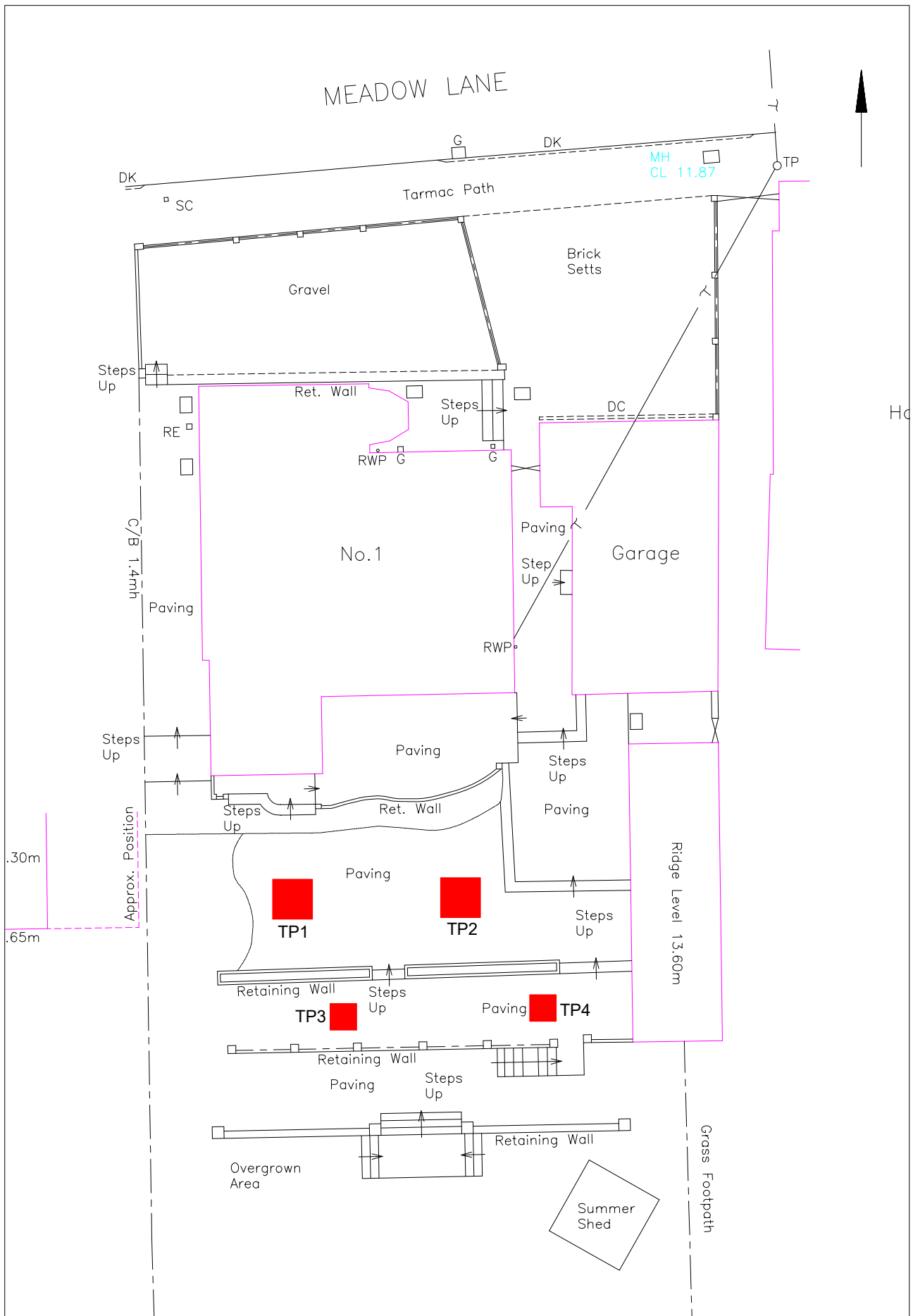


Fig 2 Proposed test pit locations and site constraints (adapted from ADP topographical survey).



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: colchest3-382198**

### Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AB.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation (four test-pits) was undertaken at 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex in advance of the modification and extension of the existing dwelling. The site is located in an area of known Roman settlement and adjacent to a known archaeological site of a possible Roman villa (MCC8835). One of the test-pits revealed Roman material. Three of the four test pits were devoid of any archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 10-02-2020 End: 11-02-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	192769 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2020/01g - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4429 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Significant Finds	CBM Roman
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	PEG-TILE Modern
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country England

Site location ESSEX COLCHESTER WEST MERSEA 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea

Postcode CO5 8AB

Study area 4 Square metres

Site coordinates TM 0107 1242 51.773738873664 0.914803447227 51 46 25 N 000 54 53 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Colchester Archaeological Trust

Project brief originator CBC Archaeological Officer

Project design originator Emma Holloway

Project director/manager Chris Lister

Project supervisor Mark Baister

Type of sponsor/funding body Owner

Name of sponsor/funding body Mr & Mrs L Tyler

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Physical Contents "Ceramics"

Digital Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Colchester Museum

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	Archaeological evaluation t 1 Meadow Lane, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8AB: February 2020
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Parmenter, P.
Other bibliographic details	CAT Report 1523
Date	2020
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	27 February 2020

## OASIS:

Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice

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