



Colchester Archaeological Trust

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

Tel.: 01206 501785 Email.: services@catuk.org

CAT Report 1649 Archaeological monitoring at 26 St Peters Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: February-March 2021	Planning reference: 201844 and 202020
	CHER Event no.: ECC4583
	OASIS ref.: colchest3-410456
	Grid Reference: TM 00704 12653 (centre)
	Number of site visits: 3
	Dates of visit: 4th and 5th February and 18th March 2021
Nature of the work: Observation of groundworks for an annex and two extensions.	
Reason for condition: The site lies west of the medieval church of St Peter and St Paul.	
% of total seen: 100% of the groundworks.	
Results: The following groundworks were monitored by a CAT archaeologist in response to a brief set by Dr Richard Hoggett of Colchester Borough Council Planning Services. <u>The annex</u> (Figs 2 & 4; Photograph 1) The footprint of the proposed annex (83.29m ²) was stripped to a depth of 0.2-0.6m below current ground level around 12 modern concrete piles (0.22m diameter). Approximately 0.27-0.3m of topsoil (L1, soft, moist medium brown sandy-loam) was stripped onto natural sands and gravels (L2, soft, dry medium yellow/orange sand). Pit F1 was not excavated as fragments of modern brick and glass, none of which were retained, were noted in the surface of the feature.	
	
Photograph 1 Area reduction for annex, looking northwest	

The extensions (Figs 3-4; Photograph 2)

In total, 13.96m of foundation trenching was excavated through 0.42-0.5m of modern make-up (L3, soft, moist dark grey/brown silty/loam) onto natural sands and gravels (L2). The trenches were 0.6m wide and were excavated to a depth of 1m. There were no archaeological remains but concrete foundations and modern service trenches were present.



Photograph 2 Foundation trenching, looking southeast

Recorded by: Sarah Carter (sc@catuk.org)

Date: 06/04/2021

Checked by: Philip Crummy (pc@catuk.org)

Date: 13/04/2021

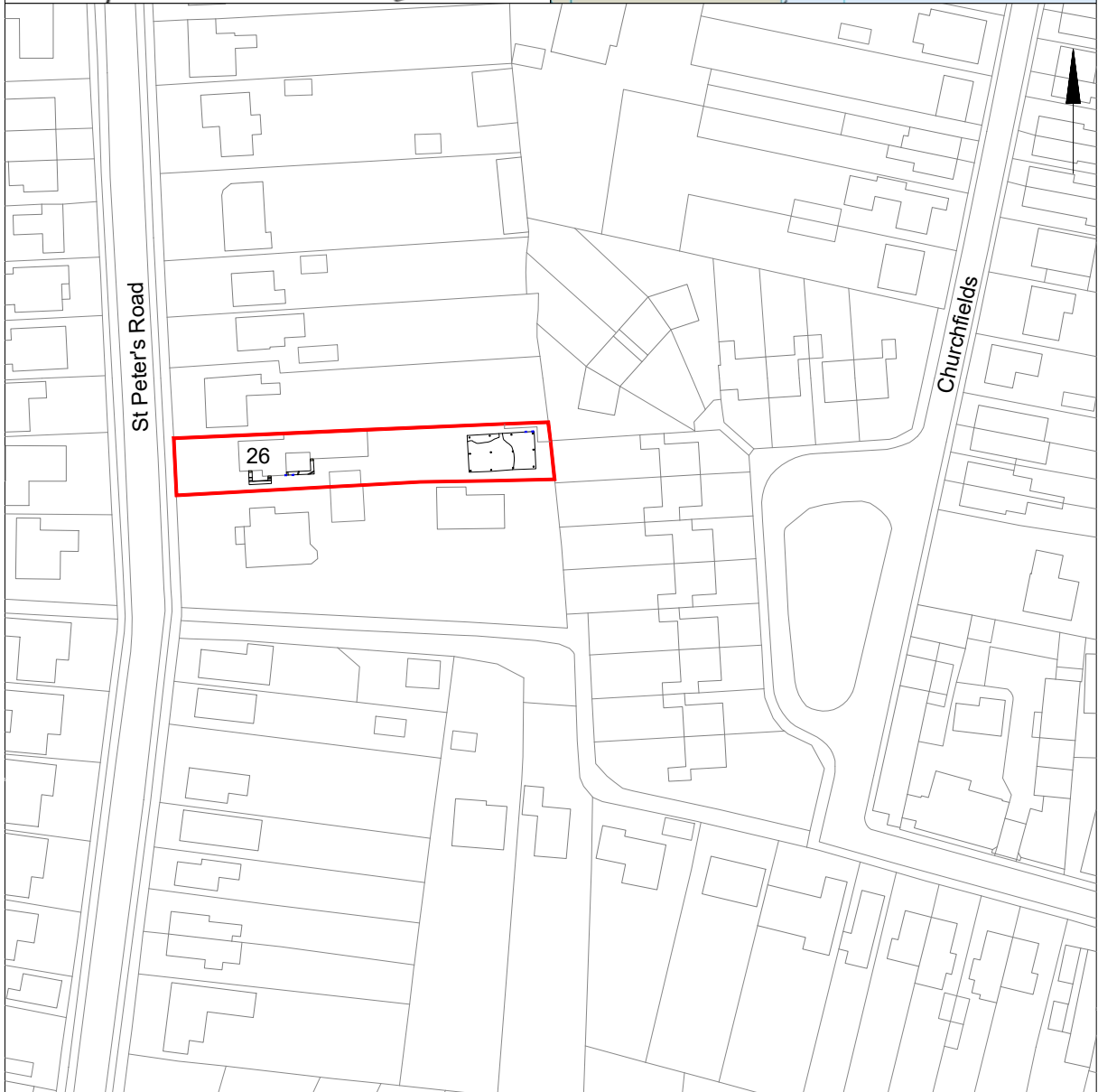
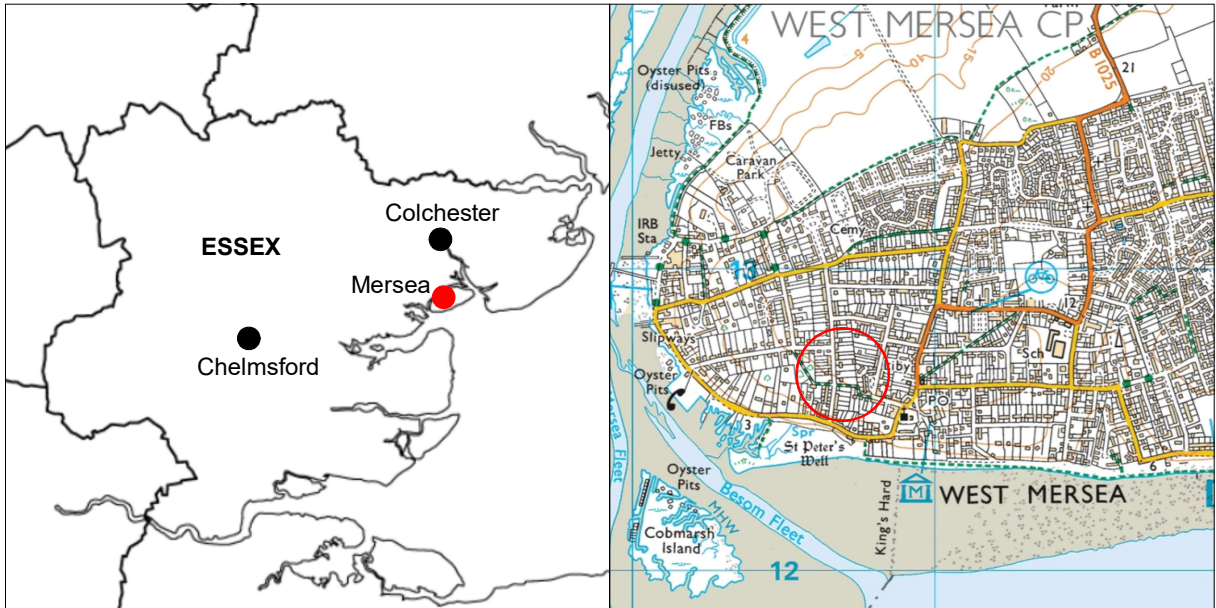


Fig 1 Site location.

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.



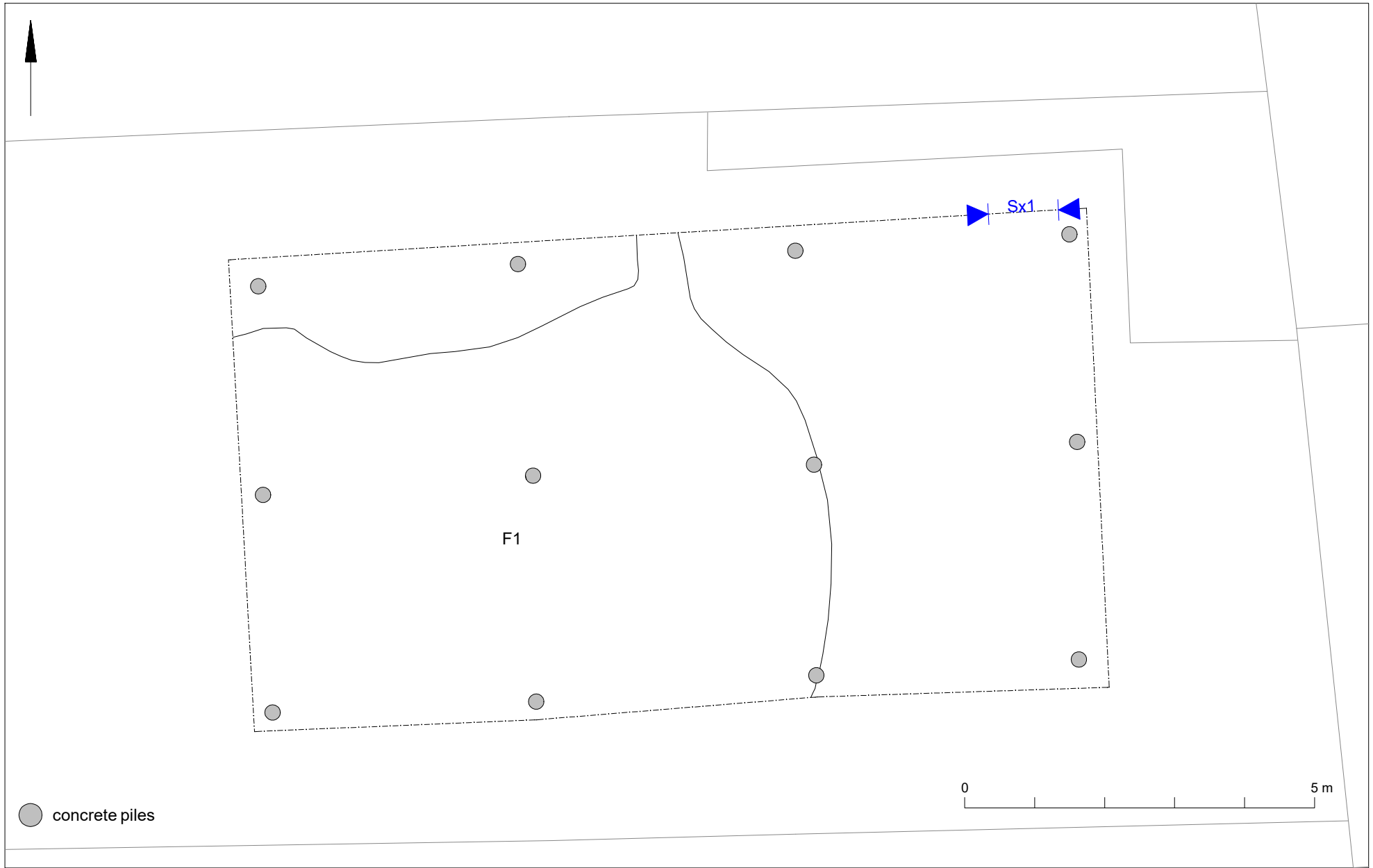


Fig 2 Annex results.

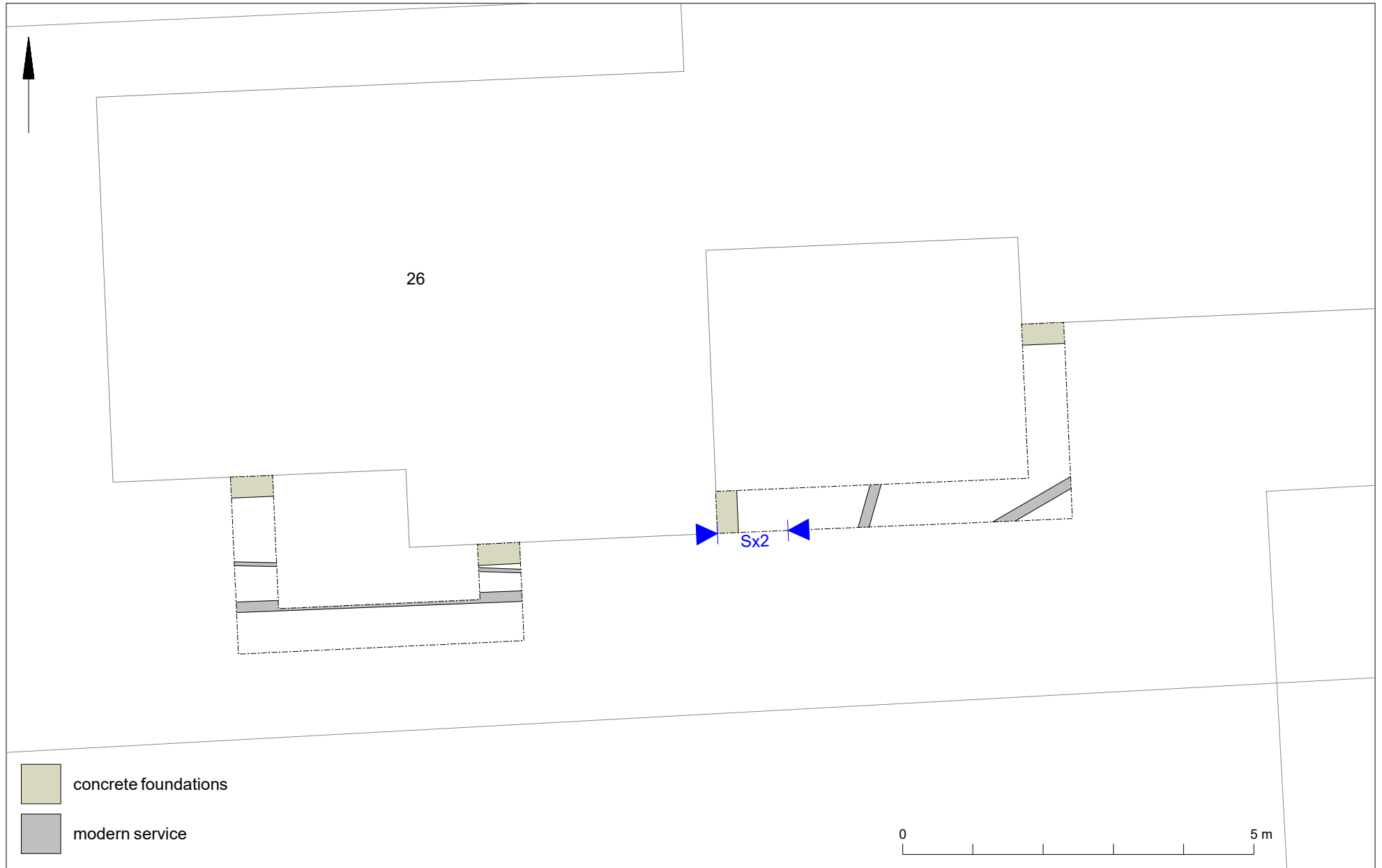


Fig 3 Extension results.

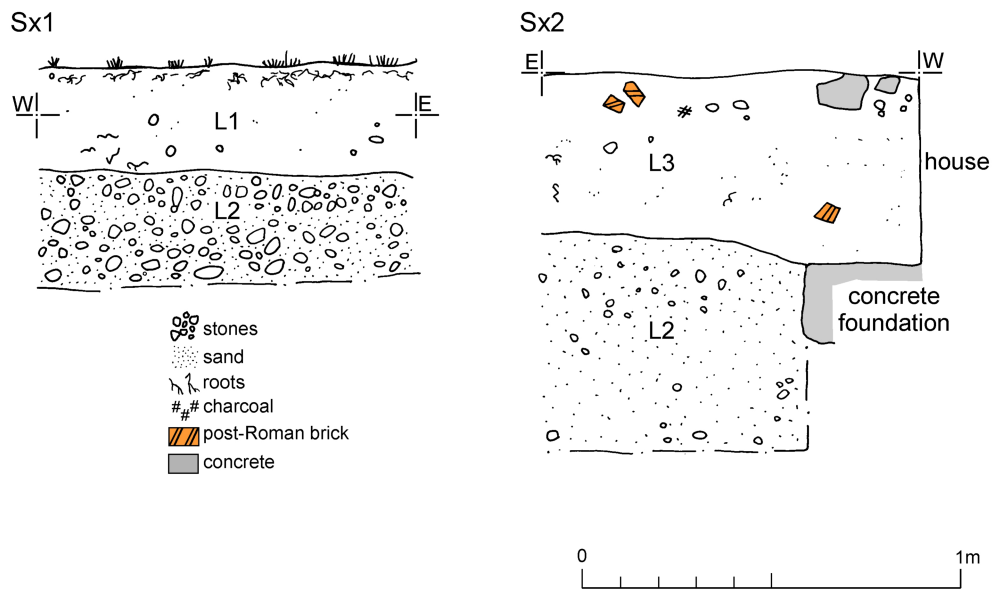


Fig 4 Representative sections.

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological investigation at 26 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex CO5 8LJ

NGR: TM 00704 12653 (centre)
Parish: Colchester

Planning reference: 201844 and 202020

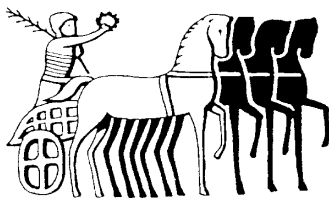
Commissioned by: Julie Holmes
On behalf of: Julie Holmes

Curating museum: Colchester
CHER number: ECC4583

CAT project code: 2020/12h
OASIS project number: colchest3-410456

Site manager: Chris Lister
CBC monitor: Dr Richard Hoggett

This WSI written: 11/12/2020



COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST,
Roman Circus House,
Roman Circus Walk,
Colchester,
Essex, CO2 7GZ

tel: 01206 501785
email: sc@catuk.org

Site location and description

The development site is located at 26 St Peters Road, West Mersea, Colchester (Fig 1). Site centre is NGR TM 00704 12653.

Proposed work

The proposed development comprises the construction of an outbuilding/dwelling, incidental to the main dwelling (planning ref. 201844) and the construction of 2 storey extensions to the site and rear (planning ref. 202020).

Archaeological background

The following archaeological background draws on the major published sources for Colchester archaeology and the Colchester Historic Environment Record (accessed via Colchester Heritage Explorer (<https://colchesterheritage.co.uk/map>)).

The CHER shows that the development site lies to the west of the medieval Church of St Peter and St Paul (MCC8909; 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 and within the area of this development (MCC8835), but little is known about it. Brick rubbish and burnt tile was seen by PG Laver in the area by 1906 (MCC8836) and Roman pavements, tesserae, walls and pottery have also been found around the church (MCC8839, MCC8858).

CAT has undertaken monitoring works at 20, 22 and 24 St Peters Road in recent years. Work at 20 St Peters Road in 2016 (CAT Report 1038, ECC3879) and 24 St Peters Road in 2017 (CAT Report 1100, ECC3957) revealed nothing of archaeological significance. In 2017 two features were recorded at 22 St Peters Road, an undated ditch and a medieval-post-medieval pit (CAT Report 1266, ECC4087).

Other groundworks near to the development site 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) and the Blackwater Hotel (CAT Report 223, MCC5391), did not reveal any significant archaeological horizons. However, an inhumation recorded on Church Road (MCC8089) may be associated with the priory.

Planning background

A planning application was made to Colchester Borough Council in August 2020 (planning ref. 201844) proposing the *construction of outbuilding/annexe, incidental to main dwelling*. A secondary application was made in September 2020 (planning ref. 202020) proposing the *construction of 2 storey side and 2 storey rear extension*.

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

The required archaeological work is for an archaeological investigation of all groundworks (including services and landscaping). Details are given in a Project Brief written by CBCAA (CBC 2016).

Specifically:

The investigation 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 and the CBCAA will decide if amendments to the brief are required to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

In the exceptional circumstances that important, well-preserved mosaic floors (or similar remains) are discovered, which cannot otherwise be avoided by the development (and satisfactorily preserved in situ), a contingency will be required for the block-lifting of these archaeological remains, e.g. well-preserved mosaic remains and for subsequent conservation and presentation. A decision about the need for conservation and lifting of important archaeological remains will be made in consultation with specialist stakeholders (e.g. Historic England, Colchester Museum and Norfolk Museums Service, Conservation and Design Services).

The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to the previously agreed locations and techniques upon which the brief is based. Any variations will be discussed with the CBCAA immediately.

General methodology

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

- professional standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, including its *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a, b)
- Standards and Frameworks published by East Anglian Archaeology (Gurney 2003, Medlycott 2011)
- relevant Health & Safety guidelines and requirements (CAT 2020)
- the Project Brief issued by the CBCAA (CBC 2016).

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 Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER). 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 CAT officer for the duration of the groundworks.

Investigation 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. The investigation will involve monitoring of all groundworks and inspection of upcast soil.

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), 10% of linear features (ditches, etc) and 100% of all complex features and burials (see Human Remains policy below).

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 pro-forma record sheets. Registers will be compiled of finds, small finds and soil samples.

Site surveying

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

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

Environmental sampling policy

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

Should any complex, or otherwise outstanding deposits be encountered, VF/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

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 or unless advised to do so by the project osteologist or CBCAA.

CBCAA will be notified immediately if any human remains are encountered during the investigation.

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 and seek advice from the project osteologist. Human remains removed from site for analysis this may involve radiocarbon dating (see finds section).

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

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: 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 if suitable deposits are identified. This can include soil micromorphological and geochemical analysis of floors and dark earth deposits and/or absolute dating (such as archaeomagnetic and radiocarbon). The Historic England Regional Science Advisor will be consulted for advice.

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 the groundworks in relation to the proposed development. At least two corners of the site 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.

A PDF copy of the full report will be uploaded by CAT to the OASIS website and the Colchester Archaeological Trust's Online Report Library (<http://cat.essex.ac.uk/>), both of which are publicly accessible.

Archive deposition

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 and provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration and analysis) as appropriate.

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.

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: 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> |
| CAR 6 | 1992 | <i>Colchester Archaeological Report 6: Excavations at Culver Street, the Gilbert School, and other sites in Colchester 1971-85</i> , by P Crummy |
| CAT | 2020 | <i>Health & Safety Policy</i> |
| CAT Report 223 | 2003 | <i>An archaeological evaluation at the Blackwater Hotel, Church Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: March 2003</i> |
| CAT Report 1038 | 2016 | <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording at 20 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: November 2016</i> |
| CAT Report 1100 | 2017 | <i>Archaeological monitoring at 24 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: April 2017</i>
<i>Archaeological monitoring at 24 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: April 2017</i> |
| CAT Report 1266 | 2017 | <i>Archaeological monitoring at 22 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ: November – December 2017</i> |
| CBCAA | 2016 | <i>Brief for continuous archaeological monitoring and recording at 24 St. Peters Road, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8LJ</i> By Dr J. Tipper |
| CIfA | 2014a | <i>Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief</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 |
| Hallybone, C | 2006 | <i>Land to the rear of 16 Coast Road, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex: Archaeological monitoring and recording</i> |
| 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, Communities and Local Government. |

S Carter



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

tel: 01206 501785
email: sc@catuk.org

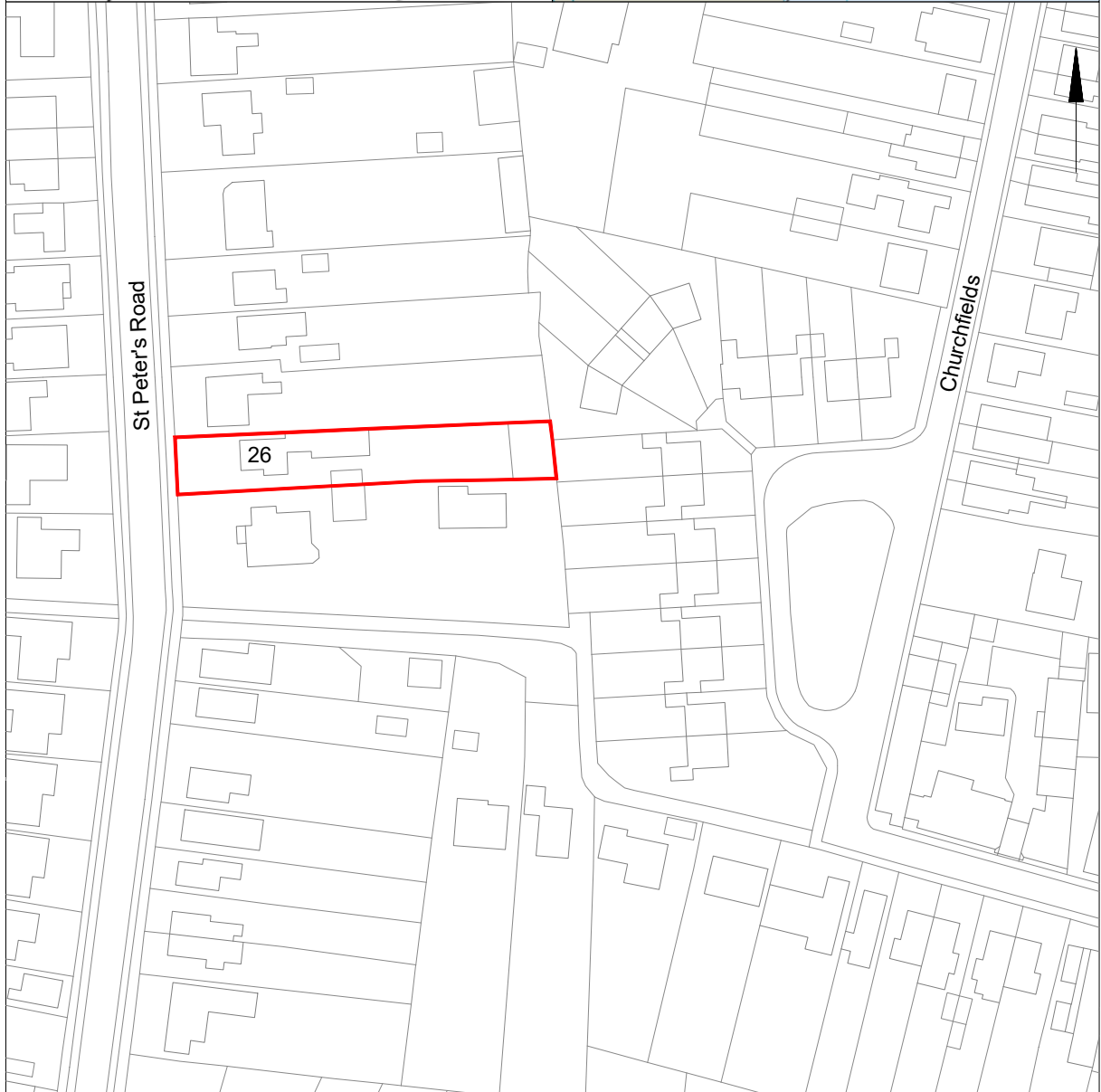
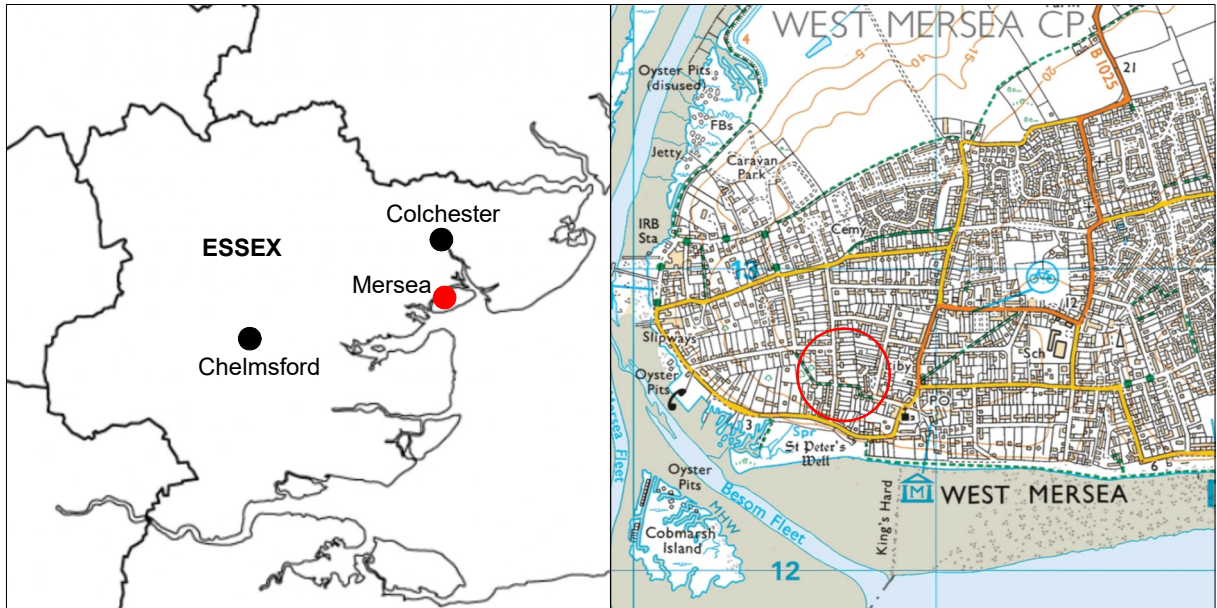


Fig 1 Site location.

© Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100039294.



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: colchest3-410456

Project details

Project name	Archaeological monitoring at 26 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ
Short description of the project	Archaeological monitoring at 26 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex took place during groundworks for the construction of two extensions and an annexe. Despite being located in an area of archaeological significance, no archaeological remains were revealed during the groundworks with only a modern pit recorded.
Project dates	Start: 04-02-2021 End: 18-03-2021
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2020/12h - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECC4583 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	201844 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	202020 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX COLCHESTER COLCHESTER 26 St Peter's Road, West Mersea
Postcode	CO5 8LJ
Study area	0.07 Hectares
Site coordinates	TM 00704 12653 51.775963287365 0.909639799243 51 46 33 N 000 54 34 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Colchester Archaeological Trust
Project brief originator	CBC Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Chris Lister
Project director/manager	Chris Lister
Project supervisor	Sarah Carter
Type of sponsor/funding body	Owner

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Data Service
Digital Archive ID	ECC4583
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Colchester Museum

Paper Archive ID ECC4583
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological monitoring at 26 St Peter's Road, West Mersea, Essex, CO5 8LJ
Author(s)/Editor(s) Carter, S.
Other bibliographic details
Date 2021
Issuer or publisher Colchester Archaeological Trust
Place of issue or publication Colchester
Description A4 ring-bound loose leaf
URL <http://cat.essex.ac.uk/all-reports.html>

Entered by Laura Pooley (lp@catuk.org)
Entered on 14 April 2021

OASIS: Please e-mail [Historic England](#) for OASIS help and advice
© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm?id=419334> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)